

**FREY AND
HIS WIFE**

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Frey and His Wife by Maurice Hewlett

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MAURICE HEWLETT

**FREY AND
HIS WIFE**



"Of a sudden Frey roared aloud, making a terrible booming noise, and leaped into the midst of the fight."

FREY AND HIS WIFE

BY

MAURICE HEWLETT

Author of "The Forest Lovers," "Richard
Yes-and-Nay," etc.

ILLUSTRATION BY

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FREY AND HIS WIFE

I

WHO AND WHAT WAS OGMUND
RAVENSSON, AND WHY CALLED
OGMUND DINT

IT'S hard to say why men could not get along with Ogmund Ravensson; but so it was, and something must be said about it. He was of thrall-origin, it is true, for Raven, his father, who became very rich and lived in the North, in Skaga Firth, had been a thrall. Glum, of Thwartwater, who was better known as Battle-Glum, had owned him, and had given him his freedom. More than that, he had taken in fostership his son, Ogmund, and brought him up with his own son, Wigfus, and made much of him, putting him

in a fair way to gain money and renown on his own account. When Wigfus went out to Norway and took service with Earl Haakon things stood better than ever for Ogmund; for Glum was aging and had no other young man so much in favor about him. A thrall for your father was not thought well of; but it had not so far stood in Ogmund's way with Glum, and there must have been more against him than that. Indeed, the tale says that his mother was related by blood to Battle-Glum, and that would have been more than enough to cover the taint on his father.

He grew up to be a fine, broad-shouldered, portly, upstanding man, with a black beard; he had a large, flexible nose, strong eyebrows, white hands. His eyes were somewhat small and near together; gray eyes, and a cast in one of them. But what of that? Plenty of men have it, and no harm done. At any rate, he was a great talker, full of his reasons for or against a thing. Other men don't like that, I

fancy. They don't follow the reasoning; and the better it is the less they want it. Here are some of the causes of Ogmund's lack of friends.

But Battle-Glum, who, as I say, was getting old, was averse to change. He watched Ogmund from under bushy white brows, he watched him with quick eye-blinks, and shut his lips the firmer, men used to think, for fear he might let fly a volley at the man he had bred up from a child. When the time came, and Ogmund desired to see the world, Glum furnished a ship for him and found everything. So it was that Ogmund became a shipman and began to get on. He made money, and spent money. He had a fine person, and knew it very well. He was fond of adorning it. He liked furs, and goldwork; he wore a chain round his neck, and a good ring on his forefinger. He had as yet no wife in Iceland, but his fancy ran upon a young woman of good family, of Glum's kindred and, since