

The Mafia 661

Chapter 661 Saltstar City & Metal City Railway

Five months later...

Months passed after the gathering of the province's nobles and wealthy men in Metal City. The Fuller family received the support promised by the founding members of Metal City, and the number of workers in the area greatly increased due to the agreements made at that time.

By now, Metal City had grown considerably, reaching a population of 5,000, with an area three times the size of the built-up area at the time.

With each passing day, the city generated more opportunities for its inhabitants and coins to help the founders accelerate its growth.

While building this place, Vicente's railroad lines in this province had multiplied!

The line connecting Metal City and Millfall to Ironcrest had been completed four months ago. More recently, the line connecting these three cities to Saltstar City was completed!

In addition, passenger trains were beginning to run through the province while three new rail lines were under construction.

One of them, the longest project and the one that would take the longest time, was the one that would connect the kingdom's capital to Saltstar City. The other two were within the province, one of which would connect Dryhaven to Vicente's rail network.

Though there was still a long way to go, the trains were already changing the lives of the people of Scott Province. They were speeding the transport of resources, lowering the cost of products, and improving the efficiency of travel throughout the province.

In the midst of all this, the Fuller family grew!

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Today, Vicente was once again with Lina Seidel, who was visiting Saltstar City for the third time since their "deal" in that restaurant in the kingdom's capital.

More precisely, at this moment, they were entering the Saltstar City train station, a grandiose place of more than 10,000 square meters, where there was room for 6 trains to park simultaneously.

This station, in particular, had an area reserved for passenger trains, which Vicente had developed in recent months.

The demand for travel around the province was far greater than anyone could have imagined. Few people traveled through the province because of the many dangers and the high cost of travel. But with the advent of trains and their guaranteed safety, more and more people began to travel using it.

People who used to travel once a year to avoid the dangers of constant travel now travel every two months or even less.

Even soldiers and members of the aristocracy, who usually had fewer problems traveling, now used the network Vicente had created to travel around the province more quickly.

Although Vicente hadn't planned to focus on this possibility, he had built passenger areas in each of his stations to meet the growing travel demand.

Today, he was in this part of Saltstar City Station to make the inaugural run of the Saltstar City & Metal City line.

Lina was there to do business with him. Still, she couldn't pass up the opportunity to see the passenger trains and Metal City.

Along with her were her bodyguards and advisors, as well as some of the city's nobles, local army soldiers, Nina and Killian.

Nina and Killian had recently finished their penultimate year at the Royal Academy and were on vacation. In another month, they would return to classes, but this would be their last year studying there.

Since both had recently turned 13, there was less than a year until their awakening, Vicente's departure on his pentagram quest, and the beginning of the disaster.

Neither of the two young people thought much about these troublesome matters. Still, both Vicente and Lina had such a thing in mind as they looked at the two young people sitting in two chairs within sight of them.

"Sigh... Soon, we'll have to travel north and leave our families behind." Lina muttered as she looked at Nina, imagining that this would be more difficult for Vicente than for her. "How are you preparing for that? Are you too worried about them being away from you?"

Vicente looked at Nina from where he stood next to Lina in a beautifully decorated railcar with four seats per row, separated by an aisle that could hold three people passing side by side.

"Before I leave, I will ensure that Nina has a balanced life as a magician or mortal, even in my absence, even amid disaster." He replied sincerely.

"If she doesn't get a Magic Gem, I will send her to the Metal City to live safely there. If she manages to awaken her magical powers, I'll let her in the capital to study at the Seidel Magic College.

As interesting as it would be for her to protect herself in the Metal City, she needs opportunities to grow and learn. The college will be the best place for her. When I return to the kingdom after the hunt, I'll stay in the capital to protect her during the worst of the disaster."

She liked what she heard. "You don't intend to live in Metal City? Why build such a place if you don't intend to use it?"

"Some of my family will go to Metal City. But I am building this place mainly in case Nina does not awaken her powers. This place will serve to protect her in that situation. I could use it very well to protect her from the monsters.

But if she does awaken some power, developing it while she can would be interesting."

Vicente and all the experts in the kingdom knew that the worst of the disaster wouldn't hit them so soon. It could take one to three years for the beginning of the vampires' plans in the far north of the continent to reach the far south of Polaris Realm.

Seidel Magic School only lasted four years. Let's say the worst was to reach this kingdom in 3 years. Then Nina could finish most of her studies before she had to move and hide.

"But if things are much worse than I imagine, I'll move Nina to the Metal City when I return, and then I'll protect her from within the city.

In short, the Metal City will be like a defense plan in case the worst happens. I'm building it, but I really hope I won't have to use it."

"I see." The princess murmured, a little worried by the subject of their conversation. "What do you think of The Purification? What do you think we can expect from this vampire plan?"

Chapter 662 Pessimist

Vicente closed his eyes and shook his head. "It's hard to say. I don't know much about the organization within the vampire world. I don't know how their clans are divided, nor how many of them there are. I also don't know how many races and how many beings they have under their control.

But let's say that there is one vampire of the same level for every ten 4th-stage magicians on the continent.

I wouldn't be surprised if most of the continent's magicians and mortals were killed in five years."

The Purification would be an attempt by vampires to end the Magicians Age and begin the Vampires Age. To do this, the vampires would not have to fight beasts and other races of magical beings. The humans and their magicians dominated the continent, so the fight would essentially be against the human race.

Those who weren't targeted and had no reason to fight would most likely try to preserve themselves, even considering the problems they might have if the vampires won the war.

So if it were a battle of humans against vampires, it wouldn't take many of those pale-skinned beings to bring the human race to a terrible state like the one Vicente mentioned.

"There aren't that many pureblood vampires on the continent," Lina commented to him.

"That's the problem. There's no way to know for sure," Vicente commented to her. "Besides, The Purification will increase the power of the strongest vampires. So they won't even need many 4th-stage vampires. If only one of them manages to reach the 6th stage, it would be enough for them to achieve what I said.

It would be enough for an Archmage vampire to kill all the Archmages on the continent and then hunt down the Paragons. Such a 6th stage vampire could then return to their headquarters and let their subordinates deal with the rest of humanity."

Vicente estimated that they could do all this in less than three years since The Purification, considering the power he had seen in a pureblood, a superior vampire.

Lina couldn't help but feel pessimistic. "You don't seem to believe in our victory."

"It's not that I don't believe. I just don't know what might happen. But realistically, it's quite possible that in five years, 70% of the human population on the continent today will no longer exist."

"That's worrying."

"Hmm, in a situation like that, Metal City could become a place where a small part of humanity could preserve itself. I hope that doesn't have to happen, but if it does, we will preserve ourselves there." Vicente commented to her.

When she considered the worst, she couldn't help but think about how strong Vicente was. "Is there a chance for you to become a Low-level Paragon before the worst happens?"

"It depends on the result of our search for the pentagram..." He didn't want to raise Lina's hopes but didn't completely rule out the possibility either. "But Onyx might be able to reach the 5th stage. I'll do everything I can to get him 5th-grade resources during our trip in a little over a year."

Lina knew that Onyx was the most powerful mount of the Fuller family. If this creature could reach the 5th stage, it could be of great help in the defense of the Seidel Kingdom.

A Paragon beast was not to be underestimated!

"I hope we succeed with this." She muttered as she looked out the window of the train they were on, seeing the mountains surrounding Saltstar City as they left it behind.

The train ride between Saltstar City and Metal City would take seven days. That was a long distance, but it was about a third of the time it took to travel in ordinary carriages.

Nobles and wealthy men could travel between these two places in less than 15 days. Still, they were individuals with special resources and opportunities. Most people would need about three weeks or more to make such a journey.

But even though it was a trip of a few days, it was a trip that could be very comfortable for people with resources.

Vicente's passenger trains had a total of seven railcars for transporting people. Of those spaces, four were for people with few resources, where there were basically chairs and toilets to serve those groups traveling there.

But in three of the train's cars, there were special areas for the more affluent people, where you could have your own cabin with a bed and your own private space, with even your own toilets.

In each of these cars, there were two special cabins for couples and people traveling alone, as well as a bar and restaurant area where there were nice chairs and tables for people to socialize in the middle of the trip.

Vicente and his group were in one of these areas when they traveled to Metal City.

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The week's journey between Saltstar City and Metal City would pass in the blink of an eye.

Vicente and Lina would talk a lot about the kingdom's future and how to prepare for the worst of the approaching disaster.

Those who didn't think about it so much, like Nina and Killian, hadn't talked about such things because they had managed to enjoy the journey between their city and their destination.

At the beginning of a new day, the group would wake up as the train slowed down, slowly taking in the scenery around Metal City, some of them seeing the place for the first time.

When they disembarked at Metal City, those who were there for the first time couldn't help but look at the place with smiles on their faces, seeing the most organized, clean, and different place they had ever been to in their lives.

Metal City had an atmosphere unlike any other place. The people there seemed to have unusual auras, while the polar lights that were constantly present in the local sky couldn't help but mesmerize the women in the group.

Soon, Vicente and those who already knew the place best began to guide the group through this place, where they planned to stay for the next three days before returning to Saltstar City.

Metal City was still small. Though it had everything to satisfy the needs of people as sophisticated as these newcomers, it was still small and three days would be enough to see everything there was to see.

Those three days would fly by, and soon, Nina and Lina would understand what Vicente had built and the potential of this place for his departure from the kingdom in just over a year.

When they returned to Saltstar City, it was time to prepare for the changes that would take place after a year, when Nina would experience her awakening and then have to say goodbye to her brother!

Chapter 663 Preparing for the Hunt

Weeks after the inauguration of the Saltstar City & Metal City train line, Nova and Layla had advanced one level and had finally become Sovereigns!

As Vicente had instructed, Nova left the city with a group of Fuller family soldiers shortly after she had advanced a level to hunt for her fourth pentagram.

The plan was for her to have her fourth pentagram before Vicente left the kingdom, so she didn't have much time.

As for Layla, Vicente wanted to take her with him on his journey to the north of the continent. So she was still in the city.

She remained in the city because her promotion was new, and she primarily served as Jasmine's guard.

If she were to be sent to other Congregation of Revelation posts, since she had just been promoted, she would have time to report to a new post.

The most important members of this organization could take time off to hunt for their pentagrams after advancing one level.

She had only advanced a few months before Vicente and his group left. Then Layla could easily wait for them.

Meanwhile, Jasmine wasn't far behind, but she was still missing something to reach the 4th stage. The same was true for Eve, Benson, and some of the other High-level Mages in the family. With all the progress the family had made in the past few months, several of the magicians in the group had reached this level.

However, Vicente didn't expect most of them to advance in the time they had left in Scott Province. And even if someone did, he didn't want to take them with him.

He wanted to take a small group on his hunt. Only Rory, Layla, Sarah, Casey, and Lina would join his hunt besides himself and Onyx.

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"So Princess Lina Seidel has advanced to the 4th stage, huh?" Vicente commented when he heard the news from one of his men who had just entered his office with it.

From what he had just heard, Lina had advanced after a few days of meditation after returning to the kingdom's capital after passing through Metal City.

With Lina's progress, all those he wanted to take with him on the hunt for his next pentagram were at the 4th stage.

He clenched his fists in satisfaction, seeing that everything was going according to plan.

Newton was with him at the moment and noticed Vicente's signs of anxiety. "Do you think this team will help you get your cyan pentagram? Remember, if you're lucky, you'll probably have to face a High-level Paragon to get it."

"Before I go hunting for my pentagram, I'll let them absorb their new essences. I'll try to help Onyx become a Low-level Paragon, and I'll try to reach the absolute peak of the 4th stage," Vicente commented. "But if that's not enough, then nothing I do will be. I cannot become a Paragon without my fourth pentagram."

"Sigh... That is going to be pretty dangerous. But I hope it works. If you use Casey's power, combined with Layla's speed and the mix of your powers with Rory's, you might be able to endanger even a High-level Paragon. But you'll have to be perfect. No mistakes.

If such a strong creature manages to attack your group, everyone but you and maybe Onyx will die." The professor commented, trying to imagine the level of this team.

"I know. When we're ready to hunt for my fourth pentagram, we'll take every possible precaution before the fight." Vicente said as he closed his eyes and imagined how much easier things would be if they could find a magical essence that was independent of living beings.

Unfortunately, they couldn't count on such a thing because information about natural essences was even more difficult than about 5th—and 6th-level beings.

"You should prepare robotic armor for your allies. Even if they can't do much against Paragons or stronger magical beings, they might give your hunting companions some extra defense." Newton commented.

"Hmm, I was planning on doing something like that. Now that I can produce 4th-grade items with 100% efficiency, I'll be able to arm them with robotic armor and my most advanced firearms," Vicente commented to Newton, hoping that this would give them some advantage in the hunt for the fourth pentagram.

"If I succeed, I may become a Paragon."

"Yes, I imagine that's the case." The grey-haired man commented.

"If I succeed, I'll search for my fifth pentagram before I return home. I'll take advantage of the fact that I will be already in a powerful area with a presence of compatible beings, and I'll secure my next essence."

Ideally, Vicente's next pentagram after receiving the fourth essence for his first Magic Gem would be an indigo pentagram. However, such a pentagram had never appeared in Polaris Realm.

There were legends that some peak 6th-stage creatures, Archmages, had already cultivated this kind of pentagram on the continent. But there was no history of any magician having achieved such a thing.

According to the legends, only a legendary magician who could reach the 7th stage would be able to absorb such a pentagram. Since there was no history of anyone becoming a Magus in the Polaris Realm, finding an indigo pentagram would be unrealistic even for Vicente.

Neither he nor Newton considered looking for a fifth pentagram that was different from the cyan essences.

"That's best for you." Newton agreed. "If you return from this hunt with five pentagrams, you can truly defend the kingdom against all kinds of threats."

Even if the magical civilization falls to monsters and vampires, the Metal City can become humanity's home, where no monster can enter."

"I'll do my best," Vicente promised, not to Newton, but to himself.

"I know... If the situation gets complicated, I'll take Nina and those with her, and we'll go to Metal City. We'll wait for you there if you take too long to get back." Newton said as he thought back to their stay in the capital before things got worse.

"I'm glad to hear that."

"My only concern, Vice, is whether this Metal City will be able to hold everyone who wants to go there. If things get out of hand, everyone who knows about this place will want to move there." Newton said in a serious tone.

He honestly didn't see how humanity could put up with the vampires' legendary plan!

He was almost sure that civilization, as they knew it today, would end in 10 years or less!

When that happened, places like Metal City would be sought after by every surviving human on the continent!

Chapter 664 Last Months in Saltstar City

After hearing Newton's concern, Vicente took it to heart and thought about what could happen if the worst really happened.

"My Metal City could hold a maximum population of 300,000 if we developed it to its full potential. Beyond that, the city would become very problematic. Our area isn't big enough to hold more than that." He commented.

"300,000, huh? Well, it's better than nothing. Unfortunately, we can't build more places like this all over the kingdom."

"You shouldn't be so pessimistic, Professor. Even if other cities in the province don't have the same level of defense as Metal City, my group will try to protect the whole province."

The Metal City will be our headquarters. But from there, we'll try to prevent monsters from entering the province in order to maintain our business here." Vicente commented, wondering what might happen if his plans worked out in the chaos. "The province could hold the entire kingdom's population if we succeed. That should be enough if civilization falls."

Newton got up from where he was, planning to leave. But he didn't disagree with what Vicente said. "It is possible. But we should prepare for the worst. So, I'll stay skeptical for now. Anyway, I'll see you later."

Vicente waved at the man before watching him leave.

After Newton left, Vicente would take care of some of the Fuller family's business. After the family's recent period of peace and development, its numbers improved significantly.

He now had more than 1,500 direct family members and more than 30,000 indirect members. In some ways, his current numbers were even more significant than those of the royal army, the largest official organization in the kingdom!

Of those 1,500 internal family members, 65% were Acolytes, and almost all the rest were Mages. The number of Sovereigns in the family was still small, and one could count on the fingers of one's hand.

But with these numbers, Vicente had already placed his family in 3 provinces of the Seidel Kingdom and had even completely dominated Scott Province.

His railroads had already reached Snow Province, and with a few more months of work, they would reach Diamond Province, especially the kingdom's capital.

While the family's profits were currently growing at a rate of 30% per month and Metal City continued to expand, his men were already setting up sentry posts along the entire border of Snow Province.

What Vicente had said to Newton was serious. He intended to protect all of Scott Province when the disaster from the north reached the continent's south.

He wanted everything ready before he left to hunt pentagrams so the essentials were already in place. Once he left with his group, the family in the province would only have to expand what was already prepared.

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In the late afternoon, Vicente picked Nina up from the Royal Academy in Saltstar City.

Nina was in her last year at the academy. Her classes would be over in another nine months, and she would graduate. After that, she would have about a month until her 14th birthday, when she could go through the Awakening.

Then her destiny would be decided!

Having come so close to distancing himself from his sister because of the moment they were reaching into their lives, Vicente couldn't help but pay more attention to Nina while he still could.

He picked her up almost every day and taught her for an hour or two each day.

He taught her the art of the family business and talked to her about human nature, how to deal with selfish people, and how to be ruthless with traitors and enemies.

Nina was no longer a child. At 13, she looked more like a woman than a girl. Since this was a traditional world and he wouldn't let his sister date just anyone, he knew she was still pure. But if she had looked the same on Earth, he couldn't be sure she had never done anything.

In his earthly life, girls like Nina had often had physical relations with her age.

Fortunately for Vicente, this was the Polaris Realm and not Earth!

But that didn't change his concern. When he saw Nina in the distance next to Killian, Vicente couldn't help but feel uneasy.

He was right. Over time, Killian and Nina had become different. They no longer seemed like the 'pure' and uninterested friends they had been a year or two ago.

"Senior Fuller," Killian said as he greeted Vicente with respect before saying goodbye to Nina and promising to meet her before the academy tomorrow.

Nina said goodbye to her friend before starting to walk home with Vicente.

"Nina, how are you?" Vicente asked as he walked slowly with his sister, in no hurry to get home.

He kept talking to the family doctors about her situation. But only by talking to her and listening to her opinion could he get a better idea of how she really was.

So Nina was used to hearing this question from time to time.

She said. "The same as before. My situation is improving. The resources you've given me all these years are helping me a lot, brother.

I feel stronger, I can move faster, my agility is better than ever, and I recover more easily. In some ways, I'm no different from my peers. In other ways, I can even be considered better than most of them.

The only one I can't beat physically in my class is Killian. He still manages to surpass me in every way."

"That's natural. Men are physically stronger than women. But you'll be closer to him by the end of the year. These will be the last months of your treatment before your awakening," Vicente commented.

"Do you think we can improve my chances?" She asked him.

"Of course we can. Don't be pessimistic, Nina. You will likely awaken a good magical form during your awakening." He said, smiling at her.

She smiled back at him, knowing there was no way he could be sure of that, but she couldn't blame him. He had done everything to make her awakening a positive event. If she failed in awakening her powers, she certainly couldn't complain to him or think that he hadn't done enough.

So she pretended to believe her brother, even though she remained skeptical about this long-awaited moment for her family.

Chapter 665 Crisis Looms

Several months later...

One of the men from the Fuller family, along with several other men from the family, was stationed on the border between Scott Province and Snow Province.

From the metal tower on which they stood, they could see several square miles in the distance on both sides of the border.

But at that moment, the man standing guard in that area had a strange look in his eyes, while a green pentagram glowed in both of his eyes.

Meanwhile, he watched a large group of monsters pass through the area toward the interior of Scott Province.

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At the same time, in Saltstar City...

Vicente stood in his training room, his third pentagram glowing around him and a white glow coming from his eyes.

Seeing and feeling the strength of the monsters in front of the body of the man he had sent to the border, he couldn't help but make an ugly expression.

"Shit!" He commented as he returned to normal and stopped using his third ability to see through this man.

Looking at Eve and Casey, who were with him now, he couldn't help but report what he had just seen. "A large number of monsters are crossing our border right now."

"A large number?" Casey wondered.

"More than a thousand monsters."

Gulp!

"All that?" The blonde woman asked, finding it a bit much.

"We are less than six months away from The Seven-Day Tsunami. Soon, The Purification should be put into practice, so it was expected that the number of creatures coming from the north would increase.

"Sigh! Even though we expected it, it's not good to see our fears come true," he commented in a deep tone.

"Send a group to deal with those monsters before they infiltrate the province. The group that discovered them will watch them for now. But if we don't act quickly, we'll lose them, and they'll be much harder to deal with."

"Sarah is in Metal City. Should we send her?" Casey asked.

"We can also send Onyx and Layla there. With their speed, they can reach the monsters in less than four days." Eve commented.

"Do that. Send Sarah to follow them and keep their location under our radar. When Onyx and Layla arrive, they will have to deal with these monsters together.

There are some Sovereign-level monsters, but most of them are Mages and Acolytes." Vicente said as he thought about his feelings for his subordinate.

Casey and Eve quickly left with these orders while Vicente turned his attention to Torne.

'It will be difficult from now on, master. Scott Province is the northernmost place on the continent. These creatures fleeing from the north will come here to try to preserve their lives.' The ghost in Vicente's mind commented to him.

'I know. The problem is that I didn't expect things to get so bad at this point... It makes me wonder if I've really prepared well enough.'

Torne said. 'You did what you had to do. Your family has many Mages, you have outposts all along the border, and means of transportation and protection that no one else on the continent has.

But these things won't stop the monsters from coming here. At most, they will help your people grow faster and better deal with threats.'

'Sigh... Unfortunately, that's all.'

"If you want, I can help you." The voice of the lamia on Vicente's necklace rang out, drawing his attention to her.

Over the years, since Vicente had made this lamia leave his body and follow him inside a special mineral, he had obtained Lamia bodies for her.

He currently had three lamias bodies that were High-level Mages before they died. That wasn't the best for Prisiche, who was an Earth Sovereign. But with one of those bodies she could regain her powers and eventually her full strength.

Vicente looked at her silently while she tried to convince him.

"I will only be a 3rd stage lamia because of the bodies you have. That will be enough for you and me to have a master-slave relationship. There will be no way for me to betray you.

On the other hand, with me by your side, I will be able to guide your people according to my knowledge of monsters.

Although you have studied and dealt with many monsters, you don't think like one, and you don't have the experience of living among them. If I have a body, Vicente, I can help you better than anyone.

Trust me, and I will facilitate your dominion over the province, even in the midst of The Purification's consequences."

Vicente and Torne looked at the necklace containing this lamia's soul, both silent as they considered what she had to say.

'You will have to decide whether to take her with you on the hunt or leave her in the province, master. Though she's valuable either way, I can't help but admit that she'd be more useful in the province.

As much as she can help us on the journey north, she can do little to facilitate our victories in battle. She's powerful, but her powers are better against magicians. She won't be as strong against other monsters.

But in the province, she could really help the family groups fight monsters better, and the magical creatures that will come here aren't exactly the strongest. Even though she's not as powerful in the monster world, she'll be able to handle the ones that come here.

The only problem is whether she can deal with your men. A contract between you will oblige her to follow your rules, but it won't take away her personality. That could be a problem.'

'I know. There are pros and cons to leaving her here or taking her with us,' Vicente pondered while holding the necklace in his hands.

He closed his eyes and said to Prische. "All right, I'll give you what you want. But if you cause me trouble, you'll be in for more terror than you can imagine."

The lamia felt her soul tremble at Vicente's words, not understanding how this man could still frighten her after she had accompanied him for so long.

"You won't regret it. Even though we're different races, Vicente, you and I want the same thing—our survival. The safer Scott Province is, the better for me. I don't want monsters unrelated to me to get in my way.

As long as I had no prospects, I would ally myself with any monster to improve my chances. But since I am on your side, I have resources, people, infrastructure, and more, I don't need them. So betraying or harming you would be bad for me!"

Chapter 666 New Soldier in the Family

What the lamia had just said was true. Her nature could be cruel and difficult to deal with. But she would actually have a very good chance if she was loyal to the Fuller family and tried to help them prosper.

Besides the fact that an agreement with Vicente would force her to follow certain rules, her safety and continuity could be guaranteed if the province didn't fall into the chaos that the whole continent would soon be in.

Considering that she would only be a High-level Mage for the time being, Vicente decided to give her this chance by adding another magical creature to his family.

He summoned the three lamia bodies he had collected and told her to choose one to possess.

She quickly chose the one who most resembled her. Soon, she possessed the body of a full-breasted blonde woman and did not hesitate to begin the process of integrating her soul into that body.

The process was not as complex as one might think. Lamia bodies could remain without life signs for a long time and still be able to recover and come back to life. The body could come back to life as long as the lamia's soul was okay.

The moment her soul entered the body, it quickly erased the traces of the soul that had previously inhabited it and soon began to integrate with it.

This process would take a total of 20 minutes from beginning to end. Vicente and Torne observed her as she mastered the body, gradually showing signs of what was happening.

After a few minutes, the corpse took on color as the blood began to circulate through its veins, while the monstrous aspects of some parts of the corpse disappeared, giving the woman an incredible appearance.

If an ordinary, ignorant man were to see her as she was now, naked and beautiful, he would quickly feel his blood heating up and his animal parts awakening.

But Vicente knew exactly what this creature was capable of. When Prische opened her eyes, he moved his gauntlet and made her feel a gigantic pressure that immobilized her.

Then he grabbed her by the throat and squeezed it. "Prische, from now on, you are my slave. Don't dare to go against my plans. Never betray my family. And protect Nina at all costs. If you follow these orders, we'll have a good time together."

She said nothing as she turned pale and tried to get him to stop squeezing her neck.

Vicente didn't even move in response to her gestures. As she shivered and felt the power of this man, now much stronger than when they first met, his three pentagrams moved and quickly marked her.

As she felt the mark of Vicente's slavery, Prische felt new priorities in her life. She didn't just want to survive; now, her will was Vicente's will, and she would do what was best for him.

She knew it was the mark of slavery and that it would change when she grew faster than him and became stronger than Vicente. But until that happened, she couldn't go against his wishes herself.

"I'll do my best, master." She said with great effort.

He released her after he had finished marking her. "From now on, you are a member of the Fuller family. Don't tell anyone about your race. I want you to pretend to be human.

Use your natural powers only when you have no choice. I'll let some of my men know what you are in case you need to use your powers. That will prevent them from thinking you're an infiltrator into my group.

In any case, your job will be to help the family deal with the monsters and ensure the safety of the province and my sister.

I'll give you a few days to get used to this body and prepare yourself. Then, I'll send you to Metal City to work with the family's men on the province's border."

She nodded, showing that she understood what had to be done.

"Do not go against people unless they intend to harm Nina or my family. If you make trouble for me because of where you come from..." Vicente was about to say before he stopped halfway.

But Prische felt something different this time. Already connected to Vicente, she sensed something darker in this young magician than she had known before.

It was extremely frightening, something she had never felt, even from the few vampires she had met so far.

"I won't get involved with anyone unless I have no choice." She told him.

"Good. Then I'll let you train here alone. I'll tell my men not to come here for the next two hours. Use that time to get to know your new body better."

With that, Vicente left Prische behind to take care of other things.

Nina would finish her studies at the Royal Academy of Saltstar City in three months. After that, she would travel to the kingdom's capital for her awakening and begin her studies at the Seidel Magical College.

By then, the Saltstar City & Grandis train line should be ready, but until then, Vicente had a lot of business to take care of in the province.

Not only would he be leaving this place for a long time, but some of the people he trusted the most would be going with him. So he had to prepare his family, help more of his men reach the 4th stage, and so on.

Fortunately, his projects had developed very well so far and should be at a great level by the time he left.

Metal City, for example, had reached a population of 25,000, and from what he had heard recently, the population was growing by 1,000 every 6 days.

A month ago, the population grew by 1,000 every 11 days, so he expected the city to be close to 50,000 by the time he left.

Meanwhile, the province's train lines had reached every city with more than 50,000 people and were already carrying more than 60% of the resources and people that needed to move around the province.

That was all well and good, but he needed reliable and powerful men to ensure the best use of all this and to protect this territory while he and the family leaders were out hunting pentagrams.

...

A few days later, news of large groups of monsters entering the province and being exterminated was already circulating in Vicente's territory.

In the midst of this, Nova and a group of soldiers and men from the Fuller family finally entered Saltstar City after months away from this place to hunt this woman's fourth pentagram.

They had succeeded in their plans, and now Nova was a Sovereign with 4 pentagrams!

'I am finally back.' She smiled as she walked down the city's first street, breaking away from her group to go to Vicente's house.

Chapter 667 Before Vicente Leaves

After reuniting with Vicente at the Fuller estate, Nova soon had some quality time with her man, relaxing a bit from the months of travel and the tension of the hunt for her fourth pentagram.

After a while, the two were lying in Vicente's bed, a place he'd been using lately more to have sex with his women than to sleep.

They chatted for a while about Nova's experiences on her latest hunt until she asked him how his family was doing.

"The family is doing well. We got two new Sovereigns while you were gone. Brooks Snow and Tanner Kane advanced a few days ago." He mentioned two soldiers who had been with the family since he arrived in Saltstar City and who had reached the 4th stage.

"What about Eve? Has she advanced?" Nova asked, aware that the blonde responsible for taking care of Nina and the family business was already at the peak of the 3rd stage when she left to hunt her pentagram.

But Eve wasn't as talented as the other people who had advanced so far. "No. She will advance after I leave.

She won't go with my group, and she won't hunt for her fourth pentagram until I return from my trip. It would be good if she advanced to the 4th stage, but we don't need to rush her.

Anyway, Jasmine has also advanced to the 4th stage. She should soon be summoned to the kingdom's capital to learn her future."

"Do you think she and Layla will be sent to the headquarters of the Congregation of Revelations?" Nova asked as she looked into Vicente's eyes, snuggling up to him under the sheets, both of them naked.

"I hope not. As much as I need them to go to the Congregation of Revelations headquarters, now wouldn't be a good time. The vampires know that this is one of the largest organizations on the continent. They will surely attack this place in a very short time," Vicente said.

"But if they are attacked, you may never get the information they can give you in the future." Nova tried to understand what her man had in mind.

"It's easier to discover a fallen organization's secrets than that from a force at its best. If it means that the Congregation of Revelations will be hurt, that's better.

But I don't think it will be that easy. The largest force on the continent has its methods and certainly has some 'insurance' in case the worst happens.

As long as Jasmine and Layla survive, they'll have easier access to that organization when people like them are more valued by their own group."

"I see."

"But that is all out of my control," Vicente muttered while staring at the ceiling.

One of the two situations would be better for him, but he had plans for both!

"Anyway, you should get your parents to move to Metal City. I know their business is in Dryhaven, but I'm sure they have the resources to start a new business in Metal City. They'll be safe there." He advised as he looked at Nova.

"I've already suggested it, but they're reluctant to give up everything they've built up over decades." She said with a worried expression on her face.

It was difficult to convince older people to make such significant changes.

"You have to insist more. If you want to take them to one of the monster settlements near the provincial border so they understand the dangers, I can assemble a group to help you." He suggested.

"I'll see if I can convince my father to visit Metal City. If he agrees, I'll do it."

...

Since Nova's comeback, a couple of weeks have gone by.

Today, Nina had her last day of classes at the Saltstar City Royal Academy, while the Saltstar City & Grandis Railway was 98% complete!

In a few more days, the railroad would be finished, and Vicente would leave this place with his family and group, who would either stay in Grandis or continue with him for the hunt.

Layla and Jasmine had already left the city when they were called by the city post to receive new orders. Meanwhile, Nova had received a letter from the king summoning her to the capital, something everyone had expected since Vicente and Nina were going there.

Two more men from the Fuller family had advanced to the 4th stage during this period, making for an exciting total of Sovereigns to be left behind.

Vicente's group was already packing their bags for this trip, which could take them away from their territory for a few years!

...

A week after Nina's lessons had ended, Killian had already left the city to return to the capital, where he would soon reveal himself to her as the third prince.

Meanwhile, at the dawn of a new day in the city, Vicente and his party arrived by carriage at the Saltstar City train station, where a crowd had gathered to watch the inauguration of the new railroad.

The railroad between Saltstar City and Grandis would be the longest of its kind for a long time. The journey would take 25 days, and initially, two or three trains would make the trip every 25 days.

The first of these trains, which would depart from Saltstar City, currently has 12 passenger cars that can comfortably carry up to 150 people.

Judging by the number of people who had bought tickets for the trip starting today, Vicente and his family would not be the only ones traveling on this first train.

However, they would soon enter the station where they would say goodbye to their subordinates and allies who would stay behind in this city.

After today, it will be a long time before Vicente returns to this place.

However, no one there could have imagined that the next time he returned to this place, this city would not only no longer be the capital of Scott Province, but it would not have as many people or as many opportunities.

The next time Vicente set foot in Saltstar City, it would be a ruin devastated by the disasters that would follow the catastrophe of The Purification.

Not only would this city be like this in a few years, but several places he and his party would pass through during the next few weeks of their journey would become sites of tragedies unparalleled in the continent's recent history.

However, none of the smiling, hopeful looks on the faces of those who left or stayed behind had any way of imagining that now.

The order of things on the continent was about to change!

For the moment, peace and hope continued as Vicente, Nina, Nova, Eve, Sarah, Casey, Onyx, Newton, and others associated with the Fuller family left the city.

Chapter 668 Train Trip to Grandis

Fifteen days later...

Vicente and his group had traveled a long way since leaving Saltstar City, leaving the province and passing through a part of Snow Province.

They were still in that other area of the kingdom, where they had even passed through the region's capital city, where Vicente's group had built a station. But they didn't stop there. Since no one had bought tickets for that city, and the group wanted to go directly to the capital, they just passed through without stopping.

This was enough to move the local people, who watched Vicente's train pass by with the expectation that they would be able to travel within their own province or even to other areas of the kingdom in the future.

After completely dominating Scott Province and not having much else to build in terms of railroads within that territory, Vicente and his group had left plans for the group to build railroads in Diamond Province and Snow Province.

There were already men working to connect the kingdom's capital to other cities in Diamond Province. At the same time, the same would soon happen in the territory the group was passing through.

Vicente had made more than 20 trains ready to be used while he was in Saltstar City, so even with the expansion of the rail network, his group would have ways to increase the flow of vehicles in his absence.

All that was needed was for his men to build the stations and tracks between the new destinations.

Aside from passing through the largest city in Snow Province, the group had no problems on their journey here. Vicente's trains were very safe, and hardly any monsters or beasts came close to them.

Even if a stronger beast approached them out of curiosity, it would quickly change course due to the group of several Sovereigns traveling in this vehicle.

Meanwhile, the group used the travel to prepare for a new journey.

Nina and those who would remain in the capital would soon have many new things to do in Vicente's absence, while he and his staff would begin their journey out of the kingdom in the coming weeks.

...

On the twentieth day of the group's journey, they finally entered Diamond Province.

After Vicente finished cultivating in his cabin where he had been sleeping with Nova, he felt his mana at a very high level, near the peak of the 4th stage.

'It looks like I'm going to advance one level when I take in my next pentagrams. Even if my fourth pentagram doesn't give me what I need to advance, the second pentagram of my other magic form will be enough for me to become a Paragon.' He thought to himself before looking in the direction where Nova, Nina and Eve were sitting, waiting for him for lunch today.

Before sitting down, he looked at Nina, who was practically an adult. In four days, she would be 14 and of age.

Seeing Nina like this, he couldn't help but think of Lauren and wonder how her older sister was doing.

'You're still alive, Lauren?' he thought as he kissed Nina on the forehead. 'I hope you made it this far. I'll come to you soon, sister. It will be time to reunite our family.'

Vicente sat down next to Nova, and soon, they were talking about small things, like what would happen after they got to Grandis.

Of course, their comments were positive. As smart as it was to prepare for the worst, they wanted the future to be as good as possible.

They talked about how Nina would soon awaken her magical powers and study at a renowned institution, where she could become a magical professional and a magician quickly.

Students at the Seidel Magical College usually finished their studies at the age of 18 and usually left the institution to start their own families or join the army when they were already Mages.

If all went well for Nina, by the time Vicente returned from his hunt, she should be more than halfway through her college studies, with a profession and at least 2nd-stage cultivation.

Nova and Eve also talked about the things they should do in Vicente's absence, such as helping the family and preparing for problems with monsters.

If The Purification happened, they could expect a two-phase disaster.

The first phase of the disaster had already begun and was expected to intensify in about a year at the most. At that time, hordes of monsters would be seen more and more frequently in the Seidel Kingdom.

The second phase of the calamity would occur in 2 or 3 years when The Purification would have already borne fruit. The great forces in the north of the continent would have already suffered greatly. The vampires themselves would have suffered their losses.

In the second phase, there were two possible scenarios: one in which the vampires would emerge as more of a winner, or at least as the stronger hand in the conflict, and one in which the vampires would be disappointed.

If the vampires proved to be dominant, then stronger vampires and creatures would arrive in the south in about 3 years. If the vampires lost a lot at the beginning of the disaster, then powerful monsters of other races would appear in those areas.

Either way, with or without a vampire victory, the consequences for the south would worsen in the second phase of the disaster.

After that period, the local forces would more or less figure out how things would play out. They would have a way of trying to predict how long the calamity would last and what the worst-case and best-case scenarios would be.

For now, they could only speculate without much foundation.

Anyway, they wouldn't just talk about it because this was a farewell trip. When they arrived in Grandis, Vicente and his group would stay there for a few weeks at most and then leave. So the group would talk much more about positive things and about meeting again in a few years.

So the trip unfolded, with time passing quickly.

In the blink of an eye, the remaining five days until the end of the trip would pass, and soon, the group would see the kingdom's capital, with Nina arriving there for the first time in her life.

Having reached the age to awaken her magical powers on this train, they would seek out the local Awakening Temple once they entered Grandis so that she could proceed with this moment so long awaited by her family.

After years of Vicente's preparation, with many treatments and resources put into her for this moment, it was finally time for the truth!

Chapter 669 Welcome to Grandis!

Vicente's group soon began to disembark from the first train to Grandis, arriving in the capital after 25 days of travel that had passed very quickly.

As they left the train car they had traveled in, they were met by royal soldiers and the royal family who were waiting for them.

This was no ordinary day for the city or the kingdom. King Seidel did not want to miss the inauguration of the local train station, which brought a super-efficient means of transportation to connect parts of his kingdom.

At the same time, a great local prodigy was moving into his city!

The moment he spotted Vicente, King Seidel broke into a smile, seeing this young man after years of not seeing each other.

Vicente was now just over 21 years old, but his appearance was still much the same as it had been two or three years ago.

His aura was stronger than ever, and both the King and the Paragon hidden among his guards could see that Vicente was close to reaching the pinnacle of his stage.

This was a tremendous progress for the short time that had passed since his ascension to the level of Sky Sovereign!

But while he couldn't ignore Vicente's strengthening, King Seidel couldn't help but notice the beautiful young black-haired woman next to Vice.

"This is Nina Fuller, Your Majesty," one of the men close to the king said as he pointed to the girl Killian had been studying with.

"I see. No wonder. She's very beautiful indeed," the king laughed, understanding the things that were probably going through Killian's mind.

If he were the same age as Nina, he too would be captivated by her appearance and demeanor!

"Tell Killian to come to me later. I want to talk to him," the king told his subordinate. 'I will make the boy hurry up and make up his mind. A girl like her won't be 'free' for long.'

Vicente was talented and powerful. The king would love to have this young man in his family. But he didn't know how difficult it would be to get close to such a man. Vice already had several women and didn't want to give up his lifestyle to be the husband of one of the princesses.

The king didn't want to lower himself by simply giving one of his daughters to be just another one of Vicente's women, so Killian and Nina were the best way for him to have family ties with the man.

But that was something he would deal with later. Once Vicente was within a few feet of him, he approached to greet the young man and the newly arrived group.

"Welcome back to my city, Vice," the king said as he shook the hand of the black-haired young man, who stood as tall and strong as a door.

Nina looked at the king with a twinkle in her eye, feeling proud that the most respected figure in the kingdom was there to greet her family.

"I see you have several companions for your hunt," the king commented as he looked at Casey and Sarah.

"Hmm, we've had some success lately," Vicente commented as he had Onyx on one of his shoulders.

As for Rory and Layla, who were also supposed to join him on his hunt, they were already in Grandis waiting for this group, so it was only natural that they weren't there.

"This must be your sister, right? She seems like a very promising young woman. I've heard a lot about her from my friend Newton," the king said as he looked at Nina and Newton.

"Yes, my sister recently turned 14. I intend to go to the Awakening Temple now to see what she can accomplish," Vicente commented, trying to be hopeful and not think about the possibility of failure.

Newton approached the King and said. "It's good to see you again, Your Majesty."

"Hmm. Having you in my city now will be very important for us." The king commented to this other genius of his state. "You will probably be advancing very soon, right? I'll help you get your pentagram when the time comes."

"Thank you for the opportunity, Your Majesty."

So their group left the metal station, with the King talking a little more to Vicente's group after greeting Nova and Eve and making it clear that they could come to him whenever they needed help.

Not long after that, the King and his group temporarily said goodbye to Vicente's group to make room for them to go to Nina's Awakening.

This was a special moment for the Fuller family. It wouldn't be good if the royal family tried to interfere and crowd the local Awakening Temple.

The king knew that Nina had a high chance of failing to get a Magic Gem, which would make the situation rather bad for him or his people to be around.

Thinking about letting Vicente's group settle down in his city before dealing with more important matters, the king decided not to talk about business and Vicente's departure from his city until the day after tomorrow.

That should be enough time for Nina to wake up and for the family to adjust to the city.

Soon Vicente, Nina, Eve, Nova, Casey, Newton, Sarah and Onyx were in front of the local Awakening Temple, where Rory, Layla and Jasmine were already waiting for them inside the large pantheon-shaped building.

There was still an hour to go before the day's Awakening Ceremony, but the group had no trouble making their way into the building, quickly reaching a special area where only guests or members of the organization could enter.

Once there, Vicente and his people found their companions and allies waiting for them, along with some strange people.

"You must be Vicente Fuller..." Said a man with white hair and a build as strong as King Seidel's.

Vicente recognized Jasmine's father, remembering the time he had feared this person.

He smiled and said hello. "Hm, it's nice to finally meet you, Sacred Devotee Barber. I've heard about you several times over the years."

"My daughter has spoken of you as well. You were, no, you're a good friend to her. Thank you for helping my daughter, Vicente." Said the man with a sincere smile on his face.

He then looked at Nina and wished the Fuller family the best of luck.

"... Sometimes certain bad things happen for a greater reason. I know that's not nice to hear, but whatever the outcome today, there is a greater purpose behind all things. Today's outcome may be for the better. At the end of the day, happiness has nothing to do with power." He said to Nina before leaving the group.

Chapter 670 Nina's Awakening!

After Jasmine's father left, the group chatted with Rory, Layla, and Jasmine for a few minutes, discussing their journey and recent activities.

Not much had happened in their lives in Grandis. Rory had arrived in city two days ago, while Jasmine and Layla were waiting for orders from their superiors. According to those women, they could finally have the result in another week that would decide whether they would be sent out of the kingdom or not.

Anyway, they had time to talk about it later. Now it was finally time for Nina to join the other young people who were in this building today to awaken their magical powers!

Before bidding farewell to her companions and embarking on this significant moment in her life, Vicente presented her with something.

"Nina, wear this during your Awakening," Vicente said, handing her a necklace: the Cataclysm Moon Pendant.

Nina looked at it and accepted it gratefully, interpreting it as a gift. However, Jasmine and Layla frowned upon seeing it, realizing its significance.

Despite their reaction, Vicente continued, "This is something that will enhance your odds. But make no mistake, it's not necessarily a good thing. Once you awaken your powers, you'll need to return it to me. It's an object that can enhance your chances of success, but it may also attract negative karma. Do you understand?"

Nina nodded, comprehending that this wasn't merely a gift but rather something intended for temporary use. She didn't feel disheartened, recognizing it as one last effort of support from her brother.

"Alright, I'll return it to you once I awaken my powers," she affirmed.

With a warm smile, Vicente kissed her forehead. "Now go, I'll wait for you here."

After Nina left, Jasmine approached Vicente. "You shouldn't have done that. I don't know how you obtained that item, but it's..."

"I know what it is," Vicente interjected, aware of its nature. "I understand its potential. That's why Nina will only use it momentarily."

"Still, you shouldn't..."

"No. For Nina's success, everything is worth it," he asserted firmly, cutting her off.

Disagreeing, Jasmine shook her head. "I beg to differ. But anyhow, what are you planning to do with it afterward? That item is cursed. If someone from my organization discovers you have it, I won't be able to help you. They'll attack without hesitation."

"I'll keep it safe," Vicente replied candidly. "But rest assured, this item won't attract attention. It possesses a special feature that conceals it effectively."

For years, Professor Julian had utilized this item without attracting any adversaries due to its feature. Vicente had also used it during his awakening, and even then no one had realized what he was carrying. So he knew it would be very difficult for anyone to find it out.

"You're quite the risk-taker," Jasmine remarked with a sigh, recognizing her limited influence in the matter. "I just hope you don't come to regret it."

Ignoring her concern, Vicente was soon standing next to the rest of his group, near a balcony that overlooked the Awakening Platform a few feet below where they were standing.

Soon that platform was crowded with young people like Nina, which was to be expected since this was the largest city in the kingdom, but also the best place to attract the attention of internal and external forces.

If someone in the kingdom wanted to awaken their powers and have a chance of being called to a sect or clan outside the kingdom, the best place to do it was in the capital.

In Grandis, the Awakening Temple served as the focal point for those seeking to awaken their powers and potentially secure positions in sects or clans beyond the kingdom's borders.

So not only did young people from Grandis come to awaken their powers there, but young people from all over the province and various parts of the kingdom came to this city every week to awaken their powers at this post.

After all, the Awakening Temple in Grandis was four times larger than the one in Saltstar City where Lauren had awakened her powers.

Anyway, while the young people crowded onto the platform, the observation areas of this building were packed with families, friends, and observers who were there for today's event.

As the clock struck noon, the typical pre-awakening phenomenon ensued, accompanied by the Temple Master's voice extending good wishes to the young aspirants.

Just as Vicente had heard on other occasions, this voice wished the young people there good luck, hoping that the continent's next Archmage would emerge from one of the many temples under the influence of his powers at that moment.

With the conclusion of his speech, the obelisk in the center of the area emitted a surge of mana into the air.

Gems embedded in the ceiling illuminated, matching the obelisk's hue, before hurtling downwards in intricate trajectories, seeking out their destined owners.

Several of them made their way, "choosing" their owners, those most compatible with them in the area being analyzed.

Some of the young people on the platform were afraid, which is natural during an Awakening. The gems were flying so fast!

But the young participants remained composed, recognizing this as a pivotal moment in their lives rather than a threat to their safety.

The first gems soon approached their owners, hitting their foreheads like pistol bullets.

Vicente and his group saw several young people receiving their gems, while Nina stood still, waiting for her moment.

They began to get nervous because with each passing moment, her chances were diminishing and she was getting closer to failure.

However, halfway through the awakening, they saw a small bright 'star' hit the area between Nina's eyes.

It happened suddenly, causing the Fuller family members to change their expressions overnight.

Vicente felt his heart leap in his chest and felt a great weight lift from his shoulders. After attracting a gem, the chances of a young person's awakening failing were greatly reduced!

As the Fuller family buzzed with excitement and happiness for Nina, she closed her eyes as she felt the burning mana in her body move to her forehead.

A smile appeared on her lips as she realized she was going to succeed. She quickly began to feel relieved, becoming more and more confident in herself, while she couldn't help but wonder what the magical form of this gem was.

Her siblings had completely different gems than her parents, so she figured that the chances of her being different from Lauren, Vicente, Andrew, and Kate were very high.

Then the glow on Nina's forehead began to fade, gradually revealing the shape and color of her Magic Gem to everyone around her.