

- 4 Thrym, the Frost Giant king, had managed to steal Thor's hammer. He sent a message that he would return the hammer on one condition: Freya the Fair, goddess of love and beauty, must agree to marry him. Freya was daughter of Woden, the king of the gods. She threw herself at her father's feet and begged, "Please don't send me to the land of the Frost Giants!"
- 5 "Without Thor's hammer we will never be safe," Loki declared.
- 6 The gods of Asgard agreed and pondered just what Thor should do to get his hammer back.
- 7 Finally Woden, king of the gods, spoke. "Thor will travel in disguise to the land of the Frost Giants and, once there, he will steal back the hammer."
- 8 "In disguise?" asked Thor.
- 9 "Yes, disguised as Freya, bride of Thrym," commanded Woden.
- 10 At first Thor refused outright. But after much discussion, he realized there was no other way to retrieve his hammer. Finally, Loki offered to go along with Thor to the land of the Frost Giants disguised as Freya's maid.
- 11 Loki dressed Thor in Freya's velvet robes and draped Thor's enormous wrists with gems. He veiled Thor's angry, bearded face. The gods hid their laughter as Thor and Loki departed for the land of the Frost Giants.
- 12 Deep within the earth, the Frost Giants leaned on banquet tables heavily laden with fish and fowl, fruit, and sweetmeats. When Thor and Loki entered the banquet hall, Thrym rose to greet his bride. He reached for Thor's hand, which trembled in rage.
- 13 "Do not be afraid," urged Thrym.
- 14 Loki explained, "It is nervous anticipation that makes Freya quiver. She has long looked forward to this day."
- 15 Thrym swept the gnawed bones from the table with a hairy arm and patted the cushion beside him. He called a servant to bring more food.
- 16 Thor sat down without saying a word. He helped himself to half an ox and seven wedding cakes and began to eat.