

Beloved Dog 971

Chapter 971

She put more thought into it than I had imagined

“I thought that if they could make houses, they would always be able to work... But it was no use?”

“What did you say?”

“Uh...making houses is work, isn't it? So perhaps they could help with building other houses.”

Tilura was thinking about how they could continue to work in construction.

Bothe Claire and I were a little surprised by this.

“You talked about how they need a place to sleep peacefully. It feels good to have a warm bed... Like when sleeping with Leo. And so they will be happy when they go out to work... That is why I came here.”

Indeed, it would mean a lot to not have to shiver out in the cold at night.

“...While some people here might listen to you. Not all of them will. I understand how you feel, but... Hah...”

“There is a proper order to everything, Tilura. Imagine if Mr. Ekenhart suddenly returned now, and said he was taking you back with him.”

“Father? I don't want to go back. But... While he sometimes says strange things, he would never force me or my sister to go back.”

“Yes, father is strange, but he respects our opinions. But the point is, that you can't just say something out of nowhere and expect people to understand and agree.”

“That’s...true...”

“And so if you wanted to do all of that, you should have told us, instead of coming out here with Rahle. I am sure that Sebastian and Claire would have liked your idea. And you could have talked and prepared together.”

“Yes... But I thought I could talk to them directly...”

“Well, since you are the daughter of a duke, it is less likely that people will treat you with insolence. Still, you are not the duke. So it’s no wonder that it did not work. Sometimes, you need someone to speak for you.”

“...Would you have listened to me if I talked to you, Mr. Takumi?”

“Me? Of course, I would have. After all, you thought about it so seriously. That being said, I’m not sure if I would have any good ideas myself...”

Tilura finally understood that her biggest mistake was not asking anyone for help.

For some reason, she wanted to know if I would listen to her.

Though, Sebastian would have been her best bet, if she wanted advice...

“Well, Tilura has started to think about more things after you came. So I suppose it makes sense. She trusts you.”

“Yes! He doesn’t laugh at me!”

“Hahaa! Well... I feel like I tend to listen and then find ways to compromise...”

But since it was not an outright rejection, it tended to be received better by Tilura.

“Hah... Well, after hearing all of that, I cannot be too mad at you, Tilura...”

Claired sighed and muttered.

Tilura looked quite relieved by this.

“However, it doesn’t mean this is over, alright? I understand what you wanted to do now. But you still made a mistake coming out here with Rahle.”

“But... Okay...”

Chapter 972

Rahle had held back

“Is sister Tilura in trouble?”

“Well, how could she not be? Even with Rahle, she did something very dangerous. Besides, it has already caused quite an uproar in the town.”

“Well, that can wait until we return to the mansion. But for now... Tilura. Why are those people like that?”

“It wasn’t me! Rahle did it. It was amazing! Rahle’s wings spread open, and this wind...”

“Kii!”

Tilura then explained what had happened.

Apparently, they had chosen this spot from the sky, as it was the largest open area.

When they landed, Tilura saw that there were some people nearby. And so she tried to talk to them.

Though, they were in no mood to listen.

In fact, most of them ran away.

Though, a few of them pulled out their weapons towards Rahle. And they were the ones who had been blown away by the magic wind. Now that I looked, I saw that there were swords and axes on the ground.

Liza interpreted for Rahle, and I learned that even though they had drawn their weapons, the people had been shaking.

I suppose they had thought that there was no use in running, and they might have a better chance of surviving if they defended themselves.

“So...why are the cockatrices on top of the unconscious people?”

“Kii! Kii!”

“They are saying they defeated the prey, papa.”

“They did? But it was clearly Rahle... Well, nevermind.”

“Pipi...”

“Pii...”

“Well...I suppose those people are lucky they aren’t dead after attacking...”

“Tilura is one thing, but if Rahle was serious, there would have been a lot more damage. Leo, don’t scold Rahle too much, alright?”

“Wuff.”

“Kii...”

For Rahle, this probably just like shaking dust off of its feathers.

This whole incident would have been much more serious if anyone had died, and so Claire was very relieved.

Even if Rahle was the one to do it, Tilura would have to watch, and since Rahle was her familiar, she might bear some of the responsibility.

And so while there were things to apologize for, we were glad that everything was kept to a minimum...

Ms. Johanna and Sebastian arrived with some guards, just as we finished talking. And so we decided to change location.

“Lady Tilura, you gave me quite a fright. I was reminded of the time that Lady Claire ran off to the forest.”

“Sebastian, there is no need to bring me into this.”

“Indeed... It was more dangerous with you. Tilura at least had Rahle to keep her safe. You would have been in a lot of trouble without Mr. Takumi and Leo.”

“...Tilura is the one who is supposed to be scolded, not me...”

“Hahaha...”

Once we returned to the west gate, and entered the guard house, Sebastian started to lecture... Claire. Apparently, he had remembered that old incident.

It was true that Claire’s situation was more dangerous. So it was understandable that he did not want her to forget it. After all, she had really been attacked by an orc.

“Both Lady Tilura and Lady Claire will be hearing a lengthy lecture from me upon returning to the mansion.”

“But I already heard one. Tilura is enough this time...”

“Hohoho. The young must listen to their elders... So, Lady Claire, what should we do with these people?”

“You changed the subject... I’ll have to run away once we get back. But yes, as for these unconscious people, they were terrified and panicked when seeing Rahle. They are not to blame. Doctors should inspect them, and treat them if necessary. Otherwise, they should be released as soon as they wake up. Ah, but question them about what happened, just in case. Just as a precaution. But don’t forget that they are to be freed.”

“Certainly. I will see to it that it is done...”

Chapter 973

The commotion was somehow settled

“Lady Claire. The rest of the search party has returned.”

“Thank you. We must thank the people who cooperated, as well as the fenrirs.”

“Yes, of course.”

One of the butlers returned and made a report to Claire.

We had already known that Tilura would be in the slums. However, we sent them out, just in case.

After talking to the servants and guards, Claire gave them orders again.

I had never seen this side of her, and it was rather refreshing.

She was often being led by Sebastian, or sighing at Mr. Ekenharts, but it was times like these that I remembered how much she was a high-born noble’s daughter...

“Ah...”

“It’s because you left the house without even eating breakfast!”

“I’m sorry...”

Tilura’s stomach had rumbled, and she now looked a little embarrassed.

For a second, the room became quiet as everyone turned to her.

When I looked at the clock, it was 10... It was no wonder that she was hungry.

“Lady Claire, we brought some simple food with us. Would you like to eat it?”

“Indeed... Uh, could we stay here for a short while?”

“Yes! It would be no problem at all!”

“Well then, we shall eat here. After all, it will be lunch time when we arrive at the mansion. So it would be best to eat a little right now. Mr. Takumi, is that alright?”

“Yes. I’m a little hungry myself.”

Apparently, Ms. Helena had given the maids some food to take with them.

However...

“What about Leo and the fenrirs? They worked hard, so I want to give them something as well...”

“Yes... But there is not enough food for them... We must buy some by the main street then.”

“Certainly. I will make preparations at once.”

“And the servants as well. We should buy enough food for everyone.”

“Yes, I will tell the others.”

While it was a little early, the street stalls should be open, and they would surely sell some sausages.

Tilura seemed to realize that her actions had caused this. No one had eaten breakfast since they had to come out here.

And so she stood up from her chair and bowed apologetically.

We ate the food that Ms. Helena had made, which was bread with vegetables and meat, and then we left the guard house.

Even if we were a little tired, there was no time for tea.

“In any case...everything is settled now.”

“Indeed. The guards and servants were sure to explain things to the residents here.”

“Wuff-wuff!”

“Oh, Leo. You seem to be in a good mood.”

“Wuff.”

“Mama is happy to have eaten with everyone!”

After leaving the guard house, Leo approached me while carrying Liza.

She was wagging her tail and looked quite happy.

“I see. That’s nice. Were the fenrirs and Rahle eating as well?”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“Hmm. Rahle was a little quiet, but ate with the cockatrices?”

“Well, it was probably because Leo scolded Rahle. I suppose the fenrirs are waiting outside of the gate?”

“Yes. They are waiting there with Rahle. They are going to take a nap until we come out.”

Chapter 974

There were other familiars as well

“...Still, there were quite a lot of other monsters in the town.”

“Indeed...while they generally avoid having any that would attract too much attention, there are people in Ractos who have monsters. Of course, some of them are just visitors from other places.”

As I petted Leo and looked around at the plaza behind the gate, I saw that there were more than a few monsters here.

According to Sebastian, it was quite common. I had not really noticed it before.

Though, many of them appeared to be wolves that were just a little larger than dogs.

“I don’t remember seeing them before.”

“Well, when you are with Leo, it is probably less noticeable. Also, perhaps they were scared and tried to hide.”

“Ah, I see...”

They would have been able to sense Leo’s large presence.

That could explain why I hadn’t noticed them up until now.

And while I could see them in the plaza, we were still quite far away. Also, I could see that they were shaking and had their tails between their legs.

But then again, it wasn't just Leo, but the fenrirs were here as well.

So it was no surprise that they were scared.

"Still, it does seem like there are more than usual? Especially these wolf types."

Claire muttered as she looked around.

There were other cat-like monsters that were also a little larger than dogs. Some had stripes that made them look a lot like tigers.

I also saw a lizard-like monster that resembled a chameleon with fins.

"The ones here are the familiars who helped us today. They were with the guards. I think there are more wolves than usual, because of Leo."

"Leo?"

"Wuff?"

"Leo obeys a human. And now the people of Ractos understand that she will not become violent and attack civilians. And so they were influenced by that."

"Perhaps they think they will have a Silver Fenrir one day as well?"

"...I doubt anyone is expecting that."

So their popularity was part of a recent trend then.

"Wuff... Wuff-wuff."

“Ah, Leo?”

“Mama?”

“What is it?”

As I was listening to Sebastian, Leo suddenly moved away and headed towards the center of the plaza.

“Wou!”

“Kyan!”

“Oh, the wolves lined up...”

After Leo howled, the wolves moved away from their humans and lined up in front of Leo.

“Wuff. Wou-wou!”

“Ky-kyan!”

“Now they have rolled onto their backs, Mr. Takumi.”

“Papa, they are saying they are grateful for mama’s words.”

“Ah, I see. This is like when we first met Fen and the others...”

Apparently, Leo had thanked them for their hard work, as they had helped in the search for Tilura.

Chapter 975

We decided to walk around Ractos

“Is it just me, or does Leo have a royal air about her right now?”

“Well...there is definitely a feeling of authority...”

Of course, to me, Leo just looked cute... I didn't really get 'royal' from her appearance.

“Mama is amazing!”

“She is a Silver Fenrir. It is no wonder that the wolves obey her.”

“Wuff!”

Liza and Tilura were delighted by the sight in front of them.

Sebastian nodded and looked impressed.

Shortly after that, Leo barked, and the wolves dispersed. And then Sebastian and the servants explained to the people what had happened. After that, most of the servants returned to the mansion, as did the fenrirs.

“Well, let's go then.”

“Yes.”

Sebastian took the lead as we started to walk.

Since this was a good opportunity, we decided to take a look around the town.

This would also help to reassure the people.

“We should go to Kalis's store first, and then visit Isabelle.”

Mr. Kalis's store was the closest from the west gate.

As for Ms. Isabelle's store, we wanted to buy some things for the house that was being built in Range village.

It was not urgent, but it would be good to at least take a look.

"There are not a lot of people out?"

"Indeed. Well, Rahle was flying... Perhaps they are staying indoors for now."

Claire and Sebastian talked while looking around.

After Rahle had been spotted, a warning had been sent out. So it was no wonder that there were few people walking around.

Even if they had since announced that everything was fine, there would still be people who preferred to wait a little longer.

"It's my fault. The stores have no customers now..."

"Hmm... Well, that's what happens when you cause a commotion. So you better not do that again."

"Yes..."

But she was usually quite smart, and a good child. So I was sure that she would not do it again.

"Ah, Lady Claire. Lady Tilura. And Mr. Takumi..."

"Hello, Mr. Kalis."

"Wuff."

“I see...that you don’t have many customers either...”

When we arrived at the store, Mr. Kalis came out to greet us.

And though things were usually busy at this time, there was hardly anyone there.

“One of your servants visited me earlier, and explained what had happened. Since everything has been resolved, I’m sure the customers will return later today.”

“I’m sorry that Tilura caused you so much trouble.”

“I’m sorry...”

“Not at all. This is nothing. Well, it does hurt the business a little, but not as much as a rainy day.”

“Is that voice... Ah, it’s you, brother! Did you bring us some more herbs?”

“Ah, Nick... No, I didn’t bring any this time.”

As I talked with Mr. Kalis, a familiar face appeared from the back.

He rushed towards me and looked very happy to see us.

I then explained to him what had happened.

He was incredibly moved to learn that Tilura wanted to do something about the slums. However, he also decided that it would be best to go and see that everything was fine over there. And so he left the store for now...

Chapter 976

We went to Ms. Isabelle’s Store

“The bald man was crying.”

“Yes, he was.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

While we made our way towards Ms. Isabelle’s store, I could hear Liza and Tilura talking about Nick as they rode on Leo’s back.

I suppose they did not see adults crying like that often...

“Was he in pain?”

“I don’t know. Maybe he had a stomach ache. I’ve never seen a grown man crying like that... Though, I see little boys crying all of the time.”

“Haha... Uh, Nick was crying because he was moved.”

As I explained such things to them, we arrived at Ms. Isabelle’s magic artifacts store.

It continued to look suspicious from the outside, and stuck out from the other buildings.

“Ms. Isabelle. I’m sorry for visiting so suddenly. And with so many people.”

Even though Leo and Sherry were outside with Johanna and the others, the store still felt crowded.

“Oh, I don’t mind. I have a store, so having more customers is not a bad thing. ...I see that Lady Tilura and Liza seem to be getting along well?”

“Yes, we often play together!”

“It’s fun to play with sister Tilura!”

“I see, I see. That’s nice.”

Ms. Isabelle was very happy to see it.

“This is delicious as always. So....what brings you here today?”

Ms. Isabelle asked after tasting the tea that Ms. Lyra served.

“I wanted to talk to you about some magic tools that we can use for the new house.”

“New house? I see...so Lady Claire has finally done it. Congratulations. So you two really are...”

“Isabelle. You are mistaken...”

“Look, it’s not like that... I am just having a house built so that I can live in Range village.”

“Oh, how disappointing...”

Now that I thought about it, we had actually told her about the herb fields before. She was probably just teasing us, like Sebastian did.

“So, what kind of magic tools do you need? A new house would require many different things.”

“That’s true.”

“Ah, I want that.”

“After, all, there will be many people there. And many visitors...”

“When it comes to the kitchen, perhaps we should ask Helena?”

“Indeed... While I’ve been in the kitchen a number of times and know a little about it...it’s not like I’m cooking in there every day...”

In the kitchens here, they used magic tools to make fire.

It could not be adjusted as well as stoves from back on Earth, but there was still a high and low heat.

In Bleiyu village, they used firewood to power them. But if they were powered by magic, then it was practically free, as long as you charged it up.

However, magic stoves were expensive, and so only some people were able to afford them.

Twenty gold coins would be...like two million in Japan.

“We have some things in stock here, but I doubt we could prepare everything all at once.”

“I understand that. The house isn’t ready yet, so I just wanted to consult you.”

There were many different kinds of magic tools, and it would take time to get everything, so there would be a need to visit multiple times.

I had actually meant to come after the butler was decided...but since we were already here, I decided to stop by.

We would just tell her what we wanted and get an idea of the cost.

Chapter 977

I bought something that Liza wanted

“Hey, hey. Grandma. Do you have that thing?”

“I do, but... I don’t think you need it?”

“What are you talking about?”

While we were talking, Liza suddenly got up and asked Ms. Isabelle about something.

“A magic device that emits light. And while it’s too weak to illuminate a whole room, it’s popular due to being quite cheap. But I don’t think you would want it for your house... Here it is.”

She said as she pulled the small object out of a box.

It was about the size of half a finger, and round at the tip. When placed on the table, it looked like a small lightbulb.

However, it was made of wood.

“You use it like this.”

“Liza likes this light. I suppose it is comforting in the dark.”

“I’ve never seen it before. But it is rather cute and pretty.”

“Yes...”

When Ms. Isabelle tapped the top part, it started to glow with a white light.

It was not very bright, and you could look straight into it without hurting your eyes in the dimly lit store.

Still, it was pretty, as Claire said. Though, not very useful. Even a candle would be better.

“I suppose it is like decoration? Is that what people use it for?”

“It’s called a tiny light. A failed product, really. But I think people buy it because they can’t afford anything better. But having a little light during the night can be comforting to some.”

“Yes, it would be better than being in complete darkness. I see. And at this price, anyone will be able to buy it.”

But Ms. Isabelle shook her head.

It was about fifty iron. Surely that would mean that anyone could buy it?

“Mr. Takumi, if Liza knows about it, then...”

“It was when she was in the slums.”

“I see...”

Judging by Liza’s reaction, it seemed less fun and more comforting. I could imagine it being used during a time when they could not even afford candles.

“Alright, then let’s buy it.”

“Really, papa?”

It was possible that it would remind her of her time in the slums. But considering Mr. Reyndorf, I didn’t want to ignore it either.

Besides, it seemed like she had good memories associated with it.

“Well, Liza seems to like it. And since it’s cheap...”

“If you are going to buy one, we have these other types too.”

“Huh... There are different colors.”

“It’s pretty.”

“Wow, that’s amazing.”

“I never saw this one before!”

Ms. Isabelle brought out a few other tiny lights.

When she put her fingers on them, they turned into various colors, such as purple, yellow and green.

“I suppose you never had to use such things before, Lady Claire. So, what do you think? Perhaps you can buy them all and line them up?”

“You know how to run a business, Ms. Isabelle.”

“Well, I wouldn’t be making much off of these cheap trinkets.”

“In that case... Uh, I’ll take three of them then.”

“Sister, I want one too. Can I buy it?”

“Tilura, you have money, so you can use that. I want one too, Isabelle.”

Apparently, Tilura and Claire were quite fond of them.

“Papa, you’re getting three?”

“Well, there are different colors. You can have one, Leo can have one, and I’ll have one.”

Liza was quite happy when she heard that.

Chapter 978

Choosing colors and additional orders

“Hmm, hmm. So you will buy five for now. Thank you. Uh, as for stock... Sebastian, help me with this.”

“You are very rough, Isabelle. I am a guest...”

“If you are just going to stand there, you might as well come and help me. Besides, aren’t you going to buy one too?”

“Very well...”

Ms. Isabelle stood up and started to take the lights out of a large box.

It seemed like even Sebastian could not go against Ms. Isabelle.

Or perhaps they were very good friends.

And so he helped her, and they took out the various color lights and placed them on the table so that we could choose.

“Mr. Takumi. Which color did you pick?”

“I...chose blue.”

“Sister, I chose pink.”

“I got the white one!”

Liza chose the white one without hesitation, as it was the color that she was familiar with.

“Indeed... I am not sure which one I want.”

Claire thought as she touched her cheek.

There were ten different kinds, so it was no wonder that it was difficult to decide on just one. They were all very eye-catching.

“...Mr. Takumi, what do you think?”

“Uh...perhaps yellow would suit you?”

I was not confident in my own taste level, but if I had to choose one for her, then it would be the yellow one.

After all, the first thing I noticed when looking at her was her pretty hair.

“Yellow?”

“Yes. It looks like your hair. Ah, but since it is something you are going to look at as decoration, perhaps it should be something else.”

“...Uh, no! Since you gave it some thought, I will choose it.”

After looking confused for a second, she blushed and shook her head.

I could not help but feel happy that she liked my choice.

“So, as for Leo...”

“Papa. Can I choose?”

“Ah, sure. I’m sure Leo will like anything you choose.”

Aside from that, I decided I wanted to buy more, and so I asked Ms. Isabelle if I could get around fifty of the lights.

“Fi-fifty!? Well, I could prepare them if you want... But do you really need so many of them?”

“Well, I thought that I could give them to the others. Also, I think they should be in green... Yes, fifty green lights please.”

I thought that I could pass them out to the field who would be hired to work in the herb fields.

As there were not many forms of entertainment to be expected in the village, any small thing they could enjoy might matter. Also, it was small, so it wouldn't take up much space.

“Hah, very well. But it will take a few days to prepare.”

“Yes. It's no rush, so I don't mind. Thank you.”

After that, I explained my plan to the curious Sebastian.

Liza happily inspected the various lights, and ended up choosing a light blue color.

Apparently, it was because it was between my blue and her white one.

Once all of that business was done, we left the store and went outside.

As we would be buying kitchen related things, we would return at a later date with Ms. Helena and a few of the other cooks.

Also, the butler that I would hire.

“Thank you for waiting patiently, Leo.”

“Wuff. Sniff... Wuff?”

I showed Leo the tiny light, and she sniffed it with a questioning look.

“It looks like mine! You turn it on like this!”

“Wuff. Wuff!”

“Haha. Leo likes it.”

Leo nodded and barked happily as she saw that Liza had a similar one.

I was glad that she appreciated the gift.

Chapter 979

We encountered the people who were returning to the mansion

From Ms. Isabelle’s store, we made our way to Mr. Haine’s store.

After the morning incident, there were fewer people on the street. But the stores were still open, and things were slowly returning to normal.

“Oh, is that...?”

Sebastian saw two people leading horses up ahead.

It was Phillip and Nicholas.

“Oh, Lady Claire. Mr. Takumi.”

“We have returned.”

“Yes. Good work, you two.”

“Wuff-wuff.”

“By the way, did something happen? We were stopped when trying to enter from the east gate...”

I suppose they were stopping people from entering the town, as there was a monster inside.

“I can explain the details after we return to the mansion. However...”

Sebastian stepped forward and gave them a brief explanation.

“I see... I understand now.”

“Well, you two must be tired. You should return to the house and rest. You don’t need to accompany us.”

“Yes. Understood.”

“Thank you.”

“See you later then, Phillip and Nicholas.”

“Wuff!”

“Bye-bye!”

After Claire told them to go on ahead, they took the horses and left.

While we had rested a lot in Bleiyu village, they would still be tired after the journey. So they should take it easy.

“By the way, Claire. Does Tilura receive an allowance?”

I asked her what I had been thinking while we were at Ms. Isabelle’s store.

“Yes. Well, it is true that we are a rich family... But it is not as if we can just buy whatever we want at all times.”

“Of course, they can buy most things. Lady Claire is given a lot of authority when it comes to matters concerning the house, and can access the duke’s fortune... But she does not use it for personal reasons. Though, when she was Tilura’s age, she was not so wise with money...”

“Sebastian, there is no need to talk about that.”

I wondered what kind of things she would have tried to buy. But Claire did not want to talk about it.

“Mr. Takumi. Why are you curious about Tilura’s allowance?”

“Well, I didn’t know how nobles did things... Also, there is Liza...”

“Liza?”

Claire turned her head.

“Obviously, it’s not very necessary when at the house. But it might be when we go to Range village. Also, I think it would be good for her to think about the money that she carries.”

As we were guests at the house, everything we needed was prepared for us.

But once we left, there might be times when Liza wanted to buy something small. And I didn’t want her to have to ask me every time.

I had been thinking about this ever since I decided to hire Ms. Delia to teach her. But as Liza rarely wanted anything, I had been putting it off.

“Hmm. Indeed. It is a good way of teaching them the value of money.”

Chapter 980

The allowance was higher than I imagined

“Indeed... It might be good from an education perspective. Most children in the town also receive a small allowance from their parents.”

“They even receive some at the orphanage.”

“I don’t know if she will actually learn anything from it... But I just don’t want her to hesitate anymore.”

Even now, I could tell that she hesitated a lot.

In that case, perhaps having some money of her own would help?

“So, uh, I don’t know if I should be asking how much Tilura receives...”

“There is no reason to hide it. I believe Tilura receives three pieces of gold. Isn’t that right, Sebastian?”

“Yes. Three gold coins every month.”

“Uh...three gold coins!?”

That would be 300,000 yen in Japan...

It was a lot of money to give a child. I had wanted to use it for reference in deciding how much to give to Liza. But it looked like I would have to ignore it.

“Lady Tilura often plays with other children her age, as well as Leo and Rahle. So she doesn’t spend the money very often. I think most of it is saved up.”

“At first we considered giving her five...but we decided to start at three and increase it as she gets older. But since she has never done anything foolish with the money, I’m thinking we could increase it sooner... Uh, Mr. Takumi?”

“Ah, um... I was just surprised. That is a lot...”

It was not that much different from what a young salary man would make. And so I was stunned and had to be snapped out of it by Claire.

“So, how much should I give Liza... It’s not like she really wants anything... It does not have to be so high...”

“Indeed... What about one gold then?”

“I think that is a good idea. In terms of learning, she might want to try and support a merchant.”

“A merchant?”

Could children do such a thing?

But when I asked about it, apparently, it was not unusual for the children of nobles to find stores or merchants that they favored, and sponsor them in some way.

With extra funds, merchants would be able to broaden their stock and give special treatment to the customer who supported them.

As children of nobles could also protect merchants, this kind of relationship was very advantageous.

Of course, a few extra gold every month was not going to make a huge difference. So seeing what was done with it... That was one way to learn about business.

I suppose it was like a small investment.

“Did you ever do that, Claire?”

“I...gave money to the orphanage. Not a lot. I was more interested in seeing the children grow, instead of fattening the purses of merchants.”

While adults tended to direct their children towards using their money for business, in the end, it was the child’s decision.

“Perhaps that’s what helped Claire have such a good eye when judging human character?”

“Well, we servants believe that she always had a talent for that. Still, rather than one merchant, looking at an orphanage will give you a broad view of many different kinds of personalities, with different situations.”