

Beloved Dog 961

Chapter 961

It was finally a good match

“Tilura, are you alright?”

“Yes. Now I won’t fall off of Rahle!”

“Good. Rahle, be careful when you are flying low..”

“Kii!”

Tilura climbed onto the saddle and strapped in.

If Rahle rotated while flying low, Tilura might hit her head against the ground.

“Alright, let’s go then!”

“Wuff!”

“Kii!”

When everyone was lined up, I called out to them.

They all nodded, and then Claire threw her branch. After that, I threw a branch for Rahle and the others.

“Kii!”

“What!?”

“Pii!”

“Pii-pii!”

Rahle beat its wings furiously, and then flew upwards while Tilrua cried out with great excitement.

Cokka and Trice also flapped their wings and went straight towards the branch as well.

“Oh?”

Rahle flew upwards, about as high as the roof of the mansion, and then stopped in the air for one second.

Then Rahle changed positions and looked down towards the branch that I had thrown...like some kind of hunter.

It probably felt like being on a roller coaster for Tilura.

“Kii!”

“Pii!?”

“Pii-pii!”

And then Rahle came swooping down.

“...Kii!”

“Pii!”

“Piii!”

“Oh, Rahle got it...”

“Amazing, Rahle!”

Rahle then turned its head and tried to pass the branch to Tilura instead of me.

And so I waved my hands and told Rahle to bring it back to me.

“Pii...”

“Piii...”

“That was close, Cokka and Trice. You should be proud considering how much larger Rahle is.”

Cokka and Trice came back looking very disappointed.

Had Rahle been just one second slower, one of them would have likely gotten it. That was how close it was.

They might even win after a few times, and so I consoled them.

“Tilura and Rahle were amazing. Ah, you too, mama!”

“Wuff? Wou!”

“Aren’t you going to run too, Liza?”

“It’s more fun to ride on mama!”

“Haha. Yes, that is fun too.”

Like this, we forgot all about our training for today, and we all played together in the garden until it was time for dinner.

While training was important, these moments were important as well.

Claire seemed to be having fun, and Sebastian...was grinning.

I had a lot to think about these days, but it was also nice to be in an environment with lots of laughter...

Chapter 962

I washed Leo and then went to bed

“Wou...”

“Well, well. You have to be cleaned no matter what.”

Leo had been so energetic in the garden, but she looked sad now.

“As I said before, she doesn’t like to get water in her face, so please be careful...”

We were all wearing clothes that we could get wet, and I reminded them how to wash Leo properly.

Well, Ms. Gelda and Ms. Lyra already knew, as did Claire and the others.

But Leo was so large now, so it really was hard work cleaning her...even with this many people.

As for the fenrirs, they would not be bathing anytime soon.

Eventually, it might become necessary for them to stay clean, if they were going to be around other humans and pulling carriages. But for now, bathing in the river should be enough for them.

As for Sherry, she liked bathing, so there was no problem there.

“You didn’t cause any problems today, Leo. Good for you.”

“Wou.”

She did not even shake herself and fling water over everyone. And so I praised her once we returned to the room.

Still, Leo did not seem very happy this time.

She turned her nose away and rolled up into a ball.

“Haha. You’re angry with me then. Perhaps it was because it was sprung onto you so suddenly.”

“Mama is mad?”

“Wuff...”

“Well...she is just a little sad...”

“Cheer up, mama.”

“Wuff...”

Leo seemed a little conflicted once Liza started to worry about her. In order to cheer Leo up, Liza hugged her gently.

“Fuwa...”

“Wuff...”

While they were both usually so full of energy, they had run around a lot today, so perhaps they were tired.

Well, it was getting quite late.

“Alright, time for bed then. Something interesting is happening tomorrow.”

“Yes...”

“Wuff...”

“Good night, Leo and Liza.”

“Wou...”

“Good night...papa...mama...”

I then got into bed and closed my eyes.

As I hadn't trained today, I was not that tired. But then again, I had been doing a lot of thinking, which also made me sleepy.

“Ah...the slums...”

If Mr. Ekenhart allowed it, they may be able to hire some men as soldiers, which would help with the population there...and then some would be hired to work on the roads as well.

Still, there would be plenty of people left after that.

Even if the roads would need to be inspected and maintained regularly.

So regardless, there would be a lot of people without work...

In the end, only permanent work would be a solution. If only there was something.

I thought of such things as I drifted off to sleep...

Chapter 963

Problems in the morning

I could hear sounds from far away... Was someone running?

Claire was such a graceful person, so I doubt it was her.

And the servants were so well trained, that I doubted they would run like that when people were watching. Well, except Ms. Gelda.

“Hmm... What is that?”

“Papa?”

“Ah, good morning, Liza.”

When I opened my eyes and muttered towards the door, I saw Liza’s twitching ears.

She had probably heard the sounds as well.

It was already bright outside, but when I looked at the clock, it was a little earlier than usual.

“Still six... Hmm. What is it, Leo?”

I noticed that Leo was sitting down and staring up at the ceiling.

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff.”

“Good morning. There is nothing up there, you know?”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

“Rahle? I wonder what happened...”

“Maybe it’s a morning walk?”

“Perhaps... Is that what the fuss is all about? Well, better go and see then.”

“Wuff.”

Apparently, Leo was looking up because she could sense that Rahle was flying up there.

Well, I doubted Rhale just stayed up there and slept the whole time.

“Excuse me! Are you awake, Mr. Takumi!”

“...Ms. Lyra?”

“Wuff?”

As I was about to prepare for the morning, I suddenly heard Ms. Lyra’s voice as she entered the room.

She was usually so calm, and so it was strange to see her looking so flustered.

“Ah, please forgive me. But I’m glad that you are awake.”

“I don’t mind. I could hear some noises coming from outside.”

“I am sorry about that. But yet, there is quite an uproar...”

“Did something happen?”

“Lady Tilura road on Rahle...and went to Ractos...”

Perhaps it was like going on a morning walk for them? But if it was that simple, the whole house wouldn't be making such a fuss.

“Um, she went without saying anything to Lady Claire...”

That did not seem like her. Going out without saying anything, as she knew that people would worry about her.

“I don't know why she would do that... In any case, I thought you should know. Currently, Lady Claire and Sebastian are by the entrance hall and giving instructions to the servants.”

“I see. I will go there right away then.”

“Yes, thank you.”

I didn't know the reason for it, but perhaps Claire and Sebastian did. And so I decided to go and meet up with them.

And so I left Liza to ms. Lyra and quickly got prepared to go downstairs.

Chapter 964

I knew where Tilura was going

“Claire, Sebastian!”

“Wuff!”

“Mr. Takumi, Leo.”

I hurriedly got ready and went down to the hall where the others were gathered.

They were talking to Ms. Johanna and some other soldiers.

“Mr. Takumi, Tilura has...”

“Yes, I’ve heard. She went off riding on Rahle.”

“Exactly. Not only did she leave without saying anything, but she left without even using the saddle...”

“The saddle? She must have been in quite a hurry... Well, I’m sure that Rahle will be careful so that she doesn’t fall.”

“We will just have to trust Rahle. Though, it does seem like Lady Tilura spoke to the fenrirs in the garden before leaving.”

“The fenrirs?”

“That is what Sherry said. As she was sleeping with Tilura last night...”

Well, it wasn’t strange that Tilura could talk with the fenrirs, I suppose.

“According to the fenrirs, Lady Tilura...”

Sherry had told Claire that Tilura seemed upset. While the other fenrirs said she was saying something about how she wouldn’t forgive the people who were trouble her ‘sister and Mr. Takumi.’

“As for what was troubling you two, it is the problem of the slums.”

“And so Sebastian and I think she went off to Ractos...”

Aside from the time we were playing in the back garden, we talked about that a lot yesterday.

And so she must have been listening...

“It’s true that we talked about it, but I thought she was sleeping with Tilura and Leo for most of the time?”

“Papa, sister Tilura was not sleeping. She was just relaxing, because being with mama is so nice.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes. She was just looking down. I don’t remember it so well, but I think she was muttering something about you and sister Claire.”

From the sounds of it, it wasn’t that she was pretending to sleep, but that she was focusing and thinking about what we were saying.

“I see... And did she say anything else?”

“Hmm... I don’t know. I’m sorry.”

“It’s fine, Liza. Please don’t worry about it.”

“...Now that I think about it, Tilura did seem a little quiet when we were playing together yesterday.”

“Did she? Well, I was too focused on trying to throw that branch to notice...”

“Usually, she is more actively involved and enthusiastic when playing. But then again, perhaps it’s just me.”

“Hmm. I was only watching from a distance, but had a similar impression.”

“Normally, Tilura would have wanted to ride on Leo as well.”

“Indeed, she didn’t even try... Until Mr. Takumi suggested that she ride on Rahle, she was just watching quietly...”

“The usual Tilura would have at least asked to throw those branches too, I think...”

Chapter 965

We decided to go to Ractos

“In any case, we must go after her and find out what she is trying to do.”

“Yes. Of course, Rahle is with her, so I doubt she is in any real danger...”

“Though, Rahle has never been inside of Ractos before. So it will likely cause quite a scene.”

“Is that why you are preparing now?”

“Hoho. Yes.”

The servants were running around the house, and seemed to be preparing different things.

Apparently, they were checking Tilura’s room, or questioning people about Tilura.

Claire had been talking to Ms. Johanna and the guards. They were probably going to send out a search party.

“...I’m sorry, Mr. Takumi and Leo. Could you ask the fenrirs if they can carry some people?”

“Me? I think they would do it if asked too... Though, they will probably be more happy to do it if there is food.”

“While it is true that they might agree, it does seem like they had a great respect for you and good Leo. In fact, I’m sure it is because of you two, that they are so well-behaved.”

“I see. Very well. Let’s go, Leo.”

“Wuff!”

Perhaps it was important to ask them with a Silver Fenrir.

In any case, there was no time to waste, and so I went out into the garden with Leo and Liza.

“Are you ready?”

“Yes!”

“We are fine, Mr. Takumi.”

It was still early morning, and we were all lined up in front of the house.

I had asked the fenrirs, and promised to prepare some food for them. And they had readily agreed, and were wagging their tails.

As for the search party going to Ractos, there was me, Liza, Claire, Sebastian, Ms. Johanna and four guards, Ms. Lyra and four servants.

Claire, Liza and I would ride on Leo, and the fenrirs would carry the others. Though, some would have to ride on horses.

It was also arranged so that some others would follow us later. Just in case it was harder to find Tilura, or if we needed people to help calm down whatever chaos that might be caused by the appearance of a monster.

Speaking of monsters, we had wanted to question Cokka and Trice as well, since they were often near Rahle. However, Rahle had apparently taken them, by grabbing the cocktrices with its talons.

I hoped that they were safe...

“Lady Claire, Mr. Takumi. Leo. Everyone is ready.”

“Very well. Then let us go to Ractos and search for Tilura.”

“We’re counting on you, Leo.”

“You can do it, mama!”

“Wuff!”

And like that, Leo ran out after barking once.

She was immediately far in front of the horses.

Right now, we just had to reach Ractos as soon as possible, even if the others were left behind a little.

Not only to avoid causing too much of a scene, but also so we could find Tilura before anything happened...

Chapter 966

Daughter and father were alike

“Mr. Takumi. Why would Tilura go out there without telling anyone...?”

Claire asked while we were on our way to Ractos.

It would feel uncomfortable if we were silent the whole time until we arrived.

“Well, you know her much better than I do.... But I suppose she thought that she could do it on her own.”

Claire had told Tilura to never act alone like this, as it was dangerous.

And though Tilura was an active child, she understood those words properly.

She knew that if she told anyone her plans, then they would stop her.

Even if she went with someone, it probably wouldn't be allowed.

Though, she did take Rahle... I suppose she would use that as an excuse later on.

"In the end, you will have to ask her. But it seems like she was thinking about you and me."

"Really?"

"Well, putting me aside. You are her beloved older sister."

Claire did not seem convinced.

But it seemed obvious to me.

And Tilura was the kind of person to put herself in danger in order to help her sister.

"So she went out alone because of us..."

"I don't know for sure. But I could understand it. There is a person...two people who I know that would do the same thing."

"Two?"

"You are one of them."

"I am?"

"Yes. When we first met, you were in the forest without guards..."

"Oh. I thought it would take too long to prepare. I wanted to help Tilura as soon as possible."

We had gone to the forest several times now, and it definitely did take a long time to fully prepare.

Besides, if it was just to collect some herbs, you did not need to bring much with you. However, there were monsters in the forest.

“And who is the other person? Not Tilura?”

“Yes. It would be three if I included her. The other is Mr. Ekenhart. But then again, I suppose he is not as reckless?”

“...We really are alike.”

“Ahaha. A family that helps each other.”

He had rushed to this house when he was worried about Claire and Tilura. Though, he did bring guards with him.

“Oh...it is embarrassing...”

“But I think that is why the people in the town trust you. Of course, I’m sure there are other reasons as well...”

“Pe-perhaps...hehe.”

“Sister Claire seems happy?”

“Liza. It is a very good thing to be trusted by others.”

“I see... Well, I trust papa and mama.”

“Haha. Thank you.”

“Wuff-wuff!”

Seeing Liza enjoy every day, I could tell that she did trust me. And I would have to be careful to not disappoint her in the future...

The conversation seemed to lift Claire's spirits a little, and we talked calmly about different things until we reached Ractos.

As Rahle was with her, Tilura was likely safe. There was no point in worrying too much.

Also, I hoped that Tilura would not be scolded too much when she was found.

Chapter 967

Commotion in Ractos

"Lady Claire!"

"It looks like there is a crowd of people?"

"Yes! Just earlier, a flying monster entered the town from the west. There haven't been any reports of people being attacked yet...but we have sent out scouts and are preparing to evacuate the civilians if necessary!"

"I see... Thank you for acting so swiftly."

We had dismounted just outside of the western gate.

Normally, we would have just gone right through, but there were people gathered there now.

Many of them were wearing armor and had weapons... The guards of Ractos seemed anxious.

As we slowly advanced, the captain came out to talk to us.

"Well, this is just what I expected..."

While it was not a complete disaster yet, it could still lead to a greater chaos.

It was good that we came quickly.

“Lady Claire, we don’t know what that monster intends to do. But it is dangerous here. And so...”

“Please don’t worry. It’s just Rahle. It will not harm any of the people.”

“Ra...Rahle. Do you mean that bird-like monster that was seen near the gates before?”

“Yes. Rahle is Tilura’s familiar.”

“I-I see... And Lady Tilura was riding on its back?”

“Yes. I’m sorry that she is causing so much trouble.”

Claire bowed her head, and then Sebastian and the servants bowed their heads as well.

And so I did the same.

“Not at all! There is no need to apologize!”

The guards looked surprised and frantic.

“We think they might be in the slums. Is that true?”

“It has not been confirmed. However, they landed near the north side.”

“I see.”

“What should we do, Lady Claire?”

“We must find them at once. Have you heard anything from the scouts that went to the south side?”

“No, they had not returned yet...”

Well, hardly any time had passed since Rahle arrived.

And the guards had been delayed, as they had to prepare...

On foot it would also take quite some time to reach the slums from the west gate.

“Very well. Some people should stay here, while... Oh, do the people of the town know about the fenrirs?”

“They have been told. Of course, there are also new visitors, so it is not everyone... But at least all of the guards, managers and store owners have been alerted.”

“Good. We will then enter the town with the fenrirs. They will help us to find Tilura and Rahle.”

“Yes!”

Rahle was big, so it should not be too difficult. But we wanted to find them as soon as possible.

And so I, Liza, Claire, and Ms. Johanna would go to the slums with Leo and Feri.

While Fen, Riruru, Sherry and the servants would search the rest of the town... As for Sebastian, he would stay near the gate and give out orders and gather information.

Chapter 968

We headed to the slums

Claire took the lead and gave orders to the guards so that each party would have their own roles.

The guards would cover the main streets, where it should be easy to spot something as large as Rahle. Other places would be searched with the fenrirs.

A few others would be sent ahead to the slums and unite with the scouts.

Others would go to the eastern gate and the city office, where Mr. Soldan was.

“Well, let’s go then. We have to catch Rahle and Tilura quickly...”

“I don’t know if catch is the right word, but, yes.”

“Wuff!”

This time, Liza and I rode on Leo, while Ms. Johanna and Claire rode on Feri.

“Leo. Be careful so that you don’t crash into people and buildings.”

“Wuff-wuff!”

It was still early in the morning, so there were not as many people as usual.

But even if Leo did not run as quickly inside of the town, it would still be dangerous if she crashed into anyone.

Leo was smart enough to know this, but I warned her, just in case.

“Hey, papa. Did sister Tilura do something bad?”

“Hmm... Well, she has certainly caused a lot of people to be alarmed...”

“Really, Tilura... It is only because Rahle, that I do not have to worry that she is in danger.”

“Well, I doubt she would have come out here without Rahle.”

“I did not think this would happen, just because she gained a familiar. I will have to scold her later...”

“Ah, the road is getting more narrow. We won’t be able to run side by side...”

“Lady Claire! This way!”

“Thank you!”

One of the guards who had gone ahead, now waved at us.

“Wuff? Wuff-wuff!”

“Really? I see. Thank you, Leo. Claire, Ms. Johanna. And Feri! Rahle and Tilura are that way!”

“So they are near the center, and not on the outskirts of the slums.”

“Feri, can you head in that direction?”

“Gurr!”

I had meant to start near the outer rim, and move towards the center... But thanks to Leo, we would be able to save some time.

“This area...is it...?”

“What is it, papa?”

“No. It’s just that it seemed familiar.”

“Wuff. Wuff.”

As Leo followed the scent of Rahle and Tilura, I realized that we were going down a familiar path.

It looked different, since it was bright now, but it was likely the place where I had searched for Deam.

Leo seemed to remember it as well.

“Kii!”

“That sound!”

“It is Rahle, Mr. Takumi!”

“It seems like it. I wonder if something happened... In any case, let’s go and see! Leo, hurry!”

“Wou!”

Suddenly, Rahle’s cry echoed nearby.

It was very distinct, and I didn’t see how it could be anything else but Rahle.

Of course, Claire heard it as well.

And so we rushed in the direction that we heard the voice.

Chapter 969

We found Tilura and Rahle

Within a few minutes, we entered a place that I remembered clearly... The open area where we had arrested Deam.

As soon as there were no buildings blocking our vision, I could see Rahle’s large body.

Rahle's back was turned towards us, and since its wings were spread out, we could not see what was happening in front.

“Wuff!”

“Rahle!”

“Tilura! Are you there?”

“Sister Tilura!”

“Kii, kii?”

Rahle's head turned towards us questioningly.

It was as if it was saying, ‘Why are you here?’

“Wuff.”

“Thank you, Leo. Rahle, where is Tilura...”

“Ah, Mr. Takumi! Why are you here...?”

“Tilura!”

“Sister...uh...”

“Why did you come out here alone!!”

Just as I was about to ask Rahle where Tilura was, she stuck her head out from behind him.

Judging by the way she looked, she was not injured or in any pain.

That was a relief.

Claire immediately rushed to Tilura and threw her arms around her.

“Gurrrr.”

“Ki. Kii...”

Leo growled at Rahle, and the bird closed its wings and lowered its head.

Well, Rahle was just following orders.

“Even if you have Rahle, you can’t leave the mansion without telling anyone! Do you have any idea how worried we were!?”

“Sis-sister...too tight...”

“Ah, Claire... I think you are preventing her from breathing...”

Well, she was Mr. Ekenhart’s daughter after all. At times like these, she really showed her strength.

“Ah! I’m sorry, Tilura...”

“Hah...ahh...phew... That really hurt...”

“Relly, Tilura...”

“Well, let’s all calm down now. You can scold her about it later.”

“Pi! Pi!”

“Pii!”

“...I see that there are unconscious people on the ground. Did you do that, Rahle? I see feathers... And why are Cokka and Trice looking so proud?”

There were men and women lying on the ground, as well as copper feathers that were the same color as Rahle.

They were all breathing, and didn't seem to have any serious injuries, so they were probably fine.

“Kii!”

“Wou!”

“Kii...”

Rahle boasted about being responsible, and Leo barked admonishingly.

“Tilura, what is the meaning of this?”

“Uh... I heard you two talking about the slums yesterday. And saw how troubled my sister looked... Thanks to Sherry she seemed happier recently, and we played together. But...”

“Tilura...”

Apparently, she thought that Claire's spirits were down because of the slums. However, she did not seem to be aware of the dangers of this place.

In fact, she didn't even know where it was exactly. But Rahle had flown over Ractos many times, and was able to guess, based on the fact that it was an area with a lot of fighting.

I suppose it was luck that they were able to get here. For better or worse...

After all, if they had gone somewhere else, they might have caused a scene. Or it may have taken longer to find them.

Chapter 970

We asked Tilura what she was thinking

“Johanna. Please send word to Sebastian at once. Tell him we found Tilura and Rahle.”

“Yes! Certainly.”

“Gurr?”

“Oh? Are you going to take me, Feri?”

“Gurr.”

“Thank you, Feri.”

While we were talking to Tilura, Claire paused things for a moment and gave the order to Ms. Johanna.

Feri then volunteers to carry her.

And so we watched them run towards the west gate, we turned back to Tilura.

“So, what did you think you were going to accomplish here? Were you going to use Rahle’s power to clean out the place...? Why would you do that?”

“I wasn’t going to do anything so awful! I just...”

“But you kind of already did...”

“Now, now. Tilura. Is it hard to explain?”

There were four people on the ground already. And we needed to know the reason.

“It is... You are going to laugh at me. Well, Mr. Takumi wouldn’t. But you and Sebastian would...”

Apparently, she thought Claire was going to make fun of her. I suppose she was used to not being understood.

“I don’t know why you have so little trust in me... Hah...”

“It’s because you are so close. But Tilura, neither I nor Claire or Sebastian will laugh at you. Leo and Liza as well.”

“Wuff.”

“I won’t laugh at you, sister Tilura.”

Tilura seemed to make up her mind then.

“After listening to you talking yesterday, I understood that the problem was that people here cannot work.”

“Indeed. There are various reasons, but many people are forced to stay here because they have no money...”

“Yes. And so I thought they should make houses to live in.”

“...Uh...yeah. But you do know that building houses isn’t free?”

“Aside from materials, you need to hire builders. It actually costs a lot of money, you know?”

Even if materials were cheaper in Ractos, it wasn’t free.

“So you make it yourself. That way, you can make the one you like...and it will be cheaper...”

Well, there probably were people in the slums who had building knowledge and skills.

But most would not.

Even if they could make a small hut, it would be difficult to build larger houses where many people could live.

“Is it really that hard to make a house?”

“I didn’t realize you were thinking about it this much...”

As she had no knowledge about building houses, she thought it was simpler than it was.

Once Claire explained this to her, she realized how foolish she had been.

“You weren’t wrong for wanting to do something. But in order to actually make something happen... You need to think harder. But still I commend you for trying.”

I definitely would not have done the same at her age.

All I cared about was what dinner would be, or how to have fun while playing...