

Volume III

Frankenstein

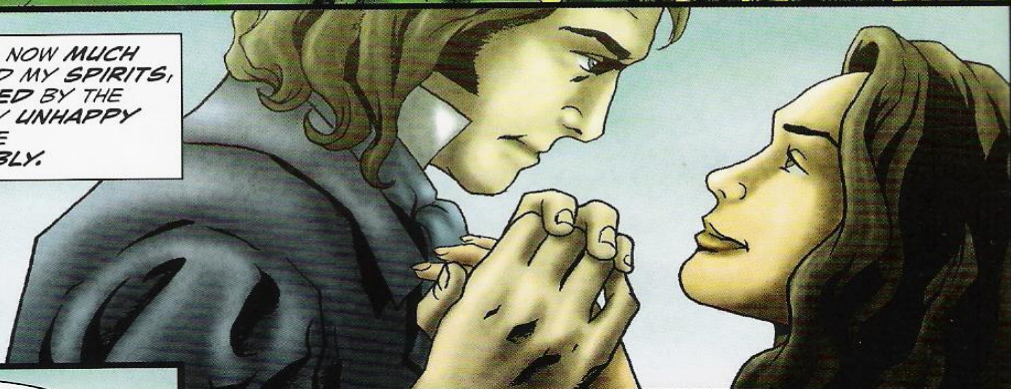
VOLUME III
CHAPTER I

DAYS AND WEEKS PASSED AWAY ON MY RETURN TO GENEVA; AND I COULD NOT COLLECT THE COURAGE TO RECOMMENCE MY WORK. I FEARED THE VENGEANCE OF MY DISAPPOINTED FIEND, YET I WAS UNABLE TO OVERCOME MY REPUGNANCE TO THE TASK WHICH WAS ENJOINED ME.



I SHRANK FROM TAKING THE FIRST STEP IN AN UNDERTAKING WHOSE IMMEDIATE NECESSITY BEGAN TO APPEAR LESS ABSOLUTE TO ME.

MY HEALTH WAS NOW MUCH RESTORED, AND MY SPIRITS, WHEN UNCHECKED BY THE MEMORY OF MY UNHAPPY PROMISE, ROSE PROPORTIONABLY.



I AM HAPPY TO REMARK, MY DEAR SON, THAT YOU HAVE RESUMED YOUR FORMER PLEASURES, AND SEEM TO BE RETURNING TO YOURSELF.

AND YET YOU ARE STILL UNHAPPY, AND STILL AVOID OUR SOCIETY. FOR SOME TIME, I WAS LOST IN CONJECTURE AS TO THE CAUSE OF THIS; BUT YESTERDAY AN IDEA STRUCK ME.

I CONFESS THAT I HAVE ALWAYS LOOKED FORWARD TO YOUR MARRIAGE WITH OUR DEAR ELIZABETH AS THE TIE OF OUR DOMESTIC COMFORT, AND THE STAY OF MY DECLINING YEARS.

YOU WERE ATTACHED TO EACH OTHER FROM YOUR EARLIEST INFANCY, AND ARE ENTIRELY SUITED TO ONE ANOTHER.



YOU, PERHAPS, REGARD HER AS YOUR SISTER, WITHOUT ANY WISH THAT SHE MIGHT BECOME YOUR WIFE. NAY, YOU MAY HAVE MET WITH ANOTHER WHOM YOU MAY LOVE....

MY DEAR FATHER, RE-ASSURE YOURSELF. I LOVE MY COUSIN TENDERLY AND SINCERELY. I NEVER SAW ANY WOMAN WHO EXCITED, AS ELIZABETH DOES, MY WARMEST ADMIRATION AND AFFECTION. MY FUTURE HOPES AND PROSPECTS ARE ENTIRELY BOUND UP IN THE EXPECTATION OF OUR UNION.

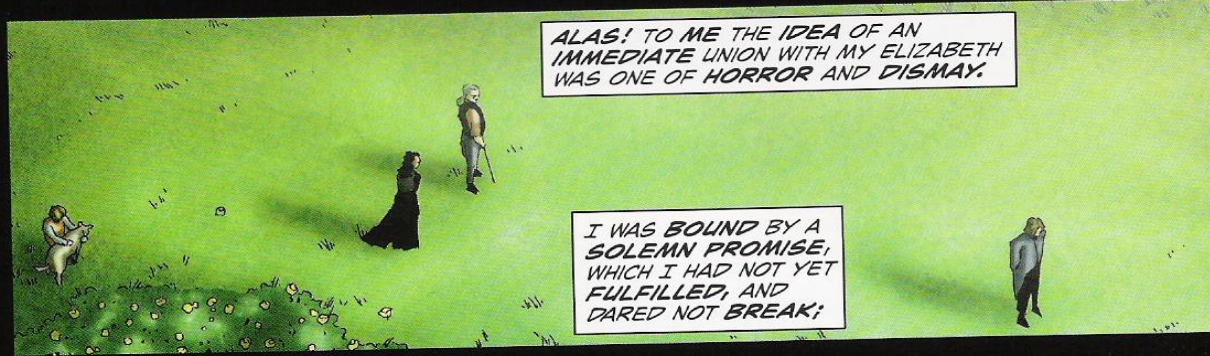




IF YOU FEEL THIS, WE SHALL ASSUREDLY BE HAPPY, HOWEVER PRESENT EVENTS MAY CAST A GLOOM OVER US. BUT IT IS THIS GLOOM WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE TAKEN SO STRONG A HOLD OF YOUR MIND, THAT I WISH TO DISSIPATE.

TELL ME, THEREFORE, WHETHER YOU OBJECT TO AN IMMEDIATE SOLEMNISATION OF THE MARRIAGE.

I LISTENED TO MY FATHER IN SILENCE, AND REMAINED FOR SOME TIME INCAPABLE OF OFFERING A REPLY.

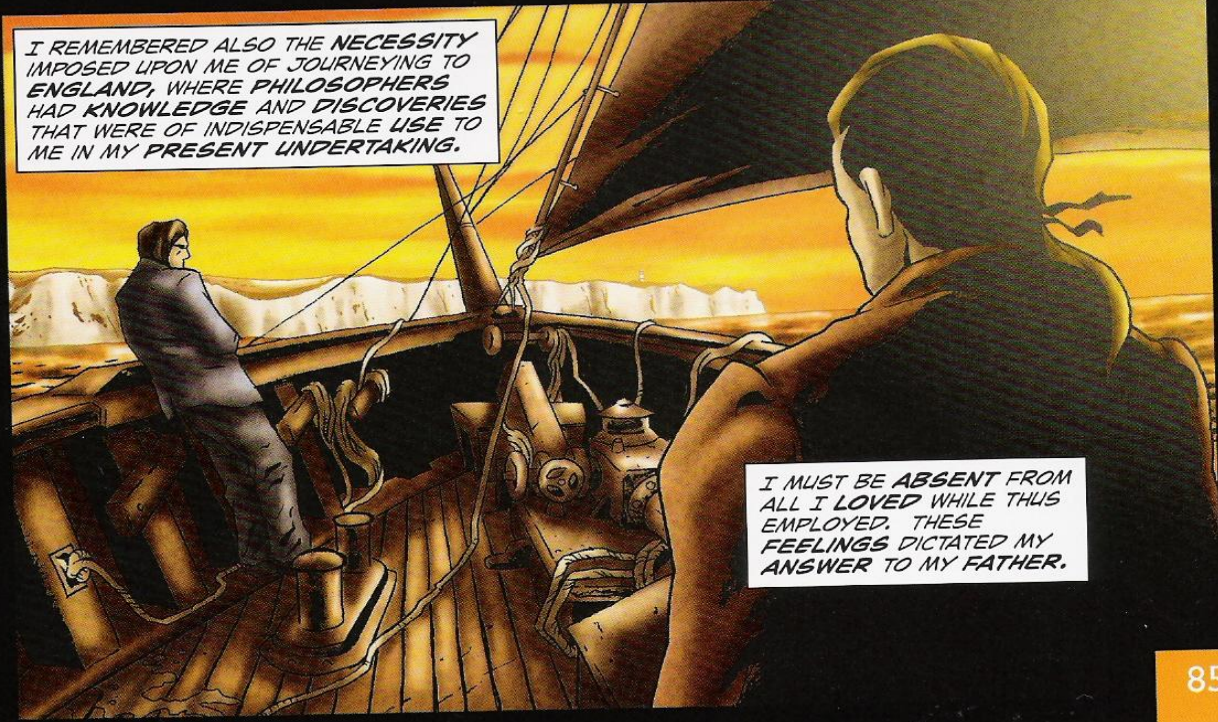


ALAS! TO ME THE IDEA OF AN IMMEDIATE UNION WITH MY ELIZABETH WAS ONE OF HORROR AND DISMAY.

I WAS BOUND BY A SOLEMN PROMISE, WHICH I HAD NOT YET FULFILLED, AND DARED NOT BREAK;



I MUST PERFORM MY ENGAGEMENT, AND LET THE MONSTER DEPART WITH HIS MATE, BEFORE I ALLOWED MYSELF TO ENJOY DELIGHT OF A UNION FROM WHICH I EXPECTED PEACE.



I REMEMBERED ALSO THE NECESSITY IMPOSED UPON ME OF JOURNEYING TO ENGLAND, WHERE PHILOSOPHERS HAD KNOWLEDGE AND DISCOVERIES THAT WERE OF INDISPENSABLE USE TO ME IN MY PRESENT UNDERTAKING.

I MUST BE ABSENT FROM ALL I LOVED WHILE THUS EMPLOYED. THESE FEELINGS DICTATED MY ANSWER TO MY FATHER.



I CONCEALED THE TRUE REASONS FOR MY VISIT AND INDUCED MY FATHER TO COMPLY.

HE HOPED THAT CHANGE OF SCENE WOULD HAVE RESTORED ME ENTIRELY TO MYSELF.

HE ENSURED MY HAVING A COMPANION - AND IN CONCERT WITH ELIZABETH, ARRANGED THAT CLERVAL SHOULD JOIN ME.




THIS INTERFERED WITH THE SOLITUDE I COVETED FOR THE PROSECUTION OF MY TASK; YET IT SAVED ME OF MANY HOURS OF LONELY, MADDENING REFLECTION.

NAY, HENRY MIGHT STAND BETWEEN ME AND THE INTRUSION OF MY FOE. IF I WERE ALONE, WOULD HE NOT AT TIMES FORCE HIS ABHORRED PRESENCE ON ME, TO REMIND ME OF MY TASK OR TO CONTEMPLATE ITS PROGRESS?



IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT MY UNION WITH ELIZABETH SHOULD TAKE PLACE IMMEDIATELY ON MY RETURN.

FOR MYSELF, THERE WAS ONE REWARD I PROMISED MYSELF FROM MY DETESTED TOILS; IT WAS THE PROSPECT OF THAT DAY WHEN, ENFRANCHISED FROM MY MISERABLE SLAVERY, I MIGHT CLAIM ELIZABETH, AND FORGET THE PAST IN UNION WITH HER.



I WAS FEARFUL THAT, DURING MY ABSENCE, I SHOULD LEAVE FRIENDS UNCONSCIOUS OF THE EXISTENCE OF THEIR ENEMY, AND UNPROTECTED FROM HIS ATTACKS. BUT HE HAD PROMISED TO FOLLOW ME WHEREVER I MIGHT GO; AND WOULD HE NOT ACCOMPANY ME TO ENGLAND?

THIS IMAGINATION WAS DREADFUL IN ITSELF, BUT SOOTHING, INASMUCH AS IT SUPPOSED THE SAFETY OF MY FRIENDS.

VOLUME III
CHAPTER II

LONDON WAS OUR PRESENT POINT OF REST; WE DETERMINED TO REMAIN SEVERAL MONTHS IN THIS WONDERFUL AND CELEBRATED CITY.

IF THIS JOURNEY HAD TAKEN PLACE DURING MY DAYS OF STUDY AND HAPPINESS, IT WOULD HAVE AFFORDED ME INEXPRESSIBLE PLEASURE; BUT A BLIGHT HAD COME OVER MY EXISTENCE.

COMPANY WAS IRKSOME TO ME; WHEN ALONE, I COULD FILL MY MIND WITH THE SIGHTS OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.


THIS IS WHAT IT IS TO LIVE! BUT WHY ARE YOU SO DESPONDING, FRANKENSTEIN?

THE VOICE OF HENRY SOOTHED ME, AND I COULD THIS CHEAT MYSELF INTO A TRANSITORY PEACE.

CLERVAL DESIRED THE INTERCOURSE OF THE MEN OF GENIUS AND TALENT WHO FLOURISHED AT THE TIME; BUT THIS WAS WITH ME A SECONDARY OBJECT;


I WAS PRINCIPALLY OCCUPIED WITH THE MEANS OF OBTAINING THE INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR THE COMPLETION OF MY PROMISE...

...AND QUICKLY AVAILED MYSELF OF THE LETTERS OF INTRODUCTION THAT I HAD BROUGHT WITH ME, ADDRESSED TO THE MOST DISTINGUISHED NATURAL PHILOSOPHER.



I ONLY VISITED THESE PEOPLE FOR THE INFORMATION THEY MIGHT GIVE ME ON THE SUBJECT IN WHICH MY INTEREST WAS SO TERRIBLY PROFOUND.

BUSY, UNINTERESTED, JOYOUS FACES BROUGHT BACK DESPAIR TO MY HEART. I SAW AN INSURMOUNTABLE BARRIER BETWEEN ME AND MY FELLOW MEN, SEALED WITH THE BLOOD OF WILLIAM AND JUSTINE.



BUT IN CLERVAL I SAW THE IMAGE OF MY FORMER SELF. HE WAS INQUISITIVE, AND ANXIOUS TO GAIN EXPERIENCE AND INSTRUCTION.

HE WAS ALSO PURSUING AN OBJECT HE HAD LONG HAD IN VIEW.



HIS DESIGN WAS TO VISIT INDIA, IN ORDER TO ASSIST THE PROGRESS OF EUROPEAN COLONISATION AND TRADE. IN BRITAIN ONLY COULD HE FURTHER THE EXECUTION OF HIS PLAN.

HE WAS FOREVER BUSY. I OFTEN REFUSED TO ACCOMPANY HIM, ALLEGING ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT, THAT I MIGHT REMAIN ALONE.



I NOW ALSO BEGAN TO COLLECT THE MATERIALS NECESSARY FOR MY NEW CREATION...

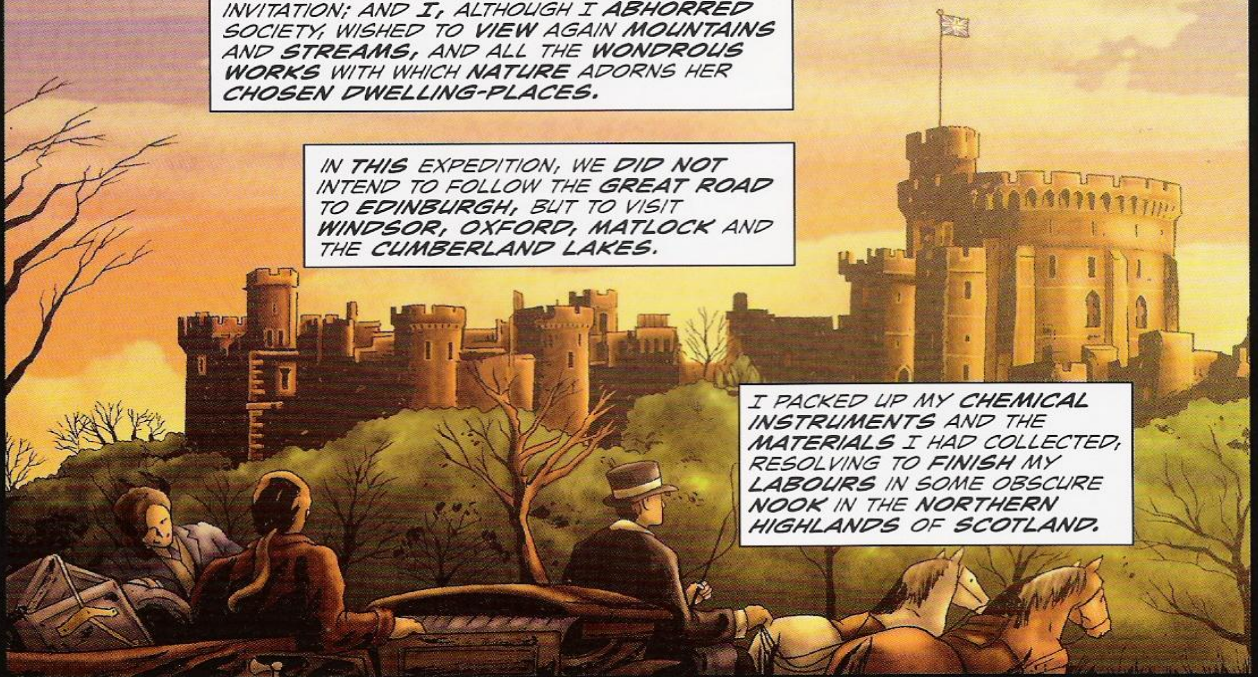
...AND THIS WAS TO ME LIKE THE TORTURE OF SINGLE DROPS OF WATER CONTINUALLY FALLING ON THE HEAD.

AFTER PASSING SOME MONTHS IN LONDON, WE RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A PERSON IN SCOTLAND WHO HAD FORMERLY BEEN OUR VISITOR AT GENEVA. HE INDUCED US TO PROLONG OUR JOURNEY AS FAR NORTH AS PERTH, WHERE HE RESIDED.

CLERVAL EAGERLY DESIRED TO ACCEPT THIS INVITATION; AND I, ALTHOUGH I ABHORRED SOCIETY, WISHED TO VIEW AGAIN MOUNTAINS AND STREAMS, AND ALL THE WONDROUS WORKS WITH WHICH NATURE ADORNS HER CHOSEN DWELLING-PLACES.

IN THIS EXPEDITION, WE DID NOT INTEND TO FOLLOW THE GREAT ROAD TO EDINBURGH, BUT TO VISIT WINDSOR, OXFORD, MATLOCK AND THE CUMBERLAND LAKES.

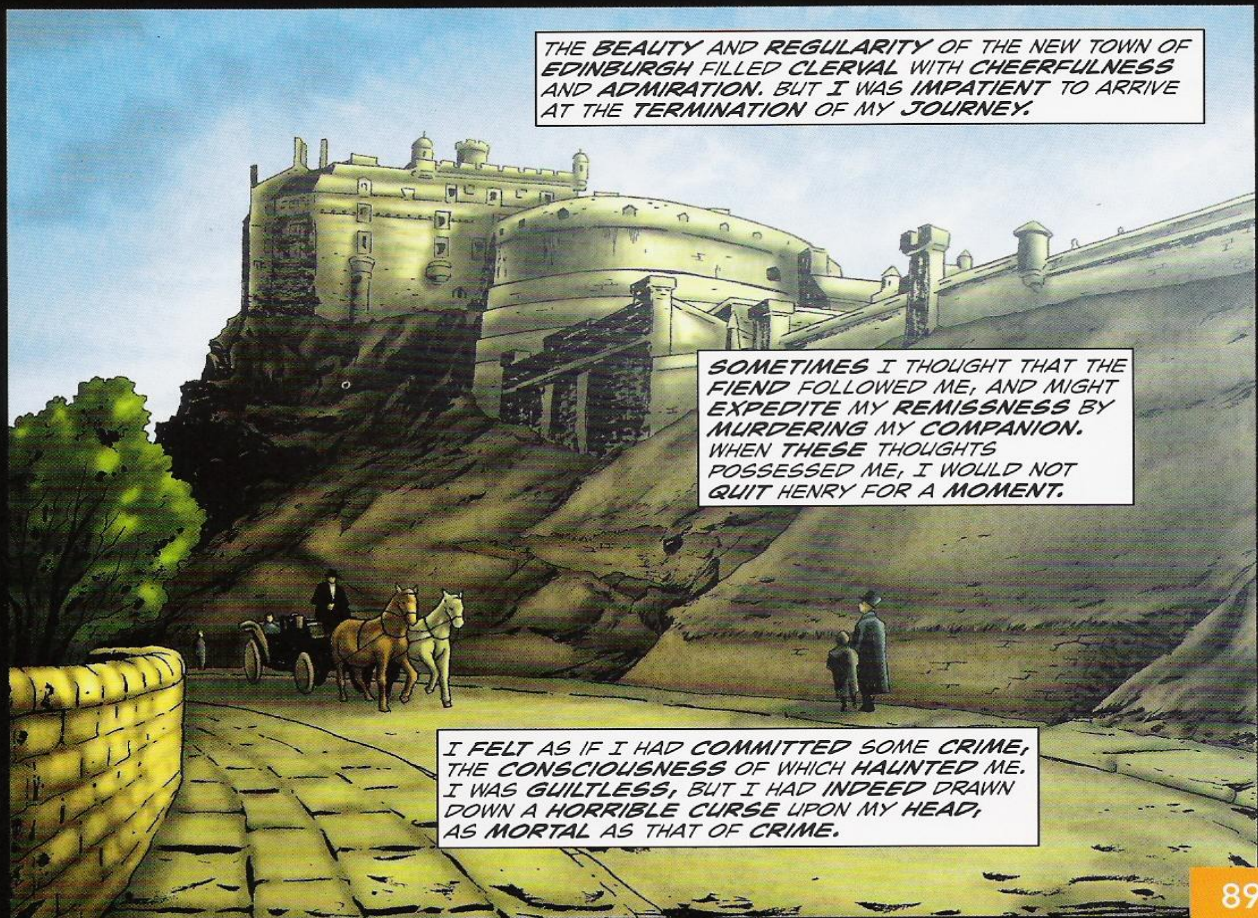
I PACKED UP MY CHEMICAL INSTRUMENTS AND THE MATERIALS I HAD COLLECTED, RESOLVING TO FINISH MY LABOURS IN SOME OBSCURE NOOK IN THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND.



THE BEAUTY AND REGULARITY OF THE NEW TOWN OF EDINBURGH FILLED CLERVAL WITH CHEERFULNESS AND ADMIRATION. BUT I WAS IMPATIENT TO ARRIVE AT THE TERMINATION OF MY JOURNEY.

SOMETIMES I THOUGHT THAT THE FIEND FOLLOWED ME, AND MIGHT EXPEDITE MY REMISSNESS BY MURDERING MY COMPANION. WHEN THESE THOUGHTS POSSESSED ME, I WOULD NOT QUIT HENRY FOR A MOMENT.

I FELT AS IF I HAD COMMITTED SOME CRIME, THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF WHICH HAUNTED ME. I WAS GUILTLESS, BUT I HAD INDEED DRAWN DOWN A HORRIBLE CURSE UPON MY HEAD, AS MORTAL AS THAT OF CRIME.



WE LEFT EDINBURGH IN A WEEK, AND JOURNEYED ON TO PERTH, WHERE OUR FRIEND EXPECTED US. BUT I WAS IN NO MOOD TO LAUGH AND TALK WITH STRANGERS, OR ENTER INTO THEIR FEELINGS OR PLANS WITH THE GOOD HUMOUR EXPECTED FROM A GUEST.

I WISH TO MAKE THE TOUR OF SCOTLAND ALONE. DO ENJOY YOURSELF, AND LET THIS BE OUR RENDEZVOUS.

I MAY BE ABSENT A MONTH OR TWO; BUT DO NOT INTERFERE WITH MY MOTIONS, I INTREAT YOU.

LEAVE ME TO PEACE AND SOLITUDE FOR A SHORT TIME; AND WHEN I RETURN I HOPE IT WILL BE WITH A LIGHTER HEART, MORE CONGENIAL TO YOUR OWN TEMPER.

I HAD RATHER BE WITH YOU IN YOUR SOLITARY RAMBLES, THAN WITH THESE SCOTCH PEOPLE, WHOM I DO NOT KNOW.

I AM BENT ON THIS PLAN.

HASTEN THEN, MY DEAR FRIEND, TO RETURN, THAT I MAY AGAIN FEEL MYSELF SOMEWHAT AT HOME --

-- WHICH I CANNOT DO IN YOUR ABSENCE.


I DETERMINED TO VISIT SOME REMOTE SPOT OF SCOTLAND, AND FINISH MY WORK IN SOLITUDE. I DID NOT DOUBT BUT THAT THE MONSTER FOLLOWED ME, AND WOULD DISCOVER HIMSELF TO ME WHEN I SHOULD HAVE FINISHED, THAT HE MIGHT RECEIVE HIS COMPANION.

WITH THIS RESOLUTION I TRAVERSED THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS, AND FIXED ON ONE OF THE REMOTEST OF THE ORKNEYS AS THE SCENE OF MY LABOURS.

IT WAS A PLACE FITTED FOR SUCH WORK, BEING HARDLY MORE THAN A ROCK; THE SOIL WAS BARREN, SCARCELY AFFORDING PASTURE FOR A FEW MISERABLE COWS, AND OATMEAL FOR ITS INHABITANTS, WHICH CONSISTED OF FIVE GAUNT AND SCRAGGY PERSONS.

IN THIS RETREAT I DEVOTED THE MORNING TO LABOUR; BUT IN THE EVENING, WHEN THE WEATHER PERMITTED, I WALKED ON THE STONY BEACH TO LISTEN TO THE WAVES AS THEY ROARED AND DASHED AT MY FEET.

IN THIS MANNER I DISTRIBUTED MY OCCUPATIONS WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED.



*BUT AS I PROCEEDED
IN MY LABOUR, IT
BECAME EVERY DAY
MORE HORRIBLE AND
IRKSOME TO ME.
SOMETIMES I COULD
NOT PREVAIL ON MYSELF
TO ENTER MY
LABORATORY FOR
SEVERAL DAYS;*

*AND AT OTHER TIMES
I TOILED DAY AND
NIGHT IN ORDER TO
COMPLETE MY WORK.
I GREW RESTLESS
AND NERVOUS. EVERY
MOMENT I FEARED
TO MEET MY
PERSECUTOR.*

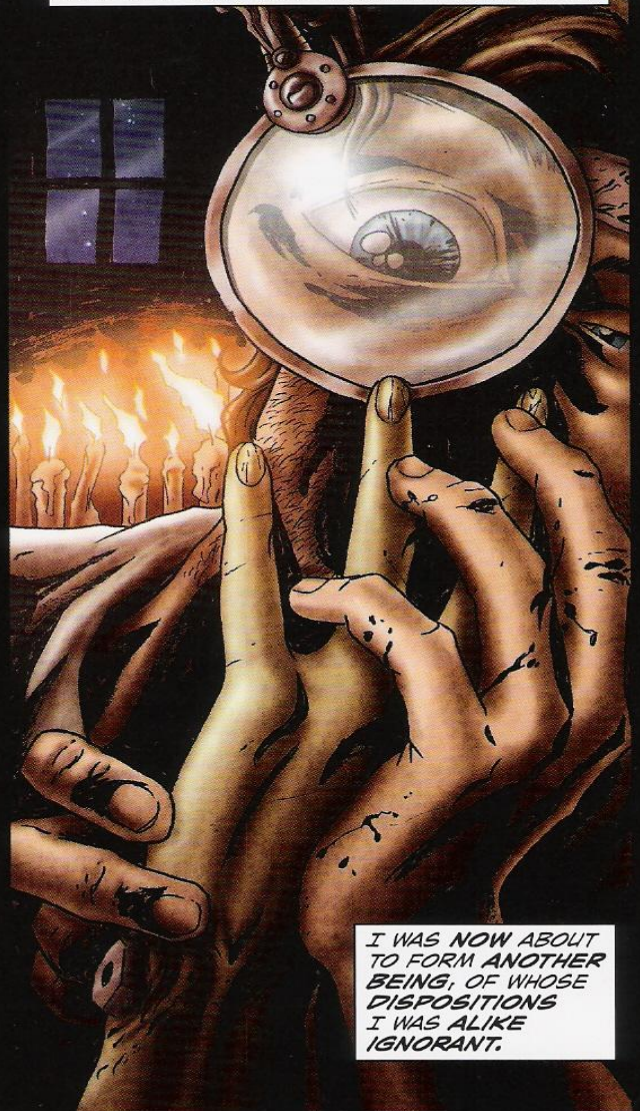
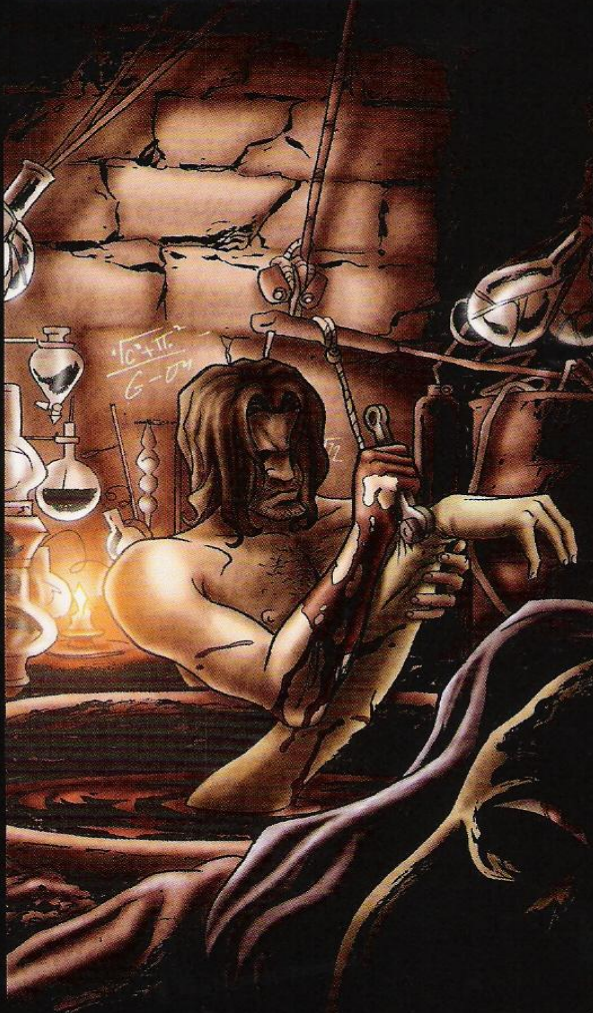
*DURING MY FIRST EXPERIMENT, A KIND OF
ENTHUSIASTIC FRENZY HAD BLINDED
ME TO THE HORROR OF MY EMPLOYMENT;*

*BUT NOW I WENT TO IT IN
COLD BLOOD, AND MY
HEART OFTEN SICKENED
AT THE WORK OF MY HANDS.*

**VOLUME III
CHAPTER III**

*A TRAIN OF REFLECTION OCCURRED TO
ME, WHICH LED ME TO CONSIDER THE
EFFECTS OF WHAT I WAS NOW DOING.*

*THREE YEARS BEFORE I WAS ENGAGED
IN THE SAME MANNER, AND HAD CREATED A
FIEND WHOSE UNPARALLELED BARBARITY
HAD DESOLATED MY HEART, AND FILLED IT
FOREVER WITH THE BITTEREST REMORSE.*



*I WAS NOW ABOUT
TO FORM ANOTHER
BEING, OF WHOSE
DISPOSITIONS
I WAS ALIKE
IGNORANT.*




SHE MIGHT BECOME TEN THOUSAND TIMES MORE MALIGNANT THAN HER MATE, AND DELIGHT, FOR ITS OWN SAKE, IN MURDER AND WRETCHEDNESS.

KRAKKY!

KA-BOOM!

HE HAD SWORN TO QUIT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF MAN, AND HIDE HIMSELF IN DESERTS; BUT SHE HAD NOT;

AND SHE, WHO IN ALL PROBABILITY WAS TO BECOME A THINKING AND REASONING ANIMAL, MIGHT REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH A COMPACT MADE BEFORE HER CREATION.

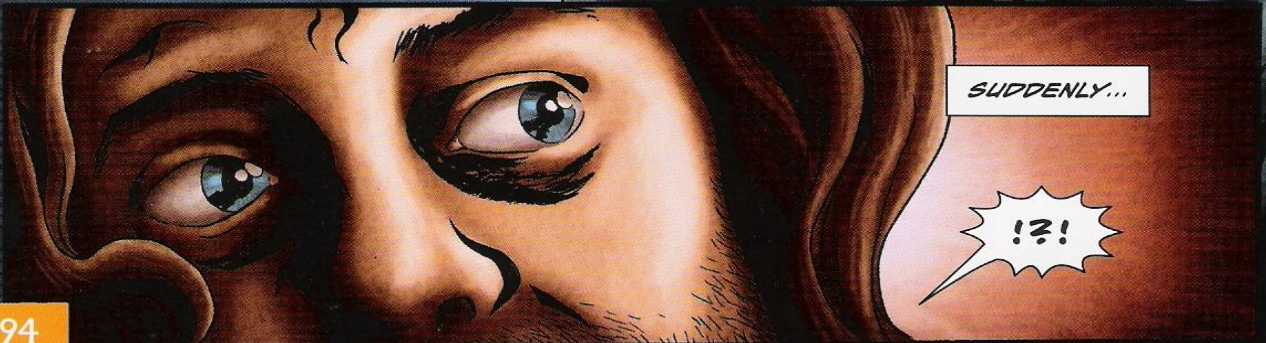


THEY MIGHT EVEN HATE EACH OTHER; THE CREATURE WHO ALREADY LIVED LOATHED HIS OWN DEFORMITY, AND MIGHT HE NOT CONCEIVE A GREATER ABHORRENCE FOR IT WHEN IT CAME BEFORE HIS EYES IN THE FEMALE FORM?

SHE ALSO MIGHT TURN WITH DISGUST FROM HIM TO THE SUPERIOR BEAUTY OF MAN; SHE MIGHT QUIT HIM, AND HE BE ALONE AGAIN; EXASPERATED BY THE FRESH PROVOCATION OF BEING DESERTED BY ONE OF HIS OWN SPECIES.

YET ONE OF THE FIRST RESULTS OF THOSE SYMPATHIES FOR WHICH THE DAEMON THIRSTED WOULD BE CHILDREN, AND A RACE OF DEVILS WOULD BE PROPAGATED UPON THE EARTH, WHO MIGHT MAKE THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE SPECIES OF MAN A CONDITION PRECARIOUS AND FULL OF TERROR!

NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE WICKEDNESS OF MY PROMISE BURST UPON ME; I SHUDDERED TO THINK THAT FUTURE AGES MIGHT CURSE ME AS THEIR PEST, WHOSE SELFISHNESS HAD NOT HESITATED TO BUY ITS OWN PEACE AT THE PRICE, PERHAPS, OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE.



SUDDENLY...

!?!

YES, HE HAD FOLLOWED ME IN MY TRAVELS; HE HAD LOITERED IN FORESTS, HID HIMSELF IN CAVES, OR TAKEN REFUGE IN WIDE AND DESERT HEATHS;

AND HE NOW CAME TO MARK MY PROGRESS, AND CLAIM THE FULFILMENT OF MY PROMISE.



HIS COUNTENANCE EXPRESSED THE UTMOST EXTENT OF MALICE AND TREACHERY.

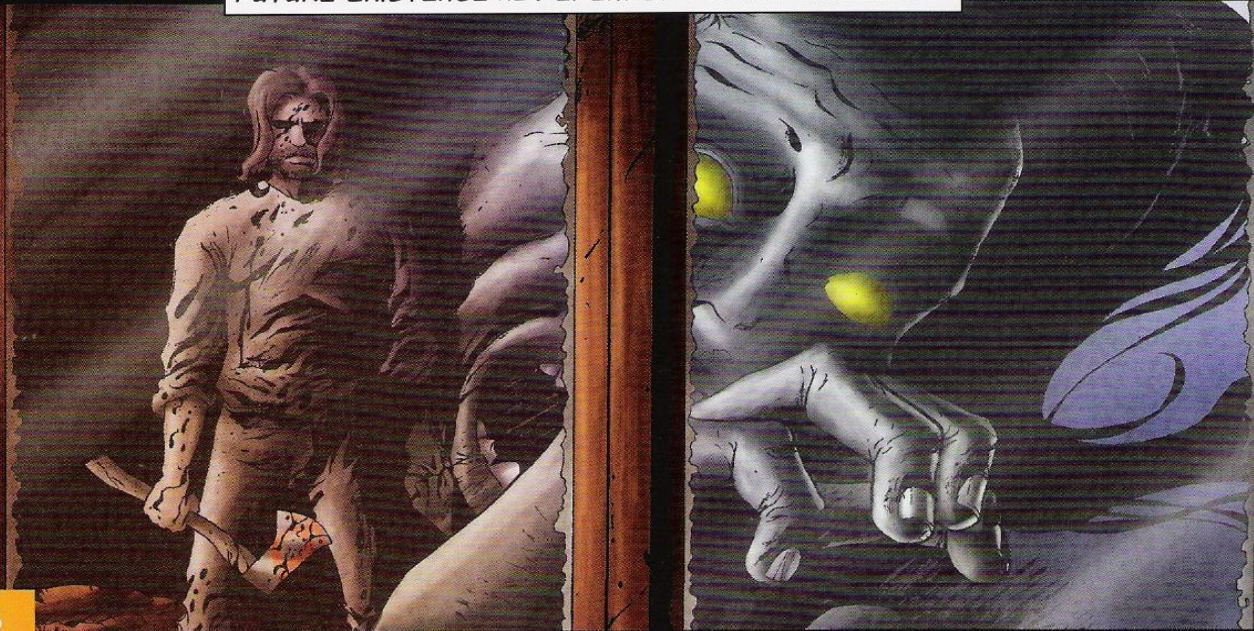


I THOUGHT WITH A SENSATION OF MADNESS ON MY PROMISE OF CREATING ANOTHER LIKE TO HIM.





THE WRETCH SAW ME DESTROY THE CREATURE ON WHOSE FUTURE EXISTENCE HE DEPENDED FOR HAPPINESS...





...AND, WITH A HOWL OF DEVILISH
DESPAIR AND REVENGE, WITHDREW.

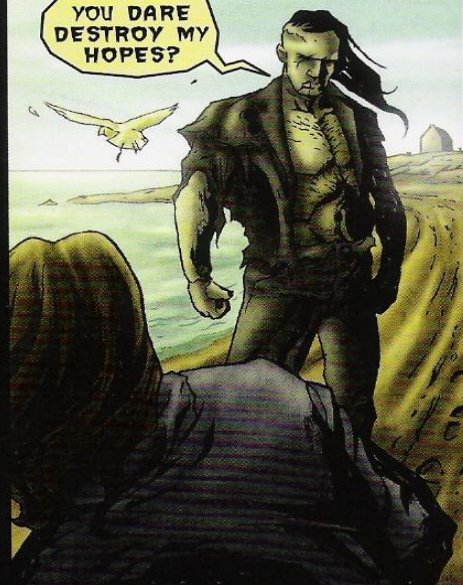


I MADE A SOLEMN VOW IN MY OWN HEART NEVER TO RESUME MY LABOURS.
I WAS ALONE; NONE WERE NEAR ME TO DISSIPATE THE GLOOM, AND RELIEVE
ME FROM THE SICKENING OPPRESSION OF THE MOST TERRIBLE REVERIES.

SEVERAL HOURS PASSED. I FELT THE SILENCE, ALTHOUGH I
WAS HARDLY CONSCIOUS OF ITS EXTREME PROFUNDITY, UNTIL
MY EAR WAS SUDDENLY ARRESTED BY THE PADDLING OF OARS
NEAR THE SHORE, AND A PERSON LANDED CLOSE TO MY HOUSE.

YOU HAVE DESTROYED THE WORK ON
WHICH YOU BEGAN; WHAT IS IT THAT
YOU INTEND? DO YOU DARE TO
BREAK YOUR PROMISE? I HAVE
ENDURED TOIL AND MISERY;
ENDURED INCALCULABLE FATIGUE,
AND COLD, AND HUNGER;

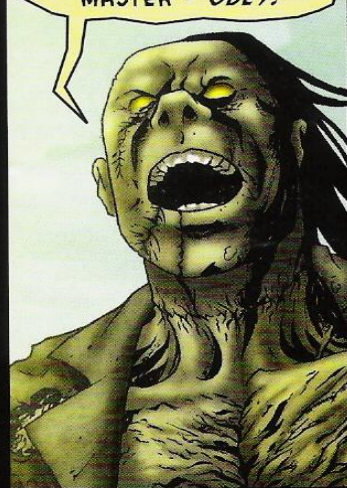
DO
YOU DARE
DESTROY MY
HOPES?



BEGONE!
I DO BREAK MY
PROMISE; NEVER WILL I
CREATE ANOTHER LIKE
YOURSELF, EQUAL IN
DEFORMITY AND
WICKEDNESS.



SLAVE, I BEFORE
REASONED WITH YOU, BUT
YOU HAVE PROVED YOURSELF
UNWORTHY OF MY
CONDESCENSION.
REMEMBER THAT I HAVE
POWER. YOU ARE MY
CREATOR, BUT I AM YOUR
MASTER - OBEY!



THE HOUR OF MY IRRESOLUTION IS PAST. YOUR THREATS CONFIRM ME IN A DETERMINATION OF NOT CREATING YOU A COMPANION IN VICE.

BEGONE!

I AM FIRM, AND WORDS WILL ONLY EXASPERATE MY RAGE.



SHALL EACH MAN FIND A WIFE FOR HIS BOSOM, AND EACH BEAST HAVE HIS MATE, AND I BE ALONE? I HAD FEELINGS OF AFFECTION, AND THEY WERE REQUESTED BY DETESTATION AND SCORN. ARE YOU TO BE HAPPY, WHILE I GROVEL IN THE INTENSITY OF MY WRETCHEDNESS? YOU CAN BLAST MY OTHER PASSIONS BUT REVENGE REMAINS - REVENGE, HENCEFORTH DEARER THAN LIGHT OR FOOD! MAN, YOU SHALL REPENT OF THE INJURIES YOU INFLECT.



I GO; BUT REMEMBER, I SHALL BE WITH YOU ON YOUR WEDDING-NIGHT.



LUNGE!

VILLAIN!





BEFORE YOU SIGN MY DEATH-WARRANT, BE SURE THAT YOU ARE YOURSELF SAFE.

HE ELUDED ME IN HIS BOAT, WHICH SHOT ACROSS THE WATERS WITH AN ARROWY SWIFTNESS, AND WAS SOON LOST AMIDST THE WAVES. ALL WAS AGAIN SILENT.

I THOUGHT AGAIN OF HIS WORDS...

"I SHALL BE WITH YOU ON YOUR WEDDING-NIGHT."

THAT, THEN, WAS THE PERIOD FIXED FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF MY DESTINY. IN THAT HOUR I SHOULD DIE, AND AT ONCE SATISFY AND EXTINGUISH HIS MALICE. THE PROSPECT DID NOT MOVE ME TO FEAR; YET WHEN I THOUGHT OF MY BELOVED ELIZABETH - WHEN SHE SHOULD FIND HER LOVER SO BARBAROUSLY SNATCHED FROM HER - TEARS, THE FIRST I HAD SHED FOR MANY MONTHS, STREAMED FROM MY EYES.

I RESOLVED NOT TO FALL BEFORE MY ENEMY WITHOUT A BITTER STRUGGLE.

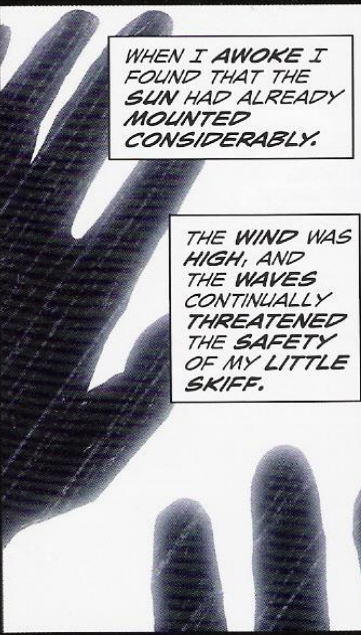


THE NEXT DAY, I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM CLERVAL ENTREATING ME TO JOIN HIM. THIS LETTER IN A DEGREE RECALLED ME TO LIFE, AND I DETERMINED TO QUIT MY ISLAND.

I SUMMONED SUFFICIENT COURAGE TO ENTER MY LABORATORY AND PACKED UP MY CHEMICAL INSTRUMENTS ALONG WITH THE REMAINS OF THE HALF-FINISHED CREATURE. IN THE EARLY MORNING, I SAILED OUT AND CAST THEM INTO THE SEA.

I LISTENED TO THE GURGLING SOUND AS IT SUNK, AND THEN SAILED AWAY FROM THE SPOT.

THE AIR WAS PURE; THE NORTH-EAST BREEZE REFRESHED ME AND FILLED ME WITH SUCH AGREEABLE SENSATIONS, THAT I RESOLVED TO PROLONG MY STAY ON THE WATER. CLOUDS HID THE MOON, EVERYTHING WAS OBSCURE, AND I HEARD ONLY THE SOUND OF THE BOAT, AS ITS KEEL CUT THROUGH THE WAVES; THE MURMUR LULLED ME, AND IN A SHORT TIME I SLEPT SOUNDLY.



WHEN I AWOKE I FOUND THAT THE SUN HAD ALREADY MOUNTED CONSIDERABLY.

THE WIND WAS HIGH, AND THE WAVES CONTINUALLY THREATENED THE SAFETY OF MY LITTLE SKIFF.



THE WIND MUST HAVE DRIVEN ME FAR FROM THE COAST FROM WHICH I HAD EMBARKED. I ENDEAVOURED TO CHANGE MY COURSE...

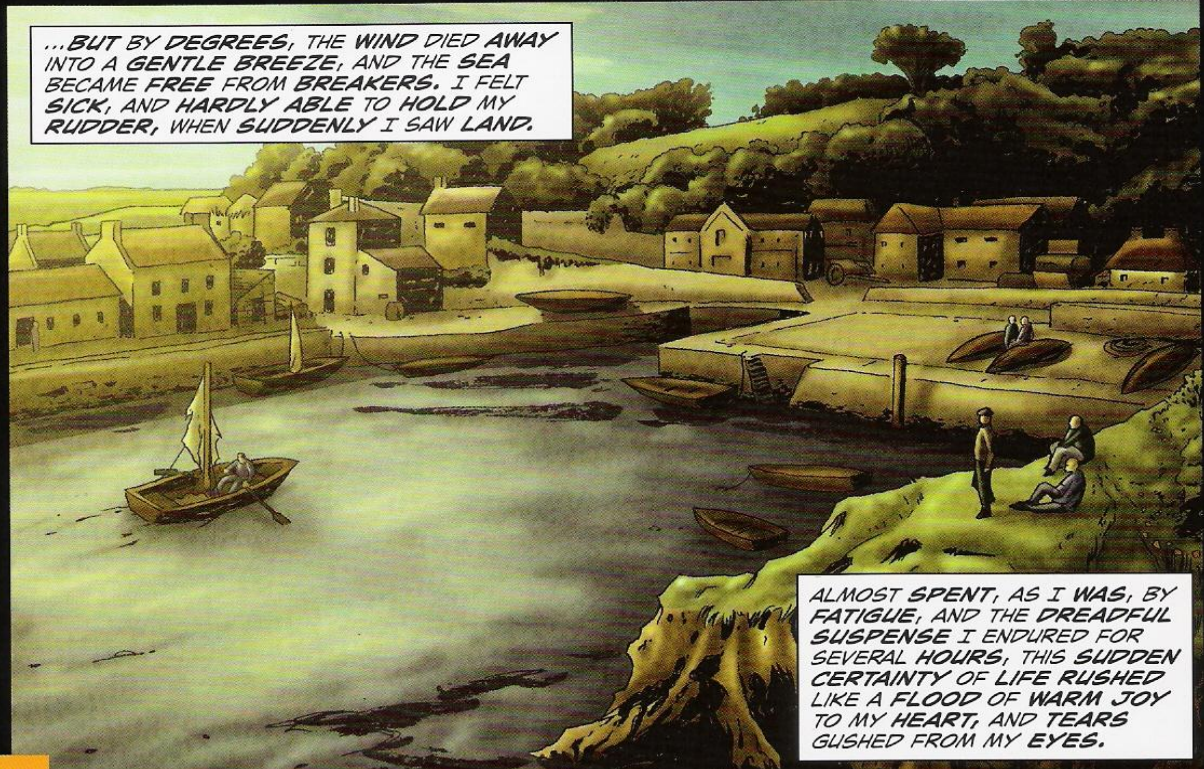
...BUT QUICKLY FOUND THAT IF I AGAIN MADE THE ATTEMPT, THE BOAT WOULD BE INSTANTLY FILLED WITH WATER. MY ONLY RESOURCE WAS TO DRIVE BEFORE THE WIND. I HAD NO COMPASS AND THE SUN WAS OF LITTLE BENEFIT TO ME. I MIGHT BE DRIVEN INTO THE WIDE ATLANTIC.

I LOOKED UPON THE SEA, IT WAS TO BE MY GRAVE.



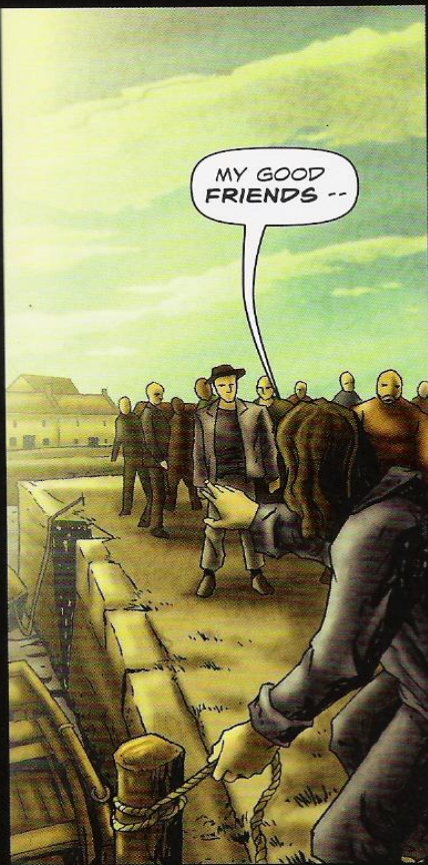
FIEND!
YOUR TASK
IS ALREADY
FULFILLED!

SOME HOURS PASSED THUS...



...BUT BY DEGREES, THE WIND DIED AWAY INTO A GENTLE BREEZE, AND THE SEA BECAME FREE FROM BREAKERS. I FELT SICK, AND HARDLY ABLE TO HOLD MY RUDDER, WHEN SUDDENLY I SAW LAND.

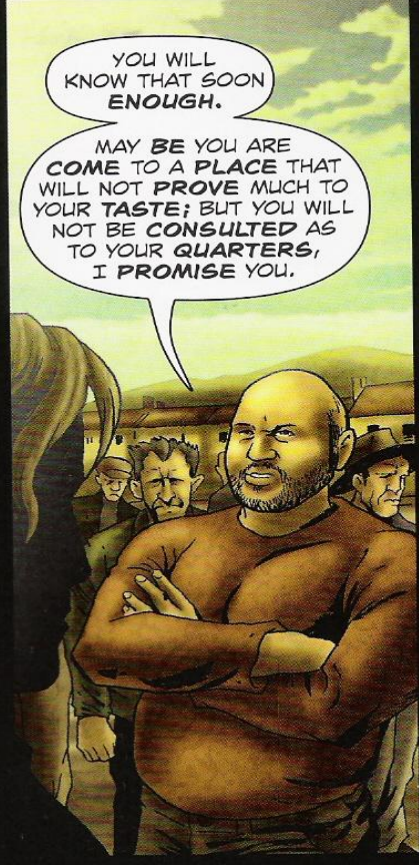
ALMOST SPENT, AS I WAS, BY FATIGUE, AND THE DREADFUL SUSPENSE I ENDURED FOR SEVERAL HOURS, THIS SUDDEN CERTAINTY OF LIFE RUSHED LIKE A FLOOD OF WARM JOY TO MY HEART, AND TEARS GUSHED FROM MY EYES.



MY GOOD FRIENDS --



-- WILL YOU BE SO KIND AS TO TELL ME THE NAME OF THIS TOWN, AND INFORM ME WHERE I AM?



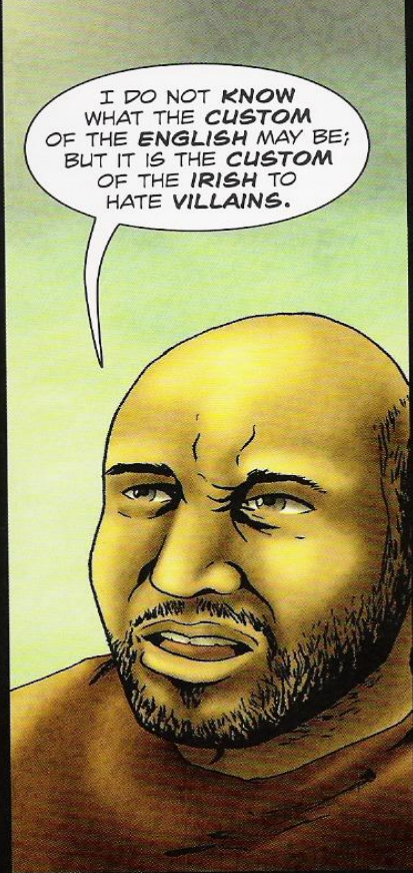
YOU WILL KNOW THAT SOON ENOUGH.

MAY BE YOU ARE COME TO A PLACE THAT WILL NOT PROVE MUCH TO YOUR TASTE; BUT YOU WILL NOT BE CONSULTED AS TO YOUR QUARTERS, I PROMISE YOU.



WHY DO YOU ANSWER ME SO ROUGHLY?

SURELY IT IS NOT THE CUSTOM OF ENGLISHMEN TO RECEIVE STRANGERS SO INHOSPITABLY.



I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE CUSTOM OF THE ENGLISH MAY BE; BUT IT IS THE CUSTOM OF THE IRISH TO HATE VILLAINS.



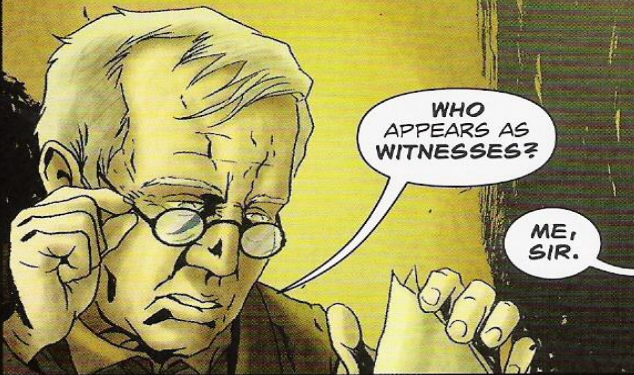
YOU MUST COME WITH ME TO MR. KIRWIN, THE MAGISTRATE;

AND YOU ARE TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THE DEATH OF A GENTLEMAN WHO WAS FOUND MURDERED HERE LAST NIGHT.

VOLUME III
CHAPTER IV

I WAS SOON INTRODUCED INTO THE PRESENCE OF THE MAGISTRATE, AN OLD BENEVOLENT MAN, WITH CALM AND MILD MANNERS.

HE LOOKED ON ME, HOWEVER, WITH SOME DEGREE OF SEVERITY.

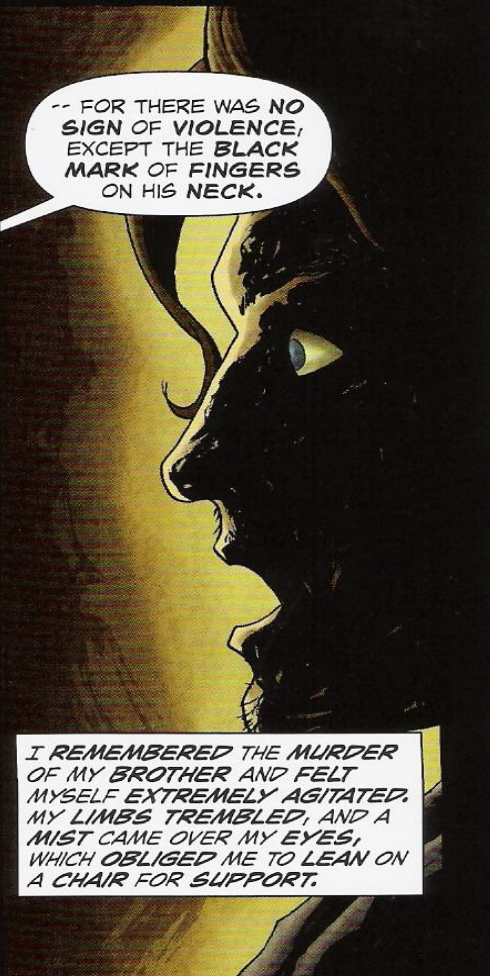


WHO APPEARS AS WITNESSES?

ME, SIR.

I HAD BEEN OUT FISHING WITH MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, DANIEL NUGENT. I STRUCK MY FOOT AGAINST SOMETHING ON THE SANDS, AND FELL TO THE GROUND. I'D FALLEN ON THE BODY OF A MAN, WHO WAS TO ALL APPEARANCE DEAD.

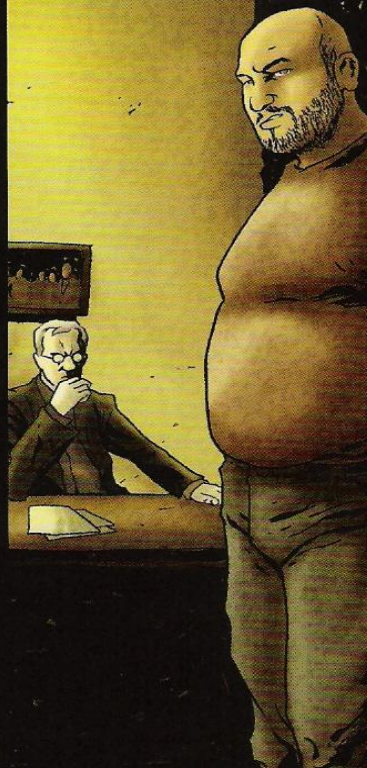
HE HADN'T DROWNED BECAUSE HIS CLOTHES WERE DRY AND HE WASN'T YET COLD. HE HAD APPARENTLY BEEN STRANGLERD --



-- FOR THERE WAS NO SIGN OF VIOLENCE, EXCEPT THE BLACK MARK OF FINGERS ON HIS NECK.

I REMEMBERED THE MURDER OF MY BROTHER AND FELT MYSELF EXTREMELY AGITATED. MY LIMBS TREMBLED, AND A MIST CAME OVER MY EYES, WHICH OBLIGED ME TO LEAN ON A CHAIR FOR SUPPORT.

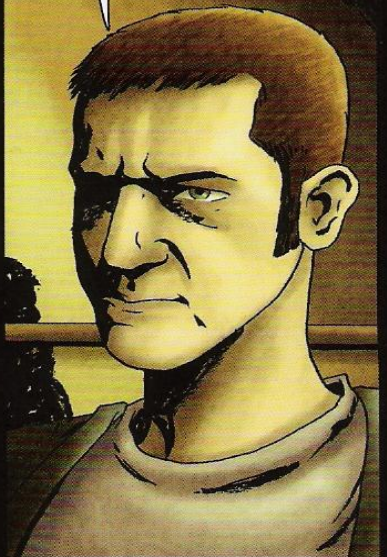
THE MAGISTRATE OBSERVED ME WITH A KEEN EYE, AND OF COURSE DREW AN UNFAVOURABLE AUGURY FROM MY MANNER.



DANIEL NUGENT, SIR.

JUST BEFORE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW FELL, I SAW A BOAT WITH A SINGLE MAN IN IT, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE SHORE.

IT LOOKED LIKE THE SAME BOAT IN WHICH THIS MAN JUST LANDED.



A WOMAN DEPOSED THAT SHE SAW A BOAT WITH ONLY ONE MAN IN IT PUSH OFF FROM THAT PART OF THE SHORE WHERE THE CORPSE WAS AFTERWARDS FOUND.

SEVERAL OTHER MEN WERE EXAMINED CONCERNING MY LANDING; AND THEY AGREED THAT, WITH THE STRONG WIND, I HAD BEATEN ABOUT FOR MANY HOURS, AND HAD BEEN OBLIGED TO RETURN NEARLY TO THE SAME SPOT FROM WHICH I HAD DEPARTED.

THEY OBSERVED THAT IT APPEARED THAT I HAD BROUGHT THE BODY FROM ANOTHER PLACE, AND IT WAS LIKELY THAT I MIGHT HAVE PUT INTO THE HARBOUR, IGNORANT THAT IT WAS THE PLACE WHERE I HAD DEPOSITED THE CORPSE.



TAKE HIM INTO THE ROOM WHERE THE BODY LIES.

I WANT TO OBSERVE THE EFFECT THE SIGHT OF IT PRODUCES IN HIM.

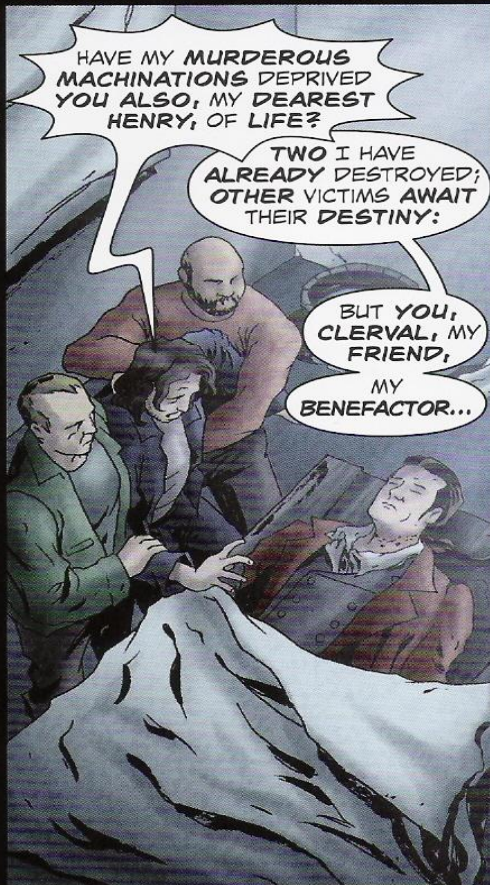
KNOWING THAT I HAD BEEN CONVERSING WITH SEVERAL PERSONS IN THE ISLAND I HAD INHABITED ABOUT THE TIME THAT THE BODY HAD BEEN FOUND, I WAS PERFECTLY TRANQUIL TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE AFFAIR.

HAVE MY MURDEROUS MACHINATIONS DEPRIVED YOU ALSO, MY DEAREST HENRY, OF LIFE?

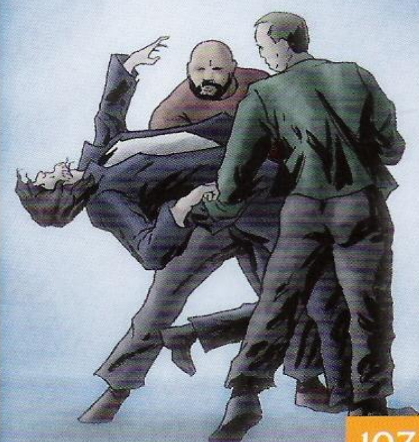
TWO I HAVE ALREADY DESTROYED; OTHER VICTIMS AWAIT THEIR DESTINY:

BUT YOU, CLERVAL, MY FRIEND,

MY BENEFACTOR...



THE HUMAN FRAME COULD NO LONGER SUPPORT THE AGONIES THAT I ENDURED, AND I WAS CARRIED OUT OF THE ROOM IN STRONG CONVULSIONS.





A FEVER SUCCEEDED TO THIS. I LAY FOR TWO MONTHS ON THE POINT OF DEATH. MY RAVINGS, AS I AFTERWARDS HEARD, WERE FRIGHTFUL.

I CALLED MYSELF THE MURDERER OF WILLIAM, OF JUSTINE, AND OF CLERVAL.

FORTUNATELY, AS I SPOKE MY NATIVE LANGUAGE, MR. KIRWIN ALONE UNDERSTOOD ME; BUT MY GESTURES AND BITTER CRIES WERE SUFFICIENT TO AFFRIGHT THE OTHER WITNESSES.



WHY DID I NOT DIE? MORE MISERABLE THAN MAN EVER WAS BEFORE, WHY DID I NOT SINK INTO FORGETFULNESS AND REST?

BUT I WAS DOOMED TO LIVE; AND IN TWO MONTHS, FOUND MYSELF AS AWAKING FROM A DREAM, IN A PRISON



I BELIEVE I AM;



ARE YOU BETTER NOW, SIR?

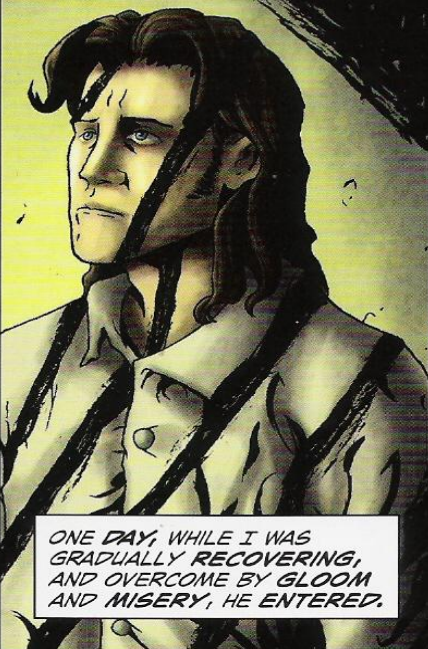
BUT IF IT ALL BE TRUE, IF INDEED I DID NOT DREAM, I AM SORRY THAT I AM STILL ALIVE TO FEEL THIS MISERY AND HORROR.

FOR THAT MATTER, IF YOU MEAN ABOUT THE GENTLEMAN YOU MURDERED, I BELIEVE THAT IT WERE BETTER FOR YOU IF YOU WERE DEAD, FOR I FANCY IT WILL GO HARD FOR YOU!

HOWEVER, THAT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS; I AM SENT TO NURSE YOU AND GET YOU WELL; I DO MY DUTY WITH A SAFE CONSCIENCE; IT WERE WELL IF EVERYBODY DID THE SAME.

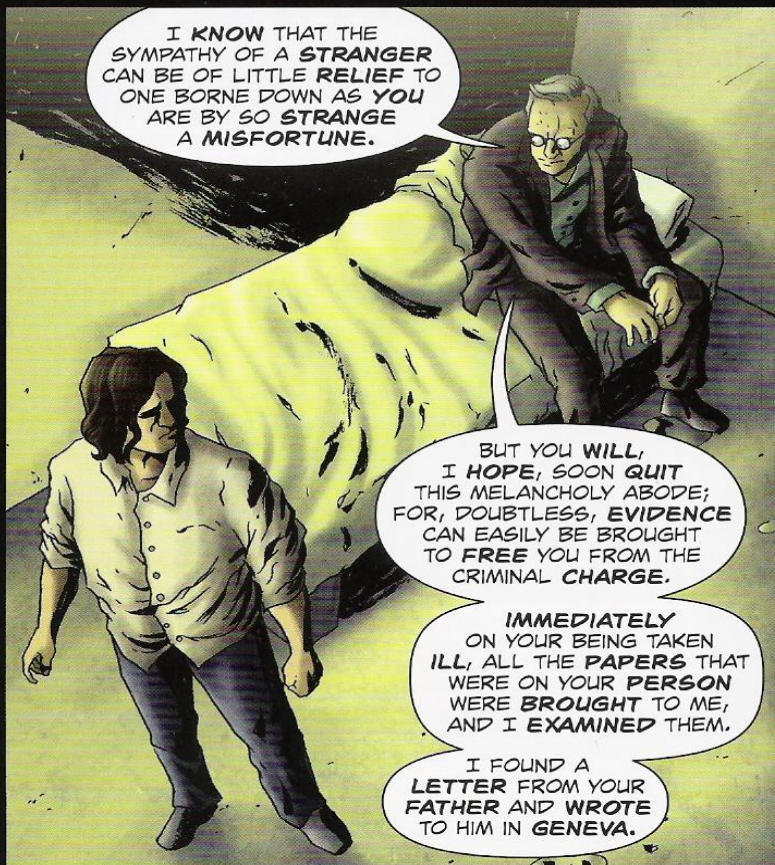


I SOON LEARNED THAT MR. KIRWIN HAD SHOWN ME EXTREME KINDNESS. HE HAD PREPARED THE BEST ROOM IN THE PRISON FOR ME, AND PROVIDED A PHYSICIAN AND A NURSE.



ONE DAY, WHILE I WAS GRADUALLY RECOVERING, AND OVERCOME BY GLOOM AND MISERY, HE ENTERED.

I KNOW THAT THE SYMPATHY OF A STRANGER CAN BE OF LITTLE RELIEF TO ONE BORNE DOWN AS YOU ARE BY SO STRANGE A MISFORTUNE.



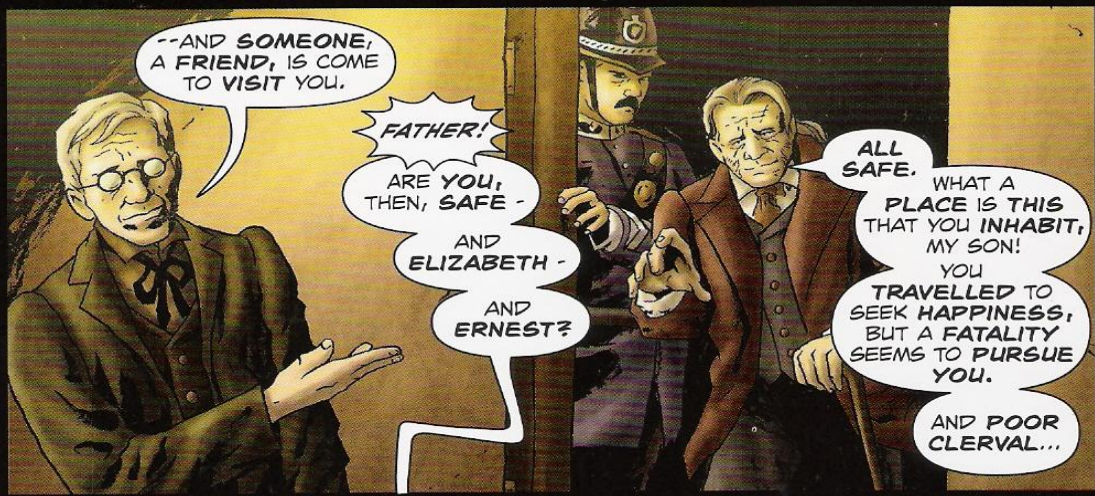
BUT YOU WILL, I HOPE, SOON QUIT THIS MELANCHOLY ABODE; FOR, DOUBTLESS, EVIDENCE CAN EASILY BE BROUGHT TO FREE YOU FROM THE CRIMINAL CHARGE.

IMMEDIATELY ON YOUR BEING TAKEN ILL, ALL THE PAPERS THAT WERE ON YOUR PERSON WERE BROUGHT TO ME, AND I EXAMINED THEM.

I FOUND A LETTER FROM YOUR FATHER AND WROTE TO HIM IN GENEVA.

THIS SUSPENSE IS A THOUSAND TIMES WORSE THAN THE MOST HORRIBLE EVENT: TELL ME WHAT NEW SCENE OF DEATH HAS BEEN ACTED, AND WHOSE I AM NOW TO LAMENT?

YOUR FAMILY IS PERFECTLY WELL--



--AND SOMEONE, A FRIEND, IS COME TO VISIT YOU.

FATHER!

ARE YOU, THEN, SAFE -

AND ELIZABETH -

AND ERNEST?

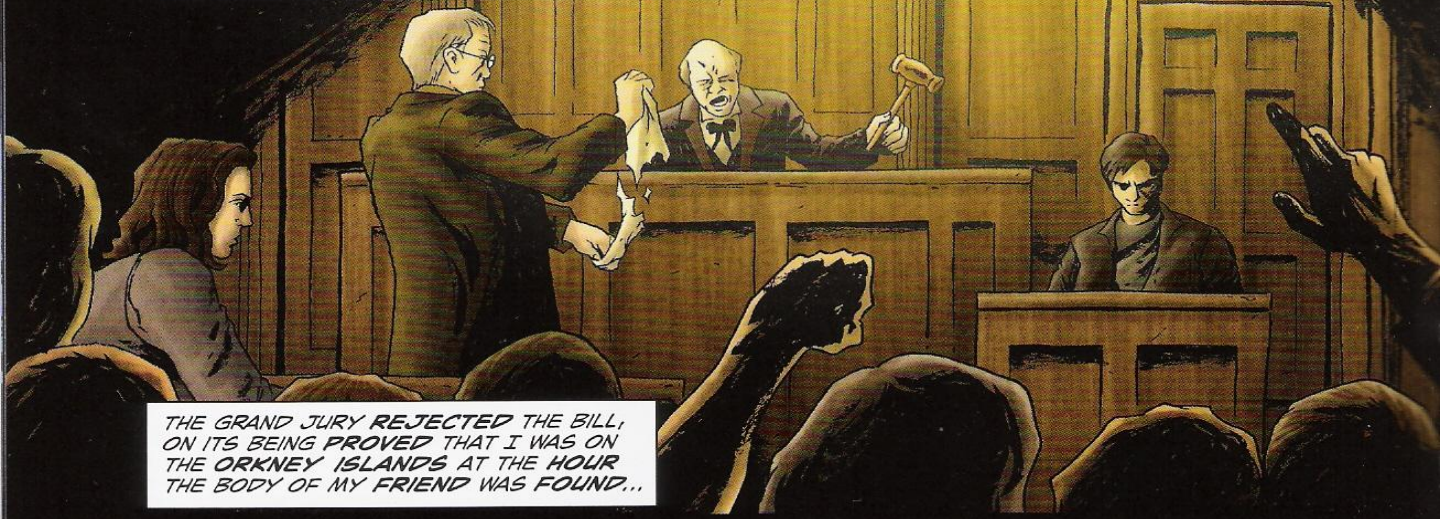
ALL SAFE.

WHAT A PLACE IS THIS THAT YOU INHABIT, MY SON!

YOU TRAVELLED TO SEEK HAPPINESS, BUT A FATALITY SEEMS TO PURSUE YOU.

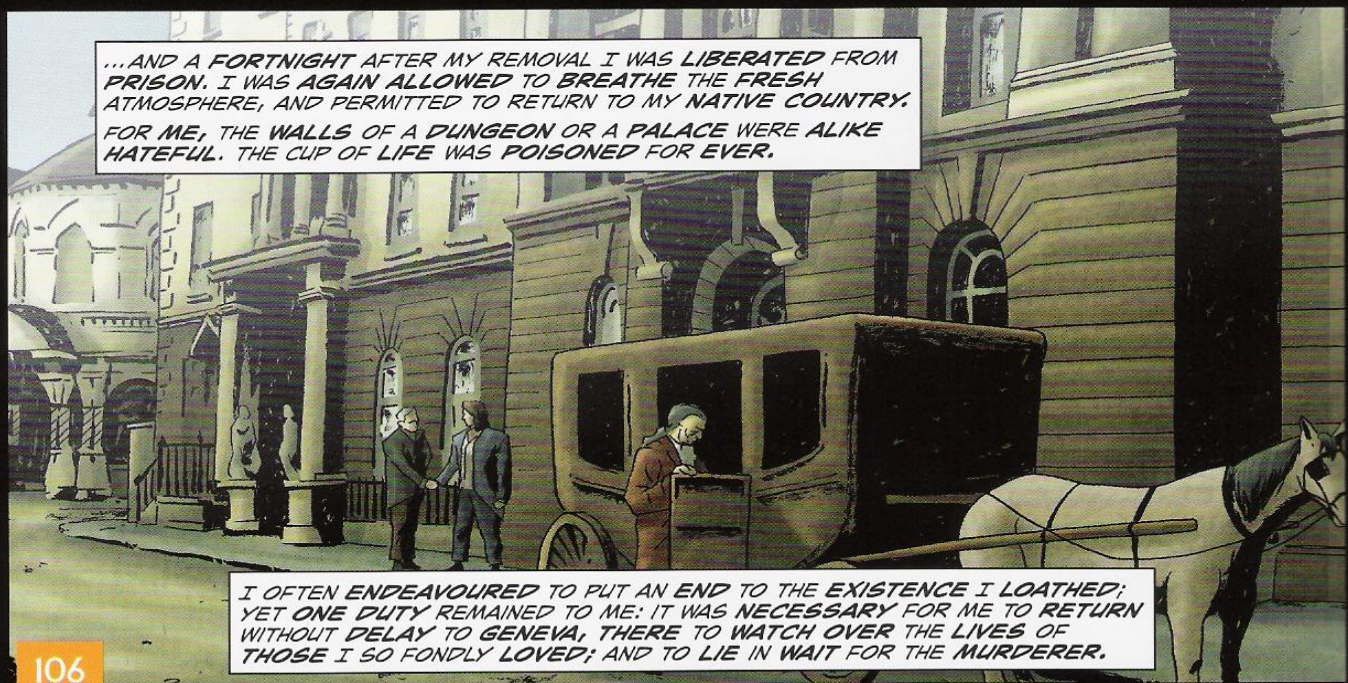
AND POOR CLERVAL...

I WAS OBLIGED TO TRAVEL NEARLY A HUNDRED MILES TO THE COUNTY-TOWN, WHERE THE COURT WAS HELD. MR. KIRWIN CHARGED HIMSELF WITH EVERY CARE OF COLLECTING WITNESSES, AND ARRANGING MY DEFENCE.



THE GRAND JURY REJECTED THE BILL, ON ITS BEING PROVED THAT I WAS ON THE ORKNEY ISLANDS AT THE HOUR THE BODY OF MY FRIEND WAS FOUND...

...AND A FORTNIGHT AFTER MY REMOVAL I WAS LIBERATED FROM PRISON. I WAS AGAIN ALLOWED TO BREATHE THE FRESH ATMOSPHERE, AND PERMITTED TO RETURN TO MY NATIVE COUNTRY. FOR ME, THE WALLS OF A DUNGEON OR A PALACE WERE ALIKE HATEFUL. THE CUP OF LIFE WAS POISONED FOR EVER.



I OFTEN ENDEAVOURED TO PUT AN END TO THE EXISTENCE I LOATHED; YET ONE DUTY REMAINED TO ME: IT WAS NECESSARY FOR ME TO RETURN WITHOUT DELAY TO GENEVA, THERE TO WATCH OVER THE LIVES OF THOSE I SO FONDLY LOVED; AND TO LIE IN WAIT FOR THE MURDERER.

VOLUME III
CHAPTER V

THE VOYAGE CAME TO AN END, WE LANDED, AND PROCEEDED TO PARIS. I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM ELIZABETH:

... TELL ME, DEAREST VICTOR - DO YOU NOT LOVE ANOTHER? I CONFESS TO YOU, MY FRIEND, THAT WHEN I SAW YOU LAST AUTUMN SO UNHAPPY, I COULD NOT HELP SUPPOSING THAT YOU MIGHT REGRET OUR CONNECTION AND BELIEVE YOURSELF BOUND BY HONOUR TO FULFIL THE WISHES OF YOUR PARENTS, ALTHOUGH THEY OPPOSED THEMSELVES TO YOUR INCLINATIONS...

... I CONFESS TO YOU, MY FRIEND, THAT I LOVE YOU; BUT IT IS YOUR HAPPINESS I DESIRE AS WELL AS MY OWN.

- ELIZABETH

THIS LETTER REVIVED IN ME THE THREAT OF THE FIEND - "I SHALL BE WITH YOU ON YOUR WEDDING-NIGHT!"

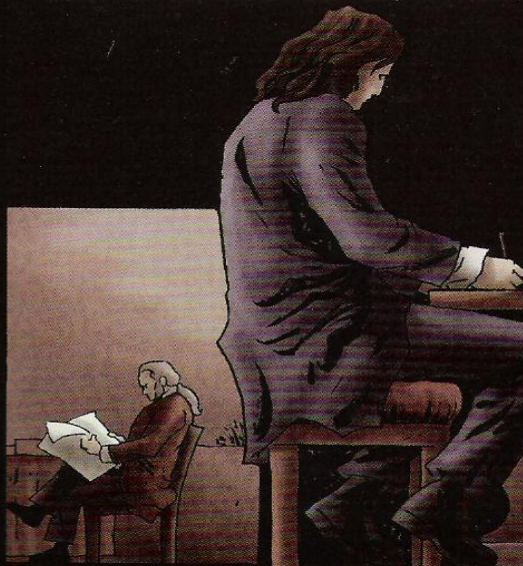
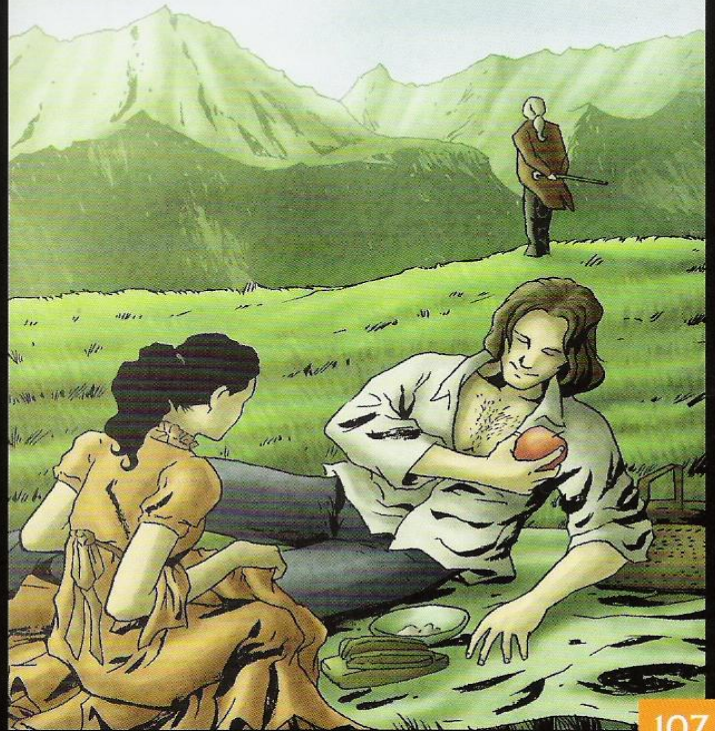
ON THAT NIGHT HE HAD DECIDED TO CONSUMMATE HIS CRIMES BY MY DEATH. SWEET AND BELOVED ELIZABETH! - I WOULD DIE TO MAKE HER HAPPY.

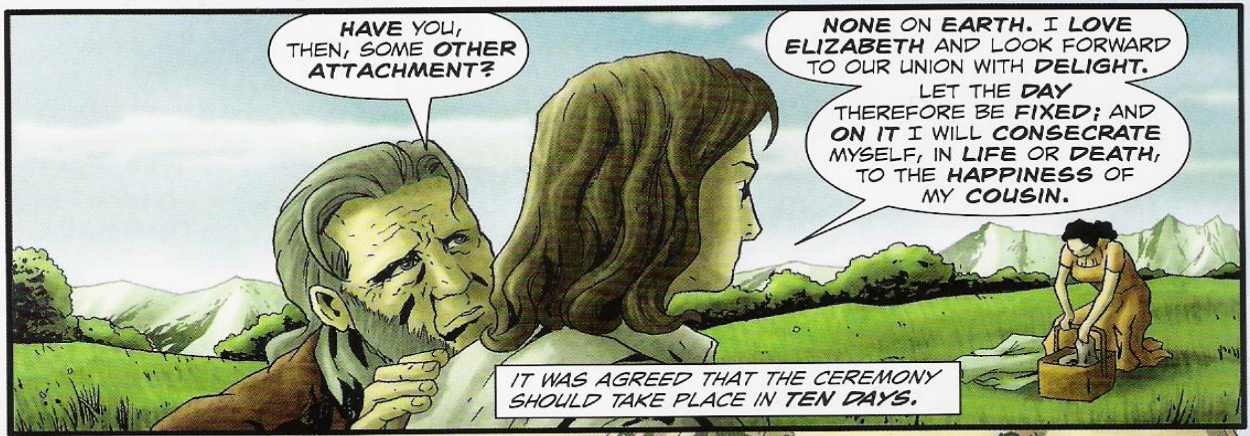
I FEAR, MY BELOVED GIRL, LITTLE HAPPINESS REMAINS FOR US ON EARTH; YET ALL THAT I MAY ONE DAY ENJOY IS CENTRED IN YOU. CHASE AWAY YOUR IDLE FEARS; TO YOU ALONE DO I CONSECRATE MY LIFE, AND MY ENDEAVOURS FOR CONTENTMENT.

I HAVE ONE, DREADFUL, SECRET WHICH WHEN REVEALED TO YOU WILL CHILL YOUR FRAME WITH HORROR. I WILL CONFIDE THIS TALE OF MISERY TO YOU THE DAY AFTER OUR MARRIAGE; FOR THERE MUST BE PERFECT CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US, UNTIL THEN, DO NOT MENTION OR ALLUDE TO IT.

- VICTOR

IN ABOUT A WEEK AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF ELIZABETH'S LETTER, WE RETURNED TO GENEVA. THE SWEET GIRL WELCOMED ME WITH WARM AFFECTION; YET TEARS WERE IN HER EYES AS SHE BEHELD MY EMACIATED FRAME.





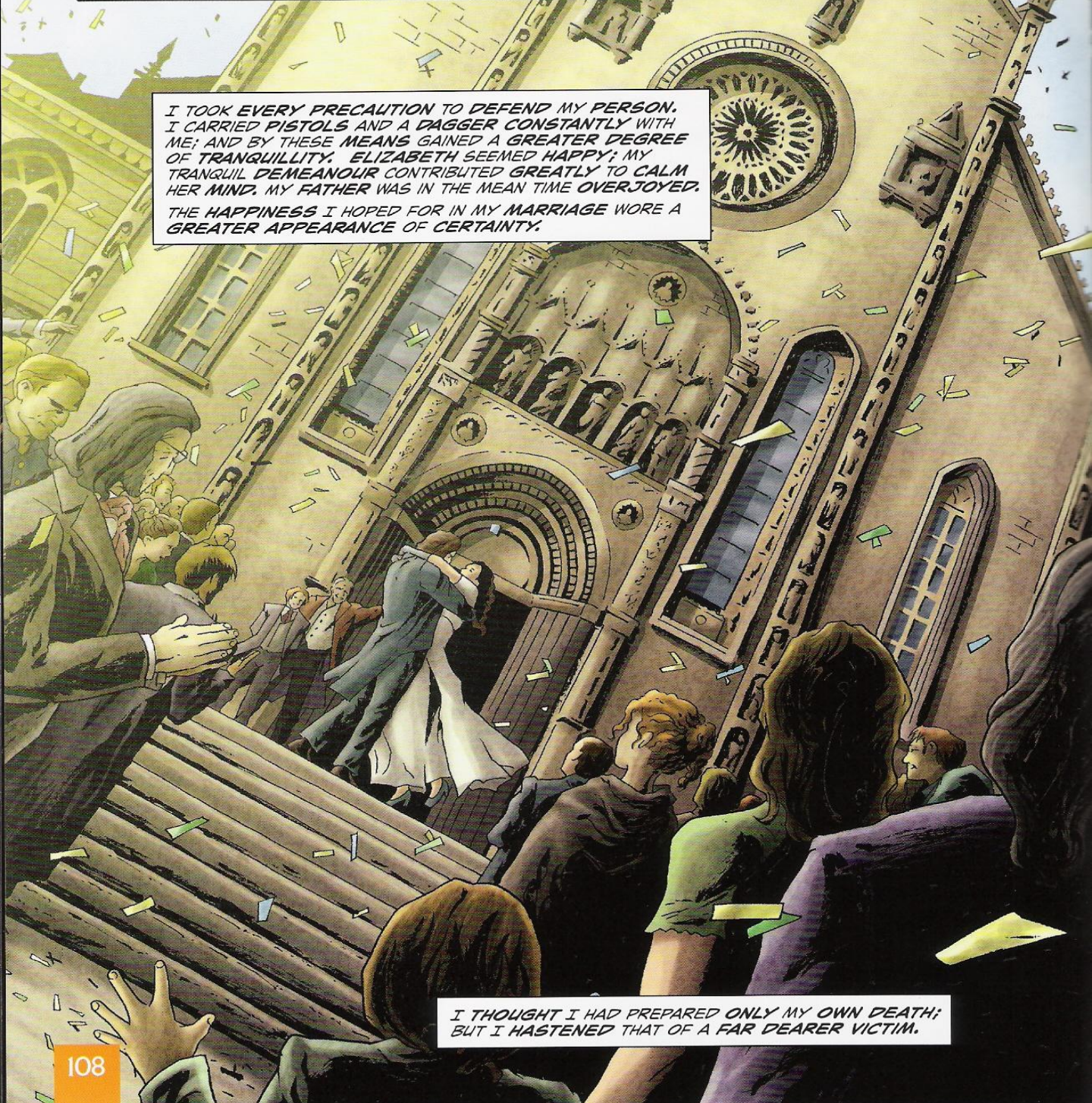
HAVE YOU, THEN, SOME OTHER ATTACHMENT?

NONE ON EARTH. I LOVE ELIZABETH AND LOOK FORWARD TO OUR UNION WITH DELIGHT.

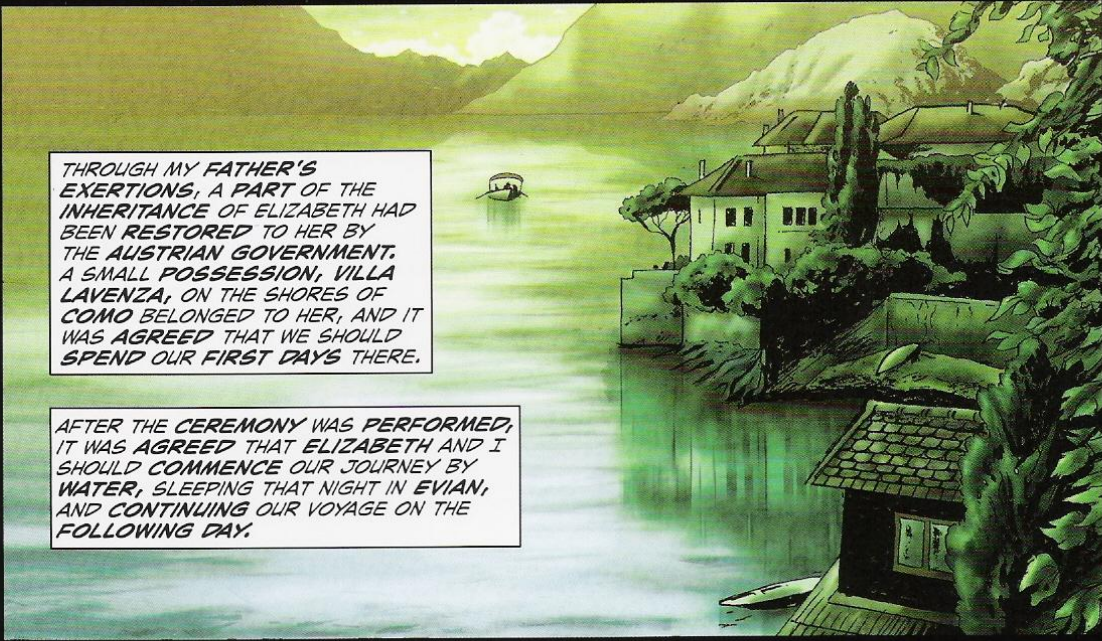
LET THE DAY THEREFORE BE FIXED; AND ON IT I WILL CONSECRATE MYSELF, IN LIFE OR DEATH, TO THE HAPPINESS OF MY COUSIN.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE CEREMONY SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN TEN DAYS.

I TOOK EVERY PRECAUTION TO DEFEND MY PERSON. I CARRIED PISTOLS AND A DAGGER CONSTANTLY WITH ME; AND BY THESE MEANS GAINED A GREATER DEGREE OF TRANQUILLITY. ELIZABETH SEEMED HAPPY; MY TRANQUIL DEMEANOUR CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO CALM HER MIND. MY FATHER WAS IN THE MEAN TIME OVERJOYED. THE HAPPINESS I HOPED FOR IN MY MARRIAGE WORE A GREATER APPEARANCE OF CERTAINTY.



I THOUGHT I HAD PREPARED ONLY MY OWN DEATH; BUT I HASTENED THAT OF A FAR DEARER VICTIM.



THROUGH MY FATHER'S EXERTIONS, A PART OF THE INHERITANCE OF ELIZABETH HAD BEEN RESTORED TO HER BY THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT. A SMALL POSSESSION, VILLA LAVENZA, ON THE SHORES OF COMO BELONGED TO HER, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT WE SHOULD SPEND OUR FIRST DAYS THERE.

AFTER THE CEREMONY WAS PERFORMED, IT WAS AGREED THAT ELIZABETH AND I SHOULD COMMENCE OUR JOURNEY BY WATER, SLEEPING THAT NIGHT IN EVIAN, AND CONTINUING OUR VOYAGE ON THE FOLLOWING DAY.



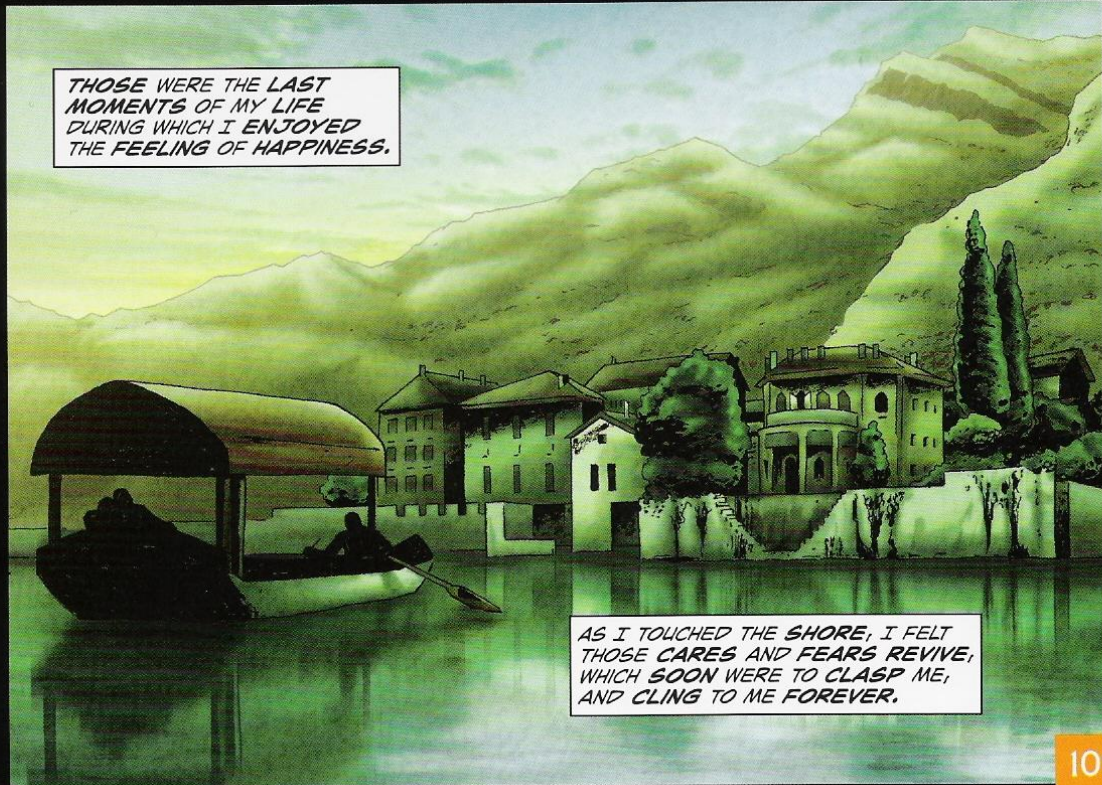
YOU ARE SORROWFUL, MY LOVE.

AH! IF YOU KNEW WHAT I HAVE SUFFERED, AND WHAT I MAY YET ENDURE, YOU WOULD ENDEAVOUR TO LET ME TASTE THE QUIET AND FREEDOM FROM DESPAIR THAT THIS ONE DAY AT LEAST PERMITS ME TO ENJOY.

BE HAPPY, MY DEAR VICTOR.

SOMETHING WHISPERS TO ME NOT TO DEPEND TOO MUCH ON THE PROSPECT THAT IS OPENED BEFORE US, BUT I WILL NOT LISTEN TO SUCH A SINISTER VOICE.

WHAT A DIVINE DAY! HOW HAPPY AND SERENE ALL NATURE APPEARS.



THOSE WERE THE LAST MOMENTS OF MY LIFE DURING WHICH I ENJOYED THE FEELING OF HAPPINESS.

AS I TOUCHED THE SHORE, I FELT THOSE CARES AND FEARS REVIVE, WHICH SOON WERE TO CLASP ME, AND CLING TO ME FOREVER.

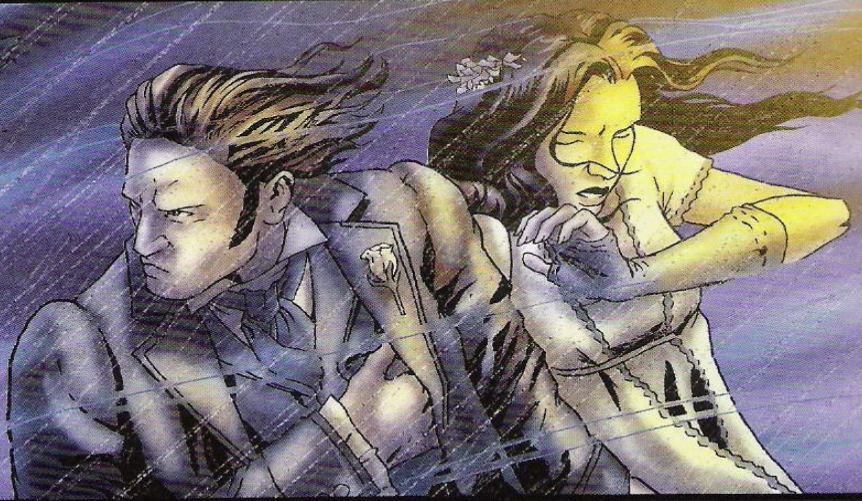
VOLUME III
CHAPTER VI

WE WALKED FOR A SHORT
TIME ON THE SHORE
AND CONTEMPLATED
THE LOVELY SCENE.



THE WIND, WHICH HAD FALLEN
IN THE SOUTH, NOW ROSE WITH
GREAT VIOLENCE IN THE WEST.
SUDDENLY A HEAVY STORM
OF RAIN DESCENDED.

I HAD BEEN CALM DURING THE
DAY; BUT AS SOON AS NIGHT
OBSCURED THE SHAPES OF
OBJECTS, A THOUSAND
FEARS AROSE IN MY MIND.
I WAS ANXIOUS AND
WATCHFUL, WHILE MY RIGHT
HAND GRASPED MY PISTOL.



WHAT IS IT
THAT AGITATES
YOU, MY DEAR
VICTOR? WHAT IS
IT YOU FEAR?

OH!
PEACE, PEACE,
MY LOVE.


THIS NIGHT, AND
ALL WILL BE SAFE:
BUT THIS NIGHT IS
DREADFUL, VERY
DREADFUL.



YOU
MUST RETIRE,
ELIZABETH.
I WILL JOIN
YOU LATER.

VICTOR...





SHE LEFT ME, AND I CONTINUED SOME TIME WALKING UP AND DOWN THE PASSAGES OF THE HOUSE, AND INSPECTING EVERY CORNER THAT MIGHT AFFORD A RETREAT TO MY ADVERSARY...



...BUT I DISCOVERED NO TRACE OF HIM.



AAAAHH!!!



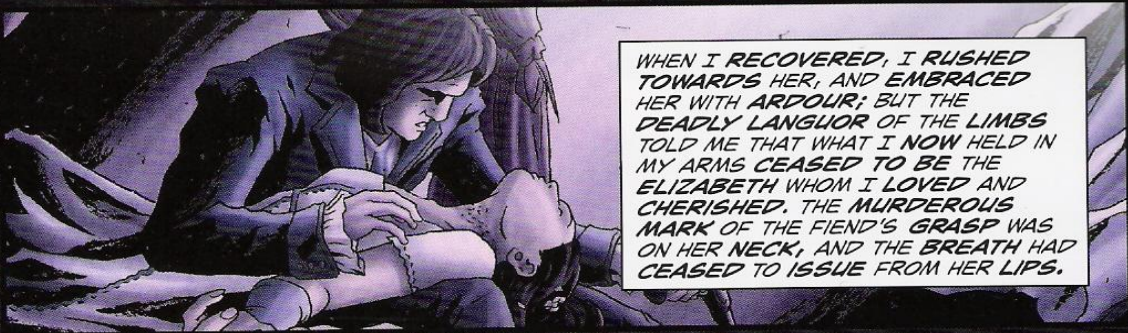
SHRIEK!!

AS I HEARD THE SCREAM, THE WHOLE TRUTH RUSHED INTO MY MIND!



ELIZABETH!!!

I FELL SENSELESS TO THE GROUND.



WHEN I RECOVERED, I RUSHED TOWARDS HER, AND EMBRACED HER WITH ARDOUR; BUT THE DEADLY LANGUOR OF THE LIMBS TOLD ME THAT WHAT I NOW HELD IN MY ARMS CEASED TO BE THE ELIZABETH WHOM I LOVED AND CHERISHED. THE MURDEROUS MARK OF THE FIEND'S GRASP WAS ON HER NECK, AND THE BREATH HAD CEASED TO ISSUE FROM HER LIPS.



I HAPPENED TO LOOK UP - THE SHUTTERS HAD BEEN THROWN BACK; AND WITH A SENSE OF HORROR NOT TO BE DESCRIBED...



...I SAW THE FIGURE MOST HIDEOUS AND ABHORRED.

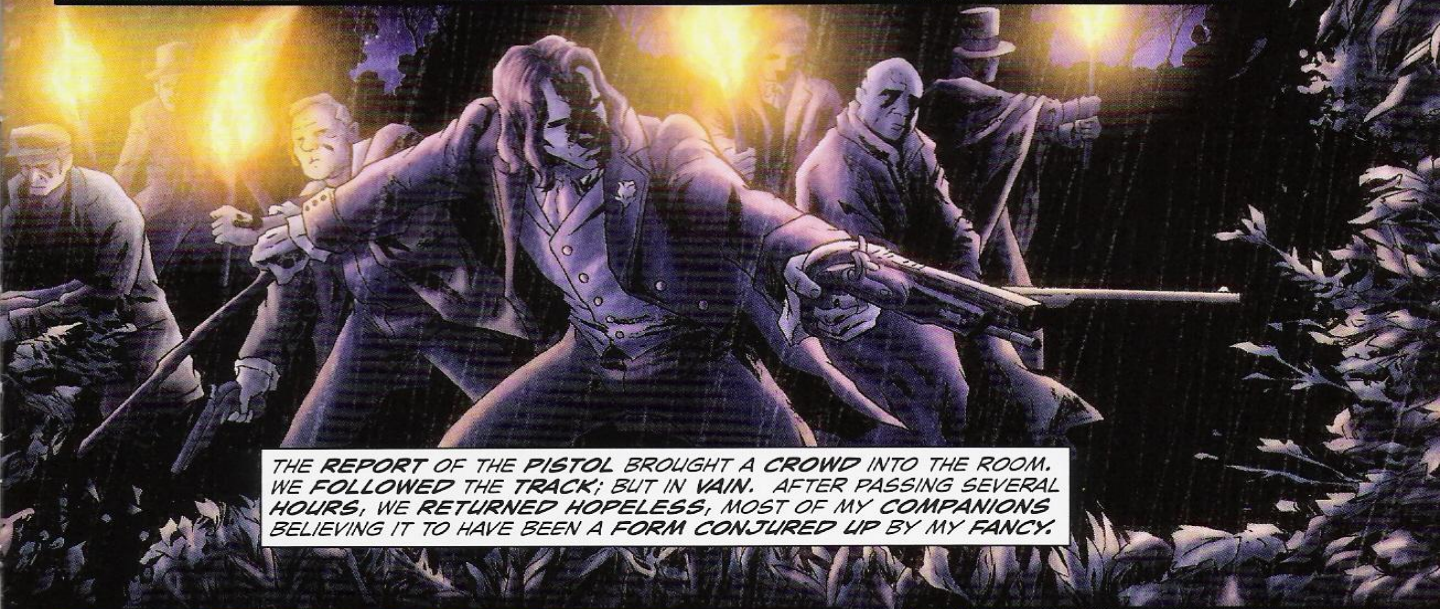
HE SEEMED TO JEER, AS WITH HIS FIENDISH FINGER HE POINTED TOWARDS THE CORPSE OF MY WIFE.





KABLANK!

HE ELUDED ME, AND, WITH THE SWIFTNES OF LIGHTNING, PLUNGED INTO THE LAKE.



THE REPORT OF THE PISTOL BROUGHT A CROWD INTO THE ROOM. WE FOLLOWED THE TRACK; BUT IN VAIN. AFTER PASSING SEVERAL HOURS, WE RETURNED HOPELESS, MOST OF MY COMPANIONS BELIEVING IT TO HAVE BEEN A FORM CONJURED UP BY MY FANCY.



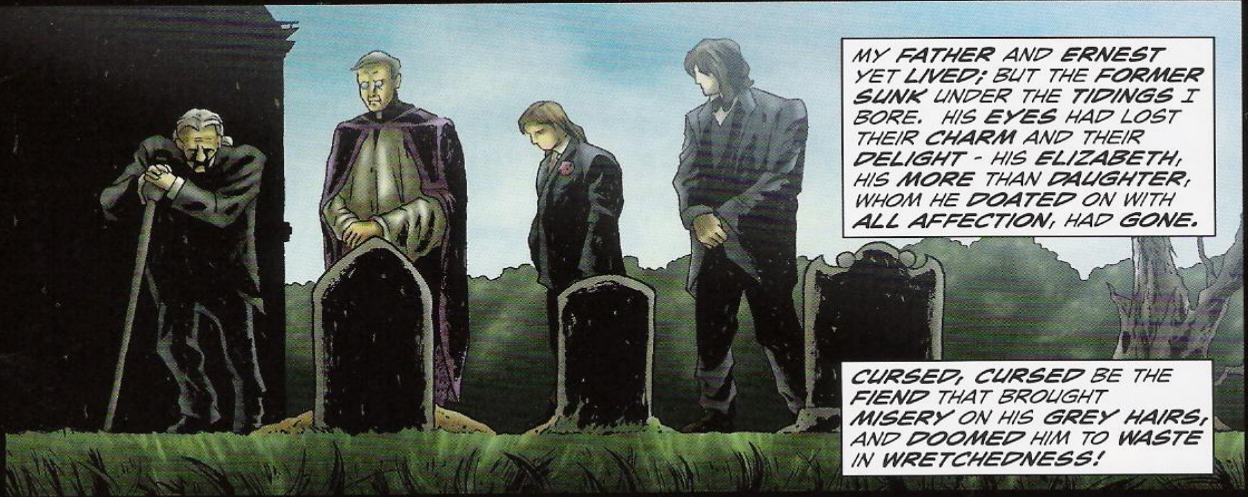
I WAS BEWILDERED, IN A CLOUD OF WONDER AND HORROR.

THE DEATH OF WILLIAM, THE EXECUTION OF JUSTINE, THE MURDER OF CLERVAL, AND LASTLY OF MY WIFE...



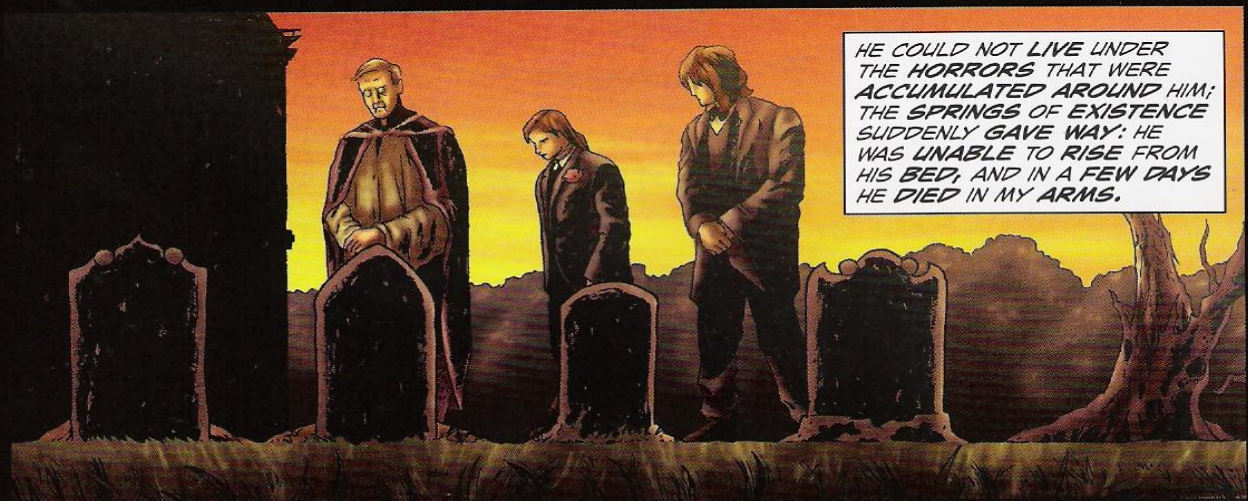
...MY FATHER EVEN NOW MIGHT BE WRITHING UNDER HIS GRASP, AND ERNEST MIGHT BE DEAD AT HIS FEET.

I RESOLVED TO RETURN TO GENEVA WITH ALL POSSIBLE SPEED.

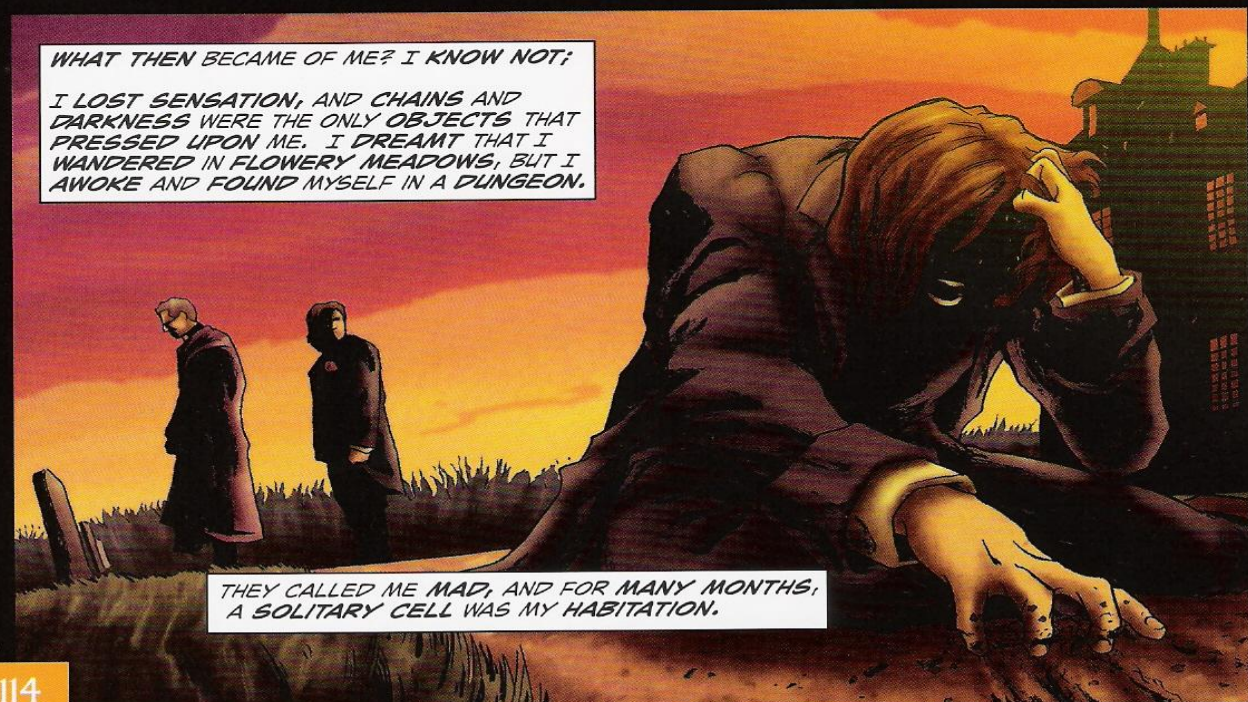


MY FATHER AND ERNEST YET LIVED; BUT THE FORMER SUNK UNDER THE TIDINGS I BORE. HIS EYES HAD LOST THEIR CHARM AND THEIR DELIGHT - HIS ELIZABETH, HIS MORE THAN DAUGHTER, WHOM HE DOATED ON WITH ALL AFFECTION, HAD GONE.

CURSED, CURSED BE THE FIEND THAT BROUGHT MISERY ON HIS GREY HAIRS, AND DOOMED HIM TO WASTE IN WRETCHEDNESS!



HE COULD NOT LIVE UNDER THE HORRORS THAT WERE ACCUMULATED AROUND HIM; THE SPRINGS OF EXISTENCE SUDDENLY GAVE WAY: HE WAS UNABLE TO RISE FROM HIS BED, AND IN A FEW DAYS HE DIED IN MY ARMS.



WHAT THEN BECAME OF ME? I KNOW NOT; I LOST SENSATION, AND CHAINS AND DARKNESS WERE THE ONLY OBJECTS THAT PRESSED UPON ME. I DREAMT THAT I WANDERED IN FLOWERY MEADOWS, BUT I AWOKE AND FOUND MYSELF IN A DUNGEON.

THEY CALLED ME MAD, AND FOR MANY MONTHS, A SOLITARY CELL WAS MY HABITATION.

I WAS POSSESSED BY A MADDENING RAGE WHEN I THOUGHT OF THE MONSTER WHOM I HAD CREATED, BUT MY HATE DID NOT LONG CONFINE ITSELF TO USELESS WISHES. ABOUT A MONTH AFTER MY RELEASE, I REPAIRED TO A CRIMINAL JUDGE IN THE TOWN, AND TOLD HIM THAT I HAD AN ACCUSATION TO MAKE.

SIR, I KNOW THE DESTROYER OF MY FAMILY.

I REQUIRE YOU TO EXERT YOUR WHOLE AUTHORITY FOR THE APPREHENSION OF THE MURDERER.

BE ASSURED, SIR, NO PAINS OR EXERTIONS ON MY PART SHALL BE SPARED TO DISCOVER THE VILLAIN.

I THANK YOU.

LISTEN, THEREFORE, TO THE DEPOSITION I HAVE TO MAKE. IT IS INDEED A STRANGE TALE, BUT IT IS TOO CONNECTED TO BE MISTAKEN FOR A DREAM, AND I HAVE NO MOTIVE FOR FALSEHOOD...

I NOW RELATED MY HISTORY, WITH FIRMNESS AND PRECISION, MARKING THE DATES WITH ACCURACY. THE MAGISTRATE APPEARED AT FIRST PERFECTLY INCREDULOUS, BUT AS I CONTINUED HE BECAME MORE ATTENTIVE AND INTERESTED.

IT IS YOUR DUTY AS A MAGISTRATE TO EXERT YOUR WHOLE POWER TO SEIZE AND PUNISH THE BEING WHOM I ACCUSE.

I WOULD WILLINGLY;

BUT THE CREATURE OF WHOM YOU SPEAK APPEARS TO HAVE POWERS WHICH WOULD PUT ALL MY EXERTIONS TO DEFIANCE.

BESIDES, SOME MONTHS HAVE ELAPSED, AND NO ONE CAN CONJECTURE WHAT REGION HE MAY NOW INHABIT.

I PERCEIVE YOUR THOUGHTS: YOU DO NOT CREDIT MY NARRATIVE, AND DO NOT INTEND TO PURSUE MY ENEMY WITH THE PUNISHMENT WHICH IS HIS DESERT.

MY RAGE IS UNSPEAKABLE!

YOU REFUSE MY JUST DEMAND: I HAVE BUT ONE RESOURCE; AND I DEVOTE MYSELF, EITHER IN MY LIFE OR DEATH, TO HIS DESTRUCTION!

I BROKE FROM THE HOUSE ANGRY AND DISTURBED, AND RETIRED TO MEDITATE ON SOME OTHER MODE OF ACTION.

MY PRESENT SITUATION WAS ONE IN WHICH ALL VOLUNTARY THOUGHT WAS SWALLOWED UP AND LOST. REVENGE ALONE ENDOWED ME WITH STRENGTH AND COMPOSURE. MY FIRST RESOLUTION WAS TO QUIT GENEVA FOREVER.

I FOUND MYSELF AT THE CEMETERY WHERE WILLIAM, ELIZABETH, AND MY FATHER REPOSED.

THE SPIRITS OF THE DEPARTED SEEMED TO FLIT AROUND, AND TO CAST A SHADOW, WHICH WAS FELT BUT NOT SEEN, AROUND THE HEAD OF THE MOURNER.

BY THE SACRED EARTH ON WHICH I KNEEL, BY THE SHADES THAT WANDER NEAR ME, BY THE DEEP AND ETERNAL GRIEF THAT I FEEL, I SWEAR;

AND BY THEE, O NIGHT, AND THE SPIRITS THAT PRESIDE OVER THEE, TO

PURSU
THE DAEMON,

WHO CAUSED THIS MISERY, UNTIL HE OR I SHALL PERISH IN MORTAL CONFLICT.

I CALL ON YOU, SPIRITS OF THE DEAD; AND YOU, WANDERING MINISTERS OF VENGEANCE, TO AID AND CONDUCT ME IN MY WORK.

LET THE CURSED AND HELLISH MONSTER DRINK DEEP OF AGONY; LET HIM FEEL THE DESPAIR THAT NOW TORTMENTS ME!

HA HA
HA HA HA!

I AM SATISFIED: MISERABLE WRETCH! YOU HAVE DETERMINED TO LIVE, AND I AM SATISFIED!

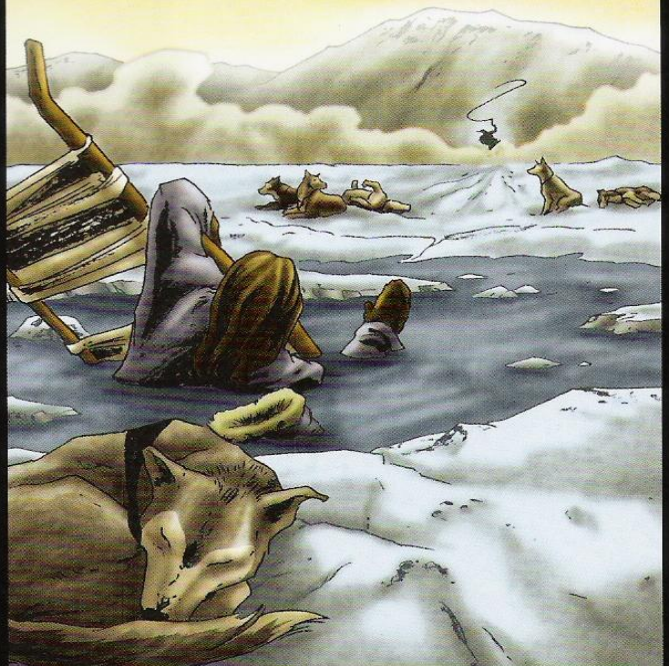
I DARTED TOWARDS THE SPOT FROM WHICH THE SOUND PROCEEDED; BUT THE DEVIL ELUDED MY GRASP.

I PURSUED HIM; AND FOR MANY MONTHS THIS HAS BEEN MY TASK.

GUIDED BY A SLIGHT CLUE, I FOLLOWED THE WINDINGS OF THE RHÔNE, BUT VAINLY. I TOOK PASSAGE ACROSS THE BLACK SEA IN THE SAME SHIP AS I SAW THE FIEND ENTER, BUT HE ESCAPED. AMIDST THE WILDS OF TARTARY AND RUSSIA, ALTHOUGH HE STILL EVADED ME, I HAVE EVER FOLLOWED IN HIS TRACK.



SOMETIMES PEASANTS POINTED THE WAY, OTHER TIMES HE LEFT SOME MARK TO GUIDE ME. MY LIFE WAS INDEED HATEFUL TO ME, AS I FOLLOWED TAUNTING MESSAGES CARVED INTO THE BARKS OF TREES OR INTO STONE. I STILL PURSUED MY JOURNEY NORTHWARD. I PROCURED A SLEDGE AND DOGS, AND THUS TRAVERSED THE SNOWS WITH INCONCEIVABLE SPEED AND NOW GAINED ON HIM.



WHEN I APPEARED ALMOST WITHIN GRASP OF MY FOE, MY HOPES WERE SUDDENLY EXTINGUISHED. THE ICE SPLIT AND CRACKED.

I MYSELF WAS ABOUT TO SINK, WHEN I SAW YOUR VESSEL RIDING AT ANCHOR, AND HOLDING FORTH TO ME HOPES OF SUCCOUR AND LIFE. YOU TOOK ME ON BOARD WHEN MY VIGOUR WAS EXHAUSTED, AND I SHOULD SOON HAVE SUNK UNDER MY MULTIPLIED HARDSHIPS INTO A DEATH WHICH I STILL DREAD - FOR MY TASK IS UNFULFILLED.

IF I DIE, WALTON, SWEAR TO ME THAT HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE; THAT YOU WILL SEEK HIM, AND SATISFY MY VENGEANCE IN HIS DEATH.

HE IS ELOQUENT AND PERSUASIVE; AND ONCE HIS WORDS HAD EVEN POWER OVER MY HEART: BUT TRUST HIM NOT. HIS SOUL IS AS HELLISH AS HIS FORM, FULL OF TREACHERY AND FIENDLIKE MALICE.



LETTER - AUGUST 26TH

YOU HAVE READ THIS STRANGE AND TERRIFIC STORY, MARGARET. SOMETIMES, SEIZED WITH SUDDEN AGONY, HE COULD NOT CONTINUE HIS TALE, WHICH IS CONNECTED AND TOLD WITH AN APPEARANCE OF THE SIMPLEST TRUTH. SUCH A MONSTER HAS, THEN, REAL EXISTENCE!

SOMETIMES I ENDEAVOURED TO GAIN FROM FRANKENSTEIN THE PARTICULARS OF HIS CREATURE'S FORMATION...

ARE YOU MAD, MY FRIEND? OR WHITHER DOES YOUR SENSELESS CURIOSITY LEAD YOU?

WOULD YOU ALSO CREATE FOR YOURSELF AND THE WORLD A DEMONIAL ENEMY?

PEACE, PEACE! LEARN MY MISERIES, AND DO NOT SEEK TO INCREASE YOUR OWN.

I HAVE LONGED FOR A FRIEND. BEHOLD, ON THESE DESERT SEAS, I HAVE FOUND SUCH A ONE; BUT, I FEAR, I HAVE GAINED HIM ONLY TO KNOW HIS VALUE, AND LOSE HIM.

I WOULD RECONCILE HIM TO LIFE, BUT HE REPULSES THE IDEA.

I THANK YOU, WALTON, FOR YOUR KIND INTENTIONS TOWARDS SO MISERABLE A WRETCH;

BUT WHEN YOU SPEAK OF NEW TIES, AND FRESH AFFECTIONS, THINK YOU THAT ANY CAN REPLACE THOSE WHO ARE GONE?

CAN ANY MAN BE TO ME AS CLERVAL WAS; OR ANY WOMAN ANOTHER ELIZABETH?

WHEREVER I AM, THE SOOTHING VOICE OF ELIZABETH, AND THE CONVERSATION OF CLERVAL, WILL BE EVER WHISPERED IN MY EAR. THEY ARE DEAD; AND BUT ONE FEELING IN SUCH SOLITUDE CAN PERSUADE ME TO PRESERVE MY LIFE - I MUST PURSUE AND DESTROY THE BEING TO WHOM I GAVE EXISTENCE; THEN MY LOT ON EARTH WILL BE FULFILLED, AND I MAY DIE.

LETTER - SEPTEMBER 2ND

THE BRAVE FELLOWS, WHOM I HAVE PERSUADED TO BE MY COMPANIONS, LOOK TOWARDS ME FOR AID; BUT I HAVE NONE TO BESTOW. IT IS TERRIBLE TO REFLECT THAT THE LIVES OF ALL THESE MEN ARE ENDANGERED THROUGH ME. IF WE ARE LOST, MY MAD SCHEMES ARE THE CAUSE.

LETTER -
SEPTEMBER 5TH

I MENTIONED IN MY LAST LETTER THE
FEARS I ENTERTAINED FOR A MUTINY.
THIS MORNING...

CAPTAIN, I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN
TO INSIST THAT IF THE VESSEL SHOULD
BE FREED, YOU PROMISE TO INSTANTLY
DIRECT YOUR COURSE SOUTHWARDS.

YOU
CANNOT
REFUSE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHAT DO YOU DEMAND
OF YOUR CAPTAIN? ARE YOU THEN
SO EASILY TURNED FROM YOUR
DESIGN? DID YOU NOT CALL THIS A
GLORIOUS EXPEDITION?

AND WHEREFORE
WAS IT GLORIOUS? WITH
THE FIRST IMAGINATION
OF DANGER, YOU
SHRINK AWAY!

OH! BE MEN,
OR BE MORE THAN MEN.
DO NOT RETURN TO YOUR FAMILIES
WITH THE STIGMA OF DISGRACE
MARKED ON YOUR BROWS. RETURN AS
HEROES WHO HAVE FOUGHT AND
CONQUERED, AND WHO KNOW NOT
WHAT IT IS TO TURN THEIR
BACKS ON THE FOE.



THEY LOOKED AT ONE ANOTHER AND WERE UNABLE TO REPLY

RETIRE AND
CONSIDER.

I WILL
NOT LEAD YOU
FARTHER NORTH IF
YOU STRENUOUSLY
DESIRE THE
CONTRARY;
BUT I HOPE THAT,
WITH REFLECTION,
YOUR COURAGE
WILL RETURN.

AYE,
CAPTAIN.



LETTER - SEPTEMBER 7TH

THE DIE IS CAST; I HAVE CONSENTED TO RETURN, IF WE ARE NOT DESTROYED. THUS ARE MY HOPES BLASTED BY COWARDICE AND INDECISION: I COME BACK IGNORANT AND DISAPPOINTED.

IT REQUIRES MORE PHILOSOPHY THAN I POSSESS, TO BEAR THIS INJUSTICE WITH PATIENCE.

September 12th

It is past; I am returning to England. I have lost my hopes of utility and glory; - I have lost my friend. But I will endeavour to detail these bitter circumstances to you, my dear sister; and, while I am wafted towards England, and towards you, I will not despond.

September 9th, the ice began to move, and roarings like thunder were heard at a distance, as the islands split and cracked in every direction. We were in the most imminent peril; but, as we could only remain passive; my chief attention was occupied by my unfortunate guest, whose illness increased in such a degree that he was entirely confined to his bed.



HURRAH!

YEAH!

HOORAY!

THEY SHOUT BECAUSE THEY WILL SOON RETURN TO ENGLAND.


DO YOU THEN REALLY RETURN?

ALAS, YES; I CANNOT WITHSTAND THEIR DEMANDS. I CANNOT LEAD THEM UNWITTINGLY TO DANGER, AND I MUST RETURN.



DO SO,
IF YOU WILL;
BUT I WILL
NOT.

YOU MAY GIVE
UP YOUR PURPOSE,
BUT MINE IS ASSIGNED
TO ME BY HEAVEN,
AND I DARE NOT.



I AM WEAK;
BUT SURELY THE
SPIRITS WHO ASSIST
MY VENGEANCE WILL
ENDOW ME WITH
SUFFICIENT
STRENGTH...

SAYING THIS, HE
ENDEAVOURED TO SPRING FROM
THE BED, BUT THE EXERTION
WAS TOO GREAT FOR HIM; HE
FELL BACK AND FAINTED.

IT WAS LONG BEFORE HE
WAS RESTORED. THE SURGEON
TOLD ME THAT MY FRIEND HAD
CERTAINLY NOT MANY HOURS
TO LIVE.

AT LENGTH
HE OPENED
HIS EYES.

Alas! the strength
I relied on is gone; I feel
that I shall soon die, and he,
my enemy and persecutor,
may still be in being.

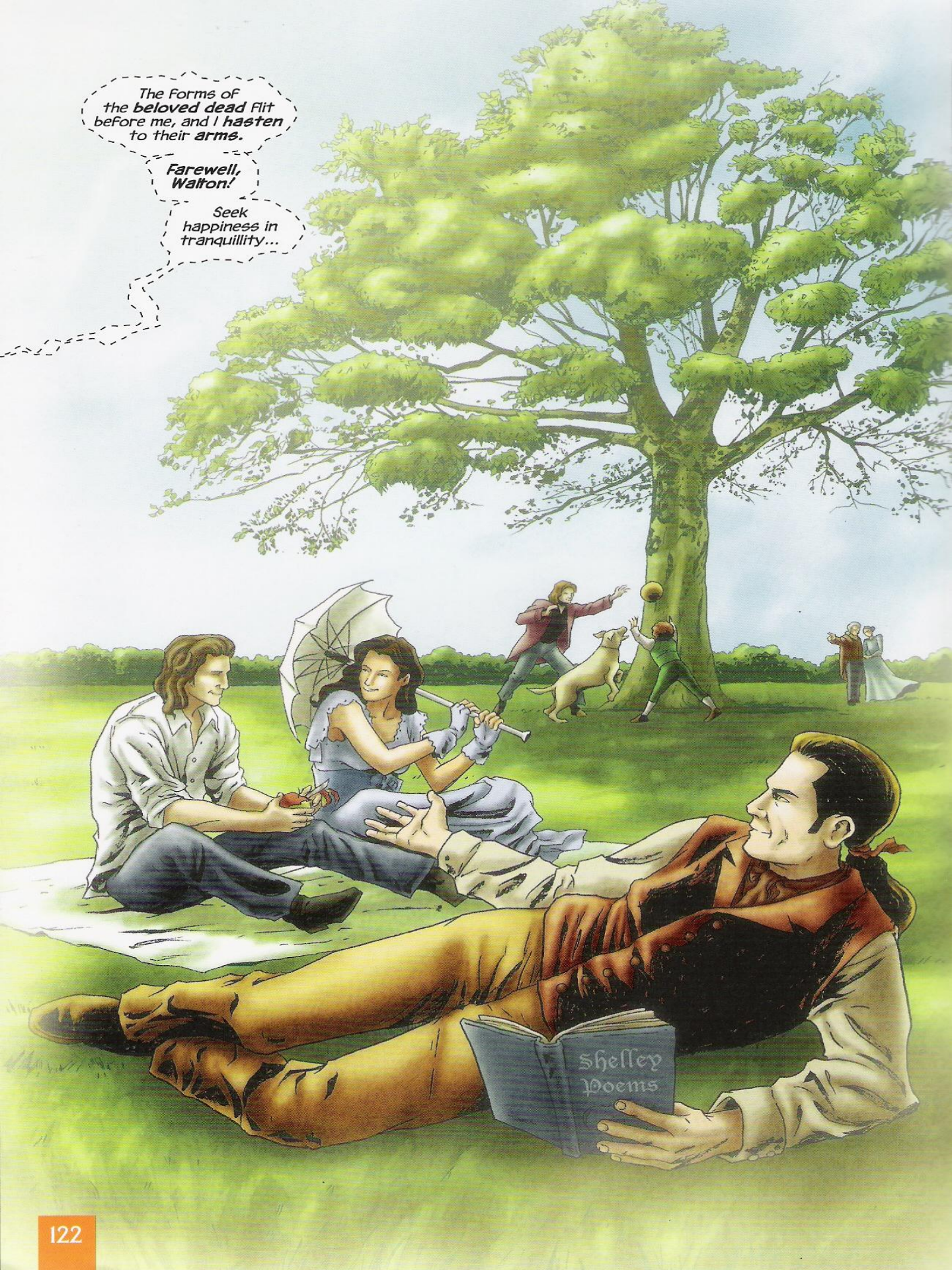
In a fit of enthusiastic
madness, I created a rational
creature. He destroyed my friends;
nor do I know where his thirst for
vengeance may end. Miserable himself,
that he may render no other
wretched, he ought to die.

Yet I cannot ask
you to renounce
your country and
friends to fulfil
this task.

The forms of
the beloved dead flit
before me, and I hasten
to their arms.

Farewell,
Walton!

Seek
happiness in
tranquillity...



Shelley
Poems

HE PRESSED MY HAND
FEEBLY, AND HIS EYES
CLOSED FOREVER, WHILE
THE IRRADIATION OF A
GENTLE SMILE PASSED
AWAY FROM HIS LIPS.

MARGARET, WHAT
COMMENT CAN I MAKE
ON THE UNTIMELY
EXTINCTION OF THIS
GLORIOUS SPIRIT? MY
TEARS FLOW; MY MIND
IS OVERSHADOWED
BY A CLOUD OF
DISAPPOINTMENT.

CLUMP

THAT
NOISE...

...A VOICE...

...FROM
FRANKENSTEIN'S
CABIN!

**GREAT
GOD!**

WHEN HE HEARD
THE SOUND OF MY
APPROACH, HE SPRUNG
TOWARDS THE WINDOW.

STAY!

THAT IS ALSO MY VICTIM!

IN HIS MURDER MY CRIMES ARE CONSUMMATED; THE MISERABLE SERIES OF MY BEING IS WOUND TO ITS CLOSE!

OH, FRANKENSTEIN! GENEROUS AND SELF-DEVOTED BEING! WHAT DOES IT AVAIL THAT I NOW ASK THEE TO PARDON ME? I, WHO IRRETRIEVABLY DESTROYED THEE BY DESTROYING ALL THOU LOVEST. ALAS! HE IS COLD, HE CANNOT ANSWER ME.

THE DUTY OF OBEYING THE DYING REQUEST OF MY FRIEND, IN DESTROYING HIS ENEMY, WAS NOW SUSPENDED BY A MIXTURE OF CURIOSITY AND COMPASSION.

YOUR REPENTANCE IS NOW SUPERFLUOUS.

IF YOU HAD LISTENED TO THE VOICE OF CONSCIENCE, AND HEEDED THE STINGS OF REMORSE, BEFORE YOU HAD URGED YOUR DIABOLICAL VENGEANCE TO THIS EXTREMITY, FRANKENSTEIN WOULD YET HAVE LIVED.

AND DO YOU DREAM?

DO YOU THINK THAT I WAS DEAD TO AGONY AND REMORSE?

HE SUFFERED NOT IN THE CONSUMMATION OF THE DEED - OH! NOT THE TEN-THOUSANDTH PORTION OF THE ANGUISH THAT WAS MINE.

THINK YOU THAT THE GROANS OF CLERVAL WERE MUSIC TO MY EARS?

IT WAS TORTURE SUCH AS YOU CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE.

AFTER THE MURDER OF CLERVAL, I PITIED FRANKENSTEIN. BUT WHEN I DISCOVERED THAT HE DARED TO HOPE FOR HAPPINESS, THEN I WAS FILLED WITH AN INSATIABLE THIRST FOR VENGEANCE.

I KNEW THAT I WAS PREPARING MYSELF FOR DEADLY TORTURE; BUT I WAS THE SLAVE OF AN IMPULSE AND COULD NOT DISOBEY.

YET WHEN SHE DIED! NAY, THEN I WAS NOT MISERABLE. EVIL THENCEFORTH BECAME MY GOOD.

URGED THUS FAR, I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ADAPT MY NATURE TO AN ELEMENT WHICH I HAD WILLINGLY CHOSEN. THE COMPLETION OF MY DEMONIAL DESIGN BECAME AN INSATIABLE PASSION.

AND NOW IT IS ENDED; THERE IS MY LAST VICTIM!

WRETCH! IT IS WELL THAT YOU COME HERE TO WHINE OVER THE DESOLATION THAT YOU HAVE MADE.

HYPOCRITICAL FIEND!

IT IS NOT PITY THAT YOU FEEL; YOU LAMENT ONLY BECAUSE THE VICTIM OF YOUR MALIGNITY IS WITHDRAWN FROM YOUR POWER!

OH, IT IS NOT THUS - NOT THUS.



I SEEK NOT
A FELLOW-FEELING
IN MY MISERY.
NO SYMPATHY
MAY I EVER FIND.
I AM CONTENT TO
SUFFER ALONE, WHILE
MY SUFFERINGS
SHALL ENDURE.

ONCE I FALSELY
HOPED TO MEET WITH
BEINGS WHO, PARDONING
MY OUTWARD FORM, WOULD
LOVE ME FOR THE EXCELLENT
QUALITIES WHICH I WAS
CAPABLE OF UNFOLDING.

BUT NOW CRIME HAS DEGRADED
ME BENEATH THE MEANEST ANIMAL.
NO GUILT, NO MALIGNITY, NO MISERY,
CAN BE FOUND COMPARABLE
TO MINE.

WHEN I RUN
OVER THE FRIGHTFUL
CATALOGUE OF MY SINS,
I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT I
AM THE SAME CREATURE WHOSE
THOUGHTS WERE ONCE FILLED WITH
SUBLIME AND TRANSCENDENT
VISIONS OF THE BEAUTY
AND THE MAJESTY OF
GOODNESS.

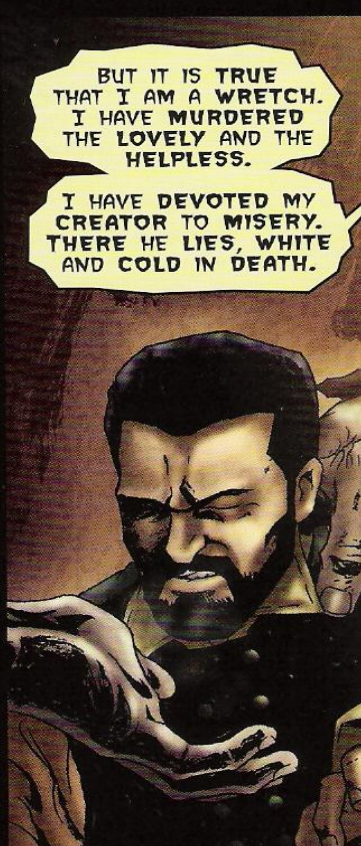
BUT IT IS EVEN SO; THE
FALLEN ANGEL BECOMES A MALIGNANT
DEVIL. YET EVEN THAT ENEMY OF GOD
AND MAN HAD FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES
IN HIS DESOLATION; I AM ALONE.



YOU, WHO CALL FRANKENSTEIN YOUR FRIEND, SEEM TO HAVE A KNOWLEDGE OF MY CRIMES AND HIS MISFORTUNES.

BUT HE COULD NOT SUM UP THE HOURS AND MONTHS OF MISERY WHICH I ENDURED.

AM I TO BE THOUGHT THE ONLY CRIMINAL, WHEN ALL HUMAN KIND SINNED AGAINST ME? WHY DO YOU NOT HATE FELIX, WHO DROVE HIS FRIEND FROM THE DOOR WITH CONTUMELY? WHY DO YOU NOT EXECRATE THE RUSTIC WHO SOUGHT TO DESTROY THE SAVIOUR OF HIS CHILD? EVEN NOW MY BLOOD BOILS AT THE RECOLLECTION OF THIS INJUSTICE!

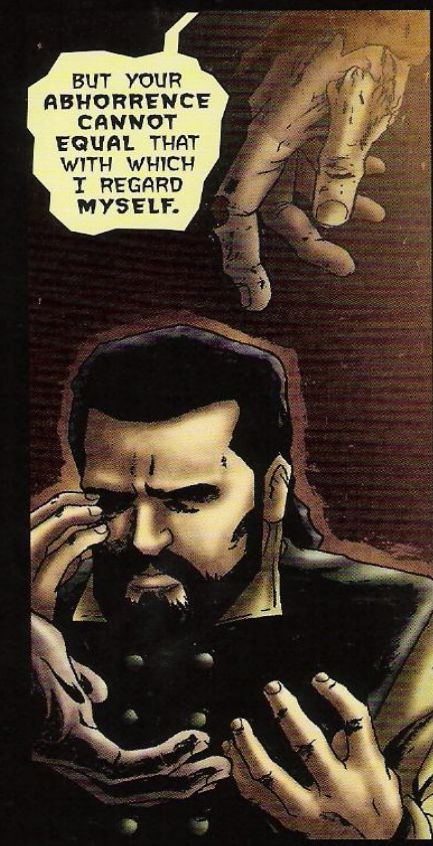


BUT IT IS TRUE THAT I AM A WRETCH. I HAVE MURDERED THE LOVELY AND THE HELPLESS.

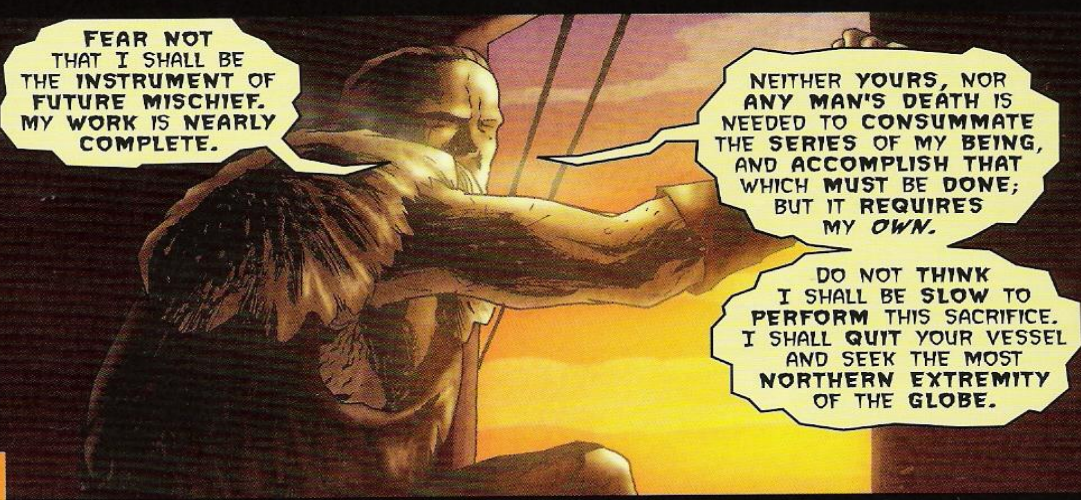
I HAVE DEVOTED MY CREATOR TO MISERY. THERE HE LIES, WHITE AND COLD IN DEATH.



YOU HATE ME;



BUT YOUR ABHORRENCE CANNOT EQUAL THAT WITH WHICH I REGARD MYSELF.



FEAR NOT THAT I SHALL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF FUTURE MISCHIEF. MY WORK IS NEARLY COMPLETE.

NEITHER YOURS, NOR ANY MAN'S DEATH IS NEEDED TO CONSUMMATE THE SERIES OF MY BEING, AND ACCOMPLISH THAT WHICH MUST BE DONE; BUT IT REQUIRES MY OWN.

DO NOT THINK I SHALL BE SLOW TO PERFORM THIS SACRIFICE. I SHALL QUIT YOUR VESSEL AND SEEK THE MOST NORTHERN EXTREMITY OF THE GLOBE.

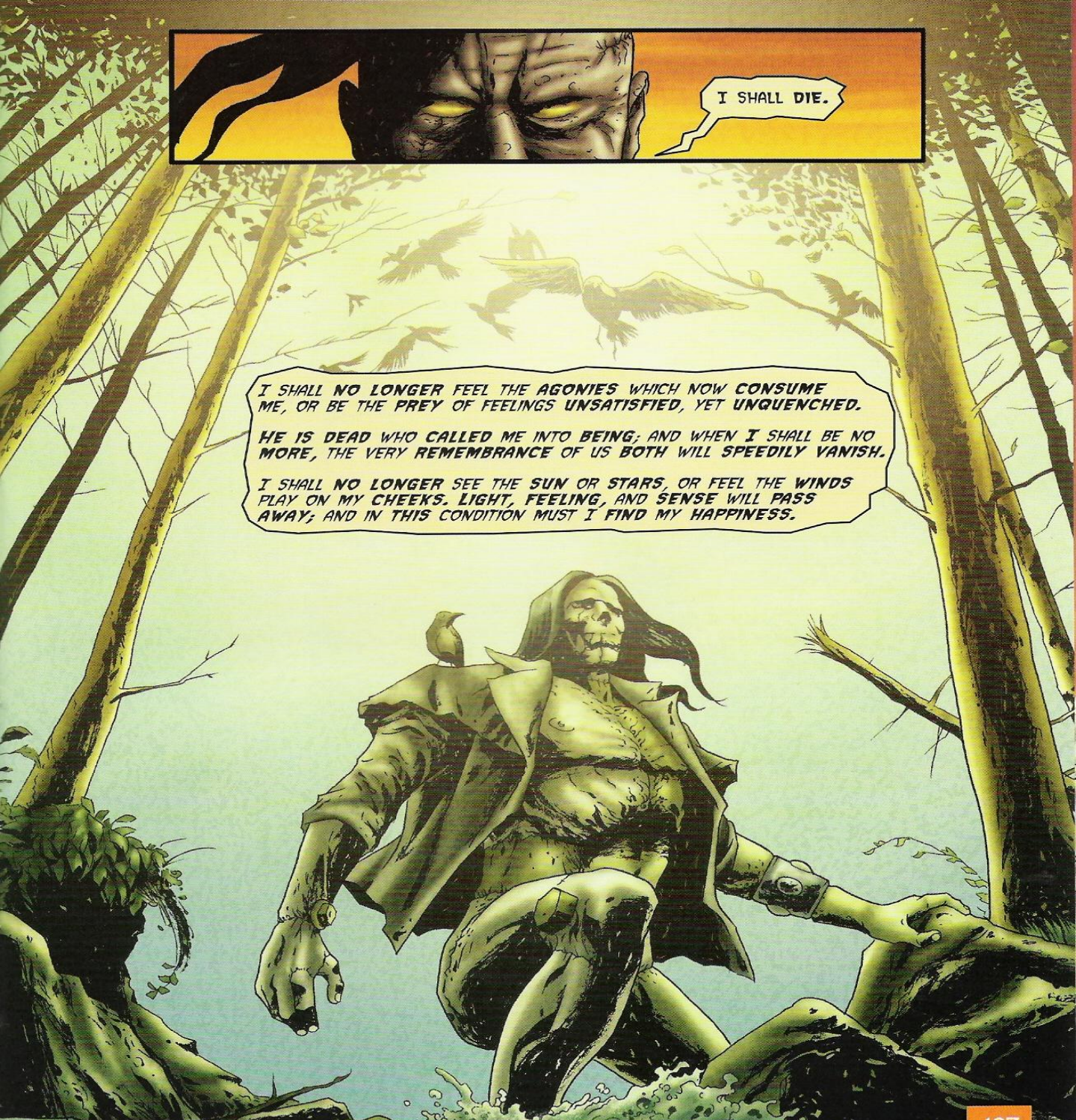


I SHALL COLLECT MY FUNERAL PILE, AND CONSUME TO ASHES THIS MISERABLE FRAME, THAT ITS REMAINS MAY AFFORD NO LIGHT TO ANY CURIOUS WRETCH, WHO WOULD CREATE SUCH ANOTHER AS I HAVE BEEN.



I SHALL DIE.

I SHALL NO LONGER FEEL THE AGONIES WHICH NOW CONSUME ME, OR BE THE PREY OF FEELINGS UNSATISFIED, YET UNQUENCHED. HE IS DEAD WHO CALLED ME INTO BEING; AND WHEN I SHALL BE NO MORE, THE VERY REMEMBRANCE OF US BOTH WILL SPEEDILY VANISH. I SHALL NO LONGER SEE THE SUN OR STARS, OR FEEL THE WINDS PLAY ON MY CHEEKS. LIGHT, FEELING, AND SENSE WILL PASS AWAY; AND IN THIS CONDITION MUST I FIND MY HAPPINESS.





BUT SOON I SHALL DIE, AND WHAT I NOW FEEL BE NO LONGER FELT. SOON THESE BURNING MISERIES WILL BE EXTINGUISHED. I SHALL ASCEND MY FUNERAL PILE TRIUMPHANTLY, AND EXULT IN THE AGONY OF THE TORTURING FLAMES.

AAAAARRRRGGGGHHHH!!!

THE LIGHT OF THAT CONFLAGRATION WILL FADE AWAY; MY ASHES WILL BE SWEEPED INTO THE SEA BY THE WINDS.

MY SPIRIT WILL SLEEP IN PEACE; OR IF IT THINKS, IT WILL NOT SURELY THINK THUS.



FAREWELL! I LEAVE YOU, AND IN YOU THE LAST OF HUMAN-KIND WHOM THESE EYES WILL EVER BEHOLD.


FAREWELL, FRANKENSTEIN! BLASTED AS THOU WERT, MY AGONY WAS STILL SUPERIOR TO THINE; FOR THE BITTER STING OF REMORSE WILL NOT CEASE TO RANKLE IN MY WOUNDS --



-- UNTIL DEATH SHALL CLOSE THEM FOR EVER!



HE WAS SOON BORNE AWAY BY THE WAVES, AND LOST IN DARKNESS AND DISTANCE.



*MARGARET, WHAT CAN I SAY
THAT WILL ENABLE YOU TO
UNDERSTAND? ALL THAT I SHOULD
EXPRESS WOULD BE INADEQUATE.*

*BUT I JOURNEY TOWARDS
ENGLAND, AND I MAY THERE FIND
CONSOLATION.*

Frankenstein

End