

Avatar 501

Chapter 501 - Self Sacrifice

Upon seeing Ye Xiu leave so abruptly, Chen Guo locked gazes with Tang Rou for a brief moment and stood up.

“Log him out, please.” Chen Guo told Tang Rou before following Ye Xiu out of the room hurriedly.

“Okay.” Tang Rou answered while watching the two leaving the room hastily.

Chen Guo stepped out of the room and found Ye Xiu right away. Instead of going anywhere, Ye Xiu was smoking, facing across the street. She slowed down, carefully composing her words in her head, but just as she walked up to him, Ye Xiu crushed the cigarette, which still had a good deal left, on the windowsill.

It angered Chen Guo immediately, but she stopped herself before the words fell out. Considering Ye Xiu’s feelings, she thought to forgive him just this once.

“You...” Chen Guo only spoke one word before Ye Xiu’s soft sigh interrupted her. Staring out of the window, he spoke quietly, “This is the end of Excellent Era.”

“Hmmm?” leaving a confused Chen Guo, Ye Xiu turned around and walked away quietly. Chen Guo followed his gaze to out of the window. On Excellent Era’s headquarter, the team emblem still glowed radiantly.

However, what about the actual team?

Chen Gou’s heart ached all of a sudden. Nonetheless, she did invest a lot of emotion and energy into the team for years. She didn’t only enjoy Ye Xiu and Su Mucheng’s performance..

That was her, then what about Ye Xiu?

He never said much about retirement. Facing the various powers and in the game, he was not particularly nice to anyone due to his attachments. However, this didn’t mean that Ye Xiu didn’t care about Excellent Era.

Sun Xiang’s addition was the hope for many Excellent Era’s support. It filled them with expectation.

Wouldn’t Ye Xiu have the same expectations?

Chen Guo suddenly thought that Ye Xiu leaving Excellent Era already made many uncomfortable. When he was still a part of the team, Excellent Era had been failing. To save the team, Ye Xiu chose to leave. Did he know that his departure would have been an effective way to save Excellent Era?

Unfortunately, Excellent Era was simply too heartless. To get rid of what they labeled as a useless burden, they used everything they had. They would probably never know that their team leader, for a chance to improve the team, had already decided to leave on his own.

For the growth of the team’s next generation prodigy, Wang Jiexi faked his loss and sacrificed his own reputation. However, this was a competition, after all. No one could keep a perfect record forever. A single defeat didn’t spell the end of the world. On top of that, his sacrifice would be understood and appreciated.

What about Ye Xiu?

Was there anyone who would understand his departure? Would anyone think of the efforts and troubles he had gone through? Excellent Era might have even believed that it was their trick that forced him to leave. They probably even took pride in it. They would not know that this could have been resolved peacefully. They never had to choose between the team and Ye Xiu, because their team leader was perfectly content with making sacrifices, even himself...

Him leaving had brought in Sun Xiang, a shining rookie from the pro scene. He was also a prodigy.

Ye Xiu was just like all the other fans of Excellent Era, filled with anticipation for Excellent Era's future.

However, as of now, he was full of disappointment.

Sun Xiang was one one factor. After all, there was only so much you could ask of one person. The cause of his despair was probably Excellent Era's entire team for their inability to guide one single member. His disappointment was never targeted towards any particular member of Excellent Era, but rather towards the entire team and the whole club. The difference in ideologies was the spark of the conflict between Ye Xiu and the club.

Finally, after all the self-sacrifices, he was remunerated by nothing but regrets and disappointment. These kinds of emotions never showed even when Excellent Era abandoned and mistreated him, but it surfaced when Excellent Era continued to decline.

Chen Guo watched Ye Xiu walk back to the room in silence. She found herself on the verge of tears and in a turmoil of emotions.

"You're back?" In the room, Tang Rou was sitting on Ye Xiu's seat, controlling Lord Grim when she saw Ye Xiu walk back in. She was telling the others that she was logging out.

"How long does it take to smoke a single cigarette?" Ye Xiu smiled.

"Oh, do you still want me to logout?" Tang Rou asked.

"Log me out." Ye Xiu consented with a wave of his hand. If he didn't log out, the big guilds would definitely come back to cause more trouble. He had enough troubles for awhile now. Running around took too much time. It was much more convenient to just logout.

"Okay." Tang Rou nodded, told those around Lord Grim in the game, and logged out of the game. Then, she left the seat and gave it back to Ye Xiu.

"How's the tenth server?" Ye Xiu asked half-mindedly upon seeing Tang Rou going back to her game.

"It's the same as always: dungeons, leveling..." Tang Rou replied.

"You are already tackling the Heavenly Domain Challenge, aren't you?" Ye Xiu asked again with a laughter.

"Yep! I'm trying." Tang Rou answered.

"Didn't you finish the challenge for boss once already? Why are you trying so hard?" Ye Xiu shook his head.

"I am just trying to find our difference in skill!" Tang Rou answered with a smile and looked at the door questioningly, "Where's Guo Guo?"

"She's still outside." Ye Xiu spoke.

"Didn't she go looking to talk to you?"

"When she walked over, I was crushing the cigarette on the windowsill. She caught me red-handed, so I ran away as fast as I could. Awkward!" Ye Xiu explained.

Tang Rou's head poked out from behind the screen, and she peered at Ye Xiu, who sat across her to the side. In the end, only a sentence slipped out nonchalantly, "So that's it."

"Hurry and level up. The Heavenly Domain is much more fun than regular servers." Ye Xiu spoke.

"I can see that." Tang Rou agreed with a nod.

No one spoke another word after. Everyone was minding their own business on their computers. Tang Rou was still in the game, tapping out a string of clicks on the mouse and keyboard. Ye Xiu left the game to the side. No one knew what he was doing.

After a few moments, Chen Guo came back into the room and settled herself in the seat directly across from Ye Xiu's. Likewise, she didn't say a word and dived straight into the game.

However, in the game, after Ye Xiu's Lord Grim left, Loulan Slash and the others were still indulging in the joy of their victory. They couldn't believe that they had actually defeated Excellent Era's starting line up. They didn't even notice that Deception had vanished.

Until another group of people appeared at the opening of the alley.

"Perfect! My ambitions are still burning right now!" Ocean Ahead yelled out in the front.

"Hahaha! Let's go!" Loulan Slash didn't stop anyone. All five of them were using alternates, so they weren't afraid of being accused of being unfair. The guilds were all rivals, so no matter what you did, there was always someone who used unfair tricks. What's important was that you couldn't leave a handle on the surface for someone else to accuse you with. This was the rule for survival for the guilds. Loulan Slash and the others had been preparing for a long time, so they understood this rule pretty well.

"Let's use them to practice our teamwork!" With a swing of Loulan Slash's sword, the five charged ferociously at the group with the same amount of momentum as before.

The group at the end of the alley was a normal ten-people team. Upon seeing the five rushing at them, the group immediately turned tail, just as like they had been ordered to do.

"D*mn! They're no fun!" Ocean Ahead cursed, running ahead of the group.

"Should we chase them?" Homeward Bound asked.

"Yes! We have nothing to do anyways!" Loulan Slash yelled back.

The five ran after the group. They enjoyed the chase and the chaos that followed greatly. They still needed improvement before they could be compared to the pros, but in comparison with the regular

players, their skills were unmatched. With the professional league as their goal, their teamwork was above most guild teams. Five versus ten posed no problem for them at all.

The guild masters had just received news and were hastily reorganizing troops. They were rushing over to supervise the battles by themselves.

Loulan Slash had no intention of playing guerrilla warfare. Instead, they wanted to see just how powerful the five of them could be as a team.

The five were brimming with pride after they crushed the starting team of Excellent Era. Despite the fact that they had seven people before and their victory was largely due to brilliant command of a God, their victory couldn't have been possible without their teamwork and efforts. Their crushed confidence was re-ignited.

Compared to professionals, we are not all that great, but professional teams weren't unbeatable.

All five of them had such realization in their hearts. At the same time, their performance was vicious as well. They slipped in and out of the chaos with surprising orderliness.

"Great! It feels so good!" Ocean Ahead was a total battle enthusiast. Stepping over the piles of dead bodies, he roared as spells exploded all around him. It was as if his battle cries were setting the rhythm of his spell releases.

"I say that you guys should at least pay some attention! Some dropped pretty useful equipment. Don't forget to pick them up!" The Cleric, Thousand Falling Leaves, reminded his teammates while pocketing a light saber from a swordsman himself.

"True. Look at Deception. He even picked up Sun Xiang and Liu Hao's equipments." Loulan Slash commented.

"Of course, he's a professional scrap picker. Things like that are instinct for him." Night Tide agreed.

"Speaking about him, his skills are pretty good too. Should we try to recruit him?" Ocean Ahead stopped his shouting and began to talk business.

"That guy, so many guilds had their eyes on him, but none of them succeeded. Look at him, he doesn't even know who Sun Xiang is. I don't think he feigned ignorance. Who knows where that NEET came from." Loulan Slash exclaimed.

"No matter how much of a NEET he is, he still plays Glory. To know utterly nothing about the pros, isn't that a bit too extreme?" Ocean Ahead spoke.

"This huge world is filled with exceptions!" Loulan Slash exclaimed.

"Hey! Can you guys stop chatting now?! I can't hold them off anymore!" Homeward Bound cried out at that moment. As more and more people gathered, the group was starting to have a difficult time holding on.

"Kill! Kill until we die!" Loulan Slash shouted, rushing over to help Homeward Bound.

The guild masters of the three guilds were present at the battlefield already. They were on the verge of tear of joy over the fact that they were actually able to surround their enemies this time. In the end, with a closer look, they only found five people... Why was it only five? Where were the other two?

After a thorough investigation, they still didn't know if the missing two were dead or just escaped their radar. Then they checked again, only to find that both of them had logged out.

'F*ck!' The three guild masters were scratching the walls in frustration. Without their main targets, what was the point of attacking the five random characters from Heavenly Justice. What was the point?!

Chapter 502 - Bounty

Changing Spring and Arisaema were scratching their heads. Chen Yehui was also scratching his head, while asking for outside help. He had thought that once Liu Hao's side moved out, their targets would be eliminated for sure. When he received the message that Liu Hao's side had surrounded their target, he stopped caring about the situation.

He knew which open accounts he had given to Liu Hao and had them all added as friends. Among the ones previously online, one of them had been a Battle Mage. Chen Yehui was aware that this time, even Sun Xiang had come. When he looked at the other open accounts given, he saw that the players were Excellent Era's starting roster. How could that team lose?

Chen Yehui didn't think it would even be possible and he even thought he would need to call his troops to retreat soon. When he suddenly received the news, he woke up from his daydream and realized that Sun Xiang's Battle Mage and Liu Hao's Spellblade were offline. The other three were offline too.

Chen Yehui felt that something wasn't right. When he gathered everyone to surround them, he discovered that Lord Grim and Deception were offline too.

What exactly had happened?

Changing Spring and Arisaema had no way of knowing. Chen Yehui knew a little bit of what had happened though. Could the five pros have logged off after killing those two?

However, those seven were together. If they fought, shouldn't they have killed the other five too? Why were they still alive?

Puzzled, Chen Yehui picked up the phone and called Liu Hao. However, no one picked up.

"Could something have happened?" Chen Yehui felt certain that something bad had happened. Afterwards, he heard Changing Spring and Arisaema order their troops to kill the five players and he followed suit in order to vent his frustrations.

Loulan Slash's group had never thought of staying alive. They were prepared to fight until their deaths. Because they had been prepared, when they died, they didn't feel worried at all. After dying, they immediately revived. They had lost a bit of equipment from dying, but it couldn't be compared to the three great guild's losses today.

Today's mess had finally come to an end. The players of the three guilds looked at each other in puzzlement.

In the end, they had only killed off the five mysterious invaders, but what about their original two targets? Where did they go?

Even though the guild leaders were racking their brains over this, they didn't lose hope so quickly. They knew that this battle wasn't something that could be resolved in one or two days.

With their targets offline, it wasn't possible to fight them anymore, so the two guild leaders tasked players with spreading the word through the forums.

Lord Grim was now a public figure. Anyone who killed him would have their name spread far and wide. It hadn't been an easy opportunity to come by, so they needed to hurry up and seize it.

Quickly, videos of Lord Grim and Deception fighting shoulder to shoulder appeared all over the Glory forums. The guild members cried about how these two guys had killed them to steal their items.

For the guilds, this was enough. They didn't need to make Lord Grim look like an evil street thug. They just needed to let everyone know that they had good reason to kill Lord Grim.

The Club guilds only needed to provide a pretext to cause trouble.

Lord Grim and Deception had killed their players and stolen their items, which was why they had chased after them. It was a valid reason. Deception's infamous name only made the story more legitimate. Many people would now see Lord Grim in a bad light. The guilds didn't need to look at the results. They knew that they didn't need to care about Lord Grim's current fame anymore.

After completing the surface work, the three guilds gathered the other guilds together to make a joint declaration, denouncing scrap picking. Then, they announced their plan to pursue and kill Lord Grim and Deception to elaborate on their denunciation. Loulan Slash's group of open accounts were also hung up on the blacklist.

All seven of them had a bounty placed on them. This time, the bounty reward wasn't virtual rewards, but real money! Lord Grim and Deception were valued at five hundred yuan. If someone found Lord Grim or Deception and called the guilds over, as long as the target was found and successfully killed, the finder would receive five hundred yuan! Loulan Slash's group was worth less money. Every person was only worth one hundred yuan.

Compared to the surface talk from before, this bounty was certainly much more eye-catching. In games like this with trade, everyone knew that the most valuable item in game was real money.

This wasn't the first time a bounty like this had appeared, but if some random person put it up, you would need to convince people to believe you! No matter how much of a money warrior you were, money and trust were unrelated. You needed to build up trust in the people in order to do this type of transaction.

However, the bounty was being put up by the Club guilds! These guilds were certainly trustworthy. If they promised a reward, they would definitely pay out.

As long as you encountered someone with a bounty and called the guilds, you could earn real money. This money was too easy to get!

As for the Club guilds? On the surface, they simply used scrap picking as their pretense. This bounty was only the first wave. First, they would utilize Deception's infamous name. Afterwards, they would decide the next step depending on the circumstances.

This was the first time the Club guilds had allied together for this type of activity. The online world immediately exploded and all sorts of discussions were created

The guilds in the tenth servers had been waiting for this day to come. Lord Grim! He had made them grind their teeth in anger for so long. Now was the time for his retribution. They wondered whether or not they should dig out the tenth server's Guild Happy since Lord Grim had gone to the Heavenly Domain.

However, none of the guilds would agree to this suggestion.

Their reason for allying together and killing Lord Grim was because of the threat Lord Grim's real identity and goals posed to the Clubs. As long as they could stop him from progressing, it would be enough. After all, Guild Happy was only a guild made up of normal players. Dragging all of Guild Happy's members into this conflict wouldn't look good for the Club guilds. Their image was still very important to them.

"Shameless, too shameless!!" The Club guilds' announcement appeared as the headlines for all the Glory sites and forums. After Chen Guo saw it, she immediately became angry.

"Hm? Why?" Ye Xiu looked over and asked.

"Look!" Chen Guo gave Ye Xiu a link to the announcement.

"Okay okay....." Ye Xiu clicked on it and looked. After reading it, he asked Chen Guo: "What's so shameless about it?"

"This this this..... How is this not shameless!?" Chen Guo pointed at the screen.

"Apart from saying that Deception and I are partners, everything else they said is true!" Ye Xiu said.

"What?" Chen Guo stared dumbly. Then, she looked again and thought about it.

Scrap picking? Ye Xiu had picked up scraps... Killed players? He really had killed quite a few players... Steal items? He had definitely stolen equipment for her Chasing Haze..... it really was the truth.....

"They're using this to cover up their true motives." Chen Guo shouted.

"Yeah, that sounds about right." Ye Xiu nodded his head.

"Five hundred yuan each time! Tsk tsk tsk!" Tang Rou saw it and sighed.

"Sigh, I wonder if it counts if I go undercover! 500 yuan each time! If no Cleric came to revive me, every five deaths would mean I lose one level. That's 2500 yuan. We won a total of 24 accounts from that other Internet Cafe. If all of them were killed until they hit zero experience, how much money would that be?" Ye Xiu began to calculate it in his mind.

"4.2 million!" Tang Rou helped Ye Xiu calculate it.

"I really want that money. Hmm, let me think....." Ye Xiu began to think seriously.

"Don't even think about it!" Chen Guo almost flipped the table over.

"It probably doesn't count if I go undercover. I'd have to use my real self..... Let me check Taobao." Ye Xiu said.

"Taobao?"

"I wonder if they're still selling unspecialized accounts. If they are, then I'll just let them kill Lord Grim, but it's been so many years. Do you think they'll still have any unspecialized accounts?" Ye Xiu began to look. Not long afterwards, he got his answer, "Sigh, they really don't have any! There aren't any unspecialized accounts to buy."

"You you you....."

"There might not be any unspecialized, but what about Ninjas! If we send Deception in to die, his account can earn us 170,000 right?" Ye Xiu calculated.

"175,000." Tang Rou corrected.

'NOOO!" Ye Xiu slammed his keyboard.

"What's wrong?" Chen Guo hastily asked.

"I don't think I added him as a friend. I wonder if I can still find a way to contact him." Ye Xiu said in a sad voice.

Chen Guo rolled her eyes. She didn't know what to say in response.

"Hm? Right, there's also Loulan Slash's five accounts. It's just five open accounts. It doesn't matter if they die. Free money!" Ye Xiu said.

"But they'll be the ones earning the money. It's not like they'll give me any." Ye Xiu said with a sigh.

"Do you really think they'll stoop as low as you?" Chen Guo looked at Ye Xiu with disdain.

"So you're saying, they won't even consider it?" Ye Xiu said.

"Of course!" Chen Guo didn't think a famous money warrior like Loulan Slash would think about it.

"If that's the case, then because we're very close now, I'll trade those five accounts for five of ours. Give them the same classes." Ye Xiu said, while pulling out a drawer and looking over the 24 account cards. From these, he pulled out the five classes.

"Hey, you're not actually going to do it right?" Chen Guo saw Ye Xiu's actions and discovered that he was actually thinking about it.

"It'll be money for my return to the pro scene! I didn't think it'd be so easy to get though. Back then, getting money in game wasn't so easy!" Ye Xiu said as he thought back to the old days.

Chen Guo's head fell to the table. She just couldn't see how this person was the same person who would sacrifice himself for his team.

It looked like she wasn't looking at things the right way! Her insights had been completely wrong.....

Chapter 503 - Collaborator

Chen Guo couldn't believe what was happening. She tapped her keyboard, got up from her seat, and then walked towards Ye Xiu.

When she looked over.....

It was real. It was actually happening. This guy was already on QQ chatting with Loulan Slash.

"You really have no shame!" Chen Guo cried.

"Did you see the declaration the top guilds made today?" Ye Xiu greeted Loulan Slash with a question.

"I saw it. Ha ha ha ha! We're only worth 100 yuan. All of us together are only worth one of you. How depressing." Loulan Slash replied. He was someone who knew how to find fun in things. He was conflicted about his bounty's value!

"We're all foils. Look at that declaration. Deception is the main focus." Ye Xiu said.

"Ha ha, naturally. He's a scrap picker. Of course, he should stand out, but their emphasis is still mostly on you. They don't want everyone to forget about you, so they also placed a 500 yuan bounty on you." Loulan Slash understood the guilds' intent.

"I came looking for you to discuss this." Ye Xiu said.

"Mm, it really is troublesome. Our characters were just open accounts. We can just not use them, but it's a lot tougher for you!" Loulan Slash sighed.

"That's not it. My meaning is I wish to take that money." Ye Xiu said.

The other side didn't reply for a long time. Loulan Slash clearly knew what Ye Xiu's intentions were.

Ye Xiu saw that the other side suddenly stopped talking and moved his QQ window around.

"God, are you serious....." Loulan Slash could only use ellipses to express his thoughts. He felt too embarrassed to say anything negative, but couldn't think of anything positive to say.

"I can't change my main account. Right now, I just don't know if you're interested or not. If you're interested, then it's fine. If you're not, then I can exchange five of my open accounts for those five open accounts." Ye Xiu said.

"There's no need to trade. You can just have them." After a short moment of silence, Loulan Slash gave a blunt answer.

"Wow! How nice of you! Do you want a share of the pot?"

"No need! No need!"

"You're an investor too, so your share won't be small!" Ye Xiu replied politely.

"No need. Really, there's no need!" Loulan Slash refused.

“You’re too nice.” Ye Xiu said.

“Ha ha ha, this small amount of money isn’t much to me. Really, believe me!” Loulan Slash didn’t want to be involved in this, so he spoke as if he were filthy rich.

“Okay, okay. If you don’t want to, I won’t force you.” Ye Xiu said.

“Uh, but speaking of this, even though the bounty is out, we might just be something said for appearances. That bounty says the target has to die for the reward to be paid. If they don’t kill the target, you won’t get the money.” Loulan Slash shifted to a different topic and dug into the issue with the guilds’ statement.

“Mm, I thought of this too, but if I’m controlling it myself, why do I have to let them kill me? I’ll kill myself off, record the death, and send it to them.” Ye Xiu said.

“But if you keep doing it over and over again, won’t it seem too fake?” Loulan Slash asked, “You can kill yourself in the game, but there’s only so many ways to do it, no?”

“That’s true, so I need a few collaborators. How about it?” Ye Xiu said.

“Oh no, my mom called me to come eat dinner. I’ve got to go. Give me an address and I’ll send those five accounts over to you. That’s all for now then. Bye!” Loulan Slash quickly logged off.

“Shameless! Too shameless!” Chen Guo muttered.

“Who would be less suspicious to collaborate with?” Ye Xiu pondered.

Chen Guo saw Ye Xiu’s and Loulan Slash’s chat exchange, looking down on him, while also beginning to think too.

Contact her friends to help? Chen Guo originally had this thought, but when she thought about it, no matter how many friends she had, it wouldn’t be enough! In order to kill all 5 characters until they dropped to level one would require 1750 deaths. Even if each friend could kill one character ten times, she would still need at least 175 friends. Ten times for one character was already very suspicious too.

The Heavenly Domain was the final destination for all ten servers. In order to accommodate all these players, the world was enormous. Finding a single person within that sea of players was like finding a needle in a haystack. Why else would the Club guilds place a bounty on them? The Club guilds were already considered extremely powerful forces in the game.

Chen Guo wasn’t able to think of a good solution. When she looked at Ye Xiu, his computer screen had the webpage for a game studio.

“Are you going to look for a studio?” Chen Guo asked.

“Aren’t studios very fair?” Ye Xiu said.

Chen Guo thought about it for a moment and agreed. For this type of buying and selling that required effort to complete, let alone one character being able to kill for a bounty ten times, killing the bounty a few more times wouldn’t be a problem, especially if they recorded it themselves. This was something a studio could easily do.

"Illusion Studio is a pretty good option." Chen Guo sat to the side. She saw Ye Xiu skim over information on studios and recommended one of them as she saw him skim past.

"Really?" Ye Xiu opened up the description for Illusion Studio, but then closed it after reading it.

"What do you think?" Chen Guo was puzzled. Illusion Studio was a trustworthy, in-game, studio. They had many options and had good ratings. Chen Guo didn't understand why Ye Xiu was unsatisfied with it.

"I'm going to keep looking." Ye Xiu continued to search.

"Future is pretty good too." Chen Guo recommended again. Experienced players usually had some understanding of studios, so they knew the more popular ones.

However, Ye Xiu looked at it and then rejected it too.

"What are you looking for?" Chen Guo didn't know what he wanted.

"One that I'm familiar with." Ye Xiu said.

"You..... you're familiar with some of them?" Chen Guo was astonished.

"I've played this game for ten years. I have all sorts of connections." Ye Xiu didn't think much of it.

As he said this, he finally clicked on a studio that he was looking at. Chen Guo looked at it. This studio had a pretty low rating and the customer reviews were very mediocre. Most players would consider it a scam and wouldn't do business with them. However, Ye Xiu didn't look at these reviews and immediately clicked on the contact info. He really was looking for someone he recognized, and not a famous one.

"Mo Qiang, not a well known one....." Ye Xiu muttered, while asking Chen Guo if he borrow her cellphone.

Chen Guo handed over her handphone and saw Ye Xiu quickly punch in the phone number listed for "Mo Qiang Studio".

"Hello, old Mo?"

"Who is it?"

"Can't you tell from my voice?" Ye Xiu asked.

"I can't tell. This is a work phone. If you have business, say it."

"Is your QQ XXX?" Ye Xiu asked.

"Yeah!" The other side was a bit suspicious.

"Let's talk on QQ." Ye Xiu hung up.

"If you know his QQ, why did you call him?" Chen Guo was puzzled.

"How could I know he's doing this now? Shouldn't I confirm it by phone first?" Ye Xiu said. He looked for the QQ username and messaged him.

“!!!!” The other side replied with five exclamation marks.

“You were the one who called?” The other side followed.

“Yes, it was me.”

“You’re still alive!”

“Of course.....”

“If you’re alive, then why’d you retire????”

“.....”

“Let’s chat later. First, let’s talk business.” Mo Qiang said.

“Did you see the bounty offered by the guilds?” Ye Xiu replied.

“Of course. Oh! You’re Lord Grim?”

“Yeah, that’s me!”

“D*mn! Are you planning on sacrificing your own account to give this bro some nice money to spend? Let me think about it. Each death is 500. One level five times. Level 70 to Level 1 means 175,000 yuan. We can also get a Cleric to revive you, so you double that and that’s 350,000! Since that’s just the Heavenly Domain. You can pretend to run back to the normal servers. If we go to the normal servers to kill you, then double it again for 700,000! Holy sh*t! You’re going to send your bro 700,000! You really are a God. You’re too enlightened!” Mo Qiang said.

“Did you finish calculating it?” Ye Xiu didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. Chen Guo was frozen. He really was a f*cking professional! He maximized the amount of profit that could be earned. Ye Xiu and Tang Rou had calculated 175,000 yuan, but this figure was way too weak compared to the 700,000 that had just been mentioned.

“I obviously know you’re not here to give it to me for free. What are your conditions?” Mo Qiang asked.

“When did I say I was going to allow you to get Lord Grim killed?” Ye Xiu was speechless.

“Then what are you here for?” Mo Qiang was puzzled. It sounded like Ye Xiu wasn’t looking for him to do this.

“I have to use Lord Grim, but I can provide you the other five accounts who are on the hitlist.” Ye Xiu said.

“Which five accounts? Are you talking about the ones worth 100 each?” Mo Qiang said.

“Yes.....”

“Those five. Isn’t that a bit too small? The net profit is only only worth one Lord Grim for all five..... What about Deception? Can you get that one?” Mo Qiang asked.

“I can’t.....”

“How regretful.” Mo Qiang expressed.

"Can you do it?" Ye Xiu asked.

"I can. Of course, I can! However, you're going to need to give me the details. I have to do some analysis to see how I should go about this." Mo Qiang asked.

Ye Xiu gave him a general explanation. Mo Qiang listened and expressed some of his disappointment: "So it's like that..... Those accounts are clearly just for appearance. With how crafty those guys are, if you only provide them with information, they won't give you the money. Even if we do it like you say, at a certain point, they'll remove the bounty and you won't get the maximum theoretical profit possible."

"True." Ye Xiu wasn't too surprised. He had clearly thought about this too.

"If we just directly kill you until they stop giving the bounty, then it'll be very fake..... but then again, this amount of money isn't much to them anyways. Plus, it's all of the Clubs combined. With their work ethic, I doubt they'd go back on their word." Mo Qiang asked.

"They shouldn't." Ye Xiu said.

"Then we'll do it like that then! We won't revive with a Cleric either. If we do it too excessively, they won't be happy with us getting so greedy. We have to leave them some face." Mo Qiang suggested after thinking about it some more.

"Then it's set?" Ye Xiu asked.

"Bullsh*t. What's my share?" Mo Qiang asked.

"I'll give you half." Ye Xiu said.

"Okay okay okay. God is still a God. How daring. Then I'll go arrange it." Mo Qiang said.

"Okay."

"Alright, let's chat then. Why did you retire?" Mo Qiang asked.

Chapter 504 - Unending News

Even though Ye Xiu didn't have a cellphone, he still frequently used QQ as a communication tool. When he had retired, many people had messaged him, but he ignored all of them. Back then, Mo Qiang had asked him about it too and, now that he had been contacted, he used this opportunity to chat.

"It's quite a long story. Let's talk about it when I'm less busy!" Ye Xiu avoided the subject.

"Are you really planning on creating your own team?" Mo Qiang asked.

"I have thought about doing so." Ye Xiu said.

"So this is to help raise money for it?" Mo Qiang asked.

"Not entirely." Ye Xiu replied.

"It looks like you're not having an easy time. This bro won't take half then. I'll just take profit from two of the accounts." Mo Qiang said.

"Thanks!" Ye Xiu didn't refuse.

"I say we just have those five accounts party up and then kill them together." Mo Qiang clearly wasn't very insistent on chatting and quickly returned back to discussing business.

"I'll leave it up to you then!"

"Alright! Just wait for the money to arrive!"

With the deal completed, Ye Xiu turned his head. Chen Guo was still beside him and had a complicated expression on her face.

"Hey, it isn't easy starting from scratch." Ye Xiu said.

Chen Guo was startled. She felt as if her heart had been pricked again. Ye Xiu took out a cigarette and told her he was going out for a smoke.

Chen Guo went back to her game. Right now, quite a few people were talking about the news. Some people just randomly sent out coordinates, saying Lord Grim was here or that Lord Grim was there. They were making fun of the guilds. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim wasn't even online.

Not just Lord Grim, but Deception and Loulan Slash's five open accounts weren't there either. The players could only shout loudly. If their targets weren't online, what could they do?

The guilds were obviously paying close attention to them. Them not being online was a success for them in a way. After all, their goal was to stop Ye Qiu from levelling.

Ye Xiu finished smoking his cigarette and returned. He logged into the game. On a different computer, Chen Guo's Chasing Haze received a notification indicating a friend had logged on.

"You're still going to keep playing?" Chen Guo was astonished.

"Why not?" Ye Xiu asked.

"Be careful!" Chen Guo said.

"Yeah, I know, but I'm only going to leveling areas without many people. I'll take a look at the circumstances and see whether or not there'll be people wandering around hoping to catch sight of me." Ye Xiu said.

"I imagine there'll be quite a few people doing that." Chen Guo said. She understood a player's mind. Five hundred yuan wasn't much, but it wasn't a small amount either. One of the main purposes of the game was to strengthen one's character. If the five hundred yuan was spent on a piece of equipment or an item, it would definitely be able to purchase a top quality item. There would be players who would try to test their luck.

"Mm, if it doesn't look good, I'll run." Ye Xiu said.

"If you really need an unspecialized account, you can just look for someone to level it up for you. It wouldn't take very long." Chen Guo said. She understood that Lord Grim himself wasn't worth much. It was mostly the Silver weapon that was valuable to them. Apart from a few bored players or collectors, there probably wouldn't be any other unspecialized characters out there. However, a studio wouldn't care. As long as you needed one, they would level one for you. It was just a matter of how much you

paid. All he had to do was transfer the Silver weapon to the new account and character. If he did that, wouldn't he be able to avoid all of the hunting and grinding? Lord Grim could also be used to earn some money too. This was what Chen Guo was thinking.

"Ha ha, I'll do it if I don't have any other options!" Ye Xiu said.

Chen Guo heard this and knew he had already thought about it before, so she didn't say anymore.

"Where are you?" Chen Guo asked. After Ye Xiu told her his location, Chen Guo immediately had Chasing Haze head over.

As she moved towards his location, Chen Guo discovered a few players moving in a similar direction as her. It seemed like quite a few had noticed that Lord Grim had come online. Everyone knew Lord Grim's level too. He could only move about in the Level 55 leveling area, so they immediately headed towards it.

"It looks like quite a few players are heading towards the Level 55 leveling area." Chen Guo said to Ye Xiu.

"Ha ha, the leveling area is so large. They won't be able to find me so easily." Ye Xiu said as he continued to level up. He was still in Wilderness Town, a Level 55 area.

As he killed monsters, Ye Xiu looked for a place convenient for observing the surroundings. He didn't move around randomly either. If he didn't see anyone around, he would stay there. If he moved around randomly, it was more likely that he would bump into someone.

Even so, he wasn't able to kill monsters peacefully the entire time. After a period of time, Lord Grim finally noticed a player heading towards him. With his current situation, it didn't matter if the player was in a guild or not. Now that a bounty had been placed on his head, it really was as if he had become a street rat. He wasn't just any street rat, but a street rat worth five hundred yuan.

Chen Guo was concerned about Ye Xiu's situation and switched to a computer next to Ye Xiu to play. She constantly glanced at Ye Xiu's screen. She saw how unsafe Ye Xiu's leveling was and would turn her attention to his screen from time to time. Fortunately, Ye Xiu had lots of experience and an incredible amount of skill. Whenever he saw a player, he immediately hid. With the distance between them, the other side wouldn't be able to see Lord Grim's ID clearly, so Ye Xiu hadn't been in any danger yet.

"Are you sure someone isn't following you?"

Chen Guo was worried that someone might be following Ye Xiu. However, it was Ye Xiu who reminded her of something.

Chen Guo stared blankly. She turned her Chasing Haze around and immediately saw a bunch of players following her. She couldn't hide her surprise after turning around.

Chen Guo suddenly understood. Some of them might have known about her relationship with Lord Grim, so they tried to see if they could get their five hundred yuan through her. Thinking of this, Chen Guo began to sweat. She really had been looking for Lord Grim. If Ye Xiu hadn't reminded her, she would have guided a whole bunch of players over to his location. She had been concerned about Ye Xiu's situation and nearly caused a disaster.

“You don’t need to worry. Nothing will happen. People will watch you closely if you’re online and might look for you if they need something. How about you go play in the tenth server for now? You can help manage the guild while you’re over there.” Ye Xiu said.

Chen Guo looked at the crowd of people behind her. There was nothing she could do about it, so she accepted Ye Xiu’s suggestion. At the tenth server, she had an account which was in Guild Happy too. Her position there wasn’t low either. Her character’s level might be low, but the guild knew that her main account was a Heavenly Domain character.

As a result, Chen Guo began managing the tenth server guild. Ye Xiu was having a difficult time in the Heavenly Domain. Even though he hadn’t been killed yet, his leveling speed had been greatly affected. Chen Guo had been very anxious at first, but when she saw that Ye Xiu didn’t seem to care at all, she became more at ease.

On Saturday, an unexpected result appeared in the Pro Alliance. In the match between Excellent Era and Thunderclap, Excellent Era had been completely crushed.

Ye Qiu had retired and Sun Xiang had taken his place. After a period of ups and downs, Excellent Era seemed to have returned to their best shape. Even though there wasn’t any hope of making it to the playoffs this season, with their recent results, Excellent Era had once again become a strong competitor for next year’s championship.

But in this match, everyone in Excellent Era showed a terrible performance. The end result was 1:9. Throughout the entire competition, they had only won a single point from the individual competition. The rest of the competition was plagued with mistakes. Excellent Era’s players looked as if they had something else on their minds.

Especially during the team competition. Xiao Shiqin’s Team Thunderclap was relatively weak in the individual competition and group knockout competitions, but with a Master Tactician leading their team, no one would ever underestimate them in team competitions. In the team competition, Excellent Era lost magnificently.

The media was stunned. Excellent Era fans were also stunned. Even the victorious Team Thunderclap was stunned. In the post-match interviews, when Thunderclap’s Captain Xiao Shiqin was asked about Excellent Era’s loss, he couldn’t find anything good to say because there simply wasn’t anything Excellent Era had done well during that battle. In the end, he lied saying “their performance wasn’t bad, but luck just wasn’t with them today.”

Happy Internet Cafe didn’t stream Excellent Era’s matches like usual, so there weren’t as large of an audience. However, there were still quite a few players who watched the match on their own. That day, Happy Internet Cafe was also in an uproar. Excellent Era’s disgusting performance made many jump out and praise Chen Guo for not streaming their match. It was their one bit of salvation from the disaster.

The customers, who had watched the match, all looked as if they had eaten a fly. They ran out the door and began throwing rocks at the nearby Club Excellent Era. This match had even taken place in Excellent Era’s home stadium. Those who had watched the match live had gathered around, refusing to leave and shouted angrily at Excellent Era.

Excellent Era wasn't a stranger to this scene though. Their performance in the first half of the year had been very bad. Fans had done this before.

However, no matter how poorly they had performed, the hate they got had never been this bad. Today's performance could be described with two words: unprecedented brutality.

Just when everyone's hopes had been rekindled, Team Excellent Era dumped a bucket of cold water over it. The disappointed fans gathered around in the winter cold and refused to leave for a long time. Excellent Era could only look at the scene in shame. The spokesperson, manager, and team members all went out to apologize as well as promise that they would do better in the future.

However, were they actually sincere in their promises?

Sun Xiang, Liu Hao..... Excellent Era's main team all had dead expressions on their faces.

Chapter 505 - To Relegations

The web game had its own liveliness, while the pro league had its own news.

Excellent Era had always been the center of attention. After all, they were a seasoned and well-known team in the Alliance. Before this season, they had always been contenders for the champion spot. However, this season, the characters being paid attention to were different. From the beginning of the season, Excellent Era was very unstable. Their captain and ace player changed halfway through the season and the team seemed to be on the rise again. However, a few weeks earlier, vice captain Liu Hao had a disastrous performance and the team was in complete disarray. Their last two performances were so bad that their defeats would go down in the history books.

The press and newspaper once again used the headlines that they had been using throughout the season: What Happened to Excellent Era???

This time, they added additional words in their headlines: What Is Actually Going on with Excellent Era???

Excellent Era's public relation team appeared helpless in the face of this historical disaster. Their fans were tired of their empty promises and wanted results instead of empty talk. Before it happened, they would never stop making their dissatisfaction known.

In Excellent Era's inter-team meeting, the manager could sense that something wasn't right.

Despite his shouting, his only response to it were the dead expressions on the team. Sun Xiang, Liu Hao, Shen Jian... All of the main players appeared to be out of it.

The worried looks on their faces were not for the team, but for their own futures. Right now, Excellent Era was a sinking ship and the people that were supposed to be the fixers of the ships were thinking about matters after the ship had sunk.

The sight that played out before him frightened the manager. The poor performance during the first half of the season could be brushed aside as a period of transitioning, but what about now? He didn't know how the situation had gone out of hand so quickly and he had no solution to it...

Pacing back and forth unsure of what to do, the manager decided to conclude the meeting. He hadn't achieved the outcome that he had hoped would happen through this meeting. The only thing he obtained through the meeting was knowledge on how grave the situation looked. He had no choice but to pull out his phone, "Boss...."

Although in-game players paid attention to the pro scene, the game wouldn't be directly affected by news from the pro scene. Dungeons, missions, and PK's between players continued regardless. The disastrous performance of Excellent Era, however, was a disgrace in the eyes of their fans as well as a subject of ridicule for their opponents.

Chen Yehui managed the in-game guild. The pro team's poor performances had nothing to do with him. However, as a core member of the club, he could clearly feel the heavy atmosphere within the club.

What happened to Liu Hao and his companions last time? Chen Yehui couldn't muster the courage to ask. He came across Liu Hao several times since then, but Liu Hao always seemed to have something else in his mind and walked past him without noticing him.

He Ming, Shen Jian, Zhang Jiaying...

Everyone he encountered looked like they were troubled. As for Sun Xiang, according to the information that Chen Yehui had gathered, it was said that he had isolated himself in his room and only came out for training and meal times.

With the situation being so serious, Chen Yehui didn't dare to do anything rash. He came to the conclusion that going back to the game and completing his responsibilities was the safest way to go.

Progress in the game remained the same as before. The bounties placed on Lord Grim and Deception didn't seem to affect them.

The leaders of the big guilds understood that even though there were a lot of names on their wanted list, 6 out of 7 of them were just dummies. Lord Grim. Their only target was Lord Grim. This was precisely the reason that they reacted to news regarding Lord Grim while ignoring the rest.

But what about Lord Grim? They had received a lot of information about him in these past few days, but they still hadn't managed to catch a glimpse of him. They weren't even sure if the information that they received were real or just to pull their legs. Later, the guilds required reports to confirm the target and keep the target in sight until they arrived. But when they thought about it, who was it they were supposed to keep in sight? Ye Qiu! Three guilds had allied together and sent out over a hundred players to lock down Wilderness Town. Even so, Ye Qiu had still been able to escape from their eyes. How could a single player keep him in sight for so long? It would only be possible if Ye Qiu didn't care and intentionally let someone pursue him.

Would Ye Qiu be so careless with his current circumstances? Clearly not. For the past few days, Lord Grim was nowhere to be seen despite being online. The intelligence received by the big guilds decreased by the day. After the initial hype, not many were actually willing to try their luck in low level zones.

Was this another wasted effort? Each club-backed guild was puzzled. Why couldn't they defeat Lord Grim even when such a strong weapon, the renminbi, was employed.

One week passed in the blink of an eye and a new round of the weekly pro matches began. Other than the Glory fans that cared about the top 8, the number of fans that were concerned that their teams would be disqualified increased as well.

In terms of the long-term competition system of the professional league, doing horribly in a game or two wouldn't decide the overall situation. The two teams that usually got relegated were usually teams that had been at the back of the pack due to their lack of actual strength. But for the first half of the current season, Excellent Era had dropped low because of their continuous bad performances. A few good matches came after switching ace players, but the collapse that followed right after made many feel that Excellent Era had returned to the bottom. A contender for relegations was back!

If Excellent Era actually got relegated, it would not be a small matter.

With only 8 seasons, the development of Glory's competitive scene was still considered quite short. The rise and fall of a powerhouse hadn't occurred in history yet, but in this season, Excellent Era might just fulfill that role. Could the champions who once led to the creation of the first empire in the history of Glory be trying to change the history of Glory again, but this time in the completely opposite direction?

Reports from the mass media were full of such sarcasm. Even though they were no longer as invincible as back in their days as reigning champions for three years, Excellent Era was still a strong competitor. However, they had suddenly plunged into the possibility of relegation without any warning as if to surprise the masses.

Excellent Era's rivals took pleasure in their misfortune, while their supporters were ridden with anxiety. Their next match began with much attention to it. Excellent Era would be the away team facing against Samsara.

Samsara had been the host of the All Star Weekend, but unfortunately, their team didn't show anything very outstanding. Despite that, their morale were exceptionally high after the All Star Weekend. Excellent Era was demoralized after their disastrous last match and was unlucky to face such a team with high spirits, but it was also a chance for them.

If they were going to defeat Samsara, they would need to pay tremendous effort to do so. But if they managed to defeat them, it would be very strong evidence that their strength hadn't faded.

Could Excellent Era make it? The fans of Excellent Era weren't the only ones paying attention to this match. Even Happy Internet Cafe was broadcasting this match. Chen Guo's current policy was to stream important matches, so she didn't avoid Excellent Era on purpose. This match would without a doubt be one of the the most important matches of the season.

Happy Internet Cafe was once again full of customers, but the atmosphere was very heavy. There might be neutral fans watching the match elsewhere, but at this specific location, almost all of the audience members were Excellent Era supporters who were watching with sweat covering their palms. There were no cheers when the match started, no shouts of approval for their favorite players. Everyone was silently and anxiously paying attention to the match.

Su Mucheng won the first individual match, bringing everyone's spirits up.

In the second match, vice captain Liu Hao managed to win too and the atmosphere in Happy Internet Cafe suddenly livened up.

Even Chen Guo let out a breath that she had been holding in. Her wish to see Excellent Era fail miserably faded after seeing Ye Xiu's dejected expression. She suddenly began to hope that Excellent Era could make a comeback.

Without a doubt, Chen Guo was a typical fangirl. Su Mucheng was still a member of Excellent Era! If Excellent Era fell into disarray, wouldn't Su Mucheng be affected as well? Just imagining this made Chen Guo hope that Excellent Era would deliver.

Chen Guo stole a glance at Ye Xiu, who was smoking at the doorway. The guy was expressionless, as if the 2 wins were nothing to him.

Excellent Era lost the third round. The Internet Cafe was filled with sighs of regret, but the atmosphere was way better than it had been when the match first started. At least the place was getting more lively.

The group arena competition that followed was like a heavy rain, drenching the audience's morale heavily. There was only one player that took part in the team knockout tournament from Samsara's side, Zhou Zekai.

1v3!

Zhou Zekai scoring a 1v3 in the team knockout tournament with his stylish Sharpshooter may have been dazzling, but nobody was in the mood to appreciate his magnificent skills. Most of them wanted to eat Zhou Zekai alive.

At this grave moment, a cheer emanated from amongst the crowd, "Awesome!"

The cheer could only be towards Zhou Zekai. The crowd looked for the source of the voice with fury in their eyes. The owner of the voice was luckily a beautiful girl. If it were a guy, the emergency services would be needing to take a field trip to Happy Internet Cafe.

The atmosphere of the internet cafe regressed immediately to a state similar to when the game had first started. The team competition started with great anxiety amongst the audience. Lasting for 30 minutes, the match was just of moderate length, but it caused Excellent Era fans to wince with pain.

Defeated. Once again, they had suffered defeat.

2 : 8 was the final score, with only a difference of one point compared to their last match. Although not as disgusting as their last match, Excellent Era's team remained in low spirits, retaining their horrible performance. This was made obvious by the team competition.

"F*ck!" The air in Happy Internet Cafe was filled with strings of curses.

Chapter 506 - Xiaoqiang Productions

Curses filled the air. Quite a few audience members stood up and kicked away their chairs, just like the ending of a movie in the cinemas. In their agitated state, there was no order when the audience left the place. Individuals at the front of the crowd were cursed at whenever they slowed down. The chaos

didn't subside even after a long time. Most of them went across the street, throwing bricks, vandalizing the walls, but how could Excellent Era's guards have the courage to stop them?

They watched or at least saw the results of the match. The moment they saw that Excellent Era had lost again, they knew it would be a disaster. At that moment, the only thing they could do was shut the main entrance. The best they could do was to stop the crowd from entering their headquarters and wrecking it from within.

Chen Guo was stunned by the result of the stampede. A lot of her customers didn't intend to destroy her Internet Cafe intentionally, but in their moment of rage, much destruction was wrought upon the facilities. Chen Guo realized that her previous decision had been a blessing in disguise. The popularity and income of the Internet Cafe suffered drastically from her action of cancelling the broadcast of Excellent Era's match, but with the team's current performance, she was lucky that she stopped the broadcast. With their disgusting performance, her Internet Cafe would be the audience's first place to release their rage. If the situation continued, her Internet Cafe would've been dismantled.

While directing her staff to clean up the place, Chen Guo glanced at the doorway, Ye Xiu was already gone. She shifted her view and saw that a huge crowd had formed outside Excellent Era's entrance. It wasn't as bad as last time though. They knew that it was an away match and that not many of the staff members were around.

Excellent Era had lost to Samsara, who were at the peak of their performance, so the media gave them a bit of leeway and didn't show too much disappointment towards Excellent Era's performance.

However, having scored only a meager three points total from their last two matches, Excellent Era's ranking plunged. Their score this season wasn't high to begin with and they had only barely increased their ranking with their previously stable performances the last few games. The blunder that they'd made caused their ranking to drop, and they were headed straight towards disqualification.

"If this continues, will Excellent Era be eliminated?" Chen Guo went upstairs and was surprised that Ye Xiu had not logged into the game yet and was in the living room instead.

"I don't know....." Ye Xiu replied as he looked out through the window.

That night, Ye Xiu didn't spend any time on the game, but the next morning, he headed straight to the computer.

He continued levelling his character, but not long after logging into the game, he received a message from Mo Qiang on QQ.

"God d*mn, after working on this for a week, I've finally finished it!" said Mo Qiang.

"It's done?" After Ye Xiu's discussion with Mo Qiang last time, he gave Mo Qiang's address to Loulan Slash and the five accounts were sent straight to him, giving him full access to the accounts.

"It's done. Let me send a short clip to you!" Mo Qiang sent Ye Xiu a video file.

After receiving the file, Ye Xiu clicked into it and the words "Xiaoqiang Productions" appeared on screen in a comical fashion.

"Your introduction..." Ye Xiu hesitated.

“Brand consciousness is a must!” replied Mo Qiang.

“You’re overdoing it... your deal with the Clubs is like ripping hair out of their heads. They’re going to hate you for doing this and you actually made an intro to deepen their impression of you?” Ye Xiu didn’t know whether to laugh or cry.

“Ayy! You’re right about that. It’s not like I’m going to have any more business relationships with these Clubs, so I’m going to gross them out.” said Mo Qiang.

“If you push them too far, they might not pay you for this!” said Ye Xiu.

“Oh they can’t.” Mo Qiang sent a sly smile emoticon, “I’ve already made preparations, they will pay me no matter what, unless they don’t care about their reputation anymore.”

Ye Xiu kept quiet. He guessed that Mo Qiang would be doing this deal in the open, where it could be seen by all the players. Under these circumstances, the clubs wouldn’t be able to go back on their words. Even if they knew that Mo Qiang was tricking them, they could only suffer in silence.

But with so many guilds offering the bounty, the expense would be shared between them. With the sum divided amongst themselves, it wouldn’t be considered much. Just as Mo Qiang said, even if it did not affect them financially, it was more important that they gross them out.

Ye Xiu didn’t comment on Mo Qiang’s mischievous joke because he knew that Mo Qiang didn’t have a good view of these Clubs.

“Do what you want! I only care for the money.” Ye Xiu replied with an “Emotionless” emoticon.

“Keep watching my video, I’ve been working on it for a week and the only thing you’ve watched is the introduction? How could you!” Mo Qiang grumbled.

“I’m watching, I’m watching...” Ye Xiu continued watching the video helplessly.

The main theme of the video appeared right after the introduction, starting with a chaotic battle. Mo Qiang grouped the 5 accounts together, creating a scenario where the party was annihilated in battle. The footage was shaky, hinting that the person recording the video was also a part of the battle. The video ended with 5 corpses on the ground, with the shot stopping at each ID.

“The party was annihilated, but they don’t revive themselves and they just lay there so you can get a clean shot on them? Isn’t this too take? You really intend to disgust them to death!” said Ye Xiu.

“Hahaha, keep watching!” Mo Qiang continued.

Ye Xiu continued to watch the video. The footage zoomed out as if the character were backing off and looking around, while paying close attention to the corpses lying on the ground. Not long afterwards, a Cleric appeared on camera. Ye Xiu immediately understood his intention.

It was scripted. Everything was scripted to giving the chance for his opponents to be rescued by their Cleric and then ambushing them.

“.....” Even Ye Xiu was speechless.

“Haha, if the characters respawn, we still need to control them. I was a little lazy. By doing this, even if they counted these two occasions as one, it’s still quite convenient!” said Mo Qiang.

“You often use this method. It’s too disgusting.” said Ye Xiu.

“Yeah yeah, that was why I made it look like they saw through it after a few times and then stopped doing it. We want to decrease our workload, but we can make it look realistic at the same time! For the viewing pleasure of the higher ups of the clubs, it can’t be done too crudely, right?”

“With these five accounts moving around so frequently, won’t people notice them?” said Ye Xiu.

“Who would notice them faster than our own guys? I notified the big guilds every time, saying how I found these five player’s whereabouts. But these guilds are really sly. These five characters had a bounty placed on them to fool the public. They don’t even care about them. I’ve never seen any one of their men come over. I’m guessing the others that gave them intelligence on these five were also ignored. I was lucky that I had a trick up my sleeve. Xiaoqiang’s product, home made. I feel good earning this money.” Mo Qiang prattled on.

“In the end they’re all bald?” asked Ye Xiu. Being “bald” meant that all the experience points on the characters were gone. Even though their levels were still at 70, if you opened up their character info pages and looked at their stats, you would break into tears.

“Sigh, speaking of which, we made a mistake in our calculations. The minimum level a character can have in Glory is level 1, there is no level 0, so to make these Level 70 characters go bald, there are only 69 levels. With 500 yuan per level and 5 times 69 levels, we’ll only get a grand total of 172,500. The sum that we came up with, 175,000, was incorrect!” Mo Qiang continued!

“So how much are you going to get in the end.....” said Ye Xiu.

“I didn’t finish off all of their levels. It would be too unrealistic, so I got a total of 150,000.” said Mo Qiang.

“This isn’t realistic either.” said Ye Xiu.

“Isn’t 150,000 easier to divide? We’re aiming to decrease our workload.” said Mo Qiang.

“Sure, sure. I’ve finished watching the video, do what you have to do!” said Ye Xiu.

“I intend to leave it there for a few more days, but I’m afraid that they’d suddenly cancel the bounty. I heard that even after so many days, they still couldn’t get ahold of you right? Why don’t you give them some hope? Dying once or twice. Isn’t there’s a huge pile of money waiting for you after that? Make some sacrifices. Huh? Come on!” Mo Qiang continued earnestly.

“Stop spewing nonsense, if you’re afraid that the bounty will be canceled, do it faster.” said Ye Xiu.

“But there is also a possibility that they will increase the bounty. Raising yours to a thousand, and if these accounts’ got increased by about 200 yuan, it would still be a very big profit!” said Mo Qiang.

“Don’t be too greedy. If the amount is too big, aren’t you afraid that they’d rather lose face than to pay the bounty? Everything has a limit!” said Ye Xiu.

“Yes yes yes, you are right. Fine! I’ll cash in on the bounty, give me your account number, I’ll send the money later.” said Mo Qiang.

“Slow down, I have a list of things here that I need, so help me acquire those.” said Ye Xiu.

“What do you need?” asked Mo Qiang.

When the shoplist was received by Mo Qiang, he immediately understood Ye Xiu’s attention after a glance, “You’re going to upgrade that Silver Equipment of yours!”

“Yes!”

“You’re upgrading it to level 50, am I right?” Mo Qiang continued. Each equipment and materials had their own levels. The level of the materials used to forge a piece of silver equipment wasn’t limited, but it was still based on the level of the end product. Guessing the level of the equipment was simple just by looking at the list of materials.

“Yes.”

“I don’t have all the things you need. How could this be a single weapon? This is enough for an entire set!” Mo Qiang was amazed.

“I know you have your ways of getting it done. The money is with you, just help me out here. Is it enough?” said Ye Xiu.

“It’s hard to say, Orange Equipment is easy to get, but you need three materials that are only dropped by wild bosses, which are mostly owned by the big guilds. It’s tough luck for the studios. Even if others have them, if we try getting it, they will certainly raise the price unreasonably, you know that.” said Mo Qiang.

“Yes, I know.” Ye Xiu nodded. There was no market price for such rare materials. They were so rare that they couldn’t even form a market out of it. Such items could accurately be described by “rare commodity”. If any workshops got their hands on them, they would only sell them when the time is right.

“Then, leave it to me!” said Mo Qiang.

Chapter 507 - Leave It Alone

Three of the materials required to upgrade the Thousand Chance Umbrella to its Level 50 form only came from wild BOSSes. No other upgrades had required such luxurious materials thus far.

This was because the upgrade process from Level 5 to 45 could be considered relatively easy to accomplish, but from Level 45 to 50, the capabilities of the Thousand Chance Umbrella would be completely branch out. When the Thousand Chance Umbrella had been designed, Level 50 had been its final form. Leaving the extremely precious materials until the final form was done in order to save materials needed for the previous upgrades. Most Silver equipment followed this train of thought. If materials could be saved from previous upgrades, then it was best to save them.

However, the current Silver equipment had their final upgrades from Level 65 to 70, while the Thousand Chance Umbrella’s final upgrade was still stuck at Level 45 to 50.

The current tenth server might not even be able to gather together enough materials needed for this upgrade. However, Ye Xiu was already in the Heavenly Domain and he could acquire these materials through others from older servers. Items could go forward, but not backwards in the Heavenly Domain and normal servers. In other words, items from normal servers could be brought into the Heavenly Domain, but items from the Heavenly Domain couldn't be brought back to normal servers, unless the item originally came from the normal server. If a player had any sort of item from the Heavenly Domain, the player would have to store it in the Heavenly Domain before going back to the normal server.

After finishing his deal with Mo Qiang, Ye Xiu continued to level up. He played cautiously every day, not allowing anyone find his tracks. Even though this slowed down his leveling speed, he slowly wore away at the patience of bounty hunters. Ye Xiu had predicted this would happen. At first, everyone would be filled with excitement, but after awhile, most people would give up on trying their luck and would stop wasting their time.

Chen Guo saw how the situation had turned for the better, so she logged into her Chasing Haze and began to help him level. Helpers would increase his leveling speed, so Ye Xiu didn't refuse her assistance.

They killed monsters for the entire morning. After eating lunch, everyone took a short break. Chen Guo took this time to browse the internet. She checked the forums and saw a post created by Mo Qiang. Seeing this, she hastily called for Ye Xiu to come over and see.

Ye Xiu went over and looked. Sure enough, Mo Qiang had posted videos of him killing those five open accounts. It wasn't all of it though. There would be too many videos and file size would have been too big. He only posted the videos that he had sent Ye Xiu to take a look at. It was only a small portion of all of them. The main content of the post was the text. Mo Qiang told everyone of how hard he had been working for the whole week. This cunning fellow didn't even mention that the amount he had killed was worth 150,000 yuan. Killing them that many times in the span of a single week would clearly be too fake. Were those five fake? If those five knew that they would be pursued every day, why would they stay online and letting their experience drop?

Just from these videos and this text, it seemed like Mo Qiang had truly gone through great difficulties just to kill these five a few times, which was why he went on the forums to express his joy.

"F*ck these Clubs!"

Ye Xiu was reading through these posts, when he received a message from Mo Qiang.

"What?" Ye Xiu was surprised. Would the Clubs really not reward him for cashing in the bounty? Ye Xiu hadn't thought that this would happen, but Ye Xiu also needed this money. Getting the materials he needed just through in-game methods would be extremely difficult! Ye Xiu didn't mind using real life money in this case. The more time he could save, the better.

"They said today is Sunday. Wait until Monday!" Mo Qiang typed furiously.

"Oh..... then just wait!" Ye Xiu saw his reply and broke out into a laugh. It was a very normal response. No one would be willing to work on the weekend or work overtime for something so trivial.

“Do you think they’re going to try to keep on delaying it?” Mo Qiang clearly didn’t have a good image of the Clubs.

“For something like this? Just wait. There’s more to come!” Ye Xiu calmly said.

“What?”

“Do you think you’re talking to a real person? The Club is still a company. No matter how they run, it’s going to take them awhile to process it. If you get it by next week, then that would already be considered quite quick.” Ye Xiu said.

“I’m just afraid that long delays will cause trouble!” Mo Qian said, “If I knew there would be a delay, I wouldn’t have posted it today. What happens if I rustle the grass and scare a snake?”

“You can always delete posts you know.....” Ye Xiu said.

“Right right right, I’ll delete it first.” Mo Qiang immediately went to do it. Fortunately, he had just posted it, so it hadn’t gotten much attention yet. After deleting it, he repeatedly searched the post on Baidu and let out a sigh of relief after seeing no one had reproduced it.

Chen Guo saw the treacherous dealings going on between these two, but didn’t have the energy to scold them.

That day, at Club Excellent Era, a huge number of fans had gathered at its entrance again to protest. It was Sunday, and they clearly didn’t have much else to do.

Despite protesting, it still showed the fans’ passion. With Excellent Era’s recent performances, they couldn’t just turn a blind eye towards the fans, so they sent some people out to calm them down and provided them with food and drinks. Later, it was said that they invited a few representatives of the fans to go inside and have a chat.....

A chaotic day passed by just like that.

The next day was a business day, so Mo Qiang did the same thing that he had done yesterday. He made a post and contacted the Clubs for the rewards.

“Oh? You killed them? And you have video proof??”

The person who replied today was someone who managed this type of work, not an answering machine.

“Yeah, should I send over the videos?” Mo Qiang asked.

“Sure, go ahead!” The manager clearly didn’t care.

“Okay.” Mo Qiang replied. He sent the files and the other side received them. Afterwards, he commented: “This is for 104 kills.”

“How many?” The manager rubbed his eyes as if he had read the message incorrectly. He felt like it would only be a few times at most for a few hundred yuan. How could he have imagined that the other side would say 104 times. The amount of money to be paid out for that amount already broke the ten thousand range.

“104 times. If you don’t believe me, you can count. My recordings should be quite clear.” Mo Qiang replied and then sent another file over.

“Why did you send it again?” The manager was confused.

“It’s another file. 112 times.” Mo Qiang said.

“There’s more!” The manager cried.

“Of course.” Mo Qiang said.

The manager received it, while feeling astonished. This was already within the twenty thousand yuan range.

And then a third, a fourth, a fifth.....

“How many do you have?” The manager couldn’t believe his eyes.

“10 files for a total of 1500 times.” Mo Qiang replied.

“1500 times..... 150,000.....” The manager was completely stunned. He stared at the files sent and didn’t know what to say.

“I’ll keep working hard!” Mo Qiang said.

“Uh..... wait. We’ll have to look over all of your videos before talking again.” The manager replied. 1500 times, 150,000 yuan, the number was so ridiculous that they seemed fake. The manager felt like he had encountered a scammer, so he had to verify it. As a result, he hastily called over people to watch the videos and confirm the number count.

Ten videos. Fifteen hundred kills. Even though he killed them five times in some of the videos, it wouldn’t be easy to look through them, especially since they had to check if he was hacking.

After working busily for the entire day, the specialists came to a conclusion: there were no problems with any of the videos.

“Are you joking!” The videos weren’t fake. Moreover, the manager had counted the number of kills, exactly 1500.

However, killing them that many times in an entire week only existed in theory. Anyone who understood anything about the game would know that something wasn’t right.

Even the video specialists expressed how even though the videos were clean, the content themselves.....

The responsibility had exceeded this manager’s power. It was clearly a fraud, but there was no proof.....

1500 times meant that each player had died 300 times. 5 deaths 1 level, so 60 levels lost.

For five players to have lost 60 levels in one week..... If the five weren’t killing themselves on purpose, then only an idiot would believe it.

“This has to be fake!” The manager felt. Something so ridiculous didn’t need proof. However, he knew the other side must have understood this too, yet he still spoke so frankly. Why was he not afraid?

The manager felt like this issue was a bit complicated and he couldn’t make a rash decision. Moreover, he was just acting on behalf of others. This was something created by all of the Clubs, who had allied together. How could he represent all of the Clubs?

As a result, he decided to ask his boss for help. Anyone would immediately understand something so obvious! No one cared about the stuff on the surface. After all of the Clubs received this news, they pondered over whether there was something more to this.

They could already figure it out easily enough.

Because as everyone already knew, these five accounts were Heavenly Justice’s open accounts.

What were open accounts? Open accounts were accounts with no identity and could be sacrificed at any time. And now, these five accounts had been killed in such a way. Trying to level them back up would be nearly the same as leveling them from scratch. They could already be considered as trashed. However, the sacrifice was worth it! Five accounts, 150,000.....

Heavenly Justice had done it!

All of the guilds now thought that they were the perpetrators. Who would have thought that such a famous guild would do something so dirty.

The Clubs now had an even worse impression of Heavenly Justice. None of them had a good feeling about them ever since their eye-catching step onto the professional stage.

However, in the end.....

“Give it to him!” The Clubs decided despite their anger. They weren’t angry towards the money, but rather this incident. They had been scammed.

However, when they thought of Heavenly Justice, everyone still felt cautious. If they prodded at them any further, who knew if they would do something in return. Heavenly Justice couldn’t be underestimated.

Give them the money. Leave it alone.

At the same time, they began to ponder whether Lord Grim or Deception would do the same. If they also let themselves die, then that would be even more disgusting.

Chapter 508 - Out of Expectations

The videos were sent and examined carefully for an entire day. In the end, the Clubs grit their teeth and contacted Mo Qiang, who happily accepted the reward. Mo Qiang himself was surprised. He didn’t think that it would have been so easy! Why else would he have made a post online as a cover or record of all of the calls? The other side had taken a close look at the videos, so he thought there would be a huge argument between them, but contrary to his expectations, they simply responded with two words: bank account.

The deal went so smoothly, that Mo Qiang was somewhat astonished. He gave the other side his bank account's routing number and called Ye Xiu.

"Really? Well that's good!" Ye Xiu was quite calm and didn't seem too surprised. This was because he had another window open on his screen. Loulan Slash was crying: "You guys have given us a lot of trouble!"

"What's wrong?" Ye Xiu asked.

The Clubs have been scammed of 150,000 yuan and it turns out they weren't just going to swallow it so easily. Mo Qiang? In their eyes, he was just a subordinate, so they didn't make things difficult for Mo Qiang. Instead, they directly contacted Loulan Slash and sent him a message showing their disdain towards him.

The message was clear. The Clubs wanted to let Loulan Slash know that they weren't stupid with more money than sense. This small amount of money wasn't much to them, so if you wanted it, you could have it! We're too lazy to bicker with you over this matter, but for you to actually plot something like this, we're definitely going to look down on you.

Loulan Slash felt wronged!

He felt like earning profit like this wasn't his style, so he had refused to collaborate with Ye Xiu. Who would have thought that the blame would be put entirely on him? Ye Xiu had come off clean without a speck of dirt. Loulan Slash also had to blame himself for overlooking this matter. Those five accounts had been his, so if someone else used them, then wouldn't it be obvious what the outcome would be?

God replied, "Ha ha ha ha, it looks like I've wronged you." Loulan Slash felt like he had been cheated!

"Just tell them I was the one who did it. Wouldn't that solve everything?" God followed up with another message, making Loulan Slash feel at ease again. Taking a bit of blame was nothing, but if the other side really had intended on pushing the blame onto him, then he would have felt uneasy.

Seeing the reply and then thinking about his interactions with God, Loulan Slash now truly believed that this God didn't care about this at all, so God didn't have any intentions of making him a scapegoat. Everything had just been an accident.

"In any case, they're already set on believing that I did it. I'm too lazy to explain, so that'll be that then!" Loulan Slash decided.

"Are you sure you don't want a share of it?" Ye Xiu asked.

"No need no need." Loulan Slash jumped. "Even though he had been made a scapegoat, he hadn't thought of asking for compensation. A leader knew there were things that he should and shouldn't do. Loulan Slash was clearly a very principled youth.

"The money has arrived!" Mo Qiang was very excited. His entire week of hard work had paid off! The Clubs displayed their demeanor, expressing how this matter was beneath them. They didn't make any delays and immediately transferred the money over to Mo Qiang.

"Okay, then I'll leave it with you for now! How are the other matters I talked to you about going?" Ye Xiu asked.

“Senior, it’s only been a day. Give me some time!” Mo Qiang said.

“See you then!” Ye Xiu said.

“It’ll be done, so don’t worry!” Mo Qiang received the reward and was in high spirits. Yesterday, he said how gathering those materials might have been difficult, but he seemed much more confident now.

In the time that it took for him to raise his hands, he had earned 150,000 yuan. In the same amount of time, the money he earned would be completely spent. From start to finish, the money never touched his hands. His trust in the other side was admirable as well.

“Time to level up!” Ye Xiu stretched and continued to kill monsters.

On the Clubs’ side, after sending the money to Mo Qiang’s account, they urgently convened for an online meeting, discussing the issue of the other two player’s bounty.

The rewards for the five open accounts might not have cost much, but money was still money. The money had flowed right out of their accounts and had even left a stain. The presidents of the Clubs may have a certain amount of financial power in their hands, but that power wasn’t their Club’s power. All of these things would be assessed in their annual financial record. The amount of money wasn’t much, but it would still be infuriating. It would make them seem like they had no ability.

For their appearances, this small amount of money didn’t matter.

For internal affairs, it was a deep cut to their hearts.

Heavenly Justice had cheated them of a portion of money. If Deception and Lord Grim cheated them too, they would be making the same mistake twice..... it would be unforgivable!

The loophole for this bounty was too big! Neither the public, nor the private, wanted to continue. Not long after holding the meeting, several presidents decided to withdraw. If someone left, then the burden would be split by the others. No one would agree to that, so after another ten minutes, they unanimously decided to stop giving out the bounty. Next time, if they had to make such a move, they had to be more careful.

The bounties had only been placed a week ago. Not only were there no signs of their target, the five dummies had cost the Clubs 150,000 yuan. This sort of result made them very displeased.

More importantly, the activity had created a huge wave of excitement. Ending it would require an explanation.

The 150,000 yuan couldn’t be spent for nothing. They provided the videos bought for 150,000 yuan as proof for the success of their move. In reality, they grit their teeth every time they saw those ten videos, especially those huge glamorous words “Xiaoqiang Productions”. The more they watched, the more annoyed they became and had the opening titles deleted.

Those five dummies had been dealt with, but those other two’s bounties had to be explained too!

Unfortunately, they hadn’t been able to kill either of them a single time. In the end, they could only express with a magnanimous voice how Lord Grim and Deception had committed crimes and then hid like cowards, abandoning their five brothers and letting them die over and over again.

Because everyone was very busy right now, we've decided to stop the activity and we can't promise something like this will ever happen again. Scrap pickers, behave yourself!

It turned out that, for a majority of the players, they actually believed the Clubs had been hugely successful. The videos shared to the public were highlights picked from the ten video files. As a result, the normal players didn't know about the loophole that had been exploited.

This time, the Clubs had used scrap pickers as a pretense to justify their actions. Who would have thought that their actions would actually help get rid of them? Afterwards, a lot fewer scrap pickers appeared in the Heavenly Domain. The players were smart. Facing the annoying scrap pickers, they used the actions of the club-backed guilds as a threat. The bounty had benefited the community and the Clubs were praised for it.

However, these were all things that came after a period of time. Right now, who did this affect the greatest? Ye Xiu, of course. Even though the danger was still there, he didn't need to worry about how every piece of grass or stone might suddenly turn into an enemy.

Killing monsters over the next two days went relatively peacefully. Lord Grim steadily reached Level 54. With the amount of time Ye Xiu had spent playing the game, his leveling speed after level 50 was considered quite slow, but what choice did he have? He couldn't run any dungeons.

Starting from this day, Ye Xiu was no longer busy with only in-game affairs. He started spending time outside the game studying and researching.

Why? Because the upgrade path for the Thousand Chance Umbrella was limited to this.

For Level 55, 60, 65, and 70, Ye Xiu needed to look all over the Glory world to find suitable materials for it.

In addition, the materials needed for these next few stages would be much more expensive than before. This was because starting from Level 55, the Heavenly Domain existed, making it even larger than the old Glory mainland, so there would naturally be many more items available. Finding suitable materials out of all of the materials available would require a lot of research. Ye Xiu became even busier.

As for Chen Guo, she was still the boss for the Internet Cafe and had other priorities besides the game. Every day, she would have to spend some time patrolling the Internet Cafe. Like usual, the first thing she did in the morning was get up and go for a walk. Outside the entrance to the cafe, she sucked in a breath of fresh air and stretched her arms. When she looked ahead, a person was crossing the street, heading towards Happy Internet Cafe.

When he arrived in front of the door, he gave Chen Guo a smile.

Chen Guo looked at him. He looked to be a bit over thirty years old and looked intelligent and capable. This type of person didn't seem like someone who would go to an Internet Cafe first thing in the morning. He probably had something urgent come up and needed to use a computer.

Chen Guo studied him, while giving him a smile back. Who would have thought this person would be the first to speak: "Is Ye Qiu here?"

“Ah!” For a moment, Chen Guo was in a daze as she stared dumbly at this person. She suddenly felt like he looked a bit familiar. Was he a pro player? Chen Guo quickly recalled all of the pro players she recognized, but couldn’t register a match.

“Is he here?” The other side saw Chen Guo lost in thought and asked again.

“Oh, come with me.” Chen Guo nodded her head and led the person up the stairs. He was looking for Ye Qiu and because she wasn’t anyone too close to Ye Qiu, she didn’t feel like she had the right to ask about his business.

Right when she got upstairs, the door to the room opened and Ye Xiu walked out with a cigarette in his mouth. Ye Xiu saw Chen Guo and then looked in surprise at the person behind her.

“He came looking for you.” Chen Guo made way and introduced him.

The expression on Ye Xiu’s face didn’t change much. He simply nodded his head. He held open the door and invited the person in.

The person also nodded his head and then walked into the room with a smile on his face. Chen Guo followed after him, but she wasn’t as nice to Ye Xiu. She immediately asked him out of curiosity: “Who is he? He seems kind of familiar. I feel like I should recognize him!”

“Excellent Era’s boss.” Ye Xiu smiled as he walked into the room.

Chapter 509 - I Don’t Want Any of That

Chen Guo suddenly understood. That’s right! The person in question was none other than the CEO of Excellent Era’s club, the true boss, Tao Xuan. She had seen him before on some reports, but as the CEO, he didn’t get as much media exposure as the players. Therefore, there was much less attention fixed on him. As a result, Chen Guo only felt that his face looked familiar instead of immediately recognizing him. Upon hearing Ye Xiu’s words, she finally remembered.

Excellent Era’s CEO was personally paying a visit?

Chen Guo immediately realized that there was much brewing under the surface. She couldn’t help but follow the two into the room with all of her worries and curiosities. Upon seeing them staring at her, she found herself embarrassed on the spot, pointing towards her own room, “I’ll be going back to my own room.” While her words were still leaving her mouth, she had already moved with brisk steps. She quickly entered the room, closed the door... and then flattened herself against it.

“Sit.” In the living room, Ye Xiu gave his seat to Tao Xuan before standing next to the window.

“How’s everything going?” Tao Xuan asked Ye Xiu as he settled himself on the couch.

“Pretty good.” Ye Xiu answered and fished a cigarette out of his pocket. With a wave of his hand, Ye Xiu tossed it towards Tao Xuan.

Surprised, Tao Xuan paused for a split second. When he reached out to catch it, it was already too late.

Tao Xuan picked the cigarette up from the floor. After a he held it uncomfortably for a moment, he set the small offer on the table and looked up at Ye Xiu with a smile, “I quit.”

“Oh? Really? Well, I didn’t hear about that.” Ye Xiu spoke. He took a deep breath and blew the smoke out the window.

In another short silence, Tao Xuan looked around the room as he asked with a laugh: “You live here?”

“Yeah.” Ye Xiu nodded.

“Living with such beauty, aren’t you afraid of upsetting Mucheng?” Tao Xuan joked.

“Heheheh.” Ye Xiu chuckled three times and then wiped his smirk away. He looked at Tao Xuan in all seriousness, “State your business.”

Instead of avoiding Ye Xiu’s gaze, Tao Xuan met it straight on with his own before replying with the same smile, “Come back!”

“To where?”

“Back to Excellent Era.”

Bang!

The door Chen Guo’s room sounded as if something crashed into it. Ye Xiu shook his head, laughed, before calling out, “If you want to listen in, just come inside! Shame...”

The door was pulled open, and out of it, Chen Guo appeared with a turmoil of emotions on her face -- --- embarrassment mixed with anger.

Ye Xiu looked at her, smiled, then turned to Tao Xuan and continued the conversation, “What could I possibly do back in Excellent Era?”

“Coach.” Tao Xuan answered quickly.

“Oh? Me as a coach? Could this be part of your scheme?” Ye Xiu asked.

This time Tao Xuan didn’t reply as quickly. His gaze averted, as well and dropped to the table before him. The cigarette on the table laid all by itself in solitude. Chen Guo stared at him, suppressing the urge to scream in his face: how dare he come to ask Ye Xiu to go back? Did he have any sense of shame left? In the end, her gaze bounced back and forth on the two’s faces, as if she was trying to decode some hidden message from them.

“I have no interest watching from the bench. I like the stage the best.” Ye Xiu suddenly broke the stagnant silence.

This sentence put a smile on Tao Xuan’s face. He lifted his head, “Coaching would only be temporary. After the one year required leave, you can return immediately.”

“Of course I would go back immediately.” Ye Xiu laughed.

Tao Xuan understood the subtext in Ye Xiu’s words right away: I’m going back no matter what. Tao Xuan smiled bitterly, “What’s the point?”

“What is your point?” Ye Xiu shoveled Tao Xuan’s words back.

Tao Xuan's expression turned agitated. Ye Xiu's retort seemed to poke a nerve in him.

The answer to the question was that there was no point. There was no need for both of them to have this conversation in the first place. Additionally, when Ye Xiu replied, his answer seemed to imply more than returning to Excellent Era.

"Both you and I watched the league become what it is today step by step. Both of us know this well: the current league isn't the same as before." Tao Xuan opened his mouth again, "The big teams' success helps the league grow; Brilliant stars help expand the League's influence. They are what the league need the most now. In a match, strategy and teamwork are surely important to determine the outcomes. However, stars! Stars are what drives ticket sales the most. Of all of your intricate strategies, if we sample a million audience members, how many of them do you think will understand them? None! That cannot grip the players' hearts. What do the players like to see? One versus three in a challenge match and a lone hero in a team battle. These are the things that they talk about. These are what they want, like, and hope to see. These are what they view as miracles."

Tao Xuan paused for a moment and observed Ye Xiu's expression. He even looked at Chen Guo before he continued, "Why do they call Zhou Zekai the best in Glory? Is it simply because he looks the best? No. What's important is that his skills are extravagantly displayed, and that his battles are splendidly fought. In the eyes of the players, splendor means difficulty. It means skill. You might say such opinions are extremely shallow, but what people like to see is exactly this shallowness. Your legendary technique, you said that you created it for fun, you said its practicality was limited, but what about it? All of the fans see it as your signature technique. Does it matter that its practicality is limited? No, it doesn't matter. What matters is that it's irreplaceable. You are the only one who can perform it, so it became an irreplaceable splendor. When you stopped using it, people believe that your skill level dropped. When you used it at All Stars, you ignited the whole stadium's excitement instantaneously. I don't believe that you didn't see all of these things!"

After an emotional speech, there was not a single trace of a smile on Tao Xuan face. He stared intently at Ye Xiu.

Ye Xiu only smiled, "All of what you have just said are true, but I don't want any of them."

"What do you want?"

"Victory." Ye Xiu gazed straight at Tao Xuan.

"You..." Tao Xuan looked as if he had lost all of his strength at once. After a while, he opened his mouth again. This time, a hint of sarcasm was mixed in with his words, "You honestly believe that you can still regain your former glory?"

"I will try." Ye Xiu replied.

"You. Can. Not. Do. It." Tao Xuan stated.

"Are you that sure?" Surprisingly, Ye Xiu still found the nerve to laugh.

"Yes."

"Then we'll see." Ye Xiu promised.

“Very good. Let’s see it happen.” Tao Xuan stood up.

“Humph. Before that, make sure your Excellent Era doesn’t get kicked out first.” Upon realizing that the conversation ran aground, Chen Guo added, unable to hold herself back.

“Hehe.” Tao Xuan laughed, clearly belittling the threat, “Even if Excellent Era got kicked out, we can still rejoin the league after a year. We’ve set our sights on the future. We will not be tied down by our past. Those who stand in our ways will be kicked away mercilessly.”

“Yeah. About that, you did a very good job indeed.” Ye Xiu commented half-heartedly.

“I’ll take my leave.”

“I won’t see you out.”

Tao Xuan walked hurriedly to the door, but he stopped when he pulled it open. He didn’t look back as he added, “The league won’t be going back to the way it used to be in the past.”

“I know that, but I’m too old to keep moving forward.” Ye Xiu spoke.

“Initially, you could have had a perfect end.” Tao Xuan said.

“Whether my end is perfect or not, I’ll decide that.” Ye Xiu retorted.

After standing in the doorway for a long time, Tao Xuan finally turned around, “For all these years’ sake, I will grant one wish of yours.”

“Oh?”

“Even if you want to move One Autumn Leaf out of Excellent Era.” Tao Xuan finished.

“That would be very costly.” Ye Xiu grinned.

“As long as you set the price, I will not make it any harder for you.” Tao Xuan promised.

Tao Xuan’s words shook Chen Guo’s heart. She knew that changing ownership of a character was far harder than changing the team of a player. The value of a player would fluctuate based on the player’s performance, but character would not. The value of a character would only go up.

This was because characters were objects. As long as there was someone to command them, they would obey every order with perfect precision. Its value could be fully utilized. Players were a different story. If there was one who really wanted to change teams, the club would probably acquiesce because forced situation don’t end well most of the time.

This logic applies to people, but not characters.

There were a lot of steps involved for a player to change teams. There were also a lot of negotiations about the money involved. However, if a character changed ownership, the buyer was almost guaranteed to face a ridiculous price proposed by the sales. As a result, during the transferring time window, there would always be a lot of players moving around. In comparison, there would hardly be any transferring of characters.

For Tao Xuan to actually let go of One Autumn Leaf, the trump card of Excellent Era, without setting barriers on the cost, the promise held a heavy weight.

“Very well.” Ye Xiu nodded, “I want Dancing Rain.”

“What?” Chen Guo exclaimed in confusion. Tao Xuan’s surprised appeared on his face as well, but he didn’t say much. He only nodded in consent, “Okay. I will keep my word.”

“Thank you.”

“Well then...” Tao Xuan turned around, “I never thought that I would ever be saying these words to you one day: See you on stage!”

“I thought of it way earlier. See you on stage!” Ye Xiu replied calmly.

Tao Xuan left. Chen Guo pressed herself against the window. Soon she saw him walk out of the internet cafe, striding across the street. Without hesitating or turning back, he stepped through Excellent Era’s entrance.

“You guys... were friends once upon a time, right?” Chen Guo asked Ye Xiu.

“Yes.” Ye Xiu acknowledged. He walked past the table, picked up the cigarette on floor, lit it, and then walked out of the room.

“Where are you going?” Chen Guo asked hurriedly.

“The game of course. You coming?” Turning his head around, Ye Xiu asked with the same smile.

“Of course.” Chen Guo followed him right away, finding tranquility in her heart. She realized that her worries for Ye Xiu had being totally unnecessary.

In room 213, the two logged into the game together. In the past two days, Chen Guo was always helping Ye Xiu level up, so they were in the same place. Immediately after he logged in, Ye Xiu spotted a burn mark on the ground. With a momentary pause, Lord Grim spun around in a full 360 degrees circle, completely surveying the surroundings instantaneously. Something seemed to have tipped him off as Ye Xiu yelled at Chen Guo frantically, “Run!”

“What?” Chen Guo’s Chasing Haze just logged in when Ye Xiu shouted at her. She had no time to react when a pile of bright visual effects descended upon her like a fishing net.

Chapter 510 - Ambushed Online

“What’s happening?” Chen Guo only had time to call out in surprise before her screen was filled with resplendent lights. She hastily shifted Chasing Haze out of the way, but she was rooted as soon as she took two steps. Waves of attacks caused Chasing Haze to stay in a stunned state. Her health disappeared in chunks with a whoosh, Chen Guo quickly gulped down a health potion, but it didn’t ease the situation at all.

It’s finished... Chen Guo knew in her heart. Her reaction was too slow. The reason she was able to move a few steps in the beginning was not because the opponents failed to land an attack, but because every character was invincible for the first three seconds the moment they logged on, but after that, the

opponents' attacks were effective. Chen Guo didn't have time to let Chasing Haze escape at all. In that instant, her eyes were filled with uncountable resplendent attacks that were targeted at Chasing Haze. She only saw a bunch of tightly-packed, varied debuff symbols, which resembled the densely-packed maggots found in corpses, causing her to feel nauseated.

It has already come to this, Chen Guo didn't expect there to be any hope, she only glanced quickly towards Ye Xiu's side. She was sure that an ambush this scale was aimed for him.

Tap tap tap tap tap.....

Intense and rapid typing taps came from Ye Xiu. His hands danced across the keyboard continuously without stopping. His expression was very serious, which showed that the situation wasn't easy to handle. From his screen, Lord Grim was shown to be moving about at high speed. Continuous attacking lights and silhouettes brushed past Lord Grim, making Chen Guo feel worried as she watched.

The clear sound of the system's prompt transmitted through Chen Guo's ears amidst all the chaotic variety of attacks. From this, she knew that her Chasing Haze had fallen.

Chen Guo quickly opened her inventory to take a quick look. She heaved a long sigh of relief when she saw that her weapon didn't drop. After coming upon the fact that she only dropped a ring, which was an inexpensive blue equipment, she turned a blind eye towards it.

As her ghost floated up, she could see a bird's eye view from the sky. However, a ghost could only see everything in black and white, so she couldn't see much apart from the lights from skills. Fortunately, these skills stopped after Chasing Haze was killed. Chen Guo was looking for Ye Xiu's Lord Grim, when she saw a gray shadow move across her screen.

A character's ghost is shapeless, so this character had come from her ghost's position. It was why she felt as if the shadow had suddenly appeared in front of her.

Chen Guo glanced at the shadow that had passed by. Wasn't that Lord Grim?

A helicopter blade spun above Lord Grim's head. He had used Rotor Blade, a Mechanic's skill, to fly across. Then, Chen Guo saw a Witch riding a broomstick fly over. The witch jumped in mid-air and swept her broom towards Lord Grim.

Lord Grim quickly retracted his mechanical rotors and returned fire with his gun before the Witch could sweep him down with her broom.

Bang! Flames spurted out from the gun's mouth and the Witch fell to the ground. Lord Grim used the recoil from the bullets to fly out. Midway, he drew his sword and crashed to the ground with a Falling Light Blade. At nearly the same time, a sword light shot towards the sky.

Blade-Master Skill: Sky Plunging Blade

The sword light twinkled like the stars in space, brushing past Lord Grim. If not for Lord Grim's Falling Light Blade, which sped up his fall, he would have been struck by the Sky-Plunging Blade.

Although this strike had missed, a second one followed up shortly after.

A streak of crimson sword light swung towards Lord Grim, who had not reached the ground yet. The Berserker's Wild Blood Strike allowed the player to slice either vertically or horizontally. This Berserker sliced horizontally across. Lord Grim was unable to dodge the attack while in the air. He lifted his sword and parried the attack. He attacked to defend, making his sword collide with the enemy's blade.

Parrying was essentially meeting an attack with another attack. The resulting damage would be judged by both side's attack. Lord Grim was lower leveled and he didn't use a skill either, so his strike couldn't compare to the Berserker's. Wild Blood Strike knocked Lord Grim's offensive parry aside. The crimson sword light continued to move horizontally towards Lord Grim and looked as if it would cut Lord Grim into two.

Clang!

It resulted in another rattle. Lord Grim's sword in his right hand had been knocked aside, while the umbrella's shaft in his left hand swung forward.

Dual Sword Style!

Chen Guo was surprised. Even though she had played Glory with Ye Xiu for a long time, it was her first time seeing the Thousand Chance Umbrella use a dual sword move. This attack needed its corresponding weapon as a foundation. Out of the numerous weapons that existed in Glory, only Nightwalkers possessed dual blades.

The Nightwalkers consisted of Assassins, Warlocks, Ninjas, and Thieves.

Out of the four, the Assassin could use the Dual Sword Style to full effect. In the Pro Alliance, the player most famed for this was the captain of Team 301 Degrees, Yang Cong. His character, Scenery Killer, wielded a famous silver dual blade weapon in Glory, Chaotic Winding Shadow Swords.

It would be a waste if an Assassin, who used dual blades, didn't delve into the Dual Sword Style. Yang Cong had perfectly mastered Dual Sword Style. In fact, the reason he was able to become an All Star was mainly because of his skills and performance. His character, Scenery Killer, couldn't really be counted as top tier in the Pro Alliance.

The Dual Sword Style was the bane of parrys. Parrying using two swords had its advantages. At this moment, Ye Xiu made use of this advantage to block the Wild Blood Strike using two strikes. With the first parry, his weapon was knocked aside. The second time, he successfully parried against the attack, but it wasn't enough to completely defend against the Wild Blood Strike attack. The light from Wild Blood Strike still swept across his character, but Lord Grim used the recoil from his parry in order to move backwards.

This movement allowed Lord Grim to escape from being caught by another chain of attacks. If he actually wanted to fully defend against Wild Blood Strike, Ye Xiu could have simply used the Blade Master skill "Guard". As a skill, the effects were much better than something done through normal means. But at this moment, Ye Xiu needed to parry against the attack, so he didn't completely negate the attack. If he had used "Guard", the blow away effect from the Wild Blood Strike would have been reduced by a lot. By parrying, he was able to utilize the blow away effect in order to quickly move and dodge the next chain of attacks.

Lord Grim rolled when he landed on the ground... leaving Chasing Haze's death camera.

The ghost's line of view couldn't be moved around, so when she could no longer see the fight from her screen, she looked at Ye Xiu's screen. However, his high speed movements always made her feel dizzy. She could all sorts of flickering glows of attacks from Ye Xiu's screen. Lord Grim was like a storm trooper weaving in between gunfire, using astonishing techniques to dodge.

Health. There would still be a decrease in health after being scraping by the attacks. For example, the parry used against the Wild Blood Strike. Even if he used skills like parry, under the limits of his level, it would be impossible to neutralize all of the damage, let alone a basic parry. However, more importantly, compared to his health was his rapidly decreasing stamina.

Stamina wasn't only consumed when sprinting. Walking, jumping, rolling, even normal attacks consumed stamina. Lord Grim's stamina decreased at such a rapid pace because he was using all sorts of movements to dodge attacks.

He was able to survive until now, but what would happen when his stamina ran out?

Chen Guo was very worried, but she wasn't able to provide any sort of help. She even found it hard to look at Ye Xiu's screen. Chen Guo peeked at her own screen, and saw people appearing and disappearing from her screen from time to time. Their direction was mainly turned towards the direction where Lord Grim had disappeared to.

Which guild did these people belong to?

Chen Guo noticed the names of the characters who entered her view, but no one's guild tag was visible. She didn't know whether they were deliberately hidden or that they just didn't have a guild.

One, two, three, four, five.....

Ye Xiu played while he counted quietly to himself.

He didn't have enough spare time to let Lord Grim identify who his opponents were. He could only judge the amount of people by the attacks he continuously dodged.

15.....

In the blink of an eye, he counted fifteen.

This was only a conservative estimate, based on his judgement, Lord Grim had dodged fifteen attacks from different classes so far, which indicated that there were at least fifteen characters who were besieging him.

It was a plotted ambush.

Ye Xiu knew it in his heart. The moment he logged on, he noticed the black trace marks on the ground. It was the remains of the Elementalist's fire attacks. It hadn't been refreshed yet, which indicated that the attacks were only done recently and that there were players around.

Ye Xiu would obviously be suspicious if there were people around him. He quickly spun his character's camera around and instantly saw some other marks made by skills other than the scorched trace marks.

There was more than one person!

At that moment, Ye Xiu understood what was going on. The marks dealt by attacks were organized in Ye Xiu's eyes, so he immediately tried to break out of range of the spell marks.

He was able to do it, but Chen Guo hadn't been fortunate enough to escape from it.

The opponent's intention was very clear, but at this moment, Ye Xiu didn't have the time to think about their identities.

Boom boom boom boom!

A series of explosions. Lord Grim dodged a Launcher's Stinger, which left a sea of fire behind him. Although he continually used his stamina to make enhanced movements he still couldn't break away from his opponents. The enemies predicted Lord Grim's movement and sent out attacks towards where he would be.

Apart from the wave of attacks in the beginning, the opponents no longer had the intention to kill their target in a single wave. The attacks were never ending and continuous, meaning that they were planning to grind Lord Grim to death. It was the very same technique Ye Xiu had used with Loulan Slash's group to kill Sun Xiang.

Who would have thought that the skill he had just used would be used by someone else on him.

Fortunately, their skill level and teamwork were inferior to Loulan Slash's group and Ye Xiu's experience was far greater than Sun Xiang's. By avoiding the significant attacks, while taking the insignificant attacks, Ye Xiu was able to allow Lord Grim to survive the enemy's assault.

However, this wasn't a good long-term plan. Dodging attacks like this consumed too much stamina. Even if you ignored the limitations of his own energy or his character's HP and stamina, Lord Grim was only Level 54. If he continued on like this without fully escaping from the pursuers, he would certainly die.