

VIKING TALES

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Viking tales by Jennie Hall

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JENNIE HALL

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by
JENNIE HALL

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Chicago*



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A List of the Illustrations

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<i>"He threw back his cape and drew a little dagger from his belt"</i>	22
<i>"I struck my shield against the door so that it made a great clanging"</i>	31
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<i>"He looked straight ahead of him and scowled"</i>	145
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<i>"The chief held them out to Thorfinn and hugged the cloak to him"</i>	187

What *the* Sagas Were

ICELAND is a little country far north in the cold sea. Men found it and went there to live more than a thousand years ago. During the warm season they used to fish and make fish-oil and hunt sea-birds and gather feathers and tend their sheep and make hay. But the winters were long and dark and cold. Men and women and children stayed in the house and carded and spun and wove and knit. A whole family sat for hours around the fire in the middle of the room. That fire gave the only light. Shadows flitted in the dark corners. Smoke curled along the high beams in the ceiling. The children sat on the dirt floor close by the fire. The grown people were on a long narrow bench that they had pulled up to the light and warmth. Everybody's hands were busy with wool. The work left their minds free to think and their lips to talk. What was there to talk about? The summer's fishing, the killing of a fox, a voyage to Norway. But