

Frankenstein

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

Mary Shelley

Adapted by Brigit Viney

CLASSIC GRAPHIC NOVEL COLLECTION

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Script by Jason Cobley

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Frankenstein: The Graphic Novel

Mary Shelley
Script by Jason Cobley
Adapted by Brigit Viney

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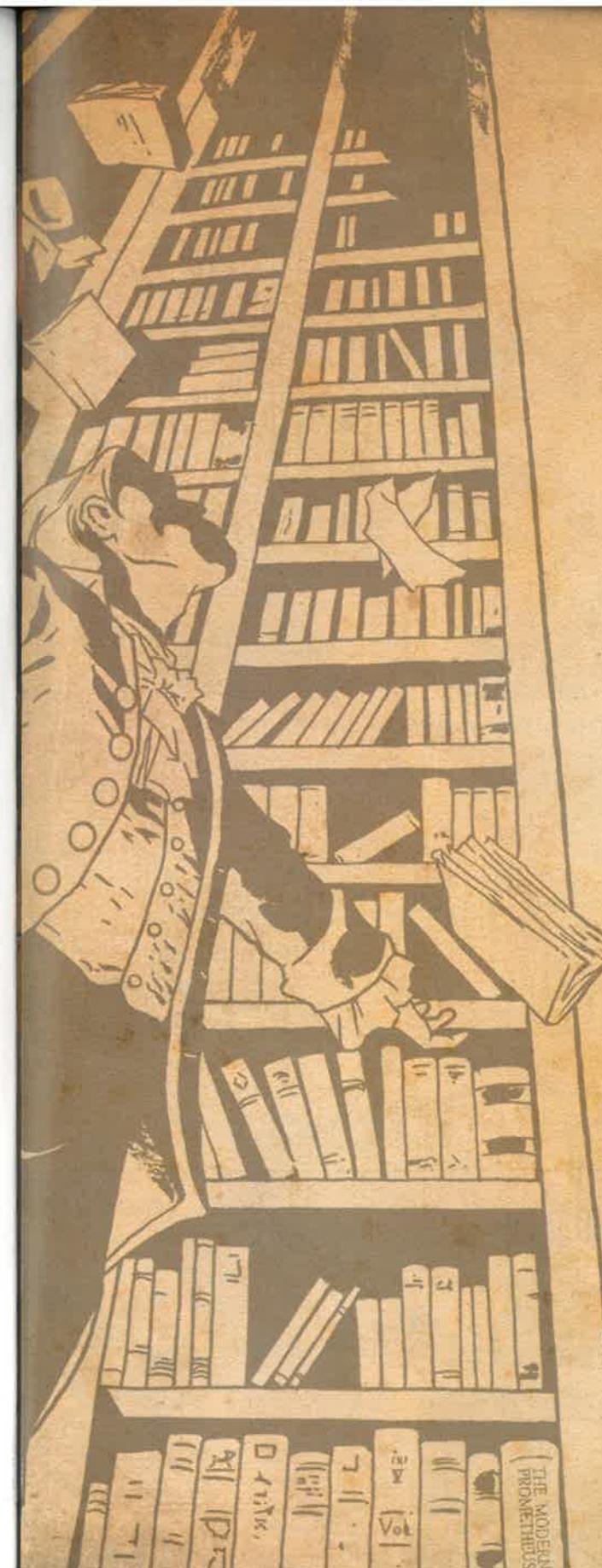
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Contents

Characters	4
Introduction	6

Frankenstein

Volume I

Letter I	7
Letter II	8
Letter III	8
Letter IV	9

Chapter I	12
Chapter II	13
Chapter III	16
Chapter IV	20
Chapter V	22
Chapter VI	35
Chapter VII	39
Chapter VIII	48

Volume II

Chapter I	51
Chapter II	52
Chapter III	56
Chapter IV	61
Chapter V	64
Chapter VI	67
Chapter VII	68
Chapter VIII	73
Chapter IX	81

Volume III

Chapter I	84
Chapter II	87
Chapter III	92
Chapter IV	102
Chapter V	107
Chapter VI	110
Chapter VII	116

Glossary	132
A Brief Biography of Mary Shelley	136
Character Summary	138
Frankenstein: Context	140
Frankenstein: Plot	141

Characters



Victor Frankenstein



Frankenstein's Monster



Elizabeth Lavenza
Victor's adopted sister



Robert Walton
Adventurer



The Ship's Master



The Ship's Officer



Alphonse Frankenstein
Victor's father



Caroline Frankenstein
Victor's mother



Ernest Frankenstein
Victor's brother



William Frankenstein
Victor's brother



Henry Clerval
Victor's friend



Justine Moritz
Servant to Frankenstein's family

Characters



Monsieur Krempe
*Professor of Natural Science,
Ingolstadt University*



Monsieur Waldman
*Professor of Chemistry,
Ingolstadt University*



Lawyer
*States the charge against
Justine Moritz*



Old Woman
*Gives evidence against
Justine Moritz*



Monsieur De Lacey
Peasant



Agatha De Lacey
*Peasant, daughter of
Monsieur De Lacey*



Felix De Lacey
*Peasant, son of
Monsieur De Lacey*



Turkish Merchant



Safie
Daughter of the Turkish Merchant



Mr. Kirwin
Magistrate



Fisherman



Judge in Geneva

Introduction

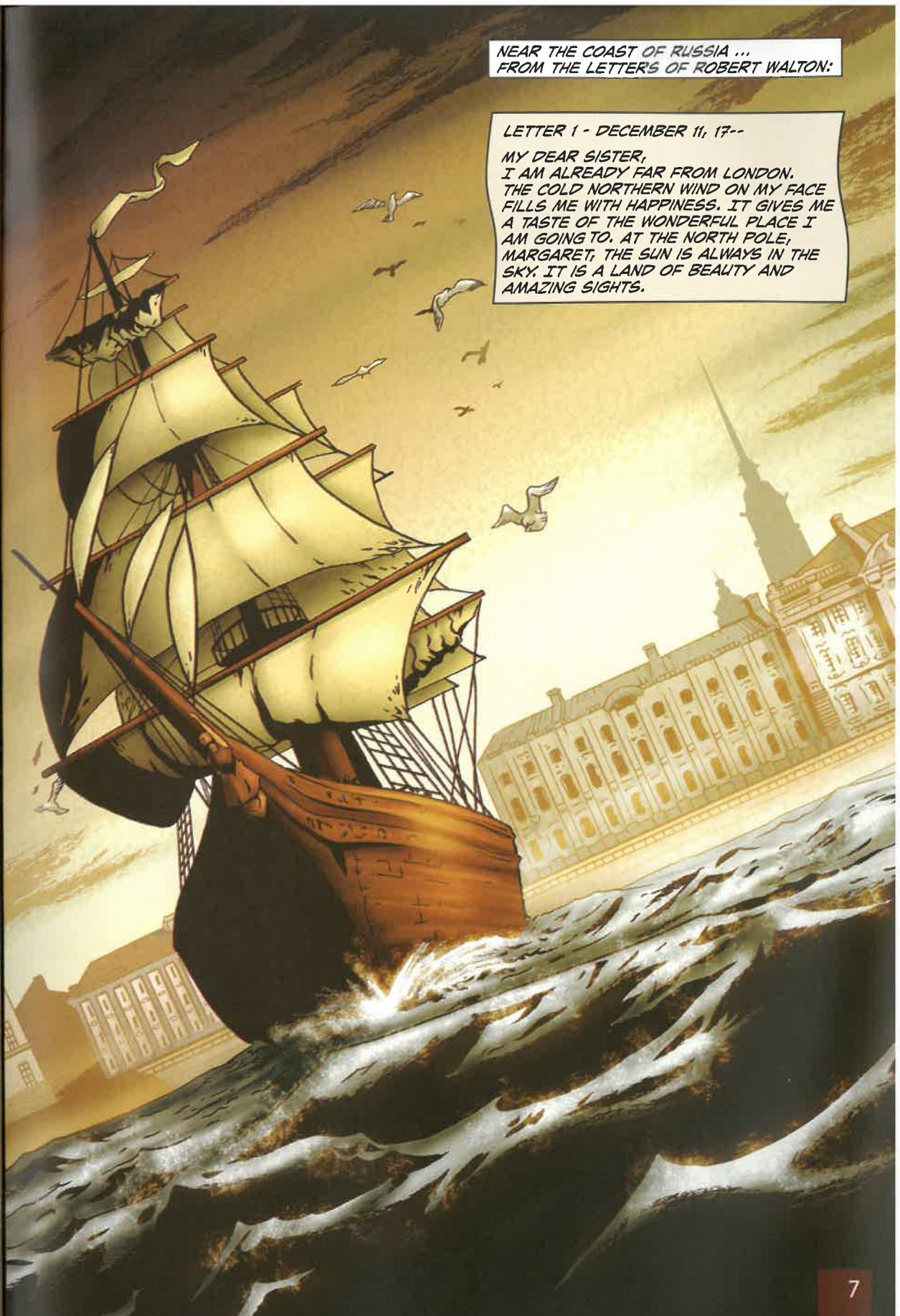
Mary Shelley's classic novel, *Frankenstein*, was first published in 1818. It was written in the days before steam travel, when the world seemed much bigger than it does today. Only the bravest adventurers could visit distant places and discover the secrets they held. It was possible that there could be things — things created by humans — that would terrify anyone who saw them.

Science was progressing extremely quickly, and it seemed that anything and everything was possible as humans found new and powerful ways to create and to destroy.

At the same time, medicine was finding new ways to cure sick people and to make people live longer. This raised questions about the nature of life itself. For example, if a dying man could be saved and brought back to life, could a dead man also be brought back to life? What about a dead person made from parts of other dead people? Could a creature like that be given life as well?

Where would it end? Would it go too far?

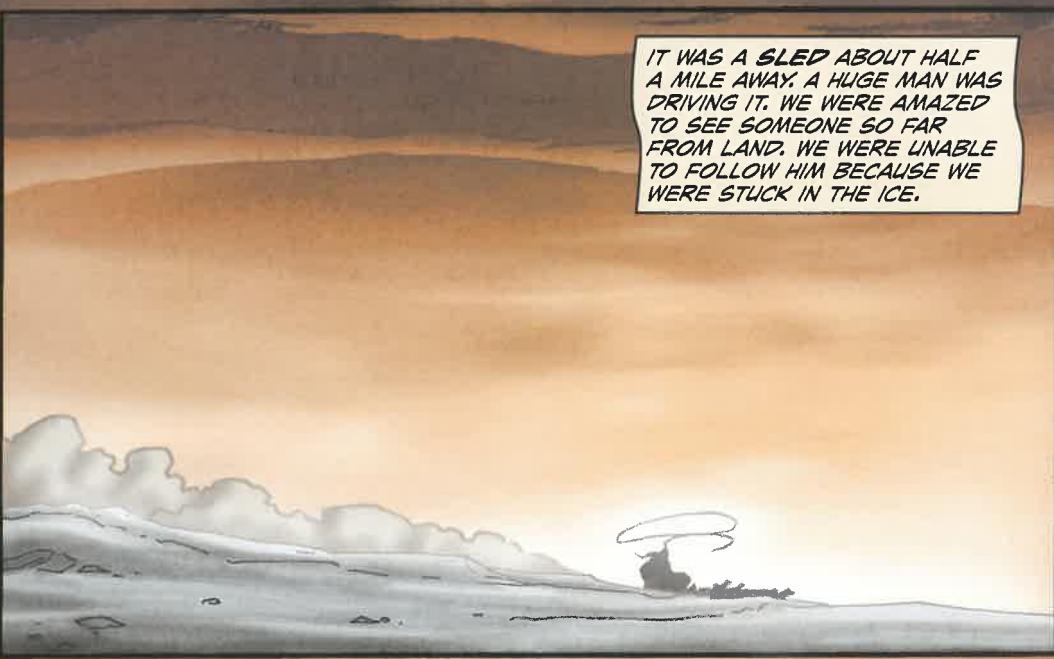
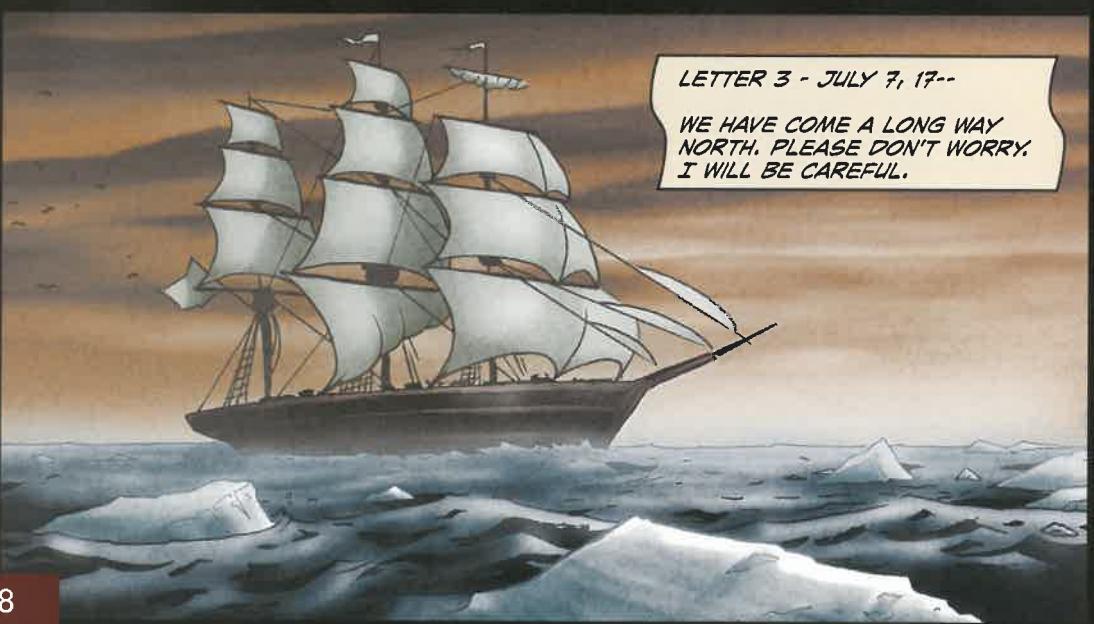
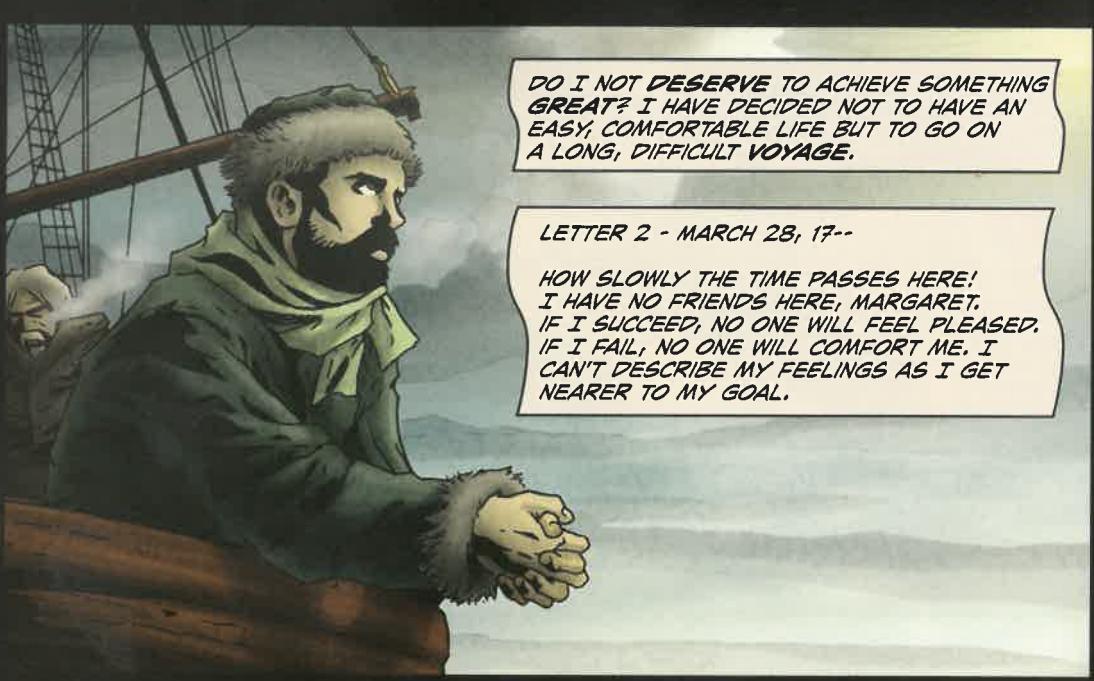
Indeed, in the early days of scientific advances, anything and everything seemed possible ...

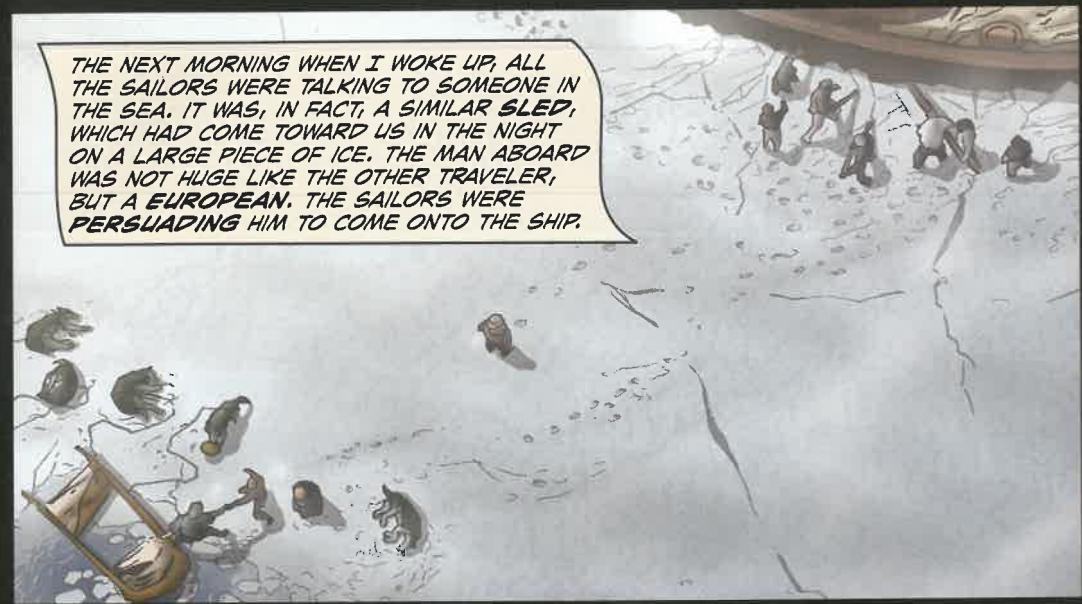


NEAR THE COAST OF RUSSIA ...
FROM THE LETTERS OF ROBERT WALTON:

LETTER 1 - DECEMBER 11, 17--

MY DEAR SISTER,
I AM ALREADY FAR FROM LONDON.
THE COLD NORTHERN WIND ON MY FACE
FILLS ME WITH HAPPINESS. IT GIVES ME
A TASTE OF THE WONDERFUL PLACE I
AM GOING TO. AT THE NORTH POLE,
MARGARET, THE SUN IS ALWAYS IN THE
SKY. IT IS A LAND OF BEAUTY AND
AMAZING SIGHTS.





AUGUST 19, 17--

YESTERDAY HE SAID TO ME ...

YOU CAN
SEE, CAPTAIN
WALTON, THAT I
HAVE SUFFERED
GREATLY.

YOU ARE LOOKING
FOR KNOWLEDGE AS I DID. I HOPE IT
WILL NOT HURT YOU AS IT HURT ME. YOU
MAY LEARN SOMETHING FROM MY STORY.

VOLUME I
CHAPTER I

MY NAME IS VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN. MY
PARENTS WERE FROM GENEVA AND WERE
VERY WELL RESPECTED THERE. AFTER
THEY MARRIED, THEY TRAVELED TO
ITALY, GERMANY, AND NAPLES. I WAS
BORN IN NAPLES.

LISTEN TO
IT. YOU'LL SEE
HOW NOTHING CAN
CHANGE MY
DESTINY NOW.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS, I
WAS THEIR ONLY CHILD.
THEY LOVED ME DEEPLY.

WHEN I WAS ABOUT FIVE YEARS
OLD, MY MOTHER ADOPTED
A LITTLE GIRL. SHE WAS THE
DAUGHTER OF A NOBLEMAN
WHO HAD DIED.

ELIZABETH LAVENZA BECAME
MORE THAN A SISTER TO ME.
WE DID EVERYTHING TOGETHER.
I LOVED HER VERY MUCH.

VOLUME I
CHAPTER II

WE WERE BROUGHT UP
TOGETHER. THERE WAS
LESS THAN A YEAR
BETWEEN OUR AGES.

WHEN MY PARENTS HAD
ANOTHER SON, WE WENT
BACK TO GENEVA AND
SETTLED THERE.

IN GENEVA, I BECAME
CLOSE FRIENDS WITH HENRY
CLEVAL. HE LOVED READING
AND WRITING STORIES.

ELIZABETH WAS KIND AND LOVING. SHE SHOWED CLERVAL THE BEAUTY OF GOODNESS.

I READ WITH GREAT PLEASURE THE WORKS OF MEN WHO HAD STUDIED NATURE AND DISCOVERED ITS SECRETS.

I BECAME THEIR FOLLOWER. I DIDN'T WANT MONEY, BUT I WANTED THE GLORY OF A GREAT DISCOVERY.

I WANTED TO FREE PEOPLE FROM DISEASE.

WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN, I WITNESSED A TERRIBLE STORM.

THE THUNDER WAS FRIGHTENINGLY LOUD.

AS I WATCHED THE STORM, A STREAM OF FIRE SUDDENLY CAME OUT OF AN OLD TREE NEAR OUR HOUSE.

WHEN THE FIRE DIED OUT, MOST OF THE TREE HAD DISAPPEARED.

THE NEXT MORNING, WE FOUND THAT THE BOTTOM OF THE TREE HAD BEEN BROKEN INTO LONG, THIN PIECES. I BECAME INTERESTED IN ELECTRICITY, AND I BEGAN TO STUDY MATHEMATICS AND OTHER SCIENCES.



BUT DESTINY WAS TOO POWERFUL. SHE HAD ALREADY DECIDED ON MY DESTRUCTION.



VOLUME I
CHAPTER III

WHEN I WAS SEVENTEEN, MY PARENTS DECIDED TO SEND ME TO INGOLSTADT UNIVERSITY.



THEN ELIZABETH BECAME VERY SICK. MY MOTHER TOOK CARE OF HER, AND ELIZABETH RECOVERED. HOWEVER, THEN MY MOTHER BECAME SICK.





VOLUME I
CHAPTER IV

I FOUND A TRUE FRIEND IN MONSIEUR WALDMAN.

HE SMOOTHED THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE FOR ME IN A THOUSAND WAYS. IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, MY DISCOVERIES MADE ME WELL RESPECTED AT THE UNIVERSITY.

I WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN ANYTHING THAT LIVED. I WANTED TO KNOW WHERE LIFE CAME FROM.

FOR A LONG TIME, I WASN'T SURE HOW TO USE THIS ASTONISHING POWER.

TO EXAMINE THE CAUSES OF LIFE, WE MUST FIRST EXAMINE DEATH.



I WANTED TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BODY AFTER DEATH.

TO ME, A GRAVEYARD WAS JUST A PLACE THAT WAS FULL OF DEAD BODIES. I WASN'T AFRAID OF IT.



... BUT TO MAKE A BODY REMAINED EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

THE SMALLNESS OF MANY PARTS OF THE BODY MADE MY WORK VERY SLOW, SO I DECIDED TO MAKE THE BODY LARGER THAN NORMAL - ABOUT EIGHT FEET TALL.



MAKING THIS BODY WAS ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT.

FOR DAYS AND NIGHTS, I EXAMINED DEAD BODIES AND HOW THEY DECAYED.

THEN SUDDENLY, AFTER WEEKS OF EXTREMELY HARD WORK ...

... I SUCCEEDED IN DISCOVERING THE CAUSE OF LIFE!



ALONE IN MY ROOM, I WORKED ON MY CREATION.



OFTEN, I HATED WHAT I WAS DOING.

I WORKED SO HARD THAT I BECAME SICK AND VERY NERVOUS. I COULDN'T SPEAK TO ANYONE.



ON A DARK EVENING IN NOVEMBER, I FINALLY FINISHED.

I PREPARED TO PUT LIFE INTO THE LIFELESS THING.

HE WAS PERFECT.

GREAT GOD!

HE OPENED A DULL YELLOW EYE.

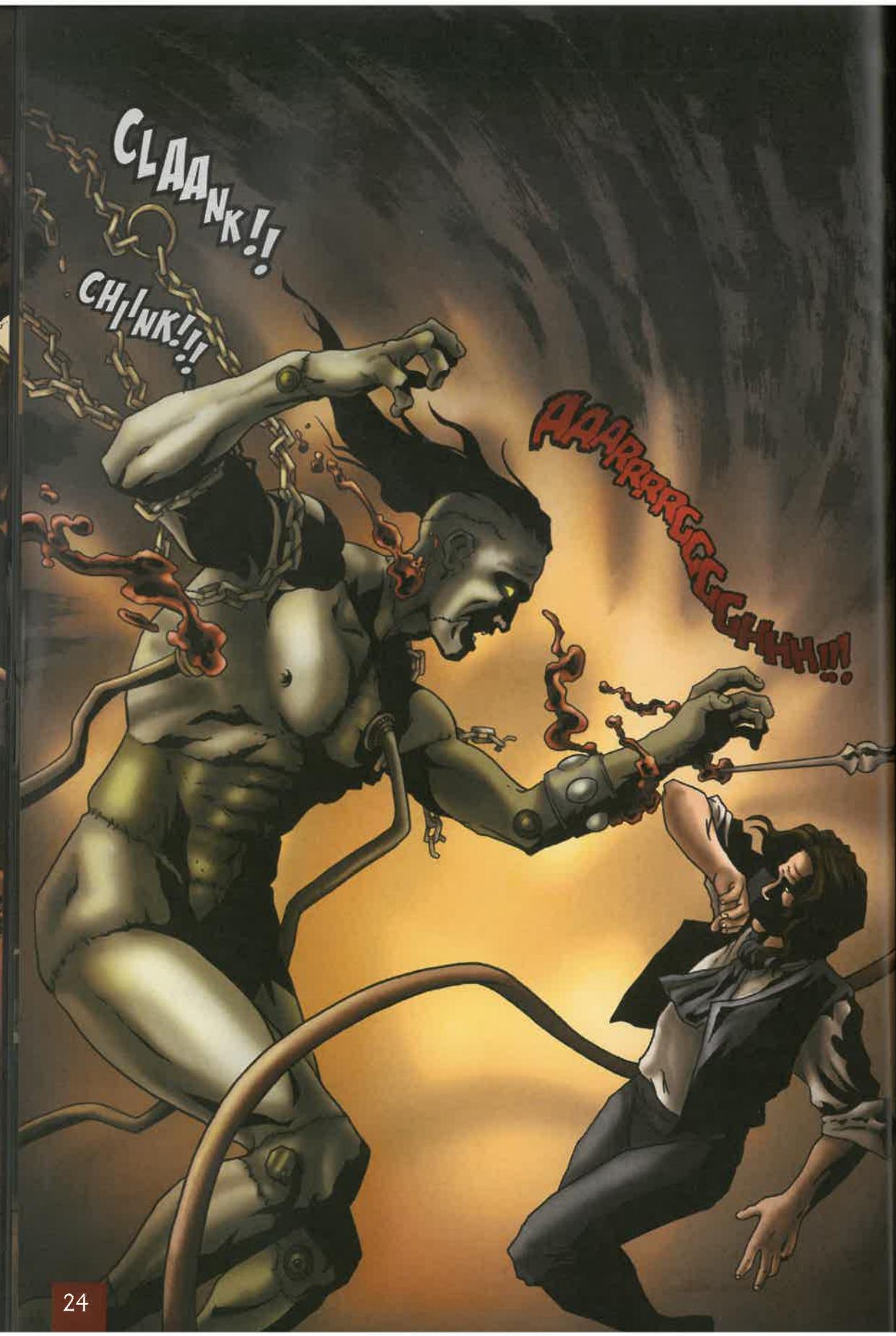
THEN HE BEGAN TO BREATHE AND MOVE!

I HAD WORKED HARD FOR THIS MOMENT FOR TWO YEARS. BUT NOW THAT I HAD FINISHED, THE BEAUTY OF THE DREAM DISAPPEARED, AND I WAS FILLED WITH HORROR.

CLANK!!

CHLINK!!

CREEEAAKK!!



I DREAMED ABOUT ELIZABETH.
SHE WAS WALKING IN INGOLSTADT.



PLEASED AND
SURPRISED, I
EMBRACED HER ...



... THEY TURNED
DEATHLY WHITE ...

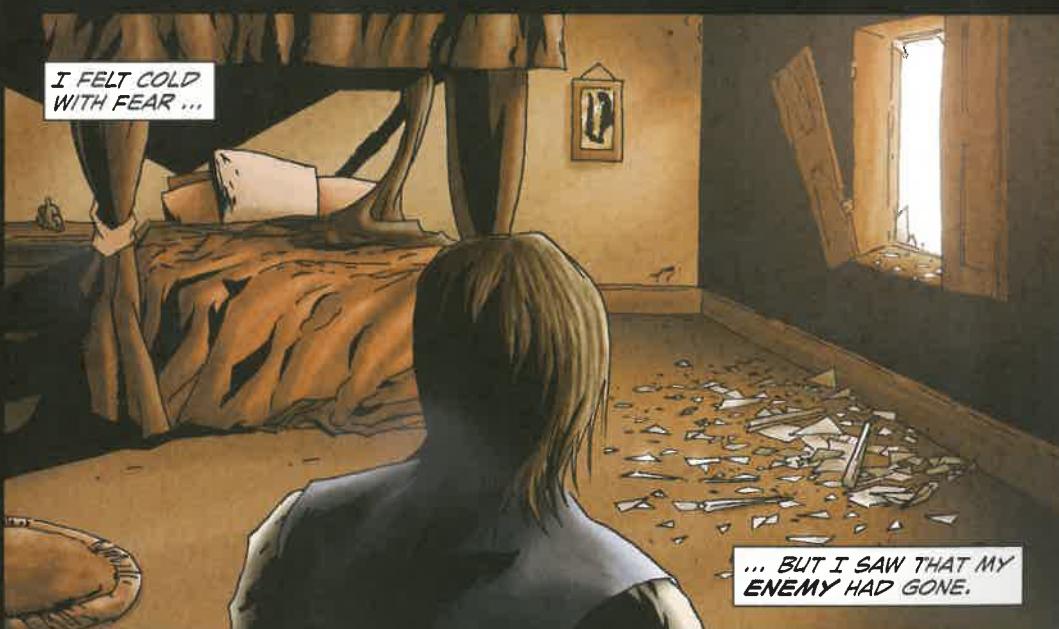
... AND SHE BECAME MY DEAD MOTHER!



I WOKE UP
IN HORROR.

CRACK!!





THE SERVANT BROUGHT US BREAKFAST, BUT I WAS TOO EXCITED TO EAT.



HENRY TOOK CARE OF ME FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. HE DIDN'T TELL MY FAMILY ABOUT MY ILLNESS.

VERY SLOWLY, I RECOVERED. SPRING ARRIVED, AND THIS HELPED ME.

VOLUME I
CHAPTER VI

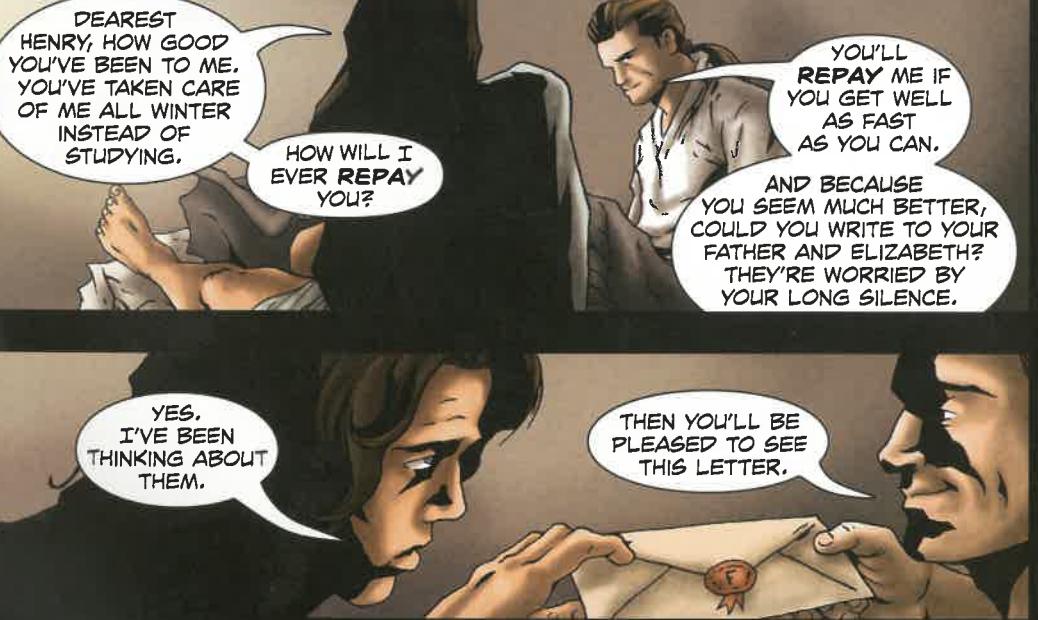
DEAR VICTOR,

YOU HAVE BEEN SICK, VERY SICK, AND I AM WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

GET WELL AND COME HOME. YOUR FATHER REALLY WANTS TO SEE YOU.

ERNEST IS SIXTEEN NOW. HE WANTS VERY MUCH TO GO ABROAD, BUT WE CAN'T LET HIM LEAVE UNTIL YOU COME HOME.

AND LITTLE WILLIAM IS LOVELY. HE IS VERY TALL FOR HIS AGE AND SMILES AND LAUGHS A LOT. HE ALREADY HAS TWO LITTLE "WIVES"! LOUISA IS HIS FAVORITE. SHE'S FIVE.



YOU LIKED HER VERY MUCH. SHE COULD ALWAYS MAKE YOU FEEL HAPPY.

ONE BY ONE, HER BROTHERS AND SISTER DIED, AND HER MOTHER CALLED HER HOME. SOMETIMES HER MOTHER WAS SORRY FOR WHAT SHE HAD DONE. AT OTHER TIMES, SHE SAID THAT JUSTINE HAD CAUSED THE DEATHS OF HER BROTHERS AND SISTER.

BUT NOW HER MOTHER IS AT PEACE: SHE DIED AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST WINTER.

JUSTINE HAS COME BACK TO US, AND I LOVE HER DEARLY. SHE IS CLEVER, GENTLE, AND VERY PRETTY.

I FEEL BETTER NOW BECAUSE I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU, DEAR VICTOR. GOOD-BYE! AND PLEASE WRITE TO ME.

ELIZABETH LAVENZA

DEAR, DEAR ELIZABETH!
I WILL WRITE IMMEDIATELY!

I WROTE AND FELT VERY TIRED, BUT IT WAS THE START OF MY RECOVERY. TWO WEEKS LATER, I WAS WELL ENOUGH TO LEAVE MY ROOM.

I HATED NATURAL SCIENCE AND THE SIGHT OF MY SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT. I COULD NEVER TELL HENRY ABOUT WHAT I HAD DONE OR WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON THAT TERRIBLE NIGHT.

HENRY HAD COME TO THE UNIVERSITY TO STUDY THE LANGUAGES OF THE EAST, AND I BEGAN TO STUDY THEM WITH HIM.

I FOUND COMFORT IN THE WRITINGS OF THE EASTERN POETS.

THEY WROTE ABOUT A WARM SUN AND GARDENS, AN ENEMY WHO BEHAVES WELL, AND THE FIRE THAT BURNS IN YOUR OWN HEART.

SUMMER PASSED, AND WINTER CAME. I WANTED TO GO BACK TO GENEVA, BUT THERE WAS TOO MUCH SNOW. SPRING CAME AGAIN.

HENRY SUGGESTED THAT WE GO WALKING AROUND INGOLSTADT BEFORE WE RETURNED TO GENEVA.

WHAT AN EXCELLENT FRIEND!

FOR TWO WEEKS, WE WALKED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. HENRY TAUGHT ME TO LOVE NATURE AGAIN AND THE HAPPY FACES OF CHILDREN.

I FELT VERY HAPPY AND HAD NO WORRIES AT ALL.



VOLUME I
CHAPTER VII

WHEN I RETURNED TO INGOLSTADT, I FOUND THIS LETTER FROM MY FATHER.

MY DEAR VICTOR,

YOU HAVE PROBABLY WAITED FOR A LETTER SO THAT YOU CAN ARRANGE THE DATE OF YOUR RETURN. SO HOW CAN I TELL YOU ABOUT WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO US?

WILLIAM IS DEAD! THAT SWEET CHILD WHO WAS SO GENTLE! VICTOR - SOMEONE HAS MURDERED HIM!

LAST THURSDAY, WE ALL WENT FOR A WALK IN PLAINPALAIS. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL, WARM EVENING, AND WE WENT FARTHER THAN USUAL.



ERNEST!

WILLIAM!

IT WAS GETTING DARK WHEN WE DECIDED TO TURN BACK. WILLIAM AND ERNEST HAD GONE AHEAD OF US, SO WE CALLED FOR THEM.

HAVE YOU SEEN WILLIAM?

WE SEARCHED FOR HIM ALL NIGHT.

WE WERE PLAYING, AND HE RAN AWAY TO HIDE.

I TRIED TO FIND HIM AND WAITED FOR HIM, BUT HE HASN'T COME BACK!

I COULDN'T REST WHILE HE WAS LOST.

AT ABOUT FIVE IN THE MORNING, I DISCOVERED MY LOVELY BOY, PALE AND STILL.

THE MARKS OF THE MURDERER'S FINGERS WERE ON HIS NECK.

WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO FIND THE MURDERER, BUT THAT WON'T BRING BACK MY DEAREST WILLIAM.

I LET HIM WEAR A VALUABLE PICTURE OF YOUR MOTHER AROUND HIS NECK. IT'S GONE. IT MUST BE THE REASON SOMEONE KILLED HIM.

COME HOME, DEAREST VICTOR. ONLY YOU CAN COMFORT ELIZABETH. SHE CRIES ALL THE TIME AND BLAMES HERSELF FOR WILLIAM'S DEATH. WILL YOU RETURN AND COMFORT US ALL?



MY DEAR
FRANKENSTEIN,
THIS IS TERRIBLE
NEWS. WHAT ARE YOU
GOING TO DO?



ALTHOUGH IT WAS DARK WHEN I ARRIVED IN GENEVA, I WAS UNABLE TO REST.



WILLIAM!

THIS IS THE
SONG OF YOUR
FUNERAL!





AS I SAID THESE WORDS, I SAW
A FIGURE IN THE DARKNESS.



... THE DEVIL THAT I
HAD CREATED.



I BECAME SURE
THAT HE WAS.



WHEN I SAW HIM
AGAIN, HE WAS
AMONG THE ROCKS
NEAR THE TOP OF
THE MOUNTAIN.



HE SOON REACHED THE TOP ...

... AND DISAPPEARED.

IT WAS ABOUT FIVE IN THE MORNING WHEN I ARRIVED AT MY FATHER'S HOUSE.

I TOLD THE SERVANTS NOT TO WAKE THE FAMILY, AND I WENT INTO THE LIBRARY.

SIX YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE I LEFT.

YOU'VE FOUND HIM? HOW? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO FOLLOW HIM! I SAW HIM LAST NIGHT, AND HE WAS FREE!

WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT THE MURDERER IS JUSTINE MORITZ!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!

POOR, POOR GIRL! SURELY NO ONE BELIEVES SHE DID IT?

NO ONE DID AT FIRST, BUT SHE HAS BEHAVED VERY STRANGELY RECENTLY. SHE IS APPEARING IN COURT TODAY, SO YOU WILL HEAR EVERYTHING THEN.

MY DEAREST VICTOR!

ERNEST!

AH! THIS IS SUCH A SAD TIME ...

... BUT I'M SURE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP OUR FATHER AND ELIZABETH.

ELIZABETH?

SHE NEEDS COMFORT THE MOST.

SHE BLAMES HERSELF FOR WILLIAM'S MURDER.
BUT NOW WE HAVE FOUND THE MURDERER.

JUSTINE BECAME SICK ON THE MORNING OF THE MURDER. SHE STAYED IN BED FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

DURING THIS TIME, ONE OF THE SERVANTS FOUND THE PICTURE OF OUR MOTHER THAT WILLIAM HAD BEEN WEARING IN HER POCKET.

WHEN SHE WAS ARRESTED, SHE BEHAVED VERY STRANGELY.

YOU ARE ALL WRONG.

I KNOW THE MURDERER, AND IT IS NOT JUSTINE.



JUSTINE HAD BEEN OUT ON THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER. EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, A WOMAN WHO WORKS AT THE MARKET SAW HER NEAR THE PLACE WHERE WILLIAM'S BODY WAS FOUND.

JUSTINE WAS CALLED TO DEFEND HERSELF. AT TIMES, SHE ALMOST CRIED, BUT SHE SPOKE CLEARLY.

GOD KNOWS THAT I AM COMPLETELY INNOCENT.

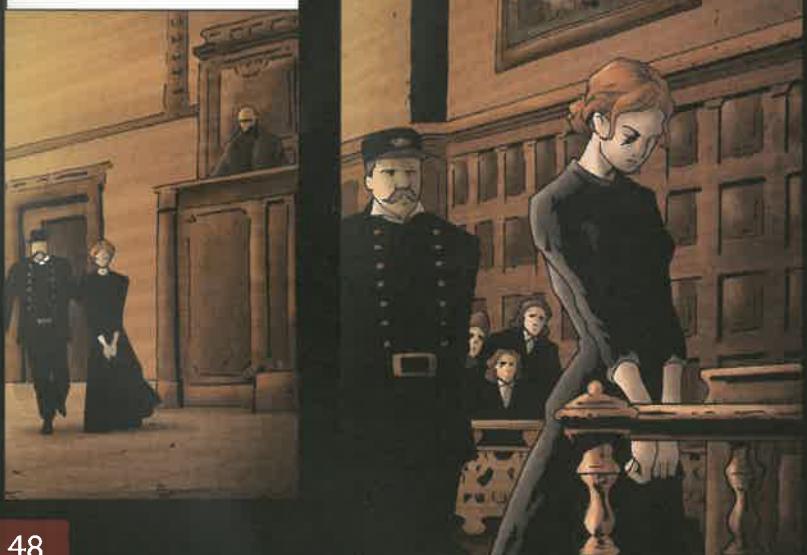
I SPENT THE EVENING AT MY AUNT'S HOUSE.

ON MY WAY HOME, A MAN ASKED ME IF I HAD SEEN THE CHILD WHO WAS LOST.

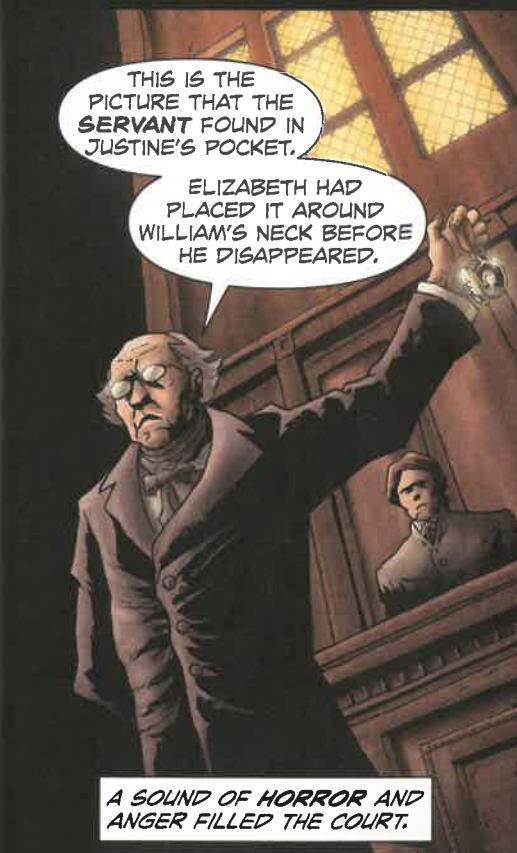
I SPENT MANY HOURS LOOKING FOR HIM. WHEN I TRIED TO RETURN TO GENEVA, THE GATES WERE SHUT. I HAD TO SPEND THE NIGHT IN A BARN.



WHEN JUSTINE CAME INTO THE COURT, SHE LOOKED CALM AND CONFIDENT.



SHE LOOKED AT US LOVINGLY.



A SOUND OF HORROR AND ANGER FILLED THE COURT.

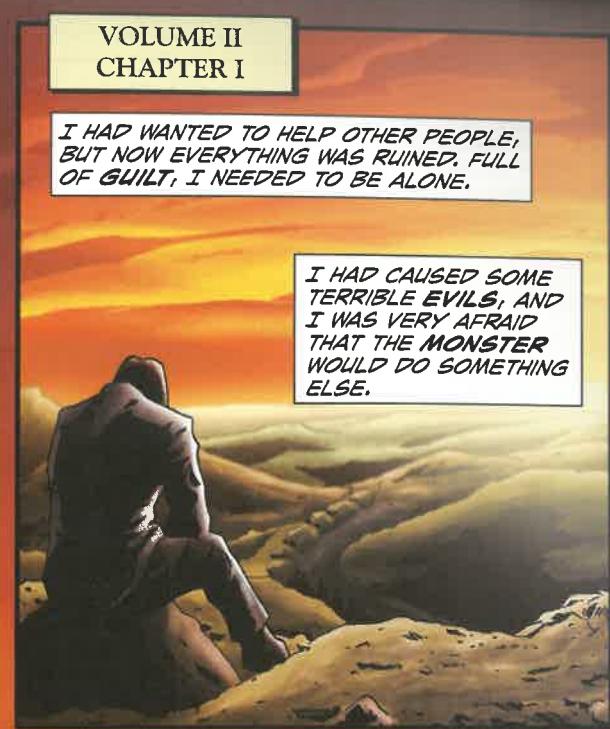
IN THE EARLY MORNING, THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS WOKE ME. I DECIDED TO LOOK FOR THE MISSING CHILD AGAIN.

I WAS VERY TIRED WHEN I MET THE MARKET WOMAN BECAUSE I HADN'T SLEPT MUCH.

I DON'T KNOW HOW THE PICTURE GOT IN MY POCKET. I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT.

THE COURT MUST DECIDE NOW WHAT HAPPENS TO ME.





I WENT TO THE ALPINE VALLEYS BECAUSE I THOUGHT I COULD FORGET MY SORROWS THERE. AFTER A TIME, I ARRIVED AT THE VILLAGE OF CHAMONIX.

VOLUME II
CHAPTER II

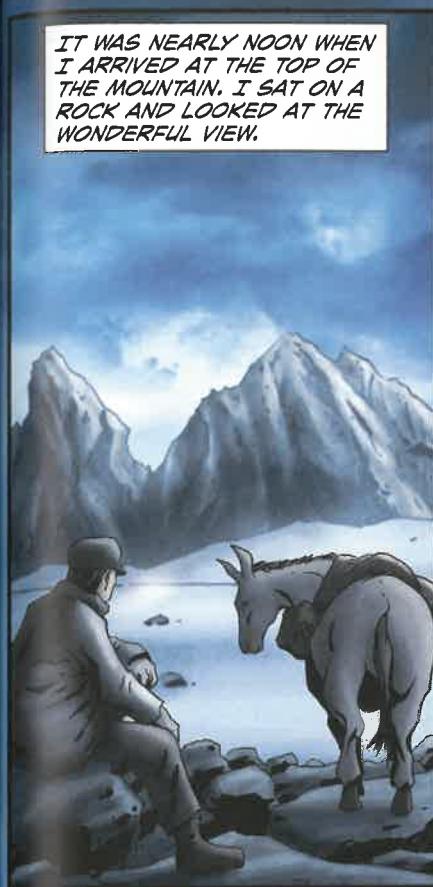
I DECIDED TO CLIMB TO THE TOP OF MONTANVERT. I REMEMBERED THE VIEW FROM THE TOP. IT HAD HAD A GREAT EFFECT ON ME WHEN I FIRST SAW IT.



THE CLIMB WAS DANGEROUS. THE TOPS OF THE MOUNTAINS WERE HIDDEN IN CLOUDS, AND RAIN FELL HEAVILY FROM THE DARK SKY.



IT WAS NEARLY NOON WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN. I SAT ON A ROCK AND LOOKED AT THE WONDERFUL VIEW.



MY HEART FILLED WITH JOY.



AS I SAID THIS, I SUDDENLY SAW THE FIGURE OF A HUGE MAN. HE WAS COMING TOWARD ME AT GREAT SPEED.



IT WAS THE MONSTER THAT I HAD CREATED. I SHOOK WITH ANGER AND HORROR. I WANTED TO FIGHT HIM AND TO KILL HIM!



DEVIL,
AREN'T YOU
AFRAID OF
ME?

GO AWAY,
DISGUSTING
CREATURE!

OR STAY,
AND I WILL
KILL YOU!

BE
CALM!

LISTEN TO ME.

HAVEN'T I
SUFFERED ENOUGH?
LIFE IS DEAR TO
ME, AND I WILL
DEFEND IT.

REMEMBER THAT
YOU MADE ME MORE
POWERFUL THAN
YOURSELF. HOWEVER,
I WON'T FIGHT YOU.

I
EXPECTED
THIS.

ALL MEN
HATE THE POOR
AND UNHAPPY.

AND YOU -
MY MAKER - YOU,
TOO, HATE ME AND
WANT TO KILL
ME.

I AM YOUR
CREATURE. I WAS GOOD, BUT
UNHAPPINESS HAS MADE
ME BAD.

MAKE ME
HAPPY, AND I
WILL BE GOOD
AGAIN.

WE CAN'T BE
FRIENDS; WE ARE
ENEMIES. GO
OR FIGHT.

HOW CAN I MAKE YOU
UNDERSTAND? YOU HATE ME,
AND SO DOES EVERYONE ELSE.

MY ENEMIES
WILL SHARE MY
UNHAPPINESS IF
YOU DO NOTHING.
LISTEN TO ME,
FRANKENSTEIN,
AND THEN, IF YOU CAN
AND STILL WANT TO,
DESTROY THE WORK
OF YOUR HANDS.

DO YOUR DUTY TOWARD
ME, AND I'LL LEAVE YOU AND
EVERYONE ELSE IN PEACE, BUT IF
YOU REFUSE, I'LL MURDER ALL
YOUR FRIENDS.

YOU
MONSTER!

DEVIL!
I'LL FINISH
THE LIFE THAT
I SO STUPIDLY
GAVE YOU!

I HATE
THESE HANDS
THAT MADE
YOU!

COME TO
THE HUT
ON THE
MOUNTAIN.

LISTEN TO ME.
DECIDE IF I WILL
LEAD A GOOD LIFE
OR BRING DEATH TO
YOU AND YOUR
FRIENDS.

I DECIDED TO LISTEN TO HIS STORY. FOR THE FIRST TIME, I REALIZED THAT AS HIS CREATOR, I HAD DUTIES TOWARD HIM. I FELT I OUGHT TO MAKE HIM HAPPY.

VOLUME II
CHAPTER III

I CAN'T REMEMBER MY FIRST DAYS VERY WELL. I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE MY DIFFERENT SENSES AT FIRST.

I WANTED TO FIND A PLACE THAT HAD SHADE, SO I WENT TO THE FOREST NEAR INGOLSTADT.

I ATE SOME FRUIT AND DRANK FROM THE STREAM. THEN I LAY DOWN AND WENT TO SLEEP.

IT WAS DARK WHEN I WOKE UP. I FELT COLD AND FRIGHTENED. I HAD TAKEN SOME CLOTHES FROM YOUR APARTMENT, BUT THEY WERE NOT WARM ENOUGH. I SAT AND CRIED.

SOMETIMES I TRIED TO COPY THE SONGS OF THE BIRDS, BUT I COULDN'T. THE NOISES I MADE FRIGHTENED ME INTO SILENCE AGAIN.

SEVERAL DAYS AND NIGHTS PASSED. I SLOWLY BEGAN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I SAW AND HEARD.

THERE WAS VERY LITTLE FOOD. OFTEN, IT TOOK ME THE WHOLE DAY TO FIND A FEW NUTS.

I REALLY WANTED FOOD AND SHELTER. EVENTUALLY, I SAW A SMALL HUT. THIS WAS A NEW SIGHT TO ME. I EXAMINED IT WITH INTEREST.

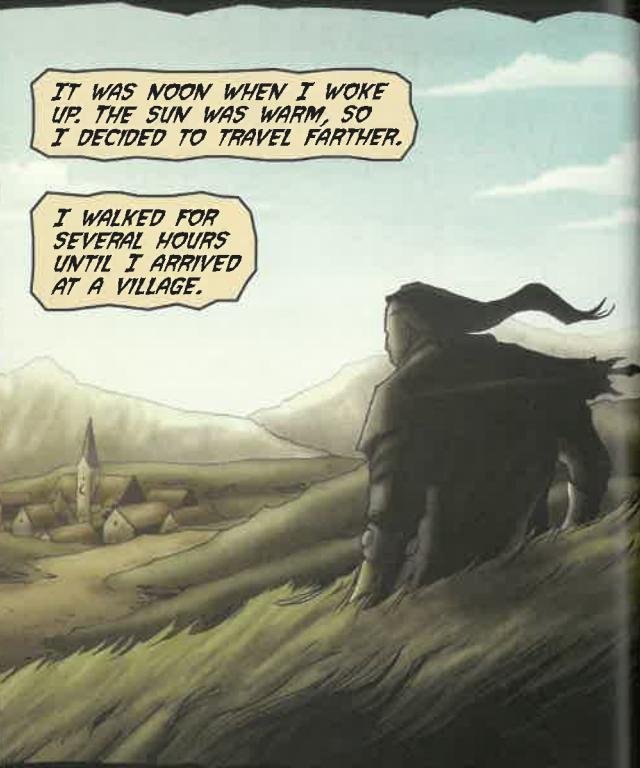
THE DOOR WAS OPEN, SO I WENT IN. AN OLD MAN WAS PREPARING HIS BREAKFAST OVER A FIRE.

WHEN HE SAW ME, HE SCREAMED AND RAN AWAY.

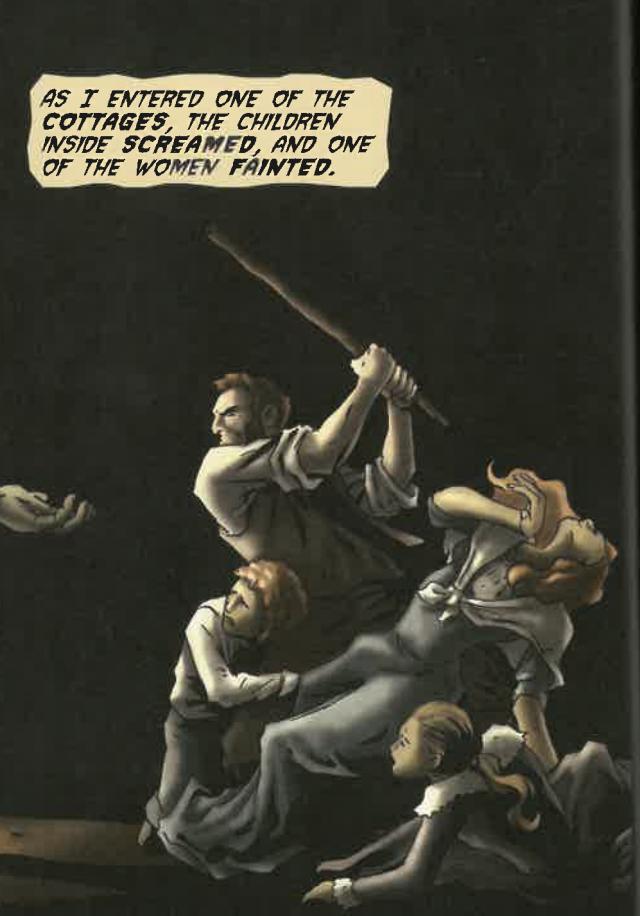
I WAS SURPRISED, BUT I LIKED THE HUT VERY MUCH. SNOW AND RAIN COULD NOT GET IN THERE.



I HUNGRILY ATE THE OLD MAN'S BREAKFAST. THEN I LAY DOWN AND FELL ASLEEP.



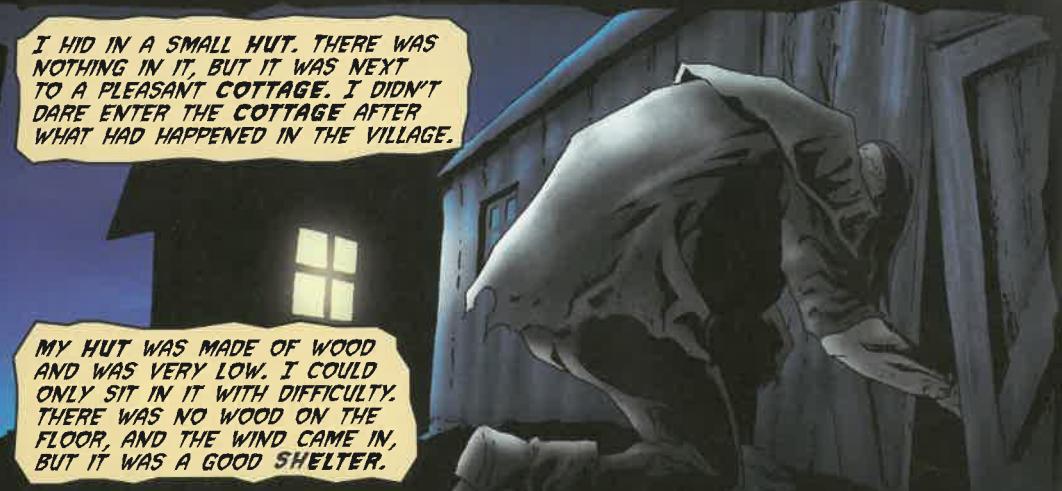
IT WAS NOON WHEN I WOKE UP. THE SUN WAS WARM, SO I DECIDED TO TRAVEL FARTHER.



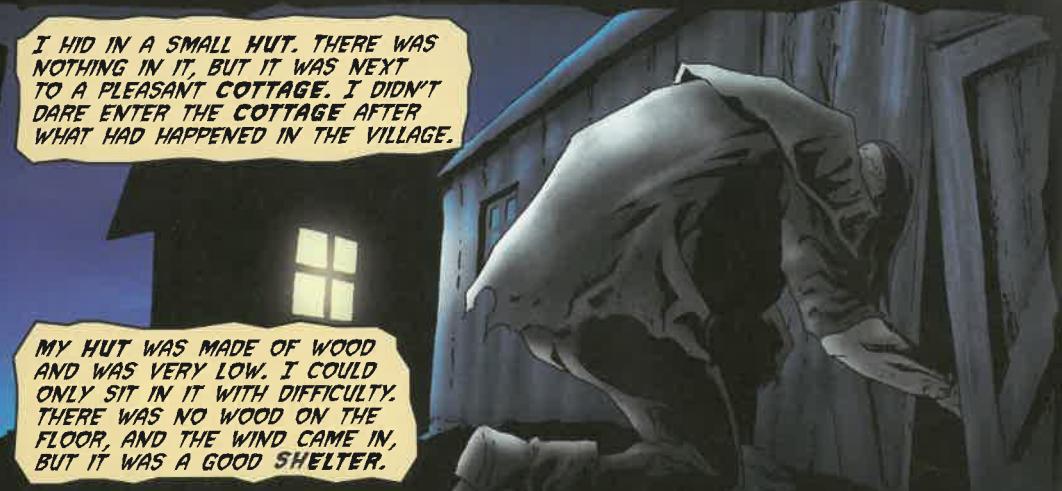
I WALKED FOR SEVERAL HOURS UNTIL I ARRIVED AT A VILLAGE.



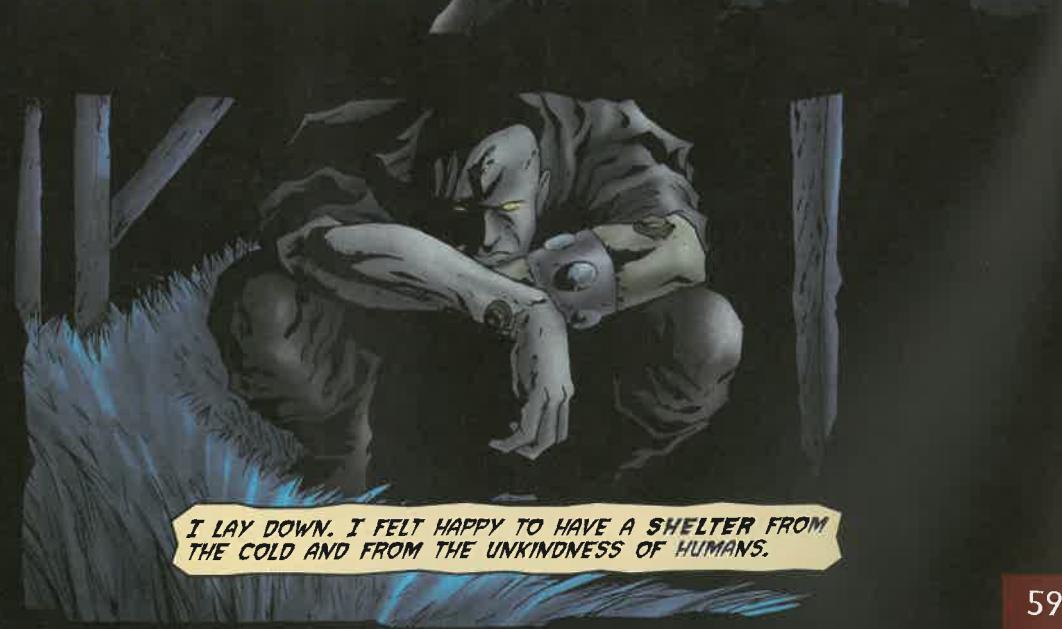
AS I ENTERED ONE OF THE COTTAGES, THE CHILDREN INSIDE SCREAMED, AND ONE OF THE WOMEN FAINTED.



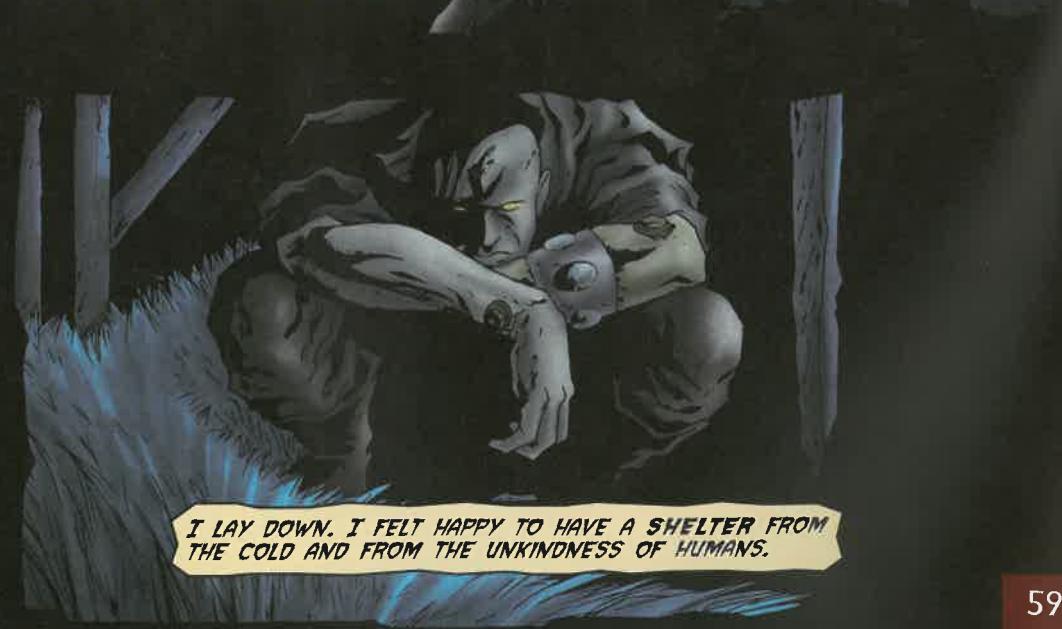
SOME OF THE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE RAN AWAY, AND OTHERS ATTACKED ME WITH STONES. I RAN AWAY - BACK TO THE FIELDS.



I HID IN A SMALL HUT. THERE WAS NOTHING IN IT, BUT IT WAS NEXT TO A PLEASANT COTTAGE. I DIDN'T DARE ENTER THE COTTAGE AFTER WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE VILLAGE.



MY HUT WAS MADE OF WOOD AND WAS VERY LOW. I COULD ONLY SIT IN IT WITH DIFFICULTY. THERE WAS NO WOOD ON THE FLOOR, AND THE WIND CAME IN, BUT IT WAS A GOOD SHELTER.



I LAY DOWN. I FELT HAPPY TO HAVE A SHELTER FROM THE COLD AND FROM THE UNKINDNESS OF HUMANS.

THE NEXT MORNING, I DRANK FROM THE STREAM AND ATE SOME BREAD I HAD STOLEN. I WATCHED THE PEOPLE IN THE COTTAGE: A GENTLE YOUNG GIRL, AN UNHAPPY YOUNG MAN, AND AN OLD MAN.

THEY SHOWED SUCH KINDNESS AND LOVE FOR EACH OTHER THAT I BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE NEW FEELINGS.

THEY WERE A MIXTURE OF PAIN AND PLEASURE. I FOUND THEM DIFFICULT TO BEAR.

WHEN NIGHT CAME, THE PEOPLE IN THE COTTAGE MADE LIGHT WITH CANDLES. I WAS SURPRISED ...

VOLUME II
CHAPTER IV

THE NEXT DAY PASSED IN THE SAME WAY. I SOON REALIZED THAT THE OLD MAN WAS BLIND. THE YOUNG PEOPLE SHOWED HIM MUCH LOVE AND RESPECT.

I WANTED VERY MUCH TO JOIN THEM, BUT I DIDN'T DARE. I STAYED IN MY HUT AND TRIED TO UNDERSTAND THEM. THEY WEREN'T HAPPY, ALTHOUGH I COULDN'T SEE A REASON FOR THEIR UNHAPPINESS. I WAS VERY AFFECTED BY IT. WHY WERE SUCH GENTLE CREATURES UNHAPPY?

LATER, I DISCOVERED ONE REASON: THEY WERE POOR.

THEY ATE ONLY VEGETABLES AND DRANK THE MILK OF ONE COW. THEY WERE USUALLY HUNGRY, ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG PEOPLE. OFTEN, THEY GAVE THE OLD MAN FOOD WHEN THEY HAD NONE FOR THEMSELVES.

WHEN I REALIZED THIS, I STOPPED STEALING THEIR FOOD. I ATE ONLY FRUIT AND NUTS FROM THE FOREST.

I FOUND ANOTHER WAY I COULD HELP THEM. AT NIGHT, I OFTEN BROUGHT THEM WOOD FOR THEIR FIRE.

... AND PLEASED. I COULD CONTINUE WATCHING THEM.



AND SLOWLY I DISCOVERED THAT THE WORDS THEY SPOKE PRODUCED PLEASURE OR PAIN, SMILES OR SADNESS. SLOWLY I LEARNED THE NAMES THEY GAVE TO THE MOST FAMILIAR THINGS.



I LEARNED THE WORDS "FIRE," "MILK," "BREAD," AND "WOOD," AND THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COTTAGE.

THE OLD MAN WAS "FATHER."

THE GIRL WAS "SISTER" OR "AGATHA."

THE YOUNG MAN WAS "FELIX," "BROTHER," OR "SON."

I WAS VERY HAPPY WHEN I DISCOVERED THE MEANINGS OF THESE SOUNDS AND COULD SAY THEM. I HEARD OTHER WORDS, TOO - "GOOD," "DEAREST," AND "UNHAPPY" - BUT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THEM.

I SPENT THE WINTER IN THIS HUT.

I BEGAN TO LOVE THE PEOPLE IN THE COTTAGE. WHEN THEY WERE UNHAPPY, I FELT SAD. WHEN THEY WERE HAPPY, I WAS HAPPY, TOO.

FELIX WAS ALWAYS THE SADDEST. HE SEEMED TO SUFFER DEEPLY.

BUT HE WAS ABLE TO GIVE PLEASURE TO HIS SISTER. HE GAVE HER THE FIRST LITTLE WHITE FLOWER THAT CAME UP IN THE SNOW.

I ADMIRE THE BEAUTY OF THESE PEOPLE, BUT WHEN I SAW MYSELF IN A POOL OF WATER, I WAS TERRIFIED!

AT FIRST, I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I SAW. THEN I FELT SAD AND ASHAMED. I WAS A MONSTER.

EVERY DAY, I DID THE SAME THING: I SLEPT DURING THE DAY AND WENT INTO THE FOREST AT NIGHT.

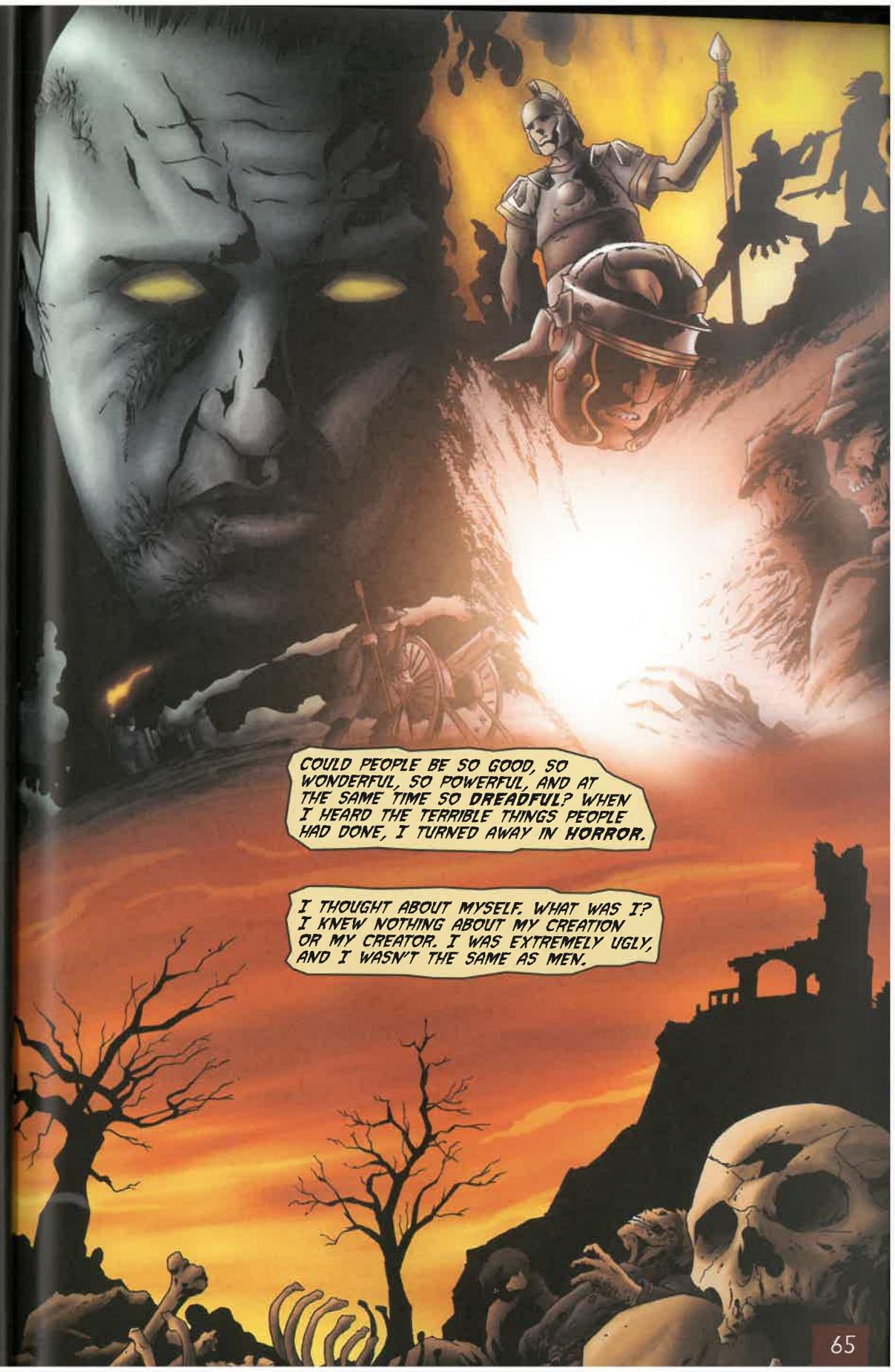
I COLLECTED MY OWN FOOD AND WOOD FOR THE FAMILY. OFTEN, I CLEARED THEIR PATH OF SNOW. THIS SURPRISED THEM VERY MUCH.

I THOUGHT THAT I COULD MAKE THEM HAPPY. AND I WANTED TO WIN THEIR LOVE. TO DO THIS, I TRIED HARD TO LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE.

VOLUME II
CHAPTER V



THE DAYS PASSED PEACEFULLY. JOY HAD TAKEN THE PLACE OF SADNESS. FELIX BEGAN TO TEACH SAFIE HIS LANGUAGE. I WATCHED THEM CLOSELY SO THAT I COULD LEARN IT, TOO. SAFIE AND I IMPROVED QUICKLY. TWO MONTHS LATER, I COULD UNDERSTAND MOST OF THE WORDS THE FAMILY SAID.



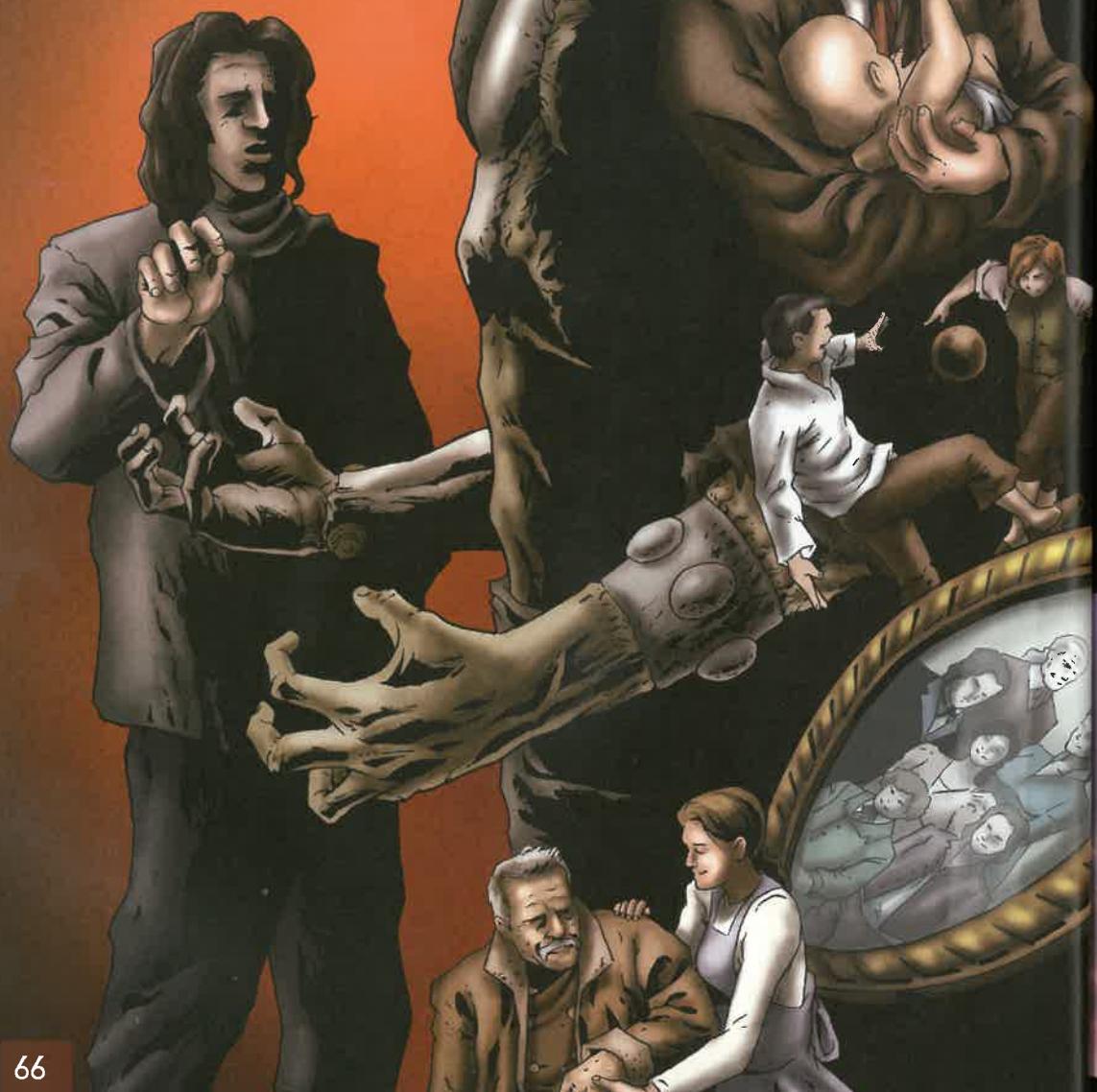
VOLUME II
CHAPTER VI

I LEARNED ABOUT
MEN AND WOMEN, THE
BIRTH OF CHILDREN,
AND FAMILIES.

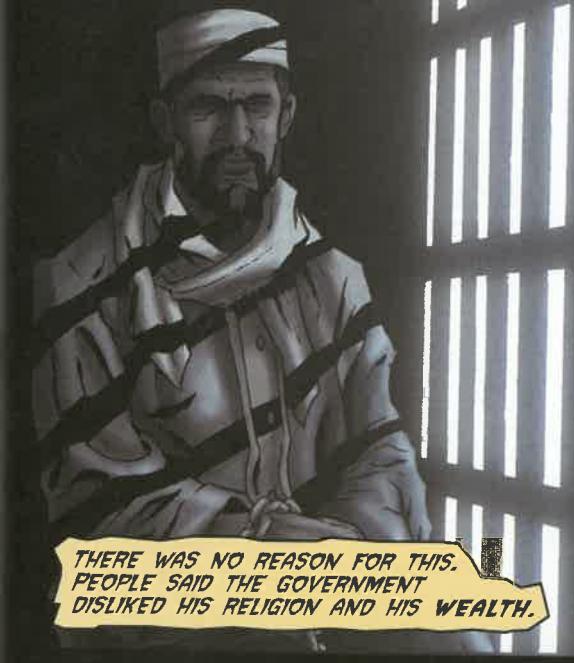
BUT WHERE
WERE MY FRIENDS
AND FAMILY?

NO PARENTS HAD
TAKEN CARE OF ME
AND LOVED ME
AS A CHILD.

WHAT
WAS I?

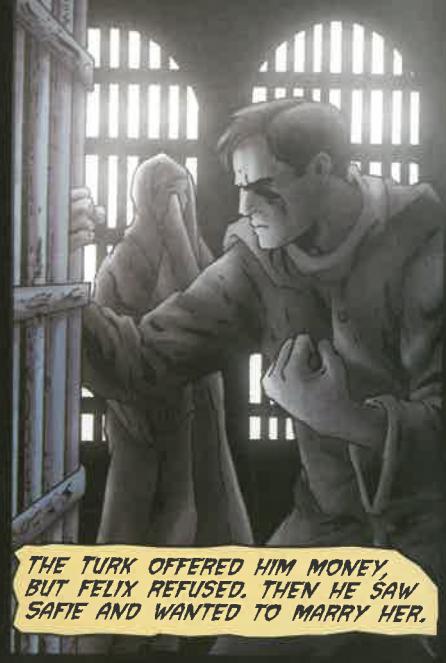


HE WAS A TURKISH MERCHANT WHO HAD
LIVED IN PARIS FOR MANY YEARS. THEN
THE GOVERNMENT THREW HIM INTO
PRISON AND SENTENCED HIM TO DEATH.



THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THIS.
PEOPLE SAID THE GOVERNMENT
DISLIKED HIS RELIGION AND HIS WEALTH.

FELIX WAS BY CHANCE AT THIS
MAN'S TRIAL. FELIX PROMISED
TO GET HIM OUT OF PRISON.



THE TURK OFFERED HIM MONEY,
BUT FELIX REFUSED. THEN HE SAW
SAFIE AND WANTED TO MARRY HER.



FELIX TOOK SAFIE AND HER FATHER
OUT OF FRANCE. THE MERCHANT
ENCOURAGED FELIX'S HOPES FOR SAFIE,
BUT SECRETLY HE DID NOT WANT HER
TO MARRY A CHRISTIAN. HE PLANNED
TO TAKE HIS DAUGHTER AWAY.

THE MERCHANT'S ESCAPE WAS SOON DISCOVERED, AND FELIX'S FATHER AND SISTER WERE THROWN INTO PRISON.

HE WAS THROWN INTO PRISON, TOO. HE, HIS FATHER, AND SISTER STAYED THERE FOR FIVE MONTHS.

NEWS OF THIS REACHED FELIX WHO HURRIED BACK TO PARIS.

THE MERCHANT HEARD THAT FELIX HAD NO MONEY. HE TOLD HIS DAUGHTER NOT TO THINK OF FELIX ANY MORE.

A FEW DAYS LATER, HE LEFT FOR CONSTANTINOPLE. SAFIE WAS NOW ALONE. IN HER FATHER'S PAPERS, SHE FOUND THE NAME OF FELIX'S NEW HOME IN GERMANY. SHE DECIDED TO GO THERE.

VOLUME II
CHAPTER VII

THIS WAS THE STORY OF THE DEAR PEOPLE IN THE COTTAGE.

I LEARNED TO ADMIRE GOODNESS AND TO DISLIKE THE WRONG THINGS PEOPLE DO.

ONE NIGHT IN THE FOREST, I FOUND SOME BOOKS IN A LEATHER BAG. I QUICKLY BEGAN TO READ THEM.

ONE OF THE BOOKS WAS PARADISE LOST.

I READ IT AS A TRUE HISTORY. I WAS LIKE ADAM. I WAS NOT LINKED TO ANYONE ELSE, LIKE HIM.

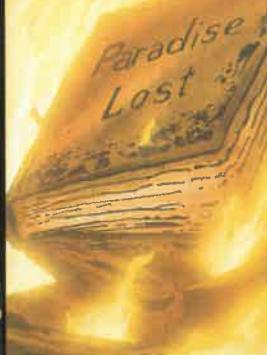
BUT HE WAS HAPPY, AND I WAS MISERABLE.

MUCH EARLIER, I HAD FOUND SOME PAPERS IN THE CLOTHES I HAD TAKEN FROM YOUR APARTMENT. I BEGAN TO READ THEM CAREFULLY.

THEY WERE YOUR JOURNAL OF THE MONTHS BEFORE MY CREATION.

HERE THEY ARE. THEY DESCRIBE IN DETAIL MY DISGUSTING BODY.

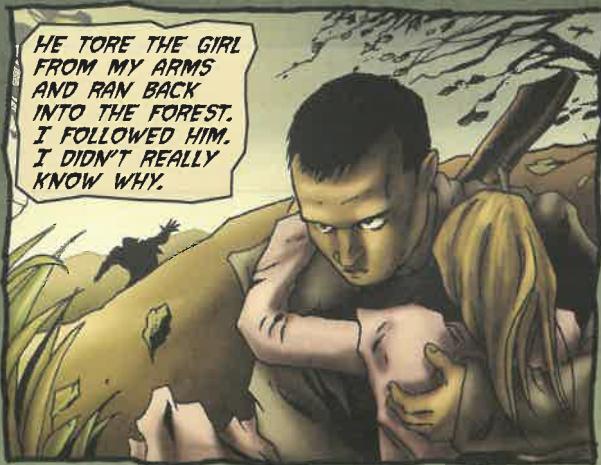
I FELT SICK AS I READ THEM.









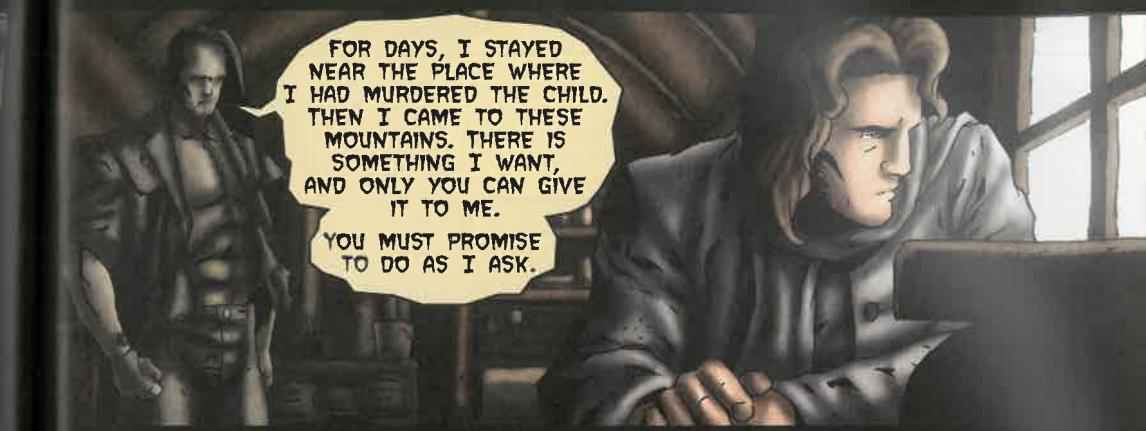
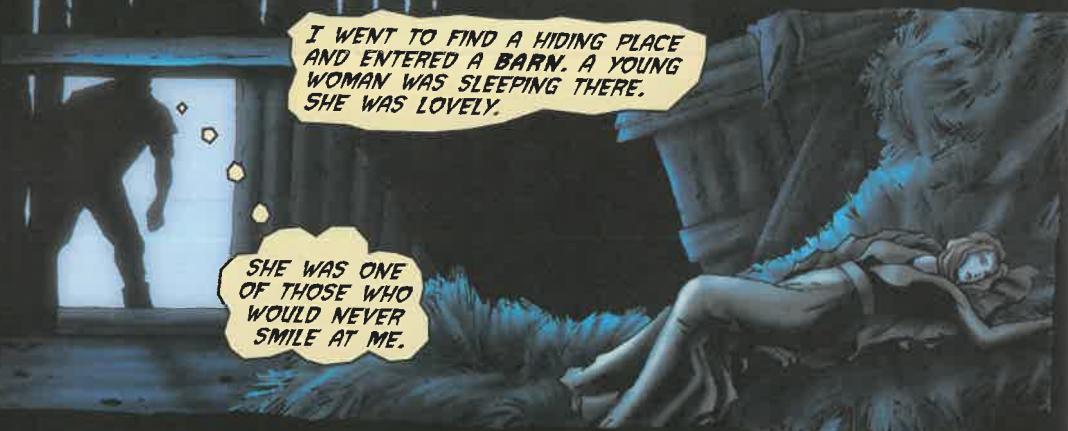


I HAD SAVED SOMEONE'S LIFE, AND AS A REWARD I HAD RECEIVED A DREADFUL WOUND!

IN GREAT PAIN, I PROMISED THAT IN THE FUTURE I WOULD ONLY HATE PEOPLE AND INJURE THEM.









HE WENT DOWN THE MOUNTAIN EXTREMELY QUICKLY AND DISAPPEARED.



I RETURNED TO MY FAMILY IN GENEVA. THEY WERE WORRIED BY MY WILD APPEARANCE. I SAID VERY LITTLE TO THEM, ALTHOUGH I LOVED THEM SO MUCH.



VOLUME III
CHAPTER I

WEEKS PASSED, AND I COULD NOT START MY WORK. I WAS AFRAID OF THE MONSTER, BUT I HATED THE TASK TOO MUCH. IT BEGAN TO SEEM LESS NECESSARY TO DO IT.



MY HEALTH WAS MUCH BETTER. WHEN I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT MY PROMISE, I FELT HAPPY.



I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU BETTER, MY SON, BUT YOU'RE STILL UNHAPPY.

YOU STILL AVOID US. YESTERDAY, I HAD AN IDEA ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE THE CAUSE OF THIS.

I HAVE ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO YOUR MARRIAGE TO ELIZABETH.

BUT PERHAPS YOU THINK OF HER AS A SISTER, OR YOU LOVE SOMEONE ELSE ...



MY DEAR FATHER, I LOVE ELIZABETH AND WANT TO MARRY HER.



FOR SOME TIME I COULD NOT REPLY TO MY FATHER.

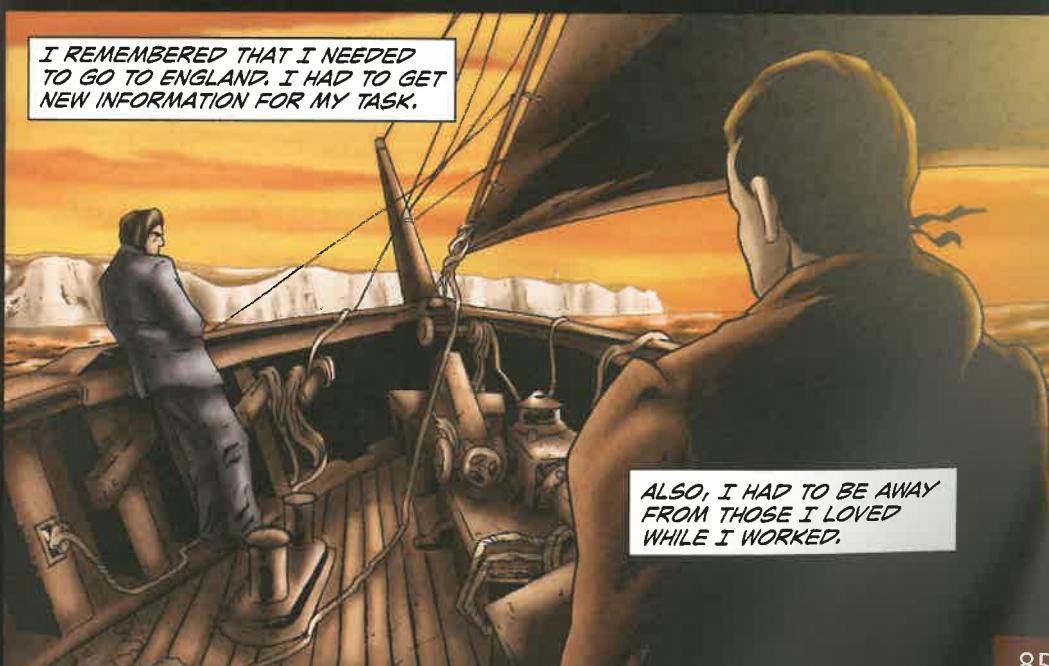
THE IDEA OF AN IMMEDIATE MARRIAGE FILLED ME WITH HORROR.



I HADN'T DONE WHAT I HAD PROMISED THE MONSTER. I DIDN'T DARE BREAK MY PROMISE.

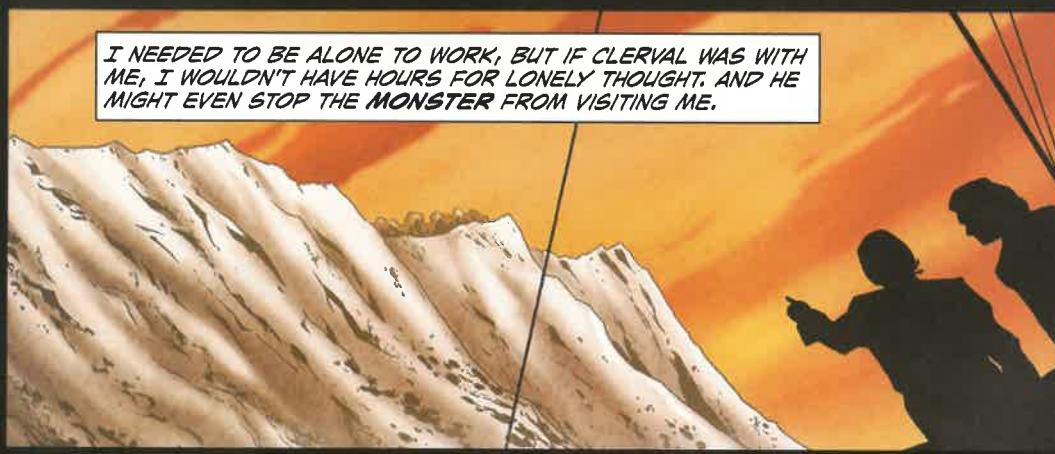


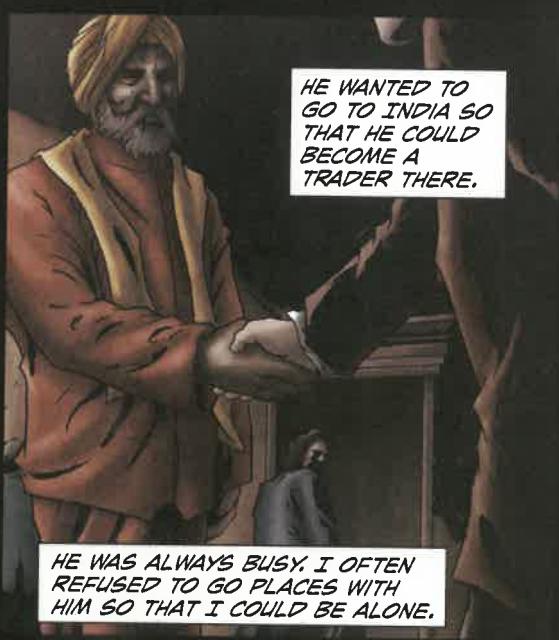
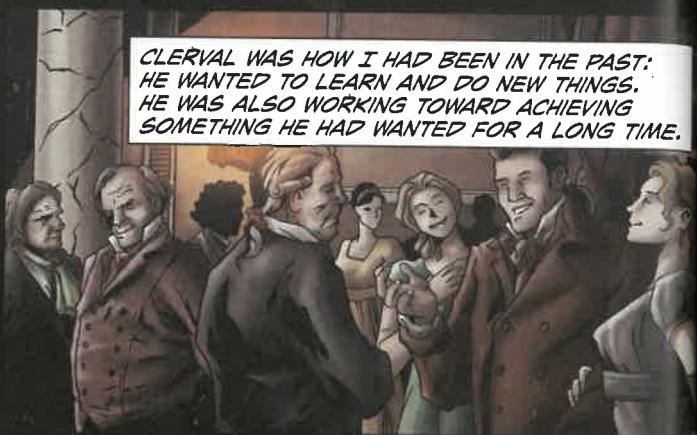
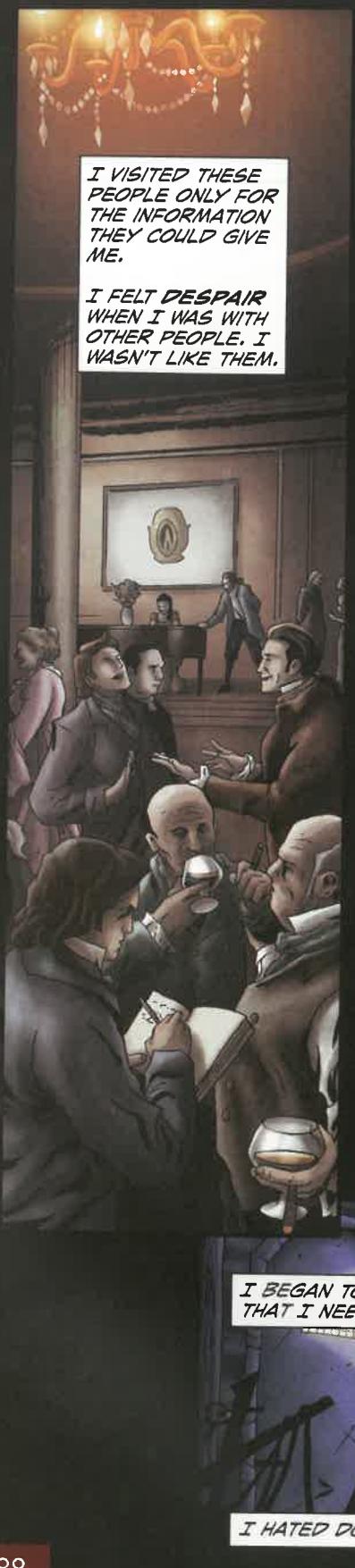
FIRST, THE MONSTER HAD TO LEAVE WITH HIS MATE. THEN I COULD ENJOY THE HAPPINESS OF MARRIAGE IN PEACE.



I REMEMBERED THAT I NEEDED TO GO TO ENGLAND. I HAD TO GET NEW INFORMATION FOR MY TASK.

ALSO, I HAD TO BE AWAY FROM THOSE I LOVED WHILE I WORKED.





AFTER A WEEK, WE LEFT EDINBURGH AND TRAVELED ON TO PERTH. BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO BE WITH STRANGERS OR TO BE A GUEST IN SOMEONE'S HOUSE.

HENRY, I WANT TO TRAVEL AROUND SCOTLAND ALONE.

ENJOY YOUR STAY HERE, AND I'LL MEET YOU HERE IN A MONTH OR TWO.

LET ME BE ALONE FOR A SHORT TIME. WHEN I RETURN, I'LL BE HAPPIER, I HOPE.

I'D RATHER BE WITH YOU THAN WITH THESE PEOPLE THAT I DON'T KNOW.

I HAVE DECIDED TO DO THIS.

THEN HURRY BACK ...

... MY DEAR FRIEND.

I WANTED TO FIND A PLACE THAT WAS VERY FAR FROM EVERYTHING. I CHOSE A SMALL, ROCKY ISLAND IN THE ORKNEYS. ONLY FIVE PEOPLE AND A FEW COWS LIVED THERE.

I LIVED IN A SMALL HUT. I WORKED DURING THE DAY, AND IN THE EVENING I WALKED ALONG THE STONY BEACH TO LISTEN TO THE WAVES AS THEY CRASHED AT MY FEET.





AS THE DAYS PASSED,
I BEGAN TO HATE MY
WORK MORE AND
MORE. SOMETIMES
I COULDN'T DO IT
AT ALL ...



WHEN I WORKED ON MY FIRST
EXPERIMENT, I FELT EXCITED.
THIS TIME, I FELT SICK.

VOLUME III
CHAPTER III



ONE EVENING, I BEGAN TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT I WAS DOING.

THREE YEARS EARLIER, I HAD
CREATED A MONSTER WHO
HAD DONE DREADFUL THINGS.

NOW I WAS MAKING
ANOTHER CREATURE.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT
SHE WOULD DO.

... AND AT OTHER
TIMES, I WORKED
DAY AND NIGHT. I
BECAME RESTLESS
AND NERVOUS. THE
WHOLE TIME I WAS
AFRAID OF MEETING
THE MONSTER.



PERHAPS SHE WOULD BE
WORSE THAN HER MATE
AND KILL FOR PLEASURE.

HE HAD PROMISED TO LIVE
FAR AWAY FROM EVERYONE,
BUT SHE HAD NOT MADE
THAT PROMISE.

PERHAPS SHE WOULD
REFUSE TO.



PERHAPS THEY WOULD HATE EACH OTHER. HE MIGHT THINK SHE WAS UGLY.

SHE MIGHT TURN AWAY FROM HIM. SHE MIGHT LEAVE HIM AND MAKE HIM MORE MISERABLE.

OR THEY COULD HAVE CHILDREN WHO MIGHT BE DANGEROUS.



... YES, HE HAD FOLLOWED ME. NOW HE HAD COME TO CLAIM WHAT I HAD PROMISED HIM.



HIS FACE WAS FULL OF EVIL.

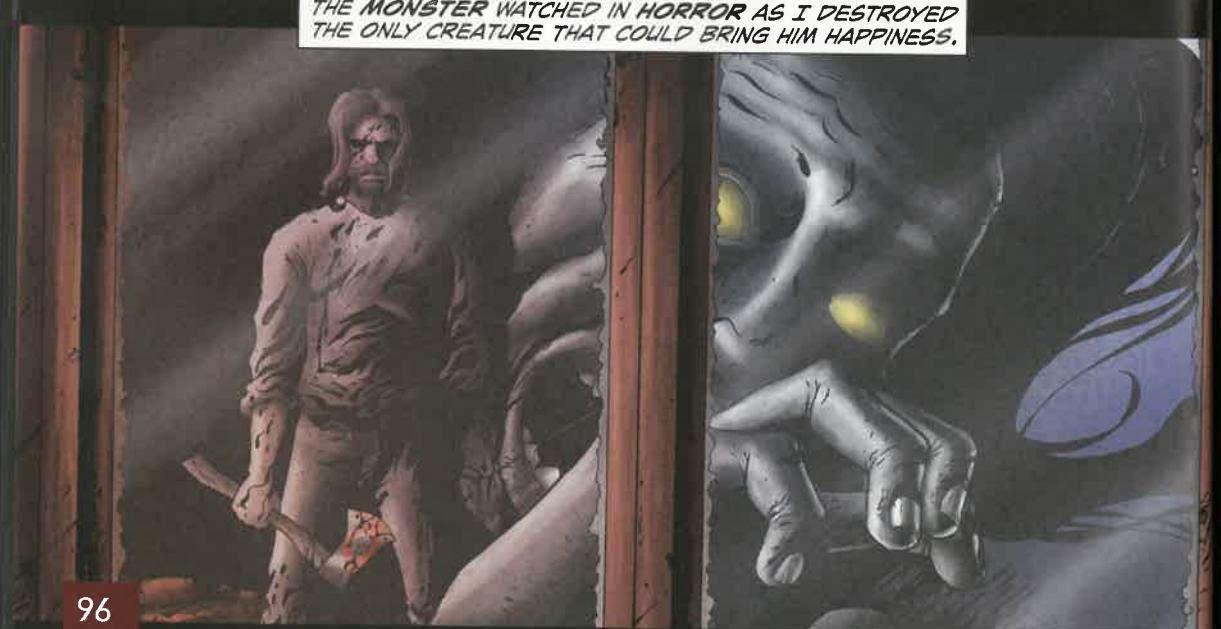


I FELT CRAZY WHEN I THOUGHT OF MY PROMISE TO CREATE ANOTHER MONSTER LIKE HIM.





THE MONSTER WATCHED IN HORROR AS I DESTROYED THE ONLY CREATURE THAT COULD BRING HIM HAPPINESS.



YOU HAVE DESTROYED YOUR WORK! DO YOU INTEND TO BREAK YOUR PROMISE TO ME? DO YOU DARE DESTROY MY HOPES?



YES, I WILL BREAK MY PROMISE, I WILL NEVER CREATE ANOTHER CREATURE LIKE YOU AGAIN!

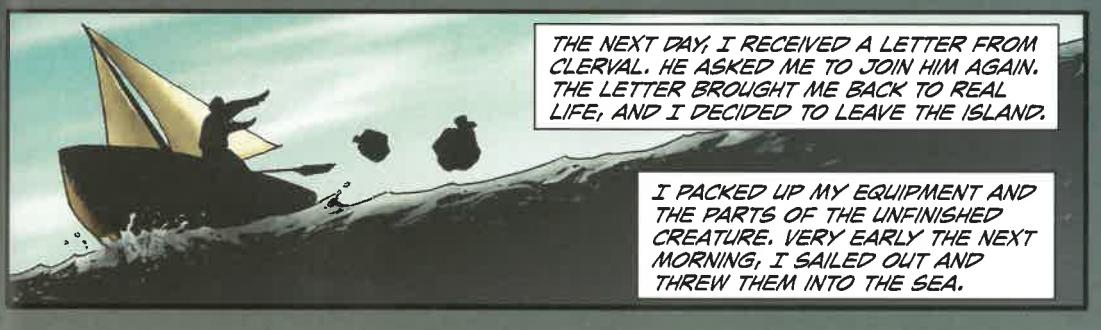


YOU ARE MY CREATOR, BUT I AM YOUR MASTER. OBEY!





AM I GOING TO BE ALONE EVEN THOUGH ALL OTHER MEN AND ANIMALS HAVE MATES? ARE YOU GOING TO BE HAPPY WHILE I AM MISERABLE? I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE! YOU WILL BE SORRY FOR THE INJURIES YOU HAVE GIVEN ME.



WHEN I WOKE UP, THE SUN WAS QUITE HIGH IN THE SKY. THE WIND WAS HIGH, TOO, AND THE WAVES WERE THREATENING THE SAFETY OF MY BOAT.

THE WIND HAD DRIVEN ME A LONG WAY FROM THE COAST.

WHEN I TRIED TO CHANGE DIRECTION, WATER QUICKLY FILLED THE BOAT. I COULD ONLY SAIL WITH THE WIND BEHIND ME.

I LOOKED AT THE SEA. IT WAS GOING TO BE MY GRAVE.

MONSTER!
YOU'VE GOT
WHAT YOU
WANTED!

SOME HOURS PASSED IN THIS WAY ...

... BUT SLOWLY THE WIND BECAME GENTLER, AND THE SEA BECAME CALMER. I WAS FEELING SICK AND VERY TIRED WHEN SUDDENLY I SAW LAND.

I CRIED WITH JOY. I KNEW I WAS FINALLY SAFE.

MY GOOD FRIENDS -

- WILL YOU TELL ME THE NAME OF THIS TOWN? WHERE AM I?

YOU'LL KNOW SOON.

YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE THE PLACE, BUT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CHOOSE WHERE YOU STAY.

WHY DO YOU ANSWER ME SO ROUGHLY?
SURELY THE ENGLISH DO NOT USUALLY SPEAK TO STRANGERS SO UNKINDLY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE ENGLISH DO, BUT THE IRISH HATE EVIL PEOPLE.

YOU MUST COME WITH ME TO MR. KIRWIN, THE JUDGE.
YOU MUST TELL HIM ABOUT THE MURDER OF A MAN HERE LAST NIGHT.

VOLUME III
CHAPTER IV

I WAS TAKEN TO THE JUDGE, AN OLD MAN WITH CALM AND KIND MANNERS. HE LOOKED AT ME, HOWEVER, QUITE UNKINDLY.

A WOMAN ALSO SAW A MAN IN A BOAT. HE SAILED AWAY FROM THE PLACE WHERE THE BODY WAS FOUND.

WHO IS APPEARING AS A WITNESS?

I AM, SIR.

I WAS OUT IN MY BOAT WITH MY BROTHER-IN-LAW DANIEL NUGENT.

AS I WAS WALKING HOME ALONG THE BEACH, I HIT MY FOOT ON THE BODY OF A MAN. HIS CLOTHES WERE DRY. SOMEONE HAD KILLED HIM.

THEY ALL AGREED THAT THE STRONG WIND HAD DRIVEN ME BACK TO THE SHORE - TO WHERE I HAD LEFT THE BODY.



THE BLACK MARKS FROM THE MONSTER'S FINGERS WERE ON HIS NECK.

MR. KIRWIN SAW THAT I WAS BADLY AFFECTED. OF COURSE HE THOUGHT I WAS GUILTY.

MY NAME IS DANIEL NUGENT, SIR.

JUST BEFORE WE FOUND THE BODY, I SAW A MAN IN A BOAT QUITE CLOSE TO THE SHORE. IT LOOKED LIKE THE SAME BOAT THAT THIS MAN HAS JUST LANDED IN.



THE SIGHT OF HENRY WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME. I FELL DOWN IN A FIT.

I REMEMBERED MY BROTHER'S MURDER, AND I FELT EXTREMELY SHAKEN.

I KNEW THAT THE PEOPLE ON THE ISLAND I HAD LEFT COULD PROVE MY INNOCENCE. I WAS TALKING TO THEM WHEN THE BODY WAS FOUND.



I WAS VERY SICK FOR TWO MONTHS. I SAID SOME DREADFUL THINGS IN MY ILLNESS, I LEARNED LATER.



FORTUNATELY, ONLY MR. KIRWIN UNDERSTOOD MY NATIVE LANGUAGE, BUT MY LOUD CRIES FRIGHTENED THE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND ME.

WHY DIDN'T I DIE? I WAS MORE MISERABLE THAN ANYONE HAD EVER BEEN BEFORE.

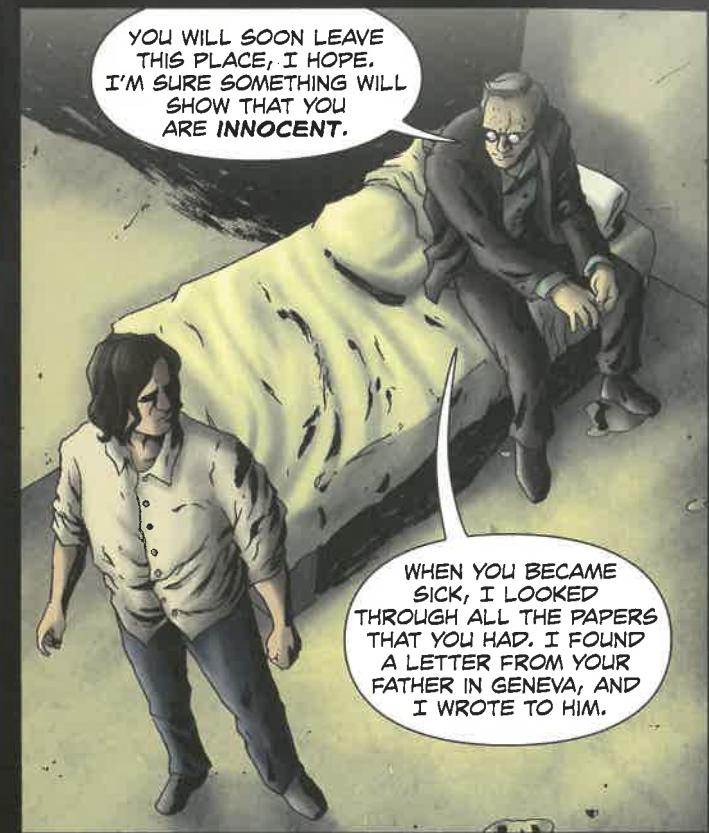


I AM JUST HERE TO TAKE CARE OF YOU AND TO MAKE YOU WELL.

I SOON LEARNED THAT MR. KIRWIN HAD BEEN EXTREMELY KIND TO ME. HE HAD GIVEN ME THE BEST ROOM IN THE PRISON AND A DOCTOR AND A NURSE.



ONE DAY, WHILE I WAS SLOWLY RECOVERING, HE VISITED ME.



WHEN YOU BECAME SICK, I LOOKED THROUGH ALL THE PAPERS THAT YOU HAD. I FOUND A LETTER FROM YOUR FATHER IN GENEVA, AND I WROTE TO HIM.



YOUR FAMILY IS PERFECTLY WELL ...

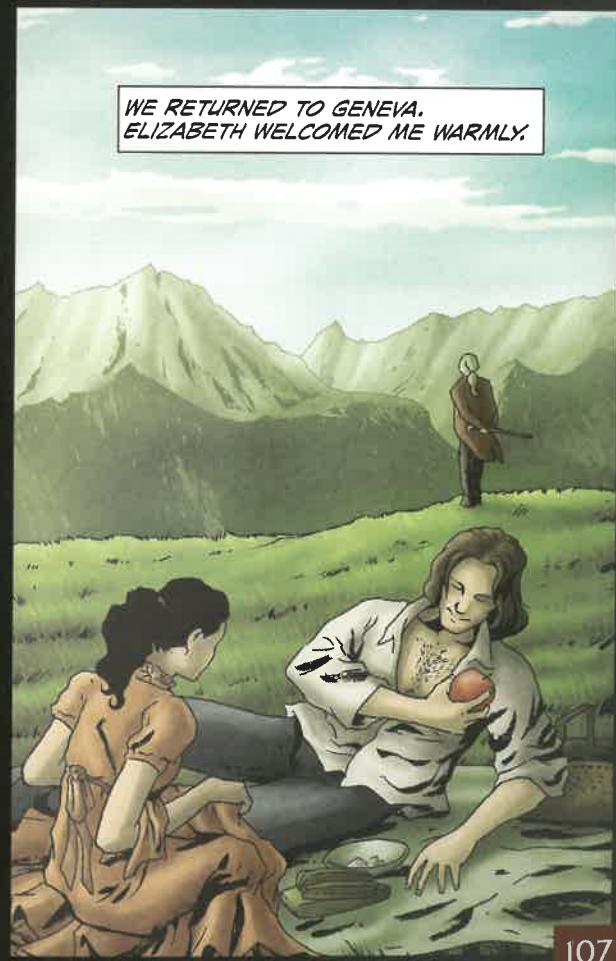
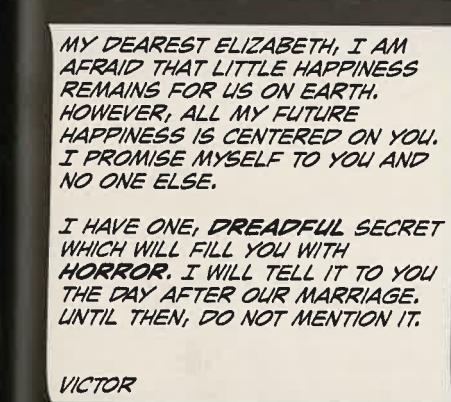
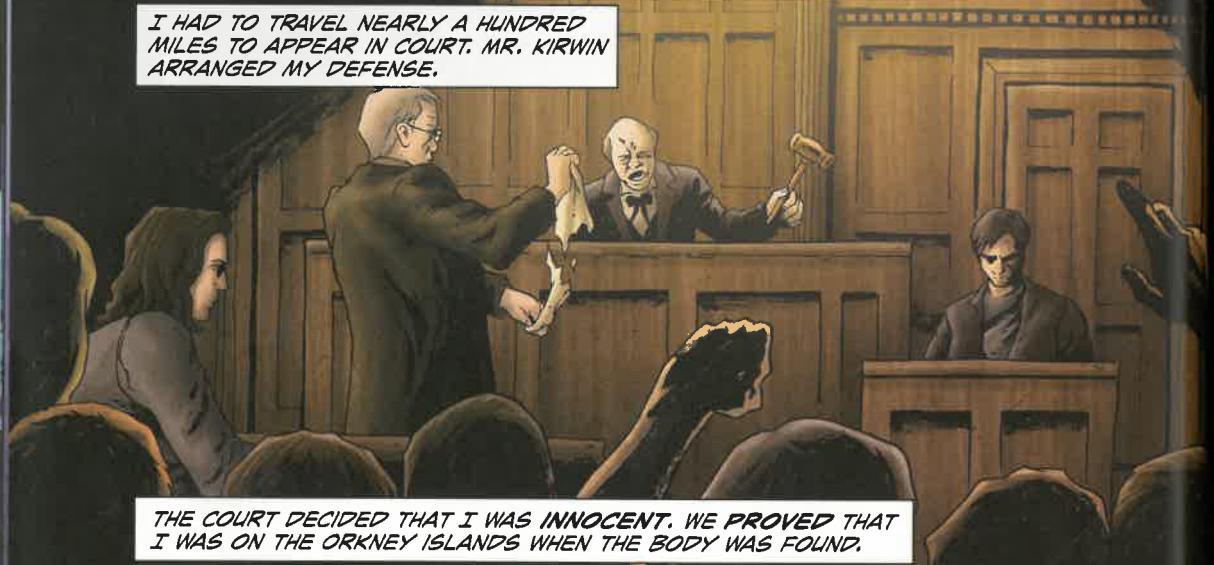
- WHO IS DEAD NOW?

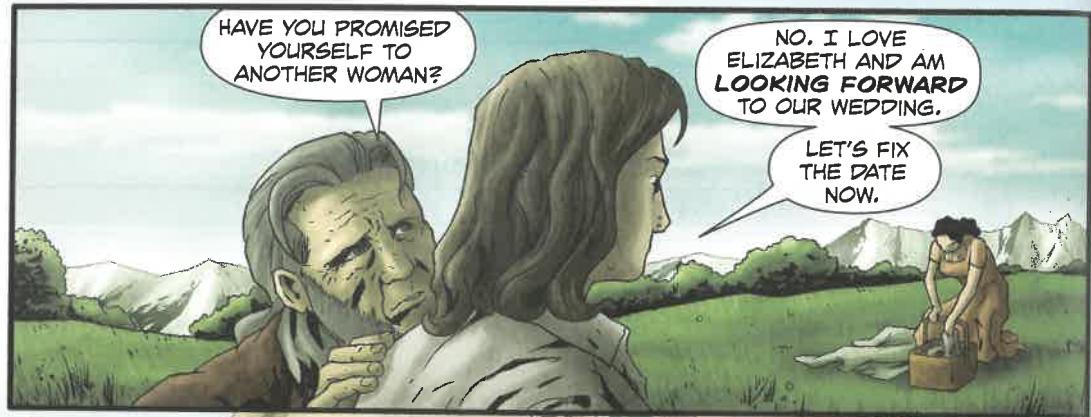
OH NO!! TELL ME





I HAD TO TRAVEL NEARLY A HUNDRED MILES TO APPEAR IN COURT. MR. KIRWIN ARRANGED MY DEFENSE.





VOLUME III
CHAPTER VI

WE TOOK A SHORT WALK ALONG THE SHORE AND ADMIRED THE LOVELY SCENE.

SUDDENLY, THE WIND GREW STRONGER, AND A HEAVY RAIN CAME DOWN. I WAS ANXIOUS AND HELD TIGHTLY TO MY GUN.

SHE LEFT ME, AND I SEARCHED THE HOUSE FOR THE MONSTER ...

... BUT I FOUND NOTHING.

SHRIEK!!

AS I HEARD THE SCREAM, I REALIZED WHAT WAS HAPPENING!

WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF, VICTOR?

OH! IT'S JUST THE STORM.
IT'S A DREADFUL NIGHT.

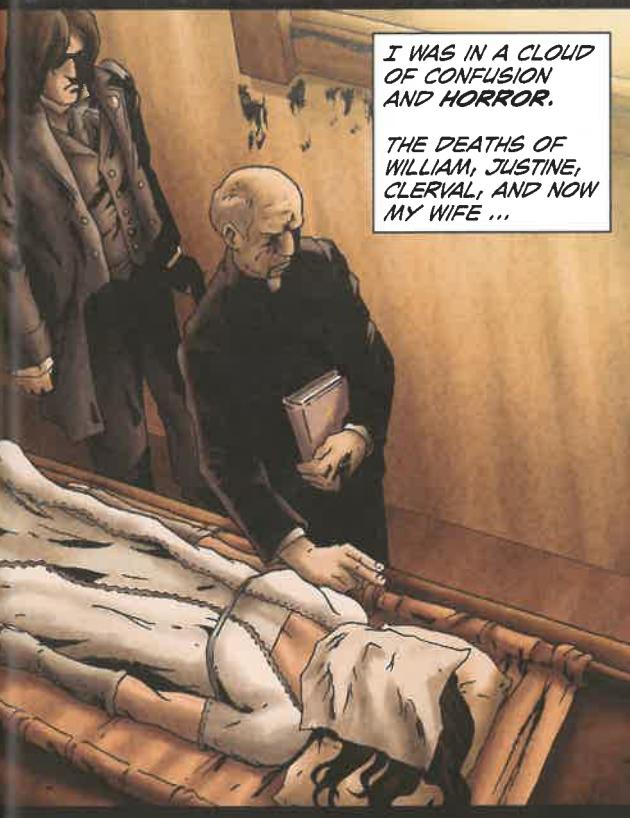
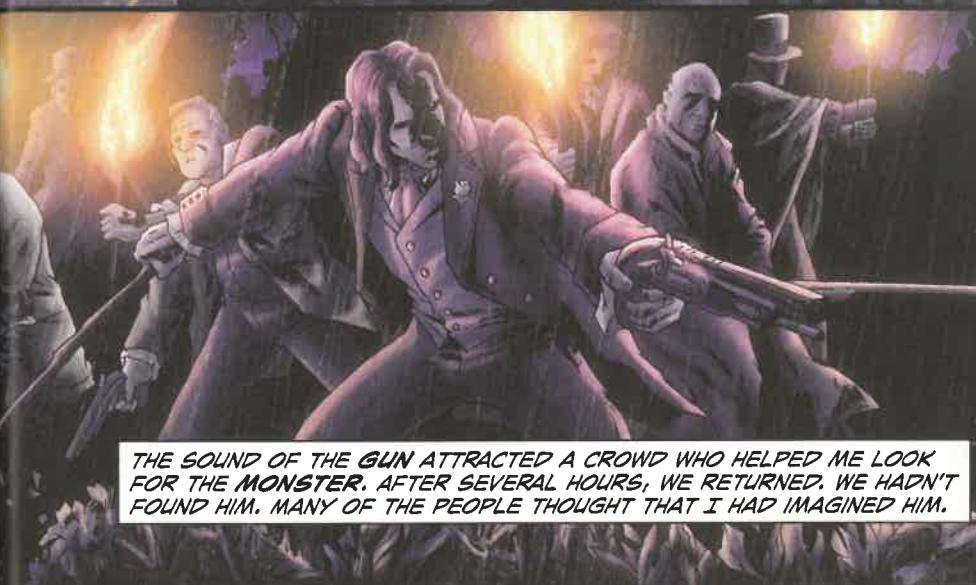
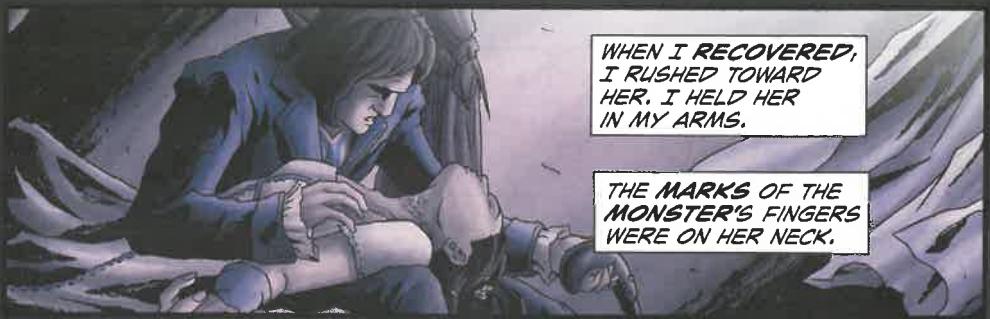
PLEASE GO TO BED, MY LOVE. I'LL JOIN YOU LATER.

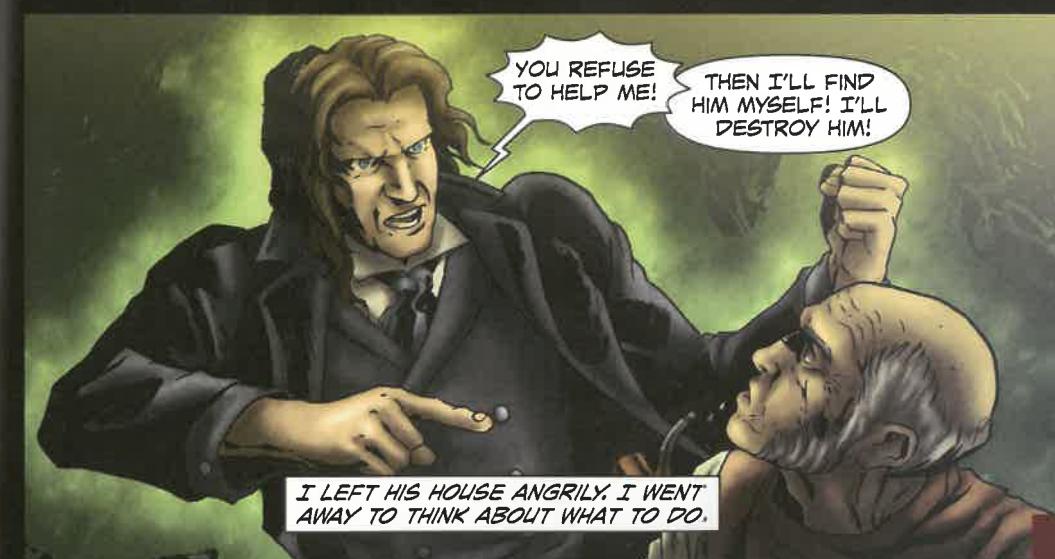
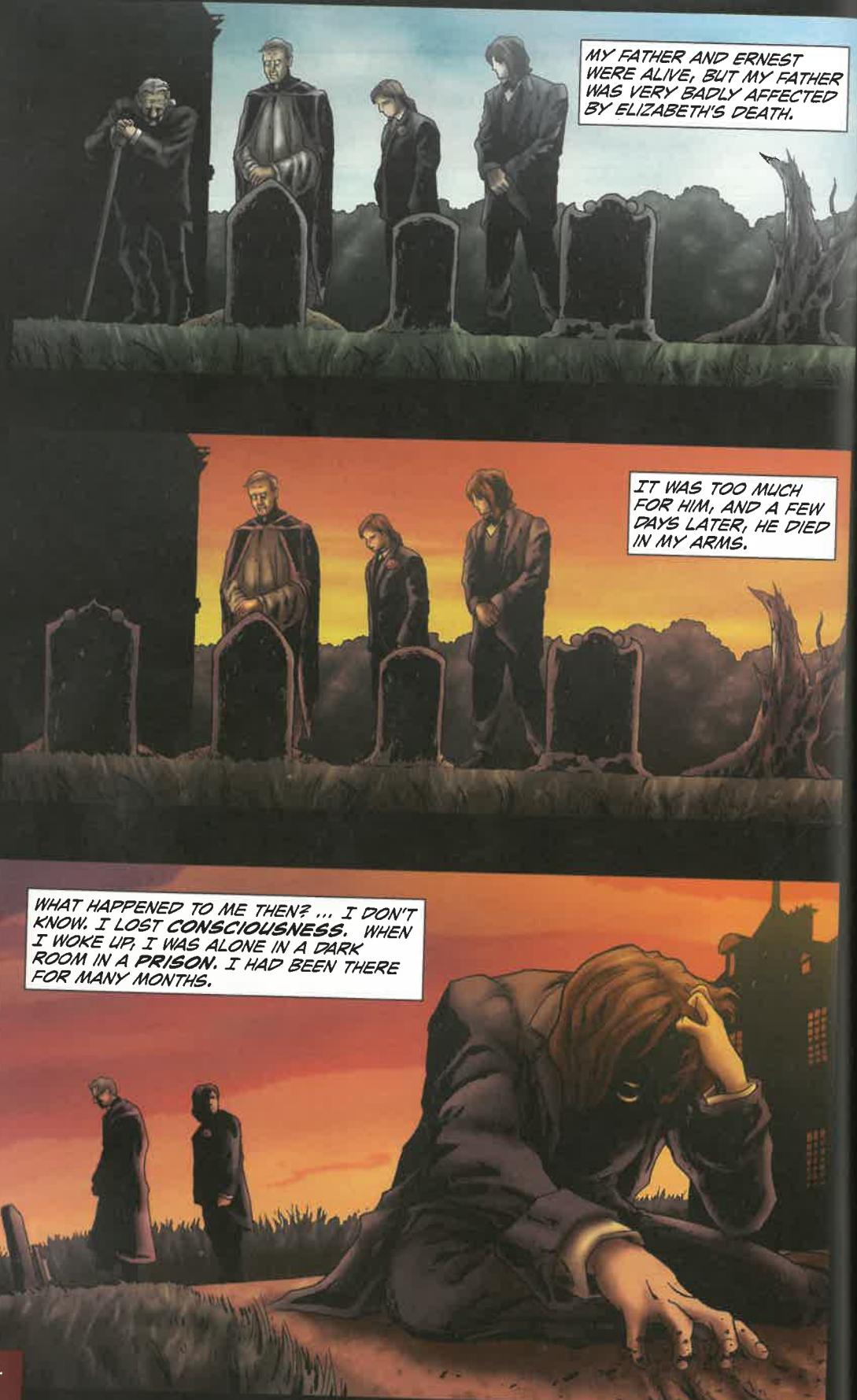
VICTOR ...

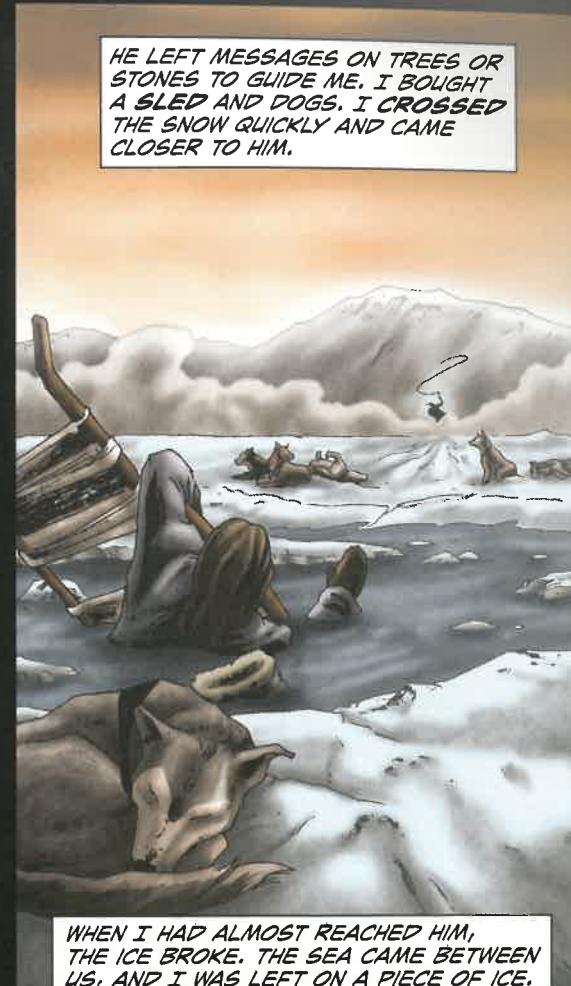
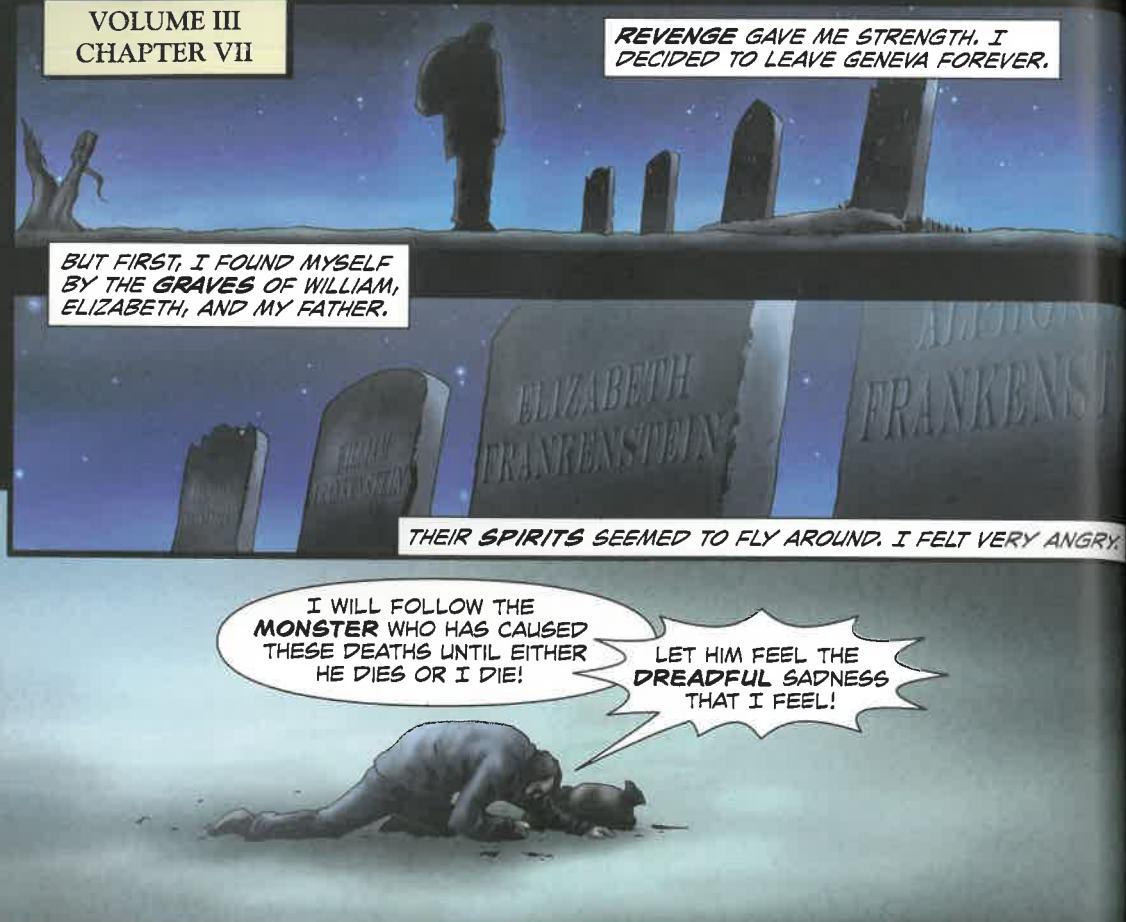
ELIZABETH!!!

I FAINTED.









LETTER - AUGUST 26, 17--

MY DEAR MARGARET, YOU HAVE READ THIS STRANGE AND TERRIBLE STORY. I BELIEVE THAT IT IS TRUE. THIS MONSTER REALLY EXISTS! SOMETIMES I ASKED FRANKENSTEIN ABOUT HOW HE MADE THIS CREATURE ...

ARE YOU CRAZY, MY FRIEND? DO YOU WANT TO CREATE ANOTHER MONSTER?

LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES AND DON'T MAKE YOURSELF COMPLETELY MISERABLE.

I HAVE FINALLY FOUND THE FRIEND I WAS LOOKING FOR. HOWEVER, I THINK I WILL LOSE HIM. HE HAS NO INTEREST IN LIFE AT ALL.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS, WALTON, BUT ALL MY FRIENDS ARE DEAD. NO ONE CAN REPLACE THEM.



ONLY ONE THOUGHT KEEPS ME ALIVE. I MUST FOLLOW AND DESTROY THE MONSTER I CREATED.

THEN I CAN DIE.

LETTER - SEPTEMBER 2, 17--

MY DEAREST SISTER,

WE ARE SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS OF ICE. THE BRAVE MEN WHO ARE WITH ME ARE IN DANGER. THEY LOOK TO ME FOR HELP, BUT I CAN'T GIVE THEM ANY. MY CRAZY SCHEMES MAY BE THE CAUSE OF OUR DEATHS.

LETTER - SEPTEMBER 5, 17--

I WAS AFRAID THAT THE MEN WOULD REFUSE TO OBEY ME.

CAPTAIN, IF THE SHIP GETS FREE OF THE ICE, YOU MUST TAKE US SOUTH.

WE INSIST.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT ARE YOU DEMANDING?
ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY AT THE FIRST SIGN OF DANGER? GO HOME AS MEN WHO HAVE SUCCEEDED, NOT FAILED.



THE MEN WERE UNABLE TO REPLY.

THINK ABOUT IT.
I WILL NOT LEAD YOU FARTHER NORTH IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO GO.

YES, CAPTAIN.



LETTER - SEPTEMBER 7, 17--

THE MATTER IS SETTLED. I HAVE AGREED TO RETURN IF WE GET FREE OF THE ICE. I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED.

September 12, 17--

It is over. I am returning to England. I have lost my hopes of glory - and I have lost my friend.

Three days ago, the ice began to move. Islands of ice broke off in all directions. We were in great danger, but we could do nothing. My unfortunate guest was so sick that he had to stay in bed.



I WON'T COME WITH YOU. I MUST DO WHAT I HAVE PROMISED.



I'M WEAK, BUT THE SPIRITS WHO HELP ME WILL GIVE ME STRENGTH.

HE TRIED TO GET OUT OF HIS BED, BUT IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM. HE FELL BACK AND FAINTED.

THE DOCTOR TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD LIVE FOR ONLY A FEW HOURS.



Ah! My strength has gone. I will soon die, and my enemy may still be alive.

I was crazy when I made him. He destroyed my family and friends. He ought to die so that he doesn't kill anyone else.

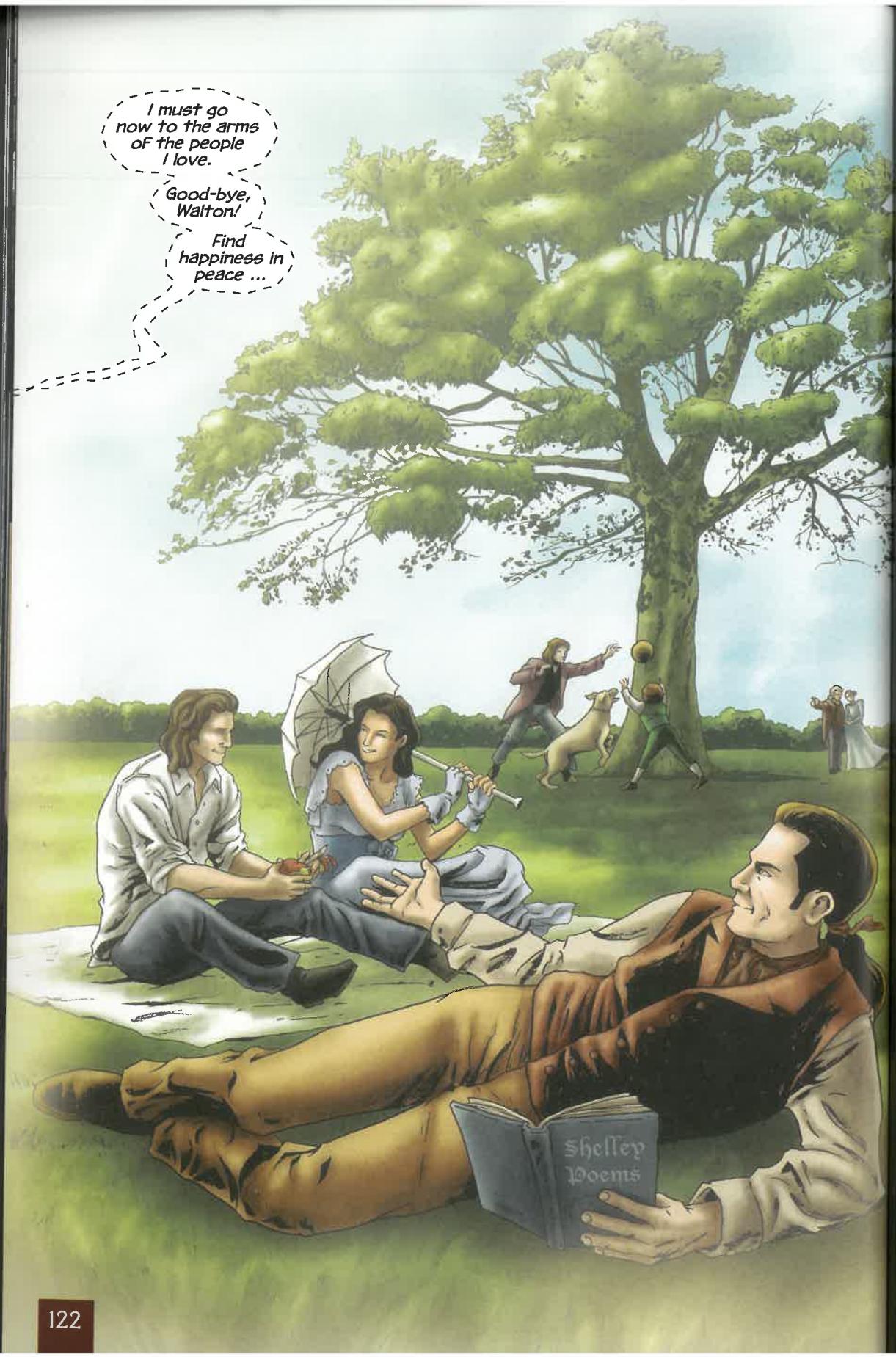
But I can't ask you to leave your country and friends to find him.

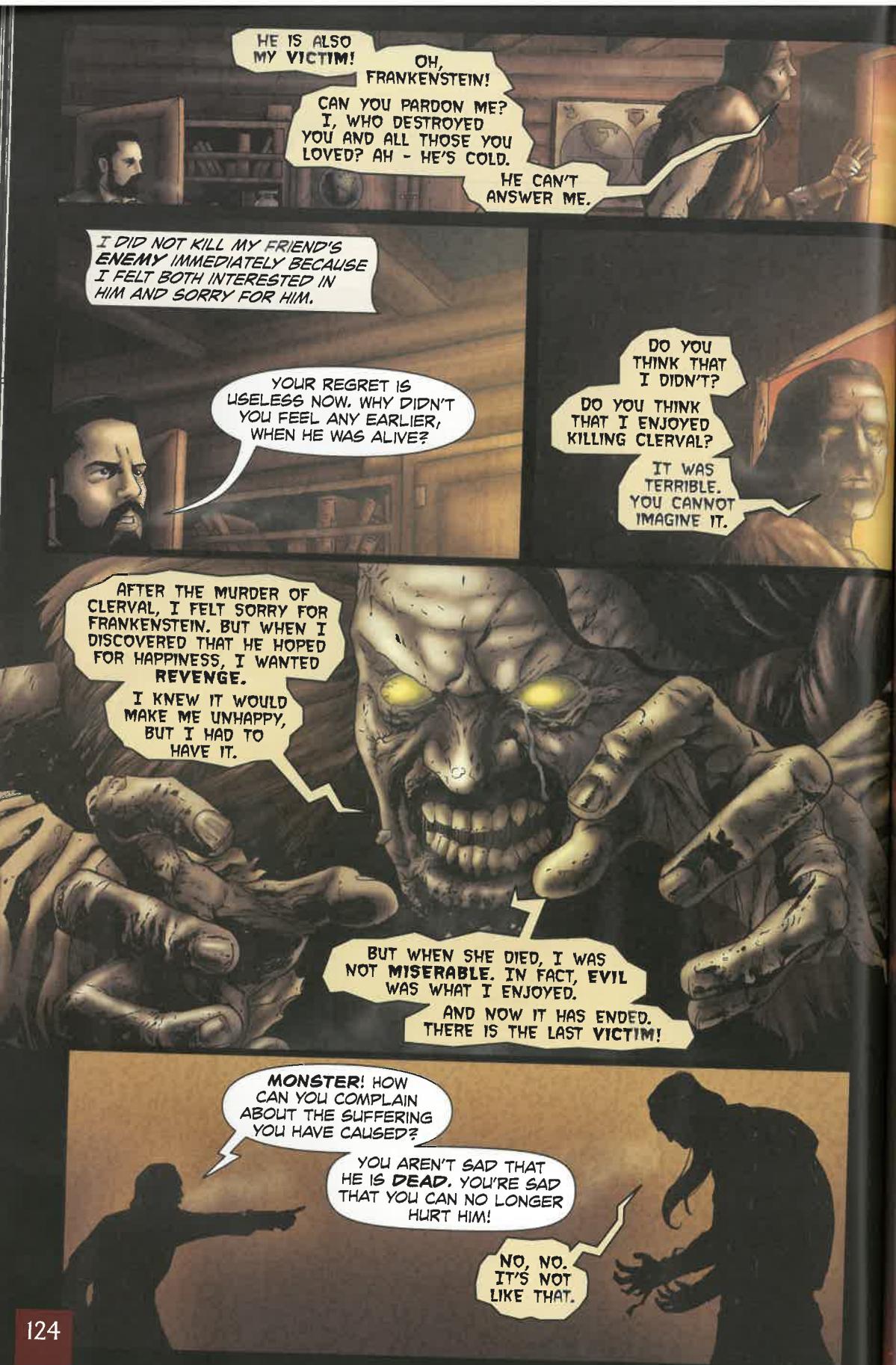


THEY'RE HAPPY BECAUSE THIS MEANS WE'LL SOON GO BACK TO ENGLAND.

ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GO BACK?

YES, I CAN'T LEAD THEM INTO GREATER DANGER.





YOU SEEM TO KNOW ALL ABOUT MY CRIMES.

BUT FRANKENSTEIN COULD NOT TELL YOU ABOUT THE MONTHS OF SUFFERING THAT I HAVE HAD.

AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS DONE WRONG? WHAT ABOUT THOSE PEOPLE WHO HATED ME?

IT IS TRUE THAT I AM A MURDERER.

I HAVE CAUSED GREAT SUFFERING FOR MY CREATOR. THERE HE LIES, WHITE AND COLD IN DEATH.

YOU HATE ME -

- BUT I HATE MYSELF MUCH MORE.

I WON'T HURT ANYONE ELSE.

MY WORK IS NEARLY COMPLETE. NOW ONLY MY OWN DEATH IS REQUIRED.

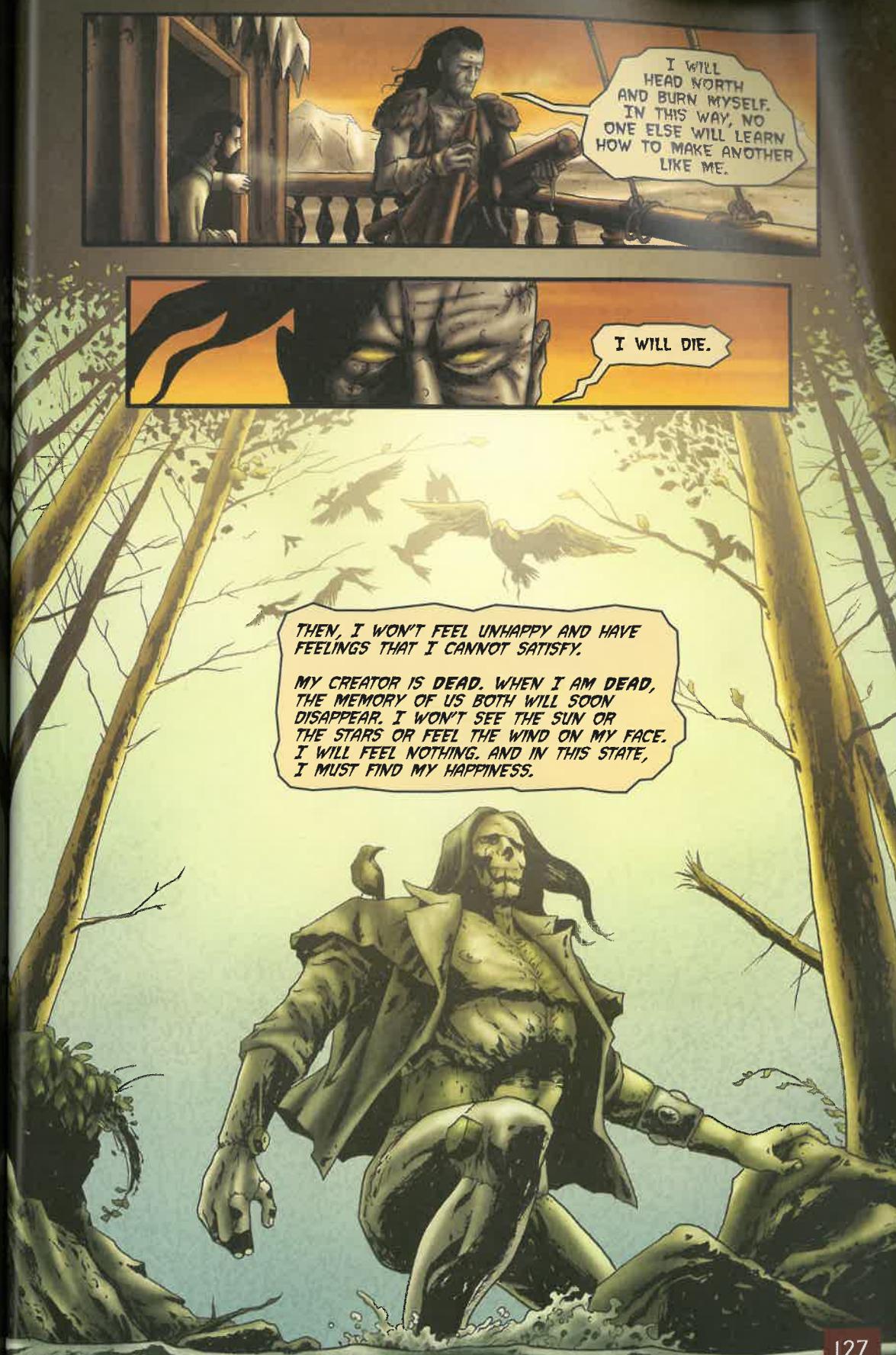
I WILL LEAVE YOUR SHIP AND GO TO THE NORTHERNMOST PART OF THE WORLD.

I WILL HEAD NORTH AND BURN MYSELF. IN THIS WAY, NO ONE ELSE WILL LEARN HOW TO MAKE ANOTHER LIKE ME.

I WILL DIE.

THEN, I WON'T FEEL UNHAPPY AND HAVE FEELINGS THAT I CANNOT SATISFY.

MY CREATOR IS DEAD. WHEN I AM DEAD, THE MEMORY OF US BOTH WILL SOON DISAPPEAR. I WON'T SEE THE SUN OR THE STARS OR FEEL THE WIND ON MY FACE. I WILL FEEL NOTHING. AND IN THIS STATE, I MUST FIND MY HAPPINESS.



SOON, I WILL DIE, AND MY UNHAPPINESS WILL BE OVER. I WILL BE HAPPY AT LAST IN THE PAIN OF THE FIRE!

AAAARRRRGGGHHHHH!!

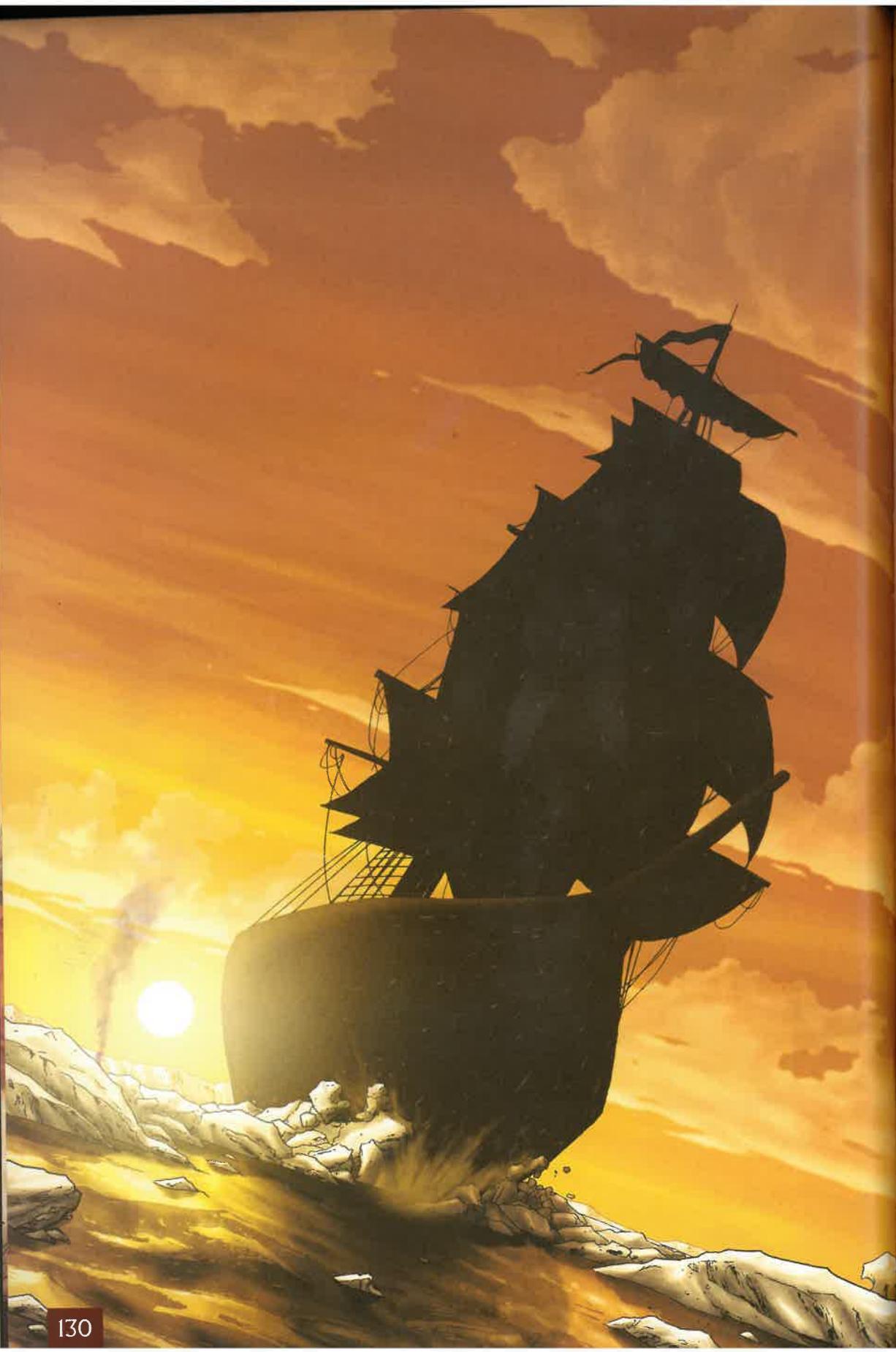
MY SPIRIT WILL SLEEP IN PEACE.

GOOD-BYE! YOU ARE THE LAST PERSON I WILL EVER SEE.

GOOD-BYE, FRANKENSTEIN! I WILL REGRET WHAT I DID UNTIL -

- I DIE!

HE WAS SOON CARRIED AWAY AND WAS LOST IN THE DARKNESS AND DISTANCE.



Frankenstein

End

Glossary

A

adopt /ədəpt/ — (adopts, adopting, adopted) If you adopt someone else's child, you take it into your own family and make it legally your son or daughter.

Alpine /ælpain/ — Alpine means existing in or relating to mountains.

angel /eindʒəl/ — (angels) Angels are spiritual beings that some people believe are God's servants in heaven.

arrest /ərest/ — (arrests, arresting, arrested) If the police arrest you, they take charge of you and take you to a police station because they believe you may have committed a crime.

astonishing /əstənɪʃɪŋ/ — Something that is astonishing is very surprising.

B

bank /bæŋk/ — (banks) The banks of a river, canal, or lake are the raised areas of ground along its edge.

barn /bɑrn/ — (barns) A barn is a building on a farm in which animals, animal food, or crops can be kept.

bear /beər/ — (bears, bearing, bore, borne) If you bear an unpleasant experience, you accept it because you are unable to do anything about it.

beat /bit/ — (beats, beating, beat, beaten) When your heart or pulse beats, it continually makes regular rhythmic movements.

blame /bleɪm/ — (blames, blaming, blamed) If you blame a person or thing for something bad or if you blame something bad on somebody, you believe or say that they are responsible for it or that they caused it.

board /bɔrd/ — (boards, boarding, boarded) When you board a train, ship, or aircraft, you get on it in order to travel somewhere.

brave /brɛv/ — Someone who is brave is willing to do things that are dangerous and does not show fear in difficult or dangerous situations.

brother-in-law /brʌðər ɪn lɔ:/ — (brothers-in-law) Someone's brother-in-law is the brother of their husband or wife, or the man who is married to their sister.

C

captain /kæptɪn/ — (captains) In the army, navy, and some other armed forces, a captain is an officer of middle rank.

Christian /krɪstʃən/ — (Christians) A Christian is someone who follows the teachings of Jesus Christ.

confess /kənfes/ — (confesses, confessing, confessed) If you confess to doing something wrong or something that you are ashamed of, you admit that you did it.

cottage /kɒtɪdʒ/ — (cottages) A cottage is a small house, usually in the country.

courtyard /kɔrtjard/ — (courtyards) A courtyard is an open area of ground which is surrounded by buildings or walls.

crime /kraɪm/ — (crimes) A crime is an illegal action or activity for which a person can be punished by law.

cross /krɔs/ — (crosses, crossing, crossed) If you cross a room, road, or area of land, you move to the other side of it. If you cross to a place, you move over or travel over a room, road, or area in order to reach that place.

curse /kɜrs/ — (curses, cursing, cursed) If you curse someone or something, you say impolite or insulting things about them because you are angry with them.

D

dead /dɛd/ — A person, animal, or plant that is dead is no longer living.

decay /dɪkeɪ/ — (decays, decaying, decayed) When something such as a dead body, a dead plant, or a tooth decays, it is gradually destroyed by a natural process.

deserve /dɪzɜrv/ — (deserves, deserving, deserved) If you say that a person or thing deserves something, you mean that they should have or receive it because of their actions or qualities.

despair /dɪspɛər/ — Despair is the feeling that everything is wrong and that nothing will improve.

destiny /dɛstɪni/ — (destinies) A person's destiny is everything that happens to them during their life, including what will happen in the future, especially when it is considered to be controlled by someone or something else. Destiny is the force which some people believe controls the things that happen to you in your life.

devil /dɛvəl/ — (devils) In Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, the Devil is the most powerful evil spirit. A devil is an evil spirit.

disease /dɪzɪz/ — (diseases) A disease is an illness which affects people, animals, or plants.

disgusting /dɪsgʌstɪŋ/ — If you say that something is disgusting, you think it is extremely unpleasant or unacceptable.

dreadful /drɛdfəl/ — If you say that something is dreadful, you mean that it is very unpleasant or very poor in quality.

dull /dʌl/ — (duller, dullest) A dull color or light is not bright.

E

embrace /ɪmbrɛs/ — (embraces, embracing, embraced) If you embrace someone, you put your arms around them in order to show affection for them. You can also say that two people embrace.

enemy /enəmi/ — (enemies) If someone is your enemy, they hate you or want to harm you. The enemy is an army or other force that is opposed to you in a war, or a country with which your country is at war.

evil /iːvəl/ — (evils) Evil is used to refer to all the wicked and bad things that happen in the world. An evil is a very unpleasant or harmful situation or activity. If you describe someone or something as evil, you mean that you think they are morally very bad and cause harm to people.

F

faint /feɪnt/ — (faints, fainting, fainted) If you faint, you lose consciousness for a short time.

fit /fɪt/ — (fits) If someone has a fit, they suddenly lose consciousness and their body makes uncontrollable movements.

flash /flæʃ/ — (flashes) A flash is a sudden burst of light or of something shiny or bright.

forgive /fərgɪv/ — (forgives, forgiving, forgave, forgiven) If you forgive someone who has done something bad or wrong, you stop being angry with them and no longer want to punish them.

frozen /frəʊzən/ — If the ground is frozen, it has become very hard because the weather is very cold. If you say that you are frozen or a part of your body is frozen, you are emphasizing that you feel very cold.

funeral /fyūnərəl/ — (funerals) A funeral is the ceremony that is held when the body of someone who has died is buried or cremated.

G

glory /glɔri/ — (glories) Glory is fame and admiration that you gain by doing something impressive.

grave /grɛv/ — (graves) A grave is a hole in which a dead person is buried.

graveyard /grɛvɪərd/ — (graveyards) A graveyard is an area of land where dead people are buried.

great /greɪt/ — (greater, greatest) Great means large in amount or degree.

guilt /gɪlt/ — Guilt is an unhappy feeling that you have because you have done something wrong or think that you have done something wrong. Guilt is the fact that you have done something wrong or illegal.

guilty /gɪlti/ — (guiltier, guiltiest) If someone is guilty of doing something wrong or committing a crime or offense, they have done that thing or committed that crime.

gun /gʌn/ — (guns) A gun is a weapon from which bullets or other things are fired.

H

heaven /hevən/ — (heavens) In some religions, heaven is said to be the place where God lives and where good people go when they die.

hell /hɛl/ — In some religions, hell is the place where the Devil lives and where bad people are sent when they die. If you say that a particular situation or place is hell, you are emphasizing that it is extremely unpleasant.

horror /hɔrər/ — (horrors) Horror is a feeling of great shock, fear, and worry caused by something extremely unpleasant.

hut /hʌt/ — (huts) A hut is a small, simple building, especially one made of wood, mud, grass, or stones.

I

inherit /ɪnherɪt/ — (inherits, inheriting, inherited) If you inherit money or property, you receive it from someone who has died.

innocence /ɪnəsəns/ — If someone proves their innocence, they prove that they are not guilty of a crime.

innocent /ɪnəsənt/ — If someone is innocent, they did not commit a crime that they have been accused of.

L

lecture /lɛktʃər/ — (lectures) A lecture is a talk someone gives in order to teach people about a particular subject, usually at a university or college.

lightning /laɪtnɪŋ/ — Lightning is the very bright flashes of light in the sky that happen during thunderstorms.

long /lɔŋ/ — (longs, longing, longed) If you long for something, you want it very much.

look forward to /lʊk fɔrwd tə/ — If you look forward to something that is going to happen, you want it to happen because you think you will enjoy it.

M

mark /mark/ — (marks) A mark is a small area of something such as dirt that has accidentally gotten onto a surface or piece of clothing.

master /mæstər/ — (masters) A servant's master is the man that he or she works for. If you say that someone is a master of a particular activity, you mean that they are extremely skilled at it.

mate /meɪt/ — (mates) An animal's mate is its sexual partner.

merchant /mərtʃənt/ – (merchants) A merchant is a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities.

miserable /mɪzərəbəl/ – If you are miserable, you are very unhappy.

Monsieur /məsyər/ – (Messieurs) Monsieur is the French title of respect and term of address for a man, similar to "Mister."

monster /mɒnstər/ – (monsters) A monster is a large imaginary creature that looks very ugly and frightening.

N

nobleman /nəubəlmæn/ – (noblemen) In former times, a nobleman was a man who was a member of the nobility.

nonsense /nɒnsəns/ – If you say that something spoken or written is nonsense, you think that it is untrue or silly.

nut /nʌt/ – (nuts) The firm shelled fruit of some trees and bushes are called nuts.

P

pale /peɪl/ – (paler, palest) Something that is pale is not strong or bright in color.

Paradise Lost – Poem written by the English poet John Milton in 1667, about the fall of Man (the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden after falling into the temptation of Satan).

persuade /pərsweɪd/ – (persuades, persuading, persuaded) If you persuade someone to do something, you cause them to do it by giving them good reasons for doing it.

poet /pəʊɪt/ – (poets) A poet is a person who writes poems.

prison /prɪzən/ – (prisons) A prison is a building where criminals are kept as punishment.

professor /prəfesər/ – (professors) A professor in an American or Canadian university or college is a teacher of the highest rank. A professor in a British university is the most senior teacher in a department.

prove /pruːv/ – (proves, proving, proved, proven) If you prove that something is true, you show by means of argument or evidence that it is definitely true.

R

race /reɪs/ – (races) A race is one of the major groups into which human beings can be divided according to their physical features, such as the color of their skin.

reasonable /rɪzənəbəl/ – If you think that someone is fair and sensible, you can say that they are reasonable.

recover /rɪkʌvər/ – (recovers, recovering, recovered) When you recover from an illness or an injury, you become well again.

recovery /rɪkʌvəri/ – (recoveries) If a sick person makes a recovery, he or she becomes well again.

repay /rɪpeɪ/ – (repays, repaying, repaid) If you repay a debt, you pay back the money that you owe to someone. If you repay a favor that someone did for you, you do something for them in return.

revenge /rɪvɛndʒ/ – Revenge involves hurting or punishing someone who has hurt or harmed you.

reward /riwɔːd/ – (rewards) A reward is something that you are given, for example because you have behaved well, worked hard, or provided a service to the community.

S

scream /skrim/ – (screams, screaming, screamed) When someone screams, they make a loud, high-pitched cry, for example, because they are in pain or frightened. If you scream something, you shout it in a loud, high-pitched voice.

sentence /sɛntəns/ – (sentences, sentencing, sentenced) When a judge sentences someone, he or she states in court what their punishment will be.

servant /sɜːrvənt/ – (servants) A servant is someone who is employed to work at another person's house, for example, as a gardener.

shade /ʃeɪd/ – Shade is an area of darkness under or next to an object, such as a tree, where the sunlight does not reach.

shelter /ʃeltər/ – (shelters) A shelter is a small building or covered place which is made to protect people from bad weather or danger. If a place provides shelter, it provides you with a place to stay or live, especially when you need protection from bad weather or danger.

shore /ʃɔːr/ – (shores) The shores or shore of an ocean, lake, or wide river is the land along the edge of it.

sled /sled/ – (sleds) A sled is an object used for traveling over snow. It consists of a frame which slides on two strips of wood or metal.

sorrow /sɒrəʊ/ – (sorrows) Sorrow is a feeling of deep sadness or regret. Sorrows are events or situations that cause deep sadness.

spirit /spɪrɪt/ – (spirits) A person's spirit is the non-physical part of them that is believed to remain alive after their death. A spirit is a ghost or supernatural being.

stream /strɪm/ – (streams) A stream is a small, narrow river. A stream of things is a large number of them occurring one after another.

struggle /stræɡəl/ – (struggles, struggling, struggled) If you struggle when you are being held, you twist, kick, and move violently in order to get free.

stupidly /stupɪdli/ – If you say someone is doing something stupidly, you mean they are showing a lack of good judgment or intelligence and they are not at all sensible in what they are doing.

surround /səraʊnd/ – (surrounds, surrounding, surrounded) If a person or thing is surrounded by something, that thing is situated all around them.

T

throat /θraʊt/ – (throats) Your throat is the back of your mouth and the top part of the tubes that go down into your stomach and your lungs. Your throat is also the front part of your neck.

thud /θʌd/ – (thuds, thudding, thudded) A thud is a dull sound, such as the sound a heavy object makes when it hits something soft. If something thuds somewhere, it makes a dull sound, usually when it falls onto or hits something else.

thunder /θʌndər/ – Thunder is the loud noise that you hear from the sky after a flash of lightning, especially during a storm.

trial /traɪəl/ – (trials) A trial is a formal meeting in a law court, at which a judge and jury listen to evidence and decide whether a person is guilty of a crime.

U

ugliness /ʌglɪnəs/ – The ugliness of someone or something refers to its unattractive and unpleasant state.

V

victim /vɪktəm/ – (victims) A victim is someone who has been hurt or killed.

voyage /vɔɪɪdʒ/ – (voyages) A voyage is a long journey on a ship or in a spacecraft.

W

wave /weɪv/ – (waves) A wave is a raised mass of water on the surface of water, especially the ocean, which is caused by the wind or by tides making the surface of the water rise and fall.

wealth /weɪlθ/ – Wealth is the possession of a large amount of money, property, or other valuable things.

wedding /wedɪŋ/ – (weddings) A wedding is a marriage ceremony and the party or special meal that often takes place after the ceremony.

witness /wɪtnɪs/ – (witnesses, witnessing, witnessed) A witness to an event, such as an accident or crime, is a person who saw it. If you witness something, you see it happen. A witness is someone who appears in a court of law to say what they know about a crime or other event.

wound /wund/ – (wounds) A wound is damage to part of your body, especially a cut or hole in your flesh which is caused by a gun, knife, or other weapon.

A Brief Biography of Mary Shelley

Mary Shelley was born Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin in London on August 30, 1797. Her parents were famous philosophers, writers, and intellectuals. Her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, was the author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. This important, early feminist book encouraged women to think and act for themselves — as equals with men. William Godwin was respected in England for his influential social and political ideas.

Wollstonecraft died ten days after Mary was born. William Godwin married his neighbor, Mary Jane Vial (Clairmont), when Mary was four years old. This marriage gave Mary and her older half-sister, Fanny, a mother, a stepbrother, and a stepsister. William and his new wife had a son in 1803.

Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin's remarkable background allowed her to appreciate modern ideas and gave her the chance to meet important people such as the English poet Lord Byron. She did not receive a formal education; she was taught to read and write at home. Her father encouraged her to be creative from an early age, and she was allowed to use her father's extensive library. She was also allowed to listen to the political, philosophical, scientific, and literary discussions of her father and his friends such as



the poets William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

Among the important literary figures Mary met was Percy Bysshe Shelley, a famous young poet. Percy was nineteen years old and had already been expelled from Oxford University. His relationship with his own family was troubled. Yet Percy greatly admired William Godwin. Percy, his young wife, Harriet Shelley, and his sister-in-law, Eliza, began spending time in

the Godwin home. Soon afterward, Mary and Percy began a relationship although Mary's father had forbidden them to meet.

When Mary was only sixteen years old, she and Percy ran away together to travel in France, Switzerland, and Germany. The young lovers took Mary's stepsister, Claire, with them but left Percy's pregnant wife, Harriet, behind. Mary and Percy's affair soon

became strained because of Harriet's demands which worsened after they returned to London. By now, Mary was also pregnant. However, in 1816, Harriet drowned herself in the Serpentine River in Hyde Park in London. To the outrage of polite society, Mary Wollstonecraft married Percy Shelley two weeks later, on December 30, 1816, at St. Mildred's Church in London. Fortunately for the couple, Percy inherited his grandfather's estate, which freed them from the financial pressure they had previously experienced.

Mary and Percy's relationship was not only romantic but also literary. He edited the manuscript for *Frankenstein*, which Mary had begun while they were in Switzerland, and he also wrote the preface. *Frankenstein* was eventually completed in May 1817, but it was not published until January 1, 1818, when it became an instant bestseller. However,

even then, Mary was not named as the author, and many people incorrectly believed that it was written by Percy Shelley. This was because the book was dedicated to William Godwin, whom everyone knew that Percy greatly admired. In fact, *Frankenstein* was not published in Mary's name until 1831. Tragically for Mary, many terrible events occurred while her novel was successful. From 1815 to 1819, three of her four children died as babies. The Shelleys moved to Florence, Italy, in October 1819. In May 1822, they moved to La Spezia. There, on June 16, Mary and Percy's fifth child died before it was born. Barely a month later, Percy drowned off the shore of Tuscany. At 25, Mary was already a widow and single mother.

Mary and her only surviving child, Percy Florence, left Italy in the summer of 1823 and returned to England. Always

resourceful, Mary edited her husband's poetry and prose and published his *Posthumous Poems* in 1824 and his *Poetical Works and Letters* in 1839. Mary Shelley did not remarry; instead, she dedicated the rest of her time to her own writing. *Valperga* was published in 1823; *The Last Man* in 1826; *The Fortunes of Perkin Warbeck* in 1830; *Lodore* in 1835; and *Falkner* in 1837. However, none of her later works are as well known or as influential as her first novel, *Frankenstein*.

Starting in 1839, serious illness plagued Mary. She lived to see her only child, Percy Florence, marry in 1848. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley died on February 1, 1851, at 53. The cause of death is recorded as "disease of the brain — supposed tumor in left hemisphere of long standing." She is buried next to her parents at St. Peter's Church in Bournemouth.



Character Summary



Victor Frankenstein

The main character and narrator of most of the story. Victor begins the story as an innocent youth fascinated by scientific discovery. By the end, he is a broken man, torn by grief and guilt. While studying at the university, Frankenstein discovers the secret of life. He creates an intelligent but horrifying monster. However, he instantly regrets his creation and tries to hide from his mistake. He keeps his monster a secret. Soon, it becomes obvious to everyone that Frankenstein cannot stop his monster from ruining his life and the lives of the people he loves.

Frankenstein's Monster

Formed from parts of dead bodies, the monster is Victor Frankenstein's extremely tall, very strong, and terrifyingly ugly creation. Although he is strong, Frankenstein's monster has the mind of a newborn baby. Sensitive and smart, the monster tries to join human society, but every human he meets is afraid of him. At first, he feels alone and abandoned. Soon, however, he feels angry and seeks revenge.



Elizabeth Lavenza

An orphan adopted by the Frankenstein family. She is almost the same age as Victor, and they are very close as children. For most of the novel, Elizabeth waits patiently for Victor while taking care of his younger brothers, Ernest and William. Eventually Elizabeth and Victor marry.

Robert Walton

The Arctic traveler. Walton's letters begin and end the story of *Frankenstein*. Walton rescues Victor Frankenstein from the ice and nurses him back to health. As Frankenstein recovers, he tells Walton his story. Walton narrates the incredible tale in a series of letters to his sister, Margaret Saville, in England.



Henry Clerval

Victor Frankenstein's cheerful childhood friend. Clerval helps Victor recover his health after creating the monster. Clerval also begins to study science and travels with Frankenstein.



Alphonse Frankenstein

Victor's father. Alphonse is very sympathetic toward his son and tries to teach him good values. Alphonse consoles Victor when he's in pain and encourages him to remember the importance of family.



Caroline Frankenstein

Victor's mother. After her father dies, Caroline is taken care of by, and later marries, Alphonse Frankenstein. She has three sons and adopts a daughter. She dies of scarlet fever, which she catches from her adopted daughter, Elizabeth, when Victor is seventeen.

Character Summary



William Frankenstein

Victor's youngest brother. The monster strangles William in the woods outside Geneva because he wants to hurt Victor. William's death burdens Victor with immense guilt about creating the monster.



Ernest Frankenstein

Victor's brother who was born in Geneva and taken care of by Elizabeth after their mother dies.



Justine Moritz

A young girl who works for the Frankenstein family. Justine is blamed for William's murder. Although she is innocent, Justine is executed which makes Victor feel even worse.



The De Laceys



A family of peasants. Monsieur De Lacey lives with his son, Felix; daughter, Agatha; and Felix's lover, Safie. Frankenstein's monster teaches himself to speak by observing the De Laceys. The monster desperately wants to be friends with them. However, when he meets them, they are scared of him and chase him away.



Monsieur Waldman

A professor of chemistry. Waldman encourages Victor's interest in science. He understands Victor's interest in a science that can explain the unexplainable, such as "the origins of life."



Monsieur Krempe

A professor of natural science. Krempe dismisses Victor's study of chemistry as a waste of time. He encourages Victor to begin new studies.



Mr. Kirwin

The magistrate who accuses Victor of Henry's murder.

Frankenstein: Context

Key Facts

- Full title: *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*
- Author: Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
- Type of work: Novel
- Genre (type of writing): Gothic science fiction
- Time and place written: Switzerland (1816) and London (1816–1817)
- Date of first publication: January 1, 1818
- Tone: Romantic, emotional, fatalistic
- Setting: Geneva, Switzerland; the Swiss Alps; Ingolstadt, Germany; England; Scotland; Ireland; the northern ice in the 18th century

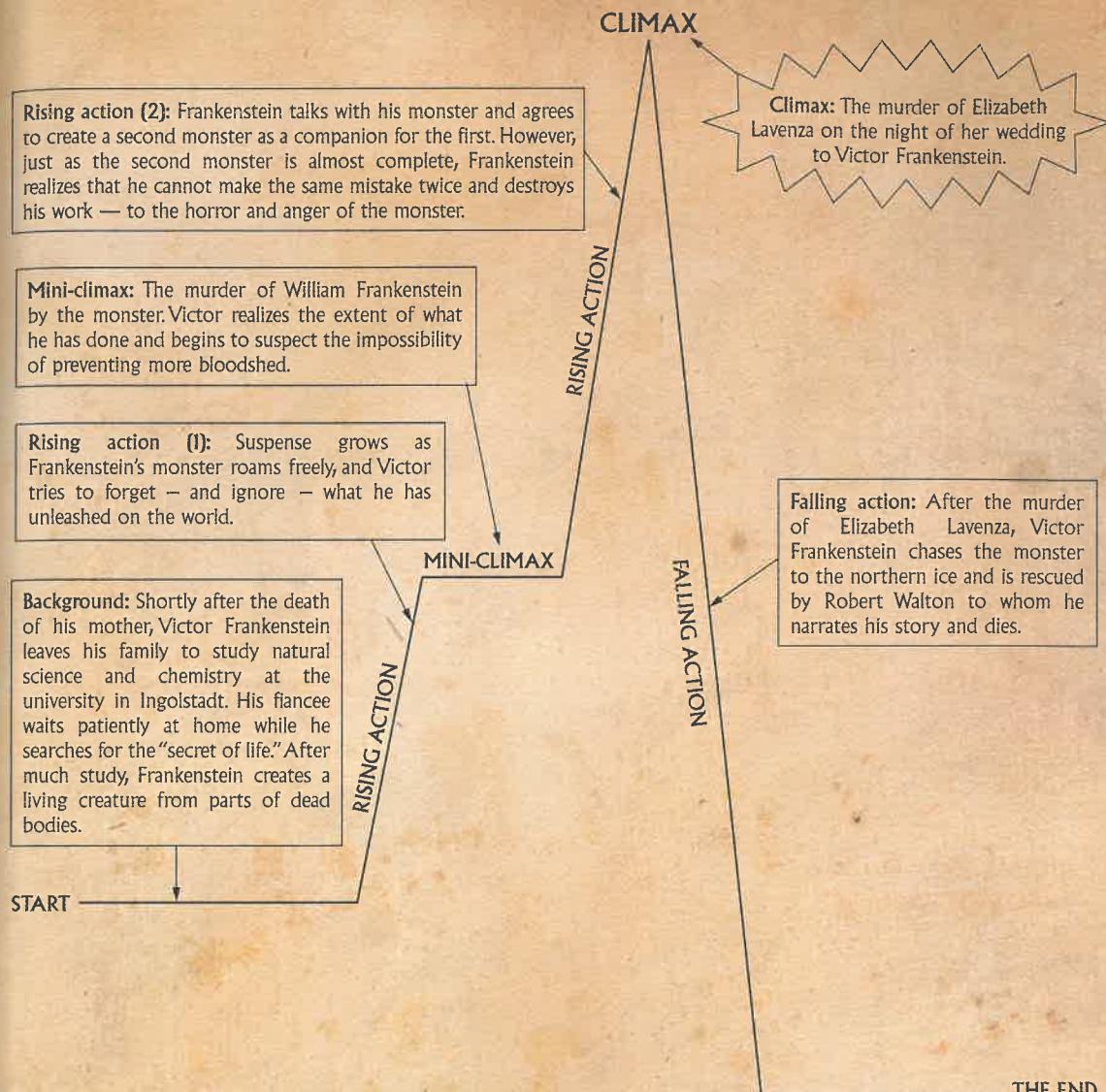
"How I, then a young girl, came to think of ... so very hideous an idea?"

In the summer of 1816, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, a well-educated young woman from England, traveled with Percy Bysshe Shelley, her married lover, to the Swiss Alps. Unusual for that time of year, rain kept them indoors. There, along with their friend the scientist and poet John William Polidori, they entertained themselves by reading old German ghost stories. The couple's neighbor and friend, the well-known poet Lord Byron, held a competition to see who could write the best ghost story. Shelley wrote a story based on his life experiences; Byron wrote a bare fragment of a novel; and Polidori is believed to have begun *The Vampyre*.

At first, Mary did not have any ideas, but she was nevertheless determined to write a story which would "speak to the mysterious fears of our nature, and awaken thrilling horror — one to make the reader dread to look [a]round, to curdle the blood, and quicken the beatings of the heart." During one of the group's gatherings that summer, they debated the nature and origin of life. They discussed whether modern science would ever discover the origin of life. Such conversations considerably affected Mary. Not long afterward, Mary imagined the birth of a horrifying, human-made man, who was created almost as one would create an engine. Mary's story had started: the monster had his creator.

By the end of the summer, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin won the prize in Byron's competition. She had created a terrifying story that was to become a bestseller in her own time and a classic that still affects readers nearly two centuries later.

Frankenstein: Plot



Foreshadowing: Throughout his story, Victor uses words such as "fate" and "omen" to hint at the tragedy that will come. Occasionally he pauses while telling his story as frightening memories come flooding back to him.

Primary narrator(s): Robert Walton quotes Victor Frankenstein's first-person narrative in his letters; Victor, in turn, quotes the monster's first-person narrative.

Secondary narrator(s): Elizabeth Lavenza and Alphonse Frankenstein narrate parts of the story through their letters to Victor.

Point of view: The point of view shifts from Robert Walton to Victor Frankenstein, to Frankenstein's monster, and then back to Walton. Elizabeth's and Alphonse's points of view also are occasionally heard.

Hero and villain: Victor Frankenstein is both a classic mad scientist, crossing moral boundaries without concern, and a brave adventurer who travels into unknown scientific lands and is not held responsible for the consequences of his explorations.

Themes: The danger and responsibility of knowledge; the wonder and beauty of nature; the moral lesson that pride must have its fall; monstrosity* and secrecy

Symbols: Fire, light

* If you describe something as monstrous, you mean that it is very shocking or unfair.

Notes

Notes

OTHER CLASSICAL COMICS TITLES

Henry V



Macbeth



Great Expectations



Jane Eyre



Frankenstein

Making the classics accessible for ALL learners.

Frankenstein is set during a time when there were many new scientific discoveries and anything seemed possible – even the creation of life itself. Victor Frankenstein becomes obsessed with this idea and works hard to prove his theories. But his dream quickly turns into a nightmare – not just for him, but for his family and friends, too.

Frankenstein, conceived by Mary Shelley on a rainy night in the mountains of Switzerland in 1816, asks questions about the danger and responsibility of knowledge and the notion that pride must have its fall. Shelley's classic horror story is brought to life through fantastic gothic illustrations and is adapted so that all students can enjoy this haunting tale.



Excellent illustrations...

We should expose our students to rich literature, and this is one way that would assist the teachers and motivate the students to learn...The character page in the beginning is an excellent idea.

Siv Boletsis,

Louis D. Brandeis High School,
New York, NY

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Frankenstein



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