



Frankenstein

MARY SHELLEY





MARY
WOLLSTONECRAFT
SHELLEY

(1797 - 1851)

Parents: Mary Wollstonecraft
and William Godwin

Ran away with Percy Bysshe
Shelley at 16

Lost two children and her
husband within 8 years of
meeting him

Successful literary career - best
known for Frankenstein



THE YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER

1816

The Tambora Volcano erupted in 1816 and left England without a summer.

A ghost story competition between Mary Shelley, her husband, Lord Byron, and Dr. Polidori was used to pass the time.

Mary Shelley won.



FRANKENSTEIN

THE MODERN PROMETHEUS

Fire is a double-edged gift
- So is technology

Gothic elements

- people are inherently depraved
- death and decay
- supernatural
- dark, mysterious setting
- nature is foreboding
- foreshadowing
- mystery and suspense

FRANKENSTEIN;

OR,

THE MODERN PROMETHEUS.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

Did I request thee, Maker, from my clay
To mould me man? Did I solicit thee
From darkness to promote me?—

PARADISE LOST,

VOL. I.

Contents:

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LACKINGTON, HUGHES, HARDING, MAVOR, & JONES,
FISSEBURY SQUARE.

1818.

INTERPRETING FRANKENSTEIN

VARYING PERSPECTIVES

Note the quote from Paradise Lost

Comment on French Revolution?

Postpartum depression?

A scary story to pass the time?