









--AWAY!

OH, IT'S MUCH TOO LATE FOR THAT. GOODNESS, YES.

WE'RE FRIENDS NOW, YOU AND I.

THAT WORD MAY NOT HAVE MEANT VERY MUCH BEFORE THE DIVIDE.

BACK THEN, "FRIENDS" HAD A WAY OF DISAPPEARING AT THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE.



BUT NOW I CAN MAKE YOU STAY. I CAN --



OH MY.



THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE.

BUT I KNOW ONE OF OUR KIND WHEN I SEE THEM.

I DO INDEED!



THERE AREN'T MANY LIKE US. THE ONES WHO KEEP THE VOICES QUIET.

THE FIRST TIME I MET ANOTHER WAS A BIT FRIGHTENING, I DON'T MIND SAYING! THE PULL COULD HAVE GONE EITHER WAY.

BUT I LEARNED A LITTLE TRICK. YES, I DID.



IT'S MUCH EASIER IF YOU LOOSEN THINGS UP A BIT FIRST.





