



TIME: *Late 1700s.*

WALTON: I write this in the ship's log. One month has passed since my brave crew and I sailed from London on a journey to the North Pole, where man has never set foot. This morning we awoke to find our ship enclosed by ice on all sides. We were trapped! As we paced about considering what we might do, my lieutenant suddenly raised a shout.

LIEUTENANT: Captain Walton! Look over there! Something moving!

WALTON: Are you sure, Lieutenant? Ah, yes! I see it! It's a sled pulled by dogs!

LIEUTENANT: A man is driving it—a very tall man.

WALTON: A giant of a man, I'd say.

LIEUTENANT: He doesn't see us. He's going on past!

WALTON: Where can he be going? There's nothing but water and ice for hundreds of kilometres.

LIEUTENANT: He's gone! Captain, if you hadn't seen him, too, I'd swear I was dreaming.

WALTON: Scarcely two hours later, my lieutenant called me on deck again.

LIEUTENANT (*urgently*): Captain, come quickly, sir! Another dogsled has come alongside the ship.

WALTON: I'll come on deck at once.

LIEUTENANT: Look, sir. There's only one dog alive in the traces, and the driver is exhausted. He said he won't leave the sled, but you must persuade him to come on board, sir, or he'll die.

WALTON: You're right. (*calling*) Come aboard sir, and let us help you! Can you hear me? Who are you?

FRANKENSTEIN: My name is Frankenstein. Dr. Victor Frankenstein. Captain, I will not board your vessel until you tell me where you are bound.

WALTON: We are on a voyage of discovery toward the North Pole.

FRANKENSTEIN: To the North? Then I will come aboard.

WALTON: Give me your hand. (*after a pause*) You are nearly frozen, sir. What has brought you to this desolate place all alone?

FRANKENSTEIN: I seek one who flees from me.

LIEUTENANT: Does this person travel on a dogsled?

FRANKENSTEIN (*eagerly*): Yes! Have you seen him?

WALTON: Yes. We saw him this morning.

FRANKENSTEIN (*urgently*): Tell me which way he went. I must not lose his trail!

WALTON: Sir, you are exhausted. You have only one dog alive. You must stay with us.

FRANKENSTEIN (*frantically*): No, no! Nothing must deter me! I must catch him! I...I...

WALTON: Hold him, Lieutenant! He's fainting.

LIEUTENANT: Here, sir, sit down.

FRANKENSTEIN (*weakly*): I know you must think me mad. Let me tell you my horrible story. I have suffered great misfortunes and lost everything I ever loved. Now I wait for one event, and then I shall die in peace.

WALTON: Come, sir, you mustn't talk like that!

FRANKENSTEIN: Hear me, Captain, for I cannot die without telling my story. I swear to you that what I say is true.

WALTON: I am ready to hear you.

FRANKENSTEIN: I was born in Geneva, Switzerland, into a distinguished family. I passed a happy childhood, but as I grew older I burned with an insatiable desire to learn the secrets of heaven and earth, the inner spirit of nature, and the mysterious soul of man!

WALTON (*good-naturedly*): So you aspired to learn chemistry and philosophy.

FRANKENSTEIN: Yes, but if only I had embarked on some other study! When

I was seventeen, I went to the university. There I heard the lecture that decided my fatal course in life. My professor of chemistry said:
PROFESSOR: The ancient teachers of chemistry promised impossibilities and performed nothing! Modern masters promise very little, but they penetrate into the hiding places of nature and show how it works. They know how the blood circulates and how we breathe! They have acquired new and almost unlimited powers!

FRANKENSTEIN: Upon hearing those words, my mind was filled with one thought: I, Victor Frankenstein, would explore unknown powers and unfold to the world the deepest mysteries of creation! I read voraciously, attended numerous lectures, and cultivated the acquaintance of men of science. I spent endless hours in the laboratory — all in my great search for the secret of life.

WALTON: The secret of life! A bold search, Dr. Frankenstein!

FRANKENSTEIN: Yes, Captain. Too bold! I went on to study physiology and anatomy. I examined the change from life to death, and from death to life, and after months of incredible labour, I discovered how to bestow animation upon lifeless matter.

WALTON (*astounded*): But that's impossible!

FRANKENSTEIN: No, Captain! What had been the study of the wisest men over the ages was within my grasp!

WALTON (*excitedly*): If this is true, then you must share this wondrous knowledge with the world!

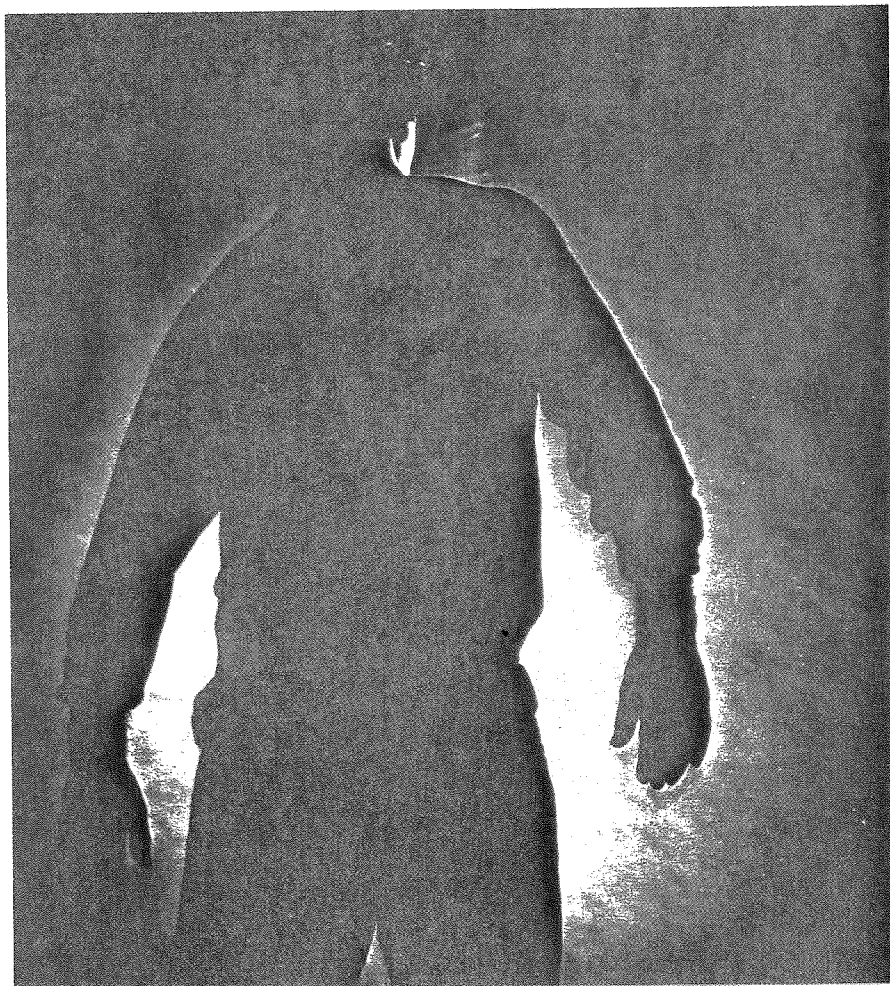
FRANKENSTEIN: No! Never! Never! Listen to me, Captain, and learn from my dreadful experience how dangerous certain knowledge may be. When I realized what power I held, I dared to put it to the test. I began the creation of a human being!

WALTON (*horrified*): What? You didn't!

FRANKENSTEIN: Yes! A human being of gigantic stature — almost three metres tall. I pursued my undertaking in secret. Can you conceive the horrors of my toil among graves and slaughter houses where I collected my materials? For nearly two years I worked in a laboratory at the top of my house. And then, one dreary November night, it was nearly finished. With the most painful anxiety I stood by the instruments that would infuse a spark of being into the lifeless human form I had made. And then — it happened.

WALTON (*tensely*): What happened?

FRANKENSTEIN: The dull yellow eye of my creature opened! He breathed! His arms and legs moved! He sat up — his gigantic form towering over me! I had intended that he be handsome, but how horrible he was! His



yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath. His hair was a lustrous black, his teeth pearly white, but these were a horrid contrast to his watery eyes, his wrinkled face and straight black lips. I was filled with horror and disgust. A mummy brought to life could not have been as hideous.

WALTON (*shaken*): Doctor, you are upset. Rest a while before you make yourself ill again.

FRANKENSTEIN (*agitated*): I cannot rest, Captain. From the moment I gave life to that creature, I have known no rest! I saw his innocent eyes fixed on me and heard the inarticulate sounds he uttered, then I screamed and fled from the room. I would have left town for good had I not met a dear friend in the street. He had come from Geneva to visit me.

CLERVAL (*warmly*): My dear Victor! How glad I am to see you!

FRANKENSTEIN (*uneasily*): Henry! What a surprise. What brings you here?

CLERVAL: Your family is worried because they have not heard from you in nearly a year. Elizabeth is especially concerned.

FRANKENSTEIN: I...I've been very busy, Henry.

CLERVAL (*worriedly*): You look ill, Victor. So thin and pale. You cannot have slept in several nights.

FRANKENSTEIN: I have been deeply engaged in an experiment, but now it is over. You could not have come at a better time.

CLERVAL: Then let us go to your house. We have so much to talk about.

FRANKENSTEIN (*quickly; panicky*): No, Henry, not my house. Not tonight! He might be there! (*frightened*) I can't look at him again! I can't! I can't!

CLERVAL (*alarmed*): Victor! What's the matter? Are you ill?

FRANKENSTEIN: I fainted, and then I fell into a nervous fever that confined me to bed for several months. Henry was my constant companion. How good a friend he was! And yet while my body recovered, my mind retained the horror of the Monster I had made. It had disappeared. I wondered what had happened to it and if I would ever see it again.

CLERVAL: Victor, you must come home with me now. Your family will welcome you, and I believe a change will do you good.

FRANKENSTEIN: Henry was right. I could no longer endure the sight of my instruments and books. He arranged for our journey home, but on the day we were to leave, I received a shocking letter from my father.

CLERVAL: My dear friend, what has happened?

FRANKENSTEIN (*brokenly*): My little brother...William! He's dead! Murdered!

CLERVAL (*horrified*): No! That cannot be!

FRANKENSTEIN: Yes. He was strangled...in a wood near our house.

CLERVAL: That dear child! Who could have done such a brutal thing? My poor friend, what consolation can I offer?

FRANKENSTEIN: No one could console me. I returned home to my grieving father and stepsister, Elizabeth. Then one day I went to the lonely wood where my dear little brother had died. I knelt down and wept, but suddenly, I felt I was not alone. I sprang up, and saw before me the hideous towering form of the demon I had made!

WALTON: What? He was there in Geneva?

FRANKENSTEIN: Yes, Captain, after all those months! I shrank back at the sight of him! And then a horrible thought struck me. Had *he* murdered my brother? I stood frozen with anguish. No one else could have



murdered that beautiful, innocent child! Suddenly the Monster moved closer, stretching out his great arms to me, and then, to my eternal amazement, he spoke to me.

MONSTER: Frankenstein! My creator!

FRANKENSTEIN: How dare you approach me!

MONSTER: So you also hate me, even as all men I have encountered hate and despise me.

FRANKENSTEIN (*savagely*): Yes. If only I could, by ending your miserable existence, restore my brother whom you have so diabolically murdered!

MONSTER: I meant to be his friend, but he cruelly rejected me! I acted out of the deepest anger!

FRANKENSTEIN (*enraged*): Fiend! Monster! How I wish that I had never given you life!

MONSTER: But you did! Why did you hate and reject me? My soul burned with love, yet you deserted me! (*miserably*) For all these many months I have wandered alone. I have sought human company, and observed men and women, learning to copy their ways, and to imitate their speech. Yet wherever I go, women and children scream in terror at the sight of me, and all men seek to destroy me.

FRANKENSTEIN: His words had a strange effect on me. What had I done in deserting him? He had been like a child, left alone to fend for himself in a world that could never accept him. What terrible loneliness and pain he must have suffered!

MONSTER: I have sworn eternal revenge upon you for my suffering! You can save your life, though, by granting my most urgent request.

FRANKENSTEIN: What do you dare ask of me?

MONSTER: You must make a companion for me! A female formed as I am, that I may never be lonely again.

FRANKENSTEIN (*furiously*): What? Create another like you to join you in your fiendish wickedness? Never!

MONSTER: Listen to me! Give me a companion and my frustrations and anger will vanish in the sympathy and care of my companion. We shall live peacefully and harm no one. Frankenstein, you cannot refuse me!

FRANKENSTEIN: Perhaps I have no right to withhold from you the small portion of happiness that is in my power to bestow. I consent to your demand, on your solemn oath to leave the habitations of man forever!

MONSTER: Once I have my companion, I swear that no man shall ever see us again. Begin your labour at once! I shall watch your progress with great anxiety, and I shall follow you wherever you go — remember that! When you have finished, I shall appear to you again.

FRANKENSTEIN: He left me, and I went home with slow and heavy steps. My agony was unbearable, but what could I do? My brother was dead. I feared for the safety of my loved ones. My only choice was to do as the Monster said. I prepared to leave home and return to my laboratory. My father was terribly concerned about my state of mind.

FATHER: My son, perhaps I can suggest something to soothe and calm you. I have always looked forward to your marriage to Elizabeth. She has been like your loving sister since childhood, and yet she is not your kin by blood. She loves you dearly. Perhaps now is the time for your marriage, that you may comfort each other and find a new life together.

FRANKENSTEIN: Father, I love Elizabeth with all my heart, but there is something I must do before we can be married. I must study and work

in England for a few months, but I promise you, Elizabeth and I shall be married upon my return.

FATHER: Very well, Victor. Travel and restore your spirits. Take Henry Clerval as your companion. It will ease my mind to know you are not alone.

FRANKENSTEIN: And so I bade Elizabeth farewell.

ELIZABETH: Hurry home again, Victor. While you are gone, take comfort in Henry's companionship, and think often of me.

FRANKENSTEIN: You shall always be in my thoughts, Elizabeth. I cannot explain to you the work I must do, but trust me, I cannot leave it undone. Take care of my father while I am gone.

ELIZABETH: Yes, Victor, I will. Write often, for you cannot imagine how lonely it will be here without you.

FRANKENSTEIN: And so Henry and I departed for England. For a few weeks we travelled about that lovely country, and then to Scotland. But my torment soon drove me to a parting with my friend.

CLERVAL: Why do you wish to go on alone, Victor?

FRANKENSTEIN: The work I have to do would only bore you, Henry. I'll join you again in a month or two.

CLERVAL: As you wish, Victor. But write to me, or I shall become worried and come searching for you.

FRANKENSTEIN: I left Henry in a bustling sea town and went on alone to one of the remote Orkney Islands. There, in a wretched hut, with only a few poverty-stricken neighbours, I began my dreadful work. I toiled day and night with enthusiastic frenzy that blinded me to the horror of my task. But dreadful thoughts plagued me. What if this female creature should be as wicked as her mate? What if she chose not to isolate herself? What if they had children who might spread over the earth and terrorize man for ages to come? Had I the right to inflict this curse upon unborn generations? I trembled! My heart seemed to fail me! And then I looked up and saw the Monster in the window, a ghastly grin wrinkling his lips!

MONSTER: I have come to claim my bride, Frankenstein! Give her to me!

FRANKENSTEIN: No! No! I can never bring life to another like you!

MONSTER: Stop! Don't! What are you doing? Stop!

FRANKENSTEIN: In a passionate rage, I tore the female creature to pieces, and the Monster howled in despair.

MONSTER: Frankenstein, do you dare break your promise, destroy my hopes?

FRANKENSTEIN: Yes! I dare!

MONSTER: I have the power to make your life wretched beyond imagination!

You are my creator, but I am your master! Do as I command you!

FRANKENSTEIN: No! I defy you!

MONSTER: I shall never allow you to be happy while I suffer! Beware of my revenge, Frankenstein! Your hours from this night on shall pass in dread and misery. I leave you now, but I shall be with you on your wedding night!

FRANKENSTEIN: I sprang at him, but he eluded me and fled from the hut. I saw him leap into a boat and head for the mainland. Frantically, I threw the remains of my creation into a large basket, along with several heavy stones. This I placed aboard my small boat and then sailed out about eight kilometres from shore. When the moon was briefly covered by a cloud, I cast the basket into the sea and watched it sink from sight. Then I fell into an exhausted sleep. I don't know how long I slept, but when I awoke, the sun was high and I was drifting near a village on the mainland. When I landed, an angry crowd of people came to meet me, and one man, who seemed in authority, spoke harshly to me.

MAN: Sir, you will follow me at once to Mr. Kirwin's to give an account of yourself.

FRANKENSTEIN (*puzzled*): Why am I to give an account of myself? Who is Mr. Kirwin?

MAN: A magistrate. You will tell him what you know about the murder of a young man here last night.

FRANKENSTEIN: I know nothing. I was not here last night.

MAN: We'll see about that. Come this way!

FRANKENSTEIN: I was brought to hear the testimony of several witnesses.

MAN: I found the body, Mr. Kirwin. He was a handsome young fellow, and he had been brutally strangled.

WOMAN: Terrible!

KIRWIN: Tell me, my good woman, have you seen this man before?

WOMAN: Oh, yes, Mr. Kirwin. He was drifting in his boat, just off the shore where they found the poor lad dead.

KIRWIN: Come into the next room, sir, and view the corpse.

FRANKENSTEIN: Very well, if you insist. (*after a pause; grief stricken*) It's Henry! My dearest friend! He has been destroyed too by my ghastly mistake. (*moans*)

KIRWIN: He's fainted. Come, take him into the cell.

FRANKENSTEIN: I knew nothing more until I awoke in prison, with Mr. Kirwin standing over me.

KIRWIN: Are you better now?

FRANKENSTEIN (*weakly*): I believe I am. How long have I been here?

KIRWIN: Two months. Ill of fever and near death many a time.

FRANKENSTEIN: I wish I were dead! I am the most miserable of men!

KIRWIN: I hope you can soon procure evidence to free yourself from the criminal charge placed against you.

FRANKENSTEIN: You are kind to say so, but tortured and persecuted as I am, how can I fear death?

KIRWIN: I know you have suffered, being seized and charged with murder. And then the tragic sight of your friend, murdered in so unaccountable a manner and placed, as if by some fiend, across your path.

FRANKENSTEIN (*perplexed*): How do you know all this?

KIRWIN: I examined the papers you carried with you that night. I found a letter to your father, and I wrote to Geneva.

FRANKENSTEIN: Good heavens! What new scene of death has been acted? Whose murder am I to lament now?

KIRWIN: Be calm, sir. Your family is perfectly well, and your father has come to see you.

FRANKENSTEIN: My father! Let him come to me!

KIRWIN: He is here.

FATHER: Victor! My son!

FRANKENSTEIN (*joyfully*): Father, are you safe! And Elizabeth?

FATHER: Safe and well. My poor child! My son! You travelled to seek happiness, but a fatality seems to pursue you.

FRANKENSTEIN: Father, a horrible destiny hangs over me, and though I have prayed for death, I know that I must live to fulfill that destiny.

FATHER: Do not talk so! Only get well, Victor. You will be cleared of this charge and I will take you home.

FRANKENSTEIN: In another month witnesses testified that I had been on Orkney Island at the hour Henry Clerval's body was found. I was freed from prison. But the cup of life was poisoned for me. I saw nothing but a frightful darkness through which two watery, clouded eyes glared fiercely at me!

WALTON: Did you return to Geneva with your father?

FRANKENSTEIN: Yes, I went home to my beloved Elizabeth. I longed to be happy with her, but I could not forget the creature's threat.

MONSTER (*ominously*): I shall be with you on your wedding night!

FRANKENSTEIN: Such was my sentence! The Monster meant to destroy me, but if I should defeat him, then I might yet find happiness with my dear Elizabeth. I knew I could not delay my destiny any longer. Elizabeth and I were married, and after the marriage ceremony, my bride and I



travelled to a country inn. I took every precaution to defend myself in case the Monster attacked me, but as night fell with a raging storm, a thousand fears arose in my mind. Every sound terrified me, yet I resolved that I would not shrink from the conflict I knew was sure to come. Try as I might, I could not hide my agitation from Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH (*worried*): What is it that upsets you, my dear Victor? What is it you fear?

FRANKENSTEIN: Don't worry, my love. After tonight all will be safe. Go on upstairs. I will check through the house once more, and then I will join you.

ELIZABETH: As you wish. I love you so much, I cannot bear to see you so worn and anxious.

FRANKENSTEIN: I kissed her, and she left me. I searched every passage and corner of the inn, but discovered no trace of the Monster. I was beginning to think that some fortunate chance had prevented his coming, when I heard a shrill, piercing scream! In an instant the horrible truth rushed into my mind! Elizabeth screamed again. I dashed to our room, and flung myself through the door—but too late! (*sobbing*) Elizabeth! My beloved Elizabeth lay lifeless on the bed. And in the window, the hideous fiend stood grinning!

MONSTER: My revenge is complete, Frankenstein! Now you are as miserable as I!

FRANKENSTEIN: I drew my pistol and leaped at him, firing a shot. But he sprang to the ground and was lost in the darkness. My grief and rage were uncontrollable. I was determined to destroy him, or die! I have followed his trail for many months, Captain. He has cunningly lured me on, leaving his tracks for me to follow, and his messages carved in trees, on rocks and ice — all to rekindle my fury!

MONSTER: Follow me, Frankenstein! I seek the everlasting ice of the North, where you will feel the misery of cold and frost. But you have made me immune to these discomforts. Only you shall suffer in this place! Come, my enemy! Follow me!

FRANKENSTEIN: If my dogs had lived, I might have caught him. We might have had our final combat — but it is not to be. Captain Walton, I have told you all. (*groans*) In a fit of ambitious madness I made this creature, but I forsook him because my duties toward my fellow man had greater importance. In response this demon destroyed my family and friends, and I know not when his thirst for vengeance will end. He *must* be destroyed!

WALTON: Doctor, speak no more. You will do yourself great harm.

FRANKENSTEIN: My body has failed me, Captain. I shall not see another sunrise. You must swear to me that if the Monster appears after my death, you will thrust your sword into his heart! (*urgently*) Swear to me!

WALTON (*alarmed*): Doctor Frankenstein! Lieutenant, he's fainted again.

LIEUTENANT: Shall I bring the surgeon, sir?

WALTON: I'm afraid it's too late. The poor man has breathed his last. May his tortured soul find peace.

LIEUTENANT (*suddenly*): Captain...there is someone in the passage.

WALTON: Bar the door. Let this man rest undisturbed.

MONSTER (*howling*): Frankenstein!

LIEUTENANT: Captain, it's the Monster!

WALTON: Stand firm, Lieutenant! We have swords, and he is unarmed.

LIEUTENANT (*in awe*): But look at the size of him! His face! (*terrified*) This is a nightmare!

WALTON: Steady, Lieutenant! (*calling*) Creature! What do you want?

MONSTER: Do not try to keep me from my master! (*miserably*) Frankenstein! Frankenstein! (*weeping*) I have destroyed you by destroying everything you loved. I would beg your forgiveness, but

now you cannot answer me! In destroying your hopes, I did not satisfy my greatest desire for love. I am still alone and utterly miserable!

WALTON (*angrily*): Wretch! If he still lived, he would yet be the object of your vengeance! Your evil must be stopped!

MONSTER: Stay your hand! This very night I shall die by my own hand. Farewell, Frankenstein! My misery was greater than yours, but soon my pain will be ended on the funeral pyre I shall light around my hideous form. Farewell!

LIEUTENANT (*shaken*): This was no nightmare. Captain, have we seen the last of him?

WALTON: I believe so. Without his creator, he has nothing to live for. Frankenstein was a man of genius, but he suffered greatly because of it. When we return to England, I shall share this incredible story with whoever desires to hear it. I shall never forget Frankenstein — or the sight of his creation, the lonely, haunted Monster.

