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Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series *Critical Insights: Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*

Amidst rapid technological advancements, moral dilemmas, and ethical questions surrounding scientific progress, Mary Shelley's iconic 1818 novel, *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, still resonates in contemporary society. The novel remains profoundly relevant, serving as a warning against the unchecked pursuit of knowledge and the potential dangers of manipulating the forces of nature.

It continues to captivate readers with its timeless themes and cautionary lessons about scientific ambition and the consequences of playing God. The frame-tale novel, often overshadowed by subsequent film versions, is groundbreaking in giving a voice to the monster via its epistolary embedded-narrative form.

In today's world, where advancements like gene editing and human augmentation are becoming a reality, Shelley's novel urges us to reflect on the ethical boundaries that humanity should set for itself and the potential consequences of crossing them. The novel also has compelled readers for over two centuries for its insight into the consideration of alienation and Otherness. Victor's monster, as an outsider, brings to light the question of what is to be human as he grapples with his own isolation, a concept that humans increasingly identify with in the twenty-first century. The novel also remains pertinent for its environmental concerns, as ecological critics remind readers of the responsibility humans have toward the environment. Essays in this volume will introduce readers to these topics and more.

In the introductory essay, volume editors Laura and James Nicosia discuss the important points of each chapter that follows, helping readers to quickly locate those articles most related to their specific interest in Shelley's novel.

A collection of four critical contexts essays are intended to view the author

- 1) From a historical vantage point
- 2) In terms of its critical reception
- 3) Using a specific critical lens
- 4) And by comparing and contrasting it with another important work.

The four Critical Context essays include:

- The 1818 and 1831 Editions of *Frankenstein*: Lessons in Authorship, Bookselling, and Textual Scholarship
- Authorship and Influence in the Critical Reception of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus*
- Conjuring Sympathy: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and the Facilitation of Interactive Reading
- Can the Subaltern Reclaim the Father's Tongue?: Shakespeare's Caliban and Shelley's Creature

Following these four Critical Context essays is the **Critical Readings** section of this book, which contains the following essays:

- "It's Fronken-steen!": Re-righting Wrongs in Parodies of *Frankenstein*
- Monster Mash: Universal Pictures and *Frankenstein* on Film
- Politics of the Eye and Ear in *Frankenstein*
- "Hate the wretched": Orientalism and Otherness in *Frankenstein*
- "A blot upon the earth": A Waste Studies Approach to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
- The Moon, the Mountains, Lightning, and Ice: Nature's Characters in *Frankenstein*, An Ecocritical Lens
- Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* as a Dystopian Classic
- Who (or What) Am I? Existential Dilemmas in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus* and Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- Cartesian Creations: *Frankenstein* and *The Island of Dr. Moreau* in Perspective
- Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake* as Feminist Speculative Fictions
- The Mirror Effect: Exploring Humanity through Cadaverous Creatures and Composite Beings in *Frankenstein* and the *Unwind* Dystology
- "Sew me together yourself": Hypertext and the Female Monster in *Frankenstein* and *Patchwork Girl*
- Mary Shelley's Daughters: Female Creativity and Identity in *Frankenstein*, *Foster*, and *The Book of Goose*
- "I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet": The Pedagogical Value of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

Each essay in *Critical Insights: Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. In the final section, **Resources**, easy-to-follow lists are provided to help guide the reader through important dates and moments in the author's life, beginning with a **Chronology of Dante Alighieri Life**. This is followed by a list of **Works by Dante** and a **Bibliography**. Finally, this section closes with an **About the Editor** section, **Contributors**, and a detailed **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: Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* 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.

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