***Woman in White***

***Part 1***

***Section 1***

***Chapter 15***

***Summary(11-15):***

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.

Walter and Marian head south of Limmeridge House to the nearest village, where the schools were founded by the late Mrs. Fairlie. They arrive at one school and overhear the schoolmaster, Mr. Dempster, warning the boys that ghosts do not exist. A boy named Joseph Postlethwaite sits alone on a stool as punishment for claiming to see a ghost. Marian questions the boy who says he saw the ghost of Mrs. Fairlie by her grave stone. Marian leads Walter to the cemetery where Walter says he believes that the woman in white is Anne Catherick and that she wrote the letter to Laura. Marian returns to Limmeridge House while Walter examines the grave stone. It has been partially cleaned. Walter finds a cottage near the cemetery where he meets the wife of the sexton, or caretaker of the church. In this meeting Walter learns that the sexton has not recently cleaned the grave stone, so he suspects that Anne Catherick did. He returns to Limmeridge House with plans to hide by the grave stone to see if Anne Catherick returns to finish the cleaning. He works on his art when he notices Laura heading out for a walk with her pet Italian greyhound, Nina. Later, before sunset, he goes to the cemetery to spy on the grave stone.

From his hiding place in the cemetery, Walter sees two women approach the grave stone of Mrs. Fairlie. The woman in white is covered in a long, blue, hooded traveling cloak and her companion wears plain clothes and a shawl. The woman in the shawl goes for a walk leaving the woman in white alone by the grave. The woman in white goes to a nearby brook where she dips a cloth in the water and then cleans the grave stone with it. Walter cautiously approaches the woman, reminding her that they met on the road and that he is staying at Limmeridge House. He gently brings up the subject of Laura and the letter, confirming that the woman in white, Anne Catherick, wrote it. He asks her to come to Limmeridge House to talk to Laura in person about the warning in the letter. When he mentions the name of Sir Percival Glyde, Anne screams. This confirms Walter's theory that she was placed in a nearby private asylum by Glyde. Anne's friend, Mrs. Clements, runs to her side and calms her. They leave, pausing at the sexton's house to talk with the woman there. Walter watches them disappear in the darkness.

Walter returns to Limmeridge House where he tells Marian everything about meeting Anne Catherick, and that she is staying at Todd's Corner, a nearby farm. Marian agrees to go to Todd's Corner with Walter the next day vowing to get to the truth about Sir Percival Glyde. The next morning Walter goes about the plan whereby he ostensibly receives news in the mail that compels him to leave. He asks a servant to arrange a meeting with Mr. Fairlie. Instead of meeting, Mr. Fairlie asks that Walter communicate with him by letter so Walter does. Mr. Fairlie replies with an insulting letter that questions Walter's seriousness as an artist and that being upset by this, he tells Walter to leave. Walter then goes with Marian to Todd's Corner where they learn that Anne Catherick became hysterical during a conversation with the Todds, and that she and Mrs. Clements left three hours earlier. Mrs. Todd is insulted that they left without explanation. Marian, determined to learn why, questions the Todd's daughter, Hannah, who works at Limmeridge House. Hannah says that all they discussed was local news, such as the expected visit from Sir Percival Glyde and his engagement to Laura.

On Friday, November second, Walter and Marian welcome Mr. Gilmore, the family's solicitor to Limmeridge House. Marian takes Gilmore inside so Walter roams the gardens on his last full day there. On his sentimental journey, everything reminds him of the past months spent with Laura. When he returns to the house, Mr. Gilmore draws him aside to discuss the anonymous letter; Gilmore says that he has sent men to track down Anne Cathrick and Mrs. Clements. He adds that he has sent a letter to Sir Percival Glyde's solicitor with a copy of the letter, keeping the original to show to Sir Percival on Monday. After dinner, a man arrives with news that Anne Cathrick and Mrs. Clements traveled to Carlisle. There was no report of them at local inns or the railway station. Mr. Gilmore, Walter, Marian, Mrs. Vesey and Laura retire to the drawing room. Laura plays Mozart, Walter's favorite, while the rest play a card game called whist. They say their good nights, and Marian tells Walter that she is his friend for life. The next morning, Laura, Walter and Marian struggle through breakfast making small talk. Laura leaves abruptly. Marian kisses Walter on the forehead and tells him that she will write to him. Walter offers his help if they ever need it. Marian leaves. Laura comes back into the room to give Walter a drawing she has done. Walter wishes her great happiness and then Laura cries asking him to leave.

Analysis(11-15)

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.

Anne Catherick's wish to be buried beside her beloved Mrs. Fairlie will eventually come true through identity theft, when she is buried in the name of Laura Fairlie. Collins introduces a character detector in the form of a little dog. The reader is clued in to the true nature of Sir Percival and Solicitor Gilmore through whether or not this dog accepts them. The pet dog of Laura mirrors the pet dog of Anne Catherick. Both tender-hearted women own dogs, and the fate of Anne's dog is later used to parallel Anne's fate.

Collins creates a dramatic reaction by Anne Catherick that reveals unspeakable horror at the mention of Sir Percival Glyde. It is not solid evidence against him, but it hardens Walter's conviction against Sir Percival.

Collins creates a dramatic question in this scene—what has Sir Percival done that creates such horror and the need to flee on the part of Anne? How does such a frail, unsettled woman threaten a baronet?

Marian seeks protection for her beloved Laura through the legal system, represented by the noble Gilmore. Unfortunately, Gilmore is hamstrung by Frederick Fairlie because he has to obey the guardian's wishes. The anonymous letter is socially, but not legally, damaging. While Anne's intention is to protect Laura, the letter endangers her it ways yet unseen. Anne's madness is greater than she knows because her intentions pave the way to her own death.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

When they arrive back at Limmeridge, [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) and [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) find that [Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore) has just arrived to help finalize the paperwork for [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie)’s wedding to [Sir Percival Glyde](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde). Marian greets him, and Walter finds himself extremely curious about the old lawyer. Mr. Gilmore does not have many of the qualities that Walter expects to find in a lawyer and, instead, seems to be a cheerful, healthy, and good-humored person. He leaves Marian and Mr. Gilmore to talk and once more takes in the grounds of Limmeridge House, where he has many fond memories of his time spent with Laura.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Mr. Gilmore does not fit the stereotypical image of a lawyer as a greedy, self-interested, and miserly individual, which was commonly portrayed in the nineteenth century and which Walter expects. Like so many of the characters in the novel, Mr. Gilmore defies the conventions associated with people in his line of work. Wilkie Collins studied to become a lawyer and used his knowledge of the law and legal cases in his fiction.

***Summary Part 2:***

On his way back along the veranda, [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) bumps into [Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore), who has apparently been looking for him. [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) has told Mr. Gilmore about the letter sent to [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie), warning her about [Sir Percival Glyde](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde), and has heard about Walter’s involvement in tracking down [Anne Catherick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman). Mr. Gilmore thoughtfully recognizes that Walter has Laura’s best interests in mind and might wish to know how Mr. Gilmore plans to precede with her case.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Mr. Gilmore is very thoughtful to approach Walter in this way. Although he does not suspect a love affair between Walter and Laura, he can see that Walter has gone out of his way to gather information about Laura’s future husband for the sake of assuring that Laura will not be mistreated. Mr. Gilmore thus wishes to assure Walter that he too has Laura’s best interests in mind.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore) tells [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) that he has sent a copy of the letter from [Anne Catherick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman) to [Sir Percival Glyde](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde)’s solicitor in London and has kept the original of the letter to show Sir Percival when he arrives at Limmeridge in a few days. Meanwhile, Mr. Gilmore has also sent a servant to look for Anne Catherick and [Mrs. Clements](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-clements) and to follow and observe them. Mr. Gilmore is confident that Sir Percival will be able to offer a satisfactory explanation for the letter and for Anne Catherick’s accusations. Walter, however, is not so convinced. He is, however, resigned to the fact that there is little more he can do for [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) as he must leave Limmeridge soon.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Mr. Gilmore approaches the subject of Anne’s letter as a legal matter. He provides Sir Percival’s lawyer with the evidence (the letter) which accuses Sir Percival and feels confident that there will be an acceptable explanation provided that will show that Sir Percival acted within the confines of the law. Walter, however, does not feel that Sir Percival’s solicitor will necessarily show them the truth, as Sir Percival’s lawyer can obviously be paid by Sir Percival to make him look blameless in the situation.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) decides to leave immediately after this conversation with [Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore), but [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) convinces him to “depart like a friend” and have one last dinner with them, which Walter agrees to do. It is difficult for him to remain composed in [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie)’s presence, but Mr. Gilmore’s cheerful conversation sees them through the meal.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Mr. Gilmore seems quite oblivious of the situation between Walter and Laura and continues to talk cheerfully throughout dinner despite the strained atmosphere. Mr. Gilmore doesn’t seem to observe the people around him very closely outside of his professional role, and doesn’t look below the surface appearance of things.

***Summary Part 5:***

After dinner, the servant that [Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore) has dispatched returns and tells them that he followed [Mrs. Clements](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-clements) and [Anne Catherick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman) as far as Carlisle but could trace them no further. Mr. Gilmore, [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright), [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe), and [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) retire to the drawing room and Walter and Laura spend a final, painful evening in each other’s company before they will be parted forever. Before Walter goes upstairs, he promises Laura that she has a faithful friend in him and wishes her well for the future. Laura pleads with him to leave her, and this reveals to Walter her desperate love for him. Walter departs from Limmeridge the next morning and concludes the first section of his narrative.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Mr. Gilmore does not appear concerned about losing track of Anne Catherick and seems not to think much more about it. He does not think her allegations against Sir Percival will reveal anything important. Laura can barely stand to be in Walter’s presence, apparently, because her love for him is so overwhelming. She begs him to leave because she is afraid that she will act on her feelings, which will break the conventions of propriety.