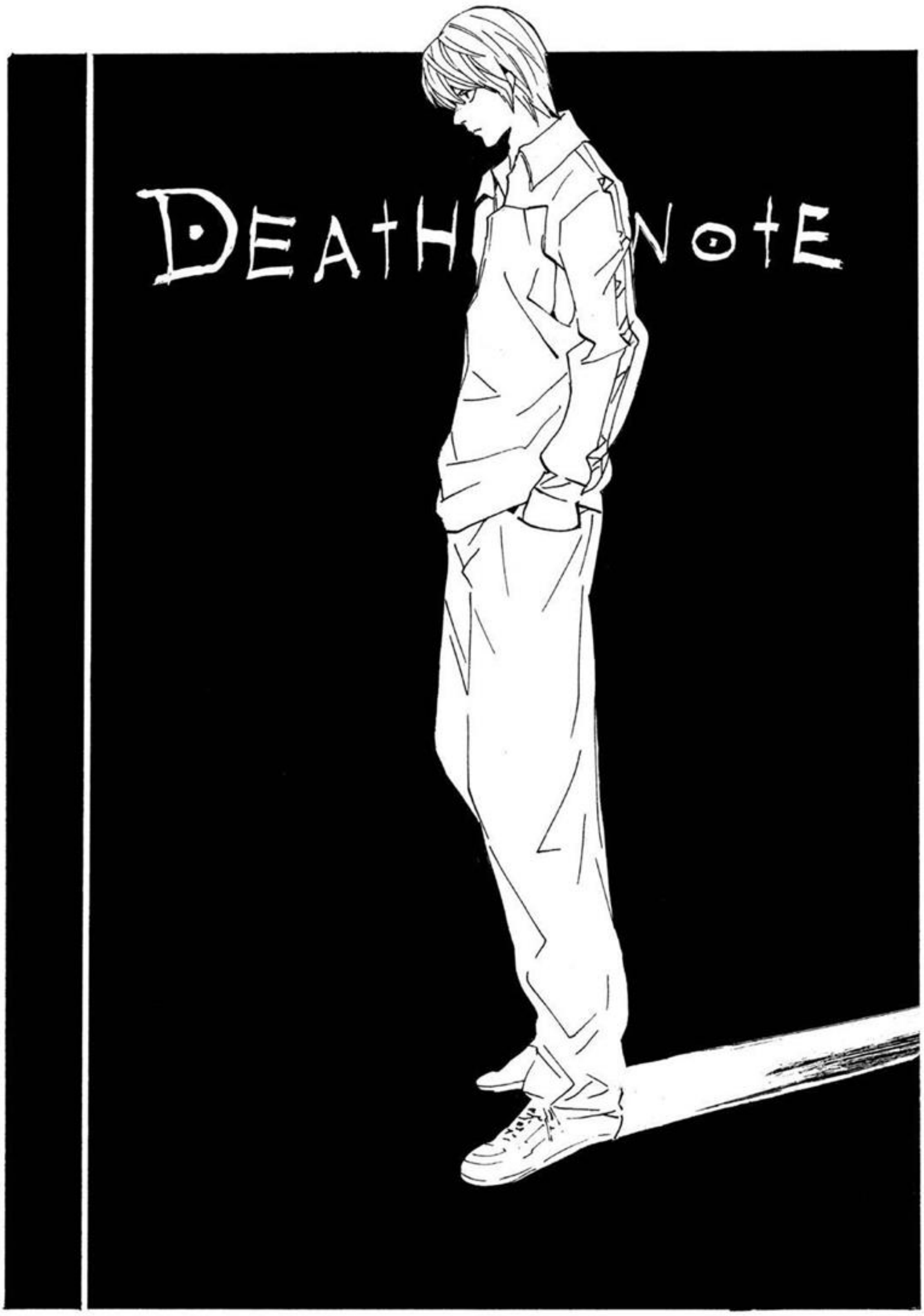


chapter 22 Misfortune

Conference Room #4

WHAT THE HELL'S WITH THIS LAME-BRAINED IDEA?! IS THIS ALL YOU CAN COME UP WITH?!

SAKURA TV

LISTEN TO ME, THE REASON MY SHOWS GET THE RATINGS IS BECAUSE I DO STORIES THE OTHER NETWORKS WON'T TOUCH! YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYING?!

YOU GUYS THINK ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS RUN A KIRA SPECIAL AND PEOPLE'RE GONNA TUNE IN, IS THAT IT?!

IDIOT!

BUT THERE AREN'T ANY NEW ANGLES. THE COPS AREN'T SAYING A WORD. IT'S HOPELESS...

DAD'S STILE

THE POINT IS, WE NEED A STORY. A STORY!! FIND ME A NEW ANGLE ON THIS THING!!

READ THIS WAY

YEAH. REPORTING THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE SUPPORT KIRA IS REALLY PUSHING IT...

BUT WE'VE ALREADY GOTTEN A BUNCH OF WARNINGS FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY...

SO I'M NOT LETTING THEM SAY JACK.

COME ON, IT'S NO BIG DEAL! THE COPS ARE MAKING US RUN ALL KINDS OF STORIES, AND NOBODY KNOWS IF THEY'RE TRUE OR NOT.

IF YOU CAN'T FIND ANY GOOD STORIES OUT THERE, THEN BLOODY WELL MAKE SOMETHING UP, DAMMIT!!

I MEAN, SHEESH, WE GOTTA GRAB PEOPLE'S ATTENTION HERE, ALL RIGHT?

SO YOU GUYS MAKE ME SOME CONVINCING GRAPHS AND CATCHY QUOTES FROM JOE PUBLIC.

LISTEN TO ME. IN OUR NEXT KIRA SPECIAL, WE'RE SAYING WE SURVEYED A HUNDRED THOUSAND PEOPLE, AND OVER 50 PERCENT OF THEM SAID THEY SUPPORT KIRA.

kssh


BARAKI HOSPITAL




MOM, HE HAD A HEART ATTACK. WHO WOULDN'T MAKE THE CONNECTION? I MEAN, THAT'S THE WAY EVERY SINGLE ONE OF KIRA'S VICTIMS DIED...
LIGHT! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?


ARE YOU REALLY SURE THIS WAS JUST CAUSED BY OVER-WORK ...?

A MURDER ATTEMPT BY KIRA, HMM... WE CAN'T RULE IT OUT COMPLETELY...

YOU HEAD THE TASK FORCE IN CHARGE OF THIS CASE... KIRA HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH REASON TO WANT YOU DEAD.

...

TO BE HONEST, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT CROSSED MY MIND AS I WAS GOING DOWN.

...

AND NOT A WORD ABOUT THIS TO SAYU. I DON'T WANT TO UPSET HER.

SACHIKO. LIGHT'S HERE NOW, AND ANYWAY, I'M ALL RIGHT. YOU GO ON HOME.

...

KLIK

SURE.

ALL RIGHT, THEN. I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW WITH SOME MORE OF YOUR THINGS.

THANKS FOR COMING, LIGHT.

HAVING YOUR OWN SON UNDER SUSPICION MUST BE AN EMOTIONAL STRAIN AS WELL.

WELL, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... BEING UNDER ALL THIS PRESSURE AND THE FEAR OF BEING KILLED BY KIRA... I HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IN MONTHS. I WAS ASKING FOR IT.

I DON'T THINK IT WAS KIRA...

INCLUDING THE FACT THAT I'M L.

I'VE TOLD YOUR FATHER EVERY-THING.

YES.

YOU TOLD MY FATHER I'M UNDER SUSPICION?

THIS IS DEFI-NITELY L.

WE'VE BEEN CALLING HIM "RYUZAKI" SO THAT NOBODY FINDS OUT, BUT...

THIS IS L.

THAT'S RIGHT.

...IF I GET RID OF HIM AND ALL THE REST OF THE TASK FORCE... NO... IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.

WELL, NO NEED TO BE HASTY. IF I TAKE MY TIME WATCHING HIM...

ANYWAY, RIGHT NOW I'M LIGHT YAGAMI, CONCERNED ABOUT MY FATHER...

MY FATHER SAYS SO. SO AT THE VERY LEAST, HE'S THE L WHO'S BEEN GIVING ORDERS TO THE POLICE SO FAR...

THIS... IS REALLY L...

TO BE HONEST, ALL HIS COMMENTS REGARDING THE KIRA CASE WERE JUST TOO ON-THE-BALL. IT'S MADE ME SUSPECT HIM EVEN MORE.

NO.

SO, RYUZAKI... HAS TALKING TO MY SON CLEARED AWAY YOUR SUSPICIONS?

AND EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE UNDER SUSPICION, I UNDERSTAND IT'S NOT QUITE ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU AN ACTUAL SUSPECT.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, LIGHT. AN AMBIGUOUS ANSWER WOULDN'T MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER. I MUCH PREFER HEARING THE TRUTH.

TRY TO HAVE A LITTLE CONSIDERATION, RYUGA.

HEY, SAYING THAT TO ME IS ONE THING, BUT DON'T SAY THINGS IN FRONT OF MY DAD THAT WILL UPSET HIS CONDITION.

LET ME EXPLAIN AGAIN.

AS I TOLD YOU EARLIER, WHEN I SAY "SUSPICION," I'M TALKING ABOUT A VERY SLIGHT POSSIBILITY.

THAT'S CORRECT. YOU SEEM TO MISUNDERSTAND ME A LITTLE, YAGAMI-KUN.

I DON'T KNOW HOW, THOUGH IT DOES SEEM THE FIREWALLS ON THE TASK FORCE COMPUTERS WERE NOT VERY SECURE...

IT IS ALSO A FACT THAT KIRA HAD ACCESS TO TASK FORCE INFORMATION.

THIS IS CLEAR FROM THE FACT THAT ALL OF THEM DIED OF HEART ATTACKS ON DECEMBER 27, THE VERY SAME DAY THEY RECEIVED THAT FILE.

KIRA MURDERED THE 12 FBI AGENTS WHO ENTERED JAPAN.

...

I SEE...

HOWEVER, EVEN THOUGH KIRA MURDERED THE FBI AGENTS, HE HAS NOT KILLED A SINGLE JAPANESE INVESTIGATOR.

REGARDLESS, THERE'S A VERY GOOD POSSIBILITY THAT KIRA WAS ABLE TO ACCESS DATA FROM A TASK FORCE MEMBER'S COMPUTER.

WELL, I SUPPOSE KIRA MIGHT BE CAPABLE OF MURDERING A MEMBER OF HIS OWN FAMILY...

THIS ALSO CAN LEAD US TO INFER THAT KIRA IS RELATED TO SOMEONE ON THE TASK FORCE.

AND NOW EVEN HIS FIANCÉE, WHO WAS IN JAPAN WITH HIM AND A FORMER FBI AGENT HERSELF, HAS GONE MISSING.

SOME OF HIS ACTIONS WERE CURIOUS, AND QUITE NOTE-WORTHY.

THEN THERE'S ONE OF THE FBI AGENTS, RAYE PENBER.

BARAKI HOSPITAL

BUT IF THOSE FBI AGENTS WERE SHADOWING NPA PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES, YOU'RE RIGHT THERE'S A GOOD POSSIBILITY KIRA WAS AMONG THOSE THEY WERE PROBING.

MY VIEW SO FAR HAS BEEN THAT SINCE KIRA WAS OPERATING IN THE KANTO REGION, HE MUST BE JAPANESE, AND THAT HE COULDN'T BRING HIMSELF TO KILL INNOCENT JAPANESE FOR THAT REASON.

YES.

SO THAT'S HOW YOU NARROWED IT DOWN TO THE KITAMURAS AND US...

YOU'RE ALWAYS PRECISE, AND VERY FAST.

YOUR POWERS OF DEDUC-TION ARE OUTSTAND-ING, YAGAMI-KUN.

IN FACT, YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. THERE ARE NO OTHER LIKELY SUSPECTS...

AND I HAPPENED TO BE AMONG THOSE THEY WERE PROBING, TOO. SO I CAN'T FAULT YOU FOR PLACING ME UNDER SUSPICION.

AND I'LL PROVE TO YOU THAT I'M NOT KIRA, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO CATCH KIRA FOR YOU.

BECAUSE NOW MY FATHER HAS CORROBO-RATED THAT YOU'RE WHO YOU SAID YOU WERE.

I'LL HELP YOU WITH THIS INVES-TIGATION, RYUGA.

AND ANYWAY, REMEMBER MY PROMISE?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DAD? THAT'S STILL YEARS AND YEARS FROM NOW.

LIGHT, YOU JUST CONCENTRATE ON STUDYING RIGHT NOW. YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR CATCHING CRIMINALS AFTER YOU JOIN THE NPA.

...

IF THERE'S ANY CHANCE THAT MY INPUT CAN HELP MOVE THE INVESTIGATION FORWARD, THEN I'LL HELP OUT.

KIRA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.

I SWORE THAT IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU, I'D MAKE SURE KIRA GOT THE DEATH PENALTY. I MEANT THAT.

IT'S UNTHINKABLE THAT THIS SON OF MINE COULD BE KIRA...!!

I MEAN, IF IT IS AN ACT, IT'S JUST WAY TOO CORNY...

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THIS IS JUST AN ACT...

I THINK KIRA IS...

MY IMAGE OF KIRA...

WHAT KIND OF PERSON DO YOU THINK KIRA IS? WHAT'S YOUR IMAGE OF HIM?

YAGAMI-KUN.

HMM?

...I LIKE IT. GO ON...

AN AFFLU-ENT CHILD...?

AN AFFLU-ENT CHILD.

...IF A HUMAN BEING HAD THAT KIND OF POWER—

IF, AS ASSUMED, HE CAN KILL PEOPLE JUST BY WILLING IT...

IF IT WAS ANYONE YOUNGER THAN THAT, THEY'D EITHER BE TOO SCARED BY THAT POWER TO USE IT, OR THEY'D USE IT TO KILL PEOPLE THEY KNEW, PEOPLE THEY DIDN'T LIKE...

USING IT TO GET RID OF CRIMINALS, AND AT THE SAME TIME MAKING IT AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS TO MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE, IS SOMETHING ONLY A CHILD WOULD THINK OF DOING. I'D SAY HE'S ANYWHERE FROM A FIFTH-GRADER TO A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...

AND IF IT WAS ANYONE OLDER THAN THAT, AN ADULT, THEY'D ONLY USE IT FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL GAIN. YOU COULD THINK OF TONS OF WAYS TO USE THAT POWER AND BECOME REALLY RICH.

AND HE EVEN INCLUDED THE POSSI-BILITY OF KIRA BEING A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, WHICH IS WHAT HE WAS HIMSELF, UNTIL JUST LAST MONTH...

PURITY...? I WOULDN'T AGREE WITH THAT, BUT OTHER-WISE HIS PROFILE MATCHES MINE EXACTLY...

I'D SAY HE'S PROBABLY A JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT WHO HAS HIS OWN CELL PHONE, COMPUTER AND TV.

KIRA STILL HAS SOME PURITY ABOUT HIM. HE'S AN AFFLUENT CHILD, WHO ALREADY HAS EVERYTHING HE NEEDS.

...THE MOST SUSPI-CIOUS OF OUR PRESENT TARGETS WOULD BE...

...SO, ACCORDING TO YOUR PROFILE, YAGAMI-KUN...

I WAS ONLY DRAWING THE OBVIOUS CONCLU-SION FROM YOUR OWN SPECULA-TIONS, YAGAMI-KUN.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?! DID YOU COME HERE TO WISH MY FATHER WELL, OR TO FINISH HIM OFF?!

YOUR SISTER, SAYU.

KLATER

IF ANYTHING, SHE'S THE TYPE WHO'D KILL SOMEONE SHE DIDN'T LIKE, AND THEN CRY HER HEAD OFF ABOUT IT...

...THIS MIGHT JUST SOUND LIKE A FOND FATHER TALKING, BUT I'M ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THAT SAYU IS NOT KIRA.

NOTHING YOU SAY IS GOING TO FAZE ME AT THIS STAGE IN THE GAME. BUT IF YOU'RE FIGHTING, TAKE IT OUTSIDE.

STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU.

BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN STARTING TO THINK OF IT MORE LIKE THIS...

KIRA IS EVIL... THERE'S NO DENYING THAT...

NOTICE HE DOESN'T SAY "I'M CERTAIN THAT LIGHT ISN'T KIRA," *HYUK HYUK.*

...

YOU'RE RIGHT...

THE REAL EVIL IS THE POWER TO KILL PEOPLE.

READ THIS WAY

IF KIRA IS AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING WHO SOMEHOW GAINED THIS POWER, HE IS A VERY UNFORTU-NATE PERSON.

YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, YAGAMI-SAN.

SOMEONE WHO FINDS HIMSELF WITH THAT POWER IS CURSED.

NO MATTER HOW YOU USE IT, ANYTHING OBTAINED BY KILLING PEOPLE CAN NEVER BRING TRUE HAPPINESS.

HE'S RIGHT, YAGAMI-SAN.

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, DAD? YOU NEED TO REST UNTIL YOU'RE FULLY RECOVERED.

RYUZAKI. I'M SORRY ABOUT COLLAPSING LIKE THIS, BUT I'LL BE BACK AT WORK AS SOON AS I CAN.

HYUK HYUK

VISITING HOURS ARE OVER. YOU'LL HAVE TO GO NOW.

NOK NOK

I'M GOING TO GET HIM IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO...

NO. I'M NOT SITTING HERE TWIDDLING MY THUMBS WITH KIRA ON THE LOOSE.

HOSPITAL

IF YOU AREN'T KIRA, YAGAMI-KUN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY-THING AT ALL, DO YOU?

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE YOU BELIEVE I'M NOT KIRA? ISN'T THERE SOME WAY TO MAKE YOU TRUST ME?

?

RYU-GA.

...

THINK ABOUT WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE SUSPECTED OF BEING KIRA.

STOP YANKING ME AROUND, RYUGA.

THAT FEELS TERRI-BLE...

WOULD MOST PEOPLE GO TO SUCH LENGTHS TO CLEAR THEMSELVES OF SUSPICION...?

...

SEE? SO HOW ABOUT LOCKING ME UP FOR A MONTH SOMEWHERE WITH NO TV OR ANYTHING, AND WATCHING ME THE WHOLE TIME? OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

...

IT'S ALL RIGHT. IF YOU AREN'T KIRA, IT WILL BECOME APPARENT EVENTUALLY.

...YOU'VE GOT A POINT.

AND ANYWAY, IT'S NONSENSE TO ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL FROM THE PERSON UNDER SUSPICION.

I CAN'T DO THAT. IT WOULD VIOLATE YOUR RIGHTS TO PRIVACY AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT...

WELL, THEN. TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR FATHER.

PLUS, WATCHING YOU WITH YOUR FATHER TODAY, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT BE KIRA.

OH! ONE MORE THING.

VRUM

I SAID I'D HELP OUT WITH THE INVESTIGATION, BUT I DON'T THINK I'LL HAVE THE TIME UNTIL MY FATHER GETS A LITTLE BETTER.

I KNOW THAT.

BYE.

LIGHT YAGAMI— IS HE KIRA, OR ISN'T HE? .....

WHAT'S HIS REAL NAME ...?

HIDEKI RYUGA— RYUZAKI— THAT GUY IS THE "L" I'VE BEEN FIGHTING ALL THIS TIME.

I'VE NEVER ONCE CONSIDERED FINDING THAT NOTEBOOK AND GAINING THIS POWER A MISFORTUNE.

HMM?

RYUK.

I COULDN'T CARE LESS WHETHER FINDING THE NOTEBOOK'S MADE YOU HAPPY OR UNHAPPY.

BUT ...

AND I'M GOING TO CREATE A PERFECT WORLD.

IN FACT, IT'S MADE ME HAPPIER THAN I'VE EVER BEEN.

AS A RULE, THEY SAY HUMANS HAUNTED BY SHINIGAMI HAVE NOTHING BUT MIS-FORTUNE.

HYUK, HYUK! THAT'S A LUCKY BREAK FOR ME.

SO YOU'LL GET TO SEE WHAT THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE IS LIKE, RYUK.

OH, HEY. THANKS.

DAD'S

SPECIAL DELIVERY FOR YOU, DIRECTOR DEMEGAWA.

A few days later.

SAKURA TV

RRIP

DON'T TELL ME IT'S A MAIL BOMB? *HA HA!*

HEY, THE SENDER DIDN'T WRITE THEIR NAME OR ADDRESS.

VIDEO-TAPES...

KLUNK

KLUNK

Panasonic

Panasonic

Panasonic

To Director Demegawa, Sakura TV

I am Kira.
The proof of that is on video 1.
When you've watched that and are satisfied that I am Kira, please broadcast videos 2 through 4 on your television network, in accordance with the dates and times given in the second sheet of paper enclosed here.
By carrying out murders that were announced in advance on national TV, I will prove to the public that I am Kira. At the same time,

a message from Kira will be sent out to the entire world.

WOOH, MAN. I'M SO STOKED, I THINK I'M HAVING A HEART ATTACK...

IF I DON'T... BROADCAST THESE TAPES...? ARE YOU KIDDING ME...? *SHEESH*, IF THESE ARE REAL, THIS IS GOING TO BE INSANE...

"IF YOU DO NOT BROADCAST THESE TAPES AS INSTRUCTED, I WILL KILL YOUR COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ONE BY ONE, STARTING WITH THE PRESIDENT"...