

GODS' IMPACT 251

Chapter 251 Mana Control

A few minutes ago, in the Garden of the capital kingdom of the first realm.

Zach stared lifelessly at Evonik, who had 68 HP left.

Evonik was lying on the ground, and he was badly injured with severe body cuts and wounds all over his body.

Zach walked to him and placed his sword around Evonik's neck. Then, he uttered in a cold, bone-chilling voice: "Surrender, or die."

Evonik had made Zach furious by using his real-world knowledge regarding mathematics and geometry.

He had made Zach so annoyed that he wanted to kill him but chose to give him another chance since his knowledge was worth more if he stayed alive.

"I... surrender..." Evonik uttered while stuttering.

"Good."

Zach pulled his sword and placed it around his shoulder. Then, he turned around to walk to his side of the ring and catch a breath while waiting for the next opponent.

However, something unexpected happens.

Normally, all the opponents who surrendered had also surrendered from the menu screen. So Zach assumed Evonik would do that too. After all, no one was stupid enough to lie on the deathbed and still think about betraying someone.

But not someone like Evonik.

As soon as Zach turned around, Evonik stealthily grabbed his sword and tried to stab Zach from behind.

When Aria, Victoria, and Ninia noticed that, they tried to yell, but it was already too late.

Zach had swung the sword back and cleaved Evonik's head.

His headless body fell to the ground, while his head rolled and stopped between Zach's feet.

"And I thought he was smart," Zach scoffed and crushed Evonik's head under his feet. "But he turned out to be nothing, but a crazy nerd."

Zach canceled his plan to catch his breath and glared at the remaining two opponents. "Come."

Crazy Bitch, and Thomas' Chick, glanced at each other as though they were waiting for either of them to step forward and enter the ring. But none of them wanted to be the first one.

However, it didn't matter, since both of them had to go in the end.

Thomas' Chick, who was level 86, stepped into the ring and invited Zach for a duel.

As soon as she did that, Crazy Bitch withdrew from the ten battle and left the Risen Warrior guild.

"Go die, you whore!" she shouted at Thomas' Chick, who was in the ring.

"...!"

"You will die anyway! But don't worry! I will take care of Thomas!" she said.

Thomas' Chick's face twitched in anger as she yelled, "You motherfucking slut! Your mother's cunt is bigger than the biggest cock you have ever tasted!"

"Ahahaha!" Crazy Bitch laughed out loud and even placed her hand on her stomach as though it had started hurting her because of laughing too hard. Then, she scoffed and said, "Don't forget that we have the same mother."

Crazy Bitch, and Thomas' Chick, were sisters. Bitch was the little sister while Chick was the older sister. And Thomas was their childhood friend.

The three of them used to get along together, but as they grew up, Bitch and Chick started fighting for Thomas.

Thomas was a playboy, and he wanted to taste both sisters, so he played around with them and took both of their V cards. But when the sisters found out about that, they asked him to choose either of them.

Thomas liked big breasts, so he chose Chick, and they started going out. However, that didn't stop him from cheating with Bitch.

However, Chick had gotten suspicious of them.

So Thomas and Bitch started meeting in the VR game and had virtual sex. That continued for weeks until Chick got suspicious again and bought a VR headset of her own.

Then, Gods' impact occurred, and they got stuck.

However, nothing changed in their relationship.

Thomas was still fooling around with Bitch while going out with Chick.

And now, Bitch's biggest rival, the thorn in her way, the embodiment of all her problems, her older sister— Chick was standing in front of the death reaper.

She couldn't be happier.

"I swear I will kill you, you twat!" Chick cursed Bitch on the top of her lungs.

"Since you are going to die anyway, you know what Thomas told me when we were having sex this morning on your bed?" Bitch snorted and said, "He said you suck at giving blowjobs!"

"You....!" Chick's face twitched in anger after hearing that. She gritted her teeth and shouted, "Once I am done with this battle. I will kill you! No, I will have you get r*ped by a bunch of orcs! Just wait, you little slut!" Chick declared out loud.

"..."

"..."

"..."

"..."

Everything suddenly turned silent and there was no sign of any sound or noise coming from the surroundings. It was almost as though time had stopped flowing.

Of course, that wasn't the case and the reason behind the silence was nothing but Bitch and Chick's nasty comments.

Without wasting his life, Zach accepted the duel invitation and tightened the grip on his sword.

He felt bad for Chick since she was betrayed by not only her boyfriend but her sister too. However, that wasn't going to stop Zach from killing her if she tried to kill him.

Chick's life was dependent on Chick herself; whether she fought Zach with an intention of surrendering, or killing Zach.

Zach hoped for it to be the former one because he wanted to see Bitch beg for her life and die from suffering. And besides, if Chick died, there would be no one to give justice to her or get her revenge.

Bitch reminded Zach of Natasha, who was the same. However, Zach had no idea that Natasha was also in Gods' Impact, and that too, in the Risen Warrior guild.

But, something unexpected happened.

As soon as the duel started, Zach's body started burning and his HP started decreasing.

'What's happening?!' Zach panicked, but soon calmed down.

"Heh!" Chick smirked and said, "That's my top-tier skill— Mana Control. And I am using it with God's blessing I received not long ago. It was supposed to be a secret, but I guess it can't be helped."

SIGH!

Chick expected Zach to freak out, but he sighed instead.

Chapter 252 Let the Demons Loose

SIGH!

Zach sighed in relief and thought, 'When I saw my body on fire, I assumed my body was malfunctioning because of blessings. But it's just because of the skill.'

'But still, using a top-tier skill with a god's blessing is an overkill,' Zach uttered inwardly. 'Even I don't have a skill that can be used with blessings.'

Aurora had also used a skill with Lyda's blessings, and even when Aurora's Lyda strike wasn't a top-tier skill, it was overpowered.

Zach looked at his HP, which was rapidly decreasing every passing second.

'I have to know what this so-called Mana Control skill does. Otherwise, I won't be able to counter it. But how?' Zach asked himself. 'This Chick doesn't seem to be the talkative type who blurs out everything while doing something.'

"What did you say?" Zach asked Chick.

"I used my top-tier skill— Mana Control with the god's blessings I received not long ago," Chick repeated herself.

"Mana what? Is that really a skill, or you are just making this up to sound cool?" Zach asked.

He was intentionally playing dumb to provoke Chick and make her spit out everything.

Of course, the success wasn't guaranteed, and it wasn't given that the Chick would give out the information like that.

However, Chick was already feeling sad and furious after getting betrayed by her own sister and boyfriend. Her soul was close to breaking point, and she was at the edge. One little push and she would have broken.

"I am not lying! This is really a skill!" Chick yelled out loud. "Why does no one ever believe me?! Why does everyone always make fun of me and doubt my success?! Even when I reached level 86 without anyone's help, everyone thinks I cheated!"

"..."

Chick pointed her finger at Zach and said, "Since everyone thinks you are the strongest, I will defeat you in front of everyone and prove my worthiness!"

'Defeat and not kill?' Zach raised his brow with an amused look on his face.

"My skill will deplete your HP to the same level as your MP! And it will use your MP against you to deal you damage! This skill alone isn't good enough, but when I use it with god's blessing, it is undefeatable!" Chick asserted in a loud voice.

'Yeah, that does sound like overkill. Seriously, a kill that uses players' MP against them? And even deal the damage to deplete the HP?' Zach let out a weary sigh and thought, 'She can easily kill any player, even the top player in the game.'

'And the irony is that this skill, or rather, this girl has become my nemesis.'

Since the HP DMG was propositional and dependent on the MP the player had, this skill was most effective on Zach.

Unlike the other players whose MP capacity was limited, and they needed to increase it using accessible points every time they level up, their MP capacity couldn't surpass Zach's as he had infinite capacity.

Thus, the Mana Control skill would be troublesome for Zach.

"However, what if I have no MP left? She wouldn't be able to use my mana against me if I have no mana left." Zach smirked and uttered, "Go wild, my demons. Have fun until I run out of MP."

Zach let the 100 of rank 2 undead demons out of his shadow. Even if they consumed MP from Zach and his MP turned zero, the skill damage would automatically stop.

Or, the skill effect would naturally stop if the skill-caster died.

Chick's primary class was Gunslinger, and her secondary class was Warlock. So she couldn't attack Zach using the Melee technique. And as long as her skill was active, she couldn't use any other weapon or spell, or the skill would break.

The hundred, black-massed, with golden cracks all over their bodies, rank 2 demons dashed and spread around the ring.

All the bystanders and spectators stepped back in surprise after seeing the demons again.

Most of the people present in the garden were part of the players who fought against the demon invasion. And there were NPCs too.

They were still traumatized by the demon invasion, and after seeing the same demons again in front of them, they couldn't help but shiver in fear.

Everyone, except Aria, Victoria, and Ninia, was baffled by the situation. And the most shocked of all was none other than the Chick.

The demons leaped at her to attack her, and out of fear, Chick stopped the skill and started attacking the demons.

Since the battle had already started a long time ago, the Chick missed her opportunity to equip a weapon. Hence, she had no other choice but to fight using her magic spells.

Chick used advanced magic spells that implied that she had been working hard to survive.

'Why does no one ever believe me?! Why does everyone always make fun of me and doubt my success?! Even when I reached level 86 without anyone's help, everyone thinks I cheated!' Zach recalled what the Chick had said a while ago.

'I am not saying she is pitiable, but I do feel sorry for her. The poor girl was treated harshly by her loved ones, used and betrayed, thrown aside for something better, replaced for nothing but a... a... what?'

Zach's mind stopped working for a second, as though he had lost his sense of thinking.

'Wait... she said the skill uses my MP against me. But my class is a cultivator, meaning my body— or soul, which is trapped in this game— is also affected by that skill. This normally wouldn't happen to other players, but... argh...!'

Zach's headaches were back again, and the trigger was the Chick.

'She already stopped using that skill, so why is this still affecting me? Is this a side effect? Or perhaps after effect?' Zach thought to himself.

'Either way, I have to kill her.'

The Chick had already killed over 20 demons using her magic spells, and she was fighting them without any sign of fear in her eyes.

Zach noticed that he got his MP back, which he had used to revive the demons— once the demons died.

'This won't work. I will have to use a stronger demon...'

"Kill her, Rank 5 demons..."

Three rank-5 demons emerged from Zach's shadow and cleaved the Chick into three pieces.

Chapter 253 Closing the Ten Battles

As soon as the three rank-5 demons emerged from Zach's shadows, the battle had ended.

They attacked Chick and her body fell to the ground in three parts.

Then, they jumped on the bystanders to attack them.

"That's enough," Zach uttered.

The demons immediately stopped and knelt down in front of Zach.

"You all can go back into my shadow," he ordered.

The seventy-seven rank-1 demons and three rank-5 demons disappeared into Zach's shadow.

SIGH!

Zach let out another sigh and glanced around to see the players and NPCs had mixed expressions on their faces.

'Well, naturally, no one would like to look at someone— who just killed a few players— with a smile on their face, so I am not truly surprised by their reaction, but it still feels a little weird to be the center of attention.'

'I also took out a few of my demons, so it's obvious that they would be baffled. They lost their friends and lovers in the demon invasion, after all.'

Zach stared at Bitch, who couldn't hide the happiness on her face.

"..." Zach shook his head in disbelief and muttered, "I would rather have an enemy than a friend like her."

Zach turned to Elliott, who was baffled, as though he couldn't comprehend what he just witnessed.

When he had first heard about Zach's feat in the dungeon expedition and during the demon invasion, Elliott thought Zach simply got lucky. But he had now witnessed everything with his own eyes.

Zach shrugged his hands and said, "I won. Now free Victoria from your shitty guild."

"...!"

Elliott pushed aside the girls that were sitting on his lap and got up from his throne. He gritted his teeth with a furious look on his face and glared at Zach.

'I chose the strongest players myself, depending on their classes. I have been preparing since Victoria filed the resignation letter. I thought if I kill this piece of shit, Victoria will become mine!'

'All the players I chose were the total opposite of him, and he was at a clear disadvantage. So how.... how the hell did he manage to win against them?'

'How do I kill this guy?! How do I remove him from existence?! I want him to disappear from my sight!'

Elliott gazed at Victoria to see her smiling and smirking, seemingly celebrating Zach's victory.

'I want to see tears in her eyes! I want her to cry in agony! I want to kill that narcissist shit in front of her and see the despair on her face!'

Elliott's hate towards Zach was over the roof. He wanted Zach dead, and he could do anything for that.

'I am not giving Victoria to him. She is mine!'

"Hah!" Elliott scoffed out loud and said, "What do you mean?! You haven't completed the task yet!"

"Are you fucking blind? Because if you are, I will do something that would make you regret ever looking at me."

Zach glared at Elliott and said, "Now free Victoria, or I will free you from this world."

"The last was to battle and win against 10 of my strongest guild members, but you didn't fight ten of them. Thus, you didn't complete the task," Elliott stated.

"You selected ten players, but it was their choice to fight me or not. It shouldn't matter whether I fought them or not. The moment they surrender or refuse to fight me, it should be considered as my automatic win," Zach asserted.

"Hey, hey! You don't get to make your own rules! This game has its own rules of duels, and you can't add yours just because you think you won!"

Zach frowned his face and glared at Elliott with a lifeless gaze in his eyes. "Let her go."

"I won't!"

SIGH!

Zach sighed and muttered, "Cerberus, go eat him."

Cerberus leaped out from Zach's shadow and roared out loud, blowing away most of the things in a way, and pushing the players and NPCs aside from his powerful wind pressure that came out of his roar.

Cerberus was a mythical beast, and he had intelligence. He could speak and that was the proof of his intelligence.

Unlike the rest of Zach's undead army of demons, who couldn't speak and only followed Zach's order, Cerberus was different.

He could even make his own decision without Zach telling him to do them.

Cerberus was watching and hearing everything from Zach's shadow, and he was itching to come out and destroy his opponents. He hoped Zach would call him out, but that never happened.

Zach wanted to keep the fights as fair as possible without using any extra help. After all, it was a duel and a two-player battle.

However, when Zach called out to Cerberus and ordered him to eat Elliott, Cerberus couldn't be happier.

Elliott's flying carrier was high in the air, and no player could jump that high without having any ability to levitate in the air as Zach could.

However, after seeing Cerberus suddenly come out of Zach's shadow, who was not only tall but colossal in size, Elliott panicked and asked his men to fly the carrier even higher.

However, the speed of the carrier was slow, and Cerberus was fast.

Cerberus dashed and jumped in the air— higher than the carrier, and opened his mouth to eat the entire carrier in one bite.

However, the carrier was bigger than what Cerberus' mouth could fit, and it was impossible to gobble up the carrier in one go. Still, it could damage the carrier beyond repair.

But, the carrier was Elliott's personal aircraft, and it was loaded with tons of weapons and defense mechanisms. Regardless, it needed players to use those weapons and run the defensive mechanism. And Elliott only had one male player on the carrier, and that was the pilot.

The rest of the carrier was filled with half-naked girls.

Cerberus bit the carrier, and it started smoking soon before it crashed on the ground.

However, that was not enough to kill someone.

"That's enough, Cerberus." Zach equipped a sword in his hand and uttered, "I will deal with him myself."

Chapter 254 Thermodynamics

Zach equipped the mythical rank sword and walked towards the aircraft carrier that had crashed a few meters away to the other side of the garden.

"Finally, I will kill that motherfucker!" Zach jumped in the air and landed on the carrier.

However, there was no one in the carrier.

"...?"

Zach got off the carrier and flipped it to the other side to see the dead body of the player who was piloting the carrier. But there was no sign of Elliott and the girls who were with him.

'It did take me about a minute to get here, but....'

Zach glanced around and looked behind the rocks and the trees, but there was no one around.

Zach was having a hard time believing that they were able to escape that fast, and he didn't see anyone leaving the area while he was talking towards the carrier.

'So the only possibility is...'

Zach started striking his sword to the carrier and destroyed it even more.

A few strikes later, Zach hit something hard that couldn't be cut by the sword.

"This it is..."

Zach removed the rest of the carrier's parts with his hands and found a metal box made with strong material.

PUNCH!

Zach punched the box as hard as he could, but it didn't even leave a scratch.

"Come out, you piece of shit! Be a man and fight me! I will show you what pain and despair is!"

While Zach was yelling furiously on the top of his lungs, Elliott couldn't hear anything from the inside.

The box was made from one of the strongest materials available in the Gods' impact, and it was soundproof too.

Elliott had wasted over 40% of the fund that Shay provided, on that box.

"Dammit! If I had my gloves, I would have shattered this box into pieces!"

Suddenly, a thought crossed Zach's mind.

'I can't break it. But I can still carry it around and do whatever the hell I want. And obviously, he can't stay inside there forever. He will eventually have to come out.'

Zach smirked viciously and uttered, "Cerberus... dinner is ready."

Cerberus came out of Zach's shadow and stared at him for a few seconds.

[My, I am a non-vegetarian. I only eat flesh and drink blood,] Cerberus said.

"What will happen if you eat this box?" Zach asked curiously.

[I will feel like vomiting]

SIGH!

Zach let out a weary sigh and pondered to find a new solution.

"Say, when I fought you and killed you, you were spitting out insanely hot fire from your dragon's mouth. Can you do it now too?"

[I can, but the fire won't be as strong as it was before. I haven't fully evolved yet.]

"Uhh... what? Are you saying that you can grow stronger than you already are?" Zach asked curiously.

[I can, but not really. When you revived my core, my strength was capped, as yours is. But there is a difference between you and me, and that you are a player, while I am a beast. When you revived me, I became your pet, and I would naturally grow strong with my level,] Cerberus stated in a calm tone.

"And you still defeated that fake world eater despite that...?"

[Perhaps you may already know this, but I wasn't under your command when you revived me. I became yours when you named me. So prior to that, I was nothing, but the leftover emotions and rage I had when I died.]

"I see..." Zach nodded and said, "And what you said sounded so wrong. Learn to phrase your sentence properly."

[While I am saying this, I would also like to say that when you revived me, I could have attacked the players present in the dungeon. I would have even killed you because I wasn't me at that time. However, the only thing I wanted to fight was the world eater because it seemed to be a threat to me.]

"Wow. That would have been one hell of a plot twist, not going to lie. But I am glad that didn't happen, and you were tamed by the time I woke up," Zach sighed in relief.

"Now..." Zach looked at the box and muttered, "What should I do with it?"

Zach wanted Cerberus to eat the box and assumed that it would digest in his stomach. And even if it didn't, Elliott would eventually die from starvation, thanks to last month's update of Gods' Impact.

However, deep down, Zach wanted to end Elliott with his hands.

"Hmm?" Zach raised his brow and glanced at Cerberus with a curious look on his face.

[I do not like that look on your face, my liege,] Cerberus commented.

"How is your fire intensity compared to when you were alive?" Zach asked in a calm voice.

[I would say 1/3rd. But I am not sure. I haven't got a chance to use fire after my revival,] Cerberus answered.

"Well then..." Zach shrugged his shoulders and pointed his gaze at the box before saying, "Now is the perfect time to test it."

[My liege, I already said my fire is not strong enough to melt the box, so how—]

"Do not ask me questions, Cerberus. Just do what you are told to do," Zach uttered with a furious look on his face.

Zach was well aware that Cerberus fire won't be able to melt the box, but that wasn't Zach's intention.

If metal comes in contact with a high temperature, it would eventually start melting once the temperature went beyond its melting point.

'Thermal expansion. The metal expands when heated. Length, surface area, and volume will increase with temperature, and eventually, start melting to become pure.'

'I don't know what metal this box is made from, but it would surely hit the melting point. And even if it doesn't, the heat produced by the thermal expansion will cook everyone inside alive.'

Now, Elliott had two choices. One was to get cooked alive and die, and another one was to come out and get killed by Zach.

Either way, his death was guaranteed, and that too, in a painful way.

"Thermodynamics, bitch..."

Chapter 255 Worthless Leader

Within a minute of Cerberus shooting fire at the box, yells could be heard coming from the box.

"I guess it wasn't soundproof after all, or maybe it wasn't from the inside. Perhaps, they are so much in pain that they are yelling as hard as they could."

Naturally, Elliott couldn't take the heat and the feeling of being cooked alive, so he opened the box from the inside.

The box opened from all directions, just as how the wrapper unwrapped from the gifts.

The girls' skins were burned from various places, but Elliott was unharmed. Seemingly, he used the girls to protect himself from getting burned.

Zach looked at the girls and said, "There is a healer somewhere in the group. Go get yourself healed."

The girls slowly made some distance from Zach and then started running towards the group to look for a healer.

'The girls haven't done anything wrong, so I have no reason to hurt them. But if Elliott hadn't opened the box, they would have died in there. That was the sacrifice they had to make so this piece of shit could die.'

Elliott slowly stood up and tried to run away, but he tripped and fell down.

Zach grabbed his sword and walked to him with a furious look on his face.

"Time to die, motherfucker!"

"Wait, wait! I will free Victoria from the guild!" Elliott promised and begged for his life.

"Oh? Well, guess what? I am still going to kill you!"

Zach raised his sword and slashed it down to cleave Elliott's head, or he would have, but something unexpected happened.

Shay, who had been watching everything from his carrier above in the air, lowered his carrier to a safe height and jumped down in front of Zach.

"What are you doing, Shay? Get out of my way!" Zach uttered with a furious look on his face.

"Calm down, Zach. You are not thinking straight," Shay said in a calm voice.

"I said... get out of my way, Shay!"

"Think about what would happen if you kill him."

"I don't care! I just want to smear my sword with his filthy blood?!"

"I am sure you know that if you kill the guild master, the vice-captain will become the next guild master. And in this case, Victoria."

Zach lowered his sword and uttered, "Do? She can just make anyone else guild master and leave, right?"

"You know Victoria better than anyone. And do you think that she would do something like that?" Shay asked with a judging look on his face.

"What do you mean? She wants to leave the guild for me, so obviously, she can leave again."

"Yeah, but there will be a difference, a huge one." After a brief pause, Shay uttered, "When Victoria was still acting as a vice-captain, she was in charge of most of the things, and she loved doing her job, not because she was the vice-captain, but because she liked helping other players."

"..."

"She wouldn't have been or had left the guild if it wasn't for you. Obviously, she would choose you over anyone at any time. But that was because there were other players to whom she could entrust the guild too. But now, they are dead. No one is worthy of taking any spot or being in charge," Shay asserted.

"And if she became the guild master, then there is a high chance that she would want to save thousands of lives over you. She would gladly make the sacrifice and betray her love for you."

Shay looked into Zach's eyes and asked, "Do you want to take that risk?"

"...."

"If you are confident, then go ahead and kill him. I won't stop you. In fact, I am not stopping you even now. I am just trying to help you realize what's good and what's best."

"Why are you..."

Zach still wasn't aware of the change in Shay's personality, so he was confused and puzzled as to why and how he was thinking about others' well-being.

"Trust me, bro, there are many who want him dead," Shay uttered in a low voice so Elliot couldn't hear him. "And someone would eventually kill him. You don't have to stain your hands, or... swords."

"That piece of shit serves no purpose in this world. Even normal shit has qualities, but he..." Zach shook his head and said, "He is better off dead than alive. And I wouldn't mind getting a red name tag if I get to kill this guy."

"Did you hear any of the things which I just said? And if you still want to kill him, then go ahead and do it. As I said, even if he has no worth as a human being or a player, he still serves the role of the guild master of the second-strongest guild in this game. There are over a hundred thousand players in that guild, and the number of members has been increasing by thousands every day. And without him, without the guild, they all would lose their home, friends, money, job, and everything they have invested in the guild."

Zach pondered for a while and calmed himself down. Then, he glared at Elliott who was covering behind the broken carrier, and said, "Tell him to free Victoria from the guild this instance."

Shay turned to Elliott and asked, "So? What is more important to you? Victoria or your own life?"

Elliott immediately opened his menu and removed Victoria from the guild.

"Done!"

Shay turned back to Zach and shrugged his shoulders. "There you go. Now enjoy your sweet time with your ex."

"I don't believe anything that shit says or does. So can you check and confirm if he really removed Victoria from the group or not?"

"Sure." Shay opened his guild menu and checked the recent logs. "Yeah. Everything is clear."

Zach pointed his finger at Elliott and uttered, "Next time I see your face, no matter where I see it, I will kill you. So make sure you stay one realm away from me and Victoria!"

After saying that, Zach turned around and walked away.

A carrier landed beside Shay and stopped.

"Elliott, get out of here," Shay said.

Elliott got on the carrier and left.

"..."

Shay clenched his fists in frustration and uttered with a furious look on his face, "I am sorry, Zach, but the one to kill Elliott is... me."

Chapter 256 Shay's Grudge

On the day of the Dungeon raid.

CLANK! CLANK!

"That's right," a voice said from a distance.

"Nice. Now raise your hand and force it down."

"Good. Good. But you are applying all your strength. Don't do that," the voice then said.

The voice belonged to a young girl, who was wearing Risen Warrior's guild uniform. She had brown hair and brown eyes.

She didn't look extremely beautiful, but she wasn't plain either. Furthermore, she was an average-looking girl, or that's how Shay described her.

"But isn't it better if I use all my strength?" Shay asked with a confused look on his face. "That would take more DMG, right?"

"Suppose, the opponent managed to dodge or block that attack of yours, how will you defend yourself if he strikes you then?" the girl asked.

"I will either dodge or block the attack as he or she blocked mine..." Shay shrugged his shoulders and said, "Simple."

He scoffed.

"Do you think you would have enough time to do that? If you used all your strength, you would need to take a deep breath first in order to move your body more freely. Then, you will have to raise your sword and think about retaliating against the opponent's attack. After that, you will either block the opponent's attack or dodge it. Or..." the girl snickered at Shay and said, "You won't be able to do any of that and get killed by the opponent."

"..."

"That's why, it's always better if you don't try your best at everything. Leave some space to grow and learn," she said with a grin on her face. "No one is born perfect, after all."

"..." Shay looked at the swords in his hands and muttered, "That might be for the best."

"Hmm?" the girl hummed in confusion with a puzzled look on her face.

"Me dying..." Shay turned to the girl and said, "Everything thinks I am an ass-hat playboy, rich, spoiled-rotten to the core, a douchebag, and whatever-whatever. All the curse words in the world can't describe how despicable of a man I am..."

He said in a disdainful tone.

"Is that what you think of yourself?" the girl asked in a calm voice. "I would rather think of you as an innocent, hurt, sad, lonely, man."

"Why are you so sweet to me? I don't remember ever doing something to you," Shay remarked. "Are you after my money? If so, then tell me, please. I am tired of people being nice to me because of my money, my status, or my parents," Shay uttered with an annoyed look on his face.

"I honestly don't even know who you are..." the girl sighed and said, "But I get it that you get special treatment, and you are a billionaire. While I am from a highly undeveloped village where we have no access to the internet, even in this era."

"So, how did you get access to the VR set and VR game that got you trapped in this world?" Shay asked with a judging look on his face.

"The VR headset company... I don't remember the name, it was a long and weird name. But anyway, that company came to my village to promote their new VR headset. They also promised free internet and many more things to develop the village. And... I was selected to be the first trial of the VR game..." the girl sighed.

"Wow. Life can be shit sometimes, huh?"

"No." The girl shook her head and said, "I believe, everything happens for a reason, and there was probably a reason why God chose me to be one of the humans to be trapped here."

"If you lived in a village with no connection to the outside world, I guess... it makes sense if you worship gods..."

"Alright, enough talking now." the girl clapped her hands and said, "Break time is over. Start practicing."

"Okay, ma'am!" Shay scoffed out loud and started practicing sword skills.

'What is it with this girl? I don't understand. She gives a different vibe than every other girl I have been with. She feels... natural or... innocent. Free from any time of hate towards anyone. A pure girl...'

'She is so sweet and kind. Even though I have been rude to her many times, instead of getting angry, she smiles at me and understands my problems. Why are there no more girls like her?' Shay wondered.

'I thought I was an oddball, but now I think that she is an oddball...'

'She... also has a fiancé...' Shay placed his hand on his chest and clenched. 'Why does my heart sting every time I remember that?'

His eyes widened in realization as he turned to the girl and murmured, "Have I... fallen in love with her?"

'No, no, Shay!' Shay shook his head and thought, 'What is wrong with you? You have been with girls 10 times more beautiful than her. I have fucked girls prettier than her. So why... why do my eyes always look for her every time I hear her voice? Why do my ears twitch every time she calls my name? Why does my heart flutter every time I see her smiling at me?'

'What is wrong with me? Why is this girl... giving me so much pain...?'

RING~ RING!

The guild bell rang, which was the signal of a meeting between all the guild members.

Everyone gathered in the garden, and a while later, Elliott walked onto the stage.

"So as you all know, 5000 guild members will be joining the vice-captain Victoria, and go to the dungeon expedition to level up and meet the requirement to ascend to the high realm."

Elliott checked the menu and said, "Why are there only 4997 members? Where are the rest three?" he asked with an annoyed look on his face.

One guild member raised his hand and said, "Two left a guild because they didn't want to go to the dungeon expedition. And one committed suicide this morning."

SIGH!

Elliott sighed in disbelief and muttered something under his breath.

"So I guess three more players will be adding to the group." Elliott glanced around the guild members and pointed his finger at a random member.

"You." Then, he moved to another member: "You."

Elliott's gaze then fell on the girl who was standing beside Shay, and said, "You."

Chapter 257 Catching Up

The girl was surprised after getting selected by Elliott to participate in the dungeon expedition.

"Me? But I have already met the requirement, and there are already many other strong players to back them up," the girl retorted. Seemingly, she didn't want to go on the dungeon expedition.

"Don't you dare speak back to me. My words are final, so either participate in the dungeon expedition, or I will kick you out of the guild."

"...!" Shay clenched his fists in frustration, but he couldn't do anything. He was just another guild member, who hadn't become the funder yet.

A week later, he learned about the tragedy of the 75th floor, but he didn't lose hope.

He could easily check if the girl survived the 75th floor or not— from the list, but he didn't.

He waited, and waited for the girl to come back. But she didn't.

—
-
.
"It's all Elliott's fault. If he hadn't forced her that day, she would still be alive. We would still be practicing sword skills."

"Out of all the guild members, he could have chosen anyone, but he chose her." Shay clenched his fists in frustration and uttered with a furious look on his face: "I am sorry, Zach, but the one to kill Elliott is... me. But first, I have to finish my unfinished business."

Shay rushed after Zach and called out to him.

"Zach!" he yelled.

Zach turned around and saw Shay running at him, so he stopped walking and waited for Shay to catch up to him.

"What's wrong? Did you forget something?" Zach asked with a curious look on his face.

"Umm... I do have something to ask you if you don't mind," Shay said in a calm voice.

"Sure. What is it...?"

Shay glanced around and said, "Can't we go sit somewhere and talk? Maybe a restaurant?"

"Okay... but I will have to inform Victoria and others first."

Zach glanced around, where he last saw the three girls, but they weren't there.

Shay squinted his eyes at the distance and pointed his finger to the other side as he said, "Are they...? It's too far away, so I can't see them clearly."

Zach looked in the direction Shay was pointing his fingers at, and he saw Aria, Victoria, and Ninia, standing there and talking with Kayden and Misha.

"Yeah, and they have got a party too. Let's go."

Shay and Zach walked to the group and let their presence known.

"Yo! Old man! Sup!" Shay greeted Kayden.

"Shut up, Shay. I am no old man," Kayden groaned.

"Well, you are married, so... you are an old man," Shay shrugged and turned to Misha. "But you are not an old lady, so don't worry."

Aria nudged Zach and said, "Misha wants to meet Aurora, can you open the portal to my domain?"

"Sure, but...uhh... wouldn't she be sleeping?" Zach wondered.

"She is not. I just talked to her through chat," Aria replied.

"Why are you talking to her, and why is she awake when she should be resting?" Zach asked in a grumpy tone.

"I told her about the ten battles, so... I guess she couldn't sleep. And I had to keep her updated about the battles..." Aria replied with an awkward smile on her face.

"Why would you do that?" Zach sighed.

"Look, I have promised Aurora that I will look after you in her absence, so that's what I am doing." Aria shrugged and said, "I can't play the role of a wife and a friend at the same time."

"How about playing the role of sister wife?" Zach scoffed softly.

"I would if she was your wife."

"Whoa. Aurora would be missed if she heard that."

Zach opened the portal to Aria's domain and said, "Don't stress her too much."

Aria and Misha entered the portal.

Zach turned to Victoria with a curious look on his face and said, "What about you, miss ex?"

Victoria squinted her eyes and said, "I have so many things I want to talk to you about. But let's save it all for later. I want to meet Aurora too!"

Victoria moved her face close to Zach's ears and whispered, "And I was serious about what I said before the ten battles."

'Let's... do it... once we ascend.' Zach recalled what Victoria had said.

After saying that, Victoria passed through the portal.

Zach then closed the portal and let out a weary sigh as he looked at Kayden and Shay.

"Why are you sighing after looking at us?" Kayden asked with a judging look on his face.

"I am not sighing after..." Zach noticed Ninia who was standing behind him after she pulled his outfit from the backside.

"Hey..." He turned to her and said, "I am sorry, I didn't mean to leave you out, but usually it's Aria and Victoria. And you were also standing beside me, so I... forgot about you."

"..."

"Do you also want to meet Aurora?" Zach asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

Ninia shook her head and said, "No. I am not ready to meet her yet; especially after I failed to protect her."

"That's not true. You tried your best and—"

"No." Ninia interrupted Zach and said, "Everything happened because of us."

"What do you mean?" Zach asked with a puzzled look on his face. "The demon invasion is the reason. How is it your fault?"

"She could have escaped through the portal if she hadn't tried to help us. So it's our fault...." Ninia uttered with a dejected look on her face.

"I am sure that thought never crossed Aurora's mind," Zach chuckled.

"Do you think she doesn't blame us NPCs for what happened to her?" Ninia asked with an anxious look on her face.

"No. She would never do that."

SIGH!

Ninia sighed in relief and placed her head on her chest as though a huge load was taken away from her heart.

"So... do you want to go meet her?"

"No. Maybe next time. But now... I have to explain about your dark powers to your followers," Ninia asserted in a solemn voice.

"Okay."

"Please, don't ascend without letting me know."

Zach patted Ninia on the head and said, "Don't worry. I will even visit you at the church later if I don't find you around."

Chapter 258 Chit Chat

Zach watched as Ninia left the garden.

"..."

Shay and Kayden glanced at each other and shook their heads.

"One more girl now, eh?" Kayden remarked.

"Hmm?" Zach turned around to Kayden and Shay and said, "What?"

"Every time I meet you, I see a new girl with you," Kayden rephrased himself.

"Hypocrites..." Shay muttered under his breath and thought, 'I play around with a few girls, I get branded as a playboy. But when he does that, he becomes a role model.'

"What brings you here, by the way?" Zach asked Kayden.

"Misha and I were on our daily stroll around the capital where we heard a commotion in the garden. We were curious, so we decided to check, only to find you fighting with the other players. Then, Misha spotted Victoria and Aria in the group and.... You know the rest," Kayden responded with a shoulder shrug.

"So, Shay. What did you want to talk to me about?" Zach asked with a curious look on his face.

"Uhh... yeah. Since it's us three, let's go grab a drink or something."

Shay, Kayden, and Zach went to the nearby restaurant and ordered food and drinks.

"I... wanted to ask about the details of the tragedy of the 75th floor," Shay said while stuttering.

"What details, though? I am sure Victoria would have mentioned everything when she reported it to Elliott, right?" Zach asked curiously.

"Yeah, and even the survivors reported too. But I want to hear it from your perspective and how you saw it," Shay asserted.

"Well... There is nothing much to say, and I would rather not talk about it as it wasn't a remarkable experience that I would want to speak off every time someone asked about my battles or near-death situations," Zach uttered in a disdainful tone.

"But yeah... I will tell you."

The food arrived shortly after, and Zach told Shay and Kayden about the tragedy of the 75th floor.

Shay listened to every detail carefully, as though his life was dependent on him. He also asked him several questions and reasons why Zach didn't choose a different approach or the alternative of his choices, which might have to lessen the casualties.

"Okay, so one last question— which was also the only question I wanted to ask since the beginning." After a brief pause, Shay looked into Zach's eyes and asked, "What did you do with the bodies of those who died on the 75th floor?"

"As I said, I passed out, and I woke up ten minutes later. Most of the guild members had left, and the rest were taking care of the dead bodies." Zach squinted his eyes as he recalled, "Most of the bodies were razed by the light beam of the soul eater. And I really mean that."

"How bad... was it...?" Shay asked reluctantly.

"There were body parts of the players all over the area, and no one could recognize what part belonged to whom. The light beam incinerated everything on its way. And the players who managed to survive the attacks were injured. But those who died..."

"Did you... did they bury the bodies?" Shay asked.

"Yes." Zach nodded and continued, "Since we didn't have time to make a separate grave for every player, they dumped the body parts in one pit. And the bodies that were recognizable were buried in a different pit."

"I see."

"But why are you asking that?" Zach asked curiously.

Shay started blankly at Zach and smiled wryly before saying, "Love... is a funny yet complicated thing... no?"

Zach's eyes winded after hearing that. He had never imagined he would hear the word 'love' from Shay's mouth.

"Yeah, it is..." Zach replied in a calm voice with a nod.

It didn't take seconds for Zach to realize why Shay said that. He shot a glance at Kayden to see if he knew about the matter, and Kayden nodded in reply.

"I... understand how you feel..." Zach said to Shay to comfort him.

"Do you, really?" Shay scoffed out loud and said, "You don't! You haven't lost the only girl you loved! You have no idea how it feels to lose someone who wasn't even yours~ I never wished for anything in my life; I got everything I wanted without even asking for it. And..."

Shay bit his lips and said, "You have many girls flaunting over you, so even if you lose one, there will be others! But not for me! And you know what?! I was feeling sorry for you because I was the reason you got stuck in this game, but not anymore!"

"..."

"So far, your life has been better here than it was in the real world! You become famous! You somehow got strong too even though you have never played a game in your life! You got girls! You got money! This world is like a paradise for you!" Shay yelled.

"Calm down, Shay." Kayden placed his hand on Shay's shoulder and said, "You are not thinking—"

Shay slapped Kayden's hand from his shoulder and said, "You have no right to talk to me either!"

"..."

Shay glared at Kayden and continued, "You married your sister like you always wanted! You don't even care about the real world anymore! You have no danger to face or no people to lose. So don't you two

ever dare to tell me how you can feel my feelings, because right now, the only thing I am feeling is rage!"

"And what will that do? Will it bring back the girl you loved? Or maybe somehow send a message to that dead girl that you avenged her death?" Kayden furrowed his eyes at Shay and said, "Shay, we are in a death game. One wrong step and we are dead. And we are against the gods, the almighty and all-powerful. No player can possibly rival against them and win."

"..."

"What... was the name of the girl?" Zach asked Shay in a calm voice.

"Bi... Bianca..."

"Hmm..." Zach hummed in wonder and uttered, "I remember talking to her. She seemed nervous as we advanced to the high floors."

They talked until they finished eating, but after a while, Shay left after saying he had something to do.

Chapter 259 Plans and Schemes

Shay summoned his carrier and went back to the flying guild castle.

'Kayden was right. It's not the gods' fault. They were the ones who put a twist on the 75th floor, but Bianca wouldn't have died if she hadn't participated in the dungeon expedition.'

Shay furrowed his brows and uttered, "Elliott was the one who forced her, so he is the one to be blamed."

Shay clenched his fists and muttered, "I can kill Elliott any time I want, but that won't bring me satisfaction. I want to see him suffer. I want him to lose everything as I did."

Shay pondered for a while and uttered, "Elliott's pride is the guild. If the guild drops in ranking, he will suffer. But I want him to suffer more... more than a limit where he would want to die."

Shay thought of various plans to punish Elliott for what he did, but none of his plans gave him the satisfaction he wanted.

"I can turn his loyal dogs against him and have him killed by them. No... is killing the best option?" Shay wondered.

'If he dies in the game, he will die in the real world too. I won't be satisfied by that. I want to see him suffer forever. I want him to wake up every morning and realize that he is a piece of shit whose life is worthless.'

Shay's eyes suddenly widened as an idea crossed his mind.

"What if I overthrow him? I already planned to start my own guild and recruit many of the best guild members into my guild. I planned to give them crazy incentives and rewards. But now... instead of many players from the guild, I would recruit every single one of them. I don't care how much money I am going to waste, but as long as I can see the helpless look on Elliott's face, I will be able to sleep peacefully," Shay asserted in a solemn voice.

"If everyone leaves his guild, the guild would naturally drop in ranking. And once that happens, Elliott would lose anything. I am the funder and the guild already relies on me, and once I stop giving funds, everything will collapse."

At first, Shay wasn't sure if he should do something like that nor not. He never considered himself a better man than Elliott, but after losing the love of his life, Shay didn't care about anything.

He threw aside all his remaining morals, ideals, and a little bit of humanity he had left within him. Not only that, but he no longer cared about anything.

His main goal was to destroy Elliott in every way possible. But of course, Shay's plan needed a lot of work, and he had to make sure not to mess up because a single wrong step could turn the tables.

While Elliott might be a selfish person who wanted to dominate the Gods' Impact and rule over the people; he also considered himself as better than everyone else and thought he deserved and owned everything.

In the real world, Elliott worked as a watchman of Ramsay's Industries. He had seen Shay many times on campus, but of course, Shay had no obligation to look at the watchmen.

In his free time, Elliott played role-playing and multiplayer games to take out his pent-up frustrations from the job. He lived a different life where he thought he was better than everyone in the game world.

Of course, he carried that mentality when he was transported to the Gods' Impact.

Furthermore, unlike all the players who were unknowingly brought to the game, Elliott came willingly by breaking into a VR center and using the VR headset when there was havoc in all the VR centers.

Elliott had graduated from one of the best universities in the country with an above-average degree. However, he couldn't land a job because of his horrible personality.

When he went to Ramsay's industries for the job interview, they gave him the job of the watchman. But of course, the salary was high too.

Actually, Elliott quite liked that job, as he didn't have to do anything but just sit and watch. There were already dozens on camera in every corner and robot guards with scanners in their eyes.

Elliott considered himself as the boss of the place as his job needed the least work and effort. That didn't change when he entered the Gods' Impact and chose to create a guild since, in every game he had played, the big organization played the most important role and ruled over.

However, in Gods' Impact, after the gods introduced the religions, Elliott realized that dominating the game wasn't going to be as easy as he thought. But his main goal was to surpass the strongest guild in Gods' Impact— Edens Dynasty.

After Shay reached the flying castle, he went to his room and took a nap. He still had to complete his unfinished business, which was nothing other than clearing the mixed dungeon and reaching floor 75 to visit the grave.

Meanwhile, Zach and Kayden were still in the restaurant, eating like crazy.

While Kayden hadn't eaten much, Zach had finished over a dozen plates of chicken and roasted meat. He had no need to worry about the bill as the owner was Zach's follower. But that wasn't the reason Zach was eating that much; he had become rich by selling potions, and he earned 100,000 daily.

He was ranked high in the 'money earned in Gods' impact' ranking, but that didn't change him from being a cheapskate.

He always used money freely whenever it came to food and necessity.

After eating, Zach went to the counter to pay the bill, but as he had expected, the owner refused to take money from his god. But Zach formed them and convinced them to take the money.

"How much time would it take for the girls to finish talking?" Kayden asked Zach.

"Aria can open the portal from the inside, so they will come out when they are done talking," Zach responded.

"So... what do we do now...?"

"Nothing." Zach placed his hand on his stomach and said, "I ate too much, so I think I will stroll in the garden."

"I will rest under the gazebo then," Kayden said and walked towards the gazebo.

Zach began his stroll, but halfway through, his gaze fell on the dead bodies of the opponents he had fought.

"They didn't even bother to bury them...?" Zach muttered in disbelief.

Zach decided to give them a proper burial, but a thought suddenly crossed his mind.

'Aria warned me not to use necromancy on the players and NPC, but... I am curious...'

Chapter 260 Necromancy

"I know Aria warned me to not use necromancy on the players and the NPCs, I am still curious. But what I am more curious about is why Aria warned me about it?" Rudy wondered.

'Isn't it for the best if I can revive the dead people? That's a blessing in my opinion...'

Zach gathered the bodies and placed them next to each other.

The first body was Ishajreon, who was left at fate's will, but he died after falling from Elliott's carrier.

The second body was Razeir, who died after losing all his HP.

The third body was Evonik, but his body was divided into two parts; his head and the bottom.

The fourth and the last body belonged to Thomas' Chick, who was cleaved into three parts by Zach's rank-5 undead demons.

Zach had assumed that Jeremy had also died, but he turned out to be alive. He had surrendered after his HP had decreased to 2%.

"Which one should I try first?" Zach asked himself after looking at the four bodies.

Zach decided to do it from the best body condition to worse, so he placed his hand on Ishajreon's body and uttered:

"Arise."

[Process failed! Unable to revive!]

[Zero attempts left!]

"..." Zach raised his brows in confusion and muttered, "So... there is only one try for the players?"

Zach moved to Razier and placed his hand on top of him before uttering, "Arise."

[Process failed! Unable to revive!]

[Zero attempts left!]

"Why is it failing?!" Zach then realized he wasn't pouring MP into them.

When Zach used necromancy for the first time, he had to pour all his mana into Cerberus' core to revive it. But after that, he revived everything else normally without pouring extra MP into them, and they confused a normal amount of MP upon revival.

Zach wasn't certain if he needed to pour mana into the players while reviving them. And even if that was the case, how much MP was he supposed to pour?

It gave only one attempt to revive the players, and pouring the wrong amount of MP would fail him too. Not only that, but every player had different types of MP requirements to get revived.

So it wasn't the only reason why Zach failed the first two revivals, and using MP wasn't a solution.

However, Zach was simply curious, and he didn't care if he failed or succeeded. He just wanted to see what would happen if he revived a dead player on NPCs.

Zach was very well aware of the fact that the bodies of the players in Gods' Impact were their soul shells. Once they died in the game, the link between the soul and the real body was severed. Hence, killing them in the real world too.

Zach was also curious as to what would happen if he managed to revive them. What will happen to their body in the real world, and how would they react?

Will they become alive again, or stay dead in the real world? If yes, then what will they be in Gods' Impact?

'An NPC?' Zach wondered.

He had too many questions, and the answers to them were very vague.

Zach moved to Evonik's body and placed his hand on it.

"I don't know how much MP I need to pour, but let's try 1000 first."

Zach poured 1000 MP and uttered, "Arise."

"..."

[Process failed! Unable to revive!]

[Zero attempts left!]

"Dammit!" Zach yelled in frustration and fury. But he wasn't angry because the revival failed, he was angry because he lost 1000 MP which he had managed to cultivate after the ten battles.

"And I still don't know why I am failing. Do they need more MPs? Or am I doing something wrong? At least tell me why it failed, dammit!"

Zach had already given up and lost hope about reviving them. And he didn't even know what he would do after reviving them.

Still, Zach wanted to try for the last time. So he moved to Thomas' Chick's body, which was the last and looked most gruesome of all.

He placed his hand on a dry spot and uttered, "Arise."

"..."

[Process successful!]

"...!"

Zach was enveloped by a bright light that blinded him, so naturally, he closed his eyes. But when he opened his eyes, all he saw was darkness; a void where nothing existed.

[Be careful what you wish for. You just revived a dead soul, you went against the law of the universe and broke the rule of life. You tampered with the cosmic frequency, and you did something that shouldn't have happened,] an ethereal voice resonated in the void.

[You... have triggered the fourth impact.]

Zach found himself with his eyes closed-- seemingly oblivious to the voice, so he opened them and saw the zombified body of Thomas' chick.

However, unlike dead bodies that rot as time passed, Thomas' chick could level up to get stronger and evolve. Which also meant that her body would get better as she grew stronger.

Zach was left baffled after seeing Thomas' Chick standing alive in front of him. He had too many things to ask her, so he slowly opened his mouth and asked:

"Where were you after you died?" Zach asked.

"..."

"Did you feel something when you came back to life?"

"..."

"Does your body still hurt?"

"..."

Zach asked many questions to ask her, but he didn't get a single response. He wasn't sure if she was unable to speak, or she simply didn't want to answer.

"Could it be the case like the demons?" Zach wondered. "The demons can't speak, not even the rank-5 demons. But Cerberus can despite being level 10. Well, he could speak at level 1 too."

"So if that depends on the species or race, humans are intelligent enough to..." Zach scratched his head and stared at Thomas' Chick with a confused and curious look on his face.

He asked her a few more questions, and after not getting any reply, he sighed and uttered, "Do you know me?"

Thomas' Chick still didn't answer.

Zach furrowed his brows and uttered, "Kneel."

She immediately knelt down.

That was when Zach realized that he didn't revive Thomas' Chick. Rather, he made her a brainless puppet who could follow his orders.

He now knew that reviving a dead soul was impossible.