The Cambridge Companion to Frankenstein consists of sixteen original essays on Mary Shelley’s novel by leading scholars, providing an invaluable introduction to Frankenstein and its various critical contexts. Theoretically informed but accessibly written, this volume relates Frankenstein to various social, literary, scientific and historical contexts, and outlines how critical theories such as ecocriticism, posthumanism and queer theory generate new and important discussion in illuminating ways. The volume also explores the cultural afterlife of the novel including its adaptations in various media such as drama, film, television, graphic novels, and literature aimed at children and young adults. Written by an international team of leading experts, the essays provide new insights into the novel and the various critical approaches which can be applied to it. The volume is an essential guide to students and academics who are interested in Frankenstein and who wish to know more about its complex literary history.


A complete list of books in the series is at the back of the book.
THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO
FRANKENSTEIN

EDITED BY
ANDREW SMITH
For Diane Long Hoeveler
In Memoriam
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CONTRIBUTORS

and The Original Frankenstein (Bodleian, 2008; Vintage, 2009). He is currently preparing a new edition of The Letters of William Hazlitt.

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Whilst preparing the final typescript one of the contributors, Diane Long Hoeveler, sadly passed away. She was much admired both as a scholar and as an individual. She will be much missed and this volume is respectfully dedicated to her.

I would also like to thank my wife, Joanne Benson, for her love, tolerance and support throughout the editing of this book and other projects completed during the period of research leave.

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NOTE ON THE TEXT

The contributors refer to the 1818 edition of *Frankenstein* edited by Marilyn Butler, published by Oxford University Press in 1998. Contributors make reference to authors by their full name unless it is obvious when a writer may be referred to by their forename. Shortened titles are used in the notes after first quotation. The Chronology was previously published in *The Cambridge Companion to Mary Shelley* edited by Esther Schor in 2003 and is reproduced by kind permission of Cambridge University Press.
CHRONOLOGY

1797  (30 Aug.) Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin born in London, daughter of William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft. (10 Sept.) Wollstonecraft dies of puerperal fever.

1801  (21 Dec.) Godwin remarries, to Mary Jane Clairmont. Mary Godwin is raised in Somers Town (near London); her family household consists of her father, stepmother, half-sister (Fanny Imlay, daughter of Wollstonecraft and Gilbert Imlay) and step-siblings Mary Jane (Claire) Clairmont and Charles Clairmont.

1808  Publishes first story, ‘Mounseer Nongtongpaw’ (M. J. Godwin and Co.).

1812  (7 June) Travels to Dundee to live with the Baxter family until the following spring. (11 Nov.) Briefly meets Percy Bysshe Shelley (b. 4 Aug. 1792) and his wife, Harriet Westbrook Shelley.

1814  (May) Meets Percy Shelley again; a friendship develops. (28 June) Elopes with Percy Shelley to the Continent, with Claire Clairmont. (July–Aug.) Travels in France, Germany, Switzerland, Holland. (Sept.) They return to England. During the next two months, Percy Shelley resides in London, dodging creditors.

1815  (22 Feb.) Gives birth to her first daughter, who dies 6 March. (Aug.) Moves to Bishopsgate, Windsor.

(9 Oct.) Fanny Imlay commits suicide.
(10 Dec.) Harriet Shelley’s pregnant body is found in the Serpentine, Hyde Park, London; five days later, Percy Shelley is informed about her suicide.
(30 Dec.) Marriage to Percy Shelley in St. Mildred’s Church, London.

1817
(12 Jan.) Claire Clairmont gives birth to Alba, later Allegra, Byron.
(Mar.) Percy Shelley loses custody of his children, Charles and Ianthe. Mary Shelley moves to Marlow.
(14 May) Completes *Frankenstein*.
(2 Sept.) Gives birth to a daughter, Clara.

1818
(1 Jan.) *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* published (Lackington, Hughes, Harding, Mavor, & Jones).
(11 Mar.) Family departs for Continent; arrives in Milan 4 April.
(June) At Bagni di Lucca.
(24 Sept.) Clara Shelley dies in Venice.
(Nov.–Dec.) Travel to Rome and Naples; they remain in Naples until the following February.

1819
(5 Mar.–June) In Rome, where William Shelley dies of malaria on 7 June.
(17 June) Move to Livorno (Leghorn).
(Aug.) Begins writing *Matilda*.
(2 Oct.) Move to Florence.
(12 Nov.) Gives birth to Percy Florence.

1820
(26 Jan.) Move to Pisa.
(Feb.) Finishes *Matilda*.
(Mar.) Begins *Castruccio, Prince of Lucca*; Godwin later renames it *Valperga*.
(Apr.–May) Composes *Proserpine and Midas*.
(Oct.) After relocating several times, move to Pisa.

1821
(Aug.–Dec.) Finishes and revises [*Valperga: or,] *Castruccio*.

1822
(19 Apr.) Allegra Byron dies from typhus.
(16 June) Miscarriage; haemorrhage arrested when Percy Shelley places her in a vat of icy water.
Chronology

(8 July) Percy Shelley drowns in the Gulf of Spezia.
(Sept.) Moves to Genoa.

1823
(Feb.) Publishes *Valperga* (Henry Colburn and Richard Bentley).
(29 July) Opening night of *Presumption, or, The Fate of Frankenstein*, a play by Richard Brinsley Peake; Mary Shelley sees it on 28 August.
(Aug.) Second edition of *Frankenstein* appears.

1824
(19 Apr.) Byron dies at Missolonghi in Greece. (Spring) Begins *The Last Man*.
(June) Publishes her edition of Percy Shelley’s *Posthumous Poems*; enraged, Sir Timothy Shelley threatens to withdraw Percy Florence Shelley’s allowance if she again brings Percy Shelley’s name before the public.

1825
(25 June) Refuses marriage proposal from American dramatist John Howard Payne.

1826
(23 Jan.) Publishes *The Last Man* (Henry Colburn).
(Dec.) ‘A Visit to Brighton’ appears in *London Magazine*, n.s. 6, 460–6.

1827
(June) Agrees to help Thomas Moore with his biography of Byron.
(July) Helps secure passports for friends Isabel Robinson, her illegitimate child and her partner, ‘Sholto Douglas’ (Mary Diana Dods); the three elope to Paris.

1828
(Jan.) Begins *The Fortunes of Perkin Warbeck*.
(Mar.) Begins writing for the *Keepsake*, to which she will contribute for ten years.
(Apr.) In Paris with Douglasses; meets Prosper Mérimée; contracts smallpox.

1829

1830
(18 Jan.) Moore publishes Volume I of his *Letters and Journals of Lord Byron: With Notices of his Life*. 
chronology

(13 May) *Perkin Warbeck, A Romance* published (Colburn and Bentley).

1831
(1 Jan.) Begins *Lodore*. Volume II of Moore’s *Byron* published.
(Nov.) Publishes revised third edition of *Frankenstein*, with ‘Author’s Introduction’, in Bentley’s Standard Novels series (Colburn and Bentley).

1832
(8 Sept.) William Godwin, Jr (born 28 Mar. 1803, son of William and Mary Jane Clairmont Godwin) dies of cholera.
(29 Sept.) Percy Florence enters Harrow; the following May, Mary Shelley moves there.

1835
(23 Mar.) Removes Percy Florence Shelley from Harrow; together, they relocate to Regent’s Park, London.
(7 Apr.) William Godwin dies.

1837
(Feb.) Publishes *Falkner, A Novel* (Saunders and Otley)

1838
(Aug.) Publishes Volume I of *Lives of the Most Eminent Literary and Scientific Men of France* (Longman). Sir Timothy Shelley relents, allowing publication of his son’s poems, but not a biographical memoir. Mary Shelley instead writes extensive notes.

1839
(Jan.–May) Her four-volume edition of Percy Shelley’s *Poetical Works* appears, with prefaces and notes (Moxon).
(Nov.) One-volume edition of Percy Shelley’s *Poetical Works* (Moxon).
(Dec.) Publishes two-volume edition of Percy Shelley’s *Essays and Letters from Abroad, Translations and Fragments* (Moxon).

1840
(22 June) Arrives in Paris with her son and his Cambridge friends for continental tour; travel through Germany and Switzerland, summer
CHRONOLOGY

in Italian lakes; arrive Milan on 11 Sept.
Late September, Percy Florence Shelley and friends depart for England; Mary Shelley travels to Paris, where she remains through December.

1841 (Jan.) Returns to London.
(Feb.) Percy Florence Shelley graduates from Cambridge.
(17 June) Death of Mary Jane Godwin.

(July–Aug.) In Paris; meets Ferdinando Luigi Gatteschi and other Italian exiles.

1844 (24 Apr.) Death of Sir Timothy Shelley; Percy Florence Shelley inherits baronetcy and estate.
(July) Publishes two-volume *Rambles in Germany and Italy in 1840, 1842, and 1843* (Moxon).

1845 (Sept.) Gatteschi threatens to expose her letters to him; blackmail attempt foiled.

1846 (Mar.) ‘Attack’, probably of severe back pain; possibly also chest pain.

1848 (22 June) Percy Florence Shelley marries Jane St. John, a young widow.
(Oct.) Complains of headaches; probably symptoms of a brain tumour. Intermittently ill until her death.

1850 (17 Dec.) Diagnosis of brain tumor.

1851 (1 Feb.) Mary Shelley dies at age fifty-three at home in London.
(8 Feb.) Buried in Bournemouth with her parents, who were exhumed from St. Pancras at Lady Jane Shelley’s request.