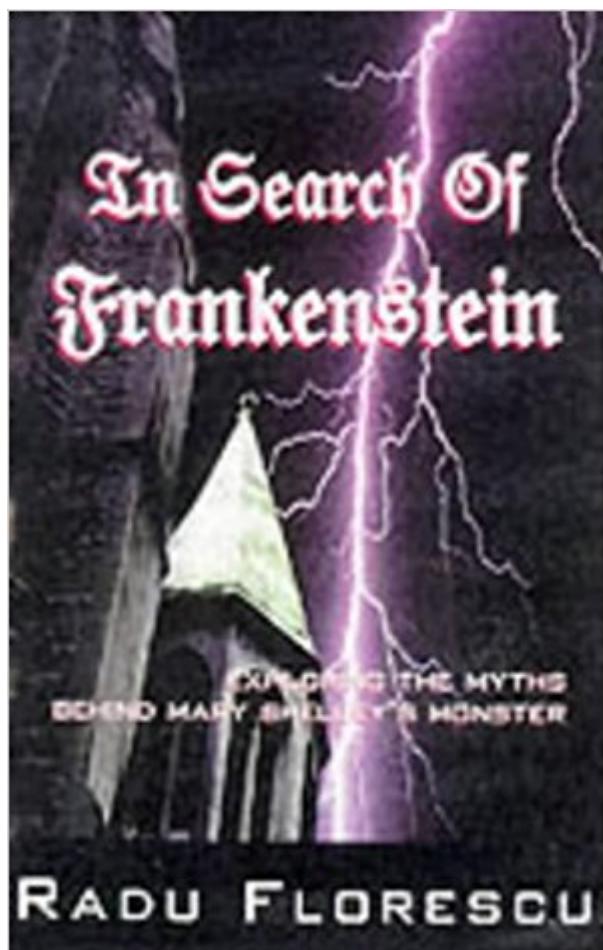


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In Search Of Frankenstein Exploring The



Synopsis

What is the link between Mary Shelley's 1818 novel and the history and myth surrounding the barons Frankenstein - a respected German noble family that inhabited the Castle Frankenstein on the top of Magnet Mountain near Darmstadt from the early middle ages. All is explored in this fascinating and highly detailed book by an expert on Eastern European history author Radu Florescu leaves no stone unturned in his search for this legendary monster.

Book Information

Paperback: 287 pages

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Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book is by Radu Florescu, who co-authored the more successful (and still in print) "In Search of Dracula."In Search of Frankenstein is an investigation of the historical roots of the iconic Frankenstein, a story that was - famously - born in Mary Shelley's nightmare.Because of the veritable treasure trove of historical and cultural information available to be mined as possible fodder for Bram Stoker's creation, the Dracula book is more likely to be enjoyed by the fans of that novel, whereas, this book is much more likely to be enjoyed by fans of the author, Mary Shelley.The most interesting elements of this quick read are the character studies of the literary band of travellers consisting of Lord Byron, Dr. John Polidori (author of 'The Vampyre: A Tale"), Percy Bysshe Shelley and Mary Shelley and Mary's stepsister Claire Clairmont. A major source for this aspect of the book is "History of a Six Week's Tour," written mostly by Mary Shelley. The 'History' also contains a poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley: Mont Blanc.The reasons that this is the most interesting part are (1) The strong impression that Florescu gives that the story of how the novel,

Frankenstein, came to be is as much myth-making as the novel itself, and (2) there just isn't that much solid or useful information on any historical foundation of the novel. Yes, there was an aristocratic German family named Frankenstein. Yes, there was a controversial theologian, doctor and alchemist, named Johann Conrad Dippel, who was born at Castle Frankenstein. The bulk of connecting these things to the creation of the novel is based on the possibility that the Shelleys MAY have heard about these things during their travels.

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