

**EAST O' THE SUN AND  
WEST O' THE  
MOON: WITH OTHER  
NORWEGIAN FOLK TALES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649156115

East o' the sun and west o' the moon: with other Norwegian folk tales by Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen & Frederick Richardson

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**GUDRUN THORNE-THOMSEN & FREDERICK RICHARDSON**

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MOON: WITH OTHER  
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East O' the Sun  
and  
West O' the Moon  
with  
Other Norwegian Folk Tales

Retold by  
Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen  
University of Chicago

Illustrated by  
Frederick Richardson



Row, Peterson & Company  
Evanston, Illinois

New York

San Francisco

Philadelphia

C764664

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ARMY WOOD  
CLUB  
727 2011

## Foreword

In recent years there has been a wholesome revival of the ancient art of story-telling. The most thoughtful, progressive educators have come to recognize the culture value of folk and fairy stories, fables and legends, not only as means of fostering and directing the power of the child's imagination, but as a basis for literary interpretation and appreciation throughout life.

This condition has given rise to a demand for the best material in each of these several lines. Some editors have gleaned from one field; some from several. It is the aim of this little book to bring together only the very best from the rich stores of Norwegian folk-lore. All these stories have been told many times by the editor to varied audiences of children and to those who are "older grown." Each has proved its power to make the universal appeal.

In preparing the stories for publication, the aim has been to preserve, as much as possible, in vocabulary and idiom, the original folk-lore language, and to retain the conversational style of the teller of tales, in order that the sympathetic young reader may, in greater or less degree, be translated into the atmosphere of the old-time story-hour.

GUDRUN THORNE-THOMSEN.

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"Are you afraid?"

## East o' the Sun and West o' the Moon

**O**NCE on a time there was a poor wood-cutter who had so many children that he had not much of either food or clothing to give them. Pretty children they all were, but the prettiest was the youngest daughter, who was so lovely there was no end to her loveliness.

It was on a Thursday evening late in the fall of the year. The weather was wild and rough outside, and it was cruelly dark. The rain fell and the wind blew till the walls of the cottage shook. There they all sat round the fire busy with this thing and that. Just then, all at once, something gave three taps at the window pane. Then the father went out to see what was the matter, and, when he got out of doors, what should he see but a great White Bear.

“Good evening to you!” said the White Bear.

“The same to you,” said the man.

“Will you give me your youngest daughter? If you will, I’ll make you as rich as you are now poor,” said the Bear.

Well, the man would not be at all sorry to be so rich;—but give him his prettiest lassie, no, that he couldn’t do, so he said “No” outright and closed the door both tight and well. But the Bear called out, “I’ll give you time to think; next Thursday night I’ll come for your answer.”

Now, the lassie had heard every word that the Bear had said, and before the next Thursday evening came, she had washed and mended her rags, made herself as neat as she could, and was ready to start. I can’t say her packing gave her much trouble.

Next Thursday evening came the White Bear to fetch her, and she got upon his back with her bundle, and off they went. So when they had gone a bit of the way, the White Bear said, “Are you afraid?”

“No, not at all,” said the lassie.