

The Strongest

Chapter 99 - Dark Moon Graveyard

Gentle Snow's single sentence determined the final verdict, not allowing anybody to refuse.

After having worked with Black Flame, Gentle Snow discovered the importance of Lifestyle Jobs. Although their influence towards God's Domain was small right now, who could guarantee that it would remain so in the future?

Hence, she would not let even a single recipe that dropped from the Dungeon slip by.

With Gentle Snow's approval, the confidence of the members of Ouroboros grew. Every one of them looked towards the foolish-looking Shi Feng.

Now that our leader has refused, let's see how you are going to continue acting arrogant! If you have the ability, then form your own team to enter the Dark Moon Graveyard. We will have an easier time that way as well.

Shi Feng slightly wrinkled his brows. He did not think that Gentle Snow would be so resolute. He wondered what had happened to Gentle Snow to trigger a nerve in her. She was completely different from when they first met. At that time, there was still room for discussion.

However, Shi Feng did not have a clue that the person who triggered Gentle Snow was exactly himself...

“How about this, then? We’ll hold a party auction for the Lifestyle recipes that drop,” Shi Feng said. Without having any better options, he could only take a step back and make some compromises.

Hearing Shi Feng, Zhao Yueru covered her delicate mouth as she revealed a shallow smile.

“Ye Feng, stop dreaming. Team Dungeons only reset once every three days. The recipes obtained from inside are extremely important to a Guild’s development. How could we auction them amongst the party? If you insist on doing so, then we will just call in a few more of our elite members. That way, those enter the Dark Moon Graveyard will all be our members, and we won’t need to share anything with you,” Zhao Yueru’s tone turned chilling.

Zhao Yueru had already made her words extremely clear: If you are going to stay, then forget about the recipes. Otherwise, pack up and leave. We won’t be obstructing you on your way.

Meanwhile, Gentle Snow showed no signs of hindering Zhao Yueru. Her actions meant that she, too, agreed with Zhao Yueru’s viewpoint.

“Miss Zhao, please don’t get angry. Brother Feng doesn’t know how important the recipes are to you all. I apologize.” Blackie could no longer stand to watch this scene continue to unfold. Any more of this, and the final result would definitely be a separation. They managed to obtain the favor of the Snow goddess after much difficulty. Hence, they could not simply just let go of this chance to further advance their Workshop.

Blackie continuously hinted Shi Feng not to act rashly and to properly grab ahold of this chance.

Shi Feng could feel Gentle Snow’s resolute behavior. Such an attitude gave him a headache. However, it would not be easy for him to find another team to enter the Dark Moon Graveyard with. It was a Team Dungeon, after all. A certain standard of equipment, trust, and cooperation was required to successfully clear it. Moreover, players that were abruptly recruited might not necessarily be reliable. They might even bring adverse effects to the team.

“Alright then, let’s go with your arrangements.” It was clearly not wise for him to enter a deadlock with Gentle Snow right now. Shi Feng had no choice but to just give up this chance. His only choice was to look for new, reliable members after he finished the Dungeon. He would then bring them to dive into other Team Dungeons.

Seeing Shi Feng agree, Blackie let loose a breath of relief. On the other hand, Zhao Yueru was slightly pouting. She inwardly felt unfortunate that she was not able to chase Shi Feng away.

Gentle Snow did not pay attention to Zhao Yueru’s irritation. The time for the Dungeon’s opening already arrived. The other Guild teams were all entering the Dungeon, one after another. Hence, Gentle Snow said in the team chat, “Let’s go in then.”

Before entering the Dungeon, Gentle Snow had set the Dungeon’s difficulty at Normal. That way, after entering the Teleportation Gate, everyone would be sent to the Normal Mode of the Dark Moon Graveyard.

Team Dungeons were similar to Party Dungeons, in which they had three different difficulties: Normal, Hard, and Hell. However, Guilds that were not familiar with the Dungeon would usually start off by obtaining and understanding information from the Normal Mode of the Dungeon. They would then use the information obtained to prepare for Hard Mode and Hell Mode.

Right now, every Guild was competing for the First Clear of the Dark Moon Graveyard. They wanted to use this chance to increase their influence towards the players in Red Leaf Town. So, naturally, they would not start off by challenging a higher difficulty.

The team entered the Teleportation Gate, one after another. They all turned into a streak of white light as they entered the Dark Moon Graveyard.

Team Dungeons were unlike Party Dungeons. The map inside a Team Dungeon was extremely large. They were practically the same size as a small Town, with some being the same size as a city with a population in the millions.

The Dark Moon Graveyard was the first Team Dungeon available near Red Leaf Town, so the map of the Dungeon was relatively small.

Unlike the Team Dungeons in other virtual reality games, the main goal when entering any Team Dungeons in God's Domain was to find the exit. As long as players could find the exit and leave the Dungeon, then they would have cleared the Dungeon. After leaving the Dungeon, they would also receive the corresponding Dungeon rewards.

Dark Moon Graveyard was different precisely because of this reason. Taking into consideration that this was the first time players of God's Domain came into contact with Team Dungeons, the Dark Moon Graveyard's difficulty was lower than other Team Dungeons. Players only needed to consider one key point when inside the Dungeon.

Survive!

As long as they could survive and leave through the exit, they would clear the Dungeon.

Immediately after everyone entered the Dark Moon Graveyard, a chilling wind ambushed them, causing their entire bodies to shiver.

It was past dusk in this place, and a red moon hung above the sky, shining down on the earth. Gravestones littered the wasteland, and the gigantic stones formed one gigantic maze. A strange atmosphere filled the place, coupled with countless wails of anguish.

“I’ll divide up our responsibilities first, so when the time comes, just make sure you do your own part.” Gentle Snow was not even the slightest bit shocked by the strange atmosphere. Instead, the corners of her lips curved upwards, forming an excited smile.

Although they wasted several minutes, they properly determined each team member’s responsibilities. That way, whenever anything unexpected occurred, everyone could react with the quickest time possible.

The team had a total of four healers, with two being Clerics, one Oracle, and one Druid.

There were two MTs in the team. One of them was a Shield Warrior; the other, a Guardian Knight.

Meanwhile, Shi Feng was arranged into the Dagger Party. The party’s main goal was to combat at the frontlines. On the other hand, Lonely Snow was arranged into the Protection Party. Their main goal was to protect the team’s lifeline, the healers.

“Alright, Scout Party, search for a path. We will follow behind at a slower pace.” Once Gentle Snow was satisfied with the team’s formation, she arranged for two Assassins to scout ahead.

After entering the wasteland maze, the two Assassins immediately reported the situation they discovered. Gentle Snow responded immediately, allowing her team to advance towards the best possible route and easily avoid the traps set up by the Kobold Assassins and Kobold Warriors.

[Kobold Assassin] (Common rank)

Level 5

HP 1,600/1,600

[Kobold Warrior] (Elite rank)

Level 5

HP 3,500/3,500

If they triggered the trap here, they would have to go up against more than thirty Kobold Assassins and seven or eight Elite Kobold Warriors. Such a situation would definitely cause major losses to the team.

Thanks to Gentle Snow's quick decisions, the team inched closer and closer towards the maze's exit. On the way, they only needed to kill a small amount of Kobolds. Even Shi Feng was slightly shocked by Gentle Snow's leadership. It was as if all matters within the Dark Moon Graveyard were within the palms of her hands.

Zhao Yueru walked up to Shi Feng's side, proudly saying, "What do you think? You should see how far apart your strengths are now, right?"

Shi Feng remained silent. He did not pay much heed to Zhao Yueru, his hand only tightening its grip on his treasured sword hanging on his waist.

“Humph! Speechless now, are you?” Zhao Yueru thought Shi Feng was tacitly agreeing, her heart feeling a wave of pleasure.

However, not long after Zhao Yueru felt pleased with herself, two blood-curling screams came through the team’s chat.

“Scout Party, what happened?” Gentle Snow hurriedly asked.

System: Player White Cry has died.

System: Player Wind Shadow has died.

“What happened?” When Zhao Yueru saw that the two players who died were both from the Scout Party, her heart filled with questions.

However, nobody answered Zhao Yueru.

Due the settings of God’s Domain, players were unable to initiate communication after death.

Everyone immediately tensed up. They watched their surroundings vigilantly.

The mysterious deaths of the two players informed the members of Ouroboros of one thing.

Both players who died had very good techniques. Otherwise, they wouldn't have become elite members of Ouroboros. Their sudden deaths and the lack of even the slightest information could only mean one thing... this place had become extremely dangerous.

Chapter 100 - Go Ahead, If You Can

"Everyone, pay attention to your surroundings! Healers, stand in the middle! Protection Party, guard the healers! MTs, prepare to activate your lifesaving skills at any time! Dagger Party, prepare for battle!" Gentle Snow was not frightened by the situation. She immediately gave out commands, staying combat ready.

Haughtiness invites disaster; humility receives benefit.

This sentence just happened to be applicable to the members of Ouroboros. It was especially true for the arrogant Zhao Yueru.

Problems were bound to occur when one became complacent.

Only, the problems, this time, arrived somewhat too quickly.

Zhao Yueru, who was still relaxed, suddenly tightened her grip on her Crystal Staff. She was no longer acting cheerful or witty; her expression now turned solemn. She observed her surroundings for every little detail, revealing the unquestionable quality of an expert.

The other members of Ouroboros also no longer dared be careless. Although they were confident in their equipment, even possessing the confidence to overcome the Dark Moon Graveyard, this confidence still gradually faded after the two players were instantly killed. They could not help but become cautious and timid.

As for Shi Feng's party, they were even more nervous. Inside their hearts, they were still considering themselves to be a bunch of noobs. Meanwhile, the elite members of Ouroboros before them were experts. Their techniques surpassed them by leaps and bounds.

However, such experts that wore top-tier Set Equipment still died an unfathomable death.

This Dark Moon Graveyard was just too horrifying!

Seeing everyone in such a panic, Shi Feng remained incomparably calm. As for what actually happened, nobody had a better understanding of it than him, or rather, he long since predicted such a situation.

Since Dark Moon Graveyard had a lower difficulty, depending on equipment and some experts, it was easy enough that it could be relaxingly cleared. However, in Shi Feng's previous life, an unknown number of Guilds fell to the dungeon over and over, to the degree of cursing someone's mother. Based on the strength of Gentle Snow's team, they would still be able to clear the Dungeon, even after being team-wiped over a dozen times. Only, the price to pay for such an action was very high.

"Something's coming. MTs, pay attention," Shi Feng warned. He squinted his eyes, looking towards the fog that floated nearer.

Everyone abruptly tensed, looking over.

“What’s that?” The Shield Warrior discovered a blurry figure inside the mist.

The figure was hidden inside the murky fog, preventing anybody from getting a clear look at it. The team only knew that the thing was gradually wobbling closer, step after step, crawling as slow as a snail. As the distance between the two sides shortened, the wails of anguish became louder, causing all those present to have goosebumps.

Just when the figure was about to leave the fog...

“MTs activate your lifesaving skills!” Shi Feng yelled.

However, the Shield Warrior paid no attention to Shi Feng’s words.

He had always looked down upon Shi Feng in his heart. The last time they met, Shi Feng was just a noob who got lucky. Shi Feng was only able to attract their leader’s attention because he familiarized himself with God’s Domain ahead of time. Although Shi Feng was currently reached Level 6, he had definitely depended on his familiarity with the Quests and monsters in order to level up so quickly. He did not truly possess strength.

Even if Shi Feng’s skills were good, the number of experts Ouroboros had recruited over the years from other virtual reality games exceeded five thousand. They were not lacking people such as Shi Feng at all. In other words, within Ouroboros, there were plenty of players that were much better than Shi Feng.

Although the Shield Warrior did not pay attention to Shi Feng’s words, the Guardian Knight, Cola, had always trusted in Shi Feng. He had, at the first instance, activated Protection Blessing on himself.

Just as the figure within the fog was about to reveal itself, two black rays of light shot out from the fog, reaching the MTs on the frontlines in the blink of an eye.

These two rays of light were as swift as bullets. The bulky MTs had no way of dodging them.

At that moment, Gentle Snow only shouted, "MTs, use your lifesaving skills!"

Unfortunately, Gentle Snow was still one step behind.

One of the black rays immediately pierced the Shield Warrior's body, a damage of -1,600 appearing above his head. He was killed instantly.

The Shield Warrior's eyes affixed to his chest where the black ray penetrated, unwillingly passing on.

Meanwhile, after activating Protection Blessing, the damage Cola received reduced by 50%. In addition to the Secret-Silver ranked Sky Armor that he received from Shi Feng, Cola only received slightly more than -500 damage, losing slightly more than half of his HP.

Everyone was dumbfounded after seeing this. A Level 5 MT wearing Bronze Set Equipment died, just like that.

Meanwhile, more figures started appearing out of the fog.

When Gentle Snow recalled the terrifying black rays from before, she immediately commanded, "Healers, heal! Everyone retreat. Guardian Knight, cover everyone else's retreat. Anybody with a Defense Skill, pay attention and protect the Guardian Knight."

Hearing Gentle Snow's commands, Cola hesitated slightly. He turned to look at Shi Feng, intending to wait for Shi Feng's command.

"Retreat then. Pay attention to your positioning and maintain a straight line with the people behind," Shi Feng nodded his head.

After receiving Shi Feng's orders, Cola immediately took action.

Seeing such a scene, Gentle Snow felt slightly upset in her heart. However, she did not voice it.

On the other hand, Zhao Yueru was not as willing. A noob like you, instead of listening to Snow's commands, you actually listened to that lucky dog shit's words? Was he trying to imply that the Snow Goddess' strength and commands weren't as reliable as Shi Feng's?

However, just as Zhao Yueru was about to open her mouth, she immediately snapped it closed.

That was because, while Cola was retreating, he was actually able to simultaneously use his shield to block the black rays that fired towards the other players. He was even able to dodge the attacks of the black rays while, at the same time, retreating in an orderly manner. Such a feat was absolutely impossible for a fresh noob to accomplish. His skills were even better than their own Shield Warrior's by a thread.

With four healers healing him, Cola was able to maintain his HP above the safety line. During the occasional desperate moments, Shi Feng would use Parry to help Cola block the black rays, allowing Cola to retain his life.

Such scenes caused the members of Ouroboros, who had been previously dissatisfied with Shi Feng, to have a change of heart. They questioned whether they were able to carry out such actions. Moreover, Shi Feng rescued Cola multiple times now, proving that it was not just a coincidence, but skill.

As long as Cola did not die, the remaining team members would remain safe. It could be said that Shi Feng was holding onto the lives of the entire team.

“It would seem...that I have still been underestimating him.” Gentle Snow started viewing Shi Feng in a different light. Although she, too, helped Cola block some attacks, her actions were not as natural and pleasant as Shi Feng’s. He was capable of blocking the attacks while not hindering Cola’s movements.

After everyone retreated some distance, they were finally able to clearly see the figures within the fog.

They had gigantic bodies with the height of two people. Their arms were both equipped with black, metallic claws. When they attacked, their claws were like swords shooting forth and sheathing quickly after, all within a blink of an eye.

[Kobold Zombie] (Special Elite)

Level 6

HP 5,000/5,000

Just a single Kobold Zombie was headache to them. However, there were a total of six Kobold Zombies that appeared from the fog. Such numbers practically demanded their lives. To make matters worse, a group of Kobold Warriors also appeared in their path of retreat.

Everyone finally understood the difficulty of a Team Dungeon. Its difficulty was practically over ten times that of a Party Dungeon.

“We’re finished,” Zhao Yueru felt despair in her heart when she saw the number of Elites and Special Elites, “How are we supposed to fight this many Elites and Special Elites? Moreover, they have both ranged and melee to cooperate with each other.”

The other team members similarly agreed with Zhao Yueru’s opinion.

“Is there no way for us to pass through?” Gentle Snow creased her brows. She was unwilling to just leave the Dungeon like this.

At that moment, Shi Feng opened his mouth, saying, “If we utilise the terrain properly and cooperate well with each other, it is not entirely impossible.”

The members of Ouroboros felt displeasure in their hearts when they heard Shi Feng. He was wholly mocking the inability of Gentle Snow’s commands.

“Easier said than done. Who would know how to deal with this many Elites and Special Elites? Go ahead, if you can,” Zhao Yueru sneered, looking at Shi Feng with disdain.

