

that word? Forgot it. It means chance-y. Well. Forgot it. Chance-y'll do. Have a good lunch. (*Exits.*)

(*MERRICK eats a little, breathes on model, polishes it, goes to bed, arms on knees, head on arms, the position in which he must sleep.*)

MERRICK. Chancey? (*Sleeps.*)

(*Enter PINHEADS singing.*)

PINS.

We are the Queens of the Cosmos  
Beautiful darkness' empire  
Darkness darkness, light's true flower,  
Here is eternity's finest hour  
Sleep like others you learn to admire  
Be like your mother, be like your sire.

(*They straighten MERRICK out to normal sleep position. His head tilts over too far. His arms fly up clawing the air. He dies. As light fades, SNORK enters.*)

SNORK. I remember it, Mr. Merrick. The word is "arbitrary." Arbitrary. It's all so—oh. Hey! Hey! The Elephant Man is dead!

*Fadeout.*

SCENE 21

FINAL REPORT TO THE  
INVESTORS

GOMM reading, TRAVES listening.

GOMM. "To the Editor of the *Times*. Sir: In November, 1886, you were kind enough to insert in the *Times* a letter from me drawing attention to the case of Joseph Merrick—"

TRAVES. John. John Merrick.

GOMM. Well. "—known as the Elephant Man. It was one of singular and exceptional misfortune" et cetera et cetera ". . . debarred from earning his livelihood in any other way than being exhibited to the gaze of the curious. This having been rightly interfered with by the police . . ." et cetera et cetera, "with great difficulty he succeeded somehow or other in getting to the door of the London Hospital where through the kindness of one of our surgeons he was sheltered for a time." And then . . . and then . . . ah. "While deterred by common humanity from evicting him again into the open street, I wrote to you and from that moment all difficulty vanished; the sympathy of many was aroused, and although no other fitting refuge was offered, a sufficient sum was placed at my disposal, apart from the funds of the hospital, to maintain him for what did not promise to be a prolonged life. As—"

TRAVES. I forgot. The coroner said it was death by asphyxiation. The weight of the head crushed the windpipe.

GOMM. Well. I go on to say about how he spent his time here, that all attempted to alleviate his misery, that he was visited by the highest in the land et cetera, et cetera, that in general he joined our lives as best he could, and: "In spite of all this indulgence, he was quiet and unassuming, grateful for all that was done for him, and conformed readily to the restrictions which were necessary." Will that do so far, do you think?