



*The
Two
Collars
Study Guide*

by Carol Diehn

For the novel
by Jeri Massi



Progeny Press

Table of Contents

Note to Instructor.....	4
Synopsis.....	5
Background Information	6
About the Author.....	7
Ideas for Discussion and Class Projects	8
Chapters 1–4	10
Chapters 5–8	16
Chapters 9–12	20
Chapters 13–16	24
Chapters 17–20	30
Chapters 21–23	34
Chapters 24, 25, and Epilogue.....	41
Summary Questions	45
Word Scramble and Search	47
After-you-read Activities	48
Additional Resources	49
Answer Key.....	51

Synopsis

“But the greatest difference between your old Master and me is this: he owned you one way, and I must own you another. You must belong to me—not because I have broken your collar or paid gold for you—but because you have truly come to love me.”

The Two Collars, Jeri Massi’s third book in the series of novels written about the tiny island kingdom of Bracken, introduces us to a humble slave girl named Krea. Krea is a juggler in a traveling troupe led by a wicked master. She is rescued by the Wise Woman from a life of drudgery and slavery.

The Wise Woman nurses Krea back to health with comfort, love, and acceptance. She teaches the little slave girl not only a physician’s trade but honor, loyalty, and compassion.

The Kingdom of Bracken is in danger and Krea finds herself a courier in the service of King Reynald. Reynald’s cousin, Frederick has treacherous plans to overthrow Reynald’s throne. In the midst of her forays as a messenger, Krea finds herself captured by her former master. Once again the Wise Woman comes to her rescue and together they seek to assist Reynald in his plight.

Background Information

The Two Collars is the third book in a trilogy of “Wise Woman” novels written by Jeri Massi. The first in this trilogy is *The Bridge*, a story of Princess Rosalynn’s perilous flight from Bracken in the midst of treachery and invasion. Rosalynn finds comfort and courage as she meets the “Wise Woman” and together they seek to reveal the secret that will save the kingdom of Bracken. Second in the trilogy is *Crown and Jewel*, a story of Queen Rosalynn’s and King Herron’s daughter, Princess Rosewyn, and her adventure with her grandmother, the Wise Woman, as they attempt to expose the evil plot against the royal throne.

Wise woman stories were popular in the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. These tales often wove adventure and suspense with solid moral lessons. George MacDonald, one of the great writers of the 19th century, made use of wise woman stories in several stories, such as his popular book, *The Lost Princess*.

Many of the wise woman stories have symbolic meaning. From a certain perspective, the wise woman portrays qualities of the Holy Spirit as she prods and encourages her young charges to face truth, act humbly, trust, and obey, all in response to her love, comfort, and acceptance.

Children are intrigued by stories of kings, queens, castles, and princesses. In *The Two Collars*, author Jeri Massi effectively combines the allure of medieval adventure with true moral lessons.

The Two Collars Study Guide

5. What was Frederick taught as a little boy? What does this say about the things we learn as small children?

6. Krea wasn't sure if she could be merry at a table with just Reynald and Peridan, for she was nervous around royalty, but when she met them later she found herself perfectly at ease. Why is she at ease? How is her self-confidence changing?

7. How does Reynald decide to try to resolve his conflict with Frederick? Why does he try to avoid war? How is Krea involved in King Reynald's secret plan?

Talk about it:

8. Krea often struggles with feeling worthless because of her previous status of being a slave. Yet she is accepted and even loved by royalty. How is this like our acceptance in Christ?

The Two Collars Study Guide

10. She lives with the Wise Woman for three years, and learns slowly to love and trust her. She learns how good the Woman is and how much the Woman loves her.

11. Answers will vary, but should mention that duty is appropriate when we don't feel like doing what is right, but know that we should do it anyhow.

Chapters 9–12

Vocabulary:

1. clumsy; 2. invincible; 3. understandable; 4. uncertain; 5. cheerful; 6. abandon; 7. encounter; 8. hurry; 9. dry, active; 10. well-kept.

Questions:

1. To inflict harm in return for a wrong. The Wise Woman does not allow her personal dislike of a person or situation to prevent her from being a physician to all and helping them. Do not take revenge, but help your enemy. Love your enemies. Turn the other cheek.

2. To make up for having ignored his plea for a drink.

3. Tellrinetor. Descriptive words will vary. Krea keeps her distance from him because she wasn't sure how much she trusted him. He had been a rebel soldier and a deserter.

4. Answers will vary.

5. Answers will vary.

6. Act = a deed, to exert oneself; React = to respond to a stimulus. Action is rational and thought about. A decision. Reaction is emotional and not under control. The difference is that in action, one is in control; in reaction, the stimulus is in control.

Chapters 13–16

Vocabulary:

Using Vocabulary Words: 1. the errand of a messenger, job, duty; 2. raid, sortie, or mission; 3. delay, tarry; 4. shifted direction, swerved, turned; 5. receded, declined, waned; 6. disgusting, repugnant; 7. attacked; 8. soaked, drenched; 9. authorized; 10. freedom; 11. someone who searches into the reasons and nature of things; 12. weak, fragile; 13. skimpy, meager, sparse; 14. framework of crossed wood or metal; 15. heroic acts.

Questions:

1. There was a roaring in her ears and despair and grief struck her so hard she was nearly sick.

2. He held her to keep her from falling. He hushes her so that they don't beat her. He pretends to teach her to build the fire and cook so that everyone will leave her alone.

3. Piper notices that she talks as though she were a princess or lady. She acts free. The Master notices that she acts free-born and knows about medicine. He shrewdly guessed that knowing medicine and being a spy made her feel important.

4. Jolly puts a firebrand in the place of a cup she reaches for.

5. She knows how to make willow tea when the robber band almost all come down with fever. She realizes it is her duty to stay and help them. She was bound to help both friend and enemy.

6. They were twisted. The things the Master said were partially true, but his accusations against the Wise Woman planted doubt in Krea by causing her to question the Wise Woman's love.

7. The Master is the deceiver. He is trying to make Krea give up and despair.

8. Obligation, service required. The Mistress had bound her not to take a private revenge, and to help both friend and enemy.

9. Piper tells her to go for more willow bark down by the south side of the causeway and take his knife. Her Mistress finds her and they swim the River.

10. The Wise Woman takes Krea across the River, gets a fire going, puts Krea in a dry cloak, examines her scarred hand and tells her what a good job she did treating it. She praises Krea for helping the robbers, then she tells of when she saw Krea sold as a little girl. She tells Krea that she followed her and that she loves her. She wanted to know Krea and she wanted Krea to rejoice in having her love.

11. Contrasts and comparisons will vary.