Anna and Nina liveblog Death Note (2017)

LOOK IT’S SEATTLE. SEE THERE’S THE SEATTLE SPACE NEEDLE. THAT’S HOW YOU KNOW WE’RE IN SEATTLE.

Why is Mia being allowed to just stand around in the middle of the squad and not move or participate at all in the routine? And then she’s lifted and she just crosses her arms like a little bitch and runs off to *smoke?* In the middle of the *schoolyard.* She’s supposed to be an *athlete,* how has she not been kicked off the squad by now?

Light is just…being paid for doing that kid’s homework…right out in the open. In the middle of the yard. During…recess, I guess.

Ooh, Mia so punk, walking in the rain like a badass while everyone else is running for cover.

Light didn’t deduce that that kid was held back twice, he just knew it offhand (as I bet do a lot of other students), meaning he’s not demonstrating himself to be extra smart, just petty and good at simple arithmetic. Also isn’t Light supposed to be *popular?*

No seriously, *Light is popular.* He’s a model student, he’s got friends (or at least people who think they’re his friends), he goes to cram school, he’s a *role model.*

This is less about this movie specifically and more about movies and TV in general, but why do people always read out loud what they’re reading on screens or in books? The camera lingers on the text long enough that I’m clearly supposed to read it too, which I do, so like…give me some credit.

Ryuk is part porcupine, I think? That would explain his collar spikes.

Oh my god Light screams like a little girl. And subsequently like every girl in every horror movie ever made when she’s trapped in a locked room with a single window in the door and the creature from the black lagoon trying to eat her skin.

Why didn’t Ryuk eat the apple core?

Just because you *can* say “fuck” doesn’t mean you have to do it *every single sentence.*

Wait, so now Ryuk is goading Light on? Urging him to kill people? “I know you want to”? What happened to “I was bored, humans are fun”?

Holy shit, Light, whose first thought is “decapitation”? Also wow, that was really unnecessarily gory.

When that teacher comes back and sees her classroom totally trashed, Light is gonna be in so much trouble.

*Light is not a cheater.* He does not *need* to cheat. He is also not *preachy* about how little he thinks of other people. He also has a *good relationship* with his father.

Seriously Ryuk, eat the damn apple cores.

“What exactly can I do with this Death Note”? He explicitly wrote out apparently over 95 rules so you wouldn’t have to ask that, dumbass, why don’t you try *paying attention?* Unless, wait a minute, are you telling me this version of Light is…*not a genius?* No *way.*

“Two days? Your fingers are huge.” Holy crap, this script is *awful.*

“The Death Note can only operate within a 23-day window (in the human calendar). This is called the 23-Day rule.” (Death Note 13, “How to Read”)

“Keeper of the note”? So I guess the whole Shinigami mythos is just scrapped.

Ew. Ew. I’m calling unnecessary roughness on that knife-into-neck death scene.

Ryuk’s face looks like someone carved up a piece of tree bark or something.

“You don’t have to lie to me,” that implies that Light was actively trying to make Mia believe that he was being truthful when he said that Kenny’s death was a tragedy, and if that’s the case, he’s one of the worst liars I’ve ever seen. (Incidentally this is I think the third instance of him being a truly awful liar and the movie’s only been going for about 21 minutes.)

I sincerely doubt that Kenny was *actually* a sociopath.

*Light is a social chameleon.* He’s not awkward or shy around girls, he’s not desperate for approval from edgy emo cheerleader goth wannabes, and he should *know* that it is *beyond* risky to tell anyone about the Death Note. Particularly some girl he’s apparently just meeting for the first time (despite having, I’m guessing, creepily lusted after her from afar for awhile).

“Only the keeper of the Note can see me”? Well there goes that intricate plot nuance.

Boy oh boy, that was some dramatic bouncing around on that sheet of old tea-stained paper.

“If anything I think you’re not crazy enough.” No no. No. No, it’s not *craziness* that attracts Misa to Light, it’s his sense of *justice.* I mean yes, *she* is crazy, as is he (to put it very simplistically), but that’s not how they see *themselves.* It’s *definitely* not how she sees him. (Yeah, I said “Misa.”)

“‘We’? Like we as in us?” Oh lord… One of my favorite things about Light is his utter emotional detachment from the girls he got involved with, his ability to manipulate them without becoming invested. If he’s so heavily directed by his hormones, he’s a much less effective and efficient killer.

You *moron,* you complete and utter *idiot.* Don’t talk about killing people in the middle of a public library! I don’t care how fantastical you think you sound talking about killing people with a notebook, or how much you think no one is listening because you’re unpopular or whatever, *you* *do not talk about committing murder in a public place.*

Wait, so is killing people like some kind of aphrodisiac for them or something? Because if so I’m pretty sure I’ve seen that episode of *Law & Order.* And that episode of *Criminal Minds.* And that episode of *Law & Order: SVU*. My point being it’s not a weird kooky fetish that the world has never seen before, it’s hacky and predictable and kind of lazy.

“It also *sort of* means ‘killer’ in Japanese.” Oh my god… “Kira… I don’t really like how it obviously comes from ‘killer,’ but that’s what people all over the world already know me as.” (Death Note 1) Why would Light purposefully give himself a nickname? Any name he chose would ultimately be something that could be used to track back to him, especially if L is supposed to be omniscient or whatever and so good at getting into Kira’s headspace. (Despite no actual proof of that because this L apparently doesn’t need to *demonstrate* his genius since everyone will just take it as gospel sight unseen.) Also what random name meanings book was he reading that gave him that information?

I’m pretty sure that not every single one of those criminals Light killed knows how to write perfect Japanese. And yet… “For the last one, I wrote ‘Writes “I know that L suspects the Japanese police.”’ I thought this one might work, but since it didn’t, it means that he couldn’t write something that he himself didn’t know or think.” (Death Note 1)

“Can anyone stop it? And, should they?” Look at all those dead people! All those brutally chopped-up corpses! Yes, yes they should stop it! Also what methods have they used to be certain that *none* of these killings are copycats? Because I bet some of them are, and if so they should at *least* be arresting those people.

The insulin spike from the candies, seriously? L likes sweets, leave it alone. He’s eccentric and weird, not all his habits need to be explained or boost his mental capabilities. And did Watari just sing “Optimistic Voices” to L to help him sleep? Is it supposed to be meaningful? Or…ironic? Clever? A good idea, in any way? Also what is this “completely sure” bullshit, give me a percentage of certainty or give me nothing.

Light is doing *nothing* to divert suspicion from himself. On the one hand, I’m fine with it because this Light is clearly an idiot, but on the other, *why hasn’t he been caught yet?*

L IS FAMOUS. THE POLICE HAVE WORKED WITH HIM BEFORE. MANY TIMES. According to Soichiro, the only reason Matsuda was unfamiliar with him at first was that he’d never been to an Interpol meeting before (Death Note 1); *L is well known in the international police community, he is not a theoretical figure.* And he wouldn’t speak through his computer without a voice modulator, I’m certain of that.

How does L know Kira is in Seattle? I saw *no* effort to confirm that suspicion.

That website was definitely made in the 1990s.

*Stop. Talking. In. Public. Places. About. Killing. People.*

“These are real people with real problems and they’ve been ignored,” huh? Sounds like the beginning of a tragic backstory to explain away Mia’s deranged behavior. (Whoops, no it’s not, never mind.)

Wait a second, L is just sitting out there in the open? Meeting people? People he doesn’t know? People, period? “Rest your glutes”? What…what is going on?

If L “knows” that Kira is in Seattle and likely not Japanese, why does he keep pronouncing “Kira” with a Japanese-ish lilt on the “r”? How does he “know” the name is being used to mean “killer”? According to various websites of varying reliability, its origin is Greek or Sanskrit.

L is giving a *press conference?* On the steps of the *courthouse? What is going on?*

“Kira cannot kill by simply sight alone.” Hello, you’ve reached the department of redundancy department, how may I direct your telephone call? Also how did you know that, I recall no effort to test the theory.

Are Light and Mia wearing sunglasses because they think it’ll make them invisible? What are they, D-list celebrities?

Light has *no* strategy. *None.* I’m *stunned* that he hasn’t been caught yet.

Oh look, a heart attack death. Finally.

That music cue during the FBI agents’ deaths was…really weird. I think the lyrics were supposed to be meaningful somehow, but it played so briefly that it seemed more like a poorly planned interruption than anything.

“I decide who dies, you obey me, those are the rules.” “And who do you think wrote the rules?” Not you, that’s for sure. Well, yeah, you wrote them, but you sure didn’t invent them and you sure don’t know them all: “Since the limitations applying to the conditions of a death are unknown to the Shinigami, Death Note owners must find out on their own” (Death Note 13, “How to Read”). And now this is a game that Ryuk has just been waiting for Light to lose? Also you can’t kill a Shinigami by writing their name in the Death Note, dumbass. And if the most anyone’s ever written of Ryuk’s name is the first two letters, what about that guy who wrote “Don’t trust Ryuk”? And if we’re now pretending that you *can* kill a Shinigami by writing their name in the Death Note, wouldn’t that have, I don’t know, killed him?

Heels down, dumbass. L sits with his feet flat on whatever surface he’s crouching on.

*Light just admitted to L that he’s Kira.* I’m 99.997% sure that no one on this damn production staff, from the script supervisor on up to the director, has ever read or seen this series, or possibly even heard of it before they were given the rights to make this movie.

“You’re the one who flew into the sun; I’m just here to make sure you actually burn.” I don’t… I’m running out of words for how incredibly bad this script is.

So being a cheerleader somehow negates Mia’s self-worth? Professional cheerleaders are *incredibly* hardworking, not to mention treated like shit by a large portion of the sports-viewing public (and, as I understand it, much of the franchise’s managerial staff).

See, no, “I love you” is the sort of thing Light tells girls to get them to do stuff, not the sort of thing a girl tells Light to get him to follow her stupid plans.

Oh please, as if “Watari” isn’t a pseudonym. At the very least, it’s not his full name.

Oh my *god.* “Once the victim’s name, cause of death, and conditions of death have been written down in the Death Note, the death will take place even if that Death Note, or part of the note used, is destroyed before the stated time of death.” “If you wish to changed anything written in the Death Note within six minutes and 40 seconds after you wrote it, you must first rule out the characters you want to erase with two straight lines. The time and conditions of death can be changed, but once the victim’s name has been written, that individual’s death can never be averted” (Death Note 13, “How to Read”). None of this “you get one redo” bullshit, *none* of that.

Light can’t manipulate Watari’s behavior by *talking* to him; if the directions aren’t explicitly given *in* the Death Note, *then those actions have no effect.*

It continues to very much weird me out that L is just like, walking around in public in broad daylight.

Is L having some kind of emotional breakdown? Isn’t he supposed to be the world’s best detective, all rational and thoughtful and leading with his mind over his heart? I mean I know Watari is very important to him, but he’s supposed to be *endlessly* pragmatic.

So…once the police find the Death Note and Light loses ownership, it automatically transfers back to Ryuk? What about lending the Note? What about ownership transferring if the previous owner dies? I think they’re making these rules up as they go along.

Why is Watari singing to himself? Did Light write “Watari drives to the orphanage while acting extra weird for no reason”?

Is that a top hat? An actual, literal top hat. Oh lord, it *is.*

Why is the orphanage so rundown and stereotypically creepy? Who left it in such a state of disarray, with all those toys lying around everywhere? Where are Mello and Matt and Near and all the rest? *What is happening?*

“Give me the New York field office. NOW!” Yeah, no, this is not my L.

Such hardcore prom pictures. Fight the power, rebel against the machine! Oh, you goofy kids, what *will* you get up to next?

Yes, Light, make sure to show the Death Note to the camera because the audience certainly wouldn’t be able to guess what dirty black leather-bound book you were pulling out of your locker otherwise.

Random slow motion! Dramatic top hat reclamation!

Hang on, so you’re telling me that Mia has the diabolical mastermind this entire time?

Yeah, there *are* so many fucking rules, and one of the cardinal ones is that *once a person’s name has been written there is no way to reverse their death.*

Why…why the Ferris wheel? I… Really, why the Ferris wheel? Well, optics, but like…why?

L. Stop your screaming. You’re accomplishing nothing. And Light, stop running around like a maniac. You’re attracting attention to yourself. And L, don’t run into traffic, you moron! At night! You’ll be run over! Jeez, did Light really just run into a chain link fence? And L’s running across the counter at a bar? And was that a baby crying? Man, every time I think this movie’s run out of stupid clichés to trot out, it proves me wrong.

That…that random guy just…brought a two by four with him out into the alleyway…and clocked some random kid with it because he said some other random kid was Kira. I don’t… None of this makes any sense.

“You’ll never see me again” isn’t really much of a threat if she doesn’t really care about you. And I mean I know she said “I love you so much” or whatever but her actions really don’t bear that out, at all. Also, wait, if they’re under the impression that one person whose name has been written in the book can be saved, but only one, and he knew she had written his name, then when he wrote her name, he had to know that at least *one* of them was going to die. Unless he’s, dun dun dunnn! An *idiot.*

Dramatic slow motion hanging from a Ferris wheel! Featuring Another Weird Musical Cue! And Super Dramatic Falling From a Ferris Wheel! Oh, seriously, they fall from exactly the same height and she lands in a random pile of flower petals while he lands in the water? How stupidly heavy-handed is this forced symbolism going to get?

*That is not how you wake up from a coma.*

Yeah, no kidding it was him, he didn’t exactly go out of his way to hide it.

Wait, why the switch from “her boyfriend” to “I”? And wouldn’t it be safer to just write “Light Turner”?

Wait, now *L* is using the Death Note? L doesn’t kill people, what is this nonsense? Did this case somehow cause him to lose his marbles? And why is “The Power of Love” playing over the ending credits? As if any of the music in this movie has fit, but that one’s so noticeable and loud, so shouldn’t it be…I don’t know, meaningful? Or something?

Ryuk. *Eat the damn apple cores.*