Frankenstein: chapters & quotes

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|  | *Story* | *Gothic quotes* |
| Letter 1 | Walton to Margaret. St Petersburgh. December. Explains the dream of the voyage. | “an enterprise….with evil forebodings”  “I may discover the wondrous power which attracts the needle”  “do I not deserve to accomplish some great purpose?” |
| Letter 2 | Walton to Margaret. Archangel. March. The ship and crew. | “I desire the company of a man who could sympathise with me” |
| Letter 3 | Walton to Margaret. At sea. July. Calm. Determination. | “I will not rashly encounter danger. I will be cool, persevering and prudent.”  “But success shall crown my endevaours”  “the very stars themselves being witnesses and testimonies of my triumph” |
| Letter 4 | Walton to Margaret. At sea. August. Sighting of the creature. Rescues Frankenstein. Writes in instalments. Friendship, dreams, determination to succeed. | “a being which had the shape of man, but apparently of gigantic structure.”  “his eyes have an expression of wildness and even madness”  “so noble a creature destroyed by misery”  “the burning ardour of my soul”  “one man’s life or death were but a small price to pay for the acquirement of the knowledge which I sought; for the dominion I should acquire and transmit over the elemental foes of our race.” |
| Chapter 1 | Frankenstein’s story. Birth & ancestry. Arrival of Elizabeth. | “respected by all who knew him” “a protective spirit” (his father)  “benevolent disposition” (his mother)  “guardian angel” (Elizabeth)  “fairer than a garden rose among dark-leaved brambles” (Elizabeth)  “to shed radiance” (Elizabeth) |
| Chapter 2 | Shared childhood & education. Henry Clerval. Natural philosophy & dreams. Destiny. | “Natural philosophy is the genius that has regulated my fate.”  “Destiny was too potent, and her immutable lawas had decreed my utter and terrible destruction”.  “deeply smitten with the thirst for knowledge.”  “the raising of ghosts or devils….I most eagerly sought”  “that passion like a mountain river…. Became a torrent…. Swept away all my hopes and joys.” |
| Chapter 3 | Aged 17. Death of his mother. Ingolstadt. Professor Waldman. | “She died calmly and her countenance expressed affection even in death” (his mother)  “the misfortune of my life occurred”  “he was an uncouth man, but deeply imbued in the secrets of his science.” (Krempe)  “I was now alone”  “it decided my future destiny.” |
| Chapter 4 | Natural philosophy. The principle of life… recourse to death. Discovery of power to create animation. Focus & isolation on task for 2 years. | “When I found so astonishing a power placed within my hands, I hesitated a long time….”  “Forced to spend days and nights in vaults and charnel houses”  “no father could claim the gratitude of his child so completely as I should deserve theirs” (of the creature)  “a new species would bless me as its creator and source.” |
| Chapter 5 | November. The Creature stirs. Runs. Dreams of Elizabeth & his mother. Clerval arrives. Nervous fever. | “the beauty of the dream vanished and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart.” “I was lifeless.”  “infused the spark of being into this thing that lay at my feet.”  “I could not have asked for a more kind and attentive nurse” (than Clerval.) |
| Chapter 6 | Letter from Elizabeth. Story of Justine. Introduces Clerval to the Professors. Walking. Companionship. | “he again taught me to love the aspect of nature and the cheerful face of the children”  “I became the same happy creature”  “you’ve been ill, very ill”  “he meant to please, and he tormented me” |
| Chapter 7 | Letter from his father. Death of William. Elizabeth’s sadness. Journey back to Geneva. Sees the Creature. Anguish. Home. Justine’s guilt/innocence. | “grief and fear overcome me”  “the wretch, the filthy demon to whom I have given life”  “six years had elapsed, passed as a dream”  “he now sleeps with his angel mother” |
| Chapter 8 | The trial. Her story. Elizabeth’s witness. Justine’s false confession and death.  END OF VOL 1 | “and she perished on a scaffold as a murderess”  “nothing can shake my confidence in you for moment but your own confession”  “her utter guiltlessness”  “the first hapless victims to my unhallowed arts” |
| Chapter 9  (Vol II, chap 1) | Frankenstein mentally tortured. Despair. Trip to Chamonix. | “I wandered like an evil spirit for I had committed deeds of mischief”  I was seized by remorse and the sense of guilt….. to a hell of intense tortures”  I was tempted to plunge into the silent lake”  I had been the author of unpenetrable evils and I lived in daily fear lest the monster whom I had created should perpetrate some new wickedness.” |
| Chapter 10  (Vol II, chap 2) | Walking in the valley. Sublime views. Verse. Meets the Creature. Rage. Discusses life with it. | ‘It had filled me with sublime ecstasy’  ‘The presence of another would destroy the solitary grandeur of the scene’  ‘Advancing towards me at superhuman speed’  ‘My rage was without bounds’ |
| Chapter 11  (Vol II, chap 3) | Flashback. Start of the Creature’s tale. The beginnings of life. Day, night. Land, Warmth. Food. Shelter. Reaction from villagers. Watches cottagers. | “It was dark when I awoke; I felt cold also, and half frightened”  “I was a poor, helpless, miserable wretch”  “the uncouth and inarticulate sounds that broke from me frightened me into silence”!  “I had barely placed my foot within the door before the children shrieked, and one of the women fainted”  “I withdrew from the window, unable to bear these emotions” |
| Chapter 12  (Vol II, chap 4) | Creature spends winter helping. Learns words & reading. Kindness of the family. Springtime. | ‘I longed to join them, but dared not.’  ‘I saw few human beings besides them.’  ‘I viewed myself in a transparent pool!’  ‘I longed to discover the motives and feelings of these lovely creatures.’  ‘I should first win their favour, and afterwards their love.’ |
| Chapter 13  (Vol II, chap 5) | Lady on horseback. Safie learns their language. Learns about nobility and class. Wonders about his creator (his ‘family’). | “A blot upon the earth, from which all men fled, and whom all men disowned?”  “Was I then a monster?”  “When I looked around I saw and heard of none like me.”  “No mother had blessed me with smiles and caresses”  “I shall relate events that impressed me with feelings which, from what I had been, have made me what I am.”  “Her complexion wondrously fair, each cheek tinged with a lovely pink.” |
| Chapter 14  (Vol II, chap 6) | De Lacey story. Importance of Safie’s mother & her story. Treachery of her father. Admires virtues and loathes violence/treachery of mankind. | “endeavoured to secure him… by the promise of her hand in marriage”  “they found a miserable asylum”  “she heard of the exile of her lover”  “at length she formed her determination” |
| Chapter 15  (Vol II, chap 7) | Reads Paradise Lost. Discovers sentiments & feelings. Questions own existence: Adam or Satan? Happiness of the cottagers. Talks to old man. Attacked by Felix. | ‘…no Eve soothed my sorrows nor shared my thoughts; I was alone’  ‘dashed me to the ground and struck me violently with a stick’  ‘they are prejudiced against me’  ‘I required kindness and sympathy’  ‘Why did you form a monster so hideous that even you turned from me in disgust?’ |
| Chapter 16  (Vol II, chap 8) | Misery. Creature curses Frankenstein and men, sets fire to the D Laceys cottage. Travels to Geneva, rescues a girl from the river but her companion shoots him in the arm. Strangles William. Creature meets F and asks for a mate. | “...Cursed creator! Why did I live?”  “My feelings were those of rage and revenge.”  “...I declared ever-lasting war against the species...”  “The mildness of my nature had fled...”  “...spring, cheered even me by the loveliness of its sunshine...”  “...every means in my power, to restore animation...”  “...I do not intend to hurt you...”  “My Companion must be of the same species...” |
| Chapter 17  (Vol II, chap 9) | F debates whether to comply with the monster’s requests of creating a female. Initially, this idea seems to be asking for a catastrophe but eventually he agrees. END VOL 2 | I was “unable to arrange my ideas sufficiently to understand the full extent of his proposition.”  “Bewildered”  “I was moved” |
| Chapter 18  (Vol III, Chap 1) | Victor puts off the creation of female creature. F says prospect of marriage to Elizabeth is the only happiness. Alphonse suggests that they marry immediately. Victor refuses. | “yet you are still unhappy, and still avoid our society.”  “I have always looked forward to your marriage as the tie of our domestic comfort, and the stay of my declining years.”  “Once commenced, it would quickly be achieved, and I might be restored to my family in peace and happiness. My promise fulfilled, the monster would depart forever” |
| Chapter 19  (Vol 3, ch 2) | Henry and Victor in the UK. Victor decides to travel on alone to make female. Guilty conscience. setting is very gothic, e.g. | ‘remotest of the Orkneys’.  ‘my heart often sickened at the work of my hands’  ‘the soil was barren’. |
| Chapter 20  (Vol 3 Ch 3) | Completes 2nd creature. Tears up the body. Creature looks through the window in anger, swearing revenge. Leaves, finds himself lost at sea, then washed up in Ireland. Hostile villagers accuse him of murder. | ‘a race of devils’ ‘inflict this curse upon lasting generations’ ‘a howl of devilish despair and revenge’ ‘You are my creator, but I am your master – obey!’ – creature ‘your hours will pass in dread and misery’ – creature ‘I shall be with you on your wedding night’ – creature ‘I am fearless, and therefore powerful’ – creature ‘the next victim sacrificed to his insatiate revenge’ |
| Chapter 21  (Vol 3 Ch 4) | Victor arrested for murder of Henry Clerval. Falls into convulsions and suffers a long illness. Victor is overjoyed to see his father, who stays with him until the court, finds him innocent of Henry’s murder. | “except the black mark of fingers on his neck.” “when I saw the lifeless form of Henry Clerval, stretched before me.” “I lay for two months on the point of death.” “but I soon learned that Mr Kirwin had shown me extreme kindness.” |
| Chapter 22  (Vol 3 Ch 5) | Victor’s guilt. Father thinks he is mad. Letter from Elizabeth about marriage. Victor thinks about the monster’s threats. They marry. | ‘I murdered her. William, Justine, and Henry -- they all died by my hands’  ‘I avoided explanation, and maintained a continual silence concerning the wretch I had created’  ‘I am the assassin of those most innocent victims; they died by my machinations’  ‘indeed I could not sacrifice the whole human race’ |
| Chapter 23  (Vol 3 Ch 6) | Elizabeth murdered. | ‘the lovely scene, obscured in darkness’. ‘her bloodless arms… flung by the murderer on its bridal bier’ ‘the murderous mark of the fiend’s grasp was on her neck’ ‘I hung over her in the agony of despair’’Liberty had been a useless gift to me’ |
| Chapter 24  (Vol 3 Ch 7) | The Monster leaves a trail for Victor, who on his way meets Walton, where the story is brought back to the beginning. Victor asks to follow the monster, and at first they agree but then decide to turn back. Victor dies & monster cries. Walton talks to the creature, who leaves the ship and disappears into the dark to die. | “O night, and the spirits that preside over thee, to pursue the daemon, who caused this misery, until he or I shall perish in mortal conflict” “let the cursed and hellish monster drink deep of agony” “but the devil eluded my grasp” “do you not feel your blood congeal with horror, like that which even now curdles mine?” “I, the miserable and the abandoned, am an abortion, to be spurned at, and kicked, and trampled on” “I shall ascend my funeral pile triumphantly, and exult in the agony of the torturing flames” |