

## “The Ultimate Mistake”

By: Alex

A gaunt-faced man, with a long, raven-black beard absconded into an ancient temple. He scrambled about the narrow corridors, thoughts clouded with absolute greed. The Stones of Power would finally be in his possession, after what had seemed to be a millennium of searching, and soon enough, not even the most powerful warlock would even hope to cease his newfound reign of terror. His vile features spread into a wide, toothy grin as he had finally spotted the Stones’ resting place. But...he felt a disturbance. Nothing in particular had possessed him to glance down at his boot-covered feet, but he noticed an animal – a dog.

He grunted. This man had held a strict animosity for animals. He thought they were, in fact, quite unintelligent, and that they were always getting in the way. The dog was mostly a thick black, though blots of white interrupted its dark symmetry on the snout and tail of the canine. The impatient wizard’s face contorted into a seamless, festering scowl.

“Move at once, pathetic mutt!” He commanded, voice straining with a rage unmatched and anticipation high. The dog, however, did not seem to be planning on moving. He glared at the dog. The canine just gazed back, tilting its head. Tensions were running higher and higher, and the warlock was rife with torrid, thundering anger.

“MOVE, YOU BEAST OF HELL!” He demanded once more, as the dog just stared back with glazed eyes.

“...Bowf?”

“GAHH! Fine! You’ve done it now! You’ve sealed your own fate!” Throwing caution to the wind, he raised his magical wand, and fired a spell, screaming an indecipherable incantation. The dog was struck, and fell to the ground, seemingly deceased. The wizard stared with victorious contempt. “Foolish mutt...neither man, nor beast can dare hold a candle to my powers!”

He gazed up at the ceiling above him absentmindedly, and looked down again, expecting to see the canine’s lifeless corpse. Instead, what he saw was two dogs, living and breathing. Not one. Two. In a panicked state of mind, the wizard threw bursts of incredible magic at the mutt, hoping that one of them would finally destroy the admittedly powerful beasts.

Instead, the house pets rapidly multiplied within seconds, into many speckled dogs. They snapped at his ankles, bit at his long nose, tore into his chest and ravaged his gangly arms. His screams of agony seemed not to be caused by the immense pain he was experiencing, but his incredibly close loss of the ultimate power. One could call it his ultimate mistake.

The dog began choking and coughing. Soon, a glowing stone emerged from its throat. It was one of the few Stones of Power...it sat down and wagged its tail as the wizard slowly became deceased.

