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Opening extract from

# Gawain Greytail and the Terrible Tab

Written by

**Cornelia Funke**

Illustrated by

**Monica Armino**

Published by

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*For Lucan, my Second Assistant – C.F.*

*To Valeria and Daniel – M.A.*

**PICTURE SQUIRRELS**

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Cornelia Funke Mónica Armiño

# Gawain Greytail and the Terrible Tab



PICTURE SQUIRRELS

Raven Castle was full of mice. The mice were very happy and content in their castle home.

But the lord of Raven Castle, Sir Tristan of Twitstream, was not very happy. His best chainmail was all chewed up. His wife was tired of shaking mouse droppings off the cheese. Their six children didn't want to play with half-nibbled dolls any more.

So Sir Tristan of Twitstream rode into town to buy a cat. The cat's name was Tab. She was scary, sleek and silent, with claws as sharp as knives. And Tab was always, always hungry. She was the best mouser in the land and Sir Tristan paid ten gold coins for her.



Back at the castle, Tab got to work. Within a month, only three mice were left – Shuffle, Snuffle and Scuffle. The three of them were nothing but skin and bones. Tab stood guard by the larder so they could not get near. And when they tried to sleep she lay down in front of their mouse hole and blew her fishy cat breath inside.

"There's nothing else for it," Shuffle said. "We need to find a new home!"

"But where?" Scuttle cried. "We are castle mice. And there are no other castles near by."

Poor Snuffle said nothing. He just chewed on the end of his whiskers.

Things were very bad.




But the next night, a little creature scurried in the castle gates. It wore a tiny suit of armour that shone in the silver light of the moon. It was the famous mouse knight Gawain Greytail. Every cat in the land was scared of him. He had come to help the mice of Raven Castle in their battle against the terrible Tab.