

The Mafia 471

Chapter 471 Newton's Guidance ?

471 Newton's Guidance

Newton quickly examined Nina's small body while Vicente and Eve watched him.

When he finished his medical assessment, the middle-aged-

looking man sighed, for Nina's problem was indeed serious.

"Your sister has suffered a severe trauma. It's a miracle she's alive. Whatever caused her deafness damaged a part of her brain. She almost lost her mental abilities as a result.

Unfortunately, part of her magic nerve was affected. I'll be surprised if she can awaken her powers and cultivate mana.

But if she has a chance, it will probably be because of the Filipendula Jaburan you gave her."

Eve was surprised to hear this from Newton since neither she nor Vicente told him that Nina had consumed parts of this medicinal plant.

Meanwhile, Vicente was very concerned about what Newton had seen in Nina.

"Is there nothing we can do?" Vicente asked.

Newton stopped using his powers on Nina and started walking, looking thoughtfully at the ground. "It's not that there's nothing we can do. The magic world is infinite and full of possibilities. I wouldn't dare say the word impossible in your sister's case.

Higher-level magicians, like Paragons or stronger, might be able to look at Nina and find a quick and easy solution to her problem. However, there is a massive difference between my current abilities and those of a Paragon." Newton was realistic.

"I can't do anything to improve her situation on my own, Vicente Fuller. The only thing I can tell you is to look for special resources that can be absorbed by people without powers. You must focus on recovery or physical improvement-type resources.

I can't guarantee this will save your sister's future, but it certainly won't hinder it. And it may be that even if it doesn't save her, it will give her a better quality of life. So if you have the means, do it." He instructed.

Vicente clenched his fists as he looked at Nina and then at the floor, closing his eyes as he felt he had to become a Paragon.

Newton was very experienced and quickly understood what was on the black-haired man's mind as he looked at Vicente. "Forget what's on your mind. People with yellow talent can't reach the 5th stage in the time it takes Nina to go through the Awakening." Newton said seriously. "Even someone with the legendary violet talent wouldn't cultivate that fast."

"Violet?" Eve opened her mouth, for in all of history, no one with a violet talent had ever appeared on this continent. In fact, even the talent inferior to violet, indigo, had never appeared in the Polaris Realm!

But Newton had studied the talent ranks in depth and had a mathematical model that told how long it would take to reach different stages with different talent grades.

He said. "Yes, even the most gifted would need more time than Nina has... But in your case, you'll hardly be a Sovereign when Nina awakens her powers, Vicente. Don't pin all your hopes on being able to influence a Paragon. It's not that easy."

Vicente frowned while Eve took a step forward, thinking that such a person was wrong.

"Bullshit." She said in a louder tone. "Vicente is already a Mid-level Mage! How can he not be a Sovereign in 5 years?"

Newton looked into Vicente's eyes and said. "To reach the Sovereign stage, a magician must have a solid magical foundation that his mana vortex turns into a mana lake. It's impossible to achieve such a feat by advancing as fast as you have.

It'll take you a year to become a High-level Mage. But once you do, you'll see the gap between the 3rd and 4th stages grow exponentially. Unless your magical foundation is solid, you won't be able to advance even if you reach the required amount of mana.

You've probably used various unique resources and methods to reach your current stage... That is impressive, but it can't continue. You haven't permanently damaged your magical foundation yet. Still, if you don't want to be limited in the future, you'll have to be more careful."

Vicente remained silent as he listened to all of this, a little skeptical about Newton's claims but not completely in doubt because this man in front of him really was a genius and had done everything right so far.

Vicente was worried about Nina, but he asked since Newton had started talking about him. "What do you suggest I do about my situation?"

To help Nina, he needed to be well. It was just as important for him to be well as it was for Newton to give Nina useful alternatives!

Newton sighed as he sat down across from the three young people in the living room. "Stop using accessory resources to artificially increase your strength. These types of resources can be used occasionally, but you've been overusing them since your Awakening. Ideally, you should stop using such resources until you become a Sovereign.

Until then, cultivate mana using only your Magic Gem. By doing this every day, you will eventually be able to correct the instabilities in your foundation and not only become a Sovereign but also be able to use resources in your cultivation again."

Newton could guess a lot about Vicente because he had studied this young man's case before he arrived in Millfall and analyzed Vice's body while doing so with Nina's. Of course, he didn't know everything. He couldn't see some signs on Vice's body that had to do with Torne.

To him, it seemed like Vicente had misused a lot of cultivation materials. However, what he saw were the two times Torne had sacrificed his cultivation to Vicente to heal and not have deep injuries to his magical foundation.

But Newton was right. Vicente's magical foundation was unstable, and no matter how it happened, the only way forward for this young man was to do as suggested. Cultivate carefully for a while without the use of magical means.

"I can do that," Vicente said, not in a hurry to increase his level despite his rush to help Nina.

It was important that he was as strong as possible to help Nina and avenge the family. However, he was no longer weak and could continue to grow rapidly with his group. Even if he had to stay at the same level for 10 years, Vicente was sure that his influence and reach could grow greatly in the next few years.

'In another year, I'll probably be able to influence powerful Sovereigns. After that, with everything I've built, I might be able to reach a few Paragons.' Vicente thought as Newton turned to Nina.

"Young girl, what are your plans for the future?" Newton asked Nina.

"Professor Newton, I would like to be a scholar like you. I know I won't be able to learn as many professions as you, but I will be very happy if I can become an intellectual in one field.

My brother is a blacksmith, so I'd like to be able to help him in some way." She said, trying to sound more mature than she was.

Chapter 472 Newton's Position

472 Newton's Position

After hearing Nina's answer, Newton smiled at her, pleased to meet such an intelligent young girl. "You really are smart. To become a scholar, you don't need to be talented or powerful. You just have to be smart and to like studying."

The profession of scholar or theorist was less dependent on Awakening, something Nina couldn't count on given her circumstances.

Newton imagined that she had made this choice with her possibilities in mind, something remarkable. Not everyone had what it took to do what they could.

Her wanting to help her brother was also amazing because it could give her opportunities since he would certainly help her. As remarkable as it was to grow up alone, it was also tough, and there was nothing wrong with taking advantage of the available opportunities.

Some stubborn young people would be reluctant to take advantage of the opportunities given to them by their families, but Nina didn't have that personality and knew how to choose, even though she was so young.

Newton asked her another question. "Would you follow this path even if you awakened a powerful magical form?"

"Of course." She said as she stood up. "I already have my brother to protect me and deal with our family's problems. Trying to go the same way as him wouldn't add anything to the family. But things could be different if I can help him with spells and other things."

Vicente and Eve listened to Nina's answers as they watched her, both smiling at how determined this girl was.

Newton liked what he heard. "Very well, I came here to evaluate you and consider accepting you as my pupil. I've heard enough to make a decision.

Nina, do you want to become my student? Accompanying me means that you'll have to stay away from your brother at some point. But that's a path you'll have to take sooner or later."

Nina opened her mouth as she stared at Newton in silence, not expecting that the greatest genius in the province would come to her house and offer to become her master.

Vicente said to her. "Newton will soon be working at the Royal Academy in Saltstar City, but don't worry, Nina, we will move to that city when you finish your term at the local academy."

"Is that true? But Professor Newton will wait for me for another year?" Nina asked and looked at Vicente and Newton.

Newton smiled when he saw that she didn't want to leave. "Don't worry. When you go to Saltstar City, we'll begin our journey as master and student, Nina. However, from that moment on, you won't be able to turn back. So be sure of your decision by then. Think it over and talk to your brother."

"Okay, Profes... Master!" Nina said with a big smile while Vicente and Eve smiled.

Nina's situation was still worrying, but at least she could live an everyday life and still learn from the best professional in the province. They obviously wanted the best for her, but they were willing to give her a good life even as a mortal unable to cultivate mana.

After talking with Nina for a while, Newton followed Vicente into the young man's office, leaving the two of them behind.

"Professor, I have a question I'd like to know if you can answer," Vicente said as he sat down in his office and thought about Torne.

"There are many things I don't know yet, but please tell me what you have in mind." Newton was curious.

"It's about slavery contracts with ghosts. Specifically, how do you help a ghost recover after a long ordeal?" Vicente came right to the point.

"Ghosts? Let me see if I understand your question. You want to know how to restore a ghost that is connected to a master?" Newton asked.

"Yes. I recently encountered this situation while traveling. I was fighting a man who had a ghost as his slave. In the middle of the battle, he and the ghost merge their powers and become many times stronger. But soon after, the effects of this union wore off, and I could feel the ghost 'disappearing.'

Unfortunately, I couldn't eliminate the two, so now I'm worried about the ghost recovering and that guy coming after me."

"Oh?" Newton didn't doubt Vicente, having heard and studied situations like the one the young man described.

He said. "Such a thing is seldom witnessed. You were lucky to escape. But don't worry. What you've just described has a name. It's called Primary Realization.

Primary Realization is very hard on both sides, but especially on the slave. Not only that, but when you feel the slave's side disappearing, it means that it has given up a part of itself to help the master.

In this case, the master should be fine after some rest, but the ghost will be in a special state that won't change easily.

Except for some very rare resources, only the master's ascension can help it in any way. So this person will hardly be able to use the Primary Realization again in a short time."

"Is that so? Then I'm relieved." Vicente smiled, but that only worried him.

He and Torne had plans to go after the Cataclysm Order, but now that would have to be postponed.

Since he wouldn't be able to use magical resources again until he had solidified his foundation, only advancing to the 4th stage could help him recover Torne in the slightest.

"Don't worry about that. But what about Cesar? Have you heard from him? I'd like to meet him and see how he's doing." Newton commented; that was his main interest in coming to Millfall.

Vicente smiled and said. "You should find the Mazzanti family. They'll be able to tell you when you can see him. But I can tell you that he was successful in his hunt."

"Is that so?" A gleam appeared in Newton's eyes.

He had probed Vicente's body and felt the young man's magical foundation. But since this young man was hiding a large part of his power, Newton could only see the most obvious: this young man's foundation and mana density. But as for the special aura of the magical form or the pentagrams of Vice, this professor felt nothing at all.

"Well, I'll be on my way. I want to meet Cesar and go to Saltstar City." Newton stood up, smiling in anticipation of seeing Cesar.

Vicente would soon see the man leave his residence. He still had many worries on his mind after this meeting, but talking to Newton gave him new things to think about and do.

'I must find time to see him with Cesar's identity, but I must also order my men to look for resources compatible with Nina.' He thought as he returned to his office, with many things to do later today.

Chapter 473 Royal Envoys?

473 Royal Envoys

Three days later...

After the meeting with Vicente and Newton, the professor met Cesar again the next day after he had seen and felt the current situation of the most extreme case he had ever encountered.

He was shocked to see Vicente's three pentagrams and imagined how strong this young man would be in the future.

But he didn't discover that Vicente and Cesar were the same person, although he had noticed that Don Mazzanti's magical foundation was also unstable.

He had expected this from Cesar since this mercenary had progressed quickly through the 2nd stage. So Newton repeated his advice, telling Vicente again that he should work more slowly to solidify his foundation.

He also recommended that Vicente's next pentagram should be a Cyan one. That would require Vicente to travel outside the Seidel Kingdom, as there were no animals with this type of essence in that area.

After this meeting, Newton talked about the next time he would see Cesar before he left for Saltstar City, where he would live and work for the next few years.

With that, Vicente returned to his business, dealing with the problems and situations in his two houses and working on the forge at Benson's house.

Nothing important happened locally, so he peacefully spent three days between these three residences.

But two days after Newton's departure, important people arrived in Millfall!

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A group of ten luxurious carriages and many men on horseback entered Millfall's main avenue, moving at a moderate speed toward the center of town.

Many people in the streets stopped to watch the convoy pass, with some wealthy locals noting the origin of these vehicles from the symbols on the carriages.

'This is the royal shield!' A wealthy local merchant saw the carriage in the middle of the convoy and noticed the royal envoys' vehicle.

'It is finally time to get a position from the king...' Another wealthy local, someone who aspired to the title of Baron, thought to himself as he saw the convoy of carriages with several Mages among the passengers.

As the citizens thought and talked about the new arrivals, the speed of the carriages slowed as they approached the Martial Court building.

Meanwhile, inside the main carriage of this group, a woman and two men sat looking out the carriage windows, observing the city to which the king had commanded them to bring his words.

They were all High-level Mages, but the youngest of them, the black-haired woman, was the group's leader.

She said. "Let's resolve this situation quickly. I don't want to stay here for more than one night. Warn the local nobles and the candidates for the positions of Viscount and Baron. I'll announce His Majesty's decisions later today."

The group's purpose was to bring the king's word and make the promotion of two local families official.

In addition, the new head of the city's army had been elected and was in one of the group's carriages to attend the event that the woman had planned.

"We'll make it quick, Your Highness." The two men said at the same time.

Standing before them was none other than the First Princess of the Seidel Kingdom, King Seidel's eldest daughter, Lina Seidel!

As soon as Lina's two companions answered, they left the carriage while the rest of the convoy was already stopped in front of the Martial Court.

There, a group of members of the Martial Court, dressed in their special uniforms, were waiting for Lina's group, properly profiled according to their positions.

The Martial Court in the city of Millfall had 6 members with judge positions and 20 guards, so they could all easily fit in front of their building.

But there were also the soldiers who had come to look after the local battalion, the group that had recently come from the capital to investigate the city's problems.

When they saw the princess get out of her carriage, everyone in the area bowed their heads to officially welcome Lina to Millfall.

"Your Highness, welcome to Millfall." The temporary commander of the local post and a 2nd stage judge said simultaneously.

At the same time, the nobles and soldiers who had arrived in the other nine carriages of the convoy watched in silence while also gesturing in respect to Lina.

In addition to Lina and her two companions on this mission, Duke Scott, two Marquises, 4 Counts, and 6 Viscounts were in the newly arrived group, there to witness the audience that Lina would lead for the next few hours.

Not every promotion within the noble hierarchy had to occur in the capital. Only a few nobles were welcomed by the king in his palace, where he threw a party and spoke words of congratulation from his own mouth.

Such a thing was expensive and had to be prepared weeks in advance. Given Millfall's situation and the king's rush to choose the new Viscount and Baron of the province, he couldn't wait for these people to travel to his city.

That's why the promotion of these two families would take place in Millfall under the command of Lina, the king's voice in this place.

"I hope the journey here was tranquil, Your Highness." The commander, who had come from the capital to take care of things in Millfall, said as he smiled at the princess.

"Yes, it wasn't bad," Lina said as she walked towards the inside of the Martial Court building.

"Meanwhile, your local passage was a disaster, Adrian. I didn't think someone of your stature would be so incompetent."

"I apologize for my recent inefficiency, Your Highness." Adrian didn't complain despite Lina's 'jab.'

But then the Duke of the Province intervened on his behalf. "Your Highness, it's not the fault of Commandant Warner and his group. The recent situation in the province and Millfall seems to be quite complicated. It's not surprising that he and his group have shown poor efficiency in their mission."

Lina looked at the old Duke, a former companion of her father's in the royal army. "You're probably right, old Scott. Anyway, I'm not here to judge Adrian or the local soldiers."

She looked at the three people around her and said. "Organize what's necessary to resolve the local situation. I will promote Cora to lead the local battalion along with the appointment of the new Viscount and Baron. If all goes well, I'll leave at dawn."

"Yes, Your Highness." Adrian, the leader of the Martial Court in Millfall and a royal secretary, left immediately after Lina's order, hurrying to settle the matter quickly.

She looked at the nobles around her and said. "You have two hours to do what you want. After that, you must return and take your seats in the main courtroom of this Martial Court. You will be my witnesses."

Several of the nobles who had accompanied her here left immediately after her words, leaving behind only three young nobles who had been newly promoted after the death of their fathers.

Being close to the princess was rare, so they didn't want to miss this opportunity!

She was not only beautiful but also single, available for marriage, and capable of conceiving the king's grandchildren.

Achieving this would be incredible because she was beautiful, but it would also put any nobleman on the king's side. As ambitious young men full of desire, these three soon began to court the beautiful Lina.

Chapter 474 Beginning of the Promotion Ceremony

474 Beginning of the Promotion Ceremony

Hours after Lina's convoy arrived in the city, all of Millfall's nobles and wealthy individuals were already aware of the First Princess' arrival and her purpose in coming to the city.

It was late in Millfall, and all the relevant local powers were already preparing for the event that would take place later that evening at the local Martial Court.

Such was the case with Shelby and Levi, the survivors of the Staples family massacre, who were preparing for it now in the largest local hotel.

They hadn't returned to the Staples estate after all that had happened. Levi had a lot of nightmares almost every day at the hotel where they were staying, so going back wasn't in their plans.

Anyway, things were improving daily, and Levi was getting over his grief.

Now, he was at Nina's side while Eve and Molly helped him get dressed.

On the other hand, Vicente was in front of Shelby, alone with the orange-haired woman in her room.

"What do you think of this event?" He asked as he saw the woman's beautiful dress that showed off her perfect body without being vulgar.

Shelby saw Vicente's eyes fall on her rear end and smiled, seeing that underneath Cesar's mask and terrifying powers, there was a man's desire in this 15-year-old fellow.

"I think it's going to be tranquil. Lina Seidel is a busy woman. She likes to fight, so this is a boring mission for her. She'll try to finish her business and leave as soon as possible. In other words, she

shouldn't try to interfere in local affairs." Shelby said while putting some kind of product on her lips.

The women of Polaris Realm had their vanity, and there were beauty products. They were very different from what existed on Earth, and no level 5 Acolyte like Shelby would use much of it.

Still, there were products with well-defined purposes, and women, in general, had their options, even if they didn't use them daily.

Shelby finished and turned to Vicente. "How do I look? Do I look innocent?" She smiled at him as she pouted and winked.

"You look beautiful." He complimented her, but Shelby's beautiful appearance didn't fool him.

He knew what this woman was capable of!

Shelby realized Vicente wasn't looking at her like other men and took a step closer. "Tell me, what happened to your little girlfriend?"

"She's in Saltstar City. She'll be serving in the city for a while."

"Oh? So, are you still together? Or are you single again?" She stopped in front of him with a smile on her face.

When he felt Shelby put her hands on his shoulders, Vicente understood what was on her mind. "As far as I'm concerned, we're still a couple."

"Is that so? Do you think there's a future between you? How do you feel about marriage, Vicente?" She asked him.

"I don't care about that. Maybe I'll get married in the future, but it's not a necessity for me." He replied, seeing that Shelby had something on her mind.

"I think differently. To me, marriage is a business. I'll find pleasure and enjoyment in other ways." She looked at his lips provocatively.

"I thought you didn't want to marry for business..." He remembered Marcus.

"I didn't want to marry for the benefit of other people. But it's different now. I choose my future so I can choose the right man for it." She found no contradiction in her words.

"So that's the case... Who do you want to marry?" Vicente narrowed his eyes. "It wouldn't be me, would it?"

She laughed when she heard that. "It wouldn't be, haha. I could have fun with you if you want... But I have someone else in mind." She looked at the door to her room while thinking of something that would surely frighten many people.

Vicente was surprised to hear this. 'Who is she talking about?'

"Aren't you going to give me a name? After all we've been through together, I think I deserve to know." He smiled.

'If you knew what I had in mind, you'd be disgusted with me, Vicente.' Shelby turned away from him.

"You'll find out when it happens." She laughed. "It's going to take a while. Maybe we won't be close then. But I'm sure you'll hear about it."

He narrowed his eyes but didn't say anything, finding her words rather strange.

"Anyway, are we going to the Martial Court? I hear the princess is stunning." She showed him one of her hands.

Vicente smiled. "Unfortunately, I can't go with you. Take Nina and Eve with you and Levi. I'm going back to the Mazzanti estate."

"Are you sure?"

"It would be risky for me to show myself around the princess after everything that's happened." He spoke before saying goodbye to Shelby, Eve, and Molly and leaving.

Shelby didn't insist and soon left with her group and the Mazzanti family soldiers currently serving House Staples.

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By the time it was evening in Millfall, the Martial Court building was full of local dignitaries, with emissaries from the Scarlet Syndicate, the Mazzanti family, and all the local nobles present.

In the main courtroom of the building, Lina sat in the highest position while her trusted men were lined up around the area.

The witnesses of the event were already in their places. At the same time, all those who had sent proposals to the king sat in their designated positions around the area.

There was also a small open space for citizens to observe the event since this was not a secret or closed procedure.

However, given the power of the individuals present, only influential people were there, without rioting, waiting for the ceremony to begin.

While many nobles chatted among themselves, Lina stood up, wearing army armor but also a crystal tiara on her head and a small wooden hammer in one of her hands.

She tapped the hammer on the table in front of her and said loudly.

"This ceremony is about to begin. Sit down and be quiet. Let's get it over with quickly!" She said as she looked toward the people her father had chosen.

Everyone took their seats as they stopped talking, those competing for the two promotions to be announced eager to hear the king's decision.

When there was silence, Lina sat down and got straight to the point, starting with the announcement of the new local Commander, Cora Brock.

Chapter 475 Change of Status ?

475 Change of Status

After a few minutes, Cora Brock was officially appointed leader of the battalion previously led by Christopher Hogan.

The other three squads that had come to Millfall with Arthur and the other two Commandants were still in town but would leave to return to their posts the following day.

Cora, Eric, and Nova's old classmate at Dryhaven Military Academy, would lead only the local soldiers.

After receiving her new position and being recognized by the king, whom Lina represented, Cora knelt before the bench where the First Princess sat.

While everyone waited for Lina's next speech, a masked man from the Mazzanti family looked at the woman. This person had a small green pentagram in front of his right eye.

'Is that the magnificent First Princess?' Someone on the other side of town thought as he looked through one of the soldier's eyes.

Vicente wasn't in that courthouse, but that didn't mean he wasn't following the event!

Sitting in his office, he watched, listened to, and felt everything that happened in this important place of the city, using his three abilities together for the first time.

As he tested this power for the first time, he couldn't help but feel excited, for this was truly an incredible power.

Even though he was a few kilometers away from the court, he could not only use his soldier to act, speak, and do whatever he wanted, but he could also see, hear, and feel everything around this man.

He looked at Princess Lina's beautiful face and thought about her looks, but he was much happier about his individual powers.

'Shelby was right. She really is beautiful. Rory will be upset to hear that he missed the opportunity to see such beauty.' He laughed as a green pentagram appeared in front of his right eye, and the other two circled his body.

As powerful as he was, Vicente was a young man, and when he wasn't full of problems, he talked about women with his good friend.

'Too bad for you, Rory...' Vicente laughed as he watched the event continue in the building.

After Lina's words to Cora, she announced who would be the new Baron of the province, replacing the nobleman who was leaving his title of Baron to become a Viscount.

Felix Burt, the patriarch of the Burt family, which was the family of Shelby's good friend, Mira Burt, would be the next local Baron, having successfully persuaded the king to grant him the title.

He and his family there at the Martial Court celebrated when Lina called his name, and Shelby watched with satisfaction as Felix was introduced and then officially made the new Baron.

Now, she would have a much better time locally, with a good friend of hers becoming more influential because of the rise of patriarch Burt, but her ally Vicente would also benefit, which could help her doubly.

But as soon as Lina consecrated Felix, everyone in the courtroom fell silent, feeling the nervousness of waiting to find out who the new local Viscount would be.

The fact that a local had become a Baron meant that someone from Millfall would become a Viscount instead of someone from out of town.

That raised the expectations of the locals, especially one old man who felt he would easily win this 'contest.'

"The only one who could give me any trouble and competition was the old Baron Staples. But with the fall of his family, I'm going to win this competition!" Thought a balding old man with a smile, preparing to stand up as soon as Lina called his name.

Then Lina opened her mouth.

"Levi Staples, stand up. His Royal Majesty has appointed you Viscount Staples, substitute and new owner of the lands of the old Symons family." She said as she read the royal decree, not noticing the many nobles there looking at the young man on the lap of an orange-haired woman.

Shelby was one of the few to smile at Lina's words, while the Barons of Millfall and some of the witnesses there couldn't help but look at Shelby and Levi in shock.

'How?' The man who had almost stood up with the name Levi Staples asked himself as his face paled and he glared at the two of them.

Meanwhile, the Duke of the Province looked at Shelby with narrowed eyes. 'It seems that this woman has some good cards up her sleeve. For her to get this position after all that's happened, she must have had some help.'

'Is this an intervention by the main branch of the Staples family?' A Marquis thought as Lina looked at Levi, surprised that the new Viscount was a child.

She knew nothing about the local situation and was only there to complete her father's decisions. She didn't know that the king had chosen a child to receive the title of Viscount.

"Your Highness, the Staples family has recently lost many members. Young Levi is the only heir left." One of her companions whispered in her ear.

"Why did my father choose a weakened family for promotion?" She didn't understand the king's choice.

"I don't know. Perhaps His Majesty knows something we don't. For him to have chosen this young man means that the person responsible for Levi must have a lot of potential or influence. She must be the real reason for this appointment."

"I see..." Lina looked at Shelby and then proceeded with the ceremony, appointing Shelby as Levi's legal representative, with this woman taking the oaths in her brother's name and receiving his noble title.

Levi was too young to be responsible for anything, so his representative was the only one who could go through this process.

Shelby did what she had to do and soon had the title of Viscount in her hands, with all the rights that had previously belonged to the Symons family.

As she listened to Lina's words, she couldn't help but smile and remember Marcus.

'I would love to see the look on your face right now, Marcus... Did you expect this, Marcus? You thought you would dominate me and replace your father. But now it's all mine, and you're dead!' She felt satisfied with herself, realizing her goals from years of hard work.

She had finally reached the pinnacle of her life, reaching a position that only 26 other people in the province had reached, with enormous rights and powers in her hands, at only 21 years of age and at level 5 of the 2nd stage.

With this title in hand, she had a lot of work ahead of her to reward her allies and enjoy what she had accomplished.

In this way, the next three months would pass quickly, not only for Shelby but also for her allies, who would reap great rewards from this final period of peace in Millfall!

Chapter 476 Partners Meeting?

476 Partners Meeting

Three months had passed, but even with all the changes in Millfall, the Mazzanti family was still dealing with old problems.

This early in the day in Millfall, all of Vicente's associates met with him at the family headquarters to discuss the latest issues relevant to the group's associates.

They were in a large meeting room with an oval table in the center and 12 chairs around it.

Vicente sat at one end of the table, with Rory in a chair to his right and Sarah to his left.

In addition to these two, Jasmine, Layla, and Shelby sat around them, while 3 of Vicente's business associates sat in the opposite corner.

None of them wore masks, for everyone there had already seen each other's identities and were too close to each other to care.

But because of that, they could all see the concern in each other's eyes.

After the Staples family attained the title of Viscount and a new Commandant took over the local army battalion, much had happened leading up to this moment when this group had to meet to resolve their problems.

Vicente began this meeting by speaking in a solemn tone. "Our plans for the future are ambitious. We have already expanded into neighboring towns, but our goal is the province. However, we won't succeed unless we have control over our own staff and headquarters city."

Jasmine closed her eyes and murmured. "You did too many things at once. That was your group's mistake. Trying to grow too fast."

Shelby knew that Jasmine was right and felt that this woman was blaming her for all of the group's current problems that were affecting everyone's lives.

She said. "We wouldn't have a position to worry about if we hadn't done everything we did, Miss Barber. I know it seems strange to take risks for someone like you who has a guaranteed future, but people like Vicente and I need it."

Everyone there already knew Vicente's real name, where he was from, etc.

Layla looked at the orange-haired woman, the only one besides Molly, who was still an Acolyte in the group. "That doesn't change the fact that you brought this on us. Now we all have to deal with the damn army and this madman who's been hunting us for months."

The strange attacks on the weaker members of the Mazzanti family, which had begun after Vicente's return from his escape from provincial prison, had continued ever since. The family had lost more than 60 members until now, and their expansion plans had been set back.

Sarah thought that if it hadn't been for those losses, the Mazzanti family would be operating in three cities besides the two they were currently in.

It hurt the group, but they also had to worry about the army and their own investigations.

In a way, the group was working exhaustively to solve their old problems!

Vicente sighed, aware that Jasmine and Layla didn't like Shelby and would naturally fight in this situation. Then he said. "Let's not cry over spilled milk. There's no point in whining and regretting what's already happened. We must work on what we can change!

The Woodslayer issue still needs to be resolved, but we'll be suffering from it for a while yet. The damned enemy only attacks the weakest in the family, and without clues, we can't go after him."

The Woodslayer was what Vice and his associates called the person behind the more than 60 deaths of the family's soldiers.

Hearing this, Jasmine lowered her head, not liking having such a problem and not being able to solve it. She was the one whose job it was to deal with such things, but because the enemy was stronger than her, her tracking skills didn't work very well against such a person.

"Are you going to keep losing our men?" Shelby asked, ignoring Jasmine's unhappy expression.

"No. We will start having our men travel with the robotic armor and the most advanced weapons in the family. That will eventually bring the damned to their own end." Vicente's eyes narrowed as he clenched his fists in anger.

In the months that had passed, he had worked hard on his family's weapons and armor, creating new versions of practically everything he had before and increasing the number of these items in his family.

However, the most advanced armor and weapons were still in short supply, considering how difficult they were to create and how expensive their components were.

But after weeks of repeated failures in his strategies to deal with the Woodslayer, Vicente was ready to use his best weapons.

Rory looked at his friend and sighed helplessly. "Unfortunately, there's no other choice. If we could find this enemy, everything would be easier. But he only attacks our weakest and leaves no trace..."

"This person wants to weaken us or hinder our growth," Sarah commented. "They are good at what they do. We must be careful. Enemies like this are more dangerous than powerful opponents."

One of the merchants there agreed, as he commented. "That's true. Sometimes, it is best to be cautious and go slow. Take Warmaster's case as an example. Until recently, he was one of the province's strongest and most respected men.

But all he had to do was try to deal with Snow Claw alone, and he lost everything he had, dying alongside The Ruby Devils' top men... This enemy of ours is different from Warmaster. They know that facing us head-on will lead to their own demise. So they act cunningly."

The province was in chaos, just as Shelby had planned. Even more than four months after the security breach at Long Bay Correctional Facility, two of the escaped High-level Mages were still on the loose. Not only that, but these two individuals had already caused a lot of trouble, and at least 40 Mages and 4 Sovereigns had died in Scott Province in the past three months.

Few people knew Snow Claw's current situation, but there were rumors that he had reached the 4th stage.

Whether it was true or not, no one in the room knew. But they didn't care because the current chaos in the province was very opportune.

Unfortunately, there were not only opportunities ahead of them. After Evan's fall at the hands of kingdom soldiers, the situation around Millfall had become much worse with the presence of soldiers searching for Vicente and Sarah.

As much as the Mazzanti family was growing, their leader had barely shown his face outside his headquarters in over two months!

The kingdom's soldiers knew that some of the invaders from that prison had come to Millfall, so they kept a close eye on the area.

Even Sovereign Adams was nearby, waiting for the opportunity to catch the rat who had tricked him!

If it weren't for Vicente's position, his special powers, and the caution of his allies in this room, Adams would have caught him by now!

He said. "That's the case... But let's not get carried away. My last strategy might work."

Jasmine agreed. "Well, let's see how it goes. If it doesn't, we'll either have to find Casey or wait for my promotion to Mid-level. We won't be able to do anything else until then."

Chapter 477 Not Many Alternatives?

477 Not Many Alternatives

Jasmine, as well as Layla and Rory, were currently at the beginning of the 3rd stage, with Low-level Mage magic cultivation.

Shelby and Molly were at level 5 of the Acolyte stage. Still, both were close to advancing to the 3rd stage, which the group expected to happen this month.

Vicente was still a Mid-level Mage, but he felt he would soon become a High-level Mage.

In the meantime, he had finally felt what Newton had told him months ago, as he had perfectly noticed the state of his magical foundation after these months of hard work without external resources.

They were all stronger than before, but Jasmine felt that she wouldn't be able to detect or track the enemy with her skills until she reached at least Mid-level.

The alternative was to use Casey's ability. Unfortunately, the man still hadn't returned, having been missing for over six months.

Vicente's group had been looking for him, and even Jasmine and Layla had been trying to help locate him since Jasmine's pentagram hunt a little over a month ago.

But they still haven't had any results, and Casey's situation remains unknown.

Vicente had planned to leave Millfall to go after Casey on his own, but Sovereign Adams arrived near the town just as he was about to do so.

Since then, he had been living in hiding between the estate and the Fuller residence.

So when he heard Jasmine's comment, he couldn't help but feel a burden on his conscience for not being able to do anything useful for his partner.

"I guess we'll just have to wait for you to move on." He commented as he looked at the pink-haired woman. "Casey's disappearance won't be easy to solve. That's how I feel."

"What could have happened?" Rory asked.

"It's possible he's still looking for a compatible pentagram," Shelby replied. "But anything is possible. Casey's past is as complicated as Vicente's. He has a powerful desire for revenge, so maybe he's in trouble."

Everyone there looked at Vicente as they heard this, aware of Don Mazzanti's intentions in dealing with some powerful groups from outside the kingdom.

After those months, Layla, Jasmine, Sarah, and especially Nova had helped him better understand his targets, from the two Sovereigns who caused Kate's death to the organization that took Lauren.

He now knew the average level of these forces, their location, and what he would need to reach them.

Incredibly, dealing with those responsible for Kate's death would be easier than dealing with Lauren's kidnappers.

Nixlas' Shadows, the force that took Lauren, was a power from the north of the continent and even had Paragons in its ranks!

The sects of the two Sovereigns responsible for Kate's death were powers from a state neighboring the Seidel Kingdom and were said to have 'only' Sovereigns among their strongest elders.

Armed with this information, Vicente planned to go after the two groups responsible for his mother's death. His business with his sister's kidnappers would be resolved later when he could deal with Paragons.

Vicente's associates at this meeting knew so. If Shelby said Casey's case was similar to his, the trouble this guy might have gotten himself into could be worse than they could handle!

"Then it's going to be hard to get him back," Layla commented as she looked at Vicente.

Vicente had already thought of that and said. "There is no easy way out. So, for now, we'll rely on my plan and have Jasmine as plan 'B.' Besides, there's really nothing we can do about the Woodslayer."

Sarah nodded before asking. "What about the actual problem at hand?"

The people there looked at Shelby as if she was the one who could do the most about the soldiers looking for Sarah and Vicente.

She laughed bitterly and said. "As much as I wield considerable power locally, I'm nothing like a Sovereign. Colonel Adams is thirsty for Vicente's blood, so I have no easy solution."

"I can't do anything either, Vicente," Jasmine said as she looked into the young man's eyes. "After everything that happened with The Faceless Ones, I had to work hard to prevent any problems related to that faction from spilling over to us.

Fortunately, I was able to dispel any questions about you among my organization's investigators. But because of that, I'm working beyond my limit, and I don't have time to get involved with the army."

"I know. Don't worry." Vicente smiled at her, aware of how much she had done for him since he had returned from the pentagram hunt with Rory and Layla.

"Besides, I won't be in Millfall for long. With my advancement to the 3rd stage, there's no more room for me in the local temple. Soon, I'll be sent to either Ironcrest or Saltstar City. That is if my father doesn't intervene and send me to the kingdom's capital." She said, not surprising to the group, who already knew that a 3rd-stage Nun wouldn't stay in Millfall for long.

"That's another problem..." Rory said. "If you don't move fast enough, you'll be too far away from us to help."

"Yes, but I'm leaving Layla with you. She'll be able to help you and keep us connected."

Layla and Vicente looked at each other while Sarah saw the look in the eyes of these two, who often got into friction with each other.

"Anyway, if things go wrong, I'll take care of Sovereign Adams. I'm confident I'll survive now." Vicente said confidently, although he would rather not confront Adams as that would only cause him more problems.

Without Torne and Benson to help him in any way, and with the problems of those two on his mind, he preferred not to add to his problems.

Shelby looked at Vicente and said. "I have an alternative for you. If you're willing, you can join my group as a bodyguard. You'll be able to move around the city easily, and if necessary, I'll be able to get you out of town whenever I want."

"Thanks for the offer." Vicente didn't think it was a bad offer. "We'll do that if necessary. But for now, I intend to stay on my property. I'm about to enter the final part of my stage, so I won't be moving anytime soon unless it's necessary."

"Really? I'm glad. Your progress will help us all." Shelby liked that.

Sarah saw this and gave a low 'humph,' not liking such a woman and the things she knew Shelby and Vicente had already done.

Vicente smiled back at Shelby before ending the meeting. "Anyway, Bart will be moving up to the High-level of the 3rd stage soon, so you should take care of your cultivations so you don't get left behind. Otherwise, we'll deal with the problems we discussed as agreed. We'll communicate remotely until our next meeting if anything new comes up."

Chapter 478 The Truth?

478 The Truth

After Vicente's speech, Shelby, Jasmine, Layla, and Molly left with the merchants associated with the group.

Only Rory and Sarah remained in the meeting room with worried looks on their faces.

Rory sighed amidst the silence of his family companions before commenting. "Vice, last night we completed our investigation into the Hogan family of Saltstar City. We got some good important information for you, I'd say."

Vicente's gaze changed as he remembered the investigation he had commissioned months ago after dealing with Arthur Hogan at The Vile Altar.

"What did you find out? Does this family have anything to do with my mother?" He asked.

Rory closed his eyes and nodded. "In fact. Arthur and Christopher's Hogan family is the same as your mother's. They were your cousins..."

"So that's it..." Vicente sighed, not caring that he had killed his maternal cousins but unable to stop thinking how small the world could be when it came to such things.

He had lost his mother but then visited places where her relatives were so close to him... Thinking about how things could have been different, Vicente felt a little strange, wondering if this had been the best path for him.

Rory explained further. "The Hogan family of Saltstar City is quite large and is one of the many families in the kingdom with a military tradition. Many of their members serve in the army.

Arthur and Christopher weren't the only soldiers in the family. There are currently at least 30 Lieutenants, 9 Captains, and 3 Commandants in the family. Most of them are near Saltstar City, but some are scattered throughout the kingdom in other provinces.

As for your mother's situation, she belonged to one of the secondary branches of the family. Her grandfather had been the last patriarch of the family. But while Christopher and Arthur were the children of the eldest son of the old patriarch, Kate was the youngest daughter of the second daughter of that patriarch.

When he died 30 years ago, her father became the family patriarch, while your mother's parents moved away from Saltstar City.

You already know what happened after that."

"I see..." Vicente understood the situation in that house and how his mother had probably had little or no contact with Arthur and Christopher.

"What are you going to do?" Sarah asked, thinking Vicente had something in mind.

He killed his own cousins. It wouldn't be so strange for him to feel bad about it, even if those two had acted against him first.

But Vicente didn't care about that. He did feel strange because he had killed people who were so close to him without even knowing it. But what bothered him most was that he had kept his mother's situation from her own family.

He expected nothing from his maternal relatives. But as a son, he felt it was his duty to tell them what had happened to Kate.

"I won't do anything for now," Vicente replied as he looked at the table before him. "But I want to know exactly where my maternal grandmother lives and where the Hogan family headquarters are. If I get the chance, I'll visit them to talk about my mother's death."

Rory said nothing, just kept thinking about what he should do to help his friend.

But Sarah couldn't keep quiet. "It's okay if you want to do that. But you should consider the problems you'll have to deal with if you contact them. Not only could they find out what you've done and try to get you into trouble, but they could also try to take advantage of you. You're too valuable to a family like that, Vicente."

"I know. That makes sense, but I'm not worried about it. I'll just meet them once before I go. They'll let me go without any unnecessary trouble if they're smart." Vicente replied, determined to do what he had in mind.

'Sigh... What a stubborn guy.' Sarah closed her eyes.

She had been with Vicente long enough to know that once he decided to do something, he didn't back down!

"That's a matter for the future. For now, it doesn't change our situation at all." Vicente told them both, especially Sarah. "The most important thing right now is our expansion. How is it going?"

Sarah smiled for the first time in several minutes. "Our expansion is the only good and easy thing about the Mazzanti family right now.

Things are going well, I'd say. As much as we've fallen behind due to the constant loss of men, our plans are coming along nicely.

The family currently has nearly 200 members, and our branches outside of Millfall are beginning to show potential. In another three months or so, we could have a presence in five cities and significantly increase the group size.

Unfortunately, we will have to deal with the competition because we didn't move fast enough to grow in Ironcrest because of our own problems.

Vicente knew they had missed the best time to act, but he wasn't upset. "That's not a problem. We have time to grow up here."

Rory looked at Sarah and asked since she was responsible for the family's expansion. "Are you keeping the Mazzanti name away from these new groups?"

Sarah nodded in the affirmative. "Of course. We don't need any more family problems to interfere with our expansion."

Not only did they not want to 'contaminate' their groups by expanding their operations throughout the province with their problems, but they also did not want to attract the attention of powerful forces in the province or the kingdom.

As it was already known, no army or militia was allowed to be formed in the Seidel Kingdom. Only the royal family and a few nobles were allowed to have large and powerful groups of magicians.

But the Mazzanti family and other underworld groups lived in the loopholes of the rules. That is, they were able to operate the way they did because, in addition to bribing the royal power's members, they also operated almost like mercenary guilds.

In other words, officially, the Mazzanti family was not a clan trying to become stronger and more dominant. On the contrary, the family was an association of mercenaries who worked together for the collective growth of the group. The family's soldiers had autonomy and were considered associated mercenaries, not mere subordinates.

That allowed the group to operate in the light of day without having to deal with soldiers constantly looking for their end.

But there was a limit to how far they could go. They would either have to evolve their facade or get into trouble if they went beyond a certain number.

To avoid problems with the law and the royal forces, each Mazzanti family group operating in other cities would act as if they were autonomous factions.

Only the members themselves and a few allies of the Mazzanti family would know that these groups were actually extensions of the arms of this already large family!

"Perfect." Rory liked what he heard because it would be very important for them to dominate Scott Province silently!

Chapter 479 High-level Mage

479 High-level Mage

Two months later...

Vicente had spent the entire last month at the Mazzanti estate when he finally opened his eyes this afternoon in the meditation room of his headquarters.

He had just raised his magical cultivation to the final part of the 3rd stage, having finally made his final breakthrough in the 3rd stage without the help of any external resources.

Feeling the mana in his body much stronger than before, he felt like letting some leave his body, feeling stronger than he had ever felt.

'Newton was right and wrong... I really needed to cultivate more calmly, but one year to reach the High-level was too much. It took me less than six months.' He smiled as he remembered the words of that genius. 'I will probably become a Sovereign before Nina awakens her powers.

Perfect!'

He got up from where he was and made his way to the upper levels of his estate, feeling that things were still going well for his family.

The men there were, on average, one level stronger than when Vicente had begun his seclusion. That was the case with the family's Acolytes and Apprentices. As for the Mages, they were still at the same level, but some of them were approaching their peak.

Sarah wasn't around, so Vicente immediately thought the family's expansion must be going well. Hardly any trouble would cause her to leave, but the entry of the Mazzanti family's "arms" into other cities would.

"Vicente! Have you moved in yet?" Rory saw him as soon as he reached the second floor of the building, smiling happily for his friend.

"Yes, how are things?" Vicente asked when he saw a calm expression on his friend's face.

Rory was already used to his friend's easy progress and didn't insist on the subject of Vice's progress. "Same as before, I'd say. In the last month that you've been in seclusion, we've lost fewer men than before because of your strategy. But we still had some losses.

I believe the robotic armor and more powerful weapons are useful in defeating our invisible enemy. But our soldiers must become stronger to use what they offer."

"If that's the case, we will defeat the Woodslayer sooner or later." Vicente liked what he heard.

"Yes, as for Casey, we still don't have any information about him. Jasmine left town two days ago to go to Saltstar City, but she promised to continue investigating his situation there." Rory added.

"And Sarah? Is she leading any more of the family's expansions?"

Rory nodded positively. "Yes. She's gone to Ironcrest. But considering how dangerous it is for her to be there, she will be soon with us again."

"No problem. As long as she succeeds, it will be of great benefit to us."

"Unfortunately, you'll still have to be careful on the surface. Even though we managed to get Sarah out of the city safely, many powerful soldiers are still looking for you."

"I see." He sighed as he walked to the kitchen of the building.

"Get Shelby for me. I'll follow the plan she suggested and join her personal guard. I want to see Nina. I haven't seen her in a few days." He said after a long sigh.

"Okay, I'll call her as soon as I can."

...

Minutes later, Vicente was in a carriage ahead of Shelby, heading for the Fuller estate.

"Congratulations on your promotion. It won't be long before you reach your goals, Vicente." Shelby told him with a gracious smile on her face. "You should leave the province soon, right?"

"I will stay here until I become a Sovereign. There's nothing to do here after that. If I stay here too long, I'll have problems with my growth but also with my plans."

"At that point, it will be time to part ways..." She muttered, knowing it would happen sooner or later but not liking that her direct relationship with Vicente would be so short.

He looked at her in silence, seeing that she really enjoyed working with him to regret such a thing.

Then he smiled and said. "You have achieved your goals. There's no need to risk anymore to come with me. Now you just have to enjoy what you've accomplished."

She smiled too. "Yes, I will. But one day you'll hear from me, hehe. I won't just hold a mere Viscount title in my hands."

"I don't doubt it."

When their carriage stopped in front of the Fuller estate, they were getting out of the vehicle when one of Vicente's men alerted him.

"We've got trouble, Don Mazzanti."

"What is it?"

The soldier wearing the Staples family symbols replied. "There's an army wagon stopped across the street. The soldiers are looking at us. I think they're going to try something."

Shelby thought this was strange, but when she looked through the glass to her right, she saw what the man had reported. "How strange... Why are they here? Is it because of you?"

Seeing Shelby looking at him, Vicente put his mask back on and said. "I don't know. Let's keep going. We can't hide, or it would be more suspicious. Maybe it's nothing."

With that in mind, the two leave the carriage, Vicente acting as if he were one of Shelby's four bodyguards, and headed for the entrance to the Fuller residence.

But in the middle of their way, a soldier from the army carriage called out. "Miss Staples, Colonel Adams wants to talk to you about something."

"Adams? Vicente felt his temperature suddenly drop as he looked cautiously toward the carriage. 'Don't tell me that...'

As Shelby and the other soldiers looked at the carriage, its right door opened, and a man Vicente already knew stepped out.

"Colonel Adams." Shelby greeted him as he stopped beside the carriage while Vicente and his men pretended to watch their surroundings, and he looked in the direction of the street, trying not to be noticed.

Adams glanced at Shelby but immediately focused, somewhat suspiciously, on the heartbeats of each of those guards and her.

He had been looking for months for the people who had impersonated Sophia and Oscar at Long Bay Correctional Facility. But since he had found nothing in that city, he was inclined to believe they had either already left Millfall or were very well hidden.

Before leaving Millfall, he wanted to rule out the latter possibility. Therefore, he followed the last thing on his mind.

The soldiers from the capital who had been there earlier had passed on their doubts about Cesar Mazzanti to Cora, the new local Commandant.

She had then passed the same doubts on to Adams, who had been monitoring the Mazzanti family's movements for days.

Unfortunately, nothing concrete had turned up, and few knew if Cesar was in town or not.

However, Shelby had a strange relationship with the Mazzanti family, and some local rumors said that she had a very good relationship with Cesar.

Given how quickly she had risen through the ranks of local power after the Mazzanti family arrived in Millfall, much suspicion fell on her.

Adams was there for that very reason!

"Miss Staples, if your father were alive, he would be very pleased with your progress to the 3rd stage." He congratulated her on her recent progress.

With all her current resources, it would be a shame for her not to easily advance to the 3rd stage!

"Thank you." She smiled.

"Do you intend to leave the city to hunt your pentagram? I'd like you to answer a few questions for me before you leave." He said, feeling the hearts of Vicente's men beat strangely fast.

'There seems to be something wrong with these men...' He noticed, but still with his eyes only on Shelby.

"What do you want to know?" Shelby asked.

Chapter 480 Against a Sovereign!

480 Against a Sovereign!

Adams narrowed his eyes and got right to the point. "What is your relationship to Cesar Mazzanti?"

As soon as his words were out of his mouth, Adams could feel Vicente's men getting increasingly nervous, obviously frightened by his interrogation.

'It looks like you really are from the Mazzanti family.' Adams thought to himself, confirming this local rumor. 'But this one doesn't seem the least bit nervous... Why is that? Is he someone very well trained?'

While Adams thought about Vicente, Shelby smiled and said. "Cesar is a local mercenary who occasionally offers his skills to those interested in paying his price. I have a relationship with him similar to that of dozens of people in this city, including other local nobles."

Adams asked another question. "So you must know where he is, right? If you're so close to him, it shouldn't be difficult to know his whereabouts and the places he's been."

"I know, but why is the Colonel asking? Certain things are one's privacy. I can't talk about it if he doesn't want others to know where he is."

Adams laughed. "But of course. I'm just curious about some rumors about him, Miss Staples. It would be interesting if you cooperate with me. There are a lot of strange rumors about you, but if you help me, those doubts might disappear."

"Oh? I'd be grateful." She made a gesture of gratitude.

"Do you know where Cesar was during the Long Bay Correctional Facility escape?" He came right to the point.

He had suspected that Cesar had been involved in such an incident not long ago. Since he didn't know where Don Mazzanti was, he decided to question someone who seemed close to that person but also interested in protecting herself.

"I see," Shelby muttered. "I don't know where he was at the time. He must have been chasing his third pentagram. Cesar had reached the 3rd stage days before this incident."

"So that's it..." He said, very interested in Vicente, the only one in the group who didn't seem the least bit nervous.

"That person behaved like that in front of me, too." He remembered the fake Oscar. "But this person seems to be stronger than my enemy... Is it because of his third pentagram?"

Adams could sense Vicente a little, even though the young man was hiding. But the feeling he got from Vicente's pentagrams was slightly different from the one he got from the fake Oscar.

Still, he was suspicious of such a person.

"Where are you going?" He asked. "By the way, may I know more about your guards? They seem quite capable. I'd like to know who trained them."

Vicente glanced sideways at Adams, uncomfortable. 'Did he recognize me?'

Shelby replied. "I'm here to see my student. She's an extraordinary little girl." After gesturing toward the Fuller estate, she pointed to her men. "This is Tyson, Dickson, Pyke, and Drew. But I don't know much about them either. I hired them to replace some of the dead men in my family."

"Drew, huh?" He looked at Vicente and showed one of his hands. "You look pretty strong, young man. Where are you from?"

Vicente wondered if the enemy had recognized him, but he had no choice. If he remained silent or refused to shake Adams' hand, his situation would only get worse.

He shook Adams' right hand and said. "I'm from Dryhaven. But I'm not as strong as the Colonel thinks."

Adams squeezed Vicente's hand, feeling something that told him not to let this young man go.

At the very least, he had to examine him. It was unusual for humans to hide their emotions so perfectly from Sovereigns!

Adams had only seen two people who could do that in his entire life. One was Snow Claw, and the other was the impostor who broke into Long Bay Correctional Facility.

He squeezed Vicente's hand tighter as his Earth Sovereign aura appeared, causing everyone around him to change their expressions.

"Can I see your face?" Adams asked in a slightly different tone but still seemingly calm.

However, no one there could believe that he was calm.

"Colonel Adams, what does this mean?" Shelby exclaimed as she felt drops of sweat forming on her body.

The army soldiers put their hands on their weapons as they prepared to act if necessary.

Vicente's men took a step back but also prepared to draw their weapons.

All of them were level 4 Acolytes, armed with devices capable of killing Mages, like some of the men in Adams' group.

Adams ignored Shelby as he stared at the part of Vicente's mask that hid the young man's forehead. 'Could it be you? If it really is you, I have to kill you right here, right now!' He thought, not wanting to let this person survive if this one really was his target.

If this was the fake Oscar, he was ridiculously talented and should be killed before he became too strong to be stopped!

Vicente felt trapped, unable to see a peaceful way out of this situation. 'Shit! This leaves me with no alternatives!'

He said. "Colonel, have I offended you in any way? There's no reason for you to take authoritative action against me. As a citizen of the kingdom, I have my rights."

"Tsk! Either take off your mask for good, or I'll take it off for you, Drew!" Adams said in a harsher tone, causing Shelby to turn pale and walk away from them.

'Damn it! What am I going to do?' The orange-haired woman asked herself, very nervous because she had suggested that Vicente walk beside her when he wanted to get around town.

But that was exactly why they were in this situation now!

Vicente looked around in silence, feeling the number of witnesses to this situation.

'My three soldiers, Shelby, Adams, 7 royal soldiers, and 9 passers-by.' He counted as his mana became more and more agitated. 'I must kill these nine people and then hide what will happen here.'

Then he opened his mouth and let out a laugh. "It looks like it's time for me to overcome myself, Colonel Adams."

As his words left his mouth, three pentagrams emerged from him and slowly showed the 21 people in the surrounding area his two green pentagrams and one orange one.

As the eyes of the royal soldiers widened and the jaws of the innocent bystanders almost dropped to the ground, the light in the surrounding area changed under Vicente's manipulation.

Both for the people within a space of up to 60 meters from Vicente and for the people outside that space, the space seemed to have changed, with a dark sphere forming around that space.

But there was nothing between that space and the outside. That was merely a manipulation of the light in the area, with Vicente preventing light from entering the area where the current situation was developing.

"Unbelievable!" One of the royal army soldiers opened his mouth as their surroundings went dark, and they could no longer see the rest of the street they were on. They could only see what was within 60 meters of Vicente.

Everything else seemed to have suddenly vanished!

Adams was surprised by Vicente's pentagram configuration but also by this display of power, not caring at all what it meant.

But he didn't hesitate in the face of his opponent's move, quickly attacking in the direction of Vicente's face.

At the same time, Vicente did what he had to do, making huge metal spears appear from the ground in the surrounding area, not hesitating to eliminate all witnesses not connected to him.

"Since you're here, I'll send you to Yama!" He said as he took a step back, his mask falling from his face.