

The Elephant Man

Chapter 3 Synopsis (3.0) - A Letter to The Times

Merrick was last seen by Dr Treves two years ago. One day, the police brought Merrick to the London Hospital, the doctor's business card led them there. He was tired, hungry and dirty, so he was put into a quiet room.

Dr. Treves told the hospital chairman, Mr Carr Gomm about Merrick. After listening carefully, Mr Gomm wrote a letter to the editor of The Times newspaper. On December 4th, the letter was published. It gave a little insight into Merrick's life.

After a week from when the letter was published, The Times readers donated over £50,000 in just a week so that Merrick can live in a hospital for all his life. Now, the hospital can afford to take care of him.

The Elephant Man

Chapter 3 [Extras] (3.1) - A Letter to The Times

“A Letter to the Editor Dear Sir, I am writing to you about a man in our hospital. He needs your help. His name is Joseph Merrick, and he is 27 years old. He is not ill, but he cannot go out of the hospital because he is very, very ugly. Nobody likes to look at him, and some people are afraid of him. We call him the 'Elephant Man'. Two years ago, Merrick lived in a shop near the London Hospital. For two pence, people could see him and laugh at him. One day Dr Frederick Treves - a hospital doctor - saw Merrick, brought him to this hospital, and looked at him carefully. Dr Treves could not help Merrick, but he gave him his card. Then the shopkeeper, Silcock, took Merrick to Belgium. A lot of people in Belgium wanted to see him, and so after a year Merrick had £50. But then Silcock took Merrick's £50, left Merrick in Belgium, and went back to London.

Merrick came back to London by himself. Everyone on the train and the ship looked at him, and laughed at him. In London, the police put him in prison. But then they saw Dr Treves's card, and brought Merrick to the London Hospital. This man has no money, and he cannot work. His face and body are very, very ugly, so of course many people are afraid of him. But he is a very interesting man. He can read and write, and he thinks a lot. He is a good, quiet man. Sometimes he makes things with his hands and gives them to the nurses, because they are kind to him. He remembers his mother, and he has a picture of her. She was beautiful and kind, he says. But he never sees her now. She gave him to Silcock a long time ago.

Can the readers of The Times help us? This man is not ill, but he needs a home. We can give him a room at the hospital, but we need some money. Please write to me at the London Hospital. Yours faithfully,
F.C. Carr Gomm Chairman of the London Hospital.”

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