The Bandit

(Leon is in the town square where he sees a woman in a pillory. She has dried blood in her hair and is surrounded by small stones. A young man who seems to be part of a militia notices Leon staring and strikes up a conversation.)

Militia: Are you curious? That woman is part of a group of bandits that have been plaguing our town for weeks now.

Leon: A group of bandits this close to Adinburg? What happened to the rest of them?

Militia: They got away. They have a base somewhere in the forest nearby they’ve been hiding in.

Leon: Why hasn’t the army taken care of them?

Militia: You must not be from around here. The forest is thick with trees, it’s also full of things that are far scarier than bandits. If they tried to march an army in there a lot of people wouldn’t come back out.

Leon: I see… so you’re trying to bait them by having her displayed in the square?

Militia: Oh? What makes you think that?

Leon: She looks like she’s been there for days. You shouldn’t be a reason to keep someone who is going to be executed displayed out in the open for that long, unless she’s bait.

Leon: It won’t work though. If bandits were good enough people to rescue someone, they wouldn’t be bandits. They don’t care about anyone but themselves, you’re better off not thinking of them as people.

Militia: Yeah, you’re probably right. It would have been nice if it worked, but I doubt it will.

Militia: …They killed a lot of people. Innocent people that they didn’t have any reason to kill. If the Goddess really exist, I wonder why she would let people like them live?

Leon: …