

The Elephant Man

Chapter 4 Synopsis - Merrick's First Home

The hospital gave Merrick two rooms at the back of the hospital. His skin got better and he did not smell anymore. He read many books, and loved talking about them. It was difficult for him sometimes, but Merrick did not feel offended or angry. One day, a new nurse came to give him some food. Upon looking at him, she screamed, dropped the food on the floor and ran out of the room. Merrick was not angry about the incident, but he felt sorry for the girl. He accepted that people usually laugh or scream after looking at him, and did not make a fuss out of it.

Merrick told the doctor he was happy, and that the hospital staff were kind. However, he wanted to live in a lighthouse, or a home for blind people. He did not want people to look at him. He said he did not have money and he may not be able to live in the hospital for long.

Dr Treves then explained to him about the letter to The Times. Merrick was speechless.