



Koji Koda

口田甲司

BEASTMASTER EMBRACING
RAINBOW-COLORED Skies

Species: Human

Ability: Capable of communicating with, and controlling animals in combat

A young human beastmaster who's just moved into Gensokyo.

The village folk all mistook him and his mother for youkai at first and attempted to chase them away. After all, what kind of human has a rock for a head? However, this initial issue was quickly resolved when *the Hakurei shrine maiden* came over for her daily youkai check and donation begging, took a close look at his face, and said in her usual tone, "This kid's not a youkai."

Despite the initial suspicions and even ostracization around him, Kouji quickly garnered trust amongst his fellow villagers by using his powers to help with collecting supplies and materials, and, quite surprisingly, engaging in small-scale youkai extermination. Not many people would expect such a quiet and secluded boy to defeat dangerous monsters with such strength and bravery, even if he does look like the brutish kind. The "incidents" he's solved are all trivial ones such as burglaries or vandalisms, but he still quickly grew to be a beloved local hero – and the animal friends that accompanied him on his every venture brought liveliness to his surroundings.

Speaking of incident solvers, Reimu is rather jealous about how quickly his reputation spread, but since Kouji regularly expresses his gratitude for her youkai extermination wisdom by bringing her baskets of fruits and vegetables, she's on fairly good terms with him.

Regarding the kind of person Kouji is, he's the epitome of what you would call a "gentle giant". You'll almost think he was mute if you saw him out in the open, and he has a soft, calming voice. (~~Sumireko called it "ASMR-worthy" once during one of her regular visits to Gensokyo.... whatever that means.~~) Even without saying more than a few polite words, one could feel an air of wholesomeness radiating from his presence. A big "living teddy bear" worth giving a big hug, but he carries a heroic soul within him as well.

It also helps that his mother was capable of instantly ripening fruits, greatly contributing to the food supply of the village. The two of them lived a quiet and pleasant life in the village.

A few weeks after his arrival, while chasing after his pet rabbit Yuwai-chan, Kouji stumbled across a frightening-looking forest and was immediately

disturbed, both physically and mentally, by the noxious fumes of the hallucinogenic mushrooms that grew haphazardly on the bushes and roadsides. His discomfort was quickly followed by intense fear, because - *if Yuwai-chan ran into this forest, what terrible things could happen to it?* Throwing away all common sense at that life-or-death moment, Kouji trespassed into the forest, resisting the influence of the mushrooms, and found Yuwai-chan's fragile body, barely breathing midway inside.

Picking up the poor rabbit he loved dearly, Kouji escaped the forest as quickly as he entered, not noticing that there was a house just a few miles away from him - and that he had caught the attention of *a curious human magician*.

A few days after he nursed his rabbit back to health, the magician, Marisa Kirisame, paid Kouji a visit to interview and befriend him. From Kouji's perspective, he was rather wary of her informality at first, but she turned out not to be a bad person after all. In fact, Kouji became impressed by her vast knowledge of Gensokyo's beasts, animals, and youkai, and soon sought to learn from her, so as to better his own capabilities as a beastmaster. ~~(He did eventually notice that she would pickpocket a potato or two every time she visited his house.)~~

With a crudely drawn map Marisa gave him, Kouji would often take trips into the dark forest, cutting down the hallucinogenic mushrooms along the way so that he could make the air more breathable. This seemingly kind act was looked down upon by many of its magic-using inhabitants who used the mushrooms for spells or potions, but after a few Spell Card duels (with Kouji as the victor), both sides eventually agreed to engage in a "Mushroom Control" treaty.

Back to Kouji's business with the forest, his main place of interest was (of course) the Kirisame Magic Shop. Even though the shopping experience would always take up an entire morning due to the sloppy presentation of the wares, Kouji found himself purchasing book after book filled with interesting information on the fascinating ecosystems of Gensokyo. This enlightening knowledge led to him developing various techniques he could use to tame the land's more unusual beasts - and newfound courage to venture beyond to locations such as the Youkai Mountain.

His favorite purchase, however, was a set of “teleportation orbs” that can summon anything from faraway locations. With those orbs, he could have his animal friends fight alongside him without them actually traveling far distances and dangerous areas. Interestingly, Marisa thought they were just pretty-looking orbs, not ever having utilized them, so he got it for dirt cheap prices. Kouji felt bad about it a few days later and returned to the shop, but Marisa wasn’t interested in taking them back any longer. In actuality, having picked up more junk from exterminating small-fry youkai, she literally didn’t know where to put them back.

When Kouji arrived, he was accompanied by some friends of his as well. One of them was *a young musician* with strange-looking ropes attached to her ears and a handmade, elegantly decorated biwa, who settled in quickly with her parents as his neighbor. Another was *a serious-looking, bird-headed young man* with a showy, dramatic way of speech, who did not stay in the village, but rather made for the Youkai Mountain, where, according to him, his “master” was awaiting. They had already gotten acquainted with each other from the Outside World, but Kouji will flusteredly shake his head if you ask him about *how* they came to know each other in the beginning.

Overall, his childhood there is more or less a mystery... *for now*.

Sometime after he settled down peacefully, Kouda had encountered a serious incident (kind of) in Gensokyo for the first time. Out of nowhere, the calm skies of autumn were replaced by an unforgiving thunderstorm, with lightning bolts striking down and destroying trees and houses at a rate of once every few minutes.

Fortunately, regular as the lightning strikes were, it seemed as if the perpetrator was kind enough to avoid hurting any living creature. Nevertheless, such a destructive storm would bring ruin to Gensokyo’s beautiful nature if it were to continue on for more than a day. Before either Reimu or Marisa could take up their usual youkai-exterminating roles, the young beastmaster set out on an adventure to seek out and defeat the culprit once and for all.