

## Avatar 711

### Chapter 711: All Forces Annihilated

Everyone could see just how dangerous the situation was. Howling Heights wanted to rescue him, but they lacked the strength to do so. Those farther away wouldn't be able to make it there in time. Those closer had been swept away by Tang Rou's attack and were trying to find their bearings. Their posture had been destroyed. The swaying motion could be felt too, making it difficult for players to move precisely. Interrupt? That would be completely impossible. As of right now, they could only wait and see if Zhao Yuzhe could escape on his own.

After seeing the enemy Battle Mage charge over and then get pulled back by Cloud Grasping Fist, Howling Heights felt enlightened. Players in the same group couldn't injure one another, so Cloud Grasping Fist couldn't be used to pull an ally back. That Battle Mage must have been kicked out of the group temporarily. As a result, West Riding Wind told his Howling Height's Qi Masters to hurry and pull him back, while also kicking Zhao Yuzhe's Hazy Scene from the group.

Hazy Scene had been kidnapped by Cloud Grasping Fist. Before he landed on the ground, a Sacred Fire was thrown onto his body.

Teleporting away wouldn't be possible anymore. Having been silenced, his character could only perform basic attacks and maneuvers. Elementalists sought after casting speed, not attack speed. If an Elementalist actually started beating an enemy with their staff, the Elementalist's attack wouldn't look like as if it were moving in slow motion, but it was slow enough to make melee classes uncomfortable. Melee classes, even those who used slower attack speed weapons like greatswords and spears, tended to value attack speed in other equipment, so none of them would be as slow as an Elementalist waving his staff around.

Zhao Yuzhe was a pro player though! No matter how much confidence he had in his own skills, as an Elementalist, he couldn't be completely unprepared for a close quarters combat fight. The instant he had been grabbed by Cloud Grasping Fist and burned by Sacred Fire, he decisively switched weapons from a slow staff to a much more agile magic wand. The difference in speed could visibly be seen. With a click of his mouse, Hazy Scene landed domineeringly on the ground and trembled.

Zhao Yuzhe heard Enlightened Lord speak in an astonished tone: "No way, Best Rookie. Falling Flower Palm is a skill too. You don't know what Sacred Fire does?"

This time, Zhao Yuzhe's face actually turned red.

Yes, in that instant, his brain had turned into mush. He had only been thinking about what methods he could use to escape from a close combat battle, so he switched his weapon. Then, he did the motion for a Falling Flower Palm to try and push the enemies in front of him away. He had completely forgotten about Sacred Fire's crowd control effect.

Sacred Fire sealed all skills, unlike the Elementalist skill Magic Shackles, which only sealed magic-related skills. It had no effect on physical skills.

This mistake from Zhao Yuzhe had purely been because his brain had short-circuited, not because he mixed the two skills up. When he had tried to perform Falling Flower Palm, it obviously failed. The only thing came out of his character was a stupid-looking tremble. Even worse, the other side had completely seen through his intentions.....

Amid the loud laughter, Hazy Scene fell to the ground.

Because of this mistake, Zhao Yuzhe was so ashamed, he couldn't focus. Tang Rou's Battle Mage used a Circle Swing and threw Hazy Scene onto the ground. Everyone swarmed him; their hands and feet flying about everywhere. Zhao Yuzhe received the notification that West Riding Wind had kicked him out of the group. He didn't misunderstand the action though and guessed West Riding Wind's intentions. However, when he looked around, Hazy Scene was already surrounded by players. Cloud Grasping Fist couldn't pass through enemies. How would they manage to grab him?

Zhao Yuzhe tried one last struggle and swung his magic wand.

Players had complete control over their normal attacks. When Zhao Yuzhe's Hazy Scene swung his wand, it looked like it had come from a Battle Mage.

Of course, a normal attack didn't have the power or priority of a skill, but it could still hit people's feet. Unfortunately, he had only started his swing, when Tang Rou's Battle Mage stabbed at the ground, blocking it.

This Battle Mage wasn't weak at all.....

Zhao Yuzhe had become determined a bit too late. The enemy weapons rained down on him and he died instantly. From his ghost's perspective, he saw those guys scrambling over to grab his dropped equipment. As for Howling Heights? Their Qi Masters had only just arrived at the front of the group, but they couldn't see their target at all. West Riding Wind shook his arm and Howling Heights charged, but it was over for Zhao Yuzhe..... Everything was over. How could he have the face to stand up and fight again! He could only blame himself for being too arrogant and not taking the game seriously enough.

Zhao Yuzhe logged off. His character didn't revive at all.

This character wasn't his. It belonged to the Club. After using it, he would need to return it to West Riding Wind. He originally wanted to use his vacation time and show off in game, but who would have thought that things would turn out so badly? He had already died twice... Out of all those Howling Height players, which of them had died twice today?

Zhao Yuzhe didn't want to show off in the game anymore. Playing together with his fans would only make him feel more embarrassed. He was even somewhat unsure of how he should return this account card. How would those people in the guild studio look at him? Zhao Yuzhe stared blankly at his computer screen.

Howling Heights seemed to have gone insane. Ye Xiu immediately ordered everyone: "Fight back a bit and then retreat. Let's see if they'll leave or not!"

Their previous retreat had created some distance between Heavenly Justice and Howling Heights, but now that Howling Heights was charging at them again, they thought in the same way as the other three guilds and fought back a bit before retreating.

Howling Heights charged to the front and immediately saw Hazy Scene's corpse sprawled on the ground. Many of the loyal fans were furious. West Riding Wind checked his friends list. Little comrade Zhao had since logged off. It seemed like the blow to his pride wasn't light!

West Riding Wind couldn't stop his players from becoming furious. It had nothing to do with benefits, but rather their honor. Their team's player had been killed. Everyone wanted revenge.

"Sigh, what a terrible loss....." West Riding Wind sighed to himself. He could only watch as his troops angrily attacked Heavenly Justice out of revenge. At this moment, he also noticed that Conquering Clouds, Radiant, and Parade had begun to move.

Of course.

They thought Howling Heights would just charge out and leave. Of course, they would quietly let them go, but Howling Heights refused to rest against Heavenly Justice though. As allies, how could they stand still and continue watching?

The guild leaders had given the orders and their troops began to move.....

Half an hour passed.

Zhao Yuzhe was still staring blankly at his screen. It wasn't like he had never suffered a loss before, but he had never felt so miserable. The game should have been a leisurely place, yet why did he lose face instead?

Just when he was lost in thought, he suddenly heard a knock at his door. Zhao Yuzhe woke up and confirmed that it was his door.

During the break, the Club didn't mind the player staying in the provided dorms. The majority of players chose to leave though, whether it was for their families or to travel. Even those who still wanted to play Glory might not stay at the Club. In Team Wind Howl, besides him, there weren't any other players here. Who would knock on his door.....

Zhao Yuzhe opened the door and saw the guild leader West Riding Wind. He immediately fell silent.

West Riding Wind had to muster up the courage to knock on Zhao Yuzhe's door. Zhao Yuzhe stayed offline and never logged back on. West Riding Wind could imagine how he was feeling right now, but he felt like he should come over. Even though their guild department didn't need to be concerned about a pro player's condition or growth, West Riding Wind was still a loyal fan of Team Wind Howl. Their team's Best Rookie had taken a truly heavy blow. He was in the area, so he wouldn't ignore the issue and instead went to go console him, especially since he knew that there weren't any players around besides Zhao Yuzhe.

When he opened the door, Zhao Yuzhe really was depressed. It was as if he wasn't the same person, who had come running over to him that morning in high spirits.

"Uh..... I saw that you logged off and never logged back on, so I came over to check up on you." West Riding Wind said.

"What's the situation over there?" Zhao Yuzhe asked.

"Extremely heavy casualties." West Riding Wind told him the truth. Zhao Yuzhe was no longer there. The four guilds had banded together. How could Howling Heights resist? Even more so when very few of them were still cool-headed. In the end, Howling Height's troops were completely annihilated. Heavy casualties was actually an understatement.

Zhao Yuzhe didn't ask any further questions. He just suddenly went blank again. He seemed to have forgotten that West Riding Wind was still in his room.

"Ahem....." West Riding Wind coughed to interrupt the awkward silence: "It's no big deal. It happens in the game all the time."

"Besides, we were against four guilds allied together and even a demon like Ye Qiu. Let alone our Howling Heights, even the Three Great Guilds would have been easily crushed." West Riding Wind said in order to ease the embarrassment in Zhao Yuzhe's heart. He could tell that this Best Rookie ran to the game thinking he was invincible. Then, he ended up dying twice. He had been singled out the first time, but the second time, he had been the focus of a huge group! Let alone pro players, even guild leaders like Tyrannical Ambition's guild leader Jiang You and Heavenly Justice's Loulan Slash were priority targets. Pro players should be worth even more than guild leaders!

"You... don't need to console me....." Zhao Yuzhe wasn't stupid. He could see through West Riding Wind's intentions.

"Oh oh...." West Riding Wind didn't want to say too much. Zhao Yuzhe had high aspirations. He was afraid that if he said too much, Zhao Yuzhe misunderstand and think he was underestimating him. That would not be good.

"Just..... Keep up the good work!" West Riding Word left these words of encouragement. He could mediate arguments between guild members, but he had never provided mental counseling for pro players before!

"That Battle Mage and Brawler with them. Who were they? They seemed to be like Ye Qiu's Enlightened Lord without any guild tags." Zhao Yuzhe asked.

"Oh, those two. They aren't using their actual accounts. That Brawler is called Steamed Bun Invasion. The Battle Mage is called Soft Mist. These two have been with Ye Qiu ever since he began in the tenth server." West Riding Wind had noticed them. Looking at their classes, he was certain that these two were definitely them.

"Steamed Bun Invasion..... Soft Mist?" Zhao Yuzhe took note of their names. At the same time, he pointed at the table: "That account card, Hazy Scene. Is it okay if I keep using it?"

"No problem. No problem at all." West Riding Wind immediately replied.

Chapter 712: Worries of the Alliance

Dying in the game had been difficult for Zhao Yuzhe to accept, but it wasn't a setback he couldn't recover from. Asking West Riding Wind about Tang Rou and Steamed Bun showed that he recognized

that these two players weren't normal. Keeping the account card also signified that he didn't plan on giving up either.

Seeing how Zhao Yuzhe hadn't gotten tilted, West Riding Wind felt gratified. However, he wasn't sure if he should allow Zhao Yuzhe to keep on hunting wild bosses with them. Having a pro player's assistance naturally improved their strength significantly, but Zhao Yuzhe alone wasn't enough to deal with God Ye Qiu and the four guild alliance. In fact, the confrontation resulted in injuring the confidence of Team Wind Howl's future star. It was a difficult decision to make. After leaving Zhao Yuzhe's room and returning to his room, he could already feel his head begin to hurt.

Ye Xiu didn't care about what was happening at Howling Heights.

Snatching the boss was already a victory. Howling Heights didn't seem to know what was good for them and had continued to persistently attack, ending in their quick demise. Even though it didn't matter too much for Club guilds, from an emotional perspective, it felt very good. Equipment dropped by Howling Height players scattered the ground. The four guilds had a good time picking them up.

With their statuses as Club guilds, arguing over who should get which spoils of war was a bit meaningless. How to split the boss drops held a higher priority.

The five parties discussed the list of drops and split the goods. A perfectly even split wasn't possible, but if one party lost a bit this time, that party would gain it back in the next wild boss hunt. The five guilds were quite trusting of each other now, so everything was much easier to agree on.

Afterwards, each party returned to the city and went to do their own thing. The subject of this battle still continued though. After all, this battle had been a bit abnormal. For example, this was the first time the alliance had won a Level 70 wild boss from a powerful guild. The alliance also defeated a guild, which had the assistance of a pro player, and the Best Rookie at that. That guild refused to give up too and was wiped out.

This battle made the guilds, which could usually only "poach", happy for a long time.

This battle was truly eye-brow raising! Many people had these thoughts.

This day, the Alliance kept on receiving news of bosses and continued to fight for them, reaping bountiful harvests, especially for low leveled Level 55 and Level 60 wild bosses.

This had to do with the big guilds not attaching as much importance on low-leveled wild bosses. However, guilds like Parade and Radiant went all out for these Level 55 and 60 bosses.

In truth, with the current development state of these smaller Club guilds, they needed these lower-leveled wild bosses because these guilds recognized their own strength and only did what they could do with that strength. If they needed to use Level 70 wild boss materials for all of their Silver equipment, it would be truly be too difficult for them. They couldn't grab any in the game and no one sold such materials on the market. In the end, they could only shelve those blueprints. As a result, the smaller Club guilds mainly researched low-end Silver equipment. After all, they had a decent chance at scavenging these low-leveled wild bosses.

Ye Xiu couldn't care less. They didn't have any Silver equipment to begin with. Let alone Level 55 and Level 60 Heavenly Domain wild bosses, he still needed wild bosses from the normal servers. He didn't have the strength to do that right now though.

One day, two days, a week passed.

A total of 74 wild bosses spawned every week in the Heavenly Domain. The Alliance was able to win 33 of these wild bosses, a very impressive number. Up until now, no guild had ever reached such a number. Those Three Great Guilds only got a few more than the other guilds. Being able to reach double digits was already quite amazing. However, because these 33 bosses were split between five parties, each party only got around 6-7 wild bosses each, which was on par with what the top guilds usually got every week. However, for Heavenly Justice, this was a huge breakthrough. Moreover, since only 74 wild bosses spawned every week, if the Alliance took away 33, the other guilds must have gotten much less than before.

The core members of the big guilds had fervent discussions over this topic in the chat group. God Ye Qiu's destructiveness finally came and this time, it directly touched on the meaning of why Club guilds existed. This wasn't something they could deal with.

As the Alliance stole the spotlight and snatched bosses this week, the core members of the guilds argued for a week, but couldn't come up with a solution.

There were only two ways to salvage this situation. The first way was to disperse the opponent's alliance. The second way was to come out with a force that could compete with the Alliance.

Dispersing the alliance would be way too difficult. It looked practically impossible right now at least.

The alliance guilds gathered together by Ye Xiu used to be pitiful. In the past, they practically never earned any wild bosses. The alliance could be classified as giving medicine to a dead horse. They had nothing to lose, so they were naturally willing to make this gamble. After tasting sweet victory, they had the confidence to continue now. Maybe after they became stronger, the alliance might crumble, but that would be in the distant future. As of now, the alliance was very stable.

As for fighting back against the alliance, the various guilds had tried doing so by sending out more troops. It worked. After all, of those 74 wild bosses, they ended up taking 41, but the results weren't good. There were around ten guilds capable of fighting for wild bosses and they had to split 41 bosses? Every guild had a noticeable drop in harvests because 33 wild bosses had been forcefully snatched away.

Their solutions weren't able to increase their respective guild's competitive strength from the roots. What else could they do? They thought of an alliance, but everyone instantly fell silent at that thought. An alliance would be way too difficult for them. They fought against each other for wild bosses, dungeon records, etc. daily for since the creation of Glory. The accumulated rancor between one another was infinite. Suddenly, they had to let go of their enmity and join hands? That wasn't something they could accomplish with just a few words.

Finding a reliable partner was difficult among guilds. More importantly, allying with their competitors didn't fit with their duties as Club guilds.

Even if their guilds weren't on the road to winning the championships, they at least went for the playoffs. Beating their opponent in the game matched well with their team getting a good record in the Pro Alliance.

They were different from guilds like Conquering Clouds, Radiant, and Parade. These guilds were considered too weak to earn a high placing, but were too proud for a low one. Going for the playoffs? These guilds didn't have the ability. Staying in the Alliance and not get relegated? They had done this for many years, so they weren't under much pressure. For these teams, which read books to the princesses, their growth was much more important than beating other teams. In order to grow, they were okay with sharing the benefits with one another. It wasn't something ambitious teams like Blue Rain, Samsara, or Tiny Herb could do.

For these championship teams, anything that could weaken their opponent could increase their chances at becoming the champions. Victory was accumulated bit by bit. Robbing their opponent's resources wasn't enough. Now they would have to share resources with their opponents? How could the group chat not fall into silence?

An alliance was possible, but not between any of the guilds in the chat group.

Besides an alliance, there weren't too many options. They had to compete against the other guilds too. If it wasn't done properly, they might give the others an opportunity to take advantage of them.

How difficult!

Although all 74 wild bosses had spawned, the week wasn't over yet. The various guilds were getting ready for next week's work.

Radiant, Conquering Clouds, Parade, and Heavenly Justice were in accordance with who these guilds wanted as allies. If they could ally with these guilds, they would weaken their current competitors.

It wasn't just one or two guilds thinking about it either. Radiant, Conquering Clouds, and Parade suddenly became very popular. Their guild leaders were personally messaged by the leaders of the top guilds.

"It must have felt good getting all of those bosses this week. How about you come and kill bosses with us? With your four guild alliance and Ye Qiu, the drops are split between five parties right? You guys killed quite a lot of bosses last week, but the average number you got is just so-so, no? If you ally with us instead, we can get the same results, but each of us will get 16 wild bosses? Isn't 16 an impressive number?"

All sorts of persuasive words were said. They really were enticing.

They were only able to get 6-7 bosses this week. If they could get 16-17 the next week, how could that not be an attractive offer?

16-17..... 16-17.....

These two numbers left these guild leaders in a trance. If they could get 16-17 wild bosses every week, they would grow at breakneck speed!

While these guild leaders were at a loss at what to do, they received invites. Ye Xiu had formed a QQ group.

"How is it? You've probably received a lot of enticing offers, right?" Ye Xiu got right to the point.

"No? What offers?" Radiant's White Stream played it dumb.

"Yeah. Quite a few guilds are looking to ally with our Heavenly Justice." Loulan Slash was honest. His past experience taught him that it was better to be honest with Ye Xiu.

The other two guild leaders saw his message, but didn't say anything. In any case, someone had already said they got offers, while the other one didn't. They might as well wait and see what Ye Xiu would say.

Ye Xiu typed a smiley face: "Little White, why are you pretending you don't know?! Did you think that I wouldn't receive an invite?"

Chapter 713: Excellent Era Card Shuffle

White Stream felt very embarrassed at after being called out by Ye Xiu and hearing Loulan Slash's honesty. After thinking about it, there was no reason that the others would only look for Radiant. Acting dumb was naive and childish.

"Ahem...." White Stream wasn't sure what to say at this moment.

"The reason I added you guys to this chat was to remind you to endure this ordeal!" Ye Xiu said. He didn't seem to mind White Stream's conduct.

"What are your thoughts?" Loulan Slash asked.

"Nothing really." Ye Xiu smiled, "This is a good indicator that they're fearful of our Alliance. They don't have any effective methods to deal with us, so they resorted to seeking their own alliances. For these guilds, sharing their profits is certainly very painful for them. If they've chosen to walk this path, then they must not have any other paths to walk."

"Thus, we cannot renounce our current advantageous position." Loulan Slash clearly stood by Ye Xiu's side.

"However, our future will definitely be more grim. After all, apart from us, there are other Club guilds to choose from. It's possible that two competitive guilds will ally together, so I need to confirm whether or not everyone has the confidence to continue cooperating. If any of you have intentions of accepting another guild's invitation, please say it. What's the point in hiding? You'll be exposed the next time a boss spawns anyways. Speak out now and we can part on good terms!" Ye Xiu said.

"I have no intentions of leaving." Loulan Slash expressed.

"I'm satisfied with our current circumstance." Conquering Cloud's Yue Ziqin confirmed.

"Let's keep working hard together." Parade's Martial Awareness said.



"Sigh... it'd be too embarrassing to say otherwise....." White Stream also decided to stay. Ye Xiu never called him out in his speech, but he had still "hid" the matter already, so it was a bit of a slap to the face. The slap was justified though, so he couldn't say anything about it.

"I want everyone to recognize a cause and effect relation. The guilds are looking to doing something as painful as making alliances because of our existence. If our alliance broke up, their most formidable competitor will have disappeared and everything will go back to normal. If that happened, they wouldn't bother looking for an alliance anymore." Ye Xiu said.

"You're right." This time, Yue Ziqin responded the fastest, "This is probably the scheme that the other guilds have come up with. It's only by staying together that we can prevent a disaster from unfolding. If we fight amongst ourselves, at best, we'll only be able to pick up the scraps."

The other three including White Stream agreed as well. Ye Xiu's reasoning was very clear. As Club guild leaders, if they couldn't understand this cause and effect relation, their capabilities would be questionable.

"Ha ha, as long as no one has any doubts, that's good. Let's keep up the good work next week." Ye Xiu said.

The chat group immediately fell silent. The crisis had been resolved. No matter how the other guilds tried, the four guild alliance wouldn't budge. Even White Stream, who had wavered the most in the beginning, didn't make a second mistake.

The alliance held together. The remainder of the day went well for them. When they had nothing to do, they would stare foolishly in joy at their harvest this week. They had never seen such a bountiful harvest before! Yue Ziqin, White Stream, and Martial Awareness had done exceptionally too. Their Clubs felt surprised at their accomplishments. After asking how they achieved it, they realized what these three guilds had done. The three guild leaders received praise from their respective Clubs and their monthly salary would naturally reflect it.

As for Loulan Slash, he was the owner, so his guild's success and failures depended on him, which saved a lot of trouble.

While some were happy, there would naturally be others that were unhappy.

For example, Howling Heights had tragic results last week. They actually failed to get even a single boss. Speaking of which, Howling Heights had never been considered first-class in terms of guild strength. When they competed for bosses, they usually didn't hold an advantage. On their first day this week, they had the help from a pro player and managed to crush even Tyrannical Ambition. However, after that battle, Zhao Yuzhe never came back to help them.

When West Riding Wind left Zhao Yuzhe that day, he felt like it shouldn't be like this, but he felt too embarrassed to ask. This week's work was over, but he still saw no signs of Zhao Yuzhe appearing. West Riding Wind thought to himself: did he also go on vacation? But when he checked the pro player residential area, Zhao Yuzhe was clearly still there.

He was still there, but he hadn't logged on in the past few days. Had that guy pretended to be okay that day, when he was actually still depressed? West Riding Wind immediately thought of this possibility.

West Riding Wind knocked a few times on the door to Zhao Yuzhe's room. When he pushed open the door to look, he saw Zhao Yuzhe in front of his computer, focused on practicing.

Correct, practice!

Zhao Yuzhe wasn't depressed. After suffering defeat in the game, he felt like he wasn't skilled enough. Being beat by God Ye Qiu was fine, but that Brawler, Steamed Bun, and that Battle Mage were nobodies, yet they proved troublesome.

Was it because the opponents were strong? Or because he was too weak?

Zhao Yuzhe had these kinds of thoughts in the beginning, but he had already discarded those. It didn't matter if his opponents were strong or if he was weak, the only path was to improve. It wasn't like he could pray that his opponents would suddenly become weak, right?

Zhao Yuzhe was focused on practicing and didn't notice West Riding Wind coming into his room. West Riding Wind stood at the entrance and took a few glances. After seeing how Zhao Yuzhe was in the middle of practice, he didn't bother him. He quietly closed the door and left.

No Club guild would be idle. Facing this week's struggle for bosses, they had to figure out a way to answer back. They couldn't just do the same next week as this week and continue watch Ye Qiu take away their resources with his alliance. That would be sitting and waiting for their own death.

This week wasn't over yet.

The new week just happened to be on the first day of a new month — July.

That morning, Ye Xiu followed his usual sleep schedule. When he went downstairs to eat breakfast, he saw Chen Guo holding a bowl and standing at the Internet Cafe entrance, looking at something outside.

"What are you looking at so early in the morning?" Ye Xiu wasn't in a hurry to finish his breakfast. He lit up his cigarette and walked over.

Chen Guo didn't say anything. She grabbed her chopsticks and pointed. Ye Xiu looked in that direction and saw Club Excellent Era. Numerous fans were gathered there, and quite a few were holding banners up high. Ye Xiu read the words and understood. The fans of Excellent Era were gathered around the Club to welcome Xiao Shiqin. July 1st was the official start of the transfer window for the Glory Alliance. Xiao Shiqin's transfer to the Club had already been announced, it would naturally be officially completed today.

"He really did come." Chen Guo sighed. They were probably the people who didn't find Xiao Shiqin welcome in the entire City H. Xiao Shiqin could change the entire Excellent Era into a team, which Ye Xiu might not even be able to recognize anymore.

Club Excellent Era.

Tao Xuan rushed over to the Club early that morning and confirmed everything with the reporters gathered around. Xiao Shiqin's transfer wasn't a small matter, especially with Excellent Era having been relegated. This All Star player actually chose to sacrifice a year and invest his time with Excellent Era, which naturally gave Tao Xuan a very good impression of him.

Tao Xuan stood by the window of his office. When he saw all of the fans gathered outside the Club, he felt like the move he made was incredibly beautiful. He hadn't seen so many fans looking forward to their future in a while. Last season, fans usually gathered outside the Club to shout angrily at their team's performance, throwing trash and protesting. It was much better now. Everything had ended. Tao Xuan was in an exceptional mood right now.

At the same time, the players living on the first floor such as Liu Hao and He Ming stood by the window too, looking outside at the fans crowded around the entrance. They were gnashing their teeth in anger though.

The three days prior to today, Liu Hao was both conflicted and looking forward to Xiao Shiqin.

At the end of the last season, when Excellent Era's win record was in shambles, Liu Hao had already started thinking of leaving. After their relegations from the Alliance were certain, he was even more sure of his decision. However, he didn't think the Club would announce Sun Xiang remaining on the team and Xiao Shiqin joining. This made Liu Hao waver.

Any player hoped to win the championships one day. Liu Hao was no exception. With Xiao Shiqin, even though Team Excellent Era was still a relegation team, on paper, their strength immediately became a contestant for the championships. Although they would need to play a year in the Challenger League, once that year passed, they would aim for the championship cup. It didn't sound too bad.

The Club's secret but exciting plan made Liu Hao waver. He didn't really want to leave Excellent Era, in fact. He was currently Excellent Era's vice-captain. He had quite some seniority in the team. If he switched to another team, what type of status would he have there?

However, if Xiao Shiqin came..... Liu Hao felt like his position as vice-captain couldn't be kept. Xiao Shiqin was clearly more suitable for the position. He even had the qualifications to replace Sun Xiang as the captain. How would the Club arrange everything? Liu Hao tried to search for answers from the manager Cui Li, but he didn't get a satisfying response.

After thinking about it over and over again, Liu Hao still decided to stay because he had received information from the internal department. Not only was Xiao Shiqin transferring, his Mechanic Life Extinguisher was also transferring over.

An All Star player and an All Star Character. Despite Excellent Era getting relegated, the team's strength had increased. Liu Hao couldn't ignore it. He decided that he would sacrifice a year too and continue playing with Excellent Era. Next year, they would return to the Alliance and aim for the championship cup.

He believed that he would win more glory than he could ever achieve before with the current Excellent Era. Even though Xiao Shiqin was a danger to his position as vice-captain, he couldn't be stripped of his seniority and foundation in Excellent Era. With the team's current situation, Liu Hao felt like he would still be a senior within the practice room.

The day Xiao Shiqin arrived soon came for the conflicted yet expectant Liu Hao. But three days prior to Xiao Shiqin's arrival, in a team conference, the Club unexpectedly sent ice-cold notifications to both Liu Hao and his best friend, He Ming.

The two of them had been bargaining chips for Xiao Shiqin's trade and had been transferred to Team Thunderclap. They had three days to pack up their belongings and leave on the first of July.

#### Chapter 714: Trade

Besides the news of Xiao Shiqin transferring to Excellent Era, no other details were revealed because the transfer period hadn't begun yet at that time. Leaking Xiao Shiqing's transfer was already violating the rules. If they said too much, the Alliance might penalize them..

As a result, no one else besides the higher ups in the Club knew about the concrete details of the transfer up until three days ago, where everyone in the Club was notified that Xiao Shiqin's transfer wasn't a purchase, but a trade. Unfortunately, Liu Hao and He Ming had become the bargaining chips. They knew that their departure was a foregone conclusion. Traded players had practically no authority over the matter. It was entirely different from a purchase.

In a purchase, the Club and player would talk about breaking off the player's current contract and then discuss the player's contract with the new Club. During this process, the player's willingness was conclusive. If the player refused to transfer, the Club could not do anything about it.

But this problem didn't exist when trading players. When two Clubs traded players, they could directly trade contracts and continue fulfilling the obligations written in the contracts. The Alliance permitted it with the requirement that the new Club must carry out all of the clauses according to the original contract. During this process, the player had no power besides renouncing his or her current contract and returning to a free agent. In that case, the player would forcefully cancel the trade. However, breaking off the contract would naturally require the player to play the appropriate compensation written in the contract. The Club could also inform the Alliance and apply for other penalizations. The gains definitely didn't make up for the losses.

Although these were the rules, the majority of Clubs would discuss their intentions with their players even for trades. If the Club was too forceful, wouldn't it make their other players worry? But for this time's transfer, Excellent Era didn't give Liu Hao or He Ming any heads up, showing their decisiveness and determination for this transfer.

Liu Hao and He Ming were naturally furious after being told last minute to pack up their belongings and leave.

Liu Hao understood that this was their boss destroying the bridge after crossing the river.

Liu Hao could be considered as being on the frontlines in the battle to forcefully kick Ye Qiu out of the team. How could the Club not know of him performing sinister deeds up and down the line? He would even intentionally let the Club see his dirty work at times. The Club kept silence though and in these sorts of situations, silence indicated their support. The Club couldn't openly order him to kick Ye Qiu out. There would be a lot of rumors in that case.

Liu Hao understood all of this, which was why he became he even more resolute in his actions. However, now he understood the Club's cunning. Even though he helped the Club with their dirty task, there was nothing he could say if they kicked him out after the task was finished. What could he do? Take credit

for kicking Ye Qiu out? The Club would simply refuse to admit it. He couldn't just say "you understand" to clear up the issue.

He couldn't draw outside support either. He couldn't tell the public: after the Club is finished using you, they'll throw you aside!

The public will ask: how did they use you?

You answer: I helped the team kick Ye Qiu out!

The Club would interrupt: When did we let you kick Ye Qiu out? You brute. To think Ye Qiu retired because of you. We have such poor eyes. We actually raised up such a thankless wretch.....

The whole truth would become clear and he would take all the blame. From then on, his name would be slandered, and the fans would find him despicable. How could he continue staying in the scene?

Liu Hao wasn't stupid. He could only grind his teeth and endure it. Perhaps in the future, after he retired, he may be able to tell everyone of Club Excellent Era's despicableness, but he had to consider his future as a pro player right now.

Thunderclap... even with Xiao Shiqin, the team had no hopes for the championship title. Liu Hao didn't want to waste his youth with this kind of team. A player could only be transferred once during the transfer window. Therefore, he could not transfer from Thunderclap to another team this summer. He would need to wait for the next half of the season for the winter transfer period before acting.

This was Liu Hao's plan for the future. While reflecting over his future for the past three days, he would also think of the scene, when Ye Qiu's retirement had been announced and his departure from the team. Seven months had passed since then and now he had been forcefully sent away by Excellent Era.

If it were Ye Qiu in his position right now, would Ye Qiu choose to break off his contract and freely walk out from the entrance?

He definitely would.....

He didn't know why, but Liu Hao was certain. But what about him? Break off his contract? That was just something he and He Ming had privately discussed out of pure anger. During this moment of anger, even he could feel that he was an ass in a lion's skin. Yes, he didn't have the courage nor the confidence in a life and death struggle.

In the end, he could only submit to his humiliation. After packing up his belongings and sending them to Team Thunderclap, he and He Ming planned on leaving today to Team Thunderclap.

The final moment before their departure, Liu Hao saw the fans welcoming Xiao Shiqin outside the entrance. The scene only made him more sullen.

Even now, Excellent Era still hadn't announced the details of Xiao Shiqin's transfer to the public. They would perhaps announce it once Xiao Shiqin officially joined. But by then, Liu Hao and He Ming would have already left to a new team. They couldn't even enjoy a send off ceremony. They had a lot of fans in Excellent Era!

"Let's go?" He Ming quietly said. He didn't feel any better than Liu Hao. However, Liu Hao had been Excellent Era's vice-captain and a senior member of the team. That drop in status felt by Liu Hao wasn't something He Ming could understand.

Liu Hao nodded his head. His gaze moved away from the crowd of fans as he gave one last look at the place he had lived in ever since he had joined the competitive scene. At last, he and He Ming walked out of the room.

The corridor outside of their room was bustling with noise. The employees of the Club were scurrying back and forth. The boss had ran over to the Club early in the morning to inspect everything, so the employees couldn't help but be prepared ahead of time. They traveled back and forth past Liu Hao and He Ming. None of them stopped to say anything to them.

They might not know about their transfer. But in any case, that wasn't the main event of today.

When the two passed by the practice room, they saw a large banner inside welcoming Xiao Shiqin and felt the urge to burn it. Excellent Era's boss, Tao Xuan, was also inside personally watching over the employees arrange everything. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw the two standing outside the door. Tao Xuan turned around and walked over. He extended his right hand with a smile on his face, but it was hard to say why exactly he was smiling.

When the boss walked over, many of the surrounding people tensed up. When they saw the two standing outside the door, they understood. Then, they saw the boss shake He Ming's hand: "You're going to leave? I must thank you two for your contributions to the club!"

His words couldn't be anymore fake, but the boss was personally speaking. The employees behind Tao Xuan couldn't help but feel moved.

Should he let out some tears? Liu Hao looked in disdain at those workers. Once Tao Xuan shook He Ming's hand, he naturally extended his hands towards Liu Hao, who extended his hands out subconsciously, while thinking about what he should say to sour Tao Xuan's good mood. He didn't want to be thought of as a fool.

At this moment, a loud noise suddenly came from the practice room. Something heavy had fallen to the ground. Tao Xuan turned around to look and his expression immediately changed.

"What's going on? Please be more careful. Is everyone okay? Is the dropped item broken? It's still early. There's no need to be in a rush. Slowly does it." Tao Xuan said, while walking over to check what had happened. Liu Hao's hand was still extended. In the end, he still looked like a fool.

After Tao Xuan handled the accident, would he still come back and shake his hand? No one knew, but Liu Hao didn't have the face to continue waiting there with his hand extended. His expression pale, he said "Let's go" and turned around to leave.

Liu Hao and He Ming walked over to the elevator and were unexpectedly blocked by two security guards.

"Vice-captain Liu and Little He." The two security guards politely greeted, but the next few words that came out of one of the security guard's mouth infuriated them: "Manager Cui instructed us to accompany you two out."

"What's that supposed to mean? Do you think we'd steal from the Club or bring explosives with us or something? Would you like to search us before leaving?" The two had endured a lot these past days. How could they have any patience? Liu Hao had even been cold-shouldered just earlier. This time, he finally blew up and roared loudly.

"You misunderstand." The security guard hastily said, "We're bringing you through the side door. There's a lot of people at the main entrance. You might not be able to get out, especially since you two are very popular in the Club!"

The two listened to his explanation and suddenly understood. However, the reason they weren't permitted to leave through the main entrance wasn't only because of that single reason. The main entrance was surrounded by a huge crowd of the team's fans. If the two wanted to leave, it indeed wouldn't be easy. Under normal circumstances, the two would definitely ask to go through the side door. But today wasn't normal! The two really wanted to walk through the front entrance, patiently give signatures to their fans, and tell them of their departure. The fans were here to welcome Xiao Shiqin, but the two wanted to make these fans to send them off.

The Club still hadn't announced the details of the transfer. Were they waiting for some reason? If the two leaked the information early, the Club's plan be affected.

As a result, the Club arranged two security guards to send them off through the side door. Protecting them was certainly a justifiable reason, but that wasn't the main reason. The Club knew that if they walked through the crowd, the atmosphere would change. It was better to take precautions and keep an eye on them!

"Ha ha. That's not a problem. It's not like we've never experienced how passionate our fans are. We can take it. Don't worry about it." Liu Hao spoke coldly.

"It's better if you listen to us! Otherwise, it'll make things difficult for everybody!" The security guard urged.

"Difficult? What's so difficult about it? This is our own matter. Could it be that if we don't listen, you'll tie us up and throw us out?" Liu Hao continued. If the two were forced out of the side entrance, it could certainly turn into a scandal.

"Of course not. If you two insist, then please go ahead!" The security guards let them through the elevator.

Chapter 715: You're in Luck

Liu Hao and He Ming stepped into the elevator and headed down.

Liu Hao had come to a decision. The more the Club didn't want him to do something, the more he definitely needed to do it. He didn't dare disclose the matter of kicking Ye Qiu out and then being kicked out of the Club as a result, but ruining Xiao Shiqin's welcome day could still be done. As the vice captain of the team, he was quite popular among Excellent Era's fans. He believed that if news came out that he had been traded away, Excellent Era would certainly receive backlash from their fans.

The elevator soon reached the first floor. Liu Hao held his head up and puffed his chest out. Right when he was about to arrive at the exit, he was blocked by security guards once again.

"You can't go this way." This time, the security guard was much stiffer. He didn't greet the two pro players and instead wore a grave expression on his face.

"And why not? I just want to leave through this way." Liu Hao didn't care and positioned himself in such a way that he could force his way out.

This security guard was much tougher than the two security guards on the floor above. He blocked Liu Hao: "Sorry. Someone important is coming today. In order to prevent any accidents, no one is allowed to exit this way. Please go through the side exit."

No one.

Liu Hao was surprised by these words. He suddenly understood why the security guards above weren't concerned. Arrangements had already been made on the first floor.

The two words "no one" didn't allow for any form of objection. If Liu Hao tried to force his way through, the Club would be in the right: no one is permitted to go through. You're no exception. If you try to force your way out, we have the right to stop you. This security guard was a huge guy. Don't look at how Liu Hao and He Ming were two people. As pro players who spent all day playing games, their bodies weren't exactly extremely fit. If the security guard stood in front of the door, they might not even be able to push him aside.

As for the excuse of preventing any accidents, Liu Hao knew arguing was pointless. If the security guard insisted on such an excuse, what could he do?

Helpless, Liu Hao could only grind his teeth and leave through the side exit with He Ming. When he exited through the side door, he saw security guards guarding the path to the main entrance. He knew that the two of them really would be departing from the Club sullenly.

Just because we had to leave through the side door doesn't mean that there aren't other ways!

Liu Hao was furious! Once they exited from the side door, there would be a road. Excellent Era couldn't block off a public road, right? I'll put in some effort and circle around then.

When Liu Hao stepped out from the side door, he didn't call for a taxi and instead started walking towards the main entrance. He Ming immediately understood Liu Hao's intention. He wasn't as angry as Liu Hao was though and endured it.

"Let's not?" He Ming urged Liu Hao.

"You don't have to, but I can't." Liu Hao's anger had reached the heavens. He didn't stop and continued to head towards the main entrance with large strides.

He Ming had a sense of comradery with Liu Hao. Seeing that Liu Hao refused to budge on this matter, he sighed and followed behind.

More and more people were gathering around the main entrance. The fans holding up banners had clearly come prepared. Some had simply passed by and saw the crowd. Who knew if they were actually



fans of Glory or Excellent Era. The media received the news and sent reporters to take pictures. As for whether or not Excellent Era had invited them over or not, no one really knew. The cameramen only added to the excitement. Liu Hao angrily stomped over. Seeing that there were even cameras, he didn't feel happy, but rather somewhat discouraged.

If he walked out from the main entrance like a star, he wouldn't be afraid of any interviews, but now that he had circled around from the side entrance, his intentions would clearly come through in front of the cameras. When he walked closer, Liu Hao saw the reporter with the camera and felt even worse.

He recognized this reporter. The reporter could be considered to be employed by Excellent Era. He would always stand by Excellent Era's side and never report anything bad about Excellent Era. He would only say good things. If this kind of reporter had come, Liu Hao was certain that his action of circling around to the main entrance would be written a great deal about. His little scheme would be dirtied by the reporter.

He might be able to ruin the atmosphere of the crowd, but from a long-term perspective, the bad press would certainly hurt him more in the end.

Liu Hao had originally been on the north side of the sidewalk. After surveying the situation, he quickly crossed the road without anyone noticing. He Ming didn't understand why, but seeing how Liu Hao had suddenly changed his mind, he immediately followed after him.

After crossing the street, Liu Hao continued to walk towards the main entrance. He hadn't given up yet! When he was across the street from the entrance, he didn't directly walk into the crowd. He thought he could cover up his intentions by doing things this way. He wanted to avoid the crowd, but be "coincidentally seen by fans".

But being "coincidentally seen by fans" wasn't easy! The street in front of Club Excellent Era's main entrance was quite a big one. Even with the relationship between fans and pro players, the distance was a bit far.

Come on!

Liu Hao encouraged the fans. After entering their range, he slowed down his footsteps, hoping to give the fans more time to catch sight of him. After all, he only had one chance. Once he walked past them, it wasn't like he could just go around and around until someone noticed him, no?

Unfortunately, the fans let Liu Hao down. After slowly walking past the crowd, no one noticed him. He really had been treated as some random passerby.

Liu Hao felt disappointed. Without any other options, he could only look back and see the crowd get smaller and smaller. He was quite sorrowful too. At this moment, he suddenly heard a voice in front of him: "Liu Hao?"

F\*ck me! Right when he was at the end of the line, a glimmer of hope appeared! A burst of excitement filled Liu Hao's heart. Who would have thought that someone would recognize him?

Liu Hao excitedly turned his head around, hoping this fan would hurry up and shout loudly to call people over from the crowd. That would be too perfect.

When he turned around to look at this fan clearly, Liu Hao's bright eyes instantly dimmed. His mood became even darker than it had just been.

This person wasn't a fan. Wasn't that Ye Qiu?

The one person that Liu Hao didn't want to see the most just happened to be Ye Qiu. When Ye Qiu retired, he had clapped his hands with joy. Seven months later, it was his turn to be kicked out from Excellent Era. Wouldn't Ye Qiu laugh at him to death?

Liu Hao was conflicted, but he didn't want to appear weak in front of Ye Qiu. If he clearly saw him but pretended that he didn't see him, wouldn't that make him seem afraid? Thus, Liu Hao brushed his emotion aside and greeted him.

"Morning!" Liu Hao gave a common greeting. He felt like such a greeting would best show his current stance.

"Morning to you too." Ye Xiu said.

"The Club has something urgent going on. It's not good to oversleep! I don't have as much free time as you." Liu Hao said as he looked at the crowd of fans. He was feeling quite annoyed, but he still needed to make Ye Xiu feel bad.

"Hm? What does that have to do with you?" Ye Xiu said.

"How does that not have anything to do with me? I'm Excellent Era's vice captain. I have to welcome such a skilled player into Excellent Era." Liu Hao said coldly.

"You're willing to give up everything and even be put up for trade?" Ye Xiu said.

"Of course." Liu Hao heard "give up everything". That was naturally a very good thing, so he had replied with an "of course", but when he thought about what he said, he realized.....

"How did you know?" Liu Hao couldn't hold his lofty facade together anymore. Not getting flustered was already quite good.

"How could I not know?" Ye Xiu smiled.

"Su Mucheng told you!" Liu Hao suddenly realized. With Su Mucheng in Excellent Era, how could Ye Qiu not know what was happening? He felt so stupid. He actually wanted to show off in front of him, so he wouldn't be laughed at, but now he had become an even bigger joke. Liu Hao really wanted to slam his head against a wall.

"It seems like you're not happy with it? You weren't prepared to leave Excellent Era?" Ye Xiu said.

Liu Hao had been jabbed at his sore spot again. He had planned on leaving Excellent Era, but after hearing that Xiao Shiqin and his Life Extinguisher were coming to Excellent Era, his confidence in Excellent Era had been renewed. Who would have thought that he would become a bargaining chip. If he had been traded into a top team, he would have been fine with it, but Team Thunderclap... without Xiao Shiqin, how bad would the team be in the Alliance?

In front of Ye Qiu, Liu Hao refused to admit defeat. Everything he had done in Excellent Era stemmed from his enmity with Ye Qiu. No matter the situation, Liu Hao could always find something to hold onto against him: "I just happened to be unlucky, but I'm still doing better off than you. Next season, I'll still be playing in the Pro Alliance. And you?" Liu Hao continued to challenge him.

"Unlucky? I don't think so. I think you got lucky." Ye Xiu smiled.

"What do you mean?" Liu Hao didn't understand.

"If you stayed in Excellent Era, then let alone this season, don't even think about playing next season. Excellent Era has to go through the Revival Tournament, but unfortunately, they'll have to face us." Ye Xiu said.

"True." Tang Rou had come over to see what was going on and nodded her head.

"You really do think too highly of yourself!" Liu Hao coldly sneered, "I really do want to see who will lose, but if you both take each other down, that'd be even better."

"Then I'm afraid you'll be disappointed." Ye Xiu laughed.

"Humph, bye." Liu Hao turned around and was about to leave with He Ming, when he saw two people coming over. One had long hair, while the other had a thuggish face and a cigarette in his mouth. The two had slippers on, shuffling their way over. Liu Hao moved to the side to let them pass. These guys shouldn't be messed with.

When the two passed by them, a "Yi?" suddenly came out. The guy with the cigarette backed up and looked at Liu Hao: "Aren't you that guy?"

"Who?" The other person with long hair backed up and asked.

"That guy from Team Excellent Era!" The guy with the cigarette thought hard.

"That guy?" The other one seemed to only know how to ask questions.

"Right, Liu Gao!" The cigarette guy suddenly shouted.

"D\*mn... are you stupid? His given name is pronounced Hao. We don't know each other! Steamed Bun, hurry up and get away from him." Ye Xiu said.

"Yes, sir!" The guy with long hair immediately distanced himself. Whether it was Liu Gao or Liu Hao, he had no idea what was going on.

Chapter 716: Xiao Shiqin's Arrival

Did these people come here specifically to humiliate me? Liu Hao had been called "Liu Gao" by Wei Chen, and Ye Qiu had mercilessly exposed it, but logically speaking, that shouldn't have been the case. He just happened to be passing by this way. How could Ye Qiu have arranged this encounter beforehand?

Thinking of this, Liu Hao felt that it wouldn't be right to flare up, when he heard the person next to him mutter: "Oh? It's Hao? Not Gao?"

That person's tone of voice made it sound like the name Liu Hao itself was a mistake; Liu Gao should be the correct name. The contempt in his voice made Liu Hao furious. He was just about to say something, when he heard Ye Xiu say: "Old Wei, don't annoy him. He has to catch the Route 9 Bus!"

"Oh?" Wei Chen turned his head to look at him. Sure enough, a Route 9 Bus was slowly pulling up to the stop. He didn't feel embarrassed at getting someone's name wrong. He even patted Liu Hao's shoulders as if they were good friends: "The bus is here. You'd better hurry!"

Route 9 Bus.....

Liu Hao felt like he had been humiliated again. The Route 9 Bus was indeed one way to get to the airport, but did he need to use such an economical method? Did they think he didn't have the money to ride a taxi?

Wei Chen swaggered away. Liu Hao didn't look at the incoming Route 9 Bus. He stood straight up and started waving to hail a taxi. Not long afterwards, a taxi pulled over. When he looked back at Happy Internet Cafe, he realized that they had already left. He didn't know if they had seen him hail a taxi or not.....

"Hey, are you going or not!" The taxi driver interrupted Liu Hao's thoughts. He sat in the taxi and left this damned place.

At Happy Internet Cafe, when they saw Liu Hao turn around and hail a taxi, they entered the Internet Cafe, but they didn't stop to watch him. It was tiring, standing by the entrance the entire time. After going inside and finding a good angle, they could simply sit down and watch from the comfort of the internet cafe. Wei Chen followed along everyone else to here. He grabbed a wooden stool and sat down, gazing at the crowd and saying: "Is that idiot coming?"

One of Glory's Four Master Tacticians was about to transfer to Excellent Era and become a formidable opponent for Happy in the Challenger League, so Wei Chen referred to him as an "idiot". However, Wei Chen wasn't alone. Choosing to transfer to a relegated team like Excellent Era and needing to wait a year before joining the Pro Alliance again was certainly a controversial decision. Wei Chen wasn't the only one who regarded him as an idiot. Wei Chen's view was only because of his own position. Others actually thought he was being stupid.

"Tsk tsk, what a welcoming. He really is popular." Wei Chen sighed. Even though he had been Team Blue Rain's former captain and could be considered an influential figure, he had never experienced such a grand event. At that time, the Alliance had only just been created. There weren't nearly as many fans as there were now, let alone such passion. Now that he had decided to return to the pro scene, he couldn't help but sigh as he compared the past with the present.

"Okay, let's not be concerned about them. We still have other things to do. The new week has just begun!" Ye Xiu got up and headed upstairs. The results from last week's wild boss hunting had been quite good. The various big guilds had their cake stolen away though and definitely wouldn't stand still. What would they do today?

In the practice room on the second floor, they all logged on. Loulan Slash and the other three guild leaders were already online and waiting for him to log on. Last week, Ye Xiu hid himself using Enlightened Lord, but the results weren't that good. He didn't have a guild tag on his head, and yet he had still been noticed in the large-scale battles. After a few fights, he was already exposed. Enlightened Lord suddenly became the priority target of everyone.

For the few times that Enlightened Lord had successfully been killed, the guilds discovered that killing him didn't have the desired effect! Was this Enlightened Lord really Ye Qiu? This was the real problem!

At this moment, some people thought: Ye Qiu doesn't only have one account. It's too naive to only target Enlightened Lord. After he dies, he just switches to a second account. Do we really have the ability to kill them all off one after the other without getting wiped out by our opponents?

In the end, apart from cursing out "Too despicable, too evil." What could the guilds do? They could only deal with the character, but not the person behind the character. The person, not the character, was the truly scary one.

Seeing these results, everyone stopped rushing to kill him as soon as he came out. If they killed him, he could just switch accounts. It would only make things worse too, because it would mess up their own formations. They might as well just go with the flow. If they encountered an opportunity, they would kill him. If they didn't, they would regard him as their primary target and run into a dead end.

Ye Xiu logged onto Enlightened Lord. As soon as he came online, the four guild leaders messaged him. Four wild bosses had spawned in the Heavenly Domain between last night and now. The alliance failed to get any without Ye Xiu's leadership. This was actually the alliance's greatest weakness: their reliance on Ye Xiu. Without Ye Xiu to lead them, their competitive strength drastically decreased. Ye Xiu was irreplaceable. As a result, they couldn't be competitive 24/7 like the Club guilds and could only be competitive for about two thirds of the time. Yet even in this kind of situation, they were still able to get 33 out of 74 wild bosses. These results were extremely terrifying. How could the various big guilds not be fearful?

"Call me if there's any news." Ye Xiu replied to them. This was how snatching wild bosses worked. If there were no bosses, the rest of the time was for themselves.

Tang Rou, Steamed Bun, and Little Cold Hands were following the training program that Ye Xiu created for them. As for Ye Xiu, his work wasn't limited to just the game. The two million RMB worth of materials had gradually been paid over the course of this week. Samsara wasn't trying to drag the matter out, rather Ye Xiu hadn't been prepared to receive them until now. They needed enough accounts to store all the materials. It was two million RMB worth of materials! How could the storages of a few accounts be enough? The storages of all of the accounts they had on hand were completely filled to the brim. Ye Xiu was using most of his free time to figure out how he should utilize these materials.

The Clubs had their own logistics departments. The pro players didn't need to worry about researching how to create equipment. However, as a player from an older generation, Ye Xiu wasn't like the young pro players who only knew how to play the game. In the early years, pro players had multiple responsibilities. They had to compete, manage the in-game guilds, and even research how to create self-made equipment to improve their own team's strength. Even though the Clubs created their own

logistics department to deal with these matters later on, it didn't mean that their experience was wasted! They just didn't put in as much energy or time as they had before. It was because of this that Team Samsara's Tong Lin directly joined Samsara's logistics department after retiring as a pro player. The dual guns used by Cloud Piercer, Wildfire and Shattered Frost, were mostly his work. Tong Lin's contribution to the title Great Gunner couldn't be understated.

At Happy, Ye Xiu's Lord Grim and Wei Chen's Windward Formation both had Silver weapons. Steamed Bun and Tang Rou still needed one though. They might not need to worry too much about regular opponents in the Challenger League, but facing Excellent Era, a bunch of Orange equipment wasn't going to cut it. Silver equipment was a must. Ye Xiu had to develop numerous Silver pieces of equipment for these characters. He needed time to organize everything.

Everyone in the practice room was busy doing their own thing. There was no news from Loulan Slash or the other guild leaders. At around ten o'clock, a sudden clamor from outside their window interrupted the silence. The noise was almost ear-piercingly loud. Everyone in the room jumped up out of their chairs in surprise. After staring blankly for a bit, they realized what had happened.

Even the windows were shaking from the noise. "XIAO SHIQIN! XIAO SHIQIN! XIAO SHIQIN!"

Xiao Shiqin had finally arrived.

None of the five players in the room pretended to be calm. They got up and went to the window to look outside. Compared to earlier that morning, there were who knew how many people at Excellent Era's main entrance. Even a part of the road had been blocked off by the crowd. Fortunately, this road wasn't a particularly busy one. It was strangely spacious too, so it didn't actually cause any traffic.

The crowd surrounded a van stopped by the road. Ye Xiu recognized it. The van was a Ford E350 that Excellent Era rarely used. This time, it was being used to pick up Xiao Shiqin, which showed how much Excellent Era truly valued this All Star player.

The van didn't directly go into the Club. Instead, it stopped right outside of the front entrance. Of course, before the fans could crowd in front of it, the security guards had quickly created a pathway. Excellent Era was well prepared for Xiao Shiqin's arrival. They lacked the necessary manpower, so they even hired outside security to help.

Amidst the shouting from the fans, Xiao Shiqin finally stepped out of the car. As soon as his foot hit the ground, cheers instantly erupted, causing the electronic alarms of quite a few cars along the side of the road to go off. For a moment, the alarms added to the noise made by the fans.

Excellent Era hadn't anticipated this would happen and it ruined the mood a bit, but from this, Xiao Shiqin's popularity could be seen. Many fans heard the alarms go off and yelled even harder to suppress the noise created by the alarms.

Xiao Shiqin jumped with fright from the noise. A small team like Team Thunderclap couldn't compare to the popularity of a famous team like Team Excellent Era. Along the way to the Club, the employees who received him said that there were many fans waiting for him to arrive. Xiao Shiqi didn't think too much of it, but when he got off the car, he was stunned by the scene in front of him.

Xiao Shiqin truly felt like he had made a significant leap in his career.

Even though Excellent Era had been relegated, while Thunderclap was still fighting in the pro scene, from the amount of noise created just from his welcome, Xiao Shiqin could already feel that Thunderclap didn't have such power. If Excellent Era was still in the Pro Alliance and stayed as a formidable competitor, what would the fans be like then?

Xiao Shiqin suddenly wanted to see this scene very much and he knew that the reason he came here was to make that scene a reality.

Once Xiao Shiqin finished thinking about what he wanted to say, he began speaking to the fans.

Chapter 717: Some Happy Some Worried

Club Excellent Era gathered the fans, the media, and had even reserved a car to pick Xiao Shiqin up from the airport. How could they just let Xiao Shiqin simply get off the car, walk through the main entrance, and end the event like that?

Inside, the Club had prepared a stage out in the open in order to officially announce Xiao Shiqin's addition to Excellent Era. Liu Hao and He Ming being blocked from going through the main entrance wasn't necessarily aimed towards them. Random people couldn't just freely move around in such a carefully arranged area. Of course, two pro players being considered as random was a bit of a stretch.

On the path opened up by security, Xiao Shiqin greeted all of his new fans left and right, while walking towards Excellent Era's main entrance. Even though he came from a smaller team, he was still an All Star player. Xiao Shiqin could cope with this kind of environment.

Right when Xiao Shiqin reached the main entrance, he suddenly stopped, staring at the team emblem hanging above the gate. The weather was good today. The ten o'clock sunlight reflected off the team emblem.

Once he stepped through this door, he would be walking on a new path in his career. Xiao Shiqin never doubted his feelings for Team Thunderclap, but like every other pro player, he had great ambitions. Unfortunately, Team Thunderclap couldn't achieve what he wanted. Both sides understood and parted on good terms.

A new team. A new path. Xiao Shiqin needed to succeed to show that he hadn't given up on Team Thunderclap for no reason.

Amid the cheers from the fans, Xiao Shiqin finally stepped through Club Excellent Era's main entrance. The cheers reached their peak, drowning out the car alarms. On the second floor of Happy Internet Cafe, both Chen Guo and Wei Chen had unhappy expressions.

"How noisy." Chen Guo grumbled. She had gone from an admirer to a detractor. If she and Ye Xiu had never met, she would definitely be at the front of that crowd. Boss Chen had quite a reputation among the Excellent Era fans in the area, especially the ones who frequented Happy Internet Cafe. Those people regarded her highly as a leading figure among fans.

"He's even enjoying it!" Wei Chen's attack was mainly aimed at Xiao Shiqin. He had a bad impression of that "idiot" from the very beginning: "Let's see if you can still smile next season!" Even though he said

that, Wei Chen was feeling a bit weak in his heart. Team Excellent Era was truly a formidable opponent. It would be arrogant and ignorant for anyone to think that they could guarantee a win facing Team Excellent Era. Even the new champions, Team Samsara, wouldn't dare be so confident facing Excellent Era's new roster.

After Xiao Shiqin entered through the main entrance, the Club did not stop the fans from pouring in. The press conference was completely open to the public.

The media was already prepared. On stage, the owner of Excellent Era, Tao Xuan, personally came out. Next to him was the manager Cui Li and behind him were Team Excellent Era's pro players.

Sun Xiang, Su Mucheng, Guo Yang, Shen Jian, Zhang Jiaxin, Wang Ze, Fang Fengran, and two new players scouted from the training camp: Zeng Shenghe, Meng Yongming.

Apart from the pro players, the director of the development department and the director of the public relations department stood in a rather inconspicuous corner.

All of the important figures in Excellent Era came out for Xiao Shiqin's welcoming. On one hand, it was to show how much they valued him. On the other hand, it was a good opportunity to show the media and fans Excellent Era's lineup and image for next season.

The pro players naturally received cheers from the crowd. Not all of them were shouting Xiao Shiqin's name anymore. Some began to yell out their favorite player's name. However, the fans quickly noticed that their vice-captain Liu Hao and He Ming were missing.

Everyone had come to this event, yet these two were missing. It let the media and fans realize something.

On stage, Excellent Era's owner Tao Xuan personally made the opening statement, welcoming Xiao Shiqin to Team Excellent Era. Afterwards, the two shook hands. The fans still gave face despite their doubts and the cheers reached another peak.

Next, it was Xiao Shiqin's turn to speak. Xiao Shiqin knew this would happen, so he was prepared.

"I'm still very sad about leaving Team Thunderclap...." Xiao Shiqin started, but he didn't talk too much about his feelings for Team Thunderclap. After all, this was Excellent Era's venue. Everyone around him was a supporter of Excellent Era. Talking too much about Thunderclap wouldn't be appropriate. After saying a few words about Thunderclap, Xiao Shiqin immediately began talking about Excellent Era. He didn't compare the two teams. He mainly emphasized how he thought highly of Excellent Era's future, which was exactly what the higher ups of Excellent Era wanted to hear. Inviting Xiao Shiqin to join was to prove this point to the fans. Xiao Shiqin's words further strengthened it. Excellent Era was extremely satisfied with how Xiao Shiqin stuck to his principles.

"I hope that along with my teammates and all of you, we'll be able to walk through this low point together and restore our former glory as the three-time champions!"

Xiao Shiqin ended his speech under the thunderous applause. An experienced team captain like Xiao Shiqin naturally knew what to say at the right moment.



Practically all team captains in the Alliance possessed this trait, but Tao Xuan was feeling a bit emotional as if he had never seen someone like that before. After all, everything had exceptions. Team captains who weren't like this had appeared in the Alliance. There were only two extreme cases though. One was Zhou Zekai. He spoke through his playing on stage. Off stage, he pretty much didn't say anything. The other case was Excellent Era's former captain, Ye Qiu, who Tao Xuan had forced out. Ye Qiu was even worse than Zhou Zekai. He wouldn't even show up to press conferences. At first, it didn't matter too much. But as the Alliance grew day after day, this sort of behavior from a team captain was difficult to bear. Excellent Era had put in who knew how much effort to let the media and fans finally accept such a figurehead as the team's captain.

Ye Qiu was finally gone. Now there was Sun Xiang and Xiao Shiqin to fill in the gaps in Tao Xuan's heart. He almost wanted to cry.....

After the speeches ended, Excellent Era finally announced the details of Xiao Shiqin's transfer. They had used Liu Hao and He Ming to trade.

On paper, trading Liu Hao, He Ming, and their two characters for Xiao Shiqin alone and his Life Extinguisher was a bit of a loss. However, this trade had other implications, which weren't convenient to tell the public. And after seeing the life brought back to Excellent Era from Xiao Shiqin's arrival, this trade couldn't be seen just by what was on paper.

There were a lot of tricky issues that needed to be mentioned with this trade though. For example, would trading players instead of purchasing the transfer be met with resistance from the players? Did Excellent Era not want to spend the money because they were worried about the Challenger League? However, Excellent Era had put in great efforts to deal with the media. In the press conference afterwards, all of the reporters invited would show restraint. Both parties knew exactly what would be asked and what wouldn't be asked, so nothing troublesome came up for Excellent Era. Everything went harmoniously. Regarding the transfer, Excellent Era said things like "we respect the choices of our players and we hope that they do well in Team Thunderclap".

That morning, Excellent Era immersed themselves in joy. Under their careful operation, nothing unexpected happened. While some were happy, others were worried. Apart from Liu Hao and He Ming, at Club Tiny Herb, there were was one person packing his belongings and getting ready to leave.

In Qiao Yifan's room, Gao Yingjie quietly watched him pack his bags. Perhaps he should help him, but he didn't want to help him. If he packed slower, Qiao Yifan would at least be able to stay for that much longer.

Gao Yingjie truly didn't want his good friend to leave, but the decision had already been made.

Pro player contracts in the Alliance typically started on July 1st and ended on June 30th of some other year. As a result, there were always players whose contracts had expired on June 30th. If the Club wanted the player to stay, the Club would always extend the contract before the end date. This year, on June 30th, Qiao Yifan's contract would expire. Unfortunately, it wasn't yet June 30th and the Club had already notified him that he wasn't a part of Team Tiny Herb's future plans. Once the contract expired, he could search for another path forward.

Search for another path?

Qiao Yifan smiled bitterly. He had never come out on stage in an official match for even a single second. A player like him was usually called "the team member who was closest to a water dispenser". Yes, his value in the team was perhaps as useful as serving tea to the other team members.

He wasn't a part of Team Tiny Herb's future plans, but what team would want a water dispenser like him their future plans?

The future of a championship team?

What a joke. With Gao Yingjie's existence, all of the spotlight shined onto him. Qiao Yifan's contract wasn't renewed, which was proof that he didn't belong in a championship team. Perhaps in the past, he might have been, but that notion had quickly been wiped away. For a player like him, it wasn't a question of whether a team could find a use for him, but rather if they would even notice him. At least, when June 30th came, Qiao Yifan still hadn't received any offers from another team.

His status wasn't enough for someone to want to pay him to join. He could offer his services for free, wait foolishly for something to happen, or leave the pro scene. What other options did he have?

"Yifan... what do you plan to do?" Gao Yingjie was worried about what choice Qiao Yifan would make. He knew about his good friend's current situation. With his current position in Tiny Herb, if he insisted, maybe he could rudely and unreasonably demand that Qiao Yifan stay, but Gao Yingjie wasn't someone who did that sort of thing. He could only respect the Club's decision, while worrying for his friend's future. He didn't know what he could do.

Me?" Qiao Yifan smiled. He didn't seem to be too distressed.

"I'm going to go pay a visit to a certain Internet Cafe." Qiao Yifan said.

Chapter 718: The Golden Generation

"Internet Cafe?" Gao Yingjie was puzzled at Qiao Yifan's reply. He even thought he had heard wrong. When Qiao Yifan confirmed it with a nod of his head, Gao Yingjie noticed that he had finished packing his belongings.

Qiao Yifan only had one suitcase, stuffed with his clothing. The other things had been provided by the Club. New players didn't have the qualifications to request anything. In comparison, many famous players bought their own residences. The Club provided them with a room, but it was used more as a rest stop. However, since pro players often moved around quite a bit, they would one day move to a different city, so not all players bought their own homes.

"Where did you say you were going?" Gao Yingjie still had his doubts towards Qiao Yifan's reply.

"I'm going to a place, so I can continue practicing and improving." Qiao Yifan smiled, "Don't worry. I'll come back."

"Oh..."

"But I'm afraid that when we meet again, we won't be teammates. It's too bad that we never got the chance to play alongside each other in a match." Qiao Yifan said.

"That's okay. We'll always be friends!" Gao Yingjie said.

"You're right." Qiao Yifan smiled.

"I'll send you off?"

"Sure."

The two youths walked out of the Club together. After exiting through the main gate, one of them got on a car, while the other stayed. They waved goodbye and from then on, the two would walk different paths.

City H, Club Excellent Era.

The welcome ceremony for Xiao Shiqin went on for the entire morning. It ended at around noon.

The fans left, filled with hope and excitement, while Xiao Shiqin's understanding of the Club Excellent Era had only just begun. He met with the pro players and the employees of the different departments, which took up the afternoon. Excellent Era was very content with Xiao Shiqin. Xiao Shiqin found no issues receiving such courtesy either.

Dinner that day was nothing out of the ordinary. There were just more people than usual. Tao Xuan personally attended it too. However, at this moment, the main character was no longer Xiao Shiqin. Sun Xiang had transferred last winter, arriving half a year before Xiao Shiqin. He was also someone who Tao Xuan valued greatly and couldn't be treated coldly just because of Xiao Shiqin's arrival. In Tao Xuan's heart, Sun Xiang was the true core and ace player of the team.

At dinnertime, Tao Xuan sat between these two, chatting cheerfully with them. The other team members couldn't help but be envious. In reality, Team Excellent Era wasn't so harmonious or stable. They were a relegated team, after all. With so many players in the team, how could they not have any plans for themselves? Some were willing to bet on Team Excellent Era's future, while others weren't. However, they didn't need to make their decision on July 1st. The transfer window opened between July 1st and August 31st. During these two months, there was time for them to survey the situation first.

Especially for the players in the main roster. Who didn't want to have a few offers? Relegated teams were often shopped around by the other teams as if they were supermarkets. However, most relegated teams were crappy, so the supermarket goods were of limited quality. Excellent Era was different though! Excellent Era's relegation could be considered a miracle. No one ever doubted the skill level of Team Excellent Era's players. When Excellent Era was officially relegated, who knew how many Clubs contacted Excellent Era or their players.

Inviting Xiao Shiqin to join the team was not only to appease the fans and give them confidence in Excellent Era's future, but also to tell the other Clubs: Excellent Era isn't finished yet. Don't think of us as a supermarket. In fact, we're only growing stronger! Did you see? We were even able to grab an All Star player like Xiao Shiqin despite being relegated!

Inside the team, Sun Xiang and Xiao Shiqin needed to be won over. As for everyone else, preparations had been made. Xiao Shiqin's addition to the team could be used as an opportunity too. However, you cannot get fat with only one mouthful. There was an order that needed to be followed. Work had to be completed step by step. Right now, winning over Sun Xiang and Xiao Shiqin was most important.

Tao Xuan chatted with these two core members, while also being mindful of the other players in the team. From time to time, he would say a few things to everyone and even talk with a few one on one. He didn't leave anyone completely out.

However, there was one person who was difficult to deal with.

Su Mucheng.

These days, even though Su Mucheng participated in everything the Club required, her heart wasn't there. When Tao Xuan talked to her for a bit, her only replies were "Oh", "Mm", "Ah".

"Ha ha. Why are you like Zhou Zekai all of a sudden, Mucheng?" Tao Xuan joked. Everyone laughed at the joke that their boss made. As for how Su Mucheng would react, everyone had their own thoughts. Only Xiao Shiqin was a bit puzzled. He and Su Mucheng weren't strangers. Both of them had joined the competitive scene in season four. The rookies from that year were considered as the Alliance's golden generation because a huge number of the rookies from that season ended up becoming All Star players.

Apart from Su Mucheng and Xiao Shiqin, there was Team Blue Rain's Yu Wenzhou, Team Blue Rain's Huang Shaotian, Team Tyranny's Zhang Xinjie, Team Misty Rain's Chu Yunxiu, Team Void's Li Xuan, Team Royal Style's Tian Sen, and Team Tiny Herb's Li Yibo. All of them were now famed All Star players and all of them started in season four. In addition, all of them immediately became core members of their respective teams. Zhang Xinjie even helped Han Wenqing end Team Excellent Era's consecutive championship victories, becoming the first rookie in Glory history to win the championships as a part of the main roster.

The golden generation was not just in name.

These players even created their own chat group called "The Golden Generation". They weren't really being arrogant. It was named in a joking manner. In reality, the rookies each year always created their own group to talk to each other. That year, they just happened to call it "The Golden Generation". The other difference was that the majority of rookies had difficulty standing out. However, their golden generation immediately came out as talents in the main roster. That topic wasn't as prominent for them.

They happily chatted together in the group chat, so their relationships with each other were naturally quite good. There were two female players in their group too, and Su Mucheng was an extremely pretty one at that. When they were bored, they would tease her. They didn't act any differently from normal people. The players from the golden generation were on good terms with each other. Xiao Shiqin and Su Mucheng could be considered as friends. When he came to Excellent Era, he thought of how apart from Yuwen Zhou and Huang Shaotian, no one else from the golden generation was on the same team together. Now, he would be with one through his transfer to Excellent Era. But when he saw how Su Mucheng didn't seem to have her heart here, he felt a bit puzzled.

With his understanding of Su Mucheng, he didn't think she was acting this way because of him. After seeing Su Mucheng reply with simple ahs and ohs to Tao Xuan, he could see that Su Mucheng might have some conflict with the team. It seemed like there really were internal issues in the team. And with the problem being on Su Mucheng, Xiao Shiqin immediately thought of the rumors related to Ye Qiu's retirement.

Just when he was about to get up and talk to her, Tao Xuan's attention switched to him and Sun Xiang: "I'll bring you guys to a place in a bit."

"Ah?" Xiao Shiqin was surprised: "Where?"

"It's very close." Tao Xuan laughed.

Xiao Shiqin glanced at Sun Xiang. Sun Xiang shrugged his shoulders, indicating that he didn't know.

"Let's eat, let's eat." Tao Xuan smiled as he said to everyone. In reality, he was quite angry at Su Mucheng.

Truthfully, he originally didn't plan on keeping Su Mucheng. He wasn't worried about not getting a good price for her. However, Su Mucheng herself refused. It wasn't possible for another Club to purchase a player without the player's approval. As for a player trade, Su Mucheng only had a year left in her contract, making it a big obstacle. No one was willing to trade a valuable player, who could leave the next year. So even though Excellent Era could trade players, it would be hard to negotiate any good deals with Su Mucheng's situation. And the problem was that Su Mucheng refused to extend her contract with Excellent Era. She also refused to be bought or traded to another Club. All of this clearly indicated that she planned on leaving on her own once the contract expired.

Tao Xuan was depressed at this issue! Such a valuable player couldn't even be sold for money. Even worse, for a player like Su Mucheng with incredible business value, the sponsors required her to appear on stage a certain number of times or else their sponsorship money would be reduced. But for the current Excellent Era? They were relegated..... The Challenger League matches didn't count. The amount of money that Su Mucheng brought through sponsorships would certainly be significantly reduced. The sponsors wouldn't be happy either! But there was nothing they could do. He hadn't expected Excellent Era to have been relegated. It was a big miscalculation on his part!

Such a profitable player would only remain for the Challenger League. After the team returned to the Alliance, she would just wag her tail at them and leave. It didn't fit in with Tao Xuan's plan at all. There was nothing he could do though. He couldn't sell her even if he wanted to, but leaving her in the team was a problem too. Su Mucheng made it even worse by pretending to be like Zhou Zekai and keeping silent. Tao Xuan was at wit's end. He knew very well that Su Mucheng was just waiting for the contract to expire. Afterwards, she would go look for Ye Qiu. Who knew if Ye Qiu had told her to make this move!

Ye Qiu!

Tao Xuan was about to go and pay a visit to their former team captain. He was bringing these two new core members of Excellent Era along with him too. He really wanted to see just how confident Ye Qiu would be, when facing them.

Chapter 719: A Visit

In the practice room of the second floor of Happy Internet Cafe, the people there continued to play the game as usual, but the mood in the room was somewhat downcast. Excellent Era's grand welcoming for Xiao Shiqin angered Chen Guo and Wei Chen. On the other hand, Ye Xiu wasn't as emotional as the

other two. Steamed Bun had no idea who Xiao Shiqin was and Tang Rou wasn't afraid of anyone. Xiao Shiqin's arrival didn't bother these three at all.

The reason that these three weren't happy was because their boss hunt didn't go as well as they had planned.

The problem wasn't them, but rather that their opponents were a lot stronger than before.

Especially Tyrannical Ambition. After a few exchanges, Ye Xiu was certain that Tyrannical Ambition had an absolute expert on their side. On Tyrannical Ambition's side, there was a single heavily guarded Cleric. Ye Xiu immediately knew that Zhang Xinjie had personally come out to the game.

Both Ye Xiu and Zhang Xinjie were skilled in tactics. Although they mainly specialized in five versus five team battles, in large scale battles, their impact on the battlefield was far greater than someone like Zhao Yuzhe, who could kill a few more players than the others at best. With Zhang Xinjie's help, Tyrannical Ambition's fighting strength practically doubled. Their elites were already widely reputed as powerful. As a result, Tyrannical Ambition immediately won themselves a huge advantage in the competition for bosses. Even though Ye Xiu didn't lose to Zhang Xinjie in tactics, their troop's fighting strength lost to Tyrannical Ambition's by quite a huge margin.

Their numbers advantage wasn't actually much of an advantage. A top guild like Tyrannical Ambition only sent out two elite groups, but that didn't mean their side only had two elite groups. Which of their branch guilds didn't have their own elite groups? The only reason that the guilds sent out two groups was so that they didn't waste too many people's time. At the same time, they didn't want every wild boss fight to become a world war. The big guilds didn't want that. The small guilds even less so. In fact, they might not even have the resources to sustain such fighting. Thus, Ye Xiu and the alliance didn't want to fight by overwhelming the opponents with a sea of people. It was better to follow the unwritten rules like everyone else.

But today's results ended pitifully for the alliance. Tyrannical Ambition was the strongest guild, but the other guilds either found an alliance or had come to an agreement. The competition for bosses instantly became complicated. Six bosses had spawned today, but Ye Xiu and the alliance failed to get a single one. How could he be feeling good? Loulan Slash and the other allied guild leaders also sighed. Even though Ye Xiu had given them a warning before by letting them know that this week would be the most difficult, no one expected such a disparity compared to last week, not even Ye Xiu. It was unpredictable that even Zhang Xinjie had personally come.

Zhang Xinjie coming to the game wasn't likely at the request of the Club guilds. This action could be considered as made by the Club as a whole. It seemed like Tyrannical Ambition was about to make a huge move. During the summer break, the Club even had their vice-captain come out. This move showed just how much the Club valued the upcoming season. Zhang Xinjie had been with Team Tyranny today too. It didn't look like he was helping out just for fun.

Loulan Slash and the others were still distressed by today's bosses. Ye Xiu was thinking deeper though.

"What do we do?" They asked Ye Xiu.

"Zhang Xinjie isn't that hard to deal with." Ye Xiu said.

"What?" Their eyes lit up, but then again, if he wasn't hard to deal with, then why didn't they win even a single boss today? Of those six bosses, Tyrannical Ambition actually got three of them. Three in one day! That was an exceptional harvest. They were only a single guild. They didn't need to split their harvest with four or five others.

"He follows his sleep schedule very strictly. We'll just have to be more active when he's sleeping." Ye Xiu said.

"Ah?" The four guild leaders hadn't thought that dealing with Zhang Xinjie would involve something outside the game.

"This is the most economical and simplest method." Ye Xiu said.

"Oh, that's true. It's very reliable." Yue Ziqin said.

Zhang Xinjie was like Ye Xiu. There was no point in killing his character. What mattered was the person controlling the character. However, Zhang Xinjie's strict self-discipline was famous in Glory. For Ye Xiu and these guild leaders, changing their sleep schedule was something they often did, but for Zhang Xinjie, that would make headlines for gaming news. Simply avoiding Zhang Xinjie would certainly be an effective strategy.

"But we'll only be able to play for a third of the day. If he plays like this everyday, we'll lose out on quite a lot." Yue Ziqin said.

"We'll think of something else for the other two thirds of the day! We were caught unprepared today. If we have a better understanding of them, we might not lose." Ye Xiu said. He glanced at Wei Chen. He could finally employ the mole in Samsara. How could he use Samsara's elite troops to his advantage?

Ye Xiu thought to himself, when suddenly, someone knocked on their practice room's door.

"Who is it?" Chen Guo called out.

An employee from Happy Internet Cafe pushed the door open a bit and said: "Boss, someone's asking for you."

"Who? Tell them to come over." Chen Guo said.

"Okay." The employee didn't say who it was. He closed the door and left.

"I'll go take a look." Chen Guo told the employee to have them come over themselves, but she still got up. However, just when she got up, the door was pushed open again and the employee stood to the side: "They're here."

The people in the practice room raised their heads to see who it was. Some felt like the people outside seemed familiar, while some felt like they should recognize them. The only ones who completely recognized them were Chen Guo and Ye Xiu.

"Hm? Is this your practice room? Not bad!" The first person to come in laughed. Tao Xuan, Excellent Era's owner. A powerful owner of a huge Club praising Happy Internet Cafe's small practice room felt insincere. It almost sounded like he was ridiculing them.

To the left of him was the young and arrogant Sun Xiang. To the right was Xiao Shiqin. Because Tao Xuan had kept it a mystery on the way here, Xiao Shiqin was even more surprised and serious than Ye Xiu and Chen Guo. He wrinkled his brow and pushed his glasses up. He was quite nearsighted and didn't feel confident in his eyeglasses. After adjusting his glasses and squinting, he finally confirmed: "Senior Ye Qiu?"

Yes, in front of Ye Xiu, the golden generation was still several generations younger than someone from the first generation.

Chen Guo was already feeling upset upon seeing Tao Xuan and Sun Xiang. She was about to shout "Who let you in?" However, Xiao Shiqin's tone of voice was very polite, so Chen Guo didn't shout in the end. Ye Xiu got up and greeted Xiao Shiqin: "Oh, Little Xiao's here. Sit anywhere you'd like!"

As for the other two, Ye Xiu gestured towards the sofa in the practice room and said "Let's sit there."

"Oh, Xiao Shiqin. I was about to say you looked a bit familiar." Wei Chen stood up at this moment.

"You are?" Xiao Shiqin asked. The other side spoke very casually as if they were close, but Xiao Shiqin didn't seem to recognize him at all.

"Wei Chen." Wei Chen introduced himself.

"Team Blue Rain's former captain?" Xiao Shiqin immediately recalled.

"Ha ha, that's right. That's me." Wei Chen was quite happy that Xiao Shiqin immediately knew who he was. He felt as if he were famous. In reality, he was just lucky to run into Xiao Shiqin. As a master tactician, Xiao Shiqin might not have even interacted with Wei Chen before, but he still had that information in his head. In comparison, a normal, younger player.....

"Wei Chen. Who's that?"

See, there's a younger person right there. Sun Xiang had never heard of Wei Chen's name before. Sun Xiang repeated it in his head, but still couldn't come up with anything, so he asked.

"Of course you don't know. At that time, you were still playing around with your little JJ!"

Sun Xiang instantly turned red. He was no stranger to trash talk, but it was his first time hearing such a straightforward and vulgar insult. In particular, after Wei Chen finished speaking, he turned his head to look at Sun Xiang. Who knew what he was imagining in his head?

"What did you say!" Sun Xiang's counterattack was quite terrible.

Tao Xuan was also surprised! He had met Wei Chen before. It had been many years since though, so he hadn't recognized him. After the introduction, he immediately remembered and was surprised that he was with Ye Qiu. By the time he reacted, the two sides had already started butting heads. Sun Xiang's response made even Tao Xuan extremely disappointed. However, Sun Xiang was still a young player, after all. He couldn't compare to those older fellows. Not every player had this kind of talent like Huang Shaotian.



"Ha ha, so it's captain Wei Chen. I apologize for not recognizing you sooner. We've met before, right?" Tao Xuan hastily said to cover up Sun Xiang's terrible response. Tao Xuan wanted to show Ye Qiu their strength, but Ye Qiu hadn't even said anything yet and Wei Chen shut Sun Xiang down.

"Who are you?" Wei Chen asked. It was hard to say if he was sincere or not. Only he would know.

"Tao Xuan." Tao Xuan introduced himself.

"Oh, Excellent Era's owner?"

"Correct." Tao Xuan nodded his head.

"When is Excellent Era disbanding?" Wei Chen asked.

"Why would we disband?" Tao Xuan was still smiling. He wouldn't be so childish as to be furious at such words.

"You've already been relegated. Why wouldn't you disband?" Wei Chen said. Before Tao Xuan could reply, he said to Xiao Shiqin: "Little Xiao, right? You seem like a good person, but why are you so stupid? Excellent Era's already sinking and yet you jump on board. Are you thinking that the world's not ending soon enough?"

Xiao Shiqin heard Wei Chen's taunt, but only smiled in response. He knew that Wei Chen was just trash talking. He wouldn't try and explain his reasoning to him, so he just smiled. He was more concerned about why the boss brought him and Sun Xiang here.

"Getting relegated isn't the end of the world. Speaking of which, you retired many years ago. Aren't you also struggling?" Tao Xuan had some skill. He guessed Wei Chen's intentions and countered.

"My struggle spells disaster for you! To think Excellent Era would fall by my hands. Ye Qiu, you'd better not stop me when the time comes!" Wei Chen said.

Ye Xiu finally had a chance to speak. He laughed: "I hope we come across Excellent Era someday."

Chapter 720: The Drunkard's Heart Isn't in the Cup

Wei Chen's trash talk was rather straightforward. Sun Xiang had stomped the ground in anger, but Tao Xuan and Xiao Shiqin didn't have much of a reaction. However, Ye Xiu's words cut deeper into their hearts. Even Xiao Shiqin started to sweat.

I hope we come across Excellent Era someday.

It sounded like a reasonable statement, but who would ever think a championship team like Excellent Era would be eliminated by some random players in the Challenger League? Ye Xiu was telling Tao Xuan not to be so confident, but there really shouldn't be any reason for Excellent Era not to be confident. Their team was simply too heaven-defying when placed in the Challenger League.

No one but Tao Xuan himself would know what he was feeling towards these words, but he clearly heard the implied ridicule. He replied: "Ha ha! How come it sounds like these words are more

appropriate for you? How's it going? How's your preparation for the Challenger League going? Are the people sitting here your teammates?"

It was all clear now.

Xiao Shiqin finally understood.

Even a blind person could see that Ye Qiu and Excellent Era had some sort of conflict with each other. The two sides evidently didn't part on good terms like he and Team Thunderclap had. After Ye Qiu announced his retirement, it seems like he wanted to create his own team and return to the Pro Alliance. Things happened to play out like a drama and Excellent Era actually ended up relegated. The two sides unexpectedly became enemies in the Challenger League.

It was obvious why Tao Xuan brought them over to pay Ye Qiu a visit.

For them, it could be considered a demonstration of their strength. For the other side, it would put them under greater pressure. At the same time, it was a warning to Xiao Shiqin that their run in the Challenger League wouldn't be easy. With an opponent like Ye Qiu hiding in their midst, they couldn't relax.

Yes, they couldn't relax.

How could Xiao Shiqin dare to underestimate a God like Ye Qiu? He began playing Glory precisely during Team Excellent Era's dominance in the Alliance under Ye Qiu's lead. When he became a pro player, Team Excellent Era had just become three-time champions and Ye Qiu's fame was at its peak.

Ye Qiu's influence on their generation of players was incomparably deep. How many of them grew up studying Ye Qiu's playstyle? Underestimate Ye Qiu? Maybe players from the newer generation like Sun Xiang might, but for Xiao Shiqin, he didn't dare to even think of it.

Our opponent is Ye Qiu.....

Xiao Shiqin understood what Tao Xuan wanted to tell him. He wasn't a person who gossiped much and didn't have too much interest in understanding the grudges between Ye Qiu and Excellent Era. As opponents, Ye Qiu wasn't a stranger to him. He grew up watching Ye Qiu play in the Alliance. After becoming a pro player, he had fought against him many times before. At that time, he had been looking for ways to defeat Team Excellent Era. Now, he had become a member of Team Excellent Era, and his number one opponent was unexpectedly Team Excellent Era's former captain, Ye Qiu. In any case, they could not lose this fight. There was no leeway in the Challenger League.

"What exactly are you guys here for?" Seeing Tao Xuan acting all delighted, Chen Guo felt like she needed to show that she existed.

"Nothing really." Tao Xuan smiled, "I just wanted to bring our captain and vice-captain to pay a visit to their senior and see if any advice could be given to them."

"Advice?" Tang Rou became excited, "How about a spar?"

"Huh?" Tao Xuan was a bit surprised. He took a look at her. That was just something he had said! He had no intentions of bringing these two All Stars to challenge anyone. They didn't even have their account cards on them!

"Who's going first?" Tang Rou was already eager to give it a try.

"They're not going up together?" Steamed Bun asked.

"That's not good, right?" Tang Rou hesitated.

Sun Xiang couldn't help but want to give it a go, but Xiao Shiqin was calm. He spoke first: "There's no need for us to spar. We'll see each other again on stage sooner or later. We're simply here to say hi to our senior."

"That's right." Tao Xuan laughed. He didn't mind Xiao Shiqin taking matters into his own hands. Team Excellent Era currently needed someone who could take the initiative and make firm decisions. Although Team Excellent Era appointed Sun Xiang as team captain and Xiao Shiqin as vice-captain, Tao Xuan was certain that the person calling the shots would certainly be Xiao Shiqin.

Sun Xiang didn't have much desire to bear the responsibilities of a team captain, but he liked the title of team captain. As a result, Tao Xuan didn't bother making trouble by switching his position to something else. Xiao Shiqin's position as vice-captain was enough to lead the team. Tao Xuan believed that an experienced player like Xiao Shiqin would be able to understand his intentions and perform his duties appropriately.

Just like now, he was very satisfied with how Xiao Shiqin stood out and gave his reply. On the other hand, Sun Xiang's eagerness only made him sigh: he really is young. This type of willingness to fight was meaningless to them. What were Sun Xiang's and Xiao Shiqin's statuses? Against those random people that Ye Qiu had found from who knew where, of course they should win. If they happened to lose, that would be a huge loss of face. It would also increase the other side's morale and confidence.

Sun Xiang didn't consider this sort of lose-lose situation. He saw that the other side wanted to challenge him, so he wanted to beat them. That was it.

Xiao Shiqin clearly thought of the consequences and stopped it from happening. He simply restricted the situation to only talking.

Tang Rou saw that there was no fight to be had. Her enthusiasm waned and she went back to focusing on the game. She knew why the other side came, but she had no place in their talks, so she didn't bother with it.

However, the way she didn't put Sun Xiang or Xiao Shiqin in her eyes attracted their attention. Truthfully, when Team Excellent Era had been relegated and Ye Qiu was confirmed to be their opponents, Tao Xuan had been anticipating this moment for awhile.

He began paying attention to any information on Ye Qiu. He gathered any conjectures in front of him, such as what pro-level experts he had on his side.

These were just conjectures though. Tao Xuan didn't want to be bogged down by conjectures and not facts. He wanted to use this opportunity to give them a greeting, while probing out Ye Qiu's team to see what type of people he had. He wanted to know the background of these various experts. If there really were so many Glory experts, how could they all have been dug out by Ye Qiu? If so, those Club workers, whose job was to pay attention to any potential talents, were too useless, no?

When he walked through the door, he saw Wei Chen. Then, he saw the classes used by Tang Rou and Steamed Bun from their screens.

Battle Mage, Brawler.

These two classes completely matched the reports given by their guild, Excellent Dynasty. Tao Xuan felt like his trip here wasn't a waste. He had a much clearer grasp of Ye Qiu's strength now. However, seeing that there were 12 computers in the practice room... was it supposed to be one for each player? It was already quite late, so it would be very normal if not all of them were still playing in the practice room.

Thinking of this, Tao Xuan felt like he may have been a bit hasty. It was currently vacation time and it was late at night. Not all of Ye Qiu's team might have shown up! If he directly asked, it would be too obvious. The other side could simply lie. Right now, the biggest advantage that Ye Qiu possessed was that Excellent Era had no knowledge of his team. Even though Excellent Era had Sun Xiang and Xiao Shiqin as their core, Sun Xiang was using One Autumn Leaf, which Ye Qiu couldn't be any more familiar with. Xiao Shiqin was no stranger to Ye Qiu either.

I need to find other opportunities to scout him out!

All of these thoughts sounded complicated, but Tao Xuan tidied them up in an instant. Just when he was about to say something, there was another knock on the practice room door. The same employee stuck his head in and said: "Boss, there's someone looking for you again!"

"Who is it this time?" Chen Guo wasn't in a good mood. Excellent Era had brought two All Star level players to show off their strength. How could she be happy?

"He says his name is Qiao Yifan." The employee said.

"Oh?" Chen Guo turned to look at Ye Xiu. Ye Xiu immediately took note of the name.

"So Yifan's already here!" Ye Xiu headed towards the door.

"Who is it?" Steamed Bun asked.

"One Inch Ash." Tang Rou knew.

"OH! That fellow! I'm going to go too then." Steamed Bun jumped up.

"Me too." Tang Rou got up as well.

"How interesting." Wei Chen also had a deep impression of the Ghostblade and also headed out of the door with everyone else.

"Little Li, could you take care of the guests?" Ye Xiu told the employee to attend to the three guests in the room. Everyone else had already walked out in a line. Only Tao Xuan, Xiao Shiqin, and Sun Xiang were thrown aside in the practice room. The person accompanying them would be Happy Internet Cafe's Little Li.

Little Li clearly wasn't sure how to handle this situation. Unfortunately, he had been abandoned by the others already. He looked at the three in front of him at a loss of what to do. In the end, he squeezed out a few words: "Would any of you like some water?"

"No need. Thanks." Xiao Shiqin replied.

At this moment, Tao Xuan was so angry, no words could come out of his mouth. How disrespectful! This was unadorned disdain for them. Excellent Era's owner, captain, and vice-captain had just been thrown aside in a practice room just like that. Ye Qiu left an employee here to attend to them and then everyone just ran over to meet some random punk. Who was this person? Was he more important than them?

"Qiao Yifan..... That name sounds quite familiar?" Xiao Shiqin muttered.

"Really?" Tao Xuan was surprised. He felt like this person's background shouldn't be small, but after thinking about it for awhile, he couldn't think of anything.

Sun Xiang remembered though: "Isn't he the one that lost to Li Xuan in the All Stars Rookie Challenge?" Sun Xiang had participated in the Rookie Challenge, and had been quite depressed at the results. The painful experience deepened his impression of the event, so he even remembered a no-name like Qiao Yifan.

"Right, it's him." Xiao Shiqin hadn't been wrong when he said that the name sounded familiar. If Qiao Yifan wasn't so invisible, he would have thought of it awhile ago: "He's from Team Tiny Herb. Even though he has never gone out on stage, he's an officially registered member of Team Tiny Herb."