

# **Clarissa Study Guide**

**Clarissa by Samuel Richardson**

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Contents

<a href="#">Clarissa Study Guide.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
<a href="#">Contents.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
<a href="#">Plot Summary.....</a>	<a href="#">5</a>
<a href="#">Preface, Letters 1-10 dated January 10th through February 27th.....</a>	<a href="#">7</a>
<a href="#">Letters 11-21 dated March 1st through March 4th.....</a>	<a href="#">11</a>
<a href="#">Letters 22-30 dated March 5th through March 12th.....</a>	<a href="#">14</a>
<a href="#">Letters 31-36 dated March 13th through March 18th.....</a>	<a href="#">16</a>
<a href="#">Letters 37-45 dated March 19th through March 22nd.....</a>	<a href="#">18</a>
<a href="#">Letters 46-55 dated March 22nd through March 24th.....</a>	<a href="#">20</a>
<a href="#">Letters 56-64 dated March 25th through March 29th.....</a>	<a href="#">22</a>
<a href="#">Letters 65-74 dated March 30th through April 2nd.....</a>	<a href="#">24</a>
<a href="#">Letters 75-80 dated April 2nd through April 5th.....</a>	<a href="#">26</a>
<a href="#">Letters 81-88 dated April 6th through April 8th.....</a>	<a href="#">28</a>
<a href="#">Letters 89-97 dated April 9th through April 10th.....</a>	<a href="#">30</a>
<a href="#">Letters 98-106 dated April 12th.....</a>	<a href="#">32</a>
<a href="#">Letters 107-119 dated April 13th through April 15th.....</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
<a href="#">Letters 120-137 dated April 15th through April 21st.....</a>	<a href="#">36</a>
<a href="#">Letters 138-154 dated April 21st through April 26th.....</a>	<a href="#">38</a>
<a href="#">Letters 155-166 dated April 26th through May 5th.....</a>	<a href="#">41</a>
<a href="#">Letters 167-175 dated May 2nd through May 9th.....</a>	<a href="#">43</a>
<a href="#">Letters 176-188 dated May 9th through May 18th.....</a>	<a href="#">45</a>
<a href="#">Letters 189-197 dated May 17th through May 21st.....</a>	<a href="#">47</a>
<a href="#">Letters 198-206 dated May 21st through May 23rd.....</a>	<a href="#">49</a>
<a href="#">Letters 207-217 dated May 25th through May 29th.....</a>	<a href="#">51</a>
<a href="#">Letters 218-224 dated May 30th through June 7th.....</a>	<a href="#">54</a>



[Letters 225-229 dated June 8th.....56](#)

[Letters 230-239 dated June 8th through June 9th.....59](#)

[Letters 240-246 dated June 10th.....62](#)

[Letters 247-257 dated June 11th through June 13th.....64](#)

[Letters 258-268 dated June 14th through June 19th.....66](#)

[Letters 269-281 dated June 20th through June 23rd.....68](#)

[Letters 282-309 dated June 24th through July 6th.....70](#)

[Letters 310-320 dated July 5th through July 13th.....73](#)

[Letters 321-332 dated July 7th through July 18th.....75](#)

[Letters 333-341 dated July 16th through July 19th.....77](#)

[Letters 342-350 dated July 20th through July 22nd.....79](#)

[Letters 351-369 dated July 20th through July 27th.....81](#)

[Letters 370-394 dated July 28th through August 7th.....84](#)

[Letters 395-415 dated August 5th through August 20th.....86](#)

[Letters 416-424 dated August 21st through August 23rd.....88](#)

[Letters 425-438 dated August 24th through August 26th.....90](#)

[Letters 439-446 dated August 28th through August 31st.....92](#)

[Letters 447-459 dated August 29th through August 31st.....94](#)

[Letters 460-476 dated September 4th through September 7th.....96](#)

[Letters 477-499 dated September 7th through September 10th.....98](#)

[Letters 500-506 dated September 10th through September 15th.....102](#)

[Letter 507 detailing Clarissa's will dated September 16th.....104](#)

[Letters 508-520 dated September 16th through September 26th.....106](#)

[Letters 521-537 dated September 28th through December 18th.....109](#)

[Conclusion.....111](#)

[Characters.....112](#)



[Objects/Places..... 121](#)

[Themes..... 126](#)

[Style..... 128](#)

[Quotes..... 130](#)

[Topics for Discussion..... 136](#)



# Plot Summary

Clarissa, or the History of a Young Lady by Samuel Richardson is a novel that portrays the events leading up to the ruin of a virtuous eighteen-year-old lady. Despite her chastity being compromised, Clarissa maintains her honor by not yielding her will. She must learn to overcome the grief that attends this loss or allow it to kill her. Clarissa, or the History of a Young Lady is an epistolary, coming-of-age story, teeming with examples of friendship, betrayal, honor and pride. It displays all that is good in humanity, as well as all that it bad.

Mr. Lovelace makes his addresses to Clarissa, which is acceptable until her brother, James, returns from Scotland. At James' return, he and Mr. Lovelace duel and James is injured. Mr. Lovelace is forbidden to see Clarissa, but Lovelace convinces her to correspond with him secretly in exchange for his agreement not to avenge himself against her brother. Clarissa visits the Howes and returns to great pressure to marry Mr. Solmes. She is punished and confined for refusing Mr. Solmes' proposal. Mr. Lovelace tricks Clarissa into eloping.

Clarissa's attempts to reconcile with her family are denied, and she is devastated by their anger and resentment. She agrees to marry Mr. Lovelace once they arrive in London. In London, Mr. Lovelace conveys Clarissa to a brothel and decides to try her virtue. He attempts many contrivances to ruin Clarissa but all fail. He introduces Clarissa to his band of varlets, and his best friend, John Belford, sides with Clarissa. Miss Howe informs Clarissa of many bad rumors about Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa determines to leave him. The rumors are refuted and Clarissa changes her mind.

A fire occurs upstairs in the brothel in the middle of the night, and Mr. Lovelace makes inappropriate advances. Clarissa is very offended and escapes to Hampstead. Mr. Lovelace follows her and contrives to have two ladies impersonate members of his family and trick Clarissa back to Widow Sinclair's house. Mr. Lovelace doses Clarissa with opium and rapes her. When Clarissa regains her senses, she runs away to the Smiths' lodgings. When Widow Sinclair and the whores at the brothel find Clarissa, they have her arrested. Mr. Belford has the charges against Clarissa dropped at Mr. Lovelace's request. Clarissa becomes very ill, and Mr. Belford cultivates a friendship with Clarissa.

Clarissa believes her illness will result in her death and attempts to convince her family to give her a final blessing. The Harlowes do not believe Clarissa is ill. Mr. Lovelace's family and Miss Howe attempt to mediate between Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa to convince her to marry him, but she absolutely refuses. Clarissa names Mr. Belford her executor, and she prepares her will and plans her funeral. Miss Howe argues with the Harlowes and rages against them for the way they treat Clarissa. Colonel Morden returns to England and attempts to mediate between Clarissa and the Harlowes.

Clarissa dies and the Harlowes agree to reconciliation too late. Clarissa's friends and family mourn for her and praise her virtue. John Belford serves as executor and, with



Colonel Morden's assistance, makes sure that every article of Clarissa's will is completed. Mr. Lovelace's grief at Clarissa's death translates into madness. He travels abroad for his health. Mr. Belford plans his reformation due to Clarissa's influence. Colonel Morden threatens vengeance against Mr. Lovelace for the way Clarissa was treated. The two men duel and Mr. Lovelace is killed. The characters' fates reflect the way that they treated Clarissa. Her friends are happy while her enemies are miserable or dead.



# **Preface, Letters 1-10 dated January 10th through February 27th**

## **Preface, Letters 1-10 dated January 10th through February 27th Summary**

Clarissa, or the History of a Young Lady by Samuel Richardson is a novel that portrays the events leading up to the ruin of a virtuous eighteen-year-old lady. Despite her chastity being compromised, Clarissa maintains her honor by not yielding her will. She must learn to overcome the grief that attends this loss or allow it to kill her. Clarissa, or the History of a Young Lady is an epistolary, coming-of-age story, teeming with examples of friendship, betrayal, honor and pride. It displays all that is good in humanity, as well as all that it bad.

The preface identifies this novel as a history composed of a series of letters, primarily between two sets of friends: two young ladies of virtue and honor and two gentlemen of free lives. Although the editor considered using a narrative format to shorten the length, it was ultimately decided against, as it would deteriorate the reader's understanding on the thoughts of the characters involved.

Miss Anna Howe requests that Clarissa send her details concerning the swordfight between Clarissa's brother, James Harlowe and Mr. Lovelace. There is a rumor that James instigated the fight, but when Mr. Lovelace injured James, Lovelace helped bandage the wound. Clarissa's Uncle Antony has visited to tell Mrs. Howe that he thinks it is a crime for James' sister to encourage Mr. Lovelace. Rumors are also circulating that Clarissa, the younger sister, stole her older sister, Arabella's beau. Miss Howe is eager to know the entire story in order to to expiate any guilt blamed on Clarissa if worse events occur. Miss Howe believes the reason that Clarissa is so persecuted is because she excels above those of her sex, and Miss Howe wishes Clarissa were left to pursue her own desires.

Clarissa agrees to relate the affair with Mr. Lovelace to date. Uncle Antony introduced Mr. Lovelace and Arabella while James is in Scotland, and Clarissa is visiting her dairy house on her grandfather's estate. Arabella visits Clarissa the day after she met Mr. Lovelace to express her satisfaction with him. After Arabella and Mr. Lovelace's second encounter, Arabella likes him even more but is unhappy that he has made no particular address to her. Although she decides he is bashful, she is very displeased when their third interview concludes with the same results. With Aunt Hervey's advice, Arabella decides to display reserve toward Mr. Lovelace and is very disagreeable at the next visit. When Mr. Lovelace proposes; Arabella is unhappy with the manner of his address and refuses him. Clarissa cannot help noting that is commonly the practice for women to be scorned when they are kind and upbraided when they are severe.



Mr. Lovelace accepts Arabella's rejection and visits Uncle Antony for two weeks. Arabella declares that she did not really like Mr. Lovelace that much anyway. When Mr. Lovelace returns to Harlowe Place, he is attentive to Clarissa, and, at first, the family encourages his suit. Clarissa objects to encouraging Mr. Lovelace because of his faulty morals and has no problem only permitting his visits when the entire family is present. Lord M visits with Mr. Lovelace's proposal, but Mr. Harlowe refuses an answer until James returns from Scotland. Meanwhile, Uncle Hervey requests that Mr. Lovelace write descriptions of the countries visited on the Grand Tour for the Herveys' young charge, and Mr. Lovelace agrees under the condition that Clarissa directs the subjects, giving him a chance to include notes stating his love and regard for Clarissa. Clarissa rebukes these attempts, angering him.

James, whose dislike of Mr. Lovelace dates back to a college rivalry, returns to Harlowe Place and is in league with Arabella, who claims she never liked Mr. Lovelace. The pair constantly taunt Clarissa, affront Mr. Lovelace, and attempt to have Mr. Lovelace banned from the house. Mr. Lovelace tolerates their insolence because of his love for Clarissa. When James inquires of Mr. Lovelace's character from a fired servant, he learns that Mr. Lovelace has a bad reputation where women are concerned, but he is otherwise a good man. James goes out to confront Mr. Lovelace, which turns into an argument and then scuffle. James' injuries lead to a fever, and Mr. Lovelace is banned from Harlowe Place, vowing revenge. Clarissa receives a letter from Mr. Lovelace that convinces her that James was the offender. Mr. Harlowe forbids Clarissa to correspond with Mr. Lovelace, but Mrs. Harlowe leaves it to Clarissa's discretion.

Clarissa wishes that Miss Howe had been her sister, through marrying James, because she could have molded him and made him worthy. The older generation Harlowes believe Clarissa is treated unkindly by her siblings but permit it because they are convinced she corresponds with Mr. Lovelace. James refuses to leave Harlowe Place until Clarissa is married and suggests Mr. Wyerley or Mr. Solmes, both of whom Clarissa reject. James suggests taking Clarissa to Scotland with him if he cannot see her married, but Mrs. Harlowe objects because Clarissa has taken over much of the housework in her mother's illness. Clarissa objects because her brother would treat her like a servant. Clarissa asks and is granted maternal permission to visit Miss Howe for two weeks. James is unhappy that Clarissa is going and forbids her to receive any visits from Lovelace. When Clarissa points out that he is not her father, Mr. Harlowe seconds the motion. Clarissa, her mother and her aunt stress Clarissa's prudence and indifference, but James taunts her "apparent indifference" and receives a rebuke from their father. Clarissa is sure of the Howes' welcome and will arrive in 2-3 days.

A month later, after her return to Harlowe Place, Clarissa begins writing again. She was commanded home without notice to prevent a possible elopement with Mr. Lovelace, when she discovered that her family has approved a husband for her, Mr. Solmes. James meets Clarissa at the door and leads her to the parlor where the family is gathered and attempts to intimidate her into accepting the disagreeable Mr. Solmes' visits. She requests to go to her room. She is called to tea, of which she asked to be excused, but descends on the second call. James taunts Clarissa, saying she is sulky because Mr. Lovelace has been spoken against, but their mother stops their argument.





Before tea is finished, Uncle Antony presents his friend, Mr. Solmes, who disgusts Clarissa by sitting near her.

Clarissa cannot stand Mr. Solmes and he is always around. Her parents avoid speaking to her alone, and Mrs. Norton and Aunt Hervey have been forbidden to visit because they disapprove of Mr. Solmes. Clarissa is not allowed to go to church because the Harlowes are afraid Mr. Lovelace will follow her home. Aunt Hervey is allowed to visit the next day to present Mr. Solmes' proposal to Clarissa. When she does, Clarissa responds with an absolute refusal; she hates him. When Aunt Hervey tells James, he forbids Clarissa to correspond with anyone outside of the house for one month, and Arabella forbids Clarissa to have any visitors for two weeks. At tea, everyone is silent and cold towards Clarissa, and eventually, everyone leaves the room except Mr. Harlowe. Her father blames himself for indulging Clarissa so much and informs her that he will not be contradicted. He rebuffs Clarissa's attempts to defend herself, and when Clarissa drops to her knees to plead with him, her father walks out of the room.

Aunt Hervey tells Clarissa that the entire family is depending on her meekness for her to yield and recommends that Clarissa encourage Mr. Solmes. Clarissa will accept punishment but will not encourage that man. Because Clarissa cannot bear the idea of not writing to Miss Howe, she suggests corresponding through Green Lane. She also asks for advice about Mr. Solmes because her regards are not engaged to another. Clarissa does not understand the fairness of her older brother and sister remaining single and trying to force her into marriage.

Miss Howe is appalled the Clarissa would even suggest an approval of Mr. Solmes. She cannot believe that Clarissa's entire family approves of him. She had heard somewhat of the circumstances through the rumor mill but thought that Arabella was the sister that was being courted. She advises Clarissa to speak out and wishes she could have given Clarissa some of her spirit before Clarissa gave Mr. Harlowe the management of Clarissa's grandfather's estate. Miss Howe says the James is not married because he is too arrogant and his temper is too well known, and Arabella is not married because no one wants her when Clarissa is around. The family must be forbidding correspondence because they do not want judgment due to the foolishness of their plan. Miss Howe is disgusted with the way James and Arabella treat Clarissa and claims she would never allow her siblings to tread on her in such a way. Miss Howe is better suited for this world, Clarissa for the next. When Miss Howe informs her mother of what is going on with Harlowes, it begins a tirade about Miss Howe's cruelty to Mrs. Howe's chosen suitor. Miss Howe worries that Clarissa loves Mr. Lovelace and asks her to examine her feelings.

## **Preface, Letters 1-10 dated January 10th through February 27th Analysis**

In the first ten letters, the main characters are introduced and their character traits begin to be revealed. The protagonist is introduced through her own eyes, as well as through her best friend. The antagonists of the first part of the story are introduced through the



characters of James and Arabella. Clarissa's relationship with Mr. Lovelace is foreshadowed through her family's insinuations of her love for him. Through the style of Clarissa's writing, as well as Miss Howe's description of her, Clarissa's character is revealed as being extremely sober, virtuous and pious. Mr. Lovelace is introduced but slightly in this first part of the novel.

Much exposition is provided, concerning what has occurred to this point in the story, such as the reasons that the Harlowes hate Mr. Lovelace. The structure is laid out in an epistolary format, and the conflict is set up for the first part of the novel. There are many foils set up throughout this novel, and several are produced early in the story, such as Miss Howe's levity and impudence as juxtaposed to Clarissa's sobriety and modesty. The reader also sees Mr. Lovelace's good breeding, intelligence and good looks compared to Mr. Solmes' ignorance and ugly features. The reader is also acquainted with the tones of writing between Clarissa and Miss Howe. Although they are familiar and write accordingly, Miss Howe's tone is generally much more sarcastic, and she is prone to explicit judgment.



# Letters 11-21 dated March 1st through March 4th

## Letters 11-21 dated March 1st through March 4th Summary

Clarissa would be alarmed at Miss Howes' suggestion of loving Mr. Lovelace if she did not assume it was a joke. She examines her heart and finds no longings or love hidden within. Although she admits that Mr. Lovelace is preferable to Mr. Solmes, she is not in love with him because he is vain and arrogant with no morals. Clarissa is sure that "THIS man is not THE man," but she promises to tell Miss Howe if her feelings change. She is thankful for Miss Howe's censures and asks her to judge indifferently because she wishes to always act properly. Miss Howe hopes that Clarissa is not in love with Mr. Lovelace but will monitor her as much as possible to be sure.

Mrs. Fortescue knows Mr. Lovelace well and tells Miss Howe that he never rests more than six hours a day and spends all his time writing. Miss Howe believes his writing subjects cannot be honorable and finds it interesting that such a lively person can be calm enough to write so frequently. Mrs. Fortescue also shares that Mr. Lovelace is reasonable, has one very close friend, does not borrow from his relations or anyone, is too gay and inconsiderate to care about his reputation and is not at all a hypocrite. Although he is vain, he carries the vanity off humorously. Mr. Lovelace visits Miss Howe and shares his resentments of Clarissa's treatment at Harlowe Place and his worries that she will accept Mr. Solmes, which Miss Howe doubts.

Mr. Lovelace has found out that James and Uncle Antony have hired spies and vows revenge against the Harlowes, as Lovelace professes his affection for Clarissa. Clarissa has discovered that James has financial motives behind his resentment of Mr. Lovelace in addition to their college rivalry. James expected their grandfather, father, uncles and his godmother to bequeath their estates to him. Grandfather Harlowe left everything in his will to Clarissa already, and now James fears that his uncles will do the same, so he is trying to remove Clarissa from their favor. When the will was revealed, Clarissa made her father the manager of the estate to curb jealousies but it appears that James and Arabella's jealousies have renewed.

Uncle Harlowe and Uncle Antony only object to Mr. Lovelace's morals. Uncle Antony defends Mr. Lovelace against James and Arabella by saying that he is a gentleman, and Clarissa's prudence could serve to reform him. Mr. Lovelace's generosity is verified by an instance of convincing Uncle Antony to allow a tenant forbearance due to hardship and giving the tenant two guineas out of his own pocket. Mr. Lovelace related to Uncle Antony about a time when a husband and wife tenant of his had no clothes because of the high cost of their farm mixed with a foolish step that placed them in debt. Mr. Lovelace reduced their rent, gave them money to buy clothes and invited them to dine with him. Although Clarissa is pleased with Mr. Lovelace's generosity, this does not



produce a heart flutter, and she thinks it is a shame that he is not uniformly good. Clarissa is less pleased when Miss Howe informs her that Uncle Antony's honest tenant offered Uncle Antony the two guineas as payment on his debt, and Uncle Antony accepted it, making the man penniless again.

Clarissa will be subject to her father's will if she does not agree to marry Mr. Solmes, but if she agrees, she will be rewarded with jewels, presents and praise. Mr. Solmes is willing to settle his worth on Clarissa and exclude his family. This induces the Harlowes' greed but repulses Clarissa, who feels guilty as the means of such injustice to his family. She cannot live with herself as the cause of his family losing their inheritance, nor will she sacrifice her own happiness to procure wealth for James. Mr. Solmes is interested because Clarissa's grandfather's estates is adjacent to his own and would increase his worth. James has gotten approval of most of the family and managed to ban everyone who does not agree with him from the house. Clarissa plans to ask Mrs. Harlowe for mediation when she learns that Arabella and James plan to bind themselves in a document to further Mr. Solmes' pursuit.

Clarissa is upset with the bad reports she has heard about Mr. Lovelace, and she is concerned that she must carry on her secret correspondence with him to protect her family. The Harlowes must yield because she will not marry Mr. Solmes. Miss Howe is afraid that Clarissa will concede to marriage. Miss Howe has discovered that Arabella secretly loves Mr. Lovelace and part of her motive for forcing Clarissa to become Mrs. Solmes results from this. Miss Howe wishes that Clarissa had kept her grandfather's estate under her own management because she could then retire there with Mrs. Norton, and her family could not pressure her into an imprudent marriage. Clarissa's reasons for placing her estate under her father's management were to avert jealousy and to prove herself worthy of independence by not seeking it too early.

Mr. Solmes is present at breakfast, and when Clarissa angers Mr. Harlowe by moving away from Mr. Solmes, she tries to reinstate the peace by conversing with her suitor. Her family leaves her alone with Mr. Solmes and he courts her, forcing Clarissa to flee the room. Clarissa and Mrs. Harlowe argue about Mr. Solmes. Mrs. Harlowe does not see any objections as he is from a good family, has money and Clarissa declares her heart is not engaged. Clarissa objects to his mind, virtues and honesty. Mrs. Harlowe refuses to condone Clarissa's reasons but offers to excuse Clarissa from dinner by saying she is too modest to appear before her betrothed, but Clarissa objects to giving Mr. Solmes hope. Mrs. Harlowe is furious when she realizes that Clarissa still intends to reject Mr. Solmes.

Mrs. Harlowe tells Mr. Harlowe that Clarissa has offered to live single, but Mr. Harlowe refuses the offer saying the family will only be satisfied if Clarissa has Mr. Solmes. They can never be content for Clarissa to remain single while Mr. Lovelace is single as well. Clarissa is rebuked for her disobedience. When Mrs. Harlowe questions her, Clarissa admits that she corresponds with Mr. Lovelace for the safety of the family, fearing revenge for James' ill treatment. She provides her mother with copies of their correspondence and requests advice on how to end the correspondence. Mrs. Harlowe is pleased with Clarissa and promises to attempt to get Mr. Harlowe to agree to let



Clarissa live a single life. Clarissa visits her mother the next morning and is sent away because her mother is in tears. Clarissa begs her mother not to be angry with her, and mother agrees if Clarissa will leave so Clarissa agrees.

Mrs. Harlowe initiates a last conference with Clarissa. If Clarissa does not yield, her mother will not be allowed to speak with her anymore and her father will attempt to persuade her, but after his failure, she will be disowned and destitute. The contract with Mr. Solmes has already been negotiated, and Clarissa's wedding clothes have been ordered. Clarissa will not submit to Mrs. Harlowe's pleas not to separate their family thus, so Mrs. Harlowe leaves Clarissa. Clarissa finds Mrs. Harlowe in Arabella's parlor and intrudes, begging for forgiveness. When Mr. Solmes is admitted, Clarissa embarrasses her mother and sister by continuing her objections against the man. Clarissa is forbidden to see family and must go to her room, unless she takes this last opportunity to be civil to Mr. Solmes. She goes to her room.

## **Letters 11-21 dated March 1st through March 4th Analysis**

Clarissa learns more information about Mr. Lovelace in these letters. She also learns to abhor Mr. Solmes more than ever. Secrets are unearthed, such as Arabella's love for Mr. Lovelace and James' greed. The Harlowes' characters are revealed through their stubbornness in insisting on Clarissa's marriage to Mr. Solmes. Clarissa's temper is much sweeter and more obliging than her relations' in general, which this is what they counted on to complete their negotiations; however, Clarissa also has a streak of Harlowe stubbornness in her temperament, which allows her to be steadfast in her refusal to marry Mr. Solmes. Mrs. Harlowe would yield but is forced to participate with the family against Clarissa for the sake of peace with the remainder of her family.

The first conflict is elaborated here, and the tone becomes oppressive as all of Clarissa's desires are ignored and complete obedience the only acceptable reply. Many repetitious arguments are used as Mrs. Harlowe enters and exits Clarissa's room six times during the course of these letters in an attempt to persuade Clarissa to concede. Mr. Solmes' character is further developed by his offer to disinherit his family for Clarissa. Uncle Antony's character is revealed when he accepts the destitute tenant's last two guineas as payment.



## Letters 22-30 dated March 5th through March 12th

### Letters 22-30 dated March 5th through March 12th Summary

Mr. Lovelace hears that Clarissa is going to marry Mr. Solmes and begs for her permission to meet with her father and uncles to propose equal settlements. If Clarissa will not permit that, he offers her asylum through his family. The Harlowes and Mr. Solmes are going to church, and Clarissa asks to go in the afternoon and is directed to James for permission. James tells Clarissa to pray privately. Clarissa is concerned by Lovelace's intimate knowledge of everything that passes among members of her family. When Mr. Lovelace demands a promise that Clarissa will never marry Mr. Solmes, Clarissa tells him that she does not love Mr. Solmes or Mr. Lovelace and would prefer to remain single. She also insists upon discontinuing their secretive correspondence. Clarissa is furious with Mr. Lovelace because he appeared in church and gave the Harlowes evil looks, except Mrs. Harlowe, who he acknowledged respectfully.

When Clarissa's maid, Hannah, is fired for suspicions concerning Clarissa's secret correspondences, Clarissa is distressed, but is even more so when Betty, Arabella's maid, is sent to wait on her. James writes Clarissa to tell her that she is to be confined to her chambers and only permitted in the gardens when no one else is there. Clarissa has become a prisoner in her own home. When Clarissa writes Mrs. Harlowe begging to be admitted to her parents' presence because she feels that her siblings are laying snares for her, her mother is very angry at the insinuations against her other children. Clarissa writes to James and Arabella, insinuating a love for Mr. Lovelace in hopes that they will stop bothering her when they think that their tyranny is producing the result opposite from their desires, but both respond with a command to stop bothering them.

Miss Howe advises Clarissa to resume control of her estate and live at the Grove, but Clarissa refuses. Miss Howe pains Clarissa when Miss Howe mildly condemns the Harlowes and expresses her disgust with Mr. Solmes, especially in comparison to Mr. Lovelace. Mrs. Howe reads Miss Howe's letter and chides her for encouraging Clarissa to disobey the Harlowes, insisting that parents should have absolute authority.

### Letters 22-30 dated March 5th through March 12th Analysis

Mr. Lovelace's contrivances are first introduced discreetly here as he knows intimate details about the Harlowes' household that Clarissa is not communicating to him. This foreshadows his invasion into Harlowe Place later through his spy. Irony is present in the fact that James forbids Clarissa to go to church. Her family tells her to be a better



child and person, which insinuates a need for prayer, but then they forbid her to attend services. Clarissa's confinement parallels her later confinement with Mr. Lovelace. The tone of Clarissa's letters to members of her family is supplicating; whereas, their letters to her have a demanding, insolent tone. Miss Howe shows an example of explicit judgment in her letters to Clarissa, judging and condemning the Harlowes for treating Clarissa poorly.



# Letters 31-36 dated March 13th through March 18th

## Letters 31-36 dated March 13th through March 18th Summary

Mr. Lovelace writes his best friend, John Belford, to complain of the treatment he has received from the Harlowes. Mr. Lovelace had heard rumors of Clarissa Harlowe's virtue and appealed to Uncle Antony to introduce him, but Uncle Antony blundered and introduced him to Arabella. He complains of his love for Clarissa and her indifference; he has not been in love since his first love jilted him, and he began taking revenge on all ladies who would permit it. He denies that he is playing a game with Clarissa, though he does admit that winning her would be a triumph over the whole sex and sufficient revenge against the Harlowes. His only objection to Clarissa is her last name, but he plans to "take the hated name of Harlowe and turn it into Love."

If he is unable to have Clarissa, he will pursue revenge against James and requests that his band of varlets join him to frighten Clarissa's uncle, who is traveling with two armed servants, since Lovelace's appearance at church, which was an attempt at a reconciliation. Lovelace changes his mind and requests only John Belford's attendance, giving him directions. He mentions a girl at the inn, who he names Rosebud and requests that John Belford does not violate her because Mr. Lovelace has refrained from doing so himself and plans to provide her with 100 pounds so she can marry the carpenter, Johnny, with whom she is in love.

Clarissa writes to Uncle Harlowe begging him to intercede for her or allow her to visit him until father concedes, but he refuses both requests. Clarissa asks Uncle Antony to promote her cause because of her dislike for Mr. Solmes, but he also refuses, saying that her family is wiser than she and knows what is best for her. Clarissa writes Mr. Solmes expressing her dislike and requesting that he withdraw his suit, but he responds that he will persist as long as she remains unmarried.

Mr. Lovelace admits that he has employed a Harlowe servant, Joseph Leman, to spy on the Harlowes for him. He describes the method he instructed Joseph to use in order to convince the family that Clarissa is not corresponding with anyone. He plans, with Joseph's help, to visit Clarissa while she is feeding her chickens. He believes that he can win her over by his love and continence. Clarissa is frightened on her way home from her woodhouse by Mr. Lovelace's appearance. He expresses his love for Clarissa, contempt at Harlowes and disgust at Mr. Solmes. He has been permitted to offer Clarissa his aunt, Lady Betty Lawrence's, protection. This interview makes Clarissa think higher of Mr. Lovelace, but she still denies feeling any flutters. Mr. Lovelace explains that his appearance in church was for an attempt at reconciliation and convinces Clarissa to continue their correspondence. Clarissa would still prefer to live





single, but now she worries that she may be forced to choose between Mr. Lovelace and Mr. Solmes.

## **Letters 31-36 dated March 13th through March 18th Analysis**

The antagonist, Mr. Lovelace, is first introduced through his own writing in these letters. His admittance of his schemes foreshadows his future misconduct and verifies Miss Howe's earlier description that he is not a hypocrite. His violence and pride are uncovered through his declarations against James and the rest of the Harlowes if Clarissa will not become Mrs. Lovelace. He writes his letters with a tone of levity that is pretty consistent throughout the novel. He shows his high spirits, but also his generosity.

The Harlowes' stubbornness is further seen and verified. Mr. Solmes also shows his own perverse stubbornness in his refute of Clarissa's arguments about the insensibility of insisting on a wife that hates him.

Mr. Lovelace's appearance at the wood house foreshadows his later meeting with Clarissa that results in their elopement. His ability to convince her to continue their correspondence is symbolic of his control over her through fear and force. Clarissa's fear that she will be forced to choose Mr. Lovelace or Mr. Solmes foreshadows her choice to elope.



# Letters 37-45 dated March 19th through March 22nd

## Letters 37-45 dated March 19th through March 22nd Summary

Miss Howe teases Clarissa that she praises and defends Mr. Lovelace so much that she is harboring and concealing a growing love for him. Miss Howe agrees that it appears likely that Clarissa will be forced to choose between Mr. Lovelace and Mr. Solmes, and while Mr. Lovelace is the better of the two, Miss Howe prefers any of Clarissa's former suitors to either of the current two. Clarissa defends herself saying that she does not love Mr. Lovelace and only intends him justice in her praise. Clarissa admits to Miss Howe "that were [Mr. Lovelace] now but a moral man, I would prefer him to all the men I ever saw," but resents Miss Howe's teasing. Betty has told Clarissa that Mr. Solmes is now sure of her and has decided to try kindness for several weeks before terrifying her into submission after marriage.

Mrs. Norton visits Harlowe Place to convince Clarissa to marry Mr. Solmes, but Clarissa tells her that she would rather die. Clarissa's petition to live a single life is denied again, and she is forbidden to correspond with Mrs. Norton for one month. Mrs. Harlowe writes Clarissa to acquaint her with Mr. Solmes' generous settlements and give her one last opportunity to comply with the Harlowes' will. Clarissa's requests to see her mother alone, which angers her father, and he sends her a note telling her she will be married within a week and will be sent to Uncle Antony's house early in the week to rid her family of her presence. He tells her that as Mrs. Solmes, she may receive forgiveness, but never as their daughter. Mr. Harlowe becomes even more enraged when Mr. Solmes seeks an interview with Clarissa, and she denies him.

Clarissa's cousin, Dolly, writes Clarissa to tell her that Arabella and James have requested that they be placed in charge of Clarissa. It appears that their request has been granted when Arabella enters Clarissa's chambers to criticize and insult her, saying that she bewitches everyone to have her way. Clarissa writes James with offers to renounce her inheritance or become James' maid in Scotland to avoid marrying Mr. Solmes. Her family considers her offers but rejects them. Clarissa and Arabella argue fiercely, and Clarissa desires to throw herself at her parents' feet. Arabella sits in a corner insulting Clarissa while Aunt Hervey attempts to persuade Clarissa to accept Mr. Solmes, but Clarissa refuses. Aunt Hervey asks Mr. Harlowe to allow his wife to see Clarissa to no avail. When Arabella continues to taunt her sister, Clarissa alludes to Arabella's love for Mr. Lovelace, infuriating Arabella. James has declared that if Clarissa does not marry Mr. Solmes, he will go to Scotland and never return to Harlowe Place.



## **Letters 37-45 dated March 19th through March 22nd Analysis**

Clarissa's preferment of Mr. Lovelace, morals excepted, foreshadows their future elopement and relationship. Her acknowledgment of his lack of morals shows a character trait in contrast to those she usually exhibits, but appears to be extracted by her unhappy situation. Clarissa's obstinacy is emphasized through her refusal to yield to the supplications by her mentor and her aunt. A crisis is approaching with Mr. Harlowe setting a date for the wedding. The scenes between Clarissa and Arabella are very repetitive, as well as all scenes where Clarissa appeals to her family with negotiations: every attempt is denied.



## Letters 46-55 dated March 22nd through March 24th

### Letters 46-55 dated March 22nd through March 24th Summary

Miss Howe jokingly suggests that Clarissa attempt to negotiate to marry Mr. Hickman instead of Mr. Solmes or Mr. Lovelace. Mr. Hickman's visit interrupts Miss Howe's letter writing, which irritates her, so Miss Howe is pettish and rude to him. She characterizes all three men as schoolboys in her imagination. Miss Howe insults the Harlowes, blaming Mrs. Harlowe's submission to her husband for the treatment that Clarissa is currently receiving. Mr. Hickman encounters some of Mr. Lovelace's vulgar friends, who praise his personality but cannot defend his morals. Mr. Lovelace visits Miss Howe, reiterating his offer of protection for Clarissa and threatening violence if Clarissa becomes Mrs. Solmes. Mr. Lovelace agrees that Clarissa should resume her estate.

James writes Clarissa to inform her that she is being sent to Uncle Antony's to receive visits from Mr. Solmes for two weeks, where she will not be able to correspond with Miss Howe or Mr. Lovelace. At the end of the two weeks, the Harlowes will reconsider if Clarissa still despises Mr. Solmes. Clarissa refuses to go on James' command because he is not her parents. James returns the news in gentler language with a superscription bearing Mrs. Harlowe's authority. Clarissa addresses her parents with the fear of being so far away from them under her siblings' discipline. James replies with the same thing and her letter torn into pieces. Clarissa is so enraged that she considers asking Uncle Harlowe about resuming her estate but reflects that no one would support her decision.

Clarissa is furious when she overhears James, Arabella and Mr. Solmes mocking her and discussing the need to have her married in a hurry before Colonel Morden returns and grants Clarissa independence. Clarissa writes James with several suggestions to avoid Mr. Solmes and challenges him to a debate, causing an uproar. Arabella tells Clarissa she will be sent to Uncle Antony's house the next day, but Clarissa refuses to go unless the command comes directly out of her parents' mouths. Arabella restrains Clarissa when she threatens to barge in on parents. Arabella informs Clarissa via letter that James will accept her challenge to debate, and Clarissa forwards the note to Mrs. Harlowe for her authority, which is provided. Clarissa wishes that Mr. Solmes were more like Mr. Hickman.

### Letters 46-55 dated March 22nd through March 24th Analysis

Miss Howe's suggestion that Clarissa petition to request Mr. Hickman as an alternative is paralleled by Clarissa's wish that Mr. Solmes were more like Mr. Hickman. Mr.



Lovelace's agreement with Miss Howe concerning Clarissa's resumption of her estate shows a similarity between the two, which is reinforced by the similar tone that runs through each one's letters. Clarissa's refusal to obey James shows a rebelliousness and stubbornness that is beginning to portray itself in Clarissa's actions. Clarissa's challenge to debate with James shows an arrogance that has not yet been seen in Clarissa's mild temper.



# Letters 56-64 dated March 25th through March 29th

## Letters 56-64 dated March 25th through March 29th Summary

Miss Howe has no advice if Clarissa will not resume her estate. She is afraid that Clarissa will be forced to marry Mr. Solmes, who has reaffirmed his opinion that wives should be ruled through fear. Clarissa will have to convince Mr. Solmes that her avowed aversion was only a maiden coyness. Miss Howe argues with her mother about Clarissa's incredible sensibility and intelligence, citing examples. Mrs. Howe's only disagreement is Clarissa's current disobedience, and she advises Clarissa to obey her parents and marry Mr. Solmes.

Clarissa demands that Mr. Lovelace leave her alone for peace's sake. Clarissa refused Mr. Solmes' request for an interview in order to acquaint her with some discoveries he has made about Mr. Lovelace. When Aunt Hervey writes Clarissa to say that she will be sent to Uncle Antony's the very next day, Clarissa sends one letter to her mother and one to her father, which are both returned unopened. She writes to her Uncle Harlowe, enclosing the two torn letters, requesting to see her parents before she is forced to leave. Uncle Harlowe informs her that no one will see her because she is so loved that they are afraid of her ability to persuade them to her opinion. If she will marry Mr. Solmes, he will personally present her to Mr. and Mrs. Harlowe as a prodigal child. Clarissa reaffirms her desire to live single and suggests that Arabella marry Mr. Solmes, in which case Clarissa will relinquish her grandfather's estate to Arabella and her inheritance and live on an allowance from her father. Although Uncle Harlowe thinks this offer is acceptable, and it causes some debate among the family, it is ultimately rejected through a letter from James, and Clarissa is sentenced to depart the next day. Clarissa writes to Uncle Harlowe rejecting James' orders and requesting orders from a higher authority.

Mr. Lovelace writes Clarissa, requesting an interview in the garden. Clarissa does not know how to respond, but feels badly when she receives another letter from him stating that he is sick from waiting in the inclement weather the last two nights in hopes of an interview. Mr. Lovelace admits that he pays a Harlowe servant to act as a double agent, incurring Clarissa's displeasure. She guesses that it is Joseph Leman from his behavior, but does not tell Mr. Lovelace of her conjecture. Mr. Lovelace is going to London for business the next day, so he begs for an interview that night, and Clarissa agrees. Clarissa is not worried about his behavior, since he behaved so well during their accidental meeting, and she admits that she would be more moved by his risks and supplications if his morals were not so faulty. Clarissa asks Miss Howe to inquire into his activities and character at the inn where Mr. Lovelace has been lodging.



Betty helps Clarissa pack for Uncle Antony's, meting out impertinence the entire time. Clarissa sends Uncle Harlowe a request for a delay in her departure, and the delay is permitted under the circumstance that she permits a one hour visit from Mr. Solmes in the presence of Uncle Antony, James or Arabella. Clarissa agrees to the interview Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. with Uncle Antony as a chaperon. She cancels her meeting with Mr. Lovelace. His response is very angry and raving, and Clarissa replies with the recommendation not to bother her anymore since she is so horrible to him. Clarissa intends to appeal to Colonel Morden for assistance.

## **Letters 56-64 dated March 25th through March 29th Analysis**

Miss Howe's frustration shows her character and the status of women during the time period. There is nothing she can really do to help, and there are not many options for Clarissa either. Mrs. Howe's attitude emphasizes the attitude of the day, that children, especially female offspring, should unconditionally obey their parents. Although she praises Clarissa and has always loved her, this disobedience is not permissible. Clarissa's avoidance of Mr. Solmes shows her absolute abhorrence of the man; whereas, her family's threats to send her to Uncle Antony's show an unyielding temper that is beginning to reach a crisis.

Clarissa continues to reject James' authority and demand a higher authority in his demands, a will that her family does not seem to have expected. Uncle Harlowe's offer to present Clarissa as a prodigal child if she will marry Mr. Solmes demonstrates the extremity to which the Harlowes are considering this disobedience, alluding to the prodigal son in the Bible, who returns after making many mistakes and is greeted and loved by his father. Clarissa's desperation in agreeing to the interview with Mr. Lovelace foreshadows her later elopement. Her cancellation shows that the original appointment was against her better judgment, but she is being driven to a point of confusion within herself. Mr. Lovelace's reaction foreshadows his preparations for her cancellations in the future that lead him into the trickery used to force her to elope.



# Letters 65-74 dated March 30th through April 2nd

## Letters 65-74 dated March 30th through April 2nd Summary

Mrs. Howe's cousin, Larkin, calls Mrs. Howe, her executrix, to her deathbed, and Mrs. Howe forces Miss Howe, escorted by Mr. Hickman, to accompany her. Miss Howe angers her mother by her rudeness to Mr. Hickman. Clarissa condemns Miss Howe's insolent actions toward Mr. Hickman when she hears this, and points out Miss Howe's luck in being urged to accept a man to whom there are no real objections. Mr. Hickman, unknown to Miss Howe, suggests withdrawing his suit to Mrs. Howe. He feels that Miss Howe's aversion to him is similar to Clarissa's aversion to Mr. Solmes and does not desire to put Miss Howe in a similar situation. Mrs. Howe encourages him to proceed if he loves Miss Howe, assuring him that Miss Howe would refuse to see him if she were truly averse to him.

Miss Howe advises Clarissa to hide all of her writings and some clothes by Green Lane in case the situation becomes desperate. Meanwhile, Miss Howe will petition Mrs. Howe to offer Clarissa their protection, using Clarissa's letter and Mr. Hickman if necessary. Clarissa is hopeful that Mrs. Howe will afford her protection until Colonel Morden arrives and sends Miss Howe a parcel of her letters; however, she is unable to send clothes because Betty monitors them, seemingly through the Harlowes' suspicion that Clarissa will run away.

Miss Howe approves of Clarissa's word and actions, and she trusts that Clarissa will behave properly in her interview with Mr. Solmes. She believes that Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa will reconcile, but she informs Clarissa that she has heard very negative things about him in her inquiries. Clarissa has not heard from Mr. Lovelace and assumes he is as vexed as she is, which may negate a reconciliation between them. Sources inform Miss Howe that Mr. Lovelace appeared with different women at each event while he was in town. Miss Howe's inquiries also convince her that Mr. Lovelace has ruined or plans to ruin Rosebud and then, fortune her out to her lover. Miss Howe plans to visit Rosebud and her father to warn them. Outraged at these intentions against Rosebud, Clarissa decides to discontinue her acquaintance with Mr. Lovelace if these rumors are justified. Miss Howe's visit to Rosebud and her father acquaint her with the truth of the matter, and she relays her information to Clarissa that Mr. Lovelace has not ruined the girl and is providing her with the capability to marry her lover, a local carpenter, by providing her with 100 pounds.

Mr. Lovelace apologizes to Clarissa for his previous anger. He expresses his concern and regret that she will grant Mr. Solmes an interview but not himself. Clarissa assures Mr. Lovelace that she does not intend to encourage Mr. Solmes, but she also reminds





him that her rejection of Mr. Solmes does not guarantee an acceptance of Mr. Lovelace. Her hopes lie in stalling the proposed ceremony until Colonel Morden's return.

## **Letters 65-74 dated March 30th through April 2nd Analysis**

Mr. Hickman's discouragement sets him as a foil to Mr. Solmes, who has received a direct statement from Clarissa that she will not marry him. Mr. Hickman's character shows that he is an honest, gentle and generous man; whereas, Mr. Solmes is deceitful, violent and selfish. Mr. Hickman's gentleness of manners is also a foil to Mr. Lovelace's violent spirits. Miss Howe's treatment towards Mr. Hickman appears to imply that she does not want him, but Clarissa's disapproval of this treatment indicates that she may know her friend's heart better than Miss Howe knows her own heart. Miss Howe's advise to Clarissa to hide some clothes foreshadows Clarissa's elopement. Miss Howe's inquiries provide evidence of her high quality as a friend, showing the lengths she will inconvenience herself to in order to assist Clarissa. Mr. Lovelace's apology provides evidence that he is a dynamic character with passionate outbursts followed by moments of sincerity and sobriety. The fact that Mrs. Howe trusts Clarissa's actions in her interview and approves of her previous actions and words suggests that Clarissa is capable of making good decisions on her own, possibly more so than Miss Howe.



# Letters 75-80 dated April 2nd through April 5th

## Letters 75-80 dated April 2nd through April 5th Summary

Mr. Lovelace worries that if Clarissa is conveyed to Uncle Antony's house, he will lose her forever because she will marry Mr. Solmes. Mr. Lovelace has discovered that Mr. Solmes has already assigned rooms for Clarissa and the nursery and has hired equipages for their wedding. Mr. Lovelace urges Clarissa to accept his aunt's protection, but Clarissa still hopes that Mrs. Howe will offer her protection.

Dr. Lewen is permitted to visit Clarissa, but confuses her when he evades discussing her confinement. Uncle Harlowe visits Clarissa and informs her that the family is very pleased with her agreeing to grant Mr. Solmes an interview, believing that she will yield to his marriage proposals as well. Aunt Hervey's message that the Harlowes expect this interview to be the beginning of her concession to the situation due to a misrepresentation by James and Arabella makes Clarissa very nervous and angry. Clarissa's response that Mr. Solmes is not good enough for her angers her aunt.

Betty announces that Mr. Solmes has arrived, and Clarissa enters the parlor as her family exits into an adjoining parlor. When Mr. Solmes' declarations of love for Clarissa receive her rebukes, Uncle Antony and James enter to chide her and prevent her exit. James injures Clarissa's hand in an attempt to place it into Mr. Solmes' hand. Mr. Solmes refuses to participate in injuring Clarissa, but James discourages the attempt to withdraw his suit. When Mr. Solmes reaffirms his intentions, Clarissa nearly faints and is permitted to cry in the garden for an hour. Cousin Dolly summons Clarissa and informs her that Mr. Solmes was willing to discontinue his addresses with the approbation of everyone except Mr. Harlowe, Uncle Antony, James and Arabella, until Mr. Harlowe argued for Clarissa's obedience. Dolly admits that if she were in the same position, she would have Mr. Lovelace "out of hand."

Fifteen minutes after Clarissa reenters the empty parlor, Mr. Solmes and Uncle Antony return. When James joins them to yell at Clarissa, who refuses to yield, Mr. Solmes intervenes in her behalf. Clarissa believes it is a farce to govern her and make her obliged to Mr. Solmes. Her pleas to see her parents result in the pronouncement that she will go to Uncle Antony's immediately, her chamber keys confiscated and her chamber searched. When nothing is found, her removal is extended until the next Monday, but Clarissa is forced into another interview with Mr. Solmes in the presence of Aunt Hervey and Uncle Antony, who assure Mr. Solmes that Clarissa's aversion will be conquered. Mr. Solmes reads an anonymous letter discussing Mr. Lovelace's faults. Silence prevails when Clarissa points out that everyone has faults, even Mr. Solmes. James' entrance and fight with Clarissa is shortened when Arabella summons him for their parents. Mr. Solmes joins James, and Arabella stays to argue with her sister. Mr.



Solmes returns to take his leave but refuses to withdraw his suit at Clarissa's earnest request. After a bit more verbal abuse from her siblings, Clarissa is allowed to withdraw to her chamber, but is irritated to learn from Betty that Mr. Solmes is more in love and determined than ever. Betty also hints that Clarissa's pens and paper will soon be confiscated.

James tricks Clarissa into returning to the parlor to hear Mr. Solmes list more of Mr. Lovelace's faults, but Clarissa exits immediately to avoid the interview. Because Clarissa refuses to relinquish her writing supplies to Betty, Dolly collects them and informs Clarissa that she is to be sent to Uncle Antony's house by Saturday at the latest. Clarissa learns that her mother is sick and sends her concerns, but they are refused because Clarissa is blamed for the illness. Clarissa is informed that her garden walks and poultry visits are suspected and prohibited. Mr. Lovelace is not satisfied with the results of the interview and threatens the Harlowes.

## **Letters 75-80 dated April 2nd through April 5th Analysis**

Mr. Solmes' arrogance and dependency on the Harlowes to convince Clarissa to marry him is displayed by his proportioning rooms for marriage as well as hiring equipages for the wedding. Based on Clarissa's experiences thus far, her hopes that Mrs. Howe will offer her protection seem likely to end in disappointment. The Harlowes' arrogance and pride is exhibited by their assurance that Clarissa will submit to marriage, since she has submitted to an interview. Clarissa shows her fairness by resenting Mr. Solmes' degradation of Mr. Lovelace. Mr. Solmes appears as a generous man with his offer to withdraw his suit, but his greed overrules any notions of a better character. The treatment Clarissa receives is very repetitious. She is threatened, but she gives her family something that they want, and her sentence to go to Uncle Antony's is temporarily removed. Her situation is becoming more desperate with the confiscation of her paper and pens. A crisis seems to be approaching quickly and it seems likely that Clarissa will have to make a decision that she would not otherwise make based on the untenable situation in which she has been placed.



# Letters 81-88 dated April 6th through April 8th

## Letters 81-88 dated April 6th through April 8th Summary

Miss Howe is furious when her mother denies Clarissa protection and threatens to avenge her destroyed hopes against Mr. Hickman. Clarissa is disappointed but defends Mrs. Howe's viewpoint as just. Miss Howe suggests that Clarissa accept the offer for protection from Mr. Lovelace's family, run away and marry Mr. Lovelace or encourage Mr. Solmes until Colonel Morden arrives to help. Clarissa fears putting herself under the protection of Mr. Lovelace's family because of the power and influence he would have over her in such a situation, and she absolutely refuses to marry him because she will never be able to anticipate a reconciliation with her family if she took such a drastic measure. She is unwilling to encourage Mr. Solmes as well. Miss Howe suggests that she accompany Clarissa to London, where they can live privately until Colonel Morden's return, but Clarissa refuses to implicate Miss Howe in her removal from Harlowe Place and to bring such sorrow on Mrs. Howe. Clarissa considers removing to London on her own but is deterred because she does not know anyone there, has no transportation and fears Mr. Lovelace will plague her more than ever without her parents' protection. She wishes that Miss Howe were married and could offer her asylum.

Clarissa is not being sent to Uncle Antony's house because the Harlowes fear Mr. Lovelace's threats against them; however, they insist that Clarissa will be forced to marry Mr. Solmes next week. Clarissa is told she will be admitted into the presence of her family if she willingly marries Mr. Solmes. Clarissa becomes ill, and she exaggerates her symptoms in hopes of delaying the ceremony. Her family is indifferent to her illness and insists she will marry Mr. Solmes Wednesday morning regardless of her health. They attempt to comfort her by telling her that she will live at home, receiving daily visits from Mr. Solmes, until she is reconciled to her marriage. The Harlowes are convinced that Clarissa still corresponds with Mr. Lovelace due to his intimate knowledge of the events that pass behind closed doors, and their suspicions are reaffirmed when Betty sees ink on Clarissa's finger.

Clarissa requests Mr. Lovelace to procure her the protection of his aunts, although she is unsure of accepting it, assuming that she can use the transportation to escape to London if she changes her mind. When she dreams that James, Uncle Antony and Mr. Solmes conspire against Mr. Lovelace, and Mr. Lovelace kills Clarissa, she fears that she made a mistake asking for his aunts' protection. Although Clarissa tells Mr. Lovelace that accepting his family's protection does not ensure that she will marry him, he seems rather sure to the contrary. He makes several suggestions concerning means for her escape, promising to act according to her desires because of his intense love for her. Clarissa agrees to procure lodging in Lady Betty Lawrence's neighborhood and to



send for Hannah to attend her. She refuses all visits from Mr. Lovelace but will continue sending and receiving letters. Her letter is removed nearly immediately, and Clarissa praises Mr. Lovelace's diligence. Mr. Lovelace agrees to all Clarissa's conditions for accepting Lady Betty's protection. When Miss Howe hears of Clarissa's resolutions, she begs Clarissa to revert to the London scheme accompanied by Miss Howe or to marry Mr. Lovelace immediately due to his reputation.

## **Letters 81-88 dated April 6th through April 8th Analysis**

Mrs. Howe's refusal to offer Clarissa protection hastens the inevitable elopement and fulfills the reader's expectation of Clarissa being disappointed yet again. Clarissa's agreement with Mrs. Howe's resolution, her refusal of Miss Howe's company and her refusal to encourage Mr. Solmes deceitfully prove Clarissa's morals and provide clear examples of her reasoning. The Harlowes' insensitivity towards Clarissa's illness contributes to the crisis at hand and demonstrates their implacableness. Mr. Lovelace's agreement with all of Clarissa's conditions appears to indicate a respect and love for her equal to that which he avows but proves to have been misleading in the ensuing action. The speed with which Mr. Lovelace removes Clarissa's letter accepting Lady Betty's protection serves as a foil for his lack thereof when Clarissa attempts to delay her departure.



# Letters 89-97 dated April 9th through April 10th

## Letters 89-97 dated April 9th through April 10th Summary

Clarissa absolutely refuses to allow Miss Howe to accompany her but decides to delay her departure again because of her fear of Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa writes and deposits a letter conveying the desire for a delay to Mr. Lovelace and is very concerned when he has not received it by the time of their appointment. She now feels required to meet him to inform him that she will not leave immediately.

Her family has convinced Mrs. Norton to arrive a week before the wedding to help convince Clarissa of her duty in obeying her parents, but Dr. Lewen has refused to perform the ceremony without Clarissa's consent and a new clergyman, Mr. Brand, has been invited instead. Although she suffers for voicing her opinion, Dolly is unhappy with the way Clarissa is being treated and writes to tell her that she will be searched again for pen and paper. Clarissa leaves several memorandums in a spot likely to be discovered, so that she can avoid the consequences that would accompany her family finding nothing after Betty saw ink on Clarissa's finger. While Clarissa is waiting in the ivy summer-house for her dinner per her appointment with Mr. Lovelace, Aunt Hervey requests her keys to search Clarissa's chambers again because of the suspicion that Clarissa is still sending letters out.

Clarissa's next letter simply states that she has run off with Mr. Lovelace and will send more particulars when she has the opportunity, but she hopes that Miss Howe will still love her. Miss Howe reaffirms her affection and does not blame her but does advise her to marry Mr. Lovelace immediately if she has not already done so.

When Clarissa tells Mr. Lovelace that she is not leaving yet, he attempts to force her because he is sure that Wednesday is to be the day of wedding, since the license and parson have already been obtained for the ceremony. Clarissa decides to end the interview with Lovelace and return to her house but is stopped when Mr. Lovelace attempts to accompany her, declaring he would rather die than see her be Mrs. Solmes. At this point, a voice in the garden shouts that the owner sees Clarissa with Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa, scared, runs away from the voice with Mr. Lovelace pulling her along and into his chariot. Clarissa ponders if Mr. Lovelace contrived for Joseph Leman to yell and swears that she will hate him that proves to be true. She will not marry Mr. Lovelace immediately in case her elopement was the result of a contrivance, because he does not deserve to be rewarded so easily for dishonesty. On the day of the planned wedding, Clarissa mourns that her elopement is much worse than the wedding could have been.



Mr. Lovelace writes to Joseph Leman before his appointment with Clarissa instructing him in the means of causing confusion in case Clarissa attempts to change her mind. Joseph agrees to follow Mr. Lovelace's instructions. After the elopement, Mr. Lovelace informs John Belford of his joy, which is somewhat abated by the suspicion that Clarissa cruelly does not prefer him to any other man. He believes Clarissa will be more cheerful when she sees how well he adheres to all of her commands.

## **Letters 89-97 dated April 9th through April 10th Analysis**

Clarissa's refusal for Miss Howe and she to move to London and her decision to postpone her interview with Mr. Lovelace are both repetitious from previous letters. The obtaining of the parson and the license prove the Harlowes' intentions for Clarissa's wedding are very much in earnest and assist in driving Clarissa into Lovelace's arms. Clarissa's letter to Miss Howe informing her that she has run away with Mr. Lovelace is the resolution to this part of the novel and a prelude to a greater crises. Mr. Lovelace's behavior to Clarissa foreshadows his behavior when she is completely under his power. Her suspicions against him are confirmed to be true in his letters that follow. His contrivances are seen here for the first time on a grand scale and foreshadow his future schemes. Mr. Lovelace's pride is reflected in the diminished joy he feels due to a suspicion that Clarissa does not prefer him.



# Letters 98-106 dated April 12th

## Letters 98-106 dated April 12th Summary

Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa obtain lodgings in an inn under the pretense of being brother and sister, necessary because of Clarissa's discomposure at their arrival to the inn. Clarissa censures herself continually for her rash decision and is unsure what step to take next. Mr. Lovelace pressures her to accept protection from his family, but Clarissa prefers to find private lodgings and send Mr. Lovelace far away from her. Clarissa upbraids Mr. Lovelace for his behavior and his cunning, refusing his suggestion to go to London. Mr. Lovelace defends himself and blames Clarissa for being too suspicious. Although Clarissa has no money, she refuses Mr. Lovelace's offer to provide enough money for her sustenance. Clarissa is furious that she has changed one confinement for another. The landlady, Mrs. Greme accompanies Clarissa on her carriage ride to Mrs. Greme's sister-in-law's inn and gives her opinion on Mr. Lovelace, which is that he is loved and feared equally.

Clarissa writes Arabella and confesses that her action was rash but, defending herself, points out that she was driven into it. Nothing has yet occurred to cause this act to be seen as more than a misunderstanding, and Clarissa will gladly return home to salvage her reputation under the condition of any of her previous offers, which excludes marrying Mr. Solmes. In the interim, she requests that Arabella send her clothes, books and money.

Mr. Lovelace is thrilled that Clarissa is in his possession but angry at her lack of regard for him. He suggests forcing her if she does not concede to marry him. The thought of losing Clarissa is unbearable. Because he suspected that she would decide to postpone her departure, he intentionally did not look for a letter so that she would meet him, and he could convince her or force her to leave. His next goal is to end Miss Howe and Clarissa's correspondence, and he wishes the girls had not been friends because he thinks that conquering both of them would be interesting. He plans to intercept Clarissa's belongings if the Harlowes send them because he does not want her to reconcile with her family. He jokes that if the new landlady, Mrs. Sorlings, is troublesome he will avenge himself against her two daughters. He regrets not sampling Rosebud and complains that all of his sins stem from his love for women.

At Clarissa's elopement, the family meets a servant running through the garden with a stake, who tells them that Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace ran off together. Each individual family member's reaction is unique—anger, grief and horror. The Harlowes expect Clarissa to receive protection from Mr. Lovelace's family and swear they will not reconcile with her through them.

Uncle Antony informs Mrs. Howe about Clarissa's elopement, and Mrs. Howe forbids Miss Howe to correspond with Clarissa. Mr. Hickman has gained some merit with Miss Howe by defending Clarissa to Mrs. Howe and secretly offering to find someone to





transport the letters between the ladies. Miss Howe is furious with all the Harlowes and blames them for Clarissa's misfortunes. The Harlowes are stating that Wednesday was to be a final trial, that they would have ceased trying to force Clarissa to marry Mr. Solmes if she still refused, but Miss Howe does not believe that James and Arabella would have allowed it without succeeding in their ends. Miss Howe thinks that Clarissa should either marry Mr. Lovelace or get as far away from him as possible. Clarissa is unsure whether she should marry him, making reconciliation with her family unlikely if not impossible, or not marry him, damaging her reputation. Miss Howe offers Clarissa a loan to prevent her from being dependent on Mr. Lovelace, but Clarissa refuses.

## Letters 98-106 dated April 12th Analysis

Mr. Lovelace's invention of a story of their being brother and sister proves his ability to be easily deceitful. Much of his behavior and reasons are seen in this section and it becomes obvious that he is an even worse fellow than Clarissa or Miss Howe can imagine. Mr. Lovelace's schemes against Clarissa and his desire to possess both Clarissa and Miss Howe show his rakish character. His regret of not possessing Rosebud shows that he has very vile thoughts even in his most noble actions.

Clarissa's suspicions against Mr. Lovelace show that she is not naive, though she is innocent and honest. Clarissa's suggestion that she has exchanged one confinement for another, paired with Mr. Lovelace's insinuation that he will force her to marry him, parallels her situation with her family and Mr. Solmes. This situation is worse because she does not have anyone to protect her against Mr. Lovelace if his intentions become dishonorable. Clarissa has already acknowledged herself unhappy with her decision, and this seems a premonition that unhappy times are to follow. Clarissa's letter to Arabella shows her desire to reconcile with her family, as well as her love for them.

Uncle Antony's going to Mrs. Howe to relate the matter and urge her to forbid Miss Howe to correspond with Clarissa is demonstrative of the Harlowes' unrelenting resentment. The family's reactions to Clarissa's elopement shows the varying degrees of desire the family actually has for Clarissa to marry Mr. Solmes. Her mother grieves for Clarissa, while her father and James are simply angry. The immediate issue of money being presented by both Mr. Lovelace and Miss Howe foreshadows Clarissa's future pecuniary difficulties.



# Letters 107-119 dated April 13th through April 15th

## Letters 107-119 dated April 13th through April 15th Summary

Mr. Lovelace is not happy with the short amount of time Clarissa spends with him and the lack of intimacy between them. Clarissa is irritated that he endangers her reputation by not leaving her alone despite his implications that she is not safe from the Harlowes' threats yet. He suggests that they spend a few months visiting after their immediate wedding, and Clarissa blushes and is unable to respond. Although Clarissa offends Mr. Lovelace through her reprimands and her dignity, he finds the pursuit of a truly virtuous lady much more fun than his prior accomplishments. Although Mr. Lovelace declares Clarissa is the only wife he will ever have, he does not really want to marry at all, especially a Harlowe. Mr. Lovelace does not believe Clarissa's motive for running away was to prevent mischief; he believes she loves him. Because he thinks virtue is important in a wife, he decides to test Clarissa to make sure she is as virtuous as is believed. His argument is that it is easy to be virtuous if you have never had an opportunity to be otherwise. If Clarissa is easily overcome, he will be able to avoid marriage and have Clarissa as a mistress.

When Clarissa accuses Mr. Lovelace of contriving with Joseph to trick her into running away, Mr. Lovelace denies it but admits that Joseph is his spy in the Harlowe family. He explains that James and Arabella sent Joseph to bribe one of Mr. Lovelace's servants to spy on him, and Lovelace met Joseph and was able to convince him of his honorable intentions towards Clarissa. Joseph was only supposed to warn Mr. Lovelace if anyone came. He admits that he intended to take Clarissa with him if possible and passionately declares that if she had not gone with him, he would have kidnapped James or Mr. Solmes, which angers Clarissa. He later retracts his confession about the kidnapping scheme, stating that his reputation is mostly lies that he has made up himself to scare people from crossing him and reduce mischief. Clarissa is convinced that he will never make a good husband, but she is unsure how to escape from him.

Miss Howe wonders if Mr. Lovelace confesses any faults that Clarissa does not discover on her own but still advises Clarissa to marry him as soon as possible. Miss Howe advises Clarissa to stop instigating arguments with Mr. Lovelace because humbleness is not natural to him. Clarissa does not believe Mr. Lovelace will avenge himself against her virtue, but if he attempts it, she is sure she can withstand the temptation. Mr. Lovelace complains that Clarissa's modesty evokes modesty from him. He wants to provide Clarissa with clothes and money in order to see something that belongs to him on her body.

The Harlowes call an assembly to discuss sending Clarissa's belongings to her, but only Mrs. Harlowe wants to do so and is overruled. Mr. Lovelace is convinced that the



Harlowes' implacableness will lead Clarissa to confide in him. He decides to move to more convenient lodgings when he hears that the Harlowes have given up their search for Clarissa. Clarissa and he decide on Windsor with Clarissa asking Hannah to attend her. Hannah is unable to attend Clarissa because Hannah is sick. Mr. Lovelace promises to leave Clarissa there while he proves his reformation, using her as his example, though he warns her that reformation is not a sudden event in case he relapses. Clarissa is pleased with this and writes Aunt Hervey to request her belongings and urge reconciliation. Mr. Lovelace does not actually intend to allow Clarissa to settle in Windsor, but he knows she will be displeased if he mentions London. He pretends to visit Windsor dutifully and finds it inappropriate for Clarissa's circumstances. On his return to see Clarissa, he visits Mrs. Greme to cultivate her help.

## **Letters 107-119 dated April 13th through April 15th Analysis**

Mr. Lovelace's pride is exhibited through his anger at Clarissa's disinterest and his desire to see her wear something that he bought. His disdain for marriage foreshadows his future conduct towards Clarissa, emphasized by his thought of convincing her to be his mistress rather than wife. His abrupt manner of suggesting marriage without pursuing it is calculated to convince Clarissa of his honorable intentions without actually incurring the danger of being forced to proceed with the wedding. His intention to prove Clarissa's virtue foreshadows her future ruin as well as examines his distrust in women. His scheme to pretend to visit Windsor cultivates Clarissa's trust and contributes to Mr. Lovelace's ultimate goal.

Clarissa's accusations prove her to be less modest than she has appeared to this point. She is very headstrong and capable of transcending the normal bounds of modesty when honesty and honor require it. Miss Howe entreats Clarissa to stop provoking Mr. Lovelace, showing her knowledge of his arrogance and foreshadowing his revenge against Clarissa, which is based largely on her injuries to his pride. Because Mrs. Greme has already ingratiated herself to Clarissa, Mr. Lovelace uses her to unwittingly promote his point with Clarissa, which is foreshadowed by his visiting the lady. Hannah's illness is ironic because Mr. Lovelace did not intend to allow her to attend Clarissa anyway because she may influence Clarissa away from Mr. Lovelace's intentions, but her illness is a legitimate cause that prevents further scheming by Mr. Lovelace.



# Letters 120-137 dated April 15th through April 21st

## Letters 120-137 dated April 15th through April 21st Summary

Mrs. Greme writes to Mrs. Sorlings expressing her hope that Clarissa marry Mr. Lovelace soon because of his extreme love and reverence for the lady. With the assistance of this letter, Clarissa is very pleased with Mr. Lovelace for his disapproval of Windsor due to the lack of privacy. She worries that Mr. Lovelace's family will think her "unworthy of their alliance" because of her rash decision in running away with him. The next day, Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa have their biggest disagreement yet, because Mr. Lovelace is outraged when he discovers that Clarissa is willing to renounce him as a condition for reconciliation with her family. He insults the Harlowes and laments the pains he has endured for her sake, which, as she reminds him, he endured because of his obstinacy, not her request. Clarissa is irritated that Mr. Lovelace does not propose but, instead, merely hints at marriage.

Mr. Lovelace begs Clarissa's forgiveness for his conduct and cultivates it by reading part of a letter from Lady Betty concerning her hopes that they marry soon and expressing her admiration of Clarissa. Clarissa objects to Mr. Lovelace's suggestion that she visit Lady Betty because she does not have clothes, and it would not be proper to appear without an invitation. When she refuses his money again, Mr. Lovelace urges Clarissa to declare her independence and take possession of The Grove, but Clarissa refuses to litigate with her father and insists that Mr. Lovelace leave her to preserve her reputation. Mr. Lovelace offers to intervene with the Howes for protection for Clarissa but she refuses. He next suggests that she travel to Florence to find Colonel Morden, but Clarissa disagrees with this plan also because her cousin is expected soon.

Clarissa decides that she is no longer opposed to going to London because Mr. Lovelace will be more likely to leave her alone there. Mr. Lovelace agrees, though he states that he is indifferent to where she settles now that the Harlowes have ceased searching for her. Mr. Lovelace's friend, Mr. Doleman sends an account of available lodgings. Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace discuss them with Clarissa gaging his reaction by choosing unsuitable ones, before concurring with him on her preferred choice. Mr. Lovelace triumphs in his contrivance through Doleman and anticipates mischief in London, since he has lead Clarissa to lodge in a brothel. Miss Howe has no objection to Clarissa's removing to London but urges her to marry Mr. Lovelace.

He suggests sending for Mrs. Norton to attend Clarissa, but Clarissa declines this idea because she does not want to injure Mrs. Norton's relationship with Mrs. Harlowe. Clarissa opposes Mr. Lovelace's suggested lodgings and questions his indifference in the matter. They plan for necessary accommodations. Mr. Lovelace later brags that he did not mention London because he knew Clarissa would determine against it if he did.



He also anticipated her rejection of allowing Mrs. Norton to attend her. Miss Howe later informs Clarissa that Mrs. Norton has been forbidden to correspond with Clarissa and Miss Howe as a condition for remaining in the Harlowes' favor. She also informs Clarissa that Hannah is ill, and Clarissa requests that she send Hannah two guineas, though she refuses Miss Howe's money for her own uses. Miss Howe admits that she does not always treat Mr. Hickman fairly, and Clarissa seconds that opinion. Miss Howe defends herself by saying that he will have the upper hand soon.

James discovers that Clarissa is not married yet and determines to rescue her. He assumes she is ruined and, if so, will ship her off to his property in Scotland. Mr. Lovelace warns Clarissa about James' scheme, but he is not very worried. She rejects his offered defense against James. Mr. Lovelace hints at the scheme being abandoned if they were married, but Clarissa still avoids a definitive answer, hoping Colonel Morden will arrive soon. Clarissa is angry at James and Arabella for turning her uncles against her, because Uncle Antony has turned Mrs. Howe against her, causing her correspondence to be forbidden unless Mrs. Howe reads everything that passes between them.

## **Letters 120-137 dated April 15th through April 21st Analysis**

Clarissa's fear of Mr. Lovelace's family thinking her unworthy of their alliance proves that she intends to marry Mr. Lovelace, but she also proves that it is not her first choice by telling him that she will renounce him to promote reconciliation with her family and avoiding replying to his proposal to wait for Colonel Morden. Mr. Lovelace occasionally breaks out into passionate speeches, which anger Clarissa. His apologies prove his determination to remain on good terms with her but the sincerity of the apologies needs to be questioned since he often explains a motive for them to John Belford. Mr. Lovelace's intimate knowledge of the way Clarissa will react to most things suggests that he obtained detailed information about her from his spy because she has not provided him with enough opportunity to be acquainted so minutely with the idiosyncrasies of her temperament as he appears to be. He predicates all his actions and suggestions to appear honest and trustworthy, knowing what she will reject and thereby minimizing the danger of ruining his scheme. Miss Howe's acknowledgment that Mr. Hickman will soon have the upper hand in their relationship evidences her intent to marry him, eventually. James' opinion that Clarissa is ruined reinforces Mr. Lovelace's reputation, but also shows James' disregard for his sister and disbelief in her morals.



# Letters 138-154 dated April 21st through April 26th

## Letters 138-154 dated April 21st through April 26th Summary

Joseph informs Mr. Lovelace that a new scheme has been initiated to reveal Mr. Lovelace's rape of Miss Betterton, who died bearing Mr. Lovelace's child that he does not claim. Mr. Lovelace defends his actions with Miss Betterton saying that she loved him but he told her he would not marry her. He loved her and her family took her away from him against her will, trying in vain to force her to place rape charges against Mr. Lovelace. Her death was caused by her family's refusal to call a midwife until it was too late. He has secretly seen his son twice but the boy's aunt is fond of the boy, and Mr. Lovelace is loath to separate them, knowing the Bettertons will provide for him. Mr. Lovelace asks Joseph to suggest to Singleton that James may approve of seizing Clarissa and carrying her off. He wants her to be frightened and allow him to stay with her in London for protection. He swears that his intentions to Clarissa are honorable, and he has not bothered with anyone else since he met Clarissa.

Ironically, his last letter to Mr. Belford admits that his proposal was unintentional, and he would have resented losing the opportunity to test Clarissa's virtue if she had accepted him. Mr. Belford disapproves of Mr. Lovelace's intentions to test Clarissa because of her unfair situation. If he loves her, he should trust her renowned virtue because he will never find anyone more virtuous or who loves him better. He reminds Mr. Lovelace that his marriage to Clarissa was partially revenge against the Harlowes and questions if he would give that idea up so easily.

Clarissa writes to Aunt Hervey again to request her belongings, offering to explain what has happened if encouraged. Aunt Hervey secretly writes Clarissa to tell her that her family is furious and reconciliation is absolutely impossible at the present, and her belongings will not be sent to her. She relays the rumor that Wednesday was to be Clarissa's last trial concerning Mr. Solmes, though she admits some rather irritating results if Clarissa had persisted in her refusal. Dolly begs to write her but the family has forbidden it because they believe that Clarissa is tainted and may influence Dolly, an insinuation that greatly offends Clarissa. Aunt Hervey forwards Clarissa's letter to Harlowe Place in case the family changes their minds.

Clarissa is indifferent about going to London without the hope of reconciliation. She wants reconciliation partially so she can have Mr. Lovelace on her own terms or not at all; she hates being in his power. Miss Howe urges Clarissa to stop insulting Mr. Lovelace and marry him. She also believes Clarissa should give up reconciliation with her hopeless family.



Arabella sends Clarissa a letter agreeing to send her clothes, since Mrs. Harlowe cannot stand looking at them. She suggests that Clarissa needs her clothes because Mr. Lovelace does not want to buy her new clothes and will not marry her. She is refused her books because they did not teach her what is proper, and she will not receive money or jewels because her family wants to see her beg in the streets. She tells Clarissa that Mr. Harlowe "imprecated a fearful curse" on her at the first news of her elopement. Arabella also tells Clarissa that all the pictures Clarissa drew have been removed and placed in her closet, which has been nailed up. James vows revenge against Mr. Lovelace for the insult given to the Harlowe family. Mrs. Norton is even ashamed of Clarissa, her favorite. Uncle Harlowe, Uncle Antony, Aunt Hervey and Arabella renounce Clarissa forever.

Clarissa is devastated by the curse her father invoked, but Miss Howe comforts her by telling her that God does not allow curses upon the just. Mrs. Howe condemns Arabella's letter as unnaturally cruel and encourages Miss Howe to comfort Clarissa. Miss Howe denounces the Harlowes and suggests Clarissa write Colonel Morden. She also encourages Clarissa to show Arabella's letter to Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa does not show the letter to Mr. Lovelace, but he is angry from her reaction to it, assuming that it is cruel. He has been kind, and Clarissa begs not to hear anymore rumors about his immorality because she feels that she has not treated him fairly. She receives his declarations unreservedly now and has verbally conceded her esteem for him. He suggests an immediate wedding, but Clarissa supposes they will have plenty of time once they arrive in London. Miss Howe wishes that Clarissa had not postponed the wedding. Clarissa admits that she is ill and having convulsions from Arabella's letter. This concerns Mr. Lovelace, who fears she is dying and, when she gets better, fears she will make a vaporish wife.

When Miss Howe's mother catches her daughter writing to Clarissa, they argue, and Mrs. Howe yells at Mr. Hickman for conveying the letters. Miss Howe is furious because she thinks she should be the only one allowed to treat Mr. Hickman like a fool. She points out that even if Wednesday were the last trial, the plan was for Mr. Harlowe to kneel and plead with Clarissa to yield, and Miss Howe is convinced that it would have worked.

Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace arrive in London. He rents all the empty apartments in the house to prevent an enemy from doing so. He hires Dorcas Wykes, a girl who is very loyal to him, to be Clarissa's servant, though Clarissa dislikes her and is only persuaded to permit it due to Widow Sinclair's entreaties. Mr. Lovelace provides books for Clarissa and plans to take her for public entertainment as soon as she will permit it.

## **Letters 138-154 dated April 21st through April 26th Analysis**

The case of Miss Betterton provides an example of Mr. Lovelace's past licentious behavior and the results thereof. It also foreshadows Clarissa's end as a result of his passions. Mr. Lovelace continually contradicts himself, proving his lying nature. He



generally admits to Mr. Belford his true intentions and thoughts, which are nearly always dishonorable. Mr. Lovelace's concerns of Clarissa making a vaporish wife prove his levity and selfishness. Hiring Dorcas and renting all the other apartments in the house foreshadow Mr. Lovelace's foul intentions against Clarissa.

Aunt Hervey's secret letter to Clarissa shows that she still loves her niece, but Arabella's harsh words prove her jealousy and spite and develop her character. Miss Howe's suggestion that Clarissa show Mr. Lovelace Arabella's letter, along with her general denunciation of the Harlowes emphasizes her contempt of Clarissa's family and proves her loyalty to Clarissa. Miss Howe's anger at her mother for insulting Mr. Hickman provides evidence of her feelings for him and foreshadows their marriage. Mr. Harlowe's curse foreshadows Clarissa's future, and her convulsions show her fear that the curse will come true.





# Letters 155-166 dated April 26th through May 5th

## Letters 155-166 dated April 26th through May 5th Summary

When Miss Howe tells Clarissa that she will not marry until Clarissa is happy, Clarissa begs her not to wait and to marry Mr. Hickman immediately because he is a worthy man. Clarissa is very unhappy with her London lodgings. She does not like Widow Sinclair, and she thinks Dorcas has a sly eye. Mr. Lovelace's forwardness is appalling, especially since he rented all the other apartments in the house, supposedly to prevent an enemy from doing so and told the ladies of the house that Clarissa is his wife, who refuses to consummate their marriage until she reconciles with her family. Mr. Lovelace annoyingly continues to hint at marriage without pursuing the topic, in which case, Clarissa would agree. She agrees to allow Mr. Lovelace to stay one night at Widow Sinclair's house provided he removes to Lord M's the next day. She does not plan to stay in these lodgings very long. Miss Howe defends Mr. Lovelace's reasons for lying as plausible and cautions Clarissa not to make the widow her enemy. Clarissa is very annoyed with Mr. Lovelace after a couple days in the house because she suspects that he knows the ladies in the house rather well. She also doubts the ladies' modesty, but she eventually begins to adjust to them. She even blames herself for her earlier censures.

Mr. Lovelace leaves for the day to inquire into James' kidnapping scheme and to bring Charlotte to visit Clarissa, but it irritates her when he returns very soon. He has found a house into which for Clarissa to move, and she has no objections, since he is not pressing for a date. Mr. Lovelace attends church with Clarissa and pleases her by paying attention and discussing pious affairs afterward. This gives Clarissa hopes for a true reformation.

Mr. Lovelace is very happy that Clarissa is passing for his wife. He plans a small party with Clarissa and his friends in order to have witnesses to Clarissa's admitting that she is his wife, so that if she attempts to run away when he tests her, he can bring "his wife" back by force. He is very eager for his friends to meet Clarissa and reminds them how to behave around her. Although Clarissa refuses to go, Mr. Lovelace insists. He piques her interest about his friends by telling stories about some of their adventures together. Clarissa tells Miss Howe about the upcoming party and how displeased she is, particularly about a lady that Mr. Lovelace insinuates with whom she should begin a friendship, Miss Partington.

Clarissa hates the party. Miss Partington encourages the men's freedoms and the men are too free. Clarissa describes Mr. Belton as gay, Mr. Mowbray as immoral and Mr. Tourville as a conceited coxcomb. She thinks Mr. Belford is obliging and good-natured but also the wickedest next to Mr. Lovelace. Mr. Lovelace is the best of the group and



appears to great advantage, but Clarissa dislikes the company he keeps and blames him more for his low acts due to his superiority. After the party, Widow Sinclair sends a request to Clarissa that Miss Partington be her bedfellow for the night due to a shortage of beds. Although Clarissa hates to affront anyone, the request seems ill-bred and suspicious, so Clarissa refuses.

When Mrs. Howe asks Clarissa to end the correspondence with Miss Howe, Clarissa feels she must and informs Miss Howe, hoping it will not last long because her prospects seem likely to end in marriage soon. Miss Howe absolutely refuses to end the correspondence and tells Clarissa if she stops writing that Miss Howe will run away and join Clarissa in London. She advises Clarissa to obtain settlements and speedily marry. Clarissa agrees to continue writing as long as Miss Howe does not come to London. Clarissa forbids Miss Howe to write, however, saying that if absolutely necessary, Mr. Hickman can reply. Mr. Hickman writes Clarissa to inform her that Miss Howe agrees to the terms. He also sends his regrets for Clarissa's situation and offers his services if necessary.

## **Letters 155-166 dated April 26th through May 5th Analysis**

Miss Howe's refusal to marry until Clarissa is happy shows friendship surpassing the usual. Miss Howe's refusing to end the correspondence on penalty of joining Clarissa provides further evidence of Miss Howe's unwavering loyalty. Mr. Hickman's letter to Clarissa offering his services foreshadows his future acts as an intermediary between the two ladies, as well as exemplifies his deep regard for Clarissa. Clarissa's disapproval of Mr. Lovelace's actions proves her virtue and her suspicions against him. Her yielding from her dislike of the ladies in the house show the state of mind she is being pressed into by the company she is in and the contrived circumstances that Mr. Lovelace is continually monitoring. Clarissa's dislike of the party and the company lead to further suspicions against Mr. Lovelace. Her great disdain for Mr. Lovelace's actions after seeing his superiority compared to his band of varlets proves the capabilities of her intellect and reinforces the idea that greater intellects should produce greater thoughts. Because Mr. Lovelace is better, he should do better. Clarissa's refusal of Miss Partington as a bedfellow insinuates that she suspects Mr. Lovelace may attempt to compromise her honor. Mr. Lovelace's continuation of wedding plans shows a scheme to attempt preventing Clarissa from becoming suspicious. Mr. Lovelace's reasons for the party foreshadow Clarissa running away after he assaults her after the fire, as well as after her absolute ruin.



# Letters 167-175 dated May 2nd through May 9th

## Letters 167-175 dated May 2nd through May 9th Summary

Mr. Lovelace tells John Belford that Clarissa did not like the varlets, but Mr. Lovelace is curious to know their opinion of her. Her dislike and distrust for Miss Partington and so many other things annoy him very much. He is very pleased that Mrs. Howe has forbidden correspondence between Clarissa and Miss Howe, regardless of Clarissa's despair over the fact. Mr. Belford, along with Mr. Belton, Mr. Mowbray and Mr. Tourville, praise Clarissa and defend her dislikes as rational and insightful. They anger Mr. Lovelace by their urges for Mr. Lovelace to marry Clarissa and to stop thinking about ruining her. He does not believe that Clarissa loves him and feels it necessary to prove her virtue. He laments that if he does conquer her, no future conquest will be as glorious. He jokingly threatens to ruin Mr. Belford's suit with Charlotte. Mr. Belford knows how stubborn Mr. Lovelace can be and requests that he at least attempt to conquer her by love rather than artifice. Mr. Lovelace displeases Clarissa for several days after the party by complaining of her reserve.

Clarissa receives her clothes from her family and a letter forwarded from Colonel Morden, who James told of recent events. Colonel Morden does not know Mr. Lovelace or Mr. Solmes very well, but what he has heard of Mr. Lovelace indicates that the man is very immoral. His concern is that Clarissa will decline to Mr. Lovelace's morals, rather than Mr. Lovelace ascending to hers. He believes Clarissa should oblige her family and marry Solmes. He plans to return to England soon to settle Clarissa's estate and hopes to find peace returned to the Harlowe family. Clarissa is very distraught and disappointed in her actions. She requests that Miss Howe encourage Mr. Hickman to appeal to Uncle Harlowe in her behalf and try to espouse him to her cause, since Uncle Harlowe has some authority in the Harlowe family. Clarissa is willing to renounce her estate and live unmarried for the remainder of her life. The matter is urgent because Mr. Lovelace introduced his friend, Mr. Mennell, and the two men urge Clarissa to take possession of The Grove.

Mr. Lovelace explains that Mr. Mennell is actually Mr. Doleman's nephew, and, upon meeting Clarissa, he experiences qualms about assisting in her ruin. Mr. Lovelace admits he has misgivings himself at times but manages to overcome them nicely. Mr. Lovelace suspects that Clarissa still corresponds with Miss Howe and decides to get at Clarissa's pockets somehow. He arranges for Dorcas to take Clarissa into her confidence, hoping Clarissa will reciprocate. Since Dorcas has the keys to Clarissa's closet, Mr. Lovelace instructs her to find and transcribe Clarissa's letters for him. Dorcas fears this attempt because Clarissa double seals her letters to prevent anyone else from



reading them. Mr. Lovelace determines that he will obtain copies of the letters and begins planning a new approach.

Mr. Lovelace leaves during the morning, and when he returns, Dorcas tells him that Clarissa is writing in the dining room and has unwittingly dropped a letter on the floor. Mr. Lovelace enters the dining room to tell Clarissa that the house is almost ready for Clarissa to move into and promises that he will stay at Widow Sinclair's. He enrages Clarissa when he rapturously kisses her. He apologizes with a low bow, picking up the dropped letter in his ascent. Clarissa sees him placing it in his pocket and retrieves it, rebuking him and leaving him angrily. She refuses to see him for some time after this incident and orders her letters to be brought to her immediately. Mr. Lovelace decides to spread a rumor that James plans to kidnap Clarissa to ensure her need of his protection. He believes that her lack of other protection and the ruin of her reputation by being with someone of his low reputation ensure him of Clarissa.

## **Letters 167-175 dated May 2nd through May 9th Analysis**

Clarissa's character presents itself in a very positive light by the fact that Mr. Lovelace's loyal varlets disapprove of Lovelace's attempts against Clarissa after meeting her even after discovering that she does not like them. Mr. Lovelace's joke about ruining Mr. Belford's chances with Charlotte foreshadows their marriage in the distant future. Mr. Belford's suggestion that Mr. Lovelace attempt to win Clarissa by love rather than artifice allows insight into Mr. Lovelace's past as known by Mr. Belford. It also suggests that Mr. Belford does not believe Clarissa can be honestly seduced, since he is opposed to her being ruined.

Colonel Morden's letter to Clarissa appears to foreshadow his opinion when he arrives in town but actually shows an opposition, reinforcing that fact that while the marriage with Mr. Solmes seems ideal, a more intimate acquaintance with the gentleman proves him to be unworthy of Clarissa. Clarissa's reluctance to resume her estate and her appeal to Uncle Harlowe through Mr. Hickman shows her love for her family and her hope for reconciliation. Clarissa's care in ensuring her letters remain unread prove her prudence, which foreshadows that Mr. Lovelace will have to take extraordinary means to compromise her honor. Mr. Lovelace's desire to read them, exemplified by his attempt at procuring one in the dining room, show the low means he is willing to go to in order to make Clarissa even more desolate and despairing.



# Letters 176-188 dated May 9th through May 18th

## Letters 176-188 dated May 9th through May 18th Summary

Clarissa keeps Mr. Lovelace at a distance. They argue when he insists on attending church with her, and she tells him that she requested her family's assistance to help her escape him. He refuses to leave her alone. He worries that she will leave him.

When Clarissa tells Miss Howe about the letter incident, Miss Howe advises Clarissa to attempt to get Mr. Lovelace's letters or to leave him. She tells Clarissa that a rumor is circulating that James intends to kidnap Clarissa. Miss Howe hopes that everything will end well with Clarissa as an example of prudence and virtue. Mr. Hickman agrees to attempt mediation through Uncle Harlowe, but is unsuccessful. Miss Howe informs Mrs. Norton that Clarissa is eager to reconcile with her family and urges her to make it known to Mrs. Harlowe, but Mrs. Norton responds that, although Mrs. Harlowe is very grieved, reconciliation is impossible at present. When Mrs. Norton questions Clarissa's virtue, Miss Howe assures her that Clarissa is pure. Miss Howe also expresses contempt for the Harlowes, stating she feels pity for none and blames them all. Mrs. Harlowe writes Mrs. Norton praising Clarissa in the past and declaring that her past prudence makes the offense even worse. No one will forgive her, but Mrs. Harlowe still loves "the dear creature."

Miss Howe feels reconciliation is impossible. She informs Clarissa that everything they know negative about Mr. Lovelace's character occurred before he met Clarissa, and he has made no new offenses since he began courting her. She offers to share her fortune with Clarissa and live single with her. Miss Howe gossips that Uncle Antony is courting Mrs. Howe, and Miss Howe is so disgusted by the fact that if Mrs. Howe encourages him, she will reject Mr. Hickman and run away to be with Clarissa. Otherwise, she worries about the delay and advises Clarissa to marry Mr. Lovelace immediately. Since he has not offered to set the date or produce settlements, she insists that Clarissa forget modesty and inquire into them herself. Clarissa dislikes this plan but agrees to approach Mr. Lovelace about wedding plans. She worries whether he will resent the way she has treated him and decides to humble herself to him slowly.

When Mr. Lovelace returns from dining out, he begs an audience with Clarissa, but she refuses because she does not feel well, offering to meet him in the morning if she feels better. At their meeting the next morning, Mr. Lovelace condemns Clarissa's reserve to him and her preference for her family, while she condemns his morals. When he causes Clarissa to leave him by breaking into a fit of passion, he sends to her apologies and convinces her to return to him. Mr. Lovelace begins to talk about settlements for Clarissa to consider, but Clarissa tells him to write them down, and she will consider them in private. She fears that leaving him at this point would ruin her reputation more



than marrying him could possibly do. Mr. Lovelace sends Clarissa the generous settlements offered, promising to adjust them to please her, but still not setting a date. Clarissa sends a copy of the settlements to Miss Howe for approval, but Mr. Lovelace is confident that Clarissa is pleased with his offered terms. She accepts his suggestion of Lord M serving as a father to give her away, but is not pleased that they cannot set a date because of Lord M's affliction with gout. When Clarissa refuses his attempt to kiss her, he is angry at her coldness and reserve and declares revenge. He loves and hates Clarissa simultaneously.

## **Letters 176-188 dated May 9th through May 18th Analysis**

The fact that Miss Howe tells Clarissa that James plans to kidnap her still, a rumor circulated by Mr. Lovelace to serve his purposes, provides an example of the influence Mr. Lovelace has and the capability to bend circumstances to his will. Miss Howe's appeal to Mrs. Norton further proves her loyalty. Miss Howe's advice for Clarissa to give over modesty to inquire about settlements and setting a date prove her capability to think like a man, a very unusual accomplishment for a lady in the time period.

Mrs. Harlowe's declaration that Clarissa's past prudence worsens her present offense parallels Clarissa's earlier statement that Mr. Lovelace's low acts are more contemptible with his high intelligence. Uncle Harlowe's refusal to mediate with the family for Clarissa proves the family's unity against her as well as their unreasonable stubbornness. Clarissa's worry that Mr. Lovelace will resent the way she has treated him proves that she is aware that she has been unkind. Clarissa decides to humble herself slowly to Mr. Lovelace, a rare instance of her Harlowe pride.

Clarissa admits to Mr. Lovelace that she is seeking her family's protection against him, which foreshadows his decision to hasten her ruin. Mr. Lovelace's settlements are offered to pacify Clarissa when she is angry with him, showing his calculating manipulation. His suggestion of Lord M giving Clarissa away serves as a further delay in setting the date. Mr. Lovelace's ingenuous devices to delay the wedding foreshadow his ingenuity in ruining Clarissa. Mr. Lovelace's simultaneous love and hate of Clarissa parallels her feelings for him in a much more passionate degree. His declaration for revenge because she will not kiss him shows his pride.



# Letters 189-197 dated May 17th through May 21st

## Letters 189-197 dated May 17th through May 21st Summary

Mr. Belford praises Clarissa, saying that he would marry a woman like Clarissa if he could. He points out that if Mr. Lovelace ruins Clarissa, it will look like James' scheme to disgrace her. Because Lord M worries about the delays and fears Mr. Lovelace's character, he writes to John Belford begging him to intercede and hasten the wedding. In turn, Mr. Belford writes again to Mr. Lovelace entreating him to treat Clarissa well. Mr. Lovelace is convinced that he will never be happy if he does not try Clarissa virtue, and he defends himself by stating that she loses nothing as long as she resists him. He writes to Lord M saying Clarissa has scruples about the marriage because of Mr. Lovelace's illicit character.

Mr. Belton finds out that his mistress, who has passed for many years as his wife, used his money to make her favorite lover into a gentleman. Mr. Belton cannot disown her because everyone he knows believes she is his wife. Mr. Belton is now unsure if the children she gave birth to are actually his. Mr. Belford raves that wives are honest because their best interests are their husbands' best interests; whereas, mistresses do not have the same inhibitions. He urges Mr. Lovelace to marry Clarissa. Mr. Lovelace retorts that Belton's mistress was a low-bred girl, but he will have no such problem with Clarissa, which is the reason he only ruins girls from good families.

Mr. Lovelace convinces Clarissa to agree to go see a tragedy since they are getting along much better. Clarissa admits that she has had a "not unhappy twenty-four hours" with Mr. Lovelace. He arranges for Dorcas to rummage through Clarissa's belongings for letters to transcribe in their absence.

Miss Howe offers to apply to Mrs. Townsend, a lady merchant she knows, to provide Clarissa asylum if it becomes necessary to run away from Mr. Lovelace. Miss Howe and Mr. Hickman review the settlements and approve of them. Uncle Antony sends a proposal letter to Mrs. Howe, which is full of insults concerning Miss Howe. Miss Howe argues with her mother about his offer. Mrs. Howe's interest mainly consists of the increased wealth in case of his death, which is likely to occur first since he is much older. Miss Howe tells her mother to beware of becoming his nurse because he is more likely to become infirm than die. She also wishes that she may be allowed to remain single if Mrs. Howe marries. Mrs. Howe rejects Uncle Antony, blaming her daughter for the refusal.



## Letters 189-197 dated May 17th through May 21st Analysis

Mr. Belford's statement that he would marry a woman like Clarissa if he could acknowledges his own unworthiness, while foreshadowing the events that occur between him and Charlotte later. Mr. Belton's situation is ironic since he is having so many problems with his mistress so soon after Mr. Lovelace stated that he would prefer to keep Clarissa as a mistress. The tone of Uncle Antony's letter is very proud and haughty and results in an accidentally comedic proposal. Miss Howe continues to attempt to help Clarissa, proving herself very resourceful as well as loyal. The irony of Mr. Hickman and Miss Howe reviewing the marriage settlements together is entertaining and foreshadows their marriage. Miss Howe's disapproval of Uncle Antony's proposal to Mrs. Howe reinforces the degree of her dislike for the Harlowes. It also serves as a paradox. Mrs. Howe approves of her daughter's lover, while Miss Howe despises her mother's lover. It is also very ironic that as Mr. Lovelace decides to act more dishonorably by Clarissa, Clarissa and Lovelace begin to get along better.





# Letters 198-206 dated May 21st through May 23rd

## Letters 198-206 dated May 21st through May 23rd Summary

Mr. Lovelace is furious when he reads the transcriptions of Clarissa's letter, and he plots revenge against Miss Howe and Clarissa for the freedoms they take with him and his friends. He blames Miss Howe for Clarissa's reserve and wishes to bring Miss Howe to London in order to break her as well as Clarissa.

Clarissa enjoys the play but decides to avoid Mr. Lovelace the entire next day, Sunday. He is displeased that she goes to church without him. He is pleased when she agrees to sup with him and intends to try her in the dining room. When he sees her angelic appearance, he loses this intent but is caught up in rapture and speaks passionately to Clarissa. This frightens her and she tears her prepared response to his proposal in half and requests that Miss Howe perfect the scheme with Mrs. Townsend. Monday, she announces to Mr. Lovelace that she is going abroad, but he is afraid she will not return. They argue, Mr. Lovelace detaining Clarissa while Dorcas transcribes the torn proposal response. When Mr. Lovelace renews his marriage offer, Clarissa leaves the room scornfully. Mr. Lovelace nearly decides to discontinue his schemes based on Clarissa's letter, which asks him not to litigate with her father, hopes for a reconciliation with her family, accepts his settlements and dedicates ten percent of her annual allowance to charity. He loves her more than ever but decides to try a few more schemes; however, he disdains force, but he is unsure how to overcome Clarissa's will.

Mennell's conscience bothers him, and he backs out of the scheme, but agrees to send one last letter. The letter arrives, stating that Mrs. Fretchville is ill and occupation of the house will have to be delayed. A messenger delivers it in Mr. Lovelace's absence, and it is directed to Mr. Lovelace or his lady. Clarissa accepts it, which pleases Mr. Lovelace because she acknowledges herself his lady. Unfortunately, Clarissa decides this is a scheme and decides to quit Mr. Lovelace. Another letter arrives from Charlotte stating that Lord M has been unable to visit because of illness but plans to call soon. This causes Clarissa to think herself hasty in blaming Mr. Lovelace for the house, and she decides to stay. The next morning, Mr. Lovelace expresses his regrets about the house as well as his regret over the slow attorney that Lord M appoints to handle the settlements. When Clarissa asks to borrow Charlotte's letter, he tells her to keep it to send to Miss Howe. Clarissa's unusual complacency makes Mr. Lovelace feel more secure in her favor.

A servant inquires of Dorcas if Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace are married, asking for details. Dorcas confirms that they are married but refuses details because the man refuses to tell her why he is asking.



Mr. Lovelace is not happy with Lord M's letter and intends to transcribe the acceptable parts of it. He decides to allow Clarissa to see it if she consents to kiss him, but her modesty makes him ashamed to ask and he allows her to see it without the kiss. The letter expresses Lord M's hope that Mr. Lovelace will reform, marry Clarissa and have children with her, since illegitimate children cannot have the title of an heir. He provides his offers of settlements for Mrs. Clarissa Lovelace. He believes the Harlowes will repent the way they have treated Mr. Lovelace when they see what an excellent husband and father he makes. He assures Clarissa that if Mr. Lovelace does not "make the best of husbands to so good a young lady," Lord M will renounce his nephew and leave everything to Clarissa and her children. He also sends an account of the inheritances Mr. Lovelace will receive from Lord M and his sisters by pleasing them, which means marrying Clarissa.

## **Letters 198-206 dated May 21st through May 23rd Analysis**

Mr. Lovelace's plots against Miss Howe and Clarissa for the freedoms they take with him in their letters foreshadows his scheme against Miss Howe and are ironic because of the many freedoms he takes with Clarissa. His blaming Miss Howe for Clarissa's reserve is also very ironic because Miss Howe is much less reserved than Clarissa. Clarissa's fear of Mr. Lovelace's passionate speeches and her determination to leave the day after them foreshadows her escape and reaffirms her virtuous nature. Her dedication of ten percent of her annual allowance to charity demonstrates her nature and parallels her poor fund that is set up in her will. Mr. Lovelace's declaration that he disdains force but is unsure how to overcome Clarissa's will, paradoxically foreshadows her rape. Clarissa's indecision is manifested in her decision to quit Mr. Lovelace after she receives the letter stating the house is not ready but immediately changing her mind when she receives Charlotte's letter. The servant's arrival foreshadows Captain Tomlinson's involvement. Mr. Lovelace's modesty that results from Clarissa's modesty is repetitious and seems to indicate reform. Lord M's statement that illegitimate children cannot have the title of an heir alludes to Mr. Lovelace's illicit liaisons. Lord M's doubt that Mr. Lovelace may not make a great husband for Clarissa implies his knowledge of Mr. Lovelace's character. His account of the inheritances that Mr. Lovelace will receive by pleasing his family appears to be a bribe to convince Mr. Lovelace to marry Clarissa.



# Letters 207-217 dated May 25th through May 29th

## Letters 207-217 dated May 25th through May 29th Summary

Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace discuss the settlements, wedding plans and wedding jewels. Clarissa admits she had prepared a response to his settlement offer but ripped it after his odd behavior. Lovelace asks to see the torn pieces and she complies. He is again stricken with how wonderful Clarissa is, but it irritates him that Clarissa will only feel generosity and duty to him because he wants a more romantic love. Mr. Lovelace informs Lord M that Clarissa does not want to have a public ceremony while she is not reconciled to her family and friends. Clarissa hopes that once she is married, Mr. Lovelace's family's influence will persuade her family to reconcile.

Mr. Lovelace gauges Clarissa's love and humanity by pretending to be ill. He, Clarissa, Sally and Polly return from an airing, and when Mr. Lovelace complains of a stomachache, Clarissa is concerned. Mr. Lovelace makes himself very ill by taking a stimulant to make himself vomit. Dorcas portrays his illness as a secret that she tells Clarissa in confidence, and when Clarissa overhears Dorcas and another servant discussing how seriously ill Mr. Lovelace is, she runs crying to him, assuring him of her love. She allows him to kiss her hand and urges him to take an airing. Clarissa declines his invitation to join him because she believes a chair is better for his situation, which pleases Mr. Lovelace very much. Clarissa expresses her concern for his health to Miss Howe, admitting that she loves him. While Mr. Lovelace takes his airing, another servant speaks to Dorcas concerning Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa. Clarissa is terrified that it is involved with James and Singleton's attempt to kidnap her and wishes for Mr. Lovelace's return. Mr. Lovelace is pleased with Clarissa's fear of being taken from him. The servant returns shortly after Mr. Lovelace, and Clarissa eavesdrops on their conversation to discover the servant comes from Captain Tomlinson, a friend of Uncle Harlowe.

The next morning, while Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace discuss the servant's appearance the previous night, Dorcas announces Captain Tomlinson's arrival, and Clarissa hides to eavesdrop. Captain Tomlinson asks Mr. Lovelace if he is interested in reconciling with one Harlowe that may lead to a general reconciliation, though the rest of the family is not privy to his inclinations yet. Mr. Lovelace upsets Clarissa by saying he is not sure because of the way they have treated him but begs Captain Tomlinson to continue. Captain Tomlinson inquires into whether they are married because Uncle Harlowe is worried about the family honor. Mr. Lovelace skirts the issue and finds out that their lodgings were discovered by one of Uncle Harlowe's tenants, who saw them at the play and followed them. Dorcas announces that a gentleman, who is really Clarissa, is waiting impatiently for Mr. Lovelace in the other parlor, and since Captain Tomlinson has



prior engagements, they plan to meet the following morning to finish their discussion. Clarissa is pleased with Captain Tomlinson and convinces Mr. Lovelace to admit they are not married and to offer the settlements for Captain Tomlinson's inspection. The next morning, Mr. Lovelace explains the reasons that he is not yet married to Clarissa and agrees to meet Uncle Harlowe halfway. Captain Tomlinson praises Clarissa, who is elated and eager for reconciliation with her family. Mr. Lovelace is very touched and cries when Clarissa states that she is sure the Harlowes will wonder how they could treat Mr. Lovelace so badly.

Mr. Lovelace admits to John Belford that "Captain Tomlinson" is their fellow varlet, Patrick M'Donald. This scheme is designed to prevent Clarissa from abandoning Lovelace. Mr. Lovelace forces his vengeance by rereading Clarissa and Miss Howe's letters. Mr. Lovelace tells Mr. Belford that he and the other varlets have determined a punishment for Miss Howe's nosiness and Mrs. Howe's treatment of Clarissa. Since the Howes and Mr. Hickman plan to visit Mrs. Howe's sister who lives on an island, the varlets in disguise will rent the boat they plan to take, push Mr. Hickman overboard where a skiff will wait to take him ashore, rape the ladies and set them randomly ashore. They will then hide a while until the affair is blown over. Mr. Lovelace disdains being caught but is convinced that if they were caught, they would be pardoned for their family name, money and good looks.

## **Letters 207-217 dated May 25th through May 29th Analysis**

Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace's discussion about the settlements and wedding plans indicate that she has changed her mind again. Clarissa's attempt to yield somewhat to Mr. Lovelace is indicated by her complacency in showing him the torn pieces of her settlement response. Clarissa's respect to her family is demonstrated by her refusal to have a public ceremony to avoid embarrassing the Harlowes. Mr. Lovelace gives an example of the lengths he is willing to take to manipulate Clarissa by pretending to be ill for the purpose of gaging her reaction, as well as by engaging M'Donald to act the part of Captain Tomlinson. His use of a stimulant to cause his illness foreshadows and parallels the opium used in Clarissa's rape. Clarissa shows her love and concern for Mr. Lovelace by her declining to join him for his airing due to believing a chair is better for his situation.

When the servant inquires about Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace, Clarissa demonstrates the view she holds of Mr. Lovelace as her protector by her wish for his return. The return of the servant and the discovery that he comes from Captain Tomlinson foreshadows Captain Tomlinson's arrival and intervention. During Mr. Lovelace's interview with Captain Tomlinson, he admits that he is not sure about the reconciliation, which makes him appear honest. He also avoids answering whether he and Clarissa are married. These appearances are extremely ironic because of the deceitfulness of the whole situation at the scene where this happens, from the house not being what Clarissa believes (it is a brothel) to Captain Tomlinson being a fake.



Mr. Lovelace is very touched by Clarissa's declaration that the Harlowes will wonder at their having treated Mr. Lovelace so poorly, which emphasizes his knowledge of how undeserving he is of Clarissa's compassion. Mr. Lovelace's reason for the Tomlinson scheme is to prevent Clarissa from abandoning him, which foreshadows her escape. His scheme against Miss Howe is a misdirection that appears to foreshadow a punishment to Miss Howe which never occurs. His willingness to spare Mr. Hickman indicates that he has more respect for men than women. Mr. Lovelace's conviction that he and his varlets will be pardoned for their crimes based on their family name, money and good looks reinforces his arrogance that is seen throughout the book.



## Letters 218-224 dated May 30th through June 7th

### Letters 218-224 dated May 30th through June 7th Summary

Mr. Lovelace decides not to show Clarissa Lord M's next letter and to only relay what is necessary to her, saying he ran into Pritchard, the attorney handling the settlements, in town. Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace take an airing and discuss their future together. Clarissa pities everyone who is not as happy as she is now. The settlements arrive and Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa peruse and approve them. Clarissa rebukes the freedoms that Mr. Lovelace takes with her, telling him that marriage should be a pure state. Mr. Lovelace approves of refraining from public loves. He is also pleased that Clarissa forgives his liberties much easier than before. While they are discussing these plans, Mr. Lovelace kisses Clarissa's lips, causing her to avert her face though she does not get angry. He makes a mistake by kissing her breast, and Clarissa storms out of the room, refusing to see him.

They receive a letter from Captain Tomlinson informing them of Uncle Harlowe's disappointment in their living together unmarried for so long. Uncle Harlowe approves the settlements and encourages them to marry hurriedly and date their marriage from the beginning of their residency together. There will be no reconciliation until they are married. Clarissa agrees to set the date as soon as the settlements are complete and the license is obtained.

Mr. Lovelace plans his next scheme to be his last. He will gain access to Clarissa in the middle of the night with Dorcas' assistance. Mr. Belford begs him again to spare Clarissa's virtue because of her honor and modesty, as well as her love for Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa's merits stimulate Mr. Lovelace to seduce her as a means of trying the virtue of all women through Clarissa, in addition to avenging his sufferings at Harlowe Place.

### Letters 218-224 dated May 30th through June 7th Analysis

Mr. Lovelace's decision not to show Clarissa Lord M's next letter indicates that it abuses Mr. Lovelace's character in a way that he is unwilling for Clarissa to see. Clarissa believes that marriage should be a pure state and Mr. Lovelace approves of refraining from public loves. Although Clarissa's statement is characteristic of her purity and virtue, Mr. Lovelace's idea is extremely ironic considering his habit of treating love as a sport. When Clarissa permits Mr. Lovelace to kiss her lips, he must take it a step too far and outrage her by kissing her breast. He is unable to stay within acceptable limits. This



foreshadows the breach between him and Clarissa. Captain Tomlinson's letter conveying Uncle Harlowe's disappointment in their living together unmarried for so long serves as a device to hasten their marriage. The declaration that reconciliation with the Harlowes will not be possible until Clarissa marries Mr. Lovelace is an attempt to encourage Clarissa's forgiveness for the attempts Mr. Lovelace will make.

Mr. Lovelace's intent that the next scheme will be the last parallels the Harlowes' declaration that the Wednesday of the wedding with Mr. Solmes was to be Clarissa's last trial. His plan to gain access to Clarissa in the middle of the night foreshadows the fire scene, as well as provides an example of his dishonesty. It also shows that he does not believe it likely to ruin Clarissa by fair means. His defense that he is trying all women's virtue through Clarissa is a means of praise to her extreme virtue but is also unjust, since she is one woman and he uses extraordinary means he uses to ruin her.



# Letters 225-229 dated June 8th

## Letters 225-229 dated June 8th Summary

Mr. Lovelace wakes to an alarm raised over a fire upstairs, but by the time he reaches the room, it has been extinguished. Dorcas also wakes Clarissa, who is very frightened and faints in Mr. Lovelace's arms. When she regains consciousness, she blames the fire on Mr. Lovelace and begs him to leave her if he means her no dishonor, insisting that she will kill herself before losing her honor. Mr. Lovelace swears his innocence concerning the fire and begs her forgiveness for seeing her in her nightgown. Clarissa agrees to forgive him and allows him to kiss her before he leaves her. Immediately he regrets losing the opportunity and returns to her door to ask to speak with her again, but Clarissa, who is crying, ignores him and bolts another lock. Mr. Lovelace is impressed with her virtue but worries that she will not keep her promise to forgive him.

The next day Clarissa refuses to breakfast with Mr. Lovelace. Dorcas offers to bring breakfast to her chamber, but Clarissa refuses that as well. Mr. Lovelace knocks on Clarissa's door and requests that she inspect the damage from the fire as proof of his innocence in the matter. Clarissa insists that she cannot see him. Mr. Lovelace rages against her for breaking her promise to forgive him. He agrees to leave her alone all day if she will marry him the next. Clarissa still refuses to see him but agrees to write him. Dorcas takes Mr. Lovelace a note from Clarissa, which says she cannot see him and she hopes to return to her family. If she is forced to stay with him, she will not see him for at least one week due to her outrage at his treatment. Mr. Lovelace pleads his innocence in the fire affair and reminds Clarissa of her promise to forgive him, requesting to beg forgiveness on his knees and discuss the ceremony. Clarissa does not care about the plans for the ceremony nor what other people think about her, since she thinks she is vile now. Mr. Lovelace reminds Clarissa that he yielded to her entreaties not to carry the matter further, and he leaves to obtain the license and settlements, hoping to make tomorrow the "happy day." When he peeks through her keyhole on his way out and sees her sobbing prostrate on her bed, he regrets his actions the previous night.

While he waits for the license, he considers allowing the fire to be Clarissa's final test but decides against it because her resentment to the matter shows distrust more than love. Her belief that the fire was his contrivance hurts his sense of honor, and he does not like the idea of his wife being better than him. He decides that if Clarissa insists upon a full week's distance from him, it is with a mind to obtain Miss Howe's assistance in escaping him, and he will reread their letters to renew his vengeance.

While Mr. Lovelace is abroad, Clarissa asks for bread and water for the week. She sends Will with a letter for Miss Howe and, when he returns, sends him with a letter for Mr. Lovelace. On his way to deliver the letter to Mr. Lovelace, Will has misgivings and returns. Dorcas peeks into Clarissa's keyhole but is unable to see Clarissa because the keys are in the door. There is no response to her knocks, so Dorcas opens the door to





find the room empty. The ladies search the entire house and question local chair drivers about seeing Clarissa. One driver admits that he followed her to see her hail a coach to take her to Holborn-bars.

Mr. Lovelace is devastated when he returns home to find out that Clarissa has run away. He worries about whose hands she may fall into, since she knows no one and rages at Widow Sinclair and her girls for allowing Clarissa to escape. Mr. Lovelace plans to place an ad in the paper claiming Clarissa is an eloped wife if he does not find her soon. He finds a letter addressed to Mr. Lovelace from Clarissa in her room that renounces him forever.

A letter arrives from Miss Howe informing Clarissa that an acquaintance, Miss Lardner, saw Clarissa at church and sent a servant to inquire about Clarissa's lodgings. The servant discovered that there are two houses: one is kept for decent people but the other is a brothel. Miss Howe also inquires about Captain Tomlinson, but there is no such person in Uncle Harlowe's neighborhood. Miss Howe is convinced that Captain Tomlinson, Doleman and Mennell are Mr. Lovelace's implements. She accounts for the delays in performing the ceremony with an accusation that Mr. Lovelace has or used to have designs against Clarissa's honor. She praises Clarissa for her watchfulness, which prevented such designs from succeeding. She learns that the license has been applied for, and the settlements are nearly complete and takes this as a sign that Mr. Lovelace is convinced of Clarissa's virtue and honor and will now marry her. She advises Clarissa to remove to other lodgings immediately and marry Mr. Lovelace, but if he attempts to detain her in that odious house, Clarissa should leave him. Mr. Lovelace plans to forge a letter from Clarissa to Miss Howe in order to convince Miss Howe to come to town where he can ruin her. He is convinced that Clarissa will come to her friend's aid and then he will have them both. He decides against this scheme both to save Mr. Hickman the grief and because he knows Clarissa will write Miss Howe as soon as she arrives somewhere and his letter will likely arrive too late.

## **Letters 225-229 dated June 8th Analysis**

Clarissa blames the fire on Mr. Lovelace, which shows that she is aware that he has used contrivances to gain access to her in the past. Since Mr. Lovelace swears, even to Mr. Belford, that this was not a scheme on his part, it is very ironic that this is the contrivance of which Clarissa verbally accuses him, as well as the one that causes an indissoluble rift between them. His regret that he did not push the point as soon as she convinces him to leave proves his modesty in her presence and his indecency in her absence. Her over-niceness is displayed by her extreme emotions over the fact.

The next morning she refuses to eat breakfast, which foreshadows a future need for food and indicates that this refusal may have been part of her scheme to escape. Clarissa informs Mr. Lovelace that she cannot see him, and she hopes to return to her family, which also foreshadows her escape. Her refusal to discuss the ceremony furthermore foreshadows her escape, as well as her unwillingness to marry Mr. Lovelace. His pleading his defense by stating that he yielded to her entreaties is ironic



because she should not have had to beg him to stop treating her imprudently. His regrets indicate that he has a conscience; unfortunately, he always seems to get the better of it. His consideration of allowing the fire to be Clarissa's final test parallels the Harlowes' idea of their last trial with Mr. Solmes.

Mr. Lovelace demonstrates his pride in his resentment that Clarissa's reaction shows distrust more than love, as well as his disliking the idea of his wife being better than he. This dislike is ironic since he chose and pursued Clarissa, knowing she is better than he. Mr. Lovelace believes that if Clarissa insists on the full week's distance from him, it is with a mind to appeal to Miss Howe for assistance. This foreshadows Clarissa's escape—it is ironic because it is approximately at the very time Mr. Lovelace is thinking that Clarissa is making her escape. Clarissa's scheme to escape parallels many of Mr. Lovelace's contrivances; however, it juxtaposes them in the fact that Clarissa's actions/reasons are morally motivated, rather than immoral as Lovelace's actions/reasons. Clarissa running away from Mr. Lovelace parallels her elopement with him. The letter left for Mr. Lovelace in Clarissa's room indicates her distress and foreshadows her extreme resentment.

The letter that arrives from Miss Howe is ironic because, had it arrived earlier, the information it conveys would have caused Clarissa to leave Mr. Lovelace regardless of the fire incident. Mr. Lovelace's conviction that Clarissa will come to Miss Howe's aid if he ruins her demonstrates his knowledge of the girls' friendship and shows an irony in the juxtaposition of the girls' situations if he carries out his scheme. He decides against it to save Mr. Hickman the embarrassment, once again showing respect to men that he does not show to women.



# Letters 230-239 dated June 8th through June 9th

## Letters 230-239 dated June 8th through June 9th Summary

Clarissa informs Miss Howe of her escape from Mr. Lovelace due to his attempt to ravish her. She blames the ladies of the house for disregarding her screams. She requests Miss Howe's help in obtaining Mrs. Townsend's assistance in hiding Clarissa until the heat of Mr. Lovelace's search is over. Then, Clarissa plans to relocate overseas to avoid Mr. Lovelace, since she has no friends except Miss Howe. She is willing to give up her estate under the condition that her father provides an annuity for Mrs. Norton and fifty pounds each year for "her poor."

Clarissa descends from the coach in Hampstead where the other two passengers end their journey. She stops in a tea shop and says she is meeting a chariot to take her to Hendon. The shop owner is curious about Clarissa, since she seems so genteel and has a spy follow her. Clarissa walks toward Hendon crying and then returns to Hampstead to obtain lodgings at Mrs. Moore's house.

Will speaks to the coachman and finds Clarissa in Hampstead. He tells the townspeople that Clarissa is Mr. Lovelace's jealous wife who ran away in a fit of jealousy. He waits outside her lodgings while he sends a note to Mr. Lovelace telling him where Clarissa is and includes the two letters she sent him out with directly before she ran away. The letter to Miss Howe simply says it is a faint and will be explained as soon as possible while the letter to Mr. Lovelace refuses to see him for a week and suggests that he go to Lord M's. Mr. Lovelace reads the letter Clarissa left in her room, which states that he has ruined her and she will never marry him. Mr. Lovelace and Captain Tomlinson travel to Hampstead. Mr. Lovelace disguises himself as an elderly, gouty gentleman and enters Mrs. Moore's dwelling to obtain lodgings for his wife, who is meeting him in Hampstead. He desires more space and Mrs. Moore suggests that Clarissa, who is leaving in a few days, has the best room in the house. While Clarissa hides in the closet, the gentleman surveys the room with Mrs. Moore. He converses with Clarissa about when she will leave and she exits the closet to continue the conversation. In his rapture at seeing her, Mr. Lovelace forgets to disguise his voice causing Clarissa to faint. After the ensuing confusion, Clarissa verbally abuses Mr. Lovelace and begs him to leave her alone, while he pleads for forgiveness. Mr. Lovelace tells the women that Clarissa sometimes has these fits and asks Clarissa to peruse some letters he has brought before he leaves. The ladies and Mr. Lovelace leave Clarissa with the letters and retire to Mr. Lovelace's room. Lovelace acquaints the ladies with a near-accurate account of their story, softening his faults and avowing that they are married. He shares parts of the letters that he brought for Clarissa with the ladies. Captain Tomlinson's letter urges that they marry in haste to promote the reconciliation with Clarissa's family, while



letters from Mr. Lovelace's relatives chide him for not informing them sooner of his marriage to the wonderful Clarissa, expressing a desire to see her and announcing a visit to town for that purpose. Mr. Lovelace expresses a desire to have children with Clarissa and threatens to leave the country if she will not forgive him. The ladies embrace Mr. Lovelace's story and encourage him to pursue his wife. They agree to intercede with Clarissa to convince her to see Mr. Lovelace.

Mr. Lovelace eavesdrops on the ladies' conversation with Clarissa, while they try to convince her to at least listen to what he has to say. They question Clarissa about points in Mr. Lovelace's story, trying to determine if he is lying. Clarissa tries to solicit their help in her escape. When Clarissa sends Mrs. Moore to Mr. Lovelace with the letter, he enters the room, afraid of what he may miss while Clarissa talks with Miss Rawlins, Mrs. Moore's friend. He exasperates Clarissa by begging her to reconsider, since Captain Tomlinson is on his way to hasten the reconciliation. He evades Clarissa's demand to acknowledge that they are not married. While he attempts to restore the ladies' confidence in him, Clarissa begs to speak with Mrs. Moore in the dining room causing Mr. Lovelace to call Will from fear that she will escape. Clarissa is outraged by his attempts to detain her, and declares she will go where she wants and do what she wants. She attempts to leave but Mr. Lovelace kneels and begs her to talk to Captain Tomlinson before she goes. The ladies help persuade her and then leave the room when Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa appear to speak more calmly. Clarissa will not yield to Mr. Lovelace's entreaties for forgiveness nor will she believe that he did not contrive the fire. She agrees to see Captain Tomlinson if he arrives before she leaves. Mrs. Moore comes in to announce dinner, and when Clarissa discovers that Mr. Lovelace plans to lodge there, she refuses to stay overnight in the same house as he. Mr. Lovelace agrees to change his lodging but, unknown to Clarissa, Will is sleeping in the house to monitor her.

Mr. Lovelace convinces the ladies that Miss Howe is devious and causes problems between Clarissa and him because she is half in love with him herself. He tells them that Clarissa cannot bear to hear anything bad said about her friend, though. Mr. Lovelace is especially confident in the trust that Widow Bevis, Mrs. Moore's niece, has in him. When Captain Tomlinson arrives, he validates Mr. Lovelace's assertions of marriage and Miss Howe's mischief. Clarissa refuses an audience with Captain Tomlinson, so he agrees to return the next morning.

Will returns from the tavern with a letter from Miss Howe that he borrows from the messenger. The letter congratulates Clarissa's escape and inquires about the last letter she sent detailing Mr. Lovelace's contrivances. Will returns the letter to the carrier and it is brought to Clarissa. Clarissa sends the messenger to town for the last letter, but Mr. Lovelace is not worried because he is sure Captain Tomlinson will arrive in town before the messenger with Mr. Lovelace's forged letter. The letter is similar to Miss Howe's original but describes the house as genteel, asserts that Mr. Lovelace used to but no longer means Clarissa any dishonor, and refers to Mr. Lovelace's implements as assurance of Mr. Lovelace's reformation.



## Letters 230-239 dated June 8th through June 9th Analysis

Clarissa's plan to obtain Mrs. Townsend's help to avoid Mr. Lovelace demonstrates her knowledge that he will pursue her and foreshadows his finding her. Her plan to relocate overseas shows her desperation to escape him as well as parallels his escape abroad after Clarissa's death. Clarissa's charity is seen through her willingness to give up her estate under the condition of providing money for Mrs. Norton and her poor. Clarissa's descent from the coach where the only other passengers descend demonstrates her avoidance of being alone with and her distrust of men. It is extremely ironic that when Clarissa tries so hard to escape notice, she generates interest against her will by her genteel appearance.

Will's story about Clarissa being Mr. Lovelace's jealous wife is ironic, since Clarissa is not jealous but Mr. Lovelace is jealous. Clarissa's letter to Miss Howe is a feint to remove Will shows Clarissa's intelligence and cunning. Captain Tomlinson's accompanying Mr. Lovelace to Hampstead shows that Mr. Lovelace has already conceived that Clarissa trusts Captain Tomlinson but not Mr. Lovelace, and Mr. Lovelace intends to use Captain Tomlinson to generate Clarissa's forgiveness. Mr. Lovelace's disguise as an elderly, gouty gentleman parallels Lord M's true form. Mr. Lovelace's story that he wants to obtain lodgings for his wife is ironic, since it is partially true according to his larger lie that Clarissa is his wife.

Mr. Lovelace acquaints Mrs. Moore, Miss Rawlins and Widow Bevis with an altered version of his and Clarissa's story as a means of manipulating them to his interest. The ladies exhibit their distrust by cross-examining Clarissa to determine if Mr. Lovelace is lying. Mr. Lovelace prevents Clarissa's communication with Miss Howe by convincing the ladies that Miss Howe causes problems between him and his wife. Mr. Lovelace's confidence in Widow Bevis foreshadows her later help. Mr. Lovelace's threats to go abroad if Clarissa does not forgive him parallels Clarissa's desires to go abroad to escape him, and also foreshadows Lovelace's going abroad after Clarissa's death. The letters from Mr. Lovelace's relatives expressing a desire to see Clarissa foreshadows the arrival of the fake Lady Betty Lawrence and the fake Charlotte.

When Clarissa demands Mr. Lovelace to state whether or not they are married, his evasions parallel his earlier discussion with Captain Tomlinson. Clarissa's outrage at Mr. Lovelace's attempts to detain her parallels the earlier scene at Widow Sinclair's house and foreshadows a repetitious scene at Widow Sinclair's house. Clarissa's distrust of Mr. Lovelace is seen by her refusal to stay overnight in the same house. This refusal also foreshadows her rape on the next night that she does stay the night under the same roof as her aggressor. Mr. Lovelace's forgery of Miss Howe's last letter foreshadows his future forgeries between the ladies. It is also ironic that as familiar as Clarissa and Miss Howe are with each other that neither recognizes any discrepancy in the handwriting of the forgeries.



# Letters 240-246 dated June 10th

## Letters 240-246 dated June 10th Summary

Clarissa writes to Miss Howe that she is very upset about something and she will explain after the outcome, but Mr. Lovelace intercepts the letter and forges a letter wherein Clarissa promises to write more when Clarissa is feeling more steady. Miss Rawlins cannot decide between believing Clarissa and believing Mr. Lovelace. Mrs. Moore is placed in a difficult situation, since Mr. Lovelace has rented her entire house. Clarissa considers leaving Mrs. Moore's house after Mr. Lovelace leaves, but Miss Rawlins persuades her to stay, since Clarissa needs to hear from Miss Howe to find out where she will go next. Clarissa will not see anyone except Mrs. Moore.

Mr. Lovelace waits for Captain Tomlinson to arrive so Lovelace can complain about the treatment he received the day before. When Captain Tomlinson arrives, Clarissa refuses to see him until 4:00 in the afternoon. That afternoon, Clarissa and Captain Tomlinson discuss the fact that the reconciliation with the Harlowes is not possible if Clarissa refuses to marry Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa vents about Mr. Lovelace's lack of politeness and virtue. Captain Tomlinson begs Clarissa to forgive Mr. Lovelace for James's safety, but Clarissa will not forgive the indignity offered her. Mr. Lovelace enters the room, swearing it was an accident. She accuses Mr. Lovelace of using many artifices to gain her attention, and he defends his actions by stating it was the only way to spend time with her due to her extreme reserve. While Clarissa admits that she used to love him, she tells him that his lack of delicacy and manners appall her. Captain Tomlinson tries to persuade Clarissa that her anger is disproportionate to the offense, but she refuses to trust a man's opinion on whether she has carried her resentment too far. When Mr. Lovelace suggests Lady Betty mediate between them, Clarissa retires to her chamber to consider it. When she returns, she expresses distrust at the timing of Captain Tomlinson's proposals and the letters from Mr. Lovelace's family but agrees to consider seeing Lady Betty and Charlotte, if they arrive before Miss Howe's letter.

Captain Tomlinson laments his involvement in the schemes against Clarissa, which furthers Mr. Lovelace's resolve for revenge. It injures Mr. Lovelace's pride that Clarissa is more interested in him for the sake of reconciling with her family than for his sake. He will be unhappy without Clarissa, but his pride demands revenge.

Mr. Lovelace tells Mrs. Moore, Widow Bevis and Miss Rawlins that the ceremony is going to be re-performed for Uncle Harlowe. Mr. Lovelace begs Clarissa to appear less offended in front of Lady Betty, and Captain Tomlinson begs Clarissa to marry Mr. Lovelace immediately. When Mr. Lovelace leaves, Captain Tomlinson and Clarissa review the letters, but Clarissa is afraid to be softened in Mr. Lovelace's favor because she insists that he cannot love where he has so much insulted. She would rather live single than be forced to marry him, but she will not do anything without Miss Howe's advice.



## Letters 240-246 dated June 10th Analysis

Mr. Lovelace continues intercepting the letters between Clarissa and Miss Howe proving his deviousness. The ladies are very confused whether to believe Clarissa or Mr. Lovelace, demonstrating his extreme manipulation of everyone around him, while Clarissa refrains from explaining anything. The arguments between Captain Tomlinson and Clarissa show Clarissa's implacability and parallel her family's stubborn, unforgiving nature. Clarissa's over-niceness and stubbornness are her only faults that manifest throughout this novel and this example is possibly the strongest. Captain Tomlinson's regret for his involvement in the schemes against Clarissa foreshadows his later repentance. Mr. Lovelace's pride manifests itself here horribly, where he could possibly possess what he wants but is unhappy because it is not for the reasons he wants. Marrying Clarissa is not good enough if she is marrying him to reconcile with her family instead of because she loves him. Clarissa's offer to live single parallels her identical offer when her family tried to force her to marry Mr. Solmes.



# Letters 247-257 dated June 11th through June 13th

## Letters 247-257 dated June 11th through June 13th Summary

Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa take a walk in the garden and discuss everything. Mr. Lovelace begs for forgiveness, but Clarissa insists that she must hear from Miss Howe before agreeing to forgive him. She admits her prior love for him, but he is unworthy of it and she would prefer to live unmarried on the estate her grandfather left her. Clarissa asks Mr. Lovelace to excuse her to Lady Betty and Charlotte because she does not feel it is proper for her to meet them. Clarissa is discomposed and refuses to eat with everyone but goes to church with the ladies, refusing Mr. Lovelace's company.

Mr. Lovelace debates with himself about revenge versus love. He argues with the god of Love about Clarissa, and even the god of Love gives up on her.

Clarissa goes to church Sunday evening with Mrs. Moore and Miss Rawlins. While she is gone, a messenger arrives with a letter from Miss Howe. Mr. Lovelace convinces Widow Bevis to impersonate Clarissa and obtain the letter, sending the messenger away without a response since "Clarissa" is quite ill. Miss Howe congratulates Clarissa on her escape from Mr. Lovelace with her virtue intact. She denounces Mr. Lovelace and his friends and affirms that the house Mr. Lovelace is supposed to rent is a fabrication. She hopes Clarissa will not quit the country but offers to go with Clarissa if Clarissa insists. Miss Townsend will attend Clarissa on Wednesday or Thursday, but Mr. Hickman offers Clarissa his protection. Miss Howe advises Clarissa to hide until the search is abandoned and then to obtain lodgings near Miss Howe, who is willing to marry sooner in order to receive Clarissa with less reserve. The letter fixes Mr. Lovelace's determination to ruin both girls. Mr. Lovelace determines that Miss Howe would not be so delicate and virtuous without Clarissa's influence.

Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace walk in the garden again, and Clarissa tells him that she is sure they cannot make each other happy. Mr. Lovelace assumes that if Clarissa will mourn half of her reputation after their marriage, she may as well live single and mourn her whole reputation. The license is finally ready, but Mr. Lovelace feels he met Clarissa at a bad time in his life—after his innocence but before he is ready to settle down.

Lady Bab Wallis and Johanetta Golding arrive in Hampstead to impersonate Lady Betty and Charlotte, and Mr. Lovelace coaches them on how to behave properly in front of Clarissa. The fake ladies visit Clarissa and dote on her. They determine to convince her to forgive Mr. Lovelace and marry immediately, and they convince her to return to London to pack her clothes. They return to their lodgings to pack and are late returning. Clarissa fears she will be stuck at Widow Sinclair's house all night. She sends to Lady Betty and Charlotte to discover the delay and is told that Charlotte is sick and must rest





overnight. Clarissa sinks to the floor, faint and overcome. She is sure she is ruined and begs to stay anywhere else for the night. She doubts the authenticity of Mr. Lovelace's relations and insists upon returning to Hampstead immediately. Mr. Lovelace sends Will to find a coach, but they are unable to obtain one. Clarissa begs to go to Lady Betty and Charlotte's lodgings to escape the vile house she is staying in. Widow Sinclair overhears Clarissa's opinion of her house and enters angrily, causing Clarissa to faint.

Mr. Lovelace writes Mr. Belford to inform him that the affair is over and Clarissa lives.

## **Letters 247-257 dated June 11th through June 13th Analysis**

Clarissa's continual refusal to forgive Mr. Lovelace parallels her family's obstinacy in refusing to forgive Clarissa. Mr. Lovelace's discussion with the god of Love is an allegory that he uses to defend his violation of Clarissa and foreshadows her ruin. Widow Bevis' impersonation of Clarissa parallels the impersonation of Lady Betty and Charlotte as well as foreshadows Clarissa's ruin, since so many forces are combining to overthrow her chastity. Mr. Lovelace's decision that Clarissa may as well live single and mourn her whole reputation combined with his declaration that he met her at a bad point in his life foreshadows and hastens her ruin. The impersonated ladies from Mr. Lovelace's family provide an example of the deceit that Clarissa has encountered to lead to her ruin. Their late arrival foreshadows Clarissa's ruin, as does her fainting fits and her fear of being ruined. Mr. Lovelace's letter to John Belford states that Clarissa lives, which provides the information that Mr. Lovelace was not sure if Clarissa would survive the outrage against her person, but the fact that he did it anyway proves his horrid character.



# Letters 258-268 dated June 14th through June 19th

## Letters 258-268 dated June 14th through June 19th Summary

John Belford pleads with Mr. Lovelace to marry Clarissa now because he is shocked that she lived through the outrage. No other man could have been so cruel to her, and he would give up all of his money for Mr. Lovelace to marry Clarissa. Mr. Lovelace assures John Belford that if he marries, it will be Clarissa, but he is unsure what to do because he still wants cohabitation, but more importantly, forgiveness. Clarissa is stupefied from the drugs used to subdue her. Mr. Lovelace has told Clarissa that Miss Howe is very ill and unable to write her. Miss Howe has not received a response from Clarissa to her last letter. Mrs. Townsend arrives at Hampstead to meet Clarissa but is told that Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace have reconciled and are happy.

Clarissa is nearly mad. She throws away everything she writes, but Dorcas has brought remnants to Mr. Lovelace. She writes to Miss Howe saying she cannot tell her of the dreadful things she needs to tell, to her papa begging forgiveness despite her unworthiness, and to Arabella despairing that she recognized Clarissa's vanity before Clarissa did. She also writes a parable about a lady attempting to tame a lion that devours her and blaming the lady for going against nature. She writes several other pieces rebuking her actions and remonstrating against Mr. Lovelace. Mr. Lovelace feels reproached and hopes that Clarissa regains her senses. Clarissa writes to Mr. Lovelace that she never wants to see Widow Sinclair again, Mr. Lovelace is a devil and the two have killed Clarissa's head. She refuses to be Mrs. Lovelace and asks to be sent to a madhouse to avoid public disgrace because she is going insane. Mr. Lovelace blames opium for Clarissa's madness. He regrets what he has done.

Dorcas tells Mr. Lovelace that Clarissa is recovering. Mr. Lovelace goes out for the morning, and Clarissa's attempt to escape is prevented by Widow Sinclair. Dorcas warns Mr. Lovelace that Clarissa plans to visit his chambers. Clarissa visits Mr. Lovelace in her nightgown, rebukes him and asks him what is to become of her with great composure. This makes Mr. Lovelace very discomposed, and he, stuttering, offers amends via marriage. Clarissa refuses to marry him and asks if she is a prisoner. She wants to be penitent and save her soul since her body is ruined. She insists upon controlling the rest of her life and leaves, refusing to listen to Mr. Lovelace's urges for marriage. Mr. Lovelace does not sleep all night and regrets meeting Clarissa. Clarissa prepares to leave and sends Dorcas to ask for an audience with Mr. Lovelace in the dining room. While Dorcas is out of the way, Clarissa attempts to escape but is stopped by the other women in the house. Clarissa calls out of the window to people in the street for help, but Mr. Lovelace drags her to her bedchamber. One of the loose women of the



house pretend to be the lady that cried out and subdues the constable and mob that come to investigate.

Lord M is very sick and Mr. Lovelace hopes that the grandeur of his inheritance will convince Clarissa to have him. Clarissa tells Mr. Lovelace that she suspects that her ruin was premeditated. She demands to know what right Mr. Lovelace has to detain her and continually refuses to accept his offers of amendment through marriage because her honor is lost, and she will not offend his worthy family. Mr. Lovelace refuses to lose her while he has life and begs to marry her the next day. Clarissa threatens suicide and insists upon quitting the house. Mr. Lovelace asks for her honor the next day but Clarissa responds that she has no honor. She will not consider the proposal until she is a free agent. She tries to escape again and a servant is placed at the foot of the stairs. Clarissa begs Mr. Lovelace to kill her and in a scuffle she receives a bloody nose. Mr. Lovelace thinks she has stabbed herself and offers to do the same until he sees the source of the blood. Although Mr. Lovelace renounces marriage in Clarissa's absence, he is ready to marry her immediately every time he sees her. Clarissa tells Dorcas that her heart is broken.

## **Letters 258-268 dated June 14th through June 19th Analysis**

John Belford's pleading for Clarissa is repetitious as is Mr. Lovelace's continual confusion between his feelings for Clarissa and his pride. Mr. Lovelace tells Clarissa that Miss Howe is ill to prevent Clarissa from suspecting his contrivances in preventing Miss Howe's correspondence with Clarissa. Clarissa's madness foreshadows her illness and also parallels Mr. Lovelace's madness after Clarissa's death. The story Clarissa writes about the lion and the lady is an allegory referring to Clarissa's attempt to tame Mr. Lovelace. The use of opium in Clarissa's rape parallels Mr. Lovelace's use of narcotics in his sickness. It also proves Clarissa's virtue because she was not overcome mentally. Clarissa's unrelenting resentment foreshadows the continuation of her resentment and parallels her family's obstinacy. Clarissa's attempts at escape are repetitious; they parallel her earlier escape and foreshadow her future escape. Mr. Lovelace's willingness to stab himself when he believes Clarissa has ended her life foreshadows her death and his madness that results from it. Clarissa's declaration that her heart is broken foreshadows her illness



# Letters 269-281 dated June 20th through June 23rd

## Letters 269-281 dated June 20th through June 23rd Summary

Clarissa attempts to bribe Dorcas with twenty pounds a year for life and a diamond ring to aid in her escape. She fakes sick and confides in Dorcas her intent to leave the house and her plan to seek protection in the first house she finds open after her escape. She confesses she is not married. Mr. Lovelace dreams that Dorcas betrays him and solicits a dowager in the market to rescue Clarissa. Clarissa shares a bed with the dowager, who gets up in the middle of the night to take her medicine but drops the candle on her return to the room. Mr. Lovelace gets into bed with Clarissa, and Clarissa lives happily on her grandfather's estate with their son. Mr. Lovelace decides to try this scheme but will marry Clarissa if it fails. Clarissa's illness irritates Mr. Lovelace because the dowager scheme will take place tomorrow morning. He lays a letter in Clarissa's path from Captain Tomlinson stating that Uncle Harlowe will be in town for his birthday and wants the marriage to take place on that day so he can attend. Clarissa refuses to accept the dowager's assistance, suspecting the convenience of that and the placement of Captain Tomlinson's letter. She distrusts Dorcas, though she tells Dorcas that she still places confidence in her, puzzling Mr. Lovelace. The failure of the dowager scheme upsets Mr. Lovelace.

Clarissa complains to Mr. Lovelace of her detainment and refuses Mr. Lovelace's request for forgiveness and marriage, despite Captain Tomlinson's letter. Mr. Lovelace receives news that Lord M is very ill and he must go to him. Miss Howe writes Clarissa, upset that she has received no response, worried that her letters are not being delivered to Clarissa and disappointed that Clarissa has returned to Mr. Lovelace. Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa meet again and the conversation is nearly identical to their prior conversation. Clarissa is again prevented from running away. Clarissa agrees to wait for Thursday, Uncle Harlowe's birthday and the intended wedding before making a decision. Mr. Lovelace cannot convince Clarissa to promise marriage or that she will stay in the house while Mr. Lovelace visits Lord M. Upon a summons from Lord M requesting to see Mr. Lovelace before he dies, Mr. Lovelace agrees to allow Clarissa to go to Hampstead, while he visits Lord M if she promises to marry him. Clarissa does not believe he should trust such a promise, but Mr. Lovelace is willing to trust her and promises to convey her to Mrs. Moore's house first thing in the morning, if no new cause arises to dissuade him. Mr. Lovelace intends to have Dorcas drop the promissory note, detailing the fees Clarissa will provide Dorcas with to help her escape. Mr. Lovelace is very loath to lose Clarissa at this point because he means to marry her.

Mr. Lovelace gives orders to Dorcas and Widow Sinclair about Clarissa's removal to Hampstead at Clarissa's insistence. Clarissa will still not promise to marry him. He plans



to spend the evening with Clarissa and if she will not forgive him, he will find the promissory note and attempt her again. If she will forgive him, he will marry her. Mr. Lovelace is not satisfied with his interview with Clarissa and "finds" the promissory note after Clarissa retires to her chamber. He verbally abuses Dorcas, and then he and the other ladies remove to the dining room to judge Dorcas' betrayal. Widow Sinclair and the other ladies of the house complain about Dorcas and Clarissa, while Dorcas pleads that Clarissa has been maltreated. Clarissa enters the room and blames her ruin on Mr. Lovelace and the ladies. She produces a penknife and threatens to stab herself if anyone comes near her. Mr. Lovelace begins to approach her, and she nearly stabs herself before he rushes to the opposite side of the room. She refuses his proposals and insists on going to Hampstead first thing in the morning before returning to her chamber.

## **Letters 269-281 dated June 20th through June 23rd Analysis**

This section of the book is very repetitious. Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace continually argue, he begging forgiveness and proposing marriage and she refusing both. Clarissa's confidence in Dorcas is confusing but provides evidence of Clarissa's cunning in pretending to take Dorcas into her confidence as a means of confiding only what she wants known. This parallels many of Mr. Lovelace's schemes. The necessity for Mr. Lovelace to leave Clarissa to go to Lord M's deathbed, as well as Clarissa's refusal to promise to stay in the house while he is gone, foreshadows Clarissa's escape from Mr. Lovelace. Mr. Lovelace's pride stands in his way over and over again throughout this novel, and his determination to make a scheme Clarissa's last trial but then deciding against it and attempting her again parallels the treatment she received from the Harlowes concerning Mr. Solmes. It is ironic that Mr. Lovelace condemned the way the Harlowes treated Clarissa and sought revenge against them for it but he treats her worse when he has her in his power. Clarissa's threats to kill herself prove the importance of her honor to her and emphasize her losing her senses.



# Letters 282-309 dated June 24th through July 6th

## Letters 282-309 dated June 24th through July 6th Summary

Mr. Lovelace must go to Lord M's and writes to Clarissa defending Dorcas' loyalty and giving Clarissa permission to go to Hampstead, if she promises to marry him Thursday. He writes again because Clarissa does not respond. Again receiving no response, he begs for marriage and tells Clarissa that Uncle Harlowe cannot attend but has named Captain Tomlinson as his proxy and has persuaded Mrs. Harlowe to agree to the reconciliation. Mr. Lovelace regrets his many contrivances against Clarissa and is upset that she will not respond. He will marry her Thursday if he can persuade her to have him because otherwise, all of his plots will be discovered. He informs Clarissa and John Belford that John Belford will visit her, but Mr. Belford refuses to agree unless Mr. Lovelace swears her means honorably by Clarissa. Mr. Lovelace tells Clarissa that Captain Tomlinson will visit her since Mr. Belford is unavailable. Mr. Lovelace directs M'Donald, Widow Sinclair and the ladies concerning what to say and how to act around Clarissa. Captain Tomlinson is visiting at Lovelace's direction to determine if Clarissa will marry Lovelace. Mr. Lovelace does not want to leave Lord M due to his extreme illness unless he is sure that he will achieve his desire.

Clarissa demands to go to church, but the ladies and servants refuse to let her leave and lock up the house. Clarissa's threats to the ladies about the consequences of detaining her cause them to leave the key in the door. Clarissa locks herself in her room for several days and cultivates a familiarity with Mabel, one of the maids. Clarissa asks Mabel to have a seamstress come to adjust some clothes that she will give Mabel. Mabel tries on the clothes and Clarissa suggests that she and the seamstress work in Mr. Lovelace's room where a mirror is available. After Mabel and the seamstress leave Clarissa's room, Clarissa throws Mabel's clothes, jacket and hood on over her clothes, goes downstairs and out the door. Will assumes it is Mabel and goes upstairs to guard Clarissa's room. When Mabel and Will run into each other, there is an uproar and Mabel is blamed as a conspirator and escapes to her family.

M'Donald writes to Mr. Lovelace, Mowbray, Tourville, Belford and Belton that Clarissa has escaped and the house is in an uproar. Mr. Mowbray informs Mr. Lovelace that Will and Dorcas are suicidal from fear of Mr. Lovelace. He thinks Clarissa's action was stupid and offers his condolences. Mr. Belford is pleased with Clarissa's escape but worried about her condition. Mr. Lovelace is very upset to lose Clarissa and swears to marry her immediately if she can be found before his contrivances are discovered. His anger is directed at the ladies for allowing Clarissa to escape but also for encouraging him to ruin her. He is also very irritated that Lord M has recovered.



Clarissa writes to Miss Howe that she has escaped again but she is half crazy because she is lost. She fears that Miss Howe will hate her when she knows everything. Mrs. Howe receives the letter and responds, blaming Clarissa's giddiness for her fall and insisting that she end her correspondence with Miss Howe. Clarissa apologizes to Mrs. Howe and inquires about Miss Howe's health and former illness. She agrees to end the correspondence but begs Mrs. Howe not to tell the Harlowes that she has heard from Clarissa. Clarissa writes Hannah to request her attendance for one month, but Hannah is still very ill and unable to come.

Clarissa writes to Lady Betty asking about the letters she has written to Mr. Lovelace that were used against Clarissa, as well as inquiring about her appearance in London. Lady Betty assures Clarissa of the family's eagerness to have her in their family but denies writing the mentioned letters or attending Clarissa in London. She offers to mediate between Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa declines the offer of mediation and explains that Mr. Lovelace has committed great crimes against her, including robbing her of her honor. Clarissa writes to Mrs. Hodges, Uncle Harlowe's housekeeper inquiring about Captain Tomlinson and finds out that there is no such person.

Clarissa writes Mrs. Norton to ask about Uncle Harlowe's birthday and whether James is still searching for her. She asks Mrs. Norton to attempt to convince Mr. Harlowe to revoke his curse on Clarissa. She expresses much sorrow that she cannot assist her poor as she used to. Mrs. Norton responds that she hopes Clarissa has escaped Mr. Lovelace with her honor but fears the worst. Uncle Harlowe's birthday was not celebrated and the family barely leaves the house since Clarissa left. She has never heard about James' plot to kidnap Clarissa. Mrs. Norton's son is sick, but she will gladly attend Clarissa as soon as he is better. She assures Clarissa that she has managed the money Clarissa gave her in the past to provide well for the poor. She urges Clarissa to hope in Providence and reminds her that bad experiences can lead to positive experiences, recounting her own life story as an example. She reminds Clarissa that Clarissa's bad decision was instigated by her family. Clarissa wishes that Mrs. Norton had been her mother and assures Mrs. Norton that she is not so much to blame as everyone thinks in the affair, promising to reveal whole story when she can. Clarissa feels that God is punishing her since she cannot write Miss Howe; Mrs. Howe is angry, and Mrs. Norton's son and Hannah are sick. She refuses Mrs. Norton's offer to attend her because she does not want to sever Mrs. Norton's friendship with the Harlowes because it may be useful later in convincing Mr. Harlowe to renounce his curse against Clarissa. Clarissa assures Mrs. Norton that she is with people of good character and apologizes for not writing sooner, excusing herself that she did not want to injure Mrs. Norton with the Harlowes.

Arabella visits Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Norton is tempted to tell her about Clarissa but refrains. She does suggest that Arabella use her sisterly interest to persuade Mr. Harlowe to lift his curse against Clarissa, which makes Arabella angry. When Mrs. Norton assures Arabella she has not been communicating with Clarissa since the elopement, Arabella assumes that Mrs. Norton's information comes from Miss Howe and she complains of the way Miss Howe talks about the Harlowes. Mrs. Norton advises Clarissa to ask Miss Howe to watch what she says since it is believed that her



words come from Clarissa's mouth to which Clarissa agrees, but Clarissa is very upset by a severe letter she receives from Miss Howe. Clarissa decides to write to Arabella to ask father to renounce his curse against Clarissa.

## Letters 282-309 dated June 24th through July 6th Analysis

Clarissa's lack of response to Mr. Lovelace's three letters foreshadows her escape and parallels the Harlowes' implacableness. Mr. Lovelace's fear that his plots will be discovered foreshadows Clarissa's inquiries into the details of everything he has told her and the discovery of his contrivances. Mr. Lovelace's directions to M'Donald and the ladies in the brothel about how to act around Clarissa proves that his schemes are not yet at an end. Clarissa's schemes that enable her to escape parallels Mr. Lovelace's contrivances but serve as a foil since her schemes are pure and do not seek to injure anyone. Mr. Mowbray's character is revealed in his opinion that Clarissa is stupid for running away from Mr. Lovelace, but it is also ironic because of the extreme stupidity and lack of sensibility he shows in his every appearance. Mr. Lovelace's irritation at Lord M's recovery shows his insensitivity and lack of family love, which serves as foil to Clarissa's extreme reverence for her family.

Clarissa writes to Miss Howe as soon as she settles after her escape which parallels her former escape to Hampstead. Mrs. Howe insists that Clarissa end her correspondence with Miss Howe, a repetitious event that occurs every time Mrs. Howe finds out that the correspondence is continued. It also parallels the Harlowes' refusal to receive correspondence from Clarissa. Clarissa's discovery of all of Mr. Lovelace's contrivances foreshadows her unrelenting resentment. Mrs. Norton's revelation that the Harlowes barely leave the house since Clarissa left insinuates regret and foreshadows reconciliation. Clarissa demonstrates her pride in her virtue by her promise to Mrs. Norton that she is not as much to blame as everyone seems to think. The importance to Clarissa for Mr. Harlowe to renounce his curse on Clarissa is foreshadowed in her letter to Mrs. Norton mentioning the fact. Arabella's blaming Miss Howe for her freedoms with the Harlowes foreshadows her resentment and their ensuing argument. Clarissa decides to write Arabella to ask that Mr. Harlowe renounce his curse, but Arabella's anger when Mrs. Norton suggested this foreshadows that Clarissa's request will be rejected.





# Letters 310-320 dated July 5th through July 13th

## Letters 310-320 dated July 5th through July 13th Summary

Miss Howe's misery concerning her fears for Clarissa causes Mrs. Howe to confess that she has forbid Clarissa to write and to agree to allow Miss Howe to write under condition that Mrs. Howe reads the letters before they are sent. Mrs. Howe apologizes to Clarissa for her prior severity, but Miss Howe doubts it was severe enough. Miss Howe writes that she is angry at Clarissa for not responding to her previous three letters and for returning to Mr. Lovelace, severely recounting some of her prior communications against him. Clarissa responds that her severe style was more like Arabella than her dear Miss Howe and encloses the letter she received from Miss Howe, Mr. Lovelace's forgery in reality. She laments that she never saw Miss Howe's messenger and that Mr. Lovelace corrupts everyone. She explains to Miss Howe about Mr. Lovelace finding her in Hampstead and the fake Lady Betty and Charlotte.

In Hampstead, Lady Betty mentions the vileness of Widow Sinclair's house and Mr. Lovelace acts surprised and leads Lady Betty to doubt that she means the same house where he and Clarissa are lodged. Lady Betty begs Clarissa to visit her Cousin Leeson so ardently that Clarissa is in the carriage before she can decide. They pass by Widow Sinclair's house in London, and Mr. Lovelace insists on stopping for his mail. Clarissa faints and the ladies insist she go inside to be revived. Clarissa believes she was drugged because her mind was altered after she drank the water and hartshorn given to her. Lady Betty leaves to change her clothes while Mr. Lovelace responds to his letters, and Clarissa packs her clothes to return to Hampstead. The ladies are late returning and Mr. Lovelace seems triumphant when his demands for a coach go unanswered. Clarissa's head gets worse and worse when she hears that Charlotte is sick, and she is forbidden to go to the Mrs. Leeson's house.

Clarissa details her recovery, her attempts to escape and all Mr. Lovelace's entreaties for marriage. She explains that she wrote Miss Howe immediately but was very grieved for imposing on her when she received Mrs. Howe's letter. She recounts all she has discovered about Mr. Lovelace's contrivances and asks the Howes to secretly sit in judgment now that they know the whole affair. Miss Howe, realizing the letter Clarissa received was a forgery, sends the rough drafts of her previous letters. She rails on Mr. Lovelace for being a devil and the Harlowes for abandoning Clarissa. She fears that neither Clarissa nor Miss Howe is safe and urges Clarissa to take legal action. Mrs. Howe persists in believing that the fault is in Clarissa's original disobedience but agrees that Clarissa should prosecute Mr. Lovelace for her family's honor, making it a condition of the future correspondence between Miss Howe and Clarissa. Miss Howe agrees to attend Clarissa to court and offers money and the assistance of anyone over whom she



has influence. She fears for Clarissa's safety and offers to have Mrs. Townsend direct Clarissa to safer lodgings, but Clarissa assures Miss Howe that her lodgings are as safe and private as possible.

Clarissa responds that she is not in spirits to prosecute but may when she feels better. She promises to provide Miss Howe with the particulars of her story but doubts that Miss Howe will see them until the close of Clarissa's last scene. Clarissa writes Miss Rawlins to question the letter brought by a messenger from Miss Howe, learns that Widow Bevis intercepted it and receives apologies and an explanation of Mr. Lovelace's deceptions in Hampstead. Miss Howe tries to comfort Clarissa, telling her that Mr. Hickman would attend Clarissa but they are afraid that Mr. Lovelace monitors them. Clarissa promises to prosecute Mr. Lovelace if he bothers Mr. Hickman or the Howes.

## **Letters 310-320 dated July 5th through July 13th Analysis**

Miss Howe's severity in her first letter to Clarissa shows their close friendship and willingness to reprimand one another for failures. It also shows her disappointment in not hearing from Clarissa for such a long time. Clarissa details everything that has occurred since her last letter to Miss Howe in an attempt to clear herself of the blame of not writing her best friend. Clarissa recounts the means used to convey her to London and introduce the opium into her system, which Mr. Lovelace neglects to write about. This is the first the reader knows of these means and they further emphasize Mr. Lovelace's deceit and treachery. Miss Howe's concern for Clarissa shows her love and loyalty. Her fear for Mr. Hickman's safety foreshadows her relationship with him. Clarissa's fear that Miss Howe will not know the particulars of her story until after her last scene foreshadows her death. Miss Howe's fear that Mr. Lovelace monitors her and Mr. Hickman provides evidence of her penetrating consciousness of the schemes the man can contrive.



# Letters 321-332 dated July 7th through July 18th

## Letters 321-332 dated July 7th through July 18th Summary

Mr. Lovelace complains that he has lost his angel and asks Mr. Belford to help retrieve her. Lord M's illness keeps Mr. Lovelace by his side and prevents him from searching for Clarissa. Lord M hopes that Mr. Lovelace will not do dishonorably by Clarissa. Mr. Lovelace dines with Colonel Ambrose and his two nieces, who he compares to Clarissa to their disadvantage. Mr. Lovelace goes to church and returns to find Lady Betty and Lady Sarah at Lord M's. They read Clarissa's letters to him and accuse him of devilry. Mr. Lovelace defends himself by saying that Clarissa is too nice and unrelenting—if she would forgive him and marry him, all would end well. Lord M angrily threatens to alter his will. Mr. Lovelace is very arrogant and offensive as he assures his family that he will marry Clarissa if she will have him. The next day the discussion continues and Mr. Lovelace reaffirms his intent to marry Clarissa if she will agree. He pleads his love and desperation as defense for the way he treated Clarissa. The ladies of his family believe the only means of reconciliation with Clarissa is through Miss Howe, and Charlotte and Cousin Montague agree to solicit her aid. Mr. Lovelace swears to be a great husband to Clarissa, pleasing his family. Mr. Lovelace requests that John Belford return his letters so that he can destroy the evidence of all of his contrivances.

Mr. Lovelace's cousins visit Miss Howe, and Miss Howe informs Clarissa of the reverence the whole family has for Clarissa. They request that Clarissa place herself under Lady Betty's protection immediately, and Mr. Lovelace will marry Clarissa with his entire family as witnesses. Miss Howe advises Clarissa to agree to this and assures her that she has stipulated that Mr. Lovelace will not see Clarissa until the nuptials are performed. Miss Howe writes again to chide Clarissa for not responding. When her second letter remains answered, Miss Howe writes Charlotte to tell her that the second letter was sent by a special messenger, who was informed at Clarissa's lodgings that Clarissa had disappeared when she went to church. Miss Howe suspects Mr. Lovelace's involvement.

Will saw Clarissa returning from church, and Widow Sinclair had her arrested for lack of payment for her lodging. Mr. Lovelace is furious because they were supposed to find her and await his orders. Mr. Lovelace begs Mr. Belford to bail her out of jail, return her clothes to her, provide her with whatever money she will accept and beg Mr. Lovelace's pardon, although he did not order this travesty. Mr. Lovelace does not go to London himself to avoid being blamed for the offense. Charlotte informs Miss Howe of what has happened, averring that Mr. Lovelace is not responsible for this event. She details Mr. Lovelace's distraction and anger at himself, which is confirmed by an attached note from Lord M, Lady Betty and Lady Sarah, as well as a note from Mr. Lovelace promising



Clarissa the option of sentencing him to marriage or the gallows if she will see him again.

## **Letters 321-332 dated July 7th through July 18th Analysis**

Mr. Lovelace's request that John Belford assist him with retrieving Clarissa foreshadows Mr. Belford's involvement with Clarissa for Mr. Lovelace's sake. Lord M's hopes that Mr. Lovelace will not treat Clarissa dishonorably are ironic because they are a little too late, and are shortly followed by the realization that they are too late when Lady Betty and Lady Sarah arrive with Clarissa's letters. Mr. Lovelace's family's reactions to Clarissa's letter and their condemnation of him show the respect they all have for Clarissa. Mr. Lovelace proves his love for Clarissa through his affirmation that he is willing to marry her. It is ironic that Mr. Lovelace will attempt his reconciliation with Clarissa through Miss Howe, since Miss Howe is Clarissa's best friend and will want what is best for Clarissa without regard for Mr. Lovelace. It is ironic that Mr. Lovelace desires to destroy evidence of his contrivances because of his previous pride in his schemes, and because the book is a compilation of those letters and others.

Clarissa's disappearance on her way to church parallels Mr. Lovelace's return from church to find his family preparing to judge his actions. Clarissa's disappearance, to Miss Howe's knowledge, parallels her disappearance from Hampstead, causing Miss Howe's suspicion that Mr. Lovelace has something to do with it. It is ironic that Mr. Lovelace is suspected for Clarissa being jailed when he is innocent, and it parallels his innocence concerning the fire episode at Widow Sinclair's house. Mr. Lovelace expresses his regret and exhibits his conscience through his willingness to allow Clarissa to condemn him to marriage or the gallows, at the same time that this statement shows his true feelings toward matrimony—i.e., that it is along the same lines as being condemned to death.



# Letters 333-341 dated July 16th through July 19th

## Letters 333-341 dated July 16th through July 19th Summary

Mr. Belford is furious at Mr. Lovelace because Clarissa's arrest is indirectly Lovelace's fault. Clarissa refuses to see anyone on Sunday, so Mr. Belford agrees to see her on Monday. He visits Widow Sinclair's house to obtain the story of what happened exactly.

Will finds Clarissa and arranges her arrest under the charge of refusing to pay room and board at Widow Sinclair's house. Clarissa begs to be taken anywhere but Widow Sinclair's house and is taken to the officer's house, which serves as a jail. Sally arrives at the jail to charge and insult Clarissa. Clarissa refuses to write anyone to pay her bail and be released. She refuses the officer's offered bed and sleeps in the prisoner's quarters. She is upset that there is no lock on the inside of the door, but the jailer assures her of her safety. Clarissa is sad and will not eat. Polly and Sally offer to bail her out if she returns to Widow Sinclair's house but Clarissa refuses. They threaten to bail her out if she does not eat, so she promises to eat. She asks not to see Widow Sinclair, but the jailor informs her that she cannot deny a visit to her creditor, unless she refuses to pay, in which case she will be sent to prison. Clarissa is despondent and forced to eat bread and butter. Sally and Polly continually harass her. They offer to have Mr. Lovelace bail her out if she grants him an interview, but Clarissa refuses to that as well and finally consents to ask Miss Howe for a loan, telling them to sell her clothes in the meantime as payment, since she expects to die soon. Sally and Polly's abuse leave Clarissa in hysterics and she becomes very ill.

Mr. Belford goes to the jail the next day, but Clarissa refuses to see anyone except the jailor's wife and maid but he insists. Mr. Belford is horrified at her cell and wants to avenge her against Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa refuses help from Mr. Lovelace's friend, saying she would rather die in jail; she then faints. Mr. Belford forces Widow Sinclair to dismiss the action against Clarissa. Clarissa refuses to leave, so Mr. Belford goes to her lodgings to inform the Smiths what has happened and returns to Clarissa with a letter from Miss Howe and attempts again to convince her to return to her lodgings. Here Mr. Belford ends the story until Mr. Lovelace writes him angrily demanding more. Mr. Belford assures Clarissa that Mr. Lovelace did not instigate her imprisonment and promises that she will not be bothered when she returns to her lodgings. She is finally prevailed upon to take the chair back to the Smiths' residence, and Mr. Belford has her belongings sent to her from Widow Sinclair's house.

The next morning, Clarissa is too ill to see Mr. Belford but agrees to see him in the evening. The apothecary that is tending to Clarissa claims that her illness is grief. Mr. Belford assures Mr. Lovelace that Clarissa's lodgings are comfortable and the servants agreeable and trustworthy. Clarissa reads her letters from Miss Howe but is too ill to



respond. She has a gentlewoman in the lodgings, Widow Lovick, write to Miss Howe that she is too ill to write but will respond as soon as she is well enough to write herself. Mr. Belford meets with Clarissa in the parlor and tells her he is acquainted with her story, praising her. He recites Mr. Lovelace's sorrow and hopes for marriage, but Clarissa is unable to forgive him and promises to write to Miss Howe on the subject. Mr. Belford is convinced Clarissa does not hate Mr. Lovelace, but she condemns his contrivances and never wants to see him again. She refuses Mr. Belford's offer of money. John Belford wishes he had done more to prevent Mr. Lovelace from ruining Clarissa. John Belford convinces Clarissa to allow a doctor to tend her and the doctor determines that her illness is low spirits and grief in love. Mr. Lovelace does not believe that Clarissa's heart is broken. Clarissa insists upon paying the doctor and asks Mrs. Smith and Widow Lovick to sell two of her suits for money. Mr. Belford gives Mrs. Smith twenty guineas to give Clarissa as partial payments for her suits. Mr. Lovelace promises not to molest Clarissa as long as John Belford continues writing minutely about everything that happens.

## **Letters 333-341 dated July 16th through July 19th Analysis**

Mr. Belford blames Clarissa being jailed indirectly on Mr. Lovelace, which foreshadows Mr. Lovelace's indirect fault in Clarissa's death. Clarissa demonstrates her intense fear of Widow Sinclair and her brothel by begging to be taken anywhere else. Polly and Sally continually taunt Clarissa while she is jailed and alternately offer and threaten to bail her out. These scenes are very repetitious and serve to show Clarissa's mind being worn out. Clarissa refuses help from Mr. Lovelace's friend, and when Mr. Belford has the charges dropped, she refuses to leave, demonstrating her fear of Mr. Lovelace's molestation. Mr. Belford's discontinuance of his narration until hearing from Mr. Lovelace parallels Mr. Lovelace's story telling and serves to demonstrate to Mr. Lovelace the irritating nature of his own writing. Clarissa finally agrees to return to the Smiths' residence at Mr. Belford insistence, which foreshadows his assistance and her future confidence in John Belford.

Clarissa's death is foreshadowed by the apothecary's diagnosis of grief, the doctor's diagnosis of a broken heart and low spirits and her being too ill to respond to Miss Howe. Clarissa's inability to forgive Mr. Lovelace foreshadows the fact that she will not reconcile with him before her death. John Belford's wish that he had prevented Mr. Lovelace from ruining Clarissa foreshadows his reformation. Mr. Lovelace does not believe Clarissa's heart is broken, foreshadowing his refusal to accept responsibility for Clarissa's illness and death. Mr. Lovelace's promise not to molest Clarissa as long as John Belford writes minutely about everything that occurs, foreshadows Mr. Belford's involvement in Clarissa's last days, as well as Mr. Lovelace not seeing Clarissa again.



# Letters 342-350 dated July 20th through July 22nd

## Letters 342-350 dated July 20th through July 22nd Summary

Miss Howe is very upset that Clarissa is ill, but she begs for a response to her letter about marrying Mr. Lovelace, since his family is so wonderful. She plans for a friend to speak to Mr. Lovelace personally about his inclinations to marrying Clarissa. Miss Howe would like to see Clarissa before she leaves to visit her aunt on the Isle of Wight, but Mrs. Howe has forbidden her to see Clarissa until Clarissa is Mrs. Lovelace. Clarissa assures Miss Howe that she is getting better but absolutely will not marry Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa encourages her friend to seek her own happiness and not worry about Clarissa.

Mr. Belton's health declines rapidly, and his mistress and children will not allow him to enter his own house even though he is dying. Mr. Belford intends to help him. Mr. Lovelace believes Mr. Belton is stupid for letting Thomasine manage his estate. Mr. Lovelace never trusted her and thought her unfaithful. Mr. Lovelace offers to drown Thomasine, her lover and her sons.

Clarissa believes Mr. Belford is involved with her clothes selling so quickly and refuses to sell more. Widow Lovick sells some of Clarissa's lace for fifteen guineas. Clarissa and her doctor argue about his fees because he asserts that some visits are more social than professional, but Clarissa insists on paying him for every visit. They agree on his accepting a fee every other visit.

Mr. Lovelace meets with Mr. Hickman, who informs him that Miss Howe believes Mr. Lovelace's letter was rather gay, and she wants to know if he is in earnest about marrying Clarissa. Mr. Hickman refuses Mr. Lovelace's request to talk to Miss Howe personally. Mr. Lovelace condemns himself and praises Clarissa, but complains of a horrid figure she allows to court her—Death. Mr. Lovelace is very concerned about Clarissa's health.

Clarissa writes Arabella to request that Mr. Harlowe renounce his curse. John Belford laments the implacableness of the Harlowes, but Clarissa rebukes his taking the liberty of criticizing her family. Mr. Belford wishes her forgiveness would extend to Mr. Lovelace, but Clarissa refuses to discuss that subject, saying she has written Miss Howe about it. She refuses all Mr. Belford's offers of assistance. When Clarissa tells her story to Widow Lovick and Mr. and Mrs. Smith, they all lament her misfortunes and condemn Mr. Lovelace. John Belford tells Mr. Lovelace that he hates him more each hour he spends with Clarissa, but Mr. Lovelace insists that no one can hate him more than he hates himself. He loves Clarissa more with each passing day. He plans to go to



a ball at Colonel Ambrose's house on Monday, where Miss Howe, Mr. Hickman and, maybe, Arabella are expected.

## Letters 342-350 dated July 20th through July 22nd Analysis

Miss Howe expresses doubt of Mr. Lovelace's word by planning to have a friend speak to him about his intentions toward Clarissa. She announces her trip to visit her aunt on the Isle of Wight, which foreshadows that trip rather explicitly. Mrs. Howe forbids Miss Howe to see Clarissa until Clarissa is Mrs. Lovelace. This foreshadows Miss Howe never seeing Clarissa again, since Clarissa will never be Mrs. Lovelace. Mr. Belton's rapidly declining health parallels Clarissa's illness. Clarissa's refusal to sell her clothes when she believes Mr. Belford is involved, as well as her disagreement with the doctor over his fees, emphasizes her unwillingness to be beholden to anyone. Clarissa requests that her father renounce his curse, which parallels the many other requests that she has made to her family and is repetitious. Clarissa rebukes the freedoms that John Belford takes with her family, which parallels her chiding Miss Howe for the same.

Mr. Hickman refuses to agree to allow Mr. Lovelace to speak with Miss Howe personally indicating that he does not trust Mr. Lovelace and reminding the reader of Mr. Lovelace's threats against Miss Howe. It also foreshadows Mr. Lovelace's pursuance of Miss Howe at Colonel Ambrose's ball. Mr. Lovelace's description of a gaunt, ghastly man that Clarissa allows to court her is an allegory for Death, alluding to her illness. Mr. Lovelace's declaration that no one can hate him more than he hates himself foreshadows his depression and madness after Clarissa's death. His plans to attend the ball at Colonel Ambrose's house foreshadow his determination to speak with Miss Howe.





# Letters 351-369 dated July 20th through July 27th

## Letters 351-369 dated July 20th through July 27th Summary

Miss Howe writes Arabella to inform her that Clarissa is very sick and tormented by Mr. Harlowe's curse. Arabella replies that Clarissa should allow Mr. Lovelace to be her comfort in her illness, although the Harlowes do not believe his offers to marry Clarissa. She condemns Miss Howe's resentment of the Harlowes' treatment to Clarissa. Miss Howe insults Arabella calling her ill-natured and says the liberties in criticizing were reciprocal, but she did not mean them officiously. Miss Howe further states that she will not say all she could against the Harlowes but if her fears are realized, Arabella will hear all of Miss Howe's mind. Arabella wishes Miss Howe happiness in a prudent mother but declares that Mrs. Harlowe had too good an opinion of Clarissa to think such watchfulness necessary. Arabella disclaims any fault in Clarissa's unhappiness, blaming it on Clarissa and "somebody's" advice. Miss Howe accuses Arabella of being jealous of Clarissa. Miss Howe admits that Clarissa saved her from making an imprudent decision but implies that Clarissa saved Arabella likewise. Mrs. Harlowe sends copies of these letters to Mrs. Howe and complains that these are not the only liberties that Miss Howe has taken in criticizing the Harlowe family, though Miss Howe does not know how they suffer from Clarissa's disobedience. Mrs. Howe is very offended and chides Miss Howe. She informs Mrs. Harlowe that she had banned Miss Howe's correspondence with Clarissa until Miss Howe's health was affected. She was forced to use compulsion against her daughter to prevent her from running away to London to tend to Clarissa's illness.

Clarissa asks Miss Howe not to be so severe concerning the Harlowes. Miss Howe defends the freedoms she takes with the Harlowes because they deserve them. Clarissa writes Arabella to request that Mr. Harlowe absolve his curse, but Clarissa does not even hope for reconciliation because she would be too ashamed to approach them. She urges the curse to be revoked concerning the afterlife, since the temporal part has been fulfilled already. Mrs. Norton informs Clarissa of the letters between Miss Howe and Arabella and the uproar they caused. The Harlowes believe Miss Howe has Clarissa's sanction for Miss Howe's abuse and do not believe anything they hear about Clarissa through that channel. They had planned to have Mr. Brand inquire about Clarissa during his next journey to town, but they now revoke that request. Clarissa fasts on her birthday.

Miss Howe prepares for her journey but desires to hear that Clarissa's health is improving before she leaves. She begs Clarissa to rethink marrying Mr. Lovelace. Miss Howe advises Clarissa to be careful about broadcasting their affairs for their reputations' sake if they do marry. Although Clarissa believes Mr. Lovelace is innocent of her arrest



and in earnest about marrying her, she would rather die than marry him because she fears his evil would bring a curse on any children they may have together, and she is simply too proud to accept someone who has abused her the way Mr. Lovelace has. Clarissa insists that Miss Howe inform Charlotte of her refusal. Mr. Hickman visited Mr. Lovelace and may visit Clarissa before he and the Howes go to the Isle of Wight. Clarissa hopes to see Mr. Hickman and urges Miss Howe to make him happy sooner rather than later. Mrs. Howe accepts an invitation to Colonel Ambrose's ball, which forces Miss Howe to go, though she would prefer to spend one hour with Clarissa than attend all possible diversions. Miss Howe tells Clarissa that Mr. Lovelace arrives at Colonel Ambrose's ball, admits his maltreatment to Clarissa and begs to speak with Miss Howe. After much harassment, Miss Howe listens to him in the presence of Mrs. Howe and Mr. Hickman, and Mr. Lovelace insists that he loves Clarissa and is repentant. They all believe Clarissa should marry him, and Miss Howe insists that Clarissa reconsider before giving her answer. Clarissa is not surprised at Mr. Lovelace's behavior since he had the audacity to attend the ball knowing the guest list, and she persists in her refusal. She promises to forgive Mr. Lovelace's offenses against her if he never bothers her again.

Mr. Belford condemns Mr. Lovelace for blaming Clarissa's illness on her family and the arrest. He also condemns Mr. Lovelace for blaming Clarissa's sale of her clothes on pride. He blames Mr. Lovelace for throwing himself into company with Miss Howe and Arabella. He sends a copy of Clarissa's meditation and reflects on the Bible and finds himself ashamed of his life. Clarissa's health is indifferent. Widow Lovick sold a suit of Clarissa's clothes at half their worth to her benefactress, who Mr. Belford condemns as a thief. Clarissa asks Mr. Belford to return Mr. Lovelace's letters to him and will not listen to the pleas on Mr. Lovelace's behalf. The apothecary advises Clarissa to write less to improve her health and claims that her illness is due to a lack of hope. Mr. Hickman arrives and Clarissa is overjoyed. She insists Mr. Belford stay, but Mr. Hickman treats John Belford coldly, Belford leaves Mr. Hickman and Clarissa alone together. Mr. Belford returns the next morning to breakfast with Mr. Hickman, and Clarissa finds Mr. Hickman much nicer. Mr. Hickman is pressing, with Miss Howe's authority, Clarissa to remove to a neighboring farmhouse while they are abroad. Clarissa promises to consider but doubts she will move, since London has more churches. The apothecary assures Mr. Hickman that Clarissa will recover if she takes better care of herself. Mr. Hickman and Mr. Belford go to a coffeehouse, where Mr. Hickman tells of Mr. Lovelace's behavior at the ball and during their interview. Mr. Belford likes Mr. Hickman and blames Mr. Lovelace's pride for Lovelace's dislike of Mr. Hickman. Mr. Hickman informs Mr. Belford that Miss Howe will not marry him while Clarissa is unhappy. Mr. Hickman is moved by Clarissa's blessings on his marriage to Miss Howe and fears he will never see Clarissa again.



## Letters 351-369 dated July 20th through July 27th Analysis

The Harlowes' disbelief that Mr. Lovelace will marry Clarissa is repetitious throughout this part of the novel, as is Miss Howe's resentment of the Harlowes' treatment toward Clarissa. Miss Howe's threats to tell Arabella her whole mind if her fears are realized alludes to and foreshadows Clarissa's death. Arabella's wish to Miss Howe for happiness in a prudent mother alludes to Miss Howe's favorite beau not being approved of by Clarissa or Mrs. Howe. She also accuses Miss Howe in advising Clarissa to elope causing her unhappiness. Clarissa's request that Miss Howe not be so severe in her condemnations against the Harlowes is repetitious and foreshadows the further discord that results from Miss Howe's interference. Clarissa's request that her father absolve his curse is also repetitious.

Clarissa's virtue is proven in her shame to approach her family if given the opportunity. Clarissa's unhappiness is epitomized by her fast during her birthday. Miss Howe's urging Clarissa to marry Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa's adamant refusal are repetitious. Clarissa prefers death to marrying Mr. Lovelace, which foreshadows her death. Mr. Lovelace proves his gay character at the ball but also convinces Miss Howe of his penitence and love for Clarissa. Mr. Belford condemns Mr. Lovelace for blaming others when most of Clarissa's misfortunes are his fault. This foreshadows everyone blaming Mr. Lovelace. Mr. Belford's shame at his life when reflecting on the Bible foreshadows his reformation. Clarissa's illness is caused by a lack of hope and she doubts she will remove to the country because churches are more abundant in London. Both of these foreshadow Clarissa's death.



# Letters 370-394 dated July 28th through August 7th

## Letters 370-394 dated July 28th through August 7th Summary

Mr. Lovelace defends his conduct to Clarissa by citing greater breeches of honor in history and believes Clarissa denies him forgiveness because of Mr. Belford's awkwardness in his pleas. Therefore, he tells Mr. Belford to stop pleading in his favor, so Clarissa's resolve is not strengthened. He hopes that she can be persuaded to marry him and that she is pregnant. He is happy with Miss Howe's mediation and decides not to punish Miss Howe. He will be devastated if Clarissa dies. He is bored in the country and plans to return to town to see Clarissa.

Miss Howe congratulates Clarissa on being unable to join her pure heart with Mr. Lovelace's tainted heart. She praises Clarissa's virtues and urges her to try to improve her health. She assures Clarissa that Mr. Hickman will have no control over her friendships after they are married. Miss Howe and Mrs. Howe are eager to have Clarissa's entire story made available to them, but Clarissa does not know all of Mr. Lovelace's contrivances. She plans to ask Mr. Belford for a copy of Mr. Lovelace's letter in order to compile her story. She also plans to ask John Belford to be the executor of her will. Clarissa asks John Belford for copies of certain letters from Mr. Lovelace and tells him that she has a second request that depends on his compliance with the first. Mr. Belford agrees to give Clarissa extracts of Mr. Lovelace's letters as long as they are not used against Mr. Lovelace, and Belford assures Mr. Lovelace that he only gives Clarissa extracts that will not injure Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa requests John Belford be her executor and he agrees.

Mrs. Norton's son is recovering and Mrs. Norton informs Clarissa that her letter to her family has been answered but likely unsatisfactorily. She wishes Clarissa had died of fever in her innocent childhood. Mrs. Norton writes to Mrs. Harlowe to inform her that she has received a letter from Clarissa, and Clarissa has refused Mr. Lovelace, partially because she expects to die soon and does not want to give anyone the right to litigate over her grandfather's estate. Mrs. Harlowe fears Clarissa may be pregnant and informs Mrs. Norton that no one believes Mr. Lovelace will marry Clarissa. Mr. Harlowe has withdrawn his curse against Clarissa, and the family plans to send Mr. Brand to inquire about Clarissa's health. Mrs. Harlowe still loves Clarissa and would forgive her if left to herself. Clarissa begs Mrs. Norton not to take a step in her favor and mourns the idea of never seeing her parents again. Mrs. Norton offers to attend Clarissa at the risk of incurring the Harlowes' displeasure.

Arabella's letter states that Clarissa deserves everything that has happened and worse, but Mr. Harlowe has renounced his curse. She expresses doubt that Mr. Lovelace would marry Clarissa. The Harlowes mourn on Clarissa's birthday and wish she had never



been born. Colonel Morden is expected any day. Clarissa assures Arabella that she blames herself more than anyone else does and her first unhappy birthday is likely to be her last birthday. She asks permission to write to her parents to request a last blessing. She does not expect to be received back into their favor; she only wants a last blessing to die in peace. Arabella writes very rudely refusing to forgive Clarissa. Clarissa writes to Mrs. Harlowe claiming she has been grieved from the moment she placed herself in Mr. Lovelace's power and only requests forgiveness from her parents in her last hours.

Miss Howe writes to Cousin Montague and Charlotte and provide Clarissa's refusal, quoting reasons from Clarissa's letters. Mr. Lovelace's family blames his conduct when they receive the rejection. Charlotte writes to Clarissa begging Clarissa to marry Mr. Lovelace for his soul's sake, but Clarissa refuses, saying she would not deserve the honor of being related to their family if she sanctioned Mr. Lovelace's actions by marrying him. Clarissa begs their assistance in preventing Mr. Lovelace from molesting her. Mr. Lovelace insists to John Belford that Clarissa must die as Mrs. Lovelace. Mr. Belford finally completes handling Mr. Belton's affairs and returns to town to find Clarissa in worse health. He insists that Mr. Lovelace not molest her. Lady Betty, Lady Sarah, Cousin Montague and Charlotte cannot argue with Clarissa's rejection and they all, including Lord M, evade Mr. Lovelace's presence in anger. They beg Clarissa to accept a quarterly allowance as proof of their love for her.

## **Letters 370-394 dated July 28th through August 7th Analysis**

Mr. Lovelace asks Mr. Belford to stop pleading in his behalf, which foreshadows his intent to visit Clarissa. His avowed devastation if Clarissa dies foreshadows his madness at her death. Clarissa's intention to ask John Belford for extracts from Mr. Lovelace's letters to use to compile her story foreshadows Mr. Belford's involvement in the compilation and is cause for the belief that he is unofficially the writer of the novel. His insistence that the extracts not be used to injure Mr. Lovelace proves his loyalty and friendship. Mrs. Norton proves her condemnation of the Harlowes by her assumption that their letter to Clarissa will prove unsatisfactory. Mrs. Norton's wish that Clarissa had died of a fever in childhood, along with Clarissa mourning the idea of never seeing her parents again, foreshadow Clarissa's death.

Clarissa does not want to give anyone the right to litigate over her grandfather's estate, which is evidence of her love for her family. The renouncement of the curse foreshadows the Harlowes' forgiveness. That the Harlowes' fear Clarissa may be pregnant parallel Mr. Lovelace's hope and proves repetitious as each inquire of Clarissa whether it is possible. The doubt expressed by Arabella about Mr. Lovelace being willing to marry Clarissa is repetitious. The Harlowes sorrow on Clarissa's birthday; Clarissa stating that her first unhappy birthday will likely be her last birthday, and her requesting a last blessing all foreshadow Clarissa's death. Mr. Lovelace's family condemns his behavior to Clarissa proving their love and reverence for her. Clarissa's fear of Mr. Lovelace is expressed by her hope that his family will prevent him from molesting her



# Letters 395-415 dated August 5th through August 20th

## Letters 395-415 dated August 5th through August 20th Summary

Clarissa responds to Lord M and the ladies of Mr. Lovelace's family rejecting their offer of an allowance and expressing her concern that they will have less control over Mr. Lovelace if he is banished from their presence. Mr. Lovelace complains that Clarissa's letter disappoints him and injures his pride. His family banishes him from their presence. He is very angry that Mr. Belford shows Clarissa extracts of his letters and declares that Mr. Belford will not be Clarissa's executor because no man but himself can ever be anything to Clarissa. He decides to write Clarissa and determines to visit her if she does not respond. Mr. Lovelace begs Clarissa for forgiveness and to marry him, promising that his future conduct will justify his present vows. He threatens to throw himself at her feet if she refuses. Mr. Belford tells Mr. Lovelace that Clarissa plans to write to avoid seeing him and reminds him of his promise not to molest Clarissa. Clarissa writes that writing is the lesser evil but she will never have Mr. Lovelace, though she wishes him happiness.

Clarissa receives a cruel letter from Uncle Harlowe and attempts to humble her pride to respond to it. Uncle Harlowe writes because Mrs. Harlowe cannot and does not want to. The Harlowes are miserable and do not believe Clarissa is as penitent or as sick as she claims. He questions if Clarissa could be pregnant. Clarissa responds that she did not ask to be received; she only wants the charity of a last blessing so she can die in peace. She is not happy with their unfair accusations, and, though she will be glad to receive a last blessing, she will never request it again. Uncle Antony condemns Clarissa for her pertness and insists that the family needs to know if Clarissa is pregnant before they consider forgiving her. Uncle Harlowe does not want to see Clarissa destitute and may provide her with part of her estate after she suffers a little more. Clarissa claims that her death will prove the veracity of her illness. She feels she has fulfilled her duty in requesting a last blessing, but she wishes her family had made less insulting inquiries about her.

Clarissa is planning her last will and testament. Miss Howe agrees with Clarissa's determination not to name a family member as her executor, but Miss Howe does not like have John Belford as executor. She actually does not relish the thought of the office existing at all. Clarissa forwards Miss Howe a packet of recent letters, excluding the severe letters from the Harlowes. A judgmental and conceited clergyman inquires of Mrs. Smith about Clarissa, praising her past and condemning her present. Mrs. Norton provides Clarissa with the newest gossip: Mr. Brand informs the Harlowes that Clarissa is not very ill and Colonel Morden arrives in England. Clarissa forwards her letters between the Harlowes and herself to Mrs. Norton and promises to send more when



Miss Howe returns the letters she has received. Clarissa wishes that her mother had sent a maternal line and states she would be glad to see Colonel Morden, but she is afraid he will take the Harlowes' side in the matter.

Mr. Belford throws Thomasine, her lover and sons out of Belton's house. He promises that the extracts given to Clarissa are in Mr. Lovelace's favor but states he (Belford) is his own man and will act according to his own wishes as regards the executorship. Mr. Lovelace is very sick and suggests that Mr. Belford may be his executor as well. Mr. Lovelace requests that John Belford burn all Mr. Lovelace's letters. Mr. Lovelace insists upon seeing Clarissa, claiming her letter was only a deterrent if she satisfied him better in it. Clarissa is sorry Mr. Lovelace is sick and hopes he meets mercy that he has not shown, which touches Mr. Lovelace and reinforces his determination not to lose Clarissa. Clarissa believes Mr. Lovelace is penitent and Mr. Belford reflects on Clarissa being an innocent penitent, showing penitence when others are at fault. Mr. Belford has to visit Mr. Belton because he is on his deathbed. Mr. Belford begs Mr. Lovelace not to visit Clarissa because it will hasten her death. He warns Clarissa of Mr. Lovelace's intentions to lessen the shock. Lord M agrees that Clarissa should permit Mr. Lovelace one visit and Mr. Lovelace promises to behave dutifully.

## **Letters 395-415 dated August 5th through August 20th Analysis**

Mr. Lovelace's immense pride is demonstrated by its injury at Clarissa's refusal. His determination to visit Clarissa foreshadows his trip to London and is repetitious of his earlier desire. Clarissa's correspondence with her cruel family is repetitious and is evidence of their distrust. It is ironic that Uncle Harlowe intends to provide Clarissa with part of her estate after she suffers a little more because this intention is fulfilled through her death, when the accrual of the estate is used to fulfill her will. Clarissa's planning her last will and testament foreshadows her death and shows her strength of mind. The clergyman's inquiries about Clarissa foreshadow his letter to Uncle Harlowe, which foreshadows the family's renewed hardheartedness. Clarissa's fear that Colonel Morden will take the Harlowes' side in the disagreement proves contradictory by his attempts at mediation. Mr. Belford refuses to agree to Mr. Lovelace's forbidding of Mr. Belford acting as Clarissa's executor, which foreshadows Belford's reform and his disengagement with the band of varlets. Mr. Lovelace's insistence on seeing Clarissa foreshadows his arrival in London, and Mr. Belford's warning Clarissa, along with her intense fear, results in her allegorical letter to Mr. Lovelace.



# Letters 416-424 dated August 21st through August 23rd

## Letters 416-424 dated August 21st through August 23rd Summary

Mr. Lovelace goes to town immediately after sending his last letter to prevent John Belford from having time to dissuade him. When he arrives at Clarissa's lodgings, Mrs. Smith tells him that Clarissa is gone on a trip to the country at the doctor's request. Mr. Lovelace storms the house because he believes Clarissa is hiding from him. She is not there and the Smiths do not know exactly where she is or when she will return. He insists upon lodging there until she returns and follows them into the shop, where he clowns around, ingratiating himself with everyone. He leaves Clarissa a note begging for a half hour conversation with her and sends Will in disguise to spy on Clarissa's comings and goings. Mr. Lovelace returns to his lodgings at Widow Sinclair's, where he rebukes all the ladies and is furious at their disrespect to Clarissa.

Mr. Lovelace dreams that Clarissa is prevailed upon to marry him, but Colonel Morden flies through a window to murder Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa intercedes and angels descend to take her to heaven, while Mr. Lovelace falls into hell.

Will arrives with news that Clarissa returned to her lodgings very late and is very ill. When Mr. Lovelace returns to the Smiths' house, Clarissa is gone again and Widow Lovick tells him that her fear of seeing him gives her the strength to leave. Clarissa will not return while Mr. Lovelace is there and Widow Lovick and Mrs. Smith are sure that seeing him will hasten Clarissa's death. Mr. Belford is furious that Mr. Lovelace has broken his promise not to bother Clarissa and that Lovelace's visits drive her from her deathbed to avoid him. Mr. Belton is on his deathbed, and he and Mr. Belford mourn his approaching death, while Mr. Mowbray mocks their tears. Mr. Belton regrets his sins and hopes for Mr. Belford's reformation. Mr. Belford tries to comfort his friend, but they are both so immoral that it is difficult. Mr. Lovelace sees nothing wrong with Mr. Belton's prior actions and urges Mr. Belford to console him. Mr. Belford mourns Mr. Lovelace's lack of penitence since Lovelace's health has returned. Mr. Belton is haunted by his previous adventures, and Mr. Belford foresees a similar death for Mr. Lovelace. John Belford describes Mr. Belton's death scene, which is horrible, painful and haunted.

Clarissa sends Mr. Lovelace a letter that she is returning to her "father's house" and hopes for a reconciliation with her family. She insists that he cease molesting her and assures him that it will be his fault if she does not receive him once she is settled there. Mr. Lovelace is jubilant at this change of events. He assumes that she will now marry him and accounts for her change of mind by the hope that she may be pregnant. Mr. Belford suspects that Clarissa's letter is a forgery that Mr. Lovelace has concocted.





## Letters 416-424 dated August 21st through August 23rd Analysis

Mr. Lovelace's attempts to see Clarissa are repetitious and his behavior at the Smiths' house insinuates that his penitence is not as sincere as he seems to believe. Clarissa's avoidance of Mr. Lovelace proves her deep fear of him and foreshadows her speedy death due to his molestation. Mr. Lovelace's dream foreshadows Clarissa's death and his own death at Colonel Morden's hand. Belton's death scene parallels the later ones of Widow Sinclair and M'Donald's and serves as a paradox to Clarissa's death scene. Mr. Belford's reaction to Mr. Belton's death and penitence foreshadows his reformation. Mr. Belford's irritation at Mowbray's insensitivity foreshadows his break with the varlets. Clarissa's letter to Mr. Lovelace serves as an allegory concerning her death and her hope for his reformation. Mr. Lovelace's literal interpretation proves his immorality in opposition to Clarissa's extreme virtue.



## Letters 425-438 dated August 24th through August 26th

### Letters 425-438 dated August 24th through August 26th Summary

Mr. Lovelace mourns Mr. Belton's death but refuses to attend the funeral. Mr. Belford serves as Mr. Belton's executor and returns to town afterward to check on Clarissa, who is very ill. Arabella's letter has worsened Clarissa's health. Clarissa explains that her letter was an allegory to convince Mr. Lovelace to allow her to die in peace. Mr. Belford and Clarissa discuss Mr. Belton's dying behavior, and Clarissa urges Mr. Belford to reform. The doctor expects Clarissa to die in two to three weeks. Clarissa sells her clothes for funeral costs and prepares for her death.

Reverend Doctor Lewen writes to Clarissa declaring that she is less to blame than the usual participants in an elopement and urging her to overcome her modesty of testifying to prosecute Mr. Lovelace for his behavior. Clarissa replies that, even if she were healthy enough to prosecute Mr. Lovelace, her elopement and living under the same roof would act against her. She worries that if he was convicted, his family would obtain a pardon and he would enact worse mischief. Clarissa wants to die with forgiveness, not revenge. Arabella rebukes Clarissa for giving up on her request for a last blessing. The Harlowes encourage Clarissa to prosecute Mr. Lovelace, and, if she refuses, insist that she travel to Pennsylvania for several years before returning to possess her estate. Clarissa refuses to prosecute but agrees to go to Pennsylvania, if she does not die within a month.

The Harlowes' severity grieves Mrs. Norton, but she has found out that Mr. Brand informed the Harlowes that Clarissa privately receives a friend of Mr. Lovelace very often. Colonel Morden arrives, favors Clarissa, and argues with the Harlowes for mediation. He plans to find out from Mr. Lovelace if the offer of marriage is valid. Aunt Hervey visits Mrs. Norton and tells her that Aunt Hervey and Mrs. Harlowe love Clarissa and do not approve of James' influence and the family's hardheartedness. Dolly's request to visit Clarissa is denied. Clarissa is happy that her aunt loves her, but it is too late to comfort Clarissa. Clarissa worries about Colonel Morden's meetings with Mr. Lovelace and promises that Mr. Belford's visits will soon be explained. Miss Howe approves all of Clarissa's action. She tells Clarissa that her family loves Mr. Hickman, but she has been angry with him several times. Clarissa tells her to be nicer to Mr. Hickman and informs Miss Howe that Clarissa has received a letter from Mr. Wyerley renewing his addresses, proposing and promising not to marry another while Clarissa is alive and single. Clarissa thanks Mr. Wyerley for his good opinion, avers that she prefers the single life and tells him that his promise would concern her more if she did not believe it would not greatly affect him.



## Letters 425-438 dated August 24th through August 26th Analysis

Clarissa's explanation that her letter was a farce foreshadows her explanation of her allegory. Clarissa urges Mr. Belford to reform, which foreshadows her influence, leading to his reformation. Clarissa's refusal to prosecute Mr. Lovelace shows her piety and forgiveness, as well as foreshadows her death. Arabella's suggestion that Clarissa move to Pennsylvania parallels Clarissa's earlier desire to remove overseas to avoid Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa's condition of removing only if she lives more than a month foreshadows her death. Aunt Hervey and Mrs. Harlowe's disapproval of James' influence foreshadows reconciliation. Clarissa's declaration that her aunt's love is too late to comfort Clarissa foreshadows her death. Colonel Morden's favoring Clarissa proves contradictory to her expectations, and is ironic because if he had arrived a little sooner, Clarissa may have lived. Clarissa's fear of Colonel Morden and Mr. Lovelace's meeting foreshadows their next meeting, which results in their duel and Mr. Lovelace's death. Mr. Wyrley's proposal proves his great love and reverence for Clarissa, while Clarissa's lack of concern about his promise not to marry while she is alive and single foreshadows her death.



# Letters 439-446 dated August 28th through August 31st

## Letters 439-446 dated August 28th through August 31st Summary

Mr. Lovelace is angry at Mr. Belford for not informing him of the means of Clarissa's reconciliation with her family and claims he will be embarrassed if Clarissa lied. Mr. Belford presides over Mr. Belton's last offices and returns to find Clarissa expecting to live a week or less. Clarissa asks if Mr. Lovelace will bother her again and explains her letter is an allegory that states she is going to her father's house, meaning her heavenly father, not Mr. Harlowe. She will receive Mr. Lovelace if he reforms and meets her in heaven. She hopes that Mr. Lovelace is not upset about the allegory and will not molest her. She begs Mr. Belford to prevent any mischief that may arise from Mr. Lovelace and Colonel Morden's interview. Clarissa and her doctor discuss her pending death and Clarissa is very calm and rational. The doctor offers to write to the Harlowes to initiate the reconciliation, but Clarissa wants to see if Colonel Morden is able to mediate for her.

Colonel Morden visits Mr. Lovelace and they discuss the events that lead to the elopement. They argue and nearly fight but Lord M intervenes. They argue again and Mr. Mowbray enters the room and offends Colonel Morden. Mr. Lovelace and Lord M restrain Mr. Mowbray and Colonel Morden from fighting. Lord M mediates as Colonel Morden and Mr. Lovelace argue at length. Eventually, they discuss the proposal and Mr. Lovelace acquaints Colonel Morden with Clarissa's rejection. Colonel Morden plans to promote the marriage and Mr. Lovelace apologizes for his high spirits by blaming them on his guilty conscience. Mr. Lovelace informs Colonel Morden about his attempts to reconcile with Clarissa, and Colonel Morden acquaints Mr. Lovelace with Mr. Brand's letter that resulted in the Harlowes' severe letters to Clarissa. Mr. Belford blames Mr. Lovelace for blackening Clarissa's character to whiten his own and expresses anger at Mr. Mowbray's offer of violence to Colonel Morden, who was defending the injustice done to Clarissa. Clarissa is happy to know that no violence resulted from the meeting.

Charlotte copies Mr. Brand's letter but is displeased that her writing is being sent to a single man. Mr. Lovelace suggests that Mr. Belford marry Charlotte after his reformation. Mr. Brand's letter to Uncle Harlowe states that Clarissa is very ill and often goes to church but Mr. Brand implies that Clarissa is undertaking clandestine meetings. Mr. Lovelace's friend is a constant visitor and he tried to ingratiate himself with Mr. Hickman during that gentleman's visit to Clarissa. Brand suggests that John Belford gives Clarissa money, and Mr. Brand recommends the family enforce their scheme to put Clarissa out of their hearing. He attributes his information to his friend's wife. The Smiths tell Mr. Belford who Mr. Brand's informants are and Mr. Belford approaches them to curse their comments and the results. They offer to write Mr. Brand to clear up any



misunderstandings. Clarissa vindicates her family's severity after learning of the contents of Mr. Brand's letter.

## **Letters 439-446 dated August 28th through August 31st Analysis**

Mr. Belford's descriptions of Clarissa's declining health foreshadow her death. Clarissa's worry about the meeting between Mr. Lovelace and Colonel Morden, combined with their arguments during their interview, foreshadow their duel that results in Mr. Lovelace's death. Clarissa's calmness during the discussion with her doctor about her death foreshadows her peaceful death. Charlotte's displeasure at her writing being sent to a single man and Mr. Lovelace's intimations that Mr. Belford marry Charlotte after his reformation, foreshadow Charlotte's marriage to Mr. Belford. Mr. Brand's informants' agreement to write to Mr. Brand to clear up any misunderstandings foreshadows the reconciliation of Clarissa's family to her.



# Letters 447-459 dated August 29th through August 31st

## Letters 447-459 dated August 29th through August 31st Summary

Mr. Lovelace is angry about Clarissa's allegory and justifies his artifices by her letter. He agrees not to molest Clarissa but plans to visit friends, who live closer to town so that he can reach her more easily if she decides to see him.

Colonel Morden consoles Clarissa on her misfortunes, advises her to marry Mr. Lovelace and offers his services, begging to see her and replace her father, brother and uncles until the reconciliation is effected. Clarissa is happy to hear from her cousin but rejects Mr. Lovelace on principle, while insisting that he not be prosecuted or killed when her story is fully known. Clarissa's spirits are dejected by Colonel Morden inquiring about her when the rest of her family does not bother. A very ornamental coffin is brought upstairs, which Clarissa directs to her bed chambers, shocking everyone. She rationalizes this oddity by the necessity of being prepared so no one else has to bother, and she avers that the sight is not so shocking to someone so near death. Clarissa condemns her pride and vanity in her coffin but calls it her palace and hopes she will be buried with her family. The coffin has Bible verses scattered all over it, and her date of death is inscribed as the date she left her father's house. Her death clothes also arrive and Clarissa expresses her pride in both.

Clarissa has two very severe fits and Mr. Belford is called because the doctor fears that a third will kill her. Mr. Lovelace asks Mr. Belford to beg the doctor to prolong Clarissa's life by at least a year and defends his levity by stating that he will cry if he does not laugh. Mr. Belford tells Mr. Lovelace that his humanity is too late because Clarissa's health worsens continually, and she is fast approaching death. She is too weak to leave the house. Clarissa signs her will, while her health worsens and death looms. The doctor is shocked by the coffin in Clarissa's room, which she uses as a desk since she is too weak to move much. The doctor decides to write Clarissa's father to inform him of her ill health. Clarissa arranges the particulars of her death with Mrs. Smith and Widow Lovick.

Miss Howe informs Clarissa that Mrs. Howe is very sick and she regrets her past pertness to her mother, fearing she will lose Clarissa and Mrs. Howe and swearing never to marry if she does. Mrs. Howe's health improves and Colonel Morden visits. Colonel Morden is working for reconciliation and has convinced Mr. Harlowe to agree to provide Clarissa with the accrual from her grandfather's estate, which will make Mr. Belford's job as executor easier. Colonel Morden refuses to leave England until he rights Clarissa's situation. Miss Howe prepares Colonel Morden for Clarissa's appointment of John Belford as her executor and provides Clarissa's reasons. Clarissa is happy about her father's intentions to provide her with the arrears to her estate because she



disposes of those monies in her will. She hopes her family will not be too upset with her will. She comforts Miss Howe in the prospect of Clarissa's death and praises her acknowledgment of her past pertness to Mrs. Howe.

The Harlowes invite Mrs. Norton to a family meeting where Colonel Morden reads some of Clarissa's letters to Miss Howe and pleads for reconciliation. Everyone is moved but James instigates problems. Arabella agrees that Mrs. Norton should attend Clarissa, but James is angry and refuses Clarissa any favor. James and Colonel Morden argue and Colonel Morden blames James for all of the Harlowes' hardheartedness. Mrs. Norton pleads that Clarissa does not ask to be received; she only requests a last blessing. Everyone agrees to allow Mrs. Norton to attend Clarissa, but James states he will never return to Harlowe Place if Clarissa is received. Once again, Colonel Morden and James argue and the rest of the Harlowes defend James. Colonel Morden declares he will adopt Clarissa as a daughter until they learn her value, and she will inherit everything he owns. He quits the Harlowes, planning to see Clarissa, and says that since James is more to blame for Clarissa's ruin than Mr. Lovelace, James is lucky they are kin. The family resolves against Colonel Morden and Clarissa, and revokes their permission for Mrs. Norton to attend Clarissa. Mrs. Harlowe and Mrs. Norton mourn over Clarissa's illness. The Harlowes, excluding James and Arabella, want to reconcile with Colonel Morden and Mrs. Norton believes that the reconciliation may be negotiated to include Clarissa. Mrs. Harlowe suggests that Clarissa put herself in Colonel Morden's protection and discontinue her relationship with John Belford. Miss Howe plans to go to London next week to buy wedding clothes and intends to visit Clarissa.

## **Letters 447-459 dated August 29th through August 31st Analysis**

Clarissa's rejection of Mr. Lovelace is repetitious. Clarissa's planning for her death and her pride in her coffin and her death clothes foreshadow her happy death. Her hope that she will be buried with her family foreshadows her reconciliation with her family and their permission for her to be buried in the family vault. Repetition is used throughout this section to emphasize Clarissa's declining health, which foreshadows her death. The doctor's decision to write to Mr. Harlowe foreshadows the reconciliation. Miss Howe demonstrates her love for Clarissa by comparing the loss with the potential loss of her mother, Mrs. Howe, during Mrs. Howe's illness. Mr. Harlowe agrees to provide Clarissa with the accrual from her grandfather's estate, which foreshadows the execution of Clarissa's will. Arabella convinces the family to agree to allow Mrs. Norton to attend Clarissa before they all become angry at Colonel Morden and revoke the permission. This foreshadows Arabella's eventual visit to London. The Harlowes' desire to reconcile with Colonel Morden foreshadows the reconciliation with Colonel Morden and Clarissa. It is also ironic because they are so hesitant to reconcile with a much nearer relation (Clarissa).



# Letters 460-476 dated September 4th through September 7th

## Letters 460-476 dated September 4th through September 7th Summary

The Harlowes' meeting upsets Clarissa very much. Clarissa is very ill but has no bodily pain. She shows Mr. Belford where her will is, along with a parcel of papers with instructions, before sealing her apparel trunk. She receives a letter from Colonel Morden and asks Mr. Belford to read it aloud to her, since she is unable to read it. Colonel Morden sets out for town before receiving Clarissa's last letter. When he receives it, he returns to show the letter to Uncle Antony and Uncle Harlowe, who are moved and take a copy to Harlowe Place to obtain Clarissa's last blessings. Colonel Morden wants Clarissa to travel with him for several years. Mr. Belford advises Colonel Morden to hasten his trip to London if he wants to see Clarissa alive. The doctor sends a letter to Mr. Harlowe describing Clarissa's illness and warning of her imminent death. Mr. Brand responds to his friend and informant, Mr. John Walton, that he already had begun to suspect he had made a mistake in his representation of Clarissa's character. He writes to Uncle Harlowe expressing his sorrow that his account widened differences between Clarissa and the Harlowes. He has received two letters that correct his thinking, and he praises Clarissa and communicates the expectation that she will die soon.

Mr. Lovelace worries about Clarissa and is impatient for updates. He is jealous that Mr. Belford is always near Clarissa, but blames himself for his actions against her. He wishes Clarissa would live longer so he can avoid blaming himself. Mr. Belford moves to the Smiths' lodgings to be closer to Clarissa. Clarissa informs Mrs. Norton that she has named John Belford as her executor due to the strife between her family and herself. She hopes that her corpse will be permitted burial in the Harlowe family vault. She promises to be happy in her death and declares that she does not want to see anyone because it will add to their grief and may make her regret dying. She sends her love and comfort to her family and friends. Her only grief is leaving her friends in sorrow. Clarissa is sad when the doctor shares his expectation that she will only live another day or two. She asks about Mr. Lovelace but refuses to see him still. She pities him and admits that she could have loved him. Clarissa forgives Mr. Lovelace, and Mr. Belford and the minister urge Clarissa to see Mr. Lovelace once more but she refuses. Mr. Lovelace is concerned that he does not deserve Clarissa's forgiveness.

The doctor expects Clarissa to die by the next night. Miss Howe mourns not attending Clarissa sooner and offers to go to London immediately with permission. Clarissa is too weak to write but dictates a response that she will meet Miss Howe in the hereafter, where they will never part again. Colonel Morden arrives and views Clarissa sleeping. When she wakes, he hides to avoid surprising her, and Mr. Belford asks Clarissa if she





will see Colonel Morden in half an hour, to which she agrees. Colonel Morden pretends to approach from downstairs and embraces Clarissa, expressing his regret that he did not come sooner. He brings her the accrual from her estate and confirms Mr. Lovelace's contrition. Clarissa thanks Colonel Morden for acting in her behalf before fainting. The doctor is sent to Clarissa, who doubts she will live through the night. She requests to see Colonel Morden but has convulsions and is unable to see him. He waits in the house for Clarissa to regain composure. Clarissa spends all her strength in prayer and urges John Belford and Colonel Morden not to grieve because she is happy to die. She sends her last request to Mrs. Norton and assures everyone that there is time enough after her death for it to be fulfilled. Colonel Morden writes Uncle Harlowe that it is too late to worry about reconciliation with Clarissa. Colonel Morden is shocked that Clarissa sells her clothes for money and her presence of mind in preparing her will and organizing her funeral. Clarissa removes her miniature of Miss Howe from her bosom and directs it be given to Mr. Hickman after her death.

## **Letters 460-476 dated September 4th through September 7th Analysis**

Clarissa's assurances and her lack of bodily pain foreshadow her peaceful death. Uncle Harlowe and Uncle Antony's reaction to Clarissa's letter to Colonel Morden foreshadows the reconciliation. Unfortunately, Clarissa's declining health and the doctor's predictions foreshadow Clarissa's death. This suggest that the reconciliation will come too late, which is foreshadowed by Colonel Morden's letter to Uncle Harlowe indicating such. Mr. Lovelace's desire to avoid blaming himself manifests itself through blaming others and foreshadows his blaming the Harlowes after Clarissa's death. Colonel Morden's arrival to London barely in time to see Clarissa alive is ironic because it facilitates his duel with Mr. Lovelace, since he would not likely have had enough regret for losing Clarissa to instigate such a fight if he had not been reacquainted with her virtue. Clarissa's removal of her miniature of Miss Howe and directing it to Mr. Hickman foreshadows her approaching death and indicates her approval and assurance of Miss Howe marrying Mr. Hickman.



# Letters 477-499 dated September 7th through September 10th

## Letters 477-499 dated September 7th through September 10th Summary

Mr. Belford directs Mowbray and Tourville to go to Mr. Lovelace because he sends news that may prompt Mr. Lovelace to destroy himself. Mr. Lovelace is not happy at the idea of seeing his varlets and mourns the idea of an eternal separation from Clarissa. Mr. Belford encourages Mr. Lovelace to take a tour abroad. When Will delivers the letter acknowledging Clarissa's death, Mr. Lovelace attempts to shoot himself, but Will had the foresight to remove his weapons. Mr. Lovelace, Mr. Mowbray and Mr. Tourville travel to Mr. Doleman's house, where the other three varlets attempt to convince Mr. Lovelace that mourning a woman is foolish when there are so many other women. Mowbray writes for Mr. Lovelace, who is unable and desires to know the particulars of Clarissa's death. Mr. Mowbray does not see the difference between Clarissa and any other woman and is annoyed by Mr. Lovelace's folly, especially his ranting and raving that makes them fear Mr. Lovelace is going mad. Mr. Belford is sure Mr. Lovelace will recover his composure.

Mr. Belford is called to Clarissa's deathbed along with Colonel Morden, Mrs. Smith, Widow Lovick, Clarissa's nurse and Mrs. Smith's maid. Clarissa's comforts everyone's sorrow and expresses her happiness for the end of her sorrows. She blesses her mother, father, brother, sister and uncles. She forgives Mr. Lovelace and prays for Mr. Belford to be sensible of his sins. She blesses Miss Howe and Mrs. Norton. She blesses everyone in the room, nods her head six times to acknowledge everyone present, says, "O come—blessed Lord—JESUS!" and expires. They each kiss her lifeless hand and remove to the adjoining room to mourn. Colonel Morden excuses himself but promises to speak to Mr. Belford later. Mr. Belford suggests that if Mr. Lovelace's conscience is truly touched, time will alleviate his pain, but Clarissa forbid Mr. Lovelace to see her corpse. Mr. Belford mourns that three letters arrive too late to bring Clarissa joy. All the Harlowes agree to reconcile with Clarissa with no terms. They charge Mrs. Norton to attend Clarissa immediately with love from all of them. Clarissa is to return to Harlowe Place with Mrs. Norton as soon as her health allows. Arabella assures Clarissa that the family loves her more than ever and will never reflect on her error. Mrs. Harlowe will follow Mrs. Norton to London if Clarissa agrees. Uncle Harlowe wishes Clarissa health and regrets that the reconciliation took so long. He and Uncle Antony hope to see her soon.

Mrs. Smith and Widow Lovick arrange Clarissa's corpse according to Clarissa's instructions. Mr. Belford opens the parcel of eleven letters that Clarissa left and sends them to their appropriate recipients. He holds Mr. Lovelace's letter pending better health. Clarissa's letter to Mr. Belford begs him to compare her peaceful death to a



sinner's death and rectify his life. She asks him to administer peace and prevent further mischief. Mr. Belford opens Clarissa's will and upon discovering her final wish to be buried in the family vault, Colonel Morden writes to James communicating this desire and requesting a quick response. Mrs. Norton arrives and faints when she hears the news of Clarissa's death. She mourns for and praises Clarissa. She hopes to follow her soon. Mr. Belford orders his mourning and advises Mrs. Norton to order her mourning. Colonel Morden and Mrs. Norton plan to accompany Clarissa's corpse back to Harlowe Place. Colonel Morden promises to write Mr. Belford minutely about everything that occurs.

Clarissa's letters to her father and mother express her love and blessings and ask for forgiveness. She expresses hope that Arabella's dutifulness will compensate for Clarissa's failures. Clarissa asks James for pity and forgiveness and to forgo resentment against Mr. Lovelace. She begs him to control his temper and ends with her blessing and her hope he will find a good wife. Clarissa asks Arabella's forgiveness and sends her blessing, love, friendship and the hope Arabella will find a husband. Clarissa sends love and her blessing to her uncles, and she considers her sorrow as punishment for pride. She sends love and her blessing to Aunt Hervey. She prays that Dolly will be guarded against delusions and thanks Dolly for her favor. Clarissa begs Miss Howe to rejoice that Clarissa's trial is at an end. She thanks Mrs. Howe and Mr. Hickman for their favors and regrets the trouble she has given them. Clarissa expresses her joy at Mr. Hickman as Miss Howe's choice and sends love and her blessings to both. She anticipates meeting Miss Howe in heaven.

The Harlowes are having a meeting about Colonel Morden's letter telling them how ill Clarissa is but they believe it is exaggerated to expedite the reconciliation. A messenger arrives with Clarissa's posthumous letters, which cause mayhem. Mrs. Norton has already left for town. The messenger arrives at Miss Howe's just in time to prevent someone from traveling to inquire about Clarissa. The messenger tells Miss Howe's maid to avoid telling Miss Howe himself, but the maid's grief is so great it attracts Mrs. Howe's attention. Mrs. Howe is greatly affected but worries how Miss Howe will react. Mr. Hickman is there and attempts to comfort Mrs. Howe through his own tears. When Mrs. Howe tells Miss Howe, who faints. James writes to express his shock at Clarissa's death and his indignation that everyone blames him. He refuses to allow Mr. Belford to act as Clarissa's executor. Mrs. Harlowe wants to see Clarissa one last time, so the family requests that the coffin only be screwed half way. James agrees to comply with Clarissa's wishes for her funeral as far as reasonable but without the intervention of strangers. Colonel Morden assures Mr. Belford that he will insist upon the exact performance of all Clarissa's wishes.

Mrs. Norton cuts some of Clarissa's hair to be set in rings according to Clarissa's will. Colonel Morden plans to make a locket with her hair. Clarissa's corpse is settled in the hearse and Colonel Morden and Mrs. Norton accompany it. Mrs. Norton is very ill.

Mr. Mowbray prevents Mr. Lovelace from going to town to have Clarissa embalmed. Lord M arrives to console Mr. Lovelace, who is in deep mourning. Mr. Lovelace declares that he is Clarissa's rightful husband, and he discharges Mr. Belford of his duty as



executor. He plans to embalm her to preserve her from decay and bury her in his family vault between his parents. He wants to keep her heart with him always and demands a piece of her hair immediately. He intends to write Clarissa's history without sparing himself or the Harlowes. He swears he will never take another wife. Colonel Morden discovers that Clarissa's ruin was not the result of a seduction but rape and threatens to avenge her. Mr. Belford advises Mr. Mowbray to urge Mr. Lovelace to go abroad for his health.

Widow Sinclair falls and breaks her leg, and she is in danger from the bruises she received in the fall. She sends Sally to retrieve John Belford, and Sally is shocked when she hears of Clarissa's death and blames her part in the affair. Mr. Belford intends to go to church but is interrupted by ladies from Widow Sinclair's who relay her request to see him. He expresses his disgust with the whores and compares Widow Sinclair's chaotic deathbed to Clarissa's serene deathbed. Widow Sinclair mourns Clarissa's ruin as her worst sin. She fears death and hell. The other ladies lie and suggest she may live to prevent her wailing, but the doctors doubt she will live, and Mr. Belford will not lie to Widow Sinclair. She is shocked at the idea of her pending death and becomes hysterical. Mr. Belford leaves feeling that he has learned more about repentance than he would have at church.

## **Letters 477-499 dated September 7th through September 10th Analysis**

Mr. Belford sends Mowbray and Tourville to Mr. Lovelace for fear that he will attempt suicide when he hears of Clarissa's death which foreshadows Mr. Lovelace's attempt to shoot himself which is fulfilled shortly thereafter. Many instances of foreshadowing throughout the novel are fulfilled in this section. Clarissa's death is fulfilled as is its peacefulness. Mr. Lovelace's ranting and raving indicates his madness and foreshadows his illness. Clarissa's deathbed juxtaposes Mr. Belton's deathbed and Widow Sinclair's deathbed serves as a foil to Clarissa's deathbed. Clarissa forbids Mr. Lovelace to see her corpse which indicates her desire not only to not see him but for him not to see her.

The arrival of the Harlowes' letter agreeing to reconcile is ironic since it occurs very shortly after Clarissa's death but too late as foreshadowed in Colonel Morden's last letter. Colonel Morden's agreement to write minutely to John Belford about everything that occurs at Harlowe Place indicates their friendship and a mutual desire to fulfill all of Clarissa's wishes. Clarissa's letters to her friends and family demonstrate her virtue and her piety in that she does not condemn anyone for the treatment she has received but sends love and forgiveness to all. The mayhem that ensues at Harlowe Place when Clarissa's death is announced proves that Clarissa is much loved. At the Howes' residence, even the maid is stricken with grief which proves how much Clarissa is loved by everyone there as well. James' indignation at everyone blaming him parallels Mr. Lovelace's refusal to accept blame for Clarissa's death. James' insistence that Mr. Belford will not act as Clarissa's executor foreshadows the letter he writes to this effect. His assurances that Clarissa's wishes will be followed "as far as reasonable" indicate



that Clarissa's will would be discarded without the intervention of Colonel Morden and James.

Mr. Lovelace demonstrates his grief and madness by his declaration that he is Clarissa's rightful husband and by his plans for her corpse. Colonel Morden's threats to avenge Clarissa foreshadow his duel with Mr. Lovelace and Mr. Lovelace's death. Mr. Belford's disgust at the whores at Widow Sinclair's house and his feelings that he learns more repentance there than he would have at church foreshadow his reformation.



# Letters 500-506 dated September 10th through September 15th

## Letters 500-506 dated September 10th through September 15th Summary

Colonel Morden arrives at the mournful house to find Arabella in tears and Mrs. Harlowe inconsolable. Uncle Antony tries to comfort Mrs. Harlowe and Uncle Harlowe but is overcome with grief himself. Even James is subdued. Colonel Morden pities the family and curses Mr. Lovelace. All blame themselves and each other, but ultimately everyone's gaze rests on James. Arabella regrets her severity, while Mrs. Harlowe mourns the loss of her most meritorious child and her lack of maternal care while she was dying. Colonel Morden assures them that Clarissa died happily, blessing them all and condemning none. The hearse conveying Clarissa's corpse arrives and is followed by at least fifty villagers, who argue for the honor of taking Clarissa into the house. Six maidens carry it into the hall, where everyone enters to mourn and bless Clarissa. The Harlowes' family servants mourn silently, and Uncle Harlowe is stricken dumb in grief. Clarissa's corpse is taken into the parlor where Mrs. Harlowe grieves horribly, and Mr. Harlowe states there was never a sorrow such as his. Mr. Harlowe attempts to console Mrs. Harlowe but turns and leaves the room. Aunt Hervey is unable to read the inscriptions on the coffin through her tears. Arabella is worried to learn that Mrs. Norton is so sick that she was left at an inn on the journey. Colonel Morden attempts to comfort them all and claims that Clarissa's only fault is her overindulging forgiveness for her family.

The coffin lid is unscrewed and everyone gathers around to praise and mourn Clarissa. Betty is the most tearful servant. James vows revenge against Mr. Lovelace and expresses discontent with Mr. Belford as Clarissa's executor. Reverend Doctor Lewen's assistant, Mr. Melvill, is appointed to preside over Clarissa's last rites. Mr. and Mrs. Harlowe defer seeing Clarissa until the next day, and Miss Howe requests to see Clarissa early the next morning alone. Miss Howe mourns and raves at her last farewell to her best friend. She wants Clarissa to wake up, but she wonders why Clarissa was not brought to her. She asks for a copy of the emblems on the coffin and a lock of Clarissa's hair. She inveighs against men and laments that the best part of her own soul is gone. She avoids seeing the Harlowes. Mr. and Mrs. Harlowe attempt to see Miss Howe but they cannot. They blame themselves for Clarissa's death.

Clarissa's posthumous letter to Mrs. Norton, offering comfort and her blessing, has increased her spirits and her health is much improved. Colonel Morden plans to open Clarissa's will after her last rites are performed. Clarissa's parents do not attend her last rites but there are many other mourners. Everyone praises Clarissa and many blame the Harlowes. Mr. Mullins and Mr. Wyerley, Clarissa's previous suitors, are very grieved. Mr. Hickman goes unnoticed until a great expression of emotion as her corpse is



removed. Clarissa's coffin is deposited at her grandfather's feet, and Colonel Morden intends for his corpse to lie next to Clarissa. Colonel Morden warns Mr. Belford that James intends to write him to request he relinquish his executorship. John Belford considers attending Clarissa's last rites incognito but is content with Colonel Morden's descriptions. He details the step he has taken so far in pursuance of Clarissa's will and insists that he will not relinquish his executorship. James writes to Mr. Belford and requests the he relinquish the executorship to Uncle Harlowe and Uncle Antony because of his intimacy with Mr. Lovelace. He promises that the family will act according to Clarissa's will.

## **Letters 500-506 dated September 10th through September 15th Analysis**

The Harlowes' behavior provides proof of their remorse and foreshadows their future unhappiness. The many villagers who follow Clarissa's corpse and the many mourners at her funeral show how well she is loved. Miss Howe's last farewell is moving and foreshadows her immense grief. James' letter foreshadows his complaints concerning Clarissa's will, while John Belford's declaration to Colonel Morden that he will not relinquish his executorship foreshadows his refusal to do so.



# Letter 507 detailing Clarissa's will dated September 16th

## Letter 507 detailing Clarissa's will dated September 16th Summary

John Belford refuses to relinquish his executorship because he performs the office as an honor to Clarissa's memory. He promises to work through Colonel Morden to avoid offending the Harlowes. Clarissa explains that her will is very minute to contribute to the peace of the living. She desires that no man touch her corpse and her coffin remain unopened. Her last request is to be buried in the family vault at her grandfather's feet, in which case she leaves ten pounds to the poor of the parish and names the subject of her funeral discourse to be the deception in vanity. If this is refused, she asks to be buried in the parish that she dies in and leaves five pounds to the parish poor and asks for the usual service to be said over her. She forbids anyone but her family to see her corpse, specifically Mr. Lovelace. In case Mr. Lovelace insists, she leaves a note for him to read at the viewing.

Clarissa bequeaths her real estate to her father and requests that Mrs. Norton be given the job of housekeeper and allowed to live in the housekeeper's apartments, which were Clarissa's apartments when her grandfather was alive. She states that the accrual from the estate will be used for the rest of her bequeaths. She reimburses her father for her quarterly allowances. She leaves the family portraits, except one of Clarissa at fourteen years old, to Uncle Harlowe and the family plate to Uncle Antony. She leaves Mrs. Norton six hundred pounds plus thirty guineas for mourning apparel. She bequeaths her watch, equipage, clothes, harpsichord, chamber-organ & music books, library and twenty-five guineas for a memorial ring to Dolly. She leaves fifty guineas to Aunt Hervey for a ring and the portrait of Clarissa done in the Vandyke style, unless Mrs. Harlowe decides to keep it. She bequeaths a needlework piece of flowers, a miniature of Clarissa and a rose diamond ring to Colonel Morden, all of which were either praised by or given to Clarissa by Colonel Morden's father. She leaves Mrs. Howe twenty-five guineas for a ring, and Mr. Hickman receives Clarissa's miniature of Miss Howe and a ring with Clarissa's hair. Clarissa bequeaths the portrait of herself at fourteen years old to Miss Howe, along with her best diamond ring, all her letters, a ring with Clarissa's hair and her needlework, except the piece left to Colonel Morden and one piece her mother may choose. She urges Miss Howe to marry Mr. Hickman soon and forbids her to wear mourning. She leaves twenty guineas each for enameled rings with "Cl.H" engraved in crystal for Lord M, Lady Betty, Lady Sarah, Charlotte and Cousin Montague. Clarissa leaves money for rings for four female friends, Dr. Lewen, the Smiths, Widow Lovick and everyone who attended her in town. She leaves fifty pounds to Hannah and money for all of the Harlowes' and Howes' servants. She leaves her remaining clothes to Mrs. Norton, charging her boxes only be opened in the presence of Mrs. Norton and Widow Lovick. She bequeaths her linens to Mrs. Smith and Widow Lovick. She also leaves all





her books at her lodgings to Widow Lovick. Clarissa gives Widow Lovick permission to make a copy of her book of meditations and leaves the original to Mrs. Norton.

Clarissa ordains Mr. Belford as her executor, stating that Miss Howe knows her reasons. She charges Mr. Belford to promote peace and suppress resentment. She urges him to cultivate a friendship with Colonel Morden. She trusts that justice will be done to her reputation by Mr. Lovelace. Clarissa requests the Mr. Belford collect all correspondence relating to Clarissa's story and make two copies, one for Miss Howe and one for himself, which will be lent to Aunt Hervey if the Harlowes request it. She leaves one hundred guineas to Mr. Belford for his office as executor, twenty guineas for a remembrance ring and charges him to reimburse himself for expenses incurred in carrying out her will. Clarissa wants her grandmother's jewels to be valued and her personal jewelry to be sold and that money, along with any remainder, to be combined into a fund to be distributed by Mrs. Norton to her honest, industrious, laboring poor. She requests that Miss Howe take over the distribution in the event of Mrs. Norton's death. She asks Colonel Morden and Mr. Belford to concur to settle anything that may be omitted and refers them to Miss Howe in case of doubt. Clarissa appeals to God for redemption.

## **Letter 507 detailing Clarissa's will dated September 16th Analysis**

Clarissa's character is revealed in her will. She does not condemn anyone, and she is very minute in her reasons for every bequeath. She demonstrates her piety, her charity and her love for everyone. It is ironic that she leaves everyone something except James, Arabella and Mr. Lovelace. Although she does not explicitly condemn them, her resentment is felt through their exclusion when everyone else in her life is mentioned.



# Letters 508-520 dated September 16th through September 26th

## Letters 508-520 dated September 16th through September 26th Summary

Mr. Belford tells Lord M that he fears ill consequence to Mr. Lovelace from Clarissa's death and urges him to encourage Mr. Lovelace to go abroad. He also informs Lord M of Clarissa's bequest for remembrance rings. Miss Montague responds that their family is hastening Mr. Lovelace's journey. They are all greatly grieved for Clarissa.

Colonel Morden reads Clarissa's will to the Harlowe family. Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Harlowe are absent but Mrs. Harlowe insists beforehand that every article be followed exactly. Everyone praises Clarissa and curses Mr. Lovelace. Everyone regrets their severity to Clarissa, and Colonel Morden reflects that Clarissa's forgiveness and love are more wounding than condemnation and revenge would have been. James and Arabella complain about several articles, such as Mrs. Norton receiving six hundred pounds and Dolly receiving Clarissa's library. Colonel Morden condemns their stupidity, since the legacies would have reverted to the Poor Fund, not them. Colonel Morden decides not to make James his heir because of his selfishness. He praises Clarissa's wisdom in appointing an executor out of the family because her family would have discarded her will completely. Mrs. Harlowe, Uncle Harlowe and Uncle Antony convince Mr. Harlowe to overrule James' objections and observe Clarissa's will completely. They also convince Mr. Harlowe to give up his reimbursements and to fund the funeral himself.

Mr. Belford sends Miss Howe the letters between himself and Mr. Lovelace and Colonel Morden, as well as Clarissa's memorandum book and copies of her posthumous letters. Mr. Belford writes to Mr. Hickman to apologize for the levity of Mr. Lovelace in describing Mr. Hickman. Mr. Hickman assures John Belford that he would think worse of himself if someone who ruined Clarissa could think well of him. Miss Howe cannot pity the Harlowes and hates all men for Mr. Lovelace's sake. She asks to purchase Clarissa's diamond necklace and solitaire, to which Mr. Belford agrees if they come into his hands to sell. Mrs. Harlowe keeps a piece of Clarissa's needlework and the Vandyke style portrait of Clarissa. She also asks Mrs. Norton to make a copy of the book of meditations and allow her to keep the original.

Mr. Belford sends Mr. Lovelace's posthumous letter to Lord M to give him when he can bear it. It states that she promised to write him from her father's house and explains her allegory. She invites Mr. Lovelace to follow her when he is ready, encouraging him to consider his ways, repent and reform. Her only motive is his good and the safety of other innocents. Clarissa forgives Mr. Lovelace and hopes God will forgive him also. She regrets the offense, grief and scandal given to her family. She assures him that he is the cause of her only physical death and wishes him happiness. She admits that she



preferred him but has long been above him because of his immorality. She once thought him worth reclaiming and assures him that she has not given over all her hopes of his reformation and urges his repentance.

Mr. Lovelace is unhappy and feels that his punishment should be his sorrow. He agrees to travel but cannot repent. He is angry at Clarissa's coldness in her letter but more so at his own unworthiness. He offers revenge against the Harlowes and blames Widow Sinclair and her ladies. He is afflicted with maddening anguish. Mr. Lovelace writes the next day to demand the return of his last letter. He feels better and repents his mournfulness. He plans to tour Europe with Mowbray and Tourville and hopes Mr. Belford will meet them soon. Mr. Lovelace doubts John Belford's reformation. He asks for a copy of Clarissa's will. Mr. Belford is disappointed in Mr. Lovelace's short-lived penitence. M'Donald is in jail, dying from a wound received during a robbery. He is penitent and regrets his involvement against Clarissa. John Belford suggests that all who were involved in Clarissa's demise are being punished. Mr. Belford details his intentions for reformation, beginning with hiring Widow Lovick as his housekeeper to keep him from relapsing. Once more, Mr. Lovelace blames the Harlowes for Clarissa's death and denies doing anything worthy of breaking her heart. He believes that he deserves pity more than blame. He also blames Mr. Belford for his lack of action to save Clarissa, which Mr. Belford admits and is grieved by. Mr. Lovelace plans to go to town soon before going abroad.

Mr. Belford confronts Colonel Morden about the rumors that he threatens to avenge Clarissa, begging him to refrain, offering to share the entire story and reminding him of his promise to Clarissa not to injure Mr. Lovelace. He points out that the highest injury was to Clarissa and she forgave Lovelace. Clarissa's posthumous letter to Colonel Morden thanks him for his kindness during her childhood and his mediation with the Harlowes. She begs him not to avenge her because vengeance is God's territory. She states that Mr. Lovelace's conscience will avenge her. Colonel Morden promises that he has made no binding resolutions for revenge; his actions depend on Mr. Lovelace's future actions. He lists many reasons to justify avenging Clarissa but reiterates his indecision. Mr. Lovelace reminds him of Clarissa's dying injunctions against revenge and informs him of Widow Sinclair and M'Donald's deaths. Colonel Morden informs him that Mrs. Norton is to be the housekeeper at the Grove, and he has the money for Grandmother Harlowe's jewels. He will pay for Clarissa's personal jewels to give to Dolly. He visits Miss Howe and condemns her behavior to Mr. Hickman, but praises her overall. He blames her for disregarding Clarissa's injunction in her will for Miss Howe to marry Mr. Hickman as soon as possible. Miss Howe and her maid are in deep mourning, and when Mr. Hickman and his servants arrive in deep mourning, Miss Howe asks him who he thinks he is obliging. He says himself because of his love for Clarissa. Miss Howe is not sure if she is angry or pleased. Colonel Morden predicts that this will hasten the wedding.



## Letters 508-520 dated September 16th through September 26th Analysis

Mr. Belford's fear that Clarissa's death will result in ill consequences for Mr. Lovelace foreshadows his death in the duel with Colonel Morden. It is ironic that Mr. Belford encourages Mr. Lovelace to go abroad, where the duel occurs. Mrs. Harlowe gains courage to insist that Clarissa's will be performed exactly, which is ironic since she did not have the courage to object to the way Clarissa was treated. James and Arabella's complaints about articles in the will emphasize their greed; Colonel Morden's observation that the funds would have reverted to the Poor Fund makes their greed ironic, since they would likely object even more to that. Mr. Hickman expresses his resentment of Mr. Lovelace by his contentment in being thought badly of by someone so bad. Mrs. Harlowe keeps everything that Clarissa doubtfully offers her in the will, which proves her love and grief. Clarissa explains her allegory to Mr. Lovelace and expresses her unconcern with the temporal by assuring him that he only caused her physical death. This contradicts his continuous assertions that her death is not his fault.

Mr. Lovelace's belief that his sorrow should be his punishment parallels Clarissa's request to Colonel Morden to allow his conscience to avenge her. Mr. Lovelace's request for his letter of repentance is ironic because he repents his repentance. M'Donald's death and regret for his involvement in the schemes against Clarissa parallel Widow Sinclair's death. The idea that everyone who was involved in Clarissa's demise is being punished seems to validate Clarissa's opinion that vengeance is God's territory. Mr. Lovelace's denials of fault are repetitious and parallel James' refusal to accept blame. Mr. Hickman's putting on deep mourning for Clarissa and Miss Howe's confusion over whether to be pleased or angry foreshadows their marriage.



# Letters 521-537 dated September 28th through December 18th

## Letters 521-537 dated September 28th through December 18th Summary

Mr. Belford chides Miss Howe for not marrying Mr. Hickman according to Clarissa's will and informs her of Widow Sinclair and M'Donald's deaths. The deaths cause Miss Howe to hope that Mr. Lovelace suffers the same fate. She addresses the charge against her concerning Mr. Hickman by listing her faults and claiming that she believes she should live single. She admits that Mrs. Howe and Clarissa did not approve of her favorite beau and she agreed to Mr. Hickman, since she does not value another man more. She needs Clarissa's help to adjust to being a wife and feels Mr. Hickman will be punished for his choice once they are married. She plans to marry Mr. Hickman once her sorrow and grief mellow, but she fears she will never be happy without Clarissa. She reminds Mr. Belford that Clarissa also desired his reformation. John Belford thanks Miss Howe for her hints about his reformation and her explanation of her preference of a single life.

Mr. Lovelace travels to London with Mowbray and Tourville. Lord M begs Mr. Belford to keep them from Colonel Morden. John Belford goes to a tavern with the other three varlets, where he and Mr. Lovelace argue about much concerning Clarissa before the four men settle down to have fun together. Mr. Lovelace hears about Colonel Morden's threats and wants to meet up with him before going abroad, but Mr. Belford convinces him to adhere to Clarissa's requests against violence and go abroad peacefully. John Belford accompanies Mr. Lovelace to his departure and learns that Mr. Lovelace intends to wean himself from his libertine habits on the tour and reform when he returns to England, though he never means to marry.

Mr. Belford meets with Colonel Morden later that night, who announces that he is going to Italy to settle some accounts before returning to settle on his estate in Kent. Mr. Belford expresses concern that Colonel Morden will fight Mr. Lovelace, but Colonel Morden assures him that he does not intend to or he would already have killed him. John Belford and Colonel Morden discuss the part of Clarissa's will that is not yet completed and agree to be each others' executors. Colonel Morden leaves for Italy.

John Belford asks Miss Howe to give Clarissa's character in writing, but she declares that she is unable to do Clarissa justice. She provides information for Mr. Belford to give Clarissa's character. She insists that Clarissa has been wonderful since infancy and describes her beauty before Mr. Lovelace ruined her health. Clarissa was sincere and never unjustly severe. She was more dissatisfied with every encounter she had with Mr. Lovelace and insisted that he was not the man for her. Clarissa acknowledged all her errors, wrote excellently, read French and Italian and was learning Latin. Miss Howe praises Clarissa's virtues and her attributes. She explains Clarissa's dedication of time and her manner of keeping track of her time and accounting for it. Miss Howe laments



the loss of such a perfect guide and prays for God to avenge Miss Howe, not Clarissa, because hers is the loss.

Mr. Lovelace's conscience bothers him while he reads Clarissa's will, which demonstrates her generosity. He receives a letter from Joseph advising him that Colonel Morden is after his blood. He plans to write to Colonel Morden and is willing to duel regardless of his own guilt in the matter. Mr. Belford assures him that Colonel Morden has taken no resolutions for revenge and urges Mr. Lovelace to avoid him per Clarissa's request. Mr. Lovelace scorns the advice and writes to Colonel Morden stating that he will duel if desired. Afterwards he repents his decision but it is too late. Colonel Morden defends his words by stating that Mr. Lovelace deserves his condemnation and provides a location to find him. They set a date and place for their appointment. Mr. Lovelace resents that anyone can avenge Clarissa against him. He asks Mr. Belford to be his executor. Mr. Lovelace and Colonel Morden meet and ride out to find a place to duel. They agree to duel the next day because Mr. Lovelace's friend, De La Tour, wants to have a surgeon present. They choose swords as their weapons. Mr. Lovelace reflects that the next day either he or Colonel Morden will join Clarissa.

De La Tour sends Mr. Belford sad news. With a surgeon and his assistant on hand, Colonel Morden and Mr. Lovelace meet and repeat their agreements. They charge their servants to assist the survivor. At first, the duel appears equal. Mr. Lovelace draws first blood, but Colonel Morden returns the blow quickly and more effectively. Colonel Morden offers that Mr. Lovelace has had enough, but Mr. Lovelace refuses and sweeps at Colonel Morden, who runs Mr. Lovelace through. Mr. Lovelace cries out to Clarissa and ignores Colonel Morden's urging that he call out to God for mercy. The surgeons and Colonel Morden dress Mr. Lovelace's wounds, while Mr. Lovelace faints and vomits blood. Colonel Morden regrets the provocation, urges Mr. Lovelace to commend himself to God and goes to Venice. Mr. Lovelace asks De La Tour to send Mr. Belford his thanks for their friendship and an account of his last hours. He is delirious in his last two hours, praising Clarissa and shouting "take her away!" His last words show composure: "blessed-let this expatiate" before he sinks and dies. His body is embalmed and waiting in a vault pending directions, since Mr. Lovelace refused the Sacrament.

## **Letters 521-537 dated September 28th through December 18th Analysis**

The chiding to Miss Howe is repetitious and her explanation foreshadows her marriage to Mr. Hickman. Mr. Lovelace's complaints about Colonel Morden's threats, Mr. Belford's concern and the constant repetition of the idea of Colonel Morden and Mr. Lovelace dueling foreshadow the duel and Mr. Lovelace's death, which is fulfilled in the last letter. Miss Howe's statement that she cannot do Clarissa justice is ironic, since no one knows Clarissa better than she does. Mr. Lovelace's refusal to receive sacrament indicates his belief that he is going to hell anyway, along with his refusal to beg God for mercy.



# Conclusion

## Conclusion Summary

Mr. Lovelace's death is mourned by his family, but the Harlowes and Miss Howe rejoice in it. The Harlowes are never truly happy again. Mrs. Harlowe dies a year and a half after Clarissa and Mr. Harlowe dies half a year later. James and Arabella both have unhappy marriages, and they blame their unhappiness on their cruelty to Clarissa. Uncle Harlowe and Uncle Antony claim to have lost all the joy of life at Clarissa's death. Mr. Solmes is rejected by several ladies of fortunes inferior to Clarissa's. Mowbray and Tourville retire into the country at John Belford's advice, who hopes for their reformation. Sally and Polly are forced into another brothel due to an accident at their brothel and both get sick and die. Dorcas, Will, Betty and Joseph die within one year of Clarissa. Mrs. Norton lives the short remainder of her life happily with her son and dies peacefully with the hope of seeing her parents and Clarissa. The Poor Fund is placed into Mrs. Hickman's (the former Miss Howe) hands one week before Mrs. Norton's death.

Miss Howe wears mourning for six full months before making Mr. Hickman one of the happiest men in the world. They have two children, a son named after his father and a daughter named Clarissa. Mrs. Hickman loves the Poor Fund and teaches everyone it helps about Clarissa. Mr. Hickman and Mrs. Howe contribute to it annually and it is the only thing with which Mrs. Hickman assumes a prerogative. She admits her unkindness to Mr. Hickman when she was Miss Howe but loves him more for his kindness to Clarissa. John Belford mourns Mr. Lovelace's death. He performs every item in Clarissa's will and contributes his part of the legacy to the Poor Fund. He adores the mercy that led to his reformation. He marries Charlotte, and they have a son, who receives the inheritance meant for Mr. Lovelace. Widow Lovick still serves as their housekeeper. Colonel Morden regrets ignoring Clarissa's suggestion that God gave Mr. Lovelace time for repentance. He still lives in Florence to avoid the consequences of the duel.

## Conclusion Analysis

The general evidence provided by the conclusion is that God avenges Clarissa against those who participate in her demise. Those who support and love Clarissa are rewarded. The punishment seems to be fairly proportionate to the crime.



# Characters

## Clarissa Harlowe

Clarissa Harlowe is the protagonist, an eighteen-year-old young lady, who is renowned for her virtue, prudence and piety. About half the story is told through her correspondence with her best friend, Miss Howe. Clarissa is the youngest child of the Harlowes and is a favorite with her parents and uncles. Her grandfather also favored her and left her his entire estate in his will, provoking the jealousy of her brother and older sister. This jealousy is the cause of the misfortunes that befall Clarissa throughout this work. Clarissa is very intelligent and has been raised and taught much by her nurse, Mrs. Norton. Clarissa has refused several suitors before this novel begins and would prefer to live single upon her estate with Mrs. Norton, if her family would permit it. She enjoys writing and spends all her free time in correspondence and in writing meditations, particularly of the religious variety. She contributes to many charities, especially her Poor Fund, which she created through Mrs. Norton to provide pecuniary relief to the industrious poor, who are affected by a death, illness or bad luck.

The story follows her through the last year of her life, beginning with the onset of Mr. Lovelace's addresses to her. Her family disapproves of Mr. Lovelace and tries to force her to marry Mr. Solmes. Mr. Lovelace tricks Clarissa into running away from home to avoid marrying Mr. Solmes. After she has left her home, she is plagued by Mr. Lovelace's impropriety and lascivious addresses. He settles them in London in a house that, unknown to Clarissa, is a brothel. When he takes her in his arms after a fire in the middle of the night, she escapes him and flees to Hampsted. Mr. Lovelace pursues her and tricks her into returning to their London lodgings, where he doses her with opium and rapes her. Clarissa escapes once more and hides from Mr. Lovelace in other lodgings in London. Her ordeals have weakened her health, and the doctor diagnoses her with a broken heart. John Belford, Mr. Lovelace's best friend, befriends Clarissa and eventually earns her trust. She dies and leaves John Belford as her executor to see to her will, which she writes out very specifically.

## Mr. Lovelace

Mr. Lovelace is the antagonist of the story. He is a man of good family, wealth and education. Unfortunately, he is profligate and has corrupt morals. He has a history of ruining young ladies, particularly those of good birth, since the first woman he loved jilted him. He is generous, and his servants love him. He is the sole male in his family, and therefore his uncle and both aunts plan to leave him a large inheritance, besides the wealth he already has. He is very proud and arrogant. He heard of Clarissa's virtue and beauty and sought out the Harlowes in order to gain admittance and acquaintance with Clarissa. His part of the story is primarily told through his correspondence with his friend, John Belford.





His contrivances throughout the story lead to Clarissa's elopement, the many violations of decency that greatly offend Clarissa, Clarissa's ruin and eventually, her death. He hates the Harlowes and blames them for Clarissa's sickness and death, vowing revenge on them. He is very contradictory in his writing. He appears to love Clarissa but a part of him is unable to accept the idea of love and marriage and insists upon testing Clarissa's virtue before marrying her. He obtains the help of many immoral people to impersonate others of worth to direct Clarissa's steps. He finally becomes frustrated with being unable to get Clarissa to yield to him, so he gives her opium and rapes her. He does not believe that her honor has been compromised because her will is uncompromised. He nearly goes insane when Clarissa dies, and his family and friends convince him to travel abroad for his health. While abroad, he hears rumors that Clarissa's cousin, Colonel Morden, wants to avenge Clarissa through a duel. He sends Colonel Morden a challenge, which is accepted, resulting in Mr. Lovelace's death.

## Miss Howe

Miss Howe is Clarissa's best friend. She is a young lady of virtue also, but she is not quite as somber and pious as Clarissa. She has a fiery temper and a quick tongue. She often condemns the Harlowes for their treatment to Clarissa, who Miss Howe believes excels all females. She lives with her mother, who is pressing a marriage to Mr. Hickman throughout the novel. She and Clarissa have been friends for many years and have a policy of openness and honesty in their correspondence. Miss Howe often speaks contemptuously of the Harlowes and Mr. Lovelace, causing several problems. During Clarissa's confinements by the Harlowes and Mr. Lovelace, Miss Howe is Clarissa's outside inquirer, discovering what is going on and uncovering schemes.

Miss Howe is saucy to her mother and impudent to her suitor. She blames her temper on both of her parents. She disobeys her mother's command to discontinue her correspondence with Clarissa after Clarissa elopes. Eventually, Mr. Hickman wins her over, partially through his affection for Clarissa. Miss Howe is left many sentimental effects in Clarissa's will, but refuses Clarissa's command not to wear mourning. Miss Howe is devastated by Clarissa's death. She works with John Belford to collect Clarissa's story and to provide a characterization of Clarissa.

## John Belford

John Belford is Mr. Lovelace's best friend and confidante. Mr. Lovelace confides to him all of his contrivances and schemes against Clarissa. John Belford is a renowned rake like Mr. Lovelace, but after meeting Clarissa, he begins to pity and admire her and tries to dissuade Mr. Lovelace from acting dishonorably by her. He is loyal to Mr. Lovelace and believes Mr. Lovelace is a good man underneath his schemes.

After Clarissa's imprisonment, John Belford rescues Clarissa and befriends her. He protects her against Mr. Lovelace as much as possible. Clarissa names him as her executor, and after her death, he fulfills his commitment with the help of Colonel



Morden. His involvement with Clarissa leads him to reform his immoral behavior and to encourage Mr. Lovelace and their other varlet friends to reform. John Belford tries to prevent mischief between Mr. Lovelace and the Harlowes after Clarissa's death. He collaborates with Miss Howe to compile the letters relating to Clarissa's story, and he is unofficially the author of the novel. He marries Charlotte Montague, and they have a son who receives the inheritance that was designed for Mr. Lovelace before his death.

## Colonel Morden

Colonel Morden is a cousin of the Harlowes. He was made a trustee of Grandfather Harlowe's will. He has been abroad for six years and returns when he hears of the discord between Clarissa and the rest of the Harlowes. He attempts to mediate between them but is unable to persuade the Harlowes to relent. He attends Clarissa during her last days and assists John Belford in ensuring that Clarissa's will is carried out after her death. He avenges Clarissa against Mr. Lovelace, partly to prevent James, an only son, from doing so.

## James Harlowe

James Harlowe is Clarissa's brother, who is very jealous of Clarissa because she inherited their grandfather's estate and his uncles may follow their father's example. He initiates the scheme against Clarissa, which results in her elopement with Mr. Lovelace and her eventual ruin. He is very greedy, proud and violent. After Clarissa's death, he plans to avenge her against Mr. Lovelace if Colonel Morden does not. He feels his unhappy marriage is punishment for his maltreatment of Clarissa.

## Arabella Harlowe

Arabella Harlowe is Clarissa's sister. Mr. Lovelace originally made his addresses to her and when he began courting Clarissa, she became jealous. She and James corroborated to confine Clarissa and force her to marry Mr. Solmes, primarily for financial reasons. She is haughty and impertinent, often insulting her younger sister. She is remorseful when Clarissa dies and blames her involvement against her sister as the reason for her unhappiness later in life.

## Mrs. Harlowe

Mrs. Harlowe is Clarissa's mother. She loves her youngest daughter very much but is very passive to her husband's will. She attempts to mediate for Clarissa with the family but receives rebukes and withdraws her support for Clarissa. She refuses to write or see Clarissa because she knows she will be persuaded to act for her again. She is devastated when she learns of Clarissa's death and blames herself for not behaving maternally. She dies a year and a half after Clarissa.



## Mr. Harlowe

Mr. Harlowe is Clarissa's father who, though he loves his daughter, is led into the offenses against her by his son's strong will. He is unforgiving throughout the novel until Clarissa's death, at which point he regrets his part in Clarissa's misfortunes. He dies six months after his wife.

## Mrs. Howe

Mrs. Howe is Miss Howe's mother. She adores Clarissa but is poisoned against her by Uncle Antony. She preaches the importance of children's obedience, mainly because Miss Howe will not yield to Mrs. Howe's will for her to marry Mr. Hickman. Mrs. Howe rejects Uncle Antony's proposal of marriage.

## Mr. Hickman

Mr. Hickman is Miss Howe's suitor and Mrs. Howe's favorite. He is very sober and virtuous, but Miss Howe thinks he is somewhat boring. He shows himself to be a great friend to Clarissa and puts on deep mourning after her death. Miss Howe eventually marries him and makes him very happy.

## Mr. Brand

Mr. Brand is the clergyman who is called in to marry Clarissa to Mr. Solmes when Dr. Rev. Lewen refuses. He is also sent to town to inquire about Clarissa's lodgings, habits and illness. His negative report contributes to the delay in a reconciliation with the Harlowes. He rectifies his mistakes via letter to Uncle Harlowe too late to be useful to Clarissa.

## Mrs. Norton

Mrs. Norton is Clarissa's nurse and mentor. She is poor and has been taken into the Harlowes' protection to some extent. Clarissa desires to live on her grandfather's estate with Mrs. Norton to supervise her.

## Hannah

Hannah is Clarissa's servant and is suspected of helping Clarissa perpetuate correspondence with Mr. Lovelace. She is unable to attend Clarissa in town due to her own illness.



## **Rev. Dr. Lewen**

Rev. Dr. Lewen is the pastor in the parish where Harlowe Place lies. He has known Clarissa since her infancy and loves her. He refuses to marry Clarissa and Mr. Solmes without Clarissa's consent. He dies before Clarissa is reconciled to the Harlowes.

## **Grandfather Harlowe**

Grandfather Harlowe never appears in person but his Last Will and Testament contributes greatly to the action of the novel. The preference shown to Clarissa instigates James and Arabella's jealousy and causes the ensuing rupture in the family peace.

## **Clarissa's Poor**

Clarissa's Poor is a group of industrious, hard-working poor people to whom Clarissa provides financial relief from time to time through Mrs. Norton, when they have hardships due to accidents, sicknesses or death.

## **Lord M**

Lord M is Mr. Lovelace's gouty uncle, who plans to leave Mr. Lovelace a very large inheritance. He thinks highly of Clarissa and will leave Mr. Lovelace everything if Clarissa becomes Mrs. Lovelace but threatens to disown Mr. Lovelace if he treats Clarissa poorly.

## **Lady Betty Lawrence**

Lady Betty Lawrence is Mr. Lovelace's aunt, who plans to leave Mr. Lovelace a very large inheritance. She thinks highly of Clarissa and will leave Mr. Lovelace everything if Clarissa becomes Mrs. Lovelace but threatens to disown Mr. Lovelace if he treats Clarissa poorly.

## **Lady Sarah Sadler**

Lady Sarah Sadler is Mr. Lovelace's aunt, who plans to leave Mr. Lovelace a very large inheritance. She thinks highly of Clarissa and will leave Mr. Lovelace everything if Clarissa becomes Mrs. Lovelace but threatens to disown Mr. Lovelace if he treats Clarissa poorly.



## Cousin Montague and Cousin Charlotte

Cousin Montague and Cousin Charlotte are Mr. Lovelace's maiden cousins, who think highly of Clarissa and attempt to mediate a reconciliation between Mr. Lovelace and Clarissa with Miss Howe's help.

## Mr. and Mrs. Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are the landlord and landlady at the residence Clarissa occupies after her second escape from Mr. Lovelace until her death. They are very kind and become good friends to Clarissa during her last days of life. She regrets the trouble she causes them.

## Widow Lovick

Widow Lovick is the widow at the Smiths' residence, who befriends Clarissa and assumes a maternal role in Clarissa's illness and death. She reminds Clarissa of Mrs. Norton. After Clarissa's death, John Belford hires her as his housekeeper.

## Widow Sinclair

Widow Sinclair is the madam of the brothel in London to which Mr. Lovelace conveys Clarissa. She pretends to be an upstanding widow and contributes greatly to Clarissa's ruin. She dies from internal bleeding due to a fall shortly after Clarissa's death.

## Mr. Solmes

Mr. Solmes is the suitor that the Harlowes are so eager for Clarissa to marry to evade Mr. Lovelace's hopes. Clarissa despises him because she thinks he is immoral, greedy, ill mannered and ugly.

## Joseph

Joseph is a servant at Harlowe Place that Mr. Lovelace bribes for information about the family. He marries Betty. He helps Mr. Lovelace with contrivance to trick Clarissa into eloping.

## Betty Barnes

Betty Barnes is Arabella's servant and put in charge of Clarissa when Hannah is dismissed. She is insolent and impertinent to Clarissa, following Arabella's example. She married Joseph.



## **Mr. Wyerley**

Mr. Wyerley is a former suitor of Clarissa, who is first suggested to supplant Mr. Lovelace. After Clarissa's ruin, he renews his addresses to her and swears never to marry while she is alive and single.

## **Uncle Antony**

Uncle Antony is the younger of Clarissa's two uncles. He introduces Mr. Lovelace and Mr. Solmes as his personal friends. He is a strong force in denying Clarissa a reconciliation. He proposes to Mrs. Howe.

## **Dorcas**

Dorcas is the maid-servant, who Clarissa is provided with at Widow Sinclair's. She is loyal to Mr. Lovelace and spies for him. She also transcribes many of Clarissa's letters to and from Miss Howe for Mr. Lovelace.

## **M'Donald also known as Captain Tomlinson**

M'Donald, also known as Captain Tomlinson, is a varlet and friend of Mr. Lovelace, who pretends to be Uncle Harlowe's friend assisting with a reconciliation between Clarissa and the Harlowes. He dies from injuries sustained in an attempted robbery.

## **Fake Lady B & Cousin Charlotte**

Fake Lady B & Cousin Charlotte are two loose women that Mr. Lovelace hired to impersonate the two women from his family in order to seduce Clarissa back to London to her ruin.

## **Sally and Polly**

Sally and Polly are whores at Widow Sinclair's, who contribute to Clarissa's ruin and orchestrate her arrest. Both were originally compromised by Mr. Lovelace.

## **Uncle John Harlowe**

Uncle John Harlowe is Clarissa's older uncle. He calls Clarissa his daughter-niece. He is instrumental in assisting Colonel Morden in the reconciliation that occurs too late.



## **Aunt Hervey**

Aunt Hervey is Mrs. Harlowe's sister. She loves Clarissa and disapproves of Mr. Solmes, but she attempts to persuade Clarissa to accept him to prevent being banned from Harlowe Place.

## **Cousin Dolly**

Cousin Dolly is the Aunt Hervey's daughter. She loves Clarissa and defends her within the family.

## **Miss Rawlins**

Miss Rawlins is a local maiden in Hampstead, who is nosy and helps Mrs. Moore make decisions. She considers helping Clarissa escape from Mr. Lovelace.

## **Mrs. Moore**

Mrs. Moore is the landlady at the lodgings that Clarissa obtains in Hampstead.

## **Widow Bevis**

Widow Bevis is Mrs. Moore's visiting niece, who befriends Mr. Lovelace.

## **Will**

Will is Mr. Lovelace's servant, who does all of his evil bidding.

## **Mowbray**

Mowbray is one of Mr. Lovelace's varlets, who becomes very offended when John Belford defends Clarissa and condemns Mr. Lovelace.

## **Belton**

Belton is another of Lovelace's varlets, who dies a tortured death, which frightens John Belford.

## **Tourville**

Tourville is another varlet who has very little action.

## Rosebud

Rosebud is a village girl that Mr. Lovelace spares and provides the means for her to marry her lover.





# Objects/Places

## Harlowe Place

Harlowe Place is the residence of the Harlowe family.

## Widow Sinclair's House

Widow Sinclair's is the brothel in London to which Mr. Lovelace conveyed Clarissa under pretense of it being a respectable house.

## The Howes' House

Howe house is the residence of Miss Howe and Mrs. Howe, where Clarissa visits for three weeks in the beginning of the book.

## Clarissa's Chambers

Clarissa's chambers is Clarissa's room and closet in Harlowe Place, where she was confined for refusing to marry Mr. Solmes.

## Hampstead and Jail

Hampstead is the village Clarissa hid in the first time she escaped Mr. Lovelace.

Jail is where Polly and Sally had Clarissa placed under the pretense of an unpaid bill at Widow Sinclair's house. They thought this means of confining her would please Mr. Lovelace.

## Belton's House

Belton's house is a house in the country that John Belton visited during his friend's illness and death.

## The Smiths' House

The Smiths' house is the lodgings that Clarissa took when she escaped from Mr. Lovelace the second time and where she died.



## **M Hall**

M Hall is Lord M's house, which is supposed to be part of Mr. Lovelace's inheritance, and he spends some time here during Clarissa's illness.

## **The Grove**

The Grove is Clarissa's grandfather's estate, which comprises the main part of Clarissa's inheritance from Grandfather Harlowe and the cause of much contention between Clarissa and her siblings. Its proximity to Mr. Solmes' residence is a large reason for his suit to Clarissa.

## **Ivy Summer-House**

Ivy summer-house sits on Harlowe Place in the gardens and is the meeting place for Clarissa and Mr. Lovelace when she elopes from Harlowe Place

## **Uncle Antony 's House**

Uncle Antony 's house is where Clarissa is threatened to be sent to when she refuses to marry Mr. Solmes because it has a moat and is not easily accessible.

## **Harlowe Family Vault**

The Harlowe family vault is the final resting place of the Harlowes' ancestors, and where Clarissa requests that her coffin be placed, at her grandfather's feet.

## **Clarissa's Coffin**

Clarissa's coffin is very elaborate and ornate. She orders it before her death and places it in her bedchambers, using it for a desk when she is too weak to walk to her closet to write. She considers it her palace.

## **Clarissa's Book of Meditations**

Clarissa's book of Meditations is her reflections on her misfortunes and life in general, showing a very pious mindset.



## **Clarissa's Clothes**

Clarissa's clothes are sent to her from Harlowe Place after her elopement because her family cannot bear to look at them. She is forced to sell some of them after she escapes from Mr. Lovelace.

## **Clarissa's Books**

Clarissa's books are denied her after her elopement because, as she is told, she did not apply their lessons properly. Her library is bequeathed to Dolly, angering Arabella.

## **Opium**

Opium is used to intoxicate Clarissa so that Mr. Lovelace can take advantage of her.

## **Clarissa's Needlework**

Clarissa's needlework is praised before her elopement but taken down after she runs away because no one can bear to be reminded of her. It is prized after her death.

## **Portrait of Clarissa**

The Portrait of Clarissa is a full-length portrait of Clarissa at fourteen years old, around the time that she and Miss Howe became good friends. Clarissa bequeaths this to Miss Howe.

## **Clarissa's Will**

Clarissa's will is very detailed and leaves everything in her earthly possession to the people in her life, stating the reasons. John Belford is named as her executor. John Belford and Colonel Morden both intend to provide as much detail in their wills as Clarissa did.

## **Clarissa's Posthumous Letters**

Clarissa's posthumous letters are left for everyone important in her life. None of them are chastising or bitter. She attempts to comfort the people she has left and makes her family more mournful because of her goodness to them when they were so undeserving.



## Mr. Lovelace's Final Duel

Mr. Lovelace's final duel occurs in Germany shortly after Clarissa's death against Colonel Morden. Mr. Lovelace is killed.

## Fund for the Poor

Fund for the Poor is a fund that Clarissa sets up in her will to continue to provide financial relief for her poor through Mrs. Norton. Miss Howe takes over the management of the Fund after Mrs. Norton's death. John Belton, Miss Howe, Mr. Hickman and Mrs. Howe all contribute to sustain and increase the fund.

## Green Lane

Green Lane is the means through which Clarissa corresponds with Miss Howe during her confinement in Harlowe Place.

## Fire at Widow Sinclair's

The fire at Widow Sinclair's is an accident that occurs due to the housekeeper falling asleep and her curtains catching fire. Mr. Lovelace takes advantage of this opportunity to be more forward to Clarissa than he has been before, incurring her displeasure and causing her to run away from him.

## Clarissa's Parlor

Clarissa's parlor is the smaller parlor at Harlowe Place that Clarissa is permitted to use to entertain her visitors. It is also eventually where her coffin is brought.

## Ball

The ball that Mr. Lovelace meets Miss Howe at gives him an opportunity to importune her to mediate with Clarissa for his forgiveness.

## Locks of Hair

Clarissa's locks of hair are portioned out in Clarissa's will to specific people to be placed in remembrance rings and finances are also bequeathed for the function.



## **Clarissa's Grandmother's Jewelry**

Clarissa's grandmother's jewelry was bequeathed to her when she was younger, and she requests that it be appraised by her family and the funds be added to the Poor's Fund.

## **Clarissa's Personal Jewelry**

Clarissa's personal jewelry is jewelry that Clarissa has bought in her lifetime and her will dictates that it be sold and the funds added to the Poor's Fund. Miss Howe requests to buy it if John Belford is given the duty of selling it, but Colonel Morden purchases it for Dolly, which pleases Miss Howe just as much.

## **Clarissa's Corpse's Journey**

Clarissa's corpse's journey to Harlowe Place proceeded through the village and was followed by many villagers to Harlowe Place, where arguments ensued over the honor of carrying her into her home for the last time.



# Themes

## Forgiveness

Clarissa's family is unrelenting in their refusal to forgive Clarissa and receive her into their favor until her death makes it too late to be of any value. Their resentment is over her unwillingness to marry someone that Clarissa finds odious. Likewise, the Harlowes refuse to forgive Mr. Lovelace's treatment of Clarissa while he parallels their refusal to forgive by refusing to forgive their treatment of Clarissa. Miss Howe will not forgive the Harlowes or Mr. Lovelace for maltreating Clarissa. After Clarissa's death, everyone is unwilling to forgive themselves.

The irony of this is that everyone refuses to forgive multiple people for the injuries done to Clarissa. Paradoxically, Clarissa, who receives all the injuries that are not forgiven by the others, forgives everyone. Her posthumous letters and her will, as well as her dying words, express her forgiveness for everyone who injured her in any way and plead for peace. Her final wishes are disregarded because everyone is so interested in avenging Clarissa against one another. This results in Colonel Morden killing Mr. Lovelace.

Clarissa's defense against revenge is that vengeance is the Lord's territory. Ironically, the people who do not seem much concerned with Clarissa's death, such as Widow Sinclair, Polly, Sally, M'Donald, Joseph, etc., receive their revenge by the hand of God, according to Clarissa's predictions that God would avenge her.

## Friendship

Friendship is a theme that is explored in this novel. Paralleling friendship is loyalty. Miss Howe's friendship with Clarissa is the central friendship in the novel, and both ladies prove their loyalty to one another in many different instances. The greatest example may be Miss Howe's delaying her marriage until Clarissa is happy. Miss Howe also mourns the better half of her soul at Clarissa's death. Clarissa refers to Miss Howe as her other half and directs all questions of her will to Miss Howe because of their great friendship. Clarissa wears a miniature of her best friend on her bosom. Their close friendship is better proven by their willingness to correct each other of their errors. They are not afraid of offending one another because their thoughts are so similar.

Mr. Lovelace and John Belford's friendship is quite different. They are no less close than the ladies, but their lives begin to take different directions after Clarissa's imprisonment. Mr. Belford's loyalty to Mr. Lovelace despite their different opinions is shown by his discouraging Colonel Morden to duel with Mr. Lovelace and his advice to Mr. Lovelace to reform. Unlike Clarissa and Miss Howe's friendship, however, Mr. Lovelace gets very angry whenever Mr. Belford points out his sins to him or disapproves of his actions.



## Pride

Pride is a theme that recurs through this novel. Nearly every character exhibits pride at some point during this novel. The largest differences concern the source of the pride.

Mr. Lovelace is the most likely candidate from this novel for the topic of pride. His pride is what causes him to pursue Clarissa when her family forbids her to see him. His pride is what influences him to try her virtue and what makes him unhappy with her agreement to marry him. Because Clarissa is willing to marry him to promote reconciliation with her family, his pride is injured, and he decides to make her suffer for it. His pride leads him to imagine a parade with the townspeople praising his good looks if he is ever convicted for his crimes. It is his pride that Clarissa injures when she rejects his proposals over and over again. His pride leads him into many errors and offenses.

James's pride and greed are what lead him to assist in Clarissa's demise. Arabella's pride is injured when Mr. Lovelace chooses Clarissa over Arabella. The Harlowes' pride is evident when Clarissa disobeys them. Mr. Hickman shows his pride when he is glad that Mr. Lovelace does not approve of him. Miss Howe shows her pride in the way she treats Mr. Hickman.

Clarissa's pride is in her morality and virtue and her pride may be the worst case of pride in the novel, since the injury to her pride leads to her death. The doctor states that her illness is a broken heart or a lack of hope for life. Her hope for life is to be praised as pious and virtuous. When this hope is ruined, she mourns herself to death. She allows her pride to kill her.



# Style

## Point of View

The novel is written in an epistolary style, using letters so the point of view used is first person limited, shifting between characters. The main characters whose point of view is used are Clarissa, Mr. Lovelace, John Belford and Miss Howe. Each character can only display their own feelings. Because the novel is written using letters, sometimes lying, misjudging and misinterpretations occur. The reader is conveyed along with the letters blindly, knowing as little as the characters at that point in the correspondence.

The letters are roughly chronological, but the replies are not always next to the original because other letters may be written in the intervening time period. Some letters, particularly toward the end with Clarissa's posthumous letters, appear completely out of sequence. It is also very common for one letter to include copies of several others.

Mr. Lovelace's letters often lie, especially when he writes to Clarissa. He is also very contradictory, even within the same letter. He expresses much gaiety, levity and sarcasm. Clarissa is very moral and often reflects on the divine. Her letters occasionally contain meditations about moral matters. Mr. Belford's letters prove he is a dynamic character because they begin similar to Mr. Lovelace's letter but transform to resemble Clarissa's letters. Miss Howe expresses her high spirits and her emotions very clearly in her letters, never leaving a doubt as to exactly what her opinion is.

## Setting

The setting is late 17th century England. An exact year is not provided but the letters are dated from January 10th to December 18th. The majority of the action takes place at Harlowe Place, Widow Sinclair's house, Mrs. Moore's house and Mrs. Smith's house. The setting follows a somewhat circular pattern, beginning and ending at Harlowe Place. All Mr. Lovelace's major offenses against Clarissa occur at Widow Sinclair's brothel, a location that makes the offenses somewhat appropriate. The epilogue is written approximately two to three years after the last letter based on the most recent death mentioned.

## Language and Meaning

The language of the novel is fairly formal and modest, which is appropriate for the time period in which the action occurs. Most of the letters are written in a vernacular that is quite easy to understand. Many of the letters between Mr. Lovelace and John Belford are written using formal, antiquated language because they believe it makes them sound smarter.





The language often is affected by the tone of the writer. It is fairly easy to distinguish between the four main writers by their tone. Mr. Lovelace is often very gay or angry. He is usually lying or defending himself. Clarissa is always very modest, forgiving and level-headed. Miss Howe tends to give in to her moods and is very opinionated. John Belford's writing is rather formal and stiff at first but begins to mimic Clarissa's tone midway through the novel. The only writers whose tones are easily confused are Mr. Lovelace and Miss Howe, but the opinions and topics are very distinct.

## Structure

This novel is comprised of five-hundred, thirty-seven letters of varying lengths. The shortest letter is two sentences while the longest is around thirty pages. There is a preface that explains the format and an epilogue that gives up an update of the characters two to three years after the action is completed. The length of the action varies. One letter may be written over the space of four days and then five letters be written the very next day. There is very little action, the entire book is mostly thoughts and opinions. The entire action of the novel would take up a very small portion of this fifteen-hundred page book.

The plot is fairly simple with very small digressions. The plot centers on an eighteen-year-old lady, who is tricked into eloping and ruined. Her family's unforgiving nature and her aggressor's torments lead to her illness and ultimately to her death. After her death, her family is grieved and repentant. Her cousin avenges her death on her aggressor. The main part of the novel acquaints the reader with the protagonist's virtues and piety.

The pace varies greatly. Some sections are full of reflection; whereas, other pages may have constant action. There are periodic flashbacks and delays in information being relayed, supposedly due to postal reasons. The novel is easy to read and very interesting. The characters are easy to get to know.



## Quotes

"If a man could not make a lady in courtship own herself please with him, it was as much and oftentimes more to his purpose to make her angry with him." Mr. Lovelace, letter 3, p. 48

"Our flatterers will tell us any thing sooner than our faults, or what they know we do not like to hear." Clarissa, letter 5, p. 54

"They have all an absolute dependence upon what they suppose to be a meekness in my temper." Clarissa, letter 9, p. 65

"Miss Clarissa Harlowe is an admirable young lady: wherever she goes, she confers a favour: whomever she leaves, she fills with regret. O my Nancy, that you had a little of her sweet obligingness!" Mrs. Howe, letter 10, p. 69

"A pity, that such a man were not uniformly good!" Clarissa, letter 13, p. 79

"But still obedience without reserve, reason what I will, is the burden of my mamma's song; and this, for my sake, as well as yours." Miss Howe, letter 27, p. 132

"How charmingly might you and I live together and despite them all!-But to be cajoled, wire-drawn, and ensnared, like silly birds, into a state of bondage or vile subordination: to be courted as princesses for a few weeks, in order to be treated as slaves for the rest of our lives." Miss Howe, letter 27, p. 133

"Marriage is a very solemn engagement, enough to make a young creature's heart ache, with the best prospects, when she thinks seriously of it!—To be given up to a strange man; to be engrafted into a strange family; to give up her very name, as a mark of her becoming his absolute and dependent property; to be obliged to prefer this strange man to father, mother—to every body:—and his humours to all her own—or to contend, perhaps, in breach of avowed duty, for every innocent instance of free-will." Uncle John Harlowe, letter 32, p. 150

"Reading and writing, though not too much for the wits of you young girls, are too much for your judgments." Uncle Antony Harlowe, letter 32, p. 155

"And I will own to you, from whom I should be really blamable to conceal any thing, that his arguments (drawn from the disgraceful treatment I meet with) of what I am to expect, make me begin to apprehend that I shall be under an obligation to be either the one man's or the other's." Clarissa, letter 36, p. 172

"In a word, I will frankly own (since you cannot think any thing I say too explicit) that were he now but a moral man, I would prefer him to all the men I ever saw." Clarissa, letter 38, p. 176



"How true is the observation, That unrequited love turns to deepest hate!" Clarissa, letter 42, p. 193

"No woman uses ill the man she does not absolutely reject, but she has it in her heart to make him amends, when her tyranny has had its run, and he has completed the measure of his services and patience." Clarissa, letter 59, p. 250

"All my fear is, that, when she comes to the point, the over-niceness of her principles will make her waver, and want to go back: although her honour is my honour, you know, and mine is her's." Mr. Lovelace, letter 95, p. 383

"Be pleased, howsomever, if it like your Honner, not to call me honest Joseph, so often. For, althoff I think myself verry honnest, and all that, yet I am touched a littel, for fear I should not do the quite right thing: and too besides, your Honner has such a fesseshious way with you, as that I hardly know whether you are in jest or earnest, when your Honner calls me honnest so often." Joseph, letter 95, p. 385

"But let me, nevertheless, examine, whether the acquittal be owing to her merit, or to my weakness—Weakness the true name of love!" Mr. Lovelace, letter 110, p. 428

"But, sir, I see what a man I am with. Your rattle warns me of the snake." Clarissa, letter 114, p. 439

"And, indeed, for what now should she plot? when I am become a reformed man, and am hourly improving in my morals?—Nevertheless, I must contrive some way or other to get at their correspondence—only to see the turn of it; that's all." Mr. Lovelace, letter 127, p. 463

"You have erected an altar to me; and I hope you will not refuse to bow to it." Miss Howe, letter 128, p. 466

"Your books, since they have not taught you what belongs to your family, to your sex, and to your education, will not be sent to you. Your money neither. Nor yet the jewels so undeservedly made yours. For it is wished you may be seen a beggar along London-streets." Arabella, letter 147, p. 510

"A man to love praise; yet to be content to draw it from such contaminated springs!" Clarissa, letter 161, p. 545

"God forgive her! If I do, nobody else will." Mrs. Harlowe, letter 182, p. 585

"How vain, how contemptible, is that pride, which shows itself in standing upon diminutive observances; and gives up, and makes a jest of, the most important!" Clarissa, letter 202, p. 654

"I would be the subject of her dreams, as well as of her waking thoughts. I would have her think every moment lost that is not passed with me: sing to me, read to me, play to me when I pleased: no joy so great as in obeying me." Mr. Lovelace, letter 207, p. 669



"We have held that women have no souls: I am a very Jew in this point, and willing to believe they have not. And if so, to whom shall I be accountable for what I do to them? Nay, if souls they have, as there is no sex in ethereals, nor need of any, what plea can a lady hold of injuries done her in her lady-state, when there is an end of her lady-ship?" Mr. Lovelace, letter 219, p. 704

"I have often thought it very unhappy for us both, that so excellent a creature sprung up a little too late for my setting out, and a little too early in my progress, before I can think of returning. And yet, as I have picked up the sweet traveler in my way, I cannot help wishing that she would bear me company in the rest of my journey, although she were to step out of her own path to oblige me. And then, perhaps, we could put up in the evening at the same inn; and be very happy in each other's conversation; recounting the difficulties and dangers we had passed in our way to it." Mr. Lovelace, letter 253, p. 870

"At least, somehow, neglecting to satisfy its hungry maw, or having otherwise disobliged it on some occasion, it resumed its nature; and on a sudden fell upon her, and tore her in pieces- And who was most to blame, I pray? The brute, or the lady? The lady, surely!- For what she did, was out of nature, out of character at least; what it did, was in its own nature." Clarissa, letter 261, p. 891

"Destitute as thou hast made me both of friends and fortune, I too much despise the wretch who could rob himself of his wife's virtue, to endure the thoughts of thee in the light thou seemest to hope I will accept thee in!" Clarissa, letter 263, p. 901

"My honor, sir! Alas!-Alas!-You have robbed me of my honor!" Clarissa, letter 267, p. 912

"With what pleasure, at that moment, could I have given up my own life, could I but first have avenged this charming creature, and cut the throat of her destroyer, as she emphatically calls thee, though the friend that I best love!" John Belford, letter 334, p. 1066

"Yet I was willing to give you a part of my mind. Call for more of it; it shall be at your service: from one, who, though she thanks God she is not your sister, is not your enemy: but that she is not the latter, is withheld but by two considerations; one that you bear, though unworthily, a relation to a sister so excellent; the other, that you are not of consequence enough to engage any thing but the pity and contempt of A.H." Miss Howe, letter 355, p. 1111

"Oh that I had the eye the basilisk is reported to have, thought I, and that his life were within the power of it-directly would I kill him!" Miss Howe, letter 367, p. 1133

"Be pleased to acquaint them that I deceive myself, if my resolution on this head (however ungratefully, and even inhumanly, he has treated me) be not owing more to principle than passion. Nor can I give a stronger proof of the truth of this assurance than by declaring that I can and will forgive him on this one easy condition, that he will never molest me more." Clarissa, letter 369, p. 1141



"And my mother has put me in mind to press you to it, with a view that one day, if it might be published under feigned names, it would be of as much use as honour to the sex... And then, she says, your noble conduct throughout your trials and calamities will afford not only a shining example to your sex; but, at the same time (those calamities befalling such a person), a fearful warning to the inconsiderate young creatures of it." Miss Howe, letter 372, p. 1152

"If I am, on the other hand, destined for death, it will be no less cruel if he will not permit me to die in peace- since a peaceable and happy end I wish him." Clarissa, letter 386, p. 1172

"Miss Harlowe is a penitent indeed! I think, if I am not guilty of a contradiction in terms, a penitent without a fault; her parents conduct towards her from the first considered." John Belford, letter 413, p. 1205

"As to the resolution you so solemnly make not to marry while I live, I should be concerned were I not morally sure that you may keep it and yet not be detrimented by it." Clarissa, letter 438, p. 1268

"The date April 10 [on her casket] she accounted for, as not being able to tell what her closing-day would be; and as that was the fatal day of her leaving her father's house." Clarissa, letter 451, p. 1306

"I believe, sir, I believe, madam, we need not trouble my cousin to read any more. It does but grieve and disturb you. My sister Clary seems to be ill: I think if Mrs. Norton were permitted to go up to her it would be right. Wickedly as she has acted, if she be truly penitent-" Arabella, letter 459, p. 1322

"I leave ye all fit company for one another. I will never open my lips to any of you more upon this subject. I will instantly make my will, and in me shall the dear creature have the father, uncle, brother, she has lost. I will prevail upon her to take the tour of France and Italy with me; nor shall she return till ye know the value of such a daughter." Colonel Morden, letter 459, p. 1324

"Poor man! I once could have loved him. This is saying more than ever I could say of any other man out of my own family! Would he have permitted me to have been a humble instrument to have made him good, I think I could have made him happy!" Clarissa, letter 467, p. 1341

"Dressed, as I told you before, in her virgin white, she was sitting in her elbow-chair, Mrs. Lovick close by her in another chair, with her left arm round her neck, supporting it as it were; for it seems the lady had bid her do so, saying she had been a mother to her, and she would delight herself in thinking she was in her mamma's arms; for she found herself drowsy; perhaps, she said, for the last time she should ever be so." John Belford, letter 474, p. 1351



"She waved her hand to us both, and bowed her head six several times, as we have since recollected, as if distinguishing every person present; not forgetting the nurse and the maid-servant; the latter having approached the bed, weeping, as if crowding in for the divine lady's blessing; and she spoke faltering and inwardly—Bless—bless—bless—you all—and—now—and now—[holding up her almost lifeless hands for the last time] come—O come—blessed Lord—JESUS!" John Belford (concerning Clarissa's last words), letter 481, p. 1362

"At length, my best beloved Miss Clary, everything is in the wished train- for all your relations are unanimous in your favour-Even you brother and sister are with the foremost to be reconciled to you... And now, all our hopes, all our prayers are that this good news may restore you to spirits and health; and that (so long withheld) it may not come too late." Mrs. Norton, letter 483, p. 1364

"Justly, does she call me [the sister of her heart]; for we had but one heart, but one soul, between us: and now my better half is torn from me-what shall I do?" Miss Howe, letter 503, p. 1404

"Oh my aunt, no more of that!-Who would have thought that the dear creature had been such a penitent?" Arabella, letter 508, p. 1421

"A thief, Sir that steals what is and ought to be dearer to me than my life, deserves less to be forgiven than he who murders me." Miss Charlotte Montague, letter 515, p. 1438

"When [Clarissa] was last with me, three happy weeks together! In every visit [Mr. Lovelace] made her, her left her more dissatisfied with him than before. In obedience to her friends' commands on her coming to me, she never would see him out of my company; and would often say, when he was gone, 'Oh my Nancy, this is not the man'- At other times, 'Gay, giddy creature! He has always something to be forgiven for.' At others, 'This man will much sooner excite one's fears, than attract one's love'. And then would she repeat, 'This is not the man-All that the world says of him cannot be untrue- But what title have I to charge him, who intend not to have him?' Clarissa, letter 529, p. 1467

"I do not think all I do necessary for another to do: nor even for myself: but when it is more pleasant for me to keep such an account than to let it alone; why may I not proceed in my supererogatories?- There can be no harm in it. It keeps up my attention to accounts; which one day may be of use to me in more material instances. Those who will not keep a strict account, seldom long keep any. I neglect not more useful employments for it. And it teaches me to be covetous of time; the only thing of which we can be allowably covetous; since we live but once in this world; and when gone, are gone from it for ever." Clarissa, letter 529, p. 1472

"For looking into the account-book for other particulars, I met with a most affecting memorandum; which, being written on the extreme edge of the paper, with a fine pen, and in the dear creature's smallest hand, I saw not before-That it is; written, I suppose, at some calamitous period after the day named in it-Help me to a curse to blast the



monster who gave occasion for it!- 'April 10. The account concluded!-And with it, all my worldly hopes and prospects!!!" Miss Howe, letter 529, p. 1472

"Tomorrow is to be the Day, that will in all probability send either one or two ghosts to attend the manes of my Clarissa." Mr. Lovelace, letter 536, p. 1484

"The luck is yours, sir-Oh my beloved Clarissa!-Now art thou-" Mr. Lovelace, letter 537, p. 1486



## Topics for Discussion

Explain the Harlowes' eagerness for Clarissa to marry Mr. Solmes.

Explain Clarissa's motivation for secretly corresponding with Mr. Lovelace.

Discuss why Clarissa was forbidden to write anyone, including her family, during her confinement at Harlowe Place.

Describe at least three means Mr. Lovelace used to entice Clarissa to run away.

Explain Mr. Lovelace's reasons for taking Clarissa to Widow Sinclair's house.

Argue for and against the rationality of Mr. Lovelace's theory of proving Clarissa's virtue.

Invent a new way for Clarissa to escape from Widow Sinclair's house.

Compare and contrast Clarissa and Miss Howe.

Compare and contrast Mr. Lovelace and John Belford.

Clarissa dies of a "broken heart". Conjecture the physiological causes of her death.

Clarissa is accused of being too "nice." Defend or oppose this opinion, citing reasons and examples of her behavior that support your argument.

Place Clarissa in modern-day America. What do you think her reactions would be to the culture?

Mrs. Harlowe doesn't forgive Clarissa in order to keep peace with the rest of the family. How do you feel about her maternal instincts toward Clarissa?

Write a different ending, beginning at Clarissa's communicating the location of her will to John Belford.

Do you think Mr. Lovelace allowed Colonel Morden to kill him during their duel? Defend your position.

James and Arabella both are unhappy in their marriages according to the epilogue. Do you think they got what they deserved? Why or why not?

Why did Clarissa leave James and Arabella nothing in her will? Explain from her point of view and from your own.

Compare and contrast Mr. Lovelace's pride and Clarissa's pride.





Clarissa commanded Miss Howe not to put on mourning in her will, but Miss Howe disobeyed and wore mourning for six months. Do you think this was disrespectful? Why or why not?

Was the way that Miss Howe treated Mr. Hickman throughout the letters cruel? Defend your opinion.

Mr. Lovelace and Miss Howe attempted to claim rights to Clarissa's corpse. Pick one character and defend their right.

The Harlowe family and Mr. Lovelace are being tried as murderers in Clarissa's death. Pick a party and defend them. Prosecute the other.