

The Mafia 211

Chapter 211 The Goal: Orange Pentagon?

Hours into their third day of hunting in Alpine Woodpecker Forest, Vicente's group would hunt the first pentagram of the day, and another of his men would successfully absorb such essence.

After that, they would continue their journey until Vice noticed a relatively powerful being on their path who exuded a level 4 Acolyte aura!

Sensing that someone dangerous to his group was nearby, he alerted his men and brought them into formation, weapons aimed at their surroundings while circulating mana through their eyes and hands.

For these armed men, the most important thing was not to use their magical abilities related to their pentagrams but to use them in their weapons. That was what gave them the most power and the best chance of survival!

So, as they cautiously approached Vicente's target, the 10 men didn't even consider using their unique abilities as they felt the strain of approaching a level 4 Acolyte.

When one of these men, an Orange-talented one, saw the being they had just sensed at the top of one of the trees there, he gulped down his saliva at the sight and the sensation emanating from that being.

Gulp!

'This essence...' He thought to himself as he looked at this being with the body of a bird, the head of a maiden, the face pale with hunger, and long claws on its hands.

'A Harpy!' Rory's eyes widened as he identified the creature at the top of the tree they were approaching.

A Harpy was a type of magical creature that formed pentagrams. Not only that, but this creature was compatible with the gem of one of the nine men who had room for new pentagrams in their beings.

Vicente saw this creature, looked at one of his level 2 men, and saw that it was perfectly compatible with this one's magical form, which was based on the wind element.

The man with orange talent also noticed this and immediately felt a connection with the creature, knowing that the pentagram it would give to whoever killed it would be very good for him.

'This is an orange pentagram!' He clenched his fists as he saw the fourth capable of producing such a thing that he and the group had passed by since they arrived in this area.

They had seen many magical beings over the past few days, ignoring most of the 1st stage ones and focusing on the 2nd stage ones, which normally had a 100% chance of having a pentagram on them.

But most of the 2nd stage magical beings had only red pentagrams on them. Finding one with an orange pentagram was as rare as finding a magician with a green talent.

With this in mind, such a man tightened his fingers around his weapon, eager to kill that creature.

But just as he was about to take the first step, he felt his weapon's trigger stiffen so that he couldn't shoot the creature.

Looking at Vicente, he understood that his leader had acted against him.

But Vicente didn't look at the man. Aware that his weapons wouldn't kill this Harpy, he slowly moved a metal bar towards the creature's body.

This was a beast, not the ordinary magician he and his men were used to dealing with in Millfall. A beast's body was very resilient, and its powers were primarily focused on physical strength. In other words, the bullets from those weapons wouldn't be able to injure seriously that Harpy's skin even in large quantities!

The men nearby realized the problem when they noticed what Vice was doing.

Rory looked at the piece of metal being manipulated by Vice and watched as it turned into something resembling a snake and crawled up a tree toward the beast.

Meanwhile, another piece of metal hovered before Vicente as he prepared his next move.

'50... 48... 46...' Vicente ignored his men and measured the distance between the steel 'snake' and the creature.

When such a thing was 20 meters away from the Harpy, it suddenly took its eyes off the prey it was watching at the top of the tree, feeling a magical fluctuation approaching it.

But just as it was about to look at Vicente's metallic 'snake,' it suddenly heard the sound of air being cut and looked over to where a young human had just shot a metallic arrow at it at high speed.

The Harpy's eyes narrowed, and it clearly saw the human who had attacked it and almost immediately felt that it would be in danger if it stayed there.

But even with this feeling that it should flee, it had to defend itself from the attack quickly coming towards its chest, or it would be in trouble!

It put its wings in front of its body, forming a hard-to-penetrate shield filled with mana that transformed its wings, making them thicker and bigger.

But as it prepared to receive Vicente's attack, this young man smiled and used his hands to manipulate the metallic 'snake,' causing it to strike at one of the creature's feet.

'Gotcha!'

As it felt a blow to its wings, enough to express pain, the Harpy didn't care how much damage the human had done to it with that blow. It looked down at one of its feet and saw what looked like a thick, heavy handcuff attached to it.

As it jumped into the air to try to fly away, the arrow that had hit it fused with this metal object in its feet, and it felt an indescribable weight pulling it down.

If it could think rationally, it would ask itself, "What is this?"

It had never dealt with a situation like this before!

But as it tried to flap its wings, the force pulling it down became stronger and stronger, and suddenly, it found itself falling faster and faster toward the ground.

All it could do was scream before it hit the ground between Vicente's men.

Boom!

Rocks exploded, and a crater formed where this creature with a wingspan of about 3 meters and a weight of 150 kilos fell.

At that moment, Vicente shouted to all his men. "Fire!"

Bang!

All 11 people in the vicinity pulled the triggers on their weapons and fired mana-loaded bullets at various points on the body.

Knowing that they wouldn't kill her with this burst of fire, no one held back for the sake of the companion who would absorb the pentagram that was about to emerge from this creature.

Wounded, confused, and unprepared for this barrage of attacks, the Harpy felt pain throughout her body as several bullets penetrated deep into her wings and skin.

Chapter 212 Results (1)

The moment his men fired their weapons, Vicente used one of his special spells and immediately pinned the creature's legs to the ground while increasing the amount of metal on its body.

Doing this to immobilize it, Vicente focused on the creature's wings, the greatest weapon it had to defend itself, attack, and escape.

Not only that but there were no vital organs in its wings!

Using them to increase the amount of metal on it was the best Vice could do without slowing down his men, who were shooting at the creature's vital points.

Even though they couldn't kill it to not interfere with the possible absorption of its pentagram by one of these men, the group unloaded the ammunition in their weapons into that creature.

It was very sturdy, and only by doing so could they wound it enough to create a chance for one of them to kill it!

Several bullets from different directions entered its body around where it had fallen as it struggled on the ground, screaming in pain and trying to get away.

Meanwhile, Rory was a few feet above the creature on a tree branch, using his explosive ability to increase the effectiveness of the attacks of the men in his group.

Boom!

Another explosion erupted in the creature's chest and back, causing it to wriggle more violently as its precious feathers fell off, gradually revealing its white skin.

The moment he saw several superficial wounds on the creature's back, but one deeper wound, Vice smiled and said. "Colt, be quick! Kill it with this perforation!"

Hearing this, Colt looked at the hole one of his companions' bullets had made in the creature's back, where a trail of blood ran around an area full of superficial wounds.

After all the group's efforts, the Harpy's mighty coat had been pierced by a single bullet!

As impressive as this was, it was also a sign of temporary weakness!

Unable to withstand so many simultaneous attacks and with its defenses weak enough to allow a bullet to enter its body, such a Harpy was vulnerable.

At Vicente's warning, all the men stopped firing and took the opportunity to reload their weapons as Colt slowly approached it.

Seeing this, Vicente moved the metal on the creature, forcing it to the ground and holding it so it wouldn't escape.

"Be quick! It's weakened but not finished!" He shouted at the man, encouraging him to run into the creature's back as he switched weapons, picking up a sword and pointing it at the hole in the beast's back.

"Aaah! Die!" He shouted as he used his magic skill, which was based on the wind element and could boost his speed and attack strength.

He moved faster, and mana shone more brightly around that sword.

Puff!

When it hit the unprotected skin of the Harpy, it stopped struggling to escape and tried to raise its head while letting out a long, painful scream.

But having struck the heart of his target, Colt, as he pulled his sword from the Harpy's back, saw it lose all its strength and finally collapse to the ground, no longer squirming.

Vicente removed his metals and watched the creature die 10 seconds after Colt's final attack.

As each of the men in the group held their positions, Rory saw an orange glow emerge from such a body, the first of its kind he had ever seen.

As the Harpy died, the pentagram it had been nurturing separated from its being and emerged from its back, slowly floating in the air like a hologram.

From there, a mana pulse appeared as the orange pentagram rotated on its axis in the air at a slow speed.

It had with it a terrible sensation but was also quite powerful for each of these men.

'Impressive.' One of the men in the group who had already absorbed his second pentagram thought to himself, imagining that in the future, he might be able to absorb one as good as the one in front of him.

Meanwhile, Rory couldn't help but notice the remnants of that Harpy in the orange pentagram that was now free to be absorbed.

'Colt will have to be firm. Overcoming that beast's will won't be easy.' The young redhead thought to himself, aware that how it had died had not been dignified.

What they had done was nothing to be proud of. They had acted against a creature stronger than all of them, which was a good thing from any point of view. But they had weapons that made their actions easier, and many allies acted against a single being.

At the same time, the Harpy was not an enemy but their hunting target.

So, the resentment it had generated before its death, which was associated with its pentagram, was not simple.

If Colt had defeated it alone, without any help from his companions, he would probably have absorbed the pentagram with ease since he had an orange talent. But since that hadn't been the case, and the whole group had helped him, he now had to win a new battle.

"Colt, don't waste time. Start absorbing that pentagram." Vicente said to the man, who was momentarily mesmerized by the beauty of the orange pentagram in front of him.

Swallowing his saliva and putting aside the anticipation he felt inside, he promptly sat down over the Harpy's corpse with his legs crossed, closed his eyes, and began to meditate.

Absorbing pentagrams was simple. All one had to do was get into a comfortable position, circulate their mana in their Magic Gem, and act as if they were meditating as usual. The only difference with this meditation was that one had to "open up" the space in their gem for a new pentagram, which, of course, put them in a vulnerable position.

As Colt did so, his orange Magic Gem immediately glowed brightly, and his first pentagram appeared around his body.

Then the mana in the surrounding area began to enter his Magic Gem, while the orange pentagram above him trembled, feeling strongly attracted to the free 'space' in the body below.

A magician wouldn't have to try to force the pentagram into them and connect with it. In situations like this, the pentagram, with a similar elemental affinity to the magician, would feel the magical attraction to that being and move toward it naturally.

Pentagrams could not exist outside of an appropriate "container" for long.

So when it sensed something compatible, the pentagram soon found its way to Colt.

However, this was only the first step in the process of absorbing Magic Pentagrams!

Chapter 213 Results (2)?

Hours would pass after Colt began to absorb the orange pentagram.

As with any other breakthrough attempt, talent had much to do with how difficult and fast the process of absorbing pentagrams was.

The level of the pentagram itself was related to the talent of the person absorbing it, but it wasn't that simple. For example, a person with a green talent couldn't absorb a green pentagram in the 2nd-stage.

The highest known level for a magician's second pentagram was the second one, orange.

Beyond that, even if some magicians had enough understanding to try to absorb something above that, the mana consumed by one of those pentagrams would be so high that the magician's body wouldn't be able to withstand any activation. Just having it in your body would be extremely costly, and activating it would be like courting death.

So, having a higher talent wouldn't allow someone to absorb a better pentagram because that would depend on the amount of mana in a magician's body, which correlates to the level, not the talent.

But while talent didn't affect this for talented people to have better pentagrams, it did for less talented people.

The level of the pentagram you were interested in was what your body and mana could handle. But to absorb it, one had to overcome the absorption barrier created by the will of the being who created it.

Hence, while talent didn't allow people to absorb better pentagrams at lower levels, it did limit those with low talent, and a person with red talent would hardly be able to absorb an orange pentagram at the 2nd stage.

This would also happen to someone with orange talent when they reached the 3rd stage and would probably not be able to absorb the ideal pentagram for the 3rd stage, a yellow one.

Anyway, as someone with an orange talent, absorbing any pentagram would already take longer than it would for someone with a superior talent. But with the Harpy's grudge, Colt would fight the creature's remaining will for hours.

When dawn broke the following day, the party was still in the same spot where the Harpy had fallen.

Everyone was tired but held their positions, waiting for Colt to finish absorbing the pentagram.

But no one there was worried about Colt's life. Absorbing a pentagram of the same level as one's talent and compatible with the amount of mana in one's body would hardly risk the magician's life.

The risk was that they would fail.

If one failed to absorb a pentagram in the first attempt, it would be diluted into the air, and that is it.

But while some opened their mouths to yawn, longing to return to camp, Vicente watched Colt and felt that this man would not fail after so many hours.

'He will finish soon.' He noticed the orange pentagram fading from the man's body and then the mana around Colt suddenly increasing in density.

Looking at the pale, extremely sweaty, and panting man, Vice saw Colt's appearance change significantly, and his body began to inflate, becoming more attractive in every way.

A gust of mana came out of him, and a strong wind formed in the surrounding area, completely waking up even the sleepy men who wanted to rest.

At that moment, Colt finished absorbing the pentagram, having won his mental battle with the Harpy remnant.

Opening his eyes, he immediately smiled as he stood up, clenching his fists and feeling 'complete.'

He looked at the creature's corpse and mentally thanked it for the new power he had gained.

With it, he could do much more with his ability from now on!

Seeing that his man was ready to leave, Vicente sighed and said. "Time to go back, boys! After we rest a bit, we'll move our camp!"

The group left soon after, leaving the Harpy's body behind, not caring at all for the flesh of a creature that looked partly human.

Such magical creatures could be valuable to magicians in many ways. One could look at their meat, skin, feathers, bones, and claws. In short, everything on the body of a magical creature could be useful for creating artifacts or artificial resources.

But it wasn't so easy to carry around the corpses of these creatures, and removing these parts without damaging them was something no one there knew how to do.

Because they didn't have enough storage items, the group didn't collect the remains of the creatures they had killed so far.

But that wasn't a bad thing. Even without the rich essences in their bodies, beasts' corpses were very good for other weaker beasts to devour and become stronger.

Leaving such corpses behind could help lower-level creatures increase their power and create pentagrams or even develop better pentagrams.

This was important for the sustainability of this magical reality!

Finally, with the dawn of a new day, the group would stop to rest before continuing their journey.

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Three days later...

After one of his men had absorbed the first orange Magic Pentagram, Vicente led his group deeper into the forest.

After setting up a temporary camp in a new area, he and his men returned to the hunt for magical creatures capable of producing the essences they needed to strengthen themselves and increase the stability of their foundations.

After returning to hunt for these essences, this time in a deeper part of the Alpine Woodpecker Forest, the group quickly found beings compatible with their men.

In just 3 days, the group hunted down and killed 7 beasts, giving some of their men the opportunity to absorb orange pentagrams.

Some failed in their attempts, but most were successful, helping the group surpass Vicente's original goal and get 10 men with new pentagrams.

Five had absorbed red pentagrams, while the other five received orange pentagrams.

Among them, the two level 2 Acolytes in the group, the ones most concerned with stabilizing their foundation, managed to absorb what they had been waiting for for weeks, finally gaining new abilities.

And so, as dawn broke on a new day at the second site where the group had camped in this region, Vicente soon gathered his people together to give new orders!

They were no longer far from the central part of this location, and according to Vicente's estimates, they could reach the spot marked on his map in no more than three more days.

When Vicente met his group this morning, he looked at his men, who were happily eating, and announced.

"Get ready. In an hour, we're leaving for our destination. I don't intend to stop to hunt or camp until we reach our destination!" He told everyone, making Rory smile with satisfaction, eager to see where the map of Defiant Tyranny would take them.

Chapter 214 Growth?

As Vicente and his group continued their journey through the Alpine Woodpecker Forest, the Mazzanti family grew with each passing day.

With the recent changes that had taken place in the family, their territory had gone from a few shops in the eastern part of Millfall to a de facto area where not only shops but houses and streets were part of their domain.

With this change, the Mazzanti family group no longer had three guards at each shop in their shops. Now, only one of their soldiers stood guard at each tavern and establishment, such as the Zander Brothers' and River's, while most staff kept an eye on the surroundings.

Anyone who caused trouble not only in the shops but on the streets or in the resistances of their territory would suffer the consequences previously suffered by the thieves or daring patrons of Zander's tavern.

With such a change, the small group of men of the Mazzanti family managed to maintain the peace and security of these establishments, even though their territory had grown far beyond the number of men working for the family in recent days.

And with the expansion into the territory of the former Defiant Tyranny faction, the group was experiencing its finest moment in Millfall!

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"Thank you for your understanding, Your Grace. Your support is critical to us." One of the Acolytes left in the city by Vicente said as he greeted Shelby's father in the Baron's office.

Seeing the bag of gold coins in front of him, Baron Staples smiled, seeing that the recent changes in the city had not affected his operations as he had feared.

"Haha, there's no need to thank me. Your family and Cesar are wonderful. I've always wanted to do business with you." The Baron said as he led the masked and well-dressed man out of his residence, envisioning a great future with the Mazzanti family.

The Mazzanti family was very efficient, working with low costs, and they were willing to give up more of their profits to please their supporters!

Defiant Tyranny, for example, gave only 50% of its profits to the families that supported it. But the Mazzanti family was delivering 70% of their profits, which was impressive to these noble families of Millfall, who wanted coins more than anything else.

Even though they had sided against Cesar a few weeks ago, practically none of the nobles in town remembered Ryker and saw Cesar as their new great friend.

Vicente's soldier smiled under his mask.

They gave a large part of their profits to these nobles, but it was for the good of their own group.

They weren't unaware of the trouble they could get into when the Viscount returned to the city from his journey. So they bought the support of the local noble families while Viscount Symons was away.

'Today, we seem to be working for you, nobles, but it won't always be like this...' That soldier thought to himself, imagining the dependence they were creating on these nobles.

Vicente was no fool. As long as he was weak, he would give these powers enough to make them happy and protect his people in the light of day. But that wouldn't always be the case!

"I hope to see Your Grace again soon with better results." The Mazzanti soldier said just as they arrived at the door of the Staples residence, where Shelby was just passing next to a red-haired servant.

"Good morning, my noble father." The woman with orange hair, the same color as the middle-aged man next to the masked soldier, said as she made way for them and bowed her head.

As a daughter, Shelby was just a tool for the Staples family to gain alliances and heirs. She had to bow to her father, her stepmothers, and the family heir and walk the line.

As an intelligent woman, she didn't challenge the most influential people in her family and was quite capable of bowing to them, though she was honest about her disagreements.

Baron Staples looked at his daughter and said. "Shelby, this is an emissary from Cesar Mazzanti, a family friend."

Hearing her father introduce one of the Vice's men, Shelby did what she was supposed to: greeted the soldier and showed that House Staples treated its friends well.

"Nice to meet you. Your party is very prominent. I'm sure you'll become one of the biggest influences in our town in no time." She said with a smile, something her father couldn't understand.

"The young lady is exaggerating. We're just acting where no one else is. We don't have such big ambitions. The Scarlet Syndicate is definitely the name of the game." The soldier said, catching the Baron's attention.

"I think you should be more bold, Pyke. The Defiant Tyranny has left a lot of business that the Scarlet Syndicate can't handle alone." The Baron said, wanting Cesar's group to be bolder and grow more in this city.

Between the Mazzanti family, who were willing to distribute more coins to their supporters, and the Scarlet Syndicate, who were already stable in the city's underworld, he preferred Cesar's house. That was the faction that could pay him the most!

Shelby looked at Pyke, an alias Vice's soldiers used in public, and said. "I know you have to be careful where you expand your activities, but the Scarlet Syndicate alone won't be able to take over everything Defiant Tyranny has left.

Your group should take care of two things left by Defiant Tyranny. The casino and the brothel that faction ran."

"Oh?" Baron Staples looked at his daughter and narrowed his eyes, seeing that this woman knew more about Millfall's current situation than he had imagined.

'If you were a man, Shelby, you would be my heir...' He sighed in disappointment that a woman was the most intelligent of his children.

Then he said. "You should look into this. The Scarlet Syndicate is focused on taking over the resources and human trafficking that Defiant Tyranny led in our city. The group's casinos and brothels are definitely not being targeted by them right now."

"We will work on it, Your Grace." 'Pyke' replied, aware that his leaders would see no problem in engaging in such activities.

After all, Rory was the son of a bitch who currently run a brothel in Martell Village!

Hell, them controlling gambling and prostitution in the city was the natural progression of things!

With that, he returned to his morning destination of delivering the coins of the noble families that supported the Mazzanti family.

Shelby and her father stayed behind to watch the man leave in one of the Mazzanti family carriages.

He said quietly to her. "Don't get involved in these things, Shelby. You should concentrate on becoming a good wife to young master Symons."

"That doesn't stop me from studying the local reality, Father."

"Does it? I'm not sure. If you can do that while being a good wife to young master Symons, why don't you go to him and please him a little? I don't want to turn the Symons family against the Mazzanti family." He looked at her, indicating what she should do.

Shelby clenched her fists in anger but controlled herself to not show her father everything she had in mind.

She smiled graciously at him as if there was nothing wrong with what he was suggesting.

'Do you understand what I have to deal with, Vicente? My own father sees me as a breeding mare!

Do you blame me for the way I acted towards you? Can you understand my desperation?'

She left, imagining her ally and his importance to her life.

Chapter 215 Investigation?

While Shelby was dealing with her own problems, something was happening at the Seidel Kingdom's royal army headquarters in Millfall...

A group of soldiers lined up in several rows in the courtyard of this barracks, while a group of high-ranking soldiers who had just arrived at this post were meeting there.

"Twelfth Steel Troop Commander, Peter Asper, from the capital, present!"

"Fourth Red Troop Commander, Arthur Hogan, from Saltstar City, present!"

"Second Bone Troop Commander, Alex Regan, of Dryhaven, present!"

Three men of the same rank as the Commander of the Millfall outpost stood in front of Christopher Hogan while the man held a formal position to greet the reinforcements he had recently requested.

Looking at his older brother, who had come from the capital, Christopher thanked everyone there. "Thank you for responding to my call. I hope we can resolve the situation in The Rocky Gorge in the next few weeks."

"Don't worry, Chris, we'll take care of this problem." The strongest one there, Peter, said as he looked at his younger brother and patted one of the shoulders of the guy he hadn't seen in years.

"Yes, my troops will arrive in a few days, and then we'll have twice as many men as you have here," Alex commented.

Arthur agreed. "Hopefully, we'll have it settled by the end of the month, when we'll be eating basilisk meat!"

The men smiled as each relevant soldier at this Millfall outpost took their positions, watching the gathering of Mages in silence.

Nova stood among the soldiers and looked at the Commanders with fervor in her eyes, imagining that in a few months, she would reach that rank and command her own troop.

In the Seidel Kingdom, not every army Commander led the rank of a city, as was the case in Millfall.

Millfall was a small city with a population of around 60,000, and it only needed one soldier of the rank of Commander in its post. Cities like Saltstar City had more than half a dozen soldiers of the rank of Commander.

But each Commander led their own troop and had certain freedoms that a lower-ranked soldier didn't have.

Thinking about the day when she would become a Mage and take the test to become a Commander, this blue-haired woman couldn't help but feel anxious.

'If I do well in this hunt, I could get a recommendation and the merit points needed for the Commander's Test!' She thought to herself.

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In another part of Millfall, Nina and Eve went to the academy where this young girl studied.

Nina had asked Eve daily about Vice and what he and Rory were doing. But she knew that her brother wouldn't be back for a while as he was on an important business trip.

However, there wasn't a day that went by that she didn't think about what he might be doing, imagining the adventures of being an adult and being able to go on trips.

As much as she had traumatic travel experiences, Nina had no problem traveling because she had become deaf and lost her mother. Despite everything, she was a happy child who had overcome these losses.

There were times when she felt sad when she remembered everything she had been through. Still, with her new local friends, Eve, Rory, Vice, and the men who worked for her family, Nova and Shelby, she was able to cope well.

That's why when one saw her walking with difficulty to the academy, one would see her with a happy look on her face and would hardly imagine what she had been through.

Seeing this from a distance, one of the men following her couldn't help but be curious.

'What's wrong with her?' This person thought as he watched Eve say goodbye to Nina at the door of one of the local academies.

'It doesn't matter. I'll find out soon enough. We'll have plenty of time to talk!' He smiled from the shadows he used to move in as he entered the academy and followed Nina.

"Time to come with me, Miss Fuller!"

Arriving at a place where there were few people, he quickly grabbed Nina from behind and covered her mouth before taking her in his arms and walking away!

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Meanwhile, a few dozen kilometers north of Millfall, a group of three people dressed in the Awakening Temple's uniform were standing in a forest next to a campfire.

Among these people, a man looked around while a grey-haired woman stirred the fire and prepared something for them to eat.

At the same time, a woman with pink hair sat in a lotus position over a square stone while an orange pentagram circled her body.

The green Magic Gem on her forehead glowed as she searched for her target.

The level 5 male, the same as his two companions, glanced at the pink-haired woman and clenched his fists. 'If Jasmine finds the Irwin family thieves, we can change our lives.' He thought to himself as he looked at her with satisfaction. 'With her by my side and these coins, I'll be able to get everything I want.'

But as he looked at the grey-haired woman by the fire, he had completely different thoughts than those he had with Jasmine.

'I will find a way to eliminate Arya when the time comes and blame it on the Irwin family thieves. Ultimately, I'll have Jasmine's heart and half the coins the thief stole!' He looked around mischievously, a terrifying smile on his face.

But while Mark was thinking about these plans for the near future, Jasmine suddenly opened her eyes as her gem glow faded and her pentagram slowly returned to her body.

"I have their trail back." She said as she saw in front of her what looked like a group of three carriages and several men, all made up of a red aura.

Jasmine's magical form made her an excellent investigator. All she needed was a small clue to trace the entire journey of her targets and thus locate them.

Seeing the trail left by her targets, Jasmine smiled as she held a piece of metal in her hands, which connected her to the Irwin estate thief.

"How many more days do we have to travel?" The girl asked her companion.

Jasmine said. "I don't know. Every time the enemy group stops, they lose much of their advantage. They're weaker than us, so we're more rapid. But if they keep moving, they could add days, maybe weeks, to our journey."

"It doesn't matter. Everything will be fine if we can catch up with them." Mark commented, eager to continue his journey searching for the Irwin property thieves.

"Yeah. Let's keep going."

With that, it wouldn't be long before the group returned on the road, heading for Alpine Woodpecker Forest!

Chapter 216 Unexpected Encounter

Two days later...

Deep in the Alpine Woodpecker Forest, a group of 20 Acolytes slowly made their way through the trees of this densely wooded region.

Of these 20 Acolytes, 18 had rifles in their hands, walking slowly in formation, ready to fire their weapons at the slightest sign of trouble.

At the same time, the group's leaders, masked like everyone else there, had no weapons in their hands but were also alert as they moved.

A young man with red hair was at the back, while a tall, strong young man with black hair was at the front, holding a map in front of him, more or less locating himself in this area.

Using a map in this world wasn't like on Earth, where you could easily understand the path between a starting point and an ending point. There was no GPS in Polaris Realm, and one would have to recognize the terrain and certain locations depicted on the map to know where they were and how to get to their destination.

Fortunately, the Academy of Stars had taught Vice and Rory how to use maps, and even though it was much more difficult than following a GPS, the young Fuller had been able to lead his people with ease.

But that didn't mean his group had reached this point in their journey quickly or without encountering dangerous situations.

Over the past few days, they had understood why this region had the word "woodpecker" in its name. There was a breed of woodpecker that had developed in this region. In the outer parts of this mountainous region, one would hardly find these creatures. However, if one went into the depths of the area, the chances of encountering these creatures would be very high.

Vicente's group had seen several woodpeckers in the area over the past few days and had almost come face-to-face with them.

Besides the woodpeckers, several other creatures had crossed the group's path.

Fortunately, none of these problems had affected them too much.

As far as they could see, their path did not pass through any magical creature territory in the area. Because of this, the group had avoided a lot of problems they might have had if they hadn't been in possession of the map that Vice was currently following.

The small encounters with beasts they had had were not enough to threaten the group, and they were still in their initial formation from when they had entered this region.

But as they moved deeper into this mountainous region, the group got closer to their goal and naturally moved more cautiously.

Vicente could sense that the presence of powerful beings in the area was greater than in the areas they had passed through so far, and he couldn't help but be cautious as he led his men.

'The area we were in two days ago was home to many low-level 2nd-stage beings, at level 1 and 2. It wouldn't be easy to encounter level 4 beasts like the Harpy we encountered there. But it's different here.' Vice thought to himself as he used his magnetic ability to sense what lay ahead and noticed several powerful auras for the level of his group.

'But there are many levels 3 and 4 beings here. I've even spotted some level 5 on the way.' He felt a drop of sweat trickle down his back as he imagined that there were probably low-level 3rd-stage beings in this area.

If they came across one of those beings, all they could do was run away!

'Fortunately, I have this map!' Vice sighed because, without it, he would have already entered a place he shouldn't have and had problems with several powerful creatures in the area.

'I hope this is a safe route to something of value.' He prayed in his heart while trampling leaves and the wind were the only thing he and his men could hear.

However, as they slowly took step after step, everyone in the group suddenly changed their expressions, hidden by their masks, as they turned their faces in the direction from which they heard something different.

Swoosh!

Suddenly, the sound of a blade slicing through the air came from the right side of the group, a little further away from where they were standing.

Immediately, everyone in the group turned their weapons in that direction while Vicente used his ability to sense what exactly had caused it.

"Professor Julian?" Vice muttered as he felt a familiar aura coming from the direction the noise had come from.

When mana was attached to a body, it received the mark created by the peculiarities of that body, enough to distinguish any magician in the world.

Even twin brothers with similar Magic Gems and Magic Pentagrams of the same nature would have enough differences to be distinguished by their auras.

Sensing something he already knew, Vicente had no trouble noticing what was coming from one of the six magicians near where his group was.

Rory heard it and asked. "Professor Julian? Is he here? What's going on?"

"It seems so," Vicente replied. "Besides him, there are five magicians in his group, surrounded by four Rougarous."

"What?"

Not only Rory but the whole group saw in their minds the image of four wolves in humanoid form, beings larger than normal humans, characterized by their agility and strength.

Rougarous were creatures known to feed on human flesh and blood!

"What should we do? What's their situation?" Rory asked, feeling that they should move if that didn't endanger their group.

As much as they were bandits, they had a background they wouldn't forget. Julian had helped them beyond his duty. If it weren't too dangerous, they wouldn't leave their old teacher behind and turn a blind eye to what could happen there.

"Julian's group consists of level 3 and 4 Acolytes. Some of them are probably level 6 and 7 Generals." Vicente said as his red pentagram glowed in front of his right hand.

From the position of some of the men in Julian's group, these were no ordinary magicians but warriors who focused on both the magical path and martial arts.

"The Rougarous' group, on the other hand, is made up of level 4 beings, and the strongest of them is level 5."

"Level 5?" One of the level 2 soldiers there asked.

"Let's go," Vicente said, willing to risk himself to help his old teacher.

Vicente had received a gift from Julian that he still didn't know what it was for. Even after using on that necklace the evaluation machine he'd stolen from the Irwin family, he hadn't gotten any results.

Therefore, he already thought that the necklace he had received from Julian must be extraordinary and have its own history.

Considering its probable value, Vicente wouldn't let his teacher die in this place while he still had the chance to help him without risking everything for his group.

With his words, even the most fearful of his soldiers swallowed their fear and began to move at their Dom's command.

"Use your weapons to attack the necks of the Rougarous. Rory and I will concentrate on killing them after your shots." Vice said, already knowing these creatures were very resistant to normal blows and would only die if their heads were decapitated or their bodies burned.

Since their weapons couldn't do all the work for them, Rory and he would have to be the final weapon to eliminate these creatures!

Chapter 217 Unexpected Allies?

Meanwhile, Julian was in a terrible situation, facing four powerful creatures from which he didn't know how to escape.

After entering the area with some teachers from Ironcrest's leading academy, his group encountered several powerful creatures. His academy had important information about something valuable in this area but didn't have a proper map.

'Damn it! Why did we get involved in the damned Magic College's business?' Julian thought as he made his way through this bumpy area with signs of battle in the trees and on the ground.

Meanwhile, his group was trying to fend off these creatures who, though not much stronger than them in level, were much more brutal.

The people in Julian's group had low talent. Even though there wasn't much difference in mana density between the two sides in this confrontation, the four magical beings attacking them had much higher combat skills than Julian and his allies.

"If we survive this situation, the kingdom college will have to reward us heavily!" One of them shouted, feeling terrible for being sent to this place without any items to protect them from these beasts in the area.

Unfortunately for them, even though this was the Seidel Kingdom and part of the king's domain, not all the terrain in this magnificent state was dominated by humans.

In several parts of the kingdom, there were beings of other races who dominated small areas beyond the royal forces' reach.

Because of this, only a few people could go in and out of such areas without getting into trouble.

There were even maps of such areas, but few had accurate information about the territories of non-human tribes.

In Ironcrest, where this group had left a few days ago, there was no map with such detailed information about this area, so anyone who came from there could run into a lot of trouble depending on their route.

One might even be lucky enough to escape those problems, but that hadn't been the case with Julian's group.

Aware of this, these men were furious with their superiors as they moved about, trying to put up some resistance to the four creatures that were salivating as they moved against them with horrible smiles on their faces.

"We must find a way to retreat and call for reinforcements from the academy! Otherwise, no one will be able to complete this mission!" The strongest one there, a level 4 Acolyte who was also a level 7 General, said this while using his sword.

"Shit!" One of the weaker ones there grabbed something from his storage ring to send out a call for help. But that would hardly save them from this situation!

The academy where Julian was currently working had a partnership with the Seidel Magic College. This institution had recently passed on information that a valuable pentagram had appeared in the area they were now and had issued this mission.

The Seidel Magic College gave Magic Pentagrams to some top students when they reached milestones. Therefore, whenever possible, this institution would send its allies and even subordinates to collect special essences throughout the kingdom.

A few days ago, Julian's group had been given this mission by a seer from the Seidel Magic College.

Unfortunately for them, Polaris Realm wasn't a place where you could just get a piece of information and go somewhere to collect what you wanted without getting into trouble along the way!

Not being as prepared as they should have been, their group was now in a terrible situation!

While most of them were using everything they had to defend themselves or dodge enemy attacks, the weakest of the group sent out a signal via a communication device.

"Help! Send reinforcements to the Alpine Woodpecker Forest group immediately! We're having trouble with..."

In the middle of a level 3 Acolyte's message, one of those creatures over two meters tall jumped towards him and destroyed the communication device in use with a single movement of its arms.

After seeing that creature right in front of him, the level 3 Acolyte's eyes widened as he looked at the salivating creature right in front of him.

"NOO!"

When the strongest of the group of humans shouted, none of them could do anything before the black-furred creature attacked the weakest of the group with all its might, slashing at the blond man's abdomen with its claws.

As the blood of one of their companions flew through the air, and a deep wound appeared in his abdomen, the men realized that this would probably be the fate of everyone there.

They were going to die!

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaagh!"

Hearing their companion's terror, they wished they could retreat. Unfortunately, they were surrounded and didn't have a chance.

"Shit! This is the end!" Another level 3 Acolyte screamed as he saw one of those creatures open its mouth and bite in his direction, lunging at him in a way he couldn't dodge.

In that moment of terror for the group of scholars from Ironcrest, suddenly, repeated sounds came from different directions!

Bang!

Bang!

Several shots rang out as powerful bullets cut through the air faster than the speed of sound, hitting the necks of the four creatures in that area before the suffering humans even heard them.

Bang!

Meanwhile, the four beings who attacked the group of teachers felt several bullets hit their necks, which hurt them because it was an unexpected attack but did not endanger them.

Bang!

If it had been a human being who had been attacked, they would definitely have died if so many bullets had hit such a sensitive spot of their bodies.

But as magical creatures with great physical strength, these four only howled in pain and suddenly shifted their focus to the 18 masked men who had appeared in the surrounding area.

Bang!

Julian's group saw these unexpected allies appear to help them at the crucial moment, but before they could assess the strength of these weak Acolytes, they saw two more men move.

Strong winds formed in the area, and as the mana in the atmosphere changed, flames appeared around the location, along with several explosions.

The metals on these teachers' bodies shook, and in the blink of an eye, they flew out of their bodies at high speed, forming razor-sharp blades that flew faster and faster toward three of the four Rougarous!

"Die!"

Vicente and Rory simultaneously shouted as they attacked their enemies from above, one floating in the air and the other jumping from a tree branch toward his opponent.

As they moved, the two targeted their enemies' weak points, using their abilities to eliminate as many enemies as possible with the initial attack!

Chapter 218 The Terror of Numbers?

As soon as they attacked the furry creatures that were acting against Julian's group, Vicente and Rory used the best of their abilities to deal with their targets.

Rory attacked just one of the level 4 creatures, using a spell based on the wind element to create a cyclone around its body, trapping it in one position while his explosions hit the area around its already wounded and weakened neck.

Rory also cast a flame spell in the direction of the other three enemies to divert their attention.

As they felt flames rising around their bodies amidst the pain in their necks, these three targets of Vicente's became even more agitated.

Even small flames could frighten these creatures, for that was their weakness, something they would avoid, like cats avoiding water.

But at that moment, Vicente forcefully moved the metal objects he had formed in the air, causing large blades to fly at those bodies with the intention of slicing them.

These metals, under Vicente's control, rapidly increased in speed as he used his knowledge of Earth physics to propel these blades even further.

Speed was power!

The faster the speed of these blades, the greater their destructive power against their targets!

Swoosh!

As they reached their targets, Julian's group witnessed an incredible scene unfold before them.

When two level 1 Acolytes suddenly appeared in the area, blades the size of immature teenagers sliced through two of the four Rougarous bodies in the area as if they were made of paper!

In an instant, the two Rougarous were screaming in fear and rage, feeling the flames on their bodies but full of hatred for the newcomers. But in the next second, their bodies were cut into three pieces, and their cries were no longer heard.

The first cut had been at the neck and the second at the waist of these creatures, separating their torso, head, and legs.

One of the teachers next to Julian's eyes widened when he saw that, having blinked a second earlier and missed how these two creatures had been cut.

"What?"

The strongest of the group shouted as Julian opened his mouth so wide it looked like his jaw would hit the floor.

Two level 4 Rougarous had just been sliced like they were nothing!

Not only that, even the burning level 5 Rougarou couldn't withstand the movement of the masked man floating in the air.

When it was struck by three blades, all hitting it at the neck from different directions, the creature didn't die. Still, its neck was injured enough to show some of its bones as the crumpled steel blades fell to the ground.

Looking closer, the strongest of the group saw a small crack in the level 5 creature's neck and noted that it had narrowly missed a more serious injury from Vice's attack.

At the same time, the last level 4 Rougarou could not withstand Rory's explosive power around its neck as its entire body burned.

As Rory's flames subsided and the cyclone around his target dissipated, the men with rifles pointed in the direction of these creatures in the area saw this one's body fall to the ground, headless.

Rory had managed to use his men's shots to destroy the creature's neck, successfully eliminating the third enemy of Julian's group!

Realizing the change in their situation, the teachers were shocked. Yet, feeling there was no time to talk or wonder about the situation, they moved and quickly surrounded the level 5 creature.

"I don't know who you are, but thanks!" The strongest of the teachers said loudly. "But we need to eliminate this last one. Otherwise, it will run away and bring more Rougarous to terrorize us!"

"Let's act together," Vicente moved, floating in the air as his and Julian's entire group shifted positions, surrounding the agonized creature, who was glaring at them furiously, looking for a place to escape.

As the Rougarou tried to make a move to escape, Vicente's men were faster than it, and four of them fired their weapons, two of them hitting the creature's wounded neck.

It howled in pain as it felt very weakened after the strongest blow Vicente could deliver.

It felt ten times more pain as it received those bullets now that it was wounded.

But when the magical creature realized that ignoring these people and running away wouldn't get it far, the strongest teacher of Julian's group moved in and danced with his sword toward the Rougarou's neck.

Swooish!

Seeing that the creature was about to counterattack and possibly injure the level 4 man, Rory used a spell based on the Wind element to create a strong breeze against the Rougarou, subtly pushing it.

This subtle push was enough to cause the Rougarou to miss the fatal blow aimed at its opponent's neck.

Unfortunately for the group of humans, the teacher who had acted first also missed, hitting the void in the air.

Vicente formed a seal and cast a spell, causing the surrounding earth to trap the Rougarou by its legs, which looked down at the ground when it realized it couldn't move freely to try to attack again.

Seeing the creature that had already managed to extinguish Rory's flames glaring at him, Vicente narrowed his eyes, seeing the threat in the creature's gaze.

"Are you threatening me? If you have the power, come and do it, creature!" He clenched his fists as he focused on the metallic elements within that body and began to manipulate it to remove them, just as he would with ores.

As he did so, saying these words a bit agitatedly, everyone in the vicinity saw this level 5 creature try to back away by looking away from Vicente, something incredible to see.

But at that moment, the still-standing Rougarou felt the worst sensation of its life.

Weakened by the wounds on its body, the burns, and cuts, it was vulnerable to Vicente, who still had much to use against it.

Under normal circumstances, Vicente wouldn't even be able to manipulate the metals in a level 5 creature's body. But this Rougarou wasn't in a normal situation. Surrounded by enemies whose auras oppressed it and targeted its weak points, riddled with wounds all over its body, it didn't have enough to protect itself from Vicente's movement.

When it felt a part of its being under its opponent's control, it trembled with fear and desperation.

"Ow! Ow!"

Lifting its head, it gave up the fight and let out a long howl, giving the entire group of humans in the area room to act simultaneously.

Rory once again used his innate skill while Vicente continued what he had already started. At the same time, his men fired bullets at the creature's neck, and the teachers in the area split up to prevent the creature from moving while the strongest attacked its neck.

With more than 25 people acting against it simultaneously, the Rougarou howled for less than five seconds before it met its end.

Chapter 219 In Search of Treasure

As the creature's headless body fell to the ground, everyone in Julian and Minos's group stared at it in silence for about five seconds.

That was a level 5 Rougarou they had killed!

Such a creature would cause trouble even for level 5 magicians.

However, in this battle, some of these men realized the advantage of numbers for the first time. Even though no one in their group had the same power as that creature, they had defeated it in the end.

With the addition of Vice's group, even though that group didn't have anyone of a high level, Julian's team's chances of survival had increased exponentially.

Vice's weapons, as had his and Rory's sneak attack, had been very important. However, the numbers involved in this confrontation justified the human victory in the battle.

When Vicente's men realized how important it was to have several of them and not just the weapons, the teachers in Julian's group finally breathed a sigh of relief.

They were still in that dangerous place. But at least for the moment, the immediate danger to them had passed.

With a deep sigh, the leader of that group, the man with the sword in his hands, looked at Vicente and said. "Thank you for helping us. By the way, my name is Axel Arbour. Those next to me are colleagues from the Rexnelts Academy of Ironcrest."

Vicente looked at the blond man and said. "I'm Cesar Mazzanti. Those on the side are my family companions."

"Mazzanti?" Julian was from Martell Village, and Millfall was the nearest town. When he heard the name, he recognized it immediately. "Are you from Millfall?" He asked, looking at the black-haired man with the mana-distorted voice.

"Yes," Rory confirmed, wondering what their teacher would say if he found out who they were.

But neither he nor Vicente had any intention of revealing their identities.

"Well, you should leave this area. The Rougarou warned others of its kind, so many creatures will come to this place soon." One of the teachers there said, intending to leave to complete their mission.

As much as they had lost one of their companions, they were already very close to the heart of this mountainous area. It would be a tremendous waste of all their efforts to get there if they gave up now.

The danger they would face would be the same whether they continued the mission or tried to return to Ironcrest!

He said. "My group will continue our journey. I hope that the items of our dead companion and these creatures will pay for the help you have given us."

As strange as it sounded, it was common that in situations like this, when a third party got involved in a conflict and saved one side, they would take the belongings of all the corpses in the area.

Vicente looked at the level 5 Rougarou and saw its orange magic pentagram. "Well, that will be enough for us. Unfortunately, I don't know if it's worth the risk of one of my men absorbing this pentagram."

Since so many people had attacked that Rougarou, Vicente didn't know who had killed it.

Given its grudge, it would be quite dangerous for one of his men to absorb it.

He sighed at the thought of losing such a good pentagram.

Julian then asked. "Are you and your group here to hunt pentagrams?"

Rory replied. "Yes. We're going deep into this area to look for essences compatible with us. Ten of us have yet to find our new pentagrams."

It was common for groups like theirs to go together to find pentagrams in regions like this. Not only was it dangerous to travel alone, but it was also tough for one person to face and overcome the challenges that would come with the highest level pentagram they could absorb.

The group of teachers from Ironcrest had already guessed their group was there for this reason and were not surprised by it while they collected the body of their companion, who had died in the previous battle.

As Vicente's men collected the items left behind by such an individual and the valuables in the area, he asked. "What about you? What are you doing here?"

The teachers looked at each other, knowing they shouldn't tell him why they were there, since they were on a mission for the Seidel Magic College.

But that group had helped them; without that help, they would have perished there.

Since these men were somewhat resentful of the mission they had been given, they saw no problem in telling them the basics.

"We were sent here by our academy to check on the appearance of something of value to our superiors. Unfortunately, we don't know the exact location of it. We only know that in the depths of Alpine Woodpecker Forest, there is something of value waiting for someone to collect it." The group leader said, not going into details about what they were after, but not lying.

"Is that so?" Vicente looked at Rory and imagined that the map they held in their hands could be something that would lead them to such a thing.

No matter how old their map was and how recent the mission of these teachers seemed to be, that didn't rule out the possibility that they were connected!

The magic world was extraordinary. The formation of specific resources could be predicted by beings with certain characteristics who passed near the place where some natural things could develop.

Someone who could perceive this could have passed through that area in the past and realized something valuable would one day appear there, then made the map Vicente had in his hand.

Since the magic world was perilous, having relevant information or even skills wasn't everything. One could end up losing their things to stronger ones, and items like the book Vice had stolen from Defiant Tyranny could pass through the hands of dozens of people before being used.

Realizing that their map might lead to such resources, Vice and Rory naturally increased the importance of reaching where their "treasure" was supposed to be.

But before the two sides could say goodbye, Julian suddenly suggested something. "Why don't we unite our groups? We're stronger together, and we can achieve our goals in this area more easily."

Not only the people in Vicente's group but also those in Julian's own team looked at him strangely, for it was neither common nor advisable to join unknown groups in the middle of journeys like this.

The dangers would be great!

But Julian was no fool, nor was he a man who didn't pay his debts. Aware of the dangers of this area for his group and also that the resources left to Vicente's group were not enough to pay for their help, he wanted to unite his group with Vice's.

'That could be good for us. Besides, these individuals can't use what my group is looking for. Even if they are strong enough to turn against us, I doubt they would do so for something that wouldn't serve them.' The leader of that party thought, imagining it wouldn't be so bad.

He said. "What do you say, Cesar? If we unite, you and your group will reach your new pentagrams faster, and my people and I will complete our mission faster. Everybody can win."

Chapter 220 Agreement and Searches in Millfall

When Vicente heard that group's invitation to join forces, he looked at Rory and then at Julian and remained silent momentarily.

Wanting to save his teacher's life was completely different from wanting him as an ally. However, this was a consideration that Vicente had to give some importance to because these men could add power to his group.

These teachers could not only increase the group's chances of success by exploring the innermost part of the Alpine Woodpecker Forest, but they could also help speed up the addition of pentagrams to Vicente's group.

Getting pentagrams faster would be good for the group to gain enough to return to Millfall and more effectively help the rest of the Mazzanti family grow locally.

But in addition to helping the group of the Mazzanti family achieve their goals more quickly and with less danger to the team, these companions of Julian's could give them more important information.

There was no way for Rory and Vice to be sure that their map would lead them to the precious item these people were after. If it didn't, they could get more than they could on their own.

'Even though joining forces with these men will expose the place we are going to, I see more advantages in joining my group with theirs than continuing to travel alone.' Vicente thought for a moment.

When all the valuables in the area had been collected, and the body of the professor killed there was already under the control of Julian's group, Vicente made up his mind.

"All right. Let's team up."

Julian smiled when he heard this, feeling more secure about his group's mission. "So where are we going now? Did you travel by chance, or were you looking for a particular magical creature?"

Rory replied, twisting the truth a bit so the men wouldn't suspect his group might be after the same thing as them. "We have the probable location of creatures useful to our purpose. We were on our way to this place, a few hours from our current position, when we stopped to help you."

"A few hours?"

"I think we should follow their destination for now. You're heading inland from this area, right?"
One of the teachers asked.

"Yes," Vicente said.

With this answer, the strongest of the teachers there decided. "Very well. We're going in almost the same direction. Then, let's help your group get your pentagrams. That will improve the chances of survival for all of us in this part of the forest."

"Okay!"

With everyone in agreement, they soon set off, Julian's group joining Vicente's on the trail their map marked as one of the paths to the 'treasure.'

...

Meanwhile, in Millfall...

It was evening in this town, but a new problem had sprung up to entertain the curious and disturb those involved in a new local situation.

The night before, Nina Fuller, a young disabled girl, had disappeared while at the town's most famous academy!

The Fuller family wasn't enough to stir up the town. Still, as the local situation with the Mazzanti family and the Scarlet Syndicate became more stable, her disappearance began to attract local attention.

The Fuller family had already hired House Mazzanti to search for young Nina and even some of the local nobility were getting involved. But even with dozens of people already investigating the disappearance, nothing useful had been discovered so far.

More worried than ever, Eve headed to the home of one of the few people she thought could help her.

Pa! Pa!

Feeling terrible, with dark circles under her eyes from not sleeping at all last night, Eve knocked on the door of a beautiful house where she and her group were going for help.

"Nova, open the door. It's me, Eve, Nina Fuller's babysitter!" She shouted as she knocked on that army soldier's door.

Nova had promised to look for Nina. But she had spent the last two days out of town preparing for the 3rd stage basilisk hunt. She had just returned this afternoon and still didn't know anything.

Knowing this, Eve was there to inform her and perhaps get help from the army!

When she opened the door of her house and looked at the blonde woman, Nova immediately realized that something was wrong. "Eve? What's wrong?" She asked as she had a bad feeling.

"Nina is missing. I think someone has kidnapped her!" Eve got straight to the point, making the beautiful blue-haired woman in her nightclothes widen her beautiful eyes as she turned a little pale.

Gulp!

"It can't be..." She muttered as she saw the sweet little Nina in her mind.

Quickly remembering Nina's story, Nova immediately began to feel angry as her concern for this young girl grew exponentially.

Nina was such a sweet girl and had already been through so much... But fate didn't seem to be going easy on her or her family!

Just when things got better for her, something like this hit her again!

"Damn it! Tell me everything that happened!" Nova entered her house and grabbed a few things, quickly moving to start solving this matter.

'I have to fix this! I can't let another tragedy happen to this family!' She thought as she put on her armor and listened to Eve.

...

Shelby was aware of her star student's disappearance, and some of her contacts were looking for information about Nina.

She was just as concerned as Nova and Eve, but how she acted and showed concern was completely different from those women.

She relied on her usual calmness, maintaining her manners as she tried to deal with all the problems that came her way.

When she had noticed Nina's problem on the morning of the previous day, she had immediately sent out orders to move many of her men, having asked allies to watch the movements of certain men in Millfall.

Not only that, but she had met with Casey Rogers the afternoon of the previous day and added him to her forces in the search for Nina.

Casey had listened to everything Shelby had to say and set out to solve the problem with the rest of her allied forces.

After hours of following the information and leads of some local suspects, he was starting to get close to the real people involved in Nina Fuller's kidnapping.

At this moment, he was on the roof of a building across the street from the person he was about to meet.

As he waited for his moment to act, Casey had a terrible look on his face, his fists clenched and shaking.

'Acting against a child?' He remembered the day he had met Nina and then his own history.

Casey had his own share of tragedy!