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Original title: *Estragons historier. Rottfangeren fra Sorø*

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Gaute Heivoll

## *The Tales of Estragon: The Rat Catcher From Sorø*

"The razor-sharp nails came shooting through the walls with a terrible force. I sat completely still, swallowing, praying silently to be spared impalement. Finally he ran out of nails, and collapsed, exhausted, into a chair, sitting there with his wooden club in his lap, breathing like an animal. Then, suddenly, he raised his head and stared at the wall where I sat without moving. It felt like he had seen something. That he could hear my heartbeat. That I was the one he had seen."

*The Tales of Estragon* is a darkly humorous series for children of all ages, focusing on the seven deadly sins – as told by rats. With its burlesque humour and gothic illustrations reminiscent of Edward Gorey's pen-and-ink drawing, *The Rat Catcher from Sorø* transcends age and gives a timeless depiction of human vices.

*«Masterful! The first book in Gaute Heivoll's new series of the seven deadly sins forecasts a new era in Norwegian children's literature.»*

*«The tale of Glambæk is so perfectly engineered and wonderful that you will want to tell it to everyone you meet.»*

- Kristine Isaksen in VG

*«Gaute Heivoll demonstrates that he is a master storyteller in «The Rat Catcher from Sorø».*

- Kristine Isaksen in VG

*«I sense remnants of old masters like H.C. Andersen, Samuel Beckett and Roald Dahl, whilst the drawings hint to Chris Riddell's illustrations in «The graveyard book» by Neil Gaiman.»*

- Guri Fjeldberg in Bergens Tidende

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## Gaute Heivoll

The award winning author Gaute Heivoll (b. 1978) made his debut in 2002 with *Little dancing boy*, a collection of stories. His first novel, *Omar's last days*, was published the following year and Lars Saabye Christensen described Heivoll as "a voice to be reckoned with in young contemporary literature." Heivoll had his big breakthrough with *Before I burn* in 2010. Since then he has written several books for children and adults. *The Rat Catcher From Sorø* is his first story told and penned by rats.



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