

Beloved Dog 1001

Chapter 1001

There was a lot to think about concerning the rubber

After everyone was finished chewing, I retrieved the finished gum.

It was the same as the gum I knew, and the taste faded after some time. They spat the gum out into paper, which was thrown away.

“While I thought it could be used similarly to other sweet treats, perhaps it will be difficult.”

“Yes. The worst part is you can’t eat it or just spit it out. It has to be wrapped up before thrown out.”

Otherwise, it would stick to things. It was a big problem in Japan, as people would spit gum on the road, and it would be difficult to remove.

If it was going to be sold, it would have to be sold along with the paper, which would be costly.

“Also, it uses Weed Cultivation. And while I cannot be completely sure, I do have the feeling that it is not suited for mass production. I feel like I am using more energy than usual.”

“Well, there is still a lot we don’t know about the Gift. So your input is important. If you feel that way, it is best that you don’t push yourself.”

“Yes. Well, for now, I will just use it to make Leo a toy or two now and then.”

“Hmm... Indeed. If it was sold in small quantities, then the price would go up.”

“That’s true.”

If it ended up being more expensive than sweets that used sugar, it would defeat the purpose of selling it.

“Chewing gum, was it? I think it’s best that it is not sold after all.”

“Yes. Though, there are many other uses for the rubber... Regardless, I think I will just make them whenever I can, and slowly stock up. After all, they do not spoil easily. I will take my time and see if I can come up with other uses for them.”

“Certainly. However, please be careful. We do not want you to collapse again, Mr. Takumi.”

“Haha. I will be careful. Yes, I never want to feel that way again.”

That feeling of my vision becoming narrower... It was very frightening. Once was enough for me.

Also, I didn’t want the others to worry about me. Especially Leo, Claire and Liza.

And so I would be careful.

And like that, it was decided that I would slowly stock up on the rubber liquid. And I would study it when I could.

As for the chewing gum, perhaps I could just make small quantities for Liza and Tilura, as long as they didn’t eat it.

After that, we had dinner and enjoyed some tea. And then I did my swings in the garden before taking a bath.

“Hah... A lot happened today. The incident with Tilura, making orders in Ractos, and all this talk of slippers and rubbers. I’m pretty tired.”

I muttered while making my way back to the room.

Currently, Ms. Lyra or Ms. Gelda would be helping Liza wash up.

“Now that I think about it, the butlers will be arriving the day after tomorrow. I’m glad it’s not tomorrow. Oh, I better hurry. Leo will be bored.”

If the butlers had come today... I would not have been able to handle everything. At least, I would not have had time to be growing rubber plants.

It was with such thoughts that I opened the door and entered the room.

Chapter 1002

Leo was trying to hide something

“Leo, I’m back. I hope you weren’t too bored... Uh, what are you doing?”

“Wuff!? Wuff... Wuff!”

I had imagined that Leo would have nothing to do, but she seemed to be facing the shelf where our things were kept.

“Leo?”

“Wu-wuff! Wuff!”

“Don’t come yet? But I’m already here...”

Leo told me to not come in, and she seemed a little frantic. And so I approached anyway.

When I was closer, I saw that she was pushing one of the drawers with her nose.

“Huh? Leo, is that the rubber toy? Are you trying to put it away...? I’m surprised you could even open the drawer.”

“Wu-wuff. Wuff!”

Perhaps she had used her nails to pull it open.

However, the drawers were just for putting away folded clothes. They were not big enough for something that was the size of a basketball.

Even though it was quite soft and squishy...

“You want to put the toy away then? You don’t have to do that... Well, I could help. Huh?”

“Wuff...”

While it was large, there was still plenty of space in the room, so it wouldn’t be a bother.

But Leo didn’t seem to like that idea. And then I saw the rubber toy inside of the drawer.

And then Leo looked at me uncomfortably.

I see...

“...Well, the rubber toy can be dealt with later. Hmm...?”

Leo finally moved away, and I opened the drawer fully.

There were some tree branches and pieces of cloth as well. And even some sausages and leaves.

So there was another reason that the ball didn’t fit inside.

When had she gathered all of this...

On closer inspection, some of the plants she had were the herbs that I made with Weed Cultivation.

Though, they were dead leaves without any effect.

“Hmm... Leo?”

“Wuff...”

“Why were you collecting all of this stuff? I suppose tree branches are fine, but sausages? And the herbs too.”

“Wuff... Wuff... Wou...”

She said that she didn’t want anyone to find her treasures.

“Hah... But you do know I would have found it soon enough? Someone would have looked inside.”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff.”

Apparently, she had gotten the idea after seeing me and Liza put things away in the drawers.

“Even so... Alright then. This will be your drawer, Leo... Well, I will have to talk to Ms. Lyra about it. But don’t put any food inside.”

“Wuff...”

They did say that I could use this room freely, but I doubted they would have anticipated something like this, so it would be best to ask.

I was curious as to why she thought a tree branch was a treasure, but I suppose it was used when playing outside.

Perhaps it was because she had so much fun?

Since the cockatrices were around, I doubted there were any bugs on it. But I decided to inspect it, just in case.

Chapter 1003

A warning game with Leo

“Also, if you put the rubber toy in here, it will change shape... Well, I suppose if you don’t mind, then it’s alright. Also, this branch takes up a lot of space. You can’t fit everything here.”

“Wuff.”

The rubber itself was shaped like a pot, and was probably a little difficult to bite. Next time, I would have to adjust the size and shape a little.

It was probably a good size for the fenrirs, but it was too small for Leo.

“Hah...really...”

“Wuff?”

Even now that she was a silver fenrir, Leo was still Leo. When she was still a maltese, she would run away when I sighed like this.

“Hyah! This is what you get! There! There!”

“Wou!? Wu-wuff. Wuff!”

“Hahaha! Roll over if you are really sorry!”

I grabbed onto Leo and scratched her fur.

I massaged her while sometimes focusing on her feet and ears. Leo looked alarmed at first, but then relaxed as I pulled at her cheeks.

“There, there! Now that you’re rolled over...hyah!”

“Wuff... Wuff!”

“Haha! Your paws really are ticklish!”

“Papa, we’re back!”

“Excuse me, Mr. Takumi. I... Leo?”

“Ah, they’re playing!”

“Ah, Liza. Thank you, Ms. Lyra.”

“Not at all...”

While I scolded...or rather, played with Leo, the others returned.

I then thanked Ms. Lyra and explained to her what had happened. She agreed that Leo should be allowed to use the drawer.

She also insisted that anything in the room could be used freely, and that I shouldn’t worry about Leo getting it dirty.

“Hey, Liza. you should tickle her paws too! Do you want to join in, Mr. Lyra?”

“Yes!”

“Are you sure...?”

“Wou! Wou!”

“Leo seems to enjoy it. It’s fine. How do you like that, Leo!”

“Wou!? Wou!”

With Liza's laughter and Leo's barks, which were a mixture of happiness and confusion, we played into the night.

Needless to say, Leo was quick to fall into a deep sleep. And it was not because she was tired after running to Ractos...

I spent the next day making herbs, training, and crafting toys for the fenrirs.

Riruru was especially happy. And it was an interesting sight, seeing them and Leo lined up with their new chew toys.

I wondered if I should make a round ball that we could use for games...

Not just for Liza and Tilura, but the other children might enjoy it as well.

However, I would have to think about a way to fill it up with air and seal it.

The day after that, I had Ms. Lyra check my clothes after I had eaten lunch.

"Yes, everything looks fine."

"Thank you."

Today was the day that the butlers would arrive.

First impressions were quite important, and I did not want to look bad in front of them.

"Um, since they will all be taken to the drawing room first... I will go in when I am ready. Also..."

"Wuff."

"Ah, sorry, Leo. I have to calm down more."

Whenever I was nervous, Leo would become worried.

And so I petted her and did my best to calm my nerves.

Chapter 1004

The butlers arrived at the mansion

“As they will be my direct subordinates.... Well, they were chosen by the duke, so I’m sure they will be fine. In fact, it’s me who has to be careful. Wait, it’s Mr. Ekenhart...so he could choose someone...strange...?”

A butler would be someone who I talked to a lot, and so this was very important.

“Excuse me, Mr. Takumi. They have arrived.”

“Ah, Ms. Gelda... I understand. Leo and Liza. You two go out and wait with the others in the garden.”

“Okay!”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff?”

“Haha. I’ll be fine, Leo. I’ll figure it out.”

After Leo and Liza left the room, I sat down on my chair and sighed.

Ms. Lyra placed a cup of tea on my desk. I suppose it was to help me relax. I was grateful for her consideration.

A short while later, Sebastian came, and we all left the room.

“Sebastian, what kind of people should I expect?”

While walking, I decided to chat a little to calm my nerves. Of course, I already knew that he didn't know who they were.

"We were not notified... But the master did choose from the butlers that are already working for him. There is nothing to worry about. Obviously, there are differences in ability, but they have all been educated."

"I see... Well, all of the butlers here are very good at their job."

"Thank you. Though, the person who notified me of their arrival did seem a little strange."

"How so?"

"I do not know... It was just a small thing. Apparently, they were not all male."

"Really? I thought they were all butlers?"

"Perhaps it is because he knew that you and Lady Claire would be taking some of the maids to Range village. Regardless, if there is someone you want to hire, then that is fine. You have permission from the main house."

"Permission... I suppose that is what Mr. Ekenhart decided. Very well. I have no confidence when it comes to hiring personnel, but I will do my best."

"Yes. But do not be too tense about it. After all, Lady Claire and I are here as well. You can even talk to Lyra and the others before making any decisions."

"Thank you."

So it wasn't as if I had to decide everything myself. That was a relief.

That being said, the final decision would still be mine. And it would be rude to employees if I did not put a lot of thought into it as well. I had to be careful.

We talked about such things until we arrived at the drawing room.

It was finally time for the meeting!

Chapter 1005

I met with the people who came to the mansion

“Excuse me.”

I said as I entered the room after Ms. Lyra.

Sebastian was behind me.

Once I entered, everyone in the room stood up and bowed. There were about ten in all.

The six men were wearing the same uniforms as Sebastian, while there were four women dressed as maids.

“Walter!? Why are you here...”

“Mr. Sebastian?”

Sebastian raised his voice in alarm. It was rare to see him lose his calm like this.

But why? Surely it was not strange to see a familiar face here.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Takumi...”

“Not at all...”

“Hah... So you didn’t know that I would be here, father. Well, that is so like the master.”

“Be careful, Walter. You are in front of Mr. Takumi.”

“Uh, I don’t mind... But, uh, father?”

“Yes... Walter is my son, and was working at the main house. Didn’t I tell you that before, Mr. Takumi?”

“I think we talked about it in the forest. I see. So he’s your son...”

Now that I looked at him closely, they did have a close resemblance. He looked like a younger version of Sebastian.

Though, he was still a veteran who appeared to be in his thirties or forties.

I suppose I had not noticed it immediately, because he had a severe look. As if he was inspecting me. It was very different from Sebastian, who always had a calm expression.

“Enough about me. Shouldn’t you introduce the others?”

“Walter, I told you to hold your tongue. Hah...I’m sorry, Mr. Takumi. Now, all of you. Please introduce yourself to Mr. Takumi.”

The first person to step forward was the old man.

His name was Alfred, and he appeared to be the leader of the group.

Walter was the second... And then there was Aloysius and Winfield, who were in their thirties, and Keith and Silver, who were the youngest.

As for the maids, Ms. Jane was Alfred’s wife, and there was Emelia, who appeared to be in thirties. And Cheryl and Chita were the youngest.

“I’m Takumi. When it comes to the business of the herb fields in Range village, there will be a lot that I cannot do alone. And so I’ve decided to hire a butler.”

After they introduced themselves, we all sat down. And then it was my turn.

“Yes, we have heard about it from His Grace. While it may not be much, we shall all do our best, if it so happens that you decide to take us.”

Alfred said with a bow.

“Thank you. Well, first of all...”

I nodded at Alfred and thanked him. And then I gave them a brief explanation that I had prepared in advance.

Mr. Ekenhart must have told them as well, but I just wanted to make sure.

In general, matters regarding the herbs would be the most important. But they would also be working in the house where we would live. Also, I wanted someone who could help me with matters concerning money, etcetera.

Chapter 1006

While side-tracked, I explained the important parts

While explaining things to them, they were for some reason surprised to hear that Claire and I would be managing the business together. I suppose Mr. Ekenhart had left that part out.

They were also surprised that I called her by her first name now.

“The master probably wanted to save it as a surprise for you all.”

“Haha. That does sound like him...”

Sebastian sighed and shook his head.

“In that case, we will not only be serving under Mr. Takumi, but Lady Claire as well?”

“Indeed, as they will be living under the same roof... However, you will be mostly working for Mr. Takumi. Lady Claire will be taking her own servants from this house. As for those of you who are now chosen, you will stay here and work under me. After all, Lady Tilura will be staying here.”

Sebastian answered Alfred’s questions.

“I understand. However... If Lady Claire and Lady Tilura are separate... This will be a distributed rule for nobles...”

“Distributed rule...?”

“Is that not it?”

“That is not the intention at all. Well, the result is similar. Mr. Takumi. Distributed rule is...”

According to Sebastian, it was when members of a noble family lived in different territories as a way of making sure they were able to govern every part of the land.

In this world, contacting others could take days. And so by living in different parts, they would be able to ensure that the lord’s eye reached far and wide.

However, if the family did not get along, such things could create rifts among the territories, so it was not all good.

“It is really not like that. Please don’t worry about it. Now, Mr. Takumi.”

“Uh, right...”

After that, we returned to the subject at hand. The matter of days off and salary.

For the most part, it would be the same as the servants in this house.

“In that case, if we are hired, there will be no great changes compared to before?”

“Yes. Well, we will be living in a village instead of a town. So that will be quite different. Also, there is a beastkin child...and another beastkin. Are you fine with that?”

I nodded at Alfred and then told them about Liza and Ms. Delia.

I wasn't really worried about their reaction, but wanted to make it clear anyway.

“We were informed about that by His Grace. Uh, Lady Liza. Though...who is this other person?”

“She is a beastkin who was found near Ractos village and raised there. She is an adult and will be working as a tutor for Liza. Mainly to teach her to read and write.”

“I had no idea there were other beastkin on the duke's lands... But it won't be a problem. We have no ill feelings towards them, and have been taught to not care about those baseless rumors.”

“I am glad to hear that. Well, then... Sebastian. Is there anything else?”

“Indeed... I assume you have all heard about Sherry?”

“Yes. The fenrir who is now the familiar of Lady Claire. The others at the main house were quite happy to hear it. Lady Claire has accomplished quite a great feat.”

It seemed Claire had a good reputation back at that house.

Well, I suppose it was not easy to do that with a wild fenrir.

Though, Sherry was still very young. But even then, a familiar contract seemed to be very impressive in their eyes...

Chapter 1007

Sebastian was strict with his son

“Having a fenrir as a familiar is something for the history books. Of course, it was all because of Mr. Takumi.”

“Mr. Takumi? Ah, I did hear that some guest here had a Silver Fenrir. So it was you, Mr. Takumi?”

“I see that the master has not spread information about that then. It is true... Mr. Takumi, it looks like you’ll have to tell them about Leo as well.”

“I see. Well, it will be faster if you all just meet Leo. Besides, there are other things...”

Aside from Leo, there were the fenrirs and Rahle. We had to tell them about all of that as well.

I suppose this was also something Mr. Ekenhart wanted to leave as a surprise.

“Indeed... We should all go out into the garden then. And you can introduce Leo and Lady Liza to them. As well as the others.”

“Others...?”

“Well, you will see. Uh, do you have any other questions? We can talk on our way to the garden.”

“...”

“What is it, Walter?”

“Are you really...”

“Walter. I hope you remember that Mr. Takumi is a close friend of His Grace now. Any offensive statement will be taken seriously. And you may make enemies.”

“!”

Walter had slowly raised his hand. But before he could finish, he was interrupted by Sebastian.

Ever since we had entered the room, I got the impression that Sebastian was being very strict towards his son.

Well, while my impression of Walter was not exactly bad, he did seem a little different compared to the other butlers.

“Oh, I don’t think it will result in anything like that...”

“It is important to know if he will serve you, Mr. Takumi. We are allowed a lot of freedom when not in public, as long as the master allows. But we are still at the stage where staff are being selected. You are searching for the right person to serve you. Any offense towards you right here would be the duke’s fault.”

“...I suppose... But I don’t think I really care about any of that.”

“Hmm. Now that I think about it. Perhaps it’s best that he makes a terrible impression so that he isn’t chosen...”

As for me, I preferred for people to say what was on their mind and be honest, rather than hold it in.

Someone who was able to do that instead of being scared about formalities seemed more reliable to me.

“Though, even if you are fine with it, Mr. Takumi, good Leo might feel differently. And it would not look good for the rest of the house either.”

“Ah, something about Silver Fenrirs... Very well. While I don’t think you have to be too serious. Moderation is good...”

“I understand. Walter, just remember that what you say to Mr. Takumi is also directed to the Silver Fenrir. And His Grace and Lady Claire will not allow Mr. Takumi to be insulted.”

“Ye-yes... I will be careful.”

Hmm... His attitude and the way he talked earlier definitely suggested a degree of mistrust. However, part of me felt it was mostly about rebelling against Sebastian.

Perhaps they were not very close?

Chapter 1008

I asked about Walter

“Well, Walter. What was your question?”

Asked Sebastian.

“Uh...I’m sorry. I wanted to ask about his relationship with the duke. But, I think you cleared most of it up.”

“I see. Well, you will have plenty of time to learn more in the future. If you stay here, that is. Now, does anyone else have any questions? No? Then let’s go to the garden.”

As no one raised their hands, we decided to continue on our way.

“Sebastian. You seem more strict when you are talking to Walter.”

“I am sorry that you had to see that.”

“No, I’m not exactly bothered by it...”

While walking, I spoke quietly so that the others didn’t hear. I had experiences with being unfairly scolded by superiors before. And so I did not think it was necessary to apologize over such small things.

Regardless, I was curious about Sebastian and Walter’s relationship.

While Claire and Mr. Ekenhart had their differences, they generally got along quite well.

“In some ways, Walter has what it takes to be a better butler than me. However, he cares more about reading books... He often forgets his duties and stays in the library. Though, he is older now, so it seems that he does his job properly...”

“A book worm. So you are strict because you care about his work.”

“He is serious if he thinks the work is worth doing. But that is not all of the time. Reading and acquiring knowledge is a good thing. But Walter lacks experience.”

Sebastian sighed.

“If you are a butler, your knowledge is supposed to be used to serve your master. There is no point in just learning and being satisfied with that alone. I don’t know why he does not understand...”

“Well, I can see that you are concerned for him.”

“Hoho. It is embarrassing. But he doesn’t realize it yet... Perhaps you and Leo will be a good influence on him.”

In the end, it was clear that he cared about his son.

And in spite of their differences, he wanted him to be a good butler.

Perhaps they needed to communicate more, similar to Claire and Mr. Ekenhart.

“I don’t know about me. But Leo might be good for him. Or bad...”

She was a Silver Fenrir... Even though for me, she was still that cute dog I found a long time ago.

But in this house, she was seen as special. The strongest monster in the world. I did not know how Walter would react to her.

“I think you will stimulate him as well. After all, you do have strange thoughts and ways of thinking.”

“I wouldn’t say that...”

Sebastian probably didn't mean it as an insult, but it didn't feel great, knowing you did not think like a normal person.

After all, I was born and raised in a different world.

In any case, at least I wouldn't be too boring...

While occasionally looking back at the servants who followed us, I continued to talk to Sebastian in a hushed voice as we made our way to the garden.

Chapter 1009

Leo and the others were waiting in a line

“Wuff-wuff!”

“Ah, yes. I understand that first impressions are important. But this is also a little surprising.”

“Wou?”

When we went out into the garden...what awaited the servants, was Leo and the fenrirs. They were sitting in a neat row.

Not only that, but Rahle was spreading out its wings, with Cokka and Trice riding on each.

“See? They are all stunned. I think it might have been better to take turns greeting them.”

Alfred and his wife, Ms. Jane were shaking... Though, they were holding hands, which showed how much they got along.

Aloysius, Winfeld, Emelia and Cheryl were also huddled together.

Chita was frozen with eyes wide and mouth open.

As for Walter... He looked at Leo and then Sebastian and then the fenrirs in confusion.

“Well, everyone is here anyway. Leo, you can sit.”

“Wuff!”

“Uh...Mr. Alfred.”

“Ye-yes. What is it...?”

“As you can see, Leo and the others will not attack anyone. So please calm down...”

“Mr...Takumi. Are you sure? I had heard about the Silver Fenrir. But the others...”

“It’s fine. These fenrirs will not attack humans either. Like Leo, they are very friendly and intelligent.”

“I-I see...”

Even after I explained it, they continued to shake.

Hmm. This might take some time.

“Wh-what about that bird? What is... I can see that it is a monster...due to its size, but...”

“Ah, it is Rahle. Tilura’s familiar.”

“Kii!”

Rahle raised its wings and cried. I suppose it was a greeting?

“La-lady Tilura’s...? I know that Lady Claire has a young fenrir, but... So Lady Tilura has one too now...”

“The master didn’t tell you? Perhaps he only told some people... Such as the people that were planning to come here anyway...”

“Last time, Mr. Ekenhart stayed here for quite a long time, didn’t he?”

“Ye-yes. He was gone from the main house for a while. It made things very difficult for all of us...”

While Mr. Ekenhart made it sound like it was nothing, it seems like it actually caused them a lot of trouble back at the house.

In fact, I do remember him getting a message, asking when he was going to return.

“As for the reason, I heard that His Grace came to deal with matters concerning Lady Aneliese. Also, there was something important regarding the Silver Fenrir.”

Explained Alfred.

“Well, I can tell you about Rahle, but you should ask Tilura or the others if you want to know more. But let’s start with Leo and the fenrirs.”

“Ye-yes. However, do they really obey you...? I assume they must. It is just that seeing them up close...they are rather intimidating...”

“Yes, they do look like they might attack you...”

No matter what she looked like now, Leo was always cute to me. But this was their first time seeing her.

Recently, there had been fewer instances of people being scared, so the reaction almost felt nostalgic to me.

Would they have to be treated like Ms. Gelda and Mr. Ekenhart?

I showed everyone Leo's trick

"In any case... Uh, please watch this."

"Wh-what are you going to do?"

"I am going to show you that Leo and the others are not dangerous."

I was not sure if this was absolute proof. However, I did think they would listen to me after this.

Thinking this, I moved away from the servants and approached Leo.

"Leo. Paw!"

"Wuff!"

"Seconds! Now... Asking pose!"

"Wou! Wuff! Hah-hah!"

"Good, good. You did well!"

"Wuff-wuff."

It had been a while since Leo moved like this on my order, and she seemed happy. Her tail wagged and she stuck her tongue out and panted.

"..."

However after praising Leo, I turned around to see that the others were silent.

I hope it wasn't because they were scared...

Well, time to continue!

“Leo...bang!”

“Wou...”

“Good, good.”

“Wuff-wuff!”

While it was a little embarrassing to do it in front of the others, I made my hand in the shape of a gun and pretended to shoot Leo.

She then fell on the ground and showed her stomach.

The other fenrirs copied this move as well.

“...”

Hmm. The servants were still silent.

At this point, it did seem more like confusion than fear. Perhaps this had been effective after all.

“As you can see, Leo obeys Mr. Takumi’s orders and is very friendly. And as long as you do her no harm, she will not attack you.”

Sebastian added his explanation.

I was grateful for that.

“...An-and...are the other servants here used to it as well?”

“Yes, they are friendly to all. The servants enjoy feeding and petting Leo and the fenrirs. People from the mansion have nothing to fear. They cannot get enough of them.”

“To see a Silver Fenrir and fenrirs be so obedient... I had read about them in books, but there are no records of such things happening before... Aside from the first lord of this house.”

Walter muttered as if he could not believe it.

“Everyone knows that the first lord was friends with a Silver Fenrir. And according to Leo, fenrirs are obedient towards Silver Fenrirs by instinct. So, you understand what that means, don’t you?”

“Lady Claire... Ye-yes...”

Claire approached us while holding Sherry.

Walter nodded at her.

“It is likely that the first lord was friends with not just that Silver Fenrir, but other fenrirs as well... Just like Mr. Takumi is now.”

“We don’t know about that. According to the story, the Silver Fenrir helped her when she was surrounded by fenrirs. Was it by fighting the fenrirs, or making them submit? In the first place, we don’t know if they were actually surrounding her in order to attack her.”