

Avatar 1541

Chapter 1541: You've Won

Roll, another roll.

Lin Jingyan's reacted surprisingly fast towards Lord Grim's point-blank Anti-Tank Missiles. Dark Thunder rolled again, leaving the explosions behind him.

This time, Ye Xiu had encountered an opponent in dirtiness.

Lin Jingyan's style in itself couldn't be considered dirty, but he was extremely adept at dealing with people who played dirty. How could he not? He practice partner had been Fang Rui for many years.

Seeing Dark Thunder dodge the Anti-Tank Missile, the Tyranny players watching on the sidelines felt deeply moved.

"It's up to him," Zhang Jiale was confident.

Lin Jingyan was placed second in the group arena, and part of the reason for his placement was to deal with that 1% health on Lord Grim.

Yes, it was just 1%, but because it was Ye Xiu, Tyranny couldn't underestimate him.

As old rivals of Ye Xiu, no one thought that Ye Xiu would just give up because he only had 1% of his health left. They were certain that he would use that 1% to annoy them as much as possible.

Sure enough, he started healing as soon as he spawned. Then, he even followed by saying "You've won."

Yes, everyone had no doubt that Tyranny would win this fight, but at what cost?

As a result, they chose Lin Jingyan to play. With so little health left, Ye Xiu would certainly play dirty, and Lin Jingyan was the person with the most experience against it.

If it had been anyone else in Tyranny, that little trick of Ye Xiu's might have really hit. But it was different with Lin Jingyan. He had dodged the Anti-Tank Missiles with ease.

When he got up, he launched himself towards Lord Grim with a Powerful Knee Strike.

The counterattack had been fast, but with the current distance between the two characters, the timing of this Powerful Knee Strike wasn't good and it wouldn't pose much of a threat.

This sort of rushed attack was quite good at restricting the dirty playstyle though. Playing dirty required observation, thinking, and set-up. By raising the tempo, it made it harder for the opponent to make these calculations. Although against those who were dirty to their bones, then their instinctive reactions would be dirty too. Just this sort of fast tempo wouldn't be enough to suppress someone like that.

But Lin Jingyan had a lot of practice against this sort of dirtiness.

The Powerful Knee Strike wasn't everything. As he leaped towards Lord Grim, Dark Thunder suddenly opened his hands and threw sand.

The purpose of the Powerful Knee Strike was simply as a movement skill. Sand Toss was the main focus. The Sand Toss transformed from a point attack to an AoE attack. Just moving to dodge the Powerful Knee Strike wouldn't be enough now, and it was too late to make any further movements.

Hua!

The sand crashed into Lord Grim. The grains of sand made crisp sounds as they hit. The only thing Ye Xiu could do was turn Lord Grim's head around to avoid the Blind.

But Dark Thunder had already landed on the ground. He took step in the opposite direction of Lord Grim's head turn. It was a subtle detail, but sometimes it was this sort of detail that was fatal. Dark Thunder threw out a punch.

Four sharp claws slashed upwards, but to everyone's surprise, Lord Grim's two hands had also extended out. He was looking in a different direction, but his hands were moving in this direction.

Fling!

Seeing these hand movements, Lin Jingyan immediately deduced what skill his opponent was using.

Perhaps one of their attacks might reach the other first, but either way, the Fling would go into effect. As for the Fling direction, it was obviously towards the lava.

Getting thrown into the lava by a 7% health Lord Grim was something that Lin Jingyan could not accept.

Jump back!

It'd be better if Lin Jingyan didn't go through with his punch, instead of giving the opportunity away to Ye Xiu.

Dark Thunder jumped back to dodge the grab. Then, he stepped forward again to return the favor.

Fling, a Fling as well.

It was a Fling against a Fling, but when was starting up while the other was finishing up. After dodging the opponent's Fling, he would use his own Fling as a counterattack. Lin Jingyan deserved to be someone who had played the game professionally for many years. Even though Fling was a Grappler skill, it was a skill no Fighter class would ever give up.

Unfortunately, Lin Jingyan had encountered an unspecialized, a class that was unprecedented in the competitive scene. What's more, in the hands of that unspecialized was a miraculous weapon that had never been seen before.

Lord Grim was retracting his hands. It was the ending animation for Fling, but the umbrella that had split into two halves transformed back into one piece. The part that was extending outwards made its way past Dark Thunder's hands and into his body.

Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, spear form.

Battle Mage Skill: Circle Swing.

Dark Thunder was thrown into the sky. The only thing that Lin Jingyan could be glad about was that the Circle Swing could not throw him directly into the lava.

However, skills may be fixed, but people were alive. Lin Jingyan suddenly realized that Dark Thunder could move while in the air.

Grab skills locked the opponent's movements while active. Right now, if his character could move, then it meant that the skill had ended.

By canceling Circle Swing midway through, a majority of the damage dealt by the skill was lost. But for Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder, if he continued following along his current path, he would be thrown into the far more terrifying lava.

Punch, kick...

Without the skill lock, Dark Thunder could do as he pleased in the air. But unfortunately, Brawlers didn't have any movement skills while in the air. By punching and kicking, he could move his character's trajectory slightly. However, the experienced Lin Jingyan already knew that it wasn't enough.

Eagle Stamp!

Lin Jingyan thought of this move. He didn't even need to put the skill on his weapon. All he needed was 20 skill points to learn it. If he had it, he could have turned this situation around.

But he didn't have the luxury of these 20 skill points. His Dark Thunder didn't have Eagle Stamp.

He could only have Dark Thunder throw out a Molotov Cocktail. He couldn't just do nothing!

Unfortunately, this sort of venting didn't pose any threat. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim easily dodged it. He raised his umbrella and fired two times.

Delivery Gun!

He wanted to use Delivery Gun to send him even farther away.

Lin Jingyan continued to have Dark Thunder punch and kick. The Delivery Gun technique required the player to hit the target's center of mass to control the opponent's movements. Only Sharpshooters with their rapid firing capabilities could occasionally grasp a moving target's center of mass. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella's gun form was a rifle. It could only fire twice before needing to reload and could not display the full effectiveness of Delivery Gun. But then, Lord Grim's umbrella suddenly turned towards the sky. Ta ta ta ta ta, a burst of gunfire. Lin Jingyan wanted to cough blood. That shameless bastard was using Gatling Gun to execute a Delivery Gun.

The firing speed of Gatling Gun was fast to the point that it put the user's aim to the test. How could Lin Jingyan have any doubts about Ye Xiu's skill with it, though? The technique had been invented by him.

Unspecialized, ah, unspecialized. They were just ridiculously annoying.

Blood blossomed from Dark Thunder as he flew in an arc. The lava spread outwards to embrace him, and Dark Thunder cordially accepted it. Then, the lava began to burn away his health. Lin Jingyan turned around. On the shore, Ye Xiu was cordially waiting for him, ready to welcome him back.

Lin Jinyan wanted to cry. It would not be a good idea to challenge him directly. It'd be better to find a place farther away, so Ye Xiu's Lord Grim wouldn't be able to block his escape.

Dark Thunder climbed out of the lava. Flames were still burning, dealing the last bits of damage. The crowd looked at the 48% health on Dark Thunder and were quiet. Then, they saw Ye Xiu's Lord Grim run towards him, while typing out: "Old Lin, how could you be so careless, Old Lin. The lava's pretty strong, no?"

The lava was indeed strong. He didn't even have half his health anymore. How could Lin Jinyan reply back to it?

"You've won" was Lin Jinyan's reply. It was what Ye Xiu had said at the start of the match.

But at this moment, it was the truth. For this fight to have turned out this way, it was a huge victory for Ye Xiu.

"You're still alive. How could I say I've won :)" Ye Xiu even added a smiley face.

"I give you an inch, and you want a mile!" Lin Jinyan replied. Dark Thunder rushed forward to meet Lord Grim.

Technically speaking, Lin Jinyan had won.

But even the generous Tyranny fans found it hard to applaud for this sort of victory.

41%

This was Dark Thunder's remaining health.

To get rid of that 7% from Lord Grim... or perhaps it would be better to say 1%, Tyranny had sacrificed far more than they would have liked.

Ye Xiu walked out from the player booth. Normally, there would definitely be boos being thrown at him. But right now, the Tyranny fans didn't know if that was the right move, so they kept silent.

"Hm, this match... how do we describe it?" Pan Lin and Lin Yibo were having trouble finding words to summarize this fight.

You couldn't really say Lin Jinyan's performance was bad. It was because of the map that the single slip-up had cost him greatly.

"Maybe it's better to say that Ye Xiu found the key point to this map first..." Li Yibo said.

Fuck off!

The vast majority of the people who heard his words cursed at him.

You'd have to be blind not to see what the key point to this map. Found it first? More like Ye Xiu was the first to successfully take advantage of it!

Chapter 1542: Methodology

Ye Xiu... Ye Xiu...

The Tyranny fans stared silently at the bastard. They didn't boo him, but they obviously weren't going to clap for him. At this moment, they had no idea what they should do. Even the Happy fans that had come to support their team were affected by this atmosphere. The Happy fans weren't used to a silent Tyranny stadium, and for a moment, they too didn't know what to do.

"Is the entire stadium speechless from witnessing Ye Xiu's skill?" Pan Lin sighed.

No one questioned Ye Xiu's skill.

Even Tyranny fans. They might feel disgusted by Ye Xiu, but they would admit that Ye Xiu was very skilled. Perhaps in their hearts, Ye Xiu was the best. After all, only the best had the qualifications to make Tyranny hateful for ten years.

Their greatest losses had been at the hands of Ye Xiu. But at the same time, their greatest joys had also been come from him as well.

This time? It was only the group arena, and already, Tyranny's fans had experienced heaven and then fallen into hell. In the end, not a single bit of happiness could be seen on them.

"YOU HAVE TO WIN!!"

No one knew who, but a shout suddenly came from the crowd.

The shout seemed to have resonated with everyone and instantly became their slogan, even if it wasn't very suitable at this moment.

From a match standpoint, Ye Xiu was coming down from the stage as the loser! In theory, Tyranny had already beaten Ye Xiu.

But who could actually call that a win? No one did.

You have to win! It wasn't just towards Ye Xiu, but towards all of Happy.

"Win, win!" The crowd roared.

The group arena had only just begun, and Tyranny's fans were shouting as if it was matchpoint. The shouts from the Happy fans became more and more drowned out. They watched as Happy's second player stood up and walked towards the stage. They were cheering as loud as they could, but they couldn't even hear themselves.

Su Mucheng was Happy's second player for the group arena. With Tyranny's fans yelling "Win, win!", if a stranger walked into the stadium, they would probably think that the crowd was cheering for Su Mucheng.

Tyranny's fans didn't care. They were giving themselves encouragement, pouring out their expectations for the team.

Win!

Win over Ye Xiu, win over Happy, win the championships!

The third round of the group arena, Happy's Su Mucheng against Tyranny's Lin Jingyan.

The match began. After spawning, both sides went towards the middle of the map. Soon, they were within each other's sight.

"The player sent up is decided during the match. In that case, Su Mucheng's appearance in the group arena certainly has a purpose to it," Li Yibo analyzed, "I'm guessing that Happy wants to use the ultra-long range of a Launcher to use the natural barrier created from the field of lava to whittle down Lin Jingyan."

That was what Li Yibo thought, and that was also what others thought, including Lin Jingyan. If Su Mucheng decided to stay back and harass him to death, it indeed wouldn't be easy to deal with.

If it was difficult to deal with, then simply don't deal with it.

Glory matches had no time limit, so there was no need to be afraid of dragging out the match. If Su Mucheng's plan was to harass him to death from afar, then all he needed to do was not approach her. The lava was an obstacle for him and for Su Mucheng. No matter what Su Mucheng did, with the lava separating the two ends, there was a limit to her range.

If Su Mucheng insisted on waiting there until he approached, then both sides would just be sitting there. From a match standpoint, if both sides remained in a stalemate, then the referee would need to interfere. However, neither side could be blamed, so both sides would have to be penalized. Would it be a warning? A yellow card? Or even a red card?

If it was a red card, then Happy would lose out. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain was at full health. She had a health lead. If both sides were given a red card, it would be mutual destruction. How could the one winning not be losing out on the trade?

Su Mucheng wasn't so stupid as to give herself a red card, so these were just random thoughts from Lin Jingyan. It was doubtful that the referee would end the battle in such a crude fashion too. If the match really did turn into a stalemate, then the referee would likely interfere by having the system force them to spawn at two new locations and force them to fight.

Lin Jingyan had been a part of the Alliance for nine years. He had seen many things. The Glory competitive rules needed to be impartial to the competitors, while also needing to consider the spectators, the broadcast, the sponsors, and so on. Even after revising the rules many times, there were still many awkward rulings in place. The Alliance was still growing to this day. It wasn't perfect.

Exploiting these sort of gray areas had become one type of strategy in Glory competitive play. The Alliance did not encourage this behavior, but there was nothing they could do to stop it. They could only try their best to create a more perfect ruleset and patch up these holes. But before these holes were patched, they could always be taken advantage of.

As a result, Dark Thunder stopped moving forward. He began moving horizontally. His current distance from the lava was around ten steps.

This is?

Many people were feeling somewhat conflicted about Lin Jingyan's actions. However, Li Yibo had analyzed what methods Su Mucheng might use in this map, which weren't difficult to guess. Seeing Dark Thunder's movements, the viewers soon realized that even if Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain fired from the edge of the lava, she still wouldn't be able to reach him. What would happen then? If the two sides didn't make any changes, the match would turn into stalemate, and then what?

For people familiar with Glory, it wasn't a difficult question at all.

Then, the referee would interfere and force the two characters to fight. Then, Su Mucheng would have lost her barrier. Perhaps the two characters would spawn too close together, making it so that her Launcher would immediately be in a dangerous position.

"He's planning on taking advantage of the rules to change the situation..." Li Yibo said, "This..."

"This... Tyranny... this..." Pan Lin didn't know what to say.

Taking advantage of a loophole was clearly something that Tyranny's fans despised, yet right now, their player was using this exact method to win. This wasn't a scene they should be seeing from their Team Tyranny...

How could Lin Jingyan not know this?

But he had never been one who could represent Tyranny!

Even though he now wore Tyranny's jersey, his spirit had been tempered and completed during his seven years at Wind Howl. He had fought alone. He had fought together with Fang Rui as the Criminal Partners. On his path to glory, he had never been a straight and upright hero. Even so, during those seven years, he had never even made it into the playoffs.

Fighting with those geniuses was too difficult. He sometimes hated how his two hands didn't have more fingers.

Take advantage of loopholes?

He didn't care if it was shameful. All he cared about was winning and how he wasn't doing enough.

He was just a normal person, but his thirst for victory was no less than anyone else's. He might not be a genius of any kind, but he was willing to do anything to win. Exploiting loopholes? So what! That was one way to win.

If there was loophole that he could take advantage of, of course he should take advantage of it.

Lin Jingyan didn't hesitate. Dark Thunder stopped moving forward. But then, he saw Dancing Rain head directly for him.

The referee didn't need to interfere, but everyone could see that by exploiting the rules, Lin Jingyan created a disadvantageous situation for Happy. Perhaps it had forced Su Mucheng to give up on her original strategy of using her long range and the lava to win.

“She’s going straight for him. Lin Jingyan should be very satisfied, right?” Pan Lin said somewhat mockingly. After all, as an official staff member of the Alliance, he couldn’t approve of this sort of behavior.

Boom boom boom.

Dancing Rain fired artillery shells as she sprinted. She didn’t rely on the lava as a barrier, instead, going for a frontal assault. She created a path extending from her position to Dark Thunder’s position. If it were any other Tyranny player, they would have likely jumped out and rushed towards Dancing Rain’s barrage to try to close the distance with the Launcher.

But not Lin Jingyan. He was retreating. It seemed like he wasn’t satisfied with the terrain here. He was retreating back to a place where there were piles of limestone scattered about. These piles could act as cover. Lin Jingyan was luring Su Mucheng towards there. That area was obviously unfavorable for Su Mucheng, but what choice did she have?

If she didn’t keep going, Lin Jingyan would simply have Dark Thunder stop and wait. He would then keep his distance away from her, and the fight would reach a stalemate again...

He was still taking advantage of the rules!

If the referee interfered, they would likely be forced to spawn near each other, which would be unfavorable for the Launcher. He was utilizing this point to lure Su Mucheng into an area which was unfavorable for her.

“How despicable!!” Seeing Lin Jingyan’s actions, Happy’s fans roared out. Their boos went out in waves, and this time, Tyranny’s fans didn’t retaliate.

Tyranny’s fans felt embarrassed too.

Lin Jingyan had joined the team in the final years of his career. He had received no small measure of trust from them, and in turn, he had contributed greatly to Tyranny. They looked forward to him winning the championships together with Tyranny.

But this sort of method...

If they really won in this fashion, Tyranny’s fans would truly feel somewhat disgusted. They had always valued the journey over the end result. As a result, they cared about the way they won. Lin Jingyan’s method of winning was extremely displeasing to see.

Boo?

They couldn’t bear to either. After all, they had watched Lin Jingyan closely these past two years. They had seen his dedication and the effort he put in. They had seen how hard he and Tyranny worked.

But why, why did he need to use this sort of despicable method for such an important moment?

Tyranny’s fans were silent. Once again, they were silent.

Chapter 1543: Late

Tyranny was the Alliance's boldest and most hot-blooded team, and likewise, their fans were also the most passionate and the fiercest. But at the same time, Tyranny was also Glory's most cultured team.

Cultured...

The word didn't seem to fit in with Tyranny's image. Do everything you can to win because winning is glory. This concept had no contradiction with Tyranny.

Tyranny was their romance. Even though this so-called "romance" had no connection with the word.

Lin Jingyan's way of conduct didn't conform with their romance.

However, they could feel this old general's desire for victory. They didn't have to like his methods, but they had to recognize his efforts. It was similar to how even though they hated Ye Xiu, they recognized his might.

Tyranny's fans had well-defined likes and dislikes.

Love and hate had intertwined on a single person, and they didn't know how to feel.

The atmosphere of the stadium didn't interfere with the match.

Up ahead was favorable terrain for Lin Jingyan. If Su Mucheng didn't go after him though, Lin Jingyan could take advantage of the rules to create a favorable situation for him.

Either way, it wouldn't be good for Su Mucheng.

But Dancing Rain didn't stop. She continued to chase after Dark Thunder, but her pathing was shifted by a certain amount.

This is...

Everyone looked for where Dancing Rain was moving towards.

Oh!!

The experts soon realized her goal.

Su Mucheng was taking advantage of that fact that Lin Jingyan wasn't taking the initiative to attack her. She wasn't in a hurry to chase after Dark Thunder. Instead, she was taking a roundabout route so that she could enter Lin Jingyan's desired area from the side. In this way, even though she would still have to fight in unfavorable terrain, Lin Jingyan wouldn't have the initiative.

She hadn't completely eliminated the disadvantage, but she had reduced it.

Lin Jingyan didn't have a good way to stop her. If he continued to try and restrict her movements, the referee would judge only him as being passive. Lin Jingyan dared to exploit the rules because he knew how the referee would judge the situation. In the end, he could only have Dark Thunder continue along his original path towards the region with limestones. Dark Thunder soon arrived there and hid behind a pile of limestone.

He had disappeared from Su Mucheng's view, but with Dancing Rain entering the region from the side, she could also hide herself using the limestones as cover.

Previously, the enemy would have known her location, while she would have been in the dark. Now, neither the enemy nor her knew her location. This was Su Mucheng's aim.

That was what practically everyone thought, but to their surprise, Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain began attacking before she even stepped into the region.

Boom boom boom!

Artillery fire roared.

What?

Everyone was confused.

By doing this, wouldn't the enemy know where she was, while she didn't know where the enemy was? Even if Lin Jingyan couldn't see her, he could get her approximate location through sound alone. Everyone thought that Su Mucheng would do the same as Lin Jingyan. Her character would enter the region and use the limestones as cover. Then, through her long range attacks, she would search for her opponent. But before she even reached the area, she started attacking.

These attacks wouldn't be able to reach Lin Jingyan. It wasn't a matter of whether or not he could be seen. Lin Jingyan could use the limestone as cover to protect himself.

What is she doing?

Everyone looked at Dancing Rain curiously. The limestone was quite sturdy. Her Launcher attacks were only able to break off small pieces of it a time, so it wasn't like she could just blast away all the obstacles there.

However, Dancing Rain continued to attack as she moved.

The sound of cannon fire and explosions were mixed together. Was she planning on making it so that Lin Jingyan wouldn't be able to find her through sound alone.

It did have a masking effect, but wasn't it just to hide her true location? What was the difference between doing this and going into the region silently?

After the camera switched to Lin Jingyan's perspective, everyone understood.

There was a difference!

With a silent infiltration, neither side would know each other's position. They could only slowly search for each other. It would be a matter of luck, and if she suddenly encountered her opponent in close range, it would be extremely bad for her Launcher.

But now, by taking the initiative to attack, she was exposing her own position, but at the same time, she was baiting Lin Jingyan into making a move. Lin Jingyan's judgement was extremely important. If he made a mistake, he would expose himself to Su Mucheng's attacks. However, if he could clearly figure out her position amidst all this loud noise, then he could directly get close to her.

This was a gamble!

She was betting on Lin Jingyan's ability to find her.

And so how was Lin Jingyan doing?

The camera switched to Lin Jingyan's perspective. The viewers could hear whatever Lin Jingyan was hearing. They tried to get a feel for distance and direction like what Lin Jingyan was doing. Soon, the normal players felt defeated. What was all this! The noise was everywhere. There was no way to tell what was what. But Lin Jingyan? His Dark Thunder moved precisely, and from their bird's eye view of the map, they could see that he was moving towards Dancing Rain's position. When they put the two together, they could see that he was also using the limestones as cover as he approached.

Perhaps it was a hard to get her precise location now, but as he got closer, it would be easier.

But at this moment, the battle had taken a turn that no one had expected.

Although the limestones didn't completely crumble under Dancing Rain's attacks, bits and pieces would chip off. Gradually, the dust from the limestone began to fill the air, becoming more and more dense.

"A smoke bomb..." Pan Lin blurted out. The visibility in this area was decreasing as time went on, and the approaching Dark Thunder was gradually being surrounded by this dust.

"This is part of Su Mucheng's plan too, right?" Pan Lin said.

"I... don't think so!" Li Yibo said. Because the dust was slowly accumulating, by the time they noticed it, the dust had already spread everywhere. Even though the dust hid her to some extent, it also hid the enemy. It was actually more unfavorable for the Launcher. Since it reduced her visibility, by the time she noticed her enemy, they would be at mid-distance and she wouldn't be able to display her long-ranged advantage.

This was definitely an accident.

Because she had to keep attacking the limestone relatively close to her, the situation had unknowingly turned out this way. The biggest proof was that she stopped firing. Su Mucheng clearly understood that she couldn't continue like this.

"Ah, random maps!" Li Yibo sighed. It was a situation brought about by random maps. The plan might be good, but there was no way to know everything about the map.

This was certainly a good opportunity for Lin Jingyan. After he discovered this point, he didn't hesitate for long. He used the dust as cover and had Dark Thunder dash towards Dancing Rain's approximate location.

Artillery fire could be heard again.

"What?" Seeing Dancing Rain suddenly attack again and seemingly faster too, Pan Lin was confused.

Too late!

Lin Jingyan had determined Dancing Rain's position because of the pause from Su Mucheng. It had probably been an instinctive pause. Su Mucheng quickly realized her mistake, so she started attacking more intensely than before.

But she was too late.

That pause was enough for Lin Jingyan to determine her precise location.

Launcher attacks weren't rapid-fire. After firing once, she had to reload. That was why she needed to mix in the sound of explosions to hide it. But by suddenly stopping, her final shot became incomparably clear, and Lin Jingyan grasped it.

Su Mucheng had realized it and hastily tried to cover for her mistake, but she was too late.

Dark Thunder suddenly appeared in front of her. The distance was only five units.

Charge!

No hesitation.

He couldn't miss such a rare opportunity. He needed to stick close and finish her.

Boom boom boom!

Dancing Rain immediately turned around and attacked.

Aerial Cannon, just like he expected!

Reinforced Iron Bones!

Dark Thunder immediately activated this Striker skill. The Super Armor protected him from being knocked back by the artillery shells. He took a wide step and launched himself from the ground, Powerful Knee Strike!

The knee strike was far faster than the retreating Dancing Rain. The distance between them was instantly wiped away, and with Reinforced Iron Bones activated, he wasn't affected by her attacks.

But he didn't want the knee strike to connect. He wanted to get close to Dancing Rain, not knock her away.

The instant he got close to her, he cancelled Powerful Knee Strike. His hands extended out.

Grab!

If he had been a Striker or a Grappler, this grab would have likely missed because the distance was rather far still. Their arms weren't long enough.

However, Brawlers were different. Brawlers could wear claws. Claws were the only Fighter weapons with a bit of reach. His two hands might not be able to grab onto Dancing Rain, but the claws on his hands could. His weapon, One Night Eight Desolates, extended his reach, making this distance just enough for him to land the grab. His claws latched onto Dancing Rain's shoulders.

Back Throw!

Lin Jingyan didn't use Fling. Instead, he used the sub Level 20 Grappler skill, Back Throw. The target would be thrown directly behind him, instead of far away.

The Back Throw was completed. Dark Thunder threw Dancing Rain behind him, but when he looked towards the ground, Lin Jingyan was stunned.

The dust from the limestone was very dense. He couldn't see the ground.

He couldn't see the ground...

Wait...

Lin Jingyan realized it too late! The two characters plunged into the lava.

Chapter 1544: Mounted Gun

Dark Thunder was still in the middle of his Back Throw. With his body bent, he fell into the lava along with Dancing Rain. The fiery-red lava rippled across the hazy ash.

Lin Jingyan's heart fell together with Dark Thunder.

Coincidence? Luck?

Of course not. The density of the ash in this area had to be much higher than in other areas to hide the lava like this. It was a smokescreen that Su Mucheng had intentionally set up.

It was a set up.

Everything was a set up.

The continuous attacks had been to hide her and to bait him to come over. The instinctive pause in her attacks and her haste to cover up her mistake had been an act. Everything had to be to lure Lin Jingyan into this trap.

Lava, lava again.

It was obvious that the lava dealt a lot of damage and shouldn't be touched, yet everyone who had participated in this group arena had fallen into it. Lin Jingyan felt like couldn't show his face.

Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain had fallen together with Dancing Rain though. The Back Throw would still take effect, which meant that Lin Jingyan could continue attacking her in the lava.

Fight!

Lin Jingyan came to a decision. It'd be better to struggle in the lava than escape. Similar to the high DPS fight between Ye Xiu and Han Wenqing, the lava was also an opportunity to deal massive amounts of damage.

Touch the ground and twist around.

Dark Thunder moved freely in the lava. The instant Dancing Rain was thrown to the bottom, he twisted his body.

Tyrannical Chain Punch!

Dark Thunder immediately started with a high-level skill.

The follow-up had been perfect. There was nothing Su Mucheng could do. Her original intention was obviously for Dark Thunder to fall into the lava, while Dancing Rain stayed on shore attacking him. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to fully achieve her goal. Lin Jingyan wasn't so easy to deal with. Even though he probably hadn't realized her plan at that time, his Back Throw had forced both of them to fall into the lava.

Su Mucheng wasn't completely unprepared for this possibility, but Lin Jingyan had already decided to abandon everything. After the Back Throw, he didn't hesitate to follow up with Tyrannical Chain Punch. This place happened to be a corner of the map. There was nowhere to run. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain could only take the attack.

Strike after strike landed, and the lava began to stir again.

Dark Thunder's health was dropping, but Dancing Rain, who was taking damage from both the lava and enemy attacks, was losing health faster.

Maybe he can win?

Some people saw the speed at which Dancing Rain's health was falling, and their eyes lit up. However, the experts didn't think so. Right now, the high DPS was because of Tyrannical Chain Punch. Brawlers didn't have ways to maintain this sort of damage output. This situation would only be temporary. Once the Tyrannical Chain Punch ended, it would end.

If this continued, there was no way Lin Jingyan could win. However, if he did well enough, he could deal a lot of damage to Dancing Rain. Lin Jingyan's firm resolution was quite worthy of admiration.

Boom!

The final hit of Tyrannical Chain Punch created a small crater in the lava. Finally, Dancing Rain was able to escape. The shockwave had knocked her to the side. Dark Thunder was in the middle of the ending animation of the attack. However, during this brief period of time, Dancing Rain was stunned and couldn't act either. It could be considered a sort of protection for the player who used Tyrannical Chain Punch.

It looks like everything depends on what happens next!

The experts in the crowd understood this point clearly. In theory, after using Tyrannical Chain Punch, it was possible to make any guaranteed follow-ups. As a result, whether or not the combo continued depended on the situation and the player.

Lin Jingyan needed to be on the offensive in order to deal as much damage as possible. Whether he succeeded would be the key to the outcome of this battle.

Paralysis Needle!

As soon as Dark Thunder could act again, a needle flew out.

Paralysis Needle paralyzed the target. With the crashing waves of lava all around, the needle was too small to see. After throwing out the needle, he rushed out. But with half of his body in the lava, the

amount of resistance from it wasn't small. The difference was that Dark Thunder had used another high-level skill.

Street Riot!

It was an offensive skill, but it could also be considered a support skill too. During Street Riot's duration, all mid- and low-level Brawler skills were buffed. In addition, the usual skill cooldowns were eliminated.

Powerful Knee Strike!

Dark Thunder used another skill. The lava split apart, and Dark Thunder shot towards Dancing Rain. His two hands weren't idle either. He threw out a brick with his left hand and sand with his right hand. In a short amount of time, he threw out who knew how many skills at Dancing Rain.

Hit!

Paralysis Needle hit, Brick hit, Sand Toss hit!

Dark Thunder was almost about to reach her, when a bright light suddenly shined from within the lava. Dancing Rain had quickly lifted her cannon and then fired at Dark Thunder.

It was a Quantum Bomb!

The light crashed towards Dark Thunder. At this distance and that speed, Lin Jingyan had no way to dodge.

The bright light engulfed him and then sent him flying. However, the powerful recoil didn't affect Dancing Rain. As the lava was pushed aside by the shockwave, they could see that Dancing Rain stood firmly on top of a support.

The Paralysis Needle had hit. The Brick had hit. The Sand Toss had also hit. Why did the Quantum Bomb not get interrupted?

Quantum Bomb had a powerful recoil, yet Dancing Rain didn't seem to be affected at all.

Everyone saw the reason for it.

Launcher Level 75 skill: Mounted Gun.

After the skill was used, the Launcher would be fixed to a spot unable to move. In exchange, the Launcher's attack power would be greatly increased and the Launcher's attacks could not be interrupted.

Su Mucheng had sneakily hidden a Mounted Gun underneath the lava. Lin Jingyan respected this play wholeheartedly. After blown back, Dark Thunder focused on Dancing Rain again. He saw the cannon on the Mounted Gun flash again.

Boom!

Another artillery shell shot towards Dancing Rain.

Damage from attacks and lava? That was what Lin Jingyan had been doing to Dancing Rain just before, and the blink of an eye, Su Mucheng returned the favor. With how much health Dancing Rain had, there was no chance for another opportunity to counterattack.

Glory!

Amidst the raging lava, Dark Thunder's health fell to zero. In the third round of the group arena, Happy's Su Mucheng won while losing 29% of her health. The Quantum Bomb parting the waves and revealing the Mounted Gun hidden beneath the lava was the biggest highlight of this match. The broadcast put on a replay of this scene. For the sake of appearances, since this was Tyranny's home stadium, a highlight showcasing the away team's might wouldn't be good to keep looping no matter how incredible it was.

Lin Jingyan walked down from the stage. In this all-important match, his performance was unsatisfactory to say the least. He had only taken out 7% of Lord Grim's health, which could even be considered as just 1%, and 29% of Dancing Rain's health. That was what he was able to achieve in today's group arena. The loss was big enough to lead to Tyranny's overall loss in the group arena.

Was that all?

He had gone all out and even tried to exploit a loophole in the rules. Even so, he had suffered a crushing defeat. Lin Jingyan felt extremely disappointed in the outcome and in himself.

However, the applause from the crowd had made Lin Jingyan feel somewhat astonished.

Tyranny's fans weren't the type to just toss aside the loser. Whether in victory or defeat, the battle was what mattered. As long as the player performed to their satisfaction, it was good in the hearts of Tyranny's fans.

But what about today's match?

Lin Jingyan was quite clear that his performance wasn't great. He had even done something that Tyranny's fans didn't like. Even so, why was the crowd applauding for him?

The applause couldn't be considered enthusiastic, after all, Tyranny's fans were still somewhat hesitant. Lin Jingyan didn't perform the way they liked, and the outcome left much to be desired. However, they still applauded for him because they recognized Lin Jingyan's efforts, especially in his final act, risking his life to try and pave the way for his teammates. Lin Jingyan was a part of Team Tyranny. He had tossed aside his honor for the sake of victory, for the tea's victory. This sort of mentality was worthy of being praised.

Even if he had used a few unpleasant methods, these details could be ignored!

Tyranny fan after Tyranny fan began opening their hearts. The applause became more and more fervent. When the applause thundered across the stadium, Lin Jingyan felt stunned as he walked back to this seat.

"Go Tyranny!" A loud cheer came from the crowd.

Lin Jingyan wasn't someone who was easily moved, but at this moment, he couldn't restrain himself anymore. These two matches had been quite depressing. Right now, no one wanted Tyranny to win more than he did.

“Go Tyranny!” Lin Jingyan suddenly roared to the crowd. It was a display of passion that had never appeared before in his career. On Happy’s side, his friend Fang Rui felt surprised seeing his excitement.

“Go go go!!!” Tyranny’s fans felt another surge of energy seeing his response. Lin Jingyan waved his hands as he shouted towards the crowd. The atmosphere of the crowd gradually followed along with him.

Tyranny’s next player had already stood up from his seat.

Zhang Jiale, Tyranny’s third general.

“Go!” As he walked towards the stage, he passed by Lin Jingyan and gave him a high five. They were passing on their desire to win.

Chapter 1545: Distance

When Zhang Jiale high-fived Lin Jingyan, the intensity of the crowd reached a peak. Zhang Jiale also waved his hands towards the audience. Then, he began calming himself down to steady his emotions.

Su Mucheng wasn’t someone who could be beaten just by being enthusiastic.

Su Mucheng had joined the Alliance in Season 4. In that sense, Zhang Jiale, who had joined in Season 2, could be considered her senior. The beginning of Season 4 was the when Ye Xiu and Excellent Era were at the peak, having won all three prior championships. However, several Excellent Era players had retired in that summer. Everyone was watching Excellent Era attentively, wondering whether they could fill in these gaps.

Then, Su Mucheng, a beautiful girl, entered their sights.

In terms of publicity, Excellent Era had succeeded.

Just having a female player join the team was enough to bring about much discussion from the public. But for pro players who cared about winning the championship trophy, whether or not this female player had the skill to back up her addition to the team was their main concern. She had to compete with those at the peak of Glory and stand alongside the most troublesome player in the competitive scene.

Soon afterwards, everyone quickly noticed the astonishing synergy between Su Mucheng and Ye Xiu. It was as if they had been practicing together as partners for many years. Later, they discovered that Su Mucheng and Ye Xiu had a long history together, so it made sense that the two would have a certain understanding of each other already. Some people even joked that Ye Xiu had truly deep schemes, raising a Glory partner for himself starting from when they were children.

From then on, the Golden Partners were born, and since it was a male and female duo, many people thought of them as lovers. There were even many pro players who were jealous. Partners with a girl, and a beautiful one at that, how could that bastard not be having the time of his life?

Unfortunately, despite being acclaimed as Glory’s Best Partners, they were unable to defend their championship title.

In Season 4, it could be blamed on the rookies not having enough experience. However, the ones who had stolen away Excellent Era's crown was a team that had been assisted by a rookie. The three peats, Excellent Era, had been eliminated by Tyranny. Under the protection from the rookie Zhang Xinjie, Tyranny overthrew Excellent Era's dynasty.

Then, Season 5, Season 6, Season 7...

Every year, the two remained as the Best Partners. There was no debate over it. Their synergy together was unmatched. But what about their achievements? Excellent Era was getting worse and worse each year.

As the core of the team, the Best Partners were the first to be picked at. The world had recognized Ye Xiu's incredible skill long ago. One Autumn Leaf still looked as powerful as ever. Then, the question became: did the issue lie in Su Mucheng?

As a result, controversy gradually surrounded Su Mucheng, and her looks seemed to be the main focus of the attacks. All sorts of malicious words were thrown at her, and to this day, the debate hadn't completely disappeared.

"If that really was the case, then things would be easy!"

The moment the two characters loaded into the map, Zhang Jiale had this thought.

Su Mucheng had changed. To players like Zhang Jiale, who had observed her as an opponent for many years, they could feel this change.

The former Su Mucheng focused on synergy and coordination with Ye Xiu. Because of this focus, her options would often lean more towards sentimentality than rationality. At the same time, it also made it so that she lacked autonomy. Of course, it wasn't to the point where the outside world would fault her for it, but the flaw still existed nonetheless.

This flaw had gradually begun to improve after Ye Xiu's retirement. She had lost the target of her coordination and synergy. She had lost her partner of many years. Perhaps Su Mucheng had no choice but to make adjustments. However, these adjustments had made her stronger. After joining Team Happy and returning to Ye Xiu's side, she didn't go back to the previous Su Mucheng, who only focused on synergy and coordination with Ye Xiu. She had assumed a completely new stance to fight alongside with Ye Xiu once again.

She was different. She was better!

Those familiar with Su Mucheng as an opponent quickly became aware of her improvement. As the season progressed, the skill that she displayed was becoming more and more formidable. It was because she was adapting to her new team. Even though Happy had Ye Xiu, the others were new teammates. It wasn't until she completely assimilated herself into this new environment would her true skill be displayed.

It had been an entire season and half the playoffs, yet no one knew if she had reached her peak. All they knew was that throughout this entire season, she had been constantly improving. Whether or not she had a breakthrough in the future was also uncertain.

They had noticed her evolution long ago, and they should have strangled it long ago!

Zhang Jiale sighed. The match had begun. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms played around with the ammunition clip of his gun as he rushed forward.

Su Mucheng didn't delay either. Dancing Rain set out quickly as well. The two were sprinting towards the center as if they wanted to be the first to reach it.

Encounter!

The two soon noticed each other. Even though both were long-ranged classes, Launchers had the highest range out of any class. Only the Sharpshooter's Thunder Snipe skill could outrange a Launcher's attacks. However, Sharpshooters couldn't just rely on this one skill to fight with Launchers. It was a high-level skill. Once it was used, it would be on a long cooldown and couldn't be spammed.

No class could contend with a Launcher's range. When fighting against a Launcher, the distance had to be pulled closer. The difference between classes was just how much distance.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms had not entered his effective firing range yet, when Dancing Rain had started attacking.

Boom!

Fire spouted out as the attacks arrived. But at such a far distance, there was quite a bit of time for him to dodge. At this distance, it usually wasn't too big of a problem for most classes to avoid Launcher attacks. However, when trying to close the distance, you could easily tell that with every step, the threat of the Launcher's attacks increased. When the firing line of the Launcher was reached, it became even more difficult to get past the heavy artillery fire.

Su Mucheng had let Tyranny experience a special skill from her, three intersecting firing lines. Tyranny had called it a "Snowflake" firing line.

Trying to break past Su Mucheng's firing line was extremely difficult. As a result, last round, Lin Jingyan didn't bother trying and took advantage of the ruleset.

What about Zhang Jiale?

After Dazzling Hundred Blossoms dodged Dancing Rain's attack, he threw a grenade, not far from him, just three steps away.

Boom, the grenade exploded. Fire and smoke lifted up limestone into the air. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms seemed to flicker and turn hazy in the light. Then, a second and third grenade followed.

The explosions overlapped, and Dazzling Hundred Blossoms disappeared. He was using his Hundred Blossoms style as cover while he approached.

Boom boom boom!

Explosions rang continuously. Light and shadow spread, making it impossible to figure out Dazzling Hundred Blossom's location. What's more, he wasn't moving in a straight line.

Ta ta ta ta ta!

Dancing Rain took out a Gatling Gun. Bullets flew and swept across the light.

“She knows a bit!”

Zhang Jiale saw the Gatling Gun and knew that Su Mucheng had done some research on his Hundred Blossoms style. After all, the two had fought against each other for many years. This time, they would be meeting in the playoffs. How could she not prepare herself for Zhang Jiale’s famed playstyle?

Unfortunately, it wasn’t enough!

If the Hundred Blossoms style could be destroyed so easily, how could it have become famous?

Dodge!

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms dodged the Gatling Gun’s bullets, and it didn’t seem to affect his own attacks in the slightest. In the blink of an eye, the wave of light pushed forward another length. Suddenly, the light burst out like fireworks. This final display was the most brilliant and the most blinding. In that instant, everyone watching in the stadium were bedazzled by the light.

This sudden blossoming was no longer to hide him. The thorn hidden by the cluster of flowers shot out.

Bang bang bang bang...

The automatic pistol’s firing speed was above the commonly used Sharpshooter revolver. Sharpshooters commonly used revolvers because they could dual wield, allowing them to fire twice as many shots. It was what allowed them to suppress other Gunner classes.

Sharpshooters could dual wield automatic pistols as well. It would give them astonishing firing speed, but very few chose to do so because automatic pistols were considered magic weapons. On the other hand, Spitfires often used automatic pistols precisely because most of their attacks dealt magic damage.

Ice Bullet!

The Ice Bullet dealt ice damage. Every bullet had a layer of dull blue light emanating from it. Frosty air floated around it. As the bullet flew forward, it left a trail of crystals.

One after the other...

In a short moment, innumerable trails had concentrated together. After the class advancement skill “Ammunition Expansion” was raised to max level, special one-time bullets like Ice Bullet could be stored up to 20 times. In an instant, all 20 bullets were let out. Kaka. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms finished switching ammunition clips. Before the light completely dissipated, he rushed out.

Bang bang bang bang bang... another round of gunfire. This time, the bullets left a fiery red trail: Blazing Bullets.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms had already entered his attack range, so he immediately launched his offense. Even though his firepower wasn’t as powerful as Launcher’s, he could attack much faster. His magic bullets would trigger special effects on contact as well. Zhang Jiale didn’t fear a fight at this distance.

As for Su Mucheng?

Kakaka and then a support fell to the ground. She placed her heavy cannon onto it, while she stood behind it, her two hands holding it stably.

She didn't run.

Su Mucheng had Dancing Rain use Mounted Gun again. Last round, she had hidden it in the lava and used it to destroy Lin Jingyan's plans. This time, she made no secret of it.

Wind began gathering around her cannon. Although the Ice Bullets hit her one after another, the wind roared out all at once!

It was another Level 75 skill.

Hurricane Cannon!

Chapter 1546: Consolidating an Advantage

Unyielding. There was no way to be more unyielding than this.

Not moving an inch, her cannon lined up perfectly. Su Mucheng welcomed Dazzling Hundred Blossoms head on.

Whoosh!

Hurricane Cannon flew out accompanied by high-pitched whistling. When Dazzling Hundred Blossoms fired his second round of attacks after reloading, his shots were all caught in the Hurricane Cannon and were blown off-course.

Zheng Jiale was astonished. He did not expect Su Mucheng to attack so forcefully.

Last round, there were tricks upon tricks. This round, she couldn't be more direct if she tried. Su Mucheng had become a player who could make an unwavering decision based on the current situation. She's freed herself of the shackles of excessive cooperation with Ye Xiu, and no longer had the slight cluelessness she used to have when Ye Xiu wasn't present.

Dodge!

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms, who was charging forward, had to dodge sideways. But how could Hurricane Cannon's power be so easily escaped? Dazzling Hundred Blossoms managed to avoid being hit directly, but was still caught in the twisting, cannonball-like hurricane. His body immediately staggered from the force.

Boom!

Cannonfire still rang out. Su Mucheng was clearly not going to give Zhang Jiale any time to catch his breath. Explosion after explosion followed. However, Zhang Jiale was also not one to be so easily stopped. Even though Dazzling Hundred Blossoms was shaken by the Hurricane Cannon, he still managed to control his character accurately while staggering.

Flash Bullet!

A Flash Bullet flew out, followed closely by a gunshot. Zheng Jiale did not wait for the Flash Bullet to hit the ground, and directly shot and blew it up mid-air.

Blinding light instantly flashed out. At this moment, even the spectators were dazzled by the bright flash. The broadcast cut quickly to Su Mucheng's first-person perspective. Everyone also hastily looked at the big screen, curious as to whether Su Mucheng was affected by this Flash Bullet.

She was somewhat, but not completely.

It seemed that Su Mucheng had immediately turned away when she noticed the Flash Bullet, but Zhang Jiale had been too quick in triggering the explosion. As a result, Dancing Rain was unable to avert her gaze entirely. In the end, even though she wasn't completely blinded, there was definitely some haziness in her view of the surroundings. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms, who was actively moving around, currently seemed like a hazy blur.

Another grenade was thrown.

What grenade was it?

Su Mucheng could only see a mosaic of pixels flying towards her, and had no chance to differentiate the type of grenade.

So she just completely ignored it, and simply continued to attack.

Under the effects of Mounted Gun, a character had no way to move from their position. Of course, the opponent also had no way to disrupt Dancing Rain's position. Therefore, Su Mucheng might as well not care which attack was coming at her, and just use attacks in response to Zhang Jiale.

Mutual attacks.

An extremely crude exchange of attacks.

On this side, Su Mucheng had completely abandoned attempting to dodge any attacks. What about Zhang Jiale's side? Dazzling Hundred Blossoms's movement was not restricted like Su Mucheng's was by Mounted Gun, but he had already advanced this far, and Su Mucheng was tanking all his attacks. In this situation, choosing to retreat would only be wasting his own health, while also surrendering the distance he's worked so hard to gain.

Attack for attack, blood for blood. At this time, there was no alternative. Su Mucheng had forced Zhang Jiale to have an exchange like this.

A Launcher using Mounted Gun clearly had heavier fire-power. Zhang Jiale did not let go of his advantage of free movement. If he simply stood still and traded with Mounted Gun, it wouldn't be any different from suicide.

This battle turned into a slugfest where neither combatant was willing to back down. But the outcome would really be decided by Zhang Jiale's ability to dodge attacks. For Dancing Rain who was using Mounted Gun, dodging was out of the question.

Bang bang bang!

Boom boom boom!

Endless gunshots, cannonfire and explosions resounded.

In the end, Su Mucheng lost.

This result could not be considered unexpected since Dancing Rain began the round with a health disadvantage. However, the difference was only 29%. It wasn't an overwhelming one. This kind of disadvantage could be wiped out with one successful combo.

But Su Mucheng decided not to do this. She resolutely exchanged health after meeting her opponent, which was disadvantageous for the side with lower health.

She did lose this round, but didn't actually lose in the overall picture.

Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms only had 21% of his life remaining.

71% to 79%. Su Mucheng came out slightly ahead. But in terms of the group arena, Happy was way ahead, and if they kept trading like this, they would be the victors in the group arena.

Su Mucheng managed to set a trap and deal with Lin Jingyan, and furthered the lead that Ye Xiu established against Tyranny. It would be hard for most people to miss out on an opportunity to further their lead when they already had an advantage. More kills meant more points. However, every new player in the group arena meant a potential reversal, especially for Tyranny who was richly experienced and strong-willed. It wasn't that easy to shake them up.

Thus, when battling Zhang Jiale, Su Mucheng did not greedily look to further their lead. Instead, she simply traded evenly.

A very wise strategy, and a very wise decision.

There didn't seem to be a big change in the difference in health. But as the number of players went down, if the health difference stayed the same, the lead would actually widen.

Happy still had three players on full health. Tyranny had two plus a one-fifth health Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

Who would Happy send out next?

Su Mucheng left the stage, but everyone was fixated on the players' area. The suspense for the next player was too much.

Mo Fan!

Mo Fan stood up on Happy's side.

As expected!

Everyone felt this way. Mo Fan had already become a staple player on Happy's group arena roster. His playstyle was also very suitable for the group arena.

"Good luck!" Su Mucheng smiled to Mo Fan as they met halfway from the stage.

“Mm.” Mo Fan nodded. Even a simple word from him had a very determined air to it.

Very soon, the fifth battle began. Mo Fan, who had full health, did not choose to charge forward at the start of the battle, and instead skirted around the edge of the map. The stadium instantly filled with boos. Mo Fan’s opponent Zhang Jiale only had 21% of his health remaining. In this situation, not fighting head-on would definitely be looked down upon by Tyranny fans.

But Mo Fan would never care about this. He would use the style he was familiar with, no matter the situation. However, there really weren’t many hiding spots on this map. After Zhang Jiale’s Dazzling Hundred Blossoms reached the middle of the map without finding anyone, he moved diagonally. It wasn’t long before he spotted Deception, moving on the other side of the lava.

“This kind of flank really isn’t very productive!” Pan Lin commented in the broadcast.

“Yes... due to the map being divided by the lava, there are very few options for movement routes. There are only so many in any general direction. Add on the fact that the areas are quite open and visible, flanking really wouldn’t achieve much.” Li Yibo said.

“But Mo Fan still insists on doing so,” Pan Lin said.

“Yep. He persists.” Li Yibo nodded his head.

Pan Lin was speechless. He meant for Li Yibo to further explain Mo Fan’s intentions. Turns out, he just confirmed the “Mo Fan still persists”. Why is he persisting? It’s your job to explain it!

Pan Lin cursed inwardly. But he also knew that Li Yibo must be uncertain and hesitant, and so didn’t speak up.

Deception was already exposed and within Dazzling Hundred Blossoms’s line of sight. He still didn’t approach and continued to circle around. Zhang Jiale also did not pursue directly, and had Dazzling Hundred Blossoms also circle around to intercept.

When Li Yibo saw Zhang Jiale’s reaction, he suddenly got an idea.

“Mo Fan probably wants to fight at the limestones.” Li Yibo said.

The limestones was where Su Mucheng and Lin Jingyan fought. Over there, the stacks of limestone was the only place on the map where there was a bit of cover in some spots. Mo Fan’s intentions were the same as Lin Jingyan’s. It was just that Lin Jingyan took advantage of the rules and forced his opponent over to the limestones, yet Mo Fan couldn’t care less and charged over by himself. What if Zhang Jiale just decided to ignore him?

This “what if” could be forgotten, because Zhang Jiale did not ignore him. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms and Deception were still far away from each other, but they were both running towards the same direction. The broadcast displayed a small bird’s-eye view of the battle, indicating Zhang Jiale’s intentions: Dazzling Hundred Blossoms would intercept him.

Fight head-on? Everyone was speculating.

A head-on fight would certainly be disadvantageous for Zhang Jiale, whose character had only 21% of his life left. But what about Mo Fan? That guy always snuck about and used ambushes, but in many people’s

eyes, he was more than skilled enough to fight head-on. The ones who did not understand Mo Fan's character all felt that his so-called "fireworks style" was superfluous. Why couldn't you just continue your explosive attacks? Why would you hit and run and come back for another hit? There's a limit to how prudent you can be!

But disdain was disdain; in the end, Mo Fan's style still caused people headaches. He grinded his opponents down by using his patience and repeatedly attacking and backing off. He sat tight when there was no good opportunity. Right now, Tyranny was behind and was anxious for a comeback. Meeting this type of opponent was incredibly suffocating.

"Ye Xiu is so obnoxious. Sending out this kind of guy in this kind of situation!" Tyranny's hate of Ye Xiu was deeply rooted and immovable within their hearts. Even at this time and place, they first turned their aggro onto Ye Xiu, who wasn't even on stage.

The two characters drew closer and closer. There was no doubt that Dazzling Hundred Blossoms would be able to intercept Deception. Of course, Mo Fan could see that the opponent was blocking his way. He continued to control Deception to charge forward. Was he attempting to charge through the interception, or to decide the outcome of the match right here?

Chapter 1547: A Clash of Skill and Technique

Zhang Jiale stared attentively at the approaching Deception and his two hands.

Reading the Ninja's attacks was the most effective method against Ninjas. According to their analysis of Mo Fan, they noticed that Mo Fan didn't tend to turn sideways to hide his hand seals like most Ninjas did. Perhaps this was related to how he often used sneak attacks.

But at this moment, Deception turned away slightly.

Just because he didn't often use it didn't mean he didn't use it. And what team was Mo Fan on? With teammates like Fang Rui and Ye Xiu, how could he not pick up on such a useful technique?

Sure enough, it was just wishful thinking! Zhang Jiale sighed. A team that could reach the semifinals in the playoffs wouldn't have anyone with such a glaring weakness.

Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms moved to the side to reach an angle where he could see Deception's hand movements. In practice, this forced the Ninja to act faster. The Ninja didn't want their opponent to know their next move, but at the same time, the Ninja couldn't just keep turning and turning to hide his hand movements. If the Ninja turned too far, they would lose sight of their opponent.

Instead, Deception followed along with Dazzling Hundred Blossoms and took a few steps to the side.

Zhang Jiale wouldn't be able to move laterally to widen his view. If he kept going, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms would jump right into the lava. The area here was rather narrow, so there wasn't too much else he could do.

Even now, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms was only two or three steps away from the lava, which was already quite nerve-wracking for the audience.

Deception suddenly made his move.

He spent all that time hiding his hand movements, but he ended up using a move that didn't require any hand seals.

Peng!

A cloud of purple smoke burst forth and spread outwards.

Ninja Tool – Smoke Bomb.

The purple smoke instantly swallowed Deception. The terrain didn't have any places to hide and set up sneak attacks, so Mo Fan set it up himself. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms was only two-three steps away from the lava. If Mo Fan used the Smoke Bomb as cover and landed a blow, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms would be knocked into the lava and the battle would be over!

This was what everyone thought at this moment.

These were Mo Fan's thoughts as well. He had used Smoke Bomb to obtain this opportunity for a single deciding blow. As the smoke from Smoke Bomb spread, Deception began to move. After joining the pro scene, he had slowly learned this technique. It was harder for the opponent to notice the Ninja's movements if the Ninja moved as the smoke spread. Waiting for the smoke bomb to fully spread out would give the Ninja more space to move, but at the same time, the flow of smoke was slow. If the Ninja moved too fast, the Ninja would disrupt the flow of the smoke, and an experienced player would be able to deduce the Ninja's location.

When moving inside Smoke Bomb, you had to move at the same speed as the smoke's expansion. In the competitive scene, there were countless details that needed to be accounted for. There were simply too many incredibly skilled players there, who would take advantage of even the slightest openings.

Mo Fan had good control over his movement speed. He matched the speed of the smoke, and gently made his way over as if he were smoke.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms!

Mo Fan didn't relax his guard, but at this moment, light blossomed all around the area two-three steps away from the lava.

The light instantly enshrouded Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

Should Mo Fan continue? Could he find Dazzling Hundred Blossoms within that blinding light and knock him into the lava?

If it were Tyranny's Han Wenqing playing, he would have definitely done this. But not Mo Fan. With the light blinding him, he wasn't certain he could do it. As a result, Deception stopped and waited quietly in the smoke for an opportunity.

He was an opportunist as well. Huang Shaotian was agile, fast, and decisive. Every move he made would certainly succeed. Mo Fan couldn't compare to Huang Shaotian in these areas, but he was more patient. He could watch as an opportunity slipped by, while maintaining a steady heart.

Just like now. Deception had stopped, and how could Dazzling Hundred Blossoms continue staying in such a dangerous position near the lava?

Many people felt that it was a pity losing this opportunity to knock Dazzling Hundred Blossoms into the lava. Many people thought Mo Fan should have followed through. Mo Fan' didn't feel that way though, and he didn't feel any regret.

On the other hand, Zhang Jiale was very regretful!

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms had put himself in this dangerous position as bait. He had thought up of four different ways to counterattack and send the approaching Deception into the lava instead.

However, Mo Fan gave up and didn't continue forward.

Was my Hundred Blossoms too excessive?

Zhang Jiale began reviewing the circumstances. But if I didn't do anything, wouldn't my bait be too obvious if I just stood there? I could continue having Dazzling Hundred Blossoms stay by the lava, but that would also let Mo Fan know that something was up.

It wasn't that my acting wasn't good enough, but rather, Mo Fan is too cautious!

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms left this dangerous position, but he couldn't keep up this light cover. The Hundred Blossoms style was very mana-hungry. In the past, it had been him and Sun Zheping. One of them traded mana, the other traded health. Their styles were actually very unsuited for group arena play. In the regular season, the group arena was between three players though, so it wasn't as obvious. But for the playoffs, with five players each in the group arena, trading health or mana for the opponent's health was quite awkward.

Five players made it so that the consumption of mana or health in a fight was more important than with three players.

After getting away from the lava, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms immediately launched his offense. The Smoke Bomb hadn't dispersed yet, so Zhang Jiale didn't know Deception's precise position. But his previous dangerous position should have been quite enticing. Even if Mo Fan gave up in the end, he had likely been tempted in the beginning. Therefore, Deception's position.

Light, push forward!

Zhang Jiale only needed to know his opponent's approximate location. The Hundred Blossoms wave of light covered an area even greater than what a Launcher could.

The light intruded into the smoke and raged through it, tearing the smoke apart.

A figure flickered from inside. Zhang Jiale quickly caught it and immediately started aiming towards there.

But the instant he turned, another figure immediately rushed out from the previous location.

It was a bait from Shadow Clone Technique!

Zhang Jiale was surprised, but he responded promptly. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms turned back, and his bullets blasted Deception into bits.

This time, Zhang Jiale was very surprised. It turned out that the one here was fake, and the other one was actually the real one!

He hastily tried to turn back again, but Deception had already arrived.

Now, Zhang Jiale only had time to throw an Implosion Grenade.

The powerful shockwave expanded outwards, and Deception was blown away. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms chased after him to continue attacking. This Implosion Grenade shockwave also disturbed the smoke even further. Now, several Deceptions could be seen.

It wasn't Shadow Clone Technique, but Shadow Dance!

Zhang Jiale had realized it. But he had just used Implosion Grenade, which was very annoying for Shadow Dance users. He couldn't use it again to destroy all of these clones.

The Deceptions rushed out in different directions and swarmed Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

It was true that the Hundred Blossom technique could cover a wide area and affect all of these clones, but expanding the area of effect would sacrifice the damage dealt per unit of area. While it was useful as a cover, it posed very little threat in terms of offensive prowess.

Focusing on a single point would allow him to quickly dispatch a clone, but it would be too late to deal with the others if he did that, especially when there were so many "others".

As a result...

Chaotic Grenades!

High-level skill against high-level skill. Chaotic Thunder against Shadow Dance.

Both of these skills required the player to control them. As a result, the effects of the skill depended on the player. It would be better to call it as a confrontation in technique than rather than skills.

All sorts of grenades flew out from Dazzling Hundred Blossom's hands. Impact, Timed, Poison Gas, and so on.

There was no time to rest. There was no time to think. Every action was instinctive. Were all of these grenades effective against the oncoming shadow clones?

Some were... some weren't...

Because Mo Fan was also controlling his clones.

Some of the grenades were dodged, some were not.

Amidst these successive explosions, Deception's shadow clones were able to reach Dazzling Hundred Blossoms in the end.

Ninja attacks were silent, but the blood that flew about was as brightly-colored as ever.

The scarlet blood was quickly engulfed by the flames, and then, new blood would take its place.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms was using long-ranged weapons to fight against an opponent in close combat. His character weaving in and out was similar to the Sharpshooter's Gun Fu.

But in the end, the farther the better.

After all, Spitfires didn't have martial skills like Sharpshooters did. Sharpshooters had a "Firearms Martial Arts" skill too, which greatly enhanced the Gun Fu playstyle.

Zhang Jiale had no way to completely rout Mo Fan, and Mo Fan had no way to completely suppress Zhang Jiale.

It was a stalemate, and if it continued, the winner would be decided by who had more health to start with.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms only had 21% of his health when he started, far lower than Deception. This amount of health wasn't enough for him to last long in a fight.

This sort of health wasn't good for this sort of clash between skill and technique, but he had no other choice.

When Dazzling Hundred Blossoms fell, the smoke and light that was left behind hadn't even completely dissipated yet.

Spitfires were considered the mages of the gunners, yet in the end, it became a clash at close quarters.

Even though Zhang Jiale had lost, his performance was brilliant.

"It was a brilliant match. I think everyone's only regret is the same as mine. It was just too short," Pan Lin sighed.

"Yes," Li Yibo also nodded his head. There was no need to analyze all the details in this fight. Both players had played spectacularly.

Chapter 1548: Impossible to Predict

Zhang Jiale walked down from the stage, while Mo Fan stayed. Deception still had 72% of his health left. 28% to trade for 21%. Happy held onto their lead.

Who would go up next for Tyranny?

People were used to watching the group arena in the playoffs by now. Everyone immediately looked towards the seats on the loser's side. There was no point looking at the big screen to see the upcoming player. The information would come from those seats first.

A player stood up.

Tyranny's fans clapped wildly, welcoming Zhang Jiale and cheering for the next player.

Qin Muyun.

The reliable fifth player alongside the four Gods of Tyranny had been sent up as the important anchor in the group arena. At this moment, everyone realized that besides Zhang Xinjie, whose Cleric wasn't suited for the group arena, the remaining three Gods of Tyranny, Han Wenqing, Lin Jingyan, and Zhang Jiale had been defeated.

They had always been the pillars of Tyranny! Yet despite these three players having played, Tyranny was still in a losing position. Now, it was up to Tyranny's remaining players to get them out of this predicament.

It wasn't that the fans didn't believe in the remaining players, but there was still a gap compared to those three. For a moment, they began to worry. All of a sudden, a bit of hesitation could be heard from their applause.

Those who weren't attentive enough might not notice this detail, but Qin Muyun was not one of them.

He could hear the worry from the applause.

He wasn't affected by it though. The more it was like this, the harder he needed to work. He wanted to show that he could sweep away these worries.

Qin Muyun walked onto the stage and entered the player booth. The match soon began.

On Happy's side, Chen Guo was feeling quite solemn. She could deeply feel that anything could happen in the playoffs. Even if Happy had a lead right now, she couldn't relax. When she saw Mo Fan's opponent, she felt even more anxious.

Enemies on a narrow road, an inevitable clash.

Mo Fan and Qin Muyun had met on stage again.

For a time, Mo Fan had been called the Godslayer. But in his previous two matches against Qin Muyun, he had lost badly. It wasn't just a matter of luck. Despite being a quiet player, Mo Fan would take the initiative to express his helplessness after the match. Qin Muyun was his bane. When they played, it felt like he had his hands bound.

Only three nights had passed since their last encounter. Even if Mo Fan had improved during these three days, it was unlikely for him to turn things around in such a short amount of time.

If you considered how the previous two matches between Qin Muyun and Mo Fan had gone, then Happy's lead would most likely disappear.

"Good luck..." Chen Guo clenched her fists.

The match began.

Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees rushed forward, while Mo Fan's Deception took a roundabout route. He did the same as last time, choosing the left path.

Because of the lava, there weren't very many routes in this map to choose from. As a result, when the two players noticed where the other had went, the start of the fight played out exactly the same as before.

Mo Fan continued to have Deception move forward. Qin Muyun made the same choice as Zhang Jiale. His Negative Nine Degrees look around. His pathing was the same as Dazzling Hundred Blossom's. There weren't any other choices on this map!

Deception was still that Deception.

Negative Nine Degrees' movement speed wasn't much different from Dazzling Hundred Blossoms'. In the end, the two combatants met in the same place.

However, this time, as soon as Deception was in range of Negative Nine Degrees, Qin Muyun immediately attacking. Gunfire spouted from his dual guns.

Bullets flew out.

Qin Muyun's outstanding positioning skills had received no small measure of praise. In the beginning, he had been ignored. His existence seemed so thin compared to the four Gods surrounding him.

In reality, Qin Muyun's strengths didn't only lay in positioning. Positioning was one weapon, but the basis for his consistency lay in his solid fundamentals.

Perhaps it was because of this reason that he had been ignored for some time. The fundamentals were the basics. It wasn't flashy. Even when he had his moments to shine, even experts would overlook it, let alone when there were four Gods stealing the spotlight.

But even for a stone that didn't shine, if it stayed there for long enough, it would be noticed.

Qin Muyun's ability was slowly discovered and recognized by everyone.

No one would ignore him anymore. Finding his hidden talents were even somewhat of a game for people now.

Just like now, he was moving while firing, yet his aim was extremely accurate. It was undoubtedly a show of his fundamentals.

Bullets flew. The aim was true.

For a player like Qin Muyun, there was no such thing as rashness. Every move had a clear purpose.

Peng! Purple smoke spread out.

Smoke Bomb. It was Smoke Bomb again. Mo Fan's first move was the same as the previous round.

However, his opponent was not the same.

His previous opponent had been Zhang Jiale, who had been at a health disadvantage. For Zhang Jiale to beat Mo Fan, he had to try and trap him. But Qin Muyun was different. He had more health than Deception, so he wasn't anxious at all. Seeing Deception's Smoke Bomb, he immediately had Negative Nine Degrees retreat. At the same time, he fired normal attacks towards the fog.

Bang bang bang, bang bang bang.

Bullets tore through the smoke. Thin trails appeared in the smoke. Qin Muiyun didn't seem to care whether they hit. Mo Fan wanted to use the smoke as cover, but his Deception had no way of reaching Negative Nine Degrees. Qin Muiyun kept a safe distance away.

Mo Fan didn't waste any time. Deception immediately rushed out from the smoke.

Qin Muiyun immediately adjusted his aim, but Deception was moving extremely fast.

Shining Arc! An Assassin skill. Ye Xiu's unspecialized often used it as a movement skill. Deception was using it in the same way.

Deception instantly traversed a length of distance. The bullets from Negative Nine Degrees missed.

Qin Muiyun didn't panic. Negative Nine Degrees' hands were as steady as ever as he retreated while firing back. Aerial Gun? It was a form of movement. And for a positioning expert like Qin Muiyun, his Aerial Gun technique was very skilled. His jumps backward and the recoil were paired perfectly. He would fire towards the ground as soon as he landed to maintain the maximum speed.

Suddenly, Deception completed a Shadow Clone Technique to instantly move forward, but there was still some distance between him and Negative Nine Degrees.

Deception formed a seal again!

His hands moved in a blur. By the time Qin Muiyun readjusted his aim, he finished the hand seal.

Deception had clearly taken a single step, yet his character moved nearly two steps.

Ninjutsu – Ground Shrinking Technique!

Another movement skill.

Shining Arc, Shadow Clone Technique, Ground Shrinking Technique! Three skills were used in rapid succession. A large amount of distance was instantly covered. It didn't seem like much, but when they saw where Deception had started, they were immediately shocked.

But what was more shocking was Qin Muiyun.

Deception had directly used three movement skills, as for him? His Negative Nine Degrees had only use an Aerial Gun. But after Deception used these three skills, the amount of distance closed wasn't enough.

In this chase, it wasn't merely a contest of speed.

Any movement started from picking a location and then moving there. A contest of movement was also a contest of positioning.

Qin Muiyun's Negative Nine Degrees moved very efficiently. As he maintained his maximum movement speed, he also made it difficult for his opponent to move efficiently.

Three movement skills weren't enough to catch up to Aerial Gun, but it didn't mean that it hadn't been possible. Deception had been restricted to a certain extent.

And at this distance, it didn't gain him much of an advantage. It could even be said that by being neither close nor far was more disadvantageous for him.

But it looked like Mo Fan still had hope. After the Ground Shrinking Technique, he formed another seal.

What Ninjutsu would it be this time?

Mo Fan's hands were too fast. Qin Muyun wasn't able to tell what skill he was using. Even so, Negative Nine Degrees continued to attack.

Bang bang bang...

The bullets all landed on Deception, surprisingly. The shots made him slide backwards, but then, with a poof, he turned into a straw man.

Ninjutsu – Substitution Technique!

His real body had moved ahead similar to Shadow Clone Technique. However, Shadow Clone Technique could allow him to move towards the target, wherever he wanted. But Substitution Technique was random. What direction it went or how much distance was covered was randomly chosen.

As a result, Substitution Technique wasn't a skill that could really be treated as a movement skill because it wasn't reliable.

But even if it wasn't reliable, it was possible!

A random direction and a random distance. What if luck got him to Negative Nine Degrees?

It was a gamble, a true gamble. No matter how experienced or how good you were at reads, it wasn't possible to predict where Deception would appear.

Because even he didn't know. No one would know.

Where would Deception appear?

The crowd gasped in astonishment. Empty Cicada Double Kill. Deception's two daggers had cut into Negative Nine Degrees.

Mo Fan's gamble was a success!

Deception appeared at an okay spot, but since there was no way to know where he would appear, Qin Muyun had no way to prepare. What was ordinarily an okay spot became that much more perfect as a result.

A silent attack from a Ninja, and it had hit!

Chapter 1549: Chance

Hua!

The crowd erupted.

How could he be so lucky! Countless Tyranny fans were filled with grief.

Luck was luck, but it couldn't be ignored. And at this moment, its importance was being displayed in front of everyone. He had been moved randomly to such a good spot. If it wasn't luck, what was it?

For life or death to be decided by luck, the losing side was the most helpless and the most unwilling. It's no wonder that Tyranny's fans were unhappy.

"How surprising! To think Mo Fan would make a gamble! Who would have thought?" Pan Lin also cried out. The deepest impression that they had of Mo Fan was his patience and perhaps excessive caution. Yet this sort of player had chosen a method that he didn't have a complete grasp of, betting on luck to succeed. It was truly unexpected.

But is that really the case?

At Tyranny's seats, Zhang Xinjie had marked out on his electronic pad the distance between Deception and Negative Nine Degrees when the Substitution Technique had been used.

He had drawn a circle showing the maximum distance that could be traversed using Substitution Technique. He split the circle into several small sections. The circles in red were areas that were dangerous for Negative Nine Degrees. The circles in yellow were areas that posed a threat. Blue represented areas where there was no threat. Black represented areas unfavorable for Deception.

With the Substitution Technique's range, the area in black was the smallest. The area in blue was the largest and then the yellow. Although the area in red was smaller than the area in yellow, it still took up around 15% of the total area. The area in black was only 8%.

It didn't matter whether or not Mo Fan had a high chance of reaching a good position, the chances of him getting into an unfavorable position was only 8%.

This Substitution Technique wasn't purely a gamble. With only an 8.2% of truly failing, there was in fact little risk for Mo Fan. In reality, this choice was very safe.

Mo Fan was still Mo Fan. He didn't make risky moves. Although he made a gamble, it was because it was in his favor. The chances of failure was less than 10%.

In the end, he got lucky!

Deception was able to close the distance between himself and his opponent. Once his Empty Cicada Double Kill landed, a combo was started. The distance between them was too close. Qin Muyun had no way of starting up his Gun Fu, which required a certain amount of distance and space.

Negative Nine Degrees kept trying to retreat. He was in quite the defensive position.

Deception stayed in close pursuit. Fireworks Style? It didn't appear! Mo Fan continued to have Deception attack relentlessly.

This was the difference between Mo Fan now and the Mo Fan of the past. Instead of immediately retreating as soon as his threat was starting to give out, he persevered. He recognized that there were many areas where he couldn't compete with Qin Muyun. Facing an all-rounded opponent like Qin Muyun, it was very difficult to repeatedly employ his signature Fireworks Style in this sort of map. Perhaps this was his only chance. He had no choice. He could only surpass his limits and continue ahead.

How long could he last?

Those who truly understood Mo Fan's style were wondering about this question. And this included Qin Muyun.

Mo Fan's style was very distinct. Deconstructing someone with such distinct characteristics was easier. It wasn't a style that could easily be overlooked, unlike Qin Muyun's fundamental-heavy style.

In terms of playstyle and upbringing, these two were on opposite ends.

Mo Fan had taken a gamble to break through Qin Muyun's defenses. As for Qin Muyun? Even though he was in a passive position at the moment, he was calm because he knew that Mo Fan wasn't good at keeping up a long assault. Perhaps it was an issue of focus or an issue with his technique, but in either case, there was no need to panic. An opportunity would appear.

Persist!

Both players were thinking the same thing.

What a strange feeling.

Mo Fan started to feel numb. His mind seemed to come to a standstill. All he could see in front of him was Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees. Everything else had become a haze. His fingers were moving, but he didn't know what they were doing. Sometimes, Mo Fan only realized what skills he had after using them.

His thoughts were starting to have trouble keeping up with his actions.

Chance!

Qin Muyun finally saw an opportunity. Negative Nine Degrees struck with his knee, while his other leg slid backwards, instantly pulling the distance apart.

With a bang, Qin Muyun immediately began his counterattack.

Everyone was stunned!

They hadn't seen any signs of it coming. Hadn't Deception been playing well?

But nevertheless, Qin Muyun had taken back the initiative.

With their positions suddenly reversed, Mo Fan was having trouble adjusting.

He wasn't very good at defending. His expertise was at escaping.

But trying to completely escape from a Gunner's attacks was quite troublesome. Gunners had a very long range.

From this perspective, Mo Fan's Fireworks style was rather hard to use against long-ranged classes. Pulling apart the distance and retreating was exactly what long-ranged classes wanted you to do.

When playing against long-ranged classes, it wasn't a good idea to try and completely escape from the opponent's attacks and then coming back. It was giving up space, allowing the opponent to set up

barriers. Facing long-ranged classes, close combat suppression was king. Even the Fireworks style could not stray from this principle.

But Mo Fan wasn't doing this. His Deception began to run away. It looked as if he was only going to be happy when he completely escaped from Negative Nine Degrees.

"I don't think... that's a good idea?" Pan Lin said.

"He had already closed the distance with Negative Nine Degrees. He shouldn't have given up so easily. Mo Fan is still lacking in experience!" Li Yibo agreed with Pan Lin's judgement.

Mo Fan wanted to run, but Qin Muyun wasn't going to let him go so easily. Negative Nine Degrees chased after Deception closely.

Mo Fan had no way of completely escaping. At this distance, Deception had no way of making any counter attacks against Negative Nine Degrees. He had taken the initiative to pull apart the distance between them. Qin Muyun was glad to see it happen and didn't try to block him too hard. Right now, Mo Fan could only be bullied. Pan Lin and Li Yibo felt extremely proud of their foresight and kept talking about it on the broadcast.

But... even though Mo Fan was on the backfoot, Qin Muyun's offense wasn't anything impressive.

Deception moved nimbly, dodging and weaving the gunfire from Negative Nine Degrees. He wasn't able to escape from Qin Muyun, but Qin Muyun had no way to kill him.

Mo Fan's skill, trained from running for his life in huge chaotic wars, was being put on display in this 1v1.

Not only was this distance uncomfortable for Qin Muyun, Mo Fan was at ease dodging the incoming attacks.

I need to get closer!

For long-ranged attackers, the farther away they were, the lower the chances of hitting the target. This distance couldn't be considered as far, but Mo Fan's skill at dodging made it much harder to hit him.

Qin Muyun began having Negative Nine Degrees press a bit closer. Suddenly, Mo Fan's Deception turned around and dashed towards him.

Shining Cut!

With this Assassin skill, Deception had instantly traversed a length of distance. Qin Muyun, who had Negative Nine Degrees press forward, felt that something was wrong.

This distance was too close!

Attack, leap backwards.

Qin Muyun had wanted to close the distance a split second ago, and now he wanted to pull away.

But this time, Mo Fan didn't retreat. After Shining Cut, he used Shadow Clone Technique...

Something isn't right.

Qin Muyun stared blankly. This scene felt like déjà vu!

But he continued to have Negative Nine Degrees retreat, while controlling the distance between the two of them.

Ground Shrinking Technique!

This skill again.

Qin Muyun knew what was going to happen next. It was the same strategy as before.

Qin Muyun tried to block him, but failed. After Ground Shrinking Technique was Substitution Technique.

Where!

The usually steady and calm Qin Muyun started to panic. Negative Nine Degrees spun around.

This time, he wasn't as unlucky. The position that the Substitution Technique had sent Deception wasn't dangerous for him. However, Qin Muyun didn't have any advantages either. Just like what Zhang Xinjie analyzed, the chances of Deception being placed in a bad position was only 8%.

This time, he didn't win any opportunities, but he didn't lose out. It basically amounted to nothing happening.

Mo Fan's Deception immediately began to retreat, while Qin Muyun's Negative Nine Degrees immediately pressed forward.

Attack, dodge...

Qin Muyun knew why Mo Fan wanted to run away before and why Mo Fan didn't continue pressing him.

Because for Mo Fan, he had a better grasp of running and dodging than approaching and pressuring.

As he dodged, he waited for an opportunity for him to start a new round of gambling.

It sounded somewhat ridiculous.

He had already gotten close, yet he was insisting on retreating and then going through so much effort to get close again...

But that was Mo Fan's style. It was what he was in control of. He wasn't good at keeping close. He was good at burst attacks. Even if he tried to persist, it would end up being broken in the end and then he would be counterattacked. When that happened, he would have to run away, and that was exactly what he was best at.

Then, he turned around, re-established his position in close combat, his burst combos, and his stubbornness.

It was the same Fireworks style.

Mo Fan hadn't changed. He didn't bet on luck or do things by flukes. He used his terrifying patience and his own familiar methods to create this strategy of chance.

In the sixth round of the group arena, Happy's Mo Fan won.

He had tried a total of twelve times. Three successes, seven resets, and two interrupted by Qin Muyun...

Chapter 1550: Last Hope

Amidst a rain of bullets, Mo Fan repeatedly ran and dodged a total of twelve times. Two times he was interrupted. Seven times nothing came of it. However, he succeeded three times, and the battle ended in Mo Fan's victory.

The audience didn't know how to feel regardless if they supported Tyranny or Happy.

Mo Fan's performance couldn't be described as good or bad. His stubbornness seemed ridiculous, yet in the end, he was able to drag down Qin Muyun through patience and perseverance.

You might not like this sort of person, but you had no choice but to recognize his achievements.

Qin Muyun came down from the stage.

His opponent had used the exact same strategy twelve times to win. It sounded like a joke, but no one would think Qin Muyun played badly.

Qin Muyun played as steady as ever. As a player who had come from Tyranny's training camp and been trained meticulously, there was no way he would just let Mo Fan repeatedly use the same strategy over and over again. After realizing Mo Fan's intentions, he had kept trying to thwart Mo Fan's plans or directly kill him.

However many times Mo Fan repeated the strategy was however many times he had tried to thwart it.

He lost. That was the outcome, but no one could criticize him for it because no one knew how he was supposed to have won. Qin Muyun had done everything they could think of.

It was an outcome that couldn't be explained through common sense. Everyone was silent as they watched Qin Muyun return to Tyranny's seats.

Tyranny only had one player left. As for Happy? Apart from Mo Fan, they still had two players remaining. Their lead was enormous.

After recognizing the situation, Happy's fans finally recovered and began rooting for their team.

As for Tyranny's fans? They knew that the situation was extremely unfavorable for them, but they couldn't give up hope. They had to hope for a miracle. Even if they couldn't, they had to let Happy know that their conviction wouldn't be shaken even in this sort of situation.

Who would be Tyranny's last player?

The crowd watched attentively as a slim youth stood up from Tyranny's seats.

Song Qiying.

Tyranny's rookie this season. The person who would inherit Tyranny's future. At this moment, he had become Tyranny's last hope.

Even though a loss in the group arena didn't mean the match was over, it was an incredibly important moment. Song Qiying's performance would set the momentum in the following team competition.

Just thinking about it made many people feel extremely nervous. Song Qiying stepped forward and set his sights on the stage.

"I definitely won't let your efforts go to waste," he said firmly.

Just because they were behind didn't mean that the efforts from the others on Tyranny were for nothing. Song Qiying wasn't only referring to their efforts in the group arena, but their efforts over this entire season and these ten years.

Team Tyranny's fifth player was Song Qiying. Class – Striker. Character – River Sunset.

The electronic screen displayed the results of the previous match before putting up the information on Tyranny's next player. Even though everyone already knew who it was, all of Tyranny's fans stared at the name on the screen.

At this moment, Song Qiying had become the symbol of Tyranny. Everyone was certain that this youth would hold up Tyranny for another ten years.

Steady. Never retreating.

The seventh round in the group arena.

Happy's Mo Fan versus Tyranny's final player, Song Qiying.

The battle began.

Song Qiying chose the middle road, and River Sunset cut across directly to the center.

Mo Fan took a roundabout route just like in the previous two fights.

At this point, was he still planning on being so stubborn?

The camera stopped on Deception. The traces of the previous battle could still be seen on him. Qin Muyun had put up a fierce fight even if he had ended up losing. He had dealt a considerable amount of damage to Mo Fan.

4%.

At this moment, Deception only had 4% of his health left. The outcome of this match was a foregone conclusion. But they felt like that if it was Mo Fan, he would certainly do something unexpected even if his character was nearly dead.

The course of events went the same way as the previous two battles.

Even though Song Qiying's River Sunset wasn't a long-ranged class, his vision was the same as there's. When it was about time, he noticed Deception. Then, he didn't hesitate to turn around and rush over in that direction.

It was the same as before!

Everyone thought to themselves. Mo Fan had played on this map against two opponents. He was certainly much more familiar with the map than Song Qiyong. Would he take advantage of the terrain in some way? With only 4% of his health, would he actually be able to take out Song Qiyong?

The audience was thinking of Mo Fan as some sort of monster, even daring to think that he could beat Song Qiyong with only 4% of his health left. Let alone Deception's health, Deception barely even had any mana left. In the last fight, he had went back and forth with Qin Muyun twelve times. How could he not have expended an extraordinary amount of mana? Deception didn't have enough mana to kill a full-health character.

But then again, it wasn't without logic. There was lava, no?

It's starting!

The two characters approaching each other. This time, the one with the attack range advantage was Deception. As a result, he was the first to attack. After throwing a Shuriken, Deception wasn't in a hurry to continue forward. Against long-ranged classes, closing in on the opponent was fatal. Against Strikers, it was the opposite. If it wasn't from a sneak attack, then directly confronting a Striker was the same as sending yourself to death.

Deception wasn't in a hurry to approach. River Sunset didn't slow down though. He tilted his body to the side to dodge the Shuriken and sprinted forward. In the blink of an eye, his fists swung towards Deception.

Deception swiftly retreated. Mo Fan clearly didn't want a direct fight with Song Qiyong. However, Song Qiyong's advance didn't stop. River Sunset stepped forward in pursuit, while Deception continued to retreat. Not long afterwards, he was forced to the edge of the lava.

Double Tiger Palm!

River Sunset's two arms shot out, blocking Deception's path to the left and right. Behind was lava, but if he didn't dodge, he would be pushed into the lava.

In the end, Mo Fan made one last struggle. Deception made feints left and right, then suddenly turned right.

Unfortunately Song Qiyong wasn't tricked. His Double Tiger Palm didn't leave any openings.

Pa!

A hit. Deception poofed into smoke.

Oh oh oh!

All sorts of cries came out.

The feint to the left had been a feint. The feint to the right was a feint as well, but its true purpose was to hide his hand movements.

Shadow Clone Technique!

After his real body appeared behind River Sunset, with just a push, he could send River Sunset into the lava.

Deception kicked out, Annihilation!

As for River Sunset? Using the momentum from Double Tiger Palm, his body jumped up, Whirlwind Kick!

Bang bang!

Two sounds.

Annihilation was extremely fast. It arrived at River Sunset first, but River Sunset was already moving backwards. In the end, the Whirlwind Kick had struck Deception as well.

Tong!

River Sunset fell into the lava, but Deception had lost his last remaining health from the Whirlwind Kick.

Even though River Sunset had fallen into the lava, he had already won. His health was locked into place, and the lava would not hurt him any further.

Sigh!

At this moment, quite a few people felt for Mo Fan. If he had been able to dodge it, then his performance today would have been even more perfect.

The seventh round of the group arena ended with sighs. Most of these sighs didn't come from the people in the crowd though, since most of those people were Tyranny fans.

"Beautiful!" They were cheering for their young general, Song Qiyong. When Deception had used Shadow Clone Technique, they had been very worried. But at the critical juncture, Song Qiyong's River Sunset executed a beautiful and precise Whirlwind Kick.

How courageous! Truly deserving of Tyranny's future.

"Keep winning!" They shouted.

Happy's fourth player stood up.

Fang Rui, the dirty Fang Rui. For rookies, he was the most difficult player to deal with. Rookies with weak willpower would sometimes even lose their confidence facing this sort of opponent.

Although Song Qiyong wouldn't go so far as to be afraid, it truly was unlucky for him to encounter Fang Rui here.

No, it couldn't be said to be luck. Fang Rui had been chosen by Happy to come up. Perhaps it was to target a rookie like Song Qiyong.

Fang Rui's footsteps were gentle and light as if he were under no pressure. He winked at Mo Fan and said a few words as they passed by. Unfortunately, Mo Fan simply walked by him expressionlessly. This was exactly what the phrase giving the cold-shoulder described*.

Fang Rui didn't seem to mind. As he walked onto the stage, he even said a few words to the referee. Soon, the match began.

"Friend, is there anything meaningful that you want to chat about today?"

And the trash talk began as well.

Tyranny's fans looked at Fang Rui disdainfully. Although from his words, it sounded like there was some background to it.

Those with good memory immediately thought of the fourth round of this season when Tyranny faced Happy in their away game. That round, Song Qiying had also met with Fang Rui. While Fang Rui was chattering non-stop, Song Qiying responded with a "I won't respond to anything that's meaningless" and then ignored Fang Rui.

To think Fang Rui would actually remember those words. It seemed like his trash talk even needed some history to spice it up.

The master of playing dirty was truly diligent.

As for Song Qiying's reply today?

"I'm going to win!" It was just three words.