

By the end of studying [Chapter 22](#) I need to know:

Plot: Frankenstein returns to Geneva and marries Elizabeth. They journey to Lake Como,

Ideas: Frankenstein and the monster have switched roles. Frankenstein has gone from being 'God' (chapter 10) to being 'Adam' and the monster is now god-like.

Vocabulary	Sea of ice- the glacier Mer de Glace nicer- more perceptive decorations- used in archaic sense to refer to scenery on stage artifice- trickery Evian- resort on Lake Geneva erroneous- wrong; incorrect abhorred- regard with disgust and hatred indefatigable- (of a person or their efforts) persisting tirelessly brethren- archaic plural of brother angelic- relating to angels. Unhallowed - not sacred yield- produce or provide banish- send (someone) away from a country or place as an official punishment. Futility- pointlessness or uselessness. delirium is a serious disturbance in mental abilities that results in confused thinking and reduced awareness of the environment. Machinations- a plot or scheme imperious- arrogant and domineering melancholy- a feeling of pensive sadness, typically with no obvious cause.
Context (To inform interpretation)	Evian famous for its mineral water, was a fashionable spa resort on the Southern shores of Lake Geneva. The biblical story of the Garden of Eden is important in this chapter as the contrast between 'paradisiacal dreams' and the eaten apple is a direct allusion to the biblical story he is banished from paradise for tasting the forbidden fruit. It also indicates that Victor is now seeing himself as Adam and Elizabeth as his paradise. However, having already drunk too deeply of forbidden knowledge, with the apple already eaten, he knows his paradise is lost to him.
Themes	Guilt- Victor confesses his guilt to his father Alphonse but Alphonse dismisses his confession as a delirium. Past and present- Elizabeth's letter reminds the reader of the happy childhood she and Victor shared. Victor's response- which he re-reads shows that he briefly rekindles this happiness. Shelly is establishing a tragic contrast between the past and the present, between Victor's life before and after his discovery. Isolation- As part of his isolation, Victor continues to keep his deadly secrets. As Victor's father seeks to draw him into society, Victor increasingly resembles the monster in his sense that he's an outcast. As part of his isolation, Victor continues to keep his deadly secrets. Victor's cutting himself off from society makes Elizabeth doubt his love for him. Nature- The romantic idea that nature has a soothing effect on our lives.
Deeper understanding	At the start of chapter, Victor is mentally and physically exhausted from his experiments in Ireland. Victor has returned to Geneva, following Henry's death and his own nervous illness. He has become engaged to Elizabeth — and though he thinks about the Monster's final threat a great deal ("I will be with you on your wedding night"), he fails to understand that Elizabeth is in danger. Shelley makes no attempt to disguise Elizabeth's future demise in this section: we have no doubt that the "far dearer victim" is Victor's fiancée. Victor believes he has grasped the situation, and this arrogant certainty "blinds" him to the truth. (He even announces that the Monster "blinded [him] to his real intentions.") Victor's ambition and his fallibility are inextricable: beset by lofty desires (either for revenge, glory, or the peace of death), he cannot always see the reality of a situation. Shelley reminds us of Victor's curious position, at once a loving family member and an outcast, and the word "native" is crucial to this quote. It should remind us of Chapter 4, when Victor tells Walton that a "man who believes his native town to be the world" is happier than an ambitious one. Victor is too caught up in his research to belong to his family or his environment; like Robert Walton and the Monster, he is not at home in the world. Shelley does not present this as a desirable state. Shelly skims over the description of Elizabeth and Frankenstein's wedding-this keeps the mood of the novel as tragic and dark as possible. The hidden weapons represent the underlying tension and threat. The change in Elizabeth- Upon Victor's return to Geneva, he comments on Elizabeth's now fragile and wilted frame and how she appears to have ' lost that heavenly vivacity ' that once charmed him. This highlights the physiological impact Victor's actions have had on Elizabeth, whilst also reinforcing Victor's own selfishness- he seems incapable of understanding the impact of his actions on Elizabeth, or indeed the rest of the family. It's worth contrasting this with the Elizabeth described in Chapter 1, another example of how becoming adopted by the Frankenstein family has constrained, rather than empowered, Elizabeth.
Quotes and references	'I will be with you on your wedding-night!' this line is repeated three times in chapter 22. It reminds the reader of the monster's threat to Frankenstein and creates an ominous atmosphere. "the apple was already eaten, and the angel's arm bared to drive me from all hope" Frankenstein compares himself and Elizabeth to Adam and Eve about to be forced out of Eden. He also says that the monster is " invincible " and " omnipotent " which implies that he is as powerful as god. This reverses the monster's words in chapter 10 when he said that he should've been Frankenstein's " Adam " "Presentment of evil" Elizabeth seems to know that something bad is about to happen. Frankenstein is also anxious. He has a " prophetic feeling " and arms himself with " Pistols and daggers " "Those were the last moments of my life during which I enjoyed the feeling of happiness." Victor says this on his boat trip to Evian. The sun sets, creating an ominous sense of finality and darkness. "I am the cause of this...they all died by my hands" Victor repents by telling his father that he is responsible for the deaths of Justine, William and Henry. Alphonse dismisses the claims as deranged.

Reading:

Frankenstein is narrating his story with hindsight and knows exactly what's going to happen and when. He hints at bad things that are about to happen to add tension to the novel.

Links across the text:

Elizabeth's letter, in this chapter, has much in common with the letter in chapter 6: it is affectionate but concerned.

Terminology

Epistolary form – a literary work in the form of letters. Elizabeth, in this chapter, writes a letter to Victor. This form allows Shelly to add validity to the narrative as it is not just Victor's recollection of events. It also speeds up the marriage, subplot and the oncoming conflict promised by the monster.

The garden of Eden- in the Old Testament Book of Genesis, biblical earthly paradise inhabited by the first created man and woman, Adam and Eve, prior to their expulsion for disobeying the commandments of God. It is also called in Genesis the Garden of Yahweh, the God of Israel, and, in Ezekiel, the Garden of God.

Ominous- giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen

Foreshadowing- a warning or indication of a future event.

Transgression- an act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct; an offence.

Allusion- an expression designed to call something to mind without mentioning it explicitly; an indirect or passing reference.