

Marte M. Solem

# Gustav

## Gustav

Genre: Fiction  
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Frida is the mother of Gustav, an imaginative and creative boy who struggles to make friends. She carries all his expectations and disappointments and spends much of her time facilitating his social life. When Isak, who is the same age, moves into the neighbouring flat during the summer holiday, a wonderful thing happens: Both the boys and their parents hit it off. But summer comes to an end, and when school starts again and familiar social patterns reemerge, Frida grows increasingly desperate to ensure that the friendship lasts. *Gustav* is a novel about how intertwined the emotional lives of parents and children can become, about a woman who lives more in her child's body than her own.

**Winner of the Mads W. Nygaard Grant**  
Nominated for the Brage Prize  
Nominated for the Listeners' Prize



Photo: Agnete Brun

Marte M. Solem (born 1978) grew up in Oslo and lives in Nesodden. She graduated from the Norwegian National Academy of Theatre and is the author of three acclaimed novels. In 2026, Solem received the Mads Wiel Nygaards Legat. *Gustav* is her third novel.

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'Full of heartbreaking scenes [...] the prose is charged with both insight and intensity throughout. This makes *Gustav* a novel that is captivatingly easy to read, yet leaves a lasting impression.'

Klassekampen

'An intense and tragicomic novel that makes the reader squirm in their seat [...] Solem is least of all interested in diagnosing Gustav. Instead, his mother's behaviour is analysed in merciless detail.'

Aftenposten