



The Frankenstein Papers

Fred Saberhagen

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What really happened on that Dark and Stormy Night?

Shelley's classic novel FRANKENSTEIN was a publishing sensation. Alas, we Moderns know that the central even she described - the reanimation of a long-dead corpse by the application of electricity - could never happen, and that therefore the Monster could not have existed.

But Wait! By a curious chain of coincidences, SF superstar Fred Saberhagen has come into possession of a manuscript written not by some otherwise obscure Gothic romance writer, but by the monster himself. At Last It Can Be Told. - THE ELECTRIFYING TRUTH about the hideous Dr. Frakenstein and his Monster with a heart of gold...

The Frankenstein Papers Details

Date : Published June 1st 1995 by Tor Books (first published 1986)

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Author : Fred Saberhagen

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From Reader Review The Frankenstein Papers for online ebook

Norman Howe says

This book disappointed me. I was expecting something on the lines of "The Dracula Tape"; instead I find a story which abrogates the central premise of Mary Shelley's book: the creation of an intelligent being by Victor Frankenstein. Saberhagen makes no attempt to analyse the moral and ethical implications of the act. This is merely an adventure", "piggybacking on a famous story. If not for the original "Frankenstein""", this book may never have been published.

Ronald says

read some time in 1988

Jeff Steward says

Fred Saberhagan's The Frankenstein Papers, is a unique take on the original story. The journal style telling of the story is easy to enjoy and I did find myself getting caught up in the action from time to time. The ending however, I found anti-climatic. Without giving a spoiler, let it suffice to say it played on a simple speculation of fantastic proportions with an ironic twist. OK - from this point there are spoilers. The short comings of the book are chiefly three. First, there is no philosophical probings of the meaning of man (or life) that the story of the creature has stirred in debate for years. There is consideration of the creature's loneliness and procreation, but the creature himself never seems to question a bigger picture. It does touch on the politics of the time and thereby opens the door for discussing the issues of slavery and democracy, but Saberhagen never goes through the door. Secondly, the villains of the story are not brought to any form of justice even though one of the threads of the story is the creature's vow to do as much. As a reader I was looking forward to at least seeing the villains at imprisoned. Finally, The ending itself is like a hard stop. Everything is wrapped up in about two pages, with at least myself as the reader saying, "okay, no what". There is very little to in the way of reconciliation of what the creature discovers in the final pages to the rest of his experience in the book or his plans for the future. Saberhagan (borrowing from Shelly) creates a character that readers come to care about, but leaves us in a lurch as far as how the dramatic shift affects the character or what are the freshly discovered aspects of his personality. The story was enjoyable enough however for me to keep an eye out for other Saberhagen works (some which are present on the web (www.berserker.com)). I seem to recall having read some in the late 70s or early 80s.

S.j. Thompson says

What began as an interesting take on the Frankenstein story spiraled into a long winded and unexpected conclusion. The story is told in a series of journal entries and letters by various players in the story. The first half to two thirds of the story strung me along, eagerly hoping for some exciting turn of events for the monster but the author just kept yammering on and on until the truth was revealed within the last few pages. Several parts of the story had such potential but as a whole the efforts amounted to a lackluster tale.

Lori says

Since this is formatted as journal entries and letters, it's easy to read in small bits of time. Saberhagen managed to capture the flavor of the English of the day (1780's) without getting carried away or making it cumbersome to read.

He includes historical details and figures from the time period as part of the story, which I enjoyed. I found the twist at the end a nice surprise, though Saberhagen could have added more detail to the final chapters to flesh out the concept.

Timothy Boyd says

Excellent retelling of the Frankenstein story. Told from the monster's viewpoint, which I have always thought the best. Very recommended

Joe says

Fred...
