

# Three Apples Fell from the Sky: The International's Unforgettable Final



The International is the most prestigious and lucrative tournament in the world of competitive Dota 2. Held annually by Valve Corporation, the game's developer, it brings together the top teams from around the globe to compete for a multi-million dollar prize pool.

## Three Apples Fell from the Sky: The International

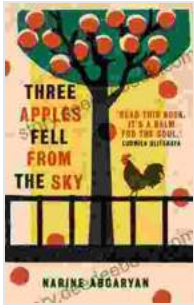
**Bestseller** by Narine Abgaryan

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1634 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled



Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
X-Ray : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 231 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



The 2023 International was no different, with 18 teams vying for the Aegis of Champions and a share of the record-breaking \$40 million prize pool. However, this tournament would be forever remembered for its thrilling final, which featured an unlikely underdog story and a dramatic come-from-behind victory.

## **The Underdogs**

Team Secret, hailing from Europe, entered the tournament as one of the favorites. With a star-studded roster featuring some of the best players in the world, they were expected to cruise through the competition.

However, Team Liquid, a North American squad, had other plans. Led by their charismatic captain, MATUMBAMAN, Liquid upset Secret in the first round of the lower bracket. Many dismissed Liquid's victory as a fluke, but the team remained determined to prove their worth.

## **The Long Road to the Finals**

Through sheer grit and determination, Liquid fought their way through the lower bracket, defeating formidable opponents such as Evil Geniuses, OG,

and Aster. Each victory brought them closer to the grand final, and their confidence grew with each passing match.

Meanwhile, Secret found their path to the final to be less arduous. They dominated the upper bracket, dropping only one match along the way. Their victory over PSG.LGD in the upper bracket final seemed to confirm their status as the tournament favorites.

## **The Grand Final**

The stage was set for a grand final between two teams that had taken very different paths to the biggest match of their lives. Secret, the favorites, looked poised to claim their second Aegis of Champions. Liquid, the underdogs, were determined to prove that they belonged among the elite.

The match started with Secret taking an early lead. They dominated the laning phase and secured several key kills. However, Liquid refused to give up. They fought back with incredible resilience, slowly chipping away at Secret's advantage.

As the match progressed, Liquid's belief grew. They made several game-changing plays and began to outmaneuver Secret's superior lineup. The crowd, which had initially favored Secret, began to shift their allegiance towards the underdog team.

## **The Deciding Moment**

With the match hanging in the balance, Liquid found themselves in a crucial team fight near Roshan's pit. Secret had the advantage in人数, but Liquid's execution was flawless. They caught Secret off guard and wiped out their entire team.

This play proved to be the turning point of the match. Liquid pushed their advantage, taking down Secret's base and securing the Aegis of Champions. The crowd erupted in a deafening roar as Liquid's players embraced in victory.

## The Aftermath

Liquid's victory was a Cinderella story for the ages. They had overcome long odds, defeated some of the best teams in the world, and claimed the most prestigious title in Dota 2. Their victory was a testament to their hard work, determination, and the power of believing in themselves.

Secret, on the other hand, were left to rue their missed opportunity. They had been the favorites throughout the tournament, but they were unable to close out the grand final when it mattered most. Their defeat was a bitter reminder that even the best teams can be overcome by underdogs with something to prove.

The 2023 International final will forever be remembered as one of the most thrilling and unforgettable matches in Dota 2 history. It was a battle between two teams with very different stories, but one that ended with the underdogs triumphing over the favorites. Liquid's victory was a reminder that anything is possible in esports, and that the most unlikely stories often have the happiest endings.



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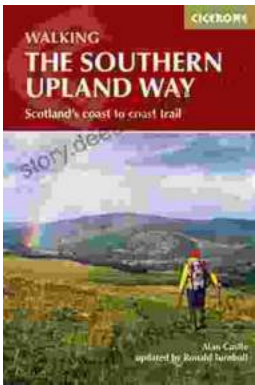
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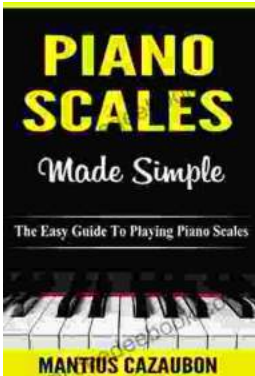
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