Tsukumo Strategy Document

In this document I will analyze Tsukumo's “Bomb Strategy”, the main antagonist from the manga “Massacre Happy End”.



Tsukumo is in a tough position, he's trying to both prove that kusakabe is the killer and stop the curse somehow. Obviously simply jailing kusakabe up isn't ideal as it could stagnate time, and killing him has no guarantee of stopping the time loop. Simply put, he had way too little info. But there was a much more knowledgeable person on the matter - Kusakabe himself. So Tsukumo’s goal here is to make kusakabe give him all the information about his ability or make him want to end the curse himself. Obviously he'd prefer option 1 and he tries to make it happen, but it's the option less likely to happen.

His very first act after bringing Kusakabe to the police station is sending a letter to Yae (Kusakabe's pillar of emotional support) to keep her updated on everything, showing by this point he has already started thinking about how he can utilize her in his manipulation of Kusakabe.

On the 3rd day of his interrogation of Kuskabe he definitively realizes Kusakabe has set up a timer and he has fallen into his trap, meaning he'll fail. So he began setting up his strategy of killing Yae and making Kusakabe turn his hatred towards the curse itself, rather than Tsukumo, himself or any other individual. He went to the hospital and made some blueprints of the building and placed them within his apartment to authenticate the validity of the false narrative he's trying to create.

When the night of the 3rd day comes and Tsukumo's predictable arrest warrant is given, he dashes out like a mad man and takes Midzuno (his trusted sidekick) hostage to really sell his insanity and violent nature, doing all this to make the police force concerned about Kusakabe's safety and surround his house with a number of cops, essentially trapping him in for 1 more day.

Now his brilliant tactic comes into play. He sometime close to 23:30~ calls the police and tells them he planted a bomb in the hospital kusakabes sister (shiori) is staying at. This forces the police to move Shiori out of the hospital using an ambulance, making Shiori's place at midnight (00:00) be in an ambulance on the road. The bomb threat is obviously a bluff.

Now in the meantime, he attacked Kusakabe's house and neutralized all of the guards, dragging one inside Kusakabe's house to have him witness what he will do next. He proceeds to explain all his actions to kusakabe and why he is forced to kill Tsukumo right then and there, otherwise Shiori will die. While talking about his death, he subtly points to his heart multiple times to plant the location Kusakabe should strike when attempting to kill him, without giving away the fact he's doing it to Kosakabe. All the while explaining how he must kill him in front of the witness as it's the only way to save his sister.

This is important because he has placed a thick leather piece in front of his heart that would save him from death.

As Tsukumo anticipated, Kusakabe stabs him in the heart and confirms his identity to the police. Kuskabe is identified as the killer. However Tsukumo isn't dead and they progress to the next day... how?

Because as I said at the beginning, the goal was always to make Yae kill herself for Kusakabe. That's right, hearing Shiori's situation from a guards walkie talkie, Yae sacrificed herself to make sure a new day would come and shiori would survive. The news of this event will be heard by Kusakabe from the walkie talkie of the police officer Tsukumo dragged into the room. Not much else to say, Kusakabe acts as per Tsukumo's psychoanalysis of him. He has a break down, lashes out and then starts focusing on dismantling the curse (the reasons are given by Kusakabe’s monologue and Midzunos explanations).

The strategy to make Kosakabe kill Tsukumo in front of a witness is obviously a facade to deceive him, so he wouldn't know Yae's suicide is also Tsukumo's direct fault, and thus blame Tsukumo instead of the curse. Misdirecting Kusakabe into targeting the curse by acting and creating a narrative in which Tsukumo still wants to catch him works so well due to a couple of facts - one is that Tsukumo did want to catch Kusakabe for a long time and went to great lengths to do so, and second the methodology is also similar to his previous exploits, sacrificing himself in a grand show in front of Kusakabe - all of which makes the fake plot believable.

Now let's summarize what Tsukumo did:

While without almost any resources, in a horrible and limited situation where he had two possible allies or leverages he could barely rely on, he managed to achieve all his goals and both have Kuskabe identified as the killer and set the person with the most knowledge on the curse on the path of stopping it. Insane adversity and goals.

Now how did he do it in a more broad sense? He managed to achieve his actual goal of forcing Yae to suicide while concealing his true intentions from everyone, misdirecting Kusakabe to misinterpreting his strategy and blaming himself and the curse.

Now some issues people could have with the strategy:

Yae didn't kill herself when she first heard Kusakabe was brought in, why would she do it now?

Answer: urgency. When Kusakabe first came in, she still hoped he would take care of the situation himself, and let the day pass without any dangers. With Shiori's life on the line, she couldn't take any risks.

How did he know Yae and Kusakabe would be informed at what times via the walkie talkies?

Answer: he has spent years in the police force, he's very knowledgeable on how the circle of information operates there.

How was he sure that Kusakabe's timer only covered for 3 days?

Answer: he didn't. He made a pretty educated guess from his emotional perception on the first day from Kusakabe's reaction to him mentioning 3, but nothing concrete. However he also knew Yae was in the same position as him, he abducted the slight gap of knowledge between her and kusakabe and abused it to the max. So Yae would kill herself regardless.

So now that we established he wasn't 100% sure, what if Kusakabe’s clock had a timer for 4 days? He wouldn't need to kill Tsukumo and he'd be alive by the time the news of Yae's death came in.
Answer: correct. However Tsukumo can easily act surprised by the news and still achieve his desired misconception. As for him having to endure Kusakabe’s breakdown... he already established he's ready to lose his life for this case, correct?

Let's assume Kusakabe still connects the dots and thinks Tsukumo did that, what then?

Answer: Tsukumo is already denying it by his shock, so even if Kusakabe goes demon mode some part of him still can't accept it + with knowledge on his self destructive personality, it's predictable that he goes onto blame himself and the curse again, sparing Tsukumo from the guilt of Yae's death.

Credit: Analysis - Yazsob, Finishing Touches + Formatting - Saul Badman.