Light Yagami

Death Note

The Potato Chip Feat



By XDwasGone

During the first live-action Death Note movie, many of the same events from the original canon remain intact. Light Yagami is still the one to discover and use the Death Note, and his approach to Raye Penber largely mirrors his execution of the plan in both the manga and anime. Naturally, as is common in adaptations, some aspects of the source material are altered. However, one often-overlooked scene is the potato chip scene, which has gained significant recognition not only within the SCD but also in the larger animanga community.

As in the mainline continuity, following Raye Penber's death, L grows suspicious of those whom Penber had been investigating, including Light Yagami. Similarly, L suggests to the Task Force—now consisting of the few remaining investigators still willing to pursue Kira—that they plant surveillance bugs within the Yagami and Kitamura households. Eventually, after deliberation, the team agrees to the plan and proceeds with the installation of the bugs while both families are away. During this discussion, Soichiro Yagami specifically requests that L ensure there are no blind spots, reinforcing the thoroughness of the surveillance effort.



When Light enters the house, just as he does in canon, he immediately notices that the pencil lead he placed in the door has been broken and is now lying on the ground. However, where this scene

diverges from canon is in the absence of the paper slip in the door and the handle position check—the only clue Light uses to determine if someone has entered his room is the broken lead.

While this may seem like a minor change, it significantly buffs Light's abductive reasoning since he has far less information to work with yet still manages to abduct that he has been bugged.

Already suspicious upon realizing that someone has been in his room, Light enters but maintains an unsuspicious demeanor, avoiding talking to Ryuk or using the Death Note. Instead, he acts naturally, not indicating that he has noticed anything unusual.

Eventually, Light leaves the house and walks to a public street, knowing that he can speak freely there. Once he is confident that he cannot be overheard, he tells Ryuk that he can smell that someone has been in his room.



What does this mean? First, it means that Light can distinguish the distinct smells of individuals. We can come to this conclusion because Light explicitly states that he knows his room has been bugged due to the smell of someone who had been in his room. If it was just the knowledge that someone had entered his room, there would be no reason for him to be sure that bugs had been planted in his room—after all, it would be entirely plausible that one of his family members was the one who had entered his room.

In canon, Light eliminates this possibility by reasoning that his family wouldn't have noticed the piece of paper wedged in the door. However, in the movies, he specifically mentions a smell, meaning he was able to detect the scent of a third party.

Using this observation, combined with the fact that he knew that L knew Kira was a student connected to the police, Light comes to the conclusion that his room, and by extension, his house, had been bugged by L who was trying to catch him off guard.

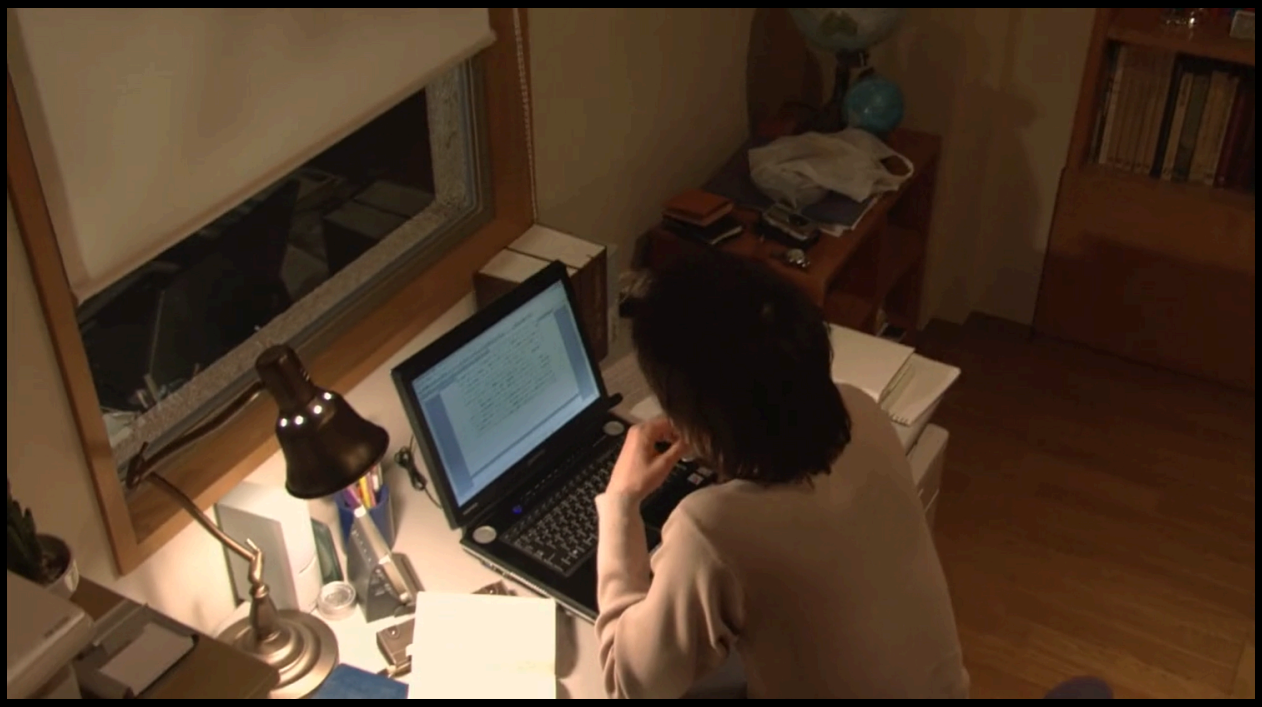


Afterward, Light leverages the fact that he cannot give Ryuk apples to convince him to help locate blind spots in the surveillance. While this process is not explicitly shown, we can reasonably infer that Light first sent Ryuk to his house to locate a blind spot, then waited for Ryuk to return and relay the information. This inference is supported by the fact that when Light re-enters his room, significant time has passed, as indicated by the darker sky compared to the previous scene. Given that the last scene showed Light instructing Ryuk to help find cameras and blind spots, and considering that Light had no other reason to remain outside, it is likely that he spent that time working with Ryuk to identify optimal blind spots.

Although this means Light did not necessarily have to visualize every single camera in the household, his ability to exploit blind spots remains an impressive feat. There is no reason to assume that Light would have asked Ryuk to search only his room, as any blind spots throughout the house could be useful. Additionally, we know that Light has at least a rough understanding of

the cameras' locations, as he later perfectly positions himself to block any visibility of his potato chip feat. This maneuver requires him to both remember blind spots and track the cameras' locations to ensure his actions remain completely out of sight.

Given that L specifically instructed his subordinates to eliminate blind spots to the best of their ability, we can conclude that the house was heavily surveilled. Given that Light likely memorized not just the cameras in his room but potentially throughout the house, it would be quite the number of camera locations to remember. (This part, however, is a big maybe)

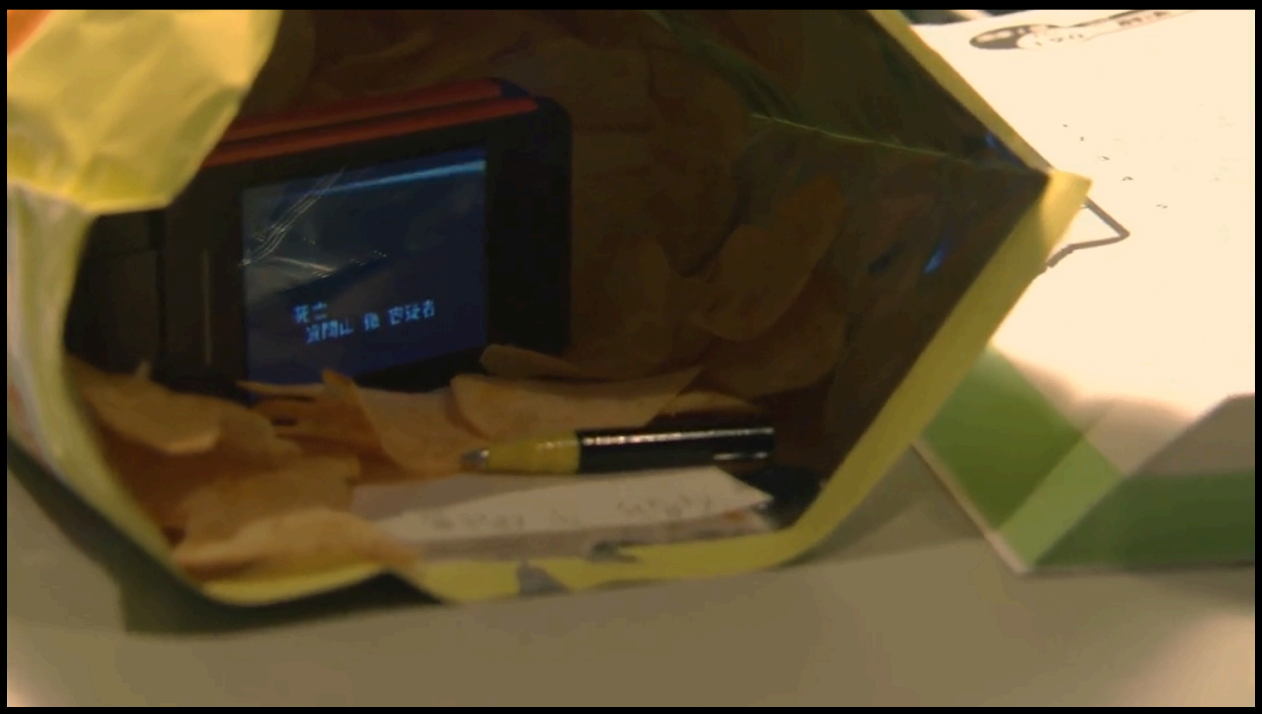


Light waits several days before executing his plan, finally putting it into motion five days later. After dinner, he walks back up to his room with a bag of potato chips, which he specifically chooses because it is a brand that only he likes. As he enters his room, he opens the bag and sits down, beginning his plan.

Inside the bag of chips is a pen and a miniature TV, just as in canon. However, what stands out in this version is that we explicitly see Light open the bag inside his room, which means that the entire Task Force also sees it in real time. Additionally, there is no possible way for Light to have a miniature camera hidden somewhere within his grasp that would remain completely unobserved. The surveillance team also has a clear line of sight, watching as his hand enters and exits the bag, yet the miniature TV, piece of the Death Note, and pen are all still inside.

This strongly suggests that Light somehow resealed the bag after placing the items inside, as it is highly unlikely that he would have entrusted this task to a third party, considering the immense risk of someone leaking the information and drawing suspicion to him, and that there is really no other method the items could have been in the bag. This also means that he would have needed to be constantly aware of the contents inside the bag, ensuring that when he opened and positioned it, everything remained obscured, within reach, and in his peripheral vision.

Eventually, Light sees the name of a criminal on the miniature TV and carefully writes it down, all while appearing to casually eat chips. His plan works—he successfully clears his name in the eyes of the Task Force. Though L remains suspicious, he ultimately complies with the evidence and orders the removal of all bugs and wiretaps from Light's room.



That's the end of my Movies Light doc. I hope you all enjoyed the read, and if there are any flaws, feel free to let me know so I can make appropriate changes. This doc probably isn't the best one out there, and maybe the Movies Light doc covers this feat better (I haven't read it), but I wanted to put my perspective out there.

Don't expect another Death Note-related doc, lol. I made this because I noticed that most people haven't been talking about Movies Light lately, and I wanted to start some discourse about him.