

## The Strongest

### Chapter 53 – Darkness Descends

Shi Feng was still slightly unable to accept Sharlyn's makeover.

However, Shi Feng could be considered lucky for being able to meet the rumored Librarian. According to the information he knew, the Librarian of Red Leaf Town was full of mystery her whereabouts unknown. Shi Feng never imagined the Librarian to be the female NPC who participated in a robbery against him. If Shi Feng had truly started a fight with Sharlyn just now, the consequences would be unimaginable.

What did playing the pig to eat the tiger mean?

Sharlyn was definitely a veteran in this field.

Divine Official was the Tier 3 Job Advancement for an Oracle. In the case of Swordsman, it was called Sword King, whereas between these two was the Sword Master. Even if a Divine Official was only Level 20, she could still easily dispatch a Level 50 Lord. Perhaps, Sharlyn was the most powerful NPC in all of Red Leaf Town.

"Hehe, do you believe me now?" Sharlyn giggled at Shi Feng. Her entire body radiated a golden glow as if she were the reincarnation of Mother Mary. "Since you have some business with me, let's talk about it at the Library."

System: Player has activated the Epic Quest, 'Darkness Descends.' Contents unknown.

Shi Feng stumbled suddenly when he heard the system notification, nearly falling.

What was the reason for him to actually trigger this Epic Quest? 'Darkness Descends' was the famous Epic Quest of God's Domain. From the information he collected from the internet and Shadow, the difficulty for completing this Epic Quest was truly unimaginable. Of course, the rewards were also unimaginably bountiful. In Shi Feng's previous life, the person who completed this Epic Quest was the Spirit Emperor, Fantasy Extinguisher. He was a legendary character amongst Summoners. He was globally ranked within the top twenty Summoners and top five hundred in the entire game during the peak of God's Domain.

Although he was only ranked within the top five hundred within God's Domain, it should not be looked down upon. The entire world had a total population of one hundred billion. Although there were only one hundred million players in God's Domain currently, this number would increase past ten billion in a year. In three years, the number of players playing God's Domain would go past thirty billion.

Being able to rank within the top five hundred, Fantasy Extinguisher was definitely an amazing expert.

However, the thing that made Shi Feng feel odd was why this Epic Quest was found here. Fantasy Extinguisher's starting location was not in Star-Moon Kingdom. Instead, it was in Black Dragon Empire,

which was far from Star-Moon Kingdom. Black Dragon Empire was far more powerful than Star-Moon Kingdom. Its landmass was three times that of Star-Moon Kingdoms. The competition between players and Guilds there was much fiercer.

“Could it be a reward for getting the First Clear on the Hell Mode of a Dungeon?”

Shi Feng silently guessed as he followed Sharlyn. He felt it was a great possibility. Otherwise, why would an Epic Quest that should be found in Black Dragon Empire be found here in Star-Moon Kingdom?

At this moment, Shi Feng’s system communication rang. Shi Feng took a look at the caller, learning it was Gentle Snow contacting him.

“Miss Snow, do you have business with me?”

“Seeing that you’re logged on, I have something to tell you,” Gentle Snow spoke in a very indifferent tone. She was like mysterious ice, unchanging even after ten thousand years and had no interest towards anything at all. “I’m in need of money to purchase something, so I might need more time to return the 15 Silvers that I owe you. At the latest, I will return it to you by the end of today.”

“Alright. If you are really in a bind, tomorrow is fine as well,” Shi Feng calmly replied. He no longer paid any heed to the 15 Silver Coins Gentle Snow owed him. Currently, he had more than one Gold Coin on his person, and he was troubled over how to spend it.

Gentle Snow was slightly surprised by Shi Feng’s indifference even toward that much money. However, since Shi Feng had already said so, naturally, she would not be courteous to him. She softly thanked him, saying, “Thank you. However, aren’t you afraid I won’t return it, causing you to lose everything?”

“You are the Snow Goddess. Why would you even try to cheat an average player of such a small amount of money?” Shi Feng said with a grin.

“Average? You dare call yourself ‘average?’ Even I am shocked by the map and strategy you provided. We only spent an hour to clear the Normal Mode of the Deathly Forest, then went on to clear Hard Mode as well. Unfortunately, Hell Mode is just too hard. We could not clear it, no matter what.” Gentle Snow faintly smiled, saying, “I am very curious as to how you all managed to clear Hell Mode. If you said it was due to your party members’ help, I would not believe you. .”

To conquer the Hell Mode of the Deathly Forest, she especially rushed over Elite members of Ouroboros from other Towns. However, they couldn’t get past the first Chieftain-rank Boss, Willie, no matter what they did. Willie’s damage was especially terrifying. Even a Shield Warrior fully equipped with Bronze Equipment could not tank it. Gentle Snow truly could not understand how Shi Feng’s party had cleared Hell Mode.

“Just lucky,” Shi Feng honestly said.

“Since you don’t want to say it, I still have to fight over a piece of equipment; so, I won’t speak with you any longer. Don’t forget our Dungeon appointment.” Gentle Snow did not continue pursuing Shi Feng about how he was able to clear Hell Mode. Just Hard Mode alone gave them a great harvest.

“Fight over equipment? Is it the Garrison Heavy Armor?” Shi Feng casually asked.

“En, how did you know? Are you also fighting for this equipment?” Gentle Snow nodded her head while saying. The Attributes for this Garrison Heavy Armor was too great. If they had this piece of equipment, there would not be much trouble when they entered the Level 3 Wolfman Dungeon.

Shi Feng knew he had said too much, but he remained calm as he replied, “Yes, but I didn’t think there would be that many people competing for it. I’ve already given up on it by now.”

“Indeed. The price has already reached 23 Silver Coins, and only a Guild with strong funding will be able to buy it. I won’t speak with you any longer. I still need to sell some items,” Gentle Snow disconnected the call after finishing her piece.

Meanwhile, Zhao Yueru, who sat beside Gentle Snow, pouted her delicate lips. She kicked up a fuss, complaining, “Snow, why must you let that bastard join our team, no matter what? That bastard was just lucky, and his skills are just average. He coincidentally encountered a small Dungeon like the Deathly Forest that did not change much since the game’s official release, and he very luckily cleared the Hell Mode of the Dungeon. It would be pointless bringing him into the twenty-man Team Dungeon. Also, the skill levels of his party members are just too miserable to even look at. They would definitely become a burden to our progress.”

The Elite members of Ouroboros standing behind Gentle Snow also agreed with Zhao Yueru’s words. They were the Elites of Ouroboros. How could a group of average players compare to them?

“I feel that Big Brother Ye Feng is not that simple. He was definitely humble when he said he cleared the Dungeon due to luck. His skills are amazing, so it wouldn’t be disadvantageous inviting him to join us,” Xiao Yue’er softly offered her personal opinion.

“Little girl, what do you know about liars? You just don’t know how bad that bastard is. Also, he spent that much time just reaching Level 1. His skills are only so-so. This lady can instakill him with a single Flame Explosion,” Zhao Yueru gave Xiao Yue’er a stare, speaking confidently.

“Alright, stop arguing. I, too, feel Ye Feng is not that simple. Otherwise, how could he clear the Hell Mode of the Deathly Forest with a group of novices? When we enter the Team Dungeon, we will see where his standards lay. If he is not bad, I might consider recruiting him into the God-Slaying Army. Now, however, let’s first bid on this Garrison Heavy Armor,” Gentle Snow let out a soft cough.

Everyone abruptly became silent, astonished. They never imagined that Gentle Snow would have such considerations. She was actually planning to let Ye Feng join the God-Slaying Army. The members of the God-Slaying Army were the Elites amongst the Elites of Ouroboros. Each member had great skill, and they were experts who were selected out of tens of thousands of players. All of the Guild’s resources were prioritized on the God-Slaying Army. Aside from the Guild Leader and Sub-Leader, members of the God-Slaying Army had the most authority within the Guild.

Many experts in the virtual world struggled tirelessly to join the God-Slaying Army. However, a large majority of these people were all rejected. On the other hand, Ye Feng, who suddenly appeared before them, actually possessed a very great chance of entering the God-Slaying Army, and such a sight had caused great envy within them.

When Gentle Snow disconnected the call, Shi Feng let out a breath of relief. Fortunately, he was not discovered.

If Gentle Snow found out that Shi Feng was the creator of the Garrison Armor, terrifying consequences might have occurred. Also, Shi Feng did not doubt the possibility of Gentle Snow utilizing a forceful approach.

The Snow Goddess was not an empty title. Her iron-fist methods have tongue-tied countless experts. Otherwise, she would not have been able to take care of so many experts.

However, Shi Feng discovered an interesting matter from Gentle Snow's words.

The many Guilds in White River City have already started attaching great importance towards the Garrison Armor. This meant the reputation of the Garrison Armor had already spread. Currently, the Garrison Armor's popularity might have reached its peak. It was a great chance for Shi Feng to sell the Garrison Armor in large quantities, earning a ton of money. After another period had passed, the Garrison Armor's worth would not be as great as it was now.

"Let's first take a look at the Epic Quest; then I'll return to making the Garrison Armors." Shi Feng impatiently wanted to return to making Garrison Armors now that a chance for him to make a lot of money had arrived. However, the Epic Quest currently before him was much more important. If he gave it up part way, he would definitely regret it for the rest of his life.

This Epic Quest played a big role in allowing Fantasy Extinguisher a legendary achievement. Naturally, Shi Feng would not let go of this chance meeting. After spending twenty minutes maneuvering along the narrow pathways of the Slum Area, Shi Feng finally arrived at the Library.

On his way here, Shi Feng discovered the wonder of having a Divine Official walking by his side in the Slums. The NPCs who intended to rob him all backed away accordingly after seeing Sharlyn's attire. Otherwise, Shi Feng would have needed to spend over an hour for this trip, continuously battling against these sewer rats. Moreover, these NPCs were literally dirt poor. Shi Feng would not obtain any rewards for killing these NPCs, not even EXP. The Library of Red Leaf Town had a withered appearance. The building only had two floors to it, and there was nobody present to manage it as dead leaves could be seen climbing the walls. Entering the Library, dust and dirt covered the entire building. The books laying on the wooden table had long since been parceled up by a layer of dust. The Library looked more like a haunted house than a place in which people once lived. "Apologies. It has been a long time since anybody has visited, so I haven't been tidying up the place. Just sit wherever you want," Sharlyn faintly smiled as she pointed towards a dust-covered chair, not understanding that her action was very inappropriate. "Revered Divine Official, I have come here because I wish to have this diary translated," Shi Feng said, getting straight towards the point. His eyebrows slightly wrinkled when he looked towards the finger-thick layer of dust covering the chair. He truly did not wish to dirty his clothes.

However, Sharlyn remained minding her own business as she searched for something on the bookshelf. It was like she did not hear Shi Feng speak at all.

Shi Feng was long used to such behaviors, so he chose to remain silent. There were all sorts of NPCs in God's Domain. It was especially true for important NPCs. Unique and bizarre behaviors were considered small matters. There were well-known NPCs that were much more damnable. These NPCs caused many first-rate Guilds to curse their mothers.

After waiting for ten whole minutes, Sharlyn finally came out from the pile of bookshelves. In her hands, she held a thick and tattered old book.

"I know why you are here. The moment you've set foot in the Slums, I could sense the evil energy coming from your body," Sharlyn said gravely. She placed the tattered book on the table, causing all the dust in the building to abruptly soar, "Let me have a look at the item." Shi Feng naturally knew the diary triggered such a scenario. He took out the tattered diary from his bag, carefully passing it to Sharlyn. Sharlyn was not in a hurry to receive the diary. Instead, she chanted out a phrase of Divine Words. Suddenly, streaks of golden Divine Words wrapped around the diary.

Just when Shi Feng was wondering about Sharlyn's actions, a change suddenly came over the diary. Black smoke suddenly appeared on its pitch-black cover, and a sinister-looking face came into view. It looked as if it was in extreme pain.

"Evil be gone! Divine Spear!"

Sharlyn shouted, her jade-like hand drawing out Divine Words in midair. At the same time, she started singing out a Tier 3 Divine Curse, her voice echoing throughout the entire Library. A golden colored hexagram appeared above the Library, covering the entire building, and from the magic formation, three golden Spears of Judgement came flying out. The spears pierced the diary, tearing apart the sinister face. "Hahaha, I won't give up! We will meet again!" The sinister face loudly laughed as it spoke the bone-chilling words. Both of its eyes were firmly affixed toward Shi Feng as if the words it spoke were meant for him.

Within a moment, the black smoke above the diary dispersed. Meanwhile, Sharlyn's forehead was covered in sweat. Her complexion was deathly pale, and she currently looked extremely weak.

System: You have been cursed by a Great Demon[1]. All Attributes reduced by 50%, experience received from killing monsters reduced by 95%. System: You have been eyed by a Great Demon. The phantom of the Great Demon will come for you in thirty days. If you are killed by the phantom, your body will be taken over by the Great Demon. "Crap! Make it more ruthless, why don't you?" Regardless of how self-restraint he had been, Shi Feng could not help but curse when he saw this notification. When compared to human standards, a Great Demon was the equivalent of a Tier 4 Job. It was on the same level as a Sword Emperor. Although it was just a phantom, it would still require Sharlyn, who had a Tier 3 Job, to handle it. However, instead of aiming for Sharlyn, the Great Demon actually went for a bystander and a minor character like Shi Feng.

With this curse around, how would he be able to level up? Not to mention the 50% reduction in Attributes. It had caused his Attributes to sink down to the level of an average player. It would be a problem if he wanted to kill monsters of a higher level. He also had to face the phantom of the Great Demon...

“Miss Sharlyn, are you alright?” although he was cursed, Shi Feng still spoke politely.

Sharlyn shook her head slightly, speaking with a smile, “Nothing too bad. I never imagined that you would actually bring such a terrifying item. You’ve weakened me quite a bit. However, the problem has been resolved now. If you had dragged on for a few more days, your body might have been possessed by the Great Demon, and your body would suffer in Hell for all eternity.

“Thank you, Miss Sharlyn. If it weren’t for you, I might have already been dead.” Although Sharlyn’s words felt somewhat wrong, Shi Feng had still thanked her. He rejoiced at the fact that he had come to the Library without delay. Otherwise, he would truly be finished. However, the problem right now had yet to be resolved. “No need for thanks. This diary is not as simple as it seems. It is a key. In it records the method to unlock the curse on a gate. Your job now is to find this gate, enter through it with this diary, and find the Bible of Darkness that is kept within. I can destroy the Bible of Darkness as long as you retrieve it for me. Once it is destroyed, the Great Demon would not be able to descend,” Sharlyn explained. System: Epic Quest “Darkness Descends” accepted. Find and destroy the Bible of Darkness and prevent the Great Demon from descending. Rewards unknown. Although Shi Feng had known about the extreme difficulty of completing an Epic Quest, there was still no need for it to be so damnable! At the very least, the Quest should tell him where to find the Bible of Darkness!

In Shi Feng’s previous life, Fantasy Extinguisher had completed this Quest in Black Dragon Empire. However, Shi Feng couldn’t just go to Black Dragon Empire. Even if he went there, the Teleportation Gates had not been activated at this stage of the game, so he would have to run there. However, even if he ran till his legs broke, he would still need to waste several months before he could reach the borders of Black Dragon Empire.

TL Notes:

[1]Great Demon: this is a rank for Demons (not monsters). This will be further clarified in future chapters when Demons are better introduced.