***Woman in White***

***Part 3***

***Section 3***

***Chapter 7***

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

***Summary:***

* Walter enters the snake pit that is Fosco's home and the two square off for a showdown.
* Fosco is caught off-guard when Walter reveals his knowledge of the secret political society.
* But Fosco quickly recovers and he and Walter hash out terms.
* Walter will get a full, written confession from Fosco, which he can present to the people needed to restore Laura's identity.
* Fosco also tells Walter where he can go to confirm the date of Laura's infamous journey to London.
* Fosco, meanwhile, gets a free pass out of the country, and gets to keep Walter as a hostage while he's packing and leaving.
* He then gets the chance to duel Walter at some point in the future.
* Walter is sort of ambivalent about the "dueling" part.
* Walter hangs out at Casa de Fosco while Fosco writes letters, orders people around, decides to donate his pets to the zoo, and generally puts on an entertaining performance.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) finds [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) packing his things. Although the two men have never met, Count Fosco recognizes Walter’s name. The Count is unfriendly and seems scattered and shaken by events at the opera; he asks Walter what he wants. Walter asks him why he is leaving London and the Count refuses to tell him. Count Fosco locks the door of the room and sits down in front of it. Walter sees that his hand hovers on the handle of a drawer in the desk beside him.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Walter expects to find Count Fosco charming and composed, as he is described in Marian’s diary. Events at the opera, however, have rattled the Count’s composure, which gives Walter an idea of just how scared Count Fosco is of the Brotherhood. Count Fosco has a weapon in the desk and blocks the door so that he will have Walter trapped in the room.

***Summary Part 2:***

[**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) tells [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) that he knows the reason he is leaving; the answer, he says, is branded on Count Fosco’s left arm. Count Fosco looks horrified by this and he opens to drawer and puts his hands inside. Walter hears the Count drag something along the bottom of the drawer and feels that his life is in danger. The Count tells Walter that he is going to shoot him, but Walter tells him to wait because he has something to ask him. He gives Count Fosco the note from **[Pesca](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/professor-pesca)**, and Count Fosco understands that Walter has trapped him.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Walter tells Count Fosco that he knows about the Brotherhood, and intends to use this knowledge against him. The Count’s reaction tells Walter that he has guessed correctly. The Count has a gun hidden in the desk, but Walter uses the note to let the Count know that if he kills Walter then he will be killed himself. Through both luck and cleverness, Walter has finally outwitted the Count.

***Summary Part 3:***

[**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) asks [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) what he wants, and Walter tells him that he wants justice for [**Laura**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie), who is now his wife. The Count seems to find this amusing but becomes worried when Walter mentions the ten thousand pounds which the Count received for helping [**Sir Percival**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde). Walter scornfully tells him that he doesn’t want the money back, he simply wants proof of the date when Laura came to London from Blackwater.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Count Fosco is scornful at the idea of justice and does not believe that it will apply to him. As he only cares about money and power, he judges Walter by the same standard and believes that Walter has married Laura for her fortune. Count Fosco’s testament is Laura’s last chance to prove her identity.

***Summary Part 4:***

[**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) agrees to this on three conditions. First, he and [**Madame Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/madame-fosco) are to be allowed to leave the house freely when the letter of proof is written. Second, [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) is to send a messenger to bring the letter which Walter sent to **[Pesca](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/professor-pesca)** back unopened, so that he will know that no assassin has been dispatched against him. Third, that, at a future time, he will write to Walter and invite him to duel as punishment for his impudent behavior.

***Analysis Part 4:***

As Pesca has been ordered not to open the letter until the next morning, he will have no reason to come after Count Fosco until he has seen the note. If it is returned unopened, Count Fosco will take this as evidence that no one is coming after him.

***Summary Part 5:***

[**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) agrees, on the condition that the letter he sent to [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) is “destroyed unopened in his presence.” This way Count Fosco will not be able to send The Brotherhood after **[Pesca](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/professor-pesca)** for revealing their secret. For a moment, Walter has his doubts about accepting these conditions, which will allow Count Fosco to go free, but then he remembers that, although he did not personally punish [**Sir Percival**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde), Sir Percival was still punished, and he decides to trust to fate.

***Analysis Part 5:***

Walter wants the note destroyed as, this way, Count Fosco will have no proof that Pesca has betrayed the Brotherhood by telling Walter about them and Count Fosco cannot use this against Pesca at a future time. Like Laura and Marian, Walter believes that “crime causes its own detection” and that eventually Count Fosco will give himself away, as Sir Percival did.

***Summary Part 6:***

These terms agreed, [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) suddenly seems quite cheerful and calls to his wife to make him coffee while he writes the letter for [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright). Walter is impressed by Count Fosco’s mental strength, even though he hates him. [**Madame Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/madame-fosco) brings in the coffee and Count Fosco sits down to pen his narrative.

***Analysis Part 6:***

Walter experiences a similar reaction as Marian to Count Fosco. Although he despises him, he must acknowledge that the Count is an extremely powerful personality and has a very strong will.

***Summary Part 7:***

[**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) finishes his letter at four o’ clock in the morning and cheerfully fixes the manuscript together. He also gives [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) the name of the cabman who took [**Laura**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) from the station when she arrived in London and a letter from [**Sir Percival**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde) to Count Fosco, dated the 26th of July, which tells Count Fosco that Laura has just left for London. The date on [**Anne Catherick**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman)’s death certificate is the 25th of July, so this letter proves Laura’s identity.

***Analysis Part 7:***

The letter from Sir Percival is effectively a confession of guilt from the two men. It proves that Sir Percival sent his wife, Laura, to London on the 26th of July and, therefore, the woman who died in Count Fosco’s house on the 25th of July could not have been Laura.

***Summary Part 8:***

[**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) then tells [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) that he will nap briefly before his departure that morning. He calls [**Madame Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/madame-fosco) into the room to make sure that Walter does not escape while he is asleep. Madame Fosco tells Walter that, if she had been her husband, she would have killed Walter. Then she begins to quietly read her book. When the Count wakes up, he finishes his packing but suddenly realizes that he cannot take his birds. Walter is amazed to see that the Count looks genuinely distressed by this and takes the time to write to a local zoo about them. He decides to take his mice with him, as he cannot bear to part with them.

***Analysis Part 8:***

Madame Fosco demonstrates her own vicious, unkind nature. It is unclear whether Madame Fosco has been brutalized by her husband or whether she had an unpleasant temperament to begin with, which Count Fosco has exploited and encouraged. The Count’s attitude toward his mice and birds is still mysterious and intriguing—though he is devoid of love for other people, he seems to genuinely love his animals.

***Summary Part 9:***

At dawn, [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco)’s agent arrives to collect the letter from **[Pesca](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/professor-pesca)**. His agent is [**Monsieur Rubelle**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters), the husband of [**Mrs. Rubelle**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mrs-rubelle) who the Count put in charge of [**Marian**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) during her illness. Monsieur Rubelle returns with the letter unopened and the Count burns it as they agreed.

***Analysis Part 9:***

Monsieur and Mrs. Rubelle are also foreign spies and work for Count Fosco.

***Summary Part 10:***

[**Madame Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/madame-fosco) gets into the cab. [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco) takes [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) aside for a final word. He warns him not to forget the third condition and that Walter will hear from Count Fosco shortly. Before he leaves, Count Fosco also says that [**Marian**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe) looked ill when he saw her in London and he tasks Walter with looking after Marian, whom the Count says is an “admirable woman.”

***Analysis Part 10:***

Again, despite Count Fosco’s ruthless and mercenary character, his affection for Marian seems to be genuine, in as far as he is capable of feeling sincere affection for a person other than himself.

***Summary Part 11:***

As the cab drives away, [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) sees the “stranger from the opera” watching the carriage from the street. Walter goes back into [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco)’s house to read the manuscript.

***Analysis Part 11:***

The foreigner from the opera is clearly following Count Fosco and only pretended to pass by when Walter saw him earlier that night. He is likely another member of the Brotherhood, sent to kill Fosco for his betrayal.