Here’s the proofread version of Chapter 20:  
  
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\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*   
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 20</h1>   
  
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When the Hunters all started to leave together, Yoo Jin-Ho asked with a puzzled expression.   
“You’re leaving just me and Jin-Woo hyung in the boss room?”   
  
Hwang Dong-Seok smiled with a sly grin.   
“That thing hasn’t woken up even with all this noise. What’s the worry? Plus, I’ve got some things to discuss with the others. We’ll just step out for a smoke and be right back. Won’t take long.”   
  
Jin-Woo listened to Hwang Dong-Seok’s lengthy explanation and let out a small chuckle inwardly.   
‘So, he’s finally showing his true colors. But sending everyone away? They must think we’re complete fools.’   
Of course, they likely looked down on him because of his low rank.   
  
As expected, Hwang Dong-Seok began to move.   
Though the situation was slightly different from what he had anticipated.   
It had already been four years since Jin-Woo started working as a Hunter, and in that time, he had met many Hunters.   
One of them was Mr. Oh, an old man who had retired from freelance work and occasionally helped the Association with odd jobs.   
  
“Be wary of the lizards,” Mr. Oh used to say.   
During raids, there would come moments of extreme danger.   
And in those moments, some unscrupulous Hunters would deliberately sacrifice their former comrades, either because they weren’t part of the original team or because they were weaker, just to buy time for their own safe escape.   
Like a lizard shedding its tail to flee.   
  
‘Tail cutting…’   
Mr. Oh called such Hunters ‘lizards’ and their actions ‘tail cutting.’   
  
By regulation, the minimum number of members required to clear a C-rank Gate was ten.   
But Hwang Dong-Seok’s regular team only had eight members.   
“You know how it is,” Hwang Dong-Seok once said. “It’s not easy to bring a Healer-type Hunter into a private raid party. We’ve always done it this way, so what’s the big deal?”   
But Jin-Woo knew better.   
‘Of course, they didn’t need to fill those two spots. They needed tails they could cut off whenever necessary.’   
  
These guys didn’t care if you were an E-rank Hunter or a beginner. They’d take anyone.   
And now, Hwang Dong-Seok had decided to abandon Sung Jin-Woo and Yoo Jin-Ho for a slightly different reason than usual.   
‘Good riddance for me.’   
Jin-Woo read Hwang Dong-Seok’s intentions but didn’t let it show.   
In fact, it was exactly what he wanted.   
  
But for Yoo Jin-Ho, who had just started his Hunter career today, the situation was different.   
Yoo Jin-Ho spoke with a voice tinged with anxiety.   
“But still, this is a bit... Shouldn’t we all go together?”   
  
Jin-Woo noticed one of the Hunters behind them reaching for his waist.   
So, he placed a hand on Yoo Jin-Ho’s shoulder and said,   
“Go ahead. We’ll hold the fort here.”   
The Hunter’s hand froze mid-motion.   
“Hyung…?”   
Yoo Jin-Ho looked confused, but Jin-Woo simply shook his head slightly without saying a word.   
  
He couldn’t just let this noisy kid die, especially after he’d gone out of his way earlier to include Jin-Woo’s contract in the distribution, even if it meant taking a loss.   
  
Hwang Dong-Seok smiled at the two of them.   
“The car’s parked right outside, so it won’t take long. See you.”   
Hwang Dong-Seok and the other eight members exited the boss room.   
The sound of their footsteps quickly faded.   
  
Yoo Jin-Ho turned to Jin-Woo and demanded,   
“Why’d you agree to that, hyung? What if that thing wakes up? What are we supposed to do?”   
The spider seemed to terrify him.   
‘This kid has no idea what’s going on, huh?’   
Jin-Woo internally clicked his tongue.   
Explaining everything would be a hassle.   
  
Instead of answering, Jin-Woo began to stretch slowly.   
  
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It was then that Hwang Dong-Seok turned back toward the boss room.   
The Hunters following him also stopped.   
They had walked far enough that their voices wouldn’t carry.   
  
Hwang Dong-Seok, still smiling, gestured to Jo Kyu-Hwan beside him.   
“Kyu-Hwan, seal the boss room entrance.”   
“Should I collapse it?”   
“Yeah, but don’t overdo it. We’ll need to get back in later.”   
  
Lee Cheol-Jin chimed in.   
“Hwang hyung, why go through all this trouble? Why not just kill them there and then?”   
Hwang Dong-Seok’s expression darkened instantly.   
There was no need to put on a friendly face anymore.   
  
“Do you realize what would happen if we fought there and woke the spider? When would we have time to mine the Mana Stones?”   
“Sorry…”   
Lee Cheol-Jin lowered his head, frightened.   
  
Jo Kyu-Hwan interjected.   
“Hwang hyung, since we’re talking about the spider, isn’t there a chance it could wake up while we’re mining? That could lead to heavy losses.”   
That terrifying Insect-type Magic Beast fed on other Magic Beasts to fill its stomach.   
If they were ambushed during the mining process, the damage could be catastrophic.   
  
“Exactly,” Hwang Dong-Seok said with a smirk.   
“That’s why we’re using those two as bait.”   
“Ah,” Jo Kyu-Hwan nodded in understanding.   
  
They had no idea when the spider might wake up.   
It could be in 10 hours, 1 hour, or even 1 minute.   
So, they planned to wake it up and feed it first.   
The shock of collapsing the entrance should be enough to rouse even the most lethargic Magic Beast.   
  
Hwang Dong-Seok continued.   
“We’ll mine the Mana Stones after the spider is full and falls back asleep.”   
The Association had granted them five days for this mission.   
They still had four and a half days left.   
If the spider didn’t fall asleep within that time, they’d simply kill it and mine as much as they could before the Gate closed.   
  
They wouldn’t be able to mine everything in an hour, but with Sung Jin-Woo and Yoo Jin-Ho out of the picture, they could minimize their losses.   
Besides, working under constant fear was no way to get things done.   
Safety first.   
  
‘Though that’s the worst-case scenario…’   
If they were lucky, they could claim both the Mana Stones and the spider, while also reducing the shares of the two targets.   
And Yoo Jin-Ho’s expensive equipment would be a bonus.   
‘That sword and shield must be worth at least a few hundred million.’   
It was a deal with no downsides.   
  
Hwang Dong-Seok’s lips curved into a smile.   
“Seal the entrance, and let’s go smoke.”   
“Yes, hyung.”   
Jo Kyu-Hwan’s fingertips began to glow with intense light.   
  
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“...”   
Yoo Jin-Ho’s gaze was fixed on the spider.   
His breathing was cautious.   
  
With a frightened expression, he asked,   
“That spider… it’s not going to wake up, right?”   
“Hard to say.”   
Jin-Woo kept his words brief.   
He had a rough idea of what was coming, but if he told the truth, Yoo Jin-Ho might just pass out.   
  
‘Come to think of it…’   
That was the first thing Yoo Jin-Ho had said in five minutes.   
He must be absolutely terrified.   
The guy who couldn’t stop talking earlier.   
  
Suddenly,   
\*BOOM—\*   
A loud crash echoed as the boss room entrance collapsed in a heap of rubble.   
“Huh? What?!”   
Yoo Jin-Ho rushed to the entrance in a panic.   
But the pile of rubble had completely blocked it. No matter how hard he pushed, the rocks didn’t budge.   
Jin-Woo slowly walked over as well.   
  
“Ugh—! Hyung, help me push!”   
Yoo Jin-Ho was still desperately trying to move the rubble.   
‘Was that Jo Kyu-Hwan?’   
Jin-Woo had seen a flash of light before the noise.   
A C-rank Mage who manipulated light.   
This was definitely his doing.   
  
Jin-Woo placed his hand on the rubble.   
‘I could easily get out if I wanted to.’   
The weight of the rocks pressed against his arm, but it wasn’t as heavy as he expected.   
A slight push made the wall of rocks tremble slightly.   
But he had no intention of leaving.   
  
“Ah!”   
Yoo Jin-Ho suddenly gasped, as if he had realized something.   
He turned to Jin-Woo with a red face.   
“Those bastards are trying to kill us! They’re blocking the entrance so the spider kills us, all because they don’t want to share the Mana Stones!”   
  
‘He figured it out pretty fast.’   
Jin-Woo sighed inwardly but humored him.   
“Yeah. Big trouble.”   
  
“Gasp!”   
In an instant, Yoo Jin-Ho’s face turned from red to white.   
It was like all the color drained from him.   
The reason was clear without asking.   
  
Reflected in Yoo Jin-Ho’s eyes was the massive form of the Magic Beast.   
Jin-Woo turned around.   
“Grrrl, grrrl.”   
The spider, awakened by the shock, was slowly rising to its feet.   
Its enormous body, dozens of eyes, grotesque mouth, and long legs.   
It was far more terrifying in motion than when it was simply sleeping.   
  
“Ugh…”   
Yoo Jin-Ho let out a groan.   
His entire body stiffened like a rock.   
  
Meanwhile, Jin-Woo calmly summoned ‘Kasaka’s Venom Fang’ from the warehouse, never taking his eyes off the spider.   
‘That’s mine.’   
This was a perfect opportunity to test his boosted stats.   
‘Kasaka’s Venom Fang’ appeared in his right hand as if it had always been there.   
\*Swoosh—\*   
Jin-Woo gripped the dagger’s hilt tightly.   
  
This was the reason Hunters were called Hunters!   
The real hunt was about to begin.   
  
“W-Wait, hyung!”   
But before Jin-Woo could move toward the spider, Yoo Jin-Ho grabbed his sleeve.   
“Wh-What are you going to do?”   
Yoo Jin-Ho’s fingertips were trembling.   
  
Jin-Woo pointed over his shoulder with his left thumb.   
“I’m going to kill that thing.”   
This was the sole reason Jin-Woo had followed Hwang Dong-Seok’s group all along.   
If Hwang Dong-Seok planned to cut them loose, Jin-Woo aimed to take all the dungeon’s Magic Beasts for himself.   
It was a great chance to monopolize the experience points and Mana Stones.   
  
‘If only the boss hadn’t eaten all the other Magic Beasts…’   
There would’ve been even more to gain.   
But that was a small regret.   
  
Yoo Jin-Ho, unaware of Jin-Woo’s plan, looked at him in disbelief.   
‘Is this hyung serious right now?’   
He’d heard somewhere that people could lose their minds when faced with overwhelming mental stress.   
An E-rank Hunter was claiming he’d take on a C-rank dungeon boss alone.   
If this wasn’t madness, what was?   
  
Yoo Jin-Ho asked again, dazed.   
“You’re going to kill that thing, hyung?”   
Jin-Woo scratched the top of his head and responded,   
“Or do you want to do it?”   
  
Before Yoo Jin-Ho could reply, Jin-Woo turned around.   
He didn’t need to hear the answer.   
Yoo Jin-Ho was barely standing on trembling legs.   
From the start, Jin-Woo hadn’t expected anything from him.   
It was better if he didn’t try to help.   
‘He’d just get in the way.’   
  
Jin-Woo slowly approached the spider.   
The spider, noticing him, turned its massive body using its eight legs.   
It was coming closer.   
The spider seemed curious about this new prey, in no hurry as it closed the distance with slow, deliberate movements.   
  
“Huu—”   
Jin-Woo’s heart began to race as the massive body loomed closer.   
He focused on calming his breathing and steadying his nerves.   
He needed to stay composed.   
  
‘This is manageable.’   
If he had thought the boss was unbeatable, he wouldn’t have stayed.   
  
“Grrrl…”   
The spider’s glossy black eyes reflected Jin-Woo’s face as it drew near.   
Jin-Woo’s eyes narrowed.   
  
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\*\*CHAPTER END\*\*   
  
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Let me know if you’d like further adjustments!