

## Avatar 921

### Chapter 921: Four New Faces

The team that brought the most new faces to the All Stars was Team Tiny Herb.

Xu Bin, transferring to Tiny Herb and now operating Deng Fusheng's Knight Angelica, had performed spectacularly in the past season. A player that always performed well had finally gained enough popularity upon entering a powerhouse team, reaching an All Star level.

Another was Gao Yingjie. The renowned young prodigy from Team Tiny Herb that grew up under careful guidance. He had missed his opportunity to receive the Best Rookie award, but after becoming a part of Tiny Herb's starting roster, was immediately elected as an All Star. The performance of this prodigy had satisfied the expectations that other people had set for him. He had performed as was expected of a core player of a team, developing the composure of a general. He was also of the same class and team as the God Wang Jiexi; the votes obtained under such circumstances were very stable.

This was because fans often gave votes to the player they supported and liked the most. Since Glory fans were usually Glory players, the classes they liked limited the players they liked to some extent.

Gao Yingjie was on the same team, and had the same class as Wang Jiexi. The votes for Tiny Herb and Witches had to be split between them. The difficulty in getting into the All Stars was higher than usual.

Lu Hanwen was also in a similar situation to Gao Yingjie.

Lu Hanwen was called the greatest discovery of the season. As the youngest pro player in Glory history, he was eye-catching from the moment he stepped onto the stage. His mechanics weren't fully developed yet, and he didn't have much experience, but his passion and energy on the field was something many Gods didn't have.

If you had experts analyzing and voting, Lu Hanwen probably wouldn't be able to enter the All Stars. However, the players that participated in the All Stars were chosen by the fans, so there was much less rational analysis. The votes didn't mean you were strong, but it represented the support and love, expectations and well-wishes you gained. Lu Hanwen had gained that from the player base, and thus became an All Star.

Another new face belonged to the new champion team's Grappler player, Lu Boyuan.

Lu Boyuan had performed amazingly in the playoffs last season, leaving a deep impression in everyone's minds. After obtaining the championships, he had naturally gained a lot of popularity. During the summer transfer market, Samsara paid a hefty sum to buy the All Star Grappler from Tiny Herb. However, at the start of the season, everyone found that Lu Boyuan was still using Samsara's account, Grappler Chaotic Cloudy Mountains, and soon they also discovered that the Silver Grappler equipment belonging to Flying Drops was now equipped to Chaotic Cloudy Mountains. Samsara didn't seem to care for the popularity of the All Star level Grappler account, Flying Drops.

This action meant the fall of an All Star account and roused hatred from the fans of Flying Drops. Chaotic Cloudy Mountains had, inevitably, lost a portion of its supporters, but no matter what, Lu Boyuan and

his Chaotic Cloudy Mountains had still received enough votes to become a participating member of the All Stars, becoming the new Grappler All Star.

The aforementioned four were the new faces appearing in this season's All Stars. Apart from them, the others were all players that had participated at least once before. The players who had already gained fame had a steady fanbase, so it was rather hard for them to fall out of the rankings in a fan-based vote like this. Especially for some gods, their fans' support would be enough to bring them to this stage even if they had performed extremely poorly or barely appeared.

Out of the 24 voted in, the one in the most awkward position would be Hundred Blossom's Zou Yuan. It was already Zou Yuan's second time being voted to participate in the All Stars, but in reality, with his skill, his fame, and even his performance, he would probably never see such high popularity.

Last year, he had been voted in because of the God-level account he was using: Spitfire Dazzling Hundred Blossoms. The fans voted for his account and pushed him onto the All Stars stage. As for this time? With Zhang Jiale joining Tyranny upon his return, and then Tyranny bought Dazzling Hundred Blossoms for him, many people were seething with anger. So, throwing their votes at Zou Yuan's Blooming Blossoms became a way to vent that anger for them.

With this special circumstance, Zou Yuan was once again voted into the All Stars, but he didn't feel lucky at all. Apart from awkwardness, all he felt was still awkwardness.

Actually, the four new faces in this round's All Stars was because of a special reason.

The All Star player Deng Fusheng's retirement created an opening amongst the All Stars, but the one who made the most contribution was Excellent Era, the entire team had been relegated to the Challenger League, leaving three usually stable spots open for the taking. And, behind these empty spots, was a huge amount of ownerless votes. Deng Fusheng's votes were easily relocated, since most of his votes came from Tiny Herb fans anyways. So, all they had to do was give their votes to Xu Bin, who took Deng Fusheng's place, or another member of Tiny herb. It was a little more awkward for Excellent Era though. With the entire team out of commission, Excellent Era fans had no place to put their votes. In the end, they would just give these votes to whoever else that they liked, or their rivals who they didn't like... So, it was reasonable that eye-catching rookies like Lu Hanwen could skyrocket right into the All Stars. In this season, the number of neutral votes was a little too many.

In the end, this season became the season in which the All Stars lacked the most classes.

Glory had 24 classes, and there were 24 All Stars, what this meant was rather obvious. However, since the very first All Stars, there had never been one where all 24 classes were present. The most tragic class was the Summoner, in which there had never been an All Star player. Comparatively speaking, the last All Stars had a rather even distribution of classes. Only Summoners and Paladins were missing, while Ghostblade and Brawler each had two All Stars.

In contrast, the current season's All Stars had 5 duplicate classes.

Li Xuan and Wu Yuce's Ghostblades were obvious, always being voted in. Apart from these two, two powerhouses Tiny Herb and Blue Rain had also made contributions, giving duplicates for Witches and Blademasters respectively.

Then there were the Brawlers, recreating the situation from last year. Tang Hao and Lin Jingyan were both voted in again, but this time Three Hits had become Tang Hao's character, and Lin Jingyan held the character Team Tyranny had built for him, Brawler Dark Thunder.

Yet, the resentment that festered between the last pair of class duplicates had a much deeper impression on people than the Brawler pair. What a coincidence that this pair had an interesting relationship with Tang Hao and Lin Jingyan, too.

This was because Tang Hao came from Hundred Blossoms, and Zhang Jiale was currently Lin Jingyan's teammate in Tyranny. Now with Dazzling Hundred Blossoms, he had returned after a year, clashing directly with his and Dazzling Hundred Blossoms' successors, Zou Yuan and Blooming Blossoms.

What would happen between them in this season's All Stars? Those busybodies had long since become restless to know. It was unfortunate that these four could no longer go up against each other through the Rookie Challenges anymore. Whether they would face off or not, that was something no one knew.

The All Star Weekend would bring all of these pro players and accounts together, and amongst them ran all sorts of tension.

Enemies on the field, friends off the field.

This was easily said, but there weren't many who really managed to achieve it. Especially those who transferred away due to their old team's displeasure, how many of them could act as if nothing had happened when facing their old teammates?

No one would be as crude as to extend this to a PK off field, but on the field, it was normal for people to use matches to relieve this stress. And this sort of cathartic action made the matches much more interesting for the spectators.

Everyone was eager for the issue of Esports Home that was published before the start of the All Star Weekend, wanting to read up on all the drama that was hopefully about to occur. And so this year's All Star Weekend began under the excitement and noise. Team Happy, represented by Ye Xiu, Steamed Bun, Chen Guo and Tang Rou, arrived on that day at B City.

With their plane unfortunately delayed, the four accepted Lou Guanning's escort arrangements. A car came to pick them up and took them directly to Tiny Herb's stadium. When the person responsible for leading them inside was still trying to figure out how to actually do that, Ye Xiu had already lead them into the building, obviously familiar with it. However, when it came to finding their seats, Ye Xiu wasn't too familiar. He rarely sat in the audience seats before.

The seating that Lou Guanning had gotten them was, of course, top notch, much better than the three that Chen Guo had bought last year. Because of their delayed flight, the opening show of the All Star Weekend was over by the time they got there. The first order of business had begun already: the Rookie Challenge.

In this season, the Hologram Projection technology had been completely integrated into Glory matches. After half a season, the audience had completely gotten used to and fallen in love with this new method of viewing. The viewing quality had seen great improvement, and the ticket sales for each team's home matches had hit a new high. The All Stars were no different, also using this sort of technology.

By the time Ye Xiu's group had managed to find and settle in their seats, the first match of the Rookie Challenge was already over. The four who only cared about finding their seats didn't even know who had been fighting who.

The onstage commentator was already announcing the player for the second match.

It was the most eye-catching rookie of the season, Lu Hanwen that was up next. It had only been half a season, but this youngest-ever pro player rookie seemed to already be viewed as Best Rookie; that was Blue Rain's Lu Hanwen.

Blue Rain and Tiny Herb were archrivals and the current season's All Stars was played on Tiny Herb's home turf, so the treatment Blue Rain players would get was evident. However, when this 14 year old pro player stood on the stage, the Tiny Herb fans weren't mean enough to boo him. The applause was a little scattered though.

The host knew that Lu Hanwen was a very popular figure of debate, so he chatted with him a little more than usual. Lu Hanwen was as open as always, saying what came to him and bringing up the mood.

It was only at the end that the host asked what everyone cared about most, "Then, Little Lu, who are you going to challenge today? Let me take a guess, is it your senior from your team, God Huang Shaotian?"

"Nope." Lu Hanwen shook his head.

"Oh, then who is it?" The host had been confident in his guess, so he was surprised upon hearing this.

That was when Lu Hanwen took the mic and turned to the pro player stands. "Tiny Herb's senior Liu Xiaobie, let's settle this once and for all!"

Chapter 922: Changed Beyond Recognition

Lu Hanwen had amazed numerous people within the first half of this season. In this year's Rookie Challenge, he had once again shocked everyone. Many people had guessed the same as the host and thought that Lu Hanwen would challenge his own team's Huang Shaotian. It was similar to how many rookies chose to challenge the God, which they admired the most. While the event was supposed to be a challenge, perhaps it was considered more as paying respects.

But Lu Hanwen had chosen Team Tiny Herb's Liu Xiaobie. It was quite puzzling. Team Blue Rain and Team Tiny Herb were rivals, but what was the relationship between Lu Hanwen and Liu Xiaobie? Lu Hanwen's most admired Blade Master couldn't be Liu Xiaobie, right?

Or maybe he was saying that Liu Xiaobie was weak, so he called him out to get a win over him? That wasn't paying respects to your favorite senior player!

No one knew that the relationship between the two had started during the summer break. At that time, the two were helping out their respective guilds and encountered each other while fighting for wild bosses. Lu Hanwen had been using his Flowing Cloud account. However, he wasn't become an official pro player for Team Blue Rain yet, which had astonished Liu Xiaobie.

As for Liu Xiaobie, even though he was using an alternate account, who else but a pro player had such skill? Once Lu Hanwen started fighting with him, it wasn't hard to guess that he was Liu Xiaobie.

Lu Hanwen had won that match in the end. His win was somewhat despicable though. It had originally been a 1v1 duel. After all of their mana had been depleted, they fought using only normal attacks, but Lu Hanwen relied on a Cleric's "Prayer Wish" to restore some of his mana and cleanly finished off Liu Xiaobie, who only had a sliver of health left.

In theory, it should be Liu Xiaobie challenging Lu Hanwen for revenge, but this kid was the one to challenge Liu Xiaobie instead, giving him another chance to pay back his debt. This move surprised even those who knew about their relationship.

There were a few people who knew about their duel in the game. The players from Team Blue Rain and Team Tiny Herb didn't need to be mentioned, but there was also Team Tyranny's Zhang Xinjie and Lin Jingyan who had been present, as well as Ye Xiu's group; they had watched the duel that day.

Liu Xiaobie left his seat on Team Tiny Herb's side after being picked and went up onto the stage. The question for why so and so was picked as an opponent was a question asked thousands of times before, but this time, everyone truly wanted Lu Hanwen to give an explanation.

"Ha, it's nothing really. I just really want to beat senior Liu Xiaobie." Lu Hanwen's reply didn't explain anything.

"Oh? Why do you say that?" The host pestered him.

"Because every time I've fought with him before were never true duels." Lu Hanwen said.

Over half of the season had passed. Team Tiny Herb and Team Blue Rain had certainly fought against each other at least once. In that match, did Lu Hanwen ever clash with Liu Xiaobie? Many people had thought of this question when he picked Liu Xiaobie, but no one had a definite answer. This time, everyone felt like it must have been something that had happened off stage, so they tried even harder to recall whatever they could. However, no one thought that it was because of what happened in the game.

Seeing that Liu Xiaobie had gone on stage, the host obviously had to go greet him. After some small talk, the main subject came: "Would the two of you like us to provide the characters?"

"No need?" Lu Hanwen said.

Liu Xiaobie shrugged his shoulder, indicating that he didn't care.

The host was very excited. From an audience's point of view, they wanted to see the players use their own characters to fight each other.

"Then let's welcome the contestants for the second match of the Rookie Challenge: the youngest player in the history of Glory, Team Blue Rain's Lu Hanwen, versus the hand speed master Team Tiny Herb's Liu Xiaobie!!" The host shouted loudly and both players went to their respective seats on stage.

They swiped their cards and picked the map. The host quickly went off stage. The projection of the map burst to life. Neither of the two wasted any time, and the match soon began.

Liu Xiaobie's Blade Master, Flying Sword, and Lu Hanwen's Blade Master, Flowing Cloud appeared on the opposite corners of the map.

Don't look at how Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud was younger, in terms of equipment, Flowing Cloud was no weaker than Flying Sword because Team Blue Rain had the strongest Blade Master, Sword Saint, Troubling Rain. This meant that their team had the best tools to create Blade Master equipment. Under this kind of environment, building another Trouble Rain wasn't impossible to create. However, on Team Tiny Herb, Blade Masters weren't their core class, so the resources invested into it were slightly less.

Even so, Flying Sword was only a tad bit weaker than the most powerful Blade Master in all of Glory. Flying Sword was one of the top Blade Masters too. His Silver weapon, Chasing Spirit, had a fairly normal name, but it was a top-tier Silver weapon reputed as one of the Ten Famed Swords of Glory. It had a 5% chance of hitting twice. No one but Team Tiny Herb knew about this weapon's special effect and why the weapon was called Chasing Spirit.

Lu Hanwen's Flowing Cloud had a total of ten pieces of Silver equipment. This number was equal to the Sword Saint's Troubling Rain. His Silver weapon, Flame Shadow, was a greatsword with extremely high attack and extremely long range, but those were all general trends for greatswords. The unique part of Flame Shadow was its weapon effect. It had a 5% chance of adding a Flame Shadow buff to the attack, increasing the damage dealt by 30%. It was a buff that purely increased the damage inflicted.

The commentator quickly introduced the two Blade Master characters. After the countdown ended, the two rushed forward. The commentator had yet to finish talking about the two characters when the two came across each other. The commentator had no choice but to stop reading aloud information on the two characters and began commentating the fight.

Because it didn't appear to be a match of paying respects to the senior, the winner of the match was important. This type of confrontation naturally drew in a lot of attention.

Liu Xiaobie didn't hold back facing this rookie. He wanted to strike first, taking advantage of his Chasing Spirit's higher attack speed. Flowing Cloud with his greatsword didn't wait to take a beating. Practically at the same time that Liu Xiaobie's Flying Sword closed in with Triple Slash, a Sword Slash was drawn in a circle.

When greatsword users Sword Slashed, their attack wasn't as fast, but their range was greater. Flying Sword was enveloped by this Sword Slash, but the hand speed expert Liu Xiaobie didn't back down and ate the strike head on. His Flying Sword's Triple Slash struck diagonally, and his character deviated to the right, narrowly dodging the greatsword's sword wind. Following afterwards, Flying Sword threw out the third strike of Triple Slash and closed in on Flowing Cloud.

Ding!

The ringing sound of two swords clashing echoed. Lu Hanwen quickly reacted. Flowing Cloud retracted his sword and raised it up to Guard, blocking Flying Sword's third strike.....

This ringing sound seemed to be the opening to the prologue. Following afterwards, ding ding sounds exploded repeatedly like popping popcorn. The two characters revolved around each other and kept on attacking each other. Their initiations and retreats happened in an instant. The battle had only just begun and the intensity had already reached its peak. The battle of hand speeds was just getting started.

The applause was like thunder. This type of confrontation showed the incredible technical skills of the two players, which was extremely fun for normal players to watch. It was what the audience liked to see the most. Everyone wanted to be a hand speed expert. They placed nearly as much importance on hand speed as they did on the other elements required to be considered an expert. On one hand, hand speed was without a doubt a fundamental aspect of an expert, but it was also because an expert with high hand speed could produce this kind of a beautiful fight!

The two were extremely fast with their attacks. Some players couldn't even keep up with what was going on. The screens suspended in the center of the stadium kept on playing slow-mos of their confrontation. Sword light flew and blood splashed wildly. The health of the two characters slid down, and gradually, a slight divide could be seen. Flying Sword's health was just a tiny bit higher than Flowing Cloud's.

Liu Xiaobie was considered an extremely talented player. This talent referred to his hand speed. This was analogous to an athlete, who was born with an extremely outstanding body. These innate constitutions couldn't be achieved through blood and sweat. This was pure talent.

People always had high hopes on talented people. Liu Xiaobie was one of these talents. Although Team Tiny Herb already had three All Stars before he came, they still placed a lot of importance on him. However, his performance during his two seasons of play were rather disappointing. He had talent, but he was improving too slowly to match his talent. In comparison, among the players who joined the Alliance that same year, two had become Gods.

One was Sun Xiang, who had come out of a lower-tier team. He swept away all those in his path and became a God. Then, he transferred to Excellent Era and inherited the Battle God One Autumn Leaf, becoming the successor of the first God of Glory, Ye Qiu.

The other was Tang Hao, who was similar to Liu Xiaobie. He had come from Team Hundred Blossoms, which managed to reach the finals three times. No one dared to underestimate such a formidable team. Tang Hao didn't have such attention-grabbing talent like Liu Xiaobie. He also didn't show any incredible performances in his first rookie year. Just when he was considered an average pro player, he grasped Zhang Jiale's retirement; while Team Hundred Blossoms had lost their core player, he quickly made an impression on everyone's minds through his incredible play. He transferred to Team Wind Howl this season, inheriting the number one Brawler, Demon Subduer, and becoming the core of the team. With the support of strong teammates, it was all uphill from there.

On the other hand, Liu Xiaobie had come from a top-tier champion team like Team Tiny Herb and had enviable talent, but after two seasons in the pro scene, apart from people having a deep impression of his astonishing absolute hand speed, he didn't leave any lasting, spectacular plays.

No one was willing to just be mediocre. This summer, Liu Xiaobie was determined to improve. While others went to relax, he continued to work hard and even went on a crusade in the game. Hard work always paid off. This season, Liu Xiaobie's performance was outstanding. In the All Star rankings, he was 25th place, but he was less than a hundred votes away from Zou Yuan in 24th place.

As for Zou Yuan getting into All Stars, that was because of his special background and the special circumstances. He was supposed to have a spot at the All Stars.

Lu Hanwen was a new rising star this season. The two had already fought against each other over the summer. This time, in the All Star rankings, Lu Hanwen placed 18th. For a rookie, it was an incredible achievement.

But would that make Liu Xiaobie think he was inferior to him?

No way!

The outcome could only be known after asking the sword in his hands!

Chapter 923: Liu Xiaobie's Goal

The two sides were fighting against each other furiously when Lu Hanwen's Flowing Clouds suddenly leapt up, turning and drawing his sword. The afterimage of the sword flashed past in a blur, and the dust and mud around Liu Xiaobie's Flying Sword was thrown up before the attack even landed.

Falling Blossom Form!

The skill that Lu Hanwen was using was, impressively, one of the new Blade Master skills added after the level 75 update.

It had only been a month since the update had been released. If you counted the time it took to get a character to level 75, then it had been an even shorter time since these techniques had been learned. Normal players would impatiently start spamming these skills wherever they could, but pro players couldn't be so careless. It was ok if they tried it out when playing for fun, but in an official match, who would dare to use a skill they weren't totally familiar with? A skill that they hadn't fully integrated into their playstyle was a skill that could become a fatal opening.

The All Star Weekend obviously didn't count as an official match, and the wins and loses there didn't truly count. That was why in the last two matches, the participants had all used the new skills, and seemed rather familiar with them too. Pro players adjusted to these new additions and changes much faster than normal players would. However, since they wanted a full understanding of the skill and how to use it, they would be more careful about it.

For a match that was more a show than anything, it was fine to use a few unfamiliar or incomplete styles and techniques. However, Lu Hanwen and Liu Xiaobie's match felt a little different from the moment Lu Hanwen had sent out that challenge. After all, who would say "Let's settle this once and for all" in the Rookie Challenges?

As expected, the two gave it their all once they started, like they were fighting in an official pro match, and neither of them had used a new skill.

Yet in this moment, Lu Hanwen surprisingly used Falling Blossom Form. The skill was activated by Flowing Clouds, pulsing sword energy arising from his broadsword Flame Shadow and streaking through the air towards Flying Sword.

"Ah! This is Falling Blossom Form! A new level 75 skill. The new skills have yet to be used until now in their fight. It can be seen from this how seriously they're taking this match. Yet, now, a level 75 skill has finally appeared from Lu Hanwen. He really is like a newborn calf that doesn't fear a tiger\*! All those



who cared to follow news about Blue Rain, about this pro player, probably all knew that Lu Hanwen is the one who would boldly use a new skill in the first match after the new update. In the entire pro circle, he was the only one. So, that's why we say he's an amazing young man, always managing to do the unexpected..."

The commentator spoke very quickly, but no matter how quickly he spoke, he still had too much to say. By the time he had finished his ramblings, Flowing Clouds and Flying Swords had already finished several exchanges.

It didn't stop at Falling Blossom Form.

After Falling Blossom Form, Meteor Form, and Piercing Form were unleashed, both level 75 new skills. Glory didn't limit the number of new skills for each level stage to one, especially not after the level 55 update. This was because, from this point onwards, every new stage meant a whole new chapter of the game, so the contents had to be as abundant as possible. One skill was just too little, so there were often several new skills that were released together. For Blade Masters, four new skills were added for the level 75 update, all with "form" in their name. Falling Blossom Form, Meteor Form, and Piercing Form were all skills from the most recent update. Lu Hanwen used these new skills to mount a new round of offense. Though the commentator hollered over this excitedly, but from the situation, it seemed that the three new skills didn't have much of an effect, no help in getting Lu Hanwen the upper-hand.

"Ah!"

The commentator yelled out again. After Lu Hanwen's three Forms, Liu Xiaobie's Flying Swords quickly counterattacked with a skill of his own, and that skill was the only Form that Lu Hanwen had yet to use: Curving Wind Form!

Flicking the tip of his blade, the sword energy didn't stab forwards viciously, but instead swirled to the tip of the blade from its surroundings. The force of the energy blew the dust and earth, swirling into the air, displaying the power of the skill.

Lu Hanwen seemed to sense the danger, hurriedly getting Flowing Clouds to turn and defend. However, he was still a little too late. The backwards moving sword skill somehow attacked from behind Flowing Clouds, striking him as he to block.

Thus, the effect that this attack had wasn't to blast its target away, but instead to pull its target towards the attacker.

Flowing Clouds, his body being thrown forward against his will, threw out his sword, just managing to parry the strike that Liu Xiaobie had sent out.

Applause rung out in the stadium. Lu Hanwen, back turned to Flying Swords, had managed to parry so accurately as he turned Flowing Clouds around. What was marvellous? This was it!

This parry surprised even Liu Xiaobie a little, but it wasn't enough to mess up his plan of attack. Long before he had struck out with Curving Wind Form, he had thought through his next actions. If his first strike didn't hit, he still had others. Liu Xiaobie's APM suddenly jumped. Just because he wanted to improve in other aspects didn't mean that he would neglect this talent of his. Hand speed, that would

forever be his ace! Seeking improvement in other areas was, in the end, simply just to better the use of his best talent, allowing him to utilize his hand speed to the fullest.

He might not yet be able to complete a whole match at this level of APM without mistakes, but a short period of time like this, after two years of cumulative experience and a summer of intense practice, was something he had complete confidence in!

"Ah!!"

Amongst the shocked cries from the crowd, resplendent light from his blade lit up the battle. Liu Xiaobie, who had once set out on a path he shouldn't have, had come out of his cocoon anew. Last season, he had gained the title of King of Dueling, proving himself fiercely. He didn't slow after his success either, after a summer of intense practise, half a season of ablution, today's Liu Xiaobie was even stronger than last season!

He didn't care about an award like King of Dueling; he was aiming for something even higher.

Sword Saint!

This was an unofficial title, but one that everyone else acknowledged, the true Glory title for the best Blade Master.

That was Liu Xiaobie's true goal. Lu Hanwen? He was a great rookie player, but he wasn't the one Liu Xiaobie was aiming to succeed.

Formless Phantom Blade!

The powerful skill was unleashed.

Talking about pure DPS, none of the new level 75 four Forms of fencing dealt as much damage as Formless Phantom Blade. That was why Formless Phantom blade was still the Blade Master's strongest DPS skill, and with the update in level limits, there was more room for skill strengthening as well, once again increasing the damage of Formless Phantom Blade.

However, what was surprising wasn't that.

"Fifteen blades!!" With the commentator's yell, all of the audience raised their heads to look at the big screen. With the holographic projection technology, the screen used for live broadcasting was no longer used for that purpose. Instead, it was used to replay the best moments of the battle, some shots of the audience, and the statistics and data of every match... Of course, there was also the conversations some players had during matches. This was something the audience loved, but couldn't be projected by the holographic projection technology. It wasn't like they could just put speech bubbles above the heads of the characters, that would just ruin the 3D effects.

Now, looking up at the screen, what everyone saw was the statistics for Flying Sword's Formless Phantom Blade under Liu Xiaobie's performance.

Fifteen blades!

This was how many combo hits the skill could make based on the player's mechanics. Before this, the highest record made by the pros of the alliance was only thirteen and Liu Xiaobie had instantly raised

that record by two blades. This was something he managed through his hand speed alone. There was no other way...

After a period of shocked silence, the audience suddenly erupted into thunderous applause. Many people were even so moved that their tears were close to flying out like a whirlwind. This was Tiny Herb's home turf, after all, so no one supported their players more than them. Fifteen blades created by Formless Phantom Blade, not even Huang Shaotian could do that, right? However, their player Liu Xiaobie had managed to do so; during this match where a Blade Master from Blue Rain had challenged him, he had completely managed it.

Lu Hanwen's Flowing Clouds finally fell to Formless Phantom Blade's last blade. He had gained everyone's attention when he got on the stage, but throughout this match, the spotlight moved off of him. This Rookie Challenge had helped Liu Xiaobie's popularity soar. Even though Lu Hanwen was a rookie, he was still an All Star player, but the fifteen blades of Formless Phantom Blade was a reality. Whoever didn't accept it, then they could come and challenge it themselves!

"Amazing!" Even Ye Xiu couldn't help but praise this limitbreaking show of mechanics, applauding.

"I wonder how many blades I could get... I'll try with a Blade Master after I get back," Tang Rou mumbled.

"And you? If it were you, how many blades could you achieve?" Chen Guo asked Ye Xiu.

"That would depend on the situation," Ye Xiu replied.

"Your limit!" Chen Guo said.

"Never tried." Ye Xiu shook his head.

"I've tried, seven blades for me..." Chen Guo sighed.

"With your skill, there's no need for you to brag, right?" Ye Xiu responded.

"Do you want to die!" Chen Guo was depressed. She had been careless, saying something like that in front of Ye Xiu.

Steamed Bun, on the other side, was shaking his head.

"What's up, Steamed Bun? Can you make more blades?" Chen Guo asked with a smile.

"I don't like the way the number fifteen sounds," Steamed Bun sighed.

"..."

The match came to a close with Liu Xiaobie's amazing explosion of skill claiming him victory. The applause from the audience didn't stop. Such an exciting Rookie Challenge was rare.

The projected image was fading, but it didn't flash off suddenly, but faded slowly from the outside inwards. It was the All Star Weekend; of course it would be a little more grand.

Yet it was then that Flying Swords, having yet to leave, threw out his arm, his silver weapon Chasing Spirits stabbing forth swiftly. Everyone was still puzzling over this action when the scene faded and Flying Swords disappeared.

An observant few seemed to have realized something and looked in the direction that Flying Swords had stabbed at. The big screen, too, replayed the action made by Flying Swords and then the scene switched to place the sword had been pointing towards.

Team Blue Rain, Huang Shaotian!

Chapter 924: Listless

The cameras zoomed in on Huang Shaotian. Everyone in the audience could see it on the screens above. The crowd immediately exploded into an even greater uproar. Countless Tiny Herb fans began shouting and whistling, intensifying Liu Xiaobie's challenge towards Huang Shaotian.

On the screen, a teammate nudged Huang Shaotian and then pointed in the direction of the screen. Huang Shaotian smiled and waved his hands at the cameras.

The crowd roared. This guy probably didn't know what was going on, did he? Was he not watching the previous match?

Huang Shaotian was very confused by the crowd's reaction until the teammate next to him said a few words to him. He suddenly understood what had happened and stared at the camera with a smile. He continued smiling.

The cameras couldn't focus on Huang Shaotian the entire time! It seemed like he didn't care, so the cameras turned away in disappointment. The instant the cameras turned away, Huang Shaotian's two hands quickly shot up and gave Liu Xiaobie the middle finger.

"Ah! Hurry up and go back!" The director of the broadcast shouted violently.

The cameras quickly focused on Huang Shaotian again. Everyone watching the All-Star Weekend once again saw Huang Shaotian smiling. His smile was no different than before. Everyone was puzzled. Was the stream lagging?

"This guy is too crafty!" The director felt very depressed. Flipping someone off was very uncultured. If the live stream had caught it, Huang Shaotian would certainly be fined by the Alliance, but in their current situation, as long as no one reported this incident, even if the Alliance knew, they would turn a blind eye towards it.

Without the cameras on him, there were only a few people who could see him giving the middle finger. This was Team Tiny Herb's home stadium, so it was filled with Team Tiny Herb fans. When they saw it, they went into an uproar and created quite some noise. Those who didn't know what was going on were very puzzled and naturally turned to ask others about it. As a result, news of Huang Shaotian giving the middle finger to Liu Xiaobei was spread by mouth, and the uproar in the stadium grew louder like a rising wave. Practically no one cared about when the next Rookie Challenge match would be taking place at this point.

The stream's commentator was still carefully commentating the next match of the Rookie Challenge, but his heart felt so stifled that it hurt. Such a magnificent scene had actually been missed by the cameras! What was going on onstage was very ordinary. It was an exhibition match where the younger generation paid respects to the older generation. In the end, the senior God won. He gave the junior a word of encouragement and the junior expressed that he would take this opportunity to learn from his senior.....

"How boring....." The commentator was about to fall asleep, but even if he felt bitter inwardly, he could only falsely raise his spirits and talk very excitedly about his admiration for this match.

The broadcasting team was the most sullen out of everyone on the first day of All Stars. There had been such fat, juicy material, but the scene of the crime wasn't caught by the cameras. In hindsight, there had been numerous measures that could have been taken. For example, they could have talked to the Alliance to see if they could give Liu Xiaobie special authority to issue a challenge. It was the All Stars anyways. The matches were just for fun, so more easter eggs couldn't hurt.

Unfortunately, everything only came to light post facto. The event had lost its immediate value. It could only be embellished into a good report afterwards. Various titles, such as The Challenge of the New Generation, quickly sprouted in the minds of many reporters.

In the following Rookie Challenge, another good piece of material was supplied.

Team Wind Howl's Zhao Yuzhe challenged Team Misty Rain's Chu Yunxiu. When asked his reason for the challenge, his reply was: I want to be the number one Elementalist.

"Kids nowadays have such drive!" Ye Xiu sighed.

Zhao Yuzhe wasn't as brash as Tang Hao last year, who had claimed that the junior would succeed the senior, but the intent behind his words was very obvious.

"Good! How ambitious!" The host shouted loudly, "Then, please welcome Team Misty Rain's captain, Chu Yunxiu, to the stage!"

Amidst the applause, the commentator seized this opportunity to use this as a topic to talk about: "I'm sure everyone still remembers that in the Rookie Challenge last year, the two year veteran Tang Hao shocked everyone with a "the junior succeeds the senior" and defeated Lin Jingyan in the end, replacing him not only in name, but also in reality, as the number one Brawler. He transferred to Team Wind Howl this summer and took Lin Jingyan's position. Now let's look at Zhao Yuzhe. He's also from Team Wind Howl and Tang Hao's teammate. Could his challenge have been influenced by Tang Hao's move last year? After Zhao Yuzhe won Best Rookie last year, he continued to perform spectacularly this season. His position in Team Wind Howl is stable, and his team's achievements have been quite impressive too. He's a player with a bright future!"

During this introduction, Chu Yunxiu had already gone down from his seat and onto the stage.

There weren't many female pro players in Glory. Only Chu Yunxiu and Su Mucheng had been able to squeeze onto the All Stars list. Su Mucheng wasn't eligible for All Stars because of Excellent Era's relegation this year. At the moment, Chu Yunxiu was the only female player among the 24 All Stars.

Chu Yunxiu was also from the Golden Generation. She had been a pro player for many years and had assumed the role of team captain. It wasn't easy to make her lose her calm. When the cameras zoomed in on her, she didn't seem to have any peculiar reaction towards Zhao Yuzhe's impolite challenge. She shook hands with Zhao Yuzhe and received a few questions from the host. Everything seemed very normal. The host harbored evil intentions and wanted to deepen the conflict, but she easily neutralized all of his attempts.

How oppressing!

The broadcast team once again felt stifled.

When Liu Xiaobie pointed his sword at Huang Shaotian, it felt like a tempest was about to come. A black cloud rolled out, and then nothing happened after that. This time, Chu Yunxiu's calmness made Zhao Yuzhe's challenge, which had already been less brash than Tang Hao's challenge from last year, appear even more like it was a stick hitting cotton.

Why? Why couldn't this year's Rookie Challenge produce any highs?

The broadcast team was quite depressed. They forgot that the previous Rookie Challenges rarely had any highs. It was just that last year, there had been several very abnormal and significant challenges in a row, raising the expectations for this year's Rookie Challenge.

For this year, Liu Xiaobie pointing his sword at Huang Shaotian and Zhao Yuzhe's challenge to take the top seat was already quite exciting, but it just couldn't compare with last year's.

"Mm, both sides are ready. The match will soon begin. This match will be the same as the match with Lu Hanwen and Liu Xiaobie. Both sides will be using their own pro characters. On the left side of the map was Zhao Yuzhe's Howling Fire. On the right side of the map is Chu Yunxiu's Windy Rain. Uh... Chu Yunxiu is the only female player among the 24 All Stars this time. She doesn't seem to have any peculiar reaction to this unfriendly challenge from her junior." The commentator introduced the scenario.

"Haha, many of our friends watching knows very well that even in important matches like the playoffs, Chu Yunxiu always remains this calm. This kind of attitude isn't anything strange." The commentator's co-caster, the honored guest Li Yibo, said a few words. As long as it was an important match, Coach Li would always be there. For an exciting event like the All Star Weekend, the number one guest commentator would of course be sitting.

Those who used their heads would realize that his evaluation of Chu Yunxiu actually contained some hidden implications. He was criticizing her lack of passion for the game, which was why she would frequently be unable to hold on during important matches. It was one of the huge problems that had plagued Team Misty Rain.

After the match started, in the public chat, Zhao Yuzhe typed out a helpless expression: "Senior, I hope you'll treat this match seriously!"

"Haha. I will." Chu Yunxiu replied out of politeness.

"After a brief exchange in the chat, the two sides have now drawn closer to each other." The commentator continued.

"Hm... everyone, look. Zhao Yuzhe's Howling Fire isn't going directly at her. He's taking a rather roundabout path. It looks like Zhao Yuzhe is truly serious about this match...." Li Yibo said.

"Yeah... employing tactics to move around isn't commonly seen in All Stars, no?" The commentator said

"Indeed. I remember last year that neither Tang Hao nor Sun Xiang employed tactics to move around. They just directly clashed with their opponents instead." Li Yibo said.

"Coach Li, what do you think this means?" The commentator asked.

"This... it means Zhao Yuzhe cares a lot about this match..." Li Yibo said, while glancing at his co-caster. Old friend, could you please be a bit more attentive. I just said that it seems like Zhao Yuzhe is serious about this match, yet you asked me again. Are you testing my ability to phrase things in a different way?

Zhao Yuzhe, who was employing positioning tactics to move around, obviously didn't come out as soon as Windy Rain appeared in his line of sight. Chu Yunxiu's experience was abundant. She immediately realized this point, so she decided to stand still, waiting for Zhao Yuzhe's Howling Fire to come out.

"This... mm, turning being on the defensive into taking the initiative. It's not a bad solution...." Li Yibo said.

The commentator felt like kneeling down and bowing to Li Yibo. Anything that he said had substance. Li Yibo's explanation for Chu Yunxiu's action was reasonable, but in reality, she didn't care enough about this match, so she was probably just too lazy to fight for the initiative against Zhao Yuzhe.

Chu Yunxiu's Windy Rain just stood there. Zhao Yuzhe's Howling Fire quietly sneaked closer to her from the side. A pro player shouldn't be so easily ambushed. Even Zhao Yuzhe felt like it was too boring. What a tragedy! His opponent just had to be this God. If it had been anyone else, his opponent wouldn't be so passive, right?

I guess I'll just end it beautifully.... Seeing that Chu Yunxiu didn't seem to be interested in fighting seriously, Zhao Yuzhe decided to kill her with some beautiful combos, but right when he started planning out how he would go about doing that, Windy Rain suddenly turned around. She pointed her staff and made the first move.

"Ah?" The commentator had been listless the entire time, but now he was suddenly so astonished that he was at a loss for words.

"Chu Yunxiu strikes first! What a fierce attack!" Li Yibo was more clear-headed. On stage, Windy Rain's spells launched one after the other. A huge area-of-effect explosion devoured Zhao Yuzhe and brought him into a perilous situation.

"This this... could it be that Chu Yunxiu's initial attitude had been a set up?" The commentator was astonished. Seeing Chu Yunxiu's offense, it didn't seem like she didn't care about the match.

"Tsk tsk tsk." In the audience seats, Ye Xiu clicked his tongue repeatedly.

"What is it?" Chen Guo asked.

"I heard that Chu Yunxiu is in a bad mood today." Ye Xiu said.

"Why?" Chen Guo said.

"It's probably because today is the last episode of 'My Unusual Girlfriend' .... She had to miss it...." Ye Xiu said.

"AH?!" Chen Guo didn't know how to describe what she was feeling right now.

Chapter 925: There's No Next Time

My Unusual Girlfriend was the TV drama that all the big TV channels had been broadcasting over the past three weeks, topping the viewing charts and sweeping over the crowds. Chen Guo wasn't a huge fan of this sort of things, but she did know about them. However, the Captain of Team Misty Rain, Glory's Number One Female Pro Player, would deign to allow the fact that she couldn't watch the finale when it came out to affect her mood? It seemed ridiculous to Chen Guo. Could this be described as letting your concerns mess with your head?

Yet knowing that this made Chu Yunxiu's current state of mind easy to analyze. Her thoughts weren't even present, so she hadn't been in the mood to react to Zhao Yuzhe's taunt at all. As for her sudden fierce torrent of attacks, it was just a cathartic release of her frustrations at not being able to watch the finale live, not because of Zhao Yuzhe's provocation. If you were to think this was a tactic of hers to mess with your head, then you were simply thinking too much.

The sudden surge of attacks had clearly taken Zhao Yuzhe completely off guard. A blanket of Elementalist skills raged across the map, almost unavoidable. Chu Yunxiu's mechanics were refined, and she was extremely familiar with the Elementalist class, allowing her to predict most of Zhao Yuzhe's countermeasures. This made Zhao Yuzhe feel as if he was trapped in the palm of her hand.

He had hoped that Chu Yunxiu would take this seriously, but then she had turned out to be unenthusiastic, disappointing him greatly.

Yet now his opponent had suddenly become bold and unrestrained with her attacks, to the point where Zhao Yuzhe wasn't prepared for it at all. Zhao Yuzhe wanted to cry!

"How dirty..." That was Zhao Yuzhe's thoughts about Chu Yunxiu's actions. He would never be able to guess that it was because she couldn't watch the finale of a popular drama.

It took Zhao Yunzhe everything he had to escape Chu Yunxiu's torrent of attacks and by then, Howling Fire's health had gone down by approximately a fourth. It wouldn't be easy to turn the tides in this situation, but Zhao Yuzhe still made an effort to readjust his state of mind. If he managed something that was harder to do, then it would prove his worth even more, right?

However, Chu Yunxiu's performance was at its peak after her fierce offense, pursuing him relentlessly and attacking him viciously. Zhao Yuzhe had wanted to avoid this barrage for now, but who would've expected that Chu Yunxiu would be bursting with it? The buff from not being able to see the finale seemed to be continuous.

"Ai, it seems like Zhao Yuzhe is struggling to turn the tables..." Even Li Yibo dared to comment like this during a livestream. The scales of victory were already tilted too far to one side. Zhao Yuzhe eventually



fell, frustration and refusal to accept this defeat boiling within him. With only a year and a half of experience in the pro circle, he still wasn't very mature, walking down from the player stands with a face filled with rage. The broadcasting showed both the players in various scenes.

The winner, Chu Yunxiu, didn't seem very happy about her victory either. She seemed as listless as she had been when she had gone on stage. So, the camera took more shots of Zhao Yuzhe, revealing his anger to the audience in full.

Zhao Yuzhe didn't want to accept this! He felt that Chu Yunxiu was playing too dirty. All this effort because she was afraid to lose? Yes, he had to make the audience understand it: Chu Yunxiu was terrified to lose to him; he was already a threat in the eyes of Glory's best Elementalist!

Seeing a shot of himself on the big screen, Zhao Yuzhe knew that this broadcast was going live to tens of thousands of viewers, hurriedly composing his expression into something less revealing. As he walked onto the stage, looking at Chu Yunxiu, he was a sea of calm.

"That was a good strategy, senior!" Zhao Yuzhe took the mic, not even waiting for the host to speak before initiating conversation with Chu Yunxiu. He did his best to act professional and retain his smile, but he was obviously too inexperienced to keep this up with ease. Compared to Huang Shaotian's peaceful smile at the camera when he was planning to flip people off, Zhao Yuzhe strained a hundred times as much to keep his smile. This was made evident just by looking at the closeup of him. Zhao Yuzhe could tell, as well, and found it strained. He tried to adjust the way he curled his lips up, but only managed to make his expression look even more strained.

In comparison, Chu Yunxiu was much more of a veteran. She smiled casually and said, "It was so-so!"

"This was my own fault for not being careful enough. Seeing how listless you were just now, I had thought you weren't going to be serious about this match!" Zhao Yuzhe pointed out Chu Yunxiu's strategy, but was subtle about it, just like how his challenge was; he didn't raise much of a stink over it.

"So long as you're on the battlefield, you should always give it your all," Chu Yunxiu said. This was definitely an exemplar civility.

"Yes, I need to learn from you, senior. No matter when, I have to give it my all," Zhao Yuzhe replied.

"Good luck!" Chu Yunxiu nodded.

Zhao Yuzhe was quite good at being tactful. Anyone who was observant enough could still easily understand his implications. Yet Zhao Yuzhe still wasn't satisfied. What he had managed to explain so far was only that he hadn't been able to play to the best of his ability because he was caught off guard, but he had yet to say what he really wanted make known!

Seeing Chu Yunxiu already turning to return to the player stands, Zhao Yuzhe hurriedly called after her, "Next time I won't fall for your trap, senior!"

Yes! He had fallen for a trap! Zhao Yuzhe made sure to make these words as clear as possible. He wanted everyone to notice this and then realize how much Chu Yunxiu feared him, even needing to trick him to obtain victory.

Chu Yunxiu had already returned the mic to the host by then, but the mic was just for amplifying their voices for the entire audience to hear. If it was just an interaction between the two onstage, this distance didn't make the mic necessary. Hearing Zhao Yuzhe hollering, Chu Yunxiu turned around. The host could tell that this would be a potential selling point, and Knight Charged to Chu Yunxiu's side, holding up the mic for her as he saw she was already opening her mouth to speak.

"Next time?" Chu Yunxiu seemed a little confused, "You're a second year, right? Can you still enter the rookie challenge next year?"

"Ah?" Zhao Yuzhe was struck dumb by Chu Yunxiu's reply. That was completely off topic! He was just saying this out of courtesy; how was "next time" any sort of keyword? Yet Chu Yunxiu had caught this little loophole to retort, making Zhao Yuzhe unable to formulate an immediate response. Seeing that he had little reaction, Chu Yunxiu turned and continued to walk off.

"What was that about?" Zhao Yuzhe actually scratched his head in confusion in this shot of him. He wanted to fire back a few words, but heard the host saying the closing lines for the round, thanking the two players for their spectacular match and whatnot. Zhao Yuzhe couldn't continue to cling to the stage and refuse to leave, so he could only return the mic and end this time's plan for rising higher.

The two's match held loud thunder, but not much rain\*. Zhao Yuzhe didn't raise too much of a stink about it and Chu Yunxiu's attitude was peaceful as well, nothing like the tension in last year's Rookie Challenges.

With these two sent off stage, the event continued. Now there was only one round left. Usually, it would always be a player from the hosting team who would come out to challenge someone at the end, but Team Tiny Herb only had one player who was eligible for the Rookie Challenge, Gao Yingjie. However, Gao Yingjie had already participated in the Rookie Challenges last year, so he couldn't go again. So, this All Stars broke the tradition, and the player the host announced was Team Heavenly Sword's Lou Guanning.

"Oh..." This still caused quite a ruckus among the audience.

First, Team Heavenly Swords was also based in B City, and with their skill, they hadn't achieved the level of becoming archrivals with Tiny Herb, residing in the same city, so, being from the same city, the Tiny Herb fans would give Heavenly Swords some attention as well.

In addition, Lou Guanning was a rather legendary figure. First, he had been a very famous RMB warrior in game, but no one would've thought he would go so far, even to create a Pro Team and advancing into the Pro League. A normal player who got to this point was at the top of the top.

"That guy is pretty popular, huh?" Chen Guo commented.

"Haha." Ye Xiu laughed, not commenting. He had been in contact with Lou Guanning for quite a while now, and they were becoming closer and closer. However, he hadn't thought that the first time he would see the other was through this: on the big screen was a close-up of Lou Guanning, walking onto the stage.

Talking about his appearance, he wasn't particularly comely, but he wasn't unsettled at all, being under the gaze of so many people, walking down step by step casually.

Lou Guanning was still considered a Rookie in the pro circle. The current battle records of Team Heavenly Swords didn't meet expectations, either, nothing to be proud of. However, his composure when walking down was even better than Glory's current First, Zhou Zekai.

Of course, Zhou Zekai's calm was mostly because of his personality. However, Lou Guanning's steady demeanor portrayed that he was someone who had witnessed pomp and ceremony before. He wouldn't feel nervous at all in this sort of situation.

The rebroadcast and live host were both introducing Lou Guanning's legendary gaming career. It should be known that this player's identity and position was a little special. He wasn't just a member of a team, he was also the boss of one. With this, even if Team Heavenly Sword's performance didn't meet expectations, his position was a extraordinary compared to the other pro players.

On the stage, receiving an interview, Lou Guanning was like a fish in water. Much stronger than Zhao Yuzhe, who had to practice repeatedly just to cover his emotions up with a smile.

"Hey, do you think he'll challenge you?" The surprising thought suddenly popped into Chen Guo's head.

"

"Me?" Ye Xiu pause for a moment before shaking his head. "He won't. He isn't someone who doesn't know what's appropriate. If he really wanted to challenge me, then he would tell me first."

"That's so boring!" Chen Guo was rather eager still, but what Lou Guanning then said crushed her hopes for this drama. Lou Guanning wanted to challenge Yu Feng, the current number one Berserker.

Transferring from Blue Rain to Hundred Blossoms and becoming their core player. Yu Feng had fell into a slump with Hundred Blossoms, and some even predicted that they would become the second Excellent Era.

However, as the season progressed, Team Hundred Blossoms got their feel back and their performance began to improve. The combo of Yu Feng's Blossoming Chaos and Zou Yuan's Blooming Blossoms were syncing up more and more, gaining more and more popularity and support from the normal players. There was no doubt that Yu Feng and Blossoming Chaos would be voted into the All Stars this time. As for Blue Rain, his spot in the main roster had been filled in by the rookie Lu Hanwen. Though there was a new Berserker player to control Brilliant Edge, he wasn't on the field much and his performance wasn't particularly eye-catching, so he didn't really have the competitive abilities required by the voters to participate in the All Stars. The title of the First Berserker followed Yu Feng, returning to Hundred Blossoms.

#### Chapter 926: The Five Members of Heavenly Swords

The commentator liked players with a story behind them. That way, they didn't need to rack their brains trying to think of something to say to introduce them. While he introduced Yu Feng's situation, Yu Feng went on stage, greeted Lou Guanning, and shook his hand.

Lou Guanning's reputation as a money warrior made everyone subconsciously imagine him as an arrogant and despotic upstart. Quite a few people were hoping that his arrogant request to challenge Yu Feng would end up with him being slapped fiercely in the face.

However, Lou Guanning behaved gracefully and looked happy to chat with Yu Feng. He was only a small character in the pro scene, yet standing alongside an All Star and God, his aura didn't lose out to the other side one bit. From this point of view, no one would think that this was, in fact, a Rookie Challenge.

Rookies weren't experienced and didn't have much knowledge about how to act on stage, so even when Zhao Yuzhe challenged a God so ambitiously, his aura still felt weak.

But for Lou Guanning? He was a player from a newly-promoted team. He wasn't a God like Sun Xiang or Tang Hao, nor did he have the same energy as Lu Hanwen. He stood on stage very normally, but no one felt like he was any worse compared to Yu Feng.

His confidence couldn't have come from his own strength. After all, half a season had passed, and those who paid any attention to him knew very well what level of skill Lou Guanning was at.

"An owner is truly amazing!"

All sorts of whispers stirred within the crowd. They clearly recognized that Lou Guanning was no ordinary rookie.

As a result, there was no anger or provocation in this confrontation. It didn't have the usual fan to idol mentality. Though Lou Guanning clearly explained that his reason for challenging Yu Feng was because Yu Feng was his favorite player, it wasn't that sort of flattery that many new players had towards the Gods they admired. It stemmed from his admiration and appreciation towards Yu Feng. The audience misperceived it. They were wondering if he was going to follow up with an "Are you interested in joining our team?"

Lou Guanning didn't end up saying such an inappropriate question. The two went up on stage and used their own characters for the battle. They entered the map and began fighting.

The battle was intense. Their blades dripped with blood. This was the Berserker fighting style though. Because their skills would be awakened after dropping below 50% health, some players even intentionally took damage to achieve more explosive damage output. Berserkers were a class that personified the strategy of killing one thousand enemies by sacrificing eight hundred allies, and were considered the number one class in terms of manliness. At the same time, they were also the most difficult class to heal because, for many Clerics, they sometimes didn't know whether the Berserker was actually getting hit, or if he was intentionally letting himself get hit in exchange for stronger attacks. Unable to make a clear conclusion, the Clerics didn't know what to do. As a result, sometimes Clerics would be yelled at for healing and yelled at for not healing.

Every Berserker hoped for a healer that understood their intentions. Every healer hoped that their team didn't have a Berserker. If the team did, they hoped that the Berserker wasn't a brave hero who liked to take damage to power up.

The battle between Yu Feng and Lou Guanning was intense, but the experts could see that both sides were holding back.

Yes, as the God being challenged, Yu Feng held back. As the challenger and rookie, Lou Guanning wasn't going all out either.

Yu Feng won the match in the end, but Lou Guanning had lost the match and won the war.

After the match ended, both sides went off stage and continued to chat with each other. The two then left the stage together. The Rookie Challenge on the first day of the All Star Weekend ended with such a friendly match.

The event ended. The pro players easily left the stadium through their own private exits. Ye Xiu and the others could only squeeze out of the stadium with the rest of the crowd.

The exiting was bustling with noise. When they finally got out of the stadium, Chen Guo heard her cell phone ringing. She took it out and took a look. She had eight missed phone calls all from one person, Lou Guanning.

"Hey, Little Lou!" Chen Guo picked up the phone and spoke coarsely. She had seen Lou Guanning's grace in the final match of the Rookie Challenge. Speaking of which, Chen Guo had also been someone who thought of money warriors as arrogant upstarts. After interacting with Heavenly Swords, she slowly changed her view. Now that she personally witnessed Lou Guanning's poise on stage, her initial impression of him had now been completely overturned.

Although Lou Guanning was Glory's most famous money warrior, the other side had both skill and style too. Chen Guo felt like she was losing to Lou Guanning as a boss! When she picked up the phone, she anxiously reminded herself.

"Ah! It's me. Did you guys come out yet?" Lou Guanning asked.

"We're out. What's up? Is there something going on tonight?" Chen Guo tried to be more proactive.

"Ha, let's go out for a late-night snack! Go out from Tiny Herb's main entrance, cross the skyway, and you'll see a tea restaurant\*. We're over there! Room 2." Lou Guanning said.

"Okay, we're heading over." Chen Guo didn't refuse. They had come here because of his invitation. It didn't make sense to refuse to see him.

The group of four continued to follow the crowd. There were quite a few people crossing the skyway, but there were also many passionate fans waiting outside the main entrance, holding signs to show their support for their team and idols, waiting to meet them. Lou Guanning and the others had already gone to the tea restaurant across the street and had the time to call her eight times. Evidently, the pro players did not leave through the main entrance. These fans were too ignorant when it came to gathering information.

Ye Xiu's group crossed the skywalk and saw the tea restaurant. They went in and asked to go to room 2. An employee immediately brought them over. There were five people waiting respectfully in room 2. When they saw the four arrive, they immediately got up. One of them was especially excited. He even seemed a little bewildered.

This tea restaurant wasn't too high class of a place. The environment was fairly ordinary. It was even a bit crowded with nine people squeezing into this room.

It was the first time meeting each other offline, but Lou Guanning's first words got rid of the feeling of unfamiliarity between them. He smiled and said: "Did you guys see my performance? How was it? God, please give me some advice!"

Lou Guanning looked at Ye Qiu. Even though the two sides hadn't introduced each other, he instantly determined who the legendary God Ye Qiu was.

"Haha, you fought too politely." Ye Xiu said. He wasn't shy with strangers at all. It even seemed like he was the host: "Have a seat, everyone. Why are you all standing!"

Everyone sat down. Ye Xiu impatiently fished out a cigarette. He didn't forget to ask if anyone else wanted one, but the five Heavenly Swords people waved their hands and refused. Ye Xiu didn't ask if they didn't want to smoke or if they didn't know how. In any case, he grabbed a cigarette and tossed the cigarette pack onto the table: "If you guys want one, feel free to take one!" Then, he quickly started lighting up his cigarette.

Before he could light it, Chen Guo moved her hands like lightning: "Hey, show some manners!"

"Hahahaha..." Lou Guanning laughed. He didn't make any comments and continued, "How about you introduce yourselves?"

"Tang Rou, Chen Guo, me, Steamed Bun." Ye Xiu quickly introduced everyone from left to right.

"Bao Rongxing!" Even though Steamed Bun didn't mind being called Steamed Bun, he still gave his actual name to everyone.

"Haha, you must be Steamed Bun Invasion!" Lou Guanning laughed.

"It seems like you've heard of my might. Not bad." Steamed Bun was very excited.

Lou Guanning was somewhat puzzled. Don't we already know each other? Do you not know who I am?

"I'm Chasing Haze." Chen Guo introduced her in-game character.

"I guessed that." Lou Guanning nodded his head. He had only ever met one person, who would shout at God Ye Qiu.

"Soft Mist." Tang Rou half rose out of her chair and introduced herself by her character tag.

"Oh, the expert. How surprising." Lou Guanning said. He didn't say what was surprising, but anyone smart would know. Soft Mist was a very aggressive Battle Mage, but the player behind her was a beautiful girl. It was a surprising contrast.

"I'm Loulan Slash!" Lou Guanning began introducing his side. After introducing himself, he pointed to the people beside him: "Zou Yunhai is Ocean Ahead."

"Hi everyone." Zou Yunhai greeted.

"Wen Kebei, Homeward Bound." Lou Guanning continued.

This person was the one who was the most excited, that he wasn't sure what to do when the four entered the room. After being introduced by Lou Guanning, he finally couldn't hold back: "God, please give me your signature!"

"Show some manners!" Lou Guanning also scolded like Chen Guo did. Everyone laughed. Chen Guo felt a myriad of emotions after laughing. In the beginning, she had also been innocent! But now? She glanced at Ye Xiu. His cigarette wasn't lit, but he still held it in his mouth. How irritating!

"This is Gu Xiye. He's our Grappler, Night Tide. That's Zhong Yeli. She's our Cleric Thousand Falling Leaves." Lou Guanning finished introducing everyone. It was their five-man group in the game, four guys and one girl.

"Your Heavenly Swords isn't only you five anymore....." Ye Xiu said.

"Yeah... but... there's not enough seats." Lou Guanning smiled. He had obviously just come up with this excuse on the spot. He clearly hadn't planned on bringing more people. Those other Heavenly Sword players didn't have any relationship with Ye Xiu and the others. It meant that this meetup was because of their friendship in the game.

"It is a bit tight." Chen Guo saw that everyone was friendly. She didn't pay too much attention to the particulars and commented on the matter.

"It's just because it's close. There's not much else to do nearby." Lou Guanning said.

"Then what do you have prepared for this late-night snack?" Chen Guo smiled. She was a natural socializer and very easily became familiar with strangers. Ye Xiu had experienced this a long time ago.

"Is there anything you'd like to eat?" Lou Guanning asked.

"Does this place have everything?" Chen Guo smiled.

"No, but if you want, we can have other places deliver food here!" Lou Guanning also smiled.

Chen Guo stared blankly. How tyrannical. This nouveau riche finally exposed his tyrannical ways. It was best if this topic didn't continue. If not, they might get kicked out of this place. There would always be places where they would be looked down upon.

"I'm just joking around. It doesn't matter. We didn't come here to eat." Chen Guo said.

"What? If a late-night snack isn't for eating, then what's it for?" Steamed Bun interrupted.

"...."

It was best not to talk about certain things with those guys, but for Steamed Bun, it was best not to talk about anything in general.

\*The official translation would be cha chaan teng, and they usually serve Hong Kong cuisine and Hong Kong style Western cuisine. The "tea" part of it is to distinguish the tea restaurants from Western restaurants that serve water. It's different from a tea house, which generally just serves tea.

Chapter 927: Heavenly Sword's Bad Friend

With Glory as a common ground, Ye Xiu's group and Lou Guanning's group naturally had much to talk about. Both parties talked joyously. It was just like Chen Guo said: eating wasn't the main focus of this meetup.

It could even be said that none of them wanted the night to end. Lou Guanning invited the four of them to visit their Team Heavenly Swords tomorrow. After all, City B was also Heavenly Sword's home city. The All-Stars event only took place at night, so no one had much to do during the daytime.

Ye Xiu's group obviously had no reason to refuse. As a result, after scheduling it for sometime the next day, the two groups went back to their respective living places.

Next morning, Lou Guanning drove his car over to their hotel and brought Ye Xiu's group over to Heavenly Sword's base.

"How is it? It's not bad, no?" Lou Guanning stood proudly underneath their team's logo hanging on top of the main entrance. Team Heavenly Sword's logo was the same as their guild's. It was a picture of that famous sword, Swordpoint. However, the artist who drew it was clearly very skilled. It had been shrunken into a logo, but it was still easily recognized. As for the logo hanging above their main entrance, it was even bigger than a person. The picture of Swordpoint was even larger than if the in-game weapon was scaled to life size.

"Look. That place over there is our stadium." Lou Guanning pointed towards another direction at a stadium that didn't lose out to Tiny Herb's.

"Incredible!" Ye Xiu praised. He was sincere. From this arena, Lou Guanning's pride towards his success in Glory could be seen. In the Alliance, not every pro team had their own stadium. Many teams rented someone else's stadium and used it as their home ground.

In order to build a standard stadium seen in the Alliance, the construction costs would reach hundreds of millions. It definitely wasn't something an ordinary Club could afford. Only the powerhouses in the Alliance had their own stadiums. These weren't only used for Glory either; they could also be used as normal sport venues. When it wasn't a match day, it was rented out for all sorts of activities. It was an important part of a Club's income.

Team Heavenly Swords had just entered the Alliance. Their futures were unknown, yet they had already invested a huge sum into a stadium already. Lou Guanning wasn't a profligate who never treated money seriously. His decision to construct this stadium showed his determination towards Glory.

"Shall we take a look at the stadium?" Lou Guanning asked.

"There'll be opportunities in the future." Ye Xiu smiled.

Lou Guanning stared blankly for a second, but then understood. He laughed: "When the time comes, please go easy on us!"

"How much money are you planning on giving us?" Ye Xiu asked.

"F\*ck!" Lou Guanning shrunk back and looked left and right as if he had seen a ghost: "If you say it so directly, we'll definitely be punished by the Alliance, no?"



"Hahaha, of course." Ye Xiu was obviously familiar with the Alliance's rules. They would certainly be punished severely for violating the competitive integrity of the league. They had just been joking around. If it had been for real, they would have to take legal responsibility.

"Let's hurry up and go..." Lou Guanning hastily brought everyone inside as if the Alliance would discover them immediately if they kept standing outside the base.

If Lou Guanning was willing to spend money on a stadium, how could their facilities be lacking?

After passing through a relaxing green garden, they reached the center of Club Heavenly Swords. Chen Guo felt ashamed. Compared to the other side, her "huge investment" into their "grand gaming house" was nothing! Team Happy's players were so pitiful.....

Thinking of this, Chen Guo couldn't help but steal a glance at the others from Happy. The other three wore their usual expressions. After Steamed Bun saw the practice center, he even grumbled: "Why's it so far away! Our Happy is so much more convenient. It only takes a few steps to reach there after passing through the entrance to the neighborhood."

"Neighborhood?" Lou Guanning was at a loss.

"Yeah! Forest Park! It's a high class neighborhood!" From Steamed Bun's appearance, he seemed to be even more proud than when Lou Guanning had been standing beneath Team Heavenly Sword's logo and pointing at his stadium.

"Shut up, Steamed Bun!" Chen Guo felt even more embarrassed. Even though she knew that the difference between the two sides were night and day, Chen Guo couldn't help but compare herself to Lou Guanning as a boss, naturally making her want to cry. Steamed Bun was still feeling proud though. Chen Guo felt like she had been stabbed in the heart.

"What?" Steamed Bun scratched his head in confusion.

"Come, come. Please come in." Lou Guanning didn't understand what was going on and immediately shifted topics, inviting everyone inside.

The inside of the building was naturally luxurious. There was a leisure area, a gym, and so on, none of which Happy had. Chen Guo once again felt ashamed, and then Steamed Bun started talking again and instantly killed her with one question: "Where are the computers?"

"Ah? We're almost there..." Lou Guanning said slightly embarrassed. He quickened the pace.

They soon arrived at Team Heavenly Sword's practice room. The entire team was here. This time, it wasn't just the five-man crew. The other six recruited players were there too. Although these players were nameless, they still possessed pro-level skills. Practically all of them had once been a part of a pro team. Even though they hadn't directly been involved in the interactions between their team and Team Happy, they were still a part of Team Heavenly Swords, so they had an understanding of their relationship between them.

They gave a greeting and took a seat. Three sentences hadn't been spoken yet, and they were already chatting about Glory.

This place had such a good atmosphere and such great conditions. If they said that they wouldn't going to practice, it would be too impolite. Everyone was itching to play.

"Shall we play a round?" Lou Guanning said.

Ye Xiu hadn't been able to reply, when a very loud and clear laugh came in from outside the practice room: "Hahahaha, I'm back! Where's Old Lou? Hurry and come out?"

"Hm?" Ye Xiu didn't understand what was going on. He looked at Lou Guanning and saw that his face had turned ugly. He strode forward to close the door quickly, but the other side had already reached the door and held the door in place: "Hey hey! What are you doing? I see you! Don't hide!"

Helpless, Lou Guanning could only let him in. As a result, a person dressed brightly and neatly swaggered in flamboyantly. He completely fit the image of a rich person's son with white silken breeches. He looked around the room. He clearly wasn't a stranger to Heavenly Sword's players and gave a polite greeting to Zou Yunhai and the others. As for the remaining six Heavenly Sword players, he directly ignored them. His gaze then fell onto the few from Happy. The sight of Chen Guo and Tang Rou, two pretty girls, made his eyes light up.

"Wow, Old Lou! You've recruited again! It seems like you've got good eyes this time!" The newcomer blabbered noisily.

"Why haven't you left yet?" Lou Guanning asked.

"Hahaha, you're scared!" The newcomer said.

"I'm just annoyed, okay?" Lou Guanning said.

"I'm doing this for you! Look at your team and their record. I'm ashamed on your behalf. Improving your skill level is something you need to urgently do." The newcomer reproached.

This person's attitude made others feel disgusted. If it was Chen Guo and this took place in her domain, she would have already erupted, but this was Lou Guanning's place, so she didn't do anything. She was astonished when she heard these words. He sounded like he had some ability.

Before any conclusions could be made, he already waved his hands: "Wait a bit. When it's convenient for me, I'll immediately come back!" After saying these words, he ran out the door to the restroom. He was very familiar with the way there. It was as if Heavenly Swords was his own home.

"Who was that?" Ye Xiu and the others were curious.

Lou Guanning let out an expression of helplessness, "He's my childhood friend. We've known each other since we were young. Now that I've created a team, one of his pleasures is to find all sorts of ways to bother me. When he has nothing to do, he'll introduce experts for us to fight. He's so annoying."

"What's wrong with that?" Chen Guo didn't understand.

Lou Guanning looked gloomy: "Because if we lose even once, he'll blabber about it for an entire year!"

"How many times have you lost?" Chen Guo asked.

Lou Guanning couldn't bear to reply: "Three times... even though the people he finds aren't that good, but after enough times, an accident is bound to happen..."

"Little Bei, that shouldn't have happened that time." Zou Yunhai said.

"That time Xiye lost wasn't any better!" Wen Kebei complained at the injustice and shifted the subject.

"Old Lou losing that match was the worst!" Gu Xiye also shifted the aggro.

They shifted the blame back and forth. This wasn't how a team should deal with conflicts, but it could also be seen that none of them really considered it very important. They still felt quite annoyed at it though, which was why they were blaming others.

"Who knows who he's found this time!"

"Old Lou, hurry and lock the door!"

"I locked it last time too, but this guy set up a tent outside the door and almost started a barbecue outside."

The five entered a lively discussion. The others didn't chime in. Anyone with eyes could see that, although Lou Guanning and the other four appeared annoyed at him, they were undoubtedly friends. Their relationship wasn't shallow either. How else could he keep invading the team's practice room again and again?

But from this guy's behavior, he was clearly a bad friend.

The five were still chatting with each other. Their bad friend's voice had already sounded out from outside their door: "I'm back! Old Lou, are you ready? This time, don't run! He's challenging you!"

"Oh oh oh, Old Lou is up." The other four hollered.

"I don't have time." Lou Guanning replied roughly.

"Haha, I don't think it'll take too much of your time." The bad friend laughed and already entered the room.

"Old Lou, don't hold back. Go!" The other four saw that the target was Lou Guanning and started urging him to accept the challenge.

Lou Guanning thought for a moment. He walked around in a circle and then picked a seat to sit down: "Hurry up and have your people come!"

As he said this, he took out his account card, but first logged into QQ.

"God, help me teach this punk a very very very very very good lesson!" Lou Guanning messaged Ye Xiu. Then, he tossed his account card to him. Under the cover of a row of monitors, the account card slid to Ye Xiu's hands without anyone else noticing.

"Isn't that a little too cruel?" Sure enough, Ye Xiu was on QQ, and he replied.

"Yeah, the cruler the better. Kill him in a second and not a second and a half!" Lou Guanning replied.

## Chapter 928: Not An Easy Opponent

"Where's your guy?!" Lou Guanning's confidence instantly skyrocketed after handing his account card to Ye Xiu, giving a courageous yell.

"You seem very spirited, Old Lou. Don't be impatient. Your opponent will be here soon," saying this, he made to walk over.

"Don't come over! I won't give you a chance in hell!" Lou Guanning feigned worry about the other sneaking a peak and cheating. In reality, he was just afraid that the other would come over and his action of getting Ye Xiu to fight in his stead would be exposed.

"Wow, so serious? The more serious you are, the worse off you'll be!" He shook his head, sighing.

Though they were frenemies with one another, they were familiar with one another and knew each other well. Seeing how his guest was, Lou Guanning was quite surprised. This guy was strangely confident! Though this person didn't really play Glory himself, he interacted all too often with Lou Guanning and other Glory fans, and now came to try and throw a blow at Team Heavenly Swords. He had some sense of judgement. He was clear about Lou Guanning's current skill. A randomly found expert player probably wouldn't be able to handle Lou Guanning team, so the only thing he could hope for was that Lou Guanning would make some mistakes in the match and then mock them over the result. Now he was so confident from the start; had he found some sort of incredible player? Otherwise, with the high chance of failing that a normal expert would have, wouldn't his confidence be equal to holding his face out to be slapped?

Lou Guanning was a little doubtful, but when remembering that a God was using his account, he felt much steadier. However, he still acted shocked after seeing this guy's confidence, so that the other side wouldn't see through him and asked, "Who did you find?" Being friends was a two way road. As Lou Guanning understood him, he also understood Lou Guanning. The other had displayed excessive confidence, so Lou Guanning had to seem not too confident to avoid suspicion.

"Haha, you'll see," the other said.

This guy, he hadn't managed to get a pro player, had he?

Lou Guanning mumbled to himself. After all, it was the All Star Weekend, so all of Glory's pro players were gathered in City B. If this guy was willing to do whatever necessary to strike a blow at him, then he might've truly gotten a pro player to play for him!

As he was thinking, a figure came sight in the doorway. Lou Guanning stood up to take a look. Unfamiliar... This guy wasn't a pro player.

"Great, you're here. Then shall we start?" his frenemy looked eager, and made himself at home, giving his guest a seat at random.

The guest didn't bother talking, sitting down and taking out an account card from his pocket, swiping it and logging in.

"Room number," Lou Guanning secretly sent the message to Ye Xiu and announced it loudly after getting a reply.

The opponent's character quickly logged in and arrived at the arena, finding the room. The crowd had long since come to the room with their account cards to spectate. Using an account card to spectate made things much clearer than looking over one of the player's shoulders. Lou Guanning himself was also among the crowd, watching the opponent enter the room with everyone else with his smurf.

Another Summer of Sleep.

Their opponent's name was rather interesting, and, upon seeing the class, Lou Guanning immediately understood why he was the one challenged. This Another Summer of Sleep was also a Berserker.

"Let's go with the usual rules. Random map, one match game," Lou Guanning said.

"You don't want a few extra chances?" his frenemy asked.

"I don't have the time," Lou Guanning grumbled, "Let's start."

As he spoke, Ye Xiu very cooperatively chose the random map option, and begun the match. The countdown ended and the two were loaded into the map. Their randomly selected map was the one on one indoors map, Tavern.

One on one maps were never very large, but compared to the most commonly used map Arena, which was chosen when neither side wanted to spend too much time making a decision, it was much larger. For indoors maps, having many rooms was more annoying than having many obstacles. For this Tavern, there were five interconnected rooms along with an underground wine cellar, a total of six rooms.

Ye Xiu's Loulan Slash and Another Summer of Sleep were each in their own rooms, not knowing where the other was and walking to their respective rooms' exits.

All the spectators went to check out Another Summer of Sleep's equipment. The equipment of normal players' accounts could never compare to pro accounts. Yet, with the big update, normal players had a chance to close the gap between them and pros.

However, this was just a chance. Was level 75 Orange equipment something just anyone could get?

Yet when everyone checked Another Summer of Sleep's equipment, they were shocked. He had four pieces of level 75 Orange equipment already and this included an Orange weapon: Broadsword Edgeless. There was no need to mention the eye-catching level 75 Orange equipment's stats; but there was also a bonus effect at the end, Shatter, which increased the amount of durability equipment would lose in battle.

This was a vicious ability to have.

What was weapon durability? It was money!

If you simply found a blacksmith or something to repair your equipment in Glory, the equipment's maximum durability would decrease with each repair until it reached the lowest it could get and was no longer repairable. In order to prevent the maximum from dropping, you needed to find special materials

to repair it with. The better the equipment, the more expensive the materials needed were. That meant, the better the equipment, the more money its durability was worth.

This durability-wrecking weapon was like a thorn directly in his opponent's head! What was even more terrifying, was if they entered a long endurance battle, then this durability-destroying weapon might even manage to use up all of its opponent's weapon's durability. In Glory, the lowest durability was one, if the durability fell to zero, the equipment would break and become more useless than trash.

"Could it be that this guy specifically got a weapon like this just to destroy our equipment?" Lou Guanning silently began to suspect again. Though the equipment of Team Heavenly Swords was comparatively low quality in the pro circle, it was still leagues above normal players. That was why, when this frenemy found people to play for them, they would provide the equipment. This guy might not be anything in Glory, but so long as you had money, getting equipment and other gear was rather easy. In order to make trouble for Lou Guanning and entertain himself, this guy was very willing to make these sorts of investments.

It must be that guy's plan. Lou Guanning glared at his frenemy. However, with a god at the helm, Lou Guanning was certain that these schemes wouldn't work.

The two Berserkers darted about within the Tavern. Neither of them ran into the wine cellar, simply darting between the five rooms in an attempt to find each other. Finally, in one of the rooms, the two characters barged in through different doors and met each other.

Collapsing Mountain!

The one that struck first was Ye Xiu, using a very typical engaging move for Berserkers.

His opponent was very familiar with these mainstream tactics. Another Summer of Sleep jumped back slightly, and attacked with a Sword Draw, swinging his broadsword through the air. Collapsing Mountain's priority wasn't any lower than Sword Draw, so this Sword Draw wouldn't be able to send Loulan Slash, who was in the middle of performing a Collapsing Mountain, flying, but would still deal the damage. After completing this Sword Draw in close-quarters, Another Summer of Sleep jumped back a little again, accurately avoiding the range of even Collapsing Mountain's shockwave.

Ye Xiu was secretly rather shocked. This guy's counter attack with just these two jumps, the first jump was to avoid the blade itself so he could counterattack at the closest possible distance, and the second was to avoid the aftereffects of Collapsing Mountain that Sword Draw couldn't negate. The timing of these two jumps was incredibly precise. Finesse could be seen from this detail and coincidences didn't happen twice.

Ye Xiu immediately became more serious towards this. If this was a random opponent, he would probably not care if Collapsing Mountain had hit or not and directly continue striking down and attacking. However, after seeing the two jumps, Ye Xiu realized that if he continued this attack without care, then he would be struck down by the other's counterattacks. So, without waiting for the Collapsing Mountain to finish, he cancelled the skill in midair and switched to a Guard.

With a loud clang, the Sword Draw hit Loulan Slash's Guard, and Loulan Slash took this moment to land. The two Berserkers, in the first clash of their broadswords, had both chosen to use Blade Master skills.

The sound of the two broadswords clashing caused Lou Guanning's heart to jump. Who knew how much durability disappeared with this sound alone?

As Loulan Slash landed, Colliding Stab was immediately activated. The move was so swift it seemed like the character hadn't even landed and flew straight over.

The other had obviously not expected such skill from their side, harried as he dodged the Colliding Stab. Ye Xiu had Loulan Slash follow up with a Whirlwind Strike. The other's movements were swift as well, also using Whirlwind Strike. The two Berserkers wildly swung their respective broadswords at each other, the sound of the weapons clashing ringing out over and over again as blood splashed, their health dropping.

With Whirlwind Strike, it was required for a player to tech and change the angles of each swings to maximize damage. The two were obviously both teching the Whirlwind Strike, sometimes striking their opponent, sometimes parrying. By the time the two skills ended as one, the damage each of them had taken was about the same. As for the health of their weapons, the durability, Loulan Slash was definitely at a disadvantage.

Not bad!

The two thought to themselves. This sort of clash between two of the same skills was the best at portraying one's skill. If they ended up with approximately the same result, that meant their skills were at around the same level.

Just who was this person?

Ye Xiu couldn't help but carefully consider this question. How many people in the Glory circle could fight him to a standstill? Ye Xiu hadn't thought anything of it and didn't bother to look when the other came, but now he realized that this opponent wasn't easy to beat. If he wanted to look again, it was too late, because the two screens were in the way.

As for the challenger, he wasn't as surprised as Ye Xiu. After all, he thought his opponent was Lou Guanning and Lou Guanning was a pro player. It wasn't surprising that they would be about the same skill level.

"Again!"

Neither side spoke, only letting the word ring in their heads. The characters struck as one, broadswords a streak of crimson shadow. With another loud clang, this Wild Blood Strike, both striking at similar angles, became parries in the end.

Lou Guanning's heart was breaking!

God, don't play around like this! If you continue like this, you'll break my equipment! Please show a little more variation...

Chapter 929: Wild Exchange of Skills

The Wild Blood Strikes hit and both characters entered a short stun from the impact. Then in the moment that the stun ended, the characters attacked at almost exactly the same time. With a woosh, the two Berserkers both sent out a Gore Cross. This skill consisted of one horizontal strike and a vertical one. For two characters, that was a total of four strikes, yet only two clashes sounded out. The two had attacked at exactly the same time, even the sound effects were simultaneous.

Clang! Clang!

The Gore Cross clashed again, throwing sparks out. There wasn't much of an impact from these low level skills, so the two characters didn't pause in their movements. However, after this strike, Loulan Slash's broadsword's durability had gone down by a point.

It wasn't like durability fell quickly, otherwise under this sort of design, who could be able to afford maintaining their equipment? It was because these two fought too wildly, meeting attack with attack that their equipment would take so much wear. In a game like Glory, there were many small details like this. If you considered the addition of Another Summer of Sleep's Edgeless' bonus effect, Shatter, Loulan Slash's weapon's durability was draining rather quickly.

This one point drop in durability had Lou Guanning's heart in his throat. Like a scaredy-cat, Lou Guanning silently opened up a calculator. He wanted to calculate how long this battle could go on according to the time it took for this one point drop in durability.

Yet, before he even finished calculating, the situation changed. The two stopped meeting attacks with attacks, but instead started a fierce exchange of skills. However, this exchange of skills was a little too wild. There was little to no dodging or parrying, just exchanging hit for hit. Blood spurted from the two characters uncontrollably, and both Berserkers' broadswords were stained crimson with realistic blood. When they paused, there would be drops of blood that fell to the ground.

Though the two characters were both Berserkers, they had different equipment. That meant their health, defense, attack, etc would all be different. However, after this exchange, the percentage of damage each character had taken about the same. That was enough to show that there was a method to this seemingly crude exchange of blows. If it wasn't for the fact that they could maintain this balance, one side might've broken off from this exchange. Their silent agreement allowed both characters to reduce their health to 50 percent. The two Berserkers paused in their attacks.

Half health was a special point for Berserkers. Their passive skill, Blood Awakening, would be activated at half health. From this point on, the lower health the Berserker had, the higher their damage would be. From now onwards, how to exchange health for power was all a test for the player.

Lou Guanning was also a Berserker player, and seeing the pause between the two, immediately understood what was going on. These two had probably realized in their first few tryouts of their opponent's ability that the other wasn't an easy opponent, so they had decided to simply skip the first half of their health and entered the Berserker's Blood Awakening state to settle this.

The two's true ability would only be shown in the following clash!

Lou Guanning was extremely curious who this person was who could go toe to toe with a god. He wanted to stand up and take a better look, but he was currently pretending to fight a match, so he could only wait impatiently.



Everyone was focused on watching this match, and as the two paused in their movements, silence reigned in the room for a moment. The two Berserkers slowly raised their broadswords and began to circle each other step by step. Every action was extremely careful.

Fwoosh!

A bloody streak of energy shot out. Another Summer of Sleep was the first to attack. Slashing his left hand on the edge of his sword, he made a Blood Sword.

Ye Xiu had Loulan Slash quickly sidestep it. Another Summer of Sleep had already begun another attack, a Colliding Stab bringing the character charging over with his sword. Ye Xiu almost seemed like he couldn't react in time, Loulan Slash standing still in place. Yet, in the moment they came into contact, he suddenly acted and the two swords collided once more.

Clang!

The loud noise caused Lou Guanning's heart to stutter again. These two weren't going to start again, were they?

Yet the results weren't so. In this collision, Loulan Slash was definitely at a disadvantage. Though Ye Xiu had also responded with a Colliding Stab, in that instant, to resist Another Summer of Sleep's, Another Summer of Sleep had a running start, so the momentum of the attack was very different from Loulan Slash's. This clash of similar skills was Another Summer of Sleep's victory, and Loulan Slash skidded backwards. Not only did his weapon durability take a hit this time, his shoes probably lost quite a bit, too.

But with the current situation, Lou Guanning couldn't spare any heart to care about that. This action by the god was an obvious error. At times like this, what you needed was a purely defensive move like Guard. Parrying wouldn't be able to neutralize the charged energy from Colliding Stab. How could such a mistake happen with this god?

Did he have a plan?

Lou Guanning quickly thought of this. As expected, Loulan Slash, who had been pushed back, swiftly countered with a Collapsing Mountain. Another Summer of Sleep took this hit full force, from head to toe. He had no way of avoiding it, because he was still in the ending lag for Colliding Stab's animation and was locked in place for a moment by it. This was the timing Ye Xiu used to strike back.

Nice one!

Lou Guanning almost yelled aloud.

Using Colliding Stab to defend, Ye Xiu couldn't neutralize the impact from his opponent's Colliding Stab, but managed to neutralize the small stun the last impact would have on him. This allowed him to counterattack immediately. A Collapsing Mountain was timed just right, making his opponent incapable of avoiding it. With this, their exchange of skills had become two for one, with Ye Xiu obviously at an advantage. Collapsing Mountain hit full on, dealing much more damage than what little Another Summer of Sleep had dealt using his higher priority move.

In addition, analyzing this from a Berserker's point of view, Ye Xiu's choice to react with a Colliding Stab was a way of trading a little bit of health, allowing his attack to increase in strength.

How spectacular! Lou Guanning was, after all, a player of this class, and was able to instantly organize the information within the situation. In comparison to those who weren't familiar with Glory and just here to spectate, he was able to obtain way more information.

This Collapsing Mountain was just a start. When had a pro player's combo ever only consisted of one skill? Any time you managed to hit your opponent, you should always follow up with a flurry of attacks. That was a part of being a pro player.

As soon as the Collapsing Mountain hit the ground, a Back Slash following immediately. Then his body began to glow with a bloody light, using Berserk, Gore Cross, Heavy Hit... A string of skills landed. When Berserk neared its end, a Wild Blood Strike came down and sent Another Summer of Sleep spinning through the air. Loulan Slash didn't let up, slashing his left hand on the edge of his blade and activating a Blood Sword, getting one last strike in. After this, Berserk came to an end and Loulan Slash didn't keep chasing after, watching as Another Summer of Sleep landed, rolling to his feet.

This torrent of attacks directly chunked 15 percent of Another Summer of Sleep's health. Lou Guanning wasn't here just for fun, he was also analyzing as the battle went on. If it were a normal player, they would try to get in as high of a combo as possible after the first hit, as if that would maximize the damage. However, the torrent of attacks unleashed by that god didn't pursue that. He had accurately utilized Berserk's period of effect, and his choice of skills was all focused on control; they were all skills that made it hard for his opponent to break his combo.

The combo wasn't long, but its effects were impressive. Berserk's period of effect had been used to its fullest potential, taking 15 percent of health with it. If it was a normal player, they probably wouldn't be able to do as much damage even with a longer combo, and that was disregarding the possibility of their opponent breaking out of their combo.

So smart, so much depth!

Lou Guanning thought in awe, but at this moment, Another Summer of Sleep adjusted himself and immediately began to counterattack. His character didn't use a skill, but rapidly approached Loulan Slash.

Ye Xiu, of course, wouldn't back down. Loulan Slash charged forth to meet him. The two Berserkers still had quite a bit of distance between them when Another Summer of Sleep attacked first again. Colliding Stab, it was Colliding Stab again.

Was this guy's style so simple? Lou Guanning mumbled to himself. This skill again; wasn't he afraid of getting beaten the same way again?

Yet this time, Ye Xiu didn't use the same method as last time, but instead had Loulan Slash dodge this attack.

Why? Loulan Slash was confused. Having struck air, Another Summer of Sleep immediately cancelled the skill and his left hand grabbed out, crimson as if blood were pouring from his grasp.

Soul-Devouring Crimson Grip!

This was an AoE control skill, and all the characters in the range of Soul-Devouring Crimson Grip would be gripped by the aura of blood and dragged towards the character that used the skill.

However, this skill only took control of the target's movement, and not any other actions. Being pulled over didn't affect the other's ability to mount an offense. So, this skill would usually be used against ranged characters. For melee characters, it was just like giving them an accelerator.

Another Summer of Sleep's atypical decision confused Lou Guanning. As for Ye Xiu's Loulan Slash, he used this to power up a Colliding Stab, charging at his opponent.

Clang!

This was the sound of weapons colliding that made Lou Guanning's heart ache the most. Another Summer of Sleep didn't back down, but swung his sword to meet his opponent, using a Whirlwind Strike. The two swords clashed and though Whirlwind Strike was a higher level skill, it couldn't neutralize the impact of Colliding Stab. Another Summer of Sleep was knocked to the side, but he would've never thought that after sliding back two steps, Another Summer of Sleep would forcibly take a step forwards and strike Loulan Slash with another hit from Whirlwind Slash.

Slide back, advance, strike...

Another Summer of Sleep continued to use this strange routine to attack and Loulan Slash quickly understood that he was using Whirlwind Strike's controllable movement effect to neutralize the impact of Colliding Stab.

This, it was too confident...

Loulan Slash was secretly shocked. If you had him go and complete these mechanics, he wouldn't have the confidence to do so.

Then, Another Summer of Sleep made another action that Loulan Slash couldn't understand. After Whirlwind Strike neutralized the knockback, Another Summer of Sleep resolutely cancelled this skill and activated a new skill. By then, Whirlwind Slash still had at least a third of its time left. Why would he give up on the damage of the rest of this attack?

Gore Cross, Back Slash, Destruction Slash...

Another Summer of Sleep began a series of attacks as well, but Lou Guanning didn't think much of it. A god could easily break this sort of combo, right? Yet the combo was never broken and Loulan Slash took it all. Lou Guanning was shocked. What was this? Trading health?

Chapter 930: Calculating is Useless

The two inactive pro players were fighting a match even more difficult to understand than what was seen on stage in the Alliance. For a moment, Lou Guanning couldn't figure it out. It wasn't rare for Berserkers to trade health, but God's way of doing it was just too unprofessional. No one was going to just stand there and let the opponent hack them to increase their damage. The correct way should be like when Ye Xiu used Colliding Stab previously. It was calculative, and it had a purpose. From a long-term perspective, trading skills should make up for the health lost, especially in a 1v1.

Perhaps he was waiting for the right moment to break the opponent's combo and counterattack?

Lou Guanning could only guess. As a result, he began viewing the fight from this perspective and looked for openings. Lou Guanning's eyes lit up!

This opening was too good. He could use Wild Blood Strike and directly counter attack. It should be here, right?

During the time it took Lou Guanning to think of all that, Loulan Slash was hit again.

Why is he not using it? Lou Guanning was depressed. It was such a good opportunity... Suddenly, Lou Guanning realized where the issue lay.

Using Wild Blood Strike to forcefully counter the attack was certainly a good choice, but could Loulan Slash make this choice at that moment? His Wild Blood Strike was probably on cooldown.

As a result, Lou Guanning instantly understood.

When he carefully recalled Another Summer of Sleep's offense, Lou Guanning realized that those places, which he thought could be broken, were only in theory. In reality, those combos corresponded perfectly with Loulan Slash's skill cooldowns, leading these combos to be incapable of being broken. Ye Xiu wasn't trading his health away, but was truly being suppressed.

The person at the scene is baffled, but the onlooker sees clearly. That saying wasn't always true. If you weren't the player, some details could easily be missed. In that case, the saying should be that the person at the scene sees clear, but the onlooker is baffled.

After recognizing this point, Lou Guanning also immediately realized that God being on the defensive was about to end. Skills wouldn't permanently be on cooldown. After using Wild Blood Strike, Loulan Slash's skills had already been refreshed, but if Another Summer of Sleep was able to figure out his opponent's cooldowns and create such a combo, how could he not know that? After this attack, Another Summer of Sleep quickly activated Berserk. He dragged on the previous wave of attacks using Berserk and ended the combo with a high-level skill.

28%!

Another Summer of Sleep's wave of attacks lowered Loulan Slash's health by 28%. Loulan Slash's previous combo had only taken away 15% of his health, so under the effects of Blood Awakening, he possessed powerful combat stats. In addition, his combo had been far longer than Loulan Slash's. His combo was terrifyingly strong.

Lou Guanning couldn't help but be worried for Ye Xiu. Another Summer of Sleep's precise calculations and comboing proved that he was absolutely a top-tier expert. The opposing Berserker's skill level was a good level higher than his own. Lou Guanning didn't think he would have the ability to complete a chain of attacks taking the opponent's cooldowns so precisely into account, even more so facing a God.

Lou Guanning had all sorts of thoughts. The battle didn't stop though. After taking an enormous amount of damage, the first thing that Ye Xiu did was have Loulan Slash counterattack.

He was also taking advantage of the opponent's cooldowns!

Lou Guanning watched with understanding this time. He understood this strategy, but he couldn't utilize it as perfectly as Another Summer of Sleep. His set of combos made it seem as if the holes in Loulan Slash's skill cooldowns were lined up one after the other. His efficiency was unimaginably high.

If this guy could do it, God could probably do it too, no?

Lou Guanning was incomparably confident on this point, but he didn't consider that if Another Summer of Sleep could do it, then he would also be wary of it too. When the two Berserkers clashed again, Ye Xiu didn't quickly gain the upper hand like Lou Guanning had imagined. Another Summer of Sleep had been fighting wildly the entire time. Once he gained a clear advantage, he suddenly became a lot more conservative and emphasized defense.

The two characters once again began trading blows to reduce their health.

At the moment, Another Summer of Sleep had more health, while Loulan Slash had less, but because of the existence of Blood Awakening, his attack power was stronger. As a result, trading blows became more complicated. Which skill to choose required precise calculation.

The pace of the battle was still extremely fast, as if neither side wanted to give the other time to carefully think. As the blood splattered, the health of the two characters dropped. The observers watched the numbers change to see which side was winning or losing the exchanges.

God was slightly winning!

Lou Guanning concluded. Before, he had even pulled out a calculator to compute the loss in stamina for both sides. Later, he got so absorbed into the battle and forgot to close it. Now, he took it out again and nimbly computed it, reaching a conclusion very quickly.

This slightly winning wasn't enough! Because God's health value was lower. If this trade continued, Loulan Slash would be the one to fall first, unless he could suddenly find an opportunity to deal over 5% of his opponent's health. However, with how cautious both sides were being, this type of opportunity would be unlikely to occur.

Lou Guanning was anxious. After looking for a bit, he suddenly discovered that the health of the two characters wasn't decreasing at the same rate as he had predicted. Lou Guanning took out his calculator again and confirmed a discrepancy with his previous calculations. After puzzling over it for a bit, he soon figured it out. It was because it was a battle between two Berserkers. As their health fell, their attack power would constantly be changing, so trading attacks was much more complicated for them than with other classes. In this confrontation, besides testing the knowledge and technical skill of the two sides, it also tested their ability to calculate while fighting.

But due to the fast pace of the battle, it might be very difficult to do that for someone like Lou Guanning, who was using a calculator to make precise calculations. In this battle, their calculations most likely came from experience and intuition alone.

The two continued fighting. Lou Guanning had a calculator in his hands. He thought that he would have a better grasp of the situation than the two players, but in reality, because of how their battle strength changed as their health decreased, there wasn't much point in Lou Guanning calculating anything

because he couldn't make any future inferences based on the numbers. As for deciding who was winning... just looking at the health on both sides was enough. Calculating wasn't necessary.

Lou Guanning was calculating wildly like an idiot until the health of the two sides kept surprising him. Only then did he suddenly realize that he was being stupid. It was pointless to calculate. The only thing that could be concluded was the overall situation.

After a series of back and forths, Another Summer of Sleep's health was at 10%, while Loulan Slash's health was at 7%. There had originally been a 13% difference, but it had been pulled closer by 10%. Lou Guanning immediately started playing with his calculator again. By checking the rate at which their health dropped from trades, he realized that if Ye Xiu could keep this rate up, using his 7% to make a comeback over the enemy 10% was set in stone.

He really does deserve to be called a God!

Lou Guanning's worship for God increased, but then, the situation abruptly changed. The trading of attacks was disrupted. Another Summer of Sleep suddenly began fighting for the initiative.

"Tsk tsk..." Lou Guanning sighed, "This guy's skill level is really high. He's realized that if this continues, he'll lose. He has to put his all into the fight! But I'm sure that this is all within God's calculations. He must be prepared, right?"

From Loulan Slash's response, Ye Xiu had been prepared, but not longer afterwards, Lou Guanning discovered that Loulan Slash was still being suppressed.

6%...

5%...

4%...

Even though it wasn't considered a combo by the system, it was clear that Another Summer of Sleep held the upper hand. Blow after blow reduced Loulan Slash's health. He himself was also losing health, but with his health advantage, as long as the trading between both sides was equal, the one to fall in the end would be Loulan Slash.

How is that possible?

Lou Guanning was shocked. Victory and defeat was about to be decided. He felt so nervous that he couldn't calmly analyze the situation anymore and glanced at God sitting over there. Ye Xiu's expression was as calm as ever. His hands never stopped moving. However, he let out a light sigh; it didn't escape Lou Guanning's eyes.

He's going to lose!!!

Lou Guanning realized. He turned his head to check on the battle. Loulan Slash's health had fallen to 1%. Another Summer of Sleep's health was still around 5%. In the final stage of the battle, not only was Ye Xiu not able to pull the health disparity closer, the other side had increased the health difference to 4%.

Will there be a miracle?

Lou Guanning was still looking forward to it. Loulan Slash fell in the end. Ye Xiu had lost.

Who is this guy!

Lou Guanning's astonishment couldn't be described using words. He knew that there was always a winner and a loser in a Glory match. No one was invincible. Even God had lost numerous times in the pro scene, but he could not accept the reality in front of him. It wasn't just him. Chen Guo, Tang Rou, and Steamed Bun were so shocked that it looked like they had just seen the impossible.

Even when Loulan Slash only had 1% health remaining, they thought Ye Xiu would immediately suddenly burst out. It was only when Loulan Slash actually fell did they come back to reality. For them, Ye Xiu losing was even more shocking than Ye Xiu suddenly make a comeback with just 1% health left.

The practice room was completely silent. Lou Guanning's bad friend unexpectedly didn't jump out to start taunting him despite it being such a rare victory for him. For Lou Guanning's friends, this was definitely a miracle. This bad friend was also staring into blank space when the match ended. This match had been extremely thrilling and intense, even someone like him, who only had mediocre interest in Glory, was sucked in.

A moment later, this guy came back to reality. He didn't immediately begin mocking Lou Guanning. Instead, he stood up and stared at him. His face was filled with astonishment: "Old Lou, when did you become so good?"

"Your skill level is truly exceptional. Even though I won that match, who knows if I'd win again if we played another round. We'd have to start over from the beginning." Another Summer of Sleep also stood up and looked at Lou Guanning.

Lou Guanning couldn't sit still. He felt very ashamed. He was just about to admit the truth, when Another Summer of Sleep suddenly shouted: "What the f\*ck? Why are you here?"

"What?" Lou Guanning looked over in confusion. He saw that Another Summer of Sleep's astonishment was directed at Ye Xiu.

"It's you! No wonder!" Ye Xiu also looked over at the other guy. His expression was much more calm.

"You guys know each other?" Everyone else in the room was surprised.

"Ye Qiu!" When Another Summer of Sleep said this name, there was clearly a bit of anger within.

"Sun Zheping." Ye Xiu was still rather calm.