

Principles of Literary Study
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Office hours: Mondays 2:00–3:00 or by appointment

April 5, 2021. James (I).

review

- ▶ The text's *relationships to other texts* matter.
 - ▶ Shelley's intertextuality
 - ▶ Poovey: "explodes the foundations of Romantic egotism"
- ▶ The circumstances of the text's *production* matter.
 - ▶ Shelley's versions
- ▶ The circumstances of the text's *circulation and use* matter.
 - ▶ Shelley's versions (again)
 - ▶ Mellor: "1818 text alone presents a stable and coherent conception of the character of Victor Frankenstein and of Mary Shelley's political and moral ideology"

resolution

- ▶ What does the ending of *Frankenstein* resolve? What doesn't it?

the nineteenth century

- 1818 Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 1st ed.
- 1831 *Frankenstein*, rev. ed.
- 1837 Cooke and Wheatstone (UK) and Morse (US) telegraphs
- 1843 Henry James born in NYC, schooling in Geneva and elsewhere
- 1861–65 U.S. Civil War
- 1866 Transatlantic cable successfully completed
- 1870 UK nationalizes telegraph system (P.O.)
- 1875 James moves to London
- 1878 James's "Daisy Miller" makes his fame
- 1897 James begins writing by dictation to a typist
- 1898 *In the Cage* (London: Duckworth, 1898; New York: Stone, 1898)
- 1901 Queen Victoria dies
- 1902–4 James's "Major Phase" (three late novels)
- 1908 *In the Cage*, with Preface, in New York Edition (Scribner)
- 1916 James dies

focalization

- ▶ who narrates?
- ▶ who perceives?
- ▶ how do you know?

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Yet she had taken him in; she knew everything; she had made up her mind. (125)

focalization

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Discussion

- ▶ Find a passage where the difference between EN and CF matters, and reflect on how it matters.

But for him it was totally different; she should never never see him. She wanted it too much. There was a kind of wanting that helped—she had arrived, with her rich experience, at that generalisation; and there was another kind that was fatal. It was this time the fatal kind; it would prevent.

Well, she saw him the very next day. (126)

style

style

Discussion

- ▶ Pick a characteristic Jamesian sentence and talk with your group what you noticed in it.

To Cissy, to Mary,
whichever it was,
she found
her curiosity
going out
with
a rush,
a mute effusion that
floated back to her,
like a returning tide,
the living colour and splendour
of the beautiful head,
the light of eyes
that seemed to reflect
such utterly other things
than the mean things actually before them;
and, above all, the high curt consideration
of a manner
that, even at bad moments, was
a magnificent habit
and of the very essence
of the innumerable things
---her beauty,
her birth,
her father and mother,
her cousins,
and all her ancestors---that
its possessor couldn't have got rid of
if she had wished.

the motivation of the device

This was neither more nor less than the queer extension of her experience, the double life that, in the cage, she grew at last to lead. As the weeks went on there she lived more and more into the world of whiffs and glimpses, she found her divinations work faster and stretch further. It was a prodigious view as the pressure heightened, a panorama fed with facts and figures, flushed with a torrent of colour and accompanied with wondrous world-music. What it mainly came to at this period was a picture of how London could amuse itself; and that, with the running commentary of a witness so exclusively a witness, turned for the most part to a hardening of the heart. The nose of this observer was brushed by the bouquet, yet she could never really pluck even a daisy. What could still remain fresh in her daily grind was the immense disparity, the difference and contrast, from class to class, of every instant and every motion. (129)

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next

- ▶ James, through chap. 19.