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\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*  
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 39</h1>  
  
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<p>Chapter 39</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min was left speechless.</p>  
  
<p>The maximum income that could be gained from a C-rank Gate was around 200 million won. 250 million won? That was way too much.</p>  
  
<p>"Originally, it was around 70 million. But when I raised it to 100 million, those bastards bought the Conquest Permit for 250 million won."</p>  
  
<p>The White Tiger Guild’s limit for reserving a C-rank Gate was 100 million won. Under these circumstances, it was understandable why Hyun Gi-Chul felt wronged.</p>  
  
<p>'Who the hell are these guys?'</p>  
  
<p>\*Tap tap.\*</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min’s hands moved swiftly.</p>  
  
<p>The search results poured in.</p>  
  
<p>Just as Hyun Gi-Chul had said, a specific team was buying up all the Conquest Permits for C-rank Gates in the surrounding area at an absurd speed and at an absurd price.</p>  
  
<p>"What the hell… who are these lunatics?"</p>  
  
<p>This area was under the jurisdiction of the White Tiger Guild. At first, he thought it might be some interference tactic from another guild.</p>  
  
<p>'No, that can’t be.'</p>  
  
<p>There was no way a guild bold enough to openly challenge the White Tiger Guild in such a manner existed. Even among the top five guilds, any guild that dared to confront the White Tiger Guild head-on would risk being half-destroyed.</p>  
  
<p>'It’s not a guild…'</p>  
  
<p>Then who the hell was doing this, and for what reason?</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min swallowed hard and searched for information on the members of this specific Raid Party.</p>  
  
<p>The leader’s name was 'Yoo Jin-Ho.'</p>  
  
<p>"I’ve never heard this name before?"</p>  
  
<p>Scouting new recruits was Ahn Sang-Min’s job. As such, he knew all the freelance Hunters who had even the slightest bit of recognition. But the name 'Yoo Jin-Ho' was unfamiliar.</p>  
  
<p>'Let’s move on from him for now.'</p>  
  
<p>He slowly scrolled down, checking the names of the team members one by one to see if he recognized any of them. Among them, there was one name that stood out.</p>  
  
<p>'Sung Jin-Woo? Sung Jin-Woo? Where have I heard that name before…'</p>  
  
<p>As he racked his brain, Ahn Sang-Min recalled the Double Dungeon incident that had been a hot topic among the association officials about two months ago. It was the White Tiger Guild that had assisted the association during that incident.</p>  
  
<p>"Gi-Chul, do you remember the Double Dungeon incident two months ago where our team was dispatched?"</p>  
  
<p>"Yes, I remember. At that time, you said there were no Magic Beasts left and only one survivor remained."</p>  
  
<p>"What was the name of that survivor?"</p>  
  
<p>Hyun Gi-Chul had a sharp mind. He wasn’t particularly brilliant compared to others, but his memory was exceptionally good. Without needing to search, Gi-Chul immediately answered.</p>  
  
<p>"E-rank Hunter Sung Jin-Woo."</p>  
  
<p>'Just as I thought!'</p>  
  
<p>He hadn’t been sure, but it turned out he was right. Ahn Sang-Min instinctively felt it. Something was definitely going on. His intuition in situations like this had never been wrong.</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min shouted to his staff.</p>  
  
<p>"Everyone, stop what you’re doing and gather every piece of information you can find on D-rank Hunter Yoo Jin-Ho and E-rank Hunter Sung Jin-Woo! Right now!"</p>  
  
<p>In a crisis, the ability of outstanding employees to respond was beyond imagination. Elites were elites for a reason. Reports came pouring in.</p>  
  
<p>Honestly, Yoo Jin-Ho wasn’t particularly notable. Apart from being the second son of Yoo Myung-Han, the chairman of Yoojin Construction, he was quite ordinary. But Sung Jin-Woo was different.</p>  
  
<p>"From the Double Dungeon incident to now, there have been three major accidents, and he escaped unscathed every time?"</p>  
  
<p>Hyun Gi-Chul responded to Ahn Sang-Min’s remark.</p>  
  
<p>"And that’s as an E-rank Hunter."</p>  
  
<p>Sung Jin-Woo and Yoo Jin-Ho had met during Yoo Jin-Ho’s first Raid. The two of them were the only ones who survived. And now, they had formed a team and were clearing Dungeons at a terrifying rate of two to three per day.</p>  
  
<p>"Something smells fishy here…"</p>  
  
<p>"What could they be up to?"</p>  
  
<p>"Hmm… Wait, come to think of it, there’s been a rumor lately that Chairman Yoo Myung-Han has been holding secret meetings with S-rank Hunters, right?"</p>  
  
<p>"Yes, that rumor has been circulating."</p>  
  
<p>"Yoo Jin-Ho is the son of that Chairman Yoo Myung-Han…"</p>  
  
<p>Yoo Myung-Han seemed to be making moves to establish a guild. It was a top-secret piece of information circulating in the industry. If that was true, then Yoo Jin-Ho’s current antics might not be completely unrelated to it.</p>  
  
<p>"Could it be…?!"</p>  
  
<p>A puzzle piece clicked into place in Ahn Sang-Min’s mind. If that was the case, it all made sense!</p>  
  
<p>Seeing the change in his boss’s expression, Hyun Gi-Chul gulped.</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min spoke in a confident voice.</p>  
  
<p>"That kid… he’s a Re-awakened Hunter!"</p>  
  
<p>"A Re-awakened Hunter?"</p>  
  
<p>Hyun Gi-Chul’s eyes widened like a rabbit’s.</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min declared with certainty.</p>  
  
<p>"Yes."</p>  
  
<p>An E-rank Hunter was no different from an ordinary person. If an accident occurred, they were as good as dead. But Sung Jin-Woo had escaped unscathed from major accidents where more than half of the participants had died.</p>  
  
<p>'Of course, he might just have been lucky. But…'</p>  
  
<p>But this third accident was different.</p>  
  
<p>The incident caused by Kang Tae-Shik, a Hunter from the Surveillance Division, was a different case. According to the records, a C-rank Mage and a B-rank Healer had joined forces to stop Kang Tae-Shik.</p>  
  
<p>'That’s nonsense. Surveillance Division Hunters are professionals at fighting other Hunters.'</p>  
  
<p>If Kang Tae-Shik wasn’t an idiot, he would have prioritized taking out the B-rank Healer, who had the highest rank but the weakest combat ability.</p>  
  
<p>'And a C-rank Mage-type Hunter stopped him alone?'</p>  
  
<p>Mage-type Hunters were vulnerable to Combat-type Hunters, especially those specialized in 'Assassination.' Unless Kang Tae-Shik had been careless and ignored the B-rank Healer’s presence… but it was hard to believe that a Surveillance Division Hunter with three years of experience would make such a mistake.</p>  
  
<p>'The one who stopped Kang Tae-Shik that day wasn’t C-rank Song Chi-Yeol, but someone else who was there.'</p>  
  
<p>There was no physical evidence, but the circumstantial evidence was clear. Sung Jin-Woo had Re-awakened and gained abilities on par with a high-rank Hunter.</p>  
  
<p>Yoo Jin-Ho had witnessed Sung Jin-Woo’s strength during a Raid he had coincidentally joined and was now testing him to see if he could be recruited into the guild his father was establishing.</p>  
  
<p>If that was the case, everything fell into place.</p>  
  
<p>'This is big news.'</p>  
  
<p>If Sung Jin-Woo was truly a Re-awakened Hunter, then only a few people, including Yoo Jin-Ho, knew his true worth. Yoo Myung-Han wasn’t the type to recruit just anyone, especially as a founding member of his guild.</p>  
  
<p>This was a golden opportunity to snatch up a talent that Yoo Myung-Han had his eyes on.</p>  
  
<p>'If he defeated B-rank Kang Tae-Shik, his strength must be at least B-rank or higher!'</p>  
  
<p>It was crucial to bring him in before he fell into the hands of another guild, especially Yoo Myung-Han’s. Once his rank was re-evaluated, the competition would become too fierce.</p>  
  
<p>Even if Sung Jin-Woo wasn’t as strong as they thought, it didn’t matter. Re-awakened Hunters were rare worldwide and always attracted media attention. That kind of publicity was invaluable.</p>  
  
<p>This was an opportunity they couldn’t afford to miss.</p>  
  
<p>'If he’s already signed a contract with Yoo Myung-Han, then there’s nothing we can do…'</p>  
  
<p>But the chances of that were low. The fact that they were testing him in C-rank Dungeons was evidence of that.</p>  
  
<p>'It’s highly likely that nothing’s been finalized yet.'</p>  
  
<p>That meant the White Tiger Guild still had a chance.</p>  
  
<p>'We can’t waste any more time.'</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min put on the coat he had draped over his chair.</p>  
  
<p>"Gi-Chul, let’s go."</p>  
  
<p>He didn’t forget to bring his right-hand man along. Ahn Sang-Min was particularly strict with Hyun Gi-Chul because he believed there was no one else he could entrust with his position.</p>  
  
<p>Hyun Gi-Chul’s eyes widened.</p>  
  
<p>"Huh? Where are we going, Section Chief?"</p>  
  
<p>"Where else? To scout a new recruit."</p>  
  
<p>"You’re going personally to recruit a new member?"</p>  
  
<p>"Why? Is that not allowed?"</p>  
  
<p>After firing off that remark, Ahn Sang-Min walked out briskly, leaving Hyun Gi-Chul scratching his head as he followed.</p>  
  
<p>'This is strange…'</p>  
  
<p>It was the first time in two years since Ahn Sang-Min had become Section Chief that he personally went out for recruitment.</p>  
  
<p>7. A Hunch of a Big Hit</p>  
  
<p>Today, Yoo Jin-Ho’s team had contracts for two Dungeons. The distance between the two Gates was quite far. Ahn Sang-Min and Hyun Gi-Chul waited near each Gate, keeping in constant contact to confirm their suspicions as they waited for Yoo Jin-Ho’s team to appear.</p>  
  
<p>'It’s still chilly out here.'</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min bought a coffee from a nearby vending machine. It had been an hour since they started waiting for Yoo Jin-Ho’s team. But strangely, instead of feeling bored, he was filled with anticipation. His heart was racing.</p>  
  
<p>'If my hunch is right, this is a major rookie who’s appeared after a long time. And a top-tier one at that!'</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min had become Section Chief at a young age, faster than anyone else. It was all thanks to his intuition. His instincts had played a significant role in the White Tiger Guild’s rise to becoming a major guild. And now, those instincts were telling him that Sung Jin-Woo could take the White Tiger Guild to an even higher level.</p>  
  
<p>'Anyone who hears this would think I’m crazy.'</p>  
  
<p>After all, Sung Jin-Woo was still officially just an E-rank Hunter. But appearances weren’t everything. If they were, he wouldn’t be where he was today.</p>  
  
<p>As he kept his sharp eyes fixed on the Gate, his phone buzzed.</p>  
  
<p>\*Brrr. Brrr.\*</p>  
  
<p>It was a call from Hyun Gi-Chul.</p>  
  
<p>"Hey, Gi-Chul."</p>  
  
<p>"Section Chief, Yoo Jin-Ho’s team just arrived."</p>  
  
<p>"Good. Stay calm and observe everything carefully. Report every single detail."</p>  
  
<p>"Understood, Section Chief. Huh? Huh? Section Chief!"</p>  
  
<p>The voice on the other end sounded strange.</p>  
  
<p>'Did this idiot get caught?'</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min’s heart raced.</p>  
  
<p>"What’s going on? Speak up!"</p>  
  
<p>"You were right, Section Chief!"</p>  
  
<p>"What?"</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min’s heart beat faster.</p>  
  
<p>"Only Yoo Jin-Ho and Sung Jin-Woo entered the Gate."</p>  
  
<p>"Of course! They’re testing Sung Jin-Woo!"</p>  
  
<p>Just as he thought! His hunch had been correct. His instincts never failed him at times like this.</p>  
  
<p>'Perfect!'</p>  
  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min clenched his fist.</p>  
  
<p>'While you’re still doubting, we’re already moving. Sung Jin-Woo will join the White Tiger Guild.'</p>  
  
<p>With the Second Management Division and Ahn Sang-Min in the White Tiger Guild, they had the upper hand.</p>  
  
<p>As Ahn Sang-Min basked in his sense of victory, Hyun Gi-Chul’s voice continued from the other end of the line.</p>  
  
<p>"What should I do now? Should I come over there?"</p>  
  
<p>"No, keep watching."</p>  
  
<p>"Huh? But didn’t you already confirm your suspicions, Section Chief?"</p>  
  
<p>"I’m curious about how long it’ll take them to clear a C-rank Dungeon."</p>  
  
<p>"Even an A-rank Hunter would take over two hours to clear a C-rank Dungeon alone, right?"</p>  
  
<p>"Are you saying you can’t do it?"</p>  
  
<p>"Of course not! I was just worried that you might be feeling lonely, so I thought I’d ask."</p>  
  
<p>His attitude changed faster than light. This was why Ahn Sang-Min couldn’t bring himself to dislike Hyun Gi-Chul.</p>  
  
<p>"Don’t worry about me. Just keep your eyes peeled and watch when those two come out."</p>  
  
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\*\*CHAPTER END\*\*