

Frankenstein



ENGL056B

Dr. Katherine Harris

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Presenters: Nick Inguillo

Alison Stephen

Authorship

- Born Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin on August 30, 1797
- Mother died ten days after childbirth
- Step-mother did not support Mary's intellectual curiosity
- Was taught to read and write at home
- Was allowed to sit quietly in a corner and listen to her father's conversations with Wordsworth and Coleridge



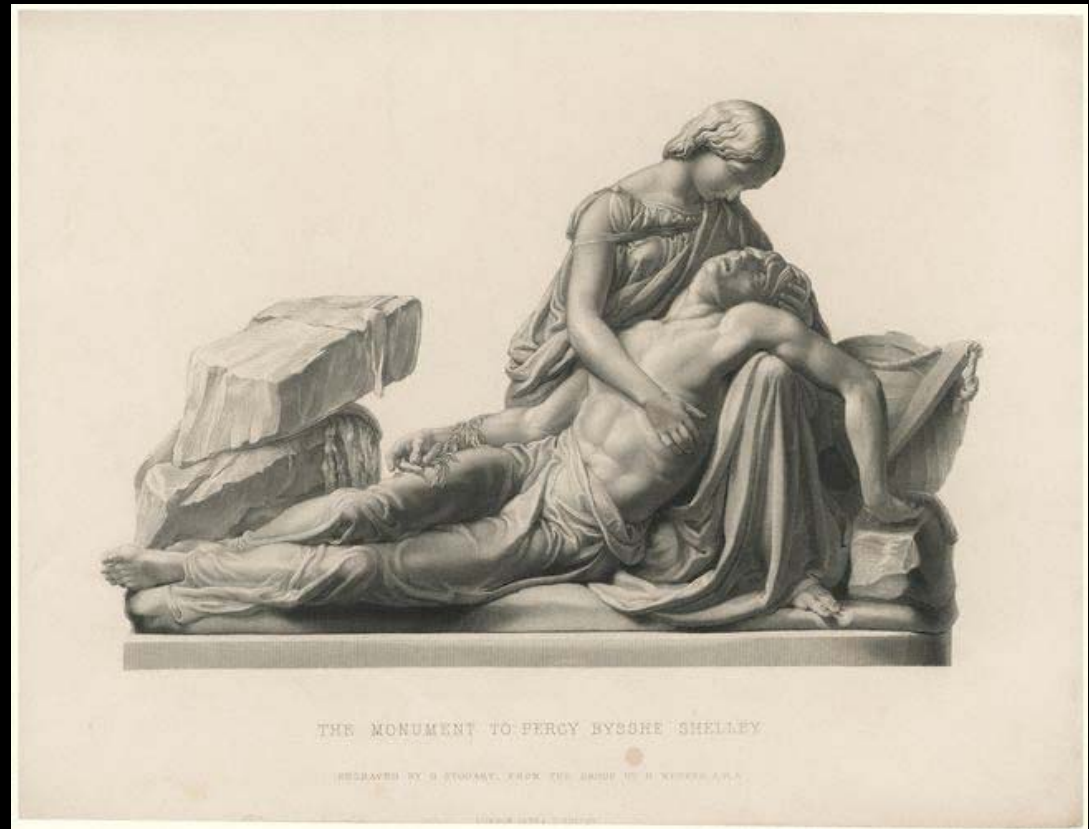
Adolescence

- Dramatic story with Percy Shelley starting in 1814...
- Shelley's probable affair with her step-sister
- Premature birth to a daughter in 1815; died two weeks later
- Emotional struggle



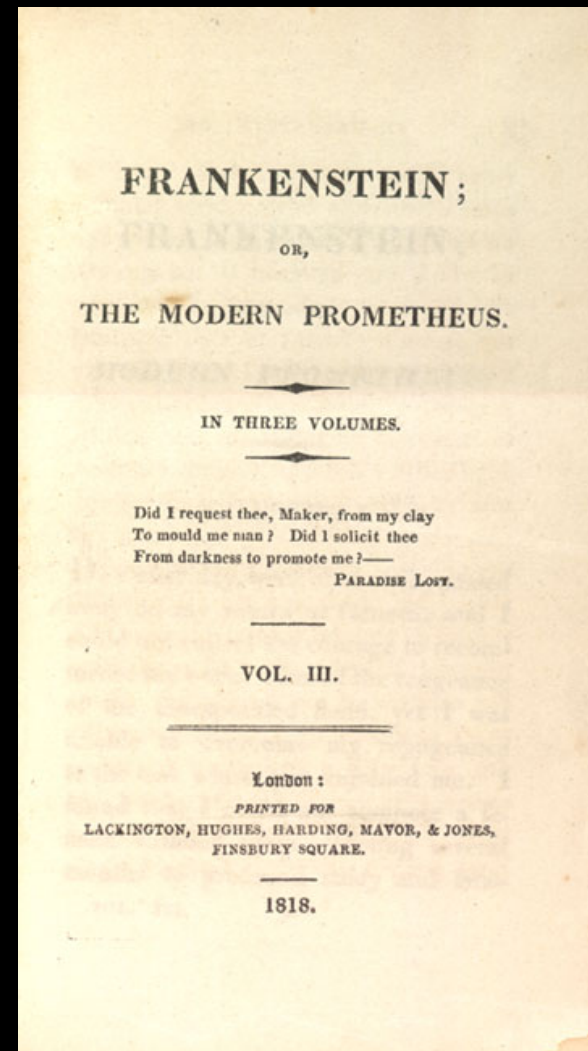
Life continued...

- Loss of two children of illness during stay in Italy in 1818
- Birth of another son in 1819; miscarriage in 1822
- Death of Percy Shelley in 1822
- Deep depression
- Returned to her father in 1823
- Died in 1851 from a mysterious paralysis...



Publication

- Conceived in summer 1816 in Switzerland
- Husband Percy edited it; took it to London
- Published in March 1818 anonymously
- Revised novel in 1823 after Percy's death
- Published in 1831 in "Colburn and Bentley's Standard Novel Series", this time with her name



Reception

“The deviant author was a Frankenstein and the novel a monster.”

- Range of reactions and sensations when first published

“Tissue of horrible and disgusting absurdity...embodied the strong and striking language of the insane.” – Murray’s Quarterly

- Used for satire

- By August of 1818, it seemed to be universally known and read



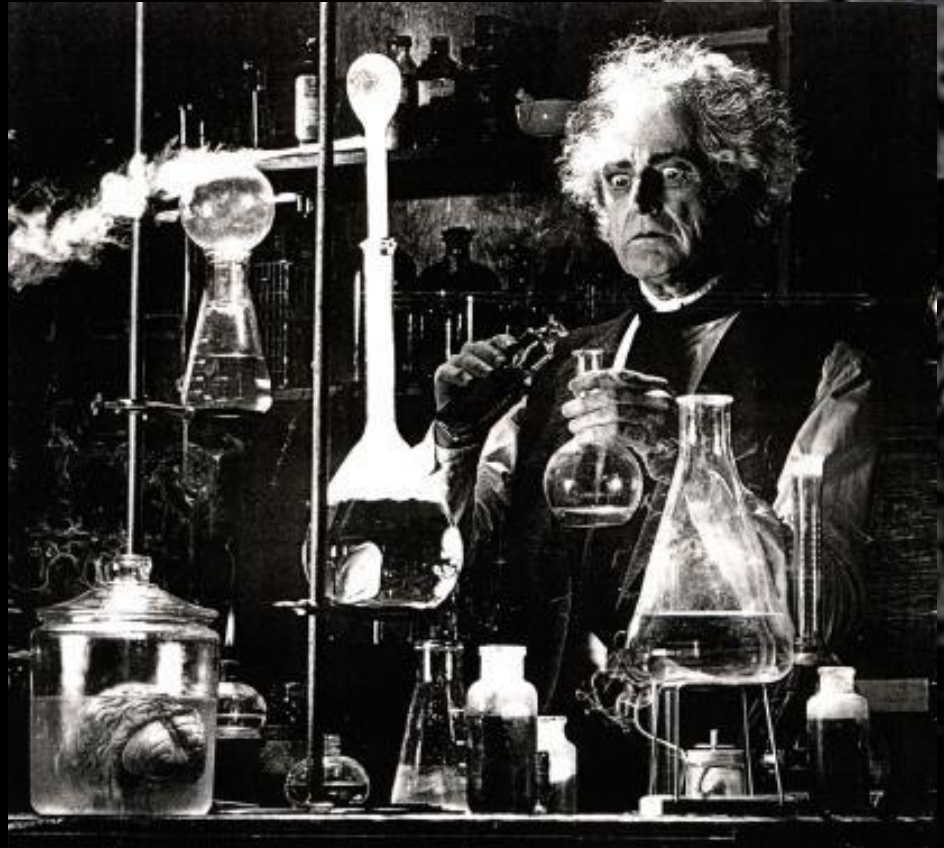
Characteristics



Woo!

Victor Frankenstein

- Main character
- The “original” mad scientist
- Plays god and rebels against the laws of nature
- “The Modern Prometheus”
- Theme of dangerous knowledge



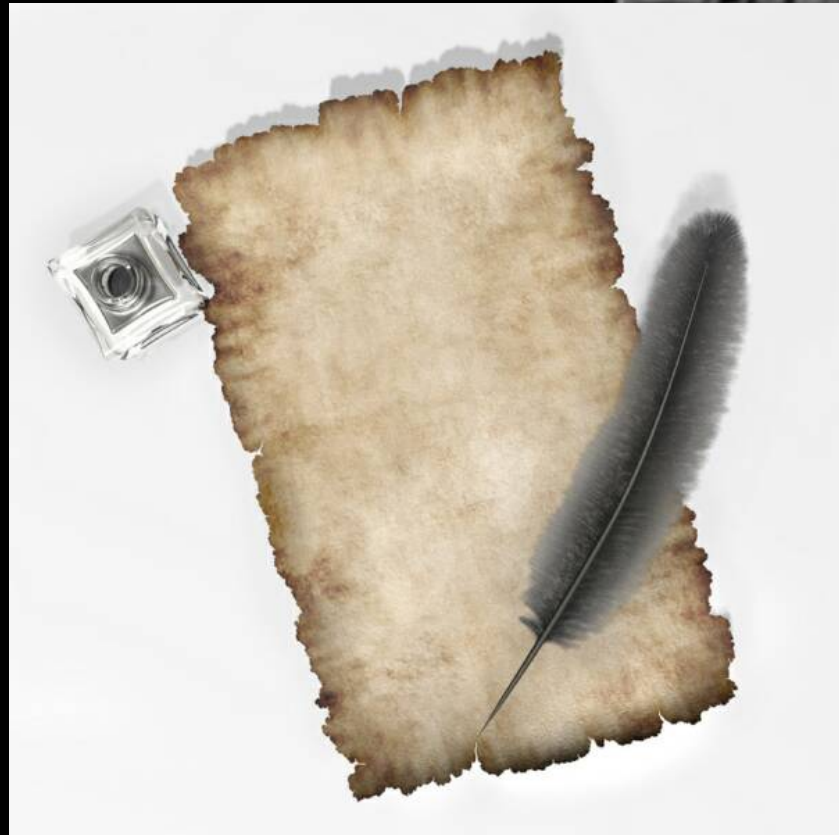
Frankenstein's Monster

- Compared to Adam from “The Bible”
- Nameless
- Gentle and sensitive by nature
- Intelligent and intellectual
- Treated cruelly and rejected by all from “birth”
 - ...’cause he’s ugly
- Possible reference to Shelley’s premature baby that died



Robert Walton

- Story is told through his letters to his sister
- Letters open and end the story
- Provides another perspective on the story, less attached
- Is an explorer like Victor, less educated



Watson doesn't get a photograph.

Elizabeth Lavenza

- Passive and patient
- Innocent, adored, and beautiful

Henry Clerval

- Opposite of Victor
- More of an interest in language
- Close childhood friend

Justine Moritz

- Servant
- Accepted into Frankenstein family

Alphonse Frankenstein

- Victor's father
- The ideal, good father
- Reminder of the importance of family

Structure

- Gothic novel
- “Listen to my tale...”
- Monster or Victim?



References to Frankenstein...

WOO!



70s and 80s Cheese

Young Frankenstein...

Telephone...



I would like,
if I may,
to take you
on a strange journey.



THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



Goldfrapp's "Lovely Head"

*It starts in my belly
Then up to my heart
Into my mouth, I can't keep it shut
Do you recognize, the smell
Is that how you tell us apart*

*I fool myself to sleep and dream
Nobody's here
No-one but me
So cool
You're hardly there
Why can't this, be killing you*

*Frankenstein would want your mind
Your lovely head
Your lovely head*

Your lovely head



[Lovely Head \(Live at Shepherd's
Bush Empire 03-12-01\)](#)

THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING!