I can’t guarantee it’s superior to Aki’s strategy, but I can certainly grant you Doe’s most impressive strategy in my opinion.

WRATH & ENVY STRATEGY

For background information, Doe’s original plan of enacting five murders was compromised almost entirely. His base of operations was uncovered and he had no resources (quite literally zero). The only advantage he still had over law enforcement was the fact he had a minor contingency placed at his base of operations that allowed for him to stalemate law enforcement information gathering for a short period of time (by shotgunning his apartment with a copious amount of meaningless information to comb over). After Doe’s altercation with two detectives (which led to his base being uncovered), he formulated a strategy in mere seconds to counteract all advancements made against him. For context, these two detectives were Mills and Somerset.

To formally begin his strategy, Doe arrives at Mills’s house and meets with his wife (Tracy). Doe had obtained the information of Tracy earlier in the film via his press disguise granting him the ability to purchase information from the precinct, now finding a use for it. He disguises as one of the men from the precinct and Tracy lets him into the house (Doe predicted Tracy wouldn’t refuse due to her lack of social connection, which Doe observed and learnt of by gathering information based around Somerset being Tracy’s only friend - with Somerset compromised by the information load at his apartment, it gives Doe the perfect opportunity to strike). Doe, after a moment, kills Tracy brutally and removes her head. He allows the blood to stain his clothes, before

packaging Tracy's head in a box and ordering it to be shipped at exactly seven o'clock p.m. to a specific location - At the same time, Doe hires a lawyer in advance. To summarize, here are the steps of preparation Doe took before enacting his strategy —>

1. Utilize the information he acquired through his disguise to locate Tracy (Mills's wife). Pose as a man of the precinct to gain access inside of her home (which he predicted would work given Tracy's psychological profile, which he had built via observing her connection to Somerset), and then kill her - Allow her blood to stain his clothes, and take & package her head into a box. Order the box to be delivered to a specific location at exactly 7 o'clock, paying the driver $500.

2. Hire a lawyer in preparation, at around the same time.

Now that the preparation process has been detailed, Doe executes the main action of his strategy - He walks into the precinct wearing the bloodied clothing and turns himself in. He immediately requests to see his lawyer, and after discussing matters with Doe personally - The lawyer gives the precinct an ultimatum (and a statement from Doe that says he admires them, which will tie into the strategy itself towards the end). Doe will grant the precinct information on where the final two bodies are, but he requests to personally show them via car accompanied strictly by Mills and Somerset (has to be at around six o'clock - Doe predicted it would take them around an hour to drive to the location). If his demands are not met, the bodies will never be uncovered and Doe will plead insanity. Doe's strategy here was incredibly well-shielded from all angles —>

1. Doe knew that the presence of blood on his clothing that notably isn't his would lead the investigators to conclude that at least one other victim was present. This would give credit to Doe's bluff, and ignoring it would be highly risky and incredibly dangerous for the precinct.

2. Doe also knew that the blood couldn't be formally tested in time before Doe's offer had expired, meaning they had no way to decipher and see through his bluff in the first place.

3. By specifically setting the events up to occur at six o'clock, it ensured Mills isn't able to go home at the end of his shift and obviously see Tracy's body or notice her missing.

4. By including Somerset and Mills into his conditions, it restricts the two from making any actions outside of the case. They'd be under constant pressure and communication by either Doe's lawyer or the precinct itself - Giving Mills no window to even call Tracy.

5. Doe knew that Somerset was Tracy's only friend and that Tracy had been suffering from a depressive state ever since she moved to the city (A fact she only shared with Somerset - Again, Doe knew this information via his disguise as a member of the press). If Mills did try to call Tracy, Doe predicted that Somerset would rightfully intervene to save Tracy from any stress given her mental state (fundamentally setting Somerset up as an innate contingency to ensure no contact is held between Mills and Tracy).

6. Doe ensured that the precinct would know he’s the killer right away, via the absence of fingerprints, dental records, employment history, etc - All factors that are incorporated into the killer’s profile.

7. In conclusion, by setting the deadline as seven o’clock it ensures several outcomes - 1) The blood on Doe’s clothing is unable to be tested in time, and given the amount of proof Doe has given the precinct within the strategy itself to believe his bluff (the blood not being his), it fortifies his strategy from being seen through — 2) Doe and Somerset, naturally being core components in the conditions, will be kept on constant activity through either communication with the precinct or Doe’s lawyer - This ensures Mills doesn’t have the window to call Tracy (safeguarded by the Somerset contingency) — 3) It ensures Mills isn’t able to return home at any point to find Tracy’s body or uncover the fact she’s missing, and 4) It pressures the precinct into making a decision quickly and efficiently.

Doe’s strategy, naturally due to the incredible amount of shielding present, is completely effective. The precinct agrees to Doe’s terms, showcasing just how invincible it was in both theory and execution. Overall, Doe’s strategy was immaculate due to the improvisation required, lack of resources consumed (only relying off prior knowledge and outlying resources), precise yet quick preparation process, multitude of shieldings (roughly six to seven

notable shieldings), and was perfectly concealed from the precinct and main cast as well.

Mills, Somerset, and Doe travel in a car together with Doe in the backseat, separated from Mills and Somerset (who is in the driver's seat) via mesh. The detectives attempt to question Doe, yet no usable information is brought to their attention. Doe says how excited he is for them to see what he has prepared - Before talking about how his murders were justified. Mills attempts to degrade Doe by stating they could've caught him at any time. Doe refutes these by taunting Mills with the fact he could've killed him in the alleyway (where Doe was initially compromised), which results in Mills losing control and yelling at Doe (which proves to Doe himself that his aim is going to be completely effective). A helicopter follows the car from above, keeping a key eye on the travel and listening in through Somerset's wire.

Once the trio arrives at the location, Doe asks what time it is. Somerset tells him it's around seven o'clock, and Doe knows it's almost time for his strategy to take full form. Moments later, a van begins to pull up on the road - Somerset instructs Mills to stay with Doe while he goes and checks it out. Doe accounted for two outcomes here —>

1. If Somerset is the one to rush over to the van and open the box (the most likely scenario), he uncovers the truth whilst also isolating himself away from Doe and Mills. This grants Doe a specific amount of time to communicate directly to Mills, which aids in his strategy functioning as intended.

2. If Mills is the one to go over to the van and open the box, he'll see his wife's decapitated head right in front of him. This achieves the same result, as Mills would be isolated from Doe and Somerset in this scenario and would be given the very proof he needs to kill Doe as soon as he returns, whilst keeping Somerset in the dark.

Somerset first hypothesizes there's a bomb in the box, which is logical - But after making sure that isn't the case, he opens the box and is greeted with Tracy's head.

At this exact moment, Doe takes advantage of his isolated time with Mills - Stating he is envious of Mills. Envious of his normal life and his pretty wife - Mills halts for a moment and asks how he knows about his wife. Doe states it's rather easy to purchase information from the precinct as a member of the press, and then describes the events that occurred earlier that evening. Mills raises his gun towards Doe and waits for Somerset. When Somerset returns, he pleads to know that Doe's words are untrue - However, Somerset cannot contest this (a trap Doe had anticipated to make the situation more dire for Mills).

As a final nail in the coffin, Doe states Tracy begged for the life of the unborn child inside her - Just then Somerset slaps him, but it's too late. Mills, who didn't know Tracy was pregnant, is horrified. His eyes fill with tears, and he raises his gun once again. Doe asks Mills to become Wrath for him, and to that Mills sends a bullet directly into his head - Before shooting his lifeless body over and over again. Doe died as Envy, admiring the life of detective

Mills - Mills symbolically died that day, representing Wrath. Doe had completed his goal of all seven “murders”, and had cemented his plan in history.