

woman in white novel

woman in white novel is a phrase that instantly evokes a sense of mystery, intrigue, and timeless allure. The novel titled *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins, first published in 1859, stands as one of the earliest and most influential works of Victorian mystery and sensation fiction. Its enduring popularity has cemented the figure of the "woman in white" as a symbol of ghostly elegance, hidden secrets, and the complexities of Victorian society. This article explores the origins, themes, and cultural significance of the *Woman in White* novel, while providing insights into its characters, plot, and influence on literature and popular culture.

Overview of The Woman in White Novel

Introduction to Wilkie Collins and the Novel

Wilkie Collins was a renowned English novelist and playwright, often regarded as one of the pioneers of detective fiction. His novel *The Woman in White* is considered a masterpiece of Victorian literature, blending elements of Gothic horror, mystery, and social critique. The novel's innovative narrative structure, employing multiple narrators and intertwined plots, was groundbreaking at the time and has influenced countless subsequent works.

Plot Summary

The story revolves around Walter Hartright, an art teacher who encounters a mysterious woman dressed in white on a London lane. Her sudden appearance sets off a chain of events involving mistaken identities, hidden motives, and dark family secrets. As the story unfolds, readers are introduced to Marian Halcombe, Laura Fairlie, Sir Percival Glyde, and other compelling characters whose lives become entangled in the woman's enigmatic presence.

Key plot points include:

- Walter's initial encounter with the woman in white and her subsequent disappearance.
- The revelation of Laura Fairlie and her marriage to Sir Percival Glyde.
- The sinister plans of Glyde and his accomplice, Count Fosco.
- Marian Halcombe's efforts to uncover the truth and protect Laura.
- The climactic confrontation uncovering long-buried secrets.

The Significance of the Woman in White in

Literature

Symbolism and Themes

The figure of the woman in white symbolizes multiple layers of meaning within the novel, such as:

- Mystery and the supernatural: Her ghostly appearance and ambiguous nature evoke Gothic themes.
- Victorian societal constraints: The woman in white often reflects the limited agency of women in Victorian society.
- Secrets and deception: The novel explores hidden identities and the concealment of truth.
- Innocence and peril: Laura's innocence is contrasted with the danger she faces.

Innovative Narrative Style

Wilkie Collins employed an innovative narrative technique in *The Woman in White* by using multiple narrators, each providing their perspective. This layered storytelling:

- Enhances suspense and mystery.
- Allows deep character development.
- Creates a complex, multifaceted view of events.

This approach influenced future detective and mystery fiction, setting a precedent for multi-voiced narratives.

Characters in *The Woman in White*

Main Characters

- Walter Hartright: The protagonist and art teacher who first encounters the mysterious woman.
- Laura Fairlie: A gentle, innocent woman and the object of Glyde and Fosco's schemes.
- Marian Halcombe: Laura's strong-willed half-sister, a key figure in uncovering the truth.
- Sir Percival Glyde: A dishonest and ambitious man involved in sinister plots.
- Count Fosco: A charismatic but villainous Italian who manipulates events.
- The Woman in White: The mysterious figure whose identity and motives drive much of the plot.

Supporting Characters

- Anne Catherick: The woman in white's doppelgänger and another mysterious figure.
- Mr. Fairlie: Laura's uncle, whose secrets add to the intrigue.
- Mr. Gilmore: A detective aiding in unraveling the mystery.

Themes and Analysis of The Woman in White

Victorian Society and Gender Roles

The novel examines the societal constraints placed on women, highlighting their vulnerability and lack of autonomy. Marian Halcombe's strength contrasts with Laura's fragility, illustrating different responses to societal limitations.

Identity and Deception

Much of the novel's tension derives from mistaken identities, hidden motives, and characters hiding their true selves. This theme underscores the importance of truth and perception.

Good vs. Evil

The novel juxtaposes moral righteousness with villainy, with characters like Marian embodying virtue and Fosco exemplifying cunning malice.

Gothic Elements

The novel incorporates Gothic motifs such as ghostly appearances, secret passages, and haunted estates, creating an atmosphere of suspense.

Impact and Cultural Significance

Influence on Detective Fiction

The Woman in White is considered a precursor to modern detective and mystery genres. Its use of multiple narrators and complex plotting influenced authors like Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie.

Adaptations and Legacy

The novel has been adapted into numerous films, television series, stage productions, and even graphic novels. Its iconic figure—the woman in white—has become a symbol in horror and mystery genres.

Notable adaptations include:

- Silent film adaptations in the early 20th century.
- BBC television series.
- Stage reinterpretations and modern adaptations.

Symbol in Popular Culture

The "woman in white" has transcended the novel, representing ghostly apparitions, mourning attire, and mystery in various media. Her image often appears in art, fashion, and horror stories, embodying a blend of innocence and eeriness.

Conclusion

The woman in white novel by Wilkie Collins remains a seminal work in Victorian literature, blending Gothic mystique with social commentary. Its compelling characters, intricate plot, and innovative narrative techniques have cemented its place as a classic that continues to inspire writers and filmmakers. The figure of the woman in white, both as a mysterious ghostly presence and a symbol of societal constraints, endures in popular culture, embodying themes of secrecy, innocence, and the supernatural. Whether read as a thrilling mystery or analyzed for its deeper social critique, *The Woman in White* remains an essential piece of literary history with timeless appeal.

Keywords: Woman in White novel, Wilkie Collins, Victorian mystery, Gothic fiction, Victorian society, detective fiction, literary analysis, adaptation, symbolism, Victorian era literature

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'The Woman in White' by Wilkie Collins?

The novel follows Walter Hartright, who encounters a mysterious woman dressed in white, leading to a complex tale of mistaken identity, secret pasts, and wrongful imprisonment.

Who are the primary characters in 'The Woman in White'?

Key characters include Walter Hartright, Marian Halcombe, Laura Fairlie, Sir Percival Glyde, and Anne Catherick, the mysterious woman in white.

Why is 'The Woman in White' considered a pioneering work of detective fiction?

Because it uses multiple narrators, intricate plot twists, and a focus on mystery and suspense, influencing the development of detective and sensation fiction.

What themes are explored in 'The Woman in White'?

Themes include identity, deception, social class, madness, and the critique of Victorian societal norms.

Is 'The Woman in White' based on real events or purely fictional?

It is a work of fiction, though it reflects Victorian concerns about mental health, social status, and legal injustice.

How has 'The Woman in White' influenced literature and popular culture?

It has inspired countless adaptations, including films, TV series, stage productions, and has influenced the detective genre and Victorian literature.

What is the significance of the character Marian Halcombe in the novel?

Marian is a strong, intelligent woman who plays a vital role in uncovering the truth and protecting Laura, challenging Victorian gender stereotypes.

Are there any modern adaptations of 'The Woman in White'?

Yes, there have been numerous adaptations, including films, television series, radio dramas, and stage productions, notably the BBC's 2018 miniseries.

Why is 'The Woman in White' still relevant today?

Its exploration of themes like identity, justice, and social inequality remains pertinent, and its suspenseful storytelling continues to captivate modern audiences.

Additional Resources

Woman in White Novel: An In-Depth Analysis of Wilkie Collins' Masterpiece

The Woman in White novel stands as a cornerstone of Victorian literature, renowned for its intricate plot, compelling characters, and innovative narrative techniques. Authored by Wilkie Collins and first published in 1859-1860 as a serial, this novel has captivated readers and critics alike for over a century. Its enduring appeal lies in its masterful blend of mystery, social critique, and psychological depth, making it a quintessential example of the detective and sensation genres that emerged during the Victorian era.

Introduction to the Novel and Its Historical Context

Wilkie Collins and the Victorian Literary Landscape

Wilkie Collins (1824-1889) was a prolific novelist and playwright whose works significantly influenced the development of detective fiction. The Woman in White marked a turning point in his career, establishing him as a pioneer of the sensation novel—a genre characterized by suspense, melodrama, and often, critique of social norms. Victorian Britain, during Collins' time, was undergoing rapid social change, with rising literacy rates, expanding print media, and a burgeoning middle class eager for entertainment and moral reflection. The novel's publication coincided with these developments, contributing to its widespread popularity.

The Serial Publication and Its Impact

Originally serialized in All the Year Round (the magazine founded by Charles Dickens), the novel benefited from the serialized format, which created anticipation and allowed Collins to adapt the story based on reader reactions. Serialization also contributed to the novel's intricate, episodic structure, with cliffhangers and suspenseful twists that kept readers engaged over months. This format influenced subsequent literary works and helped solidify the novel's place in popular culture.

Plot Summary and Major Themes

Overview of the Plot

The narrative of Woman in White unfolds through multiple narrators, primarily

Walter Hartright, an art teacher who encounters a mysterious woman dressed in white on a moonlit London street. This encounter sets off a complex chain of events involving mistaken identities, class conflicts, and hidden motives.

The story primarily revolves around Laura Fairlie, a gentle and virtuous young woman, her half-sister Marian Halcombe, and their interactions with the enigmatic woman in white, Anne Catherick. Anne's revelations and mysterious past threaten to unravel the social and personal worlds of the protagonists.

Key plot points include:

- Walter's developing love for Laura and his attempts to protect her from sinister forces.
- The clandestine marriage between Laura and Walter, which faces opposition from her manipulative guardian, Sir Percival Glyde.
- The revelation of Anne Catherick's true identity and her connection to the villainous Count Fosco.
- The eventual unmasking of Glyde's treachery and Fosco's machinations, culminating in justice and resolution.

Major Themes Explored

1. Identity and Disguise: The motif of mistaken and concealed identities drives much of the suspense. Characters often hide truths or assume false personas, highlighting the Victorian preoccupation with social roles and appearances.
2. Social Class and Morality: The novel scrutinizes the rigid class structure, contrasting the virtuous but modest Marian with the corrupt aristocrats like Glyde and Fosco. It questions the moral integrity associated with class privilege.
3. Women's Agency and Vulnerability: Through characters like Laura and Marian, Collins explores the limited agency of women in Victorian society, as well as their resilience and moral strength in the face of danger.
4. Good vs. Evil: The novel delineates clear moral boundaries, portraying virtuous characters fighting against villainous ones, often through clever detective work.

Characters and Their Symbolism

Primary Characters

- Walter Hartright: The honest, empathetic narrator whose perspective guides the reader through the story's mysteries. His moral integrity symbolizes Victorian ideals of truth and justice.
- Laura Fairlie: The gentle, passive heroine who embodies innocence and virtue but is also vulnerable to manipulation.
- Marian Halcombe: Laura's half-sister, a strong-willed and intelligent woman

who acts as a protector and moral compass.

- Anne Catherick: The mysterious woman in white, symbolizing innocence marred by societal injustice. Her mental fragility and mysterious past make her a pivotal figure in the plot's unfolding.
- Sir Percival Glyde: The villainous guardian whose greed and duplicity threaten the protagonists.
- Count Fosco: An Italian adventurer and Fosco embodies duplicity and cunning. His charm masks his sinister motives, and he serves as the novel's central antagonist.

Symbolism and Character Dynamics

The characters' interactions and traits reflect Victorian anxieties about social order, morality, and gender roles. Marian's strength contrasts with Laura's fragility, highlighting the different ways women navigated societal expectations. Fosco's duplicity and Glyde's greed symbolize the moral decay lurking beneath Victorian respectability.

Narrative Technique and Literary Innovation

Multiple Narrators and Perspectives

One of Collins' most innovative techniques was the use of multiple narrators, each offering their own perspective. This layered narration enhances the mystery's complexity and invites readers to question reliability and truth. The primary narrators—Walter, Marian, and later, Count Fosco—each provide insights into the plot and their own psychological states.

This approach:

- Creates suspense through differing accounts.
- Allows Collins to explore subjective perceptions.
- Builds a richer, more nuanced narrative fabric.

Use of Sensation Fiction Elements

The novel incorporates sensation novel tropes such as:

- Ghostly apparitions and mysterious figures.
- Secret passages and hidden chambers.
- Dramatic revelations and cliffhangers.

These elements heighten suspense and appeal to Victorian readers' appetite for thrillers and the supernatural, blending Gothic influences with realistic social critique.

Reflection of Social Critique

Collins subtly critiques Victorian societal norms—particularly the subjugation of women, the corruption of the upper classes, and the failure of justice. The novel's detailed depiction of social hierarchies and legal manipulations underscores its moral and social commentary.

Critical Reception and Literary Significance

Contemporary and Modern Critiques

At the time of publication, *Woman in White* was lauded for its imaginative plot, complex characters, and innovative narrative structure. It was celebrated for bridging the gap between popular sensation fiction and serious literary art.

Modern critics recognize its influence on detective fiction, noting:

- Its role in shaping the detective genre.
- Its pioneering use of multiple narrators and layered storytelling.
- Its social critique embedded within a suspenseful narrative.

Legacy and Influence

The novel's influence extends beyond Victorian literature:

- It inspired later detective and mystery writers such as Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie.
- Its narrative techniques prefigured modern psychological thrillers.
- It remains a staple in adaptations for film, television, and stage.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

Over the years, *Woman in White* has been adapted into numerous formats, including:

- Silent films (notably the 1912 and 1917 versions).
- Radio dramas.
- Television series (notably the 1982 BBC adaptation and the 2018 BBC series).
- Stage productions.

These adaptations attest to its enduring appeal and versatility, with each interpretation emphasizing different facets—be it Gothic horror, social critique, or detective intrigue.

Conclusion: A Timeless Masterpiece

The *Woman in White* remains a landmark work in Victorian literature, blending Gothic mystery, social commentary, and narrative innovation. Wilkie Collins' skillful storytelling and complex characterizations continue to resonate with readers, scholars, and writers. Its exploration of themes like identity, morality, and social inequality remains relevant today, making it a timeless masterpiece that transcends its Victorian origins.

As a pioneering work of sensation fiction, it set the stage for modern detective and thriller genres. Its influence endures not only in literature but also across popular culture, affirming its status as a quintessential Victorian novel and a significant contribution to literary history.

In essence, *Woman in White* exemplifies the power of storytelling to reveal societal truths while entertaining—an enduring testament to Wilkie Collins' literary genius.

Woman In White Novel

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White* Wilkie Collins, 1991-10-15 Wilkie Collins's classic thriller took the world by storm on its first appearance in 1859, with everything from dances to perfumes to dresses named in honor of the woman in white. The novel's continuing fascination stems in part from a distinctive blend of melodrama, comedy, and realism; and in part from the power of its story. The catalyst for the mystery is Walter Hartright's encounter on a moonlit road with a mysterious woman dressed head to toe in white. She is in a state of confusion and distress, and when Hartright helps her find her way back to London she warns him against an unnamed man of rank and title. Hartright soon learns that she may have escaped from an asylum and finds to his amazement that her story may be connected to that of the woman he secretly loves. Collins brilliantly uses the device of multiple narrators to weave a story in which no one can be trusted, and he also famously creates, in the figure of Count Fosco, the prototype of the suave, sophisticated evil genius. The *Woman in White* is still passed as a masterpiece of narrative drive and excruciating suspense. Introduction by Nicholas Rance

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White* Wilkie Collins, 2006-04-20 As the inscription on his tombstone reveals, Wilkie Collins wanted to be remembered as the author of *The Woman in White*, for it was this novel that secured his reputation during his lifetime. The novel begins with a drawing teacher's eerie late-night encounter with a mysterious woman in white, and then follows his love for Laura Fairlie, a young woman who is falsely incarcerated in an asylum by her husband, Sir Percival Glyde, and his sinister accomplice, Count Fosco. This edition returns to the original text that galvanized England when it was published in serial form in *All the Year Round* magazine in 1860. Three different prefaces Collins wrote for the novel, as well as two of his essays on the book's composition, are reprinted, along with nine illustrations. The appendices include contemporary reviews, along with essays on lunacy, asylums, mesmerism, and the rights of women.

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White* Adrian Flynn, Wilkie Collins, 1999-05 Collins' disturbing tale of deceit and trickery, set against a backdrop of Victorian madness and melodrama, has been captured in this compelling stage version. Walter Hartright, the drawing teacher, re-tells the fascinating story of the sisters Laura and Marian, and of the strange appearance of the Woman in White...

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White* Wilkie Collins, 1893

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White* Wilkie Collins, 2019-06-02 *The Woman in White* is

an epistolary novel written by Wilkie Collins in 1859, serialized in 1859-1860, and first published in book form in 1860. It is considered to be among the first mystery novels and is widely regarded as one of the first (and finest) in the genre of 'sensation novels'. As was customary at that time, *The Woman in White* was first published as a magazine serial. The first episode appeared on 29 November 1859, following Charles Dickens's own *A Tale of Two Cities* in Dickens's magazine *All the Year Round* in England, and Harper's Magazine in America. It caused an immediate sensation. Julian Symons (in his 1974 introduction to the Penguin edition) reports that queues formed outside the offices to buy the next instalment. Bonnets, perfumes, waltzes and quadrilles were called by the book's title. Gladstone cancelled a theatre engagement to go on reading it. And Prince Albert sent a copy to Baron Stockmar.

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White* Wilkie Collins, 2015-11-06 This is the story of what a Woman's patience can endure, and what a Man's resolution can achieve. If the machinery of the Law could be depended on to fathom every case of suspicion, and to conduct every process of inquiry, with moderate assistance only from the lubricating influences of oil of gold, the events which fill these pages might have claimed their share of the public attention in a Court of Justice. But the Law is still, in certain inevitable cases, the pre-engaged servant of the long purse; and the story is left to be told, for the first time, in this place. As the Judge might once have heard it, so the Reader shall hear it now. No circumstance of importance, from the beginning to the end of the disclosure, shall be related on hearsay evidence. When the writer of these introductory lines (Walter Hartright by name) happens to be more closely connected than others with the incidents to be recorded, he will describe them in his own person. When his experience fails, he will retire from the position of narrator; and his task will be continued, from the point at which he has left it off, by other persons who can speak to the circumstances under notice from their own knowledge, just as clearly and positively as he has spoken before them. Thus, the story here presented will be told by more than one pen, as the story of an offence against the laws is told in Court by more than one witness—with the same object, in both cases, to present the truth always in its most direct and most intelligible aspect; and to trace the course of one complete series of events, by making the persons who have been most closely connected with them, at each successive stage, relate their own experience, word for word. Let Walter Hartright, teacher of drawing, aged twenty-eight years, be heard first.

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White* Wilkie Collins, 2015-09-17 *The Woman in White* is Wilkie Collins' fifth published novel, written in 1859. It is considered to be among the first mystery novels and is widely regarded as one of the first (and finest) in the genre of sensation novels. The story is sometimes considered an early example of detective fiction with the hero, Walter Hartright, employing many of the sleuthing techniques of later private detectives. The use of multiple narrators draws on Collins's legal training, and as he points out in his Preamble: the story here presented will be told by more than one pen, as the story of an offence against the laws is told in Court by more than one witness. In 2003, *The Observer* listed *The Woman in White* number 23 in the top 100 greatest novels of all time, and the novel was listed at number 77 on the BBC's survey *The Big Read*. Walter Hartright, a young art teacher, meets a mysterious and distressed woman dressed in white. He helps her on her way, but later learns that she has escaped from an asylum. Next day, he travels to Limmeridge House in Cumberland, having been hired as a drawing master on the recommendation of his friend, Pesca, an Italian language master. The Limmeridge household comprises the invalid Frederick Fairlie, and Walter's students: Laura Fairlie, Mr Fairlie's niece, and Marian Halcombe, her devoted half-sister. Walter realises that Laura bears an astonishing resemblance to the woman in white, who is known to the household and whose name is Anne Catherick.

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White Annotated* Wilkie Collins, 2020-07-15 The events described in the novel take place in the 1850s in England. A young painter from London, Walter Hartright, secures a position as an art teacher at Limmeridge House in Cumberland, which belongs to Frederick Fairlie. On a hot summer night prior to his departure, Walter meets a very strange

woman on the empty street, who is dressed in a completely white dress. The woman in white shows a sudden agitation when Walter explains about his new job, but also speaks with love about Mrs. Fairlie, the late owner of Limmeridge House. Walter helps the strange woman to catch a cab, only to encounter two men looking for a woman in white, who has escaped from a mental asylum. Upon his arrival at Limmeridge, Walter meets those residing there: Marian Halcombe, a daughter of the late Mrs. Fairlie from her first marriage, her sister Laura Fairlie, and Laura's bachelor uncle, Frederick Fairlie. Walter tells Marian about the strange woman he met in London. Intrigued, Marian finds mention of a girl named Anne Catherick in her mother's letters. Mrs. Fairlie became attached to the little Anne because of her resemblance to Laura, and Anne in her turn became attached to Mrs. Fairlie. Meanwhile, Laura and Walter fall in love, but Walter is devastated to learn that Laura is already engaged to Sir Percival Glyde, the owner of Blackwater Park in Hampshire, a wealthy and respected person. The engagement was arranged at the request of Laura's father prior to his death, and she therefore considers herself bound to honor it, despite her love for Walter, and increasing sinister hints about Sir Percival, which suggest he had some connection to Anne Catherick, and may have been responsible for placing her in the asylum. Because of his grief and love for Laura, Walter leaves Limmeridge and departs for Central America. Sir Percival manages to provide explanations for everything concerning Anne, but shows suspicious behavior and also arranges for a marriage contract which benefits him economically and disadvantages Laura. Both Marian and Laura are increasingly upset by the prospect of the marriage, but it takes place anyways, and Laura and Sir Percival depart for their honeymoon in Italy. They are absent for six months, and then return to reside at Blackwater Park, where Marian joins them in order to live as a companion with Laura. The couple returns with Sir Percival's friend, the Italian Count Fosco, who is a sinister character, and his wife Eleanor, who is Laura's aunt, and who seems to be completely under his spell. It becomes clear that Sir Percival is an abusive and controlling husband, and also that he is in bad financial situation and desperate to gain access to his wife's money. Count Fosco seems to be Percival's advisor and helper, and the Countess is also willing to spy and intercept letters, so that Laura and Marian become increasingly isolated and helpless. Laura meets Anne, who tries to caution her and refers to a secret about Sir Percival, but once Sir Percival learns of this meeting, he becomes even more abusive and obsessive, convinced that Anne has told Laura a secret that he is desperate to hide. Marian is sure that Fosco and Percival are conspiring against Laura, and perhaps even threatening her life, but before she can do anything, she becomes seriously ill. With Marian incapacitated, Fosco and Percival launch their terrible plan: they trick Laura into believing Marian has left the house, thereby luring Laura to London where she thinks she is following her sister. According to the story as Fosco and Percival will tell it, Laura becomes suddenly ill and dies in London. At about the same time, Anne Catherick is apparently found and returned to the asylum. As Marian recovers, she is convinced there must be more to the story, and goes to the asylum to visit Anne. She is shocked to discover that the woman in the asylum is actually Laura, and helps her to escape.

woman in white novel: The Woman in White Keith West, 1999 Mystery and suspense surround the uncovering of Sir Percival Glyde's secret which he keeps with the help of the smooth, fat villain, Count Fosco.

woman in white novel: The Woman in White Wilkie Collins, 1994 This riveting tale of mistaken identities, surprise revelations, locked rooms, and an unorthodox villain has enthralled readers since first published more than 140 years ago.

woman in white novel: The Woman in White William Collins, 2016-09-07 Walter Hartright, a young art teacher, encounters and gives directions to a mysterious and distressed woman dressed entirely in white, lost in London; he is later informed by policemen that she has escaped from an asylum. Soon afterward, he travels to Limmeridge House in Cumberland, having been hired as a drawing master on the recommendation of his friend, Pesca, an Italian language master. The Limmeridge household comprises the invalid Frederick Fairlie, and Walter's students: Laura Fairlie, Mr. Fairlie's niece, and Marian Halcombe, her devoted half-sister. Walter realizes that Laura bears an astonishing resemblance to the woman in white, who is known to the household by the name of

Anne Catherick: a mentally disabled child who formerly lived near Limmeridge, and was devoted to Laura's mother, who first dressed her in white.

woman in white novel: WOMAN IN WHITE A NOVEL Wilkie 1824-1889 Collins, 2016-08-29 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. As a reproduction of a historical artifact, this work may contain missing or blurred pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins Wilkie Collins, 2021-03-03 It is the story of what a woman's patience can bear and what the resolution of a man can do. If you like Victorian fiction, you'll find this is a well-drawn, balanced novel of characters to be cheered for, characters to be disliked, a twisted plot that rolls up smoothly and ingeniously narrated from various points of view. If you're unsure whether you like or don't like Victorian prose, this book is a perfect introductory option; There are some evidence about it: It was seen as the first English psychological thriller sensation book, was consistently published for 150 years and has a 4 + star rating from over 5,700 Goodreads ratings. Marian Halcombe and her sleuthing associate, drawing master Walter Hartright, are pitted against the diabolical team of Count Fosco and Sir Percival Glyde in *The Woman in White*. Collins' supernatural suspense was never out-of-print in the 140 years following its release, a thrilling story of crime, mystery, stupidity and mistaken identities. In her introductory work, Anne Perry wrote: To our great joy (*The Woman in White*) has endured, for it is a beautiful tale about people who engage our minds and our imaginations. *The Woman in White* would cater to readers who love books in which the reality is veiled underneath the stereotypes of characters who tell the story in the first person. The book contains a biography of one of the most famous English writers - Wilkie Collins.

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White (Special Edition)* Wilkie Collins, 2016-07-07 Walter Hartright, a young art teacher, directs a mysterious and distressed woman dressed entirely in white; but later learns that she has escaped from an asylum. Soon afterward, he travels to Limmeridge House in Cumberland, having been hired as a drawing master on the recommendation of his friend, Pesca, an Italian language master. The Limmeridge household comprises the invalid Frederick Fairlie, and Walter's students: Laura Fairlie, Mr. Fairlie's niece, and Marian Halcombe, her devoted half-sister. Walter realizes that Laura bears an astonishing resemblance to the woman in white, who is known to the household by the name of Anne Catherick: a mentally disabled child who formerly lived near Limmeridge, and was devoted to Laura's mother, who first dressed her in white. Over the next few months, Walter and Laura fall in love, and Marian advises Walter to leave Limmeridge. Anne later sends a letter to Laura, warning her against her betrothed, Sir Percival Glyde, Baronet; and Walter, upon conversation with Anne, becomes convinced that Glyde originally placed Anne in the asylum. Despite the misgivings of the family lawyer over the financial terms of the marriage settlement, Laura and Glyde marry in December 1849 and travel to Italy for six months. Concurrently, Walter joins an expedition to Honduras. After six months, Sir Percival and Lady Glyde return to his house, Blackwater Park in Hampshire; accompanied by Glyde's friend, Count Fosco (married to Laura's aunt). Marian, at Laura's request, resides at Blackwater, and learns that Glyde is in financial difficulties. Glyde attempts to bully Laura into signing a document which would allow him to use her marriage settlement of 20,000; and when this fails, Glyde reveals to Fosco the resemblance between Laura and Anne, and Fosco plots to exchange Laura for the

terminally-ill Anne, and thus claim Laura's fortune through a pretence of her death. Marian overhears part of this plan; but becomes soaked by rain, and contracts typhus.

woman in white novel: The Woman in White Wilkie Collins, 2020-10-06 An embattled inheritance, accusations of madness, scheming villainy and much more tie into the labyrinthine plot of one of the most celebrated and sensational novels of the Victorian era." A young man just beginning a new job in London meets with a strange woman on a moonlit road, offers her assistance getting into the city and then finds she may have just escaped an asylum. Hidden connections are unveiled between the family that employs the young man and the mysterious woman, pulling the reader into a suspenseful web of plots within plots, theft, betrayal, mistaken identities and attempted murder. Punctuating his dramatic narrative with sharp suspense and sudden moments of revelation that provide shock and understanding in equal measure, Wilkie Collins was pioneer of the literary thriller. In 1859, when serialized in Charles Dickens magazine, *All the Year Round*, crowds lined up to buy each installment of *The Woman in White*. Modern readers will be grateful to have the entire text at hand as the author's remarkable storytelling skills retain their power to ensnare, enchant and keep the pages turning toward the unpredictable conclusion. With an eye-catching new cover, and professionally typeset manuscript, this edition of *The Woman in White* is both modern and readable.

woman in white novel: The Woman in White Wilkie Collins, 2016-10-11 This is the story of what a Woman's patience can endure, and what Man's resolution can achieve.

woman in white novel: *The Woman in White (Illustrated)* Wilkie Collins, 2018-08-02 Rare edition with unique illustrations. The woman in white first appears at night on a lonely heath near London and is next seen at a grave-side in Cumberland. Who is she? Where has she come from, and what is her history? She seems alone and friendless, frightened and confused. And it seems she knows a secret - a secret that could bring ruin and shame to a man who will do anything to keep her silent. This famous mystery thriller has excitement, suspense, romance, and a plot that twists and turns on every page.

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