

## The Elephant Man

Joseph Merrick was born in England in 1862. He started developing abnormally early in childhood, and, by the time he was an adult, his body had become grossly misshapen. His head and right arm were deformed, his skin was covered in scales, he walked with a limp, and he was unable to speak clearly. However, there was nothing wrong with his mind. Unable to find a job, he took the only course available: he found a manager to exhibit him in a 'freak show'. He called himself 'The Elephant Man'.

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Though young, he was able to save a considerable amount of money to buy a house, but this was stolen by an unscrupulous promoter. When the law began to strictly regulate freak shows, he found refuge in a hospital and sympathy not only from the doctors, but from the aristocracy of London. Sadly, he grew progressively more deformed. Always seeking to be more normal, he tried, one afternoon, to sleep lying down, rather than with his head on his knees as he had always done. It is believed that the weight of his head caused him to suffocate while asleep. He was only 27.

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What was the Elephant Man's name?

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Why did he stop performing in freak shows?

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How old was he when he died?