

## Beloved Dog 891

Chapter 891

I showed Weed Cultivation to Ms. Delia

“Phillip, Nicholas. Could you watch, to make sure that there is no one around?”

“Very well.”

“Understood.”

“...What are you going to do? Aren't you going into the forest...?”

“There is a way to acquire the herbs without going into the forest.”

“Huh? There is?”

“It is a special method... Just watch.”

It would be faster to just show her.

“Uh...Ramogi madoki...and also...uh, black nightshade...”

“Mr. Takumi. What are you... Huhhhhhh!?”

I squatted down and created several ramogi magoki. And when they were grown, I made some black nightshade as well.

Even if it might not be effective, I thought she might want to bring some back, since she had been asked to.

“Ms. Delia... I understand your surprise, but could you keep it down a little?”

“So-sorry... But still! How-how-how!!”

Phillip and Nicholas nodded, as if they had expected this reaction from her. And then they returned to us.

Now that I thought about it, I had given them the herbs first, before showing them. They had been helping Leo with carrying the orcs, and I gave them physical strength enhancing herbs.

“Uhh, I did tell you about the herb fields, and that I wanted to hire you... The thing is, I happen to have this ability that allows me to grow herbs in an instant. Though, there are limits. That is why I want to create the fields.”

“I-I see... But the ability... Well, since you are someone who has a Silver Fenrir...it makes sense.”

“Takumi, I think she is still confused...”

After that, Phillip and Nicholas explained the rest for me.

“Uh, so Mr. Takumi has a Gift called Weed cultivation, and...”

“Perhaps we explained too much?”

“But she won’t understand about the fields otherwise.”

“...Are you alright, Ms. Delia?”

“Yes...I think so...”

Ms. Delia was holding her head and looked quite dizzy now.

“In any case, I can make herbs no matter where I am, and whenever I want to. However, I do not want too many people to know about it right now. So if you could just say that you found them...”

“I-I understand. A Gift... I have heard about that, but I didn’t realize you had such an amazing ability... Indeed, it should not be known to too many people. It might put you in danger...”

“Are you still confused? Well, you will calm down soon enough.”

“Ah...! During the interview questions, you said that you could not explain too much about how you knew the herbs would be able to grow...is this why?”

Indeed, I had not been able to talk about Weed Cultivation at that time... If I did not have the duke backing me, I would have seemed very strange and suspicious.

“Yes, it’s because of the Gift. Well, there is still a lot that I don’t know about it. And so there was not much I could say at that point... Oh...uh... Nicholas. Do you have any extra cloth that I can use?”

Chapter 892

Ms. Delia had trouble processing everything

“As we are in the forest, I brought some old cloth to be used to wipe sweat and dirt.”

“That is fine... Uhh. With this...there. Ms. Delia. Please give this to the chief.”

I quickly changed the state of the herbs and then wrapped them up in the cloth.

Both herbs had quite a lot of moisture after being crushed, so if put in the cloth, all you would have to do is squeeze it out, and then it could be used directly on the chief’s back.

“Yes, I understand... But, what just happened right now?”

“Ah, with Weed Cultivation, I can change the herbs so that they are in the optimal state for use. So I can dry or crush them in an instant.”

“Oh, I see... Hmm...”

After that, we returned to the village with Ms. Delia, and saw that people seemed to have gathered together in the plaza.

As they were in a circle around something, it was probably where the Audhumbla had been brought.

“Oh, Delia. That was fast. You already found the thing that the chief wanted?”

“Uh, yes. Somehow...I think?”

“You don’t sound so sure.”

“Ms. Delia. You have to assure them that you did it.”

“Ah, yes! It’s fine. I have the herbs. I...will take them to the chief now!”

Even when one of the wood cutters asked her about it, Ms. Delia seemed to still be in some kind of daze.

Well, it could not be helped.

After that, she rushed off to the chief’s house.

“Are you staying here, mister?”

“Yes. Ms. Delia was the one asked to bring the herbs. And I am quite interested in what is going on. I suppose you are butchering the Audhumbla?”

“Well, it has to be done as soon as it’s brought in. Unfortunately, they are finished now. But it is always impressive how the foreman works!”

“I see. That’s too bad.”

The wood cutter informed me that they had already finished. When I looked through the gap in the crowd, all I saw was bones.

Well, to be honest, I was also a little relieved.

Hunting was one thing, but I was not really that excited about seeing them butcher a creature like that.

“Oh, it’s the visitors! Hey, everyone. These are the men who killed the Audhumbla! Though, Delia was the one chasing it...”

“Uh, hello...”

The foreman was carrying a large knife when he noticed us, and he started to shout in the middle of the crowd.

“We already know who they are! Delia is good friends with that one, and he even played with the children!”

“That’s right. Don’t go around introducing him to us, as if you weren’t the last person to meet him!”

“Wh-what... So you already knew about them then...”

“Ahaha. Well...we went to see the fields yesterday, and so we met everyone who was working there.”

Most of the people there were the old men and women we had talked to yesterday and the day before.

I had to chuckle as the foreman looked disappointed that he wasn’t the one to introduce us...

Chapter 893

The meat was distributed

“Well, that just shows that you’ve been welcomed into the village. And you were even able to show off in front of Delia.”

“Uh...if you say so.”

I had not done that to impress her, but there was no point in explaining that to him now.

Though, it might have been a more tense situation if Claire was here.

“Here you go.”

“Ah, thank you!”

“Please take this.”

“Excuse me. Oh, I’ll be able to live off of this for some time.”

“What are you saying? You live quite well even off just potatoes!”

“Here... Ahaha.”

“You too, old man. You are perfectly fine even if you haven’t eaten for a few days!”

After I greeted everyone present, they started to distribute the meat of the Audhumbla between the villagers.

The different parts were wrapped up in cloth and handed over. And as always, the old men and women seemed to be arguing.

As for Phillip, he seemed to be talking passionately to one of the village women. Perhaps he was trying to seduce her. Well, it would not be my fault if Sebastian scolds him later.

Nicholas, on the other hand, was popular with the children. I suppose it was because he played with them yesterday.

“Oh, Takumi. Would you give me one too?”

“Uh, surely there’s no need for you to wait in line, foreman? You were the one who butchered it, so you should have secured your own portion in the beginning.”

“Well, normally it is Delia who does it.”

“I see... Uh, here.”

“Thank you!”

As I was waiting in line, the foreman appeared again.

Apparently, he was lining up with me...and seemed to be enjoying himself.

So, it was usually Ms. Delia who did it... Indeed she had contributed more than anyone, and so when she participated, the hunt would have the best results.

“Hah... It finally ended...”

“Well, more people gathered afterwards. I think it was eventually everyone in the village?”

“I doubt it...since they would still have to work in the fields. But Phillip, you seemed to be talking to the women the whole time?”

“I’m surprised you would notice...as you were playing with the children...”

“Still, since it was so big, there is still plenty left even after giving so much away.”

I muttered while looking at the mountain of meat that remained.

Apparently, the leftover meat would be used for a feast.

So the plan was for everyone to eat it tonight in the plaza.

Now that I thought about it, we had not had lunch yet... Though, if there was going to be a feast, then it would be best to stay hungry.

“Mr. Takumi. Sorry to keep you waiting!”

“Ah, Ms. Delia. How is the chief?”

As I waited, Ms. Delia returned.

It had taken longer than expected, so perhaps they were talking... The chief was fond of Ms. Delia, and seemed to be quite bored.

Also, Ms. Delia seemed to be back to her cheerful self.

“He was very happy, and said he would try warming his back as well. Though, he seemed a little suspicious about the herbs being crushed too.”

“Ah, that’s true. I suppose I overdid it.”

“But his son was happy, as it saved them from the trouble.”

“Well, that’s not enough for them to be able to suspect I have an ability. So it should be fine?”

“Yes!”

Chapter 894

The other parts were used as well



As Ms. Delia had brought the herbs that were crushed, the chief was a little suspicious. I suppose I had gone a little too far...

Still, it was not enough for him to guess about my ability, so it should be fine.

Ms. Delia was smiling and wagging her tail as she agreed with me.

“Wuff. Wuff...”

“Hmm. While it reminds me of petting Leo, it is a little...”

I wondered what it looked like for other people. But I tried to not think about it.

Once the sun started to set, people gathered at the village center, where preparations had been made for the feast.

The people who worked in the fields, the others who went to the forest, but not to hunt etcetera. Many came to praise us, because Ms. Delia had told them of our contribution to the hunt.

“It’s good to have young people here who can hunt an Audhumbla. If we find another one while you’re still here, you should come! We can have another feast and drink!”

“Ahaha...thank you...”

Sometimes, it felt like they were mostly happy about being able to eat and drink more than anything else.

“Oh, Mr. Peter. Ah, here.”

“Sorry. I’ll give this to the field workers.”

“Well, no one eats it. And it helps that we don’t have to process it.”

“Huh?”

Mr. Peter was the old man we saw in the fields. He was currently being handed something by the foreman.

“Uh, what is that?”

“Ah, this...”

“It’s used in the fields.”

As I was curious, I decided to ask them about it.

According to them, it was the internal organs of the Audhumbla that were not eaten.

They were supposed to be nutritious, but were definitely an acquired taste. In this village in particular, no one ate them.

It was the same with orcs, and so such extra parts were given to farmers like Mr. Peter, so they could be used in the fields.

“They are boiled with the remaining bones, and then left out to dry. When crushed into powder, they turn into a great fertilizer. Though, the smell is quite strong, so few people want to do that work.”

“Ah, I see.”

When I thought of fertilizer, I mostly thought of stuff like manure. But there were a lot of other kinds as well.

It really was a different culture... As I planned to work with fields, it was good to learn about such things.

“Now, a toast to being able to hunt the Audhumbla. And for the visitors who helped with the hunt.”

“Cheers!”

The food and drinks were set on the table, and then the chief’s son sat at the head and made a toast to signal the beginning of the feast.

As the wine was of the serpent variety, I decided to drink water instead. But the others were already emptying their mugs.

“Phillip, you have been drinking a lot since we came here. But please be careful.”

“I know, Nicholas. But they offered it to me. It would look strange if I didn’t drink.”

“Perhaps... No, some people cannot drink. It is not strange at all.”

However, Phillip did not really listen to Nicholas after that...

## Chapter 895

### Bleiyu village feast

“Haha, well you are not being forced to drink. So it shouldn’t be difficult to do it with moderation.”

“See! Takumi gets it, unlike you, Nicholas!”

“Hah... Mr. Sebastian will hear about this...”

As it was a feast, I didn’t mind if he drank. Still, I was reminded of that time in Range village...

“Eat more! We have so much meat here!!”

“Yes...”

“Oh, do you want more to drink as well?”

“I can drink more, so please keep them coming!”

“Phillip, I think you’re getting carried away…”

“You don’t seem to be eating much, mister? You’re still young, so you should eat! Haha!”

They kept bringing more and more meat, and it seemed like it would never end.

I would probably test the limits of my stomach tonight. If we stayed in this village too long, I would start to gain too much weight.

As for Phillip, he was drinking quite a lot. Though, right now, it was not serpent wine, but ale.

The villagers were quite happy by how much he drank, but I was starting to regret encouraging him.

Phillip was trying to keep him in check, but was also quite busy keeping the others happy, by shoving meat into his mouth.

Well, at the very least, the food was incredibly delicious.

I had never had Audhumbla before, but it felt like eating the most high-quality beef.

And so it was very luxurious to have so much served at a feast like this. It was no wonder that the villagers were so happy when it was brought back.

“By the way, I heard that the duke is planning to do something new in the nearby village.”

“Ah, indeed. They are looking for workers.”

As I was eating, I heard some of the men start to talk as they drank.

Was this about the herb fields? So the rumors must have spread.

Regardless, I continued to eat while listening to them talk.

“Huh... Well, I think that’s why Delia went to Ractos.”

“Yes, yes. And she seems to have got the job. She didn’t get to meet the duke, but she did meet the daughter...Lady Claire?”

“I see. Well, they do say what the duke is kind to commoners like us. And his daughter is supposed to be beautiful... I wish I could have gone too.”

“Haha. She would never look at you. As if she doesn’t have other options!”

“That’s not what I meant! I just wanted to get a look at her. That’s all.”

“Anyway, I suppose Delia won’t be here much longer then.”

“Yes. But...the date is not decided yet.”

“I see... It will be sad...”

If Ms. Delia was going to work for me, either as Liza’s teacher, or in the fields, she would have to leave this village.

It was not too far to visit. But it would take days... So it was no wonder that they were sad.

“If Delia is gone, we will have less luck during hunts. That means less opportunities to eat Audhumblas!”

“Foreman! Is that all you care about! Hmph!”

“Haha. Well, nothing beats the taste of Audhumbla!”

“Hah...well, I will try to return when I can...”

“When you tire of working? That would be embarrassing, Delia.”

“Hmph! That’s not what I mean!”

## Chapter 896

I listened to the foreman and Ms. Delia

Judging by the way he was eating and drinking, I could certainly believe that he was more sad about not being able to hunt as well if she left.

Well, perhaps he was just too awkward to show his true emotions.

Perhaps Ms. Delia could return more quickly if she rode on Leo? But then again, she might not want to do that.

Well, I would make sure she had enough days off... After all, it was a nice village, and I would probably want to visit with the others as well.

“Still, I heard that you will be working under Lady Claire? Are you sure that everything will be alright?”

“Sure about... I was able to talk to her. She seemed very kind and wise. I have nothing to worry about.”

Ms. Delia glanced towards me awkwardly.

She would really be working for me, but could not reveal that part right now.

“Lady Claire is currently living in that mansion near Ractos. Some think it quite strange.”

“Yes, indeed.”

Ms. Delia looked more uncomfortable as the conversation continued.

I nodded at her reassuringly... Claire would not be offended by such comments. Though, she might be interested to know how others thought of her.

“Living so far from her father... But it seems like they get along, at least. Well, perhaps it is a good thing, as things are improving in Ractos. By the way, what did you think of it, Delia? I have not been there for a long time myself. Last time I was attacked...but I sent him running.”

“Hmm... It did not seem very dangerous to me. Someone even helped me when I tripped.”

“I see... So things have improved since then. But you had to cover your ears and tail? I doubt there are other beastkin in Ractos.”

“Well...at first. I wore a hat and hit my tail... But it’s so difficult to walk like that. On the other hand, they were selling hats with fake ears now. So when I showed my real ears, no one said anything.”

“That is a surprise... Though, I was in the slums when I got attacked. Some thugs cornered me.”

“They must have been very bad. I suppose they wanted money.”

“If anything, they wanted me to join them at first. Said I could help them attack travelers and merchants.

“...So they thought you were one of them already! After all, children sometimes cry when they look at you.”

So he hadn’t been threatened for money, but they wanted him to join their gang.

Perhaps they were like the people Nick was involved in, who had attacked Claire and I before.

Indeed, there was something about the foreman’s face that could be perceived as villainous to some...

From those sideburns to the scars on his cheek. And he had very piercing eyes as well.

In any case, I would not say such bold things to his face, like Ms Delia was doing... Well, she could say that because they were close.

Besides, I knew someone else like that.

The duke had a stronger impact than anyone I had ever met...

Chapter 897

The chief thanked me

“You say that... But it’s not like I did anything bad when I got these scars...”

He seemed a little crest-fallen after hearing Ms. Delia’s opinion.

Regardless, was it from being attacked by a monster?

“It was because you were playing near the forest as a child, and you tripped and fell, wasn’t it? That is what I heard.”

“Well...it is something like that.”

He looked quite embarrassed, and I felt bad for eavesdropping.

Apparently, he had been playing with the other children around the trees that had not been processed yet.

He had tripped and fell on a tree stump.



A branch was growing out, and he had not wanted to break it. So he moved out of the way... towards the axe that was leaning against it. Realizing the danger, he had reached out to another tree to regain his balance.

All of this had happened so suddenly, that he was not thinking straight. And he ended up being pushed backwards from the impact. And though he quickly got back up, he managed to then crash into a fallen tree.

And that was when his face was scraped badly enough to leave a scar.

I suppose they did not have Loe or other healing herbs.

“Mr. Takumi. I hope you are enjoying yourself?”

“Ah, chief. Yes, it’s been very nice, thank you.”

As I was watching them, the chief approached me suddenly.

“I see, I see. That is good. It is the only thing we look forward to here. Also, thank you for helping Delia to search for the herbs.”

“Not at all. I was glad to help. Not that there was much to do. It was clear that she knew her way around the forest.”

I said, being careful to not take any credit or mention Weed Cultivation.

“Hmm...but the herbs she brought were different. And they were ready to be used. So it was obvious she had help from an outsider.”

“Uh...hehe... Well, I suppose.”

“Well, do not look so awkward. I just wanted to thank you. You gave her the warming herbs and some advice, yes? Thanks to that, I feel better and am able to walk outside now.”

“...I’m happy that it was useful.”

Yesterday, he had found it difficult to even sit up. But now he could walk with a cane.

It was possible he would have recovered on his own, but if there was a possibility that I helped him, then I would be happy about it.

“Thank you. The other villagers are also quite happy about your visit.”

“I see...”

“Hoho. Are you embarrassed?”

I averted my eyes and drank from my cup of ale.

I did feel like we were fitting in nicely here. And there was a warm sensation in my body. But surely it was because of the drink, and not embarrassment.

...Though, I still didn’t feel drunk.

“Still, this is a great occasion. So you should drink more and let loose. Hey!”

“Yes, yes!”

“Ah, I don’t... I just enjoy sitting here and observing the others. I don’t need to do anything... Ah...”

“Now, don’t be like that. The villagers would be much happier if you drink and make more noise with them.”

Chapter 898

Recommended serpent wine

The chief then called over one of the women, and she poured me a cup of wine.

She was also drunk and seemed to be having a good time.

“Uh, this wine...”

It was a very dark red.

Not only that, but it was filled with chunks of something...it must be serpent.

“Obviously, it is the wine we are most proud of. Serpent wine. Your friends are drinking it already.”

“...Well, Phillip is used to it... Ah, Nicholas is drinking it as well...”

Phillip was drinking quite happily, while Nicholas was sipping it with more hesitation.

I had thought that he would be avoiding it like me... Perhaps he had no choice? Besides, I had given him herbs, just in case.

“Now, you should drink too and enjoy the feast.”

“Uh...”

It would be fine if it was just ordinary wine. But this one had monster chunks inside. It did not look very good...

Perhaps it tasted good. But I still hesitated.

“What? Are you too good to drink wine made in this village then? Well, the actual wine isn’t made here, but in a different village. We just improve it with some snake chunks.”

“Uh, that’s not what I meant...”

The chief looked very sad, but I was sure he was doing it on purpose in order to make me drink it.

I know... Once it reaches this point, I have no choice.

If it was just one cup... No, one sip... Or one lick...

“Ve-very well... I shall drink it.”

“Oh, that’s the spirit!”

He said, immediately happy. And it confirmed that he really had been acting.

Regardless, I picked up the glass cup before I changed my mind.

“Here goes...”

I closed my eyes and poured it in my mouth.

“Oh...it is kind of numbing...”

“It is special wine, after all. That sensation is quite addicting.”

“...Is it really?”

Perhaps it was because I wasn’t used to it yet, but there was both a burning and numbing sensation in my throat.

As for the taste...it was quite bitter. A little spiciness as well, but I was not in the right state to enjoy it.

It had none of the sweetness of the wine from Range village, so it was not a sip that I enjoyed.

“Still, the fact you always drink wine with numbing serpent venom...”

“Huh? What are you talking about? It’s not the venom, you know? The numbing is caused by the herbs we mix in along with the serpent.”

“Herbs? You put something else in as well?”

“Well, I doubt many here would be eager to drink it if it was poisoned. Didn’t Delia tell you?”

“No...”

But if they enjoyed the numbing sensation, and that was caused by herbs...what was the point in the serpent?

## Chapter 899

The reason that the serpent wine was numbing

“While it is called serpent wine, that is just because it’s easier, given the appearance. It is really more of a medicinal wine. We have been drinking it in this village for a long time. It makes the body strong.”

“It does?”

Apparently, they used to add the herbs to other drinks as well. However, the combination with wine was the best.

As for the herbs, they were a mix of different plants, and every house had their own recipe. But the one herb that always made it in wawa called purikuri.

I had never seen it in person, but it was in the book that I borrowed from Sebastian.

It was similar to a tree and nearly the height of a human. You dried the leaves and turned them into a powder for use.

And when it is drunk, it causes both a burning and numbing sensation.

According to the chief, by mixing it with the serpent and wine, it helped to warm up the body and energize it. Well, he said that it felt like it did those things.

They had started to make the serpent wine regularly, as there was a forest nearby, making it easy to gather the herbs. And it would help them stay warm during the winter.

“In any case, it has now become the favorite drink here. A tradition that was passed down. And now everyone enjoys it for the taste.”

“I see...”

Well, it was something that Ms. Dalia could have told me about. But if I did not come here and see it in person, then I would not have drunk it or learned about how it started. So I was glad that I came.

...Even if I did not care for the taste...

“Now that you know all about it, it’s time to eat the...”

“No...”

The chief then tried to get me to eat the chunks at the bottom of the cup.

I knew it wasn’t poisonous, which was better, but... Still, eating serpents...

However, the chief would not stop.

And so I finally gave in.

Hmm. Well, I tried not to think about how it tasted.

It was a little too much like eating raw fat for my liking.

The bitterness and smell of blood. I could not understand why anyone would eat it willingly.

Ms. Helena would faint if she knew of it.

Still, the others were very happy when they saw that I was willing to try it, and it helped me to fit in more after that.

There is a saying about when you are in Rome... And I saw how important it was now.

A few days passed after the feast, and I was enjoying my stay in the village and living life normally.

But perhaps the change was not that dramatic.

Unlike at the mansion, we had to prepare our own food. But I had once lived alone, so it was not difficult.

Well, there was getting water from the well. Also, I had to wash myself with a towel, as there was no proper bath.

Also, we either received food from the village or hunted it ourselves. But it was cheaper than the food in Ractos.

There was also the smoked meat, which Phillip liked a lot. And it was often served during meals. And, whenever we went hunting with Ms. Delia, we would always come back with an orc, and we would get a portion for very cheap.

Chapter 900

We had too much time in the village

“Well, Nicholas. It will be troublesome, but thank you.”

“Yes.”

“Please take your time.”

“No, it will take one day...two days to go there and come back.”

“...But it should be three days, as you will want to rest.”

We were seeing Nicholas off, as he was going to head back to the mansion.

If you rushed and were one horseback, you could reach it in one day. However, I assured him that he could take his time and return in three days.

“Please give my regards to Claire, Leo and Liza.”

“Of course.”

“I’m sure you will be fine, but be careful.”

Nicholas then climbed onto his horse and departed as we watched.

One of the reasons he was returning was to make a report to Claire and the others.

Also, I wanted to know how Leo and Liza were doing.

As we had been here in the village for some time now, I was thinking about returning. But I decided to send Nicholas back first.

“Now, Ms. Delia. Please guide me.”

“Very well. Leave it to me. But...you are sure about this?”

“Since I will be hiring you, I should say hello. Besides, I have a lot of free time while I’m here.”



As Ms. Delia waved towards Nicholas and his horse, I turned to her and asked that she guide me to a certain place today.

Apparently, she did not think it was necessary for me to do it...but I just had nothing else to do.

I had met most of the villagers during the feast, and at night, I would train. But there was little else to occupy my time.

Sometimes, I would talk with Mr. Peter or watch the fields. Also, I might search for monster tracks with the wood cutters, or accompany Ms. Delia on her hunts.

It was either that or playing with the energetic children.

“I’m sure grandpa will be very happy to see you.”

“Really? He might be like the foreman, and not want to let you go...”

We were going to the grave of the old man who had encountered the fenrir and rescued Ms. Delia in the forest.

Since I was going to hire her, I thought that it might be proper to visit him first.

I had no idea what he would think about Ms. Delia leaving Bleiyu village.

Of course, it’s not like he was able to say anything now. And in this world, there was no concept of speaking with the dead. The grave was just a peaceful resting place.

“That foreman seems to like Takumi, but also doesn’t like that you are close to Ms. Delia. Still, he treats you nicely. But he looks at me with more hostility. Why is that?”

“Probably something you did?”

“There are rumors that you are going to take away the young women of the village. Though, I think the women have started to realize that you aren’t serious, Mr. Phillip.”

Phillip had gotten some attention by the ladies since his arrival. And that had resulted in the unmarried men being quite jealous of him.

“...That’s strange. I am serious with all of them..”

“Oh, is that so?”

“Ms. Delia, don’t bother with him. In any case, there is no chance of him taking anyone away.”

Regardless, Phillip’s earlier claim of being popular had proven to be true... But it seemed very short-lived.

The problem seemed to be that he would talk too casually, and in the same way to everyone. Or he would even talk to multiple women at the same time. And so they quickly caught on to what he was.

It didn’t really help that I and Ms. Delia were usually close by.

I felt a little bad about that last part, but the rest was his own fault...