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Salem Press Announces *Critical Insights:* *Mary Shelley*

Critical Insights: Mary Shelley, edited by Virginia Brackett, an Professor Emeritus of English, offers various approaches to one of the most popular British writers to ever put pen to paper. A writer whose biographical details historically attracted as much attention as her art, Shelley has garnered an enthusiastic twenty-first century critical reception for her expanded collection of work, which includes six novels and one novella, dozens of short stories, essays, poetry, travel pieces, and children's literature. This volume embraces both, celebrating the traditional approach to reading Shelley, while also introducing young readers to more recent interests surrounding her writing. Each essay complements the others, relating through a rich offering of theory and illustration. The result is a tapestry of readings that will interest any reader, whatever her level of previous knowledge about Shelley's work.

This title starts with an introduction essay to Mary Shelley, by editor, Virginia Brackett and is followed by a biography essay from Michael Flaherty. Next, the **Critical Contexts** section situates Shelley's writing within historical, critical, and comparative literary contexts, while introducing concepts and facts important to reader understanding of the Critical Readings that follow. Calinda C. Shely begins with a review of environment and events preceding and during Shelley's era that influenced her artistic production. Danielle Barkley's essay follows to chronicle the critical reception of Shelley's publications. Stacey L. Kikendall enriches the traditional feminist critical approach to offer a new vision of Mary Shelley in her "Critical Context" chapter through analysis of topics of gender, power, and blame. Katherine Montwieler's comparative analysis suggests other works of literature to familiar young readers with which they might compare elements from Shelley's "unique and powerful template."

Readers will continue to see connections to the first four essays in the essays that follow within the **Critical Readings** section. Beginning with Dwight Codr, he considers the characterization of disability in fiction based on Shelley's rendition of Frankenstein as a "monstrosity." Robin Runia's essay reminds readers of the differences between education for men and women in Shelley's age. Closely related to legal considerations are those of ethics, and ethical considerations in *Frankenstein* offer focus to Ashley Lynn Carlson's essay, in which she examines research ethics as related to experimentation in that novel. Nicole Papas reflects on the arctic setting as a pristine canvas disturbed by human invasion, thus offering a different ethical consideration. Seth T. Reno expands the ecocritical considerations in Shelley's work to focus on *The Last Man* as closely relating "to twenty-first century environmental concerns." Other essays include:

- “Monstrous Crimes and Offender Accountability: Shelley’s Representation of Criminal Justice from *Frankenstein* to *Faulkner*” by Colleen Fenno
- “The Invisible Girl”: Gender and Form in Mary Shelley’s Short Stories” by Nicole Lobdell
- “Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley – The Immortal Mortal: A Psychoanalytic Analysis of *The Last Man*, “On Ghosts,” and “The Mortal Immortal”” by Katherine Marie Alexander
- “Mary Shelley and Romantic Medievalism” by Christine E. Kozikowski
- “It’s Alive”: Popular Culture Commodification of Frankenstein’s Monster” by Natalie Neill

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Mary Shelley* is 2,500 to 5,000 words in length, and all essays conclude with a list of Works Cited and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume are **Appendixes** to provide readers with additional information and opportunities for further research, including a **Chronology of Mary Shelley’s Life**, a list of **Works by Mary Shelley**, an annotated **Bibliography**, biographies of the **Editors** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world’s most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia’s most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Mary Shelley* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

Free Online with Print Purchase

In addition, *Critical Insights: Mary Shelley* comes with complimentary online access via <http://online.salempress.com>. A single purchase of the printed version is all it takes to gain access to this important title on the web.

Critical Insights: Mary Shelley

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