

## Beloved Dog 81

### Chapter 81

I tried to think of the reason that I fainted

“Immediately after that, my vision went completely white, and I was unable to do anything. And then my consciousness slowly faded away. Before I knew it, I was sleeping in my bed.”

“I understand. Thank you for telling us.”

“No, it was good that I went over it and organized my thoughts.”

Yes, it had sent a chill through my body at first, but I was fine when I started to talk about it calmly.

I wouldn't want to experience it again, but thinking about it wasn't so bad.

“However, what could have caused it? I did not think that I was that tired.”

We had explored a forest and slept in tents. And so there was a little fatigue from that.

However, the plants I made with Weed Cultivation were supposed to have erased nearly all of it.

Could it be psychological fatigue...? And yet, it had closely resembled the time that I fainted from over working.

When it happened before, I had almost no time to rest, and felt lucky if I could get two or three hours of sleep.

The only reason I returned home at all was in order to feed Leo, and then I had to go straight back to work. It seemed so ridiculous now that I thought back on it.

And then finally, when I was able to go home again, my vision turned white and I collapsed on the spot.

Even I knew that this was bad, and I had called the company and told them that I was ill, and then I went to the hospital.

Well, I still had to go to work the day after, and was scolded by my boss...

But never mind that. I had to figure out why I had fainted this time.

In spite of being in the forest for so long, I should not have been that tired.

I scanned the room. Aside from Tilura, who was puzzled, the others all looked a little grim.

Even Leo seemed to be deep in thought... She was so expressive these days...

Ah, the fenrir was also clueless.

It had the same expression as Tilura as it tilted its head to the side.

It was a pup, after all.

“Mr. Takumi, uh... About how you fainted...”

“Yes.”

Sebastian had a severe look as he began to talk. Did he know the reason?

“This is merely speculation, and I have no evidence. But it is possible that...”

So Sebastian had a theory.

As I had none, I was very curious to hear what he would say.

Since this was serious, I straightened my back a little and faced him directly.

“It is possible that it’s an effect of your Gift.”

“My Gift? But I’ve used it plenty of times before, and nothing like this has ever happened?”

Besides, I hadn’t even been using it when I fainted.

I did use it in the forest, but that was a day earlier.

If the Gift was the reason, shouldn’t I have fainted when I used it?

“As I said, I cannot firm it, but...I read something in a book about Gifts. ‘...Some may faint after overuse of the Gift. And so one must be cautious when using it. However, there are also reports of people using their Gift continuously without ever fainting. Does it depend on the ability, or the user? The answer is still unknown to us...’”

“So others have fainted after using the Gift then.”

Fainting from overuse, huh?

To cause such a thing... What was this Gift anyway...?

“It is known that using the Gift does not consume magic energy. So while you might faint from using too much magic, this is unrelated... The power to use the Gift is inside of you, Mr. Takumi. And perhaps that power dried up when you fainted.”

“The power to use the Gift... There is such a thing?”

“It has not been confirmed. As I said before, there are not many people who can use it. And so research on the matter is not easy.”

Hmm... If I were to make comparisons to games that I played in my old world, physical energy was HP, magic was MP, and this other special power was...maybe SP?

...Or should I call it GP for Gift Point?

It sounded like points you would get for sending someone a present...

“In the forest, Mr. Takumi, you used Weed Cultivation. I think that is the reason. Of course, it’s only my guess.”

“...But why did I only faint after returning from the forest? It’s been a whole day since I last used Weed Cultivation. Shouldn’t I have fainted back at the campsite?”

I had thought about this before, but the Gift was the cause, then surely it should have happened in the place where I used it?

“We thought the same thing at first. Surely it cannot be related to the Gift then. However, once I grew suspicious, I began to search through documents about the Gift, and found something very interesting.”

“What did it say?”

It seemed like Sebastian had been doing a lot of searching while I was asleep.

While I still wasn’t sure if it was the actual reason, I felt a little bad that they had worked so hard on my behalf.

“As it was an old document, it had to be translated, but... When using the Gift, the duration time changes depending on the ability. The longer the duration is, the heavier the burden on the user. And if it’s short, then there is less of a burden.”

“Duration...”

“Your ability is Weed Cultivation, Mr. Takumi. And so when cultivating weeds, you use the ability and weeds...well, herbs...the moment that they have been cultivated, then you finish using the ability.”

“...Yes. If cultivating them is the goal, then I wouldn’t have to use the ability after that.”

When using Weed Cultivation, I put my hands on the ground.

And then plants grow immediately. After a few seconds, they finish growing and my work is complete.

So in terms of duration, it’s just a few seconds between the start and finish.

In the end, I still don’t understand why I would faint here instead of the forest...

“But with that account and your own theory, Sebastian, isn’t it even more odd that I would faint here?”

“Mr. Takumi, you created medicinal herbs to heal the fenrir, yes?”

“Huh? Yes. There was nothing else that could be done, and so I tried making something, even though I wasn’t sure if it would work.”

“I think that is the reason.”

That was the reason? But why?

Chapter 82

The Gift was the reason after all

“I’ve seen you use Weed Cultivation a number of times, Mr. Takumi. But there was something strange when you made the medicinal herbs to treat the wounded fenrir.”

“Something strange?”

Had there been something strange?

“Yes, you put your hands on the ground like you always do. However, unlike previous times, there was a light that shone from the ground.”

“A light... Yes, there was a light, now that I think about it.”

“And there was also a light when you touched the fenrir with the herb.”

“Yes...you’re right.”

There had been a light... But as this was a world where magic existed, I just assumed it was because it was a magical herb, and hadn’t put much thought into it...

“The herb that you made was similar to Loe in shape, but Loe does not glow like that.”

It was likely similar because I had been thinking about Loe while creating it.

However, I had been told that Loe was not capable of healing such grievous wounds.

In my mind, the herb and wound would glow, and once the light faded out, the wound would be healed.

Like some magical effect.

“And there is one other thing. After you fainted, Mr. Takumi, the fenrir seemed to weaken.”

“The fenrir?”

“Kyau?”

Upon hearing this, I looked towards the fenrir, but it just looked back questioningly.

Well, it didn’t look like it was weakened at all.

“It is quite normal now, but immediately after it happened, the fenrir became limp and immobile, just like it was when we first found it in the forest.”

“I see...”

“Thankfully, as the wounds were still healed, it recovered in a day. It was upon seeing this that I made a hypothesis.”

“...And what hypothesis is that?”

“The herb you made, Mr. Takumi, was not something that healed the fenrir completely. It just maintains a state that resembles recovery. And in the meantime, its energy and other treatments are completed more gradually.”

“Maintains...”

“Yes. And while maintaining it, you continue to use this power that’s related to the Gift. And it reached its limit just as you returned and rested in this room.”

In other words, the herb I had cultivated merely resulted in a state that resembled a healed wound.

And after that, I would continue to expend energy in order to finish healing it...

The herb I made would continue to have an effect, but its source of power was limited.

And so the power from the Gifts kept the effect going, so that the fenrir continued to heal...?

So perhaps when the light from the herb faded away, it had actually gone inside of the fenrir.

Indeed, if this was the case, then Sebastian’s theory that the duration was the reason I fainted would make sense. And it would explain why there was a delay, and why it happened after I returned.

“Mr. Takumi, this is only my educated guess after some research. As I said previously, I have no evidence.”

“No, I think you must be right, Sebastian. I just have a feeling.”

Well, that’s all it was, a feeling.

I wasn’t sure if it was because I was the one who had the Gift, but I didn’t feel like what Sebastian was saying was just a theory or imagination. It felt correct.

Besides, there was no other explanation that I could think of, and so I decided to believe it for now.

“Mr. Takumi, if what Sebastian says is true, perhaps it would be best if you abstain from using Weed Cultivation for a while?”

Ms. Claire had been listening quietly, but she now spoke up in a worried voice.

Now that I thought of it, the entire room had been very quiet the whole time.

Leo, Ms. Claire, Ms. Lyra, and Ms. Gelda were all listening seriously.

Only Tilura and the fenrir still looked puzzled.

They did not understand what we were talking about.

“Ms. Claire, I’m grateful for your concern. But I have so many plans for Weed Cultivation and I want to be useful.”

“But what if you were to faint again...”

“Don’t worry. If what Sebastian says is true, it should be fine as long as I don’t create anything with a continuous effect. So I just need to be careful about that. After all, I had created all kinds of things in the garden during my tests, and never felt anything wrong.”

“...Very well. However, you must promise to not work too hard. Leo isn’t the only one here who would worry about you.”



Upon saying this, the others, including Tilura and the fenrir, all nodded.

I was so thankful for their kindness.

“Thank you all. I will be careful.”

“You promise?”

“Yes.”

I then bowed my head and thanked them.

And promised Ms. Claire that I would not strain myself.

Overworking had been so normal for me not too long ago. But here, things were different.

Well, it wasn't a company.

“By the way, Mr. Takumi...”

“Yes?”

Ms. Claire suddenly seemed to remember something.

“We never finished our conversation because you fainted... You were going to tell me about Weed Cultivation.”

“Ah, that's right.”

While I wasn't trying to conceal or delay it, it was starting to look like it by how much time had passed since I said that I would talk about it.

However, everyone who knew about my Gift was gathered together here now, so it seemed like the perfect time.

“Well, it’s nothing complicated. Uh, it all started on the first time that I tried using Weed Cultivation. That time, there was this one plant that I made that I didn’t know anything about. I believe I showed it to you and also Sebastian.”

“Yes, you did. It was a plant that we had also never seen.”

Sebastian must have been very curious, as he answered for Ms. Claire.

## Chapter 83

I explained about my Gift research

In the end, it was Sebastian who really seemed interested in this subject.

Perhaps because it was related to the Gift. Though, it wasn’t just him, as the others were also looking at me eagerly.

“It was a plant that I had never seen before. I checked the book that I borrowed later, and it wasn’t in it.”

“A plant that isn’t in the book...”

“And since I didn’t know what it was, I left it on the table in my room... But that night, Leo ate it without asking...”

“Leo did...”

“Wuff? ...Wuff.”

At this, all eyes turned to Leo.

Leo tilted her head to the side once and then nodded as if to say, 'ah, that's right.'

It was a mystery plant that could have been poisonous, so you shouldn't eat such things, Leo.

Thankfully, it had not been poisonous at all.

"Well, it was also because of Leo that I found out the plant's effect."

"What effect was it?"

Sebastian leaned forward as he asked this.

"In spite of it being night time, Leo became very energetic after eating the plant. She said that...it made her swell with power, as if it surpassed her limits and made her stronger. Right, Leo?"

"Wuff."

I asked Leo and she nodded in reply.

"Swell with power... So is it like the herbs you gave us in the forest that healed our tiredness?"

"No, Lady Claire. If it makes your body stronger, then it surely does much more than heal your tiredness."

"Sebastian is right. Though, I haven't tested it enough to be sure, but I believe that it enhances your physical abilities."

Since it made you stronger, Leo continued to play after that until she finally fell asleep. It had been quite a night...

She was so restless and wanted to run around, and I had to stop her over and over again.

Leo could not run around inside of the mansion, as she was so large and was bound to break things.

“Physical ability...it must be quite amazing then.”

“Yes, I do think that it could be very useful. I tested it myself and I was able to jump several times higher than I usually can. And things that normally feel heavy were light when I picked them up.”

“That...is astonishing.”

“So that’s why you were hopping and rolling around, Mr. Takumi.”

Ms. Lyra had been watching me as I worked in the garden.

Now that I thought of it, I must have looked quite a fool, jumping around like that at my age.

“However, I haven’t tested it as much as I’d like, so there are still things that I don’t know.”

“Like what? It seems that you know quite enough already.”

“Well, like just how much it enhances your physical ability. The effect may vary from person to person. Perhaps it is more effective on certain types of people.”

For instance, if a person’s physical ability was ‘10’ and they ate the herb.

And then their physical ability became 20. Was this because their ability was doubled, or because the herb gives you +10?

If it was +10, it would be 30 if someone with physical ability 20 ate it, but if it was doubling the number, then it would be 40.

This was a big difference.

Of course, if this was true, it would likely be much more complex.

Besides, I doubted a person's physical ability could be measured and turned into numbers.

"Uh, I'm getting sidetracked here... But after making that herb, I realized one of the possibilities of Weed Cultivation."

"And what possibility is that?"

Now Claire was leaning forward as she asked me this.

And while I had no idea if she truly understood, even Tilura looked quite excited as she listened to us speak.

They really enjoyed listening to this, huh?

Ms. Claire had already proved to be someone that was full of curiosity. Perhaps it had just rubbed off onto everyone close to her?

"When cultivating the plants, at first, I was thinking about not just the effect, but the actual appearance. However, the herb I have been talking about was something that I didn't know about. In other words, I only need a vague idea of what kind of plant I want, and I can cultivate it."

"What do you mean?"

"I don't have to imagine what it looks like. It doesn't even have to exist. I just need to imagine the desired effect and use Weed Cultivation. Well, it was really an accident. And so while it wasn't exactly what I had been thinking about, something similar was created."

"I see... So that's what happened... This Weed Cultivation must be an incredible ability."

Sebastian was the only one who was nodding understandingly.

The others appeared to be pondering what I said with serious expressions.

But it was really quite simple.

“It would be nice to have this kind of plant. Just think that, and as long as it can be categorized as a weed, then you can make it. It is that kind of ability.”

“If I remember correctly, you cannot make vegetables?”

“Yes, I cannot. However, sometimes the line between vegetable and weed can be blurry. I think there may be some loopholes if I think about it. It was because of this, that before our journey, I asked Ms. Claire if I can test different things in the back garden.”

“So that is what you were doing. I was very curious to know about it.”

Yes, that had been clear.

She was a very curious person, and I had made it sound more mysterious than was necessary.

Well, I still wasn't even sure what I thought at the time, so I didn't feel like talking about it.

“Hahaha. I'm terribly sorry about that. I just wanted to tell you once there were some results. It was just a thought that had sprouted in my mind, and I wouldn't have been able to explain it properly yet.”

“No... But it did cross my mind at the time, that you were being mean to me. But I know better now.”

Mean... Do I look like that kind of person?

I had always strived to be gentlemanly around women....

As for whether I was succeeding... Well, I'd rather not think about it.

## Chapter 84

I decided to enter a contract with the duke for the selling of the herbs

“So that was how you were able to make herbs that were so useful when we were in the forest.”

“Yes, it was because of the testing I was able to do in advance. I’m glad that I was able to be of help.”

“Yes, it really did help us.”

“Indeed. To be honest, I was so tired that I did not want to walk anymore. But thanks to your herbs, Mr. Takumi, we were able to continue exploring, which led to discovering the fenrir.”

“It was that amazing!?”

As Ms. Claire and Sebastian talked about exploring the forest, Tilura interrupted them.

“Yes. It was Mr. Takumi’s herb that saved the life of the fenrir you are holding right now, Tilura.”

“You really are amazing, Mr. Takumi!”

“Kyau?”

Ms. Claire’s declaration resulted in Tilura looking at me with deep admiration...

All I had done was test different things with Weed Cultivation... The ones for fatigue and enhanced senses was one thing, but the herbs for healing the fenrir had been more of a gamble.

And it had even caused me to faint...

“Still, now that we know of the possibility of overuse of the ability due to longer durations, it is clear that you have much to think about.”

“Yes... For now, I will avoid trying to make anything with a lasting effect. But aside from that, I will also like to start making herbs that Ms. Claire will be able to sell.”

“Mr. Takumi, does that mean you...?”

I answered Sebastian while also bringing up the agreement that Ms. Claire and I had previously discussed.

I had already decided to agree to it, but hadn't been able to tell her yet.

If Ms. Claire, or the Liebert family business handled the sales of the herbs, then I would be able to earn an income.

And since I would be using Weed Cultivation, I could continue my research at the same time. It was two birds with one stone.

I had been told that it was possible that I would make more money if I sold them myself, but I was greatly indebted towards Ms. Claire and the family.

While it wasn't much, I wanted to contribute something.

Well, I also meant to avoid getting overwhelmed with work like in my old world. I would take things easy and go at my own pace.

“I'll do what I can manage without fainting. If that is fine, then I would like to make the contract to sell the herbs.”

“As a representative of the family, I would like to thank you, Mr. Takumi.”

“Oh, there is no need to thank me. If anything, I should be thanking you. After all, there is surely so much troublesome work that you are now taking on. If I am getting paid, then this will be a fairly easy job for me.”

“Of course, you will be paid. You can count on the Liebert house to deal with you honestly. I promise that you will be paid the appropriate amount. It has now been proven that using the Gift has some risks for you. And so we will not take you for granted or assume that it is easy.”

I understood what she was trying to say, but this was not an ability that I originally had.



It was something that I acquired suddenly, and so if I could make money off of it, then there was no way that I wouldn't see it as easy money.

Well, perhaps I will get used to it one day... I hope that I do.

"Now, Sebastian. We will have to discuss the matter with my father."

"Indeed. We cannot start selling them without the master's permission. But, Lady Claire..."

"I know... When I talk to him about it, I must also prepare some excuses for turning down whatever matches he is thinking of. Yes?"

"Yes. You are currently staying in this villa in order to avoid seeing him for a while, but... Who knows how many proposals have been coming in the meantime...?"

Sebastian now had a faraway look in his eyes.

Ms. Claire looked like she was steeling herself... I had heard stories about this father... But was he really that bad?

"Oh, I shall refuse them! Not just for Mr. Takumi's sake, but also for the Liebert family!"

"Indeed. We do owe a debt to Mr. Takumi. And for that reason, I, Sebastian...will do my utmost to cooperate!"

What were they going on about... Suddenly, Ms. Claire and Sebastian had become very passionate.

Did it really take so much preparation just to...turn down a marriage proposal..?

Well, I had never been involved in any talk of arranged marriages myself, so I wouldn't know.

But when I looked at the others, Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda were shaking their heads with exasperation.

Leo and the fenrir looked completely uninterested, and Tilura... Huh? Tilura was leaning forward with her face against the table.

They had said something about arranging a marriage for her as well... So maybe that is why.

It was just then that a growling sound echoed through the drawing room.

Ah...

“...What was that sound?”

Ms. Claire, you shouldn't suspect Tilura immediately every time... Tilura had raised her head from the table and shook it violently in denial.

Oh, well. I couldn't let her take the fall for this.

“...Sorry. That was my stomach...”

It was so embarrassing that I had to whisper it.

Having to admit it in front of so many people was like a punishment for losing a game...

“...So it was you, Mr. Takumi... Pardon me.”

“It cannot be helped. Mr. Takumi slept for three days after fainting, and so he must be very hungry.”

“I was sleeping for...what? Two days!?”

“Yes. You slept for two whole days after fainting, Mr. Takumi.”

I had slept for two days...

Then it was no wonder that I was starving.

“Well, your timing is perfect. Let’s eat then. Lyra, Gelda.”

“Certainly.”

“Yes!”

Apparently, we had been talking for quite a while, and when I looked out the window, the sun had mostly set.

So it was the perfect time to start making dinner.

“Mr. Takumi, you should eat here in the drawing room today.”

“Very well.”

## Chapter 85

We found out the fenrir’s gender

Today, we would be eating in the drawing room instead of the dining hall.

It wasn’t that I was too hungry to be able to move, but I did feel quite sluggish. And so I was grateful.

Nutrition really was important... As I thought this, I took another sip of the tea that Ms. Lyra had poured me before leaving the room.

“I’m sorry, Mr. Takumi. We should have had something ready for you as soon as you woke up.”

“Not at all. I woke up at an odd hour. It is fine. Besides, I had a lot to talk about, so this is perfect.”

“Sebastian was especially interested in your Gift.”

“Hahaha.”

“Lady Claire, I was not that...”

“Oh? Who was the one who was reading all of the books in this mansion after Mr. Takumi fainted? Besides, you were about to topple over with how you leaned forward in order to listen to Mr. Takumi.”

In my opinion, Ms. Claire had been listening with equal intensity...

Well, she did like to tease Sebastian, and so I wouldn't say anything.

It wasn't until Tilura pointed out that everyone, including her sister, had been listening with rapt attention, that she finally stopped.

Sometimes children just bluntly said what adults couldn't...

Though, it was completely inconsequential on this occasion.

After some time passed, the food was ready, and it was brought in by Ms. Lyra and Ms. Claire.

As I had slept for two days, it had been decided that it would not be good for me to eat anything heavy, and so I was served what looked like oatmeal wrapped in cabbage.

I didn't real like oatmeal when it was sweet, but the rolled cabbage that Ms. Helena made went well with the consomme soup, and it was delicious.

And in spite of their concerns, I ended up eating twice as much as Ms. Claire and the others.

...Leo gave me a look of exasperation and sighed. That was a little shocking...

After that, we rested during our usual tea time.

Ms. Lyra's tea was always delicious.

Ms. Claire and I sat around the table as we drank, but Tilura and the fenrir had gone to play with Leo as soon as they finished eating.

"By the way, Ms. Claire..."

"What is it?"

Ms. Claire put her cup down and looked at me.

Perhaps it was because she was a noblewoman, the mere gesture of holding her teacup was beautiful.

Oh, never mind that.

Sometimes I would talk to Ms. Claire, only to find her staring back at me oddly, because I became distracted by her beauty for a few seconds. I had to be careful.

Sebastian seemed to be smirking in the back, but I ignored him.

"Have you chosen a name for the fenrir?"

"A name... Indeed... It is quite inconvenient when you don't have one."

Well, even without a name, there was only one fenrir here that played with Tilura aside from Leo. So we wouldn't have trouble calling it... But yes, it would be nice to have a name.

It wasn't until I named Leo after rescuing her that we really felt like a family.

Of course, I had named her without even knowing she was a girl... And I remember regretting it just a little...

“Perhaps it won’t be that inconvenient, but having a proper name would make things feel more friendly.”

“...Indeed... I do think it should have a name... However, what would be a good name for it?”

Apparently, Ms. Claire did not have any candidates in mind.

Yes, you would want to give it a lot of thought if you had to name someone else.

Though, I was one to talk, as I had named Leo on impulse.

“Mr. Takumi. What made you decide on Leo’s name?”

“Me? Uh...”

It would be a little awkward to explain it right in front of Leo... Oh, well.

“It was just on a whim. And then I found out that Leo was a girl, even though I had given her a boyish name...”

“That’s quite...”

“Wuff.”

Leo sighed...

Sorry, Leo.

But if anything, now that Leo was a Silver Fenrir, the name sounded cool and appropriate.

“Sebastian. Do you have any good ideas?”

“Indeed...”

Oh, apparently Ms. Claire decided that I would be of no use.

I suppose that I couldn't blame her after picking a name like Leo.

“In that case, shouldn't we find out if the fenrir is male or female?”

“Ah, yes. I haven't even checked that yet.”

“That's right. That is what we need to learn first.”

Neither Ms. Claire or Sebastian had checked to see the fenrir's gender.

It was a good thing too, or they might have just repeated the mistake that I had made.

“Come over here, fenrir.”

“Kyau?”

Ms. Claire called the fenrir. And though it had been playing with Tilura, it answered her call obediently.

Training it would likely be quite easy then.

Well, I didn't know if the fenrir even needed to be trained. Leo seemed to have been instructing it ever since they met in the forest...

“Can you tell, Sebastian?”

“Yes... This fenrir is female.”

Ms. Claire held the fenrirs paws up so that its belly was exposed to Sebastian.

Fenrirs were very vicious monsters...and yet it allowed itself to be held in such a defenseless position... Was it because it was young? Or that it trusted Ms. Claire? Or was it because of Leo's training...

“Female. So then it's a girl, just like Leo.”

“Wuff.”

“And me!”

Tilura shouted happily when she found out that the fenrir was a girl.

Leo nodded as if this was old news to her.

So Leo already knew. Well, they were a very similar species.

Though, Ms. Claire and the others seemed to think that fenrirs and Silver Fenrirs were completely different.

## Chapter 86

We decided on a name for the fenrir

“So the fenrir is a girl... All right, you can go now.”

“Kyau, kyau.”

Ms. Claire put the fenrir down, but perhaps it wanted to play with her, as it jumped on the neighboring chair and barked.



“Oh, if you insist.”

Said Ms. Claire. But her expression was the definition of gentle as she petted the fenrir.

“A name... Do you have any good suggestions?”

“Indeed...”

“Hmm...”

I asked, and both Ms. Claire and Sebastian seemed to be thinking about it.

In the meantime, Ms. Claire continued to pet the fenrir, who seemed very pleased to be getting her attention.

“Yes... What about Nicomaru?”

Sebastian was the first to make a suggestion...but it was a very questionable one...

“Sebastian, I don’t know what you are thinking with that name. A girl’s name should be prettier.”

“...Yes, my lady...”

Ah, he looked crestfallen.

Up until now, he had been standing behind Ms. Claire and facing the rest of the room. But he turned around and hung his head low towards the wall.

Apparently, he had no talent for thinking of names... In spite of being a butler who could do almost everything else perfectly...

Ms. Lyra and Ms. Gelda looked like they were trying to suppress giggles. I was starting to feel bad for Sebastian.

“...Nicomaru... I think it is pretty...”

He muttered to the wall... Uh... Yes, it's sort of cute. Yes.

And so cheer up, Sebastian!

“I know!”

After her rejection of Sebastian's idea, Ms. Claire paid no mind to his dreariness and exclaimed loudly.

“What name have you thought of?”

“I will call her Sherry. It means ‘darling one’!”

Sherry, huh? It's a good, pretty name.

Unlike Sebastian, Ms. Claire had the right sensibilities for choosing names.

“Fenrir. From now on you are called Sherry.”

“Kyau!”

Ms. Claire looked the fenrir straight in the face and said her name.

The fenrir, who was now Sherry, nodded in agreement.

Just then, within Ms. Claire's grasp, Sherry suddenly started to glow.

“What!?”

“Wuff!?”

“Sherry!?”

“Lady Claire!”

“It’s so bright!”

Sebastian moved close to Ms. Claire protectively.

Ms. Claire was so surprised that she let go of Sherry and just stared at her.

Leo and Tilura also raised their voices in shock.

I too had not expected Sherry to start glowing... And so I stared as well.

“Kyau!”

As Sherry unleashed a light that filled the drawing room, she let out a loud bark.

And when her voice died down, the light began to fade and then disappear entirely.

“Sherry... What was that?”

Ms. Claire asked as she looked at Sherry with a stunned expression. But Sherry just tilted her head as if she had no clue.

What was that light...

“Leo. Do you know what that was?”

When in doubt, ask the Silver Fenrir.

“Wuff?”

However, Leo also seemed to be puzzled. She did not know why Sherry had started glowing.

Well, that was fine... It wasn't like Leo knew everything.

“...Perhaps...”

Oh? It looked like Sebastian had thought of something.

When it came to these kinds of things, Sebastian's vast wealth of knowledge was very useful.

“Sebastian, do you know what happened?”

“I have heard of such a thing before. When making a monster your familiar, you give it a name. And if the monster accepts it, the contract is complete. And the monster will glow in accordance with how powerful it is.”

“A familiar contract...”

Now that I thought about it, when I first came to this world, Ms. Claire had immediately assumed that Leo was a familiar.

Also, I was astonished by the breadth of Sebastian's knowledge.

“Sherry... Did you become my familiar?”

“Kyau!”

Sherry nodded at Ms. Claire's words, and then jumped on her as if to express her joy.

“Ahh! Oh, Sherry. You mustn't jump on me like that, as it is most alarming.”

“Kyau! Kyau!”

Still, Ms. Claire looked quite happy as she petted Sherry. And Sherry seemed to really enjoying being held and petted by Ms. Claire.

“So, Lady Claire now has a familiar...”

“Is there a problem with that, Sebastian?”

After the explanation, Sebastian just looked at Ms. Claire and Sherry as if he could not believe what he was seeing.

Ms. Claire was the daughter of a duke.

Perhaps having a monster as a familiar was something that was frowned upon.

“No, not really.”

So there was nothing.

I’m not sure why I was even worried...

“If anything, this is quite wonderful. While she is not a Silver Fenrir, fenrirs are still proud and powerful monsters. She will be a perfect guard for you, my lady.”

“Yes, she could be like a guard.”

Like a watchdog?

Well, if she could protect Ms. Claire, that was a good thing.

However, when looking at Sherry yelping in Ms. Claire's arms, I could not see this proud and powerful monster that Sebastian spoke of.

"Oh, but sister! I want one of these...familiar? Too!"

Said Tilura jealousy as she watched her sister holding Sherry.

"Tilura, it is very difficult to make a contract with a familiar. And so you will just have to be satisfied with playing with Sherry. Go, Sherry."

"Kyau."

Sherry did as instructed and scampered off towards Tilura in order to play with her.

Leo also joined them.

"That being said, a contract with a familiar... It's all thanks to you, Mr. Takumi, that I was able to do it."

"No, not at all. I barely did anything."

I felt as if they were giving me credit for everything these days. But I really didn't deserve it.

Besides, I wasn't used to hearing words of gratitude...

## Chapter 87

Things became busy in the mansion

"Without you, Mr. Takumi...we should not have been able to find the fenrir...Sherry. Also, it was because of your Weed Cultivation that we were able to save her from certain death."

"Hmm... Yes, Sherry was helped with Weed Cultivation... Though, I had no confidence in it at the time... I was just hopeful."

While being thanked by a beautiful woman like Ms. Claire was very pleasant...it was also a little embarrassing.

Perhaps it was something I must get used to...

That being said, how was one to get used to something like that?

In any case, after discussing many things, such as the sales agreements, the familiar contract and other things, the day finally ended.

As I had slept for two whole days, I was worried that I wouldn't be able to sleep. But after leaving the drawing room and taking a bath, I returned to my room with Leo and got into bed. And I fell asleep quite quickly.

Leo also put just half of her body on the bed so that I could rest on her as if she was a pillow.

She must still be worried about me.

Thank you, Leo.

I have a feeling that I'll have sweet dreams tonight.

---

The next morning, I woke up and looked out the window. The weather was nice, and the sun's rays were almost blinding.

I got out of bed and stretched my limbs while standing up.

Yes, I had a good night's sleep thanks to having Leo's soft fur as a pillow.

Though, I don't remember if I had any good dreams.

With dreams, sometimes you remembered them, and sometimes you didn't.

And even if you do remember them at first, you would forget about them quickly. Sometimes, you're not sure if you even saw it in the first place.

Well, some people say that everyone dreams when they are sleeping. And there are evaluations based on how you remember them and what you dreamed about, but I didn't know the details.

It was with such nonsensical thoughts that I finished getting ready.

Leo woke up around the time that I was washing my face. She pushed her paws out and stretched as she always did, and then watched me get ready while wagging her tail slowly.

I was glad to see that she was in a good mood.

When I was finished, I left the room, thinking that breakfast would be ready soon.

"I've become quite accustomed to living in this mansion now."

At first, I had found it quite awkward to live in such a large place.

And Ms. Lyra would often have to guide me from room to room.

It wasn't that I had now memorized the layout of the whole house, but I could go to all the places I was a regular at just fine.

And there were not many places in the house that I had any business in.

And so I walked down the now familiar hallways and headed towards the dining hall. And then I saw that maids were rushing around busily near the entrance hall.

I had to pass through it when going to the dining hall, and so I noticed it.



“Is something happening today?”

I could not think of a reason for the maids to be rushing about like that.

And though I thought it was strange, I continued to walk to the dining hall with Leo.

I then knocked on the door and waited for a reply from the other side.

“Come in.”

After being given permission, I opened the door and stepped inside.

Ms. Claire was already sitting at the table, and Sebastian was standing behind her.

Ms. Lyra was standing next to the door I had come through...but Ms. Gelda wasn't here. Perhaps she was busy?

Still, I greeted the others.

“Good morning. Ms. Claire, Sebastian, Lyra.”

“Good morning, Mr. Takumi.”

“Good morning, Sir.”

“Good morning, Sir.”

After greeting them, I went over to my usual place at the table and sat down.

Leo also sat down next to me as usual.

“I see that Tilura isn’t with us today. Did something happen?”

Now that I thought about, Tilura hadn’t woke me up today.

She was usually the first one to come to my room in order to see Leo.

“She is still sleeping. Gelda just went to wake her up. Really... It’s because she stayed up late playing with Sherry...”

“Hahaha. I see.”

Apparently, Tilura had continued to play with Sherry after I left.

I wondered where Sherry was, and then noticed the white mass that was rolled up by Ms. Claire’s chair.

Apparently, Sherry was also still sleepy after having stayed up late.

“Ms. Claire, I would like to continue with my tests in your back garden again today. Is that alright?”

“...About that... Mr. Takumi, something important is happening today.”

As we had decided on this sales agreement, I wanted to get to work, and also continue my research. But it seemed that something else was happening.

She looked rather serious. What could be the matter?

“I’m sure you got a glimpse of it when coming to this dining hall, Mr. Takumi?”

“Uh, yes. I did. The maids were rushing around frantically.”

So Ms. Claire was aware of what was happening at the entrance hall.

Well, she was the master of this mansion, so it was no wonder.

“Those maids are preparing to greet someone who is arriving today.”

“Today? Is it an important guest?”

It must be a very important person for the maids to look so frantic.

...Perhaps I should stay in my room then... I did not want to do something unpardonably rude towards any important guests of the duke...

I still did not know anything about the manners of the upper class in this world.

“It is someone who is very important for you as well, Mr. Takumi. And not really a guest, either.”

“Not a guest... Important to me... Who is it?”

As I had only just come to this world, I had no acquaintances outside of this mansion.

Well, there were the people from the shops, and the ones who petted Leo in the town of Ractos, but they were definitely not people who were important to me.

## Chapter 88

Ms. Claire's father was coming

Ah, now that I thought about it, I hadn't picked up the clothes I ordered from the tailors... We had been busy exploring the forest, and had no time to go...

Still, in spite of what Ms. Claire said, I could not think of anyone that fit the description. It was then that her face became even more serious, and she told me who it was.

...Oh, even Sebastian looked very serious now. Who could it be!?

“...Today...my father is returning to this house.”

“...Huh?”

“My...father.”

“Mr. Takumi, Lady Claire’s father... His Grace the Duke of Liebert.”

...Ah.

Well, this house would belong to her father, the duke. So it was hardly odd that he would come here.

And that would explain why the maids were in such a rush. They were preparing to greet their master.

That was all fine. But was it really necessary for Ms. Claire and Sebastian to look so somber?

“Uhh... But why are you so serious?”

“Mr. Takumi... My father is coming... He is bound to bring countless marriage proposals with him.”

“Indeed... And not just for Lady Claire, but he’ll want to arrange one for Lady Tilura as well... As he has not been here for a while...they must have piled up considerably...”

Ms. Claire looked like she was in pain, and Sebastian had a far away look in his eyes.

Indeed, I had heard that Ms. Claire and Tilura found it very troublesome to keep turning such talks down.

However, was it really as serious as they made it sound?

“...And you mean to refuse all of them?”

“Of course! It’s too early to be discussing such things with Tilura! And even I...”

“Cough... Lady Claire.”

“Ah!”

What was this...she seemed so tense.

I understood why she would refuse for Tilura, but she had then trailed off and then glanced towards me before blushing.

Was there something on my face?

Regardless, Sebastian had coughed loudly and Ms. Claire was able to compose herself.

“In any case, you will have to meet my father, Mr. Takumi.”

“After all, you have decided to enter an agreement with the Liebert house for the selling of the herbs. And so it’s only natural that you meet with the master and discuss it directly.”

“Ah... I understand that...”

If there was a sales agreement, I would have to speak to the person who ranked the highest.

However, I wondered if I would be all right, going out in front of Ms. Claire’s father... I hoped that I wouldn’t do anything rude.

“It’s just that I... I have no knowledge when it comes to manners towards nobles...”

“As for that, you need not worry. My father isn’t very sensitive about such things.”

“To put it simply...His Grace is a very...hearty person... Some might even say, crude. ...As for me, I do wish he would put more effort into behaving like a duke...”

According to Ms. Claire and Sebastian, he was not sensitive to manners, and would not scrutinize me in that way.

Hearty...what kind of person was he...? When Ms. Claire had confided in me in the forest, he had sounded like a good father.

She said that he doted on them, and was clearly not a bad person.

But then, I wasn't sure why he would keep bothering them with talk of marriage.

“Ha... I wonder how many times I'll have to refuse him this time...”

“Considering how much time has passed, I predict that the number will be quite high.”

Both Ms. Claire and Sebastian looked quite gloomy.

Refusing a marriage proposal did seem very troublesome...

And since it was coming through her father...she might have to think of ways to do it without tarnishing his reputation.

And the more there were, the harder it would be... I suppose it was then understandable that Ms. Claire and Sebastian were not looking forward to it.

However, why was he coming here so suddenly? I suppose I should ask about that.

And so I turned to Ms. Claire.

“Is there a reason that he is coming here today?”

“That...”

“Allow me to explain. Early this morning, a messenger arrived from His Grace, telling us to prepare the mansion in order to welcome him. The message said that he would arrive shortly after lunch.”

Hmm. When important people traveled, they needed to give people time to prepare, and so they sent a message ahead of them.

I didn't know if it was normal to do this with your own villa, but I suppose there were preparations that needed to be made here.

The maids had looked very busy...so there must have been things to do.

“It is about one week to journey here from the main house... I believe His Grace's purpose for coming here is to see that Lady Claire is safe.”

“Safe? That's why he is coming all of the way here?”

“...Well...Mr. Takumi, do you remember your first meeting with Lady Claire?”

“Yes, I do.”

She had been so worried about Tilura, that she left the mansion by herself and went to look for herbs in the forest.

Thinking back now, there were quite a lot of orcs in that forest, and so her actions seemed even more reckless.

But it also showed how desperate she was to help her sister recover.

“As we servants were forming a search party of soldiers, we also sent a message to His Grace.”

“Hmm.”

“Really, Sebastian...”

Ms. Claire said admonishingly, but I felt that he was in the right here.

They were obviously worried about her. And as their butler, it was his duty to send a report if she went off into a dangerous forest on her own.

However, Ms. Claire seemed to be aware of this as well. And so she sighed and looked down in resignation.

Perhaps she knew that if she pushed it any further, Sebastian would be the one to admonish her.

## Chapter 89

I wasn't comfortable in my usual clothes

“We sent out a messenger from this mansion, and he likely headed here as soon as he heard what had happened.”

It was nearly a week's journey.

And he left immediately after another week passed...he would arrive today.

I see... So that means it's been two weeks since I came to this world... I didn't expect to be reminded in this way.

“Once Lady Claire was safe and returned to the mansion, thanks to your help, we sent out another messenger to His Grace, but...”

“But father would have left before that messenger arrived.”

“I see...”

He would have acted as soon as he received the first message.



Either he was a man of action, or he worried about his daughters too much... But it seemed a little rash for the head of a great house.

Perhaps he should have at least waited for the second message.. Well, I was not in a position to be saying anything.

“You know how father can be... It is more likely that he felt it was a good opportunity to tell me about the marriage proposals that have been piling up.”

“But isn’t he coming because he is worried about you? Perhaps he has forgotten all about that?”

“No, Mr. Takumi. I can assure you that it is not the case.”

“Sebastian...”

I suppose it was a kind of trust... Both Ms. Claire and Sebastian agreed that though he might have come out of concern for his daughter’s safety, there was no doubt that he had other intentions for coming...

A few moments later, Ms. Gelda brought Tilura to the dining hall after waking her up.

And then Leo, who had remained uninterested in our conversation, and the sleeping Sherry, got up and so we all ate.

Once we were about halfway through breakfast, Tilura started to ask Ms. Claire about why the maids were in such a rush. And upon hearing the reason, Tilura seemed to freeze.

The breakfast continued in a dark and gloomy mood until we were finished.

While it had been delicious...I couldn’t really enjoy it amidst that atmosphere.

Which made me feel bad for Ms. Helena.

But I also felt bad for the father. The mere suggestion of his presence had caused the two daughters and butler to fall into a bleak mood...

After breakfast, Ms. Claire, Tilura, and Sebastian went to a different room in order to discuss strategies for dealing with the duke.

It all seemed very overblown to me, but I just told myself that a young noblewoman likely had to do things in a proper way.

In any case, as I would not be able to test Weed Cultivation in the back garden, I decided to return to my room with Leo.

“Well, what should we do?”

“Wuff?”

I wondered as I sat down on the edge of my bed, and petted Leo, who was lying on the floor.

Leo looked at me questioningly with a tilt of her head, but I just patted her head as if she did not need to worry.

So, Ms. Claire’s father, the duke, would arrive shortly after lunch.

And since I was not able to use Weed Cultivation, I had quite a lot of time with nothing to do.

I could just rest or play with Leo. But I found that I felt quite restless.

It was likely due to nerves. For the first time, I was meeting someone in this world who had great authority as a noble.

While Ms. Claire was a noblewoman, she was not the head of the house. Besides, I had not known she was a noble when I first met her.

Ah, now that I think about it...

“Ms. Lyra. Would these clothes be acceptable for meeting the duke?”

“As Lady Claire explained earlier, His Grace does care about such things. So I believe that you should be fine.”

As she was charged with helping me, Ms. Lyra had followed us to my room. And according to her, my clothes were fine.

Still... Even if they said he didn't care about such things, there was always the possibility that I could make a bad first impression if I wasn't dressed properly...

Due to my work, I used to always wear a suit and tie.

There were strict rules about dressing properly, even if you weren't outside. And so the idea of meeting someone important was making me nervous...

“If you are concerned about that... Didn't you have some clothes tailored for you in Ractos?”

“Yes. I had a set made for me.”

“Then why don't you go and pick it up?”

I see. I had asked the tailor to make clothes that were similar to the ones that I had borrowed from Sebastian.

I had returned those clothes already, but the new ones were close enough to formal wear.

And while I could just borrow from Sebastian again, now seemed like a bad time to bother him...I didn't know anything about rejecting marriage proposals...and did not want to get involved.

“Still, if you are going to go to the town of Ractos, you will have to hurry, or you will not make it back before His Grace's arrival.”

“As for that, you don’t have to worry. Right, Leo?”

“Wuff!”

Leo nodded as if to say that I could count on her. Yes, she was very reliable.

Upon seeing this, Ms. Lyra nodded with satisfaction.

“I see. If you ride on the great Leo, then you will arrive in no time.”

And so I took Leo and left the mansion.

Before leaving, I asked Ms. Gelda to tell Ms. Claire and the others that I was going to Ractos in order to pick up my clothes.

They might worry about me if I left without saying anything.

And so we walked to the gate, and then I got up onto Leo’s back.

...And then...

“Ms. Lyra... Could it be that you are coming too?”

“Of course, I am. I was charged with taking care of you, Mr. Takumi. Besides, I must pay the tailor.”

“Ah...that’s right... My apologies. Thank you.”

Yes, there was the matter of payment.

I had only paid for the clothes that I purchased and took back with me.

And until the contract was settled, and I started to sell the herbs and earn an income, I had no money whatsoever.

And so I took Ms. Lyra, and we rode on Leo towards the town of Ractos.

## Chapter 90

I picked up my clothes at the tailors

It would take nearly an hour to reach the town of Ractos by carriage, but it was only half an hour with Leo.

It would have likely been an even shorter trip if Leo ran at full speed, but if she did that, Ms. Lyra would have likely been thrown off.

Speaking of Ms. Lyra, she had ridden on Leo quite a few times by now, and so she was able to keep calm and balance on Leo's back without throwing her arms around me.

...It wasn't as if I was expecting her to...or anything... Truly.

Leo stopped right outside of the town, and we then made our way to the gate on foot.

And while the gatekeeper stopped us, Ms. Lyra showed them a relief of the duke, and they let us through.

Now that I thought about it, I was just some strange person walking around with a huge Silver Fenrir.

It was no wonder that we would be stopped by the guards.

I wonder if I could have some form of identification made? I would have to ask Ms. Claire about that later.

After going through the gates, and feeling the gazes of the passersby on us, we went down the same road that Sebastian had led us until we reached the tailor.

“Welcome... Ah, Mr. Takumi. It’s good to see you again. The clothes you ordered are ready.”

It was the same man who took care of us last time...Mr. Halton, I think... He appeared from the back of the shop.

And he remembered who I was.

Mr. Halton showed me the clothes, and I tried them on.

If I had any complaints regarding size and comfort, he would be able to make adjustments here.

In the meantime, Ms. Lyra dealt with the matter of payment.

Sorry, I’ll return it as soon as I have money from selling herbs...

As the trousers were a little long, I had them fixed, and then I left the store while wearing the newly tailored clothes.

I would carry my old clothes with me, as it would be too much of a hassle to change when we got back.

Thinking about it now, I was rather grateful to Ms. Claire for having insisted that I have at least one set of clothes made. It was with such thoughts that we made our way back to the mansion.

It was nearly time to meet the master.

“Mr. Takumi. It suits you very well.”

“Thank you.”

Even if she was just being polite, I thanked Ms. Lyra as we left the town of Ractos behind us.

It would likely be just before midday when we got back.

I was glad that there would be plenty of time... Had I been more late in realizing it, even riding on Leo might not have been fast enough to get the clothes.

Well, they had all insured me that the duke would not mind, but I suppose that I did.

I was finally getting used to not having to wear a suit everywhere, but in times like these, I felt more comfortable in formal clothes.

And so I had Leo run swiftly once again, and we arrived at the mansion with time to spare.

Thanks, Leo.

“Wuff!”

I patted Leo on the back to show my gratitude.

Leo looked quite satisfied by this.

Next to me, Ms. Lyra also petted Leo.

And like this, we walked into the mansion.

Next time, maybe I would join Leo as she played with Sherry and Tilura.

Inside, preparations must have been completed, as the floor was shining brightly, and the maids were inspecting the area around the stairs and seemed to be content with their work.

I suppose it was a final inspection after cleaning.

It was no longer frantic like it was this morning.

After making note of this, I returned to my room and put down my old clothes.

Just then, there was a knock on the door.

“Come in.”

“Excuse me.”

It was Ms. Gelda who entered.

“Ah, Ms. Gelda. We just returned.”

“Welcome back, Mr. Takumi. I relayed the message to Lady Claire.”

“Thank you.”

I was glad that she had got the message, and thanked Ms. Gelda.

“But we didn’t expect you to return so quickly...”

“Ah, it’s because Leo did her best.”

“Wuff!”

Ms. Gelda had seemed puzzled at first, but then she looked at Leo and realization spread across her face.

Now that I think about it, I hadn’t told Ms. Gelda that I would be riding on Leo.

Well, we were in quite a rush. And so I had only been thinking about notifying Ms. Claire.



“If you rode on the great Leo, that would explain things. ...Also, Mr. Takumi, lunch will be ready soon, so please come to the dining hall.”

“I understand.”

So that was why Ms. Gelda had come.

After that, she left the room with Ms. Lyra.

It was just me and Leo left.

“Thanks for your help today, Leo.”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff.”

Leo replied, looking a little bashful.

I had thanked Leo and petted her earlier, but I did so again here.

Though we were buddies, I did not want to take being together or her allowing me to ride on her for granted.

And so after patting her thoroughly on the head, I left the room and headed for the dining hall.

Surely Ms. Claire and the others had finished talking by now?

While Leo and I walked down the hall, we saw Ms. Claire, Tilura, and Sebastian walking out into the hallway as well.

As they were coming from the opposite direction, they were likely going to the dining hall as well.

“Mr. Takumi, I heard that you went to Ractos.”

“Those clothes suit you very well.”

“You look good!”

“Thank you. I went with Ms. Lyra and Leo to pick them up at the tailor.”

“Yes, Gelda told me about that. I hope there were no problems while you were there?”

“There were a few small adjustments to be made, but it’s very comfortable, and I have no complaints.”

Ms. Claire and Tilura praised the formal, tailored clothes as I told Sebastian about how it went.

“Now His Grace will have no reason to criticize... Of course, he is not likely to do so in the first place...”

“Father barely even cares about his own clothes...”

“Father...sometimes smells...”

As Ms. Lyra said, it probably didn’t matter what I was wearing.

Well, the biggest reason was that I wanted to feel comfortable in these new clothes. And so I would continue to wear them.