



## Frankenstein Theme and Setting: A Tourism Perspective

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### ABSTRACT

Mary Shelley, the daughter of “two persons of distinguished literary celebrity” - Mary Wollstonecraft, author of *A Vindication of Rights of Man*, and William Godwin, author of *Caleb William* – was a 19<sup>th</sup> century writer. Her first novel *Frankenstein* is a gothic story about the creation of a monster, produced by an unconventional and unorthodox scientific experiment. It represents the author's notions of life, humanity and the society of her own time. It is suggested that the story has hues of Mary Shelley's own life. Much has been discussed on her feministic view in the theme of novel, but little attention has been given to the reflection of her own travels which molds the setting of the story. Mary Shelley traveled widely in her lifetime and used to keep journals and letters of her travels as a tourist; Shelley's letters showcase her friends and family, her cares and concerns, her daily life and her life as a romantic author. The primary focus of the present study is on the elements of tourism which comprise the setting of the story and help to create the theme and atmosphere of a story in which theme and setting are interwoven and function as a character throughout the novel. This character represents the life of the author as a tourist.

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### Introduction

Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* is a gothic story, about the creation of a monster from the relics of the dead, by a young student of natural philosophy which leads to horrific consequences. As the story begins, Victor Frankenstein lies in the Arctic, dying. He remembers the events of his life, describes his home in Geneva, beside the blue lake and snowy mountains, filled with warmth and love. At the age of seventeen he becomes a student at the University of Ingolstadt, where he creates his monster. Remorseful and terrified, he escapes his creature from the very moment it gets life. Horror and lack of love expressed by Victor and others isolate the creature and create the monster that kills everyone close and important to Victor.

A gothic story in nature, this novel draws many influences from author's own life, her travels and experiences, the life and ideology of her parents and contemporary debates on science. One remarkable event in her life which influenced formation of the story is the one which happened in the summer of 1816, when Mary and her husband Percy Shelley visited Lord Byron at Villa by Lake Geneva in Switzerland. The weather was too cold and dreary that summer that the group was enforced to stay indoors for several days. They held conversations on different topics including the popular and groundbreaking scientific debates of that time such as Galvanism and possibility of returning life to a corpse. Also, they discussed the experiments of the 18<sup>th</sup> century natural philosopher and poet Erasmus Darwin, who was believed to have animated dead matter (Holmes, Richard, 1974). In addition to this, the group read German ghost stories and a French periodical named *Fantasmagoriana*. This inspired Byron to suggest that each of them write a supernatural story of their own. Occupied with the notion, Mary conceived the idea of *Frankenstein* in a dream:

*I saw the pale student of unhallowed arts kneeling beside the thing he had put together. I saw the hideous phantasm of a man stretched out, and then, on the working of some powerful engine, show signs of life, and stir with an uneasy, half vital*

*motion. Frightful must it be; for supremely frightful would be the effect of any human endeavor to mock the stupendous mechanism of the Creator of the world* (Shelley, 1831).

### Themes

Several themes run through the novel, each and every one of which works hand in hand with the other. *Frankenstein* or the *Modern Prometheus*, being a story of creation as the author perceives, works around the notion that “ignorance is bliss”. Allusion to *Prometheus* in the title reveals far more about the major theme of the work; that is, pursuit of light in the most unorthodox, revolutionary and exotic fashion. The novel describes how pursuit of knowledge can take people to dangerous and extreme measures and that “how much happier that man is who believes his native town to be the world, than he who aspires to become greater than his nature will allow”.

Moreover, sublime nature, a corner stone of Romantic epoch, finds its way in several occasions and dutifully acts as an emotional tranquilizer or a source of experience, inspiration and renewal for the characters of the story. Nature prints its mark on the mood of the characters throughout the novel, as when after the deaths of William and Justine, the depressed and remorseful protagonist, Victor Frankenstein, turns to nature, even in its most violent state, to gain emotional stability and consolation, to reflect upon the misery befalling his family and lift his spirit. Or, how after a “long winter of abandonment”, the blossoming spring stems warmth and promise into the monster's heart. This sublime nature reinforces the contrast existing between God's creation and that of human beings; nature is pleasant to watch, perfect and capable of soothing souls but man's creation, in this case the monster, is imperfect, destructive and terrifying.

Secrecy and monstrosity, two sabotaging characteristics of human beings, run through the lines of the novel. The absurd insistence of Victor to hide his undertakings, creation of the monster and its killing members of his family and friends, has its roots in his childhood, when condemned by his father, he gets

more interested in the study of occult sciences and starts reading voraciously on the subject and continues this task so far as to make the most fatal mistake of his life. His being afraid of condemnation renders him into an ambiguous person, scared of confessing his guilt and taking the charge of his actions and leads to the tragic end of the lives of his beloved ones and eventually his own.

Frankenstein's undertaking of creation, secret and unorthodox as it is, is by and in itself a monstrous action which most naturally results into a monster. As opposed to the nature of creation, this is not a creation of love, but of secret impulses, greed and rebellious curiosity of a human being. The creature is so hideous that at first it resembles a monster only in the outside. Reluctance of Victor, his creator, to confront the monster and lack of love presented in part of both his creator and anyone who sees him make the monster residing inside this creature. The result is the bitterness, anger and revenge that dominate his soul. It is revenge that connects Frankenstein with his creature. It makes them stand out from all other characters that prefer to turn their other cheek, as a Christian is expected, rather than rebel. This resulted in the destruction of their worlds.

#### **Setting and its contribution to the theme**

The story begins and ends in the Arctic but the setting of the story ranges all over Europe, highlighting places with which Shelley herself was familiar: Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France, England, Scotland, and Ireland. The various themes of the story and its mood are presented by Mary Shelley's artful and exquisite use of the setting. Setting is an active element in the novel which is almost interwoven with the theme. Feelings of happiness, despair, loneliness and isolation are what the setting bestows the reader. The function of the setting is to create the mood of the story; here this function is justified by the meaningful choice of setting.

Most of the time, setting plays a fundamental role in moving the plot and even becomes a character in the story. In *Frankenstein*, the setting pushes the plot and creates the essence of many of the scenes in this dark story (Cicely Richard, 2008). Setting is crucial in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Of course, setting is important in any novel. It creates mood, realism; it offers the opportunity for the character to interact with the environment and let us know his attitudes and his perceptions. But to Mary Shelley, the setting is almost as important a character in the novel as either Frankenstein or his creation (John Devers, 2008).

Shelley's writing manifests how the settings of *Frankenstein* creates the environment of the novel and also results in the actions of Frankenstein and his monster as they go on this war, where "the pursuer becomes the pursued" (Shelley, 1823). As Shelley traveled, they used to keep journals and send letters to their friends. These give us more insight to her feelings about each place she visited. The places in the story are to foreshadow the following events, transfer the mood of the story and motivate us to feel the situation as the characters would do. The sudden shift from a country to another manifests the atmosphere of flight and pursuit dominating the story. What is significant about the setting is that it has a significantly wide scope, but even more significant is the fact that these places reflect a very rich autobiographical and touristic background. Each of the places are skillfully chosen to reflect Mary Shelley's experiences in her life, trips, as well as the historical, democratic and symbolic importance of these places. To some extent, even the purpose and order of Victor's visits to various countries match with that of Mary's.

#### **The influence of Mary Shelley's travels on her work**

Mary Shelley traveled widely during her lifetime. In June 1812 her father sent her to Scotland to live with the family of the radical William Baxter (Seymour, 2000). Several reasons have been suggested; to name some, she might have been sent away for her health, to remove her from the seamy side of business, or to introduce her to radical politics (Seymour, 2000) or simply because of her unfavorable relationship with her step-mother, Mary Jane Claremont. She loved this period of two year isolation from her father and it contributed to the development of her literary imagination. In the 1831 introduction to *Frankenstein*, she recalled:

*They were my eyrir of freedom, and the pleasant region where unheeded I could commune with the creatures of my fancy. I wrote then—but in a most common-place style. It was beneath the trees belonging to our house, or on the bleak sides of the woodless mountains near, that my true compositions, the airy flights of my imagination, were born and fostered.*

At the age of about seventeen, Mary fell in love with Percy Bysshe Shelley which was objected and disapproved by Mary's father. Percy, on the other hand, was alienated from his wealthy aristocratic family because of his radicalism and economic views which he had taken from Godwin's *Political Justice* (1793) (St. Clair, 1989). On 28 July 1814, the couple secretly fled to France. Here their first destination was the town of Calais, in northern France. Afterwards they went to Paris. This was the time when France had been stricken by war. Because of the situation the couple, along with Mary's step sister, Claire Claremont, travelled by donkey, mule, carriage, and foot, to Switzerland. They reached to Lucerne, a city in north-central Switzerland, but lack of money forced them turn back. Following the Rhine they travelled down to the port of Marley's, a town in the western Netherlands and finally arrived at Gravesend, Kent on 13 September 1814.

The situation awaiting them in England, wherefrom they had fled partly due to the difficulties they faced, was one of distressful. They were broke and had to move constantly from one place to the other, Mary became pregnant and spent this period in a rather ill health which resulted in the birth of a two months premature girl who was not expected to survive. Also, Mary's father refused to have any relationship with her. Mary had to cope with the birth of Percy's son by Harriet Shelley at 1814 and stand his outings with Claire Claremont (Spark, 1987).

In May 1816, Mary, Percy Shelley, and their son travelled to Geneva with Claire Claremont. As already mentioned, this is the place where Mary Shelley came up with the idea of *Frankenstein*. By the encouragement of Percy Shelley she extended the idea to a novel named *Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus*, which was published in 1818. After returning to England, they moved to Bath, a city South West of England. In this period Mary's half-sister, Fanny Imlay, and Percy's wife, Harriet, committed suicide, causing a great distress to the couple. In order for Percy to handle the situation and take the custody of his two children by Harriet, he got married to Mary Shelley on 30 December 1816, in London. After this the couple continued traveling in England and Italy for some time. By May of 1817 Mary had finished writing *Frankenstein*.

It is interesting how Mary Shelley scatters the setting of her novel all around Europe and emphasizes the places she's been to. She uses the same measures of travelling for her characters as she and Percy Shelley had used on their vacations. Also, one cannot overlook the fact that the events happening in these places of the story resemble the happenings in her own life, in these same places.

## Contribution of Setting to the Theme of the Story: From the Perspective of Tourism

### The Arctic

The Arctic is a polar region located at the northernmost part of the Earth. The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean and parts of Canada, Russia, Denmark (Greenland), Norway, the United States (Alaska), Sweden, Finland, and Iceland. The Arctic region consists of a vast, ice-covered ocean, surrounded by treeless permafrost (Addison, 2002).

The story of Frankenstein starts and ends in the Arctic, a cold, barren, lifeless area. This represents the extreme measures a man in pursuit of knowledge can take, how far he can go with his life at stake. This atmosphere at the beginning gives hints of what is following; alienation and hardship. This represents the foolery and absurdity of Victor's action by insisting on his secrecy and by creating a cold atmosphere, prophecising the cruelty and crime both Victor and his monster committed. This is where everything started from and at the same time ended. Nothing is left to hide any more. Victor made an attempt to go beyond human boundaries by giving human life to the death which resulted in the tragic destruction of his family and his own life. Like him, Robert Walton endeavored to exceed previous human exploration and reach to North Pole but his ship got trapped in sheets of ice. This white area can be taken as a representation of the influence of human beings on their surroundings as well as their own creation; it is human beings who can bring color or black horror to their creation.

### Switzerland

The novel's main setting is Geneva, "against the backdrop of Swiss Alps". The story of Victor Frankenstein begins at Geneva, Switzerland, where he is born. This is where his family lives and is the source of warmth and love to him. In fact, this is a very befitting place as origin of Victor because Mary Shelley first conceived the idea of Frankenstein when she was in Lake Geneva; the protagonist was born in the same place as the story. Here, Victor grows up studying, and he too conceives the idea of animating the dead matter and his ideas received "the fatal impulse" that eventually led to his ruin:

*I entered with the greatest diligence into the search of the philosopher's stone and the elixir of life; but the latter soon obtained my undivided attention.*

Geneva is the third city in the world which has the highest quality of life (Karmie, 2008). Therefore, Victor's family lived there. Geneva is a very safe city. According to Karmie (2008), there were only 1.99 violent crimes per 100,000 people in 2003. With this in mind, the choice of Geneva might seem both suitable and ironic to the modern reader. Suitable it is and a good choice for a city or even country to live in, but it is ironic how Victor's family members either get killed or die tragically in this safe city.

Plainpalais in Geneva is the place where Frankenstein loses his brother, William. The mountains and lakes of the Switzerland, plays a significant role in Victor's life. Here he seeks consolation after the deaths of William and Justine. He seeks refuge in the village and valley of Chamonix. This valley is celebrated for its picturesque scenery, and forms the upper basin of the Rave in the Pennine Alps. The name Chamonix is also born by the village in the valley, which has now become as famous as a resort for tourists that upwards of 15,000 yearly visit there. It is mainly upon these visitors that the inhabitants rely. The town is a popular winter sports resort. At the village are stationed the best guides for Alpine climbing, and from it the most customary ascent of Mont Blanc is made.

Afterwards, Victor stays at his house in Bellerive, for a change of scenery. Bellerive (meaning "beautiful shore") is a suburb of Geneva, situated north of the city on the western shore of the lake as it narrows towards its end and thus affording a picturesque view of Geneva and the mountains beyond it. Frankenstein family possesses a country house in this place. This can show their comparative wealth and status in the society.

On Montanvert Victor encounters the monster. In order to lift his spirits, Victor determines to climb to the top of Montanvert, one of the region's forbiddingly massive glaciers. The sight of the mountain fills him with a "sublime ecstasy"; he believes that human contemplation of natural wonders "gives wings to the soul and allows it to soar from the obscure world to light and joy." He is filled with melancholy as he ascends the mountain and amid rain and rockslides, meditates on the impermanence of all human dreams and attachments (Gabriel, 2010).

A part of the Glacier, which we now know as "Mar de Glase", was commonly called Glacier Montanvert in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Glacier Montanvert was a popular tourist destination of European travelers and is referenced in numerous writings and novels of the time. This mountain plays a prominent role in the literature. It's been referred to in many travel journals and works; for example in the 1791 gothic novel *The Romance of the Forest* by Ann Radcliffe, a prominent gothic writer, the novel's heroine visits the glacier of Montanvert while in Switzerland (Beadeker, 1898).

### Ingolstadt, Germany

At the age of seventeen Victor leaves for the University of Ingolstadt, where he spends six years. On a dreary night of November, in the secrecy of his apartment, he gives life to the relics of the body he had assembled. The story of the monster is set largely in Germany, since he is created in Ingolstadt. He spends much time by a cottage in the hills of Germany, where he observes the De Lacey family. But why Germany? Because it is the birthplace of many renowned scientific figures, who contributed to the theory of Galvanism, take Erasmus Darwin. It is also Germanic ghost stories which inspired Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft, Percy Shelley and Lord Byron to start writing a supernatural tale of their own.

The shift from Geneva to Ingolstadt, as opposed to the shift between the other places in the story, happens rather slowly, giving the reader time to grasp what is happening, and indeed such a change here does need to take place in the course of time. The passage of six years has been illustrated very carefully that the reader, just like Victor, feels six years older and more experienced by the end. In this place we witness the rush of gothic clues to the story, which are justified with the creation of a "monster". "Ingolstadt is located in the Federal Republic of Germany, in upper Bavaria. It is influenced by French gothic architecture and also a rich architecture of the medieval times, which reinforce the dark and dreary atmosphere of the novel. (Fabel, 2012)

To name a few examples:

- **Kreutzer**, built in 1385 is the best preserved part of the old city wall. It's one of the city's landmarks. Most of the time it is closed and can only be seen from the outside but was opened for a short period of time recently, since a group of locals is gathering donations for a renovation of the inside.
- **Liebfrauenmünster**, built from 1425 to 1525 by Duke Ludwig the Rich, this is the biggest church of Ingolstadt. Late gothic architecture, the tomb of famous Ingolstadt scholars and the artistic interior make it a renowned place for visiting.

- **Asamkirche**, hidden in the narrow streets of the inner city, this is a jewel of baroque art, especially the fresco on the ceiling, officially named "St. Maria de Victoria".
- **Old City Hall**, dating back to the 14th century, was created by merging four different buildings into one in 1882. It is the seat of the mayor.
- **St. Moritz Church**, dating back to 1234 this church is the oldest building of Ingolstadt.
- **Herzogskasten**, literally translated "The duke's box" this old castle built in 1255 is the oldest profane building in the city. Today it hosts the city library.
- **Neusecholes** literally translated the "new castle" (the "*Herzogskasten*" being the old one) it was part of the second city wall. Today it hosts the Bavarian Military Museum.
- **Reedit Tilly and Klenzepark**, south of the inner city the Reedit Tilly is located, the core building of the classical "Brückenkopf" exhibition of the Bavarian Military Museum inside or take a walk through the park area (Klenzepark) around. (Fabel, 2012).

#### London, United Kingdom

Victor wishes to travel abroad. He begins with a trip to England because he needs to gather information and supplies to create the female monster that the monster has demanded. He and Chervil stay there for several months before deciding to head north into Scotland. Clerval and Frankenstein spend time at Oxford, where they wonder over English history (Verma& Smith, 1999).

Sightseeing in London offers a variety of buildings and landmarks, to name a few:

- **St. Paul's Cathedral**, also in the City, is Sir Christopher Wren's great accomplishment, built after the 1666 Great Fire of London - the great dome is still seated in majesty over The City. A section of the dome has such good acoustics that it forms a "Whispering Gallery".
- **Westminster Abbey and the Palace of Westminster** (including **Big Ben** and the **Houses of Parliament**) in Westminster. The seat of the United Kingdom parliament and World Heritage site, as well as setting for royal coronations since 1066, most recently that of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. The Palace of Westminster is open to the public for viewing parliamentary debates; tours of the building are available during August-September when Parliament is away on summer recess and every Saturday throughout the year (Lain, Larry and Michael, 2004)

#### Strasbourg and Rotter land

After visiting England, he and Henry meet at Strasbourg and go down the Rhine River to Rotterdam, from there they head for London. Strasbourg is the capital and principal city of the Alsace region in eastern France and is the official seat of the European Parliament. The city is chiefly known for its sandstone gothic cathedral with its famous astronomical clock, and for its medieval cityscape of Rhineland black and white timber-framed buildings, alongside the Ill and in the streets and squares surrounding the cathedral, where the renowned MadisonKammerzellstands stands out. In addition to the cathedral, Strasbourg houses several other medieval churches that have survived the many wars and destructions that have plagued the city (Room, 2006).

To name a few examples:

- **Romanesque Elise Saint-Étienne**, partly destroyed in 1944 by Anglo-American bombing
- The part Romanesque, part Gothic, very large Thomas with its Silverman organ on which Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Albert Schweitzer played.

- The Gothic **Elise Saint-Pierre-le-Jejune Protestant** with its crypt dating back to the seventh century and its cloister partly from the eleventh century
- The Gothic **Elise Saint-Guillaume** with its fine early-Renaissance stained glass and furniture, the Gothic **Elise Saint-Jean**, the part Gothic, part Art Nouveau **Elise Sainte-Madeleine**.
- The Neo-Gothic church **Saint-Pierre-le-Vieux Catholique** (there is also an adjacent church **Saint-Pierre-le-Vieux Protestant**) serves as a shrine for several 15th-century wood worked and painted altars coming from other, now destroyed churches and installed there for public display.
- Among the numerous secular medieval buildings, the monumental **AncientDuane** (old custom-house) stands out.
- The German Renaissance has bequeathed the city some noteworthy buildings (especially the current **Chamber de Commerce et d'Industrie**, former town hall, on **Place Gutenberg**), as did the French Baroque and Classicism with several **hotelsparticulars** (i.e. palaces), among which the **Pala isRoan** (now housing three museums) is the most spectacular. Other buildings of its kind are **the Hotel du Prefect, the Hotel des Deux-Ponts and the city-hall Hotel de Ville** etc. The largest baroque building of Strasbourg though is the 1720s main building of the **Hospital civil**. As for French Neo-classicism, it is the Opera House on Place Broglie that most prestigiously represents this style.

Historically, the Rhineland refers (physically speaking) to a loosely defined region embracing the land on either bank of the River Rhine in central Europe. More recently the Rhineland has become the general name for areas of Germany along the middle and lower Rhine in Germany between Binge and the Dutch border, or between the confluence with the Neckar and Cologne (Marsden, 1973). To the west the area stretches to the borders with Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands; on the eastern side it only encompasses the towns and cities along the river. Except for the Saar, this area more or less corresponds with the modern use of the term.(Dickinson, 1964).

#### Scotland

Victor and Clerval stay in Edinburgh for a week on their trip to Scotland (Karmie, 2008). After visiting Edinburgh and a number of other cities, Victor leaves Henry, determined to finish his work in a remote part of the Scotch countryside. He travels to the north, and on a remote island he finds the place where he can create the second monster.

Victor spends a week in Edinburgh but is ill at ease there, partly because he preferred to be alone from the very beginning of the trip and create the promised female monster, and partly because this city was one of the major centers of enlightenment in 18<sup>th</sup> century and Mary Shelley, one who was opposed to the enlightenment shows her unfavorable attitude in the eye of Victor. Ironic it is, since she had spent joyous hours in Scotland.

In modern times Edinburgh has been the capital and the chief cultural force of Scotland. The city is called "the windy city". It was at the 18<sup>th</sup> century that most of the "New Town" was constructed - the fashionable buildings built on wide, geometrical thoroughfares in the eighteenth century contrast sharply with the labyrinthine streets of the medieval Old Town. The Old Town and New Town districts of Edinburgh were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995 in recognition of the unique character of the Medieval Old Town and the planned Georgian New Town. At the time of the publication of *Frankenstein* this intellectual vigor continued to flourish, with

two of the major periodicals published in Great Britain (Campbell, 2003)

### Dublin, Ireland

In Ireland Victor is accused of Chervil's murder and is thrown in jail. His father comes to visit him and when Victor is released he wants to leave Ireland as quickly as possible. He and his father go to Dublin and from there they begin their journey back to Geneva. Dublin is the capital and most populous city of Ireland. The English name for the city, means "black pool". Originally founded as a Viking settlement, it evolved into the Kingdom of Dublin and became the island's principal city following the Norman invasion. The city expanded rapidly from the 17th century; it was briefly the second largest city in the British Empire and the fifth largest in Europe. Dublin entered a period of stagnation following the Act of Union of 1800, but it remained the economic center for most of the island. (Igoe, 2009).

Dublin has many landmarks and monuments dating back to hundred years. To name a few:

- Dublin Castle, which was first founded as a major defensive work on the orders of King John of England in 1204, shortly after the **Ireland in** 1169, when it was commanded that a castle be built with strong walls and good ditches for the defense of the city, the administration of justice, and the protection of the King's treasure.
- Christ Church Cathedral (or, more formally, The Cathedral of the Holy Trinity) is the cathedral of the **United** and the cathedral of the Ecclesiastical province of the United Provinces of Dublin and Cashel in the Church of Ireland. It is situated in Dublin, Ireland and is the elder of the capital city's two medieval cathedrals, the other being St Patrick's Cathedral.
- Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, also known as The National Cathedral and Collegiate Church of Saint Patrick, Dublin or in the Irish language as *BardEaglesNaomiPadraig*, founded in 1191, is the larger of Dublin's two Church of Ireland cathedrals, and the largest church in Ireland with a 43 meter (140 feet) spire. The other cathedral, Christ Church, is the diocesan cathedral of the diocese of Dublin and Glendalough. (McParland, 2001)

This city was the center of many human disasters; such as, the Black Death which was a lethal plague and led many people to dearth. Its river and many castles represent elements of gothic novel. Mary Shelley properly uses the place for Chervil's murder and Victor's imprisonment.

### Paris, France

After the events in Ireland, on their return to Geneva, Victor and his father are forced to stay in Paris because Victor is too weak to be able to proceed, he takes a rest here before going back to the nightmarish reality of his life. After returning from Paris, Victor marries Elizabeth. This so much resembles the moving of Shelley's to Paris, who take a refuge to the city from the blaming relations they had back in home, and after some tragic happenings in their lives, return to their motherland and get married.

Paris is the capital and largest city of France. It is situated on the river Seine, in northern France, at the heart of the Île-de-France region. An important settlement for more than two millennia, Paris had become, by the 12th century, one of Europe's foremost centers of learning and the arts and the largest city in the Western world until the 18th century. Paris is today one of the world's leading business and cultural centers and its influences in politics, education, entertainment, media, science, and the arts all contribute to its status as one of the world's major global cities. (Jones, 2004). Paris, too, is rich with

monuments worthy of seeing which have been source of inspiration for generations to come. Most important of these are:

- The 12th-century cathedral Notre Dame de Paris on the Lie de la Cite.
- Place de la Bastille (4th, 11th and 12th arrondissements, right bank) is a district of great historical significance, for not just Paris, but also all of France. Because of its symbolic value, the square has often been a site of political demonstrations.
- Place de la Concorde (8th arrondissement, right bank) is at the foot of the Champs-Élysées, built as the "Place Louis XV", site of the infamous guillotine. The Egyptian obelisk is Paris' "oldest monument". On this place, on either side of the *Rue Royale*, there are two identical stone buildings: The eastern one houses the French Naval Ministry, the western the luxurious *Hotel de Carillon*. Nearby Place Vendome is famous for its fashionable and deluxe hotels (Hotel Ritz and Hotel de Vendome) and its jewelers.
- Champs-Élysées (8th arrondissement, right bank) is a 17th-century garden-promenade-turned-avenue connecting Place de la Concorde and *Arc de Triumphant*. It is one of the many tourist attractions and a major shopping street of Paris. (Jones, 2004)

### Lake Como, Italy

Victor and Elizabeth get married and spend some brief time on the shores of Lake Como, where Elizabeth has inherited property. Lake Como (Italian Lago di Como) lies in northern Italy, twenty-five miles northeast of Milan. The lake has long been famous for its appearance in the writings of such classical writers as Virgil, Pliny, and Claudia. The lake is windy and often subject to flooding, but the banks are covered with rich vegetation, including vines, figs, olives, and pomegranates. (Macadam, 1997).

As a tourist destination, Lake Como is popular for its landscapes, wildlife, and spas. It is a venue for sailing, windsurfing, and kite surfing. In 1818 Percy Bysshe Shelley wrote to Thomas Love Peacock: "This Lake exceeds anything I ever beheld in beauty, with the exception of the arbutus islands of Killarney. It is long and narrow, and has the appearance of a mighty river winding among the mountains and the forests" (W. Halsey, 1914).

The lake is well known for the attractive villas that have been built there since Roman times, when Younger built the *Comedian* and the *Tragedian* resorts. Many villas on the lake shores have admirable gardens that benefit from the mild climate induced by the stabilizing presence of 22.5 km of lake water and are fit to host tropical plants. Villa was built for the Milanese Marquis Giorgio Cleric in 1690 and occupies a site of over 70,000 m<sup>2</sup> (753,474 sq. ft.) at Tremezzo, facing the Bellagio peninsula. Another example of the many is Villa diets, in Cernobbio, which was built in 1568 by Cardinal Toomey Gallia, a native of the town (Srdjan, 2008).

The Shelley's first visited Lake Como in the spring of 1818 and were so enchanted by its beauty that they sought a permanent residence there. Mary Shelly locked the image of the setting in her mind and used it in her later works, as "The Last Man" and in the 1831 edition of "Frankenstein", where the family of Frankenstein finds Elizabeth Livens at the beginning of the novel. Years later, Mary Shelly returned to the lake and praised the lake in her "Rambles in Germany and Italy" in 1840, 1842 and 1843.

### Archangelsk, Russia

After the death of Elizabeth, Victor wishing to avenge the loss of his beloved, tracks the monster north. He meets Walton and tells him his story. Victor is very sick and passes away while on Walton's ship. The monster finds Victor dead and tells

Walton about the pains of his life and how he regrets becoming so evil. He says that he is ready to die and gets off the ship and wanders off. (Karmie, 2008). Arkhangelsk formerly known in English as *Archangel* is a city and the administrative center of Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia. It lies on both banks of the Northern Dvina River near its exit into the White Sea, in the north of Russia. Arkhangelsk was the chief seaport of medieval Russia, until 1703. Arkhangelsk had been founded in 1584, but until 20th century nearly all buildings were wooden. That is why there are not so many examples of old architecture here. Outside of the center buildings become very typical, but the core part of the city has some diversity. (Ponomaryova, 2006)

The area more serves to present the seriousness of the situation. Sheer revenge can be felt throughout the cold, white city. The final battle between Victor and his monster draws them from this place to an even harsher one, where there's no place for secrecy any more. It's time to face each other and cast the last look of revenge on each other which leads to an eventual self-destruction. (Karmie, 2008).

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