

## Beloved Dog 461

### Chapter 461

#### Confirming our plans for the forest

“Bah, it is nothing to worry about. Not only can we buy Loe at a price lower than at the market, but we may save some soldiers as well. Of course, you must tell us in advance next time, understand?”

“Indeed. We are still thinking about how much to store at each location, and when to send them. And so when we are ready, I will tell you the number we need and the date they will be delivered.”

“I understand...”

I really did feel bad about it.

Even if he was the duke, it wasn't like he had infinite money.

And while they would eventually sell some of the Loe and make a profit, that wouldn't be for awhile.

It was like an investment... And as the lord of these lands, things had to go according to a schedule. I didn't want them to owe a debt or end up losing money.

I would have to think more before making herbs... Especially because of the contract. I suppose being able to make them easily had made me get carried away.

“Well then, we will discuss the matter of the Loe later, Mr. Takumi.”

“Yes.”

“Mmm. So that matter is settled. ...But since we still have some time left, I will tell you about tomorrow.”

“Indeed.”

“Tomorrow...do you mean plans for the forest?”

“Mmm.”

After we finished talking about the Loe, Mr. Ekenhart looked around the room and checked the time.

We still had to wait a little longer before dinner.

“As for who will be going, it is you, me, Leo and Tilura.

“Yes. As for the butlers, I shall go, along with one other. And there will also be two maids.”

“Mmm. And the guards... I believe it will be the same three who went with Claire and Mr. Takumi last time?”

“Yes. Phillip, Nicholas and Johanna accompanied us.”

First, we confirmed the personnel who would be going.

Sebastian and one other butler would be coming as well.

I suppose there were more because of Mr. Ekenhart.

I didn't know which maids would come, but last time it was just Ms. Lyra, while there would be two this time.

I suppose that would make things easier, as Ms. Lyra had to cook all by herself, which seemed like a lot of work.

“I see, those three. In that case, since there are more people this time, there should be four?”

“No, since most of the people cannot fight, there should be five. Even Leo there, and it being the second time, we should take every precaution.”

“I see. Well, I will leave it to you then.”

As Phillip, Nicholas and Johanna had experience in the forest, they were automatic additions. And though our purpose was different this time, they knew the terrain, so I was glad to have them with us.

“And just like last time, we will head to the forest, and then make our way to the river, where we will set up camp. And we will search for orcs on the following day.”

“Mmm. Well, we might encounter orcs on the way, but that should be fine for the first day. Even if fighting them is our purpose, there is no need to rush.”

“Yes. Even if we see orcs on the way there, we will let Leo or the guards deal with them.”

It would take time to travel, and energy as well.

As we were going to camp near the river, there would be a decent amount of walking...

And Tilura was not used to fighting in a forest, where trees could get in the way... It was the same with me.

“Unlike the previous time, there is no need for exploration. We only need to search for orcs. And lure them towards us.”

“That is fine. There is no need to go too deep into the forest. We can just lure them into an open area. While you should also experience fighting them among the trees... Well, it depends on Tilura. We will see how she does.”

“Um... What about me?”

“I’m sure you could do either one, Mr. Takumi. After all, you fought people in a cramped building before. Even if they were likely weaker than orcs. But the decision is yours, just like Tilura. But I think you will be fine.”

“Fighting in a building is surely very different from fighting in a forest... But I will do my best.”

I understood why they would provoke and lure the orcs towards us.

As it would be her first battle, and in unfamiliar terrain, they would want Tilura to fight in an open space. But since they didn’t say anything about me, I asked Mr. Ekenhart, and he said he was not worried about me.

Indeed, I had once fought three men with weapons inside of a small store. And so you could say I was experienced in fighting in small spaces and with obstacles in the way.

But it wasn’t exactly the same, I didn’t think it was enough. Still, I would trust Mr. Ekenhart, since he said I should be fine.

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I was asked about Liza

“Your Grace, what about situations where we encounter monsters that are stronger than orcs, such as trolls?”

“Now that I think about it, you did see trolls before, didn’t you? But good Leo or the guards should be able to handle it. There is no need to take any risks.”

“Certainly.”

Last time, we had seen trolls surround Sherry and attack her.

And while Leo could deal with fenrirs and trolls, it was possible that there were other monsters as well.

If that happened, then we would just let Leo or the guards deal with them.

While we were here so that Tilura and I could get some experience, it was best if we did not put ourselves in danger either.

I sighed with relief, but made sure that Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian did not see me do it.

While I had fought orcs in Range village, when it came to other monsters...

Trolls were big. Their arms were as thick as my body.

If I were to be hit by them, I would break bones and get knocked into the air... I did not like the idea of fighting them.

“Mr. Takumi looks relieved.”

“He does? ... Well, we are not going to the forest to face danger. So there is no reason to fight trolls and other monsters if not necessary.”

“Yes. Thank you.”

Apparently, Sebastian had seen that I was relieved.

There really was no hiding things from him.

“Now, Mr. Takumi. Can you call over Leo? And Liza.”

“Leo and Liza?”

“Mmm. As Leo wants to train Sherry as well, we should know how she intends to do it. As for Liza...are you going to leave her here?”

“Yes, I did want to leave Liza here where it is safe... Is that a problem?”

“I don’t mind if she stays. However...she might not want to. Perhaps she will want to follow you and Leo to the forest. Well, I’m sure you could persuade her to stay... But if she did come, I’m sure Leo would keep her safe. So I do not mind either way.”

“I see... It’s true that she might want to come. She got quite lonely when we went to the slums.”

If we went to the forest, we would be gone for a few days.

And while she would be safe in the mansion, she would surely miss us.

Well, like Mr. Ekenhart said. If Liza wanted to come with us, I suppose it would be fine, as long as she stayed close to Leo the whole time.

...Though, I did feel a little bad that Leo was so much more reliable in terms of protecting her. I need to improve more, so that I can protect my daughter by myself.

“So that’s how it is. She has finally found a place where she feels safe. And it is with you and Leo, not this mansion. Though, she might pretend that she is fine.”

“Indeed... She had a habit of not saying how she really feels. And I don’t want her to do anything she doesn’t want to.”

She had done a lot of that in the slums already.

Recently, she had finally started to enjoy being herself more, and so I didn’t want her to go back. But if she thought that she might get in the way, she might just say that she would prefer to stay at the mansion.

And so I would have to be careful when talking to her.

“As she is close in age to Tilura, I could not help but worry.”

“Thank you. I will call Leo and Liza then.”

“Mmm. Good.”

And so I left the dining hall and went back to the garden.

On the way, I thought about what Liza’s answer would be. And concluded that she would want to come.

Ms. Claire and the others would be in the mansion, so there should be no problem with her staying. But Tilura was her only playmate, and she would be gone.

In any case, I would tell her of the dangers in the forest, and let her decide...

Perhaps I was being too soft. But it wouldn’t be allowed if Leo was not with us.

Though, it’s not like we would be going to the forest regularly.

“...I see that everyone has come.”

“Sorry. Since they were all together...”

I called the others in the garden, and we all returned to the dining hall and sat down.

Ms. Claire was curious when she heard that her father wanted to talk about something, and Tilura followed Leo and Liza... And then so did Sherry and Ms. Anne.

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Sherry was traumatized by the trolls

“I don’t mind. Besides, it’s almost time for dinner.”

“So, father. You have something to discuss with Leo?”

“Mr. Takumi did not tell you?”

“Ah, I thought I would let them hear it from you...Mr. Ekenhart.”

“I see. Very well...”

He then turned to Leo and started to explain.

“Wuff... Wuff-wou. Grau-grau. Wou!”

“What did good Leo say?”

“She says that she’ll have Sherry fight off random orcs. And some other monsters as well, depending on the situation.”

My interpretation was not as precise as Liza, but I think I got it mostly right. Even Leo was nodding.

I could have just asked Liza to do it for me, but I wanted to improve, as Liza might not be with me all of the time.

“Hmm, I see. In that case, Sherry will accompany us with the same purpose as you and Tilura? To gain experience?”

“Wuff! Wuff-wuff? Wou!”

“Yes, but she also wants to know if we will be fighting any other monsters. She thinks trolls would be good.”

“Kyu!?”

Apparently, Leo was also considering making Sherry fight other monsters as well.

Aside from dieting, she also wanted to toughen her up as a fenrir, and so she was rather strict.



...At least, I hoped it had nothing to do with being angry about stealing food.

Regardless, upon hearing the word 'troll,' Sherry lifted her head and yelped.

"...What is it, Sherry?"

"Kyau...kyau..."

"I see. Sherry does not want to fight against trolls. What do you think, good Leo?"

"Wuff... Grau-grau!"

"Kyu..."

Sherry was sitting on Ms. Claire's lap as she explained the reason.

As she was Ms. Claire's familiar, they were able to understand each other.

Perhaps being attacked by them previously had resulted in some trauma.

After all, several of them had surrounded her, and she had been close to death.

However, Leo sighed and then barked as if to scold Sherry.

Uh...she was saying that a fenrir should not be afraid of mere trolls.

I then relayed this to the others.

"Hmm... It is true that fenrirs are supposed to be stronger."

“Indeed. While trolls are big and strong, they are not as dangerous when compared to fenrirs. They can move swiftly and cut down trees with their claws. And they can use magic. While trolls rely on strength alone... Their movements are slow, and so fenrirs can dodge them. Of course, I have never actually witnessed it...”

“Well, it is rare to see monsters fighting each other. But it is our understanding that while trolls are above orcs, they are much lower than fenrirs.”

“Wuff!”

“Kyu...”

I had never fought one myself, but Leo had defeated one on our way to Range village.

And while I watched from a distance, it did seem slow... Though, I didn’t know if I could dodge them for certain.

Even if they were slow, they were so strong that I might not survive being hit, which made them a great threat towards me... Unlike Leo and Mr. Ekenhart.

...Sherry did not look amused.

“Wuff?”

“Hmm. What is it?”

As I wondered what to do, Leo looked at me and tilted her head.

Apparently, she wanted to ask me something.

“Wuff-wuff.”

“I’m sure that will be prepared. Sebastian, Leo is wondering about everyone’s food.”

“Food? Just like before, the butlers and maids will prepare it once we reach the forest.”

“I see. Thank you. Did you hear that, Leo?”

“Wuff...”

Leo sure cared a lot about food... Or so I thought, but it was apparently not that.

After hearing those words, Leo stopped to think.

I hadn't seen Leo like this since I made her smell something bad...

“...Wuff! Wuff-wuff. Wuff! Wuff-wuff?”

“Kyau!?”

“Ah, I see...”

Leo seemed to think of something as she started barking.

Umm...Sherry will defeat orcs for food, and she will leave the cooking to us?

And so I told Sebastian what she had said.

As this was Leo's plan for putting Sherry on a diet, no one wanted to intervene.

Because Ms. Claire and I had no idea how to strengthen a fenrir.

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I asked Sherry why she was alone when she was attacked

“Hmm... Acquiring food on location. Are you sure about that?”

“Wuff! Wou-wuff!”

“She says that it will be fine. Leo says that Sherry stole from the kitchen because she never hunted for her own food.”

“Kyu...”

Sherry was only a few months old, so she was still a fenrir cub.

I didn’t know when they started hunting, but it was likely she had not experienced it yet.

While we didn’t see any others when we found her, she probably had parents that hunted food for her before.

...Now that I thought about it, what happened with the other fenrirs?

Were they looking for Sherry in the forest? Or was this just an accepted part of living in the wild?

While it had happened a while ago, I was now curious as to how Sherry had found herself in that situation.

I suppose I should ask her? It would be easy for Ms. Claire or Liza to talk to Sherry.

“While it is not exactly the subject we are on...”

“What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

“Wuff?”

“Well, uh... We did not see any other fenrirs when we encountered Sherry in the forest.”

“Indeed. While she was being attacked by trolls, there were no other monsters in the area.”

“Right? I was wondering why Sherry was alone in the first place... I heard that fenrirs moved in packs...”

“Mr. Takumi. As Sherry’s master, I have asked about it before.”

“You did, Ms. Claire?”

If fenrirs moved in packs, surely they would not abandon a young fenrir.

Regardless, it seemed that Ms. Claire had wondered about the same thing, and had questioned Sherry about it. I felt dumb for not even thinking about it before.

I suppose it was because I was so busy with other things in this unfamiliar world.

“Yes. It was around the time that you went to Range village, Mr. Takumi.”

“I see. And what did Sherry say?”

“Sherry was born in the forest. Well, I suppose that is to be expected, as fenrirs rarely come from other places.”

“Yes.”

“And while their pack usually stayed deep into the forest, Sherry suddenly felt a strange presence one day. Isn’t that right, Sherry?”

“Kyau! Kyau-kyau!”

Ms. Claire started to tell me what Sherry had told her.

And Sherry barked in agreement.

She was a lot more cheerful now. Perhaps she had forgotten the trials Leo had set for her.

“I see. So it was more of a scent... A vague feeling. Regardless, she became curious, and separated from her pack.”

“A strange smell...”

“Yes. At first, she was able to move through the forest without encountering any monsters, but... She started to get hungry, and then realized that she was in a strange place, and there was a different strange smell. I suppose her curiosity had distracted her, so she lowered her guard.”

“But what kind of smell was it?”

“Apparently, it was the trolls. And by the time she realized this, they were already too close, and surrounded her so that she could not run away...”

“I see... So that is why. And then she was attacked...”

“Yes.”

“Kyau...”

When Ms. Claire was finished, Sherry barked and nodded. And then looked sad as she seemed to remember the trolls.

In any case, I understood why she was separated from her pack now. But what was that unfamiliar presence?

Perhaps it was something that fenrirs could sense, but I was a little curious.

“Did Sherry say what the presence or scent was?”

“I did ask her about that. But after being injured, she did not really remember... But I think that it must have been Leo.”

“Kyu...”

Sherry seemed a little embarrassed that she did not remember it well, but she was still young... And so it could not be helped.

Still, it was quite careless of her.

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Delicious food was important to Sherry

“So she doesn’t remember that. What do you think, Leo?”

“Wuff? ...Wuff-wuff. Wou?”

I turned to Leo to see if Ms. Claire’s guess was correct.

After tilting her head, Leo barked as if she was not confident.

“Maybe? That is what she said. And she says that since Sherry is still young, she might be curious about presences that a grown fenrir would know to run away from.”

“I see... Leo did say before, that fenrirs instinctively submitted to Silver Fenrirs, I believe?”

“Wou. Wou-wuff-wuff.”

“She says that they might be able to detect Silver Fenrirs from a distance. Though, adult fenrirs would run away so that they do not encounter them. But I guess Sherry was too curious.”

As Sherry was a fenrir, she would also have a sharp sense of smell, and might have been able to detect Leo from far away.

Unless Sherry was just special... But it was hard to think that, considering how she has acted since coming to the mansion.

“Indeed. Sherry? If you sense something strange, you have to tell someone, okay? You don’t want to get attacked by trolls again.”

“Kyau!”

“Wuff...”

When Ms. Claire talked to Sherry, it just looked like a lady and her dog.

Even if the dog was actually a fenrir...

While Sherry was nodding to Ms. Claire, Leo was sighing as if to say, ‘you should be able to beat a mere troll...’

“So we know why Sherry was on her own now. However, does she not have to return to her pack? Even if she is Claire’s familiar. While familiars cannot attack their masters, they are not servants either.”

“Yes, father, I understand that. Sherry? While it would make me sad, do you wish to return to the forest? If you do, you can return to the forest as a normal fenrir, and not a familiar.”

“Kyu?”

I had never actually heard about familiars not being able to attack masters before. But it made sense, or you would not be able to do it with any dangerous monsters.

An intelligent monster might be able to trick humans...and pretend to be a familiar.

Ms. Claire looked at Sherry with a serious expression as she asked her.

Sherry tilted her head, and while I didn’t understand what she was saying, she did look quite sad.



“It’s not that I don’t want you here, or think you are in the way. I would like for you to stay here. But if you want to go, I would not want to stop you.”

“Kyu... Kyau-kyau!”

“Hehe. If you say so. Very well. Father, Sherry says that she wants to stay here with me. The reason...is that she gets to eat delicious food here...”

“Haha. Food, eh? In that case, you will have to continue to provide her with good food, so she will not want to leave. Of course, you cannot feed her too much either, or it might upset Leo.”

“Wuff! Wuff!”

After barking, Sherry licked Ms. Claire’s nose and cheek.

It was her way of showing affection.

Ms. Claire relaxed with a smile and told us that Sherry wanted to stay.

I could see that she was relieved about Sherry’s decision.

Even if it was more because of the food.

“So if you are staying with Claire, that means you will continue to be trained by Leo.”

“Kyu...”

Sherry did not sound happy when Mr. Ekenhart reminded her about that.

I suppose she had forgotten.

“So, good Leo. Sherry will fight orcs and other monsters in the forest. As for food... It will be secured on location, as you said. Of course, you can leave the cooking to us.”

“Wuff!”

“...Kyu...”

“So, as for the next thing...”

Now that the business with Sherry was finished, the next was Liza.

And so along with Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian, I told her about the dangers of the forest.

“What do you want to do, Liza?”

“So you and mama will be away for some time? ...Okay.”

“Liza. You don’t have to stay if you don’t want to. Leo will be there, and you won’t be in the way.”

“...Yes.”

After finishing the explanation, I looked straight at Liza and asked her the question.

She thought about it for a moment, and while looking at the floor, said that she was fine.

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More people would be going to the forest

“Wait a minute, Mr. Takumi?”

“Ms. Claire?”

As I looked at Liza and waited for her answer, Ms. Claire suddenly interrupted me.

“Well, uh... If little Liza stayed at the mansion, then she would be alone.”

“But...well. As long as you and Ms. Lyra are here...”

“I am going to the forest with Sherry.”

“Claire!?”

“Lady Claire!?”

Apparently, Ms. Claire was going to the forest as well.

Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian were surprised by this sudden declaration.

Indeed, she had not been mentioned earlier when discussing who would go. And so no one expected this.

“Why are you so surprised, father? And you too, Sebastian. I’ve been to the forest before, and am quite experienced. So I should be quite useful to have around. Besides, did you really think that I would let Tilura go without my supervision?”

“Uh...indeed. But it is dangerous.”

“Yes, Lady Claire. There is no reason for you to put yourself in danger, when you can stay here...”

“I understand that. but isn’t it the same with all of you? And while I don’t think we should rely on her too much, there is also Leo. Isn’t that right?”

“Wuff? Wou!”

Mr. Ekenhart was weak when it came to Ms. Claire.

Sebastian tried to persuade her to stay as well, but Ms. Claire did not back down and then addressed Leo.

Leo was puzzled at first, but then nodded reassuringly.

“Even good Leo... Still, Claire...”

“Father, Sherry is going, isn’t she? Then it is only natural for me to see the growth of my familiar. That is how our bond will grow stronger.”

“Uh...mmm...”

“Kyau, kyau!”

Mr. Ekenhart tried to argue, but Ms. Claire kept going in.

And when he finally fell silent, Sherry barked happily.

“Besides, Mr. Takumi told me...”

“Mr. Takumi? He told you to go to the forest?”

“He would not tell me to go to a dangerous forest. No, he told me to act more freely. And so that is what I will do.”

“...It is true that you are often too harsh on yourself, Claire... But perhaps now is not the time... So it’s your fault, Mr. Takumi.”

“Uh... Ahaha...”

I did not expect her to bring up our conversation from the afternoon.

Mr. Ekenhart was now glaring at me, and I could only chuckle in reply.

Sebastian was also sighing and shaking his head.

“...If Claire is going to the forest, then Anneliese must go as well.”

“What!?”

Ms. Anne had been drinking her tea quietly, but her eyes bulged at the sudden mention of her name.

“If I, Sebastian, Tilura, Mr. Takumi, Leo and even Claire go to the forest...then there will be no one left here to monitor Anneliese. And while I doubt she will do any mischief, I was still given charge of her. And so it would be bad if no one was watching her.”

“That...couldn’t you just say you kept an eye on her? It’s not as if anyone related to the royal family is here...”

“While I enjoy jokes, I do not like to lie. And I will not send in a false report. In other words, it is decided. Anne will go to the forest.”

“...But...my comfortable room... Ms. Claire, you will rue the day!”

“You should spend more time outside the house anyway.”

“Kyau!”

While Sebastian would probably be able to do something about it, Mr. Ekenhart did not like to deceive people.

As for Ms. Anne, she was terribly disappointed to have her plans crumble, as she had been looking forward to staying in the mansion.

“So, it is decided then... As for Liza, what will you do? Of course, you can stay if you want.”

“Hmm... There are monsters in the forest, aren't there, papa?”

“That's right. I went there before, and there were orcs.”

“Orcs...?”

While I could have decided for Liza, I wanted to respect her decision.

Mr. Ekenhart said that he didn't mind if she stayed here.

After thinking about it for a moment, Liza started to ask me about the forest.

When I told her about the orcs, she tilted her head and thought about it.

Perhaps Liza had never actually seen wild monsters before...

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Liza decided what she would do

“Well, orcs are like this...”

“Oh. I see.”

“Wuff!”

I told Liza about the orcs and that they were dangerous monsters that attacked humans.

While Sebastian looked like he wanted to explain it, I'm sure he would have plenty of other opportunities later.

Liza nodded understandingly, and then Leo barked and told her that orcs were just food.

Leo...only you thought like that, because you are so strong.

I had fought them myself, and felt that they were dangerous. And so I definitely did not see them as food from the beginning.

They were not livestock, and should not be underestimated.

“Could it be that...”

“Liza. Have you eaten orc meat before?”

“Yes, maybe... Sometimes my grandfather would bring back some special meat. It might be the same meat, if mama says they are food.”

“...While orcs do not live near the town, they might stray close to it sometimes. And they are common enough in the forest. So perhaps there are people who actively hunt them.”

Her grandfather was Mr. Reyndorf.

I didn't know if he was doing it to sell, but apparently, he sometimes hunted orcs and brought back meat.

But since it was already cut up, she didn't know for sure that it was orc meat.

According to Ms. Isabelle, Mr. Reyndorf was a wanderer, and so it would be no surprise if he encountered orcs on his travels.

“I only ever saw him bring the meat back, so I want to see where it came from! I'll go to the forest as well!”

Liza was curious to know where the meat had come from.

And that feeling was stronger than any fear. Well, as long as we were careful, she should not be in any danger.

“I see... Very well. Mr. Ekenhart, is that alright?”

“Mm. With Claire and now Anneliese accompanying us, that is a lot more people than I expected... But it is fine. We do not mean to go deep into the forest anyway.”

“...Should we bring more servants as well?”

“Indeed... We will need that much more help. Sebastian, you select a few who can afford to go with us.”

“Certainly...”

“...Will we also need more Loe?”

I wondered, now that there were more people going.

And that meant we might need more Loe as well.

It wasn't just monsters. In the forest, there was the possibility of getting injured in other ways as well.

That's what I thought, and so I asked Mr. Ekenhart about it.

“No, Mr. Takumi. We already have more than enough of it. So you do not have to make any more, understand?”

“I see... Yes, I understand.”

Apparently, he thought that we had enough.

...Perhaps I was being too paranoid about injuries?



Well, I could always grow some while I am there.

“Father, what are your plans once we are in the forest?”

“Ah, that’s right. I talked about it with Mr. Takumi, but I suppose I have to tell the rest of you now, since you are also going.”

It had been discussed only between Mr. Ekenhart, Sebastian and me.

But now that Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne was coming, we had to talk to them about it as well.

Some time had passed though, and dinner was ready, so we would talk about it while we ate.

Ms. Claire listened to us seriously, but Ms. Anne looked quite depressed, and not even Ms. Helena’s cooking was able to cure her.

...She should listen though, for her own good... Well, maybe she was listening, regardless of how she looked.

But Sebastian took no notice of her and explained our plans most cheerfully.

It more than made up for not being able to tell Liza about the orcs.

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The anticipation made it difficult to sleep

After discussions around dinner ended, and we had our tea, I went out to the garden in order to train lightly with Tilura and Mr. Ekenhart.

It was just a little swing practice, so that we wouldn’t get too tired, since we had a long trip tomorrow.

Ms. Claire, Liza, and Ms. Anne returned to their rooms in order to prepare.

I had asked Ms. Lyra to take care of Liza and Leo, and so she would make sure that they had packed.

“Ah, papa. You’re back!”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Yes. Are you prepared for tomorrow then?”

“Yes, Ms. Lyra helped me! She moves so quickly!”

I took a bath and then returned to my room. And I saw that Liza was playing with Leo by lifting her large paws into the air.

When I entered the room, she greeted me cheerfully.

It sure was nice to have people who were happy to see you...

I then saw that her bag was in the corner, and so I asked if she was ready. Ms. Lyra had seen to it after all.

Well, it wasn’t like she had much to pack anyway. So it wouldn’t have taken long.

And Sebastian and the others would prepare most of the other things that we needed.

I listened to Liza talk happily about Ms. Lyra as I sat next to her on the bed. And then I noticed something.

There was something familiar on top of Liza’s bag.

“Liza. That knife... Are you going to take it with you?”

“Yes! It’s important because you bought it for me. Besides, it’s dangerous in the forest, isn’t it? And so I have to bring it!”

“I see...”

It was the knife that I had bought for Liza when we went shopping in Ractos.

Not only was it bigger than a fruit knife, it was bigger than a survival knife. And while it was in a sheath, it looked like it was waiting to be used as it sat there.

Hmm... Well, I suppose it was more practical than a short sword, which she was not used to handling.

However, it was hard to imagine a child so young wielding it as well.

“While it is dangerous, you cannot use that knife unless it is necessary, alright?”

“Yes, I know!”

I wasn’t sure if she really did know. But she smiled and nodded.

Would it be alright?

I just hoped she didn’t accidentally hurt herself with it.

“Leo. I’ll be counting on you. Keep an eye on her.”

“Wuff!”

“Liza. While you may keep the knife, you must also never leave Leo’s side.”

“Yes! I’ll stick with mama!”

“Wuff!”

As long as they were together, she should be fine for the most part.

Of course, I would also keep an eye on her when I could.

“Hey, hey. Papa. Could you tell me more about the forest? You’ve been there before, right?”

“Hmm? Well, I suppose you should know more then. Though, I can only tell you what I know.”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

And so I decided to tell her about my prior experiences.

She listened happily and would occasionally ask questions that I would answer.

Leo watched us and wagged her tail gently. Clearly, she was in a good mood.

And whenever I said something that was wrong, she would bark at me, to let me know.

...If you are going to be so strict about it, you should have told her yourself, Leo...

“Hmm, Liza. It’s quite late now. You should go to sleep, or you will be tired tomorrow.”

“But I want to talk a little more!”

I had suddenly glanced at my watch, and saw that she would usually be asleep at this hour.

After all, it was already midnight.

We had talked for quite a long time... And so I showed her my watch and told her to go to sleep.

But Liza wanted to talk some more.

Perhaps the anticipation for tomorrow made it difficult to sleep.

It reminded me of school field trips, where I would be so excited that I couldn't fall asleep...

But in the end, I would end up sleeping in and nearly be late. And then I would be tired for the whole day.

"No. You might not be able to get up on time if you don't sleep now. And if you're late, it will inconvenience the others."

"Oh. Okay..."

"Wuff."

"Ah, good night. Leo."

"...Good night, mama."

While Liza looked disappointed, I made her lie down in the bed.

Leo then curled up next to her and barked quietly.

And I put the blanket over her and lay down as well.

Unlike her, it would not be a fun excursion. As I was going there to fight monsters.

While she would ride on Leo as we traveled, I didn't want others to worry about her, if she was tired.

So it was important for her to sleep while she could.

## Chapter 469

We were woken up early in the morning

“Hmm...mmm...”

While Liza had closed her eyes, she was still excited, and would not fall asleep immediately.

However, after muttering for a bit, she finally became quiet.

And then I could tell by her breathing that she was asleep.

Before closing my own eyes, I glanced at the clock on the desk.

Nearly an hour had passed. In spite of everything I said, I was also in danger of being tired tomorrow. And so I better hurry up and sleep as well.

—

“Papa! Wake up!”

“Mmm...”

I felt my body being shaken and heard Liza’s voice.

Was it morning already?

“Hah... Morning, Liza.”

“Good morning, papa!”

“Wuff!”

When I sat up, I saw that Liza was next to me, and Leo was looking at me beside the bed.

They looked rather pleased as I greeted them. And then I turned to the window.

“...It seems a bit early?”

“But it’s already bright, so it’s morning!”

“I guess that’s true, but...”

While light was coming in through the windows, the sun was still pretty low in the sky.

It wasn’t even seven o’clock yet... So there was still some time before breakfast.

“Besides, we’re going to the forest today! And so I thought we would be able to go earlier if I got up quickly...”

“Hmm... While it’s good to get up early...it won’t change our schedule.”

“It won’t?”

“Aye. Everyone has to prepare, after all.”

“I see...”

“Wuff...”

Liza was really looking forward to going to the forest.

While there were monsters, and it was dangerous...I suppose it was still like playing for her.

Regardless, there were now over ten people going, and they all had to get ready.

Liza looked quite disappointed that all of her efforts had been for nothing.

Leo brushed her nose against her and barked consolingly.

Hmm... Not only did she have trouble sleeping, but she got up early... I had done that before, so I understood how she felt.

“Well, it cannot be helped. For now, you should just wash up and get ready. Can you do that?”

“Yes. Tilura usually helps me, but I know the way now.”

“Alright, go and wash your face then. I’m sure you’ll see a servant on the way who can help you.”

“Okay! Mama, let’s go.”

“Wuff!”

Liza was full of energy in spite of not sleeping much. And she nodded obediently and went with Leo to wash up.

I then stifled a yawn and stretched before moving to the mirror. That was when I noticed something.

“So that’s what I look like when I laugh...”

My reflection looked sleepy, but the corners of my mouth were raised in a smile.

I was just happy to see that Liza was so excited.

But it was weird to laugh while alone in a room... And so I quickly prepared for the day.

“Papa, what are you going to do?”



“Wuff?”

After Liza and Leo returned, we went out into the garden as we waited for breakfast time.

Liza and Leo looked a little puzzled as they followed me. And so I answered with a smile.

“I just thought it would be nice to get some sun. And you like the fresh air, don’t you?”

“Yes, I do!”

“Wuff.”

They had been sunbathing yesterday, and Liza always looked happier when they were outside.

While we had to be careful not to get tired, there should be no problem with getting a little sun.

I greeted the butlers who were tending to the herb field, and then we looked for a good place to rest.

As the sun was still low, the coolness of the morning remained. And it was the time when the sun was just starting to warm up the air.

I rarely went out at this time, so it was quite refreshing.

I suppose I would leave for work quite early back in Japan. But there were many trees around the mansion, and so the air was especially pleasant.

“Haaa...”

“?”

“Wuff?”

“Breathing the air here will help you to relax, and you will feel more energetic.”

“My grandfather used to do that! I’ll do it too then! Haaa...”

I started to take in deep breaths once I found a good spot, and then Leo and Liza looked at me strangely.

She then said that she was reminded of her grandfather. Was I acting like an old man then? Well, I would try not to think about it.

And then Liza started to copy me and take in deep breaths as well.

For some reason, Leo was doing it as well... Maybe Silver Fenrirs also felt better when doing it?

Chapter 470

Tilura woke up late

“While it’s nice during the day and night, the morning air is pleasant as well, isn’t it?”

“Yes. ...Now that I think about it, grandfather used to say...”

“Hmm?”

“That you need the morning light to live. And so he always got up early and slept early in the night! He said that he would take in a lot of light and gain the strength to face the day!”

“I see. So that’s what Mr. Reyndorf said.”

Liza always looked very happy when she talked about Mr. Reyndorf.

And the fur of her brown tail and ears seemed to shine golden in the sunlight.

“Alright, today... We are going to the forest. And I’ll do my best there!”

“Me too!”

“Wuff!”

We shouted as the sun slowly rose into the sky.

It felt nice to raise your voice like this in the morning.

Liza and Leo copied me, and then we all laughed.

Like this, we spent the time relaxing until breakfast.

While I had only come out on a whim, so that Liza would have something to do after getting up early...she seemed to end up enjoying it a lot.

Even the butlers and maids had smiled as they watched her laughing.

We had even exercised a little, but not to a degree that would make us tired.

It was mostly like the morning exercises I used to hear on the radio.

Leo couldn’t copy it, so she had to just watch, but Liza seemed to enjoy moving around.

She really was energetic... I suppose it was because she was a beastkin.

“By the way, Mr. Takumi. I heard Liza’s voice outside earlier. Was she doing something?”

“Indeed. I heard Mr. Takumi and Leo outside as well. And that woke me right up...”

“Uh... Yes. I’m sorry about that...”

After spending time with Leo and Liza in the garden, I went to the dining room, when Ms. Claire and Mr. Ekenhart looked rather puzzled.

Ms. Anne was glaring at me, as if to say that I had disturbed her sleep.

I suppose shouting out loud had been a bad idea... Even though the sun was up, it was not good to disturb others while they were in bed.

I would have to be more careful..

“Sorry to keep you waiting!”

“You’re late, Tilura. Are you sure you won’t eat breakfast?”

“I’m not hungry, so I’ll be fine!”

After we finished breakfast, we enjoyed some tea and rested. And then we finished our preparations and gathered in the entrance hall.

It was then that Tilura finally appeared.

Apparently, Tilura had been so nervous about going to the forest that she could not sleep.

Not only did she not get up for breakfast, but she would not wake up even when the maids went to call her.

I was a little concerned about her not eating breakfast, but I suppose it was better than not getting enough sleep.

Besides, Sebastian was talking to Ms. Helena about packing some food for her to eat on the way, so it would probably be fine.

“Alright. Everyone is here now. It is time to depart.”

Mr. Ekenhart said after seeing that everyone was gathered, and all preparations were finished.

There was me, Liza, Leo, Sherry, Mr. Ekenhart, Ms. Claire, Tilura and Ms. Anne.

As for the servants, there were three butlers including Sebastian, and three maids including Ms. Lyra.

As for guards, Phillip, Nicholas, and Johanna were among the eight.

There were more than I expected, but this time, they needed two of them to take the horses back to the mansion.

Unlike the previous time, there were many more horses, and so it was better to take them back then to keep them there.

“Well, please take care of the herbs while I’m gone. And Milina, you’ll have to deal with Nick.”

“Yes, certainly. Leave it to us.”

“Yes, master! I will also watch the fields, so do not worry about them!”

I left the herbs fields to Ms. Gelda and the servants, and also handed Milina some herbs I had made in advance, so that she could pass them to Nick.

After all, Mr. Kalis might run out of them.

I had also said that they could take some from the fields if it was not enough.

Of course, they would have to process them before they could be sold, but Milina knew how to do it, so it should be fine...