

## Beloved Dog 271

Chapter 271

The Ramogi Wine was Completed

“I see...while I can’t say that I’m absolutely sure...it does taste the closest to the Range village wine. The others are...”

“I see. In that case, half the amount of Ramogi...must be best. It seems that putting in any more than that will make it too bitter.”

The one with the prettiest color, with about half the Ramogi, was still a little bitter, but barely noticeable.

Unlike the juice, you could still taste the alcohol, and it tasted the closest to what I drank in Range village.

If anything, the slight bitterness enhanced the sweetness and made it taste more fruity.

...Well, the bitterness was also so subtle that you might not even notice it if you weren’t focused on finding it.

The other cooks in the kitchen all nodded at Ms. Helena’s opinion.

Indeed, the bitterness was stronger when there was more Ramogi inside.

The wine with a whole Ramogi inside had almost no detectable sweetness, and was just bitter.

Ultimately, the one with just half was the best.

Both the taste and color.

“Well then, after dinner today, I will serve some of this Ramogi wine to everyone. As for the rest of the wine you bought, Mr. Takumi, I will add half a Ramogi for every barrel of this size.”

“Yes, thank you.”

As for the bitter wine, the cooks said that they would drink it.

I suppose that they did not like to waste food if they didn’t have to.

The wine that didn’t have enough Ramogi could have some added in and then it would be drinkable tomorrow.

Like this, I was now assured that the wine I had brought to the mansion did not have to be boiled after all.

...It was a relief that it wasn’t a waste...

“Ah, but could you make some of it juice for Tilura?”

“Yes, of course.”

It was much too early to let Tilura drink wine.

Even if it meant more work for Ms. Helena.

“Wuff!”

“Hmm. You want to drink some too, Leo?”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“I see... Ms. Helena, is that alright?”

“Yes. I will serve the juice to Lady Tilura, Leo and Sherry.”

“Thank you.”

I had thought that we only needed some for Tilura, but then Leo said she wanted to drink it too.

Apparently, she liked the juice when drinking it before.

And if Leo wanted it, Sherry would want to as well. And so Ms. Helena agreed.

I was relieved that all the wine wouldn't go to waste, as it would be drunk as both wine and juice. And with such thoughts, I left the kitchen with Leo, who appeared to be in a good mood.

...Tomorrow, I would make a lot more Ramogi and give it to Ms. Helena.

“Ah, there you are, Mr. Takumi.”

“It's time to train!”

“Hahaha, Tilura. You're very enthusiastic, I see?”

“Yes! It's so fun to be able to train!”

“Wuff!”

“Kyu?”

After leaving the kitchen, I arrived at the back garden with Leo. And Mr. Ekenhart and Tilura were there waiting for me.

Tilura was carrying Sherry in her arms... Which suggested that she had torn her away from Ms. Anne... But then I noticed that Ms. Anne and Ms. Claire were in the corner of the garden. And they were staring in our direction... Was it because of Sherry?

Tilura really enjoyed training. I suppose children just liked to stay active.

Leo barked in agreement, but Sherry looked puzzled as if she didn't understand why one would find it enjoyable.

Though, she seemed to enjoy it while playing... Was she really a fenrir?

"How was the wine, Mr. Takumi?"

"Ah, they were able to make something that is drinkable. It will be served tonight."

"I see. Something to look forward to then! Now, we must focus on your training!"

As I mused about Sherry's failings as a fenrir, Mr. Ekenhart asked me about the wine.

He was very interested about whether the delicious wine would be drinkable.

And so he smiled happily when he heard the good news, and seemed to be energized.

He really did look like Tilura when he was happy... Well, Tilura was considerably less intimidating overall.

"Now, let's begin."

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

"Wuff!"

"Kyau!"

Mr. Ekenhart held up his wooden sword and announced the beginning of the session.

While it made sense for Tilura and I to answer him, I'm not sure why Leo and Sherry were acting like participants?

Especially Sherry, who never had anything to do with our training...

"Alright, that's enough for today. It's nearly time for dinner."

"Yes, thank you!"

"Thank you, father!"

"Wuff!"

Usually we would continue to train until someone came to tell us that dinner was ready. But today, Mr. Ekenhart checked the time and ended our training himself.

...Was it because he was impatient to taste the wine...? He did look like a heavy drinker...

Still, we thanked him and put away our swords.

As Leo had trained with us today, she also barked with gratitude.

As for Sherry, she had run off towards Ms. Claire as soon as the training started.

Ultimately, she preferred being carried and coddled to moving around.

It wasn't very fenrir-like of her.

They were supposed to be ferocious monsters...

“Still, Leo really is amazing. Even I can’t beat her.”

“Wuff!”

Mr. Ekenhart sounded very impressed.

He had been scared of her yesterday, but that seemed to be a thing of the past now...which was nice to see.

In any case, as an example, Leo and Mr. Ekenhart had fought a mock battle today.

But it was just the typical training that me and Tilura did, where Leo dodged his attacks.

While Mr. Ekenhart was able to swing his sword much faster than us, he still had trouble landing a blow.

Out of a few dozen swings, he only hit her a few times.

And just as I had heard, Leo could make her fur hard, and it was Mr. Ekenhart who hurt his hand after striking her with his wooden sword.

I had never seen that before... It made me believe that there was no human who could beat Leo.

Silver Fenrirs really were amazing.

Chapter 272

Leo’s Dirty Feet Soiled The Mansion

“Father, we should go back inside soon.”

“Mmm, yes.”

“Leo, let’s go.”

“Wuff.”

As Mr. Ekenhart talked about the mock battle against Leo, Ms. Claire suggested that we go inside the mansion.

And so we did just that, along with Ms. Anne, who was now carrying Sherry and seemed to be in a good mood.

“...Hmm?”

As we entered the mansion mansion, I noticed something while watching Leo walk next to Mr. Ekenhart.

There were spots of dirt on the floor in the hallway...and they were shaped like Leo’s feet...

“Leo, wait a minute.”

“Wuff?”

“What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

“Is something wrong?”

I said to Leo, and the others all turned to me questioningly.

“Uh...Leo’s footprints...”

“Wuff...”

“Oh, indeed... Leo’s paws are so large. Even larger than my hand.”

“Uh, Mr. Ekenhart. That’s not the problem...”

Unlike in Japan, people walked with their shoes on in the mansion.

Obviously, there was no custom of taking your shoes off at the entrance hall... Though, there was a doormat for you to wipe the dirt off of your shoes. It was made of metal and had rounded spikes on it.

Though, even if you stood on them barefooted, it wouldn't hurt much more than those health sandals.

And so I and the others would always use it to clean our shoes before going into the mansion, but...

“Leo... Could it be that you never brushed the dirt off of your paws up until now?”

“Wuff...Kyuun...”

When I asked Leo this, she looked at me and suddenly whimpered sweetly.

“Ms. Gelda... Do you always have to clean up every time Leo comes into the house?”

“...Well..”

“Kuuun...kyuun...”

“No, it is fine! It is our job, after all!”

“...That sure sounded like an admission... Leo.”

“Kyuuu? Kuuun...”

“That's not going to work, okay?”

When I asked Ms. Gelda, who was with us, Leo tried to make sweet faces at her so she would say that it was fine.

Though, it was easy enough to see the situation judging by her reaction...

“Leo... There is something here to take the dirt off, isn’t there? You need to use it to clean your paws first, or you will create more work for the others. Understand?”

“Wuff... Kuun... Wuff-wuff...”

“Uh, your feet hurt when you step on it... Yes, maybe it would hurt if you stepped on it with your toe beans...”

While it was rounded enough for humans to step on it with bare feet, perhaps it was too painful for Leo.

I heard that paws were quite sensitive, so perhaps it could not be helped... Hmm, but I still couldn’t cause trouble in a house where we were guests.

Back in Japan, I always had a rag near the entrance so that I could wipe her feet after coming back from a walk. And after a while, Leo had learned to wipe her feet by herself.

And after coming to this mansion, I had told Leo about the doormat, and since she seemed to have understood, I was relieved and hadn’t noticed...

“In any case, Ms. Gelda. Would it be possible for you to bring me a wet rag?”

“Yes, right away!”

“I’m terribly sorry, Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire.”

“Hahaha! I was wondering what you were going on about, and it was just a little dirt! And what’s this about Silver Fenrirs having weak paws? Well, Mr. Takumi, do not be troubled over it!”

“Yes, Mr. Takumi. We want good Leo to live here freely, so you really do not need to be so concerned?”

I asked Ms. Gelda to bring me a wet rag.

And after she went to fetch one, I apologized to Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire.

Thankfully, neither of them were bothered by it... However, I didn't want to take advantage of them and leave things like this either.

It would be best to avoid dirtying the floor altogether.

Ms. Lyra and the others were very good to us, and I did not want to make more work for them.

In the meantime, Ms. Anne was petting Sherry and took no notice of us. But Tilura was a little puzzled as if she didn't see what the issue was.

“Uhh, once Ms. Gelda brings me the rag, I will wipe Leo's paws. So please don't wait for me and go to the dining hall.”

“Very well.”

“Yes... But it's really nothing, Mr. Takumi.”

“I'll be waiting for you Leo!”

“Kyuunn... Kuun-kuun.”

I sent the others off to the dining hall and then waited for Ms. Gelda.

But Leo, don't whimper at the others as if you don't want them to leave you behind!

“Leo... I understand that your paws are sensitive, but I wish you had told me sooner. You don’t want to inconvenience the others, do you?”

“Wuff... Wuff-wuff. Kuun.”

“Hmm? You thought that I was too preoccupied? And that I might not listen if you said it hurt...”

“Wuff.”

Leo looked quite crestfallen as she explained the reason to me.

Indeed, I had been very busy with sword training, studying medicine and other things... But Leo was special to me.

“You’re very silly. If you had told me, I would have done something to help you. We’ve been buddies for a long time now, and you’ve helped me a lot, Leo. This is really nothing. I would have been able to do something about it.”

“Wuff...kuuun.”

“Ah...hey, Leo. Wait. Stop moving...”

If you move, then you’ll make even more footprints on the floor.

Leo must have been very happy about what I said, as she pushed her face towards me and started to lick my face.

I took her face with both of my hands and tried to stop her from moving so much.

“Alright, Leo. But from now on, you tell me if something is wrong, okay? And I will see what I can do. ...Though, there is not a whole lot that I can do that you can’t do better.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

I said this carefully while looking straight into Leo's face.

Leo wagged her tail happily. But now I was worried that it would hit the wall and make a hole in it...

Thankfully, the hallways were quite wide here, so it was probably fine.

It was a good thing that this mansion was so huge...

"Haa...hahh... Sorry to keep you waiting!"

"Ms. Gelda. Thank you. ...You really didn't have to rush like that..."

"No, it is for you and Leo!"

"Wuff..."

I thanked Ms. Gelda, who had run towards us with the rag... But she really didn't need to rush back like that...

Leo also looked at Ms. Gelda apologetically... It seemed like she was saying, 'I'm sorry to trouble you'...

## Chapter 273

### We Drank The Pretty Colored Wine

After using the rag that Ms. Gelda brought to wipe all the dirt and dust from Leo's paws, we headed to the dining hall.

As Ms. Gelda could not go while holding the dirty rag, she went off on her separate way.

"Leo. From now on, you have to wipe your feet before coming inside, alright? If I am with you, I'll ask someone to bring a rag."

“Wuff!”

I said to Leo as we walked down the hallway.

Now they wouldn’t have to spend extra time cleaning the floors.

Well, it still wasn’t perfect...but I suppose they could forgive this much.

“Ah, Mr. Takumi. There you are.”

“Huh? Ah, Ms. Lyra.”

“Wuff?”

Just when we were about to reach the dining hall, I heard a voice come from behind me.

When I turned around, I saw that Ms. Lyra was there.

“It’s about the medicine that you ordered Milina to concoct.”

“How is it?”

“We separated it into two and mixed it. And it turned into something that is just like the first batch. Milina is taking it to Helena right now.”

“I see. Thank you. It must have been tiring for you too.”

“No, I was just fanning them... I hope you will thank Milina later.”

“Yes, of course.”

So Milina had been able to finish the job that I asked her to do.

Obviously, I would thank her when I saw her again.

And so we walked down the hallway with Ms. Lyra until we reached the dining hall.

“Now, let’s eat.”

“Yes.”

“Yes.”

“Wuff.”

“Kyau!”

After sitting down at the table, at Mr. Ekenhart’s cue, we began to eat.

Perhaps it was because of Mr. Ekenhart, but there was a lot of meat today as well.

Leo and Sherry would be happy about that. And while I enjoyed it as well, perhaps it was a bit much for Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne.

Or so I thought, but the two seemed like they took no notice of this as they ate.

As Tilura exercised a lot like I did, she had a great appetite.

Move a lot and eat a lot...she was very healthy.

“Mmm... So, Mr. Takumi. Would you like to explain this?”

“Ah, of course. I would be glad to.”

While chewing on his meat, Mr. Ekenhart pointed to the glasses of wine that had been served.

They contained the same pink wine that I had tasted earlier during the day.

...It really did look quite pretty.

Sebastian's eyes flashed at the word, 'explain,' but then he realized that he wasn't the one called upon, and he looked disappointed.

But it could not be helped this time.

"Uhh, it's wine that contains Ramogi. And as you can see, the color has changed quite a lot. According to Leo, you need to mix a certain amount in order to remove the disease completely."

"And...how much is that exactly?"

"Half of what you would use to treat one person. Any less, and the wine will still be infected. Isn't that right, Leo?"

"Wuff!"

Once I started to explain, Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne stopped eating and listened intently.

Both of them were looking at the wine with deep interest.

As for Tilura, Leo and Sherry, some juice had been prepared for them, and so they were busy drinking that.

"Hmm. I see. Yes, the color does seem quite different compared to normal wine."

"Yes, it's because of the Ramogi. Sebastian. You told me that if you put Ramogi in water, the color will change?"

“Indeed. It will dissolve and usually turn purple. Though, it is not known if it is due to a substance in the Ramogi, or some other change in the water... Well, it now seems to me that the reason is in the Ramogi.”

Mr. Ekenhart was curious about the color, and so I brought Sebastian into the conversation, much to his delight.

...He really had been waiting for this moment.

Mr. Ekenhart and the others stared at their glasses as they listened.

“It really is pretty...”

“Yes. Ordinary wine is pretty, but this has a nice clearness to it.”

“I think that women would like it. Yes, it is very nice in its own way. But what about the taste?”

“To be honest...well, I can’t really say. I feel as if it is slightly different from the original.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes. I drank it myself when in Range village, and... But I really do not know a lot about wine. I think it might be sweeter. But there is also a bitterness as well...”

“Bitterness... I see. Well, let us try drinking it then.”

“Yes.”

“It almost feels like a waste to drink something so pretty...”

It had a vibrant and clear pink color in the glass.

Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne sighed with admiration as they looked at it.

Just as Mr. Ekenhart said, it seemed like the women were fond of the color.

But now they wanted to check the taste... Or maybe it just Mr. Ekenhart, who loved his liquor.

Ms. Claire hesitated a little, but then she took a sip after seeing the others drink it.

“...It’s sweet! I’ve never drunk something like this before!”

“Indeed! It is so delicious! The beautiful color and fruity taste. But it also has the depth you expect from wine!”

“Hmm. It is quite good. And I can taste the bitterness that Mr. Takumi talked about...but it enhances the sweetness.”

“Yes. Perhaps some people would not care for it, but... I find it even better than what I drank in Range village.”

“I see. Well, this has been quite a success then.”

After drinking the wine, everyone was surprised by how delicious it was.

Mr. Ekenhart detected the bitterness as well, but overall, he was greatly satisfied with it.

Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne enjoyed the sweet fruitiness and did not say anything about the bitterness.

As Tilura, Leo and Sherry were drinking juice, they didn’t say anything, but seemed to be enjoying their drinks nonetheless.

Chapter 274

They Would Make Rosé Wine In Range Village

“Sebastian, what do you think?”

“Yes. I tasted some before it was served and... I think it can be used.”

“I see...”

So Sebastian had already tasted it.

In that case, maybe I could have left the explaining to him after all?

Well, it was already done, so that's fine.

“Mixing Ramogi into wine... It's a new idea. And while the color has changed, it is a nice color. And there are no issues with the taste. ...Mr. Takumi.”

“Yes?”

“If you agree to it Mr. Takumi, how about producing this in Range village?”

“In Range village?”

After getting the confirmation from Sebastian, Mr. Ekenhart nodded and then made this suggestion to me.

Make this in Range village, huh...

“As for me, I would have no objections to that... But what about the grapes?”

“Indeed. They were buying them from Count Barsler, were they not?”

“Yes. A different merchant from the usual one arrived and gave them the glass sphere..”

“As for the grapes, there is no issue there. We have many vineyards on our lands. There are plenty of other merchants that will be happy to sell to them.”

“Hmmm... Well, the original merchant will have to be investigated... But it seems like the acquiring of the grapes will not be a problem. And it is for a good cause. The making of delicious wine. And so I will handle it myself.”

The original merchant was clearly working for Count Barsler.

Perhaps he was even actively involved in the plot. So it would not be wise to continue to buy from him without knowing more.

Besides, I very much doubted that Mr. Hannes or the others would want to buy from him anyway.

However, as I was thinking about this, Ms. Anne then assured us.

Since there were plenty of other people selling grapes, we could always rely on them.

I didn't know if they would be of the same quality, but since they were harvested in the same territory, they couldn't be that different. So it would probably be fine.

“I think Range village would be very grateful to know that you are going to handle things.”

“Indeed. After all, it is very far away. And so there is nothing that a small village could do on its own... At worst, they would not be able to acquire any grapes and would have to stop making wine altogether. And so I will look into the matter so that they will be able to buy grapes as soon as possible. Sebastian.”

“Yes, certainly.”

If Mr. Ekenhart was going to act, then that would be a big comfort.

The duke's house really was powerful.

After being called by Mr. Ekenhart, Sebastian nodded and left the dining hall.

He would do some research and find information to help make the decisions.

“Now, Range village won’t have to lose its industry.”

“You could say that losing this wine would be a major loss.”

“Mmm. Also, we’ll have to think about how to sell it... People will not understand what it is if it is sold the normal way.”

“Indeed...”

“How is it usually sold?”

As someone who had become heavily involved with Range village, I would be very happy if they didn’t lose their source of income.

Even Ms. Claire agreed that it would be a great loss, as she had become fond of its taste.

It was rare for me to come across a wine that I enjoyed this much, and so I also thought that it would be a waste to not be able to drink it anymore.

...And I’m sure Phillip would agree, if he was here.

“Usually it is sold in barrels. Great barrels, if they are in taverns or places where they are consumed in large quantities. Otherwise...they are sold in small barrels.”

“I see... Would it be too difficult to sell them in bottles?”

“Well...indeed. It would definitely be more expensive, but...perhaps it will make it look more luxurious as well.”

“And people will also be able to see the color.”

“I think more people will want to buy it when they see the color.”

“It really is pretty.”

When I asked Mr. Ekenhart about how it was sold, he said that it was usually sold in barrels.

Because it was more expensive to make bottles.

And since the village was hardly wealthy, they could not afford to spend money on that.

But since Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne were so enamored by the color, it was probably true that showing it off in glass would allow us to sell it at a higher price as well.

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“It will surely be very popular among women.”

“Yes. Not only the taste of the rosé wine, but the color is so appealing.”

“...Rosé wine?”

“Yes. This color wine...that is neither red or white is called that... Is that not the case here?”

“Hmm. All wine is just called wine. We don’t change the name based on the color.”

Well, I didn’t actually know by what definition something was considered rosé wine. But since the color was similar, I just decided to call it that.

“Then this is rosé wine... Perhaps we could sell it as a completely new kind of wine.”

“Yes... Something different from anything else... The taste may not be all that different, but it is sweet with a mild bitterness...and it has a pretty color. There is enough to separate it from the others. That does not sound bad.”

“Indeed. Bottle them... And if sold while emphasizing the appearance, it should do very well.”

“Since it’s not just the color, but the taste is also good... It will surely be a popular product.”

And so it was decided that it would be called rosé wine, and would be bottled and sold as something unusual.

...It was rather odd to have Ms. Anne there, giving her opinions on how the duke would conduct his business, but I decided to not mention it.

Obviously, it was a rather awkward situation, but I suppose we were both currently guests here... And I was giving my opinion as well.

It was a good thing to hear the opinions of as many people as possible, and I suppose it showed how open-minded the duke was.

## Chapter 275

### I Would Take Leo For Walks In Ractos

“Well then, as soon as everything is settled, we can start production in Range village. Is that alright, Mr. Takumi?”

“Yes. I’ve been quite worried about the future of Range village, so if things can go in a good direction for them, then I will have no objections.”

“I had been discussing it with Sebastian, and if rumors of the disease spread, then the wine will stop selling... Of course, we will do what we can to prevent that, and will not say what the reason was.”

“Well you can never tell where rumors will come from or whether they will spread or not.”

“Indeed. But if we release a new wine, and people’s attention moves there, we may be able to stop the rumors. At the very least, they shouldn’t spread too much.”

“That’s true. Mr. Ekenhart, will you be selling it at Mr. Kalis’s store?”

Mr. Ekenhart was worried about rumors spreading about how Range village’s wine was the cause of the disease.

But both he and Sebastian agreed that they could deal with that by selling the new wine, which would attract a lot of attention.

“Of course, it will be sold at Kalis’s store as well. But...we will have to sell it at other stores as well, if we want its reputation to grow. Besides, it would be nice to sell it in other towns eventually. This wine should be drunk everywhere.”

“I agree with that.”

If they only sold it at Mr. Kalis’s store, then word would spread too slowly.

Even if the store was owned by the duke, there was only so much that a single store could do.

And so they would have to sell it at as many stores as possible, in order for its reputation to grow as Mr. Ekenhart said.

“Well, we will have to discuss it with Sebastian later.”

“Yes.”

“And one other thing, Mr. Takumi.”

“What is it?”

“It can be later, when you have time. But can you take Leo to the town of Ractos?”

“Leo?”

“Wuff?”

Mr. Ekenhart was asking me to take Leo to Ractos.

I couldn't understand why. Leo had been drinking her grape juice with satisfaction, but she now looked up with a puzzled expression.

Maybe she was surprised at being called so suddenly.

“Well, you will have plenty of occasion to visit it from now, won't you Mr. Takumi? And while the town guards are used to seeing her... The residents... There are plenty who have not seen Leo yet. And so I want them to get used to her presence, so as to not cause confusion. Understand?”

“I see. Yes. But I don't think that I can go every day...”

I didn't know how often would be enough. But I couldn't visit it every day.

I had to make the herbs and also had my sword training.

“Aye. It does not have to be every day. Just once every four or five days should do. It could be less if you are especially busy.”

“Very well. I will try to go to Ractos with that regularity then. So I think I'll start by going once tomorrow.”

“Wuff!”

If it was just once every four to five days, then it would not be much of a hassle.

After I answered Mr. Ekenhart, Leo barked happily and nodded.

Leo would be able to run around outside, so it would be good exercise.

“Thank you. And I’m sure you will have business in Ractos some days, which can be included as one of your visits.”

“Yes. Maybe I’ll use the opportunity to sightsee a little.”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

I had gone to Ractos a number of times, but never had the chance to look around and explore at my leisure.

Even though I had been there more times, it was Range village where I was able to relax and really enjoy and learn about the place.

Of course, they were different in scale, and my purpose was different. So perhaps they shouldn’t be compared...

“If you have any questions about Ractos, you should ask Sebastian. Like if there is anything in particular you are looking for.”

“Very well. While I’ve been there a number of times, I don’t know the place well at all... So I will ask Sebastian if I need anything.”

The only places I knew of were...Mr. Kalis’s store, the orphanage...and Ms. Isabelle’s store.

I had also been to a general goods store, but it was only once, and we were following Sebastian, so I didn’t really remember the way there.

In any case, it might be nice to visit Ms. Isabelle and talk and drink tea.

There was a lot that I wanted to ask her about magic items, and I’m sure she would be happy to have someone to talk to.

“Hmmm. That’s all for now... Still, it is eerily quiet...”

“It is...”

After eating dinner, we always drank tea together.

But on this day, there was no tea, as we were drinking wine.

At Mr. Ekenhart’s words, I turned my head and looked in the direction of Ms. Claire and the others.

Tilura must have had no interest in what we were talking about, as she was nearly drifting off to sleep.

Sherry was in her arms, and was already sleeping.

As for Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne, they were more focused on their drinks.

“Lyra. Pour me another glass.”

“But Lady Claire...”

“Just bring it over now. And some for Anne as well.”

“...Yes, certainly.”

“Ms. Claire, I don’t think I can drink anymore...”

“What are you talking about, Anne? Surely you have just gotten started?”

“...Ah...Claire seems to be a little drunk...”

“It does seem like it...”

Said Mr. Ekenhart and I. And I felt a little sweat drip down the side of my face.

Ms. Claire was tipping her wine glass into her mouth. At a glance, she seemed normal enough, but there was definitely something different about her.

As her face hadn't become flushed or pale, we hadn't noticed it earlier.

Ms. Claire now had a firm grip on Ms. Anne's arm, and she could not escape.

"Hmm? What is it, father and Mr. Takumi?"

"Uh, well... Perhaps you've drunk enough now?"

"What are you babbling about? In this house...this amount is nothing!"

"Re-really?"

I feel like I had seen something like this recently...?

Ah, it was Phillip in Range village.

As this was Range village's wine, the alcohol content was pretty high.

And because it was sweet and easy to drink, she might have drank too much.

As Ms. Lyra poured her another glass, Mr. Ekenhart and I regretted not noticing it sooner.

Chapter 276

aMs. Claire Was Dangerously Drunk

"Mr. Takumi... I think it would be best if we removed ourselves quickly?"

“...I agree.”

“Wuff...”

Mr. Ekenhart said quietly so that Ms. Claire would not hear us.

Both Leo and I agreed with him strongly.

I didn't know what she would do now that she was drunk, but I had various memories of sitting with people who were drinking.

In these cases, people who were usually quiet would become unexpectedly drunk. Their antics would involve those around them, it could have grave consequences that carried on to the following day...

Mr. Ekenhart, Leo and I looked at one another and nodded. Then we slowly got up from our seats.

“Now, drink more of it, Anne! We've only gotten started here!”

“Hey, Ms. Claire? I am not very strong when it comes to wine...”

While they were talking, Mr. Ekenhart moved stealthily and grabbed Tilura.

Tilura had been dozing off, and so she looked surprised. But there was no time to explain.

She looked up, along with Sherry, and so I put a finger to my mouth and signaled for her to be quiet.

I didn't know if she understood it, but she didn't make a sound after that.

And then we somehow managed to make it to the door.

“...Sorry, Lyra. Gelda. You two handle the rest.”

“...Certainly. We will watch over her from a distance.”

“Thank you.”

“Wuff.”

Then he gently opened the door. As we went through, Mr. Ekenhart whispered to Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda, and apologized.

“Huh? I see it’s only us here now, Anne. Hmm. You must drink more!”

“Now wait a minute, Ms. Claire! Oh, the others have fled and abandoned me here!”

“What are you babbling about? I told you to drink!”

“Ah, but, oh... Ahhh!!”

“Sorry...Anneliese...”

“We were not cautious enough, and now she has been sacrificed...”

“Wuff...”

We heard the screams right before the door shut behind us. And the three of us muttered with regret.

“Ha... Well, we made it out.”

“At Ms. Anne’s expense, I suppose.”

“She was most noble to sacrifice herself... Thank you, Anneliese.”

“Oh, is something the matter?”

We were now safely away from the dining hall, and were sighing in relief in the hallway.

As we thanked Ms. Anne for her selflessness, Sebastian walked up to us with a puzzled expression.

“Oh, Sebastian. I would advise you to not go near the dining hall right now. Claire has become very drunk when I wasn’t looking...”

“I see... Well, I shall not go near it until tomorrow then.”

“Judging by your reaction... You’ve experienced this before?”

“Well, yes...”

“When Lady Claire is under the effects of wine, she will listen to no one. I had thought one glass would be safe, but...”

“She seems to have drunk many cups while Mr. Takumi and I were talking. I suppose it was because it was so delicious.”

“It appears so...”

So Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian knew what she was like when she drank too much.

Perhaps that was why they had never served wine in this mansion before... Or was I overthinking it now?

“Sometimes, Lady Claire’s curiosity gets the better of her... But since she is such a proper lady on most days, she constantly has to restrain herself...”

“But then it seems to come out when she drinks.”

“So the drinking relieves stress... That does seem a little dangerous...”

“Indeed... That’s why we’ve been careful up until now...”

“It is my fault for not being there. This has not happened for so long that I let my guard down.”

“Hmm... We will just have to be more careful next time.”

“In any case, we can do nothing but pray for Ms. Anne’s safety and wait until things settle...”

“It was a good thing that I was able to extract Tilura in time...”

“Hah...”

“Hah...”

“Wuff...”

“??”

We must have looked rather odd there, standing in the hallway and holding our heads.

And our sighs could be heard echoing down the hall.

As for Tilura, who was being carried by her father, and Sherry, who was being carried by Tilura; they did not understand the situation and looked puzzled.

...Explaining it...would affect Ms. Claire’s authority as the older sister, and so I wouldn’t say anything.

“Hah... I had no idea that Ms. Claire would become like that when she drinks...”

After that, I separated from Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian, took a bath, and returned to my room.

Since I had drunk to...I skipped my daily sword swinging.

Besides, Tilura had also been too tired to do it.

“Wuff?”

“Ah, I passed the dining hall on my way back, and it seemed like they were still drinking.”

“Wuff...”

While I was sitting on the bed, Leo asked, ‘Is that still going on?’

Leo let out a sigh when she heard my answer, and she rolled up into a ball. I thought back to the times when I had to drink with co-workers.

I never had enjoyed drinking then, but I was sometimes forced to join by my superiors.

And I had seen people like Ms. Claire, who would get drunk and start pestering other people.

While it wasn’t something that I experienced that many times...I knew that it could be very troublesome.

And so I agreed with Mr. Ekenhart’s quick decision to make a run for it.

From now on, if I drank with Ms. Claire, then I would have to be careful that she didn’t drink too much.

Knock-knock.

“Hmm? Who could it be? Come in!”

As I was petting Leo and thinking about what had happened, there was a knock on the door.

Was it Ms. Claire, visiting like she had before? I wondered for a moment. But she should still be in the dining hall and drinking.

Then who could it be? I wondered as I called out to them.

Leo also looked to the door curiously.

## Chapter 277

### I Was Asked To Do Something In Secret

“It’s me. Mr. Takumi, do you have a minute?”

“Mr. Ekenhart? Yes, of course.”

“Excuse me.”

It was Mr. Ekenhart who was on the other side of the door.

We had been together not long ago. What business could he have now?

“Sorry to disturb you. Were you about to sleep?”

“No. I was just relaxing.”

I would have gone to sleep soon enough if not disturbed. But I wasn’t really tired, and so I didn’t mind.

“So, is something the matter?”

“Ah... Indeed. It’s about my request that you go to Ractos...”

Mr. Ekenhart seemed a little uncomfortable, as if he was thinking about something.

Was there a problem concerning me going to Ractos?

“Yes, I was going to go tomorrow. Did something happen?”

While there wasn’t any rush, I had still thought that I would go tomorrow after making the herbs.

It wouldn’t take long if I rode on Leo, so I could reach Ractos before Nick left and hand the herbs to Mr. Kalis directly.

“Uhh, indeed... I...was wondering if I could go with you.”

“You, Mr. Ekenhart?”

“Mmm.”

“I don’t mind, but... Does Sebastian know that you will be going?”

“I wish to keep it a secret from him. And you will be riding on good Leo, yes? So I will not have to use the carriage.”

He did not want to tell Sebastian... So I suppose he wanted to secretly go to Ractos without telling anyone?

“Are you sure? You will not even have guards with you...”

“Well, I do know that I would need them under normal circumstances. However, Leo will be there, and I can fight as well. And you’re not too bad these days.”

“Hah... Yes, it’s true that we should be fine if Leo is with us...”

We would not really require guards if we were with Leo.

But then again, she could not go inside of buildings, so it wasn't completely safe.

Mr. Ekenhart was a master swordsman though, so perhaps there was nothing to worry about...

"I want to see the town by myself, without guards following me... But Sebastian and the others wouldn't like it, and would try to stop me."

"I see."

Mr. Ekenhart was friendly and easy to talk to. But he was still the head of this house.

And due to his position, he could not be put in harm's way... Even I knew how important he was.

After all, he might have enemies who would try to target him.

"Please, take me with you!"

"Hah... But if they find out, it's you who is going to get in trouble."

"Hmm, I know that."

"Very well. Then we will go to Ractos tomorrow together."

"Thank you, Mr. Takumi!"

Mr. Ekenhart bowed his head pleadingly.

While I couldn't help but think that Ms. Claire and Sebastian would be quite angry if they found out...he would not give up.

And so I nodded and agreed. Mr. Ekenhart looked quite happy... Did he really want to visit the town without his guards so much...?

Well, since I was going there anyway, it wasn't any trouble for me.

"So... Tomorrow, I will leave the house without my guards. We can meet up on the way there."

"... Yes, I see."

I didn't know if he could leave the mansion without being noticed, but he obviously knew this place very well. So perhaps he could.

Besides, when I had first met Ms. Claire, she had also done something similar... Maybe the guards here weren't very watchful?

No, I suppose it was because they knew the guards so well that they could find openings.

"I'll see you tomorrow then."

"Yes."

"Wuff!"

And then Mr. Ekenhart left.

Leo barked cheerfully.

As she liked carrying people, she was probably happy that there were two passengers now.

"Hah... So I guess we're going with him tomorrow... Well, I'm used to it, so it will probably be fine."

"Wuff?"

“Well, he is an important person. I sometimes get nervous. ...Anyway, we should get some sleep now.”

“Wuff.”

When it was just me and Leo in the room, we talked a little before getting into bed.

Before falling asleep, I briefly worried about Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne, who must still be drinking, but as there was nothing I could do, I closed my eyes and fell asleep.

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The next day, I washed up and followed Tilura, who came to greet us, and went down to the dining hall.

“Good morning.”

“Good morning, Mr. Takumi.”

“...Where is Ms. Claire and the others?”

When I entered the dining hall, I saw that Sebastian and Ms. Gelda was there, but there was no one else.

...It looked like Mr. Ekenhart was sleeping late again.

But it was unusual for Ms. Claire to not be present.

“Lady Claire is still asleep. It is because of the wine she drank yesterday. I believe that she will not come down until midday...”

“...I see.”

“And Lady Anneliese said that she is not feeling well, and so she is resting in her room. And since Lyra had to stay up so late, she is also resting now.”

“It sounds like quite the disaster for Ms. Anne... And I hope Ms. Lyra rests well.”

After Mr. Ekenhart and I had escaped from the dining hall, we had left Ms. Anne as a sacrifice and Ms. Lyra had to stand and watch.

Apparently, Ms. Claire was in a deep sleep, and Ms. Anne...was suffering from a hangover.

Sleep well, Ms. Lyra... I'm very sorry.

“Now, breakfast will be served.”

“Thank you.”

And so today it was just me, Leo, Tilura and Sherry, which made for a rather lonely breakfast.

But then again, perhaps it was good once in a while.

“Sherry got mad at me...”

“Hahaha. It's because you keep bothering her while she is eating.”

“Wuff.”

“I'm sorry, Sherry.”

“Kyau!”

During breakfast, Tilura kept touching Sherry while she was eating.

And once her hand just happened to go near Sherry's mouth, and she thought that Tilura was trying to take her food.

Leo was also nodding as if to take Sherry's side.

But even after Tilura apologized, Sherry was still upset. And after barking once, she turned her nose away indignantly.

## Chapter 278

### Sherry Was In A Bad Mood

"She hates me now..."

"Well, don't worry. I'm sure she will be back to normal after some time has passed. I think..."

I didn't know much about fenrirs, but unless they were used to it, animals did not like it when you touched them while they are eating.

In fact, I had once done the same thing as Tilura, and touched Leo while she was eating and was almost bitten.

She was used to it now, and would allow me to pet her. Besides, we could communicate now, so there was no worry about her biting me.

In any case, it hadn't been that long since Sherry started to live with humans, so she wasn't fully acclimated yet.

A wild animal... Well, she was a monster, so it could not be helped that she was cautious.

"I will apologize to Sherry again later..."

"Yes. I think that would be best."

“By the way, what are you going to do today, Mr. Takumi? You were saying something about going to town yesterday...”

So Tilura had been listening to my conversation with Mr. Ekenhart.

She had looked so sleepy...but I had underestimated her.

I suppose children were like that. They listened to what adults were saying more than you'd think. And so I couldn't let my guard down.

“Yes, Leo and I are going to go to Ractos. ...Though, not immediately, as I have to make the herbs first.”

“I understand. I have to study until lunch time... And then I will apologize to Sherry and we can play together. Also, since I didn't do my swings yesterday, I will do them while you are away!”

“Haha. Do your best then.”

“Yes!”

So Tilura intended to do her swings after studying.

She was a hard worker, and I couldn't allow myself to fall behind.

Though, I was not likely to be able to train today, so I'll have to make up for it some other time.

As for Sherry, she turned to Tilura at the mention of 'playing.'

“Ah, master! Good morning!”

“Milina. Morning.”

After I had my morning tea, I was on my way to the garden in order to make some herbs, when I bumped into Milina.

She greeted me cheerfully and I smiled back.

...Though, she was rubbing her right arm a little... Were her muscles sore?

“Milina. I heard about it from Ms. Lyra. Thank you for concocting the medicine.”

“Yes, I did my best! ...Though, my arms hurt a little.”

“Well, you had to mix it for quite a long time...”

So it was sore muscles after all.

Milina chuckled awkwardly as she talked about her arm, and I chuckled back.

“Ah, I have a message from Ms. Helena. She says that she is going to add the medicine into the Ramogi wine. And you will be able to drink it tomorrow.”

“I see. Thank you.”

Ms. Helena sure worked fast.

Well, I suppose everyone in this mansion worked fast?

In any case, tomorrow, I will be able to taste this healthy wine.

And since only the Ramogi wine was safe to drink, she was going to mix it into that one.

Milina had helped with the medicine this time, so perhaps she should taste it with us.

“Alright, that should be enough.”

“Wuff.”

“Ah, Ms. Gelda. Can you give this Ramogi to Ms. Helena? It’s for the wine.”

“Yes, certainly.”

After leaving Milina, I had gone to the garden and immediately started to make herbs.

I made more than usual so that I would have some to give to Ms. Helena as well.

As for the other herbs, they apparently still had some left.

Now that the malicious store was gone, there was no monopolizing of them, I suppose.

It was necessary to make more Ramogi for the wine, and in order to send herbs to other places as well, I would have to start making more than Ractos’s share.

Because according to the contract with the duke, they would sell it in other towns.

Of course, there was a limit to how much I should make, so I don’t faint again. And so I wasn’t sure if I would be able to make enough to go around...

Perhaps I could make some herbs, and then they could be grown in some herb farm? Well, it was something to discuss with Sebastian and Mr. Ekenhart later on.

“Alright, Leo. We should go now.”

“Wuff!”

I returned to my room once and prepared to leave the mansion. Then I called Leo.

She seemed to really be happy about the idea of running outside, as she wagged her tail and barked happily.

I had the herbs to give to Mr. Kalis, and I was sure that I hadn't forgotten anything.

"Mr. Takumi, are you going out now?"

"Sebastian. Yes, I'm going to go to Ractos."

"Wuff."

After leaving my room, I met Sebastian while I was headed to the entrance hall.

Leo was wagging her tail and telling me to hurry up... We'll be out in a minute, but calm down.

"I've heard from His Grace. While some of the residents there might be surprised by Leo, I hope that things will be peaceful."

"Wuff!"

Sebastian said with a bow, and Leo nodded understandingly.

"Leo was quite popular with the children. But adults...tend to be scared."

"Yes. I'm sure they will just keep their distance... But some might react in a more extreme way. But we have notified the guards, and so they know that there is no danger..."

"Well, if there is a problem, I will just ride on Leo and leave."

"I see. Though, I don't think there would be a problem if you dealt with any who are foolish enough to attack Leo... But I suppose the damage might be too great if Leo went wild in the town."

"I will be careful."

“Wuff.”

Leo could easily defeat monsters, and even a master swordsman like Mr. Ekenhart could not beat her.

Even if a group of humans attacked Leo at once, they would not stand a chance.

However, if Leo went all out, she might destroy whole buildings... So I understood why Sebastian was concerned.

Most people would probably just be scared and run away or stare from afar... But if not, then I would just take Leo and leave.

Besides, no one would be fast enough to chase after us.

“Will you take some guards with you? If it is only one or two, they could ride on Leo with you.”

“No, I’m fine. I’m just going to sightsee a little, and so I don’t want to take anyone’s time.”

“It is no trouble, but... Very well.”

If I took a guard with us, it would be that much more work for someone.

And I doubted anything would happen in the town, so there was no need for a guard. Especially when Leo was with me.

But considering that I was going to meet up with Mr. Ekenhart, maybe it wasn’t too bad of an idea... Only, he really wanted to keep it a secret. So this was probably the right decision.

## Chapter 279

### I Met Up With Mr. Ekenhart

“By the way, where is Mr. Ekenhart? Is he still sleeping?”

“No. But as he has no work in particular today, he is relaxing in his room.”

“Ah, I see.”

“Should I tell him that you want to see him?”

“Uh...no. I don't want to bother him if he is resting. I'm sure that he is very tired now.”

“Of course.

My heart skipped a beat when he asked that.

I didn't know what Mr. Ekenhart was doing right now, but he might be in the middle of slipping out, or perhaps he had already left.

If Sebastian went to his room now, the plan would be exposed... And I didn't want that, since I had already agreed to help him.

...Though, for Sebastian and the people of the mansion, it was probably better if he was stopped...

“Well, I will be going now.”

“Yes, please be careful.”

“Have a good day!”

I talked with Sebastian as I went to the entrance hall. Then I opened the door and stepped outside.

Aside from Sebastian, several of the servants saw me off as well.

While it wasn't as many as when Mr. Ekenhart or Ms. Claire left...it really wasn't necessary. Ah, well.

"Let's go, Leo."

"Wuff! Wuff-wuff."

"Hahaha. Do you like to run that much?"

"Wuff!"

As soon as she was outside, Leo lay down so that I could get on her back.

I climbed on and Leo barked happily.

The garden was rather small for someone of Leo's size, so I suppose she really enjoyed being outside like this.

Perhaps it would be good to visit Ractos, as if I was taking her on a walk.

"Leo, stop!"

"Wuff!"

"...Ah, Mr. Takumi. What a coincidence."

"Uh...coincidence? But we talked about this yesterday?"

"Hahaha. Well, it sounds better when you say it like that. That we just happened to meet on the road to Ractos."

"Is that right?"

“Wuff.”

A few minutes of running after leaving the mansion.

Along the road, I had seen Mr. Ekenhart, and so I told Leo to stop.

He then walked out from the shadow of a tree and came towards us. But he pretended like this was a chance encounter.

...I wasn't sure why, but if that's what he wanted to do, then it was fine.

Though Leo was also tilting her head as if puzzled.

“Sorry, Mr. Takumi.”

“No, I really don't mind... Besides, I don't know much about the town, so I actually feel better being with someone.”

“Well, it will likely be troublesome if someone sees me and... No, that's not what I meant to say...”

“Huh?”

Mr. Ekenhart got on behind me, and then Leo started running again. That's when he apologized to me for some reason.

I thought it was about coming and about being secretive with the others, but it was not the case.

“You have to ride on Leo with someone like me... I'm sure you would prefer to ride with Claire? ... Or is Lyra?”

“What! What are you talking about!”

“Well, if you had to ride on Leo with someone who was holding onto you from behind, surely you would prefer a lady? Or is that not the case?”

“...Well...yes, I would prefer a lady, but...”

“Yes, and so that’s why I’m apologizing...”

“There is no need to apologize...”

So Mr. Ekenhart was apologizing about having to grab onto me while riding on Leo.

He was right that having a man grab onto me didn’t exactly make me happy.

But I don’t know why that had to lead to bringing up his daughter’s name, or one of his servants.

Well...they were both rather voluptuous...and so the idea of having them hold me from behind...  
No, no. I should not be thinking of such things.

“Hmm... You’re thinking about it now, aren’t you?”

“...It’s because you say such strange things, Mr. Ekenhart.”

I had shaken my head to get rid of such thoughts, which only betrayed me to him.

But who wouldn’t think of it after hearing that?

“Hahaha! Well, you are a man, after all. ...I suppose there is some hope for Claire then...”

“What did you say?”

“No, nothing. By the way, Mr. Takumi. I’ve seen that Claire wears a certain hair ornament often now... Did you give that to her?”

“Ah, yes. I bought it as a present when I first went to Ractos. I also got something for Tilura.”

“Tilura... Ah, that necklace. It had a wolf on it... She must have been very happy.”

“Yes, she was.”

Mr. Ekenhart had muttered something, but quickly changed the subject to Ms. Claire’s hair ornament.

After all, she wore it nearly every day.

I suppose as her father, he was curious about the ornament that he had never seen before?

“...You can’t court two people at once, you know?”

“Bah! I-I wasn’t doing that! It was just a present to show my gratitude, because I was treated so well as a guest!”

“Hmm...really?”

What is he going on about now?

Why would someone as inexperienced as me suddenly do that?

Besides, Tilura was much too young!

As for Ms. Claire...as Mr. Ekenhart saw when he spied on us before, we had gotten rather close. She was beautiful and had a good personality... Who knows what would have happened if we hadn’t been interrupted... No, don’t think about that!

I had to make sure Mr. Ekenhart stopped saying such strange things!

## I Ended The Conversation

“Really, you shouldn’t say such things about your own daughter. Besides... I thought most fathers do not like to think of their daughters with someone...”

“Well, it is true. However, my daughters...well, in regards to Claire, I have been expecting it for some time. After all, there was all that talk of suitors.”

“Ah, that’s right. You were the one who kept bringing them up to her...”

“But she was the one who wanted to first. Regardless, because of that, I’ve become used to the idea of her getting married.”

I suppose it was true, since he did care about her a lot, but was still ready to see her get married.

“And so as long as she accepts the person, I have nothing to say. Besides, since I’ve grown fond of you already, it seemed perfect enough.”

“Uh, I’m glad to hear you say that, but... I’m not quite sure what she thinks.”

“Indeed. Well, when one observes her, it seems rather obvious?”

“Hmm...”

“And don’t worry, it is no matter to me that you are not a nobleman! And this had nothing to do with Leo either!”

“You don’t need to try to set yourself apart from Ms. Anne so much... In any case, this conversation just feels awkward, so we should leave it at that!”

Why did I have to get talked to in such a way by the father of a woman I was interested in...

Well, in many cases, a father was the biggest obstacle, so at least I didn’t have to worry about that... But it still felt strange.

In any case, we hadn't even reached the town yet, and I did not want to continue this conversation any farther.

"Hmm... However, there is Anneliese now... One must acquire the promising bit of property before it is too late..."

"...Leo. Run faster!"

"Wuff? Wuff... Grau!"

As I sensed that Mr. Ekenhart would not drop it, I told Leo to quicken her pace.

We were at the halfway point now, and I just wanted to reach Ractos as quickly as possible.

Leo had been listening, and she sighed with exasperation. Then she barked and began to run faster.

...Now that I thought about it, Leo had also wanted me to settle down with someone soon... And so did Sebastian. Really, why was everyone here always thinking about that?

"He-hey, wait! Mr. Takumi! It's too fast! tsk!"

"...Fine. Leo, run just a little slower."

"Wuff."

"Hah... I don't know how you do it, Mr. Takumi..."

As soon as Leo quickened her pace, Mr. Ekenhart started to shout from behind me.

Apparently, this was too fast for him.

But he quieted down after Leo slowed down a little.

“I thought you were used to riding Leo...?”

“Well, I am used to being around Leo... But at that speed... She was faster than any horse!”

“Is that so?”

“Wuff?”

I had little experience with riding horses, so I could not compare... But she had been running quite fast.

Well, perhaps I was fine because I was used to riding on bullet trains...

Leo didn't reach those speeds. Though, I wasn't exposed to the wind when in a train, but I could tell by the speed that our surroundings seemed to move.

Also, we had rushed to Range village at a great speed as well, which helped me get used to it.

“While it is wonderful that Leo can move so quickly... Most people would not be able to bear that speed... I can barely see my surroundings.”

“Really? I rather enjoy seeing everything shoot by.”

“You might be the only one, Mr. Takumi. We are too used to the speed of horses. And so it is no good.”

I suppose so.

If you weren't used to it, then going over 100 kilometer per hour would be surprising and disorienting.

And the wind was so strong that it could be difficult to breathe... The only reason that I was fine was because I was right behind Leo's head, which blocked some of the win.

...I thought that Mr. Ekenhart would be fine if he was behind me... But it was not the case.

“Alright, You can stop now, Leo.”

“Wuff!”

After Leo had run for some time, I had her stop near the entrance of Ractos town.

“Hah... I knew she was faster than a horse, but not this fast... That was even faster than before, you know? Faster than a horse during a forced march...”

Mr. Ekenhart got down from Leo and stood on shaky feet.

“Thank you, Leo.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“...Perhaps we can go slower on the way back.”

“Wuff?”

I petted Leo while thanking her near the town’s entrance.

Mr. Ekenhart also petted her gratefully, but also made a suggestion... But Leo just looked at him uncomprehendingly.

She would definitely continue to run fast.

In any case, as Mr. Ekenhart was able to pet Leo normally now, it showed how much he was used to her.

It was a good thing I had made him play with Tilura and Leo.

“...Your Grace?”

When we reached the gates, the guards who were standing there noticed us.

“At ease. I am not here on any particular business today. Think of it as an inspection. And so you should go about your duties as normal.”

“Yes, Your Grace!”

“Good day.”

“Wuff.”

The guard was about to go and call his superior, but Mr. Ekenhart stopped him.

I greeted them as we walked by, and Leo barked once.

Perhaps due to Mr. Ekenhart, the guards stood still and watched us leave.

...Or was it because of Leo?

As I had come here several times, I thought they were used to seeing her by now... But maybe not?