

The Mafia 41

Chapter 41: Small Moments of Happiness?

After trying Vicente's guns for a few minutes, all three merchants and their partners in that forest felt the power of having firearms in their hands.

Having a gun in your hand was something that gave you power, courage, and a feeling that was hard to describe.

This was stronger on Earth, where there were no 'superhumans,' no magic. But even in this world where magic existed and could make a difference in people's lives, guns still had their unique shine.

When holding one of these items, those men felt more powerful.

This was not the same as having good pentagrams, a unique power coming from a Magic Gem, or even a high-level artifact. But with these weapons, they could spend less of their energy and still cause great damage to unarmed opponents.

For now, it would make the most difference in the hands of young Apprentices. However, if Vice really developed these for Acolytes, the difference for them would become significant.

All these businessmen knew the importance of investing in things for the future. After returning these weapons to Vicente, they were much more confident in his strategy.

Even the man who had had one of those guns pointed at his head had forgotten what had happened.

"What do we do now?" One of the three merchants asked Vice.

Rory saw Vicente looking at him and explained instead of his friend, "Now we will divide our people among your groups. From now on, hire fewer mercenaries and take our men with you on trips.

They will be with our weapons and will participate in your guard. In addition, we will give each of you a revolver."

As Rory spoke, one young man opened a briefcase, revealing several identical silver revolvers.

Vicente then said. "We will give each of you a revolver as a gift for partnering with us. But to get more and also get the ammunition, we will have to make deals on that."

Those men picked up their guns as they smiled, agreeing that they would have to pay for these little beauties.

"How much does a gun like that cost?" One of the three asked.

"The cheapest model costs 4 gold coins for the gun and 2 bronze coins per unit of ammunition," Vicente said before pointing towards a rifle. "That one over there is the most expensive one we have, and each costs 25 gold coins and 10 bronze coins for the bullet."

Upon hearing his words, the three merchants naturally found the figures absurd.

They made 50 to 100 gold coins a year, rarely more than that.

A single weapon like that could take a lot of their funds!

But this was the price Vicente thought was fair.

He was not in it for charity. He intends to have a significant profit margin on such a business.

He had no intention of arming those who were not part of his group. As he would sell few of these weapons, he intended to get all his profit from his allies.

"It's a bit salty..." The person who asked the price said in a low voice, putting the idea of arming his whole family aside.

Vicente smiled. "Very well, let's split up. From now on, you should go about your business and avoid contacting us.

We will meet once every three months, but never simultaneously. Each month I will only be able to meet with one of you.

In the meantime, make it appear that my men now work for you and no longer for me."

They all agreed, and soon the three merchants left back to Martell Village with two new members in their groups.

Seeing these people leaving, Vicente, Rory, and the other four remaining men stayed behind in this forest for a while longer.

"Will they be all right?" Rory asked, knowing the dangers of this world were too many for low-level young men like these men of theirs.

Vicente then said. "Maybe. I taught them how to use each of these weapons and how to behave. So their chances are not low. But it's out of my control now.

In any case, they will still have help from mercenaries, so I believe our business with these merchants will not be harmed."

"And now, what will we do?" Rory asked as his men stored their weapons in boxes.

"We will take the business of the fools who chose to stay out of our society." Vicente said as his eyes narrowed.

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After returning to the village hours later, Vicente and his people parted ways as he headed to his family's home.

Upon arriving there, he promptly met with a beautiful young woman who was 1.6 meters tall, with a slender body and sensual curves for a young man in the prime of life, as was the case with Vicente.

She was dressed in a beautiful black and white maid's outfit while bouncing her body as she cleaned the living room furniture.

When she heard Vicente coming, she was not startled and looked at him with a smile.

"Vicente, have you finished your work today?" This blonde, blue-eyed woman asked in her sweet, soft voice.

This was Eve Ostell, a 16-year-old woman Vicente met a few months ago.

This girl had been introduced to Vice by his friend, as her sister worked in Rory's mother's brothel. She was soon to join this place, but before this happened, young Fuller had presented her with the opportunity to work for him.

Since then, she had been working as a maid in the Fuller residence, taking care of Nina and the meals of the two orphaned siblings.

Vicente liked Eve's manner and had been watching her for the past few weeks, slowly letting her take care of more Nina-related things.

He was Nina's brother, but this girl needed a woman not only as an example but to take care of things that a man could not.

At the same time, Vice had many things on his mind, dangerous plans that would one day have to take Nina away from him.

Thinking about this moment, he was testing Eve to see if he could trust her.

"Hmm, for the moment, yes... But problems can arise at any time." Vicente commented to her as he sat on one of the couches in his living room.

As she looked at him more seriously, imagining the things he was involved in at only 12 years old, suddenly the door of that house opened, and Nina came screaming in.

"Big brother! Aunt Eve!" Nina appeared in that room, much happier now that she was studying at the Academy of Stars and had been learning many things.

Other children normally excluded Nina because of her hearing situation. Still, she was solid and, after learning sign language, was learning lip reading from a teacher hired by her brother.

As she mastered new communication skills, she became more confident and happier with her time at the academy.

She also loved Eve and no longer thought about her and Vice's terrible situation daily.

Seeing his sister smiling, Vicente smiled sincerely. Seeing his sister well was one of the few things besides the progress of his plans that made him happy.

That way, they would soon have dinner and talk a little about their day with Nina.

Chapter 42: Reunion?

In the blink of an eye, a whole year had passed...

In the last few months, things had been going well for Vicente's group, but for the moment, they were still focused on Martell Village, where more than 80% of the local suppliers were on his side.

He and his group still had opposition within the village and had not yet begun their operations in the shadows of nearby cities.

But soon, that would change!

...

Upon waking up in the morning, Vicente was soon eating breakfast next to Nina and Eve, something he had been doing almost every day since his agreement with three local merchants more than a year ago.

In the last few months, Nina had grown a lot, while Vice felt more comfortable trusting Eve.

They had been through a lot in the last year, and Nina had grown a little more, so Vice felt he could count on Eve even when he had to travel outside the village.

He had separated from Nina for the first time since the death of her parents two months ago on a business trip and, since then, had been giving Eve more responsibilities within this household.

In a few months, he would turn 14, and it would be time for his awakening. At that time, he would have to be away from home for a few days, and Nina would not be able to go with him, given her classes at the academy.

But now he wasn't worried about putting his sister in danger and was counting on Eve to take care of this little girl every day.

"Nina, hurry up, or you'll be late." He said as he signaled to his sister.

"I know, I'm coming." The little girl of almost 7 said this as she had a piece of toast in her mouth, putting her backpack on her back as she prepared to leave.

By now, she could lip-read, but her brother and Eve usually used signs with her, as it was much easier for her to understand them that way.

So, as Eve smiled to see Nina hurrying away, this young girl left.

Vicente thanked Eve for breakfast and then set off in the direction of his warehouse.

As he left the house, Vicente ran into some of his neighbors and greeted whoever spoke to him, something he always did.

Vicente was an active member of this society.

The whole village had learned to respect Vicente after he took over the businesses of several local merchants and hired more and more local residents.

Currently, he had more than 50 people working in his family's warehouse, where everyone thought that just normal merchant stuff happened.

Those who were part of his armed group were among these 50 individuals and the armed guards who traveled with those three merchants.

Few people knew of their existence, so Vice and his people had had no problems regarding the royal laws in the last few months.

But some people in this village knew that this young man was not simple and had men willing to fight for him.

This was one of the reasons he was respected locally!

As he walked through the village's central square, Vicente suddenly saw an old acquaintance from his academy days and narrowed his eyes.

A tall, blond young man was smiling and talking loudly to a group of people in front of the Academy of Stars building.

Seeing the Magic Gem in the shape of an Orange Pentagon, Vicente promptly remembered Darek, the young leader of the group that bullied Rory.

Not only did Vicente see him, but Darek also looked toward this black-haired fellow as Rory approached his friend.

"It looks like Darek just returned from Millfall, where he awakened his magical powers," Rory commented to Vicente, looking at the one responsible for him living several months in disgrace at the time of the academy.

"The bastard has a fucking unusual Magic Gem."

Vicente felt some of Rory's resentment in his friend's voice and stood silently watching in that fellow's direction.

Years had passed after Vice and Rory's battle against Darek's group. Rory had overcome what had happened as he had soon become stronger than Darek, and this young man had finished his time at the academy. However, seeing him with his Magic Gem, the number two in the Fuller family couldn't help but remember some of the dark times of his life.

Vice didn't comment at all as he watched Darek walk toward him and Rory.

"Well, look at it if it isn't you two, haha," Darek commented aloud as he stood next to his old friends from academy days. "Where is Ian? He's not in the village anymore?" He asked as if he was just another acquaintance of theirs.

Vicente then said. "Ian no longer lives in the village for some time. His family moved to Saltstar City 2 years ago."

Ian had not returned to Martell Village since his departure over three years ago.

Less than a year after he began his studies at the Royal Academy of Saltstar City, his family had left this village with no intention of returning.

Vicente and Rory knew this as Ian's sister was a good friend of Lauren's and had visited Nina a few times then.

When her family left, she said goodbye to them and warned them that Ian was unlikely to return to this place.

Rory and Vicente understood Ian's situation then and did not blame him for not keeping his promise. After all, the trip was very long and had its dangers.

Vicente understood this more than anyone else.

Darek was not aware of this even though he had lived in the village most of those years after Ian's departure.

"Is that so? What a shame. You three were really great friends at the academy..." He said, smiling and looking at Vicente and Rory with an expression of superiority.

"Darek, we were away from the village for a few months... But I hear our old acquaintance Vice is now like a local boss." A young man who looked like a giant pig from how big he was, said, looking at those two and remembering the battle of that time.

"Oh? I heard that before our departure... It seems that Vicente is a great merchant." Darek looked at Rory and commented. "But next to this fellow, ah, that is not a surprise. Are there better salesmen than pimps?"

"Darek, don't be so bold in your words. Things between us are very different than they were back at the academy." Rory said, looking into the green eyes of this old rival. "Don't think that awakening your magical powers puts you in a position to face us."

So let me advise you, stay away so you won't regret it later."

The young men next to Darek did not like this and moved their mana, preparing to attack.

Amidst this, the people in the surrounding area realized what would happen and stepped back a bit, sensing that a show was about to start in the middle of the central square.

"Quick, call someone! These fools are defying Vicente!" Someone shouted, fearing for these young people who had spent a few months outside the village.

At that moment, Vicente raised one of his hands and smiled.

Bang!

Chapter 43: The Village Owner

Bang!

The moment Vicente raised one of his hands, everyone in Darek's group looked at it in doubt, but then the sound of a gunshot came.

A bullet covered in mana traveled at over 1,500 m/s from its position until it passed beside Darek's cheek, making him turn pale with fear instantly after noticing the slight wound on that cheek.

The whole square became silent after that gunshot sound while the expressions of the young men in Darek's group changed from earlier smiles to seriousness and fear.

Vicente looked deeply at that blond young man and said. "You're not in the academy anymore. Remember that, Darek.

Out here, we don't act like children, and we don't condone childish idiocy. Be more careful with your manners. It would be bad if something like that had been aimed at the middle of your forehead..."

Gulp!

Darek looked at Vice with his eyes wide open and took a step back.

He now felt that he had stood face-to-face with death and provoked it.

His heart was beating faster, and all his instincts were telling him to run from there because something that could have killed him presumably had him in its aim right now.

And this was indeed the reality. Currently, Vicente had more than 15 armed men in this village, not even counting those working for his allied merchants.

Among these men, three always stayed at different points around this village to watch the paths he, Nina, and Rory traveled daily.

If anyone tried to harm them, the order Vicente had given these men was to shoot such people in the head without mercy!

If one of them raised one of their hands, then one of these men was to give a warning shot like the one one one of them had just given in the direction of Darek's cheek.

The man who had shot this tall, blond young man was with Darek in the aim of his rifle at this very moment, waiting to carry out his mission if necessary.

"Wait! Wait a minute, Vicente! I was just saying hello... I have no negative intentions." Darek said as his voice trembled.

The other young men in his group wanted to run, but Rory said. "You guys better not move too much. Our friends around the village have nervous fingers and might make a mistake if you move strangely."

Vicente looked at his associate's face and saw that Rory was trying hard not to smile.

Rory had never had the chance to really take revenge on these people. The battle years ago had been a draw, which had not satisfied him even though it had solved his problems.

In this situation, scaring them a little while humiliating them was excellent!

Gulp!

"Please don't do anything. We were just playing..." A fat, tall young man said this as the middle of his pants became darker.

Something began to drip down his shoes, forming a small puddle below him.

"He..."

"He pissed himself in fear?" Someone in the vicinity asked in a low voice, trying to hold back his laughter not out of fear of this fat man but of Vicente and Rory.

'What fools! Don't they know that this village practically belongs to Vicente and Rory?' One of the Duke's family guards in this village saw the situation from afar and shook his head negatively, seeing how foolish those young men were.

Technically the village was the king's, like all the cities in the kingdom. In a second analysis, it was under the Duke's management because it belonged to the province ruled by the Scott family.

But in the world, things were not so simple.

The owner of a place was not always the one who had the rights to property or government but the most powerful and influential.

Vicente did not want to own anything and did not interfere with the affairs of the nobles and the Duke of Province's family in this village, but he was the most influential locally. As such, many saw him as he deserved, as the leader of the village, or rather, the place's owner.

Vice looked into Darek's eyes in silence for a moment, seeing the nervousness of this young man. "Go away!"

With that shout, Darek and his group took off, running from there under the eyes of a few dozen people in the surrounding area.

Amid this, these people were already discussing the matter among themselves, seeing yet another reason to respect Vicente and Rory.

These two did not want to become famous and were intent on raising a family living in the shadows. It was not in their interest to be known and feared by an entire village.

But acting in such a small place where everyone knew they had no powers and depended on other forms of strength to act, they had no way of hiding part of their activities.

They needed to have persuasion power in the village to justify their influence with many local suppliers and avoid problems.

It was contradictory to their interests, but it was necessary.

Vicente didn't bother to demonstrate a little more of his power today and soon continued on his way beside Rory, ignoring the comments about them in the surroundings.

"Let's go to my mother's brothel. She said she wanted to talk to you, Vicente." Rory said as he led the way, changing their plans a bit.

"What does she want?" He asked.

"My mother is not dumb. You know how she is." Rory said, indicating that it wasn't his fault. "She's already figured out what we intend to do. That's why she wants to talk to you."

"What are we going to do? What, in specific, does she think she knows?" Vicente looked at his friend in front of him.

"She thinks we will soon leave the village and expand our operations. In particular, she thinks we will get involved with the criminal underworld..."

"It seems that her hunches are really quite good..."

"What can I say? My mother lived her whole life relating to people from the underworld."

Prostitutes and their workplaces catered to all kinds of people in this society. From the marginalized scum to even the high nobility.

As someone with magnificent beauty in her youth, Rory's mother had gone off the deep end and met every type of client.

This enriched her but also gave her profound knowledge about how prostitution existed in this society.

Usually, brothels were closely related to criminal groups. As such, a good place to understand crime in this society was in places like this.

Vicente knew this and sighed, 'She probably realized this from our actions... Hmm, it will be good for us to leave the village and not relate so closely to people with her knowledge. That will avoid problems.'

"Alright, let's see what Miss Point has to say," Vice said before entering Rory's mother's brothel, following in that young man's footsteps.

Chapter 44: Advice?

Upon entering Rory's mother's brothel, Vicente ignored the girls clearing the tables around the entrance hall, where customers usually drank and chatted before choosing their company.

No half-naked girls were around at the moment, so neither of these young men saw anything children should not see.

Both looked more like adults than children, but by local regulations, they were still juveniles and would be better off avoiding profane places like this.

But even if they saw something there, neither of them would mind.

Rory had grown up seeing breasts and asses, while Vicente had his memories of the time when he was on Earth and was a criminal.

"Vice, Rory, please, sit here." A beautiful redheaded woman said this as she saw these two arriving in front of her office.

Seeing Rory's mother, Vicente greeted her and avoided looking at this woman's beautiful cleavage.

Although she was no longer in her prime, Heidi Point had a very nice body with bountiful dimensions, as a good MILF should have.

"So, Miss Point, Rory told me you wanted to talk to me..." He said, looking into that woman's brown eyes.

She looked at Rory and then at Vice. "Not just to you. With both of you, actually.

I know that you and Rory have been very close since you were little and have been through a lot, he told me. So now that you guys are growing up and getting close to becoming adults, I think we need to talk."

In Polaris Realm, children didn't have as many rights until they turned 10. At that time, they would start working if they couldn't study in special academies and gain a little more freedom.

But only after the Magical Awakening would they gain full independence from their families and have rights and freedoms.

From the age of 14, one could join sects or clans, leave their family and start another, try to subordinate themselves to a higher power, etc.

Parents could not stop a young person of that age from doing whatever they wanted, so Rory's mother worried about her son and Vice, for they would soon reach such an age.

Both had shown in their recent behavior that they were ambitious, and she judged they would leave the village.

She said. "I see that you and Rory have found unique methods of negotiating and protecting yourselves. Given some of your recent moves, I think perhaps you are planning to start your journey in one of the provincial cities through the underworld.

Answer me honestly, is that what you want? To grow your partnerships using the contacts you can acquire in the underworld of our society?" She asked, looking seriously at Vicente.

The underworld of society was not necessarily related only to groups of murderers, thieves, etc. Even some noble powers supported groups in the underworld because they had easier access to opportunities, information, and much more.

Few had the courage to expose their real intentions and sell some resources in daylight. But in the darkness of the underworld, much of what was in demand in this society and was not sold in daylight was offered.

It was not easy to get contacts to take advantage of this offer, but if one got deeply involved, getting information and resources like this would be simpler.

In daylight, they would have to put in a lot more resources, get a lot more influence, and compete openly with great powers.

For someone growing from a small position, investing in normal growth methods was not interesting!

Vicente did not express his respect for this woman's wisdom and remained silent.

"Hmm, you don't need to tell me." She smiled as she propped her back on her chair. "I can see that's right.

So let me give you some advice.

I have lived in this world that you want to enter, so I know the dangers that lie in your path and how difficult it is to get out once you enter that journey.

I honestly would prefer that both of you stay here in the village, but both of you have a determination that I don't understand...

So if you're going to take that narrow, dark path, at least do it the right way." She sighed before continuing.

"What do you have in mind?" Vice asked.

She looked at him and said. "I believe you guys are going to start with Millfall, right? If that is the case, look for someone named Aaron Wilson in The Broken Vial. That is a magic item store in that town, and he is an old friend. Say Sweet Cheeks sent you."

"Aaron?"

"Sweet Cheeks?"

The two asked.

Even Rory had never heard his mother speak of her past by specific names. Whenever she told him anything, it was rather vague, always hiding many of the details that really needed to be hidden.

She nodded positively to both of them. "Aaron owes me a favor and will help you. But make it clear to him that this will not involve me. He will only have to help you, and I personally do not want to be contacted. That will end the debt he owes me."

"Who exactly is Aaron?" Vicente asked.

"In the light of day, he works as a salesman in this magic store. But he's a local dealer, someone who has contacts and can introduce you to the right people, steer you away from some mistakes, but also harm you.

So don't step on the ball with him. Be honest with him, and don't try to pull the wool over his eyes. He's not the type to forget, whether for good or bad." She said this, looking at them seriously.

Seeing the two of them looking at each other, she closed her eyes briefly and then finished. "When you start your activities, be careful with whom you meet. Take a good look at who or what is behind the business you will be involved in.

It is a common mistake of newcomers to the underworld to think they have discovered the business of the millennium and try to get involved in things that already have owners...

Otherwise, don't offend anyone unless it is crucial and you have at least one ally.

But never think that an ally will be eternally loyal to your alliance or even that they will be your friends."

Hearing that, Rory was thrilled, seeing that his mother was supporting him even as he was turning away from her and going in a direction most parents would be disappointed to see their children go.

Vicente was grateful, feeling some of Heidi's motherly care.

"Thanks for the tips, Miss Point. After my mother, you are the person who cared about me the most. I won't forget that." He stood up and kissed one of Heidi's hands.

"As long as you take care of Rory, there is no need for you to worry about me." She said before asking Vice to leave for her to speak to her son alone.

After Vicente left that office, Heidi looked at her son and said in a resolute tone. "Rory, when you leave with Vicente, support him, but know that you do not always have to support him by standing by his side.

At some points in his journey, you will have to support him from afar and not get involved in the same problems as him.

I say this for your sake but also that of your friend. In the underworld, the worst thing for people involved with what they shouldn't be is their vulnerabilities.

If you are always with him, one will be the other's vulnerability. Then there will come a day when someone will use this against you.

Be willing to take the risk, or you will lose yourselves at that point."

"I understand." He said in a low voice before leaving to go to a meeting with Vicente.

Chapter 45: Towards Millfall!

After Vicente dealt with the merchants of the Martell Village, a few weeks passed.

Vicente and Rory won new deals in this short period, finally gaining the business they needed to complete their rule over the Martell Village.

Their goal was not to use the village as headquarters for their group, but gaining control of this area was important to them. Besides being a test of what they would do on a larger scale in the future, it had also been a good experience for them to understand how people related to nobles and royalty would behave towards them.

No important people were in the village, but the Duke's men were there to enforce the law.

Vicente had understood that this place he was in was very flexible. He could be ambitious, act openly against his competitors, and even use violence to a certain extent.

As long as he didn't aim for big business and didn't try to change the rules or the status of everyone involved in this society, there was plenty of room for them.

Using coins to win 'friends' made things even easier than on good old Earth. Bribery was an answer that should not be ignored!

As time passed, it was finally time for this social 'experiment' of Vicente and Rory's to come to an end!

Just a few weeks before their 14th birthday, it was finally time for them to leave for Millfall.

Millfall was a nearby city of 60,000 inhabitants. There they could awaken their magical powers and finally develop their business further.

With a difference of only a few weeks between their birthdays, Vicente and Rory had little left to hold them back in the village!

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"Nina, I will leave tonight for Millfall," Vice said to his little sister, lying beside her on a large couch in the living room.

Seeing the signs of her brother, Nina felt her eyes getting watery while her heart beat faster.

This girl had become accustomed to spending less and less time with Vicente, but this trip would be different from all the others. He would awaken his powers, just as Lauren had done years ago!

"But..." She murmured, looking at Vice as the beautiful Eve looked at the two of them and sighed.

"Don't worry, Nina. What happened to the older sister was rare and hard to repeat." Vicente signaled to his sister as he smiled confidently. "I don't know if I will have a talent like Lauren's or like our parents'. But regardless, I will do my Awakening in Millfall, not Saltstar City!"

Just as on Earth, the best professionals were usually found in large cities; The most powerful and talented were easier to find in the largest cities in Polaris Realm.

Consequently, Saltstar City and Millfall had experts of totally different levels!

Nina knew that the chances of a member of a powerful sect or clan being in Millfall watching the Awakening would be slim. However, she couldn't help but worry.

"Why do we have to awaken our powers in front of the public? Why can't we do that in secret? It would be amazing to do that in the middle of a forest!" She said, not liking that at all.

Eve smiled and explained. "Nina, in the past of Polaris Realm, most humans couldn't awaken their magical abilities. Why is that? Simple, the Magic Gems were scattered worldwide, and few could get the right conditions to stimulate one of them.

But with the followers of the Congregation of Revelations, everything changed. The faith of this religion brought people together, and the founding genius created the Awakening Temple after becoming an Archmage."

Congregation of Revelations was the most acclaimed religion in Polaris Realm, which was behind the Awakening Temples, which was around this continent.

Hundreds of millions of people followed the faith of this religion, and it determined good and evil in this society.

"They then gathered Magic Gems found all around the continent and found a way to stimulate them whenever they wanted. From then on, the magical development of the continent was possible. The number of magicians jumped, and only because of that ordinary people like us can awaken their powers and dream." Eve said with a twinkle in her eyes.

Not only was this religion the most widely followed, but it was also behind all the teaching material in states like this. From childhood, people were taught what the leaders of the Congregation of Revelations said was the truth.

Eve was one of the many devotees of this religion, as were most of the people in Martell Village.

Vicente heard this and said nothing. He had learned the same, but as someone from Earth, he didn't like religions very much.

He particularly had nothing against them and, in fact, thought that they had their means of helping people. But in the history of the Earth, how many wars have not happened because of wrong people using the power of faith?

Someone might say this was the people's fault, not the religion's. But that was wrong. Religion had so much power that it could hardly be stopped!

Sooner or later, someone wrong could use them, and from then on, one could only work to lessen the damage of an unscrupulous leader.

But he would not dare to speak against the Congregation of Revelations and was silent as he listened to Eve.

"But..." Nina muttered.

Vice sighed and said. "There's nothing to be done, Nina. We could try our luck, but there would be no guarantee of getting our Magic Gems one day. Unfortunately, we are not in the position to refuse the methods of the Awakening Temple."

Seeing tears streaming from Nina's little face, he wiped them away with his hands and communicated with her. "I want you to stay with Eve.

Your school year at Academy of Stars will be over soon, but until my Awakening, I want you to stick around.

But rest assured. I will come and get you so we can go live in Millfall before your next school year begins."

"You promise?" She asked him, looking at Vicente as she wiped away her tears.

"Hmm, I promise. In the meantime, I will register you at an academy in Millfall, so say goodbye to your friends and play a lot. We'll start a new part of our lives in a few months." He played with her hair after saying this.

Nina accepted such a thing more easily.

Even if she had to leave her friends in the village very soon, what mattered most to her was to be by her big brother's side!

After seeing Nina improving her mood, Eve looked at Vicente and said. "You must be careful. Millfall is not far away, nor does it have many dangerous people. Still, for ordinary people like us, every place has its dangers."

"I know," Vicente commented in a low voice. "Don't worry. I'll be back to get you and Nina faster than you think."

By all means, be cautious. Even with several of my men staying behind, you never know... Be prepared in case something happens."

"Hmm, I'll do my best." She nodded to him as she felt the revolver on one of her legs.

Eve had also joined the Fuller family in recent months after Vicente had concluded that she was reliable enough.

Anyway, after talking to them, time would pass quickly, and soon Vice would leave with Rory for Millfall.

The time was coming for both of them to awaken their magical powers!

Chapter 46: Arriving at Millfall

Time passed, and finally, Vicente and Rory left Martell Village.

For the next few days, they would travel in a carriage alongside four men from their group. Among them, three were Junior Apprentices, young men in their first years since their Magical Awakening.

Like many Martell Village residents, low-talented people would need to strive their entire lives to reach the Acolyte stage.

Only the village's slightly more talented could pass this first stage in their youth.

Precisely because of this, even though they had passed their Awakenings a few years ago, these young subordinates of Vicente still struggled to transcend the first magic level.

Meanwhile, next to them was an older man, the only one of Andrew's group that Vice had brought into his family so far.

This tall, strong man with tanned skin and an aggressive appearance, a typical field worker, was a Senior Apprentice not far from becoming an Acolyte.

One way or another, they were all properly armed, with enough ammunition to attack a headquarters.

Vicente had not decided to take them on this trip to protect himself from high-level threats, such as the one that had victimized his family.

No weapon would make a difference against such high-level opponents!

What motivated him was the everyday dangers of the roads, such as petty theft, encounters with wild animals, and so on.

All beings in Polaris Realm had the chance to awaken their magical powers and become stronger. This was true for humans but also for animals, plants, minerals, etc.

Everything was possible in this world!

Magical beings existed in heaps, and one had to be careful when traveling on roads, even in weak places like the vicinity of Martell Village.

But Vicente's bad luck would not catch up with him and his group this time, and for the next few hours, they would have relative peace of mind on their journey to Millfall.

...

The trip between Millfall and Martell Village was not a long one.

The distance between these places was tens of kilometers, so traveling by carriage took Vicente's group only half a day to reach this city of just over 50,000 inhabitants.

It was neither Rory's nor Vicente's first time there. Seeing this place again, they both wasted no time observing the buildings and the local movement.

The difference between Millfall and Martell Village was simply in scale.

No buildings in this town were particularly eye-catching apart from the Awakening Temple. All the rest of the city was much like the village of these two but with more streets and properties.

The movement in the center of the city was quite distinct from the movement in the center of the village, but only there were things like that.

In any other neighborhood, one could experience living in a place with almost the same tranquility as the Martell Village.

The big difference was that if one needed some slightly more qualified service, one would only have to walk a few blocks in this town. In Martell Village, one would have to travel the roads of Scott Province.

Vice watched the people walking in the streets and observed an area further out of town where there were several vacant lots and abandoned houses.

'Should I buy or build a house?' He asked himself.

There were advantages and disadvantages to each option. On the one hand, he could get a property more quickly and spend less by buying a derelict site. But on the other, he could build something his way and build what he would actually use.

But before deciding, he needed to check a few things locally.

"Let's leave to talk to the person your mother mentioned after we have settled some matters locally," Vicente said to Rory.

"Wouldn't it be better to already start with what information we can get from this contact?" Rory asked as he looked into Vicente's eyes.

Vicente shook his head negatively. "Let's not get involved with anyone for now. All I want is a place to bring the family from the village here.

This place will not be used for our purposes. It will be the house where Nina and I will live."

"Oh?"

"We will choose our location in a second moment after we talk to him. We will buy a property located near our objectives locally."

Rory frowned his eyebrows. "You want to be close to our future enemies?"

"Hmm, we don't trust them, so nothing better than to watch them closely. It will be easier, despite the danger." Vice nodded.

"What else will we do before we talk to Aaron?"

"We'll settle some business. After we finish taking the suppliers from our rivals in Martell Village, we need to secure some contracts but also seek information." Vicente became more serious. "We will awaken our magical powers in a short time. We have to prepare for that and start planning our next actions.

Unfortunately, our contracts will not give us the profits we need to produce better and more numerous weapons. We need alternative sources of income!"

Rory immediately understood what Vicente's interest was!

"Who are we going to rob?" He asked in a lower tone.

Vicente smiled and muttered. "Someone the town despises. Someone who is dirty and has obtained riches they shouldn't have, who won't receive support in their moment of weakness."

They didn't have a name yet, but they were sure there were people like that in the city.

Unlike the village, in Millfall, there were nobles, several families of Barons, and even a Viscount.

Vicente believed the local nobles here were as corrupt, if not more corrupt, than those in Middle-Age Europe.

If this was the case, one of these nobles had to have a dirty record.

This was the person Vicente planned to act against!

Rory had been training in assault techniques, breath control, and weapon handling for several months, and he couldn't help but look forward to finally putting some of his skills into practice.

"I'm looking forward to it."

Vicente smiled at his friend and said. "We'll look into it and create a plan. We'll reevaluate what we decide after our Awakening."

"That's good."

When the two agreed on what to do, their carriage stopped in front of an inn near the center of town.

The men from Vice's group, all dressed in black suits with hats on their heads, opened the carriage doors and followed alongside the two.

Each of them watched their surroundings carefully, using the security technique that Vice had taught them to keep alert in unfamiliar places.

They made their way to the reception desk of the inn and soon got their rooms.

Vicente had no coins to waste, so they got a standard place where they could rest without unnecessary luxuries.

It was still morning when they settled into this inn, so after 2 hours of rest from their journey, they headed for lunch and business.

Chapter 47: In Search of a Home?

It didn't take long for Vicente's group to move on to find property in this town after they rested and ate.

Following the information they had gotten from the inn where they had stayed, they drove halfway across town to a house farther from the center.

This zone looked like a piece of a residential neighborhood where the main businesses in the surrounding area were located.

There were stores selling food, restaurants, and taverns, but also stores selling clothes, shoes, and things like that.

Although this was a world very much like the medieval Europe, the services and businesses were much more developed.

Because of the wealth of those able to manipulate mana in their bodies, the services in this society had developed faster than certain aspects.

Education in this society was not universal, but any fool knew that the skills of mortals unable to manipulate mana could provide them with opportunities for social advancement. Cooks, shoemakers, sewists, and many other ordinary professionals worked hard, and some had their stores in places like this one.

This society needed all these and many other businesses, so even streets far from the center of cities the size of Millfall had commerce in their main avenues.

In the middle of this trading place in the middle of a residential neighborhood, Vicente and his group got off their carriage, looking at one of the houses on this avenue.

This place seemed ordinary at first sight, just another residence, the ignorant would say.

But Vicente and his people knew that there was one of the few people in this city who was allowed to sell local property.

This underdeveloped society had its rules!

Although private property existed only in cities, where the king gave up his right to the land in his dominions, not just anyone could sell it.

The Duke was the one who appointed people for this kind of service, and only such people were allowed to trade properties in cities.

Each town had one such person for every 20,000 inhabitants, so only three people were allowed to trade local properties in Millfall.

The house in front of Vice's group was one of the workplaces of one of these three!

Seeing a line of people at the only entrance to that house, Rory made an unhappy expression and looked at Vicente. "Shall we wait our turn?"

"Why not? We are not special, and there are only five people in front of us." Vicente smiled, "Let's take the opportunity to try to learn a little more about this place."

After saying those words, Vicente approached the group of people in the muddy line outside that house.

"Hello, sir. Please could you tell me what this line is for?" He politely asked a short, fat, middle-aged man who had a standard Magic Gem on his forehead.

The man looked at Vicente and noticed how well-dressed this young man was.

Vicente already looked more like an adult than a child by the standards of this world, so this man did not underestimate this youth. "Kid, this line is for people buying property. Broker Grant is now confirming some deals with an officer at this property."

"Oh? What would you advise someone interested in visiting the properties negotiated by broker Grant?" Vicente asked as Rory and his men approached him.

This man, also well-dressed, with rich looks, smell, and manner of speaking, looked at them and said. "If this is what you want here, wait a moment. You will not need to speak directly with broker Grant but with one of his assistants.

One of them has just entered this house, so she should return soon to serve those interested in local properties."

"So that's it... Thanks for the information. Have a good time."

After that, Vicente smiled at Rory, shaking his head negatively at this friend of his.

A few minutes later, they listened to some conversations in the surroundings, learning a little more about this place, until a blonde-haired woman in a dark blue dress appeared in front of the house.

"Is anyone here waiting to meet our properties for sale?"

Vicente raised one of his hands, attracting that woman's attention.

"Are you guys after land or a house?" She asked as she approached them, carrying a clipboard in one of her hands.

Rory answered. "We are in search of both. We'll need two properties, but we want to check out the options before we decide to build or buy something ready-made."

"So that's it." She gently smiled, interested in the two businesses they wanted.

Vicente and Rory didn't look noble, but they didn't look poor either. Besides being well-dressed, they had polite manners and had guards.

This was a good enough sign for this saleswoman not to despise them just because they were juveniles.

"What are your names?" She asked as she led them into that house.

"This here is my friend, Rory, and I am Vicente."

"My name is Aurora. So, Vicente and Rory, would you be willing to sign a purchase commitment with us? Obviously, we will give you some benefits with that." She suggested to avoid wasting her time with people unable to pay for her commission.

Only three people in the entire city were behind the local property business. None of them had time to waste with people who were unsure about their buying interests!

"It wouldn't be a problem," Vicente said. "But what benefits would those be?"

She welcomed them into her small office and said. "With a purchase commitment, I will meet you any time of day, take you to visit each of our locations, and Broker Grant guarantees 10 years of tax-free for you."

Everyone in Vicente's group opened their eyes in surprise.

This guarantee was pretty good!

In the Seidel Kingdom, there was no income tax. Yet, there were taxes on private property located in cities with more than 50,000 inhabitants.

The amount was not low, 5% of the property value!

However, they did not know that anyone buying property in Millfall would already receive this discount for 10 years...

"Well, I guess we can sign that agreement." Rory agreed with Vice.

With those sweet words, they soon signed such a commitment, and the beautiful Aurora told them. "Very well, we currently have 6 houses and 10 plots of land at our disposal.

Only one of the plots of land is in the central part of town. Millfall has grown a lot in recent years, so if I were you, I would take advantage of the opportunity. There won't be any others after that..."

As she spoke, she opened a book with a map of the town, showing the locations of the houses and land to Vicente and Rory.

After looking at it for almost 30 minutes, the two decided which locations they wanted to see first.

Without further ado, they set off to visit these properties!

...

Two days later, Vicente and Rory had seen all the properties available in Millfall and were at this moment standing in front of the one they had decided to buy.

They had not yet decided on the second place they would buy because they would meet Aaron another day. But the place where Nina would live with Vicente would be the one in front of them, a nice 3-bedroom property in a residential neighborhood near the center of Millfall.

"It's not bad. From this place, Nina will be able to walk to the local academy." Vicente commented to Rory, satisfied with this choice.

Chapter 48: Finding Aaron ?

Looking at the property, a little smaller than his house in Martell Village, Vicente wondered what Nina would think of the place and smiled, considering the 30 gold coins worth of this house.

In his savings, he had enough to pay for this place and the one he would use as his family headquarters with Rory and the rest of his armed men.

Rory looked at the two-story house, with parts made of stone and others of wood, feeling that its location was good enough to host Nina and Eve.

"From here, Nina will be able to go to the academy on her own in a year or two." He commented to Vicente as the men around them saw another reason their boss chose this place.

'From here, we can put someone in the attic, and he will have a view directly to the local academy...'
Andrew's former employee thought as he looked at the top of that house. 'That could be used for us to protect Nina and do other things.'

One of the young men in that group looked toward the direction of the academy and said in a low voice. "We will have a view of some routes of young nobles... It will be a good place for observation."

One of the other guards in Vicente's group agreed, figuring that as much as their boss wouldn't use this place for dangerous operations, putting an observer there wouldn't cost them anything.

They had all learned many things from Vicente in the last few months. They could already put the habits they had learned into practice without even making an effort.

The thought of planning actions on behalf of the family was taking root in their minds. When analyzing a place like this, they couldn't help but notice the possibilities.

Vicente ignored his men's comments and said. "Let's go to that broker's house. I want to close this deal immediately."

"What about the other property, boss?" One of the young men who had participated in Jesse's murder asked.

"We'll visit Aaron later and decide after this meeting."

With that said, they set off back to the house they had visited earlier, on a commercial street in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

...

After a few hours, Vicente and Rory left the property of the broker they had visited, both with smiles on their faces.

They had closed the first of their purchases in this city and bought the property they had been viewing earlier.

It would take a few days for the deal to be finalized and the property to pass into Vicente's name. But it would all be done in no more than 10 days, and he could receive the property.

He would bring some of the furniture from his home in Martell Village, but he would still have to go shopping in Millfall in the next few days.

However, that was the least of it at the moment. When they had finished with this problem, the group left for The Broken Vial, the store that Rory's mother had directed them to.

This store was in the central part of town, not far from where they had done business.

They were already in front of this place in only a few minutes!

...

After getting off their carriage, Vicente and Rory did not stop to look at the store for magic items where Aaron was supposed to work and entered the store without ceremony.

Upon entering, they found a place that looked like a small Earth market, with various items scattered on shelves all around.

The place was not large, so there were only four aisles separated by shelves, with a large counter at the back of the store and two payment booths beside the entrance.

At the moment, one person was at one of the counters, while about four more people were there, either customers or employees.

Everyone there had Magic Gems on their foreheads, some common, but some unusual.

Vicente and Rory then approached the woman at the payment counter, and one of them asked. "Hello, could you tell me if anyone here is named Aaron Wilson?"

The middle-aged woman that Rory asked looked at them and said. "Go to the back of the store, and you will find him there."

Rory thanked, and soon he and Vicente were standing next to the counter at the back of the store, where a person was putting potions on the shelf behind the counter.

In this store, there were many vials around. From what Vice had noticed, some were simpler, containing liquids such as blood from magical beasts, special water, in short, solutions of all kinds. But there were also some with pills and magic elixirs, which could be directly consumed.

There were other types of items around, like plants and herbs, and some strange instruments neither Vice nor Rory knew what they were for.

In any case, these items contained a lot of mana, and they both knew that several were special and different from ordinary artifacts.

In Polaris Realm, there were two types of objects—those with mana and those without.

An item, whatever its origin, that could absorb and hold mana within itself could be used in infinite ways by magicians. Everything would depend on the will and imagination of the one using it.

But items unable to hold mana naturally had less importance to magicians. However, they had their uses for many things in this society.

"Are you Aaron?" Rory asked the man working with the elixirs in that part of the store.

Such a person shook his head negatively and pointed to the side, indicating for them to wait for the person in question to come to them.

A minute later, a tall, thin man with a mustache and black hair mixed with some gray appeared there.

He was dressed in a black robe and had a curious look on his face as he looked at these two youths.

"Are you two looking for me?" He asked with a discreet smile at the corner of his lips.

Vicente stepped forward and said. "Senior Aaron, this one next to me is Rory, and I am Vicente. We're here on Sweet Cheeks' recommendation. She said the senior would help us."

"Sweet Cheeks?" Aaron's eyes narrowed as he looked at the young red-haired man next to Vicente.

'Is that her son?' He remembered that woman who had helped him settle in this town years ago.

At the time, Rory's mother was still a prostitute. Yet, her position was not simple, which was why she had managed to gather wealth so that she no longer had to do the things she had done for almost 50 years!

Rory's mother was not young!

Like a 2nd stage magician, she had a life expectancy of over 200 years, so, at 81 years of age, she looked like a mature woman, not an old woman as Vicente would have imagined if he had asked her age.

Aaron remembered his debt and said. "Come with me. We'll talk in my office."

Chapter 49: Awakening Time 1

As they settled themselves outside Aaron's living room, Vicente and Rory momentarily observed the place's decor.

There were several medals and first-place awards from competitions on a shelf behind where Aaron sat a few moments after receiving them.

The decoration of this office was vintage, with various leather items, a stuffed moose head, and daggers of various types displayed as if they were also awards.

From the looks of the place, Aaron should be a hunter.

Vicente narrowed his eyes at this but said nothing.

Aaron looked silently at Rory for a few moments. But soon, he opened his mouth, breaking the silence in the room. "So, Rory, what exactly do you want with me? Sweet Cheeks sent you here for what exactly?"

Rory looked at Vicente and then at that man. "I would like to make something clear, senior Aaron. Vice and I did not come here on her account. She made it clear to us to inform you that this has no relation to her.

She merely guided us, and your help will pay the debt that the senior owes to her. So we are here for us and not for her."

Aaron nodded affirmatively. "Of course, she left this world and didn't want to return. I understand. But why would she send you to me? Not that I don't want to pay my debt to her, but I find it a little strange."

Vice said. "She knows she can't stop Rory and me from going our ways, so she indicated you because she thinks you can help us lessen some risks."

"Risks about what?" He looked at Vicente and narrowed his eyes.

This black-haired young man was straight to the point. "Risks from the underworld on us."

After hearing this, Aaron's eyes opened wider, and he leaned his back against his armchair. "So that's it..."

Rory said. "We have a business we want to bring into this city, but we're still uncertain about how the local powers are subdivided. Surely someone with your contacts can help us with that."

"But why do you guys want to get involved with the underworld?" He questioned. "You can certainly grow by acting in the light of day."

He could introduce these young people to the local underworld and quickly pay off his debts, helping these two with the basics. But the underworld was complicated.

Every action had its implications, and he preferred to get involved in something that could potentially hit him in the future without even knowing the motivations of the people he associated with.

Vicente replied. "We believe there is more room in the underworld. We know the risks and accept them, given the opportunities that exist in the shadows of the night. We have some ideas for products and services that we believe are in short supply in Millfall but will have a better chance of success if we use alternative avenues to present them to society."

Vicente's manner was unusual for a 14-year-old, as Aaron thought both of these young men had. Looking into this boy's black eyes, he pondered for a moment.

'This young man knows what he is about to do... He does not speak like a fool about to make the mistake of his life.'

Thinking about it, Aaron looked back at Rory, noting that this young man had potential but nothing compared to Vicente. Heidi's son was certainly not the leader there, the number two at most.

The hierarchy of the two was evident, something that immediately pleased Aaron.

In the underworld, more than anywhere else, hierarchy was crucial. Without a clear distinction between the possibilities of each person involved, a project would hardly work out.

Aaron then said. "All right, what do you need? I will help you but don't get me into trouble. If you get involved in what you shouldn't, I won't hesitate to pretend I don't know you."

Upon hearing this, Rory smiled at Vice as that young man grinned quietly.

"We have some plans, but we need the information to make some adjustments," Vice said, with no intention of telling the things he intended to do. "First of all, we need to know the composition of the relevant powers in the light of day and in the darkness of the night.

Nobles, rich men, merchants, and criminal groups. We need to know at least the basics of each of them, where they are, where they operate, what they operate."

That was the kind of basic information that someone entering the underworld would have to know to not step where they shouldn't.

Any fool with a few gold coins and a modicum of patience would discover these things by investigating for themselves.

Talking about it was not a problem for Aaron.

"What else?"

"Second, we need help getting close to some of these powers."

"Who exactly?" Aaron looked into Vicente's eyes seriously.

Vicente replied. "I don't know. That depends on the first thing I asked you for. Without that information, I cannot tell you who I want to contact."

"I see."

"Third, I want to know about good suppliers of local minerals and also blacksmiths."

"Blacksmiths? Do you intend to produce something for sale?"

"Sort of," Rory replied.

With that said, they talked for a few moments, with Vicente and Rory making it clear what they needed, which was not at all excessive for Aaron.

When they were done talking, Aaron promised to tell them who was in the local power game for them in a few days.

Unfortunately for the two of them, he had an appointment in a few minutes and would be out of Millfall for the next week.

In the meantime, a subordinate of his would find them by the following days to pass them a document about Millfall's invisible division.

This city had its own map with the areas of influence of the faction groups that someone like Vicente or Rory would need to watch out for.

For the assurance of both parties, they signed a Magical Agreement with Aaron, guaranteeing that this man no longer owed Heidi anything, as well as their agreement would end once they received all the information and help they agreed upon that day.

"Alright, boys, good luck in your future endeavors," Aaron said as he stood up, indicating the exit to Vice and Rory. "If your business is promising, you can look me up. I'll be interested in doing business with you."

"But if not, let us stay away," Rory said with a smile on his face.

"Exactly!"

After shaking hands with the two, Aaron watched them leave, soon after going his own way.

...

After meeting Aaron, Vicente, and Rory spent two days preparing for their next steps in this city, fighting daily and training their combat skills.

The men in their group continued their training whenever they had time, sometimes even receiving tips from Vice and Rory.

As much as Rory didn't have Vicente's experiences, Vice had taught him since childhood, so he had a much more excellent proficiency in many things than these men.

And so, before they received contact from one of Aaron's men, the time had finally come for Rory's Awakening!

Rory was older than Vicente by a few weeks, so he would go through the Awakening Ceremony the next day!

Chapter 50: Awakening Time 2

Vicente and Rory awoke early the next day, quickly making their first meal for this glorious day.

Today Rory would awaken his powers!

Not only was Vicente happy that his friend had reached this point in his journey, but he was also looking forward to seeing the powers that Rory would get.

No one knew who Rory's father was, so his powers were very likely to be a surprise to all of them.

But none of them were raising expectations about Rory's talent, but rather what ability he would have.

No one believed his talent would escape the ordinary and probably be between Orange and Yellow.

But in this world, the Magic Gem was not only associated with the magical form of its owner but how their powers might develop along their journey.

One could develop unique powers by connecting a Magic Gem to one or more Magic Pentagrams.

For example, someone with an elemental affinity for water, without any Pentagrams, could more easily use their mana to manipulate that element. But by adding Pentagrams, the greater affinity for water could evolve and form water-based attack forms.

Along their journey, one could, for example, form a water avatar, creating a form of power that would be hard to find similar in the world, like a unique power form.

Some could form weapons, others special powers capable of predicting the future, controlling objects, etc.

There were no limits to this, and it all depended on how far one could go!

So all of Vicente's group was anxious when they finished eating at a local tavern and went to the local Awakening Temple!

...

Upon arriving in front of the temple in the middle of Millfall, Vicente came upon a building similar to the one in Saltstar City.

The Awakening Temple belonged to the Congregation of Revelations, so all their buildings around Polaris Realm followed the same construction model.

Precisely because of this, what one could achieve in this temple in Millfall, Saltstar City, or any other on the continent, would be the same.

One's powers depended more on their own characteristics than on the temple in which one awakened their powers.

The difference was the presence of specialists capable of inviting young people and changing their fate.

As such, for people who did not want to be chosen by influential organizations, regardless of their talents, smaller towns like Millfall were somewhat interesting.

Rory intended to stay by Vicente's side and was okay with awakening his powers in Millfall. Seeing the coliseum-shaped temple in front of him, he felt nervous, full of curiosity as to what he would get there.

"Shall we go there?" Vicente smiled at him, giving Rory a light slap on the back.

Rory nodded and walked up the stairs in front of the coliseum.

Vicente watched families gathering with the young people who would awaken their skills this day in the surrounding area, but he was not so moved.

There wasn't a single day that he didn't think about Lauren and the day his father died. But he didn't see this place as a weakness or a problem that would make him feel bad there.

What had happened to Lauren could have happened anywhere else. After all, Magic Gems were always visible on the foreheads of magicians, so sooner or later, those interested in his sister's powers could take her.

He walked up the stairs in front of the Awakening Temple with Rory without bothering about what had happened about 3 years ago.

He soon saw the temple members guiding the people there.

"Who among you will awaken your powers today?" A woman dressed in the temple uniform asked their group after a few minutes of them standing there.

Rory raised his right hand and smiled. "I will. I turned 14 last night."

"Okay, follow..." She quickly pointed him in the way Rory should go.

After that, she directed Vicente and his men to proceed to the spectators' area.

"Boss, are you anxious? It will soon be your day to follow the path that Rory is taking today." One of the young men following Vicente asked.

The older man among these Vicente warriors looked at the son of his former boss with a little apprehension, knowing that although it was a critical moment for his group, it was also a delicate matter for Vice.

But Vicente replied softly, with sincerity in his words, "Yes, indeed I am. I look forward to the day when I will know my limits to adjust my plans. My talents are probably not great, but I believe that with my weapons, I can go further than many imagine.

The same goes for you."

Seeing their boss looking at them, these men nodded to Vicente, feeling good that their leader cared about them and gave them a chance to challenge their destinies.

As they smiled, they soon reached the second level of the coliseum. There they got one of the galleries with a good view of where Rory was standing.

Rory was already standing on the Awakening Platform with more than a dozen other youths, all looking around anxiously.

This was particularly true for Rory, for unlike Vicente, he had never seen any Awakenings before.

But his nervousness would soon subside as time passed. When the middle of the day came, the same voice Vicente had heard in Saltstar City sounded in that place, starting the ceremony.

"That voice... I heard it when I was in the Awakening Temple in Saltstar City." Vicente commented while frowning his eyebrows.

Someone near Vicente heard this and commented in a humorous tone. "That's natural. That is the voice of the temple master of our Seidel Kingdom. All temples around the kingdom are activated by him daily in the middle of the day."

Vicente and his men looked at the young blond man with an unusual Magic Gem on his forehead.

"I didn't know that," Vice said. "Thanks for the information."

"It's nothing, haha." That blond young man smiled. "Is anyone from your group awakening today? My little sister is here for her awakening. I'm looking forward to seeing her great powers show themselves!"

"I hope she succeeds," Vicente stated. "My friend is going to awaken his powers in this group... I am also looking forward to it."

By the way, my name is Vicente."

"Pleasure to meet you, Vicente. My name is Lukas." That young man moved his hat, greeting this young man who did not look simple, although accompanied by ordinary people. "Are you far from your awakening?"

"No, I'll be down there soon," Vice said, looking at the Awakening Platform.

"Good for you... If fate brings us together again, I'll be eager to find out your results."

After saying that, that blond young man turned his attention to the platform where the Awakening Ceremony was initiated at this moment!