



## Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11)

By Daniel Silva

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**Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11)** By Daniel Silva

“A bona fide thrill ride.”

—*Miami Herald*

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

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*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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## **Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11) By Daniel Silva Bibliography**

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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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##### Toni Williams:

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Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book particularly book

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### **Rafael Perez:**

This Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11) is great reserve for you because the content that is full of information for you who also always deal with world and possess to make decision every minute. That book reveal it info accurately using great plan word or we can declare no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole details in it. Doesn't mean it only provides you with straight forward sentences but challenging core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having Portrait of a Spy (Gabriel Allon Series Book 11) in your hand like finding the world in your arm, information in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no e-book that offer you world in ten or fifteen small right but this reserve already do that. So , this is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. hectic do you still doubt in which?

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