



# FRANKEN STEIN

Written by Mary Shelley  
Retold by Nick Pierce  
Illustrated by Isobel Lundie



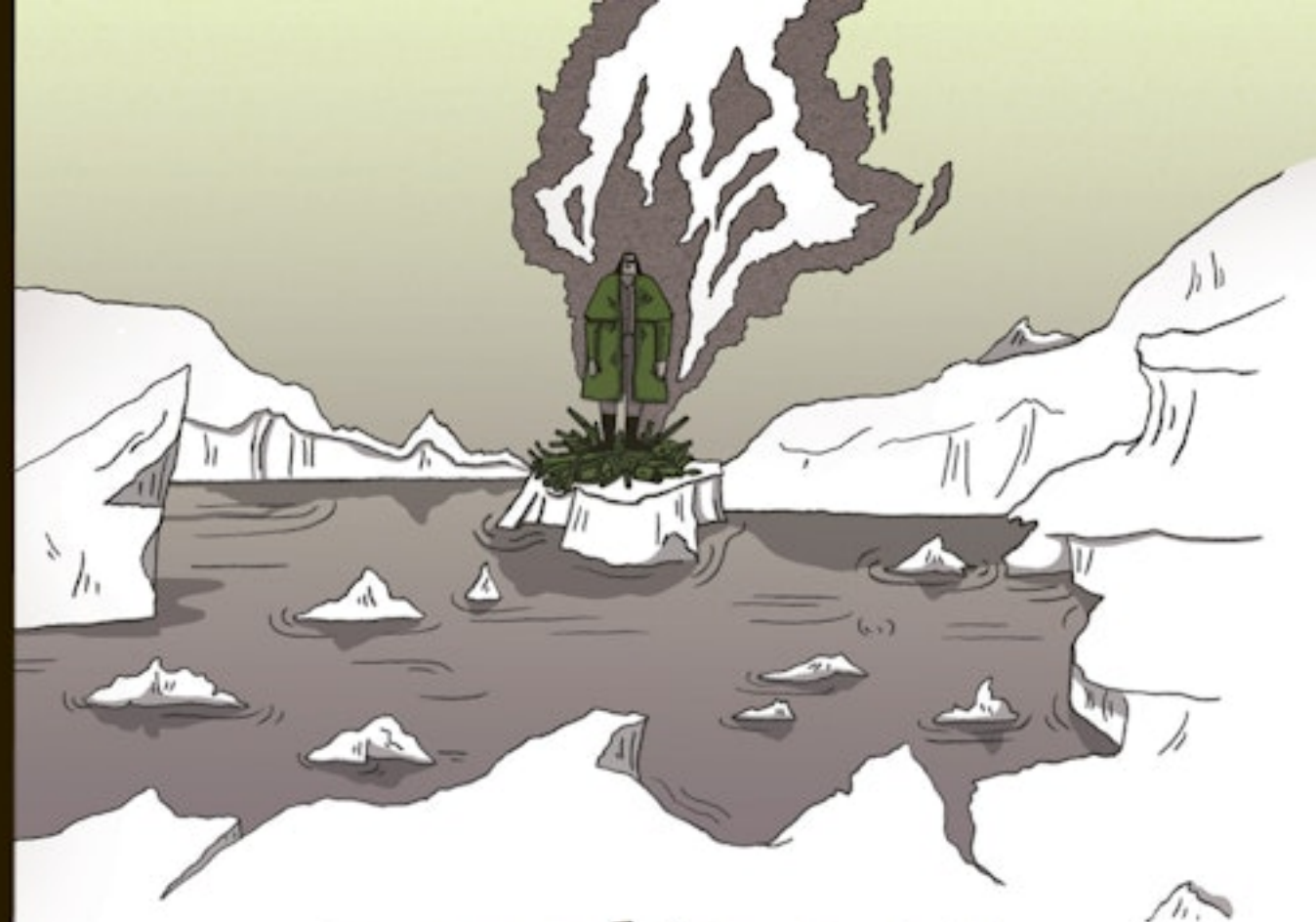
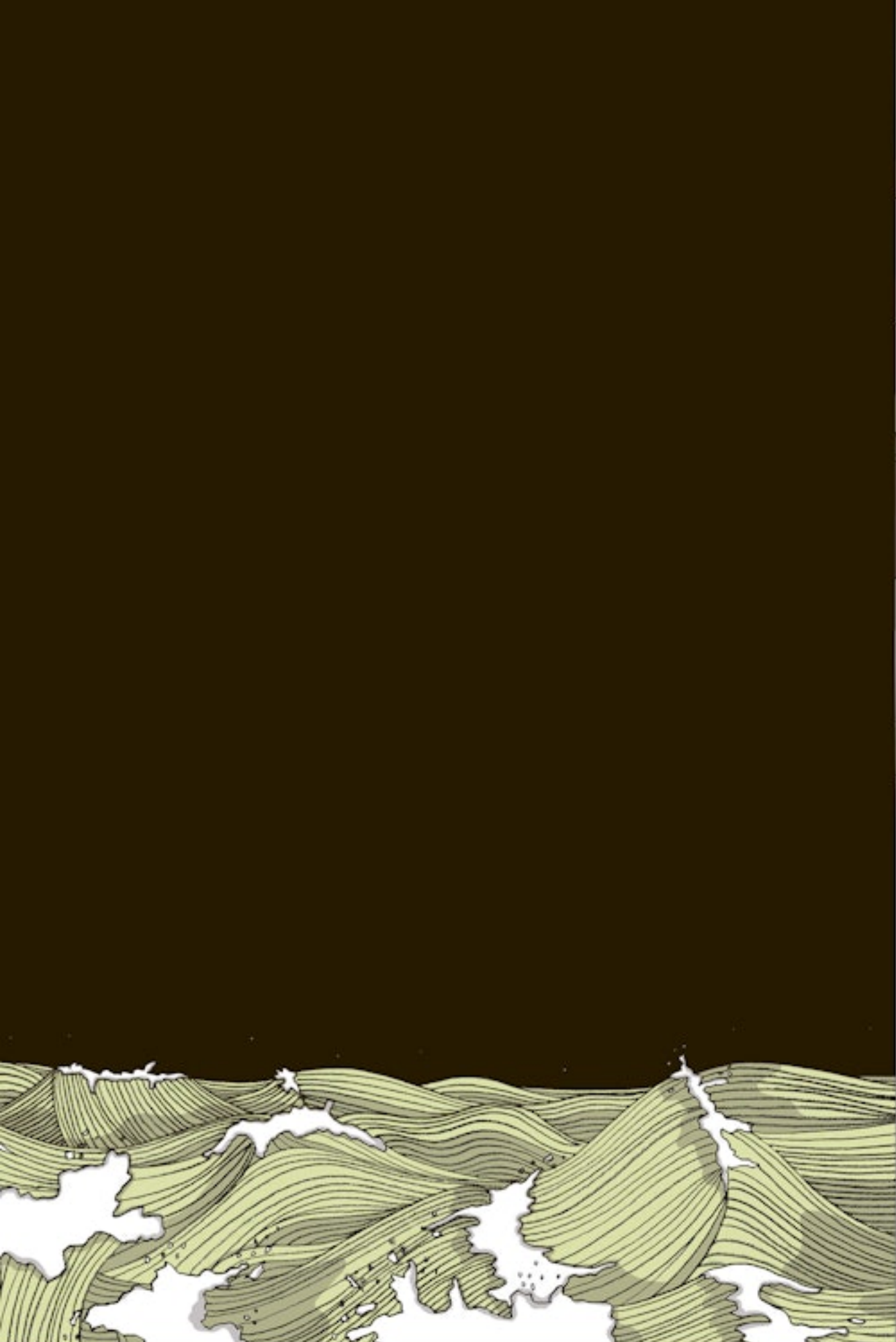
A GRAPHIC RETELLING OF  
THE CLASSIC HORROR STORY



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ILLUSTRATED BY  
ISOBEL LUNDIE

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ELIZABETH



WILLIAM FRANKENSTEIN



HENRY CLerval



ALPHONSE FRANKENSTEIN



VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN



ERNEST FRANKENSTEIN



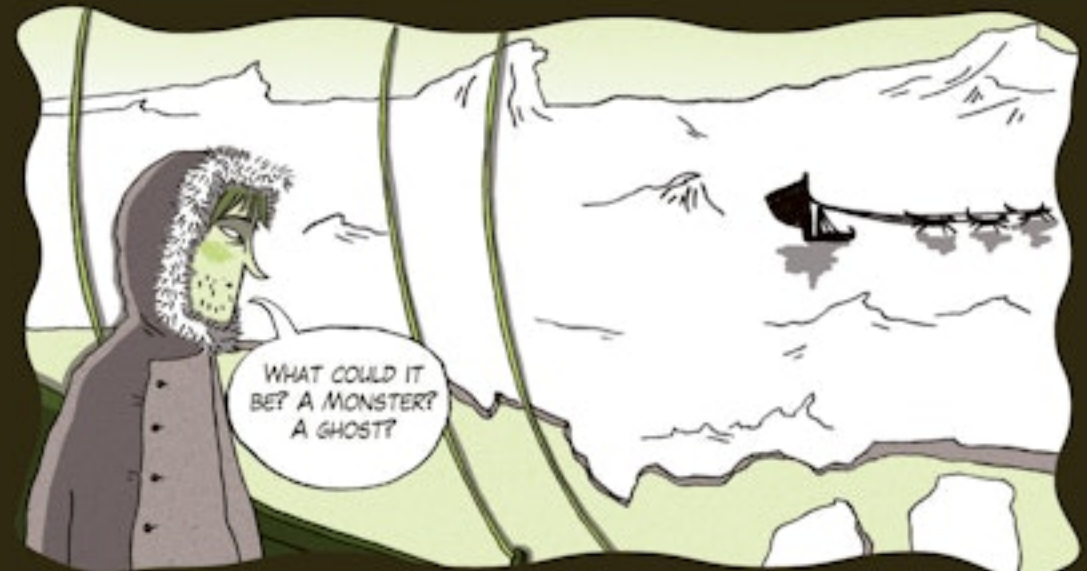
FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER



CAPTAIN WALTON



JUSTINE











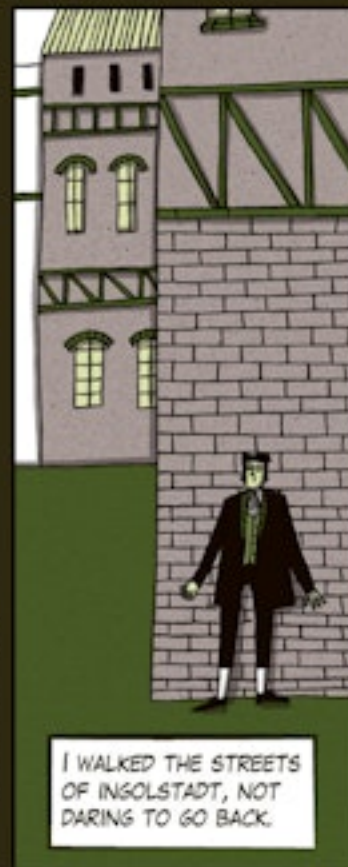




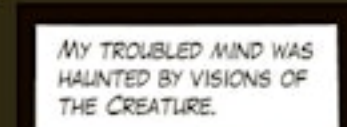
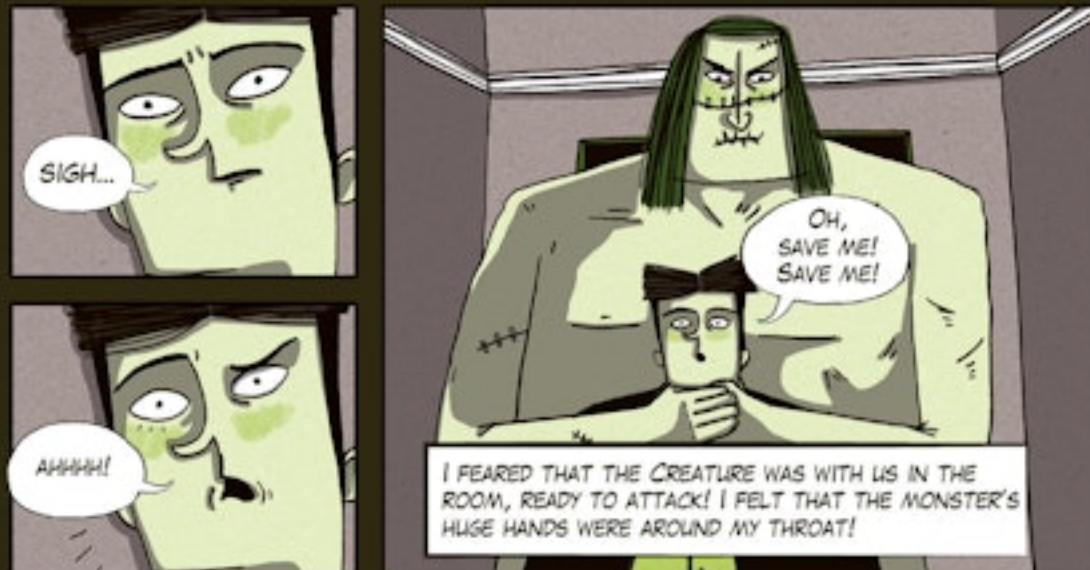
























AT DAYBREAK, I HURRIED TO MY FAMILY HOUSE. ERNEST, MY BROTHER, GREETED ME.



AT THE TRIAL, THE WHOLE TOWN BELIEVED THAT JUSTINE HAD KILLED WILLIAM. EVERYONE EXCEPT ELIZABETH AND VICTOR.








EVENTUALLY I FELL ASLEEP IN A BARN. BY MORNING, I RETURNED HOME TO LEARN THAT WILLIAM WAS DEAD.





A person is in a small boat on a lake. The lake is surrounded by several islands and a forested shoreline. The trees are stylized with green and brown colors. The water is a light green color. The sky is a pale yellow color with some clouds. The person is in the center of the lake, and there are concentric ripples around the boat. The islands are scattered around the lake, some with large, rounded trees and others with more pointed trees. The forested shoreline is in the background, with a dense line of trees.

AFTERWARDS, I SPENT HOURS IN MY BOAT, ALONE,  
TORMENTED BY FEELINGS OF GUILT AND SHAME.

I HAVE COMMITTED EVIL  
DEEDS BEYOND DESCRIPTION.  
SHOULD I END MY LIFE BY  
PLUNGING INTO THIS LAKE?  
HOW I WISH I COULD KILL THAT  
CREATURE!



























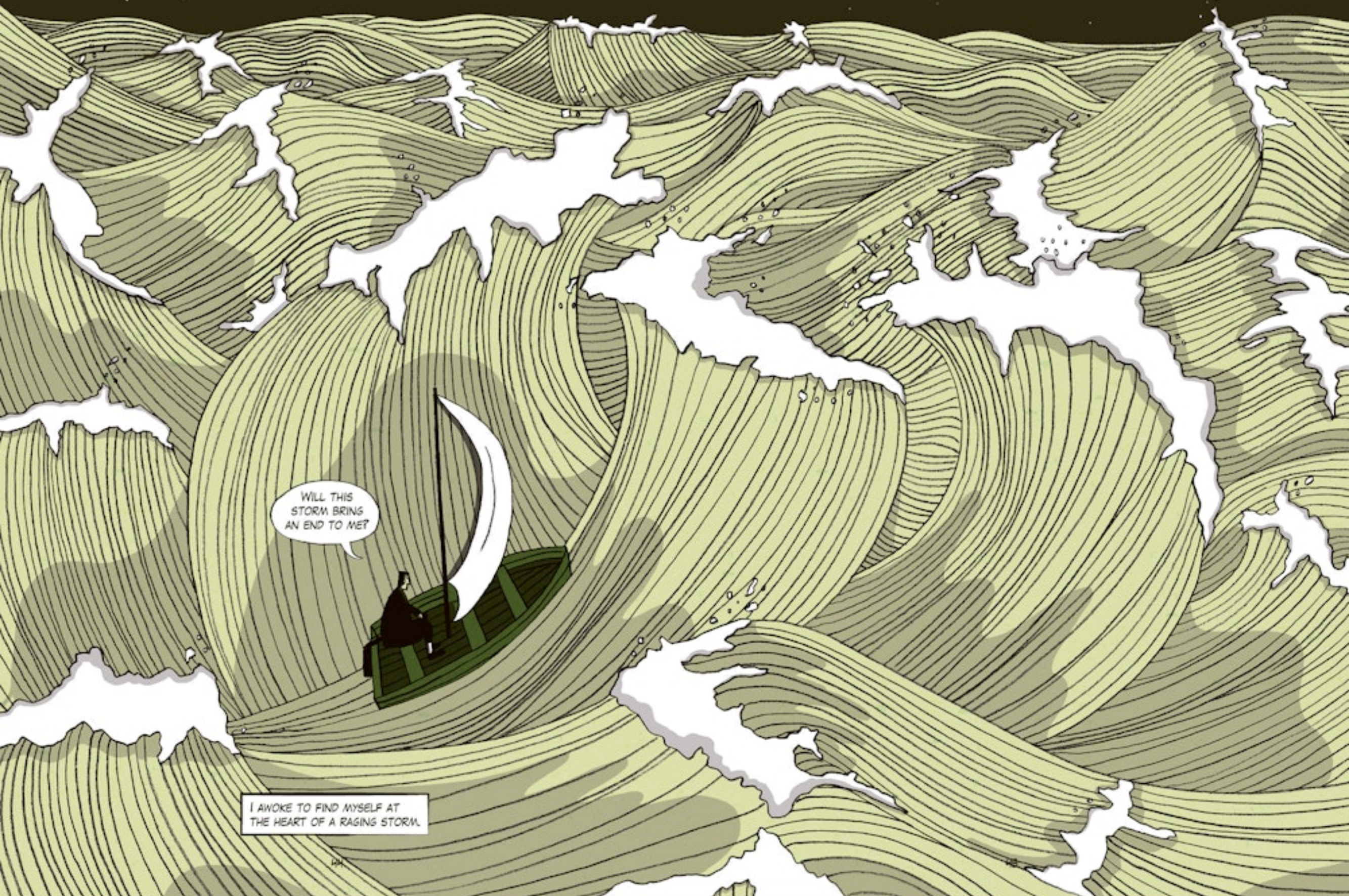






OVERCOME WITH RELIEF, I FELL ASLEEP.





WILL THIS  
STORM BRING  
AN END TO ME?

I AWOKE TO FIND MYSELF AT  
THE HEART OF A RAGING STORM.





THE STORM DIED DOWN...



AND I SIGHTED LAND.



I SAILED TO SHORE.



WHERE AM I? WHAT'S GOING ON?



YOU'RE IN IRELAND! AND YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR MURDER!



WE FOUND A YOUNG MAN'S BODY ON THE SHORE LAST NIGHT. HE WAS NOT DROWNED, BUT STRANGLED! WE SAW A BOAT SAILING AWAY, AND IT LOOKED LIKE YOURS!



WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE DEATH OF A MAN WHO WAS FOUND MURDERED HERE LAST NIGHT?



LET ME SEE THE BODY...



IT'S HENRY...



MY FRIEND!

AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR DEATH, TOO?



I WAS HELD IN PRISON.



WHERE I BECAME ILL FOR TWO MONTHS.

I WISH I WERE DEAD. I FEEL SUCH MISERY AND HORROR.

AT MY TRIAL I WAS PROVED TO BE INNOCENT.









ELIZABETH,  
PLEASE STAY  
IN OUR ROOM.



I'LL BE WITH  
YOU ONCE I'VE  
CHECKED THE  
HOTEL.



I SEARCHED THE HOTEL.



NO SIGN OF  
THE CREATURE  
ANYWHERE...



OH NO!



GREAT GOD!  
SHE HAS BEEN  
STRANGLER!



I CHASED THE CREATURE BUT HE ESCAPED!







A TERRIBLE THOUGHT CAME TO ME. HAD HE NOW GONE TO ATTACK MY FATHER AND BROTHER? I RUSHED BACK TO GENEVA.



THE SHOCK OF ELIZABETH'S MURDER KILLED MY FATHER.



I MUST REVENGE YOUR DEATHS... I WILL TRACK DOWN AND KILL THIS CREATURE MYSELF!



HAHAHA!

I AM SATISFIED NOW!



THE CREATURE LEFT MANY SIGNS FOR ME. I TRACKED HIM FOR MONTHS, THROUGH FIELDS AND FORESTS.



FROM SWITZERLAND THROUGH AUSTRIA, HUNGARY AND RUSSIA.



ANOTHER CLUE THE CREATURE HAS LEFT TO TAUNT ME!









THE END.



## BIOGRAPHY OF MARY SHELLEY

MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT GODWIN WAS BORN IN LONDON, ENGLAND ON 30TH AUGUST, 1797. HER PARENTS WERE WELL-KNOWN WRITERS WITH PROGRESSIVE, SHOCKING IDEAS. HER MOTHER, MARY WOLLSTONECRAFT, WROTE A FAMOUS BOOK DEMANDING EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN. HER FATHER, WILLIAM GODWIN, WAS A JOURNALIST WHO BELIEVED THAT ENGLAND NEEDED A REVOLUTION.



TRAGICALLY, HER MOTHER DIED WHEN MARY WAS ONLY TEN DAYS OLD. GODWIN, HER FATHER, WAS TOO BUSY TO LOOK AFTER YOUNG CHILDREN, OR SHOW THEM MUCH AFFECTION. SO, TO CARE FOR MARY AND HER HALF-SISTER FANNY, HE MARRIED AGAIN. MARY DID NOT LIKE HER STEPMOTHER, AND HATED HER NEW STEPSISTER, JANE (KNOWN AS CLAIRE) CLAIMONT.

ALTHOUGH HE WAS A COLD, DISTANT FATHER, GODWIN WAS PROUD OF MARY. SHE WAS AN INTELLIGENT, THOUGHTFUL CHILD - AND VERY PRETTY - AND HE ENCOURAGED HER TO READ, STUDY AND DISCUSS IDEAS WITH THE SCIENTISTS, WRITERS, ARTISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS WHO VISITED THEIR HOME. HE ALSO LET MARY SPEND LONG, HAPPY HOLIDAYS WITH A SCOTTISH FAMILY, THE BAXTERS.

IN 1812, MARY MET A NEW VISITOR TO HER FATHER'S HOUSE: THE YOUNG, HANDSOME, REBELLIOUS POET, PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY. TWO YEARS LATER, MARY AND SHELLEY FELL IN LOVE AND RAN AWAY TOGETHER, LEAVING SHELLEY'S

PREGNANT WIFE BEHIND. MARY WAS 16, SHELLEY WAS FIVE YEARS OLDER. THEIR FRIENDS WERE SHOCKED; GODWIN WAS HORRIFIED AND REFUSED TO SPEAK TO MARY FOR A YEAR.

FOR SIX WEEKS, MARY AND PERCY TRAVELLED THROUGH EUROPE - THEN RETURNED HOME IN DISGRACE, WITH NO MONEY. SHELLEY'S FATHER WAS RICH - AND A NOBLEMAN - BUT DISAPPROVED OF SHELLEY'S BEHAVIOUR AND STOPPED HIS ALLOWANCE. MARY'S FIRST CHILD, A GIRL, WAS BORN IN 1815, BUT SOON DIED. IN A DISTURBING DREAM, MARY IMAGINED THAT THE CHILD CAME BACK TO LIFE AGAIN. IN JANUARY 1816, MARY HAD A SON, WILLIAM.

SOON AFTERWARD, MARY AND SHELLEY - WITH



BABY WILLIAM AND MARY'S STEPSISTER CLAIRE - WENT TO STAY IN A LAKESIDE COTTAGE NEAR GENEVA, SWITZERLAND. THEIR NEIGHBOUR WAS THE BRILLIANT, SCANDALOUS POET, LORD BYRON. TOGETHER, THEY SPENT A HAPPY SPRING, WALKING IN THE WOODS, BOATING ON THE LAKE, READING, TALKING AND WRITING. BUT BY MIDSUMMER THE WEATHER CHANGED, AND THEY WERE KEPT INDOORS BY STORMS.



TO PASS THE TIME, BYRON SUGGESTED THAT THEY EACH WRITE A GHOST STORY. FOR SOME DAYS, MARY COULD NOT THINK OF A PLOT. THEN, LATE ONE NIGHT IN JUNE, IN WHAT SHE CALLED 'A WAKING DREAM', THE IDEA FOR FRANKENSTEIN TOOK SHAPE IN HER HEAD. SHE BEGAN TO WRITE.

IN SEPTEMBER 1816, MARY AND SHELLEY RETURNED TO ENGLAND. IN DECEMBER, SHELLEY'S WIFE WAS FOUND DEAD; SOON AFTER, MARY AND SHELLEY MARRIED. MARY COMPLETED FRANKENSTEIN ON 14TH MAY, 1817; FOUR MONTHS LATER, SHE GAVE BIRTH TO A THIRD CHILD, CLARA.

FRANKENSTEIN WAS PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 1818.

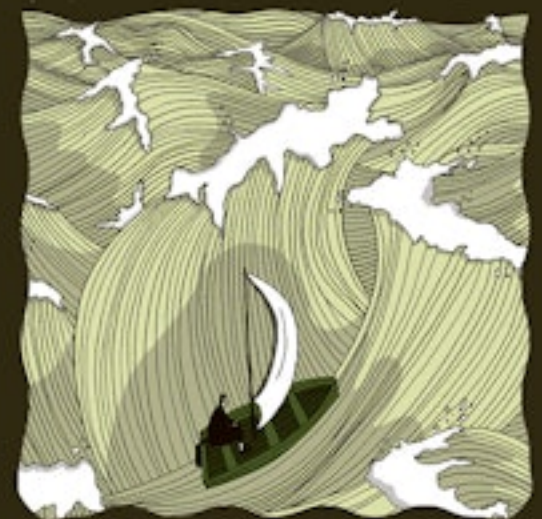


IN MARCH, MARY, SHELLEY AND THEIR CHILDREN LEFT ENGLAND TO LIVE AND WRITE IN ITALY. BABY CLARA DIED ON THEIR TRAVELS; WILLIAM DIED SOON AFTER, IN JUNE 1819. THEIR DEATHS MADE MARY DEEPLY DEPRESSED, BUT SHE STILL KEPT ON WRITING. IN NOVEMBER 1819 SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER LAST CHILD, A BOY NAMED PERCY

FLORENCE (AFTER HIS FATHER, PERCY SHELLEY, AND THE ITALIAN CITY OF FLORENCE, WHERE HE WAS BORN).

FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS, MARY AND SHELLEY LIVED HAPPILY - AND BUSILY - WRITING, EXPLORING ANCIENT MONUMENTS, AND VISITING FRIENDS. THEN, IN EARLY JULY 1822, SHELLEY SET OFF BY BOAT TO MEET VISITORS FROM ENGLAND. A STORM BLEW IN, THE BOAT WAS WRECKED AND SHELLEY DROWNED. HE WAS 29; MARY WAS 24.

MARY WAS HEARTBROKEN AND VOWED NEVER TO MARRY AGAIN. FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE SHE



DEVOTED HERSELF TO PRESERVING SHELLEY'S MEMORY AND LOOKING AFTER THEIR PRECIOUS CHILD, PERCY FLORENCE.

SHE STAYED IN ITALY UNTIL THE END OF 1823, THEN RETURNED TO LONDON. THERE, TO EARN MONEY, SHE WROTE AN ASTONISHING NUMBER OF ARTICLES FOR LITERARY, POLITICAL AND POPULAR MAGAZINES, BIOGRAPHIES OF FAMOUS WRITERS AND THINKERS, AND SEVERAL NOVELS. SHE ALSO EDITED SHELLEY'S POEMS AND WROTE HIS LIFE STORY - ALTHOUGH HIS FATHER TRIED TO HAVE THE BOOK BANNED.

SHE REMAINED CLOSE TO PERCY FLORENCE, WHO SURVIVED TO ADULTHOOD - AND ENJOYED ADVENTUROUS FOREIGN HOLIDAYS WITH HIM AND HIS FRIENDS. MARY DIED IN 1851, AT AGE 53.



## THE WONDERS OF SCIENCE

1. FOR MUCH OF HER LIFE, MARY SHELLEY WAS SURROUNDED BY BRILLIANT, FAMOUS PEOPLE. THEY ADMIRER BOLD, HEROIC ACTIONS, AND SOMETIMES IGNORED THE RULES OF NORMAL, GOOD BEHAVIOUR. THEY WERE PASSIONATELY INTERESTED IN DARING EXPERIMENTS AND WILD NEW IDEAS.



2. MARY SHARED MANY OF THESE PASSIONS. SHE WAS ALSO KEENLY INTERESTED IN SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY. BUT, MORE CLEARLY THAN HER COMPANIONS, SHE REALISED THE DAMAGE THAT WILD EXPERIMENTS AND REVOLUTIONS MIGHT DO. IN PARTICULAR, SHE WORRIED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THOUGHTLESS, UNCONTROLLED DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS.



3. MARY'S CONCERNS ARE CLEAR IN THE STORY OF *FRANKENSTEIN*. YOUNG VICTOR USES HIS INTELLIGENCE TO MAKE A NEW, LIVING CREATURE. BUT HE LACKS THE KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM AND SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR IT OR CONTROL IT. INSTEAD, HE RUNS AWAY AND TRIES TO FORGET ABOUT IT. MARY DOES NOT CONDEMN VICTOR, OR PRAISE HIM. SHE LEAVES HER READERS TO DECIDE WHETHER VICTOR'S ACTIONS ARE GOOD OR BAD. SHE MAKES US THINK!



4. TODAY, SOME PEOPLE HAVE SIMILAR WORRIES ABOUT THE UNCONTROLLED DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICINE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THEY USE THE STORY OF *FRANKENSTEIN* TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THEIR FEARS. THEY DESCRIBE POLLUTING MACHINES AND HARD-TO-KILL GERMS AS 'MONSTERS' AND GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS AS 'FRANKENSTEIN FOODS'.

SO, IN SOME WAYS, MARY'S BOOK IS AS UP TO DATE NOW AS IT WAS WHEN SHE WROTE IT MORE THAN 200 YEARS AGO.

## SUBLIME SCENERY

LIKE MANY WRITERS OF HER TIME, MARY SHELLEY BELIEVED THAT LANDSCAPE HAD THE POWER TO MOLD PEOPLE'S CHARACTERS AND INFLUENCE THEIR ACTIONS. IN PARTICULAR, HUGE, BEAUTIFUL LAKES AND MOUNTAINS, LIKE THOSE OF *FRANKENSTEIN*'S SWITZERLAND, COULD RAISE HUMAN THOUGHTS TO A 'SUBLIME'

(SUPERHUMAN) LEVEL, AND BRING THEM NEARER TO GOD. IN HER BOOKS, MARY SHELLEY ALSO USED LANDSCAPE, NATURAL EVENTS SUCH AS STORMS, AND BLEAK, DANGEROUS LOCATIONS, SUCH AS THE ARCTIC, TO MIRROR STATES OF EXCITEMENT, TERROR OR MISERY IN HER CHARACTERS' MINDS.





## OTHER BOOKS BY MARY SHELLEY

1817

*HISTORY OF A SIX WEEKS' TOUR*, THE STORY OF MARY'S TRAVELS WHEN SHE FIRST RAN AWAY WITH PERCY SHELLEY.

1819

*MATHILDA*, A SHORT NOVEL ABOUT FATHERS AND DAUGHTERS.

1823

*VALPERGA*, A DRAMATIC, ROMANTIC NOVEL, SET IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY.



1824

*POSTHUMOUS POEMS* (AN EDITION OF POEMS THAT PERCY SHELLEY LEFT UNPUBLISHED WHEN HE DIED).

1824-1839

VERY MANY MAGAZINE ARTICLES.

1826

*THE LAST MAN*, A NOVEL SET IN THE 21ST CENTURY. THE STORY OF THE ONLY MAN TO SURVIVE A WORLD EPIDEMIC.



1830

*THE FORTUNES OF PERKIN WARBECK*, A HISTORICAL NOVEL ABOUT A 15TH-CENTURY PRETENDER TO THE ENGLISH THRONE.

1835

*LODGE*, A NOVEL FEATURING A HERO WHO BREAKS SOCIETY'S RULES. BASED ON ELEMENTS OF PERCY SHELLEY'S CHARACTER AND LIFE STORY.

1835-1839

BIOGRAPHIES OF IMPORTANT EUROPEAN WRITERS AND THINKERS, FOR LARDNER'S *CABINET CYCLOPAEDIA* (THAT IS, BRIEF ENCYCLOPEDIA).

1837

*FALKNER*, MARY SHELLEY'S LAST NOVEL. ALSO BASED IN PART ON THE LIFE AND IDEAS OF MARY'S LATE HUSBAND, PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

1839

MARY EDITS PERCY SHELLEY'S *POETICAL WORKS*, AND ADDS DETAILS OF HIS LIFE STORY. ALSO EDITS SHELLEY'S *ESSAYS*, *LETTERS* AND *TRANSLATIONS*.

1844

*RAMBLES IN GERMANY AND ITALY*, THE STORY OF MARY'S EUROPEAN TRAVELS WITH PERCY FLORENCE, HER SON.

## FRANKENSTEIN MOVIES

MARY SHELLEY'S NOVEL GRIPPED THE PUBLIC IMAGINATION AS SOON AS IT APPEARED. WITHIN JUST FIVE YEARS (1823), IT HAD BEEN TURNED INTO A STAGE PLAY. MARY WENT TO SEE IT, BUT COMMENTED THAT 'THE STORY WAS NOT WELL MANAGED'. BY 1826, FIFTEEN DIFFERENT STAGE VERSIONS OF *FRANKENSTEIN* WERE BEING PERFORMED. ALL OF THEM CHANGED THE THOUGHT-PROVOKING 'MESSAGE' OF MARY'S BOOK. *FRANKENSTEIN* BECAME EITHER A SIMPLIFIED STORY OF GOOD VERSUS EVIL, OR ELSE A DRAMATIC 'SHOCKER', FULL OF THOUGHTLESS, BRUTAL VIOLENCE.



WHEN MOVIES WERE INVENTED, IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, *FRANKENSTEIN* APPEALED TO MOVIEMAKERS AS WELL. THE FIRST *FRANKENSTEIN* MOVIE WAS MADE IN 1910. IT WAS SHORT, SILENT AND IN BLACK AND WHITE. SINCE THEN, OVER 800 MOVIE VERSIONS OF THE *FRANKENSTEIN* STORY HAVE APPEARED. SOME PRESENT VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN AS A MAD SCIENTIST, DRIVEN BY RUTHLESS AMBITION TO CREATE LIFE, EVEN IF IT DESTROYS THE WORLD. OTHERS PORTRAY THE CREATURE AS MINDLESS, DESTRUCTIVE - AND PROGRAMMED TO KILL. THEY GLORY IN SCENES OF BLOODSHED AND SUFFERING.

IN SPITE OF THIS, A FEW *FRANKENSTEIN* MOVIES HAVE WON PRAISE AS WORKS OF ART AND ENTERTAINMENT IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. THEY INCLUDE:

1931: *FRANKENSTEIN* (USA)

STARS BORIS KARLOFF AS A SPEECHLESS VERSION OF THE MONSTER. INTRODUCES THE

WELL-KNOWN IMAGE OF THE CREATURE WITH FLAT HEAD AND BOLTS THROUGH THE NECK.

1957: *THE CURSE OF FRANKENSTEIN* (UK)

A HAMMER HORROR MOVIE STARRING CHARISMATIC PETER CUSHING AS EVIL SCIENTIST VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN AND CHRISTOPHER LEE AS THE CREATURE.

1974: *YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN* (USA)

A SPOOF, DIRECTED BY MEL BROOKS, IN WHICH VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN'S GRANDSON CREATES A PARTICULARLY STUPID MONSTER.

1994: *MARY SHELLEY'S FRANKENSTEIN* (UK)

DIRECTED BY KENNETH BRANAGH, WITH ROBERT DE NIRO AS THE CREATURE, THIS MOVIE KEEPS A LITTLE CLOSER TO THE ORIGINAL STORY THAN MOST OTHER VERSIONS.

OTHER FAMOUS MOVIES ABOUT MAN-MADE MONSTERS INCLUDE:

1927: *METROPOLIS* (GERMANY)

MIXES *FRANKENSTEIN*, SCIENCE FICTION AND POLITICS. FEATURES A VILLAINOUS ROBOT WHO IMPERSONATES THE FEMALE LEADER OF A REBELLION BY THE OPPRESSED WORKERS.

1982: *BLADE RUNNER* (USA)

SET IN THE FUTURE, WHEN MAN-MADE ROBOTS ARE HUNTED DOWN. STARS ACTION HERO HARRISON FORD.

1987: *ROBOCOP* (USA)

VERY VIOLENT SATIRE. FEATURES A CYBORG PROTAGONIST, HALF-MAN, HALF-MACHINE.





