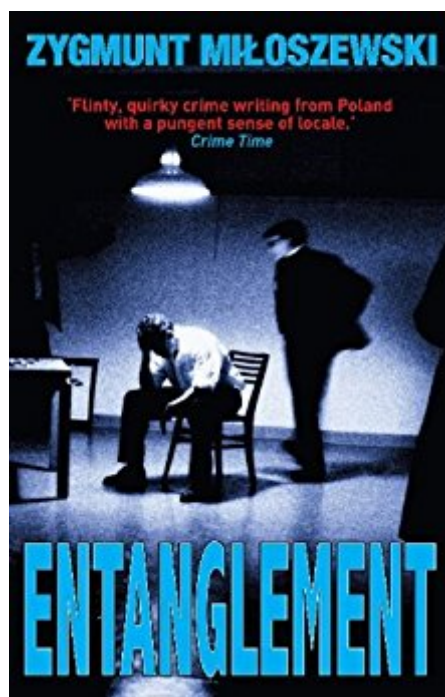


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Entanglement (Polish State Prosecutor Szacki Investigates)



Synopsis

The morning after a group psychotherapy session in a Warsaw monastery, Henry Talek is found dead, a roasting spit stuck in one eye. Public prosecutor Teodor Szacki, world-weary, suffering from bureaucratic exhaustion and marital ennui, feels that life has passed him by. But this case changes everything. Because of it he meets Monika Grzelka, a young journalist whose charms prove difficult to resist, and he discovers the frightening power of certain esoteric therapeutic methods. The shocking videos of the sessions lead him to an array of possible scenarios. Could one of the patients have become so absorbed by his therapy role-playing that he murdered Talek? Szacki's investigation leads him to an earlier murder, before the fall of Communism. And why is the Secret Police suddenly taking an interest in all this? As Szacki uncovers each piece of the puzzle, facts emerge that he'd be better off not knowing, for his own safety. Zygmunt Miloszewski, born in Warsaw in 1975, is an editor currently working for Newsweek. His first novel, *The Intercom*, was published in 2005 to high acclaim. *Entanglement* followed in 2007, and the author is now working on screenplays based on *The Intercom* and *Entanglement* as well as on a sequel to the latter, also featuring Teodor Szacki.

Book Information

File Size: 770 KB

Print Length: 354 pages

Publisher: Bitter Lemon Press (July 2, 2010)

Publication Date: August 1, 2010

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B003UESN48

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #58,432 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > History > Europe > Eastern #9 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > Ideologies & Doctrines > Communism & Socialism #10 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Science >

Customer Reviews

The 20th Century was not kind to Poland. Utter defeat in WWII followed by an era of oppressive Communism, with a dose of old repressive Catholicism thrown into the mix, have combined to make Poland an often dark, dreary place -- full of ghosts, contradictions and ugly history. And the fiction the nation has produced over the last 50 years often reflects this: if you're not reading about the Nazi invaders and their concentration camps, you're reading about the grayness and absurdity of life during the Communist era. Interesting stuff, certainly, but depressing -- and a repetitive theme in Poland's canon. I saw *Entanglement* in a book store, and since I'm an avid reader of genre fiction (crime novels/police procedurals) I thought I'd give it a go. Maybe Polish writers are trying to break out of the bleak past and contribute to more contemporary literary trends, I thought. However, there might not be an escape from the themes of other Polish novels, because the best European genre writers -- Steig Larsson, Jo Nesbo and Henning Mankell among others -- often use the genre novel to unearth difficult secrets about their people's history. In *Entanglement*, Zygmunt Miloszewski does the same: the sins of the Communist era weigh heavily on this murder story. But it's not as oppressive as in other Polish fiction, because this novel is as much about a man experiencing a mid-life crisis, state prosecutor Teodor Szacki, and his city (Warsaw) as it is about the investigation of a crime with roots in the secret police's activities in 1980s Poland. Like Arnaldur Indridason's Inspector Erlender, Miloszewski's Szacki is a compelling character who draws you into this story. He is as frustrated with his ennui as he is by a seemingly unsolvable case.

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