

NOVEL- THE INVISIBLE MAN
H. G. Wells.

CHAPTERS: 6 - 10.

Chapter 6: The Furniture that Went Mad: Summary: The Halls arise very early in the morning on Whit-Monday in order to take care of some private business having something to do with their wine cellar. In passing by the guest's room, Mr. Hall notices that the door is ajar. A few minutes later, he sees that the bolts on the front door of the house are unlocked although he remembers shutting them on the previous night. The guest is not in his room, but his clothes, shoes, and even his hat are scattered about. As the Halls are investigating, the bed-clothes suddenly gather themselves into a bundle and toss themselves over the bottom rail. Then a chair flies toward Mrs. Hall. The legs of the chair are brought to rest against her back, propelling her out of the room. The door slams and is locked behind them. The Halls decide that the stranger is a spirit. They send for Sandy Wadgers, the blacksmith who is also supposed to be an exorcist. Wadgers is joined by Huxter, and together they ponder the likelihood of witchcraft and contemplate the propriety of breaking through the door in order to examine the situation more closely. However, before they can carry out any such action, the door opens and the stranger emerges, wrapped and bundled as usual. He distracts them long enough to enter the parlor and slam the door against them. When Mr. Hall raps on the door and demands an explanation, the stranger tells him to "go to the devil" and "shut the door after you."

Notes: The panic is building for Griffin, while characterization is enhanced for the people in the town. Wadgers delays "breaking" into the room, using the excuse of propriety when the real and very human reason is apprehension. While they may talk of spirits and witchcraft in their leisure, it is clear that they have no real experience with such. The growing impression is that the Invisible Man is something evil. Griffin helps the idea along with his continued offenses.

Q1. What took the Halls to their cellar in the early morning of Whit Monday? Why did Mr. Hall have to rush up immediately? What did he see there?

The Halls went down to their cellar in the early morning of Whit Monday to dilute the beer that was to be served to their guests. This was an easy way of making larger profit. But diluted beer lost its tang and taste, so the Halls cleverly added a non-alcoholic drink, sarsaparilla, to cover up. However, this operation had to be carried out stealthily lest their reputation be ruined. So much so, that even their domestic help Millie could not be trusted in this matter. Hence this project was carried out right in the morning before Millie woke up. On whit Monday as they were about to proceed with their work, it was realized that Hall had forgotten to bring 'sarsaparilla', the most important ingredient for this adulteration. Therefore, he came upstairs to fetch the bottle.

On reaching up, Mr. Hall was surprised to see the stranger's door ajar. Still he proceeded to get the required bottle. It was then that he saw that the front door bolts had been shot back. He remembered vividly that Mrs. Hall had shot the bolts last night. This aroused his curiosity and he went inside the stranger's room which was found to be vacant. The stranger was nowhere to be seen and his clothes were lying scattered. He ran downstairs when his wife shouted at him for delaying. He returned to the cellar and narrated what he had just seen.

Q2. Why was Mr. Sandy Wadgers, the blacksmith, sent for by Halls early in the morning on Whit Monday? What suggestions did he give?

OR

Why did Mr. sandy Wadgers, the blacksmith, suggest the Halls to hang a horseshoe?

The Halls were extremely scared by the sight of different objects flying all over the guest parlour. Uncertain about what to do under the circumstances, they sent for Mr. Sandy Wadgers, the blacksmith, who had the reputation of being knowledgeable and resourceful. The Halls badly needed some moral support at this point of time. Moreover, they looked forward to get some sane advice from this man in whose wisdom they had a lot of faith. In addition to this, Mr. Wadger lived just across the lane, so it was easy to approach him. He could have reached them the earliest. Hence they sent Millie to call him.

Mr. Wadger reached the inn at once and listened carefully to the whole story as expected from a good neighbour who had been approached for help. Employing all his wisdom and knowledge in this regard, he concluded that it was a clear case of witchcraft. Expressing his grave concern for the welfare of Halls, he suggested that the evil should be warded off at once. This he said could be done effectively by using a horseshoe. As a blacksmith, this was perhaps the best he could think of.

However, he did not go to the parlour to check things for himself even when the Halls wanted him to and he preferred to talk in the passage itself.

Chapter 7. The Unveiling of the Stranger: Summary: The stranger remains locked in the parlor all morning. He rings his bell for Mrs. Hall several times, but she does not answer it. About noon, he emerges and demands to know why his meals have not been brought to him. Mrs. Hall tells him that his bill has not been paid in five days. She refuses to accept the excuse that he is waiting for a remittance. When he produces some money, she refuses it, saying she first wants to know why he doesn't enter by doorways and move about like normal people.

For his answer, the stranger removes all his head wrappings, including his nose and moustache. He thus looks like a person with a missing head. At the sound of screams a crowd of people run toward the inn. "Eye-witnesses" suddenly babble hysterical stories of the man attacking the servant girl, and brandishing a knife. Bobby Jaffers, the village constable, appears with a warrant. The stranger slaps Jaffers with his glove, but then says he will surrender. He will not accept handcuffs, however. As the constable, Halls and others watch, the man removes the rest of his clothes, becoming invisible before them. He tells them that he is invisible. Jaffers wants to take him in for questioning on suspicion of robbing the Bunting home. A scuffle ensues, and the stranger, now known as the "Invisible Man," escapes.

Notes : This is the last chapter in which Mrs. Hall has a significant presence, but the reader is left with the image of a very courageous, and spunky lady. She has, just a day before, been shoved out of one of her own rooms with a floating chair; she knows the man has entered and left by some mysterious means and yet she rejects his money and demands an explanation. Griffin's own actions are quickly becoming offensive, violent and deliberately geared toward creating reactions of fear and terror in his victims. There seems to be no sense of humanity left in him; everything he does is first for survival, then for the sheer thrill of striking terror—simply because he can. He is like an evil schoolboy who enjoys pulling the legs off of flies just to see them squirm. It never occurs to him to try to solve his problem by any means other than violence and terror.

Q1. What made Mr. Bobby Jaffers, the village constable, come to the 'Coach and Horses'? What efforts did he make to arrest the stranger?

Mr. Bobby Jaffers, the village constable, came to the 'Coach and Horses' to arrest the stranger for the burglary committed at the vicarage. He had been directed to do so by Shuckleforth, the magistrate, who in turn had been requested by Hall. However, by the time Jaffers reached the inn, the place was in a state of utter chaos as the stranger had revealed his real self by tearing away his nose, and removing the wrappings that hid his face. Hence, on reaching the 'Coach and Horses', he encountered the headless stranger.

Jaffers was a dutiful and conscientious man. When others got a shock to find the stranger headless, he declared bravely that 'head or no head' the stranger would be arrested. When the stranger shouted at him and slapped him with his invisible hand, Jaffers was the least bit intimidated. He courageously caught the culprit's handless wrist and grabbed his invisible throat. He held his target so strongly that in spite of being kicked in the shin, he didn't loosen his grip. Finally, the stranger promised to surrender at which the constable got prepared to handcuff him. But the latter had clever plans and he insisted on being spared of this embarrassment. The constable was a bold man, but was gullible as well. So, when the stranger promised to surrender and requested not to handcuff him, he believed the criminal.

Taking advantage of this situation the stranger managed to divert everybody's attention and took off his clothes. He was now invisible and thus he tried to escape. More futile efforts were made by everybody to overpower him. However, it was again Jaffers who managed to catch hold of the Invisible Man. He stuck to his post till the end and fought his headless opponent in a very courageous manner. But ultimately, the stranger got the better of him and pushed him down on the gravel. He escaped leaving behind everyone utterly confused and helpless. Therefore, in spite of his brief appearance, Bobby Jaffers manages to leave behind his unfading image in the minds of the readers.

Q2. How did the stranger manage to escape dodging not only Jaffers but also a lot of other people who had gathered in the inn?

OR

The chapter 'The Unveiling of the Stranger' does not only unveil the stranger on the physical level but it also unveils several traits of his character. Give your observations in this regard.

In this chapter the stranger had revealed the secret of his invisibility by removing his wrappings well before the arrival of Jaffers who had come to arrest him for the burglary at the vicarage. When Jaffers insisted upon arresting this headless culprit, he was offered tough resistance. However, when the stranger found himself losing battle, he thought of using the invisibility trump card. He promised to surrender on the condition that Jaffers won't handcuff him. Little did the gullible village constable realise that this shrewd and cunning man would take advantage of this favour. By and by, he took off all his clothes and became absolutely invisible. He then grappled with Jaffers and overpowered him. Kicking here and punching there, he elbowed his way through the crowd that had opened the door of his room by this time. Thus he escaped dodging both Jaffers and all other people who had gathered there. This encounter clearly establishes the stranger as a crafty man who could never be trusted. His ego and arrogance is evident when he asks for Mrs. Hall demanding his breakfast. He shouts and swears at her but the moment Mrs. Hall snubs him reminds him of the unsettled bill the crafty man instantly makes his tone sober and calls her 'My good woman'. Thus the chapter unveils all the wickedness of the crooked character.

Chapter 8. In Transit: Summary: An amateur naturalist named Gibbins is relaxing out on the downs and hears someone coughing, sneezing and swearing. Frightened, Gibbins gets up and runs home.

Notes: This chapter simply indicates the passage of the Invisible Man through the countryside.

Q1. What flustered and perplexed Gibbons as he lay napping in a field oblivious of all that had taken place at the 'Coach and Horses'?

A couple of miles away from all the commotion that took place at the 'Coach and Horses', Gibbons, an amateur naturalist of Iping, lay dozing off in a calm and quiet field. Suddenly, he heard, very close to him, someone's cough, sneeze and swearing. When he looked around, there was no one to be seen. However, the voice that was heard was distinctly audible and it appeared to be the voice of a cultured man. By and by, the voice started becoming fainter and it appeared to be moving towards Adderdean. Then he heard yet another sneeze. This voice flustered and perplexed the naturalists as he hadn't heard a word about the invisibility of Mrs. Hall's guest and all the hullabaloo that he had created in the parlour of the 'Coach and Horses'. Finding the whole episode inexplicable, gibbons got up and hurriedly moved towards the village because he saw no wisdom in staying back in this isolated spot with quaint things happening around.

CHAPTER 9. Mr. Thomas Marvel: Summary: Marvel is an eccentric bachelor and local tramp who likes to be comfortable and take his time about things. He has come across a pair of boots in a ditch. He has tried them on and found them too big, and is occupied in contemplating the boots when he hears a voice nearby. Marvel talks about boots with the voice for several minutes before turning to see his visitor and finding no one there. First Marvel tells himself that he has had too much to drink, then that his imagination has played some sort of trick on him. The Invisible Man begins throwing things at Marvel to convince him that he is not just imagining the presence. Eventually the Man convinces Marvel that he is real and is in need of an accomplice who will first give him food, water and shelter. He delivers an unfinished threat of what he will do if Marvel betrays him.

Notes: Marvel appears eccentric, unassuming and something of a loner, which would be bait to Griffin. He has no family, and apparently little money as he is first found contemplating whether or not he wants to keep a set of cast-off boots. He is fat, red faced, slow moving and doesn't seem terribly bright, but that is merely the effect of Griffin having the advantage over him. As soon as he realizes his predicament, he begins to look for any possible means of escape. As for Griffin, he is "making use" of Marvel in the same way that he did the Halls, the stray cat, and even his own father. Whatever means he deems necessary to his purpose is enacted without thought or conscience.

Q1. Who was Thomas Marvel? What idea do you gather about him from his first encounter with the Invisible Man?

Mr. Thomas Marvel was a tramp with slovenly appearance. He had a peculiar nose and a shabby bristled beard. He had short limbs with a bent figure. He wore an untidy, conspicuously high, furry silk hat. He looked like a typical unkempt bachelor. He sat by the roadside in an inebriated (drunken) state, oblivious of what all had gone on in Iping, with his feet in a ditch. He was unhappy with the two pairs of shoes that he had got in charity. When a voice intervened in his evaluation of shoes, he wasn't startled because he was too drunk to realize that he was being talked to by thin air. It was quite a few sentences later that he turned to see the person who had joined him in this analysis. Initially, his lack of imagination didn't let him believe in the existence of an invisible being. However, when he was hit with stones by the Invisible Man, he got quite intrigued and wanted to know the secret of invisibility. He thought this unique trait could help him a lot in meeting his modest wants in life. All the same, he felt uncomfortable with the idea of being used as a tool by the Invisible Man. But the poor man was no match to the power of the Invisible Man and had no choice but to agree to assist him.

Q2. Why did the Invisible Man feel insulted by Marvel's refusal to accept his identity? What did he do to convince him?

Passing by the downs, the Invisible Man saw Marvel analyzing the worth of the shoes that he had got as charity. He intended to seek assistance from someone to procure the belongings that he had left behind. Marvel seemed to be an easy victim. The Invisible Man intervened by talking to Marvel who initially answered the voice without looking back. However, when he turned to see the person he had been talking to, he was confounded to find no one around. He thought to himself that perhaps his drunkenness was causing this hallucination. But the stranger still insisted his presence by violently shaking Marvel. Utterly dazed, Marvel decided to leave. He referred to the Invisible Man as 'a blooming chump' which was taken as a big insult by the Invisible Man. He found it difficult that a good for nothing tramp like Marvel could have the insolence to ignore him.

Now he decided to convince Marvel into believing his presence. He started throwing stones at him. He hit Marvel's foot causing him a lot of pain. The poor man ran for his life but tripped over something invisible. Threatened with yet another stone-hit, Marvel gave in and accepted that the Invisible Man actually existed.

Chapter10. Mr. Marvel's Visit to Iping: Summary: Iping has nearly recovered its earlier holiday atmosphere. As only a few people had actually made contact with the Invisible Man, the

general population is soon able to reason him away as some trick of an overactive, holiday imagination.

Around 4:00, Mr. Marvel enters town and is observed by Huxter to behave rather strangely. He makes his way down the street almost reluctantly. He stops at the foot of the steps to the Coach & Horses and seems to undergo a great struggle before finally entering. A few minutes later, he re-emerges, apparently having had a drink, and walks as if he is trying to act nonchalant. Soon he disappears into the yard and re-emerges with a bundle wrapped in a tablecloth. Huxter thinks some robbery has taken place and tries to follow Marvel when he is tripped in a mysterious fashion and sent sprawling.

Notes: Griffin has used Marvel to attempt to get his belongings out of the Coach & Horses. Marvel's resistance manages to get attention, but not the attention he wants. Huxter thinks that Marvel has committed the robbery.

Q1. Describe the mood that pervaded Iping after the Invisible Man's disappearance from the village.

The uneasiness and panic that the Invisible Man had caused in the village lasted only for a short while. Soon an atmosphere of gaiety and festivity pervaded the entire Iping. In fact Whit Monday was a day that people had been waiting for more than a month. People were all dressed up in colourful attires. A big and multihued tent had been set up in Haysman's meadow. Children were playing and running races. Women were preparing tea. Swings, with steam organs attached to them, coconut shies and a hurling device, which happened to be a great favourite of the adolescents, had been fixed up. Loud music was being played. Men and Women supporting hat with colourful ribbons could be seen all around. Some more enthusiastic people like Fletcher were whitewashing their dwellings. Thus the panic created by the incident of the morning paled into oblivion and everybody indulged in merry making.

Q2. Why was Marvel's arrival in Iping viewed with suspicion? How did Huxter, in particular, react?

Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Huxter and the proprietor of the coconut shy took notice of Mr. Marvel, when he came to Iping. To Mr. Fletcher, he appeared to be particularly agitated. The old man was so struck with his restlessness that as he watched his behaviour with great interest, a good quantity of whitewash ran down the brush right into the sleeve of his coat. The proprietor of coconut shy saw him talking to himself. Mr. Huxter also noticed this odd behavior and he too saw him undergoing a great internal struggle as he stood poised to enter the 'Coach and Horses'. As a alert neighbor, Mr. Huxter was watching all the time from the window of his shop as Marvel climbed the steps, opened the guest parlor and was apprised of his folly of opening a private room by the people present there. He saw him next moving furtively towards the gates of the yard where the parlour window opened. Then he saw him leaning against one of the gateposts smoking a pipe sluggishly, but at the same time giving quick glances up the yard. Soon he was seen walking out with a bundle and three books. Suspecting it to be a case of theft, Huxter immediately leapt out of his shop and chased Marvel.
