prologue feats of ike

Here is the step-by-step breakdown of Ike's trick in the prologue where he gets himself fired:

The Self Firing Feat

* The Setup: Ike arrives at work an hour early and intentionally parks his car in front of the mafia contact's usual parking spot [1]. He then leaks his story idea about the underworld's human trafficking scene to the office gossip, ensuring the rumor will reach the mafia contact [1].

* The Meeting: The gossip lures the mafia contact to the pitch meeting, where Ike deliberately acts weak, meek, and tired [1]. This makes the contact feel in control, opting to force the dean to fire Ike rather than have him killed [1].

* The Camouflage: Getting fired is exactly what Ike wants; becoming a "bitter, fired, crippled ex-employee" strips him of all credibility and backing, rendering him invisible to the underworld [2].

* The Trojan Crutch: Ike fakes an angry outburst in the dean's office and storms out alongside his manager, purposely leaving his crutch behind [2].

* The Security Check: Ike ensures the mafia contact sees him storming down the hallway in feigned pain [3]. This prompts the contact to check the office's hidden security cameras, which only show Ike throwing a fit, leaving the contact satisfied that no bugs were planted [3].

* The Bait: Down in the garage, Ike leans against the contact's car—which he had blocked earlier—and pretends to write down incriminating information on a piece of paper [4].

* The Slip-up: Watching from the dean's office window, the mafia contact becomes intensely paranoid that Ike knows their secrets [3, 4]. In his panic, he slips up and out loud says his boss's name, "Yanagi," which is secretly recorded by a hidden microphone inside the crutch Ike left in the room [4, 5].

* The Deflection: The contact storms down to the garage to confront Ike [4]. Ike drops the bait, acting like a petty loser and revealing he was only writing down the license plate because the car was parked like an idiot [4, 6].

* The Escape: Relieved, the mafia contact dismisses Ike as a harmless, crippled nobody and walks away, leaving Ike with his entry point into the underworld and a flawless, suspicion-free exit [4, 7, 8].

Strategic Manipulation and Planning

1. **Mastermind of a multi-step infiltration plan:**
    - **Ike *intentionally got himself fired* in a way that would allow him to go undercover in the criminal underworld without suspicion. This included:**
        - **Arriving early to work.**
        - **Parking in the mafia man's usual spot.**
        - **Feeding gossip about his trafficking exposé to a known office gossip to attract attention. Coming early was to make sure it got around fast enough before the mafia contact visited at the right time.**
        - **Pretending to be broken and depressed to make the mafia contact feel in control and to have the dean fire him instead of the mafia beating him up.**
        - **Deliberately leaving his crutch behind to appear erratic on security footage and to make the dean and the mafia contact feel safe when talking about business.**
        - **Psychologically baiting the mafia contact into revealing his boss's name ("Yanagi") by pretending to write down his license plate which was recorded using the microphone hidden in the crutch.**
        - **Using his disability to appear non-threatening.**
        - **Subtly manipulated the manager to escort him from the office where he left his crutch to the mafia contact's car since he can't go alone.**

Extra Small Bonus Feat - Post Departure Manipulation Feat

Ike got Kotaro to look for his files by laying a psychological breadcrumb trail centered around a long-standing joke about a missing USB drive [1].

Here is how he orchestrated it:

* The Decoy USB: While working at the company, Ike always kept a random flash drive in his cubicle drawer and constantly joked to his coworkers that it contained "the deepest secrets of the world" [1]. In reality, the drive was completely empty [1].

* The Intentional Removal: On the day Ike planned to get himself fired, he deliberately took the USB drive with him [2, 3].

* The Temptation: After Ike was fired and left the building, Kotaro went to Ike's cubicle to pack up his belongings and immediately noticed that the "treasure" USB drive was missing [1, 4]. This made Kotaro realize that Ike must have known he was going to be fired, as he had planned to take the USB with him [2].

* The File System: Feeling taunted by Ike's elaborate setup and tempted by the missing USB, Kotaro was pressured into checking the company's internal digital file system to see if Ike left his "secrets" there instead [3, 5].

This maneuver successfully guided Kotaro to an old archive folder where Ike had just uploaded the `DELETE_ME_AFTER.mp3` file, which contained the secret recording of the head dean and the mafia contact discussing money laundering [5-7]. Ike knew that a simple lie about the USB, told enough times, would create enough temptation for Kotaro to go searching [3].

2. **Gained intelligence on mafia operations for seven years:**

    - **After leaving the company, Ike spent years studying mafia trafficking operations.**

    - **He learned names, roles, hideouts, and logistics of various factions—acquiring *more knowledge than insiders*, without ever being detected.**

Deducing His Supernatural Ability Feat

Ike's deduction of his supernatural ability occurs in a rapid, intensely analytical sequence after he wakes up from his dream on the park bench. Here is how he pieces it together:

* Initial Shock and Pain: When Ike first wakes up, he is overwhelmed by floating, blood-red phrases burning into his vision (such as *"It hurts. I don't want to die"* and *"Tell my mother I'm sorry"*) [1-3]. The experience is agonizing, and he initially screams, believing it is a cosmic punishment from the universe for letting go of his control [4, 5].

* Linguistic Analysis: The turning point happens when he sees the phrase, *"I never got to say goodbye,"* followed by another mentioning a specific name, *"Minowa"* [6, 7]. Ike's journalistic mind kicks in. He analyzes the differing contexts and linguistics of the sentences, concluding that they cannot be from the same person—they are the thoughts of *multiple* people, and given the context, they must be dead [7, 8].

* Timeline Correlation: Ike notices the modern Japanese name and deduces the deaths must be very recent [9]. He checks his phone and realizes he has been asleep for exactly 9 hours [10].

* Connecting the Cause: He connects the 9-hour timeline to the explosive, highly classified article he released right before falling asleep [10]. He realizes that by leaking all the mafia factions' secrets, he destroyed their information asymmetry, sparking a paranoid, bloody war of "mutual omniscience" across the underworld [11, 12].

* The Final Deduction: Ike concludes that the sheer volume of sudden deaths aligns perfectly with the fallout of his article [12, 13]. Therefore, the phrases in his eyes are the final thoughts of the people he *indirectly killed* [13].

Rather than breaking down in guilt, Ike grins [14]. He realizes this is not a punishment, but the universe handing him the ultimate tool—the ability to see the absolute truth of the dead, which he immediately decides to weaponize to take back control of the narrative [15, 16].

🧠 Psychological Tactics & Bluffing

The Alleyway Feat

The Context
After intentionally getting himself fired and subsequently releasing a highly classified article that plunges the criminal underworld into a chaotic war, Ike gains the supernatural ability to see the final thoughts of the people whose deaths he indirectly caused [1-3]. One of these floating phrases reveals a critical secret: a mafia capo known as "The Black Star" is dying [4]. Realizing he can use this information, Ike decides his new goal is to infiltrate the mafia and seize ultimate control of the underworld [5-8]. To execute this insane plan, he travels to Club Juizy, a front for the Black Star's faction, and waits in a tight back alley for an opportunity to get inside [9, 10].

The Alley Confrontation
Ike spots a low-level mafia goon coming out the back door to throw away trash [10]. Here is how Ike meticulously outsmarts him:

* **The Provocation:** Ike gets the goon's attention by tapping his crutch and begins deliberately taunting him, insulting his status as a mere "errand boy" [11, 12]. This is a calculated setup designed to make the goon lash out in blind aggression, leaving him vulnerable to surprise [13].

* **The Trap:** As the enraged goon swings a punch, he is forced to stop mid-air because Ike suddenly holds up a phone with a hidden countdown and a "start" button directly in front of him [14, 15].

* **The Psychological Bait:** Before the goon can process what is happening, Ike quickly grabs the goon's index finger and physically forces him to press the start button [15]. By doing this, Ike ensures the goon feels directly and personally responsible for whatever happens next [13, 16].

* **The Bluff:** Ike claims the phone is now transmitting highly damaging, encrypted data to a rival mafia faction. He warns the goon that once the countdown hits zero, the rival faction will receive the data, and the goon's boss will inevitably kill him for causing the leak [17, 18].

* **The Checkmate:** Ike secures his own safety by telling the goon that the countdown is protected by a password only Ike knows [18]. If the goon kills Ike or breaks the phone, the countdown will finish and the data will send [18, 19].

Completely outmaneuvered, terrified of his boss, and trapped by his own forced action, the defeated goon has no choice but to comply [16, 20]. When the goon asks what Ike wants, Ike simply demands to be taken inside to see the Black Star so he can "make a wish" [21].

Ike manipulated the goon in the alley using a calculated series of actions centered around a phone with a hidden countdown, which he presented as a "first trick" or "phone trick"....

Here's how Ike orchestrated this manipulation:

Provocation and Opportunity: Ike deliberately made noise with his crutch to attract the goon's attention. When the goon became annoyed and threw a punch, Ike used this moment of "blind aggression" and "vulnerability to surprise" to initiate his plan.... The initial insult and annoyance weren't just for show; they were a setup to make the goon lash out.

The Device and the Lie: Ike held out his phone, which showed a hidden countdown and a start button.... He claimed this phone contained "a package of encrypted data" that the goon would send to a rival faction with a delay. This was, in fact, a bluff and the phone trick was faked; there was no data being sent.

Forcing Responsibility: Ike leaned in and quickly grabbed the goon's index finger after he stopped his punch midway seeing the phone and the countdown, forcing him to press the start button. Ike believed he would have a better chance of the goon listening to him if he made the goon "directly responsible for the matter," relying on "a simple psychological bias". By making the goon use his *own* finger, Ike used the goon against himself, leaving him with "no choice but to listen".

Establishing Stakes and Control: Ike immediately outlined the severe consequences for the goon: his boss would realize he sent the data, potentially resulting in him not returning home in one piece. He also took away the goon's immediate violent options, explaining that killing Ike or breaking the phone wouldn't stop the sending; only the password, which Ike held, could .

Weaponizing Uncertainty: When the goon questioned if Ike was telling the truth, Ike declared that "the truth is irrelevant". What mattered was that the goon felt himself press the button . He framed the situation as a gamble: either believe Ike, the only potential source of help to deter the sending, or kill him and risk the boss's fury for eliminating that source . This put the goon in a position of not knowing "which truth to believe in," effectively guiding him into a "shadow unfamiliar to him" where Ike was the "blind light" .

Maintaining the Facade: Ike leaned on his crutch and initially responded to the goon's punch by reminding him he was just a cripple, reinforcing the image of himself as a "petty crippled loser" that the goon might dismiss.... This deceptive appearance helped disarm the goon after the initial shock wore off ....

Offering the Solution: Once the goon was thoroughly panicked and defeated, Ike stated his request: "Take me to the Black Star. I wanna make a wish"....

Through this series of calculated moves – provocation, faked threat, forced responsibility, removal of alternatives, leveraging paranoia, and maintaining a disarming facade – Ike psychologically cornered the goon, making him feel personally liable for a dangerous situation only Ike could resolve, ultimately compelling him to facilitate Ike's entry into the Black Star's club.

…..

the battle against the black star after the goon let him in

The Second Trick Feat

Calm Confidence: Ike displayed "calm confidence" despite being in a dangerous situation. The Black Star initially dismissed this as recklessness but later saw it as evidence of a deeper plan…

Entering on His Own Terms: Ike didn't wait to be "let into the room by the goon," he "let himself in"... The Black Star later recognized this "tiny, micro-move" as a display of confidence, making him realize Ike wasn't "stupid" or "reckless"...

Deflecting the Question About Time: When the Black Star asked how much time was left on the fake countdown, Ike deflected before answering.... This deflection, even though he didn't lie about the time, was enough to get the Black Star's mind onto the "second trick theory”...

Smirking After Disabling the Trick: Ike disabled the sending of the fake data triggered by the first trick phone.... When he did this, he smirked.... The Black Star interpreted this smirk as proof that Ike had him "figured out" and that the "second trick theory" was real, designed to go off if the first trick was seen through.

The Black Star probes Ike with sharp, direct questions, leveraging his skill at detecting lies....

He challenges the "first trick" directly, pointing out its obvious flaw: what stops him from simply killing Ike after the data is disabled?. He highlights that Ike hasn't "thought far ahead".

He asks Ike how much time is left on the countdown, stating that the duration Ike gave himself would reveal what Ike knows or doesn't know about the Black Star.

Ike, despite his internal nervousness , maintains a firm exterior. He responds to the question about the countdown not with a direct answer initially, but with a slight deflection ("Enough time for you to figure out if I’m bluffing or not.") to throw the Black Star off the rails and make him wonder why Ike deflected the question even though he said the truth when he asked again. This brief deflection, though seemingly minor, is noted by the Black Star, and made him think that there’s something deeper to Ike’s plan.

Inventing the "Second Trick": The Black Star's Own Creation

Faced with the logical flaw of the "first trick" and Ike's apparent confidence, the Black Star begins to deduce that Ike must have a failsafe. He thinks the phone trick isn't enough to guarantee survival, so there *must* be a "second trick," likely a post-death failsafe.

It Was a Psychological Construct: The "second trick" was something the Black Star deduced and believed existed to explain Ike's confidence and willingness to put his life on the line... He reasoned that the "phone trick wouldn't guarantee his survival in any scenario," so Ike "must have one" – a "second trick". The Black Star concluded it must be a "post-death failsafe" that would "go off when he dies ....

How Ike Orchestrated the Belief: Ike manipulated the Black Star into this belief through subtle actions and psychological cues during their meeting, without ever lying....

Ike never mentions a second trick exists. The Black Star himself invents this theory.

Ike's Masterstroke: Using the Black Star's Own Mind Against Him

Ike senses the Black Star's internal process. When challenged about the lack of a failsafe, Ike invites the Black Star to hit him, or even kill him. This bold move forces the Black Star to confront the implications of his *own* theory – if he *did* have a second trick, killing him would trigger it.

Ike then uses the Black Star's own words and principles against him: "Think back at what you said at the beginning. Starry… I never said anything, did I?". Ike's point is that *he* never claimed a second trick existed; the Black Star deduced it himself.

Ike punctuates this with a smirk and a giggle, revealing his triumph.... This smirk is interpreted by the Black Star as confirmation that Ike had anticipated this exact conclusion, reinforcing the idea of a deliberate "second trick" designed to counter the first if it was seen through.

The Revelation and Psychological Victory

The Black Star has a daggers-sharp realization. He reviews his own thoughts and words, understanding that the concept of the "second trick" originated solely in his mind.

This realization is devastating because it forces him to confront a truth he wanted to ignore. He understands that Ike, without ever lying about the second trick, manipulated him into *believing* it existed.

The Black Star grits his teeth. Then, in a profoundly symbolic moment, he drops Ike's crutch. This is the sound of him "letting go" – letting go of his principle of absolute truth, letting go of the lie he told himself (that Ike wasn't dangerous or playing him).

He begins to laugh, a laugh of "complete and utter disbelief". He realizes that Ike won the moment he himself started thinking, the moment his own mind created the "second trick".

This psychological victory is paramount[26] . Ike, through bluffs, subtle cues, and leveraging the Black Star's own principles and paranoia, got the Black Star to invent and fear a threat that didn't exist, all without lying about its existence.

The Deeper Impact: A Clash of Philosophies and Personal Demons

The battle is also one of philosophies: Ike's mastery of self-deception and control vs. the Black Star's adherence to truth and struggle against fate... The Black Star realizes he hasn't been fighting fate as much as standing still, whereas Ike actively manipulates reality.

Ike's appearance is like a "second shooting star" for the Black Star, forcing him to question the vow he made after the first "shooting star" (his biker friend's death) to never lie again... Ike's arrival makes the Black Star question his long-held principle of truth.

The Black Star chooses to accept Ike, despite knowing he is dangerous and playing him. This act of lying to himself by choosing to believe in Ike, against his own principles, is deeply significant.

He does this for complex reasons: he sees in Ike a potential legacy for his dying faction, Ike is the first person in years to truly challenge and outplay him, making him feel alive, and Ike is a "special kind of liar" who controls fate itself. He sees a reflection of himself in Ike.

In summary, the psychological battle between Ike and the Black Star was a profound manipulation where Ike used a fabricated crisis and subtle behavioral cues to make the Black Star's own mind generate the "second trick" needed to justify Ike's seemingly reckless confidence. This victory wasn't about physical dominance but about controlling perception and leveraging the Black Star's internal conflicts and philosophical struggles, ultimately leading the Black Star to break his fundamental principle and accept Ike into his organization.

summary

3. **Executed the "first trick" — a fake phone-based blackmail countdown**:
    - Ike pretended to have a message containing a mafia faction’s vulnerabilities and weaknesses and information set to release to a rival faction unless manually stopped.
    - Before this, Ike had released all the information he had gotten over the years in an article which led to increasing the paranoia of all mafia factions.
    - This compelled the mafia (led by the Black Star) to negotiate with him, buying time and attention.
4. **Invented the “second trick” purely through implication**:
    - Never mentioned it existed.
    - Made the Black Star think the second trick was a post-humous failsafe which could explain Ike’s confidence.
    - Used subtle cues (deflecting questions, smirking, body language) to make the mafia believe he had another failsafe.
    - The “second trick” never existed—yet it manipulated a violent gang into treating him like an equal.
    - The Black Star himself concluded, "The only reason it existed... was because I made it up".
5. **Pulled off a psychological victory against the Black Star**:
    - Without ever lying, Ike got the Black Star to imagine and fear threats that didn't exist.
    - He used logic loops and subtle behavioral cues to manipulate others into reaching the conclusions he wanted.
    - He bet on nothing except the chaos he unleashed by releasing the information via the article. He thought the mafia would be paranoid enough to have them invent the second trick

ike's article made every mafia capo paranoid, he also knew about the black star's no lying principle (since it's known by everyone), so he came into the room by himself with the phone data countdown asking to be let in so he could turn off the sending with a password only he knows, but the black star pointed out the hole in his argument that he could just kill ike after the unsending, but ike pulls very subtle micro moves that makes the black star overthink and invent a second trick after the first one, which is that killing ike would make the second trick go off (like a posthumous failsafe), though ike later makes him realize he never mentioned a second trick (although his micro moves made him think he had one) so the black star made it up himself, so in a way ike made the black star lie to himself and realize he was outsmarted by himself which made him interested in hiring ike (there was no data being sent so ike did all this empty handed by simply relying on the paranoia he created with his article.)

Observational Mastery

6. **Hyper-attention to detail (from insomnia)**:
    - His insomnia gave him sharp observational skills, which he used to read microexpressions, social tension, and workplace politics.
7. **Detected mafia involvement via indirect clues**:
    - He connected an unfamiliar luxury car, lack of sign-ins, and behavioral changes in coworkers to deduce mafia involvement at his workplace.

Tactical Identity Disguise

8. **Weaponized his physical disability as a psychological shield**:
    - Ike’s single crutch made him seem unthreatening, which he used to lower others’ guard.
    - His frailty masked his mental dominance.

---

24 hour traitor test arc feats (first arc after prologue)

((unwritten, only outlined))

The **Traitor Test** is a high-stakes loyalty and intelligence challenge issued by the Black Star to Ike Yoshigoro, serving as the inciting incident for the First Arc.

The test is defined by a simple, lethal command: **“Find the traitor in my gang within 24 hours, or you die.”**

The Core Deception

The true danger of the test lies in the layers of deception held by the different participants:

- **The Black Star’s Perspective:** He believes **there is no traitor**. He trusts his men implicitly. He assigns the test as a psychological trap to see if Ike will crack under pressure or try to frame an innocent man. If Ike fails to find a traitor (because the Black Star thinks none exists), or frames someone falsely, Ike dies.
- **The Reality:** There **is** a traitor. Higa Izanagi, the Black Star’s right-hand man, is a double agent working for the rival faction, Kamishinkai. Additionally, there was an "OG Traitor" who is now dead, a fact only Ike knows through his supernatural ability.
- **Ike’s Perspective:** Armed with the "dead last thought" of the OG Traitor ("The Black Star is dying..."), Ike deduces that a betrayal has occurred. He must navigate a test designed to be impossible by finding a traitor the leader doesn't believe exists, while actually uncovering a real conspiracy.

Context to Understand the Arc

The arc, set over a tight 24-hour timeline, involves multiple factions and hidden agendas colliding. Here is the context needed to understand the conflict:

1. The Players and Their Agendas

- **Ike Yoshigoro:** A "crippled" journalist seeking absolute control. He uses his ability to hear the thoughts of the dead to gather intel no one else has. His goal is to survive the test and infiltrate the organization.
- **The Black Star:** The Kagenkai capo who operates on a principle of **absolute truth** (he never lies). He is terminally ill (a secret) and seeks a successor or a legacy.
- **Higa Izanagi:** The active traitor. He is trying to retrieve a "key" (or intel) left by the dead OG Traitor to access the Black Star’s greatest secret for the Kamishinkai.
- **Nayuta Shion:** A high-ranking Kamishinkai director (and son of its Don) who is manipulating events from the outside—including a rigged card game and a decoy car strategy—to help Higa secure the secret.
- **Akabane Rikuya:** Seemingly a loyal lieutenant, but actually an **undercover FBI agent**. He knows Higa is suspicious and engages in a "shadow war" to stop him, creating a three-way friction between himself, Higa, and Ike.

Ike Yoshigoro possesses the supernatural ability to **see the last thoughts of the dead**.

- **Mechanism and Scope:** Ike sees the final thoughts of individuals whose deaths he has caused, whether directly or indirectly.
- **Visual Manifestation:** These thoughts appear as **red, bloodied text** that burns into his vision or floats luminously in the air above the dying person. The experience is physically painful, often making his eyes feel as though they are burning or bleeding.
- **Strategic Utility:** This ability provides Ike with "impossible truths" and intelligence no one else has access to. For example, he learns of the "OG Traitor's" death and the Black Star's vulnerability solely through a phrase that appeared to him ("The Black Star is dying..."), allowing him to verify deaths and gather intel without physical evidence.
- **Origin:** The ability awakened following the release of Ike's massive exposé article, which triggered a chain reaction of violence and deaths in the underworld, effectively making him indirectly responsible for them.

2. The Central Mystery: The Black Star's Secret

The conflict revolves around a secret the Black Star buried in a cemetery years ago. The OG Traitor left a clue (a photo) leading to this secret.

- **The Misunderstanding:** The Black Star believes the secret is safe. Nayuta and Higa believe they are stealing it. Ike deduces the location (the cemetery) and realizes the OG Traitor orchestrated this entire scenario to free the Black Star from the burden of the secret.

3. The Climax (The Cemetery)

The arc culminates in a confrontation at the graveyard.

- Ike realizes that the OG Traitor moved the secret to a different grave (so later the Black Star could deduce and find it), meaning the initial grave is empty.
- Ike manipulates the Black Star into believing Nayuta stole the secret. When the Black Star finds the grave empty, he flies into a rage.
- Ike triggers a gunfight (the "Blindfold Feat") by signaling the Black Star to shoot Nayuta’s hiding spot.
- **The Outcome:** This instigates a formal war (The Cascade) between the Kagenkai and Kamishinkai, fulfilling Ike's desire to create chaos he can control to rise through the ranks.

Summary of the Arc's Flow

1. **The Test:** Ike is given 24 hours to find a traitor.
2. **The Investigation:** Ike observes inconsistencies (a cleaned floor, a delayed shipment, a fake key) while Akabane and Higa fight a silent war.
3. **The Escalation:** Nayuta intervenes at the Kagenkai compound, tricking the Black Star with a decoy car strategy to kidnap Ike and Higa (ostensibly for questioning, but actually to use Ike to decipher the clue).

4. **The Resolution:** At the cemetery, Ike reveals the location of the "traitor" (Nayuta, framed as the thief of the secret) to the Black Star, technically passing the test by exposing a threat, while keeping the true nature of the OG Traitor's death a secret to use as leverage later.

The Blindfold Feat OR The Graveyard Cricket Feat

The **Blindfold Feat** is a high-stakes, intellectual gambit performed by Ike Yoshigoro during the climax of the First Arc ("The Traitor Test"). It serves as the trigger for the gang war between the Kagenkai and Kamishinkai factions.

Ike executes this feat to maintain his cover as a helpless captive while simultaneously directing the Black Star's rage toward a specific target, all without speaking a word or seeing his phone screen.

1. The Preparation (The Car Ride)

Ike meticulously prepares for the feat during the car ride to the cemetery by manipulating Nayuta and memorizing the necessary mechanics.

- **The "OCD" Misdirection:** Ike repeatedly unlocks his phone in front of Nayuta, claiming it is a mental compulsion ("I have to unlock it this amount of times or else my brain won't be okay"). In reality, Ike is **memorizing the spatial coordinates of the number pad**. He knows the placement of the numbers on the password screen is identical to the phone dialer, allowing him to dial the Black Star's number later without looking.
- **Retrieving the Phone:** Nayuta initially confiscated Ike's phone to prevent GPS tracking. Ike convinces Nayuta to return it by claiming he needs to keep track of time to maintain his cognitive focus and be useful for deciphering clues at the cemetery. Nayuta agrees but checks the call history first, confirming Ike has no prior Kagenkai contacts, which lulls him into a false sense of security.
- **The Cloth:** Ike pockets a piece of cloth found in the car to serve as the blindfold later, foreshadowing his alibi.
- **Requesting the Blindfold:** Upon arriving at the cemetery, Ike suggests that Nayuta blindfold him. He frames it as a benefit to Nayuta—claiming that as "dead weight," it is safer if he doesn't see the secret to avoid becoming a liability or a witness. Nayuta agrees, believing it secures his operation, unaware he is handing Ike his ultimate alibi.

2. The Execution (The Graveyard)

Once at the cemetery, Ike and Nayuta hide and observe the Black Star from the other side of the cemetery finding the empty grave. Ike must now signal the Black Star to attack Nayuta's specific hiding spot without alerting Nayuta, who is standing right next to him.

- **The Physical Marker:** Before being blindfolded, Ike places a **shovel** conspicuously upright against the tree where Nayuta plans to take cover. This serves as the visual targeting beacon for the Black Star.
- **The Phone at the Hip:** While blindfolded, Ike holds his phone at his hip to conceal the screen light and his finger movements from Nayuta. Relying on his muscle memory from the car ride, he unlocks the phone and dials the Black Star's number.
- **The Environmental Carrier Wave:** The cemetery is filled with the loud, constant chirping of crickets. Ike uses this ambient sound as his signal carrier.

3. The Signal (Morse Code via Silence)

When the Black Star answers the phone in a rage, he hears only the crickets on the line. But he also hears crickets in the distance, turning his head towards the source of the crickets, deducing the caller could be nearby. Ike does not speak. Instead, he uses the **mute button** to transmit a message.

- **The Code:**
    - **Unmuted (Sound of Crickets):** Dash.
    - **Muted (Absolute Silence):** Dot.
- **The Transmission:** By rhythmically pressing the mute button, Ike interrupts the constant cricket sound to tap out Morse code.
- **The Message:** He transmits: **"IT'S ME IKE. HIGA ISN'T HERE. NAYUTA IS BEHIND THE TREE WITH THE SHOVEL. HIS CAR IS GREY."**.

4. The Confirmation ("Starry")

The Black Star deciphers the code but hesitates, fearing it might be a trap or that Ike was tortured into making the call. To confirm his identity and independence, Ike sends one final word:

- **"STARRY"**.

This is a nickname only Ike uses for the Black Star, saying it the first time during their battle in the prologue. You could go as far as to say Ike made up this nickname as a prediction to use it in a future event like this to confirm his own identity to the Black Star. W foresight. The Black Star realizes that if Nayuta actually had the secret and Ike as a captive, he would have fled rather than staying to play complex phone games. This confirms Ike is acting independently.

5. The Result

The Black Star, now certain of his target, aims his obsidian Tommy gun at the tree marked by the shovel and opens fire. This initiates the gunfight, saves Nayuta who secretly jumps into one of the graves instead of running away (ironically saving him by creating air holes in the grave he dives into), and officially triggers the war—all orchestrated by a blindfolded man manipulating silence.

The Air Pocket Feat

Ike ensured Nayuta survived the gunfire through a **calculated, "twisted miracle"** where he manipulated the Black Star into shooting the very grave Nayuta was hiding in.

Here is the step-by-step breakdown of how Ike orchestrated this survival:

1. The Critical Situation

Nayuta was trapped in the cemetery. He had buried himself in an empty grave to hide from the Kagenkai forces, covering himself with dirt and utilizing the body of a fallen Kamishinkai subordinate to create a small, temporary air pocket. However, as the grave filled with dirt and the dead body settled, Nayuta's air supply was cutting off, and he was facing inevitable suffocation.

2. The Manipulation

The Black Star was in a state of "madness" and rage, believing Nayuta had escaped via the grey car (another diversion Ike had set up). Seeing this, Ike seized the opportunity to save Nayuta in the most paradoxical way possible:

- **Redirecting Rage:** Ike subtly manipulated the Black Star, convincing him to take out his frustration on the "dead" Kamishinkai man lying in the grave where Nayuta was hiding.
- **The Shooting:** Fueled by Ike's redirection, the Black Star fired his obsidian Tommy gun directly into the grave, shooting through the soil and the corpse.

3. The Mechanism of Survival (The "Air Holes")

The Black Star’s bullets provided the lifeline Nayuta needed, though at a brutal cost:

- **Creating Passages:** The bullets tore through the soil and the dead man's chest, creating exit wounds and tunnels that functioned as **ventilation shafts**.
- **Restoring Airflow:** These new holes allowed just enough air to flow down to Nayuta, replacing his collapsing air pocket and allowing him to breathe while buried.

4. Ike's Intent and the Result

Nayuta was hit by the bullets and had to endure immense pain in silence, but he survived because of the fresh air supply.

- **Calculated Cruelty:** Ike anticipated this outcome. He did not want Nayuta to die yet, viewing him as a valuable piece for the future. By saving him this way, Ike ensured Nayuta would survive but be deeply traumatized,.
- **Life Debt:** This act created a complex dynamic where Nayuta owes his life to Ike, yet likely resents him for the horrific method of his salvation,.

In short, Ike saved Nayuta by **weaponizing the Black Star's rage**, using bullets to drill air holes into Nayuta's tomb. (W ac for nayuta for this btw, he himself also has insane feats)

extra:

in Ike's Morse code to the Black Star, he specifically mentions nayuta's grey car. ike knew that nayuta would be smart enough to let someone stay in the car as a getaway flag in case something happened or that he would be trapped and would have to jump into one of the graves and use the getaway car as an illusion that he escaped in the car.

seeing how the black star ordered his men to go to the grey car and block the route of the cemetery to it, nayuta had no choice but to signal the driver to leave and to jump into the open grave near him. this would guarantee that nayuta would jump into the grave instead of foolishly running away in an area that was secured by the black star's men.

by mentioning the car in the Morse code, ike guaranteed that nayuta would jump into the grave rather than run away to the car and leave with it.

after seeing the grey car leave and after killing every last kamishinkai member, the black star thinks nayuta got away in the car while he's right under his feet in the grave next to him

---

The Warehouse Trap (Exposing Nayuta)

Before the graveyard scene, while being interrogated by Nayuta, Ike orchestrates a conversation trap to confirm that Higa is the traitor working for the Kamishinkai.

- **The Trap:** With Higa screaming in the next room (ostensibly being tortured), Ike asks Nayuta, "Who do you think the traitor is?"
- **The Logical Bind:**
    - If Nayuta were genuinely unknowing, he would name someone else (like Akabane) because he wouldn't suspect the man he is currently torturing.
    - However, since Nayuta *knows* Higa is his mole, he cannot name someone else (redirecting blame would be obvious manipulation to a smart observer like Ike), nor can he name Higa (it would be illogical to suspect his own spy / the man being tortured).
- **The Result:** Nayuta is forced into silence. Ike correctly interprets this silence not as ignorance, but as a confirmation that Nayuta is caught in a logical bind, revealing his complicity with Higa.

here's the proper context:

the black star asked ike to find a traitor in his team, so he's right to question everyone. nayuta is not in the same faction as the black star, he's a rival capo basically, and higa is a traitor of the black star working for nayuta (for years, he also has great feats)

nayuta set up a complex plan to take higa and ike to another place to question ike (because higa stole something necessary to find the black star's secret, but nayuta couldn't take him without it seeming suspicious)

nayuta knew ike was taking the traitor test from prior interactions. nayuta also had higa tortured in a room next to ike as he heard higa's screams so ike genuinely thinks higa isn't the traitor since he's being tortured by a rival faction

ike asks him who he thinks the traitor is, and in his mind he implants the possibility that nayuta does know higa is the traitor, and thus nayuta is scared that answering someone that isn't higa (who is being tortured) would be picked up by ike as ike is way too sharp

how did ike get nayuta this scared? his supernatural ability (which is explained in the doc), made ike know something that LITERALLY only nayuta knows, so the fact that ike knows the same thing (which ike told nayuta during the middle of this interrogation) may mean that ike has a way to know or deduce certain things that are beyond nayuta's realm, as even answering someone that isn't higa could actually help ike realize that it may indeed be higa

so nayuta stays silent. he can't answer higa either because in his mind naming the personal being tortured as the traitor is a paradox of its own

here is the explanation of how Ike terrified Nayuta into silence.

The Source of the Fear: The "Impossible Truth"

Ike scared Nayuta by revealing a specific piece of intelligence during the interrogation that **should have been impossible for him to know**.

In the middle of the pressure, Ike yelled out: **"[OG Traitor's Name] is dead! The Black Star is dying too!"**.

This terrified Nayuta for two specific reasons:

1. **Exclusive Knowledge:** Only Nayuta and the Kamishinkai know the OG Traitor is dead (because they killed/orchestrated it). To the rest of the world, including the Kagenkai and the Black Star, the OG Traitor is simply **missing**.
2. **The "Cripple" Anomaly:** Nayuta views Ike as an outsider—a "crippled journalist" with no status or deep connections. For Ike to possess a secret restricted to the highest level of the Kamishinkai implies that Ike has an incomprehensible source of information or deduction.

How This Caused the Silence

When Ike subsequently asked, **"Who do you think the traitor is?"**, Nayuta was paralyzed by the implication of Ike's previous revelation.

Nayuta's thought process, driven by fear, locked him into silence:

- **He cannot name Higa:** This creates a paradox (why torture your own spy?).
- **He cannot name a scapegoat (e.g., Akabane):** This is the crucial fear. Because Ike just proved he knows "impossible" secrets (the OG Traitor's death), Nayuta terrifies himself with the possibility that **Ike already knows Higa is the traitor**.
    - If Ike *already knows* it is Higa, and Nayuta points the finger at Akabane, Ike will immediately see it as a desperate lie to protect Higa.
    - This would confirm that Nayuta is complicit with Higa, ruining the entire operation.

The Result: Nayuta realized that **any spoken answer was a trap**. If he lied, the "all-knowing" Ike would catch him. If he told the truth, he would expose his spy. Thus, fear of Ike's "impossible insight" forced him into **silence**, which he hoped would be interpreted as ignorance, though Ike later deduces it was recognition of the trap.

---

3. The GPS Inconsistency (Deducing Higa's Treachery)

When Nayuta kidnaps Ike and Higa using the decoy car strategy, Ike deduces Higa's true allegiance through a negative clue—something that *didn't* happen.

- **The Observation:** Nayuta's bodyguards search Ike for a GPS tracker (anticipating Ike would plant one). However, they **do not search Higa**.
- **The Deduction:** If Nayuta truly viewed them both as captives or liabilities, he would have searched both. The failure to search Higa is a psychological footprint indicating Nayuta did not view Higa as a threat or a risk for being tracked, planting the seed of doubt that leads to Higa's exposure,.

The Ouroboros Lie Detector Feat (Future Arc)

Ike defeats Shunji, the Ouroboros underboss known as a human lie detector, regarding the Black Star's secret.

- **The Challenge:** Shunji asks, "Did the Black Star tell you his secret?"
- **The Feat:** Ike answers "No." This passes the lie detector because it is technically true. The Black Star never *verbally* told him the secret; the information was communicated visually via Ike's supernatural ability (seeing the phrase of the dead).
- **The Mechanism:** Ike uses linguistic precision to tell a literal truth that conveys a false narrative (that the secret is lost), outsmarting an infallible lie detector,.