



## 3-PERSON SCENES

This scene is from a  
Stage Partners play, free to read  
in full at [yourstagepartners.com](http://yourstagepartners.com).

### *Elephant/Man* by Del Martin

3 any  
Drama

*Joseph Merrick lives with a medical condition that alters his appearance, and makes people look at him with fascination and fear. He saw the darkest side of that when he was exploited in a traveling show as "The Elephant Man." Now he lives in safety (but near-isolation) in the hospital under the care of the thoughtful Dr. Treves, who often questions how best to do right by Merrick. In this scene, one of Merrick's recurring visitors, the kind London actress Mrs. Kendal, suggests a way to open up his world.*

*NOTE: In this adaptation, the performer playing Merrick should not speak with any impairment, and there should be no attempt to recreate Merrick's actual appearance. Throughout the play, different ensemble members switch roles and become Merrick, so any performer may portray him.*

*(MRS. KENDAL is visiting MERRICK in his room at the hospital.)*

**MRS. KENDAL:** I must be off. The theatre calls.

**MERRICK:** I think I can hear it as well.

**MRS. KENDAL:** Would you like to go?

**MERRICK:** To the theatre? I've gone many times. *(He taps his head.)*

**MRS. KENDAL:** I'm sure you have.

But I ask again, would you like to go?

**MERRICK:** I very much would, but...

**MRS. KENDAL:** Then I shall arrange it.

**MERRICK:** I... Surely you jest...

I could not simply saunter into the lobby and make my way to my seat.

**MRS. KENDAL:** Leave it to me, Joe. I'll find a way.

*(TREVES enters.)*

**TREVES:** Ah, Mrs. Kendal. It's always a pleasure to see you here.

*(MRS. KENDAL and TREVES greet each other.)*

**MRS. KENDAL:** Unfortunately, dear Doctor, I am on my way out.

**TREVES:** That's a shame. Are you performing tonight?

**MRS. KENDAL:** But of course.

**TREVES:** Do come again.

**MRS. KENDAL:** I certainly will. Joe and I have plans.

**TREVES:** Oh?

**MERRICK:** Mrs. Kendal has invited me to a theatre performance.

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**TREVES:** Is that so?

**MRS. KENDAL:** Do you not approve, Doctor?

**TREVES:** It's not that I don't approve, I simply...

I think attending a performance may prove to be a bit difficult.

**MRS. KENDAL:** Leave the details to me. I'll make it happen.

**TREVES:** Joseph's life has become these rooms, and the courtyard. The theatre might be a bit much, don't you think?

**MERRICK:** I should very much like to go, Frederick.

**TREVES:** I would love for you to have that experience.

You've been here quite a while now, Joseph. Nearly two years. It was never my wish to make feel cooped up. I've tried to bring the world to you, bit by bit.

Your guests come expecting you. They come prepared.

But out there... Well, we both know what they can be like out there... You do remember?

**MERRICK:** *(He thinks on it:)* Yes.

Yes, I do.

**TREVES:** I just don't want you to get your hopes up.

**MERRICK:** You're probably right, Frederick.

**MRS. KENDAL:** Did I say that I shall make it happen?

**TREVES:** You did.

**MRS. KENDAL:** Then I shall make it happen. Leave the crowd to me. I know a thing or two about to handle a group of Londoners.

Now, if you want to expand Joe's world beyond these walls before his trip to the theatre, then do it.

**TREVES:** Well, I... You see it's not so simple.

**MRS. KENDAL:** Oh, but really it is. You have a home, don't you?

**TREVES:** Well, of course.

**MRS. KENDAL:** Perfect. I'm sure Joe would like to see it. Wouldn't you, Joe?

**MERRICK:** Well, I...I would, but—

**MRS. KENDAL:** Then it's settled.

**TREVES:** I...well... I could...hire a coach...

**MRS. KENDAL:** You're a brilliant doctor. I'm sure you'll figure it out.

Now, I must be going. I'll leave you to your planning.

Take care, Joe.

Doctor...



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**MERRICK:** Goodbye, Mrs. Kendal. And thank you.

*(MRS. KENDAL leaves with a wave.)*

*(TREVES paces for a moment.)*

**MERRICK:** It's all right, Frederick. I quite enjoy my home here.

**TREVES:** *(Still pacing:)* No, no, I'm just...thinking...

**MERRICK:** Mrs. Kendal can be very...insistent...

**TREVES:** Yes.

**MERRICK:** But I am happy here... The way things are.

*(TREVES stops pacing. He looks at MERRICK.)*

**MERRICK:** The world comes to me now. *(Pointing to the bag:)* I even have lovely things, thanks to you.

I am truly grateful for everything, Frederick.

**TREVES:** I know you are, Joseph.

**MERRICK:** I have books and dreams.

My mind can carry me anywhere I wish.

**TREVES:** But would you, if you could, get out?

**MERRICK:** To where?

**TREVES:** To my home?

**MERRICK:** She really shouldn't have offered your home.

**TREVES:** But I would like to know, Joseph. Would you want to?

**MERRICK:** Well, if it were not so much trouble to you then...yes... I suppose.

**TREVES:** Then we shall.

**MERRICK:** You really don't have to.

**TREVES:** I really do want to.

**End of Scene.**

### **ELEPHANT/MAN adapted by Del Martin**

**Length:** 100 minutes    **Cast Size:** 8-30+ actors (suggested casting: 2F, 2M, 8 any)    **Genre:** Drama

**Synopsis:** The story of Joseph Merrick (a.k.a. The Elephant Man) comes to life in this highly theatrical retelling featuring an ensemble of performers that share the role of Merrick. Whether on a bare stage or with an elaborate set, this adaptable play shines the spotlight on the vivid inner life of Joseph Merrick, and his relationship with the good Dr. Treves. This classic story of the ultimate outcast feels as fresh and as relevant as ever.

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