chapter 21 Duplicity

HA, HA! ME, KIRA?

WHAT I'M REALLY HOPING FOR IS TO BECOME A HUNDRED PERCENT CERTAIN THAT A) YOU AREN'T KIRA, AND B) YOU HAVE BRILLIANT POWERS OF DEDUC-TION, SO THAT I CAN ASK YOU TO HELP US WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

WELL, WHEN I SAY "SUSPECT," I'M ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT A FACTOR OF ONE PERCENT.

HE GOT ME...

SINCE IT ISN'T ZERO PERCENT, IF I ASK TO MEET WITH THE TASK FORCE, HE'LL HAVE TO REFUSE. TALK ABOUT A PREEMPTIVE MOVE...

IF HE SAYS I'M A SUSPECT, EVEN IF IT'S ONLY ONE PERCENT, THERE GOES MY FREEDOM.

"ONE PERCENT," HUH... THAT'S A SMART WAY OF PUTTING IT.

YEAH. I THINK THIS TENNIS MATCH HAS INCREASED OUR NOTORIETY AROUND HERE.

ANYWAY, THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE AROUND TO TALK ABOUT THE KIRA CASE HERE. LET'S GO SOME-PLACE WHERE WE CAN HAVE SOME PRIVACY.

WOO HOO!

BLAH

BLAH

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL

NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY

I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR. BUT L'S ORDERS ARE THAT NOBODY OUTSIDE THE TASK FORCE, EVEN YOURSELF, SIR...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CAN'T TELL ME?

WELL, THEN...

I'M VERY SORRY, SIR...

NOT EVEN TO ACCOUNT FOR WHERE YOU ARE OR WHAT YOU'RE DOING? OR WHY THERE'S NEVER MORE THAN ONE PERSON IN THE TASK FORCE OFFICE?

...MOGI, MAYBE ...?

!

WHAT ABOUT THIS? SOMEONE HAS COME UP TO MY DAUGHTER SAYING HE'S L...

AND I REQUEST THAT YOU KEEP SECRET THE FACT THAT SOME-ONE CALLING HIMSELF L APPROACHED YOUR DAUGHTER.

I CANNOT ANSWER THAT QUESTION, EITHER.

IS MY DAUGHTER A SUSPECT?

THAT MUCH I CAN TELL YOU QUITE POSITIVELY.

IT ISN'T QUITE THE CASE THAT YOUR DAUGHTER IS UNDER SUSPICION.

BUT PLEASE SET YOUR MIND AT REST, SIR...

...!

IF ANYONE IS TRULY A SUSPECT IN THIS CASE, IT'S MY SON.

...

PLEASE FORGET YOU HEARD THAT...

THE POLICE ARE SO SCARED OF KIRA, THEY'VE RUN FROM THE CASE WITH THEIR TAILS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS. COULD ANYBODY CALL THAT COMPETENT?!

WITH DUE RESPECT, SIR!

THE PAPERS ARE SAYING THE POLICE ARE INCOMPE-TENT... THAT L IS INCOMPE-TENT...

YAGAMI... IT'S ALREADY BEEN OVER FOUR MONTHS SINCE THIS CASE FIRST CAME TO LIGHT...

READ THIS WAY

...

IF YOU'RE SO CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THE PAPERS SAY, THEN PLEASE MAKE DAMN SURE THEY DON'T FIND OUT THAT MOST OF THE OFFICERS ON THIS CASE HAVE JUMPED SHIP!

YOU KNOW VERY WELL HOW MANY DETECTIVES I HAVE LEFT ON THE TASK FORCE, SIR.

YES, SIR.

YAGAMI.

IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME NOW, SIR...

WOBBLE

AS WE SPEAK, HE IS OUT THERE RISKING HIS LIFE TO SOLVE THIS CASE.

CAN WE TRUST HIM?

WHAT ABOUT L?

YES, WE CAN TRUST HIM.

HE IS CERTAINLY MORE COMPETENT THAN WE ARE.

...

YOU'VE PICKED THE PERFECT PLACE FOR THIS.

THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE COFFEE SHOPS.

IF YOU SIT HERE IN THE BACK, NOBODY CAN HEAR WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

IF I SIT THE WAY OTHER PEOPLE DO, MY REASONING ABILITY DROPS BY FORTY PERCENT.

I JUST CAN'T SIT ANY OTHER WAY THAN THIS.

TRUE...

YEAH. FOR ONE THING, BACK HERE NOBODY'S GOING TO BE STARING AT YOU FOR SITTING LIKE THAT, *HA HA.*

I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT CAN I TEST YOUR REASON-ING ABILITIES?

...IN THAT CASE...

SURE. SOUNDS LIKE FUN.

THAT CAN WAIT UNTIL YOU'RE POSITIVE THAT I'M NOT KIRA. SO YOU GO AHEAD AND START, RYUGA.

SO, YAGAMI-KUN. WHAT DID YOU WANT TO ASK ME?

I'LL BE FINE. I KNOW WHAT'S BEEN REPORTED, AND WHAT HASN'T. I'VE GONE OVER IT ABOUT A THOUSAND TIMES.

THE WAY THINGS STAND, HE HAS NO PROOF THAT I'M KIRA AND I HAVE NO WAY OF PROVING THAT I'M NOT. I NEED TO MAKE HIM TRUST ME SO I CAN WORM MY WAY INTO THE TASK FORCE.

WELL, TO EARN SOME POINTS FOR LATER, I NEED TO SHOW HIM THAT I DO HAVE SOME POWERS OF DEDUCTION...

BUT IF I CLAM UP, AFRAID OF LETTING SOMETHING SLIP, DOES THAT MAKE ME KIRA TOO?

A TEST OF MY "REASONING ABILITIES," MY ASS. HE'S TESTING ME TO SEE IF I SAY ANYTHING ONLY KIRA COULD KNOW...

IT INDICATES YOU HAVE SOME HOPES THAT I CAN HELP YOU SOLVE THIS CASE... AND...

LET'S SEE...

HMM.

DOES THE FACT THAT I TOLD YOU I'M L TELL YOU ANYTHING?

I DRAW THIS CONCLUSION FROM THE FACT THAT, WHILE L WOULD ALWAYS USE AN ALIAS ANYWAY, YOU MADE A POINT OF CALLING YOURSELF HIDEKI RYUGA, SOMEONE WHOSE NAME AND FACE ARE KNOWN TO PRACTICALLY EVERYONE IN JAPAN.

IN WHICH CASE, THAT "SOMETHING ELSE" WOULD BE THEIR NAME.

AND THAT MEANS, ALTHOUGH NEWS REPORTS SO FAR HAVE SAID ONLY THAT KIRA NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT SOMEONE LOOKS LIKE TO KILL THEM, MAYBE HE NEEDS SOMETHING ELSE AS WELL.

OR THAT YOU'VE TAKEN SOME STEPS TO ENSURE THAT YOU CAN'T BE KILLED...

...THAT YOU'VE DEDUCED THAT EVEN IF YOU TELL SOMEONE WHO MAY BE KIRA THAT YOU'RE L, YOU WON'T BE KILLED...

YOU'RE SAYING I'M RIGHT, JUST LIKE THAT?

WHY SHOULD I HIDE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE RIGHT?

COR-RECT.

IF I WAS L, I WOULD REASON THAT IT'S ENOUGH TO HAVE ANOTHER PERSON APPROACH SOMEONE I SUSPECT MAY BE KIRA AND TELL HIM THAT THEY'RE L.

AND THE PROBABILITY THAT YOU'RE REALLY L IS EXTREMELY LOW.

WHY'S THAT?

EVEN WHEN HE'S USING THE POLICE, HE NEEDS TO DO THAT FROM THE SHADOWS, OUT OF VIEW.

THE REAL L NEEDS TO STAY SOMEPLACE SAFE AT ALL TIMES.

HE SEEMS PRETTY IMPRESSED, BUT... HE'S FAKING... RIGHT?

...

IT WOULD BE STUPID FOR THE REAL L TO DO SUCH A THING...

YOU'RE RIGHT THAT ANYONE CALLING HIMSELF L PUTS HIMSELF IN DANGER. AND WHY WOULD HE COME OUT INTO THE OPEN NOW, WHEN HE'S NEVER SHOWN HIMSELF BEFORE...?

I SEE...

YOU'RE TOO OUT OF CHAR-ACTER TO BE A CONVINC-ING FAKE. SO YOU MUST BE REAL...

WELL, MOST PEOPLE PROBABLY IMAGINE L TO BE A LOT OLDER THAN YOU, OR MORE DETECTIVE-LIKE, SOMEHOW.

MEANING?

STILL, I ACTUALLY THINK YOU REALLY MIGHT BE L, RYUGA.

I HAVE TO ADMIT I'M GETTING PRETTY CON-FUSED!

HA HA

WHEN YOU START SECOND-GUESSING AND THIRD-GUESSING LIKE THIS, IT'S ENDLESS.

HA HA

HMM, SINCE IT'S L WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, I GUESS THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE OF THAT.

AND WHAT ARE THE ODDS THAT L TOOK THAT INTO ACCOUNT IN CHOOS-ING ME?

I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK AT IT AND TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK.

THIS INFORMATION HAS NEVER BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

FWAP

SINCE THIS IS BASICALLY AN INTERVIEW TO SEE IF I CAN REQUEST YOUR HELP IN THE INVESTIGATION, I SUPPOSE IT'S RUDE NOT TO SHOW YOU ANYTHING AT ALL.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

AND THESE THREE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW NOTES WRITTEN BY PRISONERS SHORTLY BEFORE THEY DIED. WE BELIEVE THEY WROTE THEM UNDER KIRA'S CONTROL.

THIS IS A LIST OF THE TWELVE FBI AGENTS WHO WERE MURDERED BY KIRA, WITH THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY RECEIVED THE FILE AND THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY DIED.

		FILE		DEATH
Haley Belle	1	15:19	5	15:52
Raye Penber	2	15:21	9	16:42
Lian Zapack	3	15:24	11	17:10
Arire Weekwood	4	15:24	2	15:45
Ale Funderrem	5	15:25	7	16:10
Freddi Guntair	6	15:25	6	16:00
Knick Staek	7	15:26	3	15:48
Bess Sekllet	8	15:27	10	16:53
Frigde Copen	9	15:28	12	17:15
Toors Denote	10	15:28	1	15:30
Girela Sevenster	11	15:31	4	15:50
Nikola Nasberg	12	15:31	8	16:25

HMM? LET'S SEE...

FIRST PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE FBI LIST. DOES IT TELL YOU ANY-THING?

DOES HE THINK THAT SHOWING ME THESE IS GOING TO MAKE ME GO PALE OR SOME-THING? ...

Haley Belle
Raye Penber
Lian Zapack
Arire Weekwoc
Gu
Staek 7
Bess Sekllet

HE DOESN'T GIVE KIRA MUCH CREDIT. IS THE KIRA HE ENVISIONS STUPID ENOUGH TO FALL FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

RYUGA...

WHAT'S THIS FILE YOU SAID THEY RECEIVED?

IF I DON'T KNOW THAT, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN MAKE SENSE OF THIS.

SO THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT KIRA USED THIS FILE TO KILL THEM.

AND THE VERY SAME DAY THE AGENTS RECEIVED THIS FILE, THEY ALL DIED...

IN THAT CASE... OKAY, KIRA NEEDS TO KNOW WHAT PEOPLE LOOK LIKE, AND MAYBE ALSO THEIR NAMES... THIS FILE CONTAINED BOTH NAMES AND PHOTOS...

THAT'S A FILE CONTAINING THE NAMES AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL TWELVE AGENTS, SO THEY COULD EACH KNOW WHO THE OTHERS WERE. THE DAY THEY RECEIVED THIS FILE, THEY ALL DIED.

OOPS... SORRY.

JEEZ... THIS IS KID STUFF... THESE PHOTOS HAVE THEIR PRINT NUMBER ON THE BACK.

THESE THREE NOTES ARE VERY INTEREST-ING.

68011

〈No.2〉

ALL RIGHT. WHAT ABOUT THESE NOTES?

IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE HE COULD'VE "DICTATED" THESE NOTES, ACTUALLY. BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN A HIDDEN TAUNT TO L.

IF IT'S TRUE THAT KIRA CAN KILL PEOPLE AND ALSO CONTROL THEIR ACTIONS, THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING.

BUT I DID NOTICE. SO THIS ONE'S MINE.

IF I DIDN'T NOTICE THAT AND CAME UP WITH "L DID YOU KNOW GODS OF DEATH LOVE APPLES?", THAT WOULD MEAN I'M PROBABLY KIRA...

〈No.21〉

68011

〈No.18〉

BUT...

Gods can't
of waiting.
death. I'm
Love
app
you know
Do w
Lor

BECAUSE THE ORDER THAT MAKES MOST SENSE WOULD BE, LET'S SEE... "L DO YOU KNOW GODS OF DEATH LOVE APPLES?"

IF YOU TAKE THE FIRST WORD OF EVERY LINE, THEY FORM A SENTENCE, OR RATHER, A QUESTION.



Gods
of
dea
Love
apples,
you know
Do what I
Lord have me

THAT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE, SO I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE KIRA WANTED L TO READ IT LIKE THAT.

THE MESSAGE READS "L DO YOU KNOW LOVE APPLES? GODS OF DEATH."

IF YOU PUT THEM IN THAT ORDER—

THE BACKS OF THE PHOTOS HAVE THEIR PRINT NUMBER ON THEM...

68017

(No. 2)

A FOURTH NOTE?!

IN FACT, THERE'S A FOURTH NOTE.

PUSTLE

INCORRECT.

IF YOU ADD THIS, YOU GET THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE: "L DO YOU KNOW LOVE APPLES? GODS OF DEATH HAVE RED HANDS."

SHWA

God can't help me. I'm sick

Love I've never known. And dessert is always

Do you know

Lord have mercy

Have I gone crazy? My cell is all red with blood and my hands are cut open. When did I do this?

NO IT WASN'T, BECAUSE THERE WERE IN FACT FOUR NOTES. FIGURING *THAT* OUT WOULD HAVE MADE YOUR REASONING FLAWLESS.

OKAY, BUT IF THERE WERE ONLY THREE NOTES, MY REASONING WAS FLAW-LESS.

WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S GOING TO FIND OUT BY SHOWING ME THIS BOGUS NOTE...? IS HE JUST FOOLING WITH ME...?

...IS THIS GUY FOR REAL?

never know

Lord have mercy. I'll either

Have I gone crazy? My cell is all red with blood and my hands are cut open. When did I

... I GET IT. HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE HOW SMART I AM, HE WANTS TO SEE MY REAC-TION. KIRA KNOWS THERE WAS NO FOURTH NOTE, SO HE'D FIND THIS WHOLE THING RIDICULOUS, OR GET PISSED OFF. SO IF I INSIST ON MY VERSION, HE'LL ONLY BE MORE CON-VINCED IT'S ME...

...!

DAMN...

I THINK *I'M* CORRECT IN DEDUC-ING THAT YOU DECIDED THERE WERE ONLY THREE NOTES, YAGAMI-KUN, AND THERE-FORE COULD NOT INFER THERE MIGHT BE A FOURTH ONE.

GEE... YOU'RE RIGHT, I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT.

BUT STILL, EITHER WAY I DON'T THINK THESE NOTES WILL HELP YOU FIND KIRA. I MEAN, SHINIGAMI DON'T EVEN EXIST.

SAYING I "DECIDED THERE WERE ONLY THREE NOTES" IS JUST A WAY OF CHALLENGING ME. IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH DETERMINING IF I'M KIRA... SO I'M NOT RISING TO HIS BAIT.

STAY COOL. I'M SURE HIS MAIN AIM WAS TO HAVE ME COME UP WITH "L DO YOU KNOW GODS OF DEATH LOVE APPLES?" WITHOUT NOTICING THE PRINT NUMBERS.

IF YOU CAME FACE TO FACE WITH SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE KIRA, HOW WOULD YOU TRY TO DETERMINE IF HE WAS?

ALL RIGHT. NOW LET'S SUPPOSE YOU'RE L.

BUT IF HE'S KIRA, HE'LL BE WATCHING OUT FOR MORE TRICKS!! NOW, SO HE WON'T TALK MUCH ANYMORE.

HE DIDN'T FALL FOR THE FILE OR THE PRINT NUMBERS.

VERY GOOD.

JUST LIKE YOU'RE DOING NOW, RYUGA.

I'D TRY TO MAKE THEM SAY THINGS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN REPORTED IN THE NEWS. THINGS ONLY KIRA COULD KNOW.

BUT YOU, YAGAMI-KUN, WERE INSTANTLY ABLE TO THINK ABOUT IT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF KIRA TALKING TO AN INVESTIGATOR.

WHEN THEY FINALLY CAME UP WITH AN ANSWER, IT WAS USUALLY SOMETHING SILLY LIKE, "BRING OUT A WELL-KNOWN CRIMINAL AND WATCH FROM A HIDDEN LOCATION IF THEY KILL HIM OR NOT"...

I'VE ALREADY ASKED THE SAME QUESTION TO A NUMBER OF DETECTIVES, AND MOST OF THEM TOOK A FEW MINUTES TO THINK ABOUT IT.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE IF I DO TOO WELL, I'M UNDER EVEN MORE SUSPICION.

klak

HA HA...

...LOOK AT HIM, ALL SATISFIED WITH HIMSELF... DOES HE THINK HE SET ME UP OR SOMETHING?

I HAVE TO SAY YOU'RE QUITE BRILLIANT, YAGAMI-KUN.

NOW IT'S UP TO THREE PERCENT...

IN-DEED.

HOWEVER, THIS ALSO INCREASES MY DESIRE TO HAVE YOU HELP US IN THE INVESTIGATION.

...

IF THIS GUY TURNS OUT TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN L'S ERRAND BOY, THERE'S PRACTICALLY NO POINT TALKING TO HIM.

...THIS... JOKER... HE COMES RIGHT OUT AND SAYS SOMETHING LIKE THAT NOW...?

!

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, YOU GUESSED CORRECTLY EARLIER. AT PRESENT, I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE GOING AROUND CALLING HIMSELF L.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU CAN KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE... I THINK IT'S A GREAT IDEA.

IF I HELP YOU, THE INVESTIGATION MIGHT MOVE FORWARD. AT THE SAME TIME, IF I'M KIRA I MIGHT SLIP UP AND BETRAY MYSELF...

DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY LOGIC?

MY POSITION IS THIS— EVEN IF YOU ***ARE*** KIRA, I'D LIKE YOU TO HELP US WITH THIS INVESTIGATION.

I DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT HE ISN'T L, BUT IF THIS GUY'S JUST SOME PROXY WHO WORKS FOR L, AND DOESN'T EVEN DROP BY THE TASK FORCE, I OUGHT TO STOP TALKING TO HIM IMMEDIATELY.

THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, BUDDY.

HYUK, HYUK! HEY LIGHT, LOOKS TO ME LIKE HE'S GOT YOU UP AGAINST THE WALL.

WHILE IT'S TRUE I'M VERY INTERESTED IN THE KIRA CASE, AND EVEN IN HELPING TO SOLVE IT...

I THINK YOU'VE GOT ME ALL WRONG, RYUGA.

SO YOU AND I ARE IN THE SAME POSITION, BASICALLY. THINK ABOUT IT FROM MY PERSPECTIVE. IS IT FAIR THAT YOU GET TO QUESTION ME BUT I CAN'T QUESTION YOU?

AND ANYWAY, YOU CAN'T PROVE TO ME THAT YOU AREN'T KIRA, EITHER.

I'M NOT GOING TO HELP SOME-ONE I CAN'T EVEN TRUST AND END UP GETTING MURDERED BY KIRA. I'D RATHER THINK ABOUT THE CASE ON MY OWN.

I'M NOT KIRA, AND I SURE AS HELL DON'T WANT TO GET KILLED.

BUT IF YOU'RE L, RYUGA, OR EVEN A STAND-IN FOR L, YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO PROVE THAT.

NEITHER OF US CAN PROVE WE AREN'T KIRA.

ANYBODY LOOKS AT US, ALL THEY SEE ARE TWO COLLEGE STUDENTS.

IN FACT, MOST PEOPLE WOULD PROBABLY SAY YOU'RE MORE LIKELY TO BE KIRA THAN ME.

TOILET

BOY, LIGHT YAGAMI SURE TALKS A LOT...

HE'S A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF SOME-ONE WHO HATES TO LOSE... IT'S UP TO SEVEN PERCENT... OR MAY-BE HE REALLY IS...

IF YOU SAY YOU CAN'T DO THAT UNTIL I PROVE I'M NOT KIRA, THEN I CAN'T WORK WITH YOU ON THIS CASE.

I'M TALKING ABOUT HAVING SOMEONE I CAN TRUST, FOR EXAMPLE SOMEONE IN THE TASK FORCE, OR MY FATHER, TELL ME STRAIGHT OUT THAT YOU'RE L, OR AT THE VERY LEAST A PART OF THIS INVES-TIGATION.

AM I CORRECT IN UNDER-STANDING THAT IF I TAKE YOU TO THE TASK FORCE, YOU'LL HELP US IN THE INVESTI-GATION?

I'M WORKING DIRECTLY WITH YOUR FATHER AND THE REST OF THE TASK FORCE RIGHT NOW.

I NEVER ONCE SAID I WOULDN'T LET YOU MEET WITH MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE.

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS GUY THINK-ING...? ...

!

EXCUSE ME.

Flip

!

BIP BIP BIP

!

MR. YAGAMI HAS COLLAPSED.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

RYUZAKI. WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY...

♪ ♬ ♪ ♬ ♪

NOW IT'S MINE...

?

...

READ THIS WAY

LIGHT, IT'S YOUR FATHER...

YAGAMI-KUN, YOUR FATHER...

HAD A HEART ATTACK...

KIRA?!

DEATH NOTE

How to use it

XIII

- You may lend the DEATH NOTE to another person while maintaining its ownership.
  Subletting it to yet another person is possible, too.

所有権は自分のまま、人にデスノートを貸す事は可能である。
又貸しも構わない。

- The borrower of the DEATH NOTE will not be followed by a god of death.
  The god of death always remains with the owner of the DEATH NOTE.
  Also, the borrower can not trade the eyesight of the god of death.

デスノートを借りた者の方に死神は憑いてこない。
死神は、あくまでも所有者に憑く。
また、借りた者には死神の目の取引はできない。