SOONER THE BETTER ...

EVEN TOMOR-ROW...

I CAN'T SEE L UNTIL TOMORROW AT THE EARLIEST ANYWAY. I'LL THINK THINGS OVER TONIGHT AND CONTACT YOU TOMORROW.

BUT I SHOULDN'T RUSH ON THIS DECISION.

NO MATTER WHAT.

LISTEN, REM. NO MATTER WHAT, DON'T KILL HIM UNTIL I TELL YOU TO.

YEAH, I'LL PROMISE... ONLY ABOUT L, THOUGH...

IF YOU TELL ME WHERE HE IS AND WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE, I CAN KILL HIM IMMEDIATELY. SHINIGAMI CAN MOVE THROUGH WALLS AND ALL.

SO WHEN DO I KILL HIM?

chapter 32 Gamble

WHY NOT?! WE'RE LOVERS!

NO, I CAN'T TELL YOU MINE.

IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU ASKED. TELL ME YOURS, TOO.

MISA, GIVE ME YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER.

OH!

OH YEAH...

I TOLD YOU THAT L HAS ME UNDER SURVEIL-LANCE ...

THE POLICE CAN BUG EVEN CELL PHONES THESE DAYS.

THEN I'LL GIVE YOU ONE OF MY PHONES...

I KEPT GETTING NEW ONES AND NOW I HAVE THREE.

I'LL CALL YOU EVERY DAY, AND E-MAIL TOO!

YAY! NOW WE CAN TALK EVEN IF WE'RE APART.

GOOD THINKING, MISA. YOURS SHOULD BE OKAY.

READ THIS WAY

WHEN WILL YOU CALL ME...?

...

WHAT? BUT...

NO... I'LL TURN THIS ONE OFF AND KEEP IT HIDDEN ON ME.

I'LL ONLY USE IT WHEN I HAVE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU.

WHAT?! IT'S ONLY SEVEN O'CLOCK! THE TIME OF LOVE IS JUST STARTING.

WELL THEN, YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE NOW, MISA.

SO AFTER WE DISCUSS L WE CAN HAVE A LOVE-CHAT?

TOMOR-ROW?! ♪

TOMORROW WILL LIKELY BE L'S EXECU-TION DAY... BUT EITHER WAY I'LL CONTACT YOU.

YES?

MISA...

WE CAN GO OUT TO EAT AND THEN GET THINGS REALLY ROLLING AFTER THAT...

WHOA ...!

GO HOME, OKAY?

SURE...

LIGHT ...

SURE...

WHEN YOU TALK TO REM OUTSIDE, TALK SOFTLY AND MAKE SURE NOBODY'S AROUND YOU.

THAT'S WHAT I DO WITH RYUK.

...

BYE MISA, COME AGAIN TOMOR-ROW!

SEE YOU LATER ...

YOU'VE SEEN ME WITH SHIHO AND EMI. I'LL HAVE TO KEEP THIS UP AND MAKE SURE SHE STAYS TOTALLY INFATUATED WITH ME.

YEAH?

THAT SUDDEN KISS SURPRISED ME.

CLACK

...

SINCE HE'S NOT OFFICIALLY KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AS L, I'LL HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO BECOME AN EVEN GREATER SUSPECT BY THE TASK FORCE ONCE HE DIES.

I STILL CAN'T BE 100 PERCENT SURE THAT RYUGA IS L...

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SHOULD I KILL L TOMORROW...?

RYUGA IS LIGHT YAGAMI'S FRIEND. BUT L IS KIRA'S ENEMY.

FRIEND?

I WAS JUST PLAYING ALONG. I SAID FROM THE START THAT IF HE SOUGHT MY FRIENDSHIP THEN I'D OFFER IT.

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT KILLING HIM SINCE YOU'RE HIS "FRIEND"...

HYUK HYUK

I SEE...

NO, IT'S CLEAR THAT THE PERSON LEADING THE OPERATION THERE IS RYUZAKI... IT MAY BE SIMPLISTIC TO THINK THAT ONCE I ERASE L THINGS WILL GET EASIER, BUT...

BUT THERE'S A L-ESQUE PERSON ON THE LAPTOP TOO...

YES... L IS THE ENEMY... SINCE RYUGA HAS SAID HE'S L, I SHOULD KILL HIM...

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER L DIES. PLUS, IF I CAPTURE MISA'S HEART, WITH HER EYES I CAN...

WITH MISA INVOLVED, I CAN'T TAKE MY TIME TO UNCOVER EVERYTHING ABOUT THE TASK FORCE

IF L DIES RIGHT NOW OF AN ACCIDENT, ALMOST NOBODY WILL SUSPECT ME. AND EVEN IF THEY DO, THERE'S NO EVIDENCE.

IF I CAN'T KILL MISA, THEN RATHER THAN WORRYING ABOUT PROTECTING HER THE WHOLE TIME, I SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HER AND REM AND KILL L... THIS IS A GAMBLE NOW.

IF HE DOES THAT AND MISA IS CAPTURED, THEN I COULD BE IN TROUBLE...

NOW RYUZAKI IS TALKING ABOUT GOING BACK INTO HIDING TO PROTECT HIMSELF.

OH, SO YOU'VE DECIDED.

ALL RIGHT, TOMORROW IS L'S... WELL, AT LEAST RYUZAKI/ RYUGA'S FINAL DAY.

...

HAIR.

The next day

HOTEL

NO, EVEN ASSUMING KIRA CAN NOW KILL WITH ONLY A PERSON'S FACE... ...I SHOULD NOT FEAR DEATH, BUT RATHER CONCENTRATE ON WHAT I AM ABLE TO DO...

...AND LIGHT YAGAMI. SHOULD I CUT OFF HIS ACCESS HERE...? SHOULD I GO BACK INTO HIDING...?

15

EVEN IF A THIRD OR FOURTH KIRA WERE TO APPEAR, THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW MY FACE ARE WATARI, THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE...

SNACK CRUMBS.

KIRA AND THE SECOND KIRA HAVE LIKELY JOINED.

YAGAMI-SAN.

IF I DIE, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO KEEP THINGS TOGETHER. YOU CAN USE WATARI AS YOU WISH.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ALL OF A SUDDEN, RYUZAKI?

HUH?!

MORE HAIR.

IF I DIE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, YOUR SON IS KIRA.

WHEN MY SON IS HERE YOU STATE THAT HE'S MOSTLY BEEN CLEARED...

...

RYU-ZAKI...

IF I DIE, THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL BE ABLE TO GET ANYTHING FROM KIRA, MEANING LIGHT-KUN, WILL BE YOU.

EVEN I...

...

GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT!

JUST HOW DEEPLY DO YOU SUS-PECT HIM?!

KLATER

SO IT MAY BE POSSIBLE THAT I'M NO LONGER ABLE TO THINK THINGS THROUGH CALMLY.

...I'M IN BIG TROUBLE.

...DON'T KNOW HOW I TRULY FEEL.

THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE...

EVEN SO...

IT'S A FACT THAT MY SUSPICION OF YOUR SON IS LOGICALLY A VERY LOW PERCENTAGE. AND I MAY BE BEING INSISTENT BECAUSE THERE'S JUST NO OTHER SUSPECT...

IF KIRA AND THE SECOND KIRA ARE NOW WORKING TOGETHER...

THE INFORMATION FROM MOGI THIS MORNING IS INTRIGUING AND WATARI IS FOLLOWING UP ON IT, BUT I WANT TO SEE LIGHT YAGAMI'S MOVE-MENTS MYSELF ...

I DON'T LIKE USING THE SAME METHOD OVER AND OVER BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE... THIS IS A GAMBLE NOW...

...

I WILL HAVE WATARI DO THE SAME.

IF I'M KILLED NOW, THEN ASSUME THAT YOUR SON IS KIRA.

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ACTUALLY, I HEARD SHE ASKED HIM OUT.

DAMN... SO THE COOL GUY BAGS ANOTHER ONE...

SINCE YESTER-DAY, IT SEEMS.

SINCE WHEN IS THE "REFINED" TAKADA WITH YAGAMI...?

IF SHE'S "REFINED" THEN YOU'RE "PATHETIC," IMAI.

WHAT?! I'VE LOST RESPECT FOR "REFINED" TAKADA!

HELLO.

OH, YAGAMI-KUN.

...

TAKADA, I'D LIKE TO TALK TO HIM IN PRIVATE FOR A MOMENT. CAN I SEE YOU LATER?

HUH?

OH...

SURE.

I REALIZED IT WOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT KIRA...

SINCE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE ON THE OUT-SIDE WHO KNOWS I'M L.

...!

YOU SURE THAT WAS OKAY?

NEVER MIND HER. ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE OUT HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT BEING SEEN.

AND SO, IF I'M KILLED DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS...

THIS GUY... BRING-ING UP "THE OTHER L'S" AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

...

!!

...I'VE TOLD YAGAMI-SAN, THE TASK FORCE MEMBERS, AND THE OTHER L'S TO ASSUME THAT "LIGHT YAGAMI IS KIRA"!

HYUK HYUK...

IS HE MESS-ING WITH ME?

"LET'S JUST SAY"...

LET'S JUST SAY THAT L IS A WHOLE GROUP OF INVESTI-GATORS.

OH? I DIDN'T TELL YOU? I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CALLS HIM-SELF L.

AND THUS THE BRILLIANT TAKADA-SAN?

SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

...

YEAH, IT'S BORING WITHOUT YOU, NOBODY ON MY LEVEL.

YOU WERE SAY-ING HOW YOU MISSED ME AT SCHOOL, SO I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD CHANGE OF PACE...

COLLEGE IS FUN AS LONG AS YOU DON'T DIE.

THE L ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LAPTOP... IT MAY BE TRUE THAT HE'S NOT THE ONLY L... PLUS THERE'S MY DAD...

BUT SHOULD I REALLY KILL HIM TODAY?

"L IS A GROUP" ... THAT'S A TOTAL BLUFF.

HE CAME HERE TO PREVENT ME FROM KILLING HIM IN THE CASE THAT I AM KIRA. SO I'D BE DOING EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS.!

NO... HE JUST SUDDENLY APPEARED AS I WAS THINKING OF KILLING HIM AND HAS DISRUPTED MY RESOLUTION.

WOULD KILLING HIM RIGHT NOW BE A BAD MOVE...?

SHALL WE GET SOME CAKE FROM THE CAFETERIA?

LIGHT!! THERE YOU ARE!!

WHY HAS HE SUDDENLY STARTED SEEING ALL THESE GIRLS...? WELL, IT DOES SEEM LIKE HE WAS SEEING GIRLS BEFORE TOO, BUT...

KIYOMI TAKADA... ONE OF THE FOUR THAT MOGI REPORTED TO ME ABOUT THIS MORNING... BUT IT CAN'T BE HER...

MISA ...

YOU IDIOT...

I HAVE A SHOOT NEAR HERE, SO I CAME BY!

SO ANYONE CAN JUST WALK ONTO THIS CAMPUS...

THOUGH I HAVE TO BE BACK BEFORE 2 O'CLOCK.

WAIT ...

ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS, LIGHT? HE'S REALLY UNIQUE AND COOL!

I'M HIDEKI RYUGA.

I'M LIGHT'S GIRL-FRIEND, MISA AMANE. NICE TO MEET YOU.

HUH? HIDEKI RYUGA?

!!

I'VE WON!!

MISA CAN SEE RYUGA'S REAL NAME!

LIGHT ...?! ...?!

YEAH.

HE'S GOT THE SAME NAME AS THAT IDOL SINGER, FUNNY ISN'T IT?

AND HERE I FIGURED IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO GET MISA CLOSE TO RYUGA ...

THERE'S A RULE THAT SHINIGAMI CAN'T REVEAL A PERSON'S NAME, BUT THERE'S NO PROBLEM IN MISA TELLING ME...

OH YEAH... IT WOULD BE STRANGE THAT I KNOW THAT, SO LIGHT IS STOPPING ME.

BUT IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE NAME I SEE ...

...?!

COMING OUT LIKE THIS WAS A BIG MISTAKE.

RYUGA!

GULP

YAGAMI-KUN...

JUST FROM HER REACTION TO "HIDEKI RYUGA"? NO... IT'S AN IDOL'S NAME, ANYONE WOULD REACT. AND IF HE THOUGHT SHE WAS THE SECOND KIRA THEN HE'D BE IN NO POSITION TO BE SMILING...

N... NO WAY... HE NOTICED?!

PFF!

I'M SO JEALOUS.

READ THIS WAY

SHE'S A MODEL, BUT ONLY IN A FEW TEEN MAGA-ZINES... IS HE SERIOUS...?

WHA?! HOW DOES HE KNOW HER?!

REALLY?! I'M SO HAPPY!

I'VE BEEN A HUGE FAN SINCE THE MARCH ISSUE OF "EIGHTEEN"!

SO WHO'S MISA MISA? A CELEBRITY?

SHE'S SO CUTE.

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT IS HER.

WHO'S MISA MISA?

HEY, ISN'T THAT MISA MISA?

THIS IS BAD...

WOW, I'M GETTING SO POPULAR.

WOW, SHE'S SO SMALL AND CUTE!

RUSTLE

SHE'S A MODEL.

OH, WHY'S A MODEL HERE AT TO-OH?

RUSTLE

MUTTER

CAN I TOUCH IT TOO ...?

HA HA, YOU'RE FUNNY.

YOU IDIOT...

MUTTER

...

HOW IMPRUDENT! THAT'S UNFORGIV-ABLE. I SHALL CATCH THE CULPRIT!

FWIP

HEY! WHO JUST TOUCHED MY BUTT?!

NOW THAT RYUGA HAS MET MISA AND LEARNED ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP, IT WOULD BE DANGER-OUS TO HAVE THEM TALK TOO MUCH... I SHOULD KILL RYUGA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS HAS STRENGTHENED MY RESOLVE!

THOUGH I OBVIOUSLY CAN'T ASK MISA WHAT HIS NAME IS WHILE HE'S STANDING RIGHT THERE.

THIS CROWD WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO BE ALONE WITH HER.

WELL, ONCE SHE LEAVES I CAN CALL HER UP AND GET THE NAME.

NOW, I CAN KILL RYUGA ANY-TIME I WANT. I DID IT...

A LADY MAN-AGER?

OH, SORRY, YOSHI...

MISA, WE NEED TO GO TO THE STUDIO NOW! DO YOU WANT TO BE LATE AGAIN?!

COOL!

WE HAVE PSYCHO-LOGY TOGETHER, RIGHT?

YEAH, I'LL SEE YOU THERE AFTER I GO TO THE BATH-ROOM.

WELL THEN, I'LL BE HEADING TO CLASS NOW.

...

...

WHAT ABOUT TAKA-DA?

HUH? SHE'S WITH LIGHT ...?

LATER, LIGHT! SEE YOU AFTER WORK?

I'M GLAD I GET TO KILL YOU MY-SELF.

GOOD-BYE, RYUGA... IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.

MISA SHOULD BE ALONE WITH HER MANA-GER.

SAYING RYUGA'S NAME OVER THE PHONE SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.