

ELIZABETH *watches a moment, then turns away as*
FRANKENSTEIN *begins to climb the glacier.*

MARY *speaks over this action.*

There's a thick freezing fog as you climb into the valley below Mont Blanc. Be careful, Victor Frankenstein. There's ice under your feet.

The glacier is high above you.

The wind is rising now, cold and fierce. It'll blow the fog to tatters.

You're climbing above the clouds. I know this climb. I've made it...

MARY *catches her breath, seeing Mont Blanc as*
FRANKENSTEIN *does.*

Look. Look at Mont Blanc, towering above us, in awful majesty.

FRANKENSTEIN *takes in the view, elated, happy.*

MARY *has seen THE MONSTER. We and*
FRANKENSTEIN *have not.*

The brightest, cleanest, furthest place we could imagine.

(*Frightened.*) And look who's here, waiting for us.

THE MONSTER *is revealed sitting on the ice, waiting for him. FRANKENSTEIN freezes for a moment.*

FRANKENSTEIN. Get away from me! I'll kill you! I'll destroy you! You killed my brother! You killed Justine! You monster, you *thing*!

THE MONSTER. And that's how I expected you'd greet me.

Everyone hates the wretched, the miserable and I am the most wretched and miserable creature that ever lived. Who made me that way, I wonder?

FRANKENSTEIN. Oh dear God... give me the strength... I'll kill you...

THE MONSTER. You want to kill me? You hate me? What can I learn from that? Maybe if you loved me I could love the world. What do you think?

FRANKENSTEIN *says nothing.*

No? Well then perhaps I will glut the maw of death until it is satiated with the blood of everyone you do love.

FRANKENSTEIN. You hate your existence? You blame me for creating you? Come on then! Come here and let me put you out of your misery!

FRANKENSTEIN *goes for THE MONSTER. It eludes him easily.*

THE MONSTER. I'm your Adam, Father.

FRANKENSTEIN *goes for it again, again it dodges.*

You gave me life and now I cling to it, like any creature that breathes.

Another attack, another evasion.

But you can decide how I live.

*Another attack, FRANKENSTEIN is exhausted now.
He stumbles, spent. THE MONSTER looms over him.*

Make me happy and I will be good.

FRANKENSTEIN. Fight me.

THE MONSTER. I'd destroy you.

FRANKENSTEIN. Good. Good. That's all I live for now. To kill you or die trying.

THE MONSTER. *You made me!*

THE MONSTER *looks at MARY. Unlike the other characters he can hear and see her. That terrifies her.*

MARY. Don't... don't look at me! *What do you want?!*

THE MONSTER. I was open. I was willing. I was ready to love.

MARY (*quiet*). Yes. Of course...

THE MONSTER (*to FRANKENSTEIN*). You don't believe me.

FRANKENSTEIN. No.

THE MONSTER. By human law, bloody as it is, the accused are still allowed to speak in their defence before they're condemned.

(*To MARY.*) *Now you will all hear me!*

FRANKENSTEIN *goes to attack THE MONSTER again.*
MARY *speaks sharply.*

MARY. Stop!

FRANKENSTEIN *freezes, mid-attack.* MARY *looks at THE MONSTER.*

THE MONSTER *looks back.*

You, are my nightmare. You're the heart of the horror.

You're woven through my imagination, as close as my own blood and breath.

She's moving closer, and closer.

I will look at you.

I will understand you.

This is your story and I won't look away again.

THE MONSTER *reacts to that, a little collapse. A hurt child. She touches him, soothing him.*

Shhh. Shhh. I see you now. I'll stay with you now. Shhh. Are you ready?

He is.

MARY *turns to look at the audience.*

(*To the audience.*) Are you sitting comfortably? We'll fix that. *Now it begins!*

End of Act One.