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# Frankenstein



## Synopsis

Eager science student Victor Frankenstein uses body parts of the dead to bring a creature to life. Although initially excited that his experiment is a success, Frankenstein becomes horrified at the grotesque being that stands before him and flees. Angered by the rejection, The Monster retaliates by taking the lives of those dearest to Frankenstein. The decision to play God torments both Frankenstein and The Monster he created until the end of their days.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is one of the masterpieces of nineteenth-century Gothicism. While stay-ing in the Swiss Alps in 1816 with her lover Percy Shelley, Lord Byron, and others, Mary, then eighteen, began to concoct the story of Dr. Victor Frankenstein and the monster he brings to life by electricity. Written in a time of great personal tragedy, it is a subversive and morbid story warning against the dehumanization of art and the corrupting influence of science. Packed with allusions and literary references, it is also one of the best thrillers ever written. *Frankenstein; Or, the Modern Prometheus* was an instant bestseller on publication in 1818. The prototype of the science fiction novel, it has spawned countless imitations and adaptations but retains its original power. This Modern Library edition includes a new Introduction by Wendy Steiner, the chair of the English department at the University of Pennsylvania and author of *The Scandal of Pleasure*. Mary Shelley was born Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin in 1797 in London. She eloped to France with Shelley, whom she married in 1816. After *Frankenstein*, she wrote several novels, including *Valperga* and *Falkner*, and edited editions of the poetry of Shelley, who had died in 1822. Mary Shelley died in London in

1851. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Mary Shelley (1797-1851) was an English writer and the author of the acclaimed novel *Frankenstein*. In 1814 she married Romantic poet and philosopher Percy Bysshe Shelley, before publishing *Frankenstein* anonymously two years later. *Frankenstein* remains one of literatures timeless classics and has inspired countless films, plays, and novels. With acting credits that span stage and screen, Gildart Jackson is most often recognized for his role as Gideon on *Charmed*. Theater roles include Trigorin in *The Seagull*, Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, and Adrian in *Private Eyes* at the Old Globe.

Wonderful CDs and excellent service!

1 star ONLY BECAUSE I CANNOT GIVE IT ZERO, OR NEGATIVE. I bought this book because it was subtitled "Mary Shelley's Feminist Manifesto." I was expecting a collection of scholarly essays on the book. As a professor of English who uses *Frankenstein* frequently, I am always on the lookout for new texts. What arrived today is a travesty. It appears to be a public domain printing of the text--there are NO NOTES--and the "essays" are not even close to being worthy of the term. Listed under "Appendices," they are a hodge-podge of topics and only one has an author: "Al Olmstead." None have any kind of citations at all. If my students turned in something like this, they would FAIL. On p. 8, under a photostat of the 9 July 1822 edition of the *The Courier*--whose headline (my trans. from Spanish) reads "Mary Shelley keeps at her side the heart of her dead husband" (it's an account of the beachside cremation of PB Shelley-- yes, she did keep his heart)--the caption reads "World class superstars of their day, each in his and her own right, Mary Shelley and her husband made headlines when he died fighting in Greece. English romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley remains a Greek national hero to this day." OH. MY. GOD. HOW did this thing get published??? 1. It's capital R Romantic. 2. PB Shelley DROWNED IN A BOATING ACCIDENT ON THE BAY OF SPEZIA. 3. GEORGE GORDON, LORD BYRON died of a fever in Messolonghi, Greece and is the correct "national hero". I will be sending this back with a note to the publisher. I hope to God no one else buys this edition.

The movies were a total abomination...they did a hack job of the book.

Everyone has heard of *Frankenstein's* monster... or at least the Hollywood version, with green skin,

boxy head and bolts in his neck. But the original creature is quite different in Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," which starts off rather slow but builds into a tragic, darkly hypnotic tale about tampering in God's domain, and the terrible consequences that come from it. Also: if you create a new creature out of dead body parts, don't disown him or he'll kill your family. During a trip across the Arctic, a ship picks up a starved, half-frozen man named Victor Frankenstein. As he recovers, Frankenstein tells them his life story -- especially about how he became fascinated with science, and developed a process to reanimate dead tissue. Eventually he constructs a new creature out of dead body parts, and brings him to life. But while the creature is intelligent and articulate, he's also hideously ugly. Horrified that he's not beautiful, Frankenstein flees... and has a nervous breakdown. Wimp. But months later, the murder of his little brother brings Victor back to his home, where he figures out that the creature was involved. And to his horror, the creature now wants a mate. But the loathing between them -- caused by Frankenstein's disgust and the creature's increasing bitterness -- leads to even more tragedy... "Frankenstein" is one of those rare novels that is almost beyond classification -- it's gothic horror, it's sci-fi, it's a tragedy about scientific ambition that goes where it shouldn't go. Mary Shelley was only eighteen years old when she began writing this book, but she interwove religion, science and a fiercely intelligent knowledge of human nature into it. Her writing is a bit stuffy at times ("All praises bestowed on her I received as made to a possession of my own"), but that's because it was written in the early 1800s. Despite this, Shelley's writing skills shine in the more horrific moments of the story ("I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs"), and she imbues it with a sense of painful, grimy suspense. But the complicated characters of Victor and the creature are what really make the story work. Victor is actually a pretty horrible person -- while he's a tragic figure whose unnatural ambitions end up destroying his wife, brother and father, he's also incredibly cruel and callous to the creature because... he's ugly. The creature, on the other hand, instantly gets our sympathy. He's intelligent and childlike at first, but his ugliness causes everyone to immediately hate and fear him. When he becomes embittered and eventually murderous, you still feel sorry for him. Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" is one of those few, rare horror books -- it adds a little more of that scientific gothic atmosphere to a classic tale of horror, slime and sorrow.

Periodically, I google my own name to see what's being said about me. Unlike the good college professor who panned this book, I can write and so I do; and, because I do, I have almost no time to teach. The good professor glommed onto my name because, apparently, it is the only name in the book (in addition to that of the author, Mary Shelley, of course). My name is in the book because, as

a condition of copyright, I required that MY FILM REVIEW--NOT MY DOCTORAL DISSERTATION--be reproduced with my name, without editorial changes and with the one still shot from the movie that is referenced in the review. The professor found exactly ONE error in the caption under ONE photograph and took that occasion to win her 15 minutes of fame, to at least some extent at my expense by painting me with the broad brush applied to other people's work. Late-breaking news for the good professor: FILM REVIEWS TO BE READ BY THE LAY PUBLIC ARE NOT PH.D. DISSERTATIONS and so are NEVER annotated. The professor has not named even ONE mistake in my film review because there isn't one. My theme highlights the manipulations of money-grubbers who build careers by becoming experts on other people's creative works. Here I am referring to Hollywood production companies, of course; but I can easily write the same theme on the topic of college professors. I don't like ANY American entertainment corporations. A quick look at my video [...], titled "Critical Stage: Reason on the Ropes" (in my own specialty, with academic distinction, at Brandeis University) shows that of about a dozen films referenced, only ONE is American. All others come from Europe and Asia. One other, a vehicle for the Hauser brothers, was distributed in America after production in Eastern Europe. Like so many college graduates these days, apparently this college professor can't, or won't, but in any event doesn't read. The book's author is MARY SHELLEY, who did not write analytical treatises on her own novel. The contents of the book are accurately summarized (otherwise I would not have allowed reprint of my film review in it). The table of contents is available for viewing. There is absolutely NO misrepresentation whatsoever about this book: it is an INEXPENSIVE copy of Mary Shelley's novel, plus biographical notes about her life and times, plus background information about the movie version of her book, including my review of that movie and the historical circumstances under which it was produced. This college professor's main complaint is exactly the same as that of today's students: It now costs as much for one text book (\$350.00) as it used to cost for an entire semester of undergraduate studies. That is mainly because this college professor, along with her colleagues, sucks a living at the trough of bottomless student loans, leaving her graduates with a worthless piece of paper and \$150,000.00 in debts. She's ticked off because she didn't get a Ph.D. dissertation for \$17. But the publisher never claimed that it was a Ph.D. dissertation. He or she or whoever claimed what is true: the book is a cheap reproduction of Mary Shelley's novel. plus some interesting information about Hollywood. I rate this book five stars because of HONESTY. In addition to the book being exactly as represented, I WAS PAID CASH MONEY to rate it five stars. And that's more honesty than you'll ever hear from producers of awards ceremony shows, up to and including the Academy Awards. If the professor can find even one error in my essay, then I'll send her the

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