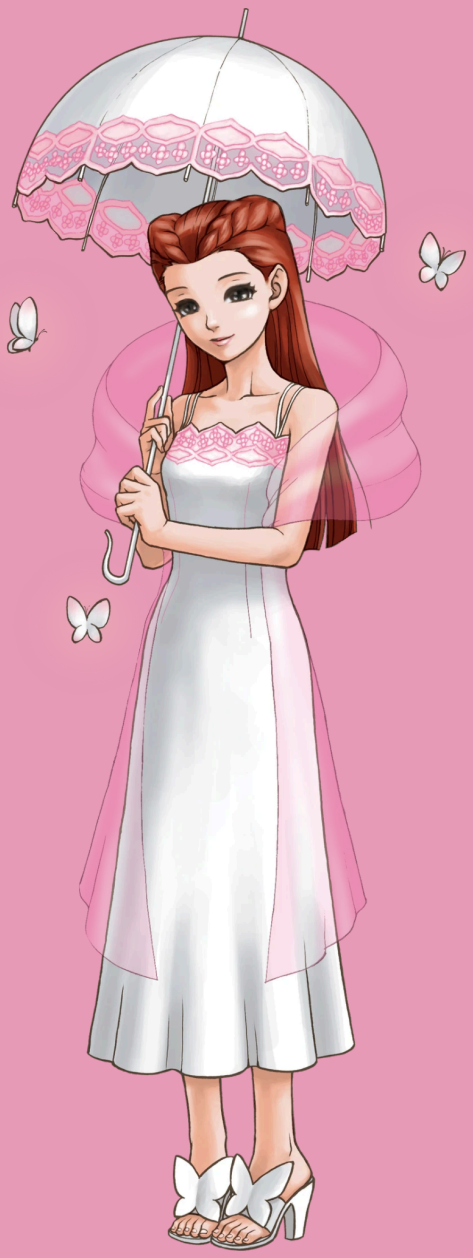
Dahlia Hawthorne (REVISED)

“Melissa Foster”

“Teen Angel”



"From the day I was born to the day I died, I never helped anyone! I lived for myself and, in the end, I died for myself. I thought that was obvious." - Dahlia, about herself.

Lore/Background:

As a young girl, Dahlia had an extremely difficult upbringing, her father married her mother believing she'd become a powerful political figure in the Fey Clan, however when she lost that position to her sister, Dahlia's father divorced her and took Dahlia and Iris.

Dahlia's father remarried and thus she met her step sister- Valerie Hawthorne. Besides this, Dahlia found her twin Iris to be a nuisance and convinced her father to abandon her to the Hazakura Temple.

Over time, Dahlia would grow to loathe her father and begin concocting her plan to rob him.

(Acting skills, verbal + non-verbal deception, persuasion, long term planning, emotional management, self-awareness)

Plot against her father/kidnapping plan/new identity:

At the age of 14, Dahlia had already begun her plan to rob her father. She got into a relationship with her tutor- Terry Fawles- and clearly having made him fall into an intensely deep love, made a pact with him- if the pair would ever reach a point where they could no longer trust each other, they would drink poison and die, this poison is kept in a bottle-necklace that appears as so:



(Yes, this is the very necklace Dahlia would later give to Phoenix Wright)

Following this the plan was incredibly simple, but also very ingenious. The sisters (taking advantage of Valerie's role as a police officer) and Fawles were to stage a kidnapping, with

Fawles being the kidnapper so that they could scapegoat him for the entire thing and demand a diamond worth $2 million. They selected “Dusky Bridge” as the location for the exchange, with its close proximity to the temple Iris had been left at as a child so that Dahlia could recruit her to assist in the plot.

When they met at the bridge, Valerie shot Terry in the shoulder and Dahlia intentionally leapt from the bridge taking the diamond with her- Valerie then arrested Terry and testified to him murdering Dahlia. As a result of this, Fawles was convicted and sentenced to death row- Iris never showed up to assist in the plan, however this has little to do with anything, and only serves for why Dahlia despises her in the final case of Trials & Tribulations.

Their plan had worked and Valerie- through her position as a police officer- forged Dahlia the necessary documents to swap her identity to “Melissa Foster”. Her new identity had allegedly lived in another country until only two years prior and after the deaths of her parents, had fled, but without her original ID papers.

(social skills, leadership, cunning, relationship management, impulse control, mental fortitude, direct + emotional + social manipulation, fabrication, mass deception, extortion,

seduction, emotional understanding + facilitation + realization + engagement, long term planning, planning invincibility + accuracy + intricacies, strategic + creative thinking, setting traps, scapegoating, adaptability, control over victim, abusing insecurities, lovebombing)

Turnabout Beginnings - Plan:

This segment will explain Dahlia's plan only, the following segment will specify her courtroom appearance.

CONTEXT: FAWLES HAS ESCAPED DURING HIS TRANSFER TO ANOTHER PRISON, STILL CONFUSED AND NOT UNDERSTANDING WHAT HAPPENED AT DUSKY BRIDGE- NOT REALISING HE WAS BETRAYED- CALLS VALERIE AND THEY AGREE TO MEET AT DUSKY BRIDGE TO EXPLAIN; VALERIE CALLS DAHLIA, TELLING HER SHE PLANS TO TELL FAWLES THE TRUTH, DAHLIA FEARING WHAT COULD RESULT FROM THIS, INSTEAD KILLS VALERIE

Dahlia stabs her sister at Dusky Bridge, then, to create an alibi, goes to the meadow below the bridge and takes several photos of herself there, ensuring to use up most of the film, she then sets a timer on her camera for one final photo.

When Fawles arrives in a stolen car and goes to collect his old present from Dahlia that they had buried together at Hazakura Temple (the bottle-necklace), she hides her step-sister's corpse in the trunk of the stolen car , puts on her clothes- disguising herself- and goes to meet Fawles at the agreed place- Dusky Bridge.

Here, her camera takes the aforementioned final photo:



Furthermore, by killing Valerie- the person who had Fawles put away (here), it establishes a clear and distinct possible motive for Fawles, placing him under even more suspicion.

(>Judge: Aha...! I see... The man who was sentenced to death based on her testimony escaped two days ago... ...with only one

thing on his mind. To take revenge against the woman who convicted him. ... Hmm... Aha! The truth is becoming clear to me now!

>Mia: Huh?

>Judge: Yes, yes... It's quite obvious that the defendant is guilty.)

(planning, planning formulation, planning coverage, fast + creative thinking, fabrication, misdirection, scapegoating, concealment, disguise, prediction, VSI)

Turnabout Beginnings - Court:

>Judge: Hmm... Ohh... When I look at you... How can I put it...? You look as scrumptous [sic] as a double-double and a dozen doughnut holes... I feel like I want to hurry up and hand down a verdict just to have a bite...

*>Edgeworth: ...*sigh* As I said before... This witness is very sensitive and delicate. I would ask the court to please exercise care when addressing her.*

I will refer to Dahlia as Melissa for the next segment until Mia Fey reveals that Melissa *is* Dahlia, since the world is under the impression that Dahlia was killed years ago by Terry Fawles. Immediately, the court is infatuated with Melissa, the Judge clearly falling for her and Edgeworth requesting the court to "exercise care" with her.

>Melissa: Umm... Sir?

>Judge: Hmmm... Eh? Yes, my dear?

>Melissa: This is my first time, so I'm sure I'll make a lot of mistakes. Anyway... I just wanted to say I'm sorry for all the trouble I might cause...

By saying this line right off the bat and playing into sympathy, Melissa is able to get away with "mistakes" in her testimonies and as a result, is able to adapt and revise them (SIDE NOTE REGARDING THIS: *TECHNICALLY* most Ace Attorney characters just do this anyway, with it being rare for them to face repercussions- most simply say something slipped their mind before amending their testimony, however, here it's actually explained quite well, so I felt like noting it).

>Mia: ...And you were the one who took this photo? Is that accurate?

>Melissa: Waaaaaah! H-How can you be so mean...?

>Judge: Now see here! What are you doing shoving that in her face like that!?

>Mia: Huh? B-But it's just a photograph! It's not like it's something dangerous!

>Judge: Next time I'll be forced to penalize you!

Again, Melissa plays heavily into being a victim and invoking defence from the Judge.

Melissa's 1st testimony:

>Melissa: I... I was using my camera to take some pictures of wild flowers. Then, I noticed there were two people standing up on the suspension bridge. Suddenly, they just started fighting! That's when I hurried and took the photo that shows the crucial moment. The victim turned around and tried to run away, but... And right after that, I called the police. She only got about 10 yards before she was stabbed in the back.

Mia catches the “contradiction” in the fact that there’s no way Valerie could “run” anywhere since according to the court records, Dusky Bridge was collapsed.



Here, however, Miles jumps in and says that the court record diagram may not be accurate to the time of the murder- since no official blueprints of Dusky Bridge exist, completely overturning Mia’s advances and thus restoring the validity of Melissa’s claim (so... thanks Edgeworth?).

Melissa’s 2nd testimony:

>Melissa: After he stabbed her in the back, he quickly picked her up in his arms. Then he carried her over to the car. I suppose that was the only way he could make sure the body stayed hidden. He couldn't just leave the body on top of the bridge. Oh, I'm sorry... I'm only supposed to talk about what I saw.

Annoyingly, this testimony has a really large contradiction... but, we need to get into it anyway. Mia points out that ***FROM MELISSA'S OWN PHOTO***, it's not possible to see over the cliff and thus, the car- in other words, Melissa should not have been able to see said car if she really was where she claimed to be standing.

Recall earlier? Here it pays off, and Melissa is able to get a second chance by saying she misremembered and playing into how traumatic witnessing such an event was. Again however, Melissa follows this up with another mistake... claiming the killer broke into the trunk to store the corpse- Mia asks how she could know that, and Melissa says the scratch marks on the trunk show that it was broken into, Mia argues that the only way Melissa should have been able to notice those scratch marks, would be if she was the one putting the corpse into the trunk.

Mia continues by saying that is Fawles had been the one to put the corpse into the trunk, he wouldn't have needed to break it open since when he stole the car the key would have been in the ignition, regardless, Mia points out that since the camera had a timer feature, Melissa wouldn't have to be in the field at the time the camera went off, and argues that she had taken

Valerie's place at the bridge after killing her and stuffing her in the trunk herself.

Melissa "faints" - using this time to regather her thoughts in the Lobby. Meanwhile, Fawles spills the details of the **kidnapping plan** to Mia.

As court resumes, Melissa says:

>Melissa: Umm... Excuse me... May I speak, Mr. Judge?

>Judge: Of course! Mr. Judge is ready anytime you like!

>Melissa: I'd like... I'd like to say something. Some people here are suspicious of me, right? Th-That's why... I... I at least wanted you, Mr. Judge, to know that it's not true...

>Judge: Hmmmmm! I see! You're such an honest and upstanding young lady.

As per usual, Melissa pushes forwards the narrative that she's innocent and does so in a cunning manner, using her innocent demeanour to invoke sympathy from the Judge himself.

Eventually however, Mia reveals that “Melissa” was in fact Dahlia Hawthorne, the supposed victim in the kidnapping incident prior. Dahlia testifies as follows:

>Dahlia: Five years ago, I was kidnapped by Mr. Fawles. The ransom price was a raw diamond. My sister, Valerie, brought it to the bridge... After she made the exchange, she shot Mr. Fawles in the arm! That's when Mr. Fawles tried to kill me by shoving me off the bridge from behind! I survived, but I was afraid I might be kidnapped again for my family's money... So I decided to change my identity and start a new life...

Mia breaks through this piece of testimony as well by revealing that Dahlia must have jumped off the bridge herself, since there was no plausible way for Terry to have thrown her over, with the motive being the $2 million diamond she had stolen.

Dahlia however counters quickly, saying that Mia needs evidence to back up such a claim, evidence that she at the young age of 14 had concocted such a malicious plot. Mia not having any such evidence, is unable to press further,

HOWEVER, Diego Armando - later, Godot - comes in and says that there is the possibility of testimony from Terry Fawles himself. He is called to the stand and begins to testify.

Eventually however, this happens:

>Fawles: ..... Urp!

>Mia: Huh? Mr. Fawles...!?

>Fawles: Th-That's enough... Please...

>Judge: W-Witness?

>Fawles: I-I promised her... 5 years ago... If it ever happens... ...that we can't trust each other no more... Then... ...we're supposed to... drink... bottle... Ugh...

>Edgeworth: N-No! Stop the trial! Your Honor! We need a recess!

>Fawles: I... I was stupid... Couldn't... keep... promise... So I did it... I... drank... this...

>Mia: No! We are so close! Just a little more... I was going to prove your innocence!

>Fawles: No... Don't want that... Don't... trust... self... Maybe kill again... Kill sweet Dahlia... again...

>Mia: Mr. Fawles!

>Fawles: Mr. Ar... Armando... Th-Thanks... For the... coffee...

>Mia: MR. FAAAAAAAAWLES!!!!



With Terry dead, the trial has no means to continue and Dahlia is able to leave without any repercussions whatsoever.

“What a joke. YOU, MS. FEY... Are you stupid or something?”

(direct + emotional + verbal + event + social manipulation, suicide inducement, verbal + non-verbal + strategic deception, acting skills, disguise, guilt tripping, seduction, scapegoating, psychological insight, psychological warfare, crystallised + interpersonal + social intelligence, VCI, PSI, emotional understanding + facilitation + realization, social skills + integration, charisma, cunning, mental fortitude, cognitive discipline, sophistry, fast + creative + thinking, strategy shielding + adaptability, counter difficulty, improvisation, trap evasion, anticipation)

Diego Armando's "death" & Extras

This segment is for Dahlia's attempted kill on Diego and also just some minor narrative statements that I want to mention.

As mentioned in Turnabout Beginnings, Dahlia is in fact a literature student at Ivy University.

Following the events of **Turnabout Beginnings**, Diego Armando attempts to investigate more into Dahlia. Six months later, Diego meets Dahlia at the cafeteria of the courthouse, where she slipped some poison (that she had stolen from Doug Swallow - her then boyfriend) into his coffee using her bottle necklace. Diego would end up going into a coma as a result of this, only eventually waking up and donning the mask of Godot, but that's irrelevant for now.

Dahlia flees the cafeteria and meets Phoenix Wright at the reading room, giving him the bottle necklace and claiming that she had fallen in love with him to dispose of the evidence. As a result of the stealing of poison, Doug breaks up with her. At the time, Dahlia planned to kill Wright to take back the necklace, but Iris begged her not to and opted to take the necklace back for her, adopting her sister's identity and attempting to get the necklace back herself.

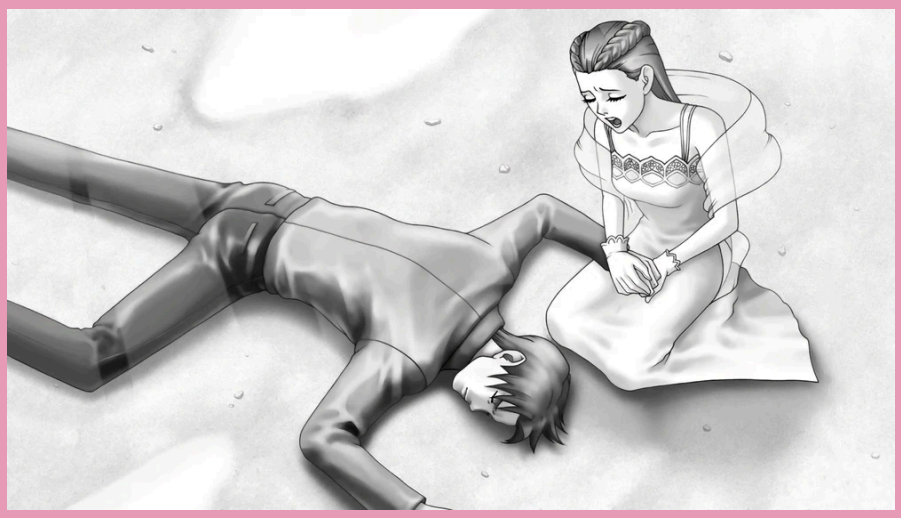
(planning formulation + planning, setting traps, trap evasion, cunning, relationship management, social skills, seduction, lovebombing, charisma, emotional management + facilitation, composure, VCI, TRI, GAI, WMI, Academics)

Turnabout Memories - Plan:

This segment will explain Dahlia's plan only, the following segment will specify her courtroom appearance. To be completely honest, this plan and the following appearance in court, are just objectively worse than her earlier plans in the document- why? Because even though they're chronologically earlier, they come later in the game and so are at a point where the game is harder.

Dahlia suspects (rightfully so), that Iris has actually fallen in love with Phoenix. As a result, she set out to do what she originally planned- kill Wright. She plans on stealing poison from Swallow again and then poisoning Wright's medicine, however, she notices Swallow trying to warn Wright about her and after Wright pushes him and angrily leaves, decides to kill Swallow there and then, electrocuting him with a power line.

She then plants Wright's medicine in Swallow's hands and pretends to mourn him when other students (+ Wright) arrive.



(non-verbal deception, PSI, CPI, emotional understanding + engagement + perception, adaptability, planning formulation + intricacies + coverage, improvisation, fabrication)

Turnabout Memories - Court:

(Note that the Judge in Turnabout Beginnings and in Memories are two different people)

The second Dahlia steps up to the stand to testify for the first time in the trial the Judge says as follows:

>Judge: In my long career as a judge, I have been deceived by many witnesses. It's my job to doubt; to take no one at their

word... But in your case, I must admit that you radiate a glow of complete sincerity.

Moving onto her actual testimony:

>Dahlia: I had been planning to go back to Feenie's place after class was over. Feenie and Dougie... They were talking behind the building. Then suddenly... Dougie got all wobbly and just collapsed. That's when Feenie noticed that I was there. It didn't look like they were fighting, and I didn't hear anything unusual either. I went to go and find some other students and they called the authorities.

Dahlia's testimony here is deliberately weak and deliberately contradicts Phoenix's own testimony from earlier- she does this so that she can appear to be protecting Phoenix whilst throwing him under the bus all the while. Mia manages to catch onto this, but pretty much has to press forth anyway-

She points out the contradiction that Dahlia didn't hear anything, saying that there should've been a loud noise according to Phoenix's own testimony from before. Dahlia swiftly covers this by saying she had been listening to music at the time.

Mia then establishes that Phoenix's push on the victim couldn't have been what killed him thanks to the positionings of the wire and body- here Dahlia chimes in and testifies once more:

>Dahlia: The truth is... Feenie pushed him twice. The first time was into the electrical pole. That's when the cable broke. Then Dougie tried his best to run away from him... But Feenie caught up and crashed into him from behind. The cable snapping, and Dougie being electrocuted -- it all occured [sic] in less than a minute. Judge: Hmm... So after being shoved... ...the victim got up and tried to run away.
>Payne: And that is when the defendant pushed him for the second time.
>Dahlia: I'm so sorry, Feenie... But I... I just have to tell the truth. Am I doing the right thing? Am I, Mr. Judge?

Mia manages to break this testimony by revealing a 10 minute interval (between 2:55 and 3:05) between the breaking of the power cable and the stopping of Swallow's watch (the fatal electric shock). Mia then accuses Dahlia of being the true culprit-

Dahlia denies and says she lacks a motive- Mia establishes one through **"Diego's death"**, Dahlia attempts to dismiss the notion and says she has no way of getting the poison that killed Diego.

Mia establishes that she could've gotten the poison through Doug Swallow- even on the ropes however, Dahlia backfires with a strong counter:

>Dahlia: The amount of poison in the coffee was 2 teaspoons, correct? In order to carry that much liquid... you would need some kind of container.
>Judge: Well, yes... That's true.
>Dahlia: I was searched immediately after the incident took place. Payne: Quite true. In fact the entire courthouse was turned upside down.
>Dahlia: But... they didn't find a suspicious container anywhere, did they?
>Mia: (She's right... They even mentioned that in the report!) W-Well, you could've easily gotten rid of something that small!
>Dahlia: Excuse me, Madame, but this is a court of law! If you're saying I threw the poison container away... ...I think you need to show some kind of proof!
>Mia: P-Proof...!? (She got me good with that!)

Eventually however, Mia argues that the poison was hidden in the present that Dahlia gave to Phoenix: ensuing shenanigans occur and Phoenix literally eats the container while trying to flee the court, being brought back in by the bailiff. He reveals further testimony that Doug Swallow had been warning him

about someone “stealing poison” the other night and how they had also done it 8 months prior (Diego’s “death” situation).

Dahlia drops her façade here, and merely demands that Mia present actual sufficient evidence to convict her or she’s leaving. Mia presents Phoenix’s “Coldkiller X” and says if this is tested and traces of poison are found- then Dahlia is really the killer. Of course, she’s correct and Phoenix is found innocent, later Dahlia is sentenced to death and hung.

(direct manipulation, strategic deception, acting skills, seduction, social manipulation, misdirection, deductive + inductive reasoning, setting traps, strategy, strategy adaptability + control + execution, non-verbal + verbal deception, cognitive discipline, emotional management, emotional engagement, VCI, PSI, WMI, CPI, social skills, charisma, cunning, counter difficulty, persuasion, improvisation)

Bridge to Turnabout:

In the previous Dahlia doc, I glossed over this segment and in my opinion, for good reason: Morgan Fey- Dahlia’s mother- is the true mastermind behind the revenge plot to kill Maya. Dahlia

only decides to go along with it since she views it as a last effort to get back at Mia Fey after her death by killing her little sister- unfortunately said plan goes horrifically and Maya winds up being perfectly alright, ALTHOUGH it costs Misty Fey's (Maya/Mia's mother & Morgan's sister) life at the hands of Godot (who's attempting to prevent Morgan's revenge plot from coming into fruition). As you can guess- Morgan's revenge plot would be a feat for Morgan & naturally the counter strategy is a feat for Godot.

So what *does* Dahlia do here? Not much. When she is initially channeled by Misty Fey- according to Godot's plan- which is in complete contrast to the original plan she believed she was following (to be channeled by Pearl- her younger maternal half-sister, Morgan's daughter). Dahlia hunts down Maya and attempts to kill her, however loses consciousness after being stabbed- she assumes that Maya did this (it was in fact Godot from behind). Wanting to ensure she could destroy Maya, she writes "Maya" in blood before passing out.

She wakes up again later in Sacred Cavern and during an earthquake is able to swap places with her identical twin Iris- this allows her to pose as her in trial, in court she testified that she had tried to cover up the murder for Maya, placing her

under heavy suspicion and almost pinning the murder of Misty on her.

Through typical Ace Attorney perseverance however, Wright eventually proves that “Iris” is in fact Dahlia Hawthorne, and later reveals that her final last ditch attempts had failed and that she had not in fact been channelled by Pearl, but rather Maya herself. As a result, Dahlia breaks down one final time, her spirit leaving Maya’s body having been exorcised.



(Note that this isn’t the end of the trial, Wright has to go on to establish who the real killer was- Godot, but it is the end of Dahlia’s involvement, so we’re finished here.)

(adaptability, perseverance, determination, improvisation, fabrication)

Dahlia's category feats explained:

Key: FSIQ, FSEQ, FSSQ, FSAQ, Intelligence, Manip/Decep, Thinking/Reasoning, Strat/Planning, Misc.

1- Acting skills, non-verbal + verbal deception, seduction, interpersonal + social intelligence, social skills + integration, charisma, cunning, social manipulation (Dahlia's deception and SQ are impeccable, she's effective and understands how to use her appearance to deceive others, deliberately carrying herself with an air of gentleness and skillfully hiding her true self- best feat: in court in Turnabout Beginnings)

2- Emotional realization + facilitation + understanding, lovebombing, direct + emotional + verbal + event manipulation, suicide inducement, psychological warfare + insight, guilt-tripping, scapegoating, abusing insecurities, control over victim (Dahlia fully understands and utilises the emotional impact she has on others, uses all forms of manipulation to cause her victims great despair and to throw them under the bus- best feat: Terry Fawles scapegoat + suicide, using gifts and false promises to get a firm grip on his loyalty and then abusing it)

3- Long term planning, planning invincibility + accuracies + intricacies, leadership, relationship/resource management, extortion, fabrication, disguise, scapegoat, creative + strategic thinking (Dahlia's "diamond extortion" against her father is incredibly well planned out in advance, she leads the plan and

uses Terry to take the fall for her and her sister, this plan also allows her to disappear and is pronounced dead, adopting the life of “Melissa Foster”, setting up for any later issues as well)
4- Planning coverage + formulation, misdirection, concealment (Separate from the above planning stuff, since to me, this is more dominantly displayed in a different plan- Dahlia’s murder of Valerie is done very quickly without little time and she formulates a pretty solid plan in the short period she had, she conceals her own involvement solidly and by using Fawles as the scapegoat- she sends heavy suspicion on him thanks to the possible motive)
5- Perseverance, determination, impulse control, self-regulation, emotional management, cognitive discipline, stress tolerance, mental fortitude (Dahlia constantly displays strong adversity capacity- in her extortion plan where she throws herself off a bridge into a raging river, writing Maya’s name in blood while passing out, managing her façades in trials and while under immense pressure)
6- VCI, TRI, GAI, WMI, academics, knowledge (Narrative driven due to being a literature student at university, besides this is seen in trials Dahlia is very well spoken)
7- VSI + prediction (Dahlia’s manipulation of the camera angle to take a photo of a meeting on a bridge using a timer, not amazing, but better than nothing)

8-strategy shielding + adaptability + control, counter difficulty, improvisation, trap evasion, anticipation, sophistry, logical + deductive + inductive reasoning, linear thinking (Dahlia sets up early in court the possibility of her making a mistake, this sets her up for later down the line during her testimonies after being called out for a contradiction, she's able to use her earlier comment to avoid any issues and modify her testimony, Dahlia bases her testimonies on sound reasoning using the premises of the case to actively push blame onto someone else to have them take the fall for her- feats in all her court appearances for these)

9- Emotional perception + engagement (Iris perception, Fawles + Wright perception, engagement in all plans)

"You're as foolishly optimistic as ever, aren't you... my darling Feenie? Do you want to know the truth? Ever since we met... I've despised you. Your sniveling naïveté and your pathetic faith in other people."



(Flipping love this artwork of her, so I have to include it)



(This one too, the artworks come from the TEPPEN card game by the way - never played, mind you)



Made by TheNoo (u/Due_Ad8334)
Credit to the Ace Attorney wiki for transcripts, quotes, images and help summarising.



Dahlia's 3x3 I made not too long ago. I felt like I should add it here. Note that "strategy" could've included shielding.

(Explanation for why Acting Skills is so high- taken directly from a comment I wrote, so forgive the wordiness)

"Her entire innocent persona in court is all acting. She's bloody good at it. Plus, with Phoenix (although this is only a small amount of time before she swaps with Iris).

Although I do also think that her concealment/misdirection can be up there.

She would've had to act in front of her father for many years, setting up with Fawles before finally committing to her kidnapping extortion plan- since if her

father thought she was rebelling/saw how much she despised him, he might put two and two together regarding the plan.

Furthermore, on that- she'd have kept this facade up in front of Fawles as well, and possibly Valerie (Valerie is probably the most shaky in that she might not have).

The fact that her true personality (being the far more spiteful and aggressive person she really is) only comes out in situations where she's at major risk for me are testaments to how good it is especially.

She also uses these skills to facilitate a lot of her plans, and even her court strategy revolves around it, making sure the Judge/prosecution feel inclined to "protect" her (scolding Mia and giving her second chances in testimony - trap evasion). It feeds directly into her social manipulation & nonverbal deception, guilt-tripping, her disguise as a whole is built on the persona, and her seduction feats imo, lovebombing, and those related categories (in other words, Wright/Fawles/Swallow) since a lot of her lines in her true form suggest she doesn't like the facade but uses it to take the most advantages and a few other categories I'm sure."