***Woman in White***

***Part 1***

***Section 1***

***Chapter 11***

***Short Summary:***

Walter goes to his room to finish up restorations for Mr. Fairlie. Marian meets with Walter to tell him that the anonymous letter sent to Laura casts suspicion on Sir Percival Glyde and upsets Laura. Marian shares the letter with Walter. It tells of a dream in which Laura is about to marry an evil man who has a scar on his hand and a dry cough. The letter warns Laura to look into the past of the man before committing to him. Marian confides in Walter that the family's solicitor (attorney) is arriving the next day to help prepare the marriage settlement between Laura and Sir Percival Glyde, who wants to marry Laura before the end of the year. Walter and Marian agree to track down the sender of the letter by questioning the gardener, a stupid lad who can only offer that the old woman who gave him the letter left to the south.

***Short Analysis:***

The anonymous letter raises suspicion about the Baronet Glyde, but no proof. Collins creates foreboding and dread by hinting that something is not right about Glyde. Marian and Walter work together toward their mutual interest of keeping Laura to themselves. This is the beginning of their mutual quest to find something wrong with Sir Percival Glyde.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

[Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) returns to his room and makes preparations to leave Limmeridge. He is overcome by a sense of foreboding about the future and feels that some threat hangs over [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie), [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe), and himself. Before he is ready to leave, Marian arrives at his room and tells him that she is very concerned about the letter which arrived for Laura as it contains allegations against her future husband, [Sir Percival Glyde](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde). Laura is extremely upset, and Marian wishes to find out who wrote the letter by asking around in the village if anyone saw the old woman who carried the note.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Walter’s growing anxiety increases suspense for the reader as they ponder the unusual connections between the characters. Again, Marian suggests that she and Walter try and solve part of the mystery themselves by questioning people who may have witnessed surrounding events. This technique in Collins’s novel influenced the development of the detective novel, particularly fictional detectives like Sherlock Holmes who rely on their own investigative skills and the art of deduction to solve crimes. The fact that Marian suggests that they do this puts Marian on a par with Walter as a protagonist of the novel.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) wonders if she should write to their solicitor and shows [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) the letter. It contains a strange message which claims that the writer has a premonition about [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie)’s wedding. The writer has seen a vision of Laura getting married to a man who looks like [Sir Percival Glyde](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) and that, although this man appears charming and handsome, a demon stands behind him and laughs during the ceremony. The writer claims that Mrs. Fairlie was very dear to them—their “best and only friend”—and begs Laura to accept this warning.

***Analysis Part 2:***

The letter has frightened Laura because it describes the writer’s dream about her marriage to Sir Percival and seems to suggest that Sir Percival has evil intentions towards her. In the dream, the demon stands behind Sir Percival, suggesting that he is hiding something or has a dark secret. The mention of Mrs. Fairlie again connects the letter to Anne Catherick.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe), however, has no reason to suspect [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) or question his reputation, which is allegedly spotless. She and [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) decide to go and enquire in the village and see if they can solve the mystery themselves.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Marian is willing to give Sir Percival the benefit of the doubt until she knows otherwise. She believes that, if he really was a bad man, he would not have the good reputation in society that he does.

***Important Quotations:***

***Quotation 1:***

Forty-five; and she not even twenty-one! Men of his age married wives of her age every day; and experience had shown those marriages to be often the happiest ones. I knew that—and yet even the mention of his age [...] added to my blind hatred and distrust of him. (1.1.11.36)

***Explanation:***

Ditto, Walter. Knowing Sir Percival is that much older than Laura makes the entire situation even more creepy-sauce.