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contraband Akiyama MASSIVE UPSCALE / UNCOVERED Day2 Card-Signal Misdirection HIDDEN FEAT comprehensive in-depth ANALYSIS



A major misconception is that Akiyama's card signal was an actual tactic intended to function as a smuggling mechanism.

It wasn't.

Like Yokoya's clairvoyance, the card signal was never intended to function as a genuine smuggling method. It was deliberately designed to be discovered so that Yokoya would be misdirected while the real strategy remained concealed.

After learning that the three idiots had fallen for Yokoya's real smuggling operation and had emptied the South ATM, Akiyama formulated his counter-plan in mere seconds. By the time he asked the three idiots whether they had done it for the team, he had already worked out the bluff, the separate card-signal misdirection, and a contingency plan based on his anticipation of Yokoya's reaction to that misdirection.

The bluff controlled what the traitors would believe in the first place and later controlled what the other North-side players, along with Yokoya, would believe as the latter explained the supposed situation after Hasegawa's report, particularly regarding how much money remained.

The card signal, meanwhile, was created as a red herring. Its purpose was not to describe the real smuggling process but to make Yokoya believe that he had correctly identified it.

Hasegawa's First Smuggling — Round 27

When it is North's turn to smuggle, Yokoya sends Hasegawa to verify whether Akiyama will tell him the same thing Shibayama revealed in his confession. Hasegawa, however, secretly intends to follow Akiyama's real smuggling strategy.

As he normally does when sending someone to smuggle, Yokoya assigns Hasegawa another player's card. In this case, the card belongs to Tajima Kakeru, known as Eyebrows.

Akiyama has prepared the speaker's permanent magnet, anticipating that he will need to damage Hasegawa's card during the inspection.

When Akiyama sees Hasegawa going to smuggle, he uses all nine South-side cards to withdraw ~1.87B from the North ATM. He deposits the withdrawn cash on the bank-cabin floor, following the same process Yokoya previously used with the three idiots.

This is everything remaining in the North ATM apart from the 1.91B still sitting in the three idiots' accounts.

Hasegawa then smuggles the ~1.87B into Tajima's account while walking down the corridor toward the inspection room. No card signal is involved in this movement. Hasegawa still believes Akiyama's bluff that ~1.87B was all that remained in the North ATM.

Once Hasegawa reaches Akiyama, Akiyama reveals the bluff: the remaining 1.91B had never been hidden. The three idiots had deposited it into their own accounts all along.

Akiyama then uses the speaker's permanent magnet to damage Hasegawa's card. The game staff provides Hasegawa with a functioning replacement card, which Hasegawa gives to Akiyama.

This allows Akiyama to carry out the remaining part of the real smuggling strategy himself. Using the three idiots' cards, Akiyama withdraws the remaining 1.91B from the North ATM and uses the functioning replacement card to deposit that money into the South ATM.

Hasegawa keeps the damaged original card and returns it to Yokoya. His report then confirms Shibayama's confession. Because the two accounts align, Yokoya becomes convinced that the card signal is Akiyama's genuine smuggling method.

Why the Card Signal Is a Misdirection

The actual money movements occur independently of the card signal:

- Hasegawa moves ~1.87B without using any card signal.
- Akiyama moves the remaining 1.91B using the three idiots' cards and the functioning replacement card.

The card signal therefore does not function as a smuggling mechanism. Its function is informational: it gives Yokoya a convincing but false explanation for how Akiyama supposedly intends to smuggle money.

It causes Yokoya to believe that he has identified Akiyama's method while the actual money movements proceed through a completely different mechanism.

Yokoya never discovers Akiyama's real smuggling process. In reality, he identifies only a manufactured red herring and mistakes the consistency of the traitors' information for proof that it is genuine.

The Fake-Act Contingency Plan

The card signal is primarily a misdirection, but Akiyama also builds a contingency plan around his anticipation of Yokoya's reaction to that false method.

Based on his profiling of Yokoya, supported by information from Kikuzawa and Nao about Yokoya's methods and ideology, Akiyama foresees that Yokoya will eventually establish the Confession Game, or an equivalent maneuver, which will cause one of the traitors to reveal the card-signal narrative.

As Shibayama later explains during the game-finale reversal depicted in *Liar Game* anime Episode 19:

> "Playing dumb during the Confession Game wouldn't have cleared us of suspicion. So I decided it was best to pretend Yokoya had driven a wedge between us. And in doing so, I convinced him that Akiyama's plan had failed. That left him vulnerable."

Hasegawa also backs this up:

> "He can reveal what Yokoya already suspects without blowing the core plan."

Once Yokoya accepts that information as Akiyama's supposed smuggling method, he incorporates it into his strategy. This eventually allows the traitors a free round for one of them to exploit.

Yokoya believes that Akiyama's supposed smuggling operation has not yet been carried out. He therefore proposes that the traitors pretend to accept Akiyama's plan and carry out a counter-operation to intercept and hide the ~1.87B that Akiyama supposedly intends them to smuggle.

Yokoya assigns Bandana to carry out that operation.

By this point, however, Hasegawa has already emptied the North ATM, something Yokoya does not know when he gives Bandana the instruction.

Bandana therefore has no cash left to move. If he simply fails to perform the operation as Yokoya expects, that failure could expose the entire deception.

As instructed by Yokoya, Bandana performs the card signal and, upon receiving no hidden-card location from Akiyama, enacts the contingency plan. He acts convincingly enough to maintain Yokoya's belief that the card-signal method is genuine.

Bandana did not independently improvise this act on the spot after Yokoya ordered him to carry out an operation he could not perform. Akiyama had briefed him on the contingency plan during his inspection and had him record it along with the bluff and card-signal tactic. Bandana then passed the information to the other traitors.

Despite Bandana receiving no hidden-card location from Akiyama, Yokoya cannot simply change Bandana's rotation. Yokoya believes that he has successfully made Bandana switch sides back to his dictatorship following the Confession Game. Changing Bandana's rotation would therefore tip Akiyama off.

Yokoya is consequently logically manipulated into sending Bandana to inspection anyway.

This allows Bandana a free round that Akiyama's contingency plan was designed to produce. Bandana can explain the situation to Akiyama, allowing Akiyama to devise the necessary response plan.

Akiyama records new instructions on Bandana's recorder. Bandana subsequently passes the recorder to Shibayama and Hasegawa and lies to Yokoya that his conversation with Akiyama gave him no useful information. The deception toward Yokoya is therefore maintained.

Bandana's Acting

In *Liar Game* anime Episode 19, Hasegawa praises the way Bandana handled the situation. In the English subtitles, he says:

> "But then he did something awesome. He pretended Akiyama had never tipped him off."

The corresponding Japanese line is:

> しかしあの時のアカギは上手かった。アキヤマから指示が出ないと装ったんだ。

The key expression is 上手かった (*umakatta*), which in this context means that Bandana handled the situation well, played it well, or did a good job.

This distinction matters.

Bandana knows that the card-signal method is a decoy. Nevertheless, when he receives no hidden-card location from Akiyama, he has to act convincingly enough to make his apparent surprise seem genuine, thereby avoiding exposure of the fact that the method itself is a misdirection.

He therefore preserves Yokoya's mistaken belief that the card-signal method is genuine.

Hasegawa's praise consequently concerns how well Bandana performed given the uncertain situation Yokoya's false belief created: his ability to maintain the deception toward Yokoya under pressure, not any spontaneous improvisation of the act.

This is especially important since Hasegawa further supports this during the game-finale reversal, stating:

> "Yokoya, you were too slow. By the time you realized what Akiyama was doing, all three of us had already entered into an agreement with him."

The three traitors were therefore participating in a coordinated deception.

Sequence

The sequence can be summarized as follows:

1. Akiyama establishes the false card-signal narrative.
2. The traitors transmit that narrative to Yokoya.
3. Yokoya accepts it as Akiyama's genuine smuggling method.
4. Bandana must preserve that false premise but cannot perform the operation Yokoya expects him to perform.
5. Bandana handles the situation by enacting the contingency plan. He acts convincingly enough to maintain Yokoya's belief that the card-signal method is real.
6. The contingency plan effectively allows Bandana a free round in which he can explain the situation to Akiyama, allowing Akiyama to devise the necessary response plan.
7. Hasegawa later praises Bandana for handling the situation so well.

Hasegawa's Smuggling Deception — Round 29

Yokoya consequently removes Bandana from the rotation and assigns Hasegawa instead.

Akiyama manipulated him into making that exact rotation change. Yokoya's continued belief that the card signal is genuine causes him to assign Hasegawa to handle the counter-operation, thereby allowing Akiyama to provide Hasegawa with Tajima's replacement card for the next stage of the deception.

This substitution is itself part of what Akiyama's contingency plan was designed to produce.

Yokoya orders Hasegawa to carry out the counter-operation, believing that he will intercept and hide the ~1.87B that Akiyama supposedly intends the traitors to smuggle. Yokoya remains unaware that Hasegawa has long been a traitor.

Hasegawa presents the damaged card at the window and Akiyama plays along.

Akiyama gives Hasegawa back the functioning replacement card obtained through the earlier damaged-card sequence. This allows Hasegawa to withdraw ~1.87B from Tajima's account in the South ATM.

Tajima's card is the one Yokoya originally assigned to Hasegawa in Round 27. Its functioning replacement therefore allows Hasegawa to make the later withdrawal from Tajima's account after Akiyama has already moved the remaining North ATM money.

Hasegawa brings the money to the North-side venue, deceiving Yokoya into believing that his interception operation has succeeded.

The Central Point

The card signal was never Akiyama's real smuggling mechanism. It was a decoy that Yokoya was deliberately supposed to discover and accept as genuine.

Shibayama's confession is the first source through which Yokoya learns about the card-signal method describing Akiyama's supposed smuggling process. Yokoya then sends Hasegawa to meet Akiyama and verify whether Shibayama's confession is true.

Hasegawa's report matches Shibayama's account of the card-signal method.

In reality, Akiyama engineered that consistency. The same false information was passed through the traitors so that it would reach Yokoya through multiple sources and cause him to accept the card signal as Akiyama's genuine smuggling method.

Yokoya consequently makes the critical mistake Akiyama intended him to make:

He mistakes manufactured consistency for independent confirmation.

That misunderstanding drives the later sequence with Bandana and Hasegawa, allowing Akiyama to manipulate Yokoya's decisions without Yokoya realizing that the premise underlying those decisions, the supposed card-signal smuggling method, is false.

The bluff, card signal, and contingency plan therefore form three distinct layers of Akiyama's contraband strategy.

Each serves a different function:

- **The bluff** controls what the traitors would believe in the first place and later controls what all the other North-side players would perceive as the amount of money remaining in relation to the South ATM.

- **The card signal** gives Yokoya a convincing but false explanation that deceives him into believing that he has identified Akiyama's smuggling method. Its purpose is to shield the real smuggling strategy by misdirecting Yokoya toward a false mechanism.

- **The contingency plan** exploits Yokoya's anticipated reaction once he accepts the card signal as genuine. It is built around the consequences of Yokoya acting on that false understanding. Ultimately, it allows the traitor Yokoya sends a free round in which he can explain the situation to Akiyama, allowing Akiyama to devise the necessary response plan.

stuff:

Additional Insight (further manipulation):
https://www.reddit.com/r/liargame/comments/1w0j7y0/comment/p6dfvf1/

