

*We see FELIX and AGATHA going through their daily routine.*

They lived alone. They had no help. They were hiding in the forest, like you. They were cold, but they never made a great fire... They didn't have enough wood. They were hungry, they licked their plates and left no scrap you could steal...

You didn't know the words. But you understood.

They were poor.

However much money you're born with, when you lose your last friend, when you spend your last coin, you might starve, you might freeze. We know this now, you and me.

And one day...

All the words came at once.

*And SAFIE is there, carrying a bag. FELIX sees her, he gives a shout of joy and runs to her.*

FELIX. Safie... *Safie!*

*He hugs her.*

AGATHA *has come to her.*

AGATHA. Safie! How did you find us?

PETER. Safie?!

*SAFIE is crying. She is indicating the little cottage, the woods around them. She speaks in Turkish.*

SAFIE. *Üzgünüm, üzgünüm.* [I'm sorry, I'm sorry.]

PETER *has come close.*

PETER. It's Safie. Why is she crying?

FELIX (to SAFIE). You, have nothing to be sorry about.

AGATHA. We're happier here than we could ever have been back in the city. After all that happened we never wanted to go back. This is our home.

PETER. All that was missing was you.

*They lead her into the house.*

MARY (to the monster). Words with no meaning. Just noises, but then...

*Days later.*

AGATHA is putting a bowl in SAFIE's hands, smiling. She points at the food.

AGATHA. Stew.

SAFIE. Stew.

THE MONSTER joins in, very quietly.

THE MONSTER. Stew.

AGATHA hands SAFIE a spoon.

AGATHA. Spoon.

SAFIE. Spoon.

THE MONSTER. Spoon.

MARY. And more, even more...

*Weeks later.*

FELIX is drawing letters as SAFIE eats. He shows the word to her, pointing at himself.

FELIX. Felix.

SAFIE reaches out to him.

SAFIE. Love.

*He writes the word for her and shows it.*

FELIX. Love.

*She traces the letters with her finger.*

THE MONSTER copies the movement she traces in the air.

THE MONSTER (quiet). Love.

MARY. Love.

*Days later.*

*SAFIE is talking to FELIX, hesitating a little on some words, but fluent now...*

SAFIE. When you came to my father's... business. I did not love you. I did not want to look at you. You were... untidy, dirty.

FELIX. Dirty?!

SAFIE. Rough.

But then my father said I must never look at you. So then I looked.

THE MONSTER. They were good people. They saw beneath the surface, the seeming, the differences, to the soul beneath.

FELIX. When the priest came to our shop, when he told us that I must stop visiting the Muslim merchant, the infidels, or no Christian would visit our shop again... I realised I loved you even more than I'd understood before.

THE MONSTER. I learned that these were good people but that the world was full of the selfish and vicious.

MARY. A blind mole or harmless worm has more value to creation than human animals like that.

SAFIE. When I heard they'd set fire to your shop, I ran to you, I ran through the streets, ran out into the night... but you'd gone. They wanted you dead. I thought you were dead. I thought they'd killed you all...

THE MONSTER. You make laws and government, muzzles for your own mouths, in case you rend and devour each other.

MARY. But the weak are still devoured.

FELIX. Then we paid them. We gave them all we had. They let us go but they looted everything we ever owned.

THE MONSTER. Possessions are all you value...

MARY. Without riches a human creature is despised. A slave to the wealth of others.

SAFIE. Then my father beat me. He said I'd brought shame on all of us. But my sister told me a woodcutter had heard music, deep, deep in the forest.

FELIX. And you found us.

*FELIX kisses her.*

FRANKENSTEIN. You killed my brother...

MARY. Be quiet, will you, this isn't about you.

THE MONSTER. I understood. I was like them. I had nothing... I was less than nothing in this world, your world. I would be an outcast too...

But I could live on less food than these fragile creatures, I could endure greater extremes of heat and cold, I was stronger. I was faster. Why would I serve them?

*He looks at the family, AGATHA helping her father, FELIX and SAFIE embracing...*

For the joy of company... For love...

For knowledge. I learned words.

I read what they read, peering through the wall.

I read the book I found in the pocket of the coat I had taken from your laboratory. The coat and the book, my only possessions. The only gifts from my creator.

*He holds up a diary.*

FRANKENSTEIN (*quiet*). Give me that...

THE MONSTER/MARY. Your diary.

THE MONSTER. All your notes, all the history of my creation...

Why do you want it back? Do you want to make me again? Make me new? This is how I knew your name and where to find you, Victor Frankenstein.

FRANKENSTEIN. Why did you kill William?

FELIX, AGATHA and SAFIE are leaving the house. Only PETER remains.

THE MONSTER (*really upset*). I was like them. I was like them.

THE MONSTER *moves actively into the scene. He leaves his lean-to and moves towards the cottage door.* THE MONSTER *tentatively enters the cottage.* PETER *is playing the guitar quietly.*

PETER. Who's there?

THE MONSTER *tries to speak, his voice, hardly used, cracks and he coughs to clear it.* PETER *is a little alarmed.*

Who is it?

THE MONSTER. Excuse me. I'm a traveller. I've not spoken in a very long time.

PETER. What do you want?

THE MONSTER. To rest a moment by your fire, if that won't trouble you?

PETER *relaxes again.*

PETER. Come in, come in, I'll try and make you welcome. I'm afraid my children aren't here so I might have some difficulty offering you proper hospitality, I'm blind you see.

THE MONSTER. No, no, don't trouble yourself. I have food, I only need warmth, and rest... and your company.

PETER. You're on a long journey.

THE MONSTER. Yes.

PETER. And when will you arrive? Where are you headed?

THE MONSTER. I...

(*Hesitates.*) I'm not sure. I am... alone in the world. I'm travelling to find people I hope will take me in, but they don't know me... I'm afraid... when they see me, they'll turn me away.

PETER. Do you know if these are kind, good people?

THE MONSTER. I know they're both kind and good.

PETER. Then why would they turn you away?

THE MONSTER. I am...

I believe I must be...

No human creature has seen me without fear. My looks terrify everyone.

PETER. Are you criminal? Do you mean them harm?

THE MONSTER. No. No I don't.

PETER. I'm blind. I can't judge your looks, but you sound sincere. Tell me your story. If I can advise you as to how you should introduce yourself to these friends, then I will.

THE MONSTER. Thank you. Thank you.

PETER. Where do these friends live?

THE MONSTER *hesitates*.

THE MONSTER. Nearby.

PETER. Can you tell me their names?

THE MONSTER *starts to cry*.

What is it? What's wrong?

FELIX, AGATHA and SAFIE are returning. THE MONSTER *springs up and takes hold of PETER, pleading*.

THE MONSTER. It's you! I need you and your family! Let me in. I beg you! I beg you!

PETER. God in Heaven! Who are you?

FELIX, SAFIE and AGATHA enter the cottage. They see THE MONSTER close by their father. AGATHA screams. She keeps on screaming. PETER is shouting over this.

What?! What!?

FELIX *attacks* THE MONSTER, *beating and beating him*. SAFIE *runs and does the same*. THE MONSTER *howls*. He *makes no move to defend himself, just shielding himself from blows, he's trying to escape*. AGATHA *joins* SAFIE and FELIX *in driving him out, hurling anything she can find*.

What!? What's happening?! What are you doing?! He's just a traveller! Leave him!

SAFIE and FELIX *chase* THE MONSTER *out of the cottage*. AGATHA *pulls her father to his feet and bundles him after them*.

AGATHA. It's a monster! Run! We have to run!

SAFIE and FELIX *join* AGATHA and PETER *and they all run*.

MARY. You could have torn them limb from limb like a lion rending an antelope.

THE MONSTER *looks at the deserted cottage for a moment*. Then he *moves into it and destroys everything*.

*He howls and howls*.