

The Mafia 61

Chapter 61 Vicente's Possibilities?

Vicente knew every step of building a weapon, whether he started with the parts already made or even before the components were produced.

He knew how to get gunpowder, extract the ores needed to produce the weapon's body, and also how to mallet each part of it.

He had learned and produced many types of weapons in his time on Earth. This was a kind of hobby for him!

Even if he didn't have the same materials and machinery as on Earth, he would know how to guide a blacksmith, just as he had done when he paid someone to make the components of his first weapons.

So thinking about Rory's words, he immediately tried to manipulate the metals by striking the wooden dummy to form a weapon.

Vice managed at first to change the shape of these metals to form something outwardly resembling a weapon. However, he soon frowned as he realized his accuracy in forming complex items was not high.

For example, the rifle-shaped barrel of the gun lacked a rifled barrel, something necessary for the accuracy of firing, especially thinking about long-range shots.

Several other internal components necessary for the functioning of this weapon were missing, so when trying to fire it, Vicente failed.

'Hmm, I probably have to improve my control over the power of this Magic Pentagram.' He looked at his surroundings, feeling the power of the Red Pentagram radiating in his body and the space near him.

He then commented to Rory. "No, I can't. I don't know if it's because of my lack of control over my current powers or a lack of understanding. If it's the second, I feel I'll have to become stronger to accomplish that."

"That makes sense... Either way, you shouldn't be far from accomplishing that." Rory said, figuring that was the case judging by the appearance of the rifle created by Vicente.

"But Vice, tell me something, these items that you change the shape of, do they stay that way after you stop using your powers?" Rory asked as he watched his friend moving, attacking, and trying to master his magical abilities on a deeper level.

"I believe so. As much as I'm manipulating these metal components with magic, once they're in a new state, they tend to stay that way."

In short, with or without magic, things tended to stay in the state of least less energy change.

Something in motion tended to stay in motion, and something standing still tended to stay still.

In the case of the items altered by Vicente, magic had changed their forms. Yet, to return to their previous forms, magic would have to be used to make the second change.

In a way, if these items were to return to their forms prior to Vicente's manipulation, it would be like phosphorus returning to its form from the ashes and smoke resulting from its burning.

Vicente realized what was on his friend's mind and narrowed his eyes. "I see... Are you thinking of me producing weapons for our people?"

"Not just weapons, my friend." Rory laughed. "If you can manipulate metal items, you have an affinity for forging. You can become a good blacksmith!"

Vicente hadn't thought of that, but when considering such a thing, what Rory had just said made total sense.

"That's true!" Vicente's eyes twitched.

The powers of his First Magical Gem should be associated with Magnetism. In particular, his first power, coming from the Red Pentagram, should be Matter Manipulation, which gave him the power to alter mostly metals.

On a smaller scale, he could affect the blood flow of living beings, but his main ability would be shape-shifting metals, as he could presently.

Knowing that his magnetic abilities would grow along his journey as a magician, with the addition of more Pentagrams in this Magical Gem, Vicente could notice its compatibility with the profession of people who basically manipulated metals.

Blacksmiths also made use of other minerals, sometimes non-metallic minerals, sometimes even organic components. But the focus of the profession was metals!

With that in mind, Vicente saw a new path ahead of him!

By becoming a blacksmith, he would no longer need to pay for such professionals to develop his weapons, but he could also protect his project by producing his own weapons.

At the same time, if he could manipulate his weapons, maybe there was a way he could program them so they could never turn on him!

That would be just perfect!

As he felt the satisfaction of seeing a new door opening before him, Vicente smiled and moved more aggressively, without realizing it, taking his combat prowess to a new level.

He used some of the metal items in the surroundings to form spheres and then created electromagnetic poles, making some spheres become positively charged and others negatively charged.

Then...

Ka-boom!

A loud bang broke between the spheres, causing Rory to momentarily startle, seeing a flash of light shoot out quickly and then noticing the wooden dummy disappear.

"What? What the fuck was that, Vicente?" He exclaimed while having both of his hands on his ears.

Vicente clenched his fists, understanding his powers better and feeling more compatible with them.

"I have a great affinity with the Lightning element, don't I? Isn't it natural that I can blend the fusion of my elements with the independent use of one of them?"

"Is that possible?" Rory opened his mouth, not knowing one could do that.

"It seems so, haha."

With those words, Vicente stopped manipulating his powers, and everything floating in the surroundings fell to the ground.

Rory felt relief in his body after Vicente stopped using his ability, breathing more deeply.

But neither he nor Vicente was worried about the end of that wooden dummy. They couldn't damage the room's structure, but a doll was made to be pushed to the limit.

If someone who hired the services of this place was strong enough to destroy the dummy, then that was the responsibility of The Archdemon Arena.

Obviously, this institution had its rules, which, for example, prevented anyone stronger than the level of a training room from renting it.

What had motivated Vicente not to choose something lower than a level 3 room was his fear of destroying whatever room he was in, knocking down the walls, and ruining the furniture.

So, when he stopped to drink some water and recover some of his energy, Vicente didn't even look at the ashes of that dummy while Rory stood in silence, judging his friend's level.

"Vice, you are powerful..." He said after a few moments. "If I couldn't see it, I'd say that your talent and Magic Pentagram are not yellow nor red."

But that must be the effect of having such a strange Magical Gem.

Congratulations, my friend, you can go far, and achieving your ambitions will be less difficult than we thought."

Before he considered that Vice and he would have to use the influence they built up to pay for assassins or powerful magicians to deal with the revenge they would go after. But with such impressive power on their side, things could be different!

There was a long way to go, a difficult and dangerous one, one that could very well still be impossible. But compared to before, now they had much more to rely on to go for their goals!

Vicente nodded to Rory but didn't invest in the matter. He merely finished drinking his water and said. "I'm going to meditate for 15 minutes to recover. How about we fight a bit afterward?"

Chapter 62 Duel of Friends 1

After Vicente's question, Rory looked at his friend strangely. "Are you crazy? If we train together now, you'll hurt me! We should at least wait for you to get better control of your ability."

This was indeed a problem to think about.

Just as Vicente had learned to control his body with the new characteristics after his Awakening, he needed to control the power coming from his Pentagonagram.

But since that was a power more connected to him than using his mana to strengthen his body because it was ingrained in his being, Vicente felt he could quickly control that ability.

"Hmm, you think so? How about this? I won't attack. I'll just defend myself while you attack me. That should be enough for me to understand my abilities better.

By the end of this six-hour period, I'll probably be able to control myself well enough. Then we can have an actual confrontation."

Rory thought silently about this proposal and agreed after a moment.

Vicente was smarter than him in terms of combat, use of magic, and ability to understand and read the world's reality.

Since Rory himself had mastered the power of his Pentagram in less than a day, he judged that by the end of those hours of training, Vicente would have enough control to not put him in danger.

"Alright."

With that said, the minutes passed, and when Vice had recovered enough to expose his combat skills again, he and Rory positioned themselves in opposite corners of the room.

When one looked at the other and indicated he was ready, Vicente tossed a wooden sphere into the air, something his powers could not interfere with.

He and Rory circulated the mana in their bodies, making their Magical Gems glow brighter while their Red Pentagrams appeared.

The metallic items from earlier floated in Vicente's surroundings while an inexplicable wind arose inside that totally closed room, from where only an air duct ventilated the place.

But this was a wind that felt like the gaseous displacement during a storm, not the airflow coming from a duct.

Along with that wind, orange flames appeared in Rory's hands as he positioned himself to attack Vicente.

When the wooden sphere touched the ground, the looks on both their faces changed, and they both moved!

Vicente already knew Rory's skill, so he promptly manipulated those metal items in his surroundings to create shields.

On the other hand, Rory did not delay and soon exposed the power of his magical form, Explosion!

When Air and Fire merged, a glow appeared. Flames exploded strongly in front of Vicente, raising the temperature of the entire room, while small orange blades formed from the explosion, heading in different directions under Rory's control.

Rory's ability was Explosion, something related to his Magical Gem. But with his first Pentagram, that power showed itself through the formation of small blades of fire, a mixture of Air and Fire that could create micro explosions when it hit its target.

Vicente had yet to feel Rory's power in combat, but almost instantly, upon the activation of his friend's ability, he realized how destructive that was.

From one hour to the next, a strong explosion hit one of his shields, destroying part of its structure, while fragments flew toward Vicente.

Noticing this, Vice did not stop to admire the destructive power of his friend nor the structural weakness of the defenses he had formed.

He knew that if he were hit by one of these arrows, he would suffer much pain even if his life was not in danger.

Vicente immediately moved his hands and controlled the fragments flying towards him, putting some of his attention on moving the other shields flying in his surroundings, making them shift.

Vicente would not attack Rory at this time, but even limited, he could greatly improve his understanding of his own powers just by defending himself.

Noticing that his items were fragile despite looking strong, Vicente focused more on increasing the complexity of those structures, making each shield vibrate and subtly change shape.

He saw that some of his friend's flame arrows passed through the spaces between their shields and moved, dodging so fast at the last moment to get hit that Rory couldn't intervene and change the direction of his blades.

They all missed Vice and hit the ground, exploding in different parts of that combat area, but destroying nothing, given the power level of that attack was lower than what the room could handle.

"You sure are fast!" Rory commented aloud, seeing that his friend's magical ability was powerful and Vice's physical features had evolved much more than he thought.

"But how will you dodge that, Vice?" Rory smiled as he joined several of his small blades together, forming one as large as a normal-sized spear.

Seeing that thing moving towards him under Rory's control, Vice stopped moving and concentrated all his defenses in front of his body.

He felt drops of sweat forming on his face and placed his two hands forward, slightly above his head, while controlling his power with his hands.

All of his shields merged into a single metal barrier, 10 centimeters thick.

Unfortunately, there was no more free metal in the surroundings. Otherwise, Vicente felt he could demonstrate a much thicker barrier!]

Boom!

Then, attack and defense collided, and when the strong explosion of that Rory blade came, Vicente shouted while holding the shield in front of him.

"Aaagh!"

He felt parts of his shield being destroyed as the explosion changed the metallic elements, decreasing the amount of matter Vice had at his disposal.

"That's a good skill, Rory!" He shouted amidst the explosion, holding his defenses as best he could.

...

Hours after Rory attacking and Vicente defending himself inside one of The Archdemon Arena's training rooms, they finally reached the last 30 minutes they had before their time was up.

After hours of 'fighting,' both had improved their skills, one having understood more of his powers and skyrocketed his control over them and the other having noticed several problems he had to improve.

Throughout the fight, Vicente learned to better control his powers to strengthen the structures he created.

He had a lot of potential with his ability. Still, without good initial control over it, he had suffered in the early moments of the fight.

But throughout the fight, Vicente significantly improved his control, bringing his defensive capabilities up to the level of offensive power he had previously demonstrated.

By the end of the last fight, or rather the last attack and defense session, he had managed to completely exhaust his friend just by defending himself!

Vice had not suffered any injuries in that last fight, and even though he had not attacked once, he looked like the real winner of the fight!

As for Rory, he had lost his edge throughout the fight, but it had shown him important points he needed to improve, something very good for a young magician to realize early on in his journey.

He looked at Vice after recovering and asked. "You still need a bit more challenge to finish controlling your powers, right? Shall we fight at least once for real?"

Chapter 63 Duel of Friends 2

With Rory's invitation, Vicente immediately nodded with intent to continue training.

As much as Vice would have the upper hand in the confrontation, the point there was to have an opponent for him to better master his skills, not to have profound glimpses of how to elevate his characteristics further.

To train his control over his abilities, Vicente could even do it alone. But in combat against an opponent would always be better than training alone when the strengths of the two were in the same realm.

A weaker opponent was still an opponent who acted independently and could create surprises, which would never happen in one-on-one training.

With both 100% recovered from the last 'fight,' Vicente and Rory activated their powers again, this time with one setting off towards the other the moment a wooden sphere hit the ground.

Directing the surrounding air at Vicente, infusing his flames into the wind current, Rory tried to push his opponent away.

Simultaneously, Vicente already knew that Rory would try to disrupt him with his explosive abilities, so he quickly created several lightning bolts on the outskirts of the training room, targeting his friend's feet.

Vicente didn't want to hit Rory and hurt him. But he also didn't want to leave this guy quiet enough to sustain the magic pentagram providing power to his attacks.

In this magical world, one did not need to cast spells to activate the abilities coming from their Magic Pentagrams. But to keep that ability in use, one had to consciously maintain the flow of mana through the gem and pentagram that was in use.

If anything disturbed the order of these steps, one would lose control over their ability, and it would naturally fade after a few seconds.

Thinking of forcing his friend to lose by not being able to maintain his attacks, Vicente promptly began to pressure Rory with blasts of lightning capable of making even magicians stronger than this young redhead shiver.

"Shit!"

Rory moved a few steps backward, dodging Vicente's attacks.

As he did so, he noticed the floor becoming more slimy and frowned.

'Earth is really annoying to counter...' He lowered his hands as orange flames sprang up in them, touching the ground and conjuring a spell.

Then the ground in the vicinity of up to 1.5 meters away from Rory combusted, countering Vice's spell.

Both Vice and Rory could cast spells with their elements and even a mixture of them.

One didn't need to learn a spell in a book to be able to learn things compatible with their magical nature. Some basic uses of magic came naturally to the minds of magicians when they awakened their powers or grew stronger.

In a way, it was like an instinct.

To make a spell, one wouldn't need much. They would just need to circulate their mana in their Magical Gem and make the necessary commands to form the spell.

Sometimes this could be in the form of words laden with intent. Still, in other circumstances, one could simply make hand seals and generate the same effect as if one had spoken something.

The most talented magicians could cast spells without speaking or gesturing, which worked based on their thoughts alone!

Vicente saw the entire floor around Rory burn, and his spell lost its effect, but he was not surprised. In some instances, Fire could damage Earth.

He made a few gestures with his hands, and soon after, the blades in his surroundings cut closer to Rory, heading towards the young man's arms and legs.

In an instant, the battle shifted from a small advantage in Vice's favor to a large gap between the two. He pressed Rory while working to not hit his friend, only to make his artifacts pass close enough to scare the red-haired young man.

Rory managed to get a dozen explosions to disrupt Vicente's plans, but after five minutes of fighting pretty much on the defensive, he couldn't bear to continue much longer and decided to make an attack.

Having already realized that Vicente strangely had a lot more energy to fight than he did, Rory made his last move, attacking for the first time in this last training match.

Orange flames covered all of Rory's surroundings, causing Vicente to momentarily have to cover his eyes.

Instantly after this strong explosion, a column of fire followed Vicente's body, giving him no time to react.

Vice's eyes were covered, but he felt the mana shift in the surroundings with his senses, noticing that he would be hit.

He put his two arms in front of his face and radiated most of his mana into them.

Boom!

"Aaaaagh!"

Rory's attack exploded over Vicente's arms, burning some of the black-haired young man's clothes and making smoke in the surroundings.

A second later, the large explosion around Rory cast aside the previous luminosity, revealing the situation of the exhausted red-haired young man, now surrounded by blades targeting different parts of his body.

Even screaming in pain, Vicente kept his blades focused on Rory, each floating near the red-haired man's vital points, who was sweating and breathing heavily.

"I lost." Rory grinned as he couldn't take it anymore and fell to the ground.

Vicente pulled his arms away from him, ignoring the burns on them, smiling as he, too, felt exhausted.

Vice wasn't happy about the victory, but with this training, he thought he would no longer expose as much of his powers as he had done when activating his Red Pentagon for the first time.

He could now use his abilities at a much lower level, to the level that he could even face someone of Rory's power without threatening such a person's life.

As for the wound on his arms, that was nothing to him.

As much as it hurt, he had only had 1st-stage burns, the kind that, with his mana boosting his regeneration, he would no longer have the burn marks the next day.

Vicente was actually a lot stronger than Rory, and he hadn't shown his full potential in that brief match with his best friend!

He sighed and sat down on the floor, unconsciously waving at his water bottle and moving it to his hands.

Vicente looked at that bottle that had very little metal in its constitution and smiled. 'I had forgotten about that...

It seems that I unconsciously only pushed away what was most obviously affected by me. Even at my level, I can choose what I manipulate with my ability!"

Rory looked at Vicente and asked. "Hah... Hah... What do we do now?"

Taking a deep breath, Vicente soon said to Rory. "We're leaving tomorrow morning for Martell Village. After tomorrow night, I want to be back by then to start implementing our plans.

I'll finish this training during the trip in the Crow Woods."

"What about forging? Are you really going to become a blacksmith? That would be a good activity to cover your real position in this society."

Vice smiled. "Yes, I will do that, but only after we start with our plans."

With that said, they rested for the remaining minutes of their time in this room, and at the end of the six-hour period, the two returned to their estate to continue with preparations for their quick trip to Martell Village.

Chapter 64 Magical Beings?

The next day, Vicente and his group left Millfall at dawn, setting off in their carriage back to Martell Village to pick up Eve and Nina.

Vicente had been communicating with his sister and Eve through letters since he arrived in Millfall. So he knew what had happened during this time in the village, and they knew the time was approaching for them to move out of the village.

Vicente had already sent a letter in a bird shortly after awakening his powers, warning them to prepare their bags for departure to Millfall.

Vicente's subordinates were also already aware, and those who would not stay in the village to maintain the Fuller family operation locally were prepared for their move.

The construction of the place where these men would work was already well advanced, and soon they would be able to live in that other place that Vicente had bought in Millfall.

With that, everything was ready for this move, and in a matter of hours, Vicente and Rory would arrive in the village!

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Sometime after leaving Millfall, Vicente's group stopped on the dirt road between that town and Martell Village, noticing a fallen tree trunk in front of their group.

Stopping the carriage a few dozen meters from that trunk, the man commanding the horses frowned while his companions already had weapons in their hands.

Problems like this on roads were classic signs of criminal activity, so they all became alert when observing their surroundings, acting more cautiously.

"Rory, blow up that log," Vice said as he noticed the situation outside the carriage.

Rory and Vicente then left their carriage, with the red-haired young man closing his eyes and activating his ability while the black-haired fellow observed the surroundings.

An orange bow appeared in one of Rory's hands, and an arrow arose in the other as he molded his power to the best of his judgment.

A skill could be used in 'n' different ways. It all depended on its owner's ability to manipulate it and their creativity in thinking of alternative ways to use their powers.

Rory then fired that explosive arrow, making that orange glow move as fast as an ordinary arrow, hitting the middle of that trunk in the blink of an eye.

Then, as it collided with that long piece of wood, which didn't have much mana in it, given the poverty of mana in the area, it exploded, turning it into countless wood fragments.

The wood fragments flew in endless directions, heading for the outskirts of the forest but also for the position of Vicente's carriage.

The yellow pentagram on Vice's forehead shone brightly, and lightning appeared over the group, covering them like a cage of lightning.

All the fragments heading toward the group were destroyed until only dust was left behind. In contrast, the group's personnel remained prepared to act, either with their weapons or magical abilities.

Then, animalistic grunts arose from the surroundings of that area, indicating how many beings were around, probably trying to ambush Vicente's group.

"This sound..."

"Magical creatures?" The most experienced one there exclaimed as Vicente and Rory realized that they would face this kind of creature for the first time.

There were several types of magical creatures in Polaris Realm. There were the simpler ones, animals capable of using mana, usually called beasts. But there were also other types of beings, such as trolls, elves, dwarves, fairies, and giants. The list of beings was long.

In this area of Polaris Realm, the most common were beasts. Still, there were relative sightings of other types of magical beings.

Each race had its own characteristics depending on its origin, with some simply being very strong physically, while others had incredible magical abilities.

This was the case with elves and fairies, beings blessed by mana.

Conversely, Giants were extremely powerful physically but had no control over mana to form spells.

Vicente frowned as he heard the sounds of the beings in the surroundings and prepared himself.

A second later, a group of green creatures with humanoid bodies and strange faces, all of them with big noses and huge mouths that showed their sharp teeth.

Several of them had blood trails on their long arms, showing the signs of the previous log explosion.

They grunted some things to Vicente's group, but there was no way one side could understand the other.

Magical creatures had their ways of communicating with different beings, but for that, one of the two sides had to reach at least the 3rd stage.

Mages could alter their words by infusing mana into them, something that transformed them into a kind of sound understandable to beings of other races.

But with no one there at such a magical stage, neither side could dialog with the other.

"Goblins? Those creatures are scarce in this region!" Rory exclaimed as he held his position on guard.

"Besides, several of them are Intermediate Apprentices!" Vicente said, looking at the surroundings, counting 15 opponents, 6 of them at that level and 9 at the same level as Rory.

"What do we do, boss?" The oldest of Vicente's men asked, holding his rifle and aiming at the head of one of these creatures.

"What can we do besides kill them all?" Vicente said. "They are in our way, so kill them!"

With his authorization, those men no longer held back and finally squeezed the triggers of their guns, fulfilling the desire each of them had to kill someone that way.

Having weapons was a fantastic thing, but after the initial training, someone with such a powerful artifact in hand, like these men, could sometimes feel a certain desire to kill.

As strong-minded magicians, they would not go out, causing unnecessary massacres. But if a problem came their way and called for the use of these weapons, they would use them with a smile on their faces!

In this situation, they all demonstrated this by pressing the triggers of their weapons and firing at the strongest goblins.

Bang!

Four 'bangs' sounded, and four bodies fell on the outskirts of that narrow passage, where the group of goblins practically surrounded Vicente's carriage.

But even before these green creatures, armed with different kinds of weapons and some even with small armor, tried to escape, Vicente and Rory acted.

As the most talented ones there, who had recently awakened their powers and wished to unleash some of their skills against real enemies, there was no way these two would use their weapons in place of their powers.

Promptly upon hearing his friend, Rory utilized his powers and targeted the weakest enemies, directing several small orange arrows in their direction.

Simultaneously, Vicente felt the attraction of the metallic objects on some of the goblins and smiled, clenching one of his hands as a Red Pentagram appeared around him, and one of those beings began to scream in agony.

Unexpectedly, that goblin dressed in metal armor felt his whole body being clutched by the item around his torso, arms, and legs.

A second later, as the bodies of some of that goblin's companions fell to the ground with punctures in their heads, his face turned extremely red and then exploded.

Boom!

Blood and flesh exploded from inside the head of that Intermediate Apprentice goblin, scaring not only the other green creatures still standing but even the people in Vicente's group.

Gulp!

"What?"

Chapter 65 Back at Home

Seeing Vicente crush a large part of the body of that goblin, one of the strongest in the surroundings, the eldest of their group opened his mouth in shock, exclaiming loudly. "What?"

The other weaker ones also saw that, noticing blood and flesh flying toward them.

With no time to react to the unexpected, they all felt parts of their bodies and clothes being stained by the goblin's remains.

While some weaker goblins exploded under Rory's skill, the still-untouched ones didn't think too much and tried to run away.

"Not so fast!" Vicente said before the metallic items on the bodies of those or the other already fallen goblins in the surroundings floated away, quickly changing shape.

Several small spears formed and pierced through those fleeing bodies, marking the end of this group.

Vicente felt the pleasure of using his abilities without limit but also with 100% control over it.

He smiled, looking down at his hands, where he felt most comfortable controlling his ability.

But make a mistake. Vicente could command his first ability with mere thoughts if he so chose.

Seeing the situation resolved, Rory looked at his friend, smiling. "Vice, did you need all that? You just wanted to use some of your skills, right?"

"My bad. I think I got your clothes a little dirty, guys." Vicente put aside the good feeling of using his powers, looking at his men.

But immediately, they said he shouldn't apologize. It was only natural that he should act powerfully against creatures in his path!

Hell, if it was any of them who had this terrifying power, any one of them would have stopped the others in the group from acting and would have dealt with all the enemies by themselves!

"Boss, you are really strong! I didn't know your skill would be this extreme!" One of the younger ones commented, as this was the first time they had all seen Vicente in action.

Vicente smiled but didn't invest in it, quickly changing the subject. "Now that they're dead collect the belongings on those bodies. Bring it all to me."

Minutes later, the group's men piled up all the belongings they managed to take from those bodies and stacked them in 3 piles in front of Vicente and Rory.

In one of them were the coins they had found with those creatures.

Magical creatures valued coins in the same way as magicians.

Not every magical creature was welcomed by magicians, and many were not welcome in cities. But there were some merchants willing to do business with any creatures. So beings like these dead goblins could do business with magicians and other races using coins.

They all knew it was not strange to find coins in creatures like that, and soon Vicente and Rory collected about 5,000 bronze coins and 50 silver coins.

In another pile were the items Vicente manipulated, something he turned into parts of what looked like armor.

He had manipulated it to cover parts of his body, but the purpose of it was not defensive, as one might imagine at first glance!

Rory had quickly realized that. 'These are weapons in Vicente's hands.'

As for the last pile, it contained various kinds of crystals, gems, in general, valuable items, which none of them knew what they were for but which they were aware had value.

Creatures like goblins stole a lot, so these must have been spoils accumulated over time.

With all these items collected, they made their way back to the village.

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Hours later, the midday sun was already high in the sky when Vicente and Rory's carriage entered the first street of Martell Village.

As they passed the entrance to the village, the two young men observed the old houses of this place through the windows of the carriage, waving to some acquaintances who noticed them on their way to the central part of the village.

Everyone there knew the two, and seeing them back in the village, many couldn't help but smile and say warm words to them.

It was always nice when a young man from the village returned!

This was especially true for the most prominent local merchant, responsible for many of the local jobs of inhabitants unrelated to noble powers.

In this favorable mood, the group arrived before the Fuller estate.

"Eve, we're back," Rory said as he entered the residence's front door in front of Vicente.

Arriving there, the two young men saw a scene that neither of them expected.

Eve was pressed against a wall, with two men holding her down, while a young blond man was standing in front of her, holding a shotgun in his hands.

This tall, strong, well-dressed young man was not pointing his gun at Eve but rather watching it with a gleam in his eye.

He seemed totally lost in his reveries while his two henchmen looked at the entrance door, where two young men had just stopped after one of them opened it.

Vicente frowned and looked directly at where Eve was, seeing some purple marks around her body.

Rory also changed his expression and ignored the many luggage and boxes in the surroundings to look at the people there.

"Hell, who are you, people? What do you think about coming in here like this?" One of the two men holding Eve against the wall shouted.

The young man finally realized Vice and Rory's entrance there and looked at them. He pointed that gun in his hands at the one who seemed to be stronger, given his Green Magic Gem, and shouted. "You shouldn't go into places without knocking first... Now you will have to die!"

He moved his right index finger on the trigger, mischievously smiling as he imagined the scene that would unfold in front of him.

Bang!

At that instant, a bullet shot toward Rory's chest, giving the young man no time to react.

Clang!

But in the middle of the bullet's path, a solid metallic surface suddenly appeared, blocking this attack that could easily take the life of even an unprepared Senior Apprentice.

Rory paled as he realized what had just happened, knowing the trouble he would have been in if that had hit him.

Gulp!

Vicente ignored his friend's shock and stepped forward.

Instantly after that, the gun in that young man's hands flew out of his hands and turned on its head.

Not only that, the pistols in the hands of those men, being pointed at Eve's head, moved as well, stopping pointed at their napes as they made contact with such a part of those men's bodies.

"It looks like we have a problem here, huh?" Vicente closed his eyes as he had one of his hands in his pocket and the other a little bit forward, in a position that seemed to be holding something.

In front of his dominant hand was a red pentagram, indicating to everyone there that the phenomenon in the surroundings was his doing.

Then, the sounds of those guns being loaded rang out, and those people shivered in fear. "Eve, what happened here? Where is Nina?"

Chapter 66 Betrayal?

Upon encountering this sudden change of situation, Eve was silent momentarily but quickly moved away from the two men who had been pressing her moments ago.

She looked at those much stronger men than her, Intermediate Apprentice, moments ago so confident but now sweating in fear of death.

'Bastards!' She thought, but given Vice's questions and the incredible power he was demonstrating, she quickly went to his side and explained.

"Vicente, these people showed up this morning in the village, and sometime after Nina left for the academy, they knocked on our door.

They carried our weapons and demanded information about you and how to make our guns. I don't know who they got these weapons from, but I think that if one of our group of merchants wasn't killed by them, then there is a traitor in our group."

Vicente's eyes narrowed at those words.

"I hope that is not the case. Treason is punishable by death in our family." He reminded his people in the surroundings, where those who had accompanied him and Rory had already entered that house and were aiming their weapons at the three strangers under Vice's aim.

He looked at his men and ordered. "Go to the Academy of Stars and secure Nina's situation. I'll pick her up later."

"Yes, boss!"

"So... So you're the person behind those weapons?" The young blond man with a shotgun pointed at his head asked in a low voice as he heard Vicente's dialog with those people.

Vicente ignored him and asked Eve. "Who are these? I don't know them."

Eve responded. "I only know what they told me minutes ago. From the words of those two, this blond man must be the son of a Baron."

"Baron?" Rory narrowed his eyes, for that would only make everything more complicated.

"That's right. I am Baron Irwin's third son!" The young blond said confidently, feeling he could get away with threatening these people. "Put down your gun immediately, Vicente! If you don't want trouble with a nobleman, hand over the secret of these weapons to me and kneel.

I will consider forgiving your insolence!"

Eve and Rory looked at Vicente in silence, knowing this was a bad way to talk to someone like him. Still, the young descendant of the local nobility had his advantages.

Threatening a noble was a crime throughout the kingdom, something that carried the punishment of magical crippling.

Magical crippling was nothing more than the destruction of the Magical Gem, which led to the loss of one's magical powers.

But Vicente was a criminal who saw no problem going against the laws!

"You have a lot of confidence for a third son. You're not even a noble, but you act like it..." Vicente commented in a deep tone while remaining still. "You won't keep your mouth shut if I let you go. You'll bring me endless trouble as long as you breathe."

Bang!

The shotgun moved, and a glow came from its barrel. In a single instant, it fired a bullet loaded with mana, which went through the head of this descendant of the local nobility.

The two subordinates of Baron Irwin's third son trembled uncontrollably at the sight, not believing Vicente's audacity and coolness in killing someone so calmly.

As the body of that young blond man was falling on the floor, metal sheets flew from Vicente's body, in a single instant covering that now lifeless body, forming a metallic urn.

Eve looked at Vicente with wide eyes, not expecting him to be so decisive.

"That... That was rash! He was the son of a nobleman!" She exclaimed.

Rory closed his eyes and sighed but said nothing.

Vicente explained. "Better dead than alive.

And there is not so much difference between threatening and killing a nobleman's son. Dead, at least he can't talk about us."

"What do you have in mind?" Rory asked, feeling there was no point in questioning what had happened since there was no turning back now.

Vicente pressed the heads of the men under his aim with his two guns a little harder and said. "Speak what you know, or you will suffer the same fate as that fool.

And don't threaten me. I really don't like that."

Gulp!

One of them then opened his mouth. "Senior, don't do that! I'll say anything you want. Just don't kill me!"

"Tell me where you got these weapons from. Was it from one of my men? A traitor?"

"We found those weapons 2 days ago, near the village, senior. On that occasion, we were traveling to Millfall when we came across a group recently attacked by something.

This group had a few men, some of whom had died in combat. But there were 2 men armed with these weapons.

The young master took an interest in these weapons, and we approached them, attacking them without giving them a chance to defend themselves."

After doing so, they quickly found out where those people were from because of the identity of the merchant who was in that group.

They collected the weapons and went to the village to find out who was behind these weapons and get the method of producing them.

With something like this, their young master could deal with his older brothers and eventually become Baron Irwin!

Even becoming a Viscount would not be out of his reach if he was lucky!

Unfortunately for him, who was in the middle of his path was Vicente...

Vice briefly heard the story and strangely felt like that man was telling him the truth.

He looked at the other man and asked. "Does anyone else in the Irwin family know about these weapons?"

"No! The young master wanted to use it as a secret weapon against his brothers!"

"Good!"

Bang!

Bang!

Two more shots came from those guns, killing the two remaining men.

Vicente looked at Rory and finally answered his friend's question. "The Irwin family wasn't exactly who we were going to attack first in Millfall, but since they might eventually turn against us, we'll act against them first."

The Irwin family was one of the noble houses near this village, which was based in Millfall.

This family had come to the attention of Vicente and Rory before they moved to Millfall, as they both knew about the names of the main noble families in the area.

In Vicente's case, he had first heard about this family through Andrew.

"The Irwin family?" Rory muttered, knowing that this family was not like their previous targets, who were involved in a range of problems that would make them stand alone when they attacked them.

But Vicente had no choice. "Whether we attack the Irwin family or not, they have the potential to become an enemy. In that case, before we make enemies in Millfall, we can simply focus our actions against this house."

Damage control was what Vicente had in mind.

Rory and Eve understood that point, and she asked. "What about those bodies? Killing them in our house can quickly create problems for us."

"But what if they didn't disappear here?" Vicente smiled, thinking of something to solve this situation he had created.

Chapter 67 Necessary Change?

As Vicente smiled, Eve and Rory felt the mana in their surroundings change, and the three corpses covered by metal surfaces reappeared, showing their pierced heads.

The Red Pentagram in front of Vicente moved as his right hand manipulated it, and the metals changed shape, attacking those bodies.

Eve and Rory heard the sound of flesh being pierced and watched for a moment what Vicente intended.

But soon, the young redhead realized what his friend's plan was.

"You're not..."

"Yes, I will manipulate their bodies in the light of day," Vicente said while making them stand in front of them as if they were still alive.

Vicente finished placing metals under the bones of these men and used one of them to raise one of his hands and wave it toward them.

"Can you do that?"

Vicente smiled at Rory. "This is nothing. I'm just manipulating the metal I put into their bodies. It's not so different from manipulating metal in the air. The difference is just that I have to be a little careful not to destroy their bodies."

Eve was open-mouthed watching this, still amazed at the abilities Vicente had awakened.

"But what about the punctures in their heads?"

Rory answered in Vicente's place this time. "That's easy. We just put hats on their heads, and no one will see."

"The perforations in their bodies that I made to put my metals in them are under their clothes too, so no one will notice them. Anyway, we'll make them leave the village after leaving our house. We'll dispose of their bodies in the Crow Wood." Vicente added.

"But..."

"Eve, don't worry. While we were on our way here, we were attacked by a group of goblins. We can use that to confuse Baron Irwin's family about the disappearance of one of his sons." Rory commented, seeing that she was worried.

"Goblins? Near the village?"

"We were surprised too," Vicente replied. "But being only the third son, the chances of deep investigations happening are low."

Nobles have a terrible habit of killing their family members and people with whom they have even minor disagreements... There will be many suspects before we are implicated."

With that said, they didn't take long to organize their exit from this place, secretly entering the carriage of the young Irwin family member's group before Vice manipulated them to enter it by themselves.

If someone were paying attention and using their skills to look in their direction, it would be possible for someone to notice that something wrong was going on there. After all, Vicente was using his ability, and the mana in the surroundings was a bit agitated.

But in a village where people were not so suspicious of each other, where there were also no strong or brave people to get involved in disconnected problems with them, no one noticed the action thought up by Vicente and Rory.

In a few minutes, their group left the village and entered the Crow Wood, where they would eventually dispose of those bodies after looting their items.

To be sure, Vicente didn't take any magical artifacts from that young blond man, getting only coins and things that couldn't be tracked.

He naturally retrieved his metals and weapons from those people's belongings, increasing the amount of metal in his armor.

...

After 2 hours, Vicente, Rory, and Eve returned to the village, this time on foot, since they had left behind the carriage and horses of that group.

They made their way around the sides of the village and did their best to reach the main streets without being noticed by anyone.

Cautiously following part of their route, the three soon arrived in front of the Academy of Stars building, where several children could be seen playing.

It was almost time for the students to leave, so they didn't have to wait long, and soon a young girl with black hair, dressed all in black, alongside several men, appeared coming towards them.

Seeing her brother, Nina lost her usual calm manner and ran up to him with a smile on her face, overjoyed to see Vicente back.

"Big brother!" This young girl of about 8 jumped into his arms, looking at her big brother's forehead and feeling very proud.

As much as it was yellow, his Magic Gem was very unusual!

"Big brother, congratulations on awakening your powers!" She said as she felt her brother's bear hug.

"Hmm, Nina, I'm here to take you to Millfall. I know you'd still have a week of classes at the Academy of Stars, but I don't think it would make much difference for you to stay another week. What do you think?" He made several signs as he spoke to her.

Nina immediately agreed with him, eager to go to Millfall, a city much bigger than the village, with much more possibilities for her.

Nina liked the village, but she preferred bigger cities, places with a lot of movement on the streets and where she wouldn't have to wait for days or venture on the roads to get certain things.

On the other hand, due to her deafness, she didn't have many friendships at the Academy of Stars and would miss almost none of her classmates.

Living in Millfall as soon as possible would also be a fresh start for her!

With his sister's answer, Vice took her in his arms and headed back to his family home along with his guards, Rory and Eve, without touching the subject of those people from earlier.

They would meet some people on the way, but the group would quickly arrive at that residence where other men from Vice's warehouse were already to report for the start of the trip.

While holding Nina in his arms, Vicente looked at those men; they were all well-armed with pistols and rifles. "Guys, start putting our luggage and boxes in the wagons.

I have something to take care of before our departure, but it won't take long. Do as settled, and I'll join you later."

Rory stepped forward and said. "In the meantime, I will take care of you and inform you of some problems..."

Vicente left with his sister, leaving Rory to explain what had happened to one of the groups of merchants under their protection.

In the meantime, he went to the house of one of his allied merchants in this village, interested in talking about it.

Incidents happen, but they should take extra care with people or groups like young Irwin's when traveling.

Vicente had already counted on the possibility of his weapons falling into the hands of strangers in the future, and that did not worry him so much because his weapons needed ammunition.

Without that ammunition, something only he knew how to do since it didn't involve magic, one wouldn't be able to use any of it.

On the other hand, if one puts in more power than the weapon can handle, it could be damaged by the shot.

In short, such weapons falling into the hands of those who should not was not a problem.

The problem was someone getting close to him because of those guns!

So things needed to change in the group's operation!

Chapter 68 Warning and Invitation?

Upon arriving at the house of one of the merchants who was a partner in his partnership, Vicente entered that residence without ceremony, going to that man's office.

"Vicente? What are you doing here? I thought we were only going to meet in 2 months!" That man saw the young man with black hair through the glass on one of the walls of his office and got up in surprise from his seat.

Vicente entered the office and said. "We have problems, so I need you to inform our other partners."

"Problems?" This middle-aged man saw the young black-haired man with a little girl in his arms sit down in front of him, but he continued to stand. "What are you talking about? By the way, shouldn't you be in Millfall?"

Vicente got straight to the point. "Colt is dead. While he was returning to the village, a group of men took advantage of his weakened group after an attack and eliminated them because of their guns."

"What?" That man turned pale upon hearing that, even ignoring the unique Magic Gem on Vicente's forehead.

Vicente deepened his speech, aware of who had died and lost their weapons to young Irwin's group, as his men had already updated him on who was closest to the village in the last few days. "I just killed the people who did that, so, for now, we are safe, and there should be no more guns out of our control. But we need some changes in our methods, or something like this will happen to the rest of the groups."

That man was silent for a moment, his mouth hanging open. "Colt, did he really die? But why? Just because of the guns?"

"It is not safe to leave weapons in sight when they are not being used. You and my men in your group should learn from that lesson. When you need them, use your weapons quickly and put them away. There will be people interested in them, capable of killing you if you are not careful."

Gulp!

"What do we do now?" He understood Vicente's recommendation, but he was still worried.

"Don't think too much about what happened to Colt. I'll take care of the problem, and every trip has its risks, so things haven't changed much for us." Vicente replied as he stood up. "Anyway, I have

some plans that might help us concerning that. But it will take a few months for that to pay off, so for now, be careful.

Anyway, I will absorb most of Colt's business into my part of the partnership, but I will give some of his contracts to you. Expect contact from my people in a couple of weeks."

"OK." This fellow said, not caring how Vicente wanted to handle it.

But he couldn't help complimenting the shape of this young man's gem. "By the way, congratulations on your awakening. I see you have achieved something good in Millfall... Do you intend to use it to develop our society?"

This merchant, as well as the others in their society, did not know about Vicente's criminal plans. But they knew that the move to Millfall was a sign that their society leader intended to raise the group's operations.

"Hmm, I will soon begin talks with local Millfall families. You and the others will be informed of what I accomplish when something is set."

With those words, Vicente set off back to his home.

A mere warning to his group of merchants to be more careful and change their *modus operandi* a bit was enough for now. Besides, they only needed to know that he would develop something to help them further regarding their weapons.

Since they didn't need to know the details, Vicente was soon back at his family's home, where the boxes and bags earlier in its main hall had already been largely put into the group's wagons that would be leaving in a few moments.

Seeing his people finishing preparing the vehicles that would leave for Millfall, Vicente left Nina with Eve and collected some more metal items, adding a bit more to his armor.

Unfortunately, he couldn't put much more weight on this armor since he himself didn't have much physical strength to carry much weight.

The best he could do was to carry about 10 kilograms on his body and order his men to carry a few metal items with them as well.

Besides that, he could only rely on whatever metals opponents carried to protect himself and ensure his group's survival in combat.

But Vicente wasn't so worried about not having metals to use. In a world where everyone had coins on them, he would always have something to count on!

But he already had some ambitious plans for the future.

One of them was to acquire a metal carriage.

Anyway, after he gave metallic items to his staff, someone arrived at his residence, disrupting Vicente's plans a bit.

"Vicente... Are you here?" A voice that this young man and Rory knew well sounded, and they both frowned, recognizing the voice of their old teacher from their academy days.

Hearing that, Vicente looked at the necklace around his neck, which he had received from Julian.

Looking at that silver item in the shape of a half-moon, Vicente frowned. He realized that as much as it looked like metal at first glance, he couldn't feel any connection to it.

"Professor Julian, what are you doing here? I didn't expect to find you in the village." Rory saw that strict teacher, who supposedly had left the village 2 years ago after getting a job in a better academy in a big city in the province.

Julian greeted Rory and Vicente and said. "I've been in the village since you left for Millfall."

Eve nodded and said. "Vicente, Julian looked for you right after you left. He came here two days after your group departed."

"You came to the village for me?" Vicente found that odd.

"No," Julian laughed. "I came because I got a job opportunity for my sister, who still works at the Academy of Stars. But I took the opportunity to look you up.

Anyway, hearing that you were in the village, I decided to come and talk to you."

"What do you want, Professor?" Vicente hadn't found out anything about that item yet, since he hadn't had the time or opportunity to do so, then he was curious.

"First, congratulations on awakening your powers. I was curious to see you again, as you were my best student, as I told you before.

I am glad to see such a distinctive Magical Gem in you, Vicente." He said sincerely. "However, I also have an opportunity for you.

I am currently working at the province's second-largest academy, which has access to Seidel Magic College.

Vicente, why don't you accompany me to Ironcrest? I'm sure you can enter the competition for a seat at Seidel Magic College with this Magic Gem.

Even with a Yellow-grade talent, you certainly have what it takes to achieve a place in the most renowned magical institution in the kingdom!"

As a dedicated teacher, Julian had not forgotten Vicente and wanted to see his student again after the awakening to judge whether or not his theories were correct.

As he could see, he was right!

So he couldn't help but invite this young man, hoping he could take him to a higher level of magic.

"Oh? So you're here to invite me?" Vicente smiled at Julian. "Unfortunately, I will have to decline. I have plans that would prevent me from going down such a road, Professor."

Chapter 69 Returning to Millfall

"Eh? Are you sure?" Julian asks in a surprised tone.

As a teacher, he had talked to each of his students at the time of the academy about their future. But what he had done back then was something to open the minds of young people to the possibilities available to them, not something with a definitive purpose of making them choose a path.

The answer Vicente had given him at the time had not worried Julian, and he had merely thought it was a boy's childish desire.

But now, hearing a similar response from Vicente, Julian couldn't help but be surprised to see someone with so much potential say those words.

"Yes, I believe the academic path Professor Julian believes is good is indeed necessary and useful for people who do not know what they want from their lives. But I know what I want and need to do, so I don't see myself returning to academic life." Vicente gave a complete answer to this man, knowing that as a teacher, Julian would insist on convincing him otherwise if he did not have a good motivation.

One could learn anywhere, as long as one had interest and access to materials.

What academies and colleges did was help young people, uncertain about what to do, organize their time, and give them material to work with. Following this, one would eventually find their way or at least acquire a primary activity to support oneself, something essential for oneself and society.

But investing his time in a place like the Seidel Magic College could be a waste of time and resources for someone who knew what they wanted and had the methods to achieve it.

Julian knew that as a merchant, Vicente had a way to support himself and grow, for he had inherited not only his father's business but all the knowledge Andrew had passed on to him over 11 years. When he heard the answer from this young black-haired man, he didn't think it was an answer from someone trying to run away from responsibility.

But he had to insist a little before giving up!

"Are you sure about that, Vicente? I didn't want to have to say much because I'd rather you try to get into the Seidel Magical College out of your ambition. But your old friend Ian has almost got a place at that institution.

From what I hear, he has recently awakened his magical abilities. With his good grades at the Saltstar City Royal Academy, he has a good chance of getting a place at the kingdom's college." Julian said, somewhat surprising Vicente and Rory, who hadn't heard from Ian in quite a while.

"Is that true?" Rory asked as a smile formed on his face.

Julian looked at Rory and saw the green gem on this young man's forehead, which was striking him as much as the shape of Vicente's gem. He said. "Yes, I was lucky enough to meet with his older sister in Ironcrest and hear about his situation.

He has done very well in his journey at the Royal Academy. As for his form and magical talent, unfortunately, when I spoke to his sister, he had not yet awakened his powers."

"I see..."

"Good for him." Vicente smiled, happy for his friend. "If fate has something for us, we will see Ian again. But I don't intend to enter the Seidel Magical College just because of him.

I'm sorry, Professor, I'll have to disappoint you about that. But thank you for caring and also telling us about Ian."

As he felt Vicente directing him towards the exit of the house, Julian sighed in defeat, feeling he could only give up.

"If you don't intend to study further to develop your powers, what will you do, Vicente? I at least want to know where the most talented young man the village had given birth will go." Said Julian, totally disregarding the color of Rory's Magic Gem.

The kind of talent he was referring to was not concerning magical practice but basic knowledge and the rational ability to analyze problems and find solutions.

This kind of talent would differentiate the magician who, for example, would create new spells and fantastic things from the magician who would only use these things to get stronger and has more practicality in their lives.

Rory might have the talent for magical cultivation. Still, Vicente certainly had the greatest potential to revolutionize anything in this world between the two.

Vicente said with a smile. "I will take my father's business to a level he never dreamed possible. I will provide the best foundation for my younger sister and one day bring honor to the Fuller name. I will die satisfied if I can accomplish only that, Professor."

On hearing this reply, Julian was silent, understanding what Vicente meant, imagining this young man had suffered greatly from the death of his parents.

This young man was very talented, but his life had so much tragedy. Perhaps it would be better if he did not develop to the limit. Otherwise, catastrophic things could be created by his hands!

"I see... Well, I hope you and Nina will be alright. Millfall is not a bad place to live." With those words, Julian took his leave, hearing from Vicente that they would still meet to talk about that necklace one day, but it wasn't time for that to happen yet.

"Ian's going to pursue a career within the royal family, huh?" Rory muttered next to Vicente as the two watched Julian disappear down that street.

"I didn't expect that." Vicente grinned, wondering what that fellow was up to. "Anyway, I hope he succeeds in his purposes. If we meet him in the world one day, we'll drink together."

"Yes, perhaps he will introduce us to some royalty girls... Would you like to taste a princess, Vice?" Rory smiled as he looked at his friend.

"You want to kill us..." Vicente laughed, but internally, he couldn't help but imagine the beautiful princesses of Seidel, who were said to be the most beautiful young women in the state.

He was practically an adult by local standards, and without the hormonal pattern of a child, something that had made him feel less desire for certain things for years, he was slowly returning to have worldly desires...

Too bad he didn't have much time to think about it for the moment, nor did he know anyone who interested him.

But like Rory, he had impure thoughts and a desire to be with beautiful young women, like the famous princesses.

"We'll think about it later. Ian should be fine. It's us who might not get far if we're not careful, my friend." He said before taking Nina in his arms again and getting into his carriage with Rory and Eve.

With that, when it was almost early evening in this part of Scott Province, three carriages and four wagons departed from Martell Village with the Fuller family group!

Chapter 70 Start of Plans for Millfall

In the early hours of the following day, the Fuller family's group of seven vehicles made their way through the nearly deserted streets of Millfall, arriving in this town after hours of travel.

Unlike the trip to Martell Village, they had not been ambushed by any magical creatures and had arrived in relative peace.

Nina was already asleep when they entered the first local street. Still, the rest of the group was awake, especially Vicente's men, who would be moving here with his family.

As Vicente sighed that they had reached this place without anything worse happening, he looked at Rory and asked, "Have you seen your mother? How was she?"

"Yes, one of our men went to see her, and she saw me while you were out. Anyway, she's fine. She said she'd visit us occasionally, but she also told us to be careful what we do.

According to her, we're only Apprentices and too far away from the minimum to not be in danger in anything we do."

"Hmm, she is not wrong. We can't go head-to-head with some local powers with our current strength. At best, we can act in secret and try to grow in the meantime." Vicente muttered.

At the moment, his plans were not to take on known criminal groups nor to act openly against anyone, be it nobles or bandits.

Their goal was to begin integrating into the local underworld, get closer to the people relevant to their operations, and earn coins from the robberies and services they would soon be offering.

With these coins, they planned to support the group's development with new weapons and magically grown items.

With the right resources, growing wouldn't be so hard!

"What do we do now?" Eve asked.

"First, let's rest." Vicente smiled as he looked at Eve. "Tomorrow afternoon, we will begin our plans. We have to take over the business of the merchant killed by Baron Irwin's son, so I want you to take care of that with our men, Eve.

In the meantime, Rory and I will take care of the plans of action against House Irwin and our local businesses. With part of our group in Millfall, we'll be able to offer protection to anyone willing to pay."

"Won't that attract attention?" She asked.

"No, because we'll only be offering it to a few stores. Small shops, by the way." Rory answered her doubt.

Vicente told her. "In Millfall, as in many areas of the kingdom, powerful and evil people do as they please.

The royal law does not apply to them as it does to ordinary people. Not only do they have the power to flee and escape punishment, but royalty and nobility themselves benefit from these organizations operating in the underworld."

Vicente gestured to her. "On the one hand, the state could try to act against these forces, wasting a lot of time chasing countless people, using not only resources but also talents, as royal guards would surely die. Meanwhile, they would not focus their time on what is more relevant, such as the official business of the kingdom.

On the other hand, the powers can turn a blind eye to some attitudes, have time to concentrate on what is most important, and still receive "incentives" not to persecute certain people.

For the powerful, the second option is much more interesting as long as their interests are not affected. So, Millfall society has important loopholes for us to act on.

But it's not going to be a group of a few low-level magicians that's going to get attention, Eve. We'd have to take over all of Millfall to cause the kind of upheaval you're worried about. Yet, we're only going to be offering our services to less than 0.05% of this society in the short term."

They were small, weak, so weak that they had the advantage that no one was watching them.

Even if they acted, what would be the first thought of anyone who noticed them? These are just a few weak young people trying to survive.

Who would think they would plan more?

Vice and Rory wanted to use the arrogance of others and the fact that they would be underestimated to grow where hardly anyone was looking.

No one in this society cared about making cities safer places to live and work. For the institutions in power, allowing this world to be chaotic was more convenient and more advantageous!

With that in mind, Eve no longer questioned them and remained silent until they arrived at the house where she would live with Nina and Vicente.

Once there, Vicente's men would quickly drop off the family's boxes and bags before everyone went to rest for the start of their plans.

...

Late afternoon of the next day...

After resting for hours and having a great lunch next to Eve, Nina, and Rory, Vicente and the young red-haired man left the two girls to take care of their local business.

In the following days, they would go to where their group would be operating in this town to make the necessary adjustments regarding their plan against the Irwin family. Still, for now, the two moved to a local store.

Vicente's men had been to this place before and had talked to the owner about a few things. But nothing deep had been decided or discussed.

Arriving at a tavern, the two dodged the people in their way and went to the area where men were drinking or eating.

"What will it be, young men?" An overweight man with a protruding belly and a lot of hair asked as he draped a dishcloth over his shoulders.

Vicente looked at the Orange Magic Gem of this person before saying, "Nothing for now. I'm looking for someone named Zander Bell."

"Zander? What do you want with my brother?"

The middle-aged, black-haired man asked in surprise, not expecting such young men to come looking for Zander.

"We're here to talk business. Some of my men helped the senior with some troublemakers earlier. Since I have been busy, I could not come here to discuss our proposal." Vicente got right to the point, talking about what he had asked his men to do.

This was a violent society, and in a tavern like this, trouble that caused losses to the owners was not uncommon.

Vicente had had his men keep an eye on a few places around Millfall, and it was in one of those places that a fight had broken out in the presence of those men.

In that situation, one of Vicente's men helped the establishment owner take care of the troublemakers and prevent damage to the tavern.

His men had not charged anything for the help but had opened a dialogue for a future partnership, as they would soon be available after "finishing a job" and could help protect the tavern.

The tavern owner had been interested, as he was not a talented magician, and magicians did not usually offer this kind of simple service.

Guards and mercenaries preferred to sell their protection on journeys and the like, which usually had better rewards. Being a guard for such an establishment didn't pay much. Thus, there was an extreme shortage of people willing to provide such a service locally.

Not only that but of those who were willing, most were very weak and ill-equipped, meaning it was not worth the cost of hiring them.

But things were different for Vicente's men, who had been trained in his techniques and had weapons on their side!

The man smiled and said, "So it's you! Please come this way. I will call my brother to speak with you.