

Green Lantern

But, Like, It's Good This Time

Open in deep space on a derelict spaceship filled with dead Qwardians, because there's nothing like throwing the audience right in the middle of the fact that shit's gonna get weird. Green Lantern Abin Sur searches the ship while communicating with another Lantern, Sinestro - it seems they have tracked a weapon to this ship. Sinestro tells Abin Sur he will join him shortly, once Abin Sur sends the coordinates, but before any of this can happen, Abin Sur is attacked by Fan Service. Wait, did I say Fan Service? Sorry. I mean Atrocitus, who, for the uninitiated, is an alien mercenary with a tragic backstory who becomes the blood-spewing leader of the Red Lanterns but is also the Neckbeard / Incel group's favorite thing about Green Lantern because he rips people's arms off but is also tragic I guess? Anyway, in this movie he's still an alien mercenary, and he fucks Abin Sur the hell up - the whole thing was a trap, and Abin Sur barely manages to escape the ship with his life. As he falls away from the ship in an escape pod, he whispers to his ring to initiate replacement protocol.

Cut to Earth, where we're dropped right in with cocky, smug dickhat pilot Hal Jordan - think Maverick, the kind of dipshit who races planes on his motorcycle and has never met a woman he couldn't grin-wink into bed with him. He's not Ryan Reynolds likable. He's kind of a jackass. Anyway, Hal is flying a jet capable of breaking the sound barrier (a sublight), and the military bidders are trying to track it with radar and drones. Hal's flight is being monitored by Carol Ferris, Hal's ex-girlfriend, who I swear will not be a big part in this movie at all. Carol keeps over-directing Hal's flight pattern and he pulls Smug Bro rank on her and takes the sublight into nearby Coast City and starts dodging around buildings and into traffic - a narrow miss compromises the plane's engine, and it winds up careening into a controlled crash into the ocean. Hal swims ashore where a bunch of hawt bikini babes are playing volleyball, and he joins the game because cocky douche.

Back at Ferris Air, Hal is reprimanded by Carol for destroying the Sublight and embarrassing her in front of the board. Carol benches Hal, who promptly quits because he naturally has problems with authority. On his way home that night, the escape pod lands in the road in front of Hal's truck. He chases it onto the beach and tries to drag Abin Sur from the ship - Abin Sur tells him that he has been chosen as a Green Lantern and encourages him to "be better" than he was before giving Hal his ring. The ship self-destructs. Freaked out by what he saw, Hal returns home after throwing the ring into the ocean. Carol stops by and tries to patch things up by offering Hal a job in the pit crew - Hal tries for a split second to con her into bed, but the ring flies through his window and latches onto his hand, freaking Hal out. He rushes Carol out of the apartment and tries to remove the ring, but it doesn't come off. Hal almost has it wrenched off--

--when his patio door explodes and he is captured in a green energy cage. He is dragged into the air and deposited on the roof of a Coast City skyscraper, where he is attacked by Boodikka, a purple alien space-babe who demands to know what he did to Abin Sur. The fight is interrupted by two more aliens - a lizard man named Isamot Koi and a li'l chipmunk dude named

B'dg, also Green Lanterns - who restrain Boodikka as Sinestro arrives. Sinestro has Hal restrained and tries to remove the ring, but it flies back onto his finger, stunning Sinestro - to his annoyance, the other Lanterns all say that Hal has to be brought before the Guardians on Oa so he can be sworn in. Hal, of course, laughs it off, but the Lanterns refuse to let him go. To ease Hal's mind during space flight (as "Humans don't have the capacity for deep space travel"), Sinestro creates an energy ship. Hal is amazed at first, but when the Lanterns have their home-base open a hyper-gate (basically a green portal that appears in the middle of space), he loses consciousness.

Hal awakens in a medical bay, where he meets Tomar Re, the Lantern's chief science officer who is also not some shitty CGI birdman. Tomar spends a few seconds being fascinated by Hal's primitive earthly devices, especially his phone, and Hal asks him where the hell he is - Tomar launches into a long-winded explanation about how one Green Lantern is chosen to protect a single sector from threats - something Hal cuts off and likens to "one cop for each precinct" because explaining this shit is not fucking hard. Tomar explains that the ring is the only equipment Hal will ever need, containing his uniform - which is not CGI - and a direct line to his subconscious, capable of creating anything he can imagine.

A voice from the ring - which freaks Hal out - summons Hal and Tomar to The Guardians' Citadel. Tomar offers to take Hal by ground, but when Hal sees flying Lanterns gliding around Oa, which is very much styled like The Vatican City, he takes to the skies and glides around. The Guardians of Oa question Hal about Abin Sur, but Hal isn't much help and sees more concerned with when he's going home - The Guardians explain that he has to train on Oa, an honor no human has ever been given. Hal reluctantly agrees. After he departs, Sinestro steps out of the shadows and criticizes The Guardians for not focusing on catching Atrocitus, as Abin Sur's ring could track him. The Guardians tell him Hal is not ready, and Sinestro storms out, telling Boodikka (who is waiting) that he "never liked listening to the trolls" anyway.

Hal is put into ring-training with Arisia Rrab, a yellow cat-like woman whom he shamelessly flirts with, and they have a brief construct-fight. Hal gets the better of Arisia...and Killowog, the lead trainer for the Lanterns, cuts in and hands Hal his ass. A training montage follows of Hal and several other Lanterns repeatedly being taken to task by Killowog - Hal manages to beat Killowog in a fight by creating a construct of a net full of rocks that he leaves hovering above the training ring as Killowog knocks him around...when Killowog finally gets under the rocks, Hal drops them on him and buries him. Hal returns to the barracks, where Boodikka intercepts him. She talks to Hal about how important Abin Sur was to her, and convinces him to help find Abin Sur's killer. She takes Hal to Sinestro, and Hal uses his ring to track Atrocitus - as they cannot continue to track Atrocitus without Hal's ring, Sinestro forces Hal to come with he, Boodikka, and Isamot Koi.

The trail leads the Lanterns to Aeros, a water-planet with a few floating cities that are set up more like third world slums. There, they are met by the sector's Lantern, Naut-Kei Loi (who is, again, disgusted with Hal). The Lanterns track down petty crook Replikon, a former associate of

Atrocitus who usually operates in sector 2814, and interrogate him. The interrogation starts off fine, but Sinestro's tactics become - to Hal's horror - much more violent, as he beats Replikon into revealing that he Sinestro, enraged, begins roughing up the patrons in the bar. Hal, meanwhile, finds a trail of bloody prints and follows them, which leads him right to Atrocitus. The creature attacks, but Naut steps in and saves Hal. They pursue Atrocitus into the Aeros filtration system. Naut is knocked out, and Hal is forced to fight the raging Atrocitus. He manages to hold his own, but Atrocitus escapes.

Hal returns to the bar with Naut. Sinestro is upset that Hal disobeyed his orders and lost Atrocitus. A bar patron who Sinestro has been interrogating attacks, and Sinestro kills him, horrifying Hal, Boodikka, and Isamot. Hal clashes with Sinestro, but his ring's energy is spent, and Sinestro easily beats him down.

The Lanterns return to Oa, and Hal is ordered - for disobeying The Guardians - to return to Earth while the Guardians consider another candidate. He protests, and tries to tell the Guardians what Sinestro has done, but they refuse to listen. Since the ring has "chosen" Hal, the Guardians cannot force him to give it up. When he leaves the Citadel, Sinestro confronts Hal and seemingly - although in not so many words - threatens him.

Hal returns to Earth and Ferris Air. Carol confronts him, wondering where he's been for the past week. Hal lies to her, but also admits that she was right; he is reckless and stupid, and it often leads to mistakes. When Carol leaves in a helicopter, she is attacked by Atrocitus, who says he "smells the Earthman's stink on her".

The chopper crew is killed and Carol falls to certain death. Hal, clad in his Green Lantern armor, catches her at the last second. He gets Carol to safety and fights Atrocitus on Ferris airfield. This time, Hal is more level-headed and strategic, and beats Atrocitus. Carol seems to recognize Hal, but he enhances his facial armor (to a more Rayner-esque look) in an attempt to fool her.

Hal contacts Salaak and, later, Boodikka and Sinestro arrive to question Atrocitus, who Hal is holding in a construction site. When questioning proves futile, Sinestro brutalizes Atrocitus, who surrenders the location of the weapon - space coordinates to the planet Qward.

Before leaving, Sinestro programs Hal's ring to find Abin Sur's body so that he may be buried in the Lantern Crypt on Oa. The ring leads them to a Coast City lab facility (run by Cadmus, whose logo is seen briefly), where Sinestro is horrified to discover that Abin's body has been desecrated and experimented on. In a fit of rage, Sinestro destroys the installation, but Hal stops him. Sinestro takes Abin Sur's body and says the Earth deserves to burn. The Lanterns return to Oa with Atrocitus, who is placed in prison. Sinestro requests that the Guardians take action on the Earthlings for defiling Abin's corpse, but they refuse and order him to take a leave. Moments later, the Guardians discuss sending a task force to Qward.

Unknown to them, Sinestro and Boodikka, with Hal - feeling guilty over Sinestro's apparent grief - have already left Oa. They arrive shortly on a deserted planet, where the creatures guarding the weapon mention its' foreboding nature in the wrong hands. The weapon is revealed to be a yellow replica of the Oan Power Battery, one that thrives on the fear of those around it. Hal and Boodikka try to destroy the weapon, but their rings cannot penetrate it. Sinestro flies to the top of the chamber and jumps into the center of the weapon - he rises out with yellow armor. He says that he knows a place where all will fear the weapon, and smirks at Hal - who realizes he's talking about Earth. Sinestro kills the Guardians and has a brief fight with Hal and Boodikka. Sinestro stabs Boodikka to death and, seemingly for the first time, Hal's fear takes advantage of him. Sinestro easily breaks his shield and injures Hal. He then creates a hyper-gate and escapes.

Hal returns to Oa with Boodikka's body, and begs the Guardians to help. They say that until they fully know what they are facing, they cannot jump to action, and that Sinestro is one of their own, so they must be careful with fighting him. Hal, upset, surrenders his ring to the Guardians. Thinking of his defeats, Hal has a flashback to a quiet moment with his father, where the two discuss how Martin Jordan gets over his fears during a flight. Hal, seemingly intent on fighting through his own fear, asks Salaak to send him back to Earth.

Meanwhile, Sinestro arrives over Coast City during a Fourth of July celebration. His appearance causes instant panic, feeding the battery. Sinestro sets out on a rampage. Hal arrives on Earth to see Coast City in chaos. He goes to Ferris Air in hopes of commandeering an aircraft. Hal runs into Carol, who apologizes to Hal for being so hard on him. Hal says that her words were what convinced him that he had to fight against Sinestro - Carol thinks he's being an idiot, but Hal silences her with a kiss and tells her that he's always been afraid of a relationship with her. He attempts to leave in a jet, but, before he can, the ring breaks through the jet cockpit and hovers in the air before Hal.

Hal, as Green Lantern goes to face Sinestro, who has unleashed chaos on the sea-front of Coast City. Hal and Sinestro have a massive construct war through the streets of Coast City. Sinestro tells Hal that he is weak, and a disgrace to Abin Sur's ring. Hal replies that Sinestro is weak, as he has given into his fears. He challenges Sinestro to a fight without their powers, and Sinestro accepts. With the yellow power battery hanging overhead, Hal and Sinestro engage in a fistfight. Hal knows Sinestro is a superior fighter, and is obviously scared out of his mind. He gets his ass handed to him, but, when Sinestro prepares to deliver a killing stroke with his ring, Hal reveals that he just "said he couldn't use his powers in the fight, not that he couldn't use them". His ring sparks, as a construct of the Sublight rockets through the city and crashes into the yellow power battery, which explodes.

Sinestro's ring is drained of power, and he furiously pummels Hal. When he prepares to deliver a killing blow, green energy whips restrain his arms. Arisia, B'dg, and Tomar Re arrive, and restrain Sinestro. Kilowog follows, and breaks Sinestro's hand, removing the yellow ring and grunting "Poozer".

Hal returns to Oa with the Lanterns, and Sinestro is imprisoned. The Guardians tell Hal that he does not have to be a Green Lantern and take the ring. Hal responds by extending his hand, and the ring flies onto his finger, signifying that he has decided to be a Lantern permanently. The Corps recites the oath during a brief induction ceremony, where Tomar presents Hal with his own power battery.

Hal returns to Earth and arrives at Carol's apartment, finally having the courage to take the plunge into a relationship with her. They kiss, and Hal asks to take her to dinner. When she leaves the room, however, Hal's ring flashes green, and Salaak announces that a bounty hunter, Kanjar Ro, has been sighted in the outlying area of 2814. Carol reenters the room, and Hal tells her that, unfortunately, he has to go. When Carol asks where, Hal responds by shifting into his Green Lantern armor, which shocks Carol. They kiss, and Hal flies off into the night sky with Carol watching.

There was a credits tag that slow-panned through the wreckage of the Cadmus facility that Sinestro trashed. Techs are in the process of cleaning out the facility, and, in the center of it all, someone watches a security feed on a tablet - a brick wall of a woman, clad in a blue suit. She pauses the video on Hal's face and tells a flunky to "find out who this is". The flunky addresses her as "Miss Waller", and the film fades to black - setting up Cadmus for future films. I dropped it because a.) I hate open sequel endings, b.) It didn't feel absolutely necessary to the script, and c.) I went in a different direction with my ideal sequel. Originally, it was very much on Earth, with William Hand and Hector Hammond as the villains. But I decided it'd be more fun to do the whole Star Trek "Away Team" meets Mission: Impossible sort of thing.