



THEY ARE HERE! THEY ARE HERE! IN HIS NAME --

**DESTROY THEM!**

IT TOOK US A WEEK TO FIND THE BLACK LAB.



**WRAMM**

**BRAK**

**ZAK**

**ZAK**

AND WE WEREN'T SUBTLE ABOUT MAKING OUR PRESENCE KNOWN.



THE ASSEMBLYMAN AND WOLFSPIDER TRIED TO TRACK THEM, AND GOT NOWHERE. SHIPMENTS, ENERGY-FLUXES, COMMUNICATIONS BURSTS...

**HAH!**  
OH, NO YOU --

WH-WHAT?!

DEAR GOD, NO!  
Y-YOU --

...AND CAME UP WITH NOTHING.

THEN, AT THE LAST MOMENT, THEY PICKED UP THE FAINTEST TRACE OF SOMETHING, BLEEDING THROUGH THEIR SHIELDS...

# The **END** of the **TRAIL**



A RARELY-DISCOVERABLE SIGNAL THAT LED US TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC... DEEP BENEATH THE SURFACE.

TO GORMENSHAST BARELY HOMS TO THE BLACK LAB.

THEY'D BEEN TECHNOLOGISTS AND ARMORERS-FOR-HIRE FOR YEARS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BOY'S TERRIBLE GORMENSHAST -- TO KILL OWNS, SLIPPER-WILLOWS AND ANYONE ELSE WITH MONEY TO SPEND AND NO CONCERN FOR WHO THEY DEALT WITH.

AND WE'D NEVER GOTTEN CLOSE TO THEM.

UNTIL THEY CAPTURED ONE OF OUR OWN -- OR, MORE ACCURATELY, UNTIL CRACKERJACK, LIKE A MADMAN, TRIED TO MAKE A DEAL WITH THEM AND THEY DOUBLE-CROSSED HIM.


AND NOW, AT LONG LAST, WE HAD THEM. WE COULD REACH THEM, HURT THEM, TAKE THEM APART, MAYBE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

EXCEPT...




SO. SEE ANYTHING YOU LIKE, BABE?

J-JACK...?



DID THEY BRAINWASH YOU? THIS ISN'T YOU, JACK, SNAP OUT OF -- UHH!



HEH. TYPICAL. LEAD WITH YOUR FACE. YOU'LL NEVER LEARN.

JACK, STOP! WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU. TO GET YOU BACK TO --

AH-AH. TOO SLOW, BABE. AND IN THIS GAME...

... THAT CAN BE FATAL!

NNH!

**WRUDD**

I WAS USED TO SURPRISES.



**KRAK WRACK**  
**KLUPP WUDD**

HE PUT ME DOWN LIKE A BEGINNER. I CAN'T EVEN SAY IT WAS THE SURPRISE THAT LET HIM DO IT.

I WAS JUST SLOW. SLOW AND OLD. WHILE HE WAS AS FAST AND AS AGILE AS HE'D BEEN IN HIS PRIME, BACK WHEN WE FIRST MET.



AND THAT'S WHEN I KNEW.

YOU... Y-YOU'RE NOT...

...YOU'RE NOT HIM!

YOU'RE **NOT!**

**POOM**

**POOM**  
**POOM**  
**POOM**



NO, HE'S NOT.

NOT UNLESS HE'S SUDDENLY FOUND AN AWFUL LOT OF COUSINS...

THEY'D COPIED HIM. CLONES, BIO-DUPLICATES, ANDROIDS, WHATEVER...AND DONE IT IN JUST A WEEK.



MONSTERS.

WE STARTED GOING ROOM TO ROOM. CLEANING THE BASE OUT. NEUTRALIZING THE THREAT. AND SEARCHING. SEARCHING FOR --



THIS WAY!  
I FOUND SOMETHING!