

The Mafia 261

Chapter 261 Time to Expand the Family!

"Hahaha, I'll give you my project first. You should study it and only then come back to me so that we can really start working on it." Benson said as he took a thin, handwritten book from his storage item.

Picking it up, Vicente flipped through it and saw the various points about the robot armor, which had many parts and details he still didn't understand.

"I see... I'll have to continue my study while I try to understand it. Only then can we do something about it and start our tests." He muttered, seeing that he lacked technical knowledge.

"That is the point. In order for us to move forward with this project, you need to become a 2nd-stage blacksmith." Benson commented as he ran his hand through his beard. "You currently have an interesting magic level, on par with some beginner 2nd-stage blacksmiths. But considering the speed of your progress, you lack technical knowledge.

However, you are a rare gem regarding theories, Vicente. If you dedicate yourself, you'll reach 60% efficiency in your production in a matter of days or weeks.

Vicente understood what Benson meant. He was basically telling him to focus his time on the art of forging.

"Unfortunately, I have matters to attend to regarding Cesar's identity, master. I've recently been involved in problems that are difficult to solve. I can't stay in a forge and focus all my time on that. I have to take risks as Cesar to accomplish some goals." He was sincere.

Benson was no fool and didn't need to hear details from Vicente. It was evident that Cesar had many problems to deal with that would prevent such a young man from making better use of his time.

"Anyway, whenever possible, you should study our art, Vice. That might help you solve your problems." He said as he looked into his disciple's eyes and placed a hand on one of the young man's shoulders.

Seeing that his master wouldn't push him but wouldn't advise him to stop completely to solve his problems, Vice realized that he would still have to lead a busy life.

Fortunately, he was used to this life of having no free time and always working to achieve goals.

"I'll do my best."

With that, the two soon said goodbye after Benson gave Vicente his last piece of advice and learned that he would have to go without seeing him for a few days.

Leaving his master's house with a better idea of how to develop his forging skills and make better use of his powers, Vicente went straight to the Blacksmiths' Association building.

There, he made his way to the soon-to-be-closed shops to order materials. After that, he went to the association's library after paying an errand boy to look for Lukas.

It was time for him to bring people into his family with skills beyond fighting. He needed exceptional professionals, something he could now afford with the Irwin family's coins!

The way to get these people was through Lukas, who he wanted by his side to run his family's forge in his absence!

...

Hours later, it was evening in Millfall when Vicente left the association's library.

As he left the library, he soon met a blond, well-dressed young man waiting for him outside the association building.

"I heard that you wanted to see me," Lukas said as he approached Vicente with a smile.

Vicente smiled back and said. "I have important matters to discuss with you, my friend."

"Oh? That's interesting. But first, how was your trip, man? You were gone for several weeks." He squeezed one of Vicente's hands, curious to know what had changed to move this guy in such a way.

Previously, Rory's conversations with his group hadn't developed as much as he would have liked, and Lukas had thought that Vicente needed time to develop a deeper relationship with his group.

But suddenly, Rory had made hard to refuse offers to two of his allies, and now Vicente wanted to meet him to talk business. That was enough to make Lukas curious!

"Let's walk while we talk." Vicente led the way, and soon, the two of them were walking through the center of Millfall.

"Well, I've been out of town lately, doing business but also improving my strength. As you can imagine, I'm an Acolyte now." He said, surprising Lukas, who couldn't sense Vicente's mana anymore.

The two of them were currently at the same level. Since Vicente camouflaged his mana inside his body, Lukas had no idea of the real level of the black-haired young man next to him.

"So you've also absorbed your second pentagram recently? That's good. That means you'll soon become a 2nd-stage blacksmith." Lukas said, having also absorbed his second essence a few days ago.

"With the improvements I've made and the business I've done outside of Millfall, I think I've reached a new level, my friend. It allows me to look at the people around me and see an opportunity for both sides." He looked meaningfully into Lukas' eyes.

Lukas was no fool and quickly understood what Vicente had in mind. "Do you want to raise the level of our relationship? You want a deeper partnership?"

"That's right. I'm willing to support those who are willing to become my family's exclusive professionals. Of course, I'll pay for all the resources you need, a fixed salary, and improvement costs, such as purchasing spells, books and paying for exams in associations or guilds.

In the meantime, all those interested in this arrangement will have to do is join my family and be available to produce and repair whatever we need."

Lukas' eyebrows knitted together and he stopped walking, looking at Vicente strangely. "How are you going to do that? Did you happen to find a chest full of gold coins on your journey?"

To hire just one person and provide everything Vicente promised, one would need between 100 and 200 gold coins per month to take care of an Acolyte at the first 3 levels of the stage. But Vicente seemed to want more than one such person, and moreover, people from different areas, which would, of course, increase his costs even more.

Hiring only five 2nd stage people would be extremely expensive, even for a Baron's family!

Therefore, Lukas couldn't help but wonder how Vicente was going to do such a thing!

Chapter 262 Celebration?

Vicente didn't want to tell Lukas the whole truth right away. That would be compromising and unnecessary. However, he did want Lukas and some other professionals on his side.

The cost would be high, as Lukas imagined. But the benefit would be much greater.

For example, by having an alchemist on his side, Vicente's family could raise someone who would be committed to serving the family and who could produce exactly the pills and potions they needed.

Though the cost of maintaining such a single professional would be high, the return and potential they could provide were immense.

Vicente would have to spend a lot of money to have each of these professionals on his side. But each of them would accelerate the rate of progress of his group relative to its numbers and capabilities.

In short, with individuals capable of producing things for the group, they could speed up its expansion rate and thus achieve more abundant and valuable business, which would naturally increase the number of coins and profits for the group.

Millfall currently had plenty of room for the Mazzanti family to grow. However, Vice lacked the people and resources to nurture them.

That would allow him to increase their numbers and quickly fill the void left by Defiant Tyranny.

But there was only a short time for him to do this, or he would lose the opportunity. At the moment, not only was the Scarlet Syndicate gradually occupying the space left by the Defiant Tyranny, but other groups similar to Vicente's were also moving into the city's shadows.

Depending on his family's current growth, Vicente wasn't sure if he would be able to become the biggest force in Millfall's underworld in the short term.

To accelerate his group's growth, he was willing to make the investment that Lukas doubted he could afford.

For now, the Scarlet Syndicate is preoccupied with their own profits and their new weapons. They won't look at my family for a few more weeks. But after that...' Vicente narrowed his eyes, aware that his personal growth would cause problems for his people.

The truth was that he was growing very fast by local standards. Vicente expected to reach level 3 in no more than 8 days. However, with this level of power, he was sure that the leader of the Scarlet Syndicate, Brody Wright, would feel threatened.

Even though he already had weapons in the hands of his men and was on the allied side with the most power between him and Vicente, that man could very soon change his mind about the young Fuller.

Aware of the problem he might have with Brody, Vicente wanted to grow as much as possible over the next month. So he wanted to bring Lukas and such a young man's allies into his family!

Rory had already approached the two people he thought he had a good chance of bringing into the family. Still, Vicente was moving on his own to try this with Lukas.

He said, answering the question of the blond man next to him. "More or less. You could say I found a treasure, haha. But if you come with me, I'll tell you in detail what happens, but also my plans.

Lukas, come with me. Let's reach the 3rd stage and surpass Millfall's level together." He showed one of his hands to the young man with a doubtful look.

"The 3rd stage? Is that your goal and leaving Millfall?" Lukas looked at him cautiously.

"My goal is to grow as much as possible, my friend. Millfall can't be the end of my journey, and I think you feel the same way. Since you have ambitions to reach better places in the future, why don't we do it side by side? As blacksmiths, we can help each other." He said confidently, not caring about the rivalry between his and Lukas' masters.

Lukas didn't care either, but he was unsure about Vicente's ability to fulfill his words.

"Are you willing to make a Magic Agreement with me? I don't want to distrust you, Vice, but I find it hard to believe you can keep this promise... No offense." Lukas said, looking at Vicente and seeing the conviction in the black-haired young man's eyes. "I don't want to relinquish my exclusivity as a magician without guarantees."

Vicente smiled. "But of course. That's the minimum. But first, I'd like your help in getting some of your allies to join me as well. I think I can afford up to five professionals like you simultaneously."

"I can talk to some of my contacts. But you'll have to convince them on your own." Lukas commented. "I can arrange a meeting between you and them to sort it out."

"Perfect. How about we do it in five days? I plan on going to Martell Village today to deal with a problem in one of my warehouses, and I won't be back in town until then." He made up this excuse to justify his disappearance for the next few days.

"Five days? Okay, I'll see what I can do." Lukas saw no problem with that. "You can come to my house in the evening in five days. I'll ensure that as many of my contacts as possible await you there."

With that, the two parted ways, Lukas running off to find his allies in Millfall while Vicente made his way to disguise himself and then return to his identity as Cesar Mazzanti.

Vicente Fuller was already in the city. Now, it was time for Cesar Mazzanti to return from his pentagram hunt!

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Late at night on Vicente's first day back in Millfall after weeks away from the city, he finally arrived at the Mazzanti family estate to meet his men!

As their chief entered the front door, a group of nearly 20 of the family's soldiers celebrated his return, clapping their hands in excitement at Vicente's triumphant return.

Vicente was now a level 2 Acolyte, but not only that but someone with a yellow pentagram!

Almost everyone there had idolized him before, but now their fanaticism towards him had increased by several levels!

"Boss, congratulations on your progress!"

They said similar things as Vicente took off his mask and smiled, happy to be back with his people.

"Thank you, everyone. But let's not celebrate too loudly. Our enemies are on the prowl, and they shouldn't know how well we're doing." He said, easily silencing his men.

"But I bring you good news." He showed one of his hands where the spatial ring was with all the resources he had brought for some of his staff.

"Here, I have important resources that will help some of you to increase your magical powers!"

Chapter 263 That's Not Good Enough

After reuniting with several of his men, including old and new family members, Vicente quickly gave the resources to Rory to distribute among the most suitable ones.

While seeing his friend after days, Vicente heard from Rory. "Don't worry about these new problems. We'll deal with whatever it is. Sooner or later, we'll fulfill your promise to the representatives of the Seidel Magical College, and we'll also deal with the Jasmine problem."

"I know. Thanks for the words anyway." Vicente stated as he walked next to Rory to the detention of his property.

"And Nina? Have you seen her?" Rory asked about the young girl, the subject that probably worried Vicente the most, even considering everything that was going on.

"She's fine. As for the problem with Marcus Symons, I'll deal with that when the time comes. For now, let's continue with our old plans." He voiced with an expression that was hard to read.

Vicente had talked to Eve, some of his men, Shelby, and even Nova about everything that had happened. He was furious with Marcus but knew he couldn't deal with the young master Symons in the short term.

If he made a mistake, he'd be in trouble with the whole kingdom!

Since he was weak and had little influence in the meantime, he intended to leave Marcus alone in the short term to deal with the problems concerning the strength of his group and Jasmine.

But sooner or later, he would have to deal with the Symons family. This family would either lead to his destruction or be destroyed by him!

"What are you going to do now?"

He replied to Rory before opening a door that led up the stairs to where Jasmine was. "I'm going to take care of some problems and go to The Rocky Gorge. If I'm lucky, I might be able to get some valuable items from the nest of the 3rd stage basilisk."

"Are you sure about that?" Rory looked at Vicente worriedly. "Just because we got away from that wounded and exhausted woodpecker doesn't mean..."

"I know. But I don't have many options. If I can at least get something from that creature's nest, I can publicly justify using more of the resources stolen from the Irwin estate."

Besides, we have to take advantage of every opportunity. Dealing with the problem of Jasmine and the representatives of the Seidel Magic College won't be easy."

"Do you want me to go with you?"

"No, I'll go alone. I want you to take care of the expansion of the family in Millfall. With the funds I've given you, we'll be able to make some improvements and increase the number of our men."

Rory nodded and asked. "Will we follow the exchange of people with your partners and also with our men in Martell Village?"

"Yes."

"All right. I'll make the changes as soon as I can."

After Rory said these words, they arrived in front of the cell where Jasmine was, both of them with masks on their faces.

Seeing Vicente next to Rory, Jasmine didn't need to feel his level to know that this was Cesar, the man she had traveled with for weeks.

"Cesar Mazzanti, I thought you'd left me." She teased him.

"How could I? You and I have a lot of history together, miss." Vicente laughed before becoming more serious as he looked at Rory. "Have you collected her story?"

"Yes. Now, I'll need a few days to verify it. But I'll have what you need in a week at the most." Rory said while Jasmine watched him without much concern.

With her special ability, her position in the Awakening Temple, where she worked, was not low. Even though she was only an Acolyte, Jasmine's future prospects were not small.

She could become someone very important in the future, so she was already highly valued, even though she was only a young level 5 Acolyte.

That was what gave her the confidence to be of value to Cesar and thus not be killed by him in the short term.

"You will discover how good or bad it is to be related to me." She said in a humorous tone when she saw that they were being careful, a good sign for her.

Their caution meant that they would make the best possible choice, which, in her opinion, would prevent a foolish act that would lead to her death.

The most important thing for her at the moment was not to get revenge for falling into Cesar's hands but to survive the dangerous and talented leader of the Mazzanti family. As for Mark and Layla, she hoped they wouldn't screw everything up. But at the end of the day, her life was the most important thing to her!

"Good or bad?" Rory looked at her.

"If your leader makes a deal with me, we can grow a lot together. That will be good, of course. But if he chooses to deal with me in a different way, sooner or later, you will be faced with despair." She said flatly.

"You're really brave," Vicente commented. "Do you think I'll just make a deal with someone who tried to kill and rob me?"

"If you're smart, I'm sure you will."

Vicente laughed under his mask. "What exactly are you offering me, Jasmine? We've been talking for days, but you've always been vague. Just showing me how bad it can be to kill you won't be enough to change your situation. I need more."

"Besides influence in a superior organization, you'll have inside information. We in the Congregation of Revelations know everything before anyone else. That alone should be enough for you." She said something she had already told Vicente.

Vicente then said. "I wanted to know what you people of the Congregation of Revelations really do. I doubt you are just an organization dedicated to developing magic in Polaris Realm. What can I really gain by having you on my side?"

Jasmine became more serious once she saw that Vicente was no fool who believed what the members of the Congregation of Revelations told their many believers.

"Accessing privileged information about my organization could be dangerous, Cesar. I'm not saying this to threaten you, but as a non-member, you're better off not knowing everything I could do to help you."

"That's not good enough." Vicente was firm. "If you want to make a deal with me, you must show me your real value. Until then, forget about getting anything from me."

As he said these words, he left her behind and went back to the upper level of his estate.

Rory followed him and asked. "Don't you want to make a deal with her?"

"Of course I do," Vicente replied when he was far away from Jasmine. "But I'm going to make the best deal I can. I'll force her to guarantee things that are really important to us, not just what she wants to do."

"Oh? Do you think she can do more?"

"Of course. Do you believe that the organization with a monopoly on Magic Gems and Awakening in Polaris Realm is as simple an institution as its members claim to be?" Vicente laughed sarcastically.

Chapter 264 High-Level Item?

Rory became a few degrees more serious as he listened to Vicente.

Unlike Vicente, Rory hadn't had the experience of growing up on Earth, a much easier place to be skeptical of ideologies.

In a world without special powers, it was effortless to doubt the existence of higher-level powers. But in the world of magic, with its fantastic components, it was more challenging to doubt certain things.

The level of some magicians was so high that it wouldn't be wrong to consider them Gods or Saints. It would even be extremely easy to worship them.

The result of these differences between the Polaris Realm and Earth was that in Vicente's new world, people were much more attached to certain ideas.

As much as this was a world where one had to defy the heavens to grow, skepticism was uncommon and something only the strongest had after a long journey with many experiences.

A young person like Rory or even Eve tended to believe what the Congregation of Revelation preached!

They weren't stupid enough to think that the members of the Awakening Temple didn't have their own interests. But they didn't have Vicente's skepticism about this organization.

"Do you think there's something deeper they're hiding from us?" Rory soberly asked as he followed Vicente.

"Yes, I do. I think that's the least you can expect from the organization that controls the Awakening across the continent. There must be important things they are hiding. Important secrets will turn the world upside down once out of that organization."

Vicente was a criminal by nature. He distrusted any powerful organization, government, or institution with a monopoly on anything.

It was in his nature to be skeptical of other people's intentions!

"What are you going to do with this? Even if there is some disturbing secret, we are tiny compared to them. They're the strongest on the continent, Vicente." Rory said seriously.

"I know that. And we have no reason to act against them unless they act against us first. But since we're going to make a deal with Jasmine, we must ensure we get the best for ourselves." Vicente smiled at his friend. "If one day she has access to a secret that could change our situation, we have to know!"

That was his point. He didn't want to act against the Congregation of Revelations or even be their rival. On the contrary, he wanted to be a friend of the continent's strongest.

Since Jasmine was already in his hands, she would be his link to that power, theoretically without military, political, or economic goals.

Rory wasn't as skeptical as Vicente but wasn't a fool. "I see. If anything, it's better for us if we can force Jasmine to give us more than she wants."

"That's my intention."

"Okay, I'll keep checking her information over the next few days. I'll try to have something more complete on her before she leaves for Rocky Gorge."

"Hmm. Now, go take your new pill. Take advantage of the fact that I'm here to raise your magic to level 2." Vicente said before going to the vault in his residence while Rory went to the meditation room.

Arriving at the vault, Vicente looked at the coins and resources there.

The vault was practically empty!

But that was to be expected. With the cost of his current operations, he was spending more than he was making. Besides, he couldn't have too many resources in there since the Scarlet Syndicate and the royal army could visit them at any time to demand some kind of inspection.

Now, their situation was balanced, but it was the balance of a see-saw. The slightest move by a third party could easily bring them down again!

Vicente then placed more coins there so his men could cover their expenses, and the family would have enough to get by for the next 15 days.

He also put some of the items he had bought in Ironcrest and not delivered to Rory, including a 2nd-grade item, 100% efficiency, something better than what he had stolen from the Irwin family.

Taking off the necklace around his neck, Vicente placed it in a small compartment of the evaluation machine and began the evaluation by injecting some of his mana into it.

After a few moments, the machine beeped three times, signaling the end of the evaluation.

[Evaluation completed...]

[Processing results...]

[Error. Please retry later.]

Vicente read it and sighed, realizing he would have to try again in the future when he had a 3rd-grade item.

'It seems that Julian has given me something of high value. If this tool can't read it, it must have a high value.' He took his necklace back from the machine and put it around his neck again.

Machines like that could even describe soil, water, and pieces of wood. They could evaluate everything except items of higher quality than themselves.

Failure in an evaluation meant only one thing. The level of the machine used was incompatible with that of the item being evaluated!

"Sigh... It's not bad. It's better that it has a high value than something ordinary. Since it's mine, let it be something fantastic." Vicente muttered as he walked out of his vault with no regrets, as his group needed such items for appraisal.

He intended to bring several professionals into his family, so he needed more than one such machine.

With that settled, Vicente set out to find Casey, the last person he wanted to speak to upon his return to Millfall.

One of his men had already informed him of Rory's movements over the past few days, so he wanted to thank Casey for his earlier action to save Nina but also to confirm their agreement.

From that day on, Casey would no longer work for the local nobility and would be an exclusive member of the Mazzanti family!

In addition to him, from what Rory had already done, an engineer and an enchanter friend of Lukas were almost certain to join the Mazzanti family in the next few days.

Vicente would just have to wait for his meeting with Lukas in five days to confirm these and perhaps other additions to the family!

That way, Vicente would be able to take care of various problems and family matters before his planned trip to The Rocky Gorge.

His meeting with Lukas would come soon as the days passed quickly.

As time passed, his family would make new advancements among some of their weaker men and even among the Acolytes!

Chapter 265 Getting Professionals (1)

Five days after Vicente's arrival in Millfall...

Vicente was now at the door of the Oak estate in a noble area of the city.

The Oak family was not noble, much less one of the richest locally. But being a family of alchemists, a highly sought-after profession in Polaris Realm, their financial situation wasn't bad. They had a big residence in the area where the wealthiest people in the city lived.

Once again in such a wealthy neighborhood, Vicente looked at the beautiful gray-walled estate in front of him, where he could see a large garden and a residence at the end of the property, large enough to accommodate more than 20 people comfortably.

But the Oak family didn't have that many members. There were only three other women and four servants besides Lukas, his sister, their father and mother.

All the other subordinates of the Oak family only served them by doing outside work, without living on their property, which happened in sects and clans.

The Oak Family was not a clan, far from it.

Though they weren't prominent and didn't have many members, the Oak Family's estate was well maintained, enough to please the eyes of others and its few residents.

As he looked at the place with Casey by his side, Vicente, without his mask, watched as someone came to open the entrance for them.

"Do you think this is a good idea?" The man with several tattoos all over his body and long black hair asked with a neutral expression.

"Every action has its risks." Vicente understood what his family associate had in mind. "Anyone we try to bring into the Mazzanti family will have risks associated with them. But we can't shrink. Not growing is the same as going backward."

"Well, if I have to, I'll erase their memory of today's conversation." Casey sighed, aware he was there because Vicente had already foreseen the possibility that someone among those they would meet would decide not to make a deal with the family.

"That's the spirit." Vicente smiled and then stepped forward to see Lukas himself coming to greet him at the door of his house.

"Vicente..." Lukas commented as he looked at them, not expecting to see his friend with a stranger.

"Are you two friends?" He asked as he looked at Casey and greeted him.

Lukas wasn't a nobleman, let alone someone with local influence. He didn't know who Casey Rogers was.

"Yes, my name is Casey. We're in the same group." The tanned man beside Vicente replied as he shook one of Luke's hands.

"Casey is practically family to me. So he's here to join me in today's conversation. I hope that's not a problem."

"Not at all. A friend of yours is certainly a friend of mine." Lukas said with a smile and accepted the stranger into his home.

"Please come with me. I live at the back of the building. My friends are waiting for us at my residence."

"How many of your associates have you managed to gather?" Vicente asked, ignoring the front yard of the Oak estate, from which he could smell an intense medicinal odor.

"Four. Two who had already received offers from your friend Rory, and two others. Two engineers, an enchanter, and a doctor."

The alchemist who had met Rory with these others was out of town. Other than that, Lukas had no other contacts close enough to introduce to Vicente.

"Okay, let's work with that," Vicente said, feeling it was a pity that there were no alchemists among the four. Otherwise, he would have had a perfect group to bring over to his side.

'I will look for Liam Young before I leave Millfall for the basilisk hunt... He can make a great addition to the Mazzanti family's alchemy department.' Vicente remembered the alchemist he had done business with shortly after he started working locally.

Liam was supposed to be an Acolyte by now. As someone capable of producing items of great purity at the 1st stage, he certainly had a great talent and could become important in the future.

While he was planning to find Liam, the three arrived at the residence where four young people between the ages of 17 and 21 were waiting for them in a attractive living room.

"My friends, as promised, Vicente Fuller. He's here to offer you some business... To all of us, actually." Lukas said as he introduced Vice.

"This next to him is Casey Rogers, a friend of Vicente."

The two newcomers greeted the three men and one woman in the living room of Luke's house by nodding as they listened to their names and professions.

As he listened to their presentation, Vicente saw they all had excellent talents, the weakest being level 2 Acolytes and the strongest level 3.

On the other hand, while Vicente rated them positively, Lukas' four associates looked at him, but mostly at Casey, for this long-haired man was already at level 5.

Reaching level 5 at a young age was difficult, but it was also a sign that such a magician could pass the 3rd stage with relative ease. Beyond that, there wasn't much to say, so only time would tell if Casey would go much further or if he would get stuck between the end of the 3rd stage and the beginning of the 4th.

"It's a pleasure to meet you." Vicente began casually. "At the last meeting, I couldn't meet you because of some problems, but my friend and right-hand man was with you. He told me some great things that brought me here today."

The two who had already been contacted by Rory, a man, and a woman, were the least surprised but also the most smiling of the four, as they had already agreed to his offer and only needed to hear the end of it.

"What I'm offering you is full support in exchange for your exclusivity. I have many men who depend on resources that you will surely be able to help us produce. So I invite you to join my family and grow side by side."

Seeing the smile on Vicente's face, the level 3 doctor, the strongest there at the moment, asked seriously. "What's the catch? Why are you willing to give us so much? You must have a problem that puts you in such a situation, right? Hiring so many professionals at once is unusual."

Everyone there had their greed, but some were more concerned than others about the consequences of their decisions.

Before deciding on something that could significantly compromise them, part of them wanted to know what the worst could be.

Vicente looked at Lukas and then at Casey, and sat down in a chair. "There are problems, and it will affect those who accompanied me."

As he spoke, his first pentagram appeared, and a decorative metal object next to him changed shape, catching the attention of the five who didn't know of Vicente's abilities.

Chapter 266 Getting Professionals (2)

When they saw the metals of the decoration near Vicente floating in the air like parts of a liquid, everyone there except Casey turned their attention to it.

At first, none of them associated what they saw with the powers of Cesar Mazzanti, someone who had become famous in the local underworld and whom they knew of.

Their first thought was that Vicente was demonstrating his powers to show them his ability to fulfill what he was offering them. But soon, those more attuned to local news shifted their thoughts and connected the person in front of them to a rising mercenary in Millfall.

"That..."

Lukas also noticed the similarity between Vicente's powers and those of Cesar Mazzanti and looked at him differently, but he couldn't help but be fascinated by the skill of his contact.

'This skill is perfect for forging! I hadn't imagined Cesar Mazzanti's potential as a blacksmith!' He thought as he also considered his closeness to Vicente and whether it would be good to make a deal with someone with so many problems.

Lukas and his associates didn't know the details of what was happening in Millfall's underworld. They knew about the organizations that existed and the noble families that supported them and got involved in some problems. But even if they didn't know what Vicente was involved in, they knew those things could put them in danger.

That was a point they had to consider!

'So, he's revealing his identity to prove his powers of persuasion.' The only woman there thought as she admired Vicente's magical abilities.

Her eyes narrowed as she watched him form a mechanism and realize his potential.

'Vicente Fuller is a blacksmith, but he can also be an engineer!'

The skills of blacksmiths and engineers were not so different. In fact, they were complementary, and one with the ability for the other could venture into both fields if they wished.

Of course, each person would have stronger or weaker affinities for one side or the other. Still, someone capable of creating mechanisms could truly follow both paths.

The difficult part would be the path to follow, with more time for study and training.

Realizing Vicente's potential, the engineer became even more interested in him because having access to someone with a good talent for her profession could help her develop her own powers more easily.

Thinking about his potential, she saw that there were clear benefits to a relationship with Vicente, even if he was Cesar Mazzanti.

"So you're Cesar Mazzanti..." The doctor commented.

"I didn't expect someone like that to be so young and even closer to us." The other engineer, a young man with short green hair, said as he watched Vicente stop using his ability.

Casey stood silently next to Vicente, his hands behind his back as he stared intently at the group in front of him.

Meanwhile, Vicente had a smile on his face before he opened his mouth to speak again, this time having already revealed his secret to them.

"That's right. In the darkness of the city, I use this other name to operate locally and do some business that could put a target on my back. However, I'm not revealing who I am to frighten you. I want you to understand that I propose you to join the Mazzanti family, not House Fuller."

"Wouldn't that be the same?" Lukas laughed.

"No. I wouldn't be able to explain the hiring of you or the promotion of my men. But at House Mazzanti, I can do that without attracting attention." Vicente looked at Lukas and continued. "But don't get me wrong. You coming into my family doesn't mean I will give you guns and masks so you can work with my men.

On the contrary, you will have little or no contact with my people. But you won't have to work for anyone else and will be available to serve our needs from afar.

All contact between us will be made to keep the secret of who you will be working for as much as possible, which could significantly reduce the risks of you joining the family."

"Still, there would be no guarantees..." The engineer commented.

Vicente looked at that brown-haired woman named Rose Eaton and agreed. "Yes, I can't deny that. But the reward you will receive for the risks you take will not be small.

I'll pay each of you 40 gold coins a month, no matter how much work you do. In addition, I'll pay for all the ingredients, spells, materials, and, in short, everything you need to produce what I ask for.

In addition, I'll give you 10% of what you produce for yourself, and I'll also pay for any exams you need to take to improve your position in your profession. Of course, I'll also give you resources such as pills and potions."

What Vicente offered them was superb. There had to be a catch because no one would just give something away.

Behind the many benefits were the dangers of associating with him.

These young people looked at each other in silence as they thought about it, attracted by Vicente's offer but also afraid.

Not only was Vicente likely to get into a lot of trouble because of his identity as Cesar, he was a danger to them all!

As someone capable of killing people without blinking an eye, he was a hazardous man for these people, most of whom didn't know how to fight.

John North, a young man with short white hair, took a deep breath and asked. "What happens if we refuse your offer?"

Everyone there looked at Vicente, putting aside whatever was on their minds to listen to what he had to say, all feeling tense.

Vicente smiled and pointed to Casey. "I'll let my friend here take care of you..."

Gulp!

Everyone felt their hearts beat faster as they looked at Casey.

Vicente finished his speech. "He will erase your memories of this encounter, and we can go on with our lives as if nothing had happened."

'Damn it, Vicente! You nearly scared me to death!' Lukas used one hand to prop himself up on a table as he stood, but he could feel his legs weakening.

He knew how to fight and had a lot of strength, but he wasn't sure he could defend himself against either of the two visitors.

The others also breathed more deeply as they relaxed their bodies, feeling what was to come after so much tension.

They had all felt their hearts racing after the first part of Vicente's speech!

Seeing their situation, Vicente smiled at how easily he had fooled them. "Anyway, your lives are not in danger if you're worried about that. I don't want unconnected people in my family. If you don't want to, you don't have to take the risks or have the opportunities I offer.

So please, make a choice. Whatever it is, I'll accept it."

Chapter 267 Mazzanti Family Agreements (1)

"I agree to join your family."

The first person to speak was the only woman there, Rose, a 2nd-stage engineer with a green talent and an unusual magical form.

When she expressed her intention to go ahead with the agreement proposed by Vicente, everyone looked at her, especially a man with green hair and a green talent, another engineer. "Are you sure about this, Rose? I know it's tempting, but we must consider that we might have to pay for these opportunities with our lives."

"I'm sure." She looked at her colleague and friend. "I understand the risks, and given the benefits, I accept whatever comes after. I choose to bet that Vicente Fuller will succeed, and I will have my share in his progress."

Vicente was pleased to hear it while the others pondered Rose's words, aware this was indeed a bet that depended on the young Fuller's success.

If Vicente succeeded and continued on his upward trajectory, the chances of them growing together would be great, though the risks would not be reduced to zero.

Otherwise, everyone involved with him would have a high chance of being pursued by enemies, and even if the risk of death weren't 100%, it would be high enough for them to at least be harmed.

In short, to stand by him was to believe that he would continue to win, something some of them thought was possible, while others doubted it.

'Vicente is a student of Benson King. Even if things go wrong for him, he'll probably be able to escape with the help of his master.' Lukas thought. 'Knowing Vice as I do, he wouldn't give up after a defeat. He would look for another chance to grow as long as he was alive, even if he failed here in Millfall. But we'd be crucial to him, so he'd probably try to take as many professionals with him as possible.'

If he had to risk being at Vicente's side, Lukas would rather be closer to the friend he had made months ago, as he thought his chances of survival would be better that way.

At the same time, aware of Vicente's talent for forging, the blond man couldn't help but hesitate to go ahead and accept the risks.

'Vicente will go very far in the forge. If I'm at his side and he has the means to keep his promises, I can go much further than I could on my own.' He clenched his fists before he heard another of his companions make up their minds.

"I, too, will join your Mazzanti family, Vicente Fuller." The doctor there, a man with black hair, green talent, and an unusual magical form, said determinedly about this opportunity.

"I will not join you. I'm sorry. The risk is too great." The other engineer there made up his mind while looking at Rose, hoping the fact that she had accepted would guarantee nothing would really happen to him.

'I hope Rose avoids something bad...' He thought, but was unwilling to take the risks Vicente offered.

Of all the people there, he was the only one who knew Marcus Symons had problems with Vicente because of his fiancée, Shelby Staples. Fearing possible trouble with Viscount Symons, the green-haired man decided.

"Leo... Are you sure?" Rose asked him.

"Yes. Vicente said that our memories of this meeting will be erased, right? If that's the case, I'll be fine. We can still be friends and see each other without me knowing about your affairs." He said, looking at her and Vicente.

"I guarantee that's all I'll do," Vicente confirmed again.

His credibility was essential. And with Casey on his side, he didn't mind if someone like that level 2 engineer didn't join his family.

Casey was a great weapon for Vicente!

"Sigh... It's a shame." Rose lamented. "What should I do when you ask me where my resources come from?"

"Make up an excuse. But don't tell me about Vicente's opportunity. I have no intention of taking the risks he represents, even if he succeeds in the short term."

"All right."

As they talked, the enchanter agreed to go ahead and join the Mazzanti family.

"I'll join your party. With someone with such good skills leading the family and someone capable of erasing memories, I think our chances won't be bad."

Lukas couldn't keep quiet any longer and said. "Me too. Vicente, I hope you can discuss and practice forging with me occasionally. Since I'm joining your family, I want to absorb as much of your knowledge as possible."

Lukas was better at forging than Vicente. They were at the same level, but he had been studying forging for more than five years, while the young Fuller had only been doing it for a few months.

However, Lukas could see Vicente overtaking him in a few months. By then, it would be time for him to benefit from having access to the head of the Mazzanti family.

"Okay, that's possible. I also want to teach you some things to do in my absence. You'll be crucial to my plans, Lukas." Vicente expressed with a smile, getting up from where he was to shake the dominant hand of the blond young man.

Vicente then looked at four of the five people with him and Casey and said. "Welcome to the Mazzanti family. Are you ready to sign Magic Agreements with me?"

The four agreed, smiling contentedly, aware of the risks but also that they would only benefit in the short term.

Even if Cesar had problems, it would take time before anyone realized they were connected to him. Until then, they would take advantage of their opportunities!

So the group would quickly draw up the Magic Agreement by mutual accord, with them and Vicente leaving their marks on the papers each party would take with them.

Only the green-haired man would do nothing of the sort, waiting for Casey to erase his memory of the last few minutes of their conversation.

"Leo, right?" Casey finally looked at the engineer. "What I'm going to do to you won't give me access to your old memories, nor will it harm you. I'm just going to erase your memories since Vicente and I arrived. I'll replace them with false memories showing a failed negotiation in which Vicente didn't make you good enough offers, let alone talk about his secret identity."

"All right." Leo agreed.

In front of everyone, Casey activated his ability and did what he had promised.

That took no more than five minutes, and then he said to the people there. "He'll be conscious for a minute. Pretend that the deal has failed and that Vicente and I have just left."

"Okay."

Everyone agreed and looked at Leo strangely, curious to see what he would remember, while Vicente and Casey left.

Chapter 268 Mazzanti Family Agreements (2)

After Vicente and Casey left, it didn't take long for Leo to regain consciousness, blinking his eyes several times as he seemed to accommodate his eyes to the ambient light.

In the process, he felt a slight headache, enough to irritate him.

'Why do I feel like this?' He asked himself as everyone looked at him strangely.

"Leo, are you all right?" Rose asked him.

"Yeah, yeah, I just suddenly got a headache."

"Really?" Lukas saw that Casey's ability didn't work without adverse effects on his victims. 'If that power was used to erase someone's entire memory...'

Gulp!

He shuddered to think what would happen to some poor sap who went through that situation!

Meanwhile, John asked Leo. "What do you think of everything that just happened?"

He wanted to know how effective Casey's powers were!

Leo wasn't surprised by the question and stated. "Unfortunately, Vicente Fuller still has a lot to grow to want exclusivity from people with our perspectives. He doesn't seem to have any bad options, but supporting one of us should be his limit.

I don't intend to talk to him about any of this again. If he wants, he can come to me, and we can do some business, but no more than that."

Everyone there looked away from Leo, seeing he couldn't remember anything that had happened and had a false memory of everything.

'What a terrible thing!' John bitterly smiled. 'A power like that can make us believe in things that don't exist! It's very disturbing!'

Fortunately for them, they were on the side of the one who had such an ability!

...

While the new members of the Mazzanti family understand how powerful Vicente Fuller really is, with his influence capable of dominating even someone like Casey, those two disguise themselves and return to the Mazzanti estate.

Once there, Vicente ran into Rory and told his deputy about the outcome of the meeting that had just taken place and made it clear to him who he could start working with to further the family's goals.

Vicente had already discussed this with Rory over the past few days, giving him the resources to pass on to these new family members and how to contact them while he was in The Rocky Gorge.

With that in mind, Rory promised to follow up on the group's plans in Vicente's absence before presenting him with the results of the investigation into Jasmine's name.

"I have good and bad news about that woman, Vice." He said as he sat down next to Casey in one of the chairs in Vicente's office.

"Tell me the good news first." Vicente was already tired of the bad news.

"She didn't lie to us," Rory enunciated as he looked back and forth between Vicente and Casey. "She has influence in the temple she comes from, and her future prospects are excellent. If there's anything we can find out from her, it's only a matter of time before we get it. As long as she grows up and is committed to giving us information, we could benefit greatly from a deal with her."

"And what's the bad news?" Casey asked instead of Vicente.

"The bad news is that she's the daughter of a Sovereign." Rory went straight to the critical point. "Her father isn't in the province. He lives in the capital of the kingdom. But if news of what we've done to her reaches him..."

"We will be dead." Casey finished Rory's speech and looked into Vicente's eyes.

"I see. That's awful news." Vicente mumbled, closing his eyes and remembering once again the day he had lost his mother when Sovereigns had fought too close to him.

"If that's the case, we have to make a deal with her and kill everyone who might have had contact with the information about what we did." Vicente quickly made up his mind.

They couldn't kill Jasmine. She was all they had to protect them from an angry Sovereign. But as for the others, there was nothing better than their deaths to protect the information about the beginning of their relationship with Jasmine.

Casey agreed, already expecting this would be his responsibility. "But how do we do that?"

"I'll have to rely on you." Vicente looked into Casey's eyes. "When the time comes, you'll have to help me find everyone who knows about the Jasmine incident. You'll have to read the memories of these people and, from there, find out who has the information. After that, my group will deal with them."

"It won't be easy. My ability doesn't work so well against those at my level or higher. I'd need those people to be unconscious for me to do what you're asking."

"We'll take care of that," Vicente assured, feeling the headache of solving so many problems.

Then he stood up and said. "Anyway, I'll see if I can get her to talk a little more. I'll keep pushing, but I'll make sure she has a signed agreement with us before I leave for The Rocky Gorge."

"You're leaving tomorrow?" Rory asked.

"The day after tomorrow, in the morning."

With that, Vicente left them behind and made his way back to Jasmine in the underground area of his property.

As Vicente made his way to the pink-haired woman, two of the new soldiers, who had come from Martell Village after some of the men who had recently advanced in rank had gone there in the previously planned exchange, entered the Don's office.

"Deputy, I have news about the director of the young lady's academy." One of them said to Rory, feeling proud to be able to serve the Mazzanti family, especially someone as talented as this young man, currently at level 2.

The other said. "The current director will resign. After we denounced him for his possible involvement in the kidnapping of the young lady and revealed to him his wife's affair with the young master of the Symons family, he made a deal with us to drop the case in exchange for his resignation."

"Is that so? That's good. How are the interviews going with the candidates for his position?" Rory asked.

"Well, I'd say. We don't know who will be the final choice of the teachers. But we have well-developed conversations with the teachers' preferred candidates. We're confident we'll have someone we trust in the academy." One of the two new soldiers commented.

"Perfect. Keep working hard. Having the merit to act for the good of the young lady is just as important as killing enemies of the family."

"Yes, Deputy! We'll do our best!" The two said in excited tones.

Thus, the family would turn their attention to what they could influence in the short term, and the next hours would pass quickly, reaching the time limit for Vicente to move on to The Rocky Gorge!

Chapter 269 Time To Go The Rocket Gorge

Hours passed, and it was the evening before Vicente left for The Rocky Gorge.

After much pressure on Jasmine and investigations by his people, Vicente managed to get her to sign an agreement promising to help him with the secrets of the Congregation of Revelations.

Jasmine still hadn't told Vicente what she could give him. However, after seeing him next to Casey Rogers, the famous Mister Amnesia she knew, the woman's fear of what might happen to her had increased.

She agreed to help him in the future and even share her faith's secrets. But this would depend on her increasing her influence and position in the Congregation of Revelations and Vicente increasing his powers.

His knowledge of any high-level information about it would be dangerous for both of them. To prevent them from having high-level problems while they were weak, Jasmine had made Vicente agree not to press her for these secrets before he became a Sovereign.

From Jasmine's point of view, there was a good chance that wouldn't happen. Even if it did, he and she would be strong enough to at least try to escape the problems that would come their way because of their formalized relationship tonight.

Until then, they would only help each other in matters that had nothing to do with the secrets of the Congregation of Revelation.

...

"What are you going to do with them?" Jasmine asked Vicente as she finally left the cell where she had spent the last few days, feeling the freedom of no longer having several restrictive items on her.

Seeing his new ally who couldn't betray him now that she had made a Magic Agreement with him, Vicente made no secret of it. "It will be better if they die. With what they know, we're all in danger."

Their Magic Agreement stated that if the previous incident led to problems or even Vicente's death, Jasmine would be severely punished.

Magic Agreements were made based on the magical mark of those involved, which would be used as a means of punishment in the event of non-compliance.

How did this come about? Well, it was complex. But to put it simply, it had to do with the elements.

The elements had their classifications, rules, and a kind of 'consciousness.'

When a person makes a promise with their elements as witnesses, the strange 'conscience' of the elements would recognize that promise and begin to watch over them.

If a contract were broken, the party that broke it would have a change generated in them by this elemental 'consciousness.' They might lose complete control over their elements or even die, depending on the circumstances.

But this 'consciousness' wasn't like something that could take shape, have a reason, or even act purposefully. It was something that basically only worked with Magic Agreements and served as a witness to the promises of all parties.

That's why, in this world, it's very difficult to break a contract, even though there are ways to do it!

How do you break a contract without punishing yourself? Simply by stealing and destroying the other party's copy of the contract.

That was how Vicente had pressured the Peters family after arriving in Millfall.

But it wasn't that simple, which is why Vicente was confident that he could free Jasmine so that she could go back, reduce the chances of them getting into trouble, and still act on his behalf.

She couldn't go after him or send someone else. Any deliberate attempt to break the contract would result in punishment. For her, the only way she could escape her obligations was if another party planned to act against Vicente and destroy his agreement with her without her involvement.

But at the moment, Jasmine herself didn't expect that to happen. She was willing to fulfill her promise, so she was worried about the possibility of Mark and Layla doing something stupid.

She looked seriously at the holes in Vicente's mask and said. "Mark will probably try something stupid, so I don't care what you do to him and those he has involved in the problem. I'm even willing to help you deal with them. But Layla is my friend. I want you to give her a chance."

"Why should I do that?" Vicente asked.

Since there was no advantage in keeping the woman alive, he wasn't interested in doing what Jasmine wanted.

She was obligated to honor her agreement with him, and if she could not convince him to change his mind, she might even be forced to help him deal with her best friend!

Jasmine broke into a cold sweat and said. "Having just one person in the Congregation of Revelations isn't enough for someone like you to benefit from, Cesar.

If you're going to get the best results in our temples, you need to have several people you can trust. Layla could be such a person. She is a good friend of mine and has the same level of talent as me. And even though her background is ordinary, because she's my friend, I might be able to help her increase her influence within the organization.

Besides, I won't always be able to deal with you. Sometimes we won't be together because of the events I have to attend. On the other hand, Layla doesn't have as many responsibilities as I do and could be a more active ally for you."

"Hmm, that makes sense. But she'll have to sign an agreement just as compromising as yours, Jasmine. Without guarantees, I won't keep a second witness to what happened alive." Vicente didn't disagree, seeing that there would be real advantages to having Layla in his group of allies.

"I'll make sure she accepts it," Jasmine said, not wanting to lose her good friend. "You won't regret it, Cesar. Layla is very loyal and smart. She will be precious to you in the future."

"We'll see in the future." He walked before her and returned to the first floor while forming a metal mask for Jasmine.

"Use this to leave the city and then return to the local temple. It won't be interesting if you leave my house without something to hide your identity."

"Okay." She didn't question him, and promptly pulled the mask over her face as she left the Mazzanti mansion when it was already dark in the city.

"Stay in town for the next few days so we can resolve the issue with your companions. I'll take a short trip to The Rocky Gorge, but I shouldn't be gone more than a week." He warned her, intending to leave her there to support his group in his absence.

Jasmine was very talented and influential!

"Good luck with your hunt. When Layla or Mark arrive in town, I'll try to approach them with your men. With Mister Amnesia, we'll be able to find out who knows about what happened and deal with it." She said before leaving.

Vicente would soon return to his house, where he would say goodbye to Nina that night because, at dawn, he would leave for The Rocky Gorge.

With almost level 3 magic power this time, he was much more confident of surviving that dangerous area where a 3rd-stage magic beast had nested!

Chapter 270 Back To The Rocket Gorge

Three hours after setting out alone from Millfall, Vicente was already near the deepest part of The Rocky Gorge, having retraced much of the path he had taken weeks ago when fleeing from stronger and more numerous enemies.

Most of the way, he had encountered no problems, just as he had weeks ago. The Rocky Gorge had several types of magical beings in its area, but most were closer to its center.

At the same time, most of the beasts in the area had become more cautious in the days since the army and local powers had begun exploring the area, interested in what might be in the basilisk's nest.

Not only that, but having reached almost 96% progress at level 2, Vicente hoped to advance to level 3 in the next two days, something that would make him stronger than almost all the magical beings in this great forest.

Aside from the 3rd stage basilisk and a few humans from the army group, there weren't many creatures around that could threaten him!

Due to these circumstances, he would soon find traces of the army battalions hunting in the area.

...

In the early afternoon, Vicente reached a partially destroyed forest area, with smoke rising here and there from ashes, fallen trees, and the remains of animals and humans.

While observing the area from behind a bush, Vicente's eyes narrowed as he saw six small creatures with green skins, each one of them having big mouths full of sharp teeth.

'Goblins? What are these creatures doing here?' He asked himself, knowing this was a battleground for the royal army's conflict with the beasts in the area.

Not only was this not a battlefield of goblins, but it was not a common area to see such creatures.

The continent Vicente was on, Polaris Realm, was vast, with different types of natural habitats, races, climates, and so on. But even though he was in a small part of the continent and didn't know

much about it, he knew goblins and other special magical creatures were not common in this southeastern part of the continent.

There shouldn't be any goblins, giants, orcs, ogres, etc., in the area of the Seidel Kingdom. These were creatures that, according to the stories, lived further northwest, at the other end of the continent.

Finding members of these races in other parts of the continent was not impossible. But it was extremely difficult, especially in this area of the Seidel Kingdom.

Vicente remembered the encounter he and Rory had had with goblins on their way from Millfall to Martell Village months ago and was worried.

Goblins were extremely dangerous to lower-level beings. They weren't particularly powerful, but they could reach the beginning of the 3rd stage. If a group of goblins lived between Martell Village and Millfall, it could become a great danger to those areas and people traveling nearby.

Goblins were known to loot, kill travelers, and kidnap women and children. Although their behavior was considered chaotic and unreasonable, these magical creatures were generally more intelligent than ordinary beasts.

For example, instead of getting into trouble with stronger beings, goblins would secretly hide near them and try to steal from them. They would take advantage of third-party battles to collect items from those wounded or killed in combat.

In short, they could operate under the radar against those stronger than them, collecting items, using them to strengthen themselves, and even planning actions.

Beasts would do this as they grew stronger, but goblins had these instincts from the very 1st stage. Although they couldn't be compared to humans, they were ingenious creatures.

Vicente had learned the basics about them from the books he had read growing up in Martell Village, and he was interested in this group of goblins.

'I will follow them.' He decided to let the creatures do what they wanted in the rubble while he stored his mana in his body and hid behind a large bush.

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This time, he wouldn't act violently, especially since the strongest goblin there was only a level 1 Acolyte.

'I don't know exactly where to go to find the basilisk's nest. So I'll follow these creatures. If they are settled in this area, as I think they are, they might know something about the basilisk.' Vicente folded his hands, feeling this was the best he could do for now.

If these goblins had a camp nearby, it was almost certain that they would have resources from raids in the area. What's more, they might be plotting against the basilisk and have information about such a beast!

So Vicente stood quietly in his place and watched as the group of green creatures collected the belongings of the dead in the area.

There were the bodies of 8 humans and 15 beasts but also damaged weapons and shields, probably items left behind by fleeing humans or beasts.

When they finished after a few minutes and started to move north, Vicente followed them from a safe distance, keeping an eye on them but also on their surroundings.

'Let's see where this takes me...'

...

Meanwhile, in another area of the depths of The Rocky Gorge...

Nova sat on a rock near a stream and washed her sword, stained with dirt and blood, while several of her companions without serious injuries did the same.

Meanwhile, others moaned in pain, receiving first aid from comrades while the group's doctor cared for those in the worst condition.

After days in this area, her group had fought several times against 2nd stage beasts in search of their target, the 3rd stage basilisk.

Finding this creature was not as easy as one might think!

The basilisk was defensive about its territory, but with so many groups of humans entering the area in the past few days, it wouldn't reveal itself easily.

If anyone wanted to find it, they would have to find its nest and challenge it!

Until then, its many subordinates in the area would act against groups like Nova's to scare off or even eliminate opponents.

As one of the strongest in her group, behind the commander leading the battalion, Nova hadn't been hurt too badly in the last battle, but that didn't stop her from worrying.

The number of beasts in the area far exceeded the number of groups that were there to hunt the basilisk!

"Sigh... I hope this ends soon." She thought as she looked at the stream in front of her, which was now reddish-brown from the blood and dirt left behind by soldiers like her.