



Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11)

By Daniel Silva

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“A bona fide thrill ride.”

—*Miami Herald*

“Silva builds tension with breathtaking double and triple turns of plot.”

—*People*

Portrait of a Spy is Silva’s eleventh thriller to feature art restorer and master spy Gabriel Allon as he races from Great Britain to Washington to New York to the Middle East on the trail of a deadly and elusive terrorist network responsible for massacres in Paris, Copenhagen, and at London’s Covent Garden.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Exclusive: Daniel Silva on Writing *Portrait of a Spy* with a Pencil

While on book tour, I've been surprised to find that readers are fascinated by how writers actually write. Most readers hold in their mind an idealized image of the novelist at work—a figure in a trendy urban coffeehouse, a solitary figure walking along an empty beach. The truth, however, is seldom so romantic.

Before going any further, let us stipulate that, much like the hero of my novels, the art restorer and spy Gabriel Allon, I am something of a creature of habit. I work seven days a week, from early in the morning until six thirty in the evening, when I stop to watch the evening news. My work clothing never varies: gray sweatpants by Russell Athletic, a long-sleeve T-shirt by L.L. Bean, fleece Acorn moccasins, and discount cotton socks from Marks & Spencer in England. Occasionally, visitors to our house will catch a glimpse of this outfit, but, for the most part, my wife and children tend to shield me from public view. As a rule, I don't answer the telephone—unless it is a family emergency of some sort—and I don't read e-mail. I nibble rather than eat. *Portrait of a Spy*, like all the Gabriel Allon novels, was fueled largely by McVitie's digestive biscuits.

I have a computer, of course, but I really do most of my actual *writing* in longhand, on yellow legal pads. I prefer to work while lying on the floor rather than at my desk. This annoys my wife because she took a great deal of time and effort to have a desk custom made to fit my office. When I showed her a photograph of Muriel Spark, one of her literary heroes, writing in longhand stretched across a floor, she was only partially mollified. Sometimes we talk about living somewhere other than Georgetown. Secretly, the very idea terrifies me. After writing 14 books in the same room of the same house, I am afraid I have lost the ability to work anywhere else.

As for my writing instrument of choice, it is unquestionably the pencil. There is something about the sound it makes scratching across the page that, for me, is the essence of composition. The pencil is the antithesis of all things cyber and e, a means of returning, however briefly, to a world that is unconnected and unwired. A pad and pencil do not freeze or crash. There are no viruses or error messages. If a thunderstorm knocks out the power, the words will still be there when the lights come on again. And then, there is the satisfying natural rhythm of the work itself—the turning of the completed page, the sharpening of the dulled point, the fortnightly disposal of the fluffy wooden shavings.

Lately, I have been hoarding pencils. I'm not sure precisely when it began; I suspect it had something to do with the death of the typewriter. An irrational fear gripped me, a fear that pencils were next. If the typewriter could go extinct, how could the lowly, environmentally hostile pencil possibly hope to survive in the brave new world? I now order my favorite brand—the Paper Mate Mirado Black Warrior No. 2—by the case. I am reasonably confident I now have enough pencils on hand to see me through the next several novels—though, if I happen to misplace a pencil, I will search the house thoroughly before removing a new one from its special drawer and sharpening it for the first time. To sharpen a virgin pencil is, in a sense, to commit an act of assisted suicide. It saddens me.

I wish it were not so. I wish I could write on a computer while traveling on an airplane or sitting in a strange hotel room, but I cannot. I have become a prisoner of my office. I need my floor, and my Mirado Black

Warrior No. 2 pencils, and my McVitie's digestive biscuits. I hoard them, too. I keep them on a special shelf in the storage room, next to my socks from Marks & Spencer.

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Review

"Allon is the 21st century Bond - elegantly paced, subtle and well-informed. If you haven't read Silva before, try Portrait of a Spy - and then go back and read the series.' Daily Mail 'Sexily brooding Allon... must be the most famous superspy not played by Daniel Craig' Daily Telegraph 'In true Bauer fashion, shoot-outs, kidnappings and international terror plots follow Gabriel Allon wherever he goes' USA Today 'Silva builds tension with breathtaking double and triple turns of the plot' People

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Brian Rocha:

What do you concerning book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what you problem? How about your time? Or are you busy person? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They must answer that question simply because just their can do in which. It said that about reserve. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need that Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11) to read.

Harrison Bowman:

This book untitled Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11) to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that's because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book retail store or you can order it through online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, because you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this reserve from your list.

James Butler:

The particular book Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11) has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of advantage. The book was published by the very famous author. The author makes some research before write this book. This kind of book very easy to read you can

obtain the point easily after reading this book.

Bruce Hensley:

The reason? Because this Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11) is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will surprise you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who else write the book in such awesome way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book include such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I have been you I will go to the publication store hurriedly.

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