

*The Creature sees the lake and is pleased.*

Creature The lake. How it glistens! – I've come a long way. Walking at night. Fish in the streams. Do you fish?

William Oh, yes!

Creature What do you catch? What bait do you use?

William I should go to my friends. We're playing!

*The Creature steals up behind William and holds him tight.*

START → Creature Guess who I am.

William Are you a friend of the family's?

Creature Yes.

William Then you're a judge, or a minister, perhaps.

Creature I am a judge.

*William tries to turn around.*

Don't look!

William What?

Creature Don't look at me!

William I shan't.

Creature What's your name?

William William. What's yours, sir?

Creature You can be my friend, William. We could go hiking. We could climb those mountains over there!

William Climb Mont Blanc?

Creature Yes!

William Great!

Creature Let's go, friend!

William No, I'm not allowed. Sorry. Father would be angry.

Creature Forget him. Come with me. Let's climb Mont Blanc!

William I'd like to, but I can't!

Creature We must be friends. Everyone has friends.

William I have to find my father! Let me go! Let me go!

*William struggles.*

Creature I will release you if you answer my question.

William What is it?

Creature I seek a man called Frankenstein. Have you heard of him?

William That's my name!

Creature You? Frankenstein?

*Suddenly very curious, the Creature lets William go. William turns, looks, and yells.*

William Aargh! You're ugly! Leave me alone!

*William tries to run, but the Creature catches him.*

Creature Victor Frankenstein? He is your father?

William No! Victor's my brother!

Creature Where is he?

William He's at home, he's always at home –

Creature Can I see him?

William No, of course you can't!

Creature We must be friends, William. We'll climb those mountains. Right to the top. After you take me to Victor.

William No! You're revolting!

Creature What is he? What does he do?

William He's a scholar, a genius!

Creature Was he ever in Ingolstadt?

William Yes, he studied there, he's come home to marry Elizabeth, but he's silly, he never leaves his room! He's missing everything!

Creature You will bring him to me. Come.

William No! I shan't!

Creature Come.

*The Creature picks up the struggling William.*

William My father's a magistrate! He'll punish you for this. You'll go to prison! Help!

Creature Quiet, boy. | \_\_\_\_\_

*The Creature gags him. <sup>END</sup> He makes off towards the mountains.*

### SCENE TWENTY-THREE

*The same place, some time later. It's now night. Servants of the Frankenstein household enter, searching. They carry flaming torches.*

Servants William! William!

*They are joined by Monsieur Frankenstein, Victor's father, and Elizabeth and Clarice.*

M. Frankenstein This is where you were playing?

Elizabeth (tearfully) Yes, we were hiding, he was coming to find us and –

M. Frankenstein Where were you hiding?

Elizabeth Down at the boat house.

M. Frankenstein You didn't see anything?

Elizabeth No, nothing!

M. Frankenstein And heard nothing?

Elizabeth He was calling out – I thought it was part of the game! Oh, what has happened to him?

*Victor enters. He looks in bad shape – ragged and unkempt.*

Victor William! William! – Divide into teams! You and you – come with me!

M. Frankenstein They are looking. Everyone is looking. You may go home.

Victor But William's missing! How long has it been?

M. Frankenstein Since this afternoon. But you may go home.

Victor I've a duty to help, Father.

M. Frankenstein Victor, it doesn't help anybody when you become agitated –

Victor He's my brother! Let me join the search! I must!

Servants Over here! Monsieur Frankenstein! Look at this!

*They have found William's sailor hat. All go towards it.*

M. Frankenstein It's William's hat.

Victor What was he doing here?

Elizabeth We were playing hide-and-seek.

Victor And you didn't keep him in view?