

Avatar 841

Chapter 841: Mana Consumption

Everyone in Team Everlasting, including He An, who had discussed the plan in detail with the Qi Master, was completely speechless.

Mentality. This was an issue with his mentality. As soon as your mentality shifted off balance, your thoughts might run into a dead end. For example, this Qi Master had determined that unspecialized could attack him first from afar, so he tried to get him to waste mana that way. However, he was too tunnel-visioned on this strategy. When his opponent was clearly within his attack range, he was still waiting for Lord Grim to attack him first.

The spectators wondered whether he had been bribed. It wasn't too outrageous for that to happen. However, his way of doing so was too unusual. Moreover, this guy still hadn't reacted. Lord Grim and Heavenly Rage were still moving closer and closer to each other.

He An really wanted to slap his teammate awake. It was such a crucial match. How can you commit such a stupid blunder? However, he didn't do it in the end. He also knew that it was easy to make mistakes at crucial moments. It was because the player cared too much and wanted to win too much.

The distance continued to close. Team Everlasting's Qi Master suddenly woke up. The previous round had left a deep impression on him.

This distance was how far Shadow Clone Technique could reach. Leopold was unable to escape from Lord Grim, starting at this distance. Leopold was then completely crushed.

The Qi Master finally woke up because of his sensitivity towards this distance. At this distance, he could have started attacking long ago. Even though his goal was to waste as much of Lord Grim's mana as possible, that didn't mean he couldn't go on the offensive. Attacking was also a way to waste the other side's mana. In addition, there were also opportunities to consume the opponent's health and mana simultaneously.

Qi Bullet!

At this point, the Qi Master didn't hesitate to start attacking. Heavenly Rage fired a Qi Bullet. The crowd's suspicions of him throwing the match were finally dispelled.

The Qi bullet flew out. Lord Grim's figure flickered.

The Qi Master had committed a big blunder, but his attention was fully focused on the fight. He saw Lord Grim's flicker clearly.

As expected, Shadow Clone Technique.

The Qi Master had been expecting it and instantly deduced it. Without another word, he put an input. Heavenly Rage's two palms rose towards the sky. Then, he bent his waist and slammed the ground. A wave of qi spread from his two hands. This attack covered all around him. Whether Lord Grim teleported to to the front, behind, left, or right of him, he would certainly be enveloped by this attack.

However, at this moment, the crowd let out a gasp of astonishment because Lord Grim had used Shadow Clone Technique to get above him, not to the front, behind, left, or right of him.

The airborne Lord Grim looked as if he were about to give Heavenly Rage an attack as he fell. Following afterwards would be a continuous combo. But Heavenly Rage stood up after slamming the ground and his palms faced Lord Grim.

Sky Piercing Strike!

The Qi Master had actually predicted Lord Grim's movements. He had been prepared for this attack. A ball of qi flew out from his palms towards Lord Grim.

At this moment, Lord Grim raised his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella. Ka ka and his umbrella split into propellor. Tu tu tu tu, it spun around rapidly, lifting him up. He casually loosened his hand and a grenade dropped onto Heavenly Rage.....

Heavenly Rage was still in the ending lag of his Sky Piercing Strike. He had no way of dodging the grenade, so it exploded on top of his head. The Qi Master wanted to cry. He obviously knew what options an unspecialized had, but he couldn't react fast enough in the middle of a fight. They had only prepared for a week. How could he have mastered everything so quickly?

He had at least consumed some of his mana.

The Qi Master failed to strike Lord Grim, but that at least gave him some console. Being at ease made it easier for him to keep his mental state in balance, no? As a result, the Qi Master was still fairly calm. He immediately had Heavenly Rage turn around to continue attacking Lord Grim. However, Lord Grim had only used Rotor Wing to switch directions in the air, so he could dodge Sky Piercing Strike. After avoiding the attack, he followed with his own attack. Heavenly Rage's turn of the body matched it too perfectly. It was so perfect that everyone in the crowd wanted to smack their foreheads.

Lord Grim's Falling Light Blade struck Heavenly Rage's forehead.....

A grenade and then a slice to the head. If this wasn't a game, he would have died twice. Heavenly Rage was knocked down with this Falling Light Blade. He immediately teched it and rolled, but as soon as he got up, Lord Grim's spear thrust towards him. Circle Swing grabbed Heavenly Range and threw him back to the ground. He fell so hard he didn't know where he was anymore.

Too pitiful.

Everyone thought to themselves. The current Heavenly Rage had been closed in on just like Leopold! An unspecialized at melee range was too terrifying!

It was just as everyone predicted. When Heavenly Rage got up, Lord Grim's attack arrived. The Qi Master chose the correct choice this time though. When he got up, he pushed his palms outwards to create a Qi Shield. Lord Grim's attack just happened to hit this Qi Shield. Borrowing the shockwave from the Qi Shield being shattered, Heavenly Rage slid back several steps. He thought he could pull apart the distance, when Lord Grim carried his Myriad Manifestations Umbrella and rushed forward with the Knight's Charge.

The Charge skill was faster than a character's movement speed. However, Heavenly Rage had borrowed the resulting shockwave, so his movement speed was faster than normal too. The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella charging at him missed him just by a bit. His heart thumped with joy!

Lord Grim didn't hit him. He had wasted some more of his mana.

But that Charge wasn't everything. Lord Grim didn't reduce his speed. A glint of light shined and a sword was unsheathed. A Berserker's Colliding Stab followed after.....

This time, Heavenly Rage couldn't avoid it. The sword struck his chest. Colliding Stab's momentum wouldn't stop with just that. Lord Grim rushed forward along with the target. It looked like he refused to let go until this sword killed Heavenly Rage.

Ye Xiu didn't need this skill's charge effect. When it was about right, he switched skills, not letting the other side any time to adjust before he performed his unspecialized combo.

The Myriad Manifestations Umbrella constantly switched forms. All sorts of skills from different classes were unleashed at a speed that the crowd couldn't keep up with. The previous combo that made everyone forget themselves in its beauty reappeared.

However, with the combo from before, the crowd wouldn't lose themselves. It was still stunning to see though, even if they didn't want to admit it.

The other players in Team Everlasting had expressions of horror. If this continued, would Heavenly Rage be killed in this way just like Leopold?

Only He An followed Lord Grim's mana bar closely. Every point of mana was another point of happiness. He knew that hoping the Qi Master to make a huge comeback wouldn't be possible. Now it was a matter of how much more mana Lord Grim would use up. Next, it would be up to him to use this advantage and win!

Use a bit more mana!

He An paid attention to Lord Grim's mana bar, while checking on Heavenly Rage's health bar from time to time.

The Qi Master hadn't given up. He was still struggling because he knew that he wasn't here to win this round, so he wasn't too troubled by the opponent suppressing him. He just needed to make things hard for his opponent, so his opponent would need to use more skills to kill him.

Qi Masters were also Cloth classes. From their equipments' stats, their defense wasn't anything much. But in reality, Qi Masters had far better defensive stats than other Cloth classes because of their passive skill: True Qi Protection.

After learning this skill, the Qi Master's mana directly affected their defense. Their defense would increase proportionally according to their remaining mana.

Qi Masters that emphasized offense and disregarded defense might not use this skill, but the majority of Qi Masters sought consistency, so True Qi Protection would usually be maxed. Even though the effects of the skill would decrease as their mana decreased, the increase in defense was still very distinct.

It was because of this skill that many Qi Masters valued equipment, which improved their mana and mana recovery in order to increase the benefits from this skill.

In the pro scene, few players would specifically choose equipment for the benefit of just a single skill. Pro characters would change depending on their needs.

He An was regretted not preparing for this beforehand. If he had known Heavenly Rage's goal would be to waste mana, they would have stacked mana and health on him. It would have been very effective.

Right now, Heavenly Rage could only rely on himself to struggle. But seeing Lord Grim's mana compared to Heavenly Rage's health, He An let out a sigh of relief. If this continued, even if Lord Grim's mana didn't go completely empty, there should only be 10% remaining. Even if he drank the best mana potion, it would be at 30%.

With 30% mana and Lord Grim's damage output, He An was confident his Go Forth wouldn't fall even if he just stood there letting Lord Grim attack him.

Go Forth was a Spellblade. Don't look at how they dealt magic damage. The health and defense of Spellblades were first class. Among the Swordsman classes, Berserkers only wore heavy armor. Spellblades wore plate armor though, which had the highest physical defense out of all the armors. Spellblades also stacked Intelligence, so along with accessories, their magic defense was very mighty as well.

No matter how many skills an unspecialized possessed, whether it was physical or magic damage, trying to get through a Spellblade would require enormous damage output. And how much mana did Lord Grim have left?

Seeing the situation, He An's smile grew wider and wider.

Chapter 842: Almost Out of Mana

Heavenly Rage finally fell. In this brave struggle of his, he had managed to deal some damage to Lord Grim, taking a tenth of Lord Grim's health with him.

However, what was more satisfying was that he knew he had done well to deplete Lord Grim's Mana.

Lord Grim had drunk a mana potion in this match, the kind with the best effects that restored 20% of his Mana. Yet, by the time he had crushed Heavenly Rage, only 25% of Lord Grim's Mana remained.

By then, not only Team Everlasting, but even the normal players had noticed Lord Grim's trouble with Mana. They had realized in this match that Lord Grim's mana consumption was terrifyingly high.

After all, one versus three wasn't rare in the pro circle or the casual one. Especially for players who played casually, the difference between the skill levels of different players was sometimes rather absurd, making one versus three more common.

If it was a sandbag style one versus three beating, there was little need to worry about mana. For Lord Grim, beating Heavenly Rage wasn't nearly as absurdly easy as hitting a sandbag, but his advantage was

absolute. Nearly running out of mana and having only 25% left after ingesting a mana pill under these circumstances showed how inefficient Lord Grim's mana consumption was.

As the match went on, the audience had made some realizations, too. The reason why Lord Grim consumed so much mana was because his damage output was really quite low. The damage output to mana input ratio wasn't high at all.

Some of the smarter players, the players who were rather skilled, had guessed Team Everlasting's intentions from seeing Lord Grim's mana and the course of the match.

Spellblade Go Forth had entered Team Everlasting's side of the area. The results of the winning match of the Group Arena seemed to be obvious when looking at the characters on either side.

The players were clear about the Spellblade's defensive capabilities. If beating a Qi Master required so much mana, then how was it possible to beat a Spellblade with just 25% of his mana left?

Team Happy had fallen into a trap!

The faceslappers who realized this were elated. There was no way anything would go wrong here. They could finally openly mock Happy now, right?

It was just unfortunate that the faceslappers present today were rather few in number. Even they thought that there was no way that Team Happy would lose with such an advantage. Another unfortunately thing was that though the group arena might be in the bag, Team Everlasting had to win the team competition as well to tie. After that, they would have to win an extra team competition to completely win against Team Happy. If Team Everlasting still ended up eliminated, then their mockery would be meaningless.

But why should they care so much now?

Seeing how Team Happy's failure in the group arena was set in stone after falling for a trick, the spectating faceslappers began to excitedly cheer once more.

He An watched the audience's mockery with a smile. He didn't mind the audience's blabbering. If even they had noticed, how could Team Happy's experts not? It was too bad for them that they noticed too late.

Seeing the countdown start, He An took a deep breath, composing himself. By the time he had done so, Go Forth had been loaded into the match. The fifth round of the group arena, the winning match, was finally starting.

The map was still the same map. He An believed he didn't need to do too much planning and preparations. A character without mana was like a sitting duck.

Go Forth wandered around the map, and He An even had the heart to start admiring the scenery of this map.

Red Flower Pavilion, huh?

He wasn't very familiar with his map. It was rather beautiful, with red petals dancing through the air! However, it didn't seem to have any special terrain effects. He hadn't seen Team Happy use the map to their advantage in the previous matches either.

Thinking of this, He An suddenly felt uneasy. That's right, he hadn't seen any terrain advantage from this map yet. Team Happy couldn't have picked it so carelessly, right?

But... even with the map helping, what could 25% mana do?

He An calmed down as he remembered this. Go Forth walked forwards a bit and could see Lord Grim charging through the dancing red flowers from the opposite corner.

He came rather quickly. It wasn't unexpected though. It wasn't like Lord Grim was going to drag it out and attempt to recover mana naturally. With the speed at which he consumed mana, how long would it take for him to recover it that way? He An thought to himself and had Go Forth run over to meet the other.

Spellblades were like Qi Masters, their skills were mostly mid-range attacks. Against an unspecialized, they would usually attack last. However, He An wasn't at all afraid of this, charging into Lord Grim's attack range without care.

He An believed that Lord Grim wouldn't dare use long-ranged attacks to play any tricks with him anymore. That sort of depletion of mana wasn't something he could afford.

Just as he expected, Go Forth was only targeted by a few normal attacks from Lord Grim upon entering the latter's attack range. No skills were released.

He An let Go Forth close in with confidence. The audience's chat channel was a sea of mockery. Seeing Lord Grim in such a difficult position,, they were giving all sorts of ideas on how Go Forth should beat up Lord Grim.

He An, of course, couldn't see these ideas. His eyes were still glued to Lord Grim's mana bar, watching it even more closely than Lord Grim's health bar. But since Lord Grim had only been attacking with normal shots, he hadn't consumed any mana as of yet.

Normal attacks couldn't prevent Go Forth's charge. As soon as he got in the Spellblade's attack range, Go Forth immediately sent a soul stirring Ice Sword streaking across the ground towards his opponent.

He An was just simply making fun of his opponent!

From this distance, how could a slow skill like Ice Blade hit it's target? He An was just purposefully wasting a skill, shoving it in Lord Grim's face that he had the mana to do so, unlike Lord Grim who had been using normal attacks the whole time.

Lord Grim sidestepped it easily, moving forwards and continuing to close in on Go Forth.

You still want to close in? With what little mana you have remaining, what's the use of doing so? He An thought to himself, but couldn't let Lord Grim close in fear of becoming a punching bag. So, he attacked once more, sending all sorts of Sword and Wave Formation attacks without care.

Go Forth's Wave Formations immediately took up a large area of the map, but still didn't manage to trap Lord Grim. Lord Grim's movements were smooth and sleek and his knowledge of the range of the Wave Formations was precise, allowing him to slip by them and leave them behind.

Amazing!

Even He An couldn't help but admit this to himself. His Wave Formation techniques were completely useless against Lord Grim, who slipped by as if they didn't exist. But so what? Even if you charge right in front of me, can you defeat me?

Earthquake Sword!

Go Forth quickly sent out a strike. This low end skill activated quickly, but Lord Grim still gracefully dodged it, and then finally went on the offensive.

Anti-Tank Missiles!

After a sidestep to dodge the Earthquake Sword, Lord Grim's Myriad Manifestation Umbrella's tip opened and fired. Three missiles, aimed at three points, it was a Tri-Shot. With the current proximity, He An didn't have the time to dodge. Go Forth strained to avoid them, but was still hit by two missiles.

Under the smoke of the explosion, Go Forth was pushed back by the shockwave. The Anti-Tank Missiles that hit him wouldn't knock his character over, though.

A blade flashed and Lord Grim sped out with a Colliding Stab, catching up with Go Forth easily. With that stab done, a knock-up struck Go Forth and the combos started as he was suspended.

Falling Light Blade! He An didn't want to let Lord Grim just show off like that, activating Falling Light Blade even as he was knocked up. Go Forth swerved to the side in mid air, aiming to land a little ways away. Then, a blade flashed; Go Forth's landing was somehow anticipated by Lord Grim. and a quick Sword Draw sent him flying again.

Slide Kick, Knee Strike.

Lord Grim used the two skills to catch up with Go Forth, not letting him land. Go Forth's Falling Light Blade was still in cooldown as well and Spellblades didn't possess so many intricate sword techniques. Both Sword and Wave Formation attacks were imposing and direct, with little finesse. Under such a intricate combo attack, Spellblades couldn't do much to turn the tables.

Even worse, the current opponent was Ye Xiu, and he was using an Unspecialized with a combo that He An could barely keep up with.

Though Go Forth was helpless under this assault, He An was still very calm. With this fierce wave of attacks, his mana was quickly depleting. Looking at the rate his life was going down at, he knew that 25% mana was nowhere near enough to devour all his health. Let's see what you can do after your mana's all gone.

He An was thinking that, but Go Forth was being beaten rather badly. He An's attempts were all futile, so he started typing into the chat to overcome his awkwardness.

"Is there any use? With that mana of yours, you think you can kill me?" Go Forth sent in the public chat.

"Haha." Lord Grim took the time to reply, but with this laughing response, it was like he was mocking He An, as if what He An had said was dumb.

"You're still laughing? In a moment, you won't even have the time to cry. Your mana is almost at red!" He An said. Obviously, the mana bar wouldn't go red as a warning upon hitting 10% like the health bar would. He An was just pretending to be good natured and humorous, hinting that you only had 10% of your mana left and would soon be helpless.

It was at this moment, that He An suddenly felt Lord Grim's attacks pause.

An opening!

Was he affected by my words?

He An thought this and his fingers weren't slow. He quickly used a Falling Light Blade to land, and then jumped back several times. Turning back around to look, he immediately froze in surprise.

How come Lord Grim looked completely different?

That's right, he was different, because almost all of Lord Grim's equipment had been changed.

"Haha," Lord Grim laughed again as he spoke, "Gotta change my equipment since I'm almost out of mana."

Chapter 843: Equipment Change Counterattack

Equipment change!

He An didn't know how to react for a moment. It wasn't like this was against the rules. Even in the Pro League, it was ok to switch your equipment out whenever, so long as it was in your inventory. With the freedom of switching equipment, it seemed to be very useful for differing situations, but the problem was that too much equipment caused your character's weight to increase, affecting the character's jumping and movement.

In the online game, it didn't really matter. However, in the Pro League, this tiny difference could mean the difference between life and death. So if you wanted to bring equipment into the field, you couldn't bring too much, or else you'd be dragged down by the weight of the equipment. Usually, characters would carry extra accessories, since accessories were relatively lighter so the weight wasn't as evident.

But Lord Grim?

He An looked over the equipment on Lord Grim. He was completely different from head to toe. His headgear, shoulderpads, top, trousers, belt, shoes, which one was the same? They had all changed!

This sort of full reequip was obsolete in today's Glory. You could only find this reckless playstyle in the early days, when players were still figuring out different strategies for Glory PVP.

This had to be Ye Qiu!

He An stared blankly at the completely rearmoured Lord Grim. He felt like only a God who had survived from those ancient times like Ye Qiu could think of a strategy like this. It was far too outdated!

Yet, was there anything impractical about this strategy?

No, none at all...

Lord Grim had already wiped out two members of Team Everlasting and had the upper hand all throughout his exchange with He An's Go Forth. And this was done under the weight of all that equipment. Since it hadn't had a visible effect on his performance at all, his strategy was completely viable. What was the equipment on Lord Grim?

He An's mouse moved rapidly.

Headgear... There was no need to click into that. This tall, pointy hat was the Great Witch's Hat, right?

As for the top... There didn't seem to be a need to look into either. Cloud Flow Battle Robe was something Qi Masters usually wore.

Pants, belt, shoulder pads, shoes, cloak, necklace, badge, etc. Some were easily recognized, others He An had to move his mouse over them to make sure.

In reality, after seeing the equipment he could recognize, He An had already obtained a conclusion. He knew what the other equipment did without having to look. Lord Grim's attire consisted entirely of mana replenishing equipment to help a character endure for longer, especially those that He An recognized immediately; they were all reputable pieces of equipment in game.

After all, endurance was something needed in PvE, which could drag on. As for PvP, the lack of mana was a rare situation. No matter what class, one full bar of mana was more than enough to kill a character.

But now, Lord Grim was using these pieces of equipment that were rarely used in PvP.

It was because his character really was facing the awkwardness of running out of mana.

He had been prepared!

He An realized that now. Since the participating characters had to be prepared before they gave in the lineup, these pieces of equipment couldn't have been added when Lord Grim realized he had to fight three people. From the individual competitions onwards, Lord Grim had been carrying the equipment and would continue to do so all the way through the team competition.

Yet, would there still be a team competition now?

Lord Grim's mana was replenishing at a visible pace and he wasn't impatient anymore at all. He An didn't have his Go Forth attack either; he just stood there casually. He couldn't let this drag on!

He An suddenly returned to reality. Even if he had a set of mana replenishing equipment, his mana would still be consumed faster than it could recover in a fast paced match. He should press on, keeping Lord Grim's mana at the brink of being used up. If he didn't hang onto this advantage, how else could he win this opponent.

Thinking of this, He An didn't dare dawdle. Go Forth hurriedly charged forward, sending out Sword and Wave Formation skills. This time, he didn't do it to show off the amount of mana he had, he really wanted to hurry and suppress Lord Grim.

The current Lord Grim wasn't as strong as he was before! That was what He An told himself. Lord Grim currently only aimed for mana recovery, even having Purple equipment on him. As opposed to the combination of Silver and Orange he had before, the stats of his current equipment definitely weren't as good as before.

But He An soon realized that he was still helpless against Lord Grim.

Lord Grim's equipment may have fallen by a grade, but the player behind him was above He An by who knows how many grades. He An thought that Lord Grim would use this set of equipment to restore some mana before switching back to the stronger set and mounting an offense. He hadn't thought Lord Grim would actively attack with this set of equipment.

However, this wave of attacks wasn't nearly as overwhelming as before. It seemed like he was casually sparring, so He An wasn't losing too badly.

Yet, during this exchange of blows, He An's heart ached when he saw the other's mana keep rising. If this continued then it was all over! If he lost this round, Team Everlasting and the futures of their team members would be in jeopardy.

He couldn't lose!

He An's fighting spirit roared. His hand speed erupted. Grasping onto an opportunity, he let himself tank the damage and did a tri-wave attack, sending out three Sword skills at Lord Grim.

Lord Grim didn't waste any time either, lifting his gun and shooting. Amidst the gunshots, his character leaped backwards. He was using Aerial Fire to retreat.

He An's magnificent counterattack had only just started, when it ended with the opponent's retreat. Lord Grim had Aerial Fire and Shadow Clone and Rotor Wing. His retreat was just as skillful as his combos.

He An really wanted to cry. His burning spirit petered out. He really didn't know how to deal with this opponent anymore. Though he knew he had to keep close to Lord Grim, the other managed to get away so easily. This made him realize that keeping a hold of Lord Grim was just as difficult as escaping from his control.

How hard was it to get away from Lord Grim after he decided to stick to you? He An had experienced it in the last round, and after today, their Warlock and Qi Master could answer that question for everyone as well.

While He An was over here in a sticky situation, the audience had exploded.

Lord Grim had changed equipment under their eyes. Just the speed at which he switched out equipment could show how skilled he was. As for the equipment he had switched into, like He An, the audience knew what he was planning after a few glances.

What a dirty move, to have brought mana replenishing equipment from the start!

As the side that opposed Lord Grim, no one would think that Ye Xiu was sagacious for thinking of this strategy. He was just playing dirty.

The faceslappers were cursing all over the place in the chat channel, while Everlasting's fans were terrified. They were the the ones who really cared about the results of this match. Seeing Lord Grim come up with this, they realized that Team Everlasting's plan had become futile. Now how would He An deal with Lord Grim?

The scene in the match ruined their confidence in He An.

He couldn't beat him or trap him. This match raised the hopes of Everlasting's fans high and then smashed it against the ground.

He An hastily tried to get Go Forth to find a chance and attack. Everyone could see by now that he was a mess. Go Forth's attacks still had a method to them, but they had lost their sense of direction. He An was improvising. As for Lord Grim? He was calmly dealing with He An's attacks, occasionally counterattacking. His counterattacks weren't fierce and everyone knew this was purposeful. Lord Grim's mana bar was slowly filling up even as he fought. This sort of thing would rarely happen even if you wore a full set of mana replenishing equipment. Lord Grim was keeping a very slow pace for himself. Yet even at such a pace, He An couldn't obtain any sort of advantage, It was as if he was a huge wave and Lord Grim was a piece of driftwood. No matter how tumultuous he got, that piece of driftwood would never sink.

Under this rhythm, Lord Grim's mana was pulled back to half full. Everyone knew that Lord Grim wouldn't draw this out for longer than he needed to. He was waiting for when he had enough mana to launch a counterattack.

Everyone knew this.

That included He An.

However, he had no way of dealing with this. Helplessness coiled around around him. He started to remember how he started playing Glory, how he worked so hard in improving his skills yet never had an opportunity to show them off, how he was discovered by the eliminated Team Everlasting. He had wanted to climb to the top, but was his journey about to end here?

Yes, it was.

As soon as his mana hit 50%, Lord Grim's pace changed, turning to the offensive. He An, who was unable to compose himself any longer, was quickly and completely suppressed. It was Go Forth who became a tiny boat amidst the raging waves, but this boat wasn't stable. The waves were smashing it, making it creak and bringing it onto the verge of being torn asunder. It was over...

He An's complexion went pale. His hands were still moving, but his mind was blank; he didn't even know what his hands were doing.

Glory!

As the word flashed on the screen, He An's hands left his keypad and mouse and he buried his head into them. His palms felt wet; he was crying.

It's not that I don't want to try, but I really can't win!

Chapter 844: Finally in the Papers

"Win!"

The moment Go Forth fell, Chen Guo immediately jumped up in excitement. This time, she had known about Ye Xiu giving Lord Grim mana recovery equipment, so when she realized Team Everlasting's strategy against him, she looked forward to the results.

Sure enough, Ye Xiu didn't disappoint her. He switched his equipment, slowed down the pace of the match to recover mana, and then counterattacked to defeat his opponent in one go. The second round of the match could be considered over at this point. By winning the group arena points, even if Team Everlasting won the team competition, they wouldn't be able to turn the situation around. This was the so-called match killer.

"Calm down. It's just the second round that's over." Ye Xiu saw Chen Guo's excitement. Even though he said that, he still had a smile on his face.

In the crowd, the spectating face slappers had quietly left. In reality, it proved that those who decided not to come were very wise. Was an 8.5 to 1 point lead so easy to come back from?

The face slappers ran away at top speed as if waiting even a second longer would result in their faces being slapped. The remaining crowd members were the few actual fans of Team Everlasting. All of them were dejected. They didn't know what Team Everlasting would do next, but from their understanding of how pro teams operated, it would be hard for their team to continue.

Silence filled Team Everlasting's practice room.

He An's head was still buried in his two hands. He felt like he couldn't show his face to his teammates. But at this moment, who would go up and blame him. This result wasn't because of any one person's mistake, but rather the collective mistakes of the team, which ended in their tragic elimination from the Challenger League.

Would Team Everlasting stop here?

Everyone was quiet. From time to time, they would glance at their boss, who would be deciding the fate of the team.

Team Everlasting's boss was naturally very disappointed and grieved. However, he knew that every member of team was also feeling down, especially Wu Chen, who had never abandoned Team Everlasting starting from the pro scene. His feelings towards the team might be even deeper than his own.

As the boss, he knew that Wu Chen had received invites from other teams, when Team Everlasting had been relegated. But in the end, he stayed. However, the results were disappointing. He wasn't able to return back to the pro scene with Team Everlasting. He would even have to personally witness Team Everlasting's disbandment.

The boss sighed. He wanted to say a few words to console everyone, but at this point, trying to comfort He An would be fruitless. No matter the result. It had to be faced head on.

"Everyone's worked hard... today, go to bed early..." The boss said and then left.

He might have said go to bed early, but would anyone in the team be sleeping tonight? The boss himself let out a long sigh after leaving. Starting from tonight, he probably wouldn't be able to get a good rest for a long period of time.

Winning and losing came with happiness and sadness.

At City H, there was one other person excited about Team Happy's victory.

"Happy won!" Chang Xian had gone to watch the match. The instant Go Forth fell, he ran out of the room shouting wildly.

"Cough..." Cao Guangcheng, who had been drinking beer while watching the big screen, choked because of Chang Xian's sudden shout. Beer spilled everywhere. Just when he was about to curse angrily at him, he saw Chang Xian flipping through the material that he had prepared last week. He didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

"An 8.5 to 1 lead, isn't it normal for them to win? Is there a need for you to be so excited?" Cao Guangcheng wiped the beer that he spat out as he spoke.

"I can send out my draft now, right? Let me see if there's anything I need to revise." Chang Xian said.

"I recommend that your article not be too long. Even though it's an upset, it happened in the Challenger League, so its value is only so much. It's best for the article to have less content, more news." Cao Guangcheng said.

"Teacher Cao, could you help me take a look then?" Chang Xian asked.

"Sure!" Cao Guangcheng actually quite liked this eager newbie Chang Xian. He would do his best to guide him. Looking over his draft took only a slight effort. Of course he wouldn't refuse.

With so many years of experience, Cao Guangcheng reviewed the draft very fast because he knew how to see the important points. After skimming over his draft, Cao Guangcheng nodded his head: "Good. The member introductions are quite good, but the later parts related to the match could be more brief. Just going over the course of the match like a clickbait article is fine."

"Oh, okay let me revise it." Chang Xian respected his senior, Cao Guangcheng, and didn't object any of the suggestions.

As for Cao Guangcheng, who was holding his beer, he was a bit distracted. After seeing the interview material that Chang Xian got last week from Happy, from their player backgrounds, Cao Guangcheng had become aware that Team Happy had much more to talk about than those relegated teams.

Those relegated pro teams really didn't have too much to talk about. But for a team like Happy, if they really did have the strength, there was a lot of topics that could be discussed. The existence of this type of team was a pleasant surprise. Unfortunately, this season's Challenger League had another big surprise: Excellent Era.

With Excellent Era keeping watch, would Happy be able to continue surprising everyone all the way to the end? Cao Guangcheng smiled bitterly. This was fate! Sometimes you might not admit it, but there was no other way around it. If this was any other season, a grassroots team that could defeat a relegated pro team might have made it to the front page. But this season, getting onto the front page might need them to go further. Perhaps when they encountered Excellent Era, they might be mentioned in the front page as loser to be pitied?

The experienced Cao Guangcheng had plotted out the attention that Team Happy would get this season. The night of joy and sorrow soon passed.

Cao Guangcheng's prediction was on point. After Team Happy eliminated Team Everlasting, a grassroots team defeating a former pro team was worthy of being reported.

A complete report on Team Happy had finally been published in the Esports Home.

Even though it had been published on an ordinary page and only took up space about the size of a chunk of tofu, it was a report dedicated to them. In the history of the Glory Pro Alliance, no non-pro team had ever obtained this type of report. The Challenger League had been nicknamed the Revival Tournament because up until now, no non-relegated team had ever entered the Alliance through the Challenger League.

The Esports Home's professionalism, authority, and influence was shown here. After Team Happy's report in this week's issue, the amount of attention that they received was far greater than what they had received through Chen Guo's free Internet event. Chen Guo's promotion had attracted a bunch of face slappers too, and then a bunch of face slappers who wanted to face slap the face slappers. Team Happy had become an important topic among these two groups. The support for Team Happy was similar to the faceslappers who supported Team Everlasting those previous two rounds. It was temporary and fake. They wouldn't feel bad about Team Everlasting getting relegated at all.

The attention received from the Esports Home report was relatively positive. Many players who didn't care about the Challenger League now knew that such an interesting team had been hiding there all along. When they saw the introductions on the team members, it wasn't just normal players that were amazed.

"Qiao Yifan?"

Although Qiao Yifan was invisible, he had only left Team Tiny Herb three months ago. Team Tiny Herb's players wouldn't forget someone that they had seen everyday for a year so quickly. When they saw this name, they thought they had mistaken the name, but they soon clearly saw how the name was written. It was the Qiao Yifan that had been kicked from the team.

"That fellow ran to this team?" Team Tiny Herb's members discussed. They didn't care too much about Qiao Yifan, but they were still curious.

"What's all this commotion so early in the morning?" Someone's voice came from the practice room. Everyone immediately returned to their seats. An Esports Home paper was left on the table, where everyone had dispersed from. It was on the Challenger League page.

Wang Jiexi went up and picked it up. He soon saw what everyone had been discussing.

Qiao Yifan. That kid had ran to this team? That's a good choice! Wang Jiexi thought. He couldn't help but think of that phone call he personally received from the manager, asking about Qiao Yifan. He didn't deny Qiao Yifan's talent, but he was certain that Qiao Yifan wasn't a player that Team Tiny Herb needed right now. Wang Jiexi didn't ask further about the reason for that phone call. But after seeing Qiao Yifan at Team Happy, he approved of his decision.

Wei Chen???

Following afterwards, when Wang Jiexi's gaze swept over the rest of the article, he noticed this name. Wang Jiexi had become a pro player his third season, right when Wei Chen had retired that season. Even though he had never interacted with this former God, it wasn't like he had started playing Glory in season three. Before his pro career, he had known of Wei Chen's fame.

"How old is he now? He's also gone to Team Happy?" Wang Jiexi lifted his head and thought about it. Then, he saw Gao Yingjie sitting in front of his computer in a daze.

Gao Yingjie soon noticed the captain's gaze and froze in fright.

"Sorry....." Gao Yingjie said and immediately went back to practice.

"Work hard!" Wang Jiexi obviously knew why Gao Yingjie had been distracted, "When you meet again, it'll be on the stage."

Chapter 845: A 1.4 Unit of Difference In Cast Range

Wei Chen's name only stunned Wang Jiexi because he questioned Wei Chen's age. The two had never met each other before, so Wang Jiexi didn't think too much about it. However, the significance of Wei Chen's name was very different for Team Blue Rain.

The latest weekly eSports paper was laid on the table. All of Team Blue Rain gathered around to look at it, but no one stopped them, because everyone was lost in thought.

For Team Blue Rain, even young fellows who had a large age difference with Wei Chen like Lu Hanwen, had heard of Wei Chen's name. Wei Chen was a part of Team Blue Rain's history, and established the foundation of Team Blue Rain. The two Gods of Blue Rain had ties with Wei Chen.

Captain Yu Wenzhou had inherited the character Swoksaar, which was a character Wei Chen brought from the online circle to professional circle. Although he left, his character stayed and became an important member of the shining generation of stars.

Moreover, Huang Shaotian was discovered by their first captain Wei Chen and brought into Team Blue Rain's training camp to be trained as an official pro player. Speaking of which, his relationship with Wei Chen was even more complicated. It could be said that if it wasn't for Wei Chen, they wouldn't have had the Huang Shaotian they had today.

"Why did Boss Wei go there?" Judging by how Huang Shaotian addressed Wei Chen, the other players could tell Wei Chen had a special position in his heart. To address someone as "boss" showed respect without creating too much distance. Neither the current captain of Team Blue Rain, Yu Wenzhou, nor the second captain, Fang Shijing, were addressed in such a way.

"Could he have contacted Ye Qiu after Ye Qiu retired? Did Ye Qiu invite him to join him in his return to the scene?" Yu Wenzhou predicted. They had little information, but Yu Wenzhou was certain that it was related to Ye Qiu.

"Were those two friends?" Huang Shaotian asked in return.

Yu Wenzhou was startled. At that time, both Huang Shaotian and him weren't official players yet, they had only been newbies in Team Blue Rain's training camp. It was the early stages of the Pro League, so the Club wasn't as regulated as it was now. The difference in status between the pro team and training camp was not so obvious. Everyone was like a family, so even though they weren't in the system, both Yu Wenzhou and Huang Shaotian were pretty clear about the team's situation at the time.

"In my opinion, not only was he not friends, he hated Ye Qiu to the bones. I remember that we were eliminated in the season one playoffs by Excellent Era. After that match, Boss Wei cursed Ye Qiu for about half an hour, right?" Huang Shaotian recalled.

"I think that happened." Yu Wenzhou nodded.

"And now you're telling me that those two have ganged up together?" Huang Shaotian asked.

"It's probably because... he also felt unresigned." Yu Wenzhou sighed.

Huang Shaotian was at a loss for words. When Wei Chen retired, it was quite pitiful. Team Blue Rain had a serious slip in their performance in the season two, and he wasn't able to bring out the skills he should've had into play, so many people thought he was getting old. In addition, he unexpectedly lost to Yu Wenzhou three times in a row in the team's training camp. Even though a match where the senior gives advice to the newbies shouldn't be taken seriously, Yu Wenzhou wasn't someone like Huang Shaotian, who was confirmed to become their future ace player. At that time, he was regarded as a member who didn't have any talent.

It was inevitable that such a loss would bring about various kinds of rumors in the club. This was why Wei Chen decisively retired at the end of that season. From that moment onwards, he no longer stayed in contact with the pro scene and vanished without trace. But now, six years had passed, it came to everyone's surprise that Wei Chen's name would appear on the eSports weekly news. Could it be that he spent those six years cut off from the world just to practice hard?

"I must see Boss Wei's current skill level!" Huang Shaotian was the first to leave the crowd and looked for a computer to search up Team Happy's matches. It wasn't likely for Team Blue Rain to check on the Challenger League.

When Huang Shaotian left, everyone followed along. Yu Wenzhou watched from the back. They still had an official match tonight! It wasn't good that everyone was focused on the gossip. But if he forcibly stopped everyone from paying attention to the gossip, it might produce the opposite result, as everyone will find it difficult to concentrate. This was why he didn't stop them and allowed everyone to join in the fun. As for Yu Wenzhou himself, he quietly stood on the side while he watched Huang Shaotian use the computer.

"I've got it!" Huang Shaotian was swift with his actions, and he soon found the recording of the match between Team Happy and Team Everlasting. There were too many teams at the early stages of the

Challenger League, so the authorities wouldn't record and organise the videos. What Huang Shaotian found was by searching for VODs posted online by the spectators.

The video included the entire first round of the competition. Huang Shaotian originally wanted to find the fight with Wei Chen's Warlock, but in the first match's first round, he noticed the character: Steamed Bun Invasion. He knew this guy! Wasn't this the idiot who asked him for his horoscope? Huang Shaotian immediately took interest, so he didn't move and just watched the match.

After watching for a while, the players of Team Blue Rain, including Huang Shaotian, showed surprise. After they inspected further, Huang Shaotian was the first to confirm, and immediately laughed out loud. "He's an idiot as expected! He couldn't even find the way, hahahaha, so stupid."

When everyone listened, they casted sidelong glances at Huang Shaotian one by one. A player asked at once. "Huang Shao, you know this person?"

"Cough, why would I know an idiot like this guy." Huang Shaotian hurriedly fast-forwarded the match. However, Huang Shaotian personally wanted to see if Steamed Bun Invasion had any moves in the end, so he fast-forwarded and played, fast-forwarded and played. This happened until the very end, when Steamed Bun Invasion was actually beaten to death like that.

"F*ck!" Huang Shaotian cursed.

The other players casted sidelong glances once again, as they thought, what on earth was he doing?

One Inch Ash was the player for the second round.

"That's the guy from Team Tiny Herb." Someone immediately recognised him, it was mentioned on the report after all! To have a player that originated from Team Tiny Herb was rather eye-catching.

As a result, Huang Shaotian didn't fast-forward the match, while everyone appreciated Qiao Yifan's performance. Huang Shaotian's comment in the end was: "Both sides are very professional huh."

Everyone immediately understood. All the spectators with the bird's eye view would definitely know about Qiao Yifan's arrangement. But Team Everlasting's player still fell for it, which meant that none of the other teammates had warned him. Achieving this under the regulations in the Challenger League meant that the team demonstrated good sportsmanship. But on the other hand, even if one was warned, he needed to dodge it on his own. Otherwise, if a player predicted everything through warnings, it would draw out a lot of suspicion. The opponent had the right to report and send a recorded video of the match to come to a trial. If it was too obvious, was discovered, and failed to pass through the trial, the team would be punished accordingly.

After this match, following Team Blue Rain's expectations, Wei Chen's Windward Formation finally went on stage.

Windward Formation's opponent was coincidentally Leopold, the Warlock from Team Everlasting. One's fundamentals would show most prominently when fighting against another of the same class.

The spectators were all pro players of Team Blue Rain. Was it necessary to say who they were leaning towards? No one hoped for Leopold to do well from the very start. The results also met their expectations. Windward Formation was basically able to deal with Leopold however he wanted.

"Tsk tsk tsk, too cruel, he's totally playing with him! Boss Wei is still so... like that!" Huang Shaotian said.

Everyone straightened their ears! Among the players of Team Blue Rain present, only Yu Wenzhou and Huang Shaotian had directly been in contact with Wei Chen. It was needless to say that they hoped to get gossip out of their captain. Even though Huang Shaotian was about to reveal some information, he blocked out the keyword. Where did his usual, endless, talkative character go?

Due to Huang Shaotian's personality, despite being the ace player in the team, everyone was accustomed to him, so someone immediately pointed out the crucial point. "He's still so what? What is 'that'?"

"Cough!" Huang Shaotian coughed deeply and didn't reply.

Everyone watched Windward Formation completely torture Leopold in laughter, and no one really took the match seriously. Only Yu Wenzhou watched attentively and interrupted. "Windward Formation had a clear advantage in his casting distance! Take a look at his equipment."

Everyone present was no amateur, they just didn't notice. When their captain said so, they soon realised as well.

They could also check a character's equipment through the replay. When Huang Shaotian shifted his mouse forward, the first equipment was Silver. The stats of the Silver equipment was hidden, so they couldn't see it. But Huang Shaotian was surprised and cried out loud. "Not bad! There's Silver equipment!"

They continued to check the other equipment. Every player present was paying attention to see if there were any equipment for casting distance until they reached the weapon.

"Hey, the weapon is also Silver!" Huang Shaotian was surprised.

"It seems like it comes from this weapon." Yu Wenzhou said. He was obviously incomparably familiar towards Warlocks.

"This casting distance..." When Huang Shaotian started to pay attention, his skills in observation and judgement were rather astonishing. "It's two units less than Swoksaar's isn't it."

"But his other equips are inferior!" Yu Wenzhou said.

Huang Shaotian understood what he meant. The weapon was not the only equipment that could increase the casting distance. Compared to what Windward Formation had at the moment, there was a lot of space for improvement. It was needless to imagine how much Windward Formation's casting distance would increase if Windward Formation had Swoksaar's equipment because it could be calculated. After all, Windward Formation's set of equipment mainly consisted of orange equipments, which there were stats for. In fact, if one were to mix and match equipment like this, it was very easy to expose the stats on a piece of Silver equipment. Huang Shaotian had a rough idea of the stats of Windward Formation's Silver equipment. He believed that Yu Wenzhou would only be clearer.

"It would be 1.4 units farther!"

Exchanging Swoksaar's equipment was only what Huang Shaotian imagined. But Yu Wenzhou was able to directly come up with the results.

This would mean that if Windward Formation kept his Silver weapon but exchanged everything else with Swoksaar's equipment, his casting distance would exceed the Alliance's number one Warlock by 1.4 units.

This 1.4 difference in casting distance could be a deadly advantage that determined life and death in a high-level match.

This was a true Death's Hand!

Chapter 846: Taking Advantage of Someone's Misfortune

"I've seen some amazing things from this match!" Yu Wenzhou commented on Windward Formation's fight that round. As for Wei Chen's skill level, Yu Wenzhou and Huang Shaotian had personally experienced it for themselves six years ago. At that time, the two had still been young trainees. Now, the two were famous Gods in the Alliance. Wei Chen was already thirty something years old. In the pro scene, he would absolutely be the oldest player in the league. The two Gods tacitly agreed not to make any comments on their senior's current skill level.

That fight unsurprisingly ended in Windward Formation's victory. Everyone's gossip craving had been satisfied, and were prepared to leave. The match recording had removed the waiting time between matches and the group arena competition soon followed. The first player to come out for Team Happy was Soft Mist.

The eyes of the Team Blue Rain players suddenly lit up. The ESports Weekly had reported that the player controlling Soft Mist was Tang Rou, a very beautiful girl. Even though there was no picture, the ESports Weekly was a reliable news source, unlike tabloids that made things up just to attract attention. If the ESports Weekly dared to make such a claim, this sister must be stunning.

"Hot girl! Hot girl!!!"

The Team Blue Rain players hollered. The ones, who were just about to leave, immediately turned back. Their enthusiasm seemed to explode even more than when they had watched their former captain play. Someone even started ranting how their team's greatest failure was that they had no girls on their team.

That was certainly a true fact. Of the traditional four powerhouses, Excellent Era, Tyranny, Tiny Herb, Blue Rain, only Team Blue Rain had never had any female players. Tyranny and Tiny Herb might not have any girls as a part of their main roster, but they were still there. Excellent Era was even more mighty. The number one most beautiful female player in the Alliance was on their team. When this was mentioned, who knew how many players were jealous of them!

"I say this is good enough. We have a match to play tonight. Everyone go practice." Yu Wenzhou saw that their gossip was never going to end and finally couldn't bear it any longer. He spoke up to stop this from continuing.

As soon as they heard their captain speak, they didn't dare say anymore rubbish. They clicked their tongues and returned to their seats. Huang Shaotian still had the match playing on his computer. He

turned his head and said seriously: "This sister's skill level is quite good. She might be a formidable enemy in the future."

"We'll worry about it when the time comes!" Yu Wenzhou said.

Huang Shaotian also complied to his captain's orders. He closed the recording of the Challenger League match that they originally wouldn't have cared about and also started the practice adjusting their mentality before today's match.

In the pro scene, it was mainly Team Tiny Herb and Team Blue Rain who had the biggest reaction towards the ESports Weekly. Their reason was obviously because two of their former team members were now part of Team Happy. As for the other teams, when they saw the news, they didn't pay too much attention to it. It was only the second round of the Challenger League. Regarding Team Happy as an imaginary opponent would just be avoiding their important work, no? The Alliance still had nineteen other opponents that they needed research to be done on! Even more so, the Challenger League had Team Excellent Era. If they had to study a team from there, shouldn't they be placing more importance on Team Excellent Era?

This was the helplessness Cao Guangcheng thought Team Happy would experience. Even though their team's strength's was extraordinary and had much to talk about, they would always be treated as a passing traveler because of Team Excellent Era's monstrous existence. In the pro scene, no one would pay too much attention to them. As for the player base, after some fervent discussion, they would also feel sorry for Happy because of Excellent Era. In reality, even those who stood by Happy because they wanted to see those face slappers fail wouldn't bet on Happy beating Excellent Era.

But Team Excellent Era themselves didn't feel as relaxed as those spectators. Team Happy beating Team Everlasting with ease two rounds in a row forced Tao Xuan to ponder things over. Should they be more vigilant towards Team Happy?

Tao Xuan's thoughts weren't on his own team. Excellent Era had encountered two player teams as their opponents. There wasn't really anything to say. However, Happy had been tested by Everlasting. It would be idiotic if Tao Xuan didn't take notice. More importantly, the two teams were playing in a you die I live battle. If Happy had barely won, Tao Xuan wouldn't be as concerned, but Happy won their away match 8.5 to 1 and then ended their home match early. Such a dominant win made it seem like they still had energy left to spare. Tao Xuan had trouble sleeping that night, and repeatedly counted how many pieces of Silver equipment his team possessed.

When he saw the section dedicated to Happy on the ESports Weekly, his mood dropped even lower. In this week's paper, their Excellent Era had only been mentioned in one line, but Happy had an entire section of its own!

Terrible! Really terrible!

Tao Xuan barely glanced at the paper before throwing it in the trash can. He couldn't stifle his nervousness. Team Happy clearly didn't have as many resources nor were their players heaven-defying. Why did he feel so uneasy?

While Tao Xuan was having a bad day, Team Happy was having a good day.

With Happy in the news, Chang Xian grasped this opportunity and paid Happy another visit for more interviews. His eagerness made Cao Guangcheng think of his first few days in City H. At that time, he would head over to Excellent Era whenever there was an opportunity. In the end, he was able to establish himself as the team reporter for Excellent Era. He was like the current Chang Xian and didn't understand their business relationship, only relying on their passion for work. He had run around frequently before being able to establish such a relationship, but, Little Chang! Is your passion for Team Happy truly worth it?

Cao Guangcheng had the heart to advise him, but when he thought about it again, passion was truly a good thing! This season, their news station at City H would only be concerned with the Challenger League anyways. Chang Xian was willing to follow a Challenger League team. That was a good thing! Why should he stop him?

When Chang Xian arrived at Happy, Chen Guo gladly welcomed him. Even though Chang Xian was young, he still understood basic relationships. Chang Xian naturally asked about how Chen Guo was doing after he had accidentally crashed into her last time. Afterwards, he expressed that he had come here to send them the news. At the same time, he apologized for not being able to use Chen Guo's picture.

"It's because there was limited space, but there will definitely be more chances in the future." Chang Xian confidently said to Chen Guo. He believed that Team Happy would definitely continue gaining more and more attention.

"That's good!" Chen Guo didn't really care too much about her picture being published and welcomed Chang Xian in to have a seat.

"Uh, where are the others? Where's Captain Ye?" Chang Xian asked. He obviously didn't want to come over for no reason. Wouldn't asking a few more questions to get more information on them be good too?

"They're each busy doing their own thing? Are you here to interview us again?" Chen Guo asked.

"Oh oh, no no. I was just wondering....." Chang Xian hastily said. He just hoped to ask some passing questions. He wasn't here for a formal interview. For one, he wasn't prepared. Secondly, if he did an interview and then it never appeared on the news, he wouldn't be able to excuse himself.

"Sit anywhere you'd like. I'll get some water for you." Chen Guo welcomed Chang Xian in like a good friend. Chang Xian wanted to maintain this type of atmosphere for his visit, so he didn't stop her. His eyes would constantly shift towards the second floor. He had asked about how the rooms were arranged in this area, so he guessed that Team Happy lived upstairs and went downstairs for practice and matches. The players might be resting in their rooms right now? Chang Xian didn't want everyone to come over to say hello. If he could grab one or two and have a one on one chat, how great would that be?

Chang Xian was hoping for someone to come down. Upstairs, in Ye Xiu's and Wei Chen's room, Ye Xiu was lying in front of his computer working!

Everyone had a computer in their personal rooms, but they used it less than the ones downstairs in the practice room. These computers were for their own personal use. For example, if they wanted to go

online and watch some TV shows or movies, they could lie on their bed and relax while watching instead of needing to run downstairs and put on headphones.

Ye Xiu's business wasn't in the game, so he naturally didn't need that setup. There was only a QQ window on his computer screen. He had two chat windows open, which constantly blinked. He was clearly in a conversation.

On the left window, QQ name Dawn Rifle.

Team Everlasting's Wu Chen used his character's name on QQ. It was a habit that many pro players had, especially the older ones. Nowadays though, with the Alliance prospering, player trades were more frequent. Sometimes, their characters might get traded away, putting those who used their character's name as their ID in an awkward spot. Still, many players liked to do this. It was also a way of showing their loyalty to their team!

Wu Chen's loyalty to Team Everlasting naturally didn't need to be questioned. His QQ name had been Dawn Rifle for many years now. Ye Xiu didn't originally have his contact info, but after being in the scene for so long, he had a lot of contacts. Once he asked around, he was able to get it easily. For Team Everlasting, Ye Xiu was only able to get Wu Chen's information. The other players had joined after Team Everlasting had been relegated, so they had no relation with anyone in the pro scene! Ye Xiu had a high position in the scene, so he wasn't able to get anything.

Lord Grim.....

When Wu Chen saw the friend invite, he was very surprised, but he still accepted it subconsciously.

"How are you guys doing?" After being accepted as friends, the other side messaged him.

"Not very well." Wu Chen laughed bitterly. He obviously knew what the other side was asking about. When the winner asked the loser this type of question, was it to console them? Provoke them? Wu Chen didn't hurry to a conclusion. He had been in the scene for a long time, so he had experienced all sorts of things. A competition would always have a winner or a loser. Even though the results made him sad, he could still accept it.

"What does your team plan on doing next?" Ye Xiu asked.

Now Wu Chen understood his intent. This guy was trying to take advantage of their misfortune.

Chapter 847: Also Having Much to Offer

With Team Everlasting eliminated from the competition, Wu Chen was feeling down. However, he was a pro player who knew how to act appropriately. He knew that this was a competition and only victory mattered, so he didn't hate Happy for eliminating them. Yet, now as Team Happy's members impatiently came knocking, asking about the future of their team without a hint of sincerity, all of Wu Chen's composure and tolerance couldn't keep him from getting angry.

How did the future of Team Everlasting look? As a team captain, he understood this better than normal team members. Currently, their disbandment was set in stone. Their boss couldn't keep their team

running for a whole year without it achieving any further gains. After all, they had already struggled to stay afloat for a year after being relegated.

If the team disbanded, then their accounts, equipment, materials and others would have no use anymore. Selling these things would be the last bit of profit they gained from the Glory circle. However, anything sold under these circumstances wouldn't be worth much. After all, these things weren't hard currency. They had no value outside of the Glory circle. With their team disbanding, they were in need of quickly getting rid of this stuff. In regards to needs, this was a market where the buyer had the absolute advantage. In addition, Team Everlasting wasn't anything impressive, so their goods weren't either. They might not even be able to clear everything out, nevermind getting a high price for it.

Wu Chen understood this. To be honest, Team Happy wasn't a bad choice of buyer. Since only these kinds of teams would need what a weak team like them were selling. Or, at least, it would be absurd to even imagine the powerhouses of the alliance even looking at their assets.

Although this was how it was, he was still pretty angry that Happy had the audacity to ask just like that.

Yet, then, Ye Xiu continued to talk, "Don't feel too bad about this. Competitions are competitions, now business is business. You should realize, your number of possible buyers won't be in excess. If we're talking about sincerity, Happy is definitely the best choice."

Seeing these words made Wu Chen feel depressed again. Did he even say how, exactly, his team was doing yet? Then again, this was God Ye Qiu, who was far too experienced in this circle. Being able to guess their position with confidence wasn't surprising.

Thinking here, the last wisps of displeasure in Wu Chen's heart dispersed, and he eventually responded, "I'm not in charge of this sort of thing, but I can help you pass your interest on."

"Alright, thanks. I couldn't find anyone else on your team, so I had to come to you for help," Ye Xiu said.

"Right..." Wu Chen wasn't in the mood to chat, making his replies as brief as possible.

"If we wanted to buy everything, how much do you think it would cost?" Ye Xiu then asked.

"I'm not certain," Wu Chen said. In reality, having been with Team Everlasting for so long, how could there be anything he didn't know? But how could he give an outsider such information?

"Alright then, I'll await your good news," Ye Xiu said.

"Ok," Wu Chen replied. Not long after, the other's profile picture darkened. Wu Chen sat, stunned, in front of his laptop, staring into mid-air for quite a while. It was now that he truly felt that the team he had poured his heart and soul into, Team Everlasting, was not going to survive any longer.

And what about Dawn Rifle?

Wu Chen's gaze shifted to Dawn Rifle's card, which sat quietly on the desk. Would he have to leave the one who had accompanied him throughout his entire pro career?

When he thought of this, Wu Chen suddenly felt a little impulsive, picking up his card, leaving the room he was in and walked towards the meeting room.

Team Everlasting's countdown had started. After organizing the last of their assets, they would soon announce their disbandment.

The meeting room was currently hosting one of their last meetings. As the team captain, Wu Chen had been asked to go, but he had declined. It was because he knew that it didn't matter if he went or not. Their prior meetings were always about the future of the team, so they needed the captain's and player's suggestions. Yet, now, as the end drew closer, was the captain's advice really needed anymore?

Those responsible for management knew this, too, so they allowed Wu Chen to decline. So, when Wu Chen rushed into the meeting room, everyone was surprised.

The meeting was in motion and the participants were all the heads of different departments. The Captain, the head of the the core department, didn't have to be here, and that made Wu Chen feel another wave of devastation. He almost lost control of his emotions, but thankfully his boss spoke up, "Little Wu, is something the matter?"

The boss' question scattered Wu Chen's thoughts, allowing him to compose himself. "Have we accepted anyone's offer yet?"

"Not yet." Though the boss was a little confused as to why Wu Chen would suddenly care about this, he still gave a clear reply to the player that he relied on the most, "We thought we should observe for a little longer. If there's any way we could find a buyer who actively asked us first, then we would be able to minimize our disadvantage."

The club didn't have anything else to work on right now, so they focused on turning in the greatest profit from their Glory assets. If someone actively asked after their assets, it would flip for a far greater profit than if they had to advertise their assets to others.

"Someone just came asking me about it," Wu Chen said.

"Oh?" Everyone was stunned for a moment, but then became excited. "Who was it?"

"Happy," Wu Chen said.

The room suddenly quieted as everyone froze. The one who broke the silence was He An. As the Club Manager, he naturally had the right to participate in this meeting. "Happy... They actually had the audacity to come knocking..."

"There's no audacity about it," Wu Chen said, "Competition is competition, business is business."

"Whose side are you on, Wu Chen?" He An seethed immediately.

"I'm merely stating the truth," Wu Chen replied calmly.

He An opened his mouth to continue, but was stopped by the boss' raised hand. Everlasting's boss didn't explode upon hearing it was Happy, but his expression did twist a little. Even Wu Chen had been angry when Ye Xiu came to speak to him about it.

"What are Happy's intentions?" Everlasting's boss wanted a more in-depth explanation.

"They wanted to find out our future plans, and if we are willing, I think they're sincere in their intentions to buy out our assets," Wu Chen responded.

"Sincere..." He An wanted to scoff at this, but, being able to become the manager, he wouldn't look at things so shallowly. However, his dreams and ambitions had been completely destroyed because of Team Happy. Hearing that Team Happy wanted to buy out what was originally Everlasting's, he had a hard time thinking straight. However, he had realized this himself and swallowed his words, not expressing his opinion, but sitting there quietly.

His strained silence showed one thing. Even someone with a bone to pick like him was unable to deny a certain truth: Happy was a very good choice to sell to.

"Their sincerity... I think it should be trusted, but we aren't sure of what sort of financial backing they have. The newest issue of the ESports Home weekly said something about their boss being the owner of an internet cafe?"

After someone confirmed this, everyone sunk into silence once more.

To sell something, it wasn't like you could pick any price you liked and not care if the other side wanted to buy it or not. The other's ability and willingness to pay also had to be considered. If Everlasting really wanted to complete a transaction like this with Happy, then they had to have a clear understanding of other's ability. This way, they could get an idea of what the price range they were willing to negotiate within. No matter what you did, you had to have an understanding of yourself and the others as well.

So, Everlasting's boss didn't immediately get someone to contact this possible buyer, but first had someone start preparations first.

"We should go and figure out what sort of internet cafe Happy is running, how many stores, if they have any partners," Everlasting's boss planned.

It was then that He An and Wu Chen exchanged a look, and eventually He An spoke, "Wu Chen and I went to Happy to take a look last time. It was very ordinary, and didn't seem like a chain..."

Hearing this, Everlasting's boss was dumbstruck once more. If they were just an ordinary internet cafe, what backing did they have to say that they wanted to buy out everything Everlasting was offering?

Team Everlasting wouldn't last much longer, but they were still a team that managed to survive the Pro League for three whole years. Glory was thriving, so even if they had to clear out and sell everything, it wasn't like just anyone on the street could pick up what they were offering. Everyone here knew that the equipment and materials that Team Everlasting had managed to collect was worth no less than thirty million on the market. Even if they were having a clearance sale and their prices weren't as high, it wasn't something that an internet cafe owner could afford, right?

It wasn't like they could assume that Happy didn't understand anything. Wasn't God Ye Qiu watching over them there? It seemed like Happy's internet cafe background was a ruse, and that they had some other powerful supporter behind them! This might be something they couldn't find out.

"For Happy... Who should we contact? Let's get into contact with them first..." After some consideration, Everlasting's boss came out with that conclusion.

Chapter 848: No Inquiries

For Team Everlasting, everyone was clear on what they had to do in this clearance. Those who were responsible for internal affairs, those who were responsible for external affairs, those who were responsible for the inventory, and those who were responsible for settlements did as they were supposed to.

As for contacting Happy, it should be the responsibility of the manager He An, but since it was Happy, He An wasn't the most pleased. After some consideration, Everlasting's boss let this task fall on Wu Chen's shoulders.

Having been a part of the team for so long, Wu Chen had his boss' explicit trust. Actually, if it weren't for the fact that Wu Chen wanted to focus on the competition, he would be the manager instead of He An. He An was very competent, but he still lacked the Pro League experience that Wu Chen had. Wu Chen's professionalism was something that He An needed more of.

Wu Chen accepted the task silently, not commenting on it.

There were things that he had used before in the clearance sale and things he had managed to personally obtain from the online game. Yet, now, he had to personally give these things over to another party. Wu Chen wasn't sure if this counted as a commemoration.

By the time he returned to his room, his laptop had automatically gone into sleep mode. After moving his mouse to revive it, he saw that the chat window with Ye Xiu was still open. Wu Chen directly sent a message over, giving an even more straightforward reply than the one Ye Xiu had sent him, "How much money are you prepared offer?" Wu Chen, of course, didn't expect the other to answer his question directly. This was a test of the other side's attitude, looking at what tone and words they used to answer. In reality, such an important negotiation shouldn't be conducted online, though this was still the preliminary negotiations.

Yet, just the preliminary negotiations between these two were a little too blunt; they immediately started out with the ultimate questions of "how much money are you offering" and "how much money do you want?"

Just as Wu Chen expected, Ye Xiu was still next to his laptop and quickly sent a reply, "We'll have to see what you have to offer first."

"If it's to your liking, are you prepared to buy it out?" Wu Chen asked. For them, they definitely hoped that they could sell everything all in one go, but this sort of situation was actually very rare. From what they knew of previous relegated teams, each of them turned into a supermarket. Everyone would come and have a look and buy whatever they needed, ignoring what they didn't. So in the end, the good stuff was all picked off, and the not so good stuff was left with them to rot. In the end, they could only sell that stuff at a disgusting price to those offices.

"Of course not, we're really poor!" Ye Xiu replied.

Wu Chen was speechless. It was hard to tell if this was the case or not, but it was clear that they weren't going for a buyout. If that was the case, there was no need to get in too deep with Happy right now. Everlasting still wanted to wait and see if there was anyone willing to buy them out.

"Can we have a look at what you have to offer first?" Ye Xiu then asked.

"We're still taking inventory, so maybe later...." Wu Chen was already beginning to stall for time. In reality, the information on the more valuable items had been given to him long ago and there was no need to take inventory anymore. Those that still needed it were the items that were many and unorganized. Anything that they could collect a lot of was, naturally, low in value.

Everyone wanted something good from them, but what Everlasting hoped for was that these buyers would also take a few things that were hard to sell with them too. In truth, this was a good idea, but was much harder to achieve than in theory. With their current circumstances, Team Everlasting didn't really have much power.

"To be honest, we won't ask for much," Ye Xiu responded, "You've probably already realized, the overlapping classes on our teams aren't many in number."

"Not many? Launcher, Warlock, that's already two!" Wu Chen said.

"We don't need any Launcher equipment," Ye Xiu responded.

Wu Chen paused. The launcher Chasing Haze Happy had sent out on that day was rather noobish; was she really just a bench-warmer?

In such an important match of the Challenger League, they actually dared to send up a bench-warmer. Wu Chen couldn't help but think of the match they had just finished. The Summoner they had sent up also seemed like a fill-in without any particularly striking abilities.

Could it be that Happy was stronger than they had thought, so they actually had nothing to fear from Everlasting? Wu Chen couldn't help but wonder.

"So, for Silver equipment, we mainly want your Warlock's equipment. However, there are a total of seven pieces of Silver equipment on that Warlock; I don't know the specific stats for each, but they don't seem like top quality goods overall. For the individual pieces, I'll have to see the stats before offering a price," Ye Xiu informed him.

"You don't want it all? If I'm remembering correctly, your Warlock Windward Formation has a total of three pieces of Silver equipment, including his weapon?" Wu Chen said.

"We do want it all, but we're too poor! We have to be careful with where we spend our money and what we buy," Ye Xiu replied. He's still saying they're poor! Yet, Wu Chen still couldn't tell if it was honest or not. However, he had already figured out Happy's intentions. No wonder a team with only the backing of an internet cafe dared to come and negotiate with them about buying their assets. They weren't really here to make any big purchases; they were treating them like a convenience store, preparing to buy some soy sauce and leave. They had no money, but wanted to buy quality goods.

This sort of buyer was the kind that people hated most. Wu Chen and Happy's preliminary negotiations were more or less finished. After that, they exchanged a few words out of politeness, but didn't give any

hint of how they planned to respond before leaving. Immediately after, Wu Chen went to tell his boss of what he had found out. Hearing this news, Everlasting's boss was, naturally, rather depressed. He had thought that Happy would be a good choice of buyer and not the clingy brat they had turned out to be. That sort of person wasn't worth paying attention to so soon! All they had to do was scatter some rice for them if, in the end, they didn't have anyone willing to buy them out.

After the preliminary negotiations, Everlasting became much colder towards Happy. They were already displeased with Happy, considering how Happy eliminated had been the reason for their disbandment. Even though competition and business were separate, the business they were trying to do between them was negligible; it wouldn't matter if it never happened.

Team Everlasting hoped that another buyer would appear, but then one, two, three days passed quickly. It was just three days, but Team Everlasting was already very anxious. It had been three days and no team had taken the initiative to contact them. Those who did were the workshops that wanted to take advantage of their misfortune. These guys didn't want to buy anything for themselves, but just to resell, so they were doing their damndest to bargain for a ridiculously low price. Team Everlasting ignored these people who were even more despicable than Happy. Yet they began to feel uneasy: would their stuff all end up in the hands of these workshops? Why weren't there any buyers apart from Happy? Were they doing this on purpose to mess with them?

There was only Happy, whose enthusiasm had not waned in three days. Lord Grim would come and chat with Wu Chen every now and then. They really did seem quite sincere. It was just that they didn't have much financial power, so Everlasting didn't think they were really worth it!

Today, Wu Chen saw that Lord Grim had sent another message to him upon opening QQ, and had managed to guess their situation in one. "How are things; has anyone come over as a buyer?" "Of course." Wu Chen wouldn't dare admit the truth. "Are you serious?" The smiley face Lord Grim sent made his confidence apparent. How was he so certain?

"Look." In the end, he didn't even had to ask since the other had already started analyzing their circumstance, "Powerhouses wouldn't need your assets, you admit that right?"

"Yeah," Wu Chen said.

"As for the teams that are of similar strength to you, their needs aren't so urgent, so they can wait for you to give up and organize a clearance sale. Do they have a need to contact you so early in the game?" Ye Xiu asked.

"..." Wu Chen was speechless. This was similar to their own thoughts. Those clubs didn't need anything of theirs urgently, so they weren't going to be impatient, but instead just purposefully wait until Everlasting gave out.

"So those who do need what you're offering and are sincere about it, would be those teams with bad foundations, especially those who want to fortify themselves as soon as possible," Ye Xiu explained.

"Yeah..." Wu Chen had to agree.

"These kinds of teams, to be honest, are more common in the Challenger League," Ye Xiu continued.

"The Challenger League... Normal teams wouldn't have the backing to buy anything," Wu Chen said.

"Even if they did, they wouldn't," Ye Xiu replied.

"Why?" Wu Chen was shocked.

"Because of Excellent Era," Ye Xiu answered.

Wu Chen was shocked again, but then came to a sudden realization.

Excellent Era, it was because of Excellent Era again. With Excellent Era being relegated, it caused a lot of people trouble. For example, the Challenger League had suddenly become rather meaningless. Under these circumstances, there was no point in using money to try and strengthen their teams this year. In front of Excellent Era, spending money wouldn't do anything to change the result; they were still powerless.

In comparison, those like Happy who were also in the Challenger League but willing to spend money on strengthening their team seemed to have far more dignity and spirit.

"I think you guys can give up on a buyout. You should probably spend your efforts on taking a look into the pro teams that are willing to become your transaction partners, and start advertising what you have!" Ye Xiu suggested.

"..." Wu Chen was still speechless.

"But before that, can't you guys treasure the teams that came to you to buy your equipment, like us?" Ye Xiu immediately added.

"As for now, you're seen as the team that dealt the blow which landed us in this situation in the first place," Wu Chen replied with honesty. Though his boss had him contact Happy, it wasn't possible that his boss had no negative feelings when it came to dealing with Happy. Upon seeing that Happy didn't prepare to buy much and saw them as a supermarket they could browse, his boss immediately decided to give Happy the cold shoulder. This was probably because of that grudge.

"Is this really necessary..." Ye Xiu said.

"But after all your hints, I suddenly thought of another team that has a high chance of becoming a buyer!" Wu Chen said.

"Are you talking about Team Heavenly Swords?" Ye Xiu asked.

"That's right," Wu Chen replied. It wasn't surprising that the other had managed to guess this. Anyone with some experience in the Pro circle would know that a team that had just applied to join the Alliance would be a good choice of buyer. Team Heavenly Swords wasn't, as Wu Chen implied, a team he had just managed to think of. In reality this was the primary target they had been keeping an eye on.

"Team Heavenly Sword... Not bad!" In the reply, there was another smiley face. Wu Chen immediately sensed the other's confidence. What was this guy smiling about this time?

Chapter 849: A Straight Forward Collaboration

Wu Chen felt like there was some sort of deceit hidden within this smiley face, but he had no way of directly asking about it. Since he had just mentioned Team Heavenly Swords, he would obviously think about it from this perspective. Soon, he realized their relationship.

Not too long ago, Heavenly Swords borrowed the discussion on whether or not Lord Grim was Ye Qiu to attract attention. Now, in the Heavenly Domain, Lord Grim and Heavenly Justice as well as several other guilds had formed an alliance together to steal bosses, becoming more prosperous by the day. None of that was a secret.

Team Everlasting was fairly weak, but any team determined to take the professional route required a guild in the game as a foundation. Team Everlasting had a strong guild too and used any way possible to obtain any materials they could. Unfortunately, the Heavenly Domain bosses were battlefields of the highest level, and they didn't have the strength to participate. They still paid attention to them though.

Wu Chen thought about it from beginning to end. Happy and Heavenly Swords didn't have a shallow relationship! Even if they never had a relationship in the past, after these recent events, they definitely had some sort of relationship now. What's more, Team Happy really did seem to be a grassroots team that came out from an Internet cafe. However, if you looked at their team roster, they had God Ye Qiu, ancient God Wei Chen, a former championship team member Qiao Yifan, and extremely talented new players, who had started playing in the new server and had already improved enough to be at the level of a pro player. None of them were easy to deal with. They didn't seem like a grassroots Internet cafe team at all.

Perhaps Heavenly Swords was their true backer. Heavenly Swords executed a daring move, creating two teams at once. One would be joining the Alliance through the application process, while the other would join through the Challenger League. When the time came, two teams in the Alliance would be under their control. That would certainly be an unrivalled advantage!

Of course, that definitely violated the Alliance's rules, but all policies had loopholes if you looked hard enough. Wasn't Heavenly Swords trying to achieve their goal through underhanded methods right now?

He couldn't even bear to think about it. The more that Wu Chen considered this possibility, the more issues popped up, but in reality, did Happy really have such a complicated relationship with Heavenly Swords?

Everlasting had hopes for Heavenly Swords. That was a fact. In these past few years, new teams would join the Alliance every year, but very few were as daring and overbearing as Heavenly Swords. Right after they confirmed their addition to the Alliance, they came out with all sorts of publicity moves. They even dared to ridicule the top teams. Heavenly Sword's confidence could be seen from these actions alone.

Now that the Alliance walked the commercialization route, having lots of money was a formidable advantage. As soon as Heavenly Swords popped up, many teams actually closely followed them. They hoped that the owner was a stupid person with lots of money, who would brainlessly try to increase the team's strength after joining the Alliance and wantonly buy useless trash at extremely high prices.

No one thought that Heavenly Swords, which had come out with such high-sounding speeches before joining the Alliance, would actually be so low-profile in the summer transfer market that it was scary.

This year's summer transfer market was quite lively. All sorts of God level players and characters were transferred around, but this new team actually made no movements at all. Let alone a team with such confidence, even previous teams would spend some money at the start of the season to close the gap in strength between their team and other pro teams.

Heavenly Swords made no such decision. They didn't sign any famous players or buy any well-known characters. When they showed up on the competition stage, they appeared with the very same characters from their Guild Heavenly Justice. They had bought a few pieces of Silver equipment, but it only totaled to 20. In today's Alliance, they were considered a poor team that brought down the competitiveness of the league!

Some experts even wrote articles questioning the investigations conducted on new teams applying to the Alliance. Are they not able to clearly distinguish a new team's quality?

The current Team Heavenly Swords barged into the Alliance loudly. Three rounds later, their loud entrance attracted quite a bit of ridicule.

However, some people also considered Team Heavenly Sword's later conduct as correct. It proved that the boss of Team Heavenly Swords wasn't a stupid person with lots of money. They understood this point, so they lowered their heads for now. Moreover, for their first season, they didn't have any overly ambitious goals. They had money, but they didn't plan on throwing it around and instead focused on steadily developing.

This analysis was closer to Heavenly Sword's real intentions.

But then again, if Loulan Slash had never met Ye Xiu, things might not have turned out this way. They might have been like what others had been hoping for, throwing out money, messing up the market, and then gathering a bunch of All Star players and characters.

At the same time, this time, Heavenly Swords desired the plate left behind by the dying Everlasting. However, they were also now more familiar with a certain Ye Xiu.

He An was the ace player and manager of Team Everlasting. In comparison, Lou Guanning was the core player and the boss of the team. His words held many times more weight than He An's.

Lou Guanning trusted Ye Xiu very much. He even regarded Ye Xiu as their adviser. Happy had borrowed their equipment to bring down Everlasting. Lou Guanning wasn't stupid. He was aware that Everlasting would definitely be sold away. After meeting Ye Xiu, who let them know not to aim too high, Heavenly Swords made every effort to walk the steady road. However, their current record was still disappointing. If they took Everlasting's resources, their strength would certainly improve noticeably. Everlasting was just about to disband too. How could they let that opportunity go?

Lou Guanning desired Everlasting's resources, but before getting involved, he asked for Ye Xiu's advice, which surprised Ye Xiu.

Truthfully speaking, how could Ye Xiu not know that as Team Everlasting's killer, rushing in to loot their corpse before they were even completely dead was certainly distasteful, but he didn't dare to wait.

Don't look at how everything seemed quiet at the moment. Who knew how many teams were waiting in store to snatch them up! In particular, Ye Xiu's most troublesome competitor was actually Team Heavenly Swords.

Because Team Heavenly Swords needed these resources as urgently as their Happy. In addition, the other side had money, while Happy did not. Heavenly Swords could buy everything all up at once, but that wasn't possible for Happy.....All kinds of markers indicated that Happy's competitiveness was very weak. Ye Xiu was even worried that if Heavenly Swords really did make their move, there would only be slags left for Happy.

Who would have thought that Lou Guanning would actually run over to ask for his advice before making his move.

Of the two windows on his screen, one belonged to Wu Chen, an opponent they had just killed off, while the other belonged to Lou Guanning, who was a competitor that could steal away all of the meat in an instant. Ye Xiu was feeling all sorts of things right now.

Lou Guanning's trust in Ye Xiu was quite moving. It was a feeling of a sincere friendship. The two sides would not only be doing things for their own benefit. From now on, any collaboration between Happy and Heavenly Swords would be placed above their own interests.

In the beginning, Ye Xiu had borrowed Heavenly Justice's strength to suppress other guilds. On the other hand, Heavenly Justice utilized the suspicion of Lord Grim being Ye Xiu to hype up their team's arrival in the pro league... all the way until the two sides worked together to fight for wild bosses in order to strengthen their own teams, borrowing each other's strength.

Lou Guanning came over to ask a question, which was for his own purpose, but Ye Xiu felt like this sort of trust wasn't easy for him. Lou Guanning definitely wasn't an idiot and knew about Happy's situation better than many others. He would certainly know that Happy would also be very interested in a dying team.

Even under this kind of background, Lou Guanning still asked Ye Xiu for advice. Ye Xiu wouldn't avoid the topic. He wouldn't conceal his team's intentions. The two would open up their gates and speak frankly because any ill-feelings that might be involved in this competition was finally eliminated.

Their intimate collaboration made things very difficult for Everlasting.

Team Heavenly Swords was a sincere and rich team, but right now, even Team Heavenly Swords wasn't reaching out to them. What else could they hope for?

Team Everlasting's core members were discussing this issue for the past few days. They had no idea if Team Heavenly Swords had any intention of reaching out to them.

And now, once Wu Chen thought about the relationship between Happy and Heavenly Swords, he felt like he had grasped the crux of this issue.

In order to grab the money mountain Heavenly Swords, they might not be able to ignore Happy's request! The two teams may or may not be one, but right now, they were advancing and retreating together. Everlasting could not ask to sell their goods because then they would be in a disadvantaged position in the negotiations. Everlasting also didn't want to stretch out their necks and let them behead

them. The two sides were lacking someone behind the scenes who could put up a bridge and this someone might be Happy.

Don't look at the value of this someone. This someone would be a kind of mediator between the two sides, allowing both sides to negotiate from equal positions. If not, the two would continue remaining on the side, refusing to move. In the end, it might end in losses for both sides.

This mediator didn't come out of nowhere either. It was artificially designed. From what Wu Chen reckoned, if it wasn't for Happy sticking their hands in the matter, Heavenly Swords might have started offering prices already. Happy stopped Heavenly Swords from buying. At the same time, they couldn't get Team Everlasting to come to sell to them. As a result, they were able to set themselves up in this clever position.

Even worse, even if you discovered the other side's plans, there were no other options because it was only by walking this path could everyone's interests be protected, unless Team Everlasting let their emotions decide things.

Wu Chen brought his thoughts into the discussion. After a moment of shock, Everlasting's boss sighed: "A scheme. A true scheme..... Let's trade with Happy then. We don't need to shut our mouths too tight. Afterwards, have them bring in Heavenly Swords. If what you say is right, we don't need to ask for them. They'll come to us."

Chapter 850: Do You Want To Leave Glory

After seeing the crux of the situation, Team Everlasting's negotiations went smoothly. Wu Chen immediately changed the cold attitude he had been using to communicate with Team Happy and started to actively ask what Happy's needed.

What did Happy need?

No matter if it were equipment or materials, Ye Xiu had taken care to consider them. Every RMB they spent had to be done cautiously. That was the style Ye Xiu had taken to ever since his return. The two million RMB worth of materials they had gotten from Samsara had been a nightmare to take inventory of, but Ye Xiu had still personally typed out that list after carefully considering all the information and stock they had.

Team Happy was stronger than most other grassroots teams. A profit of 20 million would shock a street of people to death. However, they couldn't compare to a pro team. Actually, there was a very interesting situation in Happy, and that was that none of the team members had asked for any payment.

That's right, payment.

Pro gamers weren't volunteers. As the Alliance thrived, the paychecks of pro players swelled. A yearly income of several million was just the income of first-string players. The income of those gods at the top had to be judged by their respective clubs. Though there were pro players who didn't make a fuss about how much they made, those who seemed to have forgotten about it entirely like the members of Team Happy were nonexistent.

The members of Happy might not have mentioned it, but their boss, Chen Guo, hadn't forgotten at all. It was just that, as a Glory fan, she had a vague idea of how much the pro circle made. She hadn't purposefully forgotten, she was just a little afraid of trying to bring it up. If she really ran Happy like a pro team, there was no way she could afford to pay a God like Ye Qiu with just her internet cafe to support her.

This problem, Chen Guo even went to discuss with Ye Xiu. And then Ye Xiu discussed it with everyone else. It was more or less just since their team was just starting out, they didn't have much, they had to work together as a team, and not fuss over individual losses and gains, but there would be bread to eat and eventually a championship.

In the end, everyone even looked at these words with contempt, especially Wei Chen, who put up both middle fingers at Ye Xiu, saying, "You think I care about what little money you have with my 1.8 million?"

As for the others, Tang Rou smiled, saying that she had an income. Steamed Bun casually asked her how much and Chen Guo hastily covered Tang Rou's mouth. The income Tang Rou got was the income of an Internet cafe counter receptionist, saying it out loud would be an insult to pro players.

No one really seemed to care, not even Little Cold Hands An Wenyi, who had asked about it in the beginning. Now that he understood Team Happy's situation, he didn't worry about it. For entrepreneurship, in the beginning, it was formed of ideals and aspirations; it was a little inappropriate to talk of money in front of these beautiful hopes.

"Very good, continue to work hard. If everyone can maintain this attitude, our boss will definitely be very happy," seeing how there was no chance of them being serious anymore, Ye Xiu started to mess around as well. The problem of everyone's payment was somehow resolved just like that.

In the end, this was their own problem, so if they didn't care about it, then let them! However, buying equipment and materials were transactions between them and outsiders. They might be willing to carelessly go over it, but their transaction partners weren't. So, Ye Xiu always took care to consider every detail. Every RMB had to be spent in a meaningful way.

Ye Xiu had never planned on buying much from Team Everlasting when he contacted them; he was just after what he needed. The Warlock's equipment was his primary target, but any sort of materials they might need, they could also check if Everlasting had them or not.

Everlasting started to warm up to Happy, thanks to their powerful supporter, Heavenly Swords. Ye Xiu didn't reject their enthusiasm either, responding with even more enthusiasm in getting a gauge of Everlasting's current assets.

Wu Chen was, after all, the commander-in-chief of the team, the captain, so, everyday, he had monotonously been forced on looking over all the team assets. He had thought he was clear on what they had, but when Ye Xiu started asking for so many details, Wu Chen's most common reply was, "One second, let me check..." After struggling for a while, Ye Xiu eventually decided on three of the seven pieces of Silver equipment Leopold had: cloak, belt and shoes.

Of course, it might be Ye Xiu saying this, but the one who made the decision was Wei Chen. Wei Chen was an experienced veteran, so he knew what he was doing and didn't need Ye Xiu's advice. Wu Chen had thought there was only Ye Xiu on the other side, and would've never thought that old sly fox, Wei

Chen, was also there. Facing the two of them alone, it was impressive that these few days of negotiations hadn't given him white hair yet.

"How come you only want these three pieces, the other four are rather impressive as well! In fact, Leopold is a very good character too; he had 4840 skill points, which is already very good in the pro circle!" Wu Chen earnestly advertised. He had submerged himself into his assigned role completely. Since they had realized that Heavenly Swords was the big fish hiding behind Happy, Team Everlasting's recent efforts had been focused on researching Team Heavenly Swords and keeping an eye on their characters in order to estimate their needs and better understand the bargaining chips they held. This was understanding your opponent to better understand yourself.

Heavenly Swords didn't have a Warlock, so they probably didn't want Leopold's Silver equipment. That was why Wu Chen hoped that he could sell all of it to Happy. It would be best if they bought the character as well.

"Eheheh, 4840? Our Windward Formation has 4920 skill points, do you think we would go around telling people about that?" Ye Xiu asked.

"4920!!!" Wu Chen was struck dumb by this information. 4900 had long since been thought of as the unbreakable limit for skill points that no character had managed to rise above. However, in last season's playoffs, Samsara's impressive performance made people realize their character's had improved. Then, Samsara had personally admitted that all their characters had over 4900 skill points.

The limits had been broken, but that was by last year's champions. For a grassroots team like Happy to have a character with 4920 skill points, there had to be something wrong with this team!

"That's right, 4920, so you see, your character is useless to us. Could you please stop hoping that we'll buy your characters? We just want the cloak, belt, and shoes, the three of them," Ye Xiu said.

"Ok... I'll take a note of that; let's move on!" Wu Chen was already feeling a bit helpless. They had been going back and forth for three whole days just about the Warlock equipment, but this wasn't Happy's only intended purchase; there were others!

"The list of materials you gave me, we had a look over it and think there are some problems...." The whole fuss over negotiating always started from "there are some problems".

After an entire week, Everlasting finally came to an agreement with Happy. Three pieces of Silver equipment on Warlock Leopold: the Hood of Sins, the cloak Endless Sorrows, Soulful Short Boots, were all sold to Team Happy for a final price of 500 thousand.

Apart from that, there was also the list of materials that Ye Xiu had given them. In the end, Everlasting didn't have everything that Ye Xiu asked for, so after several adjustments, they completely a transaction of 200 thousand in value. That finished Happy's round of benefitting from Everlasting's misfortune, spending a total of 700 thousand and gaining a satisfying prize. The three pieces of Silver equipment could be used immediately, and the 200 thousand RMB worth of materials were many pieces of gear in the making.

"It's unfortunate that what you have is too different from what we need," Ye Xiu told Wu Chen regretfully after they came to an agreement.

Wu Chen, having gone against two ancients of Glory, was utterly exhausted and sent a random emoji in reply.

"What now; what plans do you have?" Ye Xiu sent.

"I think it's time for lunch?" Wu Chen glanced at the clock in the bottom right corner of his screen.

"I'm talking about your future in Glory; what plans do you have?" Ye Xiu explained.

Wu Chen startled. The sudden and very personal question from Ye Xiu made him uncertain of what to do for a moment.

All of Team Everlasting's members seemed to already have plans for the future. Especially He An. Wu Chen had heard that some pro teams were interested in him!

But as for himself? Wu Chen really had no idea. His entire career in Glory had been alongside Everlasting. Where Everlasting went, that's where you'd find him. He had never thought there would be a day where Everlasting was no more, and what he would do then. Until now, when it actually happened, Wu Chen realized that he had been avoiding this problem the entire time. His enthusiasm to keep himself busy was also an attempt to distract himself from these thoughts.

What was he to do without Team Everlasting? As he thought, his gaze wandered around the familiar room. It wouldn't be long before he had to leave this place and, possibly, never return.

"Are you going to continue being a pro player?"

Such a message appeared on the screen.

A pro player, huh? Wu Chen suddenly remembered, he had never had plans for his own future. When Everlasting was relegated, he didn't leave, he just wanted to return to the Pro League with his team and happily play for another season before retiring.

He was already 25 years old by now, considered quite old by eSports standards. The longevity of pro gaming careers in the Glory were increasing, and at 25, he could still continue, but Wu Chen wasn't some big shot; he knew his worth. Originally, his ability wasn't anything impressive, so now that he was older, his reactions were getting slower, and his hand speed fell. He probably couldn't rely on pro gaming to put bread on the table anymore.

It was unfortunate that he simply wasn't any sort of famous character. Many of those retired All Stars had found a home in the Glory circle, but for him, his interaction with Glory would be nothing more than a way of relaxing after a long day of work while recalling those good memories he had made back in the Pro League.

That sort of life sounded really monotonous...

Wu Chen was lost in thoughts, so it took him a while to notice that there was another message in the chat window: "If you don't want to leave Glory, you don't have to walk the path of a pro player!"

"What else can I do?" Wu Chen couldn't help but respond.

"Our guild is currently quite lacking in manpower," Ye Xiu replied.

Guild? The online guild?