

Strongest

Chapter 1337 – Unfathomable Guild

Noticing Shi Feng's entrance, the players in the meeting room began to calm down.

Shi Feng was followed by a man and a woman. This situation confused everyone present.

Most of the people in the room were unfamiliar with the man behind Shi Feng. They could tell he was a Lifestyle player of high standards based on his attire. As for the woman, they knew her well as she was none other than the Candlelight Trading Firm's manager, Melancholic Smile.

Thus far, Shi Feng hadn't invited Candlelight's people to take part in any of Zero Wing's meetings. Hence, everyone was surprised to see these representatives.

However, with the situation as it was, they weren't in the mood to welcome these two to Zero Wing's upper-echelon meeting. Instead, they focused on Shi Feng, who sat in the Guild Leader's seat.

"Guild Leader, the situation in Stone Forest Town is quite dire...

"Based on our investigation, we are likely facing more than 500,000 monsters. Many of which are Chieftains and Lords. Even if we dispatch all of our Guild's forces, the likelihood of fending off these monsters is slim. I suggest that we offer a reward to the town's adventurer teams and independent players and request their help. This way, we can make up for the numbers we lack. Our chances of winning will also increase considerably."

Aqua Rose's suggestion earned the approval of many of her comrades.

Stone Forest Town's player population far exceeded 500,000. Moreover, the average standard of the players in the town was considerably high. If Zero Wing offered an appropriate reward and offered players a small discount on the town's houses in exchange for their help, they would likely tempt many players into action.

With so many players in addition to Stone Forest Town's defenses, they may be able to protect the town. At most, they would have to pay a huge price to do so. It was likely that the Guild's development would stagnate for a considerable amount of time.

However, paying such a price was better than losing Stone Forest Town entirely. After all, Zero Wing had invested too much into the town to lose it now.

Suddenly, Gentle Snow spoke up, "Guild Leader, we've discovered some hidden ruins in the Black Dragon Empire and obtained over 600 Intermediate Thunder Bombs. Although they are not as powerful as the Mana Pulse Bombs, they can rival Tier 3 Spells. They have an effective radius of 20 yards and can paralyze the targets they hit for a short time. They can also amplify the effects of the Defense Turrets. Aside from these Thunder Bombs, we have also obtained two Advanced Gnome Cannons that are

roughly equal to the Defense Turrets' firepower. Originally, I had planned to use these items to capture a town, but defending Stone Forest Town must be our priority."

The other upper echelons were astonished to hear Gentle Snow's report.

Tools of war were extremely useful and highly sought after by the various large Guilds. However, they were also extremely rare, and very few Guilds actually got their hands on them.

They had never imagined that Gentle Snow would secure so many of these items. They had assumed that Gentle Snow had been struggling in Lake Heart City. After all, there were plenty of first- and second-rate Guilds in the Black Dragon Empire. It was even the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's territory. Without the home-ground advantage, stabilizing a Branch Guild in the empire would be miraculous.

However, it seemed that they had severely underestimated Gentle Snow.

Shi Feng was similarly surprised. He hadn't expected Gentle Snow to be capable of capturing a town in the Black Dragon Empire so soon. Moreover, based on her expression, it would seem that she was very confident in succeeding.

"Guild Leader, give us the command! We can't stand to just sit still! We're all determined to stop these monsters from stepping foot into Stone Forest Town, even we're slaughtered!" Many of the other upper echelons voiced their desire to join the fight.

At this point, requests to take part in the upcoming war flooded the Guild chat. Even the Guild's normal members, who were not required to take part, wanted to defend the town, with some already forming their own teams.

Zero Wing had defeated many Guilds to become Star-Moon Kingdom's number one Guild. How could it abandon Stone Forest Town and accept defeat at the hands of a mere monster army?

"I understand your sentiments." Shi Feng could not help but laugh when he heard everyone's opinions. "However, Zero Wing has not fallen so far that we need to resort to such methods. I've only called you here to tell you to continue your duties. The 40,000 elite and expert members stationed in Stone Forest Town are enough to defeat the monster army."

"But—"

Before everyone could argue, however, Shi Feng stood and continued, "Let me introduce you. This is Melancholic Smile. I believe you are familiar with her by now. This gentleman here is Candlelight's Chief Engineer, Burning Abyss. He has had a hand on many of our precious engineering tools. Both will participate in our Guild meetings from here on out. Whenever I'm not around, Zero Wing and the Candlelight Trading Firm will be able to work together."

Shi Feng's announcement confused his commanders. They couldn't figure out what he was trying to do.

The monster army was quickly approaching Stone Forest Town, yet Shi Feng's goal for this meeting was to tell them to continue their tasks and introduce Candlelight's managers?

"First, Melancholic, tell everyone about your recent results," Shi Feng said as he implied that the others stay silent. He then let Melancholic Smile take charge of the meeting.

“After Candlelight obtained the Miniature Ballista Design, we invested a lot of time into manufacturing Miniature Ballistas each day. Thus far, we have manufactured 73 Miniature Ballistas. We have also successfully researched the Exploding Arrow. The arrows rival Tier 2 Spells and any Engineer[1] can craft them. Moreover, both the arrows’ production success rate and speed are considerably high.

“Thus far, we have produced 200,000 Exploding Arrows. We’ve secretly moved these arrows to Candlelight’s warehouse in Stone Forest Town. They can be retrieved and used at any time. In addition, if Candlelight’s 200-plus Engineers, who have learned the Exploding Arrows’ design, produce them quickly, they can craft 4,000 arrows per hour.”

As everyone listened to Melancholic Smile’s brief report, they were stunned into silence.

Even Aqua Rose, who was very familiar with the ins and outs of Zero Wing, was dazed when she heard this. It was obvious that she struggled to process the information.

Seventy-three Miniature Ballistas!

Two hundred thousand Exploding Arrows that could rival Tier 2 Spells!

These players began to doubt that their Guild was actually Zero Wing. Not even Super Guilds had this kind of weaponry.

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Apocalypse Empire, Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s Residence in the imperial capital:

Over a hundred players had gathered in the Residence’s top-floor lounge. Every one of these people was a Level 43 or above expert. They were the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion’s core upper echelons.

Among these people, there were some that even Pavilion Masters like Phoenix Rain and Nine Dragons Emperor couldn’t command and had to treat with respect.

Normally, these people were scattered across the various Branch Guilds. Today, however, the Great Pavilion Master had summoned them here.

Although many of these players were pleased to be here, Phoenix Rain, who sat in a corner, wore a serious frown.

“Why would so many monsters attack Stone Forest Town?” Phoenix Rain’s expression darkened as she read the latest report her subordinates had sent.

Stone Forest Town had only begun to develop properly after many challenges. Even leisure players had begun to move into the town, while real-world companies’ virtual stores had begun to rake in profit. If Stone Forest Town were destroyed now, all of Zero Wing’s effort would go to waste.

Nine Dragons Emperor, who had also heard the news, strode over to Phoenix Rain with a smug look. Laughing, he said, “What a pity! All of your investment in Zero Wing was for nothing! I’m sure the Guild Elders will also be very interested to hear about this!”

“The outcome has yet to be decided! Don’t celebrate so soon!” Phoenix Rain snapped. Ignoring Nine Dragons Emperor, she turned and left to contact Shi Feng.

The Great Pavilion Master had ordered her to complete a particular quest, so she couldn't mobilize too many players to assist Zero Wing. However, she could lend Zero Wing seven or eight Gnome Cannons and a large stock of special ammunition.

Chapter 1338 – Defensive Siege Battle

After Phoenix Rain left, Nine Dragons Emperor returned to quietly sipping wine from his glass.

Martial Dragon, the burly man exuding chilling aura from behind Nine Dragons Emperor, asked quietly, "Pavilion Master, should I use this opportunity to send some people to destroy Zero Wing's Residence in Lake Heart City?"

"The quest is about to start. There's no need to waste the manpower. In any case, it is only a matter of time before Zero Wing crumbles," Nine Dragons Emperor replied, smiling faintly as he watched Phoenix Rain's departing figure.

With so many monsters assaulting Stone Forest Town, he wasn't even certain that the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion's full force could protect the town, much less Zero Wing's.

Without Stone Forest Town, Zero Wing wouldn't be able to help Phoenix Rain.

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Meanwhile, standing in another corner in the lounge, Phoenix Rain waited a while before contacting Shi Feng.

"Phoenix Pavilion Master, to what do I owe this pleasure?" Shi Feng asked. He could not help but poke fun at Phoenix Rain when he saw the woman's anxious expression.

Due to Phoenix Rain's sudden call, he had been forced to end the meeting early and find a reception room to remove his Black Flame disguise. Only then did he accept the call.

"Do you really have to ask?" Phoenix Rain rolled her eyes. Getting straight to the point, she retorted, "Who doesn't know about Stone Forest Town's situation right now? Although I can't supply any manpower, I can lend you a few war weapons."

"War weapons?" Shi Feng hadn't expected Phoenix Rain to be so generous. All of the large Guilds treated war weapons like priceless treasure. They wouldn't even think of using these items if they could avoid it, much less lending them to someone else. They only put these items to use during crucial moments. "Let's forget about the weapons. How many Magic Crystals do you have on hand?"

"You don't need the weapons?" Phoenix Rain was slightly surprised. She couldn't understand what Shi Feng was thinking. War weapons could be a saving grace during a monster siege, yet based on Shi Feng's reaction, it was obvious that he wasn't interested. "I've already spent most of the Magic Crystals that I

borrowed from Zero Wing. Right now, I only have around 50,000 or so left. If you need them, I can have Blue send them over right away. But that's all I have."

"Fifty thousand?" After pondering for a brief moment, Shi Feng said, "That should be barely enough. Thank you for the help, Phoenix Pavilion Master. Regarding the 300,000 Magic Crystals that you've borrowed, we'll write off the interest."

Phoenix Rain had wanted to respond, but as soon as Shi Feng finished speaking, he disconnected the call.

Blue Phoenix walked over and asked, "Big Sis Rain, how did it go? Should I send some people to retrieve the Gnome Cannons from the Guild Warehouse?"

"No. Just take 50,000 Magic Crystals to Stone Forest Town," Phoenix Rain said, waving her hand.

"No?" Blue Phoenix was surprised. "We're talking about tools of war. They can definitely help defend the town. Is Zero Wing really so confident of protecting Stone Forest Town against so many monsters?"

"I doubt that Zero Wing would fool around with Stone Forest Town," Phoenix Rain said, uncertain. "Hopefully Zero Wing can defend it. As a preventive measure, take the Gnome Cannons and special ammunition with you."

Zero Wing was going up against more than 500,000 monsters, and even the weakest among those monsters was a Level 60 Elite. Even the Dragon-Phoenix Pavilion wouldn't be able to guarantee the town's safety. She found it truly hard to believe that all Zero Wing needed was a few Magic Crystals.

"Understood." Blue Phoenix nodded before leaving the lounge.

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A horde of Evil Beasts had surrounded Stone Forest Town. Looking at these monsters, the Zero Wing members stationed atop the town's ramparts felt their knees grow weak. The players that had come to watch the battle were just as shocked.

There was a great discrepancy between the information they had received and what lay before them.

While the reports had stated that the weakest monsters within the monster army were Level 60 Elites was true, these Level 60 Elites did not make up the majority of the army. They weren't even a quarter of the enemy's forces. Rather, most of the monsters in the army were Level 60-plus Special Elites.

Even from afar, one could easily find one Level 60-plus Chieftain out of every ten monsters. Such a beast could serve as a Party Dungeon's Final Boss.

As for the number of Tier 2 Lords in the army, that was even more frightening. The enemy also had hill-sized Great and Grand Lords.

"It's over. Stone Forest Town is beyond salvation now. Even from here, I can count more than 200 Great Lords..."

“The Great Lords are nothing. They can be defeated. You should be worried about the Level 65-plus Grand Lords and Mythic monsters. I’m pretty sure those monsters can obliterate Stone Forest Town without help.”

“How does such a powerful monster army exist? Even if every player in the town joins the fight, we can’t stop these monsters.”

Upon seeing the enemy’s forces, some players who had intended to stay to watch the war dismissed the notion.

With such a massive gap in strength, this was no longer a war. It would simply be a one-sided slaughter. If they didn’t leave now, they wouldn’t even get the opportunity to flee once the battle began.

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“Hahaha! Abandoned Wave’s army is truly impressive! Even if Zero Wing sends in every member, its struggle will be futile!” Singular Burial was elated as he watched the live stream a subordinate had sent from inside Stone Forest Town.

With such power, they could proceed to take control of the Star Alliance’s towns once they finished with Stone Forest Town. After that, Heaven’s Burial wouldn’t have any competition in Star-Moon Kingdom.

“Guild Leader, I just received news that Zero Wing isn’t taking any action against the monster army. The elite members that were already in the town are the only ones stationed there. There are only 40,000 players,” the subordinate recording the live stream reported. He then shifted the camera angle towards Stone Forest Town’s interior.

Zero Wing’s members crowded atop Stone Forest Town’s ramparts. However, there weren’t many. No matter how one looked at it, they didn’t even have nearly 100,000 players.

“They’re giving up?” Singular Burial roared with laughter when he saw this. “What a pity. I had hoped to use this opportunity to deal a blow to Zero Wing. As expected, Black Flame’s decision is a bold one. It’s no wonder how he developed Zero Wing to its current glory.”

If it were up to him, he would defend his town with everything he had.

However, from a logical viewpoint, giving up the town was the best decision. Otherwise, the Guild would suffer additional losses while reaching the same outcome.

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Meanwhile, Stone Forest Players realized that Zero Wing intended to give up on the town. No one dared to linger as they used their Return Scrolls to flee.

“How boring! So Zero Wing doesn’t even have the courage to put up a fight!” Abandoned Wave clicked his tongue when he saw the lack of reaction in Stone Forest Town. He had really wanted to watch Zero Wing’s final struggle. “Since that’s the case, let’s end this!”

Following which, Abandoned Wave swung his hand forward. Immediately, the Evil Beast army surrounding Stone Forest Town began their assault as they surged towards the town.

Seeing the Evil Beast army approach, the Zero Wing members on the ramparts grew nervous.

With just 40,000 elite players, just how were they supposed to face an army of 500,000 monsters?

However, just as the Evil Beast army was 3,000 yards away from Stone Forest Town's walls, one Miniature Ballista after another appeared on the ramparts, three players controlling each weapon.

Atop the Magic Tower, Shi Feng smiled as he looked at Stone Forest Town's defenses. Following which, he commanded, "Let's kick their asses!"