***Woman in White***

***Part 1***

***Section 3***

***Chapter 1***

***Summary:***

* That out-of-town trip was a bad idea, because the men decided to make a decision in the womenfolk's absence and set the wedding date for December 22.
* Laura has a meltdown when she hears about the date.
* Deep down, Marian probably wants to scream, "Just call off the wedding, idiot!" But she doesn't.
* The two women chat about Walter, and Laura says she's trying to forget him.
* Marian burns Walter's farewell letter.
* Wedding preparations begin and Marian is busy with taking care of Laura and trying to muster up some positive feelings for Sir Percival.
* Marian is cheered up when she learns that Sir Percival is pals with Count Fosco, Eleanor Fairlie's husband. The two are meeting up with the Glydes on their honeymoon trip abroad, which means Laura will have a female relative nearby.
* Marian goes back to hating Sir Percival after watching him grow increasingly irritable and borderline mean to Laura.
* The wedding finally takes place, and Marian is devastated.

***Detailed Summary:***

Laura's diary begins November 8th. Marian speaks candidly with Laura about the engagement to Sir Percival. Laura feels compelled to go through with the marriage according to her late father's wishes, but she loves Walter Hartright, the art tutor. Marian gets a letter from Walter Hartright that says he thinks he is being followed and that he seeks work abroad. Laura tells Sir Percival that they need to talk, so the next day she sits with Marian to tell him that she will honor her obligation to marry. She adds that it is up to him to break off the engagement because she loves someone else, someone she might never see again. Sir Percival says he will do all he can to earn her love then leaves the room. Laura places a lock of her hair in the drawing album and gives it to Marian with instructions upon her death to give it to Walter Hartright and tell him that she loved him. Marian takes Laura to Yorkshire to visit the Arnolds. Meanwhile, she learns that Walter has taken a six-month job in Honduras to study the ruins. Frederick Fairlie calls them back to Limmeridge.

At Limmeridge on November 27th, Marian and Laura learn that the wedding is set for December 22nd. Laura agrees to the date as inevitable, so Marian informs Frederick Fairlie by barging into his room, shouting that Laura consents to the date, and then she slams the door on her way out. Sir Percival's letters tell of continuing renovations to his home that require him to move Laura to Rome after the wedding instead of to his home. Laura asks Marian to go with her after her marriage, but Marian tells her that she cannot accompany them on their wedding tour (honeymoon). Marian's entries in her diary show her struggling to accept Sir Percival in the face of the lack of proof against him. He arrives on December 17th to complete the plans for marriage at Limmeridge Church. He tells Marian that he and Laura will meet with Count Fosco and his wife in Italy and that when they return, Marian is to come live with Sir Percival and Laura. Among the wedding gifts, Mrs. Vesey's handmade Shetland wool shawl was Laura's favorite. The chaos of wedding preparations and receiving gifts leaves Laura and Marian no time together. The night before the wedding, Marian sneaks into Laura's room and watches her sleep. The diary entries end the day of the wedding and Marian is crying.

***Detailed Analysis:***

Conditions trap Laura into a fateful marriage, and she is helpless to escape the engagement her father began. Collins uses the lovely Laura to create sympathy for the plight of women.

Marian, though powerless to move the tiny heart of Frederick Fairlie, shows her contempt of him by shouting and slamming a door, acts that she knows will ruin his day. Marian mourns that her beloved half-sister is slipping away from her life.

After Gilmore leaves for the first time, Laura tells Halcombe she has decided to inform Sir Percival of her love for another—without mentioning Hartright's name. She says she will let Sir Percival himself decide whether or not to continue with their betrothal. Halcombe is shocked by this idea, but she cannot change Laura's mind.

Sir Percival is presented with Laura's statement that she loves someone else, and she offers him the opportunity to break the engagement. He responds, "it is the dearest object of my life to keep the engagement." Laura tells Halcombe, "I must submit, Marian, as well as I can." She gives Halcombe a little book of Hartright's drawings to safeguard in case she dies.

Halcombe has been in contact with Hartright and has used her contacts to help him secure a position with an expedition headed to Central America. She receives a letter from Hartright saying that he has accepted the job and describing the dangers ahead. Halcombe decides to burn the letter rather than worry Laura.

A wedding date is settled on for late December. Halcombe writes in her journal, "Before another month is over our heads she will be his Laura instead of mine! His Laura!" Halcombe can't help but cry "miserable, weak, women's tears of vexation and rage."

Halcombe tries her best to see Sir Percival in the best possible light, but fails. The honeymoon in Europe is planned, and the wedding takes place.

This section of the book is written in the first person, and is presented in the form of Halcombe's journal entries. Readers become aware of her emotional ups and downs, her doubts and fears, her suspicions and her plans.

Halcombe's entries show how much Laura depends on her and how strongly Halcombe feels about her responsibility for Laura's welfare. She is shocked by Laura's definite stand on marrying Sir Percival. For the first time, Halcombe says, "the resolution was all on her side, the hesitation all on mine." She is very clear that she has the ability to shape the direction Laura chooses and is torn about how to use her power.

Halcombe tries valiantly to question her own fears about Sir Percival. She says, "I must and will root out my prejudice against him." She notes that he is a handsome man with "grace and ease of movement, untiring animation of manner, ready, pliant, conversational powers." At the same time, she can't help but notice his "incessant restlessness and excitability" and "his short, sharp, ill-tempered manner of speaking to the servants." It becomes evident that these behaviors are just the tip of the iceberg. By exploring her own prejudices, Halcombe provides readers with insight into both her own character and Sir Percival's. She also creates a clearer picture of a man whose villainy is hidden behind good looks and a charming manner.

Much of this segment is dedicated to exploring the female perspective on the events that have placed Laura and her fortune in Sir Percival's power. Halcombe's frustrations explore the theme of female powerlessness: "No father, no brother—no living creature but the helpless, useless woman who writes these sad lines."

Halcombe's journal entries disclose her fierce loyalty to her sister. Her writing shows her to be open-minded, intelligent, and extraordinarily frustrated with her position in life. Although her sexuality is never mentioned, some commentators have suggested that Halcombe is intended to be a lesbian. This idea is supported to some degree by her reference to Laura as "hers." Certainly, Halcombe never mentions being attracted to any man and makes many comments that suggest she would prefer to have a man's role in the world.

***Critical Analysis:***

The narrative resumes with a series of entries from Marian's diary, beginning when [Mr. Gilmore](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-woman-in-white/study-guide/character-list#mr-gilmore) first left Cumberland, at which point it was unclear whether Laura would or would not marry Sir Percival. Laura has decided to tell Sir Percival that she is in love with another man, because she believes this is the honorable thing to do. Marian hesitates, but agrees to support her and be present when she speaks to Sir Percival. That night, Laura tells Percival that she will speak to him the following morning.

The next morning, Marian receives a worrying letter from Walter. Walter is clearly not persuaded by Sir Percival's explanation of the letter, and he expresses his desire to go abroad. He also says that he believes he is being followed, which makes Marian worry about his mental state. A short time later, Sir Percival comes in to meet with Marian and Laura, who assures him that everything she is going to say is entirely her own idea. She acknowledges that he has offered to release her from the engagement, and that she does not want to break it off. However, she suggests that he might want to, because she admits that she has given her heart to another. Sir Percival remains silent, and Marian begs him to speak. Laura explains that she will never pursue a relationship with the man she loves, but that she felt compelled to be honest with him. Sir Percival, surprisingly, takes her confession as evidence of her virtue, and declares that he is more determined than ever to marry her. After he leaves, Laura resigns herself to her marriage and tells Marian never to hint to Walter that she is unhappy. She does request that if she dies, Marian give him a book of drawings and lock of her hair, and tell him that she loved him.

The next day, Marian speaks to Sir Percival and suggests that it is inappropriate for him to continue with the engagement now that he knows Laura does not love him, and loves someone else. He insists that there is still hope she may grow to love him, and that since Laura will never be able to have a relationship with her unnamed lover, she may as well be married to a man who admires her and will treat her well. In the wake of the confirmed engagement, Laura is extremely passive, and unwilling to create obstacles, leading to the date of the wedding being set before the end of the year. Frustrated, Marian decides to take her to Yorkshire to visit their friends, the Arnolds. Before they leave, she hears that Walter has been given a position as part of an expedition to Honduras. He will be leaving almost immediately, and be abroad for at least six months.

After a few weeks away, which seems to prove beneficial to Laura, Marian and Laura are summoned back to Cumberland. December 23 has been proposed as a wedding day, but Laura's consent still needs to be obtained. Marian tells Laura, who says that the date is too soon, but also will refuses to allow Marian to negotiate for a later one. Marian vents her frustration, but the only condition Laura will insist on is that Marian live with them after her marriage. She also asks that Marian not tell Walter about the impending wedding. Marian agrees, but does not tell Laura about Walter having gone abroad. Increasingly worried—especially because Walter has mentioned being followed and feels sure this is connected in some way to [Anne Catherick](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-woman-in-white/study-guide/character-list#anne-catherick)—Marian burns his farewell letter.

Sir Percival has proposed two options for the months following the wedding: either traveling to Rome, or spending the winter in London. Marian thinks it is important they go abroad, since she hopes the warm weather will benefit Laura's health, and also that the new place will distract and entertain her. Laura is initially somewhat excited about this prospect, because she assumes Marian will be accompanying them. She is devastated when Marian explains that the only hope they have of persuading Percival to let Marian live with them permanently is to give the couple time alone during their honeymoon. However, as the time for the marriage approaches, Marian tries to focus on Percival's good points, and can't help but admit that his behavior is generally good. He continues to be anxious about the fate of Anne Catherick, and he also readily accepts the idea of Marian living with him and Laura upon their return to England. Percival also mentions that during their time in Italy, Laura will have a chance to reconcile with her aunt Eleanor, since he and [Count Fosco](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-woman-in-white/study-guide/character-list#count-fosco) are good friends. Marian's positive feelings towards Percival are, however, short-lived and she is increasingly distressed as the wedding draws closer. On December 23, Laura and Percival marry.

While the previous narratives have been more objective and have relied on observations of Laura to infer that she is unhappy with the impending marriage, Marian's narrative offers a much more intimate perspective. She is closer to Laura and speaks with her much more openly. Also, as another woman, Marian can much better understand the lack of control and lack of choice that Laura faces. Marian is increasingly frustrated with the fact that Sir Percival decides to go ahead with the marriage while knowing that Laura is not happy about it. While she does not doubt Laura's virtue or honor, she thinks that Sir Percival has an obligation not to trap her into a marriage that she has admitted she doesn't want. Sir Percival makes it very clear that he does not think love is very important; he is pleased with the indication that Laura will be an honorable wife, and he doesn't really care whether she ever comes to love him or not.

The section also highlights Laura's innocence and naivety. She has always been very attached to the idea of Marian continuing to live with her and Sir Percival, which implies both that she is somewhat afraid of being alone with her future husband, and that she doesn't really understand how much her life will change once she is a married woman. While Gilmore's fears seemed to focus on Laura being financially exploited, Marian and Laura's worries seem linked to the control Sir Percival will have over her, and the sexual expectations that come with marriage. Laura's repeated pleas for the marriage to be delayed indicate the possibility that she is afraid of what will happen after the wedding. Marian sees it as her job to prepare Laura for the loss of her innocence and bitterly resents the conditions that require this. The scene the night before the wedding when Marian watches Laura sleep strongly implies that Marian associates Laura's purity and innocence with her remaining a virgin, and mourns for what will happen after a man takes a possession of her.

The wedding is interesting in that in many Victorian novels, a marriage would signal the end of the story. Clearly, though, this wedding is no "happily ever after." All of the sinister foreboding suggests there is more to come, and that dangers lie ahead for Laura. The December timing is also non-traditional; rather than a summer or spring time wedding indicating new hope, blossoming, and fertility, Laura and Percival marry at literally the darkest time of year, in cold, barren conditions. Marian has repeatedly compared the marriage to a kind of death, and there are no positive omens in the way the wedding is presented.

This section also further suggests how suspicions of madness can cause warnings to be overlooked. Walter's erratic behavior, obsession with Anne Catherick, and claims that he is being followed have made both Mr. Gilmore and now Marian fear that he is becoming mentally unhinged. As a result, Marian does not take his concerns seriously, and even burns the letter he sends to avoid documentation. It will later become clear that even though Walter is emotionally distressed, all of his fears are valid and accurate. Like Anne, he is too easily dismissed, which creates greater danger for the other characters.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[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) are back at Limmeridge House and Marian writes in her diary that her fears have come true; a date has been fixed for the wedding before the end of the year. While they were away in Yorkshire, [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) wrote to [Mr. Fairlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-fairlie) and told him that, because of some renovations which need to be carried out on his house in Hampshire, he would like to fix a date for the wedding so that the couple can be settled before this long-term project begins. Mr. Fairlie, therefore, recalls Marian to Limmeridge so that she may negotiate the date with Sir Percival and so that Mr. Fairlie does not have to go to the trouble of arranging it.

***Analysis Part 1:***

The renovation of Sir Percival’s house gives him a convincing reason to marry Laura quickly—before she turns twenty-one and takes possession of part of her inheritance.

***Summary Part 2:***

Just as [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) is about to meet with [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde), [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) momentarily loses her nerve and begs Marian not to set the date for the wedding too soon. Marian says that she will be delighted to postpone the wedding, and that this is a woman’s right. However, Laura holds her back and implores Marian to do her best to please Sir Percival; after all, Laura says, she has caused him so much trouble already. Marian becomes enraged and cries furiously that men tear women away from their loved ones and families and then expect women to think of their peace of mind and the trouble their wives are causing them. Laura soothes Marian, however, and tells her that it is too late and there is no point putting off the inevitable.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Marian is extremely frustrated by the position of women in her society. Although women technically have the right to postpone their weddings, this behavior is frowned upon by society because men’s desires are seen as more important than women’s. Therefore, women are made to feel guilty for asking for things for themselves or trying to protect themselves, and are pressured into acting against their own best interests for the sake of men’s convenience. With this monologue Marian breaks from convention once more.

***Summary Part 3:***

Before [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) leaves the room, [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) asks her falteringly about a letter she received while they were in Yorkshire. Although Laura does not say it, Marian knows she refers to the letter from [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) announcing his departure. Laura begs Marian not to tell Walter the date of her wedding and Marian conceals from her sister that, even if she did write to Walter again, he would not receive the letter on board his ship or in the heart of the South American jungle where his expedition has taken him.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Marian does not want Laura to know that Walter has gone on a dangerous expedition abroad because Laura might, quite reasonably, fear for his safety and become even more distraught.

***Summary Part 4:***

Furious about the position that [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) has been placed in, and her inability to do anything to prevent the wedding, [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) storms to [Mr. Fairlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-fairlie)’s room, bursts inside and shouts at him that Laura agrees to the proposed date—the 22nd of December—then rushes out of the room once more.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Although Marian realizes there is nothing that she can do to stop Laura’s wedding, she refuses to accept her powerlessness gracefully, and is openly hostile and rebellious. This is in keeping with Marian’s more stereotypically masculine character.

***Summary Part 5:***

The morning after these events, [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) reads [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright)’s letter once more and wonders whether she should burn it because it contains evidence about his love for [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) and his interactions with [Anne Catherick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman). She is concerned about his reports of being followed in London and his final note, which insists that the “mystery” of Anne Catherick is not yet cleared up. In his letter, he implores Marian to do her best to solve it if she ever has the opportunity. Marian decides, in the end, to burn the letter.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Marian burns the letter because she is worried that if it is found, it may damage Laura’s reputation as a married woman. She is also worried that it may implicate Walter in whatever mystery or crime has been committed against Anne Catherick.

***Summary Part 6:***

Preparations commence for [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie)’s wedding and Laura submits to them all with a remote and despondent resignation. [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) thinks sadly about how different Laura would be if she were getting ready to marry [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) instead of [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde). They receive regular updates from Sir Percival about the renovation of his house and his plans to take Laura on a tour of Rome once they are married. Marian knows that she cannot go with them but hopes that the traveling will be good for Laura and bring her renewed hope for the future. Marian feels strange writing about Laura’s wedding, as though she is not writing about a wedding at all, but about a death.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Marian now regrets sending Walter away and wishes that Laura could be with him instead. Marian feels an even greater sense of foreboding about her sister’s upcoming marriage. She believes that it will separate her from Laura and, therefore, is like a death.

***Summary Part 7:***

[Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) brightens up temporarily at the prospect of the honeymoon tour but is distraught when she learns that [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) will not go with her. She begs Marian to come but Marian wisely insists that, if she upsets [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) before the wedding, he may not let the sisters live together once Laura is his wife. In a hasty note, Marian says that she always writes negatively about Sir Percival and wonders why she is so prejudiced against him. Perhaps [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright)’s bias as a jaded lover and [Anne Catherick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman)’s letter have turned her mind unfairly against him. She resolves to try harder to get along with him and see him in a positive light.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Marian is acutely aware of how little power she and Laura have to choose their living arrangements after Laura’s marriage. Marian is obliged to keep Sir Percival happy so that he does not refuse to let her live with her sister after he and Laura are married. Since the wedding is now certain, Marian tries to convince herself to see it as a good thing and to give Sir Percival the benefit of the doubt. After all, she still has no real evidence that he has done anything wrong.

***Summary Part 8:***

As December progresses, the family prepare for the wedding, which will take place in the village church and will be a small private affair with very few guests. [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) arrives on the 17th of December and brings [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) several pieces of jewelry for a wedding present. [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) notices that Laura has developed a dread of being alone or unoccupied. Sir Percival perceives her energy as excitement about the wedding, but Marian can see that her sister is putting on an act and thinks it is horrible to watch.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Laura does not wish to be left alone because she does not want to think about her situation, which she is very unhappy with. She keeps herself occupied all the time so that she will not be miserable. Marian knows her sister well and is able to see through her pretense, while Sir Percival Glyde, who does not know her at all, takes it at face value (or simply doesn’t care).

***Summary Part 9:***

[Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) continues her efforts to write only positive things about [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) in her diary. She notes that he is extremely handsome—although she is not attracted to him—and notes that his only flaws seem to be a habit of snapping at the servants and a constant restlessness which puts her on edge.

***Analysis Part 9:***

Marian does her best not to judge Sir Percival too harshly. She dislikes his irritability, however, and worries that it may be a sign of his true nature underneath the polite public persona which he adopts.

***Summary Part 10:***

[Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) wakes up the next morning feeling low, and goes for a walk to clear her head. On her way, she meets [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde), who is marching briskly along. He tells her that he has been to Todd’s Corner to enquire after [Anne Catherick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman) again. He asks Marian if, by any chance, [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) has heard anything of her. Marian says no and notes that Sir Percival speaks as though he is vexed by this but looks very relieved. Marian tries to convince herself that this is even more evidence of Sir Percival’s virtue—that he is so determined to find a lost, vulnerable woman even when he is preparing to marry another.

***Analysis Part 10:***

Marian believes that Sir Percival is very worried about Anne and is dedicated to finding her because she is the daughter of his old friend. Her suspicions are aroused, however, when she notices that Sir Percival says one thing but looks as though he believes another. This suggests that he is putting on an act and what he says does not reflect his true feelings.

***Summary Part 11:***

[Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) writes that she is shocked again by [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde)’s good nature. She asks him if she will be permitted to live with him and [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) in their new home, and Sir Percival answers enthusiastically that she should. Sir Percival tells Laura and Marian that they will spend part of their honeymoon tour with his friend [Count Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco), the husband of Laura’s aunt, [Madame Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/madame-fosco).

***Analysis Part 11:***

Marian still finds no tangible reason to dislike Sir Percival and continues to reassure herself that he may be a genuinely kind and sincere person who means well towards Laura.

***Summary Part 12:***

[Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) is pleased to hear this, as she feels that, perhaps, the friendship between [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) and [Count Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) will heal the family rift between [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) and her aunt. She remembers her aunt—now [Madame Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/madame-fosco)—as an outspoken and vivacious woman and wonders if her husband has calmed her at all. She is quite embarrassed that Laura’s father objected to Count Fosco simply because he is foreign and wonders what sort of man he is. All she knows about him is that he once saved Sir Percival’s life when Sir Percival was attacked in Rome, and that this was the basis of their friendship. She tells herself, determinedly, that she is sure to like him if he is a friend of Sir Percival’s, whom she is making a great effort to view as a friend.

***Analysis Part 12:***

Marian is curious to meet her aunt, who she has not seen for a long time. She is embarrassed by her father’s xenophobic attitude towards Count Fosco. As she is making an effort to give Sir Percival the benefit of the doubt, she also extends this to his friend and tells herself that Count Fosco must be a good man if he once saved Sir Percival’s life.

***Summary Part 13:***

[Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe)’s good intentions towards [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) collapse, and she opens her diary to write that she hates him. She decides this when a number of cards arrive addressed, not to [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie), but to the future Lady Glyde. While Laura is opening them, Sir Percival whispers something in her ear which stops Laura in her tracks and makes her turn pale. Witnessing this, Marian can no longer suppress her hatred of him.

***Analysis Part 13:***

Marian can no longer deny her instinctual hatred of Sir Percival. Marian is a very honest and open person and she decides to trust her judgement, which she has tried to suppress. She can tell from the interaction between Laura and Sir Percival that he is not kind and well-intentioned, and she suspects that he will be a bad husband for Laura.

***Summary Part 14:***

As the wedding draws closer, [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) feels her own anxieties—and the anxieties of those around her—increase. She confides in her diary that she has maintained a wild, desperate notion that something will—must—happen to prevent the wedding. Strangely enough, she believes that [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) suspects this too; his agitation increases, and he questions servants who come to the house about their intentions. [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) and Marian remain very gloomy, certain that Laura’s marriage will bring about a terrible separation between them.

***Analysis Part 14:***

Marian is deeply invested in the idea that the wedding cannot proceed. She can see that Sir Percival, on the other hand, is deeply invested in marrying Laura and is terrified that something will happen to prevent it. This suggests that Sir Percival stands to gain a lot from his marriage to Laura. Marian suspects that his motives are not positive and that eventually the marriage will drive the sisters apart.

***Summary Part 15:***

On the night before the wedding, [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) looks in on [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) while she is sleeping and thinks, sadly, how “friendless” Laura is despite her fortune and position in society. She also thinks of poor [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright), far away on a ship somewhere, and wishes that he was there to help them. The next morning Laura seems calm and prepared. The marriage flies by in a blur and, after Laura and [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) have left, Marian sets her diary aside, exhausted from crying.

***Analysis Part 15:***

Laura is “friendless” because she has no one to protect her. Although she has women in her life like Marian and Mrs. Vesey, who care about her, she knows no one with the social or legal power to protect her from her future husband or from other predatory forces in the world.