

GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

FRANKENSTEIN

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**BARONET
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The Threatening Arctic Ice

CHAPTER 1

Rescued from the Frozen Sea

The floating sheets of Arctic ice were slowly freezing together, threatening to crush the small sailing ship.

Robert Walton, its young English captain, stood on deck, wondering if he were wrong risking the lives of his brave crew for his own ambitions—to explore oceans ships had never sailed on and land men had never walked on.

He dreamed of the benefits this discovery would have for all mankind if he were to discover a sea route near the North Pole from Europe to Asia.

FRANKENSTEIN

Walton had been born into wealth and could have chosen to spend his life in ease and luxury. Instead, he had spent the last six years at sea, working as a common sailor, enduring cold, hunger, thirst, sleeplessness, and often brutal discipline, just to prepare his body and mind for this long and dangerous voyage.

But now, with the ice threatening his ship and the lives of his crew, it was doubtful whether or not any of them would ever see their homes and families in England again!

At about two o'clock in the afternoon, the thick, heavy fog that had surrounded the ship all morning began to lift. As it did, a strange sight appeared on the ice.

"Look, Captain!" called a crewman, pointing to a dark spot a half-mile away. "It's a sledge, sir. And those dogs are pulling it as if their feet had wings!"

Walton lifted his telescope to his eye. "And look at that driver!" he cried. "He has to be



Sighting a Sledge