

## **Beloved Dog 331**

Chapter 331

There Was A Change in the Herb Garden

“Wuff?”

“Oh, Leo.”

“Mama!”

“Good Leo?”

As I was listening to Ms. Claire’s explanation on combining magic, Leo, who had been sitting and waiting at a distance, suddenly approached us and barked as if to ask if we were done.

Was she bored?

“There, there... Are we done for the day then, Ms. Claire?”

“Indeed. Let’s end it here then. I suppose good Leo had gotten tired of waiting. Besides, you already succeeded in combining magic, so there is not much that I can teach you.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

I listened to Ms. Claire while petting Leo. She chuckled and said I had learned everything.

So that was the end of this magic lesson.

As for Liza, she was petting Leo while looking jealously at Sherry, who rode on top of Leo’s head.

Did she want to ride on Leo’s head too? I’m sure that Leo wouldn’t mind...if she could fit on top.

“Wuff-wuff. Wuff?”

“Huh? What is it, Leo?”

“Is there something wrong?”

Leo suddenly started pawing at my clothes as if she were trying to get my attention.

It seemed like she wanted to tell me something. What could it be?

Even Ms. Claire looked puzzled.

“Wuff, wuff!”

“Ah...that...”

“Hmm?”

Leo had then pointed her nose at the herb garden I had made this morning.

I had left them there to see how they would grow.

And so Ms. Claire and I looked towards the garden.

Liza looked like she was confused.

As she had not been watching when we picked them, she did not understand.

However, as Leo, Ms. Claire and I had seen it and knew when they stopped growing, we noticed that something was strange.

“Wuff?”

“Hmm. What does this mean?”

“In any case, I shall go and call Sebastian.”

“Ah, sorry. Thank you.”

Leo was looking at me and tilting her head questioningly.

Well, it was not as if I could answer her.

Ms. Claire was also curious about it now, and she had rushed off to fetch Sebastian.

In that direction, I saw that Mr. Ekenhart was holding his sword and Tilura was putting her hands on the blade... What were they doing...?

I wasn't sure that Ms. Claire should take Sebastian from them now.

In any case, the place where I had used Weed Cultivation to grow the herbs.

There was a spot that was in the sunlight and a spot in the shade. They contained the same types of herbs as well.

Even now, that had not changed.

After all, only five or six hours had passed. And yet, what happened to them was...

“I am back, Mr. Takumi.”

“Lady Claire asked me to come... What is it?”

“Sebastian... And Mr. Ekenhart too?”

“Mmm. I heard that something had happened with your herbs, so I came to look.”

“I had fun training with father!”

While Ms. Claire had just gone to call Sebastian, Mr. Ekenhart and Tilura had come as well.

Uh, I was glad that they had fun...

In any case, about the herbs...

As they were more far away, they had not noticed the change that came over the herbs.

“Uhh... Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian... Look over there.”

“This... What happened?”

“What is...”

And so I took them over to where the herbs were growing.

Both of them looked stunned.

As for Tilura, she and Liza were now riding on Leo’s back.

They were not that interested in herbs, it seemed.

But Leo was interested because it was related to my ability, and so her head was always pointed towards the herbs.

As for the herb garden, the herbs had become much larger compared to how they were in the morning, and around them, there were numerous new sprouts growing.

Had the grown herbs spread their seeds everywhere? No, surely it could not have happened that fast.

Did it happen through separation of the roots? But that couldn't happen by itself.

Such things did not happen in nature... In the first place, the sprouts were too small, and barely sticking out of the soil.

“Uhh, Sebastian... What is the meaning of this?”

When in doubt, ask Sebastian!

Well, I didn't think that Sebastian knew everything, but with his vast breadth of knowledge, surely he could set up a hypothesis...I hope.

“Hmm...indeed... Could it be, because they are herbs made with Weed Cultivation?”

“Weed Cultivation...”

“In the first place, I have never heard of herbs increasing at such a rapid rate. And so Weed Cultivation is the only explanation. Herbs that are made with it must have special properties.”

“So what you're saying, Sebastian. Is that these herbs are not normal?”

“Well...they are not fully grown yet. So we don't know how different they are from other herbs.”

So even Sebastian did not know.

We would have to gather and study them before anything could be said.

However, it seemed clear that the reason for the sudden growth and multiplying was Weed Cultivation.

Plants did not grow like this in a matter of hours, so that was the only explanation.

Chapter 332

It Was Decided That I Would Hire People

“In that case, Sebastian, Claire. We will have a lot to think about...concerning Mr. Takumi’s Weed Cultivation.”

“Yes. Considering how much they have multiplied... We might be able to gather much more than we initially thought.”

“Indeed, father. There may be enough for not just these lands, but to export as well.”

“Well, let’s not get carried away. It might not happen like this every time. Perhaps there are special conditions.”

“Yes. Mr. Takumi.”

“What is it?”

As he watched the herb garden, Mr. Ekenhart started to talk to Sebastian and Ms. Claire about how they would have to rethink their plans for Range village.

Even I had assumed that they would grow like normal herbs, and I didn’t think that we would be able to prepare them in such great quantities.

Ms. Claire even thought that if this continued, we would have enough to sell in other territories as well.

“About the herb garden we want you to make... It might become much larger than planned.”

“Uh, yes, that might be true... But I couldn’t manage such a thing...”

“We will deal with that. Well, we intended to put a butler under you, but I think we’ll also have to have some other personnel to work for you, Mr. Takumi.”

“Indeed. Mr. Takumi can hardly be expected to gather all of these herbs by himself. Aside from getting someone to help manage the place, there is a lot we have to think about.”

Sebastian then told me that the fields would be created on a much larger scale.

That meant I would have to look after the herbs, gather them and ship them to town...

Obviously, that was not something that I could do alone.

As I hesitated over it, Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire made a different suggestion.

I had already heard about a butler, but hiring other people... Well, it would definitely help... Only, I didn’t know if I would be able to manage those people...

“Do you really think I’ll be able to do it?”

“Ah, I wouldn’t worry about that, Mr. Takumi. I know you well enough now to see that you are capable.”

“Indeed. I believe that you can do it, Mr. Takumi.”

“Hah...”

“Though, I am worried that some people might try to take advantage of Mr. Takumi’s kindness.”

While I felt anxious, the others nodded and tried to assure me that I would be fine.

Even Ms. Lyra was nodding.

I was glad that they trusted me, but I had never been in such a position before...

But then Mr. Sebastian continued, which added to my anxiety.

Now that I thought about it, Ms. Lyra had said something similar as well.

It wouldn't be too bad if they just slacked off, but if they went after my money or targeted me, that could be a problem.

...And so I felt even more worried about hiring people.

"Wuff!"

"Indeed. But with good Leo there, any suspicious people near Mr. Takumi will be exposed quickly enough. Hehe."

"...Is that right, Leo?"

"Wuff. Wuff!"

Leo must have sensed my worries, as she stepped forward and barked.

Ms. Claire nodded and agreed that it would be fine if Leo was with me...

And when I asked her, Leo nodded confidently.

Well, Leo was sensitive to such things, so she may be able to sniff out anyone who was suspicious. Just like she had done with the wine.

"Regardless, it is not something you need to be so concerned about, Mr. Takumi."

"Why is that?"



“When starting, the duke’s men will investigate anyone who is to be hired.”

“Yes, that is a good idea. After all, it involves this house, so we must ensure that everyone who is hired is also trustworthy.”

“...I see.”

So they would vouch for anyone who was hired.

Then I guess I had nothing to worry about?

Not that I still wasn’t worried about my own managing abilities.

“In any case, this matter will need to be discussed in greater detail with Claire and Sebastian.”

“Yes. At this rate, we will require a lot more land. ...And we must find a place for Mr. Takumi to live.”

“I’m going to live in the fields?”

“Not the fields... But we intend to have a house nearby so that you can manage things easily. After all, you cannot do that from here.”

“I see...”

For a moment I thought that I was going to be driven out of the mansion, but it was not the case.

Indeed, since the herb field would be close to Range village, I wouldn’t be able to manage it from this mansion.

But even if I rode on Leo, a round trip would take longer than a day.

That would not be very efficient.

And while it would best if I could leave the management to someone else, that would not happen for some time.

...In the first place, I would be worried about leaving it entirely in someone else's hands.

"I will have to speak with the chief of Range village, and have a great plot of land prepared."

"Uh, I hope it will not be too big... Something modest would be preferable..."

"Haha. Well, that can be discussed later. And once we have decided on most of the details, we will speak with you again, Mr. Takumi."

"Yes, thank you."

As it was related to land, they would need to consider the matter beforehand.

There was no point in me joining the conversation so early, as there was nothing that I could say. And so I would leave it to them.

And with Ms. Claire and Sebastian there, they would ensure that it wasn't anything too bad.

my only concern was that Mr. Ekenhart would propose something ridiculous...

"Now then, we will continue to observe these herbs for some time. Do you have any other thoughts, Mr. Takumi?"

"Yes... As far as I can see, the sunlight hasn't had much effect on them. But I would like to know about the speed at which they grow. Also, the differences in the amount of water given..."

"Certainly. I will tell the others, and we can adjust the water and see how it affects them."

"Yes, thank you."

## Chapter 333

### I Talked With Ms. Lyra

As Sebastian had asked me, I made suggestions about what conditions to observe the herbs in and what changes could be made.

There were also other things, like fertilizer and soil to consider... But for now, we should focus on water.

I will test other things next time.

If we did them all at once, it would be difficult to keep track of everything.

Apparently, Sebastian meant to have the servants take turns watching the herbs.

As he called Ms. Lyra and gave her orders, I saw that he looked a little frustrated over not knowing what had happened exactly, since no one had been watching the plants between morning and midday.

Well, I didn't think he needed to feel bad over it.

No one had expected them to change so much in just a few hours.

"Ahaha! So fast!"

"Leo is amazing!"

"Kyau!"

"Wuff-wuff."

"They seem to be having fun."

After we had all looked at the herb garden, Mr. Ekenhart, Ms. Claire and Sebastian all went inside in order to talk.

When they were gone, Leo looked like she wanted to play, and Tilura and Liza were already on her back.

And so I had Leo run around in the garden, while Ms. Lyra and I watched from a distance.

Just like last time, Ms. Lyra brought out some chairs so that we could sit down and drink tea together.

It was a lot more enjoyable to drink with company.

However, Tilura's magic lesson had been interrupted... I suppose Mr. Ekenhart felt that there were more important matters to discuss...

From what I had seen, Mr. Ekenhart and Tilura looked more like they were playing, so I wasn't sure if she even learned any magic.

Well, she hadn't seemed that interested in magic to begin with.

I suppose being able to train with a sword in order to protect herself was her first priority.

"Still, Mr. Takumi. What we talked about before has become a reality quite quickly."

"Before...ah, about hiring someone?"

"Yes. It was rather presumptuous of me to say that..."

"Haha. No, I was grateful. It allowed me to think about it more seriously."

Had Ms. Lyra not given me some advice when it came to hiring people, I might not have thought about it much.

In fact, I had not thought about it nearly enough when hiring Nick.

Of course, given the results, I did not regret the decision.

“But your ability really is wonderful, Mr. Takumi. Not only the effects of the herbs, but how they are able to multiply so quickly.”

“Well, even I didn’t know that this would happen. I just thought that I could make them with my ability...”

“That is how amazing the Gift is, I suppose. As someone who does not have it, I can only imagine what it is like.”

“I was like that too. Because I didn’t have it before coming here. Everything has been such a surprise.”

While drinking tea, Ms. Lyra muttered about the herbs in the corner of her vision.

Indeed, I had not expected them to multiply like this...

The fact that this could happen in just a few hours had to be related to Weed Cultivation.

If I had the same ability in Japan, how could I have used it?

...No, I didn’t want to think about that. All I could imagine was that I would be made to work and create plants until I passed out.

It was the effect of having had to work in such a harsh environment for so long...

“What’s the matter? You look a little pale, Mr. Takumi?”

“Uh, it’s nothing. I’m fine.”

It must have showed on my face, as Ms. Lyra looked at me with concern.

Right now, I was supposed to be having fun and drinking tea.

I felt bad by suddenly ruining the mood with such intrusive thoughts.

We should enjoy this time of relaxation.

“Ah, by the way. What is Milina doing now?”

“Milina? I believe that she is training with Gelda.”

“With Gelda?”

“Yes. After all, Gelda hasn’t been in this mansion for very long either. Though, I wouldn’t say that she is new... But she still has a lot to learn.”

“I see. In that case, I better not disturb them.”

I had considered calling her in order to help with the medicine...but I decided against it.

Though, it would have been nice to be able to show her the herbs.

“No, if it is important, I’m sure she will not mind. Besides, Milina’s main purpose is to learn about medicine.”

“That’s true... In that case, could you bring her here? I would like to show her the herbs.”

“The herbs...yes. That is something that she should know about. Very well, I shall call her.

“Actually, you can just tell me where she is, and I will go myself.”

“Oh, no. I could hardly allow you to trouble yourself. I will go, and you must wait here.”

“...Very well. Uh, but if she seems busy, she doesn't have to come.”

“Certainly.”

Ms. Lyra stood up and bowed once before returning to the mansion.

I suppose that as a maid, she didn't want me to go, but I wished that she wouldn't be so strict about it...

And so now I had to sit and drink my tea alone.

Well, I had been the one to bring it up.

If I had gone, then it would be Ms. Lyra who was left alone.

It could not be helped. And so I just watched Tilura and Liza, who looked like they were having fun.

Chapter 334

I Showed Milina The Herb Garden

“Master, I came.... But what are you doing?”

“Sorry to keep you waiting, Mr. Takumi.”

“Thank you, Ms. Lyra. ...Uh, Leo and Tilura wanted me to play with them. And Liza was here too, and I couldn't resist...oomph!”

“Wuff!”

“Ahahaha!”

“So fast!”

By the time that Ms. Lyra had returned with Milina, I was playing with Leo and Tilura.

It was the first game we played when I came here, where I would throw a tree branch and Leo would go and fetch it.

Only this time, I didn’t throw multiple branches in different directions, but just threw it straight.

Liza was riding on her too, so I didn’t want Leo to run too fast.

...Though, I was sure that Leo would be careful.

Milina looked a little puzzled over this, so I answered her while throwing the branch.

You really are used to doing this now, Leo.

She quickly dashed forward and caught the branch in her mouth while it was still high up in the air.

But she was also careful to not throw them off, much to Liza and Tilura’s delight.

It seemed that Liza was just as active as Tilura and loved being outdoors.

“Hah... Well, as long as they are all having fun, it is a good thing. But why did you call me? Was it to play with them as well? Ah! Or do you have complaints about the medicine I made!?”

“No, no. It’s nothing like that, so calm down. Uhh...just wait one moment. Leo. Milina is here, so I’m out for now. You can continue to play with Liza and Tilura.”

“Wuff!”

“Understood!”



“...Papa. Where are you going?”

“Don’t worry, Liza. I’ll be close by. You can continue to play with Leo.”

“Oh, okay!”

“Kyau!”

Leo returned and I accepted the stick that she was holding. And so I told her I had to go.

Leo and Tilura nodded understandingly, but Liza looked anxious whenever she sensed that I was leaving.

And so I reassured her, and then she replied energetically and grabbed on to Leo.

Yes, she really had become attached to Leo... Also, I think she liked the feel of her fur.

For some reason, Sherry nodded her head and barked at the same time. Hey, I wasn’t talking to you, okay?

Well, at least she seemed to be enjoying herself.

And so as Leo started running in the garden again, I turned to face Milina.

I needed to show her the herb garden.

Still... Milina had initially thought I had a problem with the medicine... Did I look like I was so strict?

In any case, after sighing with relief about it, she then glanced over to where the others were playing. She looked slightly jealous.

Well, if there was still time after showing her the herbs, perhaps I should let her play with them... It would be nice if she could become friendly with Liza.

“Now, Milina.”

“Yes, master!”

“There is something that I want to show you.”

“Show me? What is it?”

“Yes. Well, it’s over here.”

“Ah, yes.”

And so I told Milina to follow me as I walked over to the spot where the herbs were planted.

As for Ms. Lyra, she continued to watch over Leo and the others.

Once we arrived at the herb garden, I saw that there were two butlers there, who had likely been given orders by Sebastian.

There was a table there, and they were writing what were probably records of the growth on sheets of paper.

I greeted them and stopped in front of the plants.

“Huh? Master, this... This is not normal grass, is it? Are they herbs?”

“Yes. They are herbs made with Weed Cultivation. We were testing to see if they would take root, and if we could breed them... But we only started this morning...”

“This morning... But they have increased so much!”

“That’s just it...”

As expected, Milina was very surprised when she saw the field of herbs.

Also, in spite of the fact that it had barely been an hour since I was looking at them with Mr. Ekenhart and the others...they had grown visibly again.

“Excuse me, did you notice any change with them?”

“Yes. They have grown between the time that we started watching them and now. I have never seen plants grow at such a speed... Quite astonishing.”

“I see. Thank you.”

When I asked one of the butlers who was taking notes, he confirmed that they had continued to grow.

While I was now sure that it was because of Weed Cultivation, the speed was still surprising.

“Master, they are still growing?”

“Yes. And in such a short time.”

Before, they were still like small sprouts, so it was difficult to even tell what kind of herbs they were.

But now, the leaves were all in clear shape and the type of herb was obvious enough.

“So they grew this much since this morning... And it’s all because of your ability?”

“I think so. There is no other real explanation.”

“Weed Cultivation really is amazing! I can hardly believe it!”

“Well, that is true. Trying different things and making new discoveries...I am constantly surprised.”

Milina looked at me with admiration.

As this ability was something given to me without my knowledge, I didn't think of myself as amazing, but I suppose she saw me and the Gift as something inseparable.

In any case, there was much to discuss.

Unlike when she was at the orphanage, Milina now had something that she wanted to be.

And so as we watched the herbs, we talked about what to do from now on.

Chapter 335

Milina Was Very Excited

“Milina. This is still at the planning stage, and nothing has been decided yet, but...”

“Yes, what is it?”

“The plan is to grow and produce more herbs in Range village. And so we're testing it here first. To see if they will take root properly and multiply.”

“I see. I do think that your herbs will help other people. It is a good plan.”

“Indeed. And so if everything goes well, then I will have to go to Range village.”

“That's true. After all, you are the one who has the ability. And it will not be easy for you to just come back and forth.”

“Yes, exactly.”

And so I talked to Milina about what we were planning.

We hadn't even made any contracts yet, but she knew about my ability and helped with concocting medicine and we shared our knowledge. So I wanted her to know.

Besides, if I had to hire a lot of people, I might have to rely on someone like Milina, who I trusted...

"And so when I go to Range village...well, I'll need to get Ms. Claire's permission, but I was wondering if you would want to come with me."

"Me!? ...Oh, well, it is true that it will be difficult for you to do everything by yourself..."

"Yes, that's right."

When I started thinking about hiring people, the first person that came to mind was Milina.

She was currently studying herbs and medicine, and also helped me with picking herbs.

And I knew her well enough to trust her. While she had originally come from the orphanage in order to work as a servant, I had also taken her under my wing, in a way.

She was only training to be a servant while she stayed in the mansion, and her actual goal was to learn about medicine. So there should be no problem with her accompanying me.

Still, I needed permission from the others first.

"...I understand. And I have decided to go with you, master. If you are going to start something new in a different place, then it is my duty to go with you as your apprentice!"

"Well, actually... You really don't have to be that serious about it. It would be perfectly fine if you stayed here and continued to work as a servant, if that's what you want..."

“NO! You have done so much for me, and I practically forced you to become my instructor. I would not think of leaving in order to work!”

“Uh, I see...”

Had she forced me?

In fact, I didn’t really see her like an apprentice...even though she insisted on calling me master.

It seemed to come from the fact that she respected me because of my ability.

I wondered if I should tell her, but it would take too long to explain. So I could do that some other time.

We would have plenty of time to talk in Range village.

“Well... Though it’s still being planned, I guess that part is settled? Can I count on you?”

“Yes, you can!”

“Good.”

Milina was enthusiastic and learned quickly.

She knew quite a lot about medicine now, and was good at picking medicinal herbs.

And she was also able to concote simple medicine. She would be a great help.

“Well then, in order to help you, I shall learn all I can as a servant!”

“Uh... What?”

Milina declared this as she made a fist.

Why a servant? I thought she was going to learn about herbs and medicine.

“Yes! When we go to Range village, there will not be lots of servants like there are here! And so I shall do what I can!”

“Ah...is that so...”

It was true that there would be no maids in Range village.

Though, I was apparently going to hire a butler.

But for some reason, Milina was excited about filling in... Though, I wished that she would direct that energy to her studies.

“Mr. Takumi. Don’t worry about Milina. I shall make sure that she can work like a proper maid by the time you have to go to Range village!”

“Thank you, Ms. Lyra!”

“Uh... I see... But we still have to make more medicine, so don’t spend too much time on that.”

“Of course. I will make sure that Milina does everything that she needs to first.”

Ms. Lyra had been listening to the conversation, and declared her whole-hearted support.

Milina was supposed to be here in order to learn about medicine... Was this really fine?

Well, if that’s what she wanted to do so much, I would not stop her.

I just hoped she wouldn’t get too carried away in that direction.

After I left Milina with Ms. Lyra, I returned to playing with Leo and Tilura until it was dinner time, and Ms. Gelda called us to go to the dining hall.

Of course, I did not forget to wipe the dirt off of Leo's paws.

As she had seen me do it before, Ms. Gelda had brought me a wet rag.

I accepted it gratefully and thanked her before cleaning Leo.

Liza wanted to help as well, and so I had her wipe one of the paws, which turned out to be rather difficult for her.

Apparently, she was not doing it hard enough, and it only tickled Leo, causing her to lift her paw away.

Liza thought that Leo didn't like it, and so she apologized immediately. And so Leo pressed her face against her as if to explain, which was amusing.

Leo is just ticklish, and wasn't upset. You can try again next time, Liza.

When we entered the dining hall, Mr. Ekenhart, Ms. Claire, Ms. Anne and Sebastian were already waiting there.

I wondered if they had finished talking then?

Chapter 336

Liza did not recognize Mr. Ekenhart

"Hmm? No, we haven't finished. It's not as if we could decide on everything at once."

"That's true. Selecting the people to hire, the size of the land... A lot of it will have to be discussed with the chief of Range village as well."

After sitting down at the table, I asked how their talks were going, and it turned out that they hadn't finished.



It was no wonder.

This wasn't something that could be decided in just a few hours.

"The chief...Mr. Hannes?"

"Yes. We have to talk about the wine and about the land that you will be using. And so I have sent a messenger."

"Things can't move ahead until we talk...and so we sent a messenger on our fastest horse. We should receive a reply within a few days."

Apparently, they had sent a letter to Mr. Hannes that explained the situation.

I wonder, would they want to make the wine?

Mr. Hannes had seemed like he regret ignoring the children and being so focused on making wine.

And considering where they would get the grapes from, they might not be enthusiastic about the idea.

But then again, they might find it difficult to refuse, since it was Mr. Ekenhart who was suggesting it.

While Mr. Ekenhart didn't use his position like that, it didn't mean that others found it easy to turn him down.

Of course, both Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire understood this.

When I do go to Range village later, I would have to explain everything to him, and perhaps even apologize.

Also, once I start working near the village, I will not be able to hide my Gift from him completely.

“Hey, papa?”

“Hmm? What is it?”

As we talked about Mr. Hannes and Range village, Liza, who had been eating her food quietly, began to tug at my sleeve.

Was there something that she was interested in?

“That person... Who is he?”

“Huh?”

“Hmm?”

Liza was pointing at Mr. Ekenhart.

But he was the person who had been with her, ever since we found her in Ractos...

“Uh, Liza? He was with me when I helped you?”

“Huh? But he isn’t wrapped up? Though, he does smell similar...”

“Hmm... While she isn’t scared of me because of my beard anymore, she doesn’t even recognize my face either...”

“Hah...hehe... Father, is that why you shaved it? You never cared about growing it out before. And so I was wondering why.”

“I haven’t seen father like this in a long time.”

“Hehe...hehehe...”

Apparently, Liza just saw Mr. Ekenhart as the man who had the cloth wrapped around his face.

She had been scared when she saw his beard at the orphanage, and now that he was shaved, she thought he was a different person.

Well, since he had been disguising himself so people wouldn't know who he was, I suppose it was a success.

Also, apparently Liza could differentiate people by smell... I suppose it was something that beastkin could do.

Even if her nose looked the same as humans, her sense of smell might be more highly developed.

In any case, as everyone looked at Mr. Ekenhart and laughed, Ms Anne alone seemed a little strange.

She was laughing like some kind of villain...

"Liza. We were together the whole time?"

"Hehehe..."

"Liza, he is the old man that was with us the whole time. We traveled to this house together. Though, he just looks like that now..."

"Mr. Takumi, how rude. In fact, even at this age, I am quite popular with the ladies, you know?"

"Father, I do hope you have no intention of bringing home a new mother?"

"N-no."

Indeed, Mr. Ekenhart was quite a handsome middle-aged gentleman.

Though he had sharp eyes, through shaving his beard, he no longer looked like an intimidating bandit, and seemed like a proper nobleman.

According to Mr. Ekenhart, he did well with the ladies, but Ms. Claire did not want to hear about that.

I had assumed he was joking at first, but... Now I wondered if he had caused some trouble in the past?

“Hmm. His eyes do look similar to that man...and the smell. Oh, I see.”

“Yes, that’s right.”

“Yes, it is. Also, Liza, you should avoid smelling people like that. It might be considered rude.”

“Really?”

“Yes. Because some people might be self-conscious about the way they smell.”

“Okay. I’ll be careful!”

“...”

“Wuff?”

“Kyau?”

Liza had gotten off of her chair and moved closer to Mr. Ekenhart so that she could see and smell him better.

Mr. Ekenhart didn’t look like he minded, but I had to warn her against doing this suddenly with other people.

After all, he had let his hair and beard grow out so long before, so he didn't care about such things.

As I watched Liza nod, much to my relief, I noticed that Ms. Anne and Ms. Claire were fidgeting in the corner of my vision.

I wondered what they were doing, and then realized that it was probably what Liza had said...

They were now anxious about their own smell...

But they had never smelled bad as far as I was aware, so there wasn't anything to worry about... But it would be rude to say that as well, so I didn't.

Leo and Sherry were watching Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne with puzzled expressions.

Well, they weren't exactly women...or the same species.

Still, it made me realize that I hoped Liza would see follow Ms. Claire's example instead of Leo's...

Chapter 337

It was best to not get involved in delicate conversations

"Well, the food is here. Let's eat."

"Yes."

"Wuff."

"Kyau!"

As we were talking, the food was served, and so Mr. Ekenhart said that we should eat.

Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne seemed to eat at a slower pace than usual. Perhaps they were still thinking about the smell.

It was as if they were being extra careful to not get any of the sauce on their clothes...

Well, it would not be nice to hear Liza say that you smelled strange.

“Hmm... Claire. I was just wondering...”

“Yes, what is it, father?”

Halfway in the meal, Mr. Ekenhart seemed like he suddenly remembered something as he addressed his daughter.

Ms. Claire stopped eating and turned to him questioningly.

“It might just be me, but I feel as if you have been eating less... For some time...”

As Ms. Claire was eating slowly, it may look as if she had little appetite. But according to Mr. Ekenhart, she had been eating less for a while.

But she still ate more than Tilura. Though, when Leo and Mr. Ekenhart were nearby, it looked like a small amount in comparison.

As far as I could see, she seemed to be eating a similar amount as me.

And I had what was probably an average appetite for a grown man... Not that I really compared myself to others.

In any case, it seemed to me that she was eating enough.

But perhaps she used to eat much more. I could not say for sure that Mr. Ekenhart was wrong.

“Father, what are you talking about? My portions have been the same as always?”

“Re-really? But no...surely you used to eat much more...”

“... Yes, sister used to eat more. I think she started to eat less...shortly after Mr. Takumi and Leo arrived?”

“Tilura!”

“Ah, so it is true. Hmm... When Mr. Takumi arrived. Indeed...”

While Ms. Claire tried to insist that her father had made a mistake, Tilura’s testimony exposed her, and the truth was uncovered.

As Ms. Claire began to panic, Mr. Ekenhart nodded with satisfaction.

But why would her portions be related to our arrival to the mansion?

“So it’s my fault? Have I...uh, done something wrong?”

“Mr. Takumi, that is not it at all. You really do not need to worry.”

“Uh, are you sure...?”

Perhaps it was something they didn’t want me to know about then...

Well, it would be quite rude to pry into the dietary habits of a noblewoman. So I would leave it at that.

It did not seem terribly important. And as they say, curiosity killed the cat.

“So you’ve been getting fat, Ms. Claire.”

“Anne! What are you talking about!? That is not true at all! ...Well, Helena’s food is so good that I sometimes eat more than I should...”

“Hmph... Well, I suppose it just went to your chest.”

After having the good sense to stay silent, I had thought that the conversation had ended. But then Ms. Anne intruded.

And while Ms. Claire was quick to correct her, she also admitted to occasional overeating. Well, that was something I could relate to, since it was Ms. Helena’s cooking.

And to top it off, they often served very sweet desserts. I would have likely put on some weight myself, if I didn’t exercise right after.

“Anne! Where are you looking!”

“Well, not noticing would be rather difficult. ...Damn it.”

“You... You never seemed to care before?”

“Indeed so... Only recently, I’ve realized that there is one thing I can’t use to attract a gentleman.”

“Anne... Surely you do not actually think like that?”

“You can say that, from your lofty position. You do not understand me.”

“Well...that is completely true.”

Ms. Anne was looking at Ms. Claire jealously.

Indeed, Ms. Anne was altogether much more slender.

In my old world, she could have been a fashion model, perhaps.



So...Ms. Claire was the type where her weight went to her...oh, I should not think any farther than that. It would be rude.

Besides, Ms. Lyra was even more... No, that's enough.

"Hmm... Well, I suppose everyone has their own way of thinking..."

While Tilura, Mr. Ekenhart and I were completely ignored, Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne continued their heated conversation.

Though, it was not the most appropriate dinner conversation...

And then Mr. Ekenhart muttered something as if to bring it to a close, which was best for everyone.

Regardless, Ms. Claire was probably eating a little less now, because she felt that eating too much was ill-mannered.

As for me, I didn't think about my weight very much. And thanks to all of my training, I wouldn't have to start thinking about it any time soon.

But I suppose it was more of a sensitive topic for her.

Perhaps I could make some herbs that would help you lose weight... But then I remembered that I did not want to get involved in the subject.

And a herb that would fulfill Ms. Anne's wish would be even more dangerous. Yes, out of the question.

Leo and Sherry were looking at Ms. Claire with puzzled expressions. As if they could not comprehend why someone would be modest when it came to food.

They didn't understand, but because they never cared about gaining weight like some humans do.

Chapter 338

We would drink the medicinal wine in doses

“Mmm...the taste can hardly be said to be good, but I do feel as if strength is welling up in my body.”

“It’s so delicious! Thank you!”

After dinner was finished, and we had our desert, we drank the same medicinal wine that we had yesterday.

Of course, Tilura, Liza, Leo and Sherry drank juice instead.

Mr. Ekenhart drained half of his cup and scowled as he started to feel its effects.

Liza smiled broadly and told Ms. Helena how happy she was.

Ms. Helena smiled back nodded, even though her gaze was mostly on the wagging tail.

Still, Mr. Ekenhart... I’m pretty sure you can’t feel the effects so strongly this soon.

Was this like the placebo effect?

Well, it did make your body feel quite warm...but that was probably because of the alcohol.

“Mr. Takumi, as we were given quite a lot of medicine today, we will not run out for a few days.”

“I see... In that case, could you make it so that we can drink it during the morning and afternoon as well?”

“You want to taste it multiple times during the day, Mr. Takumi?”

“Yes. If it has turned into what I think it has, then it should be more effective that way. I think that it would be best to have it three times a day, either before or after meals. Of course, they will be in small doses.”

“Hmm. I see. Yes, it will be easier to feel the effects if we drink more... Though, I think we must be careful to not drink too much as well.”

“Yes. Even though the overall amount will be increased, you will be drinking less at once. And given the time between, you will not become drunk.”

The medicinal wine that I knew about was sold in stores.

And you were usually supposed to drink small amounts three times a day.

Obviously, you wouldn't do that if you had to drive. But there were no cars in this world, so it didn't actually matter.

If you drink half a glass of wine three times a day, you may just get drunk. And we wouldn't that, when there were people like Ms. Claire here.

But with plenty of time in between and reduced amounts, the alcohol would be broken down, and no one would get drunk.

Though, I suppose you would have to be careful, if you meant to drink other kinds of wine that day as well.

“In that case, about half of what you drank today...a quarter of a glass? Will that do?”

“Yes. I think that should be fine. Maybe even a little less. Uh, how long will the medicine last then?”

“About two to three days.”

“You are going to reduce it that much? I would like to drink a little more...in spite of the taste.”

“This is not to be enjoyed, it's for your health. But it's also possible to drink too much. We will continue to make adjustments to it tomorrow then.”

“Yes, thank you.”

“Hmm... I see...”

While I was talking to Ms. Helena about the quantity and concoction of the medicine, Mr. Ekenhart felt that it was not enough.

But with things like these, drinking more didn't mean that you would become more healthy.

...Well, perhaps it might affect your magic energy...but it could still be dangerous.

If you thought it wasn't enough, then it would be better to drink a different wine.

While looking unsatisfied, Mr. Ekenhart nodded in agreement, while Ms. Claire looked relieved.

She was probably thinking of the possibility of getting drunk again and embarrassing herself. But that could just be avoided with some restraint.

“Are you going to mix the medicine again like we did today? I want to help too! It was fun!”

“Really? In that case, you may.”

“Yay!”

When she heard us talking about the medicine, Liza raised her hand and volunteered to help.

While it was something Milina and I were supposed to do, if she enjoyed doing it, then I had no reason to object.

It was actually tiring work, but beastkin seemed to have more strength, unlike humans.

“Ms. Helena. While you might have to make more...I want to make it so that other people can taste test it as well.”

“It is easy enough to make, as we just have to mix it with the wine... But, who are you going to give it to?”

“Uh, anyone who wants to try it... Like Sebastian.”

“Me?”

“Yes. You have a lot of knowledge, and should be able to give good advice.”

“Very well. If that is what you say, Mr. Takumi. I shall use what knowledge I have to assist you.”

“Haha. It’s really nothing serious.”

If Liza worked hard, then we would have more medicine to use.

Obviously, I would also help, along with Milina.

And then we would have more medicinal wine, so that more people could taste it.

It was best to have more people who could help with analyzing it.

Besides, Sebastian had a wealth of knowledge, and would be good at explaining anything he felt after drinking it.

After all, he just enjoyed explaining things...

“Sebastian. You seem more enthusiastic now, then when I ask you to do something.”

“I suppose it’s a matter of personal virtue. Father?”

“You are saying I have no virtue?”

“You do... But then again, you went out to town without any guards or telling anyone. So perhaps that is why you are treated differently? Besides, Mr. Takumi knows how to amuse Sebastian.”

“Hmm... When you put it like that...”

Upon seeing Sebastian’s exaggerated enthusiasm, Mr. Ekenhart seemed taken aback.

While Mr. Ekenhart had his virtues, I agreed that Ms. Claire had a point.

Though, I was also to blame when it came to his little excursion in town.

Chapter 339

Mr. Ekenhart Wanted To Drink

After having Ms. Claire remind him of how he had gone to town, Mr. Ekenhart looked like he wanted to argue, but seemed to think it over.

As for what Ms. Claire said about how I knew how to amuse Sebastian, was that just about making him explain things?

Yes, he became more lively and was good at it. But my intentions were never about making him happy.

Regardless, once everything was settled, we all went our separate ways.

“Well, that’s enough for now.”

“Yes, thank you.”

“Thank you.”

And so I left the dining hall and went off to do my daily sword training.

Today, Mr. Ekenhart was not taken away by Ms. Claire, and so he was able to join us.

And so we all swung our swords while imagining that an enemy was in front of us.

After continuing this for some time, Mr. Ekenhart caught his breath and signaled for us to stop.

His movements were as impressive as ever.

He was fast and precise. He knew how his enemy would move.

And while I was getting used to this exercise as well, it would still be a long time before I could move like him.

“Mr. Takumi. I have a request, if you don’t mind.”

“Hmm? What is it? I hope you don’t want to go to town again...”

“No, nothing like that. It’s too soon, if you know what I mean. She would not talk to me for days if I did that again. No, what I wanted to ask...do you remember when you gave me the herbs to help with sleep?”

“Ah, yes. Do you want some tonight?”

Previously, I had given Mr. Ekenhart some herbs that would help him sleep and take away any tiredness.

He had gotten up the next morning feeling refreshed and in an excellent mood. And had come down to breakfast much earlier than usual.

“Mmm. It is not that I am so tired... But I have a reason to get up early tomorrow.”

“An important matter? What might that be?”

Was it related to me making herbs in Range village...?

But if that was the case, I thought that it had to be discussed with Mr. Hannes first, and was not something that could be decided right away.

“Of course, there is an important matter. It’s the medicinal wine you made.”

“Ah, that’s right.”

To be precise, Milina had helped me make the medicine, and Ms. Helena had mixed it with the wine.

Though, it would not have been possible without my herbs, so I suppose what he said wasn’t completely wrong either.

“With the other wine...like we saw with Claire, there is the possibility of drinking too much. And I shouldn’t drink much right now anyway. So I thought that I’d have the medicinal wine instead.”

After the incident with the rosé wine, Ms. Claire was trying to abstain from drinking, or so Sebastian had told me.

I suppose she was afraid of doing the same thing again.

I didn’t think she needed to go that far, but it was best to drink with moderation.

Well, perhaps I was just a little disappointed, as it was the first wine that I really thought was delicious... But even if it wasn’t served during meals, I suppose I could still drink some later?

Even if I left the managing to others, I still owned the wine.

...But then again, now with Liza here, hiding and drinking wine would set a bad example. So I would not do that.



“I see. ...While it is not particularly delicious...it is true that it is something that should be drunk regularly. Very well... Here you go.”

“Thank you. Besides, I have started to think that the aftertaste is not that bad...”

I picked up my bag and took the sleeping herbs out and gave them to him.

Still...he was starting to like that taste?

It was very distinct, and I doubted that I would ever acquire a taste for it... But I suppose it depended on the person.

Some people really liked the bitterness of beer. And some people liked things that tasted strange, once they got used to it.

“But, you shouldn’t rely on these herbs too much, you know?”

“Is that so? Do they have some ill effects as well?”

“Not that I know of... But I just think that it’s best to be able to wake up by yourself.”

“...I will do my best.”

“Haha. I hope that you succeed.”

Mr. Ekenhart chuckled and then went back into the mansion.

Even if they were just herbs, they could cause problems if you took them too much.

I wasn’t confident in my ability to explain about side effects and addiction, but it wasn’t necessary now.

I would just hope that Mr. Ekenhart would be able to put in the effort.

By the way, even though it was getting dark now, I saw that there were two butlers inspecting the herb garden.

They were different from the ones who were there during the day.

And so I thanked them before returning to the mansion.

“Mr. Takumi. We have prepared a room for Liza. What will you do?”

“Thank you? But, uh, what do you mean?”

“Well, it’s just that based on what I’ve seen, I thought that Ms. Liza might not want to be separated from you...”

After leaving Mr. Ekenhart and Tilura, I had returned to my room and was thinking about taking a bath, when Ms. Lyra came and told me about Liza’s room.

As it was a big mansion, they could easily prepare a room. However, Ms. Lyra had some doubts concerning it.

## Chapter 340

We decided to not have separate rooms

Liza would become anxious when Leo or I were not around. I suppose she thought that she was going to be left behind.

Apparently, she had been abandoned in the slums shortly after being born, so even if she didn’t remember the situation, it still stayed with her.

Especially since the grandfather who had taken care of her had also died.

I wanted to assure her that she would not be left alone, and that there was nothing to worry about... But it might take some time.

“Indeed... Liza?”

“What is it, papa?”

Liza was sitting Leo’s back and seemed quite happy as I called to her.

In such situations, it was best to just ask the person.

Apparently, she had not been listening to my conversation with Ms. Lyra, and so she smiled and looked at me questioningly.

“Well... They had prepared a room just for you. What do you think?”

“For me? But what about you and mama?”

“This room is just for you. Leo and I will be sleeping in the other room.”

“...Just...me?”

“Wuff...”

Upon hearing my explanation, Liza realized that it was a room for one person.

She quickly looked at the floor and her expression darkened.

Her ears and tail sagged and it was clear that she did not like the idea.

As if to comfort her, Leo tried to move her face towards Liza, but she could not reach her on her back.

“I see... You won’t really be alone, but... Do you still not like it?”

I moved towards her in Leo's place and asked her.

While I already knew the answer, it was best to still ask.

"...Yes. I want to be with mama and papa..."

"I see. Well then, you can sleep with us."

"Really!?"

"Aye, really. We don't want you to feel sad."

"Wuff-wuff."

"Yay!"

I didn't want to force her to be alone, if she didn't want to.

As soon as I said this, Liza's face broke into a smile and she started wagging her tail again.

I nodded, and Leo barked with approval.

Did she hate the idea so much then...? I guess she just didn't want to be separated from us.

"...Well, that's how it is. I'm sorry you had to go through the trouble."

"No, not at all. I expected this to happen anyway. So, Ms. Liza will stay with you for now."

"Yes, thank you."

Ms. Lyra had been watching our exchange with a smile. And so she shook her head when I apologized and agreed with the decision.

“Uh...that being said, when it comes to baths...”

“That is right. Hehe. I heard from Gelda.”

“...Indeed.”

Yesterday, when I was washing Leo, Liza barged in.

Considering how she was about the room, Liza might not want to bathe alone either.

Ms. Lyra laughed when I mentioned this. Apparently, Ms. Gelda had told her about it.

I had not wanted her to tell people, but I suppose she talked to Ms. Lyra about everything.

Besides, Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda helped me take care of Leo often.

“As for that, I could take care of Ms. Liza for you?”

“You, Ms. Lyra... Indeed. Liza, Ms. Lyra is offering to bathe you instead of me and Leo. Is that alright?”

Ms. Lyra had looked quite enthusiastic when making the suggestion too.

Well, she did like to offer her help whenever she could.

“Not with you, papa?”

“Well, you are girl, Liza. So it is best for you to go with Ms. Lyra. Don’t worry, you won’t be alone.”

“...Oh, okay. Uhh...”

“Ms. Liza. You can call me Lyra.”

I stressed the fact that she would not be alone and asked if she was alright with going with Ms. Lyra.

That’s what she was most worried about. Being alone.

And so unlike with the room, she nodded in agreement.

Then she turned to Ms. Lyra and seemed to be thinking about something.

Ms. Lyra immediately introduced herself and bowed.

Now that I thought about, Liza had never directly asked about Ms. Lyra’s name.

“Ms. Lyra? Uh...thank you.”

“You can talk to me like you do with everyone else. Now, Ms. Liza, I will do my best to help you.”

Ms. Lyra bowed, and then Liza got down from Leo.

If anything, it was probably Liza who should bow her head and ask for help, but I guess Ms. Lyra saw things differently.

She was one of those people that seemed restless when she wasn’t busy around the house...

Previously, a short while after we had come to the mansion, I had told her that we no longer needed someone to guide us around the house. And she had looked terribly disappointed.