# 41

\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*  
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 41</h1>  
  
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<p>The Association Website doesn’t list the addresses of Hunters.</p>  
<p>All that can be known are their names and ranks.</p>  
<p>Hunters can personally add information, but Jin-Woo hadn’t even left behind a single contact number.</p>  
<p>Yet, seeing that they knew his phone number and were even waiting near his house, it seemed they had conducted their own investigation.</p>  
<p>Thinking about it, something suddenly came to mind...</p>  
<p>“I kept feeling like I was being watched today. Was it you?”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s voice grew cold.</p>  
<p>The person on the other end responded apologetically in a polite tone.</p>  
<p>-If it made you uncomfortable, we apologize. We just wanted to confirm the truth. If we had any intention of harming you, we wouldn’t have contacted you like this. If you hear us out, we believe you’ll find it to your liking.</p>  
<p>After a moment of thought, Jin-Woo finally spoke.</p>  
<p>“...I’ll be there soon.”</p>  
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<p>“Hunters Guild, Fiend Guild, Knight Guild, Fame Guild, and our White Tiger Guild. You’ve probably heard of them at least once.”</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min listed the Five Major Guilds of South Korea one by one.</p>  
<p>Among them, the number one guild was the Hunters Guild.</p>  
<p>But the Hunters Guild hadn’t always been the top guild. Originally, that position belonged to the Fiend Guild.</p>  
<p>However, after the White Tiger Guild broke away from the Fiend Guild, the rankings changed.</p>  
<p>As they say, the student surpasses the master.</p>  
<p>The White Tiger Guild, which had once been part of the Fiend Guild, had long since surpassed it.</p>  
<p>And now, they were aiming for the top spot once held by the Fiend Guild.</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min was confident.</p>  
<p>The man sitting across from him, Sung Jin-Woo, would be a great help in restoring White Tiger Guild’s former glory.</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min handed over a business card.</p>  
<p>\_Ahn Sang-Min, Section Chief of the Second Management Division, White Tiger Guild.</p>  
<p>“I’m Ahn Sang-Min, the Section Chief of the Second Management Division, responsible for recruiting and managing new Hunters in the White Tiger Guild, one of the Five Major Guilds.”</p>  
<p>If it were any other Hunter, they would’ve bowed their head 90 degrees before even accepting the business card.</p>  
<p>Unless they were S-rank or high A-rank Hunters, the White Tiger Guild was an object of envy for those below them.</p>  
<p>Truth be told, Ahn Sang-Min had expected a similar reaction.</p>  
<p>But Jin-Woo was different.</p>  
<p>Without any particular reaction, he calmly asked his question.</p>  
<p>“Why is someone from the White Tiger Guild investigating me?”</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min was taken aback.</p>  
<p>‘He’s not intimidated even after hearing the name of the White Tiger Guild.’</p>  
<p>Even though they hadn’t exchanged many words yet, he had a feeling that recruiting Sung Jin-Woo wouldn’t be easy.</p>  
<p>On the other hand, he felt even more determined to bring Jin-Woo into the guild.</p>  
<p>Having ambition wasn’t a bad thing for a newcomer.</p>  
<p>‘That’s right. This level of ambition is necessary to be useful anywhere.’</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min steeled himself once again.</p>  
<p>“Let me be direct. We want to recruit you, Sung Jin-Woo. We promise to offer double whatever Yoojin Construction has proposed.”</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min smiled.</p>  
<p>It seemed Yoojin Construction was still testing Sung Jin-Woo.</p>  
<p>‘How foolish.’</p>  
<p>The time it took for him to clear a C-rank dungeon, the advertising effect of a re-awakened Hunter, the composure he showed in situations like this—there was no reason to test him any further.</p>  
<p>‘They don’t even know his worth, so they couldn’t have offered a fair price.’</p>  
<p>That’s why he was confident in offering double, or even more, regardless of what Yoojin Construction had proposed.</p>  
<p>But suddenly, Jin-Woo’s gaze turned cold.</p>  
<p>“How did you know?”</p>  
<p>“Excuse me?”</p>  
<p>Caught off guard by the unexpected response, Ahn Sang-Min, a seasoned recruitment expert from a major guild, stumbled over his words.</p>  
<p>“How did you find me?”</p>  
<p>If words had weight, that single sentence would’ve crushed him.</p>  
<p>‘What is this pressure?’</p>  
<p>It seemed the other party had labeled him as an enemy.</p>  
<p>After all, he had tailed Jin-Woo and unilaterally requested a meeting.</p>  
<p>From Jin-Woo’s perspective, it was enough to consider him an enemy.</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min hurriedly explained.</p>  
<p>“N-no, it wasn’t intentional. We received information that someone was clearing C-rank dungeons in our guild’s territory too quickly, and during our investigation, we discovered you, Hunter Sung Jin-Woo.”</p>  
<p>“...”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo withdrew his gaze.</p>  
<p>‘So that’s how it happened.’</p>  
<p>Contrary to his worries, it seemed the other party hadn’t started investigating him from the beginning intentionally.</p>  
<p>Clearing many dungeons in a short time had naturally drawn attention.</p>  
<p>‘There doesn’t seem to be any malice.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s expression softened slightly.</p  
>The tension between the two eased a little.  
<p>‘Whew.’</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min let out a sigh of relief.</p>  
<p>But the conversation was still stuck at square one.</p>  
<p>Now, he needed to win Jin-Woo’s favor.</p>  
<p>‘Sharing information is the best way to gain someone’s trust.’</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min, the recruitment specialist!</p>  
<p>He wiped the flustered expression off his face and quickly resumed his usual smile.</p>  
<p>“This is confidential information, but we’re aware that a certain well-known chairman is planning to create a new guild.”</p>  
<p>“...”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo neither confirmed nor denied it.</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min continued.</p>  
<p>“So when we saw his second son, Yoo Jin-Ho, contacting you, Hunter Sung Jin-Woo, we realized they were trying to recruit you, the re-awakener.”</p>  
<p>So, Ahn Sang-Min also believed him to be a re-awakener.</p>  
<p>‘Good. That saves me the trouble of making up a story.’</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min quickly added,</p>  
<p>“We thought it was necessary to contact you before you signed any contract with Yoojin, which is why we reached out so abruptly. If it felt impolite, we apologize once again.”</p>  
<p>“It’s fine.”</p>  
<p>If they had approached him with malicious intent, it would’ve been different, but since they were being this polite, there was no need to get angry.</p>  
<p>‘What’s more important is...’</p>  
<p>How to handle this moving forward.</p>  
<p>While Jin-Woo was pondering, Ahn Sang-Min took the initiative to ask,</p>  
<p>“Have you already finalized a contract with Yoojin Construction?”</p>  
<p>Seeing Jin-Woo hesitate, he seemed to have reached that conclusion.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo shook his head.</p>  
<p>Instantly, Ahn Sang-Min’s slightly anxious face brightened.</p>  
<p>‘Great! So he’s still a free agent then?’</p>  
<p>This was their chance to recruit a skilled Hunter who could solo clear a C-rank dungeon in 30 minutes.</p>  
<p>To be precise, a D-rank Hunter who wasn’t much help did tag along, but for someone of B-rank or higher, that was more of a burden than a teammate.</p>  
<p>‘If Sung Jin-Woo joins the White Tiger Guild and gets re-evaluated as an A-rank Hunter...!’</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min couldn’t help but smile, finding it hard to control his expression.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo scratched his chin.</p>  
<p>‘This guy seems to be getting ahead of himself...’</p>  
<p>Well, the White Tiger Guild wasn’t bad.</p>  
<p>It was one of the Five Major Guilds and had the potential to aim for the top spot.</p>  
<p>But he didn’t feel like joining a guild right now.</p>  
<p>‘The better my level gets, the better the treatment I’ll receive.’</p>  
<p>And though it might be a distant future—or perhaps something that’ll never happen—the thought crossed his mind.</p>  
<p>‘What if I can solo clear B-rank and A-rank dungeons just like I’m doing with C-ranks now?’</p>  
<p>The income from high-rank dungeons was beyond imagination.</p>  
<p>That’s why major guilds had grown to rival large corporations.</p>  
<p>High-value essence stones, magic beast corpses, dungeon minerals, rune stones, artifacts—money flowed in astronomical amounts. With that kind of profit, why share it with others in a guild?</p>  
<p>‘As long as my leveling doesn’t stop, it’s not impossible.’</p>  
<p>So joining a guild now was premature.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s lips curled slightly.</p>  
<p>Taking it as a sign of agreement, Ahn Sang-Min smiled back.</p>  
<p>“Have you made a decision?”</p>  
<p>“You did promise double the conditions, right?”</p>  
<p>“Yes, that’s correct. If the conditions seem too modest for your skills, we can go even higher.”</p>  
<p>“Then, how much is the White Tiger Building worth?”</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min’s face stiffened for a moment.</p>  
<p>‘Is he doubting White Tiger Guild’s financial strength?’</p>  
<p>No, there’s no need to get worked up. This is an opportunity to promote the guild. There’s no need to hide anything.</p>  
<p>In fact, this was a good thing.</p>  
<p>“The appraisal is around 50 billion. We don’t use the entire building, but the owner is the White Tiger Guild.”</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min said proudly.</p>  
<p>Originally, they had rented the building, but after the guild established itself, they bought it outright.</p>  
<p>It had only taken them a year to do so.</p>  
<p>It was a testament to how much money a major guild could bring in.</p>  
<p>He was even prepared to explain the guild’s revenue or net profit, but Jin-Woo’s next words left him speechless.</p>  
<p>“Can you hand over the building?”</p>  
<p>“Excuse me?”</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min’s eyes widened.</p>  
<p>He doubted his ears and asked again.</p>  
<p>“W-what do you mean?”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo kindly explained.</p>  
<p>“Yoojin promised me a building worth 30 billion. If the White Tiger Building is worth 50 billion, it’s a bit short of double, but I’d be willing to consider it.”</p>  
<p>“Th-thirty billion?”</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min couldn’t close his mouth.</p>  
<p>Sung Jin-Woo’s career spanned four years.</p>  
<p>But that was as an E-rank Hunter.</p>  
<p>He had only recently started gaining attention.</p>  
<p>It was highly likely he had undergone a re-awakening.</p>  
<p>But what kind of ability did he possess for a renowned chairman, known for his business acumen, to promise 30 billion?</p>  
<p>And that too, before even undergoing a rank re-evaluation.</p>  
<p>‘Is he bluffing? There’s no way to confirm this.’</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min gave him a suspicious look.</p>  
<p>As if reading his mind, Jin-Woo took out his phone and quickly dialed a number.</p>  
<p>\*Ring ring.\*</p>  
<p>\*Click.\*</p>  
<p>-Yes, Hyung-nim.</p>  
<p>In the quiet café during the evening, Jin-Woo deliberately turned the call volume to the max.</p>  
<p>“Jin-Ho, I need to ask you something.”</p>  
<p>-Ask away, Hyung-nim.</p>  
<p>Jin-Ho? Yoo Jin-Ho?</p>  
<p>Ahn Sang-Min gulped.</p>  
<p>‘Is he planning to tell Yoo Jin-Ho about our conversation?’</p>  
<p>But Ahn Sang-Min’s assumption was wrong.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo brought up a different topic.</p>  
<p>“That building you mentioned transferring to me. How much did you say it was worth?”</p>  
  
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\*\*CHAPTER END\*\*