***Woman in White***

***Part 3***

***Section 4***

***Chapter 1***

### ***The Count’s Narrative***

***Summary:***

* So remember all those things we thought the count did over the course of the novel? Steal Marian's diary; drug Fanny, Anne, and Laura; open people's mail; steal people's letters; use his wife as a spy; develop a creepy crush on Marian; and commit some sort of crime against a political society?
* Well, it turns out he did *all* of those things.
* Except he had a totally good reason for all of it: he needed to show off his own power and he needed some quick cash.
* Fosco's narrative doesn't give us many new details, but it's probably the most entertaining chapter in the entire novel, because the count is flamboyant, crazy, and ridiculous.
* The count developed his (half-)sister swap plan after Marian fell ill and he had a very fortunate encounter with Anne and Mrs. Clements.
* The plan happened as Walter and Marian suspected:
* The count lured Anne to London, but she died ahead of schedule.
* He then hustled Laura to London, drugged her to the gills, and dropped her off at the friendly neighborhood asylum.
* The count then attended Laura's funeral in Cumberland and happily accepted his share of the money from Percival.
* But he's really not a bad guy, he says.
* He admits to psychologically manipulating his wife until she acted like a marionette, and he admits that he'd have killed Anne if she hadn't conveniently died on her own.
* But basically he never committed a serious crime, and anybody else would have totally done the same thing.
* And thus, Fosco signs off. So long, crazy.

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

***Summary Part 1:***

[**Monsieur Rubelle**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters) does not return, and [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) leaves [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco)’s house. The next day, he goes to the cab company that Count Fosco’s manuscript gave him the address of and asks about the cab which took [**Laura**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie) and Count Fosco from the station. The cab driver, [**John Owen**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters), remembers the Count but does not remember Laura. He remembers her name, however, because his wife’s name is also “Glyde.” Walter takes the evidence from the order book from him and takes this, with [**Sir Percival**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/sir-percival-glyde)’s letter and the Count’s manuscript, to [**Mr. Kyrle**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-kyrle)’s office.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Walter now feels he has enough evidence to convince a legal man like Mr. Kyrle and legally establish Laura’s identity.

***Summary Part 2:***

[**Mr. Kyrle**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-kyrle) is astonished and, the next morning, he, [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright), [**Marian**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/marian-halcombe), [**Laura**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/laura-fairlie), and [**John Owen**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters) travel to Limmeridge to confront [**Mr. Fairlie**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/mr-fairlie). They agree to leave Laura at Todd’s Corner so that she is not upset. Mr. Fairlie gives in easily and immediately agrees to let them reinstate Laura as the heir when they threaten to take him to court. Walter then rounds up everyone who attended Laura’s funeral and reads out a declaration which explains the conspiracy and reveals Laura’s real identity. The people of the village celebrate Laura’s return and the day ends with Laura’s name being removed from the tombstone and [**Anne**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/anne-catherick-the-woman)’s name carved there instead.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Mr. Fairlie still only cares about his own convenience and is now as happy to believe that Laura is his niece as he was to reject her when this seemed like it would cause him the least trouble. Laura’s identity is publicly reclaimed, which demonstrates that identity is partly the result of who people think someone is as well as a product of their internal character. Anne too is finally commemorated with her true name and receives the recognition she deserves.

***Summary Part 3:***

As the group travel back to London, [**Walter**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/walter-hartright) thinks that it is lucky that he was not a rich man who could pay a lawyer to solve his case for him as, he thinks, without his own intervention—which led him to **[Pesca](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/professor-pesca)** and the true identity of [**Count Fosco**](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/the-woman-in-white/characters/count-fosco)—the case probably never would have been solved.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Walter believes that a lawyer would have accepted a surface explanation of events and would not have been motivated to look beyond the facts and discover the truth of the case. Also, if Walter had been rich, he may have been used to relying on employees to do everything for him and therefore would not have relied on his own initiative, which is what ultimately helps him solve the case. Collins seems to believe that a certain amount of self-reliance is important to stop people from becoming complacent.