

## The Mafia 491

Chapter 491 Nova's Decision

491 Nova's Decision

After Rory left to meet the 25 men of the family who were already in Saltstar City, the men of Vicente's group finished unloading the group's carriages.

Meanwhile, Nina and Eve went through the entire estate, which had already been properly furnished, as Vicente had instructed his associate to do.

Nina and Eve had already chosen their rooms from the 10 options on the property, while Vicente had taken the best room on the roof of this five-story building, three above ground and two underground.

Although there were only 10 rooms in the family's new home, two communal rooms in the basement could accommodate up to 40 people at a time.

That was where the men of the family would live without having to worry about living elsewhere or even hiding.

From now on, the group could act much more freely!

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After familiarizing himself with his new home, Vicente left Nina and Eve behind and set out to solve two of the many problems he had in the city.

He already knew that Layla was in the city with Jasmine. Still, he didn't want to meet them yet so as not to evoke unnecessary suspicion. Even if they weren't public allies, it wasn't impossible that some power of Millfall had noticed something and that such a contact so soon after their arrival in Saltstar City could damage them.

However, Vicente had a publicly known relationship with Nova and was a disciple of Benson King. These two were currently in Saltstar City, so he went looking for them on his first day there.

After a few minutes of walking around downtown, using his device to protect the appearance of his Magic Gems, Vicente arrived at the grandiose headquarters of the army.

Unlike the Millfall Post, which had only one battalion and one Commandant, the Saltstar City Post had a total of five battalions with six Commandants.

The sixth Commandant was the overall leader of the post, above the leaders of the city's five battalions.

As a result, the building of this army post was huge, several times larger than the post in Millfall.

"Who are you? What are you doing here?" A soldier asked Vicente when he saw the young man standing in front of the entrance to this unit.

Civilians were rarely allowed to enter army headquarters, so the entrance to this royal post was very well guarded, and the mere fact of approaching it was enough to attract the attention of many guards.

'This place looks much harder to break into than Millfall's...' Vicente thought, considering how this might stand in his way if he ever needed to break into it. 'But I guess with my third skill, I could easily get soldiers to act on my behalf.'

Then he replied. "Hello, my name is Vicente Fuller. I'm looking for Commandant Bain. Could you tell her that I'm looking for her?"

"Commandant Bain?" Surprised, the soldier immediately thought of Nova's face, aware of this new commander who had just been transferred to this post. "What do you want with her?"

"It's a personal matter. We're a couple. I wanted to talk to her about something important."

"I see. Wait here for a minute. I'll see what I can do." The soldier replied.

Nova was beautiful, but as that soldier at the entrance had little talent and prospects, he didn't have unrealistic dreams, much less would he stand in this person's way.

If Nova was engaged, that was one less option for a young Captain like him. But that wasn't enough for him to worry about getting in Vicente's way.

After a few minutes of waiting, Vicente saw Nova appear at the entrance of the local headquarters, coming toward him with a surprised but delighted expression on her face.

"Vicente!" She called as she ran in front of him, barely able to contain her happiness to see him alive and doing something she shouldn't have done in that place.

"It's good to see you, Nova. I hope I didn't worry you too much." He smiled at her, understanding what she must have been thinking.

Unlike other people who had agreements with him, Nova had kept her promises, and he had kept his duties concerned with their contract, which basically completed their Magic Agreement.

Magic Agreements usually lose their validity when all clauses are fulfilled. The only way to avoid this was to use special clauses, something Nova wouldn't accept in the agreement she had made with Cesar.

That was exactly why their agreement was finalized when she sent the information Vicente wanted and why she had no way of knowing if he was alive or not after the latest news.

Seeing her there, she was surprised and relieved, happy not to have lost this man she loved.

They didn't hug or kiss there, but their words to each other were enough for their first meeting after so long without seeing each other.

"I'm sorry for the things I said earlier. I've thought it over, and I don't want you out of my life, Vicente. I hope we can return to how things were in Millfall."

He told her in a serious tone. "I'm the one who apologizes for everything. Including what happened recently." He spoke in a way that would be difficult for other people to understand. "I was forced into a bad situation and had no choice... That's why I came to Saltstar City to live here."

"Sigh... I know. I've heard some rumors about that." She stated, already aware that a Sovereign had died in Millfall shortly before the fall of the Mazzanti family, a clear sign of Cesar's involvement in such a death.

"Don't worry about me. I haven't done anything to hurt you." She said quietly. "We'll talk more about it later, but whatever it is, I'll stand by you."

"Thank you for your understanding, Nova. I've been forced to do things I didn't want or plan to do. I hope to have a different journey in this city." He said sincerely, looking into her blue eyes.

"Me too." She sighed, her heart finally settling a little. "I assume Nina came with you, right? Where is she? How is she with all this?"

"She's fine. She's getting to know the new house." He smiled. "She's also excited to start learning from her master and a little worried about the academy she'll be studying at."

"That's natural. I'll talk to her tomorrow... Actually, I'll be busy until later. So how about we meet in the evening to talk more privately?" She asked, wanting to do this as soon as possible...

"That's fine. This is the address where I'll be staying from now on." He handed a note to her before saying goodbye, looking forward to seeing her again later.

## Chapter 492 Benson's Problem

### 492 Benson's Problem

After saying goodbye to Nova, Vicente felt slightly relieved, as a weight had been lifted from his shoulders.

He loved Nova, so the fact that he hadn't seen her in person for months and that she was in the dark about the situation worried him.

But with that out of the way, he left the army headquarters with a smile as he walked to the local Blacksmith's Association.

His interest now lay with Benson King, his master, who had been in Saltstar City for the past few months because of a problem with one of this old man's students.

He hadn't learned much from the Millfall Blacksmith's Association council elders. All he knew was that Benson had a problem with a disciple, and it should be relatively easy for him to find out by talking to the elders of the Saltstar City association.

So he soon entered the association's building in that city, a place with a similar design to the one in Millfall but three times larger, considering the number of blacksmiths in Saltstar City.

Arriving at the reception desk in the lobby, Vicente showed his identification as a 2nd-stage blacksmith.

"Mr. Fuller, what can I get you for your visit?" A well-dressed and gorgeous woman asked with a smile, not underestimating the young man in front of her.

From what she had seen of Vicente's identification, this young man was a genius at forgery!

There was no way she could not favor him and treat him in a special way, with her beautiful smile and her body language that told him he could do whatever he wanted with her.

Vicente ignored this woman's many signals and got right to the point. "I'm here to take my promotion exam for the 3rd-stage of my certification."

"Oh? Do you want to become a 3rd-stage blacksmith already? It seems your talent is even greater than what it says on your ID." She complimented him.

Vicente smiled before he saw the black-haired woman in front of him place a form for him to fill out.

"You don't have to pay for your exam, Mr. Fuller. Given your impressive talent, the association will pay for the exam. All you have to do is fill out this form, and I'll show you where your exam will be held."

"Thank you."

"I am the one who thanks you for coming to our zone. Would you be interested in upgrading your membership to our city unit?" She asked, unsure if he would agree to transfer his registration to this branch.

"Yes, do that," Vicente said, just before he received the contact from this beautiful attendant and her advice on where he should go.

After throwing away that woman's contact, Vicente would soon take his 3rd-stage certification exam, a precious and rare certification to have in the kingdom.

Although Mages were far from the level of the strongest in the kingdom and on the continent, 3rd-stage magicians were respected and relevant.

A professional in any field with a 3rd-stage credential would be highly valued everywhere, both for their skills and the rarity of such individuals.

As such, the examination process for blacksmiths seeking this certificate was much more complicated and refined than the exams Vicente had taken at the Millfall Blacksmiths' Association.

Unlike lesser professionals, from the 3rd-stage on, the certificate was only awarded to the best blacksmith in each weekly exam.

In other words, the association only gave out four new 3rd-

stage certificates per month, and it didn't just depend on blacksmiths reaching the minimum level required to produce 3rd-grade items.

But there were daily tests for new blacksmiths, the results of which were tied to the test rankings that determined the winner of the ascension test at the end of each week.

Vicente wanted the 3rd-stage certification for many reasons. Still, the main one was to get the attention of the elders of this post so that he could have a chance to talk about Benson.

With that in mind, it didn't take him long to complete the various parts of his promotion exam, and he didn't have to wait because there weren't many blacksmiths who took the exam every day.

The average number was around 10 to 15 blacksmiths per week, so an average of two people took the test each day.

Less than an hour after arriving at the association post, Vicente finished his test and walked out of the examination room, leaving the assessor with a shocked look.

Vicente was under 16, but not only was he already at the end of 3rd-stage, but he had achieved an average efficiency of 96% on his three tests in this promotion exam!

With a score of 288 points, his name appeared at the top of the weekly ranking, with a wide lead of 33 points, something tough to beat.

But not only his score was impressive. He did not use his magic form at any point in the exam, meaning he had reached this level in the hardest mode!

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"Young man, do you have time to talk to this old man?" A High-

level Mage approached Vicente less than five minutes after the end of his exam.

'That was fast.' Vicente thought to himself, pleased with the speed with which the elders of this rank sent someone to him.

"Of course, I have an elder." He replied with a smile as he made a gesture of greeting.

"I am Vicente Fuller, a student of Benson King."

"My name is Cooper White, and you don't have to call me elder. Just call me White or Cooper." The white-haired old man said as he smoothed his beard, surprised to meet such a genius.

"So you're a student of Benson King?" Cooper asked, already knowing the man's name.

"Yes. In fact, I'm looking for my master. He recently left Millfall and seems to have been in the vicinity of Saltstar City ever since." Vicente came straight to the point.

"I see..." Cooper gestured for Vicente to walk through the building.

He wanted to get Vicente on his side, but since Vice had shown local interest, he could help this young man and get his favor in return.

Cooper got right to the point. "I know where Benson is and what his current situation is."

"Oh?"

The old man explained. "One of his students, Ronan Carlson, got into trouble by promising a complicated person something he couldn't deliver. Now, he produces it by the end of the month, or he dies!

Benson is in the city to help Ronan, but he gets into trouble he shouldn't have.

His apprentice has tricked him, and even if they manage to produce the promised product, they'll still be in a very delicate situation."

Chapter 493 Foolish Disciple

493 Foolish Disciple

After hearing about Benson's situation from one of the elders of the Blacksmith's Association, Vicente got the information about his master's probable location.

After thanking the old 3rd-stage blacksmith who spoke to him, Vicente set off in the direction of his master.

Saltstar City could be considered a large city, so he had to make a few stops along the way to ask for directions. After 20 minutes of walking, he reached a poor residential area of the city, where there was a hill with many small houses built on it.



Knowing where to go, Vicente scouted the area and soon found Benson in a house at the top of the hill.

Arriving there, he clapped his hands at the mansion's front door and called for his master. "Master, it's me, Vicente. Open the door. I want to talk to you."

He didn't have to repeat himself. Having released his aura as he spoke, Vicente easily drew the old blacksmith into the house. He had to wait only a minute before the door opened for him.

"Vicente!" Benson appeared shirtless, sweaty, and very dirty.

This old man was working on some material, so there was no way he could look any different.

Behind Benson appeared a man who looked older than Vicente but didn't look like someone from the same generation as Benson.

This guy had blond hair and green eyes, was 1.9 meters tall, and quite strong.

Looking at the person behind his master, Vicente recognized the source of Benson's problems. 'This is the disciple...'

Meanwhile, the man behind Benson understood who Vicente was, having already heard from his master about the newest student the blacksmith had agreed to teach.

'A High-level Mage? It looks like the old man wasn't exaggerating! He's only a child but already as strong as us!' Ronan thought as he looked at the young man who stood a few inches taller than him.

"Vicente, come in. Let's talk in here." Benson quickly led his precious student into the house and closed the door and its many locks.

Vicente saw the inside of the house, a place that had its walls, a roof, a single bathroom, and two hammocks hanging from the ceiling. In addition, everything there was related to the forge, including a large hole in the ground from which it looked as if the two were mining something from the hill.

"What's going on? Why did you leave Millfall and stay away for so long?" Vicente got straight to the point but without talking about what he already knew.

Benson sighed as he looked down and shook his head in disappointment. He pointed to the young blond and said. "Vicente, this is Ronan Carlson. He's one of my students, the penultimate student I accepted before you."

Ronan folded his arms over his chest and laughed. "Since I'm the oldest student, you can call me Brother Carlson or Senior Ronan."

Vicente ignored the blond man's comment, paying attention only to Benson.

Benson continued. "Ronan needed my help to get out of the trouble he had accidentally gotten himself into, so I came to help him. Unfortunately, despite my experience and the good fortune of my recent progress, I still haven't been able to help him.

We have until the end of the month to produce a set of weapons for The Ruby Devils, and if we fail, Ronan will be dead... Unfortunately, we don't have the necessary materials, which is why we're in this house."

"The Ruby Devils? Hasn't this faction been in decline since the fall of Warmaster?" Vicente asked.

Ronan replied. "They are weaker, for sure. But what they have is still enough to kill us many times over. Not only that, but when Snow Claw escaped from the provincial prison, The Ruby Devils hired Miss Death to take care of him.

She didn't arrive in time to prevent the deaths of the Warmaster and some of the leaders of that faction, but she's nearby right now."

Benson finished Ronan's speech. "If we can't keep our promise, all it will take is for Miss Death to hear Ronan's name for him to die. This woman has the power of death and can kill without even approaching her victim!"

Vicente saw Ronan's concern at this part about Miss Death and easily understood that the situation for these two was truly drastic.

He also remembered Thirty-Three, not expecting to find Miss Death there.

'This is going to be complicated...' He sighed as he closed his eyes.

Benson wasn't going to ask Vicente for help since his student had no obligation to help Ronan.

Even though they had the same master and were considered forge brothers, their relationship was very different from that of disciple and master. Disciple and master were almost like father and son and had a bond that would naturally make one want to help the other.

With rare exceptions, the master and disciple would usually try to save the other from a problem if they had the chance.

That was the case with Vicente and Benson, but the white-

haired old man wouldn't ask Vice to get involved in this problem. In fact, he would prefer that this black-haired young man go away after seeing that he was "fine."

That would be best for Vicente!

But then Vicente said. "What do you need? Maybe I can help you. As much as you two are also High-level Mages, I have some characteristics that you don't have."

Benson had recently ascended to the high level, so he was at the same level as these two.

Benson didn't say anything at first, but Ronan didn't hesitate to speak up, not knowing if Vicente would help him but willing to receive any kind of help. "I promised The Ruby Devils a set of weapons and armor of the 3rd grade and with 100% efficiency. If I can't deliver them by the end of the week, I'm dead."

Vicente narrowed his eyes when he heard that. "Why? Isn't it just weapons and armor? Why would The Ruby Devils kill a blacksmith for not being able to make a delivery? Wouldn't it be better for them to do business with someone more skilled?"

Ronan was silent as he smiled bitterly, but Benson replied. "It's because that fool tricked Warmaster! He promised to make those artifacts when he knew he couldn't make items of that quality!"

Not only that, but he received The Ruby Devils' coins in advance and spent them on things he shouldn't have, which had nothing to do with forging those items.

Now, The Ruby Devils are in a difficult situation, with few artifacts and many enemies. They can't redo the deal with another blacksmith because they don't have enough coins or time. Moreover, no blacksmith in the province can produce what that fool promised!"

As much as he wanted to help Ronan, Benson knew of his foolish student's many mistakes!

He wanted to save Ronan, but that didn't mean he approved of the man's methods!

Chapter 494 Help

494 Help

Hearing Benson's words, Ronan defended himself by speaking louder than before. "Don't say that, master. I didn't try to trick The Ruby Devils the way your words make it sound!"

I truly believed that if I made such a deal with them, I could use some of their coins to increase my strength a bit and thus gain the ability to produce items with 100% efficiency.

But who was to say that I couldn't do better after consuming several magical resources? I was already able to produce something with 95% efficiency! It made sense that I could close that gap and fulfill the agreement with them!"

"Tsk! Say what you want, Ronan. It doesn't change the fact that you made a deal with dangerous people without the ability to produce what they want." Benson said as he clenched his fists in anger at this foolish disciple of his.

As close as 95% seemed to 100%, the truth was that the difference between these two levels was greater than the difference between 1% and 95%!

That was not something numerical but qualitative. The closer one got to the peak, the more exponentially it had to improve.

But because he had green-level talent, Ronan overestimated his abilities and mistakenly thought he could accomplish what he had planned.

Vicente sighed as he looked at the two dirty, sweaty men. "Alright, I'll help you. What kind of weapons and armor do you need to make?"

"Vicente, you don't have to put yourself through this," Benson said. "I know that if I get involved, I'll end up suffering like this idiot. But I'm his master, and it was my mistake to let him grow up this way. But you have nothing to do with it. Don't get involved with The Ruby Devils because of him."

"Master!" Ronan said, not liking Benson's words.

But Vicente said. "I will not do it for him. I've already lost my family. I'm not going to let anything bad happen to you, master. Besides, it's easy for me to help you. I'm already able to produce 3rd-grade items with 100% efficiency."

"Already?" Benson was surprised.

Vicente hadn't been able to produce 3rd-grade items the last time he was with this man!

But in just a few months, he had achieved that ability and reached the top of the 3rd stage!

Vicente smiled. "Yes. My hunt for my third pentagram has been very fruitful, and I've gained a lot from studying in peace in Millfall over the past few months.

I'll show you my results from these months of separation later."

Benson understood that Vicente didn't want to show off his skills in front of Ronan and nodded in agreement, curious to see his youngest student's set of pentagrams.

"All right then. I trust you, Vicente." Benson sighed as he tried to think that Miss Death probably wouldn't be a danger to Vicente, as this young man had always been able to fight above his level.

Ronan finally breathed a sigh of relief. As much as he didn't know Vicente's abilities, it was better to have someone else help him than nothing at all!

"Here are the blueprints for the artifacts I promised The Ruby Devils." He handed Vicente a set of yellowed parchments. "We have almost all the materials to make these items. However, we are lacking the mineral we discovered on this hill."

"Is that why you work here?" Vicente asked as he looked at the blueprints for the promised artifacts.

"Yes," Benson said. "Buying that mineral would cost us the week we have to complete this project, which would be the end of us. So we moved here after we discovered the mineral composition of this hill.

Unfortunately, it will take us another two days to reach where the ore is supposed to be."

"Can't you delay the delivery a little longer?" Vicente asked.

Ronan shook his head in the negative. "No. I've already delayed the shipment three times. But after what happened with Warmaster and the problems that have arisen for The Ruby Devils, the new faction leader told me that either I deliver your artifacts on the last promised date, or that would be the end of me."

Deals like Ronan's with The Ruby Devils were commonplace. Blacksmiths or other types of magical professionals were paid in advance and given a deadline to produce all the items. Sometimes, problems would arise, and the deadline would have to be postponed.

Considering the number of items and the difficulty of making each one, Ronan had managed to delay delivery for months.

But that had been his maximum, and from now on, it would be impossible to repeat the feat.

"Sigh... You took a big risk without having the slightest confidence in what you were doing." Vicente shook his head while Benson looked at Ronan.

"But it's okay, I can help you. These things aren't as complicated as the robotic armor."

Hearing Vicente's last words, Benson remembered his project and put the problem with Ronan aside for a moment. "Did you manage to solve the problems with the robotic armor?"

"Yes. After absorbing my last pentagram and improving my level as well as my knowledge, I was able to solve the last glitches. You were right. The armor problem wasn't something anyone could solve. Only someone with my abilities would be able to make it work as you planned."

Benson was pleased to hear this, for it meant not only that his design was functional but that the problem wasn't his theoretical ability but his magical incompatibility.

"That's good. After we've taken care of that, I'd like to test the most advanced armor you've produced." He said in a relieved tone.

Ronan listened to all of this, not understanding exactly what they were talking about but noticing that Benson was much gentler when talking about matters concerning Vicente.

'The master really likes that boy.' He sighed, remembering how hard Benson had been on him decades ago.

"Anyway, I'll help you mine the metal you need. But you'll have to wait for me outside." Vicente said as he put Ronan's projects away.

Benson understood why and quickly led Ronan out of the house.

"Why?" Ronan asked.

But neither Vicente nor Benson answered the blond boy.

But Benson thought about the reasons.

'Vicente hides his gem with a special device. I can't sense the device, but this is not his Magic Gem... He's probably in serious trouble.' The old blacksmith sighed.

As much as Vicente was smarter than Ronan, Vice got himself into just as much, if not more, trouble than Ronan!

## Chapter 495 Permanently Cursed?

### 495 Permanently Cursed

Later that day, Vicente would finish mining the mineral Benson and Ronan were looking for.

He would take all the materials from those two, along with Ronan's projects, promising to return all the equipment in no more than four days.

Vicente wouldn't produce them there, let alone give Ronan a chance to see him in action.

He could only produce 3rd-grade items with 100% efficiency when using his abilities, something he didn't want someone like Ronan to know he had.

If someone unknown or dangerous discovered his magical form or even saw his Magic Gem, he would be in serious trouble because of Colonel Adams.

Colonel Adams had surely captured Vicente's Magic Gem in some kind of portrait that should already be circulating in the kingdom's headquarters.

To avoid the worst, he would hide his gems from now on and not show his abilities unless he wanted to kill the witnesses who were not bound to him by contract.

So, after some reluctance from Ronan, he left that simple house, with Benson having convinced his oldest student there to accept.

On the other hand, Benson arranged to go to Vicente's house to talk alone for the next few hours, curious to see both the robotic armor and his student's current abilities.

He also wanted to know about Vicente's situation in Millfall, why the young man was hiding, and if this was just a visit to Saltstar City.



Vicente agreed to meet with Benson later, but he was soon returning to his residence to settle Nina's affairs.

He had to enroll Nina in a local academy, but he also had to find Newton!

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It was late at night in Saltstar City when Vicente left his house with Nina and Eve and headed for the local Royal Academy building where Newton was currently residing.

The Royal Academies of the Seidel Kingdom were quite different from the ordinary academies of the state. These institutions that prepared for the Seidel Magical College had full-time teaching, and their campuses always had dormitories for the students and villages for the teachers.

Neither students nor teachers needed residences in the cities where they worked or studied at these institutions throughout the kingdom.

Many of the professors and students at these academies came from distant places, and their families did not live in the same city as their workplaces.

After discovering that Newton lived in the Professors' Village, Vicente took Nina and Eve to that place, having already arranged for his sister to attend a local primary academy.

Although the academy year had already started and there were only a few months of classes left, Vicente managed to enroll Nina in a good local academy without too much difficulty.

He had to pay an extra fee for this, but with this bonus, he solved his sister's school situation quickly. Nina would be able to go to school tomorrow and would still have afternoon tutoring to make up for the days she had missed because of the trip between Millfall and Saltstar City.

Anyway, as he walked alongside Nina and Eve, Vicente had a smile on his face, very pleased with his progress regarding his sister's situation.

As much as he was full of problems in his life, Nina was improving little by little. In a few months, she would graduate from the basic academy, and as Newton's student, it wouldn't be too difficult for her to enter the Royal Academy.

If she followed this path, she would have a chance to get the best education she could get in this state and a real chance to get into Seidel Magic College.

Even if she didn't awaken her magical powers, it could give her a scholarly career and guarantee her future locally.

At the same time, Vicente's staff had already placed orders for valuable medicines for her to consume, just as they had done in the previous months when Nina had already used various resources.

Vicente didn't know if she was improving her chances of Awakening her magical powers, but she seemed to be getting better and better, which was enough for him to smile with satisfaction.

With good thoughts for Nina's future in mind, he and his two companions arrived at the entrance of the local Royal Academy, where they received information on how to get to the Professors' Village.

The Saltstar City Royal Academy was located in the city's center, less than a five-minute walk from the Fuller estate. It had a large area of more than 20,000 square meters where there were classroom buildings, theaters, student dormitories, cafeterias, battlefields, experiment room buildings, and the Professors' Village.

The Professors' Village and the student dormitory were the only two parts of this large compound that had their own exits apart from the main entrance/exit of the academy.

Following the instructions of a guard, Vicente and his two companions soon arrived at the entrance to the Professors' Village.

"Good evening, I'm here to see Professor Newton," Vicente said as he stopped in front of the guardhouse, where army soldiers kept track of who came and went.

A woman, a Low-level Mage, was standing there with a group of Acolytes, and she got up from where she was sitting when she noticed that Vicente had addressed his words to her.

When she noticed how well-dressed he was, just like his two companions, she felt that this was no ordinary person.

"Young master, it's late. You'd better come back tomorrow. Our professors often don't like visitors at this time." She said, not wanting to disturb Vicente but being sincere with the recommendation the villagers usually gave to the guards at this post.

"Newton will receive us. The one beside me is his student, Nina Fuller." Vicente pointed to his sister, drawing the attention of all the soldiers at the entrance to the young woman next to him.

"This girl?" The woman murmured in surprise, unaware that Newton had a student.

Then, as the royal soldiers at the entrance looked at Nina with interest, curious about this young woman's case, the voice of a newcomer came from behind Vicente's group.

"Nonsense! Newton has no disciples! I've known him for years, and he's never had a disciple. Stop what you're doing before you get into trouble you can't handle!"

Vicente and Eve looked back to see a white-haired man glaring at them as if they were con artists trying to draw the soldiers in.

"Professor Marks." The soldiers at the entrance said as they opened the passage for this man, a high-level mage, one of the three main professors of this academy.

The woman there then said. "If you really don't have a relationship with Professor Newton, you'd better leave now, or you'll be in trouble."

Vicente smiled as he looked at the newcomer. 'I think the necklace Jullian gave me has put a permanent curse on me... Why do I keep getting into trouble like this?'

"Just report it to Newton and you'll know if what I said was true or not." He said as he released the aura that had been hidden inside his own body.

Chapter 496 Mistakes that Lead to Fights

496 Mistakes that Lead to Fights

The moment Vicente showed his High-level Mage aura to the people at the entrance of the Professors' Village, everyone there realized that despite his age, he wasn't weak.

The professor, in Vicente's way, glared at the young man but remained silent after feeling that aura.

'Tsk! If you're so strong, why did you hide from us?' This professor cursed Vicente in his mind. He had put himself in this situation because he thought these people were weak and were there to try something they shouldn't have.

But with the strength of this young man, it was quite possible that Newton would take them in!

Meanwhile, the woman in charge of the post immediately changed her attitude and ordered one of her men to go to Newton's residence.

Soldiers had their arrogance, and what's more, they often used their position to impose their will or even oppress people who got in their way. But even the most confident of the kingdom's soldiers would hesitate in the face of a magician who was simply acting within the law.

Why would anyone stand in the way of a more powerful being for no good reason?

The Commandant's behavior was natural, and she soon asked Vicente's forgiveness for not recognizing him.

"Commandant, Vicente Fuller and his family are welcome at Professor Newton's residence. He has asked us to escort you there." The soldier came running back a few moments after Nina's group arrived.

Hearing this, the professor, who was still standing there, tried to change how he had met these three.

"In that case, I'll take you to Newton's residence. That's all I can do to make up for what I said a few moments ago." He smiled and gestured to Vicente's group.

As reckless as this man was, he wasn't a complete fool. Vicente was much younger than he was and had contacts with Newton.

Trying to repair his relationship with this black-haired young man could greatly benefit him!

As Vicente and his two companions began to follow Marks through this village of 15 houses, they heard this man apologize.

"I'm sorry for talking nonsense before. Young people like you often come here and tell lies to get close to the professors.

We're usually strict with people looking for them to avoid disturbing the rest of the academy's professors." He said in a soft tone as he led them, laughing bitterly. "I've known Newton for a long time, too, and I didn't know that he had finally accepted his first student..."

Vicente looked at the man's back and liked what he heard. It took courage and intelligence to take a step back, acknowledge one's mistakes, and apologize in order to repair a relationship that had begun the wrong way.

To err is human, so Vice didn't believe everyone had to get it right 100% of the time. The difference between an idiot and a decent person is knowing how to recognize your mistakes and make amends.

"Don't worry, professor. We understand." He said without any hurt feelings in his heart from the little friction earlier.

Taking a step back and repairing the beginnings of a relationship was good not only for the erring side but also for the opposing side. Who knew what kind of problems they could get into by antagonizing a professor of Mark's level?

Having a peaceful or even friendly relationship was definitely better for both sides!

Vicente preferred to deal with people who were capable of doing what Marks was doing, so he naturally appreciated this guy's words.

"Here." Marks pulled out a card and handed it to Vicente. "This is a discount coupon for the main alchemist shop in town. I'm a friend of the owner of this establishment, and my contacts get 10% to 20% off their purchases, depending on the items they buy. Please accept this as an apology."

"Oh?" Vicente took it without modesty. "I thank the professor. I hope I can invite the professor to dinner sometime."

"Hehe, but of course." Marks was glad to finally stop in front of the second largest house in the village, where Newton currently lived. "Anyway, this is Professor Newton's residence. Now that I've brought you here, I'll say goodbye. Until next time."

"Until next time." Vicente gestured to him while Nina and Eve watched with rapt attention as the man walked away.

Nina didn't know what her brother and the professor had said because it was night, and she couldn't read their lips. But when she saw how Marks suddenly changed, she understood something important.

'It seems we need to know how to control our pride. Sometimes, admitting a mistake can be the best strategy.' She thought, learning from what she had just witnessed.

Meanwhile, Eve commented to Vicente. "I didn't expect this sudden change in behavior... He was arrogant and then humble."

Vicente smiled at the comment. "This man has no humility at all. But he's intelligent enough not to insist on a mistake and capable of making amends. That's the power of influence, Eva. Those who have power benefit even when they don't seek it." He showed her the discount card he had just received.

They knocked on Newton's door and soon heard the professor's voice saying that the door was open and that they should enter.

When they saw Newton in a library in the middle of the 200-

square-meter house, Nina and Eve looked around with twinkles in their eyes while the professor looked at Vicente with interest.

"Professor, we've made some progress with our move to Saltstar City. From now on, this will be our new home." Vicente said, intending for Newton to start teaching Nina in preparation.

"I thought that would be the case," Newton commented as he climbed down from a ladder next to a high shelf of books. "I have some questions about the recent events in Millfall. But let's talk about Nina first."

He stopped in front of Nina and looked into her eyes. "Are you ready to be my full-time apprentice from now on, young lady?"

Nina saw Newton make signs with his hands, something he hadn't been able to do before but had learned to do so that he could communicate better with her.

She smiled happily and immediately agreed. "Of course, master!"

"Then let's formalize our relationship." He said before doing what was necessary for Nina to finally become his de facto student.

## Chapter 497 The Truth

### 497 The Truth

After doing what was necessary to formalize his relationship with Nina, Newton said. "Nina, you arrived in the city with your sister today, right? So, I will give you three days to rest from the trip and familiarize yourself with the academy where you will complete your basic training. After that, we'll meet every day after your classes at the academy. You will accompany me until nightfall."

That meant she would be under Newton's tutelage for an hour or two.

"Is that all?" Nina asked unconsciously.

"For now, yes. When you finish the basic academy and turn 10, we'll increase it a bit. But it will be enough. You'll see that in no time." He patted one of her shoulders twice before turning to Vicente.

"Is that all right with you? Nina's caretaker can come along with one or two of her guards. Saltstar City is not a safe city, so she must have reliable people to escort her through the local streets."

Vicente agreed. "I know. I'll ensure they don't get in the way of Nina's studies."

Newton then looked at Eve. "Miss, why don't you show Nina around? You can look at any of the rooms here. You'll be coming here a lot in a short time, so familiarize yourself with the house."

Eve took one of Nina's hands and soon began leading the black-

haired young woman through the large residence while Vicente stayed behind with Newton.

"So?" The professor asked. "What happened in Millfall? You left early because of the fall of the Mazzanti family, right?"

Vicente expected to be asked about this and said. "Yes, we had to leave that city because we were deeply connected to the Mazzanti family. We may not have seemed that committed on the surface, but if we stayed there any longer, we'd have problems. So I decided to move forward."

"What caused all the sudden changes in the town?" Newton asked. "If I'm not mistaken, Cesar faked his own end, right? What could have forced him to do that?"

"As expected from the professor," Vicente commented with a smile on his face. "You're right. He faked his own death. But it was for a good reason; he had problems with powerful forces, and if he stood still, he would be hunted down by the Sovereigns very soon."

"Oh? Speak more frankly, Vicente Fuller. I won't reveal this to anyone, even if Cesar has made a terrible mistake. My main interest is to see him grow and shock the continent." Newton understood that the young man before him was smoothing things over.

Vicente sighed and said, knowing that Newton would find out sooner or later. "Cesar killed a colonel in the royal army. Sovereign Adams recognized him as a potential culprit in the escape from Lang Bay Correctional Facility and confronted him. Out of options, Don Mazzanti did what he did shortly after initiating a special protocol to forge the end of the family.

Newton opened his mouth in shock when he heard this, surprised not at Cesar's involvement in such an escape but that such an individual was already capable of killing an Earth Sovereign.

But thinking about what Vicente had just told him, Newton quickly understood that it all made a lot of sense. The release of Snow Claw and other prisoners had caused quite a stir in the province over the past few months, diverting the attention of the provincial powers away from the problems surrounding the Mazzanti family.



'I understand. He wanted to grow up in peace and solve old problems by creating a bigger problem by releasing those prisoners. Good move, Cesar. Too bad it didn't work.'

"Did you know all this?" Newton asked.

"Part of it. I found out the rest after Cesar told his associates what he was up to. Anyway, I don't know where he is now, but he's alive and well, that's for sure. He has new plans, but he still wants to meet you in a few months, Professor. I'll tell you how to contact him when the time comes."

Hearing that from Vicente, Newton felt relieved. "Then I thank you. As for what you told me, don't worry, I won't tell anyone. As much as Cesar has committed a crime against the kingdom, I have no obligation to denounce such a thing just because I know about it.

In any case, he must be careful. Sovereign Adams was close to the king, so even some Paragons from the outside sects may come to investigate his death. If that happens, it's only a matter of time before Cesar's actions are discovered."

"Is that so? Then that's worrying." Vicente commented as he swallowed his saliva.

"Yes, I'm not joking. But Cesar must have some time to prepare or flee. As much as the king has enough influence to ask the sects for help, it would take time to get a Paragon. Most likely, only the Sovereigns will get involved in the short term." Newton said, aware of the royal family's relations with outside powers and the difficulty of getting Paragons to move.

"Anyway, there are evils that come to good. Now that you're in Saltstar City taking care of Nina's future and staying out of trouble will be easier. As for Cesar, he's strong enough to grow up anywhere. And in a way, there was no reason for him to stay in Millfall anymore." Newton commented, trying to show Vicente the positive side of things.

"Yes, I think that's the case... Professor, I have an unrelated question." Vicente said.

"What is it?"

"I would like to gather information about a group called the Bone Mountains. I know the basics about them, but I'd like more in-depth information. Do you know where I can get that?"

"Bone Mountains?" Newton knew the name, although he didn't know any profound details about the sect. "It's a sect of the Chutha Dynasty. You should look into The Ruby Devils if you want information about them. This local mercenary group has detailed information about external forces relevant to the kingdom."

"The Ruby Devils? Are they going to sell me that kind of information now that they're in trouble?" Vicente asked.

"Of course. That is an easy way for them to raise funds. But it won't be cheap, so be prepared to lose a few hundred gold coins." Newton advised.

"Hmm, that's good," Vicente said as he looked at the ground, thinking he was close to his revenge.

'I will stabilize my situation locally and take a trip to the Chutha Dynasty. I'll take down the Bone Mountains first!' He clenched his fists with determination.

And so their conversation ended just before Nina and Eve finished their tour.

Soon after, they said their goodbyes and returned home to have dinner and rest after this long day.

## Chapter 498 Unnoticed Meeting

### 498 Unnoticed Meeting

After the meeting with Newton, Vicente would return to the Fuller residence with Nina and Eve, where he would later meet Nova.

The two of them exchanged bodily fluids again until they finally had time to talk about everything that had happened recently.

Vicente explained to her what had forced him to act so drastically before migrating from Millfall to Saltstar City, not hiding the truth about what had happened.

Nova found the whole story rather unbelievable and was frightened by her boyfriend's current power level. But even though Vicente had presumed the murder of an army soldier, she wasn't angry with him or felt terrible for her organization.

She was honest, but little by little, she realized that at the end of the day, what really mattered was her family and those she loved.

If she lived only for the army, she would have nothing and no one sooner or later.

So she accepted Vicente's crimes and no longer intended to make things difficult for him as she had done before.

She knew he wasn't acting against the kingdom with evil in mind but rather to protect himself and his family. She felt he was a good person, so she wanted to stay by his side and help him not only get out of trouble but also avoid situations like the one with Adams.

After listening to everything he had to say, she talked a bit about her local experience as a Commandant, which, by the way, had been quite boring.

Usually, soldiers from the kingdom didn't have to deal with the kind of problems that Vicente had to deal with all the time. The normal thing for a soldier was to stay in headquarters training, sometimes deal with minor local problems, and finally deal with beasts and other kinds of magical beings.

Less than 20% of a soldier's service time was spent dealing with problems similar to Vicente's!

As a result, Nova went a long time without any real combat and had the chance to see more of the corruption of the organization she was a part of.

Apart from that, her biggest action since arriving in Saltstar City had been that night with Vicente...

...

After a hot night with Nova, Vicente would spend the next two days focused on his mission to help Benson and Ronan.

Nina would start her classes locally, while Nova had to continue her monotonous routine. Rory took care of the Mazzanti family's business with Sarah and Bart, leaving Vicente free to deal with things unrelated to the group's plans.

So he set about making the artifacts that Ronan was to deliver to The Ruby Devils, something he found not difficult, even with his unfamiliarity with his senior brother's projects.

The problem Ronan had gotten himself into was due to a sheer lack of understanding on his part, something that probably had to do with the limits of his talent.

Did this mean that Ronan would never be able to keep his promises? No, just that he wouldn't be able to in the time he had. But he could train and study more until he reached the point where he could produce something of the 3rd grade with 100% efficiency.

Since Vicente had already reached that level, all he had to do was familiarize himself with Ronan's designs to produce them efficiently and easily.

He made all the weapons he could from Ronan's materials in two days, leaving the armor for the next days.

...

As he finished the last weapon Ronan would deliver to The Ruby Devils in the next three days, Vicente looked at what he had just finished and couldn't help but laugh at his predicament.

'Who would know, huh?' He asked himself. 'I'm now making weapons for the organization I want to bring down... Life really is complicated.'

He took off his clothes and washed up, thinking he'd go to The Ruby Devils to find out what he'd talked to Newton about while he rested from his last few hours at the forge.

Soon, he was dressed in formal clothes, back to his refined appearance as a young merchant. Pushing aside his thoughts about his contradictory actions toward The Ruby Devils, he walked toward one of the group's local outposts.

He wanted information that this faction had for the sake of his revenge, and he produced items for this group for the sake of his master. That might interfere with his local power project to a certain extent. Still, his priorities were too clear for Vicente to hesitate in his decisions.

He would rather strengthen The Ruby Devils a little more by acting as he was than put his master in danger or not have the information he wanted!

After a few minutes of walking, he stopped in front of an ordinary grocery store, where he knew that one of the contact points with the men of this large provincial faction was in the back of the store.

Making his way through the crowded aisles of this market, he soon came to a place where people were peeling roots and fruits for sale.

"I want to talk to The Cashier," Vicente said as he looked at the strongest man there, drawing the workers' attention, who knew that The Cashier was not in charge of the market, but the code for talking to one of The Ruby Devils' informants.

"The Cashier is a busy man. He'll only agree to talk to a stranger if it's something really important." A man with tanned skin and peeling roots said as he looked at Vicente.

"This is important." Vicente showed the man a small bag of gold coins.

"So it seems." A smile appeared on the face of the Low-level Mage who was hiding among the mana-less people working there.

The man said in a softer tone as he counted the coins Vicente had brought. "Young master, here we only direct our customers to the right place. If you want to talk to The Cashier, go to The Book Emporium. That is a store in the central part of the city.

When you get there, buy the book *Phantoms With Pride* and start reading it. The cashier will come to you as soon as he notices you. You'll have to bargain with him to get the information you want. That was just a toll for you to get to him, haha."

Vicente didn't question this and quickly left the market to go to the shop.

The Book Emporium was not far away, and soon Vicente would see the place on the other side of the square on his way.

On his way, he passed a woman dressed in black with a veil covering her face, but he didn't notice her because of the destination he had in mind.

But that person, whom three other people in black accompanied, noticed the young man and couldn't help but stop and look at him as he continued to cross the square.

"That person..." The woman with the dark veil on her face said softly, drawing her group's attention.

"Is there a problem, Miss?" One of her assistants asked.

Chapter 499 Miss Death Reappears

499 Miss Death Reappears

"That person who just passed us... I feel like I've met him before. His aura is no stranger to me." Miss Death continued with her face turned in Vicente's direction, feeling something familiar about him as he calmly walked towards his destination.

She couldn't see him because she was blind. But with her magical powers, she could not only feel the familiar sensation coming from this young man, but she could also smell him and feel Vicente's facial contours to the point where she could form an image in her mind that resembled his real appearance.

She didn't understand where this strange and pleasant sensation came from but couldn't help but be interested.

"That brat?" One of her companions watched Vicente and didn't feel anything special.

But the older man narrowed his eyes as he stared at Vicente in silence, thinking better of his young miss' words. 'Is this person related to her? If that's the case, then she has managed to retain some of her memories from before the brainwashing, even if it's only a vague feeling.

I'll look into it.'

The white-haired man approached Miss Death and said. "It's common to have feelings like the one you just experienced. Most of us members of Nixlas' Shadows have a terrible past. That's why we have our memories erased. But some remnants can remain and make us feel as if we've seen or met people we actually don't recall.

That could be a sign that this young person looks like an old acquaintance of yours, or it could be a mere mistake, a false feeling. Given his past, I doubt you've ever met him..."

Miss Death frowned, feeling that the young man's aura was so close to hers, but at the same time, she was disappointed. She understood very well how Nixlas' Shadows worked. She knew that an elder had saved her from a terrible situation before she was brainwashed.

"Sigh... Then it's a mistake. I thought our sect's brainwashing was perfect. Why do I feel so familiar with a stranger? Honestly, I'd rather not feel anything at all." She muttered, a bit annoyed.

The only woman next to her said. "The secrets of the mind are infinite, Miss. I can tell you that your brainwashing was perfect as far as our theories and knowledge are concerned. You went through the experience at the right age, and the one who dealt with you was the sect master himself.

If there's anything left to make you feel this way, it's in your mind. We can do nothing about it except tell you to ignore it."

Brainwashing worked best the weaker the victim. Miss Death was about to advance to the 4th stage, so even the master of Nixlas' Shadows would have difficulty correcting this problem, which was first noticed today.

That's why none of her companions thought of taking her back to the sect to take care of this problem as a matter of urgency.

But one of them looked at Vicente strangely, wondering if it wouldn't be better to eliminate this young man.

"Maybe we should take care of him for the Miss?" The man asked, knowing Miss Death needed a name to use her special powers.

Miss Death looked at the man and said. "There is no need. That must be just an ordinary resident of Saltstar City. We'll be leaving this city for good soon, so I'm unlikely to see him again."

The woman agreed. "You shouldn't suggest such things so easily. Don't forget that we are Dark Path practitioners. If mainland society thinks we're persecuting ordinary, innocent people, we will be persecuted!"

"There are ways to act without revealing that it was us..." He said to the woman. "But in any case, the Miss is right. Such a young man shouldn't be a problem, so let's ignore him for now."

The eldest of the group remained silent, wondering if he should do something. The feeling she had felt might be stronger than she had indicated, and there was a possibility that this young man was an old acquaintance of hers.

'I will have someone from The Ruby Devils investigate this boy for me. If he's connected to the Miss, I'd better eliminate him to avoid future problems.' He thought to himself.

Then Miss Death said. "Let's continue with what we've been doing. Snow Claw is harder to catch than I thought..."

They left with that in mind, as they were in this city to fulfill a mission that The Ruby Devils had paid Nixlas' Shadows to send Miss Death on to kill Snow Claw.

...

Meanwhile, Vicente had no idea that he had just passed Miss Death's side, let alone that someone now had malicious plans against him.

He arrived at the place he had been told about earlier, the Book Emporium.

Entering the shop, he quickly chose the book *Phantoms With Pride* and paid for it.

When he sat down where customers could read, he read a few pages until a man with another book sat beside him.



"Don't look at me. Keep reading your book." The man said before going straight to the point without looking at Vicente while pretending to read his book. "What information are you looking for?"

Vicente did what he was supposed to do. "I want to know about the Bone Mountains. Especially information that is hard to get without good contacts or special investigators."

"Bone Mountains of the Chutha Dynasty?" The man asked, just to be sure.

It was possible that there were two sects/clans with the same name on the continent.

"Yes, that's the one. There's a member of that group I'm also very interested in. He's known as Dax, and he's a Sovereign." Vicente said, adding another point to be answered.

"I see." The man murmured as he closed his eyes for a second. "I know someone who has information about the Bone Mountains. I can gather more detailed information about this group and give it to you in a month at the most. But as much as I've heard stories about the one known as Dax, I'd have to investigate him before I could talk about him properly.

I don't know anyone who knows the real story of this guy, so investigating him could be expensive."

"How much?" Vicente asked, willing to pay a lot to get information about one of his mother's killers.

"To investigate Dax, I'll need between 5,000 and 10,000 gold coins. He's a Sovereign, and as far as we know, he doesn't live in our kingdom. So I'd have to leave Saltstar City, hire people from the Chutha Dynasty, and run into a lot of danger.

But it's very likely that I can get the information you're looking for if you're willing to pay the necessary amount. It will take me between six months and a year, but eventually, I'll have what you want."

That was a stratospheric amount of money for mere information. But this investigator wasn't trying to take advantage of Vicente. It wouldn't be easy to get information from someone like Dax, and the price would have to be very good for someone like him to put himself at risk for such a thing!

## Chapter 500 Solving the Problem

### 500 Solving the Problem

The amount demanded was too much even for Vicente. With something between 5,000 and 10,000 gold coins, Vicente could raise several Acolytes in his family until they became Mages.

On the other hand, if he only got the information about the Bone Mountains, he could gather the information about Dax for himself once he went to the Chutha Dynasty.

With that in mind, he asked. "And how much would it cost me just to get the information about the Bone Mountains?"

"A thousand gold coins. The person I told you about already has that information cataloged because of another investigation he recently commissioned into that group. So I just need to negotiate a price with him for the information." The man said, apparently reading the book in his hands.

"He's out of the city today, so I have to give you what he has within a month."

"Okay, I'll buy the information regarding Bone Mountain. I'll put the Dax investigation on hold for now." Vicente said as he left an old spatial ring on the table and got up to leave.

The man understood the gesture and said. "Come back in exactly 30 days. I'll give you the results."

Vicente left, leaving the man to analyze the spatial ring with exactly 250 gold coins inside.

In contracts like this, 25% was paid at the time of the contract and the rest upon delivery. There was no need for contracts, which was risky, but that was how the underworld worked.

Contracts formalized things that underworld criminals usually didn't want to be formalized. Given the nature of their actions, men like this investigator used their words to guarantee their agreements.

Why should anyone trust a criminal's word? Simply because there are no other more reliable methods.

Professional investigators who worked in the light of day were few and far between. Most were affiliated with powerful organizations or groups and did not offer their work to third parties.

The few that did exist were busy, and their services were expensive.

If someone wanted information quickly and cheaply, they would have to look for someone like the man Vicente had just met.

But the risks were not as great as one might think. Even though the investigator hired by Vice could get away with this young man's coins, it was more advantageous for him to close the deal.

If he could get another 750 coins from Vicente, he would make a much bigger profit than 250 coins, even if he had to pay something to the other man with the information Vice was looking for. So it wouldn't be worth it for him to cheat his new client!

Confident of this, Vicente left his coins before heading back to his local affairs and visiting the local blacksmiths' association building.

...

Two days later...

Vicente was on his way to meet Benson and Ronan, having finally produced all the items his senior brother had promised The Ruby Devils.

Arriving in front of the house where he had met them days ago, Vicente knocked twice on the door before his master allowed him to enter the small building.

Ronan was already sweating with anticipation and asked in a nervous tone when he saw Vicente. "Well? Did you succeed? We only have until tomorrow to make this delivery, man."

Vicente nodded affirmatively. "Yeah, I made it."

"Let me see." Ronan forced a smile on his face, but he would only feel relieved when he saw what Vicente had done.

Vicente gave Ronan a spatial ring containing all these artifacts to analyze. At the same time, Benson was relieved to see that his student and himself wouldn't have to die.

When Ronan tried to scan Vicente's ring, he noticed all the 3rd-

grade artifacts with 100% efficiency just before he felt something strange enter his mind.

'Never ask my master for help again, Ronan. If you make another mistake and seek him out, I will personally put an end to you.'

Vicente's voice rang in Ronan's mind as he felt a powerful killing intent, not in the slightest doubting Vice's ability to do what was promised.

He looked at Vicente and saw the black-haired young man smiling.

'Damn you! How did you manage to put that in my head?' Ronan wondered, imagining that Vicente was much more complicated than he appeared on the surface.

He had threatened him in a very subtle and difficult-to-

decipher way!

Benson was standing next to them, but he was completely unaware of what was going on, a sign of how fantastic what Vicente had just done was.

'Don't worry about it. Think of your life. If you put my master in danger again, this will be your last breath.' Vicente said, smiling as if nothing had happened.

Vicente could see in Ronan's eyes that this guy was a walking problem. This person had probably already done things similar to what had gotten him and Benson into their current predicament and would most likely get into trouble again.

'Vicente! I'm your senior! Who do you think you are to threaten me?'

'I am the one who can kill you if I decide not to give you those artifacts.'

Gulp!

'Tsk! All right. I'll do whatever you want. I will no longer involve our master in my affairs. Is that all right with you?' He smiled softly, trying to settle this once and for all.

Vicente said aloud. "You should go and deliver the artifacts to The Ruby Devils today. Fulfill your obligation to them right away, and take this advice from me: get out of Saltstar City as soon as possible. These artifacts will relieve your situation, but after what you've done, they'll look at you differently. Take advantage of your situation and the local tensions and get as far away as you can."

Benson didn't know exactly what Vicente was trying to say, but he agreed with the words. "That will be better, Ronan."

Ronan clenched one of his fists but promised he would. "I understand. Then I'll say goodbye to you both here, master and junior brother. I'll hand over this equipment and leave town. I hope our situation will be better the next time we meet."

Ronan left without further ado, leaving Vicente and Benson behind.

Left alone in the house, Benson thanked Vicente. "Thank you for your help. Without your intervention, this fool would have died in no time."

"Master, forgive my skepticism, but I don't think Ronan will live much longer. I feel he hasn't learned his lesson and will soon make the same mistake again." Vicente broke into his thoughts. "You shouldn't help him in the future. It will only lead to trouble for you."

"Sigh... I can't do that. All my students are my responsibility. If Ronan is like this today, it was a mistake on my part." Benson sighed, feeling guilty about the whole situation.