

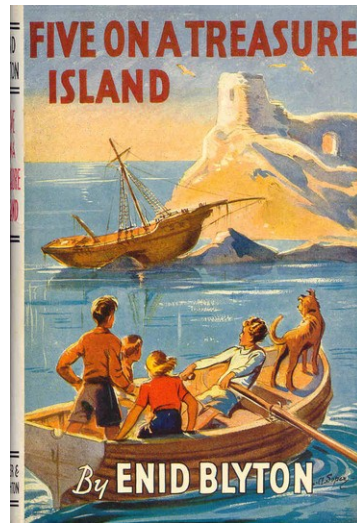


Ripping Reads No 54 August 2025

The Famous Five and Nightmares by Linda Buckingham

In the e-newsletter of April 25 Clarissa wrote “I read three of Enid Blyton's Famous Five books, and got myself so scared that I couldn't get to sleep and so had a really bad night. Ann was very scathing about my being so frightened over the FF but I was!”

Over the Easter and following weeks I too was reading Famous Five as was my nine-year-old granddaughter. I was trying to imagine my grand daughter reading the books and thought how frightening they are with numerous kidnappings, the five trapped underground etc. However, she doesn't seem to have been affected by them (maybe because she, like her grannie, 'hoovers up' books rather than reading them). Also I do not remember thinking they were frightening books when reading them as a child.



I was given several hardbacks, red covered FF books by a neighbour but gave them away when I was an older teenager. The first book I read was *Five Have a Wonderful Time* but my favourite remains *Five on a Treasure Island*. Granddaughter's favourite is *Five on Finnistone Farm*. Having just completed that one I wonder if she likes it best because there are no scary villains, just a pompous American with his irritating young son!

By the way we have just discovered a set of Famous Five short stories to add to the 'to be read' pile and then I'm onto the Adventure series (if the new Chalet books haven't arrived by then).