## **Beloved Dog 861**



"I will tell the others that there are guests here, so please make yourselves at home."

"Thank you. In that case...I will organize my things."

"Ah, leave the remaining ingredients in the kitchen. There is not much, so we should use it for

And so we all went to prepare for our stay.

Nicholas went to get the water. Phillip got the firewood to cook lunch, and I carried our belongings to the rooms.

"There... Phew. That's all."

lunch."

I ended up with the room between Nicholas and Phillip.

Apparently, this was because they wanted to be able to guard me if anything happened. I highly doubted we would get attacked in this village. But I obeyed them anyway.

After putting our belongings in each room, I placed the tent and other things in the remaining room, and then I was finished.

I had left our water and ingredients in the kitchen, so Phillip should be using it.

"Mr. Takumi! Oh...excuse me!"

"Ah, Ms. Delia. Welcome...?"

As there were sheets, I made the beds of each room before going back downstairs and sitting at the dining table. As I watched Phillip cook, Ms. Delia returned.

"Here... Please eat this!"

"Uh...is that meat?"

"Yes. When I gave them the serpent, they gave me some smoked meat in return. And I also brought some konjac."

"Oh, smoked meat! This tastes good if you grill it a little first! Well, this one might be a little different..."

Phillip was quite excited when he saw it. The meat was a little larger than a fist, and bound with string similar to ham.

"The old men eat it like that as well. When they are drinking, anyway... But it is delicious!"

"Thank you, Ms. Delia."

"Hmm, it is rather hard. I suppose we should cut it into thin slices. I have high hopes for this one... Hmm, we should have bought some wine in Ractos."

"Phillip, shouldn't you thank Ms. Delia first?"

"Oh, that's right."

Phillip thanked her and then took the ham back to the kitchen.

"Oh, should I bring some wine as well?"

"No, not today. Phillip might want to drink...but we are tired from traveling. And they might drink too much."

"Mr. Sebastian said that we shouldn't let him drink too much. After all, he has a habit of doing that..."

Nicholas agreed with me.

Yes, it was not because I did not want to drink wine that had a serpent in it. That had nothing to do with it at all...

Chapter 862

The smoked meat was delicious

"More importantly, you should eat with us, Ms. Delia. After all, it would be easier than going home and preparing it now, wouldn't it?"

"Uh, are you sure?"

"Of course. It is more enjoyable to eat with others. And you brought us some food. So this is our way of thanking you. Though, I am not sure if the other food will be as good as the smoked meat..."

"Thank you. Then I accept your invitation..."

Ms. Delia lived alone, and since she had come out to greet us, she probably hadn't prepared any food yet.

Besides, I knew what it was like to live alone. Sometimes, I could barely even taste the food.

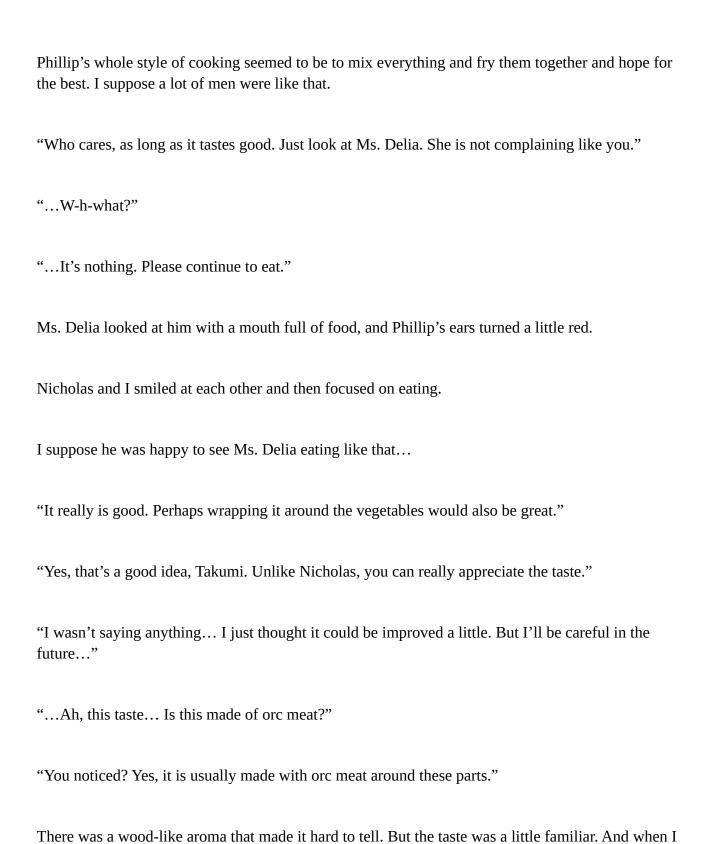
Things were more fun after Leo arrived... Though, she would also sometimes target my food, and it was hard to resist the urge to give it to her.

"Ohh... This is even better than the smoked meat I ate before."

"Yes, it is delicious. However, I don't know about just tossing slices into fried vegetables like this..."

As the food was ready, we all sat down to eat. After one bite, Phillip was praising the smoked meat.

Nicholas was being a little harsh. But I was also expecting to eat at least some of it separately.



asked Ms. Delia, it turned out that I was right.

Orc meat was like pork...it was no wonder I was thinking of ham.

Even if it tasted different.

"Is that because there are a lot of orcs around here?"

"Hmm, not really. They do not come near the village, so you only see them deep in the forest."

"And yet you use the meat a lot. Ah, you must buy it from Ractos then."

Nicholas was curious about the orc meat.

Orcs were monsters that could be defeated by people with a moderate amount of training.

"No, we hunt the orcs in the forest. After all, it is much cheaper and faster than going out to buy it."

"...That's true... So the villagers go hunting?"

"Recently, I have been doing most of the hunting... But the woodcutters also hunt them while they are working."

"You, Ms. Delia? And the villagers... Isn't it dangerous?"

It was certainly cheaper to acquire the meat here, but... Hmm...

Chapter 863

The village was more independent than expected

Bleiyu village was only a little larger than Range village.

And the patrolling soldiers were not here all of the time, so they had to defeat orcs themselves in order to acquire meat. And that was one of Ms. Delia's jobs.

"Well, the villagers do get injured sometimes. But they say it is not much different than cutting down trees. That work leads to injuries too, you know. Of course, it's usually just scratches."

I suppose that if they were careful, a few armed villagers could hunt an orc or two without much problem. Even in Range village, they did say that they worked together to deal with monsters when they appeared.

And wood cutters would have axes.

"I see. But Ms. Delia. It sounds like you go and hunt orcs alone?"

"Yes, alone. It's easy, because orcs have such simple movements. Serpents are a little less predictable in comparison. If you lower your guard, they can wrap around you... I've been bitten by them several times..."

"Well...as long as you are safe..."

I had fought orcs myself, and knew that they tended to just charge in a straight line and swing their arms.

Still, I had been injured while fighting two of them... And Sherry had been knocked out of the air.

But then again, Ms. Delia likely had better reflexes. She was very cat-like.

"Well, now that we have assigned our roles, we should go and visit the chief."

"Yes. I'm sorry. Usually, the chief would visit you..."

"It's fine. We are just ordinary travelers, after all. It would be strange for us to be treated like special guests."

After a good lunch, we cleaned up and went outside in order to visit the chief.

Apparently, he had hurt his back and could not leave the house.

According to Ms. Delia, he had tried to pick up something that was too heavy. She complained that he should think about his age more often.



It was something I was not used to hearing, and so I had to confirm it.

Ms. Delia's eyes and mouth widened as if she had made a mistake... Unlike in Ractos, she was more expressive here, as she was familiar with the place.

Chapter 864

We visited the chief's house

"Hahaha! Delia made that mistake a long time ago. However, she's continued to call him Mr. Pig ever since. Though, recently she has been too embarrassed to say it out loud... I suppose she had lowered her guard?"

"Hey, Mr. Kanat! Stop! Don't say that in front of Mr. Takumi! Arghhh..."

"Uh, Ms. Delia. I think it's a cute mistake. So please don't be too embarrassed..."

Ms. Delia was so overtaken by her mistake, that she covered her face and squatted on the ground.

Her tail drooped and her ears were folded. She looked terribly depressed.

And so I had to pat her on the head encouragingly for some time...

"Excuse me. Chief, I brought you some guests!"

After Ms. Delia had recovered, we continued on to the chief's house, and called to him, as he appeared to be resting in his room.

His house was slightly larger than Mr. Hanes's house, and seemed to have a lot of rooms.

His wife and son, as well as the son's wife, were also there, and we greeted them.

"Oh, Delia. I see that you are doing well. As for the guests, welcome to Bleiyu village."

"Ah, chief. You don't have to get up. You have to rest easy, don't you?"
"Still, it is rude to greet guests while lying down."
"It's fine. We know what happened. Please do not worry about us."
"I'm sorry you have to see me like this"
The chief lay in his bed, and only his head moved as he greeted us.
He appeared to be slightly younger than Mr. Hanes, but looked quite weak. Well, Mr. Hanes traveled a lot, and was probably just more healthy.
The chief's name was Yanesafka.
"Well, we will be waiting outside then."
After introductions were made, Phillip and Nicholas went outside to meet up with Mr. Kanat.
Ms. Delia went with them, and also asked for some tea to be brought up.
As for me, I stayed in the room in order to talk to the chief a little longer.
"Thank you for entertaining an old man Ouch"
"Ah, please don't sit up!"
"No, even if youTakumi, say you do not mind. I do not feel comfortable talking to you like this. Now, will you lend me a hand?"
"Yes"

The chief had tried to get up after Ms. Delia left, but his face contorted with pain. It was clear that moving was not easy for him, but he would not listen to my protests.

And so I slowly helped him to sit up.

"Now...Takumi. Did you come here because of Delia? I heard you two met in Ractos."

"Uh, no... I would not say that... Though, that is where we met."

I answered the chief honestly.

I could not tell him everything about my purpose, but I said what I could without lying. Sebastian and I had discussed this in advance.

"Hmm... I don't think you are lying. But you aren't telling me the whole truth, are you?"

"Uh..."

"I can tell. But Delia seems to be fond of you, so you can't be a bad person. Besides, I am the chief here, and have met enough visitors to be a good judge of character. Though...I am thinking of letting my son and his wife take over soon."

The chief was looking at me sharply, as if trying to read me.

It reminded me of the first time I met Mr. Ekenhart. Though, the chief was not quite as intimidating.

Perhaps his bad back was the reason.

In any case, as Ms. Delia was happy to see us, he seemed to have a mostly positive impression of me, at the very least...

Chapter 865

The chief was rather sharp-witted



Claire had bought almost all of it. But Ractos was quite receptive to unusual things, so it probably would have sold fine even if she didn't.

Also, Ms. Delia would have eaten some of it too.

"Yes. I saw that he was selling it, and so I ate some as well."

"Hmmm. Still, it is not exactly something that is delicious."

"True... But it is quite good when combined with other foods. The women like it quite a lot."

"Did they? But I heard that it was the duke's daughter who bought a lot of Kanat's stock?"

Oh... So he had already told the chief about that.

Well, it was no surprise.

"Uh, I just got what was left. And so we don't have enough..."

"Not enough...? Is it that much in demand then... Is it popular in Ractos?

The other thing that Sebastian and I had decided that I should talk about.

The possibility of regularly buying more of the konjac.

Well, it had been Claire's request.

Of course, I was not really a merchant, nor was it my job to stock up the pantries. So it was mostly just a cover to make my visit seem more natural.

As for what would happen if I did buy a lot of the konjac, I would then have to take it back with me and then sell it to the mansion.

Sebastian had promised to purchase whatever I brought back, and since Claire and the others were expectant, it was probably safe for me to buy as much as possible.

"...So I think it will sell well with women. And once its reputation spreads, more people will want to buy it. As I think it is very promising, I thought that I should come here myself, and see how it is made."

Chapter 866

I succeeded in changing the subject

"I see... I never thought about konjac like that before. However...I hope you don't think that we're really going to show you everything in terms of how it is made?"

"That is fine. It is not that I want to know how you make it. As I am thinking about buying it anyway."

"Hmmm... Well, it seems like you will be staying here for some time. So tomorrow or the day after, I will tell someone to negotiate with you."

"Thank you."

For the village, if there was a possibility that their products could sell well, they would be highly interested... Or so Sebastian said. Bleiyu village was not poor, but they would still welcome any business that would enrich their lives.

Regardless, it seemed like I was able to avoid talking about myself. Ms. Delia had thought about explaining things to the chief first. But in the end, it was decided that we should talk one on one.

Well, I would have to talk to a lot more people, when managing the herb fields. And so this was good practice for me in terms of setting the pace and guiding the conversation.

Obviously, I didn't mean to fool others for my own gain. Most of what I said was Sebastian's idea. And so I could not boast...

"Hmm..."

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There was silence for some time, and I had to wait nervously, wondering if he really believed me or not. Perhaps I should have just told him the truth.

I really was not suited for this kind of thing.

"I'm back, Mr. Takumi. Chief. Here is the tea... Ah! You must rest!"

"Oh, Ms. Delia."

"Delia... Thank you. I just thought it would be rude to be lying down the whole time..."

"But Mr. Takumi just said that he didn't mind? Now, please lie down..."

"Mm...thank you, Delia. You are so kind..."

The chief had been gritting his teeth. So he was likely actually in pain. And so he obeyed and allowed Ms. Delia to help him lie down in the bed again.

"Oh, chief. You flatter me!"

"Agh! Hey, Delia...stop! Ahh!"

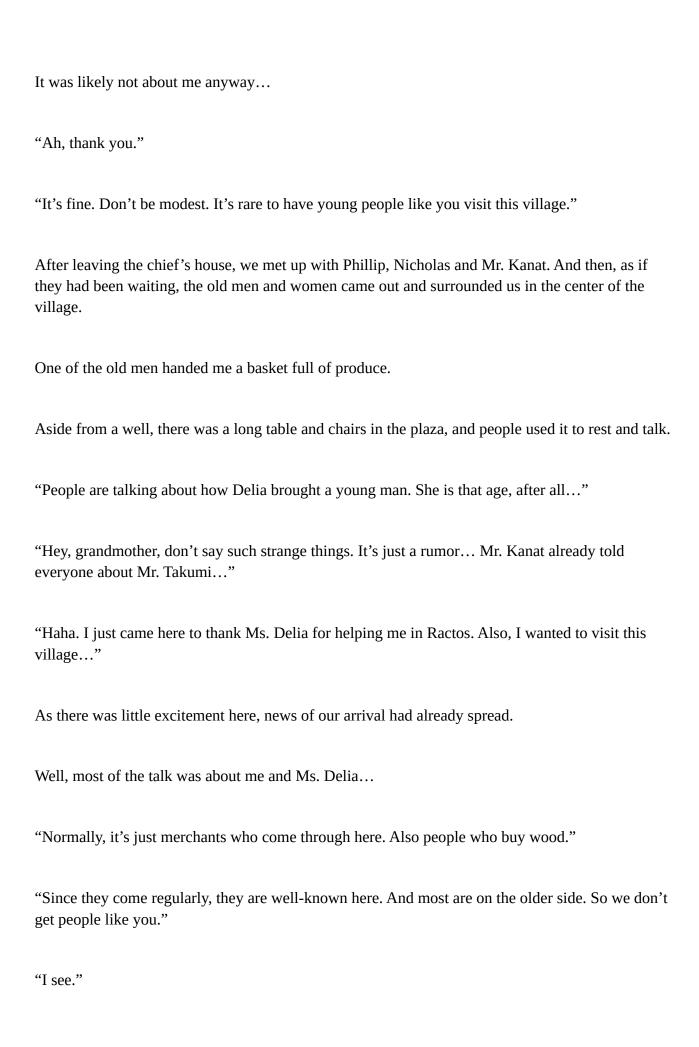
"Ah, Ms. Delia. I don't think you should move him so...!"

Perhaps due to being embarrassed, Ms. Delia started to shake the chief violently.

The sudden movement caused the pain in his back to increase, and the chief let out a shriek, and I had to intervene so that she would stop.

As Ms. Delia's ears and tail were moving, it was clear that she was happy. But perhaps making her happy was not a very good thing.





"Oh, on close inspection, you are not bad looking." "What are you saying? Are you trying to scare him away, old woman?" "How rude! Fifty years ago, I was so beautiful that Mr. Takumi would have fallen for me in an instant!" "I've known you for a long time, but I don't remember you being like that ever?" "Perhaps it was because you were too busy crying after being turned down by every woman you approached!" "Ahaha...well..." The old men and women started talking about something else, and my mind started to wander. No, no. I should focus when talking to others. This was a bad habit. In any case, fifty years... I suppose she would be about the same age as me now. Though, I was not born at that time, and would not be in this world. Regardless, I chuckled as the old friends argued. The others watched as if this kind of thing happened all of the time. "Hah... I'm a little tired." "Indeed. I am usually not surrounded by so many people." "Me too... People always surround Leo, not me."

"I'm sorry, I didn't think that they would all come out like this. I think all the elders of the village are here."

By the time that the sun started to set, we finally escaped the group of old folks, and we were able to return to our house and rest.

Chapter 868

I didn't want to drink the serpent wine

"Well, at least they gave us a lot of food. Perhaps a little too much."

"Indeed. I was thinking about buying some from them, but there is no need for that now. As for the amount...we are three men, so we should be able to finish it."

"It is all food that is grown here. Let's take it with gratitude."

"Old people really like feeding youngsters. They often give me food as well."

Aside from the farm produce, Ms. Delia also brought blocks of orc meat as well.

There was so much that it looked like we would not have to worry about food during our stay.

"While the food is nice. I am not so sure about the wine..."

"You really should have just accepted it... Though, the appearance was a little intimidating."

"Phillip just really likes to drink. I would have hesitated as well."

"Ms. Delia. Do they really enjoy drinking that stuff?"

"Yes. I was scared when I first saw it as well... In fact, I burst into tears when I was a child. But I got used to it now."

"Yes, that would make children cry. I would not want to show it to Tilura or Liza."

There was also konjac and smoked meat. However, some of the old men asked us if we liked to drink, and then they brought some bottles.

They appeared to be wine...which had chopped up serpent pieces inside.

I had heard that such things were done to preserve them, but I had never heard of it being done with wine... It looked like a serpent in blood.

There were some bottles that had a whole serpent inside, and its eyes were open.

Apparently, the poison sacs were washed out first, so that after a few days in the wine, they gave your tongue a pleasant tingle.

Regardless, I did not feel like drinking it. Only Phillip seemed like he wanted to taste it.

"Um... Mr. Takumi?"

"What is it, Ms. Delia?"

As I was thinking about the serpent wine, Ms. Delia suddenly looked at me hesitantly.

Was something wrong?

"Um, if it is not too much trouble. Could I join you for dinner?"

"Ah, we don't mind at all. It is better to eat with more people."

"Yes, yes. It will be nice to have a woman around."

"Th-thank you!"

Ms. Delia wanted to eat with us, just as we had during lunch time.

I suppose she was lonely, as she usually ate alone in her house... Well, I'm sure she could eat with the other villagers sometimes.

Regardless, her face lit up and she smiled with a bow when we gave our permission.

After that, we started preparations for dinner.

It was my job to get the water, which I wanted to finish before the sun set completely. It took a lot of energy, but I will do my best...

"Hah... I ate a lot. Ms. Delia, is a very good cook... I suppose it's because she has to cook for herself. She is so different from me."

After eating dinner, I returned to my room and muttered to myself.

Ms. Delia had helped Nicholas with the cooking.

When I lived alone, I did not have enough time to cook. So she was much better than me. Nicholas was very serious, and carefully measured all of the ingredients, but she worked quickly and measured by sight alone. But the results were still delicious.

That was proof that she was used to cooking.

Chapter 869

The wine ended up being drunk

"Ah, Phillip, Nicholas... There you are... Hey, Phillip, are you drinking...?"

"Oh, Takumi. Want to drink with us?"

"Hah... I'm sorry, Mr. Takumi. Apparently, one of the old men gave it to him while I wasn't looking."

I had come downstairs in order to get some hot water and wipe myself clean. That was when I saw Phillip drinking, and Nicholas sighing.

He was holding a cup of red liquid. And I could tell it was wine from the smell.

"This is quite delicious. There is a tingling sensation, not just on your tongue, but your throat as well!"

"Does that mean it is the..."

"I tasted it too, just in case. And it does seem to be the serpent venom."

"Are you sure you want to drink that?"

"It definitely is weakened. Besides, the venom does not even last half a day, so it should be safe."

Even if the wine diluted it, going out of your way to drink poison... Well, I suppose people enjoyed the feel of it. But I did not feel like doing the same.

Still, it was definitely interesting how the poison was affected by the alcohol.

What if the alcohol was also affected? Maybe you didn't get as drunk, or there was no hangover?

Well, the villagers seemed healthy, so I doubted there were any negative side-effects.

"Ah, that's right. Phillip...will likely not be able to talk properly, so I will just say it to you, Nicholas."

"Yes, he is useless. So, what is it?"

"What! I can be useful, even when drunk! I am still young!"

"It's about the chief we met today. I think we better be careful."

"Hmm? Are you saying that he is up to no good?"

"Ah, it's nothing like that. It's just...I suppose a difference in life experience... He is a little suspicious. He thinks I am not telling the truth about why we are here. I told him it was because of the konjac..."

"Considering your purpose, it's best that they do not know. Very well, we will be more careful. I will tell Phillip tomorrow when he is sober."

"Thank you. Now..."

"Ah, Takumi! Let's drink together!"

As I was about to leave in order to boil some water, I heard a voice call me from behind. But I ignored it and left the room.

If I let him, I would be dragged into it.

He was not drinking like he did in Range village, and Nicholas was there. So I didn't have to worry about him.

Ah, that's right...

"Nicholas. Give these herbs to Phillip if necessary."

"These...Karabi. Did you make them for this?"

"Well, while I was waiting for the water to boil. I'm used to making them. Now, I know it probably won't be necessary, but just in case."

Karabi was the name of the herb that healed serpent poison. It was yellow and looked a little like wasabi.

In this paste-like state, it could also heal petrification. When drunk, it heals the serpent poison. I had heard that wasabi had some light disinfecting effects, so they must be quite similar... Chapter 870 I went to see the fields first "Thank you. He looks fine... But he's starting to eat the serpent chunks as well. So I was getting worried." "Haha. I don't need to see any of that." I suppose it tasted like wine. Was it good? "Well, I'm going back to my room before he tries to drag me into this. Good night, Nicholas." "Yes, good night..." And so I quickly took my hot water back to my room. "In any case, if he drinks too much that it affects our activities tomorrow, or if he causes trouble in the village, I will have to tell Sebastian." I decided while using the hot water and a towel to clean my body. The following day, Ms. Delia joined us for breakfast, and she gave us a tour of the village... That being said, there was nothing particularly unusual. But it gave us a good grasp of the layout. The place really was just a little larger than Range village. So there was little worry of getting lost.

Of course, I had transformed its state before handing it to Nicholas.

"And here is the field where everyone works!" After seeing the village, we went to the fields, which stretched from the east to the north of the village. Many of the villagers worked here during the day, and so we went to say hello. As for Phillip, he was perfectly fine the next morning. And so the herbs were not needed. Still, he decided to come with us, as he wanted to say thank you for the wine. Also, it was his duty as a guard. "Even from a distance, I can see that there are a lot of different crops." "Yes. We have things that everyone eats, and things to sell." Instead of growing just one type, the fields were separated so that they could grow a variety of crops. There were tall plants and short plants. "Is that the potato field?" "Yes. We make a lot of potatoes just for eating. The ones for the konjac don't take up as much space." "Huh, I see." "You knew that it was made of potatoes, Mr. Takumi?" "Uh, yes..."

"Most people can't tell due to their appearance. That is very impressive, Mr. Takumi."

Now that I thought about it, we had not actually talked about what it was made of... Well, I might have discussed it with Ms. Helena, but not with Ms. Delia.

Though, it was common knowledge where I was from, so it was strange for her to be impressed by it.

"Uhaha... In any case, why is the field so small?"

"Because not much of it is sent out of the village... It was Mr. Kanat who first started taking them to Ractos."

"So it was made to eat here in the village. That's why the others around me did not know of it either."

Ms. Helena knew, but not Claire.

Regardless, the konjac field was much smaller than the others.

"Oh, Delia. So these are the visitors who came yesterday."

"Yes. Mr. Takumi and Mr. Nicholas!"

"I'm Takumi. Uh, we will be staying here for a short while."

"I'm Nicholas. We wanted to get a look..."