Beloved Dog 61



With enough pats and words of encouragement, Leo returned to her earlier mood.

She was currently warming herself in front of the fire, and wagging her tail to show that she enjoyed being petted.

...While it was nice that she was wagging her tail, I was worried that she was too close to the fire, and that her fur might get singed.

And so Leo and I spent the time completely relaxed until two hours had passed. And then I heard a rustling sound coming from the tents.

Was it Phillip? However, it seemed a little early for them to come out and trade places with me.

As I thought this and looked towards the tent, I realized that the sound wasn't from the men's tent, but the tent where Ms. Claire and Ms. Lyra were sleeping.

...I wonder what it is? Nature calling?

I waited a little longer, and then Ms. Claire stepped out of the tent.

"Mr. Takumi. Thank you for watching the camp."

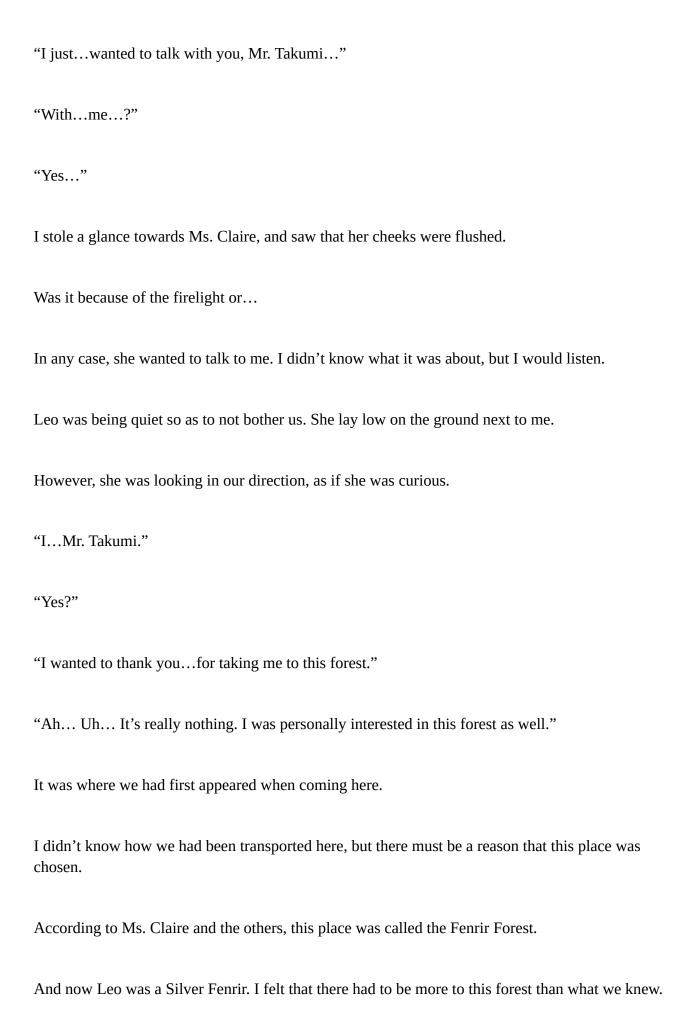
"Not at all. Are you all right? Having trouble sleeping?"

"No... It is not that... May I sit next to you?"

"...Of course."

Ms. Claire sat down next to me, on the opposite side as Leo.

I wonder what was the matter... If she wasn't having trouble sleeping, then it would be best that she get a good and long rest...







Suddenly, it seemed like the conversation was blowing out of proportion...

"We are near the top, even among nobles. And so it is difficult for people to refuse us. While using one's position is not always a bad thing, in our house, it is strictly forbidden to use our power to control others. And I feel as if that is what I did with you."

"...I see."

We were talking on a very different scale now... I really did not mind coming... However, I would first listen to everything that Ms. Claire had to say.

Chapter 62

Ms. Claire's Apology

"It is shameful for the daughter of a duke to use her authority in such a way. Besides..."

"Yes?"

"I knew that it was not in your nature to refuse, and took advantage of it rather forcefully. I can make no excuses for that..."

"I see..."

I really did not see myself as having been forced to do it... If anything, a part of me thought it was a great opportunity.

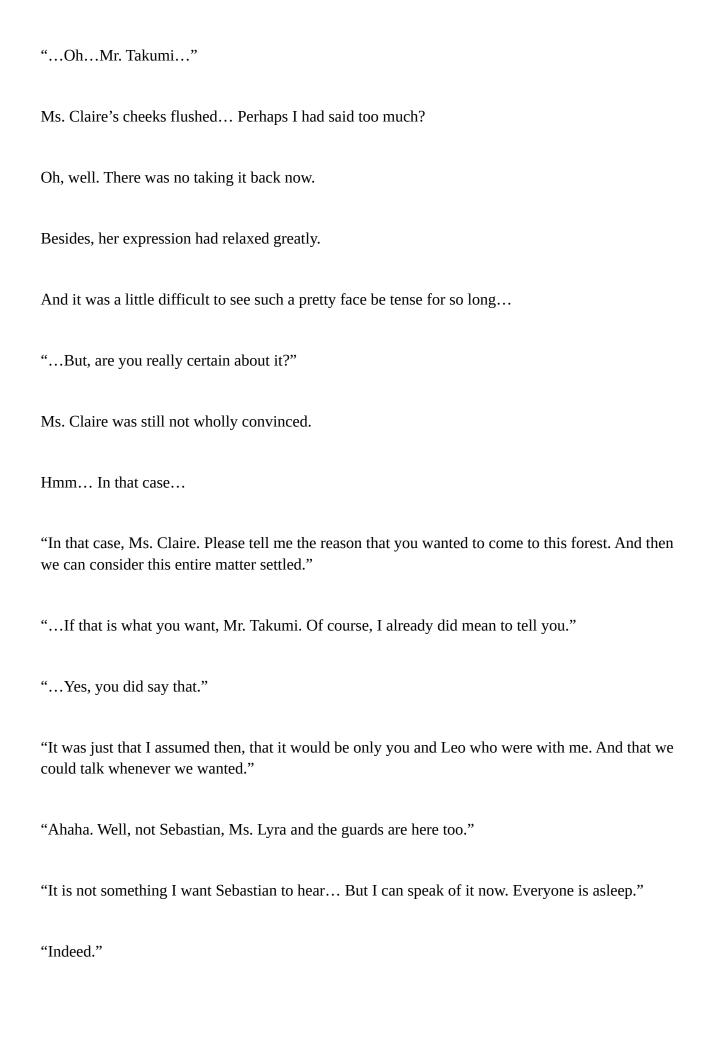
Well, I wouldn't deny that I had been afraid of Ms. Claire in the moment, but that hardly made me feel manipulated.

Besides, I still remember everything she said on that day... And there had been nothing about her position or authority?

Perhaps it was just my way of thinking. But she had never brought up her father being a duke.







So, Ms. Claire was finally going to tell me why she wanted to come to this forest.

The reason that warranted berating her servants and asking me rather vigorously to accompany her... I had been so curious that I only slept for about eight hours at night...

No, that was a joke. Such pointless and unspoken thoughts drifted in my mind as I waited for Ms. Claire to begin.

"I... I have no actual interest in the forest itself. My real interest is with the Silver Fenrirs."

"The ones that aren't Leo?"

"Yes. Different Silver Fenrirs... To borrow your words, Mr. Takumi, the Silver Fenrirs of this world..."

"Hmm... And why are you interested in Silver Fenrirs?"

"It is because... Well, my encounter with Leo is part of the reason..."

Here she paused once and seemed to be deep in thought.

In the meantime, Leo continued to lie there quietly under Ms. Claire's hand.

As she petted Leo, Ms. Claire's face showed a gentle smile that was quite different from her expression earlier.

Leo's healing ability was impressive...

Perhaps this is what they meant when they said Silver Fenrirs were the most powerful... As the silly notion came to me, Ms. Claire seemed to have gathered her thoughts.

"I...when I was born... To be precise, as far back as I can remember...from that time...a certain rumor spread through the household among the servants."

"A rumor?"
"Yes. They were saying that I was the founder, the first lord of the Liebert house, now reborn."
"Reborn Was there a reason for people to think this?"
"That It had to do with a painting."
"Apainting?"
"There were several such paintings. They showed the growth of the first lord of the Liebert house. And one of the paintings was that of a babyAnd I looked just like it."
"You did? Was the founder of your house a woman then?"
"Yes. But in spite of being a woman, she stood on the battlefield and bravely routed out the enemy forces."
So the founder wasa woman Given the stories of battle that led to becoming a noble, I had assumed that she was a man
Chapter 63
Ms. Claire told me the reason that she wanted to come to the forest
"And even as I grew older, I was mirroring the portraits that depicted the growth of the first lord."
"So you were the spitting image of her?"
"Yes. And so the servants of the Liebert household had great expectations as I was raised. I was the first founder reborn. Someone who would surely bring great prosperity to the house"
"Whatabout the otherssuch as your father?"



"And I feel like that when I see Leo. Something just wells up inside of me when it comes to Silver Fenrirs."
"Hmm…"
"I don't know the reason for this. And felt that the only way to find out was to come to this forest where my ancestor first met a Silver Fenrir."
"However There is no guarantee that there will be another Silver Fenrir, is there? Besides, you've already met Leo?"
"If I cannot find one after searching the forest, then that cannot be helped. I will give up when that time comes. As for Leo, I cannot explain it. But while I do feel an excitement, it is not as strong as when I hear about other Silver Fenrirs."
"So you are searching for a Silver Fenrir who is not Leo Is that right?"
"I think that is what it is. However, in any case, it is not an impulse that I cannot control. And so I intend that if we do not find any hints or clues to finding a Silver Fenrir tomorrow, then I will abandon this endeavor."
"Will you really give up?"
"Yes. Just coming here has put not only you, but Sebastian and Lyraand others at risk."
" " · · · ·
"What lies at the end of this fascination with Silver Fenrirs I think about it often. And so for me, this expedition is not only a search to see if they are really in this forest, but also a hope that if they are not, that I can then move on and think of other things."
"I see"
"I canhardly say such things to Sebastian and the others."

"But why is that? Surely they would understand if you explained it to them?"

"...As I said earlier...it was the servants who started and spread the rumors about me being the first Liebert. Now, if Sebastian were to know that such a rumor has become a burden to me, he may feel responsible."

"Ah...that is true."

While it wasn't the sole reason, the rumor had perhaps been an impetus that made Ms. Claire curious of Silver Fenrirs.

What would Sebastian do if he knew... I think he would feel responsible... I was not sure what his exact age was, but he did look like someone who had been around for a long time.

And seeing as how concerned he was for Ms. Claire, and how she trusted him, he was likely a butler at the Liebert house since she was born.

In other words, he was among the servants who began the rumor.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Takumi. To get all wrapped up in someone else's sentiments... I must look rather foolish from the outside, making so much over so little..."

"No, not at all. Besides, I'm glad that I was able to find out what was bothering you."

"You are very kind, Mr. Takumi... Ah..."

"What is it?"

"Well...It's... Everything I told you now. Could you keep it a secret from Sebastian and the others?"

"Hahaha. Very well. I swear that what we heard here shall not leave our lips. Isn't that right, Leo?"

"Wuff!"

"Thank you. Mr. Takumi and Leo."

There was no tension left in the air now, and for a time, I continued to sit there with Ms. Claire and Leo peacefully.

Ms. Claire even spoke a little more about her reasons for being interested in Silver Fenrirs and her ancestor.

Well, there were other questions I had as well, but I thought that I would ask her another time...

I felt quite satisfied already, seeing Ms. Claire's blushing and bashful expressions.

After some time had passed, when it was nearly time to trade places, I heard a voice coming from the direction of the mens tent.

"Ah, Mr. Takumi. Lady Claire. Thank you for taking the first watch. You seem to have been enjoying yourself?"

"Mr. Phillip."

It was Phillip the guard who would take the next watch.

For some reason, Phillip looked like he was trying to hold back a smile as he walked towards us.

And had he always been this talkative?

He had seemed so much more formal and orderly during the day...

"I see that you're back to your old self now that Sebastian isn't around, Phillip."

"Oh... How rude of me. Well, seeing as that old watcher of watchers isn't here, I thought I might as well take it easy."

"...So, this is how Mr. Phillip is usually like." He certainly had a casual way of talking. Of course, I did find it a lot more approachable than the formal way of talking... That was good, right? Chapter 64 Sebastian was Awake "Hahaha. Yes, this is how I usually talk, Mr. Takumi. However, Mr. Sebastian always rebukes me, saying I should be more careful when serving a duke." "I see... And so you're letting it go now that Sebastian isn't here..." "Yes, yes. Something like that." Phillip said with a light chuckle as he sat down by the fire. "Now, Mr. Takumi. It's time for us to trade places." "Yes. I am starting to feel sleepy." "Shouldn't you also get some rest, Lady Claire? Mr. Sebastian will be angry with you again if you aren't fully recovered tomorrow." "...Very well." And so Ms. Claire and I stood up in order to prepare for tomorrow by getting some sleep, just like Phillip suggested.

Even Leo, who had been lying down comfortably as Ms. Claire petted her, also stood up. I supposed she wanted to sleep with me.

As we rose to our feet, Phillip smiled with amusement and said,

"Lady Claire. You really shouldn't think too much of the past. Sebastian and I work at the mansion because you are there."

"...Phillip... You were listening to what I said?"

"...What could you be talking about?"

Phillip looked away in order to escape Ms. Claire's glaring eyes. It was such an obvious attempt at feigning ignorance that I thought he was going to start whistling to himself.

...Apparently, Phillip had been listening to our conversation.

Uh. I hadn't said anything strange, had I?

The thought of him hearing everything that I said to Ms. Claire was also a little embarrassing.

It was too dark to see clearly, but I hoped that my face wasn't turning red...

"...Ha... Let's go then, Ms. Claire."

"...Indeed... I would like to interrogate Phillip a little further...but from the looks of it, he will not be answering my questions."

"Yes. Well, then. I leave the watch to you, Phillip."

"Aye! I'll protect you, so sleep well!"

And with that, Ms. Claire and I returned to the tents.



"Good night." And then I went to the mens tent. But when I glanced over my shoulder, I saw that Ms. Claire had not moved, and was eating the herb I had given her. When she was done, she stepped into her tent. ...I do hope that she feels well tomorrow. The herb that I had given her. I had made it while thinking of those supplements they used to sell while I was working. They always had these taglines about how effective they would be during those times when you were still tired after sleeping. I had tried eating it before bed yesterday, and woke up feeling very refreshed. Though, only trying it once myself was not a guarantee that it would work for everyone, but I felt that it would be fine. And so I ate some of the herb as well as I entered the tent. Leo was too big to fit inside, and so I would lay out a blanket on the ground in front for her to sleep on. Her coat was so long and thick, that I was sure that the cold would not bother her. I even asked her about it, and Leo nodded that she was all right. And so I petted her lightly as she rolled up into a ball, and then I got inside of the hemp sleeping bag that was in the tent... Once inside, I closed my eyes. That's when Sebastian suddenly called to me.



"Hahaha. But you are still in the prime of life." "I do hope so. Hohoho." After we laughed over this, we quietly went to sleep. There were times when you did see Sebastian's age while looking at him. But he was so energetic... Even today, he had walked through the forest and searched for a camping spot and even helped pitch the tents. And yet he never showed how tired he was. Clearly he was young enough. It was with such thoughts that consciousness faded away from me. ...Thanks to the herbs, I was able to fall into a deep, dreamless sleep. Perhaps these herbs are more effective than those supplements with the suspicious marketing? I think I will call them good sleep herbs. The next morning, when I awoke from my sleep, I felt completely refreshed and without feeling anything from the previous day. And so I became sure that the herbs were effective. Chapter 65 We Started To Search Through The Forest "Good morning, Mr. Takumi." "Good morning, Ms. Claire, and everyone." In the morning, I got out of the tent and washed up at the river. Then I returned to the fire to see that Ms. Claire was sitting there.

Johanna sat next to her, and Ms. Lyra was already using the pot and preparing breakfast.

As for Phillip, Sebastian and Nicholas, they were discussing how we would go about exploring the forest.

...So I was the last person to get up...

And so I greeted Ms. Claire and then the others.

Leo had also woken up before me, and was waiting behind Ms. Lyra.

Clearly, she was quite hungry.

"Mr. Takumi. Thank you for the herbs last night. I was able to sleep very well and feel none of the fatigue from yesterday."

"I'm glad that it was so effective. I tried it myself, and it does seem that I was successful in making them."

"Lady Claire. What are these herbs you speak of?"

Johanna, who sat next to her, seemed very curious.

"Mr. Takumi gave them to me last night before I went to sleep. He said that they would help to rid me of any tiredness..."

"Well, it's supposed to help you sleep. And I suppose a good and deep sleep is what helps get rid of the tiredness of the day."

"You have such a herb..."

After that, since Sebastian and the others also showed an interest, I decided to share it amongst them.

Of course, I did not have much with me, but there was enough for everyone to use for a night. It hadn't been decided yet how long we would stay here, but I told them to use it whenever they wanted. After that, Ms. Lyra was finished cooking. And so I handed Ms. Lyra her share of the herbs while accepting my breakfast. It was the same orc meat we had yesterday. Because we needed to eat it before it went bad. Once we were finished, we would explore the forest. While being with Leo meant we wouldn't have to worry about being attacked by monsters, it also wasn't efficient for us to explore as one large group. And so I, Leo, Ms. Claire and Sebastian would explore the forest. Phillip and Nicholas would explore the area surrounding the camp, drive away any nearby monsters and look for traces of fenrirs. Ms. Lyra would stay in the camp and watch the fire, and Johanna would keep her safe. "Well, then. Let's go, Lady Claire, Mr. Takumi and Leo." "Very well." "Yes." "Wuff!"

Sebastian took the lead, Leo and I followed, and Ms. Claire was in the back.

As long as Leo and I cut down the bushes and trees, it would be easier for her to walk.

...Though, this was mainly thanks to Leo's body being so big.

We moved farther away from the river and continued to walk silently through the forest for some time.

After about an hour had passed, the area grew dense with trees to the point where the sunlight barely got through, and it became quite dark.

"...It's getting dark."

"Indeed... At this rate, it will be too dark to see anything that might approach us. Lady Claire, are you all right?"

"I'm still fine. I'm not at all tired like I was yesterday."

Unlike yesterday, Ms. Claire was having no trouble keeping up with us.

There wasn't much to carry this time, and it was easier to walk, thanks to Leo using her body to press down or break away any branches and plants that were in our path.

"...Still, it will be quite dangerous when we can barely see our feet. I suppose I have no choice then. Though, I had wanted to save my magic energy for emergencies."

"...Magic?"

"Yes. I will use some light magic."

So saying, Sebastian raised the short sword that he was using to cut down the branches.

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"Light Elemental Shine."
Sebastian chanted, and the raised blade began to glow.
"Now it will be easier to see our surroundings."
The sword was now emitting a light that was so bright that it hurt to look at it directly.
And so the dark forest brightened up, even though we could barely see our feet a moment ago.
It wasn't quite as bright as being directly under the sun, but we could now see quite deep into the
forest.
"What convenient magic."
"It's simple magic. All I did was create some light. You will be able to do it as well with some
practice, Mr. Takumi."
"Magic... Will you teach it to me when we return to the mansion?"
"If you wish."
"Hmm... I could also teach you a little..."
"Hohoho. However, Lady Claire. Surely you must recall that it was I who taught you the basics of
magic? And so you must agree that I am more suited for the job?"
"...But I have studied since then! I can teach him as well!"
"Hohoho. In that case, I shall leave it to you, Lady Claire. You must be very pleased, Mr. Takumi."
"...Yes."
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I muttered quietly.

What was this...? It seemed like Sebastian had a habit of trying to match me up with other people.

It seemed rather strange, since he was Ms. Claire's butler?

And he had done something similar with Ms. Lyra... What was his goal here?

We continued to talk like this as we walked deeper into the forest. However, we did not find anything that day.

We checked our watches to keep track of time so that we would be able to return to the camp before the sun came down.

On our way back, I talked with Sebastian and Ms. Claire about it, and we decided to explore in a different direction tomorrow.

And in spite of the fact that we did nothing but just walk, Leo seemed to have enjoyed it beginning to end.

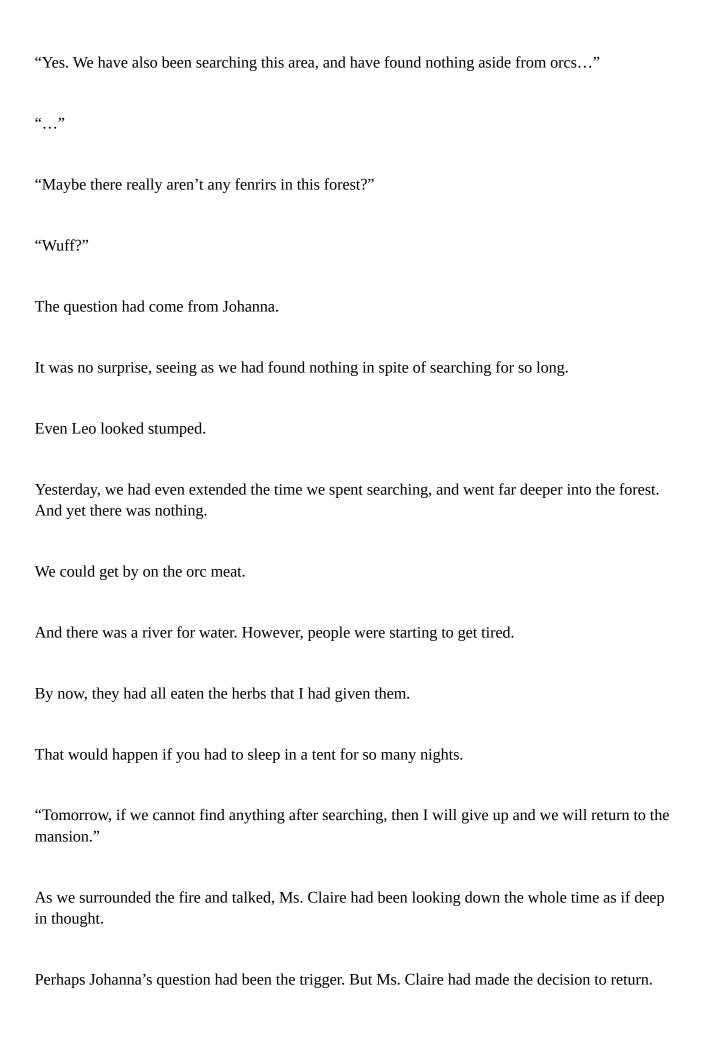
Perhaps it was because she said that there was something about the forest that felt nostalgic.

And then two days passed. We continued our search, but did not find so much as a trace of the fenrirs being there.

We did not lack for food, as Leo would take down any orcs we happened to encounter, but we were running out of vegetables.

And so after dinner, we talked about the search.

"This will now be the third day of the search and the fourth day since we entered the forest... And yet we have nothing to show for it."



Chapter 66

The Last Day of the Forest Search

"Are you sure, Lady Claire?"

"Yes. I doubt staying any longer in this forest will be much good. We should withdraw before everyone grows too tired to walk."

"Yes, that is true, but..."

Sebastian had a harsh expression as he listened to Ms. Claire's decision.

No, it wasn't just Sebastian. Phillip and the guards and Ms. Lyra also looked deeply troubled.

But there was a reason that Sebastian and Ms. Lyra, who had initially been against coming here, had such expressions.

It was because they had all heard what Ms. Claire and I had talked about while I was on guard duty.

While Ms. Claire didn't know it, I think she might have sensed something.

As for me, I just kept my mouth shut.

It seemed that the way it had spread was that Phillip had told the other guards, and then Johanna had told Ms. Lyra.

When resting in the tent, and as people changed shifts, they would ask me if it was true that Ms. Claire was troubled over it, and I didn't know how to respond.

In the end, Sebastian had calmed them all down by declaring that they would get to the root of her troubles by exploring the forest.

All of them seriously wanted to do something to help her.

Ms. Claire really was loved by the servants. "I can't just continue to involve all of you in my whims. And so if we don't find anything tomorrow, we will return to the mansion." "...I understand." With Sebastian leading the others, they all nodded with looks of disappointment. Of course, I felt the same. Especially since I had heard the words directly from Ms. Claire. If only we could find something that was connected to the fenrirs or Silver Fenrirs. But no matter how much I wished for this, we could not find anything. Regardless, the matter had been settled, and so we went to bed, knowing that tomorrow was the last day. While the order in which we took the watch changed every day, we were paired up the same as during the first day. Once, orcs had attacked us in the middle of the night. Well, it was when Johanna and Ms. Lyra were on guard duty. And Leo, who was supposed to have been asleep, got up quickly and turned them into meat.

It was the last one that I had saved after sharing the rest with the others.

And so in preparation for tomorrow, I ate some good sleep herbs and went to bed.

Now, I hoped that we would find something tomorrow!

The next day, after we finished eating breakfast, we left Ms. Lyra and Johanna at the camp and the rest of us stepped foot into the forest.

We also set the time for returning to the camp later than usual, so that we could search for as long as possible.

In fact, since it would be a waste of time to go back in order to eat lunch, Ms. Lyra had given us some orc meat that had been cooked in herbs that we could carry with us.

And so we would eat that for lunch, and have a proper dinner when we finished our search and returned in the evening.

Unlike previous days, we would enter the forest from an area that was reached after crossing the river.

As the river only went up to your thighs, it wasn't too hard to cross as long as you were careful so that your feet didn't slip.

Of course, you still got wet. And that was why we had been avoiding it.

Now that Ms. Claire had decided to return, this was no time to hesitate just because our feet might get wet.

And so even Ms. Claire did not care about getting wet as she crossed and joined us in searching.

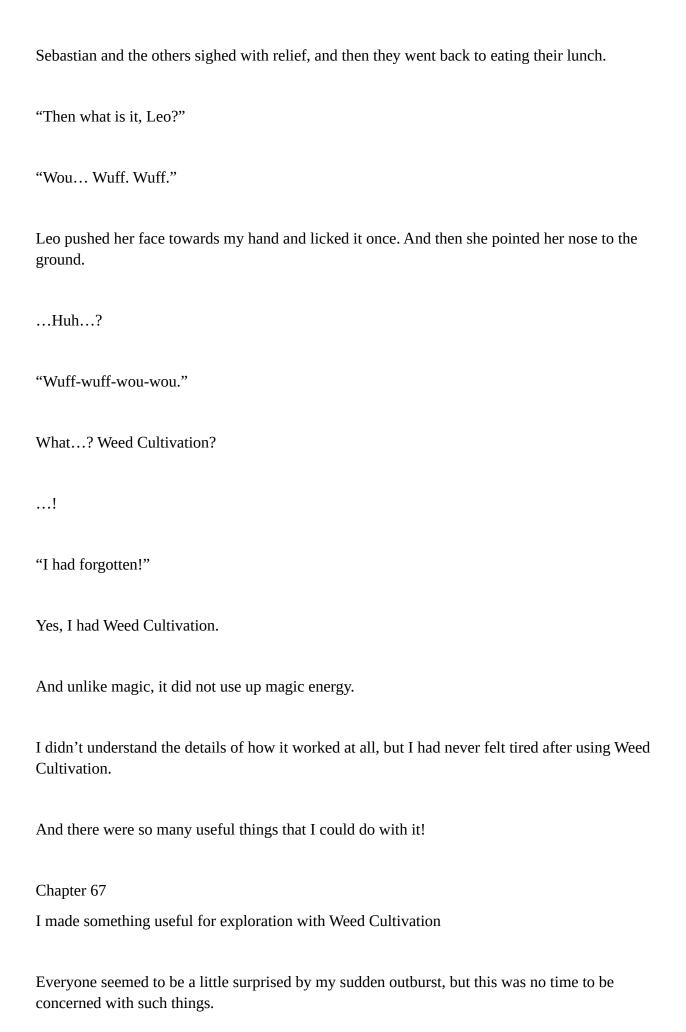
Well, it wasn't as if we had searched everywhere on the other side before crossing the river. However, if this was the last day, we might as well try and step out into completely new territory. That had been Phillip's opinion.

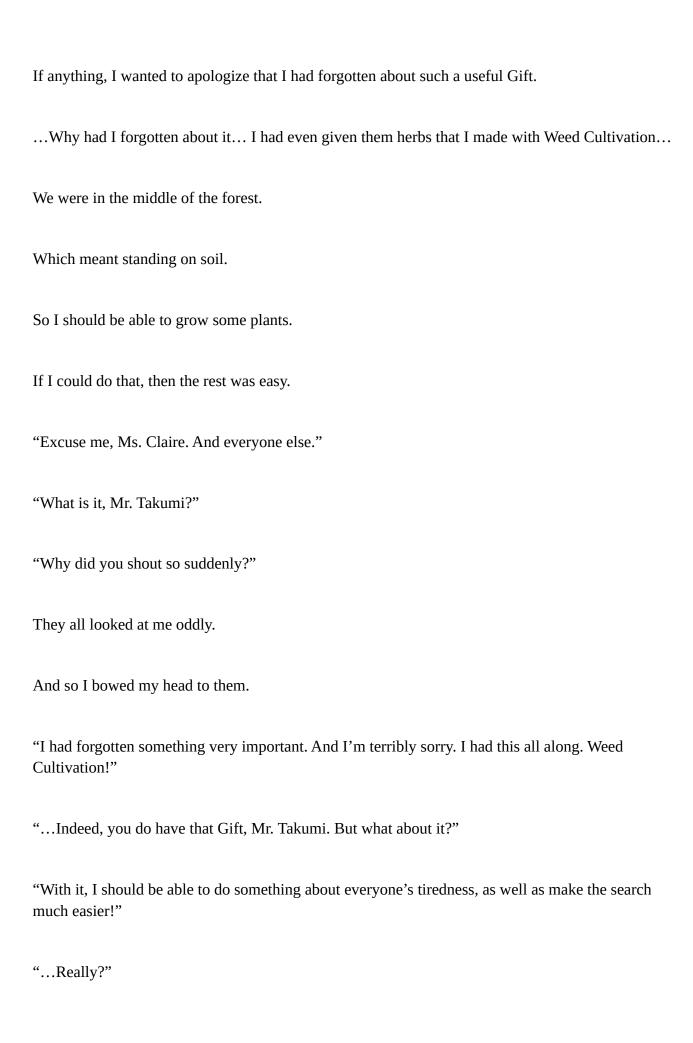
And so a few hours after crossing the river, we walked through the dense forest.

Sebastian and Phillip used magic to light our path as we advanced.









"...Mr. Takumi. But isn't your Gift something that makes plants? Like Loe... And you did give us something to help us rest..." "That's it. I had been doing some tests. And the herb I gave to you was the result of those tests. Not only that, but it was a plant whose appearance and effect had been completely unknown to me." "What do you mean?" "Hmmm... I don't think we have time for a detailed explanation, so I'll avoid that now. In any case, please let me test to see if I can use Weed Cultivation here." "...Of course." I said, and everyone decided to watch me quietly. I also patted and thanked Leo for reminding me. "Thank you, Leo. You made me remember something important." "Wuff!" Leo wagged her tail happily and barked as if to say that I was welcome. Really, why had I forgotten... I had even been studying it. The reason was clearly my own carelessness, but now was not the time for regrets. And so in order to use Weed Cultivation, I placed my hands on the ground. ...First, I needed to make sure that I could do it. I used Weed Cultivation and tried to grow the first plant that came to my mind.



The others then helped me pick the finished plants.

Not only that, but I then held each plant and changed it so that they would be effective as medicine.

During previous experiments, I had discovered that Weed Cultivation was able to change plants into a state where they would have maximum effectiveness.

Though, it was mainly because I had known that I was able to dry the Ramogi with my hands.

And so I tested it with others, and fresh plants dried in a second.

"Uh, here. Ms. Claire, Sebastian, Phillip and Nicholas. Please eat these."

"...Are you quite sure?"

Ms. Claire held the dried plant in her hand and looked at it skeptically.

The others reacted in a similar way.

Well, I could not blame them.

While they were green leaves, the leaves had purple lines running through them. And some might feel that they looked poisonous.

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"It's fine. See? *gulp*."
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"…"

In order to show them, I ate the leaf myself.

It was in no way delicious, but since Leo was looking at me as if she wanted some too, I gave her some.

This seemed to satisfy the others, and they all shoved the leaves into their mouths.

And while they scowled at the taste of the leaves, they chewed and swallowed. And after a few seconds had passed, their expressions changed.

"This is...amazing! I have never felt so energized before!"

"Yes, it's true... Mr. Takumi, what a wonderful plant you have created."

"It's...astonishing..."

"I feel like I do right before I start training!"

Ms. Claire, Sebastian, Phillip and Nicholas were all surprised as they began to move around.

...It was good that they weren't tired, but perhaps moving around so much would just make them tired all over again?

"Wou! Wou!"

Leo was also full of energy now, and she began to run through the forest while adeptly weaving through the trees.

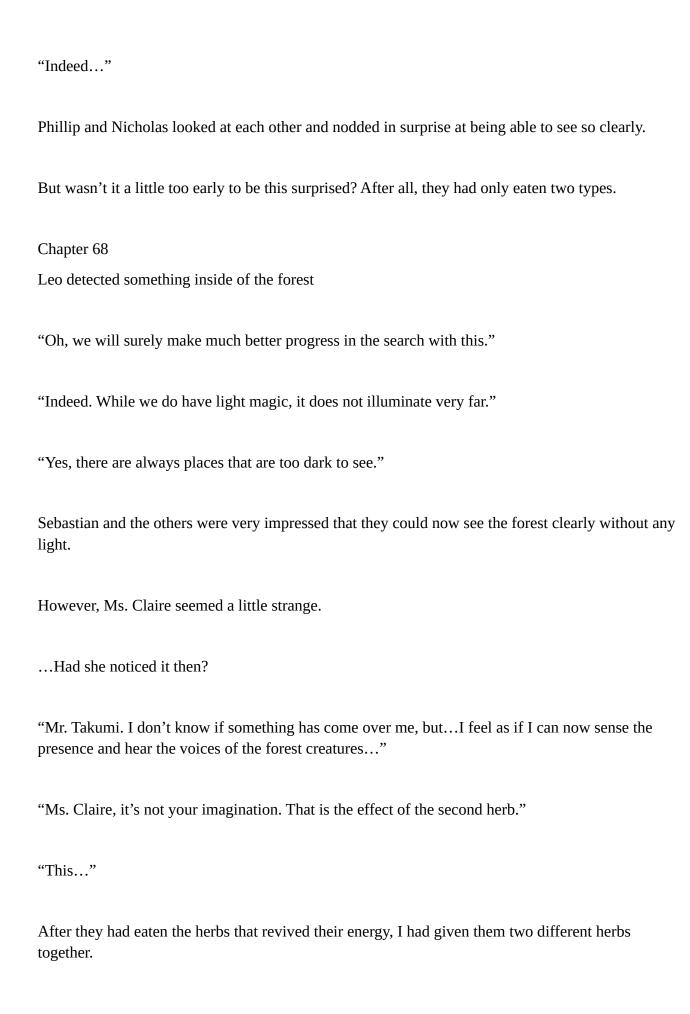
...Or maybe she had always been like this?

"I'm glad that they were effective. Now, try...these ones."

"There's more?"

Asked Ms. Claire as she accepted the herbs.





One was the herb that allowed them to see in the dark with only a little light, which Sebastian and the others were so impressed with.

And the second was a herb that enhanced your ability to detect presences and sounds that were around you.

With this, we should be able to detect any fenrirs if they were close by.

"Here...have some too, Leo."

"Wuff...munch...wou..."

"It tastes bad...? Sorry about that."

I called over Leo, who had been running around wildly, and fed her some of the herbs.

However, the taste had not been to Leo's liking.

She lowered her head with a disgusted expression, but ate the rest anyway.

Good girl, Leo.

As Leo ate, I looked to see how the others were doing.

"This...I can see my surroundings without light. On top of that, I can even detect creatures and sounds that are far away and blocked by the trees..."

"Nicholas...in that direction...it is probably an orc. So this is what it's like to have your senses sharpened."

"Indeed. I can even hear their breathing. It is as if I can see them."

"This really is the perfect herb for exploring a forest. ... With these sharpened senses, I think that we might just discover something today!" They were all feeling the potency of the herbs. Sebastian was impressed by the effects, Phillip and Nicholas were comparing what they sensed and confirming that they were correct. The tired expression Ms. Claire had a moment ago was completely gone, and she looked quite elated and immediately started to search for some clue concerning the finrirs and Silver Fenrirs. "Wuff!" Oh, Leo had finished eating her herbs. The reason I had Ms. Claire and the others eat it, was to make it easier to navigate through the forest. But Leo's senses were already incredibly sharp. She had even detected the orcs much earlier than Phillip and the guards. And I thought that if those senses were sharpened even farther, then she might be able to find something. "Leo... Anything different?" "Wou...wou!" Her expression looked sharper than before as she moved her head to scan the area. However, it seemed that there was nothing here. "Well, tell me if you do see something."

"Wuff!" Leo nodded in reply. "Now, Sebastian and Ms. Claire. Apparently, there is nothing here. And since we have rested enough, perhaps it is time to continue the search." "Indeed. I feel a lot better now, thanks to you, Mr. Takumi. And so we should be able to explore much farther than usual." "The ability of Weed Cultivation is amazing. I was surprised when you made the Loe, but I hadn't realized that it could also be used in this way." "Hahaha. It was because I was able to borrow the back garden and do some studying. And this is the result." "Weed Cultivation... I'm sure there are even more ways to use it." "Indeed." Because it had 'weed' in the name, people were bound to think that it was a useless ability that just created unwanted plants. But with a little thought, there was so much that you could do. Once we returned to the mansion, I would use the garden again and study it more thoroughly. And so we went deeper and deeper into the forest.

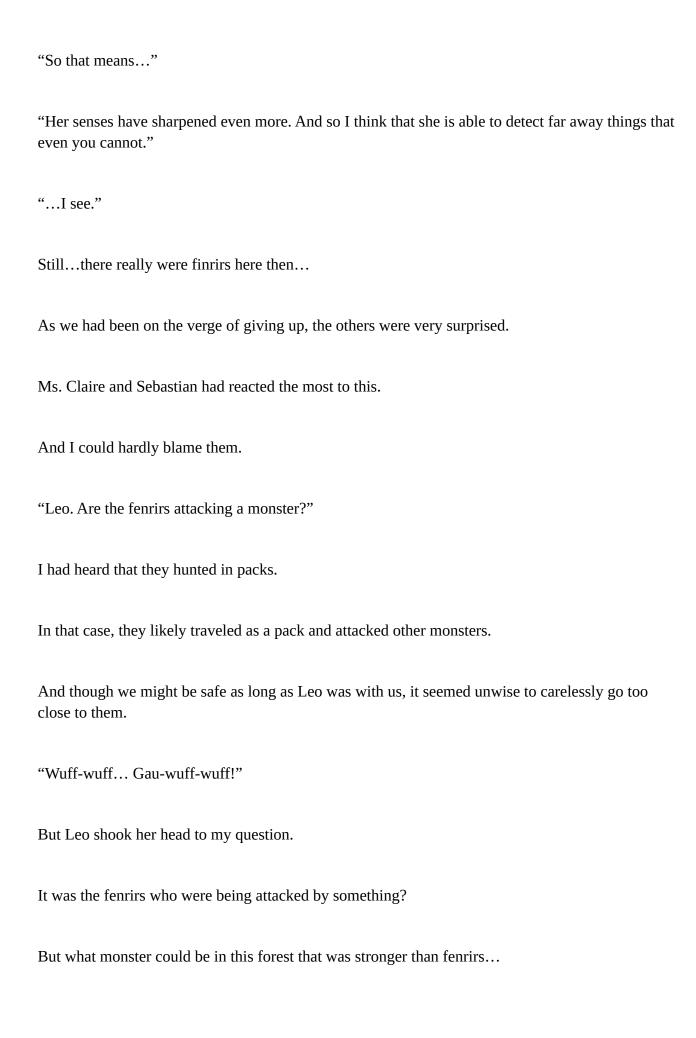
According to them, their senses had been so sharpened that they were able to predict how the orcs would move. And so dodging their spears and cutting them down with swords had become much easier.

On the way, we encountered some of the usual orcs, but this time Phillip and Nicholas defeated

them.





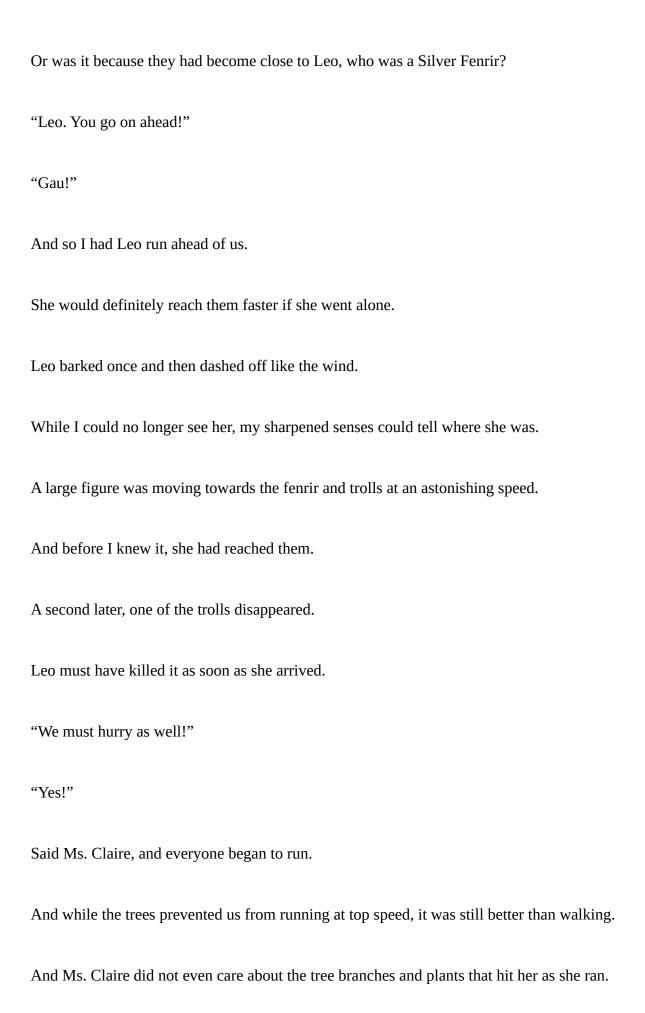


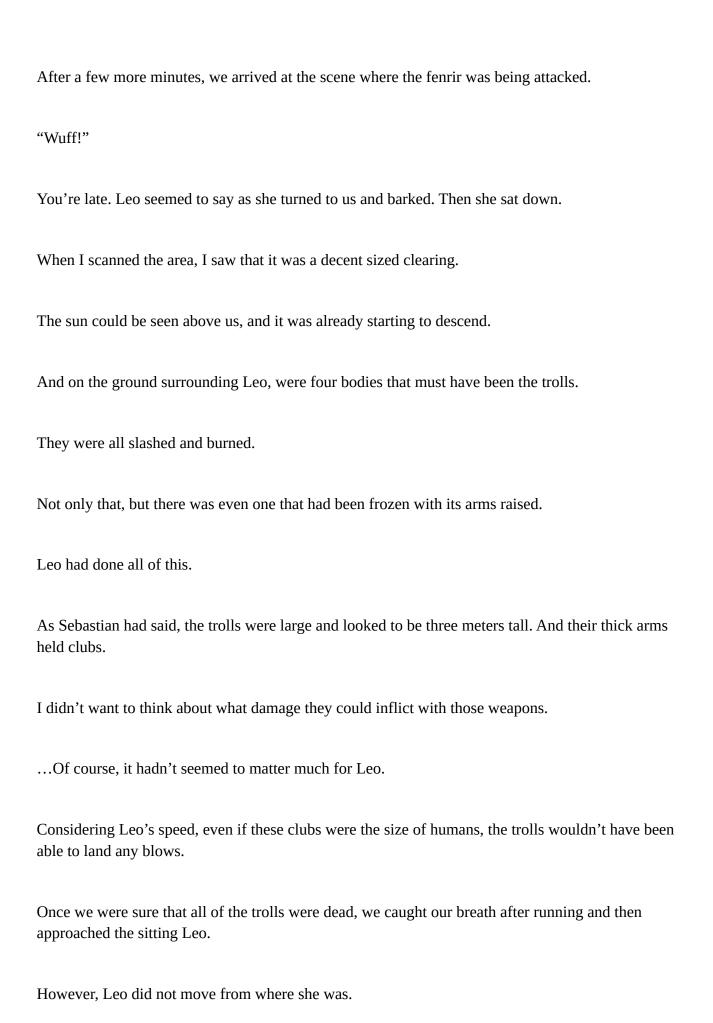
"Ms. Claire, Sebastian. It seems like the fenrirs are being attacked. Are there monsters who are stronger than fenrirs in this forest?" "A monster that attacks fenrirs..." "I do believe that there are monsters that would attack fenrirs...at least, if there are many of them, and they are attacking a single fenrir... Perhaps a troll..." "A troll... What kind of monster is that?" "They are giants who are three meters tall. And they have such monstrous strength, that they can knock down trees with a single hand. And while it is said that they are weaker than fenrirs, if there a multiple trolls and only a single fenrir, then it may be a fair fight." "I see... Leo. What kind of monsters are attacking the fenrirs?" "Wuff...gau-gau-gau." Five large monsters that walk on two legs... Yes, Sebastian was probably right, and they were trolls. "I believe you are right, and they are trolls. Leo says that there are five of them." "I see..." "Let's go and help the fenrirs then!" Ms. Claire had been silent up until now, but she suddenly shouted. "But Lady Claire, there are five trolls. And we are not enough to go up against such an enemy!" "But...!"

Orcs were no match for them. And Leo agreed.











And it looked similar to Leo. Like it was a dog or a wolf. However, it was no larger than a medium-sized dog, which seemed very small compared to the silvery Leo who sat behind it. But now that I thought about it, fenrirs were supposed to be considerably smaller than Silver Fenrirs. Leo would occasionally glance at us and then continue to rub her nose against the fenrir. "What is it...Leo?" "Wuff...wuff..." Leo barked despondently. "May I take a closer look?" Sebastian squinted his eyes and moved closer to Leo. At the same time, I moved to stand next to Leo. And then Ms. Claire followed to stand next to me. "...These are...terrible wounds..." "I had thought that the fur was brown, but..." "How horrible..."

Sebastian's hand touched the fenrir as he inspected the wounds.

And as Ms. Claire and I watched, we realized that we had misunderstood. I had assumed that the fenrir's fur was a brown color, but it was not. So much blood had flowed from the wounds and then it had been covered in dirt as the trolls attacked it. There were patches that weren't caked in soil, and you could see that the fur was still white. This was proof that it usually had a clean, white coat. "Wou..." Leo sounded very worried about the fenrir as she looked at Sebastian. "Hmm... This..." "How bad is it, Sebastian?" "...I think that we arrived too late... While it is still alive now...that will not last for long..." "...No... And after it took us so long to finally find one..." " " "Wou..." Apparently, the wounds were very bad. The trolls must have beaten it severely.

Upon seeing this, Leo stopped rubbing her nose over it.



