

JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED

"A Brief History of Time, Part One"

Outline, 03/05/04

TEASER

1. GOTHAM CITY - 2055. DAVID CLINTON, henpecked, untenured History professor with a sad little life. He's happy only when tending to his extensive collection of historical treasures, kept crowded in his garage. He got them with an illegal "time-suit," a device that allows him to go back and steal minor historical trinkets (Napoleon's favorite pen, an early draft of the Magna Carta, Cleopatra's comb, et cetera), nothing that would be missed, even at the time, never anything that can do any harm. Today he's planning to get away from the wife for a romp into the 21st century. He DISAPPEARS, leaving a lingering hole in space-time that fades away as we watch...
2. THE WATCHTOWER - TODAY. Reversing their roles in "Starcrossed," GREEN LANTERN and a reluctant BATMAN are talking women. John tries to find out what the deal is between Batman and Diana, protesting his own happiness with Vixen a bit too much. Batman is playing down his attraction to Diana, unaware at first that she's behind

him. Before it gets any worse, alarm Klaxons sound:

"Chronal incursion"... in Batman's on-satellite quarters.

3. INT. WATCHTOWER - BATMAN'S QUARTERS. David Clinton is there, dressed in his time suit, using futuristic technology to break into Batman's locker. He's after a spare UTILITY BELT. He's pulling it free when a BATARANG knocks it out of his hand. Batman has arrived, flanked by Wonder Woman and Green Lantern. They don't know how he breeched security but this is the end of the line. Clinton scoops up the Belt. Batman moves to punch him but Clinton BLURS, "side-stepping" in time. Batman's punch goes right through him. Fiddling with his belt-buckle control, Clinton runs for it and the heroes give chase. He opens up another Time Slide and vanishes. Just before he DISAPPEARS. Batman, Wonder Woman and Green Lantern dive into the fading rip in space-time and they all VANISH.

4. INT. TIME SLIDE. The heroes are falling headfirst through an undulating, coruscating, twisting tunnel. It's like the plasma tunnel at the beginning of the old Dr. Who series, only it's going by about ten times as quickly. It's like riding whitewater rapids without a raft. The heroes accelerate faster and faster...

5. ELKHORN, OKLAHOMA - 1879. Finally crashing to the ground in the desert, Batman and Wonder Woman take a pretty hard fall, GREEN LANTERN's ready and decelerates with his ring. They take a look around the dusty countryside. "Where are we?" Batman reacts to the old west BANDITS who have drawn their weapons on them. "I think the question is when are we."

ACT ONE

1. ELKHORN, OKLAHOMA - 1879. Batman, Green Lantern and Wonder Woman try to dope out what's going on. They've been bushwacked by bandits who inform them they have to pay the "Manning toll." Wonder Woman's "fat gold chain" will do fine, for starters... Ten seconds later, WONDER WOMAN has knocked them all out (after deflecting a bullet with her bracelet, she's amused at how "big and slow" the projectiles are). Batman points out that to travel around here, they'll need contemporary clothes. Wonder Woman looks at one of the men, considering...
2. SAME LATER. The bandits, dressed only in their underclothes, are trussed-up at the foot of a cactus. Our heroes are finishing putting on the bandit's clothes. Green Lantern demurs, using his ring to transform his costume into suitable cowboy clothes (an old, 9th cavalry uniform). Batman adds a black hat to his long black duster. Green Lantern holsters a pistol, asking Batman if he's sure he doesn't want one. Batman's very sure but oddly wears a holster, anyway. What next? Gotta figure Clinton went to town if this is where he lives. They saddle up and ride.
3. SALOON - DAY. Batman, Wonder Woman and Green Lantern arrive in the saloon and sit in the corner, observing.

They don't attract much attention, all eyes are on the big table, where a high stakes poker game is taking place. Everyone folds on the big pot except for TOBIAS MANNING and BAT LASH. Tobias smiles, "Four Kings and an Ace." Bat Lash frowns, "That's a mite perplexing. I got Four Aces and a King." Tobias pulls a revolver on Bat. "Well, I got the gun." Bat raises his hands as if in surrender, but a Derringer slides into his palm from a spring in his cuff. Both men rise, pointing their guns at each other. It's a classic standoff. Back at the table, Batman asides that he saw Manning cheat. Bat Lash quotes his daddy about standoffs. Manning is calm, "Well, your daddy never saw my six-shooter." Manning's gun UNFOLDS impossibly, until it is literally six separate revolvers, semi-surrounding Bat Lash. At the table, Wonder Woman is ready to jump in, "That technology's obviously from the future." Batman stops her. They should observe before acting. Bat Lash drops his pistol. A couple of Tobias' men take him into custody. "Don't I get a trial?" "Sure. You're guilty." This is Tobias' town and for trying to cheat him, Bat Lash is sentenced to hang at dawn. The men drag him away. Back at the table, Diana is incensed. That was unjust. They have to help that man. Batman points out that's not what they're here for. The stakes are much

bigger. Diana completely ignores Batman. "We'll bust him out after sundown."

4. Bat Lash cooling his heels in prison. A BEARDED MAN in the next cell keeps bothering him. "Do you mind? I'm planning an escape here." "How's it going so far?" "I'm workin' on it!" A GUARD beats on the cell bars, yelling at them to quiet down. "That's what I was telling him," Bat says. The Guard reacts to a GREEN GHOST coming down the hall at him, he runs away screaming and slams into a wall, knocking himself out. Green Lantern walks into shot, dissolving the "ghost" as he does. Batman and Wonder Woman are also there. GREEN LANTERN makes a "key" for the lock. Wonder Woman tears the cell door off the hinges before he can use it. Bat Lash is tentative, more magicians? "We're not from around here." But they are looking for a magician. A man with amazing machines? They suspect that Tobias works for him. The bearded man in the next cell corrects them. "Not exactly, Wonder Woman." The bearded man reveals himself as Clinton! Due to the vagaries of the time tunnel, he arrived in the old west several months before the League arrived. He's from the future, a collector of objects of value. He was on the watchtower to steal a Batarang. When he ran from the League, he crashed here in the old west, where he was

bushwhacked by Tobias. Tobias stole the suit and has used it to take over this town. Manning has been taking short hops to the future, stealing technology and bringing it back here to the old west. Tobias keeps Clinton locked up and occasionally forces him to repair the suit or teach him how to use stolen future tech, it's been a humiliating experience, he just wants to go home now, he'll take his punishment gladly if they can get him back. Green Lantern wants to know how Tobias has taken over the town with just a time suit. Future technology, like the "six gun." Batman says, "And the surveillance cameras." He indicates one hidden on the ceiling. They need to get out of here, fast. Wonder Woman rips Clinton's door open. He's coming with them.

5. THE FRONT DOOR - DAY. The second the heroes open the front door, they're blasted by heavy small arms fire. Green Lantern makes a shield. There are a dozen men firing at them (one with a gattling gun). Green Lantern's ready to take them down. "Don't hurt them. We could change history." "A little late for that, don't you think?" It's moot. The guard who knocked himself out earlier is awake now and pointing a gun at them from behind. Batman turns and looks at the man. "Go ahead, give me an excuse." Batman reaches for his holster! He

pulls out a Batarang, throwing it and disarming the Guard before the man could even get a shot off. Green Lantern is puzzled. "Something's happening out there..."

6. EXT. STREET - DAY. The men are being taken out from behind, one at a time. A bullwhip, a rifle butt to the head of the gattling gunner, a single shot smashing a support strut, spilling the rest of the men. Bat Lash smiles. The Calvary has arrived. It's JONAH HEX, SHERIFF OHIYESHA SMITH and EL DIABLO. "Meet the Justice Riders..."

ACT TWO

1. EXT. STREET - DAY. Jonah Hex steps forward and points his revolver at Batman. "If you boys are workin' for Tobias, there's going to be difficulty." Bat Lash calls him off, the Justice Leaguers are strange but "They're with me." Bat Lash makes introductions. We learn that he was sent ahead undercover to learn more about Tobias. What has he learned so far? "The man cheats at poker." Jonah spits. "I coulda told you that." GL wants to be filled in. Sheriff Smith explains in flashback.
2. FLASHBACK. Smith has been the Sheriff of Elkhorn for several years now. It's a mining town, starting to boom. Miners are rowdy on occasion but it's a nice place to live. There's never been any trouble he couldn't handle, until about three months ago. Tobias Manning, just a troublemaker Smith had run out of town years before, came back to town, with magic powers. (El Diablo scoffs, it isn't magic, it's trickery. Smith says, "Well he tricked me near to death."). Smith fought him and lost. Manning took over the town, runs it like his personal kingdom, treating the people like slaves. Smith left town in defeat, looking for men who owed him favors, he's put together this posse and now he's back to shut Manning down.

3. BACK TO THE PRESENT. Green Lantern explains that he, Wonder Woman and Batman are lawmen as well ("From back East?" "Sure." Jonah Hex: "I've heard it's getting pretty wild back there. Like Sodom and Gomorrah." Bat Lash is encouraged. He's been meaning to take a trip back that way. In any case, Green Lantern continues, they've come to bring Clinton to Justice. Unfortunately, Manning stole a weapon from Clinton, that's the source of his magic. Wonder Woman is grim. Those weapons can't remain here. Swashbuckling El Diablo flirts with Wonder Woman, then takes his comeuppance graciously. Batman doesn't much like the flirting. Given that they all want pretty much the same thing, they agree to "ride together." What's the plan? "We put him down." The "magnificent seven" walk up the main street in town, backlit by the rising sun, looking like a western version of the old title sequence.
4. THE PRARIE - SUNRISE. On horseback, the Justice Riders approach Tobias' "ranch," a sprawling, anachronistic structure protected by Cowboys with rayguns, cowboys in mecha suits, cowboys riding dinosaurs, et. Cetera. Set piece action for everyone. Wonder Woman bulldogs a dinosaur. Green Lantern takes out the mecha man. Unarmed Batman takes out several cowboys (Jonah, "You're a dangerous man, Mr. Wayne." "So I've been told."). And

each of the western heroes gets a lick in, too. Finally they reach the big boss, Tobias, riding a genetically engineered winged, FLYING HORSE and using a bewildering display of future technology. It's the big battle.

Finally, Smith manages to get to him. They wrestle on the horse in mid-air and crash. Smith wins.

5. SAME LOCATION - LATER. Green Lantern has rounded up and destroyed all the future technology. The Western heroes have Tobias. Wonder Woman suggests that a team of western lawmen might be a useful thing. The cowboys laugh at the notion and go their separate ways -but who knows, they might ride together again someday. Clinton and Batman are working on the belt buckle control of the time suit. Clinton tricks Batman into touching an energy conduit. It knocks him out. Clinton thumbs the control and vanishes through a time tunnel. Wonder Woman scoops up Batman and dives through the quickly closing tunnel. Green Lantern is right beside her.

6. GOTHAM CITY - 2055. WONDER WOMAN, Batman and GREEN LANTERN arrive. It's a war zone. SUPERMAN (older and wearing a black costume), "BATMAN" (capeless, with a red bat symbol,) STATIC (an adult, fit but well into his sixties) and WARHAWK (the winged, armored hero from "The Call") are battling THE FATAL FIVE and losing. Green

Lantern saves Warhawk from a deadly axe blow. Warhawk, touches a stud that slides back his helmet, revealing his face. He looks over at GREEN LANTERN in Wonder, "Dad...?"

TO BE CONTINUED...