

Jackaroo, by Cynthia Voigt

Setting: a medieval kingdom, which included "Sutherland", "Northgate", a "Village", the Ram's Head Inn, "Hildebrand", and "The King's City".

Characters:

Gwyn= the head strong teenage daughter of the Ram's Head Inn innkeeper. She is often referred to as the "Innskeeper's Daughter." She is the heroine in the story. She discovers the mystery of the legend of "Jackaroo." She goes through many adventures as the story unfolds.

Tad= Gwyn's spoiled younger brother who Gwyn is certain will inherit the Inn because he is the only son. His mother is very protective of him since other sons had died at a young age and he had been sick too. He grows up a lot by the end of the story.

Old Woman (Nell)= Gwyn helps her at the Doling Room and helps her home through the snow.

Old Man (Hap)= the Old Woman's husband who was attacked while she was away. The thieves also took their goat and killed their dog.

Nanny= Hap and Granny's stolen goat.

Burl= the servant/helper at the Ram's Head Inn. He runs the stables and helps at the Inn. He also keeps watch over Gwyn and Tad. Marries Gwyn at the end with the help the Lord.

Jackaroo= a legendary figure in the kingdom. Many stories are told and retold about him. He tried to help the poor. He wore a short red cape, a blue tunic with a white shirt underneath with silver buckles, high leather boots, a mask and a plumed hat.

Da= Gwyn's father and the Innkeeper. He tries to understand his daughter and keep the peace between her and his wife.

Mother= Gwyn's mother. Wears her grey hair in braids that ring around her ears. She is protective of Tad and critical of Gwyn.

Steward= the assistant to Earl Northgate. He gave his ring to "Jackaroo" to show he would keep his promise to bring the three thieves to justice.

Rose= Gwyn's older sister who is to be married.

Old Magg= Gwyn's relative she thinks she can go live with when the Inn goes to Tad, instead of getting married.

Chapters 1 and 2

1. Who was to receive the food Tad and Gwyn got from the Doling Room?

Old Magg.

2. Whom did Tad and Gwyn help home after getting their basket filled?

An old woman.

3. What had happened to the old woman's husband while his wife was away at the Doling Room?

He was robbed, the dog was killed, and the goat stolen.

4. Who robbed them?

Three rough men with beards.

Chapter 3

1. What made the walk home so long and dangerous?

The snow and cold and the chance of thieves.

2. Who helps Burl with chores, including the care of the horses?

Gwyn.

3. How did Burl come to work at the Inn?

He was an orphan and was brought by Priests to the Hiring Fair when he was seven.

4. Who are the guests at the Inn?

A Lord and his son (a lordling).

Chapter 4

1. Who is Rose to marry?

Wes.

2. What is the Lord doing traveling in the winter?

He told Da he is a mapmaker from the king, working on a map of the Northern Kingdom.

3. Who is Uncle Win?

Da's brother who dies before he was married. He was a fighter.

4. Who was Hap?

Da's other brother who was a dancer.

5. What instrument does Burl play?

A flute or "pipe."

6. What is a privy?

An outhouse.

Chapter 5

1. Where does Old Megg live?

In a hut a mile north of the village that was in a tiny valley.

2. What does Old Megg do there?

She watches over Da's vineyard and takes care of the goats.

3. Who is Cam?

A young man who asked to marry Gwyn's sister Blythe, but Da said no.

4. Who is Wes?

He is to marry Rose soon.

5. Who said, "Afraid. When men are afraid, they're dangerous, that's what I've found"?

Burl.

6. What has happened to Old Megg?

She was robbed like Hap and Nell, by four men. Her ankle was twisted. She thinks they were soldiers,

7. Where do they take Megg?

To the Weaver's house.

8. What does Gwyn decide to do with one of the goats?

Take it to the old couple, Hap and Nell.

Chapter 6

1. Who is Blythe married to?

Guy.

2. Why is Blythe so depressed?

Her first baby (Joss) died shortly after being born.

3. What is the King's Way?

A main road that Gwyn uses to get to her village and the Inn.

4. What happens to Granda?

He becomes ill and sleeps a lot.

5. Why does Megg return again to Old Megg's hut?

To see if more goats have returned and to close up the hut.

6. Who teases Gwyn about marrying him?

Cam.

7. Does Gwyn want to get married?

No.

8. When Burl suspects a nanny goat is missing, what does Gwyn say?

Maybe Jackaroo had need of her.

Chapters 7 and 8

1. What does Gwyn teach Tad to fight with?

A staff.

2. How old is Granda?

58.

3. Does he survive the cold winter?

No.

4. Who does Da want to help the Lord and his lordling on their mapmaking trip?

Burl and Gwyn.

5. Whose house do they stay at first?

Liss's, a girl about Gwyn's age.

6. Whose house do they stay at next?

A hut that belongs to three rough-looking men.

7. The next morning, the Lord finds what he was searching for, what is it?

A stream marking the eastern pass.

8. The Lord fears two things and thinks they should head back to the Inn. What are those two things?

That they are being followed and that bad weather is coming.

9. When the snowstorm hits hard while they are still in the mountains, what does the Lord decide to do?

He sends his son, the Lordling, and Gwyn ahead with the mare.

10. Where do Gwyn and the Lordling end up instead of at the Inn?

At Old Megg's hut.

Chapter 9

1. What does the Lordling suffer from at night?

Nightmares.

2. Why did the Lord draw a picture of the three rough men into his map book?

So if they had murdered them (Gwyn, Burl, the Lord and his son), they would be identified.

3. What does the Lordling for Gwyn that he is not allowed to?

Teaches her letters and how to write and shows her her father's maps.

4. Why do they stay at Old Megg's?

It is too cold and there is too much snow to return to the Inn yet.

Chapter 10

1. What does the Lordling want Gwyn to teach him how to do?

Fight with a staff.

2. What does Gwyn find when she is cleaning out one of the cupboards?

Clothes and a sword that look like they could be Jackaroo's.

3. What does the Lordling want to do to pass the time?

Talk.

Chapter 11

1. What chore does the Lordling do that surprises Gwyn?

He chops firewood.

2. What makes the Lordling sad and causes his nightmares?

His mother died and he had to help bury her.

3. After the Lordling teaches Gwyn how to spell her name, what does he tell her?

His real name, which is Gaderian.

4. What does the Lordling teach Gwyn that no one is to know about?

The alphabet.

5. How old is Gaderian?

About Tad's age which is 11.

Chapter 12

1. As Gaderian and Gwyn make their way back to the Inn, what are they worried about?

That Burl and Gaderian's father did not make it back the night of the snowstorm.

2. What does Gwyn put at the Lord's feet when she reaches the Inn?

His saddlebag with the mapbook.

3. What does he ask?

"Where is my son?"

4. Why isn't Gaderian with her right then?

They were playing a game of hiding and she had not found him before she saw the Inn.

5. What does the Lord do and accuse Gwyn of?

He puts his sword to her throat and tells her she should not have returned without his son. He thinks he is dead and that she did not take care of him.

6. Why is Gwyn mad at her family too?

Because they thought the same as the Lord did, that she hadn't taken care of the Lordling.

7. Who says, "You ought to hear her speak, my Lord"?

Burl.

8. What does the Lord do after his son appears over the hill calling "Father, Father"?

He tries to apologize to Gwyn.

9. What happened to Burl's foot?

He got frostbite.

Chapter 13

1. Before he and his son left the Inn, what does he give to each Burl and Gwyn?

A bag of cold coins.

2. What extra thing is in Gwyn's bag of coins?

A note that says, "GWYNIDONOTFORGETYOU DONOTFORGETMEGADERIAN."

3. How many gold pieces were in the bag?

12

4. What announcement does Gwyn want her father to make?

That she will not marry.

5. Whom does Gwyn's mother think she wants to marry?

Cam, the weaver's boy.

Chapter 14

1. What does Gwyn teach Tad to do?

To scrub the barroom floor.

2. What do the men talk about in the barroom?

About the highwayman who is to be journeyed and hanged for his crimes.

Chapter 15

1. What does Gwyn do with the clothes of Jackaroo?

She dresses up as Jackaroo.

Chapter 16

1. How does Gwyn help the Fiddler when her father can't?

She dresses up as Jackaroo and leaves a gold coin for him so that he can pay his taxes.

Chapter 17

1. What do all the people look forward to in the Spring?

The Spring Fair.

2. What does Gwyn see in the bottom of one poor singer girl's basket?

A gold coin.

3. Who does she think put it there?

Burl.

Chapter 18

1. What does Gwyn buy for Rose?

Fine wool for her first child.

2. What else does Gwyn buy for herself?

A book.

3. Who tries to ask Gwyn to marry him?

A poor widower named Am.

Chapter 19

1. How does Gwyn try to help the poor widower and his children?

She dresses as Jackaroo and rides a horse to their home to give them gold coins.

2. Whom does she meet up with on her return ride?

The three thieves as they are raiding another home.

3. What had the three done?

They murdered the man and the woman and set fire to the home.

4. What does Gwyn do with the baby who survived?

Takes him to her sister Blythe to raise.

5. When Gwyn returns home, what does she tell Burl about how she has the horse?

That it ran away.

6. What does Gwyn see on the inside flap of the saddle while she is cleaning it?
The sign of the falcon.

Chapter 20

1. What deal does Gwyn (dressed as Jackaroo) make with the Steward at the Doling Room?
That he bring the three thieves to justice. She keeps his ring as ransom.
2. Da tells Gwyn who is heir will be. Who is it?
Her.

Chapter 21

1. What name does Blythe give to her adopted son?
Joss.
2. What are the rumors that are going around?
That Jackaroo has returned.
3. Who is the highwayman is being journeyed?
Da's brother Win.
4. What happened to the two gold coins that "Jackaroo" gave to the pigman?
They were stolen because he bragged about them.

Chapter 22

1. What does Gwyn try to do when she finds out the highwayman is her uncle?
She tries to rescue him by getting the guards drunk on wine.
2. What does Win do when she dressed as Jackaroo tries to get him to run?
He refuses.
3. Why does he refuse?
He says that he will be released from the trap that Jackaroo is now in.
4. What does Gwyn understand that to mean?
That she has lost the life she would have had now that she has been Jackaroo.

Chapter 23

1. What happens after the hanging?
Burl offers to take the body for a proper funeral.
2. What announcement does the Steward make after the hanging?
That the other three thieves have been caught and will get their punishment.
3. What does Gwyn do with the Steward's ring?
Tosses it in the air so that it lands at his feet, but she is not sure if anyone saw her do it or not.