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Magical Crime Syndicate Terrorizes New York City

By Notta Fay

New York City has suffered from a string of magic-related incidents over the past few months. Though it began simply as a spike in petty crimes, such as shoplifting, vandalism, and disturbing the peace, it has recently escalated to more serious activities, such as destruction of private and public property, burglary, and manslaughter. Fear for public safety has increased over 250% since these events began. Construction crews have teamed up with the city's Public Works department to repair the damage quicker than it's caused, and insurance companies already have begun adding clauses, or sometimes whole policies, to their catalogs for magic-related incidents. The police originally suspected that these occurrences were unrelated to one another, and that individual criminals were committing crimes as they each discovered their respective abilities. But recently, at three notable bank robberies occurring successfully over the past week, police have identified a 'calling card', a common symbol of a red and black bulls-eye found at each site (right), suggesting that a group of magical criminals have organized together to commit these heinous deeds. Due to Congress's readiness to pass legislation protecting magic users from discrimination, the NYPD has not yet successfully developed countermeasures to protect or fight against potentially dangerous magic-imbued criminals. This has left the citizens of New York in a state of subdued panic.

"We have all our best people on the streets," said Eve Washburne, Captain of the New York Police Department, in a public statement issued recently. "Now that we know that these are organized attacks on our free and fair city, we will take any and all action to prevent this group from doing any more damage, or taking any more lives." Despite Washburne's gaudy words, public polls have reported that confidence in the NYPD has gone down by at least 70% in the past few months alone, with some saying that the streets are growing more and more 'apocalyptic' with each passing day. Others are waiting for someone akin to a superhero, a magician who uses their abilities for justice and good, to swoop in and save the day. More on Page 8.



