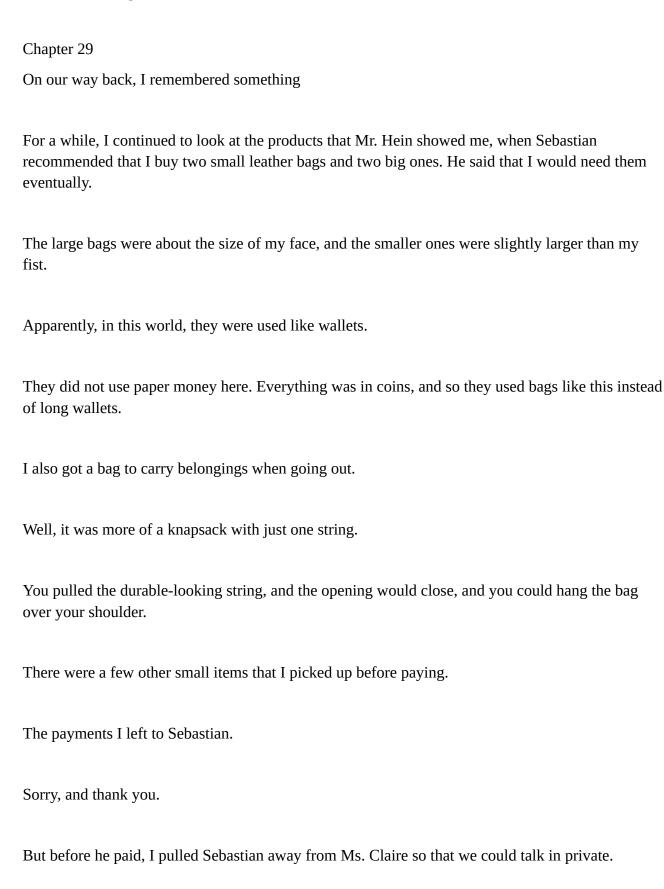
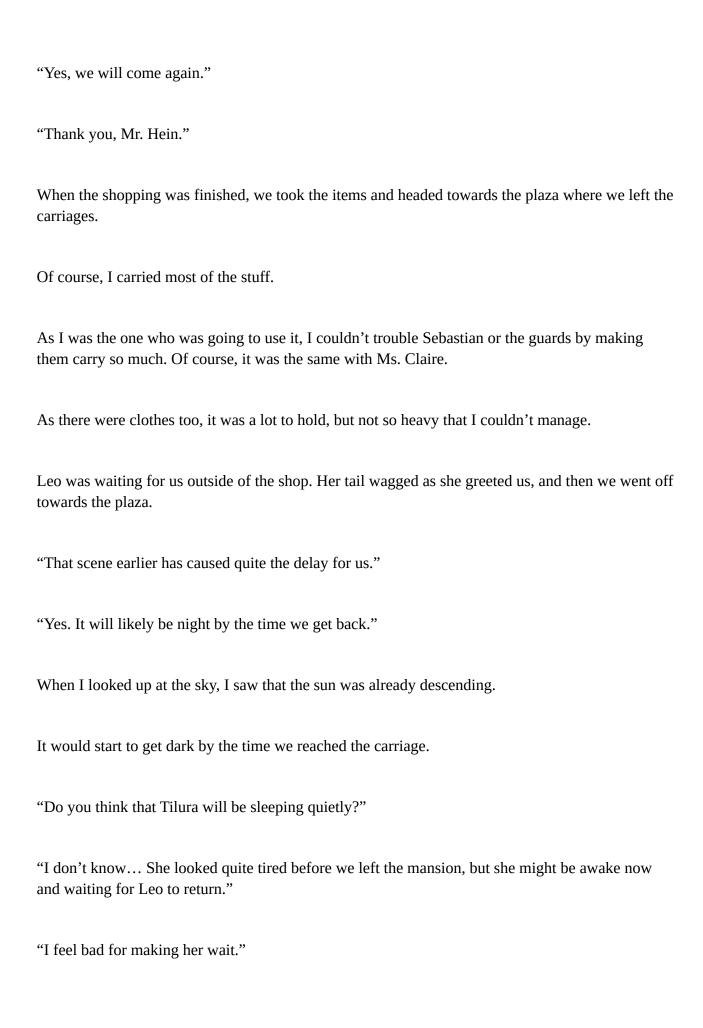
Beloved Dog 29



"Excuse me, Sebastian. Do you have a minute?"

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"Oh, what is it, Mr. Takumi? Is there something else that you want?"
"No, it's not that. But I want to buy these two accessories..."
"Hmm. I didn't know that you liked to wear such things, Mr. Takumi."
"No, not for me. ... Um... for Ms. Claire and Tilura..."
"I see. So it's a present."
"That's right... But as you know, I don't have any money right now."
"That is true."
"But I intend on paying it back one day. So if you could put it down as a loan?"
"Hmmm... It seems hardly necessary just for some accessories...but I suppose it would be best if
they are from you, Mr. Takumi. Very well."
"Thank you! I'll make money and return it very soon!"
"Hohoho. You really do not need to rush. You should get accustomed to this world first."
"Well, it wouldn't feel right if I did that."
"I see. You are certainly an honest person, Mr. Takumi."
As we talked, I handed them to Sebastian. One was a hair ornament that looked like a pretty flower,
and the other was a necklace that was shaped like a silver wolf.
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"Thank you for your patronage. We look forward to seeing you again."



"It is fine. A lady must learn how to wait." "A lady, huh? ... And yet, Ms. Claire, you were so worried about Tilura, that you went to the forest because you couldn't wait to get medicine from town?" "Mr. Takumi. You mustn't keep bringing that up!" Ms. Claire looked away with an embarrassed expression. Sebastian watched us with a smile. Still, I found that I really enjoyed myself when walking down the road like this and soaking up the atmosphere of the town. Perhaps it was because I had rarely just taken a relaxed stroll through town or gone shopping. Ever since I started to live alone, it was just part-time work and school...and then I graduated and worked full time. Any moment I had to spare was spent with Leo. I had fun playing with Leo, but it probably is important to be able to spend time with other people like this. And so I relished this enjoyable moment and walked towards the plaza on light feet. But as I thought of such things, I realized that I had forgotten something. "Now that I think about it..." "What is it, Mr. Takumi?" "Weren't we going to look into my Gift?"

"I had forgotten."
"Mr. Takumi, while we will be delayed a little, let us go and find out right now. The place is close to the plaza."
"Very well."
I didn't know how long it would take, but if it was close to the plaza, then we probably won't be delayed too much.
And so I quickened my pace and hurried off to this place that Sebastian led us to.
The place could be reached from the great street after turning into an alley and walking a short distance.
There was a sign with a hexagram, black doors, and the walls of the building were gray. At a glance, it looked very suspicious indeed.
But since it was Sebastian who guided us, it must be safe. Though, I probably wouldn't have entered such a place if I had been passing by on my own
"Excuse me."
Sebastian said as he entered the building first.
Of course, Leo waited outside. This time Johanna stayed with her.
After Sebastian entered and announced himself, a woman came out from the back.
"You're late. I grew tired of waiting."
She was a woman in her sixties and with hair that had gone completely white. And her back was a little crooked.

