Honami > Nagito in Planning

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This is a short doc to make the case for Honami (COTE) being better than Nagito (Danganronpa) by feats, in terms of planning specifically.

I'll use one plan from each - CH5 for Nagito and Y2V7-Y3V1 for Honami. Both have secondary planning feats (CH1 for Nagito and UIE, Ichika & Kakeru Alliance for Honami), but they'll be excluded from this comparison.

It is recommended that you read the two characters' respective analysis and their source materials.

First I will describe the definition of planning that'll be used for the comp. Planning is the character's blueprint to achieve their goal. It usually comes down to the conceptualization of predetermined events. Think of it as the character's ability to write an instruction booklet with the steps-by-steps (preparation process) as well as warning labels and safety information (contingency, coverage, etc). For example, to make sure you wake up before 9:10 AM, you'd need to set an alarm on your phone to ring at 9:00 AM. You might be concerned whether it'll be enough, so you buy and set up an alarm clock that'll ring at 9:05 AM.

Contrast with strategy - the set of principles guiding the way you will try to achieve your goal. The character's "instruction booklet" will be written with those principles in mind. For example, to wake up before 9:10 AM, you'd need someone or something to make loud noises around that time.

Planning Aim

I won't scale "planning aim" given it's too result based and subjective IMO, but it's important to understand what the two characters were trying to accomplish with their plan and their context/emotions that drove them to formulate their plans. After all, it's impossible to scale feats if you do not even understand the characters' actions.

Honami: She wanted to "bind" Kiyotaka to her, make him support her and her class. Through her plan, Hona wanted to reconcile her feelings for Kiyotaka, who's a student from an opposing class, with her duty to her classmates as their class leader. Another complication was the fact that at the time, Kiyotaka was dating Kei. Additionally, Honami's class was slipping from B all the way down to D. Beside dating matters, this most likely translated to Kiyotaka joining her class, before Y2V12.

To that end, through various manipulation methods, Hona planted and watered seeds to grow a friendship nest in her class, took many actions to isolate Kiyotaka socially, engineered rumors about herself and Kiyo, loaded up coercion materials on him and prepared for the promise day, reworked her own relationship with Kiyotaka, all the while concealing her scheming from (potentially) antagonistic third parties or straight up demoralizing them into giving up.

Nagito: He loves hope very much & hates despair, so when he found out, after completing the FDR during the fourth Class Trial investigation, that every participant in this killing game except the supposed traitor were a part of something called "Ultimate Despair", he wanted everyone except the traitor - the Future Foundation spy - dead. To do so, for the fifth class trial, Nagito wanted the Future Foundation spy to be the next blackened and make himself their "murder victim", but ensure they win the Class Trial by making the group vote incorrectly.

To achieve this, Nagito set up the stage for the traitor to inadvertently throw the murder weapon - the one fire extinguishing grenade that had "Monokuma's special poison" among many. In the factory, there were plenty of fire extinguishing grenades, but Nagito knew the traitor would pick the right one because of his luck.

As a disclaimer, I'll note that Kinugasa, COTE's author, rarely puts all his characters' actions in retrospect. Instead, he'll leave clues for the readers to piece up the hidden plots of the novels. The characters rarely explain their actions (and are not always honest when they do). Plus, COTE does not have anything analogous to a Class Trial where there's a justification (in-universe) for having most of the process behind each plan explained. In SCD, this translates to every COTE character being scaled based on the explanation which has a much more logical and empirical basis to them. Though this creates a bit of a hurdle as what's considered "more logical" is obviously debatable, so it's essential that you read the character's docs if you're not familiar with their scaling and make your own judgements. Here's a link for Honami's document. Unfortunately, to my knowledge at the time of this writing, no public document exists for Nagito's CH5 plan though fortunately much of the process is explained on-screen. For the sake of keeping this comparison concise, I won't go through literally every single thing such as the evidence supporting the interpretations for Honami when the aforementioned document does exactly that.

Without further ado, let's get started.

Planning Coverage

This is definitely the most commonly used category of planning and is the mainstay of any planning distribution.
Planning Coverage scales the character's ability to put together a "To-Do" list. It is measured by how well a character can take into consideration various complications leading into the execution sequence - potential hazards, variables and outcomes.
A character's ability to put together a To-Do list and respect it will maximize the success rate of the scheme.

While Nagito currently doesn't have his own public document that breaks down his CH4-5 planning, enough process was explained or made obvious on-screen, especially during the class trials that we can reasonably scale his planning coverage without one.

Anyway this is based on the sum of Nagito's actions:

- Buy as much time as possible for the initial preparations.
- Keep the group distracted while setting up the warehouse.
- Make it seem like you're an actual victim of torture.
- Set up a contingency for when the cast will see through the torture fabrication. If the majority vote against Nagito as the blackened, the traitor wins. If the cast believe he committed suicide, the first impression will be that Nagito wanted to kill them all because he made it look like a murder. This would increase the chances they vote for him which would shield the traitor.
- If it comes down to that, the "crime scene" should create a sense of ambiguity about whether Nagito's death was caused by the poison or suicide.
- Set up a way to transmit the instructions to the group without having to be physically present yourself, for both before the BDA and after the class trial.
- Properly mix up the poison into one of the fire grenades.

Things Nagito **didn't** do:

- Maintain his emotional state the same as prior to entering the FDR and claiming his "prizes" for completing it. Nagito's behavior throughout the second half of CH4 should've ended his plan before CH5 began. After Nagito had proven himself to be dangerous in the first class trial, he was tied up. Nagito should have been cautious to make sure nobody wanted to tie him up given this precedent. Instead, during the CH4 class trial, he openly expressed his newfound disgust of everyone else, even telling everyone the cause of this is "ignorance is the greatest shame" (!!). He didn't hide his desire to hurry up the class trial nor the fact he saw it was an "opening act" (!!!). The next time Nagito meets the group after the class trial, he asks them to tell Monokuma that he doesn't need to provide motives for murder anymore because he'll go "all out" (!!!!). To be fair, the cast actually began to talk about tying him up after he left the scene, but they should have and could have taken action when he was RIGHT THERE and nobody even tried to discuss any sort of plan to capture him until the next morning and only took action when night came.
- Getting rid of any evidence. Literally. Some of the clues in the warehouse can be excused, but not the stuff in his room ESPECIALLY the poison - Nagito did nothing to conceal the fact it was used. It's an anti-feat for both Hajime and Chiaki to not pick up on this from the onset. And the Monomi book is egregious as well, since he knew Hajime could learn who the traitor was if he put his hands on it.
    - Funnily enough, Hajime could have solved the case the moment he left Nagito's room. It would have required him to perform an abductive reasoning like this:
        - The warehouse only has one entrance and it was blocked when everyone except Nagito was on the other side. Crazily enough, this proves without a shadow of a doubt Nagito set up the crime scene and his own death.
        - In Nagito's fridge, there was an unusual type of poison that was specifically made to kill people, is effective when vaporized and it is **denser than air**. Judging by the fact there wasn't much left in the bottle, Nagito definitely made use of it.
        - When Nagito was found, he was **tied to the ground**.
        - The grenades we threw to extinguish the fire are the only thing that could've been used to activate the poison and kill him.

        - Nagito said he wanted to weed out the traitor; the presence of the Monomi book in his room proves he cared about identifying the traitor, otherwise he wouldn't have gone out of his way to steal it.
        - "Chiaki is the only one who could've known about me trying to do the FDR."
        - Conclusion: Nagito hoped the traitor, Chiaki, would grab the grenade with poison to kill him.
- Conceal his interest in the traitor. Not only did Nagito leave the Monomi book in his room, but he also let everyone know that he wanted to "weed out the traitor".
- Make some kind of effort to ensure the mastermind either can't deter his plan or can't see through him.

Meanwhile, here is Honami's overarching coverage:

- **Continue to gather information to profile Kiyotaka, since he is still a bundle of secrets.**
- Demoralizing Miyabi, so he would not involve Honami in his games anymore and get in her way. This issue was primarily handled through her rumor strategy, though this was also its own thing beyond that by meddling with Kei.
- Kiyotaka's relationships with Hona's classmates, including the difficult ones such as Ryuji but also the more useful ones for manipulative purposes - Norihito mainly, but also Mako.
- Most importantly, Kiyo's relationship with Honami herself, through some tactics such as the gym fabrication, the selfie, overwriting strategy, simply spending time together, etc.
- Control the public's perception of her relationship with Kiyo.
- Create sufficient ammos to torpedo any relationship Kiyo may have with other people, principally Kei of course, by loading up on coercive, reputation destroying, material.
- Centering the final stage to bind Kiyo around the promised day and preparing accordingly. Honami had no chance to accumulate enough private points before the end of the 2nd year, considering she and her class had 0 private points left after they chose to save a classmate in the Class Vote Exam of Year One. But Kiyo and Honami promised that, no matter what occurred between their classes, they would meet a year later, March 30th, after the second year ended, so the timing and condition of the promise can be meaningful.
- Post KiyoKei break-up, cover up the past mingling with Kiyo when he was Kei's boyfriend to protect your reputation.
- Stopping Arisu from hindering the plan, by blinding her to it.

- Clearing any traces of her proactivity from First Years & any new school personnels: Honami's experience with Shiba and Tokinari during the UIE is proof they are dangerous and her desire to learn about the White Room and Kiyotaka must be concealed from them.

Checklist for Y2V10 Meeting specifically:

- Use someone on speaking terms with Kiyo to conceal her presence in this meeting from Kei and any other third parties like Arisu, Miyabi, etc.
- Ensure Mako joins the meeting - do not walk alone to Kiyotaka's room and bait Norihito into coming to the meeting.
- Position Kiyo as someone reliable to Norihito ahead of time.
- Get Norihito involved in the meeting without making it seem like that was intentional to anyone else.
- Cook a speech to justify why you wanted to "run checks".
- Give yourself an excuse to return to Kiyo's room after the meeting is over.
- Act intimate with Kiyo in front of his door, inside his room.
- Take the necessary actions to make it seem like you never intended to have someone walk in, like pretending you considered locking the door.

Promise Meeting's Own Checklist:

- Gain power over Kiyo which can be used to delete KiyoKei if the two hadn't yet broken up and gain leverage in general.
- Regulate Kiyotaka's emotional state throughout March 30th. This goes beyond sating his curiosity with the text messages, it's also important to give him the illusion of power over you to make him drop his guard.
- Ensure the event will happen with home field advantage, in Honami's room, to set up the stage and entrap Kiyotaka without limitations, and for said trap to be effective the moment he walks into her room.
- Create enough obvious clues for Kiyotaka to understand (and be unable to delude himself into thinking otherwise) he was effectively trapped even if he wasn't aware Hona put him in that situation intentionally, all of which must be noticeable only once Kiyo is properly trapped.
- Shut down any potential information leakage about your current mental state. This partially means not meeting or being seen by anyone.

- Control all the information transmitted to Kiyo throughout March 30th from her phone, including shutting it down and when his text messages are viewed as "read".
- Counter Kiyotaka's emotional perception and sensory capacity. Suppress any possible discernment in regards to body languages, etc.
- Acquire all the necessities before the exam, namely enough food to last at least 10 days, yet appear surprisingly healthy (eliminating the possibility Honami couldn't bring herself to eat all that much due to being depressed) according to Kiyo's monologue when he entered her room (considering Honami met Kiyotaka on March 30th and she hadn't seen anyone else since the end-of-year exam ended, even missing the year's ending ceremony due to an "alleged illness" and Kiyotaka being informed that she had not shown herself outside at all during the break, her 3-party meeting was most likely set on the last possible day, it being April 1st), citrus perfume & the contraceptive (which the readers learned is a product ANHS sells; Kiyotaka wasn't carrying that on his possession when he visited her room; Kiyo was expecting a "trap made with hatred" and she obviously was not counting on him to do so).

Do note Y2V10 Meeting and Promised Meeting were planned way ahead of time, so they are 100% part of her plan's core structure.

That being said, what's in blue is a tad more ambiguous as to how much it was considered ahead of time, since the considerations could've been a by-product of the events of the Y2V12 exam thus part of Honami's planning acclimation. For this comparison, it can be tossed aside if it's too much of a grey area.

The failure is marked in bold red, as she clearly failed to correctly analyze Kiyo. Whatever effort she put into gathering information to analyze Kiyotaka wasn't enough - that's obvious and there's no use pretending otherwise.

But in Honami's defense, she actually *tried* to gather information on many steps of her preparations for the promise meeting. Hona even improvised at one point by using the rules of the Survival and Dropout exam for that purpose. Kiyotaka made an actual effort to deceive Honami and she had no realistic means to understand the White Room (even if she overheard the word in a conversation she struggled to listen to) and how it could shape him.

Meanwhile, Nagito made ZERO effort to conceal the evidence in the room or anywhere else frankly. He made... negative effort to hide his interest in the traitor. Making this even worse was the lack of adversity linked to any of the anti-feats. Meaning, those errors were ***completely unforced***.

He also didn't bother hiding his new resentment towards the rest of the cast. People can say that it is an EM anti-feat instead, but if anything, it's the *bare minimum* you gotta do if you're going to try to deceive people throughout the initial stage of the preparations of your plan. Nagito did nothing to prevent the mastermind, who he thought he was undermining, from either interfering with his plan or more realistically, seeing through his aim.

Verdict: Honami No Diff. Listing Hona's coverage for the promise day contingency or the Y2V10 Meeting was for the overkill. Even without 'em, Hona's planning addressed more complications, all things considered, and Hona's one "anti-feat" wasn't remotely as egregious as any of Nagito's. Hell, Promise & Y210 Meeting are possibly individually enough for Nagito.

But both should definitely be included when scaling her coverage, since they had to be cooked months ahead of time based on all the direct evidence provided by the narration along with what we can deductively prove, thus Hona was able to consider all those tasks (beside those marked in blue) without anything resembling active critical thinking and on-the-fly adaptability.

Nagito's planning coverage was broken at the most fundamental level and whatever there was of it can be described as drastically inferior to Honami, unimpressive at best.

Before I compare the preparation process and intricacies, I have to mention that I won't bring up the fake handbook reader trick as an intricacy or preparation, because of how monumentally idiotic of an incorporation it was. It put the traitor on the spot and a quick investigation would reveal Nagito does not know who the traitor is, so he lied about learning who they were by monitoring everyone's activities. Meaning, Nagito couldn't have set up any sort of system where only the traitor's handbook would disarm the bombs.

Of course, the point of this deception was to mislead people into thinking the traitor wouldn't be this careless, a thought that a few people had during the accusing Chiaki part of the class trial, but that's... not the most obvious conclusion? When you consider the apparent gravity of the situation, the traitor might've swiped their handbook because they panicked or believed a decision had to be made right there and then between exposing themselves or RIP.

But there's also the argument that whoever swiped their ID could have known the bombs were fake. Either way, this was absolutely unnecessary; the traitor could do nothing or have a valid reason to swipe their ID and it's a nothing burger or they do something and it is a bit suspicious. The fact that Chiaki knew the bombs were fake because of Monomi is something that was brought up in the class trial and it's the cherry on top for this brainfart of a tactic.

Planning Intricacies and Preparation Process isn't "they did more stuff", especially when the "stuff" they do diminishes their plan's success rate or it's an inefficient waste that serves no purpose.

To the extent the fake handbook reader trick would buff either one of the two subcats, it is another detail of his bomb bluff layer and it has zero real implication for his preparation process anyway.

Planning Preparation Process

Planning Preparation Process is basically the A->B->C->D steps. The character's ability to logically align different tactics over the course of the plan's lifespan.

Nagito didn't make any egregious blunders in his preparation process format.

Get out of the class trial ASAP -> Scout the island, set up the bomb bluff in the theater and hospital and the poison quickly -> Destroy the hotel to sell the buff and tell the rest he hid bombs with hints -> While they are busy looking for the bombs, get the warehouse ready for his eventual body discovery announcement; set up the domino with the monokuma panels -> Place a oil lighter in front of it -> set up the music drown the other noises -> hang a spear to the ceiling -> tie up one arm and both legs -> grab the tip of the rope hanging the spear to the ceiling -> slash slash slash -> Stab free hand into monokuma plushie.

There's no fundamental fuck up and every steps logically align.

But there was no adversity to challenge this alignment. Honami's environment is ANHS, where schemers are everywhere, there's a lot more people in general (hundreds of students, many teachers, etc), the exams are somewhat random and it's nearly impossible to predict everything. Yet, there are a few patterns that stick year after year and Honami's preparations went in accordance to this. Everything within Honami's plan to take Kiyotaka that could have been planned long ahead of time - her awkward scene with Ryuji during the second year's cultural festival, disappearance in on the last day of the Hokkaido trip, nearly everything Hona did in Y2V9, the meeting in Y2V10, Y2V12.5 promise day and the Kei scene in Y3V1 - happened slightly before upcoming special exams or on set special days with the scheming revolving around those events being provoked by those events or using convenient attributes of those events - for example, the excuse Honami used for getting people like Ryuji involved in the Y2V10 meeting was to run "some checks" before the upcoming S&D exam. What this implies is that she could have used foreseeable events as "landmarks" for her alignment of tactics.

This, however, meant Honami had a limited amount of definitive opportunities to progress her plan. That is, even if opportunities could arise by luck in-between those set steps to maximize the succession of the plan.

Meaning, Honami also had to align more complex things at once than Nagito ever did. To tie up her tactics in Y2V7-Y2V8-Y2V9 to Y2V10, she had to manage the relationship between Kiyo and her classmates, Hona's own with him (which back in Y2V7-Y2V9 was very awkward to say the least) while engaging in psychological warfare with Kei & Miyabi and stay under first years and Arisu's radars. Each step had to progress multiple separate layers of her larger plan and they did just that.

Verdict: Honami Mid-High Diff. Neither have legitimate failure in this subcat, but her situation was more complicated and random over its duration while having a more layers to align to maximize every opportunities while also having planned more "acts"-steps ahead of time (12-30 > 7-11), so being able to have an A -> B -> C -> D that is logical and without failures is more impressive in Hona's context than Nagito's more fixed and simpler situation.

Planning Intricacies

Planning Intricacies is scaled by the character's ability to create a detailed plan with many layers.

Honami's plan has, bare minimum, seven layers.

- Overwriting Kiyotaka's Social Circle - *less Kei, other girls and her classmates, more her and her classmates.*
- Rumor Mills 1.0 - *the steps leading to the controlled spread of rumors during the second year's winter break + onwards.*
- Handling Discontents - *Managing the situation with Ryuji.*
- Collecting Blackmail Material - *Preparing contingencies in case her effort to change Kiyo's feelings don't go as planned.*
- Blinding Third Parties - *Actions taken to ensure information of her change, proactivity and scheming cannot be discerned by opposing forces.*
- Promise Day Scheme - *Everything revolving around the promised meeting between her and Kiyotaka on March 30th. This relates to her coercion contingencies but it is a scheme on its own with at least two separate methodologies (though only one had its whole process demonstrated).*
- Promise Day Aftermath - *All the social engineering done after the promise meeting and applying the preparations made ahead of time with the rumors of Kiyotaka's interest in Honami, his integration into her class' dynamic and so on.*

Seven more could arguably be added: the Miyabi trap, if you do not consider it as a subset of the rumor strategy given it has its own set of individual acts during the resignation scene (like the Kei interception and the "see you later" bluff) and Kiyo analysis as many of Honami's actions revolve around gathering as much info on him as possible. The declaration in Kiyotaka's room of Y2V9 is also a potential layer on its own, as its purpose is only half about rumor spreading - the declaration itself was crucial for her relationship with him, carried a lot of weight overall & broke the awkwardness between the two while it was a complicated endeavor that had its root in the "fake date". The manipulations of Nori around Y2 December were prerequisites to the Y2V10 meeting plan; this too is arguably a layer on its own. Also, the aftermath can be split into many layers - the damage control scene with Kei while using Kiyotaka as a social shield, rumor mills 2.0 and the EF "cake" thing Honami has going on with Kiyotaka.

Meanwhile, Nagito's plan has a maximum of six layers.

- The poison setup. This involved mixing up the poison with the fire grenade containers.
- Scouting the islands post class trial #4. Destroy 11037, raid Monomi, analyze new stuff.
- Bomb bluff. Making the hospital go kaboom and making the cast find the other bombs in the theatre.
- Preparations for the spear/domino arrangement in the warehouse. Tying the spear to the ceiling and leaving enough he can hold onto while laying on the ground + place the monokuma panels to create a domino effect into the oil lighter when the group opens the door.
- Torture/Suicide fabrication. Mutilating himself, stab in hand and duct taped his mouth.
- Recording the messages. He recorded messages for indirect manipulations, but also for the survivor(s), post class trial.

Three of those layers are entirely about setting up the warehouse crime scene, so arguably they could be merged as one layer for the same reason the Rumor strategy wasn't split in three.
None of the layers in Nagito's planning are remotely as complex as Hona's rumor fabrication strategy (which contained four acts!) and none of his plan's six "layers" are nearly as detailed as either the Y2V10 Meeting or Y2V12.5 Promised Meeting. One of her acts, the declaration in Kiyotaka's room from Y2V9, is shockingly close in complexity to the "torture/suicide". Amusingly enough, a case could be made for the Y2V10 Meeting being independently a more elaborate endeavor than Nagito's entire plan.

The next pages will have exhaustive breakdowns of both plans to prove this claim. I'll ignore the purpose of each step and focus on the intricacies within those steps in a summarized way, so without having to explain every single thing they do and words they utter.

Nagito:

- Get out of the class trial ASAP; he tried to hurry up the class trial once the cast began to suspect Gundham.
- Scout the island, find 11037 code and scrap it, set up the bomb bluff in the theater + hospital and the poison quickly.
- Record the messages about the bombs and the 11037 stuff.
- Destroy the hotel to sell the bomb bluff, so he can tell the rest of the cast he hid more bombs they'll need to find.
- Give the group some "hints" to get them on the search.
- While they're busy looking for the bombs, get the warehouse ready for his eventual body discovery announcement; set up the domino with the monokuma panels, the music and place a lighter in front of them.
- Hang a spear to the ceiling; tie up one arm and both legs and tie up the free arm with a pre-burnt rope, grab the tip of the rope hanging the spear to the ceiling, use free arm to slash slash slash his three tied-up limbs and stab that free hand into a monokuma plushie & toss it aside.

Honami:

- During the cultural festival, leave Ryuji and Kiyotaka alone and stick them together to get them to talk things out. It was around that time (at least, before Y2V8) Hona must have told Norihito about her feelings for Kiyotaka & asked to keep this between them.
- Y2V8
    - Vanished on the last day of the Hokkaido trip moments before the curfew to cause a panic and get the others to involve Kiyotaka in the search.
    - Once Kiyo finds you, put up an act of not wanting him to wait for you to make him double down. Since you are all alone with Kiyotaka, ask him about the "White Room".
- On the second-to-last day of the second week of December, resign from the SC. Give some excuse that denotes a lack of confidence. Say "see you later, Ayanokoji-kun" on your way out, if he's there, and make the excuse that you're not feeling well to leave quickly before dropping the other line.
- Off-screen: Do something (?) that caused rumors about your resignation and Kiyotaka being the replacement.
- When Kiyotaka invites you to go out the next day, put up an innocent act like in Y2V8 and accept with "lingering doubts".
- During the fake date with Kiyo the next day, offer to go to the gym. This will lead to Kiyo going there more often and with Honami there.

- The rest of the "date" is uncertain in how much Honami was committed to do information gathering, so the majority of it won't be included here. But, since Hona introduced the topic of her resignation from the SC and Honami had an obvious reason for doing so (playing dumb), it's extremely unlikely that wasn't planned. This applies to asking Kiyotaka if she could reach out to Kei to "clarify" any misunderstandings.
- During Kiyo's investigation into the Fuka case, wait in front of his room's door. Put up citrus perfume, unbutton shirt & wear a skirt; short one given the winter conditions & declare you'll try to win him over in a heartfelt speech.
- Intercept specific people to address the rumors to control their flow right before the winter break, especially Kei.
    - Bump in a way it was a "coincidence". "Reassure" Kei & address her concerns in a manner that made it seem as if you were innocent in all of this with Kiyo going out of his way to help her for seemingly nothing in return and it's Kiyotaka that is the one who's into you.
- Y2V10 Meeting
    - Tell Ryuji they will meet Kiyotaka in his room the day before the next exam. Give an excuse like it was to "run checks". Tell Ryuji to go to Kiyo's room before you and Mako and phone Kiyotaka for her. Ask Ryuji to not tell Kiyotaka that you would join them later because you're not certain if you could come or not.
    - The Manipulation of Norihito prior to Winter Break was a prerequisite. Since Norihito had no idea Honami knew of his crush on Mako before he returned to Kiyo's room, we can assume this is how it went down off-screen:
        - Honami told Nori that she, Ryuji and Mako would visit Kiyotaka in his room at one time of the day before the S&D exam and she asked if he wanted to come. Hona then asked Nori to not tell anyone else that she revealed to him the existence of this meeting to anyone else for one reason or another, hence the "coincidence" excuse.
    - Bring in snacks. After arriving with Mako to Kiyotaka's room, do some sort of irrelevant speech.
    - During the meeting, leave the phone under Kiyo's table.
    - After the meeting is over, come back alone to retrieve it because you "lost" it.
    - After "finding" it, ask if you can stay and pretend you're thinking about locking the door. Ask how he feels about your actions as they concern Kei.

    - Hold onto his chest in a visibly intimate fashion - long enough for Norihito to see this when he comes back.
    - Control Norihito's distress with various guilt trips.
    - Politely blackmail Nori - bring up his crush on Mako.
- Y2V12.5 Promise Day
    - Perform the preparations before the EoY exam to stay inside your room for nearly two weeks; buying the food to last nearly two weeks, etc etc.
    - Throughout the two weeks after the end-of-year exam and the promised meeting, stay inside your room.
    - Power off your phone in the morning.
    - After the curfew, mark the message as "read".
    - Tidy up the room and put in citrus perfume in your hair.
    - When he comes to your room, send him text messages as responses rather than with your own voice. Tell him things that are designed to imply that Kiyotaka ought to leave, without really telling Kiyotaka to leave and other stuff that denotes weakness.
    - After he enters her room, sit against the wall, hug your knees with your head hidden between them.
    - After Kiyotaka finished speaking, make your offer (this originally, probably was class transfer). Then, [Spicy].
- The speech and stuff in Y2V12.5 to her classmates. Refers to Hona both admitting her feelings for Kiyo to her classmates and claiming she was "saved" by him. Obviously, the speech would have been kinda different had she won the EoY exam without incidents, but what it would be is purely speculation.
- Y3V1 Kei scene.
    - Approach Kei the morning of the first Y3 special exam.
    - Begin the conversation with small talk about the exam.
    - It's difficult to know how much of the conversation she could have planned ahead of time for multiple reasons (mainly because of what Honami learned about Kiyo in Y2V12) but the goal was to reach a point where Honami could "reassure" Kei that they (she and Kiyo) never did anything sketchy before Kiyotaka broke up with Kei.

Verdict: Honami Low Diff. Regardless of the other subcats, Hona objectively scales higher in this. Her plan was more layered than Nagito's + Hona's "acts" were both more detailed and numerous. Hona had 52 preorganized components. Nagito? Only 21. Y2V10 Meeting was almost enough at 16, excluding prior preps for Nori.

Planning Versatility

Planning Versatility is the plan's options to be versatile with its resources and come up with new strategies during its process when preferable. Resources can be time, currency, tools, etc.

Honami's plan was made in a manner in which there's enough wiggle room to maneuver in-between the predetermined steps to apply the layers of her plan or make any adjustments should they be necessary in case of a failure in her forecast of the school's schedule. It is also not dependent on the SEs after winter break being anything specific which allowed her to take advantage of them when possible. Honami used the opportunities to improvise during the winter break to take advantage of Kei's illness with the gym fabrication and selfie tactics. Hona also took advantage of the circumstances during the S&D (the fact she knew Kakeru won before the exam began) to do the KiyoKei nomination tactics. Honami used her student council position to the fullest for the sake of her plan and she also used her social standings and insight in other people without damaging her reputation, usually by scapegoating Kiyo and/or Miyabi and through her communication skills. Hona's usage of Mako and Norihito before & during the Y2V10 Meeting are perhaps the best examples, as it was multifarious: Mako allowed Honami to walk to Kiyotaka's room inconspicuously + bait Nori into the meeting & Norihito made the meeting fun + predictably caught her & Kiyotaka on the act to coerce both him and Kiyotaka.

As for Nagito? From the moment he entered the warehouse to set up the crime scene, he had zero room for adjustment or control over the plan's execution. Even before that there was no real time gap between his prep process to have too much leeway, everything happened in a specific way and Nagito could not be opportunist at all about any changes in the environment of the killing game even if new opportunities opened up. Nagito also had (virtually) no way to adjust in the case of unexpected circumstances. The extent that could be argued for his planning versatility is the island scouting and his other work right after Class Trial #4. Given Nagito's aim & situation, low flexibility is forgivable ***if he managed his resources properly***, but Nagito's blunders - specifically the errors in what he should've done to control his resources so they do not turn into the footprints of his plan but didn't do, ultimately expose his inability to organize resources according to his objectives.

Verdict: Honami Very Low Diff. Nagito is 0 in Planning Versatility compared to Honami and any decent planners.

Planning Acclimation

The acclimation of a plan is determined by the character's ability to alter a plan to be more befitting for their current environment, condition and potential hazards. Adapting the existing plan to the current environment as it changes or in the face of unforeseeable circumstances.

Verdict: Honami Very Low Diff. The C-D class alliance strategy to save her plan to bind Kiyotaka is a big planning acclimation feat for Honami. Nagito's acclimation was virtually nonexistent - the islands' scouting could be classified as acclimation if you stretch it, but it's nothing remotely comparable to Honami reimagining how to bind Kiyotaka to herself following the end-of-year exam.

Planning Invincibility

Planning Invincibility is scaled by the planner's ability to counter active threats. A planner may construct a plan with preventative measures that hinder their adversaries' ability to hinder its setup. This has some overlap with planning versatility and acclimation as a plan with more leeway for adjustments can allow the planner to actively counter whenever necessary. Some may only consider preventative measures when scaling invincibility. Fortunately, in this comparison it doesn't change the verdict all that much.

Honami's actions to disguise and conceal her changes and growth as a schemer from Arisu, along with all that as well as the winter break rumors from this (from her POV) unknown "White Room" threat blinded literally every outsider. Honami also took effective actions to neutralize Miyabi, another potential threat. All of that allowed her scheming to move without concerns, aside from Kiyo revealing his "true color" during the second year's end-of-year exam. But even with that, Honami's countermeasures to prevent enemy tactics from hindering the setup worked as intended. The Norihito misdirection during the Y2V10 Meeting was the blinder to conceal her intent to later coerce Kiyo during the promise meeting from Kiyo himself. All of Honami's preventative measures were efficient as they were only fractions of tactics that also advanced the other layers of Hona's plan; the same can't be said for Nagito.

Nagito's countermeasure, the bomb bluff, was highly effective in distracting the rest of the cast. However, as previously mentioned, he did nothing to conceal his intent from the mastermind or set up some kind of protection that would prevent the mastermind from doing anything to interfere with his plan. If anything, a plan such as his that relies so much on indirect manipulations, foresight and entails virtually zero flexibility would be especially vulnerable to the mastermind's whims. This is all in spite of the fact that Nagito was under the impression that he was working against whatever the mastermind was trying to get out of the killing game.
His complex layered trap could also be viewed as "invincibility", though in the same vein all of his errors would lower his scaling.

Verdict: Honami Low-Mid Diff. Honami's plan had better walls in its setup, was harder to discern during the execution specifically thanks to her better planning, involved better thinking regarding what is a potential adversary and she had more leeway to actively counter threats in case of an emergency.

Planning Applicability

Planning Applicability is for preparation what the cat "knowledge application" is to knowledge. Sorta. Generally speaking, you want your preparation to serve a purpose, or maybe more than a single purpose. In nearly all outsmarting scenarios, the opportunities to prepare are limited, so it's essential to not only identify and act on those opportunities but to also make the most of them. Long story short, applicability asks how relevant the preps were to the aim.

Most of the tricks Nagito used during his preparations served one or two purposes at most - the bombs in the theater and hospital being an particularly noteworthy example - or lacked in synergy; factors lowering the efficiency of his plan. An example of poor synergy can seen in how the spear/domino arrangement and poison setup preps interfere with his torture/suicide preparations for many reasons (the warehouse's one entrance, the panels being valuable evidence left behind, the blue seal, etc point toward the death not being directly related to any blood evidence) rendering the deception around his fabrications markedly weaker.

As previously mentioned, Honami's preparations usually align and respect every other layer of its plan, so they're not self-defeating and it is efficient. This might sound like glaze, but it really is just a simple fact; most of her plan's acts, with the student council resignation and Y2V10 Meeting being the best displays of this.

But really, Hona's actions in Y2V9 are enough for Nagito. The timing of her rumor mills #1 with Miyabi's neutralization & the engineering of the friend nest Hona aimed to create for Kiyo with her classmates, as well timing it with the start of the KiyoKei fracture & break the ice between herself and Kiyotaka, in which she continued the process for future contingency to, if necessary, try to coerce Kiyo in the promise meeting via her manipulations of Norihito to make him rely on Kiyo for his personal woes ahead of time to prepare for the Y2V10 meeting misdirection while continuing to collect info on Kiyo to understand him better and his relationship with Kei all the while concealing any footprints of all that planning from Arisu and any possibly harmful kouhais / teachers, eviscerates anything Nagito has ever done in his whole life with regards to his preparations' serviceability.

Verdict: Honami Low-Mid Diff. The key difference between Honami and Nagito's planning applicability is that Hona's preparations never cripple each other. Nagito also doesn't have any performance for this subcat that is remotely comparable to Honami's Y2V9.

Planning Contingency

Planning Contingency is measured by the character's ability to create other plans or backup plans for future events that could occur for a potential outcome or to gain security or insight incase of a discrepancy.

Honami's main contingency is her entire scheme in Y2V12.5. As a backup plan, it is drastically more complex as its own thing than Nagito's messages post trial or the layer of within his traps, while the two are equal when it comes to containing discrepancies. The coercion Hona created during the Y2V10 Meeting in the event she had won the EoY exam is also important to note. Gathering the materials for her coercion contingencies in case she had won the exam and Kiyo wasn't... enough into what she wanted him to do beyond just this and that involved a more complex set of mind games than for Nagito to put his own contingencies in place; he faced low adversity when it came to this facet of his plan - the messages are obvious, but Nagito could set up the warehouse as it pleased him when the others were distracted, admittedly because of his own initiatives.

Verdict: Honami Mid Diff. The process for Honami to both create and set her contingencies in place involved much more cognition. Nagito could have scaled higher in this, to the point of extreme diff if some layers of his trap weren't undermined by his coverage.

Planning Formulation

Planning formulation is how quickly a character can come up with a plan in a relatively short period of time.

It's not exactly clear when Nagito formulated his plan but it was before Gundham's class trial had ended, given his talk of opening act and whatnot. His plan as a whole was more complex than Kei and Kiyotaka nominations in Y2V10 and Y2V9.5 gym fabrication. As written on the first page, feats outside of one plan can't be used for this comparison, so no Ichika and partner exam don't count.

Verdict: Nagito Low Diff. This is pretty simple. Nagito made his whole plan (or most of it) very quickly, possibly as soon as he left the FDR. Hona's formulation speed feats revolved around some tactics and were in all likelihood less speedy as well.

Planning Accuracy

Planning accuracy measures how the abstractions of your plan translate into reality and everything connects together reliably.

There's no use repeating the same things over and over again. The preparation process went along with Hona's foresight of ANHS's schedule and social engineering went as planned. Nagito never had to concern himself with any form of complex schedule and social cognition or at least never to Honami's extent. Nagito's plan had him deceive significantly less people, none of whom could be described as schemers or outsmarting characters with individual agendas, over a much shorter and simpler time span.

But that doesn't mean Nagito is "meh" at planning accurately. Far from it. He anticipated everyone using the fire grenades to put out the fire and make his plan go smoothly. He also expected that the group would flip the Monokuma panels he prepared beforehand.

But Honami's forecasting of everyone else's actions were usually more difficult to nail down than Nagito's. Some examples; Miyabi having her and Suzune compete for the SCP seat on the 2nd week of December, before its last day prior to the following weekend or him sending the photo to Kei via a third party after school but right before the winter break, nailing the timing with perfect accuracy. Honami's anticipations of her classmates around the same time (mainly them asking Kiyotaka to investigate her discreetly as well as Kiyotaka telling her to decide where they would go first and the predictions of the Hokkaido trip grouping in the first place along with Norihito starting to see him as someone reliable) + Norihito in the Y2V10 meeting (that Nori was coming back to Kiyo's room) are ridiculously strong secondary cases.

Verdict: Honami Mid-High Diff. Neither are bad at this and giving it to Nagito is not criminal, but I believe Honami definitely takes it, taking in factors such as foresight and the difficulty involved with getting things accurate.

As for Long Term Planning and Short Term Planning, obviously they should go to Honami and Nagito respectively.

Conclusion

Honami's planning was significantly more complex and detailed than Nagito's. She took much, much more in consideration without having his glaring holes when it comes to what she failed to consider. Despite these complexities, Honami's planning had much more room to adjust and improvise when such assets were advantageous or necessary & it was efficient when it came to using her limited set of assets. Being an intricate plan for its own sake doesn't mean much on its own, although Honami's planning had a stronger structure with each step being timed & connecting nicely despite her disadvantages regarding her setting's randomness, resources & limitations compared to her possible enemies. Thus, Hona takes every commonly used planning subcats from Nagito with the exception of Formulation Speed and Short-Term Planning.

Message XorPaw on Reddit, Youtube, Discord, etc for contentions.