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By Fred Botting

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Book Summary. When two nineteenth-century Oxford students—Victor Frankenstein, a serious researcher, and the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley—form an unlikely friendship, the result is a tour de force that could only come from one of the world's most accomplished and prolific authors. This haunting and atmospheric novel opens with a heated discussion, as Shelley challenges the conventionally religious Frankenstein to consider his atheistic notions of creation and life. — The New York Times - Terrence Rafferty. — Ackroyd does the Frankenstein mythology a tremendous service by restoring its intellectual weight, its emotional gravitas, its air of tragic idealism. — The Casebook of Victor Frankenstein is an entertaining and bracingly intelligent yarn. The Los Angeles Times. Frankenstein isn't the only one in this new family who is disappointed. The Monster blames his creator for his unhappiness and cruelly destructive behavior. Not much new there. What Ackroyd does make new or at least brings back to the forefront is the tragedy of Mary Shelley's story. While Casebook didn't have the appeal for me that other Ackroyd novels have like Chatterton and Dan Lemo and the Limehouse Golem or his amazing biographies of Charles Dickens and Thomas More, it is a very interesting book. I have read of the case, Mr. Frankenstein, in the Chronicle. — —œls opinion against him? — —œDecidedly. But that is no bar to justice. — He possessed a reassuring manner, which I caught at eagerly. —œCan Daniel be saved then? — —œIf it is within the bounds of possibility, then it will be done. — —œThe law places no trust in visions, Mr. Frankenstein. — He went over to the window, and once more looked over the churchyard of St. Bartholomew —œ™s. —œWill you be staying in London, after all? — —œI must remain for a few days. — —œOf course. The funeral of Mrs. Shelley is to be conducted on Friday. Would you wish me to accompany you? — A New York Times Notable Book and Providence Journal Best Book of the Year From the incomparable Peter Ackroyd: a brilliant re-imagining of the classic tale that has enthralled readers for nearly two centuries. Victor Frankenstein, a researcher, and the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley form an unlikely friendship as first-years at Oxford. Shelley challenges the conventionally religious Frankenstein to consider his atheistic notions of creation and life-- concepts that become an obsession for the young scientist. — - The Boston Globe "[The Casebook of Victor Frankenstein] will enhance your knowledge of the original version, and it may give you nightmares. . . . A tale told again and again, it still casts a spell." —œFrankenstein is more perplexing. You are not an Israelite, since you attend chapel. — I had not expected him to notice me there. —œA stein is a jar for holding beer, I believe. Perhaps your ancestors were connected with the Frankish court in the honourable occupation of potters. You come from a family of makers, my dear Frankenstein. Your name is worthy of acclaim. — By this time we had got up from the long table, and were walking back through the quad.