## THE GREEN LANTERN

by

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FADE IN:

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

FOOTSTEPS O.S. in hallway, bare except for a long row of archival photographs, B&W and then color, of America's space program.

ALAN SCOTT (distinguished, 50s, graying blond hair, bright eyes) stops before two ARMED GUARDS who check -

INSERT - WHITE HOUSE ID CARD, identifying Scott as the President's Advisor on Space Policy.

The Guards step aside and allow Scott to approach the nearby door.

Wearily, Scott fiddles with his wedding ring before flinging open the door, revealing -

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

WIDE SHOT of a vast nerve center of the US space program, located at -

SUPER: JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS

TEN YEARS AGO

TENSION IN THE AIR. ENGINEERS and TECHNICIANS scurry about, and FLIGHT CONTROLLERS glued to monitors and TALK IN LOW VOICES.

On the forward wall, GIANT VIEWSCREENS FLASH critical data.

AT THE FLIGHT DIRECTOR'S STATION, COLONEL BRODY (late 40's) wears a look of dread.

Scott joins him and shakes hands. Brody is relieved to see his old friend.

**BRODY** 

I thought you'd be with the President at some undisclosed location.

SCOTT

I told him I should be where the action is. Besides, if this doesn't work, we'll be better off than the survivors.

Brody nods in grim agreement.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

How are you holding up?

**BRODY** 

Me? You're asking the wrong person. (glances up)

I have a man up there. Alone. And on whom this entire planet is depending on.

SCOTT

Who did you end up selecting?

BRODY

I didn't select him. He volunteered.

SCOTT

Volunteered?

**BRODY** 

What type of man volunteers to save the world?

Scott thinks for a moment.

SCOTT

A man without fear.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

CLOSE ON hands over the instrument panel - a U.S. Air Force Academy ring. A button is pushed and -

EXT. SHUTTLE - CONT.

SPACE SHUTTLE atop giant booster rockets.

CLOSE: Painted on the Shuttle, "OA-2814 GUARDIAN"

A BLAST OF FIRE, and the assembly shoots away.

Booster rockets die out and fall away. The Shuttle hurtles on toward the Moon.

Behind and growing smaller, Earth - an insignificant blue marble in the vastness of space.

CONTROLLER (V.O. - FILTERED) Guardian, Mission Control. What's your status?

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

JOHN STEWART (black, early 30s, Air Force officer) waits for a reply. He is "CAPCOM," the liaison between the Shuttle Commander and Mission Control.

Silence. He looks up at a large screen, showing a GREEN BLIP closing fast on an image of the Moon.

STEWART

Hal, you awake up there?

INT. SHUTTLE - COCKPIT - CONT.

HAL JORDAN (early 30's) gazes at the Moon. The grayish orb grows larger in his cockpit window.

STEWART (V.O. - FILTERED)

Hal?

Hal smirks, slightly irritated by the interruption.

**JORDAN** 

I'm here.

STEWART (V.O. - FILTERED)

You okay, buddy?

JORDAN

I was just thinking.

STEWART (V.O. - FILTERED)

Sorry, Hal. That's not on the flight plan. You are to desist from that activity immediately. I'll be doing all your thinking for now on.

JORDAN

Don't you do that already?

STEWART

Ever since the Academy, old buddy. Now, I hate to bother you but since you're on the government's payroll and all, we were wondering if you can do something we like to call lunar-assisted acceleration.

**JORDAN** 

Acknowledged.

Jordan keys in some commands.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

All systems are a go. Clock is set and running.

DIGITAL TIMER sets for ten seconds. Starts counting down. Ten. Nine. Eight...

STEWART (V.O. - FILTERED)

What were you thinking?

JORDAN

I was just remembering why we joined the astronaut program.

STEWART (V.O. - FILTERED)

I wanted to fly through space. You?

Zero.

EXT. OUTER SPACE - SHUTTLE - CONT.

The Shuttle's Rocket Engines ROAR to life.

INT. SHUTTLE - COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan is thrown deep into his seat. His head forced upward. Before his eyes -

The pristine desolation of the lunar surface rushes past. For an instant, something on the Moon's surface SPARKLES.

**JORDAN** 

(to himself)

I wanted to stand on the Moon.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

CLOSE ON Propulsion Engineer Monitor - "IGNITION - GO"

PROPULSION

We have ignition of primary engines.

Brody turns to the NAVIGATION/GUIDANCE ENGINEER.

BRODY

How are we looking?

The Flight Controller scans his data. Numbers race by. Satisfied, he looks up.

NAVIGATION/GUIDANCE

The ship's on course and on time, Flight.

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN

The flashing Blip break away from its momentary brush with the Moon. It's heading deeper into space and toward -

ANOTHER FLASHING BLIP, colored yellow and pulsing with menace.

A RED LINE cuts the Viewscreen in half, right where the two Blips will meet.

INT. BRODY'S OFFICE - LATER

Overlooking Mission Control, Brody paces from one end of the room to the other. Scott looks on with concern.

SCOTT

When was the last time you slept?

**BRODY** 

Not since the initial sighting.

SCOTT

You did a good job putting this thing together at the last minute. I did, after all, recommend your plan to the President.

**BRODY** 

And he has so much faith in it that he's kicking his heels underneath some mountain somewhere.

SCOTT

This will work.

**BRODY** 

You believe that?

Scott hands Brody a drink.

SCOTT

You shouldn't always be so optimistic. It annoys people.

Brody's dark mood breaks for a moment. Enough for a smile and a sip. It passes.

**BRODY** 

One man. It all hinges on one man.

SCOTT

It couldn't be helped. We needed every cubic centimeter of space for fuel.

**BRODY** 

It's too much to place on one's shoulders.

SCOTT

Are you talking about the pilot or yourself?

Brody recognizes the rhetorical question with scorn.

BRODY

For the record, unlike Jordan, I didn't ask for this job.

SCOTT

You didn't?

**BRODY** 

You picked me, remember?

SCOTT

I wasn't my choice.

**BRODY** 

Whose choice was it?

SCOTT

Yours.

**BRODY** 

Mine?

SCOTT

This is what you get for being the right man at the right place at the right time.

BRODY

Next time, have someone else save the world.

Air Force lieutenant, KANE (mid-20's), enters the room.

KANE

It's time, sir.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

Anxious eyes follow Scott and Brody as they march into the center of the room like generals on the eve of battle. Brody approaches Stewart.

**BRODY** 

How is he doing?

STEWART

He's chomping at the bit to get at it.

**BRODY** 

Okay. Let's do this.

A giddy Stewart turns to face the viewscreens.

STEWART

(into microphone)

Hal, you have visuals on the target?

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan flips a switch.

**JORDAN** 

It's kinda hard to miss.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

Another giant VIEWSCREEN comes to life, revealing -

EXT. GIANT ASTEROID - CONT.

An ominous piece of interstellar rock fills the entire frame. It spins slowly through space, oblivious to everything but Newtonian physics, a mindless juggernaut of granite and minerals.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

Everyone stares in horrified awe.

Scott steps forward, fascinated by the sight. Brody hides his despair. Kane's mouth falls open.

KANE

Oh, Mother of God.

SCOTT

There it is. Our planet killer. Fifty kilometers in diameter. Traveling at over sixty thousand meters per second. Collision with another planetary body will result in an explosion equivalent to a million megaton nuclear device.

BRODY

And it's heading for Earth.
(to Flight Engineer)
Any change to its trajectory?

NAVIGATION/GUIDANCE

No, sir. No change.

**BRODY** 

We'll see about that. Is he ready?

STEWART

Don't worry, Flight. Hal's got that thing in his sights.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

With a flip of a switch, the targeting computer turns on. The Asteroid is in Jordan's crosshairs.

JORDAN

This thing is getting away from us. Request permission to commence attack.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

Stewart turns to Brody who's focused -

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN - The respective movements of the Asteroid and Shuttle are being tracked. The flight path of the Asteroid continues on until it stops abruptly at the Earth.

Kane points to the horizontal Line in front of them.

KANE

Our line in the sand.

SCOTT

The last possible moment the asteroid can be diverted from the Earth's gravitational pull.

Brody grits his teeth.

**BRODY** 

I want status on intercept. Give me a go, no go.

The Flight Controllers sound off in rapid succession.

PROPULSION

Propulsion, go!

NAVIGATION/GUIDANCE

Guidance and navigation, go!

COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Computer systems, go!

And then, something never heard before at Mission Control -

WEAPONS

Weapons are a go!

With a nod from Brody -

STEWART

(into microphone)

Everything's green, Hal. Permission granted. Knock that thing out of the sky!

TNT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan flashes a smile, full of anticipatory glee.

JORDAN

I thought you'd never asked.

Pulling forward a lever -

EXT. ASTEROID/SHUTTLE - CONT.

As the Asteroid slowly tumbles through space, the Shuttle fires its thrusters and vectors in behind the rocky behemoth.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan keys in some final commands. The ATTACK begins.

EXT. SHUTTLE - CONT.

The Shuttle's bay doors open. Two nuclear-tipped MISSILES rise out of the Shuttle and lock into position.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

CLOSE ON display screen with a schematic of the Shuttle.

WEAPONS

Bay door opened. Missiles are in firing position.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan continues with his preparation.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

CLOSE ON monitoring stations. Data races across every screen in the room.

WEAPONS

Target acquired. Guidance locked. Missile armed and ready to fire.

Brody nods his grim approval.

BRODY

Fire away.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan fingers the trigger on his joystick.

JORDAN

The target is hot. Missile's away!

EXT. MISSILE - CONT.

One of two Missiles erupts into life and flings itself at the Asteroid.

MISSILE P.O.V. as it heads towards its target.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN - The TWO BLIPS meet.

EXT. ASTEROID - CONT.

MASSIVE EXPLOSION.

A meeting between an immovable object and an irresistable force, resulting in -

At the point of impact, the Asteroid GLOWS red as tons of rock turn into molten slag.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

Everyone focuses -

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN

The Asteroid remains on track, still heading towards Earth.

Then, slowly, barely noticeable at first, the flash of light representing millions of tons of granite move away from its original trajectory. With each fleeting moment, the diversion becomes more acute.

EXT. ASTEROID - CONT.

CRACKS appear on the surface. They deepen. Minute fragments of space rock, the size of skyscrapers, begin breaking off.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN - The Asteroid's flight path continues to move until its trajectory clears the Earth.

WIDE SHOT as the whole room erupts with CHEERS and CONGRATULATIONS.

Brody collapses into a chair. Scott playfully rubs his friend's head.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan is in a state of exuberance, rising his arms as if he just made the winning fieldgoal.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

The CELEBRATION continues until -

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN - A SECONDARY BLIP appears, trailing away from the original.

Stewart runs to his station.

STEWART

(into microphone)

Hal, can you confirm a secondary body separating from the target?

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan lowers his arms. He looks hard and sees -

EXT. ASTEROID - CONT.

An ASTEROID FRAGMENT, the size of a city, breaking off from the main body.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

With a sneer, Jordan is snapped back to the task at hand.

**JORDAN** 

Houston. Confirmed. A part of the asteroid has broken off and is now completely free of the main body. Should I target it?

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

Brody holds up an open palm.

STEWART

(into microphone)

Standby.

The Flight Controllers erupt in debate.

**BRODY** 

What's the status on the primary target?

The ASTROPHYSICIST checks his instruments.

ASTROPHYSICIST

Give me a sec.

(checking his data)
It's good! The main body is still
moving away from Earth.

**BRODY** 

What about the fragment?

ASTROPHYSICIST

I'm running the numbers now.

A moment later, he shakes his head ominously.

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN - The Asteroid's trajectory splits. One line continues away from Earth while a NEW ONE remains on a collision course with Earth.

BRODY

Get him after that thing!

STEWART

(into microphone)

Hal?

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

His eyes locked on the Fragment, Jordan growls -

**JORDAN** 

I'm on it!

EXT. SHUTTLE - CONT.

The Shuttle's engines come to life once again as Jordan gives chase.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan's laser-like focus on the Fragment is distracted by a long-sustained SERIES OF POPPING SOUND reverberating throughout the cockpit.

JORDAN

What the...

A FIST-SIZED PIECE OF ASTEROID slams into the cockpit window, cracking it.

A startled Jordan jumps back but recovers instantly.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Houston, I'm being pegged with...

He glances through the side window and sees -

EXT. SHUTTLE - CONT.

A HOUSE-SIZED PIECE OF ASTEROID tumbling towards him.

TNT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

A look of disbelief washes over Jordan's face.

**JORDAN** 

Holy...

He pulls hard on his flight controls.

EXT. SHUTTLE - CONT.

The Shuttle executes a BARREL ROW, tightly circling the Piece of Asteroid as it flies past.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONTINUOUS

Jordan breathes heavily but looks like he's having the time of his life.

**JORDAN** 

John, the nuke kicked up a lot of junk up here.

He looks out ahead and sees -

EXT. ASTEROID FRAGMENT - CONT.

A WHIRLING MASS OF DEBRIS of various shapes and mass circling the Asteroid Fragment like a protective halo.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan checks his targeting display.

JORDAN

If I launch now, the missile has as much chance slamming into one of these floaters.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

Brody turns to the Astrophysicist who can only give him a plaintive look. He shifts his eyes -

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN

The Asteroid Fragment heading fast towards the Red Line and its eventual capture by the Earth's gravitational field.

**BRODY** 

(to Stewart)

Tell him to back off until we figure this out.

STEWART

Too late.

The FLASHING BLIPS representing the Asteroid Fragment and the Shuttle are merging.

EXT. SHUTTLE - CONT.

The Shuttle maneuvers through the Debris Field.

Sharp cuts. Abrupt rolls. Deft handling of thrusters. And Jordan engages in a deadly acrobatic dance with the crisscrossing mini-asteroids, each seemingly bent on colliding with him.

One last maneuver. The Shuttle flips end over end as it glide between two LARGE ASTEROIDS a moment before they crash into each other.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan howls -

JORDAN

I'm clear!

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

An amused Stewart turns to the Flight Director.

STEWART

You realize when he gets back, we won't be able to get his ego through the hatch.

BRODY

Tell him to destroy that thing and come back home.

STEWART

(into microphone)

Hal, if you don't have any previous commitments...

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan already started the firing sequence.

**JORDAN** 

You don't even have to ask. Target acquired. Weapon armed. Firing now!

CLOSE ON joystick. The trigger is pulled.

EXT. SHUTTLE - CONT.

CLOSE ON missile carriage. One of the clamps holding the remaining MISSILE in place suffers an ELECTRICAL SHORT. The Missile remains locked in place.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

A puzzled Stewart looks up.

STEWART

(into microphone)

Hal, can you confirm launch?

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan silently curses.

JORDAN

Negative. There was no launch. Repeat. No launch. Firing again.

Jordan pulls the trigger again. And again, nothing.

On a display screen, a schematic of the carriage is illustrated. A warning FLASHES.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I have a malfunction with the carriage mechanism. Attempting override.

Jordan punches in the emergency code. No effect.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

The Flight Controller attempting the same thing and getting the same result. He turns to his boss and shakes his head.

BRODY

Fine. Deactivate the warhead.

(to Stewart)

Tell Jordan to sit tight until we come up with a solution.

STEWART

Make it fast.

Stewart points to -

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN - The Asteroid Fragment rapidly approaching the point when it will be captured by the Earth's gravitational pull.

Brody, Scott and Stewart huddle around the Astrophysics station.

BRODY

Time?

ASTROPHYSICIST

Once captured, Earth's gravity will pull that thing on top of our heads. It'll make landfall in less than forty-eight hours.

**BRODY** 

Where?

The Flight Controller punches in some numbers. On his monitor, the Fragment's trajectory is rendered, ending at -

ASTROPHYSICS

Just off the coast of California.

ON SECONDARY VIEWSCREEN - A MAP OF THE CALIFORNIAN COAST is laid out with the Fragment's trajectory imposed. The resulting BLAST radiating from the impact point obscures the much of the Western United States.

STEWART

Christ! Millions are going to die.

WIDE SHOT as the collective attention of Mission Control watches helplessly as the Fragment crosses the Red Line on the Main Viewscreen.

**BRODY** 

(to himself)

T failed.

Scott places a comforting hand on his friend's shoulder as communal despair fills the room, only to be interrupted when -

WEAPONS

The warhead's armed again!

**BRODY** 

What?

A quick glance and a horrified Stewart realizes that he left his microphone on.

STEWART

Oh, no.

WEAPONS

The targeting system is still off.

PROPULSION

He has the main engine prepped for a full burn!

And everyone understands.

STEWART

Hey, Hal. What are you doing?

INTERCUT: SHUTTLE COCKPIT/MISSION CONTROL

Jordan busily punches in commands on his instrument panel. His cockiness is gone, replaced by grim determination.

JORDAN

What is it? I'm kinda busy up here.

STEWART

Did you fix the locking mechanism?

**JORDAN** 

Not exactly.

Scott approaches Stewart who hands over his communications gear.

SCOTT

(into microphone)

Captain Jordan, this is Alan Scott, Advisor to the President on Space Policy. Are you sure you want to go through with this?

JORDAN

If you have any alternatives, I'd like to hear them.

SCOTT

(into microphone)

I'm sorry, I don't. Aim for the most solid part of the asteroid. This should weaken its structural integrity enough for Earth's gravity to rip it apart. With luck, most of what remains should burn up in the atmosphere.

JORDAN

I'll try my best.

SCOTT

(into microphone)

I know you will, son.

Scott hands back the headset and settles into a chair.

With the last command keyed in, Jordan sinks into his seat. The adrenaline drains from his body. He looks out at -

THROUGH WINDOW - His death in the form of the Asteroid Fragment tumbling through space in front of him.

And Jordan is afraid.

**JORDAN** 

John?

Stewart puts on his headset. The two friends talk in soft, confidential whispers.

STEWART

I'm here, buddy.

JORDAN

What's the weather like in Houston?

STEWART

I can't say. I haven't left Mission Control since you took off. How's the weather where you are?

JORDAN

Not a cloud to be seen. From where I am, you can see forever.

A moment passes, then Jordan wills himself into action.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

All right. Let's do this!

EXT. SHUTTLE - CONT.

The Shuttle's rockets IGNITE as it charges toward the Fragment and their mutual destruction.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

ON MAIN VIEWSCREEN - The two Blips rapidly converge.

Most of the Flight Controllers turn away.

Brody walks over to Stewart whose head is buried in his hand. Scott continues to watch the giant monitor.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

As the Shuttle closes in its target, Jordan reaches for and activates the AUTOPILOT. An indicator light turns RED.

Moments from impact, Jordan closes his eyes and waits.

Just then, the entire cockpit is suddenly bathed in a GREEN REFLECTIVE GLOW coming from outside.

EXT. ASTEROID FRAGMENT - CONT.

As the Shuttle closes in, a brilliant, translucent GREEN ENERGY appears from nowhere and engulfs the rocky behemoth.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

The IMAGE of the Fragment on the viewscreen becomes distorted, interrupted by FLASHES of green light, then dies.

Throughout the room, all instrumentation from the Shuttle ends.

Everyone looks up and concludes that Shuttle has been destroyed.

Stewart throws his headset against the wall.

They begin to mill around, consoling each other, ignoring the giant viewscreens. Everyone except for Scott who stands mesmerized by the blank screen.

EXT. ASTEROID FRAGMENT - CONT.

The Green Energy GLOWS with increasing intensity as it tears the Fragment apart. Suddenly, the Fragment disintegrates into a CLOUD of countless smaller pieces.

Manipulated by this strange energy field, the shattered remnants of the Asteroid begin to take on a distinctive shape.

An opening forms in the Debris Cloud. It grows larger, forming an clearing right in the flight path of the Shuttle.

The Fragment, moments before a solid, stony mass, is now a floating ring of rock and dust with bars balanced at each pole, transformed into -

THE INSIGNIA OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS

The Shuttle flies through its center unharmed.

Once the Shuttle is free and clear, the Energy Field holding the fractured asteroid in place disappears. The remains of the Fragment dissipates into the vacuum of space.

INT. SHUTTLE COCKPIT - CONT.

Jordan hesitantly opens his eyes to nothing but empty space in front of him. He peers at a display screen and sees -

EXT. DEBRIS CLOUD - CONT.

The Green Energy responsible for its destruction nor its source are nowhere to be seen.

INT. MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

The dark cloud cast over the room begins to break when -

JORDAN (V.O. - FILTERED)

(perplexed)

Houston?

No one is sure if they hear what they just heard.

JORDAN (V.O. - FILTERED) (CONT'D)

Houston, do you read me?

Suddenly, the DATA FLOW from the Shuttle returns to the monitoring stations.

Stewart retrieves his headset.

STEWART

(excitedly)

Hal? Hal! You're alive! Hot dog! What happened?

INTERCUT: SHUTTLE COCKPIT/MISSION CONTROL

A mixture of relief and disbelief settles on everyone's faces, including Jordan's.

**JORDAN** 

Damned if I know.

STEWART

The fragment?

JORDAN

It's nothing but dust now. I guess it tore itself apart.

The celebration is renewed as an enthused Scott and Brody walk away and step into -

INT. BRODY'S OFFICE - CONT.

Scott picks up the phone and is instantly connected with -

SCOTT

Mr. President, I have good news. The threat is completely removed... Yes, sir. Completely... Thank you. I'll pass that on to everyone involved. You are very welcome, sir.

(MORE)

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I'll return to Washington to present my report. Now, that issue we discussed, I trust I have your full support... Excellent. I will brief all concerned parties... Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

Scott hangs up the phone.

BRODY

The President should enjoy a bump in his approval rating after this.

SCOTT

He's not going to make any public announcements.

Brody is surprised.

**BRODY** 

I would think he would want to.

SCOTT

He did. I talked him out of it.

**BRODY** 

You did what?

SCOTT

As far as anyone is concerned, absolutely nothing unusual happened today. There was no planet-killer. No interception. Just an ordinary day on the good ol' planet Earth.

**BRODY** 

I agree that we needed to keep a lid on this thing once we got wind of it. There was no point causing a global panic. But now, with the asteroid destroyed...

Brody shoots a mischievous look at his colleague.

BRODY (CONT'D)

We could use this for the next funding cycle.

SCOTT

No.

**BRODY** 

Why?

SCOTT

It'll be thousands, maybe millions of years, before something like this happens again. Just in case, I already have the President's commitment to create of a planetary early warning system.

BRODY

Then what's the problem?

SCOTT

What do you think will happen if the public knew how close we came to going the way of the dinosaurs?

**BRODY** 

They'd want us to do something about it.

SCOTT

If we let the public know what transpired today, they will demand that all our funding go into finding ways of destroying stray asteroids to the exclusion of everything else.

**BRODY** 

I see.

SCOTT

If that happens, it will set back, possibly cripple human exploration of space for decades to come. I'm not afraid of some wandering space rock, Brody. I'm afraid of that all too human tendency to hide from things we don't understand. People shouldn't be afraid of what's out there in space.

Brody nods in agreement but gives his counterpart an ironic smirk.

**BRODY** 

But we already know that there are things out there in space one should be afraid of.

Brody hands Scott a drink. A toast is raised.

INTERCUT: SHUTTLE COCKPIT/MISSION CONTROL - CONT.

Exhausted, Jordan sits back and collects himself. He stares out into space with vacant eyes. His breathing is shallow. Something deep inside this man has been used up.

JORDAN

Is there anything else I need to do up here?

An equally drained Stewart collapses in his chair.

STEWART

No, buddy. We can't ask anymore of you. You've done enough.

**JORDAN** 

Request permission to return home.

Stewart glances at Brody and Scott who just returned. Brody happily nods.

STEWART

Permission granted. Come on home, Hal.

Jordan reaches to deactivate the Autopilot. His hand trembles so badly, he needs to pull back. He clinches his fist and tries again, successfully this time.

The indicator light turns GREEN.

EXT. SHUTTLE - CONT.

The Shuttle's engines IGNITES and heads back home, leaving behind -

EXT. DEBRIS CLOUD - CONT.

As the Shuttle vanishes into the darkness, it's being watched. An impossible scene slowly slides into frame.

In the vacuum of space, a naked HAND appears. A GREEN FLAME seems to flow from its clenched fingers.

Pulling back, a SHADOWY FIGURE of what can only be a man is revealed. His back turned away, this obscured figure stands on a piece of asteroid, exposed to the vacuum of space if not for the warm, eerie emerald glow surrounding him.

INT. BRODY'S OFFICE - DAY

Days later. Brody, flanked by Scott and Stewart, looks down at -

CLOSE ON ASTRONAUT BADGE that just landing on Brody's desk.

He looks up at -

**BRODY** 

If this is what you want.

A tired Jordan, standing at attention.

**JORDAN** 

It is.

**BRODY** 

We would like you to stay on.

STEWART

You have friends here.

**JORDAN** 

I'm sorry, sir. I'm spent.

Scott extends his hand.

SCOTT

Given what you've done, I think you earned the right to enjoy your retirement. Is there anything we can do for you?

Jordan takes his hand.

**JORDAN** 

No, sir. Well, maybe one thing.

SCOTT

Name it.

JORDAN

Lose my number.

Scott nods and Jordan leaves, joined by Stewart.

INT. HALLWAY - CONT.

The two friends head toward the exit.

STEWART

So what now?

JORDAN

I'm not sure. Maybe head west and look up Ol' Man Ferris. He said he has a job waiting for me whenever I get tired of NASA.

STEWART

You did good up there.

They stop at the door.

JORDAN

We got lucky. What if I failed?

STEWART

But you didn't. I know we're friends and all, but honestly, I can't think of anyone else I rather have up there looking out for us.

The friends shake hands.

**JORDAN** 

Next time, you volunteer.

Jordan opens the door and leaves NASA.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MILITARY AIR BASE - DAY

Over a pristine desert sky, a slick EXPERIMENTAL AIRCRAFT makes some hair-raising maneuvers.

SUPER: THE PRESENT

GROUND OBSERVERS look up in amazement.

GROUND OBSERVER #1

That is, without question, the best test pilot in the entire world.

GROUND OBSERVER #2

Absolutely fearless.

The rest of them nod their agreement as -

SUPER: FLIGHT TEST CENTER, EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, MOJAVE DESERT

The aircraft performs one last astonishing maneuver, before landing on the airfield.

It taxis towards -

INT. HANGER - CONT.

The aircraft's callsign - Star Sapphire - is inscribed on its side.

As it rolls to a stop, the canopy rises and the pilot - who turns out not to be Hal Jordan - removes her helmet.

CAROL FERRIS (a feisty brunette, early 30's, hell of a pilot) climbs down.

The aircraft's designer, TOM KALMAKU (40's) shoots Ferris an annoyed look then turns to -

KALMAKU

Please tell your pilot to be careful with my airplane.

Jordan, very much the same man he was before, his additional years betrayed only by his white temples.

**JORDAN** 

Your plane? My pilot? Hmmm.

Jordan wears a look of disapproval as Ferris walks up.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I don't remember approving those maneuvers, Miss Ferris. I should ground you. Don't think I can't just because your father owns the company.

**FERRIS** 

I would love to see you try, boss man?

Kalmaku rolls his eyes.

**JORDAN** 

(sternly)

My office.

Jordan, with Ferris in tow, walks toward -

INT. JORDAN'S OFFICE - CONT.

As the door closes behind them, Jordan's stern features melt away and the two lovers embrace and kiss.

CLOSE ON JORDAN'S DESK. There is a PHOTO of Jordan, Ferris, and a YOUNG BOY of eight from the previous Halloween.

## FRAMED PHOTO

They are all in costumes. Ferris is dressed like a space princess. Jordan and the Boy are the Lone Ranger and Tonto, respectively.

The LONE RANGER MASK dangles off the picture frame.

INT. FERRIS' HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A scene of domesticity. Jordan and Ferris lounge on the couch, watching television.

At their feet, Ferris' son, KYLE RAYNER, the eight-year old boy in the photo, is drawing. He hands the sketchpad and pencil to Jordan.

A picture of a rocket ship.

Jordan adds a stick figure with a space helmet to the drawing and hands it back to Kyle.

Kyle glances at Jordan's addition and looks at him with pity.

## ON TELEVISION

The last scene of John Ford's 'Stagecoach' where John Wayne rides off with Claire Trevor.

Kyle looks up at his mother and Jordan.

KYLE

When are you two going to get married?

A taboo subject was broached. Ferris is playfully irritated.

**FERRIS** 

Isn't it your bedtime?

KYLE

But...

Jordan picks up the boy.

JORDAN

Don't argue with your mother. She's one woman you don't want mad at you.

KYLE

Tell me about it.

**FERRIS** 

Do I have to order you to bed too?

INT. KYLE'S BEDROOM - MINUTES LATER

With outstretched arms, Kyle flies through the air as Jordan lifts him by the back of his pajama pants.

After 'landing' on the bed, Jordan tucks the boy in.

**JORDAN** 

All right, kid. You're all strapped in and ready for slumberland.

KYLE

Hal?

**JORDAN** 

Yes?

Kyle hesitates. Jordan waits with a father's patience.

KYLE

Why can't I come with you to the airshow?

**JORDAN** 

You know my plane's a singleseater. It's not recommended that a pilot fly with a little boy sitting on his lap. It's not safe. The temptation to tickle him would be too great.

Jordan tickles the boy.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Tell you what, we'll rent a Cessna. Just you and me. I'll even let you take the controls.

KYLE

I don't think Mom will let me.

JORDAN

Well, I guess we just won't tell her. Deal?

KYLE

Deal.

**JORDAN** 

Until then, I need you to look after your mother.

KYLE

Who will look after me?

Jordan just smiles at Kyle.

KYLE (CONT'D)

You know, if you and Mom...

(hesitates)

You know. You can look after me and Mom all the time.

**JORDAN** 

I know, Kyle. I know.

Jordan kisses the boy on the forehead and turns off the light as he leaves.

EXT. PORCH - CONT.

Jordan joins Ferris.

**FERRIS** 

He ask again, didn't he?

**JORDAN** 

Yep. It's a good question, though.

FERRIS

I'm not ready to get married again, Hal. Be patient.

**JORDAN** 

I'm not going anywhere.

**FERRIS** 

Things are good as they are. I don't want a silly little thing like a ring ruin everything.

Jordan sits down in a lawn chair and stares skyward.

Ferris strolls to him and slides down onto his lap.

FERRIS (CONT'D)

You're looking out into space again.

JORDAN

I know.

She places her head next to Jordan's to match the direction of his gaze.

**FERRIS** 

What do you see?

Jordan grits his teeth as he answers -

**JORDAN** 

Darkness.

Ferris turns Jordan's head to her.

**FERRIS** 

It's only when the night is darkest, that's the stars shine the brightest.

A brief kiss then Jordan looks skyward again.

JORDAN'S P.O.V.

In the star-speckled night sky, Jordan focuses on one star in particular.

Jordan's P.O.V. accelerates out of the atmosphere, past the Moon, and travels the distance of light-years in a blink of an eye until arriving at -

ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM

A large and menacing alien STARSHIP flies through space.

SUPER: THE ALPHA CENTAURI SYSTEM (CLOSEST STAR SYSTEM TO EARTH)

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

A huge granite-skinned behemoth named Darkseid watches a GREEN SHOOTING STAR on the MAIN DISPLAY.

Standing next to him is SINESTRO, a wiry humanoid with red skin and wearing the universally recognizable look of malice.

All around them, a collections of ALIENS.

ON MAIN DISPLAY

The IMAGE of the display is magnified, revealing the Green Shooting Star as -

EXT. OUTER SPACE - CONT.

A bald, scarlet-skinned HUMANOID. He wears a black and green uniform. On this chest, a familiar INSIGNIA - the Insignia of the Green Lantern Corps.

Thrust forward on an alien digit, the extraterrestrial wears a distinctive RING patterned after the Insignia. A brilliant emerald ENERGY FIELD emanates from the Ring, propelling and protecting its wearer through space.

This alien was the Shadowy Figure that destroyed the Asteroid Fragment that threatened Earth ten years before. His name is ABIN SUR. He is a Green Lantern, a member of a band of intergalactic peacekeepers.

IN THE DISTANCE

Darkseid's flagship follows unnoticed.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

Darkseid's cruel features emphasize his intent.

DARKSEID

I want the ring.

EXT. PLANETARY ORBIT - LATER

A badly damaged SPACE FREIGHTER helplessly orbits an ALIEN PLANET.

Abin Sur approaches ship cautiously. He enters through a breach in its hull.

INT. SPACE FREIGHTER - CONT.

Making his way through the ship, Abin Sur comes upon -

Its dead alien crew, still strapped down at their stations.

The ALIEN DISTRESS SIGN continues to call out. Abin Sur turns it off.

Suddenly, the entire ship SHUDDERS. Abin Sur's Ring glows with brilliance.

EXT. PLANETARY ORBIT - CONT.

Darkseid's Flagship dwarfs the Freighter. It releases another destructive SALVO at the damaged spaceship.

The tiny ship vanishes in a massive FIREBALL.

Abin Sur rockets out of the explosion like a green flare.

Once clear of the flames and debris, Abin Sur seems to hangs in mid-air, facing Darkseid's giant warship.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

Darkseid half smiles, half grimaces.

DARKSETD

Fire!

EXT. PLANETARY ORBIT - CONT.

LASERS and MISSILES fly past as the Green Lantern easily maneuvers out of harm's way. He fires back. BEAMS OF GREEN ENERGY from his Ring rips away parts of the Flagship's hull.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

The entire ship SHAKES. Darkseid's confident glee vanishes.

DARKSEID

Fire all weapons!

EXT. PLANETARY ORBIT - CONT.

Abin Sur gracefully dodges the INCOMING FIRE as he strikes back. Occasionally, a LASER BLAST finds its mark but fails to penetrate his energy shield.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

A frustrated Darkseid turns to Sinestro.

DARKSEID

Get me that ring!

A heartened Sinestro exits the bridge and makes his way to -

INT. AIRLOCK - CONT.

Sinestro wears a similar RING, a yellow one. It powers up, enveloping him with a golden film of energy.

The doors of the airlock open. Sinestro flies into space to do battle.

EXT. PLANETARY ORBIT - CONT.

Abin Sur's attention is focused on the Flagship when Sinestro strikes him like a living missile.

As Sinestro swings around for another pass, Abin Sur recovers and the two aliens lock themselves in a three-dimensional fisticuff.

As Abin Sur and Sinestro maneuver around each other, CONSTRUCTS OF SOLID ENERGY, translucent but possessing mass, emerge from their respective rings which they use to strike each other.

Between Sinestro and the firepower of the Flagship, Abin Sur is soon fighting a losing battle.

Sinestro restrains Abin Sur in a VICE of yellow energy. Thehe Green Lantern is a stationary target.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

Darkseid points.

DARKSEID

Destroy him!

EXT. PLANETARY ORBIT - CONT.

A devastating FUSILLADE strikes Abin Sur, breaking Sinestro's hold and propelling the Green Lantern away.

The distance gives the badly wounded Abin Sur a reprieve. He flees into the darkness of space.

Sinestro and the Flagship give chase.

EXT. FERRIS' DRIVEWAY - DAY

Ferris and Kyle see Jordan to his car.

FERRIS

I'll see you in a couple of days. Be careful.

JORDAN

You know I will. Bye, Kyle.

KYLE

Bye, Hal.

(whispering into his ear)
Remember our deal?

**JORDAN** 

Hush.

Ferris gives the two men in her life a curious look. After hugs and kisses, Jordan leaves.

EXT. CIVILIAN AIRFIELD - SHORT TIME LATER

The canopy of Jordan's vintage P-51 MUSTANG locks into place.

The World War Two fighter starts down the runway and takes off. Its callsign - Showcase - is painted on its side.

EXT. ASTEROID BELT

Among the countless bodies of floating rock, a game of cat and mouse is being played.

IN THE DISTANCE

The Flagship bathes the asteroid field with an eerie light as it scans for its quarry.

A Yellow Strobe swirls around, darting among the asteroids.

BEHIND SMALL ASTEROID

Abin Sur hides. He glances at his pursuers then looks down at his hands. They're covered with blood.

The Green Lantern concentrates. For a moment, a GHOSTLY IMAGE someone or something is projected from the Ring before vanishing. The effort disappoints and exhausts him.

### ANOTHER PART OF THE ASTEROID BELT

Sinestro flies around the planetoids with ease. He stops and flashes a cruel smile as he projects his voice through the vacuum of space.

SINESTRO

It is useless. We are jamming your signal. Surrender your ring and your life will be spared.

He waits for an answer. None is forthcoming.

SINESTRO (CONT'D)

You are right. We are going to kill you regardless. But why prolong the inevitable. You are alone. Your comrades do not know of your plight. If they did, they would not be able to find you. Even if they knew where you were, they will not be able to save you. They will be busy fighting for their own lives. Theirs and the lives of those you serve.

Sinestro sees an EMERALD AFTERGLOW behind a distant asteroid. He rushes towards -

## ABIN SUR'S ASTEROID

Sinestro stealthily approaches the opposite side of the asteroid, then pounces only to find the Green Lantern is no longer there.

What he does find are tiny GLOBULES of Abin Sur's blood floating around. He snatches a drop between his fingers.

Sinestro's yellow ring glows and a HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF Darkseid emerges from the ring.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF SINESTRO stays in front of Darkseid.

SINESTRO

He is wounded.

DARKSEID

What of my prize?

SINESTRO

You will have your ring soon enough.

DARKSEID

I do not have time to search for him. My armada is assembled. We must strike now before we are detected.

SINESTRO

(angrily)

He will escape! We are lose the ring!

DARKSEID

He is only one of many. All we need is but for one ring to fall into our possession and the galaxy is mine.

SINESTRO

But...

DARKSEID

(interrupting)

Do not lose sight of our ultimate goal. Once the Guardians are destroyed, you can sweep through the known worlds to indulge your revenge. Until then, return to my side. I will dispatch a scoutship to recover his ring. In the meantime, we have a universe to conquer.

With a wave of his hand, communications is terminated.

EXT. ASTEROID BELT - CONT.

The image of Darkseid dissipates and a reluctant Sinestro heads back to the flagship.

EXT. DARKSEID'S FLAGSHIP - CONT.

As Sinestro enters the Flagship through an airlock, the bay doors open and a SCOUTSHIP takes off.

EXT. EARTH ORBIT - LATER

An EARLY WARNING SATELLITE continues on its constant journey around the Earth. Its telescope points out into the vast reaches of space.

INT. NORAD - CONT.

At a monitoring station, an Air Force AIRMAN tracks a rapidly moving BLIP approaching Earth. An OFFICER looks over his shoulder.

SUPER: HEADQUARTERS, NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE (NORAD), CHEYENNE MOUNTAIN COMPLEX

AIRMAN

Look at the speed of that thing.

OFFICER

Is it heading for us?

**AIRMAN** 

Yes, sir.

OFFICER

A harmless meteor. Have the computer tag it and track it. It should burn up in the atmosphere.

EXT. AIRSTRIP - CONT.

Jordan's Mustang touches down.

As he comes to a stop, he finds Kalmaku already waiting for him.

EXT. UPPER ATMOSPHERE - LATER

Abin Sur struggles to remain conscious as he approaches Earth. The green light surrounding Abin Sur turns into a fiery orange as he enters the atmosphere. He screams as FIRE engulfs him.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Jordan and Kalmaku are relaxing, watching -

#### ON TELEVISION

'High Noon' with Gary Cooper's Marshal Kane. The sheriff, abandoned by his people, grimacing as he walks down the deserted street to face the bad guys.

The scene makes Jordan uneasy. He gets up and walks onto -

#### BALCONY

Jordan scans the night sky and sees -

EMERALD SHOOTING STAR

As it disappears over the horizon.

EXT. SKIES OVER CALIFORNIA - CONT.

Abin Sur plummets to Earth, passing through a heavily-wooded mountain range, until -

EXT. CRASH SITE - CONT.

Crashing through a canopy of evergreen trees.

SUPER: THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS

A smouldering trail ends with the fallen Green Lantern lying in a ready-made grave. Abin Sur moves slightly. Not quite dead yet.

LATER - MORNING

The Sun rises over a pristine green landscape.

Sunlight caresses Abin Sur's face. Painfully, he concentrates. A three-dimensional IMAGE, glowing green and translucent, slowly emerges from the Ring,

The faded holographic projection of G'NORT, a canine Green Lantern. He looks scared.

EXT. G'NORT'S SOLAR SYSTEM - CONT.

The real G'Nort floats in the emptiness of space, facing Darkseid's ARMADA OF HEAVILY-ARMED STARSHIPS of various shapes and sizes.

G'Nort is brutally struck in rapid succession by LASERS from the Armada.

Sinestro flies by and unleashes his own assault.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

A grinning Darkseid sees the onslaught overwhelming G'Nort.

EXT. G'NORT'S SOLAR SYSTEM - CONT.

A defeated G'Nort looks at the nearby sun. In one last willful act, his RING flies from G'Nort's paw and heads towards the star.

No longer protected by his ring, G'Nort quickly perishes in the harshness of space.

The Ring vanishes in the fiery star.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

Darkseid screams with rage.

EXT. G'NORT'S SOLAR SYSTEM - CONT.

A gleeful Sinestro approaches G'Nort's corpse, engulfs the body with energy and slings the alien into the sun to be reunited with his ring.

EXT. CRASH SITE - CONT.

Abin Sur lowers his head in sorrow. He summons one last task for his Ring.

A BEAM OF GREEN ENERGY erupts from it, arching across the sky.

EXT. AIRSTRIP - CONT.

Jordan sits in the cockpit of his Mustang, going over his checklist. Nearby, Kalmaku wrestles with a fuel line.

**JORDAN** 

Hey, Tom! Get a move on. The race starts in half-hour.

KALMAKU

Hold your horses.

Suddenly, the Beam finds its target. It engulfs the plane like a tractor beam. The canopy slams shut and locks into place. The prop starts to spin.

KALMAKU (CONT'D)

Hey!

As puzzled ONLOOKERS stare, the Mustang is pulled straight up into the sky.

EXT. SKIES OVER CALIFORNIA - CONT.

The Mustang is airborne and accelerating.

INSIDE COCKPIT

A bewildered Jordan futilely attempts to gain control.

**JORDAN** 

What the...

The needle on his odometer is pushed to its limit.

SONIC BOOM

The plane shudders in its wake.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

This is not possible.

The fighter continues on its course. Once over the Mountains, the Green Energy surrounding the Mustang WEAKENS.

INSIDE COCKPIT

Jordan looks at his odometer. His air speed drops.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Oh, great!

One last flicker and the Energy Beam dissipates. Gravity takes over and the airplane plummets to the ground.

Jordan struggles with the controls, fighting to pull the Mustang out of its dive as he attempts to start the engine.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Come on! Come on! Come on!

The engine comes alive.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Yes!

Jordan pulls hard on his joystick as -

The airplane recovers from its dive, missing the treetops by inches.

The fighter quickly gains altitude, but only for a moment. The engine struggles.

Jordan looks down at the fuel gauge. Empty. He searches the ground below and sees -

ON THE GROUND

The SWATH OF CLEAR GROUND carved through the trees by Abin Sur.

The Mustang banks toward it and -

CRASH-LANDS, stopping in a maelstrom of timber, dirt and pine needles.

EXT. CRASH SITE - MINUTES LATER

A badly shaken Jordan falls out of the plane. He struggles to his feet and examines the wrecked Mustang then looks around his surroundings.

**JORDAN** 

I must be dreaming.

Jordan heads down the cleared path and comes upon the Green Lantern. He freezes at the sight of the mortally wounded alien.

Abin Sur gradually becomes aware of Jordan's presence. The alien's eyes light up and he manages a weak smile.

Jordan notices Abin Sur's wounds. He cautiously approaches the dying extraterrestrial.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Don't worry. I won't hurt you.

Abin Sur struggles for each breath.

ABIN SUR (SUBTITLED)

(in his alien language)

I am dying.

**JORDAN** 

I don't understand what you're saying. What happened to you?

ABIN SUR (SUBTITLED)

(in his alien language)

Your world is in danger. The galaxy is in peril.

JORDAN

Tell me how I can help you. Tell me what to do.

Abin Sur grabs Jordan's hand. Jordan instinctively pulls away but the alien's grip is like a vice.

ABIN SUR

(in English)

Protect. Serve.

Slowly, Abin Sur's Ring loses form, turning into a GLISTENING LIQUID, like emerald mercury.

As a stunned Jordan looks on -

CLOSE ON the fluid green metal defies gravity and slides up from Abin Sur's hand to Jordan's. It binds itself to and essentially replacing Jordan's Academy Graduation Ring before solidifying back to its original form.

Abin Sur's grip loosens. Jordan jumps away, ripping the alien Ring from his finger and flinging it away.

Turning back to the alien, Jordan watches a now serene Abin Sur take his last breath.

EXT. TOMAR-RE'S SOLAR SYSTEM

The Darkseid's Armada orbits another ALIEN WORLD, firing its weapons in all directions. Something is giving them trouble.

The turrets of a BATTLECRUISER fire its lasers. One of the turrets EXPLODES. A GREEN SHOOTING STAR flashes by.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

Darkseid roars with rage.

DARKSEID

Destroy him!

EXT. TOMAR-RE'S SOLAR SYSTEM - CONT.

The green shooting star is another Green Lantern, the avian TOMAR-RE. The bird-like humanoid moves gracefully among the LASERS and MISSILES, inflicting damage on Darkseid's fleet as he soars past.

Suddenly, Tomar-Re find his flight blocked by Sinestro. The two nemeses are suspended in space, like gladiators in a three-dimensional arena.

Sinestro is the first to attack. His assault is easily repulsed. As they battle, it's clear that Tomar-Re is the better fighter.

The Armada closes in, forcing Tomar-Re to retreat.

A recovered Sinestro is about to give chase when -

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

ON MONITOR - Darkseid watches a frustrated and enraged Sinestro.

#### DARKSEID

Hold! The fleet cannot catch him and you cannot defeat him alone. Let this one go. There are others.

Sinestro screams. Darkseid smirks.

EXT. ABIN SUR'S CRASH SITE - DAY

A depleted Jordan stares down at the deceased Abin Sur, particularly the INSIGNIA on his uniform, hinting at some sort of recognition.

With a deep breath, he picks up a handful of dirt and proceeds to bury the dead alien.

EXT. ALIEN WORLD - DAY

CLOSE ON the last handful of dirt is sprinkled on a mound. Not by Jordan but rather Tomar-Re.

This is just another addition to a row of newly buried graves. Tomar-Re looks up and sees another Green Lantern descending.

KATMAI TU, a female red-skinned humanoid with delicate features, holds a badly wounded insect-like Green Lantern named XAX in her arms.

With Tomar-Re's help, she gently lays Xax on the ground. As the two Green Lanterns helplessly look on, Xax dies.

KATMAI TU

Who did this to him?

Then, Katmai Tu sees the other graves.

KATMAI TU (CONT'D)

Who is capable of this? Who can do this to us?

TOMAR-RE

The criminal Darkseid and his legion. The renegade is with them.

A look of terror overcomes the female Green Lantern.

KATMAI TU

Sinestro! I must return to my world.

TOMAR-RE

No! That is what they want. It is too dangerous and they are too powerful. We must gather the others.

KATMAI TU

(interrupting)

And leave our worlds defenseless!

TOMAR-RE

They need only to conquer but one world and the universe is theirs.

KATMAI TU

Have you forgotten your people? Have you forgotten our oath?

The enraged Katmai Tu rockets skyward.

Tomar-Re attempts to restrain her with a LASSO OF ENERGY. She sends back a ENERGY BOLT, knocking Tomar-Re to the ground and makes good her escape.

Now alone, Tomar-Re removes Xax's ring and places it in a pile. With a BEAM OF ENERGY from his own ring, Tomar-Re disintegrates the other rings taken from the fallen.

Tomar-Re shapes itself into a SHOVEL and begins digging another grave.

EXT. CASH SITE - DUSK

A mound of dirt covers Abin Sur's final resting place. An uncertain Jordan sees -

An EERIE GREEN GLOW a few yards away.

He retrieves the ring and hesitantly slides it on his finger, then begins walking.

EXT. MOUNTAIN PATH - NIGHT

Jordan makes his way through the wilderness, guided by the LIGHT offered by the Ring. Unbeknownst to him, he is at -

EDGE OF A CLIFF

He loses his footing and slides down the incline. Jordan reaches the edge of a rocky precipice and is propelled airborne.

As he drops, a FORCEFIELD surrounds him a moment before he hits the protruding cliff wall.

He continues to fall. Until he makes contact with the ground below and bounces. Once. Twice. Before coming to a rest.

Disoriented but unharmed, Jordan picks himself up. He looks up and sees that the great distance he fell. He then looks down to find himself LEVITATING a few feet off the ground.

INT./EXT. FERRIS' HOME - BEDROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER

TAPPING on the glass balcony sliding door arouses Ferris from her sleep. Turning on the light, she finds an exhausted Jordan standing outside.

**FERRIS** 

Hal?

Jordan collapses into her arms as she opens the door.

Guided to the bed, Jordan is already asleep. Ferris notices the unusual Ring on his finger.

KITCHEN - MORNING

At the kitchen table, Jordan just finished recounting what happened to him. Ferris is perplexed. Kyle believes every word.

JORDAN

All I needed to do was concentrate and I flew.

KYLE

Let me try!

**FERRIS** 

Because of this ring an alien gave you.

Jordan meekly nods, not quite believing it himself.

FERRIS (CONT'D)

Can I see it?

He hesitates.

FERRIS (CONT'D)

What? Do you think it's radioactive or full of space germs?

JORDAN

No. It's not that. That creature who gave this thing to me didn't mean any harm.

**FERRIS** 

How do you know?

JORDAN

You should have seen his face. He knew he was going to die. But after he give the ring to me, he wasn't afraid anymore.

(off Ferris' expression)
You don't believe me, do you?

**FERRIS** 

Can you blame me?

Jordan hands the Ring to her. She examines it. Unimpressed, she hands it to Kyle.

JORDAN

Don't lose it. It's not a toy.

Ferris watches her son disappear around the corner before directing her attention back to Jordan.

FERRIS

Hal, I want to believe you, but...

Jordan gets up and takes her by the hand.

**JORDAN** 

I'll show you.

# LIVING ROOM

Kyle's youthful imagination already taps into the Ring's true potential. Concentrating hard, the boy creates innocuous ENERGY CONSTRUCTS of basic shapes and designs in rapid succession.

The adults walk in. Kyle turns around and the energy constructs promptly disappear.

KYLE

It's magic!

Jordan picks up the boy.

**JORDAN** 

Do you want to fly?

Kyle excitedly nods his head. The three of them emerge into -

# BACKYARD

Jordan places the Ring back on his finger and grabs Kyle by the back of his pants.

With his arms outstretched, Kyle pretends to fly as Jordan runs around the yard. Ferris tries not to laugh.

Her amused expression becomes one of astonishment as Jordan and Kyle lifts off the ground. They circle her a few times before landing in front of her.

**JORDAN** 

Do you believe me now?

She numbly nods.

**KYLE** 

Again!

## KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

As Kyle runs around the house, pretending to fly, Ferris and Jordan are back at the kitchen table, staring at the Ring that sits on the table between them.

JORDAN

I'll need to go to the government with this.

FERRIS

Who? NASA? The Air Force?

JORDAN

I'm not sure.

**FERRIS** 

You don't want to tell them, do you? You don't trust them.

**JORDAN** 

I trust them to do what they think is right. It's not that. This is big, Carol. I can't walk in, hand it over and walk away. It doesn't work that way.

Ferris focuses on Jordan's face.

**FERRIS** 

Why don't you want to be involved?

JORDAN

I don't have a choice.

FERRIS

There's always a choice. Besides, this is incredible. I mean, flying prototypes will be child's play compared to this.

JORDAN

You're talking like a test pilot.

**FERRIS** 

That's because I am one. So are you. How is this any different from what you did in the space program?

**JORDAN** 

There may be no difference. That's what I'm afraid of.

FERRIS

What do you mean?

JORDAN

I know how dangerous space can be. What if these aliens want their ring back?

**FERRIS** 

Then let the military, NASA, hell, the State Department deal with them.

JORDAN

That's not the way it's going to happen. I can feel it.

**FERRIS** 

Whatever's going to happen, we'll deal with it.

**JORDAN** 

We?

**FERRIS** 

Yes. We.

JORDAN

We may not have a choice in the matter. Once I walk through the door, everything changes.

FERRIS

Maybe you can call on some friends for help.

**JORDAN** 

Who?

INT. NASA HEADQUARTERS - STEWART'S OFFICE - DAY

John Stewart looks up from his cluttered desk to see Jordan standing at his door.

STEWART

When did you fly in?

Jordan smirks at the question.

OUTSIDE OFFICE

NASA PERSONNEL are going about their business.

Out of earshot, Jordan can be seen reciting his tale through the office's glass panels. Stewart listens politely.

#### INSIDE OFFICE

Jordan finishes his story. An expressionless Stewart stares at Jordan then bursts out in laughter.

STEWART

Hal, you're the best pilot I know but as a comedian, you can't tell a joke to save your life.

JORDAN

I'm serious, John. Let's go outside. I'll show you.

STEWART

Hal, I got work to do.

Frustrated, Jordan comes up with an idea.

**JORDAN** 

Fine. Hit me.

STEWART

(playfully)

Sure. Anything for a friend.

Stewart's smile vanishes when he realizes that Jordan is serious.

STEWART (CONT'D)

Hal, enough of this. I need to get back to work. We'll catch up over dinner. Then, you can tell me what's really bothering you.

JORDAN

Hit me.

STEWART

No. I'm not going to hit you.

**JORDAN** 

Come on. Hit me.

STEWART

Hal, this is getting old.

JORDAN

Hit me.

STEWART

No!

Jordan shoves Stewart, taunting him.

JORDAN

Come on. Take the shot.

STEWART

Stop being an ass, Hal.

JORDAN

You never could see an opening when it's handed to you. No wonder you couldn't cut it as an astronaut.

A nerve is hit.

STEWART

Oh, now you did it!

Stewart playfully winds up and throws a soft punch to Jordan's jaw. His punch is deflected by the sudden appearance of a FORCEFIELD.

STEWART (CONT'D)

(surprised)

What the...

JORDAN

Stop embarrassing yourself and throw a real punch.

Stewart does just that. It's deflected, as well as the next punch.

Holding his bruised hand, Stewart steps back and looks around. He grabs a paperweight and strikes Jordan with it. It's deflected. Stewart searches his office for heavier objects.

OUTSIDE OFFICE

The busy office slows to a halt as puzzled NASA Personnel take notice of -

Stewart hitting Jordan with progressively heavier objects, finally resorting to throwing furniture at his friend.

INSIDE OFFICE

An exhausted Stewart stops his assaults.

STEWART

You had enough?

JOHN

I can do this all day.

STEWART

I'll bet. Let me see the ring?

Jordan hands the Ring over to Stewart, who glances at it then throws a punch that sends Jordan reeling to the floor.

STEWART (CONT'D)

I guess it is the ring.

INT. LECTURE HALL - DAY

Alan Scott is lecturing a GROUP OF RESTIVE SCHOOLCHILDREN. The tour guide, JENNY (early 20's) stands politely to the side.

SUPER: GODDARD SPACE CENTER, WASHINGTON D.C.

SCOTT

Now, let's say we find ourselves face to face with a form of extraterrestrial life. How are we going to communicate and interact with them? Will they come in peace and teach us not to be so violent, just like 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Looks of ignorance from the kids.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

1968 release. A Stanley Kubrik film. Ever heard of Hal? Nothing? Okay, something more recent. Will the aliens be scared but friendly like E.T.?

A CHILD raises his hand.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

What do you think?

CHILD #1

What if they have sharp teeth and burst out of our chest like in Aliens?

A collective groan mixed with laughter arises from the Children. Scott doesn't know how to reply.

SCOTT

Well, I...

CHILD #2

(interrupting)

What if they hunt us like the Predators?

SCOTT

Hunt us? Really children...

CHILD #3

(interrupting)

Man, that's nothing. They'll be blowing us up like in Independence Day?

CHILD #4

Cool.

SCOTT

I don't think they'd travel thousands of light-years, just to...

The Children start chattering away, leaving a bemused Scott speechless. He turns to find a PAIR OF MEN-IN-BLACK at the door, much to his relief. He walks over to the amused tour quide.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

I gotta go.

**JENNY** 

Thanks for doing this, Dad.

SCOTT

No more.

**JENNY** 

That's what you said the last time.

She gives her father a peck on the cheek as Scott heads for the door.

JENNY (CONT'D)

All right, children. Let's thank Doctor Scott, the Head of the Presidential Commission on Space Exploration, for taking time out of his busy schedule to speak to us. All the Children bid Scott farewell. With a quick wave, Scott makes good his escape.

EXT. AIR FORCE BASE - DAY

A black Cadillac pulls up to a waiting US Air Force CARGO PLANE.

SUPER: ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MARYLAND

Scott gets out and is greeted by Kane, now a major. The two men make their way towards the airplane.

**KANE** 

Sorry for bringing you here on such short notice.

SCOTT

Believe me, your timing couldn't be better. How's Brody?

**KANE** 

As crusty as ever. I've been ordered to bring you in as the lead pending the General's arrival.

SCOTT

Exactly what do you do for the General?

KANE

I'm the head of the initial contact team.

This stops Scott in his tracks.

SCOTT

What are we dealing with here?

KANE

I'm not sure. We'll be the first one in.

SCOTT

Are we talking something technological?

KANE

Yes. And biological.

It takes a moment for the word to sinks in. They resume heading towards the plane.

SCOTT

Where?

KANE

The Sierra Madres.

SCOTT

Has the area been quarantined?

KANE

Not yet. The crash site is pretty isolated.

SCOTT

What shape is the spacecraft in?

KANE

There is no spacecraft.

They enter -

INT. CARGO PLANE - DAY

And find it full of MILITARY AND SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL.

SCOTT

No spacecraft?

KANE

No, sir. But we may have a body.

SCOTT

(skeptically)

A body? What is the source of all this information?

Kane steps out of the way and Scott's gaze falls on Jordan.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Small world.

EXT. CRASH SITE - DAY

A fleet of MILITARY HELICOPTERS flies over.

In the Helicopter holding Scott and Jordan, the CREW CHIEF points downward at -

Jordan's Mustang on the ground.

#### ON THE GROUND

The Helicopters set down nearby. ARMED SOLDIERS in chemical-biological warfare suits pour out and form a perimeter.

Scott, in an isolation suit, along with a GROUP OF SIMILARLY DRESSED MEN, walks over to the mound of dirt. He carefully clearing away the dirt from the shallow grave with his hands, exposing -

The GREEN LANTERN INSIGNIA on Abin Sur's chest.

Scott gazes at it before brushing the dirt from the Abin Sur's face. Scott's expression reveals amazement and sadness.

SCOTT

Hello, my friend. Welcome to Earth.

#### LATER

Tents and scientific equipment have sprung up around the crash site. A disinterested Jordan watches Abin Sur's body being loaded onto a waiting helicopter.

As the Helicopter takes off, Scott joins Jordan.

SCOTT

We did some preliminary tests. There's no unusual radioactivity. We haven't detected any unidentified microorganisms. The specimen seems clean. It's too early to say, but I think the chances of contamination are low.

**JORDAN** 

I could have told you that.

SCOTT

Just in case, we're going to place everyone you've been in contact with in quarantine. You understand?

Jordan doesn't react. Scott turns apologetic.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

Listen, Jordan. We've been asking all the questions. Maybe you have some questions we can try to answer for you.

Jordan glares at Scott.

JORDAN

I have one question. Why me?

EXT. AREA 51 - DAY

A bunch of nondescript buildings in the middle of desert landscape. Everything here spells top secret.

SUPER: GROVE LANDS TEST SITE, NEVADA ALSO KNOWN AS AREA 51

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Brody, now a general, enters to find Jordan and Stewart seated. Scott inserts a disk into a computer.

**BRODY** 

Gentlemen. I was briefed on our progress up to this point. Let's get started. Alan, thanks for taking charge of this.

SCOTT

Wouldn't miss it for the world.

BRODY

How are you doing, Jordan?

All Brody gets is a dismissive glance from Jordan.

STEWART

We need to stop meeting like this.

**BRODY** 

What do we have here?

SCOTT

Stewart and I think this is not the first time we met our visitor.

ON TELEVISION

A top secret warning flashes, followed by the last anticipated moments of Jordan's life.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

This is off of one of the shuttle's cameras from your last space mission.

Jordan's ultimate sacrifice is seconds away. Suddenly, a GREEN TINT coats the video screen, then dies.

BRODY

We thought the green illumination was just distorted light reflecting off the asteroid. Apparently not.

SCOTT

The alien must have been tracking it...

**BRODY** 

(interrupting)
Or observing us.

SCOTT

Whatever the reason, he's clearly responsible for its destruction. (to Jordan)

You asked why he chose you. He saw you about to sacrifice yourself to save countless others. Ten years later, when he was dying, he sent for the only human he knew.

Jordan remains coldly unaffected by the supposition.

STEWART

Can we assume that the alien was benevolent?

SCOTT

If his previous behavior is any indication.

BRODY

I'm placing you in quarantine until further notice.

Jordan nods as he and Stewart leave the room. Brody walks up to Scott.

BRODY (CONT'D)

So, we're not alone after all. This was your dream. Contact with an alien civilization.

SCOTT

We will learn so much from them.

BRODY

Do you know what this means?

SCOTT

This is the greatest discovery in all of human existence.

BRODY

Then we are in agreement?

SCOTT

Absolutely.

BRODY

There's no way the public can find out about this.

SCOTT

Did you have a chance to talk with the President yet?

**BRODY** 

He'll give us any resource we need but he'll want some answers soon. What have you found out about our visitor? Does his species poise a threat to us?

SCOTT

He did destroy that asteroid.

**BRODY** 

He could have sent it in our direction in the first place.

SCOTT

Then why did he allow Jordan to attack it?

**BRODY** 

Maybe we're being tested.

SCOTT

We're speculating. Let's deal with what we know.

BRODY

You're right. So tell me about our visitor.

Scott shows Brody some PHOTOGRAPHS of the Abur Sur's corpse.

SCOTT

We'll do a complete autopsy in a couple of days but what we do know is that it's carbon-based. It probably breathed a similar atmosphere. It didn't suffocate and our air didn't poison it.

BRODY

Then what killed it? Was it the crash? Or maybe reentry?

SCOTT

Given the amount of what can only be blood, I'd say it bled to death. There's a lot of localized tissue trauma. Focused burns, too.

Scott points to a PHOTO illustrating this.

BRODY

What are you saying?

SCOTT

Forensically, I think this creature was attacked.

BRODY

Attacked?

SCOTT

I'll get some answers to you as soon as I can.

Brody examines the photographs with grave concern.

BRODY

I have two questions. Our alien had the ability to reduce an asteroid to dust, right?

SCOTT

Yes.

BRODY

So, what's out there that he couldn't defend himself against? And is it heading here?

INT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - ISOLATION ROOM - DAY

The Ring is under a SPECIAL CONTAINER being examined by lasers, sensors, and a whole array of scientific equipment.

#### OBSERVATION ROOM

Jordan, Scott, Brody, and Stewart, along with a multitude of SCIENTISTS and TECHNICIANS look on. One of the Technicians walks up to Scott and hands him a report.

SCOTT

(reading)

The artifact is solid to the touch. Composition unknown. It's not radioactive. We bombarded it from one end of the electromagnetic spectrum to the other. No reaction. We've exposed it to extremes of cold and heat. Nothing.

Scott stops, puzzled at something.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

There is no explanation of its flight or forcefield generation capacity.

STEWART

This level of technology is way beyond us.

SCOTT

Maybe but some things don't change. If you want to do anything, you need energy. There's no perceivable power source.

BRODY

What do we know?

SCOTT

It's green.

**BRODY** 

(sarcastically)

Now I know what we'll do if we find ourselves facing an alien invasion. We'll just have you dazzle them with your power of observation, Doctor.

Laughter erupts, except for Jordan. Brody abruptly leaves the room. They see -

Brody removing the Ring from its container.

Returning, Brody walks up to Jordan and holds out the Ring.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Let's see what this ring can do.

A reluctant Jordan takes it.

**JORDAN** 

I was afraid you'd say that.

Through the observation glass, across the Isolation Room, there is another glass panel on the opposite wall, looking into -

#### EXAMINATION ROOM

Where a GROUP OF MEN in isolation suits prepare to dissect Abin Sur's body.

EXT. ARKKIS CHUMMUCK'S CITY - DAY

Heavily-armed ALIEN MERCENARIES stalk through the alien city, firing indiscriminately at its ALIEN CITIZENS.

#### STREETS

A SQUAD OF Darkseid'S MERCENARIES stumbles on a TERRIFIED ALIEN FAMILY huddled in a corner. The Mercenaries raise their weapons, bent on massacre.

Suddenly, a BEAM of physical light pierces the wall next to the Mercenaries and lassos the entire Squad. They are pulled through the wall, knocking them all unconscious.

Standing over them is another Green Lantern, the beastly ARKKIS CHUMMUCK. He is battered and bleeding.

He makes his way through the city streets, surrounded by the SOUNDS OF LASER FIRES and the SCREAMS OF PANIC.

Suddenly, there is a FLASH of laser fire. The Green Lantern HOWLS out in pain. Clinching his arm, he looks down at...

CLOSE: His CLAWED HAND to the ground, severed at the wrist; his RING still on the finger.

An ALIEN MERCENARY stands a few meters away, his weapon pointed at the Green Lantern. The Mercenary slowly squeezes the trigger.

Clutching his wounded limb, Arkkis Chummuck concentrates.

A BOLT OF ENERGY flies out of the ring and strikes the Alien Mercenary.

With his good hand, the Green Lantern arms himself with the Mercenary's weapon. He takes aim at his severed claw and fires, DISINTEGRATING it and the ring along with it. He hears the approach of more MERCENARIES and runs away.

He turns a corner, only find himself facing -

ANOTHER SQUAD OF DARKSEID'S MERCENARIES

A resigned Arkkis Chummuck closes his eyes.

FLASHES of laser fire.

INT. QUARANTINE AREA - DAY

Ferris holds Kyle in her arms as he watches cartoons in what looks like a cheap motel room. She turns her intense gaze towards the LARGE MIRROR on the wall.

BEHIND TWO-WAY MIRROR - A GROUP OF SCIENTISTS observe them.

The door to Ferris' room opens.

KYLE

Hal!

Mother and son jump up to embrace Jordan.

FERRIS

How long are they going to keep us here? It's been a week already.

**JORDAN** 

They don't think there's any contamination. You two can go home but you'll need to come in for periodic examinations and you mustn't talk to anyone about this.

**FERRIS** 

Finally! What about you?

**JORDAN** 

I have to stay.

**FERRIS** 

For how long?

JORDAN

For as long as they need me.

**FERRIS** 

And when will that be?

JORDAN

I don't know.

**FERRIS** 

When can we see you next?

**JORDAN** 

I can't say.

**KYLE** 

Hal?

The adults are too caught up in their own conversation to hear the boy.

**FERRIS** 

They're keeping you here, aren't they?

KYLE

Hal?

JORDAN

I don't have a choice.

**FERRIS** 

Are they forcing you to stay?

KYLE

Hal?

Jordan looks down at Kyle who is desperate for recognition.

**JORDAN** 

Kyle. Please.

(to Ferris)

Listen to me, Carol. Until we get to the bottom of this, I'm obligated to stay. We don't know if this was an intentional attempt at contact. That poor thing could have just made a wrong turn for all we know. More could be coming. And if they are, when or how many? We don't even know if they're peaceful.

FERRIS

You don't want to stay here, do you?

JORDAN

What I want doesn't matter. This is just too big.

FERRIS

Then why are they allowing us to go home? We know too much as it is.

**JORDAN** 

You have clearance. You know how to keep a secret. And Kyle?

Jordan attempts a reassuring smile for the kid.

FERRIS

Is this the price for your cooperation, isn't it? Letting us go.

**JORDAN** 

No. It's my duty to stay. I just reminded them it's not yours.

KYLE

Hal?

Jordan kneels down.

JORDAN

Yes, Kyle.

KYLE

You promised me you would take me flying.

JORDAN

I know.

KYLE

You said you'd look after me and Mom.

**JORDAN** 

Kyle, that will never change.

As a tearful Ferris looks on, Kyle and Jordan embrace.

### EXT. SINESTRO'S & KATMAI TU'S HOMEWORLD

Surrounded by his fleet, SHUTTLE is launched from Darkseid's orbiting Flagship and heads for the planet surface.

INT. CAPITAL - DAY

Sinestro sits on a majestic chair like a gloating dictator. Bodies of MURDERED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS lay all around.

SINESTRO

It is good to be home.

DARKSEID (O.S.)

Are you finished?

Sinestro looks up and sees an irritated Darkseid stepping over the bodies as he marches toward him.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

My scouts searched every planetary body in this system. She is not here.

SINESTRO

My people said she went to answer a distress sign. I say we wait for her.

DARKSEID

Do you think they will just come to us? I should already have a ring in my possession!

SINESTRO

I will get you your precious ring.

DARKSEID

Your former comrades seem to be made of sterner stuff than you think. They would rather sacrifice themselves than give up their rings. Little wonder they expelled you from their ranks.

Sinestro explodes in rage.

SINESTRO

They will pay for that decision!

Darkseid cheerfully scowls at Sinestro's unbridled wrath.

DARKSEID

Yes! Give me one of their rings and you can punish them. Give me a ring and you will have your world to protect once again.

Sinestro calms down and sneers.

SINESTRO

Yes. Let us get you that ring.

EXT. TESTING GROUND - DAY

A GREEN STREAK crosses the desert sky at an incredible speed.

OBSERVATION POST

Scott and Stewart are among of MILITARY and SCIENTIFIC OBSERVERS, all looking up with binoculars. Stewart picks up the radio.

STEWART

(into radio)

Hal. Time to push the envelope.

There is a QUICK SUCCESSION OF SONIC BOOMS.

MILITARY OBSERVER

He just broke Mach five in less than two seconds.

STEWART

Good job. Return to base.

Jordan floats down. He is wearing a futuristic flight suit with a parachute and helmet.

INT. SINESTRO'S & KATMAI TU'S HOMEWORLD - CAPITAL - DAY

An enraged Katmai Tu scans the horrific scene full of the dead. She takes off, crashing through the ceiling -

And into space.

EXT. TESTING GROUND - DAY

A suited-up Jordan stands in the open. He's not wearing the parachute. The Observers are a few yards away. A countdown has already commenced.

COMPUTER (O.S.)

Three. Two. One...

Jordan launches himself into the air.

At the observation post, an ALTIMETER rattles off numbers as Jordan rockets upward. 10,000 meters. 12,000 meters. 14,000 meters.

TECHNICIAN

He's at the edge of the stratosphere.

STEWART

(into radio)

Okay, Hal. Begin your descent.

EXT. UPPER ATMOSPHERE - CONT.

Jordan continues skyward. He extends his arms as he begins to slow. For a few moment, he hangs suspended several miles above the Earth.

He takes off his HELMET and allows it to drop. He wears the expression of someone touching the edge of heaven as gravity finally takes hold and he begins to free fall.

EXT. TESTING GROUND - CONT.

Everyone scan the skies for Jordan. He's gone.

The Altimeter rapidly approaches zero.

STEWART

(into microphone)

All right, Hal. Where are you?

No answer. Stewart begins to panic.

STEWART (CONT'D)

(into radio)

Hal? Hal!

JORDAN (O.S.)

What?

Stewart turns around to see Jordan, smiling mischievously, already on the ground.

A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY

Jordan's Helmet finally crashes to Earth.

EXT. ALIEN MOON

The SHIPS of Darkseid's Armada are undergoing much needed repairs in orbit.

INT. DARKSEID'S QUARTERS - CONT.

Darkseid watches his fleet through a window. A CHIME sounds. Sinestro marches in.

SINESTRO

Why do we wait? We must continue our attack.

DARKSEID

Your former comrades are putting up more of a resistance then I expected. I must repair my ships before resuming my offensive.

SINESTRO

You are giving them time to recover.

DARKSEID

Do not presume to question my orders. Your thirst for vengeance has clouded your adherence to our ultimate goal.

SINESTRO

They will flee!

Darkseid grabs Sinestro by his throat and lifts him off the ground.

DARKSEID

Need I remind you of your place? Was it not I who created that ring you now wear? Was it not I who found you after they expelled you from their ranks? After we get one of their precious rings, your former companions will be powerless and you can hunt them down at your leisure. Until then...

Darkseid releases his grip, dropping Sinestro.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

We remain true to our final objective.

(MORE)

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Find me a ring and you will stand at my side as my enforcer. I remind you, we are doomed to failure without it.

Suddenly, the entire ship SHUDDERS.

SINESTRO

We are under attack!

Darkseid and Sinestro look out the window. They see -

THROUGH WINDOW - A GREEN SHOOTING STAR streaking through the Armada and unleashing BOLTS OF ENERGY at the ships as it flies past.

DARKSEID

So, they have decided to come to

(to Sinestro) Satisfy your need for revenge but bring me its ring.

Sinestro bows and marches out.

### AMIDST THE ARMADA

A ferocious Katmai Tu soars between the STARSHIPS, alternating between shooting BOLTS OF ENERGY and ripping off parts of their hull with CONSTRUCTS from her ring.

A YELLOW BEAM OF LIGHT engulfs her, then solidifies into SOLID RESTRAINTS.

Sinestro flies up, surprised to find -

SINESTRO

You? You must be my successor. So long have I looked forward to meeting you.

KATMAI TU

I know you well enough. You murdered many of our people.

SINESTRO

Such anger. Such lack of gratitude. Why should you be different from any of our race?

(eyeing her ring)

Tell me, how does my ring fit?

KATMAI TU

You will not get away with this!

SINESTRO

The Corps is decimated. Their masters will soon be helpless. A fire shall engulf the known worlds the likes of which the galaxy has never seen. And from it, a new order will arise. My order.

KATMAI TU

We will never allow that!

SINESTRO

It has already begun. But our people need not suffer. Give me the ring and I will spare your life. Give me the ring and I will see that our people are protected from the approaching chaos. Just like before.

KATMAI TU

I rather die.

SINESTRO

As you wish. I am given so few opportunities to show my generosity these days.

Slowly, Sinestro squeezes the life out of Katmai Tu -

Only to be is knocked away, causing his restraints around Katmai Tu to dissipate.

Tomar-Re flies by and grabs the barely conscious Katmai Tu.

Sinestro recovers and launches himself at Tomar-Re who creates a WALL OF ENERGY for Sinestro to crash into.

The Green Lanterns escape, leaving behind an enraged Sinestro.

SINESTRO (CONT'D)

Run! I know where you will go. It's only a matter of time before your sanctuary is revealed to us!

INT. TESTING FACILITIES - DAY

Stewart and Jordan walk down a hallway. Stewart notices a heaviness in Jordan's step.

STEWART

Don't worry about Carol and Kyle. I took them back to Edwards myself.

JORDAN

I'm just thinking about next week's test schedule.

STEWART

Yeah, right. Just keep your mind on what we're doing. It'll work out in the end. I got something to keep you occupied.

**JORDAN** 

What is it this time?

Both men walk through a door and emerge onto -

EXT. HANGER - CONT.

SEVERAL SOLDIERS, in military fatigues and armed with a wide array of arms ranging from pistols to rocket launchers, are waiting.

STEWART

Let's see how durable that forcefield of yours is.

One of the Soldiers, GUY GARDNER (late 20's, redhead, cocky) approaches them.

STEWART (CONT'D)

Hal, let me introduce you to Captain Gardner, U.S. Marine Corps. A fellow pilot. He'll be observing.

The two men shake hands.

GARDNER

Hell of a pleasure, Major.

JORDAN

Call me Hal.

**GARDNER** 

Only if you call me Guy.

**JORDAN** 

So, you're my backup in case I do something stupid like get myself killed?

GARDNER

I guess I am.

Jordan smiles approvingly.

JORDAN

Sit back. You'll enjoy this.

STEWART

We'll need you suited up.

JORDAN

What do you have in mind?

On a table, a full-body protective suit, like those worn by explosive disposal experts.

STEWART

The thing has six layers of Kevlar and ceramic plates protecting... (tapping the groin plate)
All vital organs.

The Special Container is brought up and the Ring is handed to Hal.

JORDAN

If you really want to test this,
let's do it right.
 (to Gardner)
Will you do the honor?

GARDNER

Sure.

Without putting on any protective gear, Jordan walks a short distance away while Gardner selects a pistol.

GARDNER (CONT'D)

I never shot someone who wanted to be shot. This should be interesting.

STEWART

Aim away for anything that he may want to keep, please.

Gardner takes careful aim and FIRES.

The BULLET finds its mark but lead doesn't touch flesh.

GARDNER

Well, I'll be damned.

Gardner FIRES again. And again, the bullet is deflected. He empties the magazine, all to the same effect.

The Marine turns towards the other Soldiers.

GARDNER (CONT'D)

Front and center!

A FIRING LINE forms up.

FULL AUTOMATIC GUNFIRE

CLOSE ON SPENT ROUNDS falling harmlessly at Jordan's feet.

Jordan glides over to Gardner and tosses the Ring to him.

**JORDAN** 

Let's get you up to speed.

EXT. FIRING RANGE - DAY

An ABRAMS TANK FIRES AT A DISTANT FIGURE.

The Figure vanishes in a FIREBALL.

Stewart watches this through a pair of binoculars.

STEWART

Damn fool. You think he's hurt?

Stewart passes the binoculars to Jordan.

JORDAN'S P.O.V. (BINOCULAR)

Gardner picks himself up, brushes himself off, and gives the thumbs up.

BACK TO JORDAN and STEWART

**JORDAN** 

He's all right.

STEWART

Typical jarhead.

EXT. TESTING GROUND - DAY

Inside an OBSERVATION VEHICLE, Stewart looks over their testing schedule while Jordan watches the small television.

STEWART

They have Gardner in the classroom for the entire week so you'll be the guinea pig for the next five days. Why they need an entire week to tell him we don't know squat about this ring, I don't know. As for you...

Stewart looks up at the distracted Jordan who's concentrating...

ON TELEVISION

In a REFUGEE CAMP, the BRITISH JOURNALIST tries to keep his composure amid the EXPLOSIONS raining down on them.

JOURNALIST

It's been like this for the last few days. Transport planes are being used as makeshift bombers, dropping explosives as a part of a concerted terror campaign from above...

Stewart turns off the television.

STEWART

Come on.

They emerge outside and heads towards -

OBSERVATION POST

JORDAN

We should do something.

STEWART

We are doing something. We're finding out what that ring is capable of.

JORDAN

I could do something.

STEWART

I don't think the government plans on letting the world in on our little secret anytime soon.

Retrieving the ring from its container, Jordan puts it on his finger.

STEWART (CONT'D)

Besides, you'll kick you out of this project if you try to...

Stewart turns and finds Jordan gone. He looks around. No sign of him. Then, knowingly he shifts his gaze skyward.

The TEST SUPERVISOR, carrying Jordan's testing equipment, walks up.

TEST SUPERVISOR

Where's Jordan? We're ready for the turbulence test.

STEWART

Ah, well. Slight change in plan. We're going to do the long-duration flight test instead.

TEST SUPERVISOR

That's scheduled for next week.

STEWART

Look, it's a beautiful day. We thought, why waste it.

The Test Supervisor holds up a small device.

TEST SUPERVISOR

He forgot his transponder.

STEWART

(disapprovingly)

I really need to talk to that boy.

EXT. SKIES OVER AFRICA - SHORT TIME LATER

A pair of Russian-made TRANSPORT PLANES are flying in a linear formation.

LEAD PLANE

The CARGO RAMP is lowered.

REBELS undo the webbings as they prepare to push CRATES FULL OF EXPLOSIVES out the plane.

Jordan step onto the ramp.

The Rebels freezes.

JORDAN

You guys shouldn't be doing this.

A cocky Jordan enjoys their astonished looks, only to interrupted when his headset CLICKS on.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

What is it? I'm busy here.

EXT. TESTING GROUND - CONT.

Stewart is back inside the Observation Vehicle.

STEWART

(whispering into microphone)

You need to head back now. I can't cover for you for much longer.

The impatient Test Supervisor appears. Stewart raises his voice.

STEWART (CONT'D)

(into microphone)

So, enough of your shenanigans, Mr. Jordan. You get back here immediately.

Stewart smiles. The Test Supervisor huffs his impatience and leaves.

EXT. SKIES OVER AFRICA - CONT.

Instinctively, Jordan turns his back to the Rebels to talk in private.

JORDAN

I'll be back as soon as I take care of...

One of the Rebels pulls out a machete and slices through the harness holding the explosive crates in place. The Crates tackles Jordan as they slide off the ramp.

Jordan tumbles out the plane, right towards the SECOND TRANSPORT. He's sucked into one of its jet engines which disintegrates as Jordan passes through unharmed.

The Second Transport FALLS OUT OF THE SKY as Jordan stops his free fall and darts back to the First Transport.

He steps back on the ramp again, looking very irritated.

EXT. REFUGEE CAMP - CONT.

The British journalist points for his CAMERAMAN to capture the image of -

**JOURNALIST** 

Are you getting this? Tell me you're getting this.

Another transport plane CRASHING TO THE GROUND as its crew parachutes down. Angry REFUGEES run toward them.

EXT. TESTING GROUND - A SHORT TIME LATER

Jordan touches down to Stewart's relief and looks of irritation all around.

The Test Supervisor stands next to the Special Container and beckons Jordan to relinquish the ring. A chaste Jordan does so like a kid putting back a candy bar he just shoplifted.

INT. JORDAN'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

Jordan lies in bed. Eyes open. Lost in thought.

A KNOCK at the door. He opens it to find Brody there.

JORDAN

General.

BRODY

Got a minute? I need to talk to you about the testing schedule.

Brody is allowed in.

**JORDAN** 

Still mad about today? We rescheduled the test.

BRODY

No. Not that. It's not just one test. It's the entire program, or rather your future involvement in it.

Jordan's curiosity is piqued.

BRODY (CONT'D)

I'll get to the point. I want to shift the tests to an extra-atmospheric environment.

**JORDAN** 

Space?

BRODY

You know all about space, don't you? So, what do you say? Ready to head out beyond the wild blue yonder?

**JORDAN** 

I'll do what is required of me.

**BRODY** 

Believe it or not, you do have a choice.

**JORDAN** 

Really? I haven't noticed.

BRODY

You don't want to be here, do you? You'd rather not have found the ring.

JORDAN

I didn't find the ring. The ring found me. And no. I'd rather not be involved.

BRODY

How do you feel about Gardner becoming the principal vehicle for testing?

Jordan tries but fails to hold back a smile.

**JORDAN** 

Gardner's a good man, if a bit enthusiastic.

BRODY

You have a girl waiting for you?

JORDAN

Girl? If you knew her, you wouldn't say to her face. And yes, she's waiting. Her kid, too.

BRODY

Looking to settle down on the old homestead, aye?

JORDAN

Can you tell me anything else worth doing than that?

BRODY

Serving your country and the world at large?

Jordan shoots Brody a hard look.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Then again, some of us already did more than our fair share.

(beat)

I'll go give Gardner the good news. I'm sure he'll accept it with his typically unbridled eagerness.

As Brody is about to step through the door -

**JORDAN** 

Sir.

**BRODY** 

Yes, Hal?

**JORDAN** 

Make sure he knows what he's volunteering for. Make sure he knows what it'll be like out there.

**BRODY** 

What should I tell him?

JORDAN

Tell him that he will be alone.

Brody solemnly nods, understanding Jordan completely.

INT. BRODY'S OFFICE - MINUTES LATER

A heated argument between Brody and Stewart. Scott quietly stands in judgement.

STEWART

You can't do this to him!

**BRODY** 

I appreciate what you're doing. I know he's your friend but I don't think he's up to the task. He may be suffering from post traumatic stress.

STEWART

Not Hal. He's made of sterner stuff.

**BRODY** 

He doesn't want to go.

STEWART

With all due respect, you haven't known Hal as long as I have. Don't take this away from him.

**BRODY** 

I'm not going to ask him to go up there again.

STEWART

Is that what it is? You feeling guilty for sending him alone ten years ago.

**BRODY** 

He doesn't want it. If he did, he would be here to say so.

Both men turn to Scott.

STEWART

What do you have to say about this?

Scott looks at each man in turn.

SCOTT

The alien gave him the ring after all. It's his.

BRODY

No. I made my decision. The ring is Gardner's from now on.

EXT. THE GUARDIAN HOMEWORLD - DAY

An unconscious Katmai Tu lies on the ground. Her eyes flicker then suddenly open, full of fear, only to find Tomar-Re looking down at her.

She gets up to find herself in -

OPEN AIR ARENA

KATMAT TU

The Guardian Homeworld?

Some forty other GREEN LANTERNS, each belonging to a different alien race, surround her. Everyone wears the same disheartened expression.

TOMAR-RE

I have gathered the Corps here.

KATMAI TU

Our worlds are defenseless.

TOMAR-RE

We cannot defend our individual systems alone.

KATMAI TU

We took an oath to protect our people.

TOMAR-RE

Darkseid is taking advantage of that oath. He strike with all their might against us. One at a time. When and where he chooses. But he wants more than our lives. He seeks the source of our power.

KATMAI TU

The Battery.

She turns around to see, in the very center of the Arena -

THE GREEN LANTERN BATTERY

Shaped like a railroad brakeman's lantern, this giant green structure HUMS as it PULSATES ENERGY.

KATMAI TU

And the Guardians?

TOMAR-RE

Evacuated.

KATMAI TU

So, we stay here and wait for them to come?

TOMAR-RE

This world is hidden. They will not find this place as long as a single one of our rings does not fall into their hands. When we are rested and healed, we will return to liberate our worlds.

KATMAI TU

What if they already have a ring?

With a thought, ENERGY from Tomar-Re's ring FLARES UP.

TOMAR-RE

Then they would have already used the ring to guide themselves to here and destroyed the Battery.

Katmai Tu looks around, counting their numbers with her eyes.

KATMAI TU

When will the others arrive?

A Green Lantern named KILOWAG, a large hulk of a creature, descends from space and joins his comrades.

KILOWAG

We are all that is left.

KATMAI TU

(horrified)

No!

TOMAR-RE

Are you sure?

KILOWAG

Yes. Those who are not here are dead. Except for one. I cannot find him nor learn of his fate.

TOMAR-RE

We must locate his ring before it is too late.

KILOWAG

I will go.

TOMAR-RE

Be careful, my friend. They need but one ring to guide them to the source of our power. It does not matter whose ring they get.

Kilowag acknowledges the warning and takes off.

# EXT. EARTH'S SOLAR SYSTEM

The Darkseid's Scoutship flies past the OUTER PLANETS as it heads for Earth.

INT. NORAD - NIGHT

CLOSE: A BLIP flashes on the display, moving rapidly towards Earth.

The Airman and his Supervising Officer look on.

AIRMAN

Should I let the computer tag it?

OFFICER

No. Keep it under observation. We got orders to report all extraterrestrial activity. I'll inform the Pentagon.

INT. SCOUTSHIP'S BRIDGE

A pair of ALIEN SCOUTS watches the Earth on their VIEWSCREEN as they approach the planet. On another MONITOR, they scan the globe. No sign of the ring. The two Scouts look at each other and shrug.

INT. BRODY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Sitting at his desk, Brody waits for a phone call to be answered.

A moment later, an IMAGE of a just awakened Scott appears on his computer monitor.

SCOTT (ON SCREEN)

Yeah?

BRODY

Sorry for waking you.

SCOTT (ON SCREEN)

Don't you ever sleep?

Brody hits a key.

ON MONITOR - Scott's image is replaced by SATELLITE FEED of the orbiting scoutship.

BRODY

Guess who's coming to dinner.

INT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - OBSERVATION ROOM - CONT.

A solitary Kane sits in the Observation Room, reading a report. In the adjacent -

### ISOLATION ROOM

The Ring is in its Special Container. It begins to GLOW.

A HOLOGRAPH of Kilowag slowly emerges from the Ring. The Green Lantern looks around and observes the oblivious Kane for a few seconds.

#### OBSERVATION ROOM

Kane looks up, sees nothing, then returns to his report.

#### TSOLATION ROOM

The holographic Kilowag sticks his head out and sees Kane absorbed in his reading. The alien turns and sees -

#### EXAMINATION ROOM

Abin Sur's dissected corpse.

### ISOLATION ROOM

A sorrowful Kilowag lowers his head.

INT. SCOUTSHIP'S BRIDGE - CONT.

A monitor FLASHES. The ENERGY SIGNATURE from Kilowag's use of the Ring is detected. The ship's sensors pinpoint the actual location of the Ring.

CLOSE ON an exquisitely detailed IMAGE of the test facilities pops up on their viewscreen.

EXT. SCOUTSHIP - CONT.

The Scoutship powers up and streaks towards the southwestern United States.

INT. BRODY'S OFFICE - CONT.

The phone RINGS. Brody picks it up and listens, then slams down the phone.

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - CONT.

The Scoutship lands in a clearing next to the buildings.

SIRENS go off. SEARCHLIGHTS turn on. The whole area is on alert. MILITARY POLICE arrive in HUMVEE's, armed and nervous.

The HATCH of the alien craft slowly opens. METALLIC NOISE emerges from the opening. Something is coming out. Something big.

Out of the dark belly of the ship, a ROBOT, the size of an elephant and a thousand times stronger, appears.

MP OFFICER
Hold your fire! That's an order. It
may be friendly.

The Robot lifts an arm towards the LEAD VEHICLE. It is instantly VAPORIZED.

Chaos erupts. The Military Police return FIRE.

The FIREFIGHT lasts a few seconds and ends when all the vehicles are destroyed. The SOLDIERS scatter.

The Robot lumbers toward the BUILDING housing the Ring.

A PLATOON OF ABRAMS TANKS appears. They FIRE. Their shells bounces harmlessly off the Robot's armored body.

The Robot returns FIRE. Turrets pop into the air as the tanks EXPLODES under the alien onslaught.

The unstoppable behemoth turns its sight on the survivors but is distracted when -

A PAIR OF APACHE ATTACK HELICOPTERS swoop down, launching a SALVO OF HELLFIRE MISSILES.

The Apaches swing around and begin a gun run, firing their CANNONS but to no avail.

The Robot releases an ENERGY PULSE.

The Apaches are knocked out of the sky. The brief battle ends as quickly as it began.

The Robot resumes its march towards the research facility, crossing a landscape scarred with the destroyed remnants of the best the US military can offer in resistance.

INT. SCOUTSHIP'S BRIDGE - CONT.

The Alien Scouts monitor the Robot's progress from the safety of their ship.

INT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - CONT.

PEOPLE flee as the Robot rolls through the building as if it was made of paper.

The Robot crashes through the wall and bursts into -

OBSERVATION ROOM

Passing a frozen Kane before entering -

ISOLATION ROOM

Only to find the Ring missing.

INT. SCOUTSHIP'S BRIDGE - CONT.

On the monitors, the Aliens view the room as the Robot scans the area. They look at each other with uncertainty.

INT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - CONT.

The Robot RAMPAGES through the building, still searching for its objective. It crashes through an outside wall and finds -

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - CONT.

SOMEONE standing outside, waiting for it.

CLOSE ON A CLINCHED HUMAN FIST. On his finger, the Ring.

The Robot's optical sensor focuses on -

GARDNER

Looking for something?

Guy Gardner wears a cocky grin and is ready for action.

INT. JORDAN'S QUARTERS - CONT.

Dressed only in sweatpants, Jordan makes for the door only to be stopped by a GUARD.

**GUARD** 

Sorry, sir. I'm under orders not to let you out.

**JORDAN** 

What's going on?

**GUARD** 

I don't know. I'm under orders to protect you.

**JORDAN** 

(skeptically)

Protect me? I don't think so, son.

Jordan marches to the phone.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

(into phone)

General, what the hell is going on?

EXT. ROAD - CONT.

Brody is on the other end, being driven towards the SOUND of the fighting.

BRODY

(into phone)

I don't know. I'm getting reports of spaceships and giant robots and a whole bunch of nonsense. I'm heading there right now. You stay put until you hear from me. Brody out.

INT. JORDAN'S QUARTERS - CONT.

Jordan returns to the door only to be intercepted by the Guard again.

**GUARD** 

Sorry, I can't let you leave.

Jordan suddenly looks surprised and points.

JORDAN

Hey, is that E.T.?

The Guard turns, only to be knocked unconscious by Jordan.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Who says I can't tell a joke?

EXT. PERSONNEL QUARTERS - CONT.

Jordan steps outside into the scene of mass panic. A Humvee drives up with Stewart behind the wheel.

JORDAN

What's happening?

STEWART

Damned if I know. I think we're having a close encounter of the worst kind.

JORDAN

Where's Gardner?

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - CONT.

Gardner comes flying through an outside wall, crashing meters away. Undaunted, he picks himself up and dives at the Robot as it emerges into the open.

EXT. PERSONNEL QUARTERS - CONT.

Jordan climbs into the Humvee.

STEWART

I need to get you out of here.

Jordan gives Stewart a stern look. Stewart grunts as they take off.

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - CONT.

A battered Gardner slams into the remains of an Abrams tank and is rendered unconscious.

The Robot walks up to him.

CLOSE ON METALLIC CLAWS reaches for the Ring on Gardner's finger. Just as the Robot is about to retrieve its prize -

The Ring slides from Gardner's finger and out of the Robot's grasp -

Flying through the air until -

Slipping onto Jordan's waiting finger.

CLOSE ON Jordan brings his ringed fist to his face. The Ring FLARES. Jordan grimaces.

INT. SCOUTSHIP'S BRIDGE - CONT.

The Aliens look at each other uneasily.

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - CONT.

Jordan flies toward the Robot like a living bullet, striking it hard. The Robot nearly topples but recovers its balance. It FIRES.

Jordan dodges the incoming fire, then propels himself at the Robot again, this time knocking it to the ground. It doesn't immediately get up.

Jordan soars skyward, gaining altitude -

Then dives at the Robot as it struggles to its feet. He goes through the massive Robot like an arrow.

The Robot staggers then dies a mechanical death.

INT. SCOUTSHIP'S BRIDGE - CONT.

The panicked Alien Scouts start powering up their ship.

EXT. RESEARCH FACILITIES - CONT.

Jordan sees the Scoutship preparing to take off. He propels himself towards the Robot's wrecked carcass, grabs it, and using his momentum, flings it towards the Scoutship.

The Scoutship takes off a moment before the Robot would have crashed into it.

Jordan rockets skyward in pursuit.

INT. COMMAND CENTER - CONT.

Stewart and Brody rush into an abridged version of Mission Control. Dozens of TECHNICIANS are running around or busy at their consoles.

BRODY

Has Dr. Scott arrived at NORAD?

TECHNICIAN

Yes, sir.

**BRODY** 

Link us up.

Scott's IMAGE appears on a display.

BRODY (CONT'D)

Do you see what's going on?

ON VIEWSCREEN - The trajectory of the alien ship's escape and that of its pursuer and the incredible speed they're traveling. They're almost at the Moon.

TECHNICIAN

Look how fast they're moving!

EXT. OUTER SPACE - CONT.

Jordan's eyes locked on the Scoutship's exhaust. He closes in. His hand reaches out to grab hold on the Scoutship's tail when -

A rear-facing MISSILE LAUNCHER emerges from the ship's hull and FIRES TWO MISSILES.

Jordan brakes, then twists his body, allowing the first Missile to skim past.

The warhead of the Second Missile pops open and snares Jordan in netting, delaying him long enough to see -

The Scoutship passing the Moon as it ACCELERATES out of sight.

Untangling himself, Jordan slows to a stop. He turns around, surprised at the distance he's traveled, then starts for home.

EXT. MOON ORBIT - CONT.

As Jordan flies over the Moon, he looks down and sees -

The same reflective SPARKLE from the Moon's surface that caught his eyes ten years previous.

He drops down toward -

EXT. APOLLO 11 LANDING SITE - CONT.

Jordan floats over the Apollo landing site and touches down next to the source of the reflection -

The polished PLAQUE placed on the Moon's surface back in 1969. Jordan looks down and reads -

INSERT - Inscription - "We come in peace for all of mankind."

Saddened, Jordan resumes his flight home. He leaves behind -

CLOSE ON a pair of BARE FOOTPRINTS on the dusty lunar soil next to the Plaque. Jordan wasn't wearing shoes this entire time.

INT. COMMAND CENTER - CONT.

Jordan is being tracked.

BRODY

The moment he touches down, I want him to report to me immediately.

STEWART

General, it doesn't look like he's returning to base.

**BRODY** 

What?

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - DAY

The feet of the two Alien Scouts dangle off the ground. They drop to the floor dead as Darkseid releases his grip around their throats. The alien warlord turns to Sinestro.

DARKSEID

We found our ring.

Sinestro bows and leaves the bridge.

Darkseid turns to a window and sees -

THROUGH WINDOW - A YELLOW STREAK vanishes in the darkness of space.

He turns to his crew.

DARKSEID (CONT'D)

Set course for Earth.

EXT. CRASH SITE - DAY

Jordan sits alone, blankly staring at where he buried Abin Sur. All evidence of the alien and the subsequent investigation has been removed, its natural tranquility returned.

Overhead, a HELICOPTER flies by. Jordan doesn't look up.

MINUTES LATER

Stewart sits besides his friend. He notices that Jordan isn't wearing the Ring.

JORDAN

How did you find me?

STEWART

It wasn't hard to figure out. You're not the most imaginative guy I know.

**JORDAN** 

How's Gardner doing?

STEWART

He took a hell of a beating but he'll survive. He'll be talking a lot slower from now on.

JORDAN

I suppose you want the ring back.

STEWART

Ah, yeah. The ring. That goddamned piece of jewelry. Everyone is asking for it. It looks like all our questions are going to be answered soon enough. But the only question anyone is asking now is, can that thing protect us?

Jordan pulls his Ring from his pocket and offers it to Stewart, who doesn't take it.

STEWART (CONT'D)

It's no good without the person wearing it.

JORDAN

This is what they want. Take it to them.

STEWART

I don't think Guy's in any shape to wear it.

JORDAN

Then you wear it. You've known about the ring almost as long as I have. You've been at every stage of testing. You know what it's capable of. You wanted to fly in space. Here's your chance.

Stewart pushes Jordan's hand away.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I understand. Who wants the responsibility?

STEWART

That ring didn't just fall out of the sky, Hal. It didn't just happen to land in your lap. It was given to you.

**JORDAN** 

That creature never asked if I wanted it. It took my life away from me. And again I find myself responsible for the lives of every person on Earth.

STEWART

Don't you remember, Hal? You volunteered.

Jordan turns to Stewart, speechless. He's forgotten.

JORDAN

That's not fair. I was the best man for the job.

STEWART

We all thought so.

**JORDAN** 

I wasn't given a choice this time.

STEWART

No, you were selected. That poor creature was dying and he ran here. To this place. To you. No, you weren't given a choice. You were chosen. And I know why.

(MORE)

STEWART (CONT'D)

Like me, that alien knew what kind of man you are. You can't run away from this, no matter how much you want to. You can't run away from the man you are.

JORDAN

And what type of man am I?

STEWART

The same man who volunteered ten years ago to save us.

**JORDAN** 

That wasn't me. It was that creature. It was this ring.

STEWART

The ring is only a tool. The most important is the man who wields it. You're that man. The man without fear.

**JORDAN** 

What if I fail?

STEWART

You may. I know we're friends and all, but honestly, I can't think of anyone else I rather have up there looking out for us.

**JORDAN** 

I don't want to be a hero again.

STEWART

Hal, you got it all wrong. We don't choose to be heroes. Others do that for us.

Jordan returns the Ring to his finger. The friends shake hands.

**JORDAN** 

Next time, you volunteer.

And in an instant, Jordan disappears in the clouds as Stewart looks on, ashamed by the relief he feels.

## EXT. SCHOOLYARD - A SHORT TIME LATER

Kyle sits on the ground, trying to fight back tears as his drawings are scattered across the schoolyard by SCHOOLYARD BULLIES.

BULLY #1

We warned you, Kyle. We told you to stop making up those stupid stories.

KYLE

They're not stories. They're the truth.

BULLY #2

There's no such thing as a magic ring.

KYLE

Yes, there is!

BULLY #3

Apologize for being a liar or we won't let you back up.

KYLE

No!

Kyle tries to rise but is pushed down again. One of the Bullies pick up one of Kyle's drawings.

INSERT - HAND-DRAWN PICTURE of Jordan flying with his magic ring.

BULLY #1

This is what I think of your stupid pictures.

He rips the drawing apart and sprinkles it like confetti on Kyle's head just as Jordan walks up.

JORDAN

That's not very nice.

The Bullies back off as Kyle jumps up and hugs Jordan.

KYLE

Hal!

JORDAN

Sorry I've been away so long.

KYLE

That's okay.

**JORDAN** 

These kids bothering you?

Kyle turns up his nose to them.

KYLE

They don't believe you have a magic ring.

**JORDAN** 

Is that so? Then how do they explain this?

Jordan grabs hold of Kyle and launches both of them into the air, leaving the Bullies in a state of shock.

EXT. SKIES OVER CALIFORNIA - CONT.

With his arms around Kyle, Jordan crosses the desert sky before zig-zagging between the peaks of the Sierra Nevadas.

Kyle screams with delight the entire time.

EXT. FERRIS' FRONT YARD - SHORT TIME LATER

Jordan and Kyle touch down in front of their home. An ecstatic Kyle looks up at Jordan.

KYLE

That was so cool. You should take Mom. Then she'll have no choice but to marry you.

Jordan kneels down, struggling to be stoic.

JORDAN

Kyle, you have to listen. I need you to do me a favor. It's very important. I need you to grow up to be strong and straight. Take care of your mother for me. Can you do that?

Kyle's expression turns to one of incomprehension, then despair.

KYLE

No, Hal. Mom wants you to stay. I know she does.

JORDAN

I know. I want to stay. More than anything else in the world but I can't. You and your mother are in danger and I have to go and make sure you're safe.

KYLE

With the magic ring?

**JORDAN** 

Yes.

Kyle looks around to make sure that coast is clear then whispers into Jordan's ear...

KYLE

The ring can make things, if you use your imagination.

Jordan smiles at this innocent bit of instruction. He takes a few step away from the boy. With a wink, he launches himself into the sky.

Kyle runs after him, shouting -

KYLE (CONT'D)

Hal! Hal! Come back!

INT. JORDAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Ferris sits behind Jordan's desk, sulking. Kalmaku sticks his head in.

KALMAKU

Carol?

**FERRIS** 

What is it, Tom? Can't you see I'm busy feeling sorry for myself?

KALMAKU

There's someone here to see you.

**FERRIS** 

Please tell whoever it is to go to hell.

KALMAKU

From the looks of it, I think he just got back from there.

Jordan walks in. Ferris' face lights up. She slowly walks up to him.

JORDAN

I can't stay long. There are things going on and they need me. It may be a long time before I'll be able to see you or Kyle again.

FERRIS

You're going away forever, aren't you? You're leaving me. You're leaving us.

**JORDAN** 

I don't have any other choice.

Ferris shakes her head.

FERRIS

No, mister. You find a way. I don't know how but you find a way to be with us. Because I absolutely refuse to let you go.

Ferris draws him close. They kiss. Jordan momentarily glances at the Halloween photo and focuses on -

CLOSE ON The LONE RANGER MASK dangling from the picture frame.

INT. NORAD - CONT.

DISPLAY SCREEN - Another BLIP appears, moving rapidly towards the Earth.

All the NORAD PERSONNEL, including the Airman and Officer, look on uneasily, including Scott who stares impassively.

EXT. MILITARY AIR BASE - MINUTES LATER

Sinestro appears, floating over the airfield.

The PEOPLE on the ground look up in disbelief.

With a single motion, Sinestro uses his ring to rip away the roof of the office building, catching -

INT. JORDAN'S OFFICE - CONT.

Jordan and Ferris in an embrace. Crashing to the floor, they look up to see -

Sinestro hovering over them. He glares down contemptuously.

SINESTRO (SUBTITLED)

(in his native language)

Surrender the ring.

Ferris stares up in amazement. Jordan is stone-faced.

**FERRIS** 

Hal, what is that?

**JORDAN** 

Someone I've been expecting.

FERRIS

You know him?

**JORDAN** 

No. But I know what he's after.

SINESTRO (SUBTITLED)

(in his native language)

If you value your life, you will

give me...

(in English)

The ring!

Sinestro sneers then sends a BOLT OF YELLOW ENERGY at the couple.

Jordan takes Ferris into his arms as an PROTECTIVE BUBBLE forms around them an instant before the bolt strikes.

The concussion of the attack carries them through -

SERIES OF WALLS

Before they come to rest -

EXT. BUILDING - CONT.

Jordan picks up a dazed Ferris.

JORDAN

Get out of here and hide.

FERRIS

No, kidding!
(off his expression)
What are you going to do?

**JORDAN** 

What I have to do.

Jordan steps away from Ferris. His entire body FLARES with a brilliant green light, only to die a second later.

Jordan is now clothed in the same GREEN LANTERN UNIFORM of his predecessor, Abin Sur.

As Ferris stares in wonder, Jordan shoots her a plaintive look before launching himself into the air.

She runs back inside the building.

EXT. MILITARY AIR BASE - CONT.

IN THE AIR

Sinestro smiles at Jordan's new incarnation. Both are floating several meters off the ground.

OFFICE BUILDING

Ferris struggles to put on her flight suit as she rushes out. She stops to watch the two floating figures.

IN THE AIR

Jordan and Sinestro linger for a few seconds, their eyes locked like two gunslingers.

Jordan flies towards his opponent, only to be violently repulsed.

He recovers and launches himself at Sinestro again. And again, he is repulsed but this time finds himself trapped by one of Sinestro's ENERGY CONSTRUCTS, then catapulted like a slingshot -

ON THE GROUND

Crashing miles away.

OFFICE BUILDING

Ferris curses under her breath and runs towards -

HANGER

Ferris runs past Kalmaku as she heads toward the Star Sapphire aircraft.

KALMAKU

Carol! What do you think you're doing?

Ferris climbs into the cockpit.

**FERRIS** 

I'm going to save my man.

The jet's engines ROAR to life as she taxis onto the runway.

ON THE GROUND

Jordan lies in the bottom of a self-made crater. Struggling to his feet, Jordan finds Sinestro looking down at him.

SINESTRO

Give me the ring.

**JORDAN** 

Now you speak English?

SINESTRO

Your predecessor did not do a good job training you.

(off Jordan's expression)
You have no idea, do you? Of
course, you must have found his
corpse and took the ring from his
dead finger.

JORDAN

Who are you?

SINESTRO

Me? A protector of the weak. A guarantor of order. An unappreciated servant of the people.

**JORDAN** 

What is this all about?

SINESTRO

This is about the future of the universe, my primitive friend.

### FLASHBACK

EXT. ALIEN SOLAR SYSTEM

The PLANET gently spins on its axis.

EXT. GUARDIANS HOMEWORLD - CONT.

An extraterrestrial landscape. It gives way to an ALIEN CITY. In its center -

OPEN AIR ARENA

And in the center of the Arena, the Battery, the source of energy that powers all the rings for the entire Green Lantern Corps.

SINESTRO (V.O.)

In your planet's isolation, you know not of the life that flourishes among the stars. Among the multitude of sentient species, there exists one race as ancient as the universe itself.

The Arena is filled by a diminutive alien race called THE GUARDIANS. Their true appearance is hidden beneath scarlet hooded robes, each emblazoned with the Green Lantern insignia.

SINESTRO (V.O.) (CONT'D)

In their arrogance, they came to consider themselves the keepers of peace and order among the known worlds.

On the Arena Floor, a SMALL GROUP OF ALIENS stands in front of the Battery. Each from a different species but all wearing the Green Lantern uniform.

SINESTRO (V.O.) (CONT'D) And to enforce this order, they recruit one being from each inhabited solar system into a corps of intergalactic peacekeepers. Each creature raises its appendage in salutation to the Guardians. At the end of each hand, limb, or extremity -

CLOSE ON A RING, just like Jordan wears.

SINESTRO (V.O.) (CONT'D) To each member of this corps, a ring is given. A ring capable of many things. And to power those rings, the Battery. A generator that floods the galaxy with energy, an energy only the rings can draw upon.

The small group of Green Lanterns launches themselves from the Arena and disappears into the alien sky and the space beyond.

BACK TO SCENE

Jordan focuses on Sinestro's ring.

**JORDAN** 

You were one of them.

SINESTRO

But no longer. My former comrades did not appreciate my methods. They are weak. They allow chaos to flourish throughout the universe. I seek only to impose an absolute order to this poor and confused galaxy.

JORDAN

Why do you need the ring? You have one already.

SINESTRO

This pale imitation? No. It too can tap into the Battery's energy but only a true ring can lead me back to the source of its power.

**JORDAN** 

Destroy the Battery and the Corps will be defenseless.

SINESTRO

Your species may not be as backward as I thought. But interstellar politics need not concern you.

(MORE)

SINESTRO (CONT'D)

Your world can return to its splendid isolation. The universe is far too dangerous a place for such an infantile civilization. Just hand over the ring and you can go back to the way it was.

Uncertainty grips Jordan. Sinestro smiles when he sees the human considering the offer.

Jordan glances down at the Ring then looks up.

**JORDAN** 

I have one more question. After you defeat your enemies, what will you do then?

SINESTRO

I will give all sentient beings order in their confused existence. An absolute order to live by. Free from the burden of choice.

Jordan looks at the Ring on his finger again. An knowing smile slowly emerges across Jordan's mouth.

**JORDAN** 

(to himself)

Choice?

SINESTRO

Give me the ring. What could you possibly do with it?

JORDAN

(to himself)

Protect and serve.

(to Sinestro)

I can't allow you to have the ring.

SINESTRO

Do not be foolish. Do not choose sides in this war. Your species is helpless. But if you give me what I want, I will, of course, offer your planet my personal protection.

**JORDAN** 

Over my dead body.

SINESTRO

Then we are in agreement.

Sinestro resumes his assault on Jordan who is forced back.

The BATTLE is joined.

From the outset, the human is outmatched. Sinestro is creating various CONSTRUCTS to fight with. Jordan is forced to rely on his fists.

With each blow Sinestro delivers, the earthling is beaten down. With each strike from Sinestro's ring, the man gets weaker. Jordan is losing the fight.

A blow from Sinestro sends Jordan crashing to the ground again.

IN THE DISTANCE

Unseen by the combatants, Ferris' aircraft approaches.

STAR SAPPHIRE

Ferris has Sinestro in her targeting sight.

**FERRIS** 

I don't know if that thing has an sphincter but I'm going to make one for him. Come on, Hal. Look up.

Ferris pulls the trigger.

A MISSILE is launched from the Star Sapphire and flies towards Sinestro.

ON THE GROUND

Jordan sees the incoming Missile and dives for cover.

Sinestro turns around and instantly creates a BARRIER in front of the Missile, destroying it.

He then releases an ENERGY BEAM that rips the Ferris' aircraft apart.

IN THE AIR

Ferris is thrown out of the cockpit.

ON THE GROUND

Jordan sees this -

**JORDAN** 

Carol!

As he is about to launch himself to her, Sinestro creates an ENERGY CONSTRUCT that grabs Jordan and tosses him in the opposite direction.

Jordan recovers quickly. He punches the ground, burying the Ring in the soil. From Jordan's fist, a NARROW STREAM OF DISRUPTED DIRT races towards Sinestro. As it reach the alien's feet, a BEAM OF ENERGY erupts from the ground and punches Sinestro squarely in the jaw, sending him reeling.

Jordan looks up to see Ferris plummeting to her death.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

No!

In desperation, Jordan extends his hand as if to catch her. Willed into existence by Jordan's subconscience, a BEAM emerges from his Ring, spanning the distance to Ferris in an instant.

IN THE AIR

The beam of energy transforms itself into a GIANT HAND, catching her and gently placing Ferris -

ON THE GROUND

Jordan flies past Sinestro to finds Ferris unconscious but alive.

He gazes at his Ring in recognition of its potential for the first time. Remembering Kyle's words -

**JORDAN** 

(to himself)

The ring can make things, if you use your imagination.

Sinestro appears behind him.

SINESTRO

You have no inkling of the power you hold in your hands. Are you the best this world can offer? Why did that fool chose you to succeed him? Or was it your people who selected you as their champion?

JORDAN

You want to know who chose me?

Jordan turns around, coldly raging. Sinestro's amused sneer vanishes.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

You did.

Jordan launches himself at Sinestro, surprising the alien with the speed and ferocity of the attack.

The BATTLE continues -

IN THE AIR

Inspired by Kyle's drawing, Jordan's ENERGY CONSTRUCTS are simplistic but effective.

Recovering from Jordan's assaults, Sinestro looks around for Jordan. Someone taps him on the shoulder. Sinestro turns around to find Jordan behind him, with a GIGANTIC HAMMER in hand. Sinestro is sent flying again.

ON THE GROUND

RESCUE VEHICLE reach Ferris. Kalmaku, with the help of MEDICAL PERSONNEL, revives her.

**FERRIS** 

Where's Hal?

Kalmaku points skyward at the battle overhead.

KALMAKU

One thing for sure, you don't mess with a guy's girlfriend, no matter what planet you're from.

IN THE AIR

Jordan continues his assault and Sinestro is fighting back. Sinestro is sweating and showing signs of fatigue. And fear.

The alien finally grabs hold of Jordan in a VICE then creates a DRILL to penetrate Jordan's shield. Jordan, in turn, creates a BOXING GLOVE that knocks Sinestro away.

Both men are exhausted but continue to fight. Their respective ENERGY CONSTRUCTS progressively become less elaborate, weaker in strength and smaller in size.

Soon there are no more constructs. They are fighting with their fists. Eventually, both parties are too weak to continue the battle airborne. They end up -

ON THE GROUND

Slowly, Jordan gains the advantage. He punches Sinestro, his blow deflected by Sinestro's shield.

JORDAN

You come here!

Another punch is blocked.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Threaten my planet!

And another. Sinestro's shield begins to weaken.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Seek to enslave my people!

Another. This time, the punch is only cushioned.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Try to kill the woman I love!

Finally, Sinestro's shield shatters and Jordan's fist meets extraterrestrial flesh.

Jordan picks him up and holds him in place to receive a coup de grace.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

Not while I'm around.

An unconscious Sinestro crumbles to the ground.

Jordan reaches down and removes Sinestro's ring then crushes it in his hands, leaving nothing but yellow dust that is carried away by the wind.

Jordan staggers. Just as he's about to collapse, Ferris runs up and braces him.

**FERRIS** 

You okay?

**JORDAN** 

I haven't felt this good in the last ten years.

Kalmaku drives up.

KALMAKU

Hal, someone's asking for you.

Jordan picks up the radio.

INT. NORAD - CONT.

Scott is watching his worst fears manifest themselves.

SCOTT

Jordan. We got trouble. A fleet of alien vessels are heading for Earth. And...

ON VIEWSCREEN - A SATELLITE FEED of Darkseid's Armada.

SCOTT (CONT'D)

They don't look friendly.

EXT. MILITARY AIR BASE - CONT.

A grim expression crosses Jordan's exhausted face.

JORDAN

(into radio)

I'll see what I can do.

**FERRIS** 

Hal?

Jordan caresses Ferris' face.

JORDAN

Take care of Kyle for me.

**FERRIS** 

Hal! What is it now?

**JORDAN** 

I have to go.

He gives Ferris one last kiss before launching himself into the air.

INT. NORAD - CONT.

A despondent Scott slumps into a chair.

The door flings open and Brody and Stewart join Scott's side. The two men look up and see -

ON VIEWSCREEN - MULTIPLE BLIPS showing Darkseid's fleet on its way to Earth.

Brody places a sympathetic hand on Scott's shoulder as he shares in the despair written on everyone's face. Everyone that is, except for Stewart who's waiting for -

TECHNICIAN

We have a new contact!

ON VIEWSCREEN - A FLASHING GREEN BLIP appears on the display, flying from the surface and heading towards Darkseid's fleet.

Stewart grins.

STEWART

He's back!

EXT. EARTH ORBIT - CONT.

Jordan, exhausted and bleeding, his Green Lantern uniform in tatters, reaches orbit.

He hovers in space, suspended over the globe like a protective talisman.

Below him, the EARTH rotates.

Jordan wears an expression of sheer determination. That is all that he has left. Facing him -

Darkseid's ENTIRE ARMADA.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

Darkseid wears an expression of confused curiosity as he looks at -

ON VIEWSCREEN

A lone Green Lantern who looks barely alive.

EXT. EARTH ORBIT - CONT.

Jordan continues to float high above the Earth, determined to be the immovable object to Darkseid's irresistable force, even at the cost of his life.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

Darkseid sits on his command chair with a self-satisfied smirk. Then something catches his eye. His smile slowly vanishes as his eyes narrows.

EXT. EARTH ORBIT - CONT.

As Jordan hold his position -

IN THE DISTANCE

SPECKS OF GREEN LIGHTS, like a constellation of emerald stars, begin to appear behind Jordan. They grow more intense as they move closer.

INT. DARKSEID'S BRIDGE - CONT.

Darkseid's eyes widen.

EXT. EARTH ORBIT - CONT.

These Sparkling Green Lights take form.

Come up behind him, Jordan is joined by the entire GREEN LANTERN CORPS. Tomar-Re appears by his side. Then Katma Tui, then Kilowag, followed by all the surviving Green Lanterns.

Jordan slowly turns his head and sees Tomar-Re. His first reaction is shock. Then he notes that the alien is wearing the same uniform he is.

Tomar-Re gives the human a comradely nod.

All an astonished Jordan can do is nod back.

Looking around, Jordan sees himself surrounded by an array of Aliens, all different species but all wearing the same uniform and equipped with a ring just like his.

INT. DARKSEID'S FLAGSHIP - BRIDGE - CONTINUOUS

Panic grips Darkseid as he discovers that out in the cold vacuum of space, Hal Jordan is not alone.

DARKSEID Retreat! Retreat!

EXT. EARTH ORBIT - CONT.

Jordan grits his teeth and flings his arm forward as he leads the entire Green Lantern Corps in a final charge against Darkseid's Armada.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SETI HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Among frazzled SCIENTISTS and ENGINEERS and surrounded by sophisticated communications gear, Scott and Brody attempt to maintain some order in the chaos.

SUPER: HEADQUARTERS, THE SETI PROGRAM
THE SEARCH FOR EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE

ONE MONTH LATER

Stewart is looking over some reports when he looks up. With a wide smile, he elbows Scott.

SCOTT

You got that report I asked... (off Stewart's expression) What?

With a nod from Stewart, Scott glances toward the door to find -

Jordan, dressed as a civilian. He lifts up his hand and casually displays the Ring on his finger.

Scott in turn elbows Brody.

EXT. SETI HEADQUARTERS - MINUTES LATER

The four men walk leisurely across a green field.

SCOTT

Since you've been away, we received radio signals from over fifty-nine distinct extraterrestrial civilizations. Apparently, word's spreading about our little corner of the universe.

STEWART

We've been able to keep it quiet but it's just a matter of time before the public gets wind of what's going on. BRODY

Mind telling us where you've been for the last couple of weeks.

JORDAN

I had to be welcome into the ranks. But I'm back. For good.

SCOTT

What's it like out there?

JORDAN

More wondrous than you can possibly imagine.

Scott smiles like a man who just reclaimed his faith.

BRODY

Good. We'll get you back at Grove Land and have you rested before starting the debriefing.

Jordan just smiles.

JORDAN

I don't think so, General. I'm going back to those I love. I'm going to try to give them as normal a life as I can.

**BRODY** 

You're still under my authority.

JORDAN

Sorry, General. I'm answerable to a chain of command just a little higher than yours.

Brody glances skyward and accepts Jordan's playful insubordination with a shrug.

SCOTT

What's going to happen now?

JORDAN

This is the start of a new era for humanity. We're not alone anymore.

(to Brody)

I'm here whenever you or the world need me.

BRODY

There are dangers out there, aren't there?

SCOTT

Our isolation is gone forever. There will be challenges and danger.

STEWART

What should we tell the world?

Jordan smiles and reaches into his pocket. He pulls out a GREEN MASK and puts it on his face.

JORDAN

Tell them not to worry.

The Ring GLOWS and Jordan levitates.

A GREEN FLASH engulfs him and Jordan's civilian attire morphs into his Green Lantern uniform.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

There's a new sheriff in town.

The Green Lantern propels himself into the sky, leaving behind...

Three men looking upward, smiling and hopeful.

EXT. UPPER ATMOSPHERE - CONT.

Earth's Green Lantern rockets through the clouds until he cuts through the outer atmosphere and reaches...

EXT. EARTH ORBIT - CONT.

The stars are visible against the black background.

The SUN emerges over the curvature of the Earth.

Jordan hovers for a moment and looks around, surveying the entirety of the Earth.

His Ring powers up again and he flies, his Ring in lead, right at the audience.

FADE TO BLACK.