

Fiva: An Adventure that Went Wrong

In his preface, Gordon Stainforth declares: 'After several false starts, I decided to tell [Fiva] in the first-person present tense... to put myself back into the mountaineering boots of a 19-year-old with a very limited perspective on life.' It is a monumental challenge for a 60-year-old author, and one that raises doubts. But the breathless teenage voice that leaps off the first page never waivers. Not once. Rather, it becomes an unrelenting force, sweeping the reader ever higher on Norway's Store Trolltind as events spiral out of control for two young, bold, and grossly inexperienced twins.

An evocative period piece, Fiva is human, innocent, and unflinchingly believable. This little, unassuming book stands among the classic tales of climbing 'epics.'

*Bruce Kirkby, Judges' citation
Best Book of Mountain & Wilderness Literature, Banff Mountain Festival, 2012*