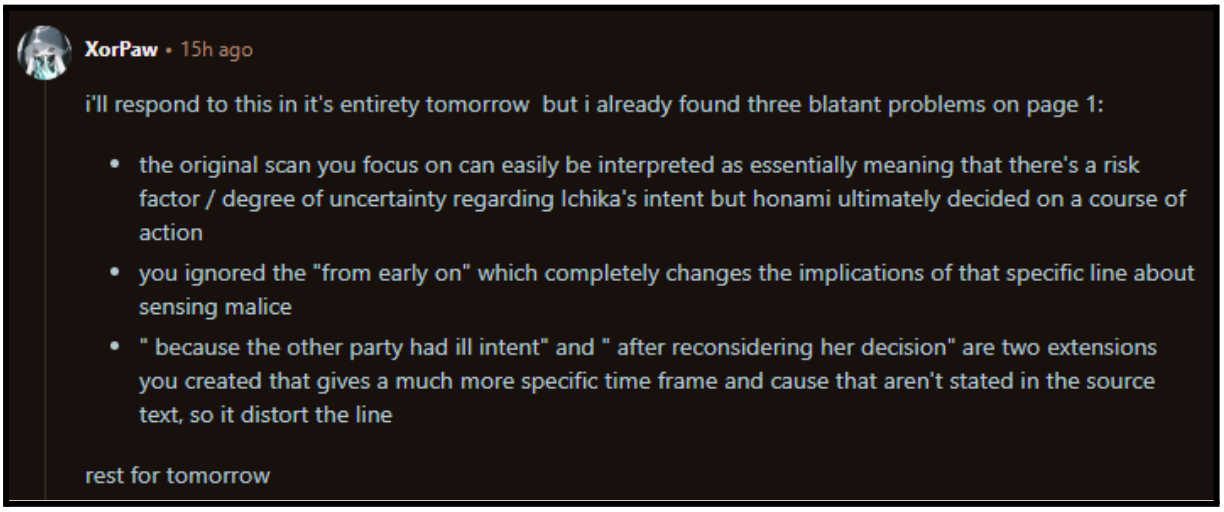
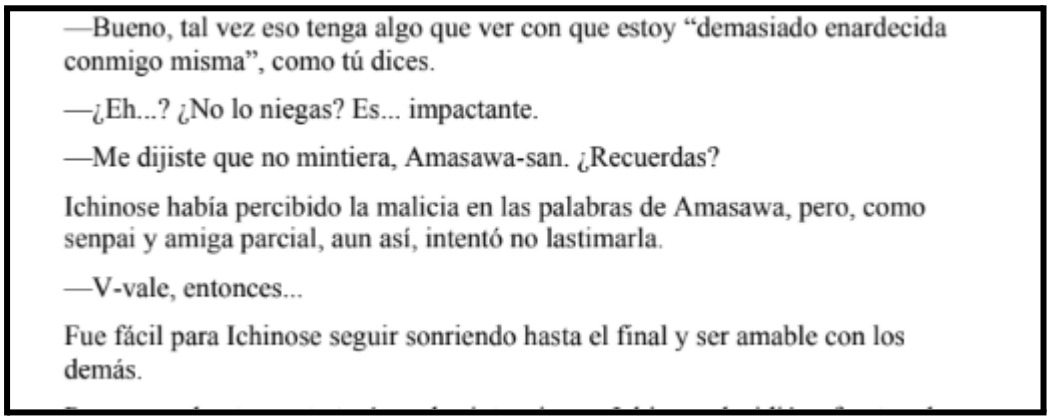
Hello again. Let’s go straight to the reply he left on my post.



Xorpaw claims that the phrases “because the other party had ill intent” and “after reconsidering her decision” were invented to distort the temporal and causal framing of the scene.

Those two clauses were not created by me; they are literal quotes from the translation of Volume 1 of the Third Year, whose fidelity is confirmed by matching, word for word, the complete Spanish translation (my native language):



—Bueno, tal vez eso tenga algo que ver con que estoy “demasiado enardecida conmigo misma”, como tú dices.

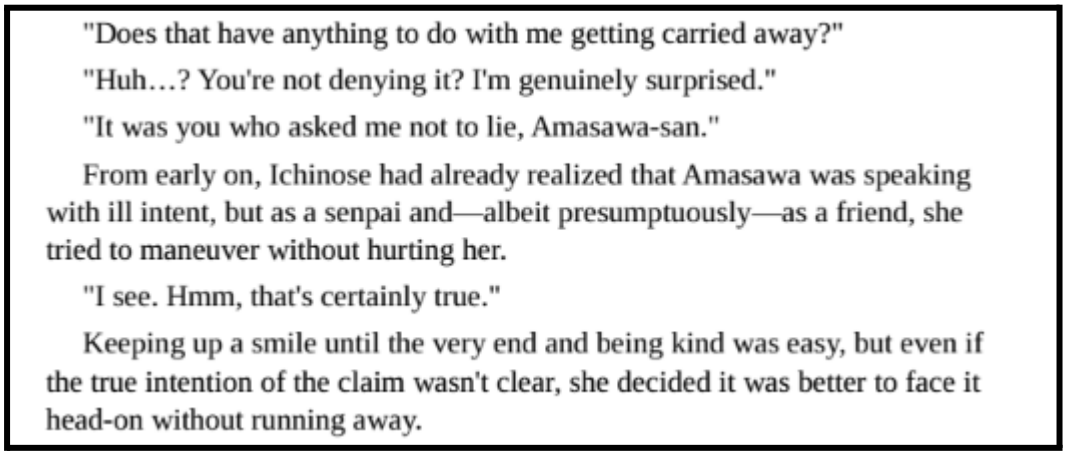
—¿Eh...? ¿No lo niegas? Es... impactante.

—Me dijiste que no mintiera, Amasawa-san. ¿Recuerdas?

Ichinose había percibido la malicia en las palabras de Amasawa, pero, como senpai y amiga parcial, aun así, intentó no lastimarla.

—V-vale, entonces...

Fue fácil para Ichinose seguir sonriendo hasta el final y ser amable con los demás.



"Does that have anything to do with me getting carried away?"

"Huh…? You're not denying it? I'm genuinely surprised."

"It was you who asked me not to lie, Amasawa-san."

From early on, Ichinose had already realized that Amasawa was speaking with ill intent, but as a senpai and—albeit presumptuously—as a friend, she tried to maneuver without hurting her.

"I see. Hmm, that's certainly true."

Keeping up a smile until the very end and being kind was easy, but even if the true intention of the claim wasn't clear, she decided it was better to face it head-on without running away.

Here Xorpaw is using exclusively a preliminary/unrevised MTL translation (where that passage was translated as: “Keeping up a smile until the very end and being kind was easy, but even if the true intention of the claim wasn’t clear, she decided it was better to face it head-on without running away”), and accuses me of fabricating text simply because he didn’t cross-check both versions. Completely normal.

Anyway, I concede the point, and now I will use exclusively your literal translation.

Unfortunately, that doesn’t help his point either. Even if you grant Xorpaw his preferred version of the text (“even if the true intention of the claim wasn’t clear...”), his own thesis is annihilated instantly.

If at that advanced point in the conversation “the true intention of Ichika’s claim was still not clear” to Ichinose, then it is logically impossible that Ichinose had profiled Ichika, deduced her agenda and designed a psychological trap about the White Room from the start of the encounter.

> Keeping up a smile until the very end and being kind was easy, but even if the true intention of the claim wasn't clear, she decided it was better to face it head-on without running away.

Xorpaw tries to reinterpret the initial scan by saying it means that “there was a risk factor / degree of uncertainty regarding Ichika’s intention, but Honami ultimately decided on a course of action.” This concession leaves him trapped in three practically insurmountable inconsistencies:

1. The defense of that feat holds that Ichinose read Ichika from the beginning, deduced that she was from the White Room (but unrelated to Tsukishiro and Shiba), anticipated the direction of the chat, and deliberately sacrificed her reputation by not denying having slept with Ayanokouji as credibility bait for her later lie. If Xorpaw now admits that Honami was operating under uncertainty about Ichika’s intentions, he implicitly admits that she did not have the psychological profile or the prior read that is attributed to her.

2. The exact sequence in the text is fixed:

    a. Step 1: Ichika asks whether she slept with Ayanokouji and Honami answers without denying it: *“It was you who asked me not to lie, Amasawa-san.”*.
    b. Step 2: Immediately after that answer, the narrator points out that Honami decided to stop merely being kind and to confront her head-on.

    It is chronologically impossible for the non-denial in Step 1 to have been a “calculated sacrifice” motivated by an offensive decision that the narrator himself places in Step 2.

"Does that have anything to do with me getting carried away?"

"Huh…? You're not denying it? I'm genuinely surprised."

"It was you who asked me not to lie, Amasawa-san."

From early on, Ichinose had already realized that Amasawa was speaking with ill intent, but as a senpai and—albeit presumptuously—as a friend, she tried to maneuver without hurting her.

"I see. Hmm, that's certainly true."

Keeping up a smile until the very end and being kind was easy, but even if the true intention of the claim wasn't clear, she decided it was better to face it head-on without running away.

"So, you admit that you slept with him?"

3. What Ichinose does immediately after deciding to confront her head-on is to boast about her “strong bond” with Ayanokouji and use the cake analogy to show how she rations intimacy with him to increase his desire—the same possessive and direct side she shows chapters later toward Karuizawa when she hints that something happened between them after the breakup—“something that we can’t tell others.” The White Room bluff arose afterward as an improvised positive-sum gamble (“then that in itself was an advantage for Ichinose”), without her even knowing whether Ichika knew the term or what the White Room really was (which she believed to be a simple “high-level cram school or something akin to a nickname”).

"Eh? A favorite food?"

Amasawa answered with a laugh as if the topic had suddenly changed.

"Maybe cake."

She answered seriously with a few ideas in mind.

"And if you eat that cake, you'd want to eat it again, right?"

"That's true."

"But if you could eat cake every day, anytime you want… yeah, even if it's your favorite food, you'd get tired of it, right?"

"Of course, I'd probably get sick of even seeing it for a while."

Their opinions matched, and they nodded at each other.

"That's why you shouldn't eat too much. Since it's your favorite food, you should only eat it on special occasions. Until then, you need to resist the urge. It's because you can't eat it despite it being right in front of you that the desire to eat it grows stronger. Once you've had a taste, then…?"

Nothing had changed. She still had on the same gentle smile directed towards her kouhai.

But beneath that smile, Amasawa felt she'd caught a glimpse of Ichinose's true nature.

"You're saying you're that special cake, but you're dangerously full of yourself. Do you really think it'll go that smoothly? The person in question is Ayanokouji-senpai, after all. If you're thinking he's some ordinary guy, then your thinking is even sweeter than cake."

"He's waiting to meet with me at this time."

Unable to respond, Karuizawa could only lower her gaze even further.

"And there's one more thing I want to say. Even if there were some important events or some deep connection between me and Ayanokouji-kun, something that we can't tell others, by that day, by that time, it was already after he had said goodbye to you, Karuizawa-san. There's nothing that would cause any trouble between us. Yeah, so we can continue being friends—there's no problem with that, right?"

Having said everything, Ichinose walked away and called out to Ayanokouji.

Ayanokouji put away his phone, stood up, and started walking beside Ichinose.

> She only knew the term 'White Room' from overhearing it during the deserted island exam during her second year. Ayanokouji had denied knowing about it, and even now, he hadn't told Ichinose anything regarding the truth. However, from Amasawa's attitude suggesting that she knew something about Ayanokouji that others didn't, she deduced that there was a possible connection to the White Room. If Amasawa was unrelated to the term White Room, then that in itself was an advantage for Ichinose, proving she knew Ayanokouji better; thus, the truth didn't matter either way.
>
> Directly translated as "white room[1]," it could be the name of a high-level cram school or something akin to a nickname, she had imagined, but this interaction revealed that Amasawa likely originated from there.

If Ichinose had truly known that the White Room was a deadly secret tied to Shiba's threats in Y2V3/Y2V8, dropping that name gratuitously in a crowded mall just to win a jealousy argument with a kouhai would have been suicidal recklessness, not a clever play.

Now moving on to the new post and the doc. The beginning doesn't change much [the narrator discussed honami having anticipated ichika's dropping the innocent kouhai mask because she was "too calm"].

> **page 1:**
>
> the first scan OP focus on (https://imgur.com/a/AbM08K7) can easily be interpreted as more or less meaning that yes there's a risk factor / degree of uncertainty regarding ichika's intent, but honami ultimately decided on a course of action on how to deal with ichika and this situation. there's no specifics implied there on when she made that decision, at least within that line
>
> what OP claims to be a sequence isn't as linear and they make it out to be. their own scan proves it. there's nothing wrong with their #1, but the scan they inserted disprove their framing for #2 and #3
> OP ignored the "from early on" of their #2 line of their so-called "sequence". it's extremely important because the narrator discussed honami having anticipated ichika's dropping the innocent kouhai mask because she was "too calm". this proves hona sensed ichika's malice before she dropped the mask. likewise, honami showed no agitation when ichika dropped the accusation "bomb". this completely changes the implications of the #2 line
>
> scan: https://imgur.com/a/8oW13Pm
>
> their framing of #3 is no better, since "because the other party had ill intent" and " after reconsidering her decision" are two extensions OP created that gives a much more specific time frame and cause that aren't stated in the source text, so it distort the actual line
>
> all the aforementioned corrections of OP's framing of the sequence of events matters, since OP is trying to use that framing to evince honami couldn't have used her sexual admission as "credibility bait":
> ---
> *It is logically impossible for Ichinose to have used her sexual admission as "credibility bait" to set up the White Room bluff when, at the exact moment she made that admission, she was still trying to be kind and, according to the narrator himself, hadn't even decided to go on the offensive.*
> ---

This claim is textually false. The exact quote from the novel says:

"Ichinose-senpai, are you perhaps getting a bit carried away lately?"

Up until now, Amasawa had been playing the part of a good girl with Ichinose, but just then, she quietly spoke in a more venomous manner.

A normal person might've been shocked or taken aback by Amasawa's sudden change.

However, Ichinose didn't show any change in her demeanor.

"If it seemed that way, I'm sorry. I didn't intend that at all…"

It was unlikely that Ichinose could've anticipated such a question beforehand, but if Ichinose really hadn't, she appeared too calm—that was how Amasawa analyzed the situation.

"It was unlikely that Ichinose could've anticipated such a question beforehand, but if Ichinose really hadn't, she appeared too calm—that was how Amasawa analyzed the situation."

It is not the narrator who claims that Ichinose predicted the change of mask; it is Amasawa's subjective, internal analysis speculating about her senpai's calm. Using a character's mistaken assumption as objective proof from the narrator invalidates that whole argument of Xorpaw's. In fact, moments earlier, when Ichika brings up Ayanokouji, the narrator makes clear that Ichinose was puzzled ("Ichinose was puzzled"), and only when Ichika insists on romantic topics does she notice that she is probing the situation ("she was clearly feeling around the circumstances and probing into them").

"Oh, I mean I like him as a senpai, not that there are any romantic feelings~"

"I see."

However, Ichinose continued to face Amasawa with a smile, without changing her expression.

But why did Amasawa suddenly bring up Ayanokouji's name and make such suggestive remarks?

This was a topic that rarely came up in their relationship up until that point, so Ichinose was puzzled.

Amasawa sharpened her gaze in response to the slight change in emotion Ichinose showed.

"I was just kidding~ Actually, I really do love him in that way."

She stopped using roundabout expressions and said it outright.

"Could you perhaps want me to help you with something…?"

A confession of love for a senpai.

If that was what Amasawa wanted help with from Ichinose, it'd make sense.

Ichinose thought as much, but Amasawa immediately shook her head to deny it.

"I definitely don't have the courage to confess, but I do feel a bit jealous

"I definitely don't have the courage to confess, but I do feel a bit jealous when I see Ichinose-senpai getting along so well with Ayanokouji-senpai. Maybe there's something going on between you two…?"

"Me? I'm not in that kind of relationship with Ayanokouji-kun."

Ichinose calmly denied it, but Amasawa grew more suspicious.

"Really? Senpai, you're so cute, I really thought that I wouldn't stand a chance if you were my rival."

"It's true, so don't worry."

Despite Amasawa's exaggerated crying face, Ichinose responded seriously.

"You're not… lying, are you? Ichinose-senpai, you wouldn't lie to me, right?"

"Of course, I wouldn't lie. Though, if that's the case, going to the gym might be a good idea. It could be your chance to get closer to Ayanokouji-kun."

Ichinose had been maintaining her mature front throughout. However, on the inside, as Amasawa kept bringing up romantic topics involving Ayanokouji, she sensed a different image from her than before.

She was clearly feeling around the circumstances and probing into them.

Keeping up the act, Amasawa nodded happily and moved closer to Ichinose.

On the other hand, Xorpaw accuses me of ignoring the “from early on,” but he is the one who cuts the sentence in half to hide Ichinose’s true purpose in that phase. The full sentence states:

She didn't care about the truth of this question. She just wanted to see Ichinose's agitation.

"Does that have anything to do with me getting carried away?"

"Huh…? You're not denying it? I'm genuinely surprised."

"It was you who asked me not to lie, Amasawa-san."

From early on, Ichinose had already realized that Amasawa was speaking with ill intent, but as a senpai and—albeit presumptuously—as a friend, she tried to maneuver without hurting her.

"I see. Hmm, that's certainly true."

Keeping up a smile until the very end and being kind was easy, but even if the true intention of the claim wasn't clear, she decided it was better to face it head-on without running away.

“From early on, Ichinose had already realized that Amasawa was speaking with ill intent, but as a senpai and—albeit presumptuously—as a friend, she tried to maneuver without hurting her.”

The adversative conjunction (“but”) destroys the premeditated-trap theory. Although Ichinose noticed the intent, her explicit decision throughout that phase was to try to maneuver kindly without hurting her kouhai, not to set a psychological hook for her.

Immediately after Ichika corners her with the direct question (“So, you admit that you slept with him?”), the narrator explains Ichinose’s change of stance:

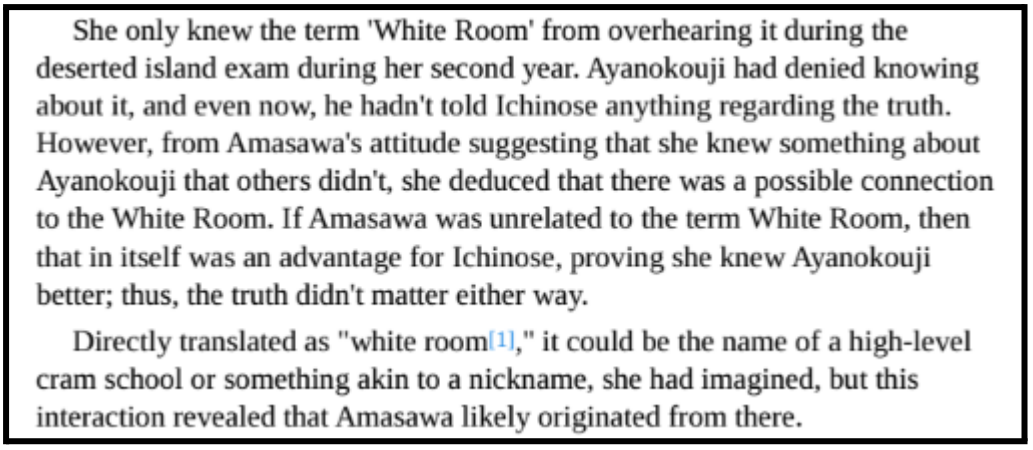
“Keeping up a smile until the very end and being kind was easy, ***but*** *even if the true intention of the claim wasn’t clear,* ***she decided it was better to face it head-on without running away****.”*

This shows the linearity of her decisions: first she tried to be kind (“tried to maneuver without hurting her”), and then, faced with a direct accusation in which she had also just stated that she wouldn’t lie (“It was you who asked me not to lie, Amasawa-san.”), she decided to change her stance at that precise moment so as not to run away. Xorpaw still cannot cite a single line indicating that Ichinose admitted to having slept with Kiyotaka to build credibility for a future bluff. It is logically impossible to fabricate a “credibility hook” for a bluff about the White Room when at that moment Ichinose had not yet deduced that Ichika had any link to Ayanokouji’s past (a deduction that occurs pages later).

—----------

The next important point, from what he says on page 2, is the perception of the White Room, the “contingency” and the luck factor.

Xorpaw maintains that Ichinose knew the White Room was an extremely serious secret because of the events of Y2V3 and Y2V8. However, he omits what the narrator himself reveals about Ichinose’s thinking in that same scene:



She only knew the term 'White Room' from overhearing it during the deserted island exam during her second year. Ayanokouji had denied knowing about it, and even now, he hadn't told Ichinose anything regarding the truth. However, from Amasawa's attitude suggesting that she knew something about Ayanokouji that others didn't, she deduced that there was a possible connection to the White Room. If Amasawa was unrelated to the term White Room, then that in itself was an advantage for Ichinose, proving she knew Ayanokouji better; thus, the truth didn't matter either way.

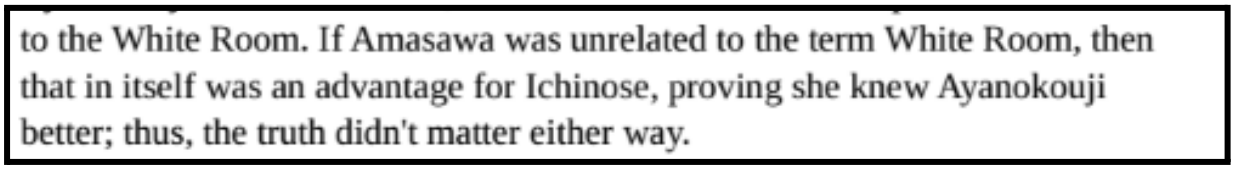
Directly translated as "white room[1]," it could be the name of a high-level cram school or something akin to a nickname, she had imagined, but this interaction revealed that Amasawa likely originated from there.

“Directly translated as ‘white room,’ it could be the name of a high-level cram school or something akin to a nickname, she had imagined...”

Ichinose literally considered that it might be a high-level prep academy or a mere nickname. If she had believed that mentioning that term implied deadly danger (like Shiba’s threats),

she would never have dropped it casually in the middle of a crowded mall. She used it only because she knew it was a word tied to Kiyotaka that he had not wanted to explain to her, which served her to feign a higher level of intimacy in front of Ichika.

Now, regarding luck. The text describes Ichinose's reasoning in case Ichika had no connection to the term:


to the White Room. If Amasawa was unrelated to the term White Room, then that in itself was an advantage for Ichinose, proving she knew Ayanokouji better; thus, the truth didn't matter either way.

"If Amasawa was unrelated to the term White Room, then that in itself was an advantage for Ichinose, proving she knew Ayanokouji better; thus, the truth didn't matter either way."

Posing an alternative scenario ("if X doesn't happen, then Y happens") works as a backup or contingency plan in case the main hypothesis fails. The fundamental problem Xorpaw tries to evade is that this supposed alternative scenario doesn't hold up in the reality of the conversation.

Seconds earlier, Amasawa had been laughing out loud at Ichinose for making things up and overestimating herself ("Ahahaha, that's a funny joke, Ichinose-senpai...", "Don't joke around, Ichinose-senpai"). If Ichika had not belonged to the White Room, she would never have assumed that Ichinose knew anything real; she would simply have mocked her, saying "White Room? Sounds like something you just made up," and the bluff would have collapsed instantly. The play only worked due to the extreme statistical coincidence that the only two words in katakana that Ichinose accidentally overheard behind a tree in Y2V4 turned out to be exactly the secret origin of the person who approached her out of the blue in Y3V1. In other words, it is Ichinose's mistake.

She expressed a straightforward attitude that showed her unquestioning trust in Ayanokouji.

Seeing this, Amasawa couldn't hold back her laughter and held her stomach with both hands.

"Ahahaha, that's a funny joke, Ichinose-senpai. To think that sleeping with Ayanokouji-senpai makes you feel like you know everything, that's just adorable~ I might fall for you."

"Just like how people can't learn everything just from having a physical relationship, Amasawa-san, you also have some other kind of connection with Ayanokouji-kun, right? But isn't that just making you feel like you know him, rather than you actually knowing him?"

"Um, excuse me? At least within this school, I understand Ayanokouji-senpai the most—"

"Ayanokouji-kun told me everything, much more than what you think."

Under Amasawa's doubtful gaze, Ichinose continued without a hint of hesitation.

"Like matters, for example, about the White Room."

"Huh?"

Let's move on to the next point, where he refutes my Pages 2, 3 and 11 on reactive improvisation and the contradiction of the "sensory abilities"

Xorpaw himself admits that Ichinose:

obviously hona thought of this on the spot since ichika approached her, not vice-versa, but she wasn't reacting on a retort-to-retort basis like OP said

Deducing on the fly a possible connection from the arrogant attitude your interlocutor has just shown:

However, from Amasawa's attitude suggesting that she knew something about Ayanokouji that others didn't, she deduced that there was a possible connection to the White Room. If Amasawa was unrelated to the term White Room, then that in itself was an advantage for Ichinose, proving she knew Ayanokouji better; thus, the truth didn't matter either way.

and launching an improvised bluff with the only two words you know is the exact definition of acting reactively. Ichinose did not initiate the encounter, didn't know Ichika's real identity, and responded step by step to each provocation from her kouhai.

As for the sensory abilities.

1. There is no contradiction whatsoever in pointing out that Ichinose barely knew anything real about the White Room (Page 2) and that, at the same time, she theatrically pretended that Kiyotaka had confided his greatest secrets to her (Page 3). If you are acting as if you were about to reveal someone's most intimate secret in

a crowded mall at noon, looking around is elementary common sense to lend plausibility to the performance.

2. Xorpaw's defense of my Page 11, claiming that Ichinose possesses a passive spatial awareness comparable to Ayanokouji's or Tsukishiro's and therefore did not need to look around before talking about sex, is pure invention with no backing in canon.
3. The most important thing here is that it destroys his own point: if Ichinose already knew through "sensory abilities" that nobody was listening, she would have had no need to stop and explicitly look around for the first time in the whole chat right before saying *"There are no more secrets between me and Ayanokouji-kun*". She did it precisely because she lacks that radar and needed to stage discretion after Ichika mentioned the word "secrets."

page 11:

i didn't compare looking around before lying with kiyo's abilities. what i wrote was that given the content they were discussing even before honami said "white room" in addition to her previous lines outside this scene about always observing her surroundings, it was very likely honami was keeping track of anyone in the crowd around her and ichika without needing to look around. i mentioned kiyo's abilities and other people like tokinari to make a point about how in COTE this level of sensory skills is the norm for an in-verse high end character so it's not really some sort of extreme interpretation. this addresses your criticism of risk competence as well; honami didn't need to look around earlier to understand no one was around them

---

Let's move on to his response to my page 4 and Ichika's attitude and the anachronism of the "buildup"

page 4:

the exact reason ichika initially approached honami doesn't matter with regards to what you're going for. even if she underestimated honami, ichika clearly wasn't joking starting when hona began to talk about "deep bond". she was definitely being defensive and wasn't playing along those "delusion". ichika talking to herself about getting "carried away" when she was alone is essentially the nail in the coffin here. ichika also noticed hona's slight change of expressions, thought about hona anticipating her comment about getting carried away as an analysis, and after listening to the cake analogy ichika felt like she saw signs of honami's true nature. en bref, regardless of what ichika thought of hona, there's plenty lines proving she remained analytical and focused on the person she was talking to, so honami is to be credited to any extent ichika was taken by surprise

scan: https://imgur.com/a/cafy5Q2
https://imgur.com/a/8oW13Pm

the second argument made on this page is poor comprehension. the reason i mentioned the katakana difference was to further highlight how little honami actually knew, which is relevant when judging the quality of the bluff.

leaving that aside, OP exaggerates the advantage hona had by knowing those two words she barely heard the sentence they were from correctly. depending on how honami threw that out there, ichika could've seen through her. without proper buildup, it could've came across as desperate and ichika could've at least taken the time to ask honami certain questions about this without revealing she knew what it meant (like kiyo did in y2v8) honami had to introduce the "strong bond" talk to make ichika wants to shove it down honami's throat that she knew more about kiyo than her, requiring honami to analyze ichika to an extent and avoid any slip up so ichika wouldn't catch on to honami leading her to say certain things

trying to present this as honami simply having to say "white room" is disingenuous

Xorpaw tries to argue that Ichika was completely alert and analytical, so surprising her is highly meritorious. However, canon explicitly refutes that Ichika was taking the conversation seriously:

> She didn't care about the truth of this question. She just wanted to see Ichinose's agitation.
>
> "Does that have anything to do with me getting carried away?"
>
> "Huh…? You're not denying it? I'm genuinely surprised."

“She didn’t care about the truth of this question. She just wanted to see Ichinose’s agitation.”

And at the end of the scene:

With that, Ichinose started walking.

"…Shoot. I'm the one getting carried away here."

After a while, Amasawa pinched her own cheek with a wry smile.

She'd only intended to tease Ichinose, but it resulted in the opposite effect.

"She'd only intended to tease Ichinose, but it resulted in the opposite effect."

Ichika completely underestimated Ichinose. Surprising someone who believes she is simply playing a joke is substantially easier than deceiving an opponent who is on guard. This is not even a debate, because there is no room for interpretation when you are told at the beginning and at the end of the conversation, as if to confirm that Ichika simply wasn't taking her seriously.

Furthermore, Xorpaw maintains that Ichinose introduced the topic of the "deep bond" to set the stage and prevent Ichika from asking her trap questions, as Kiyotaka did in Y2V8. This is chronologically false:

Ichinose mentioned the "strong bond" (deep bond) solely and exclusively because Ichika accused her of contradicting herself by admitting she slept with Ayanokouji without being his girlfriend

"So, you admit that you slept with him?"

Without voicing her answer, Ichinose smiled back as a response.

"So, you were lying to me even though you guys are dating."

"I'm not dating Ayanokouji-kun."

"Eh? But isn't that contradictory? You mean to say you slept with him even though you're not in that kind of relationship?"

"Ayanokouji-kun and I are bound by a strong bond. That's all there is to it, I suppose."

"S-Strong bond… pfft, kihahaha."

(*"You mean to say you slept with him even though you're not in that kind of relationship?" -> "Ayanokouji-kun and I are bound by a strong bond"*).

It was a direct response to a specific objection, not the masterful preparation of a bluff she had not yet deduced. Nor were there any trap questions from Ichika, for a very simple reason: for someone from the White Room, hearing that name outside the facility causes an immediate freeze

"Like matters, for example, about the White Room."

"Huh?"

Amasawa, who had been gleefully smiling from a supposedly superior position until now, momentarily stiffened.

The impact came from the nuclear weight of the word itself, not from a prior rhetorical architecture. This is not something that happened only to Amasawa; it also happened to Koji himself in Y1V5 when Sakayanagi was introduced.

"It's been quite a long time, Ayanokouji-kun. Eight years and 243 days, actually."

"You're joking, right? I don't even know who you are."

"Heh. No, I suppose not. It's just me who knows you, after all."

Clack.

Clack.

Her cane's tapping gradually grew quieter. What in the world was this about? I decided I was done here, and turned to walk away from Sakayanagi.

"White Room," Sakayanagi said.

I stopped dead in my tracks at those two simple words. They cracked my composure.

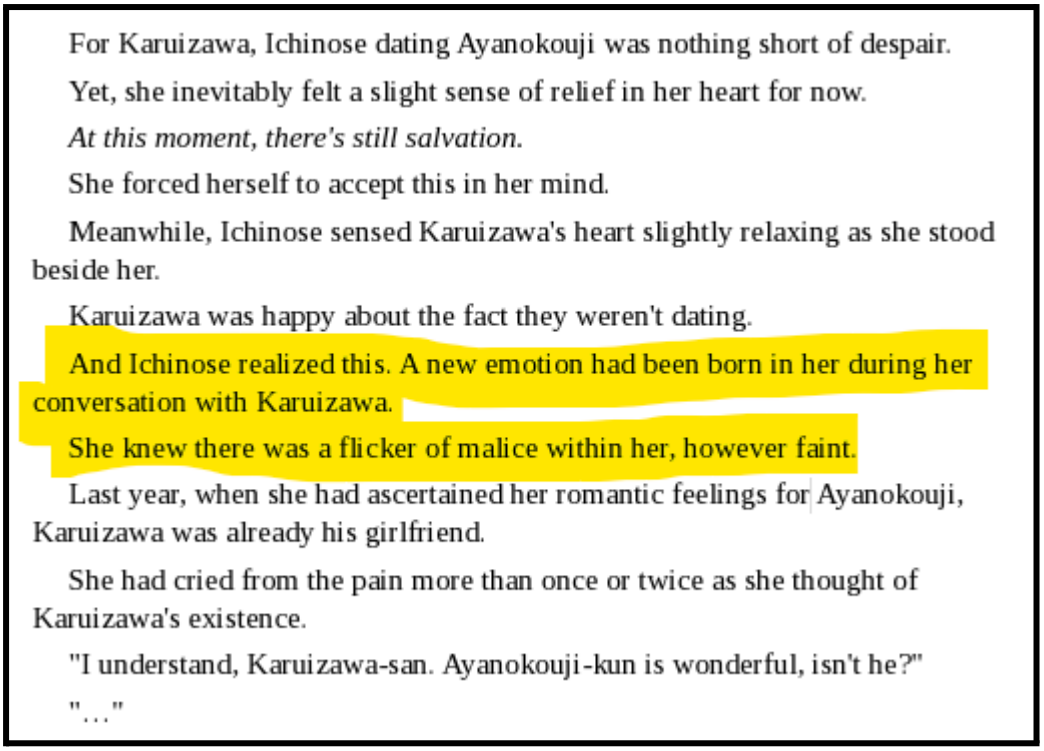
"It's unpleasant, isn't it? When only your opponent knows your secrets."

"You…"

Xorpaw claims that in his response to my pages 7-10, Ichinose only hinted that something deep happened with Ayanokouji in order to "reassure" Karuizawa and protect her own idol image.

> kei is a different scene with a different set of interpretation, but even then that's not true. honami only hinted as "something too deep to share with others" to "reassure" kei that whetever such things happened it was all after the breakup. obviously this is an incredibly dishonest half-truth since she was already pushing lines before the breakup. the motivation there was clearly protecting her idol image and reputation

Unfortunately, a direct reading of that conversation shows exactly the opposite. When noticing that Kei felt relieved that they weren't dating, the narrator explicitly points out the birth of malice in Ichinose:



For Karuizawa, Ichinose dating Ayanokouji was nothing short of despair.

Yet, she inevitably felt a slight sense of relief in her heart for now.

At this moment, there's still salvation.

She forced herself to accept this in her mind.

Meanwhile, Ichinose sensed Karuizawa's heart slightly relaxing as she stood beside her.

Karuizawa was happy about the fact they weren't dating.

And Ichinose realized this. A new emotion had been born in her during her conversation with Karuizawa.

She knew there was a flicker of malice within her, however faint.

Last year, when she had ascertained her romantic feelings for Ayanokouji, Karuizawa was already his girlfriend.

She had cried from the pain more than once or twice as she thought of Karuizawa's existence.

"I understand, Karuizawa-san. Ayanokouji-kun is wonderful, isn't he?"

"..."

“And Ichinose realized this. A new emotion had been born in her during her conversation with Karuizawa. She knew there was a flicker of malice within her, however faint.”

Do you see this?

In that conversation, Ichinose was not “protecting her image” (they were talking alone with no audience listening); she cruelly asked her why she broke up with him knowing it was Kiyotaka who dumped her, claimed that the relationship failed because Kei demanded something in return, openly confessed to her that she likes Ayanokouji, told her she wouldn’t help her if she asked, pointed out that Kiyotaka was sitting on that bench waiting for her, and finished by hinting at a secret, intimate event that occurred after the breakup (“Even if there were some important events or some deep connection between me and Ayanokouji-kun, something that we can’t tell others, by that day, by that time, it was already after he had said goodbye to you, Karuizawa-san”), leaving Kei hidden in the bushes on the verge of nausea.

"And there's one more thing I want to say. Even if there were some important events or some deep connection between me and Ayanokouji-kun, something that we can't tell others, by that day, by that time, it was already after he had said goodbye to you, Karuizawa-san. There's nothing that would cause any trouble between us. Yeah, so we can continue being friends—there's no problem with that, right?"

Having said everything, Ichinose walked away and called out to Ayanokouji.

Ayanokouji put away his phone, stood up, and started walking beside Ichinose.

He must have noticed Karuizawa standing still behind him for a moment, but that was all.

He neither turned his eyes toward her nor did he change his expression.

Ichinose's face, looking at Ayanokouji, was filled with happiness.

Karuizawa felt something rising from the pit of her stomach and stepped off the school path, hiding herself in the bushes.

That behavior exhibits exactly the same territorial and possessive attitude she shows toward Ichika—another girl who claims to be in love with Ayanokouji—by admitting her physical intimacy and proclaiming her “strong bond.”

I feel that denying that is to deny Ichinose’s current development—something that is still being taken into account, even in this new Y3V5 when Kei and Ichinose talk again. No, we don’t even have to go that far. There’s literally this image.



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page 12:

i find it interesting OP posted this scan: https://imgur.com/a/GIU34uK

...to say this:

After Ichinose leaves, Ichika is neither intimidated nor neutralized;
---

here's a scan showing the previous line that OP chose to exclude:
https://imgur.com/a/W9cZAXn

ichika: "I'm getting goosebumps."

OOPS!

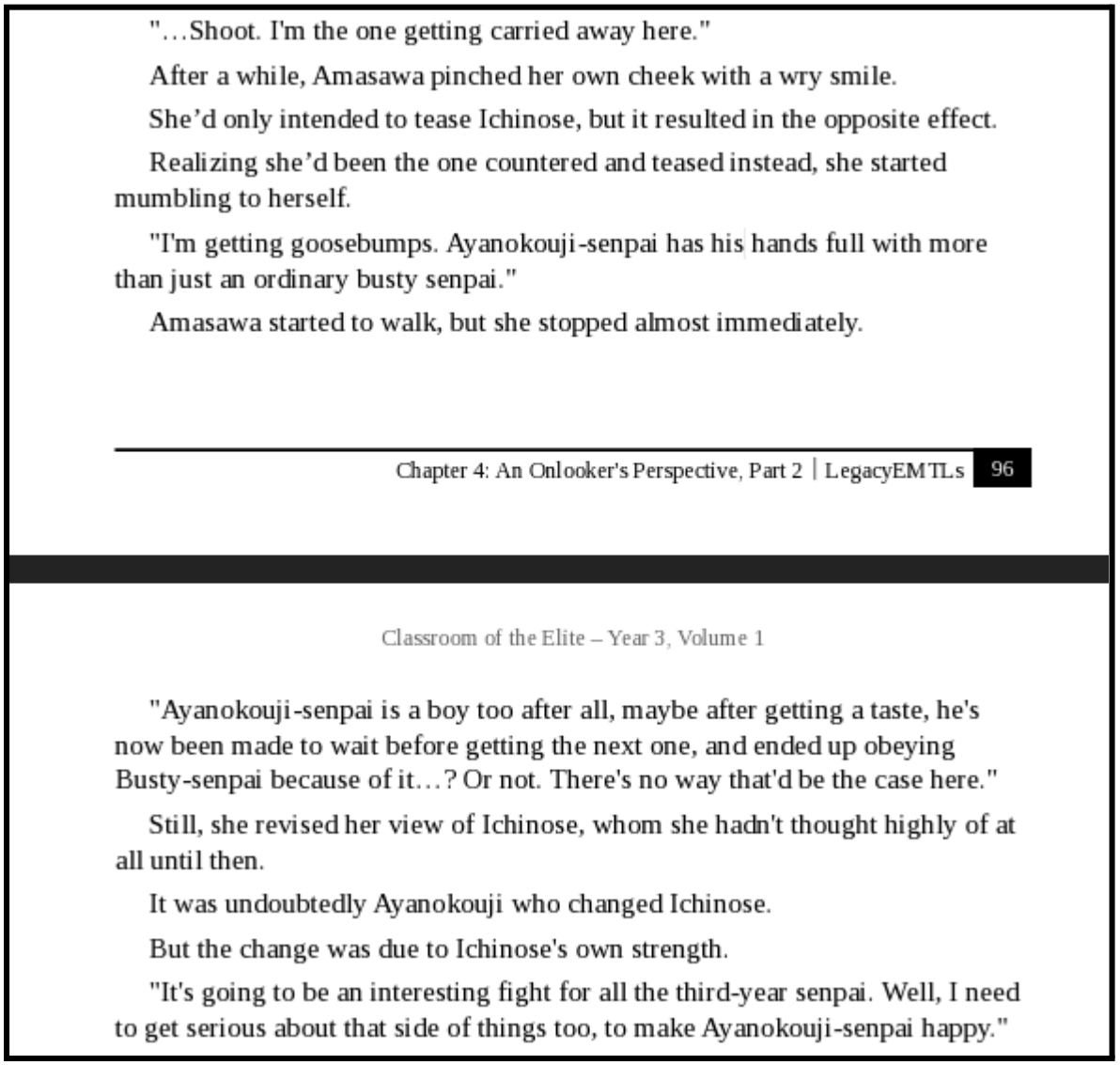
yeah there's nothing else to say, since OP ended his debunk on that tangent...

...actually the OP concluded by criticizing me for "overinterpretation", which is difficult to take seriously when this entire debunk is full of OP taking things out of context in a way that's easily verifiable, adding context that doesn't exist in the novel and strawmanning me. some of those errors can be innocent mistakes or perhaps even misunderstandings on my part, but blatantly removing the goosebumps line from his last screenshot? ignoring "from early on" multiple time from a line? there's no excuse for that

Xorpaw closes with a supposed "OOPS!" accusing me of manipulation for not including the phrase "I'm getting goosebumps," trying to pass it off as proof that Ichika was intimidated and neutralized. It suffices to read the paragraphs immediately before and after in that same page to see how that interpretation collapses:

- Right before, Ichika pinches her cheek with an ironic smile, saying: "...Shoot. I'm the one getting carried away here."
- Right after saying *"I'm getting goosebumps. Ayanokouji-senpai has his hands full with more than just an ordinary busty senpai"*, Ichika jokes about whether Kiyotaka let himself be dominated by Ichinose's body and concludes enthusiastically:
    - *"It's going to be an interesting fight for all the third-year senpai. Well, I need to get serious about that side of things too, to make Ayanokouji-senpai happy."*

Here is that whole final scene:



"…Shoot. I'm the one getting carried away here."

After a while, Amasawa pinched her own cheek with a wry smile.

She'd only intended to tease Ichinose, but it resulted in the opposite effect.

Realizing she'd been the one countered and teased instead, she started mumbling to herself.

"I'm getting goosebumps. Ayanokouji-senpai has his hands full with more than just an ordinary busty senpai."

Amasawa started to walk, but she stopped almost immediately.

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"Ayanokouji-senpai is a boy too after all, maybe after getting a taste, he's now been made to wait before getting the next one, and ended up obeying Busty-senpai because of it…? Or not. There's no way that'd be the case here."

Still, she revised her view of Ichinose, whom she hadn't thought highly of at all until then.

It was undoubtedly Ayanokouji who changed Ichinose.

But the change was due to Ichinose's own strength.

"It's going to be an interesting fight for all the third-year senpai. Well, I need to get serious about that side of things too, to make Ayanokouji-senpai happy."

In that context, "getting goosebumps" at the prospect of an interesting fight expresses competitive excitement, intrigue and newly acquired respect for an unexpected rival, not fear or neutralization at all. Ichika does not abandon any of her goals nor is she put out of the game.

In other words, Ichinose neither stopped her nor dissuaded her from approaching Ayanokouji. A supposed "manipulation or neutralization" in which the target keeps exactly the same plans and is more motivated than before meets no criterion of an effective feat.

Ultimately, overinterpretation does not consist of analyzing what the text literally says, but of cutting sentences in half to hide their adversative conjunctions, attributing a character's thoughts to the omniscient narrator, and inventing master plans that never existed in Ichinose's mind, as I have just demonstrated:

- Ichinose acted under uncertainty and only changed her stance after being cornered with a direct question. Something he himself has consistently confirmed.

- The bluff only worked due to the statistical coincidence of having overheard two words in katakana behind a tree in Y2V4, without even knowing what the White Room really was.
- Ichika underestimated the encounter as a joke and ended the chat more motivated and serious than at the beginning.

In other words:

- There is no prior read or premeditated trap
- There is an extreme dependence on the luck that her gamble could work
- There is no real neutralization