Beloved Dog 411

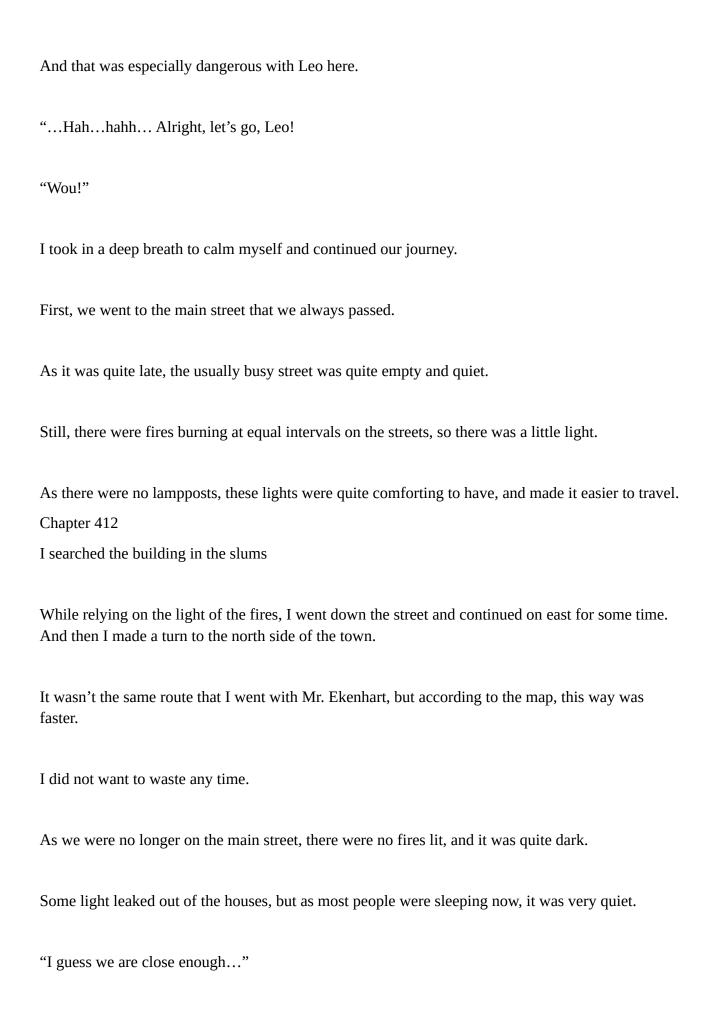


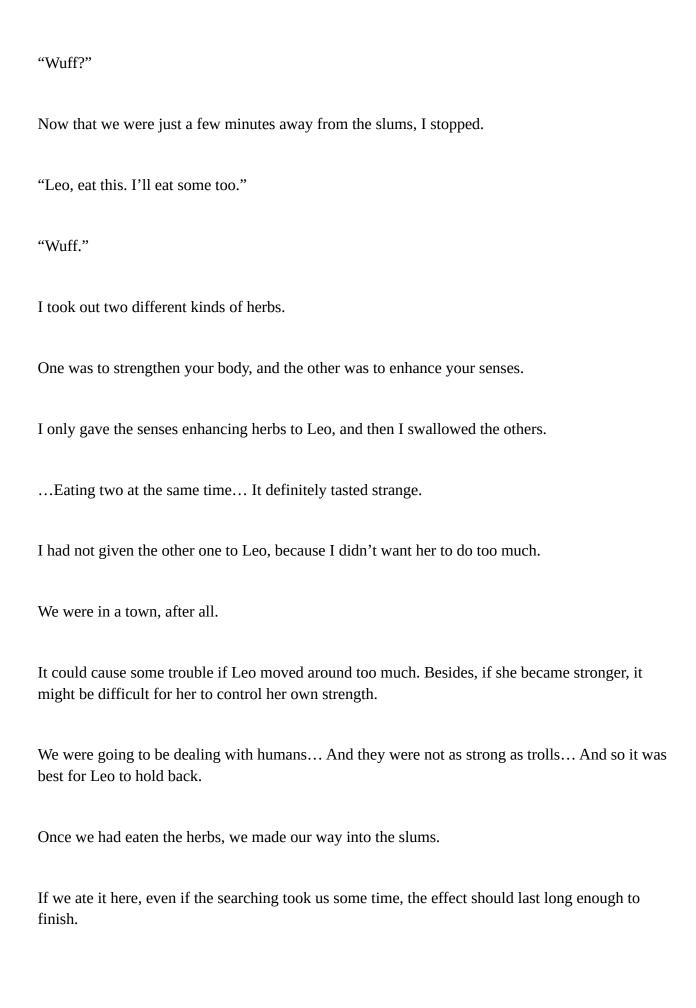
For a moment I thought he had become suspicious, but that was not the case. The guard I was talking to rushed off to the guard house. ...Well, I was carrying the duke's crest, so there was no reason to be suspicious... I wasn't a criminal or anything. Still, all we could do was wait for him to return. "Please use this. ... Unfortunately, we do not have anything for your Leo..." "No, thank you. It will be a great help." "Wou..." The guard returned and handed me a coat that covered my entire body. It was a little too late, as I was already drenched, but it should at least keep me a little warm. And so I was thankful. Leo was much larger than humans, so there was none for her. It could not be helped. Though, she sounded very disappointed. Did you want one so bad, Leo? And so I put the coat on and thanked the guard before leaving. While it did not cover my head, it covered everything under my neck. With this, and the darkness of the night, it will be difficult for people to see me. In other words, it was perfect for hiding.

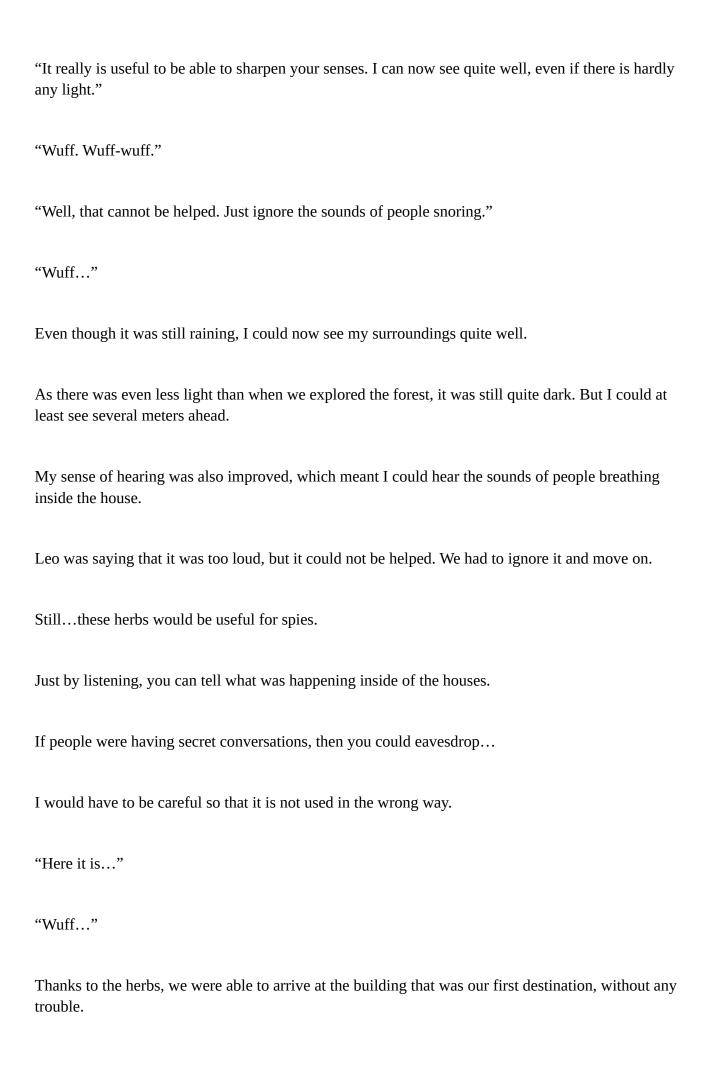
It wasn't enough to hide the fact that she was a Silver Fenrir, but it was definitely a big difference. Once I sheathed my sword, and it was dark again, you could not even see that her fur was silver... In fact, it almost looked black. Leo seemed to understand this as well, and so she did not shake her body to fling off the water. ...Besides, she would just get wet again from the rain. "And now..." "Wuff..." As I headed towards the slums, I took out the paper that Sebastian had given to me. Since I did not want it to get wet, I stood under the roof of a closed shop. I also dried my hands before spreading out the paper. Leo looked over my shoulder with a curious expression. "Hmm... Since I've been here before, perhaps that is where we should start..." "Wuff. Wuff." There was a detailed map depicted on it, and there were three marks on it that showed where Deam had been sighted. And the other paper showed you how to get to those places.

And since Leo was wet, she looked smaller than usual.













Perhaps it was due to my enhanced senses... Well, it could not be helped.

The windows had been covered with boards, and so no light entered the building as I walked through it.

Still, dust covered everything, and there were no traces of anyone having been there recently. It was completely abandoned.

I moved while dragging my feet, so as not to leave clear footprints, and then made my way to the second floor.

While the first floor had two rooms, the second floor only had one room.

"So you can see the clearing from here."

There was one window that wasn't boarded up, and the glass was broken.

And when I approached it, I saw the clearing where Liza had been attacked.

The dust seemed thinner near the window, and there were traces of someone having been there.

So just as I had expected, someone might have been watching us...

Chapter 413

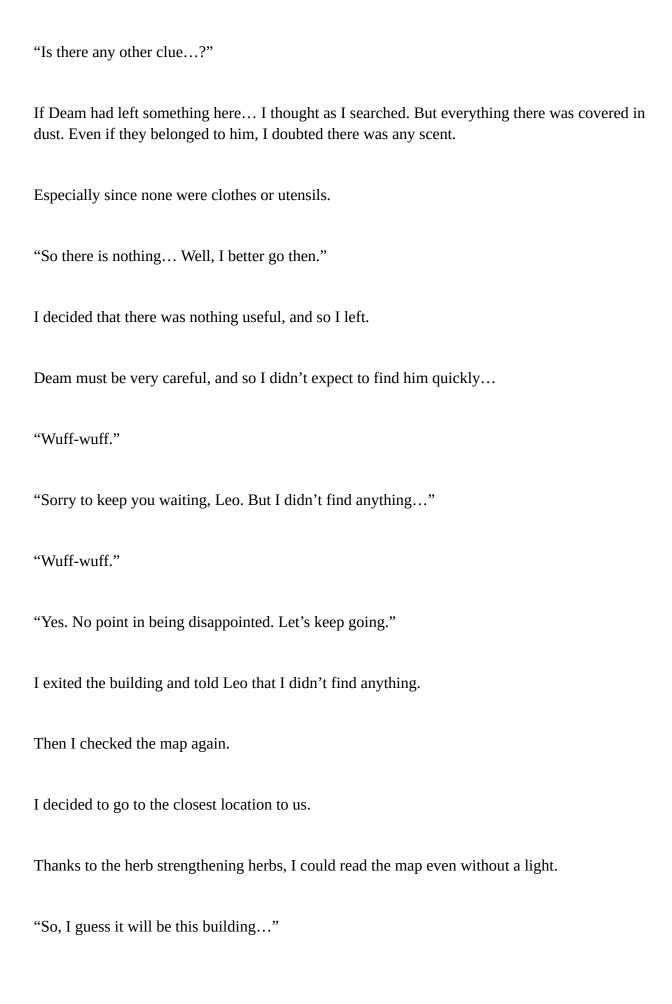
We Were Not Able To Catch Deam

"This is not a place to stay long term, but a place to monitor?"

There had been no traces of anyone here in the hallway. It was just around the window where the dust had been disturbed.

Some of the rain was even coming in through the window.

It was not the kind of place to sleep.





"I'm back, Leo. There was nothing here either." After I finished in the building, I came out and reported to Leo. I didn't expect quick results, but it was a little discouraging, nonetheless. Such investigations took a lot of time, and you couldn't be bothered by such things. But I wasn't used to it. In any case, I would switch gears and go to the last place that Sebastian told me. ... Hopefully, there will be something there... Or Deam himself. The final destination was quite far from the other places. When I looked at the map, I saw that it was near the northeast corner of Ractos. And so we walked for some time until we reached it. We walked quite quickly. I didn't want to seem frantic, but this was my first time, and so I wanted to find something. Part of it was also that I would be seen by some of the residents here. As it was the slums, even though it was raining, I saw a few people on the streets. It was the complete opposite of the main street. The people that I passed seemed like they didn't care about getting wet, though they looked at Leo

and me with suspicion.



However, there was also less dust. What dust I could see was all in the corner...so clearly the place wasn't cleaned carefully. And so I felt a little more hopeful as I searched the inside of the building. Even if there was less dust, I still dragged my feet as I walked. This was because my wet feet could create footprints. While I was being careful, I was an amateur, so perhaps it was pointless effort. Regardless, I wouldn't think about that now. Chapter 414 I found something that could be a clue "...There is nothing here... I'll go upstairs then." The first floor had nothing, just like the others. Even if there was less dust, there were no signs of someone having lived here. If only there were traces of dining, like utensils... I thought as I walked over the creaking floor and made my way to the second floor.

I scanned the second floor and saw that the windows were all boarded up so you could not see outside.

And just as I was about to give up, a dusty shelf caught my eye.

"There are no windows... I guess there's nothing after... Hmm?"

There was dust around the shelf, and there were no traces of it having been used. But then the floor to the left of it looked strange.

And when I looked closer, I saw that it looked like it had been wiped.

"Was someone here...? But it doesn't look like someone has sat or laid down here... Hmm?"

I rubbed my eyes and looked at the floor more closely, and realized that there was a gap between the shelf and the wall behind it.

It was just a few centimeters, but it was strange that there should be such a gap.

Maybe there was something to it... And so I put my fingers inside, and I felt something soft.

Hoping that it was a clue, I pulled it out with my fingers.

"This...is it a blanket...?"

It was a crudely cut piece of cloth.

And when I spread it open, I saw that it was big enough for one person.

It would be easy enough to reach from the position on the floor where there was no dust.

Perhaps someone had been using the cloth to sit or rest on.

In any case, if this was being slept on... And if it was Deam, then perhaps his scent was still on it.

Apparently, he was constantly changing locations, so perhaps he hid bedding like this so that they could be used.

"...Sniff... Hmm. I really can't tell."







The men were gathered in the clearing We moved through the buildings, as the gaps were wide enough to pass through, and stopped just before coming out into the clearing. Up ahead, there was an open space where several buildings had once been. It was bigger than the place where we had found Liza, but there were a few wooden pillars left, which suggested it hadn't been that long since the buildings were town down. And in the far back, towards the outer wall of Ractos, several men had gathered. What were they doing at the edge of town? All of them were standing while facing the wall... And it didn't look like they were resting. "Leo. Behind me..." "Wuff..." I whispered so that Leo could hear me, and had her move back a little. I then crouched in the shadows between the buildings and tried to avoid being seen. It was still raining, and since it was night, I should be hidden. "Surely you all understand?" The man who stood in the center raised his voice.

It was like he was talking to the wall, which was strange.

```
"Hmm...is that..."
When I squinted, I saw a few people between the men standing in front of the wall.
They were facing me, and not the wall. It was like they were sandwiched between the wall and the
men.
Were they surrounded?
And as I looked, I saw that the people being surrounded looked familiar.
Well, two of them did, anyway.
But even with enhanced senses, I could not see them clearly... But I thought they looked like the
boys who had been bullying Liza.
Though, I could be wrong... But they were a similar height to Mark.
Still, why were they surrounded now...?
I scanned the surrounding area while perking up my ears for more information.
"It's your fault that it escaped! Eh? Not only that but Mark was also captured... It's your fault. You
should have stayed here quietly!"
"...I'm sorry."
There were five men surrounding the boys.
And they were threatening them while holding knives.
I couldn't see clearly, but there seemed to be about four boys...
```

As they knew Mark, they must be related to him.
"Ah!? Being sorry is not going to solve the problem! Mark was arrested. And he might have talked about me!"
"Mark wouldn't betray usI think."
"You don't know! Do you know who he antagonized, eh!?"
"I don't know."
"The duke. Damn it. And that beast was rescued by them Do you realize what this mean!! When threatened with execution, he will definitely talk!"
"Theduke"
"It's too late for regrets!"
"Gah!"
"Wuff!?"
"Wait, Leo!"
The leader of the group continued to shout at the boy.
Judging by what he was saying, he was either Deam or someone closely related to him.
He knew about Liza and the duke's house.
Once the boys heard about the duke, they began to shake in fear.

Upon seeing this, the man started to kick one of the boys.

His foot slammed into the boy's stomach, causing him to cry out. Leo almost jumped out then, but I stopped her.

It was a good thing that it was raining...otherwise, they might have noticed us.

"...Kuun."

"While I feel bad for him, wait a little longer... I want to find out what is happening. ... Of course, I will go out if he tries to use that knife."

"...Wuff."

Leo barked as if to ask me why I didn't help them, but I gritted my teeth and told her to be patient.

To be honest, I was sure now that they were the ones who had attacked Liza. And I did feel a little conflicted about that.

However, I also felt bad for them now that they were surrounded by these men.

Leo was the same. I suppose it was because she liked children.

But if we were going to jump out, I wanted for it to be after we had assessed the situation a little more.

I was almost sure that this leader was Deam, but I wanted to be a certain.

If I was wrong, and Deam was somewhere else...that could be very bad.

Leo nodded reluctantly, and I turned my focus back to the men.

The men surrounding the boys were all muscular.

And the leader was bigger than the others.

They had shaved heads and were barechested in spite of the rain. And there seemed to be something written on their backs. Well, I couldn't see it clearly, but there were black lines.

"What if they find out where I live... Eh!? I'll kill you!"

"Bu-but...we only did what you said, Mr. Deam..."

"Aye, I said it. However, I didn't tell you to throw rocks in a crowd! Did I!"

"Mr. Deam only said to torment the beastkin child!"

"He said to chase after her and not let her escape. But he also said that we should avoid being seen..."

"Yes! And yet, what happened? Not only did you let it escape, but you antagonized the duke as well! You bloody fools! And right after we were rid of that annoying old man, Reyndolf! Now that the duke has been alerted, things will become difficult again!"

Chapter 416

I ran in with Leo

So it was just as Mark had said. Deam was the one who had ordered them to torment Liza.

The men continued to talk, not knowing that Leo and I were listening to them.

Hearing them filled me with anger... But it was too soon... I had to wait a little longer...

While most of the men were focused on the boys, one of them seemed to be watching his surroundings.

They were in the slums.

And so even if it was nighttime, there were more people moving around actively compared to other parts of town.

On top of that, since they were shouting, it was possible that people were watching them from their houses.

And while such people might not be completely unrelated, they probably weren't on Deam's side.

Perhaps these men wanted the residents here to watch, and so they could rule them through fear.

It wasn't unusual for people to stand above others through power in such places.

In any case, if I was going to confront these men, I wanted to do it at a moment when their guard was down.

Well, Leo could probably do it easily, but I wanted to be safe...

Of course, if they used their knives or tried to actually kill the boys, then I would jump out and intervene.

"Indeed... We'll start with you... We'll make a show of killing you. This is the slums. No one will miss you anway. Of course, I'll kill you all in the end."

"Ahh!"

"Mr. Deam. Are you sure about this?"

"It's fine. They are useless to me now. It was good to use children to attack other children. But there is no point now. In that case...there is only one things to do."

The leader said as he flashed his knife.

The other man had called him Deam, so there was no mistaking it now.



```
"Wh-what...gah!"
"Ahhh! Argh!"
First, Leo swiped at Deam, who had raised his sword.
Deam was easily knocked off of his feet, and went flying into one of the buildings.
And without losing momentum, Leo turned and attacked the other men who had their backs turned.
...I couldn't fall behind either.
And so I unsheathed my sword and ran towards the men... But by then, everything was finished.
The men were thrown into the air before they even got to see Leo. And just like that, they were
thrown against the wall and were unconscious.
Uh, so I don't need to do anything...?
"Wuff-wuff."
"Ah, yes. You did well, Leo."
After defeating the men, Leo turned to me with a proud expression.
Since they were humans, she did not use her fangs or claws, so that she didn't kill them. And so I
petted her wet head and praised her.
Ah, but they were injured...maybe her claws got caught on them.
```

And their bones could be broken from the impact as well. Not that I felt bad for them.

```
"…"
"Uh, are you alright?"
As for the boys, they were stunned by our sudden appearance, and their mouths hung open silently.
Well, it was no wonder. They thought that Deam was going to kill them. And then we suddenly
appeared.
...Well, I hadn't done anything.
If it was going to be so easy, then I shouldn't have even worried about the man who was guarding...
"Are you hurt? Ah, he kicked you..."
" ... "
Even when I tried talking to them, they could only nod like they were broken dolls.
They must be in quite a shock...and would be for some time.
In any case, they didn't seem to be badly injured, so it was fine.
Though, their clothes were torn and they had scratched as if they had been dragged.
"Grrr..."
"Leo? Hmm?"
"Ah... What the..."
```

As I was looking at the children, Leo suddenly started growling in a different direction. And when I turend to look, I saw that Deam was holding his head and trying to get back to his feet. I suppose he was tougher than the others. "Damn it... Who the...!?" "Grrr..." "Wait, Leo. I will handle this." "...Wuff." He shook his head and muttered as he stood up. And while still holding his sword, he turned to look at us. His eyes widened when he saw Leo. Leo growled and was about to jump out, but I told her to wait. I couldn't let her do everything... Or there would be no point in me being here. That being said, it did feel like I was stealing the glory from Leo by taking down Deam after he was weakened... But I wouldn't think about that right now. "...Who are you? And that...monster? Did you set it on me?" "...Aye, that's right. I have come here to put an end to your crimes here." Deam looked at us with suspicion.

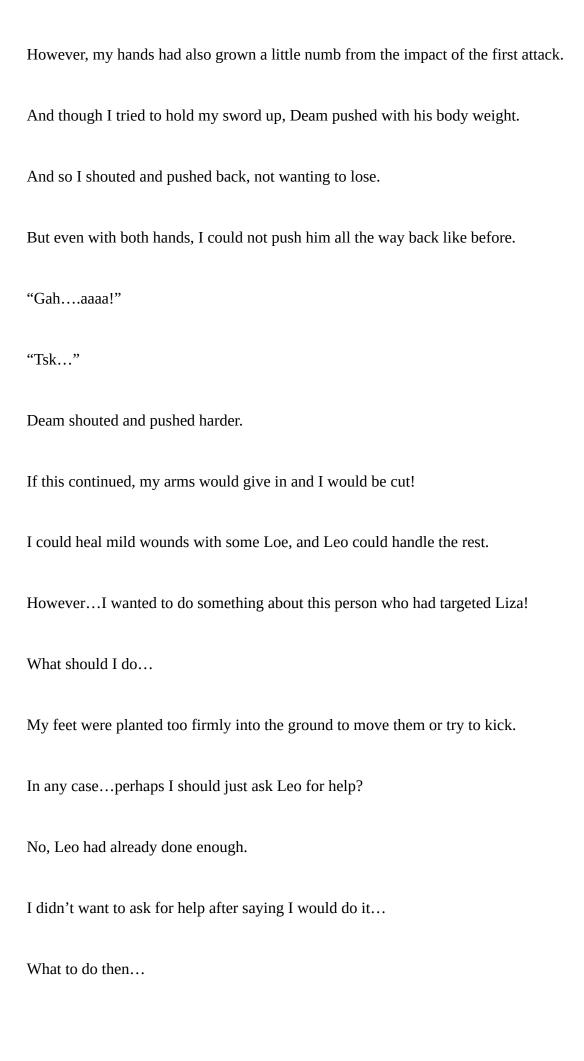
And while he was unstable on his feet at first, he regained his balance soon enough. He had mostly recovered from the damage then. Maybe I should have let Leo deal with him after all... Chapter 417 I fought with Deam "Catch me...? Who...are you?" "I don't need to introduce myself to you." I said, feeling like a hero who had come in to save the day. I had always wanted to do this. "Tsk... Do you know what will happen if you defy me?" "Yes, I do. You're some scoundrel called Deam, aren't you? Smallfry that can only bully beastkin." I knew that I was getting carried away a little as I observed Deam. He had a longsword and was ready to attack. Now that I had told Leo that I would deal with him, it would look pretty bad if I let my guard down and lost. "Smallfry!? You won't get away with this... You will regret your words!" "Well, all you've been doing is surrounding boys and bullying a beastkin girl... That's what

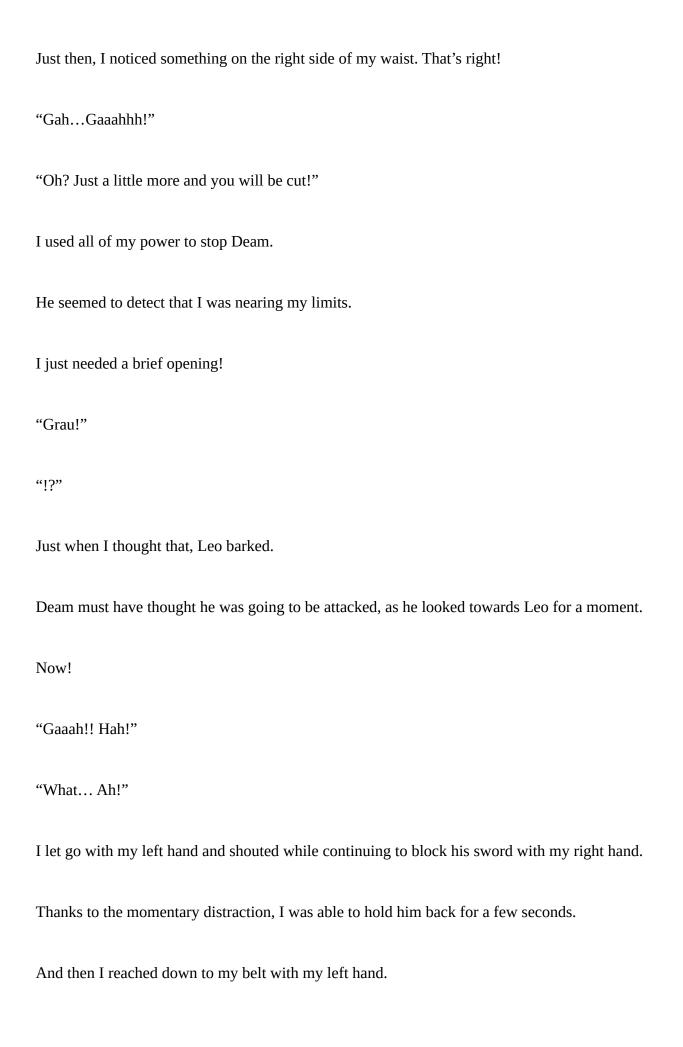
smallfry does, no? You won't be making anyone feel regret, I think."

"You bastard! I'll kill you!" As I purposely provoked Deam, the blood rushed to his head, and he came dashing towards me. Previously, Mr. Ekenhart had told me...that one must never lose their cool during a fight. And while there was a part of me that was angry for Liza, I did manage to remain calm. Otherwise, Leo would have likely jumped out ahead of me. He had also told me that it was good to try to anger an enemy in order to make them lose their calm. Once they were angry, they would always move in a straightforward way, and it would be easier to deal with them... However, I might have made a mistake. Mr. Ekenhart's strategy was effective when used by someone who was skilled, but I was still... Deam was very muscular, and clearly stronger than me. And he moved towards me at a speed that was faster than expected. In my heart, I grumbled towards myself for getting carried away, and then I raised my sword and faced him. "Hmm. I guess you were all talk then?" "I could say...the same about you!" "Tsk!" As he rushed towards me, Deam raised his sword with both hands and slammed down with all of

his might.

I held my sword horizontally with both hands and somehow managed to block it.
Deam continued to press down, but I managed to push upwards and sweep the sword to the side.
Deam frowned as he was pushed back. And then he stumbled a few steps back.
Apparently, he really had been hurt after being hit by Leo, and his legs were still weak.
Perhaps even his arms were weakened compared to how they usually were.
"You blocked my sword In spite of your strange appearance, you are not half bad And now I will kill you!"
He spat as he raised his sword again.
Why was he so angry Well, because I had provoked him
He likely just had a short temper.
Also, he was the one who was bare chested with lines on his body while out in the rain. He should not be able to criticize my appearance.
I was just wearing a coat.
"Die!"
"Not today!"
Once again, I blocked his blade with my sword.
But he did not have the same momentum from running, and so his attack was weaker.







"Wuff-wuff."

As Leo's paws were enough to cover his face, shoulders and chest, all Deam could do was move his legs wildly.

I could see the wound on his stomach as well... And while it was bleeding, it was not very deep.

If Leo had not intervened, he probably would have attacked me again... Both of my hands were numb, so that would have been dangerous.

I suppose I could have cut him deeper, and it would still just be self defense. But I was glad that I hadn't had to kill anyone.

It wasn't that I was clinging onto my old values. But if I could deal with things without killing, then that was preferable.

Besides, I am sure that Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian would want to question him.

It was a good thing that I had brought my katana with me....

The reason that I was able to unsheath it with my left hand, was because I had hung it on my right side.

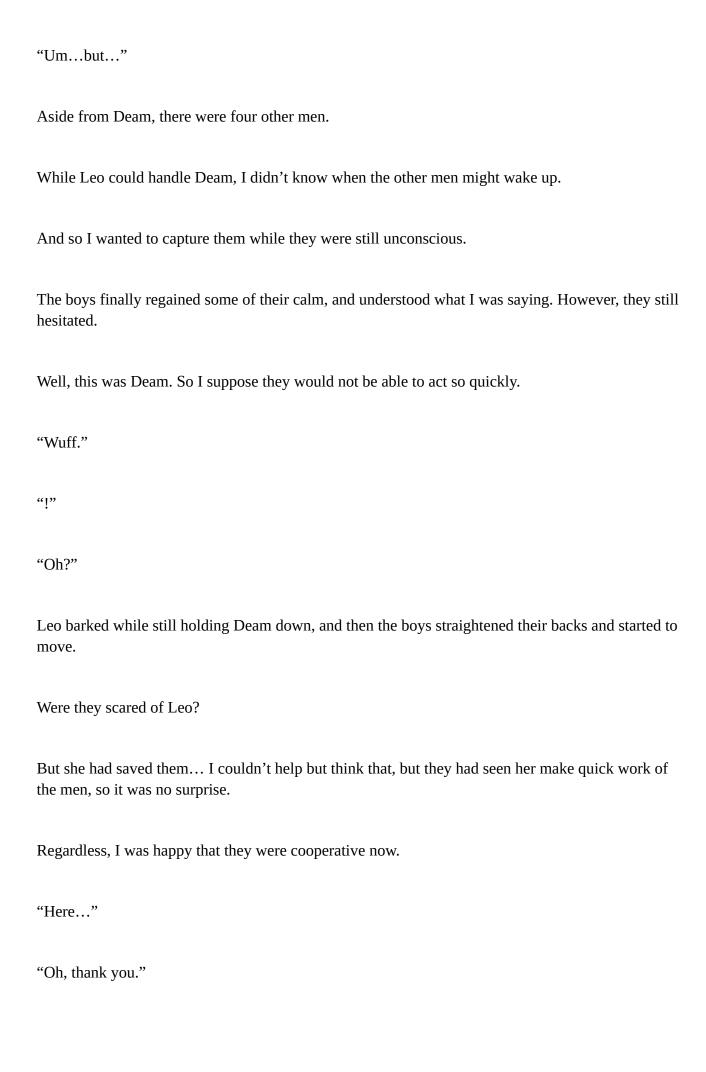
I wasn't used to dual-wielding, but since I had brought it with me, I had put it on my right side so it wouldn't get in the way.

Thanks to that, I was able to unsheath it. If I had let go with my right hand instead, I would not have been able to do it.

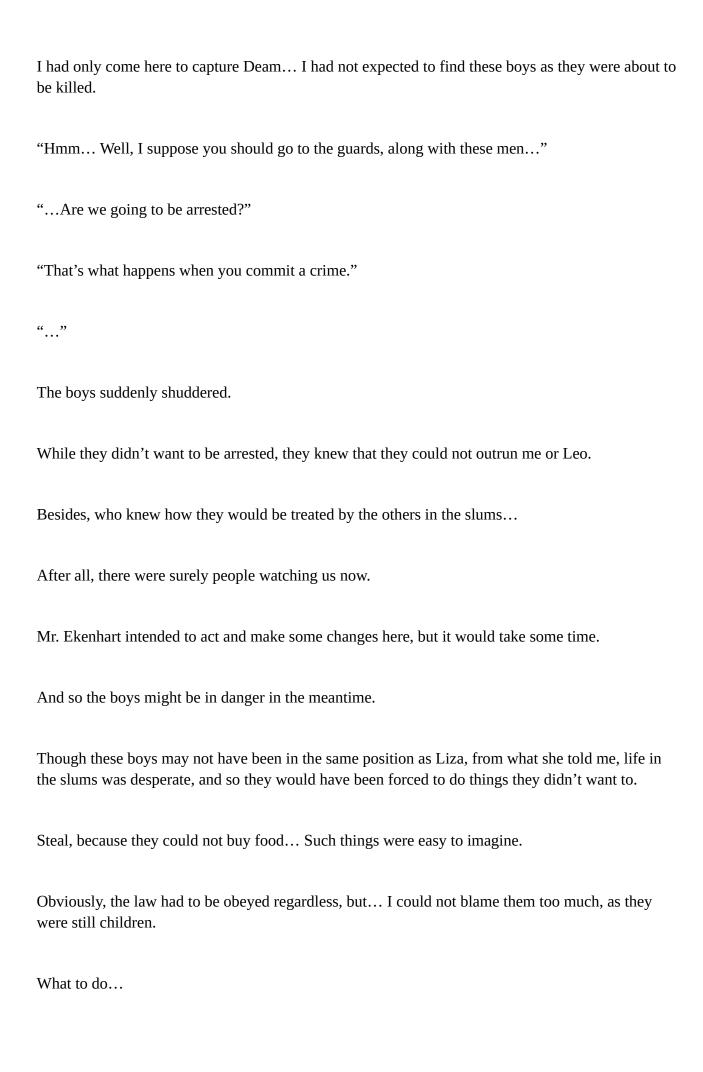
It wasn't like I had been expecting this to happen...so you really never knew how something would come in handy.

"Leo. Hold him there for a little longer."





One of the boys brought me some old rope.
It was just what I needed to tie them up.
I thanked him and then they helped me tie up the unconscious men.
As they were limp on the ground, we struggled a little when moving them, so it was a good thing that I was not alone.
Once all four men were bound, we rolled them over to the spot where the boys had been standing earlier.
They were directly under the rain, but I didn't care, since they were Deam's men.
At worst, they might just catch a cold.
"What will happen to us?"
"You don't have to be so scared. I'm no one important. Hmmas for you"
Once the work was done, the boys lined up in front of me and looked quite timid.
But one of themwho was indeed in the group that had attacked Liza, questioned me.
Well, he was looking at Leo.
Indeed, what should we do with them I had not considered that.
Chapter 419
I talked with the boys
What to do with them now

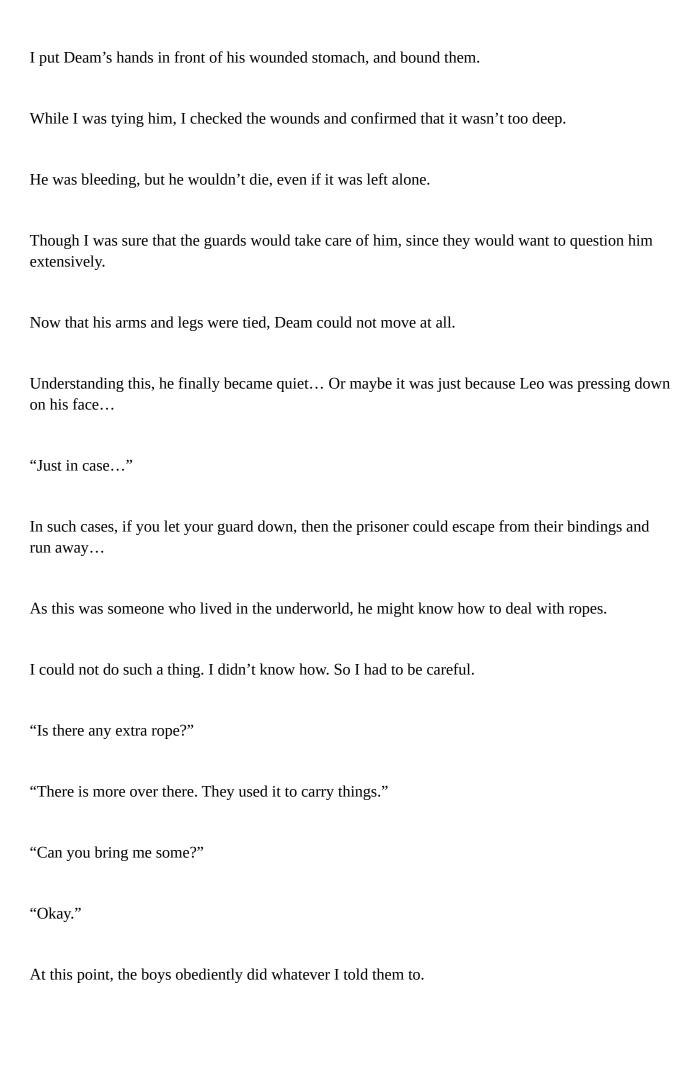






First, they had to be taught that what Deam said about beastkin being monsters that must be driven out of town was wrong.





I suppose it was because they saw the state that Deam was in. In any case, they brought me some extra rope, which I used to tie Deam up even more. Twice. Thrice. So that it wasn't just his ankles, but his knees and thighs as well. And then the biceps of his arms. Then the boys helped me wrap the rope around his body several times. Like this, Deam was completely rolled up in rope. He looked like a caterpillar. There was no worry about him getting away now. "Good. You can let go of him now." "Wuff-wuff." "Tsk! Hah! Hah!" Deam could finally breathe freely now, and so he took a deep breath. ...Had it really been that bad? Leo's palms were so soft... But they were big. "Now, we just have to turn them in... But how should we carry them..." "Wuff?" It would be easy enough if it was just Deam, but there were five men. And even if the boys helped, it would take several trips.

As I wondered what to do, Leo turned her back to me as if to say, 'Should I carry them?' That might work...but I couldn't help but hesitate at the idea. I kind of thought of riding Leo as an honor...reserved for good people. "Hah...hah... Who are you, you bastard!? Do you have any idea what you have done? I have men in other towns. Other slums. They will kill you." "Aye, I know. You do not need to tell me." "What...!?" Once Deam caught his breath, he started to shout at me. While he was threatening me...it was nothing that I didn't already know. Though, he did look like some insignificant thug... And he was constantly moving around like he was scared... Even Mr. Ekenhart had called him a smallfry. In any case, with Deam gone, things should be much more easier for Mr. Ekenhart and the people here. Of course, there will also be some chaos for a while as well. Up until now, nothing had been done because arresting Deam might make matters worse, and cause more conflict. "You... I heard you talking about the beastkin child. What are you to it!" "Her father!"

