

I travelled only at night, because I was so frightened now at the idea of meeting another human being. But one day I found myself in a dark wood, and so I decided to carry on travelling, even though it was the middle of the day. I was resting when I heard a voice, and I saw a young girl running towards the river. Suddenly she slipped and fell into the water. I jumped in after her and with great difficulty managed to save her. She was unconscious and while I was trying to help her, a man appeared on the scene. He ran towards me, pulled the girl from my arms and ran off with her into the trees. Then, he turned round, aimed his gun at me and fired. He shot me in the shoulder and I fell to the ground in great pain. This was the result of my kindness!

I spent several miserable weeks in the forest, until the wound was better, and then I set off again. Two months later I reached Geneva. I was resting and wondering how I should approach you, when I saw a beautiful child running towards me. I thought to myself that perhaps an innocent child would not be filled with horror at my ugliness. As he passed, I seized his arm; as soon as he saw me, he screamed in terror.

“I do not want to hurt you, child,” I said, “I only want to be your friend.”

“Monster!” screamed the child, struggling violently. “Let me go! I don’t want to be your friend. Let me go or I’ll tell Papa. He’s Mr. Frankenstein and he’ll punish you!”

“Frankenstein! So, you belong to my enemy!” In a sudden fury, I put my hands round the boy’s throat and in a moment he lay dead at my feet. He was my first **victim**. I saw something shining round his neck; it was a gold chain with a picture of a woman on it. She was so beautiful that I pulled the chain from the boy’s neck to have this woman for myself. With the picture in my hand, I ran to look for somewhere to hide for the night. I went into a barn and to my surprise I found a young woman there, sleeping on some straw. As I bent over to look at her, she moved in her sleep. In my hurry to get away before she saw me,



“You belong to my enemy!”

I dropped my precious chain.

I hid in the area, hoping to see you, and now I have found you, and I will not let you leave until you promise me one thing. I am alone and miserable. Nobody wants to be my friend. You must create a woman as ugly as I am. Such a woman will love me and will be happy to be my wife.”

CHAPTER 10

THE PROMISE

The monster stopped speaking and looked at me, waiting for my answer.

“I absolutely refuse to do such a thing,” I said. “You can do what you want to make my life miserable, but I will never create another being as **unfortunate** as yourself.”

“Then if I cannot find love, I will cause fear,” said the monster.