Honami > BB in Planning

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

I'll use one plan from each - LABB for BB and CKA for Honami.

It is recommended that you read the two characters' respective analysis and their source materials. It's essential that you read them if you're not familiar with their scaling and make your own judgments as for the sake of keeping this comparison concise, I won't go through literally every single thing such as all the evidence supporting the two characters' interpretations.

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

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

Planning Aim

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

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

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

BB: Driven by hatred, B wants to surpass L by challenging him to a battle of wits, proving to himself that the "greatest detective in the world" is in fact nothing but a fraud. To achieve this, B aimed to orchestrate a perfect crime even L shouldn't have been able to solve in his own death. Before this however, BB would engineer a series of cases – all traps disguised as a solvable enigma: solving the puzzle of one crime scene will lead to the next… This would condition L into thinking the last case would've a final puzzle L could solve to reveal the culprit.

Without further ado, let's get started.

Planning Coverage

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

This is based on the sum of BB's actions:

- Always leave signals pointing to the next victims.
- Always seal the rooms (closed rooms) and nail wara ningyos as those two aspects serve as the plan's main misdirections.
- Remove all of his fingerprints and traces around the rooms.
- Use varied murder methods for all four kills.
- Make it impossible for "Beyond Birthday" to be linked back to Wammy's House as their "B".
- Prevent anyone from suspecting suicide on case #4.
    - Create the illusion that "B" simply stopped murdering people and his work had been completed.
- L's involvement:
    - Ensure L recognizes and pinpoints his murder case.
    - Get him to engage into the battle by putting his prox(ies) into action so that you can meet them, allowing you to guide them across the murder scenes.
    - Control the information to perfection, so that amateurs and the LAPD fail to find the information to piece the puzzles together, but someone with L's abilities could.
    - Paint the killer as a prideful maniac who loves to leave hints behind, leading Naomi and co to conclude that he will leave more hints behind.
    - Condition L into adopting a specific perspective with all the murders.
- Proxy Management:
    - When meeting up with the proxy(ies) for the first time, put them in a state of fear as she worries herself about what will happen to them if information concerning L leaked, since that event should happen right after they had a convo with L on the phone.
    - Set up contingencies in case L sends more than 1 pawn.

    - Present yourself as someone who could make the same deductions as L, to gain credibility & eventually ensure the proxy follows you.
    - Get yourself hired as a private detective by the families of the victims.
    - Assess the ability of L's proxy; brain and brawn.

Meanwhile, here is Honami's overarching coverage:

- **Continue to gather information to profile Kiyotaka, since he is still a bundle of secrets.**
- Demoralizing Miyabi, so he would not involve Honami in his games anymore and get in her way. This issue was primarily handled through Honami's rumor mills strategy, though this was also its own thing beyond that by meddling with Kei.
- Kiyotaka's relationships with Hona's classmates, including the difficult ones such as Ryuji but also the more useful ones for manipulative purposes - Norihito mainly, but also Mako.
- Most importantly, Kiyo's relationship with Honami herself, through some tactics such as the gym fabrication, the selfie, overwriting strategy, simply spending time together, etc.
- Control the public's perception of her relationship with Kiyo.
- Build up sufficient ammos to torpedo any relationship Kiyo may have with other people, principally Kei of course, by loading up on coercive, reputation destroying, material.
    - In relation to this, have a quality set of misdirection and concealment to hide your intent to gather coercion.
- Centering the final stage to "bind" Kiyo around the promised day and preparing accordingly. Hona had 0 chance to gather enough private points before the end of the 2nd year, a given since she and her class had zero private points left after they chose to save a classmate in the Class Vote Exam of Y1. But Kiyo and Honami promised that, no matter what occurred between their classes, they would meet a year later, March 30th, after the second year ended, so the timing & condition of the promise can be meaningful.
- Post KiyoKei break-up, cover up the past mingling with Kiyo when he was Kei's boyfriend to protect your reputation.
- Stopping Arisu from hindering the plan, by blinding her to it.
- Clearing any traces of her proactivity from First Years & any new school personnels: Honami's experience with Shiba and Tokinari during the UIE is proof they are dangerous and her desire to learn about the White Room and Kiyotaka must be concealed from them.

Checklist for Y2V9 Events specifically:

- Set up as many contingencies as possible to ensure Kiyotaka asks to meet 1-on-1 in a way that allows Hona to take charge of where the first location of the "date" would be.
- Perform an harmless test ahead of time to confirm the tactic to lure Kiyotaka does actually work.

Y2V10 Meeting:

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

Promise Meeting's Own Checklist:

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

- Control all the information transmitted to Kiyo throughout March 30th from her phone, including shutting it down and when his text messages are viewed as “read”.
- Counter Kiyo’s emotional perception and sensory capacity. Meaning, suppressing any possible discernment with regard to body languages, etc.
- Acquire all the necessities before the exam, namely enough food to last at least 10 days, yet appear surprisingly healthy (eliminating the possibility Honami couldn’t bring herself to eat all that much due to being depressed) according to Kiyo’s monologue when he entered her room, citrus perfume & the contraceptives.

The checkpoint in blue letters is more ambiguous as to how much it was considered ahead of time, since the considerations could’ve been a by-product of the events of the Y2V12 exam therefore part of Honami’s planning acclimation. For this comparison, it can be tossed aside if it’s too much of a grey area.

Their failures are marked in bold red: Honami absolutely failed to correctly analyze Kiyotaka. Whatever effort she put into gathering information to analyze Kiyotaka wasn’t certainly enough. That’s a matter of fact and there is no use pretending otherwise. But in her defense, she really made a legitimate effort to gather information on many steps of her preparations for the promise meeting. The purpose of Hona’s tactic in Y2V8 was to gather information about him before making the decision to resign in Y2V9, in part. Honami even improvised one time, using the S&D exam for that purpose. Kiyo also made a legitimate effort to deceive Honami and she had no realistic means to understand the White Room (even if Honami overheard the word in some random conversation she struggled to listen to) and how it could shape Kiyotaka. But be that as it may, this doesn’t completely excuse her.

But if one holds Hona’s mistake with misunderstanding Kiyotaka against her, they can do the same for BB. The fact he lacked direct insight on both L and Naomi isn’t much of an excuse. After all, his plan was built around making inferences on people B did know he lacked that direct insight on; in Naomi’s case, B had 0 way to know what agent L would send and he wasn’t 100% certain that L would send only 1 and prepared for the possibility of up to 3 agents. So, in BB’s case, the likelihood of a discrepancies should’ve been better considered and covered for.

After all, BB failed to prevent both Naomi and L from suspecting suicide. L predicted the fourth case would going to be a suicide and B's Capoeira slip up led to Naomi connecting the dots, given it led to her knowing B was the attacker.

For Naomi, part of B's plan was assuming the pawn(s) wouldn't be able to solve his tricks with the nails & the wara ningyos which was incredibly risky when his plan relied on a forecast that the agent(s) sent by L had to be extremely smart too, even if not on L's level.

This meant his forecast on the agent(s) skills had to be extremely precise even though B didn't know who Lawliet would send ahead of time (or the exact number, even if it was likely to be just one).

It may not sound right to punish his scaling because of the slip-up, but 1) when you get down to it, his attack stunt on Naomi was truly unnecessary in the first place or at least, the risks outweighed the rewards, slip up or no slip up and 2) any display of overconfidence that affects the plan's execution in negative ways should definitely lower your scaling of planning coverage, if it creates a completely avoidable opening. Planning Coverage is more or less about doing accurate estimations of potential concerns, so underestimation in any shape or form is certainly an anti-feat in this context.

For L's prediction, anything about B's personality and his motives that leaked out through his actions, especially his disguise, helped L's psychoanalysis. Whatever reason B had for doing these things, it lowered his unpredictability when the plan's execution relied on Beyond Birthday being unpredictable.

These criticisms are important, as I will go over in the invincibility and accuracy sections. Honami's failures with her assessment of Kiyotaka does not affect her success rate to the same extent as BB: the information she gathered and the inferences Honami made as a result of these things were mostly valid, such as Kiyo's curiosity and other underlying emotions and Hona's most precise forecasts mostly revolved around the actions of those she truly understood completely. Honami's failure in understanding Kiyotaka also had zero effect on the effectiveness of her plan's shielding.

Verdict: Honami Mid-High Diff. Her coverage is more extensive than BB's and her mistake is more forgivable and less damaging than his. Even if one only scales coverage based on the best act of a plan, Honami's Y2V10 Meeting or Promise Night still outscales any of BB's crime scenes in coverage by a margin.

Planning Intricacies

Planning Intricacies is scaled by the character's ability to create a detailed plan with many layers. The word layer in this context can be defined as the global approaches within the whole plan.

Honami's plan has, bare minimum, seven layers. Can go up to 14.

- Overwriting Kiyotaka's Social Circle - *less Kei, other girls and his classmates, more her and her classmates.*
    - Information gathering, especially Kiyo's boundaries.
    - Manipulations of Norihito
- Rumor Mills 1.0 - *the steps leading to the controlled spread of rumors during the second year's winter break & onwards.*
    - Miyabi Trap
    - Tactics to set up the declaration in Kiyotaka's room
- Handling Discontents - *Managing the situation with Ryuji.*
- Collecting Blackmail Material - *Preparing contingencies in case her effort to change Kiyo's feelings don't go as planned.*
- Blinding Third Parties - *Actions taken to ensure information of her change, proactivity and scheming cannot be discerned by opposing forces.*
- Promise Day Scheme - *Everything revolving around the promised meeting between her and Kiyotaka on March 30th. This relates to her coercion contingencies but it is a scheme on its own with at least two separate methodologies (though only one had its whole process demonstrated).*
- Promise Day Aftermath - *All the social engineering done for after the promise meeting & applying the preparations made ahead of time with the rumors of Kiyo's interest in Honami, his integration into her class' dynamic and so on.*
    - Damage/Reputation Control
    - Rumor Mills 2.0
    - The whole EF thing Honami has going on with Kiyo.

Meanwhile, BB's plan had the following dimensions.

- The First Three Cases as a Trap
    - Believe Bridesmaid
    - Quarter Queen
    - Backyard Bottomslash
- The 4th Death; *we separate this from the other three because they were a big trap to set this up. It's similar to the promise meeting as a checkpoint, so it should be its own layer as well.*
- The patterns
    - The timeline of deaths.
    - The codes leading from one case to the next.
    - The Locked Rooms
    - Wara Ningyo Murders
- The Rue Ryuzaki Identity
- Luring L; *the efforts around getting L involved in his cases, such as the media/LAPD manipulations.*
- Pawn(s) Control; *the methods involved in manipulating the agents sent by L.*

Using the same standards as for Honami, LABB plan contained at least six layers, but it can go up to eleven. This indicates BB's plan had less angles making up its full assembly than Hona's plan, but what makes a layer can be a bit ambiguous in the first place since most approaches can be split endlessly, so it's worth verifying the amounts of likely preorganized components.

Here, a preorganized component is defined as one or an ensemble of premeditated actions that is effectively just one aspect: Beyond Birthday nailing one or four wara ningyos on a wall constitute just one component. Off-screen actions such as B getting hired as the private detective RR or the rumor around the student council will only count as one component, due to lack of inferable process. So 1 planned process = 1 preorganized component. For dialogues, one preset talking point is one preorganized component.

The next pages will have exhaustive breakdowns of both plans to support this. I will ignore the aim(s) of every step and focus on the intricacies within those steps in a summarized manner, so without having to describe every single thing they do and words they utter. I'll discard anything that couldn't have realistically been planned ahead of time; stuff like anything Hona did in Y2V9.5, S&D exam + some of the things she said due to Kiyo revealing his "true" nature. Some likely moderate adjustments are acceptable if their actions were almost certainly the reflection of their blueprints. Do note that one bulletpoint =/= one component, that was used to separate the alignment of acts and steps from each other.

Beyond Birthday:

- Send a complex crossword puzzle to the LAPD revealing the address of the first murder - 221 Insist Hollywood St.
- First Murder
    - Drug & choke with a rope to death Believe Bridesmaid, remove 2 volumes of Akazukin Chacha (4 and 9) from the shelf although remember their page counts, slash pages from the book "Insufficient Relaxation", nail 4 wara ningyos to the wall & seal the room. Make knife slashes on Believe Bridesmaid's chest akin to roman numerals: XIV, LIX, MCDXXIII, CLIX, XIII, VII, XL, DLXXXII, DCCXXIV, MI, LI, XXXI. Put the clothes back on the victim's body.
    - Off-screen act: Be hired as a private investigator by the family of the victim (?) as "Rue Ryuzaki".
    - Return to the crime scene before the pawn(s) shows up. Put up a whole lot of makeup.
    - When the pawn(s) come, act like, en berf, a total weirdo, but a weirdo with great, but imperfect, deductive skills along with other actions related to the private detective persona and fan of "Akazukin Chacha" and offer your cooperation for the investigation. BB obviously did not plan the whole conversation ahead of time, but he sure wanted to manipulate the pawn(s) to solve the puzzles, so at the very least, showing he "solved" the crossword puzzle as well as the manga thing was always going to be part of his act.
- The stupid attack "to test Naomi" thing.
- Second Murder
    - Kill and drug Quarter Queen. Squash her head & gouge her eyes out. Nail three wara ningyos to the wall & seal the door. Position the victim's corpse alternates front & back to mirror B & Q (using lowercase q for QQ).
    - When Naomi comes to investigate alongside him, make some erroneous deductions and throwaway comments with clues to lead her towards his correct conclusions to progress through the case to reach the third case.
- Third Murder
    - Kill & drug Backyard Bottomslash.
    - Nail 2 wara ningyos to the walls, seal the door, leave 4 stacks of animals on the walls (2, 5, 9 and 12). Chop one arm as well as one leg and dispose of the limbs differently; leave the leg in the bathtub and get rid of the arm entirely. Put the clothes back on the victim's body.

    - Join the investigation with the pawn(s). Encourage the pawn(s) to investigate the photo of the dead body.
    - Raise some questions about the limbs; why would the kill dispose of them and so on.
    - Act like a dead body.
    - Tell a tale where a victim had been killed and their ring finger was taken by the killer who wanted money. They cut off the finger to take their victim's valuables.
    - Give a few hints to the pawn(s) to make them progress: the head, arm & leg are all of different lengths. It is also as if there is a "wall" blocking them from arriving at the right answer, one a little too high to surmount.
- Fourth Death
    - Break the room's sprinklers, disable the alarm system, pour gasoline on yourself, nail 1 wara ningyo on a wall.
    - Set yourself on fire.

Honami:

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

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

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

Counting all separate acts with enough signs of long-term setups, Honami's plan had 52 preorganized components, 9 more than BB at 43. Her biggest act had 16 components (Y2V10 Meeting), BB had 14 (tie between case 1 and case 3). The counting is not a super exact science, but the calculations shouldn't deviate by >2-3 for both.

Verdict: Honami High - Very High Diff. Her plan comprised more layers than BB's using the same standards for both. An argument that could be made in B's favor is his acts were more detailed than Hona's on average, but BB's plan had drastically less of those acts and Honami had the act with the most components anyway, which almost negates this argument completely, since it proved Honami can make the more detailed act when the opportunity arises while also being above him by any other metrics to measure this subcat.

Planning Preparation Process

Planning Preparation Process is basically the A->B->C->D steps. The planner's ability to logically align many different tactics over

the course of the plan's lifespan. "Aligned steps" are when actions can't be performed until another action is completed. If a number of tactics may have been performed in a largely disorganized way, One can also take into consideration the "acts" of each plan; such as, in BB's plan, the crime scenes.

While the amounts of the components in BB's plan is only slightly less than Honami's, most of them did not need to be aligned to the same extent as hers. That's because most of Honami's actions had to be split over long stretches of time for a multitude of reasons. This is different from B's crime scenes where he could do various things in whatever orders. BB also intended to produce four crime scenes in total and other than the one leading to the first crime for obvious reason, all the crime scenes contained the puzzles hiding clues pointing to the location of the next case, until the last.
As a result, Honami's plan had a drastically more alignment than BB's: 12 > 6 acts and 29 > 15 alignment of steps. Those numbers do not tell the whole story as there is a level of ambiguity in whether certain steps had to be aligned or not, although that argument can only go so far on its own when the gap in number is so large. More importantly, this can be written off as Honami's plan having more long-term qualities/necessities with regards to her preparations compared to BB.

BB aligned his murders to a very rigid pattern of dates to serve his misdirections with regards to the letter "B" to ensure a split at the time of his death between "Beyond Birthday" and the "B" from the WH, from the perspective of L and his pawns. B also had to choose his victims and crime scenes according to this, creating its own set of difficulties in the process.

On the other hand, Hona aligned her tactics to hide behind ANHS' schedule to conceal everything. ANHS' environment has so many random, uncontrollable elements within its schedule and people with the ability to hurt you (Miyabi, Arisu, potential "white room" associations & co) in every corner are threats due to their cunning and resources, with Kiyotaka clearly being an interest for many of

them: all of this limited the opportunities for Hona to progress her plan. Thus, Hona timed her tactics in accordance with the patterns within ANHS's schedule that reliably sticks year after year as well as her ridiculous social insight to make difficult forecasts: nearly everything she did in relation to her plan that could've been ahead of time revolved around special days (exams, trips or promise) or took advantage of unique scheduling quirks (everything in Y2V9).

Basically, while B timed his acts around his deceptions, Hona had to time her acts around both deceptions and limitations due to the unpredictabilities in her setting's schedules as well as limitations in opportunities. B's main opponent, L, had a passive outsmarting style, whereas Hona's potential opponent(s) were all considerably far more aggressive than L was throughout LABB. This meant L's potential was significantly less disruptive to B's prep process than Honami's potential opposition(s). Both BB and Honami knew this about their respective opponents.

Verdict: Honami High Diff. The circumstances forced her to have the best preparation process possible. More acts and steps strung together with more dangerous factors needing to be considered.

B had to line up in his crime scene; the wara ningyo doll count, his closed rooms, his Ryuzaki persona and the various puzzles, but as I'll describe in planning applicability, Honami is infinitely better at aligning all the layers of her plans when needs be.

Planning Versatility

Planning Versatility is the plan's options to be versatile with your resources & engage in new initiatives throughout its process when preferable. Resources can be time, currency, tools, etc.

Hona's plan was made in a manner in which there's enough wiggle room to maneuver in-between the predetermined steps to apply the layers of her plan or make any adjustments should they be necessary in case of a failure in her forecast of ANHS schedule. It wasn't reliant on the SEs post winter break to be anything specific which allowed her to take advantage of them, without depending on 'em. She used the opportunities to improvise during the winter break to take advantage of Kei's illness with the gym fabrication and selfie tactics. Hona also took advantage of the circumstances during the S&D (the fact Hona knew Kakeru won before the exam began) to do the KiyoKei nomination tactic. Hona used her student council position to the fullest for the sake of her plan and she also used her social standings & insight in others without damaging her reputation, usually by scapegoating Kiyo and/or Miyabi + through her communication skills. That's important, because Hona wasn't burning her cards quickly & could spam them. Her usage of Mako and Nori before + during the Y2V10 Meeting are perhaps the best examples of it, as it was multifarious: Mako allowed Hona to walk to Kiyo's room inconspicuously and bait Norihito into the meeting & Norihito helped making the meeting fun and predictably caught her and Kiyotaka on the act, to coerce Kiyotaka (and Norihito).

However, BB did not have Hona's social resources in his favor and outside the Quarter Queen's murder, he showed great use of many resources in the rooms of his victims. For instance, using the habit of Bridesmaid into an advantage to set up the books, which proves the planning was something of an adaptable flowchart. BB could integrate the lives of his victims into the plan, albeit the bookshelf could've been rearranged by B. Either way, this is still an example of B's versatility with the assets he finds. Although the readers do not know the specific of their origins, it's not difficult to guess the stacks of animals are likely a product of B's resourcefulness with what's at his disposal. B's also... creative with the victims' bodies. While BB's plan involved his suicide, it must be mentioned it was set to happen at the end of the plan and its execution, so it does not damage his ability to make adjustments at all.

Verdict: BB High Diff. Prolly BB's most underrated plan subcat.

Planning Acclimation

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

Most of the arguments for the planning versatility, with regards to being adaptable and able to improvise during the preparation and execution of their respective scheme applies here although there is a big difference that didn't really matter as much for versatility. The C-D class alliance strategy to save her plan to bind Kiyotaka is a big planning acclimation feat for Honami since her plan and nearly everything she worked so hard to achieve fell out of reach after the 2nd year's end-of-year exam. The Promise Meeting was "do-or-die" for Honami and she did... him, and do the other stuff about her class, and her plan too.

Verdict: Honami High Diff. Yeah... the C-D alliance strategy was a massive feat for this subcategory, no other way to look at it.

Planning Invincibility

Planning Invincibility is scaled by the planner's ability to counter active threats. A planner may construct a plan with preventative measures that hinder their adversaries' ability to hinder its setup. This has some overlap with planning versatility and acclimation as a plan with more leeway for adjustments can allow the planner to actively counter whenever necessary. Some may only consider preventative measures when scaling invincibility.

The Norihito misdirection of the Y2V10 Meeting was the blinder to conceal Hona's intent to later coerce Kiyotaka during the promise meeting - this is a misdirection that could be only be seen through via EP, intuition and abductive reasoning; all three in combo. Kiyo would have needed to see through both Norihito and Hona as being dishonest, then extrapolate from this Hona aimed to be caught by Norihito who was definitely honest about his reaction when he saw Honami hugging Kiyotaka, so Kiyo would've had to know Honami could anticipate Norihito coming back to Kiyotaka's room to seek advice about Mako from the latter without knocking on Kiyotaka's door, then ties everything into deducing Honami has been plotting months ahead of time for the Promised Meeting the two agreed to have to coerce him if necessary into working with her, maybe even transferring to her class (at that time) and doing the naughty stuff, because otherwise it doesn't make sense for Hona to intentionally do something like that. Also, the fact that Hona blackmailed Nori playing the "I'm Mako's friend" card right in front of Kiyo adds to the misdirection because clearly, even if Kiyotaka wondered if she anticipated this turn of event, at first it would seem as if Honami's target was Norihito instead of Kiyotaka.

BB's cases created the idea that they were a set of murders and not suicides, when you make a murder in a closed room, you make it seem as if it were suicide, but all the investigation is part of a same deception process at the end, thus BB used the idea he constructed that this is a murder, in theory leading L and Naomi to forget the possibility of suicide in a room clause. The misdirection of putting L on the track that the last death is a murder and not a suicide.

While BB has the stronger misdirection to execute his plan, it's not a gap at all, so it is important to discuss their defenses leading into their main execution.

Honami's actions to disguise and conceal her changes and growth as a schemer from Arisu, along with all that as well as the winter break rumors from the (from Hona's POV) unknown White Room threat blinded literally every outsider. Honami also took effective

actions to neutralize Miyabi, another potential threat. All of which allowed her scheming to move without concerns, aside from Kiyo revealing his "true color" during the second year's EoY exam. But even with that, Hona's countermeasures to prevent enemy tactics from hindering the setup worked as intended.

B had his own set of preventative measures, mainly in the form of concealment like using the LAPD as a tool to provide Lawliet with information of his choosing. Nonetheless, B's lack of preventative measures regarding the agent(s) L sent was an egregious failure in terms of invincibility. BB's plan relied on the fact that the agent(s) wouldn't be able to discover his methods with the 4-1 nails and the wara ningyos which was rather risky when BB's plan relied on the forecast that the agent(s) would be quite capable in their own right. BB also could not do an extremely precise assessment of Naomi's abilities ahead of time, given he had no way to ascertain who L was sending as a pawn - BB should have considered a higher deviation versus his expectations. It might seem unfair to hold it against BB since his deception was super strong and the author stated Naomi figured him out due to her "good luck", but if B relied on people he knew nothing about (beside being strong enough to be sent by L) to miss a gap in his defenses, it should be held against him.

Verdict: Honami High Diff. Her plan was harder to discern before the final phase and it also involved better thinking regarding her adversary; that's what ultimately grants Honami this subcat.

Planning Applicability

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

Honami’s actions throughout Y2V9 are enough for BB, who is kind of ordinary in this subcat. The timing of Honami’s Rumor Mills #1 with Miyabi’s neutralization and the engineering of the friend nest Honami had aimed to create for Kiyo with her classmates as well timing this with the start of the KiyoKei fracture and breaking the ice between herself and Kiyo, in which she progressed the process for future contingency to, should it be necessary, try to coerce him with the promise meeting via Hona’s manipulations of Norihito to make him rely on Kiyo with his personal matters ahead of time to prepare the misdirection of the Y2V10 meeting while continuing to gather info on Kiyotaka to have a better understanding of him and his relationship with Kei while concealing any footprint of all this scheming from Arisu and any potentially harmful kouhais as well as teachers, pretty much eviscerates anything BB has ever done in his life with regards to his preparations’ serviceability.

Verdict: Honami Low Diff. B doesn’t have a performance for this subcat that’s remotely comparable to Honami’s Y2V9. The Y2V10 Meeting is enough for him honestly, but who cares.

Planning Contingency

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

Honami's main contingency is her entire scheme in Y2V12.5. The coercion Hona created during the Y2V10 Meeting in the event she had won the end-of-year exam is important, as it meant Hona had considered the end-of-year exam when covering for the promise meeting on top of her potential gaps in understanding Kiyotaka (to an extent). Gathering the materials for her coercion contingencies in case she had won the exam and Kiyo wasn't... enough into what Hona wanted Kiyo to do beyond just this and that involved a more complex set of mind games than for BB to put his contingencies in place... whatever they may have been.

According to the author, B covered for the events that L sent out 3 (or less) additional agents with a contingency. However, there's no explanation as to what that contingency might have been and how B intended to blend them into the rest of his plan, especially when it comes to his final plays around his death which, in the manner it was executed in the novel, definitely would have required several adjustments should there have been more than one agent.

Verdict: Honami Low Diff. The process for Honami to both create and set her contingencies in place actually exists, but at least BB appears to have installed his contingencies in the right places, so he gets points for that.

Planning Formulation

Planning Formulation scales how swiftly a character can come up with a plan in a relatively short period of time.

By the level of intricacy in BB's planning, assuming he can create a smaller scheme in significantly less time than two months or so is to be expected from someone with his narrative. It can't be said enough that B wanted to make everything perfect and he had OCD over the finicky details. In a different setting such as a DGR killing game, LG/TG game, COTE special exam, etc this is not practical at all due to time constraint and in many cases, unnecessary. The case for BB is that his PSI is obviously superior to Honami's.

Honami's CKA had some quickly made tactics such as the Y2V9.5 gym fabrication and the Kiyo/Kei nominations in Y2V10 but both are minor mid feats barely above average human level. However, Honami has a legitimate feat with the plan to extract information from Ichika she came up with in the middle of a conversation. It is not within CKA, but unlike any of the arguments one can make to assess BB's aptitude in this subcat, it's a formulation speed feat.

Verdict: Honami High Diff. Neither excels at this, but she has real feats and more often than not, that's better than assumptions.

Planning Accuracy

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

Honami's forecasting of everyone else's actions were usually very precise. Some examples; Miyabi having her and Suzune compete for the SCP seat on the 2nd week of December, before its last day prior to the following weekend or him sending the photo to Kei via a third party after school but right before the winter break around the gym, nailing the place + timing with perfect accuracy. Hona's anticipations of her classmates around the same time is arguably even more ridiculous, mainly the predictions of the Hokkaido trip grouping along with Norihito starting to see Kiyotaka as someone reliable, Ryuji asking for his help, Hona's classmates asking Kiyo to investigate her discreetly in a pseudo-date as well as nailing the day that would happen and Kiyotaka telling Honami to pick where they would go first during the date... then there is the culmination of all this with Nori in the Y2V10 meeting - expecting that Norihito would return to Kiyotaka's room without knocking his door; every single thing listed was planned as chain reactions from the onset, before the Hokkaido trip as a mix of foresight and manipulation.

BB's planning accuracy was no joke either. For one, B was able to literally reproduce L's personality and foresee his actions despite never having met him directly before. This includes having a good idea that L would not send more than one agent, even if he made a back up plan in case he had sent two more. BB also calculated the reaction from the public to increase the chances of L being able to notice the killings to get on the case, expecting he'd be intrigued in a case the police were woefully unable to solve. While Honami had infinity emotional manip max, he had infinity logical manip max: much of BB's plan revolves around the idea that L and his pawn(s) will solve the puzzle within one case then move on to the next for the three murders, leading to an "unsolvable" murder for the last death as it will not be an actual murder - this required precise info control from B to ensure the clues he would leave behind couldn't be discerned by someone any less qualified than L / his agents.

The case for B taking accuracy from Hona is that his expectations of his foresights and manipulations were effectively abstractions on top of abstractions as BB lacked direct insight on the people he toyed with whereas Honami had that insight but her expectations were often much, much more precise than BB's.

Basically, while B recreated the actors on his chessboard, Honami was able to link together much longer strings of manipulation and foresight within her planning.

With more direct insight B may have been more precise. With less insight, one can assume Hona could still achieve checkpoints, but on a smaller scale or with more info gathering in-between.

Verdict: Honami Extreme Diff. It's very close. Her understanding of Kiyotaka was flawed even if it wasn't entirely incorrect, but her expectations were at least somewhat a mirage. What saves Hona's accuracy is two things: Her expectations about Kiyo's movements were much broader than everyone else Hona aimed to control and / or predict (which she was 100% right about) and her expectations of Kiyotaka were largely based on traits that he does seem to truly have, so Honami's researches were not weak.

BB's accuracy wasn't flawless either. L predicting the 4th murder case + his underestimation of Naomi in general, particularly with regards to Capoeira, showed a certain degree of weakness when it came to his estimations. Do note the Capoeira slip up doesn't hurt his accuracy in itself, but more so what it says of BB's assessment of Naomi for him to have that slip-up.

Their plans connected well, so these are all nitpicks, but Honami's overall expectations can be said to be a bit more reliable. B taking this is valid as well.

Conclusion

Most of the subcategories are around High Diffs, but only one is a legit toss-up (Accuracy) and more are lower than that. None of this means B is overrated in planning; he's so much better than the likes of Light and Nagito it's not even funny. but Honami is one tier above BB in planning. Speaking of Nagito, click if you wanna read more Honami plan comps.

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