Beloved Dog 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.



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."

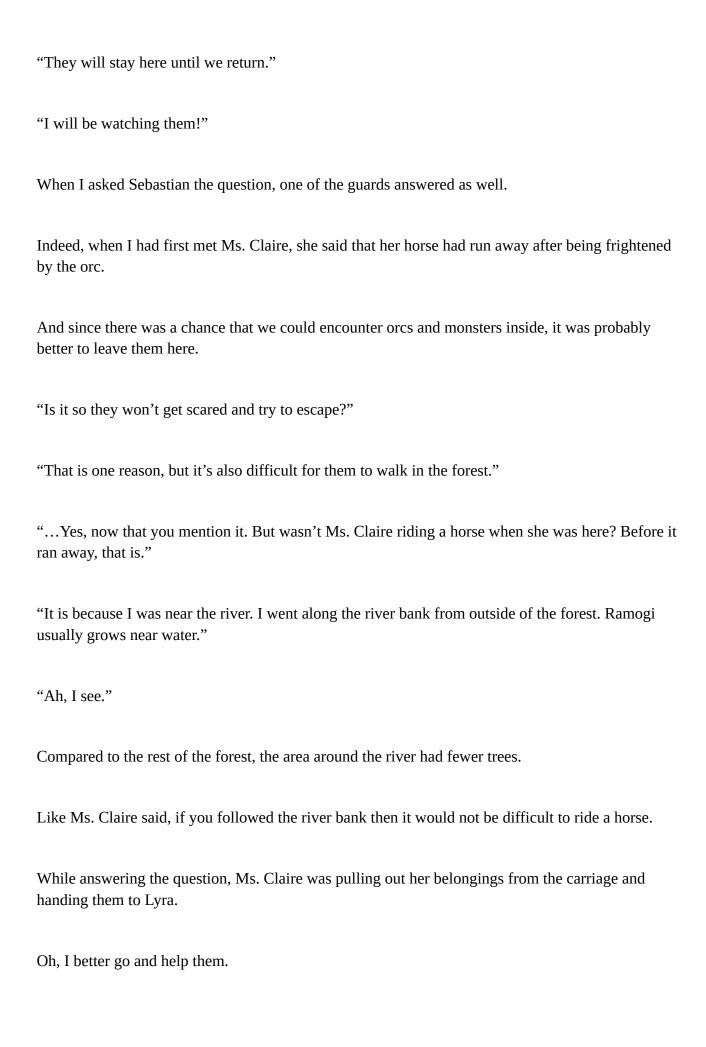
Ms. Claire was raising her arms and stretching, just like I was.





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?"

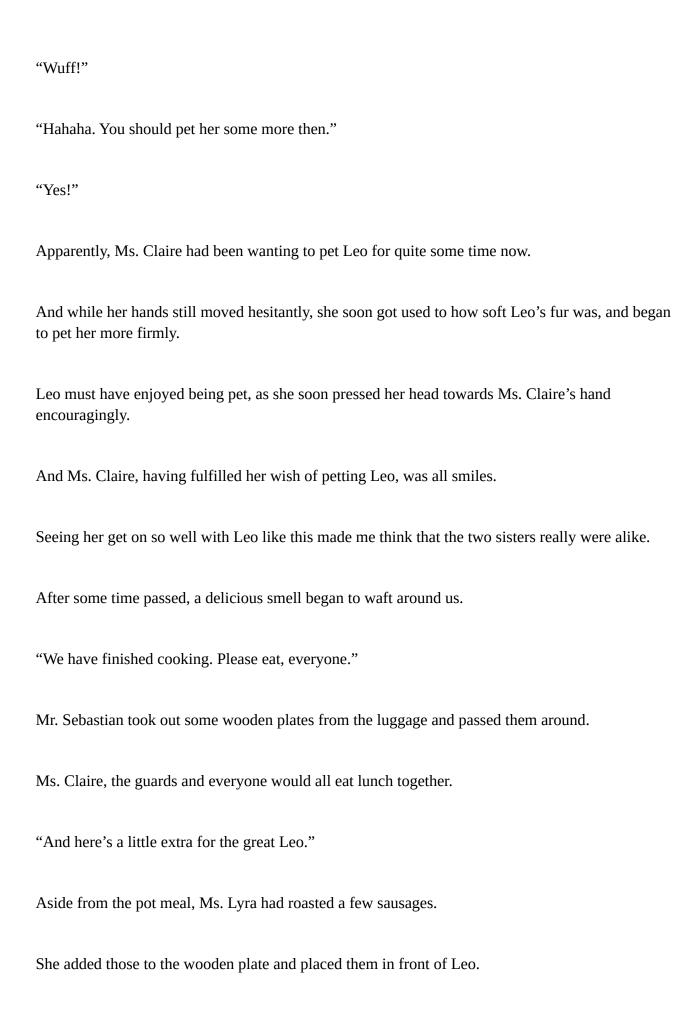








As for Sebastian and Lyra, they had expressions that were more admiration than surprise. The guards, on the other hand, had not spent much time with Leo, and so they were staring at the fire as if stunned. Even if they knew that Silver Fenrirs could use magic, they had never seen it happen before. Of 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..."



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"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.
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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."



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.



"...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.

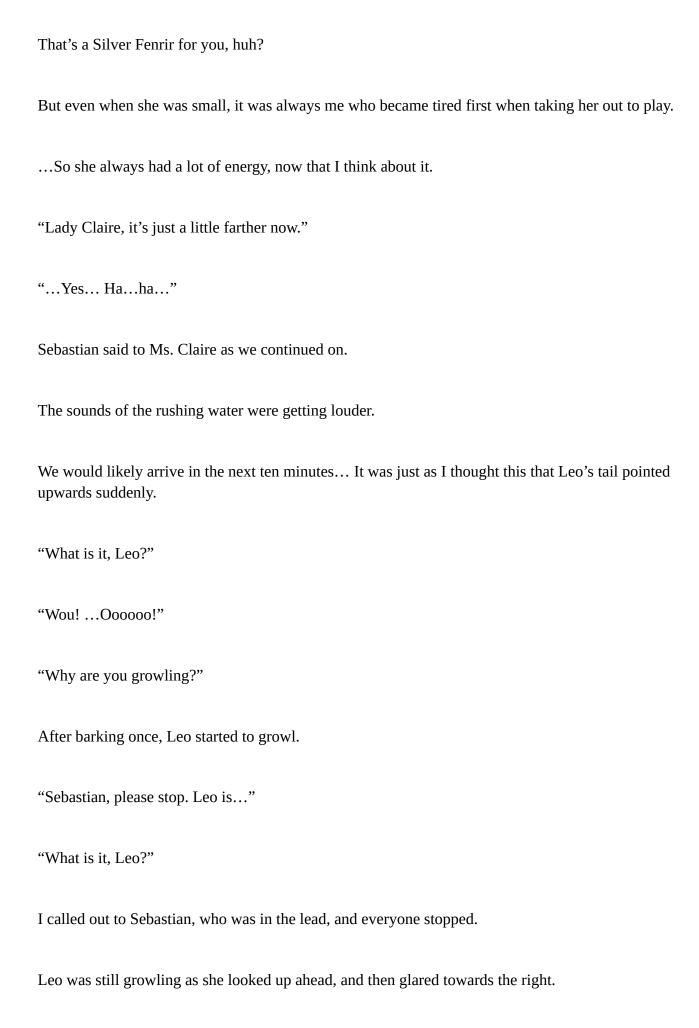
And though it was the lightest out of all the baggage, she still had to carry something.

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

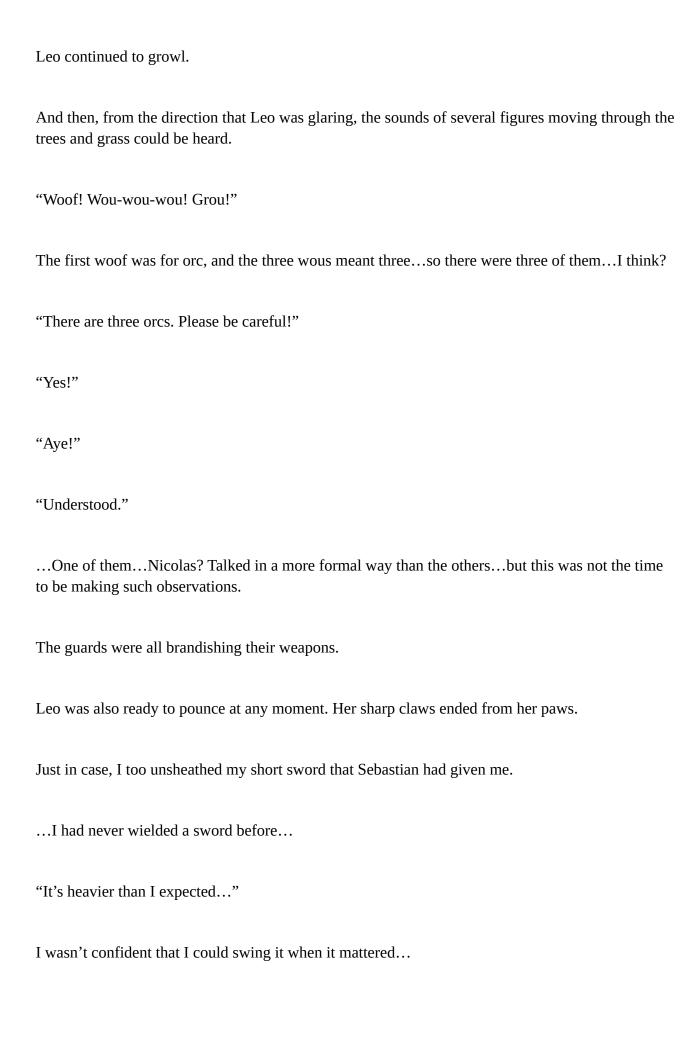
After all, I had been made to work until midnight several nights in a row, or given work from morning until night without breaks in the middle of summer during my last job. So this was nothing in comparison.

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.



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"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.
"Woooooo."
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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.

"Gyuuo!"

"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!?"

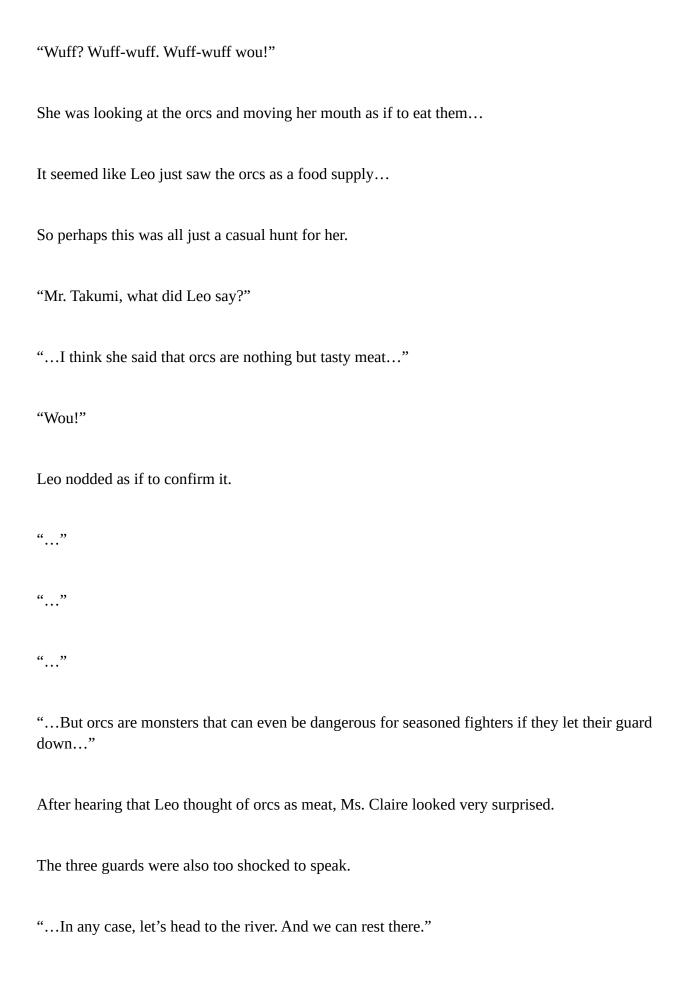
Leo was moving so fast that my eyes could barely follow her. And with this inhuman speed, she reached the orcs and unleashed an upper slash with the extended claws of her right paw.

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

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.

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









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"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.
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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."



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

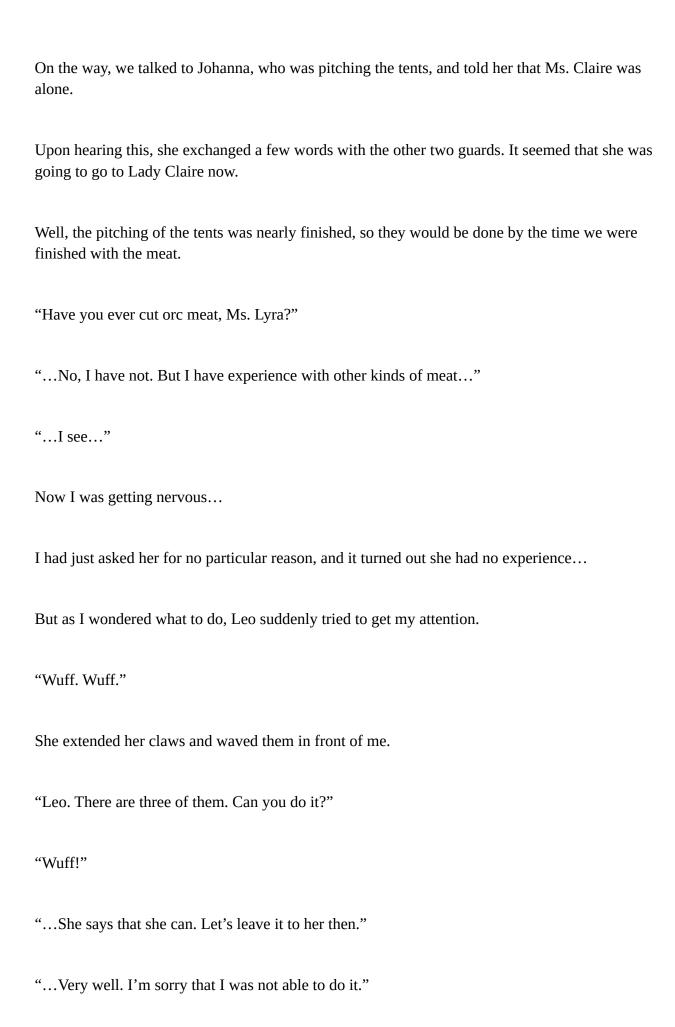
As we were walking alongside the river, there were no trees in our way, and Ms. Claire seemed to have an easier time walking.

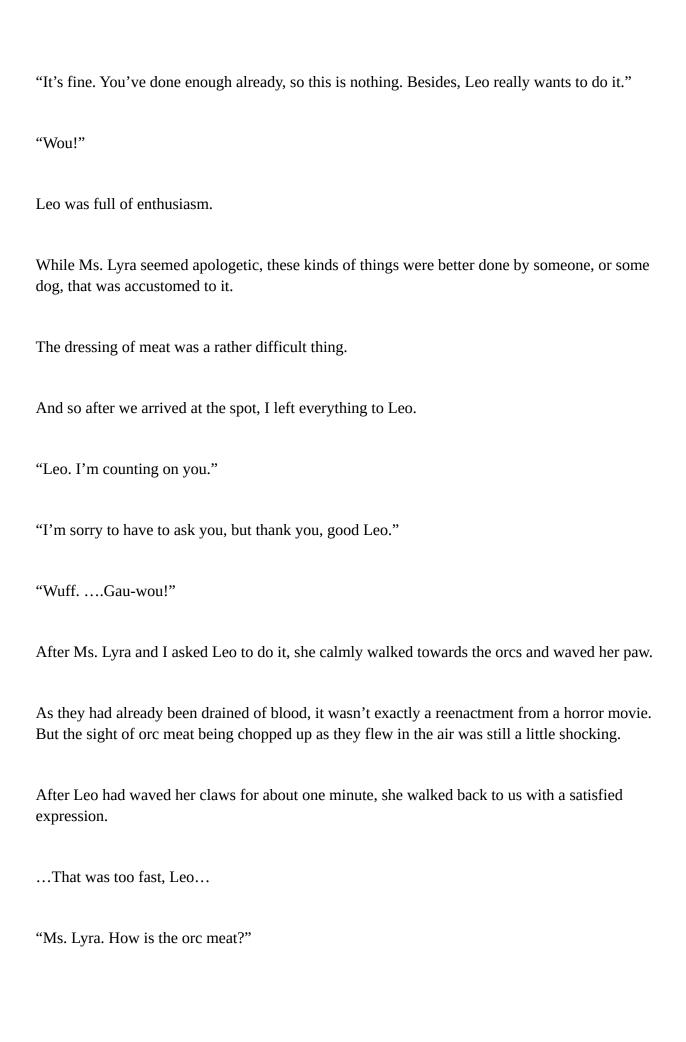
carried the orc meat, which was now a little lighter.













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.



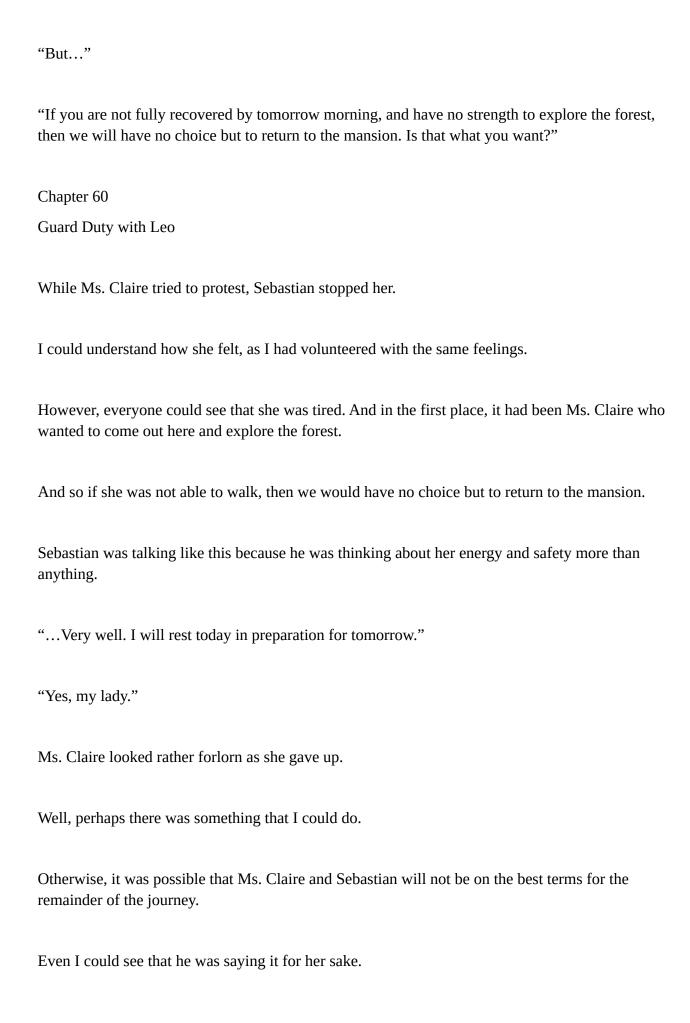


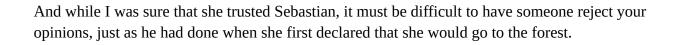


Sebastian must have felt the same, as he nodded with approval.
"Very well then. In that case, we will let Mr. Takumi and Leo take the first watch. Are you alright with that, Phillip?"
"Very well."
"Thank you."
"As this is your first time, please wake someone up if you notice even the slightest irregularity 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."

"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."





"...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."

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.

"Yes. I will be there too, so it won't just be you and Lady Claire."

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.



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.