

including Ben, who is completely fooled by Foster's impersonation.

**A young hitchhiker**, who is wary of Ben's friendliness and trust and therefore turns down an offer to manage one of Ben's franchises. He learns too late Ben's lesson: that opportunity knocks only once and has nothing to do with merit, only with luck.

**An old hitchhiker**, who was just released from prison, where he spent the last twenty years. His speech, clothing, and luggage appear weirdly out of date. He is precisely the kind of loser in whom Ben likes to invest his trust. Claiming that "the ordinary is all we can handle," he too rejects Ben's offer, offering instead his own piece of advice, that Ben "get a reality."

**A nice young man**, who speaks in public service announcements. Ben also picks him up as a hitchhiker.

—Robert A. Morace

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## Frankenstein: Or, The Modern Prometheus

*Author:* Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley

*First published:* 1818

*Genre:* Novel

*Locale:* Europe

*Plot:* Gothic

*Time:* Eighteenth century

**Victor Frankenstein**, a native of Geneva who early evinces a talent in natural science. Having concluded his training at the university at Ingolstadt, he works until he discovers the secret of creating life. He makes a monster from human and animal organs found in dissecting rooms and butcher shops. The monster brings only anguish and death to Victor and his friends and relatives. Having told his story, he dies before his search for the monster is complete.

**The Monster**, an eight-foot-tall synthetic man endowed by its creator with human sensibilities. Rebuffed by man, it turns its hate against him. Its program of revenge accounts for the lives of Frankenstein's bride, his brother, his good friend, and a family servant. Just after Victor dies, the monster appears and tells the explorer that Frankenstein's was the great crime, for he had created a man devoid of friend, love, or soul.

**Robert Walton**, an English explorer who, on his ship frozen in a northland sea of ice, hears the dying Frankenstein's story and also listens to the monster's account of, and reason for, its actions.

**Elizabeth Lavenza**, Victor's foster sister and later his bride, who is strangled by the monster on her wedding night.

**William Frankenstein**, Victor's brother, who is killed by the monster while seeking revenge on its creator.

**Henry Clerval**, Victor's friend and a man of science who is killed by the monster to torment Frankenstein.

**Justine Moritz**, a family servant tried and condemned for William's murder.

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## Frankenstein Unbound

*Author:* Brian W. Aldiss

*First published:* 1973

*Genre:* Novel

*Locale:* Texas and Switzerland

*Plot:* Science fiction

*Time:* 2020 and 1816

**Joseph (Joe) Bodenland**, a liberal presidential adviser deposed by right-wing extremists. He is transported by a timeslip from the twenty-first to the early nineteenth century. He is a grandfather but becomes young again when the timeslip takes him back to 1816. He finds himself at Lake Geneva, near the Villa Diodati, where he meets Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Shelley's mistress, Mary, who is in the process of writing the novel *Frankenstein*. Attracted to Mary, he has a brief affair with her. Having come from the future, Bodenland can foretell the ecological damage that will be wrought by technology run amok, by the conquest of nature symbolized by Frankenstein's experiments. Consequently, he kills Frankenstein and destroys both Frankenstein's monster and his mate.

**Victor Frankenstein**, a Swiss scientist. Unlike the Frankenstein of Mary Shelley's novel, who is an idealistic man of sensibility, this Frankenstein is a cynical, abrasive, and bitterly proud individual. Mary Shelley's Frankenstein destroys the monster's mate on which he is working, lest he create a race of monsters, and then pursues the male monster after it murders his bride, Elizabeth. In this novel, unlike Shelley's, Victor does not marry Elizabeth, nor is she killed. He completes the monster's mate and brings her to life. When he then proposes creating a third monster to fight the first two, Bodenland kills him.

**Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin**, the author of *Frankenstein*, the eighteen-year-old mistress and future wife of Percy Bysshe Shelley. When Bodenland encounters her, she is still in the process of writing her novel, which she insists is fiction. At the same time, however, some of the events in it, altered by the author of *Frankenstein Unbound*, are occurring in a parallel world. Mary has a brief, idyllic affair with

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