

Name _____



Silent Strength

In Frankenstein, the women in the story play important roles, even though they do not have much power. The way Mary Shelley writes about them reflects how women were treated in the 19th century. During that time, women were expected to be gentle, caring, and supportive of the men in their lives.

One of the most important women in the novel is Elizabeth Lavenza, Victor Frankenstein's fiancée. She is kind and loving, always thinking about Victor's happiness. Even when Victor becomes distant and secretive, she patiently waits for him. Sadly, her love and loyalty do not protect her. Because of Victor's mistakes, she is harmed by the creature, showing how powerless she is in the story.

Another important female character is Justine Moritz, a servant in the Frankenstein household. She is gentle and good-hearted, but when she is falsely accused of a crime, she is unable to defend herself. Even though she is innocent, she accepts her fate without anger. Her story highlights how women in the 19th century often had little control over their own lives.

Victor's mother, Caroline Frankenstein, is also a symbol of selfless devotion. She spends her life caring for others, especially Victor and Elizabeth. Before she dies, she makes Victor promise to marry Elizabeth, showing that women were often expected to focus on family and duty rather than their own choices.

Mary Shelley's novel shows that women in the 19th century were expected to be loving and loyal, but they often had little say in their own futures. While the male characters—especially Victor—make decisions that change the world, the women suffer because of those choices. Their stories remind us of how important it is to listen to and respect everyone, no matter their role in society.