***Woman in White***

***Part 1***

***Section 2***

***Chapter 1***

***Summary:***

* Everyone gathers for dinner, but only Sir Percival is in a good mood.
* A letter arrives from Jane Catherick, Anne's mom, confirming Sir Percival's story.
* Marian seems convinced there's some sort of conspiracy afoot.
* Laura begs for her decision about whether or not to end the engagement to be postponed.
* Mr. Gilmore goes to hash things out with Laura. He feels that Laura is being ridiculous.
* But Laura is so upset that Mr. Gilmore doesn't have the heart to lecture her.
* She also refuses to talk much about her marriage settlement and leaves all the legal and financial matters to Mr. Gilmore.
* Her only request is that Marian be allowed to live with her if she gets married.
* Mr. Gilmore then heads back to London.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore) spends the next few days at Limmeridge with [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 [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde), who remains cheerful and lively despite Laura’s continued disinterest in him. On Tuesday morning, Sir Percival visits Todd’s Corner to enquire about [Anne](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman) and, on Wednesday, a letter arrives from [Mrs. Catherick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-catherick) which corroborates Sir Percival’s story about her daughter.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Mr. Gilmore feels that Sir Percival is a patient and good-natured man who tolerates Laura’s treatment of him, which Mr. Gilmore feels is sulky and unnecessary. The letter from Mrs. Catherick seems to support this and prove Sir Percival’s version of events.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) approaches [Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore) when they are alone in the library and concedes that they have done everything they can to investigate [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde). Mr. Gilmore is irritated that she seems to want more proof of Sir Percival’s innocence after what has already been provided, and thinks that Marian just dislikes him. Marian denies this and tells him that Sir Percival has taken her aside and told her that, if [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) wishes to break off the engagement, then she must feel free to do so.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Mr. Gilmore believes that Marian has a personal bias against Sir Percival. He feels that she is looking for evidence, despite the fact that Sir Percival has proved his innocence, to implicate him in an injustice that he did not commit. Mr. Gilmore does not examine his own potential bias in favor of Sir Percival.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore) insists that this is perfectly reasonable of him. [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe), however, feels that this is an impossible thing to ask of [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) as Laura is an extremely honorable person and will never willingly give up her father’s dying wish, which was that she should marry [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde). Mr. Gilmore feels that either Marian and Laura are being flighty and fickle or that they have a secret reason for rejecting the marriage.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Mr. Gilmore feels that Sir Percival has been very patient and transparent with Laura, who he feels is teasing Sir Percival and leading him on unfairly. He believes that he genuinely wants to release Laura from her engagement if she does not wish to marry him. Marian, however, feels that Sir Percival is manipulating Laura. She thinks he is using what he knows about Laura’s loyalty to her father against her by implying that if she does not want to marry him, she must go against her father’s wishes.

***Summary Part 4:***

Later that day, [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) decides that she would like to postpone the marriage and sends [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) to speak to [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) on this matter. [Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore) is put out because he must arrange the marriage settlement with Laura before the wedding and will not easily find another opportunity to come to Limmeridge if the marriage is postponed. Sir Percival, however, accepts Laura’s request.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Mr. Gilmore wishes to give Laura as much legal power as possible in her marriage and wants to draw up the marriage settlement with her in person so that she is happy with it. He does not wish to draw the settlement up remotely where he cannot be sure that Laura agrees with what is being arranged for her. This shows that Mr. Gilmore sincerely cares about Laura’s happiness and wants to protect her from losing her power in the marriage, which was a significant concern for Victorian women.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore) goes to speak to [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) alone before he returns to London. He finds her rather melancholy, looking through a sketchbook of drawings in her room, and speaks very kindly to her about her wedding. He tells her that, since he may not be able to come to Limmeridge again, that she should tell him her wishes now, so that he may draw up the marriage settlement remotely if necessary. He tells her that she must decide on arrangements for her inheritance, which she will receive when she comes of age.

***Analysis Part 5:***

The sketchbook belonged to Walter and this suggests that Laura misses Walter and regrets that she cannot be with him. Mr. Gilmore makes it clear to Laura that he is trying to protect her financially as she enters her marriage. As women did not have as many rights as men, it was easy for men to control their wives’ money and assets in a marriage.

***Summary Part 6:***

To his surprise, [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) begs him not to let her be parted from [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) even if she is married. [Mr. Gilmore](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-gilmore) tells her that this is a private matter and that the marriage settlement is for her to decide who she will leave her inheritance to in the event of her death. Laura announces that she wishes to leave it all to Marian and one other person whom she does not name. When Mr. Gilmore presses her on this, she breaks down in tears and he gently tells her that they will drop the subject for the day. Mr. Gilmore then departs for London, feeling that, despite his personal admiration for [Sir Percival Glyde](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde), he would rather do anything than allow him to marry Laura Fairlie since the prospect seems to make her so unhappy.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Mr. Gilmore feels that Laura’s worries about leaving Marian are unnecessary. He likes Sir Percival and believes he would not wish to separate the sisters, as it would make Laura so unhappy. He also has no power to influence Sir Percival in this matter, as it is not a legal one. Mr. Gilmore is surprised that Laura would like to leave all her money to Marian rather than her husband, and is confused and saddened by Laura’s lack of affection towards Sir Percival. Although he likes him personally, Mr. Gilmore would like to protect Laura from marrying a man she clearly does not love.