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# PRIDE AND PROMETHEUS

By **John Kessel**

“Pitch-perfect.”  
—Jo Walton

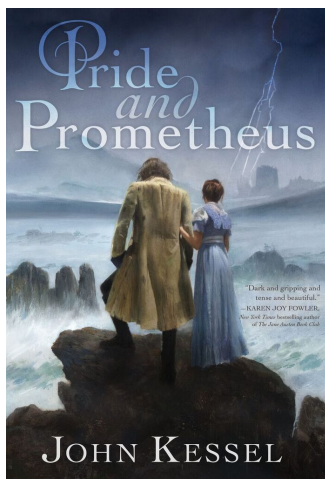
“Dark and gripping and tense and beautiful.”  
—Karen Joy Fowler, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Jane Austen Book Club*

“Ingenious.”  
—Jeffrey Ford

“Fans of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* won’t be able to help but fall headfirst into this exceedingly creative fusion of the two classic novels’ worlds.”  
—*Booklist*

“For readers who enjoy new takes on classic stories—and don’t mind a few gothic elements thrown into the mix—this novel offers a surprisingly nuanced interpretation of characters readers may have nearly forgotten.”  
—*Library Journal*

"An exciting novel that combines two age-old stories in a fresh and startling way."  
—Dread Central



Just in time to celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* comes **PRIDE AND PROMETHEUS** (Saga Press; Hardcover; \$27.99; 9781481481472) by acclaimed writer John Kessel.

**PRIDE AND PROMETHEUS** is *Pride and Prejudice* meets *Frankenstein* as Mary Bennet falls for the enigmatic Victor Frankenstein and befriends his monstrous Creature in this clever fusion of two popular classics.

Threatened with destruction unless he fashions a wife for his Creature, Victor Frankenstein travels to England where he meets Mary and Kitty Bennet, the remaining unmarried sisters of the Bennet family from *Pride and Prejudice*. As Mary and Victor become increasingly attracted to each other, the Creature looks on impatiently, waiting for his bride. But where will Victor find a female body from which to create the monster's mate?

Meanwhile, the awkward Mary hopes that Victor will save her from approaching spinsterhood while wondering what dark secret he is keeping from her.

**PRIDE AND PROMETHEUS** fuses the gothic horror of Mary Shelley with the Regency romance of Jane Austen in an exciting novel that combines two age-old stories in a fresh and startling way.

When asked about what it was like to blend *Pride and Prejudice* and *Frankenstein*, John says: "One of the things I like about **PRIDE AND PROMETHEUS** is that it is in some ways a metafictional piece about the two great mothers of modern fiction: Mary Shelley gives us science fiction, and Jane Austen gives us the modern novel of manners. In the end I did not try to reproduce either Austen's or Shelley's styles, but attempted to deploy a style that alludes to theirs while being fundamentally modern."

### About the Author

Photo Credit: John Pagliuca



Born in Buffalo, New York, John Kessel's most recent book is the new novel *Pride and Prometheus*. He is the author of the earlier novels *The Moon and the Other*, *Good News from Outer Space* and *Corrupting Dr. Nice* and in collaboration with James Patrick Kelly, *Freedom Beach*. His short story collections are *Meeting in Infinity* (a New York Times Notable Book), *The Pure Product*, and *The Baum Plan for Financial Independence*.

Kessel's stories have twice received the Nebula Award given by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, in addition to the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award, the Locus Poll, and the James Tiptree Jr. Award. His play "Faustfeathers" won the Paul Green Playwright's Prize, and his story "A Clean Escape" was adapted as an episode of the ABC TV series *Masters of Science Fiction*. In 2009 his story "Pride and Prometheus" received both the Nebula Award and the Shirley Jackson Award. With Jim Kelly, he has edited five anthologies of stories re-visioning contemporary short sf, most recently *Digital Rapture: The Singularity Anthology*.

Kessel holds a B.A. in Physics and English and a Ph.D. in American Literature. He helped found and served as the first director of the MFA program in creative writing at North Carolina State University, where he has taught since 1982. He and his wife, the novelist Therese Anne Fowler, live and work in Raleigh, NC.

Connect with John at <http://johnjosephkessel.wixsite.com/kessel-website> or in Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/john.kessel3>

## **John can discuss the following talking points in interviews:**

- John can discuss the progression of the science fiction genre since Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*—arguably the first SF novel—as we celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication.
- *Pride and Prometheus* started as a short story almost a decade ago and won a Nebula award and a Shirley Jackson award.. John can speak about why he chose to expand his short story into a novel after all this time.
- John can discuss his literary journeys with Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, from his first reads to including them in the courses he teaches at North Carolina State University.
- John can talk about why he chose to mashup two such different genres (Regency Romance and Gothic Horror), and their differences and surprising similarities.
- John can speak to gender roles and early feminism in *Frankenstein* and *Pride & Prejudice*, and how he honored the spirit of Austen and Shelley in his book.
- John can share some of the surprising things he learned in his research for *Pride and Prometheus*.
- Is *Pride and Prometheus* glorified fan fiction? John can speak to both the empowerment and limitations of inhabiting other author’s worlds and reimagining their characters—especially ones as famous as Austen’s and Shelley’s.

**PRIDE AND PROMETHEUS** by John Kessel

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### **ABOUT THE PUBLISHER: SAGA PRESS**

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