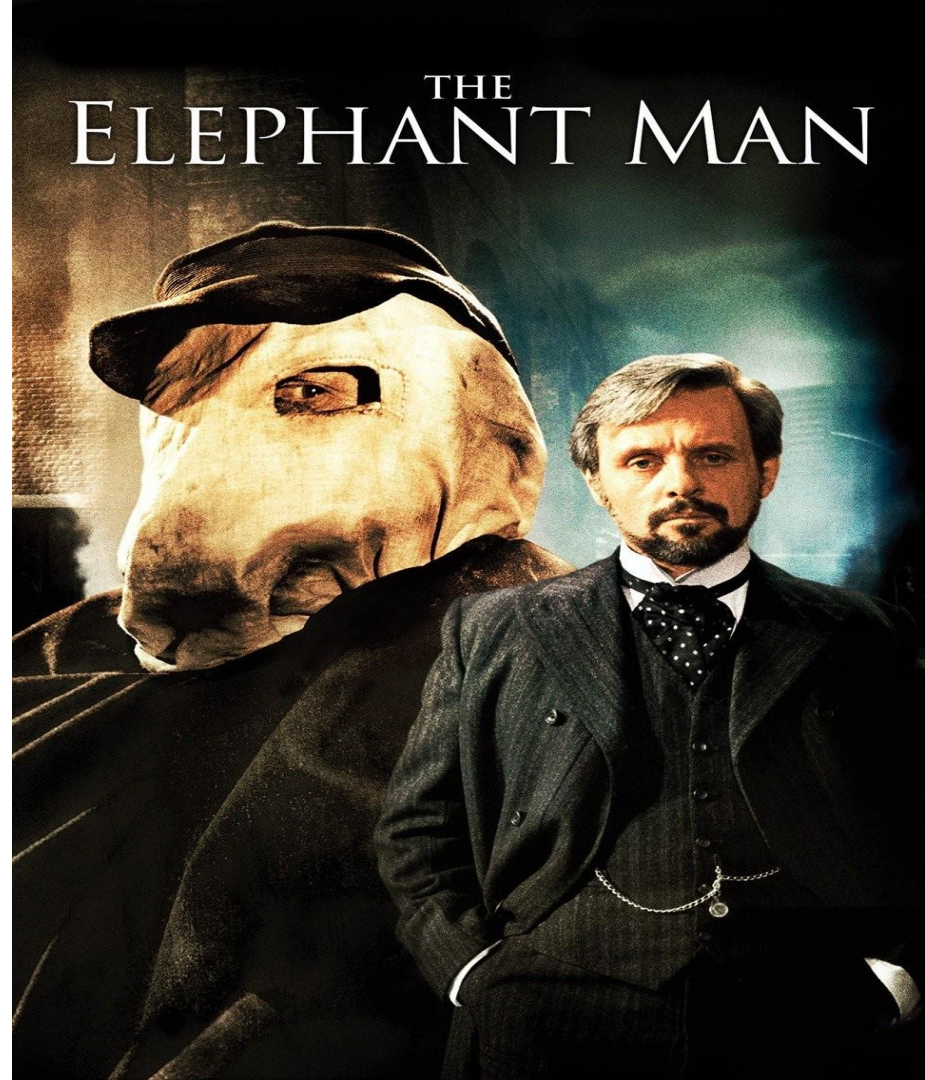


Chapter : 4

Merrick's First Home

OXFORD
BOOKWORMS



Before Reading

Find a connection between these pictures then share your idea with a partner.

Dr. Treves



hospital



Merrick





lighthouse



Alavi

have a bath



the bible





scream



drop





He dropped the food.



tear

blind





We gave Merrick two rooms at the back of the hospital. One room was a bathroom, so he could have a bath every day. Soon his skin was much better, and there was no horrible smell.



The second room had a bed, table, and chairs. I visited him every day, and talked to him. He loved reading, and talking about books. At first he did not know many books: the Bible, and one or two newspapers, that's all. But I gave him some books of love stories , and he liked them very much. He read them again and again, and talked about them often. For him, the men and women in these books were alive, like you and me. He was very happy.





We gave Merrick two rooms at the back of the hospital.



But sometimes it was difficult for him. At first, one or two people in the hospital laughed at Merrick because he was ugly. Sometimes, they brought their friends to look at him.





One day a new nurse came to the hospital, and nobody told her about Merrick. She took his food to his room, and opened the door . Then she saw him. She screamed, dropped the food on the floor, and ran out of the room. I was very angry with the nurse, and went to see Merrick. He was not happy about it, but he was not very angry . I think he felt sorry for the girl.





I was very angry with the nurse.

While Reading



Write True or False for each sentence.

- 1- They gave Merrick a house next to the hospital.
- 2- All the nurses were so nice with Merrick.
- 3- The new nurse screamed and dropped her food on the floor.



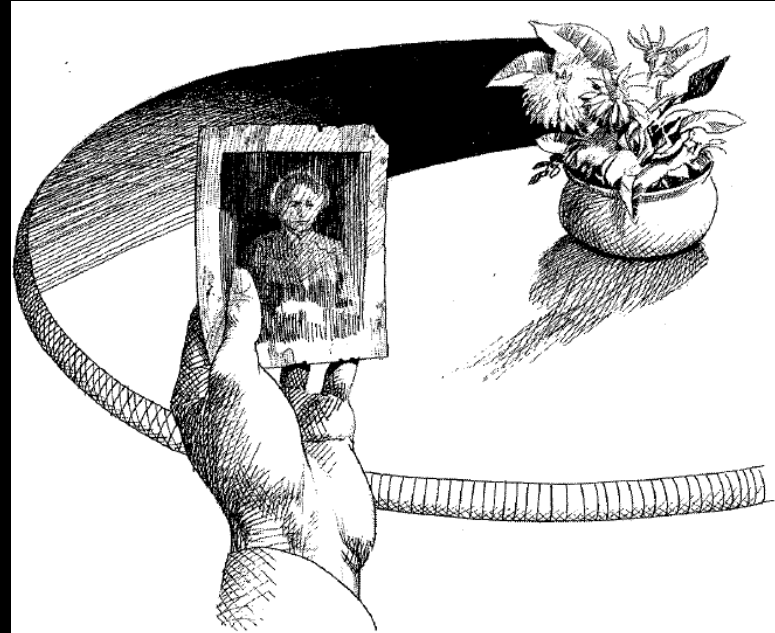


'People don't like looking at me. I know that, Dr Treves,' he said. 'They usually laugh or scream.' 'Well, I don't want nurses to laugh at you, Joseph,' I said angrily. 'I want them to help you.' 'Thank you, doctor,' he said, in his strange slow voice. 'But it's not important. Everyone laughs at me. I understand that.'





I looked at him sadly. In his one good hand, his left hand, he had the little picture of his mother. He looked at the picture for a minute, and then put it by a flower on the table. A tear ran out of his eye and down the skin of his enormous, ugly face.



In his one good hand he had the picture of his mother.



'Dr Treves,' he said, slowly. You and the nurses are very kind, and I'm very happy here. Thank you very much. But.. I know I can't stay here long, and... I would like to live in a lighthouse, after the hospital, please. A lighthouse, or a home for blind people. I think those are the best places for me.





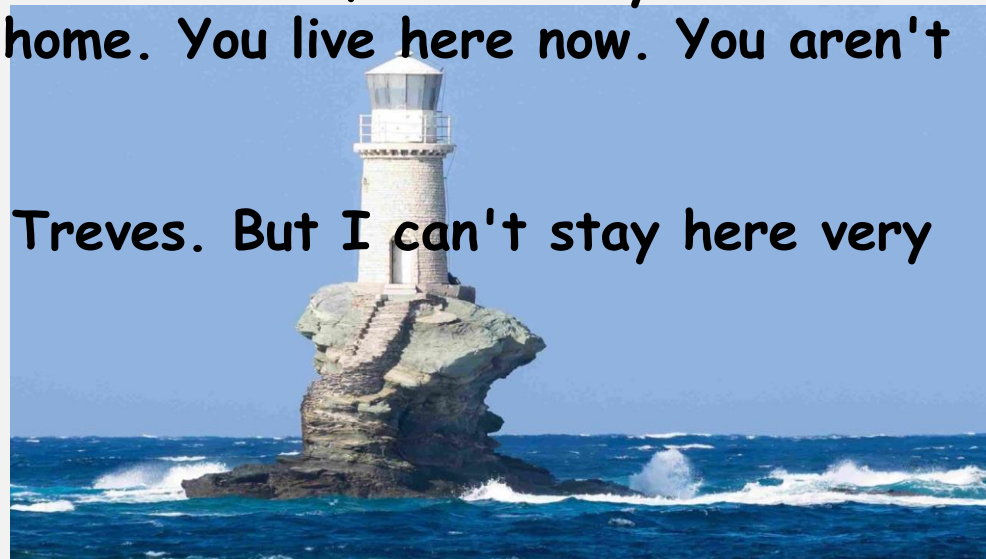
'What do you mean?' I asked. 'Why?'
He did not look at me. He put the flower on the picture and looked at it carefully.

'Lighthouses have sea all round them, don't they?' he said. 'Nobody could look at me in a lighthouse, so I would be happy there. And blind people can see nothing, so they couldn't see me, could they?'

'But Joseph,' I said, 'This is your home. You live here now. You aren't going to leave the hospital.'

'Not today, perhaps,' he said.

'But soon. You are a kind man, Dr Treves. But I can't stay here very long. I have no money.'





I smiled. 'Joseph,' I said. 'This is your home now. Don't you understand? You can stay here all your life.' Very carefully, I told him about the letter to The Times, and the money. I don't think he understood at first, so I told him again. He was very quiet for a minute. Then he stood up, and walked up and down the room very quickly. A strange sound came from him, like laughing.

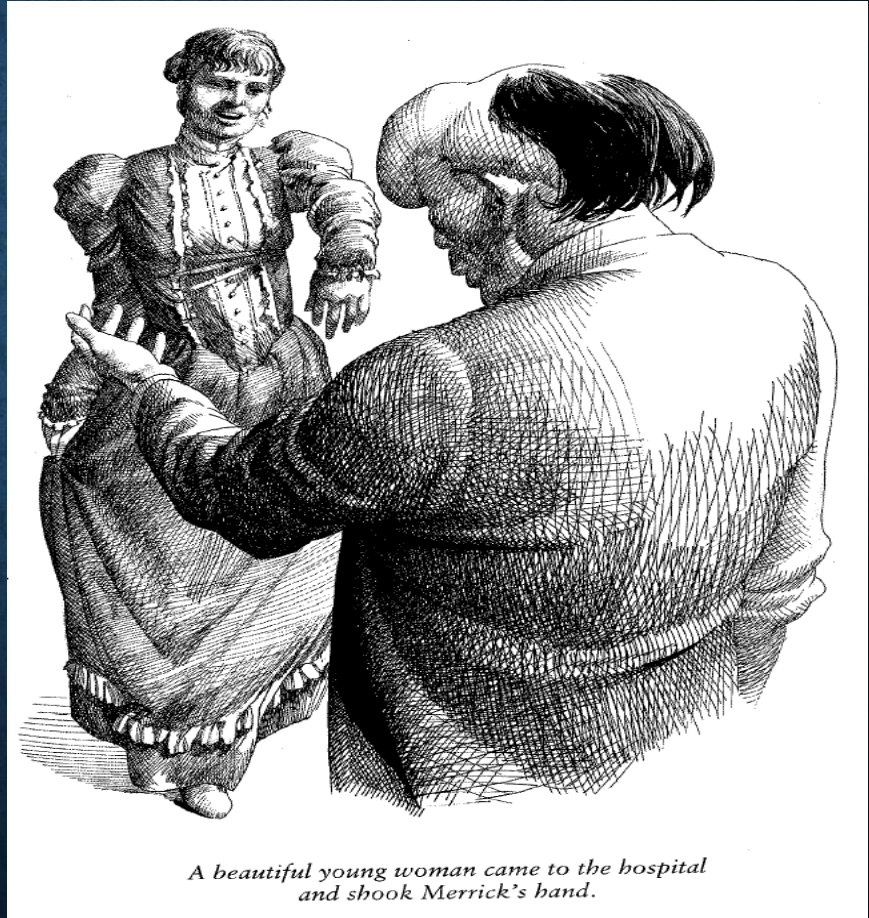


After Reading

- 1-Why did Merrick want to live in a lighthouse?
- 2-Did he know about the letter to 'The Time' ?

After Reading

Talk about
the picture
and guess
the next
chapter...



*A beautiful young woman came to the hospital
and shook Merrick's hand.*