A.S.2019-2020 Plett Sara – 5LSCA Lingua e cultura inglese "Dozzlingly intelligent ..., A work of both pleasure and profundity."---Guardian

Longlisted for the Booker Prize

# FRANKISSSTEIN A Love Story

Jeanette Winterson, 2019

#### THE NOVELIST Jeanette Winterson



### THE TITLE

### FRANKISSSTEIN. A LOVE STORY

### FRANKENSTEIN + KISS ↓ ↓ by Mary Shelley A LOVE STORY





# THE NOVEL IN BRIEF

- 21<sup>st</sup> century postmodern novel
- an original renovation and retelling of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*
- mixture of literary fiction, science fiction, and feminist dystopias
- based on doubleness and duality



Back cover of the book

I AM WHAT I AM, BUT WHAT I AM IS NOT ONE THING, NOT ONE GENDER. I LIVE WITH DOUBLENESS.

Front cover of the book



# **STRUCTURE**



#### **TWO PARALLEL PLOTS**

#### **ROMANTIC NOVEL**

Holiday in 1816

Mary Shelley decides to write Frankenstein She explains the personal effects of the story on her.

#### **POSTMODERN NOVEL:**

the transgender doctor Ry supplies body parts to professor Victor Stein and explores cryonics, AI, and sex dolls sold by Ron Lord.

# SETTING

# 1<sup>st</sup> PLOT: <u>Time</u>: 1816 and 19<sup>th</sup> century <u>Places</u>: Lake Geneva; Italy; Bedlam



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> PLOT:

<u>Time</u>: in the 21<sup>st</sup> century <u>Places</u>: Manchester; Memphis; Phoenix (Arizona)



Manchester, 21st century

Villa Diodati, Ginevra

### **MAIN CHARACTERS**

#### **Parallel characters**

M. Shelley, Frankenstein, 1818

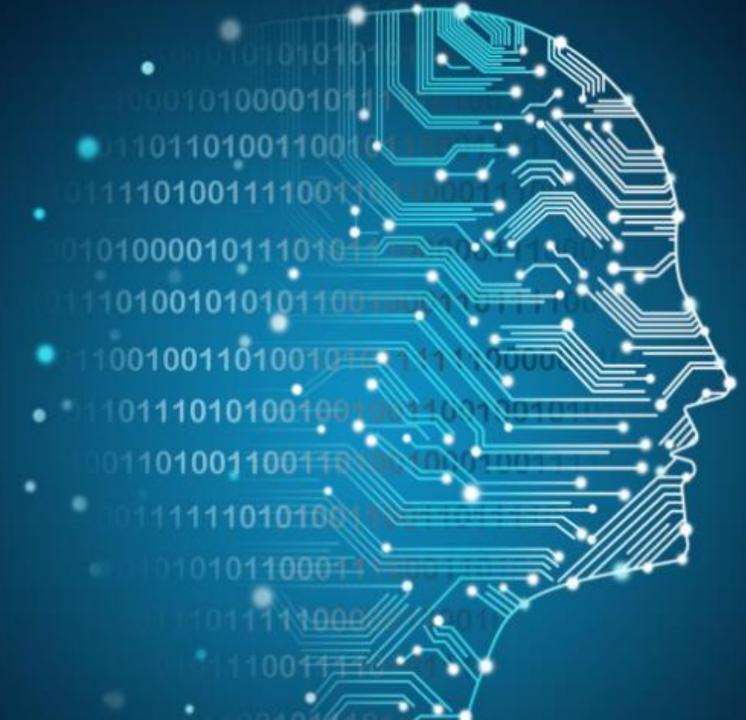
J. Winterson, Frankissstein, 2019

Geneva 1816	becomes	Manchester 21 <sup>st</sup> century	
Mary Shelley	⇔		Ry
Lord Byron	⇔		Ron Lord
Claire Clairmont	⇔		Claire
Polidori	⇔		Polly D.
Victor Frankenstein	⇔		Victor Stein

#### NARRATOR

#### Narrator + eye-witness + protagonist

- 1<sup>st</sup> person narrator speaking from Mary's and Ry's point of view
- Narrators' event sharing
- Effect on the reader
- Reader sees events from the point of view of one character only
- Knowledge limited to what the narrator/s knows



## MAIN THEMES:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Philosophical investigation
- Science and Technology
- Nature of human identity
- Transgender reality
- Gender fluidity
- Unsuitability of one's body
- Love
- Sex
- Sexism
- Life after death

### **POSTMODERN FEATURES**



## **POSSIBLE MESSAGES**

- To make the reader think about the real substance whereof he/she is made
- To reflect on what being human means
- To explore human identity/ies
- To show the idea that everything you experience, feel and know is in your head
- To consider what happens when a creation outlives and surpasses its creator or when a creation is more than human
- To overcome the binary way of thinking
- To reflect on where the human race will be lead by Artificial Intelligence.