

Reincarnated Avatar; I got 2 SSS-Rank Unique Skills

#Chapter 1: Final; London derby - Read Reincarnated Avatar; I got 2 SSS-Rank Unique Skills Chapter 1: Final; London derby

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1st June, 2036...

It was the day of the Warstar RPG Champions League final and just like in the past 3 seasons of the Pro Alliance, the final was held in the biggest stadium in England, Wembley Stadium.

The atmosphere in the stadium was electric.

The 90,000-capacity stadium was filled to the brim with passionate fans of the revolutionary RPG video game, Warstar.

Warstar debuted in 2026, taking the world by storm due to its extremely lifelike graphics, world setting, dungeons, and its interesting role-play characters.

There are 5 main classes to choose from in Warstar, being Blade masters, Mages, Mechanics, Combat Mages, and Psychics.

Under Blade masters are any type of class that wield blades, mostly swords. Mages can be classified into Elementalists, Summoners and the likes. Under the Mechanic main class are Pure Mechanics, Gunners, and even Launchers.

Combat Mage is the only pure one among the 5 main classes with no variants.

As for Psychics, there are Combat Psychics, Clerics, and even Paladins, all classes that have spirit as their main attribute.

A year after Warstar's launch, fueled by the game's popularity, the Warstar Pro Alliance was created, a professional league system where pro players compete against each other in clubs to determine the best clubs and players in England.

England's pro scene was extremely competitive as new experts entered the game every year, and this time, it was the Pro Alliance's 10th year anniversary.

In the fully packed Wembley Stadium, a gigantic 3-way holographic screen hovered at the top of this stadium, showing the game characters currently clashing in the arena for the Warstar RPG Champions league final trophy.

And on top, the game stats of the 2 competing clubs were displayed, the final game was already in its last phase.

(Team Cyber Squad vs Team Phoenix Rising)

(Individual Battle: 1 point – 2 points)

(3 vs 3 Battle Rush: Winner- Phoenix Rising; 2 points)

(5 vs 5 Team Battle: Ongoing)

(Location: Wraith Marshland)

...

(Team Cyber Squad Current Points: 1)

(Team Phoenix Rising Current Points: 4)

In a pro alliance game, 10 points are up for grabs and the team that gets the highest points at the end of the game wins.

The individual battle is worth a total of 3 points, 1 point from each of the 3 individual battles and both teams were already sharing the points. Team Phoenix Rising won the 3 vs 3 battle rush that was worth 2 points. Team Cyber Squad was losing, trailing 1 point to their opponent's 4 points.

The 5 vs 5 team battle that was worth 5 points was the only hope for Team Cyber Squad to turn the situation around and win the final.

The lights in this stadium were already killed, leaving everywhere dark to highlight the holographic screen where the action was taking place.

Wembley Stadium was silent, a hint to the fact that the clash between 2 of the best pro teams in England was now drawing to a climax.

At this moment, in the 3-way holographic screen, one of the screens suddenly switched to a scene inside the gaming booth in this stadium.

On the screen, there were 2 different gaming booths, one for each of the competing teams. Each team had 7 players but only 5 of them could be in the pro arena at a time, the remaining 2 were reserve players to be subbed in after a starting V player died.

One team wore black, and the other team wore yellow.

Inside the game booth were expensive and neatly arranged gaming gear.

At this moment, wearing headsets, the starting V players were focused on their computer screens, their left hands furiously tapping their keyboards while their mouse moved in orderly rhythms, controlling their in-game characters.

Tap! Tap! Tap!

In one of the gaming chairs, a player with deep black hair and focused brown eyes wearing the iconic black of Team Cyber Squad played with a relaxed but focused demeanor, controlling one of the in-game characters.

Once the camera focused on this player, cheers exploded around the stadium. This was the captain of Team Cyber Squad, Noah Harrington.

Compared to recent finals of the Warstar RPG champions league, there was more venom and drama to this final because it was a derby game. Both clubs were from London.

And not just that, but because this year, the first Warstar World Championship was starting and the requirement to qualify for it was to be the championship winner in your country.

The commentator covered the proceedings in this epic final. "After an intense season, it's the 2 London clubs who made it to the final this time".

"This is a game filled with a lot of bad blood. Afterall, most Warstar RPG fans in London are already dubbing the high-flying Phoenix the new pride of London and that does not sit well with die-hard Cyber Squad fans".

"Cyber Squad are the standard bearers of pro Warstar in England, having won the first 5 trophies of the Warstar RPG Champions League".

"They have the most champions league trophies in the league, and their captain, Noah, has won 5 consecutive MVP awards".

"They were dethroned in season 6 by Team Scarlet Rose of Leeds. Team Juggernaut of Birmingham won the trophy in season 7, but then came Team Phoenix Rising's turn in season 8. They're the reigning champions of the past 2 seasons in the league".

"Having made the final only once in the last 4 seasons, do Cyber Squad have what it takes to rise back to the top?"

"Afterall, their players are already getting old. Noah is now 28. In the world of pro gaming, that is already long past it, his fingers are no longer as fast and precise as before".

"Honestly, it's a pity but it's reality".

"Since they're from the same city, Phoenix and Cyber are fierce rivals, will Phoenix let the champions of old reclaim their tyranny?"

On the holographic screen, a titanic battle was taking place.

Ten max level 100 pro accounts clashed in the battle for Warstar RPG supremacy in England. On the side of Cyber Squad, they had a balanced line-up of a Cleric, a Blademaster, a Mechanic, a Summoner, and Noah's Combat Mage.

From the beginning of the Pro Alliance, these 5 has been Cyber Squad's mainstays, close friends who became legends in the gaming arena.

But now, they were old, and they were losing.

Their opponents in team Phoenix Rising comprised of a youthful set of players and a much more attacking character line-up of 2 Elementalists, 1 Warlock, 1 Paladin, and a Combat Mage.

A Paladin could not necessarily substitute for a Cleric in Warstar RPG, but they do have a few healing skills. A talented Paladin could just about fill the boots of a Cleric, and Phoenix's Paladin was one such example, and he was team Phoenix's captain, Gabriel.

This player led the fight from the front in his Paladin character as he aimed to lead his team to dethrone the legends that he grew up once idolizing.

A bubble of text suddenly materialized on the big holographic screen.

{God Noah, your time is up, give up and let the youngsters shine. Don't worry, you'll be leaving London in good hands}

In pro arenas, voice talking was disabled and hence why pro players could only communicate what they were saying through chat.

Gabriel's Paladin wore simple medieval knight's armor while holding a shield and a long sword, his Paladin could easily play as a tank.

In response to his trash talk, Noah gave a simple response.

{Haha}

Their chat seemed light-hearted but the battle definitely wasn't.

Noah's Combat Mage's health was already close to red but he never retreated once as he led his team as the vanguard, taking on 2 Phoenix players alone, Gabriel's Paladin and the enemy Warlock.

Warlocks were devious classes in Warstar, they are a sub class that also fell under the Mage main class. Their main focus is on dark magic and debuffs, making them the perfect class to be annoying and stall for time.

With these 2 characters tying down Noah's Combat Mage while also chipping away at his health, the 3 other players from Phoenix attacked Cyber Squad's remaining 4 players.

From the beginning, Cyber Squad knew their opponent's game plan. Recognizing Noah's threat, they intended to tie his character down with 2 annoying characters while the other team Phoenix players went to kill the others.

The only question was, would the other Cyber Squad players die so easily?

Well, OG Warstar RPG fans would definitely scream no at the top of their lungs, singing ballads of this legendary team's exploits.

But that was in the past, in their peak.

Now, they were long past it.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The 2 Phoenix Elementalists showed little restraint, burning through their reserves of mana with wanton abandon just to end their opponents' lives even as they gave space for their Summoner to wreak havoc.

Noah knew their game plan from the beginning, and his counter-plan was to beat them at it, if they could.

But from the look of things, they were really past their prime, they couldn't.

(Blademaster Character Sprinkling Brooks has been killed!)

(Reserve character, Valiant Heart has been substituted into the game!)

...

(Cleric, Changing Spring has been killed!)

(Cyber Squad has exceeded its limit of substitutes!)

Cyber's Blademaster fell first and even before the substitute could get to the battlefield, their Cleric already died to Phoenix Rising's offensive play.

{See God Noah? Your team is losing, just give up like a man}

{Haha}

Team Cyber Squad tried to turn the situation around but they couldn't. They were not beat for effort today, rather, sheer youthful energy did them in.

After the Blademaster and Cleric's death, the Mechanic died next as the Summoner escaped with the substituted Paladin, going to where Noah's Combat Mage still clashed against the 2 enemy characters.

Noah's character was already at red blood but he kept on fighting valiantly.

And there, Cyber Squad made their last stand against the enemy team.

They ended up killing Gabriel's Paladin but it was all in that devious captain's plan as immediately after he died, the Summoner in reserve went in, facilitating his team as they went all out attack in the final act of this game.

Defiantly, Noah led his surviving teammates to fight back.

They ended up killing another Phoenix character, the Warlock but that was it. Cyber's Summoner died first, then the Paladin who substituted in, and then Noah's Combat Mage finally fell.

In that moment, a whole generation of Warstar RPG fans seemed to fall with it. They felt devastated.

"And the winner of the 10th edition of the Warstar RPG Champions League final is Team Phoenix Rising from London!"

"They are now 3-peat champions!"

"Phoenix Rising will be entering the world stage to represent England and play against the best teams from around the world!"

...

On the stage, the excited Phoenix players in yellow carried the Warstar RPG trophy as they jubilated, taking pictures and creating unforgettable memories with their fans.

As for Cyber Squad fans, they were devastated.

The players even more so.

Bam!

Noah's teammate, Aria, the Blademaster's controller slammed her desk, shattering her keyboard in the process.

Her face was red in rage.

Many fans of the Pro Alliance still couldn't believe that the controller of the legendary Blademaster, Sprinkling Brooks was actually female.

Noah looked over, paying attention to the keyboard. "That's over 200 Euros now, you'll have to pay for that".

"Shut up!" She screamed, glaring at him.

One by one, his teammates stood up, walking out of the stadium backstage. At least, the organizers had the courtesy of doing this for the losers.

Only Noah remained in the gaming booth.

He looked up at the 'no smoking' sign before calmly picking a cigarette box that he hid in his pocket, expertly fishing a cigarette and lighting it as he placed it on his lips and smoked.

With a puff, he covered his face with a white napkin and faced up.

Alone, isolated, and silently devastated, Noah raised his right hand, peeking at it through the white napkin.

"I really am old now". He muttered.

Chapter 2: End of a dynasty

"God Noah, your team lost the final of the Warstar RPG champions league again for the second time in 5 years, what is your take on it?"

"Do you think the time of Cyber Squad at the top of England's Warstar RPG world is over?"

Noah simply threw a glance at the reporter without saying a word.

The losers were given the courtesy of retreating backstage while their rivals celebrated their victory, but the paparazzi didn't give them the same courtesy.

They were always at alert, snooping around during games like this to sniff out the losers and throw them off their guard with challenging questions from reporters, not caring about the mental health of the pro gamers.

Noah sighed helplessly. 'I hope Aria didn't get into a fight with them again'.

The reporters didn't give up due to his silence though as they continued, throwing stabbing questions his way and one of them especially stung Noah.

"During Warstar RPG's first 2 champions league finals, your character, Stinger of War managed to win in 3 vs 3 situations, singlehandedly bringing Cyber Squad's first 2 champions league trophies".

"Why can't you do it now? Are you really old now?"

Noah stopped in the crowd, turning to look at the reporter who asked the question.

The reporter didn't flinch at his stare though, rather, he signaled his partner to pay attention and record the facial expression of this famous pro player.

Noah ignored the cameraman, staring at her. "Who knows? Maybe I really am old now". He shrugged.

"Does that mean you will be considering retirement?"

"Most of your fans are too sentimental to say it to you, but there are rumors that Cyber Squad would be revitalized if you and your friends retire, giving space for talented new pro players to lead the club".

Hearing that, Noah spaced out a bit and the cameraman did well to capture it perfectly.

When he recovered, he looked at the reporter again. "Maybe you're right".

All of his teammates already left. Only Genevieve, the controller of the team's cleric stayed behind waiting for him, and now they left together.

Entering the last of team Cyber Squad's car, they rode off to the club building that was just about a dozen minutes' drive from Wembley Stadium.

As the car drove off, Noah could not help but look back. "Did you notice?"

"Huh?" Genevieve, the female pro player with beautiful silver hair and gentle-looking azure eyes looked at him.

Even with her glasses, Noah still felt calm looking at her gentle eyes.

Noah sighed. "We've lost before, lots of time even, but this is the first time that our fans didn't wait for us outside to sign autographs".

He chuckled mirthfully. "Maybe we really are past it".

As the car drove off, Noah had a lot of thoughts in his mind.

...

Team Cyber Squad's building was located at the heart of London.

When the car arrived, Noah and Genevieve walked into the team's training room only to find themselves walking into a tense situation.

Bam!

Aria slammed her hand on the desk before pointing a finger angrily at someone.

Her beautiful face was red and flushed in anger at this moment, her long brown hair falling disheveled down her shoulders.

Walking in, Noah noticed that she was facing team Cyber Squad's manager.

"You bastard!" Aria pointed an accusing finger at him. "How dare you force us to retire?"

"Did we say we're tired of the game?!"

"But you are old," the middle-aged manager looked at her coldly. "Your performances are dwindling, it's been 5 years since we last won the Warstar RPG trophy, the fans won't be patient for long".

"If you really love the club, retire now and let the club rebuild".

Aria got even angrier. "Y-y-you...!"

"Aria, calm down". Noah finally walked in with Genevieve.

His other teammates in the room inclined their head to look at him, different complicated emotions swirling in their eyes.

Noah faced the manager. "Are you forcing us to retire?"

In Noah's presence, much of the manager's confidence deflated but still, he stood up to him. "I respect you Noah, you've done a lot for the club but in every sport, there comes a time when even legends have to retire".

"You can't keep playing forever".

"What if I tell you to give us one last trial, that we'll definitely win the Warstar RPG trophy next season?"

The manager shook his head. "It won't work this time Noah, that's exactly what you told me last season".

Noah chuckled, scratching the back of his head. "I thought you forgot".

"Lame". Benjamin trolled ruthlessly.

Benjamin was another pro star who was part of the OG Cyber Squad team though he was always a reserve player. He controlled an Elementalist, and he was the oldest pro player in the team, a year older than Noah.

By now, it was already clear what the intentions of the club were.

They've done their part for the club, making it the most famous club in England but now, they wanted them gone. Their time was over.

Though Noah tried to downplay the significance of this moment with his light-hearted chuckles, his close friends could tell that even he was not himself. Noah was sad, he just never loved showing emotions that made him seem weak.

At that moment, Marcus, the team's Mechanic controller stood up.

Marcus wore a simple corporate attire and he had glasses on, he walked up to Noah. "Captain, the manager is right, today made it clear that we're past our prime. It's only logical that they want us gone".

"Afterall, this is not the game anymore, but the Pro Alliance".

"It's not just about fun anymore," he looked at the manager. "These days, it's more about money, so let's leave them to make money".

Marcus took a deep breath. "I will retire".

"Finally," the manager smiled. "Someone speaking sense for once".

Noah looked at the manager. "What about our characters?"

"You signed a contract with Cyber Squad when you first entered the pro scene and then, we all agreed that the game characters belong to the club".

"That means we're leaving them behind". Noah commented.

"Of course".

"What?! Ridiculous!" Aria exploded again; Noah looked at her exasperatedly.

Marcus walked up to the manager and gave his game card to him; he looked at the manager with a serious face. "Take care of it, that's my sweat and blood".

With that, Marcus picked up his coat and took one last look at his teammates. "See you guys".

He left.

Silence, the mood in this training room changed.

It still felt surreal but with Marcus leaving, it finally dawned on the others, it was really happening.

Their time was really over.

Caleb, the team's Summoner stood up next. He didn't bother to be polite like Marcus, simply throwing his game card over to the manager.

Unlike his teammates who were clearly geeks, he didn't look the part at all. Rather, Caleb was muscular and had long brown dreadlocks like a street gangster instead.

Simply waving a hand at his teammates, he tucked both hands in his pant pockets and left the building.

Bam!

Aria slammed her game card on her desk the next moment.

This fiery woman did not even care to look at the manager one last time or wave goodbye at her teammates, she simply stormed off.

Watching her storm off, Noah could not help but chuckle helplessly.

Hearing him chuckle, she pointed the middle finger at him. "F*ck you!"

In the end, of the OG team Cyber Squad starting players, only 3 remained.

Noah looked at Benjamin.

The old geezer chuckled. "I guess you could say I'm finally Ben-jammin in the golden years".

"Manager, take". He threw his game card at the manager, hugged Noah, blew a silly kiss at Genevieve before trudging off the building with an exaggerated swagger in his steps.

Noah shook his head, and then he looked at Genevieve. "What of you?"

Genevieve adjusted her glasses. "I knew you would be last. I didn't feel good leaving you behind, so I decided to accompany you till you leave".

'You...,' Noah sighed. 'Always looking out for others'.

In the end, he took Genevieve's game card and his own before handing it over to the manager.

Noah nodded at him. "It was nice working with you".

"You too".

With that, they both left, their shoulders slightly slumped than usual.

...

"So, what will you do now?"

"Huh?"

Genevieve looked up at him as they walked through the streets of London, it was already dark. "What will you do now? You just lost your job". She repeated.

Noah shrugged. "I don't know. I only know how to play games, I'm a bum at pretty much everything else, maybe I'll visit an internet café or something".

Genevieve sighed and shook her head as if having expected such an answer.

She looked down. "You know, my dad has a tech company in Manchester. I can recommend for you to work there if you want".

"Nah, it's fine". Noah waved his hand dismissively. "I can take care of myself".

A few minutes later, they arrived before an internet café. Noah stopped, turning around to look at Genevieve. "So, what about you?"

"I'll go home," she said, spacing out a bit. "I've been away for so long; my mom has definitely missed me a lot".

"What of your family?"

Noah scratched the back of his head, chuckling. "I doubt they missed me at all. Rather, they're likely happy that my annoying face is not around, maybe".

Genevieve finally laughed, cutely covering her mouth. In the end, she hugged him.
"Take care of yourself Noah, I'll miss you".

"You too". Noah patted her on the head.

With that, they parted ways.

As soon as she left, Noah looked at the snowing sky and brought out his cigarette pack, lighting up another one before checking his wallet to confirm that he still had some pocket money inside.

Only after that did he enter the internet café.

Noah Harrington casually walking into an internet café was definitely going to cause a lot of commotion, this was why he and Genevieve already took precautions ahead of time, wearing oversized hoodies and covering their faces.

This way, they didn't recognize him.

Casually walking up to a computer in the big internet café, Noah sat down to play but as soon as he did was when he remembered that he no longer had a game card. For a moment, he spaced out again.

'Sigh, I've been losing focus so much this past hour'. He thought.

Looking at the Warstar console though, he noticed that there was a game card on it.
'Did the person forget his/her game card?'

'Weird, besides, this internet café is scantier than normal. What happened?'

Since he didn't have a game card and was too lazy to stand up and go buy a new one now, he simply logged into the game with this game card.

As soon as he did, instead of the normal Warstar symbol showing, a line of text appeared on the monitor before him.

(Congratulations young warmonger! You have completed the requirements to become a true Warstar!)

(You will be transported inside the game in 5 seconds!)

(00:00:05)

(00:00:04)

(00:00:03)

Noah examined the console. "What is this? A glitch?"

He placed his cigarette on his lips again, about to take another whiff when suddenly something inexplicable happened.

BZZZ!

Noah suddenly felt weightless, like the fabric of reality was being torn apart as colors around him blended into a whirlpool of light.

And then..., he disappeared.

...

A boy rushed back into the internet café, quickly locating a desk. In one smooth motion, he retrieved his game card from the Warstar console.

"Hmmm," he looked around, perplexed. "I'd swear I saw someone enter here".

"Well, whatever". He left.

Chapter 3: New server

The mood in London was a bittersweet one after the conclusion of the Warstar champions league final game.

On one hand, a club from the city won the league trophy for the 3rd consecutive time, completing a 3-peat but at the same time, OG Warstar fans felt melancholic as they witnessed the end of an era.

They witnessed the end of the Noah era.

That game felt like a change of guard, a transition between eras, discarding the era of Noah's reign and welcoming a new reign, Gabriel's reign.

In the Western part of London where the club building of team Phoenix Rising was, the celebrations continued to the next day as ecstatic fans jubilated, but then that was when a bombshell news dropped from the other side of town.

Club Cyber Squad organized a sudden press conference and since it aligned so much with yesterday's game, a lot of people tuned into the broadcast.

That was where Club Cyber Squad's manager dropped the bombshell news.

Of the 7 pro players of team Cyber Squad, after the loss yesterday against Phoenix Rising, 6 of them finally decided to retire.

They must have accepted their decline due to age. Considering that they've ruled the Warstar pro scene for so long, it must have been really difficult to accept.

The fans felt bad for them.

And then, the camera focused on a holographic projection that displayed the best moments of the Noah dynasty in Club Cyber Squad.

(Character: Sprinkling Brooks)

(Class: Blademaster)

(1-time league MVP)

(4-times best Blademaster)

The display started with Aria's Sprinkling Brooks.

It showed the indomitable Blademaster arrogantly charging into chaotic combat situations where she was outnumbered, showing her unrivaled PKing skills as she fought her way out of trouble through sheer skill and talent.

Watching her in motion, it felt like watching an ancient Greek warrior who knew no retreat.

During the 6th season of the Warstar Pro Alliance when Cyber Squad finally lost their dominance to team Scarlet Rose, in that legendary season, Aria's character was at its peak as her dominating performances eclipsed even that of Noah's, helping her to her first and only league MVP award.

As her highlights were played, in cyber cafes around London, a few Warstar players could not help but break down in tears.

To many of them, mostly those who played the Blademaster class, Aria was their hero.

Knowing that she retired was too heartbreaking to take with a tearless eye.

(Character: Changing Spring)

(Class: Cleric)

(2-times best Cleric)

...

(Character: Black Phantom)

(Class: Mechanic)

(5-times best Mechanic)

...

(Character: Fatal Einstein)

(Class: Summoner)

(2-times best Summoner)

(1-time 1 hit, 1 kill)

...

(Character: Pestilent Jest)

(Class: Elementalist)

(Most yellow card record for foul play and offensive trash-talking since the inception of the Pro Alliance)

...

(Character: Stinger of War)

(Class: Combat Mage)

(5-times league MVP)

(8-times best Combat Mage)

(1-time 1 hit, 1 kill)

(5-times King of PK award)

They deliberately placed Noah's highlights for last and when it started, it invoked the most emotion among all the fans watching.

Noah's Stinger of War was simply the most decorated character in the pro scene. His dominance at the top was long and oppressive.

Rival fans hated him, but they could not help but respect his strength. During his purple reign, he was the face of England's pro scene.

The King of PK award was a new award that was introduced only from season 5 of the Pro Alliance. It was an award given to a character that through the course of a full season never loses once in the individual battles.

And since its inception, Noah won it all 5 times; he shared the award with other God-level pro players in the Pro Alliance 3 times.

He was the true MVP.

While the emotions cascaded, that was when the emotional manager of Cyber Squad stood up, stealing the attention again.

With a white handkerchief, he wiped his tears. "For 10 years, these legends gave their all for the club, pushing it to unprecedented heights but like everything else in the universe, good things don't last forever. They do come to an end".

"We should not be sad that it ended, we should be glad it happened".

"Our legends wish the best for Cyber Squad, and this is why with their retirement, Cyber Squad is announcing our list of new signings".

"Our number 1 signing is the Rising Star of the past 2 seasons, Caster, who will inherit Noah's Stinger of War..."

The manager continued, introducing all the new signings that Cyber Squad made. It was a total revamp of the pro team.

The fans felt mixed feelings as they watched the broadcast.

At the end of the press conference, internet cafes across London became quiet, Warstar fans felt too emotionally drained to continue playing the game.

Most went home, drowning their sorrows with family and friends, leaving only few behind in internet cafes who were either not a fan of Club Cyber Café or who decided to drown their sorrows by playing even more Warstar.

The sorrow didn't last for too long though.

Coincidentally, having announced it long before the champions league final, tonight was the launch date of Warstar's new server, the 11th server of the game.

This was why after taking most of the morning and afternoon to mourn, at night, internet cafes across London were filled to the brim with Warstar gamers again. It was clear though that the enthusiasm tonight was unlike in previous server launches, it was more subdued.

Despite that though, the excitement of a new server could not be fully curbed even with a legend like Noah and his friends retiring.

When the time came, the countdown started, building the excitement and at 12:00 on the dot, the new server opened.

Excited players entered the game with their new 11th server game cards.

...

BZZZ!

Noah saw himself appear inside a realm filled with white light as a wall of game-like text appeared before his face the next moment.

{Welcome Reincarnated Avatar!}

{You completed the requirements to become a true Warstar, the true game starts now!}

{You have received a Special Mission: Complete the game!}

{Mission Reward: Transportation}

>Description: If you want to return to your normal life, complete the game in the 11th server, create a team, join the Pro Alliance, win the Warstar RPG champions league final, and win the Warstar RPG World Championship<

...

{You have received 2 SSS-Rank Unique Skills...}

[NOTE: PK means player kill.]

Chapter 4: Reincarnated Avatar

[11th Server Launch Complete!]

[Welcome to Beginner Village!]

[Character Name: nil]

[Level: 0]

[Class: nil]

[Click to show hidden character information=]

Noah was stunned as he was suddenly assaulted by familiar noise.

It was the hustle and bustle of a player-congested area in Warstar. He could hear the chirping sound of birds in the sky, he could hear the splashing sound of water in the nearby lake, and then the loud noise being made by the players.

The graphics felt lifelike like usual, but perhaps too lifelike?

Noah paid attention to the game notification that hovered before him. 'Ah yes, the 11th server is supposed to launch soon, but was it not scheduled for a day after the champions league final?'

He was stunned. 'What happened?'

The last thing he remembered was entering an internet café, and logging into Warstar with the game card that was there.

'Did a whole day already passed since then?' His eyes widened. 'Did I fall asleep without knowing? Or did I pass out?'

'Then how am I in the game?'

Noah could not help but look around with big eyes.

Around him, there were players everywhere trying to push their way through the congestion to start taking beginner quests to level up.

Since Warstar didn't allow players phasing through each other, they would have to be patient and wait for the first players to accept beginner quests and leave the village before the others could move properly.

Then, Noah paid attention to himself, his body.

He finally realized where the weird feeling he was having came from. He was not on a game chair, he was not tapping on his keyboard and controlling his mouse, so how on earth was he inside the game?

For a moment, Noah felt a chill run down his spine.

And then, he remembered the weird texts that he saw, one about being a young warmonger and being transported into the game, the other being when the texts referred to him as a reincarnated avatar.

'Reincarnated Avatar?!'

Sam's eyes widened, his hair standing on end. 'Did I... die?

At first, Noah thought his recollection of those weird texts was just the lingering effect of a weird dream, but to think it was real!

'But I don't remember dying'. Noah calmed down.

At this moment, he had a lot of unanswered questions in his mind. He knew that the only hint he had to get answers was to click on his character's hidden information, but he did not do it immediately.

Noah waited till the congestion of players lessened, then expertly navigating through the sea of players, he went to a secluded area.

It still felt weird to move without controlling a keyboard and mouse.

In the secluded corner, he finally clicked on the hidden information.

[Character Name: nil]

[Level: 0]

[Class: nil]

[Attributes:]

Strength: 3

Intelligence: 2

Vitality: 2

Spirit: 2

[Skill Points: 0]

[Unique Skills: You have 2 locked SSS-Rank Unique Skills]

[SSS-Rank 10x skill points: Skill points are awarded through various means in the game. With this unique skill, every awarded skill points that you gain will be multiplied by 10!]

[Locked: Complete Special Quest to unlock Unique Skill]

...

[SSS-Rank Versatile Avatar: After the class change at level 20, high level and awakened level class skills are only available to characters of that specific class. With this unique skill, you can learn and use high level and awakened level skills of all 5 main classes!]

[Locked: Complete Special Quest at level 20 to unlock Unique Skill]

...

[Equipment: nil]

...

[Special Mission: Complete the game!]

[Mission Reward: Transportation]

>Description: If you want to return to your normal life, complete the game in the 11th server, create a team, join the Pro Alliance, win the Warstar RPG champions league final, and win the Warstar RPG World Championship<

Noah finally understood. 'Wow..., so I was really transported into the game-world of Warstar?'

Noah never thought something like this was possible till today.

He looked at his body, observing everything about it, noting that there was no difference between it and his normal body in terms of controlling it.

And then he paid attention to the series of texts before him again, specifically the last part. 'This special mission, I understand it, but what exactly did I do that made me fulfill the requirements to be transported inside the game?'

This was one mystery that Noah didn't have an answer to yet.

Noah did not dwell on it too much though, this was because something else occupied his mind, making him excited. 'Since I'm now inside the game, that means the limitations preventing me from playing in my peak doesn't apply anymore'.

He tried moving about. 'Back in reality, I need to control my keyboard and mouse to move my in-game avatar and as my APM reduced due to age, it affected my effectiveness'.

His eyes gleamed. 'But not anymore!'

'Now, I can just move my in-game character like my own body!'

Noah was excited as he thought about the possibilities that this opened up for him, but he also thought about the limitations. 'I need to have perfect control over my body if I want to use the game skills perfectly, or how does it work exactly?'

'I'll need to experiment and find out'.

And then, he paid attention to another thing that shocked him, the 2 SSS-Rank unique skills that he got.

In Warstar, unique skills are special abilities that in-game characters get after completing special extremely hard quests, and a character can only use or equip one at a time. Only 3 unique skills can be kept in stock at a time.

Unique skills are ranked from D rank to SSS Rank, but in Warstar, never have there been an SS Rank unique skill yet not to talk of an SSS Rank one.

The S Rank unique skills in Warstar were held by only the God-level pro account characters. In the whole of team Cyber Squad, only Noah's Stinger of War had an S-ranked unique skill.

Noah believed that SSS-Rank unique skills were just a myth, till now. 'They actually exist'. He was excited.

Their effects fully validated their SSS-rank tag.

After taking his time to rave and accept his current reality, Noah finally calmed down and then a troubled expression came over his face.

'Damn! I need to think of a name again, so troublesome'. He squinted his face, thinking hard and then he finally smiled.

"I've arrived at the perfect name," he smiled. "My new character name shall be..."

...

[NOTE: APM means actions per minute, it is used to determine the hand speed of Warstar gamers with their keyboard.]

Chapter 5: Lord Doom

[Character Name has been registered: Lord Doom]

As soon as the name was accepted by the game system, a satisfied smile crept up Noah's face. "This is good, better than what she gave the other time".

He grinned. "Who said I don't have a naming sense?"

Muttering this, he finally left the secluded corner where he previously hid with his character. By now, some time already passed, meaning most players already took beginner quests to start leveling up.

The congestion of players was no longer as severe as before, it was easier to take a beginner quest now.

Noah did just that, taking a series of beginner quests.

Beginner quests were simple quests to get new players up and running in Warstar. They help new players level up and acclimatize with the game controls. Simple missions like running errands for the beginner village NPCs, finding a missing cat, and all sorts of missions.

Noah did not just want to level up, he took on the beginner quests because just like a novice, he wanted to try out the controls of the game.

Afterall, this was an unfamiliar mode of playing Warstar that he was not used to. He was used to always tapping his keyboard and controlling his mouse.

Being the actual avatar itself now and not just a controller was going to take a lot of getting used to, and so he started.

...

2 hours later...

[You have completed Beginner Quest: Retrieve the stolen Wallet!]

[You have been rewarded with XP!]

[You have been rewarded with 25 Skill Points!]

[You have leveled up to level 5]

[Character Name: Lord Doom]

[Level: 5]

[Class: nil]

[Attributes:]

Strength: 8

Intelligence: 7

Vitality: 7

Spirit: 7

[HP: 100/100]

[MP: 100/100]

[Skill Points: 232]

[Unique Skills: You have 2 locked SSS-Rank Unique Skills]

[Equipment: nil]

After 2 hours of taking Beginner Quests, this was how Noah's character now looked having leveled up to level 5 already.

Leveling up during the early levels was easy as it required less experience points, but after level 5, the required XP to level up increases and it got even higher as game avatars kept on leveling up.

Before the general class change at level 20, for low-leveled characters, every level up gives 1 attribute point to anyone of the 4 main attributes.

After level 20, the distribution of attribute points change depending on the specific main class that a character chooses.

Of the 4 attributes, strength affects physical attack and defense. Intelligence affects magic attacks, defense, and MP. Vitality affects HP as well as stamina. While spirit affects the resistance to and duration of status effects.

The HP and MP of characters in Warstar always appear at 100/100, but the capacity is different.

Based on different factors like main class and equipment, 100 for 1 character may mean 1000 for another character but both will appear as 100/100. The same rule applies for in-game bosses.

The reasons why Noah stopped taking more quests after getting to level 5 was because, one, a level 5 player finally gets access to in-game dungeons.

And two, it was because he finally understood how to control his new Warstar body and character without a keyboard and mouse.

After extensive research to confirm, Noah was surprised by his results.

Unlike what he feared, he didn't need to turn into Jackie Chan and start training his body just to use the different powerful skills in Warstar. Reincarnating into the game as an avatar was far more convenient to him than he expected.

Inside the game, all Noah needed was to have knowledge about the specific combinations to activate a skill, and to use it he just needed to think about it.

To a veteran Warstar player with 11 years' worth of experience like Noah who had extensive knowledge about all the main classes and all their skill combinations, this was a match made in heaven.

Perhaps, this was why he was called a warmonger?

This was even faster than using a keyboard or mouse. Before a player could tap on his keyboard and move his mouse, Noah already thought of the skill he wanted to use and thinking was definitely faster.

After getting used to controlling his body this way, he already started building his beginner skill tree hours ago.

A beginner skill tree comprised low level skills that are accessible to all classes. Noah started by learning the basic sprint and roll skill.

Learning and upgrading skills require skill points and they are gotten through completing game quests. Noah's Lord Doom now had 232 skill points and all of them were gotten from the beginner quests.

He specifically targeted the quests that gave skill points as part of their rewards, and now, he wanted to move on.

Noah wanted to enter a dungeon.

Skill points in Warstar are limited though which meant players needed to be wise in how they spent their skill points on their in-game avatars.

1 avatar could not learn all the skills available in the game, this was one reason why Noah's potential 10x skill points SSS-Rank Unique Skill was so OP.

Before going to a dungeon, Noah visited the Hunter guild in this beginner village where he was able to spend all his skill points to learn more beginner skills.

[You have learned low level Combat Mage Skill: Arcane Strike]

[You have learned low level Combat Mage Skill: Empowered Slash]

[You have learned low level Cleric Skill: Basic Heal]

[You have learned low level Combat Mage Skill: Arcane Riposte]

[You have learned low level Combat Mage Skill: Mana Burst]

[You have learned low level Combat Mage Skill: Blink Step]

Different low-level skills require from 10 to 80 skill points. Noah's 232 skill points was only able to help him learn 6 beginner skills.

Apart from being rewarded with skill points and XP, players also get rewarded with coins from beginner quests.

Noah didn't have much coin yet, but he had just enough from completing the quests to buy a miserly D-rank weapon from a merchant NPC.

He spent 70 out of his 88 coins to buy a basic Combat Mage spear, and with this he finally proceeded towards the only level 5 dungeon in the beginner village, Pork Labyrinth.

Most players don't go to dungeons immediately after getting to the dungeon's level, this was because then, the difficulty would be high.

Most players farm level 5 dungeons only after getting to at least level 7 or 8, some even getting as high as level 10.

This was why the entrance to the Pork Labyrinth was scanty. Arriving, Noah only saw a few dozen players who were already level 5 just like him.

As soon as he arrived, he received a party invite from a certain party.

[Party Nightingale invites you to join her party...]

Noah looked at them. It was a party of 4 players comprising 2 Blademasters, an Elementalist, and a Cleric, they needed just 1 more player to enter the dungeon.

He joined them.

Chapter 6: Pork Labyrinth

Bzzz!

[You have entered the dungeon: Pork Labyrinth!]

[You have run into a Hidden Boss: Slumbering Bandit!]

"Wow..., a hidden boss straight off the bat, we're lucky!" One of the characters in Noah's current party, the Cleric yelled as soon as they got the notification. From her voice, she was female.

Warstar's game algorithm made it possible for players to edit the appearance of their in-game character, but the voice setting remained fixed, reflecting the real voice of the player controlling the character.

Due to this, voice recognition was reliable in Warstar.

"Are you sure it's lucky or unlucky?" Another of the characters, one of the 2 Blademasters said in a masculine voice. "A hidden boss is not easy to kill".

"But we can, right, Nightingale?" The Cleric asked.

But then, the other Blademaster coughed violently, subtly gesturing at the new player that just joined them. 'Do you want to expose me, woman?!' He thought exasperatedly.

"Ah!" The Cleric exclaimed, chuckling slightly. "My bad, but we can right, boss?"

The Blademaster straightened. "Of course, I think we can".

'Maybe they're experts'. Noah thought as he observed them from the side.

From this little exchange, he could already tell that this was a close-knit group, they were probably all friends from outside the game.

"Hey, I'm Deadly Musician".

Noah looked at the player I.D hovering above the Blademaster, confirming his gaming name. "Hey, I'm Lord Doom". He answered.

"Ah, right". The stunned Blademaster could only say this.

'Such a tyrannical name'. He thought. 'This guy must be really arrogant'.

"I will be the party leader". Deadly Musician, the Blademaster who was called Nightingale and boss said and the others didn't object, including Noah.

But before the dungeon started, Noah had a question. "How will we share the drops from inside the dungeon?"

"Ah, that," Deadly Musician hesitated for only a moment before answering. "If we get drops from the dungeon bosses, if it is an equipment, the player whose class is compatible with the equipment gets it".

"And if there are 2 players of the same class vying for it, it'll be decided by a coin toss. Is that ok with you?"

Noah nodded, that was ok.

And so, the dungeon raid started.

Pork Labyrinth is a small dungeon in a shallow forest with regular monsters, Pigs. Apparently, they were infected by some virus, turning them into rabid and human-eating monsters.

There are 3 stages to completing the dungeon with corresponding 3 game bosses. The 3 bosses of Pork Labyrinth are the Pork Master, the Pork King, and the Pork Emperor, all evolved Pigs.

Due to the class composition of this raid party, Noah's Lord Doom, the Elementalist (Death Note) and the other Blademaster (Silky Strings) were the main DPS of this party.

The party leader, Deadly Musician was the tank, his Blademaster wielded a tower shield and a long sword.

Noah guessed that both were C-ranked equipment. 'This guy must be really skilled or is a big money spender to have C-ranked equipment already'.

And of course, the Cleric was the only girl in the raid party (Healing Melody).

As soon as the raid started, the party showcased their skill, thoroughly enjoying themselves as they killed the monsters for fun.

Noah did not do too much, just content with fulfilling his role to perfection.

They were indeed skilled, well, in terms of their hand speed.

Noah could tell after a short time that all 4 of them had good hand speed and coordination, but they were definitely newbies to the game, perhaps the 11th server launch was their first time playing Warstar.

He could tell because despite their hand speed, they were playing very profligately with little focus on efficiency, just spamming the coolest skill in their arsenal to quickly kill off the monsters.

It was not necessarily a bad thing though, so he kept quiet.

"Lord Doom, you're good". Deadly Musician, the party leader complimented. "Since we started, you've not made a single mistake yet, I'm impressed".

"Yeah, I do have some skill". Noah agreed.

"And you're humble too".

'Humble?' Noah didn't have anything to say to that.

"Just stick with us buddy, we've seen the skill of other players and we're pretty good. If you keep it up like this, you can join our raid party and we'll help you level up fast".

"Ok boss, I'll be relying on you". Noah laughed.

At that moment, the Cleric (Healing Melody) secretly messaged the party leader.

{Boss, have you noticed that this guy is unnaturally calm? It feels as if he's not giving his best, besides, he didn't react to hearing your name at all.}

{Focus on the game!!! Do you want our raid party to be wiped out a second time? Besides, this time there's even a hidden boss so we need to be at alert.}

{Who cares? We got wiped out because of that bum anyways, but this guy is good so I say we'll clear the dungeon this time.}

{About him not knowing me, let's keep it that way. Besides, not everyone knows about Nightingale.}

{Rubbish! I bet he's just feigning ignorance, maybe he thought it was another Nightingale, an imposter maybe.}

{Can you please focus on the game?}

{Too easy boss, too easy.}

It really did feel easy.

With the 3 DPS players doing such a good job at dealing damage with the tank, Deadly Musician also doing a good job to bundle the monsters together, they bulldozed their way through the dungeon until they got to the first checkpoint.

[You have entered the slumbering place of the Pork Master!]

The Pork Master was a gigantic Pig 3 times bigger than the regular monsters.

As soon as the players entered its domain, the giant monster rose up, glaring at the players with blood-red eyes.

"Newbie, calm down". The party leader spoke to Noah. "It just looks menacing, it's not really that dangerous, we killed it during our first raid".

"Just let me collect aggro, I'll focus on containing it while you focus on dealing as much damage as you can".

"Yes boss".

Noah sent a thumbs up in the party group chat to show that he understood.

And when the boss charged towards them, attacking the nearest player with its head, this Blademaster showed his skill as he used a low level Blademaster skill, Parry to counter the attack, negating the damage and opening the boss up for a counterattack.

In reality, Noah imagined his effective hand speed abruptly rising as the Blademaster quickly activated another skill.

{Frost Strike=}

Frost strike is a Blademaster skill that enchants the sword with ice, slowing enemies with each hit and increasing critical hit chance.

After activating frost strike, Deadly Musician quickly chained a few attacks with his sword before completing it with a Whirlwind Slash, a spinning attack with his sword that threw the boss off-balance.

Thud!

Collapsing to the ground, blood flew as the boss' HP dropped.

Before the Pig could rise up, Deadly Musician circled it, dealing damage after damage as the aggro quickly became fully established on him.

And just as the angry Pig was about to narrow its full focus on him which would prove dangerous, he screamed. "Now!"

Immediately, the DPS classes started attacking, Noah being part of them.

Killing the Pork Master was far harder than all the monsters they've been fighting since but with Deadly Musician doing such a good job, they were able to finish the monster off with minimal damage to any of them.

This was also because the Cleric was doing her job diligently.

After that relatively straightforward boss kill, the party became emboldened as they went to the 2nd phase of the dungeon, sweeping through its monsters.

A few more minutes later, they encountered the second boss, the Pork King.

Unlike the gigantic Pork Master, the Pork King was much smaller, but this guy was an evolved humanoid Pig who wielded a heavy club as a weapon.

"Meddling humans!" Growling, the Pig attacked.

The attack variations of the Pork King were more than those of the Pork Master's, giving the group some trouble as the Cleric had to save Deadly Musician's life 2 different times but, in the end, they also killed the boss.

Congratulating themselves, they entered the 3rd phase of the dungeon. More experienced now, they quickly dispatched all the monsters and met the final boss.

[You have encountered the wandering Pork Emperor!]

The Pork Emperor was a boss made from a combination of the Pork Master and Pork King; it was a gigantic humanoid Pig with ferocious might.

It was as big as the Pork Master while also holding a heavy club to attack like the Pork King.

While the excited group got ready to attack, Deadly Musician already rushing up to meet it and establish the aggro, Noah paid attention to his surroundings, thinking of something else. 'Where is the hidden boss?'

At that moment, he felt sudden movement.

"Stop!" Noah said loudly. "The hidden boss is here!"

...

[NOTE: DPS stands for damage per second. It is a term to describe characters in video games who specialize in dealing a large amount of damage to enemies.]

Chapter 7: Hidden Boss- Slumbering Bandit [1]

In Warstar, unlike normal bosses that were always at fixed points, checkpoints in a dungeon, hidden bosses were much more random.

They could appear at almost any point inside a dungeon.

This was why from the very beginning, Noah paid attention to their surroundings, looking out for the hidden boss.

Since, he didn't see any signs of the hidden boss but just as they finally entered the checkpoint of the last and strongest boss of the Pork Labyrinth, Noah just had to find the slippery hidden boss then.

"Stop!" He called loudly. "The hidden boss is here!"

For a moment, this party of players were stunned. 'A hidden boss? Where?'

Before they could react, the taciturn Combat Mage who barely spoke since the beginning of this dungeon raid, never taking the initiative suddenly moved.

{Arcane Strike=}

Brandishing his battle lance, Noah's character used a common Combat Mage skill as his lance stabbed forward.

Arcane Strike is a common combat mage melee attack skill imbued with magic, dealing bonus arcane damage and briefly knocking back the target.

Compared to other main classes, the Combat mage is a hybrid fighter who blends melee combat with arcane magic, excelling in versatility, battlefield control, and burst damage.

They wield both battle lances and spells, seamlessly switching between close-range combat and powerful magical attacks.

As Lord Doom moved, to his party members, it almost seemed like he was stabbing empty air till his battle lance actually hit something.

As soon as Noah's attack hit, the enemy was knocked back out of his hiding spot and in this case, the enemy was the hidden boss.

Knocked back, the hidden boss could no longer remain hidden as it materialized into existence even as blood blossomed from its tiny body.

"Stealth!" Deadly Musician, the party leader called the next moment, astonished.

Stealth was a skill that could be learned by assassins and thieves, a variant class of the Blademaster main class.

And with this skill, it confirmed the identity of this tiny pig.

"It's the Slumbering Bandit!" Healing Melody, the Cleric shrieked.

Unlike the towering Pork Emperor who looked so imposing and powerful, the Slumbering Bandit didn't look like a hidden boss at all.

Rather, it looked like an intelligent Pig thief instead who scuttered around, looking for victims to rob not just of their belongings but of their lives too.

It wore black tattered robes and it had a dirty brown bag slung across its back, the bag seemed to be holding a lot of things that it stole.

As soon as Healing Melody shrieked, this party of players could not help but panic as their gazes alternated between the tiny hidden boss and the towering Pork Emperor who already set its sight on them.

They cursed, the timing could not have been more worse.

The Pork Emperor alone was already a formidable adversary for a raid party that they were not 100% sure in defeating since it was the strongest boss in the Pork Labyrinth.

Adding the hidden boss to the equation was just overkill.

Looks could deceive. The Slumbering Bandit may look weak compared to the Pork Emperor, but having made a bit of research after being wiped out in the dungeon the first time, they knew that it was even stronger than the Pork Emperor.

"We're screwed!" Not bothering to hide her panic, Healing Melody said and her fear was infecting the others. Not all of them though.

Bam! Bam!

From the moment that the outsider in their raid party, Lord Doom found the hidden boss first and attacked it, he never stopped attacking.

Immediately after knocking back the hidden boss with the Arcane Strike skill, he quickly followed it up with 3 more rapid attacks; 2 normal attacks and a skill move.

{Empowered Slash=}

The Empowered Slash is a combat mage skill that charges the weapon with raw magic, delivering a devastating cleave that creates an energy shockwave.

By actively controlling the direction of the slash, the Empowered Slash skill can be used as a knock-up skill, knocking up a target into the sky through the energy shockwave generated by the skill.

Noah did just that, launching the Slumbering Bandit into the sky.

With that sudden rapid combo, Noah managed to establish aggro over the hidden boss even as he finally turned to pay attention to the others.

Seeing that they were stunned, watching him, he was surprised at first but noticing the gigantic Pork Emperor slugging over, he finally understood. 'They're scared'.

He still asked though. "Why are you guys just standing?"

Hearing that question, the party leader went red in embarrassment but thickening his skin up, he still explained. "We can't kill 2 bosses at the same time". Deadly Musician said.

Noah felt cold sweat fill up in his forehead. 'So honest'.

In the end, he chuckled. "Actually, we can, just let me lead".

"Huh?"

Noah was about to explain when he heard a sound, a sound so subtle he would have struggled to hear if he was not actually inside the game at this moment.

{Roll=}

Quickly rolling out of the way, he dodged just in time as a mine detonated.

Staring at the explosion, Noah was surprised. 'This is a Mechanic skill'.

'I don't remember the Slumbering Bandit having this kind of attack skill'.

It may be 11 years ago since he last played in a beginner village, leveling up in a low-level dungeon like the Pork Labyrinth but Noah had a photographic memory. He had some recollections of this boss.

Besides, dealing with the Slumbering Bandit back then gave new Warstar players a lot of trouble till they finally figured the hidden boss out. So, he did have a big impression of this specific hidden boss but still, he didn't remember this.

Quickly retreating, Noah regrouped with the other members in this party.

Landing from the sky with a thud finally, the Slumbering Bandit rose back up to its feet, looking at them with a resentful expression even as it supported its sling bag with one hand but it didn't rush to attack.

The Pork Emperor didn't rush either despite the fact that the players already entered its radar, instead taunting them.

"Time to squeal your doom!" He said in his loud rumbling voice.

This was the catchphrase of the Pork Emperor.

At this moment, the other members in this raid party paid attention to Noah after what he just did.

In truth, Deadly Musician and his companions were new to Warstar, the 11th server was their first time actively playing the video game but still, they already watched enough videos online to know a bit about the game.

This was why they could tell that what Noah just did was not normal.

The Slumbering Bandit was tiny for a reason, and it was a hidden boss to boot, making it extremely nimble and fast. It was extremely hard to land a single attack on this hidden boss, but this Combat Mage actually managed to not just land an attack but string together a combo, he was no ordinary player.

Noah noticed the way that they now looked at him and he heaved a sigh of relief. 'Saves me a lot of time and explanation'.

He went straight to the point. "If you all want to survive this encounter, listen carefully and do exactly what I say".

They listened carefully.

"But first, refresh my memory, what are the 2 classes of the Slumbering Bandit?" Noah asked shamelessly.

"..."

Chapter 8: Hidden Boss- Slumbering Bandit [2]

"Boss, we thought you were some hidden expert, what the heck!"

"You don't even know the 2 classes of the Slumbering Bandit? Then how on earth are we supposed to beat it and the Pork Emperor combined?"

Deadly Musician felt like crying, he felt that this player just took advantage of him and messed with his emotions.

Noah chuckled. "It's been so long since I played the Pork Labyrinth, so I've forgotten. We don't have much time, either tell me now or we die".

In the end, Deadly Musician explained.

To not make the game too hard for new players, bosses in beginner village dungeons are made very basic with predictable attack patterns and combat styles.

But the same thing could not be said for hidden bosses. Even in the beginner village, hidden bosses are made to already have specific main classes that they specialize on, drawing their strength pool from it.

The Slumbering Bandit was no different, rather, it was even more special among beginner village hidden bosses.

Afterall, the bandit had more than 1 main class, it had 2.

BAM!

The Pork Emperor's heavy club hit the ground, creating a mighty shockwave even as the players dodged, still retreating.

While they conversed, the Pork Emperor did not wait for them, already attacking. But due to the towering size of this boss, it was too heavy to match their speed, only lumbering after them.

As for the nimbler hidden boss though, they were lucky that after its stealth was discovered, the Slumbering Bandit was not a fan of attacking head-on.

It preferred players hunting it down instead, being pursued and running was where it could display its true strength. Afterall, it was a thief.

And just like the Pork Emperor, the Slumbering Bandit also had a catchphrase to taunt challengers into attacking it.

"Think you can hog-tie me? Bring home the bacon if you dare!"

Deadly Musician felt like crying. 'The game developers must be sick!'

With the hidden boss not pursuing them and the Pork Emperor too slow to catch them, Deadly Musician explained about the hidden boss.

Apparently, the Slumbering Bandit belonged to the thief and Summoner class. It was mainly a thief; its summoning abilities are only displayed after it was damaged enough to red blood state.

Red blood state is a special state after Warstar boss monsters' HP go below 10%, and most boss monsters have special effects attached to it.

As soon as Deadly Musician was done explaining, Noah furrowed his brows. "If you're right, then I was right, this is not just any Slumbering Bandit".

"What do you mean?" Silky Strings, the other Blademaster of this raid party who was already impatient due to the presence of the 2 boss monsters asked.

"When I attacked the hidden boss, I dodged a landmine and that is a Mechanic skill. There's no way a level 5 dungeon specialized boss already with abilities from 2 main classes has access to it".

"Which means?"

"Which means this is likely a challenge".

"A challenge?" Deadly Musician asked.

Noah nodded, paying keen attention to the approaching Pork Emperor.

"Warstar is a fair game. There's no way the game algorithm will make the mistake of spamming 2 boss monsters on a raid party at the same time unless it was premeditated with a certain motive and reward in mind".

Now that Noah was calmly analyzing the situation, the others no longer panicked in the presence of the 2 boss monsters.

Of course, this was also because the Slumbering Bandit was not attacking them.

"Now that you say it, you're right". Deadly Musician nodded. "2 bosses don't attack at the same time in a dungeon, even if it's a hidden boss".

Noah nodded again. "And not just that, this Slumbering Bandit is different. The bulge in his sling bag is bigger than normal, and that mechanic skill, it implies that it is also a Mechanic, meaning it has 3 main classes!"

The others were stunned.

3 main classes, was that even beatable?

But then, the more Noah explained, the more excited his voice seemed to become. "Which made me to arrive at the conclusion that this is a Unique Skill Challenge, I am 99% sure".

"A Unique Skill Challenge?" The other members of this raid party felt breathless as they let that word sink in.

They may be new to Warstar, but they watched the recent final of the Warstar RPG champions league, and they've also been following the game for some time so they definitely knew about the unique skill challenge.

Unique skill challenges are the only ways for in-game characters to receive unique skills from the game algorithm, and they are extremely hard to come by and they're even harder to complete.

"To think that we would stumble upon a unique skill challenge in just our 2nd dungeon run in the new server!" They were excited.

"But still, these circumstances, is this not too hard?"

"I've never heard of a unique skill challenge that is this hard".

"Can we actually defeat a final boss and a hidden boss together?"

In that moment, Noah grinned. "With me, we can".

Death Note, the Elementalist snapped. "What are you? Noah Harrington, the Godfather of Warstar?"

"Actually, I am".

"..."

'So shameless!' The others obviously felt that he was just boasting.

"Well, if you are, then I am Aria, the Queen of Blademasters".

Noah looked at the party leader. "It's up to you. We can't keep bickering forever. If you want to complete this challenge, make me the leader and let me lead this boss fight".

Deadly Musician could hear the confidence in this player's voice, in the end he shrugged. "Let's give him a chance guys".

"It's not like any of us actually have a way of surviving in this scenario. If he succeeds, awesome, good for us and if he doesn't, we lose nothing".

"Right". The others agreed.

And just like that, this raid party of strangers allowed Noah to temporarily become the leader of the raid party.

As soon as Noah became the leader, he explained. "The Slumbering Bandit is the most dangerous of the 2 boss monsters. Besides, it most likely has abilities from 3 different classes. He won't let us isolate and kill the Pork Emperor while watching, so we have to kill it first".

"But we can't go after it, going after it will be falling right into its hands".

"This is why we'll all attack the Pork Emperor until the hidden boss is forced to intervene. From there on, we'll have to improvise".

The rest of the party members waited to hear more but not hearing more, Death Note, the Elementalist asked. "That's all?"

"Yeah, there's no specific strategy to this. Even I have never fought against 2 bosses at once inside a dungeon, we'll just have to improvise, do our best and hope we don't make any mistake".

"Not hope, don't make any mistake, we only have one shot at this".

Hearing him, the other party members could not help but feel a little nervous. Could they play a perfect game?

Noah didn't let them overthink though. "Before we start, I need to know all your skill combinations".

They answered him, telling him all the skills in their beginner skill tree.

Once they were done, Noah nodded, about to start. "I'll pull aggro, the rest of you, attack with your strongest skills on my signal".

Deadly Musician wanted to say something but, in the end, he held himself back as he watched the Combat Mage charge towards the hidden boss.

The Slumbering Bandit's eyes flashed on noticing this and then, revealing a humanoid grin, this hidden boss shamelessly turned around and ran.

Noticing this, having expected it, Noah's Lord Doom turned immediately, nonchalantly ignoring the running hidden boss as he charged in the direction of the Pork Emperor.

" ... "

The hidden boss was stunned when it noticed this.

"Time to squeal your doom!" The Pork Emperor just said its catchphrase again when it was caught by a swift attack.

{Mana Burst=}

Mana Burst is a combat mage skill that is activated by jumping. When landing, it releases a shockwave of raw mana energy, damaging and staggering enemies in a radius.

The Pork Emperor was too big to be knocked up by Empowered Slash, this was why Noah settled for the mana burst.

Before the towering final boss could react, Noah already landed beside it as a shockwave erupted with him as the center.

The gigantic Pig staggered, and Noah's battle lance stung.

Chapter 9: Hidden Boss- Slumbering Bandit [3]

'This guy... is good!'

They already saw his skill once against the Slumbering Bandit but seeing it again in full flow against the Pork Emperor that was supposed to be an extremely difficult opponent, they were stunned.

This Lord Doom didn't seem to know how to miss a single attack.

From the moment that he used Mana Burst to make the Pork Emperor stagger; the final boss endured an unrelenting combo of rapid attacks.

At just level 5, Warstar RPG characters have very few skills but with the little skills that he had, Noah played like a level 20 player, mixing normal attacks in his barrage to keep up the combo as blood flew like rain.

But in Warstar, skills cannot be used endlessly. Every skill has a cooldown, calculating cooldowns and using it to your advantage is one of the big differences between a casual player and a pro player.

"Now, attack!"

After his rapid barrage of attacks, as Noah said this, he disengaged from the final boss who just collapsed to the ground, about to rise back up.

Death Note and Silky Strings didn't let the final boss rise back up though as charging in, the Blademaster hit the stationary final boss with a Whirlwind Slash, knocking it back down with the skill's sweeping effect.

Just before Death Note could attack, he heard Noah's order.

"Flame Wave!"

The Elementalist froze for a brief moment, but then he quickly executed it.

Flame Wave is an Elementalist spell that sends out a wave of fire that engulfs enemies in a cone, causing extended burn damage over time.

With the boss still knocked down due to Silky String's Whirlwind Slash and with Death Note's Flame Wave active, Lord Grim and Deadly Musician joined the party, spamming attacks against the final boss.

But that was the problem, compared to the more technical Slumbering Bandit with normal HP, the Pork Emperor had a truly despairing amount of HP.

Afterall, it was the brute type of final boss.

In exchange for that, its attacks were pretty predictable.

The Pork Emperor had no magic attacks, it had only its size and its club going for it. But one hit from that club had the capability to one-shot a cloth-armored class like Death Note's Elementalist, so they had to be careful.

Their flurry of attacks took a chunk of HP from the final boss but again, it tried to stand up to attack.

But predicting its movements perfectly, Noah ordered again.

"Musical, Whirlwind Slash!"

"M-m-musical...?" The Blademaster was stunned. "It's Deadly Musician!"

Even as he complained, this Blademaster already activated the skill as sweeping with his sword, the Pork Emperor was forced to the ground again.

And with that, they resumed spamming attacks on the boss.

Just like that, the Pork Emperor that was supposed to be a formidable adversary was tamed, reduced to a predictable punching bag.

The other members of this raid party were amazed. They knew that the attacks of the Pork Emperor were pretty predictable, but taking advantage of its predictable attack patterns was a whole other thing. It was incredibly hard.

They knew that this elite performance was all because of one player, Lord Doom.

He seemed to always know the next move of the Pork Emperor before it made the move, reading it like a book and warning them ahead of time. This way, with the 2 Blademasters rotating between their knock-down skills and the Elementalist's own skills, the threat of the Pork Emperor was neutralized.

The Pork Emperor's HP was steadily dropping but this was a risky maneuver. A single mistake from one of them could spell their death.

It didn't take too long before one of them made a mistake though. It was Silky Strings, the other Blademaster who mistimed his usage of Whirlwind Slash, enabling the final boss to rise up again.

"Ahh..., sorry!"

Before the mistake could prove devastating, in a blur, Noah's Lord Doom already rolled in front of Silky Strings' Blademaster.

As the gigantic Pork Emperor's club descended, about to cause devastating damage, Noah used a skill.

{Arcane Riposte=}

It was a combat mage skill that parries an enemy attack and counters with a burst of arcane energy, stunning the attacker.

Silky Strings failed to knock down the Pork Emperor but with Noah's timely Arcane Riposte to save the day, the final boss was stunned, achieving the same effect as the others kept on spamming attacks on it.

"Don't make another mistake". Noah warned.

"Yes boss". Silky Strings hastily said.

After that, there was no more mistakes and just like that, it seemed that they would easily kill the Pork Labyrinth's final boss till something changed.

...they forgot that the Pork Emperor was not their only enemy.

Bzzz!

By the time that they heard the sound of shadows stirring, the Slumbering Bandit who had been quiet since already made its move, using the thief skill, Shadow Step to ambush one of the players.

The Shadow Step skill teleports the Thief to a nearby enemy, delivering a quick attack upon arrival but the hidden boss didn't stop at that.

Having retrieved a dagger from its sling bag at some point, it turned the attack into a combo, using the thief skill Back Stab as blood blossomed.

During the past few seconds, Death Note, the Elementalist's high DPS class led the damage stats and was why he was first on the hidden boss' radar.

Not only did the attack of the hidden boss have unnecessarily high damage, Back Stab also had side effects of leaving its culprit stunned and weakened, reducing all its attributes, including HP and MP by half.

In that one attack, Death Note's HP dropped by 1/3rd!

"...!" The other party members froze.

If the Slumbering Bandit was allowed to chain a few more attacks, Death Note would be insta-killed.

Alas, they never had any chances of winning, but then...

Bzzz!

The blood from the Back Stab was still blossoming when the sound of space shrinking reverberated.

{Blink Step:}

Blink Step is a battle mage short distance teleportation skill.

In an instant, Lord Doom appeared behind the Slumbering Bandit and before it could attack the Elementalist again, Lord Grim's battle lance already struck, launching the hidden boss into the sky again with another Empowered Slash.

"...!" The others were stunned.

Lord Doom was thinking and playing at a level that their mundane minds could not keep up with at all, they were always lagging a step behind.

Thankfully, Noah did give them orders.

"Death Note, use your strongest attacks!"

The Elementalist snapped back to life.

"Strings, Musical, focus on stalling the Pork Emperor. Melody, support them". Even as Noah instructed, his Lord Doom never stopped attacking as chaining one attack with another, he juggled the tiny Slumbering Bandit.

From the very beginning, this was the scenario that Noah played out in his head, the only scenario he saw of winning this extreme challenge.

He always knew that pursuing the Slumbering Bandit was not optimal, the bastard was just too slippery. And he also knew that the hidden bandit was too intelligent to just watch them as they kill the Pork Emperor.

This meant that it would attack when they least expected it, and its target would definitely be the highest damage threat.

Elementalists specialize in manipulating the elements, fire, water, earth, and air for powerful offensive and utility abilities. They excel in dealing high elemental damage and controlling the battlefield.

From the beginning, Noah knew that after some time, Death Note would quickly climb above him in the damage stats but he predicted that before the Elementalist's overall damage could eclipse his own, making the final boss' aggro to OT, the impatient bandit would have made its move by then.

And he was right.

Unlike the Pork Emperor that had a mountain of HP, the Slumbering Bandit's HP was much more normal.

What went for this hidden boss was its nimbleness and cunning which always confounded lower-skilled players but for an elite player of Noah's caliber, the Slumbering Bandit was the perfect fit for him.

Noah was confident in one-shotting the Slumbering Bandit alone with time, the question was could he do it fast enough before the Pork Emperor would kill his teammates?

This was why since Death Note was close by, he instructed the Elementalist to help him get rid of the Slumbering Bandit.

In that moment, Deadly Musician finally understood Noah's masterplan from the beginning, this player could not help but be impressed.

'What is he? A God?'

He didn't hesitate though; he had a lumbering final boss to stall.

While he and Silky Strings focused on stalling the final boss with Healing Melody providing them support, Death Note and Lord Doom focused on the Slumbering Bandit.

No other 2 players could one-shot this hidden boss but at this moment, the other members thought if anyone could do it, this Lord Doom definitely could.

Bam! Bam!

Lord Doom's battle lance never stopped moving, attacking non-stop, coordinating with Death Note's powerful attacks.

As he attacked, the game algorithm counted above the hidden boss' head.

{6 combo attack...}

{8 combo attack...}

{12 combo attack...}

{18 combo attack...}

{22 combo attack...}

'What the f*ck!' Death Note felt like he was seeing ghosts.

This was not a random log of wood, this was a level 5 hidden boss, the Slumbering Bandit and yet Noah juggled this poor hidden boss like a stationary object. It already tried to no avail to escape the attack combo.

In the end, the Slumbering Boss' HP finally went below 10% and immediately, it entered red blood state.

"Move back!" Noah warned.

Chapter 10: Hidden Boss first kill

The Slumbering Bandit originally had 2 main classes but since this was a unique skill challenge, the hidden boss was upgraded to have 3 main classes.

Apart from its normal thief class, it was also a Mechanic today but from the moment that Noah's Lord Doom ambushed the hidden boss, he never let it use any of its Mechanic skills.

The Mechanic class are tactical and tech-savvy fighters who specialize in deploying gadgets, constructs, and explosive devices to control the battlefield and deal consistent damage.

They blend ingenuity with mechanical prowess, making them versatile and unpredictable.

But from the moment that Noah knew that this hidden boss had the Mechanic class too, he warned his teammates and they actively looked out for the landmines, avoiding them.

Of course, a Mechanic had other attack skills.

In that sling bag of his, Noah was sure that the Slumbering Bandit carried shock grenades and maybe even a Drone Companion but he never once gave the bandit the opportunity to make use of these skills, till red blood.

In it's red-blood state, the Slumbering Bandit gains Super Armor, making it immune to all knock up, knock back and knock down skill effects.

"Move back!"

Death Note obeyed without a moment's hesitation, jumping back just in time to avoid a Mechanic skill, sticky bomb.

Sticky bomb is a skill that attaches an explosive to an enemy within a 5-meter radius, detonating after a delay but since no target was in its radius when it was deployed, the bomb failed to detonate.

But the Slumbering Bandit quickly used another skill.

{EMP Blast=}

BZZZ!

EMP blast disables enemy electronics and constructs while dealing damage and reducing movement speed in an area.

Noah's raid party had no Mechanic nor electronic constructs, but he and Death Note received the damage even as their movement speed became reduced.

"Use Lightning Strike". Noah ordered even as he already rushed back in to attack but a boss in red blood mode was dangerous.

If he had the leverage, he would have retreated, allowing Death Note to bombard the hidden boss from a distance but then, the Slumbering Bandit was just too nimble and fast. He would not allow them retreat.

This was why instead of retreating, Noah went all in.

"Strings, Musical, switch your attention here!"

At the moment, while they battled the Slumbering Bandit, Silky Strings and Deadly Musician were being battered by the Pork Emperor and were close to death.

When Noah called for them, they heaved a sigh of relief, quickly abandoning the Pork Emperor and turning their attention to the bandit again.

And that was their advantage. Since the Pork Emperor was so slow, it was not fast enough to pursue them and catch up immediately.

As they charged in, Noah gave a final order. "Melody, use Blessing of Fortitude and Inspiration".

The Cleric did not hesitate, using both skills immediately even as in reality, her hands tapping her keyboard and moving her mouse were covered in sweat.

{Blessing of Fortitude=}

{Inspiration=}

Both were low level Cleric skills.

Blessing of Fortitude temporarily increases an ally's defense and resistance to physical attacks. This was the base level of the skill but having put in some skill points to level it up, Healing Melody could use its AOE effect on her full party.

As for Inspiration, it bolsters the party's morale, temporarily enhancing their attack power and mana regeneration.

The reason why Noah called all of them back was simple, it was in reality a gamble to deal with the predictable next move of the Slumbering Bandit in its last throes of death.

And he was right as after uttering a silent scream, portals materialized around them from which normal Pork Labyrinth Pigs emerged from.

The Slumbering Bandit was also a Summoner!

"Attack!"

Urging his teammates, with his battle lance, Noah's speed exploded as he pounced on all the spawning low-level Pigs.

If Noah was using a keyboard and mouse at this moment, his APM would have absolutely blown through the roof but all he had to do this time was think and thinking? It was far better than hand speed.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

This boss battle reached its climax as with him rapidly hunting down all the spawns before they could attack his teammates, he allowed them to focus on the rampaging red blood Slumbering Bandit.

Super Armor only granted the hidden boss resistance to knock effects, it didn't increase its defense, its HP kept on draining rapidly.

In those few seconds, this raid party felt a thrill unlike anything that they've experienced before now.

They forgot about everything, including all their anxiety and tension.

The only thing on their mind was hitting the keys of the keyboard, moving their mouse, and activating skill after skill, attack after attack.

{Your party member, Death Note have been killed!}

In the end, the Slumbering Bandit ended up taking the first life but it also spelled its end as Death Note's Lightning Strike skill finished the job.

The Elementalist did his job before dying.

In a choreographed manner, the Slumbering Bandit staggered, life draining out of its eyes before it collapsed the next moment.

Immediately, the game system announced.

{Congratulations to the players Deadly Musician, Death Note, Silky Strings, Healing Melody, and Lord Doom for claiming the first kill of the Pork Labyrinth Hidden boss: Slumbering Bandit!}

For a brief moment, the others were stunned.

They were about to jump for joy when Noah's words doused them in cold water. "The final boss is still here!"

BOOM!

Slamming its club to the ground in the middle of the players, this final boss generated a massive shockwave, causing a lot of damage and knocking the players down as another one also ate the dust.

{Your party member, Healing Melody has been killed!}

The Cleric had the most health among the remaining members of this raid party before but due to unfortunately being in the direct path of that attack, more than 50% of her HP was wiped out in one attack!

With their Cleric gone, it suddenly became much harder but unlike the others, Noah was not knocked down by that attack.

This was because just before the club hit down, he jumped up, escaping the range of the attack.

As he landed, his battle lance slashed at the final boss with an Empowered slash even as his 2 teammates scrambled back up to their feet.

"Strings, go to the 12 o'clock direction".

"Musical, the 3 o'clock direction".

At this point, Deadly Musician didn't even care that Noah miscalled his username as he obeyed diligently.

"We can't afford to make a mistake," Noah reminded. "We need to kill it".

The Pork Emperor still had about 40% of its HP remaining but like Noah already proved before, they could deal with this final boss since its attack patterns were predictable.

The only question was, could they do it in Death Note's absence?

They couldn't overthink because they already started attacking.

And again, Noah's APM exploded as singlehandedly, he compensated for the absence of an extra DBS character.

Spamming attacks against the final boss, the 3 of them attacked.

'It's still not finished yet?'

'Why is it not finished yet?'

'Is the Pork Emperor immortal?'

'Gods! When will this end?'

Repeating the same sequence of attacks over and over again could get exhausting. They felt like robots but knowing that Lord Doom was doing far more than them, these 2 players dared not to make a mistake.

In the end, they were not perfect, Silky Strings made a mistake and that mistake was enough to cost him his life.

{Your party member, Silky Strings has been killed!}

"Boss, can we...?"

"Attack!" Noah said, interrupting Deadly Musician and then, closing his mouth, this Blademaster did nothing but attack.

All his fingers felt numb and sweaty.

But in the end, after what felt like forever, only when he heard the sound of the game system notification did he freeze.

{Congratulations! Your raid party has killed the final boss of the Pork Labyrinth, Pork Emperor!}

{You have been rewarded with XP each!}

{You have been rewarded with 80 Skill Points each!}

...

{Congratulations! You have completed Unique Skill Challenge...!}

Thud!

The Pork Emperor collapsed to the ground, dead.

Deadly Musician stared with wide eyes. "W-we actually won". He stammered.