

Beloved Dog 501

Chapter 501

Fenrirs were even more dangerous than expected

“Yes, that’s right. I was aware, as it is widely known that they use magic, but... I didn’t know they could use it in quick succession. Good Leo, can all fenrirs do it like that?”

“Wuff? Wou... Wuff-wuff. Wuff. Wuff-wuff?”

“Hmm. She is saying that since Sherry could do it, the other fenrirs can likely do it too!”

“So Leo doesn’t know for sure...”

“Have you ever seen another fenrir do something like that...?”

So there were things that even Leo did not know... Well, it was no surprise.

Just because she was a Silver Fenrir, it didn’t mean she would know everything.

“Well, Sherry is the first fenrir that I’ve met. After all, they are not often sighted by people. There is not much information. But we do know how they fight.”

“Is that so? ...Then this forest must be quite special.”

“Indeed. Normally, they live deep in vast forests. And few would go to such places in order to encounter powerful monsters. It would be fine perhaps if there was just one, but to face a whole pack. You would be dead in an instant. I have heard that occasionally, fools who want to test their strength go into the forest, and never return.”

“So fenrirs themselves are well-known and feared...”

I had assumed that Mr. Ekenhart would have some experience with fighting fenrirs, but that was apparently not the case.

Well, he was the duke and an important person, so there was no reason to be reckless and put himself in danger.

Besides, they were deep in the forest. So even if you were foolish enough to go, there was no guarantee that you would actually find them.

Thinking about it like that, it was quite astonishing that Ms. Claire had wanted to come here in order to search for Silver Fenris.

Well, Leo was with us. But I still remember how frantic Sebastian and the maids had been.

“While we don’t know if all of them can do it...we do know that Sherry can use magic like that. But it’s too early to assume Sherry is special. We must be even more on our guard against fenrirs than before.”

“What are you going to do?”

Clearly Mr. Ekenhart was thinking about something... Did he have a plan when it came to dealing with them?

“Oh, it’s quite simple. The people must know more about how much of a threat the fenrir can be. And then forbid them from entering places where fenris are known to live. Currently, there have been no reports of fenrirs attacking humans. That doesn’t include people who entered their forest on their own. Well, once I return to the mansion...no, the main house. I will deal with the matter.”

“I see...yes.”

He should make sure that people knew that they were dangerous, in order to avoid any casualties.

I was glad that he didn’t think of anything extreme, like removing the danger by getting rid of the fenrirs...

“...Also... Regarding that....good Leo?”

“Wuff?”

“Can you also use magic like that? Surely a Silver Fenrir...”

Mr. Ekenhart asked Leo hesitantly.

Indeed, a Silver Fenrir was a stronger version of a fenrir.

I was sure that she could... My buddy was incredibly strong.

“Wou! Wuff?”

“No, I don’t think you should do that, Leo. I think it will cause trouble...”

“Wuff...”

“What did she say? ...Though, if you stopped it, I can only imagine...”

“You tell him, Liza.”

“Yes, of course! She is asking if she should use it?”

“Hmm... While I would like to see it, there is no need right now. Sorry, good Leo. Maybe next time...”

“Wuff...”

Leo had stood up enthusiastically, and I had to call and pet her to make her stop.

As Liza seemed to like interpreting, I asked her to do it. I had seen in Leo's eyes that she wanted to use strong magic.

And so she did not look very happy as she sat back down.

...One day, I would let her do it in a place where I didn't have to worry about the surrounding area... Though, she would probably still have to hold back.

Mr. Ekenhart seemed to have sensed it as well, and he apologized and asked Leo to not use it now.

And while Leo sighed, she understood and agreed.

Chapter 502

Liza was interested as well

"Hey, hey, sister Tilura. I don't know much about magic, but, how was it like to fight?"

"Hmm? Well..."

While Mr. Ekenhart and I were relieved that Leo would not be using her magic, Liza looked up at Tilura and questioned her with shining eyes.

Liza had been watching us from a distance. So perhaps she was interested in fighting...?

"I ran as fast as I could, and swung with all of my might... And when it was dangerous, I moved out of the way... Uh, I was quite nervous, and it's difficult to explain..."

"Oh, I see...!"

"Well, it was your first time, so it cannot be helped. As long as you remember your mistakes so that you can do better next time."

Tilura had a serious expression as she tried to explain it to Liza.

But she was having trouble describing it.

Perhaps Tilura was more of an instinctive person than a theoretical person.

Well, she was still young, and it would have been quite the unusual talent if she was able to calmly relay the details of her first battle step by step.

Still, I could see that Liza was enjoying listening to Tilura talk.

Was she not scared when Tilura was knocked away, or when the orc charged at such a great speed...?

“You didn’t feel scared at all, Liza?”

“No, because you and mama were here. Besides...I don’t know...there wasn’t much...hostile...it wasn’t scary...”

“Scary...because they weren’t hostile?”

“Yes! That’s why I wasn’t scared!”

“Hmm. Well, I suppose it was quite different from the hostility in the slums. And the orcs don’t feel threatening in the same way...”

However, the orcs were definitely trying to kill us.

I suppose it was a different, less personal emotion, but the two could mix.

Well, at least with the orcs, it was mostly instinct. They weren’t trying to make us suffer, and there was no hatred.

...Well, they were still angry after being provoked by Phillip.

In any case, she did not sense the same kind of dark emotions from them.

Personally, I thought the pure intent to kill was quite scary, but Liza thought differently.

Of course, part of it was also because Leo and I were here.

“I want to fight too! So I can be useful to you and mama!”

“What!?”

“What!?”

“What!?”

“Wuff!?”

“...Kyau.”

Perhaps it was curiosity, but now Liza was saying that she wanted to fight the orcs as well.

It was possible that Liza was stronger than them... The thought had crossed my mind before, however, it was too dangerous to put to the test.

Aside from me, Mr. Ekenhart and Tilura were also surprised. Even Leo was shocked.

Only Sherry seemed confused...

“Uh... Liza? You really don't need to go around fighting orcs in order to help me and Leo, you know?”

“Really? But Sherry was told to get her own food... And I want to get food for you and mama! Besides, my grandfather used to say...”

“Well, we have plenty of orc meat, so you don’t need to... Uh, what is it that he used to say?”

With Sherry, it was to awaken her instincts, and for her diet...

It was all things that Leo had decided on.

Liza was different. I wanted her to spend her time laughing in safety, so there was no need to think about such things...

“He said, ‘They that do not work, shall not eat.’ But I was still young, and he said that I don’t need to, but... But working is like hunting orcs, isn’t it? I thought that was how you acquire food. Until you saved me, I didn’t work, and so I couldn’t eat much.”

“Uh...well...”

“Woud...wuff? ...Wou.”

Liza’s expression kept changing as she talking about Mr. Reyndorf. And not just me and Leo, but the others also did not know how to react.

Leo sounded like she regretted what she said to Sherry.

Because now Liza seemed to misunderstand what it meant to work...

And the reason was that Leo had decided that Sherry should get her own food, and hunt orcs for lunch.

Well, as she had frozen that orc, she ended up eating a different one in the end...

In any case, it was because of Sherry’s efforts that Liza now felt that she should do the same.

As she had not done that in the slums, she felt it was the reason that she went hungry.

Also, I had heard that the beastkin were originally hunters... So perhaps that was part of it. Or was I overthinking it?

Chapter 503

We decided on a test of skill

“I just saw the orcs being defeated, so it should be fine! Uhh...and because I have this too! ... Probably.”

Liza had watched us fighting from far away, and based on that, she thought she was fine.

Also, there was the knife I had bought for her in Ractos...

It looked big in her hands as she raised it and laughed.

However, in spite of this will, I did not want to put her in any danger.

...But how could I persuade her of this?

She was so enthusiastic, and so I didn't want to say no without a good reason...

“...While you should probably refuse...it's also true that Liza was able to run with Leo and Sherry without looking very tired... Even a well-trained human would not have been able to do that... However...”

“...Mr. Ekenhart?”

“Wuff?”

As I was trying to figure out a way of keeping Liza out of harm's way, Mr. Ekenhart suddenly started muttering.

It seemed like he wasn't sure what to do either...but I had a bad feeling about it.

He was Ms. Claire and Tilura's father, and was the reason that the two were brimming with curiosity...

While I wouldn't call him reckless, he was always trying to test things that he found interesting...

And so he might want to see Liza take on an orc...

"...Mr. Takumi?"

"Yes..."

"It's about Liza. Perhaps allowing her to...fight orcs would be good as an experience?"

"...Perhaps. It was for Tilura. However, that was after she went through a lot of training, so she knew how to handle a weapon..."

"I understand that. And so, why not test it?"

"Test it?"

"Yes. And then we can decide if she should fight against orcs. If we think she is not ready, then we will forbid her from doing it. However, if she is..."

"Then you will let her fight them?"

"Exactly."

Apparently, Mr. Ekenhart was thinking about letting Liza fight the orcs.

To gain experience... Indeed, it would not be a bad thing to experience fighting monsters.

As this was a world that was filled with monsters, you never knew what might happen.

Just like when Range village was attacked by orcs.

However, I didn't think that it had to be now.

Perhaps when Liza had grown a little more... At least when she was as old as Tilura. But preferably older.

That way, she would be able to train.

Leo seemed like she also wanted to say something, but held it back as I petted her.

"Uhh... So, if I do something, I can fight an orc? ...I don't know what it is, but I'll do my best! I'll show you, mama and papa!"

"Liza, are you sure?"

"Yes, sister Tilura. You and Sherry did it. And I've seen mama and papa fight, so now it's my turn!"

"Liza..."

"Wuff..."

"It seems like she is eager. While I am mostly against it, I don't want to discourage her either... Well, don't worry. Testing may sound simple, but I mean to be harsh when making the decision. After all, I do not want her to get hurt. ...Though, I also have high expectations."

While Liza did not seem to fully understand what Mr. Ekenhart was saying, she was still eager to do it.

I didn't know what he was going to make her do, but he said she would be safe, and harsh when judging... And I suppose he could use that to make her give up on fighting the orcs.

However, it also sounded like he hoped to see her fight...

“So, father? What is the meaning of this?”

“Uh, Claire...well. Liza...?”

We had left the bonfire in order to put Mr. Ekenhart’s plan into action.

But then Ms. Claire noticed that the meeting had ended, and she, along with Ms. Anne and the guards walked towards us.

She had been smiling at first, but then she saw that Liza was holding her knife with a serious expression, and immediately assumed that her father had thought of something reckless again.

Leo, Tilura, Sherry and I were standing behind Liza and watching nervously.

As Mr. Ekenhart tried to explain to Ms. Claire, I turned my eyes towards Liza, who had taken the knife out of its sheath...

Chapter 504

Liza was highly motivated

“Hmph! Hmph!”

Liza was swinging her knife around enthusiastically.

This was the first time I actually saw her using it, and it didn’t seem like she was in any danger of hurting herself.

Perhaps Mr. Reyndorf had taught her a little, or she learned it while living in the slums.

Still, as Liza had short arms, she did not look too capable either.

“Wuff. Wuff?”

“I’m fine, mama! I’m going to do my best!

“Wuff...”

“Kyu?”

As I was thinking about it, Leo pushed her nose towards Liza and barked with concern.

But Liza just laughed confidently and replied.

She hadn’t looked completely sure earlier, but it seemed like holding the knife had helped her.

As for Sherry...she did not seem to understand why people were worried.

After all, she was both younger and smaller than Liza.

Not only that, but while Sherry had quickly become exhausted while running in the garden, Liza had always been fine.

“Father! Why don’t you stop her!? To allow someone so young to fight!”

“Ca-calm down, Claire... I have thought this through, understand? Not only can I hold back, but I can make her give up without her getting injured...”

I could hear Ms. Claire’s angry voice... This was probably going to take awhile.

Ms. Claire saw Liza as being like a little sister now, and so she was mad at her father.

But while he seemed overwhelmed, he tried to explain.

Still, I also felt worried about the idea of letting Liza fight with a knife...

Regardless, I was able to listen to their conversation from where I stood. As was Leo, as she had good ears.

And this is what Mr. Ekenhart said.

First, in order to determine whether or not she had enough skill, she would have to fight Mr. Ekehnhart.

Of course, he was only going to dodge her attacks and defend himself.

Like this, he could see how Liza moved and make a decision.

And since Liza had not been trained to use a weapon, there was no way that she would be able to do anything. His expectation was that she would just swing in the air and never hit him.

And so Liza would realize that she was not ready yet, and we would decide that it was too early for her to be fighting orcs.

We were all already very worried, and so we would be very strict when judging her.

This way, we could prevent her from fighting without hurting Liza's feelings.

...Well, Liza was likely to be sad if she realized she couldn't do it, but... As Mr. Ekenhart said, it was better for her future to do it this way, then reject her completely from the beginning.

"Lady Claire, perhaps that is enough..."

"Hah...very well. I understand your intention now, father. But if Liza is hurt even a little..."

"...Yes?"

“Neither I nor Tilura will speak to you for some time!”

“Tsk. That hurts... I was never going to allow it in the first place, but I will be extra careful now. I promise.”

“Yes, do that. ...Well, I won’t even have to do anything, because I’m sure that good Leo will scold you first...”

“Wuff!”

“...I will definitely not hurt her! Yes!”

Sebastian finally went in and stopped Ms. Claier.

But before stepping away, Ms. Claire spoke to him in a low, threatening voice.

It did not seem like much of a threat, but I suppose it was a big deal for him as their father.

I would probably take it badly if Liza refused to speak to me for a few days... Of course, she wouldn’t do that.

As Tilura was also nodding, Mr. Ekenhart promised to be extra careful.

Ms. Claire really was merciless when it came to her father...well, Ms. Anne as well... But she was nice to almost everyone else.

Leo was also glaring at Mr. Ekenhart.

At this point, I was starting to feel sorry for him.

After all, it was Liza who had insisted on it.

...That being said, if Liza did get hurt, even I wouldn’t be able to stop Leo.

Chapter 505

Liza surprised everyone

“So then, I will give the signal to start...”

“Yes, thank you, Phillip.”

After Sebastian took Ms. Claire away to where Ms. Anne and the others were, Phillip took a step forward, and then moved in between Mr. Ekenhart and Liza, who were facing each other.

“Liza. You must think of my father as an enemy, and do your best!”

“Indeed. Fight the duke with everything you have!”

“Yes, I’ll do my best!”

Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne shouted their support.

That was fine... But I felt a little bad for Mr. Ekenhart...

Even Ms. Anne was rooting against him... Perhaps she was holding a grudge?

No, it was probably just that she was fond of Liza, and agreeing with Ms. Claire without much thought.

“Now, Liza. Be careful...that you don’t hurt yourself.”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff!”

“Do your best, Liza!”

“Yes!”

“Kyau!”

I also moved away, but said a few words first.

As I didn’t want to encourage her to become reckless, I just told her to be careful.

But Leo barked as if to say, ‘get him!’ In spite of sounding worried a moment ago, now that it was happening, she wanted Liza to go all out.

In any case, we went over to where the others were waiting.

Now we just had to wait for Phillip’s signal.

Liza was wielding her knife, and while Mr. Ekenhart had his sword, it seemed like he had no intention of swinging it, as it was pointed towards the ground.

After all, he was just going to dodge and occasionally block. There would be no counter attacks.

It would have been better if he had a wooden sword...but no one had brought one, as we didn’t plan to do this.

“Are you both ready?”

“Mmm.”

“Yes!”

Mr. Ekenhart nodded calmly, while Liza held her knife in a backhand grip, close to her face, and shouted.

Hmm...backhand grip?

She hadn't been holding it like that before. Had Mr. Reyndorf taught her...?

"Then...begin!"

Well, I would have to ask her later. Right now, I would watch and pray that she did not get hurt.

"Hah!"

"Huh!?"

After the signal, Liza seemed to crouch for a second, before jumping out as if bouncing.

And like that, she moved towards Mr. Ekenhart in a straight line, at a speed I did not expect to see. Everyone else's expressions turned to that of shock.

...Except for Leo and Sherry.

In any case, Liza was rushing towards Mr. Ekenhart at a speed that was faster than when Sherry charged at the orc.

And as she got closer, she raised the knife into the air.

"Hyah!"

"Hmm! Tsk!"

And without losing any momentum, she swung down as if to aim for Mr. Ekenhart's chest.

While she was short, if she raised her arm, she would just be able to reach his heart.

Mr. Ekenhart was stunned at her speed, but quickly regained his calm and jumped back.

“Hmm. I missed...”

Liza muttered with disappointment.

I was glad that she hadn't hit him...

But no one had expected Liza to move like that, and target his heart with such precision.

Had it been me, I would have been too shocked to dodge it...

“To suddenly attack my vitals like that... How frightening. And that speed... I can also sense a faint magic energy... I cannot let my guard down.”

“Magic energy...? I don't know. But grandfather always told me to use all of my power! And so did mama.”

“Mr. Reyndorf... What did he tell her... No, it is a good thing, but...”

Mr. Ekenhart muttered as he looked at Liza.

While I had never met him, I don't know if this was the kind of thing that she needed to go all out in...

But perhaps he himself did not think she would apply it when it came to battle...

Chapter 506

The four of us talked

“I heard the beastkin are more athletic than humans... Besides...”

“You sensed it too, Sebastian?”

“Yes, Your Grace. I believe she was using magic energy.”

“Magic energy? Yes I did sense something a little strange when Liza was running...”

It wasn't any visual change, or anything clear that I had seen. And so I wasn't sure. But was she really using magic energy?

“Mr. Takumi...had not used magic for very long. So it's no surprise that he cannot tell.”

“You can tell when someone is using magic energy?”

“Yes... When one uses magic, their senses are strengthened. And that helps you to detect when someone else is using it.”

“Indeed, my own senses are not very developed.”

“Yes. But still, even sensing a little strangeness is impressive. It is not something that develops in such a short time, usually.”

“I think it usually takes about a year?”

“Yes, for people who are close by. But veterans are able to detect it from much farther away. Though, you would have to be using magic every day, on top of having the right constitution...”

When using magic, you have to be able to detect the magic energy inside of your body.

Now that I thought about it, when Sebastian had first started to teach me, he said that it took some people a long time before they could clearly detect the magic energy within their body.

Regardless, if it was going to take a year...I probably should train more with it.

Even if I couldn't detect it at a long distance, it would surely be useful if I could tell when someone was using magic nearby.

That being said, I had no intention of making combat my occupation, so I didn't know how useful it would be.

"Leaving Mr. Takumi aside... So, she really was using magic?"

"If you sensed magic energy, it is likely... But she doesn't know any magic, does she? When Ms. Claire taught me about magic before, she clearly did not understand very well. Though, Ms. Isabelle did say she had the potential."

While Mr. Ekenhart was not sure, I doubted that Liza could use magic.

She barely even knew what magic was.

She had never chanted any spells. And even if they detected magic energy, was that the same thing as using magic...?

"Well, it could be a special magic that the beastkin use."

"Really?"

What kind of magic was that... Ah, Ms. Isabelle had said something about how the beastkin used different magic.

I had been thinking about asking Sebastian about it, but the subject had never come up, and I forgot about it after the issues with Deam...

"The magic that beastkin use is slightly different from humans. Well, some of it is similar... But the way that they use it is different."

"How so...?"

"The biggest thing is that they do not need to chant. I explained this to Mr. Takumi before, but humans need to chant and decide on the effect. However, it is not necessary for beastkin. But since they still use magic energy, it can be detected."

“No chanting... So Liza could be using magic without knowing it?”

“That is quite likely. But I do not know enough to say for sure... But that gave them quite an advantage during the war, I hear. After all, very few humans can use magic without chanting.”

It was a great advantage, to be able to unleash magic like that.

Instead of lengthy chanting, you could activate magic immediately.

But in order for humans to do it, you had to do a lot of training, and it was not something anyone could do.

So if both sides had the same number of magicians, and they attacked each other, it would make sense that the beastkins would win.

“However, there are not many beastkin who can use magic. And the humans had more soldiers in general, so we were not defeated...”

“Well, we are not talking about the war, but Liza. So, that really was magic then? And she was using without realizing it...”

“We cannot be sure... But perhaps it is an ability they can acquire subconsciously. Either through watching others or maybe when they reach a certain age. In any case, considering the movement of magic energy, her using magic is the only explanation.”

“...Yes. While I have not watched her for as long as Mr. Takumi, I’ve never seen her move like that before. Magic could be the only reason she is able to move like that without experience.”

As for why Liza could use magic, it was probably related to her being beastkin, but it wasn’t clear.

Regardless, the conclusion was that she had used magic when charging towards Mr. Ekenhart.

Liza could use magic... Well, that was not a bad thing...

Chapter 507

It was difficult magic for humans

“Um... In the first place, is it really possible to use magic to make your movements faster?”

Up until now, all the magic I had learned about had to do with wind and fire.

Perhaps if you enveloped your body in wind... But there had been no indication that Liza had done that.

“Mr. Takumi. There is magic that can strengthen your body. Sometimes, there are soldiers and guards who can do it. ...It is like a trump card.”

“A trump card? So it is possible then...”

Phillip answered that it could be done.

But it was rare, and quite difficult to do.

“Because there is a price to pay...it has an effect on you afterwards.”

“In order to draw out this power, you will feel pain and fatigue later. According to what I heard...it is much worse than any kind of sore muscle. You might even have trouble lifting a single finger.”

“Though, the effect is very impressive. It is said that it more than doubles your strength... But it also depends on the user’s magic. Also, you can only cast it on yourself, and not on anyone else.”

“I see... Yes, that would be like a trump card. While you cannot use it casually, in desperate situations...”

Exactly.”

I didn’t know how bad the pain was, once the effect stopped, but if it was anything like Sebastian described, I would not want to use it.

Well, unless my life was in danger while being attacked by a monster.

Though, I would have to run to a safe place or kill the monster first.

But wait...what about Liza?

“...Liza seems to be just fine over there.”

“That is what’s strange. When humans use magic like that, they always feel pain and fatigue afterwards...”

However, when I turned to look at Liza, she did not seem to be suffering from any problems at all.

If anything, she seemed very energetic as she splashed her hands in the water and laughed.

She was clearly used to the river now.

“It might be something unique to the beastkin. As I said before, the beastkin are more athletic compared to humans... And perhaps that is not only because of their bodies, but because they can use such magic.”

“Hmm... Well, that is probably why people spread rumors about them being monsters. Everyone knows they are stronger than the average human. And during the war, people saw their terrifying speed and strength.”

“Yes. If there were beastkin who could strengthen their bodies without the pain, then they would have been used to fight. Perhaps the beastkin are better suited to strengthening magic, then magic involving fire and water.”

“Hmm. Then the idea that most beastkin not being able to use magic might be outdated.”

So unlike with humans, there was no risk to using it.

“It’s kind of like the body strengthening herbs that I made. Though, the effect is not as strong.”

“Indeed. But even if the effect is weaker, it’s great that there is no pain. Depending on how you use it, your herbs can be more useful than human magic.”

While it was probably an exaggeration, it was indeed less risky.

But it really did not strengthen you that much.

I suppose you could carry ten or twenty extra kilos, and run a little faster.

Still, it was better than nothing, and other people could use it as well.

...Perhaps, like the time I had healed Sherry’s injury, and made a herb that was more effective than Loe, I could also make an even better body strengthening herb.

But then again, I fainted after that. And it was possible it would have some effect on me. So I was better off avoiding that.

But wait...if the beastkin could use body strengthening magic...then what about beast monsters... Since Sherry could already use magic?

Or even Leo?

“Do you think it would be possible for Sherry and Leo to use body strengthening magic without pain as well?”

“...”

All of them thought about it with serious expressions.

“What if...Leo were to use body strengthening magic like Liza...?”

“Leo does not even use her full strength already. And it’s still hard to follow her...”

“I don’t know about Sherry, but it would not be strange if good Leo could use it...”

“Ah...”

Everyone seemed to then imagine what Leo would be like if she were to increase her strength, and they all became silent.

Silver Fenrirs were already said to be the strongest monsters. And so we did not even want to think about it, and quickly tried to turn our minds away...

Chapter 508

The results of the test

“Washun!”

“Hya! Mama...!”

“...Why am I the most wet...?”

“Because you were standing in front of Leo?”

While we were thinking quietly, I heard loud voices coming from the direction of the river.

Apparently, Leo had no idea we were talking about her...but must have been cold, as she sneezed and then dunked her face into the water.

As Liza and Ms. Anne were close by, they ended up getting water splashed all over them.

“So, about Liza fighting the orc..”

Some time later, we all gathered together in order to discuss the matter.

Mr. Ekenhart sat on one side of the bonfire, and Liza sat on the other side so that she was facing him. And then Leo and I sat on either side of her.

Ms. Claire, Sebastian and Ms. Anne were together a short distance away, and had expressions of concern.

“After discussing the matter, we decided that there is no problem, if you are able to move as you did earlier. However, only when I, Leo, Mr. Takumi, or other guards are around.”

“Yay! Now I can be useful to papa!”

“...I’m happy for you, Liza.”

“Yes!”

“Wuff-wuff.”

While most people were against the idea of Liza fighting, after seeing her in action against Mr. Ekenhart, it was difficult to say no.

Besides...there was the special beastkin magic. At that point, it would seem wrong to say that she was not ready.

As Liza raised her hands with joy, I was glad that she was not disappointed. However, I was still worried as well.

Of course, it was in order to deal with such concerns, that Leo and the rest of us being close by was the condition.

That being said, we were not likely to be encountering any orcs unless we were in the forest. So she would not have any opportunity to fight orcs without us anyway.

As for Leo, she seemed quite relieved now, as she pressed her face towards Liza.

“So, we’re going to fight now?”

“...Indeed. I had thought about having Mr. Takumi, Tilura and Sherry fight again, but I suppose we should see Liza for now. Is that alright, Liza? Unless you are tired.”

“Yes, I’m fine!”

The plan had been for us to fight again after discussing how we could improve. But Liza’s test had taken up a lot of time. And so today, they would just lure out one more orc so that Liza could fight.

Because if we all took turns fighting now, it would be dark by the time it was the last person’s turn.

Besides, it would be difficult for Phillip and the guards, who had to enter the forest... We could always do it tomorrow, as there was no need to rush.

Apparently, Liza was not tired after fighting or using magic, and so she nodded at Mr. Ekenhart.

I didn’t know how much magic energy she had used, but she definitely looked fine. And if it was necessary, Leo and I would jump in and help her.

“Now that that is settled... Liza, why didn’t you use that ability when you were in the slums? No one would have been able to hurt you if you did.”

Indeed, the boys in the slums would not have been able to bully her like that.

I didn’t know about Deam. It would probably still be dangerous if she were attacked by a group of adults.

Still, she would not be defenseless.

But previously, Liza had said that things would be worse if she resisted.

“...Hmm. I think I might have been able to do something. But grandfather said I shouldn’t use it... Shouldn’t show people. But I thought it would be fine here, because everyone is nice. And papa and mama are here...”

“Hmm...I see.”

“So Mr. Reyndorf knew.”

“It seems that way. Well, he adopted a beastkin baby, so he should have known something. In any case, Liza was just obeying his advice then.”

If Liza fought back seriously, then they might have left her alone. But it was also possible that Deam would have attacked her more seriously.

Besides, they did not know much about magic there. So it might have made them believe even more that Liza was a monster.

After all, it seemed hard to believe that someone so small could win against a group of boys who were several years older.

Thinking of it like that, perhaps Mr. Reyndorf had been right to tell Liza to not use it.

Though, considering how she suffered afterwards, he might have...well, there was no point in thinking that now.

He was just trying to raise a gentle child who did not use their power without need.

In any case, Liza was laughing now. So it was fine...

Chapter 509

Liza didn’t seem to be bothered

“Alright, Leo. You have to eat the herbs again...”

“Wuff. Wou...”

“It tastes bad, doesn’t it? Sorry.”

“...Wuff.”

After the somewhat somber discussion, we returned to our positions.

As I thought the effect would have worn off, I had Leo eat the herbs that would strengthen her ability to detect presences.

However, it clearly tasted bad, as Leo scowled.

And so I petted her and apologized.

“We’re ready, Mr. Ekenhart. How is Liza?”

“She says she is fine. She is not nervous, like Tilura was. I suppose it’s because she does not see the orcs as a threat... After all, she saw you and Tilura fight them. Either they appear weak to her, or she understands her own strength, and knows that she can win...”

“Indeed... Well, I’m sure she also feels safe with me and Leo here...”

“Regardless, as long as she fights as well as she did a moment ago, she will be fine. However, I do wonder about her weapon.”

“She really can’t wield a sword?”

“Mmm. The sword I and the guards use are out of the question. But even Tilura’s special sword is too big. She will be off balance with anything aside from her knife. Even though she seems to balance with her tail... It would be dangerous to give her something that will hold her back. So she might as well use the knife.”

The biggest concern about Liza fighting the orcs was her weapon.

Her reach was already short, so it would have been better to have a longer weapon, but that was difficult in the present.

While I was feeding Leo the herbs, Mr. Ekenhart had tried to make her hold other weapons, but it was no use.

When standing up, Liza reached the stomach of an orc, and had much shorter arms.

And while that was usually a disadvantage in battle, it could not be helped right now.

Furthermore, Liza tended to hold her knife in a backhand, which made the knife even shorter...

So I just hoped that her speed would make up for it, and she would kill the orc without being injured...

“Papa. I’m going to do my best, so watch me!”

“Aye, of course. And I will help if things get dangerous.”

“Wuff!”

“Yes. But I’ll be fine!”

Liza said with a nod, and raised her fist.

“...It should be soon.”

“Indeed. I can hear sounds from afar.”

Just like before, Phillip and the other guard had gone out to lure the orc towards us.

And since it was Liza fighting, they would be careful to only bring one this time.

Well, even if there were more, Leo would deal with them immediately. But I was glad, as I wanted Liza to be able to focus on just one.

As I turned my attention to the forest, I heard the sounds of rustling.

It should only be a minute or more now.

Because they were being careful, the orc would likely not be too excited either.

“Ha-ha-hmm...”

In the meantime, Liza was moving around and stretching in preparation.

Her eyes were still directed towards the forest, so I could not see her expression. But she still seemed calm.

“Liza. I was nervous...but she isn't. That's amazing.”

Tilura muttered as she stood with Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne.

Indeed, she had been quite nervous... Well, once the battle actually started, she had been fine. So that was also impressive.

As for Ms. Claire, she was watching from a closer distance this time, as she was worried about Liza. And Ms. Anne was with her.

Chapter 510

Liza's battle with the orc

“Here it comes!”

“It appears that way...”

“...”

“Wuff...”

“Liza...”

There was the rustling of leaves, and then Phillip and the other guard came out of the forest.

Tilura was the first to react to it.

She had been like this before her own fight as well, but she also saw Liza like a little sister, and so she was nervous for her.

Mr. Ekenhart nodded at Tilura, and looked towards Liza...hoping that she would not get hurt...

Leo also barked quietly as she watched.

Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne held their hands together as if they were praying.

“Lady Liza, are you alright?!”

“Yes, I’m fine!”

“Well, I’ll leave it to you then!”

“Gyuo?”

Phillip and the guard made sure that Liza was ready, and then they rushed past her.

And then a single orc slowly emerged from the forest, and looked at Liza with a puzzled expression.

I suppose it was surprised that its target had turned into a small girl... And it seemed like Phillip had succeeded in bringing it without angering it too much.

...I wished that my orc was like this one.

“...Liza!”

“Grau!”

“Yes, papa, mama. Just watch me!”

“Gyu!?”

Liza replied without looking back at us, and then she charged towards the orc.

The knife was held tightly in a backhand grip.

The orc seemed to be confused about what was happening. But it quickly changed its stance, as if it was going to attack. And it then raised its right arm, just like the other orc had done with Tilura.

“I’ll take it down like papa and mama did!”

“Gyuo!?”

The orc let out a strange cry once again.

After all, Liza was shouting while running at an unbelievable speed.

There had been dozens of meters between them at first, but before the orc could fully regain its calm, Liza was already in striking distance.

She might even be faster than Sherry... Though, Sherry was a little overweight.

“So fast!?”

“Hyah!”

“Giii!”

As Mr. Ekenhart exclaimed in alarm, Liza shouted and thrust her knife into the orc’s right shoulder.

The orc screamed. Now it was unable to raise its arm to strike.

“Gyuuuooo!!”

“Hmm! Mmm! You won’t hit me!”

The orc desperately tried to hit Liza by swinging its other arm. But Liza pulled out the knife with both hands and quickly jumped away.

I suppose it took time to pull it out, because it went in quite deeply.

While I was scared for a moment, the orc’s arm didn’t even scratch her, so it was fine.

“Gyu! Gyu! Gyuaaaa!!”

As the wound became wider after the knife was pulled out, blood began to pour from the shoulder.

The orc screamed from the pain, and its face became red with rage.

While she dealt some damage, was it worth making it angry?

“Hah!”

“Gyuu!!”

“Now you can’t do anything dangerous!”

Liza jumped and slashed at the orc with her knife.

It cut deep into the orc’s left shoulder.

As the blade was short, it was not able to cut it off, but it was deep enough to hit the nerves, and the arm went limp.

So Liza had been thinking about how to chip away at the orc’s combat ability, and not just about angering it.

But without arms...

“Fuu! Fuuu! Gyuuu!”

It would use its legs.

I didn’t know if it was actually thinking that, but the orc suddenly lowered its head and charged towards Liza.

And while Liza had moved away after hitting it, the orc’s charge was still powerful.

Even if it wasn’t running its fastest, she would likely still be injured if it hit her.

“I already saw this during the other fights!”

“Gyuo!?”

“You! ...Again!”

“Gyo! Gyuo!!”

Liza had been expecting it...and so she jumped to the right and dodged the orc.

Orcs were not able to change direction quickly, and so they were easy to dodge.

That is, if you maintained enough distance from them.

But Liza was only a few meters away, so it would have normally been difficult. Only, Liza happened to have anticipated it.

Of course, she was also naturally fast. I didn't know if she was fighting this well because she was beastkin, or it was her talent.

She would be stronger than me with some proper training...

As I thought of such things, Liza landed on the ground, and then jumped towards the orc who had passed her...