***Woman in White***

***Part 2***

***Section 3***

***Chapter 2***

### ***The Story Continued by Eliza Michelson, Housekeeper at Blackwater Park***

***Summary:***

* Later Percival sends Mrs. Michelson away to look for a nice place for the sisters to stay in Torquay.
* Mrs. Michelson thinks this is a terrible idea, but she goes.
* When she returns she learns that the Foscos have left for London.
* And she learns that Marian has gone too, back to Limmeridge.
* Mrs. Michelson is horrified, since Marian was not well enough to be moved, but Percival tells her to put a sock in it.
* Laura pretty much has a meltdown at this point and insists on going to Marian.
* Percival says "Whatever," but insists she stay the night at the Foscos to break up the long journey.
* He shows her a letter from Uncle Fairlie saying to do just that.
* Laura reluctantly agrees, but she secretly tells Mrs. Michelson that she's planning to make a run for it and go to Mrs. Vesey instead.
* Laura finally leaves and Mrs. Michelson is very worried about her.
* And then, the bombshell to end all bombshells.
* Mrs. Michelson sees Mrs. Rubelle outside.
* Mrs. Rubelle reveals that Marian is still at Blackwater Park.
* *Whoa.*
* Mrs. Michelson is stunned and confronts Sir Percival, who insists that Marian is fine and dandy and that he only lied to get Laura out of the house for her own good.
* Mrs. Michelson tries to quit, but Percival says he's peacing out and if she leaves, Marian won't have anyone to care for her.
* So she stays and tends to Marian with Mrs. Rubelle.

***Synopsis:***

Eliza Michelson finds Marian Halcombe feverishly ill in her room. They send for Mr. Dawson, reportedly a man of medicine, to treat Marian. On the second day, Count Fosco tells Eliza that he has employed a nurse named Mrs. Rubelle to help care for Marian. When Laura (Lady Glyde) objects to letting Fosco's nurse attend to Marian, Eliza interprets it as prejudice toward foreigners. Mrs. Rubelle is Italian. Doctor Dawson tells Eliza that he suspects the nurse will try quack remedies proposed by Count Fosco, so he enlists Eliza to keep an eye on the nurse. The Count leaves the house for a week and during that time Marian grows sicker. The Count returns and declares that Marian has Typhus. A doctor arrives from London and confirms the diagnosis. After ten days, Marian recovers some health ,and Count Fosco drives out Doctor Dawson. Soon after that, Sir Percival tells Eliza that all the household staff is dismissed except for the exceptionally stupid housekeeper, Margaret Porcher and Eliza.

A day later, Sir Percival instructs Eliza to go on an impossible mission to find a house at an unreasonable price on the beach for rent for a trip by Lady Glyde and Marian. Eliza worries about leaving Marian and Lady Glyde in the care of Margaret Porcher, so she stops by Lady Glyde's room to help her dress. They go to check on Marian and Sir Percival tells them that she has gone with the Foscos and Mrs. Rubelle to London. Lady Glyde is so shaken that she pleads with Sir Percival to let her follow Marian, but she is terrified about staying in London at the Fosco's home. Lady Glyde begs Eliza to take a letter to Mrs. Vesey in London because she intends to stay the night in London there rather than at Fosco's if Marian has already gone on to Cumberland and Limmeridge. Eliza puts Lady Glyde on the train to London. Later that evening Eliza walks the grounds at Blackwater Park and finds Mrs. Rubelle in the garden. She asks her why she isn't in London and she says that she never left, nor did Marian. Sir Percival arrives and admits the deception saying that he sent Lady Glyde away for her own good and that Marian is safely up in another room of the house, which Eliza is welcomed to go see. Eliza then agrees to stay with Marian with plans to leave the next morning. She calls for Doctor Dawson to come check on Marian. Sir Percival gets drunk and drives a chaise, or horse-drawn carriage, off to the train station in the middle of the night. Eliza accompanies Marian to London, then Marian continues on to Limmeridge.

Collins uses Eliza Michelson as an unreliable narrator. Her perception of events and relationships is colored by her lack of education and her Christian forgiveness. It is only after Fosco goes to extremes that Eliza begins to see his character the way Marian and Laura do, but this is hindsight, which is always clearest.

Eliza's rose-colored glasses view of Sir Percival pushes her to risk her job on principle. Her stand comes almost too late to do much good.

***Critical Study:***

The narrative is then continued by Mrs. Michelson, the housekeeper at Blackwater Park. She describes Marian falling ill with fever, and the doctor being consulted. She, Laura, and the Countess work together to nurse her but Marian gets steadily worse. After a few days, Count Fosco explains that Eleanor will be travelling to London and returning with another woman to help with the nursing. The new nurse is named [Mrs. Rubelle](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-woman-in-white/study-guide/character-list#mrs-rubelle) and Dr. Dawson does not approve of her, but is frustrated to find that Percival does not support him. Count Fosco plants seeds of doubt about the doctor's competence, but after a few days, he departs for London. During his absence, Marian takes a turn for the worse. With this news, Fosco returns from London, having also arranged for a different doctor, whom he believes to be better qualified. The second doctor confirms Fosco's opinion that Marian is suffering from typhus and that her disease is thus both dangerous and contagious.

Marian does eventually begin to recover, but by this point, Laura herself is on the verge of illness due to exhaustion and stress. Dr. Dawson is also so fed up with the Count that he resigns from the case now that Marian is out of serious danger. Mrs. Michelson is somewhat alarmed that Fosco and Percival do not replace him with another doctor, and also that they do not tell Laura that the doctor is no longer present. She is further shocked when Percival announces that he, Marian, and Laura will be leaving Blackwater as soon as possible, and that he wants all the servants dismissed within the next twenty four hours. Mrs Michelson carries out the orders, and the following day, only she, [Margaret Porcher](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-woman-in-white/study-guide/character-list#margaret-porcher) and the gardener remain.

Percival and Fosco then consult her again, explaining that Laura and Marian will be spending the autumn at Limmeridge House, but that first they will travel to the seaside town of Torquay. The two men need someone to go there and find appropriate lodgings for the ladies, and they would like to send Mrs. Michelson. She is very surprised by this request, but reluctantly agrees to go. She is not successful at finding lodgings that meet their criteria, and returns three days later. Upon her return, she learns that the Count and Countess have moved to London. When she and Laura together go to see Marian, they are both shocked to be told that Marian has gone to London with Fosco and Eleanor, and plans to travel on from there to Limmeridge House. Laura cannot believe that Marian would have left without telling her, and becomes more and more anxious to go after her. Percival agrees, telling her that she can leave the next day, and stop in London along the way. Laura becomes agitated at the prospect of going to Fosco's house in London, but Percival is firm.

When they are left alone, Laura explains to the housekeeper that she when she gets to London, she plans to evade the Count and stay with [Mrs. Vesey](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-woman-in-white/study-guide/character-list#mrs-vesey), her former governess, instead. Mrs. Michelson sends the letter from Laura to Mrs. Vesey alerting her to Laura's impending arrival. The next day, Percival explains the arrangements for Laura to get to the train station, since he doesn't plan to be at the house when she departs. After seeing Laura off on the train to London, where the Count is expecting to meet her, Mrs. Michelson returns to the house. She is shocked to find Mrs. Rubelle at the house, and even more shocked to learn from her that Marian is also still at Blackwater Park. Mrs. Michelson immediately resigns. Percival tells her that she can leave whenever she wants, but since he plans to leave the following day and Mrs Rubelle is also leaving, Marian will be left alone. Concerned about her fragile health, Mrs. Michelson agrees to stay on with her, especially since she gets him to agree to rehire Dr. Dawson. Mrs. Rubelle leaves immediately, and that night while Mrs. Michelson is tending to Marian, she is startled to hear Percival swearing wildly, and then rushing out of the house in the middle of the night. Mrs. Michelson stays on to nurse Marian back to health, alluding to events that will be covered in the narrative of others. When Marian is recovered, she travels to Limmeridge House and Mrs. Michelson goes to stay with relatives in London.

While the narratives up until this point have been dominated by central characters, the novel now enters into a stretch of shorter narratives told by more minor characters. Mr. Fairlie's account is particularly interesting in that it highlights the retrospective nature of these accounts. He makes it clear that he is being asked to recall events long after they took place, and that he finds that inconvenient and stressful. While a reader is unlikely to be sympathetic to Frederick Fairlie's whining, and his selfish focus on how all these events present an inconvenience to him, the reminder that characters are recalling the events at a later time, and that their accounts might not always be entirely accurate, has an unsettling effect on the narrative, making the reader unsure of what is true and what is not.

Frederick Fairlie's narrative also reveals how his selfishness makes him easy to manipulate, and how he again completely fails to safeguard the well-being of his niece. He has a snobby disdain towards Fanny because she is a servant, and is too preoccupied with his disdain to take her seriously. He does not want to get caught up in any marital quarrels and despite warning signs that something seems seriously wrong at Blackwater Park, he refuses to interfere. This attitude is in a sense emblematic of a more widespread Victorian notion that domestic matters should be kept extremely private, and that no one should interfere with what is happening between a husband and a wife. This perspective could leave women like Laura in serious danger. Fairlie is not only lazy, he is also weak, and readily gives in to Fosco's charm and manipulation. It seems very suspicious that Fosco would insist on this letter of invitation, but Fairlie just wants to get back to his luxurious idleness. Once Fairlie writes the note, there is another written document that Fosco and Percival can potentially use as part of their scheme and to bolster their credibility.

The narrative from Mrs. Michelson also reflects the way in which gullibility and class prejudice make it easier for Fosco and Percival to carry out their scheme. Mrs. Michelson is very concerned about her social respectability and talks repeatedly about her husband's position, and the status she once held. Her desire to please her employer and to be well regarded outweigh the nagging sense that something is not right. She repeatedly carries out instructions that seem bizarre, sinister, and potentially dangerous to Laura, but her regard for Percival as someone in a position of power is such that she does not challenge him.

Despite this obedience, Mrs. Michelson is an ambivalent character since she does become increasingly worried that Laura is in danger, and does eventually involve herself in Laura's plan to evade Count Fosco when she arrives in London. When Mrs. Michelson learns that both she and Laura have been deceived about Marian's whereabouts, she also resigns, since she does not want any part in whatever Percival is doing. Her affection for Marian and fears of what would happen if no one is there to nurse her, however, entrap her into staying longer. Like other characters, Mrs. Michelson knows something is wrong, but also does not feel like she has many options to do anything about it.

Laura's vulnerability is particularly highlighted in this section. While readers do not yet know what happened to her after she got to London, Mrs. Michelson's allusion to helping Marian cope with the bad news she received signals some unfortunate fate. Once Marian is ill and incapacitated, Laura has no one to help or advise her. She is not physically strong enough to cope with the stress of what is happening, and while she senses something is wrong with the plan for her to go to London, she cannot come up with an effective way to resist it. The threatening and foreboding that comes with her isolation shows just how little recourse she had to try and ask for help.

***Critical Analysis:***

Mrs. Michelson is Sir Percival's housekeeper, and the widow of a clergyman "reduced by misfortune to the necessity of accepting a situation." She is therefore a high-level servant who sees herself as a gentlewoman. She mentions, however, that she no longer works for Sir Percival.

Mrs. Michelson picks up the thread of the story at Blackwater Park, at the point where Halcombe falls ill. The local doctor, Mr. Dawson, has come to see Halcombe, and [Count Fosco](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Woman-in-White/character-analysis/#Count_Fosco) has taken an active interest in Halcombe's treatment. Mrs. Michelson overhears—but doesn't fully understand—conversations between Fosco and Sir Percival that suggest Sir Percival has searched unsuccessfully for [Anne Catherick](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Woman-in-White/character-analysis/#Anne_Catherick).

Mrs. Michelson is tasked with nursing Halcombe and looking after Laura—who won't leave her sister's bedside. Fosco takes it upon himself to bring in Mrs. Rubelle—a nurse from London. Mrs. Michelson describes Rubelle as "a small, wiry, sly person ... with a dark brown or Creole complexion and watchful light gray eyes." Mrs. Rubelle is actually Fosco's spy—although also an excellent nurse.

Mrs. Michelson is charmed by Fosco, and takes his side as he disagrees with Mr. Dawson's management of Halcombe's care. Halcombe takes a turn for the worse but then seems to recover somewhat. Mr. Dawson and Fosco argue vehemently. Dawson, "in a state of extreme indignation at Count Fosco's usage of him," leaves the house in a huff and submits his bill.

Percival calls Mrs. Michelson and tells her "I shall sell the horses, and get rid of all the servants at once." He wants only Mrs. Michelson, the gardener, and one incompetent and dimwitted maid named Margaret Porcher to stay. Mrs. Michelson is aghast, but she follows her orders and fires the staff. She is then sent off to the seaside to find an appropriate place for Halcombe to recover. Sir Percival has stipulated such a low rental rate that this errand is clearly an excuse to get Michelson out of the house.

When Michelson returns unsuccessfully a few days later, she is present when Fosco tells Laura that Halcombe has left Blackwater. She is headed to [Limmeridge House](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Woman-in-White/symbols/" \l "Limmeridge_House) with a stopover at Fosco's London home. Laura does not fully believe this story and determines to follow Halcombe, staying overnight at Mrs. Vesey's home in London rather than at Fosco's. Mrs. Michelson helps Laura write to Mrs. Vesey, and Laura leaves the next morning.

That evening, Mrs. Michelson discovers Mrs. Rubelle in the garden and realizes that Halcombe has not left Blackwater at all. In fact, she is being kept in one of the unused wings of the manor. Learning this, Mrs. Michelson is ready to leave Blackwater forever—but she is told by Percival that everyone will be leaving the estate immediately. He states, "If you go at once, Miss Halcombe won't have a soul left here to look after her." Mrs. Michelson, backed into a corner, agrees to stay. She nurses Halcombe until she is well enough to leave, and the two women part in London. Halcombe returns to Limmeridge by train.

Mrs. Michelson ends her narrative by expressing "regret at my own inability to remember the precise day on which Lady Glyde left Blackwater Park."

This section provides some glimpses into societal stratification during England's Victorian era. Mrs. Michelson is essentially a middle-class person in financial difficulties. As a result, she is flattered by Fosco's attentions and his willingness to address her as a lady rather than as a mere servant. At the same time, she is shocked by Sir Percival's language and behavior. She sees herself as bound to Halcombe and Laura not only as an employee but also as a woman.

Fosco understand Mrs. Michelson very well and uses his insights to manipulate her. He treats her with great respect, thus earning her loyalty. Says Mrs. Michelson, "The only person in the house ... who treated me ... on the footing of a lady in distressed circumstances, was the Count." This loyalty leads Mrs. Michelson to give Laura the disastrous suggestion, "in your ladyship's place I should remember the Count's advice."

The Count makes it clear to Mrs. Michelson that he relies on her above all others to do what is right for Halcombe. He later uses her sense of responsibility to force her to stay alone with Halcombe until the invalid recovers.

Fosco's charms and cleverness are so potent that Mrs. Michelson never loses faith in him. She finishes her narrative by saying, "I wish to record ... that no blame whatever, in connection with the events ... attaches to [Count Fosco](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/The-Woman-in-White/character-analysis/#Count_Fosco)."

The events in this section of the narrative move the story along rapidly. Fosco uses Mr. Fairlie's invitation to suggest that Laura break her journey at his home. Although she does not trust Fosco, he is able to spirit her off. By separating the two sisters, he furthers the conspiracy.

It is important to note that Fosco's attachment to Halcombe means she is never badly treated. Although she is moved to the unused wing while she is too sick to be aware, she consistently receives appropriate nursing care. However, Halcombe is hidden away until she can no longer interfere with Fosco's plans.

Mrs. Michelson's final note is important to the story, as the date of Laura's departure from Blackwater will become critical to the story's happy ending.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

A couple of days after this, [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) sent [Mrs. Michelson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-michelson) to Torquay to look at houses. He said he wanted to rent one for a few weeks with [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) and gave Mrs. Michelson a list of peculiar instructions on the type of house she should choose. She felt that these instructions were almost impossible to follow but had no choice but to go. When she returned a few days later—having found no house that met Sir Percival’s conditions—she found that [Count Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) and [Madame Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/madame-fosco) had left Blackwater Park to stay in London.

***Analysis Part 1:***

The mission Mrs. Michelson is sent on seems to be an excuse to get her out of the house for a while. Although she does not explicitly suspect this, Mrs. Michelson feels that she has been set up to fail in her search for a house that matches Sir Percival’s description.

***Summary Part 2:***

On her return, [Mrs. Michelson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-michelson) went to check on [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie), who was waited on by [Margaret Poacher](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/margaret-poacher). Mrs. Michelson and Laura decided to visit [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe)’s room together but, on the way, were stopped by [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde), who told them that Marian had gone to London with [Count Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) and [Madame Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/madame-fosco). Laura was horrified by this news and rushed to check Marian’s room, which was empty. She begged Mrs. Michelson not to leave her and then ran after Sir Percival and demanded to know where her sister had gone. He told her that Marian would stop in London overnight on her way to Limmeridge, where she would to speak with [Mr. Fairlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-fairlie), as he had requested in his letter.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Sir Percival uses the letter from Mr. Fairlie (which invites Marian to Limmeridge to speak with him and tells Laura that she may travel to Limmeridge whenever she likes) as proof to support his decision to send Marian away. Mrs. Michelson is very shocked by this because Marian is clearly too ill to travel comfortably. She has not yet internalized the idea that Sir Percival and Count actively mean harm to Laura and Marian.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) followed [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) to his study and dragged [Mrs. Michelson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-michelson) along with her. She insisted that she must follow her sister and Sir Percival told her that she could leave the next day, travel to London in the morning, and meet [Count Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) there. She will spend the night in his house, then travel to Limmeridge the next day, just as [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) has done. He showed her a note from [Mr. Fairlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-fairlie) inviting her to Limmeridge whenever she wanted. Laura was utterly horrified at the idea of Marian staying in Count Fosco’s house and Mrs. Michelson, again, attributes this to Laura’s hatred of foreigners.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Again, Sir Percival uses the letter that Count Fosco persuaded Mr. Fairlie to write to convince Laura that she will be sent back to her uncle’s house. Laura is terrified of Count Fosco and is horrified at the prospect that Marian is with him alone and in his power. Again Mrs. Michelson naively believes that Laura is prejudiced against Italians.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Mrs. Michelson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-michelson) took [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) back to her room, where Laura remained adamant that she would not sleep in [Count Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco)’s house. She learned from Mrs. Michelson that Count Fosco had dismissed Mr. Dawson and felt that this was part of the conspiracy, as, had [Mr. Dawson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-dawson) been present, he would not have allowed Marian to travel. Laura planned to escape Count Fosco in London and to stay with [Mrs. Vesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-vesey) instead. She begged Mrs. Michelson to deliver a letter to Mrs. Vesey for her at the village and pleaded with her to keep it secret.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Mrs. Michelson is stunned and confused by Laura’s discussion of conspiracy and her refusal to stay with Count Fosco, but she feels sorry for her and agrees to do as she says.

***Summary Part 5:***

[Mrs. Michelson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-michelson) carried out [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie)’s wishes and the next day escorted her to the station. Laura complained that she was “troubled by dreams” the night before and looked pale as they waited on the platform. When the train pulled in, she said goodbye to Mrs. Michelson and, for a moment, put her hand to her heart as though in pain. Mrs. Michelson saw her into a carriage and returned to Blackwater, very concerned about Laura’s state of mind.

***Analysis Part 5:***

When Laura places her hand on her heart, it misdirects the reader, leading them to believe that Laura has something wrong with her heart—when it is Anne who is dying of heart disease. This adds to the confusion over the women’s identities. It also implies a physical connection between the women, and even hints that Laura may at times feel what Anne is feeling.

***Summary Part 6:***

Back at Blackwater, [Mrs. Michelson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-michelson) felt restless and walked in the grounds to clear her head. She was shocked to see [Mrs. Rubelle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-rubelle) in the garden, as she believed that Mrs. Rubelle had gone to London with [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe). Mrs. Michelson approached her for an explanation and Mrs. Rubelle casually informed her that neither she nor Marian had left Blackwater Park. [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) arrived home at that moment and told Mrs. Michelson that Mrs. Rubelle was quite right; instead of traveling to London, Marian had been concealed in a separate wing of the house. Mrs. Michelson was aghast at the deception practiced on [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) and tried to resign, but Sir Percival protested that he only lied for Laura’s own good—to force her away from Blackwater for a change of air for the sake of her health.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Mrs. Michelson is horrified to discover that Sir Percival has tricked her and Laura, and is shocked by the casual and open way in which he admits the deception. Although Sir Percival provides an explanation as to why he sent Laura away, it is not a very convincing one. Mr. Michelson continues to be shocked that a supposedly “noble” man would act this way.

***Summary Part 7:***

[Mrs. Michelson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-michelson) still wished to resign but changed her mind when [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) told her that, if she did, [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) would be left all alone, as [Mrs. Rubelle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-rubelle) planned to leave that day. Mrs. Michelson went to Marian’s room and sent for [Mr. Dawson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-dawson), who was unwell himself and could not come. In the middle of the night, she heard Sir Percival crashing around the house and thought that he must be drunk. The groom—whom Sir Percival knocked down in his hurry to saddle a horse—told her that Sir Percival was not drunk but had left Blackwater Park in a frenzy.

***Analysis Part 7:***

Again, Mrs. Michelson only remains in Sir Percival’s service because she is worried about leaving Marian. Sir Percival essentially threatens her into staying as he implies that he will leave Marian, who is still very ill, to fend for herself if Mrs. Michelson does not agree to stay. It seems that in the night Sir Percival hears something that upsets him and causes him to leave in a rage.

***Summary Part 8:***

[Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) was distraught when she discovered that [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) had gone. [Mrs. Michelson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-michelson) spent the remainder of her time at Blackwater caring for Marian until Marian left for Limmeridge. Mrs. Michelson closes her narrative by stating that she believes that [Count Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) is totally innocent of the deceptions practiced on Laura and Marian, and that she is sorry she cannot remember the exact date of Laura’s journey to London.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Mrs. Michelson is still utterly convinced by Count Fosco’s appearance of gentility and refinement. It is easier for her to believe bad things about Sir Percival because he does not put on such a convincing act. Mrs. Michelson’s inability to remember the date of Laura’s journey to London is a central problem in the narrative.