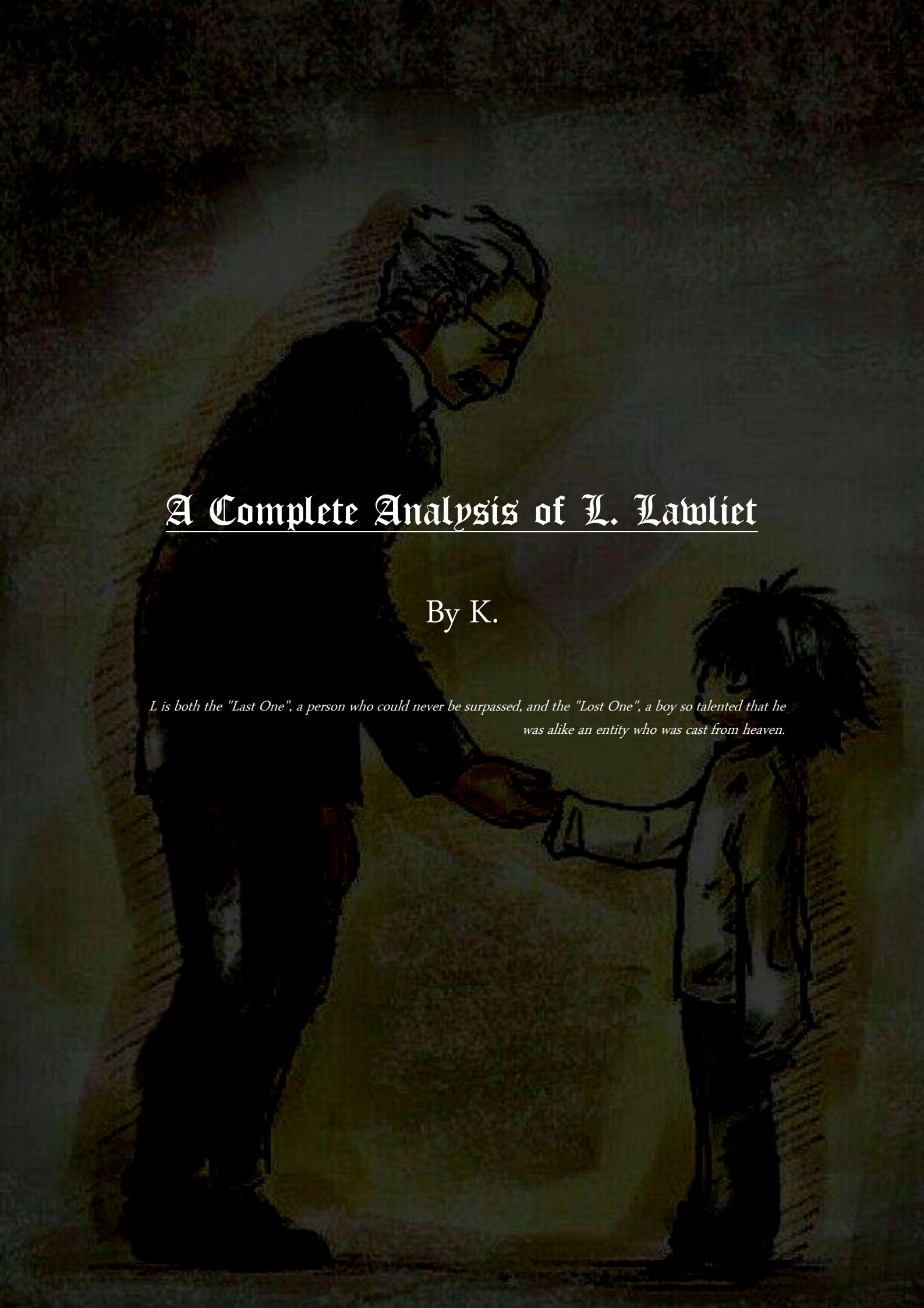


A Complete Analysis of L. Lawliet

By K.

L is both the "Last One", a person who could never be surpassed, and the "Lost One", a boy so talented that he was alike an entity who was cast from heaven.



Child (8 years old)

L, a starved, homeless child, solved the Winchester Mad Bombings, ending the entirety of the Third World War at 8 years old. Quillsh Wammy, England's best inventor, was so impressed by the child that he took him into his orphanage. On his first day of entrance, L singlehandedly fought a group of older boys, stating that they started the fight - a natural trouble maker. That same day, Watari saw L cracking extremely difficult problems with ease, and noted that the child "obviously possessed outstanding talent". Young L then learnt to operate a computer and program in under a day, asking for extensional equipment to build and modify the machine. Watari was so bewildered by the boy's ability that he started forming preliminary plans to modify the regular orphanage into a gifted one in order to find a successor to him. [LABB, File 15]

Aged still 8 years old, L told Watari to buy 1 million pounds worth of stocks in Japanese Yen, and asked to invest certain shares in specific companies. This was L's very first set of investments, and over 2 years, the boy carried on calculating shares and manipulating the economic stock market. He had multiplied all of Watari's assets by 20,000 the original amount. L was able to generate trillions in stocks as a 9 year old, mastering theoretical economics and a randomly fluctuating market after the devastating war. Adding the fact that L was a young child at the time, with absolutely no formal education, the unparalleled extent of his raw intelligence was obvious [File 15].

L carried on venturing in multiple intellectual tasks (such as becoming fluent in Japanese, English, Chinese, French, German, and Russian), and finally found something that actually intrigued him - a murder case more difficult than any puzzle, academic problem, or monetary manipulation. This serial murder case had no clues and had evaded the world's greatest detectives, but young L was able to solve it from his little room in the Wammy's House, with no contact with the outside world bar public information online, by using abstract reasoning and analysing motivations, circumstances, and psychological states. Thus, as a child, L solved his first ever case, one of the most difficult in the world. This was the birth of history's greatest detective. L soon singlehandedly won the Great Detective War against the two next best detectives in the world and marked himself as, simultaneously, the greatest 3 detectives of all time. L also carried at least another 3 digit number worth of monikers, most of which were also highly famous. In other words, L, Eraldo Coil, Deneuve, and another 100-1000 famous detectives were all monikers under 1 young adolescent, the most naturally gifted individual in the world, L Lawliet. [File No 15, LABB, Death Note].

At the an unknown young age, L leaves, and Watari transformed one of his many orphanages into a gifted home in order to find a potential successor to the prodigy. The orphanage generated world class artists (Linda), Mafia leaders (Mello), more detectives (Near), engineers and computer scientists (Matt), and more, but none have yet matched the intelligence or ability of L Lawliet.

The L.A.B.B Case (21 Years Old)

All the proof is in L.A.B.B, unless otherwise noted.

L kept his name hidden for a reason - he influenced the movement of crime to such a significant extent that it would be a devastation to the world if he was assassinated (ever since L became a detective, he'd subdued the entirety of earth's crime rate by at least 36% ["*at least a few dozen percent*"]). L had solved over 3500 unsolvable cases and arrested over 10,500 criminals alongside this. In fact, any case that was unsolvable by all the police departments around the world were classified as 'Level L Cases', indicating the need for L's genius. L was, at the time, stated to have the capacity of "*5 investigative bureaus and 7 intelligence agencies*", his skill rapidly advancing with time. It's mentioned that L was the carrier of the 'world's finest mind' and that this amount of intelligence in a man was "*extremely dangerous*". L was a potential liability in that he held almost the entirety of the world's detective power, so it was crucial that he remained anonymous. It is also stated that nobody in the Wammy's House orphanage had ever been remotely close to the intellectual power of L, though many wished to pursue the moniker of "*L's Successor*".

[It was fortunate that, after L died and Kira died 5 years later, world technology became much more advanced; advanced enough to make earth generally safer and make up for the loss of both L and Kira]

While L claimed an impressive record of arresting over 10,000 top criminals and solving thousands of difficult cases operating under his public identity, it's important to note that these statistics only account for the cases he worked on as "L." In reality, he had solved significantly more investigations using the hundreds of aliases and fake identities he assumed while simultaneously working anonymously on various cases around the world.

From the words of Mello, considered equal to Near by L himself and one of the closest successors to L: "*Even for Near and I, who were said to be the closest to L... the more we tried to be like him, the farther he got away, like chasing a mirage*".

...

In the LABB case, L was able to influence Naomi's situation and recruit her to assist him, though she was highly suspicious about why the world's greatest detective would need her help. L did not reveal his reasoning to Naomi immediately. He was able to deduce Naomi's nature from her actions in her training as one of the best FBI agents in the force, and placed her to work with him, deeming her personality suitable for the case - the main example implied being her attitude towards pointing her gun at a 13 year old child. L pinpointed Naomi and chose her as his 'pawn' to end BB's escape (it is mentioned by Mello that L commonly psychoanalysed potential pawns in order to get about the final capturing of a criminal after he had found the culprit). Though, L was genuinely impressed by Naomi's intuitive abilities and came to respect her innate character.

However, a while after the case was completed, there was a further mystery that hadn't been solved by anyone in the world - except for 1 individual. L Lawliet was able to form an shockingly accurate theory about the mysterious atmosphere surrounding Beyond Birthday's murders. For instance, L took note of how the victims did not seem to struggle and how their deaths felt natural. L hypothesized that Beyond Birthday possessed the ability to see each person's predetermined date of death, which enabled him to select victims who were already fated to die on the days he killed them. L theorized that this ability made murder easier for Beyond Birthday and warped his morality, as noted by Mello later on. It also explained why the victims did not resist, as they accepted

their imminent death, and why the murders did not seem to disturb the natural progression of the victims' lives. L developed this theory well before the revelation of the Death Note and the existence of Shinigami eyes. The latter development proved L's hypothesis correct - that Beyond Birthday had access to an ability like the Shinigami eyes to see human lifespans. This adds explanation as to why L had such an averse reaction to the confirmation to Shinigami and their eyes - L was able to confirm his incredibly abstract mental model.

Throughout the investigation, Naomi recognised all of L's predictions to be correct as he slowly revealed ideas to her. She recognized the insights to be true, becoming more intrigued in the mystery as L indirectly painted a picture of the case at hand.

As L gauged Naomi's abilities, he strategically fed her information and food for thought to drive specific deductions at precise moments. This allowed L to manipulate Ryuzaki through Naomi's initial naïveté until the final moments. When Ryuzaki least expected it, Naomi suddenly deduced his true identity as BB. She was then able to arrest him with the proof to back it up.

L proved capable of completely reading both Naomi and Beyond Birthday throughout the process. He crafted a meticulous plan wherein everything unfolded exactly as he intended, demonstrating his preternatural skill in indirectly manipulating both allies and suspects according to his design.

...

L hacked into FBI software and secretly contacted Naomi, bringing to light the Wara Ningyou murders, which, for some reason, had caught his attention. L asked Naomi for her assistance, and suspiciously, Naomi was on leave at the time. Naomi intuitively suspected that L knew she worked much better alone, and that he'd set the stage so she could operate at her best with no interference.

L leads Naomi to the crime scene of the 3rd murder and forces her to try investigating the room. He suggests that the missing link to which the murderer selects his victims was within the house, inducing her curiosity. She begins investigating. She notes that it was so clean that there was bound to be nothing at the scene, but L instantly reasons that the criminal may have done it on purpose to make clear a string of clues he wished for the detectives to find. This option was a very unlikely one, but it turned out to be true, much to Naomi's surprise. L then revealed to Naomi that there would definitely be a fourth murder in the near future, based on the counting down of the dolls. Naomi pondered why there wouldn't be a fifth, as only 4, 3 and 2 dolls were used, and 1 and 0 were left, but L teases that there can't be a murder with no doll left, as it would never be identified.

Naomi then asks whether L knew why she was on suspension, and L lies to her in order to keep her focused on the task. L asserts that he 'could find out if he really needed to', but this statement was a lie to ease her distress over the unfortunate mistake that left her on suspension. As they converse, L reveals that there was a random puzzle sent to the a few weeks ago to the LAPD which he knows is connected. The department was unable to solve the riddle for weeks and tossed it away, believing it was a prank, but L had gotten hold of the paper a few hours prior and immediately cracked it to reveal that it spelled the location of the 3rd murder. In other words, the criminal told the police where the murder was going to be. L also notices a pattern in the times of the murder, but he then tells Naomi that he is busy. L was always undergoing many investigations simultaneously, and couldn't speak to her for very long.

Naomi then encounters Ryuzaki, a black haired man in scruffy clothing and deep eye bags, at the crime scene. She calls L and L now knows that the killer is at the scene, and carries on manipulating Naomi to let her go along with Ryuzaki. Both Ryuzaki and Naomi find a hidden clue, and Naomi recognises that L's prediction was correct. Later, after Naomi tells L that Ryuzaki is suspicious, L assures her that Ryuzaki is a detective, yet another lie to keep Naomi's connection to the murderer and get the final endgame in motion. L then calculates the next murder day, 9 days after murder 3, which completely confuses Naomi, as the pattern had been 9, 4, 9, X. Naomi didn't not know why it wasn't 4, yet L came to this conclusion based on the evidence that only Naomi had provided. She begins to think about it, but fails (she finds out later after going through the riddle with Ryuzaki). Naomi and L converse for a little while, and L becomes inspired by Naomi's fighting ability, and considers takes up Caopeira.

A while later, L reveals to Naomi that the killer is Beyond Birthday.

BB is a child from the Wammy's house, an orphanage dedicated to creating a team of gifted children to try to replicate the talents of L. They were all back ups to the world's most intelligent man, and this induced strong insecurity in everyone in the orphanage. BB was one of those children.

Naomi carries on investigating and making theories based on some of L's suggestions and her own thinking.

It turns out that L always knew that the murderer was Beyond Birthday, and was simply waiting for Beyond to try a series of murders so he could locate and capture him. L wasn't looking for a culprit, but rather, looking for a case. Then, his reasons for requiring Naomi Misora - L predicted that by tackling such a small, non L-Level case, the FBI and other agencies would know that he had a personal connection to the case, and thus lead to L's background being found out. L had to capture BB off the grid. L also couldn't have any prolific teams working on the case as BB might have become afraid and abandoned his goal, meaning L would lose his location. L looked at the FBI database and selected Naomi as his hands on the case after accurately profiling the promising agent, finding a way to get her suspended using her last FBI mission blunder.

L had completely predicted BB's behaviour, knowing that BB was out to try and defeat L after he learned about BB's escape from the orphanage. L intuits that BB was aiming to create a "perfect murder" to defeat him, and thus, L was simply waiting for him to act. When L finds the string of 'riddled' murders, along with a coded letter (the one that L broke to confirm the 3rd location), he instantly recognises this as BB's attempt, and enlists Naomi as his set of hands to move the pieces and capture him. L's nature should be noted here - L was waiting for BB to kill. He wasn't seeking justice whatsoever.

BB was not the best candidate of the first generation of L's potential successors. That honour belonged to A, who killed himself under the insecurity and pressure of his failure to match L. BB was considered the backup to A in case something were to happen to him. It could be the case that BB became incredibly unhinged and depressed after A's suicide, and thus sought to try and defeat L by creating a truly unsolvable crime and ruining the man that 'killed' his best friend.

Naomi and Ryuzaki carry on making deductions about the final murder, which would take place in one of either 2 rooms, and she is left ready in wait. With all the evidence that L had tipped and Naomi had deduced, she made the vital key deductions in the final endgame and was able to arrest Beyond Birthday.

L found out about the case a few days after the 3rd murder, meaning L entirely solved it and set up the strategic capture it in under a day. He then required the next few days to set up the scene and lure Naomi to capture BB, all while fully depriving BB of the satisfaction of having L actually tackle the case with his full strength and ever touch or view the scene by his own hands. In fact, L never even reads any of BB's main riddles. His dream of defeating L was futile.

After the case had been resolved, and farewells between L and Naomi had been exchanged, L meets Naomi at a train station, tries to hug her, and gets thrown down a set of stairs for being creepy.

...

Many readers comment that Mello provides two opposing perspectives on L's role in the case - either he was aided by Naomi's efforts, or he solely coordinated proceedings himself. Upon systematic examination of the source material details though, it becomes obvious.

Mello is initially referenced as potentially suggesting Naomi's assistance saved L. But this isn't logically possible. Firstly, L revealing a case he found difficult, especially to someone like Mello, was improbable given his exceptional ego and drive to appear faultless. Moreover, L accurately predicted upcoming events that could only logically be explained by deduction of the full unfolding scenario before to its happening. A deficient or reactionary approach wouldn't allow such accuracy.

On reflection, Mello acknowledges the statistical implausibility of *L Lawliet* being ignorant.

Contrary to common assumptions overlooking them, L's deep indirect manipulative gifts are hinted in LABB through his subtle guiding the cognitive processes of others to unfold exactly as he intended, while preserving the appearance of noninvolvement. Many readers themselves are unable to recognise his influence throughout the story, which speaks volumes. L had singularly engineered the case's every progression and resolution from outset, maintaining absolute authority through stealthy puppetry.

The Kira Case - The hardest case in fictional history (24 years old)

This section will be long, but I will analyse every relevant instance in the Death Note material. There are an incredible number of popular falsifications and misunderstandings, and many people omit the vast depth of the story. The reason for this, in my opinion, is because we see Death Note in Kira's point of view. We see all of his actions, and thus, L's reasoning doesn't appear as monstrous as it actually is. Furthermore, I feel the anime 'shounenised' L's intelligence, and never went deep into his abstract reasoning - his reasoning isn't done justice in the material.

As such, I will explain all of the events of Death Note from L's point of view. There is a certain amount of speculation about how L was able to make some of his seemingly impossible deductions, but all the reasoning I have provided correlates exactly with the plot and his deductions. It should hopefully clear up many of the perceived plot holes due L's thought processes never being detailed [often marked with simply "..." followed by a random, seemingly plot-driven deduction]. If not the specifically the lines of reasoning I have outlined, then L made more profound deductions. I won't delve too much into Kira's POV, as you can simply watch/read the original story to get a fully pure depiction of that - every one of Light's thoughts is explained in the manga.

I hope you enjoy this vastly different approach to viewing Death Note. Please do your very best to forget all the events of Death Note and all of the actions we know Kira took, as that way, L's deductions carry their true phenomenal weight.

Part 1 - Deducing Kira

It is December, 2003. Police departments around the world talk about the strange heart attacks targeting criminals. They consult L, the world's greatest detective, who has firmly deduced that these are the actions of Kira, an international murderer. Forces from America, Russia, Canada, France, Japan, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom (G8) argue over where he should be located. But to their complete surprise, L is adamant that he be located in Japan. When the world's forces ask why L wants to do this, L states that he will show them very soon.

...

Lind. L. Taylor, otherwise known as "L", appears on screen in a worldwide announcement. He begins talking about the murders occurring all over the world, commenting on the nature of the crimes and their complexity. He carries on further, but he suddenly switches - L starts to taunt the ideologies of Kira on screen, calling him evil, pinpointing his childishness, and ruthlessly criticising his philosophy.

A minute or so later, L starts desperately gasping for air.

L is dead.

After a while, the screen goes static, printing only one large, black letter



A modified voice demonstrates his surprise at witnessing the events of such a killing, and explains that the man on the screen was not L. It was a double that the police had arrested in secrecy whose execution was planned that day.

L is fascinated by what he has just witnessed, and calls out to Kira, taunting him to try to kill him.

He waits a while, further teasing him.

As L predicts, he does not die, and he thanks Kira for the hint. In turn, he reveals the following.

> L planned the broadcast to only be shown in the Kanto region of Japan, and knows Kira is located there. Had this not worked, L planned to simply go about broadcasting around the country, restricting information transfer between the districts that had seen the message and those that hadn't through police control.
>
> L was able to trace the first murder to Kurou Otoharada, a small time kidnapper who threatened a nursery in Shinjuku. L claims that this murder in particular was rather low level compared to the criminals Kira seemed to be targeting, and was committed just before the large onslaught of criminal mass murdering internationally. i.e. L claims that this kill was an experiment to test out his powers - Kira hasn't been killing for very long. That Kira happened to be in Kanto was just a statistical chance as Kanto was the most populated district.

While these are the lines of reasoning that L revealed, he was able to deduce much more. This move from L was mainly a piece of proof for these prior deductions. Firstly, L is so certain of the fact that Kira is in Japan that he doesn't even consider another possible country. He then chooses Kanto as his first location to target, as it contains 1/3 of Japan's population. L likely used the kidnapping to posit that Kira was likely in that region. If not, L would simply know that Kira was in the other 2/3 of Japan. There was no major risk to his operation, given that L assumes that Kira would kill Lind. L. Taylor:

L was able to categorise and psychoanalyse Kira's behaviour from just 2 to 3 days worth of killing to form ***L's Kira***, L's prediction of Kira based on his behaviours, his motivations, the speed at which Kira killed, whom he killed, his somewhat naïve viewpoints, and more. Briefly, L's Kira is a young, bright, arrogant, slightly naïve yet very confident person who is obsessed with justice and a need for recognition (L depiction of Kira is actually far more deep and complex than this, but I'll explain as we go along). L wrote an very nuanced script for Taylor in order to evoke an impulsive reaction from L's Kira, reasoning that being criticised for his ideals would definitely hurt his ego, make him lose his composure, and kill the man on screen. Even if this isn't what the average highly intelligent person would do, L knew with certainty that L's Kira would bite. It was an extraordinarily calculated move from L that prayed on Kira's predicted personality - this was no mistake by Kira.

All L's deductions were perfect. He had deciphered Kira's personality to a perfect degree within hours of being on the case, forcing him into making a mistake that L knew would pertain to L's Kira specifically. In other words, Kira and L's Kira were one in the same.

L swiftly manages to prove Kira's existence, confirm Kira's personality, find his first murder, find his location, show the world that Kira is willing to kill those who are not criminals, and deduces that Kira requires at least a name and a face to kill. This is confirmed when requested data from Interpol showed that all of the criminals killed by Kira had their faces released to the public and those with misspelled broadcasted names did not die [i.e. the killing mechanism requires those 2 factors exactly]. The Taylor manoeuvre proved all of his preliminary theories correct.

L purposely reveals the most simple of his deductions to Kira, in an attempt to startle him. He now predicts that Kira's demeanour will drastically change in style after the Taylor gamble, and recognises that Kira will now be overly prepared in the event of any confrontation. L's Kira won't underestimate his opposition again, and more importantly, will be hyper cautious. As Kira now knows that L, the world's greatest detective, is looking for him, L deduces that L's Kira will be adamant on clearing any form of suspicion on himself as quickly as possible. All of this reasoning is added to L's mental framework of L's Kira.

...

L recognises that Kira is a student based on the general timings of the murders and the predicted age of L's Kira.

Soon, criminals start dying of heart attacks by the hour. Everyone in the police is confused, suggesting that Kira may not be a student, but L thinks otherwise - he deduces that Kira is controlling the time of death. L reasons that this is Kira's way of telling them that he doesn't mind police knowing that he's a student, and is stubbornly retaliating - but more importantly, this move means Kira has a connection to the police. L deduces that Kira wants them to know that he is connected in some way to the police force.

However, L has already deduced that Kira is not a part of the police. The police department knew that L was about to prove something on live television and show that Kira was in Japan - If Kira really was among the police officers, Kira could have easily found out the real identity of Lind Taylor through a private criminal database while the broadcast was still running, and wouldn't have killed him. Additionally, if Kira was in the police force and was surrounded by officers when watching the broadcast, L's Kira would not have been able to contain his anger and hide his emotions while he was killing Lind - He would have been caught by the surrounding officers. Finally, Kira had never killed any serious criminals who were high on the watch list but hadn't been made known to the public. L deduces that if L's Kira originally had this information, he would have certainly killed off these criminals alongside the famous ones, in order to both project his God-like image to the public and produce more effective killings [it's clear that an underground criminal who is on the loose is more detrimental to the world than a criminal locked up in jail]. No - L deduces that Kira never had the option to kill these criminals, or more accurately, never had it as his first option, as the information wasn't immediately available to him, even if he has the potential to access it. Further, the fact that Kira kills criminals most readily available to him matches L's Kira's excitement of attaining his new powers. If L's Kira was a police officer, then he would have been thinking about crime for a very long time, considering which criminals that had eluded the police were the most effective to kill off. Instead, L reasons that Kira kills as though he is thinking about criminals for the first time, someone who has recently attained the power of death and is going through a major God complex. Thus, L firmly deduces that Kira cannot be a police officer - it does not fit the modus operandi in the slightest, and does not match the depiction of L's Kira. It is for this reason alone that L is never truly suspicious of any official police officer throughout the series, bar general regulatory precautions. As stated before, the Lind. L. Taylor move was most importantly a way to check that L's Kira was an accurate depiction of the serial killer.

From that prior deduction, L deduces that it must be someone related to Kira that had this access, and that Kira got this family member's information through going through private files, a computer, or some other method. L has now whittled down Kira to family members of the main police officers on the case. L further induces that Kira intended for him to pick up on both the fact that he can alter the time of death and the fact that he has this access. L thus deduces that Kira's true goal is to cause a severe lack of trust between the police and L, so that they investigate each other due to this breaching of private information. As L has deduced Kira's true goal already, likely something that Kira didn't expect, and as L knows that his anonymity doesn't give him the opportunity to reason with the police, he begins to make plans for a much smaller task force to handle the case. L thus contacts the FBI to get 12 agents to investigate specific, hand chosen police officers and their families in order to locate Kira (The officers L chooses are the ones he intuits are likely to be a part of Kira's family based on general profiles, likely those with student family members). L also takes no serious precaution of hiding his investigation of the Japanese police. If it ever did come to light, L could easily map the change in behaviour of the Japanese agents and recognise whom would be best to join his personal team. He needed agents who would listen to him, no matter how bizarre his instructions may be.

...

A few days later, L hears about set of simultaneous new heart attacks. One of them writes a star in their blood, another writes a weird message, and another runs into the bathroom before his death. The others die with no further action. As soon as L hears this, L deduces that Kira can also control the victims actions, evidenced by their bizarre behaviour. L further deduces that this was a preliminary experiment by Kira in order to see the extent of his power, and 3 of his actions were successes while the others were failures. L reasons that Kira likely made all the criminals do actions of increasing difficulty, letting him know his upper limit of control possibility.

L tells the police to release the names of the victims to the media but to withhold the details, as in the case that Kira isn't currently able to access his family member's police information, he doesn't want to provide Kira with the results of the tests. Regardless of this, L knows that Kira likely received the results of his test due to his family member's connection to the police. L understands that Kira had learnt the extent of his powers, and L is now studying a red herring left by Kira - the message. L looks at the message, but finding that it's likely a bluff, becomes irritated.

As his mind wanders, L predicts that Kira will be plotting something major due to the sudden immediacy of Kira's experiments. L reasons that Kira must have recently seen one of the agents tailing him. He deduces that L's Kira was devising a plan to eliminate the agent, and so needed to understand the true parameters of his powers. He reasons that Kira is making a plan to obtain the name of the agent that is tailing him, and won't murder during the breaching - it's extremely unlikely that L's Kira would kill the agent on sight while he is tailing him. This would trace the murder back to the tailed individuals during that time period, which Kira wouldn't want. Kira will be doing many irregular movements, and L trusts that one of the capable FBI agents will catch Kira in the act, or at least inform L, who can then identify Kira and create a trap.

L further deduces that Kira must have an object on him that would incriminate him. If there wasn't such an object, and his killings were truly though his mind or through will alone, then there would be no need for Kira to plan to remove the FBI agents as there would be nothing for them to find.

L has a strong, underhanded proceeding, with the potential to obtain solid proof on Kira, and is now in deep anticipation, waiting to hear from said unknown agent.

...

A week later, L is sent some shocking news - all the FBI agents sent to Japan have been murdered. He is also told that the agents were told each others information before their death. Something has gone wrong - why was L never informed of any information breach? L instantly deduces that Kira had successfully compromised one of the FBI agents, just as L predicted - *So why didn't the agent tell L what happened??* When asked who it was that received the file from the head of the FBI, L is informed that everyone obtained it. L deduces that Kira must have thus known one of the agents names already, used that to blackmail him into getting all the names and killed them all. If L knew which agent it was that was compromised, Kira would have been found before the murders, and possibly proven guilty with a trap with the knowledge that Kira is going to attempt manipulating the agent into getting all the FBI file names. L's hidden plan was completely ruined due to the incompetence of the third party, the FBI agent who did not inform L of the bizarre behaviour that led to his compromise.

As L is theorising, the head of the FBI states that they will not be sending any more agents. The Japanese force now calls L after being informed that the FBI were investigating them, and are incredibly angry at L. While L becomes depressed that no agent informed him of the breach when they ought to, he was prepared for the Japanese knowing of the FBI investigating their families. He can now quickly filter who would be part of his smaller team to track down Kira. L now knows who is truly afraid of fighting Kira, and can cherry pick the most passionate officers, without ever having to interview them and reveal his identity. He tells the Japanese force members to leave if they don't want to work with him.

L was unfortunate; his strong, subtle trap was broken by the incompetence of the tailing FBI agent. L recovers, and reasons that the compromised agent was one of the first who received the file. L's Kira would have tried to

randomise the times at which the agents were murdered as well as the times they received the file, but by nature of his plan, Kira couldn't fully randomise the file order. L thus reasons that the compromised agent was one of the first that received the file, but likely not the first, as L's Kira would believe this to be too obvious. Therefore, the compromised agent is most likely the second one sent the file, Raye Penber, as well as potentially the third and fourth, Liam Zapack and Arire Weekwood. In other words, L deduces that one of those 3 agents was the one compromised by Kira.

L stands there silently, taking in all this information influx. While he theorises, he is still annoyed by the notes left by Kira, and let's out a sigh as he knows that they're red herrings. Still, he forces himself to look at them out of curiosity. He surmises that these notes could actually be used for a later time for a confirmation trap.

L carries on thinking. It turns out that within the span of a week, 23 burglars, cat thieves, and robbers died of a heart attack. Using this information, L forms an abstract web of deductions. L reasons that these 23 crooks to be too low profile for L's Kira to usually bother with. Thus, Kira used one of these 23 crooks to manipulate the tailing agent, and the other 22 were simply used to mask this event to reduce traceability. December 14th is when the FBI entered Japan, and December 19th is when the simultaneous murders occurred. L has already induced that these murders were experiments in order to make a plan for Kira to compromise his stalker, so Kira must have found out about the agent before the date of the simultaneous murders. Thus, it must have been before the 19th, but after the 14th when the agents arrived. L then uses the deduction of the 23 crooks to reason that Kira was successful, and led to the deaths of all the agents.

As such, L deduces that Kira was one of the individuals that one of Agent Penber, Agent Zapack or Agent Weekwood was tailing from December 14th to December 19th.

This is further confirmed by L's prior prediction - Kira would have attempted his kills a little while after he was being tailed. The deaths occurred on the 27th December, which was around 1 to 2 weeks after.

...

Soichiro Yagami, leader of the Kira Task Force, tells everyone in the police to leave if they are uncomfortable with the case. After only 6 agents remain, L tells them that he wishes to meet up with them. L knows that he is taking a risk - he reasons that it is extremely likely that one of the family members of the agents in his squad will be Kira. While L could normally force arrest someone after solving a case, the Kira Case is one of extraordinary complexity, and he knows he can't commandeer an execution without proof. L can't tackle this case using pure reasoning and logic without evidence like he normally does.

L feels excitement at the prospect of being in such an active position against the most powerful man in history, with the power to kill instantaneously - it entices his nature for challenging problems.

The officers finally met L, the most intelligent man in the world. He looks extremely different to what they expected, but they reveal their names to him. L points his finger and "shoots" at the men, telling him that if he were Kira, they would be dead by now. The officers find the young man strange.

L sips away at his extremely sugary tea. Matsuda suggests that they could withhold information about criminals to prevent deaths, but L says this won't work. When L publicly revealed Kira's location, Kira started mainly killing in Japan. L reasons that this is Kira proclaiming his defiance and drive to win. In other words, L reasons

that L's Kira would simply kill lesser criminals, or perhaps innocent people, out of defiance, posing that Kira believes he has the whole world hostage. L notes that both he and Kira are similar in their hatred for losing.

L explains that he has deduced Kira to be among one of the families that some select agents were tailing from December 14th to December 19th. The task force are speechless at how fast and how far L has honed in on such a monstrously evasive criminal.

L only needs 1 more step in his simultaneous calculation to pinpoint every single variable and identify Kira.

...

L reminds the task force that there should always be someone at the front desk in the case that anyone has information. Aizawa is sent downstairs.

...

A few days later, L is watching surveillance footage of all the FBI agents the moment they died. He is staying up, looking at all the footage, but when he gets to Agent Raye Penber's tape, it sorely sticks out to him. L notices that 1) the agent stayed on the train line for 1.5 hours, whereas L knows that the line only last for 1 hour and 2) the agent enters with an envelope and leaves without it.

L strongly suspects that the agent who compromised his identity was Raye Penber, and was on the train as he was detailing the other FBI agents. While watching Penber's last moments, L notices that Raye slightly cocks his head back to the train. L recognises this as Penber looking back at someone, human desperation, and intuits that Kira was on the train that day and took the file. L reasons that Penber was being blackmailed to write down a list of names, and has strengthened his suspicion that Kira is among families that only Penber was tailing from December 14th to December 19th.

L then receives an interesting call from Agent Naomi Misora's mother, who informs the force that she was Ray Penber's fiancé and had decided to tackle the Kira Case after Penber's death, However, the mother hadn't received any phone calls from her daughter for while, and is worried.

L begins theorising. Knowing Naomi's nature, he reasons that she should have tried either contacting him or tried confronting Kira. When the task force suggests that she may have killed herself over the death of her fiancé, L instantly shuts the idea down - Naomi wasn't that kind of person. He deduces that the only plausible reason as to why she couldn't contact him is because Kira has already killed her - Kira must have met Naomi. He further reasons that the only reason why Kira would kill Naomi is if she'd found an extremely important hint that would help the Kira investigation. If Naomi had a new hint and made inferences based on that, then L reasons that she must have obtained this information from Penber. In other words, L reasons that Penber had information about Kira that only he knows about - because he interacted with Kira himself. L has now confirmed that Penber was the compromised agent. The fact that Kira killed her so quickly further means that the information she obtained was a critical information the he didn't want the police to find out about.

L reasons that Kira manipulated her by capitalising on her extremely depressed state. He then to got her guard down, obtained her name, and executed her quickly to silence her. L updates his profile on L's Kira: Kira must

be a pleasant looking person in order to get Naomi's guard down, considering how averse she was to the rather abnormally looking Beyond Birthday.

L's reasoning and framework building was processing simultaneously to the phone call, so the instant that L ends the call with Naomi's mother, L states that he will solely focus on the 2 families that Penber was tailing from December 14th to December 19th: The family of General Koreyoshi Kitamura and the family of Superintendent Soichiro Yagami.

Shocked, Soichiro asks L what the probability of Kira being among those households is, and L replies "10%... no... 5%". By lying to manipulate Soichiro to let his guard down, he predicts that he won't be as hesitant to let his family be investigated further - after all, it is only 5%. In truth, L believes there is an extremely high possibility that Kira is among these families.

Nearly every member of the task force starts to criticise L of such a heinous accusation. However, while Soichiro is extremely offended, he reluctantly tells L to do the investigation in detail. Soichiro knows is very unlikely for L to be asking for such a request if he wasn't serious about the possibility. While L knew Soichiro would act like this after his comment, he internally respects Soichiro as a man with superior moral standing to himself.

...

The next day, L investigates the Kitamura household, but none of the footage bears any results. More importantly, while the Kitamura's oldest daughter fits Kira's demographic, she doesn't fit L's perception of Kira in the slightest. L quickly moves onto the Yagami household (letting the other members of the task force handle Kitamura), and believes there is an extremely high chance that Kira is here. As there is only 1 household remaining, L now depicts eldest Yagami child, Light Yagami, to potentially be Kira.

To check whether all of his extremely abstract deductions that landed on this young man yield true, he makes sure to watch the footage in extreme detail as the student enters his home. Light quietly goes upstairs, pauses at the door, and picks something up. L notes that he is being suspiciously cautious, with lots of mechanisms to check whether someone entered his room. What exactly is he trying to hide? And vitally, does he know that his room is being watched? L doesn't say anything until his theories are completely formed, and allows the events to carry on. Light enters his room, relocks the door, picks up a piece of pornography, and reads through it. Soichiro is alarmed by this and disappointed in his son, but L notes that he is being so careful to fit the model of 17-year-old boy that is strikes him as eerie. The idea of him having entrance-discovery mechanisms for sexual pleasure seems too standard. L of course predicted that L's Kira is now extremely cautious after the Lind. L. Taylor encounter. Additionally, L's mental model says that Kira was being tailed by an agent, and L further deduces that Kira knows he was on a watch list after he encountered an FBI agent, though Kira doesn't know the size of this list. As such, L posits that if Light is Kira, Light knows that he is being watched, and will assume that he is under high suspicion. L keeps this in mind as he carries on spying on Light. The fact that L believes Light to have picked up on the cameras so fast further increases the matching of L's Kira to Light.

Light nonchalantly remarks that the porn was unsatisfactory (note that L likely picks up on the fact that he says this loud enough to be clear for the cameras to pick up - L believes he is acting), and he heads downstairs to his family.

L decides to perform his final test before he decides whether Light Yagami is Kira in his extremely intricate mental framework of the Kira investigation. L checks to make sure the household is watching the TV, and sends a live broadcast. It mentions that 1500 abroad agents have flooded Japan to find Kira. L looks intently, with a blank face.

Light jokes with his family and states that the Interpol is stupid if the message is actually true. It's likely a rouse to pressure Kira, and he wouldn't be surprised if Kira knew about the plan.

As soon as Light says this, L smirks. This is the first time in the series where he shows true satisfaction.



L Lawliet has found the solution.

Every part of the puzzle connects. L's mental framework is complete. He knows that Kira was traumatised by the Lind. L. Taylor move, and also knows that Kira doesn't know just how close L is to capturing him. L reasons that this snarky remark by Light confirms that he's playing his role as a highly intelligent student, not backing down from a perceived challenge. The fact that Light announces this aloud makes L reason that he is simply projecting. L posits that, if Light is Kira, he is trying to make clear that he is taking a risk by saying this - something that the common perception of Kira probably wouldn't do [but something L's Kira would almost certainly would]. L sees that Light is an intelligent young man, who is confident, attractive, etc. Most importantly, L notices all of Light's parries, as if he is trying to avoid every little trip that might send alarm bells that he is Kira. He further makes a remark that would be dangerous if he were Kira to throw the camera watchers off. If L were just simply looking over multiple households, trying to identify Kira (as Light assumes is the case), this might have lowered Light's chances of being Kira. However, due to L's powers of deduction, he has completely whittled down the number of families to 2, and is basing his matching of Light to his perception of L's Kira. As L is already highly suspects that Light is Kira, all of this manoeuvring is explicitly telling.

L smiles and compliments Soichiro, telling him how smart his son is. As of this moment, L suspects that Kira is Light Yagami.

The task force members have no idea just how clinical this footage was, and carry on without L revealing his conclusive deduction.

After the Yagamis have dinner, Light takes some snacks to his room and sits eerily near an exact blind spot. He studies for a few hours, and puts his rubbish into the trash can.

Immediately after, Watari informs L that 2 minor criminals were reported dead. Soichiro claims that this makes his household clear of any suspicion of being Kira, but L is actually further solidifying his case. L deduces that Light, knowing that someone was watching him, purposefully killed 2 minor criminals while he was being watched in order to eliminate his candidacy of being Kira. Light is acting so identically to L's Kira that, despite this contradicting evidence, L affirms his suspicions.

L posits that L's Kira = **Light Yagami** = **Kira**.

Of course, L's deduction may change given alternative proof that is rigorously tested as true, but as of now, Kira is (and fundamentally to L's model, couldn't feasibly be anyone else other than) the son of the superintendent, Light Yagami. From this point onward, L spends virtually no resources on locating other potential Kira 1 candidates.

Light Yagami is Kira.

Time taken for L Lawliet to successfully suspect and locate Kira, the international mass murderer with the most elusive and powerful abilities of all time, from a population of over 6 billion humans: 30 days total [approx. 10 days on the case, 20 days off]

...

Intermission 1

L Lawliet habitually doubts his own deductions. Since his reasoning relies heavily on abstract ideas, he feels compelled to repeatedly verify his mental frameworks against reality. With no one to collaborate with, these constant checks are L's only way to gain confidence in his reasoning as he works alone. Thus, he will now need to perform tests to verify that his complex deductions were correct.

Before I carry on, I want to mention a few things about what I call "Part 1" of L's investigation, i.e. finding Kira.

In a paper called "L, anonymity, and avoiding entropy", a computer scientist discusses the scenario of Death Note. It reveals that a computationally perfect machine would have deduced, at most, 23 of the required 32 bits of information required to locate Kira (2^{32} = 4.3 billion). Yet, L was able to obtain all 32 bits of information. In other words, L was able to deduce a substantial amount more that what perfect logic would have revealed - and this is through the twisting of the abstract strings and conceptual reasoning to bring about his unparalleled inferences.

I believe L's ability to reason and form abstract connections is unmatched in fiction. Someone like Novel Sherlock Holmes relies on many minute physical observations to then sharply reason a few layers on, but L needs only 1 miniscule statement to make massive, monstrously accurate mental models of the case at hand. He has the innate ability to form and alter these models, intertwining them to bring about the truth through pure fluid intelligence. He is able to abstract the truth and reverse engineer occurrences to a near superhuman level degree. Furthermore, L knows that he knows next to nothing about Kira's powers - he has to keep a huge amount of possibilities open, swapping out abstract webs based on new incoming information, successfully doing so with the changing information: time of death, police information, control before death, etc. The incredible depth at which L mapped all of Kira's actions, as well as the speed at which L was able to locate Kira (despite the countless pieces of luck that completely ruined a lot of L's masterful plans and greatly aided Kira), reflects L's brilliance. L even formed a plan that would have capitalised on Kira's manipulation of the agent, and turned it into a huge advantage to himself - though this was of course ruined by Raye Penber.

While L did very quickly find Kira, that isn't what's most impressive. It's that fact that he was able to map *every single move*, with razor sharp accuracy, that Kira made. I don't believe any other character in fiction could have reasoned as ingenuously about Kira's actions as L Lawliet.

One other thing I see mentioned a lot is the idea that Kira had to balance his normal life alongside his criminal agenda, which, while certainly a factor, does not pose as a clear disadvantage. L was working on *many* cases parallel to the Kira one, which becomes evident when analysing the times when L makes his deductions. He makes his reasoning webs in short periods of time scattered throughout the 30 days. A good example is the week between the Kira's experiments and the murdering of the FBI agents - L was not working on the Kira case in this time period. Additionally, L slept on average 3 hours a day because of the number of cases he was working on. I.e. that Kira was a student does not pose as a distinct disadvantage, as L had a similar problem.

Penber not informing L of the breach is, in my opinion, the greatest mistake in the whole franchise [much greater that Kira's 'mistake' in killing Taylor - this was a confidently planned move by L]. L had a secure method of waiting for Kira to act before then capturing him on the next step, much like he did with Beyond Birthday. L was frankly *waiting* for Penber to tell him what Light had done, the events of the day, and how he got his name. However, Penber just kept the compromise completely to himself. Furthermore, the receptionists at the desk

don't inform L that Light Yagami met with a "pretty, black haired woman in a leather jacket, who was requesting to see L", exactly as L had predicted would happen had Naomi decided to investigate. Furthermore that Aizawa simply walks past Light as he was killing Naomi, I conclude L was extremely unfortunate, yet still completely aced the task of deducing Kira. Light himself admits that he felt another God looking over him, blessing him with extreme luck (like when he runs into Naomi by pure chance and finds her in a completely depressed state).

By the incredibly short amount of time that L found Light, there was no evidential proof, just extreme abstract logical deduction from L holding his mental framework steady. In an ordinary case, L could either simply forced an arrest or hired a sniper to kill Light Yagami. The case would have been completed.

But this was different. L was extremely eager to know how Light was able to kill from afar. L could also attempt to torture Light, but him being with Soichiro, as well as being forced into an extremely strict moral code due to his collaboration with 5 police members, made this option completely impossible. It's extremely likely that L would have undertaken this method to get everything he needed from Light had it been an option.

The game of deduction was child's play to L's reasoning prowess, even against the most godly power imaginable. But after completely deciphering Kira and locating him in an incredibly short amount of time, L does not know just how hard a battle he is about to tackle very soon in Part 3 of the investigation.

Part 2 - Confirming Kira's Culpability

L decides that there is no way to prove Light's guilt unless he forces the proof out of him, and ends the surveillance. He checks with Watari the date of Light's entrance examination. This is an extremely important test that Light has spent 4 years working on at Daikoku Private Academy, going to intense cram school at Gamou Prep Academy for, and taking many of mock examinations for.

It's hours away.

...

Hideki Ryuuga hasn't studied, doesn't know what the exam is about, and has no formal education. As the time for the examination vanishes, he stares intently at Light Yagami from across the room, who blazes through the examination. Ryuuga hasn't even looked at the paper yet.

Light Yagami finishes his paper and is checking through it. Ryuuga is called out for kicking his feet in the air. Light looks back at the strange looking individual.

With next to no time left in the exam, L Lawliet finally picks up his pen.

...

L effortlessly achieves a perfect score on the hardest examination in Japan - The To'Oh University Entrance Examination.

As the only full scorers in the country, he and Light are the representatives of the freshman university class, which will be commencing 2 months later.

In the meantime, L focuses on his other hundreds of parallel L-Level international investigations. There isn't anything L can do to advance the Kira investigation until the ceremony.

...

The ceremony commences.

Both Hideki Ryuuga (the name of an extremely well known pop idol) and Light Yagami begin with their speeches. *Interesting note: This is anime only, but Light maps out a very intricate speech, whereas Ryuuga simply improvises his own speech by perfectly reverse engineering Light's, reflecting the prior happenings of the investigation. I think it's cleverly done.*

When both candidates leave the podium, Ryuuga confronts Light with all the public information that can be found on him. Ryuuga notices that Light thinks he's extremely strange. Ryuuga tells Light that he has "important information on the Kira case".

Normally, when presented with such a claim from such a strange man, any individual would be mildly shocked. However, just as L's Kira would, Light acts nonchalantly in an overly compensating relaxed tone. "What is it?".

It's almost as if L's Kira was standing right in front of him.

"I am L".

...

Light stops talking - for a long time. L knows exactly what Light is thinking. L knows that Light is wondering whether this is actually L, and why would L ever actually reveal himself. L knows that Kira has absolutely no clue just how sure L is of his culpability, and this sudden meeting completely surprised him. After the pause, Light congratulates L on his accomplishments, if he really is who he says he is.

L used such a glaringly obvious fake name because he reasons that the killing mechanism requires the 2 factors - the name and the face - to distinguish any two people. L has made this distinction blurry. If the pop idol dies, L knows that Light attempted to kill him, as he only revealed his identity to Light at that moment. Additionally, if L himself dies as soon as he meets Light, it would throw suspicion on Light as Kira.

[Note: In the manga, L mentions in his thoughts that there is only a 5% chance that Light is Kira. The authors point out that this statistic is actually 95%, but he mentions it in his head? I believe this to be L's most major inconsistency, and it makes absolutely no sense for him to reveal his identity on a 5% chance. That would be a completely nonsensical and uncharacteristic move, especially given that he has never revealed his identity to a criminal before. L's percentages are inconsistent with his framework, and they don't reveal a thing about his suspicions - but they do carry a deep, fundamental meaning. I will explain what this actually reveals about L's character later on in his Monster speech]

L notices the slowness of Light's moves. He can see the clockwork behind Light's eyes, the clockwork of L's Kira.

...

The next day, Light and L play tennis.

Subtly, L wants to see Light's playing style to test his hypothesis. He is making sure his L's Kira depiction is accurate.

Light boasts about his tennis abilities, as he used to be the Junior Champion before hung up his racket in order to focus on high school. L retorts that, while it was long ago, he too used to play in England, and was crowned the Junior British Champion. After a while, Light asks whether he grew up in England. L recognises Light pondering whether to ask or not, and sharply replies that he stayed in England for 5 years, but Light can't deduce anything about L's identity from that. L can see Light's visible annoyance.

Light and L play their match, and Light wins by just a hair.

It should be noted, though Light won the game, L does not have a drop of sweat on his body throughout a single panel of the entire match, whereas Light is completely drenched.



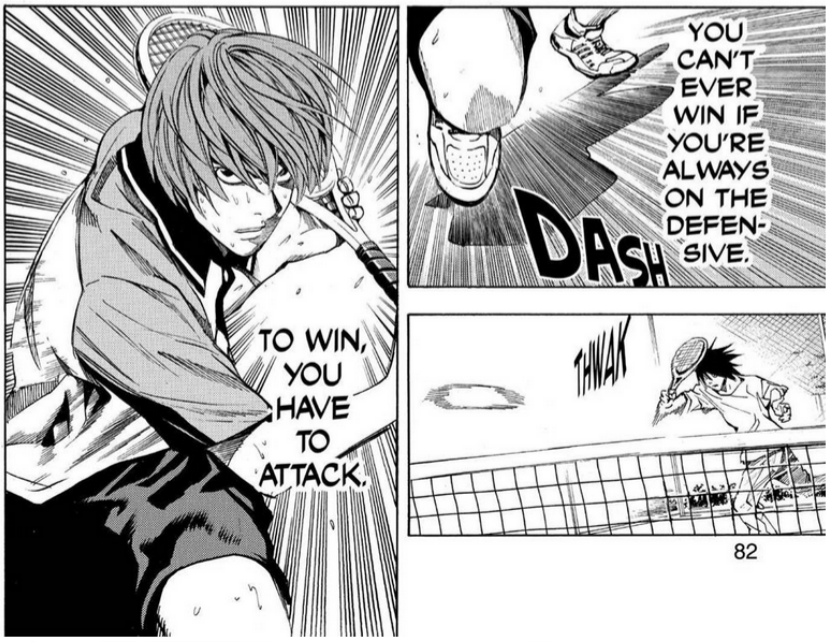
Evidently, this entire match is a foreshadowing of the events of Death Note. But I want to mention some more subtle points.

I think the sheer difference in effort put in by both individuals highly reflects the idea that, while L is vastly more intellectually talented than Light, Light has so much passion and love for his cause that he is willing to go all out for his mission. L, on the other hand, while will run, will not 'break into a sweat'.

L is able to read all of Light's thoughts during this match and predicts exactly what his next moves regarding the case are. L is even able to predict what Light thinks L is trying to do.



But it's very clever how, while L is deciphering all of Light's moves, Light comes forwards and wins the last point - a risky, somewhat hackish Hail Mary plan to beat L Lawliet.



I felt this foreshadowing and analogy was masterfully written in the Manga.

After Light wins the match, he suggests they get a glass of water, but before that, he wants to ask L something. L instantly predicts that Kira wants to meet the task force, and immediately interrupts him. L states that he believes that Light is Kira, acting as a barrier to Light's question. While he claims it is only a 1% chance and starts adding extra conditions, he is making a pre-emptive move to prevent Light's question, as it makes Light much more openly suspicious if he wants to confirm L's identity as a Kira candidate. Light is unable to ask his question, or rather, L puts tension on it. L wants to see how Light will manoeuvre the conversation back to it later on.

Light and L meet at a coffee shop, and L makes a bold statement that his abilities drop by 40% when he changes how he sits. He is giving Light a lot of random and bizarre claims to see just how cautious Light is being - Wouldn't the intelligent-yet-snarky Light Yagami have commented on at least one of L's blatantly obvious lies? L's Kira intense caution is obvious to him.

L is so correct about Light's caution that it's a eerie. At that very moment, Light is thinking that he has "nothing to worry about" and that he has "gone over all the case files over 1000 times".

L asks Light whether he can test his deductive abilities, and Light complies. L gives Light some food for thought, and he carries on gauging Light's attempts at parrying. Light replies instantly and effectively to each prompt, being careful to not set off any alarm bells. L then teases that many detectives took longer than Light dif - in fact, it's almost as if Light had planned to be questioned if he ever was a Kira candidate. L falsely praises Light at times, and then L decides to give him the actual test.

In short, L shows Light the 3 notes that Kira sent to him. These are the only ones that L received, but he purposely paints false print numbers on the back. L asks Light what he makes of them. There is only 1 configuration where the 3 notes make sense, but it disobeys the print order.

Light states the correct order, but points out that the print number makes no sense, and remarks to L that it's a trap to find Kira. L knows that this is exactly what Light was thinking - "This is child's play, the trap is obvious!".

L lied. L brings out a fourth note, one that Kira never sent, and claims it to be the truth. When this fourth note is added by print order, the print order makes much more sense. L makes the hypothesis that either Light Yagami isn't intelligent enough to come up with that, or Light Yagami is Kira, as he is 100% confident that there were only 3 notes. L knows that Light has a good level of deductive power from his comment of the 1500 FBI agents earlier on, and had Light been not-guilty, he likely would have been able to see that another note might have been possible. This is especially true given that L warned him this was a reasoning test, making abstract possibilities much more obvious.

In other words, Light has blatantly fallen into a Kira candidacy trap, as it shows that he was perfectly confident that there were only 3 notes - who else but Kira would be so sure? L knew that Kira would debate whether to go with the truth, or the print number. But fundamentally, L knows that Kira will not consider any alternate option, as, well, he is Kira. L knows that Light only considered 2 possible options, when someone who was intelligent yet innocent (as Light is trying to portray himself as) could have easily conjured the idea that there was a fourth message. This isn't concrete enough to prove anything, but L's framework is constantly reinforced the more he talks to Light.

L tries for a few more tests, but Light thinks better and cleanly avoids the traps this time.

L also reveals that he sent "fake L's" to other candidates to make Light feel as though this L may not even be the true L. He lies to Light telling him not to worry so much, and that while he suspects Light, he wants nothing more but to see if he is suitable to work on the Kira Case. L and Light discuss further, and L begins to find Light annoying, thinking that he talks too much. He can see that Light is desperately clawing at reducing any tiny chance of him being Kira. He reasons that, if Light wasn't Kira, Light would trust the process. It's clear that Light is only confident in himself, and not the 'truth' that he states he believes in - that he is not Kira. In other words, L knows that Light knows he has to prove *himself* not-guilty, and can't rely on the actual truth.

Light then brings up the topic of trust, and claims that it's unfair if L can question him but he can't question L. Light steers the conversation back to getting someone to verify that the man is, in fact, L. L already predicted this in the tennis match and recognises Light's attempts to find L's true identity. L then confuses Light by asking whether Light would be ready help out with the task force if he took Light to meet them all. Light is visibly shocked - this wasn't expected.

Suddenly, L and Light get a call.

Soichiro Yagami suffered a heart attack.

For the first time, L questions Light's candidacy as Kira, as Light was with him the entire time.

It turns out that Soichiro did not die, but was just suffering from stress.

L, Light, Soichiro and Sachiko meet. Light is acting so lovingly that L surmises that it's either the truth, or just over-the-top corny acting, much like L's Kira would. After a while, Sachiko leaves, and the three of them discuss in extreme length the investigation so far. Soichiro confirms that the man is L, the world's greatest detective. As they discuss, L notices that Light's profile of Kira is the same as the L's Kira. In fact, Light is picking up bits of philosophical reasoning from Kira's ideology to such a high accuracy that L believes only he, L Lawliet, or the criminal himself would feasibly be able to come up with naturally.

L internally posits that this contradicts Light inability to deduce the 4th note, and so, Lights culpability has further cemented - he is demonstrated strengths and weaknesses pertaining specifically to instances where Kira has knowledge. L glances at Light. He compliments Light on his ideas, and, as a test, he states that Light's profile incriminates his sister, Sayu Yagami.

L's test is a success. Light erupts in anger, and is completely taken aback. This is actually very telling to L: Why did he erupt? Is it really that inconceivable that his sister is under suspicion, just like he is? While Light claims he is shocked for his father's sake, Light/L's Kira may actually be upset that L considered the works of Kira to have been orchestrated by a child. L has teased out L's Kira's pride as a "God". He prods Light a bit more, and Soichiro breaks up them up.

Light and L leave the hospital, and Light once again desperately asks him what Light can do to prove himself as not Kira. L believes that this is an incredibly childish way of going about things, and notices that Light feels restrained by his suspicion, as if he can't act freely. L glances at him, and notes that the truth will reveal itself. Light then states that he would be willing to lock himself up for months to prove it. L instantly picks up on this - If Light is in fact Kira, and Light was willing to lock himself up for a long period of time, it means that Kira actually has a method of killing while being trapped, in order to throw suspicion off of him. This means that... if in the future, Light does ask to be restrained... it won't actually prove anything?

L lies, and states that he can't do this - it would be inhuman to do so. He tells Light to relax, and Light angrily asks how L would feel if he was under suspicion.

L replies that it would feel horrible. What he actually means here is that it would feel horrible if he was Kira, as L's Kira would hate the idea of not being in full control and not being able to move freely, like the God-like figure he perceives himself to be.

L then departs, leaving Light at the hospital.

After the events of the day, L has cleared up most of his qualms about Light's culpability. He will move onto further action with the full assumption that Light is Kira.

...

Intermission 2

In all honesty, if things were going the way they were at the time, L would have simply caught Light slipping up somewhere and captured Kira, or planted a trap to bring out the object that would incriminate Light. If the win condition for L is that he proves Light is Kira while he is alive, then at the current state, L merely has to stick with Light for a while. The case difficulty level was unfathomably high, but as the world's most intelligent individual, L was able to track Kira down and confirm Kira without too much difficulty. The case would have ended, just like all of L's prior 'unsolvable' cases. Light would have been arrested, and L would have moved on.

However, the win condition changes from supremely difficult [yet virtually accomplished by L] to statistically impossible very soon.

...

Part 3 - The Decay of Information

At the taskforce HQ, the members discuss the fact that Naomi's body has not yet appeared. L notes that it's extremely odd that her body hasn't turned up... perhaps if they found her body, he could find what it was that Naomi was able to learn from her connection to her fiancé and Light.

Suddenly, Watari calls L, telling him to switch to Sakura TV.

It's a message from Kira. A Hoax?

However, when Kira is able to prove that he has the power to kill, L has no choice but to believe this to be Kira.

But not L's Kira. L quickly deduces that this is Kira 2.

For clarity, let each new Kira be Kira X, where X is an integer based on the timing each one is introduced into the plot. Further, let "L's Kira X" be L's hypothetical psychoanalysis of Kira X.

L reasons that L's Kira 1 would never have the humility or necessity to kill small time criminals like the ones Kira 2 just killed. L reasons that L's Kira 2 was desperate to prove that he was in fact a person with the powers of Kira, lacking the raw , established confidence of L's Kira 1. Furthermore, he reasons that L's Kira 2 only chose criminals that L's Kira 1 would not have bothered with in order to not coincide with Kira 1's killings and foil Kira 2's predicted live murders. Additionally, the slight amateurish nature of the killing style again reinforces that this Kira has not been active for very long, whereas L knows just how cautious Light Yagami currently is. In other words, L deduces that Kira 1 is still Light Yagami, while there is a new Kira 2 that must be found.

L's framework is quickly adapted to account for multiple Kira's.

In a rage, Ukita goes to Sakura HQ to stop the broadcast.

He suffers a heart attack when he enters the building. Ukita dies.

L is mortified.

L's framework is completely twisted. As a matter of fact, L is trembling. This is not L's Kira 1's power... this is a Kira with superior killing power who does not need to see the name of an individual. L's framework has to instantly accept this new information - multiple Kira's, one of which has the power to kill with just a face.... Has L risked his life by revealing his face to the public?

L now has 2 incredibly challenging new pieces of information he has to account for in his model.

Soichiro gets out of hospital and drives a lorry into the broadcast, and calls L.

L instantly formulates a strategy to save Soichiro. L orchestrates the entirety of the recovery, talking to multiple people simultaneously while plotting and gathering the police squadrants and SWAT teams. He is able to ensure the safety of every person against Kira 2 after Soichiro's success in stopping the broadcast.

...

The next day, after watching all 4 tapes, L makes some announcements. Firstly, he informs the task force of Kira 2. Secondly, he tells the force that there is a high chance he will have to be put on screen in 4 days time, as the tapes Kira 2 sent commands, which meant Kira 2 would see his face and kill him. L then suggests that if he has direct access to one of the Kiras, he can capture the other. He also suggests that Kira 2 is much more feminine than Kira 1, targeting only criminals that appear in Women's magazines and pop newspapers and such.

L further deduces (thought doesn't reveal to the task force) that Kira 1 is likely going to want to find Kira 2, both for her killing prowess as well as to voice his disdain at the image her killing style reflects: killing "fodders". L adds this to L's Kira 1's framework. He further reasons that Light is much more rational that Kira 2. He notes that Light's goal will be to locate Kira 2 and, if proven to be in alliance with Light's goals, will be used to kill L. But fundamentally, Light will not actually want L to go on broadcast in 4 days time - Light would want L to find Kira 2 for him, so he can control her. L knows Kira's goal. In other words, L needs Light's knowledge of the powers of Kira to locate the second Kira in a short amount of time, as again, this Kira has vastly superior murdering ability.

The task force is utterly shocked, and questions whether L has thus cleared Light Yagami as Kira if he wants to bring him into the force. L lies to them, telling them that "while he can't be fully cleared, but he could use Light's reasoning ability. In fact, your son could be used greatly in the locating of the second Kira". This is very manipulative - while L does in fact need Light's assistance, it's not extra reasoning ability he requires - L is the most intelligent in the world. What he actually needs is Light's knowledge of the killing mechanics in order to quickly capture Kira 2. However, L's deception works, and none of the task force is able to reason, let alone testify, L's true goal with Light's acceptance to the force. However, L asks them to act as though this is still Kira 1 when they encounter Light for the first time.

When the task force probes why L doesn't simply suspect that it's just 1 Kira with an evolved ability, L reasons that L's Kira 1 would just target major criminals whose names he didn't have access too, such as those from major wanted photos.

The task force think L still suspects Light, so L feeds them another manipulative lie. He states that, if Light is able to deduce that this is a second Kira, Light will be cleared of all suspicion, as Kira 1 would want Kira 2 to kill L on screen, it would be best if Kira 1 suggests it’s the same Kira.

This completely eliminated the task forces' suspicion of L's true thoughts about Light's culpability.

Of course, L has already deduced that Light does not want this. In fact, if Light does deduce that there is a second Kira, and insists that they try to locate him, Light would once again perfectly correlate to L's depiction of Kira 1. L has Light Yagami down to the last cell.

...

An hour later, Light is brought up.

L has set some precautions, knowing he has just allowed Kira 1 into the force. 1) Nobody can enter the room and 2) Watari, "Fake L", who is outside the building, knows that Light is here.

This means that in any situation now or in the future, Light can't simply kill the other task force members and then stab L to death, for example, as if Light's body is not found (or he doesn't leave the room) then Light is proven to be Kira 1. This murdering possibility would have been extremely advantageous for Light, as all he would need for the life of the smartest man in the world and the only man capable of solving the case solo is the information that Kira can kill via stabbing (and additionally, by having L be stabbed, it could actually send disinformation - it could imply that Kira kills people he doesn't know the names of via stabbings, which is false - it would throw any other detective that isn't L off the rails). But again, L has accounted for this, and makes this move. L knows that Light won't resort to this now, as he induces that Light needs L's intelligence to help locate Kira 2 - but once Kira 2 is located, L knows this would be a strong option for him. He predicts that Light will ask whether they are the only ones here, and when he does, he tells Light the situation, inferring that Light can figure out that the conditions would prevent him from killing everyone.

When posed with the problem of the video tapes, L sees Light's visible confusion - this is obviously a second Kira to him. Light is angered by the difference in styles. Before Light can try to reason what is truly happening, L puts pressure on him - "What do you think, Light?". Light looks extremely annoyed, and outlines that this is a second Kira. When the task force reveals that L said the same thing, Light is fuming... Another test?!

L predicts that Light knew L was tricking him, and tells Light a lie - "If I was the only one that came up with the idea of a second Kira, it wouldn't be very convincing... you certainly are a great help".

When L suggest that they should stop Kira 2 first, Light agrees. L deduces that Light had already mapped out his intentions with Kira 2, exactly as L predicted beforehand.

Though this doesn't prove much, L has now set the stage for everything he needed, without letting anyone around him know that he is focused on Light's culpability as Kira 1. His comments and weaving through Light's reactions and deductions, along with L's mapped responses, have allowed him to manipulate both Light and the Task Force. L can now safely ask Light to act as Kira 1 in a broadcast to send a message. Nobody (except for Light) is alarmed by L's suggestion, though they certainly would be if L hadn't manipulated them and sprung this out of nowhere. Light is fuming inside, but as the "perfect student" Light Yagami, he says he will do it.

Light then writes up a script, and L deems it acceptable, bar Light mentioning that Kira 2 can kill L. They both laugh plastically at Light's joke (of which L knows Light was half considering).

...

The tape is a success. After the recording is aired, they quickly receive a reply from Kira 2.

Kira 2 mentions that she wishes to meet Kira 1. She states that they could confirm their identities by showing each other their Shinigami, and that she has the eyes.

L is so startled that he falls off his chair. He trembles in fear [Light, too, panics in the background: this Kira really is messing things up for him, especially given how brilliant L is... Light has no choice but to stop Kira 2 before L can deduce much further. For once, however, L doesn't notice Light's distress at that moment, given that he himself is going through something].

L's view of the world comes crashing down, his mental frameworks jolted. Does L really have to now believe that Shinigami actually exist?

I believe L's falling of the chair at first independent mention of a Shinigami by Misa Amane is highly foreshadowing L's death at the hands of a God.

Light does his best to get the task force to calm down. Light reasons that Shinigami could refer to the 2 Kiras showing each other their killing abilities.

L relaxes, and while the task force nods in agreement, he shoots a glance at Light. After L rapidly rebuilds his frameworks, reasoning that 'eyes' refers to the power to see another's name, he deduces that Light now sees Kira 2 as an extreme liability. He's doing his very best to try to take L away from the true conclusion at hand here. L infers that, realistically, an innocent Light might suggest that Shinigami actually may exist, especially given that both Kira 1 and Kira 2 have mentioned them independently. This attempt to draw away L from the fact that Shinigami exist makes it evident that there are Gods at play here. Or perhaps not. But L infers that Light is lying right now.

"Yes...", L subtly dismisses Light's suggestion. He states that "Shinigami" is something that only both Kira 1 and Kira 2 can confirm with each other, and they could set things up to try and learn more. Light suggests posting another message.

To Light's visible surprise, L states that they won't be doing anything, and that they should let Kira 1 and Kira 2 handle things from here on. L suggests that Kira 2 is very happy after receiving a reply from Kira 1. He subtly targets Light here, and states that Kira 1 is clearly watching the exchanges at hand between the task force's fake Kira and Kira 2. L reasons that Kira 1 will not want Kira 2 to come in contact with the police, and that Kira 1 might send a reply. L suggests that if Kira 1 doesn't do this, Kira 2 will slowly leak more information about their secrets in order to pressure Kira 1 into meeting Kira 2.

L is purposefully manipulating his logic and saying this in front of Light in order to pressure him into acting. L knows that Light will now be looking to send a message as Kira 1 or meet Kira 2 after L displays his abstract reasoning of Kira 2's likely actions - There is good chance for gaining hard evidence on Light Yagami.

...

The next day, L calls Light in when a diary is sent to Sakura TV from Kira 2.

The diary has a set of dates and potential meeting points, with the most glaring one being the meeting at a "Dome" on the 30th. L suggests they send another fake message as Kira telling them to meet, and further suggests they reinforce the Dome to capture them in the act.

But this is a precaution. L deduces that there is actually a hidden codeword in the diary signalling the true meeting point between Kira 1 and Kira 2. L instantly picks up on the sentences "22nd May: my friend and I showed of our notebooks in Aoyama" and "24th May: I met a friend in Shibuya and bought some clothes to wear this summer".

L suggests they also reinforce Aoyama for the notebook message and Shibuya for the clothes message. L figures out the relevant precautions, and begins to assign roles. Light suggests that he should go to Aoyama and Shibuya along with Matsuda, as they would fit in with the youthful crowd. Light also suggests that the "only person Kira 2 is interested in is Kira 1".

L deduces that Kira 1, Light Yagami, definitely wants to meet Kira 2, but ponders whether Kira 1 would risk being seen by Kira 2, who can kill by sight alone. L affirms that L's Kira 1 would want to meet Kira 2 and prevent their capture, and so, would want to be the first to contact them from among the task force members. He thus reasons that Light is trying to sneak his way into this date. Light is acting exactly as L's Kira 1 once again, and knows that the date they should be looking at is "Aoyama 22nd".

L carries on thinking, but he concludes that there is no point trying to figure out what "Shinigami" means or how they will be able to spot each other, and instead should focus on putting the plan in motion.

L mentions that this might be an opportunity for the two Kiras to join forces, and so everyone should be very cautious. They should all destroy any and all photographs of them.

L's 2 reasons for this are 1) To ensure the safety of all the lives and 2) More subtly, that Kira 2 might be able to identify Kira 1 - in other words, L is accounting for the fact that Kira 2 could locate Light Yagami through a photograph and then call off the meeting, meaning they would lose the opportunity to catch Kira 2.

Light remarks that it's impressive that L has thought so far. L can hear that Light's tone is slightly irritated.

L instantly reasons that Kira 1 may also have the potential to upgrade his powers in some way and gain the power to kill with just a face, something to consider in the future.

When everyone goes to set the stage, L tells Matsuda to keep a close eye on Light on the 22nd.

...

It is the 25th May, and nothing strange has occurred as of yet. L believes there are no other hidden messages, and is theorising.

Suddenly, Watari sends a file from Kira 2. It states that "I was able to find Kira".

L deduces that there is an extremely high chance this occurred in Aoyama. Soichiro exclaims that they should plan ahead considering that the 2 Kiras have joined forces.

L instantly replies that they may not have actually joined forces, and that Kira 2 had merely located Kira 1 somehow without contacting him. L deduces that L's Kira 1 wouldn't let Kira 2 let the force know about their meeting, and further, L reasons that Kira 2 would not mention "Finding Kira", but rather "Meeting Kira".

L suggests that, as police enforcers, they should send a message to Kira 2 offering leniency for giving up Kira 1, and states that this is extremely effective if Kira 1 doesn't know who Kira 2 is. L glances at Light while saying this - he knows that Light hasn't yet met Kira 2.

L has put immense pressure on Light to act.

...

The next day arrives, and after Light comes back from university, He goes up to HQ. L mentions that Kira 2 has sent a new message.

The message states that this will be the last. After some consideration, Kira 2 will no longer try to contact Kira 1, and will help Kira 1 rid the world of evil until Kira 1 accepts him. Kira 2 claims that they will pass judgement on those that Kira 1 has not yet punished. Kira 2 the states that they will spread the "power of Kira".

L Lawliet instantly deduces that Light Yagami met Kira 2 the day before. He reasons that L's Kira 2 would not suddenly stop wanting to meet Kira 1. L also reasons that Kira 1 would force Kira 2 to shush their meeting place and send a message similar to the one they are looking at. L further deduces that Light would likely add that last sentence in order to scare the task force into wrongly believing that the power of 1 Kira can be multiplied and distributed to many, though L doesn't fully discard this information. He recognises Light's style.

L sees that Light is slightly brittle when L reveals his deductions. L further deduces that Kira 1 was under pressure and didn't have a lot of time to think things through, as if Kira 2 suddenly sprung onto him last night and had to quickly plan something.

L starts another test on Light. He claims that Kira 1 might be trying to have the task force know they met, and that this makes it very unlikely that Kira 1 is Light. L claims that if Light were Kira, he would want Kira 2 to force L to appear on screen again.

Light is able to catch onto L's trap. Light claims that he would not do this if he were Kira, as he would know L's personality and know he wouldn't have gone on screen. L congratulates Light on passing this test.

He then claims that he feels Light is the first friend he's ever had .

[*Clearly, L is lying here... I'll explain what he actually means by this the analysis section*].

...

L is observing some hairs from the tapes. L deduces that he should consider either cutting of Light Yagami from the force, as he is likely planning to get Kira 2 to meet him, or to go into hiding to stop Kira 2 from ever having access to his appearance.

L states that if he dies in the next few days, Light Yagami is Kira. L then tells Soichiro of the preparations to make in the case of his death.

Soichiro exclaims, and L admits that he may not be thinking as clearly as he should be, as if Kira 1 and Kira 2 have joined forces, L's death is most likely sealed.

However, L decides to go down to To'Oh. He does not want to simply die - he needs to make a move.

...

It's a beautiful day at To'Oh. L meets Light with Takada, one of his girlfriends. Light tells her to leave them alone, and he converses with L.

L then tells Light Yagami that, if he is killed today or in the next few days, he has told the rest of the task force, as well as the "other L", to consider Light Yagami as Kira.

L has just saved his own life, and he knows his deduction that Light was planning to kill him imminently was correct from reading Light's reaction.

He then muddles Light by stating that there are "multiple L's" as a team working together on the case, and that they would also be informed of his death.

They carry on talking, and at that moment, a cute blonde girl runs up to Light and hugs him. The girl sweetly introduces herself as Light's girlfriend, "Misa Amane". L returns the favour as "Hideki Ryuuga". She seems like a nice, bubbly girl.

Misa hesitates, and Light jokes with her, telling her it's strange how Ryuuga's name is a pop idol's.

L instantly deduces Kira 2 to be Miss Misa Amane. He reads both Misa's reaction to his name and Light's need to somewhat guide the conversation from both Kira 2 seeing the name "L Lawliet", perceiving that Light wanted to use Kira 2 to extract that name from her after L leaves.

L smiles. He remarks that he is in awe of Misa's work in the industry. Misa is highly flattered.

However, L is not yet in the clear. While he has located both Kiras, he is still in extreme danger - if Light successfully confirms that the man is L and asks Misa for his name, L Lawliet is dead.

...

A huge crowd swarms over to Misa as some of her fans recognise her. Someone uses this as an advantage to touch Misa's body and Misa exclaims in shock. Jokingly, Ryuuga claims that he will find the culprit behind this obscene gesture, and Misa laughs at his joking.

After the crowd dissipates and Misa is taken away by her manager, Ryuuga tells Light that they have psychology class together next. Light tells Ryuuga to go ahead of him, as he needs to go to the bathroom. He then leaves Ryuuga alone.

As soon as Light is out of sight, Ryuuga feels a strong vibration from his trouser pockets and pulls out a phone. The caller is Light Yagami.

L stole Misa's phone.

L deduced that Light would first want to confirm to Misa that Ryuuga was indeed L, and then to obtain the name from her.

L knew all this the second he saw Misa for the first time. He planned to steal Misa's mobile phone as soon as he saw her hugging Light Yagami. He also instantly understood their dynamic - Misa cannot act unless Light confirms it. What better way to prevent his death than severing that connection?

Light turns around and glares at L. L hoped that Light would maybe wait a while so that he could call him without knowing that L picked up the phone, and then L could fake being Misa in order to obtain incriminating evidence. It seems that Light wanted to obtain L's name in the fastest time, and this desperation saved Light from the potential of having incriminating evidence on him. Oh well.

"Haha, looks like someone dropped their phone on the ground!" Ryuuga remarks to Light, who is now visibly annoyed at him. Light tells Ryuuga that it's Misa's phone, and that he can return it to her.

Before Light can try to contact Misa again, Ryuuga receives a call from his actual device, telling him that preparations have been made.

L has taken Misa Amane in under the suspicion of her being the Second Kira.

L then somewhat taunts Light, asking whether he is alright. L tells him that he understands his emotions and that it must be very distressing for his girlfriend to be under suspicion of being Kira 2.

Misa Amane is stripped of her sight and completely restrained.

...

L is desperate to know how she kills and to confirm Kira 1's identity... to confirm whether everything he has deduced thus far is actually correct. He asks Watari do to whatever it takes to get it out of her.

L tells the task force that Light Yagami is the prime suspect for Kira 1.

He states that Light could potentially kill Misa, but he thinks its unlikely as he knows that Light knows it would only grow their suspicion on him.

...

After 3 days of confinement, and after 3 days of not saying a word, Misa exclaims that she wants to die.

L asks whether this is confirmation that she is indeed Kira 2, but she carries on exclaiming that she has no clue and just wants to die. She keeps saying the words, "Please, Please kill me! Yes... Please kill me! NO! KILL ME!!".

Misa then starts talking about how she should have died that day. Then she suddenly exclaims "I-IF YOU WONT KILL M-"

L instantly perceives that she wants to bite her tongue and bleed out, so he forces Watari to gag her mouth. L ponders whether Light is controlling her as an action before death - it's a possibility, though unlikely.

Misa passes out.

...

Misa calls out to "Mr Stalker", and mentions that she is willing to give him a kiss or that he can watch her go to the bathroom. L is startled, and asks Misa whether she knows why she is currently restrained. Misa replies that it must be because she is an idol!

L then asks her whether she knows Light Yagami, and she exclaims "Of course I do! How could I not remember my boyfriend!".

L suspects that Misa Amane is no longer Kira 2 - her demeanour completely contradicts L's Kira 2. She is now openly discussing information that she was not at all willing to give up for days before she lost consciousness.

Light calls HQ at that moment.

When Light enters the room, he claims that he may be Kira. L, in his head, criticises Light. He *is* Kira. L is in anticipation of what Light expects to do - he knows he has formulated some plan.

L claims that Light forms the same conclusions that he is able to, as if he has knowledge to Kira's brain, and all the evidence points towards him. Light states that he agrees, and he feels that perhaps there is an unconscious Kira that awakens within him. L internally grimaces at his acting, and claims that this isn't possible. He was monitored for days and there was no suspicious activity. L states that Light is either not Kira, or he hid his killing during the time that he was under surveillance. L states that he is almost 100% sure that it's the second one.

The conversation then turns sour for Light as the task force invalidates his innocence. This increases the likelihood that he will be taken into confinement. L strongly suspects that Light wanted the conversation to steer this way so it wouldn't be strange if he urged them to take him in.

Light is then taken under restraint.

L deduces that this method is just a way to clear his suspicions by using some unknown rule L has no information off.

Soichiro then states he would like to be taken off the case feels awful that his son is under suspicion and wants to feel what he is going through. Additionally, Soichiro states "If my son was Kira, I'm not sure what actions I would take..."

L reads Soichiro, and states that he most certainly could see Soichiro first killing Light, and then himself. Soichiro implies that L's reading is correct.

Soichiro suddenly exclaims that he wishes to also be taken into custody. L predicted Soichiro would request this hours ago, and already set it up for him. Soichiro is also taken in.

...

3 days later, Light asks whether there have been any new killings. L informs him that there have been none.

He's thinking... if Light requested to be taken into custody, and he is Kira, the killings should theoretically go on in order to prove that he isn't Kira. What is happening right now is further strengthening the argument that Light is Kira. L states that it's now a question of whether Light really was in full control when he was killing.

...

4 days later, and no murders have yet to be recorded.

L is obsessively analysing Light's face, and observes a twitch in behaviour. L intuits something has changed.

Light suddenly cries out that, while he originally suggested he be put in confinement, he thinks its now pointless. Light remarks that someone like Kira was most certainly conscious of their actions, so his earlier suggestions were just wrong... He shouldn't be in confinement.

L agrees that Kira is almost certainly conscious while he kills. L calls Light out, stating that he believes he is acting and that he is in fact Kira.

Light then remarks that he is being framed.

L feels that Light Yagami is not making any sense... yet... he perceives that Light is telling the truth.

...

A week later, 2 weeks worth of criminals suffer heart attacks. This statistically proves Light Yagami innocent. The HQ pressure L into releasing Light.

L perseveres. He tells Light that Kira is still inactive, and that Light might as well confess. Light then shouts, and passionately tells L to look into his eyes and check whether he is telling the truth.

L Lawliet believes that Light is genuinely telling the truth. L wonders whether Light really is Kira...

Truly, for the first time in his prodigious life, L does not understand what the hell is going on.

...

50 days, and L still strongly suspects Light is Kira, keeping him under confinement. He has to be! L was able to abstractly deduce the identity of the worlds most powerful serial killer, who could kill from anywhere in the world, in just less than a month! All the reasoning points to Light... in fact... it can't plausibly be any other person!! L is stubborn with his deductions, but internally, his whole framework is in jeopardy.

The game keeps changing. The rules aren't fixed at all. There are multiple Kira's, memory lapses, different powers - the fabric of the investigation is completely unstable.

L is extremely stuck to his abstract deductions. The task force tells him that Light isn't Kira, but L states that the only thing he can confirm right now is that Misa loves Light to an astonishing degree.

The task force peer pressure L into believing he is wrong. L predicts that they will claim that he is simply keeping them restrained because he is embarrassed that all his deductions were incorrect.

L tries one more trap to check whether Light and Misa truly are the 2 Kiras. L, who was originally situated in another country, confidently reasoned that Light Yagami was Kira, the one individual among over 6,000,000,000 humans across the world. In fact, the entire case hinged on this fact. And Misa Amane followed suit. Was L truly completely incorrect? He has never been incorrect in his life... might this be his first ever mistake?

L tells Soichiro the plan.

...

Soichiro fakes an execution of both Light and Misa. L reasoned that Misa, Kira 2, would simply kill Soichiro in order to save themselves if she were Kira, but she doesn't attempt to.

L tells Light and Misa that as there is concrete evidence of Misa being Kira 2, she will be in constant surveillance. Additionally, Light will join the task force to work 100% on catching Kira.

Remembering that Light mentioned that he would be willing to go under confinement for a long time after their tennis match to prove that he was Kira, and how that may essentially invalidate the current confinement, L has now formed a theoretical model of what actually happened over the last 50 days.

...

L chains himself onto Light.

L probes around the memories of Misa. He finds that Misa fell in love with Light on the 22nd May in Aoyama. L points out to Misa that she went out one day in Aoyama, May 22nd, and came back knowing Light Yagami's name, yet doesn't even know how she obtained this name. Misa exclaims that she 'can't remember every detail'.

This strengthens L's working theory.

L has deduced that Misa has passed on the powers of Kira to another person, or at the very least, has relinquished her powers. All her memories of acting as Kira have now been replaced with normal activities in order to explain the events that are currently unfolding.

L asks Misa how she would feel if Light was Kira, and she states that she would be in even deeper admiration of him. This strengthening of Misa's love for Light is highly telling to L - That Misa is a strong supporter of Kira, and if she were Kira 2, she would admire Kira 1. In fact, she states that she would go and help Light as much as possible.

L's theory is solidifying.

When L asks Light to essentially manipulate Misa into revealing information about Kira 2, Light remarks that he would never toy with a woman's feelings.

L suspects that Light has also lost the powers of Kira. He initially thought that Light was acting, but L was never convinced by Light before the change of the look in his eyes - yet he feels he's been telling the truth ever since. Either Light's acting ability has increased over the last few days, *or Light really isn't Kira 1 anymore*.

L reveals that he has constructed a large building in order for the task force to safely work on the Kira case together in and prevent unnecessary movement between hotels.

...

A few days later, Light and Misa go on a date in Misa's private floor in the building. Of course, L is with them.

L reveals his depression to Light and Misa, who he fully believes are not Kira 1 and Kira 2 any more.

He reveals that he has always believed Light was Kira, and that everything he did pointed towards that fact, but he is shocked that he was wrong.

L then states that it could be the case the Kira was controlling Light and Misa to make L feel that they were him. The only reason L believes this to be incorrect is that Kira hasn't yet killed Light and Misa. But L affirms that he was never incorrect... Light and Misa were most certainly Kiras.

L deduces that when Light requested to be taken into custody, he was Kira 1. The killings thus stopped. However, when 2 weeks of killing resumed, L reasons that the power of Kira was passed onto another individual, and Light lost all of his memories of acting as Kira.

L states that this is depressing, as it makes it nigh impossible to catch Kira. Kira could control and kill criminals, and then when L catches him, Kira can pass on the powers to someone else, and the original person forgets everything. L explains his theory that Light passed on the powers to someone else and forgot about his actions in order to make himself look innocent.

Light feels bad for L, and states that he shouldn't give up. L replies that... he just isn't feeling it anymore. What's the point? If Kira can just transfer his power, what's the point of putting their lives on the line? L reasons that he already believed he was going to die many times. No matter how good and perfect his deductions are, was there now any point in risking his life?

Light Yagami gets up.

He punches L Lawliet in the face.

Light exclaims that, just because L was wrong, he shouldn't just give up like a baby.

L states that he isn't wrong... He knows that Light Yagami was Kira 1 and Misa Amane was Kira 2... but he can't solve the case like that anymore.

Light then jabs L, saying that maybe he wants Light to be Kira.

L ponders this, and admits it's possible. His perfect reasoning, his abstract connections, everything led to Light being Kira. In fact, L was able to deduce every single action Light Yagami, L's Kira 1, took. L is never wrong - he's the most intelligent man in the world. Of course he wants his deduction to be correct.

Light then punches L as hard as he can. L notes that Light really is putting his full force into striking him, and that truly wants L to try and pursue Kira.

They fight.

L reasons that Light-Kira may, or more likely will, return. This is most likely Light's plan.

...

A few days later, October 2004, L is depressed and spinning around on his chair - he's not at all interested in the case anymore, and hasn't looked at any data or anything relevant since Light's change.

After more than a week of intense research, Light has found something suspicious about the Yotsuba Group's financials. He calls out to L and shows him the statistics, knowing he would instantly deduce the inconsistencies. In an attempt to motivate the depressed genius, Light asks L whether he is ready to get back on the case.

L reasons that Kira is no longer killing for his ideals. Light agrees.

L instantly posits that this is a new Kira, Kira 3, who is completely unrelated to Kira 1 and 2. He commends Light for his impressive dedication and research.

Light explains how he found his research, through locating sources and using high technology databases. Matsuda is disappointed that L is not recognising that he also helped out too.

L then snarkily predicts that Light checked on officials that were high members of competing groups with other companies, and whether they were dead. Light confirms L's prediction, and shows the statistics of their death.

L instantly deduces that Kira can kill via other means, and Light confirms to L that he also reached the same conclusion after his thinking over the research.

They discuss the research, and L explains his further deductions. Though L also states that it's possible he is completely wrong, and that they shouldn't put to much faith in him - his depression is in full swing.

When Aizawa suggests that Yotsuba potentially hired Kira, L states this is impossible. When probed why, L states they would have had to have found Kira, and that nobody in the world could ever find Kira before L.

His sulking is affecting his ego, and his emotions are rather unstable.

L reasons that Kira would likely kill anyone who found him, and that it's much more likely that Kira (3) is a member of Yotsuba.

L considers sending Watari into Yotsuba as he is well respected internationally, but he reasons this may be too risky. He then distributes the tasks to everyone in the force, and they head out to infiltrate Yotsuba.

...

Soichiro storms into HQ and tells everyone that the head of the NPA has told them to stop working with L. They all discuss carefully. Soichiro tells Matsuda and Aizawa to go work with the NPA, and that he, Light and L can all work together on the Kira case. Soichiro states that he will happily leave the NPA to carry on working with L and his son.

L, who has been intensely depressed for a while now, states that they should all leave him alone. He states that he was all alone in the beginning, and that every agency in the world turned their backs on him the second the Kira's true powers dawned on them.

He has no real allies.

L displays his gratitude for the 5 men that stuck by him, and that he can handle the case alone. L stares at the floor sadly, and states that he will return with Kira's head.

L notes that he will still require Light as he knows he is Kira 1, but everyone else should leave.

He states that he never needed help for this case - the only reason he required assistance was to maintain a connection to the police in able to interact with large organisation like Sakura TV. He thinks that, if they are not official officers, his deductive prowess will be majorly hindered with no extra benefit.

Soichiro claims that L shouldn't be so cold, and that they have worked extremely hard on the case, and want to see it to the end.

L allows them to choose between staying and leaving.

He then does a cruel test on Aizawa, perhaps out of his own emotional distress at the moment. Watari calls him out through the screen.

L childishly retorts, "Who asked you, Watari?".

Watari states that he could no longer bear the pain Aizawa was feeling.

L manipulates Aizawa into leaving. In truth, L wanted Aizawa to leave the force and keep his life. He wants Aizawa to look after his family. But no one understands L's true intentions, not even Watari.

...

L's emotions are supremely affecting his observation ability. Soichiro picks up that all the killings are happening on weekdays, and Light congratulates his father for the observation.

L states that it's odd for the murders to be happening on weekdays, and that they must investigate further, whether his deduction that Kira is among the Yotsuba group is wrong or not.

When Soichiro suggests they could get some more officers from the police to quit and join L's (tiny) team, L states that he would simply assume they were spies.

L then calls his underground contacts, Aiber and Wedy. The task force is surprised that he wants to work with these criminals. He states that Kira wouldn't know of these kinds of criminals, as only those fluent with the underworld would know of them.

The task force start infiltrating Yotsuba's data.

...

Watari informs L that Yotsuba have contacted Eraldo Coil to try and find the identity of L for over a million dollars. It is clear that L's deduction was perfect - Kira (3) is among the Yotsuba members, and afraid of L being able to capture them, they are trying to eliminate him.

Soichiro is worried - Eraldo Coil is the best detective in the world after L, is stated to take any job as long as the money is good, and is near the top in terms of locating people. Light also worries about the situation, stating that if they find L, he will die.

While the task force panics, L remains calm.

After all, L Lawliet is Eraldo Coil.

L reasons that he is the top 3 detectives in the world - L, Eraldo Coil and Deneuve. L deduces that if someone wanted to find the number 1, they would very likely try to hire number 2 or 3 to find number 1. Light is deeply impressed.

L provides hush money - a strawberry - to Mogi, who then safely puts it in his pocket [*Anime only ©].*

L summarises all the findings so far to the task force, and states they cannot at all let Yotsuba know they are being investigated.

Watari interrupts to tell L that Matsuda is in the Yotsuba building. L groans.

L tells everyone to forget what he just said, and that they need a new plan.

...

Light warns L to stop with his plan, but L states he can pull it off.

He's going to rescue Matsuda with a phone call and pure acting.

He easily succeeds. Matsuda's situation has been assessed.

Light calls Misa to tell her not go to Yotsuba, but L tells Light that he has a plan to use Misa to save Matsuda. L tells Matsuda through Misa to convince the Yotsuba Group to take in Misa as a poster girl. L then tells Light to tell Misa the entire plan and convince her, as L knows that she will listen to everything Light says.

L's plan succeeds, and Misa and Matsuda are now in a group function with Yotsuba and Misa's girlfriends.

As L perfectly up, Matsuda is able to fake his death and get out alive.

L's quickly drawn up strategy is successful.

...

Matsuda comes back with information about a secret meeting with 8 people, and thus, Kira is almost certainly among them.

L states that Misa will now need a new manager, and assigns Mogi to the role. L states that they will aim to confirm which of the 8 members are Kira (3), or at least has a connection to him.

L reasons that Kira (3) must not be able to kill via just faces as Matsuda was still alive.

Everyone carries on discussing the case.

...

Aiber is able to force pressure on the 8 members by acting as Coil, and informs L that he will be back in Japan soon, as he expects the group to want to meet with him soon.

L tells Aiber to be careful, but Aiber tells L that he's saved him many a time, and that L is the only reason he is able to look after his family and isn't behind bars. He also states that, as L has figured out Aiber's entire life, he knows that Aiber loves the thrill.

Light states that this plan is a good one by Aiber. L replies that, while this is a rather strange way of using his role as Coil, L deems it a good plan.

Wedy is able to infiltrate the group with ease, and L tells her to install cameras and mics.

...

The next Friday, everyone in Yotsuba is blatantly confessing on camera. The task force are very happy, but L knows this isn't enough.

When one of the members asks "who should be killed", Light and his father are in shock. L stares at them - he knows that the morally upstanding Yagamis will want to arrest them all right now. However, L knows that in order for any of this to be proof, the person they name must actually die, and knows that both the Yagamis probably haven't realised that. Additionally, the only reason that L is on the case is to find Kira and learn how he kills - else the case would have ended months ago.

As L predicts, Light and his father claim that they can now arrest them all, and are passionate.

L explains that they are wrong, and that one of them must actually die before they can confirm any of this is true. Light and his father shout at L, and L anticipates that they will condemn L for his lack of basic morality.

As Light harps on, L teases him a little bit.

When they hear that Yotsuba intend to act fast, Light states that they should use the police system to record their calls but L states that they can't trust the police.

When Soichiro suggests they can call the members, L states that they can't, as they will be suspicious of the information leak and won't trust Eraldo Coil anymore. L states that it's nearly impossible to catch Kira owing to the evidenceless nature of the murders. However, he states that evidence definitely exists - he had deduced long ago that there was a physical object that will incriminate Kira.

As L is theorising about the killings, Light comes up with a short-term plan. He asks whether the assumption that, if they called one of them, the chances of them being Kira is 1 in 7, and L ascertains that that is the likely case. Light states that he will borrows L's name and choose a member of high influence and is unlikely to be Kira to be in cahoots with. Both Light and L decide that Reiji Namikawa is most suited for the job. L hands Light an encrypted phone.

Light calls Reiji, and tells him that he shouldn't make a fuss while in the 8 member meeting. Light then tells Reiji that he is L. He mentions that they have bugged the room and proves this to him. He tells Namikawa to make a deal with him, on the account that he isn't Kira - his cooperation for the exchange that that all of them who aren't Kira will not be given any charges. Light further explains that there is no advantage for Reiji to reveal the contents of the call to his fellow members, as it would just induce panic. Light reasons that, if "L" wins, then he is safe. If Kira wins, then they can continue their rich lives.

Reiji is able to obtain the task force 1 month of time before the next killings.

L is impressed, and states that Light was able to come up with a good plan before he was able to, and is capable of being L. L says that 'one could say you're more capable than I am', and that Light might be able to do it, be his successor. L then asks Light, when or if he does die, whether he will take over for him. L is trying one more time to check if Light is currently Kira 1. If he is, then L's Kira 1 would jump on the opportunity to claim he is better than the world's greatest detective and that he will take the mantle of L's successor.

Light then shouts at L. Why is he saying all this! What is he talking about?!

After a while, Light realises L's trap. and tells it to the rest of the force. Light reveals that either L feels he was Kira before and has forgotten, or that he is still Kira and is acting. In other words, L is positive that Light is

Kira. Light then reveals that L believes that he's set it up so that the power left him and forgets everything that occurred. Then, the power will return to Light when he is no longer a suspect.

L is amused by how well Light was able to infer his theory. In fact, it's as if Light would have actually done that specific plan had he been in Kira's shoes.... Light came up with it so fluidly that it might as well have been him that made it - of course, L knows this already. Through brilliance, L inferred Kira 1's plan, and L believes that through the fact that Light literally was Kira 1, he was able to come up with that exact same plan. Actually, the fact that Kira 1 reasons all of this further confirms L's theory of Light's plan to be correct - Kira 1 has subconsciously confirmed it for him.

L confirms that Light is correct, and he does suspect all of this. Light shouts L out, saying that he believed he couldn't just 'become' L and that L's flattery is a complete lie. L is accusing Light of 'trying' to do it.

Passionate and determined, Light looks L dead in the eyes and asks whether he believes Light Yagami has the potential to be a murderer.

L replies, coldly: "That's what I think, and that's how you look."

Light punches L, and L instantly reacts with a kick to Light face. They start fighting.

They break off, reasoning that they have 1 month to get Kira (3).

Light suggests that if Namikawa was Kira, they would be in trouble, but L states that isn't a problem as, with Namikawa's status and intellect, he would have acted alone and not had these meetings.

Soichiro and Co. believe that they should go in and arrest the 7 with the video footage. L states that this is useless, as if Kira is not there, then he escapes, and if Kira is there, they won't know who it is. Soichiro states that there is still a good chance and they should do it, and Light solidly backs his father up.

L emphasises the word "chance", and the rest of the force carry on fighting L.

L wants to definitively capture Kira. No "ifs" or "mights". If L doesn't know which of them is Kira, L will never learn how Kira kills his victims. The only reason he's a detective is to fulfil his curiosity - to fill the intellectual boredom that comes with being profoundly gifted. He doesn't care about justice. He just wants to **know**.

L is fed up. He tells everyone that it's best if he handles the Kira case alone.

He heads upstairs, dragging Light up with him. L bursts into Misa's room, and has a lengthy conversation with her.

L reasons that by having Coil tell the group that Misa may have had contact with L, they would definitely hire her. L explains that Yotsuba won't be suspicious of Coil being able to uncover this hard to find information as Coil is the #2 detective in the world.

They carry on discussing, and then L tells Misa that Light is actually working with his father, so won't join in on the plan. Light realises that L has tricked him, and so, he is obliged to join the "L - Misa" team over his father's. L knows he doesn't want to risk hurting Misa's feelings in his current innocent state.

...

The next day, L begins to train Misa for the plan. He has set everything up to get Yotsuba to hire her using Aiber by convincing Yotsuba that she was under suspicion of being Kira 2 and has had contact with L.

Misa and Mogi go for their interview, and L discusses things with the task force.

Soichiro plans to reveal everything on TV, and Light claims it would mean his father would die. L states the Soichiro's plan is 99% expected to fail. L asks Soichiro whether he would be willing to wait a month for that to happen. Soichiro asks his son for his opinion, and Light agrees with L's reasoning, and tells his father why. His father then agrees to help L until the month is up.

Misa arrives and reveals that she just gave her contact information everyone in Yotsuba. L tells her that the whole plan is cancelled, due to the majority believing its too dangerous a plan. Misa decides that, if that's what Light wants, she'll comply.

L notes that Misa uncharacteristically backed away with no real effort...

...

The next day, L gets a call from Mogi, Misa's manager. Misa has run off on a date!

L deduces that there is an extremely high chance that Misa is Kira 2 once again, or at least, has regained her memories. He reasons this as, along with her behaviour not matching the innocent Misa's profile yesterday (she would usually be adamant to help Light in any way possible, such as risking her life to find Kira (3), and wouldn't just back off), she has also just cut of contact from Light by undergoing this escape. She has ulterior motives.

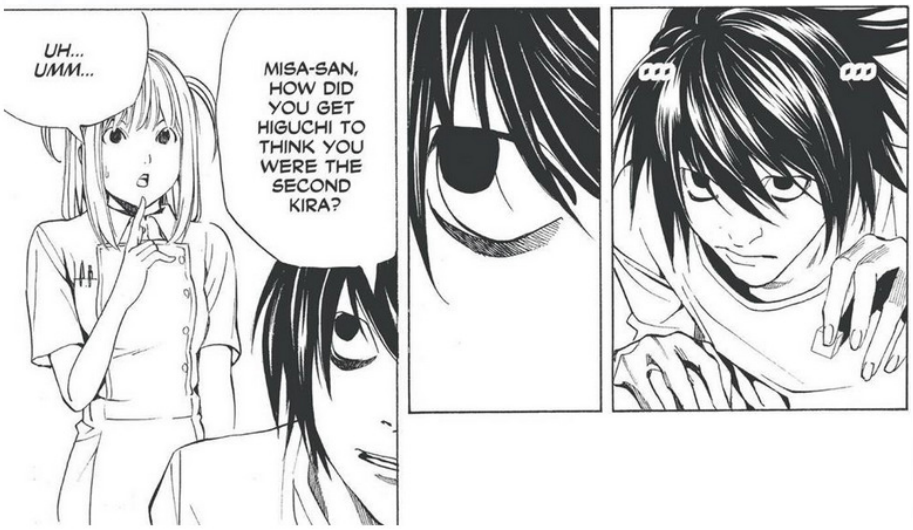
Later, Misa returns, having recorded a video of Higuchi essentially confessing that he is Kira (3).

Light asks what she did, and she reasons that Higuchi is in love with her and also believes that she is another Kira. Misa has convinced Higuchi to stop all killings and marry her. Light is worried about Misa, claiming that her actions were dangerous.

L reasons that if the killings are stopped without any mention in the meetings, Higuchi has stopped killing in order to obtain Misa, and is Kira. Else, if Higuchi brings it up to try and convince everyone that Misa is the 2nd Kira and that they should consider stopping killings, then Higuchi is asking Kira to stop the killings for him, and Higuchi is not Kira. Light agrees with this notion. L internally reasons that he needs a plan to identify how it is that Kira kills, as if the killings stop, he won't be able to find this out.

However, L does not care at all about what has just happened.

L stares intensely at Misa, and asks her how she convinced Higuchi that she was Kira 2. Internally L suspects that Misa currently holds the power of Kira, and is checking her personality structure and responses to check whether it tests positive.



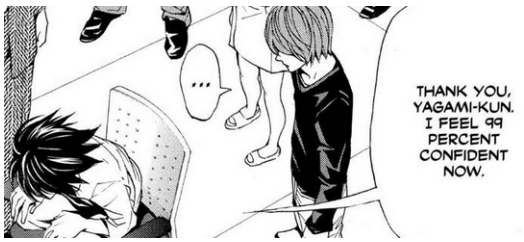
Misa says she convinced Higuchi that she would kill someone after the killings stopped and prove that she was Kira 2. Then, they would get married.

L jabs at her, telling her that if the killings do indeed stop, she would need to kill someone off. "Can you do that, Misa-san?" L replies, glaring at her from the corner of his eyes. Misa replies no, but L has deduced enough.

He reasons that if Light Yagami was Kira, and they catch Higuchi, it's very possible that Light could take back the powers and become Kira 1. In fact, this is what L believed Light's plan to be the entire time.

L is confident of Light's plan, and is almost certain that Light controlled the Kira power transfer. He asks Light whether, in an objective standpoint, he would agree with this view. From this viewpoint, Light states that he believes L's reasoning to be accurate.

L states that, if there was some other "mastermind" who could transfer the power from Light to Higuchi, and didn't want the method of killing to be uncovered, it would be odd that he waited so long to switch the power from someone else. Additionally if someone just transferred the power and wasn't paying attention, it would make less sense for the power to be passed on when it was. Light claims that, if there was someone behind the scenes, unless he was here with them, it would have to be someone who was looking down constantly from heaven or something.



L states that he is glad that Light can confirm those thoughts - he is now 99% confident. L reasoned that if it was someone from on high, they would already be dead.

L had already theorised that Kira could transfer power only by their will alone, and not by some other person or being.

After L's intense theorising about Light, L instantly reasons that they can trick Higuchi into showing how he kills via Sakura TV. He internally deduces that because Sakura TV is unreliable, only the real Kira (3) would know that the broadcast is true. Light states that won't work as Sakura TV as nobody trusts it, but after a bit more thinking, understands L's further reasoning.

They discuss who they should consider setting up on Sakura TV to bait Kira (3), Higuchi. L reasons that Aiber acting as Coil won't work as Higuchi needs to believe that he can kill the man on the screen, and Aiber is an extremely hard to track man. Everyone agrees that the 'dead' Matsuda is the only one fit for the job.

L reveals his nuanced strategy of having Matsuda appear on Sakura TV behind a grey screen that can show Matsuda's figure but not his features, and reveal what he heard through the eavesdropping. Then, they have the screen slide to reveal his face. Light adds in that Matsuda should also mention that the other 7 in the meeting were merely victims, so Higuchi will be the only one to act on it. L agrees with Light's idea and adds it into his ever-growing plan.

Light begins explaining L's plan to the force.

Light explains that if Higuchi tries to kill "Tarou Matsui", and it doesn't work, he will call Misa to get his real name. L fully explains the rest of his plan by stating that Misa won't pick up the call, and it will go straight to the current manager. Mogi will then state that he doesn't know his real name, and that he should "ask the boss or someone at the office". The 'boss' will state that everyone is on vacation to Okinawa, and that he doesn't remember Tarou's real name - but his profile should be in the office. Then, the boss will tell Higuchi that there is a key planted outside the door under a plant, and that he can help himself. L then plans to follow and observe Higuchi's killing method.

...

In order to act out the plan, they need to confirm with Namikawa. Light tells L that he'll act as L again and call him. Light tells Namikawa that he needs their help.

Namikawa tricks Light into revealing that they believe Higuchi to be Kira. "Ha Ha, so even L falls for that stuff" Namikawa teases. Misa tries to defend Light, and L teases him more.

Frustrated, Light moves on and tells Namikawa to tell Higuchi to turn on and watch Sakura TV. Namikawa agrees.

Later that night, L sets up his strategy. Wedy sets up cameras and wiretaps in Higuchi's car.

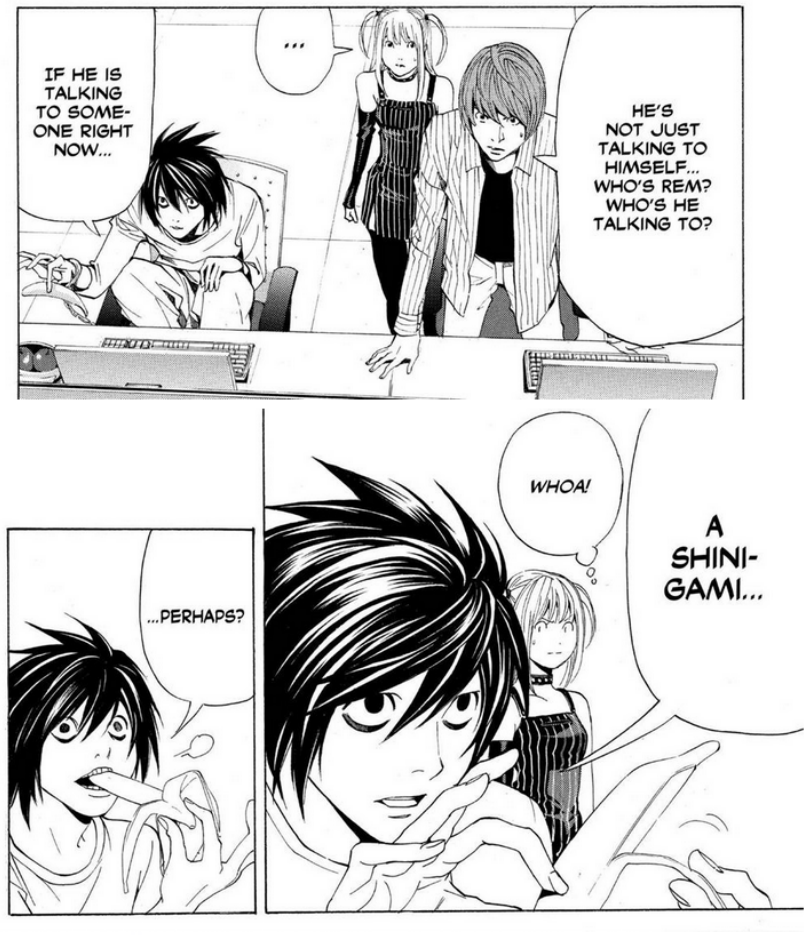
After Matsuda reveals his face, Misa receives a phone call. It's from Higuchi.

Higuchi then calls Mogi's phone, as expected by L. Higuchi is now informed of the building where Matsuda's profile is, gets in his car, and drives as fast as he can. Wedy follows with her bike.

Suddenly, Higuchi starts talking to himself, or rather, to some imaginary "Rem" character. Light wonders whether there is a radio, and L reasons that as the talented Wedy infiltrated the car to put the cameras and mics, she would have reported a random radio in the car - there isn't one.

Light is confused.

L reasons that, if Higuchi is talking to someone.... it may be a Shinigami?



Higuchi arrives at the building and finds Matsui's file (which contains another false name).

L watches intently, desperate to see how he kills.

Higuchi notes Matsui's name down and leaves. Light exclaims that this is no good and that he's just leaving - does he plan to kill him elsewhere?

L is theorising quietly.

When probed with the idea to arrest Higuchi right now, L states to wait and see what happens - he still doesn't know how he kills. He tells Wedy to carry on tailing him.

Both Light and L note that Higuchi is much too calm right now - doesn't he need to kill Matsuda?

Then, 40 seconds later, after sitting in the car, Higuchi cries out that Matsuda hasn't died yet.

Light cries out in confusion, "What's going on! He just said he didn't die?!"

L reasons that he has already performed the killing ritual, and considers whether simply writing his name down was enough for the murder to occur. He is still adamant on observing Higuchi. L considers taking him and getting it out of him by force, but he reasons that the same thing that happened to Light could happen to Higuchi.

Light notices that Higuchi has whipped out his phone, and L predicts that he'll call Misa again.

As predicted, her phone goes buzzing. Misa declines the call on L's orders.

Higuchi announces to himself hat he wants to "make a trade". Light wonders whether Kira's power really is from on high. L doesn't really want to believe that, and L furthers his suspicions that Rem really is a Shinigami. L carries on waiting.

A few moments later, Higuchi is pulled over by a traffic police officer. Higuchi exchanges a conversation, but quickly drives off. When the police officer follows, the officer hits a car and dies.

L instantly reasons that while Higuchi previously needed both a name and a face, he only needs face right now - and the officer died of a heart attack and crashed. Additionally, L assumes that, after seeing Higuchi put his hand in his bag, that the proof for Kira's killings are contained within it, and that everyone should transfer to capture mode. He quickly tells everyone of his deductions.

L gets the NPA and tells them that he has found Kira. L starts the arrest, and brings Light and Watari with him to his helicopter.

L then pilots the helicopter through pure intuition. Light is shocked by this, but L tells Light that it’s easy and that 'he could do it too'. Light and Watari wince at L's blatant arrogance.

Light notices that Higuchi is headed back to Yotsuba, and L deduces that it's to find video footage of Matsuda. He confirms with Wedy that she disposed of all the footage of Matsuda.

L strategically commands hundreds of police officers, squadrants, and SWAT teams with ease and perfectly succeeds in the capture of Higuchi, ensuring that no lives were lost in the process.

Soichiro Yagami, after handcuffing and blindfolding Higuchi under L's command, forces him to explain how he kills. Higuchi then states that there is a notebook that can kill whoever's name is written in it. L already suspected this, and this solidifies his suspicion. In pure anticipation, L asks Soichiro to try and obtain the book from his car.

Soichiro states that there are names written in it, but there isn't anything too suspicious.

Soichiro suddenly screams.

L and Light are bewildered, and Soichiro cries out "M-Monster!!".

Mogi, after touching the notebook also, falls down in shock, as they scream that there is a monster. L infers that this monster must be the Shinigami as he sips his coffee in the helicopter.

He tells Soichiro to bring the notebook to the helicopter.

L Lawliet finally touches the Death Note.



The instant he sees the Shinigami, his mind works at a near superhuman pace, tying up all of his deductions. How Light and Misa met in Aoyama, how Misa fell in love at first sight, how Light went to Aoyama that day. the changing of the death note powers, how Light and Misa lost their memories, how it's finally cycled round to the current situation, that L deduced that there is almost positively at least 2 notebooks. L is scared - he knows for a fact that this isn't over.

In fact, L deduces that Light likely predicted that he would get his hands on the notebook. That was his plan! The memories are attached to the notebook! He concludes that nobody else - Light in particular - should be allowed to use the notebo-

But wait... the notebook is no longer in L's hands?!

Unfortunately, in the tiny fraction of a second it took for L to process his massive abstract data frames, the innocent, curious Light Yagami takes the notebook from him.

He screams.

L asks whether Light is okay. Light calmly states that he will compare the names written on the book to the database of criminals who have dies. L is still startled, and lets Light do this.

L deduces that Kira 1 has returned within Light Yagami. L reasons that Light likely wouldn't use the notebook while sitting next to him...

L glances at Light, testing him by mentioning that he is impressed Light can so calmly operate when there is a literal Monster in front of them. L watches from the corner of his eye. Light reasons that, while he was shocked at first, it all makes since.

L recognises that Light has seen these creatures before, and is thus psychologically unwavered. Light Yagami is Kira 1 once again. L's prediction of Light's plan - to circulate the notebook and evade suspicion... L's reasoning was perfect... if only he hadn't been so startled by the Monster and made sure that Light didn't take the notebook...

Suddenly, Higuchi starts to scream.

Higuchi is dead.

This makes little sense to L, as Light is not writing anything down in the notebook.

No... L reasons that somehow, using some other rule of the book, Light killed Higuchi.

They arrive back at task HQ. As the task force go over the written rules of the notebook, they conclude that Light and Misa are completely cleared, due to the rule that you have to write names at least every 13 days, whereas Light and Misa were confined for 50 days.

L makes his rapid abstract framework. Those rules... did Light alter the notebook to clear himself?

L sharply asks Rem whether there are more books in the human world. Rem, a God, replies that there may or may not be, and that she is only required to watch over the one she has in front of her. L then quickly asks whether all the books have the same rules written in them. Rem, a God, replies that they are all the same, and that the rules are all the same when a human uses it. There are no mistakes.

These are words from a god, yet he is still suspicious.

L is forced to remove the handcuffs from Light. L doesn't say a word as the task force continue talking about trying to reidentify Kira 1 and Kira 2 now that L's suspects are 'cleared'.

L is theorising. Light then states that Misa should no longer be in confinement, and that he will only be seeing her outside of this.

L instantly picks up on this, "Oh? You want to keep seeing her?".

Light stares at L, and states that he may have developed feelings for her. L doesn't say a word - but knows they're keeping in contact for an ulterior motive. The 2 Kiras are in front of L once again.

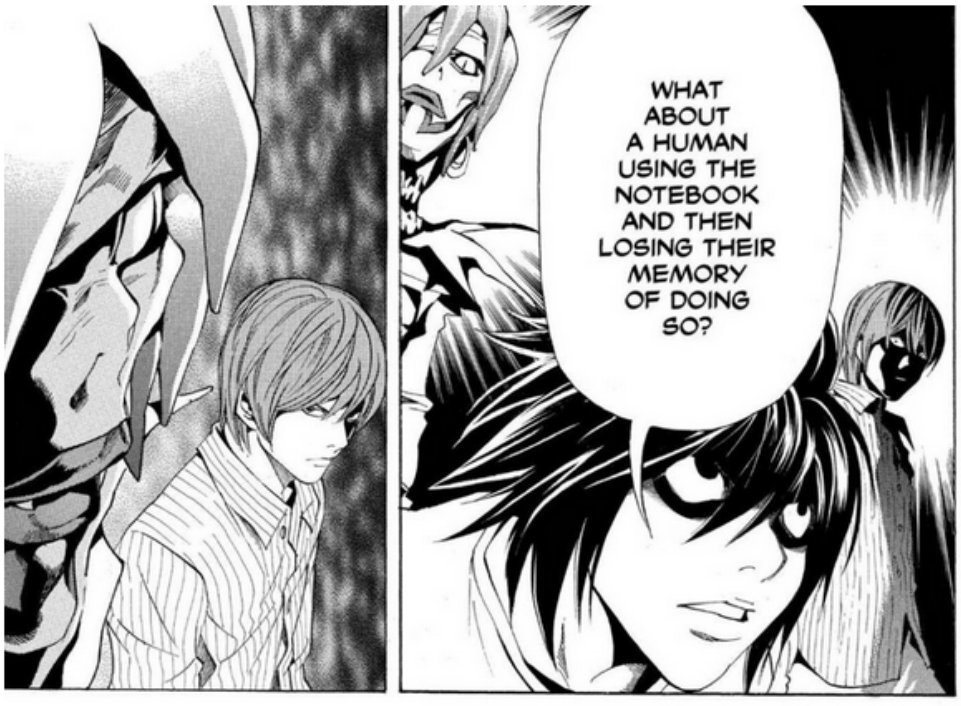
L quickly deduces that there must be eyes that allow a Shinigami to see the name of a person when you see their face.

He asks this to Rem, who is shocked by his incredible intelligence. L asks Rem why she is hesitating, and Rem replies that she shouldn't say anything, but he figured that out, she won't deny it.

L asks what the "trade" aspect of the eyes are, and Rem states that, as a perfectly objective being, she can't disclose that to him.

L then instantly deduces that, as he is not dead after Misa forgot and subsequently regained her memories, despite her certainly having the eyes before - humans who lose their memories also lose their ability to see faces.

He quizzes this to Rem, and Rem and Light glance at each other, weary of L's terrifying intelligence. He's extremely close to solving the case... he needs to die.... fast.



Rem replies "Who knows? I'm a Shinigami, so I don't know how it affects you".

....

The next day, Misa leaves the building, with Light escorting her.

L is in the central HQ, thinking hard. He is trying to see Light and Misa's mouths to decipher their conversation, but the rest of the taskforce members burst into the room and turn of the computer. They remind L that Light and Misa can't be the 2 Kiras, and that he promised to oblige. L lets up, and leaves the cameras alone.

While Light begins commanding the room, and everyone is looking at the statistics of deaths across Kanto in 'search' of Kira 1, L is stands in a corner, questioning Rem, the God.

L asks Rem whether, before she was attached to Higuchi, she was in a "Shinigami World", looking down. Rem then hesitantly confirms this, and L instantly pounces - "Then why did you give the notebook to Higuchi?". Stunned, Rem replies that Higuchi just found it on the floor.

Matsuda tells everyone that Misa is back to the HQ entrance, and she must be sad that she can't contact Light through her cell phone - she must be here for him!

L is very suspicious... why would she want to talk to Light?

Rem is suddenly surprised... L notices... could Rem potentially see another Shinigami attached to Misa?

Light goes off and has a lengthy conversation with Misa. L is forced to ignore them, and so carries on thinking.

L turns through the pages of the notebook and notices a tear.

The second he sees the ripped piece, L instantly deduces that a page from the notebook could be used to kill, and suspects that this is exactly how Light killed the 2 small criminals while he was under surveillance and when he killed Higuchi, ass well as in many other situations, like the Penber compromise.

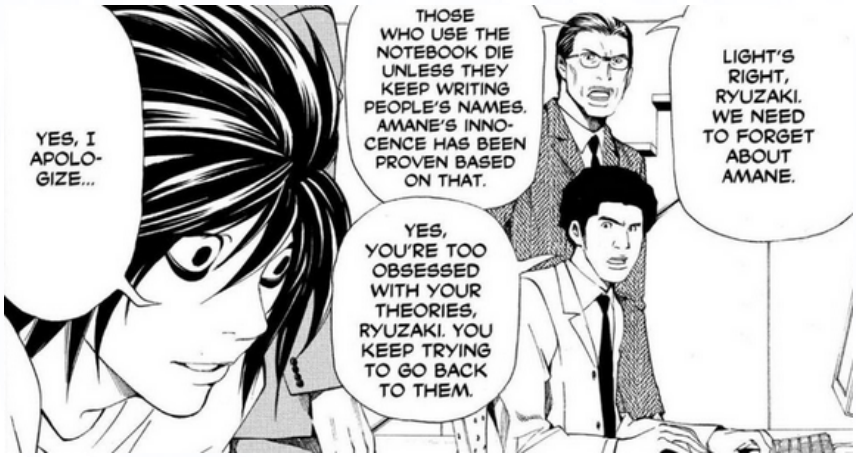
L carries on thinking. Light can readily leave the building whenever he wants, yet he stays. L reasons that Light is actually watching over L... perhaps to check that he doesn't use the murder notebook... No... no that's not it.... Light...

Light is looking over L to watch over him when he dies. L deduces that Light is here to make sure that L dies in front of his own eyes, in the next few days. In other words, L predicts there is a supremely high chance that he will die in the next few days .

But he's just moments away from getting proof.

...

Criminals start dying again, and of course, the task force suspect a new Kira has returned. L refutes this and claims that "Misa-Kira", or Kira 2, has returned. The task force tell L to shut up and forget about the idea that Misa was ever Kira, and that he's too obsessed with his theories. L quietens down and apologizes, but is relentlessly thinking inside his mind about his final moves the complete the case. Despite having absolutely no one on his side, L Lawliet is extremely close.



L announces that he is going to test the 13-day rule by having a criminal write down someone's name, and then will check whether he is alive after the 13 day period. L affirms that...





Suddenly, red lights go off - all data deletion.

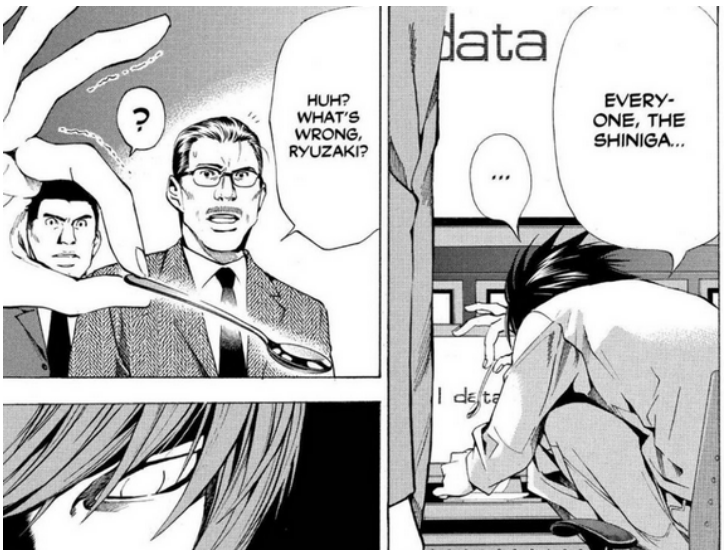
Watari was killed.

L screams at the screen.. W-What happened?

L instantly deduces that it must have been Rem who killed him as Light doesn't have the eyes and Misa has never seen Watari's face, but... the God of Death... Why would she kill a human?? Is she not an objective observer??

L strongly questions the nature of Shinigami... is it possible that they can... care for a human?... Does the Shinigami not want L to solve the case?... Are the Shinigami emotional??

Is the God of Death going to kill him to prevent him from solving the case?!!



1

2

3

L feels a tight pain around his heart. He can't breath. He drops his spoon to the ground, and falls.

Light runs up to him and hugs him. While L is in his last dying moments, Light reveals an evil smirk.

He's gone... the world's smartest man... just moments away from fully solving the case... the only person in the world who could catch Kira, the God of the New World, solo. Light feels ecstasy course through his body, as the life of the most intelligent man on earth withers away.

7

8

9

L's prodigious logic and original deductions... all of them.... His deduction of Light's plan... His deductions of Light's every move... they were all correct... he figured out everything... he was never wrong...

L Lawliet knew everything - yet - he was killed by a God. An unstoppable bullet that didn't yield to his intellect.



November 5th, 2004. The most intellectually talented man on the planet, and the man who fought the most uphill battle in fictional history, L Lawliet, is murdered by the God of Death, Rem.

...

After L - An Analysis

Light uses Rem's suicidal love for Misa to blackmail her into killing L Lawliet, the holder of the world's greates mind and the one man in the world who could solve the Kira Case alone. It takes 4 years for the young Nate Rivers to rededuce that Light is Kira. With the help of Mello's perception, they are able to catch and prove that Light is Kira.

While Near did start his investigation without knowing of L's deeper deductions, he still utilised information from L's Lind. L. Taylor move, data from L's move to use the FBI agents, L's capture of Higuchi, and more from L's original investigation. Near and Mello also knew of the supernatural realm, the death notes, and the fake rules that L had to deduce alone [which he did the second he read them]. Further, L Lawliet deduced Light Yagami within the first month of Kira being active.

L figured out all of this entirely by his own mind. He had no help. He was truly alone in his battle - no one ever trusted him, gave him support, or believed in him. The agencies he had built rapport with due to his international work in the past abandoned him with no qualms. He had to fight with his own 5 task members, who were not only rather incompetent in comparison to Lidner, Gevanni and other, but also didn't listen to L's reasoning and had their own agendas.

L was truly was alone in this monstrously difficult battle. In fact, his 'comrades' only weighed him down.

Further, Near and Mello did not have to fight the concept of Decay. There was no information that was added to send their deductions into disarray. Of course, this absolutely does not apply to L - yet L still came 49/51 with Kira and his allies.

The argument that Near and Mello were young is also invalid - By the time L was Near's age, 13, L was already the greatest detective on earth. Mello idolised L's intelligence, and Near was highly insecure of it, dwelling on it years after L's death.

It should further be noted that the fact Rem actually dies tells us that L was going execute the Kiras to death very soon, with proof.

Light was a very hubristic man. A person who believed that he was above everyone. Well. A person who believed he was above everyone *except L Lawliet*. Light was incredibly cautious and careful against L. He was extremely traumatised by L's brilliance and the fact that L was able to deduce close to the entirety of Light and his actions. This is even more terrifying given that L only learnt of the existence of Shinigami and the Notebook just less than a week prior to his death, compared to Near and Mello who knew about them the entire time they were investigating. Light had a deep, complex admiration for L and his intelligence.

Light, being among the top 0.01%, was able to easily recognise L Lawliet as the top mind of humanity, the top 0.0000001%, and utilised that fact in making his plan. Light worked very hard against L. He knew that L would never be deceived by Light, and he knew that L would always know that he was Kira. Light Yagami, L's Kira 1, would never hail any individual unless it was L Lawliet - the one man he knew was far superior in intellect to himself.



Light Yagami, Death Note

Additionally, both Mello and Near revered L's intellectual brilliance.

discover that I knew things about L that he did not, then that's fine. There's also a chance that Kira might read this… and I hope he does. If these notes tell the murderer, who only got by with the help of a supernatural killing notebook and an idiot of a shinigami, that he was, under any other circumstances, not even worth the dirt beneath L's shoes, then they have served their purpose.

But even for a genius like Watari, creating a fake L was easier said than done. Even for Near and I, who were said to be the closest to L. . . the more we tried to be like him, the closer we got, the farther away he was, like chasing a mirage. So I hardly need to tell you what it was like when Wammy's

Mihael Keehl, LABB

Light Yagami, or even, L's Kira 1, would never utter such praise to any other individual. He truly saw L's intelligence as something unparalleled.

As such, Light had no other choice but to lose his memories, confident that L would easily catch Kira 3 and making the assumption that L would be so confident of Light's culpability that he would keep him close by - Lights plan wasn't exactly meticulous, but it was forced to go around L's genius.

Light Yagami, L's Kira 1, would have *loved* nothing more but to have killed L Lawliet by his very own hands, but he knows that he afford such a luxury with the world's smartest man. He had to subdue his ego and admit that he could never outmanoeuvre L, even with these supernatural powers, without some Deus Ex Machina-like move. He had no option but to take the one device given to him - Rem's unfaltering love for Misa, and Misa's unfaltering love for Light. Light knows just how ridiculous the concept a Death God is, and even more, just how ridiculous the concept of a Death God loving a human is - and Light knows just how unparalleled this advantage is. It's not possible for L to conceive that Rem loves Misa and would kill for her - at least, not until there was some random death that L deduces wasn't done by Kira but helped Misa in some way (when he was instantly able to do seconds before his death when Watari died).

Of course, Light faced a challenging task controlling Misa, given that L was able to deduce her within moments of her becoming a part of the investigation (but even then, when Light met Misa and tried to distract L from that fact, L instantly deduced that they had met - this wasn't Misa's fault) but the inevitable power she did have,

the chain reaction of Rem to Misa to Light, as well as the fact that Misa could essentially kill L on sight, still made Misa and Rem an insurmountable advantage.

Of course, Light was able to masterfully manoeuvre the situation so that, when Rem killed L, Rem would die along with her, and Light would no longer have to look after Misa.

But one thing is for certain - L Lawliet was always going to die because of the existence of the Death God Rem. L wasn't outmanoeuvred by Light here - by nature of Misa and Rem's existences, he was fated to die. Light could have done nothing and L would have still died at the hands of Rem. What Light was able to do was to somewhat shift the situation so that Rem died alongside L. But he didn't kill L at all.

And Light thanked God for this absolutely fundamental flourish of luck.

Realistically, there were only 3 possible outcomes for L:

1) Light obtains L's name (through Misa or any other action) and kills L [L is much too brilliant for this to work, and Light knows this]

2) Light utilises Rem's irrational love for Misa and gets her to kill L, knowing that L will solve the Kira Case and capture them, putting their lives in jeopardy [Extremely unfair, but Light doesn't care if it removes L]

3) Light is never suspected by L and acts as Kira indefinitely [Impossible, L knew from the very start]

In fact, Misa herself was stunned by L's ability to exactly map both hers and Light's every move.

"L is amazing!", "Ryuuzaki was right all along!", "W-Woah!"

L evaded death multiple times, and was even able to save himself from Light and Misa despite her being a person who could kill on sight. Had he not had such fast processing speed, raw intelligence, and strategic thinking, L would have died by the hands of Misa and Light just the moment he met her.

In this chess game between L and Light, Light has the benefit of seeing the full board and plotting his moves accordingly. He can set traps, create diversions, and slowly position his pieces for a checkmate, with full vision of the pieces and the layout of the game.

L, meanwhile, is blindfolded. He isn't ever told any of Light's moves, and is only informed when one of his pieces is taken. At that point, he has to perfectly reverse-engineer what sequence of moves Light used to capture that piece, from a near infinite number of possibilities. L has to hold a huge mental model of the possible board states and update it each time a piece is captured. *And L Lawliet was able to predict and deduce every single move correctly.* The difficulty of this achievement should not be understated.

For example, if L loses a pawn, he has to deduce what openings Light used, how he brought out his pieces, which pieces he might have sacrificed, and what the current board layout looks like to allow the pawn capture. L is essentially playing history's hardest game of chess here - and is getting every move absolutely dead on, leaving

small pockets for pieces of information that he simply wouldn't be able to know about (such as the piece of evidence found by Naomi from her knowledge of Penber's compromise).

We take for granted that we can see Light's strategy unfold in Death Note. But from L's perspective, each new loss and progression is a dizzying amount of data to process. He has to conceptualize the board, understand Light's evolving tactics, and reformulate his own moves accordingly. All without ever directly seeing the board.

L forms highly abstract "board potentials", which are theorems of the current board state made on assumptions, alike an artistic mathematician reasoning about a proof based on an assumption or lemma. L holds a monstrous number of these board potentials in his head, choosing which ones pertain to new pieces of evidence from Light's captures and forming every growing new ones. And L was thrilled at this type of intellectual juggling.

So while the match appears close, L is operating at an *astronomical* level of abstraction and logic to map Kira and Co.

As a matter of fact, L completely annihilated the deduction part of the case, and as mentioned earlier, if this case were a normal one, L would have captured Light within the month. But L was driven by his curiosity of learning how Kira killed.

It's when the influx of entropy is introduced that L's death was sealed, but even then:

1) L masterfully deduced the problem of multiple Kiras.

2) L easily solved the problem of Shinigami eyes (despite being put in jeopardy because of an earlier move (revealing his face) based on an now harmful assumption (Kira needs a name)).

3) L solved the problem of Kira's power transfer, as he was able to perfectly predict Light's plan [though, unfortunately, Light stole it during the few milliseconds when L was both terrified by the Shinigami and processing a dizzying amount of ideas].

4) L even solved the problem of changing the rules of the death note and was just about to test it.

The only one factor that defeat L was the idea that Shinigami were not objective creatures. Because he believed that they were truly bystanders, he didn't realise that Rem had an obsessive love for Misa until the moment that Rem killed Watari. L could have easily connected the Light - Misa - Rem string if he knew this, and would have deciphered that Light was putting Misa in danger to get Rem to kill L and save her. But even then, L would have had to die - because of how intelligent he was, and by virtue of the fact that he would have always solved the case and captured them, he had no option but to die.

These random changes and influxes in entropy would be like L losing pieces on the chessboard due to random chance events beyond his control - and most importantly, he isn't even informed that these chance events have occurred. E.g. he is never informed of things like when Misa regains her memories or when Light and Misa first meet - L has to solve all of these supremely unfair changes all on his own - *And he still hits every nail on the head*. It's scary.

For example, the introduction of the Shinigami eyes creates new options for Light that L couldn't plan for, such as a new set of possible moves for each Light's pieces to make. Now certain pieces that were safe before are vulnerable in ways L has to instantly deduce before too many are killed. Again, L easily outmanoeuvres all of these steps.

This decay and entropy makes L's deductions vastly more difficult, yet still, L deduces all of them. Just as he is adapting his strategy to Light, the board changes shape under his feet. He has to rapidly integrate unpredictable new events into his mental simulations, and he always succeeds.

I believe people don't really understand just how intelligent L is because of how profound his reasoning pattern is - he doesn't follow the standard linear strategic moves that map more exactly to the general population. As such, people are able to recognise Light's thinking, which is just a faster version, more crystallised version of normative thinking. L, on the other hand, thinks in spirals - huge, abstract webs that he can hold and manipulate in his mind. This is far from the standard process, and is seen in only the most gifted minds of humanity. As such, his thoughts are alien - I highly respect the authors for properly researching how this style of profound thinking comes about and their choice to map that thinking onto L.

L had an incredibly detrimental task force, who didn't at all help in his deductions - in fact, they harmed L. Nobody was truly on L's side. He fought the depths of his battle alone, climbing uphill, with no one understanding his deductions.

In fact, I theorise that L may have grown a complex attachment to Light - not because he was his friend, but precisely because he was Kira. Nobody else but Light - Nobody else but Kira - knew just how brilliant and perfect L and his reasoning actually was. And L, being the man he was, can easily read Light's behaviour and check against them whether he is correct. In other words, L liked being around Light because he could check whether all of his problem solving and deductions were correct - after all, that's the one thing L actually cares about: Solving problems. When Light lost his memories, L became depressed - not really because his deductions were wrong (they weren't) but because Light could no longer act as a test program for L's solutions. L had to rely entirely on his own frameworks, which is a difficult thing for L to do considering all of his deductions lied in the realm of the abstract, and the fact that the Kira Case was not a concrete problem.

If L did ever make an actual mistake, it could only be the following 3 things:

1) Assumed that this was a relatively fixed situation.

    This assumption led to L revealing his face to Light and Misa, who could kill him instantly. Yet still, L completely outmanoeuvred certain death with his intelligence - he negated this.

2) Assuming perfect objectivity from Gods until the last 10 seconds of his life.

    This is such a harsh assumption to criticise him on, and even then, there is nothing he could do here - L would have died regardless of whether he knew or not.

3) Made sure he held onto the Death Note in that half second when he encountered the Shinigami and he was solving the case.

> This is a very unfair criticism - he was seeing real monsters for the first time in his life, while simultaneously thinking at an inhuman speed. He had next to no time to deduce that the Notebook was the power carrier, and in the literal fraction of a second it took for him to deduce all this, Light's curiosity had the death note in his hands.

L didn't make any real errors.

Rem killing L is the equivalent of having L be shot through the heart by an unstoppable bullet the second he is about to checkmate the Kiras. In fact, that's exactly what happened.

L was too much of a genius to be left alive. And I feel his inevitable death beautifully underscores the tragic heroism of his character, intelligence, and inner psyche.

I am of the firm belief that nobody in fiction could have come this close to reasoning every single movement and solving the Kira Case from scratch, alone, apart from L Lawliet.

Monster

There are many types of monsters that scare me: Monsters who cause trouble without showing themselves, monsters who abduct children, monsters who devour dreams, monsters who suck blood... and then, monsters who tell nothing but lies. Lying monsters are a real nuisance: They are much more cunning than others. They pose as humans even though they have no understanding of the human heart; they eat even though they've never experienced hunger; they study even though they have no interest in academics; they seek friendship even though they do not know how to love. If I were to encounter such monsters, I would likely be eaten by them... because in truth, I am that monster.

L Lawliet

This is a highly subjective analysis, but still, I thought I'd share my thoughts.

L Lawliet is talking about his lying nature. His brilliance allows him to understand everything and to decipher the mind of anyone he pleases. He will act out the reasoning of another individual and get under their skin. He'll lie about everything to find the truth within everything. He doesn't feel emotions like other people do, but he can perfectly rationalise them. He doesn't feel the innate passion or hunger that other people so, but he can perfectly reason them. He studies and decrypts the people around them even if he doesn't care at all about who they are inside, treating them like mathematical equations. He will form friendships and bonds in order to get closer to the truth. L's understanding and familiarity of lies scares him to an excruciating degree.

But what L means by "eaten by himself " is his abstract frameworks. L forms monumental constructs of everything around him, able to rapidly change and decipher them whenever new evidence appears.

For a man like L, his lying nature is detrimental - He finds instability within his own theories, no matter how gifted he is, and no matter how correct or insightful his logic may be. He is always unsure of himself. Second guessing, doubting, and rechecking his own frameworks to make sure they really do map out the world around him - it's this innate distrust in himself that ruined him. His greatest weaknesses are internal - he scrutinises his own mind with a need to have a perfect inner voice. He doesn't really understand himself nor his motivations, a very internally confused individual. He takes on cases to bless his profound mind, and feels that doesn't care for justice. He's a lying monster - or at least, that's how he sees himself. A truly self-malicious person.

Light Yagami, on the other hand, lied to the world, but was truly honest to himself. He never once doubted his actions and ideology, and followed what he felt to be his true calling.

L Lawliet had no such thing. All he had was an unstimulated profound gift that he had a strong urge to drive with - it didn't really matter what he drove towards. He just wanted to solve - to keep deciphering the movement of people, their actions, to understand their philosophy, and to relish in the logic of 'impossible' cases.

And so, he sometimes says things that are contradictory to his frameworks and beliefs, because he sometimes lacks faith in them - though as evidenced, he has never once been wrong.

The monster that eats away L Lawliet is his own need for pure logical precision, which he turns inwards towards himself.

Why is L so reliant on these frameworks? It's because that's what life to him is. When a small piece of the model is snapped, the whole thing crashed down. L has to painfully start from the beginning, making new models that are not as confidently embedded or established within his mind. And he's scared of this crashing. The more he lies to himself, the less he can tell what part of his abstraction is actually true to himself, and the higher the chances that his frameworks all collapse - these lies are what's ruining him.

That's why he had such an averse reaction to the idea that Shinigami actually existed. It was a small kink in his mental model of the world, but it had huge, existential damage to his perspective - much more so than others who model the world based on actual physicality. L has a highly profound, abstract processing that tries to get to the core or the essence behind each and every little thing, ignoring the physical nature of it. L's frameworks are liable to tangling, and it's this tangling that ate him alive.

The more L lies and the more L abstracts, the less he can connect with others.

Except for the criminals he is catching.

He is able to so perfectly psychoanalyse and align with their thoughts that he feels comfortable around these people, even more than 'morally good' people. He was comfortable with Light because he had decrypted Light's personality within days of knowing of Kira's existence. He could constantly check whether his deductions and frameworks were correct with him able to verify them through reading Light's behaviour. L's ability to decrypt others was completely unmatched - Near and Mello combined were not even close to being able to decipher Light, his reasoning, his exact actions, and his motivations, apart from the very final plan. L Lawliet, on the other hand, knew every singly little action that Light took, every single motivation, and every single thread of reasoning that went through Light's mind.

L felt evil - he somewhat related more to these strong criminal characters because of his giftedness. His intelligence let him be whichever twisted mind he wanted to be. He was that monster.

Personal Statistics

I will not be using any evidence that is not directly in the source material or the content in Death Note. Volume 13 data, interviews, and others, carry major inconsistencies (e.g. it is stated that Light hated Misa for killing innocents, but in the source material, he is gleeful when he finds another walking down his path. It also states that Penber and Naomi are similar in knowledge/intelligence (false), and that Mikami is as knowledgeable/intelligent as L (false). The "knowledge" statistic could mean "knowledge of the death note", and thus L is 8, but this doesn't explain why Misa's score is so low, when hers would also be around 8 or 9. It further states that Near has creativity equal to Light and L, but both Near and Light admit that L would have instantly picked up on the creative deductions that Near completely missed. Light and L are leagues more creative than Near. The databook also states that "Watari was a true philanthropist", but Mello notes that Watari was only driven to create such a high level orphanage because he was captivated by L's talent - and this move caused an incredibly amount of insecurity among very promising children, inducing even suicide. Watari was not a true philanthropist, and the fact files are not reliable.

I've attempted to formulate my own theory.

I pose that there are generally 4 types of intelligence:

Type 1: Raw intelligence (Giftedness, Precocity, Processing, IQ, etc)
Type 2: Fluid intelligence (Reasoning, Abstract Thinking, Intuition, Perception, etc)
Type 3: Outsmarting Ability (Induction, Indirect Manipulation, Creativity, Strategy etc)
Type 4: Social Intelligence (Interpersonal, Direct Manipulation, Charisma, etc)

I recognise that there may be some overlap between adjacent types, but I believe it to be a solid framework overall.

Character	T1	T2	T3	T4
L	9.50	9.75	8.75	7.00
Kira	8.25	8.50	8.75	8.50
Mello	8.00	8.50	8.50	8.25
Near	8.50	8.50	7.75	6.00

Here are, in my opinion, some of the best scores in fiction.

Character	T1	T2	T3	T4
L Lawliet [Series]	**9.50**	**9.75**		
Sherlock Holmes [Novel]	**9.25**	**9.50**		
Patrick Jane [TV]		**9.25**	**9.00**	**9.00**
Baku Madarame [Manga]			**9.75**	**9.00**
Johan Liebert [Manga]				**9.50**

Note: These are the highest scores among only characters whose intelligences are extremely well written. I have yet to read Ender's Game, though I hear it's promising.

L displays an extremely profound type of intelligence. He doesn't form random tricks, he doesn't utilise standard game theory, and he doesn't use traditional gambling. He crafts extremely complex models of everything around him, slowly carving away at the ideas he is able to intuit. His mental substructure forms a framework, and he tests this framework by taking in pieces of information and seeing where it fits into the model. If that information is proven accurate and breaks the model, he tears it ashred and starts from scratch, quickly rebuilding a more accurate model. His inhuman thinking speed and pattern recognition allows him to make his signature abstract connections that link multiple concrete happenstances, identifying the core - the essence - of everything. He creates deep, long threads of thought have never yielded wrong, and considers every possible angle. He is able to dissect human nature to a terrifying degree, and has a innate mastery of logic, mathematics and psychology. L's driver is his perfect logic, which is guided by his raw intuition. His problem solving ability and reasoning powers are completely unmatched, though his characteristics boredom means he is less motivated to find incriminating evidence. L was a far stronger perceiver (one of the best in fictional history) than an initiator.

While it's easy to believe that, if you were given the abilities of Kira, it would be simple to keep L at bay, L's psychoanalytic ability means he would have depicted a new "L's Kira" and crafted a plan to capitalise on L's Kira's weaknesses. The comment that Light should have simply "not killed Lind. L. Taylor" is ignorant - it ignores Light's character, and it ignored the method by which L devised the plan. L makes extremely abstract connections between very minute details and observations, based on a miniscule amount of evidence, to create extremely accurate artistic deductions that reveal to him the entirety of the criminal's behaviour and thoughts. It would be virtually impossible for any individual to not have L eventually identify him as Kira due to L's inhuman reasoning ability. He doesn't make lots of one-stop connections like Sherlock Holmes, for example - L creates extremely complex, long strings of reasoning that twist together and bring about the truth.

Whereas Sherlock has vastly superior observational power and memory, L has supernatural reasoning, abstract thinking, psychoanalysis and raw intelligence that are completely beyond that of Holmes. Patrick Jane takes a completely different approach to detective work, utilising his extraordinary EQ to come about his solutions, with a high dose of intuition to drive his investigations.

In all, I believe L to be one of the most intelligent fictional characters of all time, and the single most intelligent character in T2 intelligence. He is, in my opinion, the greatest detective, with Patrick Jane and Sherlock Holmes tied for second place.

Further Note: Usogui is hailed as one of the best manga to display written intelligence, and I strongly agree. However, I think L in particular is incredibly underestimated due to the way the anime series was dictated - it leaves out all the allusions that L makes, and it completely forgoes a lot of his elegant reasoning, making it all appear as "plot driving" or "lucky guessing". When analysed properly, Death Note is a series that has an incredibly number of mechanisms at play, and is comparable to Usogui in that regard - the main difference being that Usogui explains all of the reasoning, whereas in Death Note, it is highly glanced over and simplified for mainstream media, with many of L's deductions being ill explained. L makes near inhuman deductions based on raw reasoning ability, and is only appreciated if analysing the manga in a distinct, perceptive manner. If Death Note was not as mainstream as it was, I think L's, Light's, Near's and Mello's intelligences would be much more highly understood, and the interactions and themes between the characters would be much more rigorously explored.

I hope this exposition into the depths of L's mind highlights why I believe he is one of the smartest characters in fictional history, as well as the best in all of fiction for T2 intelligence.

Note: I might consider doing an analysis of Light Yagami later on, I really like how he's written. I'm also thinking of writing up another analysis on Near vs Mello and the dynamics at play in the Wammy's house.

If you have any feedback to offer, please email me at j7322016@gmail.com

