

The Mafia 511

Chapter 511 New News?

In the blink of an eye, ten days passed since Vicente and Lauren had met near Saltstar City.

In those days, Miss Death and her party had completed their mission, left Snow Claw's head with the leader of The Ruby Devils, and collected their reward.

Vicente kept a low profile until that group left, which was no more than a day after Jonah's death.

With Lauren out of the city, Vicente returned to his old routine of working with Benson and occasionally meeting with Rory to discuss expanding the family and producing artifacts for The Ruby Devils.

The Ruby Devils had previously placed a large order because they thought Vicente was about to die. But the young man was still alive after Miss Death's group left. That faction then realized that he could be used for longer and lost its haste to send him large orders.

That was good for Vicente, as he would have less work and better deadlines to meet the demands of that group. That would give Jasmine time to do what they had agreed upon and also for Vice himself to take care of other local matters.

So, the last few days had been relatively quiet, and he still found time to train and cultivate, as well as to study, take care of Nova, and occasionally play with Nina.

...

Now, Vicente was escorting a local Count out of his house at the Fuller family's headquarters, having just closed an important deal for his group.

In the light of day, Vicente's focus was still on being a merchant. With plenty of resources and personnel to turn his family into a large merchant house, he had been developing the facade of his business since his time in Millfall.

Previously, Vicente had few contacts with the nobility, doing business with only a few Barons. But now he had deals with 20 noble families in the province and had just made his first deal with a Count!

"Your Grace, see you later. My men will bring your resources at the appointed time." Vicente said goodbye and watched as the local nobleman left with some guards.

Eve was at Vicente's side, as Nina was at the academy at that time, giving the blonde some free time for other things.

Then she said to him, changing the subject. "Vice, Layla sent us some information about Casey while you were with that nobleman."

"Oh?" Vicente looked into Eve's blue eyes, finally getting some news about this ally of his group.

"Casey doesn't seem to have suffered an accident during his hunt as we thought. He supposedly found traces of his father and started following this man." Eve said seriously.

Vicente narrowed his eyes when he heard this information. According to Shelby, Casey had lost part of his family. However, unlike Vicente, Casey's father had been the real culprit.

After investigating Casey for months, Shelby discovered this after finding a letter from him in his home in Millfall that contained some pertinent information. She learned from that letter how much the man hated his father and wanted revenge.

"Is this reliable?" Vicente asked.

"The person who gave us this information did so after seeing one of our wanted posters for Casey in Snow Province. Since this person has received his reward, I believe it's reliable." Eve informed.

Rewards like this weren't paid to the first person who came forward with information. Rewards like this were only paid upon proof, either physical evidence that showed what had happened or some kind of contract that forced the person to tell the truth.

The rewards that Jasmine had helped Vicente distribute throughout the kingdom were mainly in the mercenary guilds. If someone wanted the promised reward, they would have to make some kind of

agreement with these guilds that proved the truth of their words, and then the guild would make the payment before giving the information to the contractors.

All the protocols had been followed so Vicente could trust the information.

"So he was seen in the Snow Province..."

"The information is recent, so maybe he's still in Snow Province," Eve commented. "What do we do?"

"I can't travel right now. If he was seen recently in Snow Province, then he's still fine." Vicente said, a little relieved, although he was also worried. "But to avoid losing track of him, we'll investigate the clues he's following. Even if we lose him again, we'll find him if we follow his father's tracks."

"I'll make sure of that." She told him, feeling good that at least this partner of the group hadn't died or gotten himself into worse trouble.

Casey's father was probably a problem. But that was an old situation, not something new that would spill over into their whole group.

"I just hope he doesn't leave before I get to him," Vicente commented, wondering if he would be so hasty if he found clues of his great enemies so close to him.

Since he didn't know the answer to that, he didn't judge Casey for making such a rash move.

Then he went back to his estate beside Eve and informed her. "Anyway, I'm leaving for Dryhaven in four days. Tell the rest of the group to watch for me during my trip. Tell Rory to come back and stay here to look after the family for me."

"All right. I'll let everyone know."

Watching her go, Vicente went to his office to pick up a few things, not forgetting what he had to do.

'I still have to save Eve's mother. But to do that, I'll have to wait for The Ruby Devils to fall from their prestigious position.' He thought of his promise to his friend a long time ago.

Vicente hadn't forgotten anything. He just wasn't ready. He knew that Eve and Nico always thought about this woman after they moved to Saltstar City, but there was nothing he could do to help them solve the problem faster.

If he didn't want to run into problems like in Millfall, he would have to be more cautious and calm with his plans in this city!

So, with the situation of Eve's mother and Casey in mind, Vicente left his estate to the local blacksmith association, where he had been gaining more and more prestige lately.

Because of his prestige as a blacksmith, his reputation as a merchant grew, so Vicente had recently been making better use of his forging skills.

In addition, he had to get the items from The Ruby Devils ready for delivery in his absence, which would allow him to travel with Nova for a few days undisturbed.

And so the day would soon come when they would travel to Dryhaven!

Chapter 512 Journey to Dryhaven?

A few days after receiving the news from Casey, Vicente left Saltstar City with Nova and began his journey to Dryhaven.

For the first time in recent years, he was devoting his time to something unrelated to the growth of his group and his quest for revenge. That was not a journey to improve the position of the Fuller family or the secretive House Mazzanti, but a journey for him to fulfill his filial duty and to meet his girlfriend's family.

Thus, despite the problems he had to solve, Vicente left Saltstar City with a smile, traveling with only Nova to the fifth-largest city in the Scott Province.

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After a day's travel, Vicente and Nova were stopped in a forest near the province's northern coast, where they made their way to Dryhaven.

Dryhaven was not a seaside city, but it was close to the coast. It also wasn't that far from Saltstar, which was only ten days away on horseback.

Vicente used his skills to travel, so it would only take him and Nova three days to get to this city, even considering their stops for rest, fun, and meditation.

Now, the day was dawning on the horizon as they took in the beautiful view from the cave where they had spent the last two hours.

They were lying on a makeshift bed, covered by a thin blanket, with no clothes on their bodies.

Nova was wrapped in Vicente's arms as she looked at the beautiful landscape in front of them, from where they could see part of the forest, the sand of a beach not far away, and the blue sea on what was sure to be a sunny day.

They hadn't slept at all last night, as they had used their time more wisely, meditating and then doing their few things...

They had finished what they had been doing a few moments ago and were now resting so that they could continue on their way in a few minutes.

While Nova waited to feel her legs again, they chatted about recent family matters, things she couldn't keep up with daily due to her own responsibilities.

"So that's how Snow Claw died... I didn't expect someone like him to end his journey like that." She murmured to him, feeling strange that someone so strong could fall so easily for someone else.

'There is always a higher mountain.' She remembered the old saying.

"But at least you have his resources, Vice. Your deal with him failed, but he left you a good legacy." She smiled at him, glad he hadn't fallen for Miss Death and was still collecting the things Jonah had left behind.

Jonah had lost his family and was not a member of any organization. As such, no one would look for his belongings, so Vicente had taken everything back to his own family.

And hell, the man had left quite an inheritance!

If Vicente tried to sell everything on the black market, he'd get at least 30,000 gold coins!

He had no such intention, so he had only collected 8,000 gold coins as currency, having taken all the other items for his family members to use.

There were potions, pills, magical herbs, special seeds, minerals, spells, formations, weapons, shields, and armor; in short, there was a bit of everything you could imagine.

With these items, he could raise some of the men in his family to the 3rd stage, help some of his Mages advance faster, arm at least a dozen warriors, and even make his professionals work harder to produce new resources.

The professionals Vicente had hired in Millfall were still working for him!

Even though the Mazzanti family had fallen, his contracts with Lukas and the rest of the family's professionals were still valid.

Some of those professionals had come to Saltstar City with Vicente and the rest of the family, while Lukas had stayed in Millfall. Another professional had gone to one of the cities that one of the branches of the Mazzanti family had already taken over and was secretly working for Vice there.

But these weren't the only professionals in the family. Months after hiring Lukas's associates, Vicente had hired more people and had five other professionals in various fields.

Some of the ingredients he had collected from Snow Claw's legacy were already on their way to these people to be used to create resources or artifacts for the men of the Mazzanti family.

So Snow Claw's death hadn't been all bad, as Nova's comment suggested.

"Yes, I gained considerable wealth from it." Vicente agreed with Nova, although he would have preferred the support of a Sovereign as powerful as Jonah would be.

Nova didn't know everything that was going on with Vicente's business at the moment. Still, she did know how many coins he had collected from such an inheritance. Vice gave her resources under the pretext that they came from such an inheritance.

Nova was reluctant to receive resources from Vicente because she didn't want to appear to be a soldier bought with resources from illegal activities.

She was willing to turn a blind eye to Vicente's activities with the Mazzanti family these days, but she didn't want to receive items from strange businesses.

However, she didn't mind receiving help from her friend as long as the items had a known origin, as was the case with the items Vice had collected from Jonah's cave.

Because of this, she had started absorbing the resources Vicente had given her a few days ago and was already in the middle of the 3rd stage!

Anyway, after talking it over with Vicente and changing the subject to something lighter, the two got dressed and flew back to Dryhaven.

They would continue their journey peacefully for the next two days. Nothing problematic would stand in their way, and they would both have a chance to meditate and eat in peace, as well as fulfill their responsibilities as husband and wife in their relationship.

Since Vicente's aura was too strong for anyone from the area to risk being near them, they wouldn't encounter any worrying problems until they saw the beautiful view of Nova's hometown.

Arriving in Dryhaven, it was finally time for Vicente to meet his girlfriend's family, including her maternal grandparents.

They watched the city for a while before entering it, each thinking about their reasons for being there and looking forward to their own.

Chapter 513 First Business in Dryhaven?

"Where do we go first?" Nova asked as soon as she and Vicente entered her hometown.

They hadn't had any trouble getting into this city, unlike what had happened until recently after their escape from Long Bay Correctional Facility.

News of Snow Claw's death had already spread throughout the kingdom after The Ruby Devils had publicly displayed the head of their enemy to show their strength in the local underworld.

In addition, the last escapee from the maximum-security wing had been captured outside of Scott Province, leaving Sophia and Oscar as the only loose individuals of concern.

Nico had also escaped from the provincial prison. Still, he was only an Acolyte, not so dangerous that cities all over the territory would act to prevent his possible entry or exit from anywhere.

Since there was also evidence that Cesar Mazzanti was responsible for the escape and that he had died along with nearly all of his party, forces from all over the kingdom considered the case closed.

If any of those involved in this incident were on the loose, they would most likely never be caught, so there was no point in continuing to make it difficult for people to get in and out of the cities.

Besides, the situation in the cities around Scott Province had recently returned to normal, making it much easier for Vicente and Nova to enter Dryhaven.

Finally, Vicente answered his woman's question. "I don't know. What would you like to do first?"

"We could go see your mother's family first." She suggested. "You said you only wanted to notify your grandparents, so since we'll be staying longer with my family, let's leave that for later."

"All right." He took something out of his spatial ring and gave it to Nova. "Do you know how to get here?"

Nova knew Dryhaven like the back of her hand. When she saw the map Vicente had gotten with the location of Hana Hogan's residence, she knew where to take her man.

"Follow me."

So, the two of them walked from the city entrance to a nice neighborhood in the south.

That wasn't a place where the wealthiest people in the city lived, but from the quality of the buildings and services nearby, Vicente could see that socially well-positioned people lived there.

Nova commented to him. "Your mother's family lives not far from my parents' house. It is a very good neighborhood. For someone who isn't a noble or doesn't have the power to become one, this is the best place to live in Dryhaven."

"Oh? Then maybe your parents even know my grandparents." Vicente commented to her as he looked around, seeing a very different place from Millfall and Saltstar City.

Many cities in the province had very different architectural styles. Noble families fought each other in various ways, including influencing the architecture of their cities.

Officially, the cities of the kingdom belonged to the king. However, there were private estates in these cities. Since most of them belonged to nobles or future nobles, this class of wealthy people determined the appearance of cities throughout the kingdom.

Vicente paid attention to the local peculiarities until Nova stopped in front of a white house surrounded by a labyrinthine garden and silver fences.

On the estate's front gate was a coat of arms with the name Hogan in gold letters.

Seeing this, Nova commented. "This is the place. I just wonder why your mother didn't have your father's last name."

The name Hogan belonged to Kate's mother's family, a name that should normally come from the father. But as patriarchal as this society was, it wasn't impossible to find people with their mother's last name.

Vicente also found this strange, but he already knew why. "My maternal grandfather was a simple man. He won my maternal grandmother's heart and made her leave her family.

Their relationship must have been very complicated at first, but they managed to stay together after some promises and agreements. These included the last name of any children Hana might have in her life."

"Interesting." She commented before he pressed the buzzer of the beautiful residence.

After a few rings, a woman dressed in household clothes, her hair tied in a bun, and a beautiful smile on her mature face appeared there.

"Right?" She asked as she looked at the tall, black-haired young man and the beautiful blue-haired girl.

Nova was a few years older than Vicente, but in person, no one would believe that, as he looked much more mature than her.

When he saw the black-haired woman's eyes, Vicente got right to the point. "I'm looking for Hana Hogan. I'm Vicente Fuller, Kate Hogan's son."

After Vicente's words rang out, the woman's expression froze as she stared at the young man as if she had been electrocuted.

"Kate's son?" She asked after a moment, already feeling her heart beat faster. 'It can't be... That girl already has such a big son?'

This woman had worked for Hana Hogan for a long time. She had done all kinds of jobs for the woman, including breastfeeding Kate in Hana's absence.

Seeing Kate's son in front of her, she couldn't help but be shocked at how big he already was.

It must be said that Kate was very young when she gave birth to Lauren!

Normally, magicians like her and Andrew took a long time to have children since it wasn't so easy to get pregnant in this world when you had mana in your body.

But Andrew and Kate had been blessed with three children before their deaths, having produced so many offspring in less than 50 years of life!

The last time this woman had seen Kate before Vicente and Nova was 23 years ago when Kate and Andrew had started their journey as a couple.

Vicente didn't know about this person's history with his mother and said. "Yes, I am. I'd like to see Hana Hogan. I have a very important matter to discuss with her. It concerns my mother."

The woman finally left her state of astonishment and opened the door for Vicente and Nova, making room for both of them. "Of course! Of course! I'll take you to Mrs. Hogan. Please come with me."

The two followed the woman as she smiled and talked about Kate.

"Young man, I didn't expect to meet Kate's son so soon. Did you know that I breastfed your mother?"

"Did you?" Vicente made a strange face while Nova smiled.

"Yes, if she hadn't left with that young man, I probably would have taken care of you too." The level 5 woman said. "Anyway, who is this young woman with you? Is she your girlfriend?"

"She is my girlfriend. Her name is Nova Bain."

"Oh?" The woman looked at Nova. "From House Bain? The boating and fishing family from Dryhaven?"

Chapter 514 Maternal Grandparents?

"This is the one," Nova replied to the woman who was leading them.

Her family was well known in Dryhaven. Having been in the fishing and boat business for many years, the House Bain had positioned itself well enough to be known throughout the city.

The woman guiding them smiled at Nova and talked a little about the Bain family before telling Vicente to take good care of the blue-haired young woman.

Vicente and Nova listened to what this person had to say until they reached the place where a good-looking woman who looked to be in her late forties was tending a small garden at the back of the property.

This woman was obviously much older than she looked. Vicente realized this when he noticed the many similarities this person had with his mother, even though she was his mother's mother.

Hana's cultivation wasn't particularly remarkable, so she couldn't have been very old since an Acolyte's vitality wasn't usually high.

Still, Hana must have been around 80 years old, although she looked very good, with a strikingly curvaceous figure that was hard to hide even in her baggy gardening clothes.

Vicente stopped behind Hana, where she was tending to some flowers, and stood silently watching this woman, seeing a lot of his mother in her.

Hana looked like an older version of Kate!

Nova noticed Vicente's behavior and sighed inwardly, feeling very sorry for her friend.

"Lady, Vicente Fuller and Nova Bain are here to see you." The person who had led them there informed her boss before leaving, but not so much that she wouldn't overhear their conversation.

"Fuller?" Hana's eyes narrowed as some memories from decades ago came back to her. 'Wasn't that the boy's name?'

Hana stopped fiddling with her plants and stood up to look at Vicente, not needing to hear anything from this young man to know who he was to her. 'Kate's son...' She thought, a little hurt, remembering how her daughter had run off like a man instead of following her parents' plans.

But it wasn't bad to see her grandson. After all, he wasn't to blame for his mother's sins. So she decided to listen to him.

"Son, come here." She smiled at him as she showed him one of her hands. "How old are you now? How's your family?"

Vicente kissed one of Hana's hands, a Seidel Kingdom custom in which the youngest showed respect to the elders within their family.

Though the mother's family was often not officially considered part of the family, after Lauren and Nina, Hana was the closest Vicente had in this world in terms of lineage.

For someone who valued blood as much as he did, that was enough for him to have some respect for his grandmother.

"I'm 15. As far as my family is concerned, we're doing as well as we can... Anyway, that's what I wanted to talk to you about today, ma'am." Vicente said in a serious tone.

She became curious and soon found a place to sit in his garden.

"Did something problematic happen?" She asked, wondering where this was going.

"Yes, very problematic. A few years ago, my family, which at the time consisted of my father, mother, older sister, younger sister, and myself, were traveling when we came across a battle of Sovereigns." Vicente didn't like to talk about it, so he always summed it up as best he could when talking about that day. "The result was disastrous. Lauren went blind, and Nina went deaf. As for my mother, she died on the battlefield."

Hana received this as if she had been electrocuted, not expecting to be told of her daughter's death in this way.

Even though she had fallen out with Kate over her daughter's choices, she still loved Kate and wouldn't wish the worst on her daughter.

Hearing Vicente's words made her feel guilty and regretful, while a heartbreaking feeling arose in her heart. It wasn't easy to lose a child, even in the world of magic!

In the world of magic, people who were able to awaken their powers could usually live for centuries, sometimes over a thousand years, if they were lucky. So, it was quite normal to expect a non-warrior like Kate to live a long life.

For someone like her to die so young because of something so unjust was an immense tragedy!

"Sigh!" Hana sighed deeply as she closed her eyes. "So that's what happened..."

The woman who had been leading Vicente and Nova around the estate heard this and opened her mouth in shock as she felt a pang in her heart. 'Kate is dead?'

She was saddened but quickly moved on and went to Hana's husband's office to inform him.

Vicente said. "Ma'am, I have come to inform you of this. I don't expect anything in return, not even help. Although my family has had many problems in recent years, Nina and I are well today.

Sooner or later, we will take revenge on the people who caused our mother's death. I will avenge my mother's death."

When Hana saw Vicente standing up, she felt even sadder. This "child" in front of her had not only lost his mother but also carried the full weight of revenge on himself.

That should be the responsibility of her and her husband!

They were Kate's parents and ultimately responsible for their daughter!

"Don't talk nonsense. What are you going to do against the Sovereigns, son?" She said in a soft tone. "It is a shame that your mother died like that, but certain unexplainable and unjust things happen. We can only mourn when one of us is affected by such things."

As she spoke, a man who looked older than her, tall and strong, very well dressed, appeared not far from where they were sitting under a tree.

"Hana, Kate..."

"Yes, dear... Unfortunately, our Kate is gone." Hana confirmed what the man had just heard, making him feel his legs weaken.

"That can't be..."

"Sigh... This is one of Kate's children. He's here to tell us about the tragedy." Hana pointed to the young man in front of her while Nova stood silently beside him, trying not to interrupt this touching moment.

Vicente's grandfather looked at the young man as he sat down next to his wife, seeing a lot of Andrew in the boy.

"Son, where is your scoundrel father?"

Vicente respected his old father very much despite the man's terrible end. However, he understood the side of this family that had just discovered the loss of a daughter.

Ignoring his grandfather's way of speaking, he said. "My father died a few months after my mother. My sister Lauren was kidnapped after her Awakening, and he died soon after. Now it's just me and Nina."

The two old people felt even worse for their young grandson, seeing how "alone" he must have been.

Chapter 515 Cold Interests?

"Did all this happen?" Vicente's grandfather asked in a strange tone. 'What a shame. How could an innocent young man suffer so much?'

He mourned his loss. Kate was his first child. But Kate was already dead, and her suffering had been momentary. Vicente, on the other hand, was alive and had been suffering since her death.

"It happened, unfortunately." Vicente didn't elaborate much, while both of them felt a mixture of emotions: grief, anger, regret, frustration, in short, many sensations that made them let go of their many years of experience and remain silent, not knowing what to say.

"What now?" Vicente's grandfather, Axel, asked his grandson. "I heard you talking about revenge. But think about it, boy. If I could, I would avenge your mother and save your sister Lauren. But we must know our position. Ordinary people can't challenge Sovereigns."

Vicente was anything but normal, but he had no intention of explaining that to his grandparents.

"I am aware of that. Don't worry, I'm patient. I won't act until I'm ready."

The old man shook his head negatively but didn't insist, knowing he had no right to tell Vicente what to do, having never been a part of this young man's life.

Hana said. "Then take it easy. Prepare well, son. Don't act until you have everything ready and as much information as you can gather. There's nothing more powerful than time. As long as you're patient, you'll be more powerful, more influential, more intelligent, and more prosperous. Time will give you the chance to get your revenge.

Axel agreed. "We can't do much for you except wish you luck and open doors for you. If one day you change your mind or need a place to stay, come with your other sister. We will welcome you into our home, even though we don't have much to offer.

These words touched Vicente. Considering the quarrel these two had with Kate and Andrew, he thought they would be different.

But Axel and Hana had problems with Kate and Andrew in life. They had both died, so it was only natural that they wouldn't carry on with their past disagreements. None of that mattered anymore!

Besides, Vicente really had nothing to do with the "mistakes" of his parents. To these two, this young man seemed to be a good boy who was telling them something relevant, even though he was under no obligation to do so.

"Thank you, son." Hana took her grandson's hand. "We didn't have anything that could show Kate's vitality, so if you hadn't come to us, we would never have learned of her tragedy."

"That was my duty," Vicente commented.

"Thank you anyway." Axel squeezed his grandson's shoulder.

Then Hana looked at Nova and finally changed the subject. "What about this beautiful young woman? Is she your girlfriend?"

Nova blushed, and Vicente replied. "Yes. Nova is a Commandant in the army. We met in Millfall some time ago and soon began our relationship."

"That's good, boy," Axel said, seeing that Vicente had wasted no time in finding a catch like Nova.

Nova was not only beautiful but also had a great future ahead of her. Neither of them had realized that she was a Mage since she hid her magic. But her future prospects were excellent if she was already a Commandant at such a young age.

Vicente stood up and said. "We came to Dryhaven to inform you about what happened to my mother and also to visit her family. I'll meet my in-laws after I leave here."

"Oh? Good luck then." Axel tried to smile, even though he was still saddened by the story he had just heard.

Hana said. "If that's the case, I won't stand in your way." She stood up. "But how about coming to our house for dinner before you leave the city? It will be a good opportunity to learn more about my two granddaughters."

"Yes, come and have dinner with us." Axel agreed. "I'll introduce you to your uncle, boy. Your uncle is about the same age as you, so maybe you have something in common."

Vicente had no reason to disagree and soon accepted the invitation to have dinner with them on the eve of his and Nova's departure. "All right. We'll be leaving after our third night here. So let's set it for three days from now."

With that, he and Nova soon left the Hogan estate in that city, heading for the Bain family.

As the two made their way, Hana and Axel stayed behind to watch the two, with their subordinate approaching them.

"I hate to say this, but Vicente doesn't look like his parents or you." She said as she took a step back from them. "I honestly don't think he won a girl like that with his charm alone. He must be a Mage just like her."

Hana realized this when she failed to fathom her grandson's power. Every magician would try to analyze the strength of the people they dealt with. In a simple way, it served to know how respectful one had to be towards another. Still, it was also a method to monitor the progress of acquaintances, to give advice, etc.

"I know." She said. "Maybe Kate's choice wasn't as bad as we thought." She looked at her husband.

They wanted Kate to marry a local nobleman to increase their family's influence. Kate was lovely, perhaps the most beautiful of all the young women who had awakened their powers a little over 20 years ago in the city where they both lived at the time.

They soon moved to Dryhaven, where Kate's beauty caught the eye of the only local Count within days of her arrival. Not long after, Axel and Hana received a marriage proposal from Count Grant.

But just then, Kate met Andrew, who had come from the previous city where this family lived just to be close to his future wife.

When Kate learned of the arranged marriage her parents were preparing for her, she ran away with Andrew, leaving only a letter saying she would never see her parents again.

Now that they had met their grandson and thought about how strong he could be, they realized that perhaps they had made a mistake. They didn't need to give their daughter to a Count to improve their position.

If they had acted differently, perhaps Vicente would have been the one to take them to the top and make them grow as they wished.

"Sigh... Let's see how these three nights go. If we get the chance to get Isaac on his side, this will be our chance to correct our mistake." Axel said as Vicente and Nova disappeared in front of them.

Chapter 516 Connected Problems?

Meanwhile, Vicente had no idea what was happening with his maternal grandparents.

After a short 6-minute walk, he arrived in front of the Bain family residence, where he soon noticed Myra's aura.

Following Nova's lead, he entered a beautiful house with a boat shape and various nautical decorations and went straight to where his girlfriend's older sister was.

"Nova!" Myra knew that Nova and Vicente were coming for a short visit, but she didn't know exactly when they would arrive.

When she saw her sister enter the main hallway of the Bain residence, she was overjoyed to see her little sister, whom she hadn't seen in months.

As she hugged her sister, Myra looked at Vicente and asked. "Why are you wearing something to hide your Magic Gem?"

Magicians had very good memories. As she looked at Vicente's face, Myra realized that he was concealing this essence of himself.

Vicente said. "I've gotten into some trouble, and I'm using this to get out of it. I'd appreciate it if you could keep my true form a secret."

She didn't bother to go any further into this mystery and said. "All right. I'll talk to Max later so he doesn't mention it to anyone."

She was very grateful to Vicente for his words before she and Max left Millfall. Back then, they had given up on the tuna brain they wanted to buy, but because of him, they kept looking for the item, and it wasn't long before they found it on the black market.

They had negotiated a good price for the tuna brain, which had recently greatly impacted the family's income.

In her opinion, protecting his secret was small compared to the debt she owed the young man.

"Where are father and mother?" Nova asked.

Myra looked at her sister and said. "Mother is in the back of the house preparing fish for dinner. As for father, he's out sailing. He won't be back until tomorrow evening."

"Sigh... I'm glad he'll be back tomorrow. Vicente and I will only be in Dryhaven for three days. After that, I must return to my duties at the Saltstar City post."

"Then don't worry. We can have a big family dinner while you are here." Myra smiled as she walked towards her mother.

Just as she reached the spot, she called out. "Mother! Guess who's here? Nova and her future husband!"

Hearing this, Nova's mother stopped what she was doing and turned towards the entrance of the large kitchen where she worked.

She had already heard a lot about the young man Nova was dating from Myra, but also from Nova's own letters.

When she met the tall, strong young man with black hair, the blue-haired woman, who looked very much like Nova and Myra, smiled from ear to ear, happy to finally meet this man.

"My child, you didn't make a bad choice." She teased Nova. "If I weren't married to your father, I'd steal your boyfriend!"

"Mother!"

While Nova complained, Myra laughed, thinking more or less along the same lines as her mother.

Vicente laughed humorlessly, seeing that Nova's mother resembled Myra in appearance and personality.

'My father-in-law must have problems with this woman...' He thought to himself, looking at the bulge in his mother-in-law's clothes, which, even though they were dirty with fish and not so nice, still looked beautiful with her obvious curves.

Her breasts were even bigger than Myra's, while her hips matched Nova's. In a way, Vanessa Morrow looked like the improved, more mature versions of her two daughters, and she practically oozed seduction.

Keeping this woman 'quiet' must take a lot of energy from the old Bain patriarch!

...

While Vicente was meeting his mother-in-law, two people he knew arrived in the city by carriage, returning after a few days away.

Livia Norris and Nicolas Grant, the two young Mages who had been in Millfall for the previous auction and made a quick stop at the Symons family funeral, were back in their city after a recent trip.

Both had been married months ago, even after the many incidents that had plagued the province in the aftermath of the Symons' fall.

Their marriage had been arranged long ago and involved powers greater than those most affected by the fall of the Symons family. With this marriage, the Norris and Grant families had fulfilled an old agreement, and both houses now enjoyed their deepest partnership.

As for Nicolas and Livia, these two loved each other despite their arranged marriage. As such, they had enjoyed their marriage and had been trying to conceive an heir ever since.

That was obviously not the only kind of business the heir of House Grant needed to be involved in, so trips like the one they were returning from were normal.

But after a recent trip, they both thought about the days of rest they would have in their city, with no more complicated problems for them to get involved in, at least for the next few weeks.

As the two of them settled into their comfortable carriage, Livia looked out of the vehicle with determination.

"What are you thinking?" Nicolas asked when he noticed that something was bothering his wife.

"It's the Staples family," Livia said. "I'm pretty sure that bitch has something to do with the Staples family tragedy."

"There's no proof of that, Livia." Nicolas sighed, aware that his wife didn't like the outcome of the recent changes in Millfall at all.

Shelby had gone from being a 'breeding mare' for the Staples family to being the temporary head of a family with the title of Viscount!

That had greatly changed the status of Livia's rival, which had irritated this woman greatly.

She had married the heir of a Count, but knowing that her rival now held the title of Viscount bothered her.

And that, of course, made her suspicious of how Shelby had gotten to where she was.

"Besides, even if she did, young Levi Staples will eventually come of age and take the noble title off her hands," Nicolas added. "After that, she'll have nothing and return to being what she was before."

"Is that so?" Livia didn't think it would be that simple. "Knowing Shelby as I do, she'll probably find a way to control Levi."

"Sigh... Even if she does, that's her problem."

"That's where you're wrong." Livia looked at her husband. "If she continues to hold the title of Viscount, sooner or later, she'll want the title of Count. But to get that position, she has to knock someone out of it. There are only nine Counts in the province. Your father is one of them, Nicolas."

Nicolas' look changed at Livia's words. "What do you have in mind?"

"We must investigate her situation further. We must prepare for her greed. Your father is already old, so protecting his position is protecting us." She said, thinking of Count Grant.

"Do you have any suggestions on where we should start?"

She smiled. "Of course. Shelby was connected to Cesar. Cesar is dead, but that doesn't change the fact that he killed a Sovereign of the army!"

Chapter 517 Meeting Acquaintances?

The next morning, Vicente left the Bain estate next to Nova at the beginning of the day and went for a walk through the city.

Dryhaven was a city surrounded by rivers, with a beautiful lake in the central part of the city, where there was a beach, but it also gave access to a large local river that went all the way to the sea, about 60 kilometers to the east.

The view from this part of the city was beautiful, and Nova wanted to show Vicente the beauties of her land during the day.

He seldom had time to enjoy the moment without worries, so she wanted to give him such a day.

Her father wouldn't be back until the end of the day, so they had plenty of time to enjoy themselves until their next appointment.

...

Later that day, Vicente and Nova had already strolled around the most visited places in Dryhaven before heading to one of the best local restaurants.

The two had entered the establishment a few moments earlier and placed their order. They were now chatting as they drank and waited for their food.

"You have to try the fish I ordered. It's delicious, Vice. You'll understand when you taste it." Nova told him with a relaxed and happy look on her face.

Vicente was in the same mood as his girlfriend, quite relaxed and content with this day off, which he had for the first time in a long time.

But when he looked into Nova's eyes, he suddenly felt something familiar in his surroundings.

Vicente's senses were very sharp, so when he felt something, he searched for the source of this sensation, quickly stopping his gaze toward a couple who had just arrived at the restaurant.

Looking at the blond man who had sat down across from him, a few tables away from them, and then at the green-haired woman, he quickly recognized them.

"Vice?" Nova was surprised to see the change in Vicente's expression and quickly turned her face to see what he was looking at.

"Don't look," Vicente said quietly. "I know those two. They're Livia Norris and Nicolas Grant."

"Oh?" Nova knew them too, not only that, but she knew a lot more about their story than Vicente since she had grown up in the city of their families. "And what's the problem?"

"They met me in Millfall at the Symons family funeral."

"I remember that..."

"So they saw my Magic Gem that day. If they realize who I am, I'll be in trouble." Vicente went straight to the point.

"Would you like to trade places with me?" She asked him, knowing that this would indeed be problematic since there was a wanted poster in the army with Vicente's Magic Gem on it.

Vicente was still free because he had had time to contact Jasmine and Nova and use their help to change the data the army and the Congregation of Revelations had on him.

If it hadn't been for their help, someone would have found out sooner or later!

But in the current situation, only those who had seen Vicente in person would have any information about his real Magic Gem, thus putting him in danger.

Livia and Nicolas were the two people who had that information, so he couldn't help but worry when he came face to face with them.

"Yes, let's switch places." Vicente quickly followed Nova's suggestion.

By switching places, he would have his back to those two, which would be better for him to hide.

If he left right after seeing them, people might get suspicious and ask questions they shouldn't. So he stayed at his table, now with his back to the couple.

"I didn't expect to find them here." Nova sighed, feeling that this was her fault.

"Don't worry. You didn't see it coming." Vicente expressed. "Anyway, what are they doing? Do you think they saw us? You wouldn't attract their attention any more than I would, would you?"

Vicente didn't know everything about Nova's life, so he couldn't help worrying that these two might also know Nova.

"Don't worry, they're distracted by their own problems." She smiled at Vicente. "And no, I shouldn't attract more attention than you. Even though I know them, they don't know me.

When I lived in this city, I heard a lot about their families and arranged marriages. In a way, they were as much talked about as Shelby and Marcus were back in Millfall.

But they and I never had any contact with each other. The closest we came was at the Symons family funeral, but I don't think that would be enough for them to approach us because they saw me."

"I hope so..." Vicente sighed just before the waiter came to their table with their orders.

With the food in front of them, he and Nova began to eat, interrupting their conversation to devour the orders they had placed.

With Livia and Nicolas nearby, they left the restaurant as quickly as possible.

Luckily, Nicolas didn't notice Nova sitting not far from him while he concentrated on his business with Livia.

Livia didn't see either of them. Her back was to the table where Vicente and Nova were sitting.

When the couple finished eating, they paid their bill and left the restaurant discreetly.

...

Just after leaving the previous restaurant, Vicente and Nova laughed about their nervousness as they walked back to the Bain estate.

Halfway there, however, a group of armed men in armor stopped them in the middle of a sidewalk.

"Mister Fuller?" One of the grim-faced guards looked at Vicente and asked, trying to recognize this person with the one they were looking for.

"Right?" Vicente hadn't thought these people were after him, but he answered when he was called.

"Come with us. Count Grant is waiting for you at the family estate." The main guard, a level 9 General, said in a harsh tone, glaring at Vicente.

Nova frowned when she heard that and saw the expressions on the faces of the guards wearing the Grant family uniform.

"What's going on?" She asked.

The men there didn't know Nova, nor could they know that she was a Commandant in the royal army without seeing her credentials.

One of them didn't look at her but replied. "He'll find out when he comes with us."

Vicente didn't understand the situation either. He didn't know Count Grant and had no dealings with any of the nobleman's allies.

`Could this be Nicolas and Livia's doing?' Vicente worried. But now that these people had stopped him, he couldn't ignore the fact. If there was a problem, he had to dig deeper and solve it before his situation got worse.

`Shit!`

He said, smiling at these people as if he didn't owe anyone anything. "All right, please lead the way."

Chapter 518 Misunderstanding?

After accepting Count Grant's 'invitation,' Vicente asked Nova to return to the Bain estate.

He didn't know what was happening, but he didn't want to get his girlfriend into trouble that might require him to use his powers.

So, after agreeing to accompany the Grant family guards, he left Nova behind.

A few minutes later, he arrived at the Grant estate in the city's wealthiest area, where he soon saw one of the largest estates he had ever seen.

Although this was only a family with the title of Count, this house was as rich as some of the powers with Marquises and even Dukes of the Seidel Kingdom!

The family had many subordinates and people coming and going from their estate. At the same time, there were a considerable number of Mages around.

"This family seems to go beyond the limits of noble houses with the title of Count..." Vicente noticed this and couldn't help but be curious. 'Is it because they also have the title of Viscount and have recently married into a family that also has the title of Viscount? Or is there more to it?'

Vicente's doubts didn't just stem from the number of strong people around the estate. It also had to do with the fact that Dryhaven was one of the few cities in the province that didn't have a known active underworld group.

It wasn't that there weren't any underworld forces working locally. It was just that there wasn't any known local group that did.

If there was a group working in the local underworld, it was very well hidden, and no one knew of its existence.

Because of this oddity, Vicente couldn't help but think of a possibility.

'Could it be them?' He thought of the possibility that Count Grant's own family was behind the invisible underworld of this city.

But he quickly put those thoughts aside when he saw a middle-aged, well-dressed man with the magical cultivation of a High-level Mage staring at him from the doorway of the estate's largest building.

"Andrew Fuller." The man muttered as he looked at Vicente from a distance.

Vicente made a strange face and said. "I beg your pardon? Have you mistaken me for my father?"

The guards around Vicente continued to give him ugly looks, but the Count's expression suddenly changed.

"Father?" The Count took a few steps forward, approaching Vicente to look into the young man's face.

As he looked more closely, the Count realized he had mistaken Vicente for Andrew. 'Your facial contours are similar, but this Magic Gem is different.'

Vicente replied. "Yes, that was my father's name."

Despite his age and the fact that he had mistaken Vicente for Andrew, Count Grant was intelligent. "Was it?" His eyes narrowed as his anger subsided.

Count Grant had almost married one of the most beautiful women he had ever met in his life, Kate Hogan. But a scoundrel named Andrew had taken her from him, fled Dryhaven, and never returned.

Count Grant had searched extensively for Andrew and Kate, but after months of fruitless searching, he accepted defeat.

Still, he never forgot the beautiful Kate, and to this day, his men had orders to arrest Andrew if they spotted such a person.

The day before, one of the Count's men had spotted Vicente and Nova entering the Hogan estate, which had led to this reaction earlier in the afternoon.

Eventually, the Count realized his men's mistake and immediately signaled for them to disperse, quickly finding himself alone with the young man who looked like Andrew.

Vicente answered truthfully. "Yes, my father died a few years ago."

Count Grant was astonished by this information, for perhaps this was his chance. This young man has come to visit Kate's parents... Perhaps she's thinking of returning to Dryhaven?

But he hid his joy and said. "Then I'm sorry for your loss. Andrew and I were not friends. I won't hide that. But you had nothing to do with it, young man."

By the way, what's your name? How is the rest of your family?" He tried to hide his interest in Kate by talking about this boy's family.

"My name is Vicente Fuller. As for my family, I have an older sister who is missing and a younger sister who is studying at Saltstar City. As for my mother, unfortunately, she died years ago when we were traveling through the province."

"What?" The old man stopped walking through the front yard of his estate and looked at Vicente strangely.

"Sigh... That's why I came to Dryhaven. I've been meaning to tell my maternal grandparents for a long time but never got around to it. I finally found some free time recently and decided to come to the city to deliver the news," Vicente said, imagining that the Count could easily find out all this.

The old Count felt like someone was squeezing his heart while the world around him seemed to have lost some of its humor.

He hadn't imagined that someone like Kate would die so prematurely!

Even after Kate's elopement with Andrew, he still thought he would find her one day and get her to marry him. That would be easy when you think about it. Andrew probably wouldn't live long, and sooner or later, that beautiful woman would be widowed. When that happened, it would be this man's chance to act!

But fate took unexpected turns for this man. Not only had Kate had many children in a few years, but she had died before he had his chance.

Feeling the sadness of learning of his beloved's death, the Count looked into Vicente's eyes and again offered his condolences. "I'm sorry, son, these must have been difficult years for you."

Vicente felt a big difference in Count Grant's tone this time, seeing that he was truly sorry for Kate's death.

"Thank you for your words, Your Grace."

The Count then gestured with one of his hands. "Let's go inside and talk about this. Your mother was someone I had the chance to know, but I didn't get the chance to be with her as much as I would have liked. Tell me more about what happened."

Vicente followed the man into the estate's main building and soon began to tell his story and how things had turned out for his mother.

Now that the situation didn't seem so bad to him, he felt he wouldn't have to deal with such a big problem, so he preferred ending this worry with a casual conversation.

If all went well, he would get off scot-free, and maybe he could find some opportunity in Dryhaven!

Chapter 519 Threat and Agreement?

After talking with Count Grant for a while, Vicente was much calmer about his situation and felt that he could escape this estate without fighting and still with a very relevant contact.

He had nothing to do with any of Dryhaven's powers at the moment. But after this unexpected meeting with Count Grant, he felt he could turn it into income for his family, maybe even start operating locally.

However, not everything would go so simple for him there!

As he finished talking to the Count, he heard footsteps coming from the hallway of the large living room where he was with Count Grant, just before Livia and Nicolas' voices reached his ear.

"We need to deal with Shelby and frame her as being connected to Cesar Mazzanti. If we do that, we'll be better able to protect our position."

"Don't worry, I've already sent people to start the job... Now, let's see who's with my father."

"Father, I heard that you're with an old acquaintance. Is that true?" Nicolas' voice rang out as Livia, and he appeared side by side.

"We were passing by and got curious after hearing..." Livia was speaking when her eyes fell on Vicente, and she immediately stopped.

Count Grant understood that these two had probably heard from his men that he was dealing with an old rival and immediately interrupted Livia.

"Livia and Nicolas, forget what you heard. It was a misunderstanding. This one here is Vicente Fuller, a young merchant from Saltstar City. I thought he was an old acquaintance, but he's quite an interesting fellow. Come and say hello." He said aloud as he stood up and motioned for the two to come and talk to Vice.

Vicente felt his heart in his throat. He did not like this meeting with these two at all. 'Fuck! There was no point in me hiding earlier!' He cursed the Count for wanting to introduce him to these two.

"Vicente Fuller?" Nicolas asked, feeling like he had heard that name before.

Nicolas would have remembered it instantly if the Count had said Vicente Fuller of Millfall. But since his father's phrasing was a little different and Nicolas had only thought of Vicente that day at the Symons family funeral, he didn't remember right away.

But Livia recognized Vicente immediately when she saw her husband greeting the young man with long black hair sitting on a large sofa.

'That person... Isn't he Shelby's friend?' She thought, feeling that something wasn't right with Vicente. 'That Magic Gem's shape... That's not his gen. Why is he hiding it?'

As Vicente greeted Nicolas, he noticed Livia's eyes on him. He felt his senses warning him that this woman had remembered him.

'It looks like you're going to be a problem...' His eyes met hers, and he suspected she would realize everything and cause him problems.

At the same time, Livia struggled to remember Vicente's Magic Gem, which was the last thing he wanted to happen.

Gulp!

'It can't be...'

"It's a pleasure to meet you, Miss Livia Norris." He said as he greeted her, quickly taking something out of his spatial ring to give to her. "Please accept these earrings. Consider them a token of my respect for the Grant family, your husband and father-in-law."

Count Grant didn't think Vicente's behavior was bad, as this young man knew how to please and deal with the most diverse situations.

He had been brought there not knowing what would happen, but he had made an angry man change his mood and even look upon him favorably.

The Count was sad to hear of Kate's death, but he was happy that the woman had raised a young man like Vicente so well.

That obviously couldn't be Andrew's doing, he thought...

As for Nicolas, he didn't find Vicente's gift strange. It was common for new contacts to give each other gifts to build stronger relationships.

Livia was suspicious, but she received the earrings.

The moment she touched them, she felt something strange in her being.

'Cesar!' She finally remembered Vicente's Magic Gem and connected it to the wanted poster associated with Cesar Mazzanti.

'I didn't expect to get caught like this, Miss Norris.' Vicente told her, using his mental power like he had with Ronan.

The Count and Nicolas were weaker than Vicente, so neither of them noticed what this young man was doing to Livia while they were talking.

'What do you want? What are you doing, Cesar?' She asked, feeling her heart pounding in her chest. 'I tried to approach you earlier so that we could have a friendly relationship. I don't want to irritate you.'

'I hope not; otherwise, I'll have to act.' Vicente said to her as he continued his conversation with the Count and Nicolas, Livia smiling all the while. 'If you value your life or the lives of these two, you'll have to give up your freedoms and serve me.'

If you're not willing, I'm afraid I'll have to complicate things for all of us here.'

She felt on the edge of a precipice, fully aware that if this person was indeed Cesar Mazzanti, as Sovereign Adams had suspected before his death, then this family was in danger.

Cesar could easily kill the three of them!

Thinking of Cesar's terrible powers that had made him capable of killing even a Sovereign, Livia feared the worst and agreed without much hesitation.

'I'll do anything. Just don't hurt us. We have nothing against you!'

'I hope not. The Count doesn't know my identity, but your husband might find out for himself. I want you to convince him to make a deal with me later. I'll let you live if you both promise never to tell the truth about me and agree to work for me.'

'How am I supposed to do that? If I tell him who you are, he'll want to go straight to the barracks!'

'Leave your bedroom window open tonight, and don't tell him anything until then. I'll come to you, and then you'll convince him. I'll show up at the right time with your two agreements.'

'All right. I'll do what you want.' She said as Vicente's mental power began to fade.

'Perfect. Remember, if you betray me, I'll kill you all. The Grant and Norris families will suffer the same fate as the Symons family. Even if you give me trouble, I'll still manage to do all this before any Sovereign gets to me.'

Livia knew this very well and could only agree to Vicente's wishes.

So Vicente, Nicolas, and Count Grant spent the next few minutes chatting casually, with only Livia aware of who was standing between them and the danger of being killed at any moment.

Eventually, it would be time for Vicente to leave. Still, he would keep an eye on Livia, putting aside his affairs with Nova for the rest of the day to keep an eye on this person.

Chapter 520 First Seed in Dryhaven

Later that day, Vicente broke into Livia and Nicolas' house after watching them for hours to make sure neither of them would talk about their identities.

Livia had been too afraid of him doing anything against her to do anything dangerous, having tried to focus on other things while waiting for the deal with Vicente.

With the deal, she and her husband could go on with their lives without too much worry, knowing exactly what they had to do and the dangers involved.

Nicolas hadn't realized that Vicente was the same young man he'd seen at the Symons family funeral, let alone that he was connected to the army's Magic Gem wanted for escaping from Long Bay Correctional Facility.

So when Vicente broke into their home that night, he didn't get too rough with them. He made them sign Magic Agreements promising not to reveal his identity, not to mention the name Cesar, and to work for him in Dryhaven.

The Grant family was one of the most powerful in the area, but it wasn't just because of their noble position. They were behind every kind of illegal operation in and around the city.

After hearing this from these two, Vicente wanted them to work for him to get the Mazzanti family involved in these arrangements!

With that settled, he left the two in peace, having also made them forget their old problems with Shelby because, from now on, they were part of the same team.

...

After returning to the Bain estate, Vicente met with Nova's father after talking a lot with his in-laws at the dinner, to which he arrived a little late.

Even though he was late, he managed to arrive in time to sit through Nova's father's "interrogation," answering a series of questions and occasionally hearing his father-in-law's threats.

Vicente took it all in stride, and after a few hours, he was lying with Nova on her old bed in the house.

"Sigh... I didn't think such trouble would catch up with you." She commented after hearing what had happened since they had separated earlier. "Who would have thought you would be mistaken for your father and then almost be found out?"

Vicente laughed bitterly. "Something like that has a high chance of happening to me. I'm not very lucky. You should be prepared for that."

"I know..." She sighed, having already noticed that for herself. "Anyway, do you think the local situation is resolved? You've been through a challenging time today. It would have been enough for Livia to say something strange, and everything would have turned out differently."

"I know. Luckily, she was so afraid of me that she decided not to do anything. But things are settled now. The Grant family doesn't know anything about me, and those two won't be able to betray me."

But even though I was almost forced to kill that family, it all ended well. With Nicolas and Livia's help, I will be able to bring the family to Dryhaven, but not only that, I'll have their direction to help me improve my shady business."

Nova knew how important it was for Vicente to dominate the province. That was no mere whim of a power-seeker, but rather the level he needed to achieve certain goals.

As one grew, the need for resources increased exponentially. To meet the needs of Mages or Sovereigns, one would need to have a business the size of a province or even a kingdom.

If you couldn't grow your business in such a way, sooner or later, you would face the problem that most magicians in the world faced: bottlenecks that kept them at the same level for too long.

You might think that Vicente and his family were cultivating too fast. But no, they cultivated according to what anyone with similar talents and resources could cultivate. The difference was that most of the key people in the family had good quality resources in a steady stream.

That didn't exist in other forces of equal or greater size than the Mazzanit family. The result was simple: people like Snow Claw, Adams, and many others would cultivate quickly at the beginning of their journey and then stay within a certain power range for a long time.

Vicente didn't want to go through that because he wanted to be able to take revenge and rescue Lauren as soon as possible. To do that, he needed an organization that could cover his needs for resources and those of some of his companions.

He was fully aware that he might not be able to do everything he planned on his own. Therefore, he intended to nurture his companions and thus gain powerful allies for the future.

Besides, he wanted Nina to have the chance to grow up in a place dominated by him before she left for the 'outside' world.

That's why it was important for him to dominate the Scott Province and make deals like the one he made today!

Nova already knew all this and asked. "How big is the family in Scott Province? Now that the Mazzanti family has become invisible, I can't analyze it myself anymore."

He smiled and said. "We are in four cities at the moment. But with Livia and Nicolas at my side, we'll soon be in Dryhaven."

"What about Saltstar City?"

"Saltstar City is our home. We won't act until the ancient underworld powers of this area undermine each other's strength." He smiled at her. "But that won't take long, hehe. I won't give The Ruby Devils six months to fall from their position."

"Oh? That's better. As long as you're the hand behind the shadows, your business will be protected. Acting in public is bad. Anyone who wanted to be in your position would end up targeting you, trying to cause trouble, etc.... The best thing is to have power but also the freedom to act like an ordinary person.

You'll become more powerful than the king if you can do that without too much trouble." She commented, using her own experience with Cesar to come to this conclusion.

After that, they talked about trivial matters until they had satisfied each other's wishes before bedding.

...

The next day, Vicente and Nova would have no problems to worry about and would spend most of the day enjoying themselves in Dryhaven, with her showing him places in her city.

They would shop for the Fuller family and Nina, an opportunity for them since Vicente normally couldn't show much buying power in Saltstar City.

But since they were away from their current home, they could shop without attracting unnecessary attention.

So the two of them would continue their stay in this city peacefully, with the day soon coming when they would return to the local Hogan family for the promised dinner while they already had their departure in mind.