

THE FRANKENSTEIN PROJECT

by

Kirsten Brandt

A modern riff on Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

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The Frankenstein Project received a workshop production at Sledgehammer Theatre in February 1999 and was subsequently performance at the Network of Ensemble Theatres Conference, San Francisco in September 2000. *The Frankenstein Project (version 2.0)*, an updated version of the original, premiered at Sledgehammer Theatre in October of 2005 and was funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

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DIRECT: kikibrandt@mac.com

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Suggested Casting: 4 women, 3 men

Woman 1 plays MARY SHELLEY

Woman 2 plays MARY FRANKENSTEIN

Woman 3 plays MARY, THE CREATION

Woman 4 plays MOTHER OF MARY, JOAN, SISTER MARY BERNICE, DR. MARTINEZ, STUDENTS, DR. GAIL, STORMY MOUNTIAN, and DANCER

Man 1 plays VICTOR LAVENZA, THE BIO-TECH

Man 2 plays DR. BLANCHARD, HENRY CLERVAL, SMITH

Man 3 plays BRYCE, MINISTER, WILLIAM LAVENZA, STEEL CHAIN and PERCY SHELLEY.

Man 2 and Man 3 can shift roles if need be. A chorus of seven women can play women that make up the Creation.

The play runs 85-90 minutes with no intermission.

The scenes should run seamlessly into on another with no stops for transition.

The time is the present. The place is San Diego. *The author is open to location changes, as long as the University has a prominent (graduate level) bio-tech program.*

Mary Shelley exists in her time and now. Occasionally she is pregnant and occasionally she is not. Her text is taken from her letters, her journals, Milton's *Paradise Lost*, her introduction to the book *Frankenstein* and various Alchemical riddles.

Pre-Show Sound: Voice over of Mary Shelley's text from the introduction of *Frankenstein*. **MARY SHELLEY** is on stage sleepwalking. She is in the last stages of pregnancy. Her clothes are soiled and she carries a candle.

(VIDEO TEXT: PROLOGUE)

Sound of wind, then a storm. A bolt of lightning blinds the the theatre.

MARY SHELLEY. Starts as if being jolted out of a terrifying dream.

Video: pages of MS text

MARY SHELLEY
Several motives induce me,
when the day has gone down,
and all is silent around me,
steeped in sleep
to pen as occasion wills,
my reflections and feelings.

I am alone.
The stars may behold my tears
and the winds drink my sighs;
but my thoughts
are a sealed treasure
which I can confide to none.

I had a dream tonight
of the dead being alive
which has affected
my present spirit.

My mother died.
My mother.
My mother.
My mother.
It was my birth.
It was my beginning.
She left me alone.

Such is the Alpha
and Omega of my tale.

FRANKENSTEIN
What have I done?

The sound of glaciers calving. Perhaps video.

Mary Shelley turns and waits for what seems to be a long time.

(VIDEO TEXT: PART I: CHILDHOOD THE SENSORIMOTOR PERIOD TO THE PERIOD OF FORMAL OPERATIONS. Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development).
VIDEO: Maps of the mind. Movements.

**(VIDEO TEXT: The Arctic
A Place to View the World//Frankenstein's Confession)**

*The Arctic. A place where the earth doesn't move. **Mary Frankenstein** sits. Her body is fatigued, but her mind blazes as if touched. It is freezing. She works through the pain of hypothermia.*

VIDEO: FRANKENSTEIN. She is holding the camera herself. She is a mess. Only bold text is decipherable on video, the rest is distorted.

FRANKENSTEIN

Listen to my history,
and you will perceive
how irrevocably
it is determined.

FRANKENSTEIN

No human being
could have passed a happier
childhood
than myself.
My mother was
possessed
by the very spirit of
kindness and indulgence.
My mother,
was not a tyrant to rule our lot according to her caprice,
but the agent and
creator
of all the many delights which we enjoyed.
I was her plaything
and her idol,
and something better-
her child,
the innocent and helpless creature
bestowed on her by heaven,
whom to bring up to good,
and whose future lot it was in her
hands

MARY SHELLEY

One beginning.

No human being
could have passed a happier
childhood
than myself.

to direct happiness or misery,
according as she fulfilled her
duties
towards
me.

FRANKENSTEIN
What have I done?

With **this deep consciousness**
of what she owed towards
the being to which she had given life
every moment
of my infant life
I received a lesson
of patience,
of charity,
and of **self-control**,
all seemed but one train of enjoyment to me.

VIDEO ONLY: FRANKENSTEIN
What have I done?

MARY SHELLEY
But I am alone

MARY SHELLEY
A week
My mother died.
A week after my birth.
A week
My daughter died.
A week after her birth.

(VIDEO TEXT: San Diego
A Place in the Sun//The Creation's Defense)

Mary, the Creation stands. She wears sun glasses and vapes. It is warm but her words are like ice.

CREATION
Listen.
Please.

CREATION
It is with considerable difficulty
that I remember the original
era of my being;
all the events of that period
appear confused and indistinct.
A strange multiplicity

MARY SHELLEY
Begin.

It is with considerable difficulty
that I remember the original
era of my being;

of sensations seized me,
and I saw,
felt,
heard,
and smelt
at the same,
at the same
at the same
at the same time,

MARY SHELLEY
the same

The same time

MARY SHELLEY
I never knew them.

CREATION
and it was,
indeed a long time
before I learned to distinguish
between the operations of my various senses.

MARY SHELLEY
I never knew her.

FRANKENSTEIN
**The world to me was a secret
which I desired to divine.**
Curiosity,
earnest research to learn the hidden laws of nature,
gladness akin to rapture
as they were unfolded to me,
are among the earliest sensations
I remember

I remember

CREATION
I remember,
I remember,
a stronger light pressed upon my nerves,
The light became **more and more oppressive to me,**
and the heat wearying me as I walked,
I sought a place where I could receive shade
and then lying down,
was over come by sleep.
I dreamed.

I remember,

FRANKENSTEIN
I dreamed

MARY SHELLEY
I dreamed
my little baby
came to life
again;
it had only been
cold
and we rubbed it
before the fire,
it
lived.
I awoke.

It was dark when
I awoke

I awoke

I felt cold also,
and half frightened,

cold

cold

cold

instinctively finding myself so desolate.
I was a poor,
helpless,
miserable wretch;
I knew,
and could distinguish,
nothing;
but feeling pain invade me on all sides.

FRANKENSTEIN
I am a poor
helpless,
miserable wretch ,

MARY SHELLEY
Nothing.

MARY SHELLEY
I awoke
and found
no baby.

CREATION
I sat down and wept.

MARY SHELLEY
I sat down and wept.

VIDEO TEXT: Mother of Mary

VIDEO IMAGE: inside an MRI/IV dripping fluid/Hospital room.

*Silhouetted image of **MOTHER OF MARY**. It is years earlier for **FRANKENSTEIN**.*

MOTHER OF MARY
I used to dream I would
be this skinny.

FRANKENSTEIN
Mom, did you –

MOTHER OF MARY
Have you ever seen me this skinny?
You thought all those other things would kill me
Xiushentang, PhenPhen, Meridia, Clenbuteral, that Brazilian Diet Pill, Qnexa
You thought vanity would be my undoing.
You thought -

FRANKENSTEIN
What did your doctor say—

MOTHER OF MARY

Nothing to be done.

FRANKENSTEIN

That's ridiculous there is always
something –

MOTHER OF MARY

There's nothing.
It's my time.

It would be nice to go home,
Do you think they'll let me just
go home.
I don't want to be here
alone.

FRANKENSTEIN

There's new research being done
at the Institute –

MOTHER OF MARY

Research –
it's too late for that.

FRANKENSTEIN (*overlapping*)

Research - On a cellular level
it can help eradicate the cancer.
And it's not too late, if you would just let me help–

MOTHER OF MARY (*continuing*)

Research. (*she laughs*)
It is my time
Mary.
My time.

FRANKENSTEIN

But it doesn't have to be.
If you just wait to do the –

MOTHER OF MARY

I will not go through another
“procedure”
I will not be prodded and
picked with millions of needles

I will not endure any more pain.
I will not be a guinea pig for anyone's experiments.
I accept my fate.

And I look fabulous. So now is the time to go.
Beautiful, young
Thin and ...

FRANKENSTEIN
You don't have to.

MOTHER OF MARY
I have
looked death in the face
and did not fear it.

I go on to no new creation –
I have a passive satisfaction in death.

Frankenstein goes back to the Arctic.

FRANKENSTEIN
Then,
My mother died.
She died calmly
(and her countenance expressed affection even in death).
And I was alone.

VIDEO: FRANKENSTEIN DIES
The Creation howls.

CREATION
She is cold and
cannot answer me.
And I was alone

MARY SHELLEY
Twice in my life
I have believed myself to be dying.
And my soul being alive
though the bodily functions were
faint and perishing I have had the
opportunity to
look death in the face
and did not fear it.
Far from it...

I enter under no new laws.
I have a passive satisfaction in death.

MARY SHELLEY
My mother died.
My mother
My mother
My mother (repeats)

And I was alone.

**(VIDEO TEXT:
PART II: EDUCATION
THE SEARCH FOR THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE)**

Music, eerie organ suggesting the Haunted House at Disneyland. The Funeral of Frankenstein's mother. Frankenstein, Victor and Henry are in attendance. Mary Shelley watches from above. Throughout the service, Frankenstein reaches for the open grave.

MARY SHELLEY
My mother didn't believe in God.

(VIDEO TEXT: Time reverses)

VIDEO: MINISTER spliced with images of crucifixes, hands holding rosaries, tombstones, funeral wreaths, etc.)

MINISTER

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life
he that believeth in me, though he were dead,
yet shall he live;
and whosoever liveth and believeth in
me shall never die."
Jesus heard the news of Lazarus' illness too late.
Lazarus,
brother of Mary,
had died.
Urged by his own grief, as well as that of Mary,
Jesus commanded them to roll away the stone from
the mouth of the tomb of Lazarus.
We know that there were doubters and disbelievers
assembled there that day,
for John tells us that Martha,
the sister of Mary,
spoke in fear at the mouth of the tomb, saying
"lord, by this time he stinketh,
for he hath been dead four days."
In her fear of death,
she would have kept the tomb sealed up.
But Jesus merely uttered the words,
"Lazarus come forth"

VICTOR
Jesus Christ.
.

(VIDEO TEXT: Lazarus was raised from the dead)

and John, the witness to the miracle, tells us
"he that was dead came forth,
bound hand and foot with graveclothes;
and his face was bound about with a veil of death
And the people were amazed, saying
"Only God can raise the dead."
And indeed,

only God can.
There is only one way to eternal life,
there is only one way from the tomb.
We must rest in that belief.
we must rest in the assurance that the resurrection
and the life
lies in faith
in the works of God,
and not in the works of Man.

The funeral ends. All exit except Frankenstein. She is alone.

MARY SHELLEY
It is better to grieve than
not to grieve.
Grief at least tells me that
I was not always as I am
now.

FRANKENSTEIN
I had a dream last night
of the dead being alive
which has affected my present spirit.

I had a dream tonight
I had a dream last night
of the dead being alive
which has affected my present spirit.

Sister Mary Bernice appears. She looks at the audience.

SISTER MARY BERNICE
Kierkegaard said, "An Unconscious relationship is more powerful than a conscious one"

VIDEO: Alchemical symbols, esoteric dream symbols, the tower card in tarot.

FRANKENSTEIN
Seven years ago,
I dreamed of an
alabaster tower
with no beginning and no end to its construction.
Water like the sun running through its halls.

I dreamed
that beyond the tower walls were
twelve gates
guarded by a serpent eating its own tail.

I dreamed
clouds of sulfur soaked in Mercury
cloaked a narrow door
with three keyholes.

I dreamed
of a scarab
with the seal used to unlock the door
scurrying from me.

Three years ago
I dreamed
I looked through the first keyhole and saw
a Hierophant chanting over an extinguished fire.
I looked through the second keyhole and saw
a Phoenix sitting on its nest of flames
and unnoticed in the middle of the room
the hermaphrodite child of
the sun and the moon
holding the earth.
I looked through the final keyhole and saw
my mother in her hospital bed.
She awoke and removed all the tubes
connecting her body to artificial life.

Last night
I dreamed
she lived, she laughed, she called out my name
and came towards the door.

I awoke.

I will dream tonight
of the dead being alive.

VIDEO TEXT: Science and Religion

VIDEO: SMITH

SMITH

“The most beautiful and most profound experience
is the sensation of the mystical.
It is the sower of all true science.
He to whom this emotion is a stranger,
who can no longer wonder and stand rapt in awe,
is as good as dead.
To know that what is impenetrable to us really exists,
manifesting itself as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty which our dull faculties can
comprehend only in their primitive forms –

this knowledge, this feeling is at the center of true religiousness.”

-Albert Einstein

(VIDEO TEXT: Time Reverses)

Video: A street corner in front of a boutique.

*Time reverses for **The Creation**: it is one day after her birth. She is on a street in front of a high-end boutique. Loud music/static/or a cacophony of sounds (the suggestion of her information overload) drown out her screams. She is covered in the methods of her birth. People walk by and quickly avoid her. Eventually, **Joan** comes out of her shop.*

JOAN

You can't be here.

Excuse me, but
you can't be here.

I'm trying to run a business
and you're scaring away the
customers.

If you don't get a move on
I'll call the police.

Do you hear me?
I'm going to call the police.

She moves a bit closer to get a better look. The Creation stops screaming.

My God.
Oh, my God.
what in the-
Oh God.
What happened to you?
Oh honey.

She moves closer and The Creation starts screaming again.

I'll call the police -

She dials 911 on her cell phone moves back to maintain a safe distance from the Creation. The Creation attempts to stand, only to lose her balance. She ends up in the fetal position.

911 VOICE OVER
911, Please hold.

JOAN

It's okay.
Just calm down.
I'm getting help.
Jesus.
Who did this to you?

CREATION
Mamamamamama

JOAN
What?
Do you want your mother?
Calm down.

Please stop screaming.
I'm on hold my dear-
I'm getting help-
God -
You're in shock -
It'll be okay
Really.
You're gonna be just fine.

(VIDEO text: YOU'VE GOT MAIL)

Henry writes his one-man show, Victor tries to build a family, and Frankenstein gains insight. They e-mail each other.

VICTOR
Dear Mary,
You came home so late last night
and
left so early this morning
I didn't get a chance to tell you
the good news.
I found a house.
It is fantastic.
Victorian
Bankers Hill
just under a million
what a steal!
They are asking 1.5
But I said "Come on, there's a crack in the slab" Please, some people.
I know I can get them down to a million.
It's very convenient
15 minutes from everything. Okay - 25 minutes to the Institute, but you'll love it.
I just need you to take a minute to come and look at it.
I walked in and thought -

this is us.
Me
you
a Family.
There is a room for William downstairs.
He likes it.
The previous owners had the attic
sound-proofed.
perfect for a home office.
or bedroom.
Let me know when
I can kidnap you to see it.
I want to get an offer in soon.
I love you.
Victor
P.S. Dinner?
PPSS The cell phone only works if you turn it on.
Triple P triple S: Don't forget I've got a board meeting thing tomorrow night
Thanks for taking care of William. I know it's not convenient. Just let him play on his DS. It's
Wednesday and he'll want pizza.

HENRY
Hey M & V -
Mary, - how are you?
I looked at my calendar
And remembered what today is.
7 years.
We all miss her
She was like a mom to me too.
"Grace was in all her steps, heaven in her eye
In every gesture dignity and love" (book viii, line 488)

She wouldn't want you to sequester yourself in your office
like a hermit.
Please come out.
It can't do you any good to just
study.
You need to be around people!
Come out and play.

My solo performance piece
is playing Thursday through Sunday
this week only at 8pm
7 on Sunday
Can you guys come? I can get you some comps
It's at this coffee shop downtown.
Yes, the same one as last time.
William can come too.

It's been consuming most of my time.
How do you take Milton's *Paradise Lost*
-something everyone and their mother knows-
and condense it to 90 minutes?
The die-hards are just going to be pissed.
And I'm going to have to deal with the
"why did you use that and not this"
questions for the first
ten minutes of the talk backs
followed by why my interpretation of Satan is
wrong.
If I need to defend my stance on the nature of evil.
It would be nice to have some friendly faces there.
Hint hint.

New place sounds cool.
I'll be thinking of you.
-Henry

FRANKENSTEIN

Hey guys –
See Below
Honey, the house sounds great.
I'm sure its perfect,
I trust you.
Do what you think it best.
Sorry,
can't even attempt to make dinner tonight.
But you two should take William out and try that new Brazillian restaurant.
Save me a piece of whatever -

Sorry I haven't been home much.
Henry, FYI - I got the teaching assignment I wanted
with that bio-technician.
You know, the one that keeps getting those private grants.
He's keeping me busy.
It's the price you pay to become a
Doctor.
Thanks for your thoughts about Mom.
This time of year is hard.
I'm doing better.
I promise to come out and play soon.

Later my dears,
MF

Video Text in script (to run over Frankenstein's e-mail).

I love you both
But please leave me alone

I have work to do
Lots of work
Work that you can't possibly comprehend
Work that can change the way we
all view our
own existence
It's important
It's monumental
So please
Leave me alone
Let me do my work

MARY SHELLEY

I shudder with horror
when I look on what I have
suffered
and when I think of the
wild and miserable thoughts
that have possessed me
I say to myself
"Is it true that I ever felt thus?"

And then I weep in pity of myself
yet each day adds to the stock of sorrow
and death is the only end.

Yet I shall be happy
if any thing I ever produce may exalt
and soften sorrow,
as the writings of the divinities of
our race have mine.

But how can I aspire to that?

Frankenstein baby-sits William. He is a holy terror. Victor comes home and Mary thwarts his attempts at romance.

(VIDEO text: Examinations always take longer than one expects)

The Creation has been examined. She seems sedated. Joan's on her cell phone.

JOAN

What the hell was I supposed to do?
I'm earning some serious karma points on this one.

DR. BLANCHARD (*entering*)

Obviously
repeatedly
raped and
raped and
raped.
She's lucky to be alive.
Her bruising
is strange.

JOAN

Isn't that normal in her profession?
Isn't she a –

DR. BLANCHARD

Normally I would say yes
But this is –

She's lucky to be alive.

JOAN

Well, I don't know about those things,
But nothing surprises me anymore
Don't you watch Law and Order SVU?

DR. BLANCHARD

She's had many surgeries too.
CAT scan revealed no
no brain damage.
MRI
normal.
SPECT scan and rCBF
normal.
PET scan
normal.
But her blood panel shows a recent dose
of cyclosporine and prednisone
an anti-rejection cocktail.
She must be a transplant recipient.
Although I can't identify which organ.

All I can say is.
She is lucky to be alive.

JOAN
She is lucky to be alive.
Yes, you said.

DR. BLANCHARD
She will probably need
major psychiatric help.

JOAN
I'm sure she will.

DR. BLANCHARD
She will probably need
major psychiatric help.

JOAN
I'll call you back.
What do you want me to do about it?
Look-
I was just helping her.

FRANKENSTEIN

DR. BLANCHARD
Good. She needs help.
No ID. She has no place to go.
No family.
Nothing.

JOAN
Well,
I can't.
I was just helping out
you know.
Really, I would like to.
I really really would.
But, I can't.
You know how it is.
I've got my own
shit to deal with.
Doesn't the government take care of people
like her?

I can't

I can't
You know how it is.

DR. BLANCHARD
Who's going to pay for her to stay here?

JOAN

Doesn't the government take care of people like her.

DR. BLANCHARD
But-

JOAN
Look-

I really have to be going.
You know.
Sorry.

FRANKENSTEIN

Sorry.

Dr. Blanchard looks at the Creation.

DR. BLANCHARD
Guess we're stuck with you.
It's not so bad living downstairs.

Frankenstein takes advanced anatomy.

(VIDEO TEXT: A body is a body is a body....)

The students watch from above. Dr. Blanchard likes his work a little too much.

MARY SHELLEY
To examine the causes of life
we must first have recourse with
death.

DR. BLANCHARD
Always be a donor.
It helps make the world a healthier place.
And stops us doctors from grave robbing.
Hee hee.

Crickets – no one laughs.

VIDEO: symbols of each religion

DR. BLANCHARD
All the world religions approve of organ donation;
AME & AME Zion, the Amish, the Assembly of God folks, Baptists, the Brethren, the
Buddhists, the Catholics, the Christian Church, even the Christian Science, the Episcopal,
Gamers, the Greek orthodox, Hindus, the Independent Conservative Evangelical, the religion of
Islam. Jehovah's Witnesses, Jews, Lutherans, Mennonites, Moravians the Mormons, the
Pentecostals, Presbyterians, Protestants, even the Quakers, Roman, Seventh-Day Adventists, the
Shinto, The Unitarians, United Church of Christ and the united Methodists.

All agree.
These bodies were donated,
or John and Jane Does.
Unclaimed.
Prostitutes, drug addicts,
Homeless people
with no family.
It makes no difference to me.
A body is
a body is
a body. . .
Today we have a
girl.
Now - shall we take a look

Video : body parts

DR. BLANCHARD

(starts slow and builds in speed)

Here's the Temporalis, Masseter, Sternocleidomastoid, Pectoralis major, Rectus abdominus, Sartorius, Quadriceps, gastrocnemius, carotid artery, jugular vein, brachial artery, Superior vena cava, Pulmonary artery, heart, Aorta, inferior vena cava, femoral artery and vein, Pharynx, trachea, larynx, Esophagus, liver, stomach, Ovary, uterus, vagina
The brain -
frontal lobe, Fissure of Rolando, Parietal lobe, occipital Lobe, Temporal lobe, fissure of Sylvius, Fornix, Anterior thalamic nucleus, Cingulate gyrus, corpus callosum, Hippocampus, Amygdaloid nucleus, olfactory bulb, olfactory cortex, Mamillary body.
Now everyone!

ALL *(some do not get it right)*

Temporalis, Masseter, Sternocleidomastoid, Pectoralis major, Rectus abdominus, Sartorius, Quadriceps, gastrocnemius, carotid artery, jugular vein, brachial artery, Superior vena cava, Pulmonary artery, heart, Aorta, inferior vena cava, femoral artery and vein, Pharynx, trachea, larynx, Esophagus, liver, stomach, Ovary, uterus, vagina
The brain - frontal lobe, Fissure of Rolando, Parietal lobe, occipital Lobe, Temporal lobe, fissure of Sylvius, Fornix, Anterior thalamic nucleus, Cingulate gyrus, corpus callosum, Hippocampus, Amygdaloid nucleus, olfactory bulb, olfactory cortex, Mamillary body.

FRANKENSTEIN (over ALL)

A body
is a body
is a body.
I just can't stop
thinking.
dreaming
dreamthinking.
thinkdreaming
Mom

rising
I could have-
If she'd listen-
I could have-
If the science -
I'm consumed
these thoughts.
I see her.
In my dreams.
When I'm awake.
Dead.
Cold.
A body
Just a body
I could have done something
I could have.
Water like the sun running though its halls.
I could have.
I could have.
clouds of sulfur soaked in Mercury
I could have.
I could have.
a Hierophant chanting over an extinguished fire.
a Phoenix sitting on its nest of flames
the hermaphrodite child of
the sun and the moon
holding the earth.
I could have
I will dream tonight
of the dead being alive.

MARY SHELLY
Dead
Cold
A body
Just a body

Seek 3 in one
Again, seek one in three
Dissolve and condense
And thou shalt be
Master of the Art

FRANKENSTEIN
Dr. Blanchard-
Dr. Blanchard-
Can I have a word with you?

(VIDEO TEXT: An Enigma of the Sages)

MARY SHELLY

If I tell you 3 parts of a thing you have no cause to complain. Seek one of three, and of the 3, one will be there, for where there is body and soul, there is also Spirit and there shine salt, sulfur, and mercury. Trust my word, seek the glass that is three fold. Thou know'st the name, and art wise and cunning if thou find'st it.

(VIDEO TEXT: Muscle memory)

The Creation discovers her muscle memory. She develops motor skills.

MARY SHELLEY
With grave
Aspect he rose, and in his rising seem'd
A pillar of state; deep on his front engraven
Deliberation sat, and public care;
And princely counsel in his face yet shone,
Majestic though in ruin: sage he stood,
With Atlantean shoulder fit to bear
The weight of mightiest monarches; his look
still
drew audience and attention as night
or summer's noontide air, while thus –
(li300)

(VIDEO TEXT: The Morgue)

VIDEO – wall of body drawers

Frankenstein discovers the realities of death with Dr. Martinez and her assistant.

MARY SHELLEY
Observe the natural
decay
and
corruption
of the human body.

DR. MARTINEZ
Welcome to our home.
So, you want to see some dead bodies.

DR. MARTINEZ

Good.

Rigor mortis started about 8 hours after death -
and lasts about 24 hours.

So it should be a bit pliable now.

Pungent too.

All those bodily fluids shifting and settling
settling and shifting.

Shall we begin?

Evidence of External Injury.

1. Located on the left lateral torso is a discontinuous, irregular dried orange impact abrasion which measures 9 x8 inches. There is a large discontinuity in the central portion of the abrasion measuring 6 X 2 inches. The abrasion shows transverse patterning corresponding to the waistband at the bottom of the decedent's jacket. Numerous small satellite abrasions are noted, particularly anteriorly. Generalized erythematous mottling is associated with the abrasion, most notable anteriorly and superiorly.

Located on the lateral aspect of the left thigh are multiple dried, orange impact abrasions, many showing a longitudinal or transverse linear, discontinuous pattern consistent with the decedent's clothing. The longest one, which is longitudinally oriented, measures 10 inches and corresponds to the outer leg seam of the pants. All of these abrasions are associated with erythematous mottling or frank contusions.

FRANKENSTEIN (over autopsy)

A body

is a body

is just a body.

Why do I keep seeing

Mom

in every body?

Why did no one stop him from
jumping?

There is nothing
medically

wrong so why?

What could be so

bad

that death is the only
feasible option.

MARY SHELLEY

He called for death

to free him of all that

he has suffered here

Pointless

Pointless
Just like Mom.

I wonder if he
had a moment of doubt
before he jumped.

Pointless

(VIDEO TEXT : Waterstone of the Wise).

DR. MARTINEZ
Hello...
What have we here?
Under the fingernails.
Never forget to check there.
Looks like a strand of hair.

FRANKENSTEIN
What does that mean?

DR. MARTINEZ
It means that our friend here was
with someone before he died,
someone with a great dye job.
The forensic guys will love this.
Off to the lab with you little hair.

FRANKENSTEIN
How long before a body starts to decay?

DR. MARTINEZ
Almost immediately.
That's why we like to keep things on ice.
They last longer.
So, let's break for lunch

Pointless

I wonder if he
has a moment of doubt

MARY SHELLEY
There are 7 cities, 7 metals, 7 days and the
number 7; 7 letters, 7 words in order meet,
7 times, and as many plates, 7 herbs and
7 stones. Divide 7 by 3, and thou shalt be
wise. No one will then strive to precipitate
the half. In brief, all will proceed favorably
in the number.

MARY SHELLEY
What does that mean?

MARY SHELLEY
How long before a body starts to decay?

and then we'll open him up
for my favorite
the internal examination.

FRANKENSTEIN
Do you mind if I have a look at these?

MARY SHELLEY
Do you mind if I have a look at these?
See how the form of a man is
degraded and wasted.

(VIDEO TEXT: Human Contact)

The Creation, in the asylum bonds with Barbie. She watches the others and mimics with her dolls. Mary Shelley sings a lullaby. Other patients are caught up in their own psychosis. She has an encounter with one patient who screams at her. No one comes to her rescue.

MARY SHELLEY
So farewell hope,
and with hope farewell fear,
Farewell remorse; all good to me is lost.
Evil, be thou my good. (iv 180)

(VIDEO TEXT: The Seven Hermetic Laws)

Mary Frankenstein studies.

Video: Frankenstein

FRANKENSTEIN
What have I done?

MARY SHELLEY
The Seven Hermetic Laws

FRANKENSTEIN
My
What have I done?

MARY SHELLEY
The Law of Mentalism
All of creation is made up of
the Divine Mind
or Universal Consciousness

FRANKENSTEIN
Thoughts
What have I done?

MARY SHELLEY
The Law of
Correspondence

As above, so below.
As below, so above.

FRANKENSTEIN
Consume
What have I done?

MARY SHELLEY
The Law of Vibration
Everything in the universe is
in motion,
vibrating with its own pace &
rhythm.

FRANKENSTEIN
Me
What have I done?

MARY SHELLEY
The Law of Polarity
Everything is dual and
Contains its opposite

FRANKENSTEIN
Like
What have I done?

MARY SHELLEY
The Law of Rhythm
The rhythm of the universe is
The Wheel of Life.

FRANKENSTEIN
A
What have I done?

MARY SHELLEY
The Law of Gender
All people and things contain
masculine and feminine
elements

FRANKENSTEIN
Fire
What have I done?

MARY SHELLEY
The Law of Cause and
Effect
Everything has a cause and
in itself is a cause of
something else

Something else.

(VIDEO TEXT The Bio-Tech)

*The **Bio-Tech** thunders into class accompanied by the appropriate music..*

BIO-TECH

Good morning ungrateful leeches.

If this is your major, perhaps you should consider switching fields.

The results of the last exam are in and
guess what?

Only 10% of you have any chance of getting a passing grade.

Lets just say, I'm a bit
disappointed.

Did you not read my paper in Scientific American?

Did you not take notes in my lectures?

I see you with your iphone photographing the powerpoints.

Why do you not review them?

Did you spend the evening watching Bigmouth
smoking pot with liberal arts majors?

This is science people!

This is not literature written by dead Europeans which you can interpret any way you want!

You can not bull-shit science. It is exact!

That is what makes it exciting, exhilarating, mesmerizing, orgasmic!

And lucrative.

We are searching for the ultimate nature of reality!

You think I like teaching this class? No, but the basics are important

I want to get back to my own research which is much more exciting than reading your
Scantron results.

I am not going to go over the mutations that block DNA synthesis
or the genetic code of Mammalian Mitochondria again.

If you have questions -
that is what my office hours are for.

If I terrify you,

Mary Frankenstein,

our brilliant, albeit dowdy, teaching assistant,

has office hours too.

Go see her before you come to me.

Now, I will continue the curriculum
which I painstakingly set up on the assumption that you all had some semblance of intellect.
Today, our topic is stem cells.

*The **Bio-Tech** sets up his powerpoint. He is incredibly proud of his multi-media presentation. He signals to the booth.*

Gigi.

The presentation begins

Thank you.

Thanks to the current administration
the US may fall behind in advancements in stem cell research
getting trounced by Singapore
of all places.

We have been hobbled by
ignorant politicians

Capital Hill's most uniformed ignorant boorish boobies
who are afraid of loosing voter approval.

And yet, we can train embryonic cells to grow into anything
like heart muscle cells and
cure America's #1 killer

Heart disease

And by doing so

prolong the life of many politicians
who suffer from such ailments

but they don't seem to get that do they.

So we are forced to do all our research with adult stem cells and
the 247 embryonic strands that were in existence prior to the new
legislation.

Frankenstein coughs loudly to get the Biotech back on track.

Enough of my soap box...

Let's talk about stem cells, shall we?

When we are conceived all our cells contain DNA. Which stands for?

STUDENT

Deoxyribonucleic acid!

The biotech throws a little treat to the student who catches like a puppy being trained.

BIOTECH

As we grow, mature, our cells take on a “job” becoming the skin cells, bone, etc.
But, they all contain the same information, the same DNA,
only those certain “jobs” are woken up in the cells maturity.
Now embryonic stem cells have yet to mature,
Thus we can train them to become any of the 300
different types of cells that make up the human body.

BRYCE

But those are embryos.

BIOTECH

And your point is.

BRYCE

Uh, well

uh, humans were created in God’s image.

BIOTECH

And your point is.

BRYCE

Well, whether created
in situ or in vitro the cells are committed to a course.
Becoming a
human being.

BIOTECH

Ahh, the moral debate ensues.

Dr. Linninback’s class on bio-ethics is on Tuesday and Thursdays.

BRYCE

An embryo is just at a
different state
of development
than say you or I.

FRANKENSTEIN

Embryonic stem cell research and therapy uses
donated embryos
which have never entered a uterus.
There is no “aborted fetal cells” used in this research.

BIOTECH

Scientists want to relieve human suffering
not kill.

I have watched cells groomed to be a heart muscle
begin to pulse.

Ronald Reagan -do you know who that is? - was against stem cell research

even when his Alzheimer's became apparent
and after his death,
who should jump on the democratic band-wagon
calling for more research?

Ronnie Jr.

It could have saved his father.
Wouldn't you want that for your parent?

BRYCE

Oh course, but -

BIOTECH

You would tell a 3 year old child
you can't treat her diabetes because the government
wont let her doctors do the appropriate research?

BRYCE

I'm just saying
I applaud the science.

BIOTECH

Good, now-

BRYCE

But isn't there some way
we can get the same results without
using embryos.

A vision of the CREATION appears to FRANKENSTEIN.

BIOTECH

That is why current research uses all the adult stem cells we want.
These are cells found in bone marrow,
Procured with donor consent.
We are endeavoring to deal with the apparent moral dilemma facing
many religious groups.
Well, we have discovered that
if you take an adult cell,
and starve it of all nutrients,
it will basically fall asleep,
at which point we can use it just like
an embryonic cell.
But, adult stem cells are limited.
There is a new technique being
developed.

This is where take a donor egg
remove it's DNA and nucleus and replace it with the patients.

We then gestate the egg for a couple weeks and then culture the cells to their desired purpose.

This is different from making a “clone”.

In therapeutic cloning the embryonic cells are never implanted in a uterus thus, never intended to become human beings.

Now, that was the point of the whole cloning experiment- to create animals who could produce drugs for human health problems and organs that aren't rejected.

Okay, now what you have all – except for you - been waiting for.

How to make a clone:

Step one:

Get a mammary cell from the animal to be cloned.

Step two:

Put it in a petri dish and starve the cell of nutrients - it will go into a quiescent state.

Step three:

Get an unfertilized egg cell or oocyte. Remove the nucleus that's where DNA is stored.

Step four:

Put the cells next to each other and zap it with electricity - that will cause them to connect.

Step 5:

Wait a week -so the cell can grow - then implant it into surrogate mother

Step 6:

After the gestation period, you will get a clone from original donor.

Simple.

Cloned animals can help save human lives.

Take the first sheep, Dolly

And her sisters Polly and Molly -

who have been cloned with a human gene -

their milk contains a protein that helps blood clot,

it can be extracted and used to treat hemophiliacs.

BRYCE

Is it true that some of those fetus were grossly oversized and suffered before they died?

And that the surrogate mothers suffer as well?

BIOTECH

Yes.

BRYCE

I heard that organs from genetically altered pigs could infect humans with a porcine endogenous retro virus.

BIO-TECH

The operative word is “could”. The investigation into P.E.R.V. is ongoing. Because we have a limited number of embryonic strands We use DNA from mice to further expand its generations. Whether or not that leads to any disease is not know yet.

STUDENT

What about human cloning?

BIO-TECH

Be thankful I do not know your name. You all watch too many bad movies. We have ethics people!

BRYCE

Aren’t you doing CRISPR work?

BIO-TECH

My research has nothing to do with this undergraduate class. But yes, I am.

BRYCE

Don’t you think that what you are doing –

BIO-TECH

What I am doing is called genome engineering. We can edit the genes within an organism. This research can help us treat genetic disorders or stop malaria from spreading. Think about it, young man, young woman, *they*. We can go into the DNA stands and manipulate the code in a mosquito and eventually eradicate malaria. Wouldn’t that be nice? My colleague in Mississippi just used CRISPR to help a woman with a genetic disorder.

BRYCE

It’s immoral –

BIO-TECH

You interrupting my lecture is immoral. What did you listen to the radio lab story and now you’re all freaked out? Science and it’s dangers. Oh no! Black Mirror is true. Bullshit. May I continue?

Do you want to take this outside?

FRANKENSTEIN

In the early 90s -
embryologists cloned 17 human embryos -
defective ones fertility clinics were destroying anyway
all 2 to 8 cells in size -
worked them apart,
and grew them and got a couple 32-cell embryos -
the size you can implant in a woman.

BIO-TECH

But they didn't.
The government is very specific about what they will fund.
Human cloning is not --

STUDENT

What if a couple lost a child?
Could they take the cells
from their dead child and clone him?

FRANKENSTEIN

Theoretically, yes,
but you have to get the cells fast before the membranes start to deteriorate.

STUDENT

Basically then, you don't need sex to reproduce.

FRANKENSTEIN

If they allowed human cloning.

BIO-TECH

And if we all stopped wanting to have sex

FRANKENSTEIN

Then men would be obsolete -
they don't have wombs,
thus could not be impregnated with an egg.
Women can basically clone themselves.

BIO-TECH

Tough luck for us.

Everyone exits except BYRCE

VIDEO TEXT: ODE TO STEM CELLS//Ode to CRISPR

BYRCE (Ode to stem cells) // ode to CRISPR
By the Grace of God, we found you
Hidden, deep within the well of our mortality.
Our spirit.
By the Wiles of Man, we have embraced you
The knowledge of nature that is awakened within you.
Our essence.
To extend our fleeting, minuscule existence
Determined by God, now by Man or by God through Man
The ailments of yore and the impending plagues
alleviated and exacerbated within the human frame.
By the Physics of Immortality, we comprehend you
But we can never grasp the truth of the venture.
Our moral fiber
For we cannot reach to the heavens only imagine.

VIDEO TEXT: YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Henry leaves voice-mail and Victor is on his computer again.

HENRY
Victor,
I haven't heard back from Mary about the show -
You coming?
I'd love to see you both there.

VICTOR
Honey,
what's going on?
I can only reach you on-line
and we live together!
You've been coming home just to sleep.
I really don't want to nag,
but I can't help but feel something else is going on.
I'll be home tonight,
Can we spend some time together please.
I'll get a sitter for William.
Oh-
Henry's show is this Thursday.
Please come with me, don't make me suffer alone.
Please.
-Vic
PS. William misses you too!
I think he's grown about a foot!

VIDEO TEXT
AA Serenity Prayer

(VIDEO TEXT: Modern Education)

*The Creation discovers YouTube. A montage of all the latest YouTube celebrities
– including TDM, Yuya, Markiplier, PewDiePie, music videos BTS, EXO, etc.*

educational videos, cooking and how to – Binging with Babish, etc.

MARY SHELLEY

Now conscience wakes despair
That slumber'd,—wakes the bitter memory
Of what he was, what is, and what must be
Worse. (*IV 23*)

(VIDO TEXT: Modern Medicine)

Frankenstein watches a FACE transplant.

DR. GAIL

Once a patient is determined to be brain dead, you can harvest the organs, with family consent, of course. The heart, liver and kidneys are usually the first to be requested for transplant. Vascularized Composite Allograft organ transplants are not as common. Donations of skin, bone, blood vessels, hands and faces can change the lives of people living with significant disfigurements through birth defects, trauma, burns or disease.

MARY SHELLEY

Pause.
Examine and analyze
all the minutiae of causation
as exemplified in the change from
life to death
and death to life.

Dr. Gail gives slide show about the procedure

DR. GAIL

In 1992 Linda's boyfriend broke into her home,
Shot her in the face,
poured gasoline
on her body and lit her on fire.
She survived.
She went through
numerous operations to reconstruct portions of her face
destroyed by the gunshot.
Cadaver skin has been grafted on to 30% of her body.
But she remained unrecognizable.
I ask you: Can you live without your face?
Society considers her a monster.
The social stigma
creates traumatic psychological issues
on par with the physical pain she endured.

BRYCE

Look at that.

If that was me-
I'd want to do research about the
dead bastard whose face I got.

DR. GAIL
The procedure is not an easy one
and can take 10 to 40 hours.
A face is removed from a cadaver.

BRYCE
Ever see that Twilight Zone where
the guy's arm was possessed?
Killed him.

DR. GAIL:
It is important to note that
the recipient will not
look like the donor
rather the face will adapt itself
to the recipient's bone structure.

BRYCE
What if the face had muscle memory?
Did you see the Treehouse of Terror when Homer got Snake's hair?

DR. GAIL
Unfortunately, the recipient will not
look like they did prior to their initial accident
but they will look, normal
which is really what they all want.

BRYCE
Would you become someone else
because your face is shaped a certain way?

DR. GAIL
Depending on the reason for the disfigurement
the patient may have to undergo reconstructive surgery.
We must take into consideration
Nerves, bones, musculature, blood vessels and underlying fat
In order to make the procedure successful.

BRYCE:
What if you got some mass murder's face?
Or a child molesters.
Or a philanthropists or celebrity
Could you look at yourself every day
knowing what that face has done?

DR. GAIL

Anti-rejection drugs are essential
to assist the new face
as it adapts to the host.
The anti-rejection drugs will compromise the
recipient's immune system
thus requiring a life long
hospital visits and drug therapy.
There have been less than 50 face transplants
since the first partial in 2005 with five deaths to date.

VIDEO TEXT: ODE TO TRANSPLANTS

BRYCE (ODE TO TRANSPLANTS)

Like the alchemist burning his tissue with chemicals and flame
To unlock the mystery of the Mysteries
We have crossed into the undiscovered country
And fused self with self, vein with vein
Deep in the laboratory of operations
Two become one, three become one, seven become one
To save the one through the obliteration and grace of the other.
But, our Promethean flesh is a feast for the eagle
Sent by God to relentlessly punish us forever
For the Apple has been devoured and the Box opened.
The Knowledge required and life prolonged.

FRANKENSTEIN

Study has become to me
more necessary
than the air I breath

MARY SHELLEY

Study has become to me
more necessary
than the air I breathe.
in the questioning and searching turn
it gives my thoughts
I find some relief to wild reverie;
in the self-satisfaction I feel in
commanding myself,
I find my present solace.

(VIDEO TEXT: The exit interview.)

DR. BLANCHARD

Well, Mary
it doesn't look like we can do anything more
for you.

CREATION

I am cured then.

DR. BLANCHARD

As far as we can see.

There is no reason for you to stay here now.

CREATION

I have to leave?

Leave the hospital?

DR. BLANCHARD

Yes. You're well now and we need the bed.

CREATION

Where do I go?

DR. BLANCHARD

Home.

CREATION

But, I don't know where that is.

I don't remember

I don't remember.

MARY SHELLEY

But, I don't know where that is.

I don't remember.

DR. BLANCHARD

I'm sorry.

Really and truly sorry for your predicament.

CREATION

Please, can I stay?

I can help in the psych wing

Bring food, change bedpans

Please, can I stay?

DR. BLANCHARD

No.

A social worker will assist you.

CREATION

I have no place to go.

I don't remember

DR. BLANCHARD

Your memory will come back eventually.

I can see no physiological reason for your amnesia.

Perhaps a return to -

May trigger

spark a memory.

CREATION

But -

How -

DR. BLANCHARD

Take care of yourself, Mary.

Oh- and

I'll need a mailing address,
for the bill.

VIDEO TEXT: YOU'VE GOT MAIL

Victor is on his computer again, so is Henry. Frankenstein continues to study.

VICTOR

Dear Ms. Mary Frankenstein,
Henry's show was quite a success.
He received a standing ovation.
Even I liked it.
I felt very proud to be his friend.
He dedicated the evening to you.
Just thought you'd like to know.
Sorry to take up so much of your time.
Yours,
Victor Lavenza

VIDEO TEXT

AA Serenity Prayer

HENRY

Mary,
Sorry you couldn't make it to the show.
It went okay.
People seemed to like it.
Hey - are you okay?
Victor looked really upset last night
Is everything all right?
Do you need anything?
Please let me know what I can do to help.
I miss you.
-Henry

VIDEO all the images of Frankenstein's education come on in a frenzy. From the midst of this darkness a sudden light breaks - a light so brilliant and wondrous.

FRANKENSTEIN

It's so simple!

I'm dizzy

(video text: The Creation hears the chorus of her body.)

CREATION

The Frankenstein Project

10.31.19

I hear sounds
deep from within me
screams, heart beats, laughs, cries, sirens, grunts, explosions,
I see faces
with my eyes closed
a man in his 30s his eyes look strange,
a man in his 20s in a suit,
a teenage boy with a strong grip,
a woman with a look of fear,
a man with bad teeth,
another coming closer and closer,
another delighted.
I smell
constantly,
sweat, rotting meat, cologne masking body odor, cigarettes, sex, latex, cheap wine.
But all I can taste
is cum and dirt.
I've washed my mouth
Listerine.
It wont go away.
It's a constant reminder.
Who am I?

**(VIDEO TEXT: PART III: THE CREATION
THE RAISING OF THE DEAD)**

SISTER MARY BERNICE

The scriptures are not clear.
There is a definite paradox when it comes to the resurrection.
Eschatology, the study of *the end* and the immortality of the soul is a constant conversation .
We live in the “now” and “not yet.”
We do not know when a person dies,
if that person is in heaven
or in a category outside time, an undiscovered country.
We like to say heaven, it's easier to grasp.
Makes people feel better.

SMITH

The Universe began with the Big Bang.
How will it end? That is the debate.

SISTER MARY BERNICE

God, who created time, is not confined to time.
God is the Alpha and Omega.
The Big Bang to the Big Freeze.
So, where God wants the soul to wait for the resurrection
is entirely up to him.

SMITH

If there are possible infinite futures, well, then eternal life is a forgone conclusion.
If intelligent life continues to exist and propagate itself,
perfect itself, then it is only a matter of time before we can create
an artificial model of our very being that can transcend
this mortal coil.

SISTER MARY BERNICE

The church will not commit to a definite location of the soul
within or outside the body.
Descartes will have us believe it is in the Pineal gland.
Descartes will also have us believe that if we have a concept of God,
then God exists.
Proof of God through philosophy.

SMITH

Call it robot, android, cyborg, whatever.
AI, artificial intelligence, is here.
It's an Alchemical technology revolution.
Humans have created programs which are operationally indistinguishable from
human beings themselves.

SISTER MARY BERNICE

To quote Corinthians 15. 42-44
'This is how it will be when the dead are raised to life.
When a body is buried, it is mortal; when it is raised, it will be immortal.
When buried it is ugly and weak; when raised, it will be beautiful and strong.
When buried, it is a physical body; when raised it will be a spiritual body.
There is, of course, a physical body, so there has to be a spiritual body.'

SMITH

With the ever-evolving discoveries in nanotechnology
And bio-technology --
organ transplants, body grafting,
gene therapy, cloning and embryonic stem cells,
DNA manipulation.
The time is here!
We have become both masters and the objects of
our own creation.

SISTER MARY BERNICE

Eternal Life.

SMITH

Eternal Life.

Frankenstein creates.

MARY SHELLY (V.O.)

Prometheus Unbound
I saw a pale student

of unhallowed arts
kneeling
besides the thing
she had put
together.

FRANKENSTEIN (on video or voice over)

**It was on a dreary night of
November
that I beheld the**

**accomplishment of
my toils.**

**With an anxiety
that almost amounted to
agony,**

**I collected
the instruments of life around me,
that I might infuse
a spark of being
into the lifeless thing
that lay at my feet.**

**It was already
one in the morning;
the rain pattered dismally against the panes,
when I saw
the dull yellow eye of the creature
open;
it breathed
hard,
and a convulsive motion
agitated
its limbs.**

MARY SHELLY (V.O.)

Frightful
must it be,
for supremely frightful
would the effect of any human
endeavor
to mock
the stupendous mechanism of the
Creator
of the world.

FRANKENSTEIN

**How can I
describe my emotions at this catastrophe,
or how delineate
the wretch
whom with such infinite pains and care
I had endeavored to form?
Her limbs
were in proportion,
and I had selected**

The Frankenstein Project
her features as
beautiful.
Beautiful.
Great God.

10.31.19

MARY SHELLEY (V.O.)
Dream.

FRANKENSTEIN (v.o. or video)
I slept,
but was disturbed
by the wildest
dreams.
I thought I saw
Victor,
in the bloom of health,
walking in the streets.
Delighted and Surprised,
I embraced him,
but as I imprinted the first kiss on his lips,
they became livid with the hue of death;
his features appeared to change
and I thought that I held the corpse
of my dead mother
in my arms;
a shroud enveloped her form,
and I saw the grave worms
crawling in the fold of the flannel.
I started from my sleep with horror:
a cold dew covered my forehead,
my teeth chattered,
and every limb became convulsed;
when,
by the dim and yellow light of the moon,
as it forced its way through the window shutters,
I beheld the wretch -
the miserable monster
whom I had created.
She held up the curtain of the bed;
and her eyes,
if eyes they may be called,
were fixed on me.
Her jaws opened,
and she muttered some
inarticulate sounds,
but I did not hear;
one hand was stretched out,
seemingly to detain me,
but I escaped and rushed downstairs.

FRANKENSTEIN
What have I done?

What have I done?

What have I done?

Frankenstein exits in a mad rush

MARY SHELLEY (V.O.)

**She would hope that,
left to itself,
the slight spark of life
which she had communicated
would
fade,
that the thing
which had received such imperfect
animation
would subside into dead matter,
and she might sleep
in the belief
that the silence of the grave
would quench forever the transient
existence of the hideous corpse
which she had looked upon as the
cradle of life.**

MARY SHELLEY

Everything must have a beginning,
and that beginning must be linked
to something that went before.
Invention
does not consist in creating out of
void
but out of
chaos;
the materials must,
in the first place,
be afforded:
it can give form to dark,
shapeless substances
but cannot bring into being
the substance itself.

Frankenstein collapses

(VIDEO TEXT: PART IV: THE DE-CONSTRUCTION)

Frankenstein is ill and being nursed by Victor.

FRANKENSTEIN

I am so sorry

I am so

VICTOR

Hush honey

It's okay.

You just got a bit obsessed

I 'm the one who is sorry

I should have been more supportive.

Commercial. *The Actor playing Henry comes to talk to the audience.*

Hi I'm Jesus (*actor name*).

Let me fill you in on what's been going on.

Since the "exit interview" Mary the Creation has been searching for her origins. She went back to the place she was found by Joan and stumbled upon clues that lead her here (*indicates the treehouse*) to the new Banker's Hill home of Mary Frankenstein, Victor and young William. She even attended an encore performance of Henry's (that's my character) *Paradise Lost* as well as the follow-up work-in-progress *Paradise Found*, a mediation on a world where inclusion, love, and environmental awareness abounds.

Mary, the Creation saw the show for free because theatre should be accessible for all. Okay, we had to paper the house.

Meanwhile, Mary Frankenstein has been slowly recovering from "nervous exhaustion." Victor has been the loving fiancé and has been taking great care of Mary.

Nervous exhaustion is a real thing. Especially for Phd candidates.

Are you tired? Falling asleep in class? Does stress trigger chronic fatigue?

Well it's not you. It's your genes! Not the ones you're wearing but the ones in your body.

You need BIO-WAKE.

Text: *BIO- WAKE number on the screen.*

BIO-WAKE is a new process where biochemists can alter your genes to give you more energy. It's a simple procedure using patented Crispr technology. It's a safe and fast procedure. Once the process is complete, you just need to take one little pill everyday.

For the rest of your life.

Call the number projected here to participate in our clinical trial. For a little extra we can permanently change your eye color or fix any other genetic mutations. Be the first to get BIO-WAKE and only sleep in class because you want to!

(*super fast*) Bouts of unconsciousness are normal. Side effects are sleep deprivation, nausea,

strokes, insanity and death. Always consult your doctor before having the BIO-WAKE procedure.

Okay, now back to the show.

Video image: tree house

*The creation meets **William**, a horrible yet beautiful child.*

CREATION

Hello.

WILLIAM

I can't talk to strangers.

So go away!

CREATION

Are your parents home?

WILLIAM

No.

But Uncle Henry is.

UNCLE-

CREATION

Shhh.

That's okay.

Will she be back soon?

WILLIAM

Who?

CREATION

Your mother.

WILLIAM

She's not my mother.

She's my dad's fiancé.

They sleep together but she's

not my mother.

My mom lives in Paris, no Panama with Veronica

CREATION

Is she nice?

WILLIAM

Veronia?

CREATION

No, your dad's fiancé.

WILLIAM

I guess.

CREATION

You guess?

You don't know.

WILLIAM

I'm not supposed to talk to strangers.

Go away.

Or I'll get Henry.

CREATION

You don't need to get Henry.

I'm a friend.

Will you

be mine?

WILLIAM

Got an Xbox?

CREATION

No.

WILLIAM

Playstaion --

CREATION

No.

WILLIAM

Occulus? Vive? Switch?

CREATION

I do not.

WILLIAM

Then no way.

Girl.

CREATION

Please.

Can we just talk.

I need to ask you-

Is she nice? Is she pretty?

WILLIAM

Look -

I have games to play.

It's guy stuff.

You wouldn't understand.

The Frankenstein Project
Games are for guys.

10.31.19

So go away.

Girls ruin games.

Bitch (*he laughs*)

Plus, your ugly.

Butt ugly.

You smell like shit.

Shit. Shit Shit Shit.

Whad ya do - take a bath in shit?

Shit. Shit.

Shit shit shit shit shit

CREATION

I am not ugly

CREATION

Stop saying that.

WILLIAM

shit shit shit shit.

CREATION

Stop it!!

WILLIAM

Shit. Shit Shit shit.

*The taunting continues until the **Creation**, unable to handle the insult, kicks the **boy** out of his treehouse.*

WILLIAM

Shit.

***William** falls from the tree house. We don't know if he is alive. The **Creation** climbs down and inspects the body.*

CREATION

Stop it.. Stop it... Dumb boy... Stop it... Stop it... boy... boy... Mamamamamama.

She drops drags the body off stage.

***Henry** comes outside in search of the boy.*

HENRY

William.

William!

(VIDEO: The Media Circus)
VIDEO: IMAGES OF THE MEDIA

Victor and Frankenstein are looking for the boy.

REPORTER #1 (Steel Chain)

Tonight's top story,

A young boy from

REPORTER #2 (Stormy Mountain)

Leading the news tonight,

A young boy from

The Frankenstein Project
Bankers Hill is still missing.
William Lavenza
was last seen
wearing a blue and white striped shirt.
The last location the boy
was seen,
His tree house.
Authorities have no leads.

10.31.19
Bankers Hill is still missing tonight.
William Larenza
was last seen playing
in his treehouse.
He was wearing a blue & white striped shirt
at the time of his
abduction.
Authorities have no leads.
Now we go live
to the worried parents.

MARY SHELLEY
Misery has come home.

ON VIDEO

VICTOR
Please.
If you know where my son is,
Please.
He's just a little boy.
He's a good boy.
We miss him very much.

FRANKENSTEIN
If you have any information
about William
please call the number at the bottom of the screen.
Thank you.

STEEL CHAIN
This just in

STORMY MOUNTAIN
This just in

STEEL CHAIN
The body of William Lavenza
has been found.
Late last night, police discovered
the boy's body.
It was bruised.
It was cold.
And it was dead.
Although the autopsy report has not come out,
we can assume that the boy was beaten to
death, or fell from a great height.
Purple bruises covered his body
his cold, dead body

Police are still searching for his assailant.

STORMY MOUNTAIN
Late last night
the body of William Larenza
was found.
A dwelling-challenged woman
currently residing in
Balboa Park found the body.
She said that she thought the boy
was asleep.
When she went to touch him,
she discovered the cold, bruised
dead body.
Orange bruises covered
his small frame.
Police are still searching for
suspects.
Call our police hotline if you
have any information.
KFUK is offering a \$1,000 reward

The Frankenstein Project
KSHT is offering a \$2,000 reward
for any information leading to the
the conviction of the boy's killers.

10.31.19
for any information leading to the
conviction of the boy's assailant.

STEEL & STORMY
Mary Frankenstein, Mary Frankenstein!!!!

STORMY
Mary Frankenstein, is it true you hated the boy?

STEEL
Is it true that you were never home to mother him?

STORMY
Did you wish him dead so you could have Victor all to yourself?

STEEL
Mary Frankenstein don't you hate all children?

FRANKENSTEIN
No!
What are you talking about!

STEEL CHAIN
Victor, did you murder your son?

VICTOR
Why would I kill my own child?
This is preposterous!!

STEEL CHAIN
Isn't it true that he was left on your
doorstep by his alcoholic mother?

Isn't it true that your son is a product
of an affair with a 16 year old girl?
Didn't you resent the boy from
the very beginning?
Did you molest him before you killed him?

STORMY MOUNTAIN
Henry Clerval, did you murder
William Lavenza?
You were last seen with him.
Isn't true that you like little boys?
Isn't it true that you spent six months
in a sanitarium after a nervous
breakdown?
Did you kill him because he
wouldn't accept your sexual
advances?

HENRY
Its my fault.
I let him go
outside.
Alone.
I should have
I should have
stayed with him.

STEEL CHAIN
The prime suspect in the
Lavenza Murder
the boy's father,
Victor Lavenza

STORMY MOUNTAIN
The prime suspect in the
Lavenza Murder
is the baby-sitter,
Henry Clerval.

The Frankenstein Project
Police are questioning
him as we bring you this
report.

Police are still looking for a red-haired woman
seen in the neighborhood
as a potential witness to
this most heinous crime.

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Police are questioning
him as we bring you this
report.

Yes, police are still looking for this
woman. If you now of her
whereabouts
please contact this station.

The reporters begin to fight.

HENRY
Its my fault.
poor William
my fault.

FRANKENSTEIN
What have I done?

HENRY
Its my fault.
My William.
Its just my fault.

FRANKENSTEIN
What have I done?

Henry stands at the top of the Coronado Bridge. Frankenstein and Victor search for him.

HENRY
What I now feel
be no longer felt.

FRANKENSTEIN
Henry?

HENRY
Soon
these burning miseries will be
extinct.
I will be swept into the sea
by the winds.

I have
looked death in the face
and did not fear it.

MARY SHELLEY

The Frankenstein Project

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I go on to no new creation –

Far from it...

I have a passive satisfaction in death.

I enter under no new laws.

FRANKENSTEIN
Henry!!!!

MARY SHELLEY

HENRY
My spirit will sleep.
or if it thinks
it will not think on this.

No

No

No!

Henry calmly steps off the bridge as Victor and Frankenstein run frantically to him.

FRANKENSTEIN
What have I done?

STEEL CHAIN
This is KSHT,
Live from the Coronado Bridge

STORMY MOUNTAIN
This is KFUK,
Live from the Coronado Bridge.
Henry Clerval has committed suicide
just moments ago
ladies and gentlemen.

STEEL CHAIN
With all the world watching,
Henry Clerval,
took his own life.
A sure sign of guilt.

STORMY MOUNTAIN
This is Stormy Mountain

I'm Steel Chain

Have a great weekend!

Have a great weekend!

MARY SHELLEY
They lived then,
they breathed this air,
and their voices struck my sense;
their feet trod the earth beside me,
and their hands are warm with blood
and life
when they clasped in mine.
Where are they all?
I am alone.

(VIDEO TEXT: An Autopsy

A body is a body is a body...)

Frankenstein goes to see Dr. Martinez

FRANKENSTEIN

Dr. Martinez! Dr. Martinez!!!

DR. MARTINEZ

Mary Frankenstein,

Hello.

I heard you weren't well.

Are you better.

FRANKENSTEIN

Yes,

I'm looking for a body.

It should have come in this morning.

DR. MARTINEZ

A body eh.

FRANKENSTEIN

Its for my research.

DR. MARTINEZ

Well, we got a bunch in this morning.

Lets take a look.

Number 1201. OD-ed on Prussic acid.

Didn't think you could get that anymore.

FRANKENSTEIN

No.

DR. MARTINEZ

Number 1202. Drowned.

FRANKENSTEIN

No.

DR. MARTINEZ

Number 1203. Female. O.D.-ed on Laudanum.

Where do they get these drugs.

FRANKENSTEIN

No.

DR. MARTINEZ

Number 1204. A woman-

MARY SHELLEY

John William Polidori.

He called to death.

MARY SHELLEY

Harriet Shelley.

She called to death.

MARY SHELLEY

Fanny Imlay.

She called to death.

MARY SHELLEY

She called to death

The Frankenstein Project

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to free her of all that
she has suffered here.

FRANKENSTEIN

No. No. No.

This one.

DR. MARTINEZ

Oh, we're just closing him up.

Come on back.

FRANKENSTEIN

Tell me it was murder.

DR. MARTINEZ

I'm sorry.

Suicide.

FRANKENSTEIN

No.

Did you look under the nails?

DR. MARTINEZ

Yes.

Nothing.

Sorry.

It was suicide.

FRANKENSTEIN

No.

Did you look everywhere?

DR. MARTINEZ

Yes.

Nothing.

There is nothing on the body.

FRANKENSTEIN

No.

There must be some way to prove she did it.

You sent everything to the lab?

His clothes?

His wallet?

DR. MARTINEZ

Yes.

And his suicide note.

Look, he jumped.

The Frankenstein Project
there is no evidence that he was drugged
or pushed
or dead when he jumped.
Didn't you see it on the news?

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FRANKENSTEIN
No.
She made him do it.
He wouldn't have -
He wouldn't -

DR. MARTINEZ
Yes.
He did.
The forensic guys aren't looking for anything.
The case is closed.

(VIDEO TEXT: Homecoming)

Frankenstein and the Creation come face to face. Neither one speaks.

CREATION
Mother.
Mother.
Mother.

FRANKENSTEIN
What did you do?

MARY SHELLEY
What did you do?

CREATION
What do you mean?

FRANKENSTEIN
You know what I mean.
What did you do?

CREATION
It was an accident.
I didn't mean to.
He fell.

FRANKENSTEIN
Monster.
You killed William.

You killed William.

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CREATION

No.

I told you it was an accident.

Accident

FRANKENSTEIN

And Henry

The Frankenstein Project
CREATION

10.31.19

No.
I did not kill Henry.
His weakness killed him.

His weakness killed him.

FRANKENSTEIN
Liar.
Do you know what you are?

CREATION
No, who am I?

FRANKENSTEIN
You're not human. You're a failed experiment.
You're pieces of seven dead prostitutes.
You're pieces that were going to be incinerated -arms, legs.
You're a mistake. The worst mistake I ever made.
You shouldn't be alive.
You don't even have a soul.

MARY SHELLEY
You don't even have a soul.

CREATION
You made me.
But I breathe the same air as you
I feel pain, I –
You're my mother.
Why would you say that!

FRANKENSTEIN
You will never be loved
You will never be accepted
You will never belong
You're an abomination.

CREATION
No.

FRANKENSTEIN
Go away.

CREATION
Mother.

MARY SHELLEY
Mother

FRANKENSTEIN
Stop saying that.

Mother

CREATION
Mother, please. Mother.

The Frankenstein Project
FRANKENSTEIN
Stop calling me that!

10.31.19

CREATION
Mother.
you are my mother!

MARY SHELLEY
Mother.

FRANKENSTEIN
Stop it! Stop it!
You're a monster, a killer.

CREATION
You accuse me of murder
And yet you would with a satisfied conscious
destroy your own creation?
Listen
Please.

CREATION
It is with considerable difficulty that I
Remember the original era
being;
all the events of that period appear
confused and indistinct.
A strange multiplicity of sensations
seized me
and I saw, felt, heard, and smelt
at the same
at the same
at the same
at the same time.

MARY SHELLEY
The beginning.
It is with considerable difficulty that
I remember the original era of my
being;
all the events of that period appear
confused and indistinct.
A strange multiplicity of sensations
seized me
and I saw, felt, heard, and smelt
at the same
at the same time.

Circle of Torment. The Creation puts Frankenstein in the middle of the stage. The rest of the ensemble comes out and screams at her "slut", "you can't stay here," "gotta dollar" - improvising the torment of the Creations first hours of life outside the institution.

Frankenstein has tears in her eyes.

FRANKENSTEIN
What do you want from me?

CREATION
If I am what you say I am
then I have no place to go.
I will be alone.

FRANKENSTEIN
What do you want from me.

CREATION

Love

FRANKENSTEIN

I cannot love you.

CREATION

Then a friend, a brother a sister

FRANKENSTEIN

I can't.

CREATION

You can make another

MARY SHELLEY

Another.

FRANKENSTEIN

I can't

CREATION

Someone just like me
Someone with the same defects as me.
So I don't have to be alone.

So I don't have to be alone.

FRANKENSTEIN

I can't

CREATION

Do this for me
and I will be out of your life
forever.

FRANKENSTEIN

And if I refuse?

CREATION

You will see me every day
Every where you go.
I will never leave you alone.

FRANKENSTEIN

No.

CREATION

You made me.
You owe me this much.

The Frankenstein Project
You owe me.

10.31.19

FRANKENSTEIN

If I do this,
you and the other
thing
will leave.
Go away
far away.

CREATION

I promise.

Smith and Sr. Mary Bernice

SMITH

The Universe is chaotic,
Which is just another way of saying that it is unpredictable
Which is just another way of saying it is extremely sensitive
to the precise conditions prevailing at its inception.

SISTER MARY BERNICE

All knowledge comes through
experience and sensation.
Tabularasa.
Blank Slate.
We acquire knowledge
we are not born with it.

SMITH

Call it the "Butterfly effect," a term used to describe
the unpredictability of weather systems
because of the number of variables involved;
the merest flutter of a butterfly's wings
can alter the careful calculations
of even the most meticulous modle

SISTER MARY BERNICE

The information we accumulate
in our life times
makes us who we are.
We are the sum of
our experiences.
One cannot predict the
influence society and family
plays on the development of the individual.
There are too many variables.

VIDEO TEXT: you've got mail

Victor e-mails Mary Frankenstein from an empty house.

VICTOR

Mary
Mary
Mary
Where are you?
I miss you.
Why don't you come home?
I'm lonely.
Look, if there is someone else
I'll understand.
I haven't been the easiest person to live with
since William and Henry...
But, I love you.
-Victor.

VIDEO TEXT

Lord, grant me the serenity..
Lord, grant me the serenity..

The Creation and Frankenstein soul search.

CREATION

I had a dream last night
I was in a field
surrounded by butterflies.
I tried to catch one
but each time I tried,
it vanished.
Then I heard crying.
The butterflies crying.
The field became barren
as the sobbing increased.
The butterflies became
arms, legs, hearts, fingers,
flying all around me.
Weeping.

The Frankenstein Project
I wanted to die.
Then one butterfly became a child.
She held out her arms to me.
I awoke.
Was she my child?
Can I have a child?
If I catch a disease,
will I die?
Can I die?
If I die
will I go to heaven?
Can I go to heaven?
I don't want to be alone.

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VIDEO: Frankenstein

FRANKENSTEIN (in the arctic)
Her words had a strange effect upon me.
I compassioned her
and sometimes felt a wish to
console her
but when I looked at her
those dull eyes,
those unhuman eyes,
looked back at me.
It made me sick to my stomach.
My monster.
My creation.
My heart was sickened.
I thought
that because I could not sympathize with her
I had no right to withhold
from her
the small portion of happiness
which I could
which was in my power
to give her.

MARY SHELLEY
The time will arrive
when that which is now anticipated
will be only in the memory
death will at length come,
and in that last moment all will be a
dream.
A very grim dream.

(VIDEO TEXT: PART V: THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT)

SMITH
"The Prisoner's Dilemma"

The Frankenstein Project
is the non-zero-sum game,
used in game theory,
to analyze cooperation.

There are two moves each player can make.

“Cooperate” or “defect”.

The basic principle is that if both “cooperate” they both gain.

But if only one “cooperates” and the other “defects” than the one who “defects” will gain more.

If they both “defect”, they both lose.

FRANKENSTEIN

Last night

I dreamed of an

alabaster tower

with no beginning and no end to its construction.

Water like the sun running though its halls.

I dreamed

that beyond the tower walls were

twelve gates

guarded by a serpent eating its own tail.

I dreamed

clouds of sulfur soaked in Mercury

cloaked a narrow door

with three keyholes.

I dreamed

of a scarab

with a seal used to unlock the door

scurrying from me.

I dreamed

I looked through the first keyhole and saw
a Hierophant chanting over an extinguished fire.

I looked through the second keyhole and saw

a Phoenix sitting on its nest of flames

and unnoticed in the middle of the room

the hermaphrodite child of

the sun and the moon

holding the earth.

I looked through the final keyhole and saw

my mother

dead

unmoving

covered with a sheet

tubes draining her fluids.

It was white
All all white.

(VIDEO TEXT: Pro-choice/pro-life)

*The abortion. **Frankenstein** stands over her latest creation. It is almost complete.*

FRANKENSTEIN

Another.
What if he's evil?
He will probably be a rational being,
What if he hates her?
What if he doesn't leave.
What if he doesn't stick to the bargain.
What if they have children?
What if?
Another.
What if he's evil?
He will probably be a rational being,
What if he hates her?
What if he doesn't leave.
What if he doesn't stick to the bargain.
What if they have children?
What if?
Another.
What if he's evil?
He will probably be a rational being,
What if he hates her?
What if he doesn't leave.
What if he doesn't
stick to the bargain?
What if they have children?What if?
What if?
Too many what ifs.
I cannot bring another life into this world
I cannot allow it to live a life of pain and
sorrow.
Again.

MARY SHELLEY

He might become
ten thousand times
more malignant than his mate
and delight, for its own sake,
in murder and wretchedness.
She had sworn to quit the
neighborhood of man,
but he has not;
and he, who in all probability was
to become
a thinking and rational animal,
might refuse to comply
with a compact made before his
creation.
They might even hate each other;
the creature who already lives loathes
her own deformity,
and might she not conceive
a greater abhorrence
for it when it came before her eyes
in the masculine form?
he might turn from her in disgust,
he might leave her,
and she'd be alone,
exasperated by the fresh provocation
of being deserted
by one of her own species.
Children,
a race of devils
would be propagated upon the earth
who might make the very existence
of the species of man
a condition precarious and full of
terror.

SISTER MARY BERNICE

To quote His Holiness the Pope,
“I declare that direct abortion,
that is abortion willed as an end or as a means,
always constitutes a grave moral disorder.”
Obviously the His Holiness is not a woman.

*The Creation watches from the doorway. Frankenstein sets the body on fire.
The sound of fire raging.*

The Creation stands - thunderstruck. She screams.

FRANKENSTEIN

I cannot...
I cannot...
I cannot...
I cannot...
I cannot...
I cannot...
I cannot do this
in good consciousness
I cannot bring another
creature into this world.
There are too many variables.
I will not do it.
Do what you will to me
You cannot make me change my mind.
You cannot make me change my mind.
You cannot make me change my mind.

Do what you will to me

CREATION

I have endured more
that you ever will
in your own life time.
I am shunned by society
by my own creator.
Why have you forsaken me?
Why are you torturing me?

I will become
malicious because I am
miserable.
You gave me hope.

Fine.
You will never have a day of peace again.
For the happiness that you stole from me,
May you never have a day's peace.

The Creation leaves.

Video : Frankenstein in the Arctic

FRANKENSTEIN (*in the arctic*)

In a fit of enthusiastic madness
I created a **rational creature**
and was bound towards her to assure,
as far as was in my power,
her happiness and well-being.

This was my duty,
but there was another still paramount to that.
My duties towards the being of my own
species had greater claims to my attention
because they included a greater portion of
happiness or misery.
Urged by this view,
I refused,
and did right in refusing,
to create a companion for the first creature.

The Creation kills a dancer on route to Victor's house.

CREATION
Where are you going?

DANCER
There.

CREATION
Why.

DANCER
Look, honey,
I never ask why
I just show up and do my job.

CREATION
Have you been there before?

DANCER
No, he's a first time customer.
Excuse me, honey
I'm late.

The Creation kills the dancer and takes her place as Victor's "entertainment".

VIDEO TEXT: Victor is lonely

*Victor's house. **The Creation** performs an exotic dance. **Victor** is seduced by her. She strangles him.*

***Mary Frankenstein** discovers **Victor's** body.*

***Mary Frankenstein** calls 911.*

911 (V.O.)

911 do you have an emergency to report?

FRANKENSTEIN

She killed him.

911 (V.O.)

Is she still there?

FRANKENSTEIN

No.

911 (V.O.)

What happened ma'am?

FRANKENSTEIN

She killed Victor.

911 (V.O.)

Are you sure he's dead?

FRANKENSTEIN

Yes.

911 (V.O.)

What's your name?

FRANKENSTEIN

Mary.

911 (V.O.)

An officer is en route.

Are you sure he's dead?

Did you check for a pulse?

FRANKENSTEIN

Yes,

The Frankenstein Project
He's dead.
He's dead.
I can't believe she killed him.

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911 (*V.O.*)
Who ma'am?

FRANKENSTEIN
That thing.
Don't you understand!

911 (*V.O.*)
Mary., I need you to calm down,
I need you to stay where you are,
an officer will be arriving in a moment.
I will stay on the line until they get there.

FRANKENSTEIN
Stop her.
Stop her.
I have to stop her.

911 (*V.O.*)
Mary?
Mary?

The chase begins.

VIDEO TEXT: THE CHASE (PART ONE: THE INTELLECTUAL BATTLE)

Smith and Sister Mary Bernice have it out.

SISTER MARY BERNICE
He who passively accepts evil
is as much involved in it
as he who helps to perpetrate it.
He who accepts evil
without protesting against it
is really cooperating with it. -Martin Luther King, Jr.

SMITH
To overcome evil with good is good,
to resist evil by evil is evil – the Prophet Mohammed.

SISTER MARY BERNICE
Those that set in motion the forces of evil
cannot always control them afterwards. - C.C. Chestnutt

SMITH

The Frankenstein Project

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Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
As, to be hated, needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace - Alexander Pope.

SISTER MARY BERNICE

There are many views on
the Nature of Evil.
One school believes that evil exists
throughout the world in certain locations.
Others believe that good and evil
exist together within us all.
It is the actions of the person
of the soul
that determine evil and good.

SMITH

They believe that people are evil if the
globule of evil is within them.
They believe evil can be transmitted like a
disease.

What one person considers evil,

There is yet another school of thought
that says
evil is in the eye of the beholder.

another considers good.

**(VIDEO TEXT: THE CHASE PART II: THE ARTIST'S BATTLE
Shelley vs. Shelley)**

Percy Shelley edits Mary's text during the chase. The Creation and Frankenstein play a modified 'Marco - Polo' game, Frankenstein is blindfolded. Eventually, the Creation wraps Frankenstein in her Arctic Blanket, and hat.

CREATION

Mother
Mother Mary
Mother

FRANKENSTEIN

Where are you?

MARY SHELLEY

She was hurried away by fury;
revenge alone endowed her
with strength and composure.
She had endured all the hardships
which travelers in deserts and
barbarous countries

PERCY SHELLEY

had transversed a vast portion of the earth

She dared not die and leave her adversary in being.
She might trace the steps of her fiendish enemy.

on wandering ministers of vengeance,

Let the cursed and hellish monster drink deep
of agony; let her feel the despair that now
torments Frankenstein.

She followed the windings of the Rhone,
The blue Mediterranean appeared,

escaped? Who? How?
Amidst the wilds of Tartary and Russia,

who feared that if Frankenstein lost all trace of her,
she would despair and die,
her creator.

to the northward,
the snows thickened
and the cold increased in a degree
almost too severe to support.

But now, when she appeared almost within grasp of her foe,
her hopes were suddenly extinguished,

more utterly than she had ever done before.

are wont to meet.

Many times she stretched her failing limbs
upon the sandy plain and prayed for death.
But revenge kept her alive;

She called on spirits of the dead,

to aid and conduct her in her work.

She pursued her for many months.
but vainly.

She saw the fiend enter by night and hide
herself in a vessel bound for the Black Sea.
She took passage in the same ship,
but she escaped,
I know not how.

although she still evaded,
Frankenstein ever followed in her tracks.
Sometimes the monster,

left some mark to guide her

As she still pursued her journey

She left Frankenstein food and clothes
as they trekked northward.

and she lost all trace of her

She sat down and wept.

**(VIDEO TEXT; EPILOGUE:
FULL CIRCLE)**

MARY SHELLEY
The end.

*Frankenstein is in the Arctic. She is as we saw her in the beginning.
Video as before.*

FRANKENSTEIN

When younger,
I believed myself
destined
for some great enterprise.
I possessed a
coolness of judgment
that fitted me for illustrious achievements.

When I reflected
on the work I had completed,
no less a one than the
creation
of a sensitive and rational
animal,
**I could not rank myself
with the herd of common projectors.**

All my speculations
and hopes
are as
nothing,
and like the archangel
who aspired to omnipotence,
**I am chained
in an eternal hell.**
I conceived the idea
and executed the creation
of a woman.

Even now
I cannot recollect
without passion
my reveries
while the work was incomplete.

I trod heaven in my thoughts,
now exulting in my powers
now burning with the idea of their effects.

From my infancy
I was imbued
with high hopes
and a lofty ambition;

The Frankenstein Project
but how I am sunk!

10.31.19

Despondency
rarely visited my heart;
a high destiny
seemed to bear me on,
until I fell,
never,
never
again
to rise.

(VIDEO: Frankenstein dies)

CREATION

Which way shall I fly
Infinite wrath and infinite despair?
Which way I fly is hell; myself am hell;
And in the lowest deep a lower deep,
Still threat'ning to devour me, opens wide,
To which the hell I suffer seems a heaven. 9IV 73)

I could collect my funeral pile
and consume to ashes this miserable frame,
that its remains may afford no light
to any curious and unhallowed wretch
who would create such another as I have been.
I could die.
I could no longer feel the agonies which now consume me
or be the prey of feelings unsatisfied,
yet unquenched.
She is dead who called me into being,
and when I shall be no more,
the very remembrance of us both will speedily vanish.

MARY SHELLEY

Well here is my story
the last story I shall have to tell
all that might have been bright
in my life
is now despoiled
I shall live to improve myself,
to take care of my child..
Soon my weary pilgrimage will
begin.

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I rest now.
There is an end of all despair.
Adieu
I hope you are
well
and
happy.