

Beloved Dog 741

Chapter 741

Mr. Soldan was fine when he was calm

“Ms. Lyra?”

“Certainly... Mr. Soldan. Please snap out of it!”

Ms. Lyra stepped forward and slapped Mr. Soldan in the face.

“Oh... Excuse me, Mr. Takumi. And Sebastian and Lyra. It seems like I got carried away...”

“Well, considering how much you wanted to meet with Mr. Takumi, it is understandable...”

“Huh? You did?”

I had not heard anything about that, Sebastian?

“This is not a place you would visit without good reason. So there was little chance of you meeting. And as you can see, Mr. Soldan does not leave his study very often.”

“Ah...I see...”

There was a drawing room, as well as a table and chairs for guests. But it seemed like they had not gotten much use recently.

But Mr. Soldan’s desk and the surrounding chairs had stacks of documents on top of them.

He could not deal with all of that in one day... He must be incredibly busy...

“You are the duke’s favorite, and have done many things in this town. And you even have a Silver Fenrir... I really wanted to meet you, but I was so busy...”

“I can see that. But don’t you have someone to help you?”

Surely he had butlers and secretaries to help him.

“Everything here has already been looked through by others. For the most part, I just need to stamp them... It really hurts my arm...”

“I see...”

I used to work in an office where I had to deal with documents all day. A lot of them required writing... And so the idea of just using a seal did not seem as bad.

“Mr. Soldan. We did not come here today to talk about such things.”

“Oh, excuse me. You want to use the meeting room...for interviews, I believe?”*freewebnovel.com*

“Yes. In order to actually meet with the people to see if we will hire them.”

“Mr. Soldan, is the place ready?”

“Not completely, but things are going smoothly. The people are arriving now. Once everyone is here, the chairs will be brought out.”

“I see. Well, we should be going then. I have things to explain to Mr. Takumi.”

“Yes, thank you.”

“Umm... Mr. Takumi? I was wondering if I could be there as well? I am curious to see how you will conduct things...”

“Uhh...”

“I don’t mind. Mr. Soldan will not interfere with anything. However...what about your work?”

“Of course, I will be bringing my work with me. I shall be scanning through them while observing the proceedings.”

“Well, let’s go then.”

It was decided that Mr. Soldan would be watching the interviews as well.

Though, it might make the people a little nervous...

“Lyra. I hope everything is fine in Lady Claire’s mansion?”

“Yes. I am helping Mr. Takumi right now, and am enjoying my time there. Also, I will be working for him officially in the near future.”

“Oh, is that so? That must be quite the promotion for you. After all, he has a Silver Fenrir. What an honor it must be to serve him.”

“Yes. I am quite proud about it. And shall do my best for Mr. Takumi to live a long and comfortable life.”

Chapter 742

We prepared for the interviews

As we left the room, a butler helped with carrying the documents while Mr. Soldan spoke to Ms. Lyra.

Apparently, the two were acquainted. According to the conversation, Mr. Soldan visited the orphanage every few months to see how things were going.

And so he knew quite a few of the children there. Also, Claire would also come here to interview the people when hiring them for the mansion.

“Mr. Takumi, it is this way. They will enter from that door, so keep an eye on it.”

“Yes, I understand. ...That is a nice chair.”

“Well, you are the one hiring them. So it should be a good chair. Though, you cannot see it well due to the desk...”

We entered the meeting room and made preparations. Though, I just waited silently, while Sebastian and the butlers did everything.

The chair I would be sitting in was large and had arm rests.

As for the chairs that the other people would be sitting on, they were very simple, foldable chairs made of wood.

They were all lined up so that the people would be facing me. The idea of being the center of attention made me feel a little nervous.

This was not the kind of interview I had imagined, where we would meet one person at a time.

I had some doubts about whether I could handle all of this. Thankfully, Sebastian would be here to help me.

“Mr. Takumi. Please use this.”

“Another list?”

“Yes. We have just confirmed the people who have gathered today. So this is a list of everyone.”

As I sat in my seat, feeling a little anxious, Sebastian placed more documents on the desk in front of me.

“So there are fewer people than on the previous list?”

“Well, that included people from other territories as well. But not all of them could come today. After all, it can take a long time to travel here.”

“I see... Hmm...”

I looked through the list while talking to Sebastian.

Not everyone had a horse, and so considering the time it would take, it was no surprise that some people could not come today.

“Well, I cannot remember everything... But what are these numbers?”

“That is why you should be checking the list while interviewing them. As for the numbers, they can be used to call each person. As everyone who is here has been assigned a number.”

Well, if that was the way they did things in this world, then I should follow it.

And so I looked through the list while talking with Sebastian and continuing with the preparations... However, even though I tried not to think about it, my eyes went to the corner of the room...

“...Is Mr. Soldan always like that?”

“I have not been in this position many times, but yes. That being said, when you saw him in his study earlier, Mr. Takumi...he was actually on the more mild side.”

“Oh, he was?”

“Yes. Because I talked with him before when making the request. And I told him that we would not have much time to talk. Well, he still talked quite a lot, because it was the first time that he had met you, Mr. Takumi...”

We started the interview

Mr. Soldan watched as the butlers prepared the room, and would occasionally smile in my direction while his hands moved busily.

A chair and desk had been set up in the far back, and he was dealing with the documents from earlier.

His hand was moving so quickly that it was almost a blur... I wondered if he even knew what he was doing.

Well, I had seen people work insanely fast in offices before. So perhaps Mr. Soldan was just like that.

He must be capable, to be in his position, after all.

“Mr. Sebastian. Mr. Takumi. The preparations are completed.”

“We have confirmed that everyone has arrived.”

“Thank you.”

“Well, let’s begin then...”

“Ah, please wait.”

“What is it?”

Sebastian looked at me questioningly.

“Hahh... Alright. Sorry, I’m fine now. Thank you.”

“Hoho. You really do not need to be so nervous... Regardless, I will do my best.”

“Yes!”

“Just leave it to me.”

I took in a deep breath to calm my nerves, and then bowed to Sebastian.

He was amused by my reaction, but it could not be helped, as this was my first time.

I had never been the center of attention in front of so many people before.

Regardless, Sebastian then told Ms. Lyra and the butler to go and call the people in. It was finally time...!

A few minutes later, a crowd of people entered and they took their seats.

Upon entering the room, there were a variety of reactions. Some were surprised and others looked nervous.

I suppose the ones who weren't nervous were just used to being in such places?

And then the last person entered. And while I didn't raise my voice, I was quite surprised.

It was the woman who had tripped in front of the building... She also looked surprised when she saw me, but managed to calm herself and sit down.

“Everyone is inside now.”

“I see. Now... Everyone, this here is Mr. Takumi. He has come here today in order to choose his future employees.”

“Uhh... Thank you. I am Takumi. I am grateful to you all for coming here today.”

“Very good. Now, starting from number 1... Tell us why you applied for the job.”

“Huh?”

I thought it was the most obvious question, but the person looked puzzled.

The others were also tilted their heads and had similar reactions.

“...Mr. Takumi. Here, it is not very usual to ask questions like that.”

Oh, is that so?

“Uhh...then what should I say?”

“Indeed... I think we should start with describing the actual work. What roles would be expected of them. While they were given a brief description beforehand, they do not know the details.”

“I understand...”

I suppose here, they always conducted interviews in groups? I had never done this before, so I whispered to Sebastian for help.

The people were starting to look restless as they looked around with suspicious expressions. I would have to hurry up.

“Uhum! Excuse me. Uhh... I suppose you have all heard about where you will be working. I will now give you a more detailed explanation of what you will be doing.”

I coughed once and raised my voice so that the whole room could hear me.

When I glanced over to Sebastian, he nodded approvingly. So I guess I was doing alright for now...

It was more like a briefing

I looked at the people who had gathered and spoke loud enough for all of them to hear.

“You will be working in a village that is a little far away from Ractos. It is called Range village. I’m sure that you have heard of it...”

I said and waited for a moment. There were murmurs as they nodded their heads.

“There we will be growing fields of herbs. And so you will be working in these fields. Though, some will be helping to concote the medicine or manage the others.”

“May I ask you a question?”

“Yes. Number 4. What is it?”

A woman had raised her hand.

Sebastian gave his permission, and so she stood up.

She was middle-aged and had short hair. I got the impression that she must be a housewife.

“These herbs. Are you certain that you can even grow them? It is possible that the temperature and soil will not be right for them.”

“Hmm... That is a good question. Mr. Takumi?”

Said Sebastian, and I thought about how I would explain it.

This was not something that I had done before. And besides, herbs were usually something picked in the wilds. So she was right to be doubtful.

It was tricky, explaining this without talking about the Gift.

“Indeed... I can confirm that the herbs will be able to grow without a problem. As for how, that will be explained to you once you start working. We don’t want the process to be leaked.”

“I understand...”

If that wasn’t a good enough answer, then perhaps it was not meant to be in the first place. Regardless, it was best to tell them now that there were things we had to keep from them at the moment.

The woman sat back down with a thoughtful expression.

Sebastian then nodded for me to continue.

“...And so, instead of doing a single thing, you will be split up and assigned different duties. In general, it will be fieldwork, medicine, managing the medicine types and the amount.”

After explaining to them about the fields and how the herbs would be sold throughout the duke’s lands, I went into depth about the work.

Some would be tilling the fields and picking herbs, while others separated and prepared them. They would all work together, and some would have multiple responsibilities.

“I have a question.”

“Yes, number 17.”

“Thank you.”

Next, a man raised his hand.

He was thin and looked more suited to office work than field work.

Of course, you could not judge people by appearances alone.

“You said that you would build a wide sales network in the duke’s lands. But surely that would be difficult when it’s from just one village? Even if you could grow herbs, it would need to be done in vast farmlands, or it would not be enough.”

Hmmm. Number 17 must have a good grasp on the size of the lands and the population.

That was promising.

“As I said before, there is no problem when it comes to numbers and types. As the duke’s butler, I have made calculations, and the conclusion was that there would be enough. It is just a matter of whether you trust the duke and Mr. Takumi.”

“The duke...”

Sebastian answered for me. And since he brought up Mr. Ekenhart, there was a lot of murmuring among the crowd.

“You are right to be concerned. Normally, such a thing would be impossible. However, the duke believes that it will be possible through Mr. Takumi’s methods. However, we cannot reveal that to you until you are officially hired.”

“I understand. I am satisfied with that answer for now.”

“Thank you.”

I probably should have answered it, but since I didn’t know what to say, I was grateful that Sebastian answered for me.

Besides, he enjoyed doing it so much. He looked more lively.

Really, he was so reliable in these moments...

The woman was worried about how she would look in Range village

“Well, now that we are finished...”

“May I ask one final question?”

“Uh...Number 38. Oh, you again?”

“Yes, thank you for helping me. I managed to get here on time!”

Number 38... The woman we had helped after she had tripped and fallen in front of the building.

I didn't know why, but I had been curious about her...

“I understand that the village is east of Ractos. Are you certain that there won't be any trouble with the residents, if employees go to work there?”

“Mr. Takumi and I have been there directly, and spoken with the villagers. There will be no problem. The chief has told us that anyone connect to Mr. Takumi and the duke will be very welcome there.”

Range village was very small, but since that incident, there was still some skepticism about it.

Perhaps they were worried that if a bunch of outsiders went over there, something could happen. Small, closed off communities could sometimes be exclusionary.

Also, as long as there were people gathered in one area, there was the possibility of some kind of disagreement. And if something too extreme or criminal happened, the people would need to be punished.

Still, I couldn't help but feel that things would be fine, as the villagers were very friendly...

“I see. That is a relief. However...”

“Is there something else that you wish to ask?”

“What is it? Even if it is difficult, you should take the opportunity to ask questions now. Of course, we cannot answer everything. But we will do our best.”

The woman sighed with relief.

However, she then looked down and seemed like she was still not sure if she should say it or not.

“Uh...this may be rude. But it is not strange for such small villages. I was also born in a small village, and not in Ractos. So I know... Even if they are friendly on the outside, they tend to have prejudices against others...”

She was especially anxious, as she had come from a different small village.

“Please don’t worry about that. The villagers are very happy that Mr. Takumi has chosen to start his herb business there. They are all very cooperative. As we said before, they have already started preparing housing for the people that will live there.”

“Also, they welcome me and Leo. They are very easy-going. I don’t think there is anything to worry about.”

“Leo...?”

“Mr. Takumi’s Silver Fenrir. I believe we told you all about that before?”

“Silver Fenrir...!”

The woman and some of the others murmured to each other.

“In that village, Leo, the Silver Fenrir...plays with the children. Do you think that people who would allow such a thing would also be prejudiced?”

“No...but I don’t know about this Silver Fenrir...I have not seen it yet. But if they would welcome a powerful monster, I suppose they must be open-minded and friendly.”

“Indeed. It is not the kind of place that would be prejudiced against other races either. And they will welcome any monster that does not attack humans or cause any problems in the village.”

Chapter 746

A Silver Fenrir Was Persuasive

Clearly, the strongest of all monsters...had more of an impact than anything that I or Sebastian could say.

Furthermore, Sebastian had likely added the other part, because someone might want to bring their monster familiar with them as well.

“Even monsters...I see. If that is how welcoming they are to everyone, then I do not need to worry. Thank you for your answer.”

The woman bowed her head and then sat back down.

I noticed that unlike when we first met her, when she fell on her face outside, she seemed a lot more calm.

I suppose it was because she really was in a rush. And it was not as if she had a frantic or clumsy nature normally.

“...Well, since there are no more questions, that will be the end of the explanation.”

“Yes, thank you!”

Sebastian declared, and all of the people thanked us at once.

It really had not been an interview at all.

Still, many of them had asked questions, and I had been watching the reactions of the people while making notes. And so it should help when I look through the list again.

Thinking this, I waited for the people to leave. However, Sebastian then leaned forward and said something else...

“Next, we will talk about work days and holidays.”

“Huh!?”

“...What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

“Uh...I thought you said it was finished... I was just starting to relax.”

“Well, this part is important as well. Especially since your ideas are quite different, it is important to let the people know about it.”

“You...are right...”

“Though, we need not talk about payment yet...”

I was so surprised that I raised my voice, which was quite embarrassing.

Still, it did make sense to talk about it here.

As for payment, we still had to decide on the details. And so we could tell that about it once we had decided to hire them.

“Now, Mr. Takumi, if you would be so kind.”

“Yes. Uhh... Regarding the work days. In general, it will be five days a week. And after two days of rest, you will work another five days.”

Again, there were mutterings among the people.

Even Mr. Soldan looked surprised as he sat in the back.

Well, he was busy day after day, so perhaps he had the most reason to be surprised.

“Excuse me, I have a question.”

“Yes, Number 24. What is it?”

I had been sure that someone would ask a question here. And I was right. As I saw the hand rise up into the air, I looked down at my list to find out who it was, and then I told them to speak.

It kind of made me feel like a school teacher, choosing who should speak when they raised their hands.

Though, I suppose it was a little different when you didn’t call their actual names.

Perhaps it was more like a roll call in the army. Not that I had ever experienced that either...

Chapter 747

There were more questions to be asked

“Thank you. Um...I’m sure the workers would be very grateful to be able to rest... But I suppose that means the pay will also be less?”

“You are right to worry about that. However, no, we plan to offer a generous salary, regardless of the number of days that you work. After all, I think it is important to rest so that you are not too tired while working.”

“I understand. Thank you.”

“May I ask a question?”

“Yes. Number 3.”

“Thank you.”

Number 3 sat in the front row. I got the impression that he was looking at me a lot, as if to size me up.

He seemed rather tall and healthy. And the sharp eyes suggested a degree of experience. I suppose he was in his thirties?

“More days off mean less work for individuals. Does that mean there is not much work to do?”

“Indeed. When it comes to work, there are things we are still figuring out. As explained before, we want to send herbs and medicine all over these lands. So it is not as if there will be little work to do. Though, we will not overwork people either. All I can say now is that it will be an appropriate amount of work for a day.”

“However, surely that will not be enough? A proper number of workers working a proper amount of days...doing the proper amount of work. Isn't that the way to manage things smoothly...?”

Hmm. It seemed like he had experience with management. Or at least, he had employed people before.

I took some notes as I thought about what he said.

“When it comes to doing a certain amount of work, it is not always best to increase the burden of each person. Surely you can think of other ways...”

“The only way to do that...would be to increase the number of employees...”

“Exactly. It is not as if we are only going to hire people who are here. We will likely hire from the orphanage as well.”

“Mr. Takumi will also be hiring from the duke’s house. Though, some of them will just be helping to take care of him, now that he will be so busy. Regardless, the duke will be watching the enterprise closely. And will know if there is any wrong doing, such as workers not being paid. The duke takes the trust of his people very seriously, and will be quick to act.”

“I see... Well, if we have the assurance of people related to the duke, then we do not need to worry.”

Sebastian added to my explanation.

The people really did have a lot of trust in the duke...

Also, I guess I really was going to be busy now? I had been thinking about taking it easy in Range village... Well, perhaps Sebastian was just saying that for now.

“May I ask a question?”

“What is it, Number 9?”

When Number 3 sat down, a different person raised their hand.

This time it was a young woman.

She had semi-long hair and gave off a very neat and tidy impression.

“Um, how are the men in Range village?”

“What? Uh...what did you say?”

“I’m wondering about the men. You aren’t terrible either, but a close associate of the duke is too much for me... So I was wondering if there was anyone good in the village.”

“...Sebastian?”

“I have to admit, I did not anticipate this kind of question...”

Chapter 748

Some people had unexpected reasons for wanting to work

To put it simply, Number 9 was looking for a man?

It wasn't like there were any rules against this. And I suppose such a thing might be good for the village...

“Uhh...I'm sorry. That is not something I considered when looking at the village. And so I cannot answer your question.”

“I see... Well, maybe there will be someone good in this crowd. But I had high hopes for the village... After all, I will be more likely to be accepted that way, right?”

“Uh...perhaps...”

I really did not know how to answer her questions. She seemed like a city person who had romantic ideas of living in the countryside.

Though, it may not end up being the kind of life she wanted. I heard stories of people who ended up regretting it.

“Hoho. What a delightful young lady. As long as you do your work properly, you can spend the rest of your time as you wish. But be careful, as such things can sometimes lead to your ruin.”

“I know that. I am not thinking about jumping into anything lightly. I am just saying that I want to work and marry a nice man and have a family. And some people still laugh at me.”

“As long as you are serious, I don't think it is anything to laugh about. What about you, Mr. Takumi?”

“Uh, me...? Well...I don't see why anyone would complain about that. As long as you are not fighting over someone or stealing...”

When speaking to Mr. Ekenhart and Sebastian, I had refused to give a definitive answer about Claire. And this kind of felt like Sebastian was criticizing me.

Well, perhaps it was just in my head.

“I would not do that. I have no interest in other people’s things.”

“Hoho. Then what about this Mr. Takumi. He is serious and kind. And will soon have a thriving business. He will not be free for long.”

“What!?”

Sebastian!?

“Oh, no... Someone who owns a Silver Fenrir and is backed by the duke...is not a good fit for me.”

“Really? How unfortunate...”

“Please stop looking disappointed... Uh, if you really are interested in marrying in Range village, I suggest you get to know the people while you work first. And then you can get a feel for how you would fit in? Though, I’m sure the men will notice you soon enough.”

“Yes, I understand. And thank you for the compliment.”

“Uhh, are there any other questions then...?”

“Yes, I have a question.”

“Go ahead, Number 20...”

We then answered Number 20’s question, and others after that until there was no one left...

“So, that will be the end of this interview. Everyone, thank you for your time...”

Said Sebastian, and everyone got to their feet and bowed.

“Hya! Oh-oh-oh...pew... Ah, excuse me!”

While the butlers and Ms. Lyra led everyone out of the room, Number 38...the woman who had tripped and fallen in front of the building, lost her balance yet again. However, she managed to catch herself, so that she did not fall on her face this time...

Chapter 749

I asked about the woman who I was curious about

“Hmm...”

“Is there something you are wondering about?”

Number 38... When tripping, I had thought that she hit her leg against the chair at first, but there was no sound, so it was probably not the case. Regardless, I was glad that she was not hurt.

“The woman who tripped in front of the building... I saw her when she was leaving, and she almost tripped again.”

“Indeed. But she seemed very composed while asking questions, so I do not think she is like Ms. Gelda... But you never know with people.”

“Yes. And I couldn’t help but be curious...”

“Oh?”

“Don’t look at me like that...I don’t mean it in any strange way.”

“Oh, excuse me. Sometimes, people fall in love at first sight. So I thought that maybe...”

Why did Sebastian always say such things... Perhaps it was because of what Number 9 said earlier.

In any case, that was not what I meant at all.

“No. There isn’t really any reason that I can think of... Excuse me. Do you think it would be possible to call her back?”

“It is possible. Hmm... Ms. Deria. You. Go and call Ms. Deria. She was the one with the hat.”

“Certainly...”

Sebastian looked at the list and had someone call her back.

There was almost something familiar about her. Regardless, I waited for the butler to return with her.

“Excuse me...”

“Mr. Takumi. Here is the lady from earlier.”

“Thank you.”

After some time, the two returned.

And I had the same strange feeling. Like there was something odd about the way she walked.

“Umm... Did I do something wrong...?”

Apparently, Ms. Deria was worried that she was in trouble. She was holding her hat and looked at us as if frightened.

“No, it is nothing like that. I was just curious about something... Please don’t be alarmed.”

“I-I see... Oh...what is it that you were curious about?”

“Well, please sit down for now, and then we can talk.”

“Yes...”

I also moved back to my seat.

I had been observing her carefully, and was starting to understand what it was that seemed strange about her...

“So...Ms. Deria. You are not from this town...”

“Uh, yes. I am from Vlayu village. It is near a forest by the main road that is east of Ractos.”

“Vlayu village...”

“Mr. Takumi. It is a village close to Ractos. The population is smaller than Range village, and they make a living through selling crops and wood.”

Hmm. A farming and forestry village then.

I nodded at Sebastian and tried to imagine what it was like.

If it was to the south and close to the forest...it must be the edge of the fenrir forest. Perhaps we could reach it if we traveled southeast...

“And that is why you were worried earlier, about the way that people would see you?”

“Many small villages are independent, and do now welcome outsiders... Or so I am told. My village was not like that...otherwise, they would not have raised me.”

“So you were not originally from there?”

“Uh, well...I am from there. I was found by a lumberjack in the village. I was raised there. But as for where my parents are from...I do not know.”

“Ah, I didn’t mean to pry to that degree. Sebastian, are such things common in this area?”

“It is one of the reasons that the orphanage is full. Ractos is on the road that leads to the royal capital. And there is a lot of trade conducted here. And so many people come...and sometimes leave their children for various reasons.”

Chapter 750

Ms. Delia’s identity

“I see...”

“Of course, such things are against the law. Not only in Ractos, but in this whole country... Still, it does not stop. Sometimes, if the parent can be identified, the child can be returned. Though, they had abandoned their child once already, so I don’t know if it really is the right thing to do...”

In places where people gathered from all over the country, there would be those with ill intent. And as Sebastian said, maybe they could not raise their children due to certain circumstances.

“Uh, so I know that you were raised in that village now. I think I understand what was bothering me...”

“Bothering you?”

“Ms. Delia...could you take off your hat?”

“What!? My ha-hat!? Um...I’m sorry... But I like this hat very much... And I would like to keep it on please...”

When I asked her to removed the hat, Ms. Delia looked frantic, and held the hat down with her hands as if she would not allow it to be removed.

“It’s fine. We will not blame you or discriminate you in any way, Ms. Delia. I just wanted to confirm something. And also, introduce you to someone. Please.”

“Ahhh! You do not need to bow your head to me! Very well...I will take it off...”

In order to convince her, I stood up and bowed my head while making the request.

This seemed to be most unexpected, as she looked frantic for a second, but then made the decision to remove it.

Ah, I knew it...

“You are a beastkin...Ms. Delia.”

“Yes...I’m sorry for hiding it.”

“That is a surprise. While we noted that all were accepted, I did not expect to see a non-human. After all, there are usually only humans in Ractos...”

“She must have been adopted and raised like Liza. I suppose after rumors spread, it is to be expected that you would keep the truth hidden. But Ms. Delia, it’s fine. I...and the people of the duke’s house, will not treat you differently for being a beastkin.”

“Is-is that so...?”

The first thing I saw when Ms. Delia took off her hat, were the pointed ears. Her hair was brown, but the fur on the ears was black.

They were smaller than Liza’s fox-like ears, and the fur was shorter... Maybe they were cat ears?

And on closer inspection, she had large eyes, with narrow pupils, unlike those of a human.

“I talked with Claire, the duke’s daughter about it before. And she confirmed with me that there is no one in the duke’s household who holds prejudice against beastkin.”

“I-I see... That is a relief to hear. I really am sorry for deceiving you!”

“Well, you were raised in a small village. So it’s understandable that you would be cautious after coming out into a big town. Do not worry about it.”

When apologizing, Ms. Delia’s twitching ears folded down as she bowed.

It really did remind me of Liza...

I wonder, is she playing with the other children now?

I wanted her to know as well, that many of the people in this town did not harbor any ill will against the bestkin...