

Beloved Dog 541

Chapter 541

Preparing the food was a lot of work

“Wuff. Wuff!”

“You sure seem to enjoy, it Leo.”

“Grau.”

“Graauuu!”

After that, we spent some time cleaning up the mess.

Usually there was just one orc to deal with them, but this time there were ten... So it could not be helped.

Liza and I helped as well.

That being said, the only thing I could do was help to drain the blood..

As for butchering the meat, that was done by Leo and the fenrirs as well as Liza.

Apparently, beastkin were calm when seeing blood.

Well, Leo and the fenrirs did most of the cutting with their claws, and then Liza cut them into smaller pieces.

And by the time we were finished, the sun had already set, and it was time to prepare for dinner.

The fenrirs were going to eat with us, and so we all surrounded the bonfire.

Because of the increased number of members, we had to make a larger fire than usual...

Leo was eating hungrily, and seemed to be enjoying the food.

And since the orcs had fought and used up energy, they were also eating the cooked meat hungrily.

“Still...I had expected them to use magic when fighting. But they didn’t use it at all.”

“Indeed. This was my first time seeing them fight, but I didn’t know that they would be this strong.”

“Because Sherry used magic. I thought all fenrirs would as well.”

While we were eating, Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian started to mutter about the fight they had witnessed earlier.

“But then again, if they used magic on top of wielding such strength, then human opponents would not be able to do anything...”

“Not in small numbers...you would need an army. Surround them from far away and attack until they are weak...”

“Indeed. I agree with Sebastian. It’s a good thing that encounters with them are rare. Well, thanks to Leo, the fenrirs in this forest will probably not cause any trouble.”

“Yes. I don’t know how many there are in this forest, but it would take a lot of personnel just to deal with these two. Ever since it was confirmed that there are fenrirs here, I’ve been wondering if the day would come... But I’m relieved that such a thing will not happen.”

“...Fighting fenrirs would not only take a lot of people, but a lot of money as well.”

“...”

Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian were both greatly relieved that we had a friendly relationship with the fenrirs.

It was no wonder. It would probably take ten to twenty humans to deal with Sherry's parents.

And if it was all of the fenrirs in the forest, it might become like a war.

Even if Mr. Ekenhart was rich, he would not likely be able to afford such a thing.

"...Really, I am grateful that good Leo is with us."

"Yes, indeed... She previously talked about how fenrirs would instinctively submit to her, but I did not quite believe it at the time. But it has been proven now. That alone made this journey worth it."

"Yes. It is a good thing to know."

Yes. Even for me, Leo was the biggest reason that I could feel safe after coming to this world.

...I would have to play with her a lot once we returned to the mansion.

Recently, I've been so preoccupied with Liza, that I might have been a little neglectful towards Leo.

That being said, Leo still seemed to be having fun, and I doubted she cared.

I suppose I could just spend time with both of them.

"...Is it really necessary to watch the area now?"

"Wuff?"

After dinner, we cleaned up and talked a little, and then it was time for watch duty.

Apparently, the fenrirs were going to sleep with us tonight, and so a blanket was laid out, just like Leo, and they would sleep there.

Leo had given permission, and so they would stay near the edge of the forest.

In terms of position, there was the river, the bonfire, and tents, and then the parent fenrirs. And the forest... But thanks to the fenrirs, it did not seem to be necessary to have people watching by the fire.

Liza was scared of the fenrirs “You always like to pet or hold Sherry, but you haven’t really approached the adult fenrirs.” “...Papa noticed then.” Recently, Liza had become less reserved, and more like an ordinary, playful child. And so I was wondering if there was a reason that she...

I succeeded in removing Liza’s fear “Soft...” “Right? See, they like it if you pet them like this.” “Hmm... Like this?” “Grau...” “They like it. See?” The fenrir’s fur was soft and fluffy, and Liza petted him gently. “...It’s fine?” “Aye. They won’t hurt you. Now, over here.” “...Okay.” “Kyafu...”...

We asked the fenrirs “It doesn’t have to be over a vast area, good Leo. Just bringing their number down a little will be enough.” “Wuff... Wuff!” “She said ‘very well!’” We were only in a small corner of the forest. Obviously, it would be impossible for the fenrirs to...

Chapter 542

I talked with Ms. Anne

As for where the fenrirs slept, Leo had decided it. But Sebastian felt that it was still important for there to be human watchers as well, and so nothing changed there.

Well, the fenrirs could only bark, and could not communicate with us in detail. But then again, I found it hard to imagine there was anything threatening enough that they couldn’t deal with it themselves.

Currently, Liza and Ms. Anne were with the fenrirs, and enjoying being enveloped in their fur.

...Though, I want her to sleep properly in the tent, so I hope she doesn't fall asleep like that.

"By the way, is Sherry with them too?"

"Wuff."

While they were together now, they would be separated once we returned to the mansion.

And since Sherry was still young, it was not a bad thing for her to be spoiled by them as much as possible.

"Mr. Takumi."

"Hmm?"

As I petted Leo and looked leisurely at the fire, I heard a voice from behind me.

Leo had already noticed, but didn't care, as there were no strangers here.

...Still, it seemed like every time I was on watch duty, someone would come to talk to me.

"Ms. Anne?"

Tonight, my guest was the count's daughter.

I thought she had been with the fenrirs and Liza. I wonder what happened?

She then sat on the other side of the fire, and as far from Leo as possible.

Her hair was blonde like Ms. Claire, but a little more yellow, and it was pretty while reflecting the light of the fire.

She would sometimes do bizarre things, like bowing on the ground to Mr. Hannes, or make terrible suggestions to her father, or change her hair so as not to scare Liza. But if you ignore that, she was not attractive.

“I was hoping for a minute of your time.”

“That is fine... Did you have trouble sleeping?”

“I am not used to sleeping outside in a tent. ...Though, up until now, I was so exhausted from walking that I managed to sleep.”

Well, that was no surprise... A lady like her would not usually sleep in a tent in a sleeping bag...

Though, I wonder what she did when traveling between towns?

“So you’re going to stay out here until you are tired?”

“Yes, if you don’t mind. It is more comfortable out here. Hah... I do like a good bonfire...”

Ms. Anne said as she stared into the flames.

Indeed, looking into the fire was calming... But on the other hand, I was afraid that Ms. Anne would start saying something strange.

What if a new desire awakens within her. The desire to burn everything in sight...

“Now that I think of it, you were petting the fenrirs just fine. So why are you still afraid of Leo?”

“Wuff...”

“Of course, I am. Fenrirs are not so strong that humans could never overcome them. ...Even if they are still very powerful, as we saw today... However, a Silver Fenrir... They are the strongest monsters of all. Why wouldn’t I be scared?”

“Wou...”

“There, there, Leo. Well, you’re the only one here who is scared, Ms. Anne.”

“...I was not trying to hurt her feelings.”

Though Ms. Anne continued to keep her distance from Leo, she had made such a big fuss when seeing the fenrirs, and was petting them blissfully afterwards.

Even if Leo was bigger, the fenrirs were also quite large.

And while she may be right about them not being an undefeatable creature, I doubted there were many humans who could beat a fenrir one on one.

You would probably have to search the world, and would still only find a few special people who could do it.

Normally, it would take many humans to surround and weaken them first. Attack them with magic... But perhaps Ms. Anne didn’t really understand such things.

Well, I suppose since such strategies wouldn’t work with Leo, she found her more scary...

As Leo was feeling quite hurt after Ms. Anne’s explanation, I had to pet her and offer words of encouragement.

Ms. Anne turned her nose away and muttered to herself.

Ms. Anne was not used to talking with people, and so she was not very sensitive to the feelings of others... I didn’t think she was evil or anything... Probably.

In any case, it would probably be good for her to take some lessons from Ms. Claire.

Mr. Ekenhart... No, she should not be learning from him...

The fenrirs treated me as a boss “Kyau!” “Ah...oh...hehe...Sherry...” “Wuff-wuff.” Sherry stretched and licked the tears off of Ms. Claire’s cheek. It was like she was comforting her and saying that there was no need to cry. Leo also nodded approvingly. “Ms. Claire...I’m so happy!!” “Woah, Ms. Anne!?” “Anne!?” Ms....

We watched the fenrirs fight “Grau!” “Gaau!” The fenrirs barked eagerly towards the forest. At the same time, Phillip and the guards ran out of the forest and towards us. Behind them, I heard the sound of the approaching orcs. Uh...how many were there? “Isn’t that too many?” “...I think...

I petted the parent fenrirs “Uh...like this?” “Gauu...” “Gau-gau!” “It seems like they like it...” I went between the two fenris and used both hands to rub their bellies. As they were so big, I could not rub their whole bodies at once, but I had plenty of experience with...

Chapter 543

Ms. Anne had not given up

“Still, I just followed after the duke and came to the house. I did not think that so much would happen after that... To think that I would step foot into a forest with monsters.”

“Is that so? ...Well, I suppose it is unusual for someone in your position.”

“And I was surprised to meet you as well. A human who can command a Silver Fenrir. And Ms. Claire having a fenrir cub...and your Gift... And now we are with the fenrir parents! I can hardly keep up with the events.”

“Uh, perhaps you don’t need to?”

When I thought about it, a lot of those events really were things that were unusual in this world.

“Also, I should remind you that Leo is my partner, not a servant. Hey...Leo, stop that...”

“Wuff. Wuff!”

“Well, that is surprising in a different way...”

Leo was happy to hear me say that to Ms. Anne, and she wagged her tail and started to lick my face repeatedly.

While I appreciated the gesture, her tail looked like it was going to hit the flames... And I couldn't talk to Ms. Anne like that, so I wanted her to calm down.

And so made Leo close her mouth and patted her on the face.

Ah, now that I thought about it, what was Liza doing?

“Is Liza still with the fenrirs?”

“Little Liza fell asleep while sandwiched between the fenrirs, and so the maid took her back to the tent.”

“I see...”

So she had fallen asleep with them after all.

While she had been sitting on Leo's back a lot of the time, it had been a day of excitement, and she also worked hard to interpret for the fenrirs.

I suppose it was Ms. Lyra who took her back to the tent.

“In any case, Mr. Takumi. Have you reconsidered my proposal?”

“Huh? Uh...what are you talking about?”

“Wuff?”

“You have forgotten then!? About becoming my husband!”

“Oh.”

“Wuff...”

I had refused her quite plainly already... But she was still going on about it?

Regardless, Ms. Anne seemed to be slightly offended, and so she raised her voice.

...While I probably shouldn't have forgotten about such a thing, it was night time, so she really should be more quiet.

I wouldn't want anyone to wake up.

Thankfully, there were no signs of anyone getting up from the tents.

“Ms. Anne, it would not do to wake up the others...”

“...But it was entirely your fault, Mr. Takumi. Really...”

She pouted and turned her nose away.

Still, at least she was whispering now, so she had understood the danger.

Even if she was acting childish.

“I'm sorry that I forgot... But I already gave you my answer.”

“Indeed, I won't deny that I got carried away when I first said it. However, since then, I've had plenty of time to think about it. And I have come to the conclusion that it is the best thing to do for my family.”

“Hmm...”

“Having a Silver Fenrir like Leo in our property. And you with your Gift. Yes, it would be in our best interests for sure!”

She was starting to get excited again, even if her voice was hushed.

Ms. Anne was attractive in her own way, but surely there were others who were more suited to her.

Besides, she only seemed to care about the status of her house. Did she not want to marry someone that she actually liked?

Well, there were a lot of things that happened in this world that were related to their class system, that I did not really agree with.

But in any case, I had my reasons for not wanting to leave the duke’s lands.

“I’m sorry, but I cannot. It’s not because I hate you... But I have my work in Range village ahead of me. And Liza...”

“You what!? But with such an ability and Leo, you could aspire to so much more than that!”

“Perhaps, but I really am not thinking of doing anything great at the moment. I’d much rather live a relaxing life... Isn’t that right, Leo?”

“Wuff!”

Just like before, Ms. Anne seemed like she could not believe that she was being rejected.

Still, I was sure to be clear about it.

After all, if I sounded unsure or vague, then she would continue to bring it up...

The reason that Sherry was not injured “Hmm...I guess it’s because she is a fenrir. To not be injured after being hit so hard...” “Wuff. Wuff-wuff-wou!” “Uhhh, she says that fenrirs are able to protect themselves by enveloping their bodies in magic energy. That’s why she wasn’t injured.” “...That is...so...

Fenrirs could not swim “Grau!” “Grau-grau! Grrrr...!” “They drowned!?” “Can fenrirs not swim?” “...Well, Sherry was not able to... are they alright?” After looking at each other, the fenrirs jumped into the river. It was deep enough that humans would have to swim. Someone as large as Leo would be...

Fenrirs were even more dangerous than expected “Yes, that’s right. I was aware, as it is widely known that they use magic, but... I didn’t know they could use it in quick succession. Good Leo, can all fenrirs do it like that?” “Wuff? Wou... Wuff-wuff. Wuff. Wuff-wuff?” “Hmm. She is...

Chapter 544

The difference between the duke and the count

Ms. Anne thought I could do more with my ability... But Weed Cultivation was just something given to me out of nowhere. And Leo was with me because she liked me.

I didn’t want to use that to accomplish something great. And I didn’t care about the Ms. Anne’s house at all.

As she had been at the mansion for a while now, I did want things to go well for her. It wasn’t like I wanted her to go down the path of total ruin... But that all depended on her.

While we seemed like the same age, as she was now, she left everything to others, and didn’t really think of achieving anything on her own.

If was capable of actually talking about doing things for her house, then she would have looked more appealing, perhaps.

The herb fields in Range village weren’t about doing anything grand, but a way for me to pay back to the duke. I just wanted to do something that was useful.

I also thought that I would be able to relax there.

There were few people, and I would be able to forget about my past life and job.

I thought of such things and petted Leo, who then barked happily.

Leo seemed to want to stay with me. And here, I would be able to give her all of the attention that I wasn't able to before.

"Ms. Anne... You have stayed in the mansion for some time now. Have you really not had a change of heart?"

"...It isn't that I haven't changed at all. I like little Liza and Sherry... I see how proud the servants are to be working there. Though, I was surprised by their friendliness."

I had thought the same thing.

My idea of the relationship between nobles and their servants had been quite different. Like they had to obey no matter what and could never go against their masters.

However, I had seen Sebastian and the others correct Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire plenty of times.

In any case, the servants would rarely overstep their bounds, and Ms. Claire would not ask them to do anything they couldn't do.

They were like one big family in some ways.

"I had heard previously that they do not care as much when it comes to position... But I didn't realize it was to that degree."

"Indeed. But it's precisely because of that, that they are able to consider the welfare of their people and govern in a manner that ensures everyone can live with peace of mind. It all comes down to trust, you know. And because of that trust, I believe the duke's ventures are thriving. Merely looking down from above would make it challenging to earn people's trust, wouldn't you agree?"

“Yes... I have to agree, after seeing the people and the town. The count, my father...takes the loyalty of his people for granted. And so he assumed that any business ventures would turn in a profit... In spite of his many failures.”

It was true that such businesses were founded on trust.

Well, I had little experience, so I was no authority, but...as a consumer then, I would not buy anything expensive from a place that I didn't trust.

Of course, it wasn't just that. And there were times when you couldn't rely on emotions. I understood that.

As the count didn't think about such things...he probably thought that as long as he was selling a product, people would buy it regardless of price and quality.

He was someone who didn't learn from mistakes. Perhaps he didn't notice, or pretended to not notice.

Back at the company I used to work at, even if a customer complained about something, there were people who would not listen to them.

...And since just people had a lot of influence, it was no wonder that it became a black company...

I suppose the count was like that too?

Well, that was different, and not related.

“I think what is important for you, Ms. Anne, is not to bring someone over who can raise your house, but to start changing it. And to do that, you need to change yourself. Change the way you govern so that you can earn the trust of the people again. ...Well, that is just my opinion.”

“...I see... Change myself and the house...”

“It doesn't need to happen all at once... Everyone will be shocked if you change so suddenly. But little by little. By treating others better, they will start to trust you more.

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...

Mr. Hannes met Ms. Anne “I am quite old... And so my son and his wife told me to take Rosalie with me, just in case something happened. They could come with me, as they were busy in the village...” So that’s why Rosalie was here. Indeed, Mr. Haines did...

I talked with Ms. Anne As for where the fenrirs slept, Leo had decided it. But Sebastian felt that it was still important for there to be human watchers as well, and so nothing changed there. Well, the fenrirs could only bark, and could not communicate with us in detail....

Chapter 545

People were eavesdropping

“Treating others well...I had never thought about such things before. I am a noble, a superior human. It was only natural that I should be treated as special, and there was no need to be concerned about others...”

“Well...you cannot be treated well if there is no one around. As Ms. Claire once said...the nobles only exist because of the people...I think? You aren’t special just because you are a noble. Unless the people around you respect you. And you help to make their lives easier.”

Not that I knew much about such things... After all, I didn’t really think about nobles until I came to this world.

Still, that was the answer that I had come up with after seeing Ms. Claire and Mr. Ekenhart.

...Perhaps I was wrong. Regardless, I would talk to Mr. Ekenhart about it later.

“I know my word wouldn’t mean much...but perhaps it can be food for thought?”

“...”

Ms. Anne had a serious expression as she fell silent.

While I had said a lot, in the end, it was up to her. And I just wanted her to use my advice as reference.

Perhaps it sounded cold-hearted, but I was not particularly interested in trying to lead Ms. Anne.

If it so happened that she repeated her crimes, then not only would Mr. Ekenhart and Leo retaliate, but she would make an enemy out of all of us.

But she was clearly affected by her time in the mansion, and showed that she was thinking about what I said just now. So I was not too worried.

...Was that too optimistic?

“...I shall think about it then. And if I have more questions, would it be alright if I talked to you?”

“If you want to listen to me. But it might not be very useful.”

“No, your words are much more effective than Ms. Claire’s. For the first time, a man has completely stirred up my mind.”

“Uh, is that a good thing?”

“Hehehe. You will find out soon enough.”

“Wuff?”

There was no reason to make up her mind right now.

And after thinking about it for some time, Ms. Anne got up to her feet.

“Ah, that’s right. If you eat this, it will help you sleep better.”

“What is that?”

“I herb for sleeping. I can guarantee its effectiveness. And you can just eat it as it is.”

“...It is black. And looks quite odd. Well, I will try it then...”

While Ms. Anne was about to return to her tent, I took some herbs out from my bag and gave them to her.

Either she trusted me, or the Gifts, because after inspecting it for a moment, she decided to eat it.

Once she was finished, she nodded and muttered as she returned to her tent.

It seemed like she was still deep in thought. And I hoped it wouldn’t keep her up.

But it was likely that even if she tried to stay up and think, she would soon fall asleep anyway.

“Thank you, Mr. Takumi.”

“You saved me some trouble once again...”

“There are a lot of people up tonight. There really wasn’t any need for guards after all, Leo?”

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff.”

A few minutes after Ms. Anne left, Ms. Claire and Mr. Ekenhart approached me.

I was supposed to be on watch duty so that others could rest. And yet...

Leo had reacted, and so I knew that someone was close by. And since Leo did not do anything, I knew that there was no problem, and had pretended that I didn't notice.

"Well, don't say that. It just so happened that we saw Anneliese walking towards you. So I wondered what she was going to say."

"...After all, she has a criminal record, like the time she tried to force you into marriage. So we could not be too careful."

"Of course..."

While Mr. Ekenhart had a guilty expression, Ms. Anne held her hands clenched together and looked determined.

While there had been marriage proposals, it was not as forceful as Ms. Claire was suggesting...

Well, perhaps it looked that way for her.

Besides, it was true that she was trying to use her position as a count's daughter.

"Still, what you said about treating others, the people well, and gaining trust... Those were good words. I too hope to never forget about the importance of having the people's trust."

Said Mr. Ekenhart as he sat next to me.

I had just thought about it on a whim, so it was embarrassing to have him repeat it.

Ms. Claire sat on the opposite side and petted Leo while nodding.

I Asked About Ms. Claire Indeed... There was the matter of the soil as well... I had not been thinking about that. I was only thinking about how they would grow, and the speed. It was quite obvious now that I thought about it. The nutrients within the soil were...

Mr. Ekenhart also apologized to Mr. Haines “You can stand back now, Anneliese.” “Really? But I haven’t done anything yet...” “Anne, it’s enough. Besides, I think your presence here is just confusing Mr. Haines.” “...Very well.” Ms. Anne seemed like she hadn’t had enough yet, but she somberly got to...

I Suggested Joint Management “Hiring her is not the problem. It is what people will think. It is possible that it could hurt the reputation of this house. “...Because she was hired by a commoner?” “That is one reason. While the people of Range village and the other people you...

Chapter 546

I left Ms. Anne to Mr. Ekenhart

“I am quite sure that the people already trust you enough.”

“Well, if you say so, Mr. Takumi. Your opinion is worth trusting. Isn’t that right, Claire?”

“Don’t bring me into it. But well, Mr. Takumi does have a different way of viewing things. And so it is nice to hear of his opinions.”

The only places I knew of outside of the mansion were Ractos and Range village.

And while I did want to see more of this world, it could wait until after I had succeeded with the herbs fields.

As far as I was aware, the duke was trusted by his people.

There were exceptions like Deam. But someone like Mr. Hannes would not have come all of the way to the mansion if he didn’t trust the duke.

I didn’t know what the count was like, but if a noble was oppressive and untrustworthy, then villagers would not be likely to visit them.

Because they probably wouldn’t even be let through the gates.

But at Mr. Ekenhart's mansion, they were given food and even a room to stay in.

"Of course, it really should be me who talks to Anneliese like that... So, I'm sorry you had to be troubled."

"No. I don't even know if it was the right thing to say... That being said, I do think it might be more effective when I say it."

"Why is that? Is it because she wants to marry you?"

"That's not what he means, father. But anything you say is the words of a duke and fellow noble. Mr. Takumi is not a noble, and so his words would mean more to her. Isn't that right?"

"Haha, yes. As Ms. Claire says."

"You two really do get along. Well...that is a good thing. Still, indeed. What I say, I say as a duke. And she might see me as a rival, and will not accept everything without doubt..."

I didn't know if she saw Mr. Ekenhart that way. But the duke was currently doing very well, while the count...not so much.

"Hmmm...in that case... Perhaps it will not be the best idea to take Anneliese back to the main house? If she listens to Mr. Takumi, perhaps she should just stay..."

"That is completely unacceptable, father!!"

As Mr. Ekenhart started to entertain the idea of not taking Anneliese to the main house, Ms. Claire suddenly reacted very strongly, and objected.

"Why? While she was entrusted into my care, if someone else can do a better job of leading her down the right path, then it should be fine."

"Perhaps... But, NO! It is much too dangerous... Yes, the royal family gave you the responsibility. And so it is out of the question to push that onto someone else."

“Well...I suppose...”

“Besides...I think Ms. Anne...would listen to you as well?”

I added in order to support Ms. Claire.

After all, I did not want to be forced into the role of becoming her teacher.

That was likely not something the royal family expected to happen. And I would not be able to do a good job.

It wasn't like I hated Ms. Anne. And I wished her well. But I was much more interested in succeeding with this herb business.

Perhaps it would be rude to call it troublesome...but I would be very busy... And considering how I wanted to live leisurely with Leo and Liza, it was best to object to such ideas quickly.

...Little by little, my personality was changing so that I could say no to others... Well, it might also be that I knew Mr. Ekenhart well enough now, and had seen the way that Ms. Claire dealt with him. So he was more like a friendly older man, I suppose.

I hadn't thought about where I would live “Mr. Takumi should be fine... But good Leo...” “Wuff?” “Hmm. You mean the house is too small.” After looking at me, Mr. Haines glanced over to Leo, who was playing with Rosalie. Leo noticed this and turned to us questioningly. “Indeed, it...

We started to explain to Mr. Haines “Huh? Well, most of the children seemed to enjoy playing with Leo. The parents were all happy to see it as well.” “So it wasn't just the children, but the adults also accepted Leo?” “Yes. Leo and Mr. Takumi saved the village. Of...

It was decided that I would grow more Loe “Oh, I wouldn't do that... I'm just making them with Weed Cultivation, so there is no need to charge anything.” Loe was so rare and expensive here, that a store having even one was considered a big deal. Because of this,...

Chapter 547

A family conversation

“Mr. Takumi thinks so too.. Still, do you really think it will be alright?”

“In the previous conversation, Ms. Anne would have become strongly aware of the duke’s family. And so unlike before, she would see you as someone to follow, instead of resisting. I think she will listen and figure out how to make the most of your advice...”

“Hmm, I see.”

She wasn’t terribly stupid, probably.

It had been her that made suggestions to Count Barsler, after all.

She was just thinking in the wrong direction.

And so I thought that she would realize that instead of just seeing the duke as a rival, she might want to follow his example.

Well, I had practically told her to do that.

“Well, I suppose it is best to keep her with me after all ...Still, it will be difficult...”

“But you already raised Ms. Claire and Tilura. And while Tilura is still childish, Ms. Claire has been brought up to be the ideal sort of woman.”

“Mr. Takumi’s ideal woman...”

“...Really? Well, Claire may as well have been raised by the servants in the main house. After my wife died... Well, I tried to do my duty as a father...but I am not sure if I succeeded. Though, perhaps I shouldn’t say such things in front of Claire. After all, she escaped the main house in order to avoid the talk of marriage...”

Ms. Claire looked like she blushed for a moment, but it was probably just the firelight.

Still, it seemed like Mr. Ekenhart had not been very involved when it came to her education.

...Now that I thought about it, that did make sense.

Would it be rude to think that if she were to learn from Mr. Ekenhart, she would have inherited his unconventional and rougher qualities. The kind of person who just did what was amusing?

After all, Ms. Claire did not decide things in the spur of the moment, but was more thoughtful...

“...Hmm! Well, father was busy with his duties as a duke. Besides, I knew how troubled and in pain you were after mother’s death. And so I also did my best so as to not give you any trouble. Even though I was sometimes a handful for the servants...”

“In that case, perhaps Ms. Claire really did have those qualities...”

I immediately thought of Sebastian and Ms. Lyra.

There was also Ms. Gelda...but she was clumsy, so I won’t think about her right now.

Regardless, as long as there were good servants like Sebastian and Ms. Lyra, then it made sense that Ms. Claire would have been raised so well, even without Mr. Ekenhart’s help.

According to what I heard from Sebastian last night, the servants were very fond of Ms. Claire.

So it was her original traits, as well as the education from the servants, and her feelings towards her father regarding her mother’s death...

All of that had led her to the right direction, and resulted in the present Ms. Claire.

“I’m sorry for troubling you. I did want to spend more time with you and Tilura, but...I was often unsure about what to do. Still, I am happy to see that you turned out so well.”

“Father. So you agree with Mr. Takumi then...”

“Well...yes...”

“Huh? Oh...yes.”

While I didn’t know the details, I suppose things had been awkward with his daughters after his wife died.

And then there was the matter of arranged marriages. And they had drifted apart.

But in spite of such complications, Ms. Claire had turned out alright. And so it was all good in the end.

The way Mr. Ekenhart felt apologetic towards Ms. Claire, kind of reminded me about how I felt towards Leo, for not being able to spend much time with her.

After that, Mr. Ekenhart looked at his daughter and muttered what was on his mind.

In contrast, Ms. Claire’s expression becomes troubled or somewhat sullen.

Mr. Ekenhart seemed like he wanted me to agree with him, and so I nodded.

I left Ms. Anne to Mr. Ekenhart “I am quite sure that the people already trust you enough.” “Well, if you say so, Mr. Takumi. Your opinion is worth trusting. Isn’t that right, Claire?” “Don’t bring me into it. But well, Mr. Takumi does have a different way of viewing...”

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...

I asked about the man called Deam I waited for a moment and observed Mark, who seemed to have different things going on in his head. He finally understood that his actions had been against the duke's house. Well, he would have likely not done such a reckless thing if...

Chapter 548

Leo discovered something

Ms. Claire often seemed like she was holding something back.

Perhaps she felt that it was necessary, as the duke's daughter. But from mine and Mr. Ekenhart's point of view, it looked a little suffocating.

But it was because of that, that the current Ms. Claire was like this. So it was complicated.

"Wuff?"

"Hmm? What is it, Leo?"

"Wuff..."

As we were talking, Leo suddenly raised her head and barked quietly as if noticing something.

But when I asked her about it, she just looked up at the sky and barked.

"Hmm... Is there something strange?"

"...Like a monster approaching?"

"However, the fenrirs are in front of the forest... And it would be odd if they didn't notice first."

"Wuff. Wuff-wuff."

"Hmm? Look at the sky?"

“The sky?”

And so I looked up at the sky, as did the others.

“Hmm... Is there something flying?”

“A bird?”

“What else could it be if not a bird...”

We saw a single bird flying in the sky while the moon shone down.

It seemed to be flying very elegantly.

Since going into the forest, I had seen some birds...but none flying up that high.

It was too dark to see it clearly, but it seemed quite large, and was flying in a circle as if enjoying itself.

It must be nice to be able to fly...

“Wuff...”

Leo barked again, and then the bird disappeared into the distance.

“Hmm... Good Leo was interested in the passing bird?”

“It seems like it.”

“Birds... Perhaps Leo wants to eat chicken next?”

“Wuff! Wuff-wuff!”

When I asked Leo this, she reacted strongly.

Apparently, she wanted to eat a different kind of meat sometimes... After all, she only ate sausages and orc meat recently...

I would have to ask Ms. Helena about it when we returned to the mansion.

After all, Leo had worked hard... Whether it was talking to the fenrirs or finding the orcs... And so she must be rewarded.

“If you want other kinds of meat, it will have to wait. Is that fine?”

“Wuff!”

“Ah, hey...Leo...”

“Hehe. Leo really does like Mr. Takumi.”

“Well, she likes food... But being liked by a Silver Fenrir to this degree must also be a talent.”

Leo was so happy that she had started to lick my face.

It was fine to express your happiness, but I didn’t want to be licked so excitedly... Leo wouldn’t eat me, but it was scary to have such a large mouth close to your face.

And her fangs were so visible...

Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire watched this and smiled.

If only they would help me instead...

“So then. I better go to sleep before Sebastian wakes up. Otherwise he will catch me again and deprive me of sleep.”

“Indeed. Mr. Takumi, Leo. Good night.”

“Yes, good night.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire then went back to their tents.

He did not want to be caught by Sebastian like last night, and have his sleep time shortened.

Though, that was because Sebastian had heard him complaining... Regardless, I gave them some herbs that would help them to sleep.

Mr. Ekenhart was especially happy. I suppose he really liked the effects.

...It was not good to rely on them too much. But he had trouble getting up in the morning, and also snored loudly... The herbs wouldn't actually help with the snoring, but I did want him to sleep well and feel refreshed.

Now that they were gone, Leo and I sat and looked at the fire until our shift ended.

And while I asked Leo about the bird again, she gave me a vague reply, saying that it was nothing to worry about.

It was unusual for her, but I suppose she only noted it because it was so late into the night.

When our shift was over, I returned to the tents and ate some herbs before getting into my sleeping bag.

I was relying on them too... Well, I feel calmer now. But Mr. Ekenhart's snoring was still loud...

“Still, didn’t birds have bad eyesight? And they did not fly during the night?”

I wondered as I closed my eyes.

I didn’t know much about them, and there were likely exceptions. But I still thought it was strange as I slowly fell asleep.

...This was a world of magic, so perhaps some birds could use it to help with their eyesight while flying...

The herbs were surprisingly effective “...!” The moment that the herb touched the fenrir, it unleashed a faint light, and the wounds began to close as if time was being rewound. And once the light faded away, so did the herb that was in my hand. Even the fenrir’s broken...

Sherry was traumatized by the trolls “I don’t mind. Besides, it’s almost time for dinner.” “So, father. You have something to discuss with Leo?” “Mr. Takumi did not tell you?” “Ah, I thought I would let them hear it from you...Mr. Ekenhart.” “I see. Very well...” He then turned to...

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...

Chapter 549

I paired up with Phillip

The next day, I and the others woke up feeling refreshed, thanks to the herbs, and we quickly finished preparing for the morning.

Breakfast was just as busy as dinner was last night.

This was because the fenrirs ate so much.

Once that was done, I thought the fenrirs were going to leave... But apparently, they meant to stay with us a little longer.

While it could have been to spend time with Sherry or Leo, I had a feeling it had a lot to do with the food...

In any case, it was time for Tilura and I to train again.

Thanks to seeing her parents fight yesterday, Sherry was even more enthusiastic than usual.

“What is Liza doing?”

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff.”

As we waited, I saw that Liza was talking to the parents fenrirs a short distance away.

She seemed to be telling them something quite passionately, and her tail was wagging... What was it?

Leo did not seem to know.

Well, she seemed to be having fun, so I guess there was no problem.

“Here they come... Mr. Takumi, Phillip.”

As there were two orcs nearby, it was decided that Phillip and I would form a pair.

Nicholas and the other guards were luring in the orcs.

Ms. Claire and those who could not fight, were waiting close to Leo and the fenrirs, so they should be fine.

Phillip and I nodded at Mr. Ekenhart and took a few steps forward.

This time, I was not allowed to use the katana.

As I was cooperating with Phillip, I had to use the same kind of sword.

Indeed, it would be easier to synchronize with him, if we moved in a similar way.

This time, it wasn't just about defeating the orcs, but about getting accustomed to cooperating with someone else.

“Mr. Takumi. You attack the orc first. And I will follow after you.”

“Very well.”

As Phillip had more experience, it would be best to allow him to match my movements.

“Now then, Mr. Takumi...”

“Yes. I will go...”

I saw the two orcs appear from the trees, and then I nodded at Phillip and rushed forward.

As always, the orcs charged wildly, and seemed to be surprised when they saw me.

That being said, Nicholas and the others must have provoked them quite a lot... They were red in the face and very excited...

“Hmm. Considering Phillip's experience, that was not bad.”

“Hah...phew...yes. Unlike yesterday, I was never in danger.”

“You moved like someone who had been training for more than just a few months. Of course, I already knew that from seeing you yesterday.”

We talked to Mr. Ekenhart while looking down at the two orcs, who were no longer moving.

Next to me, Phillip wiped away the sweat from his face and calmly gave his opinion.

He was hardly even out of breath, unlike me... While I was happy for the compliment, I still had a long way to go.

Unlike yesterday, the fight had ended quite quickly.

Neither of us had been injured, so the results were not bad.

It had been easy enough.

I had wounded it a little as it passed me by. And while the orc tried to change direction, Phillip had come from behind and swung at its ankle.

In general, I would hurt the orc a little, provoke it, and make it charge.

And as it passed, Phillip would attack its legs, and then move away. And then we would repeat it again.

It could not be helped, since the purpose was for my training, but I was practically being used as bait.

That being said, Phillip was also wounding it and slowing the orc down, so it would be easier for me to dodge the attacks.

“They still try to charge when their ankles are cut...resulting in them falling over. That was well done, Phillip.”

“The orc charges are quite a threat. It is not difficult to dodge them in wide areas, but if they do hit you, you will get thrown into the air. This can be especially dangerous if there are two, as they may be hit as soon as they land on the ground. And so it was necessary to stop it...”

“Mmm, indeed. And after weakening them, the legs become easier to target.”

“It slid a little after falling forward... It must have really wanted to hit me.”

Liza was scared of the fenrirs “You always like to pet or hold Sherry, but you haven’t really approached the adult fenrirs.” “...Papa noticed then.” Recently, Liza had become less reserved, and more like an ordinary, playful child. And so I was wondering if there was a reason that she...

The fenrirs treated me as a boss “Kyau!” “Ah...oh...hehe...Sherry...” “Wuff-wuff.” Sherry stretched and licked the tears off of Ms. Claire’s cheek. It was like she was comforting her and saying that there was no need to cry. Leo also nodded approvingly. “Ms. Claire...I’m so happy!!” “Woah, Ms. Anne!?” “Anne!?” Ms....

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...

Chapter 550

Liza gave names to the fenrir parents

“While one mistake could have led to an injury, you two still did very well. ...Perhaps next time we should switch your roles?”

“I think it would be a little difficult for me to do what Phillip did...”

“I suppose so. Sometimes I get a little carried away and want to move things along...”

Phillip’s movements might have looked simple at a glance...they were much more difficult.

He had tactfully timed his actions, anticipating the orc’s pause and attempted redirection towards him. He targeted the orc’s weak spots, like its legs, and quickly inflicted injuries before disengaging.

All the while not hurting the orc too much...

Had I been in his place, I would have likely cut the orc too deeply, so that its attention turned to me completely... Though, I suppose learning how to deal with that was also part of the training.

In any case, I still did not have enough skills with regards to finding the right timing, and injuring two orcs at the same time and then escaping.

It was better to train first, then learn to do that during real combat.

I didn't want to fail and cause trouble for Phillip or get injured and cause Ms. Claire to worry.

"Wuff-wuff."

"Ohh...thank you. Don't worry, I won't be reckless."

Apparently, I had also caused Leo to worry about me.

She pressed her nose into me and barked as if she was happy that I was able to defeat the orc without being injured.

Yes, I could not rely on Leo all of the time...and had to be careful.

I thanked Leo and patted her face consolingly.

"Papa, mama!"

"Oh?"

"Wuff?"

Just as we started to talk about how it would be Tilura or Sherry's turn next, Leo suddenly came running towards us.

The parent fenrirs were behind her. But they were looking away as if a little embarrassed. I wonder why?

“Look!”

“Hmm. Ah...”

“Wuff.”

Liza stopped in front of us and then turned towards the fenrirs.

Apparently, she was going to do something...

Mr. Ekenhart, Phillip, Tilura and Ms. Claire also looked at Liza.

“Fen!”

“Riruru!”

“Grau!”

“Together, you are Fenrir!”

“Grau!”

“Grau!”

“Kyau!”

Liza had raised her right hand and shouted Fen, and then the father fenrir raised its right paw.

The Lize raised her left hand and shouted Riruru, and the mother barked and raised her front paw.

The two fenrirs then faced each other and put their paws together, and then howled loudly at the sky.

Sherry ran around them and barked happily.

“...”

“Uhh...?”

“Wuff?”

Everyone was speechless.

I had seen Liza talking to the fenrirs. So this was what she had been teaching them...

Well, I suppose it was impressive in a way.

Though, even Leo was tilting her head as if she didn't understand what it was.

“Grau...”

“Grau...”

After seeing this awkward reaction, the fenrirs looked embarrassed.

“Papa, mama. Wasn't that cute!”

“Huh? Uh, yes. It was!”

“Wu-wuf... Wuff-wuff!”

Liza was clearly happy as she turned to look at us.

With such an expression, I could not tell her the truth...

Leo also looked a little frantic as she barked and nodded.

“That was amazing, Liza! You trained them to do that? It was so cute!”

“Right? Tilura!”

“...”

“...Wuff.”

Behind us, Tilura seemed to be just as excited as Liza.

The front paws of the fenrirs were shaking now... Liza, perhaps you should let them stop now?

Still, it was impressive that she taught them to do it in such a short amount of time.

Perhaps beastkin had a natural talent for teaching monsters... Well, it probably had more to do with them being submissive towards Leo.

Leo defeated the orc quickly As Tilura’s sword was small, it would not be able to cut off an orc’s leg easily like mine. However, it could still injure an orc and slow it down. Well, we didn’t even know if the orc really would come charging... While the previous...

Liza's battle with the orc "Here it comes!" "It appears that way..." "..." "Wuff..." "Liza..." There was the rustling of leaves, and then Phillip and the other guard came out of the forest. Tilura was the first to react to it. She had been like this before her own fight...

I paired up with Phillip The next day, I and the others woke up feeling refreshed, thanks to the herbs, and we quickly finished preparing for the morning. Breakfast was just as busy as dinner was last night. This was because the fenrirs ate so much. Once that was done,...