

MARY. No. No.

I said I would make horror.

I've built the foundations of horror. And now I'll go on.

I can.

I must.

*FATHER is on, in another time and place. He is speaking the letter he has sent to FRANKENSTEIN. He's terribly upset.*

FATHER. You're coming home soon. I thought this news might wait till then. I thought I might let you be happy a little while longer, but then I think your grief might be even worse, and I can't lie to you, Victor.

*FRANKENSTEIN is reading the letter.*

William is dead! Murdered.

Strangled.

FRANKENSTEIN/ELIZABETH/JUSTINE/FATHER. *NO!!!*

MARY. Yes!

*With sudden, violent movement, she sends FATHER off and transforms the scene to –*

*Lakeside, Lake Geneva.*

*Instantly it's dark night. Thunder and lightning.*

*Lightning flashes.*

*FRANKENSTEIN is there, with MARY in the stormy dark.*

*A huge thunder clap, a lightning flash. FRANKENSTEIN shouts into it.*

FRANKENSTEIN. William! William!

*Just for a moment THE MONSTER is there, towering over him. FRANKENSTEIN falls back in terror.*

*The scene transforms, as FRANKENSTEIN turns in to –*

*The Frankensteins' house, Lake Geneva.*

FRANKENSTEIN's FATHER *is there. Telling him what happened.* ELIZABETH *is there too.*

FATHER. We had gone for a walk along the length of the lake, but William drew ahead, you know how he is...

*(Checks himself.)* He was... always eager to run ahead, to lose himself in the forests. When dusk fell we turned back... but he never followed.

When dark came we went to look for him. When dawn came we found him. He was...

*(Can't go on for a moment.)* The murderer's fingerprints were on his throat...

You remember he always wore a gold locket, with an image of your mother? When we found the body the locket was gone. He was killed for a thread of gold. I'd give all the gold I have, my own life... just to see him breathe again...

FRANKENSTEIN. He was killed by a thief?

FATHER. By a monster! A monster we knew! We...

FATHER *can't go on.* ELIZABETH *goes to him.*

FRANKENSTEIN. What monster?

ELIZABETH *(quiet)*. We don't know that's true. We can't...

FATHER *cuts her off.*

FATHER. You dare defend that creature. You *dare!*?

He's with his mother. We have to believe that.

FATHER *leaves.*

FRANKENSTEIN. What is he talking about?

ELIZABETH. He's very angry with me.

FRANKENSTEIN. What creature? What does he mean?

ELIZABETH. They've arrested Justine.

FRANKENSTEIN. *Justine!?*

ELIZABETH. Yes. She's accused of murder. They'll hang her.

FRANKENSTEIN. But... they can't... they *mustn't*!

ELIZABETH. No. Your father is very angry with me but I won't believe she's a murderer.

FRANKENSTEIN. No! How can anyone think Justine did this?

ELIZABETH (*angry and upset*). Because she's a servant and they choose to believe no servant could love their employers. Because she's poor. Because she's frightened and confused.

She had the locket.

They found William's locket in her clothes and she has no explanation, no memory, no reason it could be there.

The night... that terrible night... when William went missing. We searched for him in the dark, for hours.

Justine must have passed out with exhaustion. They found her, unconscious, on the ground.

The locket was in her pocket. And she couldn't say how it came to be there.

She looked after William since he was a few months old! She *loved* him! Why would she strangle him?

FRANKENSTEIN. She wouldn't.

ELIZABETH. No. She wouldn't. But she's confessed.

FRANKENSTEIN. *What!?*

ELIZABETH. She's confessed! Yes! I know! It's still not possible! It still makes no sense, but yes! Justine says she killed William! This is what's happened! This is what you missed, Victor, and now...!

(*Can't go on.*) Well, here we are. This is where we are. Everything is changed. Everything is destroyed.

*A beat.*