

The abandoned train yard groaned under the wind, whiiish, as Nara, Jex, Omi, Talla, and Brin crept between rusted cars.

"Everyone hear that?" Jex whispered.

A metal sheet clattered somewhere in the dark—CLANG-clang-clang.

Omi flinched. "Okay... that wasn't the wind."

Nara raised her flashlight. Click. "Stay close. The signal came from the control tower."

They moved forward, boots crunching on gravel—crrk-crrk-crrk.

Suddenly, a deep thud... thud... thud echoed from behind a cargo crate.

Brin swallowed hard. "Uh... big footsteps. Really big."

Talla pulled out her scanner. Bip-bip-bip-BIP.

"It's moving toward us."

A massive shadow lunged out—metal limbs scraping with a harsh SKREEEEE.

"Run!" Nara shouted.

They sprinted between train cars, the creature smashing after them—BOOM!

CRASH!—sending sparks flying as it tore through steel.

Jex dove behind a wheel assembly. WHUMP.

"Plan! Anyone got a plan?!"

Omi held up a pulse grenade. "I do! Cover your ears!"

He tossed it.

PFF-CHOOOM!

A shockwave rippled through the yard, rattling windows—tktktktktk.

The creature staggered, gears grinding—grrrr-KRRRK.

Nara yelled, "Tower! Now!"

They dashed up the metal stairs—clang-clang-clang—and slammed the door shut. BANG!

Inside, lights flickered. Buzz-buzz.

Brin checked the console. "Signal's here. Someone activated it."

A soft tap... tap... tap sounded behind them.

They turned.

A small drone hovered in the doorway, blinking.

Talla exhaled. "Great. Round two."

The drone beeped ominously—beep... beep... BEEP.