

The Elephant Man

Chapter 6 Synopsis (6.0) - Outside the Hospital

Merrick had many friends and he was more like a child than a man. After Christmas, he went to the theatre. Mrs Kendal helped him to visit and sit in a spot in the theatre where it was difficult for people to see him but not difficult for him to watch the play. It was a children's Christmas play and he loved it very much. He remembered this play for a long time.

Merrick then wanted to visit the countryside. Despite it was a difficult wish to fulfil, Merrick's new friends made it come true. He lived in a small house in the country. His lady-friend even allowed him to stay in it for the summer.

Dr Treves returned to London, and Merrick stayed there for six more weeks. Every week he would write to the doctor, and from those letters, the doctor knew he was having an enjoyable time.

He returned to London at the end of summer and his skin looked much better.

The Elephant Man
Chapter 6 [Extras] (6.1) - Outside the Hospital

Apple Tree House,
West Wickham, Berkshire.

21st July 1889

Dear Dr Treves, I had a wonderful day again today. It was very warm, so I walked under the trees and sat by a stream. No people lived near the house in the country.

A lot of birds are my friends now. The water in the stream made a beautiful noise, like singing. Did you know that? I listened to it for two hours. Lots of little birds came near me. One had a red body in front, and a brown back. I gave it some bread, and it sat on my hand. A lot of birds are my friends, now. I watched the fish in the stream, too. They were very exciting, because they move very fast. One minute they were there, and the next minute I couldn't see them. But I waited quietly, and they always came back. I put my hand in the water, but I couldn't touch them. I met a big dog yesterday. It made a very loud noise, but I was not afraid. I sat down quietly and looked at it, and it came and smelt my hand. I saw it again today, and gave it some bread. It likes me now.

I am going to put some flowers from the country in this letter. There are hundreds of flowers here. Did you know that? I like the little blue ones best, but they are all beautiful. I have lots of them in my room. I give them water every morning. Little flowers are very thirsty, you know! I am very happy here, doctor, but I want to see you again soon, too.

With love from your friend,

Joseph Merrick.

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