



### The Weight of Snow Crystals

Original title: Vekten av snøkrystaller  
 Publisher: Forlaget Oktober, 2006  
 Genre: Novel  
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 English sample

### Foreign rights

Chinese (simplified): Shanghai  
 Translation Publishing House  
 Czech: Doplněk  
 Russian: MIC Publishing  
 Swedish: Norstedts  
 Turkish: Ithaki



**Thorvald Steen**  
 Photo: Trine Hisdal

## The Weight of Snow Crystals

*The Weight of Snow Crystals* is a strong and moving novel about a precocious boy who hides a terrible secret. It is also a painful portrayal of a father and son relationship, and how the ones who are closest to us can fail in offering love and support when we need it the most.

The protagonist is a fourteen year old boy living in Oslo in the sixties. Ski jumping is his great passion, and he has a genuine talent for it. His father, a soft-spoken optometrist, is ambitious on his son's behalf, while his beautiful, but slightly absent-minded mother wishes that he would give up what she considers a dangerous sport. They are a loving and close family.

But something is very wrong with the boy, and he is alone with his doctor when he receives news of his test results; he has a rare muscular disease that will ultimately render him a paralytic. The deterioration can happen quite fast or over time – it is impossible to predict.

*The Weight of Snow Crystals* tells the story of a boy facing the gravest and most difficult challenge of his life, and having to go the whole distance on his own.

*Wonderful, beautiful and shocking.... It is written from the heart, pure and complete. A bull's eye!*

Adresseavisen

*Twenty points for style. Subdued and dramatic about betrayal and broken dreams. Thorvald Steen's eighth novel, The Weight of Snow Crystals, is one of the most moving youth portrayals I have read.*

Bergens Tidende

*You read it with increasing commitment ... The Weight of Snow Crystals is a powerful little novel ... you want to read more"*

Dagens Nyheter, Sweden

## Thorvald Steen

Thorvald Steen's (b. 1954) literary career began in 1983, and he has since produced a diverse body of work spanning a variety of genres. Translated into 30 languages so far, Steen has received praise and prizes for the quality of his authorship in Norway and abroad.