MATT ENGARDE

“Nickel Samurai”



“Hold on a sec. I'm gonna ask my manager, OK?”

KEY NOTE: I will include certain feats of Shelly under Matt, why? To put simply, a lot of what Shelly does is anticipated by Matt and part of his plans, Engarde is a heavily underappreciated villain.

Lore:

Matt Engarde was the “Nickel Samurai”, a popular character from a show called - “The Nickel Samurai”. He used to date his manager - Celeste Inpax - however, he broke off the relationship following it being leaked to the public. Later onward, his rival Juan Corrida (and soon to be victim) would plan to marry Inpax, and knowing that it was an opportunity to get at Corrida, he told him about his prior relationship. This led to Corrida calling off the marriage, and Inpax hanging herself.

His (then) current manager was in fact working alongside Corrida in an attempt to ruin his image with a forged suicide note (not the real note that Inpax wrote), as she used to be close friends with Inpax. Due to feeling threatened by Corrida, Engarde purchased spy cameras to keep watch on Corrida and later hired Shelly de Killer to murder Corrida. Engarde planned to betray Shelly later, opting to record the murder so he could use it to blackmail Shelly at a later date.



Matt Engarde as the Nickel Samurai.

[smearing, abusing insecurities - Inpax's mental state & Corrida's feelings, emotional manipulation, social engineering, acting skills, influence]

Farewell, My Turnabout Context:

As mentioned prior in the Lore section, Engarde hired Shelly de Killer to murder Corrida and filmed the act to use for blackmail at a later date on the assassin. At this same event, Phoenix, Maya & Pearl had all been invited by an old client/friend Will Powers, and so were present. Powers is a key witness in this case, having witnessed Shelly/Engarde's exchange seeing Shelly hand over a bear statue (with spy cameras in it, which Shelly was unaware had been used to record his crime, this

bear was how Engarde planned to blackmail Shelly post-trial) and Shelly being paid a large sum of money.

Farewell, My Turnabout (Part 1):

"I became a lawyer because I thought... I thought I could save people who were suffering and in pain... But... When I look at this mess we're in, I can't even protect the person closest to me. Even if I win the case, I still lose in the end..." - Phoenix Wright, struggling to deal with the pressures of the trial.

Engarde is arrested under suspicion of Corrida's murder (this is due to evidence planted by his then manager - Adrian Andrews, she is a female despite her unisex name, and that *is* relevant much later on). In response to his client's arrest, Shelly abducts Maya and forces Wright to defend Engarde (it should be noted Wright at this point is unaware if Engarde is guilty or not, but he's suspicious) otherwise he'll kill his assistant. Wright accepts after meeting Engarde and asking if he killed anyone, Engarde denies such actions and Wright is satisfied since no psyche-locks show up. (Run down of psyche-locks, a major part of the Ace Attorney games, Wright owns a "magatama" which allows him to see when someone is lying in the form of psyche-locks).

As usual, I'm not going to go extremely deep into the investigation and whatnot, purely because most of these things are feats for Phoenix Wright. So Wright investigates and discovers that Andrews had attempted to commit suicide after her mentor - Inpax - had died. The following day, Wright enters the courthouse and is informed that Franziska won't be present due to having been shot (in the shoulder, much like her father) and so Edgeworth will take her place in the trial that day. The trial goes on in typical Ace Attorney fashion with Wright arguing against Edgeworth as best as he can, eventually getting to Wendy's testimony and proving that the person she witnessed enter Corrida's room seemingly before the murder was not Engarde, but rather Andrews herself. A recess is called to prepare for Andrews herself to testify.

During the recess, Wright explains to Engarde that he's certain that Andrews is the real killer.

After the recess, Andrews is brought to testify, Wright pushes through her testimonies, blasting contradiction after contradiction eventually leading to a major turning point: if Engarde were the real killer, he would never have intentionally planted the button onto his own pants. Wright then accused Andrews of being the murderer and using the button to frame Engarde. Although Andrews refuted Wright's claim, he claimed

that all of the evidence now pointed to her. She was the only one who could have known which knife to take from Engarde's room, as she had had dinner with him. As the person who had discovered the body, she had the only opportunity to take the button from Corrida's costume and plant it on Engarde's pants when she had gone to wake him up from his nap. Furthermore, she had prepared the spare Nickel Samurai costume, meaning she was the only one who could have known where it was, and finally, the person wearing the costume in the photo was significantly shorter than Engarde, making her the only possible candidate. Andrews attempts to plead the fifth (allowing her to not testify to avoid self-incrimination), but this raises further suspicion (note that she was informed to do this if the trial takes a poor turn by Franziska von Karma herself). To save Andrews, Edgeworth forces her to tell the truth, threatening to spill her attempted suicide secret otherwise, she agrees and says she had originally found Corrida's body just as she had described. Upon realizing that he was dead, she had thought Engarde must be the murderer and decided to alter the crime scene to frame him by stabbing the knife into Corrida's body and planting the button in Engarde's costume. She had worn the spare costume upon leaving the scene in order to avoid being recognized by Hart and Oldbag in the hallway. Andrews said that von Karma had told her not to confess to this under any circumstances, or Engarde would be

acquitted. Claiming that Andrews' story was believable, the judge said a verdict would not be possible without further investigation and ended the trial for the day.

[Scapegoating, acting skills, coercion, extortion, control over victim, psychological manipulation, verbal deception, strategy/planning, strategy complexity, strategy success rate]

Betrayal/ Farewell, My Turnabout (part 2):

Following another investigation into the bear and its buyer, Wright eventually discovers Engarde's involvement in the crime. He confronts Engarde and accuses him of having hired Shelly de Killer to do his dirty work.



Engarde revealing his true self.

Engarde admits his plan in its entirety, shocking Wright and horrifying the attorney. He explains that Wright has no choice, but to aid him anyhow or Maya will die and that he only kept it hidden from Wright for his own sake - claiming that it'd make it easier for Wright to defend him without knowing the truth. Wright visits Andrews after this and learns about her/Inpax/Engarde/Corrida's past (this is covered in the Lore section). He tells her he'll have to defend Engarde anyway as it's his duty as a lawyer, thanking her for her time and heading home claiming he'd be unable to sleep.

[blackmailing, triangulation, direct manipulation, EQM/EQE/EQU, counter difficulty, execution control, planning versatility, risk calculation]

Farewell, My Turnabout:

"...Today I'll stand in court as a lawyer... ...To prove a killer innocent." - Wright regarding the trial.

Just before the trial, Gumshoes meets Wright and tells him there's still hope - if he can bluff and prolong the trial long

enough for Maya to be rescued, Wright will be able to safely get Engarde convicted.

The trial begins and Powers is called to testify, he explains how he saw the exchange between Engarde and the bellboy (Shelly) and another exchange between Shelly and an unknown party. Wright accuses Andrews of being the killer to prolong the trial causing another recess to be called.

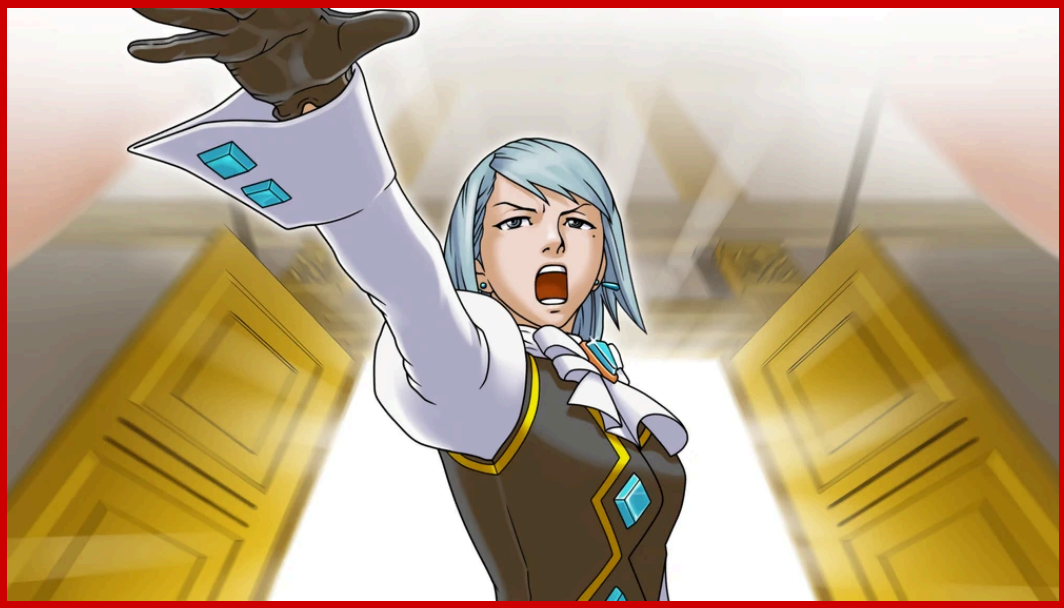
During the recess, Engarde gloated over Wright in his despair, mocking that he was desperate enough to pin the crime on Andrews while knowing she was innocent. Gumshoe called Wright and confessed that they still had no leads on de Killer's location. Just then, Mia appeared, having just been channelled by Pearl. She informed Wright and Gumshoe that, while being channeled by Maya, she had seen a circus tent. The only circus in town was the Berry Big Circus, so Gumshoe and the police immediately went there.

Wright gets Andrews to open the bear puzzle which reveals Inpax's suicide note, Edgeworth reveals Engarde discovered these items using a camera planted in Corrida's room. Wright in a state of despair accuses Andrews of forging the note, this lands the courthouse against Wright. They act disgusted and believe Engarde to be guilty at this point, hating the lengths

Wright's going to defend him. Edgeworth convinces the Judge to have another recess called to allow time to analyse the suicide note (in actuality he does this to buy time for Wright/Gumshoes to rescue Maya).

The trial reconvened with Edgeworth in visible disbelief. He reported that the suicide note was revealed to have been a forgery written by Juan Corrida. This completely eliminated it as a motive for the murder, with Edgeworth being unable to prove that Engarde had known about the note without knowing that it was fake. Edgeworth had a shocking backup plan, however; he brought in a radio, on which the voice of the killer himself was heard. De Killer admitted to killing Corrida personally, but insisted that his client was Adrian Andrews, shocking Edgeworth; de Killer had told him that his client was Matt Engarde in order to get on the stand. He made several errors in his testimony, however, such as referring to Andrews as a man after claiming to have met with her in person, and quickly became annoyed with Wright for not accepting this easy opportunity to win the trial. When Wright, desperate for time, continued to press him, de Killer threatened to kill Maya on the spot, over the radio for all to hear, if the trial was not ended at once. With no more time to be bought, Engarde takes the stand.

Engarde mocks Wright, believing him to be a foul excuse for a lawyer, but relents seemingly knowing Wright would have to get him a not guilty verdict. The Judge asks for Wright's opinion and Wright is forced to answer...



Franziska von Karma bursts into the courthouse just before Wright can make his statement with evidence gathered by Gumshoes. Unfortunately in the court's eyes these pieces of evidence were useless, so Wright convinced the Judge to allow him to show them to one other person - Shelly de Killer. The Judge allows this and Shelly is called to the stand once again (note that Shelly appears as a transceiver), Wright shows Shelly the video tape that Karma (and Gumshoes) had acquired and reveals Engarde's plans to betray Shelly and blackmail him.

Outraged, Shelly is in disbelief at being betrayed by his client and exclaims that he'll kill Engarde himself.

As a result of this Engarde panics, breaking down and begging for a guilty verdict so that he'll be safe from Shelly in prison (note that technically Engarde's crime wouldn't get him the death penalty due to him not having directly committed murder).

[counter difficulty, strategy success rate, strategy complexity, smearing, scapegoating - through Wright/Shelly, logical reasoning, social skills, social awareness, self regulation, VCI/GAI/CPI/TRI]



Engarde breaks down, screaming "guilty" over and over again while tearing at his face.

KEY NOTE:

This is the only trial in main trilogy in which there is an alternate ending. This ending occurs when Phoenix presents the wrong evidence to Shelly and results in Engarde getting a not guilty verdict, Wright giving up his job and never seeing Maya again (presumably out of guilt, he believes Maya was released due to de Killer being a man of his word).



Wright in despair following Engarde's complete acquittal.

Why is this relevant? It shows how easily Engarde would have succeeded and the sheer luck involved in Wright managing to get him convicted.

Matt Engarde's (with Shelly) strongest categories:

Key: FSIQ, FSEQ, FSSQ, RSG/THK, Manip/Decep, G Factor, Strat/Planning, Misc.

1- Blackmailing/Exortion (this one is obvious, Engarde's entire trial revolves around his blackmail he holds over Wright)

2- Acting Skills (Matt Engarde is a skilled actor who plays the Nickel Samurai, he plays himself off as a naïve celebrity when he first meets Phoenix)

3- Smearing/abusing insecurities/triangulation (Matt Engarde abuses his old relationship with Inpax to cause issues between her and Corrida, causes Inpax's suicide indirectly, indirectly damages Andrews' mental health badly)

4- Verbal deception (deliberately omits his role in Corrida's murder - unknowingly avoiding Wright's magatama,)

5- Strategy/planning/strategy complexity/strategy success rate/counter difficulty (his plan is spectacular, even when Wright is aware of his guilt, there's practically nothing Wright can do about it, the only reason Engarde loses is his sole mistake (which is only a proper mistake because of several unlucky factors that negatively impact him) - attempting to blackmail the contract killer he hired at a later date)

6- Social skills/social awareness/relationship management/ EQE/EQM/EQU (Engarde is a skilled celebrity actor, he's undeniably wealthy and skilled at social interactions, furthermore he's shown on countless occasions to be

knowledgeable on emotions and how to abuse them/control them)

7- Influence (Celebrity actor, incredibly wealthy and uses this to his advantage a lot - hired a contract killer, bought an expensive carved bear from abroad)

8- FSIQ (It should be noted, Engarde is not stupid, far from it in fact, although his initial appearance he presents himself as aloof and extremely over reliant on others, Engarde's status, planning, etc. all prove that he's undeniable skilled in these categories, he's definitely a comprehensive person as he's an actor who'd follow scripts and memorise them)

"...Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!Guiltyyyyyyy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!Guuuuuilty!!!GGG--GuuiiiIIltyyyy!!!GGGUUUILLLTYYY!!GUILTY!!!GuiLTy!!gulllltYY!!Guil--guilty!guilty!GUilTY!GUILTY!" - Matt Engarde's breakdown.



"...H-- Help me..." - Matt Engarde begging to be saved, now in a situation in which there is *no* happy outcome for him.

Made by TheNoo (u/Due_Ad8834)
Credit to the Ace Attorney wiki for transcripts, quotes, images and help summarising.