

frankenstein or the modern prometheus

****Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus: Exploring Mary Shelley's Timeless Masterpiece****

frankenstein or the modern prometheus is more than just a classic novel; it's a profound exploration of ambition, creation, and the consequences of playing god. Written by Mary Shelley in 1818, this novel has captivated readers for over two centuries, inspiring countless adaptations and interpretations. But beyond the tale of a scientist and his monstrous creation lies a rich tapestry of themes and questions that remain strikingly relevant today.

The Origins of Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus

Mary Shelley conceived the idea for Frankenstein during the summer of 1816, famously known as the "Year Without a Summer" due to the volcanic eruption of Mount Tambora. Trapped indoors by incessant rain at Lord Byron's villa in Switzerland, Shelley and her companions challenged each other to write ghost stories. Out of this challenge emerged Frankenstein, a groundbreaking work that melded gothic horror with early science fiction.

The subtitle, **The Modern Prometheus**, is a deliberate allusion to the Greek myth of Prometheus, who defied the gods by stealing fire and giving it to humanity. Similarly, Victor Frankenstein defies natural limits by creating life, but like Prometheus, he faces dire consequences for his transgression. This mythological connection adds layers of meaning to the story, emphasizing themes of knowledge, power, and punishment.

Plot Overview: The Story Behind Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus

At its core, **Frankenstein** tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a brilliant but obsessed scientist who assembles and animates a creature from dead body parts. However, horrified by his own creation's grotesque appearance, Victor abandons the creature, setting off a tragic chain of events.

The creature, though monstrous in form, is initially gentle and longs for acceptance. Rejected by society and his creator, he becomes vengeful, leading to a cycle of misery and destruction. This narrative raises profound ethical questions about responsibility, creation, and the nature of humanity.

Key Characters and Their Roles

- **Victor Frankenstein:** The ambitious scientist whose quest for knowledge drives the story. His hubris and failure to take responsibility are central to the novel's tragedy.

- **The Creature:** Often mistakenly called Frankenstein, the creature embodies themes of alienation and the search for identity. His journey evokes sympathy despite his actions.
- **Elizabeth Lavenza:** Victor's fiancée, representing innocence and the human connections Victor neglects.
- **Robert Walton:** The Arctic explorer whose letters frame the novel, providing an outsider's perspective on Victor's tale.

The Themes That Make Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus Enduring

What keeps readers returning to *Frankenstein* is its rich thematic depth. The novel explores complex ideas that resonate across time and cultures.

Ambition and the Quest for Knowledge

Victor Frankenstein's relentless pursuit of scientific discovery highlights the double-edged nature of ambition. Shelley warns about the dangers of unchecked intellectual curiosity and the ethical responsibilities that come with creation. In a modern context, this theme sparks conversations about scientific advancements such as genetic engineering and artificial intelligence.

Isolation and Alienation

Both Victor and the creature experience profound loneliness. Victor isolates himself in his obsessive work, while the creature is shunned due to his appearance. This dual isolation underscores the human need for connection and the devastating effects of rejection.

Nature vs. Nurture

The creature's development raises questions about inherent nature versus environmental influence. Despite his monstrous form, he initially exhibits kindness, suggesting that society's cruelty shapes his violent behavior. This theme invites readers to consider how environment and social acceptance impact identity.

Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus in Popular Culture

The impact of *Frankenstein* extends far beyond literature. It has influenced films, theater, television, and even video games, becoming a cultural icon.

Film Adaptations and Interpretations

From the iconic 1931 Universal Pictures film starring Boris Karloff to contemporary reimaginings, the story of Frankenstein's monster has been adapted numerous times. Each adaptation brings new perspectives, often emphasizing horror or sympathy for the creature.

Influence on Science Fiction and Horror Genres

Mary Shelley's novel is often credited as one of the earliest works of science fiction. Its blend of gothic horror and scientific speculation paved the way for future classics exploring the ethical dilemmas of technological progress.

Insights Into Reading Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus Today

Reading *Frankenstein* in the 21st century offers fresh insights, especially in light of rapid scientific developments and ongoing debates about ethics.

Understanding the Ethical Implications

Shelley's narrative invites us to reflect on modern scientific frontiers such as cloning, artificial intelligence, and bioengineering. Victor's failure to care for his creation serves as a cautionary tale about the responsibilities scientists have toward their inventions.

Appreciating the Novel's Narrative Structure

The story's frame narrative—told through letters and multiple perspectives—adds complexity and depth. This structure encourages readers to question reliability and consider different viewpoints, enriching the reading experience.

Tips for Engaging With Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus

- Pay attention to the historical context of the early 19th century, including Romanticism and scientific discoveries of the era.
- Reflect on the symbolism behind characters and settings, such as the contrast between nature and science.
- Consider the novel's relevance to current ethical and societal issues.
- Balance your reading with critical essays or discussions to gain diverse

interpretations.

Why Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus Remains a Must-Read

The novel's enduring popularity stems from its ability to provoke thought and emotion. It challenges readers to confront uncomfortable questions about human ambition, the essence of life, and the consequences of isolation. Whether you encounter it as a gothic horror story or a philosophical inquiry, *Frankenstein* offers a rich and rewarding experience.

Its impact on literature and culture is undeniable, making it a cornerstone for anyone interested in the roots of science fiction, horror, and ethical storytelling. As technology continues to evolve, the questions Mary Shelley raised nearly two centuries ago feel more urgent than ever.

Exploring *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* opens the door to discussions about humanity's limits and the power—and peril—of creation. It's a journey that resonates across generations, inviting each new reader to grapple with the timeless interplay of genius, responsibility, and compassion.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus'?

The central theme of 'Frankenstein' is the dangerous pursuit of knowledge and the consequences of playing God, exploring themes of creation, responsibility, and isolation.

Who is the author of 'Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus'?

The novel was written by Mary Shelley and first published in 1818.

Why is 'Frankenstein' referred to as 'The Modern Prometheus'?

The subtitle 'The Modern Prometheus' refers to the Greek myth of Prometheus, who created mankind and gave them fire, symbolizing Victor Frankenstein's act of creating life and the resulting consequences.

What role does nature play in 'Frankenstein'?

Nature in 'Frankenstein' serves as a powerful force of healing and refuge for characters, contrasting with the unnatural act of creating life and highlighting the Romantic emphasis on the sublime in nature.

How does Victor Frankenstein's ambition lead to his downfall?

Victor's obsessive ambition to create life blinds him to the ethical implications and responsibilities, leading to tragic consequences including the suffering and death of his loved ones.

What is the significance of the Creature's perspective in the novel?

The Creature's perspective provides insight into themes of alienation, humanity, and the desire for acceptance, challenging readers to empathize with the 'monster' and question what makes someone truly human.

How does 'Frankenstein' explore the theme of isolation?

Both Victor and the Creature experience profound isolation—Victor through his secretive obsession and guilt, and the Creature through rejection and loneliness—underscoring the psychological effects of alienation.

In what ways does 'Frankenstein' reflect the concerns of the Romantic era?

The novel reflects Romantic concerns through its emphasis on emotion, nature, individualism, and the critique of industrial progress and rationalism, highlighting the tension between science and morality.

What is the significance of the frame narrative structure in 'Frankenstein'?

The frame narrative, told through letters from Walton and multiple perspectives, adds layers to the storytelling, creating a complex exploration of truth, reliability, and differing viewpoints.

How has 'Frankenstein' influenced modern science fiction and popular culture?

'Frankenstein' has profoundly influenced science fiction by introducing themes of artificial life and ethical science, inspiring countless adaptations, films, and discussions about technology and humanity.

Additional Resources

Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus: An Enduring Examination of Creation and Consequence

frankenstein or the modern prometheus stands as a seminal work in literary history, weaving together themes of ambition, science, and humanity into a narrative that continues to captivate readers and scholars alike. Authored by Mary Shelley and first published in 1818, this novel transcends its Gothic origins to prompt profound questions about the ethics of scientific

advancement, the nature of existence, and the repercussions of playing god. As a cornerstone of Romantic literature and early science fiction, *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus* remains critically relevant in discussions surrounding bioethics, artificial intelligence, and the limits of human knowledge.

Contextualizing Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus

In order to fully appreciate *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus*, it is essential to understand the historical and cultural background against which Mary Shelley crafted her narrative. Written during the early 19th century, a period marked by rapid scientific developments and philosophical debates, the novel captures contemporary anxieties about the consequences of unchecked technological progress. The subtitle "The Modern Prometheus" explicitly draws a parallel between Victor Frankenstein and the mythological figure Prometheus, who defied the gods to bestow fire upon humanity—an act symbolizing enlightenment but also punishment.

This mythological reference is not merely symbolic; it frames the novel's central theme of creation and the moral responsibility tied to it. Victor Frankenstein's quest to animate life from dead matter mirrors humanity's ongoing pursuit of power through science, and his tragic downfall serves as a cautionary tale about the hubris inherent in such endeavors.

The Narrative Structure and Its Impact

One distinctive feature of *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus* is its layered narrative structure. The story is told through multiple perspectives, primarily through the letters of Robert Walton and the first-person accounts of Victor Frankenstein and his creation. This epistolary format enriches the novel, providing diverse viewpoints that invite readers to grapple with complex ethical dilemmas from various angles.

This narrative technique also deepens the exploration of themes such as isolation, responsibility, and identity. Victor's obsessive ambition contrasts with Walton's exploratory curiosity, while the creature's evolving consciousness challenges readers to reconsider notions of monstrosity and humanity. By employing these multiple voices, Shelley avoids a simplistic portrayal of good versus evil, instead presenting a nuanced investigation into the consequences of scientific advancement.

Scientific and Ethical Dimensions

Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus is often heralded as one of the earliest works of science fiction, primarily because it centers on the scientific creation of life. Victor Frankenstein's experimentation and subsequent creation of the creature can be seen as a metaphor for the burgeoning fields of biology, chemistry, and galvanism during Shelley's time. The novel presciently anticipates future debates on genetic engineering, cloning, and artificial intelligence.

Ethical Implications of Creation

A critical aspect explored in *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus* is the moral responsibility of creators towards their creations. Victor's abandonment of the creature after giving it life results in catastrophic consequences, raising profound questions about accountability. This theme resonates with modern concerns about the ethical boundaries of scientific innovation, especially in fields like biotechnology and robotics.

- **Creator's Responsibility:** The novel suggests that the act of creation is inseparable from the duty of care and ethical consideration, a concept increasingly relevant in contemporary science.
- **Consequences of Neglect:** Victor's failure to nurture or guide his creation leads to suffering and violence, illustrating the dangers of irresponsibility.
- **Humanity in the Other:** The creature's tragic experiences force readers to confront the definition of humanity and the role of empathy in societal acceptance.

Science as a Double-Edged Sword

Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus does not outright condemn scientific progress but rather examines its ambivalent nature. Victor's scientific achievements demonstrate human ingenuity, yet his inability to foresee the ramifications of his actions underscores the necessity for ethical foresight. This duality is reflected in modern scientific discourse, where breakthroughs can both improve and endanger human life.

Literary Significance and Cultural Impact

Beyond its thematic richness, *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus* holds a significant place in literary history. It effectively bridges Romanticism's emphasis on emotion and individualism with nascent scientific rationalism, creating a complex narrative that defies easy classification.

Influence on Gothic and Science Fiction Genres

Mary Shelley's novel has indelibly shaped both Gothic literature and the science fiction genre. Its haunting atmosphere, exploration of forbidden knowledge, and tragic protagonist are hallmarks of Gothic storytelling. Simultaneously, its speculative premise about creating life through scientific means laid foundational groundwork for later science fiction narratives.

The novel's influence can be traced through countless adaptations across media, including film, theater, and graphic novels, each interpreting the story through contemporary lenses. This adaptability underscores the story's

universal themes and enduring appeal.

Exploration of Identity and Alienation

At its core, *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus* is a profound investigation into identity and alienation. The creature's journey from innocence to vengefulness reflects the human need for companionship and acceptance. His eloquent self-reflection and yearning for understanding challenge readers to empathize with the so-called monster, revealing societal prejudices about appearance and difference.

This exploration is especially relevant in modern discourse on social exclusion and the psychological effects of isolation, making the novel a timeless study of marginalized identities.

Contemporary Relevance

In the 21st century, *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus* remains strikingly relevant. As humanity grapples with rapid advancements in artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, and synthetic biology, Shelley's cautionary tale serves as a powerful reminder of the ethical complexities involved.

Modern scholars and ethicists often reference the novel when debating:

1. The limits of scientific experimentation.
2. The moral duties owed to sentient creations or enhancements.
3. The societal implications of technological innovation without adequate oversight.

Moreover, the novel's interrogation of what it means to be human encourages ongoing reflection as technology blurs the lines between organic life and artificial constructs.

In essence, *Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus* invites readers and scientists alike to consider not only what can be done but also what should be done in the pursuit of knowledge and creation. Its legacy endures as both a literary masterpiece and a profound ethical inquiry into the human condition.

Frankenstein Or The Modern Prometheus

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frankenstein or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein, Or, The Modern Prometheus : with Connections Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 1999 The California edition of the Pennyroyal Press Frankenstein unites the dark side of Barry Moser's art with the classic 1818 text of Mary Shelley's tale of moral transfiguration. In a vivid sequence of woodcuts, the reader witnesses the birth of the monster as Moser shapes him from darkness and gives him a form simultaneously ghastly in its malice and transfixing in its suffering.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein, Or, The Modern Prometheus Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 2008 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 or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein: (or the Modern Prometheus) Mary Shelley, 2019-02-21 Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. A classic. When Victor Frankenstein creates his Daemon, his life is then haunted by the creature, a killer, whom Frankenstein himself is guilty of unleashing. Or is he? With a new foreword by Sofie Couch, there may be more to Victor Frankenstein's monster than readers remember from their school days.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein - The Modern Prometheus Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 2015 Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus, is a novel written by English author Mary Shelley about eccentric scientist Victor Frankenstein, who creates a grotesque creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. Frankenstein is infused with elements of the Gothic novel and the Romantic movement and is also considered to be one of the earliest examples of science fiction. Frankenstein, a Swiss student at the university of Ingolstadt, is led by a peculiar enthusiasm to study the structure of the human frame, and to attempt to follow to its recondite sources the stream of animated being.' In examining the causes of life, he informs us, antithetically, that he had first recourse to death. -- He became acquainted with anatomy; but that was not all; he traced through vaults and charnel houses the decay and corruption of the human body, and whilst engaged in this agreeable pursuit, examining and analyzing the minutiae of mortality, and the phenomena of the change from life to death and from death to life, a sudden light broke in upon him

...

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: *Frankenstein; Or, The Modern Prometheus (Illustrated)* Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 2022-06-29 This illustrated edition of Frankenstein; Or, The Modern Prometheus includes: Illustrations of objects and places mentioned in the novel. 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.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: *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 or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein; Or, the Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley the Latest Annotated Edition Mary Shelley, 2020-06-13 Mary Shelley began writing Frankenstein 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.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: FRANKENSTEIN; OR, THE MODERN PROMETHEUS. by Mary Wollstonecraft (Godwin) Shelley Mary Shelley, 2021-10-08 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Godwin) (30 August 1797 - 1 February 1851) was an English novelist who wrote the Gothic novel Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus (1818), which is considered an early example of science fiction. 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 activist Mary Wollstonecraft. Shelley's mother died less than a month after giving birth to her. She was raised by her father, who provided her with a rich if informal education, encouraging her to adhere to his own anarchist political theories. When she was four, her father married a neighbor, Mary Jane Clairmont, with whom Shelley came to have a troubled relationship. In 1814, Shelley began a romance with one of her father's political followers, Percy Bysshe Shelley, who was already married. Together with her stepsister, Claire Clairmont, she and Percy left for France and travelled through Europe. Upon their return to England, Shelley was pregnant with Percy's child. Over the next two years, she and Percy faced ostracism, constant debt and the death of their prematurely born daughter. They married in late 1816, after the suicide of Percy Shelley's first wife, Harriet. In 1816, the couple and her stepsister famously spent a summer with Lord Byron and John William Polidori near Geneva, Switzerland, where Shelley conceived the idea for her novel Frankenstein. The Shelleys left Britain in 1818 for Italy, where their second and third children died before Shelley gave birth to her last and only surviving child, Percy Florence Shelley. In 1822, her husband drowned when his sailing boat sank during a storm near Viareggio. A year later, Shelley returned to England and from then on devoted herself to the upbringing of her son and a career as a professional author. The last decade of her life was dogged by illness, most likely caused by the brain tumor which killed her at age 53. Until the 1970s, Shelley was known mainly for her efforts to publish her husband's works and for her novel Frankenstein, which remains widely read and has inspired many theatrical and film adaptations. Recent scholarship has yielded a more comprehensive view of Shelley's achievements. Scholars have shown increasing interest in her literary output, particularly in her novels, which include the historical novels Valperga (1823) and Perkin Warbeck (1830), the apocalyptic novel The Last Man (1826) and her final two novels, Lodore (1835) and Falkner (1837). Studies of her lesser-known works, such as the travel book Rambles in Germany and Italy (1844) and the biographical articles for Dionysius Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia (1829-1846), support the growing view that Shelley remained a political radical throughout her life. Shelley's works often argue that cooperation and sympathy, particularly as practiced by women in the family, were the ways to reform civil society. This view was a direct challenge to the individualistic Romantic ethos promoted by Percy Shelley and the Enlightenment political theories articulated by her father, William Godwin.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein Mary Shelly, 2025-03-14 In Mary Shelley's seminal work, Frankenstein, embark on a journey into the depths of human ambition and its catastrophic consequences. The story begins with Captain Walton's letters to his sister, recounting his voyage to the Arctic and his encounter with the enigmatic Victor Frankenstein. As Victor shares his tale, we learn of his relentless pursuit of knowledge and his fervent desire to

unlock the secrets of life itself. Driven by hubris, Victor defies the laws of nature and creates a grotesque being from stolen body parts. But his creation, the Creature, is not the obedient servant he envisioned. Instead, it is a tortured soul, rejected by its creator and society alike. As the Creature seeks acceptance and understanding, Victor is consumed by guilt and horror at what he has unleashed upon the world. Their intertwined fates lead to a tragic confrontation that will forever alter the course of their lives. *Frankenstein* is a timeless tale that explores themes of scientific hubris, the nature of humanity, and the consequences of unchecked ambition. With its gripping narrative and profound philosophical insights, Shelley's masterpiece continues to captivate readers and inspire thought-provoking discussions about the moral responsibilities of creation and the essence of being human. Venture into the dark recesses of the human psyche and discover the chilling tale of *Frankenstein*.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: *Frankenstein* Mary Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft, 2018-01-12 Victor Frankenstein is just a college student who wants to figure out the technical details of how life works. And then things all go wrong. Read a Gothic horror classic easily with this modern English translation. But don't worry about missing anything, because the original unedited 1831 version is here too, along with a scholarly essay.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: *Frankenstein* Mary Shelley, 2018-08-08 Intelligent and articulate, the Creature relates his first days of life, living alone in the wilderness and finding that people were afraid of and hated him due to his appearance, which led him to fear and hide from them. While living in an abandoned structure connected to a cottage, he grew fond of the poor family living there, and discreetly collected firewood for them. Secretly living among the family for months, the Creature learned to speak by listening to them and he taught himself to read after discovering a lost satchel of books in the woods. When he saw his reflection in a pool, he realized his physical appearance was hideous, and it terrified him as it terrifies normal humans. Nevertheless, he approached the family in hopes of becoming their friend. Initially he was able to befriend the blind father figure of the family, but the rest of them were frightened and they all fled their home, resulting in the Creature leaving, disappointed. He traveled to Victor's family estate using details from Victor's journal, murdered William, and framed Justine. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley 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).

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: *Frankenstein* Mary Shelley, 2020-09-19 *Frankenstein* is a novel infused with some elements of the Gothic novel and the Romantic movement. It was also a warning against the over-reaching of modern man and the Industrial Revolution, alluded to in the novel's subtitle, *The Modern Prometheus*. The story has had an influence across literature and popular culture and spawned a complete genre of horror stories and films. It is arguably considered the first fully realized science fiction novel.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: *Frankenstein* Mary Shelley, 2023-01-06 *Frankenstein or, The Modern Prometheus*, written by English author Mary Shelley, tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment. As the first true science-fiction story, infused with elements of the Gothic novel and the Romantic movement, it has spawned a complete genre of horror stories, films, and plays.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: *Frankenstein, Or, The Modern Prometheus* Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, 1990 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. From the Paperback edition.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: *Frankenstein; Or, the Modern Prometheus* Mary Shelley, 2018-11-09 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley 30 August 1797 - 1 February 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.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein Or The Modern Prometheus Waqas Ajwad, Mary Shelley, 2021-04-11 The world's most famous monster comes to life in this 1818 novel, a compelling narrative that combines Gothic romance and science fiction to tell of an ambitious young doctor's attempts to breathe life into an artificial man. Despite the doctor's best intentions, the experiment goes horribly wrong in a timeless tale about the hazards of playing creator. Mary Shelley began writing *Frankenstein* 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. A masterpiece. -Phillip Pullman One of the most original and complete productions of the day. -Percy Bysshe Shelley The greatest paradox and most astonishing achievement of Mary Shelley's novel is that the monster is more human than his creator. This nameless being, as much a modern Adam as his creator is a modern Prometheus, is more lovable than his creator and more hateful, more to be pitied and more to be feared, and above all able to give the attentive reader that shock of added consciousness in which aesthetic recognition compels a heightened realization of self. -Harold Bloom

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein; Or, the Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley (Annotated Edition) Mary Shelley, 2020-04-14 *Frankenstein* Mary Shelley began writing *Frankenstein* 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.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: Mary Shelley, Frankenstein Mary Shelley, 2018-07-31 In a series of letters, Robert Walton, the captain of a ship bound for the North Pole, recounts to his sister back in England the progress of his dangerous mission. Successful early on, the mission is soon interrupted by seas full of impassable ice. Trapped, Walton encounters Victor

Frankenstein, who has been traveling by dog-drawn sledge across the ice and is weakened by the cold. Walton takes him aboard ship, helps nurse him back to health, and hears the fantastic tale of the monster that Frankenstein created.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein Or, The Modern Prometheus

Mary Shelley, 2021-03-14 On a dark and stormy night, a group of friends was staying at a manor in Switzerland. The year is 1816, and the group consists of famous authors of the time, including Lord Byron, John William Polidori, and his girlfriend, Clair Claremont, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and his wife, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley. Lord Byron came up with an idea to pass the time. They would each write a ghost story. Of the group, only two ever made it to publication. The first was a short story by Polidori that introduced a famous literary genre, the vampire as an aristocratic seducer. And, the second was a masterpiece by Shelly's eighteen-year-old wife, Mary, Frankenstein, or, the Modern Prometheus. The story is about a man who decides to create a monster. Victor Frankenstein is a genius in the natural sciences. Through his research, he discovers that electricity can reanimate dead creatures. He becomes obsessed with the idea, and puts a man together, then on a dark and stormy night, he harnesses the lightning to bring his creation to life. Immediately, Victor is horrified by his creation and runs. When the monster begins to comprehend the world, he also runs. Victor spends the story ill and terrified. The monster spends the story confused than angry. Victor wants to forget his creation, to ignore him. The monster will not let him. When the monster gains the knowledge of his abominable creation, he goes after his creator, for revenge. He becomes the monster he resembles. The monster murders everyone Victor loves. The story ends with the death of the monster and his creator. Because of the fact that the monster in the story is created as a result of scientific work, Mary Shelley's story is considered one of the first sci-fi stories in the world's literature.

frankenstein or the modern prometheus: Frankenstein; Or, the Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley the Annotated Classic Edition Mary Shelley, 2020-10-14 Mary Shelley began writing Frankenstein 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.

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