

Strongest

Chapter 1335 – Darkness Strikes

Inside the Guild Leader's office...

Daybreak Fog and Heaven's Burial's several other upper echelons were stunned by Singular Burial's command.

They hadn't expected Zero Wing's Guild Mounts to inspire such a firm decision.

In God's Domain, the Guild structures inside NPC cities could be destroyed. If one wished to rebuild a structure, they would require a new design to do so.

However, these structures were generally protected by defensive magic arrays. They weren't easy to destroy.

Normally, a Guild structure's defensive magic array could absorb up to 15,000,000 damage.

As for a crucial structure like the Stable, the Guild would employ a far more powerful magic array to protect it. Inside a 2-star Guild Residence, the strongest magic array one could establish to protect its Stable could absorb up to 30,000,000 damage, while the weakest magic array in a 3-star Guild residence could absorb up to 40,000,000 damage. Taking into account the Stable's own durability and Defense, it would take a considerable amount of time to destroy the building.

In addition, White River City was a major NPC city. An attack at night might have a chance of success, but now, they had been ordered to attack the Stable during the day. The NPC guards patrolling the city were incredibly diligent. Even the slightest disturbance would attract a large number of these NPC guards.

White River City was also Zero Wing's main headquarters. There were now fewer than three or four thousand members stationed in Zero Wing's Residence at a time. The Guild had also hired tons of NPC guards to defend the Residence. If they attacked, these players and NPCs would respond immediately.

Unless they invested several times the number of players Zero Wing had, it would be impossible to destroy the Stable under such tight security.

The Ghost Shadow Legion only had 2,000 members. Although these players were all elites or experts, there were plenty of elites and experts defending Zero Wing's Residence.

"Guild Leader, although Zero Wing's Guild Mount poses a threat, we're talking about an assault in White River City. Even if we dispatch the entire Ghost Shadow Legion, it won't even be enough to get through Zero Wing's main entrance," Daybreak Fog persuaded. "I suggest that we follow the original plan and take things one step at a time. First, we'll secure Stone Forest Town. Then, we'll kill the Frost King. Even with their Guild Mounts, we can whittle Zero Wing down. Such a forceful assault isn't necessary."

The other upper echelons expressed their agreement.

Zero Wing had a massive advantage over the other large Guilds, which did not possess Guild Mounts. As time passed, this gap between Zero Wing and its competitors would only widen.

It was wise to deal with this situation as quickly as possible.

However, Heaven's Burial was an exception.

With the Evil Beast army, Heaven's Burial could flatten any Guild town it wanted. To a large Guild like Zero Wing, losing a town meant losing an important income source. It would impact the Guild's development.

If Zero Wing lost its Guild town, how could it possibly compete with Heaven's Burial?

"I understand your concern." Singular Burial could not help but laugh. "Sending the Ghost Shadow Legion into action isn't profitable, but aren't you jealous of Zero Wing's Stable?"

"Of course, we are, Guild Leader, but so what? Constructing a Stable requires a design, yet we haven't even found a lead to the Stable Design."

"We might not have had the opportunity to build a Stable in the past, but now we do."

Saying so, Singular Burial revealed a thick, ancient tome and displayed it before everyone.

—

[Book of Replication] (Consumable)

Saves a copy of a building for ten days. When used, creates an exact replica of the building. (Cannot be used if copied building exists.)

—

After Daybreak Fog and the others read the introduction text, they wore shocked and ecstatic expressions.

With this Book of Replication, they could copy and destroy Zero Wing's Stable, obtaining one for Heaven's Burial.

"When Abandoned Wave attacks, Zero Wing's members will flock to Stone Forest Town's defense. As a result, the Guild's main headquarters will be left unguarded. That's our opportunity," Singular Burial said, smiling. "Don't we have eight Gnome Cannons? Give them all to the Ghost Shadow Legion. With eight Gnome Cannons, the magic array protecting Zero Wing's Stable can only last a few volleys at most, regardless of how powerful it is."

Hearing this, the upper echelons' eyes shone with excitement.

It wasn't possible for the Ghost Shadow Legion to destroy the Stable by itself. However, employing the Gnome Cannons against Zero Wing's defenses wouldn't be a problem.

Although they would undoubtedly lose all eight cannons and many members of the Ghost Shadow Legion, the losses would be worth stealing Zero Wing's Stable.

“However, as a preventive measure, lead the Third Legion to White River City, Fog. You can hand the eight Gnome Cannons over to Ghost Shadow while you’re at it. Destroy Zero Wing’s Stable once Ghost Shadow copies it. I want to see how Zero Wing intends to hold its position as Star-Moon Kingdom’s number one Guild after losing both Stone Forest Town and its Stable.”

“Understood. I’ll see to it right away.”

Daybreak Fog turned and left the office.

Zero Wing might have many experts, but after today, it would be Heaven’s Burial’s era in Star-Moon Kingdom.

...

Meanwhile, many adventurer teams and Guild players lay siege to the Bloodring Bandit Group at the border between the Stoneclaw Mountains and the Limestone Hills.

The Bloodring Bandit Group was one of the dark forces residing in this area. The group consisted of Level 45 and above Half-orcs. Among them, powerful Chieftains and Lords ambushed passing players and NPCs. Occasionally, even Great Lords patrolled the area.

However, due to the Bloodring Bandit Group’s frequent robberies against NPC merchant fleets, NPC merchants had placed a high bounty on their heads. Including the fact that the Bloodring Bandits had a chance of dropping the Bloodring Set, a Level 45 Fine-Gold Set Equipment, and the recipe for the Mad Demon Potion, many players had joined the crusade against the Bandit Group.

Level 45 Fine-Gold Set Equipment might not be considered top-tier equipment to first-rate Guilds, but independent players dreamed of such equipment. Moreover, Level 45 Fine-Gold Set Equipment generally only dropped in large-scale Hard Mode Team Dungeons.

Raiding the Bloodring Bandit Group was much easier than raiding a large-scale Dungeon.

Moreover, the Mad Demon Potion was a powerful concoction that, when consumed, allowed players to enter a Berserk state, increasing all Attributes by 30% for 20 seconds. It also only had a one-hour Cooldown. Hence, the recipe was highly sought after by the various large Guilds.

If the Mad Demon Potion Recipe dropped, it could even sell for enough to make powerful adventurer teams and Guild teams jealous.

Because of these reasons, the various adventurer teams and Guilds around Star-Moon City had targeted the Bloodring Bandit Group.

However, even now, not a single Guild or adventurer team had defeated One-eyed Clyde, the Bloodring Bandit Group’s commander, a Level 49 Grand Lord.

But one of Zero Wing’s 50-man teams had arrived.

“Leader, One-eyed Clyde’s resting place is ahead.”

“Good. This time, we have the magic array we purchased from the Guild to suppress Clyde. If we coordinate our AOE Skills and Spells properly, we’ll kill him. If the recipe drops, we’ll all be riding Thunder Wolves tomorrow!” a Level 41 Ranger said.

Hearing this, everyone grew excited.

Following which, under this Level 41 Ranger’s command, the team of 50 slowly approached One-eyed Clyde’s stone house.

Just before the team reached the house, however, numerous figures exited the building.

“Why are other monsters here?”

The team was surprised to see the one-horned humanoid monsters emerge from the house.

However, the Ranger team leader, who had extremely sharp eyesight, paled when he saw these monsters.

Inside the dimly-lit stone house lay a three-meter-tall, armored corpse. This corpse belonged to none other than One-eyed Clyde. Fresh blood still flowed from his body. However, the Ranger couldn’t detect any other players within his Eagle Eye’s range.

The Ranger also detected traces of green blood on these humanoid monsters. It was Half-orc blood. Seeing this, the Ranger thought back to the frightening monsters he had encountered during Stone Forest Town’s last siege.

“Crap! Everyone, retreat!”

Chapter 1336 – Stormy Stone Forest Town

The sudden command to retreat confused the members of Zero Wing.

Only eight one-horned humanoid monsters stood before them. Although their levels were a little high, all above Level 50, even the strongest among them was only a Lord. They also had less HP than monsters of the same rank and level. Taking these monsters on wouldn’t be impossible for this team from Zero Wing.

Even so, everyone listened to their team leader and immediately retreated.

“Do you actually think you can escape?” A cloaked figure suddenly emerged from the stone house. This cloaked man’s entire body had been wrapped in bandages. Sneering, the man said, “Just stay here and sacrifice yourselves!”

Although the cloaked man hadn’t been particularly loud, everyone had heard him clearly, and they shuddered involuntarily.

The team’s rangers were more shocked than their companions. They had kept Eagle Eyes active, which allowed them to perceive all players and monsters within a certain range, yet they had failed to detect the one-horned monsters and the cloaked man even as he stood before them.

Before the team could put some distance between themselves and these new enemies, the humanoid monsters smiled sinisterly as they dashed forward. They were so fast that they left afterimages in their wake.

With just a few steps, the Evil Beasts had crossed 30 yards and caught up with the retreating Zero Wing members.

“So fast!”

“Do you really think we’re afraid of you?!”

Realizing that they couldn’t outrun these Evil Beasts, three Level 40 Shield Warriors and one Level 41 Guardian Knight turned to stop the monsters’ approach.

Voice of Anger!

Justice Roar!

With their AOE Taunt Skills activate, the eight Evil Beasts couldn’t attack other players for a short time.

“Foolish!” the cloaked man sneered.

In the next moment, the Evil Beasts’ claws emitted a faint, gray fog. The Evil Beasts then launched a barrage of attacks against the Shield Warriors and Guardian Knight.

The instant the Evil Beasts’ claws collided with the four MTs’ shields, the sharp claws passed through them as if they didn’t exist and slashed the MTs helmets.

These MTs instantly lost over 13,000 Hp, a large fraction of their totals, after a single attack. Before the healers in the rear could react, these MTs took several more hits.

In the blink of an eye, four MTs, each with nearly 40,000 HP, died...

Their companions were stunned.

However, several calm Elementarists and Rangers had reacted quickly and responded with attacks of their own.

Immediately, dozens of arrows and Spells flew towards the eight Evil Beasts. However, like agile Assassins, the Evil Beasts dodged most of the attacks and blocked the rest. As a result, they survived the volley, remaining unharmed.

Most surprisingly, the distance between these monsters and the team had shortened.

Suddenly, a Level 54, Lord ranked Evil Beast jumped into the crowd of players. It brandished its claws at the nearby healers, the gray fog extending and transforming into sharp blades.

A gray arch, extending to 15 yards, tore through Zero Wing’s rear line.

With a single attack, the cloth armor classes with low Defense, aside from a few Elementalists that had responded quickly and used Blink to escape, died instantly. In the blink of an eye, nearly half of the team of 50 had died. The Level 54 Lord's strength made the surviving Zero Wing members tremble.

"Run! Scatter and run!" the Ranger serving as the team's leader shouted in the team chat.

Hearing this, these players gritted their teeth as they split up and ran. With this, the eight Evil Beasts wouldn't be able to catch them.

However, the Evil Beasts were incredibly fast. Despite splitting up, most of the team died. Only a few Assassins and players with Instantaneous Movement Magic Scrolls escaped death.

"Brother Wave, are you just going to let them get away?" Flame Blood, wearing a Black Cloak and wielding a blackwood staff, approached from the nearby forest. Glancing at the fleeing Zero Wing members, he could not help but ask, "If you let them get away, they will warn Zero Wing. Capturing Stone Forest Town will become more troublesome."

"That's exactly what I want," Abandoned Wave, who was covered in bandages, said, sneering. "I want Zero Wing to amass its combat power in Stone Forest Town. Only then will Stone Forest Town be worth destroying. Right, how are the preparations going?"

"The Evil Beast army has gathered. They are standing by not far from here," Flame Blood said, smiling. "Is it really necessary to dispatch all of them? We're talking about 500,000 Evil Beasts, and that's not including the Evil Demon army under your control. With this army, we can annihilate two or three Stone Forest Towns simultaneously."

Not many Evil Beasts had taken part in the prior battle for Stone Forest Town. However, this time was different. Not only were more Evil Beasts participating in the siege this time, but each one was also stronger than before. Even the weakest Evil Beast was a Level 60 Elite. Their army had nearly 40,000 Level 60-plus Chieftains, 3,000-plus Lords, 200-plus Great Lords, and 40-plus Grand Lords.

However, this wasn't the most important factor.

To ensure Zero Wing's destruction and avoid any mishaps, they had even dispatched five Level 70, Mythic ranked Evil Beasts.

In the face of such a force, Stone Forest Town's defenses were a joke.

They also had the Evil Demon army, which Abandoned Wave had spent his time carefully nurturing. Although the army was not particularly large, with only 6,000 or so Evil Demons, the threat it posed could likely rival that of the 500,000 Evil Beast army.

"Good. We'll make our way to Stone Forest Town and show Zero Wing's people what despair tastes like," Abandoned Wave said, laughing.

He had waited for this moment for a very long time.

Zero Wing was the reason his plan to take control of Star-Moon Kingdom had failed. This time, however, he wouldn't give Zero Wing a chance. As long as he annihilated Stone Forest Town and proved his strength to the corporation, he could reclaim his position in the Blackwater Corporation.

...

Elsewhere, the sudden appearance of the Evil Beast army had attracted the attention of Star-Moon Kingdom's various powers.

After all, the numbers and strength of this Evil Beast army were not to be taken lightly. The army could easily trample any Guild town. If players weren't careful, they could get caught in the devastation.

This was especially true for the Guilds based in Star-Moon City. Although they had been aware of quite a few Evil Beasts operating near the city and had suffered many losses as a result, they had never imagined that the threat would be so great.

"What? You're saying these Evil Beasts are marching towards Stone Forest Town?"

"This is interesting. Against so many monsters, even Zero Wing could fall."

"Hahaha! Even the heavens are helping us now! If Zero Wing loses Stone Forest Town, their Guild Mounts will mean nothing."

...

After the various powers investigated the Evil Beast army's movements, they celebrated.

Now, the threat of Zero Wing would vanish.

...

Meanwhile, the players in Stone Forest Town were panicking.

"Why are these monsters heading here?! Damn it! What should we do?! Our adventurer team just spent a ton of Gold to buy a house! Are we going to lose it, just like that?"

"Thank goodness! Zero Wing won't start selling houses until tomorrow. If we had rushed it, buying a house would've been worthless."

"What a pity. Such a good town is going to be destroyed, just like that."

"I wonder if Zero Wing can protect the town against so many monsters?"

"I highly doubt it. You should've seen the monster army. Any player that it comes across will die. One of my Assassin friends tried to record the monster army's march. In the end, however, the monsters discovered and killed him. They are ridiculously strong. Moreover, any player they kill can't log into God's Domain for some time. My Assassin friend is dying with regret."

...

The town's players discussed the situation heatedly. Many had already prepared to flee. There were also some that considered staying behind, and others who wanted to watch the upcoming battle. After all, monsters didn't often siege a town.

...

The atmosphere in Zero Wing's Residence in White River City was tense. The Guild's upper echelons had gathered in the Residence's meeting room to discuss the current situation, trying to figure out how to deal with the Evil Beast army.

There were simply too many monsters this time. Although Stone Forest Town had far more powerful static defenses than before, protecting the town against such a massive army would still be difficult. However, they were hesitant to mobilize the Guild's members as any player those Evil Beasts killed would be barred from logging into God's Domain for a short time.

Meanwhile, the Evil Beast army moved ever closer to Stone Forest Town. If they weren't prepared, Stone Forest Town would be doomed.

Yet, their Guild Leader had instructed them to stay here. One could just imagine how anxious they were.

Suddenly, the doors to the solemn meeting room swung open, and Shi Feng slowly entered.