# 34

\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*  
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 34</h1>  
  
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<p>Chapter 34</p>  
<p>And a moment later.</p>  
<p>"Mmmph! Mmmph! Mmmph!"</p>  
<p>Not far away, a prisoner could be seen struggling. His hands and feet were tied with rope, and a gag was stuffed in his mouth. It was exactly as Kang Tae-Shik had said before he died.</p>  
<p>"I tied up a rapist nearby. Her father asked me to make his death as painful as possible, so I was planning to deal with him last."</p>  
<p>With those words, Kang Tae-Shik breathed his last.</p>  
<p>The prisoner thrashed even more violently when he saw Jin-Woo.</p>  
<p>It seemed like he was gesturing to be freed quickly.</p>  
<p>"Mmmph! Mmmph! Mmmph!"</p>  
<p>Upon closer inspection, it was the same guy who had been flirting with Joo-Hee earlier.</p>  
<p>When Jin-Woo removed the gag from the prisoner's mouth, the prisoner's eyes widened, and he gasped for air.</p>  
<p>"Huff, huff, huff! Kang Tae-Shik, that crazy bastard, he killed them all! He killed them all! What? Is that bastard gone? Is that blood on your clothes? Did he get you too?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo didn’t answer and instead looked straight ahead.</p>  
<p>It was the direction of the Boss Room.</p>  
<p>The prisoner’s voice grew urgent.</p>  
<p>"Untie me first. We need to escape before Kang Tae-Shik comes back. Damn it, the rope is infused with mana, so I can’t break it with strength! Do you have any equipment? Why aren’t you saying anything? Can’t you hear me?"</p>  
<p>As the low-rank Hunter from the Association continued to ignore him, the prisoner forgot his own situation and began to scowl.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo, who had been expressionless the entire time, finally spoke.</p>  
<p>"There’s a Boss up ahead."</p>  
<p>"What?"</p>  
<p>A question mark appeared on the prisoner’s face.</p>  
<p>"It seems stronger than the usual D-rank Dungeon Boss, and I’m curious about its attack patterns."</p>  
<p>The prisoner, who had been listening, couldn’t hold back his irritation.</p>  
<p>"What the hell are you talking about?!"</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo calmly continued with what he wanted to say.</p>  
<p>"Before that, let me ask you one thing. Do you remember the girl you raped?"</p>  
<p>"What? Who are you talking about? Are you her family?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s eyebrow twitched.</p>  
<p>Instead of answering yes or no, the prisoner asked who he was talking about first.</p>  
<p>It meant he hadn’t just assaulted one or two people.</p>  
<p>Hunters possess great power, and if they so desire, they can become monsters at any time.</p>  
<p>This guy had been using that power to torment women.</p>  
<p>With that, Jin-Woo made up his mind.</p>  
<p>He looked down at the prisoner and spoke coldly.</p>  
<p>"I’ve confirmed it. That’s enough."</p>  
<p>"What? Mmmph! Mmmph!"</p>  
<p>Before the prisoner could say anything more, Jin-Woo immediately covered his mouth again.</p>  
<p>Then, grabbing him by the ankle, he slowly walked toward the Boss Room.</p>  
<p>"Mmmph! Mmmph! Mmmph!"</p>  
<p>The prisoner struggled as he was dragged along.</p>  
<p>Blood vessels began to pop in his wide, glaring eyes.</p>  
<p>Ignoring the prisoner’s desperate struggles, Jin-Woo eventually dragged him all the way to the Boss Room.</p>  
<p>"Mmmph! Mmmph!"</p>  
<p>Inside the Boss Room, a group of Hobgoblins, known for their love of fresh human entrails, were gathered.</p>  
<p>"Mmmph! Mmmph! Mmmph!"</p>  
<p>The prisoner realized what Jin-Woo was planning to do.</p>  
<p>He screamed and shook his head as he saw the Hobgoblin horde. His pants turned yellow as he wet himself.</p>  
<p>"Hoo."</p>  
<p>After taking a deep breath, Jin-Woo threw the prisoner into the Hobgoblin horde.</p>  
<p>"Mmmph—!"</p>  
<p>"Kikikik."</p>  
<p>"Kihit."</p>  
<p>"Kiiik!"</p>  
<p>The Hobgoblins, smelling fresh meat, immediately pounced on the prisoner and began tearing into his flesh.</p>  
<p>"Mmmph! Mmmph! Mmmph!"</p>  
<p>As the prisoner thrashed desperately, blood vessels in his eyes burst one by one, turning his entire eyes red.</p>  
<p>"Mmmph... Mmmph..."</p>  
<p>Even as the prisoner lost consciousness, the Hobgoblins continued to gnaw at him without pause.</p>  
<p>How would it feel to be eaten alive by such disgusting monsters?</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo furrowed his brow and looked around the room for the Boss.</p>  
<p>'There it is.'</p>  
<p>A massive Hobgoblin, presumably the Boss, was sitting arrogantly in the corner. With its minions distracted by the bait, now was the perfect opportunity.</p>  
<p>'Dash!'</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo instantly passed through the Hobgoblins and appeared in front of the Hobgoblin Boss.</p>  
<p>"Kieek!"</p>  
<p>The Hobgoblin Boss hurriedly stood up in surprise, but before it could fully rise, its head rolled to the ground.</p>  
<p>Thud.</p>  
<p>Roll, roll.</p>  
<p>Ding!</p>  
<p>[You have defeated the Dungeon Boss.]</p>  
<p>[You leveled up!]</p>  
<p>'Ah, now that I think about it.'</p>  
<p>After decapitating the Hobgoblin Boss, Jin-Woo remembered the existence of the Rune Stone he had forgotten about.</p>  
<p>'I could’ve just learned the Stealth Skill and approached without needing to use bait.'</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo clicked his tongue as he looked at the remains of the prisoner, which could hardly be called human anymore.</p>  
<p>Still, he felt no sympathy.</p>  
<p>'Well, anyway...'</p>  
<p>The plan was a success.</p>  
<p>5. Gear</p>  
<p>Dealing with the Hobgoblins, who were now panicking without their leader, wasn’t difficult.</p>  
<p>"Kik!"</p>  
<p>"Kiaak!"</p>  
<p>"Kak!"</p>  
<p>The Hobgoblins tried to flee from Jin-Woo but were quickly dealt with.</p>  
<p>"Kiyak!"</p>  
<p>When the last one was killed, a pleasant message appeared.</p>  
<p>[You leveled up!]</p>  
<p>'Another level?'</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s face brightened at the unexpected gain.</p>  
<p>After cleaning the blood off 'Kasaka’s Venom Fang' and collecting the Essence Stones from the Hobgoblin corpses, Jin-Woo opened his Status Window.</p>  
<p>Ding!</p>  
<p>Name: Sung Jin-Woo</p>  
<p>Level: 27</p>  
<p>Job: None</p>  
<p>Title: Wolf Slayer</p>  
<p>HP: 5,114</p>  
<p>MP: 548</p>  
<p>Fatigue: 0</p>  
<p>[Stats]</p>  
<p>Strength: 72 Stamina: 43 Agility: 82 Intelligence: 39 Senses: 69</p>  
<p>(Available Stat Points: 5)</p>  
<p>Physical Damage Reduction: 20%</p>  
<p>[Skills]</p>  
<p>Passive Skills: (Unknown) Lv.MAX, Tenacity Lv.1</p>  
<p>Active Skills: Dash Lv.1, Killing Intent Lv.1</p>  
<p>[Equipped Items]</p>  
<p>Gatekeeper’s Necklace (A)</p>  
<p>His level was now close to 30.</p>  
<p>When he was dealing with Goblins at the Dungeon entrance, he hadn’t expected much, but after defeating the Hobgoblin Leader and the Hobgoblin minions, he had gained two levels.</p>  
<p>It was fortunate that all the strong ones were gathered in the Boss Room.</p>  
<p>'Well, maybe "fortunate" isn’t the right word.'</p>  
<p>The difficulty of the three branching paths and the Boss Room.</p>  
<p>If low-rank Hunters, confident from defeating Goblins, had recklessly entered the Boss Room, they might have been caught off guard by the sudden appearance of Hobgoblins and suffered a major accident.</p>  
<p>Hobgoblins, unlike Goblins, were not to be underestimated.</p>  
<p>'It’s true that you can occasionally encounter Hobgoblins in Dungeons where Goblins appear...'</p>  
<p>But it’s rare for Hobgoblins to gather in such large numbers.</p>  
<p>In a Dungeon, you truly can’t predict what’s ahead.</p>  
<p>A situation that might be lucky for someone could be a disaster for another.</p>  
<p>Only great strength could serve as a shield to protect oneself amidst such dangers. That’s why Jin-Woo wanted to grow stronger.</p>  
<p>Survival in the Dungeon was one thing, but what if a Dungeon Break occurred near the hospital where his mother was admitted?</p>  
<p>What if he was walking down the street and was suddenly attacked by Magic Beasts?</p>  
<p>No, it’s not just the Magic Beasts that are the problem.</p>  
<p>Hunters themselves were already as dangerous as Magic Beasts.</p>  
<p>Even if the authorities managed them, there were clear limits to that.</p>  
<p>He needed to have the strength to protect himself.</p>  
<p>'There’s a limit to how strong a Hunter can become.'</p>  
<p>But for him, there was no limit.</p>  
<p>By increasing his stats and acquiring items, he could theoretically grow infinitely stronger. And today, another method to grow stronger had been added.</p>  
<p>Rune Stones!</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo took out the Rune Stone he had kept in his pocket.</p>  
<p>Just like with items, information about the Rune Stone appeared in holographic text.</p>  
<p>[Rune Stone: Stealth]</p>  
<p>Breaking the Rune Stone will absorb the skill.</p>  
<p>To an untrained eye, it was just a pebble with strange engravings, but to any Hunter, regardless of rank, it was an object that would make their mouth water.</p>  
<p>High-rank Hunters would use it themselves, while low-rank Hunters could sell it to high-rank Hunters.</p>  
<p>Especially a Rune Stone containing a rare skill like 'Stealth' could fetch a huge sum. In an official auction, it could go for at least several billion, and on the black market, it could be several times that.</p>  
<p>The reason it was more expensive on the black market was simple.</p>  
<p>There was no official record of who bought what with whose money.</p>  
<p>Having a hidden skill was like possessing an additional powerful weapon.</p>  
<p>'Just like how Kang Tae-Shik had hidden his Stealth.'</p>  
<p>If his Senses stat hadn’t been high, he would’ve been caught off guard and lost.</p>  
<p>Thinking about it sent a chill down his spine.</p>  
<p>'For now, let’s exclude selling it. Money can always be earned later.'</p>  
<p>He shouldn’t be tempted by immediate financial gain.</p>  
<p>Right now, becoming stronger was the priority.</p>  
<p>The necessity of the rare and highly useful 'Stealth' skill was undeniable.</p>  
<p>"This little stone is worth several houses, no, several buildings."</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo immediately did something he could never have dreamed of before.</p>  
<p>Applying pressure with his hand, the Rune Stone cracked easily.</p>  
<p>Crack.</p>  
<p>A red energy began to seep out from the cracks in the Rune Stone and slowly enveloped his entire body.</p>  
<p>It was like receiving a healing spell.</p>  
<p>Except the color had changed from blue to red.</p>  
<p>In any case, it didn’t feel bad.</p>  
<p>As the red energy swirling around him naturally seeped into his lungs through his nose, he felt an unknown power within his body.</p>  
<p>Soon, a familiar mechanical sound rang out.</p>  
<p>Ding!</p>  
<p>[You have learned the skill: Stealth.]</p>  
<p>[You can now use the skill: Stealth.]</p>  
<p>'Great!'</p>  
<p>He had successfully absorbed the skill.</p>  
<p>This was his first time using a Rune Stone to learn a skill, so he had been nervous, but it ended up being quicker and simpler than he thought.</p>  
<p>'Can I use Stealth now?'</p>  
<p>His heart began to race with the sense of accomplishment from learning a rare skill.</p>  
<p>As the saying goes, seeing is believing.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo immediately activated the skill.</p>  
<p>'Stealth.'</p>  
<p>As soon as he thought it, his body began to fade from view.</p>  
<p>From his toes to his fingertips, everything became transparent.</p>  
<p>It felt strange not being able to see his hand right in front of him.</p>  
<p>'What happens if I do this?'</p>  
<p>On a whim, he summoned his dagger.</p>  
<p>Then, he felt something in his hand.</p>  
<p>Strangely, he could feel it but couldn’t see it.</p>  
<p>'As expected...'</p>  
<p>Just like the knife Kang Tae-Shik had been holding, 'Kasaka’s Venom Fang' was also affected by Stealth.</p>  
<p>It wasn’t that Kang Tae-Shik’s knife was special, but rather the power of the skill.</p>  
<p>'How far does Stealth apply?'</p>  
  
\*\*CHAPTER END\*\*