***Woman in White***

***Part 3***

***Section 1***

***Chapter 3***

### ***The Story Continued by Hartright***

***Summary:***

* Walter butts in now and clears things up for anyone who's still confused:
* Fosco swapped Anne and Laura. He sent Laura to the asylum in Anne's place. Anne meanwhile died at Fosco's house under Laura's name.
* Walter is determined to get justice for Laura, so he sets up house with the sisters and plots his next move.
* Marian is steadily regaining strength and insists on helping Walter.
* Laura is still sort of all over the place, so the two of them have to tag-team it to protect her.
* First, the dream team of Walter and Marian try to jog Laura's memory.
* They fail at this since Laura's wicked case of post-traumatic stress syndrome isn't going to clear up overnight.
* The dream team realizes that Laura has become a liability to herself and there's no way they can get her to prove her own identity; she's too altered and mentally unstable.
* So they set about gathering up testimony from the people featured in Part 2 of the story in an effort to find clues.
* Walter keys in on the fact that the dates are crucial, because there's a distinct chance that Anne died before Laura actually left Blackwater, which would tear apart the whole conspiracy.
* Walter and Marian also decide to seek legal advice, so Walter goes to see Mr. Kyrle.

***Critical Study:***

Upon hearing this story, Walter realizes that Fosco and Percival have deliberately switched Anne and Laura so they can get the money that would be transferred to them in the instance of Laura's death. Anxious to ensure their safety, Walter chooses a house in a poor neighborhood in East London, and finds work doing cheap illustrations. He and Marian invest the money they have in order to fund further investigations. They know it will be very difficult to prove Laura's identity, since her suffering has made her look even more like Anne. Her mind and memory are also quite unstable, so it's unreliable to ask her to prove her knowledge of only things Laura could know. They decide they will have to restore her identity without her assistance and begin by gathering as much information as they can in order to present it to Mr. Kyrle.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) draws two conclusions from [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) and [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe)’s story. The first is that [Count Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) has switched the women’s identities; he took [Anne Catherick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman) to his house, where she died, under Laura’s name, and he placed Laura in the asylum under Anne’s. Walter also understands that [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) and Count Fosco have been financially rewarded for their crimes and that they have received Laura’s inheritance; Sir Percival gained twenty thousand pounds while Count Fosco has gained ten thousand.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Walter, who knows Laura on a close personal level and therefore believes her story, immediately understands the plot that has been carried out against her. He also understands that Count Fosco and Sir Percival have plotted this between them and that they have both benefited from faking Laura’s death and cruelly locking her in the asylum.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) has chosen a flat for himself, [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie), and [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) in a very poor part of London and has taken lowly and meagerly paid work as a wood engraver where no one will recognize him. Marian and Laura are confined to the house—in case [Count Fosco](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) or [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde)’s men spy on them—and Marian must do the housework herself because they cannot hire a servant and allow a stranger to work among them. This is a blow to Marian’s pride as a lady of rank, but she takes it very well, and Walter views this as a testament to her strength and capability.

***Analysis Part 2:***

This suggests that poor, lower-class members of society can be anonymous because they are nameless and have no public reputation to uphold or which might draw attention to them. This is usually a negative thing—as they have less power because they are hardly recognized as individuals—but here it is used to help the characters hide and keep themselves safe.

***Summary Part 3:***

Meanwhile, [Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) and [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) must be extremely careful in their care of [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie). They keep her comfortable and protected from shocks, and Walter encourages her to take up her drawing, which soothes her and reminds her of happy times spent at the [summer house](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/symbols/the-summer-house) at Limmeridge. Her time spent in the asylum has severely disturbed her, and in her weakened state, she now looks more like [Anne Catherick](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman) than ever. For this reason, Walter does not believe that there is any hope of convincing [Mr. Fairlie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-fairlie) or any of Laura’s old friends and relatives that she alive without some proof. He decides to begin compiling evidence and plans to take Laura’s case to [Mr. Kyrle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-kyrle), the lawyer, for legal advice.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Their happy memories of Limmeridge are a connection that Walter and Laura share even when Laura is still in shock and recovering from her ordeal. It signifies the enduring strength of the love between them. As Laura has received the same brutal and undignified treatment that Anne received, being held captive in the asylum, she has started to look like Anne and, like Anne, has become ill with the strain. Again, this suggests many flaws in the care of mentally ill people.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Walter](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) first copies out the relevant sections of [Marian](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe)’s diary, which document her time spent at Blackwater. Next, he visits [Mrs. Vesey](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-vesey) to find out if [Laura](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) stayed with her on her way to the asylum as she believes she did. Mrs. Vesey has a letter from Laura asking if she might stay the night but Laura herself never appeared, and the letter does not have a date on it to confirm exactly when Laura traveled to London. Walter also contacts [Mrs. Michelson](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-michelson), the housekeeper at Blackwater for her story, and [Mr. Goodricke](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters), [Hester Pinhorn](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters), and [Jane Gould](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters) for their take on events. With this evidence secured, Walter arranges an appointment with the lawyer, [Mr. Kyrle](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-kyrle), and sets out for Mr. Kyrle’s office. He warns Marian not to leave the house while he is out, even if he does not return, because he is worried that [Sir Percival](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) may be back in London and may be spying on them.

***Analysis Part 4:***

Walter believes that if he can compile enough evidence, he will be able to take Laura’s case before a court to give her a fair trial and seek justice against Count Fosco and Sir Percival. Mrs. Vesey confirms that Laura’s memory of staying at her house is false. This passage gives the reader of an idea of when and how Walter compiled the written evidence from the other characters, which they have already read.