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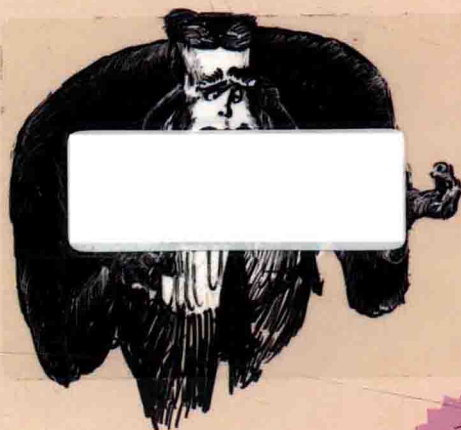
第六级

Pearson

文学名著英汉双语读物

# 弗兰肯斯坦 Frankenstein

[英] M. 雪莱 著 / [英] J. 特维 改写 / 张治中 译



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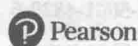
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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

弗兰肯斯坦: 英汉对照/(英)M. 雪莱著; (英)J. 特维改写; 张治中译. —北京: 中译出版社, 2016.6

(朗文经典)

书名原文: Frankenstein

ISBN 978-7-5001-4829-6

I. ①弗… II. ①M… ②J… ③张… III. ①英语—汉语—对照读物  
②科学幻想小说—英国—近代 IV. ①H319.4: I

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2016)第134912号

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著作权合同登记: 图字01-2011-7032号

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出版发行 / 中译出版社

地 址 / 北京市西城区车公庄大街甲4号物华大厦六层

电 话 / (010)68359376, 68359827 (发行部) 68359719 (编辑部)

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网 址 / <http://www.ctph.com.cn>

出版策划 / 张高里

责任编辑 / 刘香玲

封面设计 / 曹田泉

封面插图 / 曹田泉

排 版 / 竹页图文

印 刷 / 保定市中华美凯印刷有限公司

经 销 / 新华书店

规 格 / 820mm×1050mm 1/32

印 张 / 5.25

字 数 / 115千

版 次 / 2016年8月第一版

印 次 / 2016年8月第一次

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ISBN 978-7-5001-4829-6 定价: 16.00元

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中 译 出 版 社



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## Introduction

# Frankenstein

Mary Shelley was born in 1797. Her father, William Godwin, was a thinker and writer who believed—and you will see that this is important in his own right—that men and women are by nature good. It is only what they are taught and the way they are treated, he wrote, that makes people evil.

Mary's mother died when she was born. She, too, was a writer. Her main subject was the rights of women, and she was a great fighter for those rights—at a time when a woman needed great courage to make such a fight.

Mary married the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley when his first wife died in 1816. They spent the summer of that year in Switzerland.

It was one of those summers that Europe sometimes suffers: rain, rain, and more rain. Shelley and his wife and their friend Lord Byron, another poet, had no way of passing the wet days. One way of amusing themselves and each other was to write ghost stories. We are not quite sure how serious they were about these stories. Certainly ghost stories and stories about mysterious and terrible happenings and evil

## Introduction

### Mary Shelley

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## 简介

### 玛丽·雪莱

玛丽·雪莱出生于1797年。她父亲威廉·葛德文是一位思想家兼作家，他认为人，无论男女，本性都是善良的——这一点在他女儿的小说《弗兰肯斯坦》中也占据着重要位置。他在自己的著作中写道，正是人接受的教育及所受的待遇使人变得邪恶。

玛丽的母亲在生玛丽时去世了。她也是位作家，其作品主题是妇女的权利问题。此外，她还是一位为女奴而战的伟大战士，这在那个年代是需要巨大的勇气的。

诗人珀西·比西·雪莱的第一任妻子于1816年去世后，玛丽嫁给了这位诗人。那年，夫妇俩在瑞士度过了夏天。

那个夏天，像许多个令欧洲难以忍受的夏天一样，除了下雨，下雨，还是下雨。雪莱和妻子以及他们的朋友，也是诗人的拜伦爵士不得不找些法子来打发那些阴雨连绵的日子。其中一个自娱自乐的办法就是撰写鬼故事。现在，我们无法确切地知道，对于这些鬼故事他们当时有多认真。不过，在那个时代，

by nature

生来

amuse

v. 使欢乐，逗  
……高兴；



spirits were popular at the time, but not all readers, or even writers, of such stories were serious about them. Jane Austen had already written (though it was not published until 1818) her *Northanger Abbey* making fun of the “**gothic**” horror novels about mysterious and frightening doings in **ancient** castles.

Shelley’s and Byron’s stories were not **published**, and we don’t know much about them. But Mary Shelley’s story about a ghost in Switzerland seemed so good to the two poets that they said: “You ought to make your story into a **full-length** novel and send it to a publisher.”

As she worked on her story, Mary Shelley’s ghost became the far more frightening “human” monster that we read about in this book. The book was published in 1818, and it became famous at once. Thanks to films and television, the name of the man, Frankenstein, who made the monster, is known all over the world today, and many fearful **imaginary** creatures are said to be like Frankenstein’s Monster.

## Frankenstein

People read *Frankenstein* as a story of fear and danger, but Mary Shelley expressed in it beliefs that were important to her and to many of her friends. She believed, like her father, that human beings are naturally good. They become evil only because society—the way men live together—makes them lie and cheat and behave badly. In Mary Shelley’s book, Frankenstein has tried to create “the perfect man”, with strength, beauty and a clever brain. When life is given to his

gothic

adj. 哥特式的  
(一种小说风格, 着重描绘怪诞、恐怖和孤寂)

ancient

adj. 古老的, 年代久远的

publish

v. 发表, 出版

full-length

adj. 标准长度的, 未经删节的

imaginary

adj. 想象的, 虚构的

鬼故事和一些有关神秘或恐怖事件以及邪恶精灵的故事无疑是非常受欢迎的, 只不过, 这类故事的读者, 甚至包括其作者, 并非都能严肃地看待这些故事。简·奥斯汀曾写过一部名为《诺桑觉寺》的书(但该书直到1818年才出版), 嘲讽那些描写古老城堡里所发生的神秘恐怖事件的“哥特式”恐怖小说。

雪莱和拜伦撰写的故事并没有出版, 因此我们对之也不甚了解。但是, 在这两位诗人看来, 玛丽·雪莱所写的关于瑞士一个鬼魂的故事似乎十分精彩, 他们建议说, “你应该把这则故事写成一部完整的小说, 然后寄给出版商。”

玛丽·雪莱于是对这个故事进行加工, 把原来的鬼魂改写成了我们在这本书中所读到的比之前的原型更令人恐惧的“人形”怪物。这部小说于1818年出版, 随即声名远扬。如今, 由于电影和电视的广泛影响, 那个在小说中创造怪物的人弗兰肯斯坦也世人皆知, 家喻户晓了。现在很多人一谈到幻想故事中创造出的怪物多么可怕, 就说很像弗兰肯斯坦所创造的怪物。

## 《弗兰肯斯坦》

人们通常将《弗兰肯斯坦》当作一个恐怖故事来读, 但是, 玛丽·雪莱却在这部小说中表达了一些对她自己以及对其他许多读者来说都是非常重要的理念。正如她父亲一样, 玛丽也认为人性本善。只是由于社会——即人们聚集在一起生活的方式——导致人撒谎、欺骗、做一些坏事, 人才变得邪恶。在

“perfect man”, there is great strength and a very **good brain**, and he is naturally good. But he is ugly—so ugly that people fear and hate him. He looks evil, and so society treats him as evil. The result is that he actually becomes evil, an evil being of great strength and cleverness, bringing danger not only to Frankenstein but to Frankenstein’s family and to those he loves. Mary Shelley wanted to show that the evil was not in the Monster at first; it grew because people were stupid, unfair and cruel. Society produced the dangerous Monster instead of the perfect man. Frankenstein himself started the trouble: he drove away the creature that he had made.

Some of the places that are named in this book are tourist centres today. People fly to Geneva. They take a train up from Chamonix to the Mer de Glace **glacier**. But when Mary Shelley was in Switzerland there were no planes and no trains. Travel over the steep Swiss roads was by horse-drawn carriage, and it was slow and not at all comfortable.

We ought perhaps to remember one other fact. Frankenstein’s experiments with the power of **lightning** were suggested to Mary Shelley by some experiments of Benjamin Franklin, the American scientist and political leader. In 1752, during a thunderstorm, Franklin flew a kite with a key tied to the string near the ground. When he touched the key, it **sparked** and he could feel an electric shock. The next two men who tried this very dangerous **experiment** were killed.

good brain  
有智慧，脑子  
好

glacier  
n. 冰川，冰河

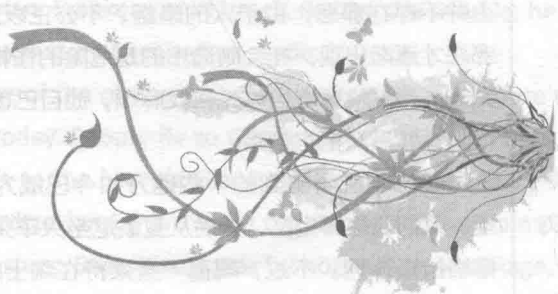
lightning  
n. 闪电

spark  
v. 闪出火花，  
冒火花  
experiment  
n. 实验

这部小说里，弗兰肯斯坦试图创造出一个拥有力量、美貌和智慧的“完美的人”。在生命注入其身体之后，这个人力量惊人，也富有智慧。他的本性是善良的，但他却十分丑陋，丑得让人们感到害怕和恐惧。他看起来十分邪恶，因此社会也把他当作邪恶的东西来对待。结果导致他最终真的变得很邪恶，成了一个充满力量和智慧的恶魔，不仅把弗兰肯斯坦推入了危险的境地，同时也把他的家人以及他所爱的人推入了险境。玛丽·雪莱试图告诉大家：起初，这个怪物身上并不存在邪恶，由于人的愚蠢、不公正以及残酷，邪恶才逐渐出现。社会制造出的是危险的怪物，而非完人。弗兰肯斯坦自己先自找麻烦，他自己创造出来怪物，然后又把它赶跑。

这部小说所提到的一些地方如今已成为旅游胜地。人们飞往日内瓦，然后从夏蒙尼坐火车来到梅尔德格拉斯冰河。不过，玛丽·雪莱待在瑞士的时候，还没有飞机和火车。当时，在瑞士那些陡峭的马路上旅行只有马车可以乘坐。马车走得很慢，而且也很不舒服。

我们也许还应该牢记另一个事实：玛丽·雪莱所写的关于弗兰肯斯坦测试雷电力量的灵感来源于美国科学家及政治领袖本杰明·富兰克林所做的一些实验。1752年，在一场暴风雨中，富兰克林把一个风筝放飞到空中，在靠近地面的风筝线上拴上一枚钥匙。接着，他碰了碰钥匙，钥匙闪出火花，他感到被电击了一下。后来，另外两个人也试着做了这个非常危险的实验，但都被电击死了。



## CHAPTER 1

# The Young Frankenstein

小弗兰肯斯坦

### • QUESTIONS BEFORE READING •

- ▶ What is the name of the narrator (“I”, “me”, “my”, etc.) of the story?
- ▶ Who was Henri’s best friend at school?
- ▶ What country did Elizabeth come from?
- ▶ What happened to the tree below the Salève?
- ▶ Which university did Victor Frankenstein go to?

My name is Henri Clerval, and I was born in the city of Geneva in 1775. My closest friend at school in Geneva was Victor Frankenstein.

The Frankensteins were a rich **merchant** family, and my friend's father had travelled widely. On my first visit to their house in Geneva, I saw a rather pretty girl, perhaps a year younger than us.

"That's my sister," Victor said. "Or rather, we've been **brought up** together and we think of each other as brother and sister. She is, in fact, Italian."

The Frankensteins were Swiss.

Victor explained. "Soon after I was born, my parents were in Italy. On a very hot day they asked for a drink at a farm. They saw five small children there. Four had dark hair like the farmer and his wife; one had fair hair and looked quite different. That was Elizabeth, the daughter of a **landowner** who had lost his life trying to free his country from an unjust government. My mother was not strong; it was not certain that she would have another child, but she did want a daughter. She asked the poor

我叫亨利·克莱沃，1775年生于日内瓦。我在日内瓦上学时最亲密的朋友是维克多·弗兰肯斯坦。

merchant

n. 商人

弗兰肯斯坦家族是富商。我这位朋友的父亲曾四处游历。我第一次到他们日内瓦的家拜访时，看见了一位非常漂亮的女孩，看样子她比我们可能要小一岁。

bring up

抚养，培养

“那是我妹妹。”维克多介绍说，“确切地说，我们俩是一起长大的，彼此把对方当作兄妹，实际上她是意大利人。”

landowner

n. 地主，土地所有者

而弗兰肯斯坦一家是瑞士人。

维克多解释说：“我刚生下不久，父母就去了意大利。一天，天气非常炎热，他们到一家农场讨水喝，看见那里有5个小孩。其中4个孩子和农夫及妻子一样长着一头黑发，另一个却是一头金发，模样与众不同。那就是伊丽莎白。她是一位地主的女儿，她的父亲曾致力于将自己的国家从一个不公道的政府手中解救出来，最终牺牲了。我母亲当时身体不好，不知道还能不能再生一个孩子。但她非常想要一个女儿，于



farmer and his wife if she could take Elizabeth and bring her up as her own. In the end, that was arranged."

"It's like a story from a book," I said. "You are lucky to have a sister. I have no one to talk to at home."

Frankenstein smiled. "Then she must become your sister, too."

Elizabeth did become a sister to me, and remained a sister all the time that we were children. All three of us **belonged to** each other.

Besides the fine house in Geneva, the Frankensteins had a country house on the south side of the lake. They liked the quiet life there, and they lived there more and more after the birth of another son. They called him William, and a happy country girl **of our age**, called Justine, came to look after him. These were the people among whom I spent more and more of my time.

From the beginning, Victor Frankenstein's interests lay in science. He studied nature with a kind of hunger, seeing the world around him as so many secrets to be discovered. There were secrets in the deep waters of the lake, in the mountains, in the glaciers—the great rivers of ice that flowed down from the mountains—and in the changes of weather and season. As a boy, he always wanted quick results from his experiments, but Elizabeth and I **enjoyed helping** him with them.

I remember a day when we were out collecting wild plants for one of those experiments. We had come down from the