

SPACE SECTOR 2811.

THE PLANET JEKULU.

SOON.



SPAK

R-RING...ALERT
HEADQUARTERS...

HURRY.

ERROR.

YOU AND YOUR
COMRADE WERE
UNWISE TO COME
HERE UNINVITED,
GREEN
LANTERN.

COMMUNICATIONS
DISRUPTED.

THIS WORLD
BELONGS TO
THE HOUSE OF
ZOD.





ZOD'S PART ONE WILL FIRST CONTACT

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SPACE SECTOR ZERO.

THE SENTIENT PLANET MOGO.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE
INTERGALACTIC POLICE
FORCE KNOWN AS THE

GREEN LANTERN
CORPS.

NOW.



I
QUIT.





JOHN STEWART, YOU LED A MISSION TO SAVE WE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE FROM THE CONTROLLERS AND A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH.

UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP, THE CORPS DEFEATED BRAINIAC, THE SINESTRO CORPS, AND THE NTH-METAL GOLEMS OF YUGA KHAN.

YOU HAVE SERVED ADMIRABLY.



WE DO NOT WISH FOR YOU TO RELINQUISH YOUR RING. BUT NEITHER CAN WE FORCE YOU TO WEAR IT.

DAMN RIGHT.

I'VE STOOD IN THIS SPOT BEFORE. IN FRONT OF A GROUP LIKE YOU, DRESSED IN ROBES LIKE THOSE.

IT ALL WENT SIDWAYS. FOR YOU AND FOR THE CORPS.

YOU AND SAYD WERE THERE, GANTHET. DO I REALLY NEED TO REMIND YOU?



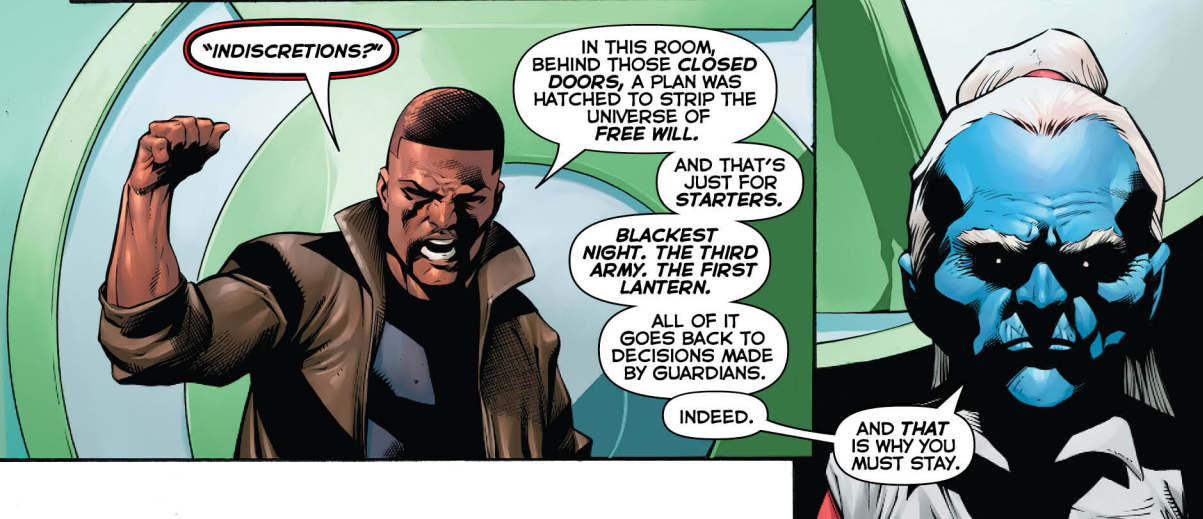
NO, YOU DO NOT.

THE DARK TIMES YOU SPEAK OF CAST A SHADOW OVER MY HEART.

OVER THE HEART OF EVERY GUARDIAN.

BUT WE WILL NO LONGER ALLOW THE INDISCRETIONS OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL TO KEEP US FROM OUR ROLE AS GUIDES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

THE CORPS WE CREATED.



"INDISCRETIONS?"

IN THIS ROOM, BEHIND THOSE CLOSED DOORS, A PLAN WAS HATCHED TO STRIP THE UNIVERSE OF FREE WILL.

AND THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS.

BLACKEST NIGHT. THE THIRD ARMY. THE FIRST LANTERN.

ALL OF IT GOES BACK TO DECISIONS MADE BY GUARDIANS.

INDEED.

AND THAT IS WHY YOU MUST STAY.



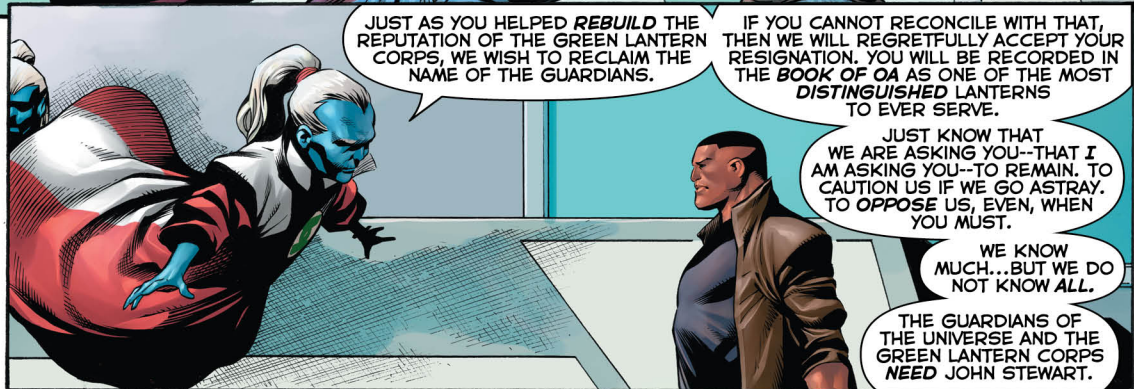
DO YOU NOT SEE IT?

WE SIX GUARDIANS ARE THE LAST OF OUR KIND.

WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SHEPHERD THE CORPS AND THE UNIVERSE. A RESPONSIBILITY WE CAN NO LONGER ABDICATE.

BUT WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO RETURN TO THE DESPOTIC WAYS OF THE COUNCIL THAT INHABITED THIS CHAMBER IN THE PAST.

WE REFUSE TO LET THAT BE THE LEGACY OF OUR PEOPLE.



JUST AS YOU HELPED REBUILD THE REPUTATION OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS, WE WISH TO RECLAIM THE NAME OF THE GUARDIANS.

IF YOU CANNOT RECONCILE WITH THAT, THEN WE WILL REGRETFULLY ACCEPT YOUR RESIGNATION. YOU WILL BE RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF OA AS ONE OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED LANTERNS TO EVER SERVE.

JUST KNOW THAT WE ARE ASKING YOU--THAT I AM ASKING YOU--TO REMAIN. TO CAUTION US IF WE GO ASTRAY. TO OPPOSE US, EVEN, WHEN YOU MUST.

WE KNOW MUCH...BUT WE DO NOT KNOW ALL.

THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS NEED JOHN STEWART.



I WON'T DENY YOU A CHANCE TO MAKE GOOD, JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE WITH BLUE SKIN MADE A MESS OF THINGS.

I'M A MARINE. I BELIEVE IN THE CHAIN OF COMMAND. BUT I WON'T BE A YES-MAN.



CROSS ONE FOOT--ONE TOE--OVER THE LINE AND I'LL BE THERE TO STOP YOU.



SHOULD THAT DAY COME, YOU WILL HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF TO BE THE JUST LANTERN WE KNOW YOU ARE.

RETURN TO YOUR DUTIES, CORPS LEADER STEWART.

SALAAK HAS INFORMED US OF A MATTER THAT REQUIRES INVESTIGATION IN SECTOR 2811. DISPATCH A TEAM AT ONCE.