

## Beloved Dog 71

Chapter 71

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 leg was now pointing in the right direction.

“...Oh, Mr. Takumi!”

“Wuff! Wuff! Wou!”

Ms. Claire’s eyes welled up with tears as she covered her mouth with her hand. Leo let out a bark of joy.

“To think that there is a herb that can heal fatal wounds...”

Sebastian had an expression of astonishment as he watched the healed fenrir.

Well, I had not known if it would work well either. And so I was also surprised at how effective it was.

“Mr. Takumi, this is amazing!”

“Wuff! Wuff!”

Ms. Claire and Leo were filled with uncontainable excitement.

“...Hahaha. It just happened to go well. I was not at all sure that I would be able to make something like this.”

“Weed Cultivation... What a wonderful ability!”

“Wuff!”

Ms. Claire and Leo were looking at me with beaming expressions.

It was becoming a little embarrassing...

“Is it just me, or did we witness something incredible?”

“Yes, we did, Phillip. A lethal wound was healed in an instant... That’s not an everyday occurrence, I think.”

Phillip and Nicholas had been watching at a short distance away, but they could also not hide their reaction.

“While the wounds are healed...I don’t think its energy has recovered.”

Sebastian was the first to calm down, and he took out a small blanket from his bag and wrapped it around the fenrir.

Yes. This was no time to be talking about the herb’s effect. The fenrir was more important.

“We’ll have to keep it warm.”

“Yes.”

“Sebastian... Can I touch it...?”

“Lady Claire. This fenrir was badly wounded and on the brink of death. Surely it should be left alone for now.”

“...I see.”

Ms. Claire sounded a little disappointed.

Did she want to touch it so badly...?

“Wuff.”

“Oh, Leo. Thank you.”

Leo put her face near Ms. Claire and allowed herself to be petted instead.

Ms. Claire smiled with satisfaction.

“However, this fenrir...judging from its size, it must be a pup.”

“Is that so?”

As it looked like a medium-sized dog, I had thought that it would be older.

It was small compared to Leo, but that was just because Leo was too big.

And since I had heard that fenrirs were smaller, I figured that maybe this was close to their average size.

“So a fenrir pup was separated from its pack and then got attacked by trolls.”

“Yes.”

“Hmm? Speaking of which, what happened to the trolls that Leo defeated?”

“Lady Claire, we took care of them while you were tending to the fenrir.”

“While we couldn’t move the one that was frozen, we dug a whole and buried the ones that were cut up by Leo.”

So that’s what they had been doing.

Well, no one would want to see the mutilated corpses of monsters lying around the forest.

Though, the one that was now an ice statue was still standing there...

I...wonder how long it will take to melt...

“It is sleeping very peacefully.”

Said Ms. Claire as she watched the healed fenrir.

“Indeed.”

As Leo lay on the ground as if to envelope the fenrir with her fur, she brought her face close to it.

A short while ago, it had been breathing weakly as if in pain, but now that the bleeding had stopped and the wounds closed, its breathing had become calm.

“It will take a while for its expended energy to return.”

“We should let it rest then.”

While I had used a herb that healed wounds, it didn’t have the effect of recovering energy.

...But perhaps this was enough. I didn't want to have to force-feed it grass while it was trying to go to sleep.

"Wou...Wou-wou."

"Hmm? What is it, Leo?"

Now that we were relieved that the fenrir was healed, we were just about to leave.

We had to return to camp soon, as it was getting quite late.

Ms. Claire and Sebastian were looking up at the sky to see the position of the sun.

However Leo barked at us to stop.

"Wou-wou...wuff."

After barking in our direction, she looked down at the fenrir she was enveloping, and moved her head as if to pick up the fenrir with her jaw.

"...You want to take it with you?"

"Wuff-wuff."

Leo nodded.

Take it... But could fenrirs be around humans?

"...Ms. Claire. Sebastian."

"What is it?"

“What is wrong?”

They turned away from the sky and looked towards me.

And so I told them that Leo wanted to bring the fenrir back with us.

“Good Leo...the fenrir...”

“...I approve of it.”

“Lady Claire. We are able to get close to this fenrir now, because it is asleep. But surely you understand that they are vicious monsters? Who knows what will happen when it wakes up...”

“But... If we leave it here, it may be attacked by monsters again.”

“That is...true, but...”

“Wuff-wuff. Wuff-wou-wou!”

Leo barked as if in support of Ms. Claire’s decision.

And then she would gesture, raising her paws and moving her head. She was saying that it was safe to take the fenrir. And while she argued her case, she was careful to not wake the fenrir that slept in front of her.

While it was nothing new, a dog using gestures was so very... Well, she was a Silver Fenrir.

But sometimes, Leo’s gestures were very comical... It was with such thoughts in my head that I told Sebastian that I too agreed that we should take the fenrir with us.

## Chapter 72

We took the rescued fenrir back with us

“Sebastian. I also think that we should take the fenrir back with us.”

“You too, Mr. Takumi...”

I told him that I agreed with Leo and Ms. Claire.

It was because of something that Leo had said before we came to this forest.

“Do you remember what Leo said when we were deciding whether or not to come here?”

“Umm...indeed...it was that if Leo was with us, then fenrirs would not attack...”

“Yes. And that fenrirs would always submit to Silver Fenrirs, who were their superior. In that case, as long as Leo is here, it will not try to hurt anyone.”

“...Hmm... So it's safe if Leo is with us...”

“Yes.”

“Sebastian...”

Sebastian was deep in thought at this.

Ms. Claire was looking at him with a pleading expression.

“...Yes...very well. We will take it back and watch it closely.”

“Thank you!”

“Thank you, Sebastian.”

“However! If it harms anyone in the mansion, it will be dealt with like any other hostile monster. And Leo must watch it at all times. Those are the conditions.”

“Of course.”

“...Very well.”

“Wou!”

No matter how much Leo said that it would be fine, we couldn't be sure.

After all, the servants had never had to take care of a fenrir before.

They were supposed to be dangerous monsters.

So it was only natural that they would be cautious.

And so Ms. Claire, Leo and I all nodded at Sebastian's conditions.

“Now, I think it is time that we leave. The sun has nearly set.”

“Yes.”

“We now know that there are fenrirs in this forest. That is enough to make the journey worth it.”

While Ms. Claire might have wanted to meet a Silver Fenrir, this was still our last day here.

We would return to the campsite to rest. And on the following day, we would take down the tents and return to the mansion.

We had been in this forest for nearly a week now, which was quite long, since none of us were used to it.

“I will carry it then. Is that all right, Good Leo?”



“Wuff.”

Ms. Claire said as she moved close to Leo.

Leo barked once and slowly moved away from the fenrir that she had been enveloping.

“...Hmm. It is a lot lighter than it looks.”

The fenrir was still caked in mud and blood, but Ms. Claire did not mind it getting on her clothes as she picked it up.

“Ms. Claire. Can you really carry it back? We were running just a short while ago, and you must be tired?”

“I am fine. Perhaps I have gotten used to traversing through the forest.”

“Wuff-wuff... Wou!”

The herb that I had given her had healed any tiredness she might have had.

However, I did think that she might have become tired again after running, but it was not the case.

Though, it was also possible that she was just pretending to be tough.

But then Leo put her face close to Ms. Claire and then turned to look at her back before sitting down.

...Apparently, she was saying that Ms. Claire could ride on her back if she became tired.

“...Thank you, Good Leo.”

“Wuff.”

Ms. Claire said with a laugh as she held the fenrir.

Leo barked in reply.

It was rather surprising to see Leo so concerned about the fenrir.

After all, when asking her about going to the forest, she had called them smallfry. So I thought that she didn't have a high opinion of them.

Perhaps it was because she had remembered her own experience of being rescued as a pup.

It had been raining that day, and it was very cold.

She was newborn and weak. I remember holding her in my arms as I ran home.

"Well then. Let's go."

Ah, this was no time to be thinking about the past.

I nodded at Sebastian's words, and then we all turned around and retraced our steps.

The sun was almost completely set, and it became very dark on the way back. But thanks to the herbs, we could see just fine.

Besides, no one was tired either, and so we were able to travel much faster than when we had come.

Well, it was also because we were going back along a path that we had walked through.

As we walked, I kept looking at Ms. Claire to see if she was all right. But she was in a good mood the whole time, and would occasionally look at the sleeping pup's face, and never showed signs of fatigue.

Leo was also watching Ms. Claire as she walked behind.

Everyone seemed to be worried about the fenrir.

From my point of view, Ms. Claire looked like a person who had just rescued a dog and was overjoyed.

Leo was more...like someone who had a new baby brother or sister.

While Silver Fenrirs were very different from fenrirs, perhaps the difference didn't mean much to Leo.

At least I didn't have to worry that Leo wouldn't watch over it.

And like that, we made our way back to the camp.

It was close to midnight when we arrived, and Ms. Lyra and Johanna greeted us with a hot dinner... or midnight meal.

It was nice to be greeted with hot food when coming home.

Well, this was a campsite, and not actually a home.

"Lady Claire... What are you holding...?"

"Is it not adorable? It is a fenrir pup. It was being attacked by trolls in the forest before Leo saved it."

"So there were trolls... However, is it really fine to take back a fenrir pup"?

"We already made a promise with Sebastian, and I think it should be fine. Good Leo will watch over it. Besides, I cannot believe that this fenrir will attack anyone."

“...But they say that fenrirs are vicious creatures that attack humans and monsters alike...”

“I don’t know why...but I just know that this fenrir is different.”

She herself seemed confused.

However, as she held the fenrir, she had a feeling that it would not harm any humans.

And while I did not understand that feeling, it was indeed difficult to watch the fenrir’s calm breathing and think that it was a harmful monster.

Well, it was probably because it looked like a cute dog or wolf.

Chapter 73

The Fenrir Woke Up

“...So Sebastian has agreed to it?”

“He has. Haven’t you, Sebastian?”

“Yes. While there are some conditions, I have agreed to bring it back with us.”

“I suppose...it is all right then...”

Ms. Lyra was satisfied by Sebastian’s answer and began to mutter, ‘a fenrir pup...it is indeed cute...’ And then she returned to the pot that hung over the fire, and began to serve everyone their food.

As I hadn’t eaten anything but herbs since lunch, I was very hungry.

And so I took my wooden plate and waited in line with Phillip and the others.

It was the familiar orc and vegetable soup, as we had limited supplies while camping out here.

But while it was familiar, it was still delicious, and we didn't tire of it.

As we all ate our food, we told Ms. Lyra and Johanna about what we had seen while searching through the forest.

Phillip and Nicholas did most of the talking.

I felt that there was some exaggeration when they got to the part where I used Weed Cultivation, but I didn't correct them.

They were so excited as they talked about it, and I didn't want to interrupt them.

Though, I did feel quite awkward when such talk resulted in Ms. Lyra and Johanna giving me looks of astonishment and admiration.

"Still, Lady Claire. Are you really fine with leaving the forest now?"

Johanna asked Ms. Claire when they were finished.

"Yes, it is fine. I feel that nothing good will come from staying here much longer. We've already taken longer than planned. Besides, we did find a real fenrir. It's proof that there are others."

"...That is true... Up until now, humans never went this deep into this forest. And so no fenrirs have been sighted since the founder. But now you can refute those who would say that there are no more fenrirs here."

"Yes. If I am being honest, I had hopes of meeting a Silver Fenrir, just like my ancestor, but this is enough."

"Very well. If that is how you feel, Lady Claire, then I will not argue."

"I am glad to hear that."

Ms. Claire and Johanna finished talking, and everyone seemed to agree with her that finding the fenrir was enough of an achievement.

For a while, we surrounded the campfire and rested. And just as we started to talk about sleep, the fenrir that was in Ms. Claire's arms suddenly stirred.

"Kyu...?"

"It has awakened."

As Ms. Claire carried it, the closed eyelids opened, and its red eyes looked up at Ms. Claire's face.

Leo, who had been curled up next to me, also realized that it was awake, and she stood up and approached the fenrir.

"Kyaau..."

The fenrir turned away from Ms. Claire to look at Leo. And then it let out a fearful yelp.

It could tell that Leo was a Silver Fenrir.

"It is fine. Good Leo will not attack you. Do not worry."

"Kuun."

Ms. Claire patted the fenrir's back as she talked to it gently.

Leo moved slowly so as not to frighten the fenrir, and then rubbed her large cheek against it.

"Kyu? Kyu-kyu."

"Wuff. Wuff-wuff."

Apparently, Leo and the fenrir were talking.

I could not understand what the fenrir was trying to say, but it looked like Leo was saying that it shouldn't worry.

Then the fenrir turned its head and looked at its surroundings.

It was trying to understand the situation it was in.

“Kyu...kya-kyau...”

“Wuff? ...Wou-wou.”

The fenrir sounded like it wanted something.

Leo realized this and spoke to it in a concerned voice.

...Perhaps the fenrir was looking for its parents?

The voice had reminded me of when I first found Leo. She had that weak voice as if asking for help. As if wanting her parents.

I had heard it faintly through the rain. The voice that called to her parents, or anyone who might listen.

“...Wou. Wou-wou.”

“What is it, Good Leo?”

Leo moved away from the fenrir and went over to Ms. Lyra.

“Wuff?”

She prodded the pot with her front paws and tilted her head as if to say, 'There is no more?'

"I think Leo is asking if there is more food."

"Even I could understand what she meant just now, Mr. Takumi. However, there is no more, since everyone ate it... However... I could make something simple if you don't mind waiting?"

"Wou!"

Said Ms. Lyra, and Leo nodded as if making a request.

"Very well. Just wait one moment."

"Wuff."

Ms. Lyra took out some leftover orc meat from her bag, as well as some vegetable scraps.

...I hadn't realized that we were so low on vegetables.

It was a good thing we had decided to return tomorrow.

The orc meat was as delicious as any luxury meat, but even it would feel plain without some vegetables.

After seeing that Ms. Lyra was cooking, Leo returned to Ms. Claire and put her face close to the fenrir.

"Wou-wou...wuff!"

"Kyu? Kyau-kyau!"

When Leo said something to the fenrir, it raised its voice happily.



“Good Leo. What did it say?”

“Wou-wuff wuff!”

Ms. Claire asked. Leo looked at her sadly once and then moved her mouth as if chewing.

...It was hungry... I think.

“She says that it’s hungry.”

“Wuff.”

“I see...so that’s why Lyra is...”

As the fenrir pup was hungry, Leo had asked Lyra to make something.

Because Lyra had been the cook during this whole expedition.

In that case...perhaps the fenrir had been yelping and yipping earlier because it was hungry?

It wasn’t asking for help or for its parents, but because it wanted food... Perhaps I was just getting sentimental with thoughts of Leo’s past...

Well, at least I had just been thinking that and not saying it out loud...or it would have been embarrassing...

And so I shook my head once and drove such thoughts away.

And then I walked over to Ms. Lyra, who was cooking, in order to ask her something.

Chapter 74

Food was made for the hungry pup

“Ms. Lyra. Please make the food as soft as possible.”

“Oh? I was making it in the same way as I always do. Should it be softer?”

“Yes. This fenrir is a pup, after all. And it was terribly wounded when we found it. And though the wounds are healed, its strength has not completely returned yet. So I think that it would be best to feed it something soft.”

“I see. I did hear earlier that it was hurt, so it would indeed be better to make something that is easier to eat. I will do what I can.”

“Thank you.”

After talking to Ms. Lyra about the food for the fenrir, I returned to where Ms. Claire and Leo were sitting.

The fenrir now understood that Leo was not going to attack it.

They were licking at each other's faces and seemed to be playing.

And then as if she just had an idea, Ms. Claire extended her index finger and put it in front of the fenrir.

“Kyau? ...Chu-chu.”

“Hehe. It tickles.”

The fenrir had tilted its head at first, but then it began to suck at Ms. Claire's finger.

...Ms. Claire. That is a fenrir you are dealing with... Aren't you afraid of it biting you?

Of course, this was my first time seeing one. I had only heard stories about these monsters before.

And they were supposed to attack humans viciously.

And so offering your finger to one was like asking it to tear it off.

I was startled at first, but then saw that the fenrir was just sucking it like a baby that was drinking from a bottle of milk.

Ms. Claire was chuckling at the sensation, and I saw that Sebastian and the three guards all sighed with relief.

...So they were just like me, and had been alarmed by her actions.

But really...this fenrir looked a lot like a baby.

Due to its size, I had assumed that it was a child, though perhaps a few years old. But it was also possible that it hadn't been long at all since it was born.

It was a fenrir, after all... They were supposed to be small compared to Leo, but if this was their size when newborn, then how big would they be as adults?

I would have to ask Sebastian about their real size and ecology once we returned to the mansion.

It was with such thoughts that I watched the hungry fenrir suck greedily on Ms. Claire's finger. And then Ms. Lyra announced that the food was ready.

"It's ready. Now, please take some to it."

"Wuff."

Upon hearing her, Leo stood up and then picked up one of the washed wooden plates with her mouth, and walked over to Ms. Lyra.

And then Ms. Lyra poured the food from the pot onto the plate.

However, Leo was not able to carry it now. Ms. Lyra was supporting the plate with her hand and wondering what to do. And so I went over and took the plate from Leo.

“I’ll take it.”

“Ah...of course. Thank you...Mr. Takumi.”

Apparently, it hadn’t occurred to her to ask someone to help Leo.

I chuckled at her carelessness as I held the plate and walked back to the fenrir.

“Wuff-wuff.

“Oh, there is no need to thank me, Good Leo.”

Leo bowed once to Ms. Lyra for making the food, and then she followed after me.

Ah, you were able to say thank you. That’s a good girl.

When I was close to the fenrir, it seemed to recognize the smell of food, and then it began to squirm in Ms. Claire’s arms before jumping out.

“Ah...”

“Wait, wait. Now calm down. It’s still hot. You’ll get burned if you eat it now.”

“Kyau! Kyau!”

But either it didn’t understand what I meant, or it was too hungry to care. And so without calming down at all, it began to run in a circle around my legs.

Ms. Claire looked a little crestfallen now that the fenrir had jumped out of her arms, and so I handed her the plate.

“You feed it, Ms. Claire. But let it cool a little first, as it’s quite hot.”

“...Are you sure that I should do it?”

“While Leo was also there, it was calm the whole time that you were holding it. I think that shows that the fenrir is starting to take to you, Ms. Claire.”

“...You...think so...?”

“Yes, so don’t worry. Here.”

Perhaps Ms. Claire was hesitant because she didn’t have any experience with feeding animals. Still, I handed her the plate with instructions to let the food cool.

All the while, the fenrir began to run impatiently around us.

...It was quite lively, huh...

“Gau!”

“Kyau!”

Leo barked as if to tell the little fenrir to settle down.

Upon hearing this, the fenrir let out a short, fearful yelp, but then sat down quietly.

...Leo could be a strict discipliner.

“Now, Ms. Claire.”

“Yes... Fuu...fuuu...”

Ms. Claire blew on the steaming food in order to cool it. And then she put the plate down in front of the fenrir.

“Kyu...?”

“Wuff.”

The fenrir must have been very intimidated by the bark earlier, as it now looked towards Leo as if to ask for permission to eat. And then Leo nodded.

The fenrir’s red eyes shone at this, and it pounced on the plate in front of it.

“How very ravenous... I wonder if it’s enough?”

“I don’t know... It wouldn’t be enough for Leo, but this one is still small.”

The fenrir began to eat the food with surprising vigor.

It made us worry that it wasn’t going to be enough.

We could make more... Yes, there should be some orc meat left...

“I’m sorry, Ms. Lyra, but would you mind cooking some more orc meat?”

“No, I don’t mind at all.”

And so I asked Ms. Lyra to cook some more meat, just in case it wasn’t enough.

If the fenrir was full, then Leo would eat any meat that remained.

For a while after, we all watched as the fenrir ate.

Leo looked like she was trying to stop herself from drooling... Don't think that I didn't catch that, Leo.

## Chapter 75

The fenrir recovered its health

"Leo... Let me guess. You're hungry too?"

"Wou..."

After returning to the camp, she had eaten her sausages as usual, as well as the food that Ms. Lyra made. But she was still hungry.

And though she looked a little embarrassed at having been seen drooling, she quietly admitted that she was.

"...Ms. Lyra... I'm very sorry, but..."

"Yes, you want some for Leo. Don't worry, we still have plenty of orc meat left."

"Wuff! Wuff!"

After hearing me make the request to Ms. Lyra, Leo barked happily and wagged her tail.

Leo, I can understand why you are happy to be able to eat some meat. But don't wag your tail so much.

You're hitting the fenrir, who is trying to eat.

A short while later, the meat that Ms. Lyra quickly prepared was ready, and both Leo and the fenrir were eating side by side.

As they were so different in size, they looked like a parent and child.

Also, as expected, the food was not enough for the fenrir.

It ate so much in spite of not being that big... I suppose it was trying to get back its lost energy.

“Hehehe. It eats so much.”

“Yes, it does.”

Ms. Claire watched the ravenous fenrir and chuckled.

Then the fenrir and Leo finished eating their late night meal, and we washed the plates in the river.

“Oh? It looks like the fenrir is sleeping again.”

“Yes. It must have become sleepy after eating so much. Hehe. It is just adorable.”

I returned to the camp after washing the plates at the river with Sebastian, and saw that the fenrir was sleeping comfortably in Ms. Claire’s arms, just like it had before.

It hadn’t recovered completely, and still needed rest.

Ms. Claire was smiling as she looked down at the peaceful fenrir. It was clear that she had become quite fond of it.

And then, with the exception of Phillip and Nicholas, who took the first watch, everyone retired to the tents in order to get some sleep.

As the fenrir did not want to leave Ms. Claire, she decided to sleep with it.

But Leo would also sleep in front of the women’s tent, just in case something happened.



Now, I had to sleep as well. As Leo and I had the next watch.

And so I entered the mens tent and said good night Sebastian before going to sleep.

The next morning arrived without incident, both during the watch and while I slept.

But just as I got out of my sleeping bag in order to prepare myself for the morning, I heard a dog-like barking sound coming from outside of the tent.

It was that fenrir we found yesterday.

“Good morning, Ms. Claire.”

“Good morning, Mr. Takumi.”

“Kyu, kyu.”

I greeted Ms. Claire, who was standing outside of the tent.

The rescued fenrir was now running around Ms. Claire’s legs.

...I wondered how it did not become dizzy...

As for Leo, she was sitting politely nearby and watching.

“Morning, Leo. And you too, little fenrir.”

“Wuff-wuff!”

“Kyau!”

Leo replied, as did the fenrir.

It sounded like a good morning, I suppose... Could it be that this little fenrir could understand me as well?

“Good morning, Mr. Takumi.”

“Good morning, Sebastian.”

As I was watching Leo and the fenrir, Sebastian started to walk towards me from the river.

“Once we have finished eating breakfast, we will pack our things and return to the mansion.”

“Yes, I understand.”

And then Sebastian went into the mens tent.

He was probably going to wake up Phillip.

...Phillip seemed to have trouble getting up in the morning.

“Well, I’m going to go and wash up at the river then.”

“Yes, of course.”

“Kyau-kyau.”

“Wuff?”

When I told Ms. Claire that I was going to the river, the fenrir came up to my legs and started barking.

Leo was looking at it with a puzzled expression.

“Hmm? What’s the matter?”

I bent over to look at the fenrir inquiringly.

“Kyau...kyuu...”

“Wuff-wuff...wou...”

The fenrir clearly wanted to tell me something. But I couldn’t understand what it was.

Just then, Leo moved her nose close to the fenrir’s body and sniffed. And then she seemed to grimace.

...So it smelled...

“Do you want to go into the river then?”

“Kyau! Kyau!”

The fenrir barked affirmatively.

Now that I thought about it, the fenrir had been quite dirty yesterday.

And it was more apparent now, as it was much brighter with the sun shining down on us.

So I suppose it wanted to wash up... But more importantly, it seemed like this fenrir really did understand what I was saying.

As I had only just started interacting with it, I could not understand what it was saying. But Leo would interpret, and it was easy to communicate since it understood me.

“All right then. You can come with me.”

“Kyau!”

“Wuff.”

And so the fenrir would follow after me.

Leo was also behind me, as if ready to watch over the fenrir.

“May I go too?”

“...While it’s a little embarrassing to have a lady present...of course, you can.”

“Thank you. Don’t worry, I will not be watching you as you wash up.”

So Ms. Claire was coming too.

Well, I would only be washing my face and shaving it, so it wasn’t really embarrassing.

And so Ms. Claire and I took the fenrir and Leo and went to the nearby river.

“Kyau!”

“Wuff!”

As soon as we arrived, the fenrir jumped into the river.

And then Leo jumped in as if to follow it.

Playing was fine, but I hoped that they would actually be cleaner when coming out.

But Ms. Claire just watched them and laughed.

...Well, I better start shaving.

I had gotten used to doing it during the past few days, and no longer cut myself.

Once that was done, Ms. Claire and I watched the two play in the water until Johanna came to tell us that breakfast was ready.

“Hey! The food is ready!”

“Kyau!?”

“Wuff!”

When I called to Leo and the fenrir, they both reacted with great enthusiasm and rushed out of the water.

...There really was no need to hurry...

Leo came out of the river first and shook her body to dry herself.

Upon seeing this, the fenrir also shook its body as if to mimic Leo.

...Yes, more and more they were resembling a parent and child.

Chapter 76

We got out of the forest safely

We surrounded the bonfire and ate the breakfast that Ms. Lyra had made.

While the fenrir once again hungrily ate the orc meat, it became full without having to eat the same amount as it did yesterday.

As I had thought, it had eaten so much in order to recover its strength.

It seemed to have worked too, as it scampered around Ms. Claire.

The two were now quite affectionate towards each other, which brought smiles to the faces of everyone who watched.

Once we were finished eating, we started to take down the tents.

Then the tents and other tools were packed together, and we put out the fire with water from the river.

The plates and pot were also taken to the river to be washed before being put back into the bags.

We had camped here for what seemed like a long time, and so I felt just a little sad now that we were leaving...

Of course, we could not stay forever, and so it couldn't be helped.

After about an hour, we were ready to leave.

Everyone was assigned baggage to carry, just like before, and then we went back down the path we had come.

As always, Sebastian took the lead.

Phillip followed after him, and then it was Ms. Claire and Lyra. And the fenrir.

Then Johanna, me, and Leo.

Nicholas was last.

We should have all been more tired than we were when coming, but a week here had made the forest feel familiar, and if anything, we all walked at a much brisker pace.

As we walked, the fenrir would alternate between running around and sticking close to Ms. Claire.

Ms. Claire and Lyra watched with gentle expressions and chuckled.

Leo would bark at it scoldingly whenever it moved a little too far away, and made sure that it was following us.

I suppose Leo was its guardian now.

The sun was now high in the sky, and it was just a little past midday when we reached the entrance of the forest again.

But Ms. Claire showed no signs of being tired, so that it was hard to believe she was the same person who had been panting and having such difficulty.

The forest really did change people.

Or perhaps she was just too preoccupied with the fenrir?

And while I mused on such things, I had also become quite used to walking in the forest.

Once we arrived at the edge of the forest, there were about five people gathered there.

“Welcome back.”

“Sebastian. I’m glad to see that you are all well. Especially you, Lady Claire. Welcome back.”

“Yes.”

Now that I looked closely, they were all people that I had seen at the mansion before.

And one of them was the guard who had stayed to watch the horses.

Three of the people were wearing armor and looked like soldiers, and one was a butler.

It seems like they had been waiting for our return.

“You were much later than we were expecting. Did something happen?”

The butler asked Sebastian, even though his eyes were on the fenrir at Ms. Claire’s feet.

“Quite the opposite. It was less eventful than we had hoped. Still, we spent a lot of time exploring.”

“I see... And so...”

“Ah, do not worry about that fenrir. I will tell you about the details later.”

“...Very well.”

Sebastian said, and the butler took a step back.

We then handed over our baggage so that they could be loaded into the carriage.

In the meantime, Ms. Lyra was preparing lunch.

In fact, the butler and the others had brought more food supplies for us.

They said that had we taken any longer to return, they would have entered the forest in order to search for us, and so had brought extra supplies.

If that was the case, then we could have stayed in the forest a little longer... I couldn’t help but think this, but there were likely other reasons that would make it difficult.



Ms. Claire and Sebastian could not stay away from the mansion for that long without causing many people to become worried. And while I could always use Weed Cultivation to deal with physical fatigue, the mental exhaustion and stress that would build up was another thing.

Even with tents, we were still living outside, which was very different from resting within a mansion.

After that, we finished eating the food that Ms. Lyra had prepared, and then we cleaned up and got ready to leave.

It was just as I was about to get into the carriage that I remembered something.

...The carriage was so cramped that I would be pressed against either Ms. Claire or Ms. Lyra...

“What is it? Mr. Takumi?”

“Ah, um... Well...”

As I hesitated to get in, Ms. Claire’s voice sounded from behind me.

What should I do? I couldn’t tell her the real reason...

I suppose that I should just ride on Leo again.

“Ah... I just thought that I would prefer to ride on Leo. Please don’t mind me.”

“You want to ride on Leo? But...”

Ms. Claire looked down at the fenrir that she was holding and hesitated.

Was her concern related to it then?

“Mr. Takumi. I am a little worried about leaving the fenrir alone in such a space with Lady Claire and Lyra. Would you be so kind as to accompany them?”

“Sebastian...”

As Ms. Claire tried to think of something to say, Sebastian, who was already in the driver’s seat, answered for her.

But why would you be worried about the fenrir...

“Surely there is nothing to worry about with Ms. Claire and Ms. Lyra there? Just look at how much the fenrir adores Ms.. Claire.”

“Kyu?”

I patted the fenrir on the head as it sat quietly in Ms. Claire’s arms. It then looked up at me and tilted its head questioningly.

That was another thing it did that was just like Leo...

But as I thought this, it jumped out of Ms. Claire’s arms and onto me.

“Woah!”

“Kyu!”

It crashed into my chest and I had to catch it quickly so that it didn’t fall to the ground.

While it wasn’t as heavy as it looked, it still hurt a little to have something of its size fly at you...

“See? The fenrir wants to be with you, Mr. Takumi.”

“...Really?”

“Kyau.”

“Wuff.”

When I asked, the fenrir cried as if to confirm this.

I could even hear Leo sighing as if to say that I should give up.

Hmm... It's not that I hated being squished in that carriage...but I was a man and...what if they were to notice things...

“...Wuff.”

As I tried to make up my mind, Leo barked with exasperation and then approached Ms. Lyra.

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff.”

“What? You want to carry me?”

“Wou!”

She stood so that her back faced Ms. Lyra and then barked. Ms. Lyra seemed a little surprised as she asked about Leo's intent.

And Leo nodded in reply.

Chapter 77

Leo and the fenrir howled

“Do you mind, Mr. Takumi?”

“If Leo says that it’s all right, then please let her carry you.”

“...Very well.”

Well done, Leo!

Now I have avoided the pleasant but awkward experience of being crammed into a carriage!

I thanked Leo with my eyes, and she shook her head and sighed... Surely there was no need to look that exasperated...

And like that, Ms. Claire and I and the fenrir got into the carriage.

While we were still close together, there was a lot more room than when there were three of us.

As this was the first time for the fenrir to ride in a carriage, it was looking around anxiously. But it eventually settled down between us and rested.

“Hehe. I suppose it likes that spot.”

“It must like narrow spaces. You know, that feeling of being stuck to something as if you fit in perfectly.”

“Is that what it is?”

...With dogs... I think they feel safe when being in tight spaces. But I didn’t know a lot about that.

Though, when Leo was small, she often slept in the gaps in the couch.

“Now, let us depart.”

“Yes.”

Sebastian said, and the carriage began to move.

At the same time, the guards and the butlers that were waiting by the edge of the forest also departed towards the mansion.

...Wait? That other butler. He was riding the same kind of carriage as me...

Maybe I should have rode in that one?

Riding with a man would not have been more enjoyable, but it would have been less potentially embarrassing than riding with Ms. Claire and Lyra... I think.

I had made a mistake.

“Kyu.”

As I thought of such things, the fenrir looked at my face and barked.

...Well, at least there was this cute face to also keep me company...

Just like Ms. Claire, I was not immune to the fenrir’s charm.

The carriage continued to rock as we moved farther away from the forest and towards the mansion.

And just like on the way here, we stopped at the halfway point on the road in order to rest.

“Kyau-kyau.”

“Hehehe. It is lively.”

After we got out of the carriage in order to stretch our limbs, the fenrir began to run around the tree that Ms. Claire was resting under.

It really was energetic.

“Wuff. Wuff.”

“Kyau.”

Sometimes it would scamper towards Leo, who was resting next to me, and they would start barking as if having a conversation.

After they had talked, the fenrir would then return to Ms. Claire and start running again.

“What were you talking about?”

“Wou? Wuff!”

I asked Leo while watching the fenrir.

Leo tilted her head to the side once and then barked happily.

Hmm... Something about...fun?

Well, if the fenrir was having fun, then I was glad that we had taken it with us.

“We should start heading back soon.”

Sebastian said to everyone who was resting, and so we returned to the carriage.

Ms. Claire and I entered the same carriage that Sebastian was driving, and the fenrir sat between us.

“It really does seem to enjoy sitting there?”

“Hahaha. It looks like it.”

“Kyu.”

The fenrir sounded like it was agreeing with us.

It really did seem to understand humans, just like Leo.

But were all fenrirs like this...?

As I wondered about it, Sebastian held the reins and the carriage began to move.

Ms. Claire and I pet the fenrir and played with it as we headed towards the mansion.

As for Ms. Lyra, who was riding on Leo, she had decided to go in the other carriage after resting.

She had been delighted to ride on Leo at first, but since Leo would often run faster than the horses and go off in random directions, she must have become a little tired.

And since she had been in charge of cooking during the whole expedition, she was probably very tired. So I was glad that she would be able to relax in the carriage on the way back.

Though, it was my fault for hesitating to go into the carriage in the first place.

...Sorry, Ms. Lyra.

The sun was starting to set, and by the time the beautiful colors of evening shone on the horizon, we arrived at the mansion.

What was surprising to me, was that just before moving through the gates, Leo suddenly turned towards the sun and began to howl.

The horses were also very alarmed by this, but the soldiers were used to handling them, and so they were able to calm them down quickly.

—Awooooooooo! AWOOOOO!

Leo's howl echoed into the distance.

As Leo howled towards the setting sun a few times, the fenrir, who had been lying drowsily between Ms. Clarie and I, suddenly got up and began to howl as if in answer to Leo.

—Awooooooooo! AWOOOOO!

—Kyaaaaaaaa! KYaoOOO!

—Awooooooooo! AWOOOOO!

It almost sounded like they were communicating. There would be pauses as they alternated. And then when they were done, Leo rubbed her cheek against the horses that pulled the carriage, as if to apologize for startling them.

As for the fenrir, it let out a short 'Kyau' in apology and then went straight back to sleeping between us.

...What on earth was that...?

"I wonder what came over Leo?"

"I thought that something must have happened. After all, a Silver Fenrir is howling."

"...Hmm. I'm pretty sure there is some meaning to it..."

But what was it...? I think it had something to do with marking their territory or calling members of the pack that had become separated.

Regardless, it was some form of communication.



“Perhaps it was talking to the fenrir.”

“Indeed...it did sound like they were talking.”

“Is that right, Leo?”

“Wuff?”

The carriages and horses had all stopped during the howling so the horses could calm down.

And so I asked Leo as she comforted them, and she turned to look at me and tilted her head.

“It kind of sounded like you were talking to the fenrir.”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff. Wou-wuff-wuff.”

Leo nodded once and then started to explain.

## Chapter 78

We returned to the mansion

Uhh...judging by Leo's voice and gestures...she was saying that the area around the mansion was her territory, and that if the fenrir wanted to join, it was welcome?

I see...So Leo was declaring this land as her territory.

...But why had she been howling towards the sunset...? Well, seeing Leo's silvery coat glisten under the setting sun as she howled had been quite picturesque.

“...And what was the fenrir's answer?”

“Wou-wou...wuff!”

Hmm. ‘I will join. Thank you.’ I think...?

So this fenrir was pretty polite then.

Or that was just the way that Leo interpreted it. Or I was misunderstanding Leo.

“So, this fenrir is now your friend.”

“Wuff. Wou-wou. Wuff! Wuff!”

Leo said that she welcomed the fenrir, who was very grateful.

So that was how their conversation had gone.

Still...was it really necessary for them to howl like that...? Fenrirs and Silver Fenrirs were still quite a mystery to me...

“Ms. Claire. It seems like Leo welcomed the fenrir here as a friend, and the fenrir was expressing its gratitude.”

“...Is that so...? I did hear that wolves and fenrirs are monsters that are terribly territorial. Is it like a ceremony of sorts?”

“I think it is something like that.”

I answered as I looked down at the fenrir that was squeezed between us.

It had dozed off again.

Perhaps the calm expression on its face was due to the relief of having been accepted by Leo.

A few minutes later, the horses were calmed by Leo's apology, and we were able to go through the gates.

A part of me wondered why we didn't just walk, as we were so close to the house, but I didn't mention it.

Then the carriage stopped in front of the entrance of the mansion.

It was as Ms. Claire picked up the sleeping fenrir, and we stepped out of the carriage, that the doors of the mansion burst open.

"Sister! Mr. Takumi! Leo! Welcome back!"

The person who flew out of the doors and rushed towards Ms. Claire while shouting was none other than Tilura, who I felt I had not seen in a very long time.

Likely, the entire mansion had heard Leo and the fenrir's howling, and so they had known we were here.

"I'm back, Tilura. But you really should be more quiet. You'll awaken this little one."

"Hello, Tilura."

"Wuff."

"...? Sister. What is that?"

Tilura noticed that Ms. Claire was holding something, but she did not realize what it was.

It would have looked like a dog to most people. This would be especially true for anyone who had never seen a fenrir, like Tilura.

"Hehe. This is a fenrir pup. We rescued it in the forest."

“This is a fenrir!? It is so cute!”

Ms. Claire leaned forward a little so that Tilura could see it.

Tilura’s eyes shone as she peered at it.

As Tilura said, the fenrir was very cute as it slept blissfully in Ms. Claire’s arms.

“Tilura. You must speak more softly. This pup was badly injured in the forest. And it is surely still tired. I want to let it sleep a little while longer.”

“Yes, sister. I’m sorry.”

“Hahaha. It was running around so energetically, so I’m sure that it’s fine.”

Tilura hushed her voice and apologized after Ms. Claire warned her.

And though I chuckled, I also talked quietly so that I would not be the next person to be warned.

Still, it really had been energetic in the morning.

And even on the way back, it had been scampering around Ms. Claire while everyone else rested.

And so it was probably sleeping because it had run a lot, and not because of anything related to past injuries.

“Still, I must be sure. I do not want it disturbed while it sleeps.”

“It does look very cute like this. So it should be left alone until it wakes up.”

“Yes.”

“It’s so cute!”

“Wuff...”

Ms. Claire was getting more attached to it by the minute. Her gaze had all the gentleness of a mother.

And Tilura seemed like she could hardly contain her excitement as she watched the sleeping creature.

However, Leo sounded just a little upset that Tilura was more interested in the fenrir than her.

Leo. Tilura is still a child.

And so she is bound to be interested in anything new.

But she is still very fond of you, and so you can play together later.

I thought while petting the sulky Leo.

“Lady Claire. It is no good to stand out here. Let us go inside.”

“Yes.”

Said Sebastian, and so we left the carriages to the guards and entered the mansion.

“Welcome back, Lady Claire, Mr. Takumi. We have all been eagerly anticipating your safe return!”

As soon as we stepped through the door, the servants greeted us with their voices ringing in unison.

I had experienced this a few times already, but still did not know why it was necessary. Why not choose just one person to speak...

Besides, it must take a lot of practice to be able to speak with such perfect timing.

...I tried imagining them all lined up and practicing these greetings. It was a little surreal.

“Thank you all. But please hush your voices, as this little one is asleep.”

“I’m sorry, my lady.”

Ms. Claire was now cautioning the servants as she had Tilura.

Well, there had been no way for the servants to predict that their mistress would return from the forest with a fenrir. Or that this fenrir would be sleeping.

But one of the butlers apologized on the behalf of the others in a hushed tone.

And then the other servants bowed their heads.

I think a silent bow would suffice for a greeting from now on?

Unless there was some kind of rule for servants of a nobleman’s house...

I would have to ask Sebastian about it later.

...It felt like the number of things I wanted to ask Sebastian about was increasing a lot... Well, it was not a bad thing, as Sebastian loved nothing more than to explain things.

## Chapter 79

We relaxed in the drawing room

“I’m going to go and put this little one to bed.”

“Yes, my lady. And what about you, Mr. Takumi?”

“Indeed. I’m going to drop my things off in my room first. And then, can I have some tea in the drawing room? The tea you serve here is very delicious and helps me relax.”

“Very well. It will be prepared.”

So Ms. Claire was going to let the fenrir sleep in her room.

At first, she had seemed a little anxious about being with the fenrir when Leo and I were not there, but that was no longer the case, it seemed.

The fenrir had never shown any signs of hostility, and it just ran around playfully. And so Ms. Claire probably realized that there was nothing to worry about now.

Tilura followed after Ms. Claire in order to look at the fenrir.

“Leo, let’s go.”

“Wuff...”

I called Leo, who was looking sadly at Tilura leaving with the fenrir. And then I headed to my room.

I needed to hurry up and drop off my things and go to the drawing room. Sebastian was bound to have the tea ready in no time.

Ms. Lyra had been like that as well. The servants seemed capable of moving through the mansion with such a speed that I wondered if they were capable of teleporting.

The tea might be ready in the drawing room by the time I reach my door.

And so I took Leo, who kept glancing back in the direction that Tilura went, and headed for my room.

Don't be so sulky, Leo. You'll get plenty of attention later.

I put down my things in the room and then changed my clothes.

They were the clothes that I had left here, but the ones that I was wearing were much too dirty.

Though, Ms. Lyra and Johanna had washed our clothes in the river while we were out exploring.

However, there was no detergent in the forest, and so the clothes wouldn't be completely cleaned. And they had gotten dirty on the journey back as well.

After I was changed, I took Leo and walked to the drawing room.

While walking down the hall, I looked at Leo and noticed that her silver fur looked dull.

I suppose that I'd have to bathe her again. Though, I wouldn't bring it up now.

Leo was already feeling both sad and sulky over Tilura's attention being directed elsewhere, and she would not take the news of a bath very well.

When we entered the drawing room, Ms. Gelda was waiting there with a pot and tea cup placed on the table.

"Welcome back, Mr. Takumi. Your tea is ready."

"Thank you. It's good to be back."

"Wuff-wuff-wuff."

I thanked her and sat down at the table.

Leo also approached Ms. Gelda, and greeted her.



Once I had sat down, Ms. Gelda poured me a cup of tea.

“Welcome back, good Leo. Would you like to have some milk?”

“Wuff!”

Leo nodded at Ms. Gelda’s words.

Ms. Gelda seemed to be used to Leo now.

She used to talk to Leo so fearfully, but now she was acting quite normal.

Perhaps it was because she and Ms. Lyra had ridden on Leo’s back in the garden?

Well, now that I looked carefully, she still seemed a little tense. But then again, I had a feeling she was always like that, even when not around Leo.

“Ah, this tea really is delicious.”

“Thank you.”

I took a sip while Ms. Gelda prepared the milk for Leo.

I didn’t feel like I had truly returned to this mansion until I had a cup of tea.

There was something very comforting about the taste.

“Here you go, good Leo.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

The milk must have been prepared in advance, as Ms. Gelda brought out a bowl that was the size of a large bucket, and placed it in front of Leo.

Leo looked at Ms. Gelda and barked once with gratitude, and then she dunk her face inside and drank greedily.

She had not been able to drink any milk while we were in the forest.

But Leo, be careful to not stick to anyone while you have all that milk on your face, all right?

After giving Leo her milk, Ms. Gelda stood by the door and waited.

And so Leo and I drank our tea and milk and relaxed.

Eventually, there was a knock on the door, and Ms. Claire and Tilura entered, with the fenrir by their feet.

“Mr. Takumi, thank you for accompanying me to the forest. I am grateful for your cooperation.”

“Not at all, Ms. Claire. I hope you are not too tired.”

Ms. Claire thanked me as soon as she came in.

She then sat at the table and Ms. Gelda poured her some tea.

Tilura and the fenrir went straight towards Leo.

From the looks of it, the fenrir had taken to Tilura quickly.

It seemed a little too soon, but perhaps it was because they were both children.

After all, children seemed to be capable of becoming friends in an instant.

“So it woke up.”

“Yes. It woke up just as we reached my room. Hehe!”

Ms. Claire chuckled as if she had just remembered something. What was it?

“Did something happen?”

“Not really. But it was when the fenrir woke up. It fell asleep inside of the carriage, yes? And so it was surprised to suddenly wake up in this mansion. It was quite adorable as it ran about, trying to figure out where it was.”

I see.

From the fenrir’s point of view, it had suddenly appeared in an unknown place, so it was no wonder that it felt alarmed.

But I’m sure it would get used to being here.

Ms. Claire recalled the moment with a smile as she watched Leo and Tilura play.

Yes, I could imagine how cute it would have looked.

Because the fenrir just looked like a dog...

However, it would one day grow large and become a terrifying wolf.

“Now that I think about it, Mr. Takumi. Weed Cultivation, which you demonstrated in the forest...”

“Oh? What about it?”

“Well, you were testing all sorts of things in the garden. Perhaps it’s time that you told me more about that.”

“Ah, yes. I haven’t explained it to you yet.”

So much had happened that I had forgotten.

But we had plenty of time now, with nothing important to do. So it was a good opportunity.

And so I started to think of how best to explain it to her. But then my mind suddenly went blank.

No, it wasn’t just my mind. But my vision.

Huh? What is this?

“Mr. Takumi? Are you all right?”

Everything was white. I couldn’t see anything. But I could hear Ms. Claire’s concerned voice.

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff!”

“What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

“Kyou?”

I could only hear voices and sounds around me.

However, the worry in Leo’s voice sounded like this was a state of emergency.

And I could hear Tilura and the fenrir as well.

But my vision remained white and I could see nothing.

Not only that, but a blackness started to creep in from the edges, and the sounds grew more distant.

What is this? What was happening to me?

No, I had experienced this before...yes... Once, I had fainted after being forced to work for days and days without rest...

Without being able to finish the thought, everything turned black and I lost consciousness...

Chapter 80

The others were very worried about me

I felt like I was slowly floating upwards.

What happened to me again?

It was as if I was waking from a dream.

Had I been sleeping then?

...I don't know... I could feel my body now.

And I could think.

Uhh...?

I will try to move my arms and legs.

Hmm. They move fine... But I seem to be on my side.

I suppose that I was sleeping then.

“...Hmm.”

I opened my eyes.

Yes. I could see.

This... It was familiar. The room that I had been assigned to me in the mansion.

In order to change my view, I turned my head to the side.

“Huh? Ms. Claire?”

Ms. Claire was in front of me.

And not just her.

Sebastian, Ms. Lyra, Ms. Gelda. Leo and the fenrir were there as well.

“Mr. Takumi!?”

“Wuff!?”

“You are awake, Mr. Takumi!”

Once I saw that they were all there, Ms. Claire, Leo, and Sebastian shouted at me.

Hmm? Why were they all so surprised?

Also, why were they inside of my room?

“Everyone. What happened?”

“Mr. Takumi. You do not remember?”

“You fainted in the drawing room.”

The drawing room... Now that I thought about it, I remember talking with Ms. Claire.

Yes. It was right after we returned from the forest.

I am starting to remember different things now.

I don't know why, but my vision had suddenly become white and I lost consciousness.

And I had been sleeping here because someone must have carried me.

“...Good morning.”

“Ha...really, Mr. Takumi... Good morning. You seemed to have slept well.”

“You gave us a terrible fright, Mr. Takumi.”

“Wuff-wuff!”

Ms. Claire and Sebastian sounded a little exasperated as they answered.

Even Leo was sighing visibly... Shouldn't you say good morning, Leo?

Thinking this, I said good morning to Tilura, Ms. Lyra, Ms. Gelda, and the fenrir as well.

It was what you were supposed to do when waking up.

“Mr. Takumi. Can you get up?”

“Yes.”

As Ms. Claire asked this, I sat up and then got out of my bed.

“You seem to be fine.”

Sebastian said with relief as he saw me get to my feet.

Yes, I didn’t think anything was wrong. It was the same old feeling after a good night’s sleep.

“Wuff.”

“There, there.”

As Leo rubbed her face into me, I patted her on the head.

I suppose she really was worried?

“Mr. Takumi. Perhaps we should go to the drawing room? Then we can tell you about how you fainted.”

“Very well.”

Indeed, this was not the place to start having a conversation.

There were no chairs, and so you would have to stand or sit on the floor.

And that might be fine for Leo or the fenrir, but Ms. Claire and Tilura were the daughters of a duke, and Sebastian was not likely to permit something so ill-mannered.

Ms. Lyra and Ms Gelda left first, and said they would prepare the drawing room.

Ms. Claire gave me a concerned look, and then said that she would be waiting for me, and then she took Tilura and left the room.



Apparently, Sebastian would come with me and Leo.

I didn't know why, but I had fainted.

So he probably wanted to make sure that I could walk properly.

And so I quickly got ready and then headed to the drawing room with Leo and Sebastian.

Sebastian knocked on the door and Ms. Claire gave him permission to enter.

Inside, Ms. Claire and Tilura were sitting. The fenrir was on Tilura's lap.

They had clearly bonded.

Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda waited by the door, and Sebastian moved to stand next to Ms. Claire.

Leo and I went to the table and then Ms. Lyra poured me a cup of tea.

"So, Mr. Takumi. Do you remember what happened right before you fainted?"

Asked Ms. Claire after I had taken a sip of the tea.

Hmm. Before I fainted...

"I know that after we returned from the forest, I came to this drawing room."

"That's right. And you and Leo were relaxing. But what about after that?"

After that?

Right, Ms. Claire came to see us.

“Ms. Claire and Tilura came here...and we were talking.”

“So you do remember. It was when we were speaking that you fainted.”

“...I see.”

But what had we been talking about... I think it was...about Weed Cultivation.

That’s right, I was going to tell Ms. Claire about my research with it. And then my vision suddenly turned white.

Thinking about it now, the sensation of everything going white returned for a second, and I shuddered.

“Are you alright? You look a little pale.”

“...Yes, I’m fine. I just remember the moment before I fell...”

“The moment before... What did it feel like? Ah, um...you do not have to say it if you don’t want to think about it.”

Ms. Claire asked as she looked at my face worriedly. But she also realized that I might not want to talk about it.

While it wasn’t something that I wanted to remember, they were all so worried about me, and so I thought that I should tell them.

Besides, I was getting used to thinking about it... Yes, it was nothing.

“I’m fine. I can talk about it.”

“Wuff?”

“Thanks for your concern, Leo. I really am fine.”

Leo was staring at me from the side. She even barked questioningly, but I was fine.

I patted her on the head with gratitude.

“If you say so, Mr. Takumi...”

“Yes. Uh... When it happened, my vision suddenly turned white.”

“White... And you couldn’t see anything?”

“Nothing but white. But I could still hear. I remember hearing the voices of Leo, Ms. Claire and Tilura calling to me.”

“It must have been very frightening...to not be able to see.”

Ms. Claire and Tilura seemed to be imagining the moment, and they looked pale.

I didn’t know what had caused it, but it was out of the ordinary. Being suddenly robbed of your vision was indeed a frightening thing.