

THE ELEPHANT MAN

Written by

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Based on

"The Elephant Man, A Study in Human Dignity"

by

Ashley Montagu

BLACK

FADE IN: ABSTRACT DREAM

MERRICK'S
which
comes

over
trail.

face

horrified

CLOSE-UP of a gold framed miniature portrait of JOHN
MOTHER (tune or melody over her picture, heartbeat),
DISSOLVES TO CLOSE-UP of real Mother smiling A shadow
over her face. CLOSE-UP of elephant ears, trunks, faces
moving.
Dark, heavy feet stomping elephant trumpet, rearing up.
Powerful hit and the Mother falls. Darker. Trunk slides
Mother's face and breasts and stomach, leaving a moist
MOTHER'S POV of elephant's mouth, eyes, skin. Mother's
twists and freezes in a blurred snap roll.
BLACK again. Knock, knock sound. Curtain opens to
faces.

CUT TO BLACK AND SILENCE

CIRCUS

and
tent,
on
back to

FADE IN TO steam shooting out of a huge old half-rusted calliope. The music is very loud and raucous. Moving up back we see the black awning entrance to the freak where FREDERICK TREVES, Resident Surgeon and Lecturer anatomy at the London Hospital, is standing with his us observing the posters of the freaks.

over-

Coming along a muddy walkway at the side of the tent is Treves' wife, ANNE, and their two DAUGHTERS. The shrill whelming music seems to engulf her.

her
finishing

She looks discomfited, vulnerable, and protective of daughters. The girls, oblivious to any fear, are their chocolate sweets.

CLOSE-UP of Treves looking at a poster.

He hears:

#1 DAUGHTER

Poppa!

face. He

Treves turns and looks down to a chocolate-covered smiles at the children and Anne.

them.

Anne sees the dirty faces and begins cleaning one of The other daughter looks into the freak tent.

#2 DAUGHTER

Poppa... may we go in there?

ANNE

Alright... Your turn.

face.

She turns the girl away from the freak tent and begins cleaning her face.

distance.

Her kerchief pulls and distorts the little daughter's Suddenly the girl sees a ring of elephants in the

#2 DAUGHTER

Oh, look M-ummy! Elephants!

ANNE

Oh, elephants! We'll go see them.

She stands.

ANNE

(to Treves)

You won't be long?

TREVES

I'll join you shortly.

She takes the children off toward the elephants.

go
admission
with him into the dark freak tent. He pauses to pay
at a small booth, then disappears within.

elephant.
DARKNESS. We hear what could be the trumpeting of an

of
black
powerfully
lamps.
Treves'

Treves parts the black canvas and enters the main part
the tent. Off to his left he sees a man wrapped in a
cape, holding a conch shell aloft and blowing
into it. The tent is dimly lit with flickering oil

shadows.
People mill about through the weaving corridors. To
right, he sees a sign reading, "The Deadly Fruit of the
Original Sin," over a small, very dark corridor.

shadows.
Treves enters the passage and disappears into the

disorient
the spectator.

The corridor has a series of flaps and turns to

the
inner chamber.

Treves carefully pushes his way through and arrives at

level,
In a roped-off space stands a small stage set at eve-

jar
an
the
of a
but
the
out of
religious
other, and

with curtains on three sides. On the stage is a bell
filled with grey-murky fluid lit from behind with casts
eerie glow in the chamber. Suspended in the fluid is
life-sized body of a baby-doll with the attached head
large snake. At the join of head and body is a blob of
unidentifiable organic matter. It is obviously phony,
the effect is still very disquieting. At the bottom of
jar, in the muck, sits an apple with two large bites
it. Behind the jar is a painting on the order of a
triptych, portraying Adam on one side, Eve on the
the tree flowering over the jar.

passage
seems
Original

Treves' impassive face is bathed in the watery glow. He
studies the strange object with a critical eye. In the
we hear movement, and an OLDER GENTLEMAN enters. He
visibly impressed with "The Deadly Fruit of the
Sin."

OLDER MAN

A wicked birth...

chamber.

After a moment, Treves quietly leaves the inner

grows
hears
twelve
blown out
talks

As he pushes his way through the corridor, the noise
and becomes a cacophony of strange sounds. He exits and
a booming roar and the rush of air as a series of
candles, mounted in a row on a ten-foot stand, are
by "THE INCREDIBLE WIND-MAN." His BARKER steps up and
to the people.

BARKER

Ladies and Gentlemen, his lungs are
larger than this mammoth blacksmith's
bellows. So great is his power of

exhalation, rivaling even that of the Great North Wind, that he will now challenge two grown men to attempt to hold the bellows shut as he applies the mighty blast of his herculean breath! Are there any volunteers?

crowd
MEN
A few people raise their hands. The Barker scans the and then points over the heads of the volunteers to TWO toward the back.

BARKER

Ah! I see two likely lads! Come forward! Come forward! Pit your strength against the Mighty Wind-Man!

cape,
supported by
During the above, The Incredible Wind-Man removes his revealing his great barrel chest and pot-belly spindly, white, hairless legs.

about
the
As the Barker sets the "Volunteers," the Wind-Man walks the small platform, huffing and puffing and blowing on conch shell.

of
black
The "Volunteers" set, the Wind-Man steps up to the end the bellows, takes an enormous breath, and twirls his handlebar moustache as a signal to the Barker.

BARKER

Gentlemen... Are you ready?

THE LADS

Yes we are... Right... etc.

BARKER

Ladies and Gentlemen!... Let the demonstration begin!!

great
Two
The Wind-Man clamps his mouth to the bellows, and with show begins to exhale, savagely stamping his feet. The

apart. Lads struggle obviously, and then pretend to be forced

Wind- The Barker triumphantly lifts the Wind-Man's hand. The
and Man ceases to blow, removes his lips from the bellows
the Two Lads instantly collapse together on the floor.

BARKER

Ladies and Gentlemen!... "THE
INCREDIBLE WIND-MAN!!!

shell to The crowd cheers, while the Wind-Man puts the conch
the Two his lips and proudly stamps his feet, circling about
Lads.

moves Amidst this applause, Treves smiles indulgently. He
on, looking for something genuine.

certain TWO BOBBIES move through the crowd, intent upon a
destination. Treves conveys a casual interest in them.

busily Treves moves on to A BEARDED LADY who combs her beard,
chewing tobacco and spitting into a spittoon.

ahead Treves continues to work his way through the crowd. Up
he sees the Bobbies.

BOBBIES

Make way! Make way!

They round a corner.

WOMAN (V.O.)

Oh yes they are, they're yours
alright.

We hear the laughter of a crowd.

on Treves moves closer to see a FAT LADY seated in a chair
the next platform.

babies. On each knee she holds a DWARF. They are dressed as

A SKELETON MAN stands beside her.

SKELETON MAN

I refuse to believe it! I will not accept it! Those babies are simply too ugly, they cannot be mine!

The crowd laughs uproariously.

SKELETON MAN

I don't want them! Get rid of them!
I don't want to see them!

FAT LADY

Darling, don't be difficult! Let's take our sweet lovely children on an outing.

SKELETON MAN

We'll take these miserable whelps on an outing, alright! We'll take them to the zoo... WHERE THEY WILL STAY!

several
From the direction the Bobbies have gone, we hear
screams.

FAT LADY

(pausing at the screams)
Children save yourselves! Prevail upon your Pappa!

the
The two Dwarves get down from her knees and approach
Skeleton Man. They kneel and tug at his thin legs.

DWARVES

Poppa! Poppa! Poppa, please!

arms
At this point, a FATHER holding his YOUNG SON in his
passes by Treves.

hiding his
The Young Boy clutches his Father's neck in fear,
face.

FATHER

(out loud, to no one
in particular)
This is too much! They should not allow it! They should not allow it!

make Treves, very curious now, along with several others,
their way around the corner.

something Before him, Treves sees an agitated crowd staring at
past him that from his point of view he cannot see. Brushing
LITTLE is a WOMAN pulling a small, confused and frightened
BOBBIES GIRL. Getting closer to the commotion, he sees four
OWNER standing with a well-dressed alderman, arguing with the
of this particular exhibit.

A distraught, almost hysterical WOMAN is ineffectually
striking the Owner with her fists about his head and
shoulders, crying weakly and incoherently.

WOMAN

Beast, Beast...

causing Treves is just about to see whatever it is that is
the alarm, when one of the Bobbies says:

BOBBY

No! That's right out! Drop the
curtain!

trouser As the curtain drops, Treves just glimpses baggy
and is cuffs and two horribly deformed, root-like feet. The
distraught Woman has been pulled away from the Owner
sobbing on a Bobby's shoulder.

OWNER

You can't do that! I've got my rights!

ALDERMAN

I have the authority to close you
down, and I'm doing just that!

mouthed, In the crowd, Treves notices a YOUNG BOY staring open-
of blankly at the curtain. Treves pushes through the glut
curtain is people to join the Boy and get a better view. The

creature
figure
man
jungle
roamed.

actually a large canvas.

On it is a life-sized portrait, crudely painted, of a
that could only be possible in a nightmare. It is the
of a man turning into an elephant. The transformation,
however, is not complete; there is still more of the
than beast. Palm trees in the background suggest the
habitat in which this Perverted object might have once

Filled with curiosity, Treves moves toward the curtain.

ALDERMAN

This exhibit degrades all who see
it, as well as the poor creature
himself.

OWNER

He's a freak! How else can he live?

ALDERMAN

Freaks are one thing. No one objects
to freaks, but this is entirely
different. This is monstrous, and
ought not to be allowed. These
officers will see to it that you are
on your way as soon as possible.
Good day.

The alderman turns and leaves the tent.

OWNER

(to himself)
...Movin' again!

He shakes his head in disgust.

a
clamps

Now at the canvas, Treves tries to lift the edge to get
peek inside the wagon, but the meaty hand of the Owner
down on his wrist.

OWNER

Have a care, guv'nor.

The two men look at each other for a solid moment.

TREVES

Forgive me...

Treves backs away and returns his gaze to the painted canvas.

FADE TO

BLACK:

OPERATING ROOM - THE LONDON HOSPITAL

We see a bellows pumping air into the open grate of a cast iron stove. We hear moaning in the background. The coals flare to a fierce glow. From the mouth of the stove protrude the handles of several cauterizing irons, their heads imbedded in the coals. Up above the irons, Treves stands by a waist-high operating table covered with black leather. His face is illuminated by an oil lantern held by a nurse.

The room is fairly dark owing to the oppressive overcast sky seen through two windows. There is also a large sink, a cupboard containing dressings, gags, manacles, emetics and other unattractive things, and two hard chairs.

TWO STUDENTS and two other DOCTORS, MR. FOX and MR. HILL, are present. The two Students are pulling with constant pressure on a rope tied to the patient's leg. Treves and Mr. Fox are working on a chest wound caused by a machine accident. There are gear-wheel marks getting progressively deeper as they near a great open gash. Mr. Hill places a cotton mask over the patient's nose and mouth and applies drops of chloroform. The patient struggles, but soon his moans subside and he is unconscious.

TREVES

How long has this man been here?

FOX

Three quarters of an hour.

TREVES

Mmmm. Hodges, Pierce come closer.
Mr. Hill, take hold of the rope
please. It's a machine accident. I
expect you'll be seeing a good deal
of this.

uneasily
takes
The two medical Students come forward. They stare
at the gaping wound, which bubbles each time the man
takes
an agonized breath.

Hodges
Treves and Fox quickly and expertly tend the wound as
and Pierce look on.

TREVES

(off handedly)
Abominable things these machines.
One can't reason with them.

FOX

What a mess.

trifle
Treves now notices that the student's faces have gone a
ashen.

TREVES

What got you into medicine, Hodges?

HODGES

My father, sir. He's built quite a
successful practice. I hope to take
it over one day.

TREVES

Is that your case as well, Pierce?

PIERCE

Yes sir. Though of course I do have
a great desire to help my fellowman.

Treves smiles at them knowingly.

TREVES

Of course you do realize that medicine
has changed quite a bit since your
father's time. In those days we didn't

even wash our coats. In fact, the sign of a truly accomplished surgeon-- was his black operating coat, so stiff with dried blood and pus that it could stand up by itself in the corner. I've still got mine upstairs... You don't mind blood, do you?

HODGES & PIERCE

Oh no, sir. (etc.)

TREVES

Good, that's one thing we've always plenty of.

HALLWAY

a
into
can is making his way down the hall. He stops and looks
an operating room much like the one we have just seen.

move
be
closes
Inside, the room is empty. The Boy closes the door and continues on to another operating room. The Doctors
with great urgency around the operating table. Blood is draining down into a white porcelain bowl. A Woman can
heard moaning. The Boy looks carefully, but finally
the door and continues on his way.

TREVES' OPERATING ROOM

of
patient
There is a hissing sound and steam from the cauterizing
the wound comes up obscuring part of Treves' face. The
is being held down firmly by the other men.

head
in.
The door opens and Treves looks up. The Boy pops his

BOY

Excuse me, Mr. Treves, sir.

TREVES

Yes?

BOY

I found it.

TREVES

(studying the Boy
carefully)

Did you see it?

The Boy shakes his head slowly, "No."

TREVES

I'll be with you in a moment ...

The Boy closes the door.

FOX

(quietly)

I say Freddie, what are you about?

TREVES

Oh nothing... nothing of any great
importance.

looking
through
Fox
window.
follow
from a
sorts.
canvas
small,
padlocked.
for a

AERIAL SHOT from third floor of the London Hospital
down on the hospital square.
Below, Treves is walking briskly across the square,
a gate and into the slums beyond.
The aerial shot is actually FOX'S POV, and now we see
filled with curiosity, watching the figure from a
Looking down from above and to the side of him, we
Treves walking through a cobblestone street still wet
recent rain, covered with horse manure and filth of all
The air is smoky from meat burning fires.
Rounding a corner, we see and approach the painted
sign of "The Elephant Man" covering the front of a
dingy shop. The door of the shop is windowless and
Treves walks into the picture, studies the whole scene

moment, goes to the shop door and finds that it is
padlocked.

Treves tries to look under an edge of the canvas. To
his left he sees a SMALL BOY watching him intently.

TREVES

Do you know where the proprietor is?

He holds a coin out. The Boy nods, snatches the coin
and then disappears around the corner.

Treves turns back to the canvas.

A PUB

A noisy pub, long and narrow. Benches run the length of
the back wall, with small tables up against them. Men are
clustered around the bar, talking in groups.

We see the Boy standing at one of the tables talking to
the Owner, greedily consuming his lunch as he listens. The
Boy gestures outside.

OUTSIDE THE PUB

The Boy comes out the door, quickly followed by the
Owner hurriedly putting on his coat, fumbling with a riding
crop, the last of his sandwich stuffed in his mouth.

AT THE CORNER

The Boy and the Owner are carefully looking around the
corner at Treves still in front of the portrait.

OWNER

He's not a peeler...

BOY

No, I don't think so.

OWNER

No... I don't think so.

They walk into the street.

IN FRONT OF THE SHOP

The Owner and the Boy walk up to Treves.

TREVES

Are you the proprietor?

OWNER

And who might you be, sir?

TREVES

Just one of the curious. I'd like to see it.

OWNER

I don't think so. No sir, we're closed.

holds Treves pulls a purse from his coat, extracts a coin and it out.

TREVES

I'd pay handsomely for a private showing. Are you the proprietor?

OWNER

Handsomely?... Who sent you?

TREVES

Pardon me?

OWNER

Never mind. I'm the owner.

He snatches the money.

INSIDE THE SHOP

canvas all the tell a Total darkness. We hear the sound of the padlock being removed. The door opens and light streams in. The covering the windows at the front of the shop obscures other light. The Owner enters, followed by Treves and Boy. From his expression, as well as Treves', we can there must be an awful stench in the room. No one says

small
with
blocked

word. The Boy closes the door, while the owner lights a
gas light. We can now see the shop. It is empty, grey
dust, cold and dank. Some old tins and a few shriveled
potatoes occupy a shelf. The far end of the shop is
off by a curtain suspended from a cord by a few rings.
The Owner approaches it.

OWNER

Here we are sir.
(ticking it off by
rote)

Life is full of surprises. Ladies
and gentlemen, consider the fate of
this creature's poor mother. In the
fourth month of her maternal
condition, she was struck down by a
wild elephant

(leering)

Struck down, if you take my meaning,
on an uncharted African isle. The
result is plain to see ladies and
gentlemen... THE TERRIBLE ELEPHANT
MAN!

a
blanket.
from
the
move,
the
to a

The rings rattle back, and the curtain is drawn. We see
a bent figure crouching on a stool, covered by a brown
blanket. In front of it on a tripod is a large brick, heated
below by a bunsen burner. From the blanket protrudes a
perfectly normal left arm and hand warming itself over
the brick.

It does not move when the curtain is drawn.

Treves steps closer. The Owner, watching his every
move, turns-and smiles at him. He bangs his riding crop on
the wall and yells to the crouched figure, as if speaking
to a dog.

OWNER

Stand up!

The Boy, excited by his own fear, mimics the Owner.

BOY

Stand up!

the

The figure comes forward and lets the blanket fall to ground and we see the ELEPHANT MAN himself.

frozen

Treves, his eyes wide with horror and wonder, his mouth open, steps backward in an instinctive movement of self preservation.

The Owner laughs.

bare

The Elephant Man is naked to the waist, his feet are and he wears a pair of worn trousers from a fat man's suit. He is a little below average height, and looks

dress

shorter

from the bowing of his back. His head is enormous and misshapen, as big around as a man's waist. From his

brow

eye.

projects a huge boney mass, almost obscuring his right

His nose is a nose of flesh, recognizable only from its position.

protruding

inside

From the upper jaw projects another mass of bone from the mouth like a stump, turning the upper lip out, making a slobbering aperture.

or

hair.

resembling

hang

enormous

His

with

his

It almost gives the impression of a rudimentary trunk tusk. On top of his head is a handful of lank, black

At the back of it hangs a bag of spongy skin, cauliflower. These loathsome growths cover his back and down to the middle of his thighs. The right arm is and shapeless, the hand like a knot of tuberous roots.

His left arm is not only normal, but delicately shaped, fine skin and a hand that any woman might envy. From

lizard. chest hangs another bag of flesh, like the dewlap of a

stumps. His legs are also grossly deformed, his feet great

Behind him, as painted in the portrait, are two crudely constructed palm trees.

The Owner harshly raps again.

OWNER

Turn around!

malicious The Elephant Man begins to turn. The boy filled with
glee at seeing the monster obey, screams.

BOY

Turn around! Turn around!

Treves. His The Elephant Man completes his turn and comes to rest.

We see a CLOSE-UP of the Elephant Man looking at
face is utterly devoid, and incapable, of expression.

We see the Elephant Man's eyes. He closes them.

OUTSIDE THE SHOP

is The Owner is locking up.

Treves, facing the street, drinks in the fresh air. He
trying to forget his shock, put everything into focus.

He looks at the garish portrait again.

Treves produces his purse.

The Owner, smelling money, turns.

Treves hands him several coins.

TREVES

So you'll bring him to me, tomorrow,
10:00 a.m.? Mr...?

OWNER

Bytes. Mr. Bytes. He'll be there.

TREVES

I'll send a cab. Here is my card.

dirty,
Treves hands the Owner a card. The Owner, greasy and
shakes Treves' hand and squeezes his arm.

OWNER

Now we got a deal... We understand
each other... gov. We understand
each other completely.

The Owner gives Treves the evil look of a conspirator.

Treves walks off, disoriented.

away
The Owner reads the card and smiles at Treves walking
down the street.

DISSOLVE TO OUTSIDE THE SHOP

at the
floor-length
to
hangs
his
A CABMAN is knocking on the door of the shop, staring
portrait. The door opens, revealing a figure in a
black cloak. On his head is an extremely large hat, cut
the lines of a yachting cap. A grey-flannel curtain
from the bottom of the cap all the way around, hiding
face.

the
part of
protrudes
There is a horizontal slit in front for the eyes. On
figure's feet are large, bag-like slippers. The only
the body seen at all is the left arm and hand, which
from the cloak, holding a crude walking stick.

just
one
the
The figure seems to loathe being in the open. We can
barely see in the darkness within the Owner standing to
side of the door, obviously enjoying the surprise on
Cabman's face. The Owner steps abruptly into his view.

OWNER

Don't just stand there. Help him up.

forms. The
onto

The Cabman, does so, while a small, curious crowd
Owner gives the Cabman the card. The Cabman jumps up
the seat and off they go.

THE RECEIVING ROOM - LONDON HOSPITAL

It
made,
cold,

The receiving room is a bare hall, painted stone color.
has rows of benches and a long desk where entries are
and certificates and other papers are issued. It is a
harsh place.

CABMAN

Not at all, sir. My... pleasure.

He exits.

Treves turns and sees the Matron, staring.

TREVES

I'll be in my rooms, Mothershead.
I'm not to be disturbed.

moment.

She nods silently. Treves looks at the figure for a

TREVES

Come with me, please.

stands
stare

He starts to go out of the room. The hooded figure just
there, motionless.

We see the whole room, the people now silent. They all
at the figure.

No one makes a move.

MATRON

You heard the doctor... Go on.

there a
Mothershead and
sight,

Treves turns to look at the hooded figure who stands
moment, then slowly shuffles after him. Mrs.
the people in the room watch him go. When he is out of

they all begin to talk excitedly.

noisy Mothershead stands fixed and watches too, ignoring the room.

TREVES' OFFICE

chair The door opens and Treves leads the hooded figure to a
furtively in front of his desk and helps him to sit down,
small trying to look into the eye-slit of the mask. In the
room the smell of the Elephant Man is overwhelming.
tries Treves goes to the window and opens it. He nervously
to compose himself, then turns to the hooded figure.

TREVES

My name is Frederick Treves... I am
a surgeon here at the London Hospital,
and I lecture in anatomy at the
Medical College... I would very much
like to examine you. Would that be
all right?

His The figure in the chair is still. Treves is at a loss.
for a sense of discomfort is growing. He looks at the floor
moment, then locks his eyes on the figure's left arm.

TREVES

Ah... yes. Um, first I would like to
ask you a few questions, would that
be all right?

and The figure does nothing. Treves sits down at his desk
picks up a pencil.

TREVES

Good. Now, let's see. Your Owner...
um, the man who... who looks after
you tells me that you are English
and your name is John Merrick. Is
that correct?

The figure does nothing.

TREVES

Do you know where you were born?
Where you come from?

The figure does nothing.

TREVES

I tell you what, I'll ask you a question, and you shake your head like this for "no" and nod like this for "yes", alright? Do you understand?

slowly,
The figure following Treves' movements nods very
"yes". Treves sighs with relief.

TREVES

Are you in any pain?

alarmed,
The figure begins to babble incoherently. Treves,
interrupts.

TREVES

Um, no. Just nod your head like this for "yes" and shake it like this for "no". Now, are you in any pain?

his
Again the figure, following Treves movements, shakes
head "no".

TREVES

Are your parents still alive?

The figure does nothing. Treves is quite nervous.

TREVES

Do you understand? Are they dead?
Your father... your mother?

the
The figure begins to moan. There are two sharp raps at
door. The hooded figure flinches.

The door opens and Fox pokes his head into the room.

FOX

Freddie, what you doing for... I say
do open a window in here or...

He notices the hooded figure.

FOX

Oh, I'm dreadfully sorry, I had no idea that... I say!

hallway,
Treves quickly rises and pushes Fox out into the following him and closing the door.

IN THE HALLWAY

Treves and Fox are standing outside the door to Treves' office.

FOX

Good Lord, Freddie! What have you got in there?

TREVES

You'll know presently. At the meeting of the society. But until then, I beg of you Fox, keep it to yourself.

FOX

Certainly, if you insist. You must have quite a find there.

TREVES

I don't know what I've got.

FOX

Nothing of any importance, eh?

Treves turns to go back in, then stops.

TREVES

I'll tell you this much, Fox, it's beyond anything you or I have ever dealt with. Keep it to yourself, please.

He goes back in, shutting the door.

TREVES' OFFICE

the
Treves turns the key in the door. He turns to the chair figure had been occupying, but he is not there.

black
The figure is hiding in the corner, crouched behind a

it
frock operating coat, so stiff with dried blood and pus
stands up by itself.

him.
Treves looks quickly around the room and finally sees
He looks at the figure for a moment.

TREVES

Come sit down.

him.
The frightened figure just crouches there looking at
Treves goes to him, pulls him up and over to the chair.

TREVES

Sit... down.

The figure sits. Treves pauses uncertainly.

TREVES

I think I'll examine you now. I'll
save the questions for later... Will
you take off your hat now, please?

The figure does nothing. Treves moves to him.

TREVES

Don't be frightened, I simply want
to look at you. Do you understand?

just
The figure leans back fearfully. From behind him we see
the top of his wide hooded head.

back.
Treves, standing before him, lifts the hood up and

TREVES

(more to himself)
That's right, don't be frightened.
Don't be frightened.

SMALL ROOM - LONDON HOSPITAL

beside
We see two cameras set up, their OPERATORS next to them
staring at something we cannot see. Treves stands
them concentrating on the same sight.

All three are speechless.

Treves suddenly remembers himself.

TREVES

Are you ready?

beneath

The Cameramen mumble, "Yes", and gratefully disappear the black cloths of their cameras.

TREVES

Go ahead.

we

figure,

They trigger the flash powder. In the blinding flashes briefly see the silhouette of a tremendously bulky starting at the light.

LONDON

DISSOLVE TO LECTURE HALL - PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF

BRIGHT LIGHT

light

of

anticipation.

at a

podium

as

silhouette

As we pull back and down in a slow spiral we see the is coming through high windows. We now see several rows distinguished doctors talking to each other in anticipation. As we continue to spiral down we see Treves before them at a podium. Behind him are two ASSISTANTS standing beside a curtained stall. Treves raps a pointer stick on the podium as to bring the meeting to order. We move behind the stall as the Assistants part the curtains and we see the silhouette of the Elephant Man. The doctors talk among themselves quietly.

TREVES

He is English, he is twenty-one years of age and his name is John Merrick. Gentlemen, in the course of my profession I have come upon lamentable deformities of the face due to injury or disease, as well as mutilations and contortions of the body, depending upon like causes; but, at no time have I met with such a dreaded or perverted version of a human being

as this man. I wish to draw your attention to the insidious conditions affecting this patient. Note, if you will, the extreme enlargement of the skull... and upper limb, which is totally useless. The alarming curvature of the spine... Turn him, please... the looseness of the skin, and the varying fibrous tumors that cover 90% of the body.

Treves' voice fades as we DISSOLVE TO the Doctors, who
at first were rigid and flustered, and now bent forward, concentrating, obviously consumed with interest.
Spiraling down again we see Treves finishing his
lecture.

TREVES

...And there is every indication that these afflictions have been in existence, and have progressed rapidly, since birth. The Patient also suffers from chronic bronchitis. As an interesting side-note, in spite of the afore-mentioned anomalies, the patient's genitals remain entirely intact and unaffected.

Treves nods to the Assistants and they go to the
Elephant Man. We see them in shadow untying the loose knot of
the loin cloth.
CLOSE-UP of the shadow of the head of the Elephant Man.
It goes up for a breath.

TREVES

So then, gentlemen, owing to this series of deformities: The congenital exostoses of the skull; extensive papillomatous growths and large pendulous masses in connection with the skin; the great enlargement of the right upper limb, involving all the bones; the massive distortion of the head and the extensive areas covered by papillomatous growth, the patient has been called, "The Elephant

Man."

TREVES OFFICE

cloak, is
his
the
over
final
the

The Elephant Man (hereafter the E.M.) wearing his
seated by the desk. Treves stands behind him, measuring
head with calipers. He removes the calipers and notes
span, then sets them on the desk. He places the hood
the E.M.'s head. Treves sits at his desk and makes some
notes. He becomes more absorbed in his notes than in
E.M. The E.M. makes an unintelligible sound.

TREVES

Hmm?

E.M.

The E.M. is silent. Treves, only now realizing that the
has said something, looks up at him.

TREVES

Hmm?

turns

The E.M. is silent. Treves passes it off as a sigh and
back to his work.

TREVES

It's been a long day for everyone.

something.

He closes his notebook and rises. He remembers

TREVES

Oh, yes, you'll need a cab...
(to the E.M.)
Stay.

slowly
begins
card
pauses

He exits. The E.M. is alone. He rises and shuffles
about, investigating the room. He goes to the desk and
touching things, including the calipers. He notices the
Treves gave to the Owner tucked in the back pages. He

disappears
behind the

for a moment and then takes the card. His hand
into the cloak, and he moves back into the corner
stiff, black operating coat.

Treves re-enters.

TREVES

Come with me.

The E.M. takes up his stick and follows Treves out.

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - THE LONDON HOSPITAL

looking
crossed
waiting

We see Treves and Fox alone at a window. They are
down on the hospital square Treves had previously
and see the E.M., lit by gaslight and moving to a
cab.

FOX

You never mentioned his mental state.

TREVES

He's imbecile, no doubt from birth.
He speaks, but... it's all gibberish.
No, the man's a homeless idiot...
(to himself)
I pray God he's an idiot.

and
Fox
on

The E.M., as he is getting into the cab, stops, turns
looks to the upper stories of the hospital. Treves and
are joined by three laughing colleagues who clap Treves
the back.

THE FIRST

Quite a coup, Freddie. You'll look
splendid in the journal.

THE SECOND

Where ever did you find that creature?

From the upper story we watch the cab drive away.

THE THIRD (V.O.)

It's a pity.

FOX (V.O.)

I pity the poor cab driver, myself.

From outside the window we see Treves surrounded by his laughing friends.

ENTRY HALL - TREVES' HOME

the
hangs up
mirror

We see a door. It opens and Treves walks in. He shuts door, locks it, goes to a coat rack on the wall and his overcoat and hat. He notices his reflection in a and examines himself wearily. Anne's smiling reflection appears beside his.

ANNE

Did it go well, darling?

TREVES

Yes, very well, I think. Are the girls in bed?

ANNE

Yes, and they send their kisses. Would you like your sherry now?

TREVES

No, I think a whiskey.

We move past Anne's reflection to a CU of Treves.

WHITECHAPEL - NIGHT

Bytes'
cooking

We now see a bunsen burner roar of flame reflected in eyes. Pulling back we see Bytes, quite drunk, sitting, sausages over the hot brick.

wet

He takes another drink from his gin bottle. Up comes a belch and he takes another drink.

potatoes
he
The

The E.M. is crouched against the wall with a bowl of and a cup of water in front of him. With his good hand, is picking tiny pieces of potato and feeding himself.

even eating is fairly loud and animal-like. The drinking is worse.

little The Boy is across the room asleep, wrapped in ragged blankets.

smacking, The E.M. takes a drink of water, making a loud slurping sound.

just Bytes looks up from his cooking with a smoldering look, waiting for him to make the sound again. He does and Bytes takes his crop and violently jabs him.

BYTES

Belt up, you misbegotten garbage.
(mumbling to himself)
How can I eat with that?

Bytes takes a mouthful of gin and mockingly slurps it mimicking the E.M.'s sound.

BYTES

(yelling)
How can I eat with THAT?

very The E.M. picks and eats some more and then drinks again tentatively.

he Because of his fear the water catches in his throat and wheezing spits and coughs out onto the floor, gasping and for breath.

Bytes is up and whacks him with his riding crop.

BYTES

Out of my sight!

The E.M. struggles to get up, carrying his food.

BYTES

(not satisfied with
his speed)

NOW!

onto He jabs the E.M. again, spilling his potatoes and water
the floor.

BYTES

You clumsy sod!

and He pushes the E.M. again, then slips on the potatoes
rage falls heavily to the floor, crying out in shock. Then
hits him. The E.M. backs up.

BYTES

YOU!

the The Boy wakes up in fear. Bytes moves quickly toward
backward E.M. raising his crop. The E.M. stumbles and falls
gasping for onto the floor. His head goes back and he begins
his air. Bytes yanks him up and hits him in the face with
spit riding crop. The force of the blow knocks a glob of
wheezes into the air from the E.M.'s mouth. The E.M. gasps and
horribly as Bytes hits him again and again.
From across the room.

BOY

Bytes! DON'T...

Bytes goes right on with the beating.

BYTES

This won't do, my lad. This just
won't do!

RECEIVING ROOM - LONDON HOSPITAL

they We see the eyes of the Boy. As we pull back from them,
widen with recognition.

the WIDE SHOT of the Receiving Room. Treves has entered and
Boy walks quickly up to him.

BOY

Our man is sick. Come right away.

TREVES

What is it?

BOY

Like this.
(he breathes heavily
in and out to
demonstrate the E.M.'s
difficulty)

TREVES

I'll get my bag.

INSIDE THE SHOP

is
blanket.
to
We hear the sound of wheezing coming from the E.M. who
sitting propped up against the stage, wrapped in a
His head bent forward toward his knees. Bytes is going
the door as it opens and the Boy leads Treves in.
Treves immediately goes to the E.M.

BYTES

What did you do to him? He's been
like this all night!

TREVES

What do you mean?

BYTES

He was fine when he left here, and
now look at him.

TREVES

I intend to.

several
and
Treves pulls the blanket away from the E.M. exposing
bruises and bloody cuts. Treves freezes at the sight
slowly turns to look at Bytes.

TREVES

What happened?

BYTES

He fell.

(guardedly)
He falls.

TREVES

He must have taken quite a fall.

then to He looks up at the riding crop in the hand of Bytes,
the strangely nervous and silent Boy.

BYTES

He's a clumsy git. Never watches
where he is going.

TREVES

Why is he sitting up like this? He
needs rest.

BYTES

That's the way he sleeps. If he lays
down, he'll die.

(he points to his
neck and leans his
head back)

Head's too heavy.

head Treves turns his attention to the E.M. He lifts his
been higher and examines the E.M.'s eyes. The E.M., who had
and oblivious up until this point, looks into Treves' eyes
touches recognizes him. With his good hand, he reaches up and
lock Treves' arm almost as if appealing to him. Treves' eyes
on his.

TREVES

This man belongs in hospital.

BYTES

(apprehensively)
Can't you fix him up here? ...He's
my livelihood. Listen.

TREVES

You listen, you're not going to have
much of a livelihood if this man
dies. He's got the rale, he's very
weak, and I don't know how much damage
has been done by his "fall". Now

stop wasting time and fetch a cab.

who
leans
Bytes considers and then snaps his fingers at the Boy
runs out. He then breaks into an ingratiating grin and
down over Treves who busily examines the wheezing E.M.

BYTES

I really appreciate this, guv. You
know, there's lot of things that I
can do for you. I move in the proper
circles, for this type of thing...

(motioning toward the

E.M.)

In fact, anything at all, if you
take my meaning.

with
Treves, uncomfortable, rises. Bytes grips his hand and
the other gathers the material of his sleeve in a slow
deliberate squeeze.

BYTES

I like doing business with you. You
and I understand each other,
completely. I know I can trust you.
Can't I?

TREVES

(gazing at him levelly)

Everything will be seen to.

MORNING - AERIAL SHOT LOOKING DOWN ON HOSPITAL SQUARE

through
Hospital
Through a window we see Treves and the E.M. walking
a back gate and across the square. MR. CARR GOMM,
Chairman, turns and moves away from the window.

HALLWAY

breakfast
sees
continues
figure.
NURSE NORA IRELAND is pushing a cart filled of empty
trays down the hall. She glances into the stairwell and
Treves and the E.M. coming through the door. She
on, startled by the sight of the mysterious hooded
At the end of the hall, she goes into the kitchen.

STAIRWAY

of
effort.

Treves and the E.M. are laboriously climbing a flight
stairs. The E.M. is puffing and wheezing with the
Treves supports him under his right arm.

KITCHEN

restocked.
is
the
and

Nora enters with the cart and waits for it to be
She leans out the door for another look, but the hall
empty. A Nurse ladles mush into bowls.
There is a lot of activity in the kitchen. Nora takes
cart stacked with full trays and pushes it out the door
down the hallway.

HALLWAY

narrow
by

Treves and the E.M. cross the hallway and head up a
stairway towards the attic. There is a sign reading
"Isolation".
Carr Gomm is leaning out the door to his office, unseen
Treves. He closes the door.

GENERAL WARD - LONDON HOSPITAL - MORNING

along
room. It
cart.
Mothershead

It is a long, high ceilinged room with large windows
one wall. Beds run the length of both sides of the
is a woman's ward and nurses are serving the patients
breakfast. Nora enters and nurses take trays from her
Nora's mind is on what she has just seen. We see
come in the door behind her.

MOTHERSHEAD

(startling Nora)
Nora! Mind your duties... if you
don't concentrate dear, you'll only
make more work for the rest of us.

Now, get about your business.
(pauses, seeing Nora's
collar)
...and do get your collar straight,
dear.

NORA

(fumbling with her
collar)
I'm so sorry, Mrs. Mothershead.

MOTHERSHEAD

Do get on with it, Nora.

Mothershead walks on, as Nora now very flustered, picks
up a tray.

ISOLATION WARD

CU of a bottle of dark fluid and a bottle of light
fluid.
Treves mixes the two in a glass. We are in a small
oddly shaped room off the attic ward.

There is one tiny barred window located high up on the
far wall. There is also a bed, two hard chairs and a table.

The E.M. is sitting on the bed in shadow and his disguise
is now hanging from a peg on the wall beside him. He is still
wheezing and appears to be very weak. Treves serves the
mixture to the E.M., who sputters and gags on it, but
manages to get it down. Treves goes to the table and puts the
two bottles in his bag. He goes to the door and turns to
the

E.M.

TREVES

I don't know if you will understand
this, but you will never go back to
that man again. You're safe now. No
one will ever harm you. Do you
understand?

The two men just look at each other.

KITCHEN - LONDON HOSPITAL

ladles

Treves enters the kitchen and nicks up a bowl. A NURSE
some porridge for him.

NURSE

Breakfasting with the patients this
morning, Mr. Treves?

TREVES

It's for a patient.

Treves exits and the nurses admiringly watch him go.

FIRST FLOOR LANDING AND HALLWAY

hall,

tries not

Treves climbs the stairs onto the landing. Down the
Mr. Carr Gomm is walking toward his office. Treves
to be seen, but to no avail.

CARR

Mr. Treves, come over here a moment,
won't you?

and

Treves hesitates, trying to hide the bowl, but gives up
goes down the hall to meet Carr Gomm.

CARR

Good morning, Treves.

TREVES

Good morning, sir.

CARR

(seeing the bowl)
You've acquired a taste for this?

TREVES

It's quite nutritious, sir.

CARR

Don't be mad. This muck can kill
you.

Nora.

Carr Gomm calls a Nurse from a nearby ward over. It is
He takes the bowl from Treves and hands it to her.

CARR

Take this up, to to the man in the isolation ward when you have a moment, won't you?

NORA

(apprehensively)

Yes, sir.

TREVES

Don't be frightened. He won't hurt you.

CARR

Indeed!

enter
ward
He gestures toward his office door. As he and Treves
the office, Nora looks apprehensively up the isolation
stairs.

MR. CARR GOMM'S OFFICE

window.
in a
It is a small, elegantly furnished room with a large
The two men sit, Carr Gomm behind his desk and Treves
leather chair.

CARR

A hospital is no place for secrecy, Mr. Treves. Doctors spiriting hooded figures about are liable to cause comment. Why wasn't this patient properly admitted, and why is he in isolation? Is he contagious?

TREVES

No sir, he's got bronchitis and he's been badly beaten.

CARR

Why isn't he in the General Ward, then?

TREVES

Well sir, he's quite seriously deformed, and I fear the other patients would find him... rather shocking.

CARR

Deformed? Is that it. Then am I to assume that he is ultimately incurable?

TREVES

Yes sir.

CARR

What are your plans then, Treves... You are aware that the London does not accept incurables. The rules are quite clear on that point.

TREVES

Yes, I'm well aware of that. But this case is quite exceptional.

CARR

Oh, is he a friend of yours?

TREVES

No, more of an acquaintance.

ISOLATION WARD (A) AND STAIRWAY (B) CARR GOMM'S OFFICE

(C)

(A) The E.M. is asleep in his sleeping posture on the bed.

(B) Nora, with the bowl, is climbing the stairs to the attic ward. She pauses in sight of the door and looks apprehensively at it. She begins to hum to give herself courage, and continues up the stairs.

(A) The E.M. awakens, hears the footsteps, and now the humming, which grows in volume. He becomes fearful and reaches for his cloak. The humming stops. He freezes and listens.

(C) Treves and Carr Gomm seated as before.

CARR

I certainly sympathize with your problem, Treves... Why don't you try the British Home, or the Royal Hospital for perhaps they would have a place for him.

TREVES

Yes sir, I'll look into that.
(he rises)
Would you like to meet him sir?

barely
(B) Nora stands outside the door, listening. She is
breathing.

drop
(A) The E.M., still listening, slowly lets his hand
away from the cloak.

(B) Nora opens the door.

open
in
tray. CU
(A) The E.M. grabs for the cloak as the door swings
flooding him with light. We see him for the first time
his entirety. CU of Nora screaming and dropping the
of the caught E.M.

(C) The shrill scream is heard from upstairs.

TREVES

Excuse me, sir.

thinking.
Treves rushes out. Carr Gomm just sits for a moment,

CARR

The Elephant Man?

ISOLATION WARD LANDING

Nora is
tray
squeeze
tries to
Treves, rushing up the stairs, reaches the landing.
at the railing, crying. The door is open, the breakfast
littering the floor. The E.M. is on the bed trying to
into the corner. Treves quickly closes the door and
comfort Nora.

TREVES

I'm sorry, my dear, I should have
warned you. I'm so terribly sorry,
please forgive me. There, you're
alright now. Go downstairs and please
ask Mrs. Mothershead to come up.
Tell her to knock on the door and

wait for me. Alright?

NORA

Yes Sir. I'm sorry, Sir.

Drying her eyes, she goes downstairs.

ISOLATION WARD

and Closing the door, Treves steps over the spilt breakfast goes to the E.M.

TREVES

I'm very sorry about that. Are you resting well?

The E.M. makes a garbled sound.

becoming Treves, alone with the E.M., once more finds himself uncomfortable.

TREVES

Ah good. Well then... oh yes, we'll have to get you some more food. I'm sure you must be simply famished. Hmm?

The E.M. is silent.

TREVES

Of course you are. Now then, I think you'll be quite comfortable up here for awhile. I'll see to it you have everything you need, and, uh... yes.

flinches Treves puts out a comforting hand to the E.M. who back. The two men just look at each other.

GENERAL WARD

the Several Nurses are taking bath things off a cart. At patient. other end of the room, Mothershead is talking to a Nora enters and walks over to Mothershead. They talk, and Mothershead exits. Nora joins the other nurses.

OTHER NURSES

Did you see him?

NORA

Yes.

OTHER NURSES

What's wrong with him?

We see Nora's face. She is silent.

ISOLATION WARD LANDING

out

Mothershead knocks on the door. Treves opens it, comes onto the landing and closes the door.

TREVES

Ah, Mothershead. How are you feeling today?

MOTHERSHEAD

(suspiciously)

Fine.

TREVES

Good. Excellent. Now then, Mrs. Mothershead, I want you to come into this room with me. Inside there is a man with a rather... unfortunate appearance.

MOTHERSHEAD

I've heard.

TREVES

Yes... Well, I want you to clear up a little mess, a breakfast tray was spilt. And bring up another breakfast. When you've done that, you and I shall give the man a bath. But, Mothershead, I'm counting on your many years of experience to get you through this, Above all, do not scream, do not cry out, or in any way show this man that you are frightened of him...

MOTHERSHEAD

Sir, you don't have to worry about me. I'm not the sort to cry out. Shall we go in?

TREVES

Yes... Yes, let's go in.

Treves opens the door.

ISOLATION WARD

Mothershead goes right to the mess.

TREVES

(to the E.M., hereafter
Merrick)

I would like you to meet Mrs.
Mothershead - Mrs. Mothershead, Mr.
John Merrick.

He
in
Merrick looks up to Mothershead, then averts his eyes.
looks back at her and sees she has no difficulty being
his presence.

MOTHERSHEAD

How do you do?

ISOLATION WARD LANDING

of
and see
water.
dirty
picks up
the
At the door of Merrick's attic room stand two buckets
very dirty water. We hear footsteps coming up stairs
a young porter carrying two buckets of clean, steaming
He puts them down, knocks on the door, and takes the
water downstairs. The door opens, Mrs. Mothershead
the steaming buckets and takes them inside, shutting
door.

ISOLATION WARD

scrubs
Months of
water
leans
Merrick's seated in a tin bathtub trying to hide his
nakedness. Mrs. Mothershead pours the water in. She
his back with obvious distaste, but does her job.
filth and accumulated excrescence are turning the bath
a murky black. As Mothershead scrubs, Merrick slowly

oblivious

forward in the bath, closing his eyes, apparently
to his surroundings.

Treves sits beside him.

TREVES

The disease is shocking.

Merrick's eyes flicker.

TREVES

I wonder how far it can go before
it...

Merrick flinches and pulls away.

MOTHERSHEAD

Sit still. Don't wiggle about like a
pup. I won't stand for any
foolishness.

grows

Treves leans forward and looks at Merrick. Merrick
still, his eyes closed, apparently in a reverie.

TREVES (V.O.)

It's pretty certain that if he had
the disease as a child, he was
abandoned. But in that case, he'd
have to have had care. The very fact
that he's alive bears that out...

(cut to Treves)

But, where?

Merrick is listening.

MOTHERSHEAD

The workhouse.

TREVES

Yes! The workhouse!

Obviously

At this word, Merrick begins to babble wildly.

onto

alarmed, he thrashes about in the tub, spilling water

calm

the floor. Treves, alarmed now himself, attempts to

tub.

Merrick, who, still babbling, tries to rise from the

touch,
back
are
They
elephant

Mothershead clamps a hand on Merrick's left arm. At her
he is instantly subdued, at least physically. He sinks
into the tub and begins to weep. Treves and Mothershead
astounded by the tears rolling down Merrick's cheeks.
stand motionless looking down at the agonized, naked
man.

TREVES

(softly)

The workhouse.

ENTRANCE -

**FOLLOWING BUCKETS OF DIRTY WATER DOWN A HALLWAY BACK
ALLEY**

through a
of the
the
bucket.
side
nervous in
to

The young PORTER is exiting with great difficulty
large iron door carrying the two buckets. He sets one
buckets down, takes the other and splashes it out into
alley. Some thick sludge dribbles from the empty
Unseen by him, the NIGHT PORTER is standing just to the
and he now comes forward. The young Porter seems
his presence.
The Night Porter looks at his spattered shoes, then up
the Young Porter.

NIGHT PORTER

What's all this, then?

YOUNG PORTER

Mr. Treves is scrubbing his Elephant
Man.

NIGHT PORTER

Elephant Man?

YOUNG PORTER

Yeah... I hear it's a real horror.
Even made Mothershead scream.

NIGHT PORTER

Friend of the night, eh? The Elephant Man. I think I'll have me a look at that.

filthy
young

Suddenly the Night Porter kicks the other bucket of water violently, sending it splashing all over the Porter.

NIGHT PORTER

Now, you need the scrubbing, ducks!

and
smiling.

He lets his cigarette drop to the ground, then stamps grinds it with his brass-heeled boot, all the while Then he turns on his heel and leaves.

CUT TO:

Dark clouds rolling through an evening sky.

ATTIC WARD

The
gaslight

Through the high barred window, we see the dark sky. E.M. is on his bed in his sleeping posture. A dim burns in the room.

breathing

CLOSE-UP of his head on the points of his knees. His is more regular now.

A GENERAL WARD

Lights are being turned off.

ANOTHER WARD

Lights go off.

BACK ENTRANCE

Large iron door is closed.

HALLWAY

Half the lights go off.

HALLWAY

off. Nurses leave for their quarters - half the lights go

SECOND FLOOR HALLWAY

Porter's We hear the slow metallic footfalls of the Night
ward. boots. He appears and walks into a darkened women's
others The women are all asleep. Some coughing fitfully,
between moaning quietly. The Night Porter walks down the aisle
passes the beds. We see several of the sleeping women as he
eyes them. Finally, he comes to a young beautiful woman, her
side of wide open, watching him with intense fear. On either
young her are two very ancient women, snoring deeply. The
her. woman has her arms tied, suspended in traction above
her. The Night Porter moves to her, his shadow engulfing
The She starts to move, rattling the apparatus above her.
Porter puts a finger to his lips.

NIGHT PORTER

Hush, love, I told you before one
word from me, they'll toss you back
on the street, and then those pretty
little arms of yours will never grow
straight. Now close your eyes.

She turns her head away, closing her eyes. He moves in.
CLOSE-UP of a gas light in a hallway. The leaping flame
makes a low roar.

CUT TO ANOTHER HALLWAY

vaguely Somewhere a door is opened and the squeak sounds
metallic like the trumpeting of an elephant. We hear again the

He footfalls of the Night Porter's boots, and he appears.
goes to the narrow stairway marked, "Isolation".

his He stops and casually looks about. He takes a swig of
gin, then starts up the stairs.

ATTIC WARD

echoing Merrick as before the light is very dim. We hear the
Merrick's footfalls of the Night Porter coming up the stairs.
small head immediately comes up from his knees. As it does, a
object falls from where his head rested.

is He picks it up and puts it in a pocket of his cloak. it
his the portrait of the beautiful woman, which he saw in
dream.

bottle Suddenly the door swings open and the Night Porter,
sees in hand, is standing there. He walks into the room and
Merrick's shape on the bed.

NIGHT PORTER

Here he is, the old fiend of the
night, the terror of the London.
Let's have a look at you. Let's see
what makes 'em scream...

Night He turns up the light and sees Merrick clearly. The
Porter jumps back, awe struck.

NIGHT PORTER

Cor Blimey!

believe Merrick is trembling. The Night Porter, hardly able to
as his eyes, moves slowly toward Merrick. He is afraid but
Porter he reaches the bed, Merrick flinches back. The Night
grins, his fear gone now. He is in control.

NIGHT PORTER

So this is the Elephant Man. I ain't never seen nothing like you before. What the bleedin' hell happened to you?

Merrick cowers as far away from the Night Porter as possible.

NIGHT PORTER

Oh... dumb, eh?

He takes a big swallow of the gin and smiles.

NIGHT PORTER

Good. I likes people what can keep quiet.

He offers Merrick his bottle with a swift, almost jabbing motion. Merrick pulls away from him.

NIGHT PORTER

Like a drink? Go on... Go on have some. No? You should try being more sociable, mate.

He tentatively presses the bottom of the bottle up against the hanging growth on Merrick's chest. Encouraged, he touches him with his fingers. Merrick makes a small whimpering sound.

NIGHT PORTER

(grinning)

You and I are going to be good friends, we are. And, I've got lots of friends who I know would like to meet you. And they will, mate... they will.

He moves to the door and turns.

CLOSE-UP of Night Porter's face.

NIGHT PORTER

Welcome to the London.

He moves out the door and it closes. In the bed, Merrick looks at the door with terror as the heavy footfalls of the

Night Porter recede down the stairs.

WHITECHAPEL ROAD

chill
parked
wagon
towards us.

We see a horse's head in CU, snorting steam into the morning air. The horse is harnessed to a milk wagon in front of the London. Through the open back of the wagon we see the MILKMAN, and past him Treves, walking

MILKMAN

Here early again, eh Mr. Treves? If you don't mind my saying so, sir, with your early habits, you'd 'a made a fine milkman.

TREVES

Good morning, Charley. I'll keep that in mind!

Treves walks up the path into the hospital.

HALLWAY (MORNING)

starts
door
room.
seen.

Treves, carrying a bowl, crosses the upper hall and to the narrow stairway to the Isolation Ward. Over his shoulder we see him knock twice on the door. As the door swings open, the camera pushes past him and we see the room. The lamp is still burning, but Merrick is nowhere to be seen. Treves enters, looking about for him.

TREVES

Mr. Merrick?

rises
his

There's movement in the corner beside the bed. Merrick rises slightly from the shadow. The light from the lamp hits his frightened eyes.

TREVES

....Good morning... John. I've brought your breakfast.

down on Treves is unsettled by the sight of Merrick cowering
the floor.

placing Merrick begins to babble. Treves enters the room,
the bowl on the table and going to Merrick.

TREVES

What are you doing down there? Come
up John, come up on the bed. The
cold floor is bad for you. I won't
hurt you, come on now...

table He helps Merrick up onto the bed and goes back to the
for the bowl.

TREVES

You must eat. We must keep your
strength...

to He has turned back to the bed, but Merrick has slipped
corner. the floor again, still trying to hide himself in the

TREVES

...What on earth is the matter with
you?

who He puts the bowl down again and goes back to Merrick,
seems very upset at leaving his hiding place.

TREVES

Now please, John, you must do as I
say. Come up from there.

himself He starts to help Merrick up, but Merrick just presses
two farther back in the corner, still babbling. There are
Mothershead in. raps at the door. Treves goes to it and lets

MOTHERSHEAD

Good morning, Mr. Treves. It'll be
his bath-time soon. Has he eaten?

TREVES

Not quite yet, Mrs. Mothershead.

There seems to be some difficulty
this morning.

disappeared

They both look at the bed. Merrick has almost
under it.

MOTHERSHEAD

Won't come out, eh?

TREVES

No, he's very upset about something.

MOTHERSHEAD

Just being obstinate, sir. I'll handle
it.

She goes to Merrick and takes hold of his left wrist.

MOTHERSHEAD

Alright, my son, none of this fuss.
Come up from there, this instant.

moaning

She starts to force him up from the floor. Merrick is
now, still trying to get away.

TREVES

No! Don't pull at him like that. We
don't want to frighten him more than
he already is.

bed.

By this time Mothershead has almost got him back on the

MOTHERSHEAD

Honestly, sir, you must be very firm
with this sort. Otherwise they'd lay
about on the floor gibbering all day
long. All he understands is a good
smack.

still

They help Merrick settle back on the pillow. Merrick is
making desperate, unintelligible sounds.

TREVES

He's had his share of "smacks",
Mothershead. I expect that's what
drives him under the bed. We must
use patience and understanding with
this man.

MOTHERSHEAD

Perhaps you've got the time for that, Mr. Treves, I certainly don't. I've got an entire hospital to look after, and you have your real patients. Don't waste your time with him sir, it's like talking to a wall. I don't mean to be harsh, but truthfully what can you do for him? I'll be back later for his bath. And Mr. Carr Gomm would like to see you when you have a moment. Good day sir.

back She exits. Treves shuts the door behind her and turns to the bed.

TREVES

(to himself)

What good am I to you...?

angered He goes to the bed and sits down in front of Merrick, by his own seeming uselessness in the situation.

TREVES

...What is my purpose? ...It's so important that I understand you. I want to help you, I want to be your doctor...

(directly to Merrick)

but I can't help you unless you help me, unless I know what you are feeling. I believe there's something back there, there's something you want to say, but I've got to understand you. Do you understand me?

Merrick hesitates, then starts babbling again.

TREVES

No! You are going to talk to me! We are going to show them! We're going to show them that you're not a wall. We are going to talk! Do you understand? Nod your head if you understand me!

Slowly Merrick nods yes.

TREVES

You do understand me! You understand.
Now you're going to say it. I've got
to hear how you say things. Now,
very slowly, say "yes."

Treves carefully mouths the word.

TREVES

"Yes."

eyes
his
Merrick is still hesitant, from years of fear, but his
betray a growing excitement. Slowly, he tries to talk,
voice a tremulous whisper.

MERRICK

Yyyy... Yyye... yyyess.

TREVES

(grabbing Merrick's
arm)
Yes John!

garbled,
speak
Throughout their dialogue, Merrick is still very
but he no longer babbles. He makes a great effort to
slowly, to form words the way Treves forms them, to be
understood.

MERRICK

...Yyes

TREVES

Yyyess.

MERRICK

Yyess.

TREVES

That's much better. I could understand
that "yes".

MERRICK

(pleased)
Yes!

TREVES

Very good! Oh yes! Now listen. I'm
going to say some things to you and

I want you to repeat them... um... I want you to say them back to me. Do you understand? I'm going to say some things to you and I want you to say them back to me. Do you understand?

MERRICK

Yes.

TREVES

Excellent! Now, say... "Hello"

MERRICK

Hello...

TREVES

My name is...

MERRICK

My... name is...

TREVES

John Merrick.

MERRICK

John... Merrick

TREVES

Say "Merrick".

MERRICK

Merrick...

TREVES

Say "Mmmerrick."

MERRICK

Mmmerrick.

TREVES

Say "Mmmerrick."

MERRICK

Mmmerrick.

TREVES

Well, that's alright. I understand you. Now, say the whole thing again, Hello ...

MERRICK

(haltingly)
Hello... my name is... John Merrick.

DISSOLVE TO HALLWAY

tray
see
the
bowl

Mrs. Mothershead comes out of the kitchen with a supper and walks down the hall, passing the open ward door. We see nurses serving patients their supper. Nora comes out of ward with a tray which she holds tightly against her. A bowl of soup is spilling on her apron. She catches up with Mothershead. They speak as they walk.

NORA

Oh, Mrs. Mothershead, please forgive my behavior yesterday. I'm sorry if you're having to do extra work on my account. It was just seeing it...

MOTHERSHEAD

Patients here are not "its". They are either "he's" or "she's", but that's alright, Ireland. This one's going to be more work for all of us. Good God girl! Mind your broth.

Mothershead continues on. Nora guiltily watches her go.

ISOLATION WARD

comes

Treves and Merrick are absorbed in their work. A knock at the door.

TREVES

Come in.

Mothershead enters.

TREVES

Why, my dear Mrs. Mothershead, how good of you to join us. Mr. Merrick, will you please introduce yourself?

MERRICK

(hesitantly)
Hello, my name is John Merrick.

MOTHERSHEAD

Good Lord, Mr. Treves!

TREVES

(exuberantly)

We've made tremendous strides today, Mothershead. He listens and repeats with great attention, and this certainly isn't easy for him.

MOTHERSHEAD

Parrots can do as much, Mr. Treves. It's all very nice, but I don't see the point. You know they won't let him stay here.

TREVES

(lowering his voice)

I'm sure that if Mr. Merrick made a good impression on the hospital committee they'd see that he's the exception to their rule. Now I'm not expecting miracles. I'm not saying he'll be able to read or write, but I do think that I can get him to speak for himself. I'm going to arrange things with Carr Gomm right now.

(to Merrick)

That was very good, John, very good. That's all for today. We shall do some more tomorrow. Mothershead?

Mrs. Mothershead sets the tray down beside Merrick.

TREVES

I'll see you soon.

close. He
bedside
the
He and Mothershead exit. Merrick watches the door
sighs quietly, looks about, and sees the Bible on the
table. He picks it up and, gently runs his fingers over
cover.

RECEIVING ROOM - THE LONDON

room
drunken
There is total pandemonium in the receiving room. The
is filled with screaming men, women and children. Two

now
hysterical,
screaming and
Two
intercede.

women have been fighting with broken bottles and are
covered with blood and cuts. The women are still
one minute they're sobbing, then in an instant
intent upon fighting again. The crowd keeps them apart.
Bobbies stand in the background making no move to

still
women's
waiting.
for
hospital.
some. The
closer
crowd

To the side we see Bytes watching everything. It is
too violent a scene for the Nurses to come to the
aide and they stand up in the front of the room
Bytes makes his way along the side of the crowd waiting
a chance to get behind the Nurses and on into the
Now the women begin sobbing again and things quiet
Nurses come forward into the crowd. Bytes moves over
to the hallways. When the Nurses have all gone into the
he seizes the chance and disappears into the hospital.

CUT TO:

Bytes appears and walks down hospital hallway looking
about.

CARR GOMM'S OFFICE

The door opens and Treves enters.

CARR (V.O.)

Ah, Treves...

his
Treves sits in the armchair. Carr Gomm is sitting at
desk.

CARR

Have you contacted the British Home
and the Royal Hospital?

TREVES

Ah, no sir. I had planned to see

them in the morning.

CARR

Good! How is the patient?

TREVES

He's doing very well. In fact that's why I came to see you. I think that if I were to present Mr. Merrick to the hospital committee, then they would have a chance to see for themselves not only the extraordinary nature of the disease, but of the man as well. If the committee had a chance to speak with him, hear him say a few words for himself, I'm sure they would see him as a patient, rather than as a violation of the rules.

CARR

A few words? I thought he was imbecile?

TREVES

Well sir, perhaps I should explain...

CARR

I really don't think that's necessary Treves. I'm quite sure the committee will be able to make an equitable decision on the merits of the case, such as they are.

TREVES

I don't agree. No one can make a reasonable decision about this man's future without at least meeting him. No doctor would presume to diagnose a patient he had never met.

CARR

No, Treves, it's out of the question. Now if it was up to me, I'd say "Certainly, let's meet the fellow, by all means," I'm sorry, I simply can't speak for the other members of the committee.

TREVES

Then will you meet him, as a representative of the committee.

CARR

Mr. Treves, it's out of the question.
I want to hear as soon as possible
what the other hospitals can do. I'm
sorry.

HALLWAY - STAIRCASE - THE LONDON

us to We see Treves leave Carr Gomm's office and walk toward
the stairwell.

next As Treves begins down the stairs, he sees Bytes on the
landing coming up.

Bytes spots him and goes toward him.

BYTES

I want my man back.

TREVES

Just a moment, how did you get in
here?

BYTES

Never mind that, I want my man!

TREVES

He's still very sick. Please come
downstairs with me. I'll explain the
situation.

BYTES

(shouting)

DON'T... Don't muck me about. You've
had plenty of time to fix him up,
and he's leaving with me, NOW. Do
you understand me? Now, Mr. Treves.
We had a bargain!

TREVES

You misunderstood. This man suffered
a severe fall, if you take my meaning.
He's my patient now and I must do
what...

BYTES

Pull the other one, why don't you!
We made a deal!

TREVES

I know what you've done to him and he's never going back to that.

BYTES

He's a freak! That's how they live. We're partners, him and I, business partners. You're willfully deprivin' me of my livelihood!

TREVES

All you do is profit from another man's misery!

BYTES

You think you're better 'n me? YOU wanted the freak to show all your doctor chums and make a name for yourself, you guv. So I gave him to you. On trust, in the name of science! And now I want him back.

TREVES

You don't own this man!

BYTES

I want him back!

TREVES

So you can beat him? So you can starve him? A dog in the street would fare better with you!

BYTES

I've got my rights, damn you, and I'm going to the authorities!

CARR (V.O.)

Well, go to the authorities...

the
Now we see Carr Gomm standing above them, at the top of
stairs.

CARR

By all means do so. In fact, I'll fetch them myself. I'm quite sure they'd be very interested in your story, as well as ours.

for
Livid, Bytes looks from Carr Gomm to Treves, at a loss

words.

TREVES

Now I think we really do understand
one another.

BYTES

(venomously)
Right... Right.

Carr
down
He backs slowly down to the landing eyeing Treves and
Gomm. At the landing he casually turns and disappears
more stairs. Treves turns and gazes at Carr Gomm.

CARR

Singularly unpleasant chap... uh...
I don't suppose there would be any
harm in my meeting your... patient,
Mr. Treves.

TREVES

(gratefully)
Thank you very much Sir. Shall we
say in a few days then?

CARR

Shall we say two o'clock tomorrow
afternoon?

TREVES

(slightly taken aback)
Wh... whatever is most convenient
for you, sir.

CARR

Two o'clock then... you know Treves...
It seems this acquaintance of yours
has become rather more than just an
acquaintance.

TREVES

...Yes, Sir.

They part company. We follow Treves down the stairs.

TREVES

(muttering)
Two o'clock?

short. Then we follow Carr Gomm to his office door. He stops

CARR

(mumbling out loud)
Elephant Man? I don't want to meet
an Elephant Man.

HALLWAYS - THE LONDON (NIGHT)

Lights go
hospital. As
slam
Again, the hospital is closing down for the night.
off in each hallway. The staff is vacating the
the last light goes off, we hear the great iron door
shut.

TREVES' HOUSE - BEDROOM (NIGHT)

She is
We see
his
deep
affectionately.
Anne is at her dressing table, brushing out her hair.
in a very flattering dressing gown, ready to turn in.
her reflected in the mirror as well as Treves who is in
robe in the background seated at his side of their bed,
in thought. Anne looks at Treves and smiles

ANNE

(coyly)
Freddie?

Getting no response she renews her efforts.

ANNE

Freddie?... Freddie, don't look so
discouraged.

TREVES

I shouldn't be. We made great progress
today. I taught him to repeat a few
basic phrases. He did rather well,
too, but I had to lead him every
step of the way. Though frankly, at
times I was unsure of who was leading
whom.

ANNE

What do you mean?

TREVES

Well, I wasn't sure whether he was parroting me because that's all he was capable of, or whether he sensed that that's all I wanted to hear, and he was trying to please me.

ANNE

But I thought you said that he was rather... simple?

TREVES

He is. I mean, I've always thought he was. I think he must be. Is he simple? Or is that just something I've wished upon him to make things simpler for myself?

Anne puts down the brush and rises.

ANNE

Frederick, why are you so interested in this particular case?

TREVES

I don't know. I can't explain it. If this is an intelligent man, trapped in the body of a monster, then I'm under a moral obligation to help free that mind, free that spirit as best I can, to help him live as full and content a life as possible. But! If he's an imbecile, who's body I can't treat and who's mind I can't touch, well, then my obligation is discharged. They can put him where they will; he won't be bothered, I won't be bothered, and everyone's conscience can remain free and untroubled. And that is my dilemma... what is in his mind?

puts
Anne, sympathizing with his concerns goes to him and her arms around him.

ANNE

Perhaps you're just polishing a stone, endowing this Elephant Man with qualities he doesn't possess?

TREVES

(impatiently)
And what qualities are those?
Intelligence or stupidity?

ANNE

(slightly hurt)
I'm sure I don't know, Freddie.

She releases Treves and lies down. Treves realizes that perhaps he has been unkind.

TREVES

I'm sorry... I don't know either. I just don't know.

ANNE

Well, these things take time.

TREVES

I've only got until two o'clock tomorrow afternoon, when Carr Gomm meets him. Somehow, between now and then I've got to make John Merrick at least seem like an intelligent man... Why am I fooling myself? Nothing short of John delivering the Sermon on the Mount is going to sway Carr Gomm...

Treves' Anne sits back up and gently places her hand over the mouth. As she does so she leans forward and turns out the light.

ISOLATION WARD

Merrick is propped up in bed. Suddenly the door bursts open. The Night Porter, an arm around a drunken giggling tart, stands in the doorway. As soon as the Charwoman sees Merrick, she screams as does Merrick, and she wriggles free, making for the stairs. The Night Porter watches her go and then turns to Merrick laughing noisily. He then pulls the door shut with a bang.

place. Merrick, very frightened, crawls down into his hiding

BEDROOM (MORNING)

dressing
awakens

We see Anne alone in bed, asleep. Treves is finished and leaves the room. The sound of the door closing Anne. She looks around for Treves. A clock reads 5:30.

ISOLATION WARD

Merrick's disguise hangs on the wall.

MERRICK (V.O.)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want, he maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters. He restoreth my soul: He Guideth me in the paths of righteousness...

TREVES

Righteousness...

MERRICK (V.O.)

Righteousness for his namesake.

WE NOW SEE TREVES AND MERRICK

TREVES

Very good, very good. Now, when your visitor comes today I want you to say it exactly the way you said it just now. I will introduce him to you and you will say the words you've learned. If you have any trouble with any of the words, I'll help you. I'm sure you'll be just fine. If you do as well for him as you've done for me these last two days, then I'm sure our visitor will be very pleased. Now, let's go through the whole thing again, shall we? I will say "May I introduce you to Mr. Carr Gomm." And you will say...

MERRICK

Hello, my name is John Merrick. I am very pleased to meet you!

HALLWAY

Treves and Carr Gomm are speaking together as they walk along.

TREVES

It's only a physical problem. He has trouble with certain sounds because of the constrictive deformity of the mouth. But he can talk, and has a great eagerness to make contact with people who will let him. So if you have any difficulty understanding what he is saying, just tell me and I'll make it clear.

CARR

Speaking is one thing, Treves, but can the man comprehend?

Treves cannot easily answer this question.

TREVES

...As I said, it's only a physical problem... but I do feel that Mr. Merrick is very flattered that you're taking the time and trouble to meet him, and he's most anxious to make a good impression, so he might seem rather nervous.

CARR

He needn't. I have no desire to cause him any discomfort. Did you make those inquiries we spoke about?

TREVES

Yes, I spoke to both the British Home and Royal Hospital for Incurables. I'm afraid that they weren't very encouraging, but they said they'd bring it up at their next committee meeting, so we should have their answers shortly.

CARR

Fine, fine. You know, your dedication to this patient is an inspiring thing, Treves. But you must remember that this is a hospital, and there are many patients here. Patients who can be made well, and you owe them your

first consideration. Just don't become so obsessed, old man, that you begin to neglect them.

Carr Gomm starts up the stairs. Treves remains behind, watching him for a moment, then follows.

ISOLATION WARD

on
at
smooths
outside

Merrick is standing beside his disguise on its hook. He nervously smooths the cloak down, repositions the Bible the bedside table and smooths the cloak again. He looks at the door, expecting it to open. It doesn't. His hands smooths the cloak over and over again. Voices can be heard outside the door.

Merrick freezes.

clutching
together
breath

There are two raps at the door. Merrick flinches, clutching the cloak. The raps are repeated. He pulls himself together and breath and walks to the middle of the room. He takes a deep breath and closes his eyes.

MERRICK

Come in.

Gomm's
Treves
eyes
does

The door opens and Treves and Carr Gomm enter. Carr Gomm's eyes are rivited on Merrick, but he contains his shock. Merrick is breathing unevenly, his eyes still closed. Treves goes to him and touches his shoulder. Merrick opens his eyes and looks up at Treves. Treves turns to Carr Gomm, as does Merrick. Carr Gomm lowers his eyes.

TREVES

John, may I introduce you to Sir Carr Gomm.

MERRICK

Hello... my name is John Merrick. I am very pleased to meet you.

Carr Gomm, still shaken, instinctively offers his hand.

CARR

I'm very... pleased to meet you.

it

Before Carr Gomm can withdraw his hand, Merrick grasps with his left hand.

Carr

There is an uncomfortable silence. Merrick releases it. Gomm, nervously clears his throat.

CARR

How are you feeling today?

MERRICK

I feel much better. Thank you for asking. And you?

CARR

I'm feeling very fit, thank you. How is your bronchitis?

MERRICK

I feel much better. Thank you.

CARR

Are you comfortable here?

MERRICK

Everyone has been very kind. I am extremely grateful.

TREVES

Mr. Merrick likes the food here. Don't you John?

MERRICK

Oh yes! It is much better than what I am used to.

CARR

Oh yes?

TREVES

(after a pause)
And what was that, John?

MERRICK

Potatoes...

There is another agonizing silence.

TREVES

(to Carr Gomm)

...Yes potatoes... but...

MERRICK

But the variety of food here is very pleasing... I commend you.

CARR

(after a pause)

I understand that you were beaten?

Merrick is at a loss. This is not part of the expected scenario.

DIERRICK

Oh no, everyone has been very kind.

CARR

No, I meant in your former situation.

Merrick doesn't seem to understand.

MERRICK

I'm feeling much better now...

Carr Gomm stares levelly at Treves for a moment, then

asks

Merrick:

CARR

Tell me, how do you like Mr. Treves?
As a teacher?

Treves stiffens.

MERRICK

...I... everyone has been very kind
to me.

CARR

Of course. How long did you and Mr.
Treves prepare for this interview?

Merrick looks at Treves for guidance, but Treves cannot

look

him in the eye.

MERRICK

...everyone has been very kind.

CARR

Yes, of course... Well, it's been a pleasure meeting you, Mr. Merrick. Good day.

TREVES

(to John)

Thank you, John. You did very well.

Merrick
their
Treves and Carr Gomm go out the door onto the landing.
sees his chance escaping him and tries to recapture
attention.

MERRICK

(his voice is gaining strength)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...

(he continues through the following dialogue)

Treves and Carr Gomm are alone on the landing, speaking quietly.

CARR

It was a nice try, Treves, but the man is so obviously mouthing your words.

TREVES

Yes, I'm very sorry to have wasted your time, sir. I just felt that I had to do anything I could to protect him.

CARR

I'm sorry too. He simply doesn't belong here. He's be much happier somewhere else, where he could be constantly looked after. Believe me, Frederick, it's better that it worked out this way. Good day.

to
Merrick has come to the end of what Treves taught him
say. He makes one last, desperate attempt to be heard.

Gomm Treves, disheartened, stands on the landing as Carr starts down the stairs.

MERRICK (V.O.)

(now full voice)

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me...

Carr Treves is staring, open-mouthed, back into the room.

Gomm looks up at him.

CARR

What is it, Treves?

MERRICK (V.O.)

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies, Thou anointest my head with oil...

TREVES

I didn't teach him that part!

Gomm. Treves rushes back into the room, followed by Carr

MERRICK

My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and loving kindness shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

other. There is a long silence as all three men stare at each

TREVES

How did you, know the rest? I never taught you the rest of it.

CARR

I don't understand.

TREVES

Tell me, John, how did you know the rest of the 23rd Psalm?

MERRICK

(hesitantly)

I... I used to read the Bible every day. I know it very well. The Bible, and the Book of Common Prayer. The 23rd Psalm is very beautiful.

ISOLATION WARD

A few minutes later. We hear voices inside the room.

CARR (V.O.)

It was a great pleasure to meet you, Mr. Merrick.

MERRICK

I am very pleased to meet you.

CARR

I hope we can talk together again sometime. Good day.

The door opens and Carr Gomm and Treves come out.

TREVES

(to Merrick)

I'll be right back.

He closes the door.

CARR

I want to see you in my office as soon as you're through up here. We've a good deal to discuss.

He starts down the stairs.

TREVES

Of course, sir. Thank you, thank you very much.

Carr Gomm stops on the stairs.

CARR

Treves. Well done.

TREVES

Not me, sir. Mr. Merrick. He succeeded in spite of my shortsightedness.

ISOLATION WARD

Merrick is on the bed, propped up by pillows. The door opens.

They

Treves comes in, shuts the door and leans against it.
look at each other for a moment.

TREVES

Why did you let me go on like that,
teaching you what you already knew?
Why didn't you tell me you could
read?

MERRICK

You did not ask me.

TREVES

I never thought to ask. How can you
ever forgive me?

MERRICK

Oh, no do not say that. You have
been so kind to me. I was afraid to
say too much. People always want me
to be quiet. You wanted me to speak,
but I was afraid. Forgive me.

TREVES

We do have a lot to talk about, don't
we?

CARR GOMM'S OFFICE

silently.
quietly
never
Carr Gomm is seated at the window, looking out
There is a knock at the door and Treves enters. He
closes the door and walks to the window. Carr Gomm
moves.

CARR

Can you imagine what his life has
been like?

TREVES

Yes, I think I can.

CARR

No you can't. You can't begin to
know, no one can.

Carr Gomm suddenly stands and faces Treves.

CARR

You are quite right, Treves, this is an exceptional case. And I quite agree that the committee should see Mr. Merrick.

TREVES

I could easily arrange...

CARR

No, not that way. Broadneck and the others don't like to deal with patients directly. It makes them queasy... Do you have any photographs of Mr. Merrick?

TREVES

Well, yes.

CARR

Excellent. We shall present them, along with the other particulars of the case to the committee. I want them to see, exactly, how horribly his body has been affected. You and I shall vouch for his inner qualities.

TREVES

Do you think they'll go along with us?

CARR

Of course they will. They're reasonable men.

ISOLATION WARD

day.
room.
over
and

Merrick is in bed, very tired. It's been an exhausting
Suddenly the door opens and Mothershead comes into the
Merrick looks up at her very apprehensively. She walks
to the bed, picks up the Bible from the table, opens it
hands it to Merrick.

MOTHERSHEAD

Read it.

Merrick looks down at the Bible.

MERRICK

Thou heardest my voice; hide not
thine ear at my breathing, At my
cry.

She Mothershead backs slowly to the door, deeply disturbed.
stares at Merrick for a moment.

MOTHERSHEAD

Credit where credit is due. You'll
have the paper every morning at
breakfast.

Bible. She quickly turns and exits. Merrick looks down at the
It is open to "Lamentations".

HALLWAY - THE LONDON (NIGHT)

hear As before the lights are going off in one hallway after
another. The hallways are empty, dark and silent. We
the great iron door close with a bang.

ISOLATION WARD (NIGHT)

of Merrick is in his bed as always. He holds the portrait
door the beautiful woman, gazing at it longingly. He hears a
close far away in the silence of the hospital.

Porter's Suddenly we hear the heavy footfalls of the Night
closer boots. As they get louder and louder we move slowly
to Merrick's face.

visibly The sound is very close now, and Merrick's eyes are
agitated.

standing Finally, the door bursts open and the Night Porter is
moment there. He stares malevolently at Merrick for a long
and then walks to him menacingly.

NIGHT PORTER

I hear you have some trouble
sleepin'...

head

He grabs Merrick fiercely by the hair and jerks his back. Merrick immediately starts to wheeze and gasp.

NIGHT PORTER

Head's too heavy, eh?

he

He pulls Merrick all the way down onto the bed, so that is prone, struggling for breath.

NIGHT PORTER

And I heard a nasty rumor about you;
I heard you can talk but you can't,
can you... can you... can you?...

MERRICK

(struggling)

Noooo!

pleased at

The Night Porter is as first surprised, and then the desperate sound.

NIGHT PORTER

No... No you can't! One word about
me out of that stinking cakehole...
Just ONE word, and you'll have no
trouble at sleepin'... no trouble at
all. You understand me? Do you!!

MERRICK

(croaking)

Yyyesss.

able

Merrick

Satisfied, the Night Porter rights Merrick who is just to catch his breath. The Night Porter smiles and pats on the shoulder.

NIGHT PORTER

There now, that's better, i'n' it?

HALLWAY

a

Treves and Carr Gomm are on their way to the committee meeting, confident of their position. Treves is holding a folder, and Carr Gomm is looking at the photographs of Merrick.

CARR

As far as I can see, the only obstacle might be Broadneck. He has enormous influence over the others, very old school, not an easy man to impress. In any case, if worse does come to worse, we still have the British and Royal Homes to fall back on, don't we.

Treves is silent. They stop.

CARR

Don't we?

TREVES

No, we don't. Their committees have informed me that they're unwilling to take Mr. Merrick, even if they were supplied with funds. They don't want him.

CARR

Well, it's up to us then, isn't it?

They continue walking.

CARR

Don't worry Treves, we'll make them see it our way.

He looks at the pictures.

CARR

They've eyes, haven't they?

They go through a door marked "Committee Room".

COMMITTEE ROOM - THE LONDON HOSPITAL

Merrick is
We see a pair of hands. One of the photographs of
passed to them.

table.
They hold it for a moment, then lay it down flat on the
paper.
One of the hands covers the photograph with a piece of

TREVES (V.O.)

...Due to the progressive nature of the disease, I feel sure that the

patient does not have much longer to live.

pinched

We pan up from the hands to see BROADNECK, his face with disgust. He sniffs, and gazes coolly at Treves.

TREVES

Forgive the redundancy, gentlemen, but there is no other place for him. Both the Royal Hospital and the British Home have turned him down even if sufficient funds for his care were provided. The workhouse is certainly out of the question. The patient has an overwhelming fear of returning to the horrors of his past. His appearance is so disturbing that all shrink from him. He cannot, in justice to others, be put in the general ward of the workhouse. The police rightly prevent his being exhibited, and he is mobbed in the streets wherever he goes. What is to be done with him?

BROADNECK

I, for one, am sick and tired of this competitive freak-hunting by these overly ambitious young doctors, trying to make names for themselves. To parade then about in front of the pathological society is one thing, but to waste this committee's valuable time with requests for shelter for these abominations of nature is quite another.

TREVES

Gentlemen, John Merrick is not an animal, he is a man, fully aware of his condition. An intelligent, sensitive, literate man, with an intimate knowledge of the Bible. His horrible infirmities do not reduce him to anything less than what he is, a man; and it would be criminal if we of the London Hospital, his final refuge, the last place on earth where this man can find peace, were to cast him out.

Carr Gomm, from his chair on the committee, pounds his gavel.

CARR

Gentlemen, may I make a suggestion. There are two small rooms off Bedstead Square that are no longer in use and would be admirably suited to Mr. Merrick's needs. I also propose to write a letter to The Times, appealing to their readers for assistance. Knowing the generosity of the British public, I feel we would have little trouble in raising the funds for his maintenance. Indeed, this hospital's rules do preclude the admission of incurables, but if ever there was an exception to the rule, it is this patient. So therefore, I propose, if Mr. Treves is finished, that we put it to a vote. All those in favor of keeping Mr. Merrick here?

Carr Gomm and another committee member raise their hands.

Broadneck is displeased.

BROADNECK

One moment,
(showing the picture
of Merrick)
as far as I'm concerned this creature has no business being in our hospital. I think Mr. Carr Gomm's letter would be an excellent idea,
(to Carr Gomm)
and when you appeal for funds, I think you should appeal for a more appropriate place for him as well. I agree the British public is generous, and I'm sure that somewhere the creature will find a happy and permanent home, but not here.

One of the committee members says "I quite agree". Carr Gomm scowls a bit.

CARR

I see. All, then, that move we keep Mr. Merrick here?

Treves and
the

Carr Gomm raises his hand. None of the others do.
Carr Gomm exchange hopeless glances. Carr Gomm looks at
man who had originally raised his hand. He looks away,
ashamed.

CARR

All those opposed?

Broadneck and the rest raise their hands.

CARR

I see.

BROADNECK

(triumphantly)

Well then. In the meantime, of course,
he needn't be turned out. He may
stay in the rooms off Bedstead Square
until such time as more suitable
arrangements can be made, thus freeing
the Isolation Ward for more deserving
patients. Well then, Mr. Chairman,
if there is nothing further to
discuss, I move that we adjourn this
meeting and all go about our normal
business.

Carr Gomm cannot conceal his contempt.

CARR

I second the motion gentlemen. This
meeting is adjourned.

the
takes the

The others cough their agreement and hurriedly leave
room. Treves walks over to the committee table and
paper off the photograph. He stares sadly at Merrick's
picture.

CARR (V.O.)

Somehow I don't think they quite
understand.

THEATRE DRESSING ROOM

mirror.
brushed

We see a very lovely WOMAN seated in a chair before a
She is reading aloud from The Times. Her hair is being

by a YOUNG GIRL.

WOMAN

...terrible though his appearance is, so terrible indeed that women and nervous persons fly in terror from the sight of him, and that he is debarred from seeking to earn his livelihood in any ordinary way, yet he is superior in intelligence, can read and write, is quiet, gentle, not to say even refined in his mind.

She turns to the girl thoughtfully.

WOMAN

I'd very much like to meet that gentleman. He sounds almost Shakespearean.

DINING HALL - THE LONDON

The room is elegantly furnished and heavily carpeted. The walls are panelled in richly gleaming walnut with wrought brass lamps spaced regularly along their length. In the center of the room is a long oak table with a fine linen table cloth, around which sits a number of Doctors, among them, Fox. Some of them are still eating. A waiter is clearing away a few plates and several Doctors are helping themselves to port wine kept in decanters in the center of the table and to cigars in humidors. One of them is reading The Times. At one end of the table sits Treves, picking at his food.

#1 DOCTOR

"...in life until he came under the kind care of the nursing staff of the London Hospital and the surgeon who has befriended him..."

#2 DOCTOR

Good publicity for the Hospital, at

any rate.

#3 DOCTOR

Treves comes off well too, eh Freddie?

#4 DOCTOR

It was pleasant of you to join us
this evening, Frederick.

#2 DOCTOR

Your Elephant Man dining out this
evening?

#4 DOCTOR

I understand the kitchen ran out of
hay this morning.

The group laughs.

FOX

(slightly sourly)

Do continue reading, Mr. Stanley,
please.

#1 DOCTOR

"...it is a case of singular
affliction brought about through no
fault of himself; he can but hope
for quiet and privacy during a life
which Mr. Treves assures me is not
likely to be long,"

There is a short pause.

#4 DOCTOR

The Elephant Man. Makes you sound
rather more like a zoo-keeper than a
surgeon, Frederick.

The group again laughs. Treves clears his throat and
rises.

TREVES

Excuse me gentlemen. I seem to have
lost my appetite. Good evening.

Treves leaves the room.

#4 DOCTOR

I say, what's he on about?

#3 DOCTOR

He's getting a bit of a swelled head,
if you ask me.

FOX

(coldly)

Well, no one did ask you Atkins.
Frederick Treves is not only the
most skillful surgical operator here,
he's also a humanitarian of the
highest order. You sound like a pack
of whining school boys with your
petty jealousies.

#3 DOCTOR

Look here, Fox, I simply said.

FOX

Oh belt up!

A deep silence falls over the Doctors.

BEDSTEAD SQUARE ROOMS (NIGHT)

boxes
The
We see a small, very dusty, dirty room, filled with
and bedsteads and other things stored over the years.
one grimy window is locked shut.

They
mops
The door opens and two middle-aged CHARWOMEN enter.
look around at the room with distaste and drop their
and buckets.

1ST WOMAN

There are cleaner rooms in the
gasworks.

bottle
She reaches into her apron pocket and pulls out a pint
of gin. She takes a drink and passes it to her friend.

1ST WOMAN

Who's all the fuss for, then?

2ND WOMAN

(wiping her mouth)

Don't you know? It's for that strange
one.

1ST WOMAN

Mr. Treves' Elephant Man? I hear
he's got a trunk.

2ND WOMAN

Right, right.

The 1st Woman takes the bottle and walks across the
room. She forces open the balky window and sits on the sill.

2ND WOMAN

Blimey, now we're cleanin' up for
circus animals!

The 1st Woman, laughing, takes another healthy swig
from the bottle. We see past her through the window, the dark
against silhouette of the main spire of St. Philip's Cathedral
the sky.

It fills the screen.

DISSOLVE TO:

ISOLATION WARD

Merrick sitting on his bed, hunched over in
concentration reading an Illustrated London News. He is staring at a
picture of the Eddystone Lighthouse.

MERRICK

(reading softly)

"A silent shaft of stone on a deserted
promontory, the lonely Eddystone is
a beacon of aid and comfort to
mariners of all nations."

He looks at the picture silently. There is a knock at
the door. Merrick says, "Come in". Treves enters, holding a
book.

TREVES

Good evening. How are you feeling?

MERRICK

Good evening. Very well, thank you.
And you?

TREVES

Very well, thank you. I have something for you, John. I'm sure you'll enjoy it, it's very popular.

He holds the book out to him. It's an "Alice In Wonderland".

MERRICK

(surprised)

Thank you... so much... oh it's beautiful!

Treves He lovingly feels the leather binding and looks at with speechless gratitude.

frontpiece, Merrick carefully opens the book to a colored looking the picture of Alice grown too large for a hallway, reads imploringly at the dwarfed White Rabbit. The caption pages "...curiouser and curiouser". He leafs through the with looking at the other illustrations as Treves, delighted the gift's effect, looks on.

TREVES

I came to tell you that I'll be here early tomorrow morning. We're moving you to your permanent home. I'm sure you'll be very happy there, John. So get a good night's rest, there'll be new people to meet tomorrow. Good night.

Treves smiles broadly and exits.

MERRICK

(weakly)

Good night.

Mock Treves' words have disturbed Merrick. He sinks into the pillows, the book before him. We see the picture of the his Turtle perched upon his rock, great tears rolling down intense cow-like face, as Alice and the Gryphon look on with

the sympathy. Merrick looks up at his disguise hanging on wall.

THE PEACOCK PUB - WHITECHAPEL

crowd. The Night Porter enters and saunters over to the noisy

As they welcome him, he slaps down The Times on the bar counter for all to see.

NIGHT PORTER

Here... listen to this. This is a letter to THE London Times from the guvnor of the hospital.

(starts to read)

There is now in a little room off one of our attic wards a man named John Merrick, so dreadful a sight that he is unable even to come out by daylight to the garden. He has been called The Elephant Man on account of his terrible deformity...

people The Night Porter has the undivided attention of the in the pub.

NIGHT PORTER

...His appearance is so terrible that woman and nervous persons fly in terror at the sight of him.

(pauses)

...and guess who can get you tickets to see him? Your own Sunny Jim!

YOUNG MAN IN CROWD

Let's go see him, then!

NIGHT PORTER

Keep your shirts on.

(shaking his finger at them)

...When the time is right. Right now he's in the attic but tomorrow they're movin' him into Bedstead Square, right into my lap... then... for the right price you'll see something you'll never see again in your life.

Bytes' He lifts his glass to his lips. We move back to see

boys who, having heard the Night Porter's words, slips unnoticed from the pub.

MERRICK

(wheezing)

Workhouse!

HALLWAY - MOVING DAY

him, Merrick, in his disguise, and Treves, one arm around are walking together. Merrick seems very uneasy.

them. She A Nurse, on duty early or late getting off, passes silence. stares at the hooded figure. They continue on in

BEDSTEAD SQUARE ROOM

and the The room is now spotless. It is furnished with a bed required pillows, a small table and chair by the window, now curtained. Adjoining this room is a smaller one which contains a bathtub.

stands in Merrick enters and looks around, confused. Treves the doorway.

Merrick turns to him.

TREVES

This is your new home, John.

Merrick pulls off his hood. His eyes are bewildered.

MERRICK

This... is my new home?

TREVES

Yes.

MERRICK

(incredulous)

The hospital?

TREVES

Of course! What did you think?

them. Merrick's eyes glisten with held back tears. He lowers

MERRICK

(almost sobbing)
How long will I stay here?

TREVES

I promise you. You will never see the inside of that horrible place again. You will never, ever go back to the workhouse... or that man. It's a splendid room, don't you think?

world. Merrick inspects his new home. He seems pleased-by the bathtub, by the table, by the window to the outside

He looks out and then up with a small intake of breath. Before him, beyond the hospital fence, the spire of St. Phillips Cathedral stands resplendently in the morning light.

MERRICK

When I'm next moved may I go to a lighthouse?... or to a blind-asylum?

HALLWAY

the We see Carr Gomm walking to his office. He is met at door by an anxious Treves.

TREVES

Has the response picked up?

CARR

Frankly, Treves, it's not what I'd expected. A few small cheques. Well-wishers. Don't worry, these things undoubtedly take time.

TREVES

But he's so afraid he's going to be carted off. I've promised him that won't happen.

CARR

Well... I'll let you know if there's

something in the afternoon post.

TREVES

Please do.

Carr Gomm goes back into his office and Treves walks off.

MERRICK'S ROOM (A WHILE LATER)

There is no one in the room. The bathroom door opens and Nora and another nurse enter, carrying buckets which they set down by the hall door. They straighten up and lean back against it.

Mrs. Mothershead enters from the bathroom, speaking over her shoulder to Merrick.

MOTHERSHEAD

Well, I think I can safely hand the duties over to you girls now. Mr. Merrick will require a bath every day... that way he won't pong quite so much. Nora, you can instruct Kathleen on the finer points of Mr. Merrick's bath. You'll be on your own tomorrow.

The girls try to keep bright faces.

MOTHERSHEAD

Don't look so glum girls. Such enthusiastic volunteers should be more cheerful.

Mothershead starts to exit.

MOTHERSHEAD

Oh, and girls, under no circumstances are there to be any mirrors brought into this room.

She exits.

KATHLEEN

He's... so ugly!

NORA

Ugly or not, you're going to help me.

white
smile,
Merrick quietly enters the room, dressed in a billowy shirt and baggy black pants. The two nurses try to but he cannot look at them.

NORA

Feeling better now, Mr. Merrick?

MERRICK

Yes.

Kathleen's eyes go wide at the sound.

NORA

You look very nice in your new clothes.

Merrick looks down at himself.

MERRICK

Thank you very much.

NORA

Well, if there is nothing more, I suppose we'll be leaving you now.

MERRICK

No, nothing.

The girls leave, taking the buckets.

of his
Merrick, alone, walks about the room getting the feel new clothes.

There is a knock at the door and Treves enters.

TREVES

You look splendid, John.

MERRICK

Thank you very much.

TREVES

When one is invited to tea, one must look one's best.

CUT TO:

ENTRY HALL AND SITTING ROOM - TREVES' HOME

Treves
rack.
the

The door opens. Merrick, disguised, enters, followed by who closes it and hangs up Merrick's mask on the coat rack. The mirror has been removed, leaving a faint outline on the wall.

the
at the

Merrick is enchanted by the house. Treves takes him by arm and leads him into the sitting room. Anne appears top of the stairs.

TREVES (V.O.)

Make yourself comfortable, John.

up at

Treves comes back to the foot of the stairs and smiles Anne.

TREVES

Come and meet our quest, my love.

together

Anne manages a smile, comes down the stairs and they go into the sitting room.

this
furniture,
the
lowering

Merrick is examining everything in the room. Nothing in almost magical world escapes his attention. The the personal mementoes, particularly the pictures on fireplace. He turns around when he hears them enter, his eyes.

TREVES

John Merrick, I'd like you to meet my wife, Anne Treves.

Anne is startled, but conceals it very well.

ANNE

(smiling)

I'm very pleased to meet you, Mr.

Merrick.

very
Anne extends her hand. John takes her hand and looks up
slowly meeting her eyes. Anne smiles.

MERRICK

I'm very...

to
his
Merrick's
Then, Merrick bursts into tears. Anne is at a loss as
what to do. Merrick takes his hand from hers and covers
eyes, weeping pitiously. Treves puts his hand on
shoulder.

TREVES

John... what's the matter? John...
why are you upset?

MERRICK

(sobbing)

I'm not used to such kindness. From
a beautiful woman.

Treves and Anne exchange worried looks.

ANNNE

Would you like a nice cup of tea,
Mr. Merrick?

MERRICK

(still sobbing)

Yes... thank you.

TREVES

Yes, a cup of tea would go nicely.

Anne goes now to get the tea.

TREVES

John... would you like to see the
rest of the house?

Merrick cannot answer through his sobs.

TREVES

Come with me, John. I'll show it to
you.

KITCHEN

cakes.
resumes her
Anne is composing herself by busily fixing the tea and
She stops for a moment, takes a breath, and then
activity.

DISSOLVE TO:

calm
setting
sofa
Treves and Merrick coming down the stairs. Merrick is
now. They go into the sitting room, where Anne is just
the tea tray out. Treves ushers Merrick to a highbacked
and sits him down. Merrick is very shy of Anne.
Treves and Anne sit on the other side of the table.

ANNE

Mr. Merrick, sugar?

MERRICK

Yes please, two.

ANNE

One or two?

MERRICK

Two, please.

Anne serves the tea.

TREVES

John loves the house.

ANNE

Do you?

MERRICK

Oh yes. You have so many nice things,
and so much room.

ANNE

Oh?

TREVES

Yes, we do have a lot of room. But
you should see the place on weekends,
when I see patients here. Sometimes
there are so many, we have to set

them down wherever we can. In fact, Mrs. Treves sometimes says that the only room she can call her own is the bedroom.

as Treves and Anne laugh good-naturedly. Merrick's face, always, is quite blank.

MERRICK

(earnestly)

Well, it's a lovely bedroom. What do you call that thing above the bed?

TREVES

That's a canopy, John.

MERRICK

Ohhh...

TREVES

How is your tea, John?

MERRICK

It's very good. I'm enjoying my visit with you very much. It's so very kind of you to have me as a guest in your home. I'm sorry I made a spectacle of myself.

TREVES

Not at all, John.

MERRICK

I love the way you've arranged your pictures on the mantelpiece. Is that the way it's done in most houses?

TREVES

Oh yes.

MERRICK

Who are they of?

TREVES

Oh, our relatives... the children.

MERRICK

The children! May I see?

TREVES

Of course.

Treves goes to the fireplace and takes down a few pictures.

He hands a picture of the girls to Merrick.

MERRICK

(as if looking at an icon)

The Children. Where are your children

TREVES

Oh, they're gone for the day... with friends.

MERRICK

(the word gives him pleasure)

Friends. Ah yes, friends! How nice.

ANNE

And here is one of Frederick's mother.

MERRICK

How lovely.

TREVES

Yes.

ANNE

And here are my mother and father.

MERRICK

They have noble faces.

ANNE

(a cord is struck)

I've always thought that myself.

MERRICK

Oh, yes.

Merrick sets the picture down carefully.

MERRICK

(ever so timidly)

Would you... would you like to see my mother?

TREVES

(startled)

Your mother?

MERRICK

Here.

portrait
Merrick

He reaches into his cloak and brings out the small
of the beautiful woman. Treves is absolutely amazed.
gently hands the picture to Anne.

ANNE

Oh... why Mr. Merrick she's beautiful.

MERRICK

She has the face of an angel... She
was an angel. She was so kind... so
kind to me. It's not her fault, for
in the fourth month of her maternal
condition she was knocked down by an
elephant. I'm sure I must have been
a great disappointment to her.

ANNE

(visibly touched)

Oh no, Mr. Merrick. No. No son as
loving as you are could ever be a
disappointment.

MERRICK

If only I could find her. If only
she could see me now, here, with
such lovely kind friends. You, Mrs.
Treves, and you, Mr. Treves. Then
maybe she would love me as I am.
I've tried to hard to be good.

to
reaches a
comfort

At this, Anne is so extremely touched that she begins
cry. She tries to hold it in, but to no avail. She
hand out to Merrick and he takes it. He tries to
her.

MERRICK

Please... please...

But Anne goes on, as Treves, in wonder, watches her and
Merrick locked together in the communication of intense
sympathy.

REAR ENTRANCE - THE LONDON

trash
discarded
into his

Merrick, in the dimly lit rear hall, is huddled over a can tucked underneath a stairway. He pulls out a drug box. He holds it closely to his chest and goes room.

MERRICK'S ROOM

hangs up
the
illuminating the
box
begins to

Merrick goes to his table and puts the box down. He his disguise, then goes back to the window and pulls curtains aside. Moonlight bathes the table, portrait of his Mother. John seats himself and sets the in front of him. He reaches for a pencil, and then draw windows on the front of the box.

OUTSIDE MERRICK'S ROOM (MORNING)

stops

Nora is coming down the hall with a breakfast tray. She at Merrick's door and raises a hand to knock.

MERRICK'S ROOM

in
drawn
looks
glances

Merrick, as before, is hunched over the table, pencil hand. The sides of the box are covered with carefully windows and archways.

There is a knock at the door and Merrick, startled, up. Nora enters and puts the tray on the table. She at the box.

NORA

Good morning, Mr. Merrick.

MERRICK

Good morning.

She turns and walks to the cabinet for linen and bath supplies. She opens it and takes out a clean towel and

a

table.

blanket. She pauses, and turns to look back at the

walks

Merrick is concentrated on his work. Nora, curious now,
to the table.

chair

Merrick, conscious of her presence, leans back in his
and looks up at her.

NORA

What is this that you're doing?

Merrick is silent.

NORA

(pointing at the box)

What is it?

Merrick points through the window.

NORA

What? Oh! I see! It's St. Phillips.
Oh, of course. Why... why that's
very good, I mean you've gotten the
windows and arches just right.

MERRICK

Yes.

NORA

But it's so good, I mean... it's so
very good.

MERRICK

Thank you... very much.

NORA

Where did you get this box?

Merrick points out toward the hallway.

NORA

The hallway? Oh, the wastecan!

MERRICK

I meant no harm, it was the only
place where I could find cardboard.
I thought it has been thrown away.

NORA

It's alright, it was thrown away. No one wants it. It's just that it's a little dirty, that's all.

to She sets the towel and blanket down as she leans closer inspect the box.

She points to a circle drawn on top.

NORA

What's this?

MERRICK

The main spire.

NORA

The... oh, the spire! How silly of me, it's as plain as day... Mr. Merrick, where did you learn to do this?

MERRICK

...I learned a long time ago.

Nora looks at the box.

NORA

Oh, but how will you finish it? You haven't any more cardboard.

makes Merrick, at a loss, shrugs his shoulders. The movement Nora aware of his body, and he is the Elephant Man once again.

MERRICK

I'll have to find some more.

NORA

(uncomfortably)
Yes... well, good day, Mr. Merrick.

turns She quickly exits. Merrick watches her go and then back to his work.

call He sees the towel and the blanket. He turns quickly to towel after Nora, but stops himself. Merrick takes up the

drapes

and blanket, walks into the bathroom, and carefully
the towel over the back of the bath.

MERRICK'S ROOM

is a

Merrick is at his table working on his cathedral. There
knock at the door.

MERRICK

Come in.

Treves enters.

TREVES

Good morning, John.

MERRICK

Good morning.

TREVES

John, there's someone here who would
like to meet you. Would that be
alright?

ushers

Merrick is a trifle apprehensive, but he agrees. Treves

Merrick's

MRS. KENDAL through the door. At the sight of her,
eyes go wide.

TREVES

John, I'd like you to meet one of
the brightest lights of the British
stage, Mrs. Kendal. Mrs. Kendal,
John Merrick.

KENDAL

Good day, Mr. Merrick.

MERRICK

Good day...!

KENDAL

I've brought you some things. I hope
you'll like, Mr. Merrick. I hope you
don't think it too forward.

MERRICK

Oh, no.

KENDAL

I knew you'd understand. Here.

Merrick

She hands Merrick a nicely framed picture of herself.
is speechless, overjoyed by the gift.

KENDAL

I want you to know that I don't go
about giving my pictures to just
anyone.

MERRICK

Oh, no. I would never think it! It's
so beautiful. You are so... I'll
give it a place of honor, here, next
to my mother.

He places it, with great care, next to his mother's
portrait.

KENDAL

She's very pretty, your mother.

MERRICK

Yes.

Treves smiles at them.

Merrick is a trifle nervous but Mrs. Kendal smiles at
him
and he relaxes a little.

MERRICK

Mr. Treves says that you are in the
theatre. Do you live there?

KENDAL

Oh no, Mr. Merrick. I just work there.

MERRICK

Well, even to work there would be
wonderful. Is it beautiful?

KENDAL

You've never been?

MERRICK

Alas, no.

KENDAL

Well you must go. It is one of the

most beautiful places on earth. Of course, I'm rather partial.

MERRICK

Tell me about it, please!

KENDAL

It's very difficult to put into a nutshell, but I should say the theater is the shrine of the imagination, where one may suspend disbelief and travel anywhere in the world, to any time you desire. You may look over the shoulders of kings, unobserved, battle with ruthless tyrants, and marry the beautiful princess, all in the space of a few hours. Onstage you may be whoever you wish to be, do anything you please, and always, always live happily ever after. The theatre is all the brightest and best things of the world, Mr. Merrick. It is lights and music, gaiety and joy. It's... well, it's romance.

MERRICK

(the magic word)

Romance!

KENDAL

That's one thing the theatre has in great store. which reminds me. I have something else for you...

She produces a beautiful leather-bound volume of Shakespeare's works. Merrick takes it with reverence and begins to leaf through it.

KENDAL

Have you read it?

MERRICK

No, but I certainly shall.

Merrick finds a place and begins to read.

MERRICK

Romeo and Juliet. I know of this...
"If I profane with my unworthiest hand, This holy shrine, the gentle

fine is this: My lips, two blushing
pilgrims, ready stand, To smooth
that rough touch with a tender kiss."

close Merrick, embarrassed by these last words, starts to
the book.

Mrs. Kendal knows Juliet's lines by heart. She looks at
Merrick for a moment, then replies tenderly.

KENDAL

Good pilgrim, you do wrong your hand
too much, Which mannerly devotion
shows in this; For saints have hands
that pilgrims hands do touch, And
palm to palm is holy palmer's kiss.

Merrick pauses, looking at Kendal, then continues.

MERRICK

Have not saints lips, and holy palmers
too?

KENDAL

Ay, pilgrim, lips that they must use
in prayer.

MERRICK

O, then, dear saint, let lips do
what hands do. They pray, grant thou,
lest faith turn to despair.

Treves They both look at each other for a long, silent moment.
is touched and amazed.

KENDAL

Why, Mr. Merrick, you're not an
Elephant Man at all...

MERRICK

Oh no?

KENDAL

Oh no... no... you're a Romeo.

DISSOLVE TO:

THE PEACOCK - WHITECHAPEL

Bytes
Porter,
They
of the
on
the

men
hospital
but
laughing

People are happily drinking and singing and laughing.
and the boy are keeping a watchful eye on the Night
who is making a deal with a couple of men at a table.
hand over a few coins and follow the Night Porter out
pub. Bytes finishes his beer and thumps the glass down
the bar. He wipes his mouth with his sleeve and he and
boy casually follow the other three men out.

Bytes and the boy stand by the pub door, watching the
cross the street and go to the back gate of the
which the Night Porter unlocks, and leaves unlocked,
closed, behind them. They walk into Bedstead Square,
quietly.

along

Bytes crosses the street and goes to the gate. He walks
the iron fence and watches the Night Porter and his
"customers". He stops and waits to see where they go.

the
and
the
outside
see.
the

The Night Porter stands the two men before a window and
motions for them to wait. He goes through a door into
hospital. After a few moments the window opens wide,
there, neatly framed and silhouetted, stand Merrick and
Night Porter, gripping Merrick's neck. The two men
start back in shock, but stand mesmerized by what they
We hear the laughter of the Night Porter echo across
empty square.

Bytes smiles broadly and says softly to himself.

BYTES

So, there you are, my boy, my
treasure.

A SITTING ROOM

One of
newspaper

We see a small circle of women having tea and gossip.
their daughters, off to the side, is reading a
society page.

GIRL

Mummy, listen to this!

MUMMY

Hush, Jennifer, can't you see Mummy's
talking?

GIRL

But it's about Mrs. Kendal, mummy!
The actress you go on so much about!

She has got the women's attention.

GIRL

"Mrs. Kendal, always at the forefront
of fashion and form, was seen leaving
The London the other afternoon. No,
dear readers, the most facile actress
of our day has not been taken ill,
but rather said she was 'visiting a
friend'. And who was the lucky
recipient of this attention? Quick
enquiries proved it to be none other
than Mr. John Merrick, The Elephant
Man, with whom our readers are
undoubtedly familiar. After a chat
of three-quarters of an hour, Mrs.
Kendal was kind enough to leave Mr.
Merrick with an autographed portrait
of herself. Owing to a disfigurement
of the most extreme nature, Mr.
Merrick has never been properly
presented to London society. But
knowing that wherever Mrs. Kendal
goes, others inevitably follow, the
questions arises: Will London society
present itself to him?"

LONDON HOSPITAL GATE

A
looks

A carriage draws up in the street outside the hospital.
nicely dressed woman sticks her head out the window,
around and scowls disappointedly.

Nearby is parked another carriage and driver.

WOMAN

(to her driver)
Parkins, whose carriage is that?

DRIVER

Well mum, that looks like Alexander,
Lord Waddington's driver.

WOMAN

Lord and Lady Waddington! Well. Drive
back to the house.
(indicating her
clothing)
I can't be seen in this.

They drive off.

pictures of
a
where
The
service.
Above Merrick's bookshelf we see a row of framed
prettily smiling society women. Mrs. Kendal has started
fad. We pan slowly by them and down to Merrick's table
his Mother and Mrs. Kendal have their place of honor.
cathedral is also there. Beside it is a modest tea

They
hold teacups.
We now see a GENTLEMAN standing behind a seated LADY.

seem on
been
They are both very attractive and empty-headed, and
the verge of screaming. They smile at Merrick who has
talking the whole while.

across
finger.
Merrick holds an elegant, silvertipped walking stick
his lap, and admires a ring that only fits his little

MERRICK

Thank you for your kind gifts. I
can't say enough about this ring.
And this walking stick is ever so
dashing. So much more elegant than
my old one. More tea?

teapot
hand

The Lady and Gentleman nod nervously. John takes the
from the service and refills their cups. The Lady's
shakes, rattling the cup against the saucer.

MERRICK

If you have a chill I can close the
window.

THE LADY

Oh no, no, no, I'm fine. Please... I
mean, thank you.

MERRICK

I don't get out as often as I'd like
to, for some people DO find my
appearance disturbing. Of course, I
can't fault them.

We see the smiling pictures.

MERRICK (V.O.)

People are often frightened by what
they don't understand.

We see the picture of Merrick's Mother.

MERRICK (V.O.)

And it is hard to understand, even
for myself, for you see, Mother was
so very beautiful.

We draw close to his Mother's picture.

MERRICK (V.O.)

How's your tea?

THE RECEIVING ROOM

terrible
them

Treves walks the Lord and Lady, their faces locked in
silence, to the door. Mothershead, at her desk, watches
pass with great disapproval.

MOTHERSHEAD

(under her breath)
Watery headed bunch.

TREVES

I regret that I must leave you here,

m' Lord, m' Lady. Thank you so much for coming. It was an act of the greatest charity.

LADY WADDINGTON

Oh no, Mr. Treves, the pleasure was all ours. Good day.

As they turn to go, their faces drop, their loathing undisguised. Treves closes the door. He goes to

Mothershead.

TREVES

Incredible, isn't it? Well, I think John has had enough visitors for one day, Mothershead. I've got a lecture at the college, I'll be back this evening.

MOTHERSHEAD

Excuse me, sir. I'd like to have a word with you.

TREVES

Oh?... Well, quickly please, Mothershead, I'm overdue.

MOTHERSHEAD

I can't understand why you let those people go in there, sir.

TREVES

Now Mothershead, you have to understand that this is very good for John. He relishes contact with people outside the hospital...

MOTHERSHEAD

But you saw them, sir. They couldn't hide their disgust. They don't care anything for John, they're just trying to impress their friends.

TREVES

Aren't you being just a little harsh, Mothershead? You yourself hardly treated John with much loving kindness when he first arrived.

MOTHERSHEAD

I bathed him, didn't I? I fed him and cleaned up after him! If loving

kindness can be called care and practical concern, then yes, I did treat him with loving kindness, and I'm not ashamed to say it.

TREVES

You're right, Mothershead, please forgive me... Of course, I appreciate everything you've done for John, and I'm glad that you are concerned about his welfare. But, I'm the physician in charge and I must do what I think best. I'm also very late, so please forgive me.

detaining
He starts to go. Mothershead steps in front of him,
him.

MOTHERSHEAD

If you ask me, sir, he's just being stared at all over again.

MERRICK'S ROOM

we see
"Pamela",
We pan across Merrick's bookcase, now quite full, and a few titles: "Moll Flanders", "Emma", "Jane Eyre", and then to Merrick. He and Treves are reading poetry together.

MERRICK

When will the stream be awearry of flowing under my eye?
When will the wind be awearry of blowing over the sky?
When will the clouds be awearry of fleeting?
When will the heart be awearry of beating, and nature die?

TREVES

Never, oh! Never, nothing will die. the stream flows the wind blows the heart beats Nothing will die.

Merrick closes his book and sits silently for a moment.

MERRICK

Mr. Treves, there is something I've been meaning to ask you for some

time...

TREVES

Yes, John?

MERRICK

...Can you cure me?

Treves is taken aback. He considers, then says tentatively.

TREVES

No John, I can't. I can care for you, but I can't cure you.

MERRICK

I thought as much.

just happens. Merrick rises. Treves ponders over what Merrick has said. He looks at Merrick and something very odd Merrick is looking levelly at him.

face. For the first and only time, we see expression on his that It is a calm, knowing look, almost a benign smile. At Merrick's very moment there is a bright flash of light behind to head, seemingly from the window. Treves blinks, unable the comprehend what has just happened. When he looks again, to the moment has passed. Merrick, his back to Treves, moves bookcase to replace the volume.

TREVES

John...?

There's a knock at the door.

MERRICK

Come in.

Nora enters with a brown paper parcel tied with string. Merrick says nothing.

TREVES

Are you looking for me, Sister?

NORA

No sir, Mr. Merrick.
(to Merrick)
I have something for you.

several
and a

She puts the parcel on the table and opens it. We see squares of new cardboard, a cutting knife, a pastepot, few brushes and some paint.

NORA

I thought these things would be helpful with your cathedral.

thanks

Merrick examines the materials with reverence, and her profusely.

the
spires
and

Treves is moved and a little disconcerted. Merrick lays things aside carefully and begins to pull the crude from the discarded box. Nora smiles at the busy Merrick exits.

TREVES

The cathedral is coming along nicely.

MERRICK

(bending over the model)
Yes, soon I will start the main spire, but I must finish these columns first, How kind of her!

Merrick's

Treves notices to his dismay that the growths on head are larger.

He finds it very difficult to disguise his concern.

TREVES

How blind of me. Is there anything else, John, anything at all that I could get for you?

MERRICK

Oh no! There is nothing! I have everything, you have given me everything I could possibly want. I

am happy every hour of the day. I only wish there was something I could give to you.

TREVES

Please John, it would give me so much pleasure to give you something. Something just for yourself. Isn't there something you would like to have?

into
to
for
brushes,
Merrick is silent. He goes over to his cloak, reaches it and pulls out a folded up advertisement. He hands it Treves, who examines it closely. It is an advertisement an-elegant gentleman's dressing bag, boasting ivory silver fittings and Moroccan silk lining.

TREVES

You want a dressing bag, John?

MERRICK

You don't think it's too gaudy, do you?

HALLWAY

hall,
Mrs. Mothershead finds Treves walking slowly down the looking at the ad.

MOTHERSHEAD

Mr. Treves, some more books arrived for Mr. Merrick.

TREVES

Thank you, Mothershead. Have a porter put them in my office.

MOTHERSHEAD

Yes sir.
(seeing the ad)
What's that?

TREVES

A dressing bag.

MOTHERSHEAD

Very smart indeed.

TREVES

Yes. John wants it.

MOTHERSHEAD

A dressing bag?

TREVES

You don't think it's too gaudy, do you.

MOTHERSHEAD

Well...

TREVES

John thinks it's very dashing. Something no gentleman should be without. I'm inclined to agree.

He walks off.

MOTHERSHEAD

A dressing bag?

MERRICK'S ROOM (DUSK)

Merrick is still at his cathedral working away. Suddenly, he looks up at the window and the Night Porter is standing there smiling wickedly, pointing a finger at him.

MERRICK

Night!

FADE TO

BLACK:

SITTING ROOM - TREVES' HOME

Treves is standing by a table on which are two stacks of books. Treves selects books from the stacks and puts them into a box. Treves looks troubled. He takes one from the pile and examines it. It's a copy of "Frankenstein".

TREVES

You stay with me.

ANNE

(calling from the
next room)
Dinner will be served, shortly, dear.

Getting no response, she enters.

ANNE

More romances for John?

TREVES

(far away)
Hmmm?

ANNE

...Freddie! What's the matter? You've
been like this all evening.

TREVES

Oh... I've just been thinking about
something that man Bytes said.

ANNE

Oh, Freddie. What could that wretched
vampire say to upset you?

TREVES

That I am very little different from
him.

ANNE

Oh that's absurd, Frederick. No, no
Frederick, that's all wrong! John is
happier and more fulfilled now than
he has ever been in his entire life.
And, that is completely due to you.

TREVES

But why did I do it? What was this
all for? So John Merrick could live
out his last days in peace and
comfort? Or so I could become famous?

ANNE

Frederick, just what is it that you
are saying?

TREVES

...Am I a good man or am I a bad
man?

ANNE

Oh Frederick.

She holds him in her arms.

ANNE

You're a good man. A very good man.

We see from Treves' eyes that he is not reassured.

BASEMENT - THE LONDON

the
footsteps
carrying
and

It is very dark. There is a dim red glow coming from holes in a furnace door. We hear a door open and coming downstairs. A man comes into the basement something large and black. He approaches the furnace and opens the door.

surgeon's
a
the

The man is Treves. He is holding the stiff black coat of which he was once so proud. He looks at it for a moment, and then stuffs it into the furnace. Inside, the coat starts to smoke heavily, then bursts into flames. Treves watches it burn, and then closes the door.

HALLWAY - THE LONDON HOSPITAL

We see Carr Gomm walking down the hall to his office. Broadneck appears, going the other way.

CARR

Ahh! Broadneck! You'll no doubt be pleased to know that we've received a smashing response to my letter. It's all very heartwarming, though several letters do mention how beastly it would be to part the poor fellow from Mr. Treves and the staff, but since the committee insists...

BROADNECK

(scowling)

Good day, Carr Gomm.

Broadneck walks on. Carr Gomm goes into his office.

CARR'S OFFICE

small
Mothershead is standing by the desk looking through a
stack of mail.

MOTHERSHEAD

Is this all there is for John?

CARR

I'm afraid so, Mrs. Mothershead.
Perhaps tomorrow.

CUT TO:

HALLWAY

envelope
the
the
We see in a pair of hands holding a buff colored
embossed with the Royal Seal. We follow the hands down
hall to a door where one of the hands knocks next to
"F.C. Carr Gomm" sign, then enters the office.

CARR'S OFFICE

the
porter
expression
Carr Gomm and Mothershead look up to see a porter with
buff envelope enter. Carr Gomm takes the letter and the
porter exits. Carr Gomm opens the letter and reads, his
changing from concern to delight.

MOTHERSHEAD

What is it? What is it?

Royal
She
Carr Gomm hands her the letter. Never having touched
stationary before, Mothershead handles it delicately.
begins to read.

COMMITTEE ROOM - THE LONDON

their
among
Broadneck and the other committee members are seated at
table, anxious to get the meeting underway. They talk
themselves.

seems

The door opens and Carr Gomm and Treves enter. Treves quite nervous, but Carr Gomm is relaxed and smiling.

TREVES

Don't you think this is a bit premature? We don't have the backing yet to...

CARR

Steady on, Treves. Have a seat.

of the

Treves sits and Carr Gomm takes his place at the head table and raps his gavel.

CARR

Gentlemen, I know we begin every meeting by reading the minutes, but in the interest of speed I think we should conclude a matter discussed previously, to wit, that of Mr. John Merrick, the Elephant Man...

Treves,

Broadneck explodes to his feet. Carr Gomm smiles at who looks quite grim.

CARR

Mr. Broadneck?

BROADNECK

Mr. Chairman! I was under the distinct impression that we had concluded discussion of this disagreeable matter. Had we not ascertained that an Elephant Man is not acceptable as a patient? Have we not, very generously, allowed the creature to use two of our rooms until such time as he could be properly disposed of? Have we not...

CUT TO MERRICK'S ROOM

with a

Merrick is working on his cathedral, painting details very fine brush.

on

As he lifts the brush from the paint jar, a drop falls

wipes

the table. Merrick carefully lays down the brush and up the spilled paint with a cloth.

MERRICK

I must be more careful!

CUT TO COMMITTEE ROOM

BROADNECK

Which brings to mind my next point. The rules, gentlemen, the rules. In a society such as ours, it is of paramount importance that we not stray from the established order. Has that order not already been fearfully strained by allowing this... this... sideshow exhibit to take up residence, however temporary, in two very useful rooms, the purpose of which would be far better served in accommodating treatable patients, patients to whom this hospital was originally dedicated? I believe we have a duty...

Merrick's
him
his

Carr Gomm still smiles. Treves is about to spring to defense, but Carr Gomm catches his eyes and motions for to remain silent. Treves is perplexed. Carr Gomm checks pocket watch.

CUT TO MERRICK'S ROOM

ladybug
Merrick
and
his

Merrick as before, busily working away. We see a crawling slowly across the roof of the cathedral. notices it and watches for a moment, then reaches up lays a finger alongside the bug. The bug crawls onto finger and Merrick holds it closer to him.

MERRICK

...Ladybug, ladybug, fly away home... it's cloudy out, I know, but remember; behind the clouds there is always the sun.

CUT TO WHITECHAPEL ROAD

very
We see a Royal carriage glide to a stop in front of the hospital. A footman jumps down and opens the door. A elegantly dressed woman begins to emerge.

CUT TO COMMITTEE ROOM

Broadneck is still talking.

BROADNECK

...In light of these facts, our course is clear. The question is not whether to accept this creature as a patient, the question is when will those rooms be vacated for use by better qualified, more deserving cases? I move that this Elephant Man be removed from the premises immediately. We have a sacred duty to cure the sick, not care for circus animals. That is my last word on the subject. Mr. Chairman, shall we vote?

watch and
Broadneck turns to Carr Gomm. Carr Gomm checks his clears his throat.

CARR GOMM

I take it, Mr. Broadneck, that your mind is fixed on this matter?

Broadneck blusters with rage.

BROADNECK

Mr. Chairman! Don't you have ears? I am unalterably opposed to any...

very
Carr Gomm smiles and again checks his watch. Treves is nervous.

CUT TO HALLWAY

hall.
very
We see two nurses, their backs to us, walking down the They start to go in a doorway when they stop suddenly, startled, and curtsy deeply.

She
followed
hall.

Mothershead comes into the hall, also curtseying madly.

is followed by the elegantly dressed woman, who is
in turn by two footmen. They walk regally down the

CUT TO COMMITTEE ROOM

BROADNECK

...No, my mind is made up on this,
and I am resolved to stand firm. You
shall not sway me. May we now vote,
Mr. Chairman, at long last?

to Carr Gomm checks his watch. The door to the room begins
open. He smiles.

CARR

Yes, I believe that time has come.

The two footmen enter the room.

1ST FOOTMAN

Gentlemen, Her Royal Highness
Alexandra, Princess of Wales.

The elegantly dressed woman enters. Everyone rises.

ALIX

Good morning, gentlemen. I hope I am
not interrupting?

CARR

Indeed not, your Highness. Your
presence is always greatly
appreciated. We were just about to
put the matter of Mr. Merrick to a
vote.

(he turns to the other
committee members)

The Princess is very interested in
Mr. Merrick's fate.

ALIX

Indeed I am sir, as is the Queen.
I have a brief communication from
her Highness which she has requested
I read to you: To the Governing
Committee, London Hospital. I would
very much like to commend you for

the charitable face you have shown Mr. John Merrick, the Elephant Man. It is laudable that you have provided one of England's most unfortunate sons with a safe and tranquil harbour, a home. For this immeasurable kindness, as well as the many other acts of mercy on behalf of the poor, of which Mr. Carr Gomm has kept me informed, I gratefully thank you. Signed Victoria, Empress of India, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

(looking straight at Broadneck)

I am sure you gentlemen may be counted on to do the Christian thing.

Alix seats herself.

CARR

Thank you very much, your Highness, you may be sure we shall.

Broadneck seems very unnerved.

CARR

Well then, I move that Mr. John Merrick be admitted to the London Hospital on a permanent basis, on condition that the Hospital shall receive a yearly payment equal to the cost of occupying one bed, and that the funds for his care shall be clearly separate from hospital funds. All those in favor.

look Carr Gomm raises his hand. The other members, puzzled,
at Broadneck.
Quite red in the face, Broadneck looks at Carr Gomm,
then to Treves, then to the Princess. He seems to almost
deflate, then slowly raises his hand. The other members, now
thoroughly confused, raise their hands as well. Carr Gomm bangs
his gavel, smiling broadly. Treves is almost beside himself
with happiness, and the Princess is obviously very pleased.

CARR

The motion is carried.

Broadneck, humiliated, cannot look at anyone.

CARR

Well, now we may go about our normal business.

MERRICK'S ROOM

Merrick is working on his cathedral. It is almost finished.

He is detailing the spire, carefully painting in the stonework. There is a knock at the door.

MERRICK

Please, come in.

Treves enters carrying a wrapped parcel, followed by Carr Gomm, and Mothershead.

TREVES

(smiling broadly)

Good afternoon, John, Mr. Carr Gomm has something he would like to say to you.

Treves defers to Carr Gomm.

CARR

Mr. Merrick, it is my great pleasure to welcome you, officially to The London Hospital. The Governing Committee this morning voted unanimously to provide you these rooms on a permanent basis. This is your home now. I'm so very, very pleased for you.

Merrick is speechless. He just looks from Treves to Carr Gomm to Mothershead.

TREVES

So you see, John, there's no need for a lighthouse. All your friends are here.

MOTHERSHEAD

Welcome home, John.

Merrick finds it very difficult to speak.

MERRICK

...my... home?

TREVES

Yes, John.

MERRICK

You did this for me?

TREVES

Yes.

MERRICK

Please... please thank the governing committee for me. I will do my utmost to merit their kindness.

dawn
real

Merrick looks about him at his rooms. It's beginning to on him that this is indeed his, that at last he has a home, a place of his own.

MERRICK

(trying the words on
for size)

My home.

TREVES

There is one more thing, John. Here.

pulls
dressing
handles
compartments

Treves hands Merrick the package. Merrick carefully off the wrapping paper. Treves smiles. It's the bag. Merrick is overjoyed with the gift. He lovingly the articles, taking them in and out of their opening and closing the bag.

TREVES

Is it the one you wanted?

MERRICK

Oh, Mr. Treves. Mr. Treves.

TREVES

Are you sure? Because I can take it
back.

MERRICK

Mr. Treves. Thank you my... friends.

NIGHT TIME SKY

Clouds billowing, moving swiftly.

MERRICK'S ROOM

table,
the
neat
rearranges

Merrick is alone, wearing his cloak and standing by the
cradling the dressing bag. He takes each article out of
bag and lays it carefully on the table, all in very
order. He stares at the elegant objects, then
them.

sort of
razors

Merrick picks up the toothbrush, examining it with a
reverence. He does the same with the ivory-handled
and the comb.

THE PEACOCK - WHITECHAPEL

shouting
"working
The
ringing
Night
Night
girls.

There's a good crowd in tonight; lots of drinking and
and glasses breaking. Several of the neighborhood
girls" are having a bit of a rest, looking for a laugh.
Night Porter is rounding up customers, his pockets
with coins. People have their hands raised urging the
Porter to take them along to see The Elephant Man. The
Porter goes to a table where a MAN sits with two of the
girls.

MAN

Here now, these lovely ladies ain't
never seen it!

NIGHT PORTER

(to Man)
You're on mate.

(to all the others)
Alright, alright, that's enough for
this performance.

The others all moan their disappointment.

NIGHT PORTER

Hang on, hang on, there's always
tomorrow night. Not to worry.

Bytes, sitting at his usual place at the bar, sees that
tonight is his chance.

of The Night Porter rounds up his "customers", all twelve
them. Bytes saunters over to the Night Porter.

BYTES

Room for one more?

NIGHT PORTER

At the right price...

Bytes drops several coins in the Night Porter's hand.

NIGHT PORTER

There's room.

BYTES

Well, let's be off then.

holding The whole group happily leaves the pub, several still
their gin bottles. The Ladies are rather unsteady on
feet. As they all leave, the Night Porter says:

NIGHT PORTER

Quietly now! Quietly! We don't want
to scare him.
(he laughs)

MERRICK'S ROOM

Mrs. (Merrick as before) he reaches over to the picture of
the Kendal and picks it up. We see his face reflected in
takes glass. Merrick sets the picture down on the table. He
a up one of the silver brushes and, using the picture as

skull. He
opens
He
around
himself.
reflection
and
the

mirror, neatly brushes his hair over his monstrous
lays the brush down in its specific spot.
Merrick takes his ring and puts it on his left hand. He
the cigarette case and stuffs one into his right hand.
takes up his walking stick, breathes deeply, then walks
the room in a slow circle. Merrick is transforming
Merrick comes back to the table and examines his
in the picture. With the ring, the stick, the cigarette
his neatly brushed hair, Merrick is the very image of a
dashing young man about town. He inclines his head to
picture.

MERRICK

Hello, my name is John Merrick. I am
very, VERY pleased to meet you!

stands
grinning.

NIGHT PORTER

Curtain time!!!

outfit, the
other. The
frantically
Merrick
to

Merrick is frozen, caught. Seeing Merrick in his
Night Porter's jaw drops. They both stare at each
Night Porter begins to laugh hysterically. Merrick
begins to put away his dressing bag articles. When
starts taking off his ring, the Night Porter comes over
him and grabs him by the cloak.

NIGHT PORTER

No, no! You look lovely. Don't change
a thing, darling. You look like the
bleedin' Prince of Wales.

He
throws the window open out in the square is the waiting

audience.

NIGHT PORTER

My friends... The Elephant Man!

few

He strips off Merrick's cloak. The audience gasps. A
people who have been before laugh and clap.

MAN (W/THE WHORES)

(laughing and clapping)

Horrible... I told you it was
horrible... just horrible.

Bytes

He starts kissing each whore. The crowd is mesmerized.
moves in behind the Man with the Whores.

BYTES

(to Man)

Perhaps the ladies would like a closer
look?

Man.

The Man begins to laugh. The Whores laugh drunkenly and
halfheartedly resist being taken in to see The Elephant
As they are pushed through the door,

WHORES

Come on Jack... No... No, don't.
(laughter)
Etc.

laughs

pictures

The Whores reluctantly enter the room. The Night Porter
at their discomfort. The Man notices all of Merrick's
of women.

MAN

'Cor, he's a real ladies' man, come
on... give the ladies' man a kiss.

from

He lets one of the whores go and grabs the other one
behind at the wrists.

MAN

Come on, you'll give him a kiss.

WHORE

(still laughing but a

trifle scared)
Come on, Jack.

for
man
to
touch,
Night
Merrick
The
screaming

The Night Porter has turned Merrick and is holding him the approaching kiss. The crowd is egging them on. The forces the Woman closer and closer and raises her arms force her into an embrace. As Merrick and the Woman being pressed together, the Woman begins to scream. The Porter, the Man and the crowd all laugh with glee. and the whore now have their faces pressed together. Whore is screaming and Merrick is crying out and too.

MAN

Here that's enough romance. Now into bed.

The
screaming

Merrick and the Whore are pushed onto Merrick's bed. Night Porter grabs the other Whore now. She begins wildly.

NIGHT PORTER

A prince needs a harem!

screaming
and as
to

He pushes the screaming Whore down onto Merrick. Her face goes right into his. Merrick tries to move away he does his head goes too far back and his cried turn horrible wheezing.

NIGHT PORTER

Mind his head... You'll kill him.

or
at The

The crowd outside is trying to see in the window. Five six more have gone into Merrick's room to see. All are laughing and screaming and trying to get a close look Elephant Man.

NIGHT PORTER

(yelling)

Quiet down. Quiet down. You'll have
the whole place down on us.

BYTES

(outside, yelling
loudly)

Bring him out then, so's we all can
see him.

around
by
the

Merrick recognizes his voice and looks frantically
for his former owner. The Night Porter pulls Merrick up
the window again. He then begins pushing the crowd out
door.

NIGHT PORTER

Everyone outside!!!

Others
cathedral
outside
gone.
goes to
Merrick

Suddenly one of the crowd outside reaches up and grabs
Merrick's good hand and pulls him half out the window.
follow suit and haul him all the way through. The
falls to the floor, breaking into several pieces.
Because of the horror of touching him, the crowd
lets Merrick fall to the ground.
The Night Porter whirls around and sees that Merrick is
He pushes the rest of the people outside and quickly
Merrick, lifting him to his feet.
Unseen by anyone, Bytes slips into Merrick's room.
is now standing.

The crowd moves in. The Night Porter is enjoying the
festivities, but looks around nervously for trouble.

ONE MAN

Give 'im a drink.

mouth,
then pushes him away.

He's caught by another man, fed liquor and pushed away.
He's pushed now from person to person faster and faster.
Finally Merrick falls to the ground, dizzy and a bottle of gin
on Merrick's head. He coughs and moans through the
wheezing. The crowd is now strangely silent circling The Elephant
Man like a pack of dogs closing in on a terrified rabbit.
Suddenly Merrick starts to wail. The crowd joins in and they
hoist him above their heads, screaming with laughter, around
and around, joining him all the while.
Now we see a window reflecting the scene of terror. A
curtain is pulled aside and we see through the reflection the
face of the Young Porter, watching everything.

REFLECTION) NIGHT PORTER (V.O. THE

Here now... Here now... He's had
enough... show's over!

Merrick is lowered down into the crowd. it parts and
the Night Porter emerges walking Merrick toward us to his
room.

NIGHT PORTER
(to the crowd behind
him)
Meet you at the Peacock.

ONE OF THE CROWD
Bring your friend.

NIGHT PORTER
(laughs drunkenly)
He's had 'is fill for one night.

Square. In the background we see Bytes' boy sitting on top of a
wagon.

him on
room
back
few
replaces it

The Night Porter takes Merrick into his room and puts the bed. He drunkenly stumbles about trying to get the room in order. He places the smashed hulk of the cathedral up on its table, inadvertently leaving the spire and a few columns on the floor. He picks the cloak up and replaces it on the peg.

NIGHT PORTER

(to Merrick)

I did real well tonight.

removes
Merrick.

He takes a purse full of coins out of his pocket. He removes one small coin and flips it on the floor in front of Merrick.

NIGHT PORTER

Here... buy yourself a sweet.

The Night Porter turns and leaves.

footsteps
is a
back

Merrick, alone now, hears the Night Porter's echoing footsteps and the distant sound of the gate being closed. There is a long silence as Merrick collects himself. He then leans back into his pillows with a deep sigh. His eyes close.

BYTES (V.O.)

My treasure...

him.
Merrick's eyes flash open. We see Bytes coming toward him.

BYTES

Aren't you glad to see me?

MERRICK

Bytes!

women's

Bytes lifts Merrick up off the bed. He reaches out for Merrick's cloak. We slowly PAN over all the smiling faces as we hear the following:

BYTES (V.O.)

Get into your cloak...
(rustling sound)
...now, your hood... do it!

MERRICK (V.O.)

...Alright.

Mother's
Rustling sound. We now glide slowly on to Merrick's
picture.

BYTES (V.O.)

Let's go.

reach his
Merrick's good hand comes into the frame trying to
mother's picture.

He grabs at the table cloth and pulls.

see
Now we see Bytes gripping Merrick's arm and pulling. We
the picture fall to the ground with a THUD.

CUT TO:

In the sky the heavy clouds are moving.

CUT:

MERRICK'S ROOM (MORNING)

move
columns,
Morning sunlight on the floor of Merrick's room. We
slowly around, discovering the church spire, the
the penny and Merrick's mother's picture.

the
knocking.
Over this, the sound of knocking on the door. Through
door, we hear Treves calling, "John?... John?" More
The door opens.

TREVES

John?

side
Treves surveys the empty room. Quickly he goes into the

goes to bathroom. He comes out with a very worried face. He
He the cathedral model and is horrified by its condition.
Young finds the spire and then Merrick's Mother's picture. He
stops Porter, waiting in the hall, approaches Treves and
him.

YOUNG PORTER

Mr. Treves?

surveying Now we see Mrs. Mothershead entering Merrick's room
the same scene.
Mother. Her face hardens as she sees the picture of Merrick's

MOTHERSHEAD

Good God... John?

information Now we see Treves filled with anger. He's got the
speed. from the Young Porter and bolts down the hall at full

activated Mothershead, still in Merrick's room, now become
herself. with determination to get to the bottom of all this
off. She leaves the room. In the distance is Treves marching
calls Closer to her is the Young Porter, looking worried. She
him to her.

CLOSE-UP of Treves angrily walking.

CUT TO:

off Mothershead leaves the Young Porter, furiously marching
in the same direction as Treves.

OPERATING THEATRE

room The Night Porter is adding fresh coal to the operating

begins
begins to
still,

stove. The old coals were still quite hot and now smoke
to rise. The Night Porter takes up the bellows and
pump the coals into a blaze.

The door bangs open and Treves is there, standing stock
in a cold murderous rage.

TREVES
WHERE IS HE?

begins to
sputter.

TREVES
WHERE IS MR. MERRICK?

NIGHT PORTER
I... I don't know what you mean,
Sir.

Treves stalks over to him.

TREVES
Don't lie to me. I know all about
it. You were SEEN. Where did you
take him?

NIGHT PORTER
Take him? Now wait... I didn't take
him anywhere. We were just having
some fun. We didn't hurt him... just
having a laugh, that's all.

TREVES
HE'S GONE!

NIGHT PORTER
When I left him, he was in his bed,
safe and sound.

TREVES
YOU BASTARD! You tortured him. YOU
TORTURED HIM, you bastard. WHERE is
HE?

NIGHT PORTER
(enraged)
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME! I ain't

done nothing wrong. People pay to see your monster, Mr. Treves. I just take the money.

TREVES

**YOU'RE THE MONSTER! YOU'RE THE FREAK!
GET OUT! YOU'RE FINISHED!**

drag
violently,
poker

Treves takes the Night Porter by the arm and begins to drag him out. The Night Porter throws his hand off violently, whirls around, his back to the door, and seizes the poker from the stove.

NIGHT PORTER

Have a care, Mr. Treves. I ain't afraid of you! You and your bleedin' Elephant Man! I'm glad what I did! And you can't do nothing! Only Mothershead can sack me.

Unbeknownst
time
a
movement,
and
to

Treves, blind with fury, tears the poker from the Night Porter's hand, and is on the verge of using it. to them, Mothershead has storm into the room, just in time to hear the last of the Night Porter's speech. Without a break, she strides over to him and with a lightning movement, boxes him soundly on the ears. The blow is staggering and makes quite a formidable sound. The Night Porter falls to the floor, barely conscious.

MOTHERSHEAD

Done.

OUTSIDE THE SHOP (DAY)

bare
small

Treves is standing in the street looking at the now bare shop front. He walks to the window and tries to clean a small circle in the glass. He peers in.

Treves'

From inside, through the smeared dirty window, we see distorted face.

CARR (V.O. THROUGHOUT)

I'd like to think I felt no less for John than you, Treves, but face the facts, the man has disappeared, very likely to the continent. There's no question of your going after him, you're desperately needed here by your patients. Remember Treves, you did everything in your power... everything in your power.

FADE TO

BLACK:

INSIDE A WAGON

A moving circle of light in blackness.

As we move closer to the light, it becomes distinguishable as a peephole in the side of a wagon. Through the peephole we see a dark overcast sky. It is dusk. We move even closer to the hole. Just beside it we see the head of a horse with blinders on moving alongside. We move closer still to see its rider, a policeman. He notices the peephole and leans forward in the saddle, looking in.

From outside, we see the peephole and an eye gazing out. The eye is replaced by a plug.

The policeman starts back and pulls up on the reins. As he falls behind we see the portrait of the E.M., from the front of the shop in London, on the back of the wagon. The policeman looks at the poster. The wagon moves on out of frame and the policeman slows his horse to a stop.

The wagon is being driven by Bytes. The boy sits beside him. Another policeman rides abreast of him. They ride a few yards

of
more and then the policeman stops by a sign at the fork
the road, reading "AALST 30 km". "Brussels 80 km." The
continues policeman gestures for Bytes to move on. The wagon
down the road.

CUT TO:

turns in Bytes and the boy are riding along the road. Bytes
in. his seat and opens a hatch in the roof. He looks down

is Inside the wagon, lit by the last dregs of the sunset,
light Merrick, huddled in his sleeping posture. He feels the
small and looks up weakly, wheezing, obviously very sick. A
bowl of potatoes sets untouched beside him.

BYTES

Still haven't eaten, eh?

MERRICK

Bytes... please!

BYTES

Eat, my treasure, I want you healthy.

He snaps the hatch shut and turns forward muttering to himself.

BYTES

I'm beginning to feel your weight.

FIELD & ROAD (MORNING)

it. We see a field with a road in the distance, leading to
clouds It is misty, the sun barely peeking through the rolling
the above. On the road, the wagon is plodding toward us. At
into bottom of the frame a FEMALE PINHEAD in a dress comes
view view. She is watching the wagon. A DWARF comes into
Dwarf beside her. She points to the wagon and she and the

and excitedly confer. They turn back to watch its progress
the Dwarf reaches up and takes the Pinhead's hand.
We move back slowly to reveal a ring of circus wagons
in the field.
ANOTHER DWARF comes up to the two other Freaks and
watches the wagon. We pull back further to see a small circus.
There are little stalls, and cages containing two mangey
lions, some screeching spider monkeys and some squawking
parrots.
The circus is abustle in the drab grey field.
CLOSE-UP of the Pinhead jumping up and down in her
excitement.
There is a clap of thunder.

DISSOLVE TO:

of A rainstorm over the freak show. We pass along the row
freak wagons.
These freaks truly deserve the name. They are quite
different from the rather domestic ones we saw in the circus in
England. These are not fakes. A rope cordons us off from them.
The audience, which we see all around us, is enjoying
the freaks, but there is a sense of vulgarity in their
gaiety. They seem hard, and cold and jaded.
Wonder. We move by pinheads, a Hermaphrodite and a Legless
runs Some Siamese Twins are playing cat's cradle. Past them
Trailing a Dwarf with a plumed hat playing a small flute.
behind him on a string is a small wooden ark on wheels.
face. A A lionfaced man is combing the hair that covers his

There
growing out
and
horrible
many
are

Rubber Man pulls the skin of his neck up over his face.
is a fairly big crowd standing around a Tall Man,
affectionately rubbing the Small Parasitic Twin,
of his chest. The Barker-Owners compete with each other
the occasional thunder.
Finally we hear the patter of Bytes, telling of the
fate of John Merrick's Mother on that African Isle so
years ago. A very big crowd is listening to him. They
looking at the poster at the back of the wagon, waiting
impatiently to see the Elephant Man.

BYTES

...The result is plain to see. Ladies
and Gentlemen... THE TERRIBLE ELEPHANT
MAN!

stick and
the
shudders. A
Elephant

He raps twice with Merrick's silver-tipped walking
pulls the poster up. Merrick is standing unsteadily in
wagon. He is quite sick. The audience gasps and
few shrieks are heard. The Elephant Man is always the
Man.

BYTES

Turn around!

the
stick

Merrick slowly turns around, the audience gasping at
sight of the horrible tumors. Bytes raps the walking
twice.

BYTES

Dance!

pained
but

Merrick begins a series of awkward movements, his
version of a dance.
Without his walking stick it is very difficult for him,

others he strives to do it. Some of the crowd laughs at this,
shudder at the strange sight.

bringing the Suddenly Merrick falters and comes to a stop, breathing
him irregularly. Seeing this, Bytes goes to him and
stick behind Merrick, out of view of the audience, jabs
savagely in the back.

BYTES

Dance!

first Merrick groans with pain and some of the people in the
row flinch back.

onto the Merrick begins to dance again as people throw coins
stage, which the boy gathers and puts into a cap.

FADE

OUT:

CUT TO:

THE BACK OF THE WAGON - DAY

wagon The poster is rolled up, Merrick on the floor of the
wheezing horribly.

slop Beside him on the floor is a bowl of what looks to be
and potatoes.

at Bytes is standing at the back of the wagon looking down
Merrick. He picks up the bowl and jabs it at Merrick.

BYTES

Eat, my treasure.

accept Merrick looks wearily at the bowl but makes no move to
it.

BYTES

(angry)

Eat. I said eat!

Merrick closes his eyes. This really enrages Bytes.

BYTES

Eat, damn you. EAT! EAT!

He jabs the bowl at Merrick, almost as if he'd shove it
down
his throat.

BYTES

I said EAT!!

At this last word he throws the contents of the bowl
splattering in Merrick's face. He stands for a moment
looking
down at Merrick who has lapsed into a coughing fit.

FADE

OUT:

CUT TO:

SIDE OF THE WAGON - DAY

There is a small crowd gathered in a circle on the
grass.
Bytes
Merrick stands amidst them on a small wooden stool,
jabbing him from behind again.

Merrick is making a strange moaning cry, slightly
reminiscent
of the trumpet of an elephant. The boy is passing
amongst
the people with a cap, collecting coins. Merrick lifts
his
face to the sky, the sound of his own misery mingling
with
his elephant call.

FADE

OUT:

CUT TO:

SMALL CIRCUS - NIGHT

We see the poster of the Elephant Man. Bytes stands
before

it saying the last of the patter.

BYTES

The result is plain to see. Ladies
and gentlemen... THE TERRIBLE ELEPHANT
MAN.

poster He raps twice with the walking stick and pulls the
up.

is Merrick is now extremely sick. He almost looks as if he
unable to stand.

and The audience, as always, is quite alarmed. Bytes smiles
comes forward.

BYTES

Turn around!

but he Merrick looks incapable of even this simple movement,
horrible slowly manages to turn. The crowd reacts to the
condition of Merrick's back and head.

proper Bytes satisfied that the Elephant Man is having the
effect, raps the walking stick again.

BYTES

Dance!

begins Merrick's eyes look painfully up to the heavens and he
stick to shuffle clumsily about the platform. Without his
It this is very difficult for him, causing him great pain.
the is a humiliating spectacle and the crowd unimpressed by
moves halting movements of the monster begins to heckle him.
Bytes seeing that the dancing isn't being received well
to place a stool next to Merrick.

BYTES

(rapping)
Up! Up!

and
he is
disapproval,
raps
bravely
crowd,
teeters

Merrick, already exhausted by his little dance, wheezes coughs, attempting to ascend the stool. It is useless, just too tired. Again the audience shouts its booing and hissing the Elephant Man. Bytes curses and again, demanding obedience from Merrick who again tries to mount the stool. He cannot do it!

Bytes, striving to save the moment and please the angry goes to Merrick and roughly helps him up. Merrick precariously on the stool. Bytes raps the stick.

BYTES

Give the call of the elephant!

wagon.
Merrick
He
that

Merrick hesitates and Bytes bangs the stick on the wagon. The audience quiets down to hear the elephant call. Merrick senses this lull, but he is very frightened and sick. He lifts his head wearily and makes a few wavering cries that sound very little like an elephant.

BYTES

Louder!

crowd
elephant.
to
for
The
piteous
objects

Merrick tries again but there is no improvement. The crowd begins to jeer at Merrick, exhorting him to make the call of the elephant. Merrick is now almost swaying on the stool. He attempts to step down, but as he does it finally becomes too much for him and he collapses into a heap on the wagon floor. The crowd is no longer in the least bit challenged by this piteous mess and they break out into a vocal fury, throwing objects at the wagon.

angry. He Bytes is humiliated at first, and then is quickly turns to Merrick.

BYTES

Get up you miserable bastard!

irregularly. But Merrick just lays there moaning and wheezing

BYTES

I SAID, GET UP!

walking- He jabs Merrick a few times with the silver-tipped stick. The crowd jeers even louder still. There is a clap of thunder.

BYTES

(realizing it's no use)

I'm beatin' a dead horse.

FADE

OUT:

CUT TO:

SMALL CIRCLE OF WAGONS (NIGHT)

wine. Bytes is seated by a campfire drinking from a bottle of

He is very drunk. From the wagon behind him we can hear Merrick coughing and wheezing.

stop We also hear the boy, almost pleading with Merrick to coughing and to try to eat. As Bytes listens he gets angrier

and angrier. Finally he rises clumsily to his feet and stumbles over to the back of the wagon.

BYTES

Another bleedin' heart!

better The boy is crouched over Merrick, who looks little than a corpse.

Bytes points a menacing finger at Merrick.

BYTES

You sly bastard. You're doing this to spite me, aren't you!

BOY

Aw, Bytes, he's sick.

BYTES

He's doing it to spite me, I tell you, and it's got to stop!

BOY

He's sick, Bytes. He's going to die.

BYTES

(enraged)

If he does it's his own fault! But I'm not burying that swollen bag of flesh.

dragging
He reaches in and grabs Merrick roughly by his arm,
him out of the wagon.

BOY

What are you going to do?

BYTES

I'll show you! I'll show you!

wagon. The
Bytes
monkeys
He drags Merrick across the way to a small monkey
boy follows, his face filled with sympathy for Merrick.
opens the cage door and stuffs Merrick in as the
scream.

BOY

Don't!

BYTES

Shut up!

turns,
passes
He slams the door and latches it. Then he quickly
still in his rage, and starts for the wagon. As he
the boy, the boy tries to stop him.

BOY

Bytes, please...

stalks
sound,
muffled
thrown

Bytes knocks the boy down with the back of his hand. He to his wagon and climbs inside. After some muffled Merrick's food bowl comes flying out. There are more sounds as Merrick's stick, cloak and hood are also out one by one.

BYTES

Out!

keep
the
wagon.
blanket

The boy looks to Merrick who is in a panic trying to himself away from the monkeys who scream loudly in all excitement. We hear Bytes, cursing to himself, in the wagon. The boy, frightened, goes to the fire and pulls a blanket around him.

Merrick crawls to one corner of the cage away from the screaming monkeys.

other
warily
out

Suddenly one of the braver ones leaps at Merrick with a scream, biting him on the arm, and moving quickly away. Merrick yelps with pain and struggles to move away. The monkeys have gotten the idea now and they begin to move toward Merrick, screeching threateningly. Another leaps and clings to Merrick's shoulder, biting and scratching furiously then he too jumps away.

Merrick cries out.

them
with
shoulders.
and on

Now the monkeys are getting braver and more and more of lash out at Merrick with their paws. They jump onto him savage screams, biting him on the head and neck and Merrick's eyes search for escape. The monkeys come on without a break, screaming madly all the while.

with
With his good hand Merrick begins to pull himself up
the aid of a bar.

through
The monkeys strive to pull him down. Merrick looks
the bars at the wagon and screams frantically.

MERRICK

Bytes! Bytes, please!!

Merrick.
But Bytes won't come. Something is happening inside
him
A wave of feeling is growing, coming from a place in
very deep down and far away.

to
moving
This feeling seems to give him strength and he is able
pull himself all the way up in spite of the hairy
mass that now seems to cling to every part of his body.

body
erupt.
him.
with
before.
the
him
The feeling is surging up inside Merrick making his
shake uncontrollably as if he were a volcano about to
The monkeys keep on biting and screeching, pulling at
Suddenly a formidable cry rings out of Merrick's mouth,
a power and assurance we have never heard from him
He whirls about and cries out again a shattering "No",
force of which scatters most of the monkeys away from
onto the cage floor, dumbfounded.

throws it
Merrick grabs a monkey who has managed to hang and
into the group of monkeys on the floor.

MERRICK

**NO! I AM NOT AN ELEPHANT! I AM NOT
AN ANIMAL!! I AM A HUMAN BEING! I...
AM... A MAN! I AM A MAN!!**

the
the
The monkeys have been shocked into silence, pushed into
other end of the cage. Merrick, perhaps as surprised as

monkeys
Merrick
monkeys, rests against the bars of the cage. The
make no move toward him. They sit across the cage from
silently watching him with fear.

FADE

OUT:

CUT TO:

THE SILENT FACES OF THE MONKEYS

his
We now see Merrick crouched in a corner of the cage in
sleeping position.

still
We see the monkeys again, and hear whispering in the
night. CU of merrick's head resting on his knees. The
whispering continues and a shadow falls across Merrick.
Merrick begins to stir, his head comes up, and he looks
around. The whispering stops.

are:
We pull back to see some of the freaks from the circus
gathered around the monkey cage in a small group. They

with
dwarf,
wonder.
Merrick's
2 pinheads (male and female), the dwarf we saw earlier
the plumed hat and the ark on a string, another male
a female midget, a lion-faced man, and an armless
The female pinhead reaches into the cage and pats
head.

PLUMED DWARF

You alright?

MERRICK

y-y-yes--

PLUMED DWARF

Want to come out?

MERRICK

You're English.

PLUMED DWARF

Of course! You want out?

MERRICK

Yes.

PLUMED DWARF

Won't be a moment.

foreign

Then,

freaks

behind

faced

Merrick. The

shoulder.

He looks to the lion-faced man and speaks to him in a tongue. The lion-faced man unlatches the cage door. after further instruction, from the plumed dwarf, the gently help Merrick out of the cage, closing the door him. The dwarf speaks to the others again and the lion-man and the armless wonder move to each side of lion-faced man pulls Merrick's right arm over his Merrick puts his left arm around the armless wonder.

PLUMED DWARF

We've decided... You've got to get away from here...

begin to

caravan

lanterns

for

of

stick

strangely

He and the other dwarf light two lanterns and they move off.

The boy by the wagon has awakened. He sees the small of freaks moving in the darkness, the light from the bobbing over the grass. His first instinct is to call Bytes, which he almost does, but then he thinks better it. He rises and goes to where Bytes threw Merrick's and disguise.

He nicks them up and goes to the small band of shaped beings. They stop and watch him warily.

BOY

(handing over the things)

Here... you'll need these.

Merrick looks the boy in the eye, and the boy holds his gaze.

PLUMED DWARF

Good of you, mate.

BOY

(to Merrick)

Good luck.

MERRICK

But... but...

BOY

I'll be alright.

watches
and
the
few
the
into

The small band moves away through the wagons. The boy the lantern light receding in the darkness. He turns looks to the wagon, the poster of the Elephant Man, and dying fire. He moves to the fire quickly collecting a blankets and belongings. Then taking one last look at garish poster just visible in the night, he runs off the darkness.

CUT TO:

WOODS - NIGHT

trees

We see the beams of the lanterns moving through the like will-o-the-wisps.

They help Merrick along, the plumed Dwarf directing them from time to time. As they move along we see them pass a small still pond.

CUT TO:

DIRT ROAD - NIGHT

go

The intrepid freaks approach a bend in the road. They

platform.
and
disguise.
to

around the corner and before them stands a small train station, a train sitting amongst the steam by a
The freaks stop just outside the light of the station
the plumed Dwarf's instruction get Merrick into his
The female pinhead, who has carried his stick, hands it
Merrick, squeezing his hand.

MERRICK

Thank you, my friends.

respond

The plumed Dwarf relays the message and the freaks
to Merrick in their language.

PLUMED DWARF

I'll go in with you, you'll need a
ticket.

through
Merrick

He turns and confers with the freaks who all rifle
their pockets and produce some coins. Then he and
walk into the station, the freaks watching and waving.

ON THE PLATFORM

passengers,

The train is about to leave. At a barrier two ticket
collectors are taking tickets of a few last-minute
who hurry off.

barrier.

The Plumed Dwarf and Merrick appear and walk to the
The Plumed Dwarf hands over the ticket.

PLUMED DWARF

I'm just going to help my friend on
board.

after

They walk off down the platform. The collectors stare
them.

him
trailing

The Plumed Dwarf, his arm around Merrick, is helping
down the platform, as fast as possible, his ark
behind him. As they pass the windows of the first-class

handsome carriages, we see the ornate interiors and the happy,
people on their plush seats.

the The Plumed Dwarf finds an empty compartment and opens
door.

PLUMED DWARF

This'll do.

watching He looks down the platform. The Ticket Collectors are
them with great interest.

Merrick climbs laboriously aboard.

away The other people on board see Merrick, react, and move
from him as far as they can in the cramped, 3rd class
carriage.

with The Plumed Dwarf notices this and sniffs at the people
contempt.

PLUMED DWARF

I'm sorry I could only get you a
third class ticket, but it's all we
had.

MERRICK

Oh no, my friend...

PLUMED DWARF

Say hello to London for me. I miss
her.

MERRICK

Oh, yes.

PLUMED DWARF

You know, I saw you once there, in
London. You're a great attraction.

to He grins. The whistle blows and the train slowly begins
walks move off. The Plumed Dwarf still holding the door open,
along with it.

PLUMED DWARF

Luck, my friend, luck. Who needs it
more than we?

is
and
Merrick nods "yes", and holds out his hand. The train
moving a little faster. The Plumed Dwarf grabs his hand
they shake.

mask is
to him
He shuts the door. As the carriage passes, Merrick's
pressed up against the window. The Plumed Dwarf waves
as the train moves away.

down the
platform.
He looks at the train for a moment, then walks back

THIRD CLASS CARRIAGE - INTERIOR

looks
slowly around.
Merrick is in the corner, facing into the carriage. He

moat
their
seat,
moment,
himself.
The other passengers have moved away, forming almost a
of space around him. We see the whole carriage now; the
cowering people and Merrick at the far end. Seeing
silent, horrified stares, he moves to the opposite
facing the back wall. Merrick looks around for a
then sees his reflection in the window. He stares at

THIRD CLASS CARRIAGE

He
that
about.
The carriage is dark now, and empty except for Merrick.
looks out the window at a sign above a station platform
says "Oostende", and at the few people still walking

OOSTENDE STATION PLATFORM (NIGHT)

darkened
the
We see the side of the carriage. Merrick, inside the
car, is not visible. A CONDUCTOR walks to the end of

Merrick's

carriage and turns a valve. He opens the door to compartment.

CONDUCTOR

I'm sorry, you'll have to leave now.

of

Merrick is motionless, reluctant to leave the security the darkness.

CONDUCTOR

This is the end of the line, you'll have to leave now.

plants

Merrick pulls his walking stick from the darkness and

platform,

it firmly on the floor with a loud THUD. The Conductor, expecting violence, draws back. A few people on the

who have stopped to watch this exchange, gasp.

descends

Merrick rises with the help of his stick, and slowly from the carriage watched very carefully by the others.

He

looks around for a moment, then walks off down the

platform.

TWO YOUNG TOUGHS follow a little distance behind him, and mimicking his uneven gait.

laughing

OOSTENDE QUAY (NIGHT)

channel

We see a short line of people waiting to board a cross-

smiling

steamer. The First-Mate is standing by the gangplank,

handsome

at the women passengers and making the most of his

stops and

face and crisp white uniform. He surveys the line,

the

smiles even more broadly. A very pretty Young Woman at

end of the line is smiling back.

towards

We see the end of the quay disappearing into darkness

the station.

slowly

The rhythmic sound of Merrick's stick is heard as he

moves into the light.

lowers
from
head,

Merrick. He
his
at the

The Woman, still smiling at the First-Mate, demurely
her eyes. Merrick appears behind her, breathing heavily
the long walk. The woman's face freezes. She turns her
ever so slightly, and sees Merrick. Her face drops.
The First-Mate sees the Woman change, then sees
walks out of frame. Merrick is still trying to catch
breath as the First-Mate walks up. The Woman looks up
First-Mate imploringly.

FIRST-MATE

May I see your ticket?

his

Merrick, confused at first, produces his ticket from
cloak. The First-Mate examines it and hands it back.

FIRST-MATE

I'm sorry, there's no room for you
on this ship, you'll have to wait
for the next one, in the morning.

Merrick remains motionless.

FIRST-MATE

You heard me. There's no room. Now
be off with you.

The
hat.

He points down the quay. Merrick turns and walks away.
Woman smiles gratefully at the First-Mate, who tips his

A WAREHOUSE PIER

singing.

TWO DRUNKS are sitting against the wall, drinking and
One of them gets up and walks out of frame.
Merrick peeks around a corner at the Drunk. They stare
at
other

each other for a long moment. Merrick disappears. The

singing Drunk comes back, sits down, and they both start
again.

tapping Merrick is in darkness, seated around the corner,
his left hand against his leg, keeping in time with the
drunken music.

OOSTENDE QUAY (MORNING)

On the We see Merrick behind some crates, watching the ship.
the wharf a different First-Mate waits until the last of
Ticket morning passengers board the ship. He then nods to the
On Taker and ascends the gangplank, nodding to a crew man.
board, everyone prepares to get underway.

running, Merrick pitches forward from behind the crates, half
Taker, half stumbling toward the Ticket Taker. The Ticket
ground and about to board the ship, drops the tickets on the
tickets stoops to pick them up. As he collects the scattered
crewman a hand comes into frame holding a ticket out to him. He
reaches for it, and calls over his shoulder to the
at the plank.

TICKET TAKER

Wait! One more!

arrival. He turns back and finally takes a look at the late

TICKET TAKER

You'll have to hurr...

now His mouth drops. Merrick hurries past him. The crewman
of also sees the passenger as he begins his clumsy ascent
the gangplank. The shrill ship's whistle blows.

ON BOARD

stairway,
clasped
hit
He

Merrick is crouched in a dark corner underneath a
his head resting on the points of both knees, his arms
around them. He is asleep. A few drops of rain fall and
his cap, then a few more and finally it begins to rain.
wakes up and looks around. He hears a voice.

YOUNG WOMAN (V.O.)

Look! It's Dover!

the
Man

Through the stairs we see a young couple in the rain at
railing, arm in arm. The Young Woman points. The Young
turns to her and smiles.

YOUNG MAN

Finally! Dover!

rain.
and
walks

They laugh and hug each other and run inside out of the
Merrick's hand comes into the shot, grasping a stair
pulling himself up slowly. He rounds the stairs and
onto the deck looking after the young couple.

oblivious of

Merrick walks to the railing and leans over it,
the rain. We see the cliffs of Dover.

DOCKSIDE - DOVER

umbrellas.
swallowed
crowd. The

The ship's gangplank leading down to a sea of
Passengers one by one come down the plank and are
by the crowd. On the dock amidst the umbrellas, we see
Merrick. He looks around, then moves off into the
crowd moves past a sign saying, "To The Trains".

LONDON TRAIN - INTERIOR

heavy
apple.

Through a rain-streaked window we see rolling green
countryside. We pull back to see an Elderly Man in a
black overcoat with a wide-brimmed rain hat eating an
apple.

Beside him his wife knits.

PAN
watching
A few other people similarly clothed are sleeping. We
across them to see Merrick at the back of the car
the Elderly Man eat.

LONDON TRAIN - EXTERIOR

The last car speeds down the track and disappears.

LIVERPOOL STREET STATION

canopy
below
see the
and
looking
Grey light filters through the windows in the high
ceiling over the trains in the station. The platforms
fill with people as trains arrive and depart. We now
station with its newsstands, sweetstalls, shoeshiners,
passengers moving to and fro, carrying luggage and
for their train.

adult
only
A YOUNG BOY is seated on a pile of baggage looking very
and bored. His MOTHER stands beside him, though we see
a portion of her billowy skirt.

Woman.
He
We hear her voice in rapid conversation with another
The Young Boy scans the crowd looking for excitement.
sees something.

moving
The Elderly Man we saw on the train and his wife are
past the barrier.

puts
His
The Young Boy slowly pulls a peashooter from a pocket,
a pea in his mouth, and raises the pipe to his lips.
Mother's hand shoots out and grabs it.

MOTHER'S VOICE

Little beast! I thought mummy told
you not to bring that horrid thing.
Can't you behave?

Merrick
plan
Mother's

She continues her conversation. The Boy looks sour.
is moving past the barrier. He stops to look around and
his next move. The Boy sees him. He tugs on his
skirt.

BOY

Mummy! Mummy! Look at that man! His
head, it's huge! Mummy, why is his
head so big? Mummy? Mummy?

MOTHER

Do be quiet Little Jim. Can't you
see Mummy is speaking?

Jim's
skirt and

Merrick still looking around, suddenly turns in Little
direction. He sees the Boy tugging at his Mother's
pointing at him.

wall
can to

He turns and walks in the opposite direction along a
stacked with trunks and luggage, trying as best as he
blend in. Little Jim gets up and moves after him.

a
him.

Merrick continues along the wall. A few people give him
second look, but pass on. Little Jim comes up alongside

LITTLE JIM

Hey Mister, why is your head so big?

leading
out of

Merrick turns and looks at Little Jim. He looks quickly
around. We see, across the station, an open archway
out into a street. Merrick moves away from Little Jim
frame. Little Jim watches him go.

LITTLE JIM

Mister!

the

Two other BOYS join Little Jim. The three of them watch
escaping Merrick, then move off after him. Merrick is

boys

frantically trying to make it to the archway. The three appear behind him and call out.

BOYS

Mister! Mister!

LITTLE JIM

Why don't you answer me?

Merrick's

One of the boys reaches down and snatches the hem of cloak. He lifts it, trying to catch a glimpse of the mysterious stranger. Merrick pulls away and tries to go faster. Relishing the hunt, the boys follow him,

taunting

him all the way. As they approach the arch, Little Jim, determined now, steps in front of him cutting him off.

the

Merrick comes to an abrupt standstill, shrinking from

firmly.

boy. Little Jim reaches up to the hood and grasps it

LITTLE JIM

Now I'll see you...

in a

He lifts the hood and then staggers back onto the floor spasm of fear.

hearing her

He lets out a shrill scream. Merrick turns wildly away, looking for another escape. Little Jim's Mother, son's cries, looks up immediately.

the

She sees Merrick and the howling boy in the middle of station.

MOTHER

My son! My son! Help!

whirls

Merrick, hearing this, looks in her direction and

hearing

away. He stumbles toward another archway exit. People,

in his

the noise, watch him go. He knocks down a little girl

flight and she, too, starts screaming.

with
Through the archway comes a bobby. Jim's Mother, now
her son, calls to him.

MOTHER

Stop that man! Stop that man!

the
walks
Merrick stops at the sight of the bobby. The bobby at
arch, now aware of the commotion, sees Merrick and
quickly towards him.

Jim's
off.
Merrick changes course, but, a group of men, alerted by
mother's screams, move forward together, cutting him
They yell at him angrily.

Merrick's
the
goes,
children
from
blocking
One of them darts toward him and grabs a hold of
hood. Merrick turns frantically away and as he does,
hood is pulled off him. The crowd shouts at him as he
following him in wary pursuit. He moves back past the
and Jim's Mother. They all scream and shield themselves
his approach. Another group of people move toward him
all escape.

through it
wall.
fear in
hoping
Behind him, he sees a door to a urinal. He moves
followed by the crowd. We hear fearsome echoes inside.
Inside the urinal, the crowd presses Merrick toward a
They have become angry now. They shout and there is
their voices. They hem Merrick in. He looks around
for an opening. There is none.

pushes
his way through the crowd.

block
Merrick puts his good hand over his good ear trying to
out the screams of the crowd.

MERRICK

(quietly to himself)
I am not an animal... I'm not... I'm
not... I am a man.

EXAMINING ROOM - LONDON HOSPITAL

the
black
helping

A small room off the Receiving Room. In the center of
room is a low sofa covered with deeply stained, shiny
leather. On it lies a man, groaning softly. Treves is
a Dresser bandage the man's leg.

Mrs. Mothershead appears at the doorway.

MOTHERSHEAD

There's a policeman to see you, Sir.

The bobby from the Liverpool Street Station enters.

BOBBY

Are you Frederick Treves, sir?

TREVES

Yes...

The card changes hands.

THE URINAL

Merrick
him in

Treves enters and pushes through the crowd. He sees
in a heap on the floor. The SERGEANT gets up to meet
the middle of the room, but Treves keeps walking toward
Merrick.

SERGEANT

You know this man, sir?

TREVES

Yes, he's... my friend.

to
brimming
him.

Treves goes to Merrick who, just coming to, reaches out
him with his good hand. Treves pulls him up, his eyes
with tears. Merrick, too, is weeping. Treves embraces
him.

MERRICK

Mr. Treves! Treves.

TREVES

John.... how can you ever forgive me?

HALLWAY

hallway

Treves, Carr Gomm and Mrs. Kendal are walking down a engaged in conversation.

KENDAL

It's all arranged. I'll send over some evening gowns for the sisters that you select to accompany Mr. Merrick. You'll be using the Royal entrance and Princess Alexandra herself will be there to welcome him to her private box.

TREVES

I'm very grateful to you, Mrs. Kendal. This is just the thing to help him forget his ordeal. John will be very excited.

KENDAL

Well it is a miracle he ever got back. And, I'm sure, Mr. Treves, under your expert care, he'll have many happy years ahead.

TREVES

I fear not, Mrs. Kendal. Even in the short time he was gone the size of his head has increased rapidly... as is his pain.

KENDAL

How awful for John.

TREVES

And yet, not once have any of us heard him complain.

KENDAL

Is he... dying then?

TREVES

Yes. There is nothing more frustrating, nothing that makes a physician feel more useless, than standing by watching his patient deteriorate. And when that patient is a friend, no... no, there's absolutely nothing I can do.

KENDAL

Well, it's all quite... I've never heard... It's quite...

TREVES

(understandingly)

Yes.

MERRICK'S ROOM - MORNING

wall.
holding in
black bow

Merrick stands before the row of smiling ladies on his wall. He surveys them lovingly for a long moment. He is holding in his hand a bundle of evening clothes, the handsome black bow tie lying on the new silk shirt.

MERRICK

You women are such strange and wonderful creatures... Alas, it seems to be my fate to fall in love with each and everyone of you. I especially wish you could all be with me tonight... I'm finally going to the theatre.

company. He
to the
picks
somewhere

He stands for a moment, reluctant to leave their company. He goes to his bed placing the clothes upon it, and then to the cathedral. He compares it with St. Phillips outside. He picks up the main spire and gazes at it, but his mind is somewhere else.

MERRICK

...The theatre...

CUT TO:

THEATRE ROYAL - DRURY LANE

orchestra
calling to
and
Box
relishing

We see the whole theatre. It is very ornate. The
is tuning up and the house is filled with elegant, well
dressed, handsome people all happily chatting and
one another. We see young men and women flirting boldly
generally enjoying each other's company. In the Royal
Mothershead and Nora in evening gowns sit up front
the spectacle.

cloak
wear

In the back of the box John sits between Treves and the
Princess. He is dressed in his evening clothes, his
tied over his shoulders like a cape, but he does not
his hood.

pair

The Princess is explaining to Merrick the workings of a
of opera glasses.

curtain

He takes them and delightedly spies about the theatre.
John is breathless as the house lights dim and the
rises. Enter chorus.

CHORUS

O for a Muse of fire, that would
ascend
The brightest heaven of invention, A
kingdom for a stage, princes to act
And monarchs to behold the swelling
scene! Then should the warlike Harry,
like himself,
Assume the port of Mars; and at his
heels,
Leash'd in like hounds, should famine,
sword and fire
Crouch for employment. But pardon,
gentles all,
The flat unraised spirits that have
dar'd
On this unworthy scaffold to bring
forth
So great an object: can this cockpit
hold
The vasty fields of Rance? Or may we

cram
Within this wooden O the very casques
That did affright the air at
Agincourt?
O, pardon! since a crooked figure
may
Attest in little place a million;
And let us, ciphers to this great
account,
On your imaginary forces work.

FADE

OUT:

CUT TO:

Treves smiling at John. He exchanges knowing smiles
with the Princess. John watches with the unconstrained delight
of a child; but his rapture is even more intense and solemn.
His attitude is one of wonder and awe, and he often leans
forward, panting in his excitement. To John the characters are
not actors in make-up and costume, but real people.

CUT TO:

Mrs. Kendal and an actor dressed as royalty doing the
last scene of Henry the Fifth.

K. HEN

Fair Katharine, and most fair, will
you vouchsafe to teach a soldier
terms
Such as will enter at a lady's ear
And plead his love-suit to her gentle
heart?

KATH

Your majesty shall mock at me; I
cannot speak your England.

K. HEN

O fair Katharine, if you will love
me soundly with your French heart, I
will be glad to hear you confess it

brokenly with your English tongue.
Do you like me, Kate?

KATH

Pardonnez-moi, I cannot tell vat is
"like me".

K. HEN

An angel is like you, Kate, and you
are like an angel.

KATH

O bon Dieu! les langues des hommes
sont pleines de tramperies.

K. HEN

What say you, fair one? That the
tongues of men are full of deceits?

KATH

Oui, dat de tongues of de mans is be
full of deceits.

K. HEN

I know no way to mince it in love,
but directly to say "I love you".
What! A speaker is but a prater; a
rhyme is but a ballad. A good leg
will fall; a straight back will stoop;
a black beard will turn white; a
curl'd pate will grow bald; a fair
face will wither; a full eye will
wax hollow; but a good heart, Kate,
is the sun and the moon, or rather
the sun and not the moon; for it
shines bright and never changes, but
keeps his course truly.

During the above, Merrick mouths the Kings lines.

FADE

OUT:

CUT TO:

The Royal Box, the Princess and the two friends
enjoying the
show.

CUT TO:

THE STAGE

The chorus steps out to give the epilogue.

CHORUS

Thus far, with rough and allunable
pen,
Our bending author hath pursued the
story,
In little room confining mighty men,
Mangling by starts the full course
of their glory.
Small time, but in that small most
greatly liv'd
This star of England: Fortune made
his sword;
By which the world's best garden he
achiev'd.

During the above, the CAMERA moves in on John.

Amidst great applause the curtain rings down. Through
the
motions
curtain comes Mrs. Kendal to renewed applause. She
the audience to quiet down.

MRS. KENDAL

Thank you for your warm greeting.
Ladies and gentlemen, tonight's
performance was very special to me,
because it was very special to someone
else, a man who knows the theatre
and loves the theatre, and yet tonight
is the first time he's ever actually
been here. I would like to dedicate...
the whole company wishes to dedicate,
from their hearts, tonight's
performance to Mr. John Merrick, my
dear friend.

She gestures toward the Royal Box. There is modest
applause
cannot be
trying
It's
audience.
as the audience rises and turns toward it. Merrick
seen in the shadows, and the crowd cranes their necks
to get a glimpse of him. We hear whispers of "Oh look!
the Elephant Man! The Elephant Man!" run through the

Treves turns to John.

TREVES

Stand up, John. Let them see you.

MERRICK

Oh no, I couldn't.

TREVES

It's for you, John. It's all for you. Go ahead, let them see you.

The audience begins to rise and they clap their hands even louder.

Merrick is overcome by the applause. Tears run down his cheeks. Treves, Nora, Mothershead and the Princess, filled with pride, beam at John.

MERRICK

(quietly, to Treves)

I feel as if I've traveled my whole life just to stand here.

CUT TO:

MERRICK'S ROOM

Merrick, in a night-shirt, is seated at his table working on his cathedral.

Treves is nearby.

MERRICK

Wasn't Mrs. Kendal wonderful? I can't blame the King for wanting to marry her.

Merrick closes his eyes and his head tilts forward slightly. It seems unbearably large: too large for him to support.

TREVES

Will the cathedral be finished soon, John?

MERRICK

Yes, very soon.

TREVES

Splendid. it's truly a masterpiece.
Well, I suppose I'll be on my way
now. I hoped you enjoyed yourself
this evening.

MERRICK

Oh yes! It was wonderful!

TREVES

I'm glad, John. Goodnight.

He turns and starts out the door.

MERRICK

Mr. Treves?

Treves comes back to Merrick.

TREVES

Yes John?

MERRICK

Mr. Treves, tell me... tell me truly.
Is it alright, did I make any mistakes
that you can see?

TREVES

(looking at the
cathedral)

No, John, not one that I can see.

MERRICK

Then I shouldn't change anything?

TREVES

No, no, I wouldn't change a thing.

The two look at each other silently.

MERRICK

...I'll walk you to the door.

Merrick rises and goes with Treves to the door.

TREVES

Goodnight John. Sleep well.

MERRICK

You too, my friend. Goodnight.

hallway.
door.
goes
different
paint,

Treves smiles at John then walks down the darkened
Merrick watches him for a moment, then slowly shuts the
We hear the distant echo of Treves footsteps. Merrick
back to examine his cathedral, looking at it from
angles. He picks up a fine brush, dipping it into the
and makes a few final brush strokes.

it

He moves back into the middle of the room and gazes at
for a long time. He lowers the brush to his side.

MERRICK

It is finished.

if
goes to
signs

The cathedral is a masterwork of detail and shading, as
it were St. Philips itself shrunk to a miniature. He
the table, dips the brush into the paint and carefully
his name at the base of the main spire.

MERRICK

John... Merrick!

pushes
pain.
head.
looks at
the
mother's
curtains.

He sighs deeply, lays the brush down on the table and
the model towards the window. The movement causes him
He puts his left hand up and feels the back of his
Merrick turns out the lamp and goes to his bed. He
the cathedral again, then around at his room. We see in
dim light his books, his gallery of smiling women, his
dressing bag, his cloak and hood, and finally his
picture on the table. A slight breeze billows the
We move in very close to them.

DISSOLVE TO:

and High altitude... roiling clouds with lightning flashes
low thunder. The sky is in turmoil.

MERRICK (V.O.)

When will the stream be weary of
flowing under my eye?

mingling and Lightning flash... thunder roll. The clouds are
scattering.

MERRICK (V.O.)

When will the wind be weary of
blowing over the sky?

slowly The clouds erupt, pushed onward and onward... they
linked begin to calm as... they turn slowly into... elephants
trunk to tail moving slowly away from us...

MERRICK (V.O.)

When will the clouds be weary of
fleeting?

keep The elephants are calmer than the skies we saw... they
moving onward and onward...

MERRICK (V.O.)

When will the heart be weary of
beating....

elephants A lacy curtain has taken the place of the sky. The
seem to be moving on it... into the distance.

MERRICK (V.O.)

...and nature die?

wiping the Knock, knock sound. The curtain moves to one side
behind elephants away with it. There is no terrified audience
smiling the curtain. There is only light and Merrick's Mother
a calm and benign smile.

JOHN'S MUM

Never, oh! Never, nothing will die;
the stream flows, the wind blows,

the cloud fleets, the heart beats...

see
The light grows brighter and brighter until we cannot
John's Mother anymore. It almost blinds us.

JOHN'S MUM

Nothing will die.

OUT:

WHITE

BLACK:

CUT TO

THE END