

ELIZABETH/HENRY/JUSTINE. Goodbye. Goodbye, Victor.
Hurry back. (*Etc.*)

MARY. Go!

She pushes FRANKENSTEIN into –

The University at Ingolstadt.

WALDMAN, *a middle-aged academic is addressing an assembly of students. We see FRANKENSTEIN listening to him.*

WALDMAN. Gentlemen, you represent the finest minds at the University of Ingolstadt. Every one of you has exceeded the achievements of your peers.

You have been invited to study under every professor in this university and I, Professor Waldman, issue the last of these invitations.

(*Smiles bitterly.*) Of course I know none of you will accept.

You have heard that I work against God, against nature. You have been told that I seek knowledge no human should ever possess.

Gentlemen, there is *no* knowledge that we should not possess...

Some students are leaving.

Ah. I see that some of you wish to depart already. Goodbye then, gentlemen.

Chemistry is the branch of natural science in which the greatest improvements have been made and may be made. Many are frightened by all it reveals. Some believe this work defies God and seeks forbidden knowledge. But a truly intelligent student would not be afraid to follow me into the darkness that is ignorance, to illuminate those shadows...

More are leaving.

But these gentlemen are afraid. Farewell then.

(*Waves sarcastically.*) Bye bye, my dear young sirs.

I dare to ask the questions we once believed only God can answer. What are we? What is our nature? What is the nature of the matter that makes up our earthly bodies?

This is what I study. This is what I teach. They call it blasphemy.

I call it knowledge.

Knowledge that none of you want.

Everyone but FRANKENSTEIN has gone.

Cowards.

FRANKENSTEIN *moves closer to WALDMAN.*
WALDMAN *sees him.*

Well... this is unexpected.

Do I understand you wish to study with me?

FRANKENSTEIN. I'm interested. Yes.

WALDMAN. How old are you?

FRANKENSTEIN. Nineteen.

I am Victor Frankenstein.

WALDMAN. Yes. Your reputation precedes you. A most gifted pupil indeed.

FRANKENSTEIN *holds out his hand.* WALDMAN
hesitates for a moment.

MARY (*quiet*). This... this is the moment.

WALDMAN. I would be honoured to share my knowledge with you, Mr Frankenstein.

WALDMAN *takes FRANKENSTEIN's hand.*

MARY *shouts and throws up sheets of paper, books, a shower of flying pages.*

MARY. To read everything!

Know everything!