

The Creature Reborn: Emotion, Monstrosity, & Visual Story Telling In Del Toro's Adaptation of Frankenstein.

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Abstract- Oscar winning director Guillermo Del Toro brings new life to Mary Shelley's classic 1818 tale "*FRANKENSTEIN*". At the heart of the story is Victor Frankenstein (Oscar Isaac), a brilliant but tortured scientist who daring experiment to awaken a creature played by Jacob Elordi leads to a tragic fate for both creator and creation.

Victor driven by ambition and a desire to challenge natural human limits assembles lifeless parts of dead bodies and gives birth to a sentient being. This act of 'Rebirth', not only for the creature-who awakens into existence with n history, language, or identity but also for his own understanding of life and his regret for his own creation. The creature's existence challenges scientific progress by exposing emotional and ethical limitations of his own deeds and his vision to destroy what was once said to be his achievement to be his own misfortune to create it. The story also highlights the feelings of both Victor who's the creator in part-1 to the shift in perspective of his creation and its emotional balance with learning new language and way of living in part-2. When Victor could only show envy on his creation it's indeed bound to be loved by an unknown old stranger and his way of looking at things in its simplest forms, its Victor who begs for forgiveness for creating a demon and letting him crave for love and loved one, even when he knew 'Everything that's born, should die.

Key Words: Detracts, Gothic, Paroched, Quirks, Monstrosity.

I.INTRODUCTION

Mary Shelley's '*Frankenstein*' or '*The Modern Prometheus*' (1818) remains one of the most enduring works of gothic literature, exploring the consequences of unchecked ambition, scientific transgression, and the human need for companionship. The novel tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a sentient being through experimental means, only to reject his creation in horror. The creature,

abandoned and alienated, gradually transforms from an innocent being into a figure shaped by suffering, rejection, and social exclusion. Through this tragic relationship, Shelley raises profound questions about responsibility, humanity, and moral limits of scientific pursuits.

Guillermo Del Toro has directed an official adaptation of Frankenstein for Netflix in 2025 American Gothic science-fiction drama. The film stars Oscar Isaac with Mia Goth and Christoph Waltz in key roles. It premiered at the Venice international film festival on August 30, 2025 was released in selected theatres in October and globally on Netflix on November 7, 2025. Del Toro has stated he was not interested in making a conventional horror film; instead he sought to explore the emotional and relational dynamics between the creator and his creation. The creator played by Jacob Elordi, is most vulnerable and capable of deep emotion rather than simple villain. The creature is depicted with grater innocence and yearning for connection across the woods. His violent acts often occur as defensive rather than cruel, whereas it's shown through complex rejection of his own creator. Elizabeth's character is beautifully depicted by her beauty and innocence to find love from the most cruelly depicted characters like Victor and his creation.

At Venice, the film received a 13minutes standing ovation and nominated for multiple Oscar stages including the best picture, best adapted screenplay, and best supporting actor for Jacob Elordi. It stands as one of the most ambitious and talked about interpretations of Del Toro creation of movies.

II. VICTOR'S TALE: THE ETHICS OF CREATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

Victor's mother dies giving birth to his younger brother, William, who becomes the favorite of their renowned, aristocratic father. Grieving his mother and resenting his abusive father, Victor becomes a brilliant, arrogant surgeon obsessed with 'curing' death through science. He is expelled from the '*Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh*' for rejoining corpses which is against the nature. Heinrich Harlander, who was impressed by his presentation, offers Victor to continue his experiments under an unnamed condition. Victor being extremely involved in his invention also falls in love with Elizabeth, Harlander's niece and William's fiancée who declines his advances.

Victor collects body parts from criminals and soldiers killed in the ongoing war, with strong bone strength and fit body conditions. Harlander reveals he's dying of sexually transmitted disease and conditioned wanting his brain transplanted into the body of the creature. When Victor refuses and undergoes a conflict with Victor and ends dying. After a series of experimental connections and observations on one following day, Victor finds the creature alive. He is stronger with immense strength and ability to rapidly heal wounds within but is slow in learning words. The creature after an observation for several minutes grabs the name 'Victor' and keeps repeating it and cannot further speak anything else, this made Victor angry and grab his father's cruel tendency to hurt the creature and treat him badly.

Elizabeth who visits Victor notices his cruel treatment towards the creature by tying his legs with large chains and forcing to be under his control without letting it out to its freedom, Williams who notices Harlander's body confirms it's the large creature that has ruined everything. Meanwhile, Victor who is irritated by the creature calling his name out 'Victor, Victor, Victor' all over again and again destroys the entire building along with the creature. But, a large block lands on Victor's leg and leads to leg fracture and the creature escapes from the fire accident and ends up in a dense forest.

The creature takes shelter in the mill gears family farm; over a year he secretly helps the family fulfill all their basic needs in the name of their god. When the rest of the family leaves to the mountains apart from

an old man who seems to be blind, the creature starts finding solace and learns a lot of languages and stories from him. The creature realizes what true love means through the way the old man treated him out of concern. When the creature returns back to the laboratory to find his birth and out of what was he made of, he identifies his birth to be creation made by Victor out of various deadly body parts of different personalities which is just an experiment. When he returns to the farm he finds the old man attacked by the wolves and lies dying, meanwhile the children who return back from the mountains assume the creature to be the reason for the death of the old man, chase him out.

After reviving, the creature realizes he cannot die as his body starts to heal when hurt, finds Victor demanding to create a companion or destroy him. Victor fearing of the reproducing creature and its effects on society denies it. The creature attacks him, hearing it out Elizabeth rushes to find the creature and while attempting to destroy the creature, Victor shoots Elizabeth and is carried away by the creature to a mountain and she dies in its hands. Victor refuses to create one more demon and never finds a solution to destroy the creature he has created; the plot revolves between pain from both the creator and creation addressing each other as 'Father' and 'Son', before Victor scrambles with pain. Victor ends up dying in the hands of the creation with guilt and pity towards life created for the creation.

III. CONCLUSION

The story contrasts the destructive nature of human ambition which leads to the birth of a creation and solely judged by his appearance, not actions transforming a gentle, innocent being into a monster. The monster turns vengeful not because of its evil, but because its isolation fills it with overwhelming hate and anger. And the monster's vengeance to make Victor as isolated as it, add it up ending with the death of old age and death. The writer absorbs family and society as the worst imaginable fate, and the cause of hatred, violence, and revenge.

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