

By the end of studying **Chapter 21** I need to know:

Plot: Victor is accused of Clerval's murder. Alphonse Frankenstein arrives and Victor is released.

Ideas: The monster's revenge and Victor's ambition cost another innocent life.

Vocabulary	Benevolent -well meaning and kindly supposition a belief held without proof or certain knowledge; an assumption or hypothesis. deposition the giving of sworn evidence apothecary a person who prepared and sold medicines and drugs. augury - act of predicting the future; an omen apothecary - druggist or pharmacist interment - placement in the grave squalidness - having a dirty appearance languid - feeling weak; indifferent livid - ashen or pallid (usually due to anger) retrospect - a review or contemplation of past events incitement - to stir up, urge on, or provoke to anger repugnance - offensive, repulsive delirium - a clouded mental state, confusion precarious - uncertain, dangerous, risky enraptured - to move to delight vexations - those problems that irritate or annoy torpor - apathy; condition of inactivity in quietude - a state of uneasiness laudanum - an opium-based drug.
Context (To inform interpretation)	Mary Shelly's father's book: ' <i>An enquiry concerning political justice</i> ' (1973) greatly impressed the English Romantics. In the book, Godwin criticises political institutions and argues in favour of reason and against 'false opinion, superstition and prejudice' in public life.
Themes	Prejudice- despite believing that he's guilty of murder, the townspeople give Frankenstein shelter and food while he's ill. This contrasts with the monster's treatment in the novel- even when he hasn't done anything wrong, his appearance means that he gets no help from anybody Ambition and fallibility- Frankenstein is acquitted but it doesn't make him feel better- he says 'The cup of life' is "poisoned forever" and it's only his desire to protect his remaining loved ones that prevent him from committing suicide. Justice and freedom- Victor's imprisonment reminds the reader of the monster's lack of freedom in the novel. Isolation-
Deeper understanding	This chapter adopts the crime novel technique of the slow reveal. At Mr. Kirwin's office, Victor learns that a man in his mid-twenties was found dead on the shore with black marks on his neck. And various witnesses testify that a boat much like Victor's was seen at sea. Victor is taken to see the body. It is Clerval. Victor falls into convulsions, and remains bedridden and delusional for two months. The monster's revenge and Victor's ambition cost another innocent life. The monster intentionally targets Victor's closest family and friends, making Victor's isolation as enforced as its own. Victor is consumed with guilt and confronted with the consequences of guilt and he shuts down: his physical response to psychological trauma. When Victor regains awareness, he is still in prison. Mr. Kirwin treats him kindly, advising him that he'll likely be freed. He also tells Victor that his father has come to see him. Yet unlike the monster, Victor still does have connections to other men and a family. Two weeks later Victor is released because the court has nothing but circumstantial evidence against him. Despairing and determined to protect his family from the monster, Victor returns with his father to Geneva. Victor's release stands in contrast to Justine's conviction. But Victor has his father helping him, while Victor stayed silent and did not help Justine Frankenstein's language mirrors the monsters "the most miserable of mortals" Shelly does this to show how the monster's actions are making Frankenstein more lonely and miserable- mirroring what Frankenstein's actions have done to the monster. An increasingly unhinged Victor- This chapter marks the impact of the creature on the once-logical mind of Victor. When Kirwan tells Victor that someone is here to see him, Victor's immediate thought is that it is the creature- despite the logical fact that the creature would not appear in front of Kirwan, and if he did there would have been some physiological reaction from Kirwan. This serves to highlight the torment the creature has placed upon Victor and the increased power the creature appears to have had on him. Class and status- Victor's prejudice towards of a lower class is also reinforced in this chapter. Despite languishing in prison for murder (albeit a crime he didn't commit) he feels it worth to comment on the wife of the turnkey, the hired nurse. He exclaims how her face ' characteristised all the bad qualities associated with that class ' This reveals two things about Victor- firstly his own arrogant belief that his higher social standing makes him a morally superior person. Equally, it also creates the idea of aligning beauty to status- certainly in comparison of Elizabeth and Caroline in Chapter 1- as well as the rejection of the creature as a result of its ugliness. Of interest here is the role of the wife- she literally has power over Victor, she holds the key that can let him out of his prison. As with the De Lacys, women of a lower social standing are afforded a greater level of equality than those of the who belong to the upper classes.
Quotes and references	" The murderer of William, of Justine, and of Clerval " by his own admission Victor declares that he is responsible "the cup of life...is poisoned forever" Frankenstein is acquitted but he doesn't feel any better. It is only his desire to protect his fellow loved ones that prevents him from committing suicide. " I stretched out my hand to him " Vcitor says this when he sees his father. A loving and dutiful parent, Alphonse supports his son and takes him home. Compare this with Victor's treatment of the monster and with the way the monster is treated by others when he reaches out for help or even to give help.

Reading:

There is a certain irony in Victor's being cleared of murder. On the one hand, he does bear some of the responsibility for Henry's death, insofar as it was he who created the monster; on the other, he was committing murder (of a kind) on the night in question. Recall that he was disposing of the female creation's remains at sea while the monster was strangling his friend. It might be said that Victor murdered that second creature; Henry's death can thus be regarded as his punishment for doing so.

The secret of the creature's existence is becoming too much for Victor to bear; he accuses himself of murder (albeit while in a semiconscious state) and tells his father that there is a nightmarish destiny that he has yet to fulfill. Victor longs to supersede the barrier of secrecy that has been erected between him and the rest of humanity. Here, we can see that he has forsaken his former selfishness: though he often longs for death, he forces himself to overcome this self-serving impulse in the hopes of keeping his surviving family from harm.

The death of Clerval serves as a symbol for the death of the last of Frankenstein's romantic idealism. It was Henry who helped to focus Victor's attentions on the world beyond the purview of science; it was he who enabled Victor to delight in the simple pleasures of nature. Victor is now deprived of even that joy, since he no longer has the privilege of seeing the world through Clerval's eyes. With each new murder, a piece of Frankenstein dies as well. He becomes increasingly broken, and is tormented by hysterical fits and fevers. Each of his attempts to withdraw into death or madness is thwarted, however: Victor is "doomed" to stay alive until his destiny has been completed.

Terminology	<p>Paternal – of or appropriate to a father. Considered Alphonse as a father to Victor and how Victor has been a father to the monster</p> <p>Motif- a dominant or recurring idea. 'barred windows' act as a motif to symbolise exclusion as well as incarceration.</p> <p>Irony- the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect. The ironic twist to the tour that Victor and Henry started is that they both wanted an adventure for pleasure and relaxation, but it has turned to tragedy for both,</p>
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Links across the text:

Chapter 8- This chapter forms a direct parallel with chapter 8 Victor now replaces Justine as the person on trial for murder. When Clerval's body is revealed, Victor's shock arouses suspicion. This reminds the reader of Justine's trial when suspicion is aroused by misleading details (Justine's whereabouts/Caroline's portrait) However, this trial ends with the correct verdict after Victor spends two months in prison.

