# The Mafia 161

Chapter 161 The Rocky Gorge Incident (5)

When Vicente approached the group of people looking for his head, he immediately made those beasts believe this was his group.

Beasts didn't understand human language any more than humans understood them.

When they sensed that this human had killed three of their own and saw these other humans in the area, they immediately assumed that all humans were allies.

Their main target at the beginning of the confrontation was Vice since he was the one who had killed the three monkeys. However, half of the beasts that had appeared on the area's outskirts were already attacking the rest of the group that Nova had summoned there.

Vicente felt a level 5 Acolyte, a large monkey similar to the one he had killed, coming towards him and quickly floated away with his metals, heading towards the leader of Defiant Tyranny.

The monkey was very fast, and when it missed its first move, it jumped off the log it had hit and headed in the direction where Ryker was staring ugly at the young man who had appeared on his back.

"I'm going to kill you!" Ryker said, but as he looked at Vicente, he felt the great monkey closing in on him and couldn't pay attention to the young man for long.

"Good luck!" Vicente laughed as Ryker's Red Pentagram appeared, and his body became extremely muscular.

Just as the monkey was about to hit him, Ryker moved to counterattack and collided with the creature's fist.

Pow!

The air around them pulsed from the contact of their blows as they looked into each other's eyes.

"Wretch! We're not your enemies!" Ryker felt pain in his bones and screamed, hating the fact that beasts were so irrational.

But the monkey didn't care. Seeing a human with strength similar to its own, it immediately considered him its enemy, probably the protector of the murderer of its tribe members.

It opened its big mouth and let out a horrible sound before it went 'crazy' and started attacking its opponent with a series of punches and kicks.

"Shit! You pay me, Cesar!"

Vicente was already far away from them when Ryker shouted this, still using his abilities to fly around the area, trying to escape the various opponents that tried to hit him.

He could use his special ability to disturb many of these beasts. He could even kill some of them with ease. But it wasn't in his interest to kill any of them.

Since his human enemies were there, this was the time for him to eliminate his main enemies by using the power of these beasts that attacked him.

He moved while floating, taking the strongest enemies that attacked him for the strongest of the Symons family group and Defiant Tyranny.

When one of these beasts nearly hit him, Vicente skillfully used his ability to destabilize the movement of his opponents, narrowly avoiding blows that would have seriously injured him.

Being able to control metal was truly fantastic!

Five minutes after this situation began, the surroundings up to a kilometer away from where the battle had begun were littered with signs of battle, with several fallen trees and craters here and there.

Several beast corpses were already piled up, while the weakest of the previous group had already died, but more beasts had arrived after the confrontation began.

Some of the humans had also fallen, but due to the humans' special abilities that allowed them to fight at a distance, only 2 of them had died so far.

The Defiant Tyranny leader was still on his feet, but one of his faction members had been killed there, while an army soldier had fallen at the hands of a level 4 monkey.

Nova was becoming increasingly exhausted by the situation. Cesar had already led all the strongest enemies there to the strongest of them.

Each of these humans was now facing 1 or 2 opponents of the same level, while they had no chance to even look at Vicente.

Nova used her special ability to make the 2nd-grade sword in her hands glow an intense white while distorting her surroundings.

She then used most of her power to attack the level 4 creature, preventing it from helping its companions in more trouble.

She slashed at the massive 2.7-meter, 300-kilogram monkey, splitting its body into two equal slices and killing it instantly.

"Shit! Let's retreat!" She shouted as she killed this enemy, knowing she couldn't bear to fight for long, even considering her powerful swordsmanship.

Nova was an excellent swordsman! Her powers were so strong that she could even challenge those who were stronger than her with the same level of talent!

This was extremely rare and gave her a great advantage in battle. But in this situation, she didn't want to risk.

If she stayed there for Cesar's sake, she might end up exhausted and surrounded by vengeful beasts sooner or later.

Only the strongest in the area were fighting, but everyone could sense that weaker beasts were lurking around, just waiting for the opportunity to devour their exhausted enemies!

Hearing this, the still-breathing soldiers hesitated momentarily, unsure whether to leave this place and allow Cesar to stay alive or risk their lives.

"This is an order! Retreat immediately!" She repeated her order.

Hearing this, Ryker threatened. "Damned soldiers. Stay and fight, or you're finished after today!"

"Mr. Ryker, you should retreat as well. We have to admit that Cesar defeated us today!" Nova ignored the threat and began to retreat with her men, paving the way for their retreat.

The Symons family group also hesitated in the face of the beasts surrounding them.

Meanwhile, Vicente finally showed his skills, killing the weakest using his magnetic abilities.

But he didn't just do this against the surrounding beasts. When he saw that some of his enemies were weakened, he sent small blades to the wounds of some of the stronger ones.

'You won't escape death that easily!' He looked at them with hatred.

S...ss...ss!

However, as some tried to escape and others tried to eliminate the beasts in their path to reach Cesar, a terrible hissing sound suddenly came from the bottom of the nearby canyon.

Upon hearing it, everyone in the area, not just the humans but even the beasts, looked in the direction it had come from for a moment, all of them shaking with fear.

Gulp!

"Basilisk!"

Several of the still standing humans shouted simultaneously, recognizing not only the hiss but also the terrifying aura of that beast approaching their position.

## Chapter 162 Dark Dawn (1)

Feeling the terror of the aura of the strongest beast he had ever encountered, Vice opened his mouth and his eyes wide to look at the top of the trees where a strange creature descended from the sky.

It had dark blue scales, a snake's head, a long neck, and a long tail. But its chest resembled that of a bird, with a prominent front and long wings with feathers the same color as its scales. It also had four legs, the hind ones incredibly muscular, with long, dagger-like claws.

Its size was not small. With more than 5 meters between its head and tail and a similar length between the tips of its wings, this creature was enormous.

Its aura carried the size of its being, and even the level 5 Acolytes in the area couldn't help but pale in the face of the most ferocious creature they could encounter that night.

"Shit!" Ryker shouted as he noticed the Mage-level magic creature staring at him.

"Retreat! Flee immediately!" Nova despaired at the sight of this creature, knowing that it was the leader of the canyon and all these beasts would serve it.

The whole world had its hierarchies, power relations, etc. In the beast world, the strongest ruled, no matter their race!

As the strongest in the area, that basilisk was the commander of the area, and all the beasts in its presence, regardless of their tribes, would serve it when it appeared near them!

Knowing that they would have all these creatures gathered against them, everyone there immediately began to move away from their opponents of a few moments ago and prepared to flee.

With a long sigh, Vicente saw the creature descending from the sky. He immediately understood it was giving orders to those beasts.

'Tsk! Are they going to chase us?' He imagined that this was the order because the moment the beasts heard that sound, all the beasts looked at the group of humans differently.

Thinking it would deal with the strongest first, Vicente didn't hesitate to manipulate the metals around his control area and began to float in the air, flying at low altitude, faster and faster.

Looking at Nova, he didn't hesitate to go towards her, surprising her by grabbing her in his arms and quickly starting their escape from the area.

Realizing that her feet were no longer on the ground, Nova resisted by struggling. But Vicente warned her. "Captain Bain, let's not fight now. If we do, we'll both be killed by these beasts."

Nova looked at Vicente's blood- and dirt-stained mask, ignoring the smell of sweat coming not only from his body but from hers as well. She clenched her fists and looked into his eyes. "Cesar! You caused all this! Now you want a truce?" She shouted as she grabbed the collar of his shirt and pushed it down.

"I did what I had to do to survive. Remember, you chased me and attacked me. What was I supposed to do? Give you my life?" He said in a sarcastic tone that was easily noticeable, even with his mana distorting his voice.

While they exchanged these brief remarks, Vicente flew quickly through the forest, dodging his opponents' long-range blows and quickly distancing himself from the beasts that were already chasing them.

Nova could no longer see more than half of the group of humans that had been allied with her moments ago, while the few she could see were sweating to run and not be killed by the creatures chasing them.

The basilisk was too powerful and wouldn't chase most of them. It only focused its attention on the strongest in the area, leaving the rest to its subordinates.

Noticing this, Nova loosened her grip on Cesar's clothes, aware that she would have to ally herself with him in order to live.

"Tsk!"

Seeing that she had given in, Vicente said. "Take a moment to recover. I'll be exhausted in a minute. Then we'll have to walk."

"Don't you have any more recovery potions? If you can't fly any longer, I'm afraid we'll fall into enemy hands before we leave The Rocky Gorge." She knew that beasts were better trackers than humans of the same magic level, so she was worried.

"I've already used up all my potions trying to escape the many enemies that caught up with me tonight." He said. "Do you realize I've faced nearly 20 Acolytes in the last four hours?"

"Are you saying this to show off?" She narrowed her eyes as she looked at him and moved to get on Vicente's flying board without staying in his arms.

Vicente said nothing and then saw her use a spatial storage item to take out a recovery potion and give it to him.

"You trust me like that?" He laughed as he asked her.

"No." She said before taking another potion and drinking it herself.

Sensing this last 'attack' from Nova, Vicente watched her for a moment but then drank the potion she had given him, noticing that there was no poison in it.

With the beasts behind them moving almost as fast as they were, he needed to recover in order to keep running for a while.

Feeling the potion's effects, Vicente increased his speed by 10%, enough to temporarily increase the distance between them and the beasts chasing them through the trees in that area.

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A few minutes later, several of the humans who had chased Vicente earlier had met their end at the hands of the beasts of The Rocky Gorge.

Some had managed to escape the arrival of the basilisk but had died from severe injuries inflicted by their opponents before and during the chase initiated by the beasts.

One of the few still breathing was the leader of Defiant Tyranny, who had seen the entire top echelon of his group perish in this forest region that night.

However, after using all of his life-saving resources to withstand the basilisk attack and flee the area, Ryker was exhausted and badly wounded.

At this point, unable to move properly due to the severity of his situation, he dragged himself to the entrance of a cave in this forest region in search of shelter for the night.

If he survived the night, he could return to Millfall at daybreak, when the beasts were usually less active.

'Damn it! You'll pay for this, you bastard Cesar! One day, I'll rip your head off.' He thought, cursing the person responsible for all his misfortune.

But as he crawled, Ryker suddenly heard footsteps approaching and shuddered as he heard a distinctive sound, a special click he had recently learned.

"Ryker Beckman, I didn't expect to be the one to kill you."

Ryker looked back to see a young red-haired man with other men, all with guns and masks on their faces.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Chapter 163 Dark Dawn (2)

One hour later...

Vicente and Nova were currently walking along one of the western sides of The Rocky Gorge, slowly approaching the end of their journey to escape this forested area.

Vicente had used as much as he could to get Nova and himself as far away from this dangerous area as possible, flying without a trace on their original path.

But as soon as he had used up more than half of his strength, Vicente stopped moving in that way earlier to conserve his energy.

A few minutes ago, Vicente and Nova stopped in an area with no signs of enemies nearby and began their journey on foot.

By now, they were close to the exit of this area and already quite tired. Thus, they slowed down to avoid exhausting themselves completely.

Like runners in a marathon, they wouldn't use all their energy for most of the race, so they moved more slowly now so as not to reach the point where they would have to stop to meditate.

Nova had used up all her potions earlier, and now they only had what little mana was left in their bodies to deal with this challenge.

As they went through this last part of their journey, Nova asked Vice. "Why did you show yourself before? If you had stayed hidden, none of this would have happened.

Perhaps you could have escaped... But now it's impossible." She said. "You killed soldiers. Now, the whole kingdom will be after you, Cesar!"

Vicente heard this, but he didn't despair. He had a way out of this problem. "I was only defending myself against corrupt soldiers. Captain, if you testify in my favor, I can easily escape this situation."

"I testify on your behalf?" She looked at him with disgust. "Why would I do that? I'm withholding from arresting you, Cesar."

"Because I'm innocent. I was just defending myself against corrupt soldiers."

"I don't know about that. If you were innocent, you stopped being innocent when you killed the leader of my group." She replied.

He laughed and said. "In any case, I had no choice. It would either do that or compromise my position. But I would never allow the second option to happen, no matter what the cost."

Nova looked at him in silence, a little surprised at his determination. Even though he was a despicable person, a murderer, the way Cesar was willing to risk himself was worthy of respect.

"I'm going to arrest you, Cesar. Don't worry. I'll hear your side of the story when you're locked up." She said as she changed her position and drew a sword.

Seeing this, Vicente narrowed his eyes and drew his pistol, seeing that his temporary ally was no longer friendly.

"Captain, what are you doing? We're in the middle of an escape." He said to her, his tone changing somewhat.

"We are far enough from the center of this forest. Cesar Mazzanti, surrender. I don't want to hurt you." She poured her mana into her sword, making her green gem glow brightly.

"Captain, I'm the one telling you this. Have you forgotten what I can do?" He showed her his skill, forming several sharp blades in the air aimed at her body.

As a swordsman, Nova had no defensive skills. Her defense was to use her sword against enemy attacks.

But if she couldn't dodge or counter enemy attacks, she could get hurt more easily than Vicente!

She laughed when she heard that. "Something tells me you won't do that to me." She advanced towards him, slashing with her sword at the weapon in Vicente's right hand.

But as she moved, Nova noticed something coming fast against her back, and her expression changed.

"It can't be!" She looked away, distracted by Vicente, not believing that he would attack her after he had not attacked her even once all night and had even rescued her when he would have had a lot of trouble escaping earlier.

But when she least expected it, a metal shield formed behind her back, and Vicente threw it over her right shoulder.

#### BOOM!

Nova felt the sound of the shot very close to her right ear and expressed pain, not expecting this action from Cesar.

But as she fell to the ground, having missed him, she saw who Vicente had shot at when she heard a loud sound of pain coming from a beast in the distance.

Seeing the monkey screaming in pain from the bullet that had hit it and noticing the shield breaking in front of the tree trunk that had been thrown, Nova understood what had just happened.

'He was protecting me even though I was attacking him?' She clenched her fists as she felt the worst feeling of all; being protected by someone she despised and had acted against.

In a way, Cesar, a criminal and murderer of army soldiers, had acted more nobly than her, even after being attacked!

Vicente didn't care what his temporary ally was thinking and used all his remaining mana to attack her and the other three beasts that had just appeared.

He didn't have much, so he did his best to finish off the already wounded one and at least take down one of the strongest enemies.

'Shit! I hope that damned basilisk doesn't go after its subordinates!' Vicente broke out in a cold sweat but didn't think about anything else, acting as he formed his spells and spears with his innate skill.

Forming spears at the limit of the 1st grade, he attacked those creatures with a rain of spears and lightning, exhausting himself in his first move.

The four beasts, including the one that was hit in the chest by Vicente's bullet, protected themselves by placing the non-vital parts of their bodies in front of the vital ones and withstood Vicente's attack that could hurt even level 3 Acolytes.

These were level 4 Acolytes, so even though Vicente's movements hurt them, only the one wounded by the previous bullet couldn't resist his sudden movement.

"It's up to you now, Nova. If you can't beat them, we'll die!" Vicente shouted, making the woman look at the three beasts and no longer hesitate.

She moved her mana through her body and made her two pentagrams appear, ready to deliver a single blow and finish off these opponents.

Dimensional Slash!

She opened her mouth and screamed in agony, leaping into the air while making a diagonal movement with her sword until she launched a blade of energy that came out of her sword and slashed rapidly at the three creatures.

Swooish!

Chapter 164 Dark Dawn (3)

Nova's curved energy blade sliced through the air like lightning, cutting through the distance between her and the beasts so quickly that they didn't have a chance to dodge.

When they encountered the final attack of a 2nd stage magician, the three creatures couldn't stand it, and even with their thick beast skins, they felt their bodies being torn apart.

The first in the path of Nova's blade couldn't take it. A second after her attack, it saw the upper part of its monkey body fall to the ground in front of its still-standing legs, now completely separated from the rest of it.

The second in the path of the blade was not cut in half but had been severely wounded in the abdominal area, with a deep cut exposing its intestines to the exhausted Vice and Nova.

The last enemy standing, the weakest of the group, had suffered the least of this attack but still howled in pain, feeling the burning cut on its chest that would take time to heal.

It knew this, but seeing that its enemies were exhausted and it was out of danger, it screamed more out of a desire to murder them than out of pain.

"Shit!" Nova shouted as she fell to her knees on the ground, unable to stand.

At that moment, Nova saw the least injured creature jumping towards her and Vicente and regretted it, yelling at him.

"I'm sorry I attacked you, Cesar! This wouldn't have happened if it hadn't been for my idiocy!" She said, extremely sorry and unhappy that she had to die.

Vicente was already kneeling behind her and raised his dominant hand to attack again.

But when he did, he felt a twinge in his chest and pain in his eyes. He couldn't stand it anymore and coughed up blood.

"Cough!"

'No! No, I can't fall here! I shouldn't die at the hands of a beast of this level!' He tried to get up, feeling that he had to find a way out of this situation.

He had to take care of Nina. He had to carry out his revenge and also rescue Lauren. How could he accept to die there?

He closed his eyes briefly and looked inside himself, seeing a yellow Magic Pentagram in his subconscious connected to his second magical form.

'I have to risk it!' He made up his mind and opened his eyes, accepting every risk this desperate action would entail.
But when he opened his eyes, Vicente heard a distinctive sound nearby.
Bang!
Bang!
More than eight shots rang out in their vicinity, all aimed at the creature flying towards Vice and Nova.
Upon realizing this, Vicente felt as if all his weight had suddenly disappeared. He sighed, letting his body slump to the ground.
At that moment, morning was slowly dawning when a masked, red-haired young man appeared at the top of a nearby tree.
"You can rest now, boss. We're here to take you home!" Rory said as he noticed Vicente's situation, happy that he had found his friend in time to save him from that beast.
As his last words left the red-haired man's mouth, the huge level 4 monkey collapsed to the ground a meter away from Nova.
Already dead, the creature was no longer a threat to the group, and at the sight of it, Nova sighed, gradually losing consciousness after everything that had happened that night.
This was the end of the group's dark night and the beginning of a new day!
With his leader exhausted, Rory took charge of the situation and said. "I want two of you to go back with Captain Bain. Leave her body on her doorstep, but make sure she's all right. Let's not forget we have plans for her."
Two of the Acolytes in this group quickly picked up Nova's body and prepared to leave.

Rory said to the rest of the group. "Those of you who shouldn't be here, go back to your posts. The rest of you take your Don to the Fuller estate. In the meantime, I'll take over headquarters and deal with tonight's problems."

"Yes, deputy!" The men there shouted at the same time.

The Mazzanti family, to others, or the Fuller family to those close to them, had its hierarchy. Vicente was the boss, while Rory was the underboss, the deputy. Besides them, the group had Eve as Captain, the only one in that position at the moment. The rest were all soldiers and, as such, had to obey their superiors.

With Vicente unconscious, the men who normally acted as Vicente Fuller's employees quickly picked up their boss and returned to Millfall.

As Rory and his group, as well as the two carrying Nova, did the same, they soon left, not wanting to wait for any more beasts from the area to come after the four bodies.

As he left, Rory sighed, feeling the weight of a night of killing but also imagining how complicated the next few hours would be.

"Sigh..."

'This is going to be a complicated day.' He sighed as he moved with his men.

He had killed the head of the Defiant Tyranny. Still, Vicente and the beasts from earlier had killed the entire top echelon of that faction. In addition, several army soldiers, members of the Symons family, and assassins had been killed that night.

When the news spread through Millfall, his group would surely be in trouble!

As the one who would be in charge, Rory was already beginning to feel a strong headache!

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As Vice and Nova were being taken to their homes by the 'Mazzanti' men, a tall, blond young man in blood- and dirt-stained armor appeared pale at the entrance to Millfall.

"Help me! Help me!" Marcus Symons, the only survivor of that chaotic night besides Vice and Nova, appeared at the entrance to the town, having finally arrived there after fleeing from Cesar hours earlier.

In the middle of his escape, he was suddenly attacked by the beasts of the place. Luckily for him, he was far enough away from the center of the forest region that his opponent wasn't strong enough to kill him.

Still, he was badly injured and had barely made it to the place whole.

Hearing someone's cries, the soldiers who kept an eye on this entrance to the city soon approached Marcus and realized who he was.

"The Viscount's son?" One of the men paled at the sight of Marcus' situation, imagining the chaos about to hit Millfall!

"Quickly! Alert the Symons estate! The young master is gravely injured! Get all the local doctors!"

And with this bloody return of Marcus, word would begin to spread through Millfall that night!

Chapter 165 Local Reactions?

With the dawn of this new day, things began to get hectic for the various groups around Millfall!

At this very moment, the Symons' mansion was on alert, with several men standing around the area and people coming and going from the place in a hurry, with worried looks on their faces.

The young master Symons had just returned from a night of persecution and was being attended by the best local doctors.

Meanwhile, the place was on alert for the non-return of the rest of Marcus' party, who had left the night before with some of the strongest members of the family to deal with Cesar Mazzanti.

With the possibility that the family had lost some of their most important men, the guards around the estate had ugly expressions on their faces as they were tense.

'What will happen now? Has Cesar wiped out our group?'

'Damn it! How dare he? Does he know who we are?'

'When His Grace returns, we'll wipe out the bastard and his family!'

Several guards in the area were out for revenge, and even without knowing what had really happened, they already blamed Cesar for the disappearance, possibly deaths, of this family's men!

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In a luxurious room of that mansion, Marcus lay on his bed while several beautiful women dressed as servants assisted the doctors there.

At the same time, two well-dressed men with Magic Gems similar to Marcus's stared at him in disbelief at what had happened.

"Big brother Marcus, what happened?" The younger of the two asked, looking at his brother's deep wounds.

Marcus had barely survived!

Meanwhile, Marcus' paternal uncle watched in silence as three doctors worked on the wounds on the young Symons heir's legs, stomach, and arms.

Marcus expressed pain but managed to say a few words.

"Hah... We were looking for that damned Cesar... Hah... Hah... Then he attacked us and fled to the central area of The Rocky Gorge..." He said as he gasped for air, feeling pain even considering the anesthetics the doctors around him had already given him.

"I don't know exactly what happened... Hah... But damned Cesar managed to break up my group... After that... We were forced to split up... Hah... Unfortunately, I was being chased by beasts... Hah... I couldn't chase them anymore and had to return to the city...

I almost died at the hands of that damned beast."

He said, and then one of the doctors there shouted.

"Please, young master, don't talk anymore. You're badly injured. If you keep talking, I'm afraid it will affect your recovery."

Hearing this, the two well-dressed men with blond hair and piercing eyes looked at each other and stopped asking questions.

"It seems that Cesar is behind the demise of our men..." The young man commented to his uncle as he left the room. "What are we going to do?"

"Tell the people at the Martial Court. In the meantime, I'll prepare my group and our contacts to declare a curfew. We'll search this town, house by house until we find the bastard!"

"What if he's not here?"

"He definitely is. After what happened to his group, he'll have to be nearby, or his group will perish!"

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Meanwhile, at the headquarters of the Defiant Tyranny...

This place where gambling and prostitution were normally available to its customers day and night, there were no whores or addicts occupying the corridors of the building now.

The doors of this place were closed, and the only people there were the direct members of this criminal faction, who were nervously awaiting the return of their leaders.

However, the longer it went without news of what had happened, the more anxious the people became.

'What if the bosses have fallen?' One of the men at that post, waiting for news of their leaders, thought to himself as he looked at his allies in that place.

As he narrowed his eyes, he saw them less as allies and more as enemies.

'I have to get ready. This place will fall if the bosses don't return in six hours. Whoever acts first will benefit the most!' He thought.

Unlike what happened to criminal groups on Earth, in Polaris Realm, the whole group would fall if the leadership of such a faction fell. After all, unlike on that small blue planet, in this world, such groups depended on the magical level of their leaders.

If there were no surviving magicians as strong as their leaders, it would be difficult for such a group to remain standing after the death of its leaders!

Knowing that he and the rest of the people there would not be able to withstand the pressure of the Scarlet Syndicate, let alone the local nobles, this man had in mind to take what he could and flee before anyone started to 'clean up' this city.

'The army or noble groups will eliminate us to wipe out witnesses. I don't have much time. I must be ready when the time comes.' One of his hands shook, and he brought it up to a sword at his waist.

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Meanwhile, the Commander of the local royal army post was sweating nervously in his office at the local base as one of his groups failed to return.

When he received the news of Cesar's reappearance in the city that night, the Commander had sent several groups to solve the problem, keeping his promise to Defiant Tyranny.

He wasn't happy with this group but was willing to eliminate Vicente.

However, hours after the news of Vicente's reappearance, one of his groups disappeared and didn't return to the local base for more than 8 hours!

Knowing this and knowing that Cesar was not in Millfall, this man waited for news of his other groups, nervously pointing a pencil as he waited.

But just then, the door to his office opened, and he heard. "Commander, something terrible has happened! One of the groups looking for Cesar just found Captain Bain unconscious on her doorstep!"

"What?" The man got up from his chair, knowing that Nova should be looking for Cesar, not in Millfall.

"How did she get back without anyone noticing? Where is the Captain?" He asked, eager for answers.

"She's being taken to the barracks as we speak, Commander. But she's still unconscious. The doctors at the post are already preparing to receive her." The soldier communicated in a nervous tone, still without news of the other groups acting in favor of Cesar's downfall.

One of the groups had taken over the headquarters of the Mazzanti family, while some of the men there had been arrested after their post was taken the night before. On the other hand, more than 20 2nd-stage soldiers were moving toward The Rocky Gorge to learn the whereabouts of their comrades, understand what had happened, and perhaps rescue them.

"Bring Nova to me as soon as she wakes up. I want to know everything that happened!" The Commander shouted, anxious to hear some good news from Captain Bain, his last hope at the moment.

But while he waited, the local nobles and the wealthiest of Millfall would soon begin to discuss the matter, and they would be the first to talk about the night's disappearances and what might have happened while the town slept!

### Chapter 166 The Rumor

As the sky over Millfall turned completely blue, and the heat began to rise, the ordinary people of this city were already out on the streets, going to their jobs or starting their activities.

In some places, middle-aged women opened the windows of their homes and began cleaning them. In another, men were already moving from place to place with pack animals and wagons, moving resources of all kinds between local businesses.

Meanwhile, the local sidewalks were bustling after the "quiet" evening, with people of varying degrees of dress passing through.

But small crowds were already forming in the taverns and inns where breakfast was served early in the day as storytellers spread the latest news.

Everywhere, there were people telling gossip, spreading news, and even making things up to attract attention and have an excuse to talk.

This was true on Earth, but it was also true in Polaris Realm.

After the news first reached the soldiers, nobles, and their subordinates in that city, the relatives of the people who first heard about the previous night's events soon knew 'everything' and spread the news among themselves.

By the time the rumors reached the local taverns, it was too late to contain the news!

"Man, you don't know what happened last night! Cesar Mazzanti returned to the city and started a rebellion!

Several soldiers, assassins seeking his reward, and even noblemen's subordinates fell into his hands the night before!" A thin, shabbily dressed man said this when he saw his friend in the tavern he had just entered.

"What? You're talking nonsense! How could an Apprentice do all that?" A fat man, also poorly dressed, said, not believing his friend.

"But that's what happened. They say the Defiant Tyranny is in tatters, and even ordinary people can challenge them now. There isn't even one of their men in their territory this morning!" The thin man said with a smile on his face.

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Meanwhile, at Zander and River's tavern...

The two brothers had just opened their tavern and were wondering why none of Vicente's men had shown up when they suddenly heard from some of their regulars.

"No wonder your guards aren't here, old Zander. Have you heard anything about what happened last night? Can you fill us in?" A smiling middle-aged man asked as they approached the two of them along with other customers who had just entered.

"What are you talking about?" River asked, still unaware of last night's events.

"Don't you know?" A tall, strong man asked. "Cesar got into a lot of trouble the night before. Some say Defiant Tyranny, assassins, and army soldiers hunted him.

Many are already saying that he died fighting with those groups!"

"What?" Zander heard this and was worried.

"But if that's true, then he really was a monster. I heard that not even the leader of Defiant Tyranny, a level 5 Acolyte, has returned!" An 18-year-old said, feeling that even if he had died, Cesar would have made his name in local history.

The two brothers looked at each other as they heard this and several other comments, feeling this would be bad for them.

Without Vicente and his men, their business would continue to suffer.

The fall of the Defiant Tyranny would not change the actions of daring customers or petty criminals!

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While half the city believed that Cesar had exterminated several Acolytes and died with honor, the other half believed that he was still alive, even after fighting such dangerous individuals.

Alternative versions of the same story were already spreading through the city's alleys, with some even saying that Cesar wasn't human, that he was an immortal, perhaps a vampire.

But while the commoners were talking feverishly, curious and worried about the future of their city, the Scarlet Syndicate was on the move.

This group was aware of how things had begun the night before. With the various rumors that had already reached them and information about who had left and returned to the city before dawn, the group was aware of the problematic time their enemies were in.

At the Scarlet Syndicate headquarters, one of the few satisfied men this morning was communicating with his most trusted men, who were already positioned throughout the city.

"How are you guys? Any problems so far?" The Scarlet Syndicate leader asked, eager to take over what Defiant Tyranny had amassed.

Previously, this man had wanted peace so that his group could absorb what they had. But that was because he didn't want to fight and risk his group's comfortable position. Yet, if someone else were to act in his place and create opportunities for his people, he wouldn't be the one to miss out.

With Defiant Tyranny weakened without its leaders, it was time for him to act and rule this city!

"We're fine, boss. Our targets' defenses have been weakened. They really are distracted."

"It's the same here. In fact, as far as I can see, even if we do nothing, Defiant Tyranny will fall before nightfall."

"Good! Gather all the resources the damned Ryker left behind and the artifacts from his troops! Let's not let the surviving parasites take those resources!" Said Brody Wright, leader of the Scarlet Syndicate, smiling at his group's short-range communicators.

But then one of his men cautioned. "Boss, we must watch out for the local noble families. Some of Defiant Tyranny's supporters are already on the move."

"I know. I'll pressure the army to help us later. For now, raid the enemy outposts and collect our new resources!" He said in a tone more excited than worried, mentally thanking Cesar for generating all this for him.

After a night of fighting, the side that would benefit the most from all of this would be his, the one that had been least involved in last night's clashes!

He couldn't help but smile in satisfaction as he thought about how everyone involved in last night's incident might have died.

'Thanks, Cesar, you did a good job!' He leaned back in his chair, smoked a long cigar, and began to wait for the results of his men's actions in the city.

Now, it was time for him to collect the spoils of war from those individuals!

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Meanwhile, Nova woke up in the infirmary of the royal army headquarters in Millfall!

"Cesar!" She screamed as she opened her eyes and looked around, searching for the man she had seen before she passed out the night before.

Chapter 167 The Truth?

"Cesar!" Nova shouted as she woke up, looking around and realizing that this was not where she had passed out hours ago.

Seeing and hearing the reaction of this beautiful blue-haired woman, one of the doctors on duty rushed over and said. "Captain Bain, you're back at Millfall base. Do you remember what happened the night before?"

Hearing this and looking at the doctor, Nova understood where she was and remembered that Cesar's group had appeared at the last moment and rescued her and her temporary ally.

"Yes, I was on a mission to arrest or eliminate Cesar Mazzanti." She said, indicating to the doctor that she understood her situation.

Confirming that she knew where she was and what had happened the night before, the doctor saw that none of Nova's neurological functions had been affected. "Very well, you should go to the Commander's office. He asked you to go there as soon as you wake up.

Oh, don't worry about your body or your magic. You were only unconscious due to mana exhaustion and some minor injuries. You can return to your duties after a day's rest."

With that, she realized that even though she had been taken unconscious by Cesar's people, they hadn't done anything to her.

'Why didn't they kill me?' She asked herself.

From her point of view, since she was the only survivor, the best thing for Cesar's group was that she did not return to Millfall and that everything against him was just a theory. If she didn't return, no one could prove anything against him, and he could eventually get away with the crimes he committed the night before!

Come to think of it, if she had been in his place, she would have chosen this option and cleared up this loose end for her own benefit.

But that hadn't happened, and she couldn't help but think about that as she made her way to her boss' office.

Arriving there, she greeted the Commander as she was supposed to before the powerful man looked at her seriously and began his interrogation in search of the truth.

"Nova Bain, what happened last night? Your group disappeared, and we still haven't heard from the others in your group, but still, we found you on your doorstep this morning." He said as he sat in his chair.

Nova understood what Cesar's people had done, and in her mind, she was grateful that they hadn't made the decision she would have made in his place.

"Only I came back?" She muttered as she looked at the ground, imagining everyone else who had seen the basilisk the night before had died.

"No, Marcus Symons has also returned." The Commander declared. "He arrived in town just before the soldiers found you on your doorstep. The young master of the Symons family told his family that Cesar Mazzanti had wreaked havoc on his family and the local forces the night before."

Hearing this, Nova felt terrible, for Marcus had seen virtually nothing of what had happened the night before, having chickened out and fled before the first deaths from Cesar's gunfire.

Feeling indebted to the man who had possibly saved her life twice, she clenched her fists and denied the young master Symons' words. "That is not true. Last night, Cesar fled Millfall and headed for The Rocky Gorge.

When we found him, we still didn't know his goal other than to escape us. But later that night, our whole group would understand that he wanted to use the magical creatures in that area to evade our pursuit."

She looked at her leader and lied for the first time in her life. "But Cesar himself did not kill any of our men."

"Oh?" The Commander wasn't suspicious of Nova because it made sense. As impressive as he was, Cesar was only a Senior Apprentice.

In a situation like the night before, he had to use some kind of strategy, like using the strength of others to stop his enemies.

"What exactly happened?" He asked.

Thinking that there were no other witnesses to contradict what she had in mind, Nova said. "When we found Cesar, he fired his weapons at our group to buy time and maybe weaken us.

But he wasn't very successful and had to continue with his dangerous plan. But just as we were about to surround him after the initial distraction, he got into a confrontation with beasts and brought them towards us.

In this situation, we couldn't deal with him and had to take care of the 2nd stage creatures.

But little did we know that there was a 3rd stage basilisk in the area that would eventually show up to kill and hunt down several of us."

The Commander became more serious after hearing about the basilisk, a powerful creature rumored to have been sighted in the area.

"A basilisk?" He clenched his fists, feeling that it was a danger to Millfall to have such a creature so close.

As much as the army was meant to maintain the king's lands and enforce his laws, the basic principle of this organization was to protect the human kingdom from non-human magical beings!

Why did society accept groups that levied taxes and decided the rules they had to follow? It was simply because society as a whole needed protectors.

Maybe these protectors weren't so good at protecting society from other members of the same society. Still, they were needed to ensure that beings like beasts didn't victimize their people.

Thus, at the beginning of this civilization, groups that would become royal families, sects, and powerful clans arose as organizations for the security of human societies.

In the case of the royal army of the Seidel kingdom, even today, one of its purposes was to guarantee the security of the king's cities!

Knowing this, the Commander couldn't help but be concerned when one of his soldiers reported the sighting of such a powerful and vile creature so close to Millfall.

Nova explained. "Yes, it commanded the other beasts in the area and started a big hunt against us humans.

I don't know what happened to Cesar, but I almost died trying to escape them. Luckily, I could kill the last of the beasts chasing me before I used a life-saving item to get into Millfall."

Hearing that and worried about the basilisk threat, the Commander didn't doubt Nova.

"So that's what happened." He muttered before standing up and ordering Nova and the person outside the office. "Inform the rest of the barracks. Everyone is to return from their positions, including those investigating what happened at The Rocky Gorge.

Let's get ready to face the threat of this 3rd stage basilisk!"

Chapter 168 Vicente's Awakening?

As Millfall reacted to the news, rumors, and actions of the previous night, Vicente awoke in his residence.

After making sure that no enemies were watching the place, his men settled down to keep an eye on the area while their boss recovered on his own.

After a night of action, not only by Vice's group but also by these men, who had faced the beasts of The Rocky Gorge on more than one occasion, they had used up all the restorative potions they had.

But knowing that their boss was not seriously injured, these men had let him rest and recover on his own from the moment they arrived at this place an hour and a half ago until now.

They wouldn't risk bringing in local doctors at this point and couldn't even if they wanted to. After last night, all the doctors in Millfall were busy treating the wounded assassins, the young master Symons and Nova.

But while most of them were waiting in Vicente's room, the bed sheets suddenly moved, and all the men there looked at him.

"Boss..."

They simultaneously said as they saw Vicente open his eyes and raise his upper body as if to defend himself or prepare for a fight.

But as he made this move, Vicente quickly formed a pained expression on his face. He brought his hands to his face, feeling an unprecedented headache.

Given the location of the Magic Gem in the head, it wouldn't be uncommon for someone to experience headaches, eye sensitivity, and other symptoms related to that part of the body after the kind of exhaustion he experienced.

But while his head felt like it was being split in half, Vicente felt pain all over his body, as if he had done a full-body workout the day before.

'Fuck! What is this pain?' He asked himself as the previous day's memories slowly returned to him.

Even though he hadn't been seriously injured the night before, he had done things that had used all of his muscles.

As he recalled the scenes of the previous night's battle, he understood why he felt as if a truck had run over him.

He looked at the three men in that room of his house, each in a different part of the room, one at the front door and two at different windows, rifles pointed out.

He sighed and said. "Thank you for saving Nova and me the other night. We would have become beast food if it wasn't for you."

"Don't say that, boss. We were just doing our duty." A level 1 Acolyte said, but he was delighted to be able to help.

Vicente and Rory were phenomenal. They had incredible powers and unparalleled advancement rates. It was important to these men to be able to help them, even though they were so much less talented. They were also pleased to give back some of what they had gained.

"Anyway, you did a good job the night before..." He said before worrying about his family. "But tell me what happened in Millfall after I left. Where is Nina? What happened after I passed out?"

One of the three stayed where he was, watching one of the streets outside the house, and said. "Young Miss Nina is with Shelby Staples.

When the incident broke out the night before, she came to this property and said she would take the Young Miss along with Eve to her property to keep them safe.

We had no choice, and Eve went along with her plan. After that, we joined the rest of the group to look for the boss."

Hearing this, Vicente frowned.

Despite his agreement with Shelby, he didn't like this woman. No matter how beneficial their relationship might be for the time being, nothing would change the way she had acted to get close to him.

Could she be contained in the short term? Probably, after all, she had signed a Magic Agreement with Vice. But that could change in the future, as she had already shown herself capable of using strategies that Vicente didn't like.

'After my situation in Millfall improves, I'll have to find a way to control this woman...' He thought before listening.

"But they're fine, boss. We got word that the three of them were seen leaving the Staples estate this morning on their way to the academy." Another of them said, reassuring Vice.

"Hmm, it seems that the enemy who acted against me the night before was the only one who knew my identity... That's not bad. Our losses last night may have been less than I thought." He commented quietly, sitting down on the bed.

"What about Nova?"

Another of the men said. "Another group of us did what the deputy ordered. They left her body in front of her house. Minutes later, an army group found her and took her to the royal army headquarters in town."

"Oh? That's good. She's important for our plans." Vicente said, but in his mind, he knew that what he wanted with Nova didn't justify saving her.

Logically, he should have let her die. That would have given him control over the situation he was in.

Of course, he couldn't be sure if that was the best thing to do, but Nova's death would end up with a great witness who could end Cesar's life.

But being 100% rational and logical was difficult even for a mafia leader. For his family and those he cared about, Vicente was willing to do crazy things.

That was his greatest weakness!

After a discreet smile, he asked. "What about the survivors? Has anyone else who chased me yesterday returned to Millfall?"

"Yes. Marcus Symons. Apart from him and Nova, no one else has returned to the town, boss." The man standing at the door to Vicente's room said this as he looked at his boss.

"Marcus Symons, huh?" Vicente closed his eyes and remembered this cockroach who had survived the situation the night before and then fled.

'It looks like I missed a great opportunity to solve my problem with your family.' Vicente clenched his fists, realizing that this would get him into trouble in the future.

Unfortunately, in this situation, Vicente had to focus on staying alive. He hadn't been able to concentrate on Marcus.

But if only young master Symons had returned alive, at least many of his enemies had perished the night before!

"But boss, we have good news. The deputy has killed Ryker, the leader of the Defiant Tyranny."

Chapter 169 Vice and Rory's Plans

"Oh? Did Rory kill that level 5 Acolyte?" Vicente asked with interest, a twinkle in his eyes quite different from the worried look of a few seconds ago.

"Yes, the guy was badly injured. He seemed to have had several parts of his body eaten by some kind of beast. On top of that, he could barely walk, and his mana was so low that we could threaten his life even without our weapons." One of those guys explained how it had been possible to kill the leader of Defiant Tyranny, even though there was a huge difference between them.

The current weapons of Vice and his people could only threaten level 4 Acolytes if they used good strategies and had surprise on their side. Otherwise, this group's weapons could threaten only level 3 or lower-level Acolytes.

However, the characteristics of magicians' bodies ranged!

Stamina was at its peak when a magician's mana was at its highest and at its lowest when a magician was exhausted.

Not only that, a level 2 Acolyte would be more resilient than a level 1 Acolyte when both were exhausted.

One's permanent characteristics also improved as one became stronger and reached higher magic levels.

However, the higher the level, the closer one was to the top of the exponential curve. But the reverse was also true! At lower levels, there would be little difference between the powers. During exhaustion, with extreme injuries, even someone at the end of the 2nd stage could be vulnerable to 1st-stage magicians.

For this very reason, Vicente's weapons could end the lives of magicians much stronger than their limit because while the characteristics of the bullets were always constant, the qualities of their targets could vary greatly depending on the circumstances.

Vicente had learned this at the Academy of Stars and had no trouble understanding how Rory had killed Ryker.

"Excellent! With the death of Defiant Tyranny's leader, that faction will fall in a matter of hours. The same will happen with the bounty on my head!" Vice said with a smile, satisfied with what had happened to his enemy.

Without that bounty, the last thing that could stop Cesar from moving freely around the city would be the army that was against him.

But not having to worry about assassins was a good thing!

'Defiant Tyranny's supporters need a new group to pay them fees...' Vicente smiled at this thought.

The point of allowing a group like Defiant Tyranny to exist was to create a competitor to the Scarlet Syndicate and a fee-payer for noble houses and kingdom officials, such as soldiers and members of the Martial Court.

His disappearance would make room for the Scarlet Syndicate to grow, but it would also increase the need for a new group to emerge.

Considering the many threats he had made recently, Vicente felt he could use this to steer these people in a new direction.

'If they agree to ally with me, we can pacify the city, maintain the local balance of power, and make gains for all sides.' He clenched his fists, eager to get down to business.

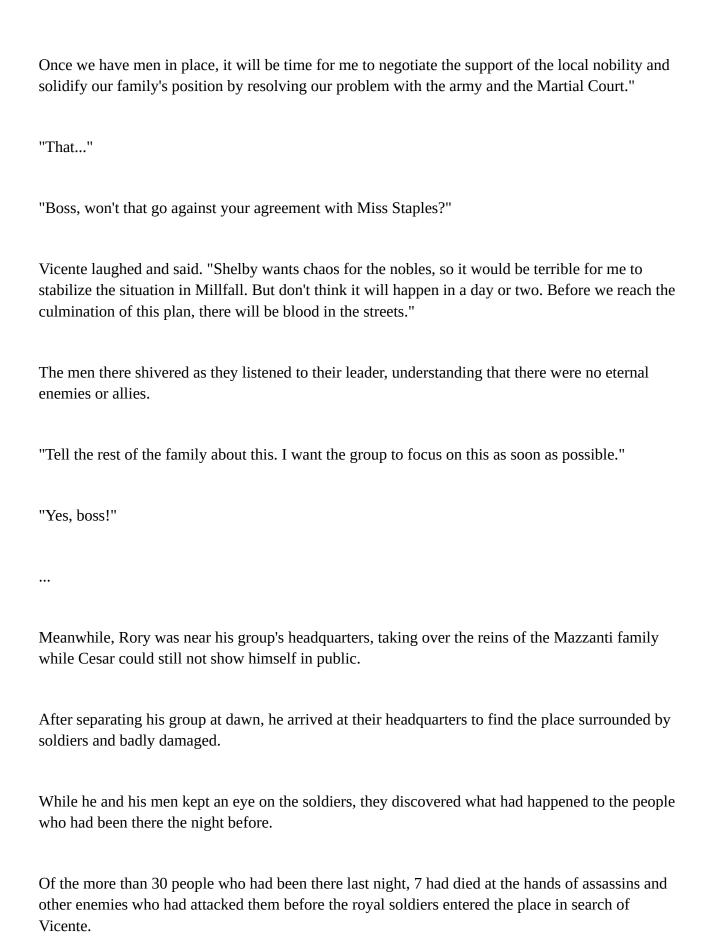
As a mafioso, Vicente was perfectly open to resolving a complicated situation with a deal. Sometimes, problems had to be solved with massacres and the extermination of entire families. But these were serious actions that shouldn't be considered until things reached their limits.

Don Cesar had often shaken hands with his enemies on Earth. If it weren't for his ability to negotiate and sit around the same table with his opponents, he wouldn't have even reached the top with his family, one of the most influential in his country.

Vicente knew Cesar's history and saw no problem in sitting at the same table with the nobles who had supported his enemies.

He ordered his men. "Very well, I have new plans for this city. First, we must regain what we lost the night before and expand into the territory of the Defiant Tyranny.

Let's put the Symons family problem aside for the moment and concentrate on occupying the space left by the Defiant Tyranny.



Most survivors had been injured, and only a group of five had escaped unharmed.

But between the injured and the uninjured, all the Acolytes in the group had been arrested by the royal forces, and only the Apprentices had escaped the worst and were free.

Realizing this after dozens of minutes of observation, Rory was worried sick when he rejoined his men.

"Deputy, the situation of the group is terrible. How are we supposed to maintain our operations if we don't have our most important men?" One of the men beside Rory asked.

"First, let's focus on finding the group's Apprentices. They're freed and must have gone to a safe place in town where we can find them." Rory said.

Even without their Acolytes, the Mazzanti family could still be considered very strong, for with Vicente's upgraded weapons, the Senior Apprentices had abilities similar to those of those Acolytes!

"If we find them and our Don finishes upgrading our weapons, we'll have enough strength to continue our operations."

"But how, deputy? Most of our group's weapons and items have been confiscated by the army." One of the men at Rory's side reminded the young man of this fact.

"And that's a problem? If they don't return them for good, we'll steal our weapons!"

## Chapter 170 Precious Possibility

A few hours into the day, Vicente finished meditating and recovering from the night before, having reached 72% progress at the Senior Apprentice level.

But soon after this morning's meditation, Vicente didn't stay at home but went out into the street with plans to start sorting out some matters that he could pursue with his real identity.

Leaving the house, he went to the academy where Nina had been studying, where he quickly gained access to the area to go to Shelby Staples, the teacher who he said had called him there this morning to talk about his sister.

Finding no problems at the academy and no one watching Shelby this morning due to the incident the night before, he was soon outside the class where this woman was teaching.

When he got there, Vicente saw Nina sitting very calmly in one of the first chairs in the classroom and sighed, realizing that his little sister was fine.

After waiting for five minutes, he finally saw the woman leave the classroom and come to see him after ignoring three knocks on the door.

Seeing that it wasn't an academy employee but her latest ally, Shelby's expression immediately changed, and she quickly made up an excuse to leave her students alone while she dealt with Vice.

As she approached him, she couldn't hide her nervousness and asked. "What happened the night before? Do you know how worried I was? You almost ruined all our plans!"

Vicente bitterly laughed. "It wasn't as if I had the situation under control... Anyway, what's done is done. But I have good news. Defiant Tyranny is finished."

"Really? You don't have to tell me. The Scarlet Syndicate attacked all of Defiant Tyranny's outposts in the early hours of this morning!" Shelby told Vicente, showing him how fast her allies were.

"Oh?"

"They killed a dozen of Defiant Tyranny's Acolytes who tried to steal the faction's members and got in their way. The rest of the members of that group defected during the attack, and today, Defiant Tyranny no longer controls any of their territories in Millfall!"

"As expected... Things are really chaotic. But you should be happy about it. No?" He asked, looking into the woman's eyes.

"You think I'm happy about a little chaos caused by unplanned actions? That's terrible! My way, the chaos in these noble families would be much worse! My way, there would be a revolution. Even the royal family would have to choose new nobles!"

Vice looked at her more seriously and said. "We'll see in the future. For now, I have nothing to do with what has already happened. I just came here to see how Nina is and tell you I'm adjusting my plans. In about three days, I plan to make my move."

"I'd be careful if I were you." She warned him. "With the royal army still the enemy of our mutual friend and now the Symons family wanting his head, I wouldn't act before I was sure of all the possibilities."

"I know. Don't worry, I'll be prepared." He said.

"I hope so, but is it true that there's a 3rd-stage basilisk in The Rocky Gorge?" She looked at him anxiously.

Vicente saw the power this woman had to have all this news before the middle of the day and realized that he would have to be more careful with her if he ever became her enemy.

But he answered her. "Yes, at least one of those beasts is in this area. Our friend would probably have died last night if it weren't for them."

Hearing this confirmation, Shelby gave him a somewhat mixed look.

"Do you know what this means for Millfall?"

"Danger?"

"Not only that... Opportunity." She said, despite her fear of one of those beasts coming to this town.

"Basilisks aren't just beasts protective about their territory. As powerful and hostile beings, they wouldn't hesitate to attack a city to make themselves stronger by devouring powerful things or people.

With last night's incident, it will only be a matter of time before it attacks us or we attack it.

Then there will be opportunities for us." She clenched her fists. "Not only is the body of a 3rd-stage basilisk valuable even to Mages, but so are its possessions.

Wherever its nest is, that basilisk will almost certainly have many valuable human possessions in it."

Basilisks, or beasts in general, could grow stronger by devouring their enemies. As creatures with little rationality and who acted instinctively, they usually hunted down strong humans who invaded their territories and sometimes attacked cities.

But the beasts had little or no use for human artifacts like those of the men who had chased Vicente the night before.

After devouring their prey, these creatures would store everything they found on their enemies in their nests!

Knowing it, Shelby couldn't ignore the potential basilisk hunt in The Rocky Gorge that would surely take place in a few weeks or months.

"Would you like to join the hunt?" Vicente looked at her with interest but also saw that she liked to take more risks than she seemed to.

"Not me, you." She grinned at him. "I'll take care of gathering information and supporting you. In return, you'll go to that place and give me a piece of what you get there."

"That won't work. I'm not strong enough to face that creature..."

"Don't be so quick to refuse. Think about it first." She said confidently. "If you consider it, I'll help you solve your problems with the Martial Court. Once that happens, your only troublesome enemy in town will be the Symons family.

But I can't get involved, or I would only make things more difficult for you."

Vicente said nothing when he heard that, keeping Shelby's words in his mind. "I'll think about it after I've handled this situation. I'll give you an answer in a few days."

"Perfect. I hope you won't disappoint me."

With that settled, Vicente said goodbye to Shelby and soon made his way to Nova's house, with whom he had many things to talk about despite being in his real identity.

He wanted to see her as Vicente before his next 'trip' out of Millfall, as he would soon be away from this place for days...

At the same time, he was a little worried about her after the night before and couldn't help but go to see her now at the beginning of the afternoon.