TYLER DURDEN - FIGHT CLUB.



SPOILER ALERT

(don't read if you haven't watched the movie)

Before reading the document, you need to know that the NARRATOR is the SAME PERSON as Tyler Durden. All the actions carried out by both were, in fact, done by a single person (the protagonist). Tyler Durden was an alternate version created by the Narrator himself due to insomnia issues. In this document, I will always provide TWO explanations: what seems to happen in the movie (the viewer's perspective) and what is REALLY happening (the actual timeline).

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I won't use thinking categories

FULL SCALE IQ = Green
Reasoning/Intelligence = Dark Green
EI/SQ/Psychoanalysis = Yellow
Planning/Strategy/Tactics = Cyan
Manipulation/Deception = Red
Miscellaneous(Anticipation, Observation, etc.) = Purple



The Narrator is the protagonist of the movie. He is attending a support group for men who suffer from testicular cancer. Bob, the Narrator's friend, hugs him tightly (Bob has breast-like nipples due to a hormonal treatment). Eight months ago, Bob's testicles were removed, and because of that, he had to undergo hormone therapy. The Narrator explains how the process works, saying that after the therapy, Bob's testosterone levels were very high, and as a consequence, his body increased the production of estrogen.

(Crystallized Intel)

Going back a little in time, the Narrator explains that for 6 months, he was unable to sleep. Yes, 6 MONTHS.

A brief explanation so you can understand the feat:
The most well-known and officially documented record of staying awake belongs to Randy Gardner, a 17-year-old American student who, in 1964, remained awake for 264 hours (approximately 11 days and 25 minutes). He accomplished this as part of a science fair project, being monitored by doctors and sleep researcher Dr. William C. Dement, as well as a U.S. Navy officer to ensure the validity of the experiment.

Effects Randy Gardner suffered during the process:

- ***Days 1–2:*** *irritability, difficulty concentrating, mild motor coordination problems*
- ***Day 3:*** *attention lapses, slurred speech, blurred vision.*
- ***Day 4:*** *visual hallucinations (saw objects that didn't exist), impaired short-term memory.*
- ***Days 5–6:*** *paranoia, mental confusion, difficulty distinguishing reality from imagination.*
- ***Days 7–10:*** *fits of laughter without reason, extremely slow thinking, inability to perform simple tasks such as counting backwards.*
- ***Last day (Day 11):*** *episodes of "microsleep" (the brain would shut down for a few seconds even with eyes open).*

In other words:

Risks of extreme sleep deprivation:

- ➔ Hallucinations and psychosis.
- ➔ Severe cognitive deficits.
- ➔ Weakened immune system.
- ➔ Increased risk of heart and metabolic diseases.
- ➔ Possibility of death in extreme cases (in animal studies, rats deprived of sleep for prolonged periods died).

With this, we could say that it is IMPOSSIBLE for a human being to survive that long without proper rest (6 months is, honestly, absurd). The feat in itself already demonstrates INSANE Emotional Management, as well as Mental Fortitude/Stress Tolerance.

(Emotional Management, Mental Fortitude, Stress Tolerance)

While at work, the Narrator notices that his manager is full of energy, deducing that the man had washed himself with cappuccino milk.

(Abductive Reasoning, Emotional Perception)

The Narrator describes how he, like everyone else, is becoming a slave to instinctive domestic consumerism.

(Social Awareness)

The Narrator's doctor was the one responsible for recommending the visits to the men with testicular cancer. *"You want to see suffering? Show up at the Methodist Church on Tuesday nights."* Through these visits to the church, the Narrator had profound experiences regarding society in general, greatly increasing his Social Awareness.

(Social Awareness)

When they were told to form pairs, the Narrator noticed Bob (the first time they met). He saw from a distance (maybe about 4 meters away) that Bob's eyes were filled with tears. Knees pressed

together/inward, small steps—these were some of the observations Tyler made to understand Bob. After he began attending the place regularly, the Narrator started sleeping again.

(Observation)

Now, the Narrator was infiltrating various different social groups (he chose to attend groups that were emotionally shaken, due to some illness or something similar). He clearly displayed good social integration.

(Social Integration)

At a certain moment, while listening to a presentation, the Narrator enters his own mind, described as a cave.



The cave is enormous, with many paths, and he is able to walk freely through it. He even visualizes an animal, described as “his inner animal” (a penguin).
Basically, the Narrator is able to create a frozen world in his mind, the size of a cave. He is constantly visualizing, memorizing, and processing information in order to navigate freely within this world.

(CPI & VSI)

It’s worth noting that, although the emotions the Narrator felt during the therapy sessions were real, he pretended and acted as if he had one of these illnesses. Surprisingly, he was able to deceive others with his stories, even using a false name.

(Acting Skills, Fabrication)

One day, the Narrator noticed a new woman who was always attending the same activities as him. He knew she was lying, as some of the illnesses she claimed to have wouldn't even be possible.

(Observation, Memory, Deductive)

After the appearance of that woman, Marla Singer, the Narrator explains that he could no longer sleep. The presence of another liar in the room made him uncomfortable, as if he were being observed by someone else. During his meditation, the Narrator even adds Marla Singer to his ice cave. It is evident that he is capable of adding whatever he wants into his frozen cave.

(CPI & VSI)

When confronting Marla, the Narrator openly says that he doesn't want her there anymore. He knows that she is not dying. (Interestingly, he also references Tibetan philosophy and Sylvia Plath, saying that even though it's obvious that we are all dying, that's not the sense in which he wants to express himself).

(VCI & Crystallized Intel)

Since she could also expose him, the Narrator cannot reveal that Marla is a fraud. During the discussion, they talk about various illnesses addressed at these events, which indicates that the Narrator has at least a basic level of knowledge about the human body. When it comes to swapping days of the week (the Narrator proposed a strategy that would satisfy both of them by dividing their appearances so they wouldn't meet at the same events), the Narrator asks for Marla's phone number. He has already created a profile of Marla, describing her as someone with a strong philosophy, and notes that she could die at any moment.

(Strategy, Crystallized Intel, Psychological Profiling)

Cutting to the next scene, we are shown how the Narrator's life works. He wakes up in different places, often without knowing what he has to do, but figuring it out as he goes.

During a flight on an airplane, the Narrator meets Tyler Durden. For those who have seen the movie, it's clear that they are the same person, meaning the Narrator is actually talking to himself at this moment.

During this conversation, Tyler asks if the Narrator knows why they put oxygen masks on airplanes. The Narrator answers that it's so people can breathe, but Tyler has a different perspective. Tyler says that the oxygen makes you domesticated, and in an emergency situation, you panic, become euphoric and docile, and end up accepting your fate.



By observing the dolls' expressions, Tyler is able to see through the intentions of the oxygen mask.

Beyond reasoning, my explanation encompasses parallel processing — a single body handling different lines of thought, ideas, and philosophies

(CPI, Inductive Reasoning, Observation)

After hearing the Narrator, Tyler feels a desperation in his laugh, which makes him grab his briefcase. The Narrator notices that Tyler's briefcase is the same as his, but Tyler doesn't comment on it. Soap. Tyler Durden makes and sells soap. Tyler tells the Narrator that it's possible to make napalm by mixing gasoline with orange juice. In other words, you can build all kinds of explosives with household materials.

(Crystallized Intel, Knowledge Application, Emotional Perception)

On his way home, the Narrator describes his place of residence. He lives in an apartment, on the 15th floor of a building. The walls were made of solid concrete. Even so, an accident happened, which led to the explosion of his apartment. Luckily, Marla Singer's phone number was one of the only things that survived the blast.
In the movie, the Narrator says that later the police told him what had happened. The stove flame had probably been left on, leaking a bit of gas. That gas slowly filled the apartment (about 600 square meters, from floor to ceiling, for days and days). Then, the refrigerator compressor might have snapped.



I'll say right away that the one who caused the explosion was Tyler.
To explain better, what really happened here was:
The Narrator himself (or rather, Tyler) caused the explosion in a way that deceived the police. They thought it was the stove, but in reality, that was anticipated by Tyler. Basically, Tyler's strategy here was to bring the Narrator's personality closer to his own.

Tyler's strategy consisted of keeping the Narrator away from his own home (whether with work or any other activity) so that the bomb he had left would explode without him being nearby. The chance of this strategy working was always absolute, because if Tyler realized the Narrator might get close, he would switch personalities with the Narrator, taking control of the body.

Furthermore, by keeping the Narrator away, the police would assume it was an accident that began right after the Narrator left. Which is incorrect, since Tyler took control of the body to set off an explosion (using gasoline and orange juice). What did Tyler want with this? From the very beginning of the film, the Narrator explained that he was a slave to unnecessary consumerism. What Tyler wanted with the explosion was to destroy the Narrator's "useless" material possessions, so that he would abandon that life and start over from scratch (thus beginning the process of turning into Tyler Durden himself).

Durden anticipated that after the explosion, the Narrator would try to call him.
This anticipation was based on the fact that Tyler knew the Narrator didn't have real friends (only momentary acquaintances, just as he described on the plane), and that without his possessions, he would only have Tyler as support. From the beginning, Tyler tried to appear charismatic enough so that the Narrator would want, on his own, to meet him again after the plane.

(VSI, Strategy, Planning, Anticipation, Knowledge Application,EU, ER, Inductive Reasoning, Crystallized Intel Mass Manipulation, Logical Manipulation, Indirect Manipulation, Misdirection, Concealment)

Tyler doesn't answer at first, but calls back as soon as the Narrator threatened to leave. Tyler picks up the call, and for us—knowing they are the same person—Tyler is pretending not to recognize who is calling.

After they meet at a bar, the Narrator starts venting to Tyler, saying he lost everything and that he was so close to feeling complete (having clothes, a couch, stereo equipment, and so on that he needed). Tyler then questions him. (Yellow = Tyler / Green = Narrator)

Do you know what a duvet is?

– A quilt.

It's a blanket.

Just a blanket. Why do guys like us know what a duvet is?

Is it essential to our survival, in the literal sense of the word?

- No.

So what are we, then?

I don't know, consumers?

Right, we're consumers.

We're a byproduct of an obsession with a lifestyle.

Murder, crime, poverty.

Those things don't interest me.

What interests me are celebrity magazines, TV with 500 channels, some guy's name on my underwear. Rogaine. Viagra. Olestra.

- Martha Stewart.

- Screw Martha Stewart. Martha's done, she's on the Titanic. It's all going downhill.

So screw your sofas and accessories.

I say, don't want to be complete. I say, stop trying to be perfect. I say, let's... let's evolve. Let the chips fall where they may. That's my way, and I could be wrong.

The things you own end up owning you.

Here we see Tyler's strong life philosophy.

Right after leaving the bar, the Narrator says he needs to go to a hotel, but that it's late. Tyler says

he already understood. Theoretically, the Narrator was looking for a place to stay, and was counting on Tyler to offer his home. Well, that wasn't the Narrator's original idea, but Tyler made him think it was his own choice—manipulating him so they would stay together.

(Direct Manip)

Tyler agrees to let the Narrator go to his place, but with one condition: the Narrator has to hit him as hard as he can.

Explaining a bit more about Tyler's nature, we find out what else he does. While everyone else sleeps, he works. He worked part-time as a projectionist, where we can see that Tyler clearly has a lot of knowledge about his job. In the film industry, they call the orange dots that appear in movie reels "cigarette burns."

A curious moment, however, is that Tyler is able to see those orange dots in real life without even looking directly at them. That would be unrealistic, since it means Tyler knows he's in a movie. Just like the Narrator, who in this scene is speaking directly to the audience. It's as if Tyler also sees the world from another angle—but I'll leave that to your interpretation.



Tyler also works as a waiter at the luxurious Hotel Pressman. Basically, Tyler messed up a LOT of people's food, but of course, if he kept the job, it's because he was able to hide it very well.

Going back to the request to fight, Tyler says he's never fought in his life and that he doesn't want to die without a single scar. I would say that's a lie considering Tyler's lifestyle and physique, but since he's just an alternate version of the Narrator, it's more like a hint. I'll talk about the "hints" the movie gives later.

Tyler and the Narrator fight—and they enjoy it.



The Narrator says, “We should do this again sometime,” and Tyler responds with a laugh (which makes sense with the idea that Tyler’s plan is to turn the Narrator into a version of himself).

On the way to Tyler’s house, he says he’s been living there for over a year. Almost the entire house was rotten, with most parts damaged. There were no locks, either because of the police or to prevent anyone else from breaking in. The Narrator says he didn’t know if Tyler owned the house or was just squatting. According to him, neither option would surprise him. This is again part of Tyler’s plan. His personality, philosophy, and lifestyle are all deeply connected to this house. It happens in a way that the Narrator would NOT be surprised if Tyler had broken in, without questioning whether anyone actually lived there, and realizing that in fact, he was invading his own residence.

The things in this house either don’t work or barely work. If you turned on one lamp, another would go out. There were no neighbors, just some warehouses and a paper factory.

(Planning, Mental Fortitude)



Several times, Tyler and the Narrator would go to the bar to fight. One day, some men showed up to see what was happening. In reality, what was really going on was that the Narrator was fighting alone in a way that would draw a lot of attention. In other words, the tactic of having the Narrator hit Tyler also served to keep the plan going, stirring the Narrator's desires so that they would consecutively schedule fights and attract the attention of potential new members—members, of course, of the Fight Club.

(Planning)



Of course, participating in these fights would raise suspicions, especially from coworkers and the Narrator's manager.

The Narrator explains that whenever it rained, he and Tyler had to turn off the power in the house. By the end of the first month, the Narrator didn't even miss the TV anymore. He no longer cared about the old, broken-down fridge.



As time went on, more people joined to fight in the bar's parking lot.

Again, describing the terrible place the Narrator was living in: rain ran down through the lamp shades, all the wooden parts swelled and shrank (rotting the whole place), and everywhere there were rusty metal pieces that cut the Narrator's elbows. Naturally, we can notice that Tyler/Narrator has excellent resistance to illnesses and things like that, considering the situation they were living in (there's never a moment showing either of them unwell).



In this scene, the Narrator is reading an article written by an organization in the first person. While the Narrator reads, Tyler finishes the sentence that the Narrator was about to read. There are thousands of books and pieces of content in this place, even if of very poor quality (the books were probably all ruined, wet, and dirty). Considering that Tyler had been living there for over a year (and the Narrator frequented the place while his mind was altered), it's likely that he read most of these books. Remembering a specific sentence could indicate that Tyler memorized a large portion of the books he read, if not all of them. This wouldn't be unlikely, as we know he truly possesses advanced knowledge across multiple fields.

(Planning, Mental Fortitude, VCI, WMI, Crystallized Intel)



The Narrator's manager questions him about the wounds and injuries he has, which he simply ignores. When the manager asks if he has finished the reports, the Narrator shows the paperwork, signaling that he has completed everything required. Doing these reports is another way to protect himself, so the manager doesn't have much to complain about or use as a reason to fire him—at least for now.



“If you had to choose, who would you fight?” Tyler asks the Narrator. He says he would fight his boss. Tyler says he would fight his own father.

The Narrator mentions that he never really knew his father—not that he had never seen him, but his father left when he was six. He married another woman and had other children. His father did this every six years, always changing families.

Tyler comments that his father never went to college, so it was important that he did. Tyler graduated and asked his father, “I graduated, now what?” His father replied that he should get a job. The Narrator says the same thing happened to him. At 25, Tyler made his annual call again and asked, “And now?” His father responded that he should get married. Again, the story is similar to the Narrator’s. Tyler says that his generation consists of men raised by women—do they really need another one?

What Tyler is doing here is giving hints about the Narrator’s true identity. Tyler basically tells the same story that the Narrator experienced, in a way that allows him to piece things together in the future. But at the moment, it just seems like Tyler and he had a similar adolescence.

(Planning)

On weekdays, Tyler and the Narrator continued with their normal lives, so as not to raise too much suspicion. However, on weekends, they would meet with a large group of people, organizing fights and brawls. One day, they decided to make all their efforts official—another step in Tyler’s plan: the CREATION of the FIGHT CLUB.

They gathered in the bar’s basement, taking advantage of the background noise from the music already playing. Of course, this was with the bar owner’s permission. It’s reasonable to think that Tyler had already arranged something like this with the owner before even talking to the Narrator; otherwise, the owner would have obviously called the police after seeing all the “gang” fights and brawls happening in the parking lot. Every week, Tyler would go over the rules of the FIGHT CLUB.

RULES:

- 1. You do NOT talk about Fight Club
- 2. You do NOT talk about Fight Club;
- 3. When someone yells “stop!”, taps out, or passes out, the fight is over;
- 4. Only two guys to a fight;
- 5. One fight at a time;
- 6. No shirts, no shoes;
- 7. Fights last as long as they have to;

- 8. If this is your first night at Fight Club, you MUST fight..

The first two rules being the same is a way to make it clear that talking about Fight Club outside of the club is not allowed. What many don't realize is that Tyler KNEW this rule would eventually be broken. This is made evident by the eighth rule:

"If this is your first night at Fight Club, you MUST fight."

If talking about Fight Club wasn't allowed—especially with outsiders—it would be impossible for new members to appear. In that case, the eighth rule wouldn't be necessary. This tactic was another part of Tyler's plan: now he would know who breaks the rules and who doesn't.

After some time practicing the fights, one day Marla calls the Narrator. He asks her how she found him, and she replies that he had left her another number. Marla begins talking to him, but the Narrator isn't interested and lets her speak alone.



The Narrator thought he had a sexual dream about Marla. When he woke up, he noticed that Tyler's room was locked. Inside the bathroom, there were several condoms. Before he realized it, Marla was at the house. He made her leave, which left her irritated.

Shortly after, Tyler appeared again. Tyler said that when he returned home, he noticed the phone was off the hook and decided to call Marla over.

Tyler went to Marla's house, and while they were talking, they heard the sound of the police. Marla said they were coming after her, so they had to escape.

Now that they were alone, Tyler made the Narrator SWEAR that he would not tell Marla or anyone else about him or what happens in that house. He said everything would be over. The Narrator thought he was talking about Fight Club and everything else, but in reality, what Tyler

wanted to protect most was his own existence. It was another way to ensure the Narrator wouldn't speak about Tyler.

Tyler and Marla have aggressive sex every day, which bothers the Narrator.

One day, he gets a day off work because of his poor appearance and smoking on the job. The manager wants the Narrator to pull himself together.



On the same day, the Narrator receives a call from the police. They wanted to inform him that they had new information regarding the explosion in his apartment.

They said it seems that someone sprayed Freon on the front door lock and then used a spatula to open the cylinder. Of course, the Narrator claimed he didn't know anything. They also found a residue of ammonium oxalate perchlorate, which suggests a homemade bomb was used. According to the police, whoever prepared the bomb could have turned off the pilot days before the explosion. In other words, the gas only functioned as a detonator.

Tyler listened to the conversation and told the Narrator to say that the explosion was no longer a problem for him, as the destruction of his property had realigned his perception of the world.

With that, the Narrator decided to pretend to the officer that it wasn't a good time to talk. He said he was the person who took this most seriously—that this was his life, he loved every inch of that place, and it wasn't just a bunch of furniture that was destroyed, but also a part of himself.

Still, the Narrator believes the officer thinks he is responsible for the destruction of the apartment.

After ending the call, the Narrator notices that Marla and Tyler rarely appeared at the same time (except to have sex). He says this was very common in his parents' relationship. Tyler did this because he couldn't let the Narrator talk about him while Marla was present.

(Strategy, Planning, Tactics, EU, Social Integration, Social Awareness, Social Cognition, Social Engineering, Leadership, Fabrication, Acting Skills, Anticipation, Knowledge Apllication, Crystallized Intel,)

Tyler tells the Narrator that they need to make soap. Since Tyler had already introduced himself as a soap salesman, this wasn't strange. To make soap, you need to melt fat. Tyler wants to steal fat to produce the soap (stealing is yet another thing that isn't surprising considering Tyler's personality).

While avoiding a police patrol, Tyler and the Narrator carry a bag in which they will store the fat. According to Tyler, the proportion of salt must be exact, so the best fat for making soap is human fat. Yes, they are breaking into a liposuction clinic.

They manage to steal a large amount of fat thanks to Tyler's experience.
As the lard melts, the tallow rises to the surface. When the tallow hardens, you remove a layer of glycerin, add nitric acid, and you have nitroglycerin. If you then add sodium nitrate and sawdust, you can make dynamite.

Since we know that Tyler/Narrator was the one who blew up the apartment, and that it was certainly using this method, it's logical to think that Tyler had stolen soap ingredients several times before, always avoiding cameras and police to not get caught.

Tyler also demonstrates knowledge of ancient peoples. He says their clothes would come out cleaner when washed in a certain part of the river. This happened because human sacrifices were made on the hills above the river. The bodies burned, and the water passed through wood and ashes, creating lye.

Now he shows what he has in his hands: lye. Once mixed with the melted fat of bodies, a white discharge of soap ended up in the river.

Tyler asks for the Narrator's hand. As he stretches it out, Tyler kisses it. Right after kissing the Narrator's hand, Tyler pours lye onto it, causing a chemical burn. The chemical burn results in the skin melting—yes, his hand is literally having its skin melted while being held by Tyler. Chemical burns hurt more than any other type of burn and even leave scars forever.

The Narrator, experiencing pain like never before, tries to use a kind of meditation to avoid feeling it. Tyler stops the process, saying the Narrator needs to feel the pain. Again, the Narrator tries to hide in his ice cave, but Tyler prevents him from escaping it. Tyler yells and talks about how there's a possibility that God neither wants nor likes them. While the Narrator suffers, Tyler says there's a

way to stop all this. Vinegar would neutralize the burn, but first, the Narrator must give up. He has to lose his fear and accept that one day he will die.



The Narrator says that Tyler doesn't know how much this hurts, and then Tyler shows that he's done it to himself as well. After hearing Tyler's words, the Narrator composes himself and stops complaining about the wound, which kept opening more and more. Once Tyler sees that the Narrator is now willing to "let go," he pours vinegar to neutralize it.

(Strategy, Tactics, Planning, Crystallized Intel, Knowledge Application, Emotional Management, Emotional Engagement, Concealment, Logical Manipulation)

Tyler sold the soaps for $20 a bar, and considering the quality of the product, people really paid that price.

When the manager found a paper with the Fight Club rules, he went to confront the Narrator. The Narrator threatened the manager with harsh words but ended with a calmer response. At that moment, Tyler's words came out through the Narrator.

From this, I can say it wasn't carelessness on the Narrator's part, but rather Tyler testing his transformation in the Narrator. By leaving a note with that information, and considering the Narrator's state, it was clear the manager would react negatively. He would confront the Narrator, and Tyler anticipated that the Narrator would let loose.

After going to see Marla (by the way, she kisses him), the Narrator encounters Bob, the colleague from the beginning of the film. The Narrator asks how Bob is, and he says he's now involved in other business. When questioned, Bob says he can't talk about it because it would break the first and second rules. The Narrator understood that Bob was referring to Fight Club. It's strange that they've never met, but that's because they go on different days.

Bob asks if the Narrator has heard of the creator of this club. He describes the man as someone who sleeps at most one hour per night and who "was born in a psychiatric hospital." He was talking about Tyler Durden.

Bob and the Narrator fight.

(Strategy, Indirect Manip, Fabrication)

Tyler decides to talk about the tactic he used when creating the rules of Fight Club. He says he sees many new faces here, but that also means the first and second rules are being broken.

After delivering an incredible speech, completely raising the participants' morale, Tyler is stopped by Lou, the owner of the Tavern. Even with Irvine's permission—the man behind the counter—Lou doesn't care. According to him, Irvine now has a broken neck at home.

Another point is that we discover Tyler wasn't paying anything to Irvine. In other words, Tyler had to convince him purely through charisma and deception to be allowed to use the bar.

After trying to invite Lou to the Club, Tyler receives a punch in the stomach. Tyler says he still doesn't fully understand, basically asking for another hit. Again, and again, and again. Tyler was deliberately asking to be beaten. Meanwhile, Lou's security guard threatened the other fighters with a gun, preventing them from intervening.

Lou kept hitting Tyler, while Tyler kept provoking him. Interestingly, while Tyler takes the hits, the Narrator doesn't feel any pain. In other words, if Tyler can move and control the body, then in a dangerous situation, he is capable of transferring the mind so that at least one of them comes out unscathed.

Continuing, after the man stops hitting Tyler, he takes advantage of the opening to attack Lou while simultaneously disabling the guard's weapon, since he was in a position where it was impossible to miss both at the same time.

Tyler holds onto Lou, attacking him and rubbing his own blood from his face onto Lou. Durden does this to scare Lou, threatening him to allow Fight Club to continue and keep them there. Tyler ensures that Lou is traumatized in a way that will REALLY prevent him from ever bothering them again.

Perhaps many didn't notice, but do you understand what really happened here? Irvine simply ("mysteriously") had his neck broken for no apparent reason. It also wouldn't make much sense that Tyler didn't know about Lou, since Irvine wouldn't have allowed Fight Club to operate without at least mentioning Lou, the owner of the place.

Tyler was obviously aware of this, which means what happened was:

- He convinced Irvine to allow the fights in the establishment to happen without intervening;

- He kept Fight Club's activities completely secret from Lou, even persuading Irvine not to say anything;

- When he wanted to advance his plan, he would attack Irvine to draw Lou's attention;

- This indirectly manipulated Lou into coming to the establishment to check on things, discovering Fight Club;

- Tyler would stage a scene acting as if he didn't know what was happening, but deliberately took hits so he could later emotionally manipulate Lou and make him allow them to use the establishment;

- The whole situation would boost the members' morale, since they would have witnessed the epic scene of Durden attacking Lou and defending them, even as if he had died doing it.

(Strategy, Planning, Tactics, EU, EF, EE, EM, Social Awareness, Social Cognition, Social Engineering, Anticipation, Indirect Manip, Direct Manip, Emotional Manip, Logical Manip, Acting Skills, Concealment, Information Control, Misdirection, Info Gathering)

Tyler tells the members they'll have a "Homework Assignment" to do. They're to go out and pick a fight with a stranger. After starting the fight, they must somehow lose. Tyler explains that this is a difficult task because ordinary people will do everything they can to avoid a fight.

This strategy of Tyler's aligns with another part I'll explain now:

Tyler knew that before long, the Narrator would have to go through a re-evaluation, since his appearance and mood were increasingly being affected by some external cause. Tyler said to everyone there, including the Narrator, that he knew the Narrator was listening.

So, what the Narrator is about to do now is talk to his boss. He threatens his boss by saying he knows about the deliberate errors that happen (for example: safety locks failing in crash tests, brake

calipers stopping after 600 km, and fuel injectors exploding and burning people alive) and that he could simply report this to the Department of Transportation.

The boss calls security to try to remove the Narrator from his office, but in the meantime, the Narrator starts screaming for help and begins beating himself up. He throws himself against a glass table and basically tries to destroy himself so it looks as though his boss had attacked him violently.



When the security guards arrive, the boss is covered in blood on his hands, with the Narrator completely beaten up. In fact, the boss's hands are only covered in blood because the Narrator smeared his own blood onto them while crawling and running his hands over the boss's clothes.

Doing this brought many benefits to Tyler and the Narrator, as well as to Fight Club itself.

Completing this task allowed them to gain a phone, a computer, a fax machine, 52 weekly paychecks, and 48 airline tickets, along with corporate sponsorship. This way, Tyler and the Narrator were able to keep the Club running every night.

(Strategy, Planning, Tactics, EE, Indirect Manip, Logical Manip, Concealment, Info Control, Fabrication, Setting Traps, Trap Evasion, Prediction)

It is mentioned in the film that Tyler was involved in a class-action lawsuit at the hotel he worked at, because of urine found in the soup.

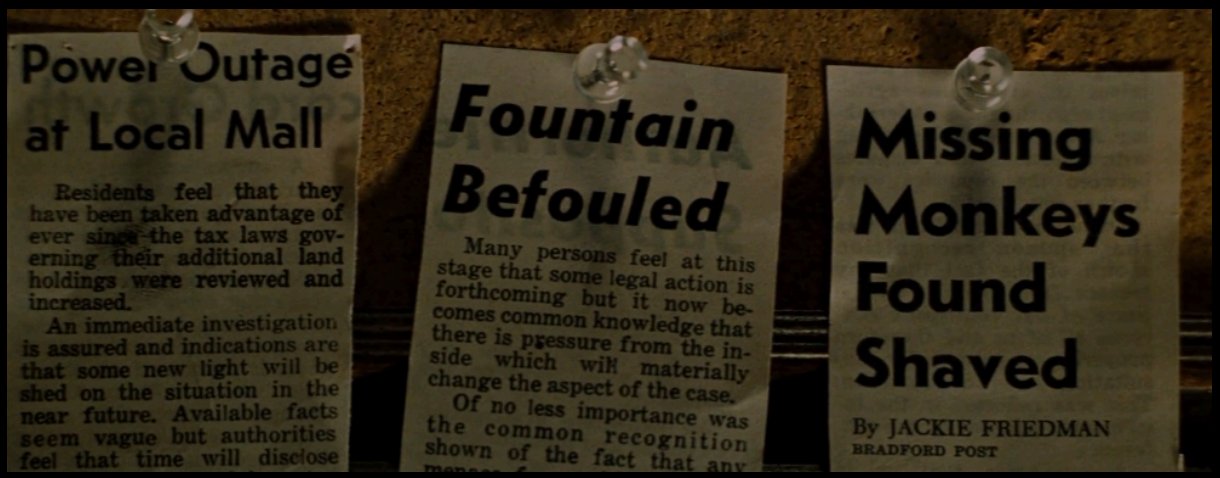
Tyler continues delivering his "homework assignments" in sealed envelopes. Each member received a mission, not necessarily the same as the others.

We see the members destroying rooftops, altering billboards, vandalizing stores, placing spikes for cars to run over, breaking random cars, feeding pigeons so they would poop on multiple vehicles, changing leaflets on airplanes, and so on.

All of this is meant to create massive chaos that affects much more than just the city.







Many activities happen simultaneously, making it impossible for the police to do anything. They are completely random incidents, which also prevents anyone from discovering the reason behind them.

Most of the mischief is carried out by the members, but Tyler and the Narrator also had some moments of action.

Tyler entered a store and told the Narrator to wait outside while holding a gun.

Durden threatened the clerk with the gun, bringing him outside. According to the man's ID, Tyler notes that he lives at Raymond K. Hessel, 1320 Southeast Banning, Apartment A. With this in mind, he deduces that the man lives in a small apartment, like a basement. He knows this because it's common to assign letters to subpar apartments.

Tyler starts intimidating the man, saying he will have his dental arch ripped out and will be disfigured. Durden also mentions some facts from the man's ID, asking what he studies. The man studied biology, and Tyler wanted to know why. After threatening to shoot, the guy says he wanted to be a veterinarian as a child. Tyler tells him that if he doesn't go back to studying to become a veterinarian within six weeks, he will die. Durden says he knows everything about the man, including where he lives. Tyler kept the man's ID.

By the way, it was all a bluff—the gun wasn't loaded. Tyler did this solely to change the clerk's perception of life, threatening him with a gun if he didn't attempt to pursue his true dream.

(Strategy, Planning, Tactics, Emotional Manip, Logical Manip, Direct Manip, Bluffing, Misdirection, Abductive Reasoning)

Tyler was setting up bunk beds in the Narrator's house when a man appeared at the door. Tyler glanced at him and said, "Too young."



The Narrator asks what this means, and Tyler explains that he should observe whoever appears at the door and say "Too ____." For example, if it's an overweight man, say he's too fat to enter. If it's

very old, say he's too old to enter. Now, if the candidate waits for three days without food, shelter, or encouragement, he may enter and join the training.

As time passes, we see that this young man doesn't give up, even with Tyler and the Narrator issuing "threats" toward him. Even after being hit by the Narrator with a broom, the young man doesn't react, doesn't say anything, and doesn't move.

After three days, Tyler allows him in. However, now Bob is also present, standing there and waiting in the same way the other young man had.

Tyler asks if the young man has a set of black clothes, to which he replies yes.

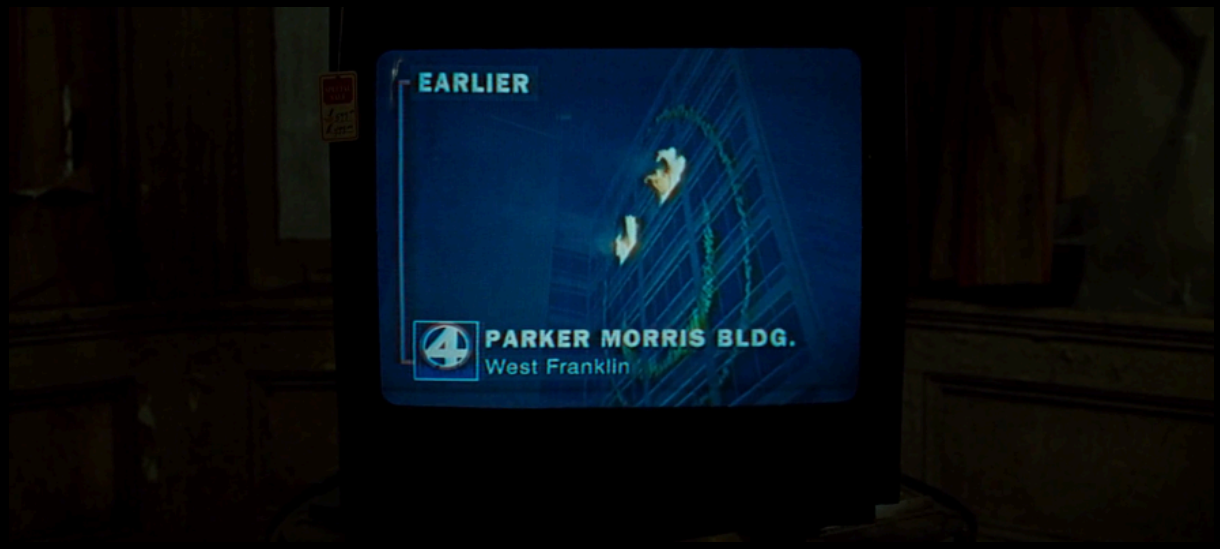


Tyler transformed the young man into a new man.



We see that Tyler has his new candidates perform his former role, which was administering this endurance test. This creates a loop where the new candidates who pass then do the same for the next ones trying to wait.

It reached a point where Tyler had an army at home, all working together for a greater purpose—whatever Tyler commanded them to do.



The police are investigating the acts of vandalism happening throughout the city, but they haven't reached many conclusions beyond thinking that they're being carried out by a gang of delinquents inspired by underground boxing clubs.

At an event with powerful executives, members of Fight Club (now part of a new organization adapted for candidates chosen by Tyler) infiltrate the venue as waiters, forging documents to gain entry and blend in. Since we know that Tyler always had this plan in mind, it means he spent that time working as a waiter to be able to infiltrate members in the future.

When one of the executives steps out to go to the bathroom, they take advantage of the opportunity to follow him. With their faces disguised, they ambush the executive and begin threatening him, telling him to stop the investigations. He is tied up, with a knife held to his genitals. Tyler wants the executive to confirm that no secret group exists. Durden also emphasizes that his influence is abnormal. The members of his team are spread across all types of professions, being part of any place he could imagine.

After the executive agrees, they escape, avoiding security cameras by taking a path Tyler had predicted would be free of obstacles.

Just to recall Tyler's influence: in addition to the new organization, Durden is still the mastermind of Fight Club (and is still able to keep it secret), so his influence extends far beyond just an army.

(WMI, VSI, Strategy, Planning, Tactics, Influence Building, EU, EF, EE, Fabrication, Disguise)

The Narrator felt the urge to destroy something beautiful, so he beat a member of the new organization (also known as Project Mayhem) until he was completely unrecognizable. Tyler realizes that his plan to transform the Narrator is nearly complete.

The Narrator begins questioning Tyler about this new club, Project Mayhem—what its purpose is, and why he hadn't explained it properly before.

Tyler and the Narrator were driving in a car with two other members behind them. When the Narrator asked this, they responded, "First Rule of Project Mayhem: Don't Ask Questions."

Tyler and the Narrator start arguing, and Tyler asks what the Narrator would like to do before he dies. While asking this, Tyler lets go of the steering wheel, showing that this could be the Narrator's last moment alive. What would he do if that were the case?

It's clear that Tyler feels no fear of death; in fact, he only survives because the other cars and trucks swerved away from his vehicle.

At that moment, Tyler reveals that he blew up the Narrator's apartment. He wants the Narrator to stop trying to control everything around him and just let things happen.

It's also noteworthy that the members of the organization are completely loyal to Tyler and did not oppose him wanting to kill everyone in that car. After the crash, the Narrator survives.

Tyler simply disappears after that.

As the Narrator walks through the house, we see that Tyler has already gathered all the information he needs for his plans, including data on the Project Mayhem members. The Narrator realizes that only Tyler knows what the next step of Project Mayhem will be. No one will tell him—even though he *is* Tyler, Tyler instructed that no one release this information, not even if the Narrator himself asked—about Tyler Durden's whereabouts.

At one point, Bob's body is carried by some members. All this alarm was because certain members were following specific orders Tyler gave them (meaning not even the members had 100% understanding of what was happening, as they were individually briefed on their tasks through untraceable communication). The plan involved using a public art installation (a huge metal ball) to destroy a café. They blew up the supports holding the ball, which fell and rolled into the café.

Unfortunately, during the chase, a police officer shot Bob in the head, leaving no chance of survival. The members wanted to hide the body, but the Narrator insisted they honor Bob's name.

After screaming like madmen, the Narrator tries to gather clues about Tyler's location. Searching through certain drawers, he finds some boarding passes in Tyler's name. Soon after, the police officer investigating the apartment explosion reappears, requesting the Narrator come to his office.

First, the Narrator searches for Tyler, visiting all the cities listed on Tyler's airline tickets, going from bar to bar. The Narrator apparently checked around 50 bars per city, and even though no one could really say where or who Tyler Durden was, the Narrator instinctively knew they were hiding something. Tyler's influence is so enormous that entire groups of bars across multiple cities would lie for him. The Narrator describes being able to discern immediately upon stepping off the plane whether a Fight Club was nearby.

Eventually, the Narrator becomes capable of recognizing just by looking who is part of the Club. He approaches, revealing he's a member and needs information, but they always refuse to say where Tyler is. According to the film, Fight Club spans the entire country.

While the Narrator talks with some men in a bar, they mention having heard stories about Tyler. According to them, Tyler undergoes plastic surgery every three years, and no one knows what he really looks like. Clearly, it's a lie, and the Narrator wouldn't believe such a fabricated story.

The Narrator says that wherever he went, he felt he had been there before. Searching for Tyler was like chasing the invisible man.

The Narrator's sensory abilities are so refined that he can locate a Fight Club meeting spot simply by sensing the dry smell of blood. He observes barefoot footprints chasing each other in circles, smells old sweat like fried chicken, and even feels the warm floor from a previous night's fight.

The Narrator feels he is always one step behind Tyler Durden.

One day, passing a bar, he finds a group of cooks shouting the same way Project Mayhem members did at Bob's death. He notices something, and a man from the bar calls him over. The man asks how the Narrator has been, which naturally raises suspicion. The man then asks if this is a test, and the Narrator says no. The man remarks that the Narrator was in exactly the same position here last week. At that moment, the Narrator inquires whether the bar's security is good, and the man confirms it is.

The Narrator asks who the bartender thinks he is. Again, the bartender tries to confirm if this is a test, and the Narrator once more says it isn't.

Then, the bartender reveals:



“You are Mr. Durden. You’re the one who gave me this mark.”

The Narrator doesn’t react and runs to his hotel room. He quickly calls Marla to try to clarify something. The Narrator asks her if they’ve ever slept together, which should be a no. Not only does she confirm that they have, but she also calls him Tyler...

Tyler appears.



He says that the Narrator broke the promise. Tyler had only asked for one single thing: NOT to talk about him to Marla.

The Narrator goes crazy trying to understand why people confuse him with Tyler. Durden says that deep down, he knows.

Scenes show the Narrator visualizing past moments, which now turn out to be his instead of Tyler’s. After that, Tyler sees through the Narrator and knows he visualized it, as if Tyler had read the Narrator’s mind.

The Narrator understands everything. Tyler and the Narrator had ALWAYS been the same person.
Tyler explains that the Narrator was searching for a way to change his life, and that he couldn't do it alone. Everything the Narrator wanted to be, is Tyler. Durden looks like what the Narrator wants to look like, has sex like the Narrator wants to have, is intelligent, capable, and most importantly, he is free in every way the Narrator is not.
The Narrator can't accept it—Tyler has a house under his name (Tyler explains that it's rented under the Narrator's name), has a job and an entire life (Tyler explains that he only has night jobs because he can't sleep, he stays awake and makes soap).
Now, Tyler explains that Marla knowing about things compromises his objectives, and that measures will be taken.
So yes, EVERYTHING that happened up to this point was part of Tyler's plan (basically the whole movie), and even the Narrator meeting Tyler was part of the plan.

(Strategy, Planning, Tactics, EU, EP, EF, ER, EM, EE, Perseverance, Mental Fortitude, Fluid Intel, Memory, Observation, Perception, Anticipation, Prediction, Direct Manip, Indirect Manip, Logical Manip, Emotional Manip, Psychological Profiling, Hot Reading, Abductive Reasoning, Deductive Reasoning, Inductive Reasoning, Intuition, STP, Fabrication, Misdirection, Concealment, Info Control, Influence)

The Narrator simply collapses onto the mattress. When he wakes up, he tries to leave the hotel, but a receptionist asks him to confirm some of the phone calls he made during the early hours of that day. Of course, he had no idea about those calls, and he wonders if he had actually been going to bed earlier every night and sleeping until late. Could it be that he had been Tyler Durden for much longer? He questions himself.
When the Narrator returns home, no one is there. He finds several containers in a bathtub and begins to connect the dots, understanding how part of Tyler's plan worked (specifically, the explosions he orchestrated and the soap).

(Abductive Reasoning)

The Narrator predicts that Tyler would try to cause more chaos, so he dials the numbers Durden had called during the night. When he calls the first one—maintenance—he notices that the number matches the label Tyler had left on a drawer: **1888 Franklin St.**
Connecting the dots, the Narrator warns that something terrible is about to happen to the building... but the man on the other end calmly insists that everything is under control (in a strange, unsettling tone). He says there's no need to worry, since they are "solid."

Suspicious, the Narrator calls the next number. Again, he realizes the same pattern: the man identifies himself with **2160**, which matches the number Tyler had marked on another drawer: **2160 Fulton Ave.**

Recognizing the pattern, the Narrator draws his conclusion and rushes off to find Marla.

(Deductive Reasoning)

Knowing Marla's routine, the Narrator knew where she would be. He tries to talk to her, but she is very angry (mainly because men connected to Tyler had attacked her with a broom, almost breaking her arm). In addition, she mentions that they were burning her fingers with acid (just as Tyler had done with the Narrator and some other important members). This means that Tyler chooses certain people to undergo his trademark method. Besides helping to spread the group's philosophy further, this also makes it harder to track Tyler down.

They enter a restaurant to talk, and the waiter offers the products "on the house" for the Narrator. Since the Narrator can identify members of Fight Club (the bruises on the waiter's face), he pretends to be talking about other things so as not to draw the waiter's attention.

Marla orders clam chowder, and the Narrator says it would be better to have a "clean" meal. The waiter privately tells the Narrator that if he really wants a "clean" meal, the clams wouldn't be a good choice. This is because the Narrator had foreseen that the cooks would try to poison Marla, based on what Tyler had said (according to Tyler, Marla was a threat to his plan). Since the cooks believe that Tyler and the Narrator are the same person, the Narrator wanting her not to be poisoned now could be part of a bigger plan of his, so they must obey.

What the Narrator now tries to do is take Marla far away, somewhere Tyler's influence couldn't reach. Since Marla refuses the Narrator's help, he tries to make her take a bus and stop at a place he has no idea about. He does this because he knows that if he knows where she is, then Tyler will also know. The strategy, at least for now, works.

(Strategy, Planning, Tactics, EU, Misdirection, Deductive Reasoning, Abductive Reasoning)

The Narrator went to the police, asking them to arrest him (explaining that he is the leader of a terrorist organization) so Tyler wouldn't be able to act directly. They find the case interesting and decide to follow up.

The Narrator estimates there are about 200 members in the metro area, with branches in five or six other major cities. The organization, he says, is tightly closed and systematized with MANY cells capable of operating completely independently from the central cell. In this case he's speaking only about the Project Mayhem members (since Fight Club encompasses a much broader and more

varied group). From this statement we see how well Tyler is able to protect his organization and how well he can manage it even without being physically present.

As proof of what he's saying, the Narrator tells the police to check his house: **1537 Paper Street**. There they would find the headquarters, and out back, buried in the yard, they would find the body of Robert Paulson (Bob). In the basement they would find several tubs recently used to manufacture nitroglycerin on a large scale.

The Narrator deduced that the organization's plan is to blow up the headquarters of major corporations and credit-card companies and the building of the Information System. He says that by erasing debit records, everyone's debt would revert to zero, creating total chaos.

The chief detective tells the other officers to keep the Narrator talking (while he makes a phone call). As he leaves, one of the cops says, "I admire what you're doing."
Hearing that, the Narrator realizes something is wrong. Another cop says the Narrator is brave for asking for this. Another calls him a genius.

The detective explains that Tyler told them to eliminate anyone who interfered with Project Mayhem—even if that person was the Narrator (Tyler himself). From the cops' perspective, they think the Narrator is doing this to set an example for anyone who might try to stop the plan.

The Narrator says they're making a huge mistake. The officers reply that Tyler predicted the Narrator would say that. The Narrator tries to explain he is not Tyler Durden, and the cops say Tyler also predicted he would say that. Seeing the situation spiral, the Narrator attempts to pose as Tyler Durden and claim he wants to abort the mission (a direct order), but the police say Tyler ALSO expected the Narrator to say that.

Realizing how compromised he is, the Narrator attempts to flee, but the officers seize him and grab a knife to cut his testicles. Meanwhile the chief detective returns to the door saying some of the information checks out and asks one of the officers to come with him. That means not ALL members were connected to the police, which gives the Narrator a sliver of hope.

At one point, the Narrator manages to wrest a gun from one of the officers and threatens them.

(Deductive Reasoning, Strategy, Planning, Tactics, Anticipation, EU, Concealment)

The Narrator manages to escape from police headquarters, but he is still being chased. He enters one of the buildings that are supposed to explode, and Tyler reappears.

Durden laughs at the Narrator for running around the city in nothing but his underwear. The Narrator doesn't care about that, and says he already understands how things work. The Narrator

shoots out a window and heads to the parking lot.
He finds a suspicious car and opens the trunk. Inside, he discovers several fuel cans and a bomb set to detonate in 26 minutes.

Tyler explains that Project Destruction cannot be stopped. This bomb isn't the only one—there are 10 other bombs in 10 different buildings.
When questioned about this chaotic plan, Tyler explains that no lives are being threatened. The buildings are completely empty, since Tyler controls the flow of people in and out. He has enough influence to keep everyone away from the area. Once again, what Tyler wants is to free the people, not to hurt them.

Still, the Narrator wants to stop the bomb. He thinks:
"If Tyler Durden knows how to stop this bomb, then so do I."

Indeed, the Narrator might have enough of a SELF to predict which wires Tyler would choose. But Durden warns:
"Maybe I switched everything so you'd fail on purpose." In other words, Tyler is saying there's a chance he already anticipated that the Narrator would try to predict him, and so he chose different wires than the Narrator would expect.

We see the Narrator visualizing the bomb's mechanisms to better understand the material.
After this analysis, he decides to cut the green wire.

Durden then starts saying things to convince the Narrator NOT to cut the green wire.
Even so, the Narrator cuts the green wire, and the bomb shuts down.

There are a few possible outcomes here:

- 1: The Narrator had enough EU to know which wire Tyler would choose, even knowing that Tyler anticipated the Narrator would try to predict which wire to pick.

- 2:We see that the Narrator analyzed the bomb's mechanisms and the situation. It's possible that he deduced how to stop the bomb.

- 3: The Narrator realized that maybe Tyler was just bluffing—that is, Durden hadn't necessarily switched the wires and they were still the ones he expected.

- 4: The Narrator might have gone with intuition, but this is the least likely option given the context of the situation.

As Tyler advanced on the Narrator, a fight broke out. The Narrator used his gun to try to hit Tyler, which obviously didn't work since Durden doesn't exist in the physical world. Interestingly, Tyler clearly became concerned when the Narrator almost triggered the bomb with the shot. This would imply that Tyler was worried the bomb might go off at that moment, for whatever reason.

The strange thing about thinking this through is that if Durden DIDN'T want the bomb to explode now, why allow the Narrator to tamper with it and potentially set everything off? This suggests that Durden also anticipated which wire the Narrator would choose—and that he wouldn't actually detonate the bomb.

(VSI, Perception, Observation, Strategy, Planning, Tactics, EU, EE, EM [Reasoning, Bluffing & STP, Intuition]

Tyler tied the Narrator to a chair in one of the highest rooms of the building. He wants the Narrator to see what they've accomplished. Durden wants both of them to witness the collapse of the financial system.

Even at the top of the building, the Narrator notices that the bus Marla took has arrived. She's been intercepted by Tyler's followers, who are bringing her here.

The Narrator begins reflecting on himself, knowing these are his final moments. He wonders why he can't get rid of Tyler, even though he's just a "voice" in his head. Durden says it's the Narrator's fault, since he created Tyler Durden.

After a discussion between them, the Narrator starts to perceive and understand himself. He understands how the alter-ego works and realizes that the gun Tyler is holding is actually in his own hand.

The Narrator grabs the gun and threatens to kill himself. Killing the Narrator also kills Tyler, since they share the same mind. He shoots himself in the head, killing Tyler.

The next scene shouldn't make much sense, because Tyler's head has been completely blown apart, yet the Narrator is still breathing. The members carrying Marla bring her into the room.

The Narrator is even able to walk and speak—which obviously shouldn't be possible for someone who blew their own brains out.

He manages to be alone with Marla and watch the buildings explode with her, and the film ends.

In my interpretation, according to how the narrative should function, the moment the Narrator pulled the trigger, both he and Tyler died. Everything that happens afterward is, in some way, the ending the Narrator expected—a conclusion in which both Tyler and the Narrator are satisfied: being with Marla and watching the buildings explode.

Consequently, the actions of the other characters (such as Tyler's followers and even Marla herself) are merely the result of profiling that Tyler and the Narrator had on them, predicting their reactions and behaviors based on the context.

PROJECT MAYHEN PLAN (1).pdf

you will need to zoom