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\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*  
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 27</h1>  
  
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<p>Chapter 27</p>  
<p>Since Jin-Woo had already taken down the boss spider alone, he figured he could handle the other bosses the same way.</p>  
<p>However, the thought of just the two of them being surrounded by a swarm of insects at the entrance made him feel suffocated.</p>  
<p>"..."</p>  
<p>In front of Yoo Jin-Ho, who was at a loss for words, Jin-Woo wore an expression that said he had expected this.</p>  
<p>'Still, this is the best method.'</p>  
<p>To kill two birds with one stone.</p>  
<p>It was extremely difficult for an E-rank Hunter to join a private raid party.</p>  
<p>From the very first day he decided to earn money, he had felt this deeply.</p>  
<p>He had to either give up on entering dungeons as an individual or create his own raid party.</p>  
<p>But thankfully, someone offered to form a raid party for him.</p>  
<p>Wasn’t this an opportunity?</p>  
<p>"B-but Hyung-nim! To enter a C-rank Gate, we need at least ten members."</p>  
<p>"If we just fill the numbers and offer a decent pay, don’t you think there’ll be a line of applicants?"</p>  
<p>He was applying the method he had learned from Hwang Dong-Seok.</p>  
<p>If there were Hunters who didn’t want to risk their lives but were desperate for money, they would jump at the chance.</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho made a disgusted face.</p>  
<p>"You’re not saying... that we have to take down all the monsters in the dungeon, including the boss, by ourselves, are you?"</p>  
<p>To be precise, Jin-Woo planned to handle it all alone.</p>  
<p>"You catch on quick."</p>  
<p>This way, he could prevent any potential loss of experience points, and with only Yoo Jin-Ho by his side, he wouldn’t have to worry about prying eyes.</p>  
<p>'Then I can level up explosively.'</p>  
<p>On top of that, after every raid, a nice building would fall into his lap as a bonus. It was truly killing two birds with one stone.</p>  
<p>Now, all that was left was to convince Yoo Jin-Ho.</p>  
<p>As expected, Yoo Jin-Ho was terrified.</p>  
<p>"Isn’t that too dangerous, Hyung-nim?"</p>  
<p>"You only see one side of the coin."</p>  
<p>"Huh?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo gestured for Yoo Jin-Ho to come closer, and he leaned in.</p>  
<p>"If no one else hunts but us, that means no one else gets hurt, right?"</p>  
<p>"Y-yeah, I guess so."</p>  
<p>"The first raid was an accident because you tagged along, but think about it. If the raid team you formed completes 19 raids without a single injury..."</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho’s eyes widened.</p>  
<p>Indeed...!</p>  
<p>If that happened, it would be much easier to convince his father.</p>  
<p>Adding the title of a raid leader with 19 accident-free raids to his record as a D-rank Hunter would prove his qualifications as a Guild Master.</p>  
<p>It would be the best advertisement possible.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo smiled contentedly as he watched Yoo Jin-Ho’s expression.</p>  
<p>'This guy... he’s hooked.'</p>  
<p>After all, it was Yoo Jin-Ho who was desperate.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo didn’t necessarily need Yoo Jin-Ho to raid dungeons. He could enter dungeons through the Hunters Association’s notifications or random box rewards.</p>  
<p>Meanwhile, Yoo Jin-Ho thought to himself.</p>  
<p>It was a bit scary, but if they succeeded as Jin-Woo said, there was a lot to gain.</p>  
<p>Remembering Jin-Woo’s overwhelming combat power from the last raid, he didn’t feel too anxious.</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho finally made up his mind.</p>  
<p>"Let’s do it, Hyung-nim. I’ll gather the team members."</p>  
<p>"Good."</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo nodded.</p>  
<p>They were on the same page.</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho, who had been nervously clutching his chest in front of Jin-Woo, finally smiled brightly.</p>  
<p>'I’ve finally managed to get Hyung-nim’s help.'</p>  
<p>Now, the remaining raids didn’t seem so scary.</p>  
<p>With Jin-Woo as a reliable ally, forming a raid party would be much easier.</p>  
<p>With the conditions Jin-Woo set, there would be a line of people wanting to join the raid party.</p>  
<p>'This is one step closer to becoming a Master.'</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo also smiled.</p>  
<p>'I’ll sweep through the C-rank dungeon alone and level up quickly.'</p>  
<p>Both of them left the café with satisfied expressions.</p>  
<p>\*\*\*</p>  
<p>After sending Yoo Jin-Ho off, Jin-Woo ran all the way home.</p>  
<p>He didn’t know when the Association would contact him.</p>  
<p>It had been over ten days since he left the hospital, so it wouldn’t be strange if a Gate opened nearby at any moment.</p>  
<p>The Association usually summoned Hunters to clear nearby Gates two or three times a month.</p>  
<p>The reason he had only given Yoo Jin-Ho one hour was because of the unpredictable calls from the Association.</p>  
<p>'Right now, even an E-rank dungeon is precious...'</p>  
<p>He wanted to hunt Magic Beasts and level up quickly.</p>  
<p>He hadn’t realized how inconvenient it would be without a phone.</p>  
<p>Fortunately, his Hunter phone would arrive in a few days.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo opened the door and went inside.</p>  
<p>'...'</p>  
<p>The house was quiet.</p>  
<p>It was a weekday, so his younger sister was at school.</p>  
<p>Confirming that no one was home, Jin-Woo immediately opened the daily quest window.</p>  
<p>'I should claim today’s reward.'</p>  
<p>He had already completed the daily quest before meeting Yoo Jin-Ho. But since there were too many eyes around, he had delayed claiming the reward.</p>  
<p>He couldn’t just show the scene of a blue light enveloping his body and a gift box popping out in the middle of the street.</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[Push-ups 100 times: Completed (100/100)]</p>  
<p>[Sit-ups 100 times: Completed (100/100)]</p>  
<p>[Squats 100 times: Completed (100/100)]</p>  
<p>[Running 10km: Completed (11/10)]</p>  
<p>[Daily Quest: Preparation to Become Stronger] has been completed.</p>  
<p>[Completion reward has arrived.]</p>  
<p>[Would you like to check the reward?] (Y/N)</p>  
<p>"Yes... no, no."</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo, who had habitually tried to claim the reward, suddenly stopped when he noticed something.</p>  
<p>His gaze fixed on the running section.</p>  
<p>[Running 10km: Completed (11/10)]</p>  
<p>At first, he thought it was just a simple overrun by 1 kilometer.</p>  
<p>But the more he thought about it, the stranger it seemed.</p>  
<p>'Why is it recording an overrun even though I’ve met the target?'</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s gaze sharpened.</p>  
<p>Was this really a coincidence?</p>  
<p>He lay down on the floor and stretched his arms straight.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s upper body went up and down without rest.</p>  
<p>But his gaze remained fixed in the air.</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[You have successfully completed 1 push-up.]</p>  
<p>[Push-ups 100 times: Completed (111/100)]</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[You have successfully completed 1 push-up.]</p>  
<p>[Push-ups 100 times: Completed (112/100)]</p>  
<p>'As expected...'</p>  
<p>It wasn’t just the running that recorded overruns.</p>  
<p>The push-ups also continued to increase in number.</p>  
<p>Suddenly, he wondered how far the numbers could go.</p>  
<p>The veins on Jin-Woo’s arms bulged.</p>  
<p>Thanks to his increased stats, his body weight felt like nothing.</p>  
<p>His body was as light as a feather.</p>  
<p>The number, which was around 100, quickly changed to 200.</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[You have successfully completed 1 push-up.]</p>  
<p>[Push-ups 100 times: Completed (200/100)]</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[You have successfully completed 1 push-up.]</p>  
<p>[Push-ups 100 times: Completed (200/100)]</p>  
<p>The number stopped exactly at 200.</p>  
<p>No matter how many more times he tried, it didn’t go beyond that.</p>  
<p>The sit-ups and squats also had a limit of 200.</p>  
<p>[Push-ups 100 times: Completed (200/100)]</p>  
<p>[Sit-ups 100 times: Completed (200/100)]</p>  
<p>[Squats 100 times: Completed (200/100)]</p>  
<p>[Running 10km: Completed (11/10)]</p>  
<p>Exactly 200, no more, no less.</p>  
<p>It wasn’t infinite, but it also didn’t stop at 100.</p>  
<p>There was something here.</p>  
<p>His instincts were telling him that.</p>  
<p>Perhaps, if he filled the overrun quota, something different was waiting for him?</p>  
<p>'Let’s check it out.'</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo left the house with a faster pace than ever before.</p>  
<p>He quickly covered 9 kilometers of running.</p>  
<p>When Jin-Woo stood in front of his house again, a message popped up.</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[Hidden Quest: Preparation to Become Stronger] has been completed.</p>  
<p>[Completion reward has arrived.]</p>  
<p>[Would you like to check the reward?] (Y/N)</p>  
<p>The quest title hadn’t changed, but the quest type had changed to a hidden quest.</p>  
<p>His guess was correct.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo swallowed hard.</p>  
<p>'...Confirm.'</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[The following rewards are prepared for you.]</p>  
<p>Reward 1. Status Recovery</p>  
<p>Reward 2. All Stat Points +3</p>  
<p>Reward 3.</p>  
<p>1) Blessed Random Box (Choose)</p>  
<p>2) Cursed Random Box (Choose)</p>  
<p>[Will you accept all?]</p>  
<p>'All stats increased by 3 points!'</p>  
<p>His eyes widened.</p>  
<p>As expected of a hidden quest, the rewards were generous.</p>  
<p>An increase of 3 points in all stats was equivalent to leveling up three times.</p>  
<p>No, since his stats increased without his level rising, it was even more beneficial.</p>  
<p>With the increased stats, leveling up would be easier. At the same time, he felt a bit regretful.</p>  
<p>He had a vague hope that perhaps he could turn all future daily quests into hidden quests.</p>  
<p>'But if the rewards are this big...'</p>  
<p>It was highly likely to be a one-time event.</p>  
<p>And if the hidden quest was truly a one-time thing, he had to be more careful with Reward 3.</p>  
<p>Reward 3.</p>  
<p>1) Blessed Random Box (Choose)</p>  
<p>2) Cursed Random Box (Choose)</p>  
<p>Since it was the first time a choice reward had appeared.</p>  
<p>Choosing one meant losing the other.</p>  
<p>'Does that mean I’ll never see the other one again?'</p>  
<p>Just by the names, it seemed obvious which one to choose.</p>  
<p>But it could also be a trap.</p>  
<p>"Accept Reward 3."</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[You must choose one of the two random boxes.]</p>  
<p>[Blessed Random Box]</p>  
<p>Provides the 'Player' with the desired item.</p>  
<p>[Cursed Random Box]</p>  
<p>Provides the 'Player' with the necessary item.</p>  
<p>[Which one will you choose?]</p>  
<p>The description was simple.</p>  
<p>That’s why it was harder to choose.</p>  
<p>If there had been no description, he would have chosen the Blessed Random Box without hesitation.</p>  
<p>But after reading the description, it seemed like he would regret whichever one he chose.</p>  
<p>'Desired and necessary...'</p>  
<p>At first glance, both sounded good.</p>  
<p>'But there’s a trap here.'</p>  
<p>'Desired' is something you want because you recognize its necessity. But 'necessary' is not. Something necessary but undesired could come out.</p>  
<p>For example, in a situation where a powerful weapon is needed, a terrifying bomb that could blow up the entire area, including himself, might come out.</p>  
<p>'That’s why it’s called the Cursed Random Box.'</p>  
<p>He chose the option with less risk.</p>  
<p>When the outcome of a choice is unknown, that’s the way to minimize regret.</p>  
<p>After a cold, rational deliberation, Jin-Woo made his decision.</p>  
<p>"Blessed Random Box."</p>  
<p>A small box appeared at his feet.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo picked up the box.</p>  
<p>'Could it be...?'</p>  
  
\*\*CHAPTER END\*\*