

Hilde Myklebust

*YLVA AND THE WILD GOATS*

The author's description of the background for the book

**“My inspiration for this book comes from an incident many years ago**, during a family hike out to Ytre Fure. An extraordinary pathless place on the outermost point of the Stadlandet Peninsula on the north-west coast of Norway. Back then, you could see wild goats there. The kind of goats that had once been tame, but now lived wild and free in their own little flock far out where the fjords meet the sea. There were rumours that a huge, crazy billy goat lived amongst them, so you had to be careful when out walking there.

While we were hiking, we suddenly came upon a goat giving birth down in the skerries of the fjord. She spooked at the sight of us, turned tail and ran, leaving us there with her two little newborns. We didn't have the heart to just leave them lying there, cold and wet, in a landscape prowling with eagles. So we brought them to the farmer who used to own the flock, and eventually ended up bringing them all the way home. We named them Borka and Undis. Real, coastal wild goats!

This experience was so vivid for me that I decided to write it down in a book. Before long, the tale began to grow and develop. I wanted to weave together a story in which the protagonist would come face to face with the wildness of nature, so close that she would be forced to make dramatic choices and truly act bravely for the sake of creatures other than herself. I wanted to demonstrate just how illuminating the magical bond between children and animals can be.”

– *Hilde Myklebust*