

Frankenstein Court Case



Lawyers: Richard McNeil and Nick Motroni

Ethicist: Nick Lavigne

Medical Expert: Virginia Logan

Robert Walton: Chris Stafford

William Frankenstein: Anthony Indeglia

Elizabeth Frankenstein: Ashley Wilbur

Victor Frankenstein: Sam Lachapelle

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Opening Statement

(Nick Motroni)

Ladies and gentleman of the jury, my colleague and I are here to defend a truly unique and passionate individual. He was a caring husband, a loyal friend, a protectorate of his family, and a brilliant scientist. Our client has endured various tragedies throughout his lifetime. Suffering the loss of a family member is never easy, especially when you have a close family like Victor's. The amount of physical and emotional stress caused by these events has the capability to break down even the strongest of people. My client lost his mother to Scarlet fever just before his departure for college. This tragedy traumatized Victor, which motivated the next chapter of his life. I introduce you all to my client, Victor Frankenstein.

Dr. Victor Frankenstein was a scientist at the college of Ingolstadt. While attending the college, Victor met Dr. Waldman, who became his role model shortly afterwards. Waldman was very interested in life science, such as Victor. They shared long discussions and debates on what experiments began. The use of raw materials can only be recognized as what doctors do today. When a person passes away, their organs can be utilized in science experiments or to benefit the lives of others. If the use of these materials is negligent to the creation of this human, then why aren't thousands of people in jail for using other "raw materials?" Although the plaintiff may argue that Victor is the parent to the creature, the definition of a father contradicts how the creature came to be. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a father is defined as, "A male person whose sperm unites with an egg, resulting in the conception of a child." The creature does not have the same DNA as Victor or possess any of his qualities. Their biological compositions are not remotely similar, along with their external features. Therefore, Victor

cannot be looked at as the father of the creature. He gave this creature life by experimenting to further the preservation of life. This experiment would help many medical professionals in the future learn more about how the body functions and how to infuse life into dead or man-made beings.

To conclude, Victor should be on trial suing the creature. From his experience with this creature, he suffered from acute stress. This psychological condition is caused by a traumatic event in which the person experiences or witnesses an event that causes them to experience extreme, disturbing or unexpected fear, stress, pain, or leads to serious injury or death. The creature's constant killing of loved ones worsens this disorder in Victor to the point where the stress brought on to Victor ultimately brings him to his death. And the creature wants to argue he is emotionally distressed? Was he tortured by anyone for the remainder of his life? Did he lose his little brother? Did he lose his wife on his wedding night? Did he lose his father from the agony and depression that all of the deaths caused him? Did he lose everyone he ever loved? Just remember when taking into account the actions of both my client and the creature, Victor was only creating this life with best intentions. He wanted to make sure no one would have to go through the pain, sorrow, and misery he had to deal with after the loss of his mother. Victor never meant to create a killer. He only meant to pursue his dreams by aspiring to create life.

Thank you.

Robert Walton Questions

Q: Please state your name for the court.

A: Robert Walton.

Q: What is your profession?

A: I am an explorer.

Q: When did you meet Victor Frankenstein?

A: I found him in the Arctic while on my expedition. My crew and I brought him onto our ship to save him from freezing to death.

Q: At that point in time, where were you?

A: My crew and I were stuck in patches of ice on our voyage to the North Pole.

Q: When you met Victor, what condition was he in?

A: Upset, overwhelmed, and weak.

Q: Did you two have any conversations?

A: Yes.

Q: What did these conversations entail?

A: We shared everything about each other. He told me about his parents, life as a child, finding Elizabeth, the death of his mother, his thirst for knowledge, his days at Ingolstadt, his creation,

the turn of events that occurred at the hands of the creation, to when he showed up in the middle of the Arctic.

Q: What was his purpose in telling you his story?

A: He said he saw himself in me. He advised me not to pursue my journey because nothing good would come from it.

Q: Did Victor ask you to do anything for him?

A: Yes.

Q: What did he ask?

A: He asked me to help him destroy the creature who was torturing him.

Q: Do you feel like he died from the stress the creature brought on to him?

A: Absolutely.

Q: Lastly, do you believe Victor's story?

A: Without a doubt.

William Frankenstein Questions

Q: Please state your name for the court.

A: William Frankenstein.

Q: How old are you?

A: I am 8.

Q: What was your relationship to Victor?

A: I am Victor's younger brother.

Q: Were you close with your brother?

A: Yes, Victor and I were close siblings.

Q: Was Victor protective of you?

A: Yes he was, he cared for me very much.

Q: How did you die?

A: I was roaming around the woods when the creature and I crossed paths. The creature picked me up off of the ground by my neck and squeezed until I died. He choked me to death.

Q: Did you provoke the creature in any way to cause him to murder you?

A: No, I did not. I was going about my business when we came across each other.

Q: Did you have anything valuable on you at the time of your death?

A: Yes I did, I had my locket.

Q: Did you ever give that locket to Justine?

A: No, I did not.

Q: What do you think the main reason is as to why the creature killed you?

A: The creature killed me because he knew I was Victor's brother and wanted to make Victor suffer. The creature said he saw Victor when he looked at me.

Elizabeth Frankenstein Questions

Q: Please state your name for the court.

A: Elizabeth Frankenstein.

Q: What was your relationship with the accused Victor Frankenstein?

A: Victor was my brother, best friend, lover, and most importantly, my husband.

Q: Since you have known Victor for a majority of your life, what kind of person is Victor?

A: Victor is a passionate individual. He puts his all into everything he does. He is a fantastic husband, a great listener, very dedicated and is always honest.

Q: When were you killed?

A: I was killed by the creature on my wedding night.

Q: How did you die?

A: The creature strangled me right in front of Victor when he tried to save me.

Q: Do you believe that the creature was aware of what he was doing at the time when he murdered you?

A: Yes, I do.

Q: Would you say that Victor had any part in your murder?

A: No, I do not think he had any part in my murder.

Ethicist Questions

Q: Please state your name for the court.

A: Nick Lavigne

Q: What is your occupation?

A: I am an ethicist, I interpret right from wrong.

Q: Why do you think Victor Frankenstein set out to create life?

A: He set out to create life so he could save people who lost loved ones from heartache, loneliness, and despair that he suffered when he lost his mother.

Q: Would you say that it is immoral or cruel in any way?

A: No, not at all. It was the opposite because he was seeking out how to save others from the terrible feelings that he felt after losing many loved ones.

Q: Was it wrong of Victor to keep his creation a secret?

A: No, he was protecting his friends and family?

Q: Why was he protecting his friends and family?

A: Victor's work was frowned upon, so he did not want people to attack his family and friends due to his actions.

Q: Once Victor realized what he had done by creating life, did he try to right his wrong doing?

A: Yes, he did.

Q: How did Victor try to right his wrongs?

A: Once he found out that the creature was the cause of William's death, he tried to stop the creature. However, the creature threatened the lives of Justine, Henry, and Elizabeth too.

Q: Should Victor be held accountable for the actions of the creature?

A: No, the creature knew right from wrong.

Q: From hearing what you have heard in this courtroom, would you say that Victor is innocent or guilty?

A: Victor is innocent.

Psychologist Questions

Q: Please state your name for the court.

A: Virginia Logan.

Q: What is your profession?

A: I am a forensic psychologist.

Q: Do you believe that my client Victor Frankenstein suffered any mental illnesses in any way?

A: Yes I do. Victor suffered from depression and also had a mood disorder.

Q: Do you believe that Victor was wrong in what he did by trying to recreate life?

A: No I do not. Victor was in a stable state of mind when he created the creature. He also made the creature in an attempt to further life science.

Q: What do you believe is the reasoning as to why the creature committed the murders?

A: The creature set out to undermine Victor. The creature wanted to eliminate all of Victor's loved ones so he would have no choice but to subdue to the creature's demands.

Q: Would you say that the creature was clinically insane?

A: No, I would not. He was in a stable state of mind when he committed the murders. The creature's main objective was to hurt Victor.

Victor Frankenstein Questions

Q: Please state your name for the court.

A: Victor Frankenstein.

Q: What is your profession?

A: I am a scientist.

Q: Where did you study to become a scientist?

A: The college of Ingolstadt.

Q: Did you perform an experiment to create life?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: What was the result of the experiment?

A: The creation of the creature.

Q: What was your reasoning behind creating life?

A: To save people from heartache and despair over losing a loved one.

Q: Why did you keep your creation a secret?

A: I could not share it with anyone; people would have believed I was crazy.

Q: Can you explain your health after the experiment?

A: I barely slept during the process of the experiment. Upon completion, I had become very ill and it took me several months to recover. By the time I was healthy, the creature was gone.

Q: So you could say that the creature head left you?

A: Yes.

Q: Did the creature ever try to make contact with you immediately following the experiment?

A: No.

Q: When did he first make contact with you?

A: When I was up in the mountains trying to clear my mind after William and Justine died.

Q: What did he say to you?

A: He explained to me where he had been and what he had done. He also confessed to the killing of William and the framing of Justine.

Q: At this time, what were your initial thoughts about the creature?

A: He was very well spoken and seemed very intelligent.

Q: How intelligent would you say?

A: He clearly knew the magnitude of the actions and the request he made.

Q: What request did he make?

A: He asked me to build him a companion.

Q: Did you follow through with his request?

A: He threatened me so I had to say yes.

Q: Did you complete the request?

A: No, I stopped halfway through. I could not imagine building a second creature that could have the same destructive powers of the first one.

Q: What did the creature do after this?

A: He killed both Henry and Elizabeth.

Q: Did you tell the creature to kill anyone ever?

A: No, not once had I ever told the creature that he should kill anyone.

Q: Did you tell the creature to murder your brother William?

A: Absolutely not. That is my little brother and I love him more than life.

Q: Did you tell the creature to take the locket you gave to Elizabeth and plant it on Justine?

A: No, he did that all on his own.

Q: Did you ask the creature to murder Henry Clerval?

A: Of course not, that's my best friend. He has been my best friend since we were young boys.

Q: How was your wife Elizabeth murdered?

A: The creature broke into our room and strangled her to death.

Q: Did you ask the creature to kill your wife?

A: No, that is the love of my life. I would risk my life for her. I wish it was me that was murdered instead of her.

Q: Why did your creation commit all of these murders?

A: He had it out for me. He wanted me to suffer, even though all I did was bring him to life. I helped him and he hurt me. He blamed his destructiveness on me and did not blame it on himself.

Q: Do you feel responsible for any emotional distress?

A: No.

Q: Why not?

A: I did not attack him at all. I cannot be held responsible for how other people respond to him. If anyone suffered physical and emotional distress, it was me.

Ethicist Cross Examination Questions

Q: Do you think revenge is acceptable?

Q: (Yes) What circumstances do you find it acceptable? (No) So you think revenge should never occur?

Q: (Yes) Could you give the court an example of when revenge is acceptable?

Q: What is your opinion on murder?

Q: Is murder acceptable? (Yes) Why?

Q: When murder and revenge are done together, is it morally acceptable?

Q: What is the usual outcome of those who murder?

Q: How do you know you are "accepted" in society?

Q: How long does it take before someone can tell they are "accepted?"

Q: In your opinion, did anyone not take time to let society accept them?

Q: If people are given time, do most people adapt to their surroundings? (No) Why?

Psychologist Cross Examination Questions

Q: Right now, if you could, what age would you give this creature. Why?

Q: How developed is the creature?

Q: Does this 8 foot creature, with an intelligent brain, have any room to grow?

Q: Are there any features he still needs to develop?

Q: Do you believe the creature has developed enough to be able to function alone?

Q: What is your definition of a "father?"

Q: Do you believe Victor fits your definition of a father? Why?

Q: Are there children who are perfectly fine in this world who grew up without a father in their lives?

Q: Does the creature seem like he is more part of the De Lacey family than Victor's? (Yes) Why?

Henry Clerval Cross Examination Questions

Q: Describe the condition that Victor was in after he had created the creature.

Q: Would you say that he was physically and emotionally distressed at this time?

Q: Where were you on the night that you were killed?

Q: Who killed you?

Q: How did they kill you?

Q: Did you have handprints on your neck from when the creature strangled you?

Q: Are you aware that William was found dead with the same handprints on his neck?

Q: Why did this person kill you? What did you do to deserve to die?

Q: Why are you siding with the creature instead of your friend Victor?

Q: Are you upset with the creature for trying to take revenge on your friend?

Q: Why are you siding with the creature if he murdered you, as you admitted?

Q: How did Victor respond to your death?

Justine Cross Examination Questions

Q: How are you associated with Victor?

Q: What was Victor's attitude toward you?

Q: While watching him interact with his family, how was he?

Q: Do you believe that Victor knew his creation would murder William?

Q: Do you think the creature knew of your relation to Victor?

Q: Did you ever see William with the locket?

Q: When was the first time you saw the locket?

Q: At any point in time, did you see the creature with the locket?

Q: How did you die?

Q: Who framed you?

Q: If you were innocent, why didn't you speak up?

Q: Who do you blame for your death?

Q: (If says Victor) When did Victor find out the creature killed you?

Q: How can you blame someone else for your death besides the murderer?

Mr. Delacey Cross Examination Questions

Q: Did the monster tell you where he came from?

Q: Was Victor Frankenstein ever brought up in conversation between you and the creature?

Q: Did you fear the creature after you met him?

Q: Because you are blind, your other senses are enhanced, correct?

Q: How do you feel your hearing is?

Q: Do you trust your son Felix's instinct?

Q: If you or your family were in danger, would you use (hit stick again) this to try to defend the ones you love?

Q: Does that sound like it would hurt if someone was struck by it?

Q: Do you know that your son defended your family with this (hit stick again)?

Q: Did you know he attacked the creature with this?

Q: Why didn't you help the creature?

Q: Do you think if you would have helped the creature, he would not have killed innocent people?

Q: What did the creature do to your house after your family beat him and pushed him away?

Creature Cross Examination Questions

Q: You were created by Victor Frankenstein, correct?

Q: Can you describe to me what happened after you were created?

Q: Why didn't you stay at Victor's lab?

Q: What is your definition of an intelligent person?

Q: Do intelligent people understand right from wrong?

Q: Do you think you are intelligent?

Q: Did you read the books, Paradise Lost, a volume of Putarch's Lives, and The Sorrows of Werter?

Q: When reading Paradise Lost, did you learn anything about the concept of good vs. evil?

Q: What is your definition of murder?

Q: Have you ever murdered anyone?

Q: Is it true that you killed William and Elizabeth Frankenstein?

Q: Why would you do such a thing?

Q: When you killed William and Elizabeth, how did you feel?

Q: Did you feel any regret after those killings? If yes, when?

Closing Statement

(Nick Motroni)

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we hope that you now realize who the true victim is in this court room. Mr. Frankenstein is not only innocent, but a victim himself in the hands of the plaintiff. Mr. Frankenstein was left alone and without family, not the creature. Mr. Creature chose to be alone in life. Mr. Frankenstein did not choose that life style. Mr. Creature inflicted more and more emotional distress by killing Victor's family members, one at a time. Fighting for Mr. Creature will make him believe that it was right of him to murder innocent people. Should that not be punished? We do not believe that Mr. Creature feels any remorse for what he has done. In fact, he emotionally derails Mr. Frankenstein after he mauled Elizabeth by leaving notes for my client to repeatedly find him. He thrived in the fact that he made Mr. Frankenstein pay. The plaintiff himself told the court that he taught himself the difference between right from wrong, and Victor also said that the Creature sounded very intelligent and well-spoken. The creature knew exactly what he was doing.

As an independent thinker and functional being, the Creature must take responsibility for his actions. Mr. Frankenstein was trying to find a way to bring his mother back to life after he lost her to scarlet fever. He was trying to finish the work of Professor Waldman. He was trying to make sense of the world that had taken his mother away from him. Mr. Frankenstein has suffered through unspeakable acts such as his personal health decline and the deaths of numerous people in his family. Should he not be suing the plaintiff for what the Creature put him through? Mr. Creature was the one who left and went out into the world on his own; he learned how to read, speak, write, and think intelligently in an evil and vengeful way. Let's not forget he

killed five innocent people out of revenge. Mr. Creature chose to take away everyone from Mr. Frankenstein. Jury members; remember the facts of the court case. Our opponents failed to prove the fact that our client neglected theirs. There are plenty of people out in the world who kill others, but are their parents to blame for their killings? Absolutely not.

How can you neglect someone who leaves before you get a chance to teach them anything? Our opponents fail to show how Mr. Frankenstein is guilty of malpractice. Does Mr. Creature not have a beating heart? Does Mr. Creature not have a working brain? Does Mr. Creature not have every organ in his body working properly? Is Mr. Creature perhaps self-conscious about his appearance and is that why he is taking revenge on Mr. Frankenstein? Our opponents did not prove that Mr. Creature suffered from a substantial amount of physical or emotional distress. On the contrary, Victor Frankenstein is the one who suffered from emotional and physical distress.

Thank you.