-ASSANE DIOP-

PELLEGRINI DOWNFALL PLAN

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After escaping a trap set by Pellegrini, Assane finds himself in a situation where he needs to end everything once and for all—finding a way to send Hubert Pellegrini to prison.

Detail: I will present the plan in the order of events, not in the order in which the story is told.

GUEDIRA CALLING [1st ACTION OF THE PLAN]

Guedira receives a phone call directly from Assane Diop. During the call, Diop informs Guedira—referring to him as Ganimard, the detective who opposes Lupin in the books—that he must go to the Paul Place Dauphine café on Monday at 10 a.m. He makes it very clear that Guedira must go alone.

Guedira also knows that if he told his colleagues, Diop would know immediately, and the route of the plan could change in a way that would make it impossible to stop or predict Assane. So the best option is truly to follow Assane's instructions if he wants to know what this is about.

We know that Diop was observing Guedira—possibly from a nearby building or while disguised as someone else—with the purpose of confirming Guedira's loyalty and ensuring that he wouldn't take any unexpected action.

LUCAS LACROIX [2nd ACTION OF THE PLAN]

After breaking into Pellegrini's house and obtaining information about a man named Lucas Lacroix—a man who handles money for people like Pellegrini—they learn that he is known for making safe investments with stable returns. However, to do this, he needs access to his clients' data: account keys, usernames, passwords, and account numbers. He keeps all of this information inside a folder that never leaves his side. To obtain more information about Pellegrini's operation, they need to steal this folder.

After getting a sense of Lacroix's routine, Assane plans for Benjamin to bump into him and steal his briefcase. Diop, who will be very well positioned, witnesses the incident and runs

after Benjamin—pretending to want to recover the briefcase. After extracting all the financial data and offshore accounts onto a computer, Assane returns the briefcase and puts it back exactly as it was.

After robbing Lacroix, Assane and Benjamin go to the Paris library to find an exceptional helper. Once they find the boy, Assane transforms him into someone else, teaching him everything he needs to convincingly pass as "Courbet."

Diop then calls Lacroix, posing as "Pierre Lafond" from the Brussels office. After receiving a report, he claims that there is a man named Courbet who is attempting to approach clients. Assane does this so that Lacroix will pass the same message on to Pellegrini.

In this way, Diop is able to infiltrate Courbet and obtain more information about the Foundation.

COURBET INFILTRATION [3rd ACTION OF THE PLAN]

Courbet is a false identity created by Assane. He is a man working as part of Assane's plan in exchange for money. He presents himself as one of the best in his field. As a businessman, he is introduced to Pellegrini as a serious, new, yet highly professional figure. He investigated the financial situation of the people who attended the Foundation's gala event.

According to him, assuming that 30% of the attendees donated nothing, and assuming that most donors are far less generous than they pretend to be, he believes they can expect around 10 million euros. However, as requested by Pellegrini, only 15% will actually go to the Foundation, while the remaining 85% will be transferred directly to an offshore account in the Cayman Islands, which is later passed on to Pellegrini.

Assane wanted Courbet to be a false identity full of personality—someone who commands respect despite his young age. Courbet tells Pellegrini, "My age doesn't matter. The only number you should care about is that I charge €10,000 an hour. It's expensive, but you can trust that it's worth every cent."

Pellegrini takes a liking to the young man and mentions that many consider him the best, which means Assane successfully built a false narrative around this identity.

Now, Courbet is the one responsible for setting up the structure that will receive the donations. Not only does this allow Assane to infiltrate Pellegrini's team and gain privileged information about his actions, but Assane can also manipulate Pellegrini's decisions through

Courbet—almost undetectably. Courbet will be extremely important to the future of the plan**.**

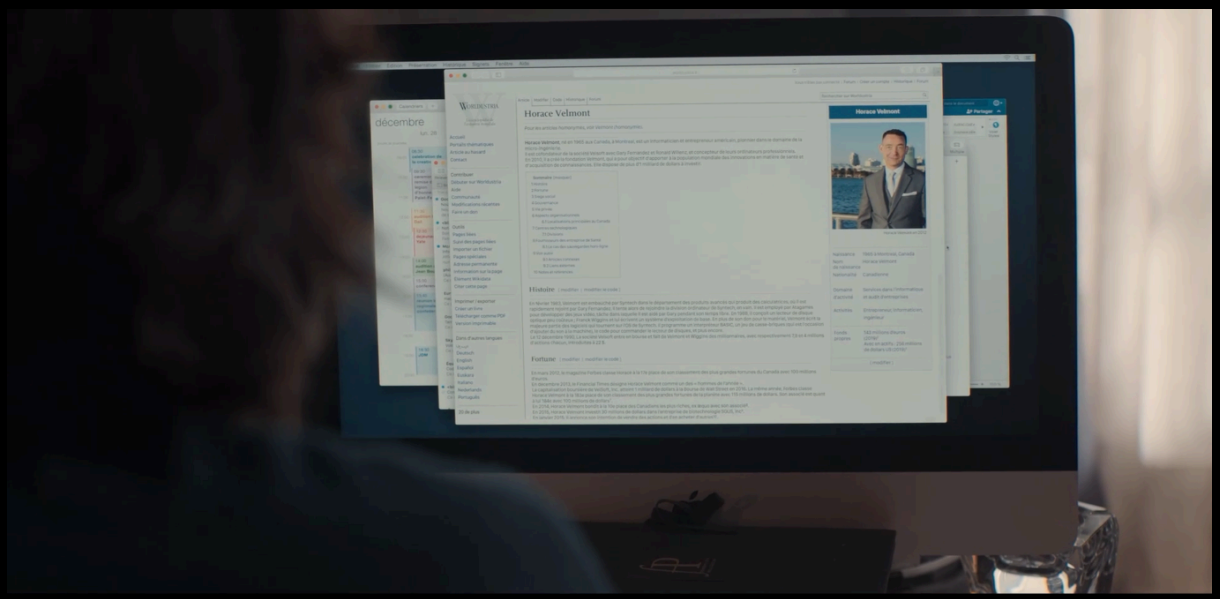
JULIETTE EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION **[4th ACTION OF THE PLAN]**

Using Benjamin's voice, Diop makes a reservation at a restaurant for two people for the following evening. He specifically requests that the table be by the window. He does this so that, later on, Juliette will spot Assane walking down the street and call him inside. Benjamin poses as a man named "Horace Velmont" while making the reservation.

The next day, Benjamin speaks with Juliette, praising the work she does during her activities at the Foundation. He says that he intends to make a large donation but wants to meet her in person. However, "Horace Velmont" has a trip scheduled for the following morning, so the only way for the meeting to happen would be that same evening.

Naturally, Juliette would not meet with someone without knowing who he is, so Assane creates a Wikipedia page—as a contingency—about "Horace Velmont," making it appear that he is a real person and that his background aligns with the behavior of the persona Benjamin is playing.

Wikipedia page created by Diop:



However, it is obvious that this man, "Horace Velmont," will not show up to the dinner—after all, he does not even exist. But Assane understands Juliette perfectly, and

because he deliberately positioned her at the window, she will spot Diop on the sidewalk and call him inside, since her companion failed to appear and the table is already set for two.

In order to "appear smaller," Assane manipulates Juliette while hiding the fact that everything is being orchestrated by him, shifting the blame onto her by saying, "Stop pretending, Juliette. You want me to believe this is a coincidence? What's the trap this time?"—as if she were the one in control of the situation.

Diop understands exactly how Juliette feels about the "war between their families" and is able to predict her reactions because of it. He knows her emotional state and anticipates her speech about how "my life has become too serious now; I don't feel the same adrenaline I used to." Assane subtly plants a seed in Juliette's subconscious. When she says, "We would never have gone to a place like this back then," he replies, "We would have—but we would've left without paying."

This leads Juliette to think about leaving the restaurant without paying, just like in the old days. To conceal his control over the situation, Diop says they shouldn't do it, claiming it would require preparation. He explains that they would be easily caught if the name used for the reservation tried to flee without paying, since there would already be an identity attached to it. However, as he planned, it was "Horace Velmont" who made the reservation, with no mention of Juliette's name. You cannot identify someone who does not exist. Even so, this is merely a contingency, because the bill had already been paid in advance—without Juliette's knowledge—since Assane had already anticipated how the conversation would unfold.

Playing along with "Juliette's plan," Assane and her flee the restaurant and steal a motorcycle. Once again, everything was planned by Assane. He had previously paid the owner of the scooter and asked him to act as if he were being robbed, all so that Juliette would believe the night was going perfectly.

As they ride through the city, Diop takes Juliette to places they visited during their childhood. Juliette says she loved the day, and Assane replies that it is a shame they cannot stop time. This, in reality, aligns with future moves in the plan. Assane wants Juliette to believe that he would do anything for her.

The next day, Assane attempts to meet her again. He predicts exactly how Juliette will think about it. He knows that, despite how much she loved the previous day, they are no longer twenty years old—she has a career and cannot live like that anymore—and, as Diop himself said earlier, "we cannot stop time."

This visit to Juliette's workplace serves to implant the idea that Assane is genuinely willing to reconnect with her. Furthermore, by anticipating her behavior, he aligns the idea of "not stopping time" as an excuse for his next move.

Later, after returning home, Juliette receives a package, which her secretary had left on her desk. Shortly before opening it, she receives a notification on her phone stating that one of the museum's paintings had been stolen. Several forums and websites begin discussing the theft, and Juliette receives multiple notifications, both on her phone and on her computer.

An even more intriguing notification catches her attention: the woman she had spoken to earlier is now giving an interview about the robbery. In other words, the information is already everywhere.

When Juliette opens the package, she finds the stolen painting on her desk. "Sometimes we can stop time," is the message left with the painting. This makes it clear that the culprit behind the theft is Assane.

Shortly afterward, two police officers arrive at Juliette's home to question her about the robbery.



In addition to applying greater psychological pressure, this further reinforces the idea that the painting was stolen.

However, of course, all of this information is false—Assane did not steal the painting. Every notification was created and manipulated to appear convincing. The video she watched was simply an edit made by Assane to make it seem as though the woman was talking about the theft of the painting, manipulating the context of the scene. The two police officers who appear at her house

are, in reality, former prisoners—men who met Assane in the first season and are now free. Diop sent them to make the idea of the theft feel even more real. And finally, the painting itself is fake. Benjamin is an expert in creating forged art and produced a painting identical to the original.

Once again, by fully understanding Juliette's mindset, she does not mention Assane to the police. Diop predicted this precisely because he knew that Juliette still had feelings—feelings that were reinforced by their meeting and their ride through the city.

Now, we see the first environmental adaptation in Assane's plan. The purpose of the plan—both intended and anticipated—was always to make Juliette believe that Diop would do anything for her, and later, that Juliette would do anything for him.

The adaptation in question is that Juliette, in order for Assane to prove his loyalty, asks him to steal a bracelet from Claire—Assane's ex-wife. Upon entering the bedroom, Diop hides a watch with an alarm under Claire's bed. This will be important at the end of the plan. After stealing the necklace, Diop finally establishes a definitive bond with Juliette. Now, he begins to enter her mind.

He makes it clear that the only reason they were never together was Pellegrini—Juliette's father—who always interfered in their relationship and never allowed anything to happen. Diop also explains that Pellegrini framed his father. Assane's only request is that Juliette speak to her mother, as she is the only one who knows the truth. Diop plans for Juliette to learn the truth and stop being deceived by her father, so that she may become fully aligned with him.

Assane hands over a letter. Inside it is Guedira's name. Diop tells Juliette that her mother must tell everything she knows to him by going to the Paul Place Dauphine café.

In the end, Assane also says that he will return both the painting and Claire's bracelet.
[Juliette receives a notification informing her that the painting has mysteriously been returned.]

All of these events had a single purpose in mind (for now): to ensure that Guedira meets Juliette's mother. This woman must reveal everything she knows about Pellegrini—information that would send him to prison.

Assane knew that the only way to make her confess all of this to a police officer was by having her own daughter beg her to do so. In this way, Assane is able to emotionally manipulate even Juliette's mother, without ever having any direct contact with her.

At the end of the episode, Pellegrini is arrested for fraud and obstruction of justice. He is also interrogated regarding the case involving Diop's father.

But of course, it doesn't end here.

CATACOMBS TRAP EVASION **[5th ACTION OF THE PLAN]**

Assane knew that, even after doing all of this, Pellegrini might not be arrested, since he holds great influence. He is eventually released by order of the Minister of the Interior, who is a friend of Pellegrini.

However, during the interrogation, Pellegrini identifies Assane Diop as an enemy of the police.

When questioned about one of his henchmen, Pellegrini remains silent. The man had previously been arrested because of Assane. He was found carrying a weapon while using a false name, and investigators discovered that the apartment where he was staying belonged to Pellegrini.



Juliette discovers that her father has been released from custody. She becomes worried and wants to cancel the Foundation's concert. Assane manipulates her into keeping the plans unchanged.

Meanwhile, Pellegrini devises a strategy to shift the blame onto Assane. He sends the hitman from the photograph to follow Benjamin and locate Assane's house. However, without the hitman knowing it, another man is following him with the purpose of killing him. This man murders the hitman inside Assane's house, then calls the police and frames Diop. When Assane finds the body, he flees, and the police discover his residence.

Now, the police know his name and where he lived.

But the point is that Assane manages to evade this trap. In fact, there are indications that it may have even been part of his plan.

Pellegrini's men only learned about Benjamin because it was his company that handled Fabienne's funeral. In other words, Assane deliberately chose to keep these decisions unchanged so that Benjamin would be identified, indirectly manipulating Pellegrini into setting this plan in motion.

Of course, Assane kept this from Benjamin because he needed Benjamin's reactions to be genuine. This allows him to manipulate Pellegrini into believing that he is in control and that Assane is improvising, rather than being in total control of the situation.

Diop plants an extremely important clue for the future of the plan inside his apartment. Assane understands Guedira perfectly, so he knows exactly what Guedira thinks about Assane being a representation of Lupin. Lupin is a gentleman thief—he would never kill someone. "Something is wrong," is precisely what Assane wants Guedira to think.

Having anticipated this entire situation, Assane warns Benjamin that he must flee immediately—doing so in a way that leaves Benjamin genuinely frightened.

Once again demonstrating his control over the situation, Assane explains that Benjamin is being followed at that very moment. Assane directs Benjamin's movements, allowing him to successfully escape the hitman.

Assane had already planned a place to hide after the national scandal: a fully prepared shipping container, capable of sheltering both Assane and Benjamin for a short period of time.

After stealing a phone from a man, Assane sends a coded message that only Guedira would understand. "VAmLLAUleJPE" is the message sent, which, when decoded, becomes "La Lampage Juive." The purpose of this message is to lead Guedira back to Assane's house, where he had previously seen a Jewish lamp.

Upon hearing noises outside the container—police officers who tracked his location through security cameras—Assane pulls a sheet of paper hidden inside one of the books in the cabinet, revealing a map of the Paris Catacombs.

Despite their numerical advantage, the police are unable to capture Assane, precisely because he has the map of the Catacombs and knows the exact routes needed to avoid being caught.

After returning to Assane's house, Guedira finds what he was looking for: a USB drive hidden in a way that would have been impossible to locate without Assane's message. Diop

did this because he knew that Pellegrini would order the destruction of any evidence that threatened his empire.

This USB drive contains several pieces of crucial information for Pellegrini's arrest—while Pellegrini believes he has emerged victorious.

THE GRAND EVENT **[6th ACTION OF THE PLAN]**

After analyzing the USB drive, the police plan to attempt to capture Pellegrini during the Grand Event.

Returning to Courbet's role, we are now entering the final stage of the plan. On the day of the Grand Event, Courbet will receive the computers that are meant to track the donations. The attendees will donate through an application directly connected to the system. However, inside one of the crates, Assane himself is hidden—like a Trojan horse.



Benjamin is also infiltrated into the delivery of the computers. It is worth noting that all the other crates are genuinely filled with computer hard drives, in case anyone questions the size of the boxes.

After fully infiltrating the theater, Assane changes his clothes and goes to a booth from which he can observe the entire space. After locating Pellegrini's seats, Assane is ready to proceed with the plan.

Benjamin manages to break into a room using several security override codes, and Diop approaches Pellegrini's seat with a knife. With the blade at his neck, Assane forces Pellegrini to confess to the crimes involving Fabienne, Raoul, and others.

After Pellegrini's confession, Assane releases him and flees through the theater—naturally, since all security now has a single objective: capturing Diop. He does this because he had been secretly recording the entire conversation.

Using multiple tricks, Assane manages to mislead several security guards at once. Now fleeing through restricted areas, Diop draws Dumont's attention. After noticing Dumont's suspicious movements, the undercover police officers follow him in order to stop his actions.

The police manage to apprehend Dumont shortly before he can capture Diop. Thus, Guedira was not only a means to capture Pellegrini, but also acted as a contingency to protect Assane.

Heading toward the front of the theater, Assane had already planned with Courbet to alter the live feed on the large screen. During the shift change of one of the stage staff members, Diop steps in, causing confusion among the audience.

The entire police force moves toward the stage, and meanwhile Diop publicly recounts all the crimes committed by Pellegrini. Knowing that the police would eventually pursue him, Assane had already positioned Benjamin to cut the theater's power.

Catching the police off guard, Diop temporarily disappears by using the darkness and the panicked crowd he had planned for—along with the element of surprise, which severely hinders the police's response.

Courbet leaves his booth after analyzing the computers handling the donations and escapes the theater. He and Benjamin enter a vehicle that was already in position for their escape. Contrary to what Pellegrini believed, the donations were not being routed to his bank account, but to the Foundation.

Meanwhile, Assane remains inside the building but already has an escape plan prepared. He heads to a pre-arranged booth, which he can access—just like Benjamin—using a decoder, entering the area where Courbet had previously been. There, hidden inside a false compartment, he had stored a bag containing a disguise for his escape.

To avoid being caught while leaving, Assane uses the disguise to pose as a janitor. He claims to have seen Assane Diop escaping through the roof, redirecting the police's attention upward and allowing him to steal one of the police walkie-talkies and send the entire force to the rooftop.

While the police chase the “Assane Diop,” Assane sends an audio message to Guedira—the recorded confession in which Pellegrini admits to all his crimes.

After putting enough distance between himself and the area, Assane removes the disguise and heads to a boat that had been prepared for his escape. Diop evades the police, successfully completing all of his objectives.

Returning to the moment when Assane stole Claire’s necklace, remember that a watch had been left under her bed. Assane activates its alarm so that it sends a message to Claire. Diop manages to contact her and invite her to the bridge where they chose the name Raoul—their son’s name.



I believe this is Assane’s best plan so far (still waiting for Season 4), and it provides a significant boost to his Foresight and Theory of Mind (or EU, or Mentalization, if you prefer), precisely because of the prediction of multiple actions and the movements of everyone involved from the very beginning of the plan.

There are multiple layers happening simultaneously, and in sequences that make it difficult to fully grasp the entire plan on a first watch, so I hope this analysis has made the plan easier to understand.