

## Glory 261

### Chapter 261 – You Have to Love the Game!

In the blink of an eye, the day had grown bright and Ye Xiu stretched his arms.

At this time, no one in his group was still playing.

Tang Rou had gone off the earliest. After running Desolate Land three times, she went to sleep. Ever since the day that where she and Chen Guo went shopping, she had changed her sleep schedule. She wouldn't stay up all night until day came like Ye Xiu did. She would go to sleep earlier, but wake up earlier than Ye Xiu also. Whenever Ye Xiu woke up, he would always be able to see her and Chen Guo sitting together and playing Glory up until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, which was when Tang Rou had to take the shift.

After Tang Rou went offline, Concealed Light, finally, was unable to continue arguing bitterly with Steamed Bun Invasion and decided to duel Steamed Bun Invasion in the Arena. Ye Xiu was dragged along by Steamed Bun Invasion and forced to spectate the match.

Ye Xiu really didn't need to watch to know the results. With Concealed Light's skill level, there was no way he could fight against Steamed Bun Invasion. Concealed Light fought ten matches and lost ten matches. Nothing unexpected had arisen.

"Ha ha ha ha, now you know my strength! Being your senior is actually quite troublesome for me, not you." After exiting the Arena, Steamed Bun Invasion was absolutely delighted, while Concealed Light was completely silent. For Steamed Bun Invasion, who could find fun during any moment, beating up a noob clearly didn't make him feel bad in any way.

"Steamed Bun, don't be too complacent." Ye Xiu felt that he had to say a few words: "You started training earlier than he did. Bullying Concealed Light, who just started learning, isn't something you should be too happy about."

"Ha ha, I was prepared to teach him well, but this little boy refused to accept me, so I had to teach him a lesson. How about it, little Concealed Light? Am I good enough for you? Ha ha ha ha....." Steamed Bun Invasion continued to be proud of himself. Who would believe that he actually wanted to teach someone? He was clearly feeling good about beating up a noob.

"Alright, that's enough. You, go and play!" Ye Xiu shooed away Steamed Bun Invasion. He turned around and saw that Concealed Light was still standing there stupidly.

"Don't be discouraged. You've only just begun." Ye Xiu said.

"Yeah, I know."

"That's good. Gimme a sec and I'll send you some stuff."

"Okay!"

After that, he spent two hours searching, arranging, and categorizing. The materials he had gathered weren't only useful to Concealed Light. Any other player who liked Glory would find them useful too,

however, these types of specialized drills were extremely dull. Normal players wouldn't be able to persist, and if you didn't persist, no type training was effective.

The materials Ye Xiu had gathered were especially fitting for a beginner such as Concealed Light. Actually, these types of specialized drills were a bit difficult for beginners. However, in Ye Xiu's eyes, for a beginner like Concealed Light to have such a solid grasp of theory meant that he was very tenacious and wanted to improve his own skill.

When Steamed Bun Invasion bullied the noob, Ye Xiu watched with one eye open and one eye closed. He wanted to see just how motivated Concealed Light was to improve.

After receiving the materials, Concealed Light thanked Ye Xiu, who reminded him about the important points. As for how to use them, Ye Xiu felt that it wasn't necessary to tell someone who studied things so meticulously.

After sending Concealed Light his portion, Ye Xiu glanced at some more documents. While arranging the materials, he also found a few programs that could be specially used for Tang Rou's and Steamed Bun Invasion's training.

However..... when Ye Xiu thought of Steamed Bun Invasion's misdeeds, Ye Xiu felt that these types of drills didn't suit him.

Steamed Bun Invasion liked the game because the game brought him happiness. However, when this type of happiness stops existing, Ye Xiu wouldn't know what type of attitude Steamed Bun Invasion would take.

The reason pro-players become pro-players, besides having talent, working hard, etc., was because they loved the game.

For example, for Ye Xiu, he had played the game for ten years, but his love for the game hadn't died down. It wasn't just him; every pro-player that struggled to be a part of the Alliance all did so because they loved the game.

As for normal players, some would play for two or three months and then switch to a different game. These types of players weren't suitable to become pro-players. Even if their mechanics were good enough, if they didn't have the passion, their performance would be vastly different from those that did and they wouldn't be able to become anything great.

Steamed Bun Invasion found the game fun, which was why he was interested. New, in-game content would naturally interest him. However, how long would he stay interested? Ye Xiu felt that he didn't understand Steamed Bun Invasion well enough. Normally, all he heard was the guy spouting random nonsense. He should have at least understood his previous gaming experiences. Ye Xiu had no idea where the guy got his mechanics from.

Regardless, he still wasn't sure whether or not he should give specialized drills for Steamed Bun Invasion. He was afraid that it might cause him to lose interest towards the game and create conflicting feelings. Perhaps it was better to make him understand his own problems on his own right now and then for him to happily look for help later.

The other set of materials was for Tang Rou.

The reason this sis wanted to improve her mechanics so she could beat him. Ye Xiu originally didn't believe that such a ridiculous reason would hold for much longer. However, from the looks of it, this sis's stubbornness far exceeded that of normal people. Before she beat him, it really didn't seem like she'd give up.

The good thing was that as she improved and as she continued to understand Glory, Tang Rou gained a greater understanding of just how far apart they were and would feel that the game wasn't as "easy" as she had said before. This sis's interest in Glory was slowly forming.

She would eventually be able to accept this type of practice.

Ye Xiu thought this way and checked the materials again. He decided that he would give it to Tang Rou tomorrow. As for Steamed Bun Invasion, he would put it off for now!

After tidying everything up, he closed the folder. There was still half an hour left until seven. Ye Xiu didn't have anything else to do, so he logged into the game.

The game was the quietest at this time. No one was really talking on the world chat. The previous dispute between Tyrannical Ambition and the other players had died down awhile ago, so many had already seen their daily dose of drama for the day.

Those players, who had argued with Tyrannical Ambition, might not have any enmity towards Tyrannical Ambition. They just did it for the sake of roasting them. For example, the players that had written verses were only doing it in order to add fuel to the fire.

For an experienced player like Jiang You, he should have understood this very well. Unfortunately, his mood had been very bad, which was why he suddenly went off like that and almost became a new meme.

The world had finally quieted down. Ye Xiu conveniently checked the Line Canyon record. In first place was still Misty Castle and second place was still Tyrannical Ambition. Nothing had changed.

He checked his friends list and saw that the guild leaders were still on. Though among these, some of them were happy while others were worried.

Those that hadn't set a record yet were a bit worried. As for the guild who was the most worried, that would have to be Tyrannical Ambition.

Ye Xiu obviously wouldn't add fuel to the fire. He didn't have any sort of enmity with the guilds. It was just that his interests conflicted with theirs. And had lost the game because Lord Grim was simply better than they were.

Ye Xiu was using the last of his shift to check in on the situation. He was just sitting there idly with nothing to do, when suddenly, he received a message from Tyrannical Ambition's Cold Night.

"God!" Cold Night sent him an icon of cupped fists. He already knew of Lord Grim's identity. But as a fan of Tyranny, there was no way he would truly worship their enemy, Team Excellent Era's former ace player.

"Yes?" Ye Xiu replied.

“I want to know if you helped Misty Castle with their record.” Cold Night went straight to the point.

“Sure. I sold them a guide, which should have been of some help to them!”

Chapter 262 – Dungeon Tollbooth

Cold Night asked directly, so Ye Xiu replied the same way.

“So it really was you.....”

“It was me.”

“It seems like you’re the only one who’s capable of making such a record.” Cold Night said.

“Don’t worry! I won’t be setting records personally anymore. I’ll only sell guides.” Ye Xiu said.

“You don’t even need to move to kill people. That sounds evil enough.”

“Don’t say it like that, everyone needs to eat. If you won’t let me set records, then I’ll sell guides. You won’t even let me sell guides? How do you want me to live?”

Cold Night didn’t know what to say. Since they weren’t able to beat Lord Grim, they allied together to kill him. In truth, there wasn’t anything honorable about this.

Even though he spoke this way, he didn’t have a bad impression of Lord Grim. However, if their guild were to develop, they would need the dungeon records. Methods such as pursuing and killing were methods that took place out in the open. However, there were even darker methods out there, which Cold Night had seen before. The game’s virtual reality brought out the darkness within people.

“Oh, it’s nothing. I just didn’t want to believe that we’d lose so badly, so I wanted to confirm things with you. I understand now.” Cold Night replied.

“If you want to win, it’s not like there’s no chance.”

“What methods are there?” Cold Night replied extremely quickly.

“Buy my guide!” Ye Xiu replied.

“Sweat.....” Cold Night had already realized that the buying and selling of guides might even be more terrifying than having Lord Grim personally subbing in or holding the records hostage. This was because the buying and selling of guides wasn’t only limited to in the game. This time, the guilds had no way of stopping it.

In Tyrannical Ambition’s current situation, directly taking back the record was the most effective way of coming back and would even give them a thrill that would definitely attract attention. As a result, Cold Night was very interested in these guides.

“What type of guide is it?” Cold Night asked.

“The guide that Misty Castle used to beat your record.”

“The same?”

“Of course.”

“Then how can you guarantee that we’ll beat their record?”

“I shouldn’t be able to guarantee anything, right? I only said that it was a chance.” Ye Xiu said.

“So you’re saying that since we’ll be using the same guide, everything else depends on how we perform?”

“Exactly.”

Cold Night immediately pictured a scene: from here on out, every guild that wanted to fight for the dungeon records would first have to buy a guide from Lord Grim. If not, then any guilds that didn’t buy it would have no chance.....

This guy! He’s no longer a kidnapper. He’s transformed into a tollbooth. From now on, his guides are the tickets needed to set records!

“Can I take a look at the guide first?” Cold Night asked.

“No.”

“Why not.....”

“Because our relationship isn’t too good. I’m afraid that you won’t give me any materials after looking at it.” Ye Xiu said plainly.

“Then what happens if we were to give you the materials and you didn’t give us the guide?” Cold Night asked in return.

“Then you’d have lost big time.” Ye Xiu replied.

“You.....” Cold Night was speechless. He clearly needed the guide. If he wanted to buy the guide, then he would need to give materials to Lord Grim. There was no other option besides that.

Cold Night felt very gloomy. He didn’t like this sort of thing, but there was no way he could depend on his strength.

“I’m going to log off at seven. You have 15 minutes to consider it.” Ye Xiu messaged. “Of course, if you’re patient, then you can wait until I log in in the afternoon or even until next year. You can buy my guides at any time as long as you pay enough materials.”

“What materials?” Cold Night asked for the price.

Ye Xiu sent him the list.

“These..... are all Fire Forest materials.” Cold Night skimmed over them and said.

“We’ve only just started dungeoning in Fire Forest, so we don’t have these materials gathered up yet.” Cold Night didn’t object to the asking price. Ye Xiu had estimated it. It was similar to the deal between him and Misty Castle. He had changed the materials, but their value was still about the same. Cold Night knew that the price was lower than it would cost for Lord Grim to personally sub in, but in reality, since they had only just started running Fire Forest, they truly didn’t have the materials.

“Oh, but you should at least still have some of them, right? Maybe you can tell me what’s in your guild’s inventory and let me choose from it?” Ye Xiu said.

“One sec……” Cold Night replied. He wasn’t sure.

After pondering it over for a few minutes, Cold Night felt that he should discuss it with his boss. However, he didn’t know if Jiang You had calmed down yet. If he suddenly told him that Lord Grim was still the holder of the tenth server records and that his situation was even more stable now, he was truly afraid that Jiang You would actually cough blood and have to be rescued by an ambulance.

“Wait just a bit longer!!” Cold Night hastily messaged Lord Grim and then hurriedly went to contact Jiang You. Simply speaking, he was anxious for Jiang You’s reply.

“So this guy actually had all this planned from the start? Was that reason why he decided to drag along four random cheerleaders and lose?”

Cold Night was startled. Now that Jiang You had said it, it did appear to be true.

“What do you say?” Cold Night felt that Jiang You had calmed down.

Jiang You went silent for a full minute before finally saying: “Give him the materials!”

“OK!” Cold Night decided. Their current plight was truly difficult. If they continued to fight with Lord Grim, Lord Grim wouldn’t care and they’d be the one losing out.

After receiving Jiang You’s reply, Cold Night contacted Lord Grim and said: “I agree!”

“What materials do you guys have?” Ye Xiu asked.

Cold Night checked the inventory and asked the guild for a materials list. After a while, he suddenly came up with a plan: to hide a few of the materials that Lord Grim wanted.

This trick was kind of pointless. With Lord Grim’s ability, it was just a matter of time before he got his hands on the materials that he wanted. But Cold Night wasn’t happy right now so if you want something, we don’t have it. We’ll give you something you don’t need!

Ye Xiu looked at Cold Night’s list and didn’t say anything. He picked a few materials and then replied back. Cold Night looked and saw that there wasn’t any problem. The materials were traded and Ye Xiu sent them the guide.

Cold Night opened up the document as if he was looking at a treasure. Just as he was about to say something else to Lord Grim, he found that Lord Grim had gone offline.

Cold Night suddenly panicked. What if they had been tricked? What if the guide was a fake? He hastily checked the guide and looked at the page count. Why was it so long?

He continued to read and discovered that it was different from normal guides. This guide was extremely detailed.

“F\*ck, is he selling it based on the word count?” Cold Night disdained. But after looking at the highlighted portions and then reading them carefully, he immediately realized their significance.

“So it’s like this!” After reading a section, Cold Night suddenly understood.

“Did you get the guide?” On the other side, Jiang You was urging him.

#### Chapter 263 – Christmas Event

Cold Night sent Jiang You’s group the document. They all opened it and began studying it. After reading it through, they discovered that in order to break the record, they still needed to consult with Lord Grim. If they had known this earlier, then they wouldn’t have done so many tricks.

There were no words to describe what they were feeling right now. The only thing that made them feel a bit better was that they knew who Lord Grim really was.

Ye Qiu. It was an identity that wouldn’t garner any love in Tyrannical Ambition.

At least against such a strong opponent, losing wasn’t shameful.

They were all comforted by this thought to some degree. They tacitly agreed not to mention Ye Qiu, nor Lord Grim, and focus only on the guide’s content.

They were all experts, so they quickly understood the guide’s value. The highlighted portions were the guide’s most important points. The guide had originally required the use of five fixed classes, but..... by learning the most important parts of the guide, the classes didn’t need to be fixed. Jiang You’s group discussed this issue about how they could integrate the strategy into their class setup.

Meanwhile, Ye Xiu had already logged off. Ye Xiu was now off from work, so he went out to eat breakfast. While coming back, he saw Chen Guo standing outside of the entrance, ordering a few employees around.

“Oh? Are we going to celebrate Christmas?” When Ye Xiu walked over, he saw that a small pine tree was standing erect at the Internet Cafe’s entrance. Chen Guo was currently putting on bright lights and presents.

“Oh? You actually know the date? You didn’t make a mistake, did you?” Chen Guo said. For people like Ye Xiu who had their days and nights flipped upside down, in her eyes, it was very easy for them to lose track of time.

“I accidentally noticed it.” Ye Xiu circled around the small pine tree.

“Not bad!” Ye Xiu praised.

“Of course.”

“Is there actually stuff in here?” Ye Xiu pointed to the small presents hanging on the tree.

“Of course.”

“What’s inside?”

“Raffle prizes, coupons, etc.” Chen Guo said.

“Oh, oh.” Ye Xiu understood. Clearly, Chen Guo was like a lot of business owners and used this holiday as a marketing scheme.

"I say, boss! When you set up events, you should pay more attention to it! You should buy a Christmas tree. What's up with this tree? Did you make it yourself with wires?" Ye Xiu circled around the Christmas tree again. Ye Xiu could tell that this Christmas tree wasn't real and had been made entirely by hand.

"A handmade one isn't good enough?" Chen Guo walked over and said.

"It's not that it's not good. It's just that it can't compare to an actual tree. It also looks kind of old. Was it from last year?" Ye Xiu asked.

Chen Guo shook her head: "I made it with my dad ten years ago."

Ye Xiu was startled.

He had worked in the Internet Cafe for almost a month. Even though he hadn't heard Chen Guo say it personally, he had heard quite a few stories about her from other employees. He had heard that Chen Guo had taken over the cafe by herself after her parents had passed away.

This rough-looking, hand-made Christmas tree wasn't just used by Chen Guo for advertisement, but it was also a reminder of her memories with her parents. This Christmas tree definitely had a lot of history behind it.

"Your dad's craftsmanship is pretty good. The tree looks really good." Ye Xiu said.

"Thanks." Chen Guo faintly smiled and didn't argue with Ye Xiu's obvious change in attitude.

"Do you need me to help you with anything?" Ye Xiu asked.

"No need. Go ahead and sleep!"

"Okay....." Ye Xiu returned to his room to rest. Chen Guo stood next to the Christmas tree, entranced.

Ten years..... This Christmas tree had accompanied her for ten Christmases.

Her father was still there on the first Christmas. The tree had been made by him as a Christmas present to her. But for the other nine years, only she and the tree had remained!

"Boss, can I hang this here?"

Chen Guo had been distracted, when someone suddenly interrupted her thoughts. An employee was asking her if it was okay to hang a decoration there.

"A little higher!" Chen Guo came back to the present and continued to direct.

Ye Xiu went to bed, but he didn't sleep long and got up before noon. When he left his room and went downstairs, he saw that the Internet Cafe had a complete Christmas makeover.

The handmade Christmas tree was loaded down with presents and ornaments and looked as if it was about to bend over.

Apart from this, all sorts of bright lights and Christmas posters were put up. The most eye-catching headline was the announcement for Happy Internet Cafe's Christmas raffle.

"Not bad, not bad. I can feel the Christmas spirit." Ye Xiu looked around and praised Chen Guo.



“Yeah.” Chen Guo replied. She didn’t even lift up her head.

“The Christmas events are going to start soon. Shouldn’t you hurry up?” Chen Guo said. She and Tang Rou were at the computers playing Glory. The events she was talking about were directed towards the game, not the Internet Cafe.

The game obviously wouldn’t miss an opportunity like Christmas to promote sales. Every year, Glory would come up with new events for all sorts of holidays.

For every new server that was opened, the very first holiday event would be Christmas. And these events were always great opportunities for leveling and equipment. For old servers, there wasn’t much point in leveling. But for the new server, leveling was much more important than equipment. During these events, every minute and every second was precious.

“Aren’t I here now?” Ye Xiu smiled. He obviously wouldn’t miss this opportunity. This was also why he got up early today.

“Sit here. There aren’t any other empty stations.” Chen Guo pointed to a computer next to them.

“Oh?” Ye Xiu looked around again and noticed that business was going exceptionally well. He didn’t know if it was because of the game’s events or because of the Internet Cafe’s holiday promotions.

The computer Chen Guo pointed to was undoubtedly left open for Ye Xiu, even though she didn’t directly say it.

Without any other choice, Ye Xiu sat down and logged into the game.

“Wow. There’re so many people.....” Ye Xiu noticed as soon as he got on.

“Yeah.....” Tang Rou said, too.

Compared to the old servers, there would only be more players in the new servers. In the old servers, players were scattered all around the entire world, while in new servers, players were limited to Level 30 and below maps. As a result, the player population wasn’t spread out evenly and they were mostly crowded together. Even though technology had improved and the number of players wouldn’t cause lag, having a lot of players still caused delays because this year’s event had a competitive element to it.

Hunt down the Christmas thieves.

That was this year’s Christmas event. The plot was extremely simple. Thieves had stolen gifts from Santa, so it was up to the players to get them back. Depending on the gift the player returned, Santa would reward the player with a Christmas present. Each Christmas present would give a certain amount of experience, as well as an unknown reward.

The quest could be done repeatedly and a special ranking was created for the event: Christmas Hunting Leaderboards.

Clearly, it was a ranking based on the number of Christmas thieves hunted. When the event ended, Santa would give a different final present depending on your ranking.

That was the main quest, but there were also a few details.

For example, when stealing back the gifts from the Christmas thieves, the gift might be a piece of equipment, a potion, or some other random item. Players could choose to keep these items instead of returning them to Santa. If the gift wasn't returned, then you wouldn't receive rewards for it. But it was possible that players could become stronger through these items and, as a result, do the event quests more efficiently. All of these items that were gifts would expire after the event ended, but during the event, they could be extremely useful for competitions between players.

Apart from this, because player levels were different, there were several Christmas thief leaderboards that depended upon a range of player levels.

The range was five levels. Players would only compete on their respective leaderboard. The rewards gained also depended on the player's level range. If you leveled up into a different level range, then your previous achievements would carry over into that new level's range on the leaderboard.

#### Chapter 264 – Luck Is Very Important

Not long after Ye Xiu logged into the game, the clock hit twelve and the events began..

Players had naturally studied the event's rules beforehand. Players didn't need to accept any quests. They just needed to look for the Christmas thieves scattered around the map.

However, Christmas thieves had levels like normal monsters. The higher the level, the more points it would give. Besides this, there were also Elite Christmas thieves. They would score more points than normal thieves and would also give better quality presents.

"Ha ha, my luck is good. I've found one!" Ye Xiu heard Chen Guo laugh. He turned his head and saw Chen Guo's Chasing Haze firing towards a Christmas thief. The thief immediately turned its head and pounced towards Chasing Haze. Meanwhile, nearby players also noticed this Christmas thief, but no matter how hard they attacked, the thief's only target was Chasing Haze.

This was one of the special attributes of Christmas thieves: the first aggroed target was locked in. In order to prevent players from fighting amongst each other, whoever attacked the Christmas thief first had priority. Aggroed Christmas thieves would still be hurt by other players' attacks, but no matter how much damage was dealt, it would only help the player who aggroed it first.

Seeing that Chasing Haze had already aggroed the Christmas thief, they stopped attacking and began searching again. The Christmas thief was nimble. It clearly wouldn't be so easy to kill. Christmas thieves had different classes just like players did. They were called thieves, but it didn't mean their class was that of a Thief. The monster that Chen Guo aggroed closed in on her and slashed at her; it was a Swordsman Class: Berserker.

Chen Guo's Chasing Haze used an Aerial Fire, dodging and attacking the Christmas thief.

"Not bad!" Ye Xiu praised. Using Aerial Fire to widen the distance while attacking the target was a basic Launcher maneuver. He could see that Chen Guo was quite proficient in this area. Her movements had been very clean.

Chen Guo was absorbed in the killing. She was focused on her battle with the Christmas thief and hadn't noticed Ye Xiu praising her.

Ye Xiu watched for a bit and then went back to his own game. His Lord Grim had logged off in the wild. At this moment, players were running around everywhere around him. As soon as a Christmas thief spawned, who knew how many attacks flew at it.

Ye Xiu stretched his neck and looked towards Tang Rou. Tang Rou's situation was similar to his. Players were everywhere. Finding a thief to kill was quite difficult. In this event, luck was an extremely important factor.

As Ye Xiu maneuvered his Lord Grim, he opened a message and saw that it was from Su Mucheng's Cleansing Mist.

"You're on time!" Su Mucheng said.

"Why are you on, too?" Ye Xiu was surprised.

"There's an event! Of course I'm going to participate." Su Mucheng explained as if it were obvious.

"It seems like you're not busy. Have you captured any thieves yet?" Ye Xiu helplessly asked.

"Not yet. There's too many people. I'm going to go to Fire Forest to take a look." Su Mucheng replied.

Due to the rules, there would be fewer players in higher-leveled maps. After all, higher leveled players could go to lower-leveled maps, but for lower-leveled players, it could be dangerous for them to go to higher-leveled maps.

"I think Fire Forest is probably the same." Su Mucheng said.

"I think so, too."

Other Level 30 players might not be as skilled as Ye Xiu's group, but they could still wander around Fire Forest. It wasn't that they were unable to kill the monsters in Fire Forest. It was just that it wasn't as efficient for leveling purposes.

"Maybe we should try aiming higher? What do you think about Sin City?" Su Mucheng said.

Sin City was a Level 37-39 area.

The entire leveling area was a city. The layout of the map wasn't too different from a main city, but the NPCs there weren't friendly and their only form of communication towards players was to attack them.

"There might be people there too, but there shouldn't be as many." Ye Xiu said. Players who were confident about surviving in Sin City were all probably heading over there.

"Then let's go take a look!"

"Okay."

Ye Xiu didn't forget to call for Tang Rou. He checked his friends list and Steamed Bun Invasion was unexpectedly offline. As for the others, Seven Fields and Sleeping Moon were online. But for them, going to such a high-leveled area was probably too dangerous, so Ye Xiu didn't call for them.

On their way there, Ye Xiu picked up two Christmas thieves. Christmas thieves had a certain strength to them. Their classes indicated that they had those class's skills. At the very least, they were much more difficult than normal monsters of the same level.

Ye Xiu was able to kill two Christmas thieves. But he had already seen five players die from the Christmas thieves.

Currently, he didn't recognize most of the names on the leaderboards. It seemed like the experts weren't having very good luck. No matter how skilled they were, if they didn't see any Christmas thieves, then what was the point?

Though he did recognize one of the names.

Thousand Creations!

The guy had unexpectedly placed on the Level 31-35 leaderboards. He clearly hadn't gotten the achievement through luck, but rather by kill stealing the monsters.

Due to Christmas thieves locking onto their first target, most kill steals were avoided, but it couldn't entirely be avoided. Under this condition, it made kill stealing a lot more difficult. There might not be a way to kill steal the monster by attacking it, but you could kill off the player it was aggroed onto. That would cause the Christmas thief to turn neutral, which you could then attack in order to take it down.

But doing things like this would only make you into a street rat. Ye Xiu didn't doubt that if Thousand Creations continued to stay on the leaderboards through this method, then today the world chat's main topic would be towards attacking this shameless kill stealer.

Speaking of this, this guy should have already kill stolen quite a few. Were there no angry shouts at him? Ye Xiu looked at the world chat and saw that it was filled with complaints about the event being too difficult to kill Christmas thieves.

Seeing the world chat, Ye Xiu couldn't help but think of Tyrannical Ambition's plight yesterday night. Even though he didn't care who held the dungeon record, Ye Xiu still checked it.

The leaderboards hadn't changed. After Misty Castle had bought the guide, they had set the record after one or two hours. Ye Xiu didn't think that Tyrannical Ambition would lose to them. But there was no trace of them on the leaderboards.

It was possible that Tyrannical Ambition didn't have the suitable accounts, so they were waiting for tomorrow to set it.

"Tsk tsk, they're probably hurting inside, while waiting for the day to go by." Ye Xiu didn't care and didn't need to side with any guild.

And in front of him, Sin City finally appeared.

Chapter 265- Sin City

Sin City. After entering the leveling area, the sky's color changed. The sky was covered in dense, black clouds and thin rain drizzled down.

The entire city had a sinister and dark hue around it. Enveloped in both rain and fog, players had limited visibility. The rain's dripping sound and the occasional thunder challenged the player's hearing.

As soon as Lord Grim entered the city's streets, thunder roared and lightning flashed down from the sky, illuminating the entire street in a deathly pale light in that instant. Ye Xiu suddenly moved his hands. His mouse shifted and Lord Grim stabbed towards his left with his Thousand Chance Umbrella.

The umbrella flipped inside out.

"Pu!" The Dragon Tooth connected with the target.

The lightning revealed his pale and mean face, dripping with rain. His hands held a cold dagger which stabbed towards Lord Grim, but he was hit first by Lord Grim's attack.

This was a Sin City resident, one of the monsters in this leveling area. Glory's drawings were extremely detailed. NPC monsters were randomly generated through character models. Their models were different from one another which made them appear realistic and vivid.

Sin City's unique environment and weather made it troublesome for players. The residents here were also extremely hostile. Their faces looked like fiends and their sneak attacks were sudden. If Ye Xiu were a normal player, he would have most likely been hurt by the sneak attack.

Fortunately, Ye Xiu was Ye Xiu. His Dragon Tooth struck, followed by a Sky Strike.

Ye Xiu was a pro player. He had to be familiar with every type of map. Many of the maps used in Glory's competitive matches were based on maps made in-game. After playing for so many years, how could he not be familiar with this type of environment?

Sin City?

When new players first arrive here, the reduced visibility and noisy background might make them feel repressed and the residents' sudden attacks were likely to scare them. But for Ye Xiu, this was all too ordinary.

After using a Sky Strike, Lord Grim switched around with different forms and used different skills. But the high Level Suppression greatly weakened Lord Grim's killing potential. Even though the fight was without any suspense, it still took him quite a while to kill off the resident.

Ye Xiu didn't want to waste his time on this resident. After killing it, he began paying attention to the surroundings.

Residents were moving around in the 9 o'clock, 11 o'clock, and 1 o'clock direction. These residents' aggro range had obviously been researched by players long ago. For Ye Xiu, he was good enough that he could estimate the distance with his eyes.

These three residents blocked the street he was on. No matter which way he went, he would inevitably enter their aggro range. Ye Xiu saw this, but his Lord Grim continued forward.

Charge forward!

After seeing the resident at the 9 o'clock direction step twice, Ye Xiu used the opportunity to make Lord Grim rush forward.

Leap back!

The resident in the 11 o'clock position suddenly stopped and turned back. Ye Xiu hastily had Lord Grim leap backwards twice, just beyond the edge of the resident's aggro range.

To the right, 30 degrees!

After confirming the residents' positions, Ye Xiu made his decision and rushed forward diagonally.

As he moved, his camera constantly moved, observing the three residents' movements. He would immediately make any adjustments based on their movements. Finally, after twisting and turning, Lord Grim ran past them without being noticed.

The process had been somewhat complicated, but it saved him a lot of time.

"Are all of you here?" After getting past the blockade, Ye Xiu opened his friends list and asked Su Mucheng and Tang Rou.

"Here." The two replied in succession.

The three didn't form a party after meeting up. Even though the event rules allowed for the formation of parties, the Christmas thieves would be mutually shared, which meant that each person would receive a lot less points for each one. From Ye Xiu's experience, parties were there to make the fights easier. If the individual was good enough, then going solo was more efficient than forming a party.

Ye Xiu, Su Mucheng, and Tang Rou were without a doubt good enough to solo these monsters, so there was no need to party up.

After encouraging them, Ye Xiu told Tang Rou the places she had to be careful around in Sin City so that she didn't make a blunder due to her lack of experience.

"You have to listen carefully. Even though there's a lot of background noise, the monsters' attacks won't be completely covered up. You will have to get used to screening out the necessary sounds from all of the noise." In Glory, lots of dangers behind the player could be found through experience and screening. It was an important game skill that had to be grasped.

"Got it." Tang Rou replied.

Chen Guo glanced at Tang Rou's screen and immediately gasped in surprise: "You're going to Sin City at that level?" While looking towards Ye Xiu's screen, she said: "You too!"

Not waiting for Ye Xiu's answer, Chen Guo began to bubble with excitement. Her hand pointed towards Ye Xiu's screen: "A thief!!!!"

"I see it!" Ye Xiu had no choice but to talk with her.

"Hurry up and attack it!"

"I don't want to aggro the other monsters!" Ye Xiu said. He had seen the Christmas thief long ago, but the guy was standing next to two Sin City residents. If he attacked now, the two residents would be aggroed. Ye Xiu wanted to wait for an appropriate time.

Chen Guo understood what Ye Xiu meant. As a result, she ignored her own character and helped Ye Xiu watch the thief.

That Christmas thief crouched into a corner and stopped moving. The two Sin City residents incessantly paced back and forth.

"Oh, oh, oh! Hurry up and attack!" Chen Guo suddenly hit Ye Xiu.

"The right one is still off by one position!" Ye Xiu said.

"Really?" Chen Guo muttered, "If you're going to keep wasting your time like this, then you might as well just kill them all, no? You're good enough to do that, right?"

"Don't rush me." Ye Xiu didn't move and looked as if this was his only option.

"Let's see how long you're going to wait!" Chen Guo said, when the two residents moved one step sideways. Right at this moment, Lord Grim lifted his weapon and fired.

The bullet moved extremely quickly. All Chen Guo saw was the blood that blossomed out when the bullet hit the Christmas thief's head. The Christmas thief immediately leaped up and charged forward.

During this moment, the two residents turned around, but the attack had already ended and only the Christmas thief headed towards Lord Grim, which wasn't something that they really cared about.

Ye Xiu had actually grasped that short window of opportunity. He had probably calculated the distance between them as well as the bullet's speed and the timing. Was that something she could do as well?

Chen Guo realized long ago that Ye Xiu wasn't any ordinary expert, but after witnessing this scene, Chen Guo weighed herself against him and suffered a blow to herself. As for how Ye Xiu was going to kill the Christmas thief, Chen Guo had no interest in watching. That was because Chen Guo wouldn't be able to understand anything while directly watching Ye Xiu's screen.

#### Chapter 266 – Escaping Outside of the Aggro Range

Chen Guo stopped looking over at Ye Xiu's screen. She then turned her head and glanced at Tang Rou's screen. But the scene that she saw made her even more dumbstruck.

These two people's circumstances were polar opposites.

On Ye Xiu's side, he carefully planned and didn't arouse even a single Sin City resident. But on Tang Rou's side, now that was a commotion. Her Soft Mist ran like mad the entire way. Her character glanced around every few seconds and Chen Guo already saw that there were at least ten residents chasing after her already! Tang Rou's movements were truly extraordinary.

In addition, she looked as if she would gather more. As she sprinted down the road, not a single resident that she passed by didn't notice her and added itself to the growing number of troops.

Tang Rou didn't want to provoke them, either. It was just that their aggro range was just too large and they were just too aggressive. If she were here to level up, then that wouldn't be a bad thing and would actually be convenient for that purpose. But in her situation, avoiding these monsters' aggro required experience and awareness. It didn't matter how good her mechanics were.

Tang Rou clearly wasn't at Ye Xiu's level. She had only recently entered Sin City and she had already gathered up so many residents.

In the beginning, Tang Rou had killed them off. But after killing a few, she saw that she wasn't getting much experience. It was a complete waste of time. As a result, she didn't want to keep wasting her time. But in front of these Sin City residents, they weren't going to just not fight you if you didn't want to fight. It wasn't that convenient.

Chen Guo watched for a bit and felt that Tang Rou was in a lot of danger. She hated how she wasn't able to help her, so she hastily went to grab Ye Xiu.

"Hey, hey, don't pull! Don't pull!!" Ye Xiu was currently attacking a Christmas thief. He was unable to withstand the drag and made a slip-up. Lord Grim was hit by the thief's blade, which also disrupted Lord Grim's combo. This Christmas thief was an actual Thief class. After doing that, the thief rolled backwards and immediately began to wander off.

"Oh no!" Chen Guo looked and also knew that the situation was bad. This was a commonly used tactic by Thieves. They would wander off and place traps everywhere, restricting your movements. It seemed like the AI for these Christmas thieves were different than in the past. They moved as if they were real, like actual players.

When a player accidentally set off an explosion, a spike, or a poison gas bomb, it was always a mood destroyer. A lot of players didn't lose to Thieves in mechanics, but in their psychology. When affected players continued to fight in an imbalanced state of mind, their movements turned panicked and they would make more mistakes, causing them to lose.

For people like Chen Guo, who were easily instigated, this sort of strategy was something that they feared intensely. Who knew how many times they had lost to Thieves because of this? Seeing this situation, she accidentally put herself into the situation and panicked. She apologized for messing up Ye Xiu.

But..... it was a groundless fear.

The Christmas thief put down the first trap and then sidestepped, ready to put down a second. But before he could do so, three Anti-Tank Missiles fired at him. The Christmas thief had nowhere to run. The thief was hit directly and failed to set the trap. Lord Grim rushed forward with his Thousand Chance Umbrella in its battle lance form. He swung up with a Sky Strike, launching the thief into the air.

The battle instantly returned to the original scene. The Christmas thief was stuck in Lord Grim's combo and was unable to get out. Ye Xiu continued to play, while asking : "What is it?"

"Ah?" Chen Guo had been so worried that she had almost forgotten about Tang Rou's situation. She turned around and saw that Tang Rou's situation looked even worse now, so she replied hastily: "It's about Little Tang. She's being chased by a lot of monsters!"



Ye Xiu heard this and glanced over to Tang Rou's side: "I've told her how to escape the monsters' line of sight before!"

Ye Xiu didn't have hopes that Tang Rou had the ability to not alarm any residents like he was doing now. As a result, he reminded her of how to quickly escape from the monsters' aggro.

Escaping from their line of sight was one way to get rid of their aggro. Simply speaking, when you ran, you would turn more and wind around walls more. The aggro would quickly drop and the monsters would lose their line of sight and stop chasing. In Sin City's streets, running away in this way was very easy.

"She was doing it, but....."

But what? Whenever she escaped from old residents, she would always bump into new ones, aggroing them. Tang Rou was stuck in this type of loop. In addition, now that she had pulled so many of these residents, it was too late to turn back and fight them all.

"What are her coordinates?" Ye Xiu asked Chen Guo. Tang Rou was very focused and didn't know that the two of them were talking about her.

Chen Guo checked, when she suddenly saw a figure in front of Tang Rou's character.

A figure appeared on one of the rooftops. Tang Rou immediately focused on her. Chen Guo immediately recognized the equipment on the character: a Launcher! It was the class she was most familiar with. It was a female Launcher too, so her familiarity increased by 100%.

The character's class was the same and the equipment were ones that she recognized, but there was one thing that was very different. This female Launcher chose to have long hair that fluttered in the fine rain. The cannon in her hands lit up and flashed, shooting out a Laser. The female Launcher gently leaped backwards, utilizing the Laser Rifle's recoil.

Tang Rou's camera followed the Laser, which directly hit the dozen or so residents behind her. These monsters were only chasing her because she had entered their aggro range. Compared to that, an attack drew much more aggro from them. Simply speaking, the Launcher created an OT and most of the residents switched their targets to the female Launcher, except for the three or four that hadn't been hit by the laser.

"Oh!" Chen Guo heard Tang Rou suddenly say. The female Launcher had probably said a few words to her.

Soon afterwards, more artillery shells were fired and those remaining residents were aggroed onto the female Launcher. The dozen residents stopped chasing Soft Mist and began chasing after the Launcher.

But the female Launcher had already disappeared. She had clearly jumped down onto a different street. She was escaping from the monsters' line of sight. The residents climbed up the walls quickly though, which was something players couldn't do. The group of residents climbed over and onto the other street. Not longer after, the Launcher jumped onto another rooftop and down onto a different street.

After a few rounds of this, their aggro was wiped clean. The dozen residents stayed on the streets and were no longer interested in their escaped target.

This type of method for getting rid of aggro was simple and effective. But unfortunately, Tang Rou was unable to use it. Mages didn't have high jumps and weren't able to jump onto the rooftops.

Those that could had to use special moves. For example, the Gunner had Aerial Fire. Witches could use their Brooms to fly up. Assassins could double jump, etc. Battle Mages could do it through equipment effects and skills, but currently, they weren't able to, yet.

The Launcher returned to the original street and walked towards Soft Mist.

"Thanks." Chen Guo heard Tang Rou say. She also saw the Launcher's name: Cleansing Mist.

"You recognize her?" Seeing that Tang Rou was no longer in danger, Chen Guo went to ask her.

"Yeah. She's Ye Xiu's friend. She dungeons with us a lot."

"She seems really good?"

"She is!" Tang Rou said.

"Is she better than me?" Chen Guo laughed.

"That.... uh..... uh....." Tang Rou wasn't sure how to answer.

"What?"

"You asked if she's better. She says 'uh', which means that she's better than you!" Ye Xiu couldn't but explain to Chen Guo.

Chapter 267 – Christmas Hunting Leaderboards

"Hmph!" Chen Guo wasn't as competitive as Tang Rou. It was only because the female character was playing the same class as she was, as well as her heroic entrance, which caught her eye, that she had jokingly asked such a question. In the end, Ye Xiu seemed certain that that female Launcher was better than she was, immediately making her depressed. She was completely capable of doing what that Launcher had done, too! Why was that Launcher better then?

"I think I'll try again." Tang Rou was clearly talking in-game.

Su Mucheng had just happened to pass by when she noticed that Tang Rou was in trouble. The trouble was now solved, but if Tang Rou continued, she would most likely fall into the same situation again. As a result, Su Mucheng had suggested that the two party up.

But Tang Rou wasn't so soft. The only reason why the situation had occurred was because she hadn't been prepared enough. She kept on aggroing them until she couldn't deal with them anymore. But now that she had a fresh start, Tang Rou felt like if she paid a bit more attention, then the situation shouldn't go as badly as before, which was why she had said to Su Mucheng that she wanted to try again by herself.

"Okay, that's fine!" Su Mucheng said and sent a smiley face. Thus, the two split up and headed in opposite directions, one heading east and the other heading west.

Tang Rou had Soft Mist run a few steps forward and stop. She stretched her neck towards Ye Xiu's screen to steal his techniques.

Ye Xiu's progress was going smoothly. He quickly found another Christmas thief and, just like before, he aggroed it without disturbing any of the other residents. Ye Xiu saw Tang Rou out of the corner of his eyes. He attacked the thief, while saying: "There's no point in looking. You won't be able to learn how to do what I'm doing in an instant."

"Why not?" Tang Rou was pondering over the method Ye Xiu had just used to avoid the monsters, when she heard Ye Xiu talk to her.

"Expert, you explain to her." Ye Xiu said to Chen Guo.

"....." Chen Guo was speechless. Usually, when someone called her an expert, she'd become happy. But being called an expert by someone who was clearly better than she was made her feel as if she had been called a noob!

Chen Guo glared at Ye Xiu, while still giving Tang Rou an explanation. She told her that Ye Xiu's methods didn't involve any special techniques, but it relied on experience and intuition, which could only be gained through time. This was something only experienced players possessed.

Tang Rou heard this and could only nod her head. As a new player, she had no way of replicating that. Just how far apart were the monster and herself? Tang Rou looked a hundred times, but couldn't tell!

Since she had no way of copying Ye Xiu, Tang Rou was forced to use her own clumsy method. If the monster seemed easy to avoid, then she'd simply go through without arousing the monster. If the monster didn't seem easy to avoid, she wouldn't risk it and would find somewhere else to go — she was basically just wandering around the city randomly. If there was nowhere to hide and no way of easily getting through, then her only choice would be to force her way through.

Tang Rou relied on her own ability and struggled through Sin City. She found a few Christmas thieves on the way and killed them off conveniently. To her, fighting was a lot simpler than finding her way around the city.

In the end, the saddest person was Chen Guo.

She had luckily bumped into a Christmas thief at the beginning of the event, but ever since then, she hadn't encountered any others afterwards. Whenever she saw one, it was always taken away by someone else first. Chen Guo could only admire Tang Rou and Ye Xiu as they killed Christmas thieves from time to time.

The new server truly was better! For there to actually be Christmas thieves that no one was scrambling for... As for the Heavenly Domain, which Chen Guo's Chasing Haze resided in? There were crowds of players everywhere she went. The players' enthusiasm was too scary.

If the Heavenly Domain was like this, then that meant that the older servers were also like this. In addition, the Heavenly Domain had its own server leaderboard. Points gained from the old server and points gained from the Heavenly Domain wouldn't be combined. Chen Guo had already decided that she would stick with the Heavenly Domain server. She didn't have the ambition to get onto the

leaderboards. She just wanted to kill a few thieves and then earn some of the rewards. But one hour after the event began, poor Chen Guo was only able to kill three Christmas thieves.

However, the rewards from catching three Christmas thieves was better than the gains one normally made in an hour. When max-leveled players turned in the stolen gifts from the thieves they had killed to Santa, the experience they gained would automatically be turned into money, in addition to a whole bunch of other rewards.

But the ones who were truly excited were those on the system announcements.

In the global chat, there would be messages about some players earning a rare reward.

In order to get on TV, the rewards had to be a Purple or higher ranked equipment, an uncommon material, a hidden dungeon map, a BOSS summoning scroll, an equipment enhancement scroll, or even skill books.....

All of these rewards were things that everyone wanted. It didn't even matter what the probability of getting those were; everyone rushed like ducks to try and grab one.

Messages of joy, sobbing, bragging and cursing appeared in the global chat. It didn't matter since no one would give up on the event.

Seeing how a few players were grumbling in grief about how they hadn't been able to kill a single thief, Chen Guo's three thieves looked quite promising. At the very least, her hour hadn't been wasted. But for these types of events, the scariest part about them was comparing your results with others.

Compared to those crying players, Chen Guo was very lucky. However, compared to the two people beside her, Chen Guo really wanted to punch them.

On her left, Tang Rou had killed nine Christmas thieves in an hour.

On her right, Ye Xiu was even crazier. He had killed fourteen Christmas thieves in an hour. Chen Guo wasn't even close to them.

For her, every time she caught a Christmas thief, she would impatiently run to Santa and exchange it for a present. But them? Their inventory had lots of stolen gifts in them, but it seemed as if they wouldn't go back until their inventories were full.

Chen Guo was extremely sad! Fill up her inventory? That was only a dream for her!

Ye Xiu and Tang Rou focused on searching for Christmas thieves and hadn't paid any attention to the person that was between them, who had only killed three in an hour.

Aside from searching for Christmas thieves, they had also paid attention to the leaderboard.

The Christmas Hunting Leaderboards. Ye Xiu's Lord Grim was 261st place after an hour. As for Tang Rou's Soft Mist, she was quite far from Lord Grim, at 784th place. The two were also able to see Su Mucheng's Cleansing Mist, which was at 319th place, way ahead of Tang Rou and fairly close to Ye Xiu.

But the biggest difference was that, while Lord Grim and Cleansing Mist were still rising up in the leaderboard, Soft Mist was beginning to hover around the 800th mark. Clearly, at this ranking, she was

killing off Christmas thieves at the same rate as those at the 800th mark. The competition was fierce but Ye Xiu's and Su Mucheng's skill levels truly were higher than everyone else's by a whole level.

The leaderboards clearly showed their gap, but for Tang Rou, these rankings only fired up her spirit even up more. As soon as her name showed up on the leaderboards, she rushed up to the 800th mark. But after that, she was unable to move forward any further. This achievement hadn't come easy. She had been running around Sin City like crazy. In that hour, she had killed nine Christmas thieves, but had also killed eighteen Sin City residents. Those battles had consumed a lot of her time.

The Level 31-35 Christmas Hunting Leaderboard caught their attention, but they didn't pay too much attention to other leaderboards.

For example, the Hunting Leaderboard for guilds.

This leaderboard didn't distinguish between the different skill levels. It looked at the total number of points from all the players in the guild. Without a doubt, guilds with more members and higher-leveled members would have the advantage, but it also could be argued that this was a representation of a guild's strength.

At this moment, the guild that placed first on the tenth server's Christmas Hunting Guild Leaderboard wasn't Herb Garden, Blue Brook Guild or Tyrannical Ambition.

Excellent Dynasty!

Excellent Dynasty was impressively placed first by a large margin, too. The number two was Herb Garden, who was followed closely behind by Blue Brook Guild and Tyrannical Ambition. In reality, the rankings between these three guilds were a messy battle. The placings between them constantly shifted.

For all of these big guilds, who had failed in the competition for the dungeon records, this Christmas event was a huge chance for them to prove themselves. This competition this time seemed to be unrelated to Ye Xiu. Ye Xiu glanced at it for a second and then stopped paying attention to it.

Chapter 268 – Deviously Stealing Monsters

The players continued to work hastily at their task. As for the leaderboards, the majority of players looked at it with one third envy, one third jealousy and one third pain.

The players on the leaderboards were definitely earning more presents and rewards than the other players. In addition, whether it was due to skill or luck, these players would only continue to grow stronger with more presents, making others feel truly helpless at their situation.

The players who were on the leaderboards followed their placing carefully in order to maintain it or rise further. Only by doing this long-term would they gradually begin to guarantee their spots.

Being able to hunt Christmas thieves in Sin City was undoubtedly a reflection of a player's skill. Tang Rou continued to work hard and her ranking began to gradually rise as a result.

Finally, when some of the luckier players, who had found Christmas thieves consecutively, began to run out of luck, they gradually started falling off as players, who relied on their skill, such as Tang Rou, steadily pushed ahead.

774.....

767.....

751.....

749.....

Every time Tang Rou killed a Christmas thief, the number of points she earned increased and her name would go up a few rankings. And just like this, Tang Rou continued advancing step by step, improving her spirit with each step. Her left hand tapped her keyboard, while her right hand held her mouse and her two eyes stared intently at the screen, unwilling to shift away for even a single second.

Leaderboards possessed this type of mysterious attractive force.

Another one!

Tang Rou was getting more and more used to Sin City's atmosphere and was also getting better and better at finding targets while having a hazy field of vision. Out in the distance, amidst the rain and fog, a blurry figure could be seen. Tang Rou determined that it was a Christmas thief and immediately rushed towards it.

At the same time, another figure flashed out from the other side of the street, sprinting towards the same Christmas thief. In the figure's hands was a bright lightsaber that stood out in the rain.

Tang Rou saw the figure and immediately understood the person's intent. After being in Sin City for so long, she had seen many other players, but this was the first time she had set her eyes on the same target as another player.

Tang Rou obviously wouldn't back down. She chose the shortest route to the Christmas thief and sprinted towards it. A Sin City resident that she had been planning to avoid was alerted. She didn't have the time to bother being careful.

The Sin City resident naturally wouldn't be nice to Tang Rou. Soft Mist's figure dashed past his eyes as the resident pounced forward coldly with a knife in his hands.

The opposing Blade Master also noticed the incoming Battle Mage. The majority of the players who were currently in Sin City were veterans in Glory and were far more experienced than Tang Rou. Judging from the distance between the two to the Christmas thief, the Blade Master determined that he was one step faster than her. Just as he thought that he had won, he saw that the Battle Mage had alerted the monster, which made him feel even happier, reinforcing his confidence in snatching this Christmas thief.

When the resident closed in, Tang Rou didn't hesitate. Her right hand swiped her mouse and Soft Mist sent a Sky Strike, launching the resident into the air. Soft Mist stepped sideways and then used a Falling Flower Palm. The force from the palm scattered the rain, creating a ripple. It all looked very tyrannical.

"Not good!" When the Blade Master saw the direction of the palm, he panicked. The Battle Mage had unexpectedly used the monster to profit from the disaster. She had originally been a bit slower, but now with the Falling Flower Palm, the resident had accurately crashed into the Christmas thief.

After the Christmas thief climbed up, the thief nimbly ran towards Soft Mist. The Blade Master quietly watched and could only curse out loud.

Tang Rou heard the player curse, but ignored him. Soft Mist went forward and met with the Christmas thief and that resident.

It was a 1v2, but Tang Rou wasn't scared. She had killed quite a few Christmas thieves and residents already. Attacking two of them at the same time wasn't too difficult for her, which was why she wasn't afraid to alert the resident and use it to her advantage.

The Blade Master originally planned to get ready to leave. However, at this moment, the two players moved a bit closer to one another, allowing him to see the blurry ID that had been hidden by the mist and rain.

Soft Mist.

Seeing this ID, the Blade Master halted.

He put his sword next to him as the Blade Master quietly watched Soft Mist fight.

Level 31. The Blade Master looked up the ID and confirmed Soft Mist's level. At this level, she would suffer from Level Suppression in Sin City. Yet, it looked as if the 1v2 was going smoothly, confirming Soft Mist's strength. The Blade Master couldn't deny that she deserved to be a member of Lord Grim's dungeon team.

The Blade Master thought to himself for a bit and then quietly left.

Tang Rou had noticed the player watching her and was prepared for a fight.

But after seeing the player leave, she relaxed. She guessed that the player was thinking about whether or not she was able to deal with both a Christmas thief and a monster at the same time. If she wasn't capable of doing so, then he would have picked up the scraps. But after seeing that the situation wasn't going to happen, he naturally left. This type of thinking wasn't anything noble, but it was at least better than directly killing the opposing player and forcefully stealing the monster.

Tang Rou clearly wasn't having any trouble with the two monsters if she still had the ability to think about other things. After collecting her thoughts, she focused on the fighting. But to her surprise, the Blade Master returned not long after and was running like crazy, too. Behind him were ten or so Sin City residents.

With around ten people running along the wet ground, the footsteps were able to be heard clearly. Tang Rou heard the noise so turned her head to look and saw that the guy was running towards her with the mob of monsters.

Tang Rou stopped smiling. This guy was in the same situation as she was before! Even though she sympathized with him, Tang Rou couldn't do anything to help. She was afraid of this, too.

In the blink of an eye, the person reached her. Tang Rou looked closer and was suddenly startled.

Wind Following Sword!

Wasn't this ID the same as that Blade Master she had just seen? He had only just run off, so why did he suddenly gather so many monsters? That wasn't normal, right?

Even if Tang Rou was inexperienced, she could still tell that something wasn't right. Just as she brought up her guard, this time, Wind Following Sword wasn't as nice and a sword wind sliced towards her.

A sword light flashed amidst the dusky rain and fog. The sword wind carried the rain, beautifully soaring towards Soft Mist.

It looked good, but it didn't make her feel good.

Tang Rou immediately had Soft Mist dodge to the side, but the thief and resident didn't care about her situation and continued to attack.

Sword light flashed once again. Wind Following Sword used a Sword Draw and then followed up with a Triple Slash to close in. In that instant, three opponents were attacking her, but Tang Rou didn't panic. She dodged to the side and sent out a Sky Strike.

Wind Following Sword was a bit slow. He wasn't able to dodge the attack in time and was launched into the air, not high up, but still knocked up. Tang Rou wasn't polite in the slightest and followed up quickly with a Falling Flower Palm.

Palm hit!

Wind Following Sword was hit directly by the Falling Flower Palm and was sent flying backwards. Tang Rou suddenly cried out, "Oh, no!"

"Ha ha ha ha, girl, you really like using this trick!"

Wind Following Sword wasn't acting like the loser and was unexpectedly laughing. His body flew and crashed into the giant mob of Sin City residents.

These residents had grouped together. His crash was even more thorough than Su Mucheng's Laser Rifle. Every single resident was hit.

And their aggro counted towards Soft Mist.

Against a devious opponent, Tang Rou's lack of experience had finally cost her.

Chapter 269 – It's Not That Simple

The ten or so Sin City residents climbed up from the ground; their gazes were all directed towards Soft Mist. They hissed and then swarmed forward.

Wind Following Sword slowly got up at this moment. On top of his head was a word bubble with an "evil" smiley face in it.

Tang Rou felt extremely disdainful of this player. This time, she was actually angry. She hadn't been this angry even when the big guilds had ambushed her.

She didn't say anything and then suddenly pounced directly towards the ten residents. However, her Scarlet Moon Lance was pointed towards the peaceful Wind Following Sword.



Wind Following Sword was startled by Tang Rou's manner, but after seeing the ten residents between them, he immediately calmed down.

This sister. It's hard to even say if she'd be able to run away from these monsters, yet she actually advanced forward instead of retreating. It looked very silly.

Wind Following Sword didn't move and watched Soft Mist clash with the residents. He wasn't planning on leaving. He wanted that Christmas thief behind Soft Mist. Of course, if he also killed off Soft Mist, then that'd be good, too.

Soft Mist once again used a Falling Flower Palm. Her palm hit the center of the mob and the energy rippled through, spreading out in a series of crashing explosions. It was as if a bomb had been set off inside the mob. The monsters were immediately split up and sent into a state of confusion.

Wind Following Sword looked and saw that Soft Mist was better than he had originally thought. But even though the Falling Flower Palm had been done well, if she wanted to directly charge forward, it wouldn't be that simple.

Because of the Level Suppression, Falling Flower Palm's blow-away effect would be greatly weakened. The palm really had been executed beautifully, but the effects didn't reach Tang Rou's expectations. The distance that the monsters were blown away wasn't far enough. Tang Rou was just about to have Soft Mist charge forward and attack Wind Following Sword, but two of the residents that hadn't been blown away suddenly pounced towards her.

Wind Following Sword laughed coldly. In this type of situation, he didn't think that Soft Mist would dare to battle with these two residents. If she did, the other residents would surround her, and by that point, even if she were given wings, she'd have difficulty escaping.

In the end, Soft Mist swung her Scarlet Moon Lance and actually attacked the two residents.

Wind Following Sword stared blankly and then sneered: "Idiot!"

The two residents were launched into the sky by the Sky Strike. Closely following, Soft Mist extended her hands and stabbed forward at one of them with a Dragon Tooth, sending one of them towards Wind Following Sword. Soft Mist stepped forward, stabbed forward again, picking up the other resident, and threw it in a half circle. That resident was thrown behind her, causing a shockwave, knocking the monsters that had just gotten up back to the ground.

This time, Wind Following Sword was truly shocked!

Under the Level Suppression, Sky Strike's knock-up effect wouldn't be too high, but in that short amount of time, Soft Mist had actually completed a Dragon Tooth and a Circle Swing, with extreme accuracy as well. That hand speed made Wind Following Sword re-evaluate her.

Wind Following Sword dodged the resident, but then saw a Fire Chaser fly towards him and strike the resident.

The Fire Chaser exploded and Wind Following Sword was caught in the explosion. Fire Chasers did Area of Effect damage.

She had even sent out a Fire Chaser at that moment? She had controlled it perfectly as well to catch both of them in the explosion. It definitely wasn't a coincidence.

This girl! Her mechanics were incredible!

Wind Following Sword was thinking on turning, when Soft Mist closed in. Her Scarlet Moon Lance sliced towards him as if it were about to cut him into a meat patty.

But Wind Following Sword wouldn't be beaten as easily as those monsters. He sidestepped and countered with his own attack. He then jumped backwards twice, causing Soft Mist's next two stabs to hit nothing but air.

Tang Rou was startled. For the competitive her, this type of situation excited her. Whether it was her hand speed or her microing, they would all be better than normal when she was in battle. Her Double Stab had been performed quite quickly, but the opponent had unexpectedly anticipated it and jumped backwards.

Wind Following Sword chuckled and returned with an "Upward Slash". Tang Rou jumped back without thinking. Pow! The Christmas thief had caught up and whacked her.

The thief's aggro was still on Soft Mist's body. The thief wasn't planning on running!

At this moment, Sin City's residents had climbed up and pounced forward. But even in this situation, Tang Rou was even more intent on carrying out her program than those NPCs and continued to attack Wind Following Sword.

Her lance pricked up with a Sky Strike, which was once again easily dodged by Wind Following Sword.

She turned and her left hand struck. A tyrannical Falling Flower Palm shot forward, but unfortunately missed.

Missed? Why can't I hit him?

Tang Rou didn't feel like there were any problems with her playing, but the opponent seemed to always be able to predict her moves. Under this tense situation, Tang Rou was unable to calm down. The only thought in her head was to fight!

Even if she was going to end up being surrounded by the monsters, she would drag that evil guy to hell with her.

With her fighting spirit risen, she fiercely attacked.

This time, she only used normal attacks. Tang Rou's hands moved even faster than before, sacrificing precision to do so. All she knew was that her attacks were headed in the general direction towards Wind Following Sword! Even if she died, she was going to kill that guy.

Stab, slash, slice! These basic attacks brought about an unexpected effect.

Wind Following Sword wasn't as calm as before. The three consecutive attacks had thrown him off guard. He failed to dodge the slice, which hit his waist, causing his character to stagger to the side two steps. He didn't seem to be having as easy of a time dodging as he had before.

Tang Rou suddenly understood what was going on.

Ye Xiu had taught her about this before. Pay attention to the skills that were used. And that Wind Following Sword was using this method.

Before this, Tang Rou had used a Falling Flower Palm, Sky Strike, Dragon Tooth and Circle Swing in quick succession. After that, those four skills were on cooldown and the Chasers would be shot out only when hitting the target. Finally, since Soft Mist was a Level 31 Battle Mage, her only skill left was a Double Stab.

Wind Following Sword had calculated this, which was why he was able to easily predict the Double Stab. Soft Mist then used her skills one after the other once the skills went off cooldown, which Wind Following Wind predicted and dodged easily.

It was because her hand speed was quick that the opponent could predict her moves so easily. The instant that she finished all her skills, she would use them again as soon as they could be used.

This Wind Following Sword wasn't so simple either. Tang Rou had obviously practiced this before under Ye Xiu's guidance, but even though the theory was simple, doing it in practice wasn't. Tang Rou was still learning to pay attention to her own skills' cooldowns and was far from being able to pay attention to the opponent's skill usage and cooldowns. But this Wind Following Sword, even if it was only because Soft Mist only had a few skills and was predictable, was still able to do something that Tang Rou wasn't able to.

But this time, Tang Rou's quick normal attacks finally made it so that he was unable to keep up. Normal attacks didn't have cooldowns, so Wind Following Sword had no way of predicting them. And since Tang Rou was faster than he was, he had no way of dealing with them.

He hadn't yet stabilized himself, when a scarlet light flashed in front of him again. Soft Mist's Sky Strike had struck again. This time, Wind Following Sword wasn't able to dodge and was launched into the air.

Circle Swing!

The lance stabbed through Wind Following Sword and then threw him towards the ground. The monsters that were now surrounding her were knocked to the ground by the following shockwave.

However, Tang Rou wasn't able to completely protect herself from every direction. During that time, she had also been hit by the monsters.

Chapter 270 – Battle Spirit

Tang Rou finally hit Wind Following Sword, but the price in doing so had been extremely high. During that time, the monsters were hitting her, dropping her health by a third. Unfortunately, due to the Level Suppression, the damage that she took was also greater.

In comparison, the damage that she had inflicted onto Wind Following Sword was not even close to that high.

It definitely wouldn't be good for her if they continued to exchange blows like this.

Even though it was a fact that Battle Mages were a part of the Mage class, they had a Strength growth rate of 3.5, which was the same as Blade Masters. However, for their defense, they maintained the same value, a weak 2.5 Vitality growth rate, just like the other Mage classes.

And for their equipment, Battle Mages were proficient with Leather Armor, while Blade Masters were proficient with Light Armor. Battle Mages also had weaker Defenses.

Battle Mages had the disadvantage in Vitality and Defense. How could Battle Mages trade blows with Blade Masters?

Even more so, Wind Following Sword's level was higher than hers and Soft Mist was the only opponent he had faced. On the other hand, Soft Mist also had the ten residents, as well as the mighty Christmas thief, as opponents.

It was extremely difficult, but compared to beating Ye Xiu, Tang Rou felt that it was still doable.

Soft Mist brandished her lance and guarded against the monsters. She fished out a health pot and downed it.

In an endurance battle, you had to grasp the timing for when to drink potions. As soon as your health and mana began to fall, you had to start paying attention to them. The things Ye Xiu had taught her were now appearing clearly in her mind. Tang Rou knew how difficult this battle would be so she focused her attention on the battle.

Dragon Tooth! Her Scarlet Moon Lance stabbed forward, brushing past the two residents, and headed directly towards Wind Following Sword, who hastily dodged it. Soft Mist then followed up with a Falling Flower Palm. The monsters ahead were blown away, blocking Wind Following Sword's left and right escape routes.

Wind Following Sword immediately jumped into the air and allowed the flying monsters to pass through. Seeing that there was a huge opening in Soft Mist's defenses right now, Wind Following Sword grabbed his sword and, just as he was about to use a Falling Light Blade, he suddenly changed his mind and canceled it.

The skill hadn't come out, but since he had already activated it, the skill went cooldown. It looked like a waste, but in a high-skill battle, faking an attack was common.

Wind Following Sword didn't have any intentions of faking an attack. When he landed on the ground, he laughed coldly: "Are you trying to trick me? Girl, you're still too naive."

The Falling Light Blade might have hit Soft Mist, but the shockwave would have also hit the surrounding monsters. At that moment, Wind Following Sword had figured out Tang Rou's intent: to trick him into aggroing those monsters.

"You go and play with them on your own!" Wind Following Sword laughed. He used a Triple Slash to retreat far away.

Seeing that Wind Following Sword hadn't been duped, Tang Rou's plan fell through. After seeing him run away, she became even more aware that the situation she was in wasn't looking good. That guy was too shrewd. Compared to how he played, she really was too simple.

Perhaps the only way for her to win is to charge forward without looking back!

Soft Mist's Neutral Chasers provided her with a movement speed buff and the Fire Chasers buffed her Strength. Her condition flourished as she rushed towards Wind Following Sword.

Wind Following Sword had pretty much figured out her plan. He walked around and decided that he wouldn't tangle around with her. Soft Mist had the advantage in movement speed, but Wind Following Sword was able to walk around freely, while she had to deal with the monsters. She was able to hit Wind Following Sword sometimes, but she had no way of following up on it. If she ignored the pursuing monsters, she would definitely be the first to fall.

They continued to run around like this and Wind Following Sword's health slowly whittled away. However, Wind Following Sword didn't panic. He took out a health potion and downed it right in front of Soft Mist and looked at her as if he were the emperor.

How to fight in a prolonged battle was a course that every expert needed to take. Wind Following Sword clearly knew about this. At this moment, he had calmly drank a potion, and arrogantly too. He had naturally wanted Tang Rou to lose hope.

Wind Following Sword hadn't been paying attention to the time. When he checked, he suddenly jumped up in fright. He had been messing around with Soft Mist for 20 minutes already!

Soft Mist had spent 20 minutes being chased by monsters, who were six to eight levels higher, while chasing him. This girl was a bit too fierce!

Wind Following Sword arrogantly drank another potion. As his opponent chased after him, she also drank a potion.

She didn't waver and hadn't admitted defeat yet. This type of person could be knocked down, beaten, and killed! However, it didn't look as if it were possible to make her give up.

"You really do possess skill." Wind Following Sword began speaking, "But, this truly is too boring!"

Tang Rou ignored him and continued to have Soft Mist rush forward. Wind Following Sword continued to dodge her attacks.

"Watch my sword!" Wind Following Sword suddenly shouted. Soft Mist immediately halted.

"Ha ha ha ha, I was just playing with you." Wind Following Sword laughed, as if he was looking for some fun in something that was very boring.

After 20 minutes of playing like this, Tang Rou's condition finally seemed to be declining. Her continuous charging forward without looking back momentum was affected and the monsters had caught up with her. It didn't look as if she possessed the ability to deal with Wind Following Sword anymore.

"F\*ck." Wind Following Sword was finally able to stand still and relax.

"If you knew this was going to happen, why'd you have to dawdle around! Hurry up and die already. You're wasting my time." Wind Following Sword shouted at the struggling Soft Mist.

“Blade Masters really liked spouting nonsense!” Tang Rou, who had been silent the whole time, suddenly shouted.

Her voice sounds quite nice!

That was the first thought that appeared in Wind Following Sword’s mind. But, he could also hear the coldness and murderous intent in her voice. To be toyed around like this, it’d be weird if she wasn’t angry.

“Aren’t you bored of talking so much?” Accompanying this was a loud explosion. A lightning bolt crashed down from Sin City’s skies. The monsters that were surrounding Soft Mist were suddenly blown away. A Falling Flower Palm, along with a coincidental thunder boom, made the scene look extremely impressive. Wind Following Sword suddenly felt weird. Under the Level Suppression, why was her Falling Flower Palm able to have such an effect?

He didn’t have the time to think carefully because Soft Mist had already pounced forward towards him.

“You really are stubborn.” Wind Following Sword sounded a bit helpless, but his sword wasn’t. A Sword Draw sliced through the air. The girl had fought against the monsters for quite a while, so him doing some damage wouldn’t aggro the monsters.

Soft Mist jumped into the air and dodged the Sword Slash.

Dragon Tooth! Soft Mist immediately stabbed forward.

Wind Following Sword calmly jumped backwards.

Pow! He was hit!

“What?” Wind Following Sword was astonished. How did that attack hit? Did her attack speed increase?

He didn’t have the time to think about this problem. Wind Following Sword was suddenly in a Stunned state. He couldn’t help but notice that his health was dropping a bit too fast.

It was just a Dragon Tooth. How did it do so much damage?

Another scarlet light flashed.

What? Is it actually faster? Wind Following Sword thought as he was launched into the air.

The following two stabs directly pierced through him. Double Stab!

He flew outwards, but the third stab grabbed him in midair and swung him around.

“That can’t be right! Why is my health dropping so quickly?” Wind Following Sword began to panic.

Dragon Tooth. Sky Strike. Double Stab. These three moves had dropped his health bar to half.

As he was Circle Swung around in the air, Wind Following Sword glanced at Soft Mist’s body. A light, golden glow surrounded her body. He hadn’t noticed before because of the rain.

Wind Following Sword was immediately stunned. He, who was experienced, obviously recognized this skill.

It was the Battle Mage's Level 50 Awakening Skill: Battle Spirit!

How could this skill appear now???