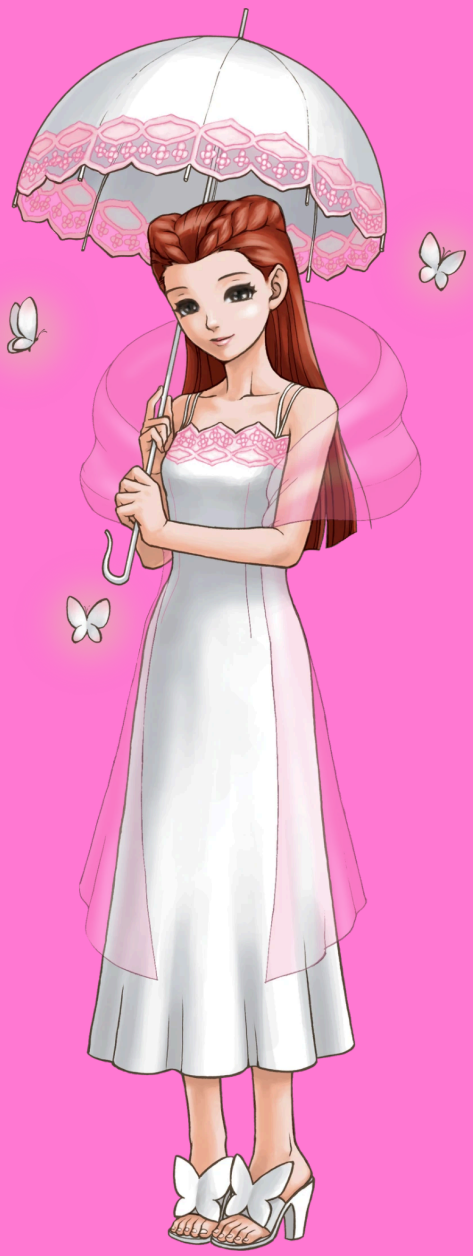
DAHLIA HAWTHORNE

“Teen Angel”

“Witch”



"From the day I was born to the day I died, I never helped anyone! I lived for myself and, in the end, I died for myself. I thought that was obvious."

Lore:

Dahlia Hawthorne is a major antagonist in the third game in the Ace Attorney franchise - Trials & Tribulations. Dahlia initially presents herself as sweet and innocent, with her design reflecting her seemingly naïve personality. However, that couldn't be farther from the truth. In reality, Hawthorne is a cutthroat monster, cruel and full of avarice, in truth only ever caring for herself and never anyone else.

Hawthorne is a member of the Fey clan, however she possesses little to no spiritual power (if she does have any it's never used), she is Morgan Fey's daughter - the branch that would fall to have practically no influence due to Morgan's sister being a more skilled Spirit Medium. As a result of Morgan not being elected as the next head of the Fey clan, Hawthorne's father divorces Morgan and leaves taking his daughters to remarry (Iris & Dahlia). Dahlia convinces her father to leave Iris at the Hazakura Temple because of her dislike towards her - it should be noted that Dahlia never liked her father either, plotting to steal his riches.

[Manipulation, acting skills]

Kidnapping Plot:

At the age of 14, Dahlia was in a relationship with her tutor Terry Fawles, having made a pact that if the two couldn't trust each other anymore they'd drink poison from a bottle-necklace (Dahlia never planned to follow through on this mind you) and alongside her step-sister Valerie, the three plotted to steal a diamond worth 2 million from her father. (Dahlia also attempts to recruit Iris to aid in the scam).

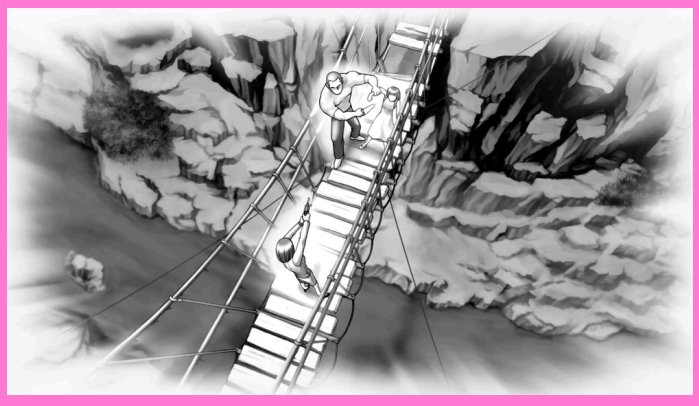
During the meeting on the bridge, Valerie and Dahlia began the next part of the plan by betraying Fawles; Valerie shot him in the shoulder, while Dahlia intentionally jumped off the bridge into Eagle River below, taking with her the ransom diamond. Valerie arrested Fawles and falsely testified that he had murdered Dahlia by pushing her off the bridge, leading to the betrayed man's conviction and a sentence on death row. (Iris never showed up to assist Dahlia in her plot, as she was too frightened to help).

Valerie had in truth found Dahlia and secretly looked after her. As a policewoman, Valerie was able to forge the documents

necessary to create a new identity for her stepsister. The identity was that of "Melissa Foster", a girl who up until two years before lived in another country at the brink of civil war and was able to escape after her parents' death, but was unable to get her original ID papers. (Since Iris had refused to assist her in the plot, Dahlia viewed her twin as a traitor and backstabber).

[Manipulation, gaslighting, guilt-tripping, scapegoating, honeytrapping, seduction, emotional manipulation, possibly abusing insecurities - Fawles is highly suggested to be mentally unwell given his childish tendencies, social skills, EQE, EQM, strategy, planning, improvisation, influence, adaptability, extortion, strategy complexity]

Turnabout Beginnings (First half):



Case Summary (first half): In her first major trial, Mia Fey defended Terry Fawles, a death row inmate who escaped

custody and was accused of murdering Detective Valerie Hawthorne, the same woman whose testimony had led to his original conviction.

Miles Edgeworth, also in his first trial as prosecutor, presented strong evidence: Fawles had arranged to meet Hawthorne at Dusky Bridge—the site of his first alleged crime—and her body was later found in the trunk of a stolen car, stabbed with a knife. A photo taken by an alleged eyewitness, Melissa Foster (Dahlia Hawthorne), appearing to show Fawles and Hawthorne together at the bridge.

Melissa Foster (Dahlia Hawthorne), claimed she had seen the entire altercation and that her camera had run out of film before she could capture the moment of violence. Her detailed testimony closely matched the evidence, and she even anticipated questions about her photos by noting the use of a camera timer. Her testimony initially aligned perfectly with Edgeworth's case.

However, Mia Fey dismantled Foster's account by exposing contradictions: Foster (Dahlia Hawthorne) couldn't have seen the trunk due to a rock outcropping, yet described scratch marks on it. Fey argued this was only possible if Foster (Dahlia Hawthorne) herself had placed the body in the trunk. She revealed that Fawles wouldn't have needed to force the trunk open since he had the car keys. Furthermore, she suggested the

woman in the meeting photo was not Hawthorne but Foster in disguise—exploiting Fawles's memory loss and his request for a white scarf for identification.

Fey's repeated arguments and strong approach eventually leads to Foster "fainting" and requiring a break in court for her to recover.

[acting skills, manipulation, concealment, counter difficulty, abusing insecurities, fabrication, logical manipulation, EQU, EQM, EQE, guilt-tripping, improvisation]

Turnabout Beginnings (second half):

Mia Fey was confident she could prove Foster was the real murderer. However, with no clear motive, investigated further and uncovered a key truth: five years earlier, the alleged "kidnapping" was a staged plan between Terry Fawles and his then-girlfriend, Dahlia Hawthorne—Melissa Foster's true identity. Dahlia, her sister Valerie (the murder victim), and Fawles had planned to extort a $2 million diamond from their jeweler father. But at Dusky Bridge, Valerie betrayed Fawles by shooting him, and Dahlia jumped into the river, faking her death.

Fawles had been convicted of Dahlia's "murder" and Valerie's testimony had sealed his fate.

In court, Edgeworth claimed Foster had no motive and was merely a witness. Foster testified again, cleverly asserting she'd never been to the area before college and didn't know anyone involved—yet she suspiciously referenced the white scarf, which wasn't public knowledge. Fey used this to expose her knowledge of a confidential note between Valerie and Fawles, revealing her as Dahlia Hawthorne.

Dahlia took the stand and claimed Fawles had pushed her off the bridge, but Fey dismantled her testimony. She proved that due to the bridge's structure and the circumstances—Fawles having been shot and under threat—Dahlia could not have been pushed. She must have jumped to fake her death and keep the diamond for herself. Dahlia's carefully constructed lie was further undermined when Fey demonstrated that both sisters had planned the betrayal, and Dahlia had committed murder to protect her secret.

Fey called Fawles to testify. Still in love with Dahlia, he was torn and tried to protect her. But under pressure, he revealed he had retrieved a pendant containing poison during a 30-minute window—enough time for Dahlia to have committed the murder. As the truth came to light, Fawles admitted he had lost faith in Dahlia and due to his promise of if trust was broken, the

betrayer would drink poison. He collapsed on the stand and died. This allowed Hawthorne to walk free due to Fawles untimely death.

[honeytrapping, manipulation, emotional manipulation, insanity inducement (arguably), control over victim, seduction, brainwashing, EQU, EQM, EQE, anticipation, unpredictability, cunning, influence, information control, abusing insecurities, strategy complexity, planning, strategy]



Terry Fawles having just ingested the poison.

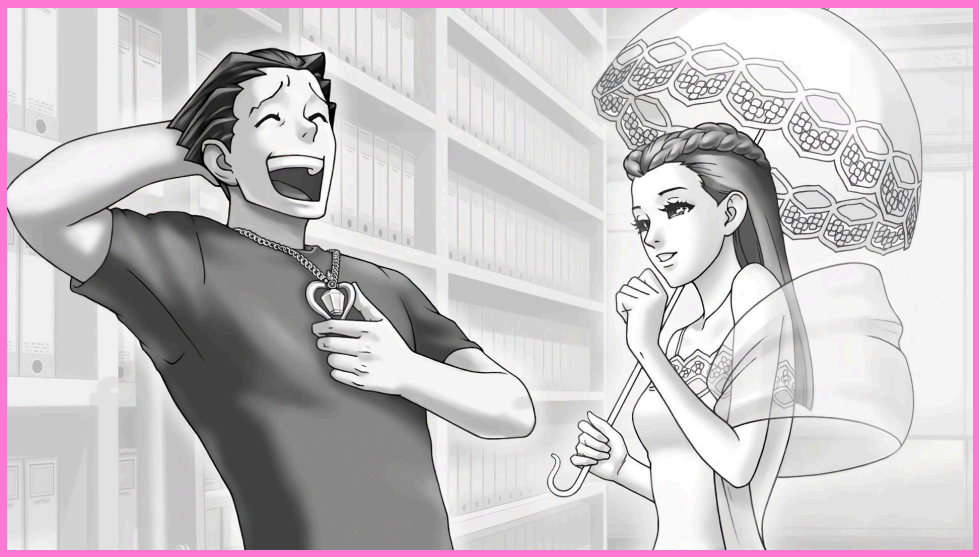
Attempted murder at the district court:

Fey refused to give up, believing that Hawthorne had to be brought to justice and alongside Diego Armando (the man

who'd become Godot) investigated her. Unfortunately for Diego, the very incident that'd ruin him occurs here, during a meeting with Dahlia six months after the trial, she poisons him which subsequently leaves the esteemed defence attorney in a coma. To avoid suspicion she fled and handed the necklace (containing the poison) to Phoenix Wright claiming it to be a "love gift". (Her then boyfriend - Swallow - would later learn that she stole poison - *not that she murdered anyone* - and break up with her - eventually leading to Turnabout Memories).

Sadly for Phoenix who'd been completely swooned by the devil, she plotted to murder him and regain the necklace to remove all evidence. Iris (her sister) begs her not to and opts to pretend to be Dahlia so she can date Phoenix and regain the necklace without hurting him.

[Seduction, lovebombing, concealment, social skills, emotional manipulation, planning, strategy]



Dahlia gives Wright the necklace.

Murder at the university/ Turnabout Memories:

I plan to gloss over this trial due to having covered it in the Winston Payne document. (Furthermore most feats can be distributed to Mia/Payne).

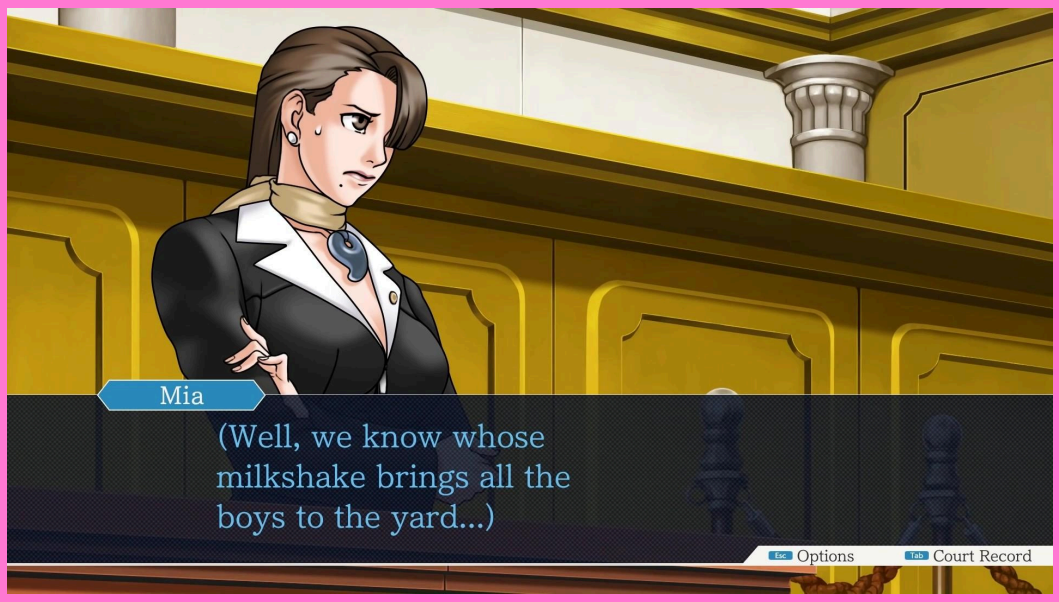
Due to her sister failing to reclaim the necklace (and seemingly falling in love with Wright), Hawthorne took it upon herself to kill Wright and take back the necklace.

Before her plan could come to fruition, Dahlia found Swallow trying to warn Wright about her and the stolen poison. Wright pushed Swallow in a mixture of anger and disbelief, then fled the scene. Dahlia permanently silenced him by using a nearby downed power line to fatally electrocute her former boyfriend.

She then planted Wright's medicine bottle in Swallow's hand in an attempt to frame him for the murder. Wright and a few pharmacology students soon discovered the scene, with Dahlia crying over the body.

The trial would play out with Mia relentlessly pulling apart Dahlia, things to note however, Hawthorne initially makes herself out to seem innocent and sweet, seducing the Judge and Payne. (Please do check the Payne document as it explains this trial in much more detail if you're unsatisfied). She puts up some fight however, denying Fey's claims and attempting to lie her way out of things. Again her grip on Wright is clear as the poor lad is unwilling to accept Fey's claims directed to his “Dollie” (who would've been Iris during their dates, it's later revealed that Hawthorne only met Wright twice herself - on the day she handed the necklace and on the day of the trial).

[Seduction, emotional manipulation, charisma, persuasion, indirect manipulation, bluffing, acting skills, some counter difficulty, verbal deception, strategy adaptability, strategy, formulation speed, improvisation, EQM, EQE, social awareness, self regulation - until caught]



Mia's opinion on Hawthorne.

Execution:

“Yes. I was hanged. It wasn't exactly... pleasant.” - Dahlia Hawthorne explaining how she was killed.

Due to being revealed as Swallow's killer, she was brought to a detention centre to await punishment, Morgan Fey (her mother) was also transferred here following the result of a different trial and sought revenge and wanted to instill her daughter (Pearl Fey) as the next head of the Fey clan. (This would involve killing Maya). Hawthorne saw this as a revenge opportunity to get back at the late Mia by killing her sister, the two plotted to have Pearl channel Dahlia after her death and have her murder

Maya in this time. Shortly after their meeting, Dahlia is executed.

[Strategy, strategy complexity, adversity capacity, indirect manipulation *of Pearl through her mother*, planning, manipulation *Hawthorne never cared about her mother or her wishes, solely acting for herself, this manipulation arguably goes both ways*]

Bride to the Turnabout:

"You're as foolishly optimistic as ever, aren't you... my darling Feenie? Do you want to know the truth? Ever since we met... I've despised you. Your sniveling naïveté and your pathetic faith in other people" - Dahlia mocking Wright.

This is one of the longest trials in the series, the final case of Trials & Tribulations and the final downfall of Hawthorne. Due to this being a Hawthorne document, certain areas will be glossed over, full transcripts of the trial are available online.

The trial is an absolute mess on paper (don't get me wrong it's an absolute joy to play), with 2 judges presiding over the case (Judge's younger brother on day 1, and Judge himself on day 2),

involves two prosecutors (Franziska von Karma on day 1, and Godot on day 2) and two defence attorneys (Miles Edgeworth on day 1, and Phoenix Wright on day 2). Furthermore it's one of the only trials to involve Spirit channeling as a major aspect in the trial (DL-6 is another).

"'Shichishito'. The treasured Kurain Village heirloom whose name means '7 Branched Sword'. It is said that this sacred sword represents life itself. Though the branches may appear to be infinite, the choices limitless... ...like our destinies, the sword comes to but one end. One merciless point. And when the silver cord, the fragile thread that binds us to this world, is severed... ...the illusion is revealed and the implacability of fate is finally laid bare..." - the explanation of the sword used to murder Misty Fey.

Essentially to summarise the plot, Godot (Diego Armando) had awoken from his coma one month after Dahlia's death, learning of Morgan's plot to kill Maya he constructed a murder plot to protect her. To be frank, a lot of this trial is the work of Godot's strategy with Hawthorne mostly being dragged along for the ride, quite literally failing miserably at her plan for revenge. The plot involved having Misty Fey channel Dahlia and restrain her so she never gets the chance for Pearl to channel her and kill Maya. Unfortunately the plan went miserably and Godot ends up

killing Misty to stop Dahlia attacking Maya, Dahlia retaliates wounding Godot. (This leads to the trial with Iris as suspect number one). Dahlia is knocked unconscious and soon rechanneled by Maya (not Pearl) and she acts out under the impression that Maya is dead (falling off a bridge) and that she's in Pearl's body.

Hawthorne's feats in this case: retaliates against Godot, causes the death of Misty Fey indirectly, concealed herself and feigned being her sister (Iris). That's essentially all she really does, most of this Trial is Wright working to prove Godot killed Misty and not Iris.

Wright over the events of the trial proves that Dahlia was acting as Iris, proves that Maya is still alive and that Dahlia failed. (This causes her to cry out in anguish that Mia (who had told Maya to channel Dahlia so she couldn't harm her) always foiled her plans and then left Maya's body, never to be channeled again).

[Improvisation, concealment, cunning, anticipation]



Dahlia Hawthorne's spirit leaves Maya's body.

Dahlia Hawthorne's strongest categories:

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

1- Acting skills (Keeps her innocent demeanour fooling the Judge and many others)

2- manipulation/emotional manipulation/seduction/honeytrapping/gaslighting/guilt-tripping/scapegoating/lovebombing (shown constantly throughout the game, makes Fawles believe he's betrayed her and he commits suicide, has shown to use her looks to gain sympathy *like with Payne/Judge*, manipulates others to get her way *getting close to Swallow to acquire poison*, feigning feelings for Wright to use him to dispose of evidence, had

Fawles take the blame for her crimes, attempted to have Wright framed as well)

3- abusing insecurities (Fawles/Wright were completely in love with her, suggested that Fawles is mentally unwell, she abuses their feelings/mental states to her advantage)

4- Improvisation/counter difficulty (is able to come up with lies quickly to modify her testimonies to give herself advantages.

5- Social Skills/ self regulation (capable of interacting with others easily, capable of hiding her true emotions to present the best image of herself)

6- strategy, strategy complexity, planning (shown to be capable of formulating intricate plots such as the extortion plan used against her father or her and Morgan's revenge plot)

7- EQE/EQU/EQM (shows a deep understanding of emotion and how to abuse it in her favour, is able to react based on her feelings)

8- VCI/VSI/PSI/WMI/FRI/PRI/TRI (she was a literature student at University, shown to be very comprehensive)

"It's true then... The loveliest rose can hide the cruelest thorn..."



The best thing to happen to the “Teen Angel”

“Do. You. Think. You've. Won? Well!? Do you, Mia Fey? Heh... Heh... Heh... Heheh... That's. Just. Fine!” - Dahlia Hawthorne after being revealed as the true murderer in Turnabout Memories.



Made by TheNoo (u/Due_Ad8334)

Credit to the Ace Attorney wiki for transcripts, quotes, images and help summarising.