

"The pictures are so detailed and emotional. I really felt I was there"
Chesca, 10



FRANKENSTEIN

'You must hear my tale. You must hear my terrible, terrible tale.'

Committed to the deadly pursuit of the monster he created, Victor Frankenstein tells his chilling story. It all began with a desire to help mankind, but where will it end?



Frankenstein leads us through vast mountainous landscapes and over frozen seas. Can he stop the fiend's murderous course? Is he prepared to do what the monster demands?

The reader will be shocked and surprised. Is the monster as evil as he seems? Is Victor Frankenstein responsible for the tortures he himself endures? What can Frankenstein's terrible tale teach us today?

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FRANKENSTEIN
Mary Shelley

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THE CHARACTERS



Robert Walton

Walton is the captain of a boat trapped by ice in the frozen north. Who is the man he pulls from the sea? Can he save him?

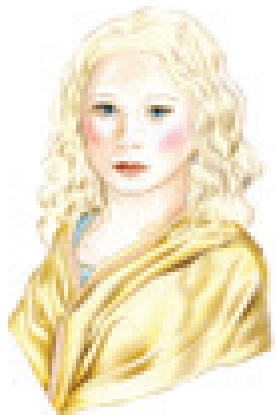
Victor Frankenstein

After years of study, Victor creates a living creature. Why does he flee from his creation? Can he keep his family safe? Will he help the monster or will they pursue each other until death?



The Monster

The monster has been rejected by his creator and by all of mankind. Can he persuade Victor to help him, or will his fury lead to further violence? Who is stronger, the monster or his creator? Who is more to blame?



Elizabeth Lavenza

Victor's adopted sister and future bride. Can Victor keep her safe?

Henry Clerval

Clerval has been Victor's friend since childhood. Can he help Victor? Can he escape the monster's fury?



Justine Moritz

Justine has been a loyal maid to the Frankenstein family for many years. Will her innocence keep her safe from the curse upon them?





FRANKENSTEIN

To Mrs Saville,
England
August 13th, 1721

*My dearest sister,
Since my last letter, my long voyage has been interrupted by an event that has thrilled my heart with expectation, chilled my soul with terror, and ignited my mind with the most violent imaginings.*

As you know, I set out on this dangerous journey across the icy seas to the North Pole in a quest to discover more about the mysteries of the ocean. My desire is to find a route which will further mankind's understanding of our natural world.

The voyage has been long, my dear sister, and is not yet over. I have felt bitter loneliness, in spite of my crew. We are, I believe, but half a person when we lack a similar soul with whom we can share our heart's deepest concerns. I have been such

a half-person for many months. Dear sister, please share my joy when I tell you that the sympathetic ocean has delivered me the companion I need.

Two days before we found my new friend, a bewildering scene passed before my eyes. Trapped by ice, I looked from our stranded vessel over the land of frost, and saw a sledge, pulled by dogs, carrying a being the shape of a man. He was, however, of such a gigantic stature that I must call him a monster rather than a man. As I stared, his dogs pulled his sledge away beyond my sight.



I tell you this tale because it is strangely connected with my friend. Two days later, I heard my crew shouting and rushing to one side of the boat. They pulled a man, half-dead with cold, from

a broken island of ice. We dried and warmed him and fed him soup which restored him wonderfully, but he remains weak.

Over the last week, I have formed a strong friendship with our slowly recovering guest. His name is Victor Frankenstein. Although his eyes have a wild expression, a gentle smile lights his face when he receives a kindness. Most of the time, however, his deep grief fills me with sympathy and compassion. Dear sister, he is the companion I have so long lacked, for he speaks the language of my heart and of my deeper imagination, an imagination which is now deeply troubled by the tale he has told me.

When I shared with Frankenstein the reasons for my journey, he experienced great violence of feeling. ‘Unhappy man,’ he groaned, ‘do you share my madness and ambition?’ He beat his fists against his forehead and his body trembled. ‘Walton, you must hear my tale. You must hear my terrible, terrible tale so that you do not follow

Back in time

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley was born in 1797. Her father, William Godwin, a journalist, novelist and political philosopher, is considered to have been one of the earliest anarchists. He believed that people do not require governments and laws to make them take responsibility for other people's needs. Mary's mother, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, who had written *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* in 1757, was one of the first feminists. She died shortly after her daughter's birth. Mary Wollstonecraft married the poet Percy Shelley, another revolutionary thinker.

Frankenstein was published when Mary Shelley was only twenty years old. During a holiday in Switzerland with her husband and the famous poet George, Lord Byron, the three found themselves housebound by stormy weather. They decided to hold a ghost story competition, and *Frankenstein* was Mary's contribution. Mary Shelley later claimed that the story was inspired by a nightmare.

Mary Shelley, along with Percy Shelley and Byron, forms part of the 'romantic movement'.

This was a cultural reaction against the rather strict and ordered political and social situation of the time. Romanticism influenced all of the arts, including literature, music, painting and architecture. Other famous romantic poets were William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Blake.

Romanticism valued the importance of emotions, the wildness of nature, and doing what you felt came from your deepest motivations. It was in opposition to control and restraint. The French Revolution, in which the French people rose up against their king, occurred at the same time as romantic thought was developing. Romantic thinking supported the revolutionaries.

Another boundary explored by the romantics was the limitations of human knowledge. They explored the Faust myth, in which a man, led by his own vanity and ambition, makes a pact with the devil in order to gain knowledge. They were also influenced by the Greek story of Prometheus, who stole fire from Zeus and gave it to mankind, for which his punishment was eternal suffering.