

Frankenstein

Summary

Robert Walton, an explorer, describes his trip to the Arctic in letters to his sister who lives in England. Walton relates a strange event: as he and his crew looked out on the enormous ice field, they saw a gigantic man being pulled by a dogsled. The following day they discover another, smaller man, desperately ill, adrift on a sheet of ice. Walton brought the man onto his ship and attempted to nurse him back to health. After a week the man was able to talk and told Walton an incredible story.

The man's name was Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist born in Geneva, Switzerland. Frankenstein was a troubled man although he had a blissful childhood. He was deeply loved by his parents and learnt lessons in love, patience and sacrifice from them.

He went to university to study natural science. Having special interest in the mystery of human body, he created a large human frame and discovered a method of bringing it to life. However, when the creature opened its eyes, Victor was horrified by his monstrous-looking creation. He ran from his laboratory and fell ill.

When he tried reaching his family, he found that someone had murdered his brother, William. He went home and found the ugly monster in the woods where his brother was murdered. It was then that he realized that the monster could be the killer.

Victor explains to Walton that he felt responsible for William's murder. Guilt-ridden and desperate to be alone, he climbed to the mountains, where he encountered the creature. The monster admitted to the murder of William but begged for understanding.

The monster said that he was despised by everyone and that his creator had left his job incomplete by leaving him to fend for himself. He asked Frankenstein to create a woman monster who would take care of him and promised to leave for the mountains with her and never to be seen by men. He threatened Frankenstein to kill more of his family if Victor refused to obey him.

Frankenstein agreed to create the woman monster but soon realized that she would be equally harmful to mankind and so got rid of all the things he would use to make her. On seeing the change in Frankenstein's plans, the monster, enraged, vows revenge, and kills Victor's newly wedded wife.

Frankenstein was dejected and vowed to devote the rest of his life to finding the monster and exacting his revenge. While chasing the monster, his determination for killing the monster kept Victor alive and helped him withstand severe weather conditions. It was during this wild chase that he ended up at Walton's ship. Frankenstein was already a weak man and on the ship, his health grew worse. Before dying, he requested Walton to search for the monster and destroy him for the good of mankind.

At Frankenstein's death, the monster came in and wept over Victor's coffin. The monster tells Walton of his immense solitude, suffering, hatred, and remorse. His revenge was now complete with his creator's death. The monster then departs for the northernmost ice to die alone.