

Avatar 1621

Chapter 1621: Would it kill you to let me look cool for a bit?

"This match... Samsara's home game... it seems... it seems..." Pan Lin thought carefully about he should word things, but wasn't able to find the right words in the end. In reality, he didn't need to explain anything. Most of the viewers had the same feeling as him.

This was Samsara's home game. Samsara had chosen this map. They should be the ones taking advantage of the terrain. It was supposed to be their biggest weapon. But the result? What everyone saw was Ye Xiu taking advantage of the trash room to stall three of Samsara's players. On the other end, at this alleyway, Samsara's two players were supposed to pincer and trap Fang Rui, but in the blink of an eye, the situation was flipped.

How did everything turn out this way?

No one could think of an answer. Samsara hadn't underestimated their enemy. They had sent three players to the trash room to deal with one Ye Xiu, how could that be underestimating the enemy?

At the alleyway, when Chaotic Cloudy Mountain and Moon Luring Frost formed a pincer onto Boundless Sea, everyone thought that it was hopeless for Fang Rui. But Fang Rui had other ideas. He had danced around them, staying alive until Dancing Rain arrived.

This couldn't be considered a mistake from Samsara. Fang Rui was playing incredibly well. A great performance happened when you made outstanding plays in unordinary situations. Samsara's ambush had been set up meticulously. They had started by checking their surroundings through the windows. After noticing Dancing Rain's movements, they thought of this plan. Then, Fang Minghua's Laughing Song went to switch with Du Ming's Moon Luring Frost. When Fang Rui's Boundless Sea appeared, the two didn't act too hastily. They patiently waited for Fang Rui to go in deeper and for Su Mucheng to move farther away.

Every detail had been considered by Samsara. Every part of the plan had been executed well.

Even so, they had failed to trap Fang Rui and inflict heavy injuries onto him like they had liked. Now, they were the ones in a dangerous position.

"Retreat!"

Lu Boyuan said decisively.

Rushing forward was an option. However, the terrain wasn't favorable for them. Rushing through attacks from Fang Rui and Su Mucheng was too risky. Lu Boyuan hadn't forgotten that Happy didn't only have Fang Rui's Qi Master and Su Mucheng's Launcher. There was also the threat of Qiao Yifan's Phantom Demon Ghostblade. Maybe he was waiting at the exit at the front. If they successfully made their way out from the alleyway, they would instantly be enveloped by multiple ghost boundaries.

As a result, they could only retreat. They had to retreat.

Lu Boyuan didn't say anything. He had Chaotic Cloudy Mountain turn around and run, while paying attention to Moon Luring Frost's situation up ahead. Moon Luring Frost had been shot out of the air by Dancing Rain. As he fell, Boundless Sea flitted past him with his head turned back. From the looks of it,

he planned on looting from a burning house. Lu Boyuan needed to make sure that Moon Luring Frost could run away, so that Du Ming wouldn't need to be rescued.

Sure enough, Boundless Sea stopped. He was a dirty Qi Master, who loved to be sneaky. But at this moment, he was making a huge show, gathering qi around his two palms. Lu Boyuan resisted the urge to charge at him because he knew that Boundless Sea was situated outside both his and Moon Luring Frost's attack range. That was why Boundless Sea was so fearless. That bastard, Fang Rui, was too infuriating. It was like he was purposefully trying to annoy them.

Dragon Wave!

Boundless Sea made his move. The gathered qi transformed into a dragon, which flew out towards his two enemies.

Moon Luring Frost had just landed on the ground. Du Ming saw the warning from Lu Boyuan and rolled back. By the time he got up, the Dragon Wave was roaring towards him.

Du Ming didn't even think. He immediately had Moon Luring Frost jump towards the wall and then jump again!

Unfortunately, Rising Dragon Slash had just been used and was still on cooldown. Du Ming had no way of using the same method to send Moon Luring Frost onto the rooftop. The double jump was just to avoid the attack for as long as he could. Dragon Wave could be controlled by the user. Du Ming didn't think he could actually dodge it fully. But with this jump, Fang Rui would need to focus on him so that he could aim his Dragon Wave properly. That would at least buy some time for Lu Boyuan.

The two players on Samsara hadn't forgotten to take care of each other. Lu Boyuan didn't have Chaotic Cloudy Mountain leave first. He made sure that Du Ming could also escape. As for Du Ming? He was using his character's position to help Lu Boyuan escape.

If Lu Boyuan didn't have Chaotic Cloudy Mountain run away, then he would be wasting Du Ming's kindness. There was no time to think about all that though. Chaotic Cloudy Mountain turned around and sprinted away.

Boom!

An explosion from behind him.

Chaotic Cloudy Mountain's footsteps didn't stop. He looked behind him and saw that Moon Luring Frost had been shot by Dancing Rain again.

Du Ming hadn't forgotten about Su Mucheng's presence. He had predicted that Dancing Rain's attacks wouldn't stop. But in this narrow alleyway, there really wasn't anywhere for him to run to. Du Ming had Moon Luring Frost swing his sword at the missile, but the explosion still hurt him.

Moon Luring Frost lost his balance again, with smoke coming off from him as he fell. Then, Boundless Sea's Dragon Wave swallowed him whole. Lu Boyuan felt terrible.

He wanted Chaotic Cloudy Mountain to turn back, so that he and Du Ming could fend them off together. But he knew very well that doing so would be unwise.

He was abandoning Du Ming, but this was because he had no other choice. Their goal was to win, and winning depended on the entire team. As long as one person stood at the end, they would be the winners.

For the win, to remain as the champions!

Lu Boyuan brainwashed himself, constantly repeating these words to himself. He didn't have Chaotic Cloudy Mountain turn his head back, instead using all his might to run away. He hated his decision, but he trusted that his decision was correct. He wasn't playing just for himself. He couldn't make decisions based on his own likes. Every one of them was carrying the burden of the dreams of the entire team and countless fans.

Ahead is the exit! Keep going!

Chaotic Cloudy Mountain rushed out from the alleyway. Only then did he turn his head back.

Even though everything about Du Ming's situation pointed to disaster, Lu Boyuan still felt hope for him, hope that Du Ming could catch up to him.

But no...

Moon Luring Frost was far behind him. Fire and light flashed again and again. Endless qi mixed in with the explosions. Moon Luring Frost's sword light glinted tenaciously.

Again, Lu Boyuan resisted the urge to turn back.

But...

"You can do it!"

Du Ming typed out in the team chat.

He was the one fighting. He was the one who was trying to escape, but Du Ming was the one encouraging him.

Lu Boyuan couldn't keep watching, afraid that he wouldn't be able to resist his urges any longer.

Chaotic Cloudy Mountain turned around and immediately rushed towards the support zone.

Seeing Chaotic Cloudy Mountain leave, Du Ming felt at ease. Moon Luring Frost was hit by a blast again. Du Ming tried his best to stabilize the situation, but the attack disrupted his efforts. Moon Luring Frost tumbled to the ground.

How embarrassing!

Du Ming laughed bitterly.

He had been hoping to put on an outstanding performance, especially in this match against Happy. But it looks like this was it.

To the left was a wall. To the right was a wall. He couldn't use many of his skills. As for charging towards them in a straight line, as long as his opponents maintained a certain distance away from him, he posed no threat.

The two on Happy were too experienced. They were carefully taking advantage of the terrain.

Qi Masters and Launchers didn't have a lot of strong CC abilities. As a result, the two didn't intend on pinning Moon Luring Frost down. The two were doing their utmost to deal as much damage to Moon Luring Frost. If it happened to work out, then they would also try to make it hard for Moon Luring Frost to move around.

I won't make it.

His health was dropping fast, and there was still quite a way to go before he could leave. Du Ming was already certain that he would die before he escaped.

I'll cheer up my teammate first. As for me, I'll just have to contribute as much as I can to our win!

Moon Luring Frost suddenly rolled backwards. Instead of moving to the exit, he went for Boundless Sea.

Fang Rui immediately had Boundless Sea retreat, while sending out a Cloud Pushing Palm.

Jump!

Moon Luring Frost got up and jumped, but soon, he heard the sound of a cannon shot.

Falling Light Blade!

Moon Luring Frost dropped down, the artillery shell whistling past his head.

Falling Blossom Form!

This Level 75 skill had extremely high priority in the air and had a knockdown effect. Du Ming was using it to get down.

Sword petals filled the air, preparing to cut down Boundless Sea.

But Boundless Sea simply retreated in an extremely dirty manner too, dodging this attack.

"Would it kill you to let me look cool for a bit!!!" Du Ming cursed at Fang Rui. He was obviously unhappy that his attack had missed.

I'm almost dead. Can't you just let me leave a good impression with one final display of might?

"What's cooler than dying at my hands?" Fang Rui responded slickly. Boundless Sea pulled back his hands and then pushed out.

Air Rend Palm!

Qi condensed into the shape of a handprint. With a pa, it struck Moon Luring Frost, stunning him.

Flash Burst!

Fang Rui wasn't polite at all. Seeing how close they were, he immediately let out a high-level skill!

The qi couldn't expand in this narrow alleyway. It could only burst forth in what little space there was. After Flash Burst came Qigong Blast. Qi filled the alleyway, turning the entire area hazy.

Dancing Rain's artillery support came down in coordination with Fang Rui's assault.

"Fuck..." Du Ming couldn't help but leave a profanity in the chat. Along with a yellow card from the referee, he left the field.

Chapter 1622: Cruel Hand Speed

The moment Du Ming left the battlefield, the stadium erupted with wild cheers. The cheers came from the away team stands.

The Happy fans that had followed the team to their away game couldn't contend against Samsara's fans. If you weren't listening carefully enough, it was almost impossible to hear the shouts and cheers for Happy. However, despite their feeble existence, the Happy fans never gave in. They were doing their best to cheer for their team.

Too many people had scoffed at the thought of Happy reaching this step. Some of them even thought of Happy making their way to the finals was a lucky fluke. Losing to Samsara would be a glorious end to their season.

But the Happy fans that had followed their team to Samsara's home stadium disagreed. They had come to cheer on their team despite the overwhelming opposition because they thought that there was glory in defeat.

What they wanted was for Happy to win, to become the newly crowned champions.

Even if others might laugh at them for overestimating themselves, their thirst for victory wouldn't waver.

No matter how weak the team was, all of them dreamed of becoming the champions. Happy had struggled their way through the season. Glory in defeat? A glorious end? They didn't need any of that. They wanted to win. Only by winning and becoming the champions would they be satisfied.

This was why Happy absolutely could not lose this match. It was their final chance.

But no matter how determined they may be, they knew that today's match would be extremely challenging. Happy was playing in their away game, and their opponents had a one game lead. Happy carried an enormous amount of pressure going in.

A lot of people might have forgotten about this aspect. In their eyes, there was no pressure for Happy because losing was normal. Happy shouldn't have any hopes of winning.

But reality trumped rhetoric. Happy was showing everyone that their efforts weren't just to welcome defeat. Despite being on the backfoot, they were still aiming to win.

Two point lead in the group arena.

One person lead in the team competition.

It didn't matter what had lead to this situation. It didn't matter what the outcome of this match was. Right now, how stimulating! Happy's performance was too stimulating! Happy's fans felt like they had

been injected with drugs, especially the ones cheering from the stadium. The noise that they made was a challenge to the devilish home crowd.

So what if we don't have as many people as you guys? We're winning. We have a huge three point lead.

From a match perspective, Happy's lead was enough to leave their opponents speechless, especially after killing off Du Ming's Moon Luring Frost with such ease. Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain had taken zero damage, and the damage that Fang Rui's Boundless Sea had taken was from the pincer by Lu Boyuan and Du Ming earlier. This lead had been earned almost perfectly.

But how could the Samsara fans endure the overjoyed expressions on the Happy fans. Even if they had nothing to back up their cheers, they weren't going to let themselves be outdone.

The noise in the stadium reached a new high. Samsara's fans had been able to overwhelm Happy's fans in the end. However, they were just relying on their numbers advantage. The contribution from each individual couldn't compare to a tenth of a Happy fan.

Hurry up and do something!

It would be a lie to say that Samsara's fans weren't worried, especially seeing how the opposing fans were so delighted. Even if they could overwhelm their opponents in noise, it didn't give them a sense of victory because victory wouldn't be decided by which side shouted louder, but by the players on stage. If their team couldn't beat their opponents, then their cheers and shouts were just empty words.

Come on! Come on!

Samsara's fans thought to themselves. But there didn't seem to be any possible turning points right now. Du Ming's Moon Luring Frost had died. Fang Minghua's Laughing Song had automatically entered the field, and Lu Boyuan's Chaotic Cloudy Mountain was hurrying over to convene with him. Protecting the healer was a bigger priority than counterattacking.

Did they need to search for hope on the other side?

Trash room.

The conflict between Ye Xiu and Samsara's three players hadn't stopped. There hadn't been any direct clashes, but Ye Xiu being able to escape again and again was enough to astonish everyone. But in return, Ye Xiu had suffered greatly, whether it was himself as a player or his character.

His tempo was starting to falter. His control over Lord Grim was no longer as precise as before.

Zhou Zekai, Sun Xiang, Jiang Botao.

Any one of these three players had the ability to contend with Ye Xiu one on one. None of them could be underestimated. However, Ye Xiu needed to fight against the three of them by himself. The amount of energy he put in wasn't nearly as simple as three times the amount.

This could be seen from the hand speed statistics. Ye Xiu's hand speed averaged 340 APM overall this round. As for the team competition itself, his stats were calculated starting from when Lord Grim started clashing with Samsara's three players. His hand speed for the team competition averaged 510.

510!

For many pro players, this was their limit, but right now, it was Ye Xiu's average.

Seeing this number, the viewers couldn't help but gasp in astonishment. But to the pro players watching, they had forgotten to be astonished. This average hand speed of 510 was a form of cruelty.

It was cruel to the opponents and cruel to Ye Xiu himself.

His opponents were dealing with this hand speed, although to be more accurate, it was more the other way around. Ye Xiu needed this hand speed to deal with the pressure that his three opponents were giving him. This cruelty was being undertaken by Ye Xiu alone.

"Too reckless..." Even Han Wenqing made a note of Ye Xiu's craziness, and he was always fearless in battle.

Zhang Xinjie furrowed his brows, carefully observing the curve given by the data. After all, 510 was an average. His hand speed wasn't constant. There were ups and downs. As a result, Zhang Xinjie tried to look for relatively clear flat areas. He reckoned that Ye Xiu was resting during these flat periods. That was the only way he could maintain an average hand speed of 510.

But no...

The hand speed curve was extremely messy with huge ups and downs. From this chaotic curve, Ye Xiu's difficulties could be seen clearly. His actions were being forced out by his opponents. If he didn't keep up this hand speed, Lord Grim would already be a corpse.

And from the changes in the curve, Ye Xiu was having more and more trouble holding on. Samsara's three players was aware of this point, so even though they knew that Ye Xiu stalling all three of them was unfavorable for Samsara as a whole, they didn't make any adjustments. When Du Ming's Moon Luring Frost fell and his name turned gray, they even became more decisive with their attacks.

This was the price of perseverance. It was only by killing Lord Grim would they make up for this price.

Soon!

Lord Grim still had 52% of his health left. He still had more than half of his health left. However, the three on Samsara could feel Ye Xiu's reaction speed and response slipping. They knew that Ye Xiu was on the verge of defeat.

"Ye Xiu's nearing his limits..." Huang Shaotian said gravely. Yu Wenzhou didn't make any objections. Sitting in front of them, Wang Jiexi and Tiny Herb's hand speed expert Liu Xiaobie were also silent.

"Uh..." But on the other side, there were people who wanted to say something but were hesitating.

Lou Guanning, Zou Yunhai, Wen Kebei, Gu Xiye, Zhong Yeli.

Team Heavenly Swords had come to watch the match as well. Even though all of them had powerful and wealthy family backgrounds, in the pro circle, they were the younger generation. Their skill couldn't compete with the top players. But while their seniors had come to the same conclusion, these five disagreed. When Wen Kebei heard Huang Shaotian say "he's nearing his limit," he couldn't help but say

something. But when he saw that no one was paying attention to him, he hesitated and decided against it.

“What is it?” someone asked. It was Sun Zheping, who had come with them.

“I don’t think... this is God Ye Xiu’s limit?” Lou Guanning said.

“What?” Sun Zheping was doubtful.

“You guys all think this is limit?” Wen Kebei had been too afraid to speak up because everyone else had come to a different conclusion than him.

“It seems like you guys know something?” Sun Zheping asked.

“Uh...” The five on Heavenly Swords looked at one another.

“We’ve experienced his hand speed before,” Lou Guanning said.

Sun Zheping laughed. Ye Xiu’s hand speed. Hadn’t he experienced it nine years ago? At that time, Ye Xiu had been at his peak. No matter how unwilling Ye Xiu might be or how great he still was, his age was there. Certain things couldn’t be decided by pure willpower.

“That’s not what I mean. We saw his hand speed through different means,” Lou Guanning saw that Sun Zheping had misunderstood him. They were rookies. How could they dare to talk about experience facing someone as senior as him?

“Different means?” Sun Zheping didn’t understand.

“Piano!” Lou Guanning said.

“What?” Sun Zheping was very interested. “Piano?”

“Piano!” Wen Kebei affirmed.

“What about it?”

“God Ye Xiu can play it!”

“Are you thinking of someone else?” Sun Zheping wasn’t the type to waver, but hearing them talk about Ye Xiu playing piano, he was having trouble believing them.

“Of course not! During last year’s All-Star Weekend...” Lou Guanning quickly told them about their dinner party that night.

“The tempo in a piece is fixed, so based on the amount of time that Ye Xiu used to finish the piece, we can calculate his hand speed. Playing piano is different than playing Glory, but at least for piano, Ye Xiu’s max hand speed should be...” Lou Guanning suddenly stopped at the crucial moment.

“How much?” Sun Zheping asked.

“900...” Lou Guanning’s voice trembled. He knew the answer beforehand, but he was still scared by it, “48 seconds, a steady 900 APM.”

Chapter 1623: A Serious Mistake

“900? Impossible!!” Sun Zheping blurted out.

He might not know that much about playing piano, but he had fought against Ye Xiu in game before. Ye Xiu’s hand speed was indeed very fast, and right now, the three on Samsara had forced him to an average hand speed of 500. 900? What did that mean? It was a hand speed nearly twice as fast as his current one, and that wasn’t a peak, but an average over 48 seconds.

“It’s true though...” Lou Guanning said. He could understand Sun Zheping’s reaction. They had the same reaction as him when they saw it. In the beginning, they just felt like Ye Xiu was playing really fast. They had no concept of the exact numbers up until Lou Guanning calculated it. The number had nearly shattered their eyes.

900!

Lou Guanning and the others might not be as experienced as Sun Zheping, but they could imagine how terrifying such a hand speed was. Later, they looked through a bunch of Ye Xiu’s matches, but they never saw him come close to such a high hand speed in any of them.

Playing piano was different from playing Glory. The left and right hand did completely different things for one...

The five of them could only explain it with this reasoning, but they truly had a hard time convincing themselves. After all, 900 was a terrifying number. Pro players averaged around 300. When a more complicated or chaotic event happened in the team competition, their hand speed might go up. For example, Ye Xiu was playing 1v3 against Samsara and had been forced to a hand speed of 500. Even so, 500 was a huge difference from 900!

Maybe it was because piano and Glory were different that Ye Xiu couldn’t reach a hand speed of 900 in Glory. But there were plenty of numbers lower than 900. Even if you subtracted 200 or 300, it was still a hand speed of 600 or 700; 500 shouldn’t be his limit, right?

That was their opinion at least. After Sun Zheping accepted that Ye Xiu had reached an APM of 900 when playing piano, his view was no different from theirs.

“That guy’s... still holding back?” Sun Zheping thought about it for a moment, but immediately shook his head.

This was the finals. Playing 120% wouldn’t even feel like it was enough. Hold back? What a joke!

Maybe it is because you can’t actually get to an APM of 900 in Glory?

Sun Zheping couldn’t think of any other reasoning, but even if was using this reasoning to convince himself, from this moment on, he began to look forward to what might happen next. Who cares if there’s a difference between piano and Glory? From this moment on, to Sun Zheping, Ye Xiu’s highest average hand speed was 900!

How terrifying! In that case, did his true maximum break past 1000?

Sun Zheping was thinking of it from a Glory perspective. He didn't know that on that day, when Ye Xiu had played piano, he had just been playing it for the sake of playing fast. There were no changes in rhythm like there were in Glory.

So what is the answer? Hurry up and let us see it!

While the other pro players felt like Ye Xiu couldn't hang on for much longer, Sun Zheping and the five on Heavenly Swords had different thoughts.

While their conversation had gone on, Ye Xiu's situation worsened. Under the siege from Samsara, Lord Grim was forced into a corner, an actual corner in the trash room. There was no place for him to hide any longer.

Victory is in sight!

The Samsara fans had started getting excited. Even though they had lost a player first, if they could take down Lord Grim, the trade would be worth it. Similar to how Su Mucheng and Fang Rui had dispatched Du Ming without taking much damage, it would be the same for the three on Samsara. They hadn't taken much damage in their fight against Ye Xiu's Lord Grim. Now, it just depended on how troublesome Ye Xiu's final struggle would be.

"Careful!"

Jiang Botao warned in Samsara's chat. They had to keep cautious to not give Ye Xiu any chance to deal damage to them. They didn't immediately attack. Instead, they waited until every one of them was in the perfect position, so there wouldn't be any openings when they started their attack.

"It's over!" Sun Xiang declared.

He had always longed to beat Ye Xiu. He wanted to surpass him. Unfortunately, they were currently in a 3v1 situation. It probably wouldn't be considered a win in his eyes, but it wasn't important. It was true that Sun Xiang wanted to surpass Ye Xiu, but he wouldn't bicker too hard over it. In the end, his ultimate priority was to win the match. If they didn't win, even if he beat Ye Xiu on his own, it wouldn't have any meaning.

Dragon Breaks the Ranks!

One Autumn Leaf charged forward with the powerful momentum of a Battle Mage to seal off Ye Xiu's final hopes.

Surpassing you will have to wait. Today, the most important thing is to win this match!

Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf charged forward, carrying this conviction. Suddenly, his screen turned dark.

What's going on?

Sun Xiang nearly leapt out of his seat. Had his computer malfunctioned?

That was his first thought, but he soon discovered that it wasn't that his computer had crashed. It was because there was an indicator showing on the screen that his character couldn't see.

Blind?

Where did it come from?

He had been carefully observing each and every movement from Lord Grim. When had he used a skill that inflicted Blind?

Unable to see his opponent, Sun Xiang couldn't control his Dragon Breaks the Ranks. He heard a gunshot. Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer had started firing. However, those bullets didn't seem to be going towards where he was going? Lord Grim had already run over there?

Sun Xiang was utterly confused. The crowd had exploded too. Through their spectator view, when One Autumn Leaf charged forward, a hazy pitch-black light quietly descended. The area covered by the dark light was surrounded by faint magical symbols in a giant circle. Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf had entered this zone. Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was at the edge of it too. As a result, their screens instantly turned black. The two of them had been Blinded.

This is...

Ghostblade's Dark Boundary?

But with how carefully they had been watching over Ye Xiu, there was no way they wouldn't notice him casting a Ghostblade boundary, let alone letting him finish casting it. What's going on?

Most of the crowd was just as confused, up until Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer started firing, not towards Lord Grim, but towards a corner of the trash pile. When he moved laterally to get a better view, their confusion was cleared up.

One Inch Ash!

Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash had appeared here.

The crowd went wild. Practically no one had noticed. On one side was the battle between Fang Rui, Su Mucheng, Du Ming, and Lu Boyuan. On the other side was Ye Xiu, Zhou Zekai, Jiang Botao, and Sun Xiang. It was already difficult enough deciding which of the two battles they should watch. How could they bother paying attention to someone who wasn't a part of either battle?

When did Qiao Yifan get there? How did he get there without anyone noticing him?

Many of the viewers blanked. Their last impression of One Inch Ash was him splitting up with Fang Rui and Su Mucheng to search for the two on Samsara. After that, he had been forgotten.

And now, his sudden appearance had rescued Ye Xiu from what had seemed to be certain death.

The three on Samsara had made a mistake. Their highly focused attention had turned into their weakness. They had only been following Ye Xiu's every move.

"A beautiful stall," Wang Jiexi sighed.

His explosive 510 hand speed wasn't just to hold on against the combined assault from Samsara. He had responded back strongly to capture the complete attention of the three from Samsara, so they would make this mistake.

Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash came to the trash room and got into this position without any of the players on Samsara noticing.

This was a mistake, but no one could blame Samsara for it. The viewers, who could see everything if they chose to, had been absorbed by the intense fighting. They hadn't noticed Qiao Yifan either. How could they expect the three on Samsara to, when they themselves couldn't?

Sun Xiang and Jiang Botao had been blinded. For a moment, they didn't know what had happened.

With the two of them blinded, Ye Xiu was able to easily make his way past them. As for Zhou Zekai, who hadn't been affected by the Dark Boundary, he could only shift his attention to One Inch Ash.

The control capabilities of a Phantom Demon were too powerful. Right now, it was just a Dark Boundary. If Qiao Yifan was left alone to do as he pleased, an Ice Boundary, Ash Boundary, Silence, and so on would come one after the other. If that happened, they would be the ones in trouble.

Qiao Yifan!

He had once been a nobody in Tiny Herb, and now, in the finals, he was the one who Glory's number one, Zhou Zekai, was personally taking care of. The people, who had taken note of Qiao Yifan's arduous path to his current state, felt deeply moved.

The spectating pro players couldn't help but glance at Tiny Herb for their reactions. Qiao Yifan had been given up on by Tiny Herb, and now he had reached the finals ahead of them. What were the Tiny Herb players thinking right now?

You can do it, Yifan!

Gao Yingjie didn't say anything, but he was quietly cheering for his best friend. Many of the pro players had also overlooked Qiao Yifan due to the two separate battles taking place, but Gao Yingjie wasn't one of them. No matter what else was going on in the match, he would always be mindful of Qiao Yifan.

When Fang Rui sent the message asking for help, Su Mucheng and Qiao Yifan had both turned around. He had originally thought that Qiao Yifan would be heading towards Fang Rui to help him, but to his surprise, Qiao Yifan had gone towards the trash room.

"A brilliant decision."

"What outstanding situational awareness."

Gao Yingjie heard the praise pouring out from his seniors beside him. He was happy for Qiao Yifan, and proud.

During their time together in Tiny Herb, the two of them were often compared to each other. Gao Yingjie shined with his fame as a prodigy. On the other hand, Qiao Yifan was completely overshadowed by him. From the start, it seemed like Qiao Yifan would never reach the same heights as Gao Yingjie.

But now, Qiao Yifan had gone ahead to the finals before him, and he had made an outstanding play on stage.

Now, I'm the one chasing after you. I hope that we'll be able to meet in the finals someday, Gao Yingjie thought to himself.

Chapter 1624: No Longer Alone

His best friend was proud of him, but what about Qiao Yifan himself?

He was calm.

He was considered a major threat by Glory's number one. Perhaps this might've had him shaking in excitement back when he was just a no name player in Tiny Herb, but now it wouldn't.

Because this was the battlefield, and there was no such thing as being of a higher or lower standing here, only victory and defeat. On the battlefield, you should be focused on one thing: how to claim victory. This was something he had learned from Glory's number one, the other Glory's number one.

One Inch Ash leaped back, dodging the first wave of Cloud Piercer's bullets. Zhou Zekai had Cloud Piercer continue his advance, but that was when he suddenly realized something.

They had neglected to consider Qiao Yifan, but was Qiao Yifan the only one they had missed? Wasn't there another member of Happy that had yet to appear? Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash was here, so what about the other one?

Cloud Piercer suddenly jumped up, turning his body around in the air, continuing his attack as he scanned the area.

Fwoosh!

A pure white flame lit up the area he just jumped away from.

Sacred Fire, as expected!

As he spun, he searched for the quickly fading glimmer of holy light that marked the use of Sacred Fire. Though it was weak, it stood out in this dim lighting of the warehouse.

It wasn't just Qiao Yifan who had come, but also Happy's healer, An Wenyi, and his Cleric, Little Cold Hands.

1v3? That was just now! It was now a 3v3, and Happy had a healer.

However, whether Qiao Yifan or An Wenyi, their reputation couldn't compare to any of the three members of Samsara. In terms of strength, as well, they were at a disadvantage. Even if they had a healer, this wasn't necessarily an advantage.

Still, compared to before, this was already a massive difference, especially with how Happy's two had suddenly launched their assault when Ye Xiu most needed it, completely destroying Samsara's rhythm.

Jiang Botao and Sun Xiang had lost their camera sight, having been blinded, but that didn't mean that the team chat would disappear as well. They soon got the gist of the current situation from Zhou Zekai in the team chat.

No matter what, leaving the Dark Boundary was their current top priority, but even for pro players, being blinded made it nigh impossible to accurately orient themselves. Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf had just finished a Dragon Breaks the Ranks, which brought him near to the edge of the Dark Boundary. Unfortunately, it also brought him to the trash room wall and he couldn't move forward anymore, not even a step. This direction wouldn't provide an out to the Dark Boundary. Luckily, Sun Xiang had a vague impression of the area, so he had One Autumn Leaf turn. Even without being able to see anything, One Autumn Leaf still managed a perfect 180-degree turn.

These seemingly insignificant details were a great indicator of a player's skill. Those who understood sighed in admiration, yet then Lord Grim flicked his arm and sent a grenade One Autumn Leaf's way.

Sun Xiang couldn't see, so he had no idea that Ye Xiu was taking advantage of his blindness. The watching Samsara members wanted nothing more than to charge up there and warn him, but then there was a bang and a rumbling explosion. Zhou Zekai had gotten Cloud Piercer to destroy the grenade.

In the end, not only did the grenade not hit One Autumn Leaf, the explosion it made even acted like a guide for Sun Xiang. Although relying on sound meant that he wasn't as precise as he would've liked, One Autumn Leaf did head in Lord Grim's direction, Evil Annihilation levered in front of him. Even blinded, he never lost his offensive pose.

Boom...

But immediately afterwards, One Autumn Leaf was consumed by light and fire. Ye Xiu had opened fire with the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella again. Anti-Tank Missiles used the boom of the grenade as cover to fly at One Autumn Leaf. The two weren't that far away, so even if Zhou Zekai wanted to warn him in the team chat, it would be too late. One Autumn Leaf still ended up hit and staggered back several steps from the explosion. While blinded, it was already impressive that he could keep his balance, but his sense of direction was completely shot.

Zhou Zekai wanted to send messages to guide him, but he didn't have a chance. His split in attention had Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash safely finishing the cast of a boundary. Then when he tried to go and help, One Inch Ash's phantom ghost's power fell and a chill instantly spread into a boundary. He had summoned an Ice Soul, Ice Boundary.

Crack crack crack...

The sound of ice crystals breaking crawled up Jiang Botao's Empty Waves, freezing him solid.

Originally, Jiang Botao was in a better situation than Sun Xiang. At the very least, he didn't get blocked by a wall. After being blinded, he had Empty Waves back up rapidly. With just a few more leaps until the edge of the boundary, he was hit with One Inch Ash's Ice Boundary and just happened to get frozen, too, stopping him within the Dark Boundary.

Blinded and immobilized, Jiang Botao had basically been taken out of the game for now. Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer turned to attack One Inch Ash again, but this time Ye Xiu's Lord Grim leaped at that heap of trash, drawing his sword in midair and striking.

Cloud Piercer bent backwards to dodge the sword light, a grenade already heading for the leaping Lord Grim.

But Ye Xiu didn't have Lord Grim dodge. With a flash of light, he sheathed his sword, and the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella became tonfas. Lord Grim's body trembled...

Boom!

The explosion enveloped Lord Grim, but was unable to stop his leap.

Reinforced Iron Bones!

Ye Xiu had activated this skill for Lord Grim and brute forced his way through. As for the damage, he didn't care, because he was no longer fighting solo. An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands darted forward and sent Lord Grim a Holy Cure without any hesitation.

Pure white light enveloped Lord Grim before blooming outwards. This was the visual effect of a critical heal, even managing to overpower the visual effect of the explosion for a moment.

Twenty-four percent!

This instant cast, high healing Holy Cure with a lengthy cooldown of five minutes had crit and restored Lord Grim's health by twenty-four percent instantly, making Samsara's three's efforts seem insignificant. They had struggled with Lord Grim for so long, only managing to take out forty-eight percent of his health. Now half of that had been annihilated by a single Holy Cure from An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands. The Samsara fans could practically feel their hearts breaking.

With Ye Xiu's Lord Grim advancing forcefully, Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer had no choice but to retreat. He had an important task right now: protect Jiang Botao and Sun Xiang's characters the best he could. He couldn't let them fall completely into One Inch Ash's boundaries.

One Inch Ash was casting again. Zhou Zekai could see that. Without caring about his own situation, Cloud Piercer's gun aimed towards One Inch Ash. Unexpectedly, Lord Grim's form darted forth in front of him, using his body to block his attack, courageous and fearless.

Zhou Zekai had no time for playing games with him. Cloud Piercer rolled to the side, once again putting One Inch Ash into the line of fire.

Bang!

The gunshot rang out but Zhou Zekai then saw the bullet bounce. Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella had stretched over, open, knocking the bullet away.

However, Cloud Piercer had two guns. His right gun might have been sealed, but what about the left.

The mouth of his left gun was outside of Myriad Manifestations Umbrella's block, but... he couldn't see!

Bang!

The gun went off without being able to aim properly, Zhou Zekai could only wager a guess.

Unfortunately, this bullet didn't hit, heading somewhere at least three body units away from One Inch Ash.

Whirlwind Kick!

Zhou Zekai ignored the result of that shot and quickly had Cloud Piercer kick out.

Lord Grim had already changed the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella into its shield form, so the class was switched to Priest as well. Reinforced Iron Bones was a Fighter skill, so it lost its effect under the Priest Class.

In that moment, Zhou Zekai still had such a clear judgement. He didn't panic at all due to the disadvantageous situation.

This kick still ended up blocked by Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, but then Cloud Piercer's left hand gun, Shattered Frost, erupted with gunfire!

Whirlwind Kick had two goals. One was to try and sweep Lord Grim to the side, the other was that the downwards leaning movement gave him a small window to strike.

Just one glance and it was enough for Zhou Zekai to lock onto his target.

Whirlwind Kick and his view of One Inch Ash were quickly blocked by the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, but in that moment, he had locked One Inch Ash's position into his mind. Cloud Piercer's left hand was extremely steady. Even though Zhou Zekai couldn't see, he knew that his gun was aimed at One Inch Ash.

Bang!

A gunshot, and then the bullet flew, just brushing past the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella.

This was just a normal attack, but it was enough to interrupt any casting. If the caster moved or was hit, the casting would be interrupted.

There was enough time!

From the Phantom Ghost's Power coming off of One Inch Ash's blade, Zhou Zekai could tell he was summoning a Silence Boundary.

Silence Boundary sealed the skills of the characters that were caught within. With such a disgusting effect, it was obviously counted as a high level skill, and thus the cast time was longer.

However... the flashes of light that rose soon after told Zhou Zekai, he had still failed. His bullet hadn't hit.

Silence Boundary was similar to Dark Boundary, but the visual effects were more intense, making it murky inside the boundary. It couldn't blind people, but this murkiness made things hard to see.

Dark Boundary, Ice Boundary, Silence Boundary, three overlapping boundaries. They couldn't see, couldn't move, and now they couldn't even use any skills, only normal attacks.

However, Zhou Zekai couldn't help them. Ye Xiu didn't want him interrupting One Inch Ash just now, which was why he was on the defensive, getting in the way all the time. Now, with Silence Boundary out, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella was immediately thrust forward at his face.

Shield Attack!

This skill had a Dizzy effect, so even if it didn't deal damage, it was a bad idea to take it. Cloud Piercer hurriedly rolled to the side and glanced towards One Inch Ash, seeing Little Cold Hands standing guard there. It seemed that Little Cold Hands had taken the bullet for One Inch Ash just now.

One Inch Ash began to cast a fourth Ghost Boundary.

Chapter 1625: Not Perfect, But the Best

Ghost boundaries wouldn't last forever. A smart Phantom Demon would plan out when and where to place down their ghost boundaries to maintain an uninterrupted flow of crowd control on the battlefield.

But right now, Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash was placing down ghost boundaries one after the other. Dark Boundary, Ice Boundary, Silence Boundary. All of these were ghost boundaries with powerful crowd control. Usually, these boundaries would be linked together such that the opponent would always be under the effects of one of them. However, Qiao Yifan had set all three down on top of each other to completely seal off Sun Xiang and Jiang Botao. One Inch Ash was even in the midst of casting a fourth ghost boundary.

This sort of set up was often only seen during critical moments, but today, because of One Inch Ash's abrupt arrival, the Dark Boundary had caught Samsara completely off guard. Sun Xiang and Jiang Botao were robbed of their sight temporarily as a result. His Dark Boundary was extremely effective. Adding an Ice Boundary and a Silence Boundary on top of it didn't seem to be necessary.

"Was Qiao Yifan a bit too hasty?" Seeing that a fourth ghost boundary was about to be placed down, Pan Lin couldn't help but ask.

"It was a dangerous situation. With this being his first time on the grand stage, it's hard not to be a bit nervous." Li Yibo was quite understanding. But he was also implying that he agreed with Pan Lin's viewpoint.

"Li Xuan, what do you think?" Before Qiao Yifan even finished setting down the three ghost boundaries on top of each other, the pro players were already discussing the issue. In the end, everyone pushed the question onto Li Xuan, who was considered the number one Phantom Demon.

"If it were me, just one Dark Boundary would be more than enough," Li Xuan spoke his thoughts. At first, it sounded pretty much the same as Pan Lin's and Li Yibo's viewpoint, disagreeing with Qiao Yifan's excessiveness. However, the other pro players could hear the difference.

Because he said, if it were me...

Not long after finishing the sentence, Li Xuan looked to be a bit hesitant. After saying "um" for a bit, he added: "And Xinjie."

And Xinjie?

Xinjie was, of course, referring to Zhang Xinjie. Why'd he mention him?

The pro players quickly caught on.

Li Xuan meant switching An Wenyi with Zhang Xinjie.

In other words, if it were Ye Xiu and him, and Xinjie too, he would be confident that just one Dark Boundary would be enough.

“Tch!!” Everyone clicked their tongues in disdain at Li Xuan.

Ye Xiu, Li Xuan, and Zhang Xinjie. That was a lineup even grander than Sun Xiang, Jiang Botao, and Sun Xiang. Zhang Xinjie was a Cleric too. Their class composition would be superior to Samsara’s too. Li Xuan was basically saying that under these circumstances, one Dark Boundary was enough to take control of the battle.

The two on the field were Qiao Yifan and An Wenyi, who weren’t as experienced or as skillful as Li Xuan and Zhang Xinjie. Just relying on the two of them as support, Ye Xiu might not be able to hold off the three from Samsara.

This was why Qiao Yifan didn’t hold back and try to be as efficient as possible. He quickly placed down one ghost boundary after another to ensure that Sun Xiang and Jiang Botao would be completely imprisoned.

He wasn’t looking to control the battle for a long period of time, but rather for a quick burst.

Was this because he was lacking confidence? Of course not! Even the number one Phantom Demon, Li Xuan, couldn’t guarantee that he could do it with just one Dark Boundary. He even needed to add in Zhang Xinjie to it.

This wasn’t a lack of confidence. It was a careful consideration of the situation, a decision based on a clear recognition of his own limits.

While everyone was still in discussion, the densely layered ghost boundaries suddenly burst open. The ghost souls danced about, creating foul wind and bloody rain, stealing away Empty Waves’ and One Autumn Leaf’s life.

After Qiao Yifan placed down the fifth ghost boundary, he had One Inch Ash activate Ghost Feast right before his first Dark Boundary disappeared.

Nervous?

Not at all. The placement of the fifth ghost boundary and the perfect Ghost Feast was the biggest proof. Anyone who thought that he had been placing down ghost boundaries out of panic was completely wrong.

The pro players couldn’t help but applaud Qiao Yifan’s performance.

His play wasn’t perfect. Perfect would be slowly placing down ghost boundaries at the right time to take complete control of the battle until the battle was over.

But it was the pinnacle of what was possible given the circumstances. In this situation, he had made the best possible decision and executed it brilliantly. It wasn’t possible to have done it any better.

Beautiful! Very beautiful!

His outstanding situational awareness allowed him to clearly examine the problem from an overall perspective. He had taken into consideration that he and An Wenyi were relatively weak. He had also taken into consideration that Ye Xiu was exhausted after a long battle against three of Samsara's players. Then, he made his decision based on all of these factors, a decision that was making everyone gasp in amazement.

The pro players exclaimed in admiration. At the same time, they couldn't help but glance at Team Tiny Herb. They had let go of such an incredible player. They must be regretting it, right? Especially since Tiny Herb had a Ghostblade player!

Zhou Yebai.

Tiny Herb's Ghostblade player was also a Phantom Demon. Right now, he was already regretting coming to watch this match. Everyone else was staring at him, their gazes cutting into him like a dagger.

Qiao Yifan used to be a nobody in their team, and now, he had actually grown to such an extent? He just had to change classes to a Ghostblade and choose to be a Phantom Demon too. Everyone was constantly glancing at him, openly showing pity that Tiny Herb had let go of Qiao Yifan and treated him as the real nobody in Tiny Herb.

Zhou Yebai felt extremely uneasy. He really didn't want to admit that he was worse than Qiao Yifan, but he also knew that if he was confident, he wouldn't be feeling uneasy. He was afraid that his teammates would also compare him to Qiao Yifan. He was afraid that they would look down on him and then cast him away just like how they cast away Qiao Yifan before...

"Focus on the match."

A voice suddenly interrupted Zhou Yebai's thoughts. He turned his head to look at who said it and saw the serious expression on his captain's face.

Zhou Yebai relaxed, and stopped feeling afraid. Because he could tell that his captain, Wang Jiexi, wasn't affected by the other pro players' views. Wang Jiexi was only unhappy with him because of how he was letting it get to his head.

He wasn't here just for fun, sitting there and enjoying the lively finals match. He was here to watch the teams play and learn from them.

He had been thinking too much.

Qiao Yifan was playing incredibly well, but he wasn't the best. Li Xuan was better. The only difference was that Qiao Yifan had once been a part of Tiny Herb, but who cared? What was important was that he worked hard to better himself and do what needed to be done. Competition was everywhere in the pro scene. Qiao Yifan was just one of the many competitors. He was used to this sort of competition. Why should he be afraid now? He should be working hard so that one day he would win praise from everyone else just like Qiao Yifan had done.

He's really making me a bit jealous! How annoying!

Zhou Yebai no longer felt nervous because of Qiao Yifan, but rather became more motivated. If even a nobody could come this far, then why couldn't he?

After collecting his thoughts, he calmed down and focused on the match again.

Triggering Ghost Feast also meant sacrificing the crowd control on Samsara. While the two Samsara players were being devastated by Ghost Feast, Qiao Yifan had One Inch Ash retreat.

Shadow Clone Technique!

Seeing One Inch Ash's retreat, Ye Xiu immediately followed. Lord Grim completed the hand seals for Shadow Clone Technique while in combat against Zhou Zekai. His real body teleported away, and he ran away together with An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands.

Cloud Piercer chased after them furiously, but Lord Grim lay the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella on his shoulders, protecting his back, preventing any interference from his pursuer.

Sharpshooters had powerful attacks, but their crowd control was rather weak. They controlled the pace of the battle through attacks. But because Lord Grim was holding his shield up, none of his attacks were landing. In the blink of an eye, Lord Grim and Little Cold Hands made a turn at a trash pile and disappeared from Cloud Piercer's sight.

Zhou Zekai didn't stop his pursuit though. The Ghost Feast was ending, and Jiang Botao and Sun Xiang would quickly be back to normal. It was their time to regroup and counterattack. They couldn't give Happy a chance to rest. The spectating pro players thought the same. Zhou Zekai had a clear understanding of their situation. Qiao Yifan had burst them down because he wasn't confident that they could win in a prolonged fight. Samsara knew this as well. Zhou Zekai wasn't going to let his opponents leave so easily.

Cloud Piercer rushed to the edge of the trash pile and jumped. Using Aerial Gun, he glided through the air and made the turn. Lord Grim and Little Cold Hands were once again within his sights. Zhou Zekai didn't have Cloud Piercer jump down from the trash pile. As a Sharpshooter, the tall trash pile was an advantageous position for him to shoot from.

Bang bang bang bang...

As soon as he landed on top of a new trash pile, Cloud Piercer's dual guns began firing furiously towards Lord Grim and Little Cold Hands. On the other end, Jiang Botao and Sun Xiang had gotten away from the Ghost Feast. Their characters rushed out with traces of the ghostly power still lingering on them. They saw Cloud Piercer shooting, pointing them in the right direction. They gnashed their teeth in anger as they hurried over.

Rising Dragon Soars the Sky!

Seeing Cloud Piercer's shooting trajectory, Sun Xiang immediately deduced where Happy's characters were located. One Autumn Leaf swung his Evil Annihilation and used a Rising Dragon Soars the Sky at that trash pile.

3v3, we're not afraid! Sun Xiang and Jiang Botao were quite determined.

But the viewers really wanted to tell them: 3v3? Not for much longer... Su Mucheng and Fang Rui were almost there.

Chapter 1626: An Existence Surpassing Common Sense

“Samsara’s falling apart!”

The pro players started discussing the issue spiritedly. There had been two separate battles taking place. On Happy’s side, there was Qiao Yifan and An Wenyi. Now, Su Mucheng and Fang Rui were on their way to help after resolving their battle. Happy’s two sides were gradually coming together, beautifully linking up with each other.

As for Samsara? They had failed to take down Ye Xiu in a 3v1. They had failed to take down Fang Rui in a 2v1. Then, Su Mucheng arrived and worked together with Fang Rui to take down their Du Ming.

It wasn’t that Samsara didn’t care about linking their two sides together, but rather that their link had been thoroughly severed by Happy. As for how, the pro players looked at each other in dismay.

One side had been stalling 1v3, while the other side had been stalling 1v2. What type of tactic was this? This was a Star Tactic!

Happy versus Samsara. Samsara was the only team in the Alliance with four All-Stars. Of these four, three of them were ranked among the top ten. Samsara couldn’t shine any brighter, yet they had actually been stifled by a Star Tactic from Happy?

The standard Star Tactic was to rely on the team’s star player to fight against the opposing team at a numbers disadvantage. By doing this, his teammates would conversely have the numbers advantage in their battle, which would then be used to win. There could be two or even three separate battles taking place, but in either case, there would be one battle where the team would be at a numbers disadvantage and another battle where the team would be at a numbers advantage. The battle where there was a numbers disadvantage would depend on the star’s superior skill to make up for it. This was the crux of a Star Tactic.

There had indeed been battles this match where Happy was at a numbers disadvantage, but Happy didn’t use it to get a fight where they had the numbers advantage.

Happy had undoubtedly employed a Star Tactic. The usual tactic wasn’t seen, not because Happy didn’t have a choice. Su Mucheng, Fang Rui, and Qiao Yifan had gone to intercept Happy’s healer with clear intentions of fighting Samsara with a numbers advantage. It was just that they ended up in a situation, where the terrain for the fight was advantageous enough that they didn’t need the numbers advantage. Since Qiao Yifan wasn’t needed, he went to go help Ye Xiu, who was stalling 1v3.

Ye Xiu was the reason that Happy had the upper hand. From the hard numbers, of the four attackers on Happy, Ye Xiu’s Lord Grim might have the lowest DPS and the lowest health. However, he was the key to why Happy was able to obtain this lead. Without his efforts as the foundation, none of what happened would have happened.

This was Glory’s number one player!

A single player holding off against three top ten players. Among these was Zhou Zekai, who was ranked first on the All-Stars list.

Using the word “star” to describe this performance was too degrading. This was a superstar, an ultra superstar!

No one knew how to describe using words what Ye Xiu had done because it didn't seem like something a human could do.

It wasn't like Happy had never employed this type of tactic before. You wouldn't even need to look too far back. The most recent case was in their first game against Blue Rain in the playoffs. Happy had relied on Wei Chen to stall Blue Rain, 1v2. It could be considered a Star Tactic, but it wasn't a very thorough one. Wei Chen hadn't actually established an equilibrium in his battle. In reality, his role was more as a sacrifice. He had sacrificed himself to stall for as much time as possible so that the others on Happy could accomplish their true objective. It was a bit different from a Star Tactic on a fundamental level.

On the other hand, in their away game today against Samsara, Happy was employing a true Star Tactic.

Moreover, in this Star Tactic, Ye Xiu needed to hold off against top players. In fact, their current fame even surpassed Ye Xiu's. Unfortunately, the three top players on Samsara had been held off. In front of Ye Xiu, their star power appeared dim and dull.

The Star Tactic wasn't just a tactic, but also a display of skill: using overwhelming skill to fend off against superior numbers. This was the core of the Star Tactic.

It was hard to argue against this point, and it was precisely for this reason that no one thought Ye Xiu would be able to succeed against the likes of Sun Xiang, Jiang Botao, and Zhou Zekai. How could he not be defeated?

To everyone, it wasn't even a question. Samsara was no exception. That was why they didn't think they would fall apart. They thought that they would be able to quickly make short work of Ye Xiu. Who would think otherwise? It was practically common sense. The pro players watching the match had thought the same.

But...

Ye Xiu was an existence that surpassed common sense.

The situation seemed to be getting more and more disadvantageous for Samsara, but the players themselves were still quite upbeat.

Rising Dragon Soars the Sky!

Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf swung at the trash pile.

The loosely piled up trash didn't form much of a resistance. The magic transformed into a dragon and pierced straight through the trash. However, the grab-priority Rising Dragon Soars the Sky was quite an imposing attack. Such an explosive force created quite a lot of noise. Ye Xiu and An Wenyi didn't act like they hadn't noticed.

Dodge!

Lord Grim and Little Cold Hands immediately moved away from the garbage heap. Then, they saw dots of light coming out from the trash. The light became more and more dense until the dots of light converged together to form a brilliant ball of light that seemed to be dissolving everything it touched.

Rising Dragon Soars the Sky!

A flying dragon tore through the garbage heap. If Ye Xiu and An Wenyi had reacted slightly slower, they would have likely been devoured by the attack.

Rising Dragon Soars the Sky missed, but it had disrupted Ye Xiu's and An Wenyi's movements. Zhou Zekai was watching them intently from behind. How could he miss such an opportunity? Bullets rained down. Jiang Botao used the bullets as cover to close the distance.

Light Wave Slash!

Empty Waves rushed out and swung his sword, using the Spellblade's fastest wave slash skill. The attack was tricky too. It wasn't directly aimed towards Lord Grim or Little Cold Hands, but rather right in the middle between them.

As a result, if the two wanted to dodge the attack, they would need to dodge in opposite directions. It would force the two of them apart by one or two steps of distance.

Don't look down on a distance of a few steps. In this situation, it was a heavy blow. This separation would likely make it so that the two of them would have to escape from their pursuers on their own.

Ye Xiu had the ability to contend against the three of them, but An Wenyi? Without Ye Xiu's protection, he would certainly die.

So the attack couldn't be dodged!

Hua!

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella opened up.

Because of the burst from Cloud Piercer, the shield form wasn't a good option. However, right now, it was the only option. The durability on the umbrella was quickly being depleted.

Happy had the upper hand?

Yes, from an overall perspective. However, they first needed to get past this current obstacle. No matter how you looked at it, they were facing one of Glory's strongest trios, and none of them had lost any of their fighting strength.

Chapter 1627: Stake Everything in One Throw

An Wenyi definitely wasn't the best in terms of technique, but his ability to assess the situation was absolutely at the top.

Lu Boyuan saw that Du Ming had stayed behind to stop Fang Rui and Su Mucheng from reaching him, so he resisted the urge to turn back and rescue Du Ming. What about An Wenyi? He was in a similar situation, being protected by Ye Xiu. He didn't hesitate and immediately had Little Cold Hands run away.

Ye Xiu was thankful.

Chen Guo didn't like this part of An Wenyi, but Ye Xiu was quite thankful for it. A healer needed this sort of calm and rationality. In the beginning, when he first met An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands, it was his clear judgement and machine-like precision that had gotten Ye Xiu's attention. Later on, he discovered that An Wenyi also possessed this rationality. For Ye Xiu, it was like buying one thing but getting another for free. How could he not be happy?

An Wenyi didn't lose this characteristic of his on the competitive stage. Even if he had always been regarded as Happy's weakness, he didn't stop trying his best to seize every opportunity he saw.

He had survived in Happy as their weak point. Happy had devised strategies revolving around him as the weak point. Not only did An Wenyi not object, he cooperated with them earnestly.

It was impossible for him not to feel a bit embarrassed or worried, but he was a rational person. He recognized that this was the best way to use him. That was why he didn't object or let these emotions affect him.

He was constantly trying to improve. During this process, he wanted to make himself as useful as possible to the team. Whether it was using his strengths or his weaknesses, he would find the most suitable way to coordinate with the team. If it wasn't for his almost heartless rationality, it would be very difficult for him to achieve this goal.

His rationality was the true source of his value on the team.

Because of his rationality, he was able to play in a way that caught Ye Xiu's attention out of the countless number of other players in the game.

Because of his rationality, even though he wasn't the most skilled, he knew how to do what the team needed, whether that need was a usage of his strengths or his weaknesses.

Because of this rationality, he could worry but never waver when facing a difficult choice.

He had persevered.

Two years ago, he had been just another player in the Heavenly Domain. He was someone who couldn't even make it to the elite ranks of Tyrannical Ambition.

Two years later, he had made his way to the playoffs. Here, he eliminated Tyranny's vice-captain, Glory's number one healer, Zhang Xinjie. Now, he stood together with his team together in the finals, at the highest stage in Glory.

An Wenyi was an extremely rational person, yet everything that had happened sounded like nonsense.

The journey hadn't been an easy one, and it only made him treasure it all the more. He treasured using everything at his disposal to help the team win.

This was why he ignored whether Ye Xiu's Lord Grim lived or died. His Little Cold Hands turned tail and ran, ran for his life.

Because this was the best way for him to help Happy win.

3v3?

It didn't feel like a 3v3.

Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash had taken a different route than them. An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands and Ye Xiu's Lord Grim retreated together, but during their retreat, they encountered a problem. Lord Grim had been tossed aside so that Little Cold Hands could get away. In the blink of an eye, it was Ye Xiu versus Zhou Zekai, Jiang Botao, and Sun Xiang again.

For a moment, Samsara had trouble digesting this sudden change. From their understanding, An Wenyi should have stayed behind to help Lord Grim hold them off until Qiao Yifan's One Inch Ash looped back around to their rescue.

Based on this understanding, they had already planned out how they could take advantage of this somewhat clumsy Cleric to trouble Ye Xiu. The healer needed to be protected, after all.

But that Cleric just threw Ye Xiu aside and ran away.

It went against common sense. Where was the loyalty, the self-sacrifice? The three on Samsara felt uncomfortable, not at Ye Xiu's situation, but at their own. With An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands running away, they would once again be facing Ye Xiu in a 3v1. It was the exact same situation as before. They would rather have Little Cold Hands stay behind for a 3v2. That way, they could use Little Cold Hands to hinder Lord Grim. A 3v2 would actually be easier for them.

As a result, One Autumn Leaf rushed out.

Sun Xiang was the one who wanted to surpass Ye Xiu the most, but right now, he gave up on Ye Xiu. With Cloud Piercer and Empty Waves suppressing Lord Grim, he had One Autumn Leaf chase after Little Cold Hands. The three on Samsara felt like this was better than focusing only on Ye Xiu's Lord Grim. Ye Xiu was truly too troublesome to deal with.

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella suddenly let out a cold light. The umbrella was still floating in the air, but Lord Grim had made his way to One Autumn Leaf's side.

Shining Cut!

Sun Xiang wasn't able to react to it, and the Shining Cut hit him. Even though the attack didn't have a strong knockback, it had caught Sun Xiang off guard. One Autumn Leaf stumbled into the nearby garbage heap.

Zhou Zekai and Jiang Botao were startled. This mixup had come as a complete surprise. Lord Grim had made his way to One Autumn Leaf's side, but his weapon was still in its original position? Did he... throw his weapon away?

Soul Guidance?

Any pro player would think it was Soul Guidance when they saw a weapon being thrown, but that would be impossible! Because Lord Grim had used Shining Cut. Although Soul Guidance would toss out the weapon, it wasn't a drop. The weapon was considered equipped, and only skills pertaining to the weapon's class could be used. It wasn't possible to switch weapons while using it either.

But Lord Grim had clearly used a skill from a different class. If he didn't have the right weapon equipped, it wouldn't be possible for him to use Shining Cut.

Had he brought along a second weapon?

Or maybe the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella could be split into two? He dropped one half of it, but continued to use the other half?

How confusing... For now, it wasn't possible to figure out what had really happened. However, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella being dropped onto the ground was a fact. Jiang Botao reacted immediately. Empty Waves rushed towards it without regard for anything else. The only thing in his sights was the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella. If he could pick it up, wouldn't Lord Grim become completely useless?

Picking up the opponent's weapon in a competitive match...

It had never happened before in the Glory Alliance. No one remembered if the competitive rules had anything regarding it. Even the veteran, Li Yibo, wasn't certain. He wasn't sure what to say, although luckily for him, there was no time for him to say anything.

Just when Jiang Botao's Empty Waves was about to grab the umbrella, a very unfamiliar move on the competitive stage, the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella suddenly flipped over. There was no thrusting motion, yet the umbrella was already pierced through Empty Waves. Lord Grim once again appeared right before him.

Impossible! How could he be so fast!

Jiang Botao looked to the side out of instinct. As he turned around, Lord Grim used Circle Swing.

As a result, Jiang Botao saw Lord Grim again, standing where One Autumn Leaf had been. In his hands was a dagger.

A shadow clone...

Shadow Clone Technique!

Jiang Botao's screen turned pitch black.

Blind?

No.

Lord Grim had thrown him into the garbage heap using Circle Swing. The garbage was physically blocking his sight.

The garbage heap loosened, and Empty Waves plunged straight into it. His two legs were dangling in the air.

The Samsara fans wanted to laugh, but they couldn't. It was extremely embarrassing. On the other hand, the pro players had no pity for him. They had started roaring in laughter.

"He definitely did it on purpose!!" Chu Yunxiu pointed at Lord Grim onscreen, laughing uncontrollably.

Everyone agreed.

Tossing the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella as bait, Shining Cut to block One Autumn Leaf, Shadow Clone Technique to get back, and then a Circle Swing to throw Empty Waves into the garbage heap. Everything had been calculated. If Ye Xiu wasn't confident he would succeed, how could he have thrown away his character's lifeline so easily?

"Senior Ye Xiu really is brave though..."

The rookies couldn't manage to laugh. They had been frightened to death. Let alone a weapon as important as the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella, the thought of throwing even a normal weapon scared them. This sort of method was truly difficult for them to accept.

Even though Ye Xiu had probably calculated it all beforehand, matches were always full of twists and turns. What if the Shining Cut had missed One Autumn Leaf, and Sun Xiang counterattacked? What if while he was using Shadow Clone Technique, Cloud Piercer hit him before he finished the seals?

Although none of that happened, the possibility of a mistake gave the rookies lingering fear.

"That's why they say, the truly capable are daring!" someone sighed.

The truly capable are daring? Everyone fell silent. It didn't feel quite right. The truly capable? That was a gamble risking everything!

Had that moment really been that important? That he needed to stake everything in one throw?

A scare and a laugh. In the end, they analyzed the play like they normally did. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim had already rushed out towards Cloud Piercer, who was standing on top of a nearby garbage heap. At the same time, the sound of cannonfire boomed.

Su Mucheng!

Dancing Rain!

She had finally arrived. Her ultra long range firepower was in coordination with Lord Grim's assault. The Season 4, Season 5, Season 6, Season 7 Best Partners were finally pairing up for the first time in this team competition.

Chapter 1628: Interweaving Battle

Boom!

Dancing Rain fired at the garbage heap, but her goal wasn't as simple as just splashing scraps into the air. When Cloud Piercer twisted his body to dodge the artillery shell, the explosion left a huge hole in the trash pile. The scraps of trash launched into the air rained down.

Amidst the rain of trash and the reflection from the flames, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim rushed out.

Bang bang bang bang...

Zhou Zekai hadn't given up on attacking Lord Grim. Even while dodging the artillery fire, Cloud Piercer's dual guns were aimed steadily towards Lord Grim.

The fire and light from the explosions, the raining trash, and the flying bullets constructed a chaotic scene, and Lord Grim pushed his way through it, one step, two steps...

Lord Grim moved swiftly, growing closer and closer to Cloud Piercer. Although Zhou Zekai's Cloud Piercer was moving away to keep their distance apart, he wasn't able to do it perfectly under Su Mucheng's barrage of artillery shells, especially since he was against Ye Xiu as well.

Fortunately, he wasn't alone.

Jiang Botao's Empty Waves would need a bit of time to climb out from the garbage heap, but Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf had only taken a stumble from the Shining Cut. He quickly regained his balance. He originally wanted to continue chasing after An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands, but he heard the sound of cannonfire from behind him and turned to look. He saw explosions threatening Cloud Piercer and Lord Grim closing in.

Help?

This was Sun Xiang's first thought, but One Autumn Leaf rushed out in a different direction instead, continuing his chase onto Little Cold Hands. When he broke into a run, he also swung his spear towards Empty Waves, who had plunged head first into the garbage heap. Empty Waves wouldn't be affected by the attack, but the spear knocked away much of the trash burying Empty Waves, helping him out quite a bit. Sun Xiang left the responsibility of helping Zhou Zekai to Jiang Botao, while he gave up on his attachment towards Ye Xiu. He made the more proactive choice: continue to pressure the enemy healer to suppress the entire team.

Jiang Botao's Empty Waves freed himself from the trash. He looked around and instantly understood the situation. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was about to reach Cloud Piercer. Jiang Botao didn't say anything and decisively swung his sword.

Fire Wave Slash!

Raging flames swept towards Lord Grim.

Fire Wave Slash was the strongest of the wave slashes. It was quite fast too. In the blink of an eye, it had arrived behind Lord Grim. At this moment, Lord Grim jumped forward. If he continued along his current path, he would undoubtedly be hit by the flames. His figure flickered...

Boom, hit!

The crowd erupted into applause. The Fire Wave Slash sent Lord Grim crashing into the garbage heap. Jiang Botao had gotten his revenge.

But Jiang Botao felt uneasy.

It hit? It actually hit?

Yes, he was very surprised. The timing had been good, using it just when Lord Grim was jumping, making it harder for him to respond. However, he really hadn't expected the attack to connect. His goal had been to stop Lord Grim from continuing forward. Who would have thought it would actually hit? It shouldn't have against someone like Ye Xiu.

Ye Xiu must have let it hit him. Jiang Botao was certain.

Sure enough!

When the flames from the Fire Wave Slash receded, all that remained was a burnt mark on the garbage heap. Lord Grim had vanished.

Where did he go?

Underground Tunneling Technique!

Lord Grim suddenly popped out from the top of the garbage heap. However, Cloud Piercer had just passed by him!

Ye Xiu didn't have Lord Grim dodge the Fire Wave Slash. He used the momentum to make his way into the trash pile so that he could Underground Tunneling Technique.

But Zhou Zekai's intuition was outstanding. Once Lord Grim lay himself against the garbage heap, he wasn't able to see him anymore. At that moment, he immediately gave up on keeping his position at the top of the garbage heap and had Cloud Piercer jump down.

Missed!

The Underground Tunneling Technique wouldn't be able to touch Cloud Piercer. Was Lord Grim just going to let this opportunity go by though?

No!

Ye Xiu reacted quickly. He could only see the corner of Cloud Piercer's jacket when he tunneled out, but it was enough for him to make his decision. He cancelled Underground Tunneling Technique. While in the air, Lord Grim twisted his body. A cold light swung out, Falling Light Blade!

His two hands pressed down on the sword, chasing after Cloud Piercer. The Falling Light Blade let Lord Grim fall much faster than Cloud Piercer.

Gunshot.

Ye Xiu had acted immediately when he saw the jacket on Cloud Piercer. On the other hand, when Zhou Zekai heard a sound from behind him, he immediately realized that Lord Grim had appeared behind him. It would be too late for Cloud Piercer to turn around and aim, so he placed his two guns on his shoulders and shot behind him.

Bullets flew out!

Sword light swept down!

It was difficult to tell which one was faster, but in an instant, the two characters were tangled together. Cloud Piercer's bullet shot into Lord Grim's skull at point blank range. Lord Grim's sword pierced through Cloud Piercer's back, the sword tip sticking out from his chest...

Who won, who lost in this sort of entanglement? Even the spectating pro players couldn't immediately make the call. Lord Grim and Cloud Piercer crashed towards the ground together. Both characters seemed to have lost their balance.

Then, an explosion, a magic wave!

Their reliable partners had come to their support at practically the same time.

The explosion swept away Cloud Piercer, while the magic wave swept away Lord Grim. The two of them separated, but their fight was far from over. Both of them had lost their balance, but everyone could see that they were both fighting to regain it. Bullets shot out from Cloud Piercer's guns. Lord Grim raised his hands, and the Myriad Manifestations Umbrella was thrown into the air. Shooting stars rained down, Exorcist skill, Starfall!

Cloud Piercer was hit by Starfall and smashed into the trash. Lord Grim was also repeatedly hit by the bullets and fell into the trash as well. Neither of them could dodge. They could only do their best to attack the enemy. In the end, the two were separated, and if they kept this distance away from each other, wouldn't Zhou Zekai's Sharpshooter have the upper hand?

A Satellite Beam descended from the sky, straight down onto Cloud Piercer.

Zhou Zekai and Ye Xiu were evenly matched, but their two supports became the dividing line. When the two were unable to keep up their attacks, Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain decisively fired a Satellite Beam, dealing a heavy blow to Cloud Piercer. As for Jiang Botao? He could only cry. It wasn't that he didn't want to. His class didn't have that sort of attack. Lord Grim and Cloud Piercer had fallen into the trash pile. Su Mucheng's Launcher had a way to attack from the skies, but his Spellblade? Waltzing Wave Slash?

He could only send out a Waltzing Wave Slash.

The Divine Chains in Empty Waves' hands leapt into the air, forming a rainbow that dropped down onto Lord Grim.

Jiang Botao had executed it beautifully. The rainbow Waltzing Wave Slash was also pleasing to the eye, but how could a Waltzing Wave Slash compare to a Launcher's most powerful skill, Satellite Beam? No matter how beautiful the Waltzing Wave Formation looked, its damage couldn't compare to Satellite Beam's. It was just better than nothing.

Lord Grim was hit by the attack and was then immediately able to stand up. As for Cloud Piercer? The Satellite Beam was still in place, pressing down on Cloud Piercer. The trash surrounding him was thrown into the air. The Satellite Beam had blasted the trash pile apart.

Jiang Botao could only watch as Dancing Rain attacked from afar. He had no way to stop her or interrupt her. All he could do was prevent Ye Xiu from adding oil to the fire.

Light Wave Slash!

The wave slash went straight for Lord Grim.

But Ye Xiu had clearly expected that Jiang Botao would attack him. After Lord Grim got up, he immediately used a movement skill to dodge the Light Wave Slash. He jumped into the air, Aerial Gun, and then Rotor Wings. In the blink of an eye, he had reached the other end of the trash pile into Dancing Rain's Satellite Beam and down the hole...

The Satellite Beam had blasted a hole in the garbage heap, and Cloud Piercer was at the bottom of it. Surrounding him was trash, and above him was a giant beam of light. He was completely immobilized. Zhou Zekai tried hard to get himself some space, but before the Satellite Beam ended, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim dropped down into the hole.

Papapa, Lord Grim stepped on him with Eagle Stamp. How could Zhou Zekai dodge it? He could only have Cloud Piercer trade blow for blow with Lord Grim. However, Ye Xiu had Lord Grim activate Reinforced Iron Bones. The bullets connected, but couldn't move him. After the Eagle Stamp, he elbowed Cloud Piercer in the forehead. And then, while the two were practically touching each other, he used all sorts of close combat techniques.

The Satellite Beam had ended, but Cloud Piercer was in an even more precarious situation than before. The trash surrounding him seemed to be Ye Xiu's helpers, burying his guns. Knee Strike! It hit, but Lord Grim was still in front of him. The Sharpshooter martial art skills didn't have strong knockback. There was no way for him to clear a way out by himself.

Light!

The surrounding trash suddenly lit up.

Nebula Wave Slash!

Jiang Botao used the Spellblade's Level 75 skill, destroying the trash from the outside. He was planning on fishing Cloud Piercer out. The light from the Nebula Wave Slash continued to penetrate the trash, but before the last push, flames swept towards him.

Chapter 1629: The Match Point Outside the Equilibrium

Heat-Seeking Missile!

Jiang Botao heard the sound of the missile whistling through the air, but he wasn't able to have Empty Waves dodge while using Nebula Wave Slash. The Heat-Seeking Missile's area of effect wasn't something that could be evaded by just twisting around. To dodge it, he would need to move away by a considerable distance.

Dodge, or continue with Nebula Wave Slash? He could only choose one!

There was still time for him to dodge, but it would interrupt his Nebula Wave Slash. If he continued with Nebula Wave Slash, he wasn't certain he would succeed. If he didn't, everything would be lost.

What should he do?

The thought flashed through everyone's mind. On the stage, Jiang Botao's Empty Waves didn't budge. He continued to pour magic into his Divine Chains. He didn't hesitate. He chose Nebula Wave Slash.

Will he succeed?

The missile fell. Empty Waves swung his sword, completing the last of Nebula Wave Slash...

Boom!

A mushroom cloud sprouted. The powerful shockwave pushed away the impacted trash. Empty Waves was in the center of the explosion, which launched him into the air.

Nebula Wave Slash? Had it been interrupted?

No, it hadn't!

The instant the mushroom cloud set off, the trash hit by Nebula Wave Slash suddenly let out a glimmer of light. The magic waves spread out, lifting the pile of trash, breaking it apart like a shattered magic cube. Cloud Piercer and Lord Grim suddenly appeared in everyone's view. Cloud Piercer was exempt from Nebula Wave Slash's damage, but not the shockwave from Heat Seeking Missile. Lord Grim wasn't affected by Heat Seeking Missile, but the Nebula Wave Slash sent him flying into the air.

Three characters had been affected by the attacks. The only one unaffected was Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain, who continued to provide artillery support. The previous assistance from Lord Grim became the greatest starting point for her. Explosions revolved around Cloud Piercer. Su Mucheng was still focusing Cloud Piercer.

However, Zhou Zekai was no longer trapped and wouldn't let the long-ranged gunfire hit him so easily. With a smooth Quick Recover, Cloud Piercer rolled and got up from the scattered pile of trash. His arms were crossed against his chest, his two guns shooting towards both Lord Grim and Dancing Rain.

His technique was beautiful to see, but because he was attacking two separate targets, his firepower towards each of them was cut by half. To pro players, it wouldn't be any threat to them. Both Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng would have no problems dealing with it. But through these attacks, Zhou Zekai was able to find his footing again.

Jiang Botao seized the opportunity to stabilize Empty Waves. His attacks wouldn't be able to threaten Dancing Rain at this distance. Lord Grim was his only possible attack target at the moment. Wave slash after wave slash was thrown at him.

Both sides were attacking and defending back and forth. Their battle was as brilliant as ever. One side was Samsara's Zhou-Jiang duo that had won two championship titles together, the other was the Ye-Su duo that had won Best Partners four years in a row, yet had never lifted the championship trophy together. The two greatest duos in the Alliance didn't disappoint. Each high point was replaced by another. But no matter how brilliant their battle was, the two sides were evenly matched. There wouldn't be any breakthroughs coming from this side. This 2v2 wouldn't be decided so quickly.

What was the match point?

Pan Lin and Li Yibo analyzed this issue. The director changed the camera angle according to their discussion. The live crowd was undoubtedly having the time of their lives. Not only did they have the

projection technology showing them the overall situation, the numerous screens in the stadium displayed all the little details. Because of this, they didn't have the same focus as the viewers watching in front of their TV or computer. While these viewers were watching the battle between Zhou Zekai, Jiang Botao, Ye Xiu, and Su Mucheng, they didn't have much information on any other players.

Would Sun Xiang's One Autumn Leaf be able to catch An Wenyi's Little Cold Hands?

When would Samsara's other two players arrived to help their teammates in the trash room?

Since most of the live audience were Samsara fans, they particularly concerned about these questions.

Lu Boyuan, Fang Minghua. Although these two hadn't yet arrived at the trash room, they knew what was happening there. With multiple battles taking place separately, the players needed to constantly update each other on their situation. Using that information, they could make adjustments accordingly. It was necessary. As a result, whether it during the 3v1, or when Qiao Yifan, An Wenyi, and Su Mucheng disrupted their plans, the two had a general understanding of the situation through the team chat.

They had to go help, of course. The viewers were also waiting for the moment they arrived.

But Fang Rui and his Boundless Sea became their biggest hindrance.

Not long after sending off Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain, he found a place to ambush Lu Boyuan and Fang Minghua.

Practically the moment Su Mucheng's Dancing Rain rushed into the trash room and started providing support, Lu Boyuan and Fang Minghua reached there. They just happened to see Jiang Botao's report concerning Su Mucheng.

There was no mention of Fang Rui.

This was the issue that the two immediately noticed from the report. Communication between the team members needed to be immediate and accurate. If Jiang Botao didn't see Fang Rui's Boundless Sea, then he wouldn't mention him. If he didn't mention him, then he hadn't seen him.

But the two didn't see Boundless Sea either, so they immediately sent back the information. They were aware of the terrain in the trash room and of Fang Rui's dirtiness. Jiang Botao's message only said that they hadn't seen Boundless Sea, but it didn't mean that he definitely wasn't there. Happy's support had layers. It was very possible that Fang Rui didn't immediately appear after entering, instead waiting for an opportunity to make the decisive blow.

Just when they sent the information on Fang Rui, Fang Rui ambushed them.

The two hastily updated their information on Fang Rui, correcting their previous report. This was extremely important. An incorrect report could lead to the players on that side making an error in judgement.

Then, the 2v1 unfolded. No one felt like the situation was too serious. Fang Rui staying behind to ambush them was likely just to stall for a bit of time. Seeing how the ambush spot and trash room wasn't far apart, it didn't seem like it would cause any major complications. After all, Samsara could just have Lu Boyuan tangle with Fang Rui, while Fang Minghua's Cleric continued forward. It would make the ambush completely meaningless.

The theory was very simple, but the problem was that it didn't happen!

Fang Rui's target was very obvious: Fang Minghua's Cleric, Laughing Song. Boundless Sea let them run past him a bit and then he quietly sneaked up behind them and used Cloud Grasping Fist.

Fang Rui had underestimated their caution. They didn't forget to constantly look around. Fang Minghua turned his head and noticed Boundless Sea. He immediately had Laughing Song dodge. Lu Boyuan noticed the change and was even more resolute. He directly put himself in front of Laughing Song.

They had considered the possibility that Fang Rui had entered the trash room but hadn't appeared yet, but they had also considered the possibility that he was on the outside waiting to ambush them. Because of Fang Rui's dirtiness, it was hard to guess.

As for the latter possibility, they had their own plans ready. As soon as they saw Boundless Sea, Lu Boyuan had Chaotic Cloudy Mountain put himself in front. Fang Minghua didn't hesitate. Laughing Song continued to move to leave Lu Boyuan to deal with Fang Rui.

"Where are you running!"

The public chat had been quiet the entire time up until Fang Rui made his move. A message popped up. Fang Minghua obviously wasn't going to actually stop running just because Fang Rui told him to stop. Fang Rui's message did nothing to the people facing him right now. It was more to distract the players on the other end who didn't know what the situation was.

As for whether or not it actually distracted them, Fang Rui didn't care. Cloud Grasping Fist grabbed Lu Boyuan's Chaotic Cloudy Mountain, locking him down. Fang Rui obviously wasn't going to grab the Grappler over to himself. That would be suicide.

Cloud Grasping Fist was cancelled. Boundless Sea rushed forward. He lowered his body, immediately giving a sense of dirty play.

Lu Boyuan's Chaotic Cloudy Mountain moved forward to intercept him. The crouching figure in front of him was truly quite irksome.

Fang Rui's dirty movements had proved to be effective. Everyone acknowledged that his movements were quite logical. By making himself smaller, he was making it harder for the opponent to hit him.

This sort of method wasn't only used by Fang Rui. However, whenever Fang Rui did it, apart from looking dirty, no one knew how else to describe it. As soon as anything touched his hands, it would stink of rotten meat.

Lu Boyuan looked at the opponent in front of him and had no choice but to adjust Chaotic Cloudy Mountain's stance. Usually, he could just use his hands to grab the opponent's shoulders and start wrestling with him. But because Boundless Sea had lowered himself, he would have to make a slightly wider movement, making it different than against a normal opponent.

Charge!

Lu Boyuan chose to take the initiative to attack in an attempt to proactively take control of the battle. Chaotic Cloudy Mountain bent down, his two arms hanging in front of him like a big gorilla. This stance would make it easier for him to grab Boundless Sea.

The distance between the two sides quickly pulled closer. Lu Boyuan watched Boundless Sea's hands carefully. If there was even the slightest movement...

It's coming!

Boundless Sea suddenly hid his hands. Lu Boyuan knew an attack was coming.

Qi Bullet!

An attack shot at Chaotic Cloudy Mountain's face. All Lu Boyuan could see was a bright light in front of him.

Blocking his view, an old trick! Chaotic Cloudy Mountain tilted his head slightly, and he could see again. His two arms spread out, ready to wrap around Boundless Sea. But then, he saw Boundless Sea twist around to dodge to the side. Lu Boyuan had expected it though, and adjusted himself accordingly.

How fast!

Suddenly, Boundless Sea accelerated and whistled past Chaotic Cloudy Mountain's clutches.

Cloud Wind Body!

Chapter 1630: Grab That Healer

Cloud Wind Body was a skill that buffed the user's senses. It gave the user greater control over qi and allowed the user to sense their targets with qi. Boundless Sea's sudden acceleration wasn't a result of Cloud Wind Body, but rather a different skill: Qi Flowing Cloud.

Qi Flowing Cloud increased the Qi Master's speed in every way: movement speed, attack speed, cast time, and so on. Fang Rui's Boundless Sea had two buffs stacked on top of each other, Cloud Wind Body and Qi Flowing Cloud. As a result, he sped up and had greater control over his increased speed. He just barely brushed past Chaotic Cloudy Mountain's fingertips, narrowly escaping from the danger. However, with this dodge, Chaotic Cloudy Mountain was instantly left behind him.

Lu Boyuan knew that this spelled trouble. By the time Chaotic Cloudy Mountain turned around, Boundless Sea was already two body lengths away from him.

Two body lengths...

This distance was painful to Lu Boyuan. Of the 24 classes, not including the two healers and the solely long-ranged attackers like Launchers, every other class posed a threat at this distance, including Strikers and Brawlers. All of them had skills that could cover this distance. The only exceptions were Grappler.

And now, Boundless Sea just had to be two body lengths away from him. With his currently buffed movements, Fang Rui had done this on purpose. He was putting himself on the edge of danger in order to be as efficient as possible. From start to finish, he had never regarded Lu Boyuan's Chaotic Cloudy Mountain as his opponent, but rather as an obstacle. Everything he had done was to get past this obstacle in the most efficient way possible. His true target was Laughing Song.

It was as if Fang Rui had simply sprinted in a straight line. Fang Minghua hadn't expected that Fang Rui would be able to get past his protector, Lu Boyuan, so easily as if he were a ghost. Just like this, Boundless Sea made his way behind him.

It was too late for Fang Minghua to think of a way to block him. Boundless Sea raised his hand and grabbed towards him, Fling!

Laughing Song was thrown backwards. Lu Boyuan's Chaotic Cloudy Mountain rushed back, but Boundless Sea rolled away, avoiding Chaotic Cloudy Mountain's clutches. Boundless Sea got up and sprinted towards Laughing Song.

Cloud Grasping Fist!

Lu Boyuan knew that in terms of speed, he couldn't match the buffed Boundless Sea. Step by step, he fell behind. He might as well use the skill that he added to his weapon today in an attempt to pull Boundless Sea towards him.

But Fang Rui was truly cunning. He had clearly been running towards Laughing Song, but midway through, he suddenly rolled. As he rolled, there would be an instant, where he would be able to see behind him. In that instant, Lu Boyuan noticed the flow of qi in the air.

Qi Blade!

It was too late for regrets. Lu Boyuan should have activated Reinforced Iron Bones before using Cloud Grasping Fist. He hadn't thought about it meticulously enough, and had been fooled by Fang Rui.

The Qi Blade flew towards him. Cloud Grasping Fist would definitely be interrupted. Lu Boyuan could only cancel the skill and then dodge it. With no other options, he could only chase after Fang Rui.

In just a few steps, Boundless Sea would reach Laughing Song, who had rolled and was getting up. Fang Minghua wasn't some nobody. Previously, he had been caught off guard because he didn't think Fang Rui would be able to get past Lu Boyuan so quickly. This time, he was prepared. When Laughing Song got up, a bright light shone from his cross, Angel's Protection. The light spread out in a circle.

Angel's Might, a 360 degree halo of light that forced the target back, ignoring Super Armor. This Paladin skill was the skill that Fang Minghua had chosen to put on his weapon.

Once the skill animation came out, there was no chance of dodging or resisting it. Shields could counteract numerous skill effects, but the knockback from Angel's Might was an exception.

Boundless Sea could do nothing against it. With how close of a distance they were at, everyone didn't even think Fang Rui could react to it. However, the moment the Angel's Might touched him, he quickly pushed forward with his palms.

Cloud Pushing Palm!

It was a low-level skill that dealt little damage, but it could pass through space to strike the target and had a knockback effect. The knockback effect was inversely proportional to the distance. The closer you were, the stronger the knockback.

When Boundless Sea used Cloud Pushing Palm, Angel's Might swept over him, forcing him back. The Cloud Pushing Palm had worked. As the light spread out from Laughing Song's Angel's Might, his body slid back.

The knockback from Angel's Might was far stronger than that of Cloud Pushing Palm. However, Laughing Song's Angel's Might was only level one, so it didn't push him too far. The bigger problem was that behind Boundless Sea was Chaotic Cloudy Mountain. If he was grabbed, even if it was just once, then there was no hope in him pinning down Laughing Song any longer.

Even the average viewer knew it, let alone the players on stage.

The moment Angel's Might came out, Lu Boyuan immediately prepared himself, staring intently at Boundless Sea. As Boundless Sea was pushed back, he sunk down. He was planning on putting out a dirty stance, so he could dodge the moment he could move again.

Chaotic Cloudy Mountain sprinted over, lowering his center of gravity as well. But to his surprise, Boundless Sea kept sinking down. His two hands were about to touch the ground... was he planning on running on all fours?

Just when this thought flashed by Lu Boyuan's head, Boundless Sea's two hands really did hit the ground. But Boundless Sea was already within his reach. The Angel's Might was still pushing him back. It was too late to dodge, no?

Fling!

Lu Boyuan didn't use any high-level skills. He simply planned on using this low-level grab skill to throw Boundless Sea far away from Laughing Song, and the problem would be solved. Chaotic Cloudy Mountain's grabbed towards him, but the distance between him and Boundless Sea was getting farther and farther.

Boundless Sea was getting lower and lower. How could he be getting farther and farther? Fang Rui dodging downwards had been within Lu Boyuan's calculations. Right now, it wasn't just that Boundless Sea was dropping lower and lower. Chaotic Cloudy Mountain was rising higher and higher...

Chaotic Cloudy Mountain was airborne.

Boundless Sea pressed his hands on the ground, not so that he could crawl away on his four limbs, but to use the Qi Master skill: Landmine Quake!

It was an offensive skill, but the way Fang Rui did it made everyone forget that it was one. They thought he was pretending to be some sort of stupid brute. Nevertheless, in the end, he was able to get off a sneak attack.

The viewers didn't know what to say.

Those who hadn't realized that it was a Landmine Quake were angrily cursing at Fang Rui's despicableness. Those who had somehow realized it were cursing at Lu Boyuan for being so stupid.

In any case, Lu Boyuan had been fooled. Chaotic Cloudy Mountain shot into the air. This was the key part. Boundless Sea went into a roll, and using the knockback from Angel's Might, he rolled right under Chaotic Cloudy Mountain.

By the time he got up, Angel's Might had ended. Boundless Sea pushed out with his palms, shooting a Sky-Piercing Strike at the airborne Chaotic Cloudy Mountain.

Lu Boyuan's Chaotic Cloudy Mountain had failed to grab Fang Rui's Boundless Sea. On the contrary, his Chaotic Cloudy Mountain was blasted away by Boundless Sea.

Amazing!

Fang Rui was performing brilliantly. However, this was Samsara's home stadium. His spectacular play only received a bit of applause. Most of the viewers were anxious. If Fang Minghua and Lu Boyuan were stalled here, it would have a huge impact on the fight going on in the trash room.

Even the broadcast had given up on showing the intense fight between the championship duo and the Best Partners. The chase between Sun Xiang's One Autumn Life and An Wenyi's One Autumn Leaf wasn't given much attention either because Little Cold Hands had found a helper: Qiao Yifan and his One Inch Ash. Happy was trying to connect the two ongoing battles in the trash room to make it a 4v3. Because of this, Fang Rui's 1v2 against Fang Minghua and Lu Boyuan became the turning point.

This... was another Star Tactic?

Previously, Happy had relied on Ye Xiu's 1v3 to seize the upper hand. This time, it was through Fang Rui's 1v2.

1v2 and 1v3, it sounded like the 1v3 was more impressive, but the two situations were entirely different.

Ye Xiu had done a 1v3, but he didn't need need to control the battle. His only objective was to survive under the combined assault from Samsara's three players. A 1v3 was a large enough advantage that it was enough to attract all of his opponents' attention.

On the other hand, for Fang Rui's 1v2, he needed to be the one with the initiative. He needed to completely shut down Fang Minghua's Laughing Song and prevent him from leaving. He was facing one fewer player, but his task wasn't any easier than Ye Xiu's 1v3. When people saw this battle, they weren't thinking about whether or not Fang Rui could keep Fang Minghua here, but rather for how long.

The pro players were already placing bets from ten seconds to a minute. People were constantly yelling out their bets, and money kept being passed around.

Ten seconds, fifteen seconds, twenty seconds, twenty-five seconds, thirty seconds...

Bet after bet was lost. At first, placing down the bets was just for a bit of fun, but after thirty seconds, all the fun was lost. No one could pay attention to it anymore.

They were completely absorbed by Fang Rui's playing.

Lu Boyuan wasn't some nobody, and neither was Fang Minghua. Both of them were experienced and skilled players. They had been on the same team for many years as well, so they had built up quite the synergy. However, they weren't able to escape from Fang Rui's Boundless Sea. They weren't even able to get one of them to leave.

This...

The pro players were used to placing themselves in the shoes of the players on stage. They could only throw aside their amusement and watch in awe at Fang Rui's performance.