RAMAPO COLLEGE
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Frankenstein: Postmodern Presence and Influences

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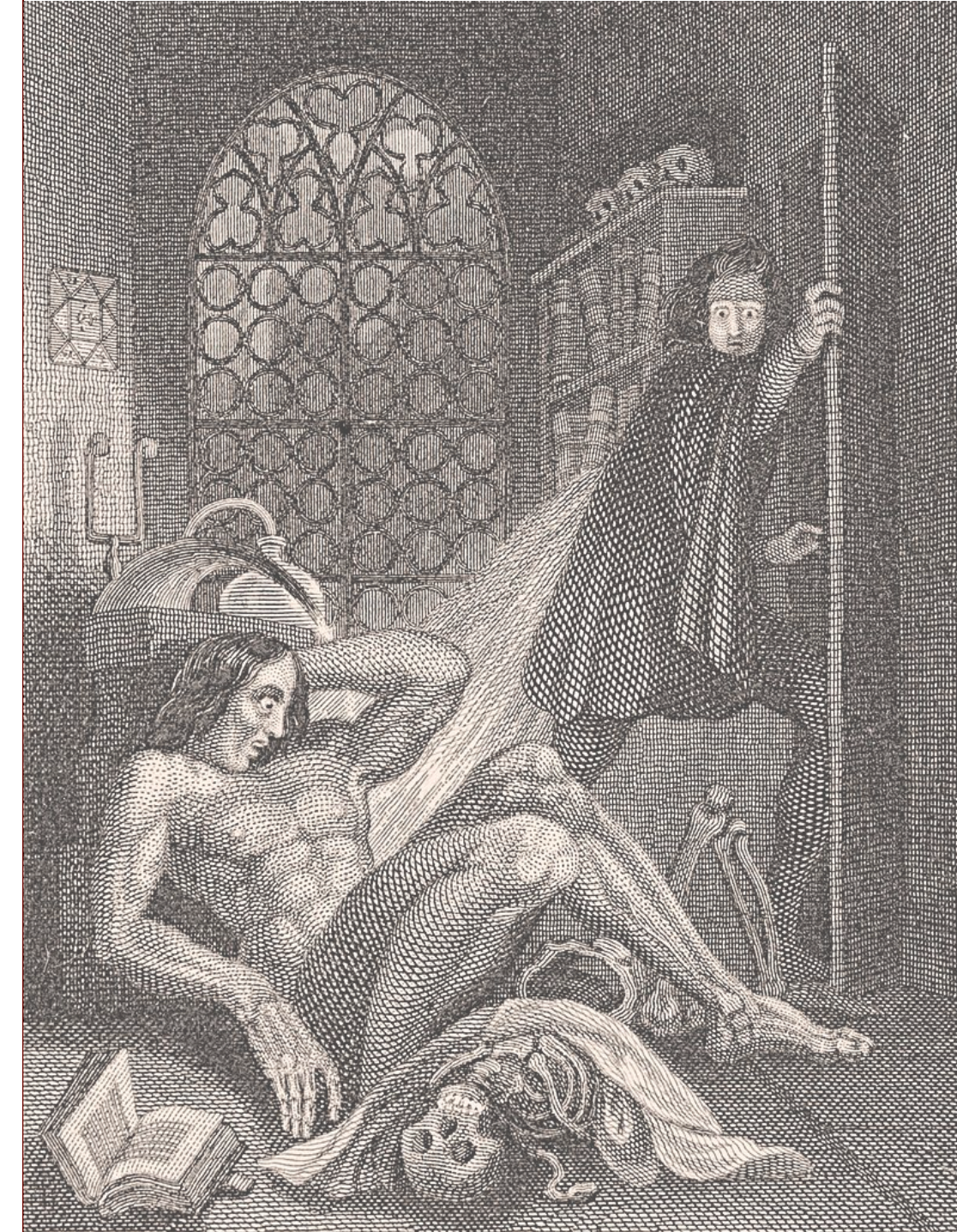## Medieval Monsters, Wonders, and the Laws of Nature

Hydrus

Unicorn

Blemmyes

Frankenstein as the First Science Fiction

- Philosophy of sci-fi: "This could be real" or "This could happen
- "The event on which this fiction is founded has been supposed, by Dr. Darwin, and some of the physiological writers of Germany, as not of impossible occurrence."

Mad Scientist Trope

- Disregard for scientific ethics
- Searches for forbidden knowledge
- Disheveled appearance (wide-eyed, white haired, pale skin) likely comes from how Walton first saw Frankenstein
- Undone by unintended consequence of their creation

The Misunderstood Monster

- Appreciated world, rejected for:
  - Appearance
  - Mannerisms
  - Other prejudices

- In the monster's case…
  - Victor flees from it
  - Village turns on it
  - De Laceys attack it, force it to run

- Yet,
  - Shown to be kind, intelligent
  - Loves birds, animals
  - Embodiment of Romanticism

Frankenstein in Films

- significantly different from source material
- plot, characters: Frankenstein and the creature
- Branagh's Version is "most accurate"
- small differences from the book

Frankenstein in Other Media

- Kids Comics often featured the character and several publishers made Frankenstein comics of their own with varying likenesses
- The Monster as a children's character was often presented as a big kid, and that irony could be exploited for comic effect

Modern Frankenstein

- The creature is an intelligent, torchered antihero prone to rages
- Physically stitched together, but lacking bolts and green skin
- Focus on the creature's loneliness and self awareness
- More emphasis placed on his relationship with Victor as a parent-child metaphor
- Victor is more motivated by grief and family than by hubris and a god complex