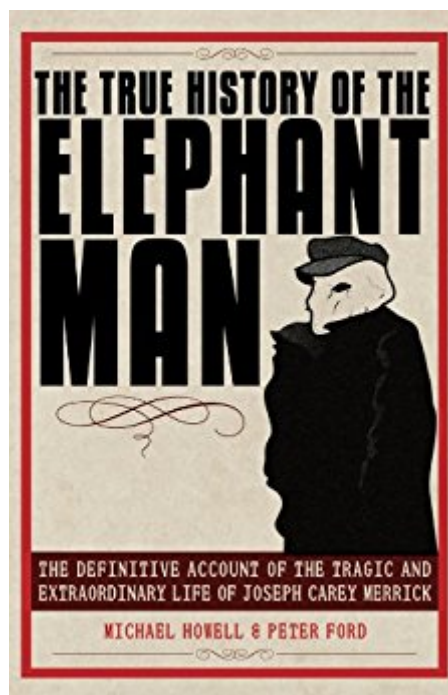




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The True History Of The Elephant Man: The Definitive Account Of The Tragic And Extraordinary Life Of Joseph Carey Merrick



Synopsis

Due to horrible physical deformities, he spent much of his life as a fair-ground freak. He was hounded, persecuted, and starving, until his fortune changed and he was rescued, housed, and fed by the distinguished surgeon, Frederick Treves. The subject of several books, a Broadway hit, and a film, Joseph Merrick has become part of popular mythology. Here, in this fully revised edition containing much fresh information, are the true and unromanticized facts of his life.

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Customer Reviews

John Merrick probably has more heart than the plastic society of Hollywood of today. His only "crime" was to be born in a world without feeling or empathy for suffering. Only a few individuals rise above the crass majority to help the unfortunate, think Father Damien "the leper priest", Mother Teresa "The Blessed Teresa of Calcutta", Saint Francis of Assisi, and "Doctors Without Borders". I had been working as a janitor in the University of London, where the skeleton of Joseph Merrick was stored in 1953. It was largely forgotten and a dim-witted assistant nearly threw out the femur because he thought it was "garbage". Insisting that it was an important bone, from where I could not

conclude, I argued with him on the point. He got me fired, but not before I told the senior person, I think it was the director of paleontology at the university, of the magnitude of this malformed bone. He was rather busy so he brushed me off, and I said, "Good heavens man, this is a femur of significant worth!" Finally, he relented and it was determined that it was indeed, the femur of Joseph Merrick "The Elephant Man". It had been misplaced in storage. The skeleton of Joseph Merrick is whole and complete, and you can even see it if you visit London. I take pride in saving this historic article from the rubbish bin. I also wish that his skeleton be put to rest finally and not arouse such idle curiosity. His soul has suffered enough and I don't know what his religious persuasion was, whether he was a believer in some afterlife or an agnostic, it matters not to me, but I'd like to see him buried, cremated or however it was that he wished to be laid to rest. I've offered to put up a year's worth of my savings to have a stone or burial site, but the authorities adamantly refuse. Any time I visit London from Berlin, I leave a few flowers at the sites of Joseph Merrick's life. I myself am compelled to help or even to associate with the "malformed" of society. Any country I visit, I visit the local hospital to give any aid I can. I adamantly refuse to believe that a person's worth is solely determined by their "appearance". I have visited many countries around the world and there are many stigmas attached to deformity, which is unfortunate. I don't care about the stigma that "untouchables" have, I'll embrace them in any country. This book is an interesting read on a wonderful person who was born deformed. May you rest in peace, requiescat in pace, Joseph Merrick!

This book, which underwent its third rewriting, clears up many questions that I have had over the years. The first surprise came in learning that the Elephant Man's name was Joseph Merrick and not John Merrick. That was only the beginning and then came "The True History Of The Elephant Man. One of my sons had a part in a stage presentation of the play and this added to my interest. I would recommend this to all serious readers.

Short, yet factually accurate and engrossing, Peter Ford's book lays out the true story of Joseph Carey Merrick, stripped of the fiction and Dickensian caricatures. With stunning photographs and remarkable insight, this book is a must for anyone interested in the true story of the one they once called "The Elephant Man."

I was not sure what I was getting into when I began this book. It is very detailed; more so than is necessary, I think. I thought the explanation for why the doctor addressed him as 'John', rather than

Joseph was never clear. So much was unknown about this poor man. I did admire the movie and from what I can remember, the movie followed the book fairly closely. I was disappointed to learn Mr. Merrick never did meet the famous actress, but thank goodness so many influential people stepped up to help this poor man.

I was hoping for an actual biography of Merrick, with insights on the man, and this wasn't it. His feelings and point of view hardly ever shimmy through at any point during this rather dull book. Instead, it's mostly about his doctor and attempts to clinically explain his condition, with over-focus on the overall "ghastliness" of him, which I find to be in poor taste.

excellent book about the true story of Mr. Merrick unlike the Hollywood version which was so sad and horrible. Although his life was not easy there were people in his life who cared for his well being and who did not exploit his condition for their financial gain. I'm glad I read this book which was written with ample amount of research into the life of this remarkable man.

It was an interesting but sad story. It was too bad that there was no treatment for this individual but at least toward the end of his life he was cared for and was no more a show thing for gawking people. there wasn't a whole lot that could be written about this poor guy and so I wouldn't rush to tell people to buy and read the Elephant Man's story. Sorry! PTL

This is an interesting book. The problem I had was it was such a slow read. Lots of information on the Elephant Man, his afflictions and life. Just a bit boring!

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