

Lanterns Episode Guide

Episodes 001–003

Last episode aired Sunday August 30, 2026





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Season One

Pilot

Season 1

Episode Number: 1

Season Episode: 1

Originally aired:	Sunday August 16, 2026
Writer:	Chris Mundy, Damon Lindelof, Tom King
Director:	James Hawes
Show Stars:	Aaron Pierre (John Stewart), Kyle Chandler (Hal Jordan), Kelly Macdonald (Sheriff Kelly Kerry), Garret Dillahunt (William Macon), Poorna Jagannathan (Zoe Macon)
Guest Stars:	Ulrich Thomsen (Sinestro), Jason Ritter (Billy Macon), Chris Coy (Waylon Sanders), J. Alphonse Nicholson (John Stewart Sr.), Cary Christopher (Young Noah Macon), Jaime Alvarez (Taco Stand Owner), Zosia Rinderle (Young Girl (Taco Stand)), Tony Toboada (Sheriff Everett), Ben Strickler (Sheriff Simpson), Shirl Boe (Nice Woman), Jaylen Lyndon Hunter (Adolescent Aaron), Cristina Marie Frias (Judge), Juliette Hourani (Mother), Noah Gibson Slates (Adolescent Marcus), Cairo Lee (Adolescent John), Michael Ocampo (Deputy Lopez), Doug Long (Thick Neck), Bella Shaw (60 Minutes Anchor), Nickolas Epper (Rushville Civilian 9)
Summary:	After a fatal shooting, Green Lantern Hal Jordan and new recruit John Stewart set out to prove it was an extraterrestrial event.



The episode starts with us back in 1996. Green Lantern landed on Earth in 1986 and has been protecting the Earth for a solid decade or so now. He dramatically stopped a meteor from destroying Victoria Falls. Now, live on TV, Hal Jordan gives a candid interview about his background.

He's an Air Force veteran and a former test pilot, along with being the first entrusted Green Lantern of course. Two kids watch his interview on TV, one of them being John Stewart. When his father returns home, he asks John whether

he's afraid as he sets him up against a wall with an apple on his head. John doesn't even flinch as his father shoots the apple.

Fast forward to 2016 and John Stewart is operating at Hal Jordan's student. Basically a Lantern in training. It seems like they've been doing this for 2 months or so. The guardians have chosen John for some reason but Hal is quick to remind him he's still a rookie.

To prove himself, Hal drops off his ring on the dashboard and jumps out the car, letting John crash off the edge of a cliff but also use his skills to conjure bubble wrap (his words not mine) to protect himself.

John is hot under the collar after this stunt though. He rings his dad and vents to him about Hal's test, who tells John to stay the course and he'll become the Green Lantern.

When John touches the ring, Hal suddenly materializes next to him and apologizes. He's confused over exactly who he is and is shocked to learn it's 2016. This is a back-up of Hal's consciousness and he has a message. Apparently there's hail in Nebraska.

When it disappears, John finally catches up to Hal Jordan, who's making the most of his fame at the Taco stand. When he receives Hal's message, he jets off, leaving John to go the long way to Nebraska.

John eventually does make it, where Hal claims this is all part of his training. Now, the crime scene itself is a point of contention. At a football field, emergency services from two different counties are on scene and have been here for 6 hours now.

John is convinced that the victims are extra-terrestrial, meaning it'll fall under his jurisdiction, but the sheriff on duty, Kerry, isn't so sure. Hal tests John's investigative skills, and it definitely seems like there's an alien in their midst.

John messes up and gets too close to a guy in a short sleeve shirt acting suspiciously, and a chase ensues. John eventually does knock him out, and the guy is arrested on suspicion of being involved, before the pair head to the local bar.

Whilst there, John grills into Hal Jordan, questioning his credentials as a Lantern. He also pushes him for info regarding the ring, and believes this is why they're in Nebraska. Well, Hal had a run-in with something weird where a giant green bubble encased him, a voice asked if he was afraid before whisking him across to Nebraska, not far from where they are.

Hal's predecessor, Abin Sur (whom Hal calls Pinko) handed over his ring and allowed him to take over protecting the Earth. He's now convinced that this crash is no accident and something is coming.

For now, Hal Jordan gets himself arrested so he can talk to the alien Kerry captured. At the Sheridan County Sheriffs Department though, Hal is not happy. Kerry intentionally separates him away from this captured alien and he's even brought before court too, where he could be arrested.

There's a 200,000 bail, which Hal is shocked by, but lawyer Billy Macon shows up and takes advantage of the situation. After agreeing to pay the fees (and finding out he's Kerry's brother), the Lanterns show up at the Macon ranch. There are a ton of militia guys training here, and Hal meets with Will, the patriarch.

Will is training his guys because he believes a war is coming and the man (see: alien) inside the jail is part of an advanced team. Will agrees to get Hal an audience with this guy, but his price for doing so is unknown right now.

However, there's a slight wrinkle. At the bar earlier in the episode, John Stewart wound up sleeping with a woman who was flirting with him. Now, it turns out that very woman is actually Will's wife, Zoe. Will is seemingly aware of this too.

In the morning, Kerry brings the pair in to see this alien, a man by the name of Waylon Sanders. He's actually a licenced truck driver and has worked under the radar for nearly five years. X-rays show he's very much human and there doesn't appear to be anything alien. That means nothing though, given Hal is aware of how many other species are out there.

Hal eventually speaks to Waylon and catches him out. It seems like there's a war coming and Waylon eventually explodes. Hal Jordan manages to protect the precinct, setting up a green bubble around Waylon as he explodes. Apart from a big hole in the side of the building, nobody is hurt.

Fast forward to 2026 and this is a very different Nebraska. John shows up and is reunited with Kerry. Hal Jordan is sitting in the stands, dead and with dried blood staining his forehead. His ring is also missing too.

Trust Fall

Season 1

Episode Number: 2

Season Episode: 2

Originally aired:	Sunday August 23, 2026
Writer:	Chris Mundy, Vanessa Baden Kelly
Director:	James Hawes
Show Stars:	Aaron Pierre (John Stewart), Kyle Chandler (Hal Jordan), Kelly Macdonald (Sheriff Kelly Kerry), Garret Dillahunt (William Macon), Poorna Jagannathan (Zoe Macon)
Guest Stars:	Ulrich Thomsen (Sinestro), Jason Ritter (William "Billy" Macon), Paul Ben-Victor (Antaan), Craig Baxley Jr. (Van Driver), John Venable (Coach), Kamy Bruder (Surly Guy), Jim Charmatz (Earl Puppeteer), Victor Broadley (Earl Puppeteer), Rodrick Khachatoorian (Earl Puppeteer), Jonney Ahmanson (Guard Ben)
Summary:	While John's middling errand ultimately proves eventful, Hal makes waves in Rushville — which only inspires him to dig deeper.



The episode starts with us continuing our past timeline, as John Stewart is awoken by Hal Jordan post the football game shooting. Right in the middle of this alien case, Hal wants to train John up and teach the guy how to fly. John isn't happy about it but with the ring on his hand, he does his best to concentrate. Instead, he conjures a green bird, which somehow manages to stay for the duration of the episode, even without the ring.

Hal realizes the ring is out of charge, and with John unable to fly, he sends him

back to his place in Coast City to get the lantern for a recharge. While it initially seems he's ditching John, in reality, Hal Jordan is very much on the beat.

Hal finds Kerry at the town hall, and everyone grows silent when he shows up. As the townsfolk discuss whether to keep Friday's football game going or not, Billy calls Hal over and gives him the good news — the assault charges against him have been completely dropped.

With much of the town wanting Hal gone, and William Macon clearly knowing more than he's letting on, our Lantern is more determined than ever to get to the bottom of this.

John makes it back to Hal's place, and calls him to find the lantern's location. There's also a Lantern outfit too and a vault that's voice-activated. Speaker-phone comes in real handy to get this bad boy open, but we soon see that Hal has also got a pocket dimension inside this thing, where the lantern is being held.

There's also the small matter of Earl Jordan. Hal mentioned him earlier in the episode and it turns out to be a carnivorous plant being kept in a garden shed. On the way out the house though, John is tasered and bundled in the back of a van. A scuffle ensues as John tries to scramble to safety, but his captors aren't exactly human and don't make it easy. They soon grab him and capture the guy properly.

It turns out William knew about the alien because of the scanner back at the football field. He commandeers the alien corpses from the morgue and drags them through the detectors, where he confirms his theory that the metal scanner is actually more like an alien scanner.

Hal shows up at the Macon estate and ruffles some feathers, but he's warned he'll be shot if he comes closer. He doesn't listen, steps forward, and is shot for his troubles

Back with John, he's questioned about Manhunters. Of course, Hal hasn't told him anything about them, but these guys aren't necessarily looking to hurt John. Instead, they want to recruit him to help finish what they started.

They explain that Manhunters came before the Lanterns, synthetic beings capable of constructing new bodies and taking the form of practically any species. This allows them to embed themselves undetected within societies, all while developing technology far beyond anything those civilizations should ordinarily be capable of.

According to them, one Manhunter remains on Earth, currently passing as a human and quietly working from the shadows. They've seen first-hand what these things are capable of too, with a Manhunter previously infiltrating their own world and engineering a massacre.

That's what brought their team to Rushville in the first place. They caught wind that a Manhunter was hiding somewhere in town and sent four men to investigate. However, those operatives were ambushed and killed at the football field, finally explaining the mysterious corpses from the previous episode. Even more suspiciously, Hal showed up around an hour later.

With their own people unable to continue the search, they now want John to do it for them. He's given 48 hours to identify the Manhunter and bring it to justice. If he fails, they'll take matters into their own hands, march into Rushville and start killing people until they find it.

Hal survives his gunshot but at the hospital, Kerry questions him over exactly who Sinestro is. This is one of Lantern's villains, but we only hear about this through Kerry's notes (for now!), which she's taken given Hal was mumbling and mentioning the guy in his sleep.

John heads back to Rushville, where he encounters Zoe again in a diner. They talk about her "unconventional" marriage, before John returns to Hal properly. He's brought over the Lanterns suit too but Hal ignores that for now and manages to charge up the ring.

John isn't particularly happy when he returns to find alien goo smeared all over his car, courtesy of Hal's earlier experiment with the bodies. However, there are much bigger problems at hand, and John finally confronts Hal over what he knows about Manhunters.

Despite being specifically warned not to say anything, John comes clean about his abduction, explaining the Manhunter hiding somewhere in Rushville and the 48-hour deadline they've been given before Antaan and his men take matters into their own hands.

That night, Hal finally dons his Green Lantern suit and blasts off into space, heading to an intergalactic prison. Waiting inside is none other than Sinestro, Hal's disgraced former mentor.

Hal immediately questions him about Manhunters, but Sinestro has an ominous response. If one of them still exists, he claims it would only be the second-biggest threat Hal currently faces. So what's the biggest?

Well, Sinestro turns the conversation around with one simple question: what can Hal tell him about John Stewart?

OutKast

Season 1

Episode Number: 3

Season Episode: 3

Originally aired:	Sunday August 30, 2026
Writer:	Vanessa Baden Kelly
Director:	Stephen Williams
Show Stars:	Aaron Pierre (John Stewart), Kyle Chandler (Hal Jordan), Kelly Macdonald (Sheriff Kelly Kerry), Garret Dillahunt (William Macon), Poorna Jagannathan (Zoe Macon)
Guest Stars:	J. Alphonse Nicholson (John Stewart Sr.), Laura Linney (Lianna), Jasmine Cephas Jones (Bernadette Stewart), Mark Espinoza (General Chavez), Jaylen Lyndon Hunter (Adolescent Aaron Stewart), Cairo Cash Lee (Adolescent John Stewart), Noah Gibson-Slates (Adolescent Marcus Stewart), Richard Whitney Gardenhire Jr. (Child Marcus Stewart), Jayce Eiland (Child John Stewart), Lumi Oniyide (Child Aaron Stewart), Jerry Gureghian (Gray Wolf), Sergio Lanza (Recruiter), Kent Shocknek (News Anchor)
Summary:	When his dad misunderstands a contact attempt from the Guardians, John is put forth as the next best option to fulfill the Green Lantern destiny. Then, after a lifetime of preparation, John finally gets his chance to interview for the Guardians.



The episode starts in 2016 with John dropping into what appears to be an abandoned mall for an interview. He's told to wait and ends up sitting there all day and through the night, until the Guardian finally returns the following day, surprised that he's still there.

These guys are essentially the ruling body of the cosmos and the founders of the Green Lantern Corps. There were originally 12 Guardians, although one has recently died. This death is also why they're interviewing candidates for the

next Green Lantern rather than simply allowing a ring to choose one.

As a baby, John witnessed his father, John Stewart Sr., being tested by a Green Lantern ring. He's lifted from his bed and asked one simple question: are you afraid? Johnny admits that he is and, as a result, he's rejected. The ring eventually chooses Hal Jordan instead.

The experience completely breaks Johnny though. When he hears Green Lantern on TV giving a statement about how he's fearless, Johnny loses it and shoots the screen.

Things get so bad that Bernadette eventually kicks Johnny out, but the Guardian from John's interview shows up soon after. She offers the family compensation for what happened, including a massive diamond, and explains that the process of choosing a Lantern can cause emotional turmoil in those who aren't selected.

The Guardian also shows Bernadette her true form and reveals that whatever the ring saw inside Johnny could be genetic, meaning one of their children may possess the same qualities.

Bernadette reconciles with Johnny and the pair decide to raise John to be fearless, regardless of whether he hates them for it.

On his fifth birthday, John is given a Green Lantern outfit and a gun instead of the crayons he wanted. His parents tell him about his "destiny" and convince him that birds around the house are secretly watching and reporting his progress back to the Guardians.

This explains the bizarre gun incident from the start of Episode 1, along with his closeness with birds. It turns out putting an apple on John's head was actually Bern's idea, although Johnny is understandably reluctant to pull the trigger. Bernadette encourages him though, claiming this is what it takes for both of them.

John's training only becomes more extreme from here. His parents leave him by the side of the road in a dangerous neighbourhood and force him to find his own way home, while Bernadette grows increasingly obsessive about making sure he's ready.

Eventually, she reverses the apple test and tells John to shoot an apple off his father's head, but John can't do it.

Bern initially sees this as another failure but eventually admits that loving his father and not wanting to hurt him is perfectly normal. She also reveals the truth about the birds and how she made the whole thing up.

John decides he's ready to try again, but this time he wants Bernadette standing beneath the apple. He takes the shot and succeeds, finally proving that he can control his fear.

All of this eventually pushes John toward joining the Marines, where he rises to Sergeant Major and becomes an exceptional sniper.

One of his biggest assignments sees him sent after a target known as Gray Wolf. John spends months waiting for the perfect opportunity to take him out but, right when he finally gets his shot, Hal Jordan suddenly appears and takes Gray Wolf himself.

This causes a massive diplomatic problem because the U.S. isn't supposed to be operating there. Someone needs to take the blame and John is forced to become the fall guy, accepting a dishonourable discharge and effectively ending his military career.

Back in 2016, the Guardian questions John about all of this but, given the mission remains classified, she changes tact and asks him about Sinestro.

John knows what's been reported publicly: Sinestro went rogue, killed one of the Guardians and was eventually brought in by Hal. However, the Guardian reveals that Sinestro was also Hal's teacher and something of a father figure to him. They're concerned that Hal still holds affection for Sinestro despite everything he's done.

After being discharged, John returns home completely lost. Bernadette encourages him to follow his artistic talents instead and reveals she's already applied to art school on his behalf.

During an evaluation there, John's incredible visual memory is tested before the examiner eventually hands him a Green Lantern ring. He's asked to create a construct of his father's watch from memory and manages to do it perfectly.

They've clearly been watching John's progress for some time and a portal then opens beneath him, sending John straight into the abandoned mall, bringing everything full circle and explaining how he ended up at the interview from the beginning of the episode.

The Guardian at the table asks whether John would be comfortable replacing Hal Jordan while Hal remains under the impression John is merely his backup. After some back and forth, John Stewart gets the job.

John excitedly returns home to tell his parents, only to discover Hal Jordan has beaten him there and already broken the news.

Hal acts friendly enough around John's parents, but once the pair step outside his attitude completely changes. Hal makes it clear he doesn't want a sidekick and certainly doesn't want a backup. If John wants Hal's ring, he'll have to pry it off his cold, dead body.

With that ominous comment out the way, Hal tells him training begins Monday morning and flies off.

John notices a bird sitting nearby and, after everything he's been through with them over the years, simply remarks, "I think he likes me."

Actor Appearances

A

Jonney Ahmanson 1
0102 (Guard Ben)
Jaime Alvarez 1
0101 (Taco Stand Owner)

B

Craig Baxley Jr. 1
0102 (Van Driver)
Paul Ben-Victor 1
0102 (Antaan)
Shirl Boe 1
0101 (Nice Woman)
Victor Broadley 1
0102 (Earl Puppeteer)
Kamy Bruder 1
0102 (Surly Guy)

C

Jim Charmatz 1
0102 (Earl Puppeteer)
Cary Christopher 1
0101 (Young Noah Macon)
Chris Coy 1
0101 (Waylon Sanders)

E

Jayce Eiland 1
0103 (Child John Stewart)
Nickolas Epper 1
0101 (Rushville Civilian 9)
Mark Espinoza 1
0103 (General Chavez)

F

Cristina Marie Frias 1
0101 (Judge)

G

Richard Whitney Gardenhire Jr. 1
0103 (Child Marcus Stewart)
Noah Gibson-Slates 1
0103 (Adolescent Marcus Stewart)
Jerry Gureghian 1
0103 (Gray Wolf)

H

Juliette Hourani 1
0101 (Mother)
Jaylen Lyndon Hunter 2
0101 (Adolescent Aaron); 0103 (Adolescent Aaron
Stewart)

J

Jasmine Cephas Jones 1
0103 (Bernadette Stewart)

K

Rodrick Khachatourian 1
0102 (Earl Puppeteer)

L

Sergio Lanza 1
0103 (Recruiter)
Cairo Lee 1
0101 (Adolescent John)
Cairo Cash Lee 1
0103 (Adolescent John Stewart)
Laura Linney 1
0103 (Lianna)
Doug Long 1
0101 (Thick Neck)

N

J. Alphonse Nicholson 2
0101 (John Stewart Sr.); 0103 (John Stewart Sr.)

O

Michael Ocampo 1
0101 (Deputy Lopez)
Lumi Oniyide 1
0103 (Child Aaron Stewart)

R

Zosia Rinderle 1
0101 (Young Girl (Taco Stand))
Jason Ritter 2
0101 (Billy Macon); 0102 (William "Billy" Macon)

S

Bella Shaw 1
0101 (60 Minutes Anchor)
Kent Shocknek 1
0103 (News Anchor)

Noah Gibson Slates	1
0101 (Adolescent Marcus)	
Ben Strickler	1
0101 (Sheriff Simpson)	

T

Ulrich Thomsen	2
0101 (Sinestro); 0102 (Sinestro)	
Tony Toboada	1
0101 (Sheriff Everett)	

V

John Venable	1
0102 (Coach)	