

The Mafia 541

Chapter 541 Battle Against Two Sovereigns

Vicente closed his mouth and watched the ghost and the lich move, having angered both of them so much that any chance of a peaceful resolution had completely disappeared.

"Run, Layla!" He shouted to his companion as he ran forward towards the two.

Layla moved, concentrating as much of her power as she could to try to overcome the siege of ghosts, zombies, and liches in the area.

More than two thousand creatures were already surrounding the area where they were!

However, with her very high speed, she simply sliced through the enemy bodies, destroying the beings with material bodies.

The rotting corpses and skeletons shattered as she passed through them, while she only dodged the ghosts, the only ones her powers would have no effect on.

Some of the creatures surrounding her moved behind her as they saw her pass easily, but most stayed in place, aware that the real threat was still within their encirclement.

The two Earth Sovereigns ignored Layla, knowing that the real problem was Vicente.

The ghost began to use its powers to hurt and exhaust Vicente, as it could only try to possess a body without resistance.

Meanwhile, the lich moved its troops into the area, using the collective power of its minions to cast negative elemental spells in Vicente's direction.

Vicente initially ignored the lich, knowing he couldn't deal with two Sovereigns at once. What he could do was dodge the attacks of one of them and concentrate on the other.

He decided to deal with the ghost first, as it was the most difficult creature there, the one he would need to be at his best to defeat.

Using Torne's knowledge about ghosts, Vicente moved his mana through his body while forming spells based on his lightning element and mainly using his second skill related to electromagnetic fields.

Previously, in the 'battle' against Torne, Vicente had been unable to do anything against that ghost and had only been beaten. But that situation was more due to Vicente's low level at that time than because his powers weren't useful against ghosts.

Vicente's powers were useful against ghosts. But he had to be at the right level to affect 4th stage creatures with the specific nature of ghosts!

After all, ghosts were souls. That meant that anything that could affect souls could affect them. In other words, any condensed attack with enough mana to hurt a given soul should be enough to hurt a ghost.

Vicente didn't have enough mana to do this before, but now he did!

Using his second ability and creating an electromagnetic barrier around him, Vicente saw the ghost trying to attack, failing to get close to him as Torne had done in the past.

The ghost was surprised to feel something repel its body while noting Vicente's mental solidity, able to withstand even the power of a being like it!

Ka-boom!

A huge bang sounded milliseconds after a huge flash appeared over The Skull City, and a bolt of lightning struck the translucent body of the ghost attacking Vicente.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaagh!"

For the first time in millennia, the 4th stage ghost let out a scream of pain, surprising all the minimally intelligent beings in the area.

"I told you you'd scream, ghost," Vicente said as he moved his mana up one of his arms while stretching it toward the neck of the creature in front of him.

Meanwhile, the two of them flew around the area, the many metal artifacts mainly serving as shields to protect Vicente from the attacks of the liches in the area.

Meanwhile, he didn't hesitate to move his many blades as if they were parts of a shredder, indiscriminately attacking all those controlled by the 4th stage lich.

He didn't need much to do this when dealing with the ghost, so he didn't make it easy for those beings who tried to take him down with long-range attacks.

"Damn it!" The 4th stage lich shouted in frustration.

Even though it was a Sovereign, it had the weakness of beings of its race. It was very strong in spells, but its body was fragile, and it had to stay away from its enemies.

Seeing how easily Vicente destroyed its subordinates, this creature became angry. It stopped controlling its people to concentrate on casting a spell of great power against Vice.

"Souls of the Underworld!" It opened its mouth to shout as it made a magic circle appear around it, expanding as it brought the spell to 'life.'

Skeletal arms emerged from the void not far from Vicente and moved quickly to attack him, grabbing his wrists, neck, heels, and more.

Looking away, Vicente noticed the lich's attack and moved many of his metal items to destroy it.

His metal defenses turned into small shurikens, attacking in the direction of those arms and hands which were already wrapped around his body.

Amidst this, the ghost tried to endure the pain in its body and hit hard against Vicente's body.

"Die, you bastard!" The ghost shifted its mana to its arms, making spears of mana appear from its skeletal hands and slashing at Vicente's neck.

Two of Vicente's pentagrams brightly glowed as his eyes became transparent, and the rest of his body gradually lost its contours and became invisible.

"What the hell?!"

Vicente disappeared in front of them as his mana vanished, and all the metal objects around him stopped moving under his control.

Swoosh!

However, these objects did not lose their shape and continued to move as the energy associated with their movement still affected them.

The shurikens, shields, and other forms of defensive and offensive artifacts continued on their way, some falling vertically. In contrast, others flew in parabolic, horizontally, and so on.

Several skeletal creatures and corpses on the outskirts had their bodies destroyed and added to the pile of human remains without any sign of life or remaining intelligence.

The 4th stage lich and the ghost looked at their surroundings with concern, neither feeling Vicente even though they were stronger in level than their opponent.

"Shit! What just happened?" The ghost turned to the lich.

"That must be some kind of cloaking ability. His power is related to electromagnetism, so he must have some control over light." The lich pondered as it used its senses to search for Vicente.

"But what about his aura? How come none of us can sense it?"

"That..." The lich couldn't explain that part until it heard something strange not far from it.

Chapter 542 Escape

After looking back, the lich saw nothing but sensed that Vicente was right behind it.

It raised its arms to defend itself, feeling its spine tremble, for a frontal attack on its fragile skeleton could seriously injure it.

A lich was not a completely dead being. It had its life attached to its mana, consciousness, and body. As much as it was an undead being, it could be killed or, to a lesser extent, injured.

"Shit!"

This being feared its end as it controlled various skeletons and corpses to run or throw themselves in front of it.

The ghost looked at the lich with concern and moved away, thinking that Vicente had changed his strategy.

But just as everyone thought Vicente was about to attack the lich, this young man appeared behind the ghost, one of his arms covered in lightning and mana.

Vicente didn't hesitate as he crossed the ghost's translucent body with his right arm while his third pentagram glowed around him.

The ghost paused for a moment before feeling electrocuted and screaming in panic, taken by surprise by its enemy.

Meanwhile, it felt something trying to corrupt its mind and weaken its defenses.

Vicente smiled as the lich looked in shock at its fellow ghost, not expecting them to fall for such a basic strategy.

"Human!" The lich shouted angrily.

Unfortunately, it was too late for it to change what had already happened.

Vicente smiled as he pulled his right arm out of his opponent's body, feeling a bit exhausted, but not to the point where he couldn't do anything more.

He said. "Until next time, skeleton."

With his words, he disappeared again, moving away from the area and leaving the severely wounded ghost behind.

It was challenging to kill a ghost. Vicente didn't want to exhaust himself doing it when there was still another Sovereign that could threaten him. So he just wounded the ghost badly and moved on, weakening his enemies, which was enough for him for now.

"Aaaaagh!" The ghost screamed in agony as it fell to the ground. "The bastard tainted my spirit! Aaaagh!"

"What do we do now?" The lich asked in doubt.

The ghost screamed angrily. "Do I have to do everything here? Go after him, you wretch! If he escapes and recovers, it's the end of us."

"But if I do it alone..." The lich pondered.

"Do it now or forget it in the future!"

Just like that, the forces around the area where the battle had taken place moved.

More than a thousand creatures of darkness had fallen in that area forever, but this was not the end for this city!

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While Vicente moved discreetly to gain time to recover, Layla was far from where she had fled earlier.

She had already searched many more areas during Vicente's battle with the enemies, trying to ignore her worries while concentrating on finding things useful for them.

She had just found something that almost seduced her: a bright red pill floating near what looked like an ancient altar.

'That pill...' She swallowed her saliva as she felt her heart beat faster and her pores release sweat.

As she approached the pill, red eyes watched her from the shadows of the area, silently waiting for her.

She climbed the steps before it, slowly reaching one hand toward the pill.

Just as she was about to reach it, a voice came, and she looked away.

"Look out!"

She saw bars fall from the ceiling, something that would trap her in this place in a split second.

She didn't hesitate to move when she saw the zombies coming out of their hiding places.

'Shit!'

She acted quickly, narrowly slipping under the sharp-edged grate that had fallen from the ceiling to trap her.

"You shouldn't have done that, human." The only lich in the area said as it appeared among the zombies.

But as the negative beings of this place appeared from practically all sides of the area, a pale, very dirty, and injured woman with greenish hair appeared on the roof.

"Run! Such traps surround all the valuable resources of this damned city!" The woman shouted as she moved across the ceiling, not interested in staying behind to help Layla any more than she already had.

"Damn you! Kill this fool!" the 3rd stage lich shouted at the zombies.

Layla watched as the woman disappeared from the ceiling, imagining that she must be one of the other survivors of the group waiting outside The Skull City.

Layla would then move away from the spot, quickly dodging any enemies that tried to attack her and head towards the aura of the person who had helped her.

Layla had a good heart, so she often returned favors. Leaving the area without further trouble, she would soon appear in front of the green-haired woman.

"So fast?" The injured person exclaimed in surprise as she went back to her hiding place.

"Thank you for your help. Are you the companion of that group outside The Skull City?"

"Oh?" The woman opened her mouth in surprise. "You saw my companions?"

"Yes, my companion and I saw them when we came here. They asked us to bring your Flames of Life to check your vital status." Layla commented.

"Sigh, unfortunately, I am the only survivor. Two days ago, we were forced to split up after falling into an enemy trap.

I was the only one to escape with the help of my friend, Ivan. But zombies and liches surrounded them... Now they're probably dead." She said in a depressed tone.

Layla lamented. "I don't know what happened, but my companion and I entered this city less than 30 minutes ago. When we entered, one of your companions was still alive. His Flame of Life indicated that he was in great danger of dying, but he was still alive."

"What?" The woman looked at Layla in shock, not expecting one of them to still be alive.

The Flame of Life was very special. If it didn't go out, it meant the person marked by it still had a chance to survive.

It wouldn't show any sign of life if its target's mind had been destroyed or something irreparable had happened. Any sign, no matter how bad, indicated that there was still a chance for that soul.

"Shit! What have I done?" She asked herself as she stopped moving, thinking that she had abandoned her companions when she could have saved at least one of them.

Layla understood and said. "Don't think like that. You couldn't have known."

"Even so... Sigh, miss, please help me!" She looked into Layla's eyes and pleaded. "Please cover me. That's all I ask! I'll do the rest myself to save my companion!"

Layla clenched her fists. "Show me the way. If I can help you, I will. But if the danger is too great, we'll have to part ways."

That was better than nothing, and soon, the green-haired woman was on her way to the place she had left days ago.

Chapter 543 Underground City

While Layla was running through The Skull City with the woman she had just met, Vicente had gotten quite far away from the 4th stage enemies.

He had already consumed one of his recovery potions. He was now hiding in an area far from where he had faced the two Sovereigns.

His aura was wholly retracted into his body while he could feel his mana gradually approaching its optimal state.

He observed his surroundings through the cracks in a window on the second floor of the residence where he was staying while remaining invisible.

'It looks like I've lost the enemy.' He thought, after standing there for 10 minutes without seeing any worrying signs.

Thinking this, he made a look of pain as he looked at one of his arms, feeling a slight numbness in the hand he had used to hit the 4th stage ghost.

But it wasn't a physical pain. It was a spiritual pain related to the vibrations of the ghost's mana.

'Fools are those who think that there's no danger in passing through a ghost's body...' Vicente thought to himself, not worrying about his condition, as this sensation was fading with each passing minute. But he was aware that ghosts had hazardous characteristics.

Then he put the window aside and sat down in a lotus position in the middle of the small room he was in.

'I have to go after Layla. Even if she's fast, it will only take one of these two to reach her to finish her.' He worried, already trying to concentrate on finishing his basic recovery as quickly as possible.

He had seriously injured the 4th stage ghost. This being would be injured for the next few days and would definitely not be able to fight at a high level. But even injured, such a creature could still endanger the life of someone of Layla's level.

As long as Layla had enough mana to use her ability, she should be fine. But the moment she ran out of mana, she would be in a terrible situation if she came face to face with the ghost or, worse, the lich.

Vicente would cultivate in that place for 10 minutes with the description until he felt he could go back and fight the lich if necessary.

He subtly moved while checking his surroundings, found a safer route, and didn't hesitate to move toward the city center.

As he walked for a few minutes, passing several streets and places destroyed by old battles, he suddenly felt something change in the depths of his being.

Vicente stopped where he was and looked at his surroundings differently. 'What is this?'

Looking at the field lines nearby, he noticed some signs of powerful items near him, and for a moment, he remembered that he was there to take advantage of the opportunities of The Skull City.

'There is an interesting resource for me here!' The expression on his face changed as he changed his plans.

Following his instincts, he headed towards the strongest sensation in the area, quickly entering a partially destroyed building and descending the stairs to the basement.

As he did so, he saw a complex structure of underground tunnels that existed in the city, practically leading to an underground city.

Vicente looked into one of the tunnels he passed and saw several zombies, liches, and ghosts circulating as if they were working in the area.

'What the hell?' He saw skeletal beings and corpses carrying things, planting and construction tools, and some carrying boxes and carts.

When he looked at the end of the tunnel, which looked like a sizeable underground street with several properties connected to it, he saw a strange gray glow and magical fluctuation coming from that place.

'I'll see about that later.' He thought as he walked back into the underground area of the estate he had just entered, feeling that what had attracted his attention was in that place and not in the underground part of The Skull City.

Then he reached the top floor of that house, where he came across a small brown vial containing a powerful magical pill.

The vial was in one of the corners of the walls of this dark and smelly place, which had no natural light.

Vicente sensed the trap that lay near the thing. 'It seems that the beings in this city use the resources as baits...' He realized, imagining there must be creatures where he was, even if he couldn't sense them.

Anyone who entered The Skull City would come for the opportunities and resources. On the other hand, the local monsters could grow stronger with 'new meat,' something that might give them hope of one day getting rid of this place.

So, one side would try to bring down the other to achieve their goals, even though both parties might have known that this was exactly what Professor Dirty Scout wanted when he created this place!

But that didn't bother Vicente. 'Then let them come to me.' He smiled as he walked towards it, feeling it was valuable enough for him to attract the attention of his enemies.

When he arrived in front of the vial and reached out a hand to pick it up, he felt a trap activate, and a grate similar to the one that had fallen on Layla earlier fell on him to trap him there.

Vicente picked up the vial and looked at the device that had fallen on him, forming a 3 square meter cell.

Immediately, a group of zombies and liches appeared in the area and headed toward him, making grotesque noises as they looked at their target.

Vicente didn't bother with these enemies. He just put a hand on one of the metal bars of the cell and laughed.

"You want to arrest me like this?" As he said this and pressed his fingers on the bar, it suddenly disintegrated in an instant.

Vicente's orange pentagram appeared around his body, causing the mana in this underground area to stir significantly.

Metallic weapons formed in the air and slashed at the negative creatures in front of Vicente, shredding them in milliseconds as he looked at the pill he had just taken from the previous vial.

As he looked at the pill, he felt the strong negative energy and darkness there, which made the ghosts in that underground place, the only ones still standing after Vicente's first move, feel its power and take steps back.

That was a 4th-grade pill, useful for practitioners of the Dark Path who had reached the 4th stage. When used, it could nourish the soul of the person who consumed it, increase its purity, heal soul wounds, and even increase the negative affinity of that being.

However, if consumed by a practitioner of the Light Path, it was poison, something that would corrupt that person's soul and body and lead them to a terrible fate!

Such a person could go from exploding to insanely attacking everything and everyone around them.

Knowing this, the 3rd stage ghosts around Vicente moved away from him, afraid of what would happen to him if he took the pill.

Chapter 544 Awakening?

Swallow!

Vicente felt the icy essence go down his throat and into his stomach. As soon as it reached his insides, the pill melted, releasing all of its medicinal power into his stomach.

Almost immediately, a negative vibration spread through his body, something that would cause any other magician of the Light Path to suddenly change and express maddening pain.

But Vicente expressed none of that. On the contrary, he remained still while something in his consciousness space absorbed the healing power of the pill, leaving no residue.

Vicente felt an incredible sensation in his body, as if he had suddenly drunk ice-cold water after being thirsty for a long time.

He opened his mouth and let out a soft sigh, feeling a part of himself grow stronger as he turned his attention inward.

Looking into the space of his consciousness, he saw his second gem absorbing 70% of the pill's medicinal power while the rest went into the cocoon where Torne slept.

Torne's cocoon shook, and cracks appeared around it, along with a purple glow coming from inside the cocoon.

Ten seconds after Vicente swallowed the pill, Torne's cocoon exploded, releasing this ghost from its comatose state after several months since the battle that led to its previous state.

'Master...' Torne murmured in Vicente's mind, still quite weakened, showing the magical power of only a level 5 Acolyte.

'Old Torne, it's good to have you back.' Vicente laughed as he stood with his eyes closed, looking into himself. 'A lot has happened in the meantime. Luckily, I managed to wake you up.'

Torne remembered how he had fallen asleep before and understood that his master had probably survived that challenge and several others.

His senses were improving, and he more or less realized where Vicente was and quickly put aside his many questions.

'Thank you for helping me wake up, master. It looks like you've found a very interesting place for us.' Torne said as he took in Vicente's surroundings.

'Yes, I heard about this place during my trip to the Chutha Dynasty. Fortunately, I found a pill that helped me awaken you. But you still have a long way to go before you regain all your powers.' Vicente told him.

Torne could feel it only too well. 'Don't worry. I only recovered a little because I was unconscious. If I had been conscious, I would have absorbed all the power of this pill and returned to almost my previous level.

But because I was unconscious, your second magical form absorbed most of the pill's healing power.' Torne looked at Vicente's second Magic Gem.

'His affinity for darkness is so high that anything negative that enters his body will be consumed by it. Luckily, I have a contract with the master, and I got a small part of that resource.'

'Really? Won't that be a problem?' Asked Vicente.

'Not at all. Your magical form is supreme, so it can absorb anything negative that enters your body. But because it is supreme, it won't fight over small crumbs. As soon as I control the mana of the following resource the master ingests, I'll be able to absorb it all.'

Of course, this won't work with a high-level resource, but items of 4th grade or lower are mere crumbs for your second magical form, master.'

Hearing all this from Torne, Vicente was relieved. 'Then, we'll find more resources to bring you back to normal. This place we're in has a lot of interesting things.'

'Yes, I'm sensing some compatible resources nearby.' Torne commented. 'But what do you want to do with these ghosts? I can help you to control or destroy them, master.'

'You really can?' Vicente was surprised. 'They have more power than you at the moment, old Torne.'

'It's not that simple, master. Although my mana is weakened, I understand magic differently than these beings. Besides, my powers are connected to yours. As long as you lend me some of your power, I can expose the power of even a High-level Mage, even though I'm currently at level 5.'

Vicente smiled as he opened his eyes and looked toward the 3rd stage ghosts in his path. 'Then dominate them all. Before I came to this place, I wounded a 4th stage ghost who must be their leader. I don't think that thing will be able to get them out of our control in the short term.'

With Vicente's command and permission to use his mana, Torne left his master's body and appeared before the terrified ghosts.

"Shit!"

"There was a ghost in him! That's why he survived!"

The strongest ghosts shouted as they realized the problem, knowing that Torne could easily deal with them by using his own powers together with Vicente's.

They tried to flee the area, but Torne, with Vicente's help, was too much for them.

Within moments, all the ghosts in the area fell to their knees on the ground while glowing lines of mana connected their heads to Torne's skeletal hands.

If Vicente had tried this alone, he would have had great difficulty in suppressing these ghosts. But Torne was a ghost himself, and all he needed was more mana and understanding on his side to deal with beings of his race.

Torne had been initially a Sky Sovereign when he became a ghost a long time ago, and Vicente's mana was much more robust than that of the strongest ghost in the area.

That was enough for him to carry out his master's orders quickly.

'They will obey all your orders now, master.' Torne said as he returned to Vicente's mind space.

'Perfect. We'll send them to watch our surroundings while we look for another resource compatible with you, old Torne.'

With that, Vicente left this place, temporarily leaving aside the underground city he had discovered, to head towards the other resources he and Torne had already sensed near them on the surface of The Skull City.

As they moved, Torne took the opportunity to catch up on everything that had happened since he had fallen into a coma and gradually learned about Vicente's experiences over the past few months.

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While Vicente was working with Torne after a while without the help of his ghost, Layla and the woman she had joined earlier arrived at the place they were going to.

The grey-haired woman had led the way to where she and her two companions had gotten into trouble two days ago when they had been surrounded by High-level Mages of the three types of monsters of this city.

They hadn't had any trouble getting to this place because, for some reason, many of the monsters that would normally hinder people like them had disappeared.

Layla could imagine who was behind this, but the woman next to her ignored this reality and looked in the direction of where she thought her companions had died.

She said to the grey-haired woman beside her. "They should be behind this door." She pointed with one of her fingers. "When I left this place, they were caught in an enemy trap and surrounded by monsters."

Layla narrowed her eyes as she tried to scan her surroundings. "Let's see what we can find." She took the lead.

Chapter 545 To the Rescue?

As Layla moved, Bella, the green-haired woman, also moved determinedly, thinking of the possibility that one of her companions might still be alive.

When they arrived at the door on their way to an underground part of The Skull City, they looked at each other and prepared to use their powers if necessary.

Layla used her speed and quickly opened the door on her way to the inside of the underground building.

The moment they entered the place, they surprised the four zombies there, who were kneeling on the ground with their hands smeared with something red.

When they looked closer, they saw the remains of someone who had recently died, a body that was open with many internal parts missing.

One of the zombies there was holding the corpse's lifeless liver, while another was eating the dead man's brain like a dog eating its favorite food.

One of them turned around and stared with his opaque white eyes in the direction of the two women, who were momentarily shocked by the scene.

Gulp!

'Shit!' Layla saw this and cursed the creatures, but without running away since they were clearly weaker than her.

Leaving the immobile Bella aside, she walked forward into the room, not hesitating to deal with those four monstrosities.

Moving one of her arms like a sword, she easily severed the head of the first in her path before kicking the torso of her second target, breaking it in half.

Zombies only really died when their brains were completely destroyed, so the two zombies Layla attacked first didn't die, they just lost their normal fighting state.

Bella returned to reality and finally moved, aiming for the head of the creature Layla had already knocked down while using her powers to form a bow and arrow.

The two quickly exterminated all the creatures in the area until Bella had a chance to identify the corpse that was being devoured.

"It's one of my companions." She said regretfully after a few moments, feeling shame, disgust, fear, and remorse.

She wasn't sure if this was her companion who had died earlier or if it was the one Layla had said was still alive until a few minutes ago. But either way, this was an old acquaintance of hers who had died horribly.

Layla looked around and said. "There is no sign of any other bodies here... Maybe your companion escaped or was taken."

Bella looked at Layla, not knowing what to do but knowing what Layla meant by being taken.

The monsters of The Skull City devoured some of their victims, while others died in various ways, leaving intact bodies behind.

Even those that were devoured would eventually become ghosts or liches, whether or not they were devoured depended on the degree of gruesomeness of each victim's death.

Some would feed the zombies, but others would feed the ghosts with their souls or even the liches with their skeletons.

There were at least half a dozen macabre rituals in The Skull City that were useful for every type of local monster!

If Bella's last companion in The Skull City was still alive, he could be in great danger of dying at any moment from one of the local macabre rituals!

"If he's been taken, we don't have much time!" Bella said in a cold sweat.

"Where would we go? If he's just escaped, he could be anywhere in the city. But if he's been taken, he's probably in one of the city's central areas, where the strongest monsters are." Layla commented.

It was easy to find out where the strongest monsters were. After a short trip around the city, one could easily understand this from the frequency of powerful individuals in the different local areas.

Since there were stronger beings near the city center, that was the most interesting place to look for someone to be taken for a ritual.

"We can only continue to look for him in more dangerous places," Bella said as she looked at Layla strangely. "Will you help me? I'm afraid of the dangers ahead. I won't put you through it just because I warned you earlier."

Layla clenched her fists, feeling strange because of what she had just witnessed in that underground place.

To see a human being being devoured was disgusting!

Thinking about how the monsters in this city could violate her honor in so many different ways was enough to make her feel a strange sense of enmity and a desire to destroy those creatures.

Layla said. "I'll help you until it's too dangerous for us to continue. From then on, you either fall back with me or stay behind to deal with your own problems."

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Minutes would pass, and the 4th stage lich searching for Vicente would finally notice some signs of its enemy.

Some of its men were running around looking for Layla and the other human who had escaped from a trap earlier, but it wasn't worried about them.

Vicente was a great danger to it and its ally who ruled this place, so it was worried about him and not those two.

After hearing distant signs of where those two should be, it hurried to catch up with Vicente.

Arriving at the spot where Vicente had ingested the pill that had awakened Torne, the lich saw what remained of the creatures the young man had destroyed and noticed he had arrived too late to have any trace of his target.

"Damn human!" It felt the number of skeletons and zombies under its control dwindle and imagined that somewhere, Vicente was doing shit.

Turning his skull back, it sensed where the last losses of its power had come from.

"I found you, you wretch!" It moved, not hesitating to cast a spell in the direction that had just noticed the deaths of its men.

As it did so, moving toward the area where it thought Vicente was, a purple bolt of lightning appeared in the sky, coming from a large magical circle created by the lich's spell.

A thunderous sound erupted from the purple bolt, which was not lightning but a special form of evil magic.

When the spell hit the ground, all the skeletons and shattered corpses were pulled together, quickly forming a large dead giant.

Vicente saw this from afar, as he had tricked his enemy into attacking in the direction where only ghosts operated.

'Wow, he's created a monster similar to Victor Frankenstein's creation!'

Vicente opened his mouth in surprise as he saw the hideous giant emerge from the lich's dark magic.

Meanwhile, Torne was absorbing a new resource hidden with Vicente in a 'quiet' area of the city.

Chapter 546 Change of Plans?

Arriving at the spot where its monster was composed of several different skeletons and zombie parts, the 4th stage lich moved its head from side to side, searching for Vicente's clues.

It couldn't express its frustration or anger at not finding its target there since there was no flesh on its face. But its aura was enough to show it.

"Fuck!! Damned human!" It shouted as its power made the ghosts in the area feel like their spirit bodies wanted to disappear.

The monstrous giant continued ravaging the surrounding properties, trying to find where Vicente might be hiding.

But after 10 seconds of standing there in frustration, the lich moved on, leaving its creature to deteriorate. That wasn't a creation but a spell that would lose its effect when deprived of mana.

As the monstrous giant tore itself apart, the 4th stage lich slowly began to scan its surroundings, thinking that Vicente might be hiding nearby.

Since it had moved to this place, it would be a waste of its movement not to search for its target for at least a few moments.

'Where is this wretch?' It asked, imagining the problems it would have with Vicente if this young man were allowed to grow up more in this city.

It was unlikely that this would happen since Vicente was already at the peak of the 3rd stage, and if he advanced one level, he would be expelled from the city due to the local laws made by the creator of these ruins. But Vicente could improve his strength to a certain degree and kill someone like this lich before leaving The Skull City.

That was enough to worry this creature!

'If I don't find him in the next 15 minutes, I will order all the liches and zombies in the city to collect the valuable items and take them underground. If he wants anything, he'll have to come to me!'

The underground of The Skull City was home to the local negative creatures and many ancient traps and curses.

It would be much harder for anyone to succeed in this city underground than on the surface!

With that in mind, this magical being would soon give up its search for Vicente and pass on its orders to the liches and zombies of its city.

...

Meanwhile, Vicente was standing in a room of a small estate not far from where the 4th stage lich had left.

He was sitting in a lotus position on a cultivation pillow, feeling the medicinal effects of a resource he had swallowed minutes ago to help Torne.

Torne was the one absorbing all the mana and elemental power from that resource, so Vicente didn't have to do anything but sit still.

Since Torne wasn't as powerful as Vicente's second Magic Gem, it would take him much longer to absorb what Vice's magical form had taken earlier to absorb most of the power from the pill that had awakened him.

Vicente would have to stand there for four to six hours to finish absorbing it, so he concentrated on controlling his powers and keeping himself hidden for the moment.

Luckily, he had half a dozen ghosts under his control that he could use from where he was without attracting attention!

That was exactly what he was doing now.

'I will use this opportunity to make these ghosts collect as many spatial rings as they can find on their way.' He thought to himself, looking at the belongings of the many adventurers who had entered The Skull City over the millennia.

With so many more people entering this place than leaving it, the wealth accumulated there must have grown throughout history.

'In the meantime, I'll have one of them look for signs of Layla.'

He hadn't forgotten about his traveling companion, whom he hadn't seen for about an hour.

...

Meanwhile, in a more central part of the city, in the local underground, two women were hiding in a small property in the underground part of the city, spying on the street ahead of them through the cracks in a door.

"Something's going on." The green-haired woman commented. "The underground passageways are getting busier. Something seems to be bringing the liches and zombies from the surface here."

Layla noticed this and immediately thought of Vicente. "This must have something to do with my companion. When I separated from him, he stayed behind to fight two Sovereigns."

"Sovereigns?" Bella stopped watching from the doorway and stared at Layla in shock.

"You didn't know?" Layla asked in surprise. "From what my companion and I saw, there are two Earth Sovereigns here."

"Shit! How could that be? So we had no chance to survive all this time?" Bella felt desperate. "But that can't be right. If there are Sovereigns here, how did several Mages manage to escape from this area in the past?"

"Well, I can think of two explanations." Layla closed her eyes and sighed. "The first and least likely is that the survivors of this city are just like my companion, people capable of fighting above their level.

The second possibility is that the local Sovereigns won't move unless these people threaten their existence or their forces in the city. So, at most, ordinary people like us would have to deal with the masses of 2nd and 3rd stage monsters."

The logic behind this second possibility was simple. The damage that Layla and Bella could do to The Skull City's forces was limited. But Vicente could literally destroy the entire city if he desired to stay there long enough!

The two Earth Sovereigns understood this and naturally felt that they had to take care of such an enemy.

"Even if that second possibility is the case, how will we save my companion if there are more monsters in the way?" Bella asked, still sad. "We had a lot of trouble getting to where we are now when the monster movement in this area was much less. But the way it is now... I'm afraid we'll get caught."

Layla clenched her fists and said. "We have three alternatives in front of us."

"What alternatives?"

"First, your companion won't survive, so we should leave him since we won't be able to reach him without losing our lives," Layla said coldly. "By the time my companion and I reached the city, your companion should have been seriously injured. But more than an hour has passed since then... He could be dead by now, and we could be risking ourselves for nothing."

Bella clenched her fists but listened to Layla's other two alternatives.

"But if you want to go through with it, we can consider the second and third alternatives. We can withdraw for now and wait for my companion. He's powerful and can handle the worst threats in this place. If he agrees, we can search for your friend together.

As for the last alternative, it would depend on my progress. I'm not very far from becoming a High-level Mage."

Chapter 547 Plans on Both Sides ?

"With the right resources, I could advance in less than two hours and get enough to find and perhaps rescue your friend. The only downside to this alternative is that I haven't gathered any resources yet, and even if we found something, you'd have to protect me until I finished my advancement." Layla finished her speech and gave Bella the only viable options for her.

Bella listened to everything and silently thought about what to do. She didn't want to give up on her companion because if it hadn't been for the two people who had helped her earlier, she would be dead now.

But she knew that if she insisted on going after the last remaining one, she would have to do it alone since Layla would certainly not go with her under the current circumstances.

So it was up to her to find Vicente and get his help or wait for Layla to advance in level.

She didn't know if she could convince Vicente to save her friend. What would he gain by risking himself for her? But Layla seemed determined to do it as long as she advanced.

"What kind of resources do you need to move forward? I collected some medicinal herbs, pills, and potions while exploring the city. I also found two dozen spatial rings that must have resources inside them. Perhaps one of them will have something compatible for you." She said as she clenched her fists, feeling that this woman wouldn't act against her because she was talking about her 'riches.'

Layla looked into Bella's green eyes and said. "I have an elemental affinity for the elements of wind and lightning. Any 3rd-grade resource with a focus on one of those two elements will be able to help me."

"I think I have something like that." Bella didn't mind giving Layla something like that since it would be less than 10% of what she had collected.

She had collected everything she could on her way through this city. Even things she couldn't use, she had taken because she would be able to sell them for many coins.

She didn't have an elemental affinity similar to Layla's, so she didn't give up anything she could use in the short term to strengthen herself.

Layla received a potion and a root from Bella's hands.

Bella said. "This root has strong properties of the lightning element. But it must also contain a strong poisonous effect, considering the type of terrain it was in. You'll need to take this potion along with the root to absorb only the positive from this resource."

Layla examined the two items and came to the same conclusion as Bella, realizing that the green-haired woman was sincere.

"This will really work." She muttered with a smile on her face.

The magical resources in Realm of Polaris were not so different from the remedies on Earth. On Vicente's previous planet, sometimes a medicine would be used to treat a problem in one organ, but the medicine that solved that problem would end up endangering other body parts. In order to protect another part of the body from the medicine, the patient would take other drugs in conjunction with the main one to treat their case.

Hardly anyone would come out of something like this completely unscathed if their problems were more serious. Still, it worked more positively than negatively.

In Polaris Realm, it was even more effective. Magical resources could cause good and evil at the same time, but by using the right accessory resources, one could neutralize all or almost all of the collateral damage.

"How long will it take you to get ahead with this root?" Bella asked as she looked back through the cracks in the door next to them.

Layla thought for a moment before answering. "I don't know. At least two hours. If this root were pure, it would only take two hours. But since it has elements that would harm me, and I'm using this potion to control that negative part, the whole process will take longer.

Anyway, I don't think we'll need much more than three hours. I need you to protect me during that period. I'll check on your friend and rescue him if he's still alive after that.

At Layla's current level, she could evade and dodge the attacks of the 4th stage beings in this city. Bella had witnessed this in the past few minutes and knew that when this woman became faster, Layla would be able to challenge the strongest beings in The Skull City.

She believed the gray-haired woman and soon took the position of observing this area while Layla ingested these two resources.

Thus, Layla's first few minutes of cultivation passed quietly while Bella nervously observed the surroundings of the underground place where they were.

The place became increasingly crowded with undead, some carrying valuable resources to the same place.

Meanwhile, most zombies, ghosts, and liches didn't care about finding those two or even Vicente. They were just carrying out their orders to bring the city's valuable resources to the place where the strongest were already preparing to receive Vicente.

...

At the deepest point of The Skull City's underground, the 4th stage ghost was inside a large cocoon similar to the one Torne had left in Vicente's consciousness space for a while.

Meanwhile, the 4th stage lich was sitting on one of the two thrones in a large crypt where there were many chains running from the ceiling to the walls and passageways of the area, skulls of beings of different races in various sculptures, and also a small lake of magma.

There, some undead were profiled as worshippers of some kind of taboo practice, while others simply left valuable resources in an area designated by the strongest lich.

Meanwhile, the body of a living man was nailed to a cross, his blood dripping and pooling in a clay basin beneath his feet, where the mightiest beings would occasionally approach and take a few sips.

'How are our plans going?' The one inside the cocoon near one of the thrones sent its thoughts to the Sovereign on the other side of the crypt.

That skeleton said. "If the enemy wants riches, he will come to us sooner or later. When he does, we'll finish him off here!"

'Perfect! Don't hesitate to let the black flames of corruption consume this place! Even though he has hidden his negative affinity from us, he won't be able to resist our evil flames!'

The skeleton nodded in agreement.

The evil flames were an ancient essence of black fire that could easily kill Dark Path magicians. These flames could burn the elements associated with darkness and only extinguish themselves when those elements were completely out of their reach.

Using such a thing would be dangerous for everyone there, but those two Sovereigns were willing to do it to bring Vicente down and have the chance to enjoy his blood and consume his soul!

Chapter 548 Time to Act?

In the blink of an eye, three hours had passed since Layla had begun her meditation.

Bella had watched her temporary companion for that time, not needing to move as they were hidden, and, more importantly, the local evil beings seemed interested in other things.

Bella had merely observed the situation around them while waiting for Layla's progress.

After three hours of meditating, Layla was showing signs of progress, having dealt well with the negative elements of the root she had ingested and harnessed the positive part of it.

Lightning covered part of her body as her mana exploded inside her body, bringing her closer and closer to the high level of the 3rd stage.

Sensing that Layla would advance at any moment, Bella looked toward the gray-haired woman, anxious that this person would advance and save her companion.

Given the strange movements of the liches, ghosts, and zombies, she still hoped that her last companion might be alive. But she knew that the chances of her last friend in this city being alive were diminishing with each passing minute.

As she thought this, Layla broke through the small bottleneck she was in, suddenly increasing her mana more than humans could manage at the same level, becoming much stronger in a single moment than she had been before.

Her muscles vibrated as her mana reached a new level, and her understanding of reality improved a bit.

As she felt this, Layla slowly opened her eyes, unable to contain the smile on her face.

'Now I'm a High-level Mage!' Layla clenched her fists in determination, having reached this level much younger than she had previously supposed she would.

Luckily, she was working with Jasmine and Vicente, people who valued the people around them and gave them opportunities. She would be a Low-level Mage at best if it hadn't been for their help!

She knew that and was grateful to them. But the moment she saw Bella's eyes, she put her thoughts aside and returned to what she had promised the green-haired woman.

"Thank you for protecting me these past few hours. And thank you for the resources. Without them, I wouldn't have made any progress." She thanked him before saying. "Anyway, what happened in the meantime? Any problems?"

"No. I just kept watching the monsters move around. They are planning something strange. You should be careful when you move around." Bella replied, looking at Layla with anticipation but also with fear that she was sending this person to her death.

"I'll keep that in mind..." Layla got up from where she was, stretching her muscles and preparing to do what she had to do. "I'll go ahead with our plans and see if your friend is where we expect him to be. If he's alive, I'll bring him back. If not, I'll come back as soon as I confirm he's dead so we can leave this place."

"All right." Bella didn't say much before she saw Layla leave quickly.

'Fast!' The green-haired woman thought to herself, feeling the wind displaced by Layla's movement but unable to see any sign of Layla moving.

One moment, Layla was with Bella, and the next, she was gone!

...

Layla was now fast enough to move without immediately attracting the attention of any beings in her path.

Magical beings usually use mana, sight, or temperature to detect the presence of others around them. It was challenging to tell that someone was in a specific place without using those three senses.

Layla was so fast compared to beings below the 4th stage that there was no time for someone to sense one of these three signs before she was far enough away to be undetectable.

Because of this, she moved quickly among many monsters, but none of them showed any signs of hostility toward her. They just continued to do what they were doing, feeling the displacement of gases in their air but not noticing such a magician moving among them.

In less than two minutes since she had left Bella, Layla had searched several places in this underground area of The Skull City and had seen several monsters preparing for something, excluding the places where Bella's last friend might be.

Amidst this, she was getting closer and closer to the core of this city, where most of the monsters were, as well as the local resources.

When she felt a strong sensation in the direction of where the resources gathered by the monsters were, she couldn't help but shift her focus to look at that place.

'This... Are they gathering all these resources to lure Vicente?' She wondered, seeing no other reason for this strange conduct.

She approached the place where the resources were and saw not only the pile of valuable items that would probably make even Sky Sovereigns greedy but also the two Sovereign monsters, the traps in that area, and Bella's friend.

Gulp!

'They're drinking his blood!' She looked at the man fixed to a cross, who was very weak, pale, and shriveled like a balloon that had lost too much gas.

Beneath the man was a container from which his blood was slowly dripping, a sign that he had already lost a great deal of blood.

'Poor man...' Layla thought as she clenched her fists.

She was part of an organization that had fought many Dark Path magicians. When she encountered creatures from that path, she naturally felt a strong hostility and a desire to act.

Seeing that unconscious body was enough to make her angry, and she felt that it would be a shame to leave such a person behind.

She didn't know if that man was alive or dead, but even if he were, it would be a shame to leave his body behind to be consumed by those monsters.

'I will get his body out of here and take some of these resources with me. Maybe he can still be saved with the help of the right resources.' She looked at the pile of magic items the monsters had collected to lure Vicente to this place.

Identifying the items with the greatest healing properties, life force, and positive elemental affinities, she decided what to take before leaving this place with Bella's friend.

'I will attract the attention of the 4th stage lich one way or another. I'll get the resources I need first. He won't expect me to try to save this man.' She thought to herself before finally entering the large crypt that housed the strongest of The Skull City.

Chapter 549 Lich vs. Layla?

As Layla entered the crypt, the ghost that was recovering from Vicente's earlier blow and the lich immediately sensed her presence among them.

They both turned their attention toward the woman, realizing that someone else had appeared to challenge them before the enemy they had expected to face.

"Shit! Quick, neutralize her, or we'll lose our efforts!" The ghost shouted from inside its cocoon, unable to do much against Layla while it was still wounded.

The lich got up and tried to move towards the woman, already casting a spell over the area and making its monsters move.

"Damned woman! Stop right there!" It shouted as it realized that Layla was too fast for it to hit her with any of its spells!

It tried to hit her with some of its special methods, but all of its blows were missed.

Meanwhile, the monsters that had moved first in front of Layla were completely destroyed as she passed through them.

Bones and body parts littered the area as Layla quickly gathered the items she had planned to collect.

The lich didn't dare to approach Layla, so it tried to stop her by using its spells on the area they were in.

"I may not be able to hit you, but you still have to use the ground to move!" It said with a malicious voice, casting a spell and directing it at the ground.

Immediately after it moved, the red earth in that area turned black while the entire underground area of The Skull City shook.

Layla saw the patch of blackened ground in her path and noted that she would have a problem if she were touched by the terrifying dark mist spreading around her.

Then she looked at the walls of that place and her final destination there. Having gathered everything she wanted, she left, running very fast across the untransformed area of the floor until she reached the walls there.

As she ran in a spiral path along the walls and then along the ceiling, the ghost and the 4th-stage lich were shocked to see her appear next to the unconscious body of the human on the cross.

"Shit! She can do that?" The lich shouted as it saw the unconscious man's body appear on Layla's back.

Layla was so fast that even these Sovereigns couldn't see her every move. Only parts of her movement were visible as she moved in front of them.

'Follow her immediately! If she warns the other of our plans, we're screwed!' The ghost said in its companion's mind as Layla left the area, passing through the bodies of the monsters there as if they were nothing.

The lich had no skin, but it felt as if it was completely sweaty and did not hesitate to move, using a special spell on itself to enhance its physical features.

Then it ran after her, a little slower than Layla but fast enough to keep the gray-haired woman in its grasp for some time.

As it moved, it cast spells at her, trying to block her path and make her movement less efficient.

Layla saw several of the enemy's attacks pass close to her as she dodged the obstacles in her path, expending much of her mana in the process.

She was faster than her opponent and could keep up the pursuit for a while. But she had less mana than her opponent and was sure to run out before it!

'Shit! I've got to find Vicente!' She thought, imagining she would be in big trouble in 10 to 15 minutes.

...

Layla didn't return to get Bella out of the underground area. Still, the green-haired woman noticed what was happening as she witnessed part of the lich's pursuit of her ally.

She didn't know if her companion was with Layla or not, but Bella was confident that whatever it was, there was nothing she could do.

Then she left her place and headed for the surface of The Skull City, as this area was naturally safer than the local underground.

Bella thought about leaving The Skull City and waiting for Layla outside this cursed place, but she considered that her temporary companion might need her help later.

'I'll wait 30 minutes.' Bella thought to herself. 'If Layla manages to lose the Sovereign and comes to me, I can help her get out of the city.'

She went to a place where they arranged to meet in case of any trouble that might force them apart.

...

While Layla ran and Bella went to her waiting place, Vicente was in the same place as before.

Inside his consciousness space, Torne finished absorbing the resource that Vicente had used hours ago to help this ghost.

By now, Torne's magic cultivation had reached the same level as it was before he lost consciousness at the end of the 3rd stage.

However, he still had the opportunity to return to the 4th stage, so he was still focused on finishing the absorption of this power and reaching a more significant fraction of his real power again.

He still wouldn't reach his old strength with this resource, but he would be much closer and useful to Vicente as a slave again.

Vicente smiled as he felt his slave's improvements, but as he did so, he noticed something strange changing in his surroundings.

'What is it?' He noticed a suppressive effect appearing around his body.

It was still fragile, but it was enough for him to notice.

As he changed his expression, trying to understand what could be behind it, Torne made his final move and reached the beginning of the 4th stage!

The old ghost stopped meditating in Vicente's consciousness space and answered his master's questions. 'This is my fault.

There may be 4th-stage ghosts in this place, master. But 4th-

stage magicians are forbidden here. Since I'm connected to you, this cursed city considers you a Sovereign.'

'Oh? So we have to leave?'

'Yes. You won't be punished or expelled right away. But this oppression will gradually increase until the power behind the local curse expels us.' Torne said to Vicente when he correctly read what was happening. 'Then we'd better leave first. That could make us vulnerable to the 4th stage beings.'

Vicente sighed, but he didn't regret leaving this place so soon. However, his goal there was to strengthen Layla and recover Torne. He wasn't sure how the woman was doing, but he had accomplished the most important part of his goal.

So when he got up from where he was sitting, he didn't hesitate to stop hiding, to find Layla, and to leave the city.

Chapter 550 Leaving The Skull City

Layla was almost exhausted when she finally felt Vicente's aura near where she was running.

The 4th stage lich was still chasing her, still attacking her, making trouble appear in her path to force her to slow down and perhaps make a fatal mistake.

She had run almost the entire length of the city to get to this point and was already very worried when she saw the black-haired man appear not far from her.

Seeing Vicente had never felt so good, and of course, her face became more relaxed as she looked into his eyes.

There was a special glow in Vicente's eyes and hair now, and he seemed much stronger than before. At the same time, he seemed more handsome and less annoying than this woman usually considered him.

"Vicente!" She shouted, trying to get his attention.

The lich saw the human it had been trying to lure underground and clasped one of its hands. As much as it had searched for Vicente for hours and now stood in front of such a human, it didn't want to face Vicente.

'Shit! Why do you have to show up now?'

It had used up half of its energy to chase Layla!

Besides, its trap was underground in the city, with most of the monsters it could use against its targets there.

Finding Vicente now wasn't in this creature's plans, so it unconsciously slowed down and thought about what it should do.

The thought of taking Layla hostage and luring Vicente into the underground trap crossed the creature's mind. But capturing Layla wouldn't be easy even now, and there was no guarantee it could escape from Vice.

Vicente seemed stronger to Layla, but he really was stronger!

The lich could feel it very clearly!

So, the monster didn't go ahead with this plan, thinking that its enemy's greed might still give its group a chance to carry out their plans.

Vicente flew toward Layla while looking at the 4th-stage lich, who was alone and wouldn't be much of a threat to him now.

"You succeeded in your advance, Layla. Congratulations." He said to her as he stepped between her and the lich, satisfied that he had accomplished all his plans in this city.

"By the way, who's that on your shoulder?" He looked at the unconscious body of Bella's companion.

"I think it's the one from the Flame of Life who gave the danger signal earlier. Anyway, we'll talk more later." She said while keeping her eyes open, but she finally stopped running.

Vicente understood and soon turned his attention to the lich. "We meet again, huh? Creature, I'm giving you a chance; get out of your way now. We're leaving, and I have nothing to gain by killing you here."

"You're arrogant if you think you can kill me!" The lich said as it looked at the two of them intently.

Vicente would have a hard time killing a 4th stage lich like it. But it could happen, especially considering this young man wasn't alone.

'If he immobilizes me, this woman could help him get rid of me...' The lich thought.

But its thought wasn't enough to make it turn around and go back the way it came. Nothing could guarantee that Vicente wasn't bluffing and would attack it as soon as it turned to go back.

Vicente even seemed stronger than before, which didn't make any sense since this young man was already at the peak of the 3rd stage, and any progress would throw him out of this place.

'What happened to him?' The lich asked itself amidst the silence on both sides. 'I feel he's more threatening than before... Is it because he has a negative elemental affinity?'

He knew that Vicente had taken a pill earlier that would be very dangerous for a magician of the Light Path. But nothing had happened to Vicente, which indicated a negative elemental affinity on the part of this magician.

The lich didn't know the exact origin of Vice's affinity, but it sensed that the young man's empowerment was related to it.

Vicente broke the silence. "Since you won't listen to the voice of reason, leave your head behind."

The moment the lich changed its mood upon hearing this, Vicente moved very quickly, surprising even Layla.

"It can't be!" The skeletal creature saw the human appear right before it so fast it couldn't believe it was a mere Mage.

Vicente really couldn't be considered that!

With Torne's help, he easily raised several of his attributes to become strong enough to deal with the skeleton in front of him.

Vicente stretched out one of his arms and grabbed the lich's neck as metal quickly appeared around his hands, helping him crush the negative creature's neck.

The bones in the creature's neck shattered immediately after Vicente's movement, while the lich's evil aura weakened dizzily.

"What?" Layla shouted in astonishment, not expecting Vicente to actually be able to do such a thing.

But just as she was about to ask her questions, Vicente started to run towards the end of the city as an ominous feeling rose in the surroundings.

"Time to go!" He shouted to her after Torne told him to leave as soon as possible.

By using some of a Sovereign's powers to deal with the problem in his path, he had awakened the rules of this cursed city.

Now, the city was against him, and if he didn't leave immediately, he might have to deal with the punishment the creator of this place had left behind.

Layla had already seen Vicente become much stronger than he should have been for a moment, so she swallowed her questions and went after him to leave this place.

She had collected a lot of things and gotten a head start, so there was no reason for her to stay in this dangerous and disgusting place any longer.

But she remembered Bella and quickly told Vicente they should take a detour out of the city to take the woman with them.

Vicente told her to do so while he led the way, and soon, they reached the lower part of the canyon where the ruins of The Skull City lay.

Along the way, Vicente had to dodge a dozen curse attacks on the city, but since the city was only trying to evade him, the attacks were weaker at first and then grew stronger.

By the time he was actually threatened, he was practically on his way out of the city. So he, Layla, and Bella would soon pass through the spatial distortion in that part of the city. From there, they would arrive at the same place they had entered earlier, where Bella's group was still waiting for her and her companions.