

Beloved Dog 921

Chapter 921

The reason that Claire and the others came

“The fenrirs visited the mansion, and they promised to help us. And so they carried us here, so that we could compare them to horses.”

“I suppose they will not be able to carry the same load...but there is room for improvement. As long as they can pull wagons and carriages, then it should be fine. After all, they are superior in speed.”

“The journey is two days by horse. While not quite twice as fast, being able to save several hours is still big.”

“Yes. Though, it might take time for the various locations to get used to accepting them.”

“Indeed...”

“By the way, Sebastian. I thought you were against Claire coming here? Well...I suppose you changed your mind...”

When I first decided to come here, Claire had wanted to come with me. But Sebastian stopped her.

Well, I suppose he wanted her to stay with Liza and Leo. But I was still curious.

“As it is just one or two days, it was fine.”

“Besides, Liza is all better. And she and Leo were missing Mr. Takumi...”

“Well, that is what she said. And since we wanted to test the fenrirs as well, we decided to come.”

Well, I suppose there were different things, and the timing just happened to be right.

“Ah, but I was still surprised to see Rahle and Tilura. That was also a test, wasn’t it?”

“Yes. I suggested that Tilura will not be lonely once we move to Range village.”

“So she won’t be lonely?”

It wasn’t like she would be alone in the mansion.

There were servants, Rahle and the Cokkas.

However, she did say that she would miss Leo, Liza and her sister Claire.

“If she rides on Rahle, she can travel very fast. Especially since Rahle can fly over mountains and forests. I think she should be able to reach Range village in one day.”

“So she will be able to visit Range village very easily.”

“Yes. Even if it is not regularly... She will be able to come when she really wants to. I think that fact alone will make her feel better.”

“Ah, I’m sure that is true.”

Claire answered with a warm smile. It was clear that she had been giving the matter some thought ever since the two had fought.

As for how often she could visit, it really depended on the situation at the time. However, riding on Rahle would certainly make the trip much easier.

The difference between one day and several was great.

“In that case, this whole trip was also to see how much time you could save when traveling.”

“Yes, indeed. We already knew that fenrirs were faster than horses... But we did not have many opportunities to test it. Besides, it is not dangerous when Leo is with us.”

“Also, we learned that the fenrirs did not need to rest very much.”

“Now that I think about it, Leo and the fenrirs do not seem tired at all...”

Even if they are monsters, they are still living creatures that should get tired.

At worst, they were panting a little... It was just Leo who seemed perfectly fine.

I already knew that Leo was special, but it seemed that the fenrirs had significantly more energy than horses.

Initial speed was one thing, but having endurance was also important.

Of course, we also did not want to push them too hard either...

Chapter 922

Sebastian was enjoying himself

“Ms. Delia, thank you for helping Mr. Takumi.”

“No, not at all! I didn’t do much...”

“Hehe. You do not have to be so nervous.”

“It is because of Ms. Delia that I was easily accepted into the village. Even though some people misunderstood us...”

Rumors had spread about us. I suppose it did not help that Phillip also flirted with the women here...

“Misunderstood?”

“Uh...”

“I’m sorry, Lady Claire. Some of the people thought that Mr. Takumi and I were...”

“Oh, in other words, they thought you were lovers?”

“WHAT!!”

Upon seeing Ms. Delia looking awkward, Sebastian took the initiative to spell it out, much to Claire’s surprise.

“Lady Claire. When a man and woman spend much time together, it is only natural for rumors to spread. Especially in a small village like this one.”

“Haha... Well, exactly.”

“I’m sorry, Lady Claire. I know that he already has you...”

“...N-no... There is no need for you to apologize, Ms. Delia.”

“Hohoho. I see you are all quite uncomfortable about this.”

“Sebastian, please stop stirring the pot...”

“Oh, now even Lyra is angry. Well, I suppose we can leave it at that.”

Well, I could understand why he found it amusing to see Claire so expressive, as she was usually the perfect picture of a calm lady.

Perhaps I was not so different from Sebastian after all.

“Ah, that’s right. I will have to go to Leo after this.”

“Yes. We must share some food with the fenrirs.”

“They really like hamburgers now.”

For dinner, Claire and the others had brought ingredients, and there was also left over meat from the hunt, and so we made hamburgers.

The fenrirs had agreed to help with transportation in exchange for food, and so we had to give them their share.

“...I will go with Mr. Takumi too!”

“Claire? But it’s quite late...”

“It should be fine.”

“Really?”

While I thought leaving the village so late at night was questionable, Sebastian readily nodded.

“You are just going to Leo, it should not be very dangerous. As long as she stays with you. Besides...judging by what I heard earlier, she should not leave you alone.”

“Ye-yes. Well then. Claire, let’s go.”

“Yes!”

While Leo and the others were close to the forest, there were also servants with them. Besides, there wasn’t anything that could threaten us while Leo was there.

Even if walking in the dark might be difficult... Well, I suppose we could use a magic light.

“Hah... Now that I think of it, this is probably the first time we’ve been on a night walk together.”

I sighed while carrying a large bag filled with hamburgers.

I was waiting outside of the house, as Claire said that she had to prepare something.

The hamburgers would get cold, but we could heat them up again once we arrived...

Chapter 923

A nightwalk with Ms. Claire

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

“Uh, yes... That hair ornament...”

“It is the one you gave to me.”

“As I thought. It looks good on you.”

“Th-thank you.”

The moonlight reflected on the hair ornament, and I noticed it immediately.

She had sometimes worn it back at the mansion... But she even brought it with her here. Obviously, it made me quite happy.

“Uh, let’s go then. Elemental Shine.”

“Ye-yes. I see you are quite used to magic now.”

Well, I’ve used this one a lot, and it is very easy. Now that I think about it, it was you who taught me this one.”

“It was. But you learned it so quickly... Hehe. I remember when we went to the forest, and you watched Sebastian closely when he used it.”

“Did I...?”

Sebastian had taught me about light magic, while it was Claire who taught me how to do it with my sword.

Claire seemed to be remembering the search in the forest now, and she was smiling.

She looked quite mystical under the magic and moonlight, and I felt my cheeks flush.

And so I quickly turned my face away, and we continued to walk towards Leo and the others...

“The moon really is beautiful... Ah.”

“Yes, it is. What is it, Mr. Takumi?”

“No, it’s nothing.”

As we walked, I looked up at the sky and saw that the bluish, silver moon was shining.

I could not help but comment on its beauty, but then realized that it was sounding like a setup for a confession...and I grew flustered.

However, Claire just smiled and seemed oblivious to it, much to my relief.

Being with her and talking was enjoyable...but it was too early.

“...Still, you can really see the stars out here.”

As there were so few lights during the night, the stars were more visible.

“Was it more difficult to see the stars in the place where you are from, Mr. Takumi?”

“Well, you could see them, but... Not like this. I suppose there were too many lights on the surface, that it made seeing the small stars difficult.”

“I see. It must have been a very bright place then.”

“Hmm. Well, there were cities that never slept. Even during the night, you could walk around and be able to see the streets just fine.”

“...That is hard to imagine.”

“Yes. I went to Ractos during the night, and they had bonfires... If you imagined that those bonfires were much closer together, and that there was also light coming from all of the buildings...it might be similar?”

“If you could walk around at night, it would be convenient. And safer, I suppose.”

“Well, there were no monsters... But it could still be dangerous. Crime is more common at night, after all.”

“I see...”

“Still, while I don’t know much about stars, are you supposed to say something about them during times like this?”

“I don’t know. I don’t really look at stars with men like this... Phillip once said that talking while looking at the stars will bring people closer together.”

“Ah, he would say that. And he probably asked women to do it with him.”

I suppose it was also seen as romantic in this world then.

Now that I thought about it, when we camped in the woods, I had often looked at the stars and talked with people while it was my turn to keep watch...

Chapter 924

We talked while looking up at the night sky

“During such times, it might be interesting to talk about constellations...but...”

“Oh, I am finding it interesting enough, just talking casually with you.”

“Uh, yes... Me too.”

I could tell from her smile and the way that she said it, that she meant it.

I felt something in my chest that was not really pain, but excitement.

“They had constellations where you are from?”

“Yes. I don’t know much about them, though.”

In general, I did not have a habit of looking at the sky.

“Well, can you see that bright star over there? Near the moon.”

“Yes. I can.”

I looked to where she was pointing. It was clear and bright.

“Start from there...and connect to there...”

“Uh... Ah, there. Hmm...”

Claire moved her finger to connect the stars in the sky.

Her finger was long and pretty...

“And then...it becomes a Silver Fenrir!”

“...A Silver Fenrir.”

“Yes. At least, that’s what it is in these parts.”

After looking for some time, I was able to see the four limbs, face and tail... Yes, it was a Silver Fenrir.

“Though, it could look like an ordinary fenrir too?”

“No, that is a Silver Fenrir. There is another one for fenrirs...”

“Ah, I see...”

Claire then taught me about several other constellations.

In this world, monsters were quite common, and so there were a lot that were based on monsters like orcs.

“Ahhh!”

“Woah!”

While we talked, we were also looking up in spite of it being dark, and so Claire tripped over something.

While she didn’t fall, my hands were full, and so I stepped in front of her for support.

“Perhaps it is a little too dangerous to be walking and looking at the stars at the same time.”

“Ye-yes... Um, Mr. Takumi...?”

“Huh...?”

I sighed with relief that she did not fall and hurt herself.

But then she looked up and hesitated to say something.

I was not that tall, and Claire was taller than most women. And so her face was right below mine.

And while it was too dark to see clearly, the moonlight seemed to reflect in her eyes.

“Mr. Takumi...I...”

“Claire...”

Neither of us moved, and just stared at each other for some time.

Now that I thought about it, something like this had happened before...

Only, this time, there was no one else here to bother us. Still, a voice inside me said to not get carried away by the moment...

Chapter 925

Leo came to greet us

While I felt confused, we stared at each other.

It was probably just for a few seconds, but it almost felt like time had stopped for several hours.

And then...

“Wuff, wuff!”

“Ah!”

“Ah!”

I heard Leo’s familiar voice, and we were both brought back to reality.

“Wuff! Hah-hah...! Wuff?”

“Ahaha... Uh, it’s nothing.”

“Nothing at all, good Leo.”

“Wuff...?”

In the darkness, the moonlight reflected on Leo’s silver fur as she passed us. Then she turned around and came back.

She was sticking out her tongue and looked happy. And then she seemed puzzled.

“That’s right, we brought some food for the fenrirs...”

“Wou!? Wuff-wuff!”

“No, Leo. You just ate at the village.”

“Hehe. Leo is still hungry. Well, they are delicious.”

“Wou!”

“By the way, how did you know we were coming? Well, I suppose you smelled the food?”

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff.”

“You heard Claire’s voice. I see.”

“My voice...ah, earlier...”

Leo would probably be able to sense my presence anyway. Though, this time it was because she heard Claire’s voice.

“In any case, we can’t be mad, like that time with Mr. Ekenhart...”

“Indeed... Leo must have been concerned about us. Thank you, Leo.”

“Wuff!”

We petted Leo, who continued to stare at the food I was carrying. She was even drooling visibly.

I was worried that there would not be enough for the fenrirs...

“I’m sorry, Lady Claire. Leo went running off suddenly, and I could not keep up...”

“It’s fine. No one would be able to run as fast as Leo.”

After petting Leo, we then arrived at the camp where the fenrirs and servants were staying.

One of the servants then apologized to Claire.

“By the way, Leo. Why is Fel lying on the ground like that?”

“Wuff. Wuff-wuff.”

“Training?”

“Ah, yes. It was when Leo and Feri were eating in the village. We prepared food for the other fenrirs. But while Fen and Riruru waited patiently...”

“Ah, I see...”

Apparently, Leo had scolded the fenrir after that.

Even if it had watched Ms. Delia at the village, it was still a wild monster.

“Kyau! Kyau!”

“Ah, Sherry. You came too. Thank you.”

“Kyau!”

After hearing about Fel, there was a cry from a different direction, and then a small form ran towards Claire.

While she had likely enjoyed spending time with Fen and Riruru, she was very happy to see Claire.

Chapter 926

They liked the hamburgers after all

In any case, the fenrirs were impatient, so I suppose I should let them eat...though, they apparently already had dinner.

I was also worried that Leo might eat a little too much...

Regardless, we would have to heat up the hamburgers again.

“Guff! Guff-guff!”

“Haha, be careful that you don’t choke on it.”

They had already eaten food that the servants prepared, and yet they were eating hungrily again after the hamburgers were served on plates.

“Wuff...”

“Grrr...”

“Leo and Feri, you already ate in the village. That’s why you have less.”

“Hehe. They really like your cooking, Mr. Takumi.”

Leo and Feri were sighing as they saw their own plates.

Sherry, on the other hand, did not look hungry as Claire held her. I suppose she had already eaten enough in the village.

“Ki? Kii-ki?”

“Rahle seemed to be quite dexterous?”

After eating, the fenrirs lay down sleepily. Fel was being petted by the servants and even Rahle.

That seemed rather strange...but it was moving its beak with some skill.

Fel also seemed to enjoy it, so perhaps it was hitting the right spot.

“Hehe. I have not ridden Leo with you since the first time that we met.”

“Now that I think about it, you are right.”

“Wuff!”

Once we saw that everything was fine with the fenrirs, we decided it was time to return to the village. That was when Leo insisted that she would carry us back.

The entrance to the village was very close, so it would only be a few minutes, but Leo really wanted to carry us.

“Thank you, good Leo.”

“Be careful, since it’s quite dark.”

“Wuff!”

The nostalgic feeling did not last long, as we arrived at the entrance and climbed down from Leo.

We petted Leo and thanked her, and then she went back towards the forest.

“I can’t see her anymore.”

“Leo is so fast. But it’s also so dark. Well, we better return now. Or Sebastian will have something to say.”

“Yes. Recently... He seems to be making fun of me a lot.”

“He definitely enjoys the reaction...”

“Hmph. One day, I will have to return the favor.”

“That...is a good idea. Yes.”

When it came to Sebastian, he would just continue to fight back. But Claire looked cute when she was like this, and so I encouraged her.

In fact, I also hoped that I would one day be able to enjoy teasing him about something as well.

Though, it was probably just his way of treating people more like family.

It might be a tradition in the duke's household that started with the founder...

Chapter 927

Philip seemed to be reflecting on his actions

“Welcome back, Lady Claire and Mr. Takumi. That was faster than I expected. I thought you would be back...around dawn...”

“Sebastian! As if we would be out that late! When we only went in order to visit Leo and the fenrirs.”

When we entered the living room, Sebastian, Ms. Johanna and Ms. Lyra were sitting at the table and drinking tea. I suppose Ms. Delia had already returned home.

They immediately stood up to greet us.

Sebastian was smiling, showing his intentions clearly.

“Hmm... It just seemed that you two were getting rather close, so...”

“What? You were watching us, Sebastian?”

I glanced over to Ms. Johanna, who averted her eyes. Ms. Lyra just sighed.

“We were not hugging or anything...”

“Yes, I just tripped, and Mr. Takumi helped me.”

“Hoho. You mean you pretended to trip in order to get close to him?”

“NO!”

“Hah... In any case, where Phillip?”

“He is in his room on the second floor, and reflecting.”

“Reflecting? But he didn’t really make any mistakes in regards to drinking too much this time...”

“According to Ms. Delia, he was flirting with nearly every woman in the village.”

There seemed to be some exaggeration going on now about Phillip.

But apparently, he was now sitting in his room with his sword on his knees. And he would have to be in that position for quite some time.

Well, I suppose it was a lot better than being bound to Leo like last time.

“Ah, Mr. Takumi. Would you like us to wash your clothes? Phillip had some as well.”

“Uh, yes. Though, I do feel bad since you just got here...”

We had not been very good with washing our clothes, and there was a small pile.

While we had time, it just seemed like a better idea to do it all at once later.

“Oh, it’s no trouble at all.”

“Well...thank you.”

“Yes!”

I suppose it helped her to have something to do here, and she seemed happy to help.

And so I nodded and agreed to it.

Of course, I would not take such help for granted because it happened this time. And I would have to show my appreciation.

“...They seem a little damaged as well. Would you mind if I mended them? Of course, it won’t be anything fancy.”

Ms. Lyra said as she began to look through the clothes that were put inside of the wooden basket.

Well, we had worn those clothes several times when entering the forest. Including the times where we went hunting with Ms. Delia and the others. And sometimes, the clothes would get caught on tree branches...

Chapter 928

There was a reason for Sebastian’s teasing

“Ah, I suppose it happened during our regular hunts. I’m sorry for the trouble. In fact, perhaps I could just take it to Mr. Halton later.”

“No, this shouldn’t be much trouble. Of course, it won’t be as professional as taking it to a tailor... but please leave it to me.”

I felt bad for relying on her for this, but she seemed happy to do it. And so I was grateful for her help.

“Thank you.”

“Perhaps if I was able to do such things like patching up clothing, I would be more useful to Lady Claire...”

Ms. Johanna muttered.

“You are already very useful as a soldier and a guard. You must leave this other work to us maids.”

“Do you think so? Well, I am likely to hurt myself if I use a needle.”

“I’m just like you, Ms. Johanna. I can’t sew at all...”

A long time ago, I had attempted to sew something and ended up with blood all over my fingers. And so Ms. Johanna and I felt kinship at that moment.

“Well, it’s getting late. I suppose everyone will want to retire for the night...”

“Hohoho. Lady Claire, you are quite red in the face. Your lady mother would never have been so lacking in composure.”

“It is not fair of you to bring out memories of my mother, Sebastian. Especially since she is the person I look up to the most...”

Claire said with a sigh.

“Sebastian, she will get angry soon...if you persist.”

“Oh, I got a little carried away. Still, I am only trying to toughen her up.”

“You seem to be enjoying yourself though? Hah...”

Apparently, Sebastian was purposely saying things to affect her emotions, especially during times when it would surprise her... That way, she could practice dealing with such tactics, which would come in hand during negotiations and business meetings.

I suppose learning to speak in such ways was important.

Otherwise, you would find yourself always at a disadvantage when talking with merchants.

Though, I'm not sure why he had to make it about my relationship with Claire most of the time.

"Well, if we are retiring for the night... I will be sleeping here."

"No, no! Please rest in your room, Mr. Takumi. We will sleep here!"

"Huh? But you must be tired from the journey. I have been taking it easy here."

After some discussion, it was decided that Claire would sleep in a room with Liza and Tilura, while Ms. Lyra and Ms. Joanna would use Nicholas's room.

And so I took the last room.

As for Sebastian, it was decided that he would be staying at the chief's house.

They had actually wanted Claire to stay there, but she refused. And so since they felt pressured to send at least one person, Sebastian would use that room in her stead.

I suppose it looked bad for a noble's daughter to visit, and for the chief to have done nothing in terms of hospitality...

Though, was Sebastian still the best choice for that? I could not help but wonder...

Chapter 929

Leo was turned into a playground

"Do your best, Phillip!"

I peered into his room, just before entering my own.

He was sitting on the floor and shaking just a little. And so I whispered my support so that he could not hear.

My eyes met Nicholas's, who happened to be there as well, but he just chuckled. And so I closed the door and returned to my room.

“Wuff, wuff!”

“Wow! Amazing!”

“Kya-kya!”

“Leo, don't do it too much!”

“Wou!”

The next day, after lunch, Claire and I went to the village square in order to watch Leo play with the children.

They had gotten used to Leo very quickly. And now they were already climbing all over her and using her as a slide.

Sometimes, Leo would shake while they were doing this, and I would have to warn her to be careful.

If she shook like she did when taking a bath, she might make the children go flying into the air.

“...Mr. Takumi. Do you really not mind? I could take care of the children if you wish...”

“Leo is enjoying it, so it's fine. Besides, you should get to rest once in a while.”

A table and chairs had been set out, and so I was drinking tea with Claire and Ms. Delia.

Ms. Lyra and Ms. Johanna were also standing close by.

As for Sebastian and Nicholas, they had gone to the camp near the forest to check up on the fenrirs.
As for Phillip...

“...Sorry, Fel. My legs are still shaking.”

“Guff.”

A short distance away, he was leaning quietly against Fel.

“Papa, help!”

“Don’t bully Liza!”

“Oh?”

I heard Liza’s voice and turned my head towards the children. Liza was running and children were chasing her...as well as Tilura?

“Oh. What is it??”

“They were trying to grab my tail...”

“I’m sorry, Mr. Takumi. I told them not to...”

“Ah, I see.”

I suppose they did it out of habit, as Ms. Delia used her tail when playing with them.

“Mr. Takumi. I’m sorry, this is all because of me...”

“Well they are even grabbing Leo’s tail... But she can easily brush them off. Hmm. Ms. Delia, can you watch Liza for a minute?”

“Wh-what is it?”

I then squatted so that I was at the eyelevel of the boy who had been in the lead of the group of children.

“Look, you can’t just go around chasing people when they don’t like it. That is when games become bullying, you know?”

“Bu-but, Ms. Delia always challenges us to catch her!”

“I’m sorry!”

“Ahaha. There is no need to apologize, Ms. Delia.”

When you were that tall and fast, it probably made a lot of sense to entertain children like that. It was not a bad thing at all.

Chapter 930

I talked to the boy and Liza

“Ms. Delia is different. After all, aren’t you also different from other boys? Not everyone has the same likes and dislikes.”

“Hmm... I don’t get it.”

“Well, is there a girl that you like?”

“Of course, not!”

He said angrily.

“Alright, what about food? Surely there is some food that you like?”

“Uh, the smoked meat my grandfather makes! It tastes good when my mom roasts it!”

“...You have the same tastes as Phillip... In any case, there are some people who don’t like that stuff at all.”

“Hmmm. My younger sister is one of them. And so I sometimes say we don’t have to eat it...”

“I see. It’s nice that you care about your sister. However, Liza does not like people yanking on her tail. She is not like Ms. Delia. You have to understand that people are different.”

After hearing about his sister, I was sure that I could persuade him.

“Yes...”

“Mr. Takumi. It’s not like I like it when people yank on my tail either...”

“So, I hope that I will not have to see you doing that anymore?”

“Yes. I’m sorry.”

“Don’t apologize to me.”

I said, while making Liza face him.

“Uh...I’m sorry. I won’t be yanking on your tail anymore...”

“Papa?”

“Hmm? Oh, you can do what you want. You can forgive him and keep playing. Or not. It’s all up to you.”

The other children apologized as well.

Liza was not used to this kind of thing, and was at a loss over what to do.

In the slums, no one ever apologized to her after beating her up.

“Not forgive them!?”

Ms. Delia said in alarm. It was rather funny.

“I don’t know why that is surprising to you. It is up to that person whether they do or not.”

“Well, I suppose. But I thought...since they apologized like this...”

“While you can be sympathetic, you cannot know what it is like to experience it, unless you are that person. I just want them to figure it out on their own. Without forcing anything.”

“I see...”

“So... You won’t grab my tails anymore?”

“Ye-yes. I promise.”

Though, the children still seemed to be looking at them.

There were two of them, and they wagged in a way that drew attention.

“Okay...if you promise. It’s fine.”

“Really?”

“Yes! Right, papa?”

“If that is your decision.”

“Yes, I decided!”

She looked a little embarrassed, because it was the first time, and a lot of people were looking at her.

Still, she accepted the boy’s apology.