

Father, please- VICTOR

She killed my boy! FATHER
 (to Justine)
 You'll hang for this!

Father, we don't know if it was her! VICTOR

I do know! She has his locket! She was the only one with him! FATHER
 She needs to hang!

Father picks up William, grabs Justine by the arm, and pulls her off-stage. Elizabeth follows, leaving Victor alone.

Father, please- VICTOR

We hear a judge's gavel.

The clink of chains.

The drop of a trap door

The tightening of a noose.

Justine is dead.

The mountains. I'm leaving for the mountains. I must clear my head. VICTOR (CONT'D)

14 THE WILDERNESS (MOUNTAINS)

Victor enters, walking with his head down. From behind him, a voice calls:

Frankenstein! THE CREATURE

Victor's head whips up.

Who goes there? VICTOR

The Creature enters. Victor stumbles and falls.

You! My creation, my son! How do you- VICTOR (CONT'D)

THE CREATURE

Don't call me your son! Do not act like a father!

VICTOR

You can... respond! Intelligently!

THE CREATURE

Most intelligently. Did you expect that you created an animal? A simple-minded creature?

VICTOR

No, I created a living being! My own child in pursuit of saving my mother!

THE CREATURE

You are not my father! Fathers do not abandon their sons!

VICTOR

I didn't abandon you! I left for mere minutes!

THE CREATURE

You left me alone! I was just born! I didn't know how to care for myself, how to walk, talk, live! You were supposed to teach me that and you ran, Victor!

VICTOR

How do you know my name?

The Creature holds up Victor's journal.

VICTOR (CONT'D)

My journal! What- how-?

THE CREATURE

Do you still fear me, Victor? Like the day you ran from me?

VICTOR

Yes. Yes I do.

THE CREATURE

Is it my intelligence that you fear? Or my horrific body, my husk? Why must you have created me like this? A body that is in constant pain, with lesions across my back, and hate for myself? My mind thinks, my eyes see, my ears hear, but what I think and see and hear is never what I want to.

THE CREATURE (CONT'D)

I see my deformities, I hear the people scream when I am near, and I think to myself, why must I have been created a monster? Why was I created at all? I have walked far and wide and still I have not found my answer. You call me your creature, but what did you create me for? Am I just your experiment, to be cast into the pile along with the rest of your projects? Do-

I-

VICTOR

THE CREATURE

Silence! You have no right to speak over me! You made me a horrible... horrible thing! Why? Why did you make me like this?

VICTOR

I created you to progress science forward! I created you to defeat death! To bring back those we lost-- to bring back my mother! Now look at you. You killed my brother! My only brother! You killed Justine! Only a monster could kill an innocent child like that. I made you to defeat death, not multiply it!

THE CREATURE

I did not kill Justine! You did!

VICTOR

Stop that-

THE CREATURE

You did! I saw you! You stood there and even though you knew she was innocent, you let her take the fall for your mistakes. I did not kill her, you did! You are just like me.

VICTOR

I am nothing like you.

THE CREATURE

The son, made in his father's image.

VICTOR

I am not your father!

Victor realizes what he just said and falls silent. The Creature begins to move towards Victor, but Victor quickly moves away.

THE CREATURE

Why do you shy away from me? Why do all run from me like I am death itself? I have nobody! Nobody to stand with me! I have been met with nothing but hatred by your kind. Except for one man. One man showed me mercy, and do you know why? Because he was blind! He could not see the horror which you created me to be! But his son, no, his son did not react so kindly. He hurt me, he beat me, he ran me off to be alone once more!

VICTOR

You deserve to be alone!

THE CREATURE
Then so do you! I will see to it that you end your days completely alone!

VICTOR
No-

THE CREATURE
Yes!

VICTOR
Wait! You do not have to be alone.

THE CREATURE
Who could possibly stand me?

VICTOR
No human living. Not even I. But... I could- I could make you a companion.

THE CREATURE
What?

VICTOR
A companion. A bride. A female creature made just like you.

THE CREATURE
Make her!

VICTOR
Under one condition! You leave us be, me and my family and all of humanity. You go to a deserted place and never return to civilization.

The Creature is silent for a moment. Then,

THE CREATURE
Fine! I will be watching you, Victor, to make sure you hold up your end of this agreement. Because if you do not, then I will destroy.

VICTOR
Wait!

But the Creature is gone.

15 VICTOR'S LABORATORY

Victor works in his laboratory on the Companion for the Creature. Her still-lifeless corpse lies on the table. Maybe she is missing a limb or two.