## **Beloved Dog 1051**

the others.

Chapter 1051
The rubber helped with motion sickness
"Indeed. If there is not much in stock, then that would make me quite anxious to use it as a new material"
"There should be enough if it's just slippers. Wellas long as it's not everyone in the town who is trying to buy them."
"I am sure that will not happen. So"
"If it is like the rubber you are holding now, I should be able to provide you with it regularly."
"In that case, we can use it for the slippers. StillI am concerned about the price."
Sebastian had suggested that slippers would be a good way to 'slowly' let others know about the rubber.
It would surely not sell too much, so there wouldn't be any rubber shortages.
Obviously, if the slippers really were going to be sold as products, the rubber would have to be provided regularly. And so for now, it was decided that the duke would be in charge of it.
They would figure out how to keep costs low, etcetera.
A lot of these things would be managed by the butler that I hired
"Rubber sure is interesting."

Keith muttered as we made our wait to Mr. Haines's store, where we would meet up with Claire and







While I doubted they would work any mischief, it was still possible that she could knock things over if left unattended.

Regardless, I thanked Mr. Haines and then with Claire, Keith, and Aloysius, we went to the back room.

"In general, the price is what I expected."

"Yes."

Just like at Ms. Isabelle's store, I was given a list of products and their prices. And then Claire, Keith and I inspected it.

The prices were much lower than at Ms. Isabelle's store, so I didn't feel as uncomfortable while looking at them. Dealing with silver and copper was just less stressful than gold.

"Larger things like beds will take some time. But most of the other things have been secured... Though, they are just samples."

"Yes. Then can you show us? It will be easier for me and Mr. Takumi to understand that way."

"Certainly."

Mr. Haines got up from his seat and left with another employee.

The catalogs did not have photographs, so it was harder to know what something looked like.

"Keith, what do you think?"

"Indeed... The products here seem to be discounted a little as well. Though, not to the point where I would be suspicious. I am sure it is done with the intent of keeping you and Mr. Takumi as customers."

Once Mr. Haines left, Claire asked for Keith's opinion. "Mr. Takumi. I think as we continue to do business, these kinds of things will become more common." "They will?" If you knew the store owner, then getting a discount was not that strange. "Yes. Since my father is a duke, and you are his friend... And there is good Leo as well. In any case, they will use discounts in order to earn your favor." "After all, with large transactions like this, the store will make quite a profit too. A little discount is nothing in comparison." Claire and Keith were telling me that he wasn't just doing it to be nice... Chapter 1053 Claire and Keith gave me advice "So it's an attempt to ingratiate himself..." "That is one way to put it. It always happens when one has power. Though, some merchants are much more obvious about it and make sure you know that it is special." "This time, Haines and Isabelle did not go that far. Good merchants know how to detect things..."

You wanted customers who would spend a lot of money. It was necessary to raise profits.

I understood what they meant.

It was the same when working in Japan. You would try what you can in order to get regular customers.

"However, it is difficult to always know what their intentions are... In the future, you may have to learn who to trust. Whether you will get what you truly asked for, or whether you are being tricked."

"As for me...Sebastian always ensures that nothing like that happens. Of course, you can never be

"Yes, I understand. While difficult...I can at least inspect the products."

completely sure either. You should be careful, Mr. Takumi."

Mr. Haines was someone who we could trust, so there was no real problem. But if I was ever approached by a merchant who I didn't know, it would be a different story.

I suppose this was like training for me.

"...That being said, a lot of this stuff was taught to me by Mr. Kalis."

"Really?"

Claire said this with a smile, perhaps after noticing my serious expression.

"In any case, thank you, Claire. I will keep that in mind. And thank you too, Keith."

And so we looked at the documents and waited for some time until Mr. Haines returned.

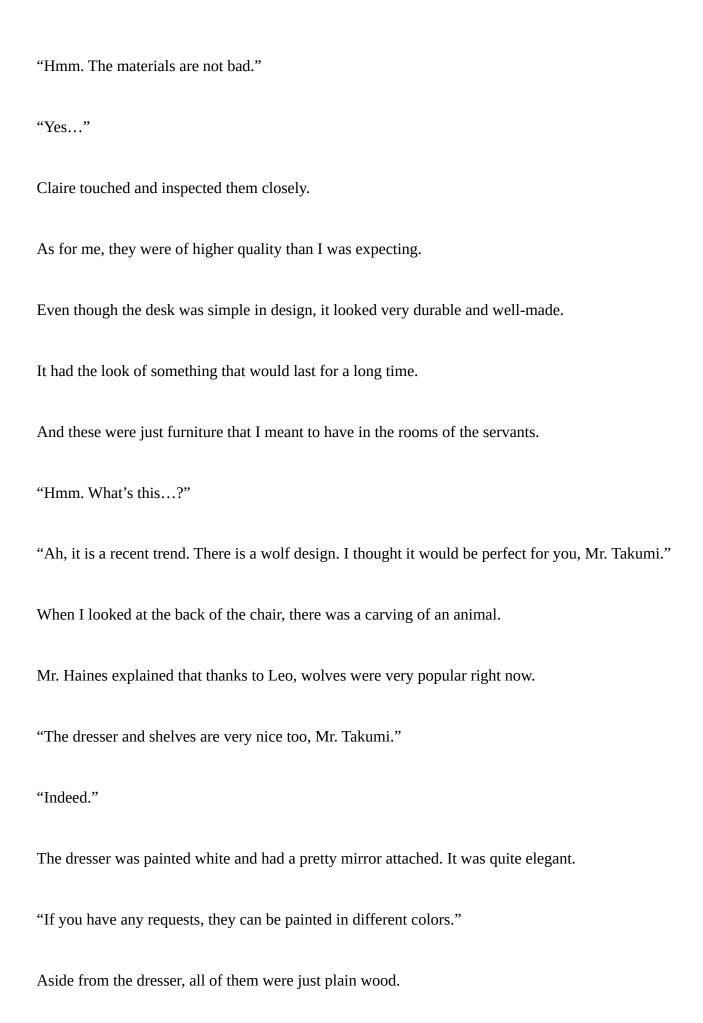
"Hah... Phew... This is quite tiring."

"It is quite big. Are you alright?"

"Oh, we are fine... Phew..."

While sweating and out of breath, Mr. Haines and another employee returned while carrying a desk.

Behind them, others had dressing tables, chairs etcetera.



It would cost a little more, but it would be good for those who wanted everything to match. I was then shown various other types of chairs, but the one I liked was the first one with the wolf carving. Even if it was not visible to the person sitting on it, I liked that it reminded me of Leo and the fenrirs. They were carved by hand, and so there were small differences in each, which I thought was nice. "Alright, I'll take this desk, chair and shelf as a set..." "Yes, certainly." Chapter 1054 Liza also found something that she wanted "As requested, the beds and other furniture will be delivered to Range village as soon as they are ready." "Yes, thank you." Mr. Haines bowed politely once the room was cleared again. As he had sold many things, including some expensive items, he looked quite happy. Much like Ms. Isabelle's store, we would be paying a lot of money. And so instead of carrying it now, a servant would come in a few days and settle the bill.

After that, we talked with Mr. Haines and waited for Liza and Tilura to return.

"Papa!"

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"Sister. Mr. Takumi. We're back!"
Some time later, the two returned cheerfully.
Both were holding what looked like large dice in their hands. So they must have found something
that they liked.
"Welcome back, Liza and Tilura. What's that?"
"This is amazing!"
"It is, papa. Look, it's a box!"
"A box?"
Tilura and Liza showed us the wooden boxes excitedly.
It was about fifteen centimeters in size...which was quite large for a dice. But it was hollowed out.
"What do you think, sister?"
"Papa. Open it!"
"Me? Fine... Huh?"
"Uh... Is this really a box?"
Tilura gave her box to Claire, while Liza gave hers to me.
We inspected them from various angles, but could not seem to find the lid.
"It is a puzzle box. There is a trick to opening it."
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"A puzzle box..."
Mr. Haines's words reminded me of the puzzle boxes from my old world.
Unlike ordinary boxes, you needed to solve the puzzle in order to unlock them. They had a very
unique appearance and were quite popular.
However, since they did not open easily, they were not very practical.
Currently, Liza and Tilura looked quite smug as they saw Claire and I struggle.
As for it looking like a dice, each of the six faces had dots, from one to six.
A puzzle box that looks like a die. Well...that gave me an idea. However...
"Hmm... I don't know. I give up, Liza. How do you open it?"
"I give up as well. Will you tell me, Tilua?"
Claire and I looked at each other and nodded.
We had both been close to solving it, but stopped.
Claire had seemed like she was familiar with them. Perhaps she even owned one already.
Regardless, I could tell that they wanted to show us.
"Hah! Even papa doesn't know! Well, you do it like this..."
"Fine, I will teach you, sister..."
"Oh, it opened!"
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She would have to take a guard, as well as Leo. And she was to stay close to them no matter what.

Furthermore, Aloysius would go with her, since he knew about slums, and wanted to learn more about this town.

Chapter 1056

I considered visiting the grave

"But it will also be an opportunity to learn about Liza."

"Well, that's true. Even though she is with us, I haven't tried to find out much..."

Was it proof that she was really thinking this through...? Tilura started talking about Liza in order to bolster her argument about the slums.

In a way, that was an important reason for Leo and me.

We had heard some things from Ms. Isabelle and Liza herself. However, I had mostly avoided the subject, as they may be attached to painful memories.

However, it seemed like a good thing to know more. Besides, I felt that after being surrounded by kind people, Liza had stopped thinking about how bad things had been before.

Besides, not too long ago, I had visited the graveyard in Bleiu village, where Ms. Delia's foster parents...as well as her mother, were buried. And it made me think about it more.

While Mr. Reyndorf had died in the slums, he did not have his own tombstone. According to Sebastian, he had been buried in a communal graveyard.

And so after asking Liza, we decided to go together.

"While Tilura and Liza have a reason to go... I don't think that you need to, Claire?"

"Mr. Takumi, how dare yuo. I too want to know more about Liza. Besides, as the daughter of a duke, I should learn about such things."

"Well, you two sure are alike. Ahaha." "Still...these noodles. Udon, was it? They are delicious. I wonder if they could make this back at the mansion...?" Claire suddenly changed the subject. "Hmm, I think it might be difficult..." "Why is that? I am sure Helena will do it if I tell her." "Well, maybe she could make something similar. The real problem is the soup." "The soup... It does have a unique smell." The soup was made of bonito broth. "Yes...it uses bonito, and that is quite important. I doubt we could get that..." "Bonito...I see. I've never heard of it." "Well, it's from the sea..." Claire was quite disappointed by this. The duke's land was nowhere near the sea, and so it was more difficult to acquire fish. The owner of the store had likely made the soup with bonito flakes. I wondered where he got that

from. Regardless, I doubted we could acquire it in the same way we had acquired other ingredients

in the past.

"Well, there are many different ingredients found in the sea. They even call them the blessings of the sea."

"I see. For me, the sea is just a horrible place filled with monsters. But I see that you have a different opinion, Mr. Takum."

"I suppose it's because I came from an island surrounded by the sea. And so there were lots of dishes that used seafood."

Claire's idea of the sea was very different from mine. She was probably right about the monsters. It made me very curious to know more about the sea in this world...

"Ah, but... Even if it's not the exact same thing, we might be able to make something that is similar...?"

"Really?"

If I was wrong, there was something else that you could use...

Chapter 1057

Looks and words that caught my attention

"It is something we'll have to discuss with Ms. Helena... And it might be a little expensive."

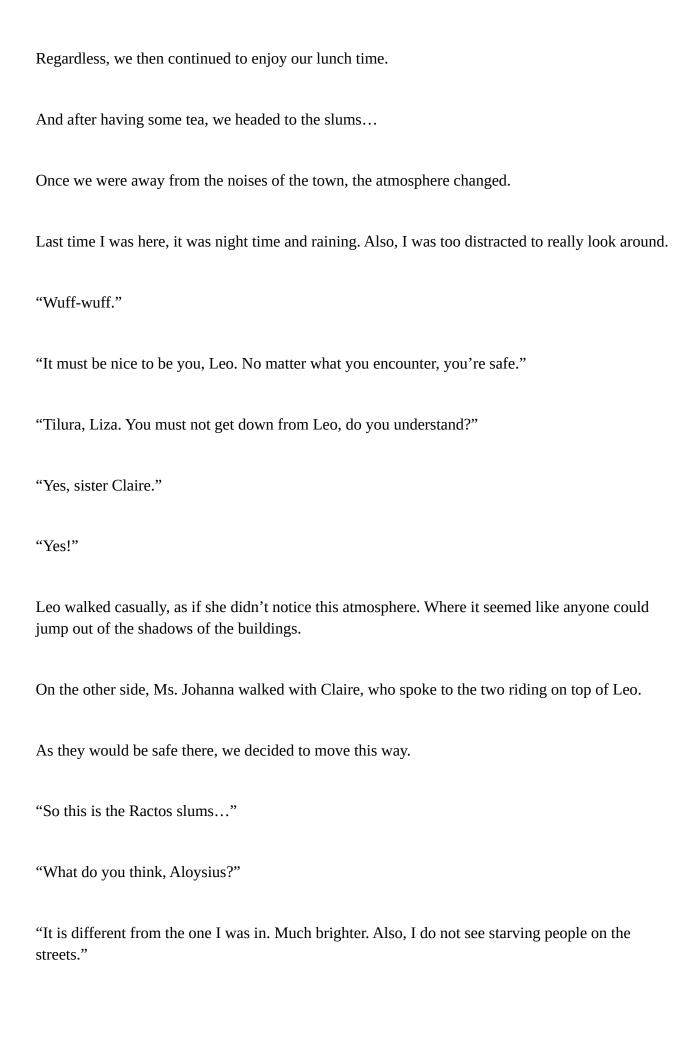
"Does it require something special?"

"You could say that. When we return to the mansion, I will talk to her."

"Very well. Since the dishes you suggest are usually good, I will look forward to it!"

"Uh...there is no guarantee that it will work well.."

As you used soy sauce, we would not be able to make a lot of it. And it may not taste too great either.





It must have been a very terrible environment.

Even now, we passed people who wore dirty clothes. But apparently, this place looked cheerful in comparison to what Aloysius knew.

"Anyway...I feel like people are staring... Also, they are saying something..."

"You hear it too, Mr. Takumi?"

"Wuff?"

As Claire and Leo stood out, I knew this would happen. People were quick to move out of the way when Leo walked down the street.

However, I thought I heard the same word said a number of times.

"Are they looking at Tilura...?"

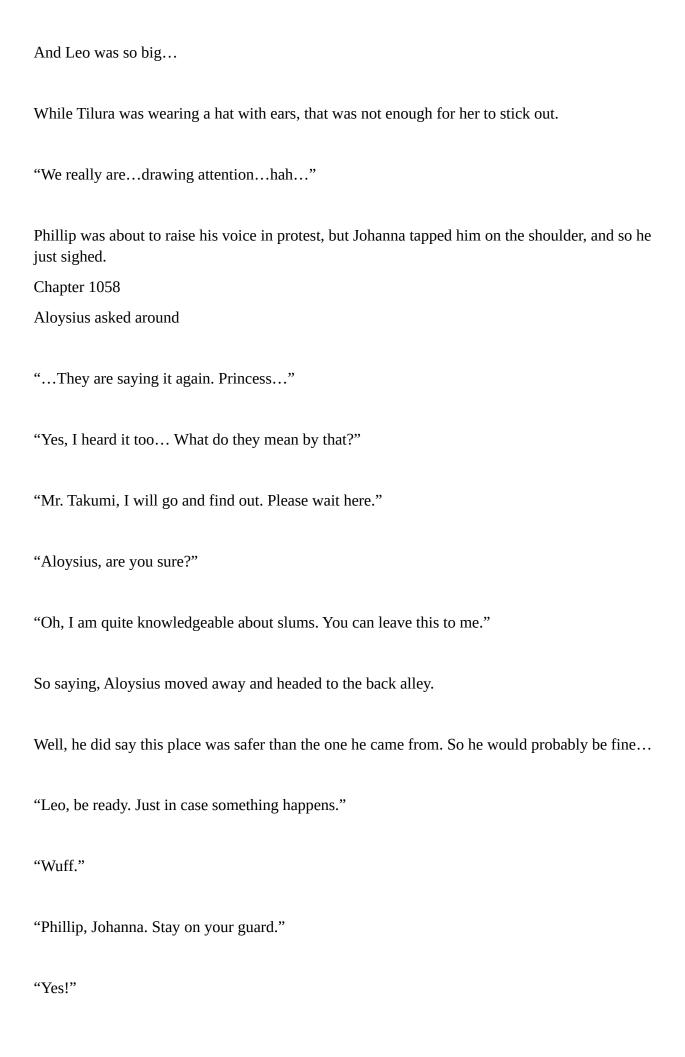
"I think so. Or maybe it is Liza."

It was possible, but it did seem like their eyes were fixed on Tilura. Even though Liza would have stuck out more as a beastkin.

"...It's strange. If anything, Tilura seems like she would stick out the least in this group. That is, aside from me and Aloysius."

Liza's ears and tail were not even hidden... But then again, many people in Ractos already knew about her.

Claire was a beautiful, high-born woman that attracted attention.



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"Yes!"
We stopped and watched the alley after Aloysius left.
"...Wuff.. Wou-wuff."
"Oh, he's back now. I'm glad that he seems fine."
After waiting for a short time, Leo barked towards the alley.
She was telling us that he had returned.
"Mr. Takumi. Lady Claire. I am back."
"I see that you are safe."
"I was only talking to people, so there was no problem. Of course, I was on my guard... In such
places, you have to make others think you are strong."
"Ah, so that is why you had such an expression when we saw you."
Indeed, at first, he looked rather intimidating while walking towards us... Of course, he had
returned to his normal self immediately after.
"As for why they were saying 'princess'... Apparently, that has become a nickname for Lady Tilura
within the slums."
"So it really was Tilura... But why just her? It would not seem strange to call Claire that too. If
anything, it would probably be more fitting."
"...Mr. Takumi."
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Claire looked a little embarrassed. "Because...they were saying that Lady Tilura came here before, riding on Rahle?" "I see." We had briefed Aloysius and the servants on recent events here. Including my trip to Bleiyu village, the fenrirs and Tilrua. "That is the reason. It is their way of showing their respect towards her, and to show that they mean her no harm." "Respect? Ah...perhaps it was because Rahle knocked out about four people... They must be scared..." They might think that Rahle would kill them if they angered Tilura. They probably thought something similar with me and Leo. We had even captured Deam, after all. "Um...apparently, it was the four people who got knocked out who started it." "They did? Hmm..." I had heard that they were eventually released, and returned to the slums. Well, their reaction might have been extreme, but they were just startled from Rahle's sudden appearance. And the guards said that they had no prior record of criminal activity. "Well, there is no point thinking about it here. Let us go... Liza, it's this way, right?"









"Well, in any case...where are the other two?" "Tho-those two...have been acting strange ever since then... But I did tell them that the princess has visited the slums..." "Acting strange...?" "Ye-yes... Um... Up until then, the four of us would talk together often. But now, they seem to be avoiding us. Ah, they still call the princess by her proper title. And they are not plotting anything!" "Hmm..." "If you wish, I will call them right now! Just wait one moment!!" "Ah, wait! ... They're gone... Some people are so quick to act. Just like Nick..." So, they used to be rather close, but after the incident with Tilura, they are avoiding each other. Regardless, they then declared that they would call the other two, and ran off. And while I called after them, they quickly disappeared around the corner. "Sorry, Claire and Tilura. Now this will take more time..." "It cannot be helped. I am also curious about the other two... Besides, I think that Tilura should apologize to them." "Yes..." It seemed off for the daughter of a duke to have to apologize...but it seemed like it was important for Claire that Tilura do it to people who she had caused trouble for.

"Huh, so this is the place where Liza lived."

"Yes, papa. This is where we usually slept." After some time, the two returned with the others. And then we made our way to the place where Liza lived. It was very close by. Outside, Leo was waiting with Tilura, Phillip and the others. "So, who are you people?" Claire asked the two newly arrived people. We had decided to talk to them here, as there was less chance that we would be overheard. "Before we speak...let us sit down..." Said the man. The building was much like the one I entered when searching for Deam. It had been abandoned, but since there were some corners with less dust, there was likely someone who came from time to time. There were two chairs in the room, and though they were old and worn, they were not too uncomfortable. "I'm sorry that we have no tea or anything to serve you." "Indeed, this is not a proper place to entertain someone like Lady Claire..." The two men sat on the floor in front of us and bowed their heads.

Well, I had not been expecting tea, so it was no problem. I had not even expected chairs.

Still, these two talked and acted in a more polite way than the first two. Someone about them reminded me of servants.

"I do not might. So, who are you? It seemed like you knew about us from the start."

"Yes... It is difficult to say... But to put it simply, we are spies."

"Spies?"

That had an eerie ring to it.

Undercover agents...who sneak into places to acquire information... Though, I did not know much about that...