I've never been one to seriously and properly format documents and to be honest I'd be much more comfortable in a video essay format, as those are thoroughly engaging and easier to track the substance of, imo.

Regardless, I won't be properly formatting today, we'll just run a critical analysis of "Samuel' Alistair'," analysis and go from there.

I'm called -C- and now it's time for the rebuttal to the "debunk" as promised.

To keep this easy to understand I am going to underline this gentleman's central thesis, which runs something like this:

>Light's memory loss plan is riddled with the "luck of the gods", unpredictability, and glaring logical gaps-relying on improbable events such as:

1. Who would end up with the death note, (Higuchi, or someone similar who's reckless and easy to manipulate whoever Rem selected based on those parameters)
2. Creating a scenario (helicopter scene in canon) that not only conveniently allows Light to regain ownership of the Dn and his memory (through the watch trick), without L intervening.
3. Pretty much depends on Rem, L's inaction and numerous coincidences to succeed.

Samuel's conclusion is therefore that the plan is deeply flawed, depends on plot armour, and that Light could have chosen a simpler, safer alternative. They also argue that L should have logically confiscated the notebook or deduced Light's watch trick.

Now we'll go into main criticisms and I'll run basic counter replies.

Paraphrasing the claim runs something like this "Light's plan depends on this single ideal scenario, where he can discreetly retrieve the hidden paper from his watch. There are countless ways for this to go wrong-someone else could get the death note or the capture may not even have taken place in the helicopter where L and Light are isolated, etc."

Ok well this may be a case of media illiteracy or perhaps it was hard to grasp, but in chapter 33, we see Light having a conversation about his future plans with Rem and Ryuk mainly Rem through his body language facing towards her and him speaking to her when the conversation details were known, but the conversation is presented in elliptical manner to present a mystery and suspense but we later are given inference clues on what Light told Rem.

1. He told Rem he will bury/hide his own notebook so it can be reclaimed later. We are explicitly shown and told this.
2. She must deliver the notebook to a suitable new Kira (a greedy and ambitious person who would use it for power and self/gain, which ends up being the Yotsuba Kira, this

is shown in chapter 36 as Higuchi himself mentions the condition and the notion of him being able to use it for self gain after he fulfills the condition, clearly Light has given a general profile as he explicitly said in Chapter 33 he knew a way to save Misa and Rem in chapter 36 comments on exactly that.

3. He is counting on the new Kira's predictable recklessness so the task force will eventually corner them- and so that Light can obtain the notebook at a critical moment. (we also know he profiled this earlier because his memory loss self did exactly that through induction, goes to show Light's metacognition).

   Light clearly specifically wants the note to end up with a power hungry criminal who goes against the notions of justice, So Light's instructions to Rem aren't random; it's hinging on the fact that greedy individuals once they discover the power of the dn often escalate their usage in a predictable manner (Which Light knows from Ryuk's testimony and Higuchi ends up doing)

   Moreover this is in universe logic that any user who is more likely to want to use the dn for personal power is more likely to abuse it, slip up, or obsess over their growing control (Light even knows this through personal experience and his need to self control and comments on that), leading to brazen actions that eventually lead to the task's force's attention.

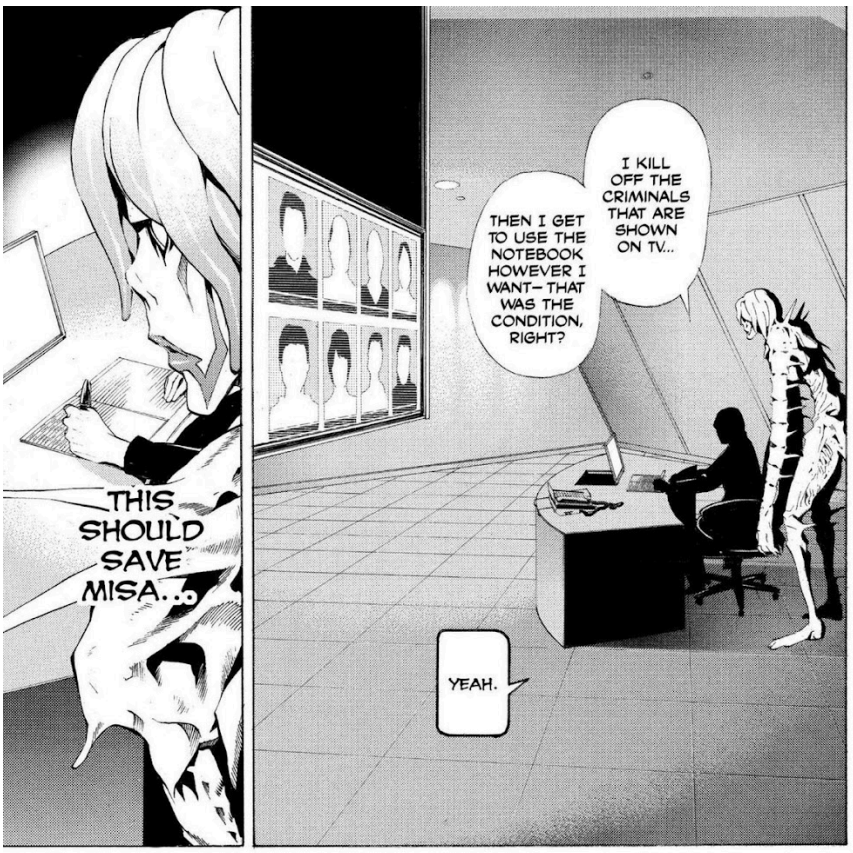
   Here are citations for the Yotsuba things and the preparations:

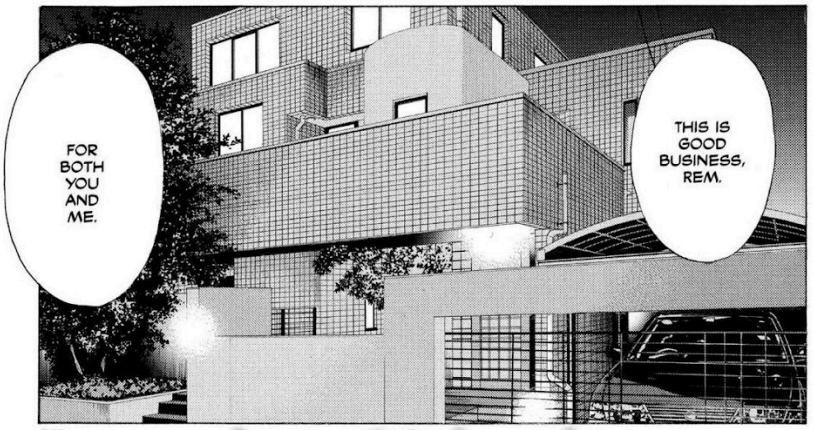

HYUK HYUK...
IF YOU DON'T SAVE MISA, I'LL KILL YOU.


...
ALL RIGHT, REM...
I HAVE AN IDEA...
I PRETTY MUCH KNOW WHAT L WILL DO NEXT.


...
...
...
...
...
HUH ?!!
THIS IS GOODBYE, RYUK.


I RELINQUISH OWNERSHIP OF THIS DEATH NOTE.
FLAP
BUT REM... ALL OF THESE TROUBLES ARE BE-CAUSE YOU BROUGHT ANOTHER DEATH NOTE INTO THE HUMAN WORLD...
I THOUGHT SO... AS LONG AS I HAVE ONE DEATH NOTE, MY MEMORIES OF REM WILL NOT BE ERASED, EVEN THOUGH I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE HIM ANYMORE... I GUESS THAT'S CONSIDERED A MEMORY RELATED TO THE DEATH NOTE AS A WHOLE...
...





manga reader.to


...ONE OF US PROBABLY *IS* KIRA.
NOW THERE'S NO WAY TO EVER LEAVE THIS GROUP.
YEAH, THAT WILL MEAN CERTAIN DEATH.
BUT IF WE KEEP OUR MINDS OFF THAT AND JUST CONCENTRATE ON WHAT DEATHS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE GROWTH OF OUR YOTSUBA GROUP, WE GAIN MORE AND MORE INFLUENCE.
BRAVO TO KIRA FROM THE SEVEN OF US!



Next let's get into Light's calculations vs "chance"
The "debunk" repeatedly tries to affirm the point that Light is being carried by hard luck that the helicopter scene replicates things exactly as it went in canon. However in Death Note it is emphasized that Light is confident in how L orchestrates events. L's style being a hands on approach where he brings suspect into controlled enviroments or personally overseeing sting operations (remember that Light has a wealth of experience against L's methods at this point either by direct experience or through observation "a posteriori".)

The "helicopter" is simply the specific shape it the confrontation took place in canon; but the core premise is that once the culprit is cornered the suspect will be physically near Light and L who are confined to each other, for capture or interrogation (L's methods are detailed in the how to read like this for consistency btw). Anyway this enables Light to get his hands on the death note. It does not rely on a one in a million scenario, only that the final confrontation being within Light's grasp which is likely given how L runs the investigations and especially the Kira case.

Next you just completely disregard Light's resourcefulness for some reason even though even the How to read notes how Light accounted for any eventuality. And this is proven through evidence in the series that Light has multiple backup steps (e.g., carrying a concealed Death Note scrap in his watch; instructing Misa for a separate owner transferral). Even if the watch-trick fails in that exact moment, Light can simply re-adapt when he does gain physical contact with the notebook or another scrap at a different time. It's like we forgot Light experimenting early dn and all the other ways he tested things, So indeed the plan is layered- just because he aims to kill Higuchi on the helicopter doesn't mean there are 0 plan bs if it fails (it just let's L objectively clear him and gain him what he wants in other words it is advantageous not necessary.)

Then you do this weird false equivalence where you conflate fiction and reality and disregard dn's fictional setting.
Death note from a meta perspective is a cat and mouse, psychological mind-game, thriller. Where we are seeing two geniuses anticipate each other's moves.
Light's advantage is not that he "bank's on a miracle" but that he systematically decomposed and predicted L's methodology and shaped events in a way (through Rem as a proxy and the forced reset of the Kira Killings) To funnel L into a narrow and controlled path.

Onto the next critique…

Again to paraphrase "A cunning or less impulsive new Kira might not be cornered so easily. Yotsuba just had the reckless Higuchi. That's all luck!!"

This is once again sub-par media literacy.

Light instructs Rem to whom to pass the death note to someone within Yotsuba. Yotsuba's leadership circle is shown to be collectively unscrupulous characters, (hence why the yotsuba kira is even a mystery); Light reasonably expects the user to exploit the notebook for a business advantage.

While your "debunk" says "Oh well some tom, dick or harry may have done X, Y or Z," Light had complete influence over the chain of custody. He didn't throw the dn to random criminals around the world he used Rem to pick a Yotsuba executive, ensuring that the user ties Kira's murders to corporate profiteering, an easily traceable pattern his memory wiped, self in fact, induces.

Yotsuba's board, (the top brass) collectively use Kira, but it's largely a group of amoral opportunists, not methodical geniuses. This is exactly the type of environment Light aims for: a power vacuum where individuals compete to exploit Kira's power. So even if it wasn't Higuchi, it would likely be someone similarly unscrupulous and short sighted enough to be manipulated or cornered anyway. All Higuchi is, is a probability raiser based on Rem's insight.

Death Note canonically and frequently shows Light factoring in these broad psychological profiles-he doesn't need them to be as reckless as Higuchi, just unscrupulous enough that they will eventually be exposed. This is obviously less "luck" and more "behavioural inevitability", given the death note's addictive power.

Onto the next criticism hopefully better than the last couple.

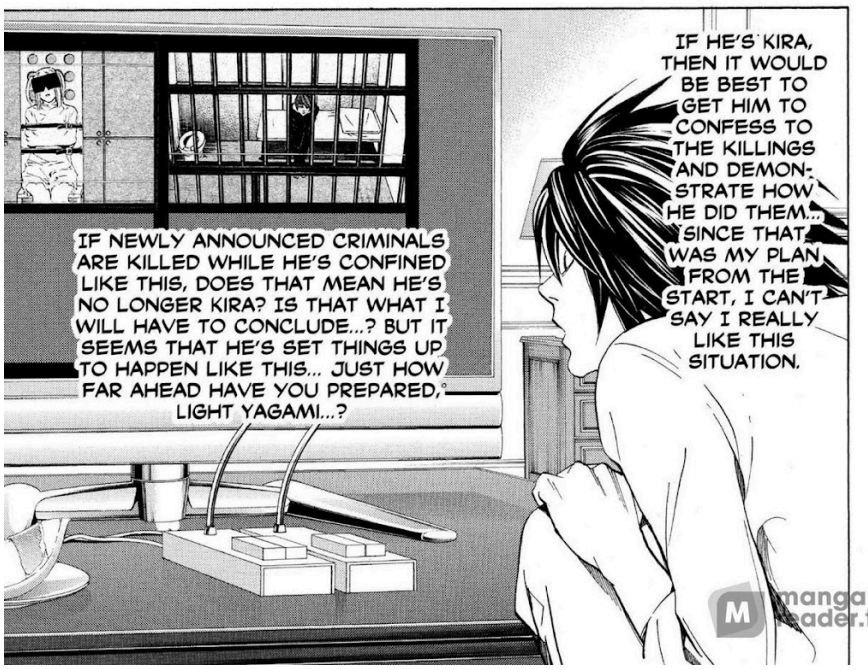
Paraphrased claim is "It's out of character for L to not ask for the DN back. L ignoring Light being sussy amogus (like writing in the watch) or not checking Light's watch afterwards is incompetent."

Man, I hate when we see on panel information so carelessly skipped over… this definitely wasn't shown why this doesn't make sense, right?

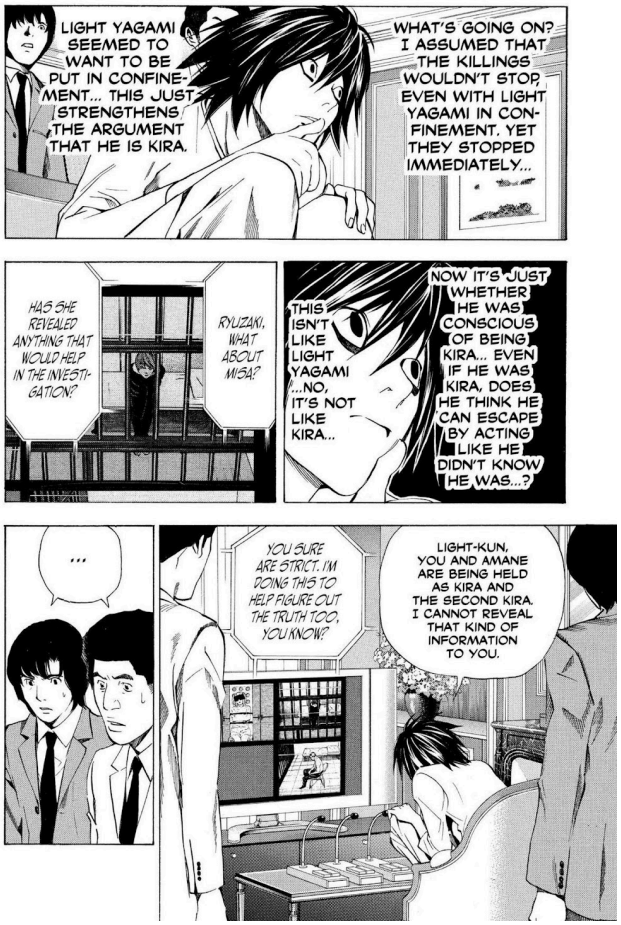
Canonically, after seeing Light's behaviour while imprisoned-when Kira killings still resume despite Light's capture-L's suspicion shifts. L suspects Light, but it's nowhere near the certainty he had earlier; he is forced to concede, "Either Light has no memory or is a different Kira than before."

L's faith in his own logic ironically counteracts his usual paranoia. He believes, "If Light were Kira, how did the murders continue while he was under 24/7 observation?" This confusion makes him less likely to snatch the notebook from Light at the precise moment of Higuchi's capture-especially when the immediate suspect in front of them is Higuchi and not fucking Light.





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LIGHT YAGAMI SEEMED TO WANT TO BE PUT IN CONFINEMENT... THIS JUST STRENGTHENS THE ARGUMENT THAT HE IS KIRA.
WHAT'S GOING ON? I ASSUMED THAT THE KILLINGS WOULDN'T STOP, EVEN WITH LIGHT YAGAMI IN CONFINEMENT. YET THEY STOPPED IMMEDIATELY...
HAS SHE REVEALED ANYTHING THAT WOULD HELP IN THE INVESTIGATION?
RYUZAKI, WHAT ABOUT MISA?
THIS ISN'T LIKE LIGHT YAGAMI ...NO, IT'S NOT LIKE KIRA...
NOW IT'S JUST WHETHER HE WAS CONSCIOUS OF BEING KIRA... EVEN IF HE WAS KIRA, DOES HE THINK HE CAN ESCAPE BY ACTING LIKE HE DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS...?
...
YOU SURE ARE STRICT. I'M DOING THIS TO HELP FIGURE OUT THE TRUTH TOO, YOU KNOW?
LIGHT-KUN, YOU AND AMANE ARE BEING HELD AS KIRA AND THE SECOND KIRA. I CANNOT REVEAL THAT KIND OF INFORMATION TO YOU.


...
I BELIEVE YOU ARE MERELY HIDING THE FACT THAT YOU ARE KIRA!
BUT IF YOU ARE KIRA, EVERYTHING STILL FITS IF WE ASSUME YOU JUST CAN'T ACCEPT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE KIRA. THE KILLINGS STOPPED IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOU WERE CONFINED...
LISTEN, LIGHT-KUN. THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOU ARE BEING CONFINED ARE THE ONES IN THIS ROOM. YET THE KILLINGS STOPPED AS SOON AS YOU WERE LOCKED UP...
FRAMED...?
I MUST HAVE BEEN FRAMED. I CAN THINK CLEARLY NOW, AND THAT HAS TO BE IT.
RYUZAKI, LISTEN CAREFULLY... I SWEAR I'M NOT LYING... I'M NOT KIRA!
YOU'RE NOT MAKING SENSE... YET...FOR SOME REASON IT FEELS TRUE...
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU, LIGHT YAGAMI?
I'LL HELP YOU INVESTIGATE. LET ME OUT!
THEN SOMEBODY THERE IS KIRA!


READ THIS WAY
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T BE HAPPY WHEN PEOPLE ARE BEING KILLED BUT... MY SON...
THEN MY SON...
ARE YOU SURE, MATSUDA?!
KIRA WAS MERELY RESTING. HE'S STARTED PUNISHING CRIMINALS AGAIN.
...
NO... THIS IS RYUZAKI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT... HE WON'T CLEAR HIM...
YEAH, HE WAS DEFINITELY GUILTY JUST YESTERDAY... THANK GOD...
DID YOU HEAR THAT, CHIEF?!!
HE'S PROBABLY ONE SHADE FROM BEING CLEARED!
...HE'S IN THE GREY...
UMM...



The entire Yotsuba arc sees L balancing the suspicion of Light and and the urgent need to identify the active Kira (Higuchi), Once Higuchi is caught L's immediate attention is on 1) The Shinigami (Rem's reveal which we see him visibly shocked at), 2) Verifying the Notebooks reality, and 3) ensuring Higuchi out of panic and desperation doesn't kill the team.

In that swirl of events it is easily plausible that L fails to do the perfect move (like seizing the book from Light mid transport). That is less of a "plot-hole" than it is of L's reflection upon the new supernatural revelation that literally breaks his worldview, the existence of the shinigami. (It's a wonder if Samuel even knows what a plot hole is.)

The "debunk" claims L or the task force could trivially suspect the watch mechanism after Higuchi's sudden heart attack. But clearly you don't recall how baffling how new and baffling the Death Note's mechanics are. L must weigh many unknown factors (Rem's involvement, the possibility of hidden rules, Misa's role, etc.).

Additionally Light's outburst upon regaining his memory was visibly tied to seeing Rem. He had a "cover" reaction: him screaming at a Shinigami's sight. That alone is enough to overshadow suspicion about him quietly writing a name.

Paraphrased claim: “Light had no idea he’d scream or how exactly memory regain works. It’s more luck that Rem was in-front of him to distract L.”

While Light’s scream may look spontaneous, it occurs in a high stress situation with an actual Shinigami present. And that fits Light’s known skill in improv: he uses that shock to mask his immediate recognition, so it doesn’t look suspicious to L.

And Light did consider that regaining memories would be psychologically overwhelming-he remarks internally in the animanga that he must keep calm. The presence of Rem (a visual shock for any first-time viewer is a perfect camouflage.

The Notion that “Rem might have been behind him” or “not visible” is a complete hypothetical, food for hitchens razor, In actual canon shinigami do appear physically for the Death Note’s owner (or whomever touches it). If Rem is near Higuchi, it’s very plausible that she is in Light’s line of sight or moving around. Death Note typically shows Shinigami can stand in whatever vantage they choose.

Also btw. Rem h*erself* wants to watch Light’s move carefully, as she’s trying to protect Misa; it isn't random that she is visible to Light in that scene.

Onto the next criticism!

Your next paraphrased claim is… “Light could have left a secret page with DN (A) Underground, never forfeited DN (B), or used Misa to kill Higuchi at a safer moment. That approach is simpler and has a near 100% success rate. The memory loss aspect was pointless.”

Holy shit, are we glad you’re not the protagonist of dn, show ended episode 2.

One of Light’s key goals with memory forfeiture is to exonerate him and Misa of all suspicion including the objective evidence pinned on Misa-not just to eventually kill L. The plan was never to simply “Kill L anytime I want”, he failed at that, his goal was to get L to *publicly* exonerate them.

Being locked in a cell with no memory, under continuous surveillance, and still seeing Kira’s murders is what causes L to be forced to free Light. This is crucial for Light’s long term plan. If Light keeps his memory from the start, L’s suspicion never wanes (Why? Because of no cognitive dissonance), which makes it harder to complete the Yotsuba infiltration or manipulate Misa’s new caretaker/freedom.

A central point overlooked which I want to talk about is that: memory forfeiture is a way for Light to manipulate Rem into action on Misa’s behalf. By making Misa lose her memories, appear innocent and still be in danger, Rem is driven to kill L once Misa reclaims ownership.

If Light never lost memory, it is inherently less convincing to Rem that Misa is truly helpless. The partial memory-lapse scenario helps him corner Rem psychologically.

Next, light's entire brand is caution (which he even gives up his pride for). He doesn't want the slightest chance that L can corner him using leftover evidence from his earlier Kira spree. By fully wiping his memory, he himself can pass polygraph-like sincerity tests. That was the whole point of going to jail to reemerge looking completely innocent.

Your goofy alternative plan suggested by your debunk does not achieve the same "incontrovertible innocence". L might keep him under closer watch if Light still obviously has knowledge about Kira operations.

This "debunk" frames it as if "Light needed everything to happen exactly." In canon, Light typically arranges layered conditions ensuring that if one route fails, the other might succeed. The memory-lapse portion is a major advantage in controlling Rem's motives and removing immediate suspicion, that's why he never used your gorilla level plan.

Onto more silly critiques if we can still call them that at this point.

"L's god's intuition is so brilliant that letting Light keep the Death Note, or not checking his watch is incompetent, the canon scenario as in how it played out is out of character for Lawliet"

The series highlights that yes while brilliant he is overconfident and extremely prideful akin to Light as well as reliant on a strict logic. Hence why when he sees a Shinigami this presence upends many of his assumptions. Once L sees Rem , he's forced to accept a new, supernatural dimension- something that is psychologically disorienting even for him to the point he is visibly flustered.

Sure we can grant L is suspicious of Light but he sees no direct evidence in that helicopter moment. Grabbing Light's watch or forcibly removing the dn from Light's hands infront of the entire task force with a subdued Higuchi at gunpoint is not only autistic for even L but might seem unwarranted in that very second. We see L time and time again balancing public procedure with his personal hunches, which is why he doesn't get to do whatever he wants when he alludes to his ruthless methods such as when Light was confined or being surveyed back in Potato chip, he cannot continue with his methods unwarrantedly so.

For some reason you Samuel, suggest that L had "days" to re-check Light. When in reality, events advanced quickly post-Higuchi capture. L is also analyzing shinigami rule revelations, verifying the 13 day rule, etc. This influx of new data (and Rem's hidden sabotage) divides L's attention.

Canonically, L even does keep suspecting Light until the moment he dies. He never relaxes-but Rem steps in and kills L before L can finish mapping up the conceptual puzzle

with the practical one. This is intentional Light's plan banks on rem;s built up desperation, which triggers L's death right before he nails Light to the cross.

Now I'll delve in fully to the alternative plan proposal which may cause me to be compelled to memory loss myself.

Your piss poor "debunk" argues that Light could have done a simpler approach, never lost memory and just used Misa to kill the Yotsuba Kira. Which I touched on, but you grossly overlooked key strategic and narrative imperatives.

Without forfeiting his memories L does not release Light from suspect numero uno. Again the memory-loss piece is designed to to remove doubt from the eyes of L and especially the taskforce. This is essential for Light to operate freely and to have assurance if Misa is re-implicated Rem will be forced to act.

The plan's brilliance in part lies in how it corners Rem into killing L. The more "helpless" Misa and Light appear, the more Rem will do in the final step. If Light never feigns innocence Rem may not act as a controllable variable or with urgency.

You call memory-loss a "pointless risk," but from Light's perspective, it's exactly what cements his "perfect innocence" and secures L's trust just enough to let events unfold. The payoff is massive: The eventual death of L and the exoneration in the public eye as well as absorbing L and wammy's resources makes Light free to resume Kira's reign ten-fold.

I cannot believe I have to talk about "plot armour" vs "intelligent risk"
A recurring theme in the debunk is that the plan's success is contingent upon the idea that Light was "blessed by the gods". However… Death Note is a thriller where improbable mind games do happen. "Light's luck" (which btw he has had bad luck against people with literal 1 in luck.) Is in part a demonstration of his canonical strategic excellence and his willingness to bet that L's personality, while brilliant, is still prone to rigid logic or short term oversight.

The series is built off of the tension between Light's gambles and L's counters. "Plot armour" is an argument that can be used for any fictional media with big showdowns, but what you don't understand is that the plan itself is consistent with Light's established patterns of exploiting psychological weaknesses and coming up with multi-dimensional illusions.

Light is shown from the start to extremely confident, borderline hubristic with a god complex to boot, he does take high stakes risks, like Lind L. Tailor, or using TV broadcast stunts. The memory loss repeats the pattern, risk-laden, but meticulously crafted. Crazy how this isn't applied to Baku though.

In the end here is my final synthesis.

You brazenly ignore the dn canon's thematic emphasis on psychological profiling with the argument treating every non-Higuchi user as an equal possibility, even though Light specifically manipulates events so a Higuchi esque figure appears.

You downplay L's split-focus by insisting L would "obviously" snatch the dn autistically or suspect the watch. Even though the present story context is that L is juggling new novel supernatural information, shifting suspicion and the immediate threat of a cornered Kira (Higuchi).

You absurdly underestimate the gains of Memory-loss. Your proposed abysmal "simpler alternative" misses that memory's loss is Light's best alibi. It ensures that all suspicion falls away long enough for him to outmanoeuvre L and use Rem as a final trump card to claim his perfect victory.

You overstate without warrant "divine luck" because while there are indeed improbable elements, you somehow forgot Death Note's entire premise is a cat and mouse where relatively top tier intelligence can orchestrate events close to "impossible" for the average person. Light's success is clearly portrayed as cunning strategy + the ability to predict L's approach not random dumb luck he stumbled through with.

So in conclusion far from being a "total gamble", Light's memory loss plan

1. Ensures his innocence against L and the task force.
2. Sets the stage for Rem to eliminate L (the primary threat) due to Misa's endangerment.
3. Manipulates Yotsuba's next Kira into a corner so Light can claim the dn physically and in a high control environment.

Yes the plan obviously involves risk-but that's literally the hallmark of Light's approach throughout the series. He repeatedly relies on misdirection, psychological and logical manipulations and L's own investgative patterns and both of their metacognitions. Now, even if we grandstand that some aspects hinges on coincidences (as most high-stake's fictional plots do), the overall strategic plan is neither "idiotic" or "pointless".

Now one quick TL;DR Summary for the ADHD/tik-tok brain-rot readers.

The impoverished "debunk" overemphasizes luck, ignoring that Light carefully exploit's both L's methods and typical behavioural patterns of a "greedy" new Kira user.

L not confiscating the dn or checking Light's watch is a combination of timing, L's partial distraction, and his lowered suspicion of Light passing his incarceration tests.

Memory Loss's aspect is not useless it's crucial for exoneration, forcing L to to free light, and moving Rem like a chess piece for the final kill.

Yes, the plan contains a risk-factor but it is a show about near superhuman intellects , "risk" is apart of Light's arsenal -he has fallbacks, psychological levers, (Rem and Misa) and a deep understanding of how Lawliet operates.

Hence, the criticisms in the debunk are more about cherry-picking alternate scenario fanfictions, or "perfect-world logic" for L, rather than faithfully engaging with the actual context, motives and established character dynamics that make ML feasible and in the end spectacularly successful in the canon story.

In the end, this was a bottom-of-the barrel debunk made by an (Honest individual who has admitted they were wrong) who(still for the best) probably should never attempt to debunk anything again for they cannot tell sand from the sea.