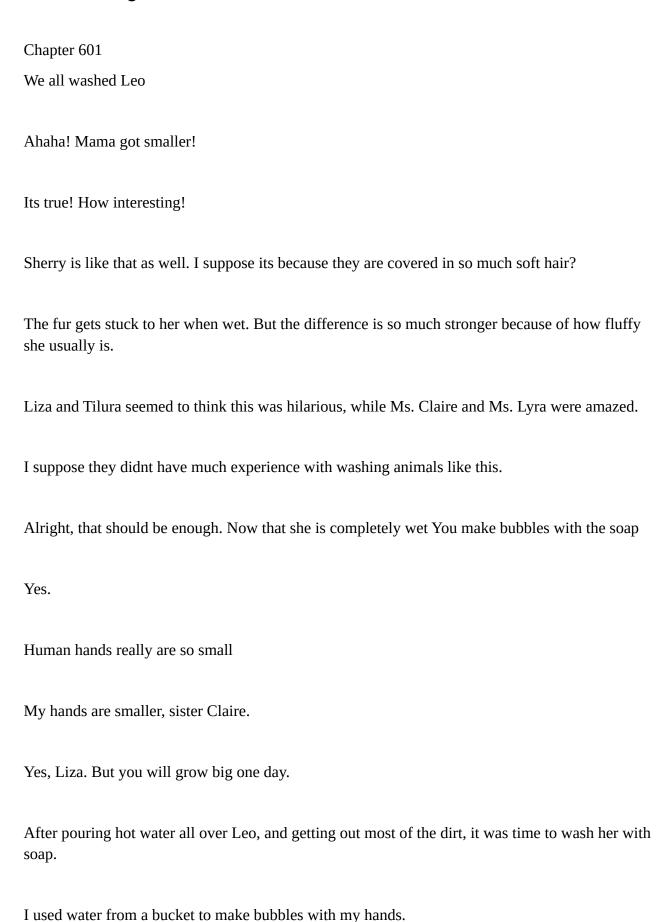
Beloved Dog 601

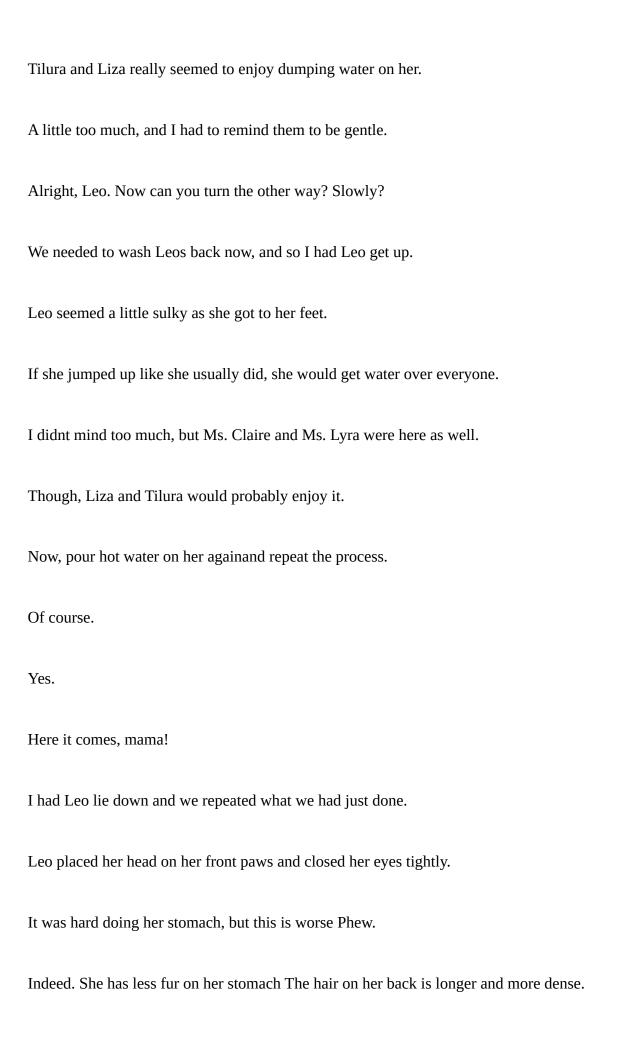


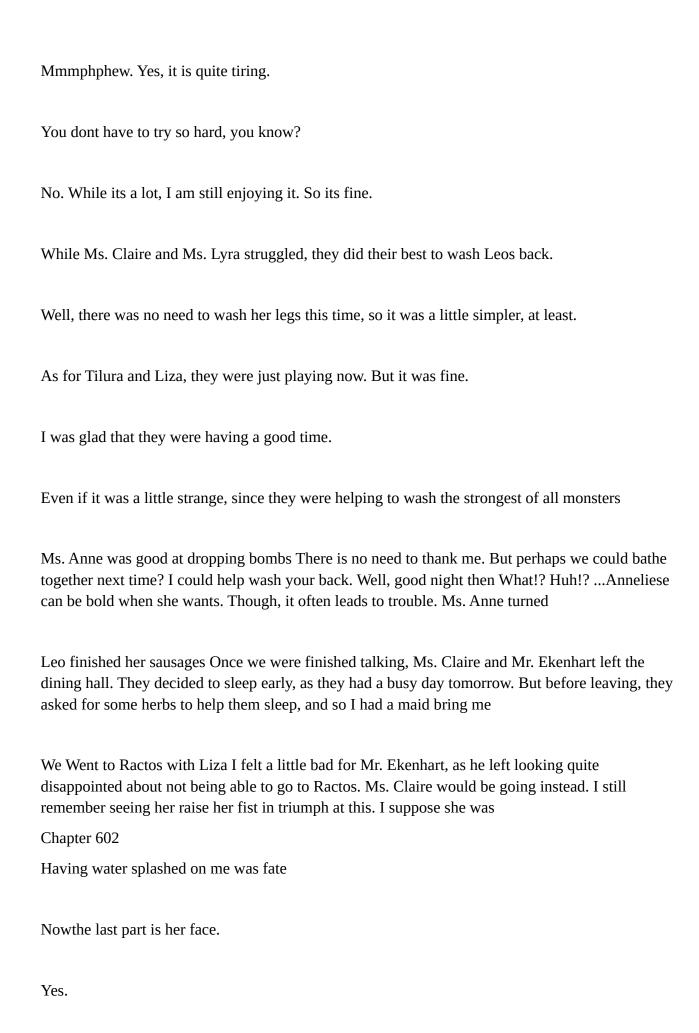


| But surely it is necessary when washing fur? |
|--|
| Its fine. She was quite dirty, so its best to be thorough. |
| At this point Leo was covered in so much foam that she looked like a ball. |
| Liza and Tilura were delighted to see Leo look so fluffy once again. |
| Ms. Claire had her doubts, but I assured her that it was fine, since Leo had so much long fur. |
| Now, lets dump water all over her again. Ah, gently, of course. Leo doesnt like it when the soap gets in her eyes. |
| Yes. |
| I understand. |
| Okay! |
| SPLASH! |
| Heres more! |
| SPLASH! |
| !? |
| Leo had finally started to relax while having her bubble massage, but that came to an end as she was assaulted by hot water from all directions. |

And while she was alarmed, she was probably getting used to it, and managed to stay still, even

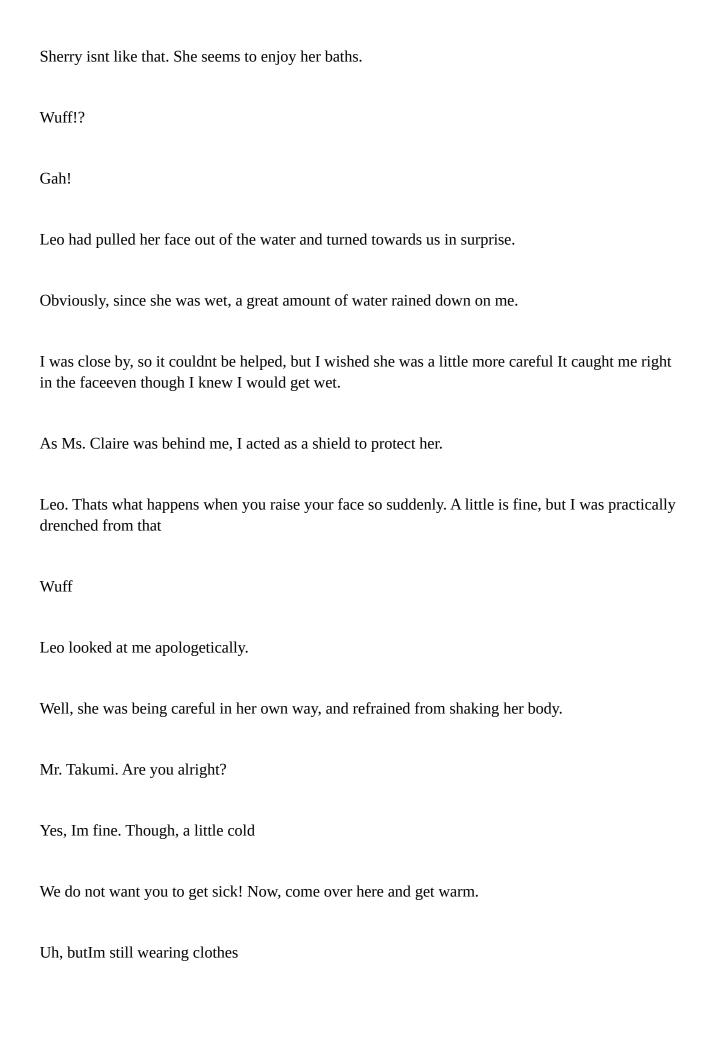
though she was breathing strangely through her nose.





| Face |
|--|
| Unlike before, I spoke in a serious voice. |
| Because you had to be extra careful when it came to the face area. |
| If the soap got in her eyes or nose, it could cause pain or discomfort for Leo. |
| A little bit could not be helped, but I wanted to avoid it as much as possible. |
| As for the face Leo? |
| Wuff! |
| Ah, so thats how you use that big bucket. |
| I called Leo and gestured towards the bucket that was filled with water. |
| Leo finally opened her mouth and barked like she usually did. And then she moved to the bucket and put her face in it. |
| Now, we will use soap like with the rest of her body But be careful that it doesnt go into her eyes or nose. Do it slowly. |
| Yes, I understand. |
| Certainly. Excuse me, good Leo. |
| Also, while it is fine now, you should avoid using cold water during winter. It would be best to heat the water first. |

Leo closed her eyes and mouth tightly again and let out a resigned sigh. And then the two hesitantly began to wash her. For this part, Tilura and Liza just watched. The climate around the mansion was quite warm, so it was fine now. But it would be much colder during the winter And I didnt want them to wash Leo with cold water. Hmm? Well, I didnt actually know if there was a winter season here. Now that I thought about it, I hadnt asked about the climate And considering that Ill be growing fields, I should ask about it While its easier than the stomach and back, you also have to be more attentive Indeed. I wouldnt want soap in my eyes or nose either. And Leo would be especially sensitive. Well, Leo can bear a little discomfort. Right, Leo? It doesnt seem like she agrees. Haha. Just a coincidence. After that, while Leo made weird noises through her nostril, we finished washing her face. Alright, thats it, Leo. And then Leo dunked her head into the bucket again and washed her face. Good Leo really does not like hot water Yes. She is perfectly fine when swimming in river water



Nevermind that!

I chuckled and reassured Ms. Claire that I was fine, but Ms. Lyra reacted strongly.

I supposed it was because I said it was cold. But it wasnt bad enough to get sick or anything

However, Ms. Lyra pulled me over to the bathtub and urged me to get inside.

It was awkward to go in while still clothed, but she pushed me in anyway.

We all washed Leo Ahaha! Mama got smaller! Its true! How interesting! Sherry is like that as well. I suppose it's because they are covered in so much soft hair? The fur gets stuck to her when wet. But the difference is so much stronger because of how fluffy she

I Bathed with a Sulky Leo Wou Give up, Leo. From now on, you will have to bathe regularly in order to stay clean. Wouuu Leo looked at the floor sadly as she followed after me. She had been playing so excitedly in the river. So why did she hate

Ms. Anne was good at dropping bombs There is no need to thank me. But perhaps we could bathe together next time? I could help wash your back. Well, good night then What!? Huh!? ...Anneliese can be bold when she wants. Though, it often leads to trouble. Ms. Anne turned

Chapter 603

Leos bath ended

Ah, if its tangled, then dont do it by force

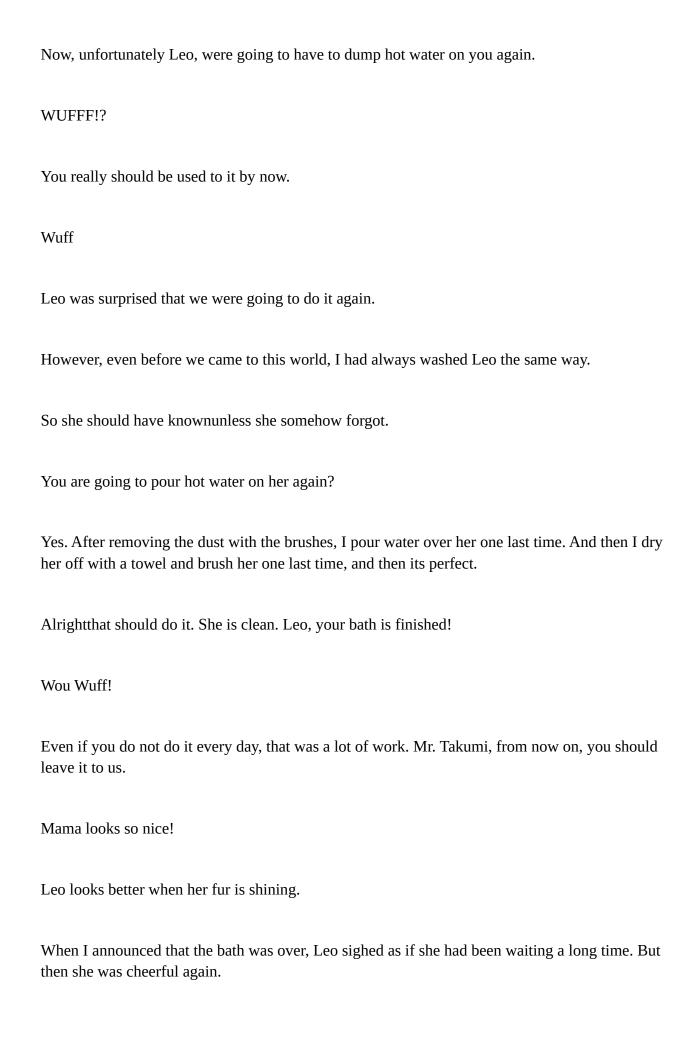
Dont worry, Im used to it.

Haha, thats right. Im sure that your beautiful hair is maintained very well.

Mr. Takumi likes my hair Yes!

Hmm?

| No, its nothing. |
|---|
| As she had been in the forest and even fought orcs, Leos fur was tangled in different places, making it hard to brush. |
| And so I was going to warn the others, but saw that Ms. Claire was already going slowly, as if she was used to brushing tangled hair. |
| Well, Ms. Claires hair was quite long, so it probably got tangled often. |
| Good Leo. Do you feel itchy anywhere? |
| Wuff-wuff! |
| I see. So you are fine. |
| Mamas tail is so big! |
| Liza, do you like big tails? |
| Yes. They are so impressive. |
| Indeed. And Leos is especially nice. |
| Liza and Tilura had been put in charge of Leos tail. |
| And while brushing it, Liza sounded a little jealous. |
| Her tail was already quite big, relative to the rest of her But apparently, she wanted a tail like Leos. |
| I had heard that tails were important for beastkin, so perhaps that was why. |
| |



| I petted her gently and praised her. |
|--|
| Up until now, Ms. Lyra had been in charge of drying Leo with a towel. And that was hard enough But now she was saying that she would wash her as well. |
| And while it would mean less work for me, I would feel bad leaving it all to her. And so I would later suggest that we could take turns. |
| Now then Woah! |
| Wuff? |
| Ahh! |
| Kya! |
| Nya! |
| Waah! |
| I suppose Leo had been holding back the urge to shake, and finally felt like she was free. |
| And so before I could move away, Leo shook her body as hard as she could. |
| We had just poured the hot water on her, and so she was still soaking wet as the water flew. |
| Of course, it rained down on all of us. |
| And everyone raised their voices in alarm. |
| She must have really wanted to shake off the water, as she did it without restraint, so it was like a storm all around us. |

Well, I was already wetbut still

Dont look so surprised, Leo. I told you before that you need to move away before doing that.

Wouwou

Hah Well, it took a lot longer than usual, because I had to teach the others. So perhaps it could not be helped. In any case, Ms. Claire and Ms. Lyra. Are you alright?

We Went to Ractos with Liza I felt a little bad for Mr. Ekenhart, as he left looking quite disappointed about not being able to go to Ractos. Ms. Claire would be going instead. I still remember seeing her raise her fist in triumph at this. I suppose she was

Ms. Gelda had jumped to conclusions In the end, we ate what was initially served, as well as the new food that Ms. Helena brought, and it was a satisfying dinner. Only, Ms. Claire looked at her father, who ate ravenously, with a slightly angry expression. As for Sherry, since

I comforted Tilura Well, it looks like they will arrive safely. Were back! Wuff! After watching Tilura and Rahle for some time, the large building finally came into view. Somehow, Tilura had managed to stay on this whole time. Perhaps Rahle had sensed her fear, as there were no more

Chapter 604

Everyone was wet

Right after shaking, Leo looked at us with a puzzled expression, and then looked startled when she realized. And then she bowed her head apologetically.

It had taken longer than usual, and she had done it without thinking. Still, I wish she had moved away a little

I then turned to Ms. Claire and Ms. Lyra, who were soaking wet.

Liza and Tilura were already wet, and seemed to find it amusing.

| That was a surprise Sherry does it sometimes. And so I am used to it. But its quite different when you are that big |
|---|
| I-I am fine. While it was quite sudden, I didnt expect to come out of this completely dry anyway. |
| Mama is amazing! |
| Well, she doesnt like it when her fur is wet and sticks to her Ah! |
| What is it, Mr. Takumi? |
| Uhhplease dont look at me like that Uhand dont get too close. For your own good as well. |
| UmIthink you should stay away! |
| Why? Did I say something rude? |
| Mr. Takumi? Oh! Lady Claire! |
| What is it, Lyra? |
| Your clothes are Oh!? UhIm terribly sorry! You too, Lyra! |
| What! |
| |
| After hearing Ms. Lyras word, Ms. Claire finally understood the situation, and moved away while apologizing with a look of embarrassment. |
| No, I shouldLeo should be the one to apologize. |

| In-in any case, you two should go first |
|---|
| Ye-yes! Of course. |
| Excuse me! |
| Huh? What happened to sister Claire and sister Lyra? |
| I think they were cold? |
| Wuff |
| Liza and Tilura were puzzled as to why Ms. Claire and Ms. Lyra had left in such a hurry |
| Leo would have usually sighed with exasperation when I was in awkward situations with women, but this time, she groaned apologetically. |
| Liza and Tilura. Its not good to stay wet for too long, so you should go with them and dry off as well. |
| Uh, okay! Lets go, sister Tilura! |
| Yes, I understand! |
| Hah |
| Wuff? |
| Well, well wait here for a bit |
| Wou |

I leaned against Leo and rested until my heart calmed down

Wellwhen youre wet, your clothes stick to you

Up until Leo had shaken, they had been careful to avoid getting too wet.

After that, I left Leo to Ms. Claire and the others, who had changed, and since I felt a little chilled, I went back into the hot water.

By the time that I was completely warm, I was back to normal.

When I got out, I saw that Leo had been dried, and she was sitting there quietly. The others were gone.

When I asked Leo, she said that since it was late, Ms. Claire had taken Tilura to her room, while Ms. Lyra had gone to put Liza to bed.

I suppose they were still embarrassed

And so I changed into the clothes that had been left for me, and realized that my face was growing hot again. It would be best to wait a little before returning to my room.

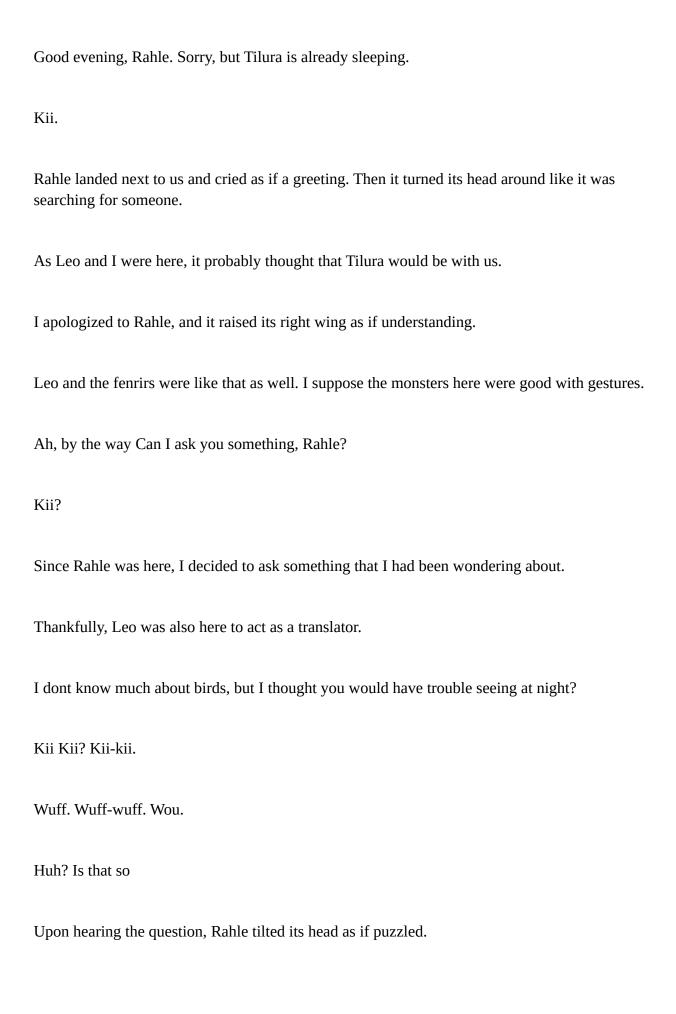
While Ms. Claire was fine, Ms. Lyra might still be in my room

I was able to borrow a cape I see. You may enter. But what brings you here at such a late hour? Uh, I have some business that I forgot about After arriving in Ractos, I banged on the door and called for the guard. There was a small window

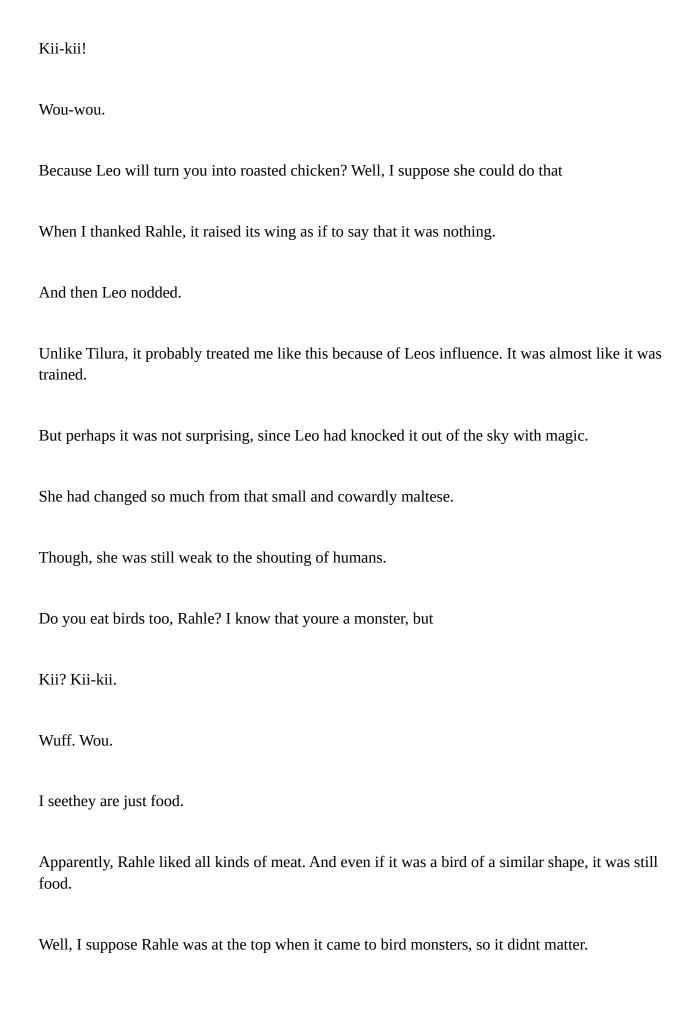
We all washed Leo Ahaha! Mama got smaller! Its true! How interesting! Sherry is like that as well. I suppose it's because they are covered in so much soft hair? The fur gets stuck to her when wet. But the difference is so much stronger because of how fluffy she

I received a big welcome It stopped raining? Wuff? Just when we had almost arrived at the mansion, the rain started to die down, and then stopped completely. I looked up at the sky while taking off my coat. I felt a little lighter then. But I was still wet.

| Chapter 605 |
|---|
| I went out into the back garden |
| LeoI know you just bathed, but lets go outside. |
| Wuff. |
| I thought that it would be good to cool off, and so I headed out into the garden with Leo. |
| Leo seemed to have realized the reason, and so she followed me quietly. |
| Hmm, since its the middle of the night, its quite cool and comfortable |
| The gentle wind felt nice against my body, which was warmed from the hot water. |
| Ah, nevermind me |
| Some of the servants had come out to check on the herbs. And they were about to bring out some tea when they saw me, but I told them that I was fine. |
| Kiii! |
| Oh, Rahle? |
| Wou. |
| As I was enjoying the cool breeze, I heard a familiar cry from the night sky above. |
| Leo was sitting next to me, and she barked in agreement. |
| Kii Kii? |

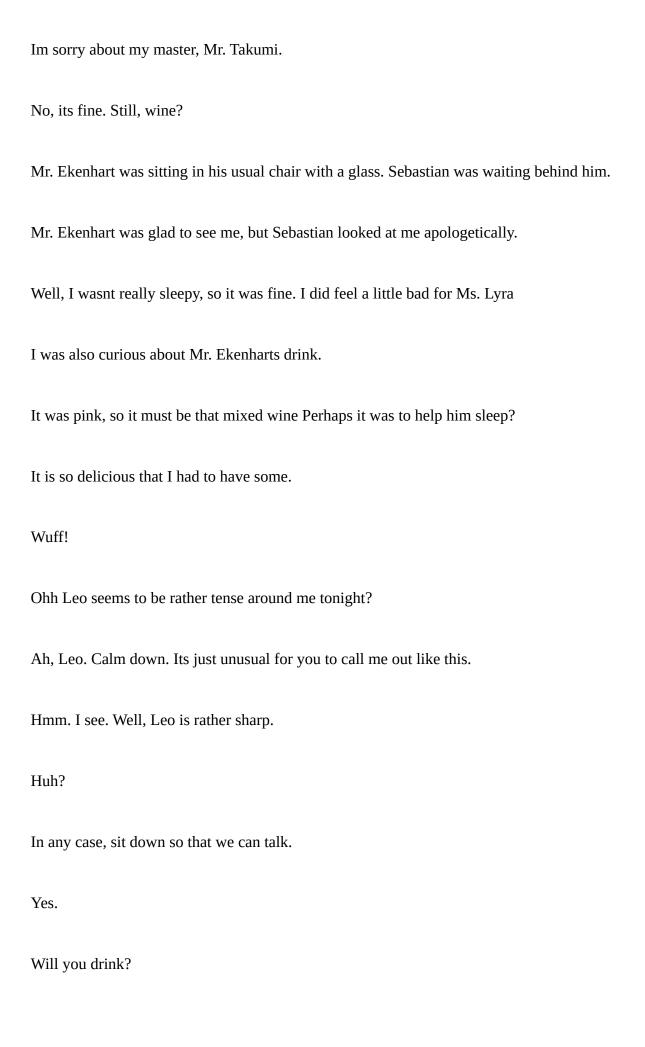


| According to Leos translation, birds here were able to see just as well as humans during the night. |
|--|
| I see |
| Well, maybe it was just something that I misunderstood. After all, owls could see well during the night. |
| Kii. Kii-kii. |
| Wou. Wuff-wuff. |
| Hmm? Is that so? |
| Kii. Kii! |
| Wou! |
| Uh, different from edible birds Well, yes, Rahle isnt like other birds |
| Rahle continued to cry in order to tell me something. |
| According to Leo, it was the birds you could eat that couldnt see well at night So I guess she was talking about chickens? |
| Thank you, Rahle. I learned something useful. |
| Kii! |
| Wou. |
| You really cant say no to Leo, huh. Like she is your leader? |





| If she didnt have to wake me up, then it wasnt anything serious. |
|--|
| Perhaps he was just bored and wanted someone to talk to. |
| Ms. Claire would have rebuked him and told him to go to sleep. |
| I see. So its not urgent then. I had become a little overheated after my bath, and so I was cooling off in the garden. Sorry to have caused you trouble. |
| No, its nothing. Well, he is waiting in the dining hall. |
| Yes |
| Wuff. |
| Oh, youre coming too, Leo? You could go ahead and sleep with Liza if you want. |
| Wuff-wuff. Wou. |
| Uh, its just Mr. Ekenhart. Ill be fine alone. But you can come if you want. |
| Wuff. |
| And so Leo and I followed Ms. Gelda to the dining hall. |
| Excuse me. I have brought Mr. Takumi. |
| Mr. Ekenhart, you called? |
| Ah, Mr. Takumi. You came. Im glad that you werent asleep. |

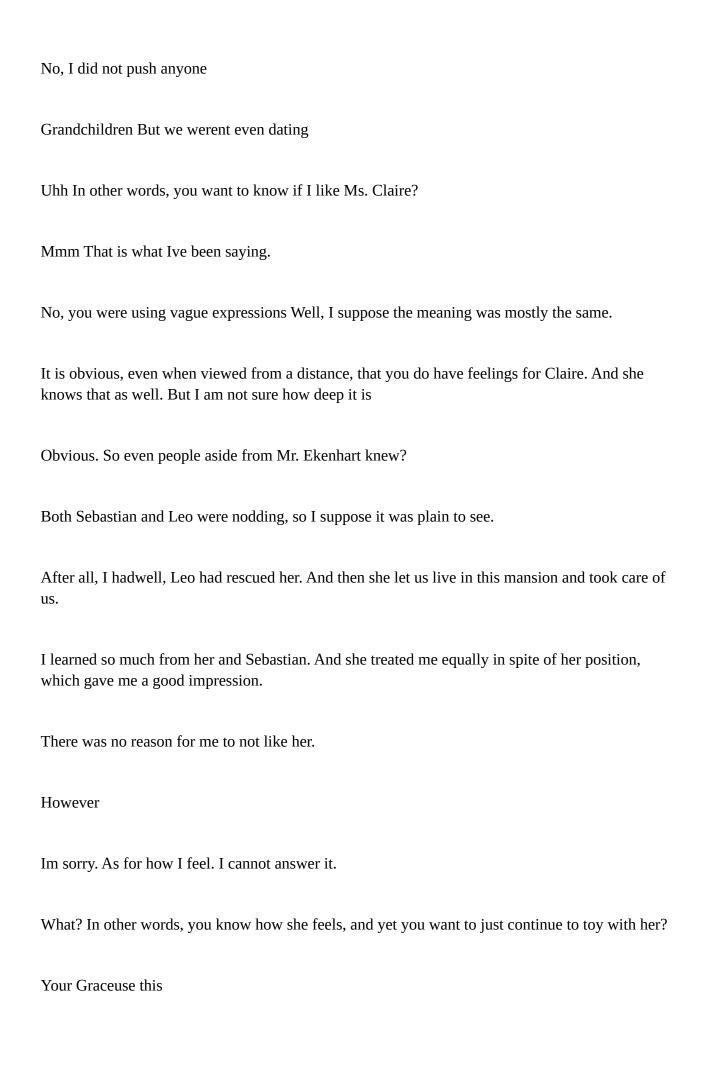




Mr. Ekenhart said as he drained his glass in one gulp. Well, that was like him. Sebastian then poured him another glass. I suppose he cared more about the atmosphere than warning him about drinking too much. I suppose Sebastian knew what Mr. Ekenhart wanted to say. The complaints were heard ...Mr. Takumi wants to confide in me What is it? Ms. Claire was tilting her head with a puzzled expression, but looked a little happy as well. Thats enough talk about me. Why are you here, Mr. Ekenhart and Ms. Claire? Were you not able to Leo discovered something Ms. Claire often seemed like she was holding something back. Perhaps she felt that it was necessary, as the dukes daughter. But from mine and Mr. Ekenharts point of view, it looked a little suffocating. But it was because of that, that the current Ms. Claire was I decided to keep watch, like the last time Sebastian had asked me to gather some tree branches, but before heading out, I turned to another spot that I had been wondering about. Near Johanna, who was pitching a tent, I saw that Mr. Ekenhart was trying to pick up Chapter 607 He questioned me as a father Now, Mr. Takumi Yes. He looked as the wine was poured into his glass He seemed very thoughtful. As the air had grown a little serious, I nodded cautiously. What was he going to say?

| Claire |
|--|
| Yes? |
| What do you mean to doin regards to your relationship with Claire? |
| Huh? |
| Wuff? |
| I was quite surprised by this. |
| This was all about Ms. Claire then? |
| Even Leo was surprised. |
| Umm Your Grace? |
| Mm I got ahead of myself. I am sorry. |
| No |
| Wuff |
| Sebastian had coughed, and Mr. Ekenhart apologized. |
| He had practically shouted it. Perhaps he was a little drunk then. |
| Phew And so, Mr. Takumi. |
| Yes. |

| Mr. Ekenhart emptied his glass again in order to calm down. |
|--|
| Perhaps he should pace himself a little? |
| But Sebastian refilled his cup calmly, so perhaps he was fine. |
| So, I wanted to ask you about Claireand if you have any plans. |
| Uh, well My plans are to go to Range village with her, and work on the fields |
| That is fine. I have my permission. Your idea was good Instead of hiring her, managing it together. However, thats not what I meant |
| Well, I thought of it on a whim What did you mean then? |
| It is just thatwith Claire. You seem to have come rather close. |
| Ah Well |
| Apparently, Mr. Ekenhart was concerned with how close we had become. |
| Of course, I care about her opinion, and so just hearing from you alone does not mean much. Still, if both of you choose the same thing, then I will allow it. |
| His Grace wished to see his grandchildren. |
| Grandchildren!? |
| |
| Sebastian! I did not say that! |
| Indeed? But it seem like you were pushing Mr. Takumi to |



| No, no, no! Not at all. And Sebastian, dont give him that sword right now! Where did it even come from!? |
|--|
| The moment that I refused to answer, Mr. Ekenhard glared at me angrily. |
| It was very scary! |
| Not only was I no match for him in skill, but I had never seen him look so intense before, and so I denied it frantically. |
| Besides, Sebastian was handing him a sword. That was not funny! |
| Aside from Mr. Ekenhart, everyone in the mansion adored Ms. Claire, so I really had to tread carefully here |
| No. But just in case, it might have to be used. |
| Might have to No, that wont happen! |
| Really? |
| Yes! |
| But you cannot answer the question about Claire Does that not mean that you are toying with her? |
| Sebastian put the sword awaysomewhere. |
| And so I ignored him. Still, why was Mr. Ekenhart jumping to that conclusion |
| Mr. Ekenhart had called me The master wants to see you. He said that he wanted to talk to you while the others were away Mr. Ekenhart? Do you know what he wants to talk about? No, I do not. I was merely told to call you, unless you were |

I decided to leave them and go to sleep Sebastian!? It is late. You must be quiet, or you will wake up the others. Unless you do not mind disturbing their sleep, even though it will affect their performance tomorrow. Sebastians voice was very thorny indeed. I quickly opened

More people would be going to the forest Wait a minute, Mr. Takumi? Ms. Claire? As I looked at Liza and waited for her answer, Ms. Claire suddenly interrupted me. Well, uh If little Liza stayed at the mansion, then she would be alone. Butwell. As long as you and

Chapter 608

I Answered Mr. Ekenhart Seriously

While nothing clear had been said, it was true that I often felt that Ms. Claire was fond of me. There was that one time when things had been particularly intimate.

And then Mr. Ekenhart had ruined it.

I cannotanswer it now.

Why is that? I can sense that Leo is tense, so it would be nice if you could just hurry up and tell me

Grr

I repeated that I could not answer, and then Mr. Ekenhart glared at me.

And Leo stood up and glared back at him.

Mr. Ekenhart was overwhelmed and seemed to shrink back.

I suppose it was because he brought out the sword

Its fine Leo, you dont need to intimidate him.

Mr. Ekenhart loved his daughter, and would not attack me out of nowhere.

In any case, it seemed like he would not let me go unless I gave him an answer. And it would affect how he treated me tomorrow. So it was best to say something. Um Well, the truth is that I dont know. You dont know? Yes. I have never been close with someone like her before So I dont know my own feelings Well, I am indebted to Ms. Claire, you, and the people of this house. And while I like her as a person, I dont know if those feelings are romantic yet So you lack experience I see. But even if its just light-heartedly, why not reciprocate a little? No Wouldnt that be toying with her? Well, you might become serious if you try? His Grace failed many times in such a way when he was younger. Until he finally married his late wife In spite of what he said earlier, Mr. Ekenhart was now suggesting that I didnt have to be serious. Surely that would just lead to a situation where he cut me down. It was true that I could change eventually But after hearing how many time Mr. Ekenhart had failed, I did not think it was a good idea. Also, while I am allowed to live here and make money selling herbs, I am still being protected by you.

Well, that is true. Though, with Leo, it is also like we are being protected.



In spite of the fact that he had drunk a lot of wine, he was still intimidating. It reminded me that he was the head of a great house. Still, I held my ground and answered. He was the kind of person that watched closely to see if someone was lying. I had seen him do it with Tilura before, and it certainly made me nervous to be his target. Your Grace What do you think, Sebastian? He is not lying. I have watched Mr. Takumi closely, and he is not the kind of person to lie about such things. Indeed. Exactly. Sorry, Mr. Takumi. I ended up testing you. No She is your daughter, so it is only natural for you to want to assess potential partners Phew Wuff Sebastian and I had talked quite a lot since I came to this world. And so it felt good to be trusted by someone who was trusted by both Ms. Claire and Mr. Ekenhart. He questioned me as a father Now, Mr. Takumi Yes. He looked as the wine was poured into his glass He seemed very thoughtful. As the air had grown a little serious, I nodded cautiously. What

Mr. Ekenhart had called me The master wants to see you. He said that he wanted to talk to you while the others were away Mr. Ekenhart? Do you know what he wants to talk about? No, I do not. I was merely told to call you, unless you were

was he going to say? Claire Yes? What do you mean to

More people would be going to the forest Wait a minute, Mr. Takumi? Ms. Claire? As I looked at Liza and waited for her answer, Ms. Claire suddenly interrupted me. Well, uh If little Liza stayed at the mansion, then she would be alone. Butwell. As long as you and

Chapter 609

Ms. Anne was the reason

Mr. Ekenhart trusted me now, and he apologized for the test.

Well, I understood how he felt, and it didnt bother me that much.

And so I smiled and let out a sigh of relief, as did Leo.

He really had been intimidating and I grew nervous.

In any case, I would be careful to not do anything to lose that trust

Glugphew I suppose I got a little frantic due to what happened earlier.

Indeed. Even if it was a fun situation, their opinions are the most important. Sometimes it is best to leave it to the young.

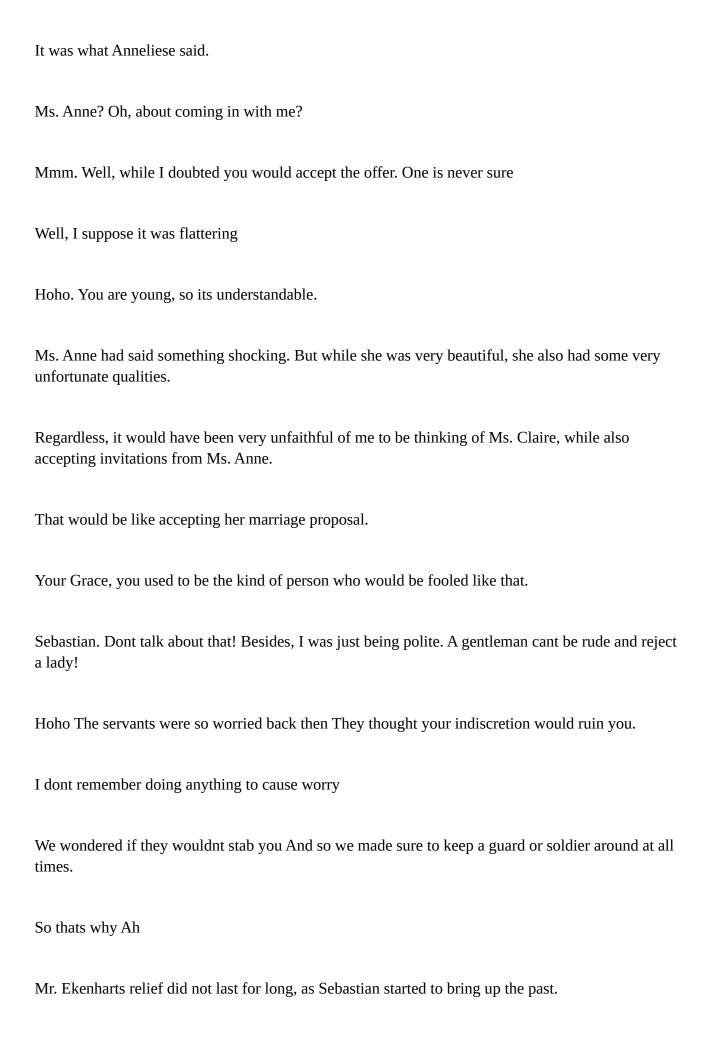
As a father, I wanted to question Mr. Takumi. Though, there was no need to worry

Um, what do you mean? Frantic?

Mr. Ekenhart drank his wine and let out a sigh.

Apparently, he had also been nervous, and was able to relax now.

I suppose he was talking about the bath, but why should he get frantic?



While he did look intimidating now, it was not too surprising Even now, he was quite handsome when he shaved. And given his position, all kinds of ladies would have been interested. Nevermind me. Regardless, I am glad to know that Mr. Takumi is thinking about it seriously. Of course, I hope that they end up together in the end. Together Arent you getting ahead of yourself? Well, a relationship between you two cant stay the same forever. I suppose The thought of my little Claire getting married No, no. You really are moving too fast! I still didnt understand my own feelings, and I wasnt sure about Ms. Claires either. We could not decide anything now.

Why do you want her to get married? She is the oldest daughteryour oldest child. Isnt she your heir? I heard that women can become the head of the family If she were to marry into someone elses family Unless there are other brothers and sisters

Lady Claire and Lady Tilura are His Graces only children. Unless he has hidden illegitimate children

Even I would not do that. As you said, Mr. Takumi, gender does not matter. The first head and founder of this house was a woman. As for the marriage arrangements, that would depend on you and Claire. Obviously, it will be no good if both my daughters left

I see So even if Ms. Claire left, Tilura will be your heir

That is likely. But it could also be any child between you and Claire. Some may not like it, but they will have our blood, so it doesnt matter.

We had a visitor I see, that is good. Well, like that, we learned that there is a lot more to protecting a target, than merely becoming stronger. After seeing that we did not want to hear more, Phillip sighed in relief and his expression brightened. Well, now that I

I Answered Mr. Ekenhart Seriously While nothing clear had been said, it was true that I often felt that Ms. Claire was fond of me. There was that one time when things had been particularly intimate. And then Mr. Ekenhart had ruined it. I cannotanswer it now. Why is that?

A misunderstanding ...Well, I used to know Deam when we were younger. He never trusted anyone, and only thought of using others Though, I never imagined that he would become a boss of the slums. I see So you were friends? No. I never did like the way that he

Chapter 610

I was the Dukes favorite

A child with Ms. Claire The mere thought was embarrassing and much too soon. Well, at least I didnt have to worry too much about Tilura Well, who knew what would happen?

With Barsler, it has already been decided. Because he only has one daughter. It is best to decide quickly.

As Ms. Anne was an only child, there was no way that she would marry into another family.

Unlike Mr. Ekenhart, they cared a lot about their status, and so they would only be thinking about finding someone to take her name.

And we must avoid having you go over there

Uh, what do you mean?

| Wellum |
|---|
| You are hesitating. Is there some problem? Well, Im sure that house will be struggling for a while. |
| Thats not what I mean Hmm |
| Mr. Takumi. His Grace does not want you to leave. Hohoho |
| Sebastian! |
| Not want me to I didnt realize you were that attached? |
| I dont mean it like that! |
| It did feel a little awkward to hear such words from an old man. |
| To have you and Leo go with Anneliese Of course, we would not want that. After all, there is the legend of the Silver Fenrir and our founder. |
| Ah It would look like the count stole your emblem? |
| Something like that |
| There was a legend that their founder was able to treat with Silver Fenrirs on equal footing. |
| And with the help of a Silver Fenrir, the founder had achieved many things and was able to rise to the rank of Duchess. |
| So they felt a sense of duty |
| It was even on the family emblem, and so people would likely spread rumors about why a Silver Fenrir would leave them and go to the count. |

