# 37

\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*  
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 37</h1>  
  
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<p>Chapter 37</p>  
<p>The Gate beyond them appeared to be smaller than expected for a C-rank.</p>  
<p>\*Tap\*</p>  
<p>\*Tap\*</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo and Yoo Jin-Ho got out of the van, and Hunters began to gather around them.</p>  
<p>It seemed like there were hardly any healthy individuals among them.</p>  
<p>Most of them appeared to have mobility issues, some looked like patients, and there were even alcoholics.</p>  
<p>There was even a minor girl who seemed to be a high school student, someone neither the Association nor guilds would accept.</p>  
<p>"Is it okay to bring a kid along?"</p>  
<p>"I consulted on it, and legally, there’s no issue. It’s just that if an accident happens, it becomes a huge problem, so people usually avoid it."</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo nodded.</p>  
<p>'Then it should be fine.'</p>  
<p>Since only he and Yoo Jin-Ho were planning to enter the Gate, the chance of an accident was close to zero.</p>  
<p>These Hunters were just here to fill the numbers.</p>  
<p>To attack a C-rank Gate, a minimum of 10 Hunters were required, so they had recruited eight more.</p>  
<p>Of course, the eight also knew why they were here.</p>  
<p>They were Hunters with licenses but unable to perform Hunter activities due to personal circumstances. Most of them were struggling with financial difficulties.</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho stepped forward.</p>  
<p>"I’m Yoo Jin-Ho, the Leader of this Raid. And this is Hunter Sung Jin-Woo, who will be entering the Dungeon with me. All you need to do is wait near the entrance until we return."</p>  
<p>One of the Hunters cautiously raised his hand.</p>  
<p>"Um... so we really get 3 million won just for doing that?"</p>  
<p>No hunting required.</p>  
<p>No, not even entering the Dungeon.</p>  
<p>3 million won per Raid.</p>  
<p>The compensation was too good for just lending their names on paper for participating in a Raid.</p>  
<p>Given how favorable the conditions were, everyone was suspicious that it might be a scam.</p>  
<p>"The terms are guaranteed."</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho’s voice was firm and serious.</p>  
<p>"However, you must never disclose what you see or hear here. If you violate the confidentiality clause, you’ll have to pay ten times the amount you received, as stated in the contract."</p>  
<p>The Hunters murmured among themselves.</p>  
<p>What were these two planning to do inside the Dungeon to impose such conditions?</p>  
<p>They were curious, but no one could ask.</p>  
<p>That was part of the confidentiality clause.</p>  
<p>-No questions allowed about what happens inside the Dungeon.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo didn’t want to reveal his unique constitution, and Yoo Jin-Ho needed to strictly control the team’s mouths for his plan to become a Master.</p>  
<p>'...'</p>  
<p>Instead of questioning the two, the Hunters quietly whispered among themselves.</p>  
<p>"But can two people really clear a C-rank Dungeon?"</p>  
<p>"They don’t seem like strong Hunters."</p>  
<p>"If they have the skills to clear a C-rank Gate, wouldn’t it be better for them to join a large guild and clear high-rank Dungeons?"</p>  
<p>"Exactly."</p>  
<p>Their tones were skeptical, but no one was willing to back out.</p>  
<p>Of course not.</p>  
<p>The conditions were too good.</p>  
<p>Even Jin-Woo had been tempted by the 2 million won.</p>  
<p>The extra million won, compared to what Hwang Dong-Seok’s group had offered, was due to the confidentiality clause added to the contract.</p>  
<p>The explanation took some time. Jin-Woo, who had been checking the time, spoke to Yoo Jin-Ho.</p>  
<p>"Let’s head in soon."</p>  
<p>"Understood, Hyung-nim."</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho respectfully clapped his hands to gather everyone’s attention.</p>  
<p>"Alright, that’s the end of the explanation. There’s no coercion here. If anyone wants to back out now, speak up."</p>  
<p>"..."</p>  
<p>"..."</p>  
<p>Of course, no one raised their hand.</p>  
<p>Now, all that was left was to enter the Gate.</p>  
<p>"Ah, Hyung-nim. Wait a moment."</p>  
<p>As if remembering something, Yoo Jin-Ho hurriedly ran to the back of the van. He pulled out something and started putting it on, then came back waddling awkwardly.</p>  
<p>"What’s that?"</p>  
<p>"It’s a full set of reinforced armor made by the Italian Craftsmen Guild. Hyung-nim, if we’re going to clear the Dungeon ourselves, we need this level of preparation, right?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo facepalmed.</p>  
<p>"..."</p>  
<p>The metal covering Yoo Jin-Ho from head to toe was suffocating just to look at.</p>  
<p>"What’s wrong, Hyung-nim?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo, unable to bear it anymore, snatched the longsword from Yoo Jin-Ho’s waist and dropped it to the ground.</p>  
<p>"Huh? Uh?"</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho, who had bent down to pick up the sword, lost his balance and fell flat.</p>  
<p>\*Thud\*</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo suppressed his rising anger and spoke through gritted teeth.</p>  
<p>"Take it off before I say it again."</p>  
<p>"...Yes."</p>  
<p>But as Yoo Jin-Ho tried to get up, he called out to Jin-Woo again.</p>  
<p>"Hyung-nim..."</p>  
<p>"What now?"</p>  
<p>"Can you help me up?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo sighed deeply as he looked at Yoo Jin-Ho’s outstretched hand.</p>  
<p>"Is this okay, Hyung-nim?"</p>  
<p>"Fine."</p>  
<p>They eventually compromised, with Yoo Jin-Ho only wearing the helmet.</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho, satisfied, leaped into the Gate.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo followed silently behind him.</p>  
<p>As the two entered the Dungeon one after the other, the Hunters slowly gathered around the gate.</p>  
<p>One of them said worriedly,</p>  
<p>"They didn’t look too reliable..."</p>  
<p>Another chimed in, glancing at the Gate,</p>  
<p>"I know, right?"</p>  
<p>Their conversation opened the floodgates for the other Hunters to voice their concerns.</p>  
<p>"What if they both die inside the Dungeon?"</p>  
<p>"We’ve already received the contract money, so..."</p>  
<p>"True, but..."</p>  
<p>"Wait, what were their names again?"</p>  
<p>"Right, that’s it."</p>  
<p>A man with a leg cast quickly pulled out his phone and searched for the two names.</p>  
<p>"Yoo Jin-Ho, Sung Jin-Woo..."</p>  
<p>Another Hunter, either concerned about the man’s precarious balance or eager to see the search results, supported him as they looked at the phone screen.</p>  
<p>"What? The Raid Leader was D-rank?"</p>  
<p>The Hunters were shocked.</p>  
<p>But the next search result was even more surprising.</p>  
<p>"The other guy is E-rank?"</p>  
<p>"An E-rank entering a C-rank Gate is dangerous, isn’t it?"</p>  
<p>"A D-rank and an E-rank clearing a C-rank Dungeon?"</p>  
<p>"Is that even possible?"</p>  
<p>"And the Raid Leader has no Raid records at all."</p>  
<p>"Why would young people do this...?"</p>  
<p>It was practically suicide.</p>  
<p>It wasn’t for no reason that the Association set a minimum of 10 members, including five C-rank Hunters, to attack a C-rank Gate.</p>  
<p>"Tsk, tsk."</p>  
<p>An older Hunter with gray hair took out a cigarette from his pocket and lit it.</p>  
<p>"Youthful recklessness is the death of many."</p>  
<p>White smoke rose from the cigarette.</p>  
<p>"..."</p>  
<p>"..."</p>  
<p>The Hunters fell silent.</p>  
<p>They felt uneasy, as if they had contributed to someone’s death.</p>  
<p>No one wanted to see people die before their eyes—or, more accurately, somewhere inside the Gate in front of them.</p>  
<p>And that wasn’t all.</p>  
<p>They felt the money was wasted.</p>  
<p>They had received the contract money upfront, but if they could complete the remaining 18 Raids as per the contract, they could earn much more.</p>  
<p>However, the chances of the two returning alive were slim.</p>  
<p>"Shouldn’t we report this now?"</p>  
<p>"Right. What if something bad happens to us?"</p>  
<p>At that moment,</p>  
<p>\*Whoosh\*</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo and Yoo Jin-Ho emerged from the Gate.</p>  
<p>"Huff, huff, huff."</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho was breathing heavily.</p>  
<p>Steam rose from the two, who looked exhausted.</p>  
<p>"Wow."</p>  
<p>"They managed to escape safely!"</p>  
<p>"Thank goodness."</p>  
<p>The Hunters welcomed them with relieved expressions.</p>  
<p>Given the time it took for them to enter and exit, they thought the two had barely managed to escape after wandering near the entrance.</p>  
<p>But then,</p>  
<p>The Hunters’ expressions began to change.</p>  
<p>Someone had shouted,</p>  
<p>"T-The Gate is closing!"</p>  
<p>What?</p>  
<p>Everyone turned to look at the Gate.</p>  
<p>"Oh my God!"</p>  
<p>"Look there!"</p>  
<p>"Did they... kill the Boss?"</p>  
<p>The Gate was becoming faint, as if the Dungeon Boss had been defeated.</p>  
<p>As the Hunters were in shock, Jin-Woo casually asked, ignoring their stares,</p>  
<p>"Where’s next?"</p>  
<p>"It’s about an hour from here, Hyung-nim."</p>  
<p>"Let’s go."</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo and Yoo Jin-Ho headed straight for the van.</p>  
<p>The Hunters stared at their backs, dumbfounded.</p>  
<p>Realizing the Hunters weren’t following, Yoo Jin-Ho turned back.</p>  
<p>"Let’s hurry, Hunters. We’re running out of time to clear two more Gates today."</p>  
<p>The Hunters’ jaws dropped.</p>  
<p>\*Thud\*</p>  
<p>Yoon Gwi-Won, a middle-aged Hunter with gray hair, was so shocked he didn’t even notice the cigarette he was holding fall to the ground.</p>  
<p>'They’re planning to wreck a C-rank Dungeon and go on another Raid?'</p>  
<p>He wasn’t the only one.</p>  
<p>All the Hunters had the same thought at the same time.</p>  
<p>'What kind of monsters are they?'</p>  
<p>\*\*\*</p>  
<p>Day 1.</p>  
<p>\*Grooooan\*</p>  
<p>A horde of zombies came rushing in.</p>  
<p>"Hyung-nim, they’re coming!"</p>  
<p>"Alright."</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo smoothly weaved through the zombies.</p>  
<p>With each pass, the zombies’ heads rolled to the ground. Their numbers quickly dwindled.</p>  
<p>Only one zombie remained.</p>  
<p>\*Stab\*</p>  
<p>"Grrk!"</p>  
<p>As Jin-Woo plunged his sword into the zombie’s chest, a familiar mechanical sound rang out.</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[Level Up!]</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho, who had been staying back, clapped in admiration.</p>  
<p>"Hyung-nim, you’re amazing!"</p>  
<p>"Essence Stones."</p>  
<p>"Ah, right."</p>  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho quickly began collecting the Essence Stones. But then,</p>  
<p>The mechanical sounds didn’t stop at the level-up notification.</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[Skill: Advanced Dagger Technique Lv.1 learned.]</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[Skill: Vital Strike Lv.1 learned.]</p>  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
<p>[Skill: Dash has leveled up!]</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s face brightened.</p>  
<p>'New skills?'</p>  
<p>It had been a while.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo happily opened the Skill Information Window.</p>  
<p>[Skills]</p>  
<p>Passive Skills: (Unknown) Lv.MAX, Tenacity Lv.1, Advanced Dagger Technique Lv.1</p>  
<p>Active Skills: Dash Lv.2, Killing Intent Lv.1, Stealth Lv.1, Vital Strike Lv.1</p>  
<p>Using the Dash skill frequently had leveled it up to 2.</p>  
<p>And both Passive and Active skills had acquired Advanced Dagger Technique and Vital Strike, respectively.</p>  
  
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\*\*CHAPTER END\*\*