

The Mafia 201

Chapter 201 Night of Flames (3)

"Who did you see? Hey! Answer me!" The guard on the other side of the door asked the man on Vicente's back, slapping him across the face as he questioned.

But Vicente's subordinate seemed shocked, extremely weakened by his leader's blow earlier.

Vicente could have tried to leave this place the same way he came in. But he thought it would be very suspicious for one of his men to ask to go to the bathroom twice while coming to this place and staying only five minutes.

Even if it didn't cause him any immediate problems, he feared that once his bombs were detonated, it would make his Fuller family a possible suspect in today's attack.

To avoid this and to avoid implicating Nina in any way, Vicente decided to detonate his bombs while his group was still in the area.

Only then would they distance themselves from any possible connection to this attack after the incident was over.

Not only that but to prevent the Baron's family from distrusting his men, Vicente made it a point to order one of his men to save the Baron's life and "die" in a heroic act.

Vicente was aware that he couldn't wipe out this family that night. His goal was not to do so but only to destroy the possibility that this house would one day rise up against him because of what he had done to the Baron's third son.

Vincent hadn't fled through another part of the estate because not only were the exterior walls and doors and windows of the estate of a high standard, but it would also attract a lot of trouble.

This underground route was the safest way for him to escape.

No matter how problematic it might be, if he managed to leave this place alive, it would be impossible for him to be connected to this event!

That's why he stood his ground before that General, using words instead of his powers. "Senior, he's seriously injured. I'd like to take him to a doctor immediately. If he dies with the identity of our enemies in his head, I'm afraid we won't be able to do anything to seek justice!"

Upon hearing this, the level 7 General looked at the dusty, bloodied face of the young man in front of him.

"Tsk! Damn it! Go quickly!" He said.

Vicente looked at Lana and said. "Can you help me? I'm hurt, and I can't see straight."

"Go with him, Lana." The General said before taking over Lana's role of identifying the people on the other side of the door to allow them to enter this place.

Lana promptly did as she was told and went ahead of Vicente and his man, quickly disappearing from the previous area.

"Did you get it?" She asked, whispering to him.

"Yes. You'll get your share of the deal." Vicente said, unable to go against the agreement Rory had signed with this woman.

"Good! I'll leave this town with your men. I want you to leave me in Saltstar City." Lana smiled and planned her future after this day.

She hadn't planned to stay in Saltstar City. But she could go anywhere once she got there with the resources from this robbery.

Vicente's group couldn't act against her for a certain period because of the agreement they had signed with her, but even so, she wouldn't stay in this province. When she reached the largest city in the province, she intended to buy a ticket out of the kingdom and never return to this place.

Full of expectations for the future, she smiled when she heard that everything had worked out and guided Vicente through the part of the local sewer he didn't know how to move.

Only noble families and the army had a map of the local sewers.

Vicente's group had only been able to build their tunnel to a part of the sewer on the advice of Lena, who had recently accessed the map of the place.

After two minutes of running around the place, she finally arrived at the spot where she had instructed Rory and his group to dig an alternate tunnel.

There, Vicente quickly found a wall that appeared to be hollow, where he quickly used a spell based on the earth element to open the way to the beginning of the tunnel, 10 centimeters behind that wall.

Seeing the hole leading to an abandoned property in Millfall appear before her, Lana sighed and went in with Vicente.

While she led the way, Vicente used his powers to close the hole his men had made.

'Time to go home!' He sighed as he finally reached the property where his men had been working for the past few weeks.

Once there, he quickly gave Lena some jewels and coins, the equivalent of what had been promised.

With the equivalent of more than 1,500 gold coins in her possession, Lena thanked Vicente and asked him to say goodbye to Rory for her before following the Fuller family men who were waiting for her there in a carriage.

Watching her go, Vicente didn't mind that she was a witness to what he had done. Unlike on Earth, contracts were extremely difficult to break in this magic world.

If you promised not to talk about certain things, you wouldn't do it, or the heavens could severely punish you.

Lena could tell the truth about that day if she became much stronger than Rory and Vicente, but that was unlikely to happen.

Confident that he wouldn't have any problems with her, Vicente quickly put on his mask and walked through the darkness of the night shadows back to the Mazzanti family headquarters.

It was time for him to count the night's gains!

But as he made his way back to that place, he drank a restorative potion, cleaned himself of the traces of what he had done, and thought of the guests who should be waiting for him.

'It's time to guide the men of the Scarlet Syndicate...' He thought, remembering that these people should be waiting for him at his estate.

Although he didn't like handing over one of his weapon models to these people, he could at least use it as an alibi.

Even if he hadn't been on his property at the time of the attack on the Irwin estate, for people of this city, it would have been impossible for him to act against the Irwin family and be on his property in less than 10 minutes to teach the Scarlet Syndicate men a thing or two.

With that in mind, Vicente ignored the nighttime flames stirring up Millfall, worrying only about the men he had ordered to direct an attack on the Irwin estate.

But as long as they followed his plans, once Lena's carriage caught up with them outside Millfall, they could flee the area and hide until things calmed down.

Just like that, the greatest robbery of a noble family in Millfall ended!

Chapter 202 After the Attack?

Meanwhile, in the more affluent area of Millfall...

Three men ran toward the center of town as flames and the sound of explosions came from the direction of the Irwin estate.

But while several people on the outskirts of this wealthy area of Millfall watched from their doorsteps as the Irwin family estate went up in flames, the Baron of that family moved alongside Vicente's men.

"Your Grace, what shall we do? We'd like to help in some way." One of Vicente's two subordinates said, sounding like someone concerned for the financial well-being of one of his allies.

The Baron had no reservations about these men after all that had happened and after seeing these two almost die in the explosions around his estate a few moments ago.

So when he heard that question, he said. "I will go to the army headquarters. Why don't you go to Viscount Symons' estate? It would help me."

"That..."

"You can't?"

"To tell you the truth, Your Grace, young master Symons has a rivalry with our leader." One of the two men said. "Why don't we do the opposite of what you suggested? The two of us can alert the army while you seek help from the Viscount's family."

"Oh? Well, that works too." He said as he felt the cold night breeze cooling his sweaty body and gradually becoming less afraid of what had just happened.

Then he said. "All right, let's split up. I'll return your companion's body to your group when I can. In the meantime, I hope to see you with your leader in the future."

"Thank you. We'll be at Your Grace's disposal."

"I am the one who thanks you." Baron Irwin said, separating himself from the two.

In doing so, he soon made his way to the Symons family estate to seek help in locating and investigating those who might have been involved in this nighttime attack.

Men had attacked the outside of his house, and some had even managed to infiltrate the place. Considering that everything had just happened, if they followed them, they would have a chance to catch up with some of those bandits!

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While Baron Irwin went to the Symons estate, the two Fuller family representatives went to the army headquarters, not as quickly as they should have, but without delay.

As allies of the Irwin family, they couldn't look suspicious!

As they walked through the darkened streets of Millfall, the two were full of worry about their companions and whether their plans had worked.

"I wonder how Kevin is?" One of the two asked about the third of them who had been responsible for being struck by one of Vicente's lightning bolts that night.

"I don't know. But the boss knows what he's doing. The boss is the smartest and most talented person I know. So Kevin will probably survive if other problems don't get to him." Said the other soldier of the Mazzanti family.

They weren't unaware of the possibility of other things going wrong with their plans besides Vicente's move. There were many enemies on that estate, and several things could go wrong before Vice and Kevin could successfully escape.

Even if Kevin survived Vice's attack, many things could kill him after that.

Aware of the difficult reality of this world, these men remained skeptical as they moved to alert the army.

"Sigh... I hope everything works out. After today, we'll probably have less problems looking for pentagrams."

"Yes, I think so too. But anyway, let's alert the local forces. Time to finish our mission!"

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Minutes later, soldiers from the army post arrived at the Irwin family's semi-destroyed estate, surrounded the place, and began the standard protocol for such situations.

In charge of the group, Nova stood and organized her men, trying not to overthink how the town had suddenly become much more dangerous after the arrival of Cesar's group in the area.

She looked at her men and gave an order. "Do not let anyone from other forces near this place. I want to know what happened here before the curious contaminates the place.

Meanwhile, I want half of the group to follow the trail of the criminals who operated here earlier. Look for eyewitnesses and reports of people moving strangely toward the city exits. Let's get these bastards!"

"Yes, Captain!" Most of the dozen or so soldiers with her replied, moving quickly to carry out their orders.

She looked at a level 4 Acolyte and said. "Captain Olson, wait a minute."

"Captain?" The black-haired man looked at the beautiful Nova, but there was nothing but respect in his gaze for this level 5 woman.

After her last meeting with Vicente, Nova managed to advance to the next level and reached the end of the 2nd stage!

"Captain Olson, go to the Mazzanti family headquarters. I want to know what Cesar did tonight." She ordered, feeling that it would be good to question such a man.

"Cesar Mazzanti?" The man, dressed in a uniform similar to Nova's, with armor bearing the symbol of the royal family, looked at her strangely, knowing that this man was now a good citizen who had no problems with the law.

"For what reason, Captain? I'm sorry, but I don't see how Cesar has anything to do with it. I'm afraid the Commander won't like us getting close to this person." He said, thinking that maybe Nova had something personal against Cesar, even though she had gotten him out of trouble after The Rocky Gorge incident.

Nova didn't care about the man's opinion and said. "Do I have to repeat myself, Captain Olson? That's an order! I don't care if you like it!"

"Okay. I'll go see what Cesar is up to." He didn't want to argue with this woman and left without further questions.

Nova stayed behind, thinking about the man who had saved her.

'Cesar... Are you involved in this?' Her eyes narrowed as she saw some of the men from the Irwin family putting out the fire on the property alongside the soldiers in the area.

As she watched, something else was on her mind. 'Now, even Vicente was involved in a local situation, which had never happened before he arrived in this town.

Cesar, I will not forgive you if you harm the innocent members of the Fuller family!' She clenched her fists, thinking of how much this family had already suffered from being involved in local problems.

Vicente's emissaries were only there to do business. Still, now, this family would be associated with that incident, and they had even lost one of their men to those responsible for this nocturnal action!

Chapter 203 Final Preparations?

Meanwhile, at the Mazzanti estate...

Vicente had just arrived, dressed in a fine suit with the smell of wine on his body.

As he entered his estate, he didn't speak to any of his men about the outcome of the robbery, nor did anyone there bother him about it.

Having already left the man struck by one of his lightning bolts in one of the taverns in his territory, Vicente arrived alone to deal with the Scarlet Syndicate men.

He walked up to the people sent by the leader of that local underworld faction, greeted them, and after a brief introduction, began to talk about serious things.

"Well, let's not divert our plans any longer. I'll be leaving Millfall soon to hunt Magic Pentagrams with my men, so I'll teach you the basics for the next two days. After that, you'll be able to continue without my presence." He said to the men.

Hearing that, one of the men there, eager to learn, asked. "How will we resolve our doubts in your absence?"

Learning the basics was the most important thing in anything new. From the basic techniques, one could often develop one's skills related to them, even without a guide.

But of course, having someone to correct them when they made mistakes could make a difference in how quickly they learned to develop the weapons they would be responsible for creating.

Vicente said. "What I will teach you in these two days will be enough for the most talented of you to learn all you need to on your own. As long as you practice every day, you'll master it in two or three weeks.

Making these weapons is not as difficult as you might think. The main thing is to take care of their final assembly so that only we can take them apart without damaging them.

But even if one of you has a question, I'll have some of my men, who I have already trained to assemble these weapons, help you. This should be enough for you to start making these weapons yourselves in a month."

Cesar looked like a genius, and knowing his metalworking skills, none of these men doubted his talent for forging.

What was easy for him wasn't necessarily easy for them!

However, after hearing that even the men in this group could do such a thing, not even the most concerned about Vicente's absence continued to question him.

With the agreement of these men, Vicente soon began to show them the pieces they would need to forge to assemble the model of the weapon he had promised Brody.

He did this for a few minutes until one of his men approached him with a soldier from the royal army.

Arriving in that room where several men from the Scarlet Syndicate were studying the production methods of weapons components, the soldier sent by Nova sweated as he saw several well-known names in this city standing there with Cesar.

'It seems the Scarlet Syndicate is closer to the Mazzanti family than before...' He thought to himself, more afraid of questioning Cesar because of Nova's request.

"It seems Mister Mazzanti is busy. I think maybe I should come here another time. I really don't want to get in the way." He said, thinking that Cesar probably had nothing to do with today's incident.

The level 1 Acolyte next to him smiled under his mask, seeing that his leader was gaining more and more respect locally.

Vicente's entire group had been expecting soldiers to knock on their door tonight. It didn't take a genius to predict such a thing. After all, they were the fastest-growing group, and their name had been talked about all over town. It was only natural that they would be considered after an event of such proportions at the Irwin estate.

When one of Vicente's men heard the royal soldier's comment, he couldn't help but feel good to see that even if the soldier was there to question what Vice had done that night, such a man seemed scared and not so interested in being accusatory.

That was great!

But Vicente was already looking in his direction and soon left the Scarlet Syndicate men studying alone to approach such a soldier.

"Royal soldiers are always welcome on my property," Vicente said in a good-natured tone. "As a citizen of the kingdom, it is my duty to help the royal forces whenever they come to my home.

Captain, what can I do for you today?"

The man was pleased to see that Vicente wasn't as defensive and overbearing as old underworld members and was quite approachable even with his already high local position.

"Mister Mazzanti, I'm sorry to disturb you. I was sent here to ask simple questions. After that, I will leave." The black-haired soldier said.

"What did you do tonight?"

"Tonight?" Vicente asked in a surprised tone. "Before I came here to meet my friends, I had a drink with one of my clients."

Before coming here, Vicente had dropped off the man he was carrying on his back at River and Zander's tavern.

He had already instructed them to close their tavern earlier that day for a "dinner" between them, where he had had a few drinks while leaving his man there earlier.

Since the two of them already knew what to talk about if they were questioned, Vicente wasn't worried and had a better alibi than some of his local enemies might have expected from him.

'Who in the army sent this idiot to me? Is it Nova?' Vicente thought to himself, aware that the beautiful woman had helped him but that she had only done so to pay off her debt to him.

This had not been the sign of an ally who would help him. It had been the gesture of an enemy who didn't want to owe him a favor.

Smelling wine coming from Vicente's body, the soldier believed him. "Is that so?"

The soldier was glad to hear that because he didn't want any trouble with a monster like Vicente, who could eliminate even mid-level Acolytes even when he was a Senior Apprentice.

But now, Cesar was a level 1 Acolyte, which made him many times stronger than before!

"If that's all, I have no further questions. I'll pass this information on to the superior who sent me here, and I believe everything will be fine." He smiled before shaking Vicente's hand.

"Hmm, say hello in my name to this person," Vicente said before watching him leave, the last annoyance he would have to deal with tonight.

After that, he would use a break later in the evening to count his winnings from today's attack and distribute some of the potions and resources to his men.

Unfortunately, they couldn't show much buying power to avoid attracting the attention of the Scarlet Syndicate or the local powers, so Vice kept most of the coins and resources he had earned tonight.

When he went to Ironcrest, he could use them to buy resources for his family secretly!

Chapter 204 Night of Departure (1)

Three days later...

After the previous situation in Millfall, a lot happened in the town due to the investigation regarding the robbery of the Irwin estate.

After the initial investigation, the Irwin family discovered they had lost virtually all of their wealth in the estate's vault!

That wasn't all the Irwin family had, as the Baron had a fair amount in his spatial ring, while his children and wives also had valuable items with them. However, the family had lost more than 60% of the savings they had accumulated over the past few decades.

Due to the magnitude of the robbery, the survivors of House Irwin were naturally furious and had already started spreading rumors throughout the city that their family might not be the only noble house to suffer such a thing.

If nothing was done, other families might suffer as well!

As a result, all the noble houses with property in the city were on alert and participated in the investigation and search for the culprits.

But since that day, no one has been arrested. In addition to some of the dead who had perished in the incident, some survivors who had been seen leaving the estate were missing.

With clues to follow, the Irwin family, the other noble houses, and even the army had been working around Millfall for the past few days, doing what they could to seek justice.

This had, of course, affected the lives of the people of Millfall, and even the local academies had been disrupted.

Curfews had been posted every night shortly after dusk, and people were keeping an eye on the underworld's business, waiting for individuals to make unusual purchases or sell specific items.

Many people were scared and avoided doing business these days, and even the Scarlet Syndicate felt such consequences.

In the midst of all this, however, no one bothered the Mazzanti family, who, after the previous soldier's visit, were not connected to the incident that night.

Meanwhile, Vicente was still in town, preparing for his group's trip to the Alpine Woodpecker Forest.

After spending the last two days training the men sent by the Scarlet Syndicate to make a model firearm, Vicente had finally completed his local duties and would be leaving Millfall tonight!

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At the Mazzanti family estate...

At this moment, Vicente was facing a group of 28 soldiers of his family, all of them Acolytes.

After the last few days, this family's group had grown with the reinforcements from Martell Village, reaching its highest level since its creation, now with 78 men.

Of these 78 people, most of whom were men, half of the group were Apprentices, and the other half were Acolytes, or Generals comparable to low and mid-level Acolytes.

Generals were people who may or may not have Magic Gems but who followed the path of body art and used mana to strengthen their bodies when using martial arts.

This was a relatively simple path compared to that of a magician. As such, it had many more limitations regarding how far one could go. But for low-level places like this area of Scott Province, it wasn't a problem.

Generals between levels 4 and 8 were comparable to Acolytes between levels 1 and 5 regarding combat ability.

Vicente wasn't unaware of their potential in places like Millfall, so there were a dozen of them in his group, not counting the mercenaries who worked for them outside.

With the recent increase in the number of Mazzanti family men and the resources gained from robbing the Irwin family, some things had changed in the group's power configuration.

With 78 members, of which 62 were warrior magicians and 16 were Generals, the group now consisted of 10 Junior Apprentices, 8 Intermediate Apprentices, 16 Senior Apprentices, 26 level 1 Acolytes, and 2 level 2 men, plus, of course, the Generals between levels 4 and 6.

Of these men, Vicente couldn't take all 28 Acolytes in the group on the hunt for Magic Pentagrams, even if they had all reached a point where they needed to go in search of these magical essences.

The Mazzanti family had a territory to maintain and even expand!

With that in mind, Vicente would leave 10 Acolytes and all of the group's Generals in this city to keep things in order and continue his group's current projects.

In front of him were all the Acolytes of the Mazzanti family, those he intended to take with him on this trip, and the men he intended to leave in charge of the group in his and Rory's absence.

Seeing these men with smiles on their faces, Vicente quickly called out the names of 10 of them, all level 1 Acolytes, most of them newly promoted individuals.

As these 10 men smiled and the other 18 looked at them, Vicente said. "Those I've just called will stay in Millfall to take care of our operations. The rest of you will accompany Rory and me on the journey we're beginning tonight."

The 18 men smiled in satisfaction at these words, while the 10 individuals sighed, realizing they had been given false hope.

But they wouldn't be left behind for long.

"Those of you who are staying, once our group returns, I will select some men to help you hunt for your pentagrams in the surrounding area." He said, easing the situation for those who would stay behind.

"Anyway, be careful for the days I'll be gone. Don't do anything exaggerated, and if you have to bow to powerful nobles or magicians, do it without much question.

Just write down everything relevant. When my group returns, we'll deal with any problems."

With that, the people there soon dispersed, with those who were leaving going to organize their things for the journey while the others returned to their posts.

A few minutes after the meeting with Vicente, a red-haired masked man entered the mansion and went straight to Vicente.

"Ready to go?" Vicente looked at Rory and saw that although this man had not yet reached level 1 of the Acolyte stage, he was at the peak of the Senior Apprentice level.

At the rate he was going, Rory would certainly reach level 1 before the group entered the Alpine Woodpecker Forest!

Rory smiled at his friend, looking forward to the start of this journey that could completely change his group's situation in Millfall.

"Yeah. When do we leave? I'm ready to leave this 'quiet' town." The red-haired young man took off his mask, smiling eagerly for this moment.

Vicente was also eager to get stronger and said. "At dusk."

"Good! Only a few hours are left, so I'll meditate until then."

When Vicente saw his friend go to the underground training room, he didn't disturb Rory, leaving him to talk about some relevant things after they left the city.

A long carriage ride awaited them!

Chapter 205 Night of Departure (2)

As night fell over Millfall, a group of three carriages set out from the Mazzanti family estate toward the eastern exit of the city.

There were 20 men in the three carriages, 19 of them Acolytes and only 1 Senior Apprentice.

Eight men were in the front carriage, 4 on the outside and the rest inside of it, the same formation as the rear carriage.

Only the middle carriage had fewer people in it, with two men controlling the horses, the group's leaders inside it.

The carriage was very similar to the other two, with nothing special about its design or interior. But there were the leaders of this group, Vicente and Rory, one in front of the other, with masks on their faces, just like all the other men in this and the other two carriages.

Both were very well dressed, as usual. However, neither of them cared about that as they chatted and watched their group slowly leave town.

"How were your last days in public?" Vicente asked his friend.

He hadn't had time to talk about Rory in the last few days. Vice had focused all his time on dealing with the Scarlet Syndicate men and organizing his group for the coming days.

In addition to the men who had come from the village and joined the Mazzanti family headquarters in the last few days, Vicente had also been busy with some extensions of his territory and agreements with nobles.

He had visited two noble families, as Cesar Mazzanti, and made some promises regarding the agreements he had made earlier to exonerate his name.

In addition, his territory now had 31 commercial establishments, more than half of the ones in the eastern part of the city, where no one had previously dominated.

In addition to these agreements, which would guarantee him more than 250 gold coins a month for his family starting next month, Vicente had his men ready to expand into the territory previously controlled by the Defiant Tyranny faction.

He also hadn't stopped studying the materials he'd received from the Millfall Blacksmiths' Association and training his magical powers. As a result, he was unaware of many of Rory's accomplishments over the past few days.

Rory heard his friend's question and smiled, for he had done important things for the future. "I met with Lukas' group earlier and contacted some of his associates.

I don't have anything definite yet, but after investigating these people, I'm confident that as long as we finance them, we could soon have an engineer and an enchanter in our family."

"Oh?" Vicente liked what he heard.

Even if Rory didn't get more than that through his contacts through Lukas, it would be good enough.

Vicente was confident that he could make a deal between himself and Lukas when he returned from this trip. That would give him three young professionals with a long future ahead of them who could join his family.

He would still need a doctor and an alchemist to complete a group with representatives of the most important professions. But that was something he could do later.

He had the card of an alchemist, Liam, from whom he and Rory had bought resources before. This young alchemist looked very promising, and Vice was thinking of approaching him once this journey was over.

With that, he would only need to find a doctor, perhaps the most relevant professional for him at the moment, since he had many concerns about Nina.

Nina was 8-years-old, and time was short. If she didn't get special treatment by the time she turned 14, Vicente knew that her fate in the face of magic would be dark and small.

He had to get a doctor, and he had to raise them to the highest level possible!

"This is not bad. We'll be fine with the resources for the next two or three months." Vicente commented. "What we lack is contacts. These people you've met are critical to us, not only because of their potential to become our companions but because they can introduce us to others with that potential.

When we return, I want you to develop your relationship even with those who are not interested in joining us. Let's see where that takes us."

"OK."

Rory was also aware of how little time Nina had and worried about her as if she were his sister. With Vicente in such a hurry and both in agreement with these plans, there was nothing to argue about.

When they had finished talking about it, their group of carriages finally left the last bit of street in Millfall and entered the dirt road they would follow for the next few hours.

Alpine Woodpecker Forest was a few days' journey from Millfall by ordinary wagon.

With no other means of travel and depending on the few and precarious roads in the province, Vice and his party would have a long and tiring journey ahead of them.

But that didn't mean it would be boring!

As soon as they left Millfall, the Mazzanti party encountered several men, mercenaries, royal soldiers, and guards from local families who were scouting the area.

After 10 minutes of traveling by carriage, their group came upon a group of soldiers standing directly in front of them, blocking the road.

"Boss, there are royal soldiers up ahead telling us to get off the carriages." One of the men controlling the horses in the carriage said, informing the two leaders inside the vehicle.

Hearing this, Vicente was not surprised. "This must be about the robbery of the Irwin family." He muttered and motioned for his men to obey the royal soldiers.

"Let's see who's watching this place." He looked at Rory, and the two of them walked down the two side doors of the brown carriage.

As they did so, Vice immediately spotted a beautiful blue-haired woman.

"Nova Bain..." Rory looked at his friend immediately after spotting the blue-haired beauty. "I wonder what this woman wants?"

"I don't know. Let's hear her out. It's always good to talk to Captain Bain." Vice said as Rory looked at him.

"What are your intentions with this woman? Don't you think getting involved with her after everything is dangerous?" Rory asked as he walked beside his friend to where Nova and the other soldiers who stopped them were.

"Don't underestimate her. She's more talented and powerful than you think. She's important not only for the situation in Millfall but also for her potential in the Seidel Kingdom. We are small today, my friend, but I must plan for the future, considering we will one day leave this town, perhaps even the province.

She has access to the largest organization in the kingdom, which even has Sovereigns under its influence!" Vicente said, just before he came face to face with Nova's group, so he could no longer talk to Rory about it.

"Captain, it's good to see you again!" He said in a good-natured tone.

Chapter 206 Beginning of the Journey to the Alpine Woodpecker Forest

"Cesar..." Nova looked at the black-haired, silver-masked, well-dressed man as if he were just an ordinary shopkeeper, but she didn't see in him the figure that many who didn't know him could see when watching him in a situation like this.

This man's refinement wouldn't fool her. This was the man who had coldly killed several Acolytes when he was still an Apprentice.

This person had monstrous abilities, but he didn't need them to defeat those who were stronger. With a simple weapon and his calculating skills, he could kill half of such a group nearby in a matter of seconds!

"What are you doing, Cesar?" She asked him.

News of the Mazzanti family and their glorious leader spread daily through Millfall. But only his allies knew of his plans, especially his goal of traveling in search of pentagrams.

Noticing that this beautiful blue-haired woman didn't know where he was going, Vicente answered her. "I am going to hunt pentagrams. I've recently advanced a stage, and some of my men are in the same situation... Why? Will the Captain miss me?"

Nova ignored his comment as the men there watched the situation in silence.

She said. "I would like to search your carriages. We're here to check for possible clandestine exits from our city.

Does everyone in your party have their identification in hand?"

"Of course," Vicente said, understanding that they were looking for people without ID who might be leaving the city secretly.

Everyone who lived in the kingdom's cities had IDs registered in the same city. Once you create one of these identities, the entire Seidel Kingdom army, in this province or any other, would know your origin, and it would be impossible to make another.

With something like that, the soldiers in the group could tell if there was someone who didn't live in Millfall.

But would knowing that make any difference? After all, the criminals who recently attacked the Irwin family could be locals. At the same time, even if someone weren't a resident of Millfall, not every visitor would be a criminal.

But the army had its own methods of investigation. After a few days of being involved in the local investigation, they knew everyone who had recently entered the city and were gradually checking who had left the city in the past few days and who was leaving every day. So they couldn't determine the culprit, but they could find suspicious people who, if investigated thoroughly, could lead them to crucial information.

Unfortunately for Nova, everyone in Vicente's group had been living in Millfall for weeks and had local roles that could easily be checked to prove where they were before, during, and after the incident a few days ago.

There was no one there who wasn't properly registered in Millfall, let alone people hiding in their carriages.

After a quick check of Vicente's men's carriages and IDs, a soldier stopped next to Nova, Vice, and Rory and said. "Captain, everything is in order with their group."

Nova had expected this and told her men to release the Mazzanti family.

But before Vicente and Rory returned to their carriage, she told him. "Don't think I don't know it was you, Cesar. I may not have any proof, but I know it was you! It's the only possible explanation!"

Vice looked at her in silence, noticing she was determined to pursue him.

He laughed and said. "You have a very vivid imagination, Captain. I look forward to hearing your humorous comments when I return from my journey."

As he walked back to his carriage, he waved his hand and said. "By the way, congratulations on reaching level 5. You're as talented as you're beautiful, Captain."

Nova clenched her fists and looked in Cesar's direction with an ugly expression, wanting to hit him. Unfortunately, she had no proof against this person.

"Clear the way!"

She ordered, quickly getting the men in her group to clear the way for the Mazzanti family's three carriages.

With that done, Vicente's group would leave this blockade behind and continue on to their destination.

...

A few days later...

The town gradually returned to normal after the group led by Cesar Mazzanti left Millfall.

The Irwin family still wanted someone to punish. Of course, its members were angry about all they had lost and suffered that fateful day. They and their allies still hadn't found anyone to punish. Still, as the days passed, the local forces lost interest in continuing the investigation.

It wasn't cheap to keep several specialists, mercenaries, and many others in the city looking for enemies.

Even the army didn't want to invest too much in the matter, as they were preparing to hunt down the 3rd stage basilisks in The Rocky Gorge.

The group looking for people to punish even had someone to blame for everything. It was a servant of the Irwin family, Lena, who had gone missing and was already considered an outlaw with a bounty on her head. But with her having fled without a trace, the local authorities had little to go on.

As the days passed, with no trace of Lena, the local powers gradually returned to normal while the Irwin family learned to live with their new situation.

'Impoverished' as they were, the members of this house couldn't afford to waste all their influence and the few resources they had on a fruitless hunt!

In addition to the bounty they had placed on Lena's head, this house practically accepted its defeat, something unheard of in local history.

As a result, the population commented on the matter daily, with low-level townspeople, servants, outsiders, and low-income mercenaries secretly celebrating the Irwin family's defeat.

Although many people had nothing against the family, they were part of the kingdom's dirty power system.

For those who suffered under the system and had to put up with arrogant young masters and laws that only worked when they punished the weakest and poorest, it was a great joy to see a noble family suffer without being able to take revenge.

As the city returned to normal, in taverns like River's, people young and old, with or without awakened magic powers, dealt with the subject in much the same way.

To them, what had recently happened in this city was no different than a novel at its climax, when an antagonist was finally punished. As "spectators" of this important event, many were happier to see the successful robbery of the Irwin property than to see good things happen to themselves.

Even though they weren't directly involved with the group that carried out the robbery, nor could they be affected by the Irwin family's loss, many people in this town were as happy as if they had won prizes over the past few days!

Chapter 207 Breakthrough?

In a tavern in Millfall...

At that moment, a group of middle-aged men dressed like common laborers in dirty clothes sat around a wooden table full of glasses and bottles.

These men had cigarettes and glasses in their hands. Some were smiling, others were eating snacks, but all were cheerful as they talked about the moment of historical karma that Millfall was experiencing.

"The Irwin property thieves are men of the people. These are people who have done justice!" One of the drunken men said.

Another worker, who had spent the last few days in the countryside and only arrived in town this evening to learn of the matter, said. "This is the first time in my life that I've seen nobles suffer!

I thought I would never have the chance to see these scum suffer, but now everything has changed. With the actions of the Irwin Estate thieves, we know it's possible."

Typically, nobles would only lose to other nobles or magicians of a much higher level. But as far as they knew, those who had attacked the Irwin family weren't much stronger than some of Baron Irwin's guards.

Not only was the power of this group of bandits not high, but they had also managed to escape without leaving a trace!

This was the most important thing. By robbing the vault in that house, the group had truly made a great contribution to the society of people who had only lost and been oppressed.

Even though they gained nothing, they felt the weight of being oppressed daily by families like Irwin's finally diminish!

'If I knew who they were, I'd do everything I could to help them.' Thought one of the men as he imagined all the groups like his supporting these thieves.

At the thought of a rebellion, a revolution, this man couldn't help but shiver, moved but aware of how difficult it would be.

It was really hard to imagine a world where they would no longer have to suffer defeats!

This state had justice and a system of laws with predictable punishments. But as in some places on Earth, the rules of this world only apply to the mediocre.

Those above average had their own ways of turning the system in their favor and living outside the law.

On the last level was the royal family, the only power in this state where none of the laws applied to them, and only members of the royal family themselves could judge other members of the royal family.

These ordinary people couldn't imagine equality, so for them, the defeat of a noble family and perhaps the emergence of a group that could terrorize these forces was something they could appreciate and support from afar.

In addition to this group, several others were discussing the same thing and celebrating in different situations around Millfall.

...

But even the Awakening Temple members in this city were talking about it, seeing it differently, of course, but still interested in the recent events in Millfall.

In one of the rooms on the upper level of the building, run by members of the Congregation of Revelation, a group of similarly dressed people were gathered, going about their business while chatting.

"Jasmine, have you heard the news circulating in this city lately?" A relatively young man with a green Magic Gem on his head looked at a woman on the other side who was there to collect the latest data on the awakenings from this temple.

Jasmine, a young-looking woman with pink hair, nodded approvingly. "How could I not have heard? When I checked into a local inn earlier, I overheard some of the staff talking about the robbery of the Irwin family.

It seems that this family lost a lot of resources in that incident."

"Most importantly. No one knows who was responsible for it. The thieves got away with all the resources in that family's vault." This man commented with a twinkle in his eye.

Most of the members of this continental organization came from simple backgrounds. To see one of them excited about a robbery like this wouldn't be so strange, despite their positions.

"And what does it matter to you, Mark?" Jasmine asked as she jotted down a particular name on a list she had with her.

'Fuller...'

Her companions, who were in this city to collect data, also had documents from this Awakening Temple in their hands as they were doing their usual work within this organization.

"Because we have much to gain from it, Jasmine." The man got right to the point. "I have a record of every single thing that has been stolen from that estate. If you help me, we can put out an alert for the possible trafficking of these jewels.

Whoever robbed House Irwin may have the equivalent of nearly 30,000 gold coins. If we find them, we can divide these resources equally."

"Oh? So you want to rob the bandits?" She took her eyes off the plate in her hands to look into the man's eyes.

"Why not? They're thieves. Who will they complain to?" Mark smiled. "Besides, we can put these resources to better use than those thieves, Jasmine. With your skills and potential, you could quickly improve your position at the capital.

Think about it. The realization of your goals may depend on it!"

Jasmine dropped what she was holding to think about this proposal. With her powers within the Congregation of Revelations and her magical form, she had a way to reach the group of bandits. Not only that, if she could get her hands on those coins, she could easily get the resources to become a Mage and buy herself a higher position within that organization.

"Give me a day to think about it."

...

While many ordinary people celebrated Vicente's theft and others plotted against him, his party had covered more than half the distance between Millfall and Alpine Woodpecker Forest in the past few days.

In order to reach this point in their journey, they faced several minor challenges on their way to their current location, having to deal with magical creatures and even humans.

Two days ago, a group of bandits attacked them and nearly killed some of the men in the group. However, with their firearms, these people overcame the unprepared enemies and survived that challenge.

After that, they had been a little more careful on their journey, and this afternoon, they finally stopped to rest in a village on the way to their destination.

It hadn't been in the group's plans to make this stop, but after days of training on the road, Rory had reached the peak of the 1st stage and was ready to try his luck.

It wouldn't be safe to do so in a forest region with the presence of magical creatures they didn't know about, so immediately after Rory had informed Vice this morning, he had led the group to the nearest village on their way.

They were now in a small inn in that village while Rory had been meditating for over an hour in pursuit of his breakthrough.

But unlike what had happened with Vicente, Rory's breakthrough didn't take long. Within the second hour of his meditation, everyone in his group felt a sudden surge of power from the room he was in.

Rory had reached level 1 of the Acolyte stage!

Chapter 208 The Truth About Magic Pentagrams?

Minutes after the signal to advance a level came from Rory's room, Vicente walked in unaccompanied and immediately found his friend standing there, feeling the changes he had undergone.

"Congratulations on moving up a level, hehe. Now we'll be able to hunt pentagrams without reservations." Vicente approached Rory with a smile on his face before patting the redhead's shoulder and giving him a hug.

"Thank you. And yes, I'm looking forward to it." Rory smiled genuinely, finally overcoming the anxiety about his breakthrough that he had been feeling for the last few days.

"When do we leave?"

Listening to his red-haired friend, Vicente walked over to a sofa in the room. "At dawn. It's not good to venture into unknown territory at night. But after that, we'll go straight to our destination. We're not that far from that area anymore."

Rory sat down on the bed in the 30 square meter room, decorated with few things since it was a simple place. "How do we proceed with the pentagram hunt?"

Magic pentagrams were important for people who could awaken their magical powers and for some types of magical beings. They stabilized the mana in these beings and gave them abilities. But that was the most superficial part of this vital element of the magic world!

If analyzed more deeply, Magic Pentagrams would not be seen as mere tools that were mainly useful to humans. They were magical essences of different kinds of beings that could be found all over the realm.

In short, any being that didn't need to absorb pentagrams to strengthen itself could produce these essences in its body.

So, a certain magical beast could generate a pentagram and develop it as it grew stronger. This pentagram would naturally have characteristics associated with the beast that generated it, and its level, represented by its color, would be equivalent to that being's magical refinement.

This didn't mean that a first-level, red, pentagram would necessarily be formed after the beast matured into a 1st-stage beast. That might happen to some, but some beings could finish forming their first-level pentagram when they were already in the 2nd stage.

Even though there were several levels of magic, it didn't mean that there were the same number of different levels of pentagrams!

In any case, any magical being that didn't need to absorb pentagrams to stabilize its power, be it beasts, vegetables, or even minerals, could generate this type of essence.

Usually, those who generated pentagrams were magical beings, organisms with magical metabolism. But a stone or a river could also produce these essences under certain circumstances!

For example, any Magic Gem was capable of generating pentagrams that were similar to the power of the person who absorbed it. But gems were not living beings.

Why could they produce pentagrams?

The answer to this question was related to the origin of the pentagrams, the elements.

Normally, the elements in nature were scattered chaotically, so they couldn't come together to form these unique essences.

What happened was that it was only inside living bodies that these elements were refined to the point where a transformation took place, and these special essences were produced.

But certain areas of this vast realm, under certain circumstances, could meet the requirements to create a pentagram over time!

Because of their special spiritual nature, Magic Gems could fulfill these conditions 100% of the time.

But these conditions could be fulfilled by different things.

A stone with the simple ability to absorb mana could, over countless years, one day give birth to a pentagram. A river could exist for millions of years, and then one day, something happens, and suddenly, a pentagram is born.

The possibilities were endless!

Because the formation of these non-living pentagrams was so special, they were the most valuable to magicians.

They didn't come from living beings, so they would never have anything in them that would make it difficult for magicians to absorb them. At the same time, they were much purer than those produced by living beings and had the same characteristics as those produced by Magic Gems, that is, of developing together with the one who absorbed them.

But they were also scarce, and neither of the two young men expected to find one along their path now.

Vicente answered his friend's question. "The book we got from Defiant Tyranny will take us somewhere. I don't know if it can help us get pentagrams, but I intend to follow the path to the end before I go after my second pentagram.

But before we go all the way, I want to hunt the pentagrams for at least half of our men. We can't underestimate that area.

If even The Rocky Gorge has a 3rd stage beast, we can't rule out the possibility that Alpine Woodpecker Forest has something like that as well."

"Then I'll do the same," Rory said. "If we don't find a creature that's very compatible with me, I'll leave it to hunt for my pentagram after we reach the end of that map."

A magician would always use the word 'hunt' to refer to the search for pentagrams. After all, most of them were created by living beings, many of whom could move around freely.

So, 'hunting' wasn't entirely wrong, even though some pentagrams were created by immobile living beings or even by non-living beings who were also immobile.

Hunting pentagrams was like looking for a wild animal and then taming it.

One would have to find it by its tracks, chase it, and finally conquer it. But even after that, one would still have to overcome the creature's remaining wild will and dominate the pentagram until it was integrated into one's being.

Because of this, beings of this group's race saw this process as a hunt, a hunt that could make them stronger or kill them.

Just as it was dangerous for humans to hunt wild boar on Earth, it could be dangerous for magicians to hunt pentagrams in Polaris Realm!

Magicians like them wanted pentagrams, while on the other hand, the living beings capable of generating these essences would protect themselves, and not only that, they would try to destroy and devour their enemies, something that could also make them stronger.

Because of the importance of the subject and the danger involved, the two young people talked about it seriously, without joking about the situation, just because they were talented and strong for their age.

"All right. Let's focus our efforts on helping our men get the ideal pentagrams for their talent level." Vicente commented before getting up to go back to his room.

"Get as much rest as you can. We won't be able to do this for a few days starting tomorrow."

"Okay. You should do the same, Vice."

Chapter 209 Orders Before the Hunt?

Days later...

After Rory's advance on the village their group had passed through and stopped for a night, the group continued their journey toward the Alpine Woodpecker Forest.

Having encountered no major problems for a group of their level, they reached the entrance to this forest area in the eastern part of Scott Province this morning.

As they followed the dirt road in front of them, the people in the three carriages of the Mazzanti family could already see the surrounding mountains, green in the lower parts but covered with ice on their peaks.

The view was breathtaking, but the abundance of plants, animals, and mana in the surrounding area was even more remarkable.

"Impressive!"

"This place looks perfect for meditation!"

"Yes, the free mana around here seems denser than in Millfall."

Some of the men controlling the carriages commented among themselves upon noticing this fact.

Polaris Realm was a living world!

Not only did islands, continents, and everything in between move around but there were areas with different levels of wealth.

Certain places were much better for growing certain types of crops, while others were very good for meditation, the process by which magicians could absorb free mana in nature and strengthen their bodies, souls, etc.

Not only that but how good a place could be for certain living beings didn't just depend on how blessed a particular place was. Sometimes, the quality of an area depended more on the individual characteristics of the beings.

A volcanic area might be vibrant for a being based on elements directly or indirectly associated with high temperatures. Still, it might be deplorable for a being of the opposite nature.

Magicians were the most complex beings in this world, and within the same race, they could have completely different affinities, something that didn't happen between other races in this world.

But even with so many possibilities between them, most had more or less similar needs as most were beings with mediocre talents and affinities.

As this was an area of common elemental affinities but a little richer than the Millfall area, everyone there realized the difference between their city and this place.

"This place is fascinating. There must be several groups of powerful beasts in this area." Rory commented to Vicente, imagining they would have to fight their way through.

"Yes. Considering that this is the home of the Woodpecker birds, this tribe cannot be weak. We'll have to watch out for them." Vicente commented, feeling that the members of the race that named this region might become a problem for his group.

"But if we have problems with these beings, as long as they're not too dangerous, we can get good pentagrams for our men with an elemental affinity for wood," Rory commented, knowing that some men in his group could benefit from this.

Upon hearing this, Vicente said to the people in front of his carriage. "Let's make a stop. I want to talk to the whole group before we go any deeper."

"Okay, boss!"

In an instant, the group of carriages stopped, and all the men walked over to Vicente and Rory's carriage.

"From now on, we'll encounter more danger on our journey, but not only that, we're entering the area where we'll find the easiest targets for our hunt. So get ready to make camp and start to go after our objective here. I want to hunt at least 9 pentagrams in the next 3 days!"

Most of the pentagram-forming beings themselves did not move freely outside of their dominion. Therefore, their group couldn't simply continue their journey to the place indicated on their map. It might even happen that one or the other of these beings showed up without them going after them, but it was unlikely that many of these beings would come to them.

Not only that, but each person had their own ideal pentagram. So it could also happen that no being compatible with the men in Vicente's group happened to come their way.

The name pentagram hunting was no accident. They really had to hunt!

So Vicente planned to set up camp as soon as he reached an area deeper in the region where they could study creatures with the potential to help his men.

The people in his group knew how pentagram hunting worked, as it was a primary subject taught in every academy in the kingdom.

Even less talented people knew the basics, and everyone there readily agreed, looking forward to getting their pentagrams.

Vicente said. "But I can't promise that all of you will get the best possible pentagrams for your level. Some of you will probably have to absorb red pentagrams."

The ideal for a 2nd-stage magician was to have the first pentagram red and the second orange.

But even though there was only a one-level difference between these two types of pentagrams, the difference was much greater than anyone could imagine.

While someone in the 2nd stage with the average talent of these men could absorb a red pentagram with relative ease, there was a risk of failure with orange pentagrams.

Above that, one could even die if they dared to absorb something of a higher level!

The men in Vicente's group had red and orange talents, low talents that would make the whole situation much more complicated for them.

Those with red talents had little chance of absorbing orange pentagrams.

Knowing this, Vicente didn't wait for the moment when some of these men might want to try something more difficult than they could handle but made it clear to everyone that some would have to accept something closer to their reality.

The level of the pentagram did not limit their future, only their ability to fight with their skills. A magician's potential and progress pace was determined by talent, something that could hardly be changed.

As a result, some of the crowd felt sorry for themselves, but they didn't question the words of their leader, who knew more about these theories than anyone else.

Even Rory was no match for Vicente's knowledge level and knew that he would choose the level of the pentagram that the men there would absorb.

"All right, let's get back on track. But be ready to act. Have your weapons in hand. They can help you achieve the best pentagram your bodies can handle."

"Yes, boss!"

They all said simultaneously before returning to their formation and heading deeper into the forest area ahead to begin their hunt.

Chapter 210 Beginning of the Hunt

Hours after entering the Alpine Woodpecker Forest, Vicente and his group left their carriages at a place where they would set up a small temporary camp.

As low-level magicians, their needs were very similar to those of ordinary people without Magic Gems. They needed to rest, eat, and sleep. In short, they couldn't just go out and explore this unknown region without a resting place for the group to return to each day.

After setting up camp that same day, the group would split into two, one group with fewer members to take care of the camp and the other to actually go hunting for pentagrams.

Along with 10 Acolytes, nine at level 1 and one at level 2, Vicente and Rory would go on their first hunt, searching for red-grade pentagrams for the less talented of their men.

...

Two days later...

After Vice's group began their journey in search of pentagrams for 9 of his men, they successfully found beasts with red pentagrams on them.

After encountering three such beings in those two days that were compatible with the less gifted of the group's first half that would absorb pentagrams, Vicente, Rory, and seven of his men did what they could to help those three.

The pentagrams had to be conquered. This meant that one had to overcome the challenge of absorbing such an essence, which became very difficult when the one attempting to do so was not the same one who had killed the entity that had created the pentagram.

Following this logic, the men in the group basically helped the three to limit the space of the beasts that had the pentagrams compatible with them, preventing their escape routes, sometimes even immobilizing them.

But the more one did to defeat one of these beings, the easier it would be for them to absorb the pentagram generated by the defeated being. Thus, Vicente's group avoided getting involved in the battles of the three men as much as possible, only participating when necessary.

As a result, over those two days, three of the ten men who had hunted alongside Rory and Vice had received their new Magic Pentagrams and the eventual benefits of obtaining such a thing!

Having successfully hunted down the last of these pentagrams hours ago, Vicente's group was currently in their camp, resting before returning to their hunt.

...

At dawn of a new day, Vicente and his group were up early, all around a campfire, eating and getting ready to go out again.

Holding a hot drink, Vicente looked at his group and said. "Today, I want the three of you who have already absorbed your pentagrams to stay behind and help care for the camp.

We'll hold our position for another day or two, and then we'll move on."

The core of each area was always the most dangerous when it came to beast territory. After all, a beast would hardly choose to live on the outskirts of an area where there were fewer natural structures to protect them or give them geographical advantages.

Therefore, in such regions, stronger beings would stay deeper in these areas. Consequently, better pentagrams could be found deeper in such sites.

Moving on would be more dangerous than staying where they were, but it would also speed up their journey. That is, the outer areas were safer, but powerful beings less densely populated them. In other words, finding a good target there might be more difficult than in the more dangerous areas, which could increase the group's hunting time.

Thus, Vicente wanted to spend a short time there before going deeper to complete his initial goal of having 9 of his men with new pentagrams before heading to the point the group's map led to.

Over the next two days, he planned to reach a few more red pentagrams and perhaps an orange one before the group continued into the area.

The three men who had absorbed new pentagrams were now much stronger and could be considered more powerful than even the level 2 Acolytes in the group. As such, they would stay behind to protect their horses and carriages while three others would take their place in the hunting group.

After selecting the three who would join the group on that day's hunt, Vicente stood up and said. "The rest of you wait for us until nightfall. I'll try to get the pentagrams for our companions with red talent before nightfall."

"Yes, boss!"

So the group of 10 soldiers, Vice and Rory, set off again, leaving 8 people behind.

Walking with rifles in their hands and revolvers at their belts, Vice and his 11 men were soon walking like soldiers in a forest, each keeping watch in a different direction and paying attention to their surroundings.

Meanwhile, Vicente had his ability in use, with his red pentagram in front of one of his hands, as he used his magnetic abilities to sense the living beings in the area.

Vicente was able to use his powers to identify the location of the living beings in the area and also tell their power level. With this, the group had been looking for targets with a high chance of having pentagrams formed in their essence.

After finding one creature a few minutes after leaving his camp, Vice used special signals to indicate it to his men and warned his group to move silently around the target.

Everyone in the group began to move more cautiously, using the surroundings to their advantage, trees, and rocks to hide behind as they approached their target.

Rory used a bush of a plant incapable of absorbing mana to hide and soon saw a white-furred beast, a fox, standing next to a puddle of water.

Feeling the aura of that 2nd stage creature, Rory shook his head negatively.

'It's no match for anyone in our group.' He lamented, seeing that it wouldn't make sense for them to go up against such a fox.

What made pentagram hunting so time-consuming and tiring was not only the fact that the hunters had to be careful not to frighten their targets but also that they often encountered creatures that were not compatible with their goals.

Since no one there was a beast tamer, soon not only Rory but the whole group would move away from the beast and return to their hunt in search of beings compatible with the people in the group.

But it wouldn't be long before they found their next target!