

## Beloved Dog 521

Chapter 521

Sebastian had a difficult past

How hard it must have been.

If he had used violence, then perhaps he would have more to eat. More money and clothes...

But even if that was what others were doing, he swore that he wouldn't. That was impressive.

With Liza, the boys were just doing what Deam told them to do, because others were... That was the common way of thinking.

"That being said, there were something like unspoken rules in the slums. You cannot kill, or steal from people who are poorer than you..."

I suppose they didn't steal from the poor, because they were poor themselves.

Also, it just wasn't very efficient to steal from people who had so little.

As for killing... In my imagination, the slums were so dangerous that you never knew when your life might end.

"If you killed others, it might be easier to take things. But then the guards will arrest you, and a harsh punishment is what you'll have to look forward to. And while the other crimes are bad, there is no undoing it once you kill someone."

"Indeed..."

"Obviously, thieves were arrested as well... But some of the stores in the slums turned a blind eye, as they thought a little theft could not be helped. When I think about it now, they probably did it for the sake of the children. As they might resort to worse crimes. However, one day... Something happened that changed matters in the slums."

“Could it be...?”

“Well, I was not directly involved, but... It was a great incident that resulted in people being driven out of the slums. I’m sure you have already guessed it. Someone from the slums killed a resident of the town.”

“...”

“The culprit was a child. As I said before, it was someone I had shared food with in the past. And while the child had not done it on purpose, such excuses do not matter.”

“What was the reason then?”

Sebastian continued to look at the ground as he talked.

Leo, who sat next to me, also seemed curious as well.

“The person who was killed had a very bad opinion of the slums. Well, it was dangerous, and supposedly prevented the development of the town. And so one day, he waited at one of the stores with a weapon, as he knew that children would go there to steal. Of course, the child resisted. And he was not used to wielding the weapon. And in the ensuing struggle the short sword ended up stabbing him... Well, that is what I heard, anyway.”

“There is that danger, if you don’t know how to use it.”

Swords were quite difficult to handle.

If you don’t have a tight grip, it could slip out of your hands. And you had to be careful of the trajectory of the blade if you wanted to cut through anything.

Hitting a tree might be easy, but a desperate child trying to escape was another. So this accident was no surprise.

“What was especially bad was that the man was the owner of several stores. And so after that, there was a movement to expel everyone who lived in the slums. Many people were already anxious or dissatisfied to begin with, so it was just a matter of time. Also, they search for the person who killed him.”

“They didn’t think of just punishing the child?”

“If they did that, it might have ended there...but so many people raised their voices, and it would not quiet down. And so they started to drive the children out of the slums. Soldiers came and escorted the children out. Not just the children, but everyone...”

“So they wanted them all out of the town.”

“Yes. And to make matters worse, the duke...His Grace’s father, that is, just happened to be nearby. And he took command.”

So he finally made an appearance.

I didn’t know anything about him, but it sounded like the townspeople wanted the slums emptied, and there was no peaceful solution.

“And he led the soldiers and arrested all of the residents in the slums. It was likely an attempt to end the matter swiftly. Otherwise, the people of the slums might rally and resist.”

They say that a cornered rat will bite a cat.

If it came to such a clash, then the casualties could be severe.

Chapter 522

I understood the reason that he was loyal to the duke

“Of course, I was also caught like everyone else. And I was taken to a different place from the town. There, everyone’s crimes were examined. Each person had different crimes, and I don’t know what happened to the others. However, I’ve heard that most of them didn’t end up in a bad situation...”

“That means they forgave their crimes...?”

“No, I think they made them pay for their crimes. It was harsh, but they were guaranteed food and shelter while working there, I suppose.”

Forced labor? While not entirely accurate, it had a similar ring to it.

Well, even so, if you had food as long as you worked, and you didn't have the anxiety of not knowing what tomorrow would bring...it might be better than the slums.

Being whipped, injured, or getting sick from working too hard...such things probably didn't happen.

“And that was when I first met the previous duke. He was interested in the fact that I had only committed minor offenses among the many people in the slums, and so he talked to me.”

Sebastian apparently only did things like stealing enough food to survive that day, no matter how the situation was.

“And then I was taken to an orphanage in another city. There, I learned and started to think of atoning for my sins... And was told to come to the duke's house when I grew up. As we parted, he also said, ‘You may be able to get to work there. I'm looking forward to seeing you grow up.’”

“That sounds like something Mr. Ekenhart would say.”

“Hohoho, indeed. The tendency to want to train someone might be one of the traits that he inherited from my former master, I suppose.”

Finally, Sebastian's expression turned into a smile.

Sebastian seemed to be calm now, unlike before, indicating that he still respected the former master.

“In the end, if my former master hadn't been involved, I would have been punished just like the others in the slums. And so I was saved by him. From there, I learned various things at the

orphanage and devoted myself to repaying the debt someday. And after a few years had passed, I believed in those words and actually visited the duke's house."

If the former duke had forgotten what happened a few years ago, that would make him seem even more like Mr. Ekenhart...but it would be rude to say that.

"After seeing my grown-up and talking to me, my previous master remembered... At that time, I couldn't help but cry, as embarrassing as it was."

"Hahaha, that is understandable."

"In any case, that is how I was employed by the duke's family and why I decided to dedicate my life to them as a butler. Thanks to that, I have a family and even a son, and I am blessed with wonderful masters such as His Grace, Lady Claire and Lady Tilura. ...Well, my son is a bit of a problem, though."

"Hahaha! But if that's the case, I understand why you are loyal to them."

It seemed that not only his life, but also his future, was saved... I could understand why he would want to devote himself so much, considering they lifted him out of his dire situation.

"Hohoho. Well, that is enough about me. Oh, is it already this late? I must take my shift then."

"Ah, that's right."

Sebastian chuckled and checked his pocket watch to confirm that the time for his shift had already arrived.

We had talked for quite awhile...

"We tend to talk a little too much when we get older..."

"No, no, I was glad to learn so much. And now I know more about you, Sebastian."

“Wuff-wuff!”

“I’m terribly embarrassed. Hohoho.”

Sebastian chuckled as he realized that he had been talking for quite some time.

Even though much time had passed, it was fun, and I felt like I got to know Sebastian better.

I wonder if Sebastian also felt closer as well?

“Well then, I’ll leave the rest to you.”

“Wuff.”

“Certainly. Please have a good rest.”

I said goodbye to Sebastian and stretched my stiff body as I headed towards the tent. Unfortunately, Leo would have to sleep outside of the tent, but I’m sure she didn’t mind.

Once we returned to the mansion, I would make sure to wash off all the dirt in the bath...hehehe.

“ZZzzzz... Gugzzzz... Go!? Guzzzzz...”

“...I wonder if I’ll be able to sleep through this.”

“His Grace is a boisterous person, after all.”

“Nicolas.”

“Good work on your watch, Mr. Takumi. How is Mr. Sebastian?”

“He got up a little earlier.”

“Is that so? Then I’ll...”

“Yes.”

Nicola noticed me coming in and spoke to me. I wondered if he was able to sleep through the snoring without any problems...

I told him that Sebastian was already on watch duty and saw Nicolas off as he left the tent.

“Gugoo... Gazzz...”

“Hmm...”

I got into my sleeping bag and closed my eyes. But the snoring bothered me and I couldn’t fall asleep. Yesterday, Sebastian caught Mr. Ekenhart, and so I was able to sleep in the tent without any problems.

It would probably be fine once I fell asleep, but getting to that point was the problem...

## Chapter 523

We prepared to fight the orcs again

“It can’t be helped. I didn’t want to use it too frequently, but...”

“Gazz...go...gugaa!?”

While listening to Mr. Ekenhart’s snoring, which sounded as if something was stuck in his throat, I rummaged through my luggage and took out some herbs.

Of course, they were sleeping herbs.

Not only did they have the effect of healing fatigue by inducing a deep sleep, but they also helped you fall asleep more quickly. If I ate these herbs, I should be able to sleep soundly even if his snoring continued.

I felt like relying too much on herbs wasn't good, but there was no other way now.

We'd be fighting the orcs again tomorrow, so I couldn't afford to be tired tomorrow.

"Hmm...gulp."

I drank the herbs with some water and dove back into my sleeping bag.

The snoring continued as usual, but as the drowsiness increased, it bothered me less and less.

I surrendered to the drowsiness and quietly set off on a journey to the world of dreams...

—

The next morning, I left the tent, leaving Mr. Ekenhart, who was still sleeping, and met up with Liza, who had just come out of Claire's tent. Leo also joined us as we headed to the river for morning preparations.

Due to being on watch duty, my sleep time was short, but thanks to the sleep herb, I woke up feeling refreshed and didn't feel any tiredness from the day before.

By the way, Liza still seemed to enjoy watching me shave my beard, but I couldn't help but feel a little doubtful that it was enjoyable for a little girl to watch an adult man shave his beard.

Well, if Liza was amused by it, then it was fine.

"Good morning, Mr. Takumi."

"Good morning, Ms. Claire. And Ms. Anne."



“Good morning...”

By the time I finished getting ready and left the river, Ms. Claire and Ms. Anne, who seemed to have been getting ready inside the tent, came out. I greeted the two of them, but when I looked at Ms. Anne, she didn't seem to be feeling very well, and had a gloomy expression.

...I wonder if she couldn't sleep well in the tent?

“Anne, pull yourself together. It's because you were up late petting Liza, just because she's cute.”

“Even when she's sleeping, her ears and tail twitch cutely, so I could not help myself...”

“Hahaha, so that is why you couldn't sleep.”

“Liza is cute?”

I thought that Ms. Anne couldn't sleep well because of the unfamiliar tent, but apparently it was because she was up late watching Liza... At least she cared about Liza enough to not wake her up.

Liza was cute when she's awake, but I could understand the feeling that she was also cute when sleeping.

As Ms. Anne slumped over, I smiled at her, and Liza tilted her head with a puzzled expression.

“Now then, let us begin just as we did yesterday... Today, let's start with Tilura.”

“Yes, understood!”

After breakfast, it was time to experience battle against the orcs, just like yesterday.

Liza had already been briefed during breakfast and understood what was to be done.

She seemed a bit disappointed that she couldn't fight the orcs this time, which might suggest that she found joy in the act of fighting?

"Sister Tilura, do your best!"

"Wuff!"

"Yes! Liza, Leo, I'll do my best!"

Liza sat on Leo's back and cheered.

Ms. Claire stood behind them, gently supporting her, so that Liza would not fall.

Tilura was slightly nervous, probably because she wanted to show Liza how capable she was. But she didn't seem as tense as she was during first battle with the orcs yesterday, and it seemed she would be fine.

"After Tilura, it's Sherry's turn. Can you do it?"

"Kyau!"

"Go, Sherry!"

"Grau!"

"Kyau!"

It seemed like today, I was going to be the last one to fight, with Sherry following after Tilura. Well, based on what we decided yesterday, I'll probably have to fight two orcs, so it's no wonder I'm last. Sherry responded to Mr. Ekenhart with a bark, determined not to make the same mistakes as yesterday.

"Now good Leo, we're counting on you."

“Wuff...sniff sniff...”

“Mama, you can do it!”

I had already given Leo the medicinal herbs beforehand.

When asked by Mr. Ekenhart, Leo nodded and sniffed around the forest for any signs of the orcs.

Leo really did want to show Liza how capable she could be. And it was heartwarming to see Liza cheering on everyone so innocently.

I might also feel more motivated if I were cheered on during my fight with the orcs. However, I had to be careful to not get too caught up in it as well.

“Hmm, it seems like Tilura and Sherry have become accustomed to it, even though it’s only their second time. Perhaps it’s because they’ve been carefully observing the orcs and are able to remain calm...”

After Leo searched for the orcs, Phillip and the others would lure it in, and then Tilura and Sherry defeated it.

They had learned from their mistakes yesterday, and were able to finish it without ever being in danger.

Tilura used her height to her advantage, and targeted their legs. She also might have learned from Liza’s fighting style, as she stabbed the orc in the shoulder to prevent it from moving its arms. And once it was defenseless, she thrust her sword into its chest.

Even if she was getting used to it, it was quite a merciless way to fight for one so young.

This satisfied Mr. Ekenhart greatly.

Chapter 524

Leo was excited

Unlike yesterday, Sherry used magic right from the beginning of the battle.

And just like yesterday, she continuously used ice magic and easily froze the orc, and ended the battle.

It was a safe victory, but perhaps it was to be expected, given the difference between monster types.

However, after the battle, Leo muttered that she had to teach Sherry other ways to fight besides magic, which was a concern...

It seemed that she wanted her to defeat the orcs not only with magic, but also with claws and fangs like a fenrir...

“Well then, it’s Mr. Takumi’s turn... Can you do it? If you want, it’s okay to use herbs this time...”

“I should be fine. If there’s a situation where no one can help, I’ll eat the herbs without hesitation... But everyone is here this time.”

“Very well. If you feel in danger, call for help right away. Leo is here, and we’re here too. Besides, since you were able to defeat one orc without any problems, it should be fine.”

“Yes, I understood.”

I was capable of defeating one orc without difficulty, but this time there would be two.

Although it seemed unlikely that the orcs would coordinate their attacks, based on their behavior when they attacked Range village, the fact that they were attacking together still made them a threat.

Even if there was only one orc, I had no intention of letting my guard down. However, this time, I decided to be even more alert and wait with extra determination.

“Good Leo, I’m counting on you.”

“Wuff!”

We had Leo find the location of the orcs. It was a familiar routine for Philip and the others.

Perhaps we were lucky this time, as Leo immediately found two orcs that were nearby.

Apparently, there were also another two not far off from them, but I hoped Philip would only lure in the one pair.

“...”

“...Here they come.”

“Wuff...”

As I was slightly ahead of everyone else, I drew my sword in response to the sounds and voices coming from the direction of the forest.

This time, I decided to use a sword instead of a katana. With two opponents, there might be a need to parry the attacks of the orcs... That was the expectation, at least. And while a katana was superior in terms of sharpness, it was not as suitable for blocking attacks.

For the time being, I had the katana hanging from my waist with the sword sheath, but I wouldn't be able to switch weapons during combat.

As soon as I picked up my sword, I heard the voice of Mr. Ekenhart from behind me. He must have noticed the sounds coming from the forest as well.

With a small growl, Leo came to my side and stared at the forest... I wondered what was going on, but the reason soon became clear.

“Sorry, Mr. Takum. All of the orcs have gathered!”

Philip, who had come out of the forest a little earlier, apologized while shouting at me.

Behind him were the other guards, as well as the orcs who pursued them.

So they couldn't reduce their numbers...

"The distance between the orcs was too close. They noticed us when we tried to lure them here and now there are four of them!"

"Understood! Please step back! ...Leo, I'm counting on you!"

"I'm sorry, please deal with them!"

"Mama, let's go!"

"Wuff! Grrrr...Grau!"

"Kyau!"

Leo must have sensed that four orcs were coming, as she was standing next to me.

Liza, who was riding on her back, was cheering happily when she realized Leo was going to fight.

In the next instant, Leo, who usually did not go at full speed, rushed out faster than the eye could follow.

I heard a short scream from Ms. Claire, and immediately after, Leo was standing in front of the orcs.

...Uh, wasn't that too fast?

Perhaps it was because she had just seen Liza and Sherry fight... After all, Liza had been especially fast.

“Wuff.”

“Gyu!?”

“Wah...”

“We’re here already...”

And just like that, the two orcs, who had been split in two, fell to ground with a thump.

She must have slashed them with her claws... But I hadn’t been able to see how.

“Wuff-wuff!”

“Gyu-giii...”

“Giii...”

While Leo barked happily, the other two orcs were shaking.

“...Uh, Leo... Thanks.”

“Wuff!”

“Mama really is amazing! I want to be able to fight that quickly...”

“While we managed to stay on, I had no idea what was happening...”

As Leo came up to me with a proud expression, I petted her on the cheek.

Liza was happy about what Leo did, but I didn’t know if I wanted her to copy it.

I hoped that she wouldn't be too interested in such things, or Mr. Ekenhart might be encouraged...

"...Mr. Takumi."

"Yes, I know..."

"You can do it, papa!"

"Wou!"

"Of course."

I stopped petting Leo and nodded at Mr. Ekenhart. Then I gripped my sword and faced the orcs.

Though, I felt a little sad. Even when I looked at the orcs with hostility, they were just shaking while looking towards Leo.

Hmm. I guess I could take one down from the side... But then that wouldn't be fighting two at the same time...

## Chapter 525

I fought against two orcs

"Light Elemental Shine!"

"Gyuo!?"

Holding a sword in one hand and gesturing towards the orcs with the other, I used light magic. Even though it was a bright time of day, the sudden intense light startled the orcs, who had been afraid of Leo, and they finally noticed me.



During this time, Leo seems to have taken Liza and moved further away, and so I finally had the full attention of the orcs. The orcs became excited and began to attack me.

They were often known for their recklessness, and combined with their lack of intelligence, they could only think of targeting the most visible enemy. The fear they had shown just a moment ago disappeared immediately, and they were completely intent on attacking me.

I had used magic to get their attention, but now I had no trump card to surprise the orcs with... Doing the same thing again would have little effect.

“Very well then. I’m going!”

Although I had been taught other magic that could be used, I decided to face the two orcs without any tricks.

Besides, it wasn’t necessary to use tricks to fight advantageously, since the others were watching over me.

Holding my sword in the middle position, I ran towards the orcs who were positioned a short distance away.

At the very least, if I didn’t go towards the two orcs myself, then they both might charge at the same time, which would be dangerous and difficult to avoid.

“Gyuo!?”

“Hmph!”

First, I targeted the left orc who was closer, and ran towards it.

The orc was surprised by the sudden approach and its reaction was slow as it lifted its arm.

I made use of the opening to get close and swing my sword downwards.

“Gyuaaa!”

The sword lightly slashed the right arm of the orc.

As the orc let out a cry of pain, I swung back up in order to weaken it even further...

“Gyuu!”

“Ah! Damn it!”

The moment I lifted my sword, the other orc charged in from the side and swung down its left arm.

I couldn't help but shout in alarm as I twisted my body and met the orc's arm with my sword.

“Gyuu!”

“Mmm...they're so strong, if nothing else!”

It was so sudden that I ended up catching the orc's arm with the flat of my sword.

If it were the sharp side, I could have cut it off with the momentum. But the important thing was to avoid being hit.

The orc then tried to push me down by applying more weight into its left arm.

While I was supporting my sword with both arms, the orc was using one arm...even if I had the advantage of pushing down, I could not match its strength.

Had I not trained, I would have likely been pushed back easily...

“Gyua!”

“I knew you would do that!”

“Gyu!”

While I was blocking one orc’s attack, the other orc was free.

Its eyes were bloodshot with rage from having its arm cut, and it raised its hands and tried to grab me.

And so I moved away from the other orc and lowered my sword.

The sudden lack of resistance allowed the orc to swing down, but I was no longer there.

It seemed surprised at first, but I ignored it as I kicked off the dirt and escaped from the spot.

It would be difficult to beat the power of two orcs at such close range.

I lowered my stand and dove below the arms of the orcs, and then continued forward until I was several meters away from them.

At least for now, I was safe...

If there was only one, I could just cut it, and then continue to weaken it, but... When there were two, I would not have as many openings.

...I would just have to do it slowly... Or find a way to take one out with a single blow...

“...I guess this isn’t the time to do anything risky. I’ll go with weakening them.”

This was like training, where I learned how to take on multiple opponents.

I had plenty of time, which I would use.

Besides, I doubted that I could take one orc out with a single blow anyway.

Perhaps if I was able to stab it in the head or heart. But then again, it would take time to pull it out again. And I would be vulnerable to the other orc.

“...Hmm?”

“Gyuuooo!”

“Gyuuo!”

“Woah! Phew...”

As I was thinking, the two orcs swung their arms at me at the same time.

I dodged the attacks by a hair's breadth, but...I really shouldn't get too absorbed in my thoughts in the middle of a fight..

Still, I went through my memories and fixed on a certain idea.

“Alright, I decided what to do. Now I just need to...”

I looked at the orcs that were raising their arms in my direction.

As there was some danger in my plan, I could not do it if the orcs were too close to me.

“Gyuoo!”

“Gyuo!”

“Tsk...woah!”

I parried the orc on the right with my sword, and then dodged the orc on my left.

While I was managing to stop the attacks, things could not remain like this...

As the orcs were not coordinated, even if one of them attacked, and I dodged it, there wasn't always an opening.

It was no wonder that Philip and the guards had trouble with decreasing their numbers.

Chapter 526

My prediction was too optimistic

"The saving grace is that they are slow on their feet... But I should probably weaken them more.

Even though I had a plan, it was too dangerous to put it into action now.

If I could slow both of them down a little more, or separate them, it would be best.

"Hyah!! Tsk!"

"Gyua!?"

"Gyuo!"

For now, I targeted the orc on my left side, and swung my sword at its leg.

As it was moving, my aim was not precise, but I succeeded in slashing its thigh.

In the meantime, the other orc swung down with its arm.

Without losing momentum, I rushed forward past the orc I had cut, and then caught my balance with a hand on the ground.

Had my movement been delayed even a little, the orc's arm would have hit me. The thought made a chill run down my spine.

Thankfully, the other orc was staggered, and did not attack. Though, the wound was not deep at all...

"I'll have to take my time and fight..."

I glared at the approaching orc and prepared to do what I had planned.

Now that our positions had changed, I could see Ms. Claire and the others, who seemed to be worried about me.

...It's fine. I can defeat some orcs. I muttered.

"Hah...hah... They've slowed down a lot. ...But so have I."

"Gyuu-gyuu-gyuu!"

"Gyuuaa!"

After some time...which was really just a few minutes, I was able to cut the orcs a few more times while dodging their attacks. One of the orcs was bleeding from both legs now, and it was not able to charge due to the pain.

As for the other one, I had also cut one of its legs a little, but not enough to stop it from charging.

Also, they were both incredibly excited and angry.

Perhaps I had provoked them too much, but there was no way to defeat them at the same time.

As I caught my breath, I wondered if it wasn't time yet.

“Gyuaaa!!”

“Gyuuuaaa!”

“Here it comes!”

The less wounded orc now charged towards me.

The other one came as well, but it was much slower.

As this was my chance, I moved back in order to lure in the charging orc, and waited for it to arrive.

Yes...that's it...separate...

“Gyaaaa! Gyuaa!?”

“!”

Once it was about two meters away, I rushed to the side of the charging orc.

As it was running so fast, it was unable to change direction as it went past me.

It was surprised by my sudden disappearance, but I ignored it and raised my sword while running towards the other orc.

“Gyuuooo!”

“...Hah!”

“Gyu!?”

It raised its voice in alarm and tried to swing at me with its arms. But before it could, I plunged my blade deep into its chest.

“Gyuua! Gyuua!”

“Woah!”

But I was not able to take it down in one hit. And it continued to swing its arms in an attempt to hit me.

I suppose it was moving by instinct, but they had incredible strength, and a direct hit would do a lot of damage.

I had meant to target the heart, but it seemed like I had missed... In the first place, I didn't even know if their hearts were in the same position as humans.

As I thought of such things, I let go of the sword and moved out of the orc's reach.

“Gyuaaa!!”

“Gah!”

I moved back and then turned around, only to find the other orc facing me.

However, it was moving faster than expected, and was raising its arms as it charged.

By the time I had registered the danger, its arm was already coming down on my left side!

As I could not dodge it, I raised my left arm, thinking it would be preferable to a direct hit.

I heard the bones creak... Even if they didn't break, there would likely be a crack...and it hurt so much.



My vision shook.

But if I didn't do something now, the orcs would be free to crush me to death!

"Damn it!!"

I gritted my teeth and bore the pain. And then my hand went to the katana at my belt and unsheathed it.

"Gyuooo!"

"Gah...hah...hah..."

"Grau!?"

"Mr. Takumi!?"

"Papa!"

"..."

The katana went deep into the orc's stomach, and blood poured as it screamed, and ran past my left side.

This idea of using my sword to weaken it and then switching to the katana...it came from my experience fighting against Deam.

In order to do this, I had focused on one orc, trying to slow its movement before separating them...

Chapter 527

My injuries healed quickly

What was surprising, was that the desperate orc had quickly changed directions and come towards me.

And so I ended up unsheathing the katana and cutting its stomach, just as I had done against Deam...

I could hear Leo, Ms. Claire and Liza shouting from a distance, but I ignored them.

My left arm hurt a lot.

“Hah...hah...damn! Hyah!”

“Gyua! Gyuaaa!”

Without being able to catch my breath, I turned towards the orc and swung repeatedly.

I wished that I could swing faster than the eye could see, and slice the orc into pieces...but I had no skill to do that.

Besides, the pain in my arm was slowing me down.

However, the blade was still sharp. Thanks to that, I was able to make deep cuts into its arms and legs. And when the orc finally fell to the ground, I plunged the sword into its chest.

“Hah...hah... It’s finally finished...?”

I grimaced from the pain and raised my head. The orc was on its back, and not moving at all.

...So I managed to defeat both of them.

“Wou! Wou-wou!”

“Mr. Takumi!”

“Papa!”

Just as I sighed with relief, Leo and the others came running to me.

That was how worried they were...

Mr. Ekenhart was walking slowly, but he was frowning with a creased forehead... Perhaps he was angry, because I put myself in danger.

“Haha, I managed to do it... Thanks, Leo. For believing in me.”

“Wou-wou! Kuun!”

“Are you alright, Mr. Takumi!?”

“Papa. Does that hurt...?”

To show that I was fine, I laughed and thanked Leo, who had arrived first.

It would have been possible for her to jump to the rescue and defeat the orc in a flash.

And so I thanked her for not doing that, in spite of being worried.

It was probably because I told her to stay back, unless it was particularly bad.

“I’m...well, not completely fine... But I am alive... Ouch...”

“Mr. Takumi... I’m so relieved.”

“Kuun...”

“It looks painful, papa...”

While I tried to smile at Ms. Claire, I was clearly winching.

And I could not move my arm, due to the pain.

“Ahh... Leo, sorry...”

“Wuff.”

“Mr. Takumi?”

“Papa?”

I bore the pain and moved my back towards Leo, and then leaned against her fur.

Leo understood, and quickly lay down so that she could support me.

Ms. Claire and Liza became worried as they saw this.

“...Good. Like this... Ah, sorry, Ms. Claire. Can you help me?”

“Weed Cultivation... Ah, of course!”

I leaned against Leo as I sat on the ground. And then I used my uninjured right hand to use Weed Cultivation.

Once it was grown, I picked it, and changed it so that it could be used immediately.

However, as it would be difficult to apply it with one arm, I asked Ms. Claire for help.

“Ah...! Gah... Hah... It’s much better now. Thank you.”

“Yes...I’m so glad...”

“You were rather reckless... Mr. Takumi.”

“Ah, Mr. Ekenhart. ...Yes, the orcs were faster than I expected.”

When Ms. Claire applied the Loe, it hurt so much that I gasped. Perhaps there was more than a fracture.

But I felt the effects after just a few seconds, and the pain faded away. Loe really was amazing.

Once the pain was gone, I thanked Ms. Claire, and she sighed with relief.

And then Mr. Ekenhart arrived.

Even I agreed that I had been reckless.

As I had only been thinking about winning, I didn’t realize how reckless it was at the time... Was it adrenaline? But as he was watching from a distance, Mr. Ekenhart could tell.

“You had the right idea. But you should have weakened the orc a little more. Did you panic?”

“Yes... I think I was thinking too much about killing it quickly.”

“There are times when you have a good idea, and get too caught up in executing it. Well, you have much to think about now. Still, I did like how you used the katana at the end. I was not expecting that.”

“Well...it was a coincidence. I was able to cut it while unsheathing the sword, but it was that close.”

“Mmm. Think of what you can do in the moment, and use it to find a way to win. ...While I had some harsh words, you still fought quite well.”

“Thank you.”

Mr. Ekenhart really did see through everything...

Chapter 528

Liza was worried about me

As Mr. Ekenhart said, I was focusing too much on one orc, and failed to weaken the other.

I had thought that I was keeping calm, but I suppose I was also in a rush to enact the plan that I had thought of.

“Oh, father. Mr. Takumi was hurt. Even though he healed himself with Loe, the fight only just ended. You can talk about that later! You should let him rest a little longer...”

“Ah...that is true. Hmm. Sorry, Mr. Takumi. I could not help myself. In any case, it was an impressive fight. Rest well now.”

“Ahaha. Thank you.”

It was true that I was still tired, in spite of the Loe.

After all, it did not recover your strength.

“...Still, Mr. Takumi. Is it just me, or does Claire seem too protective over you?”

“Why are you asking me that?”

“Oh, father. Just stop that!”

While I felt a little bad for Mr. Ekenhart, he clearly enjoyed teasing his daughter as well.

“...Papa, does it hurt?”

“Hmm? Ah, I’m fine now. I healed it with herbs.”

“Really...?”

Liza had got down from Leo’s back, and she touched my left arm as she asked me.

Her eyes were a little teary.

...Perhaps I had caused her to worry too much.

And so to show that I was fine, I used my left arm to pet Leo.

“That’s good. Those orcs hurt you... I want to fight them some more now!”

“Wuff!?”

“No-no-no-no-no. Wait a minute, Liza!”

She looked relieved for a second, but then her eyes lit up again with renewed hostility towards the orcs.

While I was glad that she was angry... We had gone through so much trouble to stop her from fighting.

Besides, it was my own fault that I got injured.

“Listen, Liza. I got hurt because I made a mistake. Normally, that wouldn’t have happened. But I took a risk. And I suffered the consequences. Besides, this is all for training, so there is no reason for you to fight as well.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“That’s right, Liza. Mr. Takumi will surely not be injured next time. Your papa is very strong. So do not focus your anger on the orcs. Understand? I’m sure he will show how capable he is next time!”

“Hmm... Really?”

We were rather frantic, in trying to persuade Liza.

Her anger subsided, and she calmed down, but still seemed puzzled.

While it was good that she could be persuaded, it showed how much trust she had in Ms. Claire as well...

Well, I wasn’t planning on getting hurt next time anyway, but...

There was now even more pressure to avoid the same mistakes.

“Wuff?”

“Hmm? What is it, Leo?”

“Mama?”

After we managed to persuade Liza that there was no need for her to go out killing orcs, we all sat around the fire and at lunch.

As the orcs hunted today had not been prepared yet, we ate the orc that Leo defeated yesterday.

In fact, we were hunting so many that we would not be able to eat it all.

It was a nice problem to have...and at least it tasted good.



And so we discussed whether we could bring some back with us to either sell in town or eat at the mansion.

This would be possible, because we could use magic to freeze the meat.

While they couldn't freeze it as quickly as Sherry...Ms. Lyra and the maids were quite good at such things.

That was one of the reasons they had come.

Also, the orc meat could last for a few days anyway, which was convenient.

It was then that Leo suddenly raised her face from her plate of sausages, and turned towards the river.

Liza, Ms. Claire and I were next to her, and asked what was wrong...

Chapter 529

Something was approaching

“Wuff... Wou?”

“She is saying that there is a presence and smell that is both familiar and unfamiliar...”

“Familiar and unfamiliar...”

Perhaps it was because the herbs were still having an effect... But she could even smell it.

We had just eaten lunch, and so the area around us smelled like it. And yet Leo could detect something that was far away...

Either the thing had a really strong smell, or Leo's ability to differentiate between scents was that powerful.

“Is it coming closer?”

“Wuff.”

Leo nodded.

It was in the forest, and coming from the opposite side of the road. So it was unlikely to be human.

A monster then... While it was possible, Leo would surely recognize the presence of an orc or troll immediately.

So...what could it be then...?

“Ms. Claire?”

“Yes. ...Father! Everyone. Good Leo says that a monster is approaching from the other side of the river!”

“A monster?”

“I see. Phillip. And the rest of you.”

“Yes!”

After being called by Sebastian, the guards were immediately put down their food, stood up and unsheathed their swords. And then they turned to face the river.

They sure acted quickly.

“Leo... Do you know what kind of monster it is?”

“Wuff... Wou-wou.”

“She says it is familiar, but she’s not sure...”

“I see...”

Perhaps it was a monster she had never encountered before then.

But then what felt familiar about it...

“But is there any danger?”

“Wuff? Wou.”

“I see...”

That was probably not a good question to ask Leo.

She did not seem to understand the concept of danger to begin with.

After all, she could move faster than the eye could see, and slash open orcs and use magic. It was doubtful there were any monsters that could pose a threat to her.

“Kyau...? Kyau-kyau!”

“What is it, Sherry?”

I put Liza on top of Leo’s back, just in case.

Leo stood as if she was waiting for the thing to come. And as I prepared to give the go sign if necessary, Sherry suddenly started to bark.

And I could not understand her.

“Sherry, is that true?”

“Kyau! Kyu! Kyu!”

“...What is she saying?”

After talking to Ms. Claire, Sherry then barked as if she wanted to be heard far away.

It sounded a little happy. And so I asked Liza to tell me what it meant.

“Sherry says it is her mama and papa. They are coming closer. And so Sherry called to them.”

“Sherry’s parents...? Then that means...”

“Fenrirs!?”

“Oh!”

Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Anne gasped in surprise.

“Ms. Anne, I think you should step back. It might be dangerous.”

“Mmm, that’s true. Anneliese, go back.”

“No! If they are anything like Sherry, then they must be quite adorable things. I want to see them up close!”

“Uh...hmm...”

While Mr. Ekenhart could fight, Ms. Anne had no power to speak of.

She had no fighting experience and never even held a weapon.

But even when the master of the house told her to stand back...she refused.

Now that I thought about it, Ms. Anne... She was so excited about the fenrirs, that she was standing very close to Leo...

Usually, she was too scared to come that close.

“Ah, Sherry!”

“Kyau! Kyau-kyau! Kyu-kyu?”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff.”

As I was thinking about Ms. Anne, Sherry suddenly jumped out of Ms. Claire’s arms and ran in front of Leo.

It seemed like she was confirming something with her.

Liza then interpreted, and said that since it was her mama and papa, we did not need to be on our guard.

At the same time, she was asking Leo if she could meet them.

Leo nodded in agreement, and told her to go and meet with them.

While Leo could be harsh with her sometimes, this was one of the times where she was gentle.

Chapter 530

Fenrirs appeared from the forest

“Still, are you sure, Leo? I know you said that fenrirs aren’t a danger to you, but...”

“Wou. Wuff-wuff. Wou-wou.”

“Even if they do come, you’ll deal with them easily...right. Well, I’m sure you can... But go easy on them, alright?”

“Wuff.”

If there were Sherry’s parents, that meant there were at least two of them.

And though Sherry was considered to be a child, she was still able to defeat orcs and use magic as if it was nothing.

Considering all of that, how strong was a fully grown fenrir... While I was a little worried, Leo insisted that it was not a problem.

We had discussed them before, and she said that their instincts would make them submit.

“Kyau! Kyau!”

“Fine. Mr. Takumi. Good Leo says it is safe, yes?”

“Yes. And even if they attack, she will protect us.”

“Very well. Father. Everyone. Let us step back then. Sherry wants to greet her parents.”

“...Fine. If that is what good Leo says, it must be true. Phillip!”

“Yes!”

After getting permission from Leo, Sherry then went to Ms. Claire.

Ms. Claire nodded and confirmed what Leo had said.

Mr. Ekenhart trusted Leo on the matter as well, and so he had everyone step back.

Though, Ms. Anne had to be dragged away.

After all, there was a danger that she would try to jump onto the fenrirs or something else that was strange.

Well, fenrirs were dangerous, so perhaps she wouldn't do that. But Ms. Anne was hard to predict...

Now that the guards had made the others retreat, it was just me, Leo, Liza and Sherry who remained. And also Ms. Claire, as Sherry was her familiar.

I had wanted Liza to go back as well, but then I realized that she was probably safest on Leo's back.

"Wuff."

"Kyau."

"They will be here soon."

"It looks like it."

Leo and Sherry barked towards the river, and Ms. Claire and I nodded to each other.

Liza seemed to be excited about what would happen next. As her senses were not as strong as Leo and Sherry, she seemed a little puzzled.

The guards behind us had unsheathed their swords, just in case.

After that, we continued to gaze at the trees for a few minutes.

While Leo and Sherry could sense the presences approaching, Ms. Claire and I could not.

And so we just had to trust Leo.

“Wuff!”

“Kyau!”

The two barked once again, and then the trees shook. And we could hear the rustling of leaves.

They must be big, and moving quickly then...

Just as I thought this, the trees shook loudly, and shadows jumped out from the forest.

The fenrirs...?

“Kyau-kyau!”

Sherry barked happily as the two shadows landed on the other side of the river.

They stood there calmly and looked at us.

“So that is a grown fenrir...”

“Indeed...”

Ms. Claire and I gasped as we saw them.

Even at a distance, we could see that they were bigger than a human.

Though, they were much smaller than Leo. Perhaps a little smaller than a horse.

And they had white fur that shone in the light.



Their bodies seemed a little rounder compared to Leo, but it was probably because of their fur...

However, their faces were just as sharp and fierce as wolves.

The fluffy white fur... I suppose you could say they looked like large, arctic wolves.

“Awwwoooooo!!”

“Kyauan!!”

“Awwwoooooo!!”

One of the fenrirs lifted its head to the sky and howled.

And then Sherry and Leo did the same.

Was this their way of communicating?

However, I could not understand what it meant.

“Wuff-wuff. Wou-wuff.”

“Kyau. Kyau-kyau.”

“Uhh...”

When they were done, they turned to us and barked.

Uh, apparently Sherry’s parents were telling us to go somewhere?

And Leo wanted them to come here, if there was something?

It was true that Silver Fenrirs were superior, but that seemed a little self-important.

Well, they probably could not refuse... In human society, it would be like if the king called for you.