

FRANKENSTEIN

The Monster and the Myth,
Inspired by Mary Shelley's novel and the Hollywood movies,
Written by Paul Stebbings and Phil Smith.

Shorter version 2014 - 2018

The staging is made up of a set of cages which can be variously constructed to make mountains, prison, lab table, etc.

ACT 1

Scene 1

(Ingolstadt University lecture hall. VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN enters).

VICTOR: O, no, I'm late, I'm late for class again! O, my very favourite subject!! Good to see you all back in class after the holidays!! This is my favourite subject – anatomy!! Now I started off dissecting insects and now I've moved on to human bodies! It's great fun! Have you every seen the professor? He's very good at dissection! O, here he is!! Give him a round of applause!!

PROF: Students, students, good morning/afternoon – “students” - what do we make of that word, “students”?

VICTOR : I don't know.

PROF: It is a job with long hours for no pay. What purpose does it serve? To be at the mercy of some teacher or professor, like myself, who seems to know everything and is handsomely for their privileges. To be a student is an unnatural condition little better than that of an animal. You are certainly hated by the working people of the town who regard you as worse than cattle!

VICTOR: Ignorant peasants, sir!

PROF : Yes. “Leave alone the mysteries of the world!” They cry. But where the ignorant people of the town see blasphemy I see knowledge! Where they see heretics (pointing at the audience) I see pioneers of the future, not cattle but explorers!

VICTOR: Yes!

PROF: Adventurers!

VF: Yes!

PROF: Hacking through the jungle with a machete! Hack through that jungle! In order to understand nature we must tear it apart! Cut it up! Dissect it!!

VICTOR: Dissect it!

PROF: Together we shall banish the darkness of ignorance and let in the sunlight!!

VICTOR: Brilliant just brilliant...a truly great teacher!

PROF: Now – are there any questions?

(Frankenstein raises his hand. PROFESSOR sees him and beckons him on stage.)

Frankenstein: Firstly, Professor Fleischflayer, I am honoured to be one of your pioneers. Victor Frankenstein, sir. But I would say this: what makes a scientist different from a beast is his soul. (PROFESSOR grunts.) Even if we look at the bible we find that Adam and Eve were not born on the first day. Creation was in being, sir, before we humans stood on the earth. It was only when we came to understand the world that science was born.

PROF: Hah!

VICTOR: The light of science comes from within us, from our unique quality: the human soul.

PROF: Utter rubbish!! Where is this soul? There? Is that where it is? (prods student) Where is your soul? Would it hurt if I were to prod it? Can I cut it off? Can I dissect it? I would if I could. Unfortunately, this “soul” is located in the one place my knife cannot reach – in this fool’s imagination! The “soul” belongs with Fairy Tales and Santa Claus. Out with the damned thing and out with you, Herr Frankenstein! Out of my lecture!

VICTOR: But Professor Fleischflayer, I was only -

PROF: Out, out!. Class dismissed!

Scene 2

(The Professor’s laboratory, Ingolstadt University. Elizabeth, the Professor’s daughter, enters and tests various pieces of equipment. An ape in a cage is screaming and Elizabeth calms the ape, letting it out of the cage. The ape responds with affection. Together they feed the other animals - including a snake that is fed a mouse by the ape.)

ELIZ: (to snake) O my darling, and how are you? You’re hungry? O we have a treat for you... (Ape feds the mouse to the snake.) O, you were hungry!! I will see you later, my

darling, in you go! (Puts the snake back in cage.)

(The Ape grabs a bottle of chemicals and makes a game of Elizabeth's efforts to retrieve it).

ELIZABETH: Victor.... Put that back!! That is ether. It's dangerous! Put it down! Victor, please give it to me. Please! Give me the ether! Victor, Victor!

(The Ape sensing the fun waves bottle in air and shrieks. The noise causes Victor to enter).

VICTOR: Ah, Miss Fleischflayer, can I be of any assistance? Did I hear you calling my name?

ELIZABETH: (Flustered) Oh Herr Frankenstein! I called? You? O - yes, that's right!! This wretched creature has stolen the ether. If the bottle is smashed Father will never forgive me.

VICTOR: Then I shall corner this monstrous beast and recover the magic potion!! Here monkey, monkey!!!

ELIZABETH: (Stern) It's a primate, an ape, Herr Frankenstein, a Gibbon, genus Hylobates from the Hylobatidae family.

VICTOR: O, here Gibbon, Gibbon, Gibbon!

(Gibbon blows raspberries at Victor)

VICTOR: Does it have a familiar name?

ELIZABETH: (Blushing) O, Father told me I must never give the animals names!

VICTOR: O, but you did, didn't you – because, Elizabeth - ... May I call you Elizabeth? (She nods.) Because, Elizabeth –despite the intentions of your father - you have a kind and humane heart beating in that pretty breast. O, pardon my scientific frankness, but I have observed you as an astronomer watches a distant star through a telescope! I know how warm-hearted you are. In the dull darkness of this dank and morbid University your heart glows from within as if from a case of crystal and casts a ray of hope on me. (ELIZABETH looks at floor, even the Ape has become quiet and attentive. Now it claps its hands.)

ELIZABETH: (to the ape) Oh, stop it, Victor!! (Gasps.) O!

VICTOR: "Victor"! You called this ape after me? Oh! What should I feel? A blow? Or encouragement?

ELIZABETH: It was a coincidence! (She blushes).

(Gibbon nods 'No', Elizabeth reprimands him)

ELIZABETH: A coincidence!

(Gibbon agrees this time)

VICTOR: You are blushing. What is the scientific cause of this blushing?

ELIZABETH: I know none, Herr Frankenstein. Not everything is scientific. (Then, quickly.) Please, please do not tell Father I said so.

VICTOR: Truth forces us to blush. It is the excess of the human spirit. It is the soul manifesting itself in the flesh. I know how warm-hearted you are. (holding his finger out to take a hair from her head) Allow me, every hair is holy to me! (The Ape is now ignored and becomes jealous. It leaps on Frankenstein's back, still holding the ether). O! Help, help!

(Victor leaps about with the ape on his back.)

ELIZABETH: Don't hurt him, Victor!

VICTOR: He's attacking me!! What am I supposed to do?

ELIZABETH: Not you Victor. You Victor, let Victor go!

(The ape pours ether over Victor's head).

ELIZABETH: Oh no! The ether! The ether! Victor, try not to breathe.

(Victor holds his breath pointlessly, eventually breathes in and passes out.).

ELIZABETH. Oh Victor!

(ape holds ELIZABETH back, ELIZABETH pokes ape in the eye, sends him back to the cage, puts ether back on shelf)

ELIZABETH: You silly, silly beast, Bad Victor!! Bad Victor!

VICTOR: (Coming round.) O, I'm not bad... I'm really quite good. My soul is pure...my heart is reaching out for... Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH: O, Victor, Victor! Are you alright? (Ape whimpers.) Not you, you silly beast! Oh Victor, Victor speak to me.

VICTOR: I meant to do good. I have so many hopes...

ELIZABETH: O my god! Oh, don't die, Victor!

VICTOR: My soul! It is slipping from me!!

ELIZABETH: No, no... my poor dear man... your soul must stay in your breast.

VICTOR: Breast? Yes.... Breast....

ELIZABETH: Let me take your pulse. (She leans over him.)

VICTOR: (three slow beats) Breast... must stay in ... in the flesh...

ELIZABETH: Your pulse quickens! (three fast beats) Oh don't die, Victor! Your heart!
(She pushes him down and pumps his heart)

VICTOR: (Taking huge breaths) O, my soul - I see it slipping away from me!

ELIZABETH: Where, where?

VICTOR: My soul is floating away from me!

ELIZABETH: Reach out and catch it!!

VICTOR: An angel! I see an angel and a great golden heaven - I embrace heaven!

(He kisses her. They embrace. Professor Fleischflayer enters.)

PROF: What is this! What is going on? Have my senses failed? Surely this cannot be!

ELIZABETH: (pulling away) Oh Father, Father!

VICTOR: Sir, Professor, Father... er...not Father... er... I ...

PROF: Silence.

ELIZABETH: It was not, Father, what it appears to be -

PROF: Almost everything is what it appears to be, my dear. That's what appearance is – the look of things that are!! I can see quite clearly that you have betrayed my trust! The question remains: have you betrayed my work? Our secrets?

ELIZABETH: No, Father, never.

PROF: (To VICTOR:) Are you a spy? Who do you serve? One of the idiots in the town? One of the other teachers here?

VICTOR: No! Not at all, Sir.

PROF: Are you a liar?

VICTOR: No, Sir.

PROF: (Advancing on him with dissecting knife.) Where is the proof? Do I have to cut it out of you? Shall I dissect your motives?

VICTOR: Help! Oh God help me!

PROF: Oh, spare me your superstition!

ELIZABETH: Father, Father I beg you to listen to me. This man is not a spy. Herr Frankenstein only came to rescue me from the Monkey.

PROF: Ape.

VICTOR: Gibbon, actually...Genus Hylobates from the Hylobatidae family (Both PROF and ELIZABETH look at him,.)

PROF: So, you are not a spy then?

VICTOR: No Sir, I am a thief.

ELIZABETH and PROF: What!

VICTOR: I came here to steal a heart.

ELIZABETH: Victor? (Monkey revives and bangs on cage).

PROF: Are you collecting organs from bodies? All the pickled hearts in this laboratory belong to me!! I will call the watchmen.

ELIZABETH: Father. The heart he has stolen is my own!

VICTOR: Sir, it would be a great honour to be permitted to ask for the hand of your daughter.

PROF: To dissect? What is this?

ELIZABETH: O, Father. You know perfectly well what Victor means! (She seizes Victor and kisses him). I wish to marry Victor Frankenstein, Father. (Monkey howls with rage). Will someone shut that bloody monkey up!

VICTOR: Ape.

PROF: Gibbon. (Going to the cage.) It has great affection for you, Elizabeth – this gibbon. It is jealous. And so am I. For I too am an ape, Elizabeth. I hope you can forgive me if I cannot escape my own feelings. I am afraid of losing you. After all, who else can I trust in my quest for life?

VICTOR: Life?

PROF: (Cunning) Yes, Herr Frankenstein – life, artificial life created by my own hands.

VICTOR: But that's impossible. (Excited he pushes Elizabeth away) And illegal. They'll hang you.

PROF: Whatever can be done, must be done. (Victor reacts.) Hah, see how he is!

ELIZABETH: Father, leave him alone, he doesn't need to know -

VICTOR: Know what?

PROF: Hush, my dear! Allow me this one test! Then , Frankenstein, you will have your answer!!

VICTOR: What test?

PROF: The one that you began to pass when you pushed aside your beloved just now! I look into your eyes and I see a scientific curiosity, the appetite for forbidden knowledge that any son-in-law of mine must possess! Ah, but can you give up your soul?

ELIZABETH: (Understanding) He can pass the test! He can win my hand!

PROF: (Manipulative) Nonsense. What a fool I am! I am forgetting, this is Victor Frankenstein, the spiritualist!! Hah! How can anyone who believes in a soul create life? Where would he find the ingredients? (Mimes grasping handfuls of air.)

VICTOR: Perhaps it is not so important, sir...(tempted) A soul is... after all... only an idea, a concept...

PROF: A human invention?

VICTOR: Elizabeth? Help me to express myself...

ELIZABETH: I cannot marry you without my Father's permission, Victor.

PROF: If you are to join this family you must share in all its secrets.

VICTOR: In the secrets of life?

PROF: Flesh and blood. No soul.

VICTOR: Why, yes, sir, of course, ... (struggling) ... what use is an idea without the flesh and the blood to make it real... (He grasps handfuls of air.) There is no real soul here. I see that now.

PROF: Man is a machine.

VICTOR: (Uncertainly) A machine...

PROF and ELIZABETH: Death is only the break down of a machine.

ELIZABETH: Which we can mend by careful repair and nursing.

VICTOR: Death is only the break down of a machine?

PROF: And after death, what then, Herr Frankenstein?

VICTOR: Heaven...

PROF: No.

Victor: Life again!

ELIZABETH: Yes!

VICTOR: Have I passed the test?

PROF: Only the theory. Now comes the practical! This is a test for us all, Victor.

VICTOR: For you and Elizabeth?

PROF: For all mankind. The subjects are ready. Now is the moment of truth.

ELIZABETH: (Frightened) THE moment, Father?

PROF: Yes, bring me "Victor".

ELIZABETH: I suppose we have to kill Victor!

VICTOR: What! Help! You're mad... you're both mad!!

PROF: Someone bring me that damn gibbon!

Victor: O.... I see...

ELIZABETH: (As she lets the Ape out it hugs her.) I don't know that I can do it, Father. I have looked after the ape too long...

PROF: But Herr Frankenstein, you can kill Victor, can't you?

ELIZABETH: Let's kill a butterfly or a black rat. Rats deserve to die.

PROF: Nothing deserves to die, my dear. That is what this experiment is all about. We shall abolish death.

VICTOR: (Unconsciously arrogant.) Sir, do you mean to revive this animal after killing it?

PROF: I do.

VICTOR: Then you see, Elizabeth, it is not the end of poor Victor, it is but the beginning of his new life. We can have life after death!

ELIZABETH: Go ahead then. But don't expect me to be part of it. I cannot look.

PROF: Kill it.

(Victor takes the screaming ape and he and the Prof kill the beast as ELIZABETH sobs.)

VICTOR: In killing this beast, Professor, I kill my old self. My childish superstitious self. My soul has died with this ape.

PROF: Well done, Herr Frankenstein! We'll make a Professor of you yet!

ELIZABETH: But your heart, Victor?

VICTOR: My emotions are unchanged. (Taking his own pulse.) I offer you the undying love of a man and to you, Professor, my undying professional devotion.

PROF: Hah! I don't want your devotion! I am nothing. Science is all. We are her donkeys! Now, quickly!! To work, to work. Elizabeth unveil the machine!

ELIZABETH: O yes, father!

VICTOR: Sir, surely you don't mean a machine... ?

PROF: Of course, open your ears, or you will learn nothing!! Of course it's a machine!

(Elizabeth unveils a contraption - attached to a dynamo and electrodes. He takes the pumping handle).

PROF: No, my dear, now we have stronger thighs. (He grips VICTOR's arm) Pure muscle. Trapped energy! To the machine!!

VICTOR: I obey science. (gets on the bicycle.)

PROF: Hurry – we must work quickly!! Faster, faster.

ELIZABETH: Oh Victor, use your strength Pump, pump!

VICTOR: Onwards, upwards! Life, life!

PROF: Elizabeth, the electrodes!

ELIZABETH: Yes, sir!

PROF: Faster!!

VICTOR: Phoo! Up the hill of ignorance!! I am approaching the heights of understanding! (Briefly checks his own pulse.) What excitement drives me now! Spark, Life, spark!

(Pumping furiously. ELIZABETH applies the electrodes to the skull of the ape who twitches).

PROF: Yes! Yes! It's working!

ELIZABETH: Oh, little Victor!

PROF: Faster, more current, more current!

ELIZABETH & PROF: Faster! Pump! Pump! It's alive!! It's alive!!

(The ape raises a hand then sits up screams and smoke issues from his head. Victor collapses unable to keep up the effort and the ape goes limp.)

PROF: No! No! dead! How can this happen to me – Professor Fleischflayer! Dead!

(The PROF gouges out the ape's eye with a knife and then peers into his brain).

PROF: See, see only the surface of the brain was stimulated. And this eye has only a blur fixed upon its insides. (Tosses it away). Useless. Hopeless. Victor, throw Victor into the river. I am a failure. We are still mortal. Death is still the end.

VICTOR: No, sir. It is all my fault, if only I had more strength. If we had two pumping machines...

ELIZABETH: Nonsense, nonsense, both of you. You are thinking backwards! The current was not too low but the beast was too large. Let us use a smaller creature.

PROF: I have already revived insects – who cares? They have no heart, no brain!

ELIZABETH: But what about a snake?

VICTOR: Why yes, Sir!! Did not all knowledge begin with a snake in a Garden? Let us embrace this opportunity!

ELIZABETH: (Kisses Victor). O let us embrace the snake!

PROF: Which snake? That Cobra? That snake is highly poisonous, my children, you must beware the snake!

ELIZABETH: O, father, I feed him everyday. In his eyes I see cool depths. My snake will be the first real animal to be killed and be revived. Not a twitching ape or fluttering insects no more alive than paper. But to bring back a snake!!

PROF: Yes, that would be an act to challenge God!!

ELIZABETH: Let me fetch my treasure?

PROF: Yes!! Yes!! Bring forth the snake!! No time to waste!!

ELIZABETH: Ophiophagus Hannah - King Cobra! (She unlocks the cage and takes out the snake - a puppet which she can manipulate). Ah, my darling, we are going to kill you.

PROF: That is my daughter!!

VICTOR: O, just kill the damn thing!

ELIZABETH: Don't be scared...

VICTOR: I'm not....

ELIZABETH: Not you.

VICTOR: Ah, the snake.

(PROF kills snake)

ELIZABETH: It's dead.

PROF: (Checking) Temporarily.

ELIZABETH: Quick, quick! Victor, pump that machine!! Harder and faster than before!!

VICTOR: (Climbing on the cycle.) Science is a stern mistress, I obey!

PROF: We need a much stronger current than before!! Pump harder!!

VICTOR: I'm pumping as hard as I can!!

PROF: Harder, harder!!

(Once again Victor furiously pumps - the Prof places on the electrodes and the snake jumps to life).

PROF: Life! Life!

(PROF goes to stroke the snake.)

ELIZABETH: Don't stroke the snake! It doesn't like...

PROF: What?

ELIZABETH: Hold it by the... careful!!

(The snake bites the Professor who falls writhing to the floor).

PROF: Ah ! What has it done? Did it bite me? O, Kismet, Victor, kismet!

ELIZABETH: Father, oh Father.

VICTOR: Antidote!! Where's the antidote!!

PROF: There is none, dear boy. The bite of the King Cobra is always fatal. In creating life I have embraced my own death. I have traded my life for that of a reptile.

VICTOR: No, Sir... you must not die! The world will want to salute you!!

PROF: Ah! I feel its poison in my veins.

ELIZABETH: No, no, no. (She beats the snake to death) Evil! Evil!!

VICTOR: The snake, no, no!

PROF: My life's work! ... I'm sinking... My last words are... Raise the Dead! Raise the Dead!

(Dies).

ELIZABETH: Father! What have we done....he is gone forever.

VICTOR: No. The electrodes! If we pump together... we can get a higher charge!!

(Victor grabs the electrodes and is wiring up the Prof, but Elizabeth intervenes to stop him.)

ELIZABETH: No, Victor – never again. Don't you see that this is a judgement?

VICTOR: What?

ELIZABETH: We are being punished. By what, I am not sure. But this is a sign. Oh Victor, our happiness means more to me than this way of death. Happiness is more important than fame, surely? Must we spend our lives killing poor innocent creatures only to pump their bodies with electricity to amaze the world? Did you see the look of terror on my poor ape's face? Or the look of hatred in the Cobra's eyes?

VICTOR: No, I saw a future without death!

ELIZABETH: Without death?! Do you not see my dear dead father lying before us? This so-called 'life' brings nothing but death and torn corpses! You must choose, Victor, either we bury father or we bury our love?

VICTOR: What about my work?

ELIZABETH: That is up to you. I doubt that I have a soul, Victor, but I have a heart and I must follow it. You must decide to take that path with me or not. (She begins to leave).

VICTOR: No! (seizing her). Bind us together. Make us one flesh. I am you - our hearts beat as one. (Kissing her.)

ELIZABETH: Thank God!! Life! Everything stretches ahead of us now. Promise me you will never try to recreate life again.

VICTOR: I promise with my hand on my heart. I will become a doctor. I will heal the sick. I will marry you on the day I qualify as Dr Frankenstein!

ELIZABETH: O, Dr and Mrs Frankenstein! (Exiting.) I will create life. I will create a whole brood of Frankensteins. (Turning back.) Oh, Father, your death was not in vain - you have taught us to be humble and appreciate what we have: ourselves, our life, our love.

VICTOR: I would gladly die for you.

ELIZABETH: O, Victor!!

(In resignation Victor spins the wheel of the bicycle as they exeunt. The dynamo sparkles for a moment and the Prof and the Cobra briefly revive before they sink back into death.)

BLACKOUT

SCENE 3.

(A Student is being pursued.)

TOWNSWOMAN : (swinging sausages) Today, in Ingolstadt market I have for you the finest sausages in the whole world! I have fat juicy sausages, even thin spicy sausages! I have sausages that would tempt a...

TOWNSWOMAN 2: (entering) Have you seen the atheist? I saw him with my own eyes!!

(A Student bursts onto the stage, pursued.)

STUD: No! Please! Somebody help! Don't hurt me!

TOWNSFOLK: (Off.) There he is!! Catch him!! Here! He's here!

(The Student tries to run off, but he reels back as if he sees townspeople coming from every direction. He is eventually caught.)

TOWNSFOLK: Corner him! Like a rat!!

Student: Please, please! Stop, stop! I'm not an atheist! I'm a student! Here at Ingolstadt University! I study palaeontology! I was digging when I found the bones are of giant reptiles who walked the earth millions of years before us!!

TOWN: Blasphemy! Adam and Eve were created first.

Students: It's science, I tell you!!

TOWN: Death to the WITCH!!

Student: No!

TOWN: Blasphemy! Hang the witch!!

Student: Dinosaurs! Please!!

TOWN: Dragons and demons!

(Student is captured by a Policeman and hauled off.)

TOWNSWOMAN: I will spank him with my sausages!! We will catch all the atheists and hang them!! We will catch all the students!! There will be no sinners in Ingolstadt! We will make them eat sausages!! Hang him!!

(Sound of mob, Victor enters)

VICTOR: Who will you hang?

TOWNSWOMAN: The atheist! We'll hang him! Ya ya ya!!

VICTOR: Oh Ingolstadt, Ingolstadt. (ELIZABETH enters) Elizabeth, this town is a hell hole of ignorance!!

ELIZABETH: O, you'll change it, Victor... your medicine will show them to see things as they really are.

VICTOR: Oh, I'll be able to cure their common colds, their influenza, their bronchitis, but their ignorance? Hmmm. There are so many illnesses here ... my eyes hurt....

ELIZABETH: Then get home to bed and rest your eyes and awake refreshed. Qualify

soon, Victor, and let's get away from this horrid town. Wretched Ingolstadt. Just think! You could become a country Doctor, treating farmers and milkmaids.

VICTOR: This learning is so dull! Do you still condemn me to this dullness?

ELIZABETH: Victor, there will be nothing dull when we are married! (Blows him a kiss from door). Patience, Victor, patience! Complete your studies!

VICTOR: I'm going to bed.

ELIZABETH: Good night then. (waves from window)

VICTOR: O, Elizabeth! Let me stay with you tonight. I need to feel that a body is more than a series of terrible diseases waiting to happen.

ELIZABETH: We must wait, Victor. What will our marriage mean if we act as if we are married now?

VICTOR: In the university I am dissecting an old woman. Her flesh is green. I see time running away from us!! O, please! Don't let our chance of happiness slip away...

ELIZABETH: (Firm) I am going to help you, Victor. I am going to get you out of this stinking town and into the fresh air. (ELIZABETH comes back jumps on VICTOR:) Oh my country doctor, I am going to give you so many children. But for now, good night. (She exits into her house, sound of door bolted).

VICTOR: Good night. (Bitter) This is no life. (shouts)

(Student's corpse swings into view).

VICTOR: So, my poor atheist, (reading) "So dies a free thinker, the devil take him". Would that I were the Devil but I have no use for this body there is nothing I can do to help you, poor student. I'd like to. You kept to your principles. But even if I were to connect you to the electrical machine I'd never generate enough charge on my own...

(A sudden flash of lightning and the corpse jumps).

VICTOR: What, lightning? Eureka! Eureka! Of course, lightning is the greatest source of electric power. To hell with pumping machines! I can harness the sky!

(Hugs the corpse, Igor's music cue)

VICTOR: Someone's coming!

(Igor enters with a shovel and sack- struggles and plays with hanging corpse and bones – and then puts the rope round his own neck - until Victor, fascinated with his familiarity with death, emerges).

VICTOR: Who are you?

Igor: A man. That's all.

VICTOR: And do you have a name?

Igor: My name is secret.

VICTOR: A secret?

Igor: Yes the name of Igor is a secret – ah!

VICTOR: And, Igor, what do you do for a living?

Igor: Gravedigger, embalmer, coffin nailer and sometimes executioner. Igor kills them, burns them, cuts them up, bags them, and buries them. No one thanks Igor. But then Igor wouldn't like to be thanked, Sir. Igor wouldn't take kindly to a kindness... it's all flesh to him.

VICTOR: Excellent creature. And what of "good" and "evil", do these words mean anything to you?

Igor: Igor can't eat words, Sir, They don't even stink.

VICTOR: But you understand the meaning of this, don't you, Igor? (Hands him a gold coin).

Igor: Gold? What would Igor have to do for that? (Tempted)

(Pockets the coin.)

VICTOR: Well, perhaps take that corpse back to my laboratory, then dig up a few of your fresh graves and extract some healthy organs from the corpses of the newly dead?

Igor: Yes! Igor can do that. And the dead don't complain. Even when Igor amuses himself with them. The dead are silent. (Bites gold coin.) Pate', I like, liver pate'.

VICTOR: Well, every man has his secret desires!

Igor: What's yours then?

VICTOR: Mine? I desire immortality - for all mankind. I will defeat death.

Igor: Life, death – they both stink! The only thing that is sweet is liver paté!

VICTOR: Come to my laboratory. I have work for you! Walk this way

(They exeunt).

SCENE 4

(A monstrous hybrid walks slowly across the stage made out of the Professor with a snake biting him, a huge butterfly wing on his head, half his head that of a cat, a crocodile's arm and a monkey's legs and tail. Knocks on door and then breaks it open.)

PROF: The animals are still alive, Elizabeth. The animals! Alive!

(ELIZABETH asleep on her bed, dreaming.)

ELIZABETH: Dead? Die! You're dead!!

(The hybrid approaches Elizabeth, she fights it off. Wakes.)

ELIZABETH: My nightmare, my nightmare. Oh Victor! Victor! (Calming down.) It was just a dream.... But it said something... Victor, I have to speak to you. Where do you disappear to these long days and nights? What are you doing at the university every evening? Is there someone else? Is there something... No, no!! But I have to know that it is not true!! I have to know!! (exits.)

SCENE 5

(The Laboratory. VICTOR: working on the Monster under a sheet, Igor assisting.)

VICTOR: I am the new Prometheus! I will steal the spark of life from the gods!! Igor, you will have all the liver paté your heart desires!! Igor, Come here. (he does) Give me a hand. (Igor lays his hand in Victor's and Victor cuts into it with a scalpel, Igor howls). Not your hand, you fool! The hand we dug up this morning.

(Igor gets it.)

IGOR: Master, I would like to shake your hand.

(Igor tricks him into shaking the dead hand.)

IGOR: So master likes the graveyard.

VICTOR: Yes, Master likes the graveyard, Igor. I spend my time nowhere else these days. It is only by immersing ourselves in decay that we shall rise. I have buried myself like a seed in compost but soon dear, insane Igor, we...he shall rise and bloom.

Igor: But Master... he's got no head.

VICTOR: Not yet. The atheist's neck was too stretched. We need the fresh head. Go to the cellar Igor and fetch me a nice big fresh head.

Igor: Master, why not make a new man with no head?

VICTOR: With no head?

Igor: Yes, yes! Then Igor have a true friend. Igor sit with him. (Lifts coat over head). Peace.

VICTOR: Igor, you are quite mad.

Igor: Yes Master, thank you.

VICTOR: (shakes himself off from Igor's fantasy) The storm approaches and I must to the tower and connect the lightning rods, Igor. Bolt the door, let no one in.

Igor: Not even Elizabeth?

VICTOR: No! Especially not Elizabeth. She must know nothing, she must see nothing.

Igor: Not even know about the nice fresh head?

VICTOR: Especially not the nice fresh head. (Igor bolts door and gets head.) To the tower, the storm approaches. Lightning, power from the sky! I am the new Prometheus, I will steal the spark of life from the Gods.

(Victor climbs the cages and then disappears into the tower. A knocking, it is Elizabeth).

ELIZABETH: (Outside) Victor! Victor!

Igor: No need to bang on the door, Miss. Igor got a key.

ELIZABETH: Oh thank heavens, how kind you are. Uh – what's that terrible smell?

Igor: (Sniffs.) That Igor. Igor not had bath – Igor never had bath.

ELIZABETH: Where is Herr Frankenstein?

Igor: Master's in the tower but he tell me to tell people he not here.

ELIZABETH: Well, I am not "people". I am his fiancée - Elizabeth.

Igor: Elizabeth! He told me not to tell Elizabeth about the nice fresh head - doh!

Elizabeth: Head? Are you working for Herr Frankenstein? What are you two doing in the University in the middle of the night?

Igor: Master say not to say. Not about him, not experiment, not cutting up, especially not the nice fresh head - doh!

Elizabeth: What head?

Igor: The head you not supposed to see.

ELIZABETH: (Looks around.) Where?

Igor: This one. (Opens hatbox)

(Elizabeth screams - Igor drops head which rolls out on floor).

Igor: Ah!! Heads is precious! Kiss it better?

ELIZABETH: Me?

IGOR: Yes!

ELIZABETH: No!

(Igor pursues ELIZABETH with the head.)

IGOR: Kiss the head better! Kiss the head better! (When ELIZABETH refuses Igor kisses head better) Igor kiss it better then. (he kisses the head lasciviously.)

ELIZABETH: Oh my God, I know what is going on here!!! O no!! No!! Please, Victor!! Please, please.... Tell me you haven't....

(She goes to Monster and lifts sheet - picks up electrode).

O my god! He has!! (Howls.) Victor! Victor! Traitor! Liar! You have betrayed me, you have betrayed yourself! You traitor!

VICTOR: (Appearing above her on the way down from tower. He is calm.) No, my dear, I have betrayed neither humanity nor science. If I am true to these two gods how can I be unfaithful to you – the best of humanity and the daughter of her father? It is my destiny to recreate life, and it is yours to stand beside me.

ELIZABETH: You gave me your promise, you swore on the body of my father!

VICTOR: And your father gave his life! I am his son in law to be, I am keeping his flame alight!! We are his heirs, Elizabeth – with his last words! Raise the dead!

(Lightning).

ELIZABETH: You are mad!

VICTOR: Yes, mad as Newton and Columbus and Galileo!!!

ELIZABETH: It is a monster!!

VICTOR: It is not a monster! It is the future of humanity!

ELIZABETH: It is a nightmare! And I have dreamt it!!

ELIZABETH: I will destroy this monster! (grabs axe)

VICTOR: Igor!

ELIZABETH: (Raises axe) I will save us all! (But Igor has drugged her and she collapses into cage).

VICTOR: Good work, Igor.

Igor: Igor cut her head off now?

VICTOR: What? No!

Igor: Just a finger, then... Igor bite one off?

(VICTOR: pokes Igor in the eye.)

VICTOR: Elizabeth, can you hear me? I place you here in this cage for your safety. From here you will be able to witness my creation of life. You will see that Man is becoming God. And you will forgive me because I have no choice. I cannot hold back Science! What can be done must be done!

ELIZABETH: O help, help! No, no.... (She slumps back into semi-consciousness.)

VICTOR: I will help us all, I will free us all. The head, Igor, did you fetch me a nice fresh head? Excellent. (Taking it and beginning to sew it on). To the switch, Igor. The storm is coming!! Look out while I finish the body!! Igor, is the storm rising?

Igor: Yes, oh master!! (thunder).

VICTOR: (Still sewing) Excellent. Nature conspires with us against heaven!! We are gods tonight, Igor!!

Igor: Igor steals heads!

VICTOR: The name of Igor will be remembered forever!

Igor: It comes!!

(Crash of lightning.)

VICTOR: It comes! It rises! I can feel it!

Igor: Yes, master! (Thunder)

VICTOR: Igor, throw the switch!

ELIZABETH: (Still groggy) No, no!

(Lightning shakes the room again and pulses through the electrodes that VICTOR: applies to the skull of the Monster. Victor is thrown back by the force. There is a fierce glow of light around the Monster, a sudden blackout, silence, then the lights of the laboratory all flicker into life once more. A powerful electrical hum rises and falls.)

VICTOR: Nothing? Have I failed?

Igor: Master, look!!

(The Monster's arm rises.)

VICTOR: O, alive!! It's alive!

ELIZABETH: Please! No, no!!

(The Monster begins to sit up.)

Monster: (Gasping for breath, he blinks and opens his eyes and sees ELIZABETH, he reaches out to her) Arrgh!

VICTOR: Turn to me, I am your maker! My child, I am your father – Victor Frankenstein.. yes. It worked! It worked!

ELIZABETH: O, Victor!! Life, I see life in its eyes! I see its pain! It feels! You've made it feel... Let me out, Victor, let me out I beg you. Let me go!!

VICTOR: Why? To mock me?

ELIZABETH: No, no. I do forgive you! I didn't believe it was possible!! But you have made life. You must forgive me!!

VICTOR: O my darling! Igor, unbolt the cage. Let her free.

Igor: Yes, master. (Igor undoes the cage. ELIZABETH rushes into VICTOR's arms and the Monster howls with jealousy and staggers from the table).

ELIZABETH: See! You have brought to life a heart!! Even Father would not have believed such a new feeling could be possible!!

VICTOR: (Holding hand out to Monster but the Monster pushes him aside and grabs for ELIZABETH). Ahhh!

ELIZABETH: Help, help! (The Monster picks her up tenderly).

VICTOR: Put her down!! Listen to me!! Put – her – down!! (VICTOR: has squared up to the Monster.) Put - her - down. Igor help.

(The Monster and VICTOR: staring at each other. ELIZABETH gaping in her horror into the Monster's face. Igor gets ether)

Igor: Ether, master, ether.

(As ELIZABETH screams the Monster staggers and VICTOR: rushes forward and catches ELIZABETH before the Monster drops her. VICTOR: stands ELIZABETH on her feet, then Igor and VICTOR: carry the Monster to the table and tie it there.)

VICTOR: I see no feeling in its yellow eyes. I see darkness. Where is the beauty? Where is the genius? What have I created? It's just a walking disease!!

Elizabeth: It recognised me...

Victor: How could it? It has no memory. It's a blank.

Elizabeth: But it reacted to me, as if it felt something...

Victor: It felt NOTHING! That was brute desire, Elizabeth, nothing more than electricity in its muscles... – like a flapping of insect wings!

Elizabeth: But you and father said that everything IS just electricity!!

Victor: Yes, and we must shut it off! We must turn it down!!

Elizabeth: But it is not a thing now, Victor... it has begun to feel like a human being!

Victor: It's a Monster!!! It can't even walk properly!

Elizabeth: But it's becoming something!! Like a newborn baby!

Victor: Baby? Look in its eyes for god's sake! Do you see corruption like that in the eyes of a new born baby? What kind of baby is that? Look, it's waking again!! (The Monster begins to move slowly.) Look at it!! A stinking grave on two legs!! AND IT KNOWS THAT!! It's going mad already! Kill it, Igor!

(Igor has the axe.)

Elizabeth: Look!

(The Monster grunts and gurgles and tries to lift its arm to Elizabeth.)

Victor: Look what you are doing!! You're exciting it!! Do you want a Monster to fall in love with you!!

Elizabeth: Your anger is making me feel that has already happened...

(The Monster roars in jealousy.)

Victor: Be careful what you are you dragging us into, Elizabeth! There is no life here. It is just a mess!

Elizabeth: But you said that this is what human is! That this is all there is... this is us! We are no more than the sum of our parts, Victor. You have made an image of yourself... and you are jealous of it!!

Victor: What? Jealous! Look at it!

Elizabeth: Look at yourself!! It has everything you have... even your stupid jealousy!!

Victor: Please... Elizabeth...

(The Monster grunts her name: "RISSERBEG". Victor utterly horrified.)

Victor: O my god, did you hear that? The longer we keep this thing alive the more it is imitating us. Look in its eyes – they were empty, but now they are beginning to fill up... with US... I have made a vampire... Igor, kill it!! (Victor holds out his hand for the axe, but Elizabeth pulls his arm away)

Elizabeth: No!! This is your masterpiece!

VICTOR: Then, if we are equal, choose between us! Either I kill the Monster or I kill myself. Igor, unless, this young lady orders you to kill the Monster, kill me. Split my head open.

Igor: Very well, Master. (Lifts axe.)

ELIZABETH: Stop, no! NO! (SLOW MOTION sequence. Elizabeth throws herself between Igor and VICTOR, beating IGOR and embracing VICTOR.).

VICTOR: O, Elizabeth, let us leave this laboratory and never see this monster again.

ELIZABETH: (Weeping) Victor, o Victor, of course I choose you, I could not live without you!

VICTOR: The aim of this experiment was to create life not the Living Dead.

ELIZABETH: I am my father's daughter. End the experiment. (Elizabeth gives the axe to Igor.)

VICTOR: Come darling. Igor, cut it up and throw it in the river.

Igor: Oh yes Master!

(Igor picks up axe but then starts to have fun with the Monster, poking it sadistically begins to shock Monster until monster overpowers Igor and kills him, He escapes).

ELIZABETH: Igor!! (Knocks) O god, it is gone!! And Igor is dead!! His bones broken like matchsticks!! Oh Victor!

VICTOR: (Rushing in) Loose? Gone? (Looks around for the Monster.) It's loose?

ELIZABETH: (At Igor's side – her hands red with his blood.) Igor is dead.

VICTOR: Poor wretch. I left him alone with that thing!

ELIZABETH: It's not your fault! The Monster has a life of its own.

VICTOR: And now it is loose. We have loosed that thing upon the world!!

ELIZABETH: Victor, you must find him and slay him!

VICTOR: (Head in hands) Oh what a punishment I must find and kill my creation. I must become the unnatural murderer of my own vile child.(Dramatic, heroic lighting on the tableau of VICTOR: and ELIZABETH.)

ELIZABETH: Frankenstein, Kill your monster!

(Roar and flash of lightning and thunder. BLACKOUT).

ACT 2

SCENE 1

(In the dark the silhouette of the now clothed Monster - his shadow is cast across the stage - he howls and is seemingly answered by the noises of the town – a factory steam whistle, a hunting horn, a bell.

The Monster flits from shadow to shadow, gradually the sound texture and light changes. He is in the forest - he walks into sunlight and sees it on his hands and for the first time a smile crosses his face - he listens to a bird and tries to imitate it with horrible results that he finds pleasing.

He hears the voices of humans and in fear creeps into a corner.

A blind man is led into a “house” by her daughter. The women pray as the Monster peeps through a window)

DAUGHTER: I'll be off to the forest, father.

(The blind woman starts to play the flute. The Monster is entranced. He wanders into the hut).

BLIND MAN: (Sounds like the following words.) Is anyone there? Yes?

(The Monster wants the music to continue - he lifts the flute up and gives it back to the Blind man).

BLIND: Are you dumb? So the blind and the dumb meet in the forest. It is a gift from heaven. (Sense) Ah, silent friend. You wish to hear more music. Listen.

Monster: (Trying) Li-ii-sun.

BLIND: Yes, listen to music.

MONSTER: Moo. Moo.

BLIND: (Plays a sequence) Music.

MONSTER: Mew -zzick.

DAUGHTER: (Off) Oh father!

(Monster panics and runs).

DAUGHTER: (Real speech) Oh father, there you are. Were you playing?

BLIND MAN: Oh Justine, a poor dumb man came to listen to me. It touched my heart. The blind playing for the dumb.

DAUGHTER: Where is he now?

BLIND MAN: He fled when he heard you coming. He is timid. I must charm him with my flute. But now let us pray and give thanks. (They pray – while the Monster chops wood and lays the wood beside the house with a flower on top of the pile-all unseen by the daughter etc).

MONSTER: Music...

DAUGHTER: Well father, I must return to the forest – suddenly sees chopped wood).

Look! Look! An angel has sent us a gift. And look- there is a flower.

B W: How fragrant! (Smelling flower) I think it was no angel that blessed us with this gift but my poor dumb friend. We are blessed, indeed.

DAUGHTER: I'll sell it at the market, father.

BLIND MAN: Take care in the forest, dear Justine.

(BLIND MAN takes up flute, plays and the Monster enters, entranced).

MONSTER: Mew-zick heavurn.

BLIND MAN: Heaven indeed. Sit. (She makes demonstrates sitting).

MONSTER: Sit? (on floor).

BLIND MAN: (Offering bread) Bread.

MONSTER: Bur-eat. (eats) Bread - heaven.

BLIND MAN: Wine.

MONSTER: No!! Ether!!

BLIND: No. Wine – good. Wine.

(Blind man feels for glass and drinks wine).

MONSTER: Wine.

BLIND MAN: Heaven. (Calms MONSTER who takes wine then sips it with fear then downs it all).

BLIND MAN: You are my friend.

MONSTER: Yoo are my fiend.

BLIND MAN: Friend.

MONSTER: Friend. See more music!

(BLIND MAN sings „Three blind mice...” Monster joins in.)

DAUGHTER: (Off.) Mother! Mother!

(Daughter has forgotten something).

DAUGHTER: Oh father! (She calls but the Monster is too busy singing and drinking, she puts down bucket and enters. Sees Monster and screams, breaking song). A Devil! The Devil! Evil! Oh! Monster!

MONSTER: No Monster!

BLIND WOMAN: What is it?

DAUGHTER: (Screams and races to save father - MONSTER goes to protect mother as he sees it from screams and pulls daughter away. Then throws her across stage and calls for music but Daughter is dead and BLIND WOMAN desperately tries to find daughter).

BLIND WOMAN: Justine? Justine? Oh my God where are you ?

MONSTER: "Three blind mice!!" (Then MONSTER too realises something is wrong and goes to dead daughter - overcome with remorse he pushes blind woman aside and runs).

BLIND MAN: Oh murder, murder! The Devil, the devil is among us, sweet Satan in disguise has murdered my daughter, Help! Help!

(Enter Victor with axe chasing Monster – sees corpse of Justine).

VICTOR: Oh no the Monster has struck again, and I created him, I am to blame, I am a murderer!

TOWNSWOMAN (rushing on- seeing corpse and Victor with axe): Ah murderer!

VICTOR: I know this looks very, very bad; there is a freshly killed corpse over there, I have an axe in one hand and blood on the other. And I've just told you I am the murderer. But I'm not. Shush. Listen. I am a scientist looking for a monster. Have you seen it?

TOWNSWOMAN: No.

VICTOR: I'll be on my way then....? (Starts to leave).

(Policeman enters).

POLICE: Corpse, axe -

TOWNSWOMAN: Blood on his hands!

POL & TOWNSWOMAN: Murderer!

(Policeman arrests VICTOR and drags him off).

VICTOR: I am innocent, innocent. It was the Monster!

SCENE 2

(Thunder, darkness the Monster running through forest that now becomes a place of terror and dogs are heard and the calls and howls of the mob.)

SCENE 3:

(Courtroom.)

VICTOR: I am innocent! I tell you! You must believe I never touched that woman!! It was something that I created... I created it with my own hands... a monster...it's out there!!

Judge: (recorded voice) The municipal court of Ingolstadt finds Victor Frankenstein guilty of the murder of Frau Von Waschsalon. Despite the entertainment your little story about monsters has given us all, Herr Frankenstein, I have no choice but to sentence you to be hanged by the neck until you are dead. Take him away.

VICTOR: (In chains) No! I'm innocent, it wasn't me! It wasn't me!!

(Cheers of mob as Victor thrown in prison).

SCENE 4

(THE GAOL. Victor is caged. The gaoler is locking the cage.)

Victor: I'm innocent! Someone hear my story!!

Gaoler: I'm not interested in your silly story!!

VICTOR: Let me out!! Let me out!! You're making a terrible mistake!!

Gaoler: O, I'm making a mistake? No, it's you that made the mistake, young man – murdering a woman in broad daylight

VICTOR: No, you idiot! I never touched that poor woman, It was something I created... a thing made from the dead pieces of men ... stitched it together with fishing line... And it's out there! It has no soul!! We must stop the monster!!

Gaoler: The only monster in Ingolstadt is you and pretty soon we will be breaking your neck for it!

VICTOR: For the sake of the world! I have to speak to someone with some... brains...
(starts to weep).

GAOLER: Now, that's not very polite

VICTOR: Oh it's all hopeless! Hopeless!!

GAOLER: Yeah, that's right, it's hopeless.. But cheer up. We all have to die. You're not special. There is no point in getting yourself upset about it. You killed the poor washerwoman so you have to pay for it. Only a few more hours now – they'll soon pass, then it will be morning and – kchhhh!!

VICTOR: But I'm innocent! And there's a monster out there somewhere!

GL: O, monsters!! The only monsters are human ones. The day I believe in
Frankenstein's monster is the day I can fly!!

(The Monster has appeared and dropped down behind the Gaoler - Victor sees it and points to the keys on the Gaoler's belt. Gaoler sees the Monster.)

GL: Aaaaah!!

MONSTER: (Roars and grabs Gaoler) Free!

GL: Help! A Monster!

MONSTER: Free!

GL: (Being dragged, struggling.) I can't – it's against the rules!!

VICTOR: Get the keys!! The keys!!

MONSTER: No time.

(MONSTER throws Gaoler across stage, then breaks open bars).

VICTOR: Free! Free! You came to save me! You are good! You DO have a kind heart!!
Free, free! You must take me to Elizabeth, to my beloved!

MONSTER: No, no. You are my prisoner, now. You cannot escape me. Come come!

VICTOR: What! What, where are you taking me? Help! Help!

(Monster exits with Victor over his shoulder in chains).

Gaoler: (Staggering from wings, rubbing his head, wobbling steps). I can fly! I can fly!
And there **are** Monsters. The Monster!

SCENE 5

(Snowy mountain top.).

VICTOR: Why do you bring me here? There is no life here...

MONSTER: It is away from humanity. Cold. Wind. Ice. I am alone.

VICTOR: My god, is this where you.... live? But I do not pity you. You are a Devil.

MONSTER: I saved you, my creator! You owe me your pity.

VICTOR: You have saved me from the death that you should suffer! I wish I could kill you and trample you to dust!

MONSTER: Listen! Listen! Even in this wretched life I exist!! Out in the cold I am here. I want to live even though I know only loneliness and pain. I have learnt to respect my strange life, why can you not? Do not forget, you have made me more powerful than any man!

(Rears up and VICTOR: cowers)

VICTOR: (Terrified.) Do you... mean to kill me?

MONSTER: How can I? I am your creature. I cannot destroy that which has given me life. You are my lord and king, you are my... father – though I cannot make you love me. I will leave you alone IF you will give me what you owe me, the gift you must give to me.

VICTOR: What gift can you deserve?

MONSTER: Make a female for me. A woman creature that I can live with and share our lives together. Like your creature. Elizabeth. You alone can do this, only you know the secret. This is my right.

VICTOR: Right? You have no rights. Go! I refuse your request. Go! I will never create your monster bride!

MONSTER: I am not a worm! If you refuse Then do I swear eternal hatred for you, creator. I cannot kill my god, but I can destroy the ones you love.

VICTOR: You mean Elizabeth! Don't you dare to threaten my beloved!

MONSTER: Create a mate for me, a creature as horrible as me so that only we may bear each other, or I will destroy the one you love.

(Victor slumps in despair.)

VICTOR: A whole race of devils!! How can I release such terror into the world!

MONSTER: No, no, Listen! If you grant my prayer, neither you nor any other human being shall ever see us again. We will hide our faces from the world. We may not be happy like you, but we will be harmless and free from this misery. I want only to know peace and be human-like and to feel ... (struggling with word, for the first time he feels its meaning) ... love.

VICTOR: (Moved.) How can I refuse you?

MONSTER: Oh! My creator, let me feel some gratitude towards you! Let me see that I excite the sympathy of some living thing; do not leave me alone, not alone! AAARGH! Alone forever! Aaaah! Not alone???

(His wail echoes through the mountains)

VICTOR: Quietly! Quietly! You'll bring the snow crashing down! You'll destroy us both!! If you promise to leave Europe forever I shall.... make for you your bride.

MONSTER: I swear it, by the sun, and by the blue sky of heaven, and by the fire of love that burns my heart, you will never see me again. (Monster takes Victor's head in his hands.) You gave me life. There was no life and you gave me it. Did you give me a soul then?

VICTOR: No!

MONSTER: Do not deny me. Do not deny the holiness you cannot see. I have it, do I not? I have a soul? (VICTOR: nods.) Go home and begin your work. Make life! I will be watching you. (Exits)

(A great gust of wind. VICTOR at the point of physical collapse.)

VICTOR: Oh cloud, oh wind, stars frozen ice. Scream out, howl at the terrible promise I have made. I am the creator of evil. Come, avalanche!! Bury me!! Bury me!! Or I will dig up the dead!

(But the avalanche does not come and Victor staggers off through the snow.)

SCENE 6

(As the light changes and the Alps vanish the wind still howls and Victor 'descends' and walks around the stage against the force of the wind until he opens his 'door'. The Monster is seen standing over the sleeping Elizabeth. As Victor knocks and she wakes he hides himself in her room. Elizabeth rushes to

Victor's arms).

ELIZABETH: Victor? Victor, Victor – rescued, redeemed, returned!!

VICTOR: No, it is a shadow you see before you. A man of ice. Chained to my foul creation!

ELIZABETH: (Puzzled.) But you are free, the sentence of death has been – when the reports of the Monster spread through the town the Judge pardoned you! The Monster is no danger now; they will hunt him down like the animal he is. Although part of my heart must pity him, he was kind to me, Victor, he called me his friend...He rescued you. Perhaps we have misjudged him?

VICTOR: Misjudged? No. Only his intelligence. He has become clever now – he schemes and plans!! I too took pity on him and I shall pay for that!! I should have been stronger – I would have denied him if only it had been a threat against my own life! How could I deny him when he threatened you, my precious darling?

ELIZABETH: He threatened me? Why? Because you denied him what?

VICTOR: A mate, a bride for the monster of Frankenstein.

ELIZABETH: Who would marry such a demon? Even the hags in the town run from him!

VICTOR: No one would marry him! That is why I have promised – against the threat upon your life - to create him a bride as repulsive and as hideous as himself.

ELIZABETH: Can you do that, Victor?

VICTOR: No. I cannot do it, I cannot do it morally, physically, I cannot do it alone!! But we can! And we must! Or our wedding night will be our last on this earth.

ELIZABETH: O, Victor, I worship you. Where do we begin?

VICTOR: To the graveyard. Come! The fateful promise has been made. Come!

MONSTER: (Appearing) My bride will rise! (Exit).

SCENE 7

(Howling wind, a moon, the graveyard in Ingolstadt, Victor is digging furiously whilst Elizabeth helps - the Monster watches, perhaps with a telescope).

VICTOR: No! Useless, hopeless. What use is this? (He tosses body parts about.) It's no better than dry bones and rotting mess!! (Holds up a bone and snaps it.

Tosses the pieces away.)

ELIZABETH: We must try again, look – a fresh grave! A woman of - there's only a name, no age,

VICTOR: (He forces open the grave and drops down and appears to prise open the coffin.) Damn these coffin nails!! Do they fear the corpse will leap out?

ELIZABETH: Ah the stink! The stench!

VICTOR: (Holding decayed skull) No, just rotting flesh!! Liquid!! This woman must have been ninety years old. Do no young women die in Ingoldstadt any more? Damn these modern doctors and their drugs!! Damn medicine!! Damn science!! Has death lost its appetite for the young!

ELIZABETH: Then let the Monster's bride be old!

VICTOR: No, no. We need organs of quality! We need youth and vitality if it is to revive!

(A noise off).

ELIZABETH: Quick, Victor, someone is coming! Let us run.

VICTOR: No, no, hide in this grave.

ELIZABETH: No, no - I cannot - her skull stares at me. There are worms!

VICTOR: Come, quickly!

(They jump into grave.)

(A woman enters the graveyard, crying and muttering she prays, runs a rosary through her hands and lays flowers on a grave very close to where the couple hide. She prays).

VICTOR: (Whispering as woman prays before grave). Look at her - how young she is? Her skin, so unmarked ... How it shines!!

ELIZABETH: Victor, you sound like a ghoul....

VICTOR: Perhaps she can be the one...

ELIZABETH: Victor, I see where this is running. Please , no...

VICTOR: We have to! Look at me. We have to!

ELIZABETH: NO, Victor, no... we cannot do this... This is murder! This is wrong!

VICTOR: A life for a life. (Crawling up behind the woman and lifting pickaxe or crowbar, a movement behind another grave, it is the Monster).

ELIZABETH: No. This is evil!

MOURNER: What? Oh great Jesus! (Turns so that pickaxe/crowbar only wounds her arm).

VICTOR: (Dropping pickaxe in horror - touching blood in wound in bizarre way) What am I doing?

MOURNER: Stop... Help! Murder! Help! (Runs screaming - distant bells of alarm start).

ELIZABETH: (Rushing to VICTOR:) Oh Victor, Victor, let us run from here, run, run far away!! Are we trying to save our lives only to lose our souls?

VICTOR: We are both damned, Elizabeth! There is no going back!

(A terrible scream and a howl just offstage, the Monster enters with the dead body of the Mourner, maybe just twitching and he delivers the final blow as he dumps the corpse in pieces in a sack at Victor's feet).

MONSTER: Now you can free yourselves. A promise has been made. It is time to make my bride.

(Monster takes hand from the sack.)

ELIZABETH: You horrible devil!! You base, ugly thing!! You throw our sins in our faces!! It is time only to destroy you – even if I must perish in the event!

VICTOR: No, wait, wait..

ELIZABETH: Help! Help! The Monster is here! Help! Help! Murder!

VICTOR: Elizabeth, no! no!

(Noise of shouting , bells and barking dogs to end of scene).

MONSTER: NO - my fru-end! You are my fru-end! (To ELIZABETH)

ELIZABETH: Devil!! Get back! (MONSTER throws corpse to VICTOR and reaches out to ELIZABETH, tenderly but firmly lifting her).

VICTOR: The townspeople are coming!!

MONSTER: (TO VICTOR:) Run, run we have no time. We must make my bride

tonight!

VICTOR: Yes!!

(They flee pursued by the sounds of the gathering mob).

SCENE 8

TOWNSWOMAN: (holds a stiff lead indicating a dog straining at the leash) Victor Frankenstein, we will catch you and your murdering monster!! My sniffer dog will search you out!! We are not all stupid!! The people of Ingolstadt!!

(The Laboratory. VICTOR: throws down the body of the mourner and bolts the door).

VICTOR: Thank heavens this laboratory is in a tower, we may hold off the mob for an hour or so...

ELIZABETH: (Sobbing) Please. Let me go.... Let me go...

MONSTER: Do, it, do it now or I will never let her go. She is in my power now. You understand.

VICTOR: Put her down or I will do nothing, demon.

MONSTER: But she will betray us?

ELIZABETH: You are both betraying yourselves!!

VICTOR: (Losing it) I have always been a slave of science! Now I am his slave!

ELIZABETH: Let me die - you have broken my heart.

VICTOR: I must cage you, Elizabeth. I have no choice. There's no place for goodness in what I have to do.

ELIZABETH: There is always a choice, Victor, always – between ordinary good and ordinary evil.

VICTOR: Cage her!

(Victor bows his head. He will not help her. She submits and steps into the cage - MONSTER holds out his hand and she knocks it away)

VICTOR: Now, let's cut off this head and get at the brain. (Takes saw, knocking starts below).

(A rumble of thunder).

VICTOR: Ah, the god of thunder. Nature blesses us. Nature looks down on us and orders our creation!

(Lightning flash. Monster raises its arm to the sky.)

MONSTER: Master! Maker!

VOICE OFF: Come out, Doctor Frankenstein, we know you are in there.
(Suddenly a shot).

MONSTER: What!

VICTOR: They are firing - their pathetic hunting rifles – those bullets can do us no harm. Why I have seen them bounce off a deer let alone this mighty tower that has withstood Turkish cannon. (With bloody hands) Let us prepare the heart, my creature, the heart!

(Thunder, a second shot and cries. As VICTOR: works ELIZABETH puts her hand round the cage and slips open the lock, in an instant she is out and up, she either climbs to a window or unbolts the door).

ELIZABETH: Here, here the killers are here!

VICTOR: (Dropping quivering organ) No, no... what are you doing?

(A shot and ELIZABETH falls back into the Monster's arms. Dead).

VICTOR: Ah!! Elizabeth? Elizabeth? Ah! Ah!! No, no, no!!! . Oh cursed fate. (He screams out of the window.) You murdering imbeciles!! (Then to the Monster.) get away from her! You have brought me to this... this is all your making!! Kill me!! I have nothing left to live for - I wish only to join my darling in her grave.

MONSTER: No, no, my fri-end, my friend.

VICTOR: She hated you!

MONSTER: No, no. (He grabs Elizabeth's corpse and rests her on the table, pushing the half made "bride" off the table).

VICTOR: What are you doing?

MONSTER: You can make her new. New life!

VICTOR: What? (He hadn't thought of this.) No, no....the bullet. It hit her in the heart!

MONSTER: You have another heart, Here, here (Rips out organ from first corpse).

VICTOR: Fool, keep your clumsy hands off that! It's mine! My god, you are right!! We could re-make her!! We could make an angel!!

MONSTER: I am your student.

VICTOR: Mo. I have no students. I am the maker. I am the creator. Only Victor Frankenstein will re-make his Elizabeth! To the tower!! We must be ready!! (Lightning.) The storm rises! The switch, throw the switch!

(Elizabeth jolts to life, her face deformed, blood dripping from her).

VICTOR: Oh Elizabeth! You live, you live!! My love, my heart's desire, my miracle, my creation!!

(Victor steps back to admire his handiwork. MONSTER drops down to ground - even now smoke is starting to fill the stage).

MONSTER: (Opening arms) My bride!

VICTOR: What?

(ELIZABETH who was starting to move towards VICTOR: with a pained look notices the Monster).

MONSTER: My ber-you-tiful bride!

(As Elizabeth turns to the Monster. Elizabeth begins to stumble towards the overjoyed Monster.)

MONSTER: O joy, O rapture!!

VICTOR: This is our ring, Elizabeth! Do you not recognise me? I'm your fiancé, Victor!! Your husband-to-be! That's the Monster!!

MONSTER: W e are not monsters – we are the future!!

(ELIZABETH turns to the Monster, falling into his arms).

ELIZABETH: (to the MONSTER) Husband.

MONSTER: My love!

VICTOR: No! No! No! No!! I own your both! You belong to me! I created you! Where are you going? Come back! Come back!!

(The mob – carrying burning torches - break down the door and the stage turns red, as the Monster takes Elizabeth and then escapes out of the tower with a mighty leap.

MOB: Burn him!

VICTOR: You fools, how can I burn!! I am already in Hell! We are all going to Hell!

(VICTOR in despair attaches himself to the electrical machine and kills himself as the mob burst in. The tower and laboratory burn in a great pall of smoke. Flames consume Frankenstein - the Monster and his bride have escaped).

VICTOR: We have created a new world – a world we cannot control – humanity is lost! Lost!

THE END

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