

Three years have passed since Victor Frankenstein created his monster. During that time, the creature's intelligence has grown. Rejected by everyone, everywhere, he determines that he needs a friend. He wants Frankenstein to create a female companion for him.

Initially believing he has no other choice, Frankenstein complies.

Wanting to gain more knowledge, before attempting the creation of a second being, Frankenstein travels with his friend, Henry Clerval, to [England](#) and [Scotland](#). The two friends part in Scotland, and Victor travels - alone - to the [Orkney Islands](#) (located in the North Sea, off the tip of Scotland's northeastern shore).

Renting a thatched-roof hut, within which to live and work, Frankenstein moves to one of the remotest of the Orkney Islands - away from "[Mainland](#)" and its settlements (at [Kirkwall](#) - where [St Magnus dominates the skyline](#) - and [Stromness](#)).

In his remote location - perhaps not quite as far away as the island of [North Ronaldsay](#) (where the [local sheep](#) are able to [eat seaweed](#)) - Frankenstein works on his new creation - a companion for the creature.

Nearing the completion of his task - which he performs away from all friends and family - Victor has second thoughts. What is he doing? Why is he doing it?

The creature - whom Frankenstein variously calls a "demon" or "fiend", but never by a real name - is watching, by a window, at the moment when Frankenstein decides to destroy the second being. He never finishes his work and vows never to resume it.

Soon thereafter, the creature returns to Frankenstein's hut. He threatens his creator, but Victor does not relent. Listen to their heated exchange and think about these issues as you hear the story unfold.

ISSUES AND QUESTIONS TO PONDER: Victor Frankenstein has created a life form which seems to control him - until - the scientist decides he has gone far enough and will not create another being. Why did Frankenstein change his mind?

Victor's creature turns violent after he is rejected everywhere by everyone. Does rejection - or lack of acceptance - play a role in violent behavior? Could we draw a comparison between Frankenstein's creature and violent criminals in today's world?

Individuals accused of mass murder, in today's society, are frequently described as "loners" with few, if any, friends. Does Mary Shelley's tale of Frankenstein's monster in any way presage similar violent outbursts which produce deadly consequences? If so, how?

As you listen to this audio clip, you can read along. See an early version of the book, digitized for today's online audience (by Archive.org), which is [opened to Chapter 20](#).

The story continues with the [Letter of September 12](#) (when Frankenstein dies and the monster expresses regret and remorse to Captain Walton).

For the Classics at AwesomeStories

Credits:

Chapter 20 of *Frankenstein*, by Mary Shelley, read by Carole Bos.

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