

## **Beloved Dog 51**

### Chapter 51

#### We Departed for the Fenrir Forest

Right outside of the mansion entrance, were the four horses that the guards would ride, and the carriage.

Once again, Sebastian would be our driver, and I, Ms. Claire, and Ms. Lyra would ride in the back.

All of our belongings were stored in the drawers under the seats.

You could fit quite a lot in there...

But as it wasn't the biggest carriage, it felt a little cramped to have three people sitting in the back.

The sitting order was me, Ms. Lyra and then Ms. Claire.

"...Hey, Ms. Lyra...don't push me so much..."

I muttered quietly so that the others wouldn't hear, and tried to sit without taking up much space.

My face grew a little hot, but I pretended to be unbothered as we set off.

But Leo looked at me and seemed to notice my dilemma, as she let out a sigh.

...It can't be helped... It's not every day that I ride like this...

Both Ms. Claire and Ms. Lyra was very beautiful... If anything, Ms. Lyra was a little more...plump and...I would say no more.

It might become obvious, and was also quite rude.

“And now, we will head to the forest!”

“Wou!”

Sebastian shook the reins as the horses began to trot.

Leo also barked and started to run alongside the carriage.

As for the guards, one stayed on our right and one on the left, and there was one in the back and one lead in the front.

Now that I thought about it, how long would it take us to reach the forest?

“Mr. Sebastian. How long will it take us to reach the forest by carriage?”

“Indeed...approximately three hours, I should say.”

“Is there a problem, Mr. Takumi?”

“No... But I’m not used to riding carriages for long hours, so I’m a little worried.”

I was actually more concerned about being pressed against someone for so long, but they did not need to know that.

Until I came to this world, I had never ridden a carriage, let alone a horse. I had only seen them in pictures and videos.

“But how did you travel then? You did say that Leo only grew to this size after you came to this world.”

“Hmm... How should I say this... There were carriages, but you normally wouldn’t ride on them. Instead, there were automatic machines made of iron.”

I didn't know how to explain cars to them...

Obviously, it wasn't a living creature, but I doubted they had vehicles made of metal in this world...

"What are they like!? An automatic machine... Does that mean they do not need horses to pull them? You did say that there is no magic in your world... But how does such a thing move...?"

Surprisingly, Ms. Claire was very interested in this.

Ms. Lyra was also looking at me with deep curiosity...but her face was so close...

And while Sebastian was facing ahead, as he was the driver, he kept glancing back as if interested in what I was going to say.

...How should I explain it...

"Uh...well...it's not magic. We just use a kind of liquid fuel instead of firewood to make them run."

"Liquid fuel... Such a thing exists?"

"Yes. However, firewood is much better for securing warmth. But liquid fuel burns very well, and so the technology to turn it into energy has developed a lot."

"Burning energy... You said that it was made of iron, which would make it very heavy. ...And yet it still moves?"

"The theory behind it... Well, it's outside of my expertise, so I don't know the details...but, yes. They do move."

"They must have have amazing technology where you come from, Mr. Takumi."

"Well, since we don't have magic, technology was used to make our lives richer, I suppose."

I remember reading something in a book once. Something about how highly developed technology was no different from magic.

After all, for someone who did not understand how they worked, phones, tvs and the internet could seem like magic...

And so I continued to talk about the differences between my world and this world as the carriage drove closer to the forest.

Thanks to all of this conversation, I got used to the close proximity of Lyra's face.

Which was good, because I was able to concentrate on what I was saying.

...And if I didn't concentrate, I would not have been able to offer much explanation to Ms. Claire's various questions regarding science.

"We will take a short break here."

Sebastian said to us as he stopped the carriage under a lone tree.

One of the reasons was that I, Ms. Lyra and Ms. Claire would like to take a break after being cramped in the back for so long, but they also wanted to let the horses rest as well.

But as Leo had not been running at full speed, she showed no signs of being tired.

As Sebastian gave water to the horses, we got out of the carriage and stretched our limbs.

"Hmm. It is quite cramped in there."

"Indeed. I feel quite stiff now and uh... Mmm."

Ms. Claire was raising her arms and stretching, just like I was.

Though, she seemed to be slightly embarrassed about doing it, and so her movements were more modest.

Ms. Lyra brought out a bowl and some milk and gave it to Leo.

While Leo wasn't tired, she must have been thirsty, as she lapped it up hungrily.

"Mr. Sebastian. How much farther until we reach the forest?"

"This is the road that is the closest to the forest. I suppose you can say that we're just past the halfway point from the mansion. We will now leave the main road and head towards the forest... I think we should arrive in about an hour."

"I see. In that case, could I ride on Leo the remainder of the way?"

"On the Great Leo?"

"Yes. ...Uh...can I tell you something?"

"...What is it?"

I moved closer to Sebastian and whispered.

"It's just that...the carriage is very small...and so I'm pressed a little close to the others..."

"Oh, I see... Hohoho. Well, you are still young. But is it such a bad thing?"

What was he saying...

It's because they were very pretty.

It was what made it quite embarrassing for me!

...I wasn't saying that it was bad. Yes.

It was actually nice...but I also didn't want them to see me looking embarrassed.

"...In any case, I shall ride on Leo for the remainder of the journey."

"If you insist. ...I do not really understand your reasoning...but it cannot be helped."

This guy...was pretty...uh, interesting...

Chapter 52

We arrived at the entrance for the Fenrir Forest

After telling Sebastian that I would ride on Leo for the rest of the way, I then told Ms. Claire and Ms. Lyra.

I gave them the excuse that Leo really wanted to carry me.

"I'm sorry for blaming you, Leo..."

"Wou."

Leo nodded as if to say, 'you're hopeless, aren't you?'...

After resting for about thirty minutes, we set off for the forest once again.

Perhaps because she was happy to have me with her, Leo would sometimes start running very fast, and I had to make her slow down so that we didn't leave the carriage behind.

"Leo. Calm down a little while running."

"Wou..."

While she was apologetic, she still seemed like she wanted to run.

...And she wouldn't be able to run much once we entered the forest...hmm...I know what we could do.

“Leo. Follow my directions and run. Then you'll be able to run around a lot.”

“Wuff!? Wuff-wuff!”

And so I gave directions for Leo to run around the carriage and the guards.

Though I had been the one to suggest it, I didn't think that she could run circles around a moving carriage and horses so quickly...

Several times, she would move closer to the horses before moving away again, and Ms. Lyra started to look at me with a jealous expression.

...I'll let you ride Leo again some other time, so please stop looking at me like that.

So when we passed the carriage again and our eyes met, I nodded with an apologetic expression.

Well, that was settled...was what I thought, but then I noticed that now Ms. Claire was giving me jealous looks...

You too!?

And so I gave her the same nod as well..

After that, Sebastian looked at me the same way...

“Mr. Takumi, I am only joking. Hohoho.”

...Sebastian. So this is what he was like after you got to know him then.

I had thought that he was a stiff and proper butler...

And so the party continued to move amidst this playful and calm atmosphere, until we finally reached the forest.

The carriage stopped at the edge of the forest, and Ms. Claire and Lyra stepped out.

I also got off of Leo close to the carriage.

“Leo. Are you tired?”

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff!”

Leo raised her two front paws as if to say that she was completely fine.

Her gestures were somehow becoming even more human-like.

But more importantly, Leo had run around so much and still wasn't tired at all..

As she was running circles around the carriage and the guards, she would have been running twice as much as the horses.

“This is as far as you can go by carriage.”

Sebastian said as he got down from the driver's seat and tied the carriage to a nearby tree.

Then the horses were rounded up in one place and given water before being tied to a tree as well.

“What will you do with the horses while we are in the forest?”



“They will stay here until we return.”

“I will be watching them!”

When I asked Sebastian the question, one of the guards answered as well.

Indeed, when I had first met Ms. Claire, she said that her horse had run away after being frightened by the orc.

And since there was a chance that we could encounter orcs and monsters inside, it was probably better to leave them here.

“Is it so they won’t get scared and try to escape?”

“That is one reason, but it’s also difficult for them to walk in the forest.”

“... Yes, now that you mention it. But wasn’t Ms. Claire riding a horse when she was here? Before it ran away, that is.”

“It is because I was near the river. I went along the river bank from outside of the forest. Ramogi usually grows near water.”

“Ah, I see.”

Compared to the rest of the forest, the area around the river had fewer trees.

Like Ms. Claire said, if you followed the river bank then it would not be difficult to ride a horse.

While answering the question, Ms. Claire was pulling out her belongings from the carriage and handing them to Lyra.

Oh, I better go and help them.

“Allow me to help you. Some of it is mine, after all.”

“Thank you. But Mr. Takumi, could you perhaps join the soldiers in gathering branches?”

“Branches?”

“Yes. The dried and thicker the better. We are going to make a bonfire.”

“It is midday now, so we must prepare lunch.”

“I see. It’s so we can eat. Very well, I will gather branches. Leo, come and help me.”

“Wuff!”

I took Leo and we went a little into the forest.

Just far enough that we could still see Ms. Claire and the others from between the trees.

I didn’t want to go too far in, as the others might worry about us.

And just like us, Phillip and Johanna, who weren’t watching the horses, were inside the forest and looking for branches on the ground.

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Oh, good girl, Leo.”

Leo was carrying several branches in her mouth as she brought them to me.

They were about as thick as my arm.

When I thought about it, it was pretty amazing that she was able to carry multiple branches like this at once.

I patted Leo on the head and praised her, but also felt that I better look for some too, and so I started searching the ground.

After gathering branches for about ten minutes, we had enough to make a bonfire.

“Now, I will light it.”

“Thank you, Sebastian.”

“Wou-wou.”

“Hmm? What is it, Leo?”

In order to make a fire, Mr. Sebastian had put his hand over the branches.

He was probably going to use fire magic.

But as I watched Sebastian with interest, as I wanted to see some magic, Leo sat right next to Sebastian.

“Leo. Don’t bother Sebastian right now.”

“Wuff! Wou-wou.”

She looked at me and then down at the branches.

Could it be that Leo wanted to light them on fire?

Chapter 53

Leo used magic to light the fire

“Mr. Sebastian, I’m sorry. But it looks like Leo would like to do it.”

“...Oh. The magic of a Silver Fenrir, eh? Well, please do.”

“So we can see Leo do magic. It is not every day that one gets to see a Silver Fenrir use magic. I must see this.”

Sebastian moved out of the way so that Leo could light the branches on fire.

Ms. Claire was also very interested.

It seemed that she had always wanted to witness a Silver Fenrir’s magic.

“Wuuu... Gau!”

Leo faced the pile of branches and howled once.

At the same time, a flame burst from Leo’s mouth and burned the branches.

Now that I think about it, the last time we were in this forest, Leo had done the same thing in order to cook the orc meat.

So much had happened since then, that I had forgotten about it.

“This is the magic of a Silver Fenrir... I knew that they could breathe fire from their mouths, but I didn’t imagine it to be quite like this.”

“...I think maybe it’s because it would be more difficult to use your paws?”

Ms. Claire seemed to be surprised that Leo used her mouth for magic.

But I could tell that she was also excited, as she was smiling.

As for Sebastian and Lyra, they had expressions that were more admiration than surprise.

The guards, on the other hand, had not spent much time with Leo, and so they were staring at the fire as if stunned.

Even if they knew that Silver Fenrirs could use magic, they had never seen it happen before.

Of course not... They had said that they had never even seen a Silver Fenrir before Leo.

“Well, let us cook then. Please wait a little longer, Leo.”

“Wou!”

Ms. Lyra was carrying a bag that likely contained pots and food as she addressed Leo.

And so Leo returned to where I was waiting, so that she would not get in the way.

...She looked a little proud about being the one to start the fire.

“You did well, Leo.”

“Wuff! Wuff!”

“...She is so fluffy.”

As Leo looked like she wanted to be praised, I had her lower her head so that I could pet her.

But as I did, another hand stretched out and petted Leo as well.

“...Ms. Claire?”

“...I wanted to pet Leo too...”

“Wuff!”

“Hahaha. You should pet her some more then.”

“Yes!”

Apparently, Ms. Claire had been wanting to pet Leo for quite some time now.

And while her hands still moved hesitantly, she soon got used to how soft Leo’s fur was, and began to pet her more firmly.

Leo must have enjoyed being pet, as she soon pressed her head towards Ms. Claire’s hand encouragingly.

And Ms. Claire, having fulfilled her wish of petting Leo, was all smiles.

Seeing her get on so well with Leo like this made me think that the two sisters really were alike.

After some time passed, a delicious smell began to waft around us.

“We have finished cooking. Please eat, everyone.”

Mr. Sebastian took out some wooden plates from the luggage and passed them around.

Ms. Claire, the guards and everyone would all eat lunch together.

“And here’s a little extra for the great Leo.”

Aside from the pot meal, Ms. Lyra had roasted a few sausages.

She added those to the wooden plate and placed them in front of Leo.

“Wuff. Wuff.”

“Hehe. Enjoy.”

It looked like Leo was thanking Ms. Lyra.

Ms. Lyra smiled and then Leo began to eat it hungrily.

I should eat as well. The smell was very appetizing.

I didn’t want my stomach to start rumbling loudly in public again.

And so Ms. Lyra poured the food from the pot into the plates for everyone.

It was a kind of soup with large chunks of meat and vegetables.

Perhaps she got a good stock from the meat, as both the soup and vegetables were tasty and delicious.

“It was very delicious, Ms. Lyra.”

“Thank you. Though, I’m afraid I’m not nearly as good as Helena...”

“Well, she is a professional cook. But this had the charm of a home-cooked meal, which has its own appeal too, I think.”

“You’re very kind, Mr. Takumi.”

Ms. Lyra blushed a little and thanked me.

I didn’t know why she was thanking me, when all I did was eat some delicious food.

I scratched my cheek a little awkwardly, and then Sebastian, who had also finished his food, walked up to me.

“Lyra is a fine, family-oriented woman. Hohoho.”

He chuckled and then went off somewhere.

What... Up until yesterday, my image of Sebastian was of the perfect, hard-working butler. And that image was shattering loudly...

Had he always had this hobby of...provoking youngsters?

“So he has more hobbies than just explaining things...”

I cannot let my guard around that one... Mr. Sebastian...

After that, everyone finished eating so that the only thing left was to clean up.

However, all this meant was to lightly wash the wooden plates and the pot that was used.

I thought that maybe they would put out the fire, but as a guard was going to stay to look after the horses, they decided to leave it.

Sebastian used water magic to create water to wash the plates.

I had no idea that magic could do such a thing...

“Wuff!”

“Oh, so you can do it too, Leo? That would really help.”

“So Silver Fenrirs can do all kinds of magic then...”



As Sebastian was making water for washing the plates, Leo approached him with a curious look, and then a sphere of water started to appear right in front of her face.

Perhaps it didn't come out of her mouth this time, because Leo was being considerate of us.

Afterall, unlike fire, if the water came out of her mouth...everyone would hesitate to use it.

## Chapter 54

### We Entered the Forest

While using the water made by Sebastian and Leo to wash the dishes, I asked him a little about magic.

Apparently, while you could make drinking water with magic, it was really about gathering the moisture that was already in the air.

And so it was possible that other substances in the air could get mixed in. And so they didn't normally acquire drinking water in this way.

"Now that I think about it, I had completely forgotten about drinking water..."

It was a good thing that Sebastian and Ms. Lyra were with us.

I didn't prepare anything to stay outdoors...aside from clothes and a few personal items.

Still, you could drink the water from the river. And so we would just follow it upstream and then explore from there.

However, they did have a few bottles of water in the leather bags, just in case.

By traveling along the river, we could travel more lightly, and also restock on any water we used.

"I see... The securing of water really should be the main priority."

Such knowledge had not really been familiar to me up until now.

I had never spent much time outdoors. And there was never a time in Japan where I was without drinking water. So it could not be helped, I suppose.

I didn't know if I would travel much in this world, aside from this forest, but it was good to keep that in mind.

After we washed the wooden plates and pot, we checked our belongings.

I also doubled-checked my clothes and other items just in case.

Everyone had something assigned to them to carry, and when we were done checking, we set off again.

“Mr. Takumi, Lady Claire. Please take these before we go into the forest...”

“This...”

Sebastian took out two small swords from his back and handed them to us.

I suppose they were called short swords?

They were light, and could be swung with one hand.

Well, I had never held a sword, not even a bamboo one. So I didn't know if I could swing it properly...

However, why had Sebastian handed them to Ms. Claire and I?

“We do not know what is in the forest. So we must prepare for anything. Besides, you can also use it to cut down any vines that are in your way as you walk.”

“I see... Thank you. I’ve never used a weapon like this.. But I’ll keep it, just in case.”

“Thank you, Sebastian.”

And so Ms. Claire and I accepted the swords and attached the sheaths to our belts.

“Wuff? ...Sniff-sniff.”

Leo brought her head close to the sword and started to sniff it.

She probably noticed that I was wearing something that I didn’t usually wear.

After smelling it lightly, she moved away.

“Now, everyone. We will begin our search of the forest. Are you all ready?”

“Yes.”

“Wuff.”

“Of course.”

“I’m ready.”

“We will keep you all safe.”

“We will keep you all safe.”

Sebastian called out to everyone, and they all replied.

The two guards, one of them being Phillip, were very enthusiastic.

It almost seemed like Sebastian was the leader of this group now, even though Ms. Claire was the actual leader...or so I was told.

I suppose that due to the vast experience and knowledge that was a result of his age, it was inevitable that we should rely on him like this.

And so one guard was left to watch the horses, and the rest of us entered the forest.

Sebastian took the lead, and Phillip and Ms. Lyra walked behind him.

And behind them, there was Ms. Claire and Johanna, and then Leo and I walked behind them.

And in the very back was the last guard, whose name I had not heard yet.

As for our luggage, Sebastian carried the pots, while Ms. Lyra carried the clothing of a few people, including Ms. Claire, and other items.

Phillip carried the camping tools, Johanna carried the clothes that Ms. Lyra couldn't hold, and the other guard carried the food supplies.

I was in charge of drinking water, and my own belongings.

Leo wasn't able to carry anything... Perhaps she could have carried something if we strapped it to her back... I would have to think of something if we ever did this again.

Ms. Claire was carrying a large leather bag on her shoulder, which contained small items and clothes she didn't want anyone else to carry.

Didn't want anyone to carry...did that mean... No, I wouldn't pry into that...

"First, we'll cut through the forest until we reach the river."

"Yes."

This was to secure the water.

We should stick near the river and explore from there.

With a large landmark like a river, we could avoid getting lost, even while in the forest where our vision would be interrupted.

The last thing we wanted was a situation where we were all separated and lost.

It would be like something out of a horror film.

“Wou! Wou!”

“What is it Leo? You suddenly seem much happier after we entered the forest.”

Leo was barking rhymically, almost like she was humming.

“Wuff-wuff. Wou!”

Was it that comfortably nostalgic for her?

“Nostalgic... But Leo, it was the first time for you, just like it was for me, wasn't it? And it hasn't been that long since we were here.”

As she walked, Leo adeptly avoided the trees. At the same time, her voice and expression was trying to convey something to me.

“Wou? Wou-wuff-wuff. Wou-wuff-wuff.”

It was a little harder to understand, because I was moving. Uhh...I wonder why? I don't know the reason, but it just feels nostalgic... Something like that.

“I see... Perhaps it’s because this place is called the Fenrir Forest.”

“Wou?”

Leo tilted her head as she looked down at me.

As Leo was so big, her head was positioned very high.

She used to be the one who had to look up at me.

“There could be a reason. After all, they say that this is the place where Ms. Claire’s ancestor met a Silver Fenrir. So perhaps now that you’re a Silver Fenrir, Leo, there is something to this place that you can feel.”

“Wuff-wuff. Wuff!”

While Leo didn’t understand the reason clearly, she was definitely different now that we were here.

Her fluffy tail was wagging a little.

We were just walking normally. And Leo only wagged her tail when in a good mood.

It had even sounded like she was humming, so there must be something that she can feel in this forest.

Chapter 55

Orcs Appeared

After walking for about an hour, we started to be able to hear the sounds of running water up ahead.

This was...the same sound I heard when we first got lost here.

“Everyone. The river seems to be close by. ...Lady Claire, you will be able to rest once we reach the river.”

“...Ha...ha...very well. I can keep going...until we reach it...ha...”

“Are you all right, Lady Claire?”

“...I can manage... Ha...ha...”

Apparently, Ms. Claire wasn't used to walking in the forest, and was very tired.

And she was quite out of breath as she answered the worried Johanna.

Sebastian, Phillip, and Ms. Lyra all walked in the lead and cut down any ivy, grass or branches that were in the way so that it would be easier to walk.

But the ground was still not even, and so it was difficult to walk.

Someone who usually lived in a mansion would not have many opportunities to travel through a place like this, and she was also a noblewoman.

And though it was the lightest out of all the baggage, she still had to carry something.

While I was also a little tired, I somehow managed to walk without getting out of breath.

After all, I had been made to work until midnight several nights in a row, or given work from morning until night without breaks in the middle of summer during my last job. So this was nothing in comparison.

When I was made to work outside, it was less exhaustion and more dehydration that made me feel dizzy...

Leo was walking next to me. And since she was so big, the branches and grass still hit her even after Sebastian and the others had cleared a path, but she showed no signs of noticing and was still in a good mood as she walked.

That's a Silver Fenrir for you, huh?

But even when she was small, it was always me who became tired first when taking her out to play.

...So she always had a lot of energy, now that I think about it.

"Lady Claire, it's just a little farther now."

"...Yes... Ha...ha..."

Sebastian said to Ms. Claire as we continued on.

The sounds of the rushing water were getting louder.

We would likely arrive in the next ten minutes... It was just as I thought this that Leo's tail pointed upwards suddenly.

"What is it, Leo?"

"Wou! ...Oooooo!"

"Why are you growling?"

After barking once, Leo started to growl.

"Sebastian, please stop. Leo is..."

"What is it, Leo?"

I called out to Sebastian, who was in the lead, and everyone stopped.

Leo was still growling as she looked up ahead, and then glared towards the right.



“Wou! Wou!”

“...I see.”

“...Ha...ha... Leo... What is it?”

Ms. Claire looked at Leo and then turned to me with a worried expression.

While no one was far away, I spoke in a loud voice so that they would all hear.

“I believe an orc is approaching us!”

“...Ha...ahh...an orc...”

Thanks to everyone stopping, Ms. Claire was able to catch her breath.

“An orc...Phillip!”

“Yes! Johanna, Nicola. You know what to do.”

“Yes! We won’t let them touch a hair on Lady Claire’s head!”

“Understood!”

As soon as Sebastian called Philip’s name, they all moved at once.

Phillip, Johanna and Nicolas? all lined up in the direction that Leo was looking. And then Sebastian and Lyra stood in front of Ms. Claire as if to protect her.

“Woouoooo.”

Leo continued to growl.

And then, from the direction that Leo was glaring, the sounds of several figures moving through the trees and grass could be heard.

“Woof! Wou-wou-wou! Grou!”

The first woof was for orc, and the three wous meant three...so there were three of them...I think?

“There are three orcs. Please be careful!”

“Yes!”

“Aye!”

“Understood.”

...One of them...Nicolas? Talked in a more formal way than the others...but this was not the time to be making such observations.

The guards were all brandishing their weapons.

Leo was also ready to pounce at any moment. Her sharp claws extended from her paws.

Just in case, I too unsheathed my short sword that Sebastian had given me.

...I had never wielded a sword before...

“It’s heavier than I expected...”

I wasn’t confident that I could swing it when it mattered...

Once the orcs became visible through the gaps between the trees, there was an air of nervousness that overcame us.

And just like the one I first encountered in this forest, the orcs that emerged from the trees were wielding spears with rusted heads. Their bodies were plump and they had the heads of pigs.

“Gyuuu!”

“Gyu-gyu!”

“Gyugigigigi!”

While they may have resembled pigs, their voices were quite different.

And as Leo had said, there were three of them.

They each looked at us and cried. Then they directed their spears at us and began to run.

However, perhaps their round stomachs got in the way, and they could not run very fast. But the weight made the sounds of their footsteps very loud.

If they charged at you like that, a light person would easily be thrown into the air.

Upon seeing the orcs run towards us, Phillip and the others went into a low stance in order to intercept them. But then, Leo passed the three guards and jumped onto the orcs.

“Leo!?”

Leo was moving so fast that my eyes could barely follow her. And with this inhuman speed, she reached the orcs and unleashed an upper slash with the extended claws of her right paw.

The first orc was cut from the left side of its stomach to the right armpit. It fell to the ground in two pieces.

But without delay, Leo's left paw flashed from below.

And then the second orc fell after splitting in two from the opposite side.

Upon seeing this, the last orc became very afraid, and it stopped and was about to turn around to flee...but it was too late.

The moment that the second orc was slashed open, Leo had pounced forward and caught the last orc's throat with her jaws.

“Graauu!”

“Gyuuaaaaa!”

The orc's cry echoed through the forest. And then they were all dead.

Both the guards and I were unable to follow all of Leo's movements. So we just stood there. Watching but not wholly comprehending.

## Chapter 56

I made a plant with Weed Cultivation to help carry the orcs

Leo had defeated the orcs in an instant.

My eyes were barely able to keep up with her. And I was reminded of just how strong Leo was.

Even if I could see it, it was too fast for a human to copy, let alone deal with...

“Wuff-wuff.”

Leo sounded like she had just finished a simple task as she returned to me.

But everyone excluding me had their mouths hanging open as they watched Leo walk back.

In the meantime, I sheathed the short sword I had been carrying.

...It was a good thing that I hadn't been forced to use it while still not accustomed to it.

"Wuff-wou. Wuff-wuff."

"...Yes, very good, Leo."

"Wuffuff."

As she returned to my side, Leo lowered her head as if she wanted to be patted, and so I reached out and patted her head.

Upon seeing this, the guards said,

"We...weren't able to do anything..."

"Yes...what is the point of us being..."

"I am still green..."

Leo's display had taken away their purpose.

Don't worry. I'm sure we still need human guards as well! ...I think...

"So this is how a Silver Fenrir fights... It is no wonder they are considered to be the greatest of monsters."

"Yes... To think that the Great Leo, who is so cute..."

"It was like this when they rescued me as well. For the Great Leo, a battle with an orc lasts just a second."

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff. Wuff-wuff wou!”

She was looking at the orcs and moving her mouth as if to eat them...

It seemed like Leo just saw the orcs as a food supply...

So perhaps this was all just a casual hunt for her.

“Mr. Takumi, what did Leo say?”

“...I think she said that orcs are nothing but tasty meat...”

“Wou!”

Leo nodded as if to confirm it.

“...”

“...”

“...”

“...But orcs are monsters that can even be dangerous for seasoned fighters if they let their guard down...”

After hearing that Leo thought of orcs as meat, Ms. Claire looked very surprised.

The three guards were also too shocked to speak.

“...In any case, let's head to the river. And we can rest there.”

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff?”

Leo looked towards the orcs and then tilted her head to the side.

Uhh... As we had eaten an orc after defeating it previously, she was asking why we weren't going to do it this time.

“...But... I don't think we can carry three of them? Mr Sebastian. Leo is saying that she wants to eat the orc meat... What should we do?”

“Indeed... Phillip. Can you carry them?”

“If it's the ones that the Great Leo has split into two, we might...”

“Hmm... In that case, let's drag them.. It will be easier than carrying them, I think. Besides, we're already close to the river.”

“Very well. Johanna, Nicholas.”

“Yes.”

“This will be good training.”

And so the three guards walked towards the orcs that Leo defeated.

“Wou? Wuff-wuff.”

“Leo. You can carry the orcs?”

“Wuff!”

And then Leo walked over to them and stopped at the orc whose neck she had bitten.

“Guff.”

Leo’s jaw went around its head and then she lifted it up.

...An orc’s body was about the same size as a human’s, but they were quite fat and looked heavy. But Leo seemed to barely even notice the weight.

“It will be a lot easier if the Great Leo carries one.”

“Then we will carry the remaining orcs.”

The remaining orcs had been split in half by Leo, which meant that there were four pieces.

And so Phillip grabbed the two torso pieces by the arms and pulled them away.

Johanna and Nicolas took the remaining two pieces and dragged them by the legs.

As all three of them were already carrying baggage, on top of wearing metal armor, it seemed quite harsh to have to carry the orcs on top of that.

Ah, that’s right... There was something that I could do.

“Uh, Phillip. Please wait one moment.”

“What is it?”

I stopped Phillip and the other guards as they were about to start walking. And then I rummaged through my bag.

Ah, there it is. This.

“I know it may look suspicious, but please eat this.”



“What is it...?”

What I took out of the bag and handed to them was the leaves of the plant I had made yesterday while studying Weed Cultivation.

“I think it will help you while carrying the orcs.”

“...Ah.”

“...Thank you.”

“...It has a very strange color...”

The leaves had a blue color.

Even if you knew that it was a medicinal plant, most people would hesitate to eat it if it was the leaves that were blue, and not the flower.

Still, the three seemed to trust me, and so they put the leaves into their mouths.

“It’s not...bad at all...”

“It’s rather good...”

“I would not have expected it to taste like this.”

Oh, so they even liked the taste.

It was probably because I was thinking about taste as well when using Weed Cultivation.

I had tried eating a small piece myself, and it tasted like soda pop.

However, the idea of a plant tasting like soda pop didn't make it sound any less suspicious...

"Hmm? My body suddenly feels lighter..."

"What is..."

"While it's only half an orc, I can lift it up easily now."

The effect was felt immediately after the three ate the plant. And Johanna and Nicolas raised the legs easily.

As Phillip was carrying two, he wasn't able to do that, but it seemed that it was still easier for him now.

That was good. So it had worked.

While I was sure it was safe, it was still a little like an experiment. But it was probably fine.

"Mr. Takumi. What is that?"

Ms. Claire, who had been watching the three guards, asked me.

"Something I was testing in the back garden yesterday. I wanted to see what I could do with Weed Cultivation."

"So you were making this plant. That was the secret."

"...Hmm, no. It's not just this plant. In fact, this one was made quite by accident while I was testing other things. I wasn't trying to make it."

"Is that so? Then what were you really trying to do?"

"Well, I think we should talk about that later. For now, let's head to the river."

“...Hmph, very well. But I will have my answer from you when we get there.”

## Chapter 57

### We Arrived at the River

I somehow managed to persuade Ms. Claire, and then we started walking towards the river again, with Sebastian in the lead.

It wasn't that I had to hide what I was researching with Weed Cultivation, but that we were in the middle of the forest and dragging orc carcasses. It wasn't the right time to talk about it.

We would have plenty of time once we reached the river.

The sounds of rushing water were getting quite loud now.

Another ten minutes later, and we could see the river through the trees.

“Ms. Claire. It's the river.”

“Ha...ha... Then we can finally rest.”

So walking in the forest for so long really had been difficult for Ms. Claire.

She was panting, but her expression brightened up when she saw the river.

“Wuff!”

Leo, who was still carrying the orc in her mouth, rushed ahead of us towards the river.

As soon as she arrived, she left the orc on the ground and jumped into the water.

She had jumped right in the last time we found a river as well. Leo really liked to play in the water.

She splashed around loudly as she swam and occasionally drank.

“...Even though Leo is a Silver Fenrir now, she still swims like a dog.”

I watched her swimming as we reached the river.

Ms. Claire then sat down on a large rock and rested.

Sebastian looked for an area to camp, and Ms. Lyra began to gather branches in order to make a fire.

Those two really were hard workers.

As for the three guards, they put down the orcs where Leo had, and then they began to drain the blood from the bodies.

“Huh. So that’s how you do it...”

They lifted the arms and legs upside down so that the blood flowed out.

Occasionally, they would make cuts where the blood seemed to be trapped.

As there were three orcs and five pieces, it would take quite a while for them to finish.

They also made the blood flow directly into the river.

Allowing the blood to pool close by would be a little too much...both in terms of smell and just ruining the scenery...

“Well, I’m not as tired as Ms. Claire, so I should do something too.”

And so I helped Ms. Lyra with gathering branches.

I couldn't help Sebastian find a place to camp, as I knew nothing of camping, and it was the same with processing the meat.

And I would feel awkward joining Leo in her play now, so it would be best to make myself useful.

These kinds of preparations should be finished quickly.

"Ms. Lyra. Will these branches do?"

"Yes. Thanks to you, we have quite a lot now. Thank you, Mr. Takumi."

"Not at all. The fire will benefit all of us. I have to do my part."

"...But you could have rested like Lady Claire if you wanted?"

"Well, I still have some energy. So it was no trouble at all."

We then separated the branches for what would be used for the fire now and what would be saved for later.

As we worked, Sebastian returned.

"Lyra, Mr. Takumi. I found a place to set up camp."

"I understand. Will we go there now?"

"Yes, if you are able. Lyra and I will tell the others."

"Then I'll tell Ms. Claire. I'm sure she has recovered a little by now."

“Thank you.”

I then separated from Sebastian, who went towards the guards who were just finishing up with the meat. And I walked over to Ms. Claire, who was sitting by the river.

“Ms. Claire. Sabastian has found a place for us to set up camp. Should we go now?”

“I see.”

“...Are you all right?”

“I did get some rest. And I can walk just fine.”

Ms. Claire smiled at my obvious concern, but it seemed forced.

There was still a tiredness in her expression and her movements were slow.

...It would be best if she did not do much for the rest of the day and rest.

“Ah, there they are.”

“Yes.”

Sebastian and Lyra were now walking towards us with the three guards.

I would have to go and call Leo soon.

“Leo. Come out of the river! We’re going!”

“Wuff!”

Upon hearing my voice, Leo swam towards me and then jumped right out of the water!

She landed on the dry ground and then shook the water from her fur.

Even though we were quite far away, the water sprayed so far that I thought it might hit us... I had been hit by that force at point blank in the bathing room... And become completely drenched.

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Good girl.”

While she was much farther than Sebastian and the others had been, she dashed quickly after drying herself and reached us first.

And so I patted Leo and waited for the others to arrive.

“Lady Claire, Mr. Takumi. Sorry to keep you waiting. Now, I will take you to the spot.”

“Thank you.”

“Yes.”

“Wuff.”

We answered, and then Sebastian led the way once again.

It was not too far off, and we reached it in about ten minutes.

Ms. Lyra and I carried the tree branches we had gathered for the bonfire, and Leo and the guards carried the orc meat, which was now a little lighter.

As we were walking alongside the river, there were no trees in our way, and Ms. Claire seemed to have an easier time walking.

Here, the space between the river and the forest was wider, and there were fewer rocks which meant there was a lot of plain dirt.

“We will camp here tonight.”

“Very well.”

“Then we will start preparing the tents.”

The guards spread out their burden and began to pitch the tents.

And so I helped Ms. Lyra start the bonfire.

Ms. Claire and Leo watched us lay out the branches with deep interest.

“Ms. Lyra. Is this fine?”

“Hmm... No, this should be like this... It will burn better if the air can move through.”

“Thank you.”

And so Ms. Lyra lectured me on making bonfires.

...So it wasn't as easy as laying down some tree branches...

Chapter 58

Leo Cut the Orc Meat

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Hmm? You want to start the fire again, Leo?”



“Wuff.”

When I finished laying out the branches, Leo approached me happily.

“Ms, Lyra. Is that all right?”

“I would be very grateful if Leo would light up the fire. If anything, I would have requested it myself.”

“I see. Well, Leo. You can light it then.”

“Grau!”

Upon hearing my words, Leo barked once. And just like before, she breathed fire from her mouth.

It wasn't too strong or too weak as it burned the branches in the center, and the flames spread out.

“Now the bonfire is completed.”

“Yes. Thank you. And thank you, Leo.”

“Wuff! Wuff-wuff.”

After being thanked by Ms. Lyra, I thought that Leo would want to be praised, but when I looked, Ms. Claire was already there and petting her on the head.

Leo looked very pleased as she barked.

It was nice seeing them get along.

“Then I will cook the orc meat. While the sun is still high, it would be best to dress the meat quickly.”

“I see. Should I help you?”

“...Indeed... Three orcs is a lot of work for one person, so it would be a great help.”

“I understand.”

“Wuff.”

“Are you going too, Leo?”

When Ms. Lyra and I tried to go to where the orcs were placed, Leo moved away from Ms. Claire’s pets, and came to stand next to me.

Ms. Claire looked a little sad that Leo was no longer within reach.

“Leo. Why don’t you stay here and wait with Ms. Claire?”

“Wuff!”

As if to reject this idea, Leo lifted a paw and extended her claws out.

...Now that I thought about it, Leo had dressed the meat the first time that we ate an orc...

Oh, well. While it meant leaving Ms. Claire alone, it wasn’t even a minute’s walk from here, so it should be fine.

“Lady Claire. Please sit here by the fire and rest a little longer. As we are close to the river, you will get a chill if you’re not careful. And being warmed by the fire will help ease your fatigue.”

“I did wish to watch the dressing of the orc meat up close... But...very well then. I shall watch from here.”

After Ms. Lyra spoke to Ms. Claire, we left her and walked towards the meat.

On the way, we talked to Johanna, who was pitching the tents, and told her that Ms. Claire was alone.

Upon hearing this, she exchanged a few words with the other two guards. It seemed that she was going to go to Lady Claire now.

Well, the pitching of the tents was nearly finished, so they would be done by the time we were finished with the meat.

“Have you ever cut orc meat, Ms. Lyra?”

“...No, I have not. But I have experience with other kinds of meat...”

“...I see...”

Now I was getting nervous...

I had just asked her for no particular reason, and it turned out she had no experience...

But as I wondered what to do, Leo suddenly tried to get my attention.

“Wuff. Wuff.”

She extended her claws and waved them in front of me.

“Leo. There are three of them. Can you do it?”

“Wuff!”

“...She says that she can. Let’s leave it to her then.”

“...Very well. I’m sorry that I was not able to do it.”

“It’s fine. You’ve done enough already, so this is nothing. Besides, Leo really wants to do it.”

“Wou!”

Leo was full of enthusiasm.

While Ms. Lyra seemed apologetic, these kinds of things were better done by someone, or some dog, that was accustomed to it.

The dressing of meat was a rather difficult thing.

And so after we arrived at the spot, I left everything to Leo.

“Leo. I’m counting on you.”

“I’m sorry to have to ask you, but thank you, good Leo.”

“Wuff. ....Gau-wou!”

After Ms. Lyra and I asked Leo to do it, she calmly walked towards the orcs and waved her paw.

As they had already been drained of blood, it wasn’t exactly a reenactment from a horror movie. But the sight of orc meat being chopped up as they flew in the air was still a little shocking.

After Leo had waved her claws for about one minute, she walked back to us with a satisfied expression.

...That was too fast, Leo...

“Ms. Lyra. How is the orc meat?”

I asked Ms. Lyra, who was completely stunned by Leo's movements. And then we both went to look.

"This... Only a professional cook could have done it this cleanly. It is amazing!"

"Wuff! Wuff!"

The orc meat was cut so neatly that it looked like something that could be sold by a butcher.

Of course, it would have to be washed, as it was lying on top of the ground.

"Leo can even...separate the cuts..."

"It looks like it. Um, this might even be better than what a human can do...?"

The orc meat that Leo had cut was separated by parts.

And the meat and organs were also separated.

Even if you thought of orc meat as pork, to cut it with your claws, separate them by parts, and remove the organs was...

"Silver Fenrirs are so amazing..."

"Wuff. Wuff."

I decided to not think about it too deeply, and just pet Leo, who was looking at me with a proud expression.

After that, since it could not all be eaten at once, we set some aside to cook today so the rest could be saved.

Ms. Lyra took the meat that was to be cooked immediately and returned to Ms. Claire by the fire. And then, as if to not waste any time, she took out the pot and vegetables and started to cook.

...Ms. Lyra was likely tired as well, from all the walking in the forest. And so I was very grateful.

Ms. Claire must have been watching Leo work from afar, as she was praising Leo and patting her on the head.

Johanna was watching Ms. Claire and Leo with a smile. But I saw that she would occasionally reach out her hand towards Leo but then withdraw it immediately.

...She should just pet Leo if she wants to.

As I thought this, I went to fetch some water from the river, both to drink and to cook with.

“We finished preparing the tents.”

“Thank you.”

Just as the sun started to descend, and it grew darker, Sebastian, Phillip, and Nicholas returned after pitching the tents.

I thanked Sebastian and then added more tree branches to the fire, while making sure not to get in Ms. Lyra’s way as she cooked.

## Chapter 59

### I Volunteered for Guard Duty

Phillip and Nicholas both let out a sigh and then sat down by the fire.

They had to carry their heavy loads through the forest, and then the orcs were added to that. And then there were the tents. And while they had the plants I made with Weed Cultivation, it was no wonder that they were exhausted.

Sebastian must have been tired as well, but he showed no signs of it.

...Though, he had shown signs of other things along the way... He really was a mystery.

“Dinner will be ready soon, so please rest and wait.”

Ms. Lyra realized that everyone was gathered together now, and so she addressed them while looking at the contents of the pot.

Previously, when Leo had cut the orc meat, we had just used branches as skewers and roasted it.

But this time, Ms. Lyra was making a proper meal.

While she wasn't a professional like Ms. Helena, her cooking during lunch time had been simple yet delicious. And so I had high expectations.

“Well, while we are waiting, we should decide who will stay up and watch during the night.”

“Keep watch?”

“Yes. After all, monsters live in this forest And there are wild beasts. If we are going to camp in such a place, it is necessary for someone to stay up all night and keep watch. If everyone slept at the same time, it would be like asking the monsters to attack us.”

“That's true. It's just that I've never had to think of such things in the place that I lived...”

“No one ever had to stay up and keep watch where you are from, Mr. Takumi?”

“Yes. There were no monsters there. We did have wild animals, but there weren't many that would actually attack humans. Besides, all the places that we could camp in were guaranteed to be safe.”

“Is that so.”

Ms. Claire, Sebastian and the others were all interested in these safe camping areas that I talked about.

However, it was only possible because there were not many dangerous beasts in Japan.

Besides, people only camped in designated areas where safety was secured in advance.

But in this world, there were also monsters to deal with.

If there were wild beasts and monsters that attacked humans in the area, then it was only natural that they would need people to keep watch.

It was another reminder of how different this place was.

“While I’ll be interested in hearing more about your home later, Mr. Takumi, we should first decide who will keep watch.”

“Yes.”

“We should take turns. If one person stays up until morning, they won’t be much use tomorrow.”

“I will take the first watch then.”

“Very well. Phillip will be first. And...Johanna and Lyra. Is that all right?”

“Yes.”

“That is fine.”

“And lastly... Nicholas and I will take the final watch.”

Oh? I understood why Ms. Claire was exempt, but what about me?



“Mr. Sebastian. Shouldn’t I keep watch as well?”

“Mr. Takumi... Judging by everything that I’ve heard, you are not used to such things.”

“...Yes, that is true, but...”

I had never gone out camping before.

So, of course, I had never kept watch for a whole night.

However, I did not like the idea of sleeping in a tent until morning, while the others had to stay up.

“Mr. Sebastian, please let me have a turn as well. While it’s true that I lack experience, I cannot allow all of you to do everything...”

“...I see... Hmm. What should we do...”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

“Hmm? What is it, Leo?”

As I asked Sebastian, and he considered it, Leo started to bark loudly.

Was she saying that she would keep watch with me?

“Do you want to help guard the camp, Leo?”

“Wou!”

Leo nodded at my words.

If Leo was with me, it would be a great comfort even if I was inexperienced.

Sebastian must have felt the same, as he nodded with approval.

“Very well then. In that case, we will let Mr. Takumi and Leo take the first watch. Are you alright with that, Phillip?”

“Very well.”

“Thank you.”

“As this is your first time, please wake someone up if you notice even the slightest irregularity. ... Though, I doubt we have anything to worry about with Leo here.”

“Leo? While she is very reliable, are you sure?”

“Yes. Earlier, when we were in the forest, Leo noticed the presence of the orcs before any of us did. And so she will likely detect any monsters before they get close to our camp.”

“Wuff!”

Leo nodded as if to say ‘leave it to me!’

Now that I thought about it, Leo had also been quick to detect the orc when we first came to this forest.

Was it their presence? Or was it their smell that allowed Leo to detect them?

If Leo was here, maybe I didn’t even need to keep watch... But I had to be useful for something, and so I would do my best.

“Well then, it will be Mr. Takumi, Leo, Phillip, Johanna, Lyra, Nicholas, and myself. It will start at ten o’clock at night, and we will trade places every three hours.”

“Understood.”

“Wuff!”

Sebastian took out a pocket watch and looked at it as he spoke.

If it started at ten and was for three hours...I had to stay up until one.

Though, I still wasn't used to the way time was measured in this world.

I think that it would be similar to eleven to two in my old world.

As I was thinking about the time, Claire came to sit down on the opposite side of Leo as she opened her mouth.

I had been deep in thought. I wonder what was the matter?

“...Sebastian. I will take the watch as well.”

“You, Lady Claire? ...I cannot agree to that.”

So Ms. Claire wanted to be on guard duty too... Perhaps she was like me, and didn't want to sleep while the others stayed up.

However, Sebastian rejected her request flatly.

The others also nodded in agreement.

“But why? Mr. Takumi isn't accustomed to doing it, but that hasn't stopped him? And so I don't know why it should be any different with me.”

“Lady Claire, Mr. Takumi will have the Great Leo with him. Besides, my lady, you already seem so exhausted. You must allow us to guard you as you rest.”

“But...”

“If you are not fully recovered by tomorrow morning, and have no strength to explore the forest, then we will have no choice but to return to the mansion. Is that what you want?”

Chapter 60

Guard Duty with Leo

While Ms. Claire tried to protest, Sebastian stopped her.

I could understand how she felt, as I had volunteered with the same feelings.

However, everyone could see that she was tired. And in the first place, it had been Ms. Claire who wanted to come out here and explore the forest.

And so if she was not able to walk, then we would have no choice but to return to the mansion.

Sebastian was talking like this because he was thinking about her energy and safety more than anything.

“...Very well. I will rest today in preparation for tomorrow.”

“Yes, my lady.”

Ms. Claire looked rather forlorn as she gave up.

Well, perhaps there was something that I could do.

Otherwise, it was possible that Ms. Claire and Sebastian will not be on the best terms for the remainder of the journey.

Even I could see that he was saying it for her sake.

And while I was sure that she trusted Sebastian, it must be difficult to have someone reject your opinions, just as he had done when she first declared that she would go to the forest.

“...Well, I’m not sure what I can say... It is difficult.”

As I wondered what would be the best thing to do, Ms. Lyra called to us.

“Dinner is ready, everyone. Please come and eat.”

It sounded like the voice of salvation, but it was telling us that the food was ready.

Everyone had been walking through the forest and preparing the tents, so they would be hungry. And so we immediately picked up the wooden plates and headed towards Ms. Lyra.

...Even Sebastian, who had been so stern a moment ago, and Ms. Claire, who had looked so disappointed, were walking together and smiling...

“Huh? Why did I even worry?”

Apparently, my worries were unwarranted, and the two had a strong trust in each other.

...What a waste of emotion that had been...

“Wuff?”

“Ah, Leo. Let’s go.”

And so I stopped thinking about it and went with Leo to accept our dinner.

In fact, the atmosphere during dinner was so peaceful and warm, that I was assured that I need not have worried.

Ms. Claire and Sebastian were evaluating the quality of the meat...

Well, as long as things were pleasant, it was fine.

It was kind of like a pork pot-au-feu, with orc meat and vegetables.

The air was a little cold, since we were close to the river, but the pot-au-feu warmed us right up.

It was indeed a comforting, homely meal that was satisfying.

“The food was very delicious, Ms. Lyra.”

“It was very good.”

Not only Ms. Claire and I, but everyone else agreed that it was good, and Ms. Lyra smiled cheerfully.

A few hours later, everyone retired to the tents, so that it was just me and Leo by the fire.

It was the beginning of our watch.

As for the tents, there were two of them set up, so that the men and women were separated when they slept.

“I cannot sleep in the same tent as you, Lady Claire...”

“Don’t worry about that and just come.”

“Yes. I will be there too, so it won’t just be you and Lady Claire.”

As a servant, Ms. Lyra hesitated at the idea of sleeping in the same tent. But it was a rare opportunity, and so she eventually allowed Ms. Claire and Johanna to drag her inside.

They seemed to be having fun, as if they would hold a little party inside. But there was no point in thinking about such things.

“It’s not as if I could join them...”

I muttered as I watched Ms. Lyra go in.

Once it was just me and Leo outside, we continued to hear sounds of movement and talking voices for some time, and then eventually it was just the sounds of the fire and the running river. Also, the chirping of distant crickets.

Now that I thought of it, it was rare for me and Leo to be alone together since we came to this world.

When we were together, I spent a lot of time thinking about my Gift, Weed Cultivation. And in my room we would play a little and then go to sleep.

...So this was a good opportunity to talk with Leo.

“Leo, you came to this world with me, but... How do you feel? While you were small in the other world, it was a peaceful place where you didn’t have to fight.”

“Wou-wou. Wuff-wou.”

Leo tilted her head to the side once and then replied.

Uhhh, judging by her gestures and expressions... I like it here better because we are always together... I think.

I see... Being together was more important for Leo. Because she was often left in my apartment all day previously.

...I was happy to hear that.

What should I ask next...

“You became big so suddenly. Are there any difficulties related to that?”

“Wou-wuff-wuff. Wou! Wuff-wuff.”

Uhh... Nothing. It's easier to move now, so I like it more. And I'm happy to be able to protect... I think that's what she said.

So, there were no issues related to her current size.

With humans, you sometimes experience growing pain when you suddenly grow taller. But such things did not happen to Leo.

Well, it wasn't as if she had actually grown over time.

However, I did feel a little pitiful about being the one who was protected. But I also felt grateful.

“Now that I think about it, you can also use magic now, Leo.”

“Wuff. Wou?”

Should I use it? She seemed to ask with a tilt of her head.

“No, no. You don't have to do it now. But you can use it if something happens.”

“Wuff...”

Leo nodded, but looked a little disappointed.

...I suppose she wanted to use it?



However, she might wake up the others if she did it now.

And according to Sebastian, you could die if you ran out of magic energy, so it was best not to waste it.

I didn't know how much magic energy Leo had...

So it would be better to watch her use magic after we returned from the forest and were safe again.

...Speaking of Sebastian, he hadn't been able to finish his explanation on magic... I wanted to be able to use magic myself, and so I would have to ask him later.

"What kind of magic can you use, Leo?"

"Wou...Wou-wuff?"

"I told you, not right now. I just want to know what kind of magic you can do."

"Wuff...woo... Wou-wouwo! Gaugau-wuff."

Leo really did want to use magic.

Perhaps she was like me. Now that she could do something that she hadn't been able to do before, she wanted to do it.

After looking disappointed again, she began to tell me about what kind of magic she could do.

Uh, a lot... I'm especially good with fire. And I can control water, air, and earth as well... Also... other types.

You needed to be a little more specific than that, Leo.

Still, it was a marvel that I was able to understand Leo so well now.

And it was a great thing to be able to communicate with your buddy.