

## **Beloved Dog 41**

### Chapter 41

#### The Pasta In This World Was Meat Sauce

“Lunch looks delicious today as well.”

“Yes. Helena does her best.”

“I’m hungry!”

“Wou!”

Everyone seemed to have worked up an appetite after seeing the pasta that was placed on the table.

A great plate had been prepared for Leo. And while it contained the same flat noodles, they were wrapped up in separate clumps so it would be easier to eat.

Thank you for being so considerate, Ms. Helena.

“Now, let’s eat.”

“Let’s eat.”

“Yes!”

“Wuff! Wuff!”

There was a red tomato sauce on top and the minced meat that was in the sauce combined nicely with the flat noodles.

Meat sauce...I think it was actually called bolognese.

While it was very delicious, I also had to be careful so that the sauce didn't get on my clothes.

It was hard to remove any stains from it.

"Lady Tilura. Please excuse me."

While Ms. Claire had no problem doing it, Tilura wasn't used to eating like this, and so she had got some of the sauce on her clothes.

Ms. Lyra was now wiping it carefully with a cloth.

Still, while the sauce was on the mild side, I wasn't sure if Leo would...

But when I turned to Leo, the whole area around her mouth was stained a bright red. It looked like blood.

"Leo... You're going to have to take a bath after this."

"Wou!?"

Leo seemed so alarmed by these words, that she barked and moved away from her plate.

While she was usually so absorbed in her food to the point where she wouldn't react to anything else, it was a different matter when it came to bathing...

"Your mouth is too dirty. It won't come off by just wiping it."

"Wou! Wou-wou!"

It sounded like she was protesting strongly, but I ignored her and continued to eat my pasta.

"Is Leo going to take a bath? I want to take one together!"

“No...I don't think you should...”

Besides, as a man, I couldn't be there with them.

I had only been in this world for a few days, and did not want any trouble.

“No, Tilura. You do realize that Mr. Takumi is a man? You cannot go with them.”

“But, sister!”

While she was still young, it would not do for her to share a bath with a grown man.

“I really can't?”

“Of course, you cannot. The mere thought of male and females bathing together...”

“Sister?”

“...Oh, it's nothing. In any case, it is out of the question, Tilura. Men and women must never bathe together. It is not permitted.”

“...Is that true?”

...Tilura. Why was she asking me now?

She should ask Sebastian or the maids if she needed confirmation...

“...Tilura. It is indeed true that men and women are not to bathe together. And so you cannot come with us.”

“I see...”

She seemed to give up and continued to eat her pasta with a dejected look.

Ms. Claire breathed a sigh of relief. But then she glanced towards me and blushed.

Ms. Claire. Did you just imagine something?

“...wou...”

As for Leo, whose fate had been sealed, she had fallen into a depression and though she continued to eat, she no longer showed any enthusiasm in doing so.

Once lunch was finished, we took a short break to help with digestion, and then Leo and I decided to go to the bathing room in the mansion.

It was nice that the tub was large enough for even someone like Leo to fit inside.

At her current size, Leo would not have fit in my old bathtub in Japan.

Well, she wouldn't have even fit in the apartment.

And so I carried the towels that Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda had handed us, and we made our way to the bathing room.

Chapter 42

I Bathed with a Sulky Leo

“Wou...”

“Give up, Leo. From now on, you will have to bathe regularly in order to stay clean.”

“Wouuu...”

Leo looked at the floor sadly as she followed after me.

She had been playing so excitedly in the river. So why did she hate baths so much...

Was it because the water was hot? ...It was certainly odd.

I took off my clothes in the changing room and entered the bathing area.

“Leo, I’m going to pour hot water on you now.”

“...Wou...”

I scooped up water with a basin and poured it over Leo.

She shuddered a little, but then closed her eyes tightly and tried to make it through this ordeal.

Once Leo was thoroughly drenched, I used a towel to lather up some soap.

Then I rubbed it against Leo and scrubbed the fur from her back to her toes thoroughly in order to clean off the dirt.

“...It’s quite filthy...”

“Wou...”

Before I knew it, the bar of soap had turned black.

I had to wash away the dark suds with water and lather it again before washing Leo.

After repeating this several times, I finally finished washing her back.

...This was actually very tiring.

I continued to wash her until we reached the final part, which Leo hated the most. Her face... Well, it was mostly around her eyes and mouth.

I think she probably didn't want the hot water or soap to get in her eyes.

And perhaps the smell of the soap was too strong when near her nose.

However, even if she didn't like it, I still had to wash her.

"Leo. Stay still, okay? I'm going to wash your face now."

"Wou!? Wou... Wuff..."

She seemed resigned to her fate.

She let out a tired sigh and continued to lie on her back after I finished washing her belly. And like that, she closed her eyes and gritted her teeth.

I carefully washed her face so that the soap would not enter her eyes, nose or mouth.

...Leo. You have so much meat sauce around your mouth.

Even her nose was a bright red now.

Next time, I would have to warn her before eating food that would stain her fur.

"Look, Leo. All this red will ruin your cool face!"

As if in answer, Leo snorted loudly.

Like the other areas, I had to wash the soap several times before all of the dirt and color fell away.

“Now, Leo. We’re finished. You can stand up now.”

“Wuff!”

The moment that I had my permission, Leo sprung up with just the strength of her back, and did a flip in the air.

She then landed on the ground with a smug expression.

“Leo... It’s amazing that you can move like that...but you splashed water all over me...”

“Wou? ...Wuff.”

As Leo was still wet when flipping in the air, the water had hit me so that I was drenched from head to toe.

“Really, you have to be more careful. All right?”

“Wuff!”

“Now...next is...”

“Wou!?”

Leo’s face looked very alarmed as if she was saying, ‘there’s more!?’

“Next is this.”

“Wuff.”

Before the bath, I had borrowed a brush from Ms. Lyra.

While I had removed the dirt and grime, I still needed to untangle the fur and brush out any dust that the soap hadn't been able to remove.

Besides, Leo never had an issue with brushing.

"Alright, Leo. Sit down first."

"Wuff!"

Leo listened obediently and sat down.

If anything, she seemed to rather enjoy being brushed.

Has she always liked it so much...?

...Ah...now that I think about it. She would sometimes lie on my lap while I brushed her. And she would get so relaxed that she would fall asleep.

And whenever I would pick up the brush, she would wag her tail and come close.

Only, I would usually take the brush to the shower room, so she would then turn sulky, which is what I remembered the most.

"Do you like that, Leo?"

"Wou!"

As I gently brushed the fur on her back, Leo let out a sigh as if relaxing.

Unlike when washing her, she did not resist, and so it was a lot easier to do.

Well, actually, it still felt like heavy manual labor, because she was so big and there was a lot to brush.



And so it ended up taking a very long time.

Still, I had been able to get out most of the dust.

Lastly...

“Let’s rinse you off once more with hot water.”

“Wuff!?”

Leo had clearly not expected to be subjected to the hot water once more, and let out an alarmed yelp. But I ignored it and picked up the basin.

After repeating this a few times, Leo’s bath was finished.

Now that she was clean, Leo shook her body in order to dry herself.

“...Leo... Don’t do that when I’m standing right next to you...”

“W...wou...”

Leo said apologetically.

Well, I could wash off later. And so I led Leo out of the bathing area.

Then I called for Ms. Lyra through the doors and asked her to dry off Leo with a towel.

Then I returned to the bathing area so that I could wash myself.

After all, I had not bathed yet.

And so I washed myself thoroughly with soap.

Then I rinsed it off and sat in the tub that was large enough for me to stretch out my legs.

“Ahh...”

It really could not be helped that I let out a sigh after sinking into the hot water.

Taking a bath was the best thing to do after exercise.

And washing Leo had been quite exhausting.

And so I enjoyed the water and relaxed while massaging my tired arms.

## Chapter 43

Leo's fur glistened after getting out of the bath

After taking my time and thoroughly warming up in the hot water, I got out and dried myself with a towel before putting on my clothes and stepping out of the changing room.

As always, Ms. Lyra was waiting right outside of the door. And since she told me that Ms. Claire and Tilura were in the drawing room, I decided to go there.

“Is Leo over there as well?”

“Yes. She is with the ladies.”

In fact, yesterday, I had gone from my room to the bath, and then returned on my own. So I knew where it was within the mansion.

And so I didn't need Ms. Lyra to guide me.

She seemed a little agitated as she said, ‘I'll go put on some tea,’ and then headed to the kitchens.

“...Perhaps she had wanted to guide me?”

A lot of the servants here seemed a little eccentric.

I thought of such things as I walked through the mansion, and I reached the drawing room in no time.

I knocked lightly on the door and said,

“It’s Takumi. I’ve finished my bath.”

“Come in.”

Ms. Lyra opened the door.

Huh? Didn’t she go to the kitchens?

I had seen her trudging away just a moment ago...

Right next to her, Ms. Gelda stood with a tray with a tea pot and cups.

I...suppose I wasn’t as used to navigating through this mansion as I thought... I must have taken a long route when coming here... Yes, that’s it...

“Mr. Takumi. You did a wonderful job washing Leo. It must have been very tiring to do it by yourself?”

Said Ms. Claire as I stepped into the room, still surprised about Ms. Lyra’s presence.

“Well, Leo is rather large. And she doesn’t very much like baths. That was the difficult part.”

“Indeed. Perhaps I should assign some of the maids to do it from now on? It will be much easier with several people doing it.”

“Hmm... I think that for the time being, I can manage it. Besides, I wouldn't want to push any difficult work onto them. And I think that it's best that I am there until Leo gets more accustomed to it.”

“I doubt the maids would mind... But, that's true. It's probably better for you to do it until she gets used to it.”

“We are ready to wash the great Leo whenever you need. So please ask if you require assistance!”

For some reason, Ms. Lyra was very enthusiastic.

Could it be that Ms. Lyra... Wanted to touch Leo's fluffy fur so bad?

Well, Tilura had become addicted to it, and so it was no wonder that others would as well.

“Very well. I will leave it to you when Leo is ready. But for now, there is a possibility that Leo might try and resist. And that could be dangerous now that she's so big.”

“The great Leo might resist...”

Ms. Gelda must have imagined Leo in a rage, as she suddenly became very pale.

Indeed, if that did happen, the frail Ms. Gelda could be thrown into the air quite easily.

Of course, Leo was nice and wouldn't do such a thing.

However, Ms. Gelda was clearly still scared of Leo.

That too would take time to resolve.

“Mr. Takumi! Can I go with them when the time comes?”

Apparently, Tilura really wanted to take a bath with Leo.

And Leo was also very fond of Tilura.

“Yes, it should be fine if you’re with the maids. Is that fine, Ms. Claire?”

“Yes. Tilura, you may go if you’re with the maids.”

“Yay!”

“Wou...”

While Tilura was so overjoyed that she threw her arms around Leo, the fact that we had been talking about baths for awhile now had drained Leo of her usual energy.

But as Tilura held onto Leo, she seemed to realize something as she buried her face in the fur and then raised her head.

“Mr. Takumi. Leo’s fur feels so good!”

“Hahaha. I noticed it while bathing her, but Leo’s fur was actually quite dirty. But since I brushed her thoroughly and got rid of the dirt and dust, she should be much fluffier than before.”

“It’s so soft! I didn’t know that you were this fluffy, Leo! It’s amazing!”

“Wuff!”

“Yes, her silver coat is shining more than when we first met. This must be the true appearance of a Silver Fenrir...”

Tilura seemed very moved as she enjoyed burying her face in Leo’s fur.

And Leo rubbed her face against Tilura’s.

Ms. Claire was also looking at Leo and seemed to be very impressed.

“Yes, Leo’s silver fur is very pretty.”

“Indeed.”

And I felt the same.

Leo had originally been a Maltese, and had white fur.

She had pretty fur back then as well, but now it was silver, and due to her great size, there was something almost divine about her.

Actually, her fur seemed to have also grown longer. But I hadn’t noticed it before because the change in size had been so dramatic.

“Silver Fenrir... After seeing the luster of the silver fur, the legends of how proud and unyielding they are sound so much more convincing.”

“Indeed, Lady Claire. While I have also read the texts, I did not know that a Silver Fenrir’s coat shone to this degree... And she had already looked so impressive before...”

“Yes... I thought that the legends must be exaggerating, but now I feel that they must be true.”

“I agree.”

“...Sebastian. If everything in the legend is true, then perhaps that forest...”

“...Yes, if you believe it all, it might be the case.”

Sebastian and Ms. Claire were talking together as they gazed at Leo’s fur.

It seemed to be about some Silver Fenrir legend, but as I had never heard the legend before, I couldn't really understand what they meant.

Perhaps I should ask? But just as I was about to address Ms. Claire, she turned to look at me.

"Mr. Takumi. It's about the forest where I first met you."

"Ah, yes. The forest where you searched for the Ramogi. What about it?"

"There is a legend that the founder of the Liebert house used to go there."

## Chapter 44

### The First Forest was the Duke's Forest

"...The founder of this house. Do you mean the one who befriended the Silver Fenrir?"

"Yes. And it's said that the founder first met the Silver Fenrir in that forest. And the legend says their relationship was that of friends of equal standing."

So they first met in that forest.

But how exactly had he managed to befriend a Silver Fenrir?

From what I had heard, they listened to no one, and were feared as unbeatable monsters.

Of course, when I looked at Leo, it made me think that Silver Fenrirs wouldn't attack anyone. But that was just in Leo's case.

Perhaps the Silver Fenrirs that were born and raised in this world did attack people?

"And how did the first duke befriend this Silver Fenrir?"

"...That...is not known."

“No one knows?”

“There are legends passed down orally, including ones that were only shared through the family, as well as documents written about the first duke. However, none of this has explained how the Silver Fenrir was befriended.”

“...I see.”

“However... Some of the texts say that the duke was in danger, after being surrounded by fenrirs in the forest. And then the Silver Fenrir appeared.”

“A pack of fenrirs... Are they different from Silver Fenrirs?”

“Normal fenrirs are different from Silver Fenrirs like Leo. They are small and slower. Of course, they are still fast compared to humans, and are dangerous monsters that can use fire and ice magic. Also, even though their claws and fangs aren't as sharp as those of a Silver Fenrir, they will still cut through humans with ease.”

So, while these fenrirs were weaker, they were still very dangerous monsters for humans.

...I could only imagine how the first duke felt when being surrounded by a pack of them. It would have felt like you were already dead.

“Because the duke was surrounded by fenrirs, and then encountered a Silver Fenrir in that forest, it is now known as the Fenrir Forest.”

“Fenrir Forest...”

From what I had heard, fenrirs were very dangerous monsters.

And so if it was a place where one might encounter them, then it was no surprise that the forest would be named after them.



However, I had wandered through it for a while, and Ms. Claire had entered it alone, and still, we didn't see any of them...

"Are there still fenrirs in that forest?"

"As for that...ever since the founder of this house died, no one has seen a Silver Fenrir, let alone the fenrirs that were said to have always lived in the forest."

"Is that so..."

The place that was called the Fenrir Forest.

The place where Leo and I had appeared.

And where Leo turned into a Silver Fenrir.

The place where we met Ms. Claire, who was a descendant of someone who had befriended a Silver Fenrir in the past.

...While I wouldn't go as far as to say that it was deliberate, I felt something like fate from it all...

"But..."

"But?"

What was it? Ms. Claire started to think with a troubled expression.

Was there something else regarding that forest?

"While it's true that no one has seen a fenrir in that forest since the founder died...it is still a legendary place. And so many people fear it. Few have gone close, let alone investigated its depths. ...So one cannot be certain that there are no fenrirs there at all."

“...Hmm.”

“...So it’s possible that deep within, there could still be fenrirs, or even a Silver Fenrir...”

“You are saying they may be lurking deep in the forest, where no one can see them?”

“Yes...”

Still, for some reason, Ms. Claire seemed to be talking about this legend with great passion.

She was usually so calm, and I hadn’t thought that she was the type to get very heated while speaking...

Ah...but now that I think about it...

It was only a few days ago that she had left the mansion alone in order to get medicine for Tilura.

So she did have a more impulsive side.

“...Mr. Takumi. What I’m about to say involves the risk of danger...and I will not mind if you refuse. But, I would be grateful if you accepted.”

“...I see.”

What was it...? A secret that is supposed to stay hidden?

Was I going to be made to listen to information that would paint a target on my back?

“Mr. Takumi. Will you take me and Leo into the depths of that forest?”

“...What?”

“Lady Claire!?”

“Lady Claire!?”

“Lady Claire!?”

“?”

Sebastian and the maids were terribly alarmed by Ms. Claire’s request.

Of course, they were...it was dangerous. There were orcs in that forest.

And according to the legends, there could be packs of fenrirs as well.

And maybe even a Silver Fenrir.

It was dangerous without a doubt.

Sebastian and the maids quickly rushed towards Ms. Claire.

As for Leo and Tilura, who had been playing, they were tilting their heads in puzzlement. They probably hadn’t been listening.

“My lady! Even if you are with Mr. Takumi and the great Leo, it is much too dangerous!”

“He is right! If there really are fenrirs there, as you have said, then I doubt any human can enter it and come out alive!”

“My lady, please reconsider!”

“...My goodness...all of you...”

The three of them were desperately trying to stop Ms. Claire.

Well, she was the kind of person to enter a dangerous forest alone just to find herbs.

I doubted Ms. Claire had said it as a joke. She might really just put it into action. And so it was no wonder they were frantic.

“My lady! Please, please reconsider!”

“Yes. If anything were to happen to you!”

“We’re begging you! Reconsider!”

“...”

Oh? Ms. Claire had fallen silent?

## Chapter 45

I had an idea of what Leo was trying to say

Had she lost under the pressure of Sebastian and the maids?

While I may have just looked like a bystander, after hearing Ms. Claire talk about the Fenrir Forest, I was now quite interested in that forest we had appeared in.

Perhaps I could find out the reason that I was brought to this world.

Well, even if I discovered the reason and found a way to return, I had no intention of doing that.

Here, I would not be overwhelmed by work, and I could spend more time with Leo.

But nevermind that. Right now, we were talking about Ms. Claire.

“All of you! Be silent! I am speaking to Mr. Takumi now!”

“...Please forgive me for interfering.”

“I’m terribly sorry...”

“I’m sorry...”

After being pressured by Sebastian and the maid, Ms. Claire took in a deep breath and shouted angrily at them.

...I had not known that she was capable of speaking so loudly...

This time, it was the servants who were taken aback, and so they withdrew.

The three stepped towards the back of the room.

After seeing this, Ms. Claire turned to me and asked again.

“So, Mr. Takumi. What do you say? Will you go with me to that forest?”

“...”

Ms. Claire. Ms. Claire. You still have the same scary expression you did while shouting at Sebastian and the maids!

And now it was directed towards me.

This...was not the time to refuse her...was it? Who knows what she might do...

I felt as if I was being threatened by her expression and the atmosphere around her...

What should I do...? It was true that I had a personal curiosity towards the forest now, but not enough that I wasn't worried about the danger.

That being said, I felt as if I couldn't refuse...

I scanned the room for a way to escape the predicament.

My eyes met with Leo's.

Tilura was hiding behind her. Perhaps she too was intimidated by her sister.

"...Could I...discuss the matter with Leo...?"

"Oh, I didn't mean to raise my voice like that... I'm sorry, Mr. Takumi. I will calm myself now, so please talk with Leo in the meantime."

"...Yes."

I had asked her hesitantly, but Ms. Claire seemed to have regained her calm a little and she apologized with a relaxed expression.

...Clearly, she was the one person here who I should not anger.

It was intimidating in a way that was different from Leo or monsters...

I turned my back to her and took a deep breath.

...For now, I would ask Leo.

I could tell that she was starting to really understand my words, and I was starting to be able to understand her.

I wasn't sure what would happen if I talked to her, but we were old friends from the previous world. And so I wanted to consult her first.

"Tilura. I need to borrow Leo for a minute. ...Leo, come over here..."

"Yes."

"Wuff?"

Tilura moved away obediently and went to the corner of the drawing room.

And while she would usually go over to Ms. Claire with a smile, she stayed as far away as she could now.

Leo tilted her head in puzzlement as she walked over to me.

And so I took Leo to the opposite corner of the room where Tilura had gone.

"...Leo. We were talking about returning to the first forest with Ms. Claire. What do you think?"

"Wou? ...Wuu... Wuff-wuff. Wou?"

After appearing to think about it for a moment, she looked at me and barked as if to say, 'why don't you go if you want to?'

"But Leo. They say that there might be dangerous fenrirs deep inside of that forest. And there could also be a Silver Fenrir like you."

"Wou! Wuff! Wuff!"

Judging by Leo's voice and eyes...it was... 'fenrirs are small fry' ...perhaps.

It had sounded like they were very dangerous monsters for humans, but I suppose they were nothing for Leo...

“...You may not think much of fenrirs, but what if there is a Silver Fenrir as well...”

“Wuff! Wuff-wuff! Wou!”

Uhh... Even if there is a Silver Fenrir, it's a comrade and won't attack?

“...Are you sure about that?”

“Wou! Wuff-wuff. Wuff-wuff-wuff. Garr! Guff! Wou!”

That was a long one...Uhh... Silver Fenrirs never attack their own kind. They will welcome me as a friend. And even if a pack of fenrirs attack, I can defeat them easily...?

“Welcome as a friend... But what if the fenrirs attack in a larger pack than you are thinking? Besides, there are other monsters as well...”

“Wuff-wuff-wuff! ...Wou-wou-wuff-wuff-grraar... Gar-garr!”

I was starting to be able to understand Leo a lot more clearly... It doesn't matter how many fenrirs there are. I can defeat them easily. Besides, Silver Fenrirs are superior, and they should submit at the sight of me. And the other monsters are all small fry too! I can defeat all of them! ...I think that's what she said.

...Huh? Me and Leo were having a proper conversation now...?

She had always tried to convey things to me with strangely human gestures, but it was quite different to understand each other so clearly.

And I doubted it was related to the Gift...

“Leo... How is it that I can understand what you're saying?”



I didn't know if Leo had the answer to this, but I asked anyway.

"...Wou?"

But Leo just tilted her head questioningly.

So Leo herself did not know the reason.

She had just become a large Silver Fenrir.

And so perhaps it was easier to read her expressions and gestures now. I decided to assume that it was the case.

## Chapter 46

I told Ms. Claire and the others what I had discussed with Leo

"Wou?"

Oh, I had gotten lost in thought, so now Leo was looking at me strangely.

"It's nothing. Alright then, so you're fine with us going to the forest?"

"Wou! Wou-wuff-wou! Wuff-wuff! Wou! wuff-wuff!"

Uhhh... This time...hmm...okay! And I'll be able to exercise a lot and it will be fun! Because I couldn't exercise much in the room we used to live in... Is that what you said?

Leo was making faces and using her voice and paws to communicate with me.

Still... Exercise, huh...?

“I don’t know what to say... I’m sorry...that I couldn’t take you outside so much...”

“Wuff-wuff!”

As I apologized, Leo put her face close to mine and licked my cheek.

Apparently, she was saying, ‘don’t worry about it.’

...Thank you, Leo...

“...I hope you’ll continue to put up with me, buddy.”

“Wuff-wuff!”

Leo nodded eagerly.

Even when I did take Leo outside to play, it was usually only for a short while... Because I was so busy with work...

Leo had nodded at the word buddy. It was because of her that in the past world, and this world as well, that I felt like I could keep going on.

...Oh, this was no time to get lost in such sentiments.

And so I patted Leo on the head and then turned to Ms. Claire and the others.

...While my feelings of gratitude and remorse towards Leo had caused my eyes to moisten a little, I blinked a few times to clear them before moving away from the corner of the room.

“Ms. Claire. We have decided.”

“...Mr. Takumi. You look like you were crying. Are you alright?”

“I’m fine. Please don’t worry about me. It’s nothing.”

“...Very well. If you insist.”

“Thank you.”

...I had thought that I was in the clear, but I suppose it was still on my face.

I suppressed the feelings of embarrassment and gave Ms. Claire my answer.

“Ms. Claire. We will go with you to the forest.”

“You will!?”

Ms. Claire’s face lit up at this.

There were no traces of her earlier anger.

Yes, she looked much nicer when she smiled.

“...”

“...”

“...”

On the other hand, Sebastian and the maids were throwing daggers at me with their eyes...

I had to tell them that it would not be that dangerous even if we entered the forest.

Well, if Leo was to be believed, that is.

However, I was confident that if we were with my buddy, we would be safe.

“Uh... Mr. Sebastian, Ms. Lyra, Ms. Gelda.”

“Yes.”

“Yes.”

“Yes.”

“There may be fenrirs in the forest, as well as the strongest of all monsters, the Silver Fenrir. That’s why it’s considered dangerous, and you want to stop Ms. Claire from going, yes?”

“...It’s exactly as you say.”

“Sebastian...”

Ms. Claire had become composed again.

I suppose she understood that they were sincerely worried for her, and that’s what had caused them to close in on her like that.

And she had probably become angry because she was interrupted, and because she felt that they were ignoring her desire to go.

...But I could be wrong about that.

“Mr. Sebastian, I talked with Leo about it...and Leo says that it will be safe if she is with us.”

“...Is that so? But even with someone like the great Leo there, a whole pack of fenrirs will be...they might overwhelm her with their numbers. And if a Silver Fenrir were to appear, like it did with the first duke...”

“So you think that if the fenrirs and Silver Fenrir were to come out at the same time, Leo would not be enough to deal with them?”

“...Yes.”

I understood why they felt that way.

However, Leo had addressed all of my fears.

But since I was likely the only person who could understand her, I had to convey it to others.

“Uh, according to Leo...”

“Please wait. First of all, you are able to understand what she is saying, Mr. Takumi?”

As I was about to explain, Ms. Lyra spoke as she stepped forward.

Ms. Claire seemed to glare at her for a moment, but also understood that they were worried about her, and so she said nothing.

“Uh...umm... Neither I or Leo really understand why. But perhaps due to being together for so long, I have a good idea of what she’s saying.”

“Wou!”

Leo nodded at my words.

Just like I could understand her, Leo could understand me.

“The great Leo is nodding...so what you say must be true, Mr. Takumi...”

Seeming to be somewhat satisfied by this, Ms. Lyra bowed once to me and Ms. Claire, and then stepped back.

Ms. Claire was thinking about what I had said.

“Uh, Ms. Claire. May I continue now?”

“...Ah, of course. Excuse me.”

“And so...uh, according to Leo... Fenrirs are just small fry for Silver Fenrirs. And it's the same with any other monster in the forest. In fact, since Silver Fenrirs are superior to fenrirs, they would submit at the mere sight of Leo.”

“...”

“...”

I told them that Leo said fenrirs were small fry. The maids were very astonished by this.

“Mr. Takumi. While it is said that Silver Fenrir are above fenrirs...is this true? Fenrirs are still ferocious monsters that attack humans in packs. It's hard to imagine that they would submit to another, even a Silver Fenrir...”

“Hmm... It is true, isn't it, Leo?”

I turned to Leo and asked for confirmation.

## Chapter 47

We Decided to go to the Fenrir Forest

“Wuff-wuff-wou. Wou! Wuff-wuff.”

Uh, now it was...Fenrirs know to submit. It's in their instincts. And even if they attack by some mistake, I'll defeat them all, so it's okay... Something like that?

It probably wasn't what she was saying word for word, but I could tell from Leo's expression that she was confident that she would be fine against fenrirs.

"Uh...so that's what she said."

"...But Mr. Takumi...only you can understand what Leo is saying..."

"Ah..."

"Wuff..."

Oh, now that talking with Leo was starting to feel so natural, I forgot that the others couldn't understand her as well.

...It was a little embarrassing.

I coughed as if to distract them and then explained what Leo had said.

"Um, so according to Leo, the fenrirs will know to submit to Silver Fenrirs by instinct. And even if they attacked us by some accident, Leo will still be able to defeat them. And it won't matter how many of them there are."

"...I see... Well...then... But what if multiple Silver Fenrirs appeared?"

Sebastian was still not backing down.

Well, it was because he was worried about Ms. Claire. And so it couldn't be helped that he didn't want her to go to a dangerous forest.

"Regarding that, she says that it will be safer than normal fenrirs or monsters."

"What do you mean?"

“Because Silver Fenrirs never attack their own kind. If anything, they will greet her as a friend. And so whether there is one or many, it will actually be safer to encounter them.”

“...If that’s the case...especially since the great Leo, who is a Silver Fenrir says so...”

“Sebastian. Are you satisfied now?”

“...Yes.”

“Then it is decided. Mr. Takumi and I and Leo will go to the forest.”

“...As you wish, Lady Claire.”

Sebastian no longer had any good arguments left, and so he was unable to stop Ms. Claire.

However, even now, he did not feel that it was completely safe, and he looked rather somber as he nodded.

“Ms. Claire.”

“Yes?”

“Why are you so adamant about finding out if there are Silver Fenrirs there?”

“That...I will tell you on a different day. We’ve already talked for so long. And Tilura is tired. If we’re going to the forest, then it would be best to rest early tonight.”

“...Very well.”

When I glanced over to Tilura, she was in the corner of the room, and did appear to be dozing off.

However, I did feel as if Ms. Claire had just dodged the question...



Perhaps she saw the doubtful look on my face, as she then put her face near my ear and whispered.

“I will tell just you and Leo when we are on our way to the forest. I don’t really want Sebastian and the others to know.”

“...Very well.”

I nodded and she then moved away and smiled.

What was this reason that she didn’t want the others to know about...?

Well, she said that she would tell me, so I would just have to wait.

“Lyra. Please take care of Tilura.”

“Certainly.”

And so Ms. Lyra picked up Tilura and carried her off to her room.

Not only had she eaten a lot, but we had been talking for a long time about something she wasn’t interested in, and so she had become sleepy.

There was still time until dinner, so she could take a nap for now.

“So, Mr. Takumi. I will talk to Sebastian about preparations for going to the forest.”

“Okay.”

Ms. Claire was going to talk with Sebastian then.

Would she berate him for pressuring her earlier?

...No, if anything, he might start lecturing her about this sudden decision to go to the forest.

And so Ms. Claire and Sebastian left the drawing room.

Only Ms. Gelda remained, and she was giving Leo some milk.

I watched Leo drink and spent the time relaxing while drinking tea.

...Well, the tea had become cold after sitting there so long.

But it was fine, because it tasted good.

“Ah, Ms. Gelda. Can I have another cup of tea?”

After drinking tea in the drawing room, Tilura woke up from her nap, and Ms. Claire finished talking with Sebastian, and so we had dinner together before retiring early for the night.

As I had taken a bath after lunch, I returned to my room right after the post-dinner tea time.

“Phew... I didn’t expect to return to that forest...”

“Wuff?”

Leo was tilting her head and looking at me.

It was like she was asking what was wrong.

“Well, we had wandered through it for quite a while. And since there were orcs...I thought that we’d never go back again.”

“Wuff! Wuff-wuff.”

Then why are you going?

“Because Ms. Claire seems like she really wants to go. It’s also the first place I came to in this world. So I am curious about what we might find.”

“...Wuff! ...Wuff?”

“What is it, Leo?”

While talking, Leo seemed to have found something, and she was looking at my desk with a questioning expression.

But I hadn’t put anything on the desk... Ah, I did place that plant that I had made with Weed Cultivation. The one that I had never seen before.

“Wuff?”

“Ah, that. I don’t know why, but it started growing when I used Weed Cultivation. Since I’ve never seen it or heard of it before, I put it there so I could study it later. ...Don’t eat it.... Ah! Hey, Leo!”

“Chew-chew... Wuff!”

“...You ate it... It was probably some kind of medicinal herb...I hope it’s not poisonous... How do you feel, Leo?”

“Wuff? ...Woo... Wuff-wuff!”

Leo suddenly became very excited.

I’m sure she was holding back a little, as she was so big, but her tail was wagging furiously.

“...What?”

“Wuff-wuff! Grau! Grauu!”

Uh, let’s see...you’re full of energy and can run for miles now...?

What effect was this?

If she felt like she could keep running, was it exhaustion recovery? Energy enhancement?

“Leo... Do you know what effect the plant had on you?”

“Wuff-wuff. Wuff-woof-wou-wou!”

Leo was shaking her head and wagging her tail as she tried to explain to me.

She said that she didn’t feel any fatigue, and that her body felt like it was in better condition than usual.

“So your body is in better condition...?”

What does this mean...?

## Chapter 48

There was something new added to the breakfast menu

She had eaten what I thought was a medicinal plant, and now she felt stronger... Was it something that raised your physical ability? Your stamina? Well, I guess that was the same thing...

What if...I...after making the Loe, had continued to create another amazing plant...

In any case, until further research makes the answer clear, I would grow them in the back garden.

This one, I had been able to make without any information, as it was just based on a random thought.

So even for just testing out Weed Cultivation, I would have to reconsider my process...

And so it was with thoughts of methods for testing tomorrow that I got into bed in order to sleep.

“...Hey, Leo. I understand that you’re full of energy after eating it, but calm down...”

“Wuff! Wuff!”

“...Alright, alright... I’ll play with you just a little. And then you have to sleep.”

“Wuff!”

I had wanted to go to sleep early, but due to Leo’s renewed energy, I was forced to play with her until midnight.

Once she was satisfied, she rested the top part of her body on the bed and then fell asleep.

Since it was a good opportunity, I used Leo’s fluffy fur as a pillow and went to sleep. It really was comfortable...

Maybe I could make a pillow with any fur that she sheds.

But I haven’t seen her shed any yet... Maybe Silver Fenrirs don’t shed?

It was with such thoughts that I slept on my Leo pillow until morning.

---

I got up the next morning, and then woke up Leo, who was still sleeping with half of her body on the bed.

“...Isn’t it uncomfortable to sleep like that?”

“Wuff.”

Leo got up quickly and yawned as she got down from the bed and then stretched with her front paws in front of her.

Thanks to using Leo as a pillow, I slept very well and felt that I was in good condition.

Ms. Lyra was waiting outside, and so I asked her for a basin of hot water.

I then used it to wash my face, and then it was time to shave!

“...My skin still tingles... I'll take my time and get used to it.”

Once the shaving was done, and I finished getting changed, there was a knock on the door and a voice rang on the other side.

“Mr. Takumi. Leo. Are you up?”

It was Tilura's voice.

So she had come to meet Leo again.

“We're up. You can come in.”

“Excuse me!”

I called from inside, and then Tilura burst through the door and entered.

She was certainly very lively.

“Good morning, Tilura.”

“Wuff.”

“Good morning! Mr. Takumi and Leo!”

She said with a curtsy.

While she was ten years old, she was the daughter of a duke.

And so she was taught proper manners. While it wasn't like how Ms. Claire did it, it was still impressive.

After the morning greeting, she wasted no time in jumping onto Leo.

Leo also rubbed her face against Tilura.

“Mr. Takumi, Leo. Let's go and have breakfast. It seems like it's been prepared.”

“Thank you, Tilura. Thank you for coming to tell us. Well, let's all go together then.”

“Wuff!”

“Yes!”

So Tilura had come all of the way here just to tell us that breakfast was ready.

...Or maybe that was just an excuse to get to see Leo. But I didn't mind.

Besides, Leo seemed happy that Tilura was so fond of her.

And so the three of us left the room and headed for the dining hall.

On the way, Leo let Tilura ride on her back, and they started playing while they walked.

“Mr. Takumi, Leo. Good morning.”

“Good morning, Mr. Takumi and Leo.”

“Ms. Claire and Sebastian. Good morning.”

“Wuff! Wuff-wuff.”

We entered the dining hall and greeted Ms. Claire, who was sitting at the table, and Sebastian, who stood in the back.

Leo and I sat in the usual place, and then Tilura got off of Leo and went to sit next to her sister.

Some delicious looking food was already set on the table.

There was something that looked like a pie crust that was baked with sausages and in a rectangular plate.

Uh, I think it was a dish that was called... ‘toad in the hole.’

Ms. Helena had clearly worked hard this morning.

“Well, let’s eat then.”

“Let’s eat.”

“Yes!”

“Wuff!”



At Ms. Claire's order, everyone started eating.

Once the plates were empty, I thought we would move to the drawing room for tea time...but apparently, the meal wasn't finished.

Because a dessert had been prepared with the same crust for the toad in the hole.

"This is...very sweet and delicious."

"Isn't it? I didn't expect a Yorkshire pudding to come out..."

"It's so sweet!"

"Wuff! Wuff!"

Yorkshire pudding.

I suppose it was like a garnish dish that used the same crust as the toad in the hole.

Normally it was supposed to be had with a meat dish, but this one had whipped butter on it, making it a sweet dessert.

The texture was fluffy and chewy.

Both Ms. Claire and Tilura were smiling and seemed to be enjoying it greatly.

Leo also liked sweet things, and was eating it just as eagerly.

I guess girls really liked sweet things.

Though, I like them quite a lot as well.

## Chapter 49

It was decided that Tilura would study

“...Did they have it where you come from, Mr. Takumi?”

“Yes. Though, it wasn’t something well known far and wide.”

“I see. This is my first time eating it... I never thought a dessert could be so delicious...”

“While it is a dessert now, I believe that it is usually supposed to be served with meat dishes.”

Is that so... Helena must have put some thought into making this then. I will have to thank her later.”

“Yes. I am very grateful that Ms. Helena always makes such delicious food.”

“Wuff!”

“Me too!”

Leo and Tilura agreed enthusiastically.

Yes, you had to be thankful for people who could cook well.

As soon as we were finished with dessert, Sebastian and Ms. Lyra prepared the tea, and we went to the drawing room.

Also, I learned that the Yorkshire pudding was called York Puddin here.

And so I would call it that if it was ever served again.

“Mr. Takumi, do you have any plans for today?”

“Indeed... There are things that I’d like to test with Weed Cultivation, so if that is alright...can I borrow your back garden again?”

“I do not mind. In fact, you should feel free to use it whenever you want, Mr. Takumi.”

“Thank you.”

“So, what will you be testing with Weed Cultivation? You already tested it quite a lot yesterday....”

“Ah... Actually, I’m not very confident that it will work as well as yesterday, so allow me to keep it a secret for now. It’s nothing dangerous, of course. And if I succeed, then I will tell you.”

“...Very well...”

Ms. Claire looked just a little pouty after I said that it was a secret.

The idea came to me after Leo ate the mysterious plant yesterday... It wasn’t something I had to hide, but I would rather not talk about it yet.

Besides, I wasn’t sure that I could explain it well.

I would figure things out after I tested it with Weed Cultivation and was successful.

And while it was mostly just a whim, I had a feeling that things would go well.

“Wuff!”

“Oh, are you coming too, Leo?”

“Wuff, wuff.”

“I want to go with Leo!”

As Leo wanted to go out into the back garden, I decided to take her. And then Tilura said that she wanted to go as well.

I suppose I could let them play out there.

That's what I thought, but to my surprise, Ms. Claire put her foot down.

"No, Tilura. You are supposed to study until lunch time. I let you go yesterday because you had only just recovered from your illness, but you must go back to studying from today."

"But sister... I hate studying..."

"Even if you hate it, you must acquire proper knowledge."

"...Yes. I understand..."

It had seemed that Ms. Claire was very soft when it came to her sister, but I now saw that she was strict when it came to studying.

Tilura glanced back at Leo several times as she left through the dining hall.

Well, at that age, it was no wonder that she would prefer to play than to study.

I also hated school, and played a lot...

...It made me feel a little nostalgic.

"Wuff?"

"...It's nothing."

As I started to think of the past, Leo looked into my face with a worried expression.

I patted her big head and then turned to Ms. Claire as I had just remembered something.

“By the way, Ms. Claire. When will we go to the forest that we talked about yesterday?”

“Indeed... Sebastian?”

“Yes. ...Though I’d rather you did not go...ahh! Uh, preparations to go to the forest, yes... We can have everything ready today so that you can leave tomorrow.”

“I see... Then we shall go tomorrow. Is that all right, Mr. Takumi?”

“Yes. I have nothing else to do here other than to test Weed Cultivation. So we should go tomorrow.”

“Wuff.”

Leo nodded as if to show her agreement. And so it was decided that we would head to the Fenrir Forest on the next day.

As I had only been in this world for a few days, it hadn’t been long at all, and yet it felt like it.

It was the forest that I had woken up in to find that Leo had grown. And where we had encountered monsters.

Also, it was where we met Ms. Claire.

“...As so much has happened, I feel a deep connection, perhaps.”

I muttered under my breath so that no one could hear.

With tomorrow’s plans decided, Ms. Claire and Sebastian left in order to see to it that things would be ready.

And so I went out to the back garden along with Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda.

As soon as we arrived, Leo started to run around.

Was she just excited or was it for exercise...?

Well, since both Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda was here, perhaps this was a good opportunity.

“Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda. Would you like to try riding on Leo?”

“Are you sure?”

“...Is it really all right?”

Ms. Lyra must have wanted to ride Leo, as she looked quite happy.

But Ms. Gelda had always been a little afraid, and seemed worried at the prospect of riding Leo.

“It’ll be fine. Hey, Leo. Come over here.”

“Wuff!”

I called Leo who was running around, and after she came to me, I told her to carry Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda.

Leo must enjoy carrying people, as she looked at the two maids and then wagged her tail.

Ms. Lyra was already fond of Leo, and should be fine. But Ms. Gelda...

At this point, she was used to being in close proximity to Leo, but she froze up once she had to climb up

“Ms. Gelda, don’t worry. Don’t be scared... Ms. Lyra, please help her.”

And so Ms. Lyra helped push Ms. Gelda onto Leo’s back, and then Leo ran around the garden.

Since it was their first time, Leo started by running much slower than she did with Tilura.

Ms. Lyra was cheering excitedly as she rode, but Ms. Gelda still appeared to be nervous.

“I’ve never seen Ms. Lyra in such high spirits before...”

Ms. Gelda was...uh, well. I would let her ride a little longer until she got used to it.

And so I watched Leo run around cheerfully as I put a hand on the ground, and started the tests for the use of Weed Cultivation that I had thought of yesterday.

When I had made the plant grow, I had not been thinking of an actual shape...

And so with trial and error, I thought of various things in my head and became absorbed in my study of Weed Cultivation.

## Chapter 50

### I Studied Weed Cultivation

The time passed as I continued various tests with Weed Cultivation, and before I knew it, it was midday.

Of course, Ms. Lyra and Gelda were not riding Leo the whole time, and they got off after about an hour and watched me work as Leo played.

Then Sebastian came and told us that lunch was ready, and so I stopped my studying for the time being.

“Well, I learned quite a lot.”

Apparently, Weed Cultivation didn't just make plants that I knew about, but it could reflect my will and create plants that might not even exist.

Of course, it still wasn't just any plant. I could still not make vegetables, etcetera, but this was more than enough.

After eating lunch, I separated from Ms. Claire, who was still making preparations for tomorrow, and Tilura, who would continue studying, and I returned to the garden in order to conduct tests with Weed Cultivation, with plenty of trial and error.

During all of this time, Leo continued to run around in the garden.

“... You sure have a lot of energy, Leo.”

Well, she had taken a break in between. She came to rest near where I was working, and upon seeing the plant I had made yesterday, she had happily devoured it and then went off running again.

“... So I'm clearly the reason that she is like this... But I suppose it's better than not having enough energy.”

Just as the sun started to set, Tilura, who had to make up for time she didn't study while ill, finally came out into the garden when she was done.

She then ran around with Leo and then rode on her back. Sometimes they would just rub their faces together and jump around happily.

After some time, Ms. Claire and Sebastian finished making preparations for the forest journey, and so we joined them for dinner.

“Mr. Takumi. Do you still refuse to tell me what you are doing with Weed Cultivation?”

“Hahaha. I'm still studying it... Please wait a little longer.”



As for Weed Cultivation, Ms. Claire's curiosity seemed to be without limit. Though I managed to evade it and finish dinner.

But Ms. Claire seemed a little sulky because of this, though she did smile once the york puddin dessert was brought out.

We rested a little after dinner, and then retired early because Tilura had become quite tired after running around so much.

Ms. Claire returned to her room, and I took Leo back to mine.

Then I left her there so I could take a bath alone.

"Phew... This really is a nice bath."

As I had spent most of the day outside, I had to wash my body thoroughly.

While Leo had been running a lot, she was going to the forest tomorrow anyway.

She would just get dirty again, so her bath could wait for when we returned from the forest.

I washed myself clean and then soaked in hot water until I was warmed to the bone. And then I returned to my room and played with Leo a little before going to bed.

I had been thinking about Weed Cultivation for nearly the entire day, and so my brain felt a little exhausted, even if my body was fine.

"And tomorrow...is the forest."

I better get some sleep then.

I said goodnight to Leo, who was rolled up into a ball next to my best, and then I sunk underneath the covers.

-----

In the morning, after I finished washing up, I prepared to go to the forest and left my room.

This time, Tilura did not pay us a visit, which was unusual.

I wondered why, and was told that she had overslept.

She had gotten up in time for breakfast, but there was no time to go and call me and Leo.

After breakfast, I returned to my room to grab my belongings.

I had already found a use for the bag that Sebastian suggested that I buy.

“Leo. Let’s go!”

“Wuff.”

I put a few pairs of clothing and tools that I bought into the bag, and then I called Leo before leaving the room.

When we reached the entrance hall, the twenty servants were standing in a line in order to see us off.

Ms. Claire, Sebastian, and Ms. Lyra were wearing the same traveling clothes... They were plain clothes compared to what they usually wore, and had a kind of leather armor on top.

Aside from them, Phillip and Johanna, who had accompanied us to the town, were also present. And there were also two others who were armed and wore metal armor.

...Huh? This many people were going?

“Sebastian and Ms. Lyra are going too? And...even the guards...”

“Yes. Even if you and the great Leo will be with her, we cannot allow our Lady Claire to go with such small numbers. Lyra and I will be there to take care of her, and Phillip and the three other guards will escort us through the forest.”

“Really. I tried arguing with Sebastian, but he would not hear of us taking fewer people.”

“Hahaha. Well, it’s because he is so concerned about you, Ms. Claire.”

I suppose they could not allow a duke’s daughter to go off with some strange man and his dog...his Silver Fenrir, for a few days.

Huh? But where was Tilura?

I thought that she would at least want to say goodbye to Leo, as they would not be able to see each other for a few days...

“Sister, Mr. Takumi, Leo! Please be careful! And come back soon!”

It was as I was thinking this, that Tilura burst out from between the servants.

“Tilura. You must continue to study while you wait.”

“We’ll try and return as soon as possible.”

“Wuff...wuff-wuff.”

“Yes...ah...Leo...”

I’m sure she actually wanted to come too, but we were going to the forest, which could be dangerous. And so we could not take her.

I was sure that she had heard plenty of that from Ms. Claire already, and had decided to be patient and see us off.

Perhaps Leo had realized this, as she licked Tilura's cheek and rubbed her face against it.

Tilura understood this to be a greeting for Leo, and so she smiled and waved at us.

"Well, let's go then, Mr. Takumi."

"Yes."

"Wuff."

"Good travels, Lady Claire, Mr. Takumi. Please return safely. We will all be waiting for you!"

"Take care, sister, Mr. Takumi, Leo!"

The servants all talked at once, and so it was quite loud and hurt my ears.

And so after being sent off by the servants and Tilura, I, Leo, Ms. Claire and the others left the mansion.