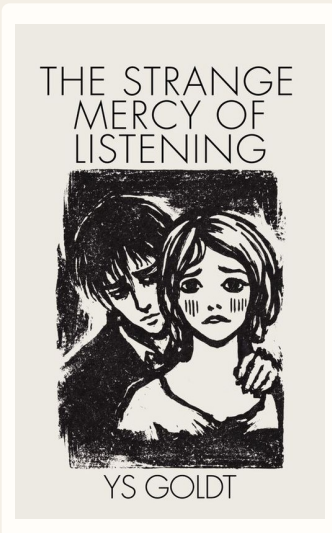




HISTORICAL FICTION NOVEL

The Strange Mercy of Listening

A quiet devotion becomes something far more dangerous when silence learns to speak back.

AUTHOR

Ys Goldt

PUBLICATION

2026

FORMATS

Print & digital

PUBLISHER

Nachtljocht Press

ISBN

9798996205226

LENGTH

162 pages

Historical Fiction

Psychological Fiction

Literary Romance

Dark Romantic Fiction

ABOUT THE BOOK

East Prussia, 1935. A solitary telegraph operator lives by order, counting and ritual. From the edge of the woods, he begins watching a woman whose name he does not know.

The observation becomes a private liturgy. He records her steps, her books, the smoke from her cigarettes, the tune she hums and the precise shape of her silences. What he calls devotion is also a theft, and he knows it.

As longing hardens into obsession, the distance between witness and participant begins to narrow. The Strange Mercy of Listening is an atmospheric historical novel with a dark romantic core about silence, fixation, shame, and the dangerous desire to be recognised.

ABOUT YS GOLDT

Ys Goldt is a writer and multidisciplinary artist working across literary and speculative fiction, fantasy, romance, interactive media and design. Her fiction frequently explores love, memory, identity, solitude and the quiet ways people alter one another. Whether writing historical settings or invented worlds, her work begins with character and returns to a central question: what does it cost to truly let another person in?

FOR READERS WHO ENJOY

Atmospheric historical fiction; morally complicated interiority; obsessive narrators; private journals and close narration; quiet dread; dark romantic tension; and literary stories about watching, shame and longing.

THEMES & INTERVIEW ANGLES

- Devotion, obsession and self-deception
- Watching versus truly knowing
- Silence as intimacy and threat
- Ritual, shame and control
- Desire filtered through private writing
- East Prussia as atmosphere and pressure
- Writing morally compromised interiority

CONTENT

Contains stalking and voyeurism, obsessive behaviour, intrusive sexual thoughts, shame, and psychologically intense material.

REVIEW, INTERVIEW & MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Please use the official press contact form at:

ysgoldt.com/press.html#press-contact

Complimentary digital and physical review copies are available to reviewers, creators and media upon request.