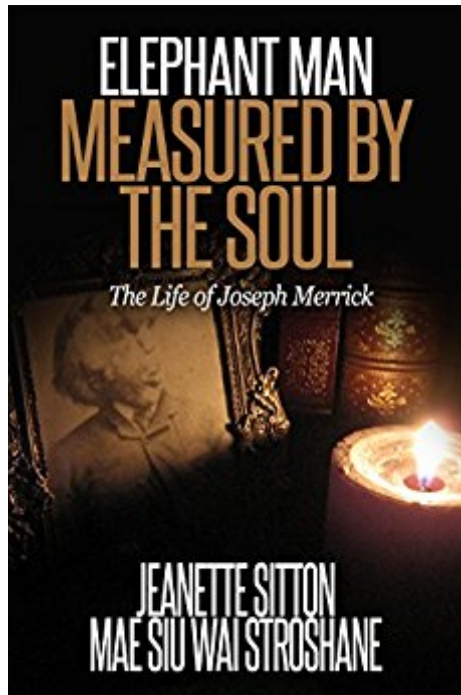


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Elephant Man: Measured By The Soul - The Life Of Joseph Merrick



Synopsis

Elephant Man: Measured by the Soul is the first full-length work about the Elephant Man, Joseph Merrick, in over 20 years, featuring never-before-seen photographs, the latest research on his life, important medical information, and poignant interviews with modern-day sufferers of Proteus Syndrome. The legend of The Elephant Man begins as he exhibits himself in a penny freakshop in Whitechapel Road, just across from the London Hospital in Victorian England. Frederick Treves, an anatomist and rising young surgeon with award-winning textbooks to his credit, ventures over to see this "Great Freak of Nature," as the garish posters announce. Treves, drawn by a mixture of personal curiosity and professional ambition in diagnosing rare conditions of all kinds, sees something so vivid that he remembers it thirty years later, as he opens his memoirs with that first encounter with the Elephant Man. His description ranges from "the most repulsive human being" he has ever encountered to a "perverted" and "degraded" creature. He renders every detail of Merrick's condition in such graphic terms that the reader feels equally revolted. Though Treves later provides coolly clinical accounts of the young man's condition in the medical literature, later generations will recall the Elephant Man only as a monster with an appearance so terrible that "women and nervous persons fly in horror at the sight of him." Treves's photographs of his patient only reinforce that impression. Who was the Elephant Man, and why does his story haunt us over a hundred years later? This book reveals the man behind the legend and sheds light on Proteus Syndrome, the condition he is believed to have suffered from. This condition is so rare that there are only a few hundred cases worldwide. Three of those sufferers tell their stories about living with Proteus Syndrome and why it is so urgent to give them hope for a positive prognosis, all part of the book's multiple appendices that provide unique, emotional perspectives on Proteus Syndrome. The cause of Proteus Syndrome was discovered in 2011 by Dr. Leslie Biesecker of the National Institute of Health Human Genome Project, paving the way to new therapies and ultimate hopes for a cure.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is the first new biography of Joseph Merrick, aka the Elephant Man, in over 20 years. It features little-known facts about his early years, new discoveries about his family, and crisp photographs from his life and times, such as the church where his parents were married, the school he attended, and the newly discovered grave of his beloved mother. Also featured are moving interviews with modern-day people who live with the illness Joseph is believed to have, Proteus Syndrome. Their courage and determination to live full lives is admirable. Finally, exciting discoveries about the cause of PS are described by Dr. Leslie Biesecker of the Human Genome Project. This is paving the way for new treatments and hope for its cure. Highly recommended for readers ages 12 and up!*****

This is an exhaustively researched, wonderfully written and surprisingly insightful book. One does not have to suffer from Proteus Syndrome, or even know anyone who does, to recognize the life difficulties that are part and parcel of this devastating disease, or to benefit from such a detailed work. All of us have had to take on, from time to time, physical and/or mental and/or emotional challenges, and while the disease is, thankfully, relatively rare, it seems to me that almost everyone will be able to identify with some of the very real problems, including the socio-economic, that come with this syndrome. The authors are obviously devoted to their subject, and combining their work with a top-notch photographer demonstrates their 'leave no stone unturned' approach to creating a book of which they can be proud, and readers like me and thee can enjoy and recommend to our family and friends. This one's a keeper.

I had just watched the movie again and this was very interesting to read.

I have read at least one other book about Joseph Merrick "The Elephant Man" and have to say that I found this book rather disappointing in that there were too many references to other pieces of material, for starters, almost as though the author was afraid to commit without "back up" as it were. Have to say I gave up on the book in the end and did not finish it, and it's not often that I do that with any book.

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