

FRANKENSTEIN

The Monster and the Myth,

Inspired by Mary Shelley's novel and the Hollywood movies,

Written by Paul Stebbings and Phil Smith.

Revised 2020

The staging is made up of: 2 cages – one of which has a tower painted on its rear, the other's rear painted with a mountain range; a machine which can be 'pedalled'; a machine for harnessing the power of lightning; a bench made up of two boxes/stools, and a plank which can freestand on one end

PROLOGUE

A graveyard. ELIZABETH and the PROFESSOR advance upon a grave. As ELIZABETH keeps watch, PROFESSOR digs the grave and begins inspecting the body within. ELIZABETH and PROFESSOR carry the corpse off stage. After clearing the scene, PROFESSOR holds a rotting skull aloft to the audience.

ACT 1

SCENE 1

[Ingolstadt University lecture hall. VICTOR FRANKENSTEIN enters]

VICTOR: Oh no, I'm late, I'm late for class again! This is my favourite subject – anatomy! I started off dissecting insects but now I've moved on to human bodies. It's wonderful!

Have you seen the professor? Oh he's so very good at dissection. His knife is like an artist's brush, swish swish, cut and slice! Oh, here he is. Give him a round of applause!

PROF: SILENCE! Settle down medical students. Before we begin, what do we make of that word – "students"?

VICTOR : I don't know.

PROF: It is a job with long hours for no pay. 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, all of 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!

VICTOR: Yes!

PROF: Hacking through the jungle with a machete. Hack through that jungle! In order to understand nature we must cut it open! Tear it apart! Dissect it!

VICTOR: Dissect it!

PROF: [Holding aloft a human heart] Together we shall banish the darkness of ignorance and let

in the sunlight!

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

PROF: Now – before we dissect this human heart, are there any questions?

[VICTOR raises his hand]

PROF: Ah, what a surprise. You, yes you with the silly hair?

[VICTOR comes up onto stage]

PROF: I did not tell you to come up here.

VICTOR: 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.

PROF: Ah.

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

PROF: Total rubbish! Let's forget science shall we? Catch! [Throws the heart into the wing] Come here! Where is this soul? Is it there? Is it here? [grabs VICTOR's hand] Is this where the soul is? Would it hurt if I were to poke the soul? Shall I cut it out? Shall we 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 resides with fairy tales and Santa Claus. Out with the damned thing and out with you, Herr Frankenstein!

VICTOR: But Professor Fleischflayer, I was only -

PROF: Out of my lecture!

[VICTOR exits]

PROF: Imbecile. Now, where were we? No, he's ruined it. He's ruined my lecture. Lecture over! Go home. Stupid students.

SCENE 2

[The PROFESSOR's laboratory, Ingolstadt University. A caged Ape is greeted and let out by ELIZABETH. The Ape responds with affection. ELIZABETH then goes to her snake] ELIZABETH: [lifting snake] Oh my darling, and how are you? You're hungry? We have a treat for you. [to the Ape] Victor - the mouse.

[Ape gets a mouse]

ELIZABETH: [getting a bottle of ether] Ether.

[Together ELIZABETH and the Ape anaesthetize the mouse with ether]

ELIZABETH: In it goes

[They feed it to the snake. Snake belches]

ELIZABETH: Oh, you were hungry! Let me see what else I can find for you.

[The Ape grabs the ether and makes a game of ELIZABETH's efforts to retrieve it]

ELIZABETH: Oh no Victor! That is ether; it's dangerous. Victor, please give it to me. Please. Victor, 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: Oh Herr Frankenstein! I called you? Oh - 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: It's a primate, Herr Frankenstein, an ape. A Gibbon - genus Hylobates from the Hylobatidae family.

VICTOR: Oh, here Gibbon, Gibbon!

[The Ape pokes VICTOR's eye]

VICTOR: Does it have a familiar name?

ELIZABETH: Oh, Father told me I must never give the animals names.

VICTOR: Oh, but you did, didn't you – because, Elizabeth - ... May I call you Elizabeth?

ELIZABETH: Oh, yes

VICTOR: Because, Elizabeth, despite the intentions of your father you have a kind and humane heart beating in that pretty breast. Oh, 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.

[The Ape claps its hands]

ELIZABETH: [to the Ape] Oh, stop it, Victor! Oh!

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

ELIZABETH: It was a coincidence!

[The Ape shakes its head 'No', ELIZABETH reprimands him]

ELIZABETH: A coincidence!

[The Ape 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. 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 VICTOR's back, still holding the ether]. Oh! 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!
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, e /
ventually breathes in and passes out]

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

[the Ape returns itself to the cage]

VICTOR: [Coming round] Oh, I'm not bad...
I'm really quite good. My soul is pure...my
heart is reaching out for... Elizabeth? [Faints
again]

ELIZABETH: Oh, 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... [Faints again]

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

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.... [Faints
again]

ELIZABETH: Let me take your pulse. [She
leans over him] It quickens! [three fast beats]
Victor! Your heart! [She pushes him down and
pumps his heart]

VICTOR: [Taking huge breaths] 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!

ELIZABETH: Where?

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

[He kisses her. They embrace. PROFESSOR
enters]

PROF: What is this? What is happening? 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: Father, it was not what it appears
to be -

PROF: 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? Must I cut it out of
you? Shall I dissect your motives?

VICTOR: God help me!

PROF: Oh, spare me your superstition!

ELIZABETH: Father, please! 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
PROFESSOR and ELIZABETH look at him]

PROF: So, you are not a spy then?

VICTOR: No Sir, I am a thief.

ELIZABETH / PROF: What?!

VICTOR: I came here to steal a heart.

ELIZABETH: Victor?

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 Victor 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?

ELIZABETH: Oh, Father. You know perfectly
well what Victor means. [She seizes VICTOR
and kisses him]. Father, I wish to marry Victor
Frankenstein, Father. [The Ape howls with rage]
Will someone shut up that bloody monkey?

VICTOR: Ape.

PROF: Gibbon. 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? [Excited, he pushes
ELIZABETH away]

PROF: Yes, Herr Frankenstein, life. Artificial
life made with my own hands.

VICTOR: But that's impossible. 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: [To ELIZABETH] Know what?

ELIZABETH: [turning indignantly] Uh-unh

VICTOR: [To PROF] Know what?

PROF: [turning indignantly] Uh-unh

VICTOR: [To the Ape] Know what?

[the Ape turns in his cage indignantly]

PROF: Quiet, my darlings! Allow me this one
test. Then, Frankenstein, you will have your

answer.

VICTOR: What test?

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

ELIZABETH: He can pass the test, Father. He
can win my hand!

PROF: Nonsense! What was I thinking? 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...
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: In order to join this family, Victor, you
must share all its secrets.

VICTOR: The secrets of life?

PROF: Flesh and blood. No soul.

VICTOR: Why, yes, sir, of course you're
right... 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 / ELIZABETH: Death is only the break
down of a machine.

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

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

PROF: Yes! 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 will be 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: The moment, Father?

PROF: Yes my dear. Bring me Victor.

ELIZABETH: I suppose we have to kill Victor.

PROF: Victor must die.

VICTOR: Sir, you can't kill me. Please don't
kill me. You can't!

PROF: Someone bring me the damn gibbon.

VICTOR: Oh... I see...

ELIZABETH: [As she lets the Ape out] I don't know if I can do it, Father. I have looked after the ape too long.

PROF: Ah but Victor, you can kill Victor, can't you Victor?

ELIZABETH: Let's kill 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!

[the Ape goes to VICTOR for comfort]

VICTOR: Sir, do you mean to revive this animal after killing it?

[The PROF beckons to the Ape, then leads it onto the bench]

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 I cannot look.

PROF: [Handing a blade to VICTOR] Kill it.

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

[VICTOR plunges the blade into the Ape's skull, killing the Ape]

PROF: Well done, Victor. We'll make a Professor of you yet.

ELIZABETH: But your heart, Victor?

VICTOR: My emotions are unchanged. 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 merely her donkeys! Now, we must work quickly. Elizabeth... unveil the machine!

ELIZABETH: Oh yes, father!

[ELIZABETH unveils a contraption, with pedals - attached to a dynamo and electrodes. Everybody gasps]

PROF: Yes, my dear, now we have stronger thighs. [He grips VICTOR's thigh] Pure muscle. Trapped energy! You! On the machine!

VICTOR: I obey science. [gets on the contraption and starts pedalling]

PROF: We must have a very strong current for this to work Victor. Pedal fast!

ELIZABETH: Victor you must use all of your strength to pump hard.

VICTOR: Onwards, upwards! Life, life!

PROF: Elizabeth, the electrodes!

ELIZABETH: Yes, Father!

PROF: Faster!

[ELIZABETH applies the electrodes to the skull of the Ape]

VICTOR: Phoo! Up the hill of ignorance! I am approaching the heights of understanding! What excitement drives me now! Spark, Life, spark!

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[The Ape begins to twitch]

PROF: Yes! Yes! It's working!

ELIZABETH: It's alive! It's alive!

[The Ape, the current rushing through his body, gets up and dances. ELIZABETH dances with the Ape. The PROF dances with the Ape. Suddenly the Ape loses his energy and goes limp on the bench]

PROF: Dead? Dead! How can this happen to me - Professor Fleischflayer?

[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 nothing but a blank inside. [Tosses it away] Useless. Hopeless. Victor, throw Victor into the river.

[VICTOR takes the ape off stage. A splash]

PROF: 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, both of you. You are thinking backwards! The current was not too low but rather 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? [gets the snake]

PROF: Which snake? The Cobra?

ELIZABETH: My snake will be the first real animal to be killed and to 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: Ophiophagus Hannah - King Cobra! 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: But not for long.

ELIZABETH: Quickly, Victor, you must go back to the machine and pump 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 pedals - the

PROF places on the electrodes and the snake jumps to life]

PROF: Life! Life!

[PROF strokes the snake]

ELIZABETH: Don't stroke it on the head like that. It doesn't like...

PROF: What?

ELIZABETH: Hold it by the... careful!

[The snake bites the PROF, latching on to his neck]

PROF: Ah! What is it doing? It's biting 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.

[The snake releases its bite on the PROF]

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!

PROF: My life's work ... I'm sinking... My last words are... Feed...my...Guinea pig

[PROF dies. ELIZABETH and VICTOR commiserate]

PROF: [Raising suddenly back up] No! ..my last words are... [makes strange deflating noise]

[PROF dies. ELIZABETH and VICTOR commiserate]

PROF: [Raising suddenly back up again] No! ..my last words are... Raise the dead...Raise the dead!

[PROF actually 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.

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

VICTOR: What?

ELIZABETH: We are being punished. By what, I do not know. But this is a sign. Oh Victor, our happiness means more to me than this way of death.

VICTOR: But I saw a future without death!

ELIZABETH: Without death? Do you not see my dear dead father lying before us? Your search for immortality has brought nothing but death. And now you must choose, Victor, either we bury father or we bury our love?

VICTOR: But I am chained to my work.

[ELIZABETH steps over the body to leave]

VICTOR: No! Bind us together. Make us one flesh. I am you - our hearts beat as one.

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

VICTOR: I promise. I promise.... on the body of your father [he pats the corpse]. I will become a doctor. I will heal the sick. I will marry you on the day I qualify as Dr Frankenstein!

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

VICTOR: I would gladly die for you.

[BLACKOUT]

SCENE 3

[A STUDENT runs onto stage, being pursued]

STUDENT: They're after me! They want to kill me! I have not done anything wrong. I'm just a student of science. Help!

[he runs off stage, his hat blowing off as he does]

TOWNSWOMAN 1: [swinging sausages] Guten Tag wonderful people of Ingolstadt. I have one question for you today. Has anybody seen....my sausages?! I have all types of sausages today. Big fat sausages! Thin spicy sausages! Even vegetarian sausages! Not sausages for vegetarians, but sausages made from vegetarians!

TOWNSWOMAN 2: [entering] Guten Tag! Delicious sausages! Have you seen the student atheist? I saw him in the town just now.

TOWNSWOMAN 1: A filthy student atheist? We must hang him!

[They see the student's hat]

TOWNSWOMAN 2: Aha! That is the student's hat! He must be nearby.

TOWNSWOMAN 1: My dog Fritz can help us with this. He can follow any scent. [calling] Fritz!

[Fritz appears from the wing. TOWNSWOMAN 1 offers the hat to Fritz to get the scent. Fritz leads the women to the hiding STUDENT]

STUDENT: No, no! I haven't done anything wrong. I'm not an atheist, I'm just a student. I study here at Ingolstadt University. I study palaeontology!

TOWNSWOMAN 1: Is that a type of sausage?

STUDENT: No. It's science. I was digging when I found the bones of giant reptiles who walked the earth millions of years before us.

TOWNSWOMAN 2: Blasphemy!

TOWNSWOMAN 1: Adam and Eve were created first.

STUDENT: No, this is science!

TOWNSWOMAN 2: Death to the witch!

STUDENT: No!

TOWNSWOMAN 1 / TOWNSWOMAN 2: Hang the witch!

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[They pounce on the STUDENT.

TOWNSWOMAN 2 throws a noose over his head and leads him off to be hanged]

TOWNSWOMAN 1: Don't worry Fritzy. With your nose we will find all the student atheists in Ingolstadt, and hang them all!

[VICTOR enters]

VICTOR: Who will you hang?

TOWNSWOMAN 1: The student atheist, ya? [looks VICTOR up and down] Wait a moment. Are you..... a vegetarian?!

VICTOR: No

TOWNSWOMAN 1: But do you like sausages?

VICTOR: Erm....yes?

TOWNSWOMAN 1: Then rejoice! See you at the hanging! [exits]

VICTOR: Oh Ingolstadt, Ingolstadt.

[ELIZABETH enters] Elizabeth, this town is a hell hole of ignorance.

ELIZABETH: Oh but you will change it, Victor... your medicine will help 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? Ha! 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 out of this wretched town. Stinking Ingolstadt. Just think. You could become a country Doctor, treating farmers and milkmaids.

VICTOR: No. This learning is so dull. Do you still condemn me to this dullness?

ELIZABETH: Victor, there will be nothing dull when we are married. Patience, Victor, patience. Complete your studies.

VICTOR: I'm going to bed.

ELIZABETH: Good night.

VICTOR: I said... I'm going to bed.

ELIZABETH: Good night then.

VICTOR: Oh, 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 already?

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

ELIZABETH: I am going to help you, Victor. I am going to get you out of this stinking town and into the fresh air. Oh my country doctor, I am going to give you so many babies. But for now, good night. [exits]

VICTOR: Good night. This is no life. [exits]

[STUDENT's corpse swings into view.

VICTOR re-enters]

VICTOR: Oh no. They did hang him, no!

[reading from the sign pinned to the student's corpse] "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, my 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. No, I'm sorry; death is forever.

[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!

[IGOR's music cue]

VICTOR: Someone's coming.

[VICTOR exits. IGOR enters, sees the corpse, tests it for freshness, then takes it down from its noose. IGOR plays with the corpse until VICTOR re-enters]

VICTOR: Who are you?

IGOR: A man. That's it.

VICTOR: And do you have a name?

IGOR: Yes. But it's a secret.

VICTOR: A secret?

IGOR: Yes, the name of Igor is a secret

[VICTOR clicks his fingers 'Aha!'. IGOR self-admonishes]

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 Igor.

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? [Holds up a gold coin]

IGOR: Gold! What would Igor have to do for that, Sir?

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: Igor can do that, Sir. And the dead don't complain. Even when Igor amuses himself with them. [rips an ear off the corpse] The dead remain silent. [taking the gold coin and offering the ear] Ear you are. Liver Paté...Igor likes liver paté.

VICTOR: Well, every man has his secret desires.

IGOR: Really? What's yours then?

VICTOR: Mine? I desire immortality - for all

mankind. I will defeat death.

IGOR: Death, life, it's all the same to Igor. Liver pate! Igor likes liver paté.

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

[They exeunt with the corpse of the STUDENT]

SCENE 4 version 1 (with dream sequence)

[A monstrous hybrid walks slowly across the stage made 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]: Dead? Die! You're dead!

[The hybrid approaches ELIZABETH, she fights it off. Wakes]

ELIZABETH: My nightmare, my nightmare. Oh Victor, Victor! 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 else... No, no. But I have to know. I have to know! [exits]

SCENE 4 version 2 (no dream sequence)

[ELIZABETH enters, knocks on door]

ELIZABETH: Oh Victor, Victor! Are you at home? What are you doing at the university every evening? Is there someone else? Is there something else... No, no. But I have to know. I have to know! [exits]

SCENE 5

[The Laboratory. VICTOR working on the MONSTER (concealed behind 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. Come here Igor, give me a hand. [IGOR lays his hand in VICTOR's] Not your hand, you fool! The hand we dug up this morning.

[IGOR gets a bucket of body parts. He hands a severed foot to VICTOR]

VICTOR: [kicking IGOR up the backside with the foot] What? I said the hand.

[IGOR hands him a severed hand]

IGOR: So, Master likes the graveyard?

VICTOR: Yes Igor, Master likes the graveyard. 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...no, 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: But Master, why not make a new man

with no head?

VICTOR: With no head?

IGOR: Yes! Then Igor would have a true friend. [Lifts coat over head, sits with his 'friend'] Hello, man with no head. Hello Igor. Will you be Igor's friend. Oh, yes please Igor. Igor and his friend.

VICTOR: Igor, you are quite mad.

IGOR: Yes Master, thank you.

VICTOR: The storm approaches. I must to the tower to connect the lightning rods. Igor, I am bolting this door. Do not let anyone in.

IGOR: Do not let anyone in. 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. The storm is coming. Lightning, power from the sky! I am the new Prometheus, I will steal the spark of life from the Gods! Do not let anyone in! [exits]

IGOR: Do not let anyone in.

[A knocking, it is ELIZABETH]

ELIZABETH [Outside]: Victor! Victor!

IGOR: Do not let anyone in!

ELIZABETH: I'm not 'anyone'. I'm Elizabeth.

IGOR: Not 'anyone'?

ELIZABETH: No!

IGOR: Do not let anyone...Oh, well come in then.

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

[they sniff out the source of the stench]

IGOR: That's Igor. Igor has not had bath – Igor has never had bath.

ELIZABETH: Where is Herr Frankenstein?

IGOR: Master's in the tower... but he told me not to tell anyone.

ELIZABETH: Well, I am not 'anyone'. I am his fiancée - Elizabeth.

IGOR: Elizabeth? Elizabeth must not know about the nice fresh head.

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

IGOR: Master said not to say. Not about him, not about the experiment, not about the cutting up, and especially not about the nice fresh head.

ELIZABETH: What head?

IGOR: The head you not supposed to see.

ELIZABETH: Where?

IGOR: This one [IGOR lifts severed head from bucket, throws it to ELIZABETH]

[Elizabeth screams, throws the head back to Igor. Igor screams, throws the head to Elizabeth. Elizabeth screams, throws the head back to Igor]

IGOR: Ah! Poor head! Kiss it better?

ELIZABETH: Me?

IGOR: Yes!

ELIZABETH: No!

[IGOR pursues ELIZABETH with the head]

IGOR: Kiss the head better! Kiss the head better!

[ELIZABETH refuses, placing the empty bucket onto her head]

IGOR: Igor will kiss it better then.

[IGOR kisses the head passionately.

ELIZABETH vomits into the bucket]

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

[She goes to MONSTER and lifts sheet - picks up electrode]

ELIZABETH: Oh my god. He has! Victor! Victor! Liar. Traitor!

VICTOR: [re-enters] Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH: Victor, you traitor. You have betrayed me, you have betrayed yourself.

VICTOR: 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 re-create life, and it is yours to stand beside me.

ELIZABETH: You promised! 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. With his last words: Raise the dead!

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! I will destroy this monster and save you all. [grabs axe]

VICTOR: Elizabeth, no! [restrains ELIZABETH] Igor, do something!

[IGOR uses the ether to put ELIZABETH to sleep, takes the axe from her]

VICTOR: Good work, Igor.

IGOR: Shall Igor cut her head off now?

VICTOR: Yes...What?! No!

[VICTOR pulls ELIZABETH out of the way of IGOR's swinging axe]

VICTOR: I am placing you here in this cage for your safety. [he moves her into the cage]. From here you will witness my creation of life. And you will forgive me because I have no choice. I cannot hold back science. What can be done must be done!

IGOR: Yes, Master! [IGOR is showing interest in the bucket of vomit]

ELIZABETH: Oh 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] Go and look out while I finish the body.

IGOR: Yes, Master! [IGOR exits]

ELIZABETH: Victor, think about what you are doing. You swore Victor, you swore.

VICTOR: Igor, is the storm rising?

IGOR [off]: Yes, Master! [thunder, IGOR returns]

VICTOR: 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! The switch, Igor. Throw the switch!

[Lightning shakes the room again and pulses through the electrode. VICTOR and IGOR are thrown back by the force. VICTOR opens the cage]

VICTOR: Nothing? Have I failed?

IGOR: Master, look.

[The MONSTER begins to move]

VICTOR: Alive! It's alive!

ELIZABETH: Oh God. No, no!

[The MONSTER steps slowly out of the cage]

VICTOR: Turn to me, I am your creator. My child, I am your father – Victor Frankenstein.

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

VICTOR: Why? To mock me?

ELIZABETH: No. I didn't believe it was possible. But you have made life!

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

IGOR: Yes, Master. [IGOR undoes the cage]

ELIZABETH: Victor!

VICTOR: Victory!

[they embrace. MONSTER roars with frustration]

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

[VICTOR holds his hand out to MONSTER but the MONSTER pushes him aside and picks ELIZABETH up]

ELIZABETH: Help, help!

VICTOR: Put her down! Igor, do something.

IGOR: Ether, master, ether!

[IGOR uses ether to pacify the MONSTER, who lets go of ELIZABETH]

VICTOR: I see no feeling in its yellow eyes. I see darkness. Where is the beauty? What have I created? It's nothing more than 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.

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 is beginning to feel.

VICTOR: It's a monster!

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? It is a stinking grave on two legs, and it knows that!

ELIZABETH: Look!

[The MONSTER grunts and gurgles and tries to lift its arm to ELIZABETH]

VICTOR: You're exciting it! Do you want a monster to fall in love with you?

ELIZABETH: 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.

MONSTER: Preeze... Ehrisserbeh...

VICTOR: Oh my god, did you hear that? The longer we keep this thing alive, the more it is imitating us. Look in its eyes – before they were empty, but now they are beginning to fill up... with us. Igor, kill it!

IGOR: Yes, Master!

[VICTOR hands the axe to IGOR, who swings it at the MONSTER. ELIZABETH stops him]

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.

ELIZABETH: What?

VICTOR: Split my head open.

IGOR: Very well, Master.

[IGOR looks to ELIZABETH. She refuses to condemn the MONSTER. Shrugging, IGOR swings his axe at VICTOR]

ELIZABETH: No!

[Slow motion sequence. ELIZABETH throws

herself between IGOR and VICTOR, beating IGOR and embracing VICTOR]

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

ELIZABETH: 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. Igor, end the experiment. [gives the axe to IGOR]

VICTOR: Kill it, Igor. Cut it up and throw it in the river.

IGOR: Yes, Master!

[IGOR picks up axe but then starts to have fun with the MONSTER, begins to shock MONSTER until monster overpowers IGOR and kills him, He escapes]

ELIZABETH: Igor? Oh God, it is gone! And Igor is dead. His bones broken like matchsticks. Victor!

VICTOR: [Rushing in] Loose? Gone? It's loose?

ELIZABETH: Igor is dead.

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

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

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

ELIZABETH: Victor, you must find it and destroy it.

VICTOR: Oh, what a punishment. I must find and kill my own unnatural child.

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.

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.

The sounds change, they are less pleasant. He is spooked and exits.

A BLIND MAN is led on stage by his DAUGHTER]

DAUGHTER: Here father, sit.

[the BLIND MAN goes to sit, but not over the seat]

DAUGHTER: Oh no, careful father...[guiding him to the seat] There it is.

[He sits]

DAUGHTER: Here is your violin, and your

bow. And here is some wine and some food.

BLIND MAN: Thank you, Justine.

DAUGHTER: I must be off to the forest now, father, to tend the bees.

BLIND MAN: Take care.

[She exits. The BLIND MAN plays the violin. The MONSTER enters and listens]

BLIND MAN: Is someone there? Yes?

[The MONSTER wants the music to continue - he lifts the BLIND MAN's bow arm up]

BLIND MAN: What? Are you mute?

MONSTER: *attempted speech*

BLIND MAN: So the blind meets the mute in the forest? It is a gift from heaven. Ah, my silent friend. You wish to hear more music? Listen?

MONSTER: [Trying] Li-ii-sun.

BLIND MAN: Listen, yes. To music.

MONSTER: Moo. Moo.

BLIND MAN: Music, yes. [Plays the violin]

MONSTER: Mew -zzick.

DAUGHTER: [Off] Oh father!

[MONSTER panics and runs]

DAUGHTER: [entering] Oh father, there you are. Were you playing?

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

DAUGHTER: Where is he now?

BLIND MAN: He fled when he heard you coming. He is timid. I must charm him with my violin. But first let us pray and give thanks. [They pray - while the Monster chops wood and lays a flower on top of the pile]

DAUGHTER: Well father, I must return to the forest. [sees chopped wood] Oh father, an angel has sent us a gift. And smell - here is a flower.

BLIND MAN: [Smelling flower] How fragrant! But my dear Justine, I don't think it was an angel that blessed us with these gifts, but my poor mute friend. We are blessed indeed.

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

BLIND MAN: Take care at the market, Justine.

[BLIND MAN takes up the violin, plays.

MONSTER enters, entranced]

MONSTER: Mew-zick heavurn.

BLIND MAN: Heaven indeed. Come. Sit.

[Demonstrating]

MONSTER: Sit? [He sits]

BLIND MAN: Yes. [Reaching into the basket] Sausage [offers it to the MONSTER]

MONSTER: [takes sausage] Soh..Sidge. Sohsideg hevun.

BLIND MAN: Wine.

MONSTER: No! Ether!

BLIND: No. Wine - it's good. Wine.

MONSTER: Wine. [takes the wine, tries it] Heaven!

BLIND MAN: You... are my friend.

MONSTER: You are my Ff...rr...

BLIND MAN: Friends, yes.

MONSTER: Friend. More music!

[BLIND MAN sings 'Three blind mice'

MONSTER joins in]

DAUGHTER [Off]: Father!

DAUGHTER: Oh father! [Sees MONSTER and screams, breaking song] A Devil! The Devil! Evil! Oh! Monster!

MONSTER: No monster!

BLIND MAN: What is it?

[DAUGHTER Screams and races to save father - MONSTER goes to protect BLIND MAN, grabbing the DAUGHTER and, in the confusion, breaking her neck]

BLIND MAN: What happened? Justine?

MONSTER: "Three blind mice"

BLIND MAN: Oh Justine! Oh, murder! Help! The Devil has murdered my daughter, Help!

[MONSTER goes to DAUGHTER, realises that something is wrong.]

MONSTER: "Three blind mice". No. No!

[Enter VICTOR with axe, chasing MONSTER - sees corpse of DAUGHTER]

VICTOR: You!

[The MONSTER flees. VICTOR goes to the corpse]

VICTOR: Oh God, please tell me he hasn't... Oh God, he has! And I created him. I am to blame...

(TOWNSWOMAN walks on, sees corpse)

VICTOR: ...I am the murderer.

TOWNSWOMAN: A 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. This looks bad.

TOWNSWOMAN: Ya, this looks very bad.

VICTOR: But I'm not the murderer. I am a scientist looking for a monster. Have you seen it?

TOWNSWOMAN: No.

VICTOR: Then I'll be on my way...[goes to exit]

TOWNSWOMAN: Police!

[POLICEMAN enters]

POLICEMAN: Ya! Corpse, axe -

TOWNSWOMAN: Blood on his hands!

POLICEMAN / TOWNSWOMAN: Murderer!

[POLICEMAN arrests VICTOR, drags him off]

VICTOR: I am innocent, innocent.

SCENE 2

[Courtroom]

VICTOR: I am innocent! I swear I never touched that poor woman. It was something I

created... A thing made from the dead pieces of men, stitched together with fishing line. A monster, and 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.

[Music plays. The GAOLER and POLICEMAN dance, throw VICTOR into a cage]

[ELIZABETH knocks on prison door]

ELIZABETH: [outside] Please Sir, I must see my fiancée, Victor Frankenstein.

GAOLER: You can't. It's against the rules. No visitors to death row.

ELIZABETH: But he's innocent. Victor! Victor! SCENE 3

[The Ingolstadt Gaol. VICTOR is caged. The GAOLER attends]

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: I'm making a mistake? No, it's you that made the mistake, when you murdered that poor woman in broad daylight.

VICTOR: No, you idiot! I never touched that poor woman. It was the Monster.

GAOLER: Monster? No, the only monster in Ingolstadt is you, but don't worry - in a couple of hours, we're going to hang you for it.

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

GAOLER: Now, that's not very polite.

VICTOR: Oh it's all hopeless! Hopeless!

GAOLER: Yes, it is hopeless, yes. But cheer up. We've all got to die some day.. And for you, that's in a couple of hours when we take you outside and string you up and... [miming hanging] kchhhh!!

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

GAOLER: Monsters, monsters. The only real monsters are human ones. The day I believe in Frankenstein's monster is the day I can fly.

[The MONSTER appears - VICTOR sees him and points to the keys on the GAOLER's belt]

VICTOR: Keys. Get the keys.

[The MONSTER taps the GAOLER on the shoulder. Turning, the GAOLER sees the MONSTER]

GAOLER: A monster!

MONSTER: Keys.

GAOLER: I can't. it's against the rules.

MONSTER: Human rules.

[GAOLER strikes the MONSTER. No effect.

MONSTER grabs GAOLER, roughing him up, throws him around the stage. Gets keys. Releases VICTOR]

VICTOR: Free! Free! You are good. You do have a kind heart! You must take me to Elizabeth, to my beloved.

MONSTER: No. You are my prisoner, now. Come, come!

VICTOR: What? Help! Help!

[MONSTER exits with VICTOR over his shoulder]

GAOLER: [Staggering from wings] There are monsters. Real monsters. But I can fly! I can fly!

SCENE 4

[Snowy Mountaintop]

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

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 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: I knew you would be so. All men hate those who suffer. How then must I be hated, I who am more miserable than any living thing? Yes – you are surprised but I am a student now. I have studied the ways of you creatures and you are all the same. Even you, my creator, will detest me. You even wish to kill me! Look at me. Look at my face. Look at my eyes. Do you see this suffering? You think you see nothing, emptiness. That is your reflection. Beneath all of this is my loneliness, my suffering, for which you are responsible. I am your work – but I warn you, I will turn on you if you do not fulfill my wish!

VICTOR: How dare you blame me for your life? Very well, come with me and I will destroy what I made.

[VICTOR lunges for MONSTER. They struggle. MONSTER holds VICTOR over precipice]

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

VICTOR: Do you mean to kill me?

MONSTER: How could I? You are my creator. I cannot kill who has given me life. You are my father – though I cannot make you love me. I will leave you alone if you give to me that which 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. Spend my life with. Like your creature, Elizabeth. You can do this, 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 me, I swear eternal hatred for you, my creator. I cannot kill my god, but I can destroy the one my god loves.

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

MONSTER: Create a mate for me, or I shall kill Elizabeth.

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

MONSTER: No, no, Listen! Neither you nor any 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. I want only to know peace and to feel human-like. To feel... love.

VICTOR: How can I?

MONSTER: My creator, let me show some gratitude towards you. Let me see that I excite some sympathy in you...

[MONSTER reaches for VICTOR's hand.

VICTOR takes his hand. The MONSTER kisses VICTOR's hand. VICTOR walks away]

MONSTER: No. No! Do not leave me alone. Alone forever? No, not alone! Not alone. Not Alone!

[VICTOR returns]

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

MONSTER: I swear it, by the sun, and the blue sky of heaven you will never see me again. You gave me life. There was no life here and you gave me it. Did you give me a soul then?

VICTOR: No.

MONSTER: Do not deny me! Do not deny this thing 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]

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 these hands will make the living dead!

[But the avalanche does not come and VICTOR staggers off]

SCENE 5

[The MONSTER runs through the snow, battling against the elements.

ELIZABETH's Bedroom. ELIZABETH sleeping.

The MONSTER enters, covers her with a sheet, waking her]

ELIZABETH: You? No!

MONSTER: Friend! Friend. I bring to you the greatest gift in your whole world.

[VICTOR enters. MONSTER exits]

ELIZABETH: 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: The Monster is no danger now. When the judge heard the reports of what the monster did to that poor woman, he pardoned you. They will hunt him down like the animal he is. Although, part of my heart must pity him, he called me his friend...He rescued you. Perhaps we have misjudged him?

VICTOR: Misjudged? No. Only his intelligence. I too took pity on him and I shall pay for that. I should have been stronger – but how could I deny him when he threatened your life, 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?

VICTOR: No human would marry him. That is why I have promised – against the threat upon your life - to create for him a bride as horrible as himself.

ELIZABETH: Can you do that, Victor?

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

ELIZABETH: Victor, I am my father's daughter. Where do we begin?

VICTOR: To the graveyard, come!

MONSTER: [Appearing] My bride will rise! [Exits]

SCENE 6

[Ingolstadt Graveyard. VICTOR is digging furiously whilst ELIZABETH keeps watch]

VICTOR: No! It's 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] Damn these coffin nails! Do they fear the corpse will leap out?

ELIZABETH: Ah, the stink! The stench!

VICTOR: [Holding decayed skull] No, it's just rotting flesh. Liquid! This woman must have been ninety years old. Do no young women die in Ingolstadt any more? Has death lost its appetite for the young?

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

VICTOR: No, no. We need intact organs. We

need youth and vitality if it is to revive.

[A noise off]

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

VICTOR: No, let's hide in this grave.

ELIZABETH: No, no - I cannot. There are worms!

VICTOR: Come, quickly!

[They jump into grave. A mourning woman enters the graveyard, crying and muttering, she prays at a grave]

VICTOR: 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 going. Please, no!

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

ELIZABETH: No, Victor, this is murder! This we cannot do.

VICTOR: [lifting spade to strike mourner] A life for a life.

[Mourner turns to see her attacker. She screams and runs off. The MONSTER intercepts her, striking her. She falls into the wings, pursued by the MONSTER. She screams off stage]

ELIZABETH: Oh Victor, let us run! Are we trying to save our lives, only to lose our souls?

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

[MONSTER enters with the dead body of the mourner in a sack]

MONSTER: Now you can free yourselves. It is time to make my bride.

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... Here! Here! The Monster is here! Help! Help!

[Noise of shouting, bells and barking dogs to end of scene]

MONSTER: [To ELIZABETH] No - my friend! You are my friend!

ELIZABETH: Back, Devil!

[MONSTER throws corpse to VICTOR and picks up ELIZABETH]

VICTOR: The townspeople are coming!

MONSTER: [To VICTOR] Run, run we have no time. We must make my bride tonight!

[They flee, pursued by the sounds of the gathering mob]

SCENE 7

TOWNSWOMAN: [with Fritz] Victor Frankenstein, we are coming for you and your murdering monster! My dog has your scent and we will seek you out! Don't worry Fritz, we will dine on monster sausage tonight! What's that

boy? He's in the tower? Lead the way boy. Go, Fritz! We are coming, Frankenstein!

[The Laboratory]

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

ELIZABETH: 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: Let her go or I will do nothing, demon.

MONSTER: But she will betray us.

ELIZABETH: You have both betrayed yourselves!

VICTOR: I have always been a slave of science. Now, I am his slave!

ELIZABETH: Then let me go - 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 - between ordinary good and ordinary evil.

VICTOR: Cage her!

[MONSTER cages ELIZABETH. A rumble of thunder]

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

[Lightning flash]

MONSTER: Master! Maker!

VICTOR: My creature. Go and prepare the lightning rods.

[MONSTER exits]

TOWNSWOMAN: [Running on with Fritz] We know you are in there, Frankenstein!

[She shoots at tower. Fritz, catching a scent, pulls her off stage]

VICTOR: They are firing their pathetic hunting rifles – those bullets will bounce off this mighty tower. Now, where is the heart?

[ELIZABETH emerges from above the tower]

ELIZABETH: Here! The Monster is here! Help!

VICTOR: No, Elizabeth!

TOWNSWOMAN: [running back on] Ah, young Lady! [shoots ELIZABETH] Great shot! One down, two to go! [runs off]

VICTOR: Elizabeth?! Elizabeth, no, please, no! You murdering imbeciles! [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: My friend. She was my friend.

VICTOR: She hated you!

MONSTER: No, no! [He grabs ELIZABETH's

corpse, drags her to the cage]

VICTOR: What are you doing?

MONSTER: Start again. Make new life!

VICTOR: No, no....the bullet. It hit her in the heart.

MONSTER: You have a new heart, here! [produces mourner's heart]

VICTOR: Fool! Keep your clumsy hands off that, it's mine! My God...you are right... I could re-make her. I could make an angel!

MONSTER: I am your student.

VICTOR: No. I have no students. I am the maker. I am the creator. Only Victor Frankenstein will re-make his Elizabeth! We must be ready.

MONSTER: Master! Maker!

VICTOR: To the switch, my creature, we must be ready. The storm begins to rise! It's coming, I can feel it. The switch, my creature! Throw the switch!

[ELIZABETH jolts to life, her face deformed]

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

MONSTER: My bride!

VICTOR: What?!

[ELIZABETH, who was starting to move towards VICTOR, notices the MONSTER]

MONSTER: My beautiful bride!

[ELIZABETH turns to the MONSTER. ELIZABETH begins to stumble towards the overjoyed MONSTER]

MONSTER: Oh, joy! Oh, rapture!

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

MONSTER: We are not monsters – we are the future!

[ELIZABETH turns to the MONSTER, places ring on his finger]

ELIZABETH: [to the MONSTER] Husband.

MONSTER: My love!

[MONSTER and ELIZABETH embrace, Exit]

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

[sounds of the mob outside – “Burn Him!”]

VICTOR: I am in hell. We have created a new world. A world we cannot control. Humanity is lost. Lost!

[VICTOR, in despair, attaches himself to the electrical machine and kills himself as the mob bursts in]

THE END

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tnttheatre1@gmail.com