Act IV: The Cross-Year War

“And thus, the expert in battle moves the enemy, and is not moved by him”

(Y2V3-4) - With Tsubaki’s strategy having been in the works all to Takuya’s plans, we now must focus on the first-year side.

Ryuuen just heard that two of his classmates got mysteriously injured by someone who could still be out and planning to injure more students to cause havoc around the island. Ichinose and Sakayanagi would arrive at that same conclusion as well once they would inevitably hear about what happened to Komiya and Kinoshita. Ayanokouji would also begin to connect the dots around the existence of a mastermind behind the first-years with Tsubaki being the red herring, and her strategy meant to expel him. Essentially, these four leaders would come to the same conclusion: A strategy needs to be created to preserve the safety of second-year students from any possible threats. Given the line of reasoning provided by the crime scene that Takuya fabricated, a first-year is the most likely candidate.

Takuya anticipated ALL of this; he foresaw all the deductions of all relevant students while preparing for the Cliff Strategy, and thus, he can further anticipate the final two scenarios which will take place:

1- The second-years will work together, while the first-years will work together, both set to face each other in an all-out war. **[A4]**
2- The second-year class saving strategy and Tsubaki’s strategy will eventually clash when Ayanokouji becomes the center of whoever is trying to save/expel him. **[A4]**

Takuya masterfully set the stage between the first and second-years to have a war against each other, mass manipulating HUNDREDS of students including Ryuuen, Sakayanagi, and Ichinose to engage in battle, and inevitably set the stage between him and Ayanokouji for their eventual one-on-one battle of wits. Mass deceiving and fueling the hearts of hundreds of students with confusion, bewilderment, sorrow, and misplaced hatred cannot simply be ignored.

This makes it self-evident that the Cliff Strategy was NOT a "mistake". It is an ingenious display of stratagem, mass manipulation in all forms, and deception meant to test Ayanokouji, erode the connections between the first and second-years, and then set the stage for another strategy that would place all the blame on Sakurako Tsubaki, ALL without ever being noticed.

Ayanokouji was able to pass this test that Takuya gave him with flying colors, which only allowed Takuya's plans to face Ayanokouji all the more visible in sight. This meant that Takuya was subtly MANIPULATING him to act in ways that limited what he could do in the island exam that was not concerned with preventing his own expulsion or helping the second-years. Ayanokouji was forced to act in a purely defensive position as Takuya was free to observe how Ayanokouji would act against hidden traps, as well as analyzing his thought process in the Nanase Strategy in terms of dealing with his aggressiveness. Given that Ayanokouji passed these several tests, this only proves that the man he has been working all of his life to defeat is legitimate, if not, then Ayanokouji would have been expelled pathetically.

Takuya imposed these traps brilliantly, under the guise of wanting to help Ayanokouji and ALL through leaving a simple slip of the tongue all the way back at the cafe meeting, when he truly wanted to test him in a trap through an unavoidable logical manipulation tactic.

ALL of this leads us to the thirteenth day of the Island Exam, where Takuya countered the involvement of Arisu Sakayanagi during the execution of Tsubaki's strategy to expel Ayanokouji. For comprehension purposes, Takuya's strategy will be divided into four parts, after this brief summary of what he achieved.

Summary: As soon as Takuya realized that Tsubaki's troops were getting intercepted by second-year students, he needed to immediately adapt and perform the following:

I. Deduce the commander's identity, anticipate their hidden tactic, deduce who they would hire for it (Kitou), and when it would be deployed.

II. Check Tsubaki's tablet to search Kitou's current location by scanning the ENTIRE island (27-28 kilometers squared without water) AND running 3D simulations of people inside it, filter out ALL third-year and first-year GPS signals

in the area, find Kitou's name among the 155 other second-years' signals, predicting Kitou's average travel speed (2.4 km/h) to be double of an average person (1.2 km/h), anticipate the route Kitou will take to reach their F9 location based on the map and his speed (between D9 or C6), visualize Kitou's optimal pathway to F9 from C6 and then finally instruct Riku to travel at a specific speed and pathway in which he would collide with Kitou at the perfect time which Takuya predicted beforehand **EXACTLY** when Tsubaki's strategy would fail.

ALL OF THIS within the timespan of a few seconds AT ABSOLUTE MOST.

Some Points of Proof:

1- Riku had left the area Tsubaki and Takuya were in a few moments after Arisu countered Tsubaki's groups.

2- Takuya was the one who ordered him to do so, so he obviously should have had to predict Arisu's tactic before sending Riku.

3- Takuya was having a conversation with Tsubaki about the leader of the first-years right after checking her tablet, and before ordering Riku to head out, so Takuya ultimately had already anticipated Kitou would be sent right after he checked Tsubaki's tablet.

Part IA: Takuya's Analysis

The key to the deduction of the second-years' leader is to compare Arisu's Data and Ichinose's Data, both forms of information he memorized from his meeting with Tsukishiro months ago. This means that only Takuya would be able to make this deduction. When comparing the two students, Takuya can narrow his deduction down to Arisu Sakayanagi for two major reasons.

1. Differing Stats: Arisu has a higher Decision-Making stat (A), than Ichinose's (B). The plan to counter Tsubaki quite clearly has to be made by a competent individual, and while Ichinose is very intelligent, as they both share similar Intelligence and Academic Ability stats, Arisu is recorded as simply being better at making decisions than Ichinose, which makes her more likely to be the second-years' leader.

2. Notes From Homeroom Instructors & Interviewers: Arisu was stated to have a "high cognitive ability" as well as being "trustworthy", and "calm". The only complaint being that she and Katsuragi have two differing philosophies in Class A, which was easily remedied by Year 2. This means that Arisu has complete authority over her class, indicative of a true leader. Ichinose, while her teacher has sung her praises, does have a darker past noted in her data that cannot be ignored, which can make her a liability in certain situations. This could also be the reason why her Class is not Class A, but Arisu's is.

With this, he can deduce that Arisu Sakayanagi is the leader of the second-years. It would also be safe to conclude that Arisu would aim to uncover the identity of the first-year commander, in order for her to better understand her opponent and who she is dealing with. **[A3]**

Part IB: Arisu's Tactic

Arisu, after neutralizing all of Tsubaki's 5 groups, was now on a mission to discover this supposed leader of the first-years that were ordering all these groups around.

She does this by sending Kitou to the vicinity of Tsubaki, Riku, and Takuya, because she observed they had not moved at all in the past days, so sending Kitou will allow her to get informed on which of them is handling the orders.

Part IC: Takuya's Further Analysis

Takuya, to infer Kitou's arrival, had to look at the leaderboards and check the teams that were banded up together, having already analyzed Kitou, Arisu's, and Ichinose's profiles through the data given to him by Tsukishiro. Understanding any fundamental functions in their thought processes, Takuya could conclude through a deductive process and a series of inductions based on his observations on the island that needs to be examined:

1. Identifying Arisu's Role: Takuya can observe that Arisu Sakayanagi is at the forefront of the Second-Year students' efforts against Sakurako Tsubaki during this stage of the Island Exam. This naturally limits her options to students in her own class in case she wants to perform more covert operations.

2. Arisu's Information Gathering Objective: It is safe to conclude that Arisu aims to uncover the identity of the first-year commander to better understand her opponent. To achieve this, she would need a student with strong information-gathering skills. This entails decent ratings in Academic Ability, Adaptability, and Social Contribution, preferably within the range of D to C+ on the OAA App. This narrows down quite a few students.

3. The Need for Versatility: In addition to mental attributes, the chosen student must be physically capable of navigating challenging terrain quickly and be able to defend themselves effectively. This requires a high level of Physical Ability, somewhere between B to A+ on the OAA App. Simply being average or slightly above average in recorded Physical Ability will not cut it.

4. Analyzing the Possibilities: Considering these requirements and combining them with the information at hand, it becomes apparent that:
A- **Hayato Kitou** from Class 2-A is the only student who fits the bill in all these aspects.
B- Therefore, he is the logical choice for Arisu's covert mission to find the commander of the First Years.
C- Arisu will be sending him right now as Tsubaki's troops are in a state of distraught and Tsubaki herself is in a state of confusion.

Part IIA: The Tablet Feat

On top of the deductive process that Takuya had to quickly perform to deduce Kitou's future involvement, Takuya then feigned ignorance to probe Tsubaki, and while holding Tsubaki's tablet, he had to perform the following, absolutely ridiculous tasks:

1. Scan the entire tablet and visualize the ENTIRE 27-28 kilometers squared (without water) from east to west island, running 3D SIMULATIONS of the people within it in order to get the best idea of where students are currently located.
2. Filter out ALL the third-year and first-year GPS signals on the tablet.

3. Find Kitou Hayato's name among HUNDREDS of other student's names while simultaneously performing an intricate deductive process and retrieving stored data in memory from many months ago.

Running a 3D visualization of a gigantic island, he did ALL of this in only a few moments, maybe three seconds if you want to lowball it before the tablet was ripped out of his hands.

However, Tsubaki's attention was still set fully on the tablets in hopes of salvaging her strategy and countering Arisu, and Takuya was then able to predict the rate of speed Kitou will be traveling at.

Part IIB: Predicting Kitou's Speed

Takuya anticipated Kitou way before he got close, as soon as he could get his hands on a tablet while Tsubaki's strategy was being executed. Confirmation for this comes from the fact that Riku had been gone for about 30 minutes and that he had cut about 400m in 20 minutes, and even taking in the difficulty of traversing the terrain, it becomes very evident that Takuya had sent out Riku out plenty of time before Arisu even gave orders to Kitou.

For reference, Riku traveled on average at the speed of 1.2 Km/h when the average running speed for teenagers his age is around 9.5 - 13 Km/h, so even while ignoring Riku's physical capabilities by the OAA and his narrative that alludes to his high abilities in the same area, Riku was traveling very slowly, whilst Kitou was running through the woods. As to why Takuya instructed Riku to travel that slowly will be explained later.

To understand their positions, Riku was about at E8 by 20 minutes in, and Kitou encountered him 10 minutes later. Assuming Riku's average pace did not change, he traveled another 200 meters, putting him at roughly D7, which still is consistent with the terrain's description in the novel.

For Kitou, we do not know where Kitou started heading from, but we know that he was basically directly heading in Riku's direction, hence both of them colliding. If we take the average traveling speed from both Riku and Ayanokouji (who traveled

at a similar speed to Riku in Y2V3 when heading to his first designated area, although in a different terrain, he also was not in a hurry and traveled at a strikingly similar speed to him), and then double it to take into consideration Kitou's running, this would put Kitou at a travelling speed of 2.4 Km/h, which is still heavily below the average running speed.

This is a very low-ball considering his high physical narrative, but we will work with it regardless. Seeing Kitou was traveling at twice the speed Riku was, he would have at least traversed 400m in the 10 minutes it took for him and Riku to connect. Assuming he was stationary or busy with something else at the time, he was potentially at the tip of D7 or C6.

At any rate, due to their rates of speed, their paths would eventually converge at D7.

Since this is pretty difficult to visualize, this link provided is the illustration of the Uninhabited Island Exam map, but there have been some additions added to the map to display the most logical paths that Riku and Kitou took.
"R" stands for Riku and "K" stands for Kitou.

Explaining the link:

A- Riku's route starts at F9 since this is the area Tsubaki's group uses as a base of operations for the duration of the Island Exam. He then moves southwest from F9 at a rate of 400m in 20 minutes and continues in that direction for another 10 minutes, ending somewhere around the middle of D7.
B- Takuya then deduced that Kitou's route starts somewhere around C6. Why C6? Because for two reasons:

1. It cannot be at Arisu's camp (D9) because Arisu had to literally use her walkie-talkie to communicate with his group. If Kitou was in D9, there would be no need for her to use a communication device to talk to him at such close proximity.

2. It cannot be surrounding D9 either because Riku specifically traveled southwest, meaning that Kitou's relative location would have to be located in that direction. Additionally, the area where the two crossed paths was a grassy terrain in the

woods, so by simply using spatial reasoning, Kitou would have needed to be in C6 as a starting point, then traveled at a perfect angle to F9 since that was his goal, which would result in him eventually crossing through D7, where Riku would intercept his course.

Now having deduced Kitou's starting point, Takuya could begin to *anticipate* the route Hayato Kitou will take in order to reach their base (F9).

Takuya would approach this from a logical perspective, essentially anticipating that Arisu needed to have given Kitou direct orders on how to traverse through the area, essentially laying out the best course for Kitou to take to travel from C6 to F9 in the shortest amount of time. This required Takuya, using Kitou's GPS signal that he was able to filter out by canceling all other hundreds of extraneous GPS signals that did not possess the name of "Kitou Hayato" in a few moments, to perfectly visualize the best course of path from Kitou's location to F9 in a 5000m by 7000m (28km^2 - 32km^2) wide 3D island, then think of a way to intercept Kitou's path, as he would move at constantly differing rates of change.

This is an extremely difficult Calculus situation that requires ungodly levels of spatial reasoning, differentiating Kitou's speed from a slightly moving GPS signal and perfectly visualizing the best path for him to take while constantly running the 3D simulations in your head, while remembering the whole map of the island is simply impossible.

Except Takuya is him, and was able to do just that.

It should also be noted just how much perfect timing Takuya had; not only did he correctly calculate how much time Kitou and Riku would take to meet each other at D7, but as *soon* as Tsubaki's Strategy fails, she sees Riku and Kitou's GPS signatures about to collide with each other, and when she calls Riku, Kitou is at the *perfect* moment to see Tsubaki's name on the walkie-talkie.

This means that Takuya had fully predicted the **EXACT** time when Tsubaki's Strategy would fail, and when she would finally focus her attention on Riku. Takuya's line of reasoning for predicting the exact time when Tsubaki's strategy would fall primarily relies on abduction:

He recognized the limitations of Tsubaki's strategy, which he perceived as fundamentally flawed on his own omission when he contacted Riku, and also because he literally manipulated her into performing a strategy that was sure to fail. By closely observing the formation of Arisu's groups and their actions, he abducted that Tsubaki's limitations would cause the strategy to end prematurely, in a short amount of time. When he saw the GPS signatures on his tablet and Tsubaki's tablet, he did not need further confirmation. Instead, he leveraged his prior knowledge of the island's dynamics and the strategic abilities of those involved. With a combination of deductive analysis and abductive, he made a prediction based on their current positions and the logical inference that Tsubaki's flawed strategy would eventually lead to failure. While not definite, Takuya's prediction was highly likely given his insightful understanding of the situation.

Part III: Takuya's Counter

Takuya deduced ALL of this right after he nigh-instantly deduced that Arisu was the leader, so he sent Riku to D7 very early on, instructing him to walk very slowly (1.2 km/h) for two important reasons:

1. Neither Tsubaki nor Arisu would notice Riku approaching Kitou's area. They are currently dealing with a lot of students moving around; one target moving extremely slowly would not attract their attention (since Riku would only be seen as someone walking around instead of running to execute a plan), concealing Riku's presence until later, and they would not notice him at all.

2. This would give Tsubaki time to zone out of her tunnel vision and realize that Riku is no longer nearby for the plan to use her as a scapegoat by calling him within Kitou's vicinity. It is important to note that even if she did not, Takuya would be able to quickly estimate the time of their confrontation, and with it, bring attention to Tsubaki about Riku's absence. And even if that is not true, Takuya could still instruct Riku to blunder in some other fashion like referring to their leader by "she"/"her", and seeing that the only 1 female resides in the area that Riku, Takuya, and Tsubaki are centralized in, the identity of Tsubaki would become clear.

Once Kitou is led to believe that Tsubaki is the leader of the first years after a "blunder" from Riku, the blunder canonically being that Tsubaki's walkie-talkie would intentionally fall out of Riku's pocket which would reveal the identity of the first-years' "commander", Kitou would have no other reason to continue invading the territory and would leave, falsely believing that Tsubaki was the mastermind and that his mission was complete. This would also powerfully misdirect Arisu herself into believing that Tsubaki was the mastermind, and no one else.

Part IV: Takuya's Goal With This Strategy

There is one elephant in the room though: why would Riku ever want to team up with Takuya and intentionally let Tsubaki be branded as the mastermind of the first-years, "just as he wished?" Interestingly enough, there is an answer to all of this.

Takuya expelled Hatano back in Y2V2 to emotionally manipulate Riku into wanting nothing more than to protect his friends; remember that he profiled Riku as a reticent person who is protective of his class. Expelling someone that was such a great addition to Class 1-C would surely change Riku, from the psychological level, to react in a defensive manner.

Takuya took advantage of this Riku that he strategically, indirectly, and emotionally manipulated to force him to see things in a tunnel visioned manner. Tsubaki was acting far more aggressively since Y2V2, being confident enough to orchestrate a strategy that could potentially expel Ayanokoji, which Takuya manipulated her into making. Therefore, Riku's decision to team up with Takuya can be traced back to his objective of safeguarding her from potential expulsion. This was a dynamic that Takuya intentionally created through the expulsion of Hatano so that Riku would be desperate to save Tsubaki at all means possible, while Tsubaki would unabashedly charge forward with the implementation of a risky strategy. Essentially, every single move that Riku and Tsubaki took since Y2V2 in preparations for and during the Island Exam were all controlled by Takuya; Riku was at least somewhat aware of that through his hidden partnership with Yagami, but Tsubaki never once knew until months after the Island Exam that all of her actions she took were simply a result of Takuya's manipulation. Not once did she

ever have free will nor take an action that was not part of his plan. They were simply pawns on his chessboard.

During the Uninhabited Island Exam, it is extremely likely that Takuya and Riku communicated privately. It was through their private interactions that Takuya made Riku recognize that branding Tsubaki as the mastermind behind her failed strategy would not only shatter her confidence but also lead the second-year students to look down on her, despite her having access to similar resources as her peers. This calculated tactic would leave Tsubaki in a state of despair and depression (as it did in the novel), rendering her seemingly non-threatening and making her expulsion appear unjustifiably harsh to anyone who would try to expel her.

Effectively, Takuya would emotionally manipulate Riku to pick a side as he always did:

1- Stay on Tsubaki's side and prepare for her to potentially be expelled as a consequence of her strategy potentially succeeding which is very possible from Riku's perspective
OR
2- Join his side, and betray Tsubaki so that she will be saved from expulsion.

In an effort to protect Tsubaki, Riku chose to cooperate with Takuya. Together, they employed a form of emotional manipulation, subtly nurturing Tsubaki's belief that Riku "would never betray her."

This carefully crafted emotional strategy aimed to drive her further into despair while aligning her with Takuya's hidden plans, ultimately saving her from expulsion.
By drowning Tsubaki in the depths of despair through Takuya's expert manipulation, Riku was able to save her from expulsion.

However, the outcome of this strategic collaboration had two significant implications that were beneficial to Takuya: firstly, Tsubaki became the scapegoat, taking the fall for the failed strategy despite Takuya orchestrating events from the shadows, and secondly, Tsubaki's confidence was profoundly shaken.

Consequently, it was highly unlikely that she would independently formulate another strategy. Instead, she would probably need to seek collaboration with others, given her diminished self-assurance. In her current humbled state, Tsubaki was less likely to oppose whatever actions Takuya decided to undertake next unless an external force intervened and successfully roped her into an alternative plan.

In conclusion, Takuya Yagami deduced the current leader of the second-years that would mount a defensive measure against Tsubaki in mere moments, anticipate via a deductive process that the deduced leader Arisu Sakayanagi would use Hayato Kitou to gather information on the First Years, visualize the ENTIRE uninhabited island's dimensions, visualize Kitou's movements and rate of speed based on his GPS signature, and further anticipate, as well visualize the exact route Kitou would take in order to intercept his course with Utomiya Riku, and predict the **exact** moment of Tsubaki's strategy failing. ALL of Parts IA, IB, IC, II, and III, in pretty much an INSTANT.

He was able to convince Riku by expertly emotionally manipulating him to betray Tsubaki in order to save her from expulsion. This placed a perfect countermeasure against Arisu that would misdirect all of Class 2-A including herself, the Second Years, and use Tsubaki as a scapegoat for all the Second Years to incorrectly label her as the mastermind of the First Years during the Island Exam to conceal his identity.

All without ever being noticed by anyone besides the student he used, Riku Utomiya.