

The Mafia 411

Chapter 411 Arrival in the City?

At dawn on a new day, Vicente, Sarah, and Layla set out from Millfall to the east coast, where Ironcrest was located.

Vicente had made this journey before with his family by carriage, and it had taken him several weeks to reach that coastal city. This time, however, he would travel using his special ability.

Vicente could fly up to three times faster than an ordinary horse could move, even if he were to carry one of these women. As a result, their journey wouldn't take as long as the last time he made this trip. Even considering the rest stops he and Layla would need, they would reach Ironcrest in four to five days.

So Vicente set off from Millfall, flying while letting Sarah's body keep up with him, as Layla used her super-speed to follow close behind.

Since they were both Low-level Mages, there would be few problems on this journey, and time would soon start to pass more quickly for them.

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Three days after Vicente left Millfall...

Nine people entered the city through the western entrance in three carriages bearing symbols known throughout the kingdom.

As these carriages passed through the first of the city's busiest streets, the locals immediately began to watch them, whispering to each other.

"This is the symbol of the royal family..."

"It looks like a group of important soldiers! Can you sense the level of the person in the second carriage?" An elderly-looking man commented to his grandson.

"Yes, he's a High-level Mage!" The young Apprentice had no trouble telling the difference between him and that Mage and was quite surprised to feel such an aura.

Mages usually hid their powers in unimportant everyday situations. But that soldier and practically his entire group didn't care.

"What are these people doing here?"

"It must be because of those Commanders who were in town recently..."

While the people in the streets were commenting on the arrival of this group, the soldiers sent from the capital to take care of Millfall's affairs were also talking among themselves.

Except for the High-level Mage in the second carriage, the others were all 3rd-stage magicians, with 3 Low-level Mages and 5 Mid-level Mages.

"We're finally here..." One of the weaker ones muttered as he struggled with the beast pulling the first carriage of the convoy.

One of the Mid-level Mages in the first carriage then told his two companions. "I don't sense any particularly powerful aura except for a beast on the city's east side. Could that beast be behind the deaths of our men?"

"Unlikely." The most experienced man in the carriage commented. "It would be too risky to kill soldiers of the kingdom with a beast. It would be like asking to die."

As powerful as beasts could be, they were not as good at hiding their actions as humans. Anyone with a modicum of intelligence would avoid using beasts to kill people whose deaths would be avenged.

Meanwhile, in the main car in the middle of the convoy, a Mid-level Mage was controlling the beast of that car when he lowered the front glass of the cabin and said to the High-level Mage there. "Commander Derek, we are in Millfall. The local headquarters are just ahead of us."

The person opened his eyes when he heard that, finally in this city after weeks of travel.

The capital was far away from this area! Even using a 3rd-stage beast to pull their carriages, this group had taken several days to make their way from the capital to Millfall.

'Finally here... Now, it's time to carry out His Majesty's orders.' This man thought to himself as he looked through the windows of his carriage, aware that he had many problems on the ground.

The king had sent him on this mission to investigate the deaths of the four Commanders who had recently been killed during operations in Millfall's area. He was also to choose a successor to the position of Commander in that town, restructure the local army battalion, and deal with the situation of the Symons family.

Halfway between the kingdom's capital and Millfall, he had received a communiqué about the fall of the Symons family with new orders from the king. As such, he would have to investigate the fall of this family and the possible involvement of other noble powers in the downfall of the Symons family.

All this would be a lot of work for him, so he didn't want to wait to start acting.

He said. "Austin, go to the Martial Court in this city and get access to the records of the Symons family's demise. We'll start investigating this incident from there."

A Mid-level Mage in the third carriage of the group heard this and moved off, easily separating from his group, accompanied by a Low-level Mage.

Commander Derek continued. "Emmett, you'll be in charge of investigating The Vile Altar. Go there and return as soon as possible. We won't act until I know more about what happened there."

How did Derek know about The Vile Altar if the forces in Millfall didn't have this information before? It was because the local group had already investigated the route taken by the three Commanders who went to The Vile Altar that night after Vicente. Those soldiers had discovered the probable location of such people's fall.

That had only happened after several days of investigation, and this information had only reached this group of Mages a day ago.

Since Derek didn't trust the local investigators, he wanted someone from his group to go there personally to investigate the area again.

With these orders, the second man and his assistant set off, leaving 5 Mages behind when they arrived in front of the army headquarters in this town.

Just as they reached the entrance to the building in the center of Millfall, Nova opened the door to the battalion Commander's cultivation room, leaving the place after nearly two weeks of meditation in seclusion.

But the time she had spent there had paid off, for she was now at the 3rd magic stage!

'At last! I can finally become a Commander!' She thought as she left her cultivation room, too happy to notice the powerful auras coming towards her.

But before she could be surprised, a level 5 Acolyte alerted her. "Captain, the emissaries from the capital have just arrived! They are at the barracks entrance and want to talk to you!"

"Oh?" She changed her expression, sensing that the time had finally come for the army to punish the criminals and delinquents in this city.

With the help of the envoys from the capital, she would certainly be able to put pressure on the right people and perhaps get to the truth more easily!

Chapter 412 Insistent

Nova quickly moved to where the soldiers sent from the capital were, stopping in front of them with other soldiers from that post and the soldiers temporarily waiting there for new orders.

When they met the five newly arrived Mages, they all took official positions to greet these highest-ranking men in the organization.

"Commanders, welcome to the royal army headquarters in Millfall," Nova said on behalf of everyone there after stepping forward.

Looking at the blue-haired woman who had obviously advanced recently, the man sent to handle this situation wasn't that surprised by her level.

It was expected that the person chosen to take temporary charge would be someone powerful and not far from a major breakthrough like the one Nova had just experienced.

He got right to the point. "Captain Bain, congratulations on becoming a magician. We'll sort out your situation soon, and you'll know your new orders. But for now, let's deal with the local problems.

What can you tell me about the situation in Millfall? What is the relationship between the soldiers of the different battalions and the situation with the local powers?

There were currently soldiers from four different battalions in Millfall, previously commanded by the four men Vicente had killed.

Nova replied. "The situation with the soldiers is going well. We've had some debates, of course, since we're from different groups, and some soldiers don't like taking orders from someone of the same rank as them. But nothing unusual or unacceptable has happened.

The military hierarchy of the royal army was extremely strict, and disobedience was frowned upon in that force. But differences of opinion and pride existed even within the army, and debates were not necessarily crimes.

As long as they stayed within certain limits, differences between soldiers weren't taken too seriously.

That was especially true in situations like Nova's.

Until recently, she had been a soldier of the same rank as many of her comrades, but she was temporarily in command. It was only natural that there would be some friction within the group over her orders and visions.

Since she wasn't a Commander yet, none of the five newcomers saw a problem.

She continued. "As for the local nobles, they're also behaving within the rules and what we've come to expect. None of them have shown any strange behavior since last month, either with the fall of our Commander or the Symons family.

The town has been fairly quiet lately, with only one major problem, which was after the auction a few days ago when the Symons family fell. There were a lot of Mages in town that night, and we couldn't do much but wait for the situation to resolve itself."

In theory, Nova and the men under his command should have acted and stopped the conflict that night. But none of these newcomers would blame her for doing nothing.

What could she and her party have done? The only result of fighting that night would have been deaths among the soldiers, which would have meant losses for the kingdom.

One of the men from the capital group asked. "So there's no clue that your group found about the incidents with our soldiers and then the one with the Symons family?"

"We have no concrete evidence. On the auction day, many people acted, and some wore more or less similar camouflage. The bodies of the victims were also disposed of. As for the four Commanders, we have no idea how they died.

Only the death of Commander Christopher Hogan seems less mysterious. But even he hasn't left us any significant clues."

The strongest of the new arrivals asked her as she made her way to the post commander's office. "Do you have any strange feelings about all this, Captain? Speak freely. From now on, we won't officially consider what you tell us."

False accusations could have serious consequences. That's why Nova couldn't speak her mind without taking risks.

But an unofficial conversation between soldiers might give her room to say some of her suspicions that couldn't be used in the Martial Court.

She smiled and said. "Commander Derek, I can't prove anything I'm about to say, but based on my experience, I'm certain that Cesar Mazzanti is involved to some degree in at least one of these two incidents. Investigating and interviewing him could be quite revealing, in my opinion."

"Cesar Mazzanti?" These people were hearing that name for the first time.

She explained. "Officially, he's a local mercenary. But in the shadows, he's actually the leader of the local criminal underworld. He currently controls virtually all underworld operations in Millfall, from prostitution, bookmaking, loans, and parallel resource trading. In short, he operates on several fronts.

He's quite young and hasn't been in power very long. A few months ago, two major factions controlled the local underworld. But then, he came to Millfall, grew up, and dominated those two forces, destroying one and taking power from the other.

Today, he can be considered the most influential man in the city."

"Oh? And even though he's connected to so many problems, you haven't found any evidence against him?" A Low-level Mage from that group of newcomers asked in a strange tone.

Nova looked at him and said. "He is very cautious, and his skill is rather ridiculous. He dealt with his enemies without leaving any evidence or witnesses against him. At the same time, he expanded his business by acting within the law..." She paused at this part, inwardly laughing because as ridiculous as it was, it was true.

Strangely enough, Cesar had never acted directly against innocent people. He mostly acted against other bandits, only defending himself or fighting back.

But he almost always acted within the laws of the kingdom, following the limit on the number of people in his force, acting as if he were an organization of mercenary groups, without criminally exploiting those with whom they were involved.

The family's main service was protection, for which they charged low costs and provided excellent services.

As for the services inherited from the Defiant Tyranny and the Scarlet Syndicate, most were not forbidden by the kingdom, although they were socially frowned upon.

"To say he's a clean criminal is not wrong. But don't let his banner fool you. He is a cruel person, capable of killing without blinking an eye. I can't prove he's guilty, but my instincts tell me he's involved in most of Millfall's recent problems." She finished.

These soldiers knew that instincts were sometimes very good to follow, so they took what she had in mind seriously.

Derek ordered. "All right, let's keep an eye on this Cesar Mazzanti and his group. Where is he right now? What level is he at?"

Nova didn't know because she had just come out of seclusion.

So another soldier who had accompanied her and the Mages to the commander's office of this post answered in her place. "He left town a few days ago after becoming a Mage. We think he left to hunt for his next pentagram."

Nova was surprised to hear this, not expecting Cesar to leave before her.

"That's a problem... If we can't talk to him, it will be difficult to follow Captain Bain's instincts." A mid-level mage said.

Since there was no evidence against him, they would have to talk to him personally. But there wasn't much they could do if he wasn't in town!

Derek said. "For now, we'll investigate everything we can locally before we go after this person and his group. But let's keep the Captain's suspicions in mind."

"Okay!"

Chapter 413 Back to Ironcrest?

The next day...

The soldiers who had just arrived in Millfall were already at work, investigating the disturbing events that had recently occurred in the city.

With only one day's work under their belts, some of the group's investigators had already uncovered some clues. They were studying them, tracking down possible violators of the royal laws.

While this was happening, another group of Mages arrived in town on the afternoon of that new day.

This group hadn't come from the capital but from Ironcrest, and they were finally in Millfall to find out what had happened to their group after the auction a few days ago!

The Faceless Ones faction had finally arrived in Millfall to deal with the deaths of three of their Mages and the disappearance of Sarah Mercer.

But as soon as this group of Low-level and Mid-level Mages arrived in this city, they noticed a big problem on the ground!

"Boss, what should we do? Soldiers from the capital are in town to investigate some recent events." One of the weakest of the group said to their leader after quickly gathering information about the many Mages they had sensed in the city center a few minutes ago.

The number three of The Faceless Ones faction listened seriously, knowing it wouldn't be easy to act under the observation of this group of soldiers from the capital.

He said. "First, let's look at the situation with the Mazzanti family. We need to find out what happened to Sarah and find a way to get her back. Even if we can't destroy the enemies because of these soldiers, getting our companion back shouldn't be too much of a problem."

"Okay!"

The group headed to the east side of town, where the Mazzanti family headquarters were located.

Little did they know that soldiers from the capital had already found some of the clues left by Vicente's men and were slowly getting closer to information about their soldiers' involvement with The Faceless Ones and the deaths of members of the Congregation of Revelation.

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Meanwhile, Vicente and his group had traveled almost all the way between Millfall and Ironcrest, even passing through the area of the Alpine Woodpecker Forest.

He, Layla, and Sarah were now standing near the top of a mountain range, where they could see the ocean and their destination city.

After resting in this beautiful place, they would need a little over two hours to reach Ironcrest.

Looking at this view he had seen a few weeks ago, he remembered that he was only a low-level Acolyte when he came to this place and met Newton.

Amidst this, he was calm about his family's situation. Many things might have happened in Millfall, but he thought that even if his family's enemies got there before the soldiers from the capital, they wouldn't be able to act immediately.

With Sarah in his hands, he had the guarantee that the enemy would try to investigate their situation before acting because this woman was important within The Faceless Ones.

Of course, he couldn't be sure, and all he had was the knowledge that the chances of his group still standing were high.

But Vicente was different from the kind of person who felt the need to control everything 100% of the time. He did his best to keep things under his control as much as possible, but he knew that at a certain point, all you could do was wait and see how the situation developed.

He had armed his family with weapons capable of killing Mages, left behind powerful armor, the 3rd-stage basilisk, and a comfortable situation in Millfall for his men. If all that wasn't enough, he could only regret it.

After all, his family was there to help him achieve his goals, not the other way around. They had to be able to support themselves in his absence and help him grow faster.

Otherwise, there would be no reason for him to have a family!

So, while he rested and regained his strength to continue the journey ahead, Vicente was at peace with the situation in Millfall, worrying more about Jasmine and what he and Layla would be doing very soon.

The gray-haired woman was very worried and asked. "What are we going to do when we get to Ironcrest? Will we go straight to the places this woman told us about?"

"No. We're going to separate. I want you to go to someone and give him a message. In the meantime, I'll go undercover and check out the enemy posts." He answered her.

"Who do you want me to meet? Do you really think it's worth splitting up?"

"Your skill is easy to detect. If you and I act together, someone will more likely recognize you. That would be bad for our plans..." He said, looking at the mask that hid the rest of Layla. "Your job will be to infiltrate the enemy base while I distract them, rescue Jasmine, and get away. So I don't want you to be with me unnecessarily."

She had nothing to debate since her ability was more compatible with what Vicente had in mind.

He said. "But you will first meet a friend of mine to do me a favor. It will not affect our mission but help me with other things. We're not going to act until at least next night, so you're free until then."

"Why don't you go and talk to this contact personally? Would that compromise you?" She asked. As much as she wanted to work with Vice, she didn't want to be his errand girl.

"That's the case. I've already met this man with my current identity. If I do this now, I could be identified by our enemies." He said before handing Layla a closed scroll and an open letter.

"You must give the scroll to the person I am talking about in this letter." He gestured to her as she began to read what he had written.

Vicente didn't know what might happen in the next few days, so he preferred not to reveal anything about himself to Sarah, who watched them with a sharp expression.

Layla quickly discovered that Vicente was in contact with Newton, a provincial genius praised even by the king of the state.

'I didn't expect that... When did he manage to make contact with this guy?' She wondered as she looked at Vicente's mask.

"Okay, I'll go to him and give him the parchment." She put it in her spatial ring. "Anything else? I can look into other things since I'll be working as a message girl for you. How about we check out the situation at the local temple? I heard that the Mages of this outpost recently fell."

Layla didn't know everything about the people she was dealing with. Even though she was Vicente's ally, she was in the dark about the fact that he had lured three members of the same organization as her to The Vile Altar, where they died.

Even though Vicente hadn't killed any of them, he had always caused the death of those three.

He remembered that. "No, avoid this organization. Concentrate on the person I referred you to. You'll find out from him if there's anything else for you to do."

With that, they would soon finish their rest and get back on the road to Ironcrest, where they would arrive in the early evening.

Chapter 414 Female Advantage?

As soon as they arrived at one of the entrances to Ironcrest, Vicente and Layla split up, with him and Sarah going to the nearest of The Faceless Ones' posts. Meanwhile, the gray-haired woman went to Roxelus Academy, where she was supposed to meet Newton.

It was evening in Ironcrest, but there was still movement on the streets and in the main local academy, which was located in the center of the city.

Layla made her way to that place without much commotion but also a little hastily to position herself in relation to Jasmine's rescue and arrived in front of the building Vicente had visited weeks ago.

She wore a white dress, a metallic white mask on her face, and her hair tied up in a bun.

As soon as she appeared and walked towards the entrance of that Royal Academy, the surrounding guards made way for her while breathing more deeply.

Layla didn't have to show her face to these men for them to know she was a fairy. The guards could tell that she was a beauty from the silkiness of her skin, the shape of her hands, and her exposed heels.

Not only that, she had a scent that was hard to ignore, capable of perfuming any room she entered.

As they smelled her lovely perfume and imagined what lay beneath those clothes, some guards momentarily forgot their duties.

Gulp!

"Now that's a woman! I wouldn't even go to work with someone like that in the house!"

"What is this goddess doing here? I hope she's not after one of the brats from the academy..."

As the men muttered among themselves, some making bolder comments than others, one of them stepped forward and addressed Layla. "My lady, where are you going? Let this humble guard escort you."

Layla hid her level, so there was no way for these mere Acolytes to know that she was commenting on someone who could kill them with a single blow.

But she was not an unreasonable woman. There were advantages to being a woman, to being as beautiful as she was. As much as she and many others didn't like to take advantage of situations because of men's weak mentalities, she couldn't help but use it to her advantage.

In a way, good looks were also part of her powers!

"Rose is looking for Professor Newton. Can you take me to him?" She said, forcing her voice to sound cuter and harder to refuse.

It was a proven fact that men were more inclined to grant women's requests when they spoke in a forced voice to sound cuter!

Hearing an angelic tone, the level 4 Acolyte who had first approached her smiled broadly and pointed. "This way, Professor Newton is still working. I'll take you to his office."

The other men stayed behind with silly grins on their faces, imagining how lucky their friend was to be able to spend time guiding that goddess.

For people like them, all they needed was a few minutes alone with a goddess like that to try their luck.

Women could be quite difficult to read, sometimes harder or easier to win over. But most of the time, what got in the way of men getting the women they wanted was their own fear of rejection.

Those more willing to take a risk, to flirt and ask a woman out, had the best chance of success.

Between an ordinary but brave man and a handsome but shy man, the first type definitely had more success with women, even in the world of magic!

Of course, other things could greatly influence this type of social interaction, but this was true for people in near realities, just as it was on Earth.

And so, for the next two minutes, Layla would hear a courtship, with that man asking her a few questions, complimenting her more than before, and even asking her out.

Of course, he wouldn't succeed in his attempts since the circumstances weren't at all favorable for his attempt.

In any case, it is better to try and fail than to regret never having tried!

Seeing the man leave, Layla didn't wait long before the door to Newton's office opened, and she was confronted with one of the greatest geniuses of the province and perhaps of the entire kingdom.

"Professor Newton." She said in a clearly excited tone as she made a greeting gesture.

Layla respected Newton's name. This man was so intelligent and capable that even her Congregation of Revelation had tried to recruit him as soon as he became famous.

Not only the Congregation of Revelation but also several other continental powers had tried to recruit Newton, as he had a rare ability and could eventually revolutionize the continent.

He hadn't made up his mind for the moment, as he had made it clear to the many interested parties that he intended to stay in the Seidel Kingdom until he reached the limit he could go in such a state. Only then would he make a decision.

Newton's power was so great that even the Congregation of Revelation had decided to wait. At the same time, no one was interested in moving against him.

As much as talents were often seen as a threat to the ruling order, Newton's talent was exceptional. He was the kind of person who, if allowed to grow, would develop things that could benefit the entire continent, not just the force he was a part of.

Since he wasn't a warrior, there was no way he could directly threaten the sovereign powers. Therefore, the chances of anyone wanting his head were meager at the moment.

His personality and neutrality were so remarkable that even publicly rival powers interested in him wouldn't consider eliminating him if he chose an opposing side.

Because of this, Layla respected and admired the man who had recently made a breakthrough and became a High-level Mage, the highest cultivation of magicians in Ironcrest.

Newton looked at the woman dressed in white in front of him and asked. "Who are you, girl? Why are you after me?"

Unlike the Acolytes, Newton could clearly sense Layla's true level. That was an ability of more powerful magicians, something that made it impossible for lower-level people to hide everything about themselves from experts.

Layla got to the point by showing Newton what Vicente had asked her to deliver. "I'm here on behalf of a mutual friend, Professor. He asked me to find you and give you this. You'll understand when you read it."

Newton immediately opened the parchment Layla had given him and began to read the contents of Vicente's message. Meanwhile, he returned to his office and gestured for the woman to close the door and calm down.

Chapter 415 The Quality of Education in the Seidel Kingdom

In the blink of an eye, Newton read the entire message from Vicente, or rather Cesar Mazzanti.

Vicente didn't give all the details of what had happened to him since their last meeting. But he described the most important things, saying that he had recently become a Mage and that his first pentagram had developed to the orange grade.

These were things that anyone who saw him fight would notice, so telling Newton wouldn't put Vicente in any danger.

When he finished reading the letter, Newton had a very interested look, sensing that Cesar's talent was even greater than it seemed.

'Could it be that his Magic Gem has developed some kind of consciousness?' The white-haired man ignored the woman staring at him as he thought about Cesar.

According to some theories that Newton had studied, some Magic Gems capable of forming individual consciousnesses could hide their users' talent levels to protect them.

Not all gems known for their ability to form consciousness had this ability, but there were documented cases of it.

Since Vicente was progressing much faster than someone of his talent level should, even considering well-fed geniuses, this teacher couldn't help but consider this explanation.

'It doesn't matter now. If he's a Mage, his powers have significantly increased, and he needs a new pentagram.' He went over to his desk, where various letters, scrolls, and books were.

Layla watched as the man quickly searched through the many papers on the desk until he found a crumpled letter.

He asked her as he looked at it. "Where is he now? How long will it take you to solve your current problems?"

In the previous message, Vicente had told Newton that they couldn't meet for a few days because he was solving a problem. However, he said he would speak to this professor personally once he had solved the problem. In particular, he made it clear that he would begin his search for a new pentagram shortly after their following conversation.

Layla didn't know what Vicente had told Newton, but she was sincere. "He's in the city. And it could be two days or ten days. I'm not sure."

He took something out of his spatial ring and handed it to Layla. "Give this to him. Tell him to talk to me through this communicator while he's in Ironcrest.

I don't know what kind of trouble you're in, but use this if you need to get out of the city rapidly. I'll give him directions then."

"Okay," Layla said, finding it strange that Newton was so interested in Vicente.

He continued as he sat next to the table full of documents and books, "Tell him I'll do my best to find his third essence.

I already have some preliminary information about compatible beings that could form the pentagram of our interest. But I'll see if I can get more information, or at least better information, in the next few days."

"All right, I'll do that."

"As for what he asked me, tell him I'll look into it when I go to Millfall to see him. I don't know if I'll be able to fulfill what he expects of me since I'll be changing posts soon." He said, thinking of the request Vicente had made in the message.

Vicente had said that there was one person in his group that he wanted Newton to consider taking as a disciple.

Newton didn't have any disciples at the moment, but he didn't mind doing so to have more constant contact with Cesar. However, he had recently reached the limit of what Ironcrest could offer him.

Having already secured promotions within the royal forces, all he had to do was let his superior know when he wanted to move on and be transferred.

"I'll become a temporary teacher at the Royal Academy of Saltstar City soon after I pass through Millfall to see how he's doing. After that, it will be difficult for me to meet his expectations without bringing such a person to my side. From his words, I sense he doesn't want that." He said to Layla.

"Are you going to Saltstar City?" She was surprised, considering that Newton had been in Ironcrest since beginning his journey within the royal forces.

He explained. "I'll stay in Saltstar City until I reach the 4th stage, and then I'll go to the kingdom's capital to join the Seidel Magic College."

As weak as the Seidel Kingdom was on the continent, its college and Royal Academies did not lose to others on the continent!

There were two types of teachers at the Royal Academies in this state. One was the assistant teacher, who would be an Acolyte, and the other was the main teacher, someone with 3rd stage comprehension and cultivation. On the other hand, in the kingdom's college, things were much stricter, and all the teachers there were Sovereigns!

Because of this, even though the number of specialists in the kingdom was small, it had great professionals at the 3rd and even 4th stages.

What made the kingdom different from other stronger states on the continent was that the natives didn't go very far after reaching the level of Sovereigns. The few who could go further left the state sooner or later, often taking their families with them. In other words, they did not return to stimulate local growth.

But the same level of primary education for children, teenagers, and even magicians at the beginning of their adult lives that one would find in a stronger state, one would find in the Seidel Kingdom.

Therefore, it wasn't uncommon for people who took Newton's path to stay in their home state until they had achieved as much as they could locally, and only then to leave for higher places.

Some didn't because they generally believed they could grow faster in more competitive environments. However, some preferred to grow safely and only move on to stronger places when they had a solid foundation.

Layla didn't know what Vicente had asked Newton, but she replied. "I'll let him know. Anyway, it's a surprise that you are leaving Ironcrest. You've lived here since you were young, right?"

"Not quite..." Newton muttered. "I lived in the capital for a while and passed through other provinces before returning to Ironcrest. It's a long and boring story. You should go now." He walked to his office door and opened it for Layla.

"By the way, give him this as well. That is a device that can hold a pentagram for a few hours. It might come in handy on the hunt he's going on soon."

After storing this 3rd-grade device in a spatial ring, Layla said goodbye to Newton and left Rexnelts Academy, but without going directly to Vicente.

Now, it was time for her to wait for him to contact her when she needed to rescue Jasmine!

Chapter 416 Nova's Chance?

The next day, Vicente and Layla hadn't met, but they had communicated via a short-range communication device they had.

She warned him about the things Newton had told her to pass on to him and informed him about the two things she had in her possession that she was supposed to deliver.

Vicente wasn't surprised by Newton's approach or that such a man would soon be going to Saltstar City, a city much further away from Millfall than Ironcrest.

So he understood why Newton hadn't accepted his request right away.

What was that request? He wanted Newton to consider becoming Nina's master.

But it would be complicated for that to happen in the short term since the master and student needed to be close to each other, at least at the beginning of the student's journey. At the same time, Vicente wouldn't allow Nina to live so far away from him.

He put that aside for the moment and went back to observing the enemy outposts, having already surveyed two of the three places Sarah had pointed out.

He hadn't decided to act yet, but he was gradually getting a better understanding of the enemies while formulating his plans of action.

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While Vicente was investigating his enemies, the situation in Millfall became more tense.

After the arrival of the group of emissaries from The Faceless Ones faction, there had been no fighting for the time being, but the army had made some remarkable discoveries about The Vile Altar incident.

Not only had the army discovered disturbing things about the incident, but the Congregation of Revelation was beginning to understand the deaths of three of their Mages in the area.

As a result, the soldiers from the capital who were in Millfall to set things right, to investigate this incident, to find the culprits and bring them to justice, were now very focused on keeping the army away from what had happened there!

The envoys from the capital were so stressed after their recent discoveries that they had put aside the investigation into Christopher Hogan's death to focus on solving The Vile Altar incident!

Meanwhile, The Faceless Ones had become their primary target, the scapegoat, the punching bag chosen to take the blame for everything that had happened in such a place.

The members of this group, who had recently arrived in Millfall, had already realized this and were also putting aside some of their old plans to deal with this situation.

Amid this, the Mazzanti family was still under strain, but less so than two days ago!

...

At the army headquarters in Millfall...

Nova stood at the Post Commander's office door, waiting for the order to go in and find out why she had been called.

After reporting everything that had happened during her temporary command, she left her temporary position and returned to her post as Captain.

Even though she had moved up a stage, she still had to change her status within the army. Until that happens, her duties will be the same as when Christopher was still at that post.

As such, she had been working on maintaining local security without getting too involved in investigating the emissaries from the capital.

Therefore, she didn't know why she had been called in this morning.

"Captain, you may proceed. Commander Derek will see you now." A Captain, secretary to the Commander of the Millfall Battalion, told her companion.

Nova walked into the office, taking no time for a military greeting.

Derek looked into Nova's blue eyes and got right to the point. "Captain Bain, you've done an excellent job handling the city's situation in a difficult time. What's more, your record is impeccable, and all of your teachers at the military academy have praised you.

Now that you've reached the 3rd stage, it's time to receive the promotion you deserve." As he spoke, Nova found it harder and harder not to smile, very happy to hear all this.

"In three days, your superiors from Saltstar City will arrive in Millfall. You must join their group for evaluation. The first part of your test will be to hunt for your next pentagram in the Wolfbane

Forest. You will then be evaluated at the headquarters in Saltstar City. Your position will be determined based on your results."

"I'll do my best, Commander!" She said enthusiastically.

"Given your background, I believe you'll be a Commander soon. So, let me tell you, you will most likely be assigned to one of Saltstar City's battalions.

The Red Troop, one of Saltstar City's battalions, used to be commanded by Arthur Hogan. That is one of the best positions for you, so it's likely that you'll be appointed to it." Derek said, helping Nova prepare for the future.

The royal army assigned its soldiers to positions based on need but also based on the soldier's potential and their performance in the test to rise through the ranks.

This test was usually done in groups, which meant there was competition between newly promoted soldiers.

The better you did in these tests, the better your assignment.

New battalions weren't formed unless other groups were disbanded, so new Commanders usually took over vacancies left by soldiers who had changed ranks or died.

If there were no such vacancies, these soldiers were sent to the capital to serve in other ways, sometimes as part of groups led by monarchs or even as special bodyguards for royalty. There were several possibilities, depending on the time, place, and the person advancing in rank.

But with the recent deaths of 3 Commanders within the Scott Province and Nova being one of the 4 soldiers who had recently advanced to the 3rd stage in the entire province, it was very likely that she would take the position of one of the 3 Commanders killed by Vicente.

Derek knew how talented Nova was and expected her to take the best position, the one in Saltstar City.

Nova clenched her fists as she listened to Derek but didn't say anything.

Derek sighed. "Anyway, before you go, I wanted to update you on the local situation since you've been behind this post for several weeks.

I don't know if we will follow your lead on Cesar Mazzanti. We may get something in the future and use that to deal with him. But right now, we're more concerned about the people at the Awakening Temple in Saltstar City.

Arthur, Alex, and Peter apparently died at The Vile Altar fighting members of the Ironcrest Awakening Temple... We can't let the army get involved in this, so we'll let it be known that these three betrayed the royal forces and were expelled from the army before their deaths.

They betrayed us for offers from The Faceless Ones, so we won't investigate them further, nor will we seek justice for their deaths.

Christopher was Arthur's brother, so he was most likely involved. Let's consider his death as an action of The Faceless Ones to eliminate the witnesses of their crime!"

Nova opened her eyes and mouth wide as she realized that the army would cover up everything that had happened, change reality, and blame those four soldiers and The Faceless Ones.

As for the real culprit, this one wouldn't have to suffer any consequences for their actions!

Chapter 417 The Rescue Mission Begins?

Two days later...

It was an afternoon in Ironcrest, and the sky was without a single cloud over the city, making it a great day to go to the beach and relax.

The local beaches were more beautiful this afternoon, with emerald green waters and a calm sea, just right for ordinary people to go into the water without danger.

But most of the local people were going about their normal routines without paying any attention to this beautiful day.

Amidst the bustle of carriages, wagons, and people in the city center, Layla was in a local cafe, sipping a cold drink while sitting on a beautiful balcony.

She had a large sheet of newspaper in front of her and seemed to be calmly reading the kingdom's monthly magazine.

In the Seidel Kingdom, news agencies reported on the most important events in a particular state or region. It wasn't like Earth, where the average person could learn about small things that happened even on the other side of the world. But it was possible to keep abreast of relevant information within a given area on that continent.

In the case of Scott Province, there was a monthly magazine that contained news from the province and the kingdom as a whole, usually about more relevant things such as the deaths of nobles or members of royalty, changes in laws, the army, or the Martial Court.

It wasn't something that would bring life-changing information to ordinary people. Still, it could keep nobles and businessmen minimally up to date.

But Layla wasn't reading the newspaper in front of her right now because she was paying attention to something else.

While she seemed to be reading the paper, her eyes were drawn to a beautiful, grand building in the center of Ironcrest, where several members of the organization she belonged to were coming and going.

Looking at the local Awakening Temple from under her mask, Layla had a slightly curious expression, sensing that something wasn't right.

'Have the investigators sent here found anything?' She wondered.

Layla didn't know about Vicente's involvement in the deaths of the three Mages who had previously been the main names in the local Awakening Temple. But she did know that three major figures in her organization in this city had recently fallen.

Practically all the organization members in the province had been talking about it lately, so even she knew about her religion's investigation into their deaths.

Noticing an unusual commotion in this temple, she pondered the obvious and feared that Vicente intended to act tonight.

'I will look into it. Vicente will act tonight, so everything must be in order by then.' She thought before leaving some coins on her desk and leaving the cafe.

...

Hours later, the night was already falling over Ironcrest, and Vicente was standing next to Sarah Mercer in a dark alleyway in the north of the city.

He and she were dressed in dark clothes that completely covered their bodies, while this woman had no items that could limit the movement of her hands and feet.

However, she still had her mana sealed, so she couldn't use her powers until Vicente freed her from the Seal of Spirits.

He could stop her if she tried to escape, so Vicente left her more free, partly so he wouldn't have to take care of her 100% of the time, but also to fool his enemies.

While her wrists and heels were free, a metal piece was missing from her jaw under her mask so she wouldn't talk.

If someone saw her from a distance, it wouldn't be hard to think she was an ally!

Meanwhile, Vicente looked at the three-story building in front of him where Jasmine was being held hostage.

Over the past few days, he had investigated all the outposts of The Faceless Ones in Ironcrest. He discovered the faction's power level as well as Jasmine's location.

With his current abilities, he could easily sense the presence of people around him but also move discreetly. Combined with the woman at his side, he had managed to do so without attracting the enemy's attention.

Now, he was ready to act and finally free Jasmine from the clutches of the greatest threat to the Mazzanti family's operation in recent memory!

He watched the post where 50 people were standing around, including 35 Acolytes between levels 3 and 5, 12 Low-level Mages, 2 Mid-level Mages, and 1 High-level Mage.

But as he watched some men changing shifts, he suddenly felt his communicator with Layla vibrate.

"Hi..." He said as he answered the call, thinking she was calling to say she was ready.

"We have a situation with our targets." Layla got right to the point after taking a risk to find out why the local temple staff had moved suspiciously earlier.

She continued when she heard Vicente's silence. "The personnel sent by my organization to investigate the deaths of the three Mages from the local temple seem to have uncovered clues about their deaths. It seems that The Faceless Ones were involved, along with soldiers from the kingdom."

"Oh?" Vicente's eyes opened wider as a gleam appeared in them.

"I don't know exactly what's going on. But it looks like the investigators who are in Ironcrest are trying to make a move against The Faceless Ones. Given the strength of this group, it won't necessarily be an all-out assault. But there will be some kind of pressure or even assassination attempts.

Let's keep an eye on the movements of the local investigators. Anything they do could create better opportunities for us to act."

Vicente couldn't disagree with Layla's thoughts and immediately dampened his mood by turning his attention to the surroundings of the area he was in, looking for other observers like himself.

While doing so, he spotted some Acolytes acting a bit suspiciously about 100 meters away from the enemy post.

'It looks like there really are people watching this place...' He thought to himself.

Torne confirmed it. 'Yes, those three Acolytes are watching the same place as the master. Maybe you should wait another day or two. If the members of this religion at least try to intimidate this group, it will be enough of a distraction to greatly increase your chances of success.

He said to Layla. "Okay. Let's wait a little longer before we act. In the meantime, try to find out more about the interests of this group of investigators. As much as they might subconsciously help us, we have to be careful. Jasmine definitely can't be seen by them. Otherwise, we'll have problems."

"I will do my best. Wait for my return." She said before the call ended.

The plans for tonight changed for both of them!

Chapter 418 Danger at the Door?

The next morning...

Vicente was still guarding the post where Jasmine was being held hostage. He had changed his position to avoid attracting the enemy's attention, moving to an unoccupied house near the enemy's building.

As he spied on The Faceless Ones' outpost through the gaps in a window, he noticed more men arriving at the outpost under his observation.

'Something is happening... Have they discovered that the investigators of the Congregation of Revelation are already watching them?'

'That seems to be the case, master.' Torne said to Vicente, who was also watching the place intently. 'The High-level Mage on that estate seems to be very angry. He's just received some bad news.'

Torne couldn't hear what the men of The Faceless Ones were saying inside the mansion, but he could practically see the expressions on the faces of the people there.

His mastery of his mana and the elements was so strong that even more than 90 meters away from the enemy leader, separated by several walls, he could use the mana in the surroundings to read the facial expressions and movements of that and other men!

He had once been a Sovereign, so even though he wasn't one anymore, he could still do things only 4th-stage magicians could do.

While Vicente watched the outside of the enemy post with Torne assisting him, inside the building, the leader of The Faceless Ones, Nash, was now as red as a tomato, almost exploding with hatred as he heard worrying things from his men.

"You've got to be kidding me!" He shouted as he stood up and punched the table in front of him, not believing that the night had turned so bad for him and his group.

Up until the night before, his group had been fine. They had Jasmine in their custody, and the group sent to Millfall was supposed to take care of the problems in that town before they could finally contact Sovereign Barber.

However, in a single night, they discovered that not only were the Congregation of Revelation investigators in the city looking at their group, but so was the royal army!

The subordinate who had just brought them some updates felt terrible but said everything he knew. "Our men in Millfall have just sent us information about the situation in that city. The soldiers sent from the capital to investigate The Vile Altar incident are plotting against us.

They have recently issued a royal edict signaling the betrayal of four army soldiers and the conspiracy of three of those soldiers with members of our group to act at The Vile Altar.

According to them, the soldiers acted independently, and further investigation will be conducted to determine the culprits and bring them to the king's justice.

The two strongest comrades besides Nash heard this with ugly expressions on their faces, somewhat surprised by the turn of events.

They had also investigated The Vile Altar incident weeks ago. But at that time, they had found practically nothing relevant.

However, things seemed to have changed a lot overnight!

"How? Previous investigations said it would be difficult to find out exactly what happened there and who was involved in the incident!" The second strongest of the faction commented in disbelief.

The man who brought the news shook his head negatively. "I don't know either. But it seems that the soldiers from the capital discovered what happened at The Vile Altar very quickly after arriving in Millfall. The same thing happened to the investigators from the Congregation of Revelation, and maybe that's why they reacted so quickly...

It's a fact now that these two forces are looking at us differently, bosses. I can tell you that the army battalions in our city are already aware of this information, and the investigators from the Congregation of Revelation are keeping an eye on us."

The weakest of the three Mages in the room said. "If that's the case, we have to be careful with these investigators from the Congregation of Revelation. As much as royal soldiers were involved in this, we're the weakest link. They'll try to attack us before they solve their problems with the royal family."

That was the logical thing to consider, and the other two Mages couldn't help but look at each other worriedly.

"What are we going to do? If these investigators try anything against us while we're with that girl, our situation could become untenable.

All it would take is for someone to find out that we're with the Sacred Devotee Barber's daughter for the entire Congregation of Revelation in the Seidel Kingdom to turn against us.

Even the Marquis would abandon us in such a situation."

Nash clenched his fists as he felt sweat trickle down his body, apprehensive.

Then he thought about who had put them in this situation. "And Cesar Mazzanti? That all happened because of him. Our men only went to The Vile Altar because of the weed he had. But he was the only one who survived that incident. Why are we only those targeted by the army and the Congregation of Revelations?"

That obviously was because Vicente had been the one to facilitate the investigations of the Congregation of Revelation and the army to cover his tracks and turn these two forces against this Ironcrest faction!

How could he manipulate these two organizations without hiding his own existence?

There was a way for these two great forces to discover his involvement in The Vile Altar incident. But after he manipulated the investigation of the two groups, the chances of that happening were greatly reduced.

Now that the army was trying to eliminate the problem with the Congregation of Revelation, no one in that royal force wanted to know about Cesar!

As for the Congregation of Revelation, they didn't know about Vicente's involvement in all this, but this young man was just an Acolyte until recently. Meanwhile, Mages of The Faceless Ones were at The Vile Altar!

"He left Millfall after reaching the 3rd stage. But we don't know where he is now. The city's forces believe that he has gone searching for his third pentagram." The subordinate of those men said before expressing his opinion. "It makes sense to me. He probably wants to take Jasmine back from us, but that could be dangerous. He'll try to strengthen himself by absorbing his next pentagram before he looks at us."

The weakest of the three Mages said. "We can try to put some of the blame for what happened at The Vile Altar on Cesar. But that won't be as effective. We're still going to have some problems with the Congregation of Revelations and the army."

Nash said in a harsh tone. "Do that. Spread the rumor that Cesar was responsible for this incident. He killed all of our men that day and may have been responsible for the deaths of the men from the local temple..."

As Nash spoke, there was suddenly a loud banging outside his building as someone rushed into his living room.

"Bosses, emissaries from the Congregation of Revelation are here! They demand to speak with you!" An Acolyte said in a nervous tone that made the three Mages in the command room turn cold.

The enemy was at their door!

Chapter 419 Tension ?

Outside the outpost of The Faceless Ones where Jasmine was being held, 6 members of the Congregation of Revelations were standing at the front door now.

Among these people were two males and four females, with 3 Mages and 3 Acolytes.

They were all dressed according to their position in the Congregation of Revelation. Still, they all had serious expressions on their faces.

The Congregation of Revelation wasn't a force that was constantly involved in situations on the continent. They especially didn't show themselves much outside their temples.

They spent most of their time preaching about their magic path of light, how mana was blessed, how everyone should work toward the summit to help their fellows, and so on.

The Congregation of Revelations had wonderful messages and usually helped society, either with the daily Awakenings that took place in their temples or with actions that benefited the magic community.

If there were hidden motives behind this organization's good deeds, few knew it, and it wasn't the kind of talk one would hear on the continent.

For this very reason, it was bizarre to see members of this organization moving around in the light of day on an official mission.

Fights between its members or even between its members and people from other organizations took place only in the shadows, discreet places, and so on. Very rarely would one see a member of the Congregation of Revelation fighting or pressuring people while acting on behalf of their temple.

When this did happen, it was usually in connection with grave matters, such as the actions of Dark Path magicians against ordinary people.

In theory, it was the royal army's job to ensure the safety of the people in their territory. But when it came to Dark Path magicians, the most reliable and suitable were the members of the Congregation of Revelation.

Soldiers from the kingdom would naturally take action if a Dark Path magician started a bloodbath in a city within the kingdom. But even if the royal army took action, they would seek the help of the Congregation of Revelation to solve the problem.

There were other situations in which this organization might become involved and act publicly, but all of them were very serious, the kind that would cause ordinary people to turn away just to see members of this force acting publicly against something.

Vicente and other observers noticed the mood of the Congregation of Revelation members at the doors of The Faceless Ones and quickly understood the situation.

'It looks like this is your chance, master. Be ready to act.' Torne warned Vicente as the young man picked up his communicator.

"Layla, stand by. Perhaps it's time for us to act." He said quickly.

Hearing this, Layla stopped what she was doing and looked in the direction Vicente was heading. "I'm going to you. I'll wait for your signal."

Meanwhile, other observers from the local powers were watching the situation around that outpost of The Faceless Ones.

This faction completely dominated the local underworld, with several noble powers on their side. However, that didn't mean its members had the peace of mind to act without worrying about potential enemies waiting to take advantage of their mistakes.

There will always be people interested in replacing the dominant groups. At the same time, the same nobles who supported them were the ones who would abandon them in a storm.

Once being with them was no longer advantageous, many of their supporters would easily stop supporting them!

Some of the people who watched the place were men of nobles' powers who were careful of their positions and always kept an eye out for strange signs.

One of these observers was a subordinate of The Faceless Ones' biggest supporter, an emissary of the only local Marquis!

'It looks like Nash has gotten himself into some serious trouble. I must warn His Grace!' The Marquis' observer thought to himself as he picked up his communication device.

A few moments later, a deep voice came from the communicator.

"Waylon, what is it? Has something happened?" The Marquis was the first to speak, knowing that this line of communication could only be used in serious cases.

"Your Grace, we have a problem with Nash's group. Members of the Congregation of Revelations are here at the door of The Faceless Ones. I think we're going to have a situation here."

"What? What happened?"

"I am not sure. But since last night, I have sensed several groups watching this place. The local temple staff is also more agitated, and the army patrols have changed a bit this morning."

"All right, I'll send someone to investigate the situation further. Unfortunately, I'm not in the city. Otherwise, I would go there myself."

While the observers in the area were trying to understand or prepare for the situation with The Faceless Ones, the front door to the estate opened, and Nash appeared.

Seeing the Mid-level Mage temporarily in charge of the local temple, the leader of that faction smiled as he stopped in front of her, with two of his men a step behind him.

"Sacred Devotee Keen, to what do I owe this visit?" Nash asked the blonde woman in front of the group.

The woman didn't change her expression now that she was facing Nash and got right to the point. "We have a few questions for your group. I'm afraid some of your men have been involved in the deaths of members of the local temple."

"Impossible. My members would never do such a thing. And if something like that were to happen, it would be their individual decision, not mine. Such a thing would be taken seriously within my group. I would personally kill any bastard who thought dangerous things about the Congregation of Revelations!" He said in an irritated tone.

One of his men said. "This is the stuff of that bastard Cesar Mazzanti! Sacred Devotee Keen, do not be fooled by possible doctored evidence. Some people would benefit greatly from the local temple and army turning against us. Don't you find this all very suspicious?"

"Cesar Mazzanti? That Acolyte from Millfall?" One of the women in the group asked, knowing who this person was, as they had already investigated many things about the incident at The Vile Altar.

"That's the one." The other Mid-level Mage said. "But he's not an Acolyte anymore. The bastard recently became a Low-level Mage. You shouldn't underestimate him. He wants to overtake our group for financial reasons, so I suspect he's behind what you've been investigating, ladies."

Vicente heard this and narrowed his eyes, seeing that it was time for him to act, or many things could develop negatively for him.

This group of women would not deal with The Faceless Ones alone, so it was possible that they would investigate him if nothing prevented it.

"Time to take my chances!" He stood up before starting to move, using his ability to manipulate someone.

A moment later...

Swooish!

A person drew his weapon and charged at one of his opponents in front of The Faceless Ones' building!

Chapter 420 Invading the Enemy Outpost?

The moment Vicente moved, one of the men from The Faceless Ones suddenly drew the sword at his waist and charged at one of the weakest of the group at the door of that building.

Everything happened very quickly. One moment, they were talking about Cesar, and the next, a level 5 Acolyte appeared in front of a woman of the same level and attacked her neck with his sword.

Swoosh!

This attack was so unexpected that neither side moved at the first moment of the attack, watching as the man got closer and closer to a 2nd-stage Sacred Devotee.

Just as his sword was about to strike the woman's neck, one of the Mages from the Congregation of Revelation group of investigators rushed in to save her companion's life.

But the Acolyte was already too close to succeed, and the Mage who stepped in only managed to make the man's blow miss the vital point of his target.

"Shit!" The others in the Congregation of Revelations group shouted as they moved their mana through their bodies, preparing for battle.

The men of The Faceless Ones paled at the movement of one of their own, moving their energy in self-defense as well.

"Shit! What did that bastard do?" A Mid-level Mage raised his voice, while no one there noticed Vicente's subtle manipulation.

They were so focused on each other, so preoccupied with the previous problem, that when they were surprised like that, no one there had time to sense Vicente's movements and blame others.

Not only were they too focused on other things, but from the moment that man started attacking, the only thing on their minds was the level 5 Acolyte's strange behavior.

"Aaaaagh!" The woman felt the blade of her opponent's sword cut into her collarbone while the man had a horrible expression on his face.

But even after the Mage's interference prevented him from cutting his target's neck, the man didn't stop. When he frighteningly saw the cut at the level of the woman's collarbone, he moved again to strike deadly once more.

"Are you crazy?" One of the women shouted angrily.

But at that moment, several other Acolytes of The Faceless Ones appeared in the surrounding area and attacked in the direction of this group of investigators.

"Shit! It's a fucking trap! They want to wipe us out!" One of the two men from the Congregation of Revelations group shouted.

"No! That's not what..." One of The Faceless Ones' members was about to say when he felt one of the opposing Mages lunge at him, forcing him to close his mouth as he defended himself.

Clang!

"You bastards! There's no turning back for you now! We're going to punish you, no matter what it takes!" One of the strongest of these women shouted as the others in her group began to fight with the opponents in the area.

At this point, Vicente began manipulating the weaker members of that group of investigators, getting the level 5 Acolytes to attack members of The Faceless Ones fatally.

While doing so, he moved around the area to avoid making his position too obvious.

'I will let eight Acolytes of that faction die at the hands of these three investigators and then let the rest die.' He pondered as he acted.

Amid this, he saw Layla arrive near where the battle was unfolding.

As she stopped to wait for the moment to enter the building, Layla realized what Vicente was doing when she saw how strangely some of her colleagues were behaving.

'Is he controlling them?' She gave Vicente a strange look, not liking how he used people from the Congregation of Revelations.

But she couldn't stop him. He was using these people to their advantage so that the chances of them rescuing Jasmine would be better.

Between Jasmine and those level 5 Acolytes, Layla gave her friend much more importance!

Thus, in less than 30 seconds since the unexpected attack by one of the men from The Faceless Ones, 10 Acolytes were already dead in the vicinity of that building, most of them from that local group, but one man and one woman from the Congregation of Revelations had died there too.

That further increased the anger of the stronger people, who were already using their best skills and spells to attack with the intention of killing their opponents.

While exchanging deadly blows, most of them didn't have time to talk amid the battle and show how strange the situation was.

But Nash, the strongest among them, finally managed to notice something while facing the two strongest people in the group of investigators.

'Someone is behind this!' He came to this conclusion while trying to find the person responsible for this strange and problematic situation.

As he did this while fighting two women, he looked to one side of his building, ignoring the other people fighting nearby, and saw a crater there.

From there, he could feel a disturbing magical fluctuation, something he could also sense in the last Acolyte of the group of investigators fighting there.

"Damn you! You'll pay for this!" He shouted as he ran towards the crater, leaving the two enemy Mages behind without much difficulty.

He could leave this place, or even kill the members of the Congregation of Revelation there, whenever he wanted. He hadn't done anything like that simply because he didn't want any major problems with that organization.

But the moment he found the real culprit of this incident, he moved to capture him, leaving everyone behind.

"Damn! A High-level Mage is really strong!" One of the two women said as she saw the enemy enter the building through a crater.

"What are we going to do?" The other asked.

"Stay here with the others. Try to subdue these people with as little killing as possible. I want to interrogate each of them afterward."

"Okay."

"I'll follow that man to see what's going on." The strongest Mid-level Mage went to the same place as Nash, while more bodies appeared on the outskirts of this outpost.

Of the six investigators who had knocked on the door of The Faceless Ones moments ago, only three remained. One of them was the woman who had just entered the enemy building, while the other two remaining Mages stood and fought their opponents.

More than 15 people from The Faceless Ones had died in those moments of irrational conflict, and even two Low-level Mages had fallen in front of the Congregation of Revelations Mages.

"Shit! What's going on?" One of the several Mages from The Faceless Ones faction standing around wondered, knowing that this would cause them endless problems even though they had no intention of starting this battle.

Looking at their companions in the area, the other Mages in this group were basically thinking the same thing. 'Kill these enemies and get out of here as soon as possible!'