



HORRORSTÖR

A Novel

By Grady Hendrix

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It was a perfect system, precision-engineered to offer optimal retail functionality in all 112 Orsk locations across North America and in thirty-eight locations around the world.

But on the first Thursday of June at 7:30 am, at the Cuyahoga Orsk (Location #00108), this well-calibrated system came grinding to a halt....

Something strange is happening at the Cuyahoga location of Orsk, the all-American furniture superstore in Scandinavian drag whose forward-thinking slogan promises “a better life for everyone.” Each morning, employees arrive to find broken Kjerring bookshelves, shattered Glans glassware, and vandalized Liripip wardrobes—clearly, someone or something is up to no good. To unravel the mystery, five employees agree to spend a long dusk-till-dawn shift at the store, unaware of the darkness that awaits them.

At first glance, the bright and shining exterior of **Horrorstör** —the novel comes packaged in the form of a retail catalogue—may deceive readers into thinking that Orsk delivers on its promise of a well-designed lifestyle at an affordable price. But, what lurks between the pages is a story of darkness and terror.

As the night unfolds, the employees discover that Orsk was built on the site of a nineteenth-century prison whose warden believed that he could cure the minds of inmates using punishing physical labour and constant surveillance. Is there a link between the old prison and the inexplicable activity in the store? During the night the employees learn the true nature of their workplace—and they encounter horrors that defy imagination.

A traditional haunted house story in a contemporary setting and full of present-day fears, **Horrorstör** will keep readers up in the wee hours of the night pondering what deep, dark secrets lie within their furniture.

About the author: *Grady Hendrix is a writer and journalist, and co-founder of the New York Asian Film Festival. He once worked answering phones for a para-psychological research organisation, and currently works for Orsk, Manhattan.*

For a review copy, competition prizes or an interview with the author, please contact Jane Beaton at Kew Publicity on jane@kewpublicity.co.uk, or call 07802 433471.