

WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND — One Page Synopsis

In 2042, Navy SEAL Benjamin Sumner is paralyzed by the silence left by his wife's death. Three years later, global history shifts with the arrival of the Hussqa, a refugee race whose world was destroyed by a force they refuse to name. Their technology feels like magic, yet their DNA is almost identical to humans.

By 2052, Ben is assigned to protect Mila, a Hussqa geneticist sharing life-extension breakthroughs at UCLA. Their connection deepens until a terrorist bombing destroys the research center and kills Mila. Seeking justice, Ben becomes the first human to enter the Hive, a vast digital reality hosting millions of Hussqa consciousnesses. Inside it he discovers that Mila was saved in the final instant before her physical death.

His investigation exposes Viridian, an ancient serial killer hiding inside a shielded digital realm. The trail leads Ben and Hussqa leader Alys to the Octarian Gathering, a radical faction that sees humans as expendable. The Octarians engineered the bombing to deny humanity longevity and preserve a large, short-lived human population as a sacrificial shield against the approaching Invaders.

The final reveal shows the Invaders are not aliens. They are a militaristic branch of humanity taken from Earth thirteen thousand years earlier and shaped into a resource-stripping empire.

The Octarians fall. Viridian is reset and imprisoned inside the core. Ben and Alys marry and raise children who unify both lineages. Guided by Hussqa science, Earth builds massive defenses and expands through the solar system. Decades later, as Ben dies and joins the core, Alys receives the signal she has feared for a century. The Invaders have reached the edge of the system.