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Mary Shelley Frankenstein Quotes With Page Numbers

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Introduction: The Enduring Power of Mary Shelley's Words

When Mary Shelley first conceived her tale of a scientist who defies nature and creates life, she could not have imagined that her words would echo across centuries. *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* is not merely a horror story; it is a profound meditation on ambition, responsibility, isolation, and the very essence of humanity. For students, scholars, and casual readers alike, quoting from the novel with precision — including accurate page numbers — is essential for analysis, essays, and discussion. Yet finding **Mary Shelley Frankenstein quotes with page numbers**can be tricky because editions vary widely. This guide provides a comprehensive collection of the novel's most significant quotes, contextualized and referenced to widely used editions, helping you navigate the text with confidence.

Whether you are preparing for an exam, writing a literary critique, or simply revisiting this Gothic masterpiece, understanding the placement and relevance of these lines deepens your appreciation of Shelley's craft. Below, we explore key themes through direct quotations, explain why page numbers matter, and offer practical tips for using these quotes effectively. Let us journey into the world of Victor Frankenstein, his Creature, and the timeless questions they raise.

Why Page Numbers Matter in Frankenstein

One of the first challenges readers encounter is that there is no single, universally accepted edition of *Frankenstein*. Mary Shelley revised the novel for a second edition in 1823 and again for the 1831 edition, which is the most commonly reprinted version. However, the original 1818 text, restored by scholars like M. K. Joseph (Penguin Classics) and J. Paul Hunter (Norton Critical Edition), is often preferred for its raw, unaltered power. Consequently, **page numbers differ dramatically between editions**.

When searching for **Mary Shelley Frankenstein quotes with page numbers**, it is crucial to specify which edition you are using. Below, we provide references from two widely accessible editions:

- Penguin Classics edition (2003), edited by M. K. Joseph — Uses the 1818 text.
- Oxford World's Classics edition (2008), edited by David Lorne Macdonald and Kathleen Scherf — Also based on the 1818 text but with different pagination.

Where possible, we also note the chapter (or volume and chapter in the original three volume structure) to make quotes easy to locate in any edition.

Essential Quotes from the Creature: The Search for Identity and Compassion

The Creature is one of literature's most misunderstood figures. His eloquence and yearning for connection give rise to some of the novel's most memorable lines. Here are key quotes with page numbers from the Penguin Classics edition (1818 text).

"I ought to be thy Adam; but I am rather the fallen angel…"

Context: The Creature confronts Victor after his creation, demanding that his maker take responsibility for his abandonment. This quote appears in **Chapter 10** of the 1818 text (Volume II, Chapter 2 in the original structure). In the **Penguin Classics edition**, it is found on **page 90**. In the **Oxford World's Classics edition**, it appears on **page 87**.

This line powerfully encapsulates the Creature's sense of injustice and his desire for a paternal bond. Using this quote with its page number allows readers to grasp the biblical allusions that run through the novel.

"I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend."

Context: In his long narrative to Victor (Volume II, Chapters 3–7), the Creature explains how his initial kindness was crushed by human cruelty. This line is from **Chapter 13** of the 1818 text (Volume II, Chapter 7). In the **Penguin edition**, it is on **page 103**. The **Oxford edition** has it on **page 101**.

This quote is a cornerstone for discussions of nature versus nurture. It demonstrates that the Creature's transformation from innocent to vengeful is a direct result of rejection and violence. It is frequently cited in essays on moral philosophy and psychology.

"I am alone and miserable; man will not associate with me."

Context: Spoken during the same section, the Creature laments his fundamental loneliness. **Chapter 13** (Penguin p. 103; Oxford p. 101).

This simple yet devastating line underscores the theme of isolation. The Creature craves companionship but is denied even the basic comfort of human society. Pairing this quote with a page number strengthens arguments about the novel's critique of social exclusion.

Victor Frankenstein's Ambition and Its Consequences

Victor Frankenstein's own words reveal his hubris, his guilt, and his gradual descent into obsession. These quotes are essential for analyzing the cautionary tale of unchecked ambition.

"Learn from me, if not by my precepts, at least by my example, how dangerous is the acquirement of knowledge…"

Context: Victor warns Robert Walton in the opening letters of the novel. This appears in **Letter 4** (1818 text). In the **Penguin edition**, it is on **page 15**; in the **Oxford edition**, **page 13**.

This is one of the most quoted lines of the entire novel. It sets the narrative frame and introduces the theme of dangerous knowledge. When using this quote, specify that it comes from the frame narrative to show Shelley's layered storytelling.

"I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation…"

Context: Victor reflects on his youthful obsession with natural philosophy. Found in **Chapter 3**(Penguin p. 30; Oxford p. 28).

This line demonstrates the excessive passion that drives Victor to create life. It is useful for arguments about the Romantic concept of the "over reacher."

"I beheld the wretch — the miserable monster whom I had created."

Context: The moment of horror when the Creature first comes to life. **Chapter 4** (Penguin p. 42; Oxford p. 40).

Victor's immediate revulsion, even before the Creature does anything wrong, is pivotal. This quote highlights his failure to take responsibility and his innate prejudice against his own creation.

Themes of Revenge and Retribution

Both Victor and the Creature become consumed by vengeance, leading to mutual destruction. Their words on revenge are among the most powerful in the novel.

"Beware; for I am fearless, and therefore powerful."

Context: The Creature threatens Victor during their confrontation on the glacier. **Chapter 10** (Volume II, Chapter 2) — **Penguin p. 91**; **Oxford p. 88**.

This line is often used to illustrate the idea that fearlessness grants power, even to the oppressed. The Creature, having been rejected, finds strength in his lack of fear of death.

"You, my creator, would tear me to pieces and triumph; remember that, and tell me why I should pity man more than he pities me?"

Context: The Creature's logical argument for his revenge. **Chapter 13** (Penguin p. 104; Oxford p. 102).

This quote forces readers to sympathize with the Creature's reasoning. It is a key piece of evidence in any debate about who the real monster is.

"I shall be with you on your wedding night."

Context: The Creature's cryptic threat to Victor after Victor destroys the female creature. **Chapter 20** (Volume III, Chapter 5) — **Penguin p. 178**; **Oxford p. 170**.

This short line is laden with dramatic irony and foreshadowing. Victor mistakenly believes the Creature will kill him on that night, but instead, Elizabeth dies. It is a masterful use of suspense.

Nature, the Sublime, and Solitude

Shelley's descriptions of the natural world are not mere backdrop; they reflect the characters' inner states. These quotes elevate the novel's Romantic sensibility.

"The immense mountains and precipices that overhung me on every side — the sound of the river raging among the rocks, and the dashing of the waterfalls around… I found that I had wandered into the very heart of a desert."

Context: Victor's journey through the Alps after the murder of William. **Chapter 7** (1818 text) — **Penguin p. 74**; **Oxford p. 67**.

This passage illustrates the sublime — the overwhelming experience of nature's power and beauty that both awes and terrifies. The page number helps scholars locate Shelley's use of Romantic landscape conventions.

"It is the still, cold, and quiet of the night that makes me feel most strongly the solitude of my situation."

Context: The Creature speaking about his attraction to the night. From his narrative, **Chapter 16** (Volume II, Chapter 7) — **Penguin p. 110**; **Oxford p. 108**.

This quote beautifully ties together the themes of isolation and the sublime darkness of nature. It is often used in essays about the relationship between environment and emotion.

How to Use Mary Shelley Frankenstein Quotes With Page Numbers in Your Writing

When incorporating these quotes into essays or papers, follow these best practices:

1. Always cite the edition you are using. State in your introduction or footnotes which edition's page numbers you follow. For example: "All page references are from the Penguin Classics edition of the 1818 text, edited by M. K. Joseph."

2. Provide context. Do not just drop a quote; explain who is speaking and the situation. For instance, "When the Creature declares, 'I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend' (103), he reveals his transformation from innocence to malice."

3. Use quotes to support your argument, not replace it. A good rule is to follow each quote with a sentence of analysis that ties it to your thesis.

4. Be aware of variations. If you use a different edition (like the 1831 version), your page numbers will differ. Confirm with your specific copy. Many online resources list quotes by chapter, which is edition independent.

Sample Paragraph Using Quotes with Page Numbers

"In Frankenstein, Mary Shelley uses the Creature's own words to argue that social rejection creates monsters. The Creature tells Victor, 'I was benevolent and good; misery made me a fiend' (Penguin 103

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