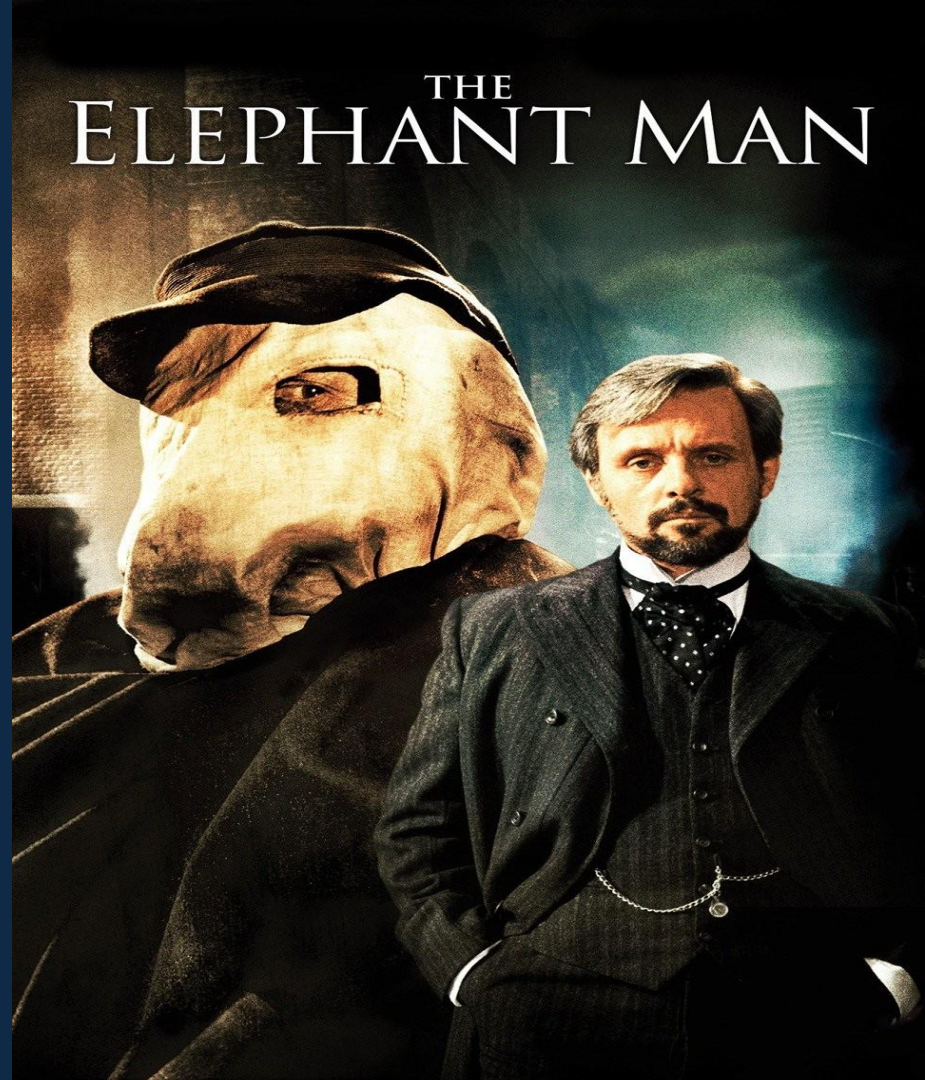


# Chapter : 3

## A Letter to 'The Times'

OXFORD  
BOOKWORMS



# Before Reading

Answer the questions about 'The Card' in pairs:

Whose  
card is  
it?



What is  
his job?

Where  
does he  
live?

**Guess the picture  
and share your  
ideas about it.**







# THE TIMES

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## How posh is your mayo?

### The 16 best condiments

INSIDE TIMES2

## House or husband?

### No contest

Charlie Gowan-Eglinton

## Labour defeats Gove's plan for thousands of new homes

Adam Vaughan, Oliver Wright

Michael Gove has accused Sir Keir Starmer of destroying the dream of home ownership for thousands of families after Labour blocked plans to ease river pollution rules to boost housebuilding.

In what critics described as a humiliating defeat for the government,

Labour peers killed off a move by ministers to disapply rules that have imposed a moratorium on housebuilding in significant parts of the country.

Environmentalists welcomed the decision in the House of Lords, which they said would protect rivers and wildlife from unnecessary pollution. Developers said it would exacerbate Britain's housebuilding crisis and lead to 16,000 fewer homes being built each year.

Gove accused the Labour leader of putting "short-term political calculation ahead of the long-term interests of the country" by killing off the plan despite promising to be the "party of the builders not the blockers", adding: "You cannot trust a word he says."

Angela Rayner, Labour's deputy

leader, said the plan had been a flawed one, "humiliatingly rejected" by peers.

The government had attempted to use an amendment to the Levelling Up Bill in the Lords to scrap so-called nutrient neutrality rules, which have prevented councils from granting planning permission for new homes where there was a risk of increased sewage discharge in environmentally

sensitive waterways. Labour had been expected to abstain on the move but decided at the 11th hour to side with the Greens, Liberal Democrats and Tory rebels.

Instead they said the government should allow developers to start building homes that are in the planning process but require them to introduce measures

*Continued on page 2*



Show of support | Kim Jong-un pledged North Korea's backing for "Comrade" Putin's battle in Ukraine after they met for four hours in eastern Russia yesterday. Page 12

## Starmer vows to smash people-smuggling gangs

● Traffickers would be treated like terrorists ● 'Inhumane' Rwanda policy faces the axe

Steven Swinford Political Editor

Sir Keir Starmer has said that Labour would treat people-smugglers like terrorists if he won the next election, by freezing their assets and placing restrictions on their movements.

In an interview with The Times the Labour leader pledged to "smash the gangs" by expanding the use of civil orders that are deployed against serious criminals, terrorists and drug traffickers.

Starmer said he would ultimately seek an EU-wide returns agreement for

asylum seekers who come to Britain. He said that the "quid pro quo" of any deal, such as accepting quotas of migrants from the EU, would be for future negotiations with Brussels.

In a clear dividing line with the Tories, Starmer said that he would drop Conservative plans to ban Channel migrants from claiming asylum in Britain.

He described the government's approach as "unsustainable", arguing: "We have to process the claims. Those who aren't entitled to be here should be returned and returned quickly. He

added that the government's policy of sending migrants to Rwanda was inhumane, poor value for money and would not work.

Starmer will travel today to the Hague to meet the leaders of Europol, the European police partnership, about a new cross-border police unit and "real-time" intelligence sharing.

His comments represented his first significant intervention in the small boats crisis, an issue which will form a key part of next year's general election campaign. The Labour leader said he

wanted to apply same approach to people-smugglers as for terrorists.

The sort of operation you need to deal with terrorism is the sort of operation you need for this because the features are the same", he said. "Very few terrorist operations are within one nation, one border. They are nearly all cross-border. They are highly organised and involve the movement of people and apparatus across borders. There's usually a lot of finance involved."

Starmer wants to expand the use of

*Continued on page 6*

## Hard times mean return of hard cash

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The rise of contactless card payments has brought the slow demise of the use of old-fashioned notes and a pocket full of change.

But it turns out cash is back to being king as Britons try to manage tighter budgets in the cost of living crisis.

Cash payments rose for the first time in a decade last year, with the number of transactions increasing by 7 per cent to 6.4 billion, according to figures from UK Finance, the main financial services association.

Adrian Buckle, head of research at the group, said the rebound was thanks to the tougher economic environment. Rampant inflation and rising interest rates have piled pressure on household finances since the end of 2022.

"We do see that some people find it much easier to manage a limited budget if they have cash in front of them, something tangible that they can hold," Buckle said, adding that a similar pattern happened after the 2007-09 financial crisis. "It is something we do tend to see in times of falling consumer confidence and economic uncertainty."

The rapid rise of electronic and contactless payments has fuelled speculation that Britain is on course to become a cashless society. Since 2017, cash use has been falling by an average of about 15 per cent every year. This has raised fears that older people, who are more likely to use coins and notes, risk being left behind. Thousands of bank branches have closed in recent years.

Last month, the government set out a plan to safeguard access to cash, under which it said the "vast majority" of people and businesses would be no more than three miles from deposit and withdrawal services.

Natalie Ceeney, a campaigner on access to cash, said: "For all the talk of a cashless society, cash remains critically important for millions of people."

Finance UK predicts that cash use will continue to decline in the coming years, however, and, by 2032, will account for less than 7 per cent of all payments, down from 14 per cent last year. About four in ten people led almost entirely cashless lives last year.

A collage of various newspaper clippings and headlines. Visible text includes "Sunday Telegraph", "DAILY EXPRESS", "FINANCIAL TIMES", "Stagecoach", "The Sun", "Larger & larger", "SUN", and "FINANCIAL TIMES". A central yellow rounded rectangle contains the text "Guess the news." in bold black font.

**Guess the news.**





Stage fight!  
The art of the  
awards  
speech  
protest

Enron or  
Jerusalem?  
Best plays  
of the 21st  
century

Polly Toynbee  
Theresa May's  
shared  
society  
is a sham

**the guardian**

A giant leap for lunar science?

**DAILY EXPRESS**

ANGRY TRUMP  
IN AMAZING

NOW

Hunt ditches  
target a  
crisis d

Frontline doctors  
at risk as casualty

**DAILY Mirror**

**Daily Mail**

FREE INSIDE

definitive  
diet

**THE TIMES**

**THE Sun**

HUNT BY  
A&E W

YOU'RE BACK!

**FINANCIAL TIMES**

Bigger than oil  
Data are reshaping life, the  
and power



- 1- How often do you read the newspaper?
  - 2- How many pages does the newspaper have?
  - 3- Can you find any pictures in the newspaper?
- What are they about?







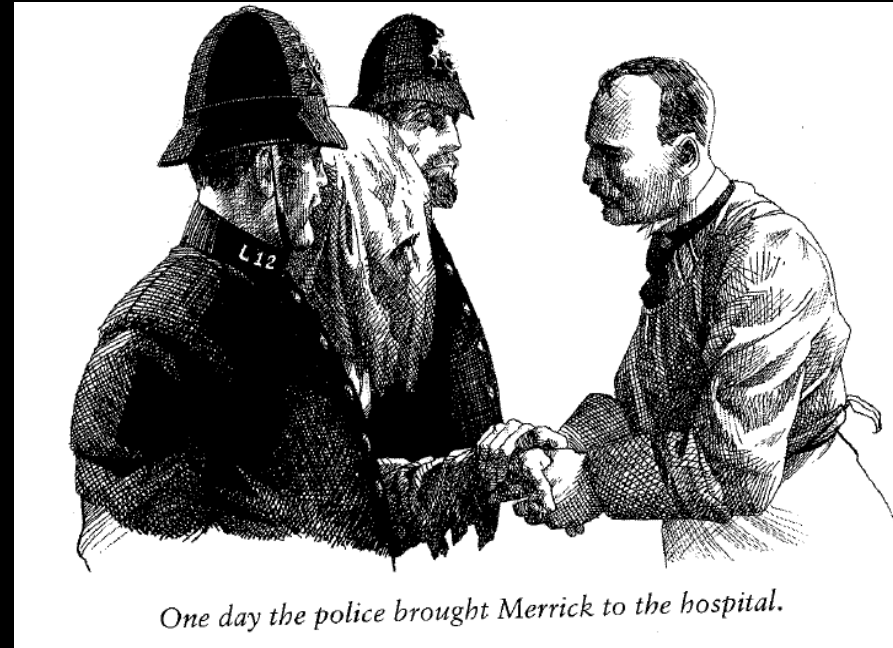


ship





I did not see Merrick again for two years .  
Then one day, the police found him.  
He had my card in his hand, so  
they brought him to the London  
Hospital. He was very tired,  
hungry, and dirty, so I put him  
to bed in a quiet little room.  
But he could not stay at the  
hospital. He was not ill, and of  
course the beds in the hospital  
are for ill people.



*One day the police brought Merrick to the hospital.*

We have no beds for hungry people, or ugly people.



I told the Hospital Chairman, Mr Carr Gomm, about Merrick. He listened carefully, and then he wrote a letter to the editor of *The Times* newspaper.



# While Reading



Write True or False for each sentence.

- 1- Dr.Treves didn't see Merrick for 3 years.
- 2- Merrick has Dr.Treves's card in his hand.
- 3- He was ill, dirty and tired.



# While Reading



- 1- Who wrote a letter to The Times, and why?**
- 2- What was the letter about?**







Read the letter and fill the gaps.



THE



TIMES



From The Times, December 4th, 1886

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 [REDACTED], and he is [REDACTED] 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 [REDACTED].

Two years ago, Merrick lived in a shop near the London Hospital. For [REDACTED] pence, people could see him and laugh at him. One day Dr Frederick Treves, 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 [REDACTED].



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 [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED].



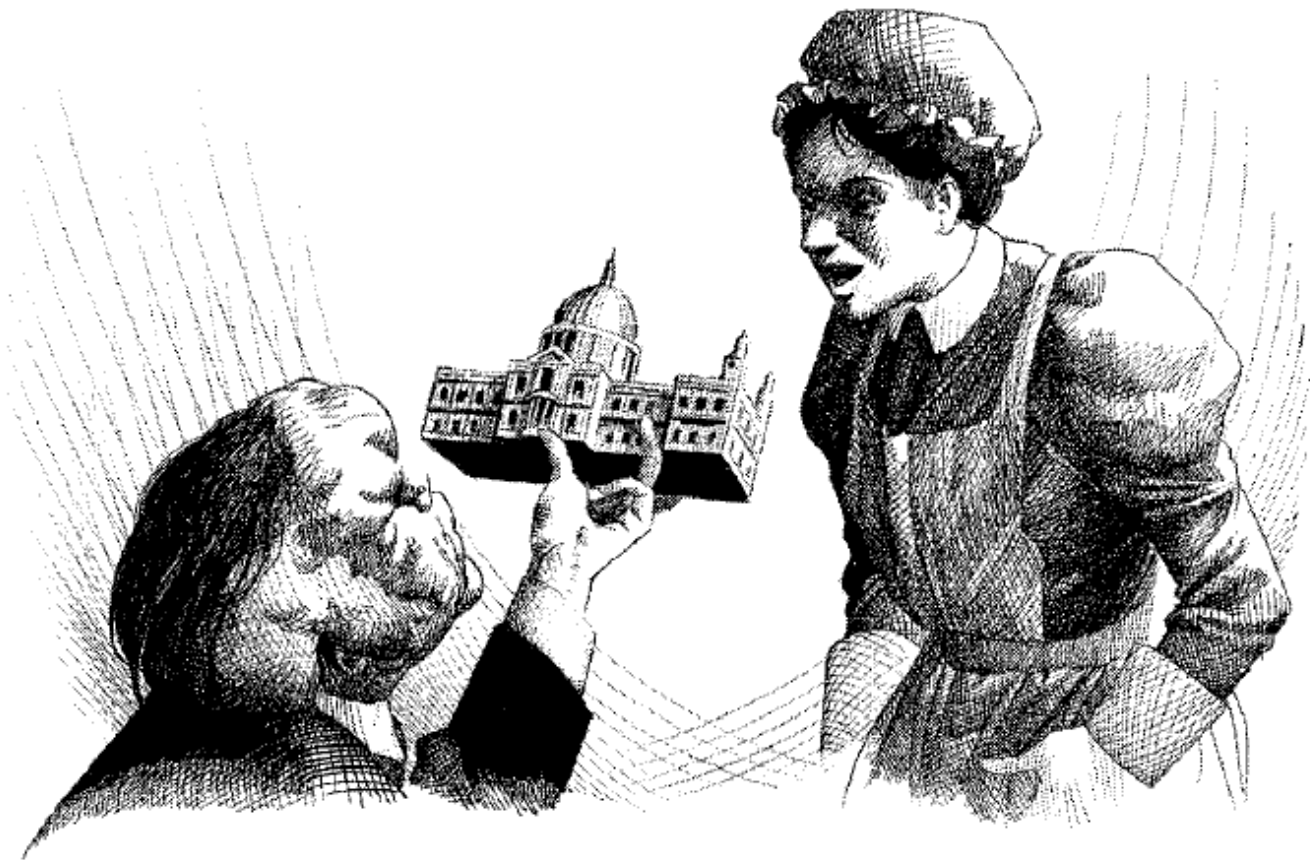


This man has no money, and he cannot work. His face and body are very, very [REDACTED], so of course many people are afraid of him. But he is a very interesting man. He can read and write, and he thinks a lot. He is a good, quiet man. Sometimes he makes things with his hands and gives them to the [REDACTED], because they are kind to him.

He remembers his mother, and he has a picture of her. She was beautiful and [REDACTED], 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 [REDACTED]. Please write to me at the London Hospital.

Yours faithfully,  
F.C. Carr Gomm  
Chairman of the London Hospital





*Sometimes he makes things with his hands  
and gives them to the nurses.*





The readers of The Times are very kind people. They gave us a lot of money . After one week, we had 50,000 pounds, so Merrick could live in the hospital for all his life. We could give him a home.

# After Reading

Here is a new picture for the story. Find the best place in the story to put the picture, and answer these questions:

- 1- Where is the Elephant Man in this picture?
- 2- Where was he before this?
- 3- What do the people feel in this picture?



# After Reading

**Write a caption  
for this picture.**

