
The Bookish* Newsletter!

VOL. 2 Issue No.15 | MAY 2026

Check out updates on my good reads progress, upcoming titles, lists, and reviews.

[ARC Review] Odessa

Gabrielle Sher [HORROR♦FANTASY♦HISTORICAL FICTION]

THANK YOU! NetGalley and Little, Brown and Company for the advanced copy of this title.

There was so much buzz around this title—and with it showing up on so many “upcoming horror” lists, I was genuinely excited to dive in. That said, it wasn’t quite what I expected.

It’s a bit outside my usual go-to genres, but at its core, this is a solid story. It carries a quiet heartbreak, and once the reason behind the strange disappearances is revealed, the tension really starts to settle in.

When you think of Jewish lore, the first thing that comes to mind is the Golem. I’ve only encountered it a few times in my reading, but the way this story presents the creature feels both familiar and slightly reimaged—different in its telling, but rooted in the same foundation.

The atrocities experienced by the town of Odessa feel pulled straight from history—people at war, fighting for their families, their faith, and what they believed was right. It’s one of those reminders that, in some ways, we haven’t come as far from that kind of thinking as we’d like to believe.

While there are elements of horror, they lean more on the subtle side—because what’s horrifying can look very different depending on the reader. I appreciated how the ending unfolded; it didn’t feel rushed, and it left just enough unanswered to linger... with a quiet sense of wanting more.



3.75 ✨️



✨️

