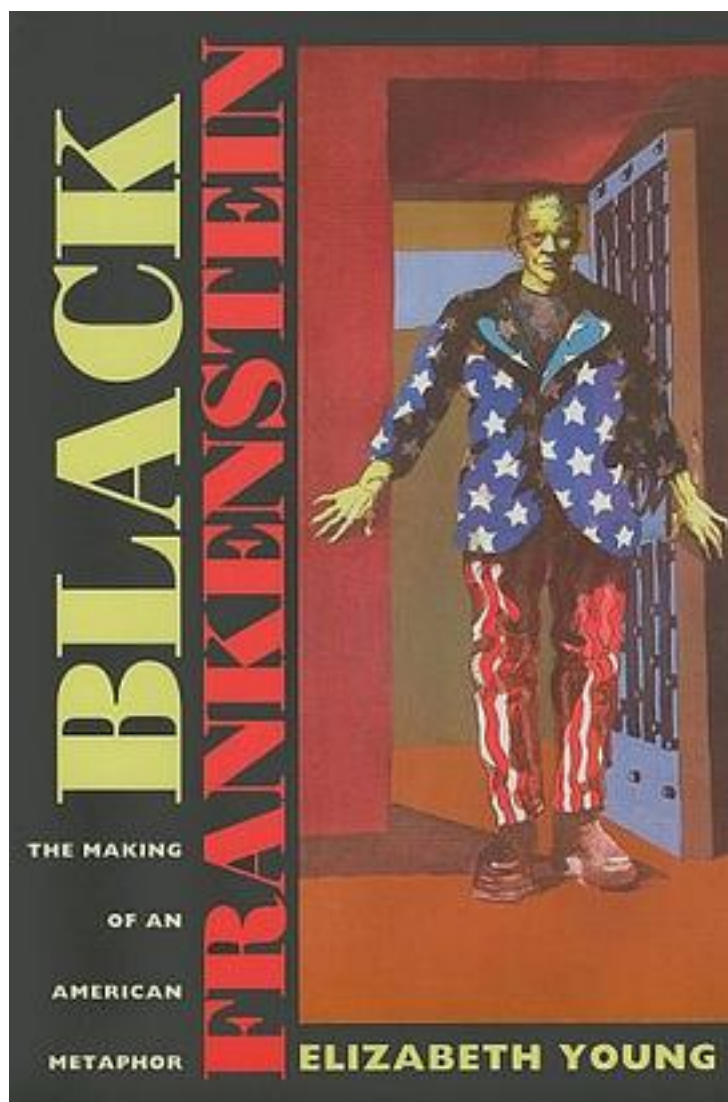


# Black Frankenstein



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著者:Young, Elizabeth

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For all the scholarship devoted to Mary Shelley's English novel *Frankenstein*, there has been surprisingly little attention paid to its role in American culture, and virtually none to its racial resonances in the United States. In *Black Frankenstein*, Elizabeth Young identifies and interprets the figure of a black American *Frankenstein* monster as it appears with surprising frequency throughout nineteenth- and twentieth-century U.S. culture, in fiction, film, essays, oratory, painting, and other media, and in works by both whites and African Americans. *Black Frankenstein* stories, Young argues, effect four kinds of racial critique: they humanize the slave; they explain, if not justify, black violence; they condemn the slave-owner; and they expose the instability of white power. The black *Frankenstein*'s monster has served as a powerful metaphor for reinforcing racial hierarchy - and as an even more powerful metaphor for shaping anti-racist critique. Illuminating the power of parody and re-appropriation, *Black Frankenstein* tells the story of a metaphor that continues to matter to literature, culture, aesthetics, and politics.

作者介绍:

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