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\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*  
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 38</h1>  
  
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<p>[Skill: Dash Lv.2]</p>  
<p>Active Skill.</p>  
<p>Mana Required: 5.</p>  
<p>When activated, movement speed increases by 40%. Mana decreases by 1 per minute while active.</p>  
<p>'My movement speed has increased.'</p>  
<p>The speed boost had risen from 30% to 40%.</p>  
<p>Even a 10% difference was significant, especially since Dash was a skill Jin-Woo used frequently.</p>  
<p>[Skill: Advanced Dagger Technique Lv.1]</p>  
<p>Passive Skill.</p>  
<p>No Mana Required.</p>  
<p>Dagger Exclusive.</p>  
<p>Through extensive use of daggers, you’ve gained greater proficiency. Adds 33% additional damage when using a dagger.</p>  
<p>Damage increases when using a dagger!</p>  
<p>Since Jin-Woo had been using daggers as his primary weapon, he had unlocked a dagger-exclusive skill.</p>  
<p>'Using other weapons would be inefficient now.'</p>  
<p>This meant that his efficiency with daggers had improved dramatically.</p>  
<p>Besides, he had grown accustomed to daggers, and ‘Kasaka’s Venom Fang’ had won him over. He had no intention of switching weapons anytime soon, making this skill a huge advantage.</p>  
<p>'And lastly.'</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo looked at the newly acquired skill with keen interest.</p>  
<p>[Skill: Vital Strike Lv.1]</p>  
<p>Active Skill.</p>  
<p>Mana Required: 70.</p>  
<p>Dagger Exclusive.</p>  
<p>You’ve learned an efficient way to attack. Strikes the enemy’s vital points, dealing critical damage.</p>  
<p>This was another dagger-exclusive skill.</p>  
<p>'An efficient way to attack...'</p>  
<p>Thinking back, the sensation when he delivered the final blow to Kang Tae-Shik and finished off the last zombie today felt similar.</p>  
<p>It was exhilarating, to say the least.</p>  
<p>The moment he stabbed with the dagger, he intuitively knew the fight was over.</p>  
<p>'So that was Vital Strike.'</p>  
<p>A technique he had accidentally mastered had now become a skill he could use at will!</p>  
<p>His heart raced.</p>  
<p>For Jin-Woo, who previously had no proper attack method other than wildly swinging his dagger, the offensive skill ‘Vital Strike’ was like rain in a drought.</p>  
<p>'This is great!'</p>  
<p>A level up and new skills.</p>  
<p>Things were off to an amazing start.</p>  
  
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<p>Day 2.</p>  
<p>[You leveled up!]</p>  
<p>[You leveled up!]</p>  
<p>With the addition of an attack skill, his hunting speed increased exponentially.</p>  
<p>[You leveled up!]</p>  
<p>One hit, one kill!</p>  
<p>As magic beasts fell lifelessly with each ‘Vital Strike’, Yoo Jin-Ho’s eyes widened in astonishment.</p>  
<p>'Was he hiding this skill all along?'</p>  
<p>Just how far did Hyung-nim’s capabilities go?</p>  
<p>Admiration was unavoidable.</p>  
<p>At the same time, Jin-Ho couldn’t help but wonder about Jin-Woo’s actual rank.</p>  
<p>'He handles C-rank Hunters effortlessly, so he’s definitely B-rank or higher...'</p>  
<p>However, asking directly would be unwise, so he could only watch in awe.</p>  
<p>But there was a downside to the rapid hunting.</p>  
<p>[Not enough Mana to use the skill.]</p>  
<p>[Not enough Mana to use the skill.]</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo frowned.</p>  
<p>'Again?'</p>  
<p>To replenish his Mana, Jin-Woo pulled out a Mana Potion he had purchased from the Shop.</p>  
<p>"What’s that, Hyung-nim?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Ho asked curiously.</p>  
<p>Though he had seen many strange things while accompanying Jin-Woo, he couldn’t help but wonder about the blue liquid Jin-Woo occasionally drank.</p>  
<p>"This?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo held off answering and read the description of the Mana Potion.</p>  
<p>[Item: Mana Potion]</p>  
<p>Acquisition Difficulty: B</p>  
<p>Type: Consumable</p>  
<p>A potion that restores Mana. Restores 500 Mana upon consumption. Can be stored in Inventory but cannot be transferred to others.</p>  
<p>The description mentioned it couldn’t be transferred.</p>  
<p>'What happens if I try to transfer it?'</p>  
<p>Sparks of curiosity ignited.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo handed the Mana Potion to Jin-Ho.</p>  
<p>The potion vanished quietly from Jin-Ho’s hand, just as it had appeared.</p>  
<p>"Is, is this magic, Hyung-nim?"</p>  
<p>'So that’s why it can’t be transferred.'</p>  
<p>He had learned something new.</p>  
<p>Items that couldn’t be transferred would disappear naturally when touched by someone else.</p>  
<p>But what if it wasn’t touched?</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo opened the Shop and bought another potion.</p>  
<p>This time, instead of the usual Mana Potion, it was a Healing Potion containing a red liquid.</p>  
<p>As soon as he confirmed the purchase, the potion appeared in his hand.</p>  
<p>"Hyung-nim! This is amazing. The liquid turned red!"</p>  
<p>Jin-Ho seemed to think the disappearance of the Mana Potion and the appearance of the Healing Potion was some kind of magic. The reason Jin-Woo changed the potion type was simple.</p>  
<p>'I want to know if it works on others.'</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo lowered Jin-Ho’s posture.</p>  
<p>"Open your mouth. Look up."</p>  
<p>"L-Like this, Hyung-nim?"</p>  
<p>"Good. Stay still."</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo tilted the bottle containing the Healing Potion.</p>  
<p>Soon, the red liquid flowed into Jin-Ho’s mouth.</p>  
<p>\*Gulp.\*</p>  
<p>Instantly, Jin-Ho’s eyes widened.</p>  
<p>"Huh? What’s this, Hyung-nim? I suddenly feel stronger!"</p>  
<p>Jin-Ho, who had been exhausted from carrying supplies, instantly looked healthier.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo smiled with satisfaction.</p>  
<p>'So it works like this.'</p>  
<p>He had learned something useful.</p>  
<p>Even without a Healer, he could now treat injured allies nearby using this method.</p>  
<p>It would undoubtedly be a great help in the future.</p>  
<p>"If you’re tired, just say so. I’ve got plenty more."</p>  
;p>There was no reason to hoard it.</p>  
<p>If the porter slowed down due to exhaustion, the hunting speed would drop, which was ultimately a loss for Jin-Woo.</p>  
<p>Though his words were calculated, they held a deeper meaning for Jin-Ho.</p>  
<p>"Hyung-nim..."</p>  
<p>"Let’s go."</p>  
<p>Jin-Ho, moved by Jin-Woo’s extraordinary abilities and thoughtful care, fought back tears as he followed Jin-Woo.</p>  
  
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<p>Day 3.</p>  
<p>"Here. Take this, Hyung-nim."</p>  
<p>Jin-Ho rummaged through his equipment bag and handed over a bankbook with a seal.</p>  
<p>"What’s this?"</p>  
<p>"It’s the money from the Essence Stones processed over the last two days, Hyung-nim."</p>  
<p>Though Jin-Woo was momentarily annoyed that Jin-Ho had waited until they were in a dungeon teeming with magic beasts to hand it over, his eyes widened when he saw the amount.</p>  
<p>'600 million?'</p>  
<p>The bankbook showed an enormous sum.</p>  
<p>"You’re giving me all the money earned from the Essence Stones?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Ho nodded.</p>  
<p>"Yes, Hyung-nim. I’m not doing raids for money, and honestly, all the magic beasts were hunted by you. How could I shamelessly ask for a share?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Ho’s eyes sparkled like a child waiting for praise.</p>  
<p>'Wow... this kid?'</p>  
<p>Over the past few days, Jin-Woo had noticed a change in Jin-Ho’s attitude.</p>  
<p>Before, Jin-Ho seemed to force himself to follow out of fear, but now he acted like a junior genuinely respecting a senior.</p>  
<p>'He’s even got a cute side.'</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo chuckled.</p>  
<p>"Are you sure I can take this?"</p>  
<p>"Do I look like the kind of guy who’d go back on my word, Hyung-nim?"</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo smiled and shook the bankbook.</p>  
<p>"Alright. I’ll make good use of this."</p>  
<p>"Thank you, Hyung-nim!"</p>  
<p>Jin-Ho bowed deeply at a 90-degree angle.</p>  
<p>It was a scene that blurred the lines of who was giving and who was receiving.</p>  
<p>Meanwhile, outside the dungeon.</p>  
<p>The team members had learned the art of waiting.</p>  
<p>As soon as Captain Yoo Jin-Ho and Assistant Sung Jin-Woo (?) entered the Gate, the Hunters gathered in small groups, spreading out and enjoying their own activities.</p>  
<p>Among them, the most popular group was the Go-Stop Team.</p>  
<p>Five members sat around a mat.</p>  
<p>"How many raids is this now?"</p>  
<p>"Let’s see... three the day before yesterday, two yesterday, and two more today, so this is the seventh."</p>  
<p>"Is it okay for them to raid dungeons at this pace? Normally, raid parties rest for about a week after one raid."</p>  
<p>"Oh, don’t worry about them. Every time they come out, they don’t even break a sweat. We’re the ones benefiting, with 300 grand stacking up in our accounts regularly. It’s your turn, hurry up."</p>  
<p>"Ah, right."</p>  
<p>Indeed, Jin-Woo and Jin-Ho showed no signs of fatigue despite their relentless schedule.</p>  
<p>Little did anyone know, it was all thanks to the Potions.</p>  
<p>Thanks to them, they had already passed the one-third mark of the promised 19 raids.</p>  
<p>Shortly after, the black veil of the Gate rippled, and the two emerged.</p>  
<p>"Oh, here comes the Captain."</p>  
<p>"Let’s get up."</p>  
<p>The Hunters began tidying up their surroundings.</p>  
<p>"Pack up the supplies."</p>  
<p>"Wake up anyone sleeping, and double-check for lost items."</p>  
<p>The Hunters moved like a well-oiled machine.</p>  
<p>Even those who had been sleeping jumped up and prepared to move.</p>  
<p>"Let’s go!"</p>  
<p>Everyone was gradually getting used to this unusual raid style.</p>  
  
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<p>At the White Tiger Guild office nearby.</p>  
<p>Section Chief Ahn Sang-Min of the Second Management Division had been angrily ranting since morning.</p>  
<p>"Deputy Hyun! If the Gate reservations aren’t done by tomorrow for the new recruits’ training, what are we going to do?"</p>  
<p>Deputy Hyun Gi-Chul bowed his head deeply.</p>  
<p>"I’m sorry, Section Chief. Every time a C-rank Gate appears nearby, a certain team snatches it before we can even react."</p>  
<p>"What? Then just offer more money and get it back. What’s the problem? Are we short on money or people? What’s going on?"</p>  
<p>"I tried that, but..."</p>  
<p>"Ugh! Why are you talking back when you haven’t even done your job properly?"</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min’s outburst left the entire Second Management Division in stunned silence.</p>  
<p>It had been a while since Ahn Sang-Min had been this angry.</p>  
<p>What kind of place was the White Tiger Guild?</p>  
<p>It was one of Korea’s Five Major Guilds.</p>  
<p>As such, the employees’ skills were exceptional.</p>  
;p>Deputy Hyun Gi-Chul had handled his duties flawlessly since joining, making no noticeable mistakes.</p>  
<p>But failing to reserve a Gate for the new recruits’ training was a huge error.</p>  
<p>The Second Management Division, managed by Section Chief Ahn Sang-Min, was responsible for recruiting and training new hires, unlike the First Management Division, which handled Hunters’ schedules.</p>  
<p>"P-Please take a look at this, Section Chief!"</p>  
<p>Hyun Gi-Chul tearfully handed over his laptop.</p>  
<p>"This is real."</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min, who was about to unleash another tirade, gaped at the numbers on the screen.</p>  
<p>"250 million? Someone paid 250 million for a C-rank Gate Conquest Permit?"</p>  
  
\*\*CHAPTER END\*\*