

Mat LaPorte's *Rats Nest* is a collection of stories that are not for the faint-of-heart. Toronto-based, Mat Laporte's quickfire storytelling style follows much in the theme of the show *Black Mirror*; brief, unsettling, and totally transfixing. He starts the 12-short story narrative at a 3D printed kid is sent exploring deep underground looking for hope for an isolated population, but stories about men following rituals to a letter even to the point of disfigurement, a sole survivor looking for truth among the ruins of a great knowledge centre and finding something he never imagined, and a bizarre protocol before eating are among the stories being offered in *Rats Nest*. These 12 short stories, so thinly connected by a luminescent green thread, are written to make the reader think, to elicit a feeling, often discomfort, and to examine our own lives in the 21st century and it must bare repeating is not for the faint-of-heart.

- Ellen Whelan Branch Assistant at the Exeter Library