

In this doc, I will be going over Batman's plan against Darkseid's Omega Sanction, and all the necessary context that led up to that point which will help us understand the full-scope of Batman's thought-process. The doc covers *Final Crisis* & *The Return of Bruce Wayne*

Final Crisis Set-Up

During an investigation about missing kids at Metropolis' docks, Dan Turpin stumbles upon Orion of the New Gods, dying in garbage. Orion's last words before he eventually passes out are "They did not die!", trying to urge Turpin to do something.

After this incident, the skies of the entire world turn red and ominous, as Green Lanterns receive a signal for deicide. Alerting the Guardians of the Universe and the Justice League, Earth itself ends up being sealed off as a crime scene.

While this is happening, at Secret Society, a newcomer by the name of Libra comes over and in order to prove her skill, she brings captive Martian Manhunter and sets him on fire, killing him effectively. Eventually, this reaches the news and the JL are naturally deeply saddened, while also suspicious that these two murders happened almost simultaneously.

Batman notes that these murders are likely connected, but not through the same people, as J'onn impersonated Blockbuster recently, so the Secret Society most likely wanted revenge. An Alpha Lantern, Kraken, dismisses JL's efforts as a local crime fighting club and leaves the Hall.

Meanwhile, at the crime scene, John detects a trace of an energy signature it couldn't recognize, something beneath the concrete that was buried for fifty years or more. Once he digs it out, his ring stops working right after figuring out it's Radion. Right as this happens, he is attacked by someone making himself look like they're wearing Hal Jordan's GL attire. Due to this, Hal is placed under arrest for the murder of the New God as well as the attempted murder of his partner by the Alpha Lanterns.

Back at the Hall of Justice, moving onto Orion's dead body, Batman notes that he was shot, as his internal trauma is consistent with the blast pattern of a bullet detonating inside Orion's skull, but there happens to be no wound. He then mentioned he already instructed Flash to reexamine something, supposedly already having an idea of what this could be.

Suspicious of Hal's detainment, Batman talks to Kraken, almost certain that this wasn't Hal's action, which Kraken counters by mentioning Parallax, implying Hal potentially relapsed.

Batman at that point comes closer to her and reassures her if she's fine, only for Kraken to whisper to him that something is eating her mind. In an attempt to incapacitate her while sealing the Hall of Justice, Kraken is revealed to be possessed by Granny Goodness, who manages to beat Batman, take him and escape via Boom Tube.

Meanwhile, Dan Turpin, while trying to investigate the disappearance of those children, starts being extremely violent in his ways, enjoying threatening Mad Hatter for instance with potential death unless he tells him the truth, which eventually spills out of him. It's revealed that Darkseid is tied to Turpin's consciousness, and he's actively messing with his own identity, trying to cause an ego-death.

After this, Batman is taken to the abandoned military facility, Command D, where a bunch of characters, Kraken included, are splicing DNA of humans and animals, all while Batman is confined. He notices Turpin who stumbled upon this and tries to tell him to warn the Justice League, only to learn that Turpin's body has Darkseid's soul inside him.

As this is happening, we see Wally and Jay inspecting MM's death. By seeing a tracking station recorded seismic pulse around the time J'onn was murdered, Wally's able to find the epicenter. In there, they find traces of Martian's blood as well as the Mobius Chair left by Libra. Seeing this, it reinforces Wally to think about the theory Bruce told him that the Radion bullet may have travelled through time.

As they're talking, they're suddenly interrupted by a Boom Tube, from which Barry Allen runs out, being chased by the Black Racer and a bullet made of Radion. Barry just tells them to "run".

【 BATMAN'S REASONING 】

To reexamine everything that just happened, let's look over Batman's thought process behind everything.

During the conversation about J'onn's murder, he points to this potentially being related to Orion's death due to the coincidental timeframe, but points to it being a different hand.

He induced a possible reason for why he might be targeted by an organized crime organization, due to his execution which had notoriety as opposed to Orion's death.

Meanwhile, as he was still in the Hall of Justice, Wally was already instructed by him to find J'onn's crime scene, as he suspected it may have been a time travelling bullet.

This could explain the lack of a wound, despite a very clear internal trauma, as the shell would've supposedly travelled through time, killing Orion, as it passes through him into the past where it finally buries itself in the concrete fifty years ago.

And lastly to get over the confrontation between him and Kraken, where Bruce seemingly out-of-nowhere asks her if she's alright, leading her to admit weakly she isn't, before getting fully possessed.

This suspicion came from her initial disinterest in working with the Justice League, as she explicitly described them as a sort of low-hanging fruit, but after getting directly asked for her reasoning on detaining Hal, she immediately starts justifying it to him, despite having no obligation to, by referencing a previous event where Hal was possessed.

Kraken mentioned the act of possession almost out of the gun, which led to Batman thinking that it maybe wasn't a coincidence possession was on her mind immediately. He connected those subtle dots almost immediately and made her expose herself.

Batman here showcased exceptional abductive & inductive reasoning as well as stellar emotional perception.

Darkseid's Revival & Fall

To make a long story short, various characters who operated in the Command-D were actually also New Gods who were possessing mortal bodies, and were trying to resurrect Darkseid, which is how they went undetected. They send an e-mail to every address in the world from Bludhaven, which is opening itself, as it's the Anti-Life Equation. Oracle tries to pull the plug, shutting off the entire internet, but that move was too little too late, as the majority of Earth gets brainwashed to succumb to Darkseid.

With various heroes either brainwashed or missing, Turpin reaches the point where he doesn't have any willpower left and ultimately gives in to be Darkseid's puppet.

This worldwide possession makes it apparent that Hal Jordan was ultimately not responsible, and Kraken very quickly reveals herself to John and Kyle who come to rescue him. It's revealed that Darkseid's True Form is literally falling through spacetime around Earth, and the result is generating Doomsday Singularity across the universe.

Despite seemingly reaching his invincible state, Darkseid is still ultimately inhabiting a mortal body, and up until that very moment, it wasn't shown to us what Batman was doing, as the Command-D bunker was ultimately unprotected for the majority of those last moments due to the apparent imminent victory.

However, Darkseid tells Batman to come out of the shadows and to embrace the equation which proves Darkseid IS. Batman notes how Orion, despite paying the price of life due to Darkseid's pettiness, did "wound" Darkseid with his death.

In that moment, he pulls out a gun with the Radion bullet he preserved from when he was still inspecting Orion's dead body. Despite his vow to never use firearms, he makes an exception in that moment and points it to Darkseid, but not before Darkseid targets him with the Omega Sanction. The duel ends in mutual "destruction".

Superman then arrived, visibly angered, only to take out Batman's corpse from the bunker.

Darkseid, now mortally wounded, threatens Superman with the same fate, but right after that, Barry Allen and Wally West arrive, leading the Black Racer directly to Darkseid. It claims Darkseid's soul, erasing him from Turpin's body, and eventually, fully shattered by Superman who does it with a single note, hitting his vibrational frequency with the help of Miracle Machine.
Finally, it's revealed to us that in prehistory, Bruce is drawing something on the stone wall of a cave after leaving his utility belt upon a deceased progenitor of the human race.

【 BATMAN'S STRATEGY 】

A seemingly very small exchange, but a lot of thought from both Darkseid and Batman was processed during their standoff.

What Batman referred to when he said that Orion's death "wounded" Darkseid is something that Superman recognized way later, and that is that through assassinating Orion with a time-travelling bullet, it ensured that John would find it, giving it to Batman, who would effectively kill Darkseid.

Batman quickly then follows this statement by telling Darkseid how he's still restricted to a "mortal body". A verbal deception on Bruce's part to remind Darkseid that Bruce hijacked his plan and closed it into a self-consuming loop where the beginning requires the end where he loses, but without making Darkseid *think* Bruce realized this.

Darkseid, facing his own mortality, realizes that his victory is essentially impossible now, so Bruce basically forces Darkseid's hand into putting Bruce in a trap of his own making.

The two possibilities at stake here for Bruce were either:

- "Darkseid realizes he can't win, therefore he kills me with the Omega Beam, but I ensure his death. Mutual destruction and a sacrifice I'm willing to make."
- Or "Darkseid realizes he can't win, therefore to ensure another contingency in motion, he won't kill me and instead will try to circumvent this time-loop by messing with time once more."

Batman exploited the bullet's own temporal anomaly and checkmated Darkseid into a corner, all while shielding said strategy with a

clever deception, and the entire move is 100% in Bruce's control. Bruce was already familiar with how Omega Sanction works and how it can send a person to die infinitely, therefore a temporal trap by Darkseid wasn't impossible to predict.

Batman showcased incredible strategic efficiency *(only used the materials available)*, effectiveness *(singlehandedly weakened Darkseid enough to the point where the rest of JL could finish him)*, resilience *(the only two possible options that he gave to Darkseid were beneficial to him)*, shielding *(shielded Darkseid from thinking that Bruce was aware of his situation)*, and adaptability, given how he figured it out so quickly in such a bleak scenario by using his deductive *(Darkseid's temporal loop with the Radion bullet)*, abductive *(Darkseid's possible intent to preserve himself through another trap)* and inductive *(Darkseid's Omega Sanction could be that trap)* reasoning to the best of his abilities, all while perfectly anticipating and understanding Darkseid's emotions.

When it comes to further details of other contingencies and layers Bruce set up for this strategy off-screen before he confronted Darkseid, it will only be revealed later.

Batman in Prehistory

On an unassuming day, a group of cavemen who call themselves the Deer People stumble upon a rocket that fell from the sky. They theorize that it's made of sky. This discovery preoccupied them for a bit, as one of them notes they're too far away from the rest of the Deer People and that the Blood Mob is dangerously close to their current location.

They follow the footsteps that lead to the cave in order to visit their old man, but they're surprised when they see Bruce Wayne who is seen carrying his utility belt, which obviously none of them comprehend. Bruce's words come off as ineffable to the cavemen.

They switch places, as Bruce approaches the sky cart and the Deer People go into the cave. Bruce picks up some symbols from the sky cart such as the bat symbol and Superman's cape. Inside the cave, besides the symbol which was drawn by the old man in question, there could be seen drawings of the Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman logos, which Bruce obviously drew.

The kid of the caveman takes Bruce's belt to ensure he doesn't run away, and they set out a campfire there, as they're overwhelmed by so many discoveries at once, including the death of the old man. However, at that moment, Bruce yells to look out as the Blood Mob are approaching them, which are led by Vandall Savage.

Bruce picks up the kid in an attempt to save him, while the rest of Deer People are cannibalized. The kid manages to hide, but Bruce, being himself, tries to fight them off, but fails. He gets captured, and Vandall proclaims that he will eat the Man of the Bats in the morning.

Weak and powerless, Bruce spends couple of hours in the field tied up, and at one point, starts having a weird vision of a giant bat creature who feeds him random words such as “night”, “terror”, “superstition” etc. but right before he can begin to understand what any of that means, he is rescued by the kid who is carrying his utility belt.

The following morning, Vandal and his tribe are ambushed by Bruce, now fully prepared, as he relatively comfortably beats them up. Bruce and the kid, after being hunted by some leftover tribe members, jump to the waterfall as a form of escape. However, once the kid rises out of the water, Bruce isn’t seen anywhere. The kid waited for him for a couple of minutes, but he vanished.

Meanwhile, back at the Blood Mob, a sudden beam appears as Superman, Hal Jordan and Booster Gold all appear alongside the Time-Sphere, as they claim by the time they tracked the Omega radiation, Bruce was already gone.

Superman notes that if Bruce actually makes it to the 21st century, everyone in the universe will die.

Batman in the 15th Century

Bruce suddenly rises from the water only to be helped by a woman named Annie who warns him of a giant, tentacle monster behind him. Bruce fights it off, but ultimately passes out, as he’s carried to Annie’s place, who happens to have emblems of Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman.

At that point, it is revealed that Bruce doesn’t know who he is, and those emblems aren’t actually recognizable to him, despite originally drawing them.

Meanwhile, Superman, Hal Jordan, Booster Gold and Rip Hunter talk to the Archivist, as they’re at the Vanishing Point, the last instant before the end of the universe, but he notes that there are still about 10 minutes they have left, as all events throughout history are stored there. Superman, seeing the omega radiation traced it to here, hoped they could use this storage to find Bruce.

However, back during the 15th century, Bruce adopted the identity of a witch-hunter named Mordcei, but unlike other scumbags during that time, he doesn't throw that word around for no reason. One lady, Tyler, after her husband was killed, said that Satan left an ominous message, a hanging bat on their door. Bruce noted how the usage of a knitting needle. He observes also that her iron ladle is missing from its hook, and detains her for murder, but perceives her as a desperate woman who was likely beaten by her husband and tried to figure out a way to end the pain, therefore he influences the system to give her a lesser punishment, an act that isn't appreciated by a witch-hunter Malleus, who apparently hides his real name in worry that he'll be cursed by witches.

Bruce goes back with Annie to the cave where she found him, when they are confronted by the monster again. Bruce fights it, while Annie goes to the village, looking for help, but is cut off and captured by Malleus who accuses her of witchcraft and orders her death by hanging. However, not before she revolts and curses his true name, Nathaniel Wayne and all his descendants until the end of time.

Back at the Vanishing Point, Archivist notes that this is where Annie dies, and the rest of JL are confused as to why he stopped trying to find Bruce.

This is when the Archivist traps them, steals Hunter's Time Sphere and leaves them to die at a universe that is about to be destroyed. It is then revealed that the Archivist is actually Bruce Wayne from the future. Superman pleads with him not to do this, and tries to make him understand that Darkseid erased his memories and sent him to the dawn of time, and once he reaches the 21st century, everyone will die. Bruce says he's sorry and leaves them.

Batman in the 18th Century

In an attempt to fight off the tentacle monster, Bruce loses his orientation and suddenly is at a shore, next to Blackbeard who just sank the ship of a vigilante "Black Pirate". Blackbeard tells Bruce, now that he holds him captive, that there's an Indian treasure hoard somewhere hidden in the Gotham county catacombs, but everyone who tries to get it, doesn't come back, therefore he forces Bruce to get it for him, while threatening the life of a young sailor, Jack Loggings, who is forced to go alongside Bruce on that mission.

On their way, Jack tells how when the pilgrims came, the last of the divided Deer People retreated and joined the Bat People. This knowledge impresses Blackbeard who wonders if his family would pay handsomely for ransom, but Bruce notes how his soiled and old, ragged clothes, like his worn heels and scuffed buckles with his calloused hands clearly show he's not rich, showing very solid observation.

When they enter the cave, Bruce notices the same symbols he drew back in prehistory. Jack continues spilling the lore of the Black Pirate to Bruce, trying to ensure whether he's familiar with the traps, such as the "The Whistling Demon". Bruce, knowing that these are Bat People, would likely try to adapt to bats and use their methods, such as echolocation, as they reside in a dimly lit cave, so Bruce fakes a sound by whistling and makes them shoot into nothing.

As they proceed, Bruce finds a room with many dead bodies. He noticed bat-droppings, noting how the methane must've asphyxiated those people rather than ghosts. He also notes how methane is highly flammable, so they should put out their torches, showing very strong observation skills as well as deductive reasoning.

Back in the present day, Dick and Damian are investigating Bludhaven after figuring out that the body Darkseid left was a decoy, while Diana notes that there was no news from Superman and the rest of JL who came alongside him to the Vanishing Point. Meanwhile, Tim Drake mentions how he, and the rest of the Bat family found traces of bat-symbols carried across Siberian land as well in 19th century gardens, which led them to a specific relic, Nomex fire-resistant fabric, kevlar hood with built-in electronics that survived for over 11 thousand years, showing Bruce has incredible concealment skills which could be found only by the very people he trained.

While continuing to investigate the Command-D bunker, Dick notes how the helmet which Kraken used on Batman, the same helmet which was used to brainwash people to Darkseid's will and make them forget everything else, was damaged. Seemingly reconfigured by Bruce while Darkseid was materializing in Turpin's body.

Back in the pirate era, Jack tells Bruce that he knows he isn't the Black Pirate, because he is Jack Valor, grandson of John Valor, the true Black Pirate. Blackbeard notices them whispering, so he corners them and Bruce falls off the cliff into the river.

Frustrated that the only person who knows the traps is gone, Blackbeard orders his men to find him in the river, but soon

they’re attacked by bats, right as Bruce, wearing a Black Pirate uniform which Jack gave him while they were talking in secrecy, takes on Blackbeard and beats him. Jack and Bruce continue into the cave where Bruce stumbles upon the kevlar attire he wore with Annie.

As the eclipse is about to start, and Bruce recognizes the pattern of his disappearance, he gives the attire to Jack and tells him to keep on fighting, while also telling the Wayne family what happened that day. Jack upholds his promise and gives his diary to the Wayne family who put it in a capsule.

Batman in the 19th Century

A bunch of cowboys ambush a family, killing a husband and a son while kidnapping the daughter and taking a mysterious box with the bat symbol on it, leaving the grieving wife to pray for a miracle, which is when the The Ghost in Black, Bruce Wayne appears, a new vigilante. Apparently, so infamous that he was already put on a wanted list and is targeted by Jonah Hex, the deadliest gunman in America.

Johan arrives at this century’s Vandall Savage, who, while immortal, has cancer, and is in eternal pain. He pays Jonah to eliminate this vigilante, while one of his men tells him he tortured the daughter in order for her to tell them how to open the box, but as it turns out, they’re the Bat People, and the content of that box could be catastrophic.

As it turns out, Savage was also paid by the man who calls himself Thomas Wayne, who is trying to find a way to open that box and reach eternal life. This man is actually Simon Hurt, the worshipper of the BatGod Barbatos. He claims he was confronted by him, when he stood in the circle with Jefferson when they raised the batwinged creature and drank his blood.

Though after their lair has been discovered by Bruce, a chase erupts, where Savage and Hurt run on a carriage with the kidnapped girl and the box. During the chase, they stumble upon Alan Wayne, who is contemplating suicide by letting himself get potentially run over by the carriage due to the prospect being so oppressive, he’s apparently in a situation where he can’t even finish the Wayne house.

Bruce stops both Hurt and Savage in time, as Alan helps the kidnapped daughter in the meantime. The daughter tells Bruce she recognized him from tales, and shows the way to open the box is through a melody of whistling. She opens the box in front of him,

right before Hex appears and shoots Bruce, making him fall into the river.

After these events, Alan ends up marrying the daughter, with whom they build Wayne manor.

Batman in the 20th Century

Bruce reappears in the 20th century, still wounded by the gunshot Hex gave him, after which he collapses on the pavement.

Meanwhile, in the present day, Tim theorizes about Darkseid's potential plan, which was to erase Bruce's mind and let him go through entire history, as he'll accumulate enough Omega radiation that the result will end up being catastrophic. He extrapolates this information from the sky cart from prehistory, seeing Bruce's fingertips, which was retrieved before Superman, Hal, Booster Gold and Hunter were trapped in the Vanishing Point.

Back in the not-so-distant past, Bruce wakes up in the hospital bed, confronted by a woman named Marsha, who claims she was a friend of Martha Wayne, who was murdered recently. Bruce's parents were killed not long before the time he's currently in, and he is given a costume by this woman to help expose the criminal for reasons he can't quite understand yet.

Bruce is given another, more time-appropriate attire when he finds in his pockets a journal written by Mordecai which dates to 1640. He recognizes the handwriting as modern, matching his own, all while the paper is undeniably crumbling. He notes that the writing was probably his, but can't quite rationalize it, as his memories are gone and can't even remember how he ended up in the hospital bed.

Marsha drives Bruce to the Bristol Ferry's so he can "investigate" Martha's mother, his grandmother. She tells them that she suspects Thomas Wayne as the responsible one for Martha's death after which he proceeded to fake his own death, as he was apparently a drug addict, rapist, devil-worshipper and in general, a degenerate. This was of course Simon, but no one knows that now. They get given a key to the, now abandoned Wayne manor.

Marsha directs Bruce to the cemetery near the manor due to the caves down there holding many treasures and relics, some of which dated from prehistory. He finds the door near the graves of Alan and his wife, when he observes that the door was opened recently, despite there being no one here for quite a while, suggesting they'll probably be back there again.

Their next stop was the Willowood military psychiatric hospital, as there resided Carter Nicholas, a good friend of Thomas who is apparently a modern Einstein, due to his brilliant research on time travel.

Bruce then learns the reason why Marsha chose him, it's mostly due to his physical look, as she wanted them to pretend to be Thomas and Martha Wayne in an attempt to startle the killer, which could potentially give them an opportunity to perceive a deceptive emotion.

While prepping for the ambush, Bruce debates the whole thing, alongside the journal, which mentions the Van Derm family and repeats the name "Wayne". Alongside this, a man by the name of Jack Valor wrote about a box with a bat symbol with the instructions to hide it.

That night, a group of satanists arrive in the Wayne manor cemetery and Bruce, wearing the Ghost attire, attacks them, but not long after is he betrayed by Marsha, as they capture him and tie him and use him as a sacrificial victim for the Barbatos. They're intending to record the scene of Marsha killing him, making it seem as if Martha killed the detective who was hired to investigate their murder, destroying their reputation, alongside some other fabrications to feed those souls to Barbatos.

Carter is then instructed to attempt to open the hole in time after they set Bruce on fire, feeding him to Barbatos so they can achieve immortality. It seems as if Bruce was completely outsmarted, as his body is in the state of dying and is seemingly overtaken by a bat-demon creature, but something weird happens. The fire burns through the ropes which hold Bruce down, but Bruce shows no signs of trying to escape, he just "gives in". Much to the cult's surprise, despite the plan seemingly working, nothing amounted to it afterwards, and Bruce just disappeared with no answers of eternal life.

Batman in the Present

Bruce is then transferred to the Vanishing Point, where Archivists tell Bruce they can quarantine the temporal parasite who infected Bruce through a lazarus transfusion. Bruce reveals that he's aware of that, as he remembers fighting off this monster a couple of times, most notably during the 15th century.

They note that a time machine would hasten the destruction of Vanishing Point, so that's not a method they can use to send him

back home, unless they reconstruct something in ten minutes, as they note that Superman's search party will occur there by that time. Bruce tells them they need to erase his memories again, as he needs a disguise, to which the Archivist gives him his own symbiotic configuration, bonding with Bruce's body.

Back with the Justice League, Tim mentions in a hurried state to seal the Hall of Justice, as Batman apparently arrived there, but something is apparently wrong with him. He's completely overtaken by the Hyper-Adapter, a bat-like temporal parasite.

Meanwhile, back at the Vanishing Point, as the universe is about to cease with Superman and Hal hopelessly trying to break free, it turns out that Bruce intentionally set a contingency to purposely wait for the destruction of the universe so that the deteriorating materials can be used to configure the said time-sphere.

It's shown that the Archivist was rebooting the universe, trying to tie the universe's end to its beginning. During this destruction, it's seen that Bruce, disguised as the Archivist, used the aforementioned sky cart from this point to send it backwards through time, utilizing the said reboot.

Due to the advanced cybernetics of Archivist, Batman is able to keep up with the JL physically, while they still naturally don't want to hurt him. This isn't until Wonder Woman uses her lasso of truth on Bruce, as it doesn't work only in a sense that it makes you tell the truth you believe in, it works to tell the actual truth, as it can bypass amnesia. Bruce manages to mutter that he tricked the Hyper-Adapter into coming here, but the voice is echoey, signifying that the parasite is taking control. Bruce reveals that it wasn't Darkseid who erased his memories, it was him, as he predicted Darkseid's plan, therefore by forgetting his own existence, Hyper-Adapter couldn't latch onto his psyche and take control.

However, in that moment, as Bruce regains his memories due to the Lasso, the parasite takes full control and possesses Bruce.

In that very moment, as it seems like Darkseid's plan won, the contingency of Hunt's time-sphere, reconfigured with the Archivist's materials of the timeline Bruce was in, they appear, as predicted by Bruce. The demon, now being fully materialized rather than spiritual, is overwhelmed by Superman and the rest of newly arrived JL members, who toss it in the Time-Sphere, because as Hunt mentioned, the timeline was set to a loop, as Vanishing Point would reach the beginning of prehistory.

Where Hyper-Adapter appears is in front of Bruce Wayne, as he was tied up by Vandall Savage and his tribe, before quickly disappearing.

The rest of the JL treat Bruce and manage to save him.

【 DARKSEID'S STRATEGY 】

In order to fully understand the scope of Bruce's plan, we must first analyze Darkseid's, and in-turn, Hyper-Adapter's plan.

As we learn in the end of *The Return of Bruce Wayne*, Bruce losing his memories wasn't Darkseid's idea, and instead, he tried to do the opposite.

As we learn, the Hyper-Adapter isn't a physical entity, which means it's hard to track, it's an entity that operates on a conscious level.

Darkseid's strategy was to use Batman's own survival as the engine for his own, and everyone else's, doom. The parasite was keyed to his consciousness, something we've seen Darkseid use plenty of times before in that very same plan, with Turpin, with Kraken, hell with everyone on Earth.

Turpin only succumbed to Darkseid once Darkseid inherently overrode his own consciousness, leading him to experience Ego-death, which means the same method had to be used on Bruce.

Darkseid already proved with his own revival that the JL wasn't able to track New Gods' possession of mortal bodies, meaning that this strategy was well shielded.

The idea is, given how Bruce will go throughout the entire history of mankind, if he's accumulating Omega radiation throughout its entirety, he can effectively nuke the entire timeline.

It is important to remember that this strategy was thought of by Darkseid in a couple of seconds before Batman shot him with the Radion bullet.

【 BATMAN'S PLAN 】

As we learned during the time Batman was in the pirate era, and as we're only recontextualized in the end when he arrives in the present, Bruce purposely prepared to erase his memories, because he predicted such a move by Darkseid.

We know that he tampered with the helmet which Darkseid used to erase people's identities of self, and to just succumb. Bruce reconfigured this helmet discreetly, so that he effectively made his own psyche too clouded for Hyper-Adapter to latch onto. This is a very impressive contingency, because it shows even further layers of Bruce's inductive reasoning, extrapolating the tactics Darkseid used on Turpin, recognizing that he might try the same thing again.

This means that, during Batman's and Darkseid's standoff where they both shot at each other, Batman proceeded to:

- Figure out Darkseid's temporal loop.
- Deceive Darkseid into thinking he himself is not aware of it.
- Anticipate Darkseid's entire counter strategy and counter it.

This already shows impressive tactical complexity, as Bruce was playing several layers into the future.

【 HYPER-ADAPTER'S STRATEGY 】

Despite countering Darkseid's initial strategy in advance, the temporal parasite wasn't going to do nothing about it.

During the cowboy era, it is mentioned that Hurt, trying to awaken Barbatos, already had the pleasure of seeing him before, however, as it's revealed in the 20th century, these satanists were worshipping the wrong bat-creature. This was in fact Hyper-Adapter.

The parasite intentionally deceived Hurt into thinking it could grant him immortality by obtaining the box, which they're stopped by Bruce. The intent here was that the parasite anticipated Bruce's action, and would hopefully end mortally wounded, because if Bruce cannot experience Ego-death naturally by remembering who he is, then he shall be physically dried up until he has no consciousness anyway, therefore allowing the parasite to take over.

This strategy is made clearer in the 20th century, as the parasite was banking on Bruce getting set on fire while also utilizing Carter's time machine, sending Bruce's body to the present day with the parasite fully in control.

Once it would arrive at the end of the universe, Archivists couldn't do anything, as transporting the Adapter would amount to destruction.

This strategy works as a very solid counter against Bruce's anticipated contingency.

【 BATMAN'S ULTIMATE PLAN 】

To finally examine Batman's feat, we have to breakdown the timeline into his chronological POV:

BATMAN in the 20th Century

Bruce's realization that something is wrong stemmed from the 20th century, when we see him reevaluating his purpose as the "detective" for Marsha, and the book which saved his life containing his handwriting and allusions to various talks of the Bat People and some kind of higher deity, a symbol, which is protected in a box.

We're never shown Bruce going through the entire book, but the heavy implication, and the only thing that makes sense is that he definitely saw talks of Thomas Wayne, a.k.a. Hurt. The reason for why this isn't a reach, is because Bruce alludes to "Waynes" being mentioned a lot, and he was already familiar with the name of Thomas Wayne, who was apparently killed very recently.

The name being the same isn't a huge stretch on its own, but the fact that Martha's grieving mother goes out of her way to describe how terrible Thomas was, in ways that are perfectly aligning with the things he was doing and were mentioned in the book, means it's *highly* likely Bruce connected the dots and figured out that this must be related to cultists.

The timeline on this wouldn't make sense, meaning that this Thomas must've had some sort of immortality, which is probably what these cultists were trying to achieve.

Either way, Bruce's own placement in this doesn't add up still, because why would he be present throughout those moments, and

randomly transported to the time when Marsha would need a lookalike? Maybe he's being actively targeted temporally.

Bruce, while going over the book, unsure how he ties into all of this, says, and I quote:

"It was hard to avoid the obvious conclusion. The whole thing was a hoax. It was performance from the very beginning."

This realization has two meanings. The first one, a more obvious one, is that Bruce realized he was being set up by Marsha into this cultist sacrifice. The evidence for this is how, even when the fire burns through the ropes which were tying him down, he still didn't try to fight it, and allowed himself to almost die, as if he was counting on it.

The second meaning implies Bruce figured out that his own amnesia was a hoax, a purposeful, calculated move, purposely trying to lose his own awareness against whatever is *clearly* targeting him through time.

He allows himself to be captured and brought to near-death right as he starts getting overtaken by the Hyper-Adapter, who uses the ability provided by Carter to travel to the future.

BATMAN at the Vanishing Point

Due to suddenly overflowing with Omega radiation, Bruce is captured by the Archivists. They try to quarantine the parasite from Bruce, but to no avail, as it's not a physical or biological entity. At this point, Hyper-Adapter has seemingly won, not completely, because Bruce is still not fully aware of his identity, but has enough idea to the point where the parasite is overtaking him.

At this point, he plans for both the future and the past. This is where things get a little complicated, which is why I'll segment each one of his individual decisions:

【 MEMORY LOSS 】

Once Archivists take him, but are unable to truly destroy the parasite, Bruce tells them it'd be the most optimal if his memories were erased after Superman arrived in Hunt's time-sphere.

The reason for this is that it will only deviate Hyper-Adapter's control on Bruce further, plus, Bruce anticipates that without his memories, he will continue to move forward, ultimately reaching the 21st century and meeting the JL in the Hall of Justice.

【 ARCHIVIST BOND 】

Bruce suggests he should bond with the Archivist's cybernetic body. This is for two reasons:

- It will help him disguise himself in front of the JL, which will make his overtaking of the Time-Sphere easier.
- & He will be a far bigger physical challenge for the Justice League in the 21st century.

The reason for that second factor ultimately ties to his planned aim. By being a physical challenge, JL can't take him on lightly, but they will still naturally try to be as non-lethal as possible.

After learning from the Archivists of Superman, Wonder Woman etc. Bruce notes that Wonder Woman will be present in the Hall of Justice, as he learns that her Lasso of Truth would be a natural way to disarm Batman in that situation, as it's not a physical attack that will cause pain, while clearly immensely powerful and should keep him down.

Because the Lasso of Truth will force Bruce to tell the truth, his self-imposed amnesia must be overridden, which will give Hyper-Adapter the chance to manifest as a physical entity.

【 TRAPPING SUPERMAN 】

This was a move that Bruce had to pull, as otherwise, Superman, and the rest of JL members who were riding in Hunt's Time-Sphere, were presenting themselves too dangerous, as they could potentially intervene with the timeline and make the parasite arrive early.

By ensuring Superman, Hal, Booster Gold and Hunt are occupied for the last couple of minutes at the Vanishing Point, but by then anticipating that Hunt would recognize the looping strategy Bruce ensured and use it to upgrade the Time-Sphere, he made the

Hyper-Adapter think it has won only to be trapped in its own time-loop.

【 SKY CART 】

During pre-history, when Bruce just started his travel, a sky cart appeared which held relics of Superman, Wonder Woman and Batman, which Bruce from the future anticipated Bruce from the past would prescribe, especially given how the cave already had strange symbols on them.
During Vanishing Point, this sky cart was specifically used as a contingency to fall into the loop of the universe's end and beginning. It purposely appeared to not just stir up Bruce's thought-process, but the thought-process of the Deer People. They mentioned how they were far away from their tribe and were risking being attacked by Vandall Savage's Blood Mob, and that wouldn't have happened had the sky cart not appeared.

Because the tribe was naturally overwhelmed, alongside Bruce, he was tied down with the intention of being eaten the following day. He was weakened and in the process of death, which is when he began having illusions of a giant bat creature.

Archivist Bruce anticipated this, because he at that point already understood how Hyper-Adapter worked, as it needed Bruce to either fully remember his identity or to be on the brink of death. He indirectly manipulated Hyper-Adapter into exposing itself early on, which is how he ultimately trapped it.

Despite taking care of the physical manifestation and sending it back to time, that on its own wouldn't be enough to kill the parasite. Instead, Bruce orchestrated this moment and sent the parasite specifically in the very moment when it would induce an illusion to Bruce, trying to conquer his mind and overtake his body.

Beating the parasite in the same he beaten Darkseid, by manipulating them into committing suicide.

Clarification

With everything out of the way, let's wrap up this plan in its entire, chronological order:

- Bruce figures out Darkseid's weakness and sets up a contingency to make sure his mind cannot be tampered with the same way Turpin's was.
- Bruce deceives and checkmates Darkseid into sending him through time with the trap he had anticipated.
- Said counter makes the parasite attempt a different method, one which Bruce sees through, all while indirectly manipulating it into believing Bruce isn't aware of it.
- Anticipates the moves of Superman, Hal Jordan, Hunt, Wonder Woman, Hyper-Adapter *AND* himself, after figuring out a loophole to fully defeat this contingency Darkseid sets out.

It was a multi-layered plan that proved itself incredibly resilient after facing counters to it left and right, not just from the parasite, but from his team unknowingly. The plan is effectively entirely invincible, as Bruce ensured the parasite wouldn't be aware he had seen through it, because he allowed the parasite to pull off the plan it was trying to pull off.

Important to also note that throughout this entire plan, neither Darkseid nor Hyper-Adapter made any logical mistakes. Darkseid played the optimal strategy and he had no logical premise to expect Bruce would in advance tamper with his own memories.

Hyper-Adapter also made no mistakes, as it effectively already won, and the only reason Bruce came on top was because he formulated another layered plan on top of parasite's, which it obviously couldn't have taken into account because it didn't even start.

Conclusion

If you stuck with me throughout this analysis, at this point it should be clear that as far as comic book superheroes go, Batman's scheming and outsmarting capabilities are in a tier of his own, and it isn't even particularly close.

When it comes to unrealistic characters, Batman is comfortably very high-tier, and has no weakness in his catalogue.

At this point, I'd probably rank Batman's SCD categories from worst to best, but I honestly don't even know how to rank them, because he's insane in everything.

Thank you all for reading.

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