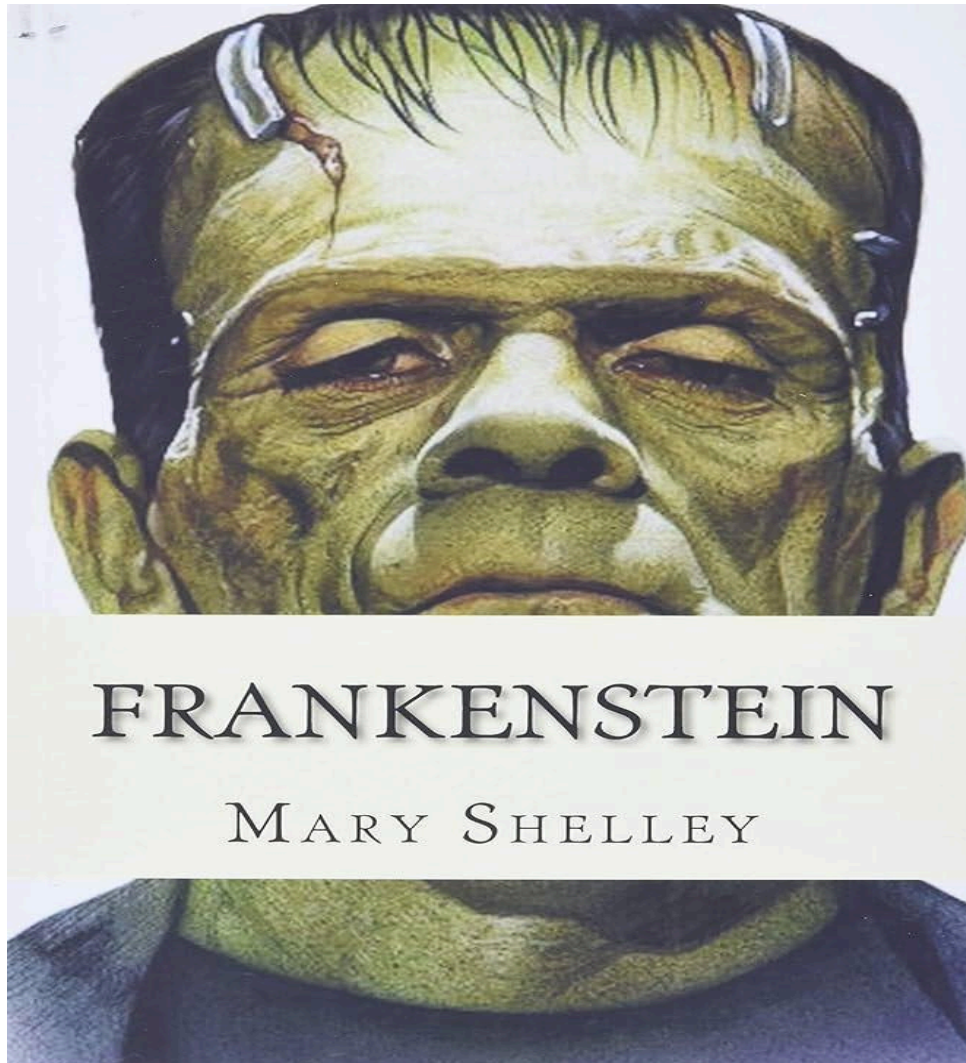# BOOK REVIEW

Book: Frankenstein
Author: Mary Shelley

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Introduction:

Frankenstein is a gothic science fiction novel written by **Mary Shelley** in 1818. Mary Shelley wrote this novel as part of a friendly competition between herself, Percy Shelley, John Polidori, and Lord Byron to write the best horror story. The novel tells the story of **Victor Frankenstein**, a scientist who creates a conscious creature from dead matter but abandons it, leading to tragic consequences. It explores themes such as ambition, isolation, judging by appearances, taking responsibility, and the **ethical use of science.**

1. Why I Chose This Book

I chose Frankenstein because I usually enjoy horror, mystery, and gothic fiction. I knew that Frankenstein was one of the earliest books to be published in this genre and was thus eager to explore it. I was also amazed that Mary Shelley wrote it when she was just 18 years old. I had seen many references to it in pop culture and also heard my friends talk about it, so I wanted to find out how scary and emotional the original story was.

2. Initial Expectations

Before reading, I expected a spooky, fast-paced horror story with a mad scientist, a terrifying monster, and the catastrophic events that follow. I did not expect the book to engage me emotionally but rather thought it would hook me with its exciting and eerie events . But I was surprised to find it emotional and thoughtful, especially from the creature's point of view. It was far deeper than I had anticipated in terms of the issues of identity, rejection and loneliness.

Summary:

1. Plot Overview

Frankenstein is narrated through letters written by an explorer, Robert Walton, who meets Victor Frankenstein during a journey to the Arctic. Victor shares his life story with Walton, explaining how his fascination with science led him to create a living being from dead matter. But when his actions have uncontrollable repercussions, what began as a dazzling discovery becomes a nightmare.

What happens when ambition gets out of control and feelings like loneliness, remorse, and dread take over is examined in the book. My interest was maintained throughout by the flawless blending of mystery, horror, and sorrow.

2. Main Characters and Themes

Main Characters:

- **Victor Frankenstein** – Frankenstein was a brilliant but impulsive scientist who created a creature he could not control.

- **The Creature** – The creature was an intelligent and emotional creature created by Frankenstein who was rejected by society and this seclusion made him commit horrible deeds.

- **Robert Walton** – Robert Walton was an explorer who found Victor and narrates the story through letters.

- **Elizabeth Lavenza** – Elizabeth Lavenza was Victor's kind and loving fiancée.

- **Henry Clerval** – Henry Clerval was Victor's loyal and cheerful friend.

- **The De Lacey Family** – A poor, kind family the creature observes and learns from.

Themes:

- **Danger of unchecked ambition** – Victor's obsession with science leads to disaster.

- **Loneliness and rejection** – The creature is abandoned and judged, which influences his actions and behavior.

- **Judging by appearances** – People fear the creature because of how he looks.

- **Nature vs. nurture** – The creature wasn't born evil but became bitter due to how he was treated.

- **Science and ethics** – The book raises ethical concerns about whether or not all scientific discoveries are morally correct.

- **Responsibility** – Victor fails to take responsibility for his creations resulting in repercussions.

Analysis and Opinion

Frankenstein is a powerful story that explores deep emotions. The book's ability to make me feel terrible for the monster was one of its best features. Despite being referred to as a

monster, he has genuine emotions and merely desires acceptance. Mary Shelley's examination of human connection, loneliness, and guilt was profound.

What didn't work as well for me was the old-fashioned language and the long letter format. Some parts were slow, and I found them a bit hard to follow. I also wished there were more face-to-face scenes between Victor and the creature.

The character that stood out most was definitely the creature. Despite being feared, he was kind at heart, learned to speak and read, and just wanted a friend. His transformation made me feel both sad and thoughtful.

The book's main message is that people need love, and that we should take responsibility for our actions. Victor ignored his creation, and both of them suffered because of it.

- Direct speech: Victor said, "I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation."
- Indirect speech: Victor said that he had desired it with an ardour that had far exceeded moderation.

Personal Connection

This book made me reflect on how we treat people who are different from us. The creature didn't choose to be formed or to be feared, and I felt terrible for him. He was initially nice, but his repeated rejection altered him. It served as a reminder to me that the proverb **"Don't judge a book by its cover"** is a valuable life lesson.

It also showed me that we can't just **sweep problems under the rug**. Victor avoided his mistake, and things only got worse. . This book truly made me realize how damaging loneliness can be. Everyone deserves kindness, love, and someone to stand by them.

While writing this, I realized how powerful stories can be. Frankenstein didn't just tell a tale but rather it **struck a chord** with me and made me think deeply.

Recommendation and Conclusion

1. Would I recommend this book?
Yes, I would definitely recommend Frankenstein. It's not just a horror story but it's also emotional, meaningful, and makes you think about life, science, and human nature.

2. Who would enjoy it the most?
Readers who enjoy emotional and tragic stories, classic literature, complex characters, and thought-provoking questions about science, ethics, and human nature will enjoy this book the most.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Frankenstein explores themes of love, sorrow, making mistakes, and being human in addition to a terrifying creature and the crimes it perpetrates. It demonstrates the impact of our actions on other people and the significance of accepting responsibility. It also showcases that extreme loneliness and rejection by society can push people to their limit. It teaches us the lesson that we should always take responsibility for our actions, not let our ambition overtake us and be accepting and kind towards everyone irrespective of their differences from us. I'm glad I chose to read this book because it made me see things from a new perspective and feel emotions I didn't expect from a gothic novel.