

frankenstein novel by mary shelley

****Frankenstein Novel by Mary Shelley: A Timeless Exploration of Ambition and Humanity****

frankenstein novel by mary shelley stands as one of the most influential works in English literature, captivating readers for over two centuries with its profound themes and haunting narrative. Written when Mary Shelley was just 18 years old, this Gothic masterpiece not only pioneered the science fiction genre but also delved deeply into questions about creation, responsibility, and the nature of humanity. Its enduring popularity is a testament to the novel's complex characters, rich symbolism, and philosophical undertones, all of which continue to inspire adaptations, discussions, and scholarly analysis worldwide.

The Origins and Historical Context of Frankenstein

Understanding the background of the **frankenstein novel by mary shelley** adds layers of appreciation to the story. Shelley began writing the novel during the summer of 1816, a year infamously known as the "Year Without a Summer," due to the eruption of Mount Tambora in 1815. This event caused gloomy weather and inspired the famous literary gathering at Lake Geneva, where Shelley, her future husband Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron, and others challenged each other to write ghost stories. This setting and the intellectual environment heavily influenced the dark and philosophical tone of Frankenstein.

The early 19th century was a period marked by rapid scientific discoveries and industrial advancements, which are subtly reflected in the novel's exploration of scientific ambition and the ethical dilemmas it raises. Mary Shelley's story taps into contemporary anxieties about the consequences of unchecked scientific experimentation, especially in the wake of advances like galvanism, which involved the use of electricity to stimulate muscles.

The Story Behind the Story

Interestingly, **frankenstein novel by mary shelley** was initially published anonymously in 1818, with some attributing the work to Percy Shelley. It wasn't until later editions that Mary Shelley's authorship was acknowledged. The narrative itself is framed through letters written by Captain Walton, an explorer who encounters Victor Frankenstein in the Arctic, establishing a layered storytelling technique known as a frame narrative. This structure enhances the themes of isolation and discovery that permeate the novel.

Plot Overview and Key Themes in Frankenstein

At its core, **frankenstein novel by mary shelley** tells the tragic tale of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist obsessed with creating life. His experiment results in the birth of a creature, often mistakenly called Frankenstein (the creature is unnamed in the novel), who is shunned by society and his creator, leading to a cycle of misery and revenge.

Exploring the Duality of Creation and Responsibility

One of the most compelling aspects of the novel is its exploration of the consequences of creation without responsibility. Victor's failure to care for or guide his creation results in devastating outcomes, raising timeless questions about the ethics of scientific progress. This theme resonates even today in discussions around genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, and bioethics.

Isolation and Alienation

Both Victor and his creature suffer profound isolation, but in drastically different ways. Victor's obsession isolates him from his family and friends, while the creature's grotesque appearance causes society to reject him, leaving him lonely and desperate for connection. This dual portrayal invites readers to empathize with both the creator and the created, highlighting the human need for acceptance and companionship.

The Pursuit of Knowledge and Its Dangers

The novel also serves as a cautionary tale about the pursuit of knowledge without foresight. Victor's relentless ambition blinds him to the ethical implications of his work, ultimately leading to destruction. This theme taps into the Romantic era's ambivalence toward the Enlightenment's emphasis on reason and scientific advancement, reflecting a struggle to balance progress with morality.

Characters That Define Frankenstein Novel by Mary Shelley

The depth and complexity of the characters in **Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley** contribute significantly to its enduring appeal.

Victor Frankenstein: The Tragic Scientist

Victor is a brilliant but flawed protagonist whose hubris and obsession drive the narrative. His internal conflict and growing remorse make him a tragic figure, embodying the dangers of unchecked ambition. Readers can see in Victor the archetype of the "mad scientist," yet Shelley layers his character with vulnerability and regret, making him more relatable.

The Creature: Humanity in the Monstrous

Contrary to popular adaptations that depict the creature as purely evil, Mary Shelley's novel presents him as sensitive, intelligent, and deeply human. His eloquence and longing for acceptance

challenge readers to reconsider what it means to be monstrous. The creature's journey from innocence to vengefulness is a poignant commentary on the effects of social rejection and prejudice.

Supporting Characters and Their Roles

Characters like Elizabeth Lavenza, Henry Clerval, and Alphonse Frankenstein add emotional depth and context, illustrating the personal costs of Victor's obsession. Elizabeth's role as Victor's fiancée and Henry's as his loyal friend also highlight themes of love, loyalty, and the normalcy that Victor forsakes in his quest for forbidden knowledge.

Literary Significance and Legacy of Frankenstein

frankenstein novel by mary shelley is widely regarded as a cornerstone of Gothic literature and one of the earliest works of science fiction. Its innovative use of narrative framing, complex characterization, and thematic richness set it apart from many of its contemporaries.

Influence on Science Fiction and Popular Culture

Frankenstein's impact on the science fiction genre is profound, inspiring countless adaptations, films, and reinterpretations. The novel's exploration of artificial life and the ethical dilemmas surrounding creation paved the way for future works dealing with robotics, cloning, and AI. Iconic film versions, starting with the 1931 Universal Pictures adaptation, have shaped public perceptions of the story, often focusing on the monster's tragic nature.

Philosophical and Ethical Discussions

The ethical questions raised by *frankenstein novel by mary shelley* continue to be relevant in modern debates about scientific responsibility. Scholars and ethicists often reference the novel when discussing "playing God" and the moral boundaries of experimentation. Victor's failure to foresee the consequences of his actions serves as a warning that resonates in contemporary scientific fields.

Language, Style, and Symbolism

Mary Shelley's prose combines poetic elements with vivid descriptions of nature and emotion, characteristic of Romantic literature. The novel's use of ice and fire symbolism reflects themes of life, destruction, and transformation. The Arctic setting at both the beginning and end of the story symbolizes isolation and the limits of human ambition.

Why Frankenstein Novel by Mary Shelley Remains Relevant Today

Despite being written over 200 years ago, *frankenstein novel by mary shelley* continues to captivate modern audiences because it grapples with universal themes that transcend time and place.

Modern Scientific Parallels

Today's advancements in biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and genetic engineering echo Victor Frankenstein's experiments, making the novel's ethical considerations more urgent than ever. Readers and scientists alike find value in reflecting on the responsibilities that come with innovation.

Exploration of Identity and Otherness

The creature's experience of alienation resonates with ongoing social issues around inclusion, prejudice, and empathy. His story encourages readers to look beyond appearances and understand the impact of societal rejection.

Human Ambition and Its Consequences

Victor Frankenstein's tragic downfall serves as a timeless reminder of the need to balance ambition with caution and morality. This message remains pertinent in an era where rapid technological progress often outpaces ethical frameworks.

In essence, *frankenstein novel by mary shelley* is not just a tale of horror and science gone awry; it is a profound meditation on what it means to be human. Its rich narrative invites readers to ponder the power of creation, the pain of exclusion, and the complex interplay between knowledge and responsibility. Whether you're a student, a literature enthusiast, or simply curious about the origins of science fiction, diving into Mary Shelley's Frankenstein promises an enlightening and thought-provoking journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein?

The central theme of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein is the dangers of unchecked ambition and the ethical implications of creating life, exploring the consequences of playing God and the responsibilities of a creator towards their creation.

How does Mary Shelley portray the creature in Frankenstein?

Mary Shelley portrays the creature as a complex being who is initially innocent and benevolent but becomes vengeful and violent due to rejection and mistreatment by society and his creator, highlighting themes of alienation and humanity.

What inspired Mary Shelley to write Frankenstein?

Mary Shelley was inspired to write Frankenstein during a summer spent in 1816 at Lake Geneva with Percy Shelley and Lord Byron, where they challenged each other to write ghost stories. The novel was influenced by contemporary scientific developments and her reflections on life and creation.

How does Frankenstein explore the theme of nature versus nurture?

Frankenstein explores nature versus nurture through the creature's development — despite his horrific appearance (nature), it is the neglect and cruelty he experiences (nurture) that shape his behavior, suggesting that environment plays a crucial role in a person's character.

What narrative structure does Mary Shelley use in Frankenstein?

Mary Shelley employs a frame narrative structure in Frankenstein, using multiple first-person accounts, including letters from Robert Walton and Victor Frankenstein's own story, which adds depth and different perspectives to the unfolding events.

Additional Resources

Frankenstein Novel by Mary Shelley: A Profound Exploration of Creation and Consequence

frankenstein novel by mary shelley stands as a seminal work in the canon of Gothic literature and early science fiction, weaving together themes of ambition, ethics, and isolation through a narrative that has captivated readers since its publication in 1818. Mary Shelley's creation is not merely a horror story; it is a complex study of humanity, science, and the ramifications of playing God. This novel continues to generate scholarly discourse, inspire adaptations, and influence popular culture, making it a focal point for literary analysis and cultural critique.

Contextualizing Frankenstein in Literary and Historical Frameworks

The frankenstein novel by mary shelley emerged from a unique confluence of personal tragedy, intellectual ferment, and scientific curiosity. Composed during the summer of 1816, often referred to as the "Year Without a Summer," Shelley was influenced by discussions on galvanism and the nascent scientific experiments that explored electricity's effect on the human body. The novel's

setting and themes reflect contemporary anxieties about unchecked scientific progress and the moral responsibilities of creators.

In contrast to the prevailing Romantic literature of the time, which often emphasized nature's sublime beauty and human emotion, Shelley's work interrogates the darker side of human ambition. Victor Frankenstein's obsessive quest to animate life positions the novel at the crossroads of Enlightenment rationality and Romantic skepticism, providing fertile ground for critical interpretation.

In-Depth Analysis: Themes and Narrative Structure

The Ambiguity of Creation and Creator

At the heart of the Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley lies a profound meditation on the act of creation itself. Victor Frankenstein embodies the archetype of the tragic creator whose ambition blinds him to ethical considerations. His refusal to assume responsibility for the creature highlights the dangers of scientific hubris. The creature, often mistakenly referred to simply as "Frankenstein," is a complex figure—both victim and antagonist—whose eloquence and sensitivity challenge readers' initial perceptions of monstrosity.

The novel's epistolary structure, framed by Captain Walton's letters, adds layers to the narrative by presenting multiple perspectives. This framing device invites readers to question the reliability of narrators and the nature of truth, enhancing the psychological depth of the story.

Isolation and the Human Condition

Isolation permeates the Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley, affecting both creator and creation. Victor's self-imposed seclusion during his experiments and subsequent remorse contrasts with the creature's enforced solitude due to societal rejection. This parallelism accentuates themes of alienation and the innate human desire for companionship and acceptance.

Moreover, the novel probes the consequences of societal exclusion. The creature's descent into violence is portrayed not as inherent evil but as a response to relentless ostracism. This nuanced portrayal challenges simplistic dichotomies of good and evil, inviting readers to empathize with marginalized figures.

Scientific Ethics and Responsibility

Shelley's novel presciently addresses ethical concerns that resonate in contemporary debates surrounding biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and genetic engineering. Victor's reckless pursuit of knowledge without foresight or accountability serves as a cautionary tale about the limits of human mastery over nature.

The Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley raises critical questions: Should scientific progress be pursued without ethical constraints? What obligations do creators owe to their creations? These inquiries remain relevant, underscoring the novel's lasting significance in discussions about the intersection of science and morality.

Character Dynamics and Symbolism

The intricate relationship between Victor Frankenstein and his creation forms the emotional core of the novel. Victor's initial revulsion and abandonment of the creature symbolize the rejection of one's responsibilities, while the creature's evolution from innocence to vengefulness reflects the impact of nurture and environment.

Symbolism enriches the narrative, with light and fire motifs representing knowledge and destruction simultaneously. The recurring imagery of the Arctic wilderness, where the novel's frame story unfolds, mirrors the desolation and isolation experienced by the characters. This use of setting as metaphor deepens the thematic complexity.

Comparative Perspectives: Frankenstein and Contemporary Works

When compared to other Gothic novels of the early 19th century, the Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley distinguishes itself through its focus on science rather than supernatural horror. Unlike traditional Gothic antagonists, Shelley's creature is a product of human ingenuity, emphasizing man's role in creating monstrosity.

Furthermore, the novel's introspective psychological exploration anticipates modern existential and psychoanalytic themes, positioning it ahead of its time. The tension between innovation and ethical responsibility parallels other literary works addressing the consequences of human ambition, such as Goethe's *Faust*.

Impact and Legacy in Literature and Popular Culture

The enduring legacy of the Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley is evident in its numerous adaptations across media, including film, theater, and graphic novels. Its archetypal themes continue to inspire reinterpretations that explore contemporary issues such as identity, technology, and social alienation.

Moreover, the novel has catalyzed academic discourse in fields ranging from literature and philosophy to bioethics and cultural studies. Its influence extends beyond literature, contributing to the shaping of the modern mythos surrounding creation and monstrosity.

Pros and Cons of the Novel's Narrative Approach

- **Pros:** The multifaceted narrative structure provides depth and varying perspectives, enriching the story's psychological complexity. The novel's thematic richness allows for diverse interpretations, making it suitable for interdisciplinary study.
- **Cons:** Some readers may find the epistolary format and lengthy descriptive passages challenging, potentially impeding narrative momentum. The archaic language and pacing might require contextual understanding for contemporary audiences.

Frankenstein's Relevance in Today's Scientific and Ethical Landscape

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, the Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley remains remarkably pertinent. The ethical dilemmas surrounding artificial intelligence, cloning, and genetic modification echo the novel's central concerns about creation and accountability. Victor Frankenstein's failure to foresee the consequences of his actions serves as a timeless warning.

Educational institutions frequently include the novel in curricula to provoke critical thinking about the responsibilities accompanying innovation. Its portrayal of the creature's suffering also fosters empathy towards those marginalized by society, aligning with modern social justice discourses.

The Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley transcends its Gothic roots, functioning as a philosophical inquiry into the human condition and the limits of technological progress. Its layered narrative and enduring themes ensure its place as a cornerstone of both literary study and cultural reflection.

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Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley: Frankenstein Mary Shelley, 2013-12-03 The story of Victor Frankenstein's monstrous creation and the havoc it caused has enthralled generations of readers and inspired countless writers of horror and suspense. With the author's own 1831 introduction.

Frankenstein novel by Mary Shelley: Frankenstein Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 1995 I saw the pale student of unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together. I saw the hideous phantasm of a man stretched out, and then, on the working of some powerful engine, show signs of life and stir with an uneasy, half-vital motion. A summer evening's ghost stories, lonely insomnia in a

moonlit Alpine's room, and a runaway imagination--fired by philosophical discussions with Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley about science, galvanism, and the origins of life--conspired to produce for Mary Shelley this haunting night specter. By morning, it had become the germ of her Romantic masterpiece, *Frankenstein*. Written in 1816 when she was only nineteen, Mary Shelley's novel of *The Modern Prometheus* chillingly dramatized the dangerous potential of life begotten upon a laboratory table. A frightening creation myth for our own time, *Frankenstein* remains one of the greatest horror stories ever written and is an undisputed classic of its kind.

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: *Frankenstein* - Mary Shelley Mary Shelley, 2021-05-11 *Frankenstein*; or, *The Modern Prometheus* is an 1818 novel written by English author Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein* tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. Shelley started writing the story when she was 18, and the first edition was published anonymously in London on 1 January 1818, when she was 20. Her name first appeared in the second edition, which was published in Paris in 1821. Shelley travelled through Europe in 1815 along the river Rhine in Germany, stopping in Gernsheim, 17 kilometres (11 mi) away from Frankenstein Castle, where two centuries before, an alchemist engaged in experiments. She then journeyed to the region of Geneva, Switzerland, where much of the story takes place. Galvanism and occult ideas were topics of conversation among her companions, particularly her lover and future husband Percy B. Shelley. In 1816, Mary, Percy and Lord Byron had a competition to see who could write the best horror story. After thinking for days, Shelley was inspired to write *Frankenstein* after imagining a scientist who created life and was horrified by what he had made. Though *Frankenstein* is infused with elements of the Gothic novel and the Romantic movement, Brian Aldiss has argued that it should be considered the first true science fiction story. In contrast to previous stories with fantastical elements resembling those of later science fiction, Aldiss states that the central character makes a deliberate decision and turns to modern experiments in the laboratory to achieve fantastic results. The novel has had a considerable influence on literature and popular culture and spawned a complete genre of horror stories, films, and plays.

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: *Frankenstein* - Third Edition Mary Shelley, 2012-06-20 D.L. Macdonald and Kathleen Scherf's edition of *Frankenstein* has been widely acclaimed as an outstanding edition of the novel—for the general reader and the student as much as for the scholar. The editors use as their copy-text the original 1818 version, and detail in an appendix all of Shelley's later revisions. They also include a range of contemporary documents that shed light on the historical context from which this unique masterpiece emerged. New to this edition is a discussion of Percy Shelley's role in contributing to the first draft of the novel. Recent scholarship has provoked considerable interest in the degree to which Percy Shelley contributed to Mary Shelley's original text, and this edition's updated introduction discusses this scholarship. A new appendix also includes Lord Byron's "A Fragment" and John William Polidori's *The Vampyre*, works that are engaging in their own right and that also add further insights into the literary context of *Frankenstein*.

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: *The Essential Frankenstein* Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 1993 The definitive, annotated edition of Mary Shelley's classic novel.

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: *Frankenstein* Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 2020-08-11 *Frankenstein's* Monster lives on—and so does legendary artist Bernie Wrightson's legacy—in this landmark illustrated edition of Mary Shelley's classic novel, featuring an introduction by Stephen King. Few works by comic book artists have earned the universal acclaim and reverence that Bernie Wrightson's illustrated version of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's *Frankenstein* was met with upon its original release in 1983. A generation later, this magnificent pairing of art and literature is still considered to be one of the greatest achievements made by any artist in the field. This book includes the complete text of the original groundbreaking novel, and approximately fifty original full-page illustrations by Bernie Wrightson—created over a period of seven years—that continue to stun the world with their monumental beauty and uniqueness.

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: *Frankenstein* Joseph Pearce, Mary Shelley, 2010-05-06

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is one of the most influential and controversial novels of the nineteenth century; it is also one of the most misunderstood and misinterpreted. It has been vivisected critically by latter-day Victor Frankensteinians who have transformed the meanings emergent from the novel into monsters of post-modern misconception. Meanwhile Franken-feminists have turned the novel into a monster of misanthropy. Seldom has a work of fiction suffered so scandalously from the slings and arrows of outrageous criticism. This critical edition, containing tradition-oriented essays by literary scholars, refutes the errors and serves as an antidote to the poison that has contaminated the critical understanding of this classic gothic novel. The Ignatius Critical Editions represent a tradition-oriented alternative to popular textbook series such as the Norton Critical Editions or Oxford World Classics, and are designed to concentrate on traditional readings of the Classics of world literature. While many modern critical editions have succumbed to the fads of modernism and post-modernism, this series will concentrate on tradition-oriented criticism of these great works. Edited by acclaimed literary biographer, Joseph Pearce, the Ignatius Critical Editions will ensure that traditional moral readings of the works are given prominence, instead of the feminist, or deconstructionist readings that often proliferate in other series of 'critical editions'. As such, they represent a genuine extension of consumer-choice, enabling educators, students and lovers of good literature to buy editions of classic literary works without having to 'buy into' the ideologies of secular fundamentalism. The series is ideal for anyone wishing to understand great works of western civilization, enabling the modern reader to enjoy these classics in the company of some of the finest literature professors alive today. Edited by Joseph Pearce Contributors to this volume: Jo Bath Philip Nielsen Joseph Pearce Thomas W. Stanford III Aaron Urbanczyk

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: Frankenstein Mary Shelley, 2017-09-03 Mary Shelley began writing *Frankenstein* book when she was only eighteen. At once a Gothic thriller, a passionate romance, and a cautionary tale about the dangers of science, *Frankenstein* tells the story of committed science student Victor Frankenstein. Obsessed with discovering the cause of generation and life and bestowing animation upon lifeless matter, Frankenstein assembles a human being from stolen body parts but; upon bringing it to life, he recoils in horror at the creature's hideousness. Tormented by isolation and loneliness, the once-innocent creature turns to evil and unleashes a campaign of murderous revenge against his creator, Frankenstein. *Frankenstein*, an instant bestseller and an important ancestor of both the horror and science fiction genres, not only tells a terrifying story, but also raises profound, disturbing questions about the very nature of life and the place of humankind within the cosmos: What does it mean to be human? What responsibilities do we have to each other? How far can we go in tampering with Nature? In our age, filled with news of organ donation genetic engineering, and bio-terrorism, these questions are more relevant than ever. About Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley: Mary Shelley (Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, often known as Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley) was a British novelist, short story writer, dramatist, essayist, biographer, travel writer, and editor of the works of her husband, Romantic poet and philosopher Percy Bysshe Shelley. She was the daughter of the political philosopher William Godwin and the writer, philosopher, and feminist Mary Wollstonecraft. Mary Shelley was taken seriously as a writer in her own lifetime, though reviewers often missed the political edge to her novels. After her death, however, she was chiefly remembered only as the wife of Percy Bysshe Shelley and as the author of *Frankenstein*. It was not until 1989, when Emily Sunstein published her prizewinning biography *Mary Shelley: Romance and Reality*, that a full-length scholarly biography analyzing all of Shelley's letters, journals, and works within their historical context was published. It was better than I expected it to be. I have little interest for modern-day horror stories... and I expected the book to be no different. However, I was corrected. This *Frankenstein* book has a good element of Romanticism in it, and the eloquent descriptions of human condition captured my interest. I am reading this for a grade 11 English class, and am considering buying a copy of the book to keep in my library. So many great lessons in this book. I felt so many mixed emotions for the monster: pity, understanding, sorrow, love. I read it for school, and fell in love with it. How did you feel towards the monster?

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: Frankenstein Mary Shelley, 2017-05-03 *Frankenstein* is

a novel written by Mary Shelley published in 1818. That tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a grotesque but sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. Shelley started writing the story when she was 18, and the first edition of the novel was published anonymously in London in 1818, when she was 20. Summary : Frankenstein is written in the form of a frame story that starts with Captain Robert Walton writing letters to his sister. It takes place at an unspecified time in the 18th century, as the letters' dates are given as 17. The novel Frankenstein is written in epistolary form, documenting a fictional correspondence between Captain Robert Walton and his sister, Margaret Walton Saville. Walton is a failed writer and captain who sets out to explore the North Pole and expand his scientific knowledge in hopes of achieving fame. During the voyage, the crew spots a dog sled driven by a gigantic figure. A few hours later, the crew rescues a nearly frozen and emaciated man named Victor Frankenstein. Frankenstein has been in pursuit of the gigantic man observed by Walton's crew. Frankenstein starts to recover from his exertion; he sees in Walton the same obsession that has destroyed him, and recounts a story of his life's miseries to Walton as a warning. The recounted story serves as the frame for Frankenstein's narrative. Extrait : So strange an accident has happened to us that I cannot forbear recording it, although it is very probable that you will see me before these papers can come into your possession. Last Monday (July 31st) we were nearly surrounded by ice, which closed in the ship on all sides, scarcely leaving her the sea-room in which she floated. Our situation was somewhat dangerous, especially as we were compassed round by a very thick fog. We accordingly lay to, hoping that some change would take place in the atmosphere and weather. About two o'clock the mist cleared away, and we beheld, stretched out in every direction, vast and irregular plains of ice, which seemed to have no end. Some of my comrades groaned, and my own mind began to grow watchful with anxious thoughts, when a strange sight suddenly attracted our attention and diverted our solicitude from our own situation. We perceived a low carriage, fixed on a sledge and drawn by dogs, pass on towards the north, at the distance of half a mile; a being which had the shape of a man, but apparently of gigantic stature, sat in the sledge and guided the dogs. We watched the rapid progress of the traveller with our telescopes until he was lost among the distant inequalities of the ice. This appearance excited our unqualified wonder. We were, as we believed, many hundred miles from any land; but this apparition seemed to denote that it was not, in reality, so distant as we had supposed. Shut in, however, by ice, it was impossible to follow his track, which we had observed with the greatest attention... Biography : Mary Shelley (1797-1851) was an English novelist, short story writer, dramatist, essayist, biographer, and travel writer, best known for her Gothic novel Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus (1818). She also edited and promoted the works of her husband, the Romantic poet and philosopher Percy Bysshe Shelley. Her father was the political philosopher William Godwin, and her mother was the philosopher and feminist Mary Wollstonecraft. After Wollstonecraft's death less than a month after her daughter Mary was born, Mary was raised by Godwin, who was able to provide his daughter with a rich, if informal, education, encouraging her to adhere to his own liberal political theories. When Mary was four, her father married a neighbour, with whom, as her stepmother, Mary came to have a troubled relationship...

frankenstein novel by mary shelly: *Frankenstein; Or, The Modern Prometheus* by Mary Shelley Mary Shelley, 2019-09-12 Everything about Mary Shelley's Frankenstein is remarkable! -Sidney Perkowitz ; LA Review of Books Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus is a novel written by English author Mary Shelley (1797-1851) that tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a hideous sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. Frankenstein is infused with elements of the Gothic novel and the Romantic movement. Brian Aldiss has argued that it should be considered the first true science fiction story because, in contrast to previous stories with fantastical elements resembling those of later science fiction, the central character makes a deliberate decision and turns to modern experiments in the laboratory to achieve fantastic results. It has had a considerable influence in literature and popular culture and spawned a complete genre of horror stories, films and plays. A True Classic that Belongs on Every Bookshelf!

frankenstein novel by mary shelly: Frankenstein Mary Shelley, 2023-12-27 Mary Shelley's

'Frankenstein' is a groundbreaking work of gothic literature that explores themes of ambition, isolation, and the consequences of playing god. Written in an epistolary format, the reader is drawn into the chilling tale of Victor Frankenstein and his creation, the monster. Shelley's descriptive prose and use of multiple narrators create a sense of foreboding and unease, making 'Frankenstein' a timeless classic in the literary canon. The novel also raises ethical questions about scientific responsibility and the limits of human knowledge, making it a thought-provoking read for modern audiences. Mary Shelley's personal experiences, including the death of her own children and her tumultuous relationship with Percy Bysshe Shelley, undoubtedly influenced the creation of 'Frankenstein.' Her unique perspective as a female author in the 19th century adds layers of depth to the story, highlighting the societal expectations and constraints faced by women of her time. I highly recommend 'Frankenstein' to readers who enjoy thought-provoking literature that delves into the darker aspects of human nature and morality.

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley Illustrated Mary Shelley, 2021-10-06 Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus is an 1818 novel written by English author Mary Shelley. Frankenstein tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. Shelley started writing the story when she was 18, and the first edition was published anonymously in London on 1 January 1818, when she was 20. Her name first appeared in the second edition, which was published in Paris in 1821. Shelley travelled through Europe in 1815 along the river Rhine in Germany, stopping in Gernsheim, 17 kilometres (11 mi) away from Frankenstein Castle, where two centuries before, an alchemist engaged in experiments. She then journeyed to the region of Geneva, Switzerland, where much of the story takes place. Galvanism and occult ideas were topics of conversation among her companions, particularly her lover and future husband Percy B. Shelley. In 1816, Mary, Percy and Lord Byron had a competition to see who could write the best horror story. After thinking for days, Shelley was inspired to write Frankenstein after imagining a scientist who created life and was horrified by what he had made. Though Frankenstein is infused with elements of the Gothic novel and the Romantic movement, Brian Aldiss has argued that it should be considered the first true science fiction story. In contrast to previous stories with fantastical elements resembling those of later science fiction, Aldiss states that the central character makes a deliberate decision and turns to modern experiments in the laboratory to achieve fantastic results. The novel has had a considerable influence on literature and popular culture and spawned a complete genre of horror stories, films, and plays. Since the publication of the novel, the name Frankenstein has often been used to erroneously refer to the monster, rather than his creator/father.

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: Frankenstein / Mary Shelley Mary Shelley, 2021-11-23 Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change. — Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Frankenstein Few creatures of horror have seized readers' imaginations and held them for so long as the anguished monster of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. The story of Victor Frankenstein's terrible creation and the havoc it caused has enthralled generations of readers and inspired countless writers of horror and suspense. Considering the novel's enduring success, it is remarkable that it began merely as a whim of Lord Byron's. We will each write a story, Byron announced to his next-door neighbors, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin and her lover Percy Bysshe Shelley. The friends were summering on the shores of Lake Geneva in Switzerland in 1816, Shelley still unknown as a poet and Byron writing the third canto of Childe Harold. When continued rains kept them confined indoors, all agreed to Byron's proposal. The illustrious poets failed to complete their ghost stories, but Mary Shelley rose supremely to the challenge. With Frankenstein, she succeeded admirably in the task she set for herself: to create a story that, in her own words, would speak to the mysterious fears of our nature and awaken thrilling horror -- one to make the reader dread to look round, to curdle the blood, and quicken the beatings of the heart. A True Classic that Belongs on Every Bookshelf!

frankenstein novel by mary shelley: Frankenstein by Mary Shelley Mary Shelley, 2020-10-02 Frankenstein is an 1818 Gothic novel written by Mary Shelley from England. It is the tale of

eccentric scientist, Victor Frankenstein and the monstrous creature he created. The book is a novel about the destructive potential in human ingenuity and the desperate search for love and attachment.

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