***Woman in White***

***Part 3***

***Section 3***

***Chapter 5***

### ***The Story Continued by Mrs. Catherick***

***Summary:***

* At the opera, Walter spends the bulk of his time watching the count.
* He sees a mysterious blonde guy watching the count too.
* Walter points out the count to Pesca and asks if he recognizes him.
* Pesca says no, but then a funny thing happens.
* Fosco sees Pesca, and he definitely recognizes him. In fact, Fosco freaks when he sees Pesca.
* Pesca and Walter are super-confused.
* Walter grills Pesca and Pesca finally reveals a big secret: he's in England as a member of a top-secret political society.
* He explains that the society is ruthless with those who have betrayed it, and if Fosco recognizes him, perhaps he was involved with the society.
* Walter thanks Pesca for the intel and promises his secret is safe.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) is already seated when [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) and **[Pesca](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/professor-pesca)** arrive at the opera that evening. Walter watches him covertly through the first act and sees that the Count enjoys the music and draws attention to himself by nodding and singing along. At the interval, he points Count Fosco out to Pesca but Pesca does not recognize him. Walter notices that a mild looking, foreign man “with a scar on his face” is watching them and turns around to look at the Count.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Count Fosco is confident that he is not in danger and even draws attention to himself in public before he notices Walter and Pesca.

***Summary Part 2:***

Suddenly, [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) looks down into the pit—where [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) and **[Pesca](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/professor-pesca)** are seated—and meets Pesca’s gaze. Walter knows immediately that the Count recognizes Pesca and is terrified of him. The foreign man nearby also seems to notice this. Pesca is shocked by the change which comes over the Count when they see each other, but Walter distracts him by asking him to look for other people in the crowd. As soon as Pesca looks away, the Count rushes out of the theater. The foreign man in the row beside Pesca also gets up and leaves.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Pesca does not recognize Count Fosco, but the Count clearly recognizes Pesca. Pesca is Count Fosco’s foil and opposite in the novel: both men are Italian and have dubious political pasts, but Pesca is redeemed by his good nature and faithful attachment to England (which he now considers his home) while Count Fosco has not changed his ways and is proud of his criminality and contemptuous of British culture.

***Summary Part 3:***

[**Pesca**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/professor-pesca) tells [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) that he is a member of a secret society in Italy and that he used to work for them as a young man. He has been ordered to live in England by this society and he waits for their orders; he never knows when he might be called upon by them. He explains to Walter that he must keep this a secret as, if Pesca tells anyone about the society, he will be killed. Pesca tells Walter that the society—called “The Brotherhood”—is dedicated to fighting against corrupt governments, “for the people,” all over Europe, but they are merciless towards members who betray the order.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Although Pesca is a member of an organization that commits violence, he has joined “the Brotherhood” for noble reasons—to fight against and protect people from government corruption. He takes a great personal risk by telling Walter about his secret.

***Summary Part 4:***

[**Pesca**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/professor-pesca) tells [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) that members of The Brotherhood are branded with a secret mark, and he shows Walter the mark on his own arm. Pesca sees that Walter has drawn his own conclusions from this story and has guessed that [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) was a member of The Brotherhood but has acted as a spy for the government and has betrayed them. Pesca confirms that he has never seen Count Fosco before but that, if Fosco is so terrified of him, then the Count must be a traitor. Pesca is drained from telling his story and begs Walter to leave him and ask no more about it. Walter promises to keep Pesca’s secret and invites him for breakfast the next day, which Pesca gratefully agrees to.

***Analysis Part 4:***

While Pesca joined the Brotherhood with noble aims, Count Fosco is a mercenary who does not have loyalty to anyone and who works for all sides. He has clearly betrayed the Brotherhood, and therefore betrayed the people they protect, but has also worked against the Italian government; hence his exile from the country. Count Fosco is afraid when he sees Pesca at the opera because he believes that the Brotherhood have tracked him down to punish him for his betrayal.