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Angel in the Whirlwind

The Oncoming Storm

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The Royal Sorceress (Book I)

The Great Game (Book II)

Necropolis (Book III)

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Bookworm

Bookworm II: The Very Ugly Duckling

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Trial Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) By Fire (Book VII)

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HENCHMEN PRESS

First Strike

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PROLOGUE

The Hall of Judgment was a towering Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) structure, huge enough to hold a thousand witnesses comfortably as the accused made his long slow walk towards the judges seated in their thrones, right at the front of the chamber. Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) It was almost empty now, Admiral Junayd discovered, as two Inquisitors shoved him through the heavy wooden door and onto the stone pathway. The only people in the room, save for him and his escorts, were the First Speaker and two Clerics, waiting for Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) him.

Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2)

He rattled his chains mournfully as he started his walk, smiling inwardly Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) at the cold glares aimed at him by the Inquisitors. They would have been happy to give him a good kicking if they hadn't had Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) to keep him reasonably intact to Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) face his judges. No doubt that was why they'd left half the chains off, even though procedure insisted the accused had to be weighed down Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) with so many iron chains that walking at anything more than a staggering crawl was impossible. They Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) wanted him to be able to answer the charges when they were leveled against him.

Not that there's any hope of leaving this room alive, he thought bitterly. Someone has to take the blame.

He ground his teeth together, silently. Who could have predicted that the Commonwealth, asleep for so long, would have woken up *just* in time to organize an effective defense? Who could have predicted that one of their junior officers—a *woman*, no less—would get enough ships out of the trap to render the First Battle of Cadiz a tactical success and a strategic failure? And who could have predicted that the Commonwealth would have enough reinforcements in the

vicinity to launch a counterattack that had severely embarrassed the Theocracy? Someone had to take the blame . . .

. . . and, as far as the Theocracy was concerned, failure was a sign of God's displeasure.

The weeks Junayd had spent in captivity had been far from pleasant. His interrogators had alternatively rooted through his life, searching for the secret sin that needed to be punished to please God, and praying at him to repent and hurl himself into the fire, to sacrifice himself for the Theocracy. There had been no point, he was sure; he had committed no sin deserving of punishment . . . save, perhaps, for losing. And now . . . he knew the Speaker would need to make an example of him. The Theocracy had to be seen to deal with failure harshly or it would undermine its position.

He stopped in front of the thrones and bowed his head, feeling the weight of the chains pulling him towards the floor. It was all he could do to remain upright, but he forced himself to hold steady. Going to his death bravely, even willingly, would make up for his sins and convince the Inquisitors to spare his family. His wives might be returned to their families, his children might be distributed among his relatives, but at least they would be alive. Falcone Strike (Angel in the Whirlwind Book 2) The alternative was unthinkable. Sin was so prevalent and the Inquisition so determined to root it out that they would happily kill his children if they felt he had not repented.

"Admiral," the Speaker said. His voice was very cold. "You have failed God."

"I served God willingly," Junayd said calmly. "If it was His will that the battle be lost, it was His will."

Falcone Strike Angel In The Whirlwind Book 2

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