

The Mafia 921

Chapter 921 Nina's Recovery

After helping Lauren recover, Vicente told his sister to wait for him in the capital of the Chutha Dynasty. He told her of his plan to go to Seidel Kingdom and prepare the family forces. When it was time for them to proceed with their plans to deal with Demien, he would return to this city.

The same day he arrived in the dynasty's capital, he left the state and headed to the vicinity of the Seidel Kingdom's capital, which was not within reach of his wormhole, but quite close.

In less than a day's travel, after a brief conversation with Lauren, Vicente would enter the Seidel Kingdom and return to the kingdom's capital after years of absence!

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Already knowing that Nina was currently living in the kingdom's capital, Vicente made his way to Grandis, finding it an even better place than the capital of the Chutha Dynasty.

The city was buzzing with an ever-growing population, with a large secure area to exploit resources and ensure local security.

The unorganized parts of the city that had existed because of migrations no longer existed, and its old boundaries had advanced against the surrounding terrain, along with the emergence of new neighborhoods.

Vicente was just observing these positive signs when he felt Nina's aura, somewhat weakened and wounded, as she entered the city at another entrance, along with a group of men.

Vicente flew towards her, not needing much more information to know that she was returning from some kind of mission.

When he got close to her and the group, Vicente used his powers to help her heal along with the men, causing them to stop momentarily in the middle of a busy avenue. At first, they did not understand what was happening.

Watching his wounds heal, Killian's eyes widened as he saw his arms, partially exposed by the armor he was wearing, which had been severely damaged, heal.

"That..."

"Vicente!" Nina realized who could be behind this and raised her eyes as she said her brother's name with joy.

Unlike what he had done to Lauren, Vicente immediately used his regenerative ability to help Nina recover not only from her injuries and fatigue, but also from her deafness. Before even talking to her, he focused on solving his little sister's problem.

The beautiful and strong Nina, who saw her brother landing in front of her, with his six pentagrams of the first magical form appearing, suddenly froze her expression.

Hearing sounds for the first time in two decades, Nina narrowed her eyes and frowned, the muscles in her face twitching.

For a moment, her knees weakened as she brought both hands to her face in pain.

The world was so quiet for her. But with the snap of a finger, she heard wagon wheels moving down the street, the metallic clank of armor and the rattling of weapons from the men near her, as well as the guards and citizens in the area.

The murmur of other people's conversations, the sound of beasts breathing nearby, joined the sound of blacksmiths, alchemists, and other professionals working here and there.

The city was a home of noise, a chaotic environment full of audible information at almost every moment.

Unaccustomed to so much information, Nina felt pain, not coping as well with regaining her lost senses as Lauren had.

But that was to be expected. She had only cultivated to the 4th stage, while Lauren was already at the end of the 5th stage, with a pentagram to spare.

Vicente stopped next to his sister and touched one of her shoulders while manipulating her mind. "Focus on my voice. I know it's uncomfortable, but you'll get over it one way or another. Just try to get used to it. Sooner or later, it won't be so uncomfortable anymore."

Nina raised her lowered head and looked at her brother's lips, hearing Vicente's voice for the first time in years.

She felt enchanted by Vicente, feeling the other sounds lose volume as his voice stood out.

Under the influence of one of Vicente's mental abilities, Nina learned to discriminate sounds and focus on what interested her, gaining subtle control over her hearing in less than a minute.

Was less than a minute fast? Perhaps. But with mana at her disposal and a high level of talent, Nina would hardly need more than a few minutes, an hour at most, to get used to hearing things.

Having fought many times and faced deadly dangers, this girl was used to feeling a certain amount of pain when she went on missions. After minimally controlling her hearing, she ignored the discomfort she still felt to smile and hug her brother, happy to have him back.

"Thank you, older brother," she said as she wrapped her arms around Vicente.

He did the same as he smelled Nina's long black hair, happy that she was okay, that she was so strong and that he could help her before something more important happened.

After a minute of cuddling, he opened his eyes and looked at Killian, nodding in recognition.

Returning his eyes to Nina's, he said to her, "Let's talk in the royal palace. I have some important matters to discuss."

"What is it?" Nina asked curiously.

"Let's wait until everyone is together so we can talk," he said as he looked at one man in Nina's group. "You there." He pointed to one of the men. "Go find Newton and Jasmine. I want them both at the royal palace in five minutes at the latest."

"Yes, Venerable." The man promptly left with two other members of Nina's group.

Vicente then led the way for the rest of the group to the royal palace, talking to his sister about Lauren on the way.

"I saw Lauren a few hours ago, Nina. I also helped her recover. Now she can see as well as you can hear."

"Is that true?" Nina's eyes sparkled as she clenched her fists.

"You'll see each other soon. Anyway, big changes are coming. Get ready for them. You'll soon have to take on an even greater role of responsibility." He looked at her differently, with great expectations for his sister.

Nina felt good to receive a mission from her brother. "I will do my best. Whatever it is, I'll defend the family with all the strength in my heart!"

Chapter 922 Nina's Maturity

Ten minutes after Vicente's arrival in the capital, he was in the royal throne room with Nina, Killian, King Seidel, Newton, and Jasmine.

With the group gathered, Vicente got right to the point, talking first about what was most important, what might happen to him soon, and how he couldn't go to the end of the disaster with the mainland forces.

He shocked each of these people, saying about the future of Magus, as well as how close he was to achieving the magical quality of a Magus, even though he had just become Archmage.

But with the threat of Demien and how strong the vampire should be after his ascension to the Intermediate Archmage level, no one doubted Vicente had no choice but to keep trying to get stronger, despite the risks.

After a few minutes of conversation, they understood the two paths the continent faced. One, Vicente could eliminate Demien before he disappeared, and the two, he wouldn't be able to.

In the first case, the continent's forces would still have a long journey ahead of them, but their chances of survival and eventual victory over the monsters were not zero.

The second case was bad, and the chances of their long-term survival after Vicente's departure—or death—would be practically non-existent.

Either Vicente would succeed before he left for the Supreme Continent, or all of humanity would perish after his departure.

Vicente also talked about his plan to strengthen Lauren with Demien's death, which could be a relief for the human forces in the fight against the vampire Archmages that might remain after Demien's fall.

They obviously didn't consider that Demien would kill Vicente. If that happened, the scenario for the human forces would be even worse than if he left before eliminating Demien!

"We've reached such a point." King Seidel sighed as he shook his head, his eyes closed as he felt the tension of the moment.

He understood every point Vicente made, how Vice couldn't stop growing, how dangerous every step the young man took would be, and how complicated the continent's situation would be after the young man's departure.

Things were bound to get worse for the continent, at least for a while.

It was possible they would eventually gain some advantage, stop the monsters from advancing, or raise their own forces. But eventual victory over the monsters without Vicente's help would be difficult and very time-consuming.

How many generations would it take for the continent to recover?

"I will help the human forces of the continent as long as I can. I'll kill 6th stage vampires and produce 6th stage armor for the human forces. But whether the continent returns to human control

in the future will depend solely on you. That will be beyond my control." Vicente said, his eyes alternating between King Seidel, Newton and Nina.

Newton scratched his chin, thinking. "If there are any remaining 6th stage vampires on the continent following Vicente's departure, there is a possibility that they may progress from the Beginner Archmage level to become Intermediate Archmages. In such a scenario, we could swiftly revert to the present circumstances, albeit without the assistance of Vicente."

Nina frowned as she looked worriedly at Newton.

Vicente nodded positively. "That is likely. I don't know if I'll be able to hunt them all down, and if only one of them remains, it will be enough for them to be cautious and hide from our forces for a while.

By hunting down a few human Archmages and sucking their blood, they could become an Intermediate Archmage in a little over a decade after I leave. That would be the time to prepare for a new Demien Bloodthorne."

Demien wasn't just any vampire, so even if another Intermediate Archmage were to emerge from his race, such one wouldn't be as defying as the current leader of the vampire coalition. Even so, someone with the same cultivation as Demien would be a problem for the human forces.

'I have to become a Paragon in the meantime!' Nina clenched her fists, even more worried about her growth.

Killian looked at his father, concern in his eyes.

The king said. "Let's hope it doesn't get that bad. In any case, we must focus our efforts on producing as many Archmages as possible in the coming years. Only Archmages will be able to fight against the 6th stage vampires."

"His Majesty is right," Vicente said as he looked at Jasmine and Nina. "I will try to send high-level vampire blood to our forces and help train Archmages. I'm going to set up some special resource sending points you should monitor, with groups of powerful magicians to absorb these essences as soon as I send them.

When I'm no longer here, I hope these measures will help your forces to stand on their own feet in some way. That's all I can do."

"That's more than enough," Nina said firmly, not liking how things would develop, but she was mature enough to understand that there were no alternatives.

She didn't want Vicente to leave. But given the current circumstances on the continent, there was nothing she could do to stop it. She knew how much Vicente would sacrifice to stop Demien—to continue to strengthen himself at the risk of being forced to leave the continent forever and never see Annie again—just to ensure the death of their greatest enemy.

Under the circumstances, how could she be selfish and complain about his impending departure?

She could only enjoy her brother's last moments on the continent, be grateful for his efforts and honor his decisions, fighting to make sure it was not all in vain.

'I'll do my best to make sure it's not all in vain, brother! I'll take care of the family and help the continent get through this crisis!'

Nina clenched her fists as she bitterly swallowed her tears of sadness at Vicente's impending departure.

Vicente nodded at Nina, pleased to see how mature his little sister had become.

He smiled and said in a more optimistic tone. "Let's believe our efforts will pay off. Fear of death will get us nowhere. So we should plan for victory. One day, if all goes well, we'll meet again, whether it's here in Polaris Realm or on the Supreme Continent."

Chapter 923 Happiness and Sadness

After talking to Nina and the others about his current situation, Vicente wouldn't be staying in Grandis much longer. In a hurry to see his wives and daughter again, he left the capital less than an hour after arriving in the area.

Vicente planned to build the 6th stage armor in Metal City, near his wives and daughter. Since he needed some high-quality materials to make such armor, which didn't exist in this part of the

continent, he could develop the robotic armor anywhere, as his major materials were already in his spatial ring.

Because of the rarity of the materials needed to build such high-quality artifacts, Vicente could only build a few units. Beyond that, the most he could do was reinforce his existing 5th stage armor and perhaps create a few new ones.

Although these 5th stage robotic armors wouldn't tip the balance of the disaster, they were useful for guarding territories.

Vicente set off for Metal City, which he could reach in less than an hour from Grandis using his new ability.

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Vicente made his way to Metal City, the current capital of the safe territory of Snow and Scott Provinces.

On the border of these two provinces, in the kingdom's southeast, one of the most southeastern areas of the continent, Metal City was now even larger than when Vicente left it some two years ago.

As he flew over the area, Vicente estimated that over 700,000 people now lived in his city, an incredible number for a city in Polaris Realm.

Though humans had ruled most of the continent for a hundred thousand years, human cities had rarely approached a million people mark, even in the continent's best and worst times.

Unlike Vicente's land, Polaris Realm couldn't comfortably accommodate that many people in one area simultaneously.

Metal City was an atypical case, especially considering that, unlike at the beginning of the crisis, there were now several safe cities in the area, so there was no need for people to live there.

Still, the city stretched majestically up the side mountains of the area where Vicente had originally placed his fences, but now those same structures were nowhere to be seen.

Vicente took in the beautiful view of the city for a few moments before he crossed the sky and headed toward his property.

Metal City's defenses weren't fazed in the least by Vicente's movement, as he passed through its invisible barrier and nothing happened.

The air around the garden of the Fuller estate stirred, and then the men standing guard where Annie was playing with some of the family's animals and toys saw a black-haired man appear behind the little girl.

Annie felt the wind blow through her hair and looked back to where Vicente had just landed.

"Daddy!" Her small eyes widened considerably before she raised her arms and ran to Vicente.

Vicente took her in his arms and held her close to his face, then kissed the sweet face of his daughter, who was now quite chubby, with big cheeks and wrinkles on her arms.

At almost five years old, Annie was no longer as small as she had been when he left on his empowering journey years ago. But she still kept her loving gaze, which made Vicente feel both sad and happy.

His happiness was that his daughter was growing up well and that it wouldn't be long before she understood the magical path. His sadness was that in a short time he might not see her, and maybe never again.

Who could guarantee he would survive Demien? And even if he survived, who could guarantee he would survive the Supreme Continent? And even if he did, what guarantee did he have he could change anything on the Supreme Continent, or that Annie could find him in the future?

The odds were against him. There were too many 'ifs' in his path ahead, so he could only feel his heart in his hands, possibly close to never seeing his daughter and his wives again.

While Vicente was hugging and talking to Annie with many thoughts on his mind, Nova appeared in the garden and ran up to them with a beautiful smile on her face.

"Vicente!" She shouted before hugging her husband and daughter, finally seeing him again after over two years since he left.

Vicente squeezed his wife's waist and kissed her after placing Annie on his shoulder, the little girl laughing and having fun.

Nova kissed Vicente as her heart leaped, having already noticed his current strength, but also the look in his eyes filled with worry.

Some thorny problem was in Vicente's mind. She could feel it!

"How are you? Did you miss me?" He asked, looking back and forth between Nova and Annie.

"Yes! Daddy, are you finally at Annie's side?" The little girl asked, clasping her small hands around Vicente's forehead.

"For a while, yes," he said just that, looking at Nova.

Nova realized he had serious things to say and grabbed Annie from Vicente's shoulders. "Annie, I want you to go back and play with your friends and toys. Mommy and Daddy need to talk."

The little girl didn't make things difficult, eager to play with her father and hear his story, but obedient enough to stay in the garden and wait her turn.

Nova took Vicente's hand and led him into the house.

"Where are Layla and Lina?" Vicente asked, hoping to discuss the family's current problems with everyone at once.

"Layla is at the altar of the city order. She should be back soon. As for Lina, she went to Metal City 7 two days ago to take care of some business." Nova replied as she sat down next to Vicente in one of the living rooms of the residence.

Lina and Layla, as well as Nova, were already Low-level Paragons. Vicente knew that, so he didn't need to hear from Nova why Lina had gone to Metal City.

With powers that helped her see into the future, Lina could be precious in solving problems for her area.

"We need to send a letter for Lina to return as soon as possible. I want her to be by my side to see my future. The strongest vampires on the continent are moving here right now. I need her to tell me the right time to act." He said as the two waited for Layla to return.

Chapter 924 Hope for the Fuller Family

After hearing from Vicente about the need for Lina to return as soon as possible, Nova tried to understand what was worrying her husband the most.

Vicente didn't tell her the most important thing, waiting to tell Nova and Layla concurrently.

While they waited for Layla's return, they talked about smaller things, like his visit to the capital of the Chutha Dynasty and to Grandis, where he had already seen Nina and Lauren, helped them recover and prepared them for the future.

"... Anyway, I'll stay in the city for a while. But it won't be for long. Maybe we'll be together for a month or a year. I don't know. It depends a lot on how the enemies behave.

But in the meantime, I intend to stay here and help strengthen the defenses of our territory, with new armor and updated versions of the old robotic armor". He finished telling Nova.

The beautiful blue-haired woman understood the situation, already expecting that Vicente had failed to solve the disaster. From the look on his face, she had known since she had seen him in the garden a few minutes ago that he would still have to fight dangerous battles to solve the situation on the continent.

But she was happy to hear that Lauren could see now, and that she had fully regained her memories. That was a relief to her. The fact that Nina could hear again also cheered her up, as Nina was a sweet girl who deserved to be 'whole' again.

Not long after he had finished talking, and she had described a little of what Annie's years in his absence had been like, Layla rushed into the living room, grinning from ear to ear.

"Vicente!" She said when she saw him, running over to him and immediately hugging and kissing him, even though she was in front of Nova.

None of Vicente's wives shared intimate moments with him in front of each other. But Nova was empathetic and didn't mind seeing him kiss another woman in front of her.

Layla didn't even realize what she had done when she parted her lips with Vicente's and looked into her husband's eyes, longing for his touch.

"It's good to see you too, Layla." He smiled at his gray-haired wife before motioning for her to sit next to Nova.

With the two sitting in front of him, Vicente let out a long sigh and explained the situation.

He explained about his powers, what happened to those who reached the Indigo grade or the Magus level, as well as the fact that he probably wouldn't be able to eliminate all the strongest enemies before he was no longer available to the continent's forces.

It wasn't impossible for him to eliminate Demien and deal with the 6th stage vampires before his time on the continent was up. But the odds were not in his favor.

His pentagrams were too close to evolving even without him absorbing a new essence!

The mere act of cultivating could qualitatively elevate him to the next grade!

After a few minutes of his explanations, the two of them just listening to him the whole time, they both understood what was troubling Vicente.

They both felt sad at the thought of not seeing him for a long time. Nova felt even worse, sad for herself, but also for Annie, who had little time left with her father!

However, she comprehended Vicente's predicament. His strength need to improve, and he faced the threat of expulsion from the continent because of his needs.

This drastic measure was essential to eliminate some of the most troublesome adversaries and secure the long-term survival of humanity.

If he simply gave up cultivating to stay at his family's side, he would probably die along with them.

Neither Nova nor Layla wanted to end everything just to be away from him. They would rather he was forced to go to the Supreme Continent and they and he would have the chance to meet again one day!

"Sigh... So here we are." Layla closed her eyes as she turned her face to the ceiling, feeling an unprecedented tightness in her heart, her thoughts disappearing from her mind as she felt as if time had stopped.

The surrounding sounds faded away and for a moment only Vicente and Nova were with her, everything around her losing its glow.

He sighed and shook his head. "It's terrible, but there is no alternative. Let's prepare for the worst, but it's possible that this will only be a short interval in which we won't be able to reach each other."

"What are you talking about?" Nova asked him, wiping away her tears with a white handkerchief.

He said. "The Supreme Continent is a place where there are not only indigo essences, but also violet ones. I don't know how strong a 7th-stage expert is, but there are certainly 8th-stage magicians. Can you imagine what that means?"

The two were silent, too sad to use their interpreting skills at the moment.

He answered his own question. "If there are stronger magicians there, then the mana on the Supreme Continent is denser than in Polaris Realm. There must be more resources to increase one's power, which means I'll be able to grow faster when I get there.

If what Tenglin told me really happens, I'll reach the Supreme Continent with 12 pentagrams and Beginner Archmage cultivation. For the strength of this continent, the influence Archmages have on Polaris Realm should be like what Earth Sovereigns or High-level Mages have there. If that's the case, I'll probably become a high-level Magus quickly."

At this point, they thought about what he had in mind and understood what he meant.

"Do you think you can grow up quickly and try to change this connection between Polaris Realm and the Supreme Continent?" Layla asked, with an unsure look on her face.

"Yes. I became an Archmage in the Polaris Realm in just over 17 years of cultivation. So how long will it take me to become an 8th or 9th stage magician on the Supreme Continent?" He looked at her optimistically.

But Nova wasn't so sure. "Maybe you'll progress faster there than here. But what if that means that a journey of thousands of years will only take centuries? That would be fast by cultivation standards, but not to solve our problems."

"You're right. However, don't forget that I have two magical forms. One magical form can drive the other, and I have many pentagrams that can develop without limits." He smiled at her, using this trump card to his advantage.

It wouldn't be easy to reach the highest levels of the Supreme Continent. But did he have to do that to get what he needed to change things for his family?

The two women couldn't disagree. They really saw sense in Vincent's words. He could go to the Supreme Continent as only a Beginner Archmage, whereas it would normally take someone at Magus level to do so. So why not think that he might be right?

Chapter 925 Vicente's Inheritance

"Maybe..."

With Vicente's answer, Layla and Nova looked at each other for a moment, still with worry in their hearts, the expressions on their faces were not good. But silently, they believed it was possible.

'With Vice's talent, six pentagrams capable of evolving, a place stronger than the northern Polaris Realm, and some luck, he could grow up quickly.' Layla thought silently.

Nova thought the same. 'Maybe he can. The history of the change between the continents probably won't change. But it's possible that he'll find a loophole by getting stronger.'

It should have been impossible for Lauren and Nina to recover, but he managed to make them both better... We also know nothing about what happens during the ascension to the Supreme Continent. If there's some kind of benefit to that, maybe he'll get there even stronger than he is now.'

Why did Nova think of the possibility of a benefit from simply going to the Supreme Continent? Normally, a qualitative improvement would bring a general improvement to a magician's overall strength. As one moved up a stage, they would feel improvements in all of their characteristics, even in essences that didn't evolve naturally, such as bestial-origin pentagrams.

Perhaps there was an additional benefit to ascending to the Supreme Continent? Nova didn't know, but she didn't rule out the possibility.

With these thoughts, she still felt pessimistic and sad, but less so.

"What now?"

"Now I make the armor I can make. I'll strengthen the armor that already exists in our domains, strengthen the defenses of the cities and our territory. If I'm here for at least a few months, I can at least leave you prepared for my absence." Vicente replied to Nova.

The two women looked at him in silence, but kept their feelings to themselves.

He adds, "I will try to spend the early mornings and evenings with you. I will use my time during the day to make these improvements.

I don't want to leave without living with you and Annie."

Nova and Layla thought about telling him to focus on Annie and the improvements he needed to make, but they knew Vicente wouldn't accept that.

After all, they were willing to sacrifice themselves. But he wouldn't allow it, at least not now, when he could still be with them.

Nova stood up and said, "In that case, you'd better get started. We can't waste a second."

Vicente stood up as well and nodded in agreement. "I'm going to talk to Annie for a while and then I'll start the production of the new armor. But before that, I want you to work with our men and allies to make it look like you've left the Seidel Kingdom and no longer live here."

He saw the looks of disbelief on their faces and explained. "The vampires are probably already looking for information about me. They'll come to Metal City, eventually. But if we make it look like my family left the state, we can fool them for a while."

They understood what they had to do and promised him that they would do their best to buy him as much time as possible.

Doing what he asked was not difficult. All they had to do was start spreading rumors, pretend to leave the city, and then disappear from public view. Within a few weeks, news of their departure from the kingdom would reach even their allies.

Vicente trusted his wives to carry out this plan, then returned to Annie in the garden of the estate, where he played with the little girl for half an hour before going to his smithy on the estate.

...

Two weeks would pass in the blink of an eye after Vicente's return to Metal City!

Two quiet weeks for his family, with Lina's return, but also with Vicente's progress in his plans to produce new armor for the family.

With the materials he had in his spatial ring and in the family's warehouse in the city, he produced 17 new 6th stage armors, even more efficient than the ones he used to escape from the Citadel. In addition, he produced another 50 pieces of 5th stage armor, more than anyone else in the region.

Unfortunately, he lacked the high-quality materials to produce armors like those 17. Without those materials, he could only produce armor slightly above the standard peak quality of the 5th stage.

In addition, he upgraded the armor available in the city, doing so in secret while rumors spread about his arrival in the city and then his departure with his family.

Only the most important members of the family knew he and the core of the Fuller family were still in the Seidel Kingdom. Therefore, in the short term, his plans were to first help the groups and cities that were most under his control in Scott Province.

In the meantime, he had spent time with his family, making himself available to Annie and their wives in the mornings and evenings. With his ability to open wormholes, he could even go out of the realm and return the same day.

In this way, he gradually taught Annie more important things!

...

"Annie, soon I won't be here anymore. You'll have to take care of your mother and aunts for me," Vicente said as he finished upgrading some more armor in his forge, wiping his sweaty face with a handkerchief.

A chubby little girl watched him from a small wooden chair, her eyes wide and shining as she looked at her father.

Annie was already quite intelligent, aware of the calamity on the continent and her father's role in it. She had heard from him several times that he wouldn't be around for much longer and had understood, even though she didn't want to.

She still got teary-eyed when she heard her father talk about it, but that had gradually changed since he had started asking her for favors.

"Will you do it for me? They'll be safer if you take care of them." Vicente bent down beside Annie and kissed her forehead.

"I'll do my best, Daddy!"

"Good girl. I'll teach you my trade and leave you a gift before I go. I want you to use it wisely to help them. These will be your weapons." He said stood up, leaving Annie to think about what this gift would be.

Meanwhile, he had the Cataclysm Moon Pendant in mind, an item that had its problems but could refine extremely strong negative powers.

'I would leave the Dragons' Amulet with you if I could, but this item is too powerful, Annie. The Cataclysmic Moon Pendant can affect you even if you do nothing. I'm afraid it will make you suffer a little, but it will give you good power.

With my blood and the Cataclysm Moon Pendant, you'll be able to become a Magus!'

Chapter 926 Preparation Before Departure

Over the next few days, Vicente would continue to work under Annie's supervision, using his moments of rest to teach her important things.

He wanted Annie to have a minimum understanding of the craftsman's trade. It was still precious to their family, and she would need to know the basics in order to make good use of the infrastructure Vicente had built.

Despite all the misfortune on the continent and the power of the Fuller family, coins were still crucial. The family's future lay not only in killing vampires, but in accumulating gold and ensuring long-term continuity.

Dead vampires could help the family grow stronger in the short term more than gold. But one day, these experts would die or ascend to the Supreme Continent. At that time, the legacy of vampire blood would disappear. Gold, on the other hand, could preserve much of the family's power in the long run.

Vicente understood and wanted his daughter to think the same way he did and eventually pass it on to the next generations of the Fuller family.

In addition to the skills of a trader, he wanted to teach her the basics of being a smart person, able to plan her steps before acting, to be calm, and to know when to back off.

He wanted to nurture Annie's talent with the Cataclysm Moon Pendant, but not just a high-level talent would take her to the top. Until she became an expert, she would go through a good period of vulnerability.

In his spare time over the past few weeks, he had focused on shaping this little girl's personality.

Already knowing he wouldn't be around for much longer, he began his journey through the altars of the Cataclysm Order at Annie's side!

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At the secret altar of the Cataclysm Order near the capital of the Seidel Kingdom, Vicente and Annie had just arrived through a wormhole he had created.

The little girl had a big smile on her face as she looked around with a sparkle in her eyes, thinking it was great to be able to travel with her father.

Vicente continued walking down the aisle while Annie held on to one of his fingers and strolled alongside her father.

The men of this post, about a hundred individuals, the weakest of them, Earth Sovereigns, were all lined up at the entrance to the altar, in positions of respect for Vicente and Annie.

The leader of this post, one of the most important in the Cataclysm Order today, with influence over tens of thousands of magicians, a powerful Mid-level Paragon, narrowed his eyes when he saw the necklace around Annie's neck.

"Welcome back, Altar Master!" The man said, followed by all the altar people in the area.

Vicente stopped in front of the standing Paragons and corrected them. "From now on, my daughter, Annie Fuller, is the new leader of the order. I'm here to take your oaths of allegiance to her."

Annie looked at her father, not really understanding what was going on, while the powerful magicians around stared at her.

Vicente added, "In my absence, Lauren Fuller will be the General Counsel of the Cataclysm Order, Annie Fuller's guardian. Nina Fuller will be the General Protector of the order."

The men and women in the surrounding area understood the succession of power within the altar immediately after Vicente's words ended, bending their knees as they looked at Annie.

"Congratulations to the new Altar Master! Altar Master Annie, we look to you for guidance as we strive to reach the pinnacle of magic!"

The surrounding men shouted, swearing oaths to the heavens as they allowed Vicente to mark each of their souls with this promise.

Vicente looked at Annie with a smile on his face and motioned for her to step forward and say what he had told her earlier.

"P-people, I will follow in my f-father's f-footsteps and rule with w-wisdom. We will restore s-stability to the c-continent!" She said amid her hesitation, stuttering but getting her first words out to her subordinates.

With the Cataclysm Moon Pendant around her neck and Lauren and Nina at her side, Annie could lead calmly even without the oath of these men.

But Vicente wouldn't be foolish to rely on that alone. Lauren and Nina might not be able to help Annie at some point in the future, so he wanted to make sure that all the top experts of the Cataclysm Order were sworn to obey his daughter.

He moved on, heading for the forge area of this secret structure to upgrade the area's armaments and defenses.

Annie would accompany him, along with the Paragons of this post, who were obviously curious about the future and the plans of their former leader.

Even though Vicente was no longer the Altar Master, he was still the master of many of these individuals who had sworn allegiance to him or received his mark of slavery in the past.

...

For the next six weeks, Vicente would upgrade all the armor, weapons, and defenses of any city or border in the Seidel Kingdom.

With nine more Cataclysm Order ranks loyal to Annie, he intended to continue his journey through the Seidel Kingdom's neighboring states, traveling alongside Annie, Layla, Nova, and Lina.

Meanwhile, Lina had been spying on her family's future daily, looking for the pivotal moment when Vicente would be forced to leave, lest they face a high-level battle.

Fortunately, their actions of faking their escape from Metal City had worked, and rumors of their journey to the central region of the continent had even reached the north.

By now, the coalition led by Demien Bloodthorne knew about Vicente's background and the family he had in the Seidel Kingdom in the recent past.

But with several places with conditions similar to Metal City in the south and center of the continent, going to Metal City to look for him didn't seem promising. Vicente could be anywhere.

To prevent him and his family from fleeing wherever they were and becoming even more difficult to reach later, Demien and his men were searching for them carefully.

They also didn't want to reveal their position to their enemies. Little by little, they approached the cities where their targets might be, cautiously, so as not to show themselves until they were sure of the enemy's position.

While this was happening, the continent experienced a certain peace, with both sides of the disaster only preparing for the next great battle.

This would continue for months, but in less than a year since Vicente's return to his family, things would change!

Chapter 927 Demien is Coming!

On Annie's sixth birthday, Vicente was still at his family's side, having returned to Metal City in Scott Province after months of traveling with his family.

Over the course of about a year, the group traveled through the Kenyth Empire, the Chutha Dynasty, the Seidel Kingdom, and three other kingdoms, visiting the major strongholds of the Cataclysm Order and ensuring the loyalty of the order's key members to Annie.

In addition, in each of the places the family visited, Vicente helped the local forces by building new armor and improving the old artifacts, as well as the defenses of the cities and human domains.

During these months, he got some more materials to build four more 6th stage armors and left them in the southern region to help the humans in their future travels.

After doing all this, Vicente secretly led his family back to Metal City, where they lived one day at a time, preparing for his departure.

Unfortunately for Annie and Vicente's wives, their last day together on Polaris Real would come on little Annie's sixth birthday!

...

At the Fuller mansion, in the center of Metal City, Lina, Layla and Nova found themselves face to face with Vicente in what looked like a sauna. There was so much steam surrounding them they could not see the walls of the room.

The four sat around naked, glasses of wine in hand, enjoying the evening together after putting Annie to bed.

It had been a good day. Besides cultivating and receiving updates on the situation of the family and the south of the continent, they had eaten all the meals of the day together, with each of them having the chance to be alone with Vicente for a few minutes...

Now they were relaxing in this underground area, when their smiles and relaxed comments suddenly stopped as Lina dropped her cup. Her expression changed instantly, leaving the relaxed, cheerful smile behind to tighten her muscles, her eyes narrowing as her skin turned pale.

Vicente looked at his wife in silence and sighed, not needing Lina's ability to understand what it was.

"Lina?" Nova asked before the princess looked directly into Vicente's eyes.

She said, "The time has come. Demien Bloodthorne and his 6th stage vampires are nearby."

Layla and Nova felt their hearts crushed by Lina's words and realized that their time with Vicente was over.

"So here we are." Vicente got up from where he was sitting with his women, not happy at all, but willing to do what was necessary.

"How much time do we have, Lina?" Nova asked, her voice trembling. "Are they coming here?"

Lina shook her head while explaining her ability. "What I saw is what could happen. But if Vicente shows up, they probably won't come to Metal City. They'll go after him. As for time, we should have a few days at most."

"That's too short." Layla clenched her fists, realizing he would have to leave immediately if he wanted to secure the family's fate and take the battle far away.

"You should prepare to leave. Half of the metal cities between the center and the south of the continent are as safe as this place. Staying here after I leave could be dangerous." Vicente warned as he headed for the exit of this area.

The three followed him, aware this was a farewell, possibly a final one.

Their eyes were watering, and their breathing was quickly becoming notable.

But they had been preparing for this moment for months. Even though they were sad and nervous, they didn't want to make this moment more difficult for everyone.

Vicente said, "I will move and leave traces for the enemies. I'll take the battle to the border of the Chutha Dynasty and the Andoria Kingdom. That might give us more time. But it's likely that I'll be fighting Demien and his troops in less than a week."

Nova grabbed one of Vicente's wrists as he dressed and said, "Don't worry about us. We'll take every precaution and keep Annie safe. Just be careful with Demien. Run away if you can't defeat him."

Vicente finished dressing and nodded to his wife before looking into each of their eyes.

He gestured for them to come closer and hugged them simultaneously, with Lina on his left, Layla on his right, and Nova in the middle.

"No matter what happens after I am gone, you will always be in my heart. In life or death, I will do everything in my power to see you again. Just don't lose hope, no matter what happens. Just keep going until we meet again."

They couldn't hold back their tears, feeling like the most vulnerable women in the world, even though they were already powerful Paragons of five pentagrams, commanders of the most powerful human forces on the continent.

For a minute, Vicente comforted his wives before returning to the most important issue. "Monitor the places I've marked. As soon as I receive vampire bodies, I'll send them to these places. The waiting experts must absorb the blood from these corpses, and the alchemists must produce resources.

When the result of my journey arrives, the strongest on the enemy side will seize the opportunity to move and try to regain the strength they lost because of me. This will be the most difficult time for you in the short term, so be prepared."

"All right."

The three agreed to do what he wanted.

"Nova, I want you to have this." Vicente took off the Dragon's Amulet and placed it around his blue-haired wife's neck.

"The Dragon's Amulet won't be so useful to me when I go to the Supreme Continent. I could reach the indigo grade at any moment, so it will hardly help me in battle. And although it won't have the same potential in the hands of someone other than me, it can help a lot of Paragons like you."

Even though Vicente was the one who had gained the Dragon's Amulet, anyone who possessed the item could use it. The difference was that while he had an affinity with all the elements of the amulet—so he could use it completely—someone without these affinities could only use fractions of its powers.

The Dragon's Amulet was strong even for Archmages, so even a fraction of its power would be enough for Nova.

Chapter 928 Vicente's Departure

After receiving the Dragon's Amulet, Nova sensed the artifact's power surging through her body. Initially, she felt a momentary sense of pressure, but that feeling swiftly subsided.

She felt not only the weight of a high-value artifact but also the pressure of having to protect the fate of her family and Annie, with no room for error.

Vicente's act was not just the transfer of an artifact. It was the transmission of a mission, a supreme duty that she, above all, had to accept and give her life to fulfill it.

Her tears dried as she felt a sudden surge of determination, an extreme will to fight her enemies and protect her daughter's future.

She looked into his eyes, and after a long intake of breath, she said. "I will use it to the best of my ability until our daughter has the maturity and strength to possess it. At that time, I will give your inheritance to Annie and let her achieve greatness on her own."

He believed Nova and hugged her before kissing her, a deep kiss, not as wet as usual, but full of affection for each other. For a minute, they both felt as if the world around them had disappeared and they were joined to the same flesh through their kisses.

Vicente pulled his lips away from Nova's and kissed Lina and Layla.

'I'm going to miss you all.' He thought as he parted his lips with the last of the three, but he didn't tell them what was in his heart. It wasn't the right time.

They had gotten along well over the past year and had agreed not to stir up any feelings of hesitation in each other's hearts. It wouldn't be fair for either of them to take a step back now and make this moment even more difficult.

When Nova was also dressed, the four of them made their way through the compound, passing Rory, Casey, Sarah, several important guards, and Eve.

All had already been signaled by Vicente and were positioned around the estate, already knowing this was a farewell.

Seeing his friend heading for Annie's room, Rory let out a long sigh.

'That was so fast... Too bad it didn't last two decades. If we'd had more time, things could have been so different.' Rory greeted his great friend, assuring him he would continue to fight for his family, for Nina and Annie, until his death or his ascension to the Supreme Continent.

Casey said basically the same thing, guaranteeing he would work hard over the next few hours to help spread the word that Vicente would be on the border of the Seidel Kingdom and the Chutha Dynasty.

That was what Vicente wanted, to lure Demien away and keep the strongest vampires away from where the core of the Fuller family was at the moment.

"Vicente, good luck. I'll help Nova and the others take care of Annie," Eve said as best she could, holding a handkerchief to dry her tears as she spoke.

Vicente smiled at her, confident that Eve would work hard alongside his women and Annie. He hugged her, wrapping his arms around this woman who was like an older sister to him.

"I hope that one day our efforts will pay off and the continent will return to human control and the peaceful order it had before The Purification. When that happens, I want all of you here to receive your due rewards and live in peace with your families. Don't just live for war. Have your families and be happy."

All the men and women there closed their eyes as they accepted the last words of their leader, whom they trusted, loved, and respected the most.

Vicente opened the door to Annie's room and saw his daughter sleeping peacefully in her bed. In her room, several books could be easily seen on the side shelves of the room.

Vicente entered the room alone and quickly sat down next to her bed. He ran a hand over Annie's sleeping face, tidying the little girl's hair while feeling the worst pain for a father.

Right now, Vicente would rather be tortured than be in this situation.

Unfortunately, reality didn't care about his wishes. Facing his daughter for what might be their last time together, he watched her in silence, not wanting to wake her from her sleep.

After tonight, Annie's nights wouldn't be as comfortable as they had been in the last few months around her great father.

Vicente wouldn't wake Annie to say goodbye, but he would leave her something.

As he made a hand seal, the mana in the surrounding area condensed at the tip of one of his fingers, and then, with the help of his 5 pentagrams from the Throne of Darkness, he marked his daughter's forehead.

'When you need it, your father will help you one last time. In the meantime, live your life one step at a time, Annie. I'm sure you'll be able to reach me.'

He left a small note in one of Annie's hands before getting up, ready to leave.

Nova, Layla, Eve and Lina watched this moment from outside the room, the four women closest to Annie unable to hold back their tears.

Even the men in the room couldn't help but take a deep breath, each of them having been through too much with Annie and Vicente not to feel the weight of the moment.

"So that's it... I wish you luck in your future wars and magical progress. Stay tuned for what I've already said. You should hear from me soon."

With these words, Vicente used his sixth magnetic power to distort the space, and left his estate towards the border of the Seidel Kingdom and the Chutha Dynasty.

With his departure, the most important journey for him and the Fuller family had begun!

On the one hand, he now had to face the most powerful enemy in his path. On the other hand, the family had to prepare to be completely independent from Vicente in the fight for survival.

After Vicente's wormhole closed and none of them felt any sign of him nearby, they all stood in silence for a minute, frozen in their previous positions.

But soon the guards would return to their positions, while Casey would set out to make sure the vampires between the Chutha Dynasty and the Seidel Kingdom intercepted the rumors of Vicente's appearance.

Lina rushed to use her abilities and try to understand the future that lay ahead until everyone did something to fulfill their promises to Vicente.

Chapter 929 Time to face the enemy!

After leaving his family, Vicente appeared in a forested area on the border of the kingdom and the dynasty.

He calmed his heart when he came across the deserted place of the creatures and quickly realized where he was and the location of the monster closest to him.

'No one noticed me. That'll help me hide where I came from.' He looked from side to side until he moved north.

'Time to meet Lauren!'

His plan was to lure the vampires to this place where he had just appeared. But the place he really wanted to confront the vampires was between the dynasty and the Andoria Kingdom. He also needed Lauren by his side to complete his plans to create a powerful Archmage to protect humanity.

So, without hiding completely, but without being too conspicuous so as not to provoke his enemies' suspicions, Vicente flew on to the capital of the Chutha Dynasty, a few days' normal travel distance from where he was standing.

For the time being, he couldn't use his wormholes to travel further. There was a limit to how far he could use this ability, which was quite heavy in terms of mana consumption.

Even so, if he wanted to, he could reach Lauren's city in less than two days.

The problem was that he didn't want to, at least not until he was sure that Demien would come after him.

'I'll fly for three days and then make the rest of the way to Lauren quickly. That should be enough to put Demien on my trail.'

He went ahead, crossed the border, and entered the dynasty.

As he left the Seidel Kingdom behind, Vicente couldn't help but sigh as he thought of Nina, who unfortunately he didn't think would have the chance to say goodbye.

In the more than a year he'd spent with his family, he'd visited all his friends, close subordinates and relatives a few times. Nina had been close to Vicente and the rest of the family four times since his return, while Lauren had visited only twice.

Each time, he enjoyed those moments with his sisters as if they were his last days with them. But even so, he couldn't help but feel strange about flying away without saying goodbye to Nina once again.

'Just hang in there. One day, I'll sort out the situation between the Polaris Realm and the Supreme Continent. I won't let things end like this for us!'

...

Two days later...

While Vicente was on his way, Lauren and Nina were already aware of the latest news about their brother, having received urgent messages from the family.

Through the Cataclysm Order's network of outposts, the Fuller family's communications were the fastest on the continent. In just one day, this force could bring new information from the far south to the center of the continent.

After Vicente's departure, his subordinates began to prepare for the future, when their leader would no longer be on the continent and they would have to deal with the 6th stage vampires on their own.

Among the most urgent measures they had to take was to put the forces of Family and the order in position for trouble, but also to receive the resources Vicente could send them at any time after his departure.

Among those alerted, Lauren and Nina were already preparing to act, the younger of the siblings heading to one of the points where Vicente was to send vampire blood and organs, while the older awaited her reunion with Vice.

No one outside the family knew what was going on. Only members of the family and the Order who had Vicente's seals or were highly trusted by him were aware of his movements. As far as the current mainland community knew, Vicente had removed his family from Metal City months ago and moved them to a safer, unknown location.

Where were they? Ordinary people only knew that they were somewhere between the south and the center of the continent.

But no one thought Vicente was running away from the battle. For every person on the continent who knew what was happening, their last hope was to protect one of his weakest points, his own family.

But not everyone believed that. Monsters and vampires were much more aware of reality than the magical community!

...

Somewhere in the Seidel Kingdom, Demien and a group of four Archmages, all of them superior vampires, were observing one of Vicente's many metal cities.

"So this is one of the places he built to stop us?" Demien observed the place covered by heavy clouds.

The area to the side of the city was extremely difficult to pass through, while electromagnetic shields protected the built-up area from 'alien' forces.

According to the information his group had, their destination should be in one of the cities similar to the one in front of them today.

"This is impressive," said one of Demien's four subordinates, elders of the vampire coalition. "Can you imagine he did all this while we were in seclusion? In about a decade, Vicente Fuller rose from anonymity, took advantage of the crisis, and created his own empire.

His main domain may be in this weak desert place, but his armor, cities, and weapons are spread throughout the south and center of the continent. If we don't win this war, he will probably become a great tyrant of Polaris Empire."

The others couldn't help but agree, impressed by the achievements of a single magician.

Someone like Vicente was so terrifying that they couldn't help but feel a very unusual emotion for them. Fear!

They were truly afraid of Vicente, but they were also afraid of what the young man represented. If someone like Vicente had appeared, there was a possibility that others like him would appear in these lands!

Demien clenched his fists and said, "We'll wipe out all humans when we've completed our plans. We don't need to risk another bastard like him appearing."

"That... Wouldn't that wipe out our major source of power?" One of the four elders asked.

"We vampires can also grow by absorbing the blood of beasts, although much less compared to our results with humans. Also, we can cultivate mana and strengthen ourselves just like humans." Demien reminded them of the obvious.

They could do all that, but they preferred to focus their cultivation efforts on hunting human blood, which could strengthen them without damaging their foundations, give them new powers, and a cultivation speed of high-level for their race.

Demien finished his thought. "Better to cultivate a little slower with the continent under our absolute control than to have another obstacle like Vicente Fuller stand in our way."

Chapter 930 The Hunt Begins!

The four vampires couldn't help but agree with Demien, even though they weren't so keen on the idea of slowing down their cultivation speed. Not only were humans a valuable resource for them, but human blood was like the best meal for vampires.

While they were discussing this and observing the surroundings of this poor area in terms of natural mana density, so poor that they could hardly believe it had produced a monster like Vicente, a 5th stage vampire approached them.

"Elders," the newly arrived individual greeted them. "Supreme Leader, I bring news of Vicente Fuller. He was sighted flying to the Chutha Dynasty hours ago. We believe he is on his way to the capital, where his older sister, Lauren Fuller, currently resides."

"Oh?" Demien's expression changed as his four companions prepared to leave.

The vampires knew Lauren was the queen of the Chutha Dynasty, as well as Vicente Fuller's sister. Why hadn't they moved against her directly?

The answer lay in Lauren's background. As the last surviving member of the Nixlas Shadows, vampires or monsters commanded by vampires couldn't hunt her. Unless she acted directly against them, they could not act against her.

Under the terms of their contract with the leaders of Nixlas Shadows, acting against them was not acting against one vampire or another, but acting directly against them. According to the rules of the pact she had signed with her old sect, only beings who had been unjustly attacked could counterattack. If only a subordinate were attacked, Demien and the others could not retaliate.

It was only when they found out about Lauren and what she was doing that they realized the mistake they had made in their deal with Nixlas Shadows. But now it was too late, and unless Lauren acted against them, they couldn't target her.

They had tried, and an Archmage had nearly died after being severely injured while unleashing the wrath of the heavens.

But that didn't mean they couldn't watch Lauren!

"Our observers are already aware of this recent news and are on the lookout for Lauren Fuller. If Vicente Fuller gets close to her and leaves the dynasty capital, we'll have a group follow her immediately." The 5th stage vampire warned.

"Perfect. Let's go to the dynastic capital." Demien turned his back on that metal city.

"What about the news that the rest of his family is in the Seidel Kingdom?" One of the four Archmages asked.

"We'll assign a team of 5th stage vampires to monitor that area. However, our main objective is to eliminate Vicente Fuller. His family can wait for now," Demien said, taking off and soaring towards the north.

The four 6th stage vampires understood their leader's decision and followed him, leaving the 5th stage vampire behind, who already knew what he had to do.

...

Two more days passed while Demien's group traveled north.

Meanwhile, Vicente, already imagining that his enemies were on his tail, picked up his pace and arrived in the capital of the Chutha Dynasty that afternoon.

He did not hide his entry into the local royal palace, but he did not act ostentatiously either. As he entered the palace in the center of the city, he soon found himself in front of his older sister.

"Is it time?" She opened her eyes as she felt Vicente's aura. A second later, she saw her brother enter the cultivation room where she was waiting for him.

"Yes, we must take the battle as far north as possible. This will help keep the consequences of the battle away from our people, but also keep any potentially wounded vampires from escaping too close to our family," Vicente said as he looked into Lauren's eyes, determined to help her grow stronger.

She stood up, stopping in front of Vicente as she looked at him, feeling quite confused, saddened by the closeness of his departure, but also happy to see him acting as the family's leader and protecting them from the evils of the world.

"All right. Let's head north. How long do you think we'll have before Demien finds us?" She asked after a moment of silence, obviously nervous.

"I'm not sure. But it shouldn't be over a week. At the level Demien is at, he can fly swift and regain his strength at a frightening speed. Just keep in mind that he could catch up to us at any moment."

"Okay. Then you should lead the way."

They left the royal palace's cultivation room together, passing several men loyal to Lauren who were already preparing for her imminent departure.

Lauren said little to her men. After exchanging a few words with some of her most trusted soldiers on the way out of the palace, she flew north with Vicente.

Simultaneously with their departure, the vampires watching the city were already following them, watching from a safe distance, close enough to the siblings to understand what they were doing.

"This is strange... As far as I know, Vicente Fuller has excellent methods of movement that leave no trace. Why is he flying in plain sight?" One observer asked.

One of the other three 5th stage vampires said, "He's luring our leaders out of his territory."

"Why don't we stop him?"

"We don't know exactly where his family is to take them hostage. So if he's going to risk himself to protect his own family, it's worth risking ourselves. The most important thing is to eliminate him, but with the Supreme Leader after him, it's only a matter of time before that happens!"

This group continued their work, with someone sending warnings to their leader about their suspicions about Vicente's behavior.

...

Two more days passed, and now Demien was flying over the capital of the Chutha Dynasty, having already heard his subordinates' theory about his target's strange behavior.

He agreed with his men. To him, Vicente was indeed trying to lure them away from the Fuller family. But as 6th stage vampires, they saw no problem in going to the place where the human wanted their confrontation to take place.

Was there a trap in the place Vicente was going? Possibly, but few things in this world would work against them other than a power stronger than their own. But did Vicente have something like that with him?

They couldn't be sure, but they considered it unlikely. Either way, in three days, it would be the decisive moment for both sides in this hunt. In three days, they would finally meet face to face!