

BABY MAFIA 711

Chapter 711 - "Energy Core Destroyer"

All the people in the hall, including Grandpa Yofan and other inner circle members, couldn't hide their fear at all. The word 'virus' alone seemed to have a big impact on them.

A virus!

What most families were afraid of wasn't the enemy's invasion using the military troops. It was something more like an epidemic.

In most histories of this world, an epidemic could be more fatal than a huge war.

Not to mention that an epidemic could even destroy one's economic development, territory, and so on.

Thus, when they heard that Paul's trump card is a virus, all of them thought that Paul was a mad man.

Even Ainsley furrowed her eyebrows as she looked at Paul with eyes full of disgust.

"A virus? A man-made?"

Marietta asked Paul what Ainsley just asked, and Paul nodded.

"It's a virus born from a virus ability user who can produce a unique virus, but this one has been further developed through technology and magic."

Paul paused before continuing his words in a hoarse voice.

"It's designed to be a special weapon to handle ability users."

In other words, normal people could be infected too, but the effect wouldn't be that severe. But for ability users...

Ainsley didn't need to ask more because Marietta herself had already asked Paul in a cold tone.

"Explain more about the virus—the incubation period, the symptoms, the effect, the casualty rates, and so on. Tell us all that you know about this virus!"

Paul immediately obeyed Marietta and blurted out all the secrets that he knew.

"The virus is called Energy Core Destroyer. The virus spreads through skin contact and airborne, but the virus will die in an hour if it can't infect an Ability User."

Paul paused to recall all the details about the virus and after a few seconds trying to recall his memories, he continued.

"The virus will affect anyone, as long as they're humans. But as I said before, only ability users below the core-splitting realm will be affected."

"What's the fatality rate and the virus's effect?" Marietta pressed on, hurrying Paul to speak more.

After all, they didn't know when Paul would use the virus! Maybe he didn't bring it with him, and maybe...the virus had already spread from the start of the siege.

If that's the case, trying to stop Paul would be in vain. At least, they should know more about the virus and how to counter it.

"The effect...just like the virus's name, it's a virus that can explode one's energy core. The virus will only be effective for those who have a single core..."

Even multiple ability users who hadn't split their cores to follow the number of their special abilities would only have a single core.

Maybe that's why Paul said that the victims would only be those below the core-splitting realm because once someone split their core, the virus would be divided into the number of cores they had.

The virus couldn't multiply by themselves or becoming stronger because an ability user's special energy was enough to slow down their growth.

Thus, when they had more cores to invade, the virus naturally weakened and if the person continued to operate special energy inside their body and around the core, the virus would have died sooner or later.

Marietta's face was grave after he heard what Paul said.

She had never heard of this kind of virus, but the virus was truly dangerous if it could affect all ability users who only had a single core.

Even the five buds had only been in the core-purification realm and hadn't split their main cores yet!

"How's the incubation period and the symptoms? Also, the possibility of recovery for those infected." Marietta continued her interrogation, and Paul quietly answered.

"The incubation period is one day. After that, the infected will show symptoms of fatigue, fever, their energy running out of control, their cores swelling, and finally, after three days, their cores will explode."

In other words, the virus created havoc inside the energy core and made the core expand beyond its usual size.

This would be dangerous because it meant the energy they had was more abundant than the core, which acted as the medium to contain the energy.

Once the core expanded abnormally and the core couldn't withstand the energy expansion, the core would crack or explode, which means death.

"Also, using the excess energy will only agitate the virus and make it work faster," Paul added.

Anyway, the virus was quite weak against one's special energy, but it could last for a few days to mess with the energy before dying with the host.

It means that the virus wouldn't spread further once the host died.

That was one good news, but it also meant to force people to kill the infected so that they wouldn't spread the virus when they're alive.

Or maybe quarantine would be good too.

"As for the possibility of recovery...for those below the core-splitting realm, their recovery rate is almost impossible."

"Almost impossible? There's still a possibility?" Marietta clung to the hope that there's still a tiny possibility of recovery.

But Paul's next answer pushed her into despair.

"Only 0.01% might be able to recover but the virus will severely damage their core. They won't be able to continue their life as a proper Ability User."

In other words, the fatality rate is so high and even the virus's spreading speed is also top-notch.

It was similar to how Covid-19 in Ainsley's previous world could infect so many people in one go...

But this virus's fatality rate was way higher than the other one.

Ainsley's face instantly turned ashen as she looked at Paul with a thick killing intent.

Fck this!

Chapter 712 - "No Cure"

This was actually the first time Ainsley saw someone using a dangerous virus as a weapon to destroy other forces.

This kind of trick should have been illegal both in the mafia society and in the country.

Even if the mafia family was generally a bad guy who did tons of illegal things, they also knew that spreading a virus to win a war was something dangerous.

It could kill many innocent people who weren't involved with the mafia society.

At the same time, since each mafia usually had non-mafia citizens under their leadership, they also didn't want an epidemic to spread in their territory.

A mafia family in this world was similar to nobles or aristocrats in your usual fantasy-setting world.

Because they took over a territory from the government, they had to govern over that territory, and the one acting as the king would be the mafia council.

The mafia council ensured that if the mafia family took over territory with innocent people living there, they had to ensure their livelihood.

Of course, they could turn a blind eye if the mafia family wanted to use their citizens as free labourers or something, as long as it's not too overboard.

But something like spreading an epidemic in others' territories was taboo even among the mafia families.

Thus, Ainsley didn't understand why Paul was so crazy to do this. If she told the mafia council about the case, the Naran Family would be inflicted too!

Or maybe he thought that when they lost the tournament's second round, their family was going to decline, so they might as well drag the Sloan Family with them?

Well, Ainsley wasn't entirely wrong.

Those who participated in the tournament had a do or die mentality because they knew that if they lost, the other mafia families would devour them.

Or maybe other forces outside of the mafia family.

If they passed the second round, they were still counted as a participant...

And the mafia council wouldn't let other families or forces mess with a participant, even when the participant was temporarily weakened.

Thus, the Naran Family had this do or die mentality, and when Paul knew he couldn't win, he wanted to drag the Sloan Family with him and his family.

Maybe, his family could survive a bit longer once they took the Sloan Family's resources and everything— if the Sloan Family fell because of the epidemic.

Anyway, there's still a chance that the Naran Family could survive without the mafia council's protection after they lost tons of their military troops.

And even if the mafia council investigated them for the virus case, they could pretend that they were also victims and it was actually other mysterious forces who were the real culprit.

Paul had prepared everything meticulously that he was brave enough to do such a taboo, but Ainsley couldn't accept it.

How could she watch her family fall from grace just because of an epidemic?!

She stared daggers at Paul and signalled Marietta to convey what she wanted to ask Paul.

Marietta listened to Ainsley's words through the AirPods,, and since they're also close, she could hear her clearly.

Once the woman listened to everything, she immediately asked Paul, who was still under her hypnosis.

"Have you spread the virus yet? Who is the carrier? How did you spread the virus?"

Paul faithfully answered everything, and when Ainsley heard that they had just spread the virus ten minutes ago, she felt a tiny bit relieved.

"Find these fifty people in black robes! They carry a syringe with them. Be careful of the syringe!"
Ainsley commanded all her people outside of the mansion through the AirPods.

By now, she knew that the Naran Family wouldn't have tried to push through with their commander detained inside the mansion.

Thus, she could focus on restraining these people.

"Also, gather all the people on our side who have been unconscious since an hour ago. Place them on the separate building D!"

That building was an emergency building used for the medic. The building was small, but it could fit many people. There were also tons of medical equipment, perfect for an unforeseen situation like this one.

Thank God Ainsley transmigrated when her previous world was in the middle of a severe pandemic.

That's why she was extra cautious about epidemics and pandemics, which led her to prepare a temporary hospital for her family.

"For the forces who will touch or come into contact with the unconscious members, please wear a glove and a mask! Avoid direct contact, blood, or saliva and such."

Ainsley kept issuing commands to her people and even when her people didn't understand her command, they faithfully carried out her order.

In the end, Ainsley didn't know who carried the virus and how many had been infected, but from what she learned through Paul, the first infected people should be the unconscious ones.

"I told the fifty people to find unconscious victims and inject the virus."

Paul paused when he blurted out the information, but he soon continued.

"We choose unconscious victims so that they won't know what happens to them and can spread the virus without arousing suspicions."

That's what Paul said to Marietta a few minutes ago, and Ainsley made a decision based on his words.

She was really glad that she didn't kill Paul just yet. If she did, how could she know all this information?

When she realised something had gone wrong, it would be too late already.

While Ainsley's people were moving to stop the virus from spreading, Ainsley continued to ask Paul about the virus.

Of course, Marietta was the one asking Paul.

"Is there a cure to fight this virus?"

"There isn't."

Ainsley and the others felt like fainting.

There's no cure?!

Chapter 713 - "A Tattoo"

"The virus really has no cure?" Marietta held her breath, trying to see whether Paul was lying or not, but Paul obediently shook his head.

"There's no cure. But there's a vaccine...our troops are already vaccinated. Of course, the vaccine won't work for those who are already infected."

When Ainsley heard this, she almost wanted to kill Paul right away.

No cure, and the vaccines only worked for those who weren't infected yet. That's not really helpful, isn't it? Not to mention she didn't know how to get the vaccines!

Say, in the worst-case scenario...all fifty virus carriers managed to inject the virus into fifty members of the Sloan Family.

Then, even if they managed to isolate the victims based on unconscious ones an hour ago, there would still be more than fifty people, and those fifty could infect the rest of the suspects...

The casualties rate would be high. But it couldn't be helped.

Ainsley couldn't just let the fifty infected people roam freely. They would inflict more damage than ever!

It was better to confine all people who were unconscious an hour ago. That way, there would be no fish escaping the net.

But she had to consider other people coming into contact with the primary fifty infected people...especially fifteen minutes ago.

When the victims first got infected, there must be healers or other people around them, right?

The virus spreads airborne through saliva, blood, and other body mucus, plus skin contact.

Ainsley's response was fast, but there was a slight interval between the virus carriers with her command.

If the virus carriers had finished injecting the target and innocent people came into contact with the target right after the target was infected...

Paul said that the virus would only show symptoms after a day, but it could already spread when it invaded the body.

...there might be a lot more victims than what Ainsley predicted.

Ainsley rubbed her temple and asked her people to isolate those who came into contact with the unconscious members.

At the same time, she got several reports saying that some suspicious people were in black robes around the members.

Ainsley's people already caught one or two, but they immediately committed suicide! There was nothing Ainsley's people could do to interrogate those people.

Ainsley only had Paul as their guiding line.

"Got it. To be safe, burn the corpses. Also, continue to find the suspicious black-robed people and isolate our members to the emergency building."

Ainsley didn't tell those outside the mansion about the virus yet.

After all, the Naran Family still put a fake struggle to mess with the Sloan Family members...she couldn't drop a bomb on her people and make them despair.

The Naran Family was still fighting...they wanted to hide the fifty virus carriers using this chaos, right?

Things would be even more complicated than before.

Even after knowing that their commander was held captive, they didn't stop the attack and even said that they wanted to rescue the commander, which was Paul.

"Save the commander! Attack!"

"The Sloan Family must go to hell!"

When Ainsley received a report of how the Naran Family still stirred problems for her people, she suddenly thought whether those people also carried a virus and intended to infect her people...

Marietta immediately asked what Ainsley doubted, and Paul shook his head.

"The virus is hard to make. I only bought fifty tubes."

Ainsley's eyes squinted at the word 'buy'.

So...someone else sold the virus to the Naran Family? Who? Shouldn't it be forbidden to research on virus-making?

"Who sold the virus to you?"

At Marietta's question on behalf of Ainsley, Paul bit his lips and lowered his head as if to show his ignorance and helplessness.

"I also don't really know the seller's identity. I only know that it's a mysterious research-based organisation...they seemed to be good in other things aside from research, though."

Paul described what he knew about the seller in detail.

He first met the seller at the black market and after the seller convinced him that the virus was real, Paul started to create this hideous plan to drag the Sloan Family to hell.

The virus was expensive, but Paul could still afford fifty tubes plus the vaccines. Surprisingly, the vaccines were way cheaper than the virus itself!

"The seller...I meet the seller three times, and the person always changes. The first time, it was an old man, the second time, a little girl, the third time...a young man."

Paul tried hard to recall what he saw a few months ago at the black market before spilling more beans.

"I think those appearances are also fakes because I can't see their faces clearly. Their faces are always blurry. Their voices...I think they use voice changers too."

It was actually normal for those visiting the black market to hide their identity. Even Paul did the same when he saw the black market.

No one would be stupid enough to wear their organisation's symbol or something. That would be dumb!

"Ah, but I think I saw a glimpse of a tattoo on the back of the little girl's hand. It was really just a glimpse, so I don't really remember..."

Paul paused before confessing what he remembered that day.

"I think the tattoo looked like a lab tube or something...it was similar to the alchemist's building design."

!

Ainsley almost leapt off her throne. Even the Godfather, who was silent all this time, suddenly unleashed his murderous aura.

[That symbol–]

[Yes, Godfather. I think it's that group of hunters...but the symbol is a bit different.]

Alas, all of the symbols were laboratory tubes in all types.

It was the same organisation all along!

Chapter 714 - "Omniscient Keepers"

When Ainsley heard the mysterious organization was the one who further developed the virus, she instantly felt uncomfortable all over the body.

From the Godfather's reaction, he should know about that organization too, which means the organization existed a long time ago.

Maybe more than 100 years ago? Such an organization was still hidden to the public up to now...

They must be a formidable organization.

[Godfather, do you know who those people are in that organization? And...what is that organization? They seem dangerous...]

Aside from hunting the transmigrators' souls, they also developed such a dangerous virus...what is their goal? What things do they want?

The Godfather fell silent at Ainsley's questions, not because he hadn't recovered all his memories about Ainsley, but about the organization itself.

He subconsciously looked at Zev, and Zev shook his head.

The Godfather could only sigh.

[This lord can't tell you about this organization now, but let's say they call themselves the Omniscient Keeper. As you can see, they're a bunch of crazy researchers.]

And that's why the organization's symbol was a lab flask, and each member had a different lab flask tattoo, depending on their division.

So far, there were ten different types of lab flasks...

But the most common ones were the flask with a round bottom, a flask with a round bottom but a tall and thin bottleneck, a round-bottom flask with a tall but quite fat bottleneck, and so on.

There's also this one with a pyramid-like bottom and a simple test tube.

Those five were the most common tattoos that the Godfather saw on the Omniscient Keeper' members.

[This lord thinks the ones responsible for creating a biochemical weapon had a test tube tattoo on their bodies. The little girl who sold the virus must be one of them.]

[I see...then, can we contact them or something? If they create the virus, they should have the cure too, right? Only developing the vaccine doesn't sound logical...]

Ainsley wasn't comfortable with the Omniscient Keeper, and she actually felt afraid.

But if she could save her people from the epidemic, she didn't mind contacting them and pretending to be a buyer.

Alas, the Godfather shook his head at Ainsley's words.

[To contact them, you have to visit the black market, but this lord doesn't think they will sell you the cure. In the first place, they might not appear at the black market anymore.]

The Omniscient Keeper was a cautious and powerful organization. That's why they never did the same business twice in the same region.

There were many black markets all over the country, but the Godfather was sure that the Omniscient Keeper wouldn't appear at the black market where the Naran Family lived.

The Sloan Family might be able to find those people at the Roane Region's black market, but the chance was slim.

The Naran Family's region was three to five days away from the Sloan Family through the land route.

The organization wouldn't attract unnecessary attention by riding flying-type beasts or flying carriages because those were usually very eye-catching.

[Besides, this lord is afraid that you will meet those hunters if you want to find the Keepers.]

The Godfather already had memories of when Ainsley got attacked by the hunters. The hunters must be the Omniscient Keepers' military division.

If the biochemical weapon research division went to sell viruses at the black market, there's a high chance that the military division, the hunters, would be there to protect them.

[This lord doesn't suggest you search for the organization. We should find another solution instead.]

After all, Ainsley's soul was unstable, and it was easier for those hunters to take Ainsley's soul away if she wasn't careful.

Actually, the hunters were just a part of the military division, but those who worked to reap foreign souls like Ainsley's were called the Reapers.

And the Godfather was all too familiar with the Reapers even when the members had all changed. 100 years or more had passed by...here's no way the members would stay the same.

But the organization had a way to let the future generation inherit their predecessors' abilities, which was why this generation's Reapers had the same abilities as the past generation's Reapers.

If the abilities stayed the same, even the Godfather didn't think they would be an easy opponent. All Reapers had strong and unique soul-based abilities, which would be super dangerous for Ainsley.

[...for now, let's stop the epidemic from spreading and think of a way to cure those who got infected. How is it?]

The Godfather didn't want to discuss the Omniscient Keepers anymore. It wasn't the right time yet.

Anyway, the enemy still didn't make another move to take Ainsley's soul, so...we could rest assured for the time being.

Ainsley was actually still curious about the Omniscient Keepers, but knowing that the organization wouldn't be able to help her cure her people, she stopped asking.

[Okay, let's end the siege first and deal with the aftermath.]

Ainsley looked at Marietta and signalled her to detain Paul.

Of course, he would always be under Marietta's hypnosis so that he wouldn't have any weird ideas to harm the Sloan Family more than this.

"Okay, everyone, you heard what this bastard said about the virus. For now, let's not tell the others but do keep your distance in case of infection."

Ainsley arranged her people in the hall to continue guarding the flag while asking those outside the mansion to end the siege.

"I want the siege to end before midnight. Lead all those who aren't involved in the previous mission to chase away the Naran Family troops. Now!"

Ainsley even joined the battlefield to eliminate the enemy faster than before.

Let's end this silly siege!

Chapter 715 - "Self-Isolation"

In the end, no matter how tenacious the Naran Family was, they couldn't shake the fact that their commander was already defeated.

Plus the fact that Ainsley started to go rampage on the battlefield using her blood manipulation ability in her shaman mode, the Naran troops didn't hold on for so long.

In no time, they slowly retreated and scattered around the forests.

Well, they knew that their commander was already done for, but each of them was still waiting for the day the Sloan Family fell from the epidemic to devour the whole family.

As long as the mafia council didn't know and there's no proof, they could stay shameless! Then, they still had a chance to take over the Sloan Family to cover their losses.

That night, after cleaning up the battlefield, Ainsley gathered her elites who stayed at the Connecting Hall to do an emergency meeting.

This time, she didn't let the inner circle members who were stationed outside of the mansion to join the meeting, afraid that they were already infected and could possibly spread the virus around.

"Okay, the enemy is already dealt with. Now, for the virus..."

It was already midnight. The third day of the tournament's second round had started, but the enemy had already backed off. That's how they could hold this emergency meeting.

When Ainsley mentioned the word 'virus', those in the meeting room instantly had gloomy faces.

"Boss. I think we should quarantine everyone in our family. Self-quarantine, one person in one room. We should wait until tomorrow to see whether they're infected or not."

The medical division in the family made this suggestion.

An epidemic was no laughing matter. It was extremely serious and could even inflict ordinary people outside of the family.

Although only ability users would die...but it was still an epidemic! What if the ordinary people suddenly awakened their abilities while the virus was still inside their body?

The moment they formed a core, the virus would actively mess up the energy inside the core, eventually breaking the heart and killing the victim.

"Which building should we use for self-isolation? The emergency building has no single rooms."

Ainsley started to feel headaches over this matter.

The emergency building was built to hold as many patients as possible, so they just created a huge hall with many beds for the injured soldiers to be treated.

There were ten or so private rooms, but it wouldn't be enough for the members' self-isolation.

To be extra careful, Ainsley also wanted those who were stationed at the mansion to undergo the same self-isolation.

She's afraid that the enemies sneaking into the mansion actually carried viruses with them.

Who knows, right?

"Should we use the side mansions or branch mansions outside of the territory?" Ainsley cautiously asked her people in the meeting room.

They still had many mansions before they conquered, but it wasn't located at the Sloan Family's main territory.

They wouldn't know if the infected people were in trouble or not because of the distance.

"...the side buildings aside from this mansion have many rooms...if we count the basement and other small rooms, maybe we can do this."

One of Ainsley's people gave Ainsley the data over their side buildings, which the branch families mainly used because they hadn't occupied the branch mansions outside of the main territory.

"Overall, using all the side buildings and the main mansion, we can house up to 1000 members. The rest..."

The Sloan Family had up to 2000 members now, but they could only provide self-isolation rooms for half of the overall members.

This is troubling, indeed.

"Hummm, let's assume all unconscious people a few hours ago were infected. We don't need them to do self-isolation anymore. And those who come into contact with the suspects..."

Ainsley calculated briefly in her mind and nodded.

"Maybe there would be around 200 people counted as suspects. As for the rest, we can only ask them to scatter around the forests, don't come into contact with each other, wear masks, and that will do?"

Ainsley meant to use the forests as a self-isolation room for the other members who wouldn't receive a room.

Anyway, it was only a day...if the members didn't meet each other and wore masks and other precautions, one could easily keep track of the infected people.

"After a day, those who show symptoms should report through the family app."

Ainsley tapped the wooden table with her tiny fingers as she continued her speech.

"We don't need to worry about infected people who don't have symptoms because Paul said there will be a symptom, even if only one or two."

Everyone would be resting for a day and even drank recovery potion, so if they still felt a trace of fatigue, one could suspect them of being infected.

Those who had a fever and other symptoms would also be isolated as suspects.

While the family tried to prevent the virus from spreading, Ainsley had three days to think of a cure.

The people in the hall contemplated the idea and eventually agreed.

"Okay, we will do as you say, Ain." Grandpa Yofan finally spoke and he slowly patted Ainsley's head.

The old man looked especially worried about Ainsley, but he couldn't show it so that the others wouldn't panic either.

Since Grandpa Yofan also agreed with the plan, that night, the members got relocated into countless small rooms and those who weren't too injured were sent to the forests around the mansion.

Of course, when the Naran Family saw the Sloan troops scattered around the forest, instead of attacking them, they chose to avoid the members.

They're already vaccinated, but what if they got infected too?

Let's not court death!

Chapter 716 - "Searching For The Cure"

That night, the surviving Sloan Family members immediately did self-quarantine in rooms that Ainsley's people had sorted out.

The others who weren't gravely injured or exhausted went to the surrounding forests and, using the family app, they could see the distance between each member.

This way, they wouldn't be too close or too far from the scattered members.

The night was long. Ainsley was too tired after not sleeping properly for two days, so she went to sleep. Anyway, the symptoms would only appear after 24 hours...

Let's say, it would be around ten o'clock tomorrow night, right?

The tournament still continued, and it should be the last day.

But since the Naran Family was nowhere to be seen, as long as the flag was still intact and not stolen away, the Sloan Family would have an easy win in 24 hours.

Ainsley was extremely anxious about her people and the virus thingy, but she also had to do a self-quarantine and thus, couldn't go out of her bedroom.

For a day, no one ate food from the mansion's kitchen, afraid that the virus would spread through food and water.

At the same time, after a simple breakfast that she got from the emergency food storage, Ainsley decided to tell the other members about the virus.

She used the family app to give an urgent announcement.

[Emergency! There's a special virus quietly spreading around the mansion. There are already 100+ people suspected to be infected. Here are the details of the virus and the protocols to face it.]

Ainsley attached the link of an article that her media division created overnight, explaining the virus's characteristics, how it spread, the symptoms, incubation period, the effect, and so on.

Ainsley also didn't forget to send the protocols, forbidding anyone to move away from their assigned rooms or spot in the forest.

So far, those who were suspected to be infected had all been gathered at the emergency building, and there were really around 100+ people.

Let's say fifty of them were already infected because they're the source of infection.

The rest of the members at the emergency building should be infected after coming into contact with the infection source or because they're too unlucky to be grouped with the start of infection.

Ainsley was also sad to implicate these members who might not be the source of the infection.

But because they lost consciousness exactly around when the virus carriers made a move, Ainsley had to be cautious.

She preferred 'sacrificing' these people, letting no source of infections go out of the quarantine rather than letting a fish slip out of the net and implicate the others.

Not to mention that she didn't think of letting these suspects die without a cure.

The moment Ainsley woke up at 7 a.m., she immediately had breakfast, created the virus emergency announcement, and then discussed things with Cellino, the Godfather, and Zev.

Oh, the five young spirits were also there to give more ideas.

[So...does anyone know how to cure this 'Energy Core Destroyer' virus?]

Ainsley asked hesitantly, and she even purposely looked at the Godfather, who should have the most knowledge among them.

Or maybe Zev, since he's a system's spirit...

The Godfather looked at Ainsley and sighed quietly. He had only recovered half of his memories about Ainsley, but it still made him feel some affection toward the baby.

For him, she's his disciple...and seeing his disciple getting so stressed over a virus created by those bastards, he also didn't feel comfortable.

[ECD virus...it doesn't exist in this Lord's era. It should be a newly-developed virus, maybe two or three years ago. Still pretty new, and if the virus is popular, there should be a cure already.]

Since this world had magic and fantasy element, curing someone infected with a strange virus wasn't that abnormal or difficult, unlike in Ainsley's previous world.

However, to find the materials needed to create the cure or find an Ability User who could cure the infected...these are the difficult things to do.

[Unfortunately, this ECD virus doesn't seem to be that well-known.]

The Godfather rubbed his chin as he started his hypothesis.

[After all, if the epidemic caused by this virus has significant impacts on many territories, the government and the mafia council should have researched the cure a long time ago.]

But as far as the Godfather knew, he hadn't heard of this ECD virus, so it means the virus wasn't well-known.

Either because the use of the virus was secretive, or the organisation rarely sold the virus to be used in war.

But the Godfather somehow believed that the ECD virus should cause many cases.

Maybe...the case was buried, and the media never caught a glimpse of the trouble.

After all, the family that faced the ECD virus might have stopped the spreading but didn't produce the cure, sacrificing many of the infected.

[Let's find news about the ECD virus case and analyse the cases. We can know more about the virus from the cases.]

At the Godfather's words, Ainsley asked her people to dig out information and news about the ECD virus.

After searching for an hour or so, indeed, the team found out that there had been many cases where the ability users' cores just exploded throughout the country.

But it was masked by hypotheses such as unstable energy due to emotional traumas, accidents in war, and so on.

None of the news referred to the ECD virus.

If Ainsley didn't know about this virus from Paul, she might have never guessed how her people died a gruesome death!

Ainsley became sceptical of the articles she found.

How come no one mentioned a virus? Did someone suppress the news, or..?

Chapter 717 - "Complicated Conspiracy"

Maybe the bosses of those victims also didn't know the reason why their people's energy cores just exploded at one time, and that's why no one mentioned the ECD virus.

But those who used the virus to defeat their enemies should know about the virus's existence, right?

Or maybe...maybe the Omniscient Keepers deleted the buyers' memories after the buyers used the virus on their enemies?

Ainsley blurted out her hypothesis to the Godfather and the rest, and the group couldn't help but sink in silence.

[This is possible. The Keepers might have someone who can erase memories, or they create memory-erasing potions.]

The Godfather agreed with Ainsley's words, but Cellino, who heard Ainsley's explanation, couldn't help but ask.

[But master, why do they need to erase the buyers' memories about the virus? They sell the virus...so shouldn't they hope there will be repeat buyers, awooo?]

Ainsley immediately shook her head.

[No. I think they sell the virus, not for the sake of profit. Getting money is just one of their goals...but I think they use the buyers as their experiment subject?]

[...experiment subject...to test the virus' reactions and effects?] The Godfather's voice became a lot colder than before when he mentioned the experiment subject.

He actually thought that the Keepers would really do that...

[Wait, Godfather, there's still one point that I really don't understand. This is not about the experiment subject-]

Ainsley hadn't finished her words when the Godfather interjected.

[What is it? What things you don't understand?]

[It's like this...If they can make such a dangerous virus, they can easily spread it around, and many countries might collapse because of it. Why didn't they spread the virus?]

The Keepers sounded like a terrorist organisation, ah. But it's weird that they didn't spread the virus around!

The Godfather pondered for a while before shaking his head.

[The Keepers' goal isn't to conquer the world or something. Their name is clearly keepers. They believe that they are protecting something...which is the world itself.]

Ainsley almost bit her tongue at the Godfather's answer.

What? They're not a terrorist group? They're actually the world police or the world guardians?! Fck- can't understand! No!

[What keepers...why do they need to protect the world when it's perfectly fine? There haven't been any big wars lately. There won't be a world invasion by aliens or something too...]

After all, Ainsley didn't believe that this world had an access to another world except through the fairy of space, Chronos' lil crush.

It's not like this is an interstellar world, ah?

But the Godfather only showed a bitter smile to Ainsley.

[Obviously, what they think of as threats to the world are something like us...people from another world.]

It wasn't uncommon to say that otherworldly people often excelled in some fields and became too outstanding that they might break the world's balance.

At the same time, there would be suspicious Ability Users from time to time who had a uniquely unique ability that could threaten the world.

Maybe that's why the Keepers developed that virus to weed potential threats from time to time.

If that's the case, they must have known where their virus would be used, and that's why they approached the potential buyers...

Wait. If that's the case since the Keepers approached Paul before the second round against the Sloan family started...does it mean the Keepers...wanted to harm someone in the Sloan Family?

Ainsley, the Godfather, and even Zev, somehow reached the same conclusion by just staring into each other's eyes.

When they tried to investigate which person the Keepers deemed as a threat...Ainsley suddenly bit her lips, and her face paled.

[...is it because of me? My luck manipulation ability...first, they harm my soul and restrict my luck manipulation ability. Next, they want to kill me indirectly...]

The Keepers weren't that dumb to target Ainsley openly again. Anyway, since they already knew her identity from the previous interaction, they targeted Ainsley in the dark.

No, they targeted her family instead because it would be the same as targeting Ainsley.

Ainsley broke in a cold sweat.

[T-the virus will kill those who hadn't split their cores into many cores...I...I fit that criteria.]

So...it seems that the virus thingy...was actually a part of a big conspiracy?!

Ainsley already felt her mind spinning around.

She didn't know why the Keepers were so obsessed with her that after damaging her soul with special bullets, they also tried to detonate her energy core...

What's with these lunatics?!

Clearly, the Godfather was also shocked upon discovering this point.

They were just thinking about the cure and unexpectedly uncovered such a big conspiracy.

[This generation's Keepers are clearly more creative and sly compared to those in this lord's generation. This generation's Keepers are a tougher opponent compared to their predecessors.]

The Godfather kneaded his temple and felt that the Keepers were really annoying, mysterious, yet powerful.

No other mysterious forces actually tried to destroy this organisation, all because the Keepers only focused on 'troublemakers' that they thought of as a threat to the world.

Since they knew the existence of transmigrators, it became even more complicated. They were obsessed with getting the transmigrators' souls, studying them, etc.

Maybe they even thought of a way to prevent more transmigrators from accidentally entering their world.

The Godfather felt like the trouble had been going out of hands, so he coughed and tried to shift the conversation back to the ECD virus' cure.

[Okay, okay, let's put those matters aside. For now, focus on the cure...let's not hope that we can get the cure from the Keepers.]

There's no way those people would give us the cure!

Chapter 718 - "A Walking Elixir"

[The cure...] Ainsley furrowed her eyebrows at this word. She racked her brain, trying to see a solution, but she just couldn't.

[Can we get help from the healers? Can't healers heal those sick because of viruses?] Ainsley asked this to the Godfather, and the spirit shook his head.

[Healers can heal internal and external wounds, broken bones, damaged muscle tissues, blood vessels, and so on, but can't cure illness. They can't even cure a simple cold or fever.]

Healers weren't omnipotent. If they could cure illness as they wished, there would be no need for doctors and special doctors.

[What about the doctors? If the healers can't, special doctors with doctor-related ability users should be able to cure our people?]

Sadly the Godfather shook his head.

[Special doctors aren't omnipotent too. They can cure a lot of illnesses depending on their expertise. Some with rare abilities can even cure cancer, but viruses...that is another matter.]

And that's why epidemics or pandemics have always been the government's focus. Human governments, even other non-human races, were also wary of viruses.

There were a lot of cases where non-human races got infected with an unknown virus from the wild, and the race almost got wiped out because of the virus.

Thankfully, humans didn't have any direct contact with non-human races, and that's also one of the reasons why each race didn't mix and guard each other's territories.

They didn't want a pandemic to kill countless races just because of one race getting infected by an unknown virus coming from their unusual environment.

Some even said that monsters and beasts could spread unknown viruses too.

Thankfully, contracted beasts and monsters were basically safe from viruses thanks to the bond with their masters.

But wild ones...they're not only dangerous because they're wild and unstoppable, but because they could carry viruses.

[In the end, only an elixir can completely cure an illness, no matter if it's caused by a virus or not. Elixir can cure all kinds of illnesses. There's no illness that an elixir can't cure.]

The Godfather mentioned the Godly medicine above all kinds of potions and pills– the elixir.

Elixir could come in two forms, either liquid or ball-like pills. However, all people know that finding an elixir is even more complicated than prolonging one's lifespan.

[This lord has lived for countless years and had never heard or seen an elixir. Even if you find one, you can only have one person, and not all of your people.]

Ainsley bit her lips at the Godfather's words and almost lost all hope when one of the five spirits Ainsley hired to be her spare ability slots suddenly spoke in a soft voice.

[Uh...I...I seem to know a spirit who can cure all kinds of illnesses...the spirit was once known as a walking elixir when she was alive,]

The one speaking was a female spirit, so she knew more about other female spirits than her male friends.

When Ainsley heard what the spirit said, she almost bit her tongue.

[What?! A walking elixir...a spirit? A spirit has that kind of ability??]

[Yes, milady. During the Godlif's great war era between the mafia and the government, there's a person well-known enough to have her statue placed at the monumental park in the capital.]

The female spirit paused before continuing.

[It's not the Godlif country's first alchemist, but this female hero is known as a walking elixir.]

A walking elixir...this title again.

Ainsley felt that she had seen a statue with this kind of title at the capital's monumental park before.

Who is it?

[She's one of the mafia society's biggest heroes because she saves many sick people using her ability.]

The female spirit continued her story despite Ainsley's effort to recall the female hero's name.

[This female hero...her ability is that...every drop of her blood can cure anyone of any illnesses, including illnesses caused by viruses.]

!

Miracle blood...a walking elixir...

[Demetra...? From the Meidian family?]

The Meidian family was one of the mafia society's 7 great families famous for their medical expertise.

They were one of the Healer Guild's biggest backers, and almost all of their family members were healers or special doctors.

The walking elixir in the legend was the Meidian Family's ancestor.

Well, it could be said that the young hero got married early, gave birth to a few children before passing away in the great war.

Still, because of her fame, even the government didn't dare to disturb her descendants. After all, in the end, the country also owed Demetra for saving a lot of people from epidemics.

She didn't discriminate between poor and rich, mafia or government, she just saved as many people as she could.

If the Godfather was the mafia society's hero, Demetra was the whole country's hero, on par with the Godlif Country's first alchemist who awakened many alchemists in the country later.

This was why the Meidian Family could still be a gigantic family despite having rather weak military troops. After all, the other 7 Great Families' members spared no efforts to protect the Meidian Family.

Even the governments made a law not to touch the Meidian Family as long as they're not a threat to the country.

The 7 Sacred Families always hated the 7 Great Families, but they never dared to offend the Meidian Family. They could offend other families, but not the Meidian.

The Meidian Family was the base of healers all over the countries, home to famous special doctors and normal doctors.

Even the alchemists had to pay respect to the Meidian Family because although potions could heal wounds to some extent, healers and doctors were still more important than potions!

Chapter 719 - "Will You Sacrifice Yourself?"

The alchemists were just more popular because they're rarer than healers, and they have good businesses with their potions.

On the other hand, the healers were usually a charity organisation that depended on people's donations.

Although it was like this, countless huge forces protected the Healer Guild and the Meidian Family.

They're everyone's precious baby!

When Ainsley heard that Demetra became a dead spirit after she passed away, she was shocked to the core.

What kind of grievance or regrets does she have until she becomes a dead spirit?

Ainsley looked at the female spirit and even before she asked, the spirit had already guessed what the baby wanted to ask.

[Well, I heard that she doesn't want to die because there are still a lot of people needing her help. She also doesn't want to leave her husband and children behind...]

Demetra had always been guarding the Meidian Family. In fact, the family continued to produce healers and special doctors all because of Demetra's blessing.

She's one of the rare spirits who would influence other living beings not to become shamans but to become healers and special doctors, just like her when she's still alive.

It was strange that no one in Meidian Family actually became a shaman. Even shamans who joined the family also couldn't discover Demetra's existence.

Maybe because she's as strong as the Godfather, or even above the Godfather.

After all, someone once said that if they drank her blood and ate her flesh, even the dead could come back to life.

Demetra was really a walking elixir and throughout her life...people eyed her bodies for the sake of the miraculous effects.

Her tears could heal one's soul to a certain degree.

Her blood could cure all kinds of illnesses.

Her flesh could revive the dead.

Her bones could regrow others' missing limbs.

Alas, all of this wouldn't be effective if consumed by herself. She could only help others but not herself.

What an irony, isn't it? It was said that she passed away because she lost too much blood trying to cure many sick people on the battlefield.

Back then, the country was chaotic because of a severe epidemic, and the government blamed it on the mafia while the mafia blamed the government.

Only Demetra worked to heal people from both sides and the epidemic was quickly suppressed thanks to her sacrifice.

The epidemic back then affected both normal people and ability users, which was why the danger level was really high. The fatality rate was even 99%!

Demetra's special ability was just one...to become an elixir. Each part of her body was actually an elixir with different effects.

Her skin, her nails, hair, blood, bones, tears, and so on.

She was really a walking elixir, but many people protected her throughout her life so malicious people wouldn't use her.

If not, she would have been devoured alive by other greedy people, not caring if they were consuming her flesh and blood.

When she passed away, her ability also disappeared, and thanks to that, her body was left intact, and the family could preserve her remains until only her bones were left nowadays.

[I think we can find Demetra at the Meidian Family's main mansion.] The female spirit looked at Ainsley and gave such a suggestion.

[Milady said that you're an ambassador-type shaman, right? You can borrow Demetra's ability for 12 hours to save all your members.]

The female spirit actually hoped that after Ainsley borrowed the ability, she would save her tears, blood, hair or nail for the family's sake.

Demetra did the same when she was alive. She left many of her body parts to her family so that her family would always be safe from troubles thanks to her miraculous ability.

A strand of Demetra's hair could prolong one's lifespan by a few months. A piece of her nail could strengthen one's physique, especially the ability users'.

It was very important for ability users to have a good physique. They could hold more abilities and could also contain more energies than before.

[How is it, milady? If you managed to borrow the ability, a drop of your blood could cure the infected member.]

One drop and one person could be saved.

[Since you also have the blood manipulation ability when you use your shaman ability...]

The female spirit secretly looked at the Godfather and spoke cautiously.

[You can use your blood manipulation ability to distribute your precious blood faster than ever. You can also make sure you won't give more than a drop to each infected member.]

It's so that Ainsley wouldn't lose too much blood!

Ainsley listened to the female spirit's suggestion and thought that it was feasible. She only had to borrow the ability for 12 hours...

Anyway, Demetra couldn't use her ability anymore when she's a spirit. She didn't even have a fleshy body, so how could she help people with her ability?

She also didn't have a contracted shaman yet, all because she didn't want to burden the shaman with her dangerously alluring ability.

The shaman, who was already weak without a spirit's protection, would only become a walking delicacy if Demetra possessed the shaman to make use of their body.

Not all people would be as selfless and kind as Demetra. She knew that the shamans wouldn't want to be a walking elixir who could only save others but not themselves.

[But, milady, if you decide to visit Demetra and borrow her ability, you have to be prepared to become a walking elixir for twelve hours...]

The female spirit looked at Ainsley with eyes full of concern.

[Will you take that dangerous ability and sacrifice yourself?]

Ainsley would have to bleed continuously until all her members are cured!

Chapter 720 - "Visiting The Meidian Family"

Ainsley squinted her eyes and didn't hesitate to nod at the female spirit's words.

[I don't mind. It's just bleeding for twelve hours. I also don't think that I will bleed a lot since one person only needs a drop of my blood. I won't lose too much blood.]

And even if she did, she could just eat meals full of nourishment for the blood. That way, she wouldn't die from loss of blood.

She's not like Demetra, who couldn't replenish her blood as fast as her elixir production.

The lady obviously also drank a blood-replenishing potion and other herbs or medicines to keep supplying blood, but in the end, the situation back then was chaotic.

The mafia was in a huge war against the government, and at the same time, epidemics spread everywhere.

The situation was really not good, and Demetra couldn't receive enough treatment until she died of blood loss.

Still, maybe...maybe someone drained her blood or something amid the chaos. Who knows?

After all, the healers should be able to replenish Demetra's blood since their expertise was in healing wounds and internal or external bleeding.

Yet, in the end, Demetra still died.

Ainsley bit her lips as she looked at the Godfather, Cellino, Zev, and the five spirits.

[I want to visit the Meidian Family and meet Demetra! I have decided. We have to go as soon as we can. If not, we might not be back in time.]

The Meidian Family's main mansion was quite far from the Roane Region.

If one departed from the Sloan Family's mansion on foot, they would need a few days to arrive, but if they took a flying carriage, a day was enough.

Still, it took such a long time!

This world was way bigger than Ainsley's previous world, after all.

The distance between regions separated by deserts or ocean was the same as the distance between two countries in Ainsley's previous world.

One could imagine the distance between countries in this world. Super far away even when they used the plane.

Alas, this world didn't have a plane yet and only had an air balloon or flying carriages.

There's no way flying carriages would be as fast as planes.

The Meidian Family's main mansion distance from the Sloan Family's main mansion was like two neighbouring countries in Ainsley's past world.

One needed one or two hours to go there by plane, but a flying carriage was way slower than a plane.

Taking a day to go there is really logical.

[We can depart now. When we return, the isolation period should have been over and we can immediately cure the infected.]

One needed two days to go back and forth between the two families. Ainsley only had three days until the infected people passed away.

Time is tight!

The Godfather and the others could only look at Ainsley and nod reluctantly.

[Alright. This Lord also agrees with you, Lil Lass. Just...take care of your body when you produce the elixir later, ok?]

[True, true. And don't get your hopes too high, either. We don't know if Demetra will be willing to lend you her ability,] Zev chirped in from time to time.

He's actually feeling distressed that Ainsley had to sacrifice her blood, but he knew they didn't have any other way out.

Damn it. After the trouble is over, let's sue the Naran Family or directly conquer that bastard family!

With Zev, the Godfather and even Cellino agreeing to Ainsley's request, the baby immediately met Grandpa Yofan and the higher-ups before conveying her plan.

"That's why I have to go now, grandpa. Please don't worry too much. I'm going out to find the cure!"

Ainsley didn't describe how she would borrow Demetra's ability and turn her body into a walking elixir. She still felt cautious around the Sloan Family's higher-ups.

Even when she knew that they were trustworthy, there was no guarantee that human greed wouldn't beat one's sense of loyalty.

And even if the higher-ups turned out to be loyal, Ainsley couldn't say for sure that outsiders wouldn't know of the news at all.

For her own safety, she rather conceals things from Grandpa Yofan and the others until the ability wears out.

Grandpa Yofan actually didn't want to let Ainsley go because they had just finished the weary tournament's second round, and Ainsley had only rested for less than a day.

However, knowing their situation was dire, Grandpa Yofan reluctantly let Ainsley go only with Axelle.

This time, the five buds didn't go and had to take care of the people in the mansion. Even Elliana couldn't go out because there was no proof that the ECD virus did not infect her.

Axelle was different. He's an elf, and apparently, this type of ECD virus only affected humans. Thus, Axelle could roam around without the risk of spreading the virus.

"Goodbye, Grandpa. I'll be back in two days! Anyway, I'll be here on the third day and I'll definitely save everyone!"

Ainsley reluctantly bid goodbye to Grandpa Yofan and the others. She knew that lately, she had been leaving Grandpa Yofan and Elliana behind to do some business.

She felt that she wasn't that close to Elliana or Grandpa Yofan anymore.

She was not even that close with the five buds and only interacted with them as a boss and their subordinates.

Thinking like this, Ainsley secretly planned to take her close people to relax for a while until the tournament's third round was announced.

Anyway, for now, the focus was to find the cure for ECD virus!

Ainsley immediately departed with Cellino, Axelle, Zev, the Godfather, and the five young spirits.

The baby then clenched her tiny fists as she looked up at the sky.

Meidian Family, wait for me!