

# WAR BEARDE G O R I L L A WAR BEARDE



**The Jammers Sourcebook**  
by John Seavey



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# Gorilla Warfare

MONKEYWRENCH

NEW YORK CITY, 2056

I always hated meeting up with the Skimmer. Don't get me wrong; I know he's a great guy, and I got nothing but respect for him. Even being able to stay alive as long as he has in '56 without becoming Bobo fodder is impressive, let alone getting the kind of intel he does.

He's a nice guy, too. I wouldn't have minded going for a beer with him any day—if they still had beer in the future. But when you have to go into the sewers every time you want to pick up info, well, you get to understand why I hated meeting with him, right?

He was waiting for me in the usual spot. He knew I wasn't being followed. Even if they'd gotten past the sewer gators, the roaches would have alerted the Skimmer of any problem. Then there were the walls. The walls don't just have ears to the Skimmer, they have eyes, noses, and mouths, too. Skims is a nice guy, like I say, but the whole weird thing he has with the sewer is another reason why it creeps me out to meet with him.

"Hey, Skims," I said, trying to breath through my mouth. "What's shaking with the Bobos that couldn't wait for our monthly drop?"

The Skimmer looked around. I could tell by the set of his eyes that this was a big one. He didn't get this twitchy over just anything. "Kids," he said.

"Kids." I shrugged. "That's a big area. We talking Killkids, Uberkids, Mark IIs, what? Help me out, here." Skims shook his head. "I don't know, Wrench. They moved 'em through in transit, but they're gone. I can't trace any of them."

Now that means a lot, when the Skimmer says he can't trace 'em. That probably meant that they were gone into the Netherworld, and if the Bobos were moving kids into the Netherworld, then that meant pretty much one destination. "You think they brought 'em into the BRC?" I asked him.

"Not sure," he replied. "I didn't catch wind of the operation for a while. They're keeping this one under some serious wraps. But I know they moved 'em out through an installation in Florida. Bobos got any Netherworld portals in Florida?"

I shrugged. "I don't think so," I grimaced. "If it ain't the Inner Kingdom, it's the Outer Limits." I wasn't keen on that at all. The Bobos kept their space stations under really tight security. The shuttles are under wraps that make BRC security look like a child-proof aspirin

bottle. I'd have to break out some serious help if we were to get up to the Limits, and to do that, I'd need to have confirmed proof that these kids were up there and important to the Buro.

"You got anything on these kids, Skim? Anything at all?" He just stood there for a long moment, staring down at the chunks floating by us in the sewers, and suddenly...

His nostrils flared. He pointed at what looked to me like someone's most recent meal. He looked back up at me. "See that?" he said. "That's someone who's been in contact with those kids." He looked back down as it floated away. "Contact, hell... he's done some work with 'em. Looks like he's been in the Netherworld, too. You see?"

"Um... yeah. So, you have a name for me? Something I can work with?"

He frowned. He swished his hand in the filthy water for a long moment. "Edwards. Doctor Franklin Edwards. CDCA Medical Division, Disease Control Center." *Disease Control* meant two different things in the hierarchy of the CDCA. One use meant stopping diseases that the Bobos didn't want loose. The other meant directing diseases that the Bobos didn't want affecting their own people. Knowing the way the Bobos operated, this was probably that second one.

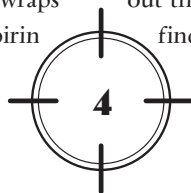
"Edwards still around where we can talk with him?"

Skims looked at a roach as it scuttled away. "Yes, but..." he paused, sniffing at the air again. "He's under surveillance. Heavy. Might be more trouble than it's worth to go after him directly. You got any sculptors you can talk to?"

Damn. I'd been hoping I could use that favor Eyeball owed me to get into the Jets game in '96. "Yeah," I sighed. "Eyeball owes me. I can probably get him to whip me up a set of peepers to crack a database. You say this guy's been in the Netherworld recently, though?" Skims nodded. "It's unmistakable. The rest of you might not notice, but," he leaned in close. "You can't get rid of the smell."

If Edwards had been in the Netherworld, though, that meant he'd probably been working with the kids there. And that meant pretty much one thing.

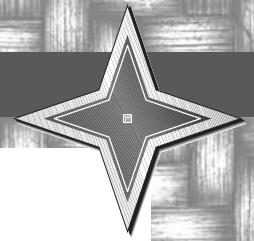
I said my goodbyes to the Skimmer and gave Eyeball a call. Even while I was doing it, though, I was working out the next stage of the plan. I was going to have to find a way into the Biomass Reprocessing Center.



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