

Frankenstein

CCBC Adaptation 2020

Scene Selections from Acts 1, 2, & 3

CHARACTERS

VICTORIA FRANKENSTEIN *a scientist, early to mid-20's*

ELI LAVENZA *her fiancée*

HENRY CLERVA *her best friend*

THE CREATION *her creation*

ALPHONSE FRANKENSTEIN *her father, mid-60's to early 70's*

CAROLINE FRANKENSTEIN *her mother, mid-40's*

WILLIAM FRANKENSTEIN *her brother, twelve years old*

ROBERT WALTON *the narrator*

THE CHORUS *4-6 members*

SETTING

Modern-day Baltimore.

ACT I

Act 1 Scene 3

(Lights up on VICTORIA moving around her lab. There's a dead animal lying on the lab table that's being dissected. VICTORIA types on a computer. The CHORUS watches.)

VICTORIA
Justine?

JUSTINE
Yes?

VICTORIA
Please access Frozen Cells Module.

JUSTINE
Accessing. What would you like help with?

VICTORIA
Perform a thaw operation.

JUSTINE
Please confirm: You would like me to perform a thaw operation, correct?

VICTORIA
Yes, that is correct, my thorough assistant.

JUSTINE
That is not my proper name. I am *Justine*.

VICTORIA
Yes, of course you are. Oh, wait-

(Victoria furiously deletes on her keyboard, cursing under her breath. She leans over her keyboard rubbing her temples, resumes typing at a more cautious pace.

ELI enters. ELI pauses at the entrance and watches VICTORIA before moving.)

ELI
Victoria?

(VICTORIA startles seeing her fiancée at the door)

VICTORIA
Eli...

ELI
Do you have a minute to-

VICTORIA
What are you doing here? How did you get down...

JUSTINE
Eli is here. Would you like me to report unauthorized personnel?

(ELI jumps at the sudden voice.)

VICTORIA

No, Justine. Eli, you can't be-

ELI

I tried your apartment but you haven't been around in days, so I-

VICTORIA

Whoever let you down here could lose their job, you understand that?

ELI

I'm listed as your emergency contact, and considering recent events, the receptionist was very understanding.

(VICTORIA falls silent as ELI looks around the laboratory.)

So this is all yours? It's really incredible. I haven't the slightest clue what any of this is or does, but it all looks mighty impressive.

VICTORIA

Why are you here, Eli?

ELI

Of course, it could use a bit of natural light. It would really cheer the place up. ^[L]_[SEP]

JUSTINE

Would you like me to print cell line data for vial for insertion into your backup notebook?

VICTORIA

No, *Justine*. Disable voice controls until further notice. *(pause)* I can give you a few minutes to say what's on your mind, but the rest will have to wait until later. I have to work. ^[L]_[SEP]

ELI

Work, really-? *(sighing, calming themselves down)* You haven't exactly made yourself available of late. *(Pause.)* Look, I know it's painful, seeing her go in that way. I know how you are and I understand why you weren't there, but your family really needed you. They still do.

VICTORIA

I'm not... I know I should have been there, but I couldn't bring myself to... I can't be who they need me to be right now.

ELI

All anyone needs you to "be" is there. That's enough. *(pause.)* William is only twelve, you know. *(pause.)* I remember what it's like being a kid without a mom. What's worse for him is that he actually knew her. Whether you know it or not, he really looks up to you. He needs to know that you're still around.

(Pause.)

VICTORIA

Did my Dad say anything about me?

ELI

That he misses you. *(pause.)* His eulogy was beautiful. They really were in love, weren't they?

VICTORIA

Yes. They were.

ELI

Look, I think you need to take some time off. It would be good for you.

VICTORIA

I can't.

ELI

What do you mean, you can't? They won't give you time off to mourn?

VICTORIA

I don't need to.

ELI

Right, I can see that. Vic, we're all devastated. I'm devastated. I'm doing my best right now to hold it together for your and your family's sake, but I'm completely heartbroken. Caroline was like a mother to me, too.

VICTORIA

But she wasn't *your* mother.

(ELI falls silent for a moment.)

ELI

Then where were you?

VICTORIA

I've been here. I've been busy.

ELI

Burying yourself in work so you don't-

VICTORIA

I have to! The work I'm going here could go on to save lives, I can't just take off whenever I please to indulge my grief!

ELI

Is that really what you think? That it's self-indulgent? And hiding yourself away from your friends and family because you don't want to deal with your feelings, what is that?

VICTORIA

Leave me alone.

ELI

Fine. *(They turn to go.)* Whenever you decide you want to return to the land of the living, we're right here waiting. But pretending like none of this ever happened won't bring back the dead.

(ELI exits.)

Act 1 Scene 5

(VICTORIA enters the lab. She picks up the dead animal/)

VICTORIA

This just won't do.

(She throws the dead animal off stage.)

(The CHORUS stands perfectly still, their head lolling over like they're dead, standing in a perimeter around the stage in unnatural posture and form, like cadavers suspended by invisible strings)

CHORUS

Will we do?

VICTORIA

Oh yes, you'll do perfectly. *(She takes each chorus member and brings them over to her lab table to lie them down.)*

(CAROLINE appears)

CAROLINE

Victoria, you genius. You've got it.

CHORUS #1

You'll do what no one else has done before

CHORUS #2

Life and death can be yours.

CHORUS #3

Death can be yours.

CAROLINE

(CAROLINE sweetly puts her hands on VICTORIA's shoulders, standing behind VICTORIA and watching her work, as VICTORIA grabs a hacksaw.) Life can be yours.

(VICTORIA holds the saw above the CHORUS members to begin cutting them. Lights fade.)

(Lights up)

(VICTORIA's lab is starting to look like a mess. CAROLINE is sitting on the lab table with the beginning workings of the CREATURE. JUSTINE is working on sewing together the CREATURE. The CHORUS members are laid around the lab, bloody and half dead, covered in their own blood and guts. VICTORIA is writing in her journal.)

VICTORIA

(writing in her journal, moving about the lab) I will give you life.

CAROLINE

You will give this creature life and it will be yours. And it will be beautiful. This will change everything.

VICTORIA

You're right! This will change everything. *(She's smiling brightly, laughing, overcome with joy and covered in blood)*

CHORUS #1

She's putting her soul into it.

CHORUS #2

And we're putting our hearts.

CHORUS #4

Actually, I'm putting my right hand into it (*Raises arm to show VICTORIA cut off their hand to put onto the CREATURE*)

CHORUS #3

You weren't using that hand, don't be greedy.

CHORUS #1

It's going towards a good cause.

CHORUS #2

You call that thing a good cause? It kind of looks like shit.

CHORUS #4

And it smells like shit.

CHORUS #1

It's supposed to have been made with only our best body parts.

CHORUS #3

And it will be alive!

CHORUS #2

It seems pretty dead to me.

JUSTINE

All of the Creation's organs are in place.

CAROLINE

Oh my, you're so close to getting to the really interesting part!

VICTORIA

I am.

JUSTINE

(Not seeing CAROLINE or the CHORUS) You are what?

VICTORIA

Getting to the good part.

CHORUS 1

You're close, now.

CHORUS 4

Closer than anyone ever has been.

CHORUS 3

What is there left to do?

CHORUS 2

Start.

(Lights fade. Transition into...)

Act 1 Scene 6

(VICTORIA stands above THE CREATURE, putting her last few touches on them. JUSTINE stands to the side, ready to assist. CAROLINE stands to the side, but closer to VICTORIA. The CHORUS stands variably around the stage. The lights are flickering and strange. VICTORIA is holding her journal.)

CHORUS 3

There's not much left now.

CHORUS 4

You're within reach.

CAROLINE

Victoria all that's left is for you to pull the switch. All the electricity will flow through there now. You're almost there.

VICTORIA

Justine, keep this off the record.

JUSTINE

May I ask why?

VICTORIA

No.

JUSTINE

Okay.

CAROLINE

The world will know soon enough anyways. All the hard work, all the time spent, it'll soon be worth it you just gotta flip the final switch. You're bringing this creation to life.

(VICTORIA stays silent and fixes something on THE CREATURES face. She keeps making small adjustments.)

VICTORIA

They need to be perfect. Nothing can be off, or it might not work. It may not live.

CAROLINE

It will work. Believe in yourself. Look at your creation. It's yours, and it will be perfect. It will be alive.

JUSTINE

If you need assistance, I am available.

CHORUS 4

You'll be the first to beat death. This creation will be the testament to your genius.

CHORUS 2

The greatest scientific discovery in the history of mankind.

CHORUS 3

You will be the one who cured the world.

CHORUS 1

The progenitor of a new breed of man.

VICTORIA

Wait, fuck. I just need to focus. I want it to be done already too, okay? I really do. I want it to be done.

CHORUS #4

It will be alive!

CHORUS

Alive!

(lights flicker)

CAROLINE

Victoria, I don't mean to rush you but you know what will happen if you keep stalling. You've got too much electricity running through this lab right now.

VICTORIA

I know I do! But it's head... I need to be sure-

CAROLINE

Their head is fine. Look at their eyes. They're beautiful, aren't they?

VICTORIA

Of course, I only used the best parts. But do you think they fit?

CAROLINE

(taking hold of VICTORIA's face) Of course I do. You did everything right.

VICTORIA

(Breathing, relaxing) Okay. Alright yeah. You're right. It will be okay.

JUSTINE

I never said that.

VICTORIA

Justine, go offline and power down.

(JUSTINE powers down)

VICTORIA

(taking a deep breath) It's time.

(CAROLINE rubs VICTORIA's shoulder comfortingly before stepping back.)

CAROLINE

I'll be right here, okay?

VICTORIA

Okay mom, here goes nothing. *(she walks towards the switch on the wall.)*

CHORUS #1

Here goes everything.

(Lights flicker)

CHORUS

Here it goes. Here it goes. Here it goes *(repeating, laughing, excited, surrounding the lab table, watching)*

(VICTORIA pulls the switch on the wall and electricity surges through the lab in a blinding white that dissolves into an array of colored lights. THE CREATURE doesn't move. Everyone except for VICTORIA and the CREATURE vanish. There is steam rolling off of the CREATURE's body. VICTORIA coughs and waves the steam/cloud of smoke out of her face. She moves around the CREATURE, studying them curiously. The CREATURE doesn't move immediately. VICTORIA flips through her journal frantically, agitated.)

VICTORIA

It should have... worked. Why... I don't understand. I-

(At once, THE CREATURE come to life, and THE CREATURE jolts and just starts a guttural cry of agony and pain. They contort and fall off the table, writhing. VICTORIA jumps back, away from them. They spot VICTORIA and try grabbing for her, confused and in pain.)

VICTORIA

(In disbelief and shock, backing away) It's...Alive. (after a moment, she smiles, triumphant.) It worked. Oh my god, it worked! It's aliveeeeeee!

(The CREATURE moves in an irregular manner. VICTORIA just watches, not taking her eyes off of the CREATURE.)

VICTORIA

I did it! Holy shit I did it! Ah! Mom! Did yo-

(She looks around, but CAROLINE vanished.)

(The CREATURE groans and tries to stand up. The CREATURE looks up at VICTORIA and meets VICTORIA's eyes. They both freeze. The CREATURE seems to be in awe and VICTORIA seems to choke on her own shock and horror. The CREATURE making noise seems to be the thing that really throws VICTORIA off.)

VICTORIA:^[11]_{SEP}What are you? Your eyes... *(VICTORIA backs away, gaping.)*

(The CREATURE merely groans in response, reaching out to grab VICTORIA much like a baby would with its Mother. Maybe one of the CREATURE's eyes are popping out of their head, or popped out. Something is different about the eyes. Maybe they're completely red, yellow, orange, or green.)

VICTORIA

(Rises to a state of panic, she begins to back away.) You're— What did I— Oh god...

(The CREATURE makes a noise and VICTORIA screams, throwing her journal at the CREATURE. VICTORIA backs away enough and runs out of the room, terrified. THE CREATURE cries out and scrambles up, stumbling, learning how to walk at the wrong moment. They gaze around the room and collapse onto the lab table, only to find VICTORIA's journal. The CREATURE picks up the journal and stumbles out of the lab.)

Act 1 Scene 7

(Lights up on VICTORIA as she slams the door to the outside of her laboratory. It is night. A light rain falls on the worn concrete, feeding the few stunted weeds that spear their way up through the cracks in the ground. VICTORIA reaches a shaky hand into her pocket, produces a key, and locks the door behind her. She tosses the key away and falls to her knees.

The CHORUS encircle VICTORIA. She pays them no heed.)

CHORUS 1
Congratulations.

CHORUS 2
Congratulations.

CHORUS 3
You've done it.

CHORUS 4
Congratulations, Victoria.

CHORUS 5
Victoria...

CHORUS 3
You've finally done it.

CHORUS 1
Oh, you've done it now, haven't you?

CHORUS 4
The fruits of your labor...

CHORUS 2
Finally, after all this time.

CHORUS 5
Oh, Victoria...

ALL

What have you done?

(VICTORIA hunches over and covers her mouth as though she is about to retch.)

CHORUS 3

What's wrong?

CHORUS 1
This is what you wanted, isn't it?

CHORUS 2
You did what you set out to do.

ALL
This is what you wanted.

(A heartbeat begins. A steady pulse.)

VICTORIA
It isn't real, this isn't real...

CHORUS 3

You and you alone...

CHORUS 4

You've done what no other has done—

CHORUS 2

—*Dared* to do.

CHORUS 1

How dare you?

ALL

How dare you.

*(VICTORIA stands, stumbles, steadies herself on a wall.
The heartbeat rhythm grows faster. Louder.
The CHORUS follows her.)*

CHORUS 6

Didn't you stop to think?

CHORUS 5

You've made a life.

CHORUS 1

This *thing*...

CHORUS 5

You've borne it into existence.

CHORUS 2

Inventor.

CHORUS 3

Mother.

ALL

Creator.

CHORUS 1

And you won't even look at it.

VICTORIA

Stop it! No! There's no proof. It didn't happen.

*(The heartbeat quickens.
VICTORIA leans against the wall, clutching her chest.
Her breathing is rapid, frantic.)*

CHORUS 1

You can't wipe your hands clean of this.

CHORUS 4

This is your doing. Your creation.

CHORUS 3

Your doing...

CHORUS 6

You can't undo what's been done.

CHORUS 2

You have a responsibility.

CHORUS 5

For all your brilliance—

CHORUS 2

—you didn't stop to ask

ALL

What gives you the right.

CHORUS 1

Too late now.

CHORUS 2

So, what will you do?

CHORUS 3

What will you do?

CHORUS 4

What now?

(A beat.

The heartbeat diminishes in pace and volume.

VICTORIA looks back in the direction of the lab.)

VICTORIA

No one can know.

(The CHORUS share looks amongst themselves. VICTORIA is alone for a moment before she moves and collapses, falling completely unconscious. Maybe HENRY enters and helps the CHORUS take her offstage.)

FRANKENSTEIN ACT 2

Act 2 Scene 1

Spot fade up on CREATURE, C, wrapped in a hospital sheet. A beat. He raises his head slowly to the light above him and shrinks away from it. It is bright. Blinding, even. Beat. He blinks his eyes a few times and tries again, squinting up at the light through his fingers. He eventually finds he can look at the light straight on. He stands, his gaze still fixed upward. CHORUS begins slowly entering one by one as they start their lines. The next chorus member begins speaking when the previous member reaches the "/". A cacophony of sensation and thought.

CHORUS 1

It was dark when I awoke. Before, there was nothing. / I opened my eyes, surrounded on all sides by forms I could not distinguish. I did not know form. I did not know thought. I knew nothing. I was helpless, miserable. Wretched.

CHORUS 2

/I opened my eyes. I saw, felt, heard, smelled all at once. / I felt light, and hunger, and thirst, and darkness. Sounds rang in my ears, scents assaulted me on all sides. I was tormented by sensation, I knew, and could distinguish, nothing. I was helpless, miserable. Wretched.

CHORUS 3

/I felt cold, frightened. I found myself alone, desolate. /I discovered I was surrounded by tall, dark forms. Cold. Unmoving. Uncaring. I was alone. I was left alone. Abandoned. Discarded. Forgotten. I was helpless, miserable. Wretched.

CHORUS 4

/I discovered the courage to move, to stand, I lacked the strength. /I tried to walk but my legs would not obey, they would not carry me. The floor was cold, hard. I was so weak. Helpless. Miserable. Wretched.

CHORUS 5

/I tried to walk out of the darkness. The light pressed upon me and / I shut my eyes. I opened them again and the light poured in. With the light came pain. Pain invaded me on all sides. I was helpless, miserable. Wretched.

CHORUS 6

/I shut my eyes. All I knew was darkness. I awoke from darkness, into darkness. Then there was sight, sound, touch. Pain. I was so alone. Why was I alone? Who had left me? Who was I? What was I but a helpless, miserable, wretch?

As each CHORUS member finishes their lines they begin to move about the stage in a swirling motion around the CREATURE creating the sounds and sensations of a BALTIMORE street scene. Enveloping the creature and overcoming it with their cacophony of voices, senses, descriptions, and sounds. This continues for several moments as it escalates and the CREATURE becomes physically frightened and agitated by the sensory overload.

The CREATURE lets out a loud guttural yell attempting to stop the noise. It fails, and wails a second time, louder. The CHORUS stops and exits. All is silent.)

Act 2 Scene 3

Lights shift and change. We see the Creature sitting on a fire escape staring up and stars in the night sky. After a moment a young girl steps out onto the fire escape and notices the Creature. She can see the scars on the back of it's head. She is hesitant to approach it, but also hesitant to go back inside. After a moment she speaks.

MARIE

Hello?

(The Creature is startled and puts it's hood back, and begins to walk down the fire escape to leave.)

You don't have to go! I was just coming outside, cause... (a lie) it's a nice night. You can stay.

CREATURE

(stopping and sitting back down on the fire escape) Thank you.

MARIE

Of course. I come out here sometimes cause the air is a little cold and it feels good to breathe it in. (she takes a deep breath in, and out)

CREATURE

(makes the same motions, but does not feel the same) ...it's, nice.

MARIE

See? Good. What were you looking at before I came out?

CREATURE

The stars. The moon. The city.

MARIE

Yeah, I like the stars too. My dad used to take me out to the county, and you can see like, a thousand stars in the sky out there. Plus, I saw Mars, Venus, Saturn, and I think a shooting star, but it happened real fast, so I'm not really sure. Dad said it could have been, but he didn't see it. Just me.

CREATURE

I like the moon best. I like knowing it's still there with me, even when it's dark and hiding. It's never really gone.

MARIE

Oh the moon is awesome! It just slowly grows bigger and bigger. And as it gets bigger you see more and more of the craters and impacts on its face. Until it's just this big bright ball of light with all the scars from all the hits it's taken from millions of years of asteroids trying to smash it to bits. But it's just like "whatever world! I'm the brightest biggest thing in the sky tonight, and I done been through some shit!" ...Sorry, I'm not supposed to swear.

CREATURE

I won't tell anyone. (they smile)

MARIE

I'm Marie.

CREATURE

Hi Marie. I'm Bob.

MARIE

Bob? Hmmm. I've never met a Bob before. It sounds make-up.

CREATURE

Well, it is. Someone made it up, and now it's my name. Didn't someone make-up your name?

MARIE

I guess. My mom says she gave it to me when I was born. So I guess she made it up. But also my grandma is named Marie too, so it's more like she stole it.

CREATURE

Well at least she stole something nice for you. It's a nice name.

MARIE

Thank you. Do you live around here?

CREATURE

Sort of. I travel around a lot. So I'm not really in one place very often.

MARIE

You look homeless. Are you homeless Bob? I'm in sixth grade, you don't have to lie to me, I know things.

CREATURE

(chuckles) Yes. I am. But I wasn't lying, I do keep moving. I don't fit in well anywhere.

MARIE

What about your family? Couldn't you go to them? Maybe they could help you out? (awkward silence) I'm sorry, it's not my business. My mom says I stick my nose into things too much.

CREATURE

It's okay. I just don't think I have a family. (beat) Does your Dad still take you to the county to see the stars?

MARIE

(beat) No. (she shivers from the cool air)

CREATURE

You should go inside and get warm. I don't want you to get sick.

MARIE

I'm fine. I come out here all the time like this. I just jump around a bit when I start to feel cold and it warms me up. Like this (she hops from foot to foot). You should try it. I bet it would help you keep warm too. Come on!

(the creature stands on the steps and starts to hop from foot to foot. It shakes the whole fire escape as it does this and both Marie and the Creature lose their balance for moment)

MARIE

Woah! Okay okay, bad idea! Maybe try it again when you're on the ground.

CREATURE

Or maybe I'll just stick with the coat.

MARIE

What fun would that be?

(they both laugh again. beat)

MARIE

My Dad died. That's why we don't go see the stars anymore. It's just me and my mom now. She tries really hard to make time to do things with me, but she works a lot, and is usually pretty tired. Some nights her boyfriend comes over, and we play games, or watch movies. He's pretty fun I guess. He's not as nice as my Dad used to be, but Mom says "you can't choose who you love." (beat) I come out here sometimes when they start yelling at each other.

CREATURE

I'm sorry your Dad is gone. But it sounds like your Mom loves you very much. You are lucky to have that. And I think she's right. About choosing who you love.

MARIE

She's right about a lot of things. (whispers) Just don't tell her I said that.

CREATURE

I promise.

Lights shift and fade as the scene ends

Act 2 Scene 8 - The Bride

(DREAM SEQUENCE: Victoria is back at the morgue, staring at a female corpse. Victoria grabs her hacksaw.)

VICTORIA

I can't believe I'm here again.

(She closes her eyes and takes a deep shaky breath. Suddenly a loud cry of a baby shatters the silence.)

VICTORIA

What? Who brought their baby here?

(VICTORIA goes to the door to shout at the parent with the annoying baby before a loud thud echoes throughout the morgue. She turns and sees one of her items splattered onto the floor. The baby loudly shrieks again. VICTORIA opens up the door to see a baby in a basket, a blanket covering it, in front of her door. She groans and sidesteps the baby and shouts into the hallway.)

VICTORIA

Hello? Who's kid is this...?

(VICTORIA picks up the basket, holding it inches away from her. She places it down and uncovers the baby. She takes a step back. The baby has pale skin and ugly scars over the body and yellow eyes.)

BRIDE

Oh good, you found her.

(VICTORIA swivels around. There's an undead woman now sitting up and staring at her.)

VICTORIA

(Shocked) Oh my god. What the fuck?

BRIDE

Not in front of the baby!

(As if on cue, the baby starts to cry again.)

BRIDE

Oh, my poor baby. Don't cry.

(The BRIDE starts to shakily walk to the basket. She picks up the baby and begins to coo.)

BRIDE

Isn't she just adorable? You want to know what her name is?

VICTORIA

What? No.

BRIDE

Hehe... her name is Frankie. Named after you, her grandmother.

VICTORIA

Me? What? Her grandmother?

BRIDE

Well, you are the mother of my husband, so of course you're her grandmother. Wanna hold her?

(The BRIDE approaches VICTORIA and hands her the baby. VICTORIA looks down at the ugly creature in her arms.)

VICTORIA

She's...

BRIDE

Perfect?

VICTORIA

Sick.

BRIDE

(shaking her head) No... You know, maybe we can help you understand.

VICTORIA

Understand what?

BRIDE

We'll help show you how she's perfect.

VICTORIA

We?

BRIDE

You need us. Me, Frankie and my lovely husband.

VICTORIA

Oh hell no, I cant-

BRIDE

Are you sure? We could all be a family.

(Victoria stumbles away as the female Creature steps closer. Victoria makes a dash towards the door and steps out into the hallway. She gasps. In front of her are hundreds and hundreds of Creatures. Some are toddlers, kids, elders, and adults. Some have mismatched skin: brown and white, black and white, pale and tan. Some are missing limbs as if they've been pulled off.)

VICTORIA

No.. no... what is happening? This isn't real.

(The bride steps up to Victoria and puts her arm on her shoulder.)

BRIDE

Of course, this is real. Your new family.

CHORUS

We love you Victoria!

(VICTORIA shakes the bride's grip away from her shoulders. She starts to hastily walk away from the crowd of Creatures, their voices travelling after her.)

CHORUS

Don't run from us Victoria. We can be together forever!

BRIDE

Look at what you can have! Look at how happy you'll be.

ALL

We love you Victoria. (repeat)

(The CHORUS part ways to reveal a Creatureized couple, holding hands and smiling at her. They have little Creatureized kids around them. The Chorus surrounds VICTORIA and she tries to break free from them as they laugh and reach for her. She bumps into a tall figure and looks up to see her original CREATURE Lights shift to a spot on just on Victoria and her Creature and rest of the stage is dark.)

CREATURE

Where are you running to?

VICTORIA

Away from all of you! I don't need you, any of you.

CREATURE

(beat) It's just you and I Victoria. There is no one else.

(Lights begin to return to the rest of the stage. The Creatures are all gone, the bride is laying on the table, not yet brought to life, there is no baby, it was all a hallucination, or a dream, or worse. She is in the lab with the creature, they are in the process of making the companion.)

CREATURE

It's time Victoria. How is she?

VICTORIA

She's ... sick.

CREATURE

(excited, ignoring VICTORIA) She looks almost beautiful, just look at those hands, I can't wait to hold her hands, and her lips look lush, I can't wait to hear how she speaks, I'll teach her to talk, oh the conversations we will have. Thank you for doing this

VICTORIA

I can't make her anymore.

CREATURE

You will make her, and she will be amazing. And I'll keep my word as long as you keep yours.

VICTORIA

I don't want this to be as bad as you ended up.

CREATURE

You made me.

VICTORIA

I know. *(VICTORIA grabs her hacksaw, moving erratically, going to cut the BRIDE open.)*

CREATURE

(Trying to stop VICTORIA) No you promised, you promised me friend. I demand you give me a friend.

VICTORIA

Couldn't you just get along with a pet or something, there's some rats still in the lab they are fine pets they don't cause trouble-

CREATURE

It's not the same, rats won't fix this they can't speak.

VICTORIA

I could get you a cat to talk to and they will purr and meow in response to anytime you need to complain about existing.

CREATURE

No, I just want someone like me. I have no one who is like me.

VICTORIA

No one should be like you. Why should I create more? The damage from you alone is too much-

CREATURE

I do regret my actions.

VICTORIA

Do you really? Or are you just saying that so I finish this? What if you fall in love and procreate, you could create an army what would you do to me then? What would you do in the world? Destroy it?

CREATURE

I promise you that won't happen, we will go off together we will live in peace away from you. I won't cause you anymore harm.

VICTORIA

She could be different! What if she doesn't love you and demands a mate of her own. Or what if she sees Eli and falls in love with them and again you need another mate. I can't keep making them to fill your desire for connection, I just can't. I won't.

CREATURE

You promised, you will keep that promise, (*VICTORIA is still*) you will continue this (*VICTORIA shakes her head, the CREATURE grabs her collar*) you will finish her. (*dropping VICTORIA*)

VICTORIA

I won't do this, I'm done (*With a knife, she cuts open the BRIDE's torso down to her stomach.*)

CREATURE

NO!!!

(*VICTORIA rips the BRIDE open*)

VICTORIA

(*Tearing out guts*) I will not make another. I will not.

(*The CREATURE tries to stop VICTORIA but can't. The CREATURE picks up the organs and guts that VICTORIA throws around the lab.*)

CREATURE

Stop it! No, please! Victoria!

VICTORIA

There can never be another (*ripping out a lung and tossing it to the floor.*)

CREATURE

Please stop. (*Grabbing the lung, crying*) I want to see her breathe.

(*VICTORIA takes out the lungs and stabs them with the knife they deflate*)

CREATURE

No stop please, come on put it back please. (*sobbing, begging, whimpering*) I could have had someone who breathes like me. Who talks like me.

VICTORIA

Never again.

CREATURE

I do not want to be alone please, I want someone to hold, to walk with. Someone willing to be my friend. To be like me. I can't bare this.

(*VICTORIA takes out the heart and holds it up*)

CREATURE

Please don't destroy that, please just put it in, we had a promise, I'll put this behind us if you just continue.

VICTORIA

I can't continue anymore (*crushing the heart, blood drips down their hand, then she tosses the remains to the Creature. She laughs, smiling, relieved*) There will never be another.

CREATURE

Her heart. No, no. Oh god, no. (*squeezing the limbs close to their chest*)

VICTORIA

Never again.

CREATURE

She could have loved me.

VICTORIA

I know.

CREATURE

She could have changed me, I would love her for it

VICTORIA

You'll never change, it won't get better as long as you exist. You couldn't have loved her, it's not in your capacity.

CREATURE

(*Standing up, angry, throwing the guts to the floor.*) Maybe we have that in common

VICTORIA

Shut up.

CREATURE

I wonder how Eli feels with you spending all your time here

VICTORIA

Shut the fuck up.

CREATURE

If you loved your brother and spent time with him instead of abandoning him in the lab maybe he'd still be here.

VICTORIA

I said shut up-

CREATURE

Henry, your Father, all of them!

VICTORIA

Shut up or I'll-

CREATURE

Or you'll what? What more can you possibly do to me? You can't take anything else from me you've done your damage. And so now it's my turn.

VICTORIA

No.

CREATURE

No more promises. You can't keep yours, so I won't keep mine.

VICTORIA

No.

CREATURE

I will take from you everything you took from me. Everything you denied me. And when I'm done, you will be alone.

VICTORIA

Please no!

CREATURE

I will see you lose everything you pretend to love.... Mother.

(the Creature exits)

VICTORIA

(she collapses on the floor in tears) What have I done?

End of Act 2

ACT 3

SCENE 1

(We open to VICTORIA resting upon the creation table in the middle of the stage. It seems to be rather uncomfortable. It almost appears that the scene is taking place in a void, similar to the ROBERT WALTON scenes. On the edge of the stage is the CHORUS. They all appear to be in the pseudo-creation forms from the bride scene. They stare down at VICTORIA.)

CHORUS

WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WAKE UP!

(VICTORIA immediately jolts awake from the commotion. She collects herself then notices the chorus.)

VICTORIA

Oh no. Oh please, leave me alone.

CHORUS

You are alone, Victoria. *(The Chorus members begin to move towards Victoria)*

VICTORIA

No! I said LEAVE ME ALONE. NOW!

(A CHORUS member grabs VICTORIA's arm. She pulls away.)

VICTORIA

Let go of me! *(Another CHORUS member grabs her other arm)* I said, LET GO! *(She jumps off the table and stands down-stage as the CHORUS forms a semicircle up-stage of her.)*

VICTORIA

Get Back! Don't come any closer.

(A knock resonates from the center door.)

CHORUS

They're here.

VICTORIA

W-who?

CHORUS 1

Don't you already know?

(The knocking intensifies)

CHORUS 2

Aren't you going to answer it?

VICTORIA

No...I won't. I'm not going to.

CHORUS 3

Are you sure?

(The knocking grows even louder.)

CHORUS 4

They might just break the whole door down

VICTORIA

(VICTORIA panics and looks around. She finds no means of egress) There has to be another way. There has to be.

CHORUS 1

There is none.

CHORUS 2

There's no way out.

(The knocking rises to an absurd intensity.)

CHORUS 3

Get ready.

CHORUS 4

Here they come.

(VICTORIA braces herself. CAROLINE walks through.)

VICTORIA

MOM!!

CAROLINE

Victoria dear, I'm so very proud of you. Now wash up and get ready for dinner.

VICTORIA

What? Wait—Mom!

(CAROLINE joins the semi-circle. The doors open again, WILLIAM enters)

WILLIAM

Victoria! Come on, let's go out back and chase the rabbits! Bet you can't catch me! *(he joins the semi-circle)*

VICTORIA

William no! We have to get ready for din—

(ALPHONSE and ELI enter through the doors together)

VICTORIA

Dad? Eli!? You're not supposed to be here!

ALPHONSE

Don't worry about us kiddo.

ELI

Yeah, Vic, we'll see you again real soon.

ALPHONSE

But someone's here who's been dying to see you...

(ALPHONSE and ELI enter the semi circle as HENRY enters the doors)

VICTORIA

Henry? Oh, Henry! *(she rushes him and hugs him)*

HENRY

I'm so sorry Victoria. Didn't you hear me knocking?

VICTORIA

Don't apologize Henry, I'm the one who should be sorry, it's just—

HENRY

Victoria. Why didn't you tell me Victoria?

CHORUS

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM VICTORIA? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM VICTORIA?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM VICTORIA? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL HIM VICTORIA?

(They repeat this line over and over as they begin to form a human circle enclosing HENRY. Victoria struggles to pull the chorus apart to reach him, but to no avail. The CHORUS moves as one, pulling HENRY through the doors.)

VICTORIA

HENRY!!!! NO! HENRY!...

(she eventually collapses in tears as THE CHORUS takes HENRY offstage through the doors. THE CREATURE stares down at VICTORIA for a moment before they slam the doors shut. All goes silent except for the sound of VICTORIA's sobs.)

(The lights change— We're back in the real world. ELI enters)

ELI

Vic, oh - *(seeing VICTORIA collapsed on the floor, ELI runs over and hugs VICTORIA.)* I am so sorry, Victoria. I'm so fucking sorry.

VICTORIA

Eli? It's okay, okay?I- I'm sorry. *(calming down)* I, um, where am I?

ELI

You're out front of your lab building.

VICTORIA

Yes. Yes, that's right. I'm here. You're real (*touching ELI*). We're both real and here. And Henry isn't here, right? (*looking around*) I saw him, but he wasn't actually here.

ELI

Victoria...

VICTORIA

(*Relieved, hugging ELI.*) We're here. And everything's okay right now.

ELI

Vic, (*holding her face*) I'm so sorry.

VICTORIA

What? Why?

ELI

(*hugging her close, unable to make eye contact*) Henry killed himself.

(*There's a shift from realism to a half dream state again. Realism around VICTORIA, dream state exists around her on the stage. THE CHORUS appears around the stage.*)

VICTORIA

(*pulling away from the hug, getting up, moving away.*) What? No.

ELI

Vic, please I—

VICTORIA

(*staring at the CHORUS*) How did he die?

ELI

Just, I can't right now, I—

VICTORIA

How did he die?

ELI

(*beat*) He hung himself.

(*THE CREATURE appears in the doorway, holding a noose around HENRY's neck.*)

VICTORIA

No! Oh my god, it was you!

ELI

Victoria? Please come back to me.

VICTORIA

(ignoring ELI, running after the CREATURE.) You killed my best fri—

(As VICTORIA approaches the CREATURE, they throw HENRY behind the door out of sight— only the CREATURE is standing in the doorway. They start walking towards VICTORIA and ELI VICTORIA screams, exits. ELI, remains frozen, staring after VICTORIA. The CREATURE stands over ELI for a moment with the noose, then turns and follows VICTORIA offstage.)

SCENE 4

(VICTORIA paces around the dimly lit lab)

VICTORIA

They're dead.

(A light flashes. ELI stands silently, emotionlessly. They watch VICTORIA. VICTORIA sees ELI and screams.)

VICTORIA

Eli's dead. They're all dead.

(A light flashes. ELI, WILLIAM, ALPHONSE, and HENRY are standing around the room, watching silently.)

VICTORIA

(crying) It's all my fault. It's all because of me.

ELI, WILLIAM, ALPHONSE, and HENRY

It's all because of you.

VICTORIA

I can't do this anymore. I lost everything. I lost all of you.

ELI, WILLIAM, ALPHONSE, and HENRY

You lost all of us.

VICTORIA

I can't do this, I can't. Please. Leave me alone. Why can't you all just go away?

ELI, WILLIAM, ALPHONSE, and HENRY

Go away.

VICTORIA

Stop it. Go away. *Go away.*

(ELI, WILLIAM, ALPHONSE, and HENRY all remain perfectly still.)

VICTORIA

(screaming, furious) I said, go away! *(VICTORIA throws something. They do not move)*

VICTORIA

Leave. Me. *(screeching)* Alone! *(VICTORIA knocks glass off a table and it shatters on the ground. The moment the glass shatters on the floor, ELI, WILLIAM, ALPHONSE, and HENRY all collapse to the ground, dead)*

VICTORIA

(screaming) No! Oh God no! I'm sorry! I'm so sorry! Please come back! *(she runs over to each of them, trying to shake them awake. They all don't move.)* I didn't mean it. Please! *(crying)*

(VICTORIA continues to cry as if trying to wake up the dead. ELI, WILLIAM, ALPHONSE, and HENRY continue to whisper. Another flash of light, and CAROLINE appears. Blood slowly pools around the dead.)

CAROLINE

Victoria, it's okay.

VICTORIA

(She throws something) Stop saying that! It's not! It's not okay!

CAROLINE

It is. You can still finish this.

VICTORIA

I can't! I can't. Please, mom. Please. *(collapsing)* I miss them so much. I just want to be with them.

CAROLINE

No, there's still time. Get up.

VICTORIA

You died! You're fucking dead! You shouldn't be here! Get out of my lab, *(voice cracking)* please. You died, everyone died.

CAROLINE

(encouraging) You're still alive.

VICTORIA

(sobbing) I know.

CAROLINE

You still have the one thing that's most important to you. You'll always have that.

VICTORIA

(screaming) What, the Monster? I have nothing! Fucking nothing! Go away! Go the fuck away! Leave me alone! You don't know anything! Why can't you just stay dead? *(she knocks into a piece of furniture so hard that it knocks something else off the wall. The lab seems to be shaking, things falling left and right. The lab is red.)*

CAROLINE

I'm still here with you. You're still alive. And so is your creation.

VICTORIA

It doesn't matter (*sobbing*) everyone's dead.

CAROLINE

It does matter. You and them are still alive. What if they kill again?

VICTORIA

Kills who? God damnit, it's already killed everyone! Why can't you see that?

CAROLINE

They can kill others. They can kill you.

VICTORIA

It can try. That Monster can fucking try.

CAROLINE

You need to kill them.

VICTORIA

(*pause*) I need to kill it. Before it kills me.

CAROLINE

(*comfortingly*) You'll always have yourself. Don't let it take the most important thing.

VICTORIA

The most important things are dead.

CAROLINE

The most important thing is you.
(*lights flash again and the dead disappear. Beat.*)

VICTORIA

I'm still alive.

CREATURE

(*offstage*) Victoria?
(VICTORIA *continues talking, seemingly not having heard*)

VICTORIA

And so is it.

CREATURE

(*offstage*) Creator?

VICTORIA

(*more deranged*) It's still alive.

(VICTORIA searches frantically for something to defend herself with- perhaps a sharp tool, knife, or broken piece of glass. The CREATURE enters, stops in front of VICTORIA She holds the blade between herself and CREATURE)

CREATURE

Vic—

VICTORIA

Stop. *(pause)*

CREATURE

(moving slowly forwards.) I don't want to figh—

VICTORIA

(snapping, deranged and spitting) Stop! Didn't you fucking hear me?

CREATURE

(freezing in place) I don't want to fight you. I didn't want this to have happened, you know.

VICTORIA

(laughing insanely) How could you not have meant for this?

CREATURE

I only ever wanted one thing. All this time. And that's all I want still. If you give it to me, I'll leave you and this world alone forever.

VICTORIA

(she approaches the CREATURE) Yes.... Yes, you'll leave this world.

CREATURE

I'll leave if yo—

(VICTORIA, lunges towards the CREATURE. The CREATURE stops her.)

CREATURE

(screaming) Stop! Fucking stop it! I don't want this!

(VICTORIA isn't listening, she pulls her arm back and swings again. And again. And again. The CREATURE dodges.)

CREATURE

I don't want to have to hurt you!

VICTORIA

Hurt me? Hurt me?!? *(Laughing, lunging again. The two move around the lab table.)*

CREATURE

Stop!

VICTORIA

(attacks the CREATURE again) Die! *(grabbing for the CREATURE's chest)* Die!

(VICTORIA plunges her knife into the CREATURE's chest and collapses onto the ground.)
(Breathy) Die.

(The CREATURE removes the knife from their chest and throws it to the ground. But they don't die. They seem rather unaffected.)

VICTORIA

No... I-

CREATURE

Trust me, I already tried that.

VICTORIA

No.... no. no no. How? Oh my god. *(She crawls backwards, away from the CREATURE. She grabs the blade again and holds it towards the CREATURE.)*

CREATURE

You will not kill me. You can not. You can not kill me and I am not going anywhere, my creator. Not unless, of course, you give me what I want.

VICTORIA

(scared) A... friend. Right? Is that what you want? Still?

CREATURE

Yes.

VICTORIA

For me to create another one of you?

CREATURE

It is all I have ever wanted. I promise you.

(pause, it's like VICTORIA realized something.)

VICTORIA

(letting her arm fall, still holding the blade.) I see.
(beat)

VICTORIA

You can still finish this. *(Quoting CAROLINE)*

(VICTORIA plunges the blade into her own chest)

CREATURE

MOTHER!?! Oh my- Stop! *(running towards VICTORIA)* Stop it! No!

(VICTORIA rips the blade vertically, tearing her skin from her heart down to her stomach. Blood pours everywhere. The lab becomes a deep red. THE CREATURE holds VICTORIA.)

CREATURE

(Holding VICTORIA, screaming) Mother, no. No, no, no!

(There's a flash of light, then CAROLINE can be seen silently standing and watching, not moving and looking dead and empty. VICTORIA chokes on her own blood, the CREATURE sobs, trying to stop the bleeding. There's blood everywhere, pouring from the ceiling. light flashes and WILLIAM, HENRY, ALPHONSE, and ELI can be seen lying dead around the room again.)

CREATURE

(crying) Mother? Please dear god stay with me. Please! Do not die, you can't die. Not now. I didn't mean for this to happen. I need you. Victoria! No!

(The CREATURE cradles VICTORIA in their arms as she chokes on her own blood.)

CREATURE

(choking through tears) You can't leave. I need you. *(The CREATURE hugs VICTORIA close to them, putting their head against their body. Sobbing)*

(The lights fade on CAROLINE, WILLIAM, HENRY, ALPHONSE, and ELI, watching with dead eyes. As the CREATURE continues to sob the light slowly fades out on them too. VICTORIA chokes and then is silent. All is black.

Beat.

(Then a light. It's ROBERT and the CHORUS. The CHORUS stands around the edge of the stage, unmoving and staring with dead eyes. ROBERT is watching. On the opposite side of the stage CAROLINE walks out onstage. The CREATURE sits crying.)

CAROLINE

What happens now, do you think?

ROBERT WALTON

Probably the worst part of all.

CAROLINE

What do you mean?

ROBERT WALTON

They get to live.

(Lights fade on all characters except for the creature. The CREATURE continues to cry before their light goes out as well.)

End