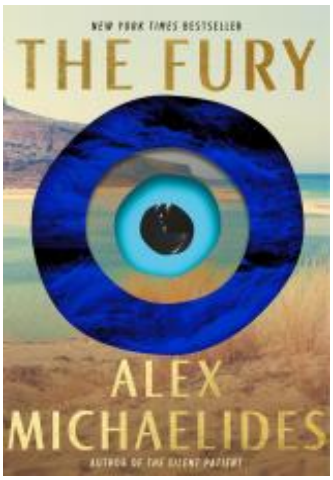
The Fury

by Alex Michaelides



About the Book

A masterfully paced thriller about a reclusive ex-movie star and her famous friends whose spontaneous trip to a private Greek island is upended by a murder --- from the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of THE SILENT PATIENT.

This is a tale of murder.

Or maybe that?s not quite true. At its heart, it?s a love story, isn?t it?

Lana Farrar is a reclusive ex?movie star and one of the most famous women in the world. Every year, she invites her closest friends to escape the English weather and spend Easter on her idyllic private Greek island.

I tell you this because you may think you know this story. You probably read about it at the time --- it caused a real stir in the tabloids, if you remember. It had all the necessary ingredients for a press sensation: a celebrity; a private island cut off by the wind?and a murder.

We found ourselves trapped there overnight. Our old friendships concealed hatred and a desire for revenge. What followed was a game of cat and mouse --- a battle of wits, full of twists and turns, building to an unforgettable climax. The night ended in violence and death, as one of us was found murdered.

But who am I?

My name is Elliot Chase, and I?m going to tell you a story unlike any you?ve ever heard.

Discussion Guide

1. In the first chapter, Elliot states, ?We are all the unreliable narrators of our own lives.? Do you agree? How much did you trust Elliot?s narration while reading?

2. What other ?locked room mysteries? or ?trapped on an island? stories have you enjoyed in literature, television or film? How does THE FURY fit the genre? In what ways does the author subvert your genre expectations?

3. Elliot refers to a variety of figures from Greek mythology, history and literature, including Clytemnestra, Artemis, Eros and an oracle. What references to Greek figures stood out to you? In what ways does this novel reflect a Greek tragedy?

4. Elliot claims that he and Lana were ?soulmates.? In what ways were they similar? In what ways did they differ?

5. The characters use Agathi?s fortune-telling crystal, asking it yes or no questions. Do you believe the crystal was actually able to tell the future? What secret questions do you think each character asked?

6. The isolated island and ferocious wind create a unique setting. How does the wind, the fury, add to the story? What aspects of the setting were the most engaging?

7. Throughout his narration, Elliot addresses how events in childhood affect our development into adulthood. He quotes his therapist saying, ?When we are young and afraid --- when we are shamed, and humiliated --- something happens. Time stops. It freezes, in that moment. A version of us is trapped, at that age --- forever.? Do you agree? How is this idea explored? Which character exemplifies this the most?

8. Many of the main characters have experience acting on stage and screen. How does this affect the way they present themselves? How do they see the world differently because of their experience acting?

9. Which of the book?s twists surprised you the most? Were there any moments of foreshadowing that stuck out to you?

10. What perspectives does each character have on love? How does the novel explore the theme of love and lack of love?

11. When contemplating the tragedy that occurs on the island, Elliot quotes the Greek philosopher Heraclitus, saying, ?Character is fate.? Do you believe the murder was destined to happen because of who the characters are? Was there any way they could have avoided their fates?

Author Bio

Alex Michaelides was born and raised in Cyprus. He has an M.A. in English Literature from Trinity College, Cambridge University, and an M.A. in Screenwriting from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. THE SILENT PATIENT was his first novel, debuting at #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list, and has sold more than 6.5 million copies worldwide. The rights have been sold in a record-breaking 51 countries, and the book has been optioned for film by Plan

B. His second novel, THE MAIDENS, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller and has been optioned for television by Miramax Television and Stone Village.

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Publication Date: March 4, 2025
Genres: Fiction, Psychological Suspense, Psychological Thriller, Suspense, Thriller
Paperback: 336 pages
Publisher: Celadon Books
ISBN-10: 1250758998
ISBN-13: 9781250758996