

Avatar 1471

Chapter 1471: Can Never Be Overlooked At Any Moment

Bullet Rain.

Bullet Rain.

In this sort of critical moment, Zheng Xuan usually liked to drop a “how stressful” in the chat before acting. But this time, in a rare sight, he didn’t complain at all. Just like that, Bullet Rain, scattering a rain of bullets, rushed forward.

Boom boom boom boom.

A road paved with the fireworks of explosions. When a Spitfire went on full offensive, the sight was as splendid and colorful as a Mage’s attacks. Zhang Jiale, the creator of the Hundred Blossoms style, used this point to the fullest, and those who came after him all learned something from the Hundred Blossoms style. Perhaps they wouldn’t take advantage of the special effects of the attacks to the peak like he did. But for Spitfires, how dazzling the offensive was became an important metric for gauging strength.

Zheng Xuan, this unmotivated guy, was currently playing an unusually dazzling game. He had always been viewed as the best Spitfire player after Zhang Jiale, and he’d even had the opportunity to go to Hundred Blossoms to fill the gap that had been left by Zhang Jiale’s retirement, and become that team’s core.

But Zheng Xuan’s unmotivated personality led him to reject that kind of invitation. And not long after that, another Blue Rain player, Yu Feng, left for Hundred Blossoms. As a Berserker, he lifted up this team. So, these two teams still ended up completing this kind of exchange.

Because of his lack of motivation, Zheng Xuan had suffered more than a bit of criticism. But he never minded the opinions of the outside world.

There was no ambition in his chest. He never cared about how important he was, how much people looked up to him, how much they expected from him.

But now, Zheng Xuan resolutely focused all of his spirit.

Because the situation they faced now was extremely dire. If their healer was really dragged into the wind zone by Fang Rui and Steamed Bun, saving him would become extremely difficult, and they would lose the initiative completely.

But this, by itself, wasn’t enough to force Zheng Xuan to focus. What really caused him to focus was the fact that, in such critical moments, he didn’t want to let his teammates down.

Yes. He was an unmotivated person, but Blue Rain, his Blue Rain teammates, accepted his personality. They allowed him to be lazy sometimes. They allowed him to bring that dull, listless performance sometimes, where others would be grinding their teeth in frustration.

This wasn't to say that Blue Rain was really that casual. This was all because Blue Rain, Blue Rain's players, always had faith in Zheng Xuan's judgment.

Laziness, listlessness...

Whenever Zheng Xuan displayed these traits, it was always during irrelevant moments. But any time things were at a crucial point, this guy would always rush forward with a "how stressful" on his tongue. He had never dropped the ball before.

His teammates accepted him, and Zheng Xuan wasn't someone who couldn't tell good from bad. He always repaid everyone's acceptance.

He understood that, standing on this battlefield, he wasn't fighting just for himself. Sometimes, he could give up without a care, but the team couldn't, his teammates couldn't. And so, he would continue to walk with everyone. In the end, he lived up to the trust everyone had in him.

Unmotivated?

If this was truly a competition where everyone only strove for individual honor, Zheng Xuan probably would have been eliminated from this circle long ago. But Glory was a team project; it wasn't a single-player game. It wasn't that Zheng Xuan lacked motivation, it was that his motivation needed to be inspired from different sources. Such as, for his teammates, for the team...

For him, paying enough trust would earn the deepest repayment. And Team Blue Rain had done exactly this.

"Charge!!"

Seeing Zheng Xuan control Bullet Rain, Blue Rain's fans exploded with cheers.

At crucial moments, no one could slack off. The audience, the players, including Happy's players.

Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was forcefully holding back Huang Shaotian and Lu Hanwen both. Su Mucheng's Launcher was preventing Yu Wenzhou's Swoksaar from casting a single curse. Weren't Happy's players putting their all into seizing this opportunity firmly?

Fang Rui told Steamed Bun to ignore the attacks from Bullet Rain.

But, could they be ignored?

Freezing Bullet, Flash Bullet, Electric Grenade, Implosion Grenade...

Spitfires were not a class that only dealt damage; they had great crowd control. And attacks that had controlling effects simply could not be ignored.

When Fang Rui said to ignore them, Happy's fans were scared to death. They thought, how could they be ignored?

And Steamed Bun's answer, "how smart," only frightened them even more.

These two conducting their kidnapping, they were really audacious to the extreme!

They really dared to ignore him?

Bullet Rain poured down, everything was coming to a head, and these two audacious fellows didn't disappoint – they really dared!

“Go go go go go!!” Steamed Bun shouted in the chat, and as he shouted, he furiously unleashed punches and kicks upon Soul Speaker!

Xu Jingxi understood the current situation. He didn't have much means of fighting back, but he could put up a resistance.

“Throw here!” Fang Rui suddenly called in the chat.

Steamed Bun, who liked to complain, didn't bother to say anything this time. He lifted up Soul Speaker and swung.

Fling!

Even though it was a Grappler skill, it was a sub-level 20 skill, so all Fighters could learn it. None of the four Fighter subclasses would completely neglect this kind of forceful grab skill.

Compared to the Grappler, which had its grab-strengthening classing skill, the other three classes couldn't use the skill to the same effectiveness. But the skill could still throw the target, living up to its name.

Soul Speaker flew.

Plate Armor wasn't light in weight, added to the fact that Steamed Bun Invasion's Fling was only so strong. His flight wasn't long – he'd only just flown out of Steamed Bun Invasion's hands before it looked like he was about to land.

But Fang Rui's Boundless Sea was already ready to catch him.

“Fling relay?” Pan Lin exclaimed.

“It's still not enough!” Li Yibo said. Even if they tried to relay throw him, they were still too far from the wind zone. Boundless Sea's Fling was even weaker, because the Qi Master's Strength was a bit less than the Brawler's.

But at that moment, a grenade landed right behind Boundless Sea as he was grabbing Soul Speaker.

The grenade cracked and split in two, and a powerful force began to draw in the surrounding air.

“Implosion!” Pan Lin once again exclaimed. Instantly, he understood.

They thought that it wasn't enough because they only saw what was in front of them. Fang Rui thought that it was enough because he saw the whole situation. He saw that Bullet Rain had thrown an Implosion Grenade their way, and he was going to use the momentum brought by this Implosion Grenade.

The airflow drew everything inward, sending the plants scattering. Boundless Sea, right next to the grenade, was instantly sent flying by the grenade, but his two hands were still gripping Soul Speaker. This was a priority that the Implosion Grenade couldn't break.

Fly out. The two characters flew out together.

Exclamations sounded throughout the crowd of Blue Rain fans, who were all thinking, "it's over, it's over."

"Don't underestimate me!" But at this moment, Zheng Xuan didn't say his catchphrase "how stressful," but instead exploded with this shout.

Bullet Rain changed direction.

Chasing the two characters flying through the air, madly going after them.

Those dazzling explosions upon the ground were now aimed into the air, exploding nonstop next to Boundless Sea and Soul Speaker.

What godly gun technique!

Everyone was shocked.

Because the two characters were stuck together by the grab, they flew a bit more slowly from the explosion than they otherwise would have. But to focus fire completely upon the trajectory they followed, thoroughly bombarding their bodies, how many people could do what Zheng Xuan did?

The applause swallowed the Blue Rain stadium.

Zheng Xuan, this person who never had motivation, now displayed such a thrilling performance at this crucial moment. It surprised everyone, it raised everyone's spirits.

And were these attacks just to deal damage?

Of course not!

The implosion sent them flying quickly; Zheng Xuan's attacks chased after them quickly; everything happened in an instant. But the trajectory of the two flying characters, under Bullet Rain's attacks, was changed. It was clear to see that the two stuck-together characters wouldn't land in the wind zone. Even if Boundless Sea tried to Fling now, there was no way he could send Soul Speaker into the wind zone.

The applause became even more enthusiastic, so much that no one noticed a gunshot, a gunshot that was separate from Bullet Rain's midair firing, a gunshot that was different from Dancing Rain's explosive artillery fire.

With a gunshot, Bullet Rain's attacks were extinguished, and after that, Zheng Xuan saw a grenade fly past his sight, flying toward those two characters in the air.

The type of the grenade clearly registered in Zheng Xuan's pupils.

Implosion!

A grenade he was incomparably familiar with. And its trajectory...

No!

Zheng Xuan desperately wanted to stop this grenade, but when he tried to control his character, Bullet Rain couldn't move. Of course, there was a reason why he couldn't move.

Stun Bullet. The earlier gunshot had been a Stun Bullet, stopping Bullet Rain's attacks for good. And after that, this Implosion Grenade flew outward, Zheng Xuan wanted to stop it but couldn't. Only with great effort could he move again, and he couldn't be bothered to figure out who had done all this. Bullet Rain lifted his gun, furiously trying to detonate that Implosion Grenade in midair.

But, it was too late...

Perhaps the Implosion Grenade hadn't managed to fly to its most optimal position, but when it burst, it still accomplished the goal that Happy wanted.

Whoosh...

When the Implosion Grenade blasted open, there was this sharp sound of a twister. The two characters were still stumbling from their landing, one continued to stumble, while the other was picked up into the air again.

Right now there wasn't a grab in effect, so the the Implosion Grenade only affected the opponent. Soul Speaker was sent flying once again.

And the stumbling Boundless Sea simply rolled into a half-crouch. He didn't even bother to stand up straight, he chased after Soul Speaker half-rolling, half-crawling. Behind him. Steamed Bun Invasion brandished his brick and aggressively followed.

It's over...

Zheng Xuan was in despair. At last, he had nothing left to stop this. That damned Stun Bullet, that damned Implosion Grenade, that damned guy.

Zheng Xuan already knew who had orchestrated this whole thing.

It was that person who, at any moment, even if he was being pincered, even if he was being pincered by dual Blade Masters Huang Shaotian and Lu Hanwen, could never be overlooked. That damned person.

Ye Xiu.

Lord Grim.

Chapter 1472: New Criminal Partners

If looks could kill, Ye Xiu and his Lord Grim would have been dead by now from the crowd.

Despite pressure from Huang Shaotian's and Lu Hanwen's Blade Master duo, he was still able to find an opening at a crucial moment and complete Happy's plans. Wasn't that what it meant to be a core player?

If the brilliant escape from Formless Phantom Blade could be considered as just dodging an attack, then this time, Yu Wenzhou wouldn't be able to wave away the play as just landing an attack.

Anyone could see how fatal it was for Blue Rain to have Soul Speaker flying away at this moment.

Seeing Soul Speaker tumble helplessly towards the wind zone, Blue Rain's fans hated how they couldn't reach out with their hands to help him get back his footing.

No one could stop it though.

The stadium was filled with sighs of despair.

For Blue Rain, the outcome wouldn't just be the end of this match, but the end of Blue Rain's season. A powerhouse team making it into the playoffs was nothing noteworthy. They only had one goal: to be the champions. A season, where they didn't win the championships, was a failure for them.

Were they actually going to fall in the quarterfinals of the playoffs?

The match wasn't over yet, but Blue Rain's fans were already feeling pessimistic.

Because no one could stop it from happening.

Yes, no one.

But there was the wind.

When Soul Speaker entered the wind zone, he faced against the wind. As a result, the resistive force of the wind slowed his air speed.

Chance!

Countless people cried out in their hearts.

But in reality, they had no idea if this was an opportunity. They suddenly noticed a difference in how they expected things to turn out, so they thought it was an opportunity.

And it really was one.

However, it was different from the surprise the spectators felt. Blue Rain's players had anticipated this possibility.

Swoksaar raised his staff.

Boom boom boom, Dancing Rain's artillery shells flew towards Swoksaar. Su Mucheng wasn't going to mess up at a critical moment.

Boom!

Amidst the rumbling smoke from the explosions, Swoksaar's staff was still flashing with a dark purple light.

The curse hadn't been interrupted, meaning Dancing Rain's attacks hadn't hit.

As the smoke dispersed, Troubling Rain's figure gradually appeared.

Using your own body to block an attack was as stupid as it got. Perhaps because of how stupid it was, too many people would forget about this option.

Huang Shaotian did such a stupid-looking action at this crucial moment. He had let Ye Xiu go and reached Swoksaar's side to help block the incoming attacks.

Ye Xiu didn't react slowly either. When Troubling Rain suddenly jumped away, he realized something.

He didn't block Troubling Rain. Instead, he immediately attacked Swoksaar.

But he was too late.

By the time Lord Grim acted, Ye Xiu knew it was too late.

When Huang Shaotian seized an opportunity, he wouldn't leave any openings behind. By the time Ye Xiu noticed Troubling Rain's movements and made a decision, it was too late.

Troubling Rain had been hit, and Swoksaar was hit by Lord Grim's attack. However, the curse went through.

Hexagram Prison!

Swoksaar had unexpectedly cast a Hexagram Prison.

To seal Boundless Sea? To seal Steamed Bun Invasion?

These two characters looked as if they could continue their kidnapping of Soul Speaker because the wind had stopped the kidnapping to reach its completion. Had Yu Wenzhou cast a Hexagram Prison to stop one of them?

No!

When the Hexagram Prison descended, the one locked into place by the six seals was Soul Speaker, Team Blue Rain's Paladin.

Everyone was startled, but understood soon afterwards.

Anything sealed by Hexagram Prison would take no damage, and the prison could not be broken.

There was only one way to dispel Hexagram Prison: wait until the duration of the curse ended. Even if the caster died, the prison would stay in existence.

This was the difference between a Warlock and a Mage.

Mages used mana and incantations to create magic. When the Mage died, their magic would disappear as well. But Warlocks used their mana to create a sort of contract. Even if the Warlock died, the contract would still exist. Thus, the curse would last until the contract's conditions were fulfilled.

The Hexagram Prison locked Soul Speaker, but it wasn't to seal him away, it was to protect him.

Boundless Sea and Steamed Bun Invasion could attack Soul Speaker, but they would have no way to carry Soul Speaker out further into the wind zone. They could only wait on the side for these 10 seconds and wait for Team Blue Rain to rescue their healer.

10 seconds. That was how long Swoksaar's Hexagram Prison lasted.

“Beautiful!” Zheng Xuan was suddenly reinvigorated, after losing a lot of morale from Ye Xiu stopping his attacks. Bullet Rain raised his gun, but then, he saw that Boundless Sea didn’t dodge or let up. It was as if he couldn’t see the Hexagram Prison as he crashed straight into it.

Crash!

When Boundless Sea touched the Hexagram Prison, the pillars of light entered his body. In the next instant, Boundless Sea was forcefully dragged inside the prison, right next to Soul Speaker.

Without any hesitation, Fang Rui’s Boundless Sea threw Soul Speaker to the ground.

Soon afterwards, Steamed Bun Invasion also charged into the Hexagram Prison, locking himself up too. He stomped on Soul Speaker twice.

The audience was dumbfounded.

This... the old Criminal Partners consisted of Fang Rui’s Thief and Lin Jingyan’s Brawler. Their nickname mainly came from their classes. A Thief and a Brawler. If they weren’t committing crimes, what were they doing?

But looking at the two criminals in front of them, Fang Rui had switched to a Qi Master, which had zero relationship with criminal activities. Steamed Bun Invasion was a Brawler, but he was a rookie. However, the two of them together were truly criminal to the core. Soul Speaker had been thrown into the Hexagram Prison, and the two of them threw themselves in as well to continue beating him up. It was too evil, too immoral, too criminal!

That was what the audience thought, but to Blue Rain’s pro players, this was a tactic.

Boundless Sea and Steamed Bun Invasion looked as if they were walking right into a trap, but in this way, no matter what Blue Rain did, the instant the Hexagram Prison disappeared, these two would still be the closest to Soul Speaker. When that time came, the two would still hold the initiative. Would Team Blue Rain be able to immediately stop the two as soon as the Hexagram Prison went away? Probably not. Su Mucheng and Ye Xiu, one far one close, wouldn’t make it easy for them!

Team Blue Rain’s players laughed bitterly. Yu Wenzhou even more so. He just couldn’t get a handle on those two.

In any case, Blue Rain still needed to try.

The two locked by Hexagram Prison had better not think about dodging any attacks. Among the three Blue Rain players who could reach them, just Zheng Xuan’s Spitfire alone could cover both at once.

However, just attacks alone wouldn’t be able to split those two away from each other!

Even if an Implosion Grenade was thrown, the two couldn’t be thrown outside of the Hexagram Prison. Their movements would be locked down by Hexagram Prison.

Right now, they couldn’t do anything. The key moment would come the instant Hexagram Prison dissipated.

Blue Rain's players knew the timing, but Happy probably did too. Data such as the duration of skills couldn't be hidden.

Ten. Zheng Xuan's Bullet Rain attacked. Swoksaar continued to be suppressed by Dancing Rain. Huang Shaotian and Lu Hanwen continued to be blocked by Ye Xiu.

Nine. All of them moved towards the Hexagram Prison at the same time.

Eight. The same.

Seven. The same.

Six. The crowd in the stadium went onto their feet.

Five. Another second passed.

Four. Troubling Rain and Flowing Cloud suddenly switched positions.

Three. Both Blade Masters used Shadow Steps simultaneously, instantly filling the field with nineteen shadows.

Two. All of the scattered shadows rushed towards the Hexagram Prison.

One. Lord Grim chased after them and caught the real Flowing Cloud!

Zero. Hexagram Prison disappeared. In the end, Huang Shaotian was more experienced. His real body was able to escape from Lord Grim's entanglement.

Meteor Form!

Ice Rain swung forward, sword light flying. To stop a target, a skill with a forced knockdown was the most optimal choice.

Qi Wave Shield!

But Happy's two players were ready. Don't look at how much of a bully the two looked like while in prison. In reality, there was a lot of thought going into it. They had been counting the ten seconds too, or at least, Fang Rui was.

A Qi Wave Shield was pushed out the instant the Hexagram Prison went away.

The sword shadows fell onto the Qi Wave Shield. This skill covered a much smaller area, but its defensive capabilities were much higher than Qi Guard. The entirety of Meteor Form was blocked by the Qi Wave Shield.

Huang Shaotian wanted to follow with another attack, but Ye Xiu's Lord Grim had reached behind him. Huang Shaotian had paid too much attention to this end and neglected his back. Just when he was about to attack, Troubling Rain was suddenly launched into the air.

Bang!

With a Falling Flower Palm, Lord Grim sent Troubling Rain flying and then chased after him. Huang Shaotian had been too focused on the main issue at hand and had neglected Ye Xiu. However, Ye Xiu had also neglected Lu Hanwen to deal with Huang Shaotian.

As a result, the moment Huang Shaotian was sent flying, Lu Hanwen also sent Ye Xiu flying.

Troubling Rain flying outwards had interfered with Zheng Xuan though. He had saved up his cooldowns previously. Now, he had fired out all sorts of special bullets with CC effects. Suddenly, a wild Troubling Rain appeared.

Glory had friendly fire off, but attacks couldn't just magically teleport past an ally! Huang Shaotian was trying to control his character to not interfere with Zheng Xuan's offense, but many of the attacks still hit Troubling Rain. These attacks suddenly became like faulty goods, snuffed out without any effects coming out.

On the other side, when Lu Hanwen had Flowing Cloud hit Lord Grim flying, he had done it with intention, sending Lord Grim crashing towards Boundless Sea and Steamed Bun Invasion. But just as Lord Grim was sent flying away, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella above his head went kakaka into Rotor Wings, and Lord Grim flew away on his own...

Chapter 1473: Learning from the Opponent

Dadadadadada...

The sound of the Rotor Wing was clearly transmitted to everyone's ears. To Blue Rain's people, it sounded like cruel, mocking laughter.

The situation had gotten to this kind of unsaveable point. Soul Speaker was abducted into the wind zone by those two Fighters, and Lord Grim was using Rotor Wing to fly that way as well.

Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain was a long-range attacker, standing at relatively safe position, and An Wenyi had also long since controlled Little Cold Hands to circle around from afar, preemptively destroying any thought Blue Rain might have had at a healer exchange.

There was no other way.

Only one path was left to Blue Rain – enter the wind zone, against the wind.

But as the ones who had chosen this map, Blue Rain knew better than anyone else how unfavorable fighting upwind in this gale wind zone would be. Would knowing the disadvantages allow them to avoid the risk? Things clearly weren't that simple.

But facing such a severe situation, Blue Rain didn't panic. In their chat, message after message from Captain Yu Wenzhou jumped onto the screen.

Crippled hands, that was only relative. Crippled hands in the professional circle would still be at the top among ordinary gamers.

The instructions were methodically issued, and without any hesitation, Blue Rain's players began following directions.

Fighting directly upwind absolutely could not work. Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan, one left and one right, circled around from the two sides, echoing the hook Fang Rui had taken at the very beginning. They couldn't leave the center path empty either, though. Lu Hanwen's greatsword Blade Master Flowing Cloud took charge. But the true main attacker of this arrangement was Yu Wenzhou's Swoksaar.

Curses. Only Swoksaar's curses wouldn't be affected by the gales. That was to say, he himself suffered no disadvantages from fighting upwind.

And so Swoksaar immediately began to cast. Every second they were slow here, their healer Soul Speaker would take one more second of attack. Doubt, hesitation, consideration, none of that belonged to Blue Rain right now. The guidelines to their actions right now consisted of only one word: fast.

Quickly disrupt them from the front, quickly have two characters circle around from the left and right.

Happy, of course, wouldn't sit and watch Blue Rain arrange their pincer formation.

Dancing Rain opened fire first, aiming her cannon at Swoksaar. Su Mucheng was always closely paying attention to the movements of the character that Yu Wenzhou controlled.

Boom!

The shell exploded, but Swoksaar continued casting, uninterrupted. Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud had stepped up, using his greatsword Flame Shadow to directly knock aside the shell.

The shell exploded upon impact. Swoksaar was perfectly protected, and Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud had only suffered a little bit of damage from the airflow of the explosion.

But this one moment of cover clearly wasn't enough. What Yu Wenzhou was controlling Swoksaar to cast evidently wasn't one of the small spells that could be completed in an instant.

It's all up to me!

Lu Hanwen, this child player who had joined the Alliance at age fourteen and who hadn't yet reached age sixteen, was already incredibly used to taking up this kind of heavy responsibility on the battlefield.

From day one of Blue Rain lifting him into the first-string roster, they dropped him in this position. And this was what had formerly been Yu Feng's position, bold and ringing, the head of Blue Rain's train.

A fledgling child became Team Blue Rain's attack leader. In the beginning, many people didn't understand Blue Rain's arrangement, and even called it insane.

But Lu Hanwen's performance swiftly silenced those voices. Looking at him, some even saw the Alliance's shining future.

Lu Hanwen himself never thought that much. In the beginning, he was just excited at being able to stand onstage, a pure and simple excitement.

A burden to shoulder? The expectations of too many people? All that a fourteen-year-old child could feel of these things was haziness.

No one deliberately pointed these out to him, and so, in this haze, Lu Hanwen began his professional career. He won in this haze, he lost in this haze; he cried in this haze, he laughed in this haze. And thus gradually, the haze dissipated, and he began to sense that standing on the battlefield wasn't merely a proof of ability, but an inheritance of responsibility and obligation.

He needed to inherit all that the Blue Rain players who had stood in this position before him had carried.

The fourteen-year-old child didn't retreat at all. It was as though he had found a new and intriguing toy, as he began to taste this all.

But this certainly was no toy. This was certainly much heavier than a child's imagination. And for this, Lu Hanwen had cried the tears of regret.

The tears washed over him, allowing him to grow. Even though he was only in his teens, Lu Hanwen was a true man. Every time he cried, he only became stronger and more determined.

And now, he carried this upon his shoulders, with no turning back. He was no longer in the haziness of before. He had the courage, he had the faith to carry this all.

It's up to me!

Lu Hanwen firmly told himself. He did not want to again spill tears of regret after playoffs.

Flowing Cloud closely guarded Swoksaar. He didn't miss any attack angle that could potentially interrupt Swoksaar's casting. At this moment, there were no seniors to help him. It was all up to him.

Boom boom boom.

In the end, the person most focused on this area was still Su Mucheng.

After the attack that Lu Hanwen had blocked, Dancing Rain unleashed the three shots of an Anti-Tank Missile.

Three shots in a row, it'll be difficult...

But, I can't miss a single one!

Lu Hanwen welcomed this challenge. Flowing Cloud stepped forward, and his sword slashed out.

A greatsword wasn't as nimble as a lightsaber. Flowing Cloud's slash was heavy, unchanging, but the character's position, the timing of the attack, the character attacking, were all controlled extremely well.

Boom!

First shot.

Boom!

Second shot.

The blade flashed forward, breaking two of the shots, and then stopped in the air.

Boom! The third shot exploded.

Lu Hanwen had incredible eyesight and reaction speed. This, he had just displayed in the hazy forest of the group arena. But this one slash detonating all three cannon shots still incited a full stadium of applause.

But it wasn't over yet!

In the wind zone, Fang Rui and Steamed Bun were fighting 2v1 against a healer, how busy could they be? Seeing that Yu Wenzhou was coming to disrupt them head-on, they prepared for the enemy. And seeing that someone was guarding him, even blocking the cannonfire from Dancing Rain, they of course would cooperate to attack him.

Qi Bullet!

Boundless Sea's palm pushed forward.

Interrupting a skill didn't need a lot of damage, as long as the skill was fast enough. For a Qi Master, a Qi Bullet could be sent out with one push, so of course it was the most convenient choice for this.

But this kind of low-damage skill was much appreciated by the one guarding Swoksaar. Lu Hanwen had just finished dealing with Su Mucheng's attack when he saw Boundless Sea slapping a Qi Bullet in this direction. Without even thinking, Flowing Cloud stepped to Swoksaar's other side and directly used his body to block the Qi Bullet.

A lowest-level skill, how much damage could there be!

"Damnit!" Fang Rui wasn't polite as he expressed his frustration in the match chat.

These disruptive attacks were all blocked by Lu Hanwen. But Swoksaar still hadn't finished casting, so his duty was yet unfinished. Both sides readied more attacks, and on another side, An Wenyi wasn't idling around either. Little Cold Hands joined as well, lifting her cross, facing Swoksaar, and swinging it left and right like a pendulum.

Hypnosis!

An Wenyi, taking advantage of the fact that no one was disrupting him on his end, actually also began a very intensive spell. He was trying to get Swoksaar to stop his work entirely.

Lu Hanwen saw it, but he really could do nothing about it. A Cleric's Hypnosis had a long cast time, so if he wanted to stop it, he had to do it now. If the interrupt wasn't successful, then it would land upon the target with 100% guarantee. But Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud wasn't any long-ranged attacker, and An Wenyi had quite cunningly positioned Little Cold Hands in a position that wasn't nearby. Interrupting Little Cold Hands was truly outside the range of Lu Hanwen's ability.

Was this it?

Was he once again unable to help the team in their most dire moments?

Gunshot!

Little Cold Hands' swinging of the cross instantly stopped.

The interrupt was successful, and there was only one person on Blue Rain's side who could use Gunner attacks, Zheng Xuan.

In the team round, you are never alone on the battlefield.

Lu Hanwen thought of his captain's words, and felt fortunate, felt proud. Their Blue Rain was just this kind of team, accepting the unmotivated Zheng Xuan, accepting the chatterbox Huang Shaotian, accepting the slow-handed captain. And he, this fledgling, inexperienced kid, wasn't he also accepted by everyone?

Accepting each other, covering each other's weaknesses, Blue Rain came together into a cohesive whole. When Lu Hanwen lamented that he wasn't enough, his teammate easily helped him take care of the problem.

Zheng Xuan helped Lu Hanwen deal with this problem, and Lu Hanwen himself was still helping his captain deal with a problem.

Zheng Xuan succeeded, and so, shortly after, he succeeded as well.

The cast was complete.

Purple-black light flashed at the tip of the scepter.

Death's Door!

With such a long cast time, the audience had guessed early on what this skill probably was. And now that Swoksaar had finally completed the cast, nothing could stop it.

Death's Door, erected into the void, didn't suffer any disruption from the wind zone. The Death's Door and the gale were like two dimensionally-separate objects encountering each other, but each existing in its own world, unable to interact with each other.

It and the wind were on separate dimensions, but with Boundless Sea, with Steamed Bun Invasion, with Lord Grim, it was on the same plane.

And so when a character crashed into the Death's Door, it immediately unleashed all of its demonic power, attempting to swallow this guy into nothingness.

Of course, it couldn't actually swallow this character, this was just how the skill would deal its final damage. Under the gazes of the silent and shocked audience, the Death's Door trembled, and along with the character that had crashed into it, shattered into a mess of purple-black light and shadow.

The Death's Door vanished. What shocked everyone was that such a fast method of dealing with the Death's Door was the exact same method that Yu Wenzhou had used in the last team round, against Wei Chen's Death's Door.

In this match, Happy had already learned and copied it.

Chapter 1474: Can't Waver

Death's Door disappeared, having quickly fulfilled its destiny. Amidst the light of the disappearing Death's Door, looking as if it intended to devour everything, the one who fell was Lord Grim.

Ye Xiu had copied what Yu Wenzhou had done, but when everyone thought on it, they couldn't understand how this had happened.

This was because the situation Happy was facing was different from what Yu Wenzhou had been met with.

When Yu Wenzhou was up against the Death's Door, there was only one target in range, his Swoksaar. So, when Swoksaar collided with the Death's Door, the Death's Door ended.

But now, it wasn't just Lord Grim within reach of this Death's Door. There was also Boundless Sea and Steamed Bun Invasion. You could even say that the intended target of this attack was Boundless Sea and Steamed Bun Invasion.

Under these circumstances, there was no reason for Death's Door to disappear after catching only one of its targets.

"What's going on?" Pan Lin questioned, recovering from his shock.

"How strange," Li Yibo tagged on, not having any intentions to try and explain this. He couldn't figure it out either.

Never mind those two, even Yu Wenzhou, a god-level Warlock player, was puzzled at the disappearance of the Death's Door. In fact, due to his familiarity with the skill, it was even weirder for him.

How did this Death's Door disappear? Was there some unknown characteristic of Death's Door that all these players didn't know of?

In this moment Yu Wenzhou suddenly thought of their senior, their old captain, Wei Chen, now a member of Happy.

Wei Chen was definitely one of the very first amongst Warlock players, or even players in general. He had persisted for ten years, an amazing achievement. After all, Wei Chen hadn't been a pro player for large majority of those years, just a normal player. It was perfectly normal for a normal player to get tired of a class and switch. It was truly rare for a normal player to remain playing the same class for ten years. At that point it was true love.

For their old captain Wei Chen, it really was true love for the Warlock.

So, perhaps, this unknown characteristic of Death's Door was something he discovered. As for Ye Xiu, he was just using Wei Chen's discovery and taking advantage of the bug to end the Death's Door early against the skill's design.

No... it wasn't against the skill's design. They had probably used a detail of the design that no one else knew about.

What was it?

Though Yu Wenzhou was curious, there wasn't any point in agonizing over it now. Today's match had given him all too many questions. Yu Wenzhou still hadn't figured out how Ye Xiu had managed to pinpoint so accurately where to set the shadow trap.

However, he didn't hesitate due to this confusion. If Death's Door didn't accomplish his aims, then he'll just use another.

Shadow Flames!

An ember of dark purple flames leaped out from Curse of Destruction.

Yu Wenzhou didn't use anymore large scale spells like Death's Door. After all, it was unfair to expect Lu Hanwen to cover him all by himself. Thankfully, Zheng Xuan passed by and helped out a bit, but now, Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan were both far away, having gone around the flanks. They couldn't help out over here anymore. Swoksaar's casting had to sync with the rhythm Flowing Clouds was setting.

Shadow Flames was successfully cast, the dark purple flames flickering.

When this skill hit, then the target would take damage over time. Each tick of damage would interrupt casting. Thus, this ball of flame was thrown at Boundless Sea. No matter how dirty Fang Rui played his Qi Master, he couldn't escape the fact that many of the Qi Master's skills required casting.

If Boundless Sea let it hit, then his attacks would be restricted. If he dodged, then he would give Xu Jingxi an opening and chance. A healer under siege was restricted to just waiting to be saved, he was using his own methods to struggle, trying to find an opportunity.

Now, an opportunity had come!

Fang Rui was unwilling to be CC'ed by Shadow Flame and immediately had Boundless Sea dodge.

Yu Wenzhou's choice of target was very clear and thought out. He had a clear view of the situation. Making Fang Rui dodge would be able to give an opening. Thus, Shadow Flame flew out, Boundless Sea dodged, and Xu Jingxi immediately understood, his heavily armored Paladin taking one step this way.

One step, just one step.

As Soul Speaker managed this step, his back suddenly tensed before his body was thrown into the air.

Circle Swing!

Lord Grim, who had fallen in the explosion of Death's Door, had stood up again and returned to crush the hope that Blue Rain just saw.

Crash!

Soul Speaker was slammed into the ground.

"Where do you think you're running, brat!" Steamed Bun yelled into the chat. His tone, demeanor... it was like he didn't know he was a rookie.

"I would've been fine even without your help," Fang Rui suddenly said.

"Huh?" Steamed Bun replied.

“Not you, Steamed Bun,” Ye Xiu typed a reply as fast as he could. Though he knew that Fang Rui was talking to him, but if they let Steamed Bun misunderstand, then things would go downhill very fast.

“We’re counting on you, Steamed Bun,” Fang Rui also broke out into cold sweat, hurriedly pitching in and making sure that Steamed Bun was focused and happy.

“You can count on me!” Steamed Bun was delighted, and Steamed Bun Invasion quickly pinned Soul Speaker and gave him a beating. Tyrannical Chain Punch was sent out like some sort of low level skill, very wastefully unleashed onto Soul Speaker.

Ye Xiu and Fang Rui’s hearts calmed. Let him be as wasteful as he wants; it’s better than going completely out of it.

“It’s all up to you!” Ye Xiu once again made sure Steamed Bun focused, but his words had a second meaning. Fang Rui understood, knowing that Ye Xiu was actually talking to him. As for Steamed Bun, the other cheerfully gave an acknowledging reply. Fang Rui didn’t dare tell him the truth of the matter.

Lord Grim was originally in the windy zone, but now he charged out with a tailwind.

Lord Grim didn’t go after Troubling Rain on the right or Bullet Rain on the left, instead charging directly at Swoksaar. Swoksaar, who only had Flowing Clouds protecting him.

Charge, Shining Cut!

Two skills, one change of direction, Swoksaar’s skill was dodged, but Flowing Clouds’ greatsword Flame Shadow was already crashing towards Lord Grim’s head.

Collapsing Mountain!

Without Huang Shaotian there to cover him, Lu Hanwen’s Collapsing Mountain wasn’t executed so wildly, instead more reserved, in a way that gave him the ability to advance and attack or retreat and switch as he needed...

However, there was no switching so quickly!

Lu Hanwen could only keep up with Lord Grim with his view! Just as the Collapsing Mountain was about to hit, Lord Grim turned once again.

Colliding Stab!

With another movement skill, Lord Grim brushed right past the Collapsing Mountain. Lu Hanwen wanted to change the direction of his slash, but he couldn’t make it in time. He had never felt encumbered by Flame Shadow’s slow speed. Though he was just a young teen, Lu Hanwen liked this sturdy weight. Every strike, every hit had him feel content and satisfied.

But now?

When this strike hit the ground heavily, his heart felt exceptionally empty. Seeing Lord Grim’s Colliding Stab dart under his Collapsing Mountain and striking true at Swoksaar, the captain he had been protecting, Lu Hanwen, for the first time, thought to himself: if only this sword was a little bit faster.

He was wavering.

This determined, optimistic and hardworking young man, was helpless in this crucial moment, and finally began to doubt his choice of wielding his greatsword...

“Where’s your mind wandering off to, huh? Focus focus focus...”

That was when Blue Rain’s team chat was suddenly flooded with these words.

Huang Shaotian was the only one who spoke or typed like that.

But... focus?

The audience was thinking to themselves, there wasn’t anyone not focusing. In their eyes, Blue Rain’s players were all very focused and doing their best. Although Lu Hanwen failed to stop Lord Grim and Yu Wenzhou failed to avoid the attack, they were definitely paying attention. They were focused and doing their best.

“Who’s not focused?” Pan Lin was also asking.

Thus, Li Yibo’s attention wavered as he realized he couldn’t answer. It was happening again. Whenever the match was at its most intense, there would be more he didn’t understand...

Lu Hanwen’s face burned.

Everyone else was confused, but he was more than clear on the fact that it was him Huang Shaotian was telling to pay attention.

It wasn’t saying that he failed to stop Lord Grim because he wasn’t paying attention, but after he failed, there was a moment of hesitation, a moment where he wavered and doubted.

It was just an instant, but Huang Shaotian saw, saw right through him...

Lu Hanwen was ashamed of himself.

Protect captain’s Swoksaar. In the past, that was always Huang Shaotian’s responsibility. Thus, Blue Rain used a strategy where Swoksaar was bait and Huang Shaotian executed a sneak attack to deal a crippling blow. This time, taking into consideration that it might be harder to move around in these windy zones, the job of protecting the captain was passed to him.

And what did he do?

After failing to block his opponent’s assault, he had began to waver. And this instant had Huang Shaotian taking notice. This might be because he never wavered. He made mistakes, and failed to protect Swoksaar sometimes, but Huang Shaotian had never, ever wavered. His tendency to ramble had been pointed out again and again over these years, but when had he ever hesitated and decided to change? Okay, that wasn’t the best example, but Lu Hanwen felt Huang Shaotian’s determination through the other noticing his own wavering.

There was no wavering, you can’t waver!

Take your choice with you to the end!

Haaa!

The greatsword switched directions, cutting through the wind with a sound like Lu Hanwen's inner roar. Flowing Clouds slashed at Lord Grim, determined!

Boom boom boom boom!

Canonfire blocked his way. Dancing Rain had begun to support Lord Grim from afar. Lu Hanwen's rescue mission had suffered a setback, but now he had readjusted his state of mind. Lu Hanwen never lacked courage. What he lacked was the calm that their captain Yu Wenzhou conducted himself with, the cold determination Huang Shaotian displayed.

And right now, he didn't rush into things and use up all his energy. He carefully surveyed the the situation, contemplative. Suddenly, his eyes lit up.

Happy's healer, Little Cold Hands, was really close!

Chapter 1475: Steady

From realization to decision, Lu Hanwen was resolute. He abandoned his captain, Swoksaar, with no hesitation and rushed towards Little Cold Hands.

Triple Slash!

Shadow Steps!

Two skills were used one after the other. The shining arcs from Triple Slash had yet to disappear, when Flowing Cloud split into several shadows, which spread throughout the field. In an instant, Little Cold Hands was tightly surrounded.

"Oh oh oh!!!" The crowd cheered.

Everyone had been worried about Swoksaar's safety, but Lu Hanwen decisively gave up on his captain and pounced towards Happy's healer.

What will the outcome be?

There was no time to think about it carefully. It was just that usually, when a pro player did something unexpected, it would turn out to be a brilliant godly play.

Hua hua hua hua....

Wild applause followed soon afterwards. After getting trapped by Shadow Steps, Little Cold Hands was indeed helpless. Lu Hanwen could perfectly control seven shadows to the extent that not even a Glory senior player could quickly distinguish the real from the fake. How could a rookie like An Wenyi do so?

Even so, Lu Hanwen was completely focused on his playing. He didn't underestimate or look down on Team Happy's so-called "weak point".

The purpose of Shadow Steps was to confuse the opponent, but the true aim of his play was to land an attack.

The course of events from Triple Slash to Shadow Steps to Flowing Cloud attacking took place in the span of merely one or two seconds. When Flowing Cloud's greatsword, Flame Shadow, cut Little Cold Hands, the afterimages from the sequence could still be seen.

When Little Cold Hands was knocked to the ground from the attack, the applause became even more thunderous.

From the audience's perspective, Lu Hanwen had successfully accomplished his goal with that strike hitting.

But artillery fire arrived shortly afterwards to rescue An Wenyi.

Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain had been circling around the edges of the area the entire time. Every point on the battlefield was within her range. Lu Hanwen's decision had been too sudden, and Su Mucheng hadn't been able to react in time to it, which was why her support only came now.

Lu Hanwen wasn't surprised. He had expected Su Mucheng's Launcher to try to stop him. Her Screen Cannon tactic was an important point that Team Blue Rain had emphasized during their match preparations.

However, at this distance...

Lu Hanwen was confident that he could lock down Little Cold Hands while dodging Dancing Rain's attacks. After all, his target was a Cleric without any combat threat, making it much easier for him to deal with.

Flowing Cloud dodged as he swung his sword at Little Cold Hands. Lu Hanwen was mainly focused on Su Mucheng's attacks. As long as he wasn't disrupted by her, he could pin down Happy's healer without a problem. In that case, Happy should send more people to rescue him, no?

That was Lu Hanwen's plan.

Their healer, Soul Speaker, was also in Happy's hands, but Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan were going to rescue him. Even if Happy wanted to trade healers, they would need to make some adjustments to the current situation. The easiest and most effective way was for Ye Xiu's Lord Grim to change targets to Lu Hanwen.

Lu Hanwen didn't neglect Lord Grim. Since this was the most likely outcome, he obviously wouldn't let the opportunity go by. He would use it to give Blue Rain the initiative, which was exactly what they needed.

But...

No movement.

Lord Grim didn't make any changes and continued to attack Swoksaar.

Swoksaar was a Warlock. His close combat capabilities were better than healers, but it was still very limited. What's more, Yu Wenzhou's crippled hand speed against Ye Xiu's unspecialized blitz... Lu Hanwen didn't want to think about it. If he thought about it any longer, he felt like he would be

disrespecting his captain. But if Ye Xiu wasn't concerned about Lu Hanwen's side, did that mean he thought Su Mucheng was enough to resolve the problem?

It looks like I'm not putting on enough pressure! I need to let Happy feel that just Su Mucheng alone won't be enough to get their healer away from me!

Attack, continue attacking. Compared to before, Lu Hanwen's offense was bolder. It was as if he wouldn't let stop even if he died.

But...

Still no movement.

Lord Grim's attacks were still focused on Swoksaar, not a single attack missing. Lu Hanwen wanted to see if Lord Grim was ever looking towards his side, but... the unspecialized offense was just too fast. His weapon just kept on transforming. Lord Grim's positioning, posture, and movements would constantly change according to the weapon's transformations. Whenever he looked towards his side, was it a coincidence or was he actually taking note of the situation there?

Lu Hanwen didn't know, but he had just learned from first-hand experience. This time, he couldn't waver. If he let go of Little Cold Hands to rescue his captain, wouldn't that mean he was just wasting his time with those previous attacks? In a high-level competition, there was no place for wasted actions.

Even if he had made the wrong choice, he had to take it all the way through and pave a path of blood through his mistake!

Slash slash slash!

Flowing Cloud attacked even more ferociously. Because of the greatsword in his hands, it sometimes felt like he was a Berserker instead of a Blade Master.

"Coach Li, what are your thoughts?" Pan Lin couldn't help but ask Li Yibo for his opinion again.

"This is... there are a lot of different exchanges taking places. It's hard to make any definite conclusions," Li Yibo said.

"When you say exchanges, are you referring to Blue Rain's healer, Happy's healer, and Yu Wenzhou?" Pan Lin said.

"Yes... at first glance, Blue Rain seems to be trading 2 for 1, but they're about to go rescue their healer. As for Happy's side, Su Mucheng is evidently not able to suppress Lu Hanwen alone. As a result, the outcome is depended on Blue Rain's side. If Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan are able to rescue Soul Speaker, the initiative will fall into Blue Rain's hands," Li Yibo analyzed.

"In other words, Huang Shaotian's and Zheng Xuan's performances are key," Pan Lin said.

"Yes, but what gave this opportunity to turn things around was Lu Hanwen's brave act. If not, even if Blue Rain was able to rescue Xu Jingxi, it would just result in an even playing field. However, now, Blue Rain has a chance to establish the upper hand," Li Yibo said.

“Got it,” Pan Lin nodded his head. The stream couldn’t focus on the entire battlefield anymore, since the battle had split into different sections. As the two commentators talked, the camera focused on what the two had determined to be the key area: Blue Rain’s rescue operation towards Soul Speaker.

Soul Speaker could persist for a long time.

For one, he wore plate armor, so his defense was incredibly high. In addition, Xu Jingxi was a tenacious player. If even a small opening appeared to heal or to buff his defense, he would immediately do so. Blue Rain was a team proficient at defense. As the healer, he was an expert at rescuing others and surviving in defensive situations.

“This guy’s really annoying to deal with.” Fang Rui let out a sigh, seeing Huang Shaotian’s Troubling Rain and Zhen Xuan’s Bullet Rain coming in from the sides of the wind zone.

“Don’t worry, I’m here!” Steamed Bun was full of confidence, although no one knew if that stemmed from actual confidence or from not knowing how serious the situation was.

“Enemy reinforcement has arrived,” Fang Rui reminded Steamed Bun.

“You’ve got it?” Steamed Bun played it down.

“You really make things sound so simple,” Fang Rui coughed blood. The two weren’t having much trouble bullying a healer, so the two had the time to chat. But the situation would soon turn more serious. Happy currently held the initiative because they had Blue Rain’s healer as their hostage. However, if Blue Rain successfully saved their healer, not only would they lose their hostage, the hostage would turn into a powerful shield for the enemy. That would be bad.

“Pull him over this way,” Fang Rui called out to Steamed Bun.

“I’ll do what you say!” Steamed Bun replied.

“Don’t let the enemies figure out what we’re trying to do!” Fang Rui said.

“Switch channels?” Steamed Bun asked.

“Okay.”

“11111” Steamed Bun made his existence known in Happy’s team chat.

The Blue Rain fans were furious! Those two bastards were bullying their healer as they played around in the public chat. What do you mean don’t let the enemies know our intentions? They were obviously just bluffing. The fans could see Happy’s chat. No one answered Steamed Bun’s “11111”.

But at this moment, Happy’s captain, the terrifying Ye Xiu, suddenly typed a single word: Steady.

Steady?

Steady what? The current situation?

If they could steady the current situation, Happy would make a one for two trade. That would obviously be great, but the question was, could they steady it? Huang Shaotian’s and Zheng Xuan’s invasion would turn the healer situation into a 3v2. That didn’t seem to be something that could easily be stabilized.

It was just one word, but it brought up a lot of speculation. Pan Lin couldn't avoid asking Li Yibo again for his opinions, which made Li Yibo want to hack his partner to death. Explaining this match was hard enough already. Now, Pan Lin wanted him to explain Ye Xiu's intentions? It was as if Pan Lin wanted to see him fall into a pit!

Li Yibo cursed inwardly at Pan Lin, but on the stream, he had no choice but to give his view on the matter.

"Ye Xiu probably has some way to help out Fang Rui and Steamed Bun." Li Yibo basically said nothing.

Some way to help out?

There were a total of five characters on each team.

The possible support could only come from one of them. Fang Rui and Steamed Bun were the ones who needed help, so that was two eliminated. An Wenyi was also someone who desperately needed help, so he could be eliminated too. Ye Xiu had Blue Rain's Yu Wenzhou in his grasp. He could let go of Yu Wenzhou to help Fang Rui and Steamed Bun, but that would also mean Blue Rain would have more help in their rescue operation too.

Finally, there was Su Mucheng...

Su Mucheng was best at providing support and coordinating with her teammates. What was she doing now?

The broadcast director hastily searched for Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain. When the director found her, the director was startled.

Dancing Rain's location...

Dancing Rain stood at the far end of the field, and there was no one else near her. As a result, the camera hadn't placed much focus on her. She was still a part of several battles though. When Lu Hanwen had chosen to attack Little Cold Hands, her attempts to stop him had received some focus. Because she wasn't able to suppress Flowing Cloud though, Su Mucheng kept on adjusting Dancing Rain's positioning, attempting to get closer. Now that the camera had switched to her, everyone could see... were Su Mucheng's adjustments aimed towards Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud?

No! This... she was planning on providing support to the central battle taking place in the wind zone!

Chapter 1476: Protected Like a King

Troubling Rain and Bullet Rain had made it to the edges of the wind zone. The two characters didn't enter it and head directly towards the three players in the middle. Instead, they continued to move forward.

The length of distance traveled was according to the research Team Blue Rain had done on this map. If the two players had chosen to directly cut into the wind zone, they would be at a 90 degree angle with the strong winds. Even if they weren't facing against the wind, their movements would still be hindered.

By moving a bit more forward, they could position themselves into a better angle and borrow the wind for support.

The distance and the angle had been chosen by Blue Rain's players from their understanding of the gale in this wind zone. Troubling Rain and Bullet Rain came in from the left and the right, but they chose different angles of attack and distances. From their choices, it could be determined that the two players were at different distances from the three players inside the wind zone. As a result, they needed to attack from different positions.

But at this moment, Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain appeared on this side of the battle. In theory, it didn't matter which player she picked to target, but Su Mucheng went for Huang Shaotian. With distance between them, Launchers would obviously be more comfortable fighting against Blade Masters than Spitfires.

The viewers had neglected Su Mucheng's movements because the camera hadn't focused on her much, but what about the players on the field? They could control where they wanted to look. This map didn't have fog either. Had they not noticed Su Mucheng's movements?

Of course not.

In reality, all of Team Blue Rain had noticed Su Mucheng's movements.

But what could they do?

Su Mucheng made clear her intentions, but no one on Team Blue Rain could do anything about it.

Yu Wenzhou and Xu Jingxi were trying to survive. Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan were responsible for breaking open the situation and could not slow down. What's more, if they went after Su Mucheng, they would have to move in the other direction. How could they have time to do that? Then, there was Lu Hanwen. He was the only one on Blue Rain who held the initiative, but he was the foundation for Blue Rain's comeback. He couldn't abandon his post either.

Without any good options, Blue Rain could only watch as Su Mucheng effortlessly carry out her plan. In the end, Su Mucheng had targeted Huang Shaotian, making him feel even more helpless.

The battle taking place in the wind zone had become a 3v3. Through their familiarity with fighting in the wind and support from their healer, Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan felt quite confident in themselves. This was also why they didn't feel too worried about Su Mucheng.

Go in!

Although Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan were on opposite ends of the wind zone, they had always been in coordination. They didn't enter the wind zone at the same time, but just entering the wind zone wasn't their end goal. Their goal was to coordinate with each other when it came time to attack.

One in the front, one in the back. One early, one late. The two characters cut into the wind zone, drawing support from the blowing wind to move faster.

Boom boom boom!

On Huang Shaotian's side, artillery fire started being sent his way.

“So trigger happy.” Huang Shaotian messaged as Troubling Rain rolled.

Boom!

The shockwaves from the explosions made him roll three times. Under the effects from the wind, he almost couldn't stop.

“Haha :)” Su Mucheng responded with a smiley face to Troubling Rain's rolling.

The viewers were dumbfounded. Dancing Rain had predicted Huang Shaotian's actions. The three Anti-Tank Missiles had been fired towards where Troubling Rain rolled to. She had considered the wind into her calculations too. They could even see the three Anti-Tank Missiles curve because of the strong wind. In the end, the missiles had accurately struck Troubling Rain.

Huang Shaotian felt embarrassed at getting hit by the first attack. It couldn't be said that he had been too careless. He could only blame himself for being too familiar with the map. That roll had been instinctive. Because of the wind, he would naturally roll faster and farther, making it more effective for dodging attacks. But because he made the optimal choice, it had limited the possible mixups that could be made. Su Mucheng had guessed it and predicted that Huang Shaotian would react in this way.

The shockwaves sent Troubling Rain rolling three times. Su Mucheng seized the opportunity and had Dancing Rain move. The viewers saw it clearly. Right now, Dancing Rain had the tailwind advantage, while Troubling Rain had the headwind disadvantage...

Everyone knew what this meant. Su Mucheng had seized the most favorable position. No matter how familiar Huang Shaotian was with this map, he would still have a tough time. Su Mucheng was no noob! Just being able to land that attack in these strong winds showed her knowledge of the winds.

Sure enough, after Su Mucheng got into position, she immediately had Dancing Rain attack. With assistance from the wind, her cannonfire was fast and fierce. The place, where Troubling Rain used to be, instantly became scorched earth. Huang Shaotian had Troubling Rain keep dodging, which he didn't find too difficult. But after a few steps, he made a realization.

Why didn't it feel difficult? Because Su Mucheng was intentionally leaving him openings to go towards! If he took those openings, of course he would find it easy. But if he went along with Su Mucheng's arrangements, Troubling Rain would be pushed out of the wind zone and his time here would have been wasted.

“Don't count your chickens before they've hatched!” Huang Shaotian typed as he moved.

Triple Slash!

Sword light lit up in the wind. Huang Shaotian had planned on using it to initiate the fight with Fang Rui and Steamed Bun, but it looked like he had no choice but to use it now.

The three rays of sword light looked like one due to the wind. Su Mucheng chased after Huang Shaotian, but because of the changes in the wind, Troubling Rain's movements were difficult to grasp. Su Mucheng had adapted somewhat to the strong wind, but not to the extent that Huang Shaotian had. She wasn't able to figure out exactly how the wind affected Troubling Rain. As a result, her attacks missed. With just

a Triple Slash, Troubling Rain was able to escape from Su Mucheng's firing line. It looked to be a simple maneuver, but it came from hours of practice on this map.

Unable to catch him, Su Mucheng wasn't dispirited. She continued to have Dancing Rain move, maintaining her positional advantage over Troubling Rain. Triple Slash had to end eventually. The moment the third slash came out, Dancing Rain began attacking again.

How annoying...

Huang Shaotian couldn't help but glance at Zheng Xuan's Bullet Rain. The two needed to hurry and convene. Bullet Rain's range would allow him to restrict Su Mucheng to a certain extent. Otherwise, if he kept on allowing Su Mucheng to do as she pleased, he would be killed sooner or later, let alone be able to rescue Soul Speaker.

Zheng Xuan noticed Troubling Rain looking towards him. He immediately understood what Huang Shaotian wanted. That side needed help.

But he went along his current route, Bullet Rain would be downwind from Dancing Rain. He would be at a disadvantage too!

He needed to adjust his angle.

Bullet Rain had reached a position which he could attack, but he had to assist Huang Shaotian. As a result, he threw a grenade at Boundless Sea and Steamed Bun Invasion, while searching for a better position to fight Dancing Rain.

"It's up to you!" Fang Rui suddenly typed into the chat.

What now?

Everyone was puzzled. Then, they saw Boundless Sea grab Soul Speaker and throw him to the side, getting everyone out of the range of Bullet Rain's grenade. Then, Boundless Sea turned around, assuming that incomparably ugly posture, and start moving in the wind.

This bastard...

Zheng Xuan saw his actions. Fang Rui was planning on disrupting his plans. Whoever struck first would gain the upper hand. As a result, Zheng Xuan used the wind to his advantage and started firing at Boundless Sea.

Qi Guard!

Boundless Sea had been attacking Soul Speaker, so he hadn't used any defensive skills. The bullets were all blocked by the Qi Guard. Although the shield was quickly broken, Boundless Sea was able to use this time to move forward quite a bit.

Moreover, by crouching low, Fang Rui's Boundless Sea was less affected by the headwind, so he moved faster than he normally did under these circumstances.

"Leave this to me. Take care of him, Steamed Bun!" Fang Rui typed in the chat.

“Heh, I’ve been waiting for those words,” Steamed Bun replied as if they had intentionally been going easy on Soul Speaker. In reality, that wasn’t the case. The two hated Soul Speaker’s full set of plate armor. If Soul Speaker had been a Cleric instead, the two would have had a much easier time.

1v1?

Xu Jingxi’s eyes lit up.

1v1, and he was against Steamed Bun, who would sometimes confuse himself. Xu Jingxi suddenly saw hope of escaping without any help.

Opening!

Steamed Bun Invasion suddenly let out an opening. Xu Jingxi was overjoyed. Just as Soul Speaker was about to rush out, when he took his first step, he was suddenly met with a heavy blow, stopping him from moving.

How?

Xu Jingxi was astonished. No matter how fast Steamed Bun was, he couldn’t have attacked from that angle. This is?

He looked around and saw Boundless Sea finishing up a move.

Qi Blade!

It had come from Boundless Sea’s Qi Blade.

Xu Jingxi felt gloomy again. Steamed Bun might have his weaknesses, but his teammates knew that, so they would look after Steamed Bun very seriously. As soon as Steamed Bun let out an opening, Fang Rui patched it up.

No...

Not just Fang Rui.

Xu Jingxi was a healer and had excellent observational skills. He looked around and discovered that it wasn’t just Fang Rui’s Boundless Sea. Su Mucheng’s Dancing Rain and Ye Xiu’s Lord Grim were all within range to provide assistance to Steamed Bun.

This guy... how lucky...

Xu Jingxi thought to himself. How could he not! A rookie had three All-Stars protecting him as if he were a king just because he would sometimes go off the rails...

Happy was also a team that was good at making up for individual flaws!

Xu Jingxi suddenly felt a sense of deja vu from Happy.

Chapter 1477: Unable to Break Through

“Blue Rain’s situation isn’t looking good!” Li Yibo may not be as observant as Xu Jingxi, but if he dared to make such a conclusion, he must be quite confident in it. When the situation was ambiguous, Li Yibo would never say anything definitive.

Pan Lin didn’t follow up on the conversation.

Blue Rain’s situation isn’t looking good? He could somewhat see it, but where should he begin?

How Happy was playing chaotically?

But when you looked at them now, the team was coordinating with each other beautifully. Happy’s characters were scattered throughout the battlefield, yet they were all interlinked, making it seem like they were a whole.

As for Blue Rain?

Yu Wenzhou was being suppressed by Ye Xiu. Xu Jingxi was being beaten up by Steamed Bun. Huang Shaotian was being suppressed by Su Mucheng’s cannonfire. And Zheng Xuan? Huang Shaotian and Xu Jingxi both needed his support, but Fang Rui’s Boundless Sea was blocking his way. Zheng Xuan had no easy way to help either player.

The only person on Blue Rain with the initiative was Lu Hanwen.

He had constantly been paying attention to the changes in the battlefield. He had thought that Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan would quickly turn the tides in their favor, but to his surprise, both of them were stopped.

If this continued, even if he killed Little Cold Hands, Ye Xiu would probably have killed off Yu Wenzhou by then, and Steamed Bun Invasion should have no trouble taking down Soul Speaker too.

What should I do?

Lu Hanwen had kept on reminding himself not to hesitate and to quickly come to a decision, but at this moment, he just didn’t know what he should do.

If he couldn’t even find the right direction, hesitation wasn’t something that he would come across.

Perhaps believing that my seniors would be able to resolve the problem might be a better choice than making a proactive play? Lu Hanwen suddenly thought to himself. In that case, his best choice of action should be to kill Happy’s healer, Little Cold Hands, as fast as possible.

With this in mind, Lu Hanwen made his decision and focused on attacking Little Cold Hands.

Huang Shaotian, Zheng Xuan.

In the end, these two were the only ones who could break open the situation.

Shadow Steps!

Huang Shaotian saw an opportunity and used Shadow Steps.

He didn’t produce a lot of shadows, just five.

However, a smaller number of shadows allowed Huang Shaotian to control them more precisely. If the enemy couldn't tell which one was real or fake, then the enemy could only gamble on a 20% chance.

Artillery fire focused towards one of the five Troubling Rains. For Dancing Rain's attacks to arrive so fast, it could be seen how decisive Su Mucheng was.

Was it because she couldn't determine which one was real, so she might as well use that time to make a wild guess?

The viewers watching at home held these thoughts.

But the live audience? They had Huang Shaotian's point of view on the big screen, and his point of view would be from the real body. As soon as Shadow Steps came out, everyone wanted to know which one was real, so they all looked at Huang Shaotian's point of view to determine it.

Seeing the artillery fire come, all of Blue Rain's fans let out a gasp of surprise.

Whether Su Mucheng had guessed or not, in the end, her attacks were aimed accurately at the real Troubling Rain.

But Huang Shaotian seemed to have anticipated this would happen. Troubling Rain suddenly switched up the tempo.

He responded predictably, which allowed Troubling Rain to escape from Dancing Rain's pursuit. In the public chat, Huang Shaotian left a smiley face.

"Shadow Steps was a bait!" Seeing Huang Shaotian's smiley face, Li Yibo realized the problem.

“风里剑影步真假身其实是有明显差别的。”李艺博指向屏幕中还在移动着的夜雨声烦真身假身,而剑影假身,在这样的狂风当中明显有些虚浮。

”

"Huang Shaotian wanted Su Mucheng to figure out the real one. By doing so, he knew how Su Mucheng would respond, and he used that knowledge to react in a way that would make it difficult for Su Mucheng to give chase!" Pan Lin said.

"Exactly," Li Yibo nodded his head.

As for seizing the right opportunity... for the king of opportunists, this wasn't a problem that needed to be worried about. He had grasped it perfectly. While Su Mucheng was unable to do anything, Troubling Rain immediately cut towards Steamed Bun Invasion. Suddenly, six pillars of light descended from the sky and formed a prison.

Troubling Rain was trapped by Hexagram Prison.

Everyone was shocked. Blue Rain's fans felt their hearts shatter.

Hexagram Prison was a Warlock skill. Besides Swoksaar, only Lord Grim could use this skill by attaching it to one of his weapon forms...

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella could transform into a ninjato and dual blades, two Night Walker class weapons. As a result, he could add on two Night Walker skills.

In the group arena, he had used a Thief skill, Shadow Trap. And now, he had used a Warlock skill, Hexagram Prison...These two Night Walker skills were put into great effect at extremely crucial moments. The addition of these two skills to his kit were worth their weight in gold.

Lord Grim's Hexagram Prison was only level one, so it would only last four seconds. However, in the current tense situation, these four seconds seemed to last forever. Dancing Rain's artillery fire swept his way. Huang Shaotian turned his head resentfully as his view was instantly covered by the light and smoke from the explosions.

The audience's line of sight shifted towards Lord Grim.

Hexagram Prison had a cast time. How could he have time to cast the curse, while fighting with Yu Wenzhou?

But when they looked...

Fine! Calling it a fight would be too much of a bias towards Yu Wenzhou. It wasn't a fight, it was a one-sided humiliation. When they looked over, they saw Swoksaar in the air. Lord Grim was using his umbrella's dual swords. He didn't even look at Swoksaar as his two arms swung backwards. The dual swords drew a flower in the air, sending Swoksaar back up into the air.

This was the Assassin's knock-up skill: Leaping Blade, and Ye Xiu even had the time to make it look pretty like a flower...

Lord Grim turned around. His umbrella changed shape again, and the attacks continued.

In the group arena, as soon as Ye Xiu was able to get close, Yu Wenzhou was oppressed until his death. And in this team competition, a repeat of the same story was about to happen.

He needs to be rescued! Even a noob could see that, and there were no noobs on the field. However, Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan couldn't help. Lu Hanwen? Although Lu Hanwen was determined to continue attacking Little Cold Hands, he wasn't dead-set on it. As he attacked, he pulled his battle towards there. He hoped to keep Little Cold Hands in his grasp, while also finding an opportunity to help his captain.

He wasn't dead-set on his objective, and Ye Xiu wasn't either. How could Ye Xiu not notice that Lu Hanwen was trying to move over towards him? As a result, he moved Swoksaar away as well.

There was no change in the situation. Huang Shaotian was trapped by Hexagram Prison and Su Mucheng's artillery fire.

No choice, forcefully break through!

Zheng Xuan went all out. Bullet Rain rushed at Boundless Sea. He was going to charge through!

Dazzling light covered his path. Zheng Xuan used attacks to protect himself and accompany him out of this pass.

With the wind to his advantage, Zheng Xuan's charge carried even more momentum. Bullet Rain was like a fierce warrior as he rushed forward wildly.

What can a Qi Master do to stop me? Zheng Xuan carefully went over the possibilities in his head. He didn't have a 100% grasp of dealing with them, which why this was a gamble.

Zheng Xuan had placed his bets, but he soon realized that his opponent wasn't playing the same game as him. It was like they were playing to see who would roll higher. After he threw down one dice, he unexpectedly saw the opponent throw three instead...

Fang Rui's Qi Master couldn't be thought of as a conventional Qi Master.

Zheng Xuan obviously knew that. When he made his calculations, he had considered the research they had done on Fang Rui, considering him as a dirty Qi Master. At the same time, he didn't ignore the more common Qi Master methods.

Being able to think up all of these possibilities was due to Team Blue Rain having a Qi Master as well, so the team members were rather familiar with the class.

However, the ones who were most familiar with the class were Qi Masters themselves. They thought they had a grasp of Fang Riu's dirtiness, but when the time came, they realized that it wasn't enough.

One dice, two dice, three dice...

It was as if Zheng Xuan could see his opponent throwing dice after dice. By having three dice, he beat out his one dice despicably.

Bullet Rain fell down to the ground...

Another hope was crushed. Blue Rain's fans became even more nervous.

A turnaround? Where was the turnaround?

Blue Rain's players had done what they could, but Happy had crushed them all.

What should I do?

Lu Hanwen was unable to keep waiting. Their captain, Swoksaar, was already at red health... The thrashing that he was getting was no different than thrashing a healer. In fact, when trying to survive, healers could cast instant heals on themselves occasionally. But Warlocks? Grasping Ghosts? They could heal themselves a bit by dealing damage with that move, but how could Ye Xiu let him cast a spell with such a long duration?

Huang Shaotian? Zheng Xuan? They were too far away. Even if they could break and rescue Xu Jingxi, Soul Speaker might not be able to rush over in time to heal Swoksaar.

I'm the only one who can save our captain!

Three rays of light flashed as Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud dashed towards Lord Grim with a Triple Slash.

Ye Xiu didn't seem to want to give up on killing Swoksaar. He didn't retreat. He swung his umbrella in an attempt to block the attack.

Clang!

Greatswords were rather heavy. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was forced back two steps from the blow. His umbrella stabbed towards the side, hooking onto the tumbling Swoksaar.

Circle Swing!

Swoksaar was thrown towards Flowing Cloud.

Flowing Cloud leaped back, his greatsword raised behind him ready to attack.

"Behind" Yu Wenzhou didn't bother controlling his character and typed into chat.

Lu Hanwen was startled. There was no time to look. He had Flowing Cloud dodge.

Chi!

A white Sacred Fire erupted. If Yu Wenzhou hadn't remind him, Flowing Cloud would have certainly been hit by it.

Paladins were defenders. And Clerics? Clerics played an offensive support role.

Chapter 1478: Reinforced Iron Bones

With a Cleric supporting from the side, practically everyone thought of the same thing: kill!

Right now, relying on Little Cold Hands' healing, Ye Xiu was entirely capable of ignoring Flowing Cloud's attacks and focusing on Swoksaar.

Then what about Lu Hanwen? If he wanted to stop Ye Xiu, he would have to first use some attacks with strong effects. Only then could he interrupt Lord Grim's offensive.

In this high-level match, the current situation was so simple that any ordinary gamer could understand it. Blue Rain's fans were all clenching their fists and cheering on Lu Hanwen as hard as they could.

But then Lord Grim used a skill, instantly turning the hearts of Blue Rain's fans to ash.

Reinforced Iron Bones!

Within the Fighter class, the Striker skill Reinforced Iron Bones. A low-level skill, it granted a Defense boost that wasn't anything special, but Reinforced Iron Bones had another effect: Super Armor. At this moment, this became the truly deadly killing move.

Super Armor didn't help a character's Defense at all, but it blocked the effects of almost any attack. At this moment, the only skills that could interrupt Lord Grim's actions right now were those with grab priority.

Blade Master? This class itself didn't have any grab skills, but they would often have one, the low-level Spellblade skill Wave Wheel Slasher.

That was to say, if Lu Hanwen wanted to interrupt Lord Grim's offensive, he could only use this one attack...

A ray of white light had already enveloped Swoksaar's body.

Holy Commandment, a skill that increased the damage that the target took. Using it under circumstances where the target wasn't being attacked from all sides could be considered overkill. And right now, for Blue Rain, this was only pouring oil onto the fire. Swoksaar didn't have much health to begin with, and with this 30% increase in damage, how long could he last?

Lord Grim began his offensive.

Flowing Cloud began his offensive too.

Formless Phantom Blade!

At this moment, Lu Hanwen boldly controlled Flowing Cloud to release this powerful attack.

Lord Grim didn't dodge. He faced forward, and continued his attack against Swoksaar. Flowing Cloud's Formless Phantom Blade landed slash after slash upon his body, sending blood droplets flying everywhere, but he paid it no mind.

His health was plummeting, but no amount of damage would cause any kind of hesitation or interruption of his actions. This was the value of Super Armor. This might not be an equivalent exchange, but Ye Xiu didn't care. Because, Lord Grim would only lose a relatively large amount of health; what Swoksaar would lose was his life.

There's no way...

This was what everyone thought. Even though there was the Wave Wheel Slasher, in such a simple, straightforward, choiceless space, there was no way it would pose any effective threat. Lu Hanwen probably had Flowing Cloud use Formless Phantom Blade because he felt helpless, and decided to use this chance to deal Lord Grim as much damage as he could.

Even the heavy greatsword Flame Shadow was fairly fast with the Formless Phantom Blade. When the opponent didn't defend at all, this Formless Phantom Blade of Lu Hanwen's landed slash after slash, and in the blink of an eye, it had arrived at the final slash.

The final slash, the most powerful one of the Formless Phantom Blade.

But just as the swordlight of this most powerful slash flared, Ye Xiu suddenly stopped ignoring Lu Hanwen.

The swordlight flashed, and Lord Grim rolled.

Dodged!

This slash, Lord Grim had actually chosen to dodge. He didn't mind temporarily stopping his offensive against Swoksaar for this.

He still wanted to dodge? He was making his killing less efficient?

The Blue Rain fans all felt depressed. Ye Xiu controlling Lord Grim to dodge this most powerful slash made them all hold him in contempt.

But then, they watched as this swordlight from Flowing Cloud that had missed its target look like it was splitting apart the very air. Something that clearly wasn't just the slash of a sword cleaved the air and then vanished.

Everyone gasped.

This slash wasn't the final slash of Formless Phantom Blade. It was a Wave Wheel Slasher.

Lu Hanwen hadn't given up at all. He had hidden the Wave Wheel Slasher within the Formless Phantom Blade, to try and catch his opponent by surprise.

But, unfortunately, Ye Xiu had detected it.

Why did he want to dodge this slash? Not because he had wanted to avoid the higher damage of this slash. The reason was simply that this slash truly would have interrupted Lord Grim's offensive.

The only effective attack, missed. With this, hope was completely extinguished, with not an ember remaining.

But everyone was still wishing for a miracle, wishing for a miraculous turnaround. What if Ye Xiu made a mistake?

He didn't. Not at all.

Swoksaar fell. And in the last moments before he fell, Yu Wenzhou gave his final instruction of this battle: Save the healer.

Save the healer.

Huang Shaotian and Zheng Xuan had already been rushing to save the healer, and Xu Jingxi was the one currently being saved. Then naturally, this instruction was meant for Lu Hanwen.

Flowing Cloud immediately turned his attack. And Ye Xiu, to kill Swoksaar once and for all, didn't bother to stop him.

Yu Wenzhou's final message was to subtly make use of a time gap – before Swoksaar fell, Lord Grim couldn't move.

But from the distance came cannonfire.

Flowing Cloud had shifted targets, and so Dancing Rain shifted targets; and so, Lord Grim shifted targets.

Lord Grim's attack stuck to Flowing Cloud, and Swoksaar was ultimately killed by Dancing Rain's long-range attack. Yu Wenzhou's final instruction, the opening that had been obtained from the time gap, ultimately still fell upon his partner of many years, Huang Shaotian.

And the most outstanding opportunist in the entirety of Glory did not miss this opening, the opening for which his close friend and partner of so many years had traded his life.

From the winds, Troubling Rain rushed forward.

A twister of swordlight swept toward Steamed Bun Invasion.

Save the healer!

Lu Hanwen had been given the instruction, but the one who ultimately came to fulfill it was Huang Shaotian!

Troubling Rain, unstoppable.

Even if it could be stopped, what could be done? As long as Steamed Bun Invasion's offensive had a single interruption, Xu Jingxi's Soul Speaker could be saved.

Fang Rui dropped Bullet Rain, and Boundless Sea spun and rushed back.

He was travelling downwind, but would he arrive in time?

It was too late!

No matter what, it was too late to block Troubling Rain. But Boundless Sea thrust his palm forward, sending a blast of qi toward Soul Speaker.

And Steamed Bun Invasion didn't have any intentions of dealing with Troubling Rain.

They were really going for the kill?

They would definitely be interrupted, right? Seeing Troubling Rain's sword energy, this momentum, everyone thought this way.

But then, they watched as Steamed Bun Invasion, Boundless Sea, the two characters' bodies suddenly shook, as though their very bones had suddenly hardened.

Once again, everyone was dumbstruck.

Steamed Bun Invasion, Boundless Sea, the two characters had activated the same skill, the same one that Lord Grim had just activated.

Reinforced Iron Bones!

The Fighter class's Reinforced Iron Bones.

Steamed Bun Invasion, Brawler; Boundless Sea, Qi Master.

Of course they were Fighters, of course they could easily learn the low-level Striker skill, Reinforced Iron Bones.

They wanted not the Defense boost, but the Super Armor.

Troubling Rain's sword could slice the skies, but so what? All he could use to interrupt the offensive was a Wave Wheel Slasher.

Bullet Rain could open fire with all he had, but so what? Those that exploded with knockback would have no effect against Super Armor. Flash Bullet? Freezing Bullet? The effects of these skills weren't blocked by Super Armor, but they wouldn't be able to settle the matter.

Reinforced Iron Bones.

Of Team Happy's characters, three of them had Reinforced Iron Bones. Had anyone noticed this point in the beginning? No.

Had anyone thought, when the battle reached this instant where everything would be decided, that these three low-level skills would explode at once, producing this kind of crude effect? Also no.

Soul Speaker fell.

He had been suffering attack all this time. If not for his plate armor and tenacious self-recovery, he would have fallen even earlier than Swoksaar.

Now, Blue Rain had lost two characters, one of which was their healer...

Victory was already decided.

Only the most loyal of fans would still cling onto hope of a miracle right now.

On the battlefield, Blue Rain's players didn't give up, they were still fighting their hardest. This wasn't simply the victory or loss of a match, this was the victory or loss of an entire season. It wasn't over yet – who could give up?

But, when nothing changed in the end, their efforts could only be viewed as a futile struggle. Perhaps in the years to come, their hard work here would be handwaved as “trash time.”

They'd lost.

In their home game, they lost the group arena, they lost the team competition.. The points didn't even need to be counted for this game.

If not for Happy's fans in the west section, Xiaochuan Stadium would have been dead silent.

They'd lost, just like this?

It had ended right before their eyes. But the stadium of Blue Rain fans couldn't believe the reality in front of them.

An entire season of effort, just like that, was lost in the first round of the playoffs, in two matches.

This summer had arrived too early, hadn't it? So early that people weren't used to it!

The players from both teams walked out of their competitor booths, and the players who hadn't been playing joined their teammates onstage. Normally, when Wei Chen won at an away game, he loved to applaud and thank the crowd, the majority of which would be fans of the opposing team. Other players that did this might have been genuine in their thanks, but for him, it was a way for him to gloat. But this time, he was quiet as he walked onto the stage with his team.

To him, Blue Rain wasn't just any team. Even though he was now standing with Happy, he would never be able to mock them. Winning was enough. On this brutal playoffs stage, in front of this team for which he still had many feelings, he restrained himself.

“Congratulations.” Blue Rain's Captain Yu Wenzhou shook hands with Ye Xiu.

“Thank you.” Ye Xiu smiled and dipped his head, but didn't say more.

Huang Shaotian came up to him next and shook his hand. “You’d better win the championships!” he said sternly.

“What did you think I was planning to do?” said Ye Xiu, amused.

“Good. If you’d beaten us and then lost to someone else, I’d never forgive you!” said Huang Shaotian.

Congratulate the opponents, thank the audience. Blue Rain may have lost the match, but they didn’t lose their demeanor. However, there was a hint of disappointment in everyone’s expressions.

They would have to taste this bitter fruit for the rest of the summer. But, that didn’t mean this was the end. There was the new season to come; they would have a new beginning. Day after day, year after year, everyone chased after this goal.

There was only one championship – this was cruelty. But, there was a championship every year – this was never-ending hope.

Chapter 1479: The Emperor’s New Clothes

Blue Rain’s Big Defeat! This was the front-page headline of the latest edition of Esports Weekly.

Happy won the battle, but the reports all focused on Blue Rain, as their loss on their home stage was a more interesting topic.

In any battle there was always a victor and a loser; who won and who lost was never something too surprising. When Blue Rain played their away game against Happy, they still won in the team round, and only lost by one point overall. Yet in their home game, they lost so drastically that the points didn’t even need to be counted.

Group arena, lost. Team competition, lost again.

The team loss was particularly surprising – it was on a map with which Blue Rain was very familiar, yet they still hadn’t been able to take the initiative.

It was true that people now had a pretty good understanding of Happy’s playstyle, but battles were never certain. As the saying went, “eight immortals crossing the sea, each with their own unique powers” – everyone was striving to do their absolute best, in their own ways.

But the feeling that people got from this battle was that as soon as Happy pulled out their powers, Blue Rain was abruptly forced down, gradually falling over in the midst of their struggle.

The atmosphere in the stadium during the match wasn’t too bad, but afterward, the criticism was overwhelming.

After the final results came out, everyone suddenly became a Glory expert. Any tiny flaw in Blue Rain’s playing became a subject of loud criticism, proof of Blue Rain’s failure to perform.

As the losing side, Blue Rain of course knew the problems they had to fix. But too much of this deluge of criticism was simply people parroting each other.

If you're determined to condemn someone, you don't need a good reason.

It seemed that everyone who failed had to undergo an intense round of shaming, as though this were necessary to properly reflect their status as the losers.

And this process of denouncement began right after the battle, during the press conference. It was less of an interview session and more of an attack session. The reporters wrote down in their notebooks not questions for Blue Rain, but speeches to express their vehement opinions regarding the reasons for Blue Rain's defeat.

Strategy, tactics, judgment, performance, awareness...

It was as if Team Blue Rain were stripped bare. They sat on the stage and were stabbed with the verbal knives hurled by the audience.

Knife after knife. Everyone was hit.

Huang Shaotian couldn't restrain himself for long. Several times, he wanted to interject, but each time he was stopped by a look from Captain Yu Wenzhou. Yu Wenzhou understood him very well, both on and offstage. He knew exactly which comments from the reporters would set him off, and with his excellent prediction and judgment, cut him off every time.

Other than keeping Huang Shaotian under control, Yu Wenzhou simply sat there and listened silently, still wearing a faint smile.

These endlessly chattering people in front of them, they were all upset at Blue Rain's failure to live up to expectations, hating iron for not becoming steel. Yu Wenzhou recognized many of them. Indeed, many of them had greatly anticipated Blue Rain's performance, had penned beautiful words for them, had fought written wars for them.

They liked Blue Rain, so they had held high hopes for Blue Rain. The greater the hope, the greater the despair.

However...

Yu Wenzhou simply listened, until the crowd finally fell silent. What there was to criticize had all been criticized, and, suddenly, no one stood up to say any more.

The reporters glanced at each other uneasily, in this calm after the raging attack. They were suddenly keenly aware – this was a press conference, they were supposed to ask questions and spend more time listening to what the players had to say, rather than use the time all the time to talk themselves.

Suddenly, no one knew how to continue. But at this moment, Blue Rain's Captain Yu Wenzhou finally opened his mouth.

"Thank you, everyone, for the concern and kindness you have shown Blue Rain."

Everyone listened in silence. The fact that Blue Rain's captain could say this made them feel that their bitter words hadn't entirely been in vain. Even if they didn't manage to get new information out of the players during this press conference, as long as they were able to get Blue Rain to wake up, then wouldn't it be worth it?

“Everyone, you are all anxious for Blue Rain, and you only wish the best for Blue Rain. This, I understand very well,” Yu Wenzhou continued.

“However...” He paused, before continuing. “Even if it is for our benefit, forgive us for being unable to accept this sort of nonsense.”

“Hahahahahaha!” At that, Huang Shaotian burst out laughing.

A year’s worth of effort had come to nothing. Yet in this time of intense unhappiness, Huang Shaotian was actually laughing. But he was only laughing for the sake of it; the sound masked his acute feelings of bitterness and resentment.

He’d been wanting to say this for a while: What do you guys understand? What gives you the right to spout this nonsense at us?

While Huang Shaotian was laughing, the reporters were stunned. They never would have thought after giving such sincere thanks, Yu Wenzhou would directly and mercilessly call their words nonsense.

Some of them stood up, prepared to retaliate, but Yu Wenzhou’s voice stopped them.

Beginning from the very first critic in this press conference, Yu Wenzhou began his replies.

One after another.

Fifteen.

In total, there had been fifteen reporters who had stood up and expressed vehemently their personal, disparaging views on Blue Rain’s performance. Yu Wenzhou didn’t miss a single one, and even followed the correct order in which they had spoken. One by one, he clearly, logically, systematically refuted their observations and opinions.

And thus, one after another.

Fifteen.

Fifteen reporters felt their ears go red.

Yu Wenzhou’s rebuttals were so sensible that the reporters were surprised when he suddenly finished. And then, they all had only one feeling: that they truly understood nothing, that they truly were only speaking nonsense.

This was far more complex and high-end than they had imagined. And after listening to Yu Wenzhou’s analysis, the problems that they had brought up felt unbelievably shallow.

It was as though they were a crowd of noobs, charging toward someone and yelling “Why didn’t you use ten Formless Phantom Blades to make a hundred-combo to kill the opponent?” And that person would laugh, and pat their heads, and kindly reply that Formless Phantom Blade has a cooldown, you can only use it once, you can’t chain together ten.

Even after having their arguments torn apart, not a single one of the reporters reacted angrily to being shamed like this. Because Yu Wenzhou’s counters were truly too accurate, they simply couldn’t find a foothold to reply.

When Yu Wenzhou finished speaking, the scene once again returned to silence.

“Then...” Yu Wenzhou surveyed the crowd one last time. “Thank you, everyone. We will meet next season.”

And with that, Team Blue Rain departed.

And about what happened in this post-match press conference, not a single reporter was willing to write. In the end, this match report was simply a collection of outside descriptions, without anything about the emotions and attitudes of the Blue Rain players.

These reporters all shut their mouths, but that wouldn't stop other people from speaking.

The reporters who had undergone this rebuttal, upon seeing the comments made by others, suddenly felt that those critics were as pathetic as they themselves had been earlier.

Those critiques and analysis were just like the vehement statements they had made during the press conference. Not a single one hit the nail on the head.

It was because their skill wasn't high enough. And now, these reporters knew how these critiques were viewed through professional eyes.

It was nonsense.

All this time, there was simply too much of this kind of nonsense.

Because this was a new circle, those who truly had high-end skills were still participating in the League as players. Not many had joined the other aspects of this industry after their retirement. The media workers were mostly just ordinary fans, and some might have even been forced by their job to learn about Glory.

Their so-called specialist eyes simply weren't at the professional level, especially for the playoffs. Too much of the match content here, they just couldn't understand.

To the pro players, their confident assertions were simply laughable. Yet they weren't self-aware; they ran about like the emperor wearing his new clothes, cheerfully streaking, until yesterday, Yu Wenzhou quietly nudged a few of them, and told them: You're not wearing any clothes, don't run around, be careful of catching a cold.

They really were catching cold!

And there were quite a number of them!

To these people, the mountains of comments were simply confused and invalid. But they had no way of pointing it out, because they only learned a few principles from Yu Wenzhou's words. That didn't mean that they had put on clothes, it just meant that they would no longer run around on the street naked.

And Team Blue Rain, because of their captain's powerful performance during the press conference, were completely deaf to these comments.

They knew much more clearly than these people where the true problems lay. Did they need to listen to the opinions of these outsiders?

“Break begins today.”

After the match, the first sentence that Team Blue Rain heard from their captain was this one.

“As for the rest, we’ll speak of it next season,” said Yu Wenzhou.

“Yes!” Everyone nodded.

Even if this had been a bit ugly, this wasn’t the first time they had failed. As for where the problems lay...

There were no idiots in Blue Rain. The words that Captain had said yesterday at the press conference, they wouldn’t treat that as a mere tongue lashing.

He had simply used the most powerful moment to say those things. To review the recordings of their losing match, while still carrying the depression of defeat, only strengthened the effects.

Seizing opportunities was always Blue Rain’s specialty, whether on or off the battlefield.

“See you next season!” Everyone bid each other to take care, and Blue Rain’s players began their breaks.

But, not everyone left.

“You’re not leaving?” Yu Wenzhou looked at Huang Shaotian.

“I want to watch until the very end. As soon as there’s a chance, I’m going to go up and roast the hell out of that guy!” Huang Shaotian said firmly.

“Then what if there isn’t a chance?” Yu Wenzhou asked, with a laugh.

“If there isn’t, then I can only watch him continue to be proud until the end,” said Huang Shaotian.

Everyone wanted to be proud until the end.

Blue Rain no longer had this chance. And that night, another team lost their chance as well.

Thunderclap fought their away game against Tiny Herb, and ultimately lost the match. Having lost both games, they too were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs.

Xiao Shiqin and his teammates had played an admirable regular season this year, but they still had yet to ever break past the first round of playoffs.

Thunderclap’s individual strength still wasn’t high enough!

This was what the outside world said. Their team strength didn’t lose to any powerhouse, but Thunderclap’s performance in the individual rounds indeed wasn’t very reassuring. The playoffs only made this more obvious.

Once upon a time, in order to gain more powerful helpers, Xiao Shiqin had left Thunderclap. But this time, amidst these voices...

“Do you hear that, they’re all saying that our individual strength isn’t enough! Train well this summer, all of you. Next season, we’re going to give them a scare in the individual rounds!” This was what Xiao Shiqin said before break. This time, he wouldn’t think that his teammates weren’t enough. He would rise together with his teammates, and together they would strive for a victory that belonged to them.

“Break 37 consecutive wins!” Dai Yanqi jumped up and shouted.

Xiao Shiqin’s legs shuddered.

“Watch yourself!” He glared at Dai Yanqi. Encouragement was good, but it couldn’t be absurd! Was that even something that a human could accomplish?

Chapter 1480: Information

The quarter-finals of the playoffs had come to a close. All four games ended in two rounds. Samsara, Tyranny, Happy and Tiny Herb advanced to the semi-finals.

Among them, Samsara, Tyranny and Tiny Herb were all members of the top four in the regular season. Happy, at number six, was the only one to have successfully turned the tables, knocking out the regular season’s third place, Blue Rain. This match, especially the second round at Blue Rain’s home stadium, was the match that had the most discussion.

The group arena was alright. It was clear that Blue Rain had made careful arrangements with their map choice. In the end, it was because their plan for Ye Xiu was completely destroyed that they fell behind.

However, the team competition brought Blue Rain a lot of disgruntlement and jeers, to the point where this match was the hottest topic with the end of the first round.

By now, Team Blue Rain’s holiday had already started. Regarding the last round of the playoffs, their captain Yu Wenzhou had said everything there was to say in the press conference already.

Next up was Tyranny versus Happy and Samsara versus Tiny Herb. The playoffs had entered an even more tense atmosphere. None of these four teams dared relax for even a moment.

Club Tyranny.

Blue Rain hadn’t bothered reviewing the heavily criticized team competition at Blue Rain’s home game against Happy. On the other hand, Tyranny began looking over that match ended. The team competition of that match had become the main focus of their pre-match preparations.

As for who it was they were studying, it obviously wasn’t Blue Rain who had been knocked out of the competition already, but Happy. Happy, who they were facing in the next round. Happy, who had wiped the floor with Blue Rain on their home turf, drawing harsh criticism of Blue Rain from all over.

Those criticisms, to them, were unreasonable. However, they didn’t have the time to spare to explain for Blue Rain, and it wasn’t Blue Rain they cared about anyways.

Happy. The discussions and research these three days were all about Happy, because Happy had revealed all too much in this match, too much that had been kept hidden or vague in previous matches.

The entire team was gathered in the conference room, the match VOD playing on the projector. They had lost count of how many times they had watched and analyzed the match, but none of the Tyranny members held any hint of impatience in their expressions, all focused as if they were in a match themselves.

Zhang Xinjie, their vice-captain, Tyranny's tactician, stood in front of the projector. He faced the projection as well, watching the recording silently with everyone else.

The two teams spawned and headed out. The viewpoint in the VOD was completely focused on Team Happy.

After three consecutive days of studying the match VOD the file they were using was no longer the original. Speaking of which... as Happy's five characters advanced, a red circle appeared over Dancing Rain, flashing a few times.

They didn't stop watching because of this. They had studied this part several times already.

Su Mucheng.

Many people thought her performance wasn't as spectacular after joining Happy. At first they thought that it was because she was in a new team and had to familiarize herself with her new teammates and characters. However, throughout the whole season, Su Mucheng hadn't made any particularly spectacular improvement.

However, in these three days at Tyranny, Zhang Xinjie had come to a very certain conclusion.

Su Mucheng's performed spectacularly, but her brilliance was integrated into the details.

The annotations done for Dancing Rain's positioning at the beginning was emphasis on her choice of position in their formation as well as the adjustments she made. You wouldn't be able to see anything from just watching one character, you had to look at it from the whole.

The moment the red annotations appeared, Steamed Bun Invasion and Boundless Sea had both deviated from their formation.

This deviation wasn't a result of the two not being in sync, but it was because the two characters had been met with obstacles they couldn't leap over in their linear path, so they had to make their own adjustments.

This was a natural, logical move that couldn't be more ordinary,

However, Su Mucheng adjusted herself with them.

Dancing Rain, with no obstacles in her path, adjusted her position as Steamed Bun Invasion and Boundless Sea swerved around trees.

The scene was paused.

Happy froze with the two characters swerving around trees and Dancing Rain in her now adjusted position.

"A seemingly inconsequential detail, but this maintains the completeness of Happy's formation," Zhang Xinjie turned and said to everyone.

"These movements are woven into this match from start to finish, and we'll come to it again. This is just to make sure you all realize that Su Mucheng can already do this subconsciously, even for something so

inconsequential,” Zhang Xinjie explained, “In other words, I think that Su Mucheng is no longer just Ye Xiu’s best partner, but all of Happy’s best partner.”

After three days of analysis, this was the first time Zhang Xinjie had given such a straightforward explanation.

“She’s become more comprehensive, even more of a team player,” Lin Jingyan said. As veterans, none of them were unfamiliar with Su Mucheng, and with this new information, they would immediately compare it to their original understanding of Su Mucheng and notice the difference.

For the Su Mucheng of the past, not only did she often forget everyone but Ye Xiu, but her support was imbalanced. She placed too much importance on Ye Xiu’s decisions, leading to her inability to maximize her impact in the battle.

This was because Ye Xiu wasn’t always the best target for her to support, and giving support to her other teammates would have been better to open up the situation.

Now, she no longer had any of these problems.

Soon enough, the scene arrived at the first clash between the two sides. Blue Rain took advantage of their tailwind to launch an assault. At this point, Zhang Xinjie had switched the shot to Su Mucheng’s perspective.

With this first person perspective, everyone felt as if they were in the tense atmosphere of the match themselves.

Su Mucheng’s camera view was constantly in motion, things appearing repeatedly in the shot, some far, some close.

Then, it suddenly froze.

It was Zhang Xinjie who paused it.

In the scene, Blue Rain’s Blademaster Duo had already charged into their formation with such great coordination that even Ye Xiu couldn’t stop them.

As for Su Mucheng?

All of this occurred under her eyes, and she had the chance to steady the situation for Happy, but she didn’t.

Su Mucheng’s view, instead, kept a close eye on Yu Wenzhou’s Swoksaar.

“What if it was the Su Mucheng of the past? What would she do?” Zhang Xinjie inquired.

The veterans all fell silent.

The old Su Mucheng would most likely coordinate with Ye Xiu to take on Blue Rain’s Blademaster duo.

But what about the Su Mucheng of today?

“Happy’s disarray here was planned, and Su Mucheng’s decisions influenced Happy’s plans for this stage. If she had coordinated with Ye Xiu to defeat Blue Rain’s Blademaster duo, then this situation here would be difficult to achieve,” Zhang Xinjie said.

Tyranny’s members knew the scenario that followed like the backs of their hands after three days of analysis. Happy had an order to their chaos, while Blue Rain, responsible for scattering them, sunk into their chaos like into quicksand. Of course, every member of Happy had contributed their efforts to this, but even after three days of studying, the role Su Mucheng played seemed to have a deeper layer to it.

“Blue Rain wasn’t cautious enough of Su Mucheng.” As Zhang Xinjie talked, the projection cut to a collection of strung together highlights. Scene after scene flashed by. This was a video of the times Su Mucheng used Dancing Rain’s range advantage to disrupt Blue Rain’s plan. As for Blue Rain, they weren’t watching Su Mucheng very closely, so it made Su Mucheng’s job much easier.

This sentence was basically Zhang Xinjie’s criticism on Blue Rain’s performance. This was a criticism that hadn’t appeared in that cacophony of voices. However, Zhang Xinjie, who had managed to catch onto this, didn’t act proud or anything. This was a trail they had only found after three days of intense study. Su Mucheng’s transformation was very fragmented. It would be very hard to notice without combing through the data thoroughly. Zhang Xinjie could only be thankful, thankful that there was this match to provide them with this fragmented information.

“It seems like we had better keep a closer watch on her,” Zhang Jiale said.

“Or obstruct her view!” Zhang Xinjie gazed at Zhang Jiale as he said this.

The veterans didn’t need to say much more. When Zhang Jiale brought this up, it was because he already understood that he was the one in Tyranny who was most appropriate for cutting Su Mucheng off from her allies. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms had ranged attacks and the Hundred Blossoms style was doubtlessly the best at disrupting Su Mucheng, no matter if it was used on the field or on Su Mucheng directly.

And so, a strategic choice was decided. Outsiders would probably never guess that the first person Tyranny brought up as a key opponent to keep watch on would be Su Mucheng, who didn’t seem to shine so brightly amongst the rest of Happy.

This wasn’t the only choice Tyranny had settled on in these three days. The recording continued, and soon came to a chaotic free for all between the two sides. Steamed Bun Invasion had been Blue Rain’s attack target for awhile, but after a few exchanges, Steamed Bun worked together with Boundless Sea to kidnap their healer.

What was Happy’s reasoning behind sending out Steamed Bun Invasion?

This was one of the many questions Tyranny was analyzing these three days. The choice of player and character was the best reflection of a team’s intentions. An unpredictable and unstable player like Steamed Bun wasn’t the strict Zhang Xinjie’s style. Compared to Yu Wenzhou, he was interested in why Happy chose a player that might mess up and cost them their victory at such a crucial map.

Ye Xiu was there to compensate; that was something that Yu Wenzhou realized during the match, as well as something Tyranny quickly figured out. However, this only meant that Happy had the ability to

neutralize the risk of using Steamed Bun Invasion, but nothing of why Steamed Bun Invasion was important. It wasn't like they'd send him up to wear at Ye Xiu's focus.

As the recording arrived to where Blue Rain's healer Soul Speaker was kidnapped, the projection once again cut to a collection of highlights.

A collection of highlights of Steamed Bun Invasion attacking Soul Speaker.

Conclusion: Steamed Bun was a counter to Xu Jingxi's Soul Speaker. The Brawler class had many ways to disrupt and interrupt their opponents, and Paladins with their strong defense had many ways to protect themselves, so a class like the Brawler was required to CC them.

The shot paused at a scene where Steamed Bun Invasion launched a Tyrannical Chain Punch and knocked Soul Speaker down.

"It looks overkill, doesn't it?" Zhang Xinjie said, pointing at the shot. "However, if he didn't do something so overkill, then a single Guard of Virtues or Angel's Might would be able to turn the tables."

"This Steamed Bun Invasion feels really enthusiastic when it comes to things like this..."

Feelings.... Zhang Xinjie would never rely on feelings for something like this, yet even he had to resort to an ambiguous term like this. He just couldn't understand Steamed Bun.