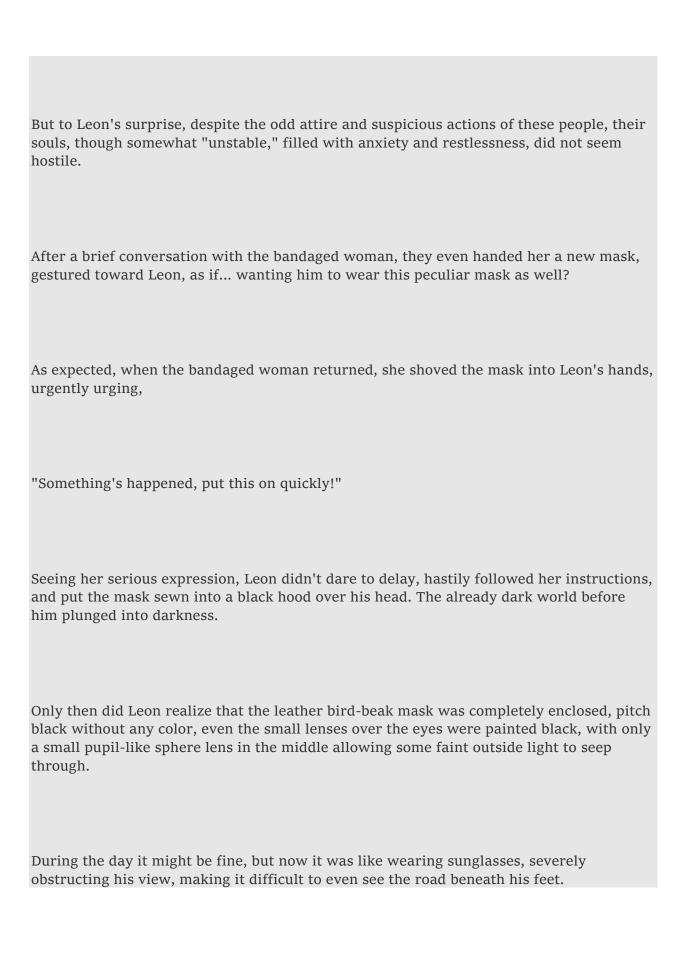
I! CLEANER!

Chapter 11 11: 0011 Plague and True Fragrance (Two-in-One)_1
Although it seemed to have made a sincere proclamation, being a Great Demon with principles, the Black Goat indeed did what it said and went silent.
No matter what price Leon offered, it stubbornly remained quiet, even closing its eyes, utterly unmoved.
Concerned about the hospital situation, and with the bandaged woman now willing to help, Leon decided to ignore the troublesome goat and headed with the woman towards the hospital.
However, something seemed to have happened nearby. Even though it was nighttime, they kept encountering people rushing down the road.
Most of these passersby wore strange masks resembling giant raven beaks, gathered in small groups, carrying someone face down on two metal stretchers or poles, hurrying along.
Strangely, although these people seemed very anxious, when they encountered Leon and the bandaged woman at intersections or narrow alleys, they quickly stepped aside, wavin their hands to let them pass first, as if avoiding contact.

Anxious to confirm his sister's condition, Leon couldn't spare the energy to focus on these mysterious people. He only glanced at their souls to make sure there was nothing *abnormal*, and prepared to move on, but was unexpectedly stopped by the bandaged woman.
"Wait a minute."
After taking a serious look at the strange people, the woman opened her suitcase, rummaged through it, and took out a similar mask, putting it on her face. She then quietly instructed Leon,
"Stand here and don't move, and under no circumstances approach them before I return!"
What? Are these people suspicious?!
Through the bird-beak mask's lenses, Leon exchanged a glance with the cautious "senior." Seeing her apparent wariness towards the odd individuals, Leon immediately became alert as well.
Following the woman's instructions, he stayed where he was, gripping the goat's head tightly and focusing on observing the strange people's souls, ready to alert the woman if he noticed any abnormalities.

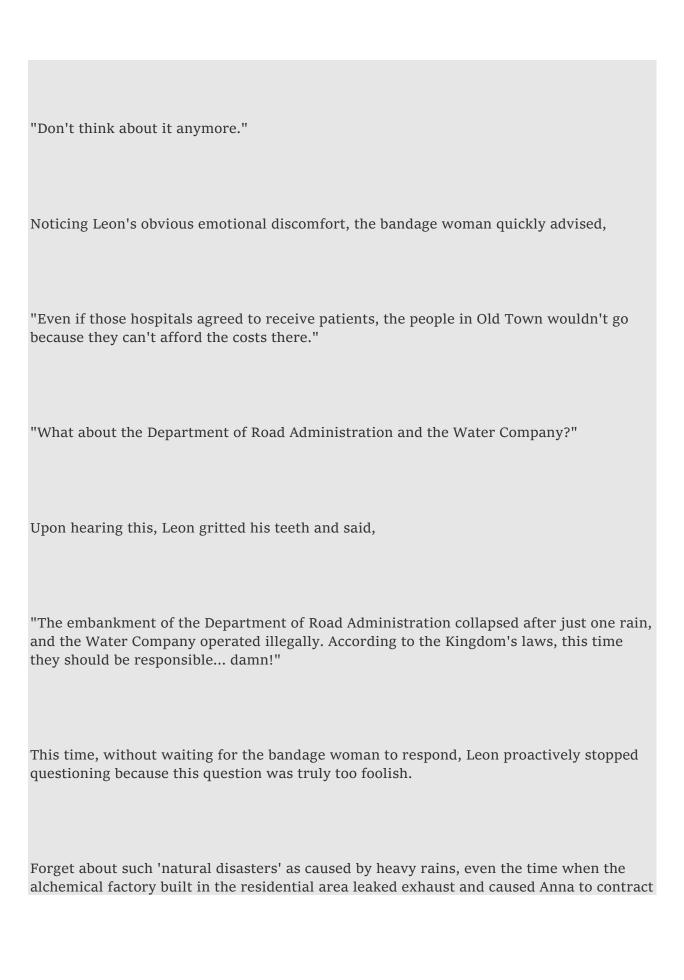


"I can't see"
"Don't move!"
Before Leon could voice his situation, the bandaged woman reached out, giving the mask's bird-beak a hard slap. The mask, which still had a gap between it and Leon's face, fit snugly against him, and the small lens made direct contact with his eye.
Startled, Leon instinctively tried to close his eyes, but found his eyelids held open by the lens. A small amount of pale yellow, icy oil squeezed out from a corner of the lens, instantly moistening his eyeball.
The patterns on the woman's suitcase, the seams in the paving stones, the textures of the street-side buildings, the whole world had been forcibly tinted with an eerie pale yellow
Wait! I can see things clearly?!

"This is the Night Raven Mask used by the Epidemic Prevention Bureau, even at night in areas without streetlights, it allows you to see clearly. Remember not to use your eyes to look outside; keep your pupils pressed against the lens and learn to observe through it.
Also, be sure to wear the mask securely, breathe through your mouth and nose into the bird beak, which contains herbs, spices, and special smelling salts to prevent most infections."
As the bandaged woman quickly instructed Leon on using the mask, she also explained rapidly,
"I just asked those people from the Epidemic Prevention Bureau. Last week's heavy rain caused the sewage river to overflow, and the dam built by the Department of Road Administration collapsed the same day, the sewage river's tributary merged with the Capital City's water supply river.
If it had just been that, it wouldn't have been so bad, but the outsourced water company cut costs, not following the twelve-step purification process. They pumped water from the river, only filtered out debris and sediment, did a crude disinfection to remove odors, and then directly piped it into the city's water supply.
Those being carried are the ones who drank the contaminated water. The main symptoms are nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, severe abdominal cramps, leading to dehydration and unconsciousness. People who contacted their vomit are also showing similar symptoms. About five hundred people have experienced this."

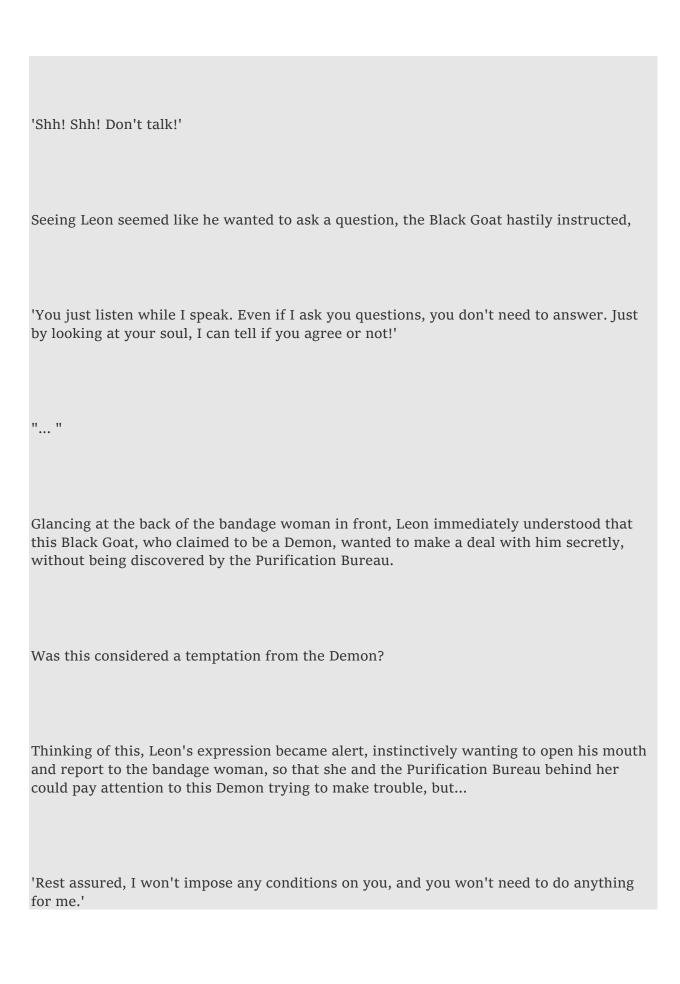
Chapter 12 12: 0011 Plague and True Fragrance (Two-in-One)_2 11 11 The people from the Epidemic Prevention Bureau suspected there might be a plague occurring, so they started sending patients with symptoms in large numbers to Red Brick Road Hospital, hoping to control the situation." Red Brick Road Hospital? Wasn't that where Anna stayed? "Were they crazy?" Unexpectedly, there was still such an outrageous occurrence. Leon couldn't help but exclaim angrily, "What about the Central Hospital? What about the Royal First Hospital? If it's really impossible, the hospitals on Chapel Street and at Messe University would also work! Those hospitals each have more than a thousand beds to start with, while Red Brick Road Hospital only has a hundred or two beds total. It's always full, sometimes with people even lying in the corridors. Why would they still send people there?"

"Because of the location."
Having seemingly seen many similar situations before, the woman in the bandage observed calmly,
"The Central Hospital is surrounded by the wealthy district, the Royal First Hospital is near the nobles' area, Chapel Street is where the priests live, and around Messe University are the future elites of the Kingdom. The Epidemic Prevention Bureau definitely wouldn't dare to send patients there, so naturally, the Red Brick Road Hospital in Old Town becomes the first choice.
Moreover, the water pipes with the large-scale problems this time were only in the Old Town. Meanwhile, the water intake point for the New District Water Company was further upstream, unaffected by pollution from the tributaries of the sewage river. Old Town's problem obviously needed to be solved by Old Town itself."
"Why should they?!"
"Because the water fees they paid are five times those of Old Town."
""
Money! Money! At the end of the day, it's still damn money!



a lung disease, the Department of Road Administration still looked for excuses not to compensate, didn't they?
As for the Water Company, which cut corners, once they distributed dividends, sold the equipment, and reported huge losses due to poor management, they simply declared bankruptcy and that was it.
Even what little property they had was likely first taken by upstream and downstream companies and shareholders, as compensation for breaches of contract and losses. In the end, what remained for these victims was probably less than a drop in the bucket!
Damn it!
Feeling as though there was a burning coal in his chest, Leon gritted his teeth, wanting to say something, but the bandage woman gently pulled his arm.
"Let's go! We've been blocking the way long enough, let's not delay their work any longer."
Pointing to those 'Crow People' at the corner, the bandage woman said softly,
"Their work is to treat the sick and prevent the large-scale outbreak of plagues. Our job is to clean up the Abnormals to prevent the world of ordinary humans from being corroded.

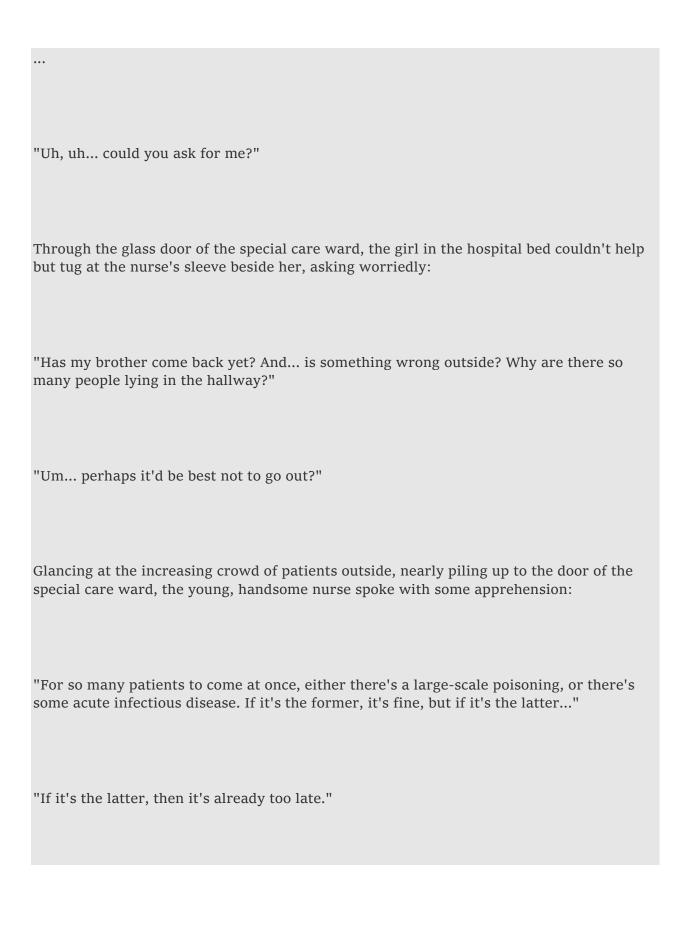
If I'm not mistaken, the Uncontrollable Afflicted you discovered is likely related to this event. Even if it's not related, if these people keep going forward, they may encounter danger.
So, if you can't stand this kind of thing and sympathize with these people's plight, then we should be on our way now."
""
"Yeah"
Taking a deep breath of the irritating fragrance from the bird-beak mask, Leon lowered his head and responded, then quickly followed the bandage woman, jogging towards Red Brick Road Hospital.
However, just at that moment, the silent Goat's head suddenly stirred, stealthily nudging his chest with its horns.
'Hey!'
"Huh?"



Glancing at Leon, obviously bright yet underneath hiding a soul burning with intense
black flames, the previously sulking Black Goat remarked with a grin,
'Once we find a suitable target, I'll teach you how to guide human malice, inciting them to slaughter each other. How about it? Are you interested?'
" "
???
Didn't you just say even if you were thrown back into the sheep pen in Welsh County, you wouldn't teach me anything?
'That was then, this is now.'
Noticing Leon's confusion from his soul, the Black Goat chuckled and shamelessly said,
'Just tell me if you want to learn!'

Upon hearing this, Leon couldn't help but furrow his brow.
I definitely wanted to learn. After all, without paying any cost, why wouldn't I agree? But can a Demon be so kind?
Kindness was impossible, it was impossible in this lifetime. When a Demon didn't discuss deals but instead unusually generously wanted to help you
"""
Chapter 13 13: 0011 Plague and True Fragrance (Two-in-One)_3
"Heh heh, that only proved it wanted more!
Seeing Leon, who was clearly full of vigilance but didn't report him to Emma (the bandaged woman), a gleam of satisfaction appeared in the eyes of the Black Goat.
His judgment had indeed been accurate!

This kid, although barely counted as a 'good person' and even more moral than most, had perhaps accumulated too many unsettling things in his heart, whether due to his naivety or the darkness of this world—or perhaps both. Such a person was naturally destined to fall into the Abyss.
Pressing against Leon's chest as he ran, the Black Goat endured the morality and goodwill which demons despised, taking a deep breath of the boundless fury hidden beneath the light. It immersed itself in the extreme Madness that wished nothing more than to destroy everything and start anew, closing its eyes in deep ecstasy.
With a sharp blade in hand, the intention to kill naturally arose.
Now, you could barely endure it only because you were weak. Once you gained enough power, would you still want to let anger recklessly burn your soul like now?
Keep it up, kid! We will definitely help you well! Help you deal with that annoying trash, help you reap those sinful souls, and even help you achieve that ludicrous vision deep within your heart.
But when you think you've achieved your ideal, relishing in the fulfillment, if you find that everything is returning to its former state, the world's essence remains the same, or even becomes worse
The Abyss welcomes you."



Glancing outside the ward and seeing a pool of vomit that had already reached the door, an older middle-aged nurse sighed and shook her head:
"The fact that patients are placed at the door of the special care unit shows our hospital might have reached its limit. If it really is some infectious disease, even if we stay inside, we can't avoid it. We might even already be infected."
"In that case since it's unavoidable anyway, why not open the door and let them in?"
Seeing those patients convulsing constantly on the cold floor tiles, some clutching their stomachs and wailing miserably, Anna bit her bloodless lips, saying with a hint of unwillingness:
"Even though there's only one hospital bed here, there's still a row of sofas, and the floor is carpeted. It's at least more comfortable than lying on stone tiles Is that okay?"
"Of course!"
After looking at Anna with mild surprise, the elder nurse's eyes flashed with warmth, smiling gently as she said softly:
"This is your ward, as long as you're willing, it's not a problem."

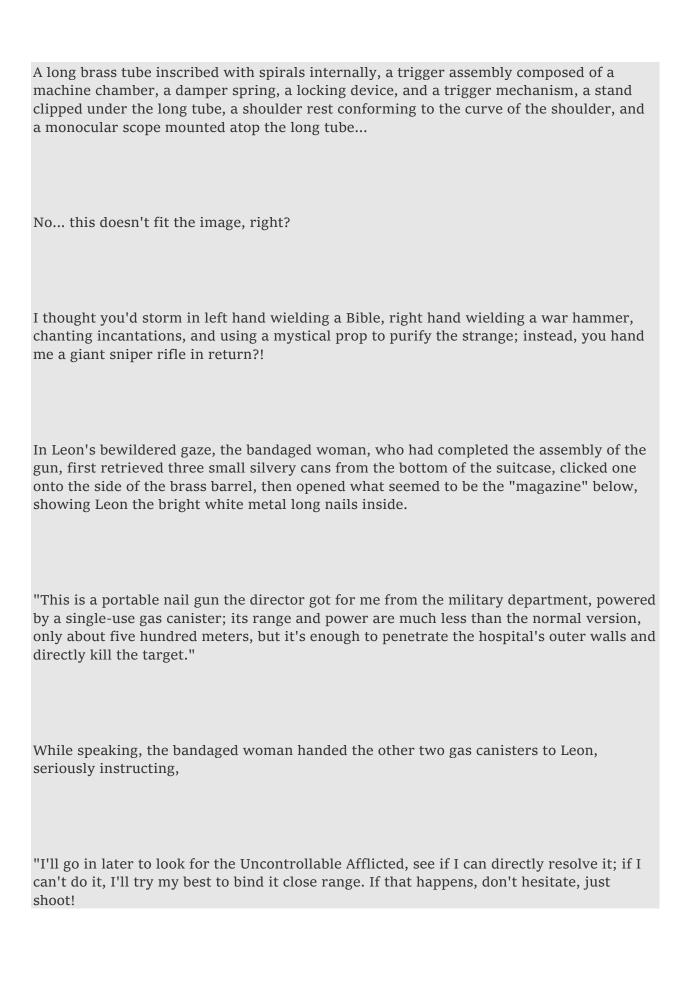
Having said that, she motioned to the younger nurse, whose expression was a bit grim, to open the door of the special care ward. She bent down to help a nearby patient inside,
however
"Huh?"
Seeing the small child who was surprisingly heavy as if welded to the ground, both nurses widened their eyes.
Even though they're female nurses, working in a hospital often required them to lift heavy objects, so they're not lacking in strength.
If it had been a burly man, it's understandable if they couldn't lift him, but this was just a child barely over ten years old, how God forgive!
Accompanied by the boy's cries of pain, both nurses were horrified to discover that the "sensation" they had felt was no illusion, the skinny little boy really was "welded" to the ground!
"This this"

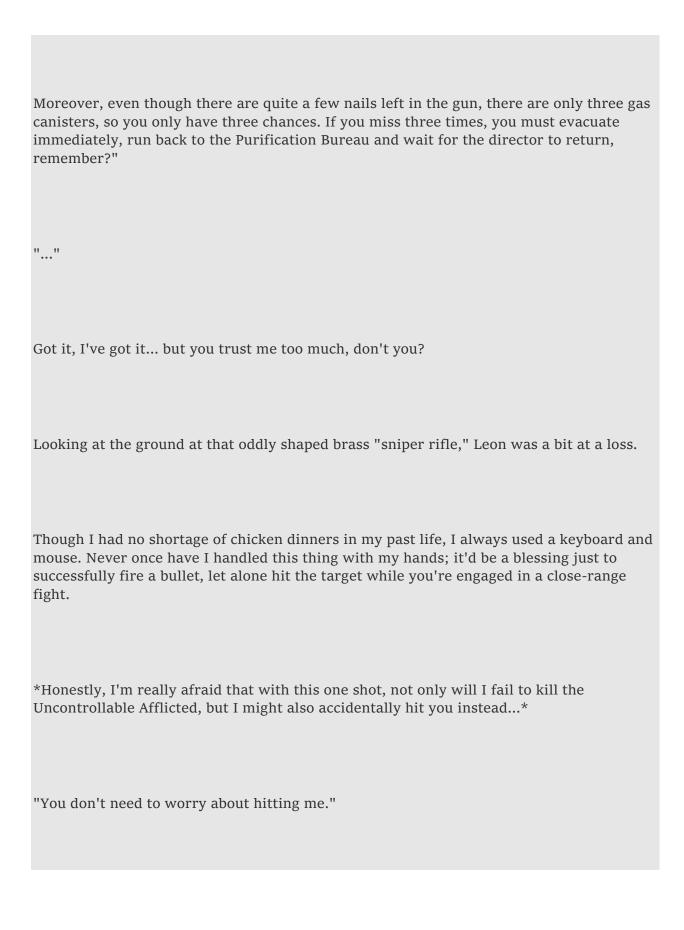
Seeing the boy's arms sinking into the floor tiles, the young nurse sat down fearfully, her lips trembling as she tried to say something, only to see the older nurse's expression suddenly change. She hastily dragged the young nurse up from the floor, pulling her back into the ward with brutal force.
"Rip!" "Ah!!!"
The sound of tearing cloth and a woman's scream occurred simultaneously. The young nurse clutched her bloody right hand, screaming as she fell back onto the carpet of the ward.
Where she had been sitting just moments earlier, beside a torn piece of her nurse's uniform, lay a layer of bloody Skin. Its size matched her palm perfectly, clearly just torn from her hand's palm!
Seeing the patients in the hallway slowly sinking into the hospital floor tiles, the older nurse, quick to save her colleague, felt her legs abruptly give way and collapsed onto the carpet, whispering in horror:
"What what is going on?"
Chapter 14 14: 0012 Isn't this style of painting incorrect? _1

When something went awry at the Red Brick Road Hospital and it began to swallow patients bit by bit, Leon, who was already nearby, just felt a sharp pain in his eyes and discovered that the entire world before him had darkened.

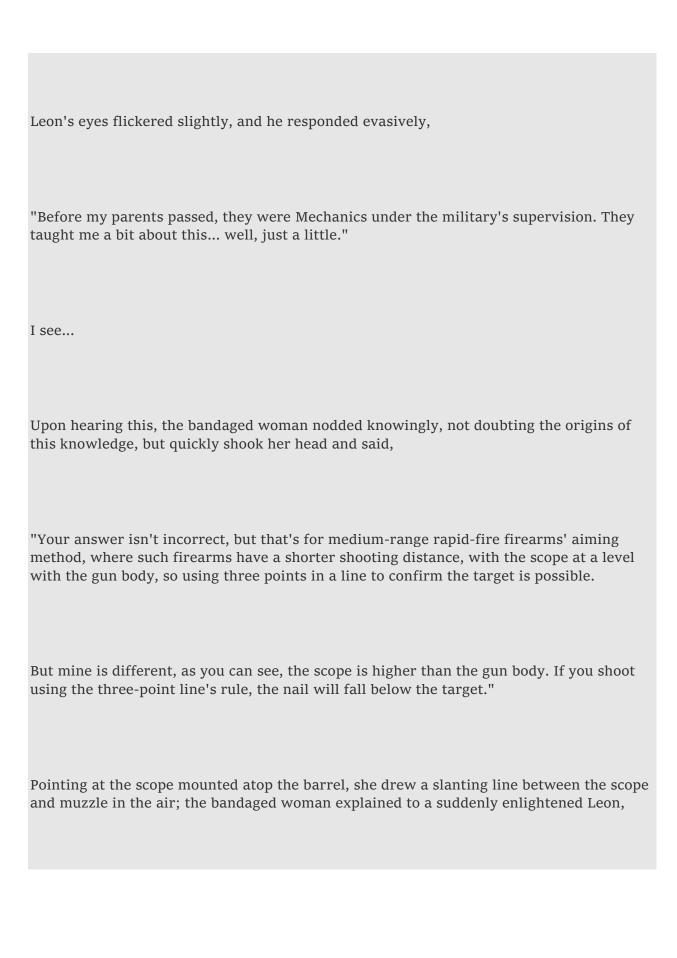
"Wait! Don't go in yet!"
"Why?"
The bandage-wrapped woman he grabbed by the arm turned her head back in confusion, only to be surprised as if dazzled by a strong light. Both Leon and the Black Goat in his arms were tightly shutting their eyes, with tears streaming down Leon's eyes profusely.
"This hospital is alive!"
Gazing up at the black flames soaring in his soul vision, Leon, whose "eyes" were burned by the flames, endured the searing pain akin to burning, and explained to the bandaged woman while clutching her arm,
"Just now, at the moment you were about to walk in, it's as if it received some kind of signal. It suddenly gained its own soul, and it's probably as strong as a few hundred ordinary souls!"
The entire hospital?

After hearing Leon's words, the bandaged woman nodded to show her understanding. Her eyes behind the mask squinted slightly, and she began to quickly analyze the situation.
If a hospital suddenly gained a soul, the most likely scenarios would be an anomalous object directly attached to the building, an Uncontrollable Afflicted's ability to manipulate the building, or the entire hospital being temporarily peeled away from the world, thus not following the rules of reality.
In the first scenario, it should not have been controlled so precisely, activated just at the moment I was about to enter; the third scenario would not only require enough power but also require breaking through the world's hierarchy. If the strength only equals a few hundred souls, it shouldn't be able to achieve this.
So it's most likely related to an Uncontrollable Afflicted's ability connected to the building, or may even simply require a reliance on the building to be manifested.
"You don't need to go inside; staying outside to help me is enough!"
Standing at the hospital entrance and pondering for a moment, the bandaged woman bent down to open her suitcase, retrieving several sets of matte metal parts from its bottom and quickly assembling them with nimble hands and feet.
As the item she was assembling gradually took form, Leon was quite surprised to realize it looked somewhat familiar.





Seeing Leon's hesitation, the bandaged woman gently reassured him,
"Since I'm letting you shoot, I obviously have confidence that you won't accidentally hit me. I just adjusted the scope and sight for you; as for the specific operation method, I'll explain it to you in detail next"
"Regarding operation, I might know a little bit"
After recalling the film and TV works he'd watched in his past life, Leon uncertainly said,
"Find a high point with a good view, spread your legs and lie on the ground, keep your body in a position close to the ground, then shoulder the gun stock, the scope, muzzle, and target, three points in a line?"
"Hmm?"
Hearing Leon's words, the bandaged woman exclaimed with surprise,
"Lying shooting manual? Do you have a military background?"
"Uh, barely kind of?"



"After the nail is fired, its trajectory isn't in a straight line, but will slightly drop. To use this medium-long-range precision rifle, you must understand the nail's flight trajectory, then calculate the drop point location and rely on a mil table to calibrate your scope and muzzle"
"Sizzle!"
[Through Emma Alman's thorough and simple explanation, you successfully activated the Black Iron Level Badge "Shooting Newbie."]
[Shooting Newbie: A shooter with only basic training, whose skill level is extremely poor, raising concern about shooting accuracy.]
[Equipped Effect: Though only simply trained, it's still much better than a completely unfamiliar ordinary person; when consciously aiming the muzzle, your shooting precision gains a slight boost.]
[Advancement Route: Complete 200 live-fire shots, or complete 1000 simulations, and this badge will automatically advance to a bronze badge "Shooter," current progress 0/200, 0/1000.]
[Hidden Traits: None]
"Sizzle"

[Through self-learning and reflection, you've acquired low-level gun shooting ability, activating the Abnormal Badge "Materialist Soul (Crimson)."

Your gun shooting understanding is "low," yet due to your adeptness in reasoning, summarizing, and self-adjustment, each time you fail at aiming at the same target, the chance of hitting it the next time slightly increases.]

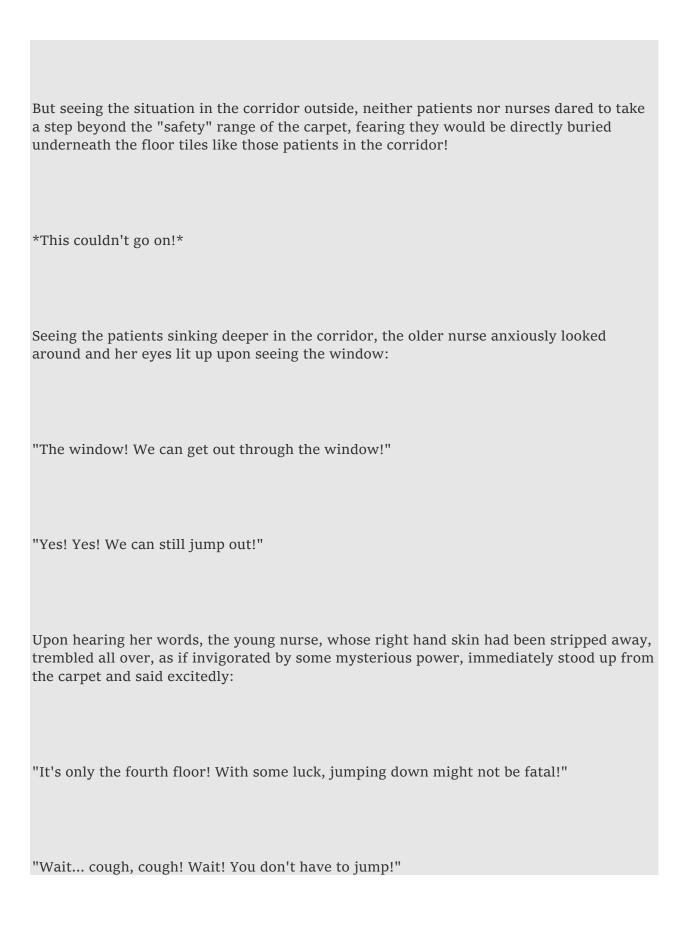
Chapter 15 15: 0013 Plunges Downward_1

After acquiring a new badge, Leon, separated from the bandaged woman, wasted no time carrying the "big sniper" into the mall adjacent to the hospital. He rushed to the shooting spot he had selected, while across the street, the Red Brick Road Hospital had already transformed into a scene akin to hell on earth.

In the first-floor lobby, which should have been bustling with people, most had been swallowed by the cold floor tiles. The patients, too exhausted to move, lacked the strength to escape and could only helplessly reach their arms upwards.

Looking across the entire lobby, it seemed as if countless people in agony and struggle were mixed into the concrete. Everywhere, arms desperately reaching upward could be seen. Those arms, standing high and grabbing constantly, appeared like a living depiction of hell.

Possibly because the fourth floor's special care ward was carpeted and didn't directly contact the floor tiles, the patients inside hadn't yet been consumed.



Hearing the young nurse's words, Anna, propping herself up from the bed, hastily spoke to stop her:
"Bedsheets, curtains cough, cough and the sofa fabric! As long as we tie these together and find a sturdy place to fasten"
We can climb down safely!
"I'll do it!"
Understanding Anna's meaning, the young nurse was overjoyed, disregarded her injured right hand, and first tore down the curtain in two swishes, then rushed to the bedside in three steps, roughly dragging the still-coughing girl off.
"What are you doing!"
Not expecting her to act this way, the older nurse hurriedly supported the nearly falling Anna, glaring at the young nurse:
"She's still sick! And if she hadn't stopped you, you'd have already jumped out!"

"I I just wanted us to get out quickly!"
Although it seemed the young nurse realized she had gone too far, she was obviously scared by the bizarre outside situation. While tying the bedsheet to the curtain, she spoke incoherently:
"I I'm supposed to get married next month! I don't want to die! It's terrifying! This this must be the demon's trick! I absolutely won't die here!"
"Wait! Don't go down yet!"
Realizing she had tied the "rope" to the corner cabinet nailed to the wall and was about to leave, the older nurse anxiously said:
"There's still a patient here! This little girl is very sick and doesn't have the strength to hold the curtains! We have to let her down first before we can leave!"
"Who cares ah no!"

Under the older nurse's glare, recalling that if she went down, those upstairs would have the ability to untie the "escape rope," the young nurse's grim expression immediately changed, awkwardly smiling and saying:
"I mean my hand hurts, I'm afraid I can't hold her You guys trust me! Once I'm out, I'll definitely find someone to come back and rescue you!"
After saying this, before the other two could react, the young nurse grabbed hold of the curtain smeared with bloody handprints, quickly climbed out the window, and began to swing down.
""
This bastard!
Watching their colleague who had abandoned them without hesitation, the older nurse cursed silently, then supported the still-coughing Anna to the window, gently comforting her:
"It's okay that she left. Listen, child, I'm going to tie one end of the curtain around your waist, then slowly lower you down. Try to grasp the projections on the outer wall carefully, so as not to directly—"
"Ah!!!"

Just then, a terrified scream resounded from outside the window, startling the older nurse. She poked her head out and found, to her shock, that the young nurse who had just gone down was stuck on the outer wall of the second floor!
No! Rather than stuck on the outer wall, it was more like she, just like those patients in the corridor, was being swallowed directly by the hospital's outer wall!
"Save save me! Save me!"
How to save you? Last time, I could still pull you back, but this time I really can't do anything
Looking at her terrified colleague below, the older nurse could only sigh deeply, a flash of profound despair appearing in her eyes.
If the hospital's outer wall could also "eat" people, then this last road is probably blocke too. Do we really have to jump directly? Even if I could gamble and see if jumping would kill me, what about that kind-hearted girl who's still sick?

"Knock, knock."
Just as the two were at their wit's end in the special care ward, someone suddenly knocked on the glass door.
"You must be Anna, right?"
Confirming the ward's nameplate, the bandaged woman immediately locked eyes with the pale-looking girl, and hurried over to her, speaking concisely,
"I'm a colleague of your brother. I've come to save you."
Brother?!
Hearing the bandaged woman's words, the anxious expression on Anna's face relaxed slightly.
That's great. If she's here to save me, then that means my brother must be safe! But why does my brother's colleague dress so strangely?

Looking at the tall woman wrapped entirely in bandages with a weird mask on her face, Anna gently held the middle-aged nurse's hand, cautiously asking:
"This um Sister! Could you please take her with you too, if possible? If it wasn't for her taking care of me"
"Sure."
Glancing at the hopeful middle-aged nurse, the bandaged woman nodded without further ado and then led the two of them to the window
"Hmm?"
Glancing at the young nurse, now half "swallowed" by the outer wall, the bandaged woman frowned and turned back to ask,
"Is she with you? Should I save her?"
Hearing that this masked woman might be able to save her, the young nurse's face lit up with joy, pleading,