

Avatar 1551

Chapter 1551: An Unexpected Counter

I will win!

This declaration could not be anymore sincere. It was what all pro players seeked. These three plain and simple words didn't give rise to much of a reaction though.

Fang Rui laughed indifferently: "Haha, you'll win? You haven't asked me yet!"

No answer.

Sure enough, Song Qiyong acted the same way as he did in the fourth round of the regular season. He ignored any meaningless words.

But just because he ignored them didn't mean that he didn't see them. Last time, Fang Rui didn't stop talking just because he was ignored, and it was the same this time. His trash talk wasn't as dense as Huang Shaotian's, but his ability to provoke people was no worse.

Would Song Qiyong be affected by his trash talk?

No one knew. They could only see that Song Qiyong's River Sunset continued with the decision that he had made in the beginning and kept moving forward. Soon, the two characters met in the center. Fang Rui had also chosen to cut straight to the center.

Strikers could only fight at a close range, but Qi Masters had decent mid-ranged options.

Thus, the first to act was Fang Rui.

Qi Bullet!

The damage dealt by this skill wasn't high, and it didn't have any crowd control effects. It was mostly used as a harassment skill to probe how the opponent would react. Fang Rui often aimed this skill directly at the opponent's face. Then, by taking advantage of the Qi Bullet blocking the opponent's vision, he would follow with another attack.

This time was no exception.

The Qi Bullet flew directly towards River Sunset's face. Fang Rui quickly predicted where his Song Qiyong's dead angles would be located as well as what he might do in response.

Move!

Boundless Sea immediately moved into a different position and followed with another attack.

Then, he saw River Sunset swing his fists.

Pa!

The Qi Bullet suddenly exploded into a hazy mist. The dead angle that Fang Rui had originally anticipated was now no longer a dead angle.

Song Qiying's River Sunset had unexpectedly used a Qi Bullet too. He fired it at Boundless Sea's Qi Bullet, blocking it.

"You'll even bicker with your senior over something like this?" Fang Rui had lost his opportunity to seize the initiative, but he wasn't going to miss an opportunity to talk trash. His plan had clearly been disrupted, but he sounded like everything was going as expected. Just when he found a new angle to attack from, he saw a fist quickly pierce through the haze.

Pa!

The punch hadn't landed yet, but the impact between the fist and the air let out a crisp ring. River Sunset had stepped forward and used a Collapsing Fist right in front of Boundless Sea.

Fang Rui was startled and immediately had Boundless Sea stop. The Collapsing Fist had been on point. The timing and placement had predicted Fang Rui's actions perfectly. Boundless Sea had nearly walked right into the punch.

A coincidence?

As soon as Fang Rui had this thought, he immediately knew that it wasn't a coincidence.

Because River Sunset had followed with another punch. Such fluid and decisive movements didn't seem like something he had come up with on the spot. This was a well-practiced sequence of movements.

The other side had specifically practiced for his Qi Bullet!

Fang Rui realized this point and felt even more surprised. To put it simply, the Qi Master technique that he had created was difficult to execute with meager results. Up until now, apart from him, no other Qi Master had bothered to learn it. It wasn't because Qi Masters looked down on Fang Rui's dirty methods, but rather that it wasn't anything incredible. It was just a small trick. Spending so much time to study and practice a small trick wasn't worth it.

However, the Tyranny player in front of him had specifically practiced to counter this small trick.

This wasn't a situation that Fang Rui had anticipated.

It was a very difficult but not very effective trick that other players didn't bother to learn. However, Fang Rui was happy to do so. This was where his cunning lay.

It was precisely because this small trick was troublesome to learn that Fang Rui was certain that no one would study and analyze it too deeply. Because of this reason, the effectiveness of the trick became much greater.

But right now, this young Tyranny player had unexpectedly analyzed it and come up with a counter. Fang Rui was surprised. The thoughts of the new generation... was he not able to see through them?

Cloud Body, Straight Punch, Stomach Kick...

River Sunset completed all of these attacks in one breath. Fang Rui hadn't expected anyone to study and come up with a counter to his trick. This time, it backfired on him. After his trick failed him, he was now in a very disadvantageous position. Under River Sunset's fierce assault, he had no choice but to retreat.

Trash talk? Right now, Fang Rui really wanted to, but he didn't have the time!

Four classes comprised the Fighter superclass. Qi Masters were the weakest out of them in close combat capabilities. Now that River Sunset had completely closed the distance between them, Boundless Sea was in a precarious situation. Many Qi Master skills required cast times to gather up qi. With a Striker punching and kicking him, how could he have any time to prep any skills?

Fang Rui could only have Boundless Sea swing his fists as well, dodging, blocking, and waiting for an opening.

But River Sunset's attacks were tight-knit and thought-out. His rhythm was on point. There was no opening to be seen. Song Qiying didn't look like a rookie. Of the Strikers in the pro circle, even Strikers who had played the class for three years might not be able to do this.

This is bad!

This is very bad!

I'm not going to lose like this, am I?

Fang Rui had thought of the worst-case scenario. If River Sunset could keep this up, there was no way for him to take back the initiative.

Retreat.

Retreat, retreat. Soon, Boundless Sea had nowhere to run to. Behind him was boiling lava.

Am I really not able to do anything?

Fang Rui was furious, but who could he blame?

He had put himself into this predicament. He hadn't underestimated Song Qiying, but he hadn't thought of him highly enough.

After his Qi Bullet trick was broken through, he had even added in a few words to taunt him. It was because of these extra words that he had lost too much focus. If he had been paying more attention to his opponent's actions, perhaps he might have noticed River Sunset's attack.

If he had noticed it just a bit earlier, perhaps he wouldn't be in this situation.

Unfortunately, the present Fang Rui had no choice but to solve the issue of Song Qiying forcing him into the lava if he wasn't able to break out.

Left, right, front, above...

Was there really no way out?

The options available to him seemed to be covered by River Sunset's attacks.

Pa!

River Sunset finally landed a punch. In the end, it was because Fang Rui was unable to find an opening and had no way to dodge the punch.

He kept leaning backwards. Previously, he could step back to steady himself again.

But if he stepped back now, he would step into lava and take massive amounts of damage.

However, from the perspective of the viewers, whether or not he took the step didn't make much of a difference. There was only one possibility: Boundless Sea would fall into the lava. If Song Qiying defended the shore, he would likely win with a huge lead. If that happened, the likelihood of him beating Happy's next player increased drastically. A comeback from Tyranny didn't seem so impossible anymore.

For a moment, all of the Tyranny fans were thinking of this scenario. To them, this fight was already over.

In the end, Boundless Sea took the step backwards. Facing this sort of attack, any pro player would instinctively retreat to try and avoid the follow-ups.

Only the lava was behind him though, and Boundless Sea slid into the lava.

"Oh oh oh oh!" The Tyranny crowd gave their victory cheer. They thought that the fight was over.

But very very few people noticed that as Boundless Sea fell, his two arms extended out in front of him. After the lower half of his body sunk into the lava, he slammed his hands down on the ground.

Landmine Quake!

Facing a dire situation, Fang Rui made a sudden move in response to River Sunset's attack. As he fell, he made his counterattack.

His two palms slammed into the ground, sending out a powerful shockwave. River Sunset, who was standing right in front, would take the brunt of it. Fang Rui was planning on using this opportunity to get out of the lava.

But before Boundless Sea could even jump, River Sunset was already in the air.

Everyone had already thought that Song Qiying's victory was set in stone. Song Qiying didn't think the same though. His opponent still had 63% of his health left. How was his victory set in stone?

He continued to closely follow Boundless Sea's movements. Very few people had noticed Boundless Sea extending out his arms as he fell, but Song Qiying was one of them.

When the Landmine Quake came down, River Sunset jumped up.

Then, Thousand Ton Drop!

Landmine Quake's shockwave would damage River Sunset, it wouldn't be able to knock him away because of the Thousand Ton Drop. River Sunset was like a mountain as he pressed down, blocking Boundless Sea's escape. From this close distance, Fang Rui could see this young character clearly, while his surroundings seemed to lose their color.

The eight round of the group arena. Fang Rui lost, Song Qiying won.

It wasn't close either.

Tyranny had already been celebrating long beforehand. The victory from Song Qiyi instantly brought Tyranny back from the brink of death. After his fight with Fang Rui, River Sunset still had 79% of his health left. He definitely had a chance of beating Happy's final player.

With Tyranny's fans riled up, they began booing at their opponents. Because Happy's previous few players had played spectacularly, they had no way to boo them. But with Fang Rui, they had an opportunity. Even though Lin Jingyan hadn't done too well on his turn, they could at least accept his efforts. But Fang Rui? All they saw was a careless fool. Maybe that was a method of getting the opponent to become numb to his feints, but in this match, it was the reason why he had lost.

Fang Rui returned to Happy's seats amidst the boos.

Fang Rui's expression seemed somewhat unnatural when he faced his teammates.

"You suck. You got destroyed by a rookie," Ye Xiu was merciless.

"Disgusting," Wei Chen followed.

"In these situations, the only way you'll be forgiven is if you go on your knees and beg for mercy," Steamed Bun also added. He wasn't really talking to Fang Rui though. He was talking to Qiao Yifan, Luo Ji, and An Wenyi, the other rookies. It was more like him watching a show and making a comment.

"Fuck, it wasn't that bad!" Fang Rui said, "I'll go to a corner and reflect back on what happened." After saying these words, he put his hands behind his head and crouched down at the corner, reviewing the fight.

"Hey, this..." Chen Guo felt like it wasn't quite appropriate.

"Let him reflect on it!" Ye Xiu didn't stop him. Instead, he looked towards Happy's final player. Their huge lead had been reduced to this extent. The side being caught up would be under great pressure.

But Happy's next player didn't seem to mind.

"It's finally my turn!" Tang Rou exclaimed.

Chapter 1552: Wrestling Along the Shore

Tang Rou walked onto the stage.

Tyranny's fans very much admired this controversial player. Her style possessed the fearlessness that they liked to see. In comparison, while their rookies, Qin Muyun and Song Qiyi, were outstanding as well, they never felt quite right.

Right now, Tang Rou would be playing against Song Qiyi in the group arena's final battle. How could they root against him and destroy their own morale? As Tang Rou walked to the stage, she was met with much noise.

Tang Rou ignored them. After the referee went over how she would leave the stage after the group arena was over, she went into the designated player booth.

It was the deciding battle. If she won, she would put a halt to the opponent's momentum. All of these factors only made Tang Rou's fighting spirit rise even higher. What's more, the two had fought the deciding battle in last round's group arena. In that match, Tang Rou's Soft Mist had started with less health. Even though she was able to catch up quite a bit, in the end, she still lost to Song Qiyong.

What about this round? Song Qiyong's River Sunset had 79% of his health left. This time, it was Song Qiyong who would be starting with less health.

In the past, Tang Rou wouldn't have cared about her lead. But now, after experiencing the pro scene for herself and seeing how hard the pro players worked for the sake of winning, Tang Rou could no longer be indifferent about it.

Because this victory no longer concerned just herself. This lead had been earned through the efforts of the four previous players. Indifferent? That would be disrespectful to their efforts.

She couldn't ignore this lead. She should try her hardest to protect it!

As soon as the match began, Tang Rou's Soft Mist rushed out. She went straight for the center like Fang Rui did last round. However, in comparison to Fang Rui, everyone felt like Tang Rou had a different energy to her. Tang Rou's Battle Mage looked grand and imposing. On the other hand, Fang Rui's Qi Master had been ruined. His Qi Master looked like he was dying.

Applause!

Happy's fans wanted to show their support in this deciding round and started cheering for their team. But in the blink of an eye, Tyranny's fans overwhelmed them with their cheers for Song Qiyong.

Song Qiyong also went straight for the center.

The lava covered a large portion of the map, and because of how open the terrain was, taking a roundabout path didn't have much value. Song Qiyong wasn't a player who liked to beat around the bush. There didn't seem to be any reason for him to circle around even if he only had a fifth of his health left.

Soon, the two sides met.

Song Qiyong's River Sunset immediately slowed down his footsteps. Tang Rou's Soft Mist? She continued to charge forward!

As expected of someone with that sort of personality and playstyle!

Song Qiyong sighed.

Tang Rou's thought process was too easy for Tyranny's players to predict. They had practically grown up seeing this sort of playstyle.

Dragon Tooth!

Soft Mist thrust her spear, Dancing Fire Flowing Flames, and it nipped at River Sunset like a viper.

River Sunset swiftly backed away, dodging the Dragon Tooth and putting a distance of two steps between them. But this distance of two steps was instantly traversed by Soft Mist, Double Stab!

Her spear flew out along nearly the same route as the Dragon Tooth. River Sunset retreated again, dodging the first stab. At the same time, he crossed his hands, welcoming the second stab.

Empty-Handed Blade Block!

Facing Tang Rou's fierce assault, Song Qiying suddenly chose a forceful response after retreating twice.

Why?

The lava three steps away from him could be the answer. Was it because he had nowhere left to escape to? People who thought this might want to recall that Song Qiying had chosen on his own initiative to retreat, which was what led River Sunset into this situation.

How did he respond?

Empty-Handed Blade Block!

This move wasn't purely defensive. It relied on the system to block the attack and then turned it into a throw. There were many options for the throw. In this current situation, a practiced Striker could easily use the throw to send his opponent into the lava three steps away.

This was Song Qiying's true purpose. It was a response filled with bravery and confidence. He had courage too. It was just that it differed in the way that Tyranny's fans were familiar with. His courage hid many schemes. Rapidly retreat three times to bait the opponent into chasing after him. He didn't hurry to use Empty-Handed Blade Block. Instead, he waited for second hit from Double Stab.

The execution difficulty was higher, but it also made it harder for the opponent to react.

Song Qiying succeeded!

River Sunset's hands locked Soft Mist's spear into place.

Without any hesitation, the throw followed the block. He twisted his body, and Soft Mist was thrown towards the lava.

Only three skills had been used so far in their battle, yet one of the players was about to fall into the lava. With this fall, Happy's lead would likely be destroyed.

Fast and fierce.

Tsk tsk tsk... those who didn't think highly of Happy clicked their tongues.

But as Soft Mist flew out, she thrust out her Dancing Fire Flowing Flames. The instant River Sunset threw Soft Mist using Empty-Handed Blade Block, her spear became free and stabbed towards River Sunset.

This was the fastest counterattack she could do after being hit by Empty-Handed Blade Block!

River Sunset retreated as fast as he could, but he was still too slow. He was backing away from Soft Mist, but her spear had already struck his chest.

Circle Swing!

The airborne Soft Mist swung her arms, and River Sunset was launched into the air. There was nothing he could do against a grab skill.

Splash! Splash!

The two characters had fallen into the lava simultaneously. However, River Sunset had been thrown deeper into the lava than Soft Mist...

Only four skills had been exchanged between the two of them.

One person falling into the lava? Wrong!

The outcome was far bolder than they could have imagined.

And this situation was much more unfavorable for Song Qiying, who had started with less health to begin with. As a result, as soon as he hit the bottom of the lava, he immediately rolled. He needed to hurry and pull away and get River Sunset onto the shore. Since he was already in the lava, he might as well use it to hide his roll.

Tang Rou's situation was much less dire than Song Qiying's. She had the health advantage, so she wasn't afraid of a fight in the lava. Plus, she was closer to the shore than River Sunset, and she would have an easier time getting out.

A normal player might think of using this advantage to get to the shore first and establish an invincible position.

Tang Rou thought the same. It was just that her method of doing such was more aggressive.

Shattering the Lands!

She had Soft Mist use a high-level skill to directly leap out of the lava. The flames clung to Soft Mist, making her seem like a gigantic fireball, as she crashed towards the shore.

The shockwave of magic erupted outwards. Not only did it the waves thrash violently, it created a deep crater on the shore, which suddenly sunk down towards the lava.

Song Qiying had thought that Tang Rou would get to shore first and defend the area to prevent him from getting out. As a result, he had River Sunset circle around from the bottom of the lava. He would take more damage from the lava, but it was more likely that he would be able to get out of the lava safely.

He hadn't thought that Tang Rou would make such a huge movement while on land. River Sunset was in the range of the shockwave from Shattering the Lands. He could suddenly feel his character sway left and right, and knew that the situation wasn't good. The violent waves would better hide him though. Song Qiying wanted to use this chance to quickly get back onto land, when the land that he was about to jump onto suddenly collapsed...

Having just jumped out of the lava, Song Qiying's expression went ashen. His position had been exposed. The moment his feet landed on the ground, the ground began to crumble, and Soft Mist had come as well.

There was nowhere to retreat. His only choice was to fight.

Despite swaying, River Sunset let out a steady step. His left hand trembled slightly, while his right hand made a punch. It seemed like a very normal and very slow straight punch, but everyone could feel how heavy the blow was. This was the Striker's killing move: Emperor's Fist! It didn't look flashy, but the explosive damage contained within the first was something that no one dared to confront.

No one dared to. That was why Song Qiying believed that this attack would at least create an opening for him.

Others might not, but Tang Rou dared to, or perhaps she simply didn't care what River Sunset was going to do.

Soft Mist rushed forward! Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

Dragon Breaks the Ranks couldn't be stopped. Behind River Sunset was lava, and even the ground beneath his feet might turn to lava any second. Tang Rou ignored all of this. Soft Mist rushed straight for River Sunset. She was clearly planning on bringing her opponent down in the lava with her, and it wasn't something that could be stopped.

Boom!

River Sunset's fist struck Soft Mist's spear.

Emperor's Fist versus Dragon Breaks the Ranks. Which one was stronger?

People had tested it. With both characters on equal levels, the answer was that the two skills were equal in a clash. The Striker using Emperor's Fist better not think that he could hold his ground, and the Battle Mage using Dragon Breaks the Ranks better not think that he could break past Emperor's Fist.

But this sort of test was meaningless. The characters were different classes with different sets of equipment. In practice, it was impossible for the characters to be on the exact same level. Moreover, in real combat, there were a lot of factors in play that could affect skill priority. The characters themselves and their circumstances could all affect the outcome of a clash between two skills.

In this clash, it seemed like River Sunset's Emperor's Fist had the advantage. Not only had Soft Mist's Dragon Breaks the Ranks failed to break past him, Soft Mist had been knocked back by the punch.

To think someone using Dragon Breaks the Ranks would be forced to step back. It was truly a rare sight. But then again, for the character struck by Emperor's Fist not to be blown away, the might of Dragon Breaks the Ranks could also clearly be seen.

River Sunset's Emperor's Fist had the advantage, but his situation wasn't much better. He had originally been standing on a crumbling ground. After the impact from the clash, the ground couldn't support him any longer, and half of River Sunset's body disappeared into the lava along with the ground.

Song Qiying immediately had River Sunset jump. In the end, this Emperor's Fist had given him an opening.

But this small opening had already been exhausted with his jump. Before River Sunset could land back onto the ground, Song Qiying saw Soft Mist's Dancing Fire Flowing Flames bare its fangs at him.

Rising Dragon Soars the Sky!

Soft Mist ferociously used this high-level attack as she was forced back. The momentum from Dragon Breaks the Ranks was no small matter. Although Emperor's Fist had forced her back, she hadn't been stunned for too long from its impact, and she quickly went in pursuit.

If the ground beneath River Sunset hadn't given out, he wouldn't have been in a dangerous spot. It was because of that dip into the lava that he needed to make that jump. The opening that he had created had already been patched up by a Rising Dragon!

Chapter 1553: Like a Flag Waving in the Air

Reinforced Iron Bones? Thousand Ton Drop?

No good. None of these skills could allow him to tank the Rising Dragon Soars the Sky. That attack possessed grab priority, thus, it ignored Super Armor effects.

Rising Dragon Soars the Sky could only be dodged, not blocked!

Eagle Stamp!

River Sunset stepped on the air, lifting himself up, but it wasn't enough! Just this slight increase in elevation wouldn't be enough to get out of Rising Dragon Soars the Sky's range. The magic dragon tore through the air as it opened its jaws to bite River Sunset. But right before it could clamp down its jaws, River Sunset suddenly stopped and twisted his body, Whirlwind Kick!

This skill was not a movement skill, but it changed his posture. His two legs swept over the top of the dragon, when suddenly, the dragon twisted its head...

Dragon Raises Its Head!

Everyone was astonished. This was Ye Xiu's signature technique back in the day, but nowadays, the Battle Mages of the new generation were grasping it one after the other. First, it was Sun Xiang. Now, it was Tang Rou.

The young will surpass the old.

And in the Glory competitive scene, it was this pursuit that made the scene flourish.

Rising Dragon Soars the Sky, hit!

The dragon clamped down on River Sunset. Dazzling light engulfed him as the magic exploded. River Sunset was launched into the air above the lava. When the skill ended, he fell into the lava.

River Sunset moved along with the tumultuous waves of lava.

Quick Recover and then jump out!

Song Qiying reacted extremely fast, not wasting a single second. River Sunset no longer had the health to swim over to the far-away shore. Every second in the lava was a blow to him. Rising Dragon Soars the

Sky had a long ending animation. During this time, he needed to get back onto the shore. It was his only chance for a comeback.

After he jumped, he was right next to the shore. With another jump, River Sunset was about to land back onto the shore. Soft Mist could only just start moving again. At a distance of several steps away, it wasn't possible for her to instantly reach River Sunset and intercept him. However, she could still send out magic Chasers. A blue and a purple ball of light shot towards River Sunset.

The blue light was an Ice Chaser that had been created when she had used Double Stab. The purple light was a Dark Chaser that had been created when she landed Circle Swing.

Tang Rou hadn't immediately used these Chasers, and now, it seemed like her decision had paid off. River Sunset was still mid-jump and couldn't dodge. The two Chasers exploded, and of these two Chasers, the Ice Chaser's CC went into effect.

For every level in Ice Chaser, the Battle Mage's physical defense would increase by 2%. For a Battle Mage with Leather Armor Proficiency, it wasn't too great of a buff. The strength buff from Fire Chasers was far better, and the attack speed buff from Light Chasers was more useful. However, when the Ice Chaser hit the target, its CC effect was the best out of all five types of Chasers.

The Ice Chaser stunned the target briefly and had a 50% chance of lowering the target's movement speed. This was the effect for a Level 1 Ice Chaser, and it was already very useful.

Taking advantage of River Sunset's stunned state, Soft Mist rushed forward. She thrust her spear, and the air began to crackle, Hundred Dragon Meteor Strike.

Countless scarlet spears appeared. It was too late for Song Qiying to activate a Super Armor skill like Reinforced Iron Bones. Right when River Sunset's stun wore off, the spear reached him. Then, more attacks followed. As Soft Mist closed the distance, the attacks became more and more dense. Finally, she reached two steps away from River Sunset, she launched River Sunset into the air. Every attack from her carefully considered how the attack would affect the target. Despite needing to maintain a fast tempo, she was still able to accurately make these precise calculations. There was no doubt that Tang Rou deserved the title of Best Rookie this season.

Pu!

Hundred Dragon Meteor Striker's final strike sent River Sunset at a new angle in the air. Droplets of blood dripped out from his flying figure. Who knew how much damage her combo had dealt to River Sunset. Now, the two were face to face. Soft Mist's Dancing Fire Flowing Flames leapt up, and a Sky Strike struck River Sunset, launching him into the air. Then, Draconic Crusher!

Soft Mist swung downwards like a spike, sending River Sunset crashing towards the lava.

The high priority Draconic Crusher sent River Sunset into the lava for a third time. The wave of lava created by the plunge from River Sunset was more than two people tall, reaching high enough to even splash onto Soft Mist.

Tang Rou ignored the damage and followed with another attack.

Cloud Whirling Windstorm!

Her spear twisted, producing a whirlwind of magic that shot towards the lava, giving the attack an even deeper color. Scarlet flames swallowed River Sunset, and there was nothing Song Qiying could do. The previous Draconic Crusher had forced a knockdown. Until River Sunset was flat on the ground, he wouldn't be able to move.

The Cloud Whirling Windstorm mixed in with the lava, striking River Sunset and forced him flat on the bottom of the floor of lava.

Roll!

Song Qiying immediately had River Sunset roll, when he saw from up above, the Dancing Fire Flowing Flames in Soft Mist's hands descend like a bolt of lightning.

Furious Dragon Strikes the Heart!

The successive strikes made it such that the surrounding lava pushed away was unable to return. An empty piece of ground was laid bare in the lava. River Sunset was rolling on the ground, when Soft Mist's spear stabbed through his heart and nailed him to the ground.

The lava flooded back. In the blink of an eye, it engulfed River Sunset, who was bent like a small shrimp, and then Soft Mist, who had harpooned him.

Glory...

The winner had been determined. Tang Rou had won. Happy had won. And the one who won did it in the most flashy way possible. The scene made Tyranny's side feel awkward. When Soft Mist threw her spear downwards, River Sunset hung on the top of the spear like a shrimp. He almost looked like a flag waving in the air.

When Song Qiying walked out from the player booth, he saw his character hanging on the opponent's spear.

Shameful?

Song Qiying felt a bit embarrassed, but he also knew that it was just Tang Rou seizing the opportunity to give the fatal blow. Tang Rou hadn't been trying to humiliate him on purpose. He was more concerned with the fact that he hadn't been able to win this deciding battle. He had failed to live up to everyone's expectations. This was what made him disappointed the most.

The Tyranny fans weren't in high spirits. A Striker losing to a Battle Mage was reminiscent of past pains. Han Wenqing had lost to Ye Xiu in the first round, and in the fight between the symbols of the future of the two teams, they had also suffered a defeat.,

Song Qiying had played well enough though. He had eliminated Happy's lead and brought Tyranny an opportunity to win. But in the end, Tyranny lost. The final scene of River Sunset hanging off of Soft Mist's spear only made the pain worse.

Even so, when Song Qiying walked down from the stage, they gave him their applause. They didn't want their future to lose hope. They would always encourage and cheer for their players.

The concern shown by Tyranny's fans only made Song Qiyang feel even more ashamed. After returning to his teammates, he felt like he couldn't face them.

"Don't blame yourself. You played amazing out there. It was because we played poorly that we left too big of a burden on you," Lin Jingyan said. He had played the worst in the group arena today. Tyranny falling behind was practically his fault. As he consoled Song Qiyang, he also pushed the blame onto himself.

"You have to win next time!" Han Wenqing didn't say too much and simply expressed his expectations in the future.

"Hm? It's not too big of a problem, no? Losing by one point in the group arena is practically no different from even." Zhang Jiale felt that the atmosphere felt abnormally gloomy. He hoped that he could bring up everyone's spirits.

"There's still a difference," Zhang Xinjie immediately retorted.

Zhang Jiale was helpless. Their vice-captain was too serious.

"Whether we lost by two points, by one point, by zero points, or if we win by one point, by two points, nothing changes," Han Wenqing said, "We have to win the team competition!"

"Of course!"

"That's obvious."

"Definitely."

Tyranny reorganized their thoughts, ready to face the true deciding battle in today's match.

As for Happy? Tang Rou's decisive victory had naturally given the team a boost to their morale, but they remained clear-headed in their excitement. Whether they truly won or lost this match depended on the following battle.

The two teams stared at the screen in the stadium. The team competition map would be chosen soon. At the same time, there would be a simple description of it, allowing the two players to make arrangements to their lineup accordingly.

Map choosing begin!

The projection technology displayed a big question mark at the center of the stage, which kept on spinning.

Ding!

The crisp ring echoed through the stadium. The map had been chosen, and the electronic screen displayed the map's name: Seven Color Spring. At the center of the stage, the projection technology began to slowly reveal the structure of the map.

The two teams immediately began to observe and discuss it up until the referee called for the two teams to come onto the stage.

The crowd immediately quieted down. Everyone looked towards the two teams to see which of their six players would be sent onto the stage. They would know soon.

First, it was Tyranny.

There was no fooling around. Practically the moment the referee called them over, six players stood up together and walked towards the stage.

Han Wenqing, Lin Jingyan, Zhang Jiale, Song Qiyong, Zhang Xinjie, Qin Muyun.

Chapter 1554: Random

Tyranny's six players were the usual six, though it was somewhat surprising that they picked Song Qiyong to play.

After all, he had lost rather embarrassingly just before in the group arena. It was unlikely that he would be unaffected by the loss. The following team competition was extremely important. It would have been less risky to send the more experienced Bai Yanfei. However, in the end, Tyranny had trust in their young general, fielding him in this crucial, deciding battle.

"It isn't the time to train their rookies..." Pan Lin couldn't help but criticize this arrangement.

"Haha," Li Yibo, who had once been a part of Tyranny, laughed, "They're not having him play for the experience. They have absolute trust in him, that's it. Tyranny's players need this sort of confidence and courage."

Pan Lin was speechless. This absolute trust in Song Qiyong wasn't rational! Were Tyranny's generals really planning on entrusting perhaps their final opportunity for a reason like that?

As the two talked, Happy's six players got up from their seats and walked towards the stage.

Ye Xiu, Su Mucheng, Fang Rui, the three experienced All-Star players. These three had always been the core of Happy, and the most stable positions in the team competition.

An Wenyi, Happy's Cleric, also had a stable position in the team competition because of his class.

Then, it was Tang Rou! She had just crushed Tyranny's momentum in the group arena. In her confrontation with Tyranny's rookie, Song Qiyong, she had won in a dominating fashion. Her deserving of the title Best Rookie was becoming more and more convincing.

Finally, their sixth player was Luo Ji! He had played the fewest times in the regular season, but in the first round of Happy's semifinals game with Tyranny, he had single-handedly turned the situation around, triggering a heated discussion amongst the community. The discussion had been interrupted for a moment by the match between Samsara and Tiny Herb, but when it was time for the second game between Happy and Tyranny, Luo Ji's name often came up in the discussion and predictions.

In the second game, Tyranny chose the map, and Happy did not send out Luo Ji. The map that Tyranny had chosen indeed didn't have any areas that could be dismantled. Tyranny had showed some worry over Luo Ji.

For this third game, after getting a general overview of the random map, Happy immediately sent out Luo Ji in this important deciding match. This map was a map that had specifically been prepared for the playoffs. It had never been seen before, so it wasn't possible for anyone to have made any preparations for it. Could it be that Luo Ji's ability to "instantly understand the structure of the terrain and then dismantle it" was real?

For a moment, the discussion began to revolve around Luo Ji. Pan Lin had felt that Tyranny had been bold, daring to send out Song Qiying. Now, he had no idea what to say for Happy.

No matter how you put it, Song Qiying had been a prime candidate for the title of Best Rookie this season. That was a proof of his skill. As for Luo Ji? The few times that he had appeared in the regular season, he had rarely made any especially great plays. It wasn't until the semifinals of the playoffs did he suddenly attract everyone's attention. However, Pan Lin didn't believe in that so-called ability of his. If Luo Ji didn't have that ability, then wasn't Luo Ji's appearance a bluff? Then what? There was no then. Happy had sent out an inexperienced and average rookie as a diversion. It was far more risky than Tyranny fielding Song Qiying.

Amidst the clamor, the players on the two teams lined up at the center of the stage.

It wasn't until the referee confirmed their lineups were their names displayed on the screen.

The two sides shook hands silently. The tense atmosphere overwhelmed everything. The air seemed to have turned solid. The players quietly completed the pre-match ceremony, and under the referee's directions, they headed to their respective player booths.

There was no provocation from anyone. No one tried to probe the other side's mentality. There was also no "friends first, competition second" behavior either. The battle that would decide their efforts over this entire year began in this way. The audience could feel this terrifying oppressiveness and were silent as well.

If even the spectators were like this, how were the players themselves feeling?

The two teams spawned on the map. This map, "Seven Color Springs", was shaped like a square. The spawn locations weren't the usual corners, but rather at the 12 o'clock, 3 o'clock, 6 o'clock, and 9 o'clock positions. What was more astonishing was that the two teams didn't spawn symmetrical to each other. Team Happy spawned at the 6 o'clock position, while Team Tyranny spawned at the 3 o'clock position.

This was the first time the spawn locations had broken Glory traditions. But then again, whether it was the Alliance's rules or the competitive rules, neither of them specified that the spawn locations needed to be opposite of each other. From the numerous maps over the years though, it seemed to be a tacit agreement. However, in this crucial battle, this tacit agreement was broken, immediately leading to a large commotion outside of the stage.

"Their spawn locations aren't symmetrical!" Pan Lin was astonished, "Coach Li, how do you think this will affect the match?"

"It will definitely have an effect on the match. The two teams don't know about this situation. They will likely assume that their opponents spawned on the opposite end, and then based on this assumption,

they'll make predictions on when and where the opponent might come from. But with this current situation, the two teams' predictions will be wrong. Their first encounter will come as a surprise to both teams. It will be a test of their reaction speed and ability to adapt to unexpected situations. Whichever side is able to figure out the reason for the issue the fastest will have a better grasp of the situation."

Li Yibo went into a fairly lengthy analysis. The two teams also began to move. After their intentions gradually became clear, the crowd once again went into a commotion.

The straightforward and direct Tyranny didn't lose their inherent traits in this random map and cut straight towards the center.

On the other hand, Happy took a roundabout route, and they split into two parties. Lord Grim, Dancing Rain, Boundless Sea, and Little Cold Hands went to the left, while Tang Rou's Soft Mist went to the right.

If the two teams had spawned normally at opposite ends of the map, Team Tyranny would have been caught in a pincer attack from the left and right. However, with Tyranny coming in from the 3 o'clock direction, Tang Rou's Soft Mist would run into the entirety of Team Tyranny all alone first. An individual's movement speed was faster than a group's movement speed.

The asymmetric spawn locations spelled trouble for Happy. From a time perspective, Tang Rou definitely wouldn't be able to expect that Tyranny would be coming from the side.

The three parties continued to move along their respective paths. Happy's four player group was ignored by the projection technology and the broadcast. Everyone was watching Tyranny's and Tang Rou's movements, predicting where they would meet based on their movement speeds.

The broadcast team had people to analyze it and help from software. Soon, the screen displayed a drawing showing their likely routes. Then, a bright red dot was placed on where the two sides would meet. The camera zoomed in and showed the terrain of this location.

The terrain was not favorable for Tang Rou!

If the terrain was flat, then she would be able to notice Tyranny from far away. She would have plenty of time to adjust and wouldn't need to be worried. However, this "Seven Color Spring" wasn't a flat map. The four spawn locations were situated on four high grounds. The rest of the map was filled with steep and precipitous terrain. This map was rather similar to a canyon area. It was just that it was intermixed with other elements. In particular, the Seven Color Spring in the middle didn't fit in with the setting of a desolate highland. The areas surrounding the spring was verdant and lush. The shadows of the overlooking trees covered the waters of the spring. When the light made its way past the leaves, the reflection of the light glittered with seven colors. As the leaves swayed in the wind, the seven colored light moved as well, creating a psychedelic display of light.

Tang Rou's Soft Mist wouldn't be able to reach the Seven Color Spring. Her path was restricted by two high grounds to her left and right. And Team Tyranny was heading towards the canyon junction ahead from the east side. It was where the broadcast had predicted the two sides would meet. Maybe it wouldn't be precisely on the dot, but the two sides would certainly meet at that junction. What mattered was the distance between the two sides when they noticed each other. This distance would decide Tang Rou's fate. No one believed in a miracle like a 1v5. When the two sides met, Tang Rou would definitely be fleeing for her life.

The Happy fans were naturally very anxious. They didn't know how things could get better. Soft Mist's movement speed and direction hadn't changed. As she approached that junction, Pan Lin sucked in a deep breath of air waiting for the moment when the two sides collided. As the two sides neared, the predictions became more and more accurate... it seemed like the two sides would notice each other at a very close distance. The situation was becoming worse and worse for Happy.

"They're close. Just a bit more.." Pan Lin's voice started getting louder as he stared at the scene: "Soon, it's the entrance of the juncture. Soft Mist is running towards it... running... she stopped?" Pan Lin was about to shout "She's charged out!" but in the end, he wasn't able to say them. Tang Rou's Soft Mist had unexpectedly stopped the instant she reached the juncture.

"What's going on?" Pan Lin was puzzled. Soft Mist had already started retreating. She stuck to the side of a wall as she carefully retreated back.

The cameraman had noticed the issue, and switched to Tang Rou's point of view. This point of view didn't just show what Tang Rou saw but what she was hearing.

Footsteps!

It was the sound of jumbled footsteps.

Chapter 1555: An Unknown Coincidence

"Found five!" Tang Rou quickly typed in Happy's chat. She also gave Soft Mist's coordinates.

The audience was astonished. Team Tyranny hadn't even appeared in her sights yet, but just through those jumbled footsteps, she was able to deduce that there were five people? She must be quite confident in her listening abilities! Several pro players shut their eyes and tried, but even though they knew that there were five people there, they couldn't distinguish between these footsteps at all. All they could get was that there was more than one person.

"Where are they?" Ye Xiu was surprised.

"From the east."

"That can't be right."

Tang Rou didn't have time to continue chatting with Ye Xiu. Even though she had noticed Tyranny's movements ahead of time and retreated, this canyon area was very flat and straight. True, she could back away, but there was nowhere for her to hide. During this time, Tyranny's five players had arrived at the entrance of the canyon. Hoping that they wouldn't look straight was unrealistic. When an intersection was reached, pro players would always check their surroundings out of instinct.

As a result, Tyranny quickly noticed Tang Rou's Soft Mist.

Everyone in Tyranny was startled.

For experienced players, as soon as the size of the map was known, estimating approximately what time the two sides would meet was an easy task. They only saw Soft Mist, but even considering that an individual moved relatively faster than a group, encountering her here shouldn't be possible.

The spawn locations were different than normal.

The spectators could see it with their own eyes, but for the players on stage, there was no way they would think of something that had never happened before. As a result, whether it was Tyranny or Happy, everyone was at a loss. They weren't able to figure out what the reason was.

Happy's response to it was rather simple. Tang Rou was only one person. She was in a 1v5 situation, what more was there to think about? The Thirty-Six Stratagems. If all else fails, retreat.

But it was more complicated for Tyranny.

Bait? Trap?

These words went through their heads. As a result, although Tang Rou was alone, they didn't dare rashly attack her. Facing this unfamiliar map, they thought about it and felt like Happy must have discovered something particular about this area. How else could Tang Rou have gotten to this area so abnormally fast? If Soft Mist was already here, who knew if there were others behind her?

Tang Rou didn't think too much. First, retreat. But seeing Tyranny hesitate, she immediately reported the information to the team.

The rest of Happy was hurrying over to Tang Rou's location. As soon as Ye Xiu saw the report, he immediately threw out his previous analysis.

His previous analysis had been the same as Tyranny's. Tyranny must have found some sort of secret in this map to be able to have reached that location so fast. But when Tang Rou reported that Tyranny was hesitating on whether they should chase after her, Ye Xiu knew that his analysis had been wrong.

For a team like Tyranny to hesitate this much, it meant that they must be feeling very apprehensive about the situation. From this, it could be seen that they hadn't expected to meet anyone from Happy there. In other words, their encounter with Soft Mist came as much of a surprise to them as it did to Happy.

Therefore, there must be a different reason, leading to this abnormal situation to occur.

Because of this small difference, Happy was a step ahead of Tyranny in solving this mystery. They at least knew that Tyranny didn't have the initiative. It was a surprise encounter.

In that case...

"Try and harass them!" Ye Xiu messaged.

"Harass?" Tang Rou was surprised. She obviously knew what the word meant. It was just that harassing required a bit of finesse. It wasn't Tang Rou's strong suit. She also lacked experience in reading the situation, so it was a rather difficult task for her.

"Give them something more to think about," Ye Xiu explained his intentions.

“Got it,” Tang Rou wasn’t stupid. It was a 5v1, yet Tyranny was hesitating. The other side was clearly apprehensive about something. Ye Xiu’s meaning was to make a bluff and mislead them into thinking their misgivings were correct.

Go back and attack?

Tang Rou pondered over it. For now, she had Soft Mist stop retreating.

This sudden pause magnified that shadow of doubt in Tyranny’s hearts. They had previously been hesitating, but when they noticed how quick and decisive Soft Mist’s retreat was, they gradually became aware of Tang Rou’s misgivings towards them. Just when they were about to come to the same conclusion as Ye Xiu, Soft Mist suddenly stopped and turned around to look at them.

Was it because they hadn’t gone forward that the other side had no other choice?

Which meant that the other side had set this up, and it really had been a bait?

Tang Rou was still thinking of how to harass them! But she hadn’t thought that the other side would analyze her move to that extent. Just this pause made the other side doubtful. Tang Rou was already misleading them.

But at this moment, Tyranny’s Zhang Xinjie ordered: “We attack.”

“Ah?” Zhang Jiale was somewhat surprised. If the order had come from Han Wenqing, he wouldn’t have been surprised. Only their captain wouldn’t bother thinking about whether it was a trap or not; just use brute force to break through it. But Zhang Jiale was different. He always considered every detail no matter how small it was, yet he was willing to take such a risk despite being in the unknown?

“Charge forward, and get a clear look. I’ll heal.” Zhang Xinjie clarified.

He didn’t say much, but his aggressiveness and boldness came through. It wasn’t an aggressiveness or boldness in terms of offense, but in terms of healing. Zhang Xinjie was stating: go look, I’ll protect you.

Using force to suppress. But this time, they weren’t relying on offense, but on healing. This aggressiveness wasn’t without caution. Tyranny’s and Zhang Xinjie’s playstyle never lacked caution.

“Understood! We’ll go forward!” Zhang Jiale’s Dazzling Hundred Blossoms immediately rushed out. For this type of scouting, a long-ranged class was safer.

“Qiyi, protect the healer,” Han Wenqing ordered and then Desert Dust rushed forward as well. Lin Jingyan’s Dark Thunder followed. Song Qiyi followed the order, and River Sunset kept close to Zhang Xinjie’s Immovable Rock.

Team Tyranny finally moved forward. However, they still displayed a defensive stance.

“They’re coming” Tang Rou reported to her teammates, and Soft Mist turned around and retreated again.

“Already? How decisive! Protect yourself.” Ye Xiu replied.

If he had said this to anyone else, they would have most likely wanted to cry. It was a 1v5. Saying “protect yourself” was easier said than done!

Chapter 1556: Blossoming Grenades

Bang bang bang!

The silence had finally been broken.

Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms took advantage of his long range and began to attack.

But Soft Mist didn't even turn her head back. Soft Mist swayed left and right, dodging all of Dazzling Hundred Blossom's bullets.

The crowd went into an uproar.

It was like she practically had eyes on the back of her head! That was too ridiculous, no?

It was quite ridiculous. Not many pro players could do the same. Tang Rou was different. Her listening abilities had been trained professionally, allowing her to more keenly catch the minute differences in sound. When she began seriously playing Glory, she immediately realized how valuable this talent was. As a result, she specifically trained her ears for Glory and improved it even further.

Using sound to locate the position of the bullets?

It wasn't possible to do it very precisely. It could be seen from how Soft Mist dodged the bullets. If she could grasp the direction of all of the incoming bullets, her dodge wouldn't have been so exaggerated. Compared to other pro players, Tang Rou's strength lay in her ability to make this judgement for several bullets. Other pro players could probably dodge one or two bullets based on sound, but the sort of dense gunfire from an automatic pistol likely couldn't be done.

Tang Rou was able to do it though. Soft Mist swayed left and right repeatedly like a race car constantly making turns, dodging the bullets again and again without slowing down.

"How impressive!" Zhang Jiale couldn't help but praise. This time, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms stopped firing, instead quietly tossing a Grenade out. Then, bang bang bang, he began firing again.

His experience and cunning was being put on display. If it had just been a quiet grenade toss, the other side would likely be suspicious. But by tossing the grenade while simultaneously firing, the other side would continue hearing gunshots and would likely ignore the possibility of a grenade toss.

Zhang Jiale's thoughts were very logical, but unfortunately, it didn't work because Soft Mist turned her head.

The reason was very simple. Ye Xiu had told her that she shouldn't completely rely on her listening abilities because many attacks and skills didn't have sound.

As a result, Tang Rou wouldn't completely rely on her listening abilities. She would occasionally turn her head back, which she happened to do so when Dazzling Hundred Blossoms threw his Grenade.

She saw it and determined what it was.

Implosion Grenade. If Soft Mist had dodged to the side like she did with the bullets, the shockwave from the Implosion Grenade would have thrown her to the walls of the canyon. This delay would be enough for Tyranny to catch up to her.

They believed that Happy had likely set up something in this area and were planning on seeing what it was with their own eyes, but if they could intercept Soft Mist before she could make it there, then that would obviously be the best scenario. The situation would turn around, and they would have the initiative.

But unfortunately, she noticed it...

Zhang Jiale didn't hold back. The sky rained down with grenades.

With caution in mind, Tyranny chased after her taking up a more defensive stance, and thus, the team formation could not scatter. As a result, their collective movement speed wouldn't be as fast as Soft Mist. There wouldn't be many opportunities to hold her here, and soon afterwards, they would be stepping right into where the enemy side wanted them to be. Right now wasn't the time to hold back.

The grenades filled the sky like the petals of a flower bud. Everyone could already see the blossoms of light scattered through the air...

Tang Rou quickly tried to analyze where these grenades would fall. This required lots of Glory experience to do so, which was what Tang Rou was lacking in. She could only do her best.

Bang bang! Two gunshots rang out followed by two explosions. Light filled the sky. Zhang Jiale had taken the initiative to make two grenades explode. In a split second, the rest of the grenades were swallowed by the blinding light. Tang Rou had already been having trouble figuring out where the grenades would land when she could see them. Now that the grenades couldn't be seen, she might as well not even try. Soft Mist disregarded them and sprinted away as fast as she could. The farther she ran, the better. As for the grenades, she would have to rely on her reaction speed to deal with them!

Boom!

The first grenade exploded. A giant fireball rippled through the air. It was a Flame Grenade.

The fire burned and dealt damage, but it didn't have any effects on movement speed. Soft Mist simply dashed right through the flames.

Boom!

Another grenade landed beside Soft Mist. It was a normal Impact Grenade that exploded on impact. The explosion not only dealt damage, but it would hinder her movements to a certain extent. Out of reflex, Tang Rou had Soft Mist twist her body to the side, shaking off the explosion.

Boom boom boom!

Grenades continued to fall, and light continued to blossom. The viewers weren't able to clearly distinguish between the different grenades. All they could see was a mess of explosions. Yet Soft Mist was moving left and right amidst this light.

Tang Rou also wasn't able to distinguish between the grenades. Her reactions were based on what she saw and heard when the grenades exploded. Soft Mist's dodging wasn't perfect, but even so, it was already very impressive. More importantly, the consecutive explosions weren't able to block her. Soft Mist was on fire, but she was still moving forward. At this moment, another grenade quietly fell. With so much light and so much sound all around, it was already very difficult to notice it.

And as soon as this grenade touched the ground, the surrounding air suddenly compressed and then expanded outwards, instantly creating a large shockwave.

Implosion Grenade. The first grenade that Dazzling Hundred Blossom had tossed was tossed again. The grenade didn't deal much damage, but it had a powerful CC effect. For Soft Mist, it was a huge obstacle. And this time, Tang Rou finally slipped up and reacted too slow to it. The shockwave expanded, and Tang Rou's reaction was unexpectedly to move a step closer to it.

The shockwave struck her, and Soft Mist was immediately knocked flying. But because she had stepped closer to it, the angle had changed slightly, and she was blown diagonally outwards instead of backwards. It hadn't completely destroyed her escape attempt.

Tyranny still hadn't been able to hold her here?

Everyone was dumbstruck. After the Implosion Grenade sent Soft Mist flying, the other grenades weren't able to keep up, and the explosions lagged behind Soft Mist.

"Close enough!" Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder suddenly picked up speed.

Chapter 1557: Protect Yourself

Although the wave of attacks from Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms failed to completely hold down Tang Rou's Soft Mist, it had still proved a significant hindrance to her escape. Soft Mist couldn't keep moving straight and had to change directions many times to dodge, allowing Tyranny to close the distance by a considerable amount. The final Implosion Grenade had helped Soft Mist move forward a bit because she had taken that extra step, but it had also disrupted Tang Rou's rhythm. While Soft Mist was sent forward, it had been diagonally. And to her sides were the walls of the canyon. She wouldn't be going very far before she crashed.

Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder had predicted where she would end up and suddenly picked up his speed. He was breaking away from the team's formation. However, battles were constantly changing. Formations had to adapt according to the circumstances. Dark Thunder broke away from the team to deal with the change in circumstances.

Poison Needle!

Dark Thunder flicked his wrists and threw out a needle.

The needle was as thin as an oxen hair. It was practically invisible to the eye. Lin Jingyan was even borrowing the light cover from Dazzling Hundred Blossom's attacks. Let alone Tang Rou, even the spectators who could see the entire picture hadn't noticed, keeping everyone but himself in the dark.

Tang Rou hadn't noticed it. She didn't have the energy to keep an eye on everything at the moment.

The Implosion Grenade had sent Soft Mist flying extremely fast. In the blink of an eye, she had reached the wall. But just when everyone thought that a crash was inevitable, Soft Mist suddenly rolled up into a ball.

Roll!

She completed a roll on the wall, Quick Recover!

The impact was negated by the Quick Recover. As a result, when she landed back onto the ground, she had complete control over her balance. Then, a nearly imperceptible needle whistled by her. It was the Poison Needle from Dark Thunder.

It was only then did everyone realize that Dark Thunder had let out this sneak attack. The broadcast quickly rewinded to figure out when the needle had been thrown. People were now even more shocked at Tang Rou's keen senses. Although this time, they went ahead of themselves. Tang Rou hadn't noticed the Poison Needle either. In reality, she had dodged it by a stroke of luck.

That's too crazy, no?

Countless viewers were awestruck. The Tyranny players weren't in shock though. In an instant, the entire team accelerated. The fastest member, Dark Thunder, didn't land the Poison Needle, but before the light had faded, he had followed with a Powerful Knee Strike, chaining the attacks tightly. The needle had missed, but he was there now!

Soft Mist hadn't steadied herself yet. She didn't have time to dodge, so she lashed out with her spear, wanting to use an attack to parry the blow and keep her balance. Then, she could use the impact from Powerful Knee Strike to help her escape.

Bang!

Dark Thunder struck Soft Mist's spear, causing Soft Mist to sway. Tang Rou immediately knew that something wasn't right. The Powerful Knee Strike from Lin Jingyan had been quick and fierce, but when it struck, the impact put a downwards pressure onto her. At the final moment, he had adjusted the angle of his attack, not wanting to give her a chance to use the impact to escape. Instead, he was going to pressure her into place.

Tang Rou was very sharp, noticing the change. Soft Mist sunk down and then rolled back.

She wasn't able to borrow the force of the impact to move away, but she wasn't suppressed by Lin Jingyan's Powerful Knee Strike. With this roll, she still took damage from the attack, but she was able to eliminate the skill effects.

The normal viewers hadn't noticed the little sneaky trick in Lin Jingyan's Powerful Knee Strike. They just thought that Tang Rou had been forced into a hasty response because the attack had come too quickly.

Just a roll backwards wasn't ideal. Lin Jingyan had seized the initiative, and his Dark Thunder could still cover Soft Mist's backwards roll. The Powerful Knee Strike didn't have the effect that Lin Jingyan had wanted, but Tang Rou was now held in place. He simply needed to follow up with a few attacks to make sure she didn't escape. Then, the rest of Tyranny would arrive, and the rest was exactly what Tyranny specialized at.

Brick!

Sure enough, Lin Jingyan grasped the timing of the roll. Before Soft Mist was able to get up from the roll, Dark Thunder threw a Brick at her. Tang Rou knew that her situation was worrying. As she rolled, she tried her best to observe Dark Thunder's movements and saw the Brick coming. While rolling, she flicked her spear, using the tail of her spear to knock the Brick aside. Flying weapons generally had very weak priority.

Lin Jingyan seemed to have predicted it would happen. The moment Soft Mist knocked the Brick away, Dark Thunder quickly stepped forward and pushed out with his hands. Tyrannical Chain Punch! He wanted to directly knock Soft Mist down.

But to his surprise, after Soft Mist knocked the Brick aside, her spear continued to move.

Tyrant's Destruction!

When she knocked the Brick away, the swing had been the start of a skill. Tyranny's Destruction was unleashed. The fire attribute Dancing Fire Flowing Flames flashed out in a streak of red. Although Tyrannical Chain Punch was a high-level skill as well, it didn't have extremely priority like a Dragon Breaks the Ranks. The Tyrant's Destruction was enough to sweep aside the Tyrannical Chain Punch.

Lin Jingyan hadn't expected there to be a counterattack. Seeing that he was about to be caught in the attack, he immediately canceled his skill. Dark Thunder dodged to the side, unfortunately wasting one of his high-level skills.

Soft Mist immediately leapt backwards to pull apart the distance. Although Dark Thunder's attack didn't achieve Lin Jingyan's original goals, similar to Dazzling Hundred Blossom's assault, it had resulted in a significant hindrance to her escape. She was able to use Tyrant's Destruction to widen the distance between her and Dark Thunder, but Dazzling Hundred Blossom's assault had begun again, and on the other end, Han Wenqing's Desert Dust had arrived.

Soaring Tiger!

Han Wenqing didn't hold back. His very first move was fierce and resolute. Desert Dust had arrived even before Dazzling Hundred Blossom's bullets did as he rushed towards Soft Mist.

Soaring Tiger had very high priority. Learning from her experience with Powerful Knee Strike, Tang Rou didn't dare to try and borrow the force of its impact to escape. She was still too inexperienced against these old generals in the usage of these small tricks.

Dodge.

Desert Dust came afterwards, so he was still a bit far away. Tang Rou had time to dodge. Desert Dust's kick missed, whistling past Soft Mist. Although the attack missed, Desert Dust had landed in a position that cut off Tang Rou's retreat path.

The moment Desert Dust swept past Soft Mist, she thrust her spear at him.

Circle Swing!

Tang Rou had noticed his intent and wanted to try and toss Desert Dust back.

The Circle Swing had been extremely accurate. Just when she was about to land the grab, Soft Mist suddenly leapt to the side. The Circle Swing missed. Suddenly, white flames roared to life where Soft Mist had been standing previously.

Sacred Fire!

Immovable Rock's Backlight cross was still glowing from using the skill. Tang Rou had no choice but to give up on the Circle Swing.

Desert Dust landed on the ground and turned around. His imposing figure made it seem as if the canyon was impenetrable as long as he stood there.

Dazzling Hundred Blossoms' attacks arrived in an instant. Having dodged the Sacred Fire, Tang Rou had no room to breathe. Soft Mist quickly ran, avoiding the rain of bullets from Dazzling Hundred Blossoms. Lin Jingyan's Dark Thunder and Han Wenqing's Desert Dust had formed a pincer on Soft Mist, the former in front, the latter behind. They kept a distance from her, not immediately rushing at her just in case. Zhang Xinjie's Immovable Rock and Song Qiyong's River Sunset, who was protecting him, was hurrying over as well.

A 1v5. It was now a true 1v5.

Tyranny was no longer harassing her from a safe distance, nor were they just sending out probing attacks. In the end, Tyranny had trapped Tang Rou's Soft Mist. These old generals weren't going to miss an opportunity just out of caution. Their caution only made their choices timed more perfectly.

After making sure that their encirclement was faultless, Tyranny began their assault!

With this sort of encirclement, how long would it take for them to kill a single character?

It was hard to give a precise answer. Compared to the five with the overwhelming advantage, it was more dependent on the single player defending against the five.

Intuition, reaction speed, technique... in these moments, these attributes were key, but more importantly was the player's willpower.

A 1v5...

It wasn't an equal playing field. Many people would give up facing this kind of situation.

Tang Rou didn't though. No pro player would so easily give up in such a crucial match.

But Tang Rou's current situation was particularly troublesome.

She didn't have a strategic goal in mind. She also didn't know if there was any hope the others could get to her in time. She could only give it her all and survive as long as she could.

Soft Mist's health dropped rapidly, but her struggle could clearly be seen.

Protect yourself.

Who knew why, but Ye Xiu's previous instructions to Tang Rou suddenly floated to many people's minds.

1v5. Protect yourself.

Everyone just thought of it as a casual remark, but it looked like these words spoke true. While in this encirclement, she was doing her utmost to carry out these orders.

Just a bit more...

People began to pray. Because they could see the situation more clearly than Tang Rou. From their omniscient view of the map, they could see Happy's other four players hurrying over to her location. For Tang Rou, it was hope.

But since they were trying to get here as fast as possible, they gave up on moving together as a whole. For example, Happy's fastest member was undoubtedly Ye Xiu's Lord Grim. By using movement skill after movement skill, he had left the other three in the dust. In an unbelievably short amount of time, he had reached the battlefield.

Even so, wasn't it still a 2v5? When comparing it to a 1v5, it wasn't really that much better. Ye Xiu had Lord Grim rush over nonetheless. After locating Tyranny, he didn't hide himself and went straight for them.

"I'm here!" Ye Xiu announced his arrival in the public chat.

Chapter 1558: Appetizer

I'm here.

It was a very ordinary phrase, but saying it in this situation gave off a "you've been surrounded" air to it. What made it even more unbearable was that Tang Rou's Soft Mist was currently surrounded by Tyranny. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim had come charging in alone. He was simply adding oil to the fire. If he had just quietly rushed in, it would have been fine. But he just had to announce himself in the public chat.

This was a Glory match. There could only be at most five players on a side. You can yell all you want, but the other side wasn't going to think you had brought 100 people with you.

They couldn't understand the reason for Ye Xiu's bravado, but Tyranny's reaction left them even more puzzled.

Tyranny had unexpectedly been scared by Ye Xiu, quickly pulling back. The way they positioned themselves made it appear as if they were about to face an imminent disaster. They didn't look like they were about to face a single lone person.

"Go die!"

Ye Xiu was still typing in the chat. For a moment, the viewers were confused about which side was the one surrounded.

Boom boom boom!

Ye Xiu did as he said. As soon as the message was typed out, he made his move. Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella shot out three Anti-Tank Missiles, aimed unambiguously towards three different people.

Dodge!

Han Wenqing, Lin Jingyan, and Zhang Xinjie dodged the missiles aimed at them. There was still a bit of distance between the two sides, so it wasn't hard to dodge. The three were more concerned with what Ye Xiu would do next, or perhaps, what Happy would do next.

The other strategists watching the match such as Yu Wenzhou and Xiao Shiqin were already chuckling.

Through their spectator view, they could see the map and the chat. They knew exactly what Ye Xiu wanted to do.

He was bluffing. He had been setting up this bluff ever since Tang Rou encountered Tyranny. Because of the change in the usual spawn locations, Tang Rou and Tyranny had a surprise encounter. For Tang Rou, who had been by herself, she was at a huge disadvantage. As a result, she didn't hesitate and immediately retreated. On the other hand, Tyranny, who had the overwhelming advantage, had hesitated because of this unusual occurrence.

Overwhelming advantage, hesitate.

Just through this reaction, Ye Xiu was able to grasp a clearer message from Tyranny: both sides were surprised by the encounter.

But that didn't mean Tang Rou wasn't in a crisis. Ye Xiu had Tang Rou try to harass them as a way to perhaps scare them away.

If she didn't try to harass them and instead let Tyranny dispel their suspicions, Tyranny would have immediately started chasing her, and at that point, even a god wouldn't be able to save her.

Ye Xiu had given out the extremely daring order for this reason, and it was because he had given out this order that there would be a chance to rescue Tang Rou.

Lord Grim went in alone, yet Tyranny reacted defensively. Because from beginning to end, Tyranny hadn't been able to determine whether their encounter with Tang Rou had been a coincidence. They thought that Tang Rou was bait. They thought that they had caught the bait before falling into a trap. They thought that they had taken the initiative as a result. Next, Happy would be forced to appear. As a result, during this process, they had been on guard against the possibility of the other four members of Happy appearing.

Then, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim appeared right on time, going along perfectly with Tyranny's expectations.

As a result, Tyranny responded immediately, moving into a formation that they had prepared for ahead of time. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim had quickly started attacking. Three Anti-Tank Missiles split between three enemies. The three instinctively dodged. Then, they saw Soft Mist, with four chasers floating around her, use Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

Out!

An opening had appeared in Tyranny's encirclement.

Had they overlooked Tang Rou?

No!

In their eyes, Tang Rou had been bait from start to finish. Previously, she had been bait to lure Tyranny over to Happy's trap. After catching her, they were now using her as bait to lure out Happy. The fish hadn't been caught on the hook yet. How could that be overlooking her?

Ye Xiu's appearance was like a weight off their minds. They had been on guard against him this entire time, and now they no longer needed to. It was hard to avoid a shift in balance under these circumstances. If it had been a bit longer, Tyranny would have certainly readjusted the balance. After all, they had been using Tang Rou to pin down Happy..

But Ye Xiu sent out attacks the instant the balance shifted, affecting Tyranny's plans for him. And Tang Rou seemed like she had been waiting for this moment. Soft Mist's chasers suddenly shot out. At the same time, she charged out with a Dragon Breaks the Ranks.

Everything had happened so quickly. Soft Mist escaped from Tyranny's encirclement, and Lord Grim went forward, raising his umbrella up as a shield, blocking the long-ranged attacks from Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

Lord Grim and Soft Mist turned around and ran for their lives.

2v5? That would be a joke. At this point, Soft Mist couldn't even be considered a 1. She was more like 0.2. Ye Xiu had come charging in bravely, and once he picked up Tang Rou, he didn't hesitate to turn tail and run.

The two left behind a trail of dust in the canyon.

And... that's it?

Everyone was petrified.

In their eyes, Tyranny was looking extremely incompetent. They had Soft Mist trapped. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was alone. What could he do? Yet he just charged in, fired an Anti-Tank Missile, and then rescued her? How could there be an even more worthless team?

Only the experts understood why. Ye Xiu had made the best of what he had, and Tyranny cautiously responded. It had been an exchange filled with complexities.

From an overall perspective, Tyranny had lost an opportunity, but not much else. As for Happy? Happy hadn't gained anything. After a huge struggle at great risks, they had escaped from the crisis. During this escape, Soft Mist had lost a considerable amount of health and mana. Life could be healed, but healing would use up mana. And mana could not be replenished.

From this perspective, Happy had lost much from this exchange.

"A good appetizer!" The pro player QQ chat group was quite lively. Of the 20 teams in the Alliance, 17 had been eliminated this season. However, many of them were still quite interested in the playoffs. There were quite a few of them watching this deciding semifinals game, whether that was live, through the computer, or through their cell phones. Many of them were watching while discussing in the GG chat group. Team Void's Li Xuan had commented, calling the exchange an "appetizer".

“Yeah yeah!” The other players agreed and then continued to watch the match. For people at their skill level, there was no playoffs match that would be boring to watch. Others might find it boring because they didn’t understand the small intricacies involved.

Lord Grim and Soft Mist said goodbye, and Tyranny was just going to quietly send them off?

Of course not.

Tyranny had tried to stop them. Zhang Jiale had been the fastest to react. It was just that Lord Grim’s umbrella shield weakened his long-ranged attacks by a large degree. Happy’s two players had already started picking up speed. In a race, the differences in speed would result in the group separating. And Tyranny continued to be cautious, keeping their formation intact, as they chased calmly after Lord Grim and Soft Mist.

Team Tyranny had looked incompetent just before, and now, their lack of decisiveness looked as if it would make that impression worse. In reality, that was not the case.

Through their omniscient view, the viewers could clearly see the instructions left by Ye Xiu as he ran away. The other three on Happy, who hadn’t arrived yet, received instructions to set up an ambush. As Ye Xiu hurried over to this area, he had been taking note of the terrain, so he gave them coordinates for the ambush location. At that moment, he had thought up a plan. He was like an outstanding chess player. He wasn’t thinking just one step ahead, but two or even three steps...

Tyranny was reacting cautiously, and to the spectators, it was a very smart move. After all, Glory was a game. An ambush would only result in having the initiative. It was very difficult to kill an opponent with one strike. And with Tyranny keeping their guard up, Happy had no way to focus on a target and surprise kill an opponent. Through a sturdy defense, Tyranny would be able to hold their ground against Happy’s ambush and then search for an opportunity to counterattack. That was the plan that Tyranny had intended to do when they chased after Soft Mist. This time, their plans didn’t change. Seeing their two targets turn at the corner up ahead and disappear from their view, Tyranny didn’t panic. They continued to move at the same pace. When they reached this corner, they raised their guards and rushed through it.

But all they saw was Lord Grim.

“Can you guys hurry up? I’m afraid I’ll lose you guys,” Ye Xiu typed into the chat.

“Then stop running! You come over here!” Zhang Jiale shouted.

“It’s not just me who’ll be coming!” Ye Xiu replied.

Dancing Rain appeared from up above on the canyon, looking down. Her cannon was aimed straight at Tyranny.

“Hi everyone!” Su Mucheng greeted. Dancing Rain attacked!

Chapter 1559: Bait

Bang! Boom!

A shot, and then an explosion.

A Stinger fired into the air, exploding like a firework. Missiles rained down lighting up the canyon with flames. It wasn't over yet. More artillery shells followed, creating shadows on the ground. The shadows grew larger and larger until the missiles exploded.

In a short moment, the canyon was filled with rising spirals of smoke. Tyranny had five people, but at this height difference, only Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms could reach her. However, he wasn't able to display his full potential because Spitfire attacks didn't all have the same range. Bullets could reach farther, grenades closer. Only Dazzling Hundred Blossom's bullets could reach the top of the canyon. He wasn't able to throw his grenades up there. This sort of Spitfire could only display no more than a third of his true capabilities.

But Tyranny didn't panic.

They had noticed the tall canyon walls to the side of them. They also hadn't forgotten that Happy had Su Mucheng's Launcher. If Happy had any ambushes set up, it would be the easiest to do it from up there, so Tyranny was most prepared for it. No communication was needed. Everyone knew what to do. First, they headed towards the canyon wall that Dancing Rain was situation on. The canyon wall wasn't flat. As a result, if they were perpendicular to Dancing Rain, there would be numerous obstacles in the way of her attacks. Even so, Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms didn't directly contest against Dancing Rain. Although he knew that his grenades couldn't reach up there, he threw them anyways, shooting them in midair.

Light blossomed in the air, creating a wall of light from above.

"Nice!" Even Ye Xiu praised it.

Even Ye Xiu could copy the Hundred Blossoms style pretty decently if he was given a Spitfire, but even he could tell that he wouldn't be able to copy what Zhang Jiale had just done. After all, this was Zhang Jiale's specialty. He had immersed himself in this playstyle for years. Certain techniques couldn't be copied so easily.

The uneven wall along with the light cover minimized Su Mucheng's threat to them. The five stuck to the wall as they quickly rushed towards Ye Xiu's Lord Grim.

Ye Xiu didn't rush over to welcome them. Lord Grim moved horizontally, sticking to the other side of the wall and shooting at them from afar.

The viewers saw what he was doing and cursed. He was clearly bullying Tyranny.

Han Wenqing and Song Qiying could only fight at close range. Lin Jingyan had a few mid-ranged attacks, but he couldn't be considered a mid-ranged attacker. The majority of his attacks were at a close range. If the three of them wanted to attack Lord Grim, they would need to get closer to him, which would again make them easy targets for Dancing Rain.

As for long-ranged attackers, apart from Zhang Xinjie's Cleric, there was Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms. His Spitfire was a true long-ranged attackers, but at the moment, he was spraying light into the air to interfere with Dancing Rain's attacks. How could he have time to attack Lord Grim?

Tyranny's team competition starting line up usually had Qin Muyun or Bai Yanfei, so they wouldn't be lacking a second long-ranged attacker. However, today, Song Qiying's River Sunset was put in instead, and now, Ye Xiu was taking advantage of it.

From the eyes of the spectators, Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng had control of Tyranny's left, right, up, and down. Tyranny could do nothing, and it would likely spell misfortune for them. But in the end, nothing happened with Tyranny. So what if Lord Grim was on the other side of the wall? We'll just ignore him and keep going.

Ignore Lord Grim? The viewers forgot that was an option, but what would the outcome be?

Lord Grim began attacking from afar relentlessly, starting with a Gatling Gun. The muzzle of the Myriad Manifestation Umbrella shook violently, firing a chain of bullets at Tyranny. The bullets hit the wall of the canyon, lifting a cloud of dust into the air. But so what? Dust didn't deal damage to them. A bullet or two hitting them didn't matter either. Tyranny's advance didn't slow down.

Grenade!

Anti-Tank Missiles!

Ye Xiu had Lord Grim follow with heavier attacks. These attacks dealt AoE damage, dodging them wouldn't be so easy. However, Tyranny didn't consist of a bunch of normal tenth server players. Tyranny wouldn't be overwhelmed so easily. They were very familiar with these attacks and dodged them without their formation breaking apart.

The distance was still a bit far.

Ye Xiu had noticed this point. In order to make things more difficult for Tyranny, Lord Grim moved a bit farther.

Floating Bullet, Stun Bullet!

This time, Lord Grim's attacks had CC. Bang bang, the bullets flew.

Hit!

Both bullets landed.

But none of the characters were knocked into the air or stunned. Desert Dust activated Reinforced Iron Bones and body blocked the bullets.

Then, Lord Grim cast a few magic spells, but as long as the attacks had no CC, Tyranny ignored them completely. The damage dealt by an unspecialized's low-level skills was insignificant.

But drops of water could still pierce stone. Although the damage was low, they couldn't keep ignoring it. The road wasn't short!

Tyranny was venturing into unknown territory, but the spectators knew that Ye Xiu and Tang Rou were luring Tyranny into the longest ravine on the map. Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng could control the left, right, above, and below for a long time. Just this alone would rack up quite a bit of damage onto Tyranny. Happy still had two attackers who hadn't joined yet either!

The crowd was having a hard time sitting still seeing Tyranny's patience, especially the Tyranny fans. They felt like Tyranny was continuing with their plans because they didn't know the map. However, if they continued like this, they would suffer greatly. It wouldn't be worth it!

Just when they were thinking this, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms suddenly shifted targets. Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, he shot at Lord Grim. Desert Dust, River Sunset, and Dark Thunder, the three Fighters, rushed towards Lord Grim.

What's going on?

What happened?

Although the fans were feeling anxious about Tyranny, when they suddenly switched up the tempo, they still felt anxious. For them to have suddenly made a move, was it because an opportunity had appeared? What was it? Dancing Rain was still above them!

"Hahaha, I know her a hundred times better than you guys!"

Ye Xiu left a message in the chat. At the same time, when Tyranny suddenly made their move, Lord Grim retreated, dodging Dazzling Hundred Blossom's attacks. He leapt up, his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella transforming into a ninjato, as he scaled up the wall of the canyon.

With just a few swings, Lord Grim was at a height where Han Wenqing and Song Qiying, who had the lowest range, could only grind their teeth. Lin Jingyan and Zhan Jiale, in particular, could still continue attacking. However, up above, although the cannonfire had weakened, it was concentrated on Zhang Jiale's Dazzling Hundred Blossoms. With this harassment, Zhang Jiale couldn't focus his attention on Ye Xiu. And just dealing with a few mid-ranged attacks from a Brawler was nothing difficult for Ye Xiu. Lord Grim went up and down several times and then activated Rotor Wings to fly directly to the top.

"My friends below, how are you all doing?" Ye Xiu was still taunting them.

Zhang Jiale was furious. Dazzling Hundred Blossoms fired at him fiercely, but Lord Grim simply shrunk his head back and dodged them all. Dancing Rain's cannonfire seemed to weaken again. Tyranny immediately went back towards the canyon wall that she was on.

Finally, the audience realized what had happened.

Tyranny hadn't made their move because they had lost their patience. They had found an opportunity, which came from Dancing Rain's cooldowns!

After a wave of attacks, a portion of her skills would go on cooldown. If you wanted to keep a steady DPS, you had to cycle your skills properly. PvE players, who played against bosses in-game, understood this well. However, PvP was different, because PvP was full of changes. While in PvE, it was often best to keep a steady damage output, but in PvP, it might be necessary to bursts of damage, especially in the team competition.

Dancing Rain had the high grounds and couldn't be touched, so if Su Mucheng wanted to fight as if this were PvE, she could do so.

But Tyranny's players weren't as easy to deal with as in-game bosses. Although they wouldn't attack back, they had ways of defending against her attacks. Tyranny seemed to just be sticking close to the

wall and keeping up a cover of light as they moved, but in reality, their overall movement restrained her offense to a certain extent. If she wanted to be a threat to them, she needed to go along with their pace.

As such, she could not cycle through her skills perfectly. Her skill cooldowns would result in a decrease in her firepower. It was just a matter of time.

Tyranny had grasped this point and seized this timing. However, Ye Xiu understood this even better than them.

Lord Grim retreated, while Dancing Rain held back for her cooldowns to come back up. They weren't big enough of a threat to suppress Tyranny, but they could still force them into a corner. As a result, once they suppressed Tyranny's only long-ranged attacker, Lord Grim backed away.

It seemed like an ordinary change in the battle, but it contained a deeper layer to it. The more skilled normal players could see that Dancing Rain had quite a lot of skills on cooldown, but they didn't know that Tyranny had led it to this situation. They hadn't simply been waiting for an opportunity, they had created it.

It had been a good move, but Ye Xiu had broken it apart.

"It's finally my turn!" Fang Rui popped up in the chat. Happy's next move was coming.

Chapter 1560: Chat Statistics

Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain was situated on the left canyon wall.

Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was situated on the right canyon wall.

Tyranny could interfere with Su Mucheng's influence on the left through their usage of the uneven surface of the canyon wall and Dazzling Hundred Blossoms' light cover. However, there was nothing they could do to stop the attacks from Lord Grim's side.

Tyranny didn't make any adjustments.

The threat posed by the left and right was not equally balanced. In terms of long-ranged capabilities, Dancing Rain's firepower was more fearsome. Most of Lord Grim's long-ranged attacks required him to rely on the differences in height to land. This meant that Tyranny was at the very edge of his attack range. These sort of attacks were relatively easy to dodge. The problem was that constantly dodging was tiresome. Zhang Jiale's Hundred Blossoms style was also very mana-hungry. Previously, he had used his skills rather lavishly so that Su Mucheng would not be able to cycle through her skills perfectly. Keeping up this Hundred Blossoms cover would be too wasteful.

Fang Rui's trash talk popped up in the public chat during Tyranny's predicament. In the next second, a few of Tyranny's players could see him.

Why only a few?

Because all five of Tyranny's players were sticking close to the wall, and the wall was not straight. By moving along the wall, their vision was restricted. Fang Rui had said that he had arrived, but to put it more accurately, his appearance hadn't been proactive. Rather, it was because Tyranny had constantly been pushing forward. Once they reached this area, Boundless Sea, who had been waiting by the walls of the canyon, could finally see Tyranny.

Boundless Sea had been gathering qi in his palms. The viewers weren't surprised. They could see the communication between Happy. While Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng had been harrasing Tyranny, they had also been informing Fang Rui of their location. When the time came, Boundless Sea began charging Spirit Reaches to the Rainbow, waiting for Tyranny to enter his range.

Tyranny appeared.

So Fang Rui released the qi.

Spirit Reaches to the Rainbow!

Boundless Sea moved laterally. As a result, the qi that he released moved somewhat differently than when standing. The qi formed a rainbow, but instead of cutting through the sky, it moved along the wall in an arc.

Pierce through all of Tyranny, skewering them like tanghulu with Spirit Reaches to the Rainbow!

Fang Rui had been charging his attack for a long time. The viewers had noticed it a while ago, but to Tyranny, it was very sudden. The moment Fang Rui typed out his message into the chat, he had already released his attack. This was his usual tactic of using trash talk to distract his opponents. It was inherently different from Huang Shaotian's trash talk, who did it simply because he was talkative.

The one at the front of Tyranny's formation was Han Wenqing's Desert Dust.

Body block it?

No.

The class advancement skill, Spirit Reaches to the Rainbow, had even higher piercing power than the Launcher's Laser Beam. Unless he had a shield or if the teammates behind him wouldn't be hit by the attack, there was no way for him to lower the destructiveness of the attack.

Don't block it?

If he didn't block it, then his only option was to dodge it? But would the others behind him be able to react in time?

Because of their formation, Desert Dust was blocking everyone's line of sight. Han Wenqing could see the arc of the Spirit Reaches to the Rainbow vividly, but the others behind him might not be able to. It was very possible that they were looking around trying to find where that dirty bastard was!

Fang Rui's choice in positioning and timing was dripping with dirtiness.

It was dirty to the point that normal viewers weren't even aware of the dirtiness. Only the experts who put themselves in Tyranny's position would know just how disgusting this attack was.

Perhaps taking the hit would be the wisest choice. At the very least, they would be able to maintain their formation... that was what many pro players believed. Han Wenqing's Desert Dust stepped to the side though, dodging the attack.

Behind him, Dark Thunder also stepped to the side.

Behind Dark Thunder, Immovable Rock stepped to the side.

Then, River Sunset.

And finally, Dazzling Hundred Blossoms.

Tyranny's chat was completely clean, but all of Tyranny reacted nearly simultaneously and stepped to the side, dodging the Spirit Reaches to the Rainbow!

This was a silent trust, trust that the person at the front, their captain Han Wenqing, would never make a meaningless move.

It was a trust that everyone would act promptly and effectively to not delay the next player's action.

And just like this, the dirty attack had been avoided through the tacit coordination between Tyranny's team members.

Throughout this process, there had been no communication through the chat. Not even an exclamation point.

The Alliance had a stat specifically to track how many messages each team sent every match. Of the twenty teams in the Alliance, Tyranny typed the fewest words, whether it was in the team or the public chat.

The team chat was mainly used to communicate information and strategies between team members. Less communication in the team chat meant a higher level of team synergy. The messages would be short and precise. Tyranny's current line up had only been created last season, yet they had already reached such a high level of synergy. Much of it had to do with the experience and awareness of the old generals that supported the team.

This statistic had become a measure of a team's strength. Behind Tyranny in terms of messages in the team chat was the defending champion, Samsara, and then Tiny Herb. All of them were top teams.

There were exceptions, of course.

Such as Team Thunderclap. Their performance in the regular season had been outstanding, but for them, not only did the number of messages in the team chat not decrease, it increased. This was because Xiao Shiqing's shotcalling had become more detailed.

Another notable example was Team Blue Rain, but that was because of a very obvious reason. This statistic for Blue Rain was skewed heavily because of a certain outlier.

Apart from that, there was the statistics for the number of messages in the public chat.

The public chat was used as communication between the competing teams, which mostly consisted of trash talk. This statistic was more dependent on the personalities of the individual players and didn't reflect a team's strength. Of course, for the same reason, this statistic for Blue Rain was heavily skewed.

In comparison, the team chat statistic for Happy was very average. Their communication wasn't as concise as those of the top teams, but it also wasn't as noisy as those of most new teams. On the other hand, for the public chat statistic, Happy was in the top three. It could be seen that their talent for trash talk wasn't low!