

## The Crafts 79

### Chapter 79: Uproar

"Good morning everybody. This is the Baylands City News Network, or BCNN for short, and I'm your host for the Sunrise Programme, Fiona Von Aurst." [1]

A blonde lady with white yellowish skin and blue eyes sat in front of a desk and faced the camera. The news was being displayed live to multiple devices, and almost everyone in Baylands City was tuned in to it. Even the public squares in the five major districts had their display screens tuned in on the channel.

"On today's programme, I bring you breaking news, and I mean this both literally and figuratively. We've just received and confirmed information that yesterday, a group of students, along with their staff and a few freelancers on protective duty, were killed by terrorists; radicals who seek to usurp the current peace of the galaxy.

"The affected institution was the Greendale Highschool located in the West Wing district's Sinol street. According to our investigations, more than sixty casualties were recorded; a mix of students, academy staff, hired freelancers and members of the Baylands City Defence Force and Patrol Corps wing, the Red Fangs.

The perpetrators have been identified as two terrorists involved: a crossbreed between a hyuman and an Evonika; and a saurian, both suspected to be at the fifth level of the Apertures Opening stage. They have been accused of not only directly attacking the victims, but also drugging the desolate beasts in the area, increasing their abilities and violent tendencies.

This in turn created a chaotic situation that was too difficult for the students of the practical tests to handle on their own, leading to dramatic losses and deaths.

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"Further investigation on the identities of the culprits have yet to be confirmed, but we can assume that they might still be within the territory of Baylands city-state.

"As a result, a notice from the Baylands City Lord Office has been released. Everyone is to move with caution and report any suspicious activities or individuals to the Patrol Corps or the Defence Force."

On the screens of the viewers, there were two images displayed alongside the reporter. They were the images of the crossbreed and the saurian. After displaying the images for a short while, it switched to the scene of the incident, where the corpses of the freelancer and staff were being carried out by the medics.

Many people stared horrified at their devices. Deaths weren't so common, especially to people who didn't work in the line of Freelancers. Even for those who did, such a large casualty count from one incident was very rare in the industry.

The news of the attack had stunned everyone and it reminded them that even with the peace that existed, there were some who still threatened it with the power they held.

Some of those watching the news were parents who had sent their kids off for the practicals three days ago. Others were relatives or even spouses of the freelancers and Defence Force soldiers who had passed away. Tears streamed down their eyes as they watched the news.

While a few of them had been informed of the situation the previous day, not everyone got the memo in time. Finding out that their loved one had passed away in the morning news was definitely not how they planned to start their day.

"Death to all foreign races!"

No one knew who yelled it first at the public square of the Eastern Creek district [2], but very soon, many others joined to do so. Even in the public square of West Wing district, which was the most affected by the news, there were ongoing shouts and chants for alien species to be strictly monitored and investigated.

Some even went one step further and called for all humans to be taken into custody, and the city-state of Digress to be brought to 'justice'.

A furore suddenly broke out in the two most populous districts of Baylands City; the West Wing district to the west, and the Eastern Creek district to the east. The Patrol Corps hurried to keep things under control and prevent a riot from bursting out, but the people were still allowed to protest as it was their right.

The anger in the air was evident, and even some members of the Patrol Corps were influenced by the news this morning. Some of them are related to the victims while another group was friends with them.

One should recall that the Red Fangs were a division of the Baylands City Patrol Corps. The two organisations were closely related and had worked a few times on cases within the city, so it was inevitable for members of both sides to get familiar with each other.

Hearing that their friends who they drank with, laughed with, or celebrated with, were now dead, some still felt the situation to be unreal

With the ongoing protests and chaos, the City Lord's office quickly organized a meeting to discuss their next measures.

Originally, the news about the attack wasn't supposed to be broadcast, but with the massive casualty rates, there was no way to keep it under wraps for long. Apart from that, some of the freelancers and staff had survived due to being mobilised elsewhere, like rescuing the students for instance.

They leaked the news to their colleagues and those related to the deceased, and as the circle of those knowledgeable increased, it eventually got to the ears of some media company. These media companies circulated the information quickly the previous day, and the City Lord Office was forced to act.

The City Lord Office at that time, had decided to use the city's official media, the BCNN, to make a formal announcement about the deaths. This was because if the people were not given an answer to unconfirmed information circulating from the other media channels, they might lose faith in the government.

With his reputation slightly damaged due to this incident, the current city lord decided to focus on damage control. This was why they made the announcement in the end. Since some of the people already knew and the majority would find out in the end, it was better to admit to the incident having taken place and make some reparations for it.

Of course that alone wasn't enough, but the government planned to perform 200% of the usual and crackdown on all crimes during this period.

Regardless of whatever reason the City Lord Office had or whatever decision they would take, it was no doubt that the recent incident had sparked a strong sense of hate in the hearts of many.