

## Beloved Dog 511

### Chapter 511

I refused Mr. Ekenhart's suggestion

After closing in on the left side of the orc, Liza used her momentum to slash at the orc's leg, cutting deep into its flesh.

Due to suddenly not being able to move its leg, the orc fell and then slid on the ground.

It was kind of like a replay of when I fought it. Only, she did not cut the leg off.

And yet, without a moment's delay, Liza took her knife...and stabbed it into the orc's neck as it lay on the ground.

"Gyu!? Gyuu..."

"There! Uhh... It's not moving?"

After stabbing it deep in, the orc let out a cry and flailed its right leg. But then a moment later, it stopped moving.

Upon confirming this, Liza pulled out her knife and then tapped the orc's back to see that it was really dead.

"Liza!"

"Woah, sister Claire!?"

As soon as the orc was silent, Ms. Claire could hold herself back no longer.

She rushed forward towards Liza.

Liza seemed surprised to suddenly see Ms. Claire run towards her.

“Wuff! Wuff!”

“That was amazing, Liza!”

“Mama, Tilura. Ehehe... I Did my best!”

“Yes, yes. You did, Liza...”

Liza smiled as Ms. Claire patted her gently on the head.

“Mr. Takumi.”

“Yes?”

“Do you think Liza was holding back during the test?”

“...Well, I’m sure she wouldn’t fight an orc in the same way as a human... She was probably going all out just now.”

As I watched the others celebrate, Mr. Ekenhart started to talk to me.

Indeed, it was possible that she was holding back without even realizing it...

“Or it could be the clothes? Her movements seemed sharp this time.”

“It appears that way. You wouldn’t be able to move as much in a skirt... But I don’t think it’s that alone.”

“...Yes. She came at me in a straight line... But with the orc, she was definitely trying to weaken it. That’s why she targeted the shoulder. And she knew that she couldn’t cut it off with a knife.”

“Indeed. Well, she also stabbed so deep that it took time to pull the knife out... But in general, she was definitely trying to weaken it.”

I thought that people who weren't used to fighting would always try and aim for the heart.

Even when fighting Mr. Ekenhart, she had tried to stab him in the chest.

However, against the orc, she went for the shoulders instead... And then after the charge, she attacked the legs.

“Is it beastkin...instincts?”

“I don't know... Liza did watch us fighting, so she probably learned from that.”

“I see... Focusing on weakening them first and create a favorable opening...”

“Yes. I tend to target the limbs first. And she probably copied Tilura's fighting style, so that it would not be able to fight back.”

Even if she was at a distance, Liza had been watching me, Liza...and Shery.

But even then, it was hard to believe that someone her age could fight like that without any training.

So perhaps being a beastkin and being able to use special magic was related to it...

“Indeed. She decided on how to fight based on information she saw. Mr. Takumi, would you allow me to train Liza? I think with some training, she can become a real beast of a fighter.”

“...No, thank you. I want Liza to live a peaceful life...”

“Hmph... It would have been very entertaining...”

Obviously, I had to refuse such a suggestion.

It was because I wanted her to laugh and live in peace. And not because I didn't like the idea of her surpassing me or anything.

Mr. Ekenhart grumbled with disappointment.

He had a habit of wanting to train people that he found to be promising...

"Papa! I did it!"

"Yes, I saw. You did well! I'm so happy to see how skilled you were."

"Ehehe."

"Wuff!"

"Hehe... She really is fond of you and Leo. Even when she is with me and Tilura, as soon as she saw you, she got onto Leo and happily made her report."

"Ahaha..."

As I was talking to Mr. Ekenhart, Liza came towards me while riding on Leo's back.

Leo stopped suddenly, and Liza jumped off and landed on the ground with a smile.

And so I patted her on the head and praised her.

Leo was also happy that it had gone smoothly, and barked in a proud voice.

And then Ms. Claire and Tilura joined us.

Ms. Claire chuckled, but looked just a little jealous as well.

## Chapter 512

We held a meeting to decide tomorrow's schedule

“Amazing! Delicious!”

“Haha, really? Is it because you defeated the orc?”

“Wuff! Wuff!”

We ate Liza's orc for dinner.

Everyone sat around the fire, and Ms. Lyra cooked the meat.

Of course, Liza, I and the others helped as well.

While dinner was being made, Mr. Ekenhart alone went into the river. And with the water up to his waist, he started swinging his swords in the air.

He was holding a katana and regular sword together, for weight... I had heard him muttering something about not falling behind a kid... So perhaps seeing Liza and Tilura had inspired him.

However, he was the duke. Was it really necessary for him to become any stronger...

He could already protect himself just fine... Well, I suppose it was good to want to improve.

In any case, I watched him as we finished preparing the food, and then it was time to eat.

Liza was very happy to eat the orc that she had killed.

Tilura had been like that as well. I suppose it was different when you did it yourself.

Was it similar to how vegetables tasted better when you grew and harvested them yourself?

Well, it probably had more to do with being released from the pressure, and also being hungry after moving.

“Mr. Takumi. Do you have a moment?”

“Yes? What is it?”

“Wuff?”

After I finished eating, I relaxed in front of the fire with Liza and Leo. That was when Mr. Ekenhart approached me.

He seemed a little serious.

“It’s about our plans for tomorrow...”

And so I left Liza with Leo, and we moved away in order to start a little meeting.

There were two fires, and around this one, aside from Mr. Ekenhart and me, were Sebastian, Ms. Claire, and Phillip.

Sebastian always joined in such discussions, and Phillip was a guard.

Ms. Claire had been with a tired-looking Ms. Anne a moment ago. But I suppose she was here to stop her father from planning anything strange.

“Now, everyone is here.”

“I could have called Mr. Takumi. You did not have to go, Your Grace.”

“Well, I was closer. And you were looking for Phillip. In any case, that is not important.”

It was true that Sebastian was usually the one to call everyone during such times.

However, Mr. Ekenhart didn't really care about it.

"In any case, tomorrow. Today, Mr. Takumi and Tilura showed fine skill in dealing with orcs. Sherry and Liza as well."

"I did not expect little Liza to be that strong..."

"I felt the same. The plan had been to show that she lacked power so that she wouldn't have to fight the orc..."

"But she would never have been in danger in the first place if you just refused her, father..."

"That is true... But I didn't want to do that, because she seemed so enthusiastic about it."

Apparently, Ms. Claire was still angry about testing Liza in the first place. And while I agreed that Mr. Ekenhart tended to cause trouble, I didn't think he was to blame in this instance.

After all, I had also not wanted to hurt Liza's feelings, and so I had said nothing...

But Ms. Claire saw Liza like a little sister, so she was very worried.

"Ms. Claire, I was not able to stop it either. There was no other way. Besides, the result was that we learned she could fight quite well..."

"...If that's what you say, Mr. Takumi...I will accept it..."

I intervened partly because if this went any further, she would start blaming me as well.

In any case, she was satisfied and backed down.

Mr. Ekenhart sighed in relief, and then his face became serious again.

“Mr. Takumi has experienced battles a number of times. So, perhaps you would like to try fighting multiple enemies at once now?”

“Multiple enemies?”

“Yes. Two or more orcs. And when you get used to it, you can team up with Phillip, and experience two against two battles.”

“I am ready at any time.”

“Two...I see... Yes, I did something similar in Range village, so I think I should be able to manage.”

“In that case, Mr. Takumi will fight two orcs tomorrow. And if things go well, you can team up with Phillip or someone else later. This will be training for when you have to cooperate with others while fighting. While you could go with the other guards...Phillip would be best, as he has his own subordinates.”

As I had some experience with battle, I was to face multiple orcs tomorrow.

I had already fought more than two in Range village.

At that time, I had been desperate to buy some time. And tried to keep it one on one as much as possible.

And since the villagers had also helped me, I was never completely surrounded by orcs. But it was still a similar situation.

Chapter 513

Liza had potential

Aside from fighting two orcs, Mr. Ekenhart was also thinking about making me fight as a pair.

With someone else... I had never done that before, so I didn't know how it would go.

Well, at least it would be with Phillip. I was relieved, as I knew that he was capable.

At the very least, it should be better than fighting on my own... I just needed to make sure that I wasn't getting in his way.

"Next is Tilura and Sherry... Tilura needs more time to get used to fighting alone. She was a little nervous today, and made some mistakes. If possible, it would be best if she had some tricks in order to buy time when against multiple enemies, but... Right now, I want to focus on more surer things."

"Indeed. There may be situations where there are no guards around. So it would be best for her to have something that would allow her to get away... But there is no rush."

"Yes. Due to our position, we cannot be sure that someone wouldn't target Tilura or me. Perhaps I should be able to do something as well, regardless, I do want Tilura to be able to defend herself."

"Claire... Well, it can't be helped."

"...Father, you do not need to remember it."

"Ye-yes."

"...?"

Tilura needed more experience fighting one against one.

Still, Ms. Claire seemed to be quietly applying pressure to Mr. Ekenhart.

Was there something I didn't know...?

It seemed like there was a suggestion that she was not suited to fighting.

Perhaps she was just not very athletic?

“...Nevermind Claire. Tilura can go slowly and take her time. She has just started, after all.”

“Yes, there is no rush.”

“Indeed. She is still growing. And eventually, she will need a new sword, which will match Mr. Takumi’s.”

“Yes, I’m looking forward to it.”

Perhaps she might even wield a greatsword... A sword that even adults would have trouble holding... The idea of Tilura swinging such a blade... I wasn’t sure if I wanted to see it or not...

In any case, they did not need to teach her everything at once, and they could take their time.

“So...as for Sherry. That is up to Leo, so it’s fine. Besides, with magic, she should be able to face multiple orcs without any issue.”

“If what Leo says is true, then there is almost no chance that Sherry will be injured by orcs... And I feel like it was confirmed during today’s battle.”

“Mmm. I am not worried about Sherry. The real problem is...”

“...Liza.”

Liza, who had been the last one to fight today.

I could feel everyone turn to me, but I didn’t know what to do.

“She certainly knows how to handle a weapon... It was impressive, since she had no real training. Well, I suppose her grandfather might have taught her something...”

“He probably taught her how to hold a knife. After all, they were living in the slums. But I don’t know if he taught her to hunt orcs...”

“Indeed. As Mr. Takumi says, it’s unlikely that she was taught that extensively... So I suppose it is a natural talent?”

“I’m sure that is the case. Even ignoring that she is a beastkin, to do that much at her age... If all beastkin were as capable, then they would have done much better in the war.”

As long as you lived in the slums, you would surely need some survival skills... Well, it was just my imagination.

However, since they moved around a lot, it would surely be necessary to have some knowledge like that.

Besides, Ms. Isabelle had said that Mr. Reyndorf used to be a wanderer. So he would have quite a lot of knowledge about such things.

But since she was still a child, he probably didn’t teach her that much, as it was unlikely that she would have to fight.

## Chapter 514

We decided to gather information on beastkin

“Mmm. While I wasn’t there, I never heard anything about humans having an overwhelming disadvantage. Even if humans were weaker as individuals, we were more numerous, so that’s why we were winning.”

“In other words, you think Liza has a special talent?”

“Yes. Well, it’s just speculation. We need to know more about these beastkin...”

“The beastkin...hmm...”

“Sebastian, do you know something?”

Sebastian put a hand to his chin and thought.

It seemed like he did know something, and now we were all looking at him.

“No... When it comes to information on the beastkin, the royals and the nobles on the north side would be the most knowledgeable. After all, the south did not fight. That is why the Liebert house has little information... Though, I am sure there are books about the beastkin in the main house...”

“The main house. Yes, unlike this mansion, there is likely to be such books in that library...”

“However, won’t it be very difficult to search for those books?”

“...Are there really that many?”

“Mmm... The library alone is about half the size of the mansion you live in, Mr. Takumi.”

“That...is definitely a lot of books...”

“The result of years of collecting. It is a wonderful storehouse of knowledge... But that time she got buried, I thought it was too late...”

“Back then, even more than now... Claire was very impulsive...”

Unlike Japan, where there was all kinds of communication technology, here, you either had to speak direction or write it down.

In any case, they said there may be books at the main house that are related to the beastkin.

I had a hard time imagining how difficult it would be. But it was like a building half the size of the mansion, and it was filled with books.

Like a large library...

If it was supposed to be difficult to search for books, that meant they weren't organized. It must be quite chaotic.

But a book worm would love a place like that.

Still, Ms. Claire used to play there as a child...

Perhaps she had knocked down the shelves and was buried in books. Though Mr. Ekenhart was sighing, I thought it was adorable... Though, perhaps it was actually dangerous.

Especially if it wasn't just books, but shelves fell on her as well.

"Well, when it comes to books, I know who to ask. After all, the reason he works in that house is to read books...really..."

"Haha. That is true. The one person who likely remembers where each book is. Mmm. I will go and ask once I return. Also, I will send messengers to the royals and other nobles, and gather information."

"...Why is Sebastian sighing?"

"Ah, that is... The person in question is Sebastian's son. While Sebastian serves the Liebert house loyally, his son does not feel the same way. While he did become a butler, he reads books whenever he has free time, and is not very serious about his job."

"...If he worked more seriously, he could have been a house steward...hah... Whose fault is it..."

"Ah...I see..."

So they had the perfect person who could search for the books.

And while Sebastian looked serious, Mr. Ekenhart was amused.

Apparently, it was because this person was Sebastian's son.

As Sebastian was old enough to have grandchildren, I wasn't too surprised... And the person was also a butler.

As stewards were at the top when it came to servants, it must mean that he was very capable.

But he was influenced by someone and liked books, which he spent all of his time reading... But wouldn't that be Sebastian's influence...?

I thought of Sebastian as the explanation man. He read numerous books to acquire knowledge, which he then shared with others...

His son must have seen him reading and become interested in books as well. That seemed the most natural.

Still, I couldn't tell the sighing Sebastian that it was his own fault. But I saw the Mr. Ekenhart, Ms. Claire and Phillip were looking at each other and chuckling.

So they clearly came to the same conclusion...

Perhaps while Sebastian was sharp when it came to many things, he was dense when it came to matters concerning his son...

## Chapter 515

I was asked to protect any beastkin that were discovered

"Then I will send word to the main house once we return. And we will prepare to gather information on the outside as well."

"Mmm. And it's not just Liza. Perhaps there are other beastkin on these lands. They just haven't been seen... It is not as if we are aware of everyone who lives in every town and village..."

"And many would be in hiding."

“Indeed. And it would be best if we knew something about them first. So, Mr. Takumi.”

“Yes?”

Perhaps, like Liza, there were beastkin who lived on Mr. Ekenhart’s lands for some reason or another.

While we probably won’t be searching for them actively, it would be good to decide what to do if that did happen. And we needed information for that.

As I nodded in agreement, Mr. Ekenhart suddenly turned to me.

I had a bad feeling about it...

“While I doubt there are any more beastkin in Ractos... If you do find some in the area? Will you protect them? It seems like good Leo might feel a special connection to them. Besides there is Liza. She will probably feel safer if some of her kind were close by.”

Well, while I wanted to believe that cases like Liza were rare, it was possible that there were others who were being mistreated, and so I wanted to help them.

Besides, it would be better for Liza as well, to not just be surrounded by humans.

“Ah, yes. I could do that... But, I cannot do a lot...”

“If there is something you cannot do, Mr. Takumi, then no one else here can do it either. Besides, if it is too much, you can always ask Claire. She will be glad to help you.”

“...Is that so?”

“Father! You do not need to word it like that! Hmph! ...Mr. Takumi, if I can offer you any assistance, then do tell me. I will do my best!”

“...Uh, yes. Thank you.”

“Hohoho...”

“How young...”

Aside from protecting someone temporarily...I could make herbs and use them.

But I had a feeling Mr. Ekenhart was talking about something different.

In any case, it would not be good to rely on Ms. Claire too much, so I would probably end up trying to deal with everything myself...

However, would I really be troubling her?

Like Mr. Ekenhart said she might actually be happy to help... And so I asked her.

She blushed a little and scolded her father. Then she coughed, and with a smile, confirmed it.

She really was kind.

I was quite taken by her smile, but shook my head and thanked her.

The last thing I wanted to do was get caught staring like an idiot.

It's not like I wanted to show off, but I didn't want to look ridiculous in front of her either.

...Why did I think that with her?

It was then that I noticed that Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian were grinning at us, and so I stopped thinking about it.

“...Oh, we got distracted there. So, about Liza...what will you do?”

“Well, to be honest, I do not want her to fight, if possible. Even if we know that she is capable. After all, she is too young to be facing monsters...”

“I understand how you feel, Mr. Takumi. I agree. However, she herself knows her capabilities now... How will you tell her?”

“But Liza is not the kind of person who would force her will, father. As long as she is told honestly, that we are here for Mr. Takumi, Tilura and Sherry’s training, I think she will understand. Besides, there can only be so many orcs in this area... And we don’t need that much more for food.”

“...”

So, the others agreed with me, that it was best if Liza did not fight if it wasn’t necessary.

Judging by the fight, she was surely not in any real danger when up against an orc. But the idea of someone so young fighting monsters...

Even with Tilura, it was a little concerning...

Still, Ms. Claire stated her opinion as if it was a simple matter.

Chapter 516

I thought of a way to persuade Liza to not fight

“...Yes, I didn’t explain that to Liza yet.”

“Indeed. Though, I’m sure she already heard... But perhaps she doesn’t understand.”

“After all, Anne was there as well, and she didn’t understand anything. So it would not be a surprise if Liza doesn’t either.”

“Anneliese should pay attention to her surroundings more. But we can’t have the same expectations for Liza. She is just a child, after all.”

“Yes. Liza seemed like she didn’t know why Tilura and I were fighting orcs. Though, she did understand why Sherry was.”

“That being said, Sherry is doing it for food... In other words...”

“Yes, Sherry really doesn’t understand why Mr. Takumi and Tilura are fighting.”

I had told Liza about the orcs in the forest.

And that we had to fight them, but it was dangerous.

But I didn’t tell her about how Tilura and I were doing it for training, or Sherry for dieting...

Perhaps she thought we were playing...or even for work.

In any case, it was likely because she didn’t understand that she wanted to show how she could fight or hunt like Sherry.

After seeing us do it, she wanted to do it too, thinking that she could beat an orc. It was really just curiosity on her part.

“In that case, how about explaining it to her to make her give up. And then...”

“Do you have an idea?”

“It seems to me that a lot of it is childish curiosity... And so have her ride on Leo. And when there are too many orcs, Leo will take them down. While Liza will have a front row seat.”

“Hmm, I see. That would satisfy her curiosity. And it should be fun for her.”

“And good Leo would not put Liza in any dangerous. ...If anything, I want to experience that.”

“In that case, why doesn’t Lady Claire ride on Leo as well? Liza is very fond of her...and it will be perfectly safe.”

“Indeed. Liza would definitely agree to that. Well, I’ll have to ask Leo first...”

“Mmm... That is good. So you will handle it, Mr. Takumi?”

“Yes.”

“Then I will watch over Liza so that she does not fall off. Being able to see Leo fight while riding on her, it will be a rare experience. ...I wonder if I’ll be able to sleep tonight?”

So I’d explain everything to Liza, and as long as she agreed to not fight, she would be able to ride on Leo.

She always seemed to enjoy that, and it should be fun watching Leo fight.

And Ms. Claire would make sure that she didn’t get too excited and fall off or anything. This seemed like the best solution.

As for whether Leo would agree, she also liked to carry people, and since fighting orcs was easy for her, she would surely be fine with it.

But if she didn’t think it was a good idea, I would have to think about some other way. Well, it would probably be fine. I will ask Ms. Lyra to prepare her some sausages as a reward....

Also, Ms. Claire seemed really happy at the idea of riding on Leo?

She usually was quite reserved, but she did have a side that was even more curious than Tilura...

“Mr. Takumi, will you reconsider entrusting Liza into my care? I think she could become a wonderful guard if her talents were honed.”

“...As I said, no.”

“Father, you may want to take Liza down into the world of slaughter, but we won’t let you!”

“The idea of little Liza being put through that training...”

“Your Grace, you have a bad habit that you should fix, you know?”

Now that everything was settled, we were about to disperse, when Mr. Ekenhart suddenly brought up training Liza once again.

Maybe that was why I had a bad feeling earlier...

Still, I turned him down, and Ms. Claire and the others all took my side.

Ms. Claire was especially against it.

I suppose it was because she was very fond of Liza.

Phillip was getting teary-eyed at the mere thought of Liza going through the same training that he survived.

Mr. Ekenhart had an expression of regret, as if he thought he had chosen the wrong timing. And so with slumped shoulders, he walked away and grumbled.

It had spilled out, due to Liza’s potential, but it was a bad time. But he could not help it, I suppose...

Chapter 517

Sebastian was awake

“Mr. Takumi, Leo. Do you have a minute?”

“Sebastian?”

“Wuff.”

In the middle of the night, when everyone was asleep. Leo and I were on watch duty, when Sebastian suddenly called to us.

He was next, so perhaps he had gotten up early?

Leo had noticed him approaching first, and so she just barked quietly.

It seemed like people always came when we were watching...it was Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire last time.

While Liza had wanted to stay up as well, she was also tired, and by the time my meeting was finished, she was already asleep.

Right now, Ms. Lyra and Ms. Claire were taking care of her, and so she was in their tent.

This would be the first time she slept away from me and Leo...

Which was probably for the best, as Mr. Ekenhart snores very loudly.

“I think this is the first time just us two were able to relax and talk like this? Well, Leo is here too.”

“Indeed... Well, there was that time you taught me magic.”

“Yes, that’s right. Hohoho. It was just a simple lesson, but you have used it so well... I am glad I taught you.”

“Well, I don’t know about well... But it was because of that magic that I survived in Range village.”

It was beginner light magic.

Normally, it was used to illuminate dark places.

Had I not been taught it...or I hadn't been told how I could use it to buy time...then I would not have been able to survive before Leo arrived.

I would have likely died or been badly injured.

It was possible that when Leo arrived, that most of the village would be gone. And so I was very grateful towards Sebastian.

“...I did not imagine that it would be useful so quickly. In any case, I'm glad that the words of an old man were able to help you.”

“Yes. Thank you.”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

“Hoho. So even Leo is thanking me. It is an honor. By the way, there is something I want to speak to you about, Mr. Takumi.”

Sebastian seemed very happy to be thanked by Leo. But then his expression turned serious.

Apparently, this was why he had gotten up early.

“There is something I want to thank you about as well. Because of you, not only Lady Claire, but Lady Tilura and my master are enjoying themselves.”

“Uh... Well, I think they're just doing as they please...”

“As they should. Unlike some others, they do not put much importance in their status. Of course, we servants, and the people of the town, always act formally.”

“I see... Even if they do not care, others will not forget that they are nobles.”

What Sebastiana was talking about happened a lot in Japan as well.

In general, there may not be a strong sense of status, but it had once existed...

And there was even a word to describe a class with special privileges

Those who had wealth, or power in the country. Even if they did not wield their power publicly, there was a sense that you could not go against them.

While on a smaller scale, your boss at work, for instance... You felt like you couldn't share your actual opinion around them.

But this was a world with royals and nobles, and so it was even more stronger here.

"Yes, exactly. But you and Leo are from a different world. Thanks to that, you treat people differently."

"Well...that's true... Though, it's just that I don't know anything about manners here."

"No, not at all. I think your manners are more than adequate. But you still act differently. Not in a bad way. It is merely because you were raised in a different country and civilization."

"I need."

There were invisible differences in status in Japan.

However, according to the law, we were supposed to be equal.

And so even if there were hierarchies with smaller communities, we still had the same rights. There was no doubt about that.

I suppose that was what set me apart from people here, who were used to being around nobles.

Well, I still knew a little about them, and so I had felt a little flustered when I first learned about Ms. Claire...

Even now, I sometimes worried that I was being rude... But they always seemed like they didn't mind, so I tried to not think about it.

## Chapter 518

I was thanked while on watch duty

"His Grace is especially pleased. While you are quite different in age...you have been like a friend to him. Even if he is your instructor, he lowers his guards around you. Though, that also brings out some of his bad habits..."

"Ahaha... Well, as long as he doesn't force me to do anything, then I am fine... But now that I think about it, he did seem a little different when I first met him."

"Indeed. He has become fond of you and relaxed a little."

If I was a friend...then that made me happy.

I never had that many friends, after all... Of course, I wasn't lonely, because I had leo. But I suppose I looked like a lonely person from the outside.

In any case, while much older than me, Mr. Ekenhard was easy to be around, and I was at ease when talking to him.

We even went on secret outings together to Ractos.

Men were simple, and could get along over such things.

However, I had been incredibly nervous during our first meeting. And I did think he was different then.

“There was the matter of the wine, Range Village, and the disease... But I think it was around the time he slipped out of the mansion that he really seemed to enjoy being with you.”

“Ahaha...”

Apparently, Sebastian was thinking the same thing.

...Though, it wasn't like I had invited him.

“I did not expect you to return with a beastkin child, though... Regardless, that clearly had a big effect. Or perhaps he no longer cared about looking intimidating, after you saw Lady Claire scolding him. Hohoho...”

“Yes, that might be it as well.”

I chuckled along with Sebastian.

When was the first time that Ms. Claire scolded Mr. Ekenhart...

There was that time when he made me fight those men in the store as part of my training.

The time we went to Ractos, and also that time he was eavesdropping when Mr. Claire and I were talking in my room.

So there were many times... You would almost think that he enjoyed getting her angry.

“He has always enjoyed going to town... And now he has someone to go with, Mr. Takumi. He cannot travel out too far, and everyone recognizes him. So it was difficult for him to spend time with someone like a friend.”

“I see...”

Now that I think about it, he did say that when he was young, he would go to the town to eat and see different things.

That was probably the town that was close to his main house, not Ractos. And so his influence would be even stronger over there.

...Surprisingly, Mr. Ekenhart might have been more lonely than I was... No, he had been married, and had two children, so that clearly wasn't true.

"...But, I had Leo. So I was fine."

"Wuff? Wou!"

"What did you say, Mr. Takumi?"

"Oh, uh, nothing. Nevermind."

Damn it, I had thought out loud, after thinking about how I didn't have any friends.

Leo seemed confused at first, but nodded reassuringly.

Aside from Leo, I also had some coworkers...I talked with them during break... Though, I guess I still wouldn't call them friends...

No, I can't think about such strange things right now... Sebastian will look at me as if there was something wrong with me.

"Hah... Well, as long as you are fine. In any case, we servants are very glad that there is someone who the master, Lady Claire, and Lady Tilura, can feel at such ease with. Both you and Leo."

"Haha. Well, while that was not our intention...I am glad to hear it."

Ms. Claire and the others really were liked by the servants.

They treated them well, and never became angry without reason. They were wise and kind.

Also, the duke had hired many servants from the orphanage as well... So he was like an ideal superior in some ways.

It was no wonder the servants liked them...

## Chapter 519

It was obvious that I was nervous

“By the way, Mr. Takumi. It seems that you too are also not as nervous as you used to be.”

“Indeed... I suppose, since I’ve now been here for some time...”

The conversation suddenly moved from Ms. Claire and the others, to me.

It had now been months since I started to live in the mansion... So I was already used to being here.

Of course, there was still a lot that I didn’t know.

“Hohoho. If we were able to aid you in becoming accustomed to this place, then I would be glad.”

“If anything, everyone has done nothing but help... It is thanks to the people of the house that I am able to live so comfortably.”

“...But you struggled quite a lot at Range village, didn’t you? Hoho!”

“Haha, yes. That’s true.”

“Wuff...”

Leo was saying that it was no laughing matter, and sighed.

Indeed, it could have been a great tragedy, and it was because of Leo that everything turned out fine.

And so I patted Leo on the head to show my gratitude.

“At first, you were very nervous, when you helped Lady Claire and brought her to the mansion.”

“You could tell? Well, I had never gone inside such a large mansion before. Besides, there were so many things happening that I didn’t understand, and so I felt confused. ...And Leo was suddenly so big...”

“Wuff?”

“But big or small, Leo is still Leo. And she helps me a lot.”

Well, there were a lot of large buildings in Japan as well.

However, it was different with the vast premises, and people living inside.

I had seen photos of similar houses, and I suppose you might be able to find such houses in Japan if you looked hard enough.

As I was talking with Sebastian, Leo looked up at me as if to ask, ‘was that bad?’ and so I patted on her and thanked her.

While I had been shocked at first, everything from her gestures to the way she barked seemed the same, and so I got used to it quickly.

“I do not know how good Leo was when she was small... But yes, I could sense your anxiety at the time.”

“Was it so strong?”

While I could remember some of how I was when talking to Sebastian and the others, I had quickly been preoccupied with Weed Cultivation, magic, and other things. So it seemed like such a long time ago now.

“Well, it made sense as I talked with you. But I and the servants noticed it.”

“I see...”

“Wuff-wuff.”

So even if I pretended to look calm, it was obvious to Sebastian and the others.

I looked down, suddenly feeling a little embarrassed, and then Leo barked as if to laugh.

...That's right. Unlike me, Leo had always been completely confident.

Well, carefree?

She knew she was a Silver Fenrir, and that no one could harm her. So perhaps there was no need for her to feel nervous.

“We servants observe many guests, after all. And so we can see things. Did Lady Claire ever talk about how she has an eye for such things?”

“Uhh...I think she did. It was right after I came to the mansion. But you weren't with us.”

“I see. Lady Claire inspects everyone who comes to work at the mansion, unless they are from the main house. As I said before, many of them come from the orphanage, so once they are adults, it has to be decided whether or not they will be hired. Of course, only a small few are chosen.”

“Indeed, there was some talk about Milina...wasn't there?”

“Yes. Lady Claire was fine with her, but she herself did not consent. Of course, the duke will not react badly if you reject the offer to come and work for him. You are free to choose how you wish to live.”

Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda was from the orphanage.

Since Ms. Claire had immediately decided that Leo and I were not dangerous, and was friendly towards us, perhaps she really did have a talent for seeing a person’s true nature.

In the end, Milina was hired by me, and studied medicine. Though, she was also learning a lot from Ms. Lyra as well... All of the people that Ms. Claire approved of ended up being hard workers.

...Now that I thought about it, Ms. Claire had also seen Nick quite a lot. And she had not objected to my hiring of him.

He just had some bad luck, and was more serious than he looked... She might have seen that.

Though, I doubted that she sensed it during the first encounter.

“Aside from Lady Claire’s ability to see inside of people, we servants also strive to see through the surface that covers people. This is so that we can detect what it is that they want.”

“Well, I suppose you would not want to do anything rude towards guests, or your employer...”

## Chapter 520

I asked about Sebastian’s past

“Thankfully, the duke and his family do not care much when it comes to small mistakes of the servants. Of course, there are times when they are strict as well...”

Well, that was obvious.

But instead of just berating someone angrily, understanding why it happened and having an environment where you were guided would be best to help newcomers grow... I envied that.

I suppose Ms. Claire's personality was having a good effect.

"His Grace also has a great ability to see what is below the surface. It is like a combination of talent and experience that comes with age. His father was much the same."

"I suppose it runs in the family then..."

Aside from Ms. Claire, there was Mr. Ekenhart. He was a businessman and a master swordsman.

Tilura was...still young. But she was bright and cheerful, and able to get along with others. And she had also shown her ability while fighting against orcs.

...Yes. The duke's family really were powerful.

"Indeed. It is because of that, that I feel rewarded for dedicating my life to them."

"Speaking of which, why did you start working as their butler? Were you also from the orphanage?"

"Close, but not quite. I was living alone. ...If you could call it living..."

"What do you mean?"

I had asked it out of mere curiosity, but Sebastian's expression seemed very conflicted.

It was unusual for him to look like that...

"As far back as I can remember, I was an orphan. Well, that is common enough. However, I was in the slums. I don't know why. I was just there, one day."

"...So you were in a similar situation to Liza?"

“Well...Liza had someone called Mr. Reyndorf, but the slum that I was in was quite different from the current Ractos. But I am human, and was not persecuted. That is one thing...”

Sebastian started to talk slowly while remembering the past.

Perhaps it was stuff that he didn't really wish to remember. Sebastian usually looked very excited when he was explaining something. But now, his eyes were downcast and there seemed to be a shadow over his face as he spoke hesitantly.

An orphan in the slums...huh.

I could tell by his sighing that it had been a brutal environment.

While it was pointless to compare, Liza at least had someone who took care of her for some time.

While Sebastian had no one like that, he was also not persecuted.

“Well, and so I lived in such a place. I and the other children in the slums were desperate just to eat. I even stole food from stores.”

“Children cannot work, after all...”

“Yes. With no hope for the future, we just lived through our hunger every day. Some of the others started stealing money as well. But I couldn't go that far... I only took what I needed to survive. But I suppose that just sounds like I'm making excuses.”

“...Looking at you now, I doubt you would have done anything worse.”

“Wou.”

Children in the slums had no way of making money.

There were probably people who donated food as charity, and perhaps you could scavenge for leftover food as well.

But none of that was guaranteed.

And one had to do things to survive.

Judging by Sebastian's face, he probably regretted some of the things that he did.

Well, perhaps it was because of that experience, that he decided to live in an upright manner afterwards.

"Thank you. That makes me feel better... In any case, I had a sense of justice after that... Which might sound strange. And I swore that I wouldn't do anything that I didn't agree with."

"Aside from stealing food?"

"Yes. In the slums, there were people who used violence to get what they wanted. And so I told myself that I would not get involved with such people."