

Alice Sebold Biography

Alice Sebold realized her childhood ambition of becoming a famous novelist in 2003 when The Lovely Bones shot to the top of the best-seller list. Born in 1963, Sebold grew up in the Philadelphia suburbs. She attended Syracuse University and studied writing under Tess Gallagher and Raymond Carver. As a freshman, Sebold was attacked and raped, an event that threatened to sidetrack her dream of pursuing a writing career.

After graduating from Syracuse in 1984, she briefly attended graduate school in Texas before moving to New York City. Sebold spent ten years trying to make it as a writer while teaching composition and working in restaurants. She eventually abandoned the East Village scene and moved to California where she spent some time as a caretaker at a rustic arts colony.

In 1995, she was accepted into the prestigious MFA Program at University of California at Irvine. She felt an immediate affinity for fellow writer Glen David Gold who had to sit through orientation wearing his motorcycle helmet after he showed up late and couldn't get it off. The couple married in 2001 and live in Ojai, California. Sebold's work has appeared in the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune, among other publications. She is also the author of an acclaimed memoir, Lucky.