

Chapter 10

11 Many weeks passed, but I was unable to start my work. I was frightened that the monster would come, and I felt distressed by what I had promised to do. One day my father said he wanted to talk to me.

‘Victor, I have always looked forward to your marriage to Elizabeth. You have always been close to each other, so I wonder whether you now see her more as a sister and a friend?’

‘Don’t worry, father,’ I replied. ‘I hope that one day Elizabeth and I will get married.’

‘This is wonderful news,’ he replied. ‘Are you interested in getting married soon?’

I thought of my promise to the creature. How could I get married and have a normal life before I had fulfilled my terrible promise? I would need to hide some secret to complete the horrible task. These feelings helped me answer my father’s question. I said I needed to go to England for a while without saying exactly why, for a period of up to a year. My father was happy to agree, hoping that the change would complete my physical and mental recovery.

In September, I left Geneva and I was worried the monster might hurt my family in my absence, but believed that he would follow me to England, and so they would be safe. Henry Clerval came with me. We sailed down the Rhine to Rotterdam and got a ship to London.

• **absence:** not being present

• **fulfilled:** done what he had promised

In London I met an important natural philosopher to find new information related to my unpleasant task. Henry was interested in going to India and started collecting information on how to organise it, while I gathered the materials I needed. We slowly made our way to Perth in Scotland, where we had been invited by a friend.

I was worried because I had still not started my work. I wondered what the creature might do. I left Clermont with our friend in Perth while I went to complete my task in a cottage on a remote island in the Orkneys further north. As time passed I found it increasingly difficult to continue with my horrible work, and every moment I expected to look up and see the form of the Master before me.



Chapter 11

12 One night, I was thinking about what I was doing. I had no idea what this female creature might be like. My first creation had promised to leave Europe, but she might not agree. She might be even more evil than he was. And if they had children, then what a race of creatures would I have started on earth?

I suddenly looked up and saw the monster behind me, looking at me and grinning. He had followed me and was waiting for my work to end. But in his face I saw only evil. I thought how mad my promise to him had been. Trembling with fear, I tore the thing I had created to pieces before him. With a horrible howl of despair, he disappeared.

I went back to my own room. I heard foot steps and the sound of the door and I knew the monster had come.

'You destroyed your work,' he said. 'Do you dare to break your promise? I have been waiting and now you have destroyed my hopes.'

'Go away!' I shouted. 'I have broken my promise. I will never make another evil creature like you.'

'Remember that I have power,' he said. 'I can make your situation even worse. You are my creature but I am your master. Obey!'



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'You cannot make me do something wicked. I will not create an evil companion for you.' I shouted. 'Go away!'

'You will regret this,' cried the creature. 'Now, I am only interested in revenge. Remember this: I will be with you on your wedding night.'

'Monster!' I screamed. 'Before you think of killing me, make sure that you are safe yourself.'

He left quickly, and I later saw him sailing away in his boat. Then I started thinking of his threat: I will be with you on your wedding night. So I had until then to do something.

Two days later a letter from Clerval arrived, asking me to come back so we could return to London to complete his Indian business. I went to my laboratory and packed up all my instruments. I put all the horrible mess[•] of my work into a basket and filled it with stones. Later that night I sailed out to sea and dropped it over the side of my boat.

It was a peaceful, moonlit night, and I fell asleep on the boat. When I awoke the wind and waves were very strong. I could not control the boat, so I let the wind take it. I looked at the clouds moving fast in the sky and then at the sea and I thought that I was going to die. Much, much later I was surprised to see land. It was calmer now, and I followed the coast until I came to a small harbour. People soon gathered[•] around and tied up the boat.

• gathered

• mess: dirty or untidy substance or state

‘Excuse me,’ I started, hearing them speak English. ‘Can you tell me where I am, please?’

‘You will know that soon enough,’ said one man.

‘Why do you answer me so rudely?’ I asked.

‘Because it is the custom[•] of the Irish to hate English people,’ he replied. ‘You must follow me to Mr Kirwin to explain yourself.’

‘Who is Mr Kirwin?’ I asked. ‘And why must I explain myself?’

‘Mr Kirwin is the magistrate,’ he said. ‘And you are to explain the death of a man who was found murdered here last night.’

I was very surprised by this answer, and although exhausted and very hungry, I followed him, ready to prove my innocence.

IRELAND

Victor Frankenstein is born in Ireland.

Look at a map or on the internet to follow his journey on the sea from the Orkney Islands to the northern coast of Ireland.

• custom: a habit