

Justice League Unlimited

"The Once and Future Thing, Part One: The Weird, Weird West"

(formerly, "A Brief History of Time: Part One")

(Script)

#257-462

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(3/24/04)

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JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED

"The Once And Future Thing, Part One: The Weird, Weird West"

(Was: "A Brief History Of Time, Part 1")

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CAST LIST

WONDER WOMAN

BATMAN

GREEN LANTERN

GUEST CAST

DAVID CLINTON: Henpecked inventor who will become a world conqueror in part two.

ENID CLINTON: Female. David's wife. She "should have married Jim Dworman."

BARTHOLOMEW "BAT" LASH: Male. Gambling old West Hero. A young James Garner.

TOBIAS MANNING: Male. Super-powered Cowboy. Major Villain. Cunning, not intelligent.

EL DIABLO: Male. Swashbuckling Latin hero.

JONAH HEX: Previously appeared in Batman episode, "Showdown."

STATIC: Male. Adult version from Static Shock episode, "Future Shock." Two Lines. Will return for major role in Part Two.

WARHAWK: Previously appeared in Batman Beyond episode, "The Call." One word. Will return for major role in Part Two.

ALPHA CLOWN: Superpowered member of the Jokerz. One line. Will return for major role in Part Two.

CYBORG COWBOYS: Mechanical grunts only.

BANDIT #1: Male. Tough cowboy.

EARL: Poker Player. Two lines.

FRANK: Male. Poker Player. One line. GUARD: One line, grunts and groans.

SHERIFF SMITH: Male, Native American.

SNIPER: Male, Grunt only.

MAN: Male. Grunt only.

COWBOY: Male. Grunt only

TEASER

FADE IN:

TITLE CARD - "BATMAN BEYOND" FONT:

FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW...

EXT. NEO GOTHAM - DAY

A series of angles establish the futuristic skyline of the main city from "Batman Beyond." We finally arrive at a modest SINGLE FAMILY HOUSE.

ENID (O.S.)

David? Daaaavidddd?

INT. HOUSE - DAY

Now we see her, ENID CLINTON, a frumpy housewife whose face seems to be permanently set in a disappointed sneer. She's in her laundry room, dragging a big garbage bag, stalking towards the door to the attached garage.

ENID (CONT'D)

Are you hiding in the garage again?

She opens the door and LOOKS around the room. It's like a museum, filled with carefully preserved and displayed HISTORICAL TREASURES. She's not impressed.

ENID (CONT'D)

Look at this mess!

(calling out)

Come on out David. I know you're here.

DAVID CLINTON, her meek, much put upon husband, peers out from behind a stack of half opened crates. He's dressed in a bizarre skin-tight outfit that's out of place even by the standards of this future world. He's scribbling in a dog-eared RED NOTEBOOK. He carries himself like a kid caught doing something wrong.

DAVID

(mortified)

Oh, hello dear! I was just
cataloging some of my collection.

ENID

"Collection." Bunch of junk.

David is offended. He shows her some of his treasures as he
defends them.

DAVID

It's not junk! This comb belonged
to Cleopatra! And this, this is an
actual early draft of the Magna
Carta! And here...

ENID

Right. Like you could afford those
things on a physics professor's
salary. We can't even afford the
new car I want.

DAVID

I-I didn't buy them, Enid. I sort
of ... took them.

ENID

You robbed a museum? Is that why
you're wearing that goofy catsuit?

DAVID

Sort of...not exactly. Remember
last summer when I didn't get
tenure?

ENID

Yeah, they thought you were crazy
because you kept insisting you were
on the verge of discovering...

Now she gets it.

ENID (CONT'D)

...time travel.

Davis smiles triumphantly, gesturing towards his suit with both hands.

DAVID

It's my Chronosuit. I've had it working for months. I've been using it to gather treasures for my collection. And you said I was a loser.

ENID

Let me get this straight. You've got a suit that lets you travel in time, and you've been using it to steal historical trash?

She walks up to him and grabs his shirt in her fists.

ENID (CONT'D)

You stupid little man! You could go back and steal gold and jewels. You could get stock information from the future. We could be rich!

DAVID

No! We can't use the suit to do anything that could change history. I'm careful to only take things that wouldn't be missed.

ENID

Like your spine?

DAVID

Enid, please! Don't talk to me like that, I love--

ENID

Mother was right! I should have married Jim Dworman, He's a very successful lawyer! And you are a loser, always were, always will be.

DAVID

But--

ENID

You worthless, trifling, effete, good-for-nothing, wretched waste of space! You invent a time machine and can't think of anything useful to do with it?

DAVID

I can think of one thing.

David deliberately reaches down with his index finger extended. He's about to press a BUTTON on the HIGH TECH BELT around his waist.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I can use it to get away from you!

David presses the button and VANISHES leaving behind a rapidly-fading HOLE IN SPACE. We can see a colorful PLASMA TUNNEL in the hole for the few instants before it's gone. From here on out, we're calling this a TIME SLIDE.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE WATCHTOWER - DAY

Establishing the orbiting headquarters of the Justice League.

TITLE:

THE WATCHTOWER - TODAY...

INT. THE WATCHTOWER - CAFETERIA

Establishing the mess hall. It's mostly empty. At the line to get food, Hawkgirl and Wonder Woman both reach for a tray at the same time. Wonder Woman lets the tray go and glowers at Hawkgirl.

WONDER WOMAN

(coolly)

By all means. You first.

Hawkgirl is silent as she takes the tray and proceeds down the line.

AT A TABLE

Across the room, Batman and Green Lantern are already eating. They saw the altercation between the women.

GREEN LANTERN

Diana's carrying a grudge.

BATMAN

She'll get over it. How about you, carrying anything?

Batman indicates Shayera, who is walking out of the cafeteria with her tray of food.

GREEN LANTERN

What, Shayera? We're cool. Giving each other our space. I'm seeing Vixen now. I'm very happy.

BATMAN

Uh, huh.

GREEN LANTERN

Anyway, why are we always talking about my love life? What's going on between you and Diana?

BATMAN

Nothing. She's a respected colleague.

GREEN LANTERN

(imitating Batman)

Uh, huh.

BATMAN

I don't have time to pursue a relationship. My work is too important to allow any distractions. Diana's a remarkable woman, she's a valued friend, she's...

Green Lantern glances up behind Batman.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

...standing right behind me, isn't she?

Wonder Woman puts a hand on his shoulder.

WONDER WOMAN

Don't let that stop you. Keep digging.

Batman's response is mercifully interrupted by an ALARM KLAXON.

COMPUTER (V.O)

Intruder Alert! Dormitory deck A!
Intruder Alert! Dormitory deck A!

The heroes race off to investigate.

CUT TO:

INT. BATMAN'S DORM - NIGHT

DAVID is inside Batman's immaculate quarters. There is an unused bed, a computer desk and racks of extra weapons and tools, neatly mounted in easy reach. David is aware of the blaring Klaxon, so he's moving quickly. He tries to open a LOCKER DOOR but it's locked.

David places one palm on the door and fingers a control on his belt with the other.

THE LOCKER DOOR

Rapidly begins to RUST around his hand. The metal flakes and CRUMBLES away like dust.

DAVID reaches inside. He's got his prize: a spare UTILITY BELT. Smiling, he takes a moment to cross it off a list in his Red Notebook. He's completely unprepared for the BATARANG that FLIES in and STRIKES the hand he's holding the belt with.

DAVID

(CRY of pain)

He drops the belt and turns to see Batman, flanked by Wonder Woman and Green Lantern.

BATMAN

Who are you? How did you get in the Watchtower?

DAVID

You weren't supposed to see me!

David reaches for his belt control. Wonder Woman tries to LASSO David but he BLURS and the rope passes right through him. David turns tail and RUNS, fiddling with his belt control.

DAVID

Stay away! No one's supposed to know I was here.

David finally opens up another TIME SLIDE and VANISHES. Just before he DISAPPEARS, Batman, Wonder Woman and Green Lantern DIVE into the fading rip in space-time and they all VANISH.

CUT TO:

INT. TIME SLIDE

The heroes are falling headfirst through an undulating, coruscating, twisting tunnel. It looks sort of like the plasma tunnel at the beginning of the old Dr. Who series, only it's going by about ten times as quickly. It's like riding white water rapids without a raft. At first they can see David ahead of them, but he quickly pulls away. As they travel, they bump hard against the sides of the tunnel, pinballing from side to side.

GL, BATMAN AND WONDER WOMAN

(impact GRUNTS)

GREEN LANTERN surrounds himself, Wonder Woman and Batman in a FORCE BUBBLE. The Bubble is still swept along by the tide.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

The Time Slide OPENS a few feet above the ground. Green Lantern's Energy Globe flies out and hits the ground HARD, BOUNCING several times.

GL, BATMAN AND WONDER WOMAN

(impact GRUNTS as Globe bounces)

They finally come to a stop. Green Lantern DISSOLVES the Globe.

GREEN LANTERN

Everybody okay?

Wonder Woman shades her eyes from the bright desert sun and looks around the dusty countryside.

WONDER WOMAN

Where are we?

Batman reacts to the SOUND of revolvers being COCKED.

BATMAN

"Where"?--

WIDE

To reveal a trio of old west BANDITS who have drawn their weapons on them.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

--I think the question is when.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

TITLE CARD:

ELKHORN, OKLAHOMA - 1879

FADE IN:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Instants after the fade out. Batman, Green Lantern and Wonder Woman are surrounded by three Bandits. The Bandits look them up and down, suspiciously.

BANDIT #1

I have to confess, you're about the most colorfully attired individuals I've ever bushwhacked.

He looks them up and down.

BANDIT #1 (CONT'D)

You circus folk?

WONDER WOMAN

Not exactly.

BANDIT #1

I don't care what you are, long as you pay the toll.

WONDER WOMAN

Toll.

Bandit #1 tips his hat at Diana and holds his hand out, palm up. Wonder Woman can't believe they have the audacity.

BANDIT #1

Welcome to Elkhorn Oklahoma, Ma'am.
This here is Tobias Manning
territory.

WONDER WOMAN

You want tribute? Money?

Bandit #1 reaches for the lasso at Wonder Woman's hip.

BANDIT #1

I ain't perticular. That fat gold
chain'll do just fine. Unless you
got something else you want to give
m-

Wonder Woman GRABS the wrist of his reaching hand and TOSSES him
over her head. He flies twenty feet through the air, tumbling end
over end.

BANDIT #1

--Eeeeeeeee!

Bandit crashes into the ground.

BANDIT #1 (CONT'D)

(impact GRUNT, then keep alive
MOAN)

The other two Bandits start firing at Wonder Woman, as rapidly as
they can. She easily DEFLECTS all of their shots with her
bracelets. She asides to Batman.

WONDER WOMAN

Those are the biggest, slowest
bullets I've ever seen.

Batman looks over at the two bandits, who are now running away as
fast as they can.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

You letting them go?

WONDER WOMAN

Huh? Oh, no.

Wonder Woman twirls her Lasso like a lariat and ropes them both, yanking them off of their feet.

BANDITS

(impact GRUNT, THEN MOAN))

A GREEN FORCE BUBBLE

Unceremoniously DUMPS Bandit #1 on the ground next to the other two Bandits.

BANDIT #1

(impact GRUNT, then MOAN)

Wonder Woman enters the shot and retrieves her lasso. Batman searches through an unconscious Bandit's bag. He fishes out a NEWSPAPER and looks it over.

BATMAN

I was afraid of this.

He shows them the paper.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

The Elkhorn Eagle. It's either an amazing forgery, or it's less than a month old.

WONDER WOMAN

So?

BATMAN

Look at the date. June 1879.

GREEN LANTERN

I've mentioned how much I hate time travel.

WONDER WOMAN

If we don't find our sneak thief,
we're stuck here.

GREEN LANTERN

Let's head for the nearest town,
see if we can find him.

BATMAN

We can't go to anywhere dressed
like this.

Wonder Woman looks at the unconscious bandits.

WONDER WOMAN

No. We can't.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - A FEW MINUTES LATER

The Bandits are trussed up at the foot of a cactus, dressed only in their underwear. A black garbed arm reaches in and removes the Black Hat from the head of one of the tied up men.

ON THE BLACK HAT

Until the hand places it on BRUCE WAYNE's unmasked face. He tilts it to hide his eyes in shadow. He's wearing all black, a long duster covering his pants and shirt.

WIDE

To reveal DIANA, dressed in Blue Jeans, a red work shirt and a leather vest. Her lasso's on her hip, her Tiara is on, but mostly hidden by her hat. She's wearing a man's pair of cowboy boots.

WONDER WOMAN

These shoes are killing me.

BATMAN

You fight crime wearing high heels.

WONDER WOMAN

High heels that fit. Aren't you
going to put those on, John?

Green Lantern is still in costume, holding a bundle of clothes.
He sniffs them. Then makes a face.

GREEN LANTERN

Has the shower been invented yet?
Somebody should tell this guy.

He dumps the clothes and turns his ring on himself, TRANSFORMING
his costume into a replica of a well-worn 9th calvary uniform
(top only, worn as an open jacket over buttondown shirt and
jeans).

Green Lantern takes a revolver from the pile of the Bandit's
weapons, efficiently checks it, snaps it shut and holsters it. He
offers a second gun to Batman.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

Those empty holsters aren't going
to scare anybody. You sure you
don't want one of these?

Batman mounts one of the horses (the black one) and takes the
reins.

BATMAN

Positive. Let's ride.

Wonder Woman and Green Lantern each take a horse and saddle up.

GREEN LANTERN

(tch tch)

WONDER WOMAN

Hyaah!

They ride off into the desert.

CUT TO:

EXT. ELKHORN SALOON - NIGHT

It's every saloon you've ever seen in an old Western, yet somehow absent any liquor bottles. The piano player plays, folks are either sitting at the bar or one of the side tables. All are watching the big stakes POKER GAME at the center table. The pot is huge. All eyes are on FRANK, a cowboy who looks miserably at his hand.

FRANK

I'm out.

Everyone looks at the next player, EARL. Across the table the dealer, a huge man named TOBIAS MANNING, eggs him on.

TOBIAS

What's it going to be, Earl?

EARL

I'm studyin' it.

AT THE DOOR

Batman, Wonder Woman and Green Lantern enter the saloon and take an inconspicuous table in the corner

BACK AT THE TABLE

LASH ALOYSIUS LASH (a duded-up city slicker. He's a young James Garner) is the last remaining player.

LASH

My Pappy always said, "faint heart
never filled a flush."

EARL

It ain't your pappy's money. Fold.

Earl puts his cards face down on the table.

TOBIAS

That leaves you and me. What are
you holding, Mr. Lash?

Lash puts the rest of his chips in the pot.

LASH

It'll cost you another five hundred
to find out.

Tobais antes up and shows his cards, a big, evil smile on his face.

TOBIAS

Call. Four Kings and an Ace.

LASH

Well now, that's a mite perplexing,
seein' as I got four Aces and a
king.

Lash REACHES for the pot. Tobias pulls a strangely futuristic-looking revolver, seemingly out of nowhere.

TOBIAS

Well, I got the gun.

Still smiling, Lash freezes, holding his hands up as if to surrender but a Derringer slides into his palm from a spring hidden up his sleeve.

LASH

Lot of that going around, lately.

Both men stand up, across the table from each other. It's a classic Mexican standoff.

AT BATMAN'S TABLE

He asides to the others.

BATMAN

Did you see the big guy switch out
his hand? He cheated.

BACK AT THE STANDOFF

Lash is smiling, still trying to be charming.

LASH

Seems like a waste of a good-sized
pot. How about we split it and both
walk away?

Tobias' gun UNFOLDS impossibly, until it is literally six
separate revolvers, semi-surrounding a bewildered Bat Lash.

TOBIAS

How about I keep it all?

LASH

Sounds fair, the way you explain
it.

Bat Lash drops his pistol and raises his hands.

WONDER WOMAN

Begins to rise to her feet.

WONDER WOMAN

(sotto voce)

That technology's from the future.

Batman grabs her forearm.

BATMAN

Wait. We don't know how things work
here, yet.

TWO OF TOBIAS' MEN

Come up from behind Lash and take him into custody. Tobias
HOLSTERS his "Six Gun," which folds down into a single weapon
before it reaches its sheath.

TOBIAS

Hang him at dawn.

LASH

Don't I get a trial?

TOBIAS

Sure. You're guilty. My town. My rules.

Tobias' Men drag the struggling Mr. Lash away.

LASH

Wait a minute! Can't we talk about this? How about another hand? Double or nothinng...

GREEN LANTERN

Takes a drink of water from his glass.

GREEN LANTERN

I think we know how things work here, now.

Wonder Woman is incensed.

WONDER WOMAN

We have to help that man.

BATMAN

That's not what we're here for. Someone's tampering with history. The stakes are much bigger than the life of one cardsharp.

Wonder Woman rises to her feet, completely ignoring him.

WONDER WOMAN

Then it's settled. We'll break him out after sundown.

Green Lantern is amused. Batman glowers at him and Green Lantern abruptly stops smiling.

CUT TO:

INT. PRISON - NIGHT

Lash is cooling his heels sitting on a cot in a cell. He stands, walks over to the windows and tests the bars.

LASH

(effort GRUNT)

A heavily bearded man (it's David, gone native) in the next cell calls out to him.

DAVID

That's not going to work. I tried it.

Lash glowers at him but gives up and flops back down on his cot. He's thinking furiously.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Yeah, those bars are cheap pig-iron but they're plenty strong enough to hold. At least until morning when they come to hang you.

LASH

Do you mind? I'm trying to plan an escape, over here.

David is silent for a beat, then:

DAVID

How's it going so far?

LASH

(irritated)

I'm workin' on it!

A GUARD beats on the cell bars with a truncheon.

GUARD

Quiet down in there!

LASH

That's just what I was telling him!

GREEN LANTERN (O.S.)

(low, baleful moan)

Ooooooh! Oooooooooooooh!

The Guard turns towards the noise, then reacts to the sight of a GREEN GHOST heading up the hall towards him.

GUARD

(terrified SCREAM)

The Guard turns and RUNS away --headfirst into the stone wall at the end of the corridor.

GUARD (CONT'D)

(impact GRUNT)

He falls down, out for the count.

GREEN LANTERN

Enters the shot in front of Lash's cell, DISSOLVING the "ghost" he made with his ring as he does.

GREEN LANTERN

(letting his "ghostly
wail" trail off)

Ooooooh.

Batman and Wonder Woman are close behind. GREEN LANTERN uses his ring to make a "key" for the lock.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

I'll get the door.

Wonder Woman RIPS the cell door off the hinges before GL can use it.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

Or that.

BATMAN

(to Lash)

I'd get out of town, if I were you.

LASH

Id like to but my pappy always said, "a man who sticks his head in the sand makes a pretty good target." I got business to conclude before I leave.

Lash shakes Green Lantern's hand.

LASH (CONT'D)

Bartholomew Aloysius Lash. Friends call me "Bat Lash."

GREEN LANTERN

I'm John, these are my friends Diana and, uh...

He looks at Batman.

BATMAN

Bruce.

GREEN LANTERN

We're lawmen, looking to bring a criminal to justice.

WONDER WOMAN

You may have seen him. He's got amazing machines. We think the man who put you in here works for him.

DAVID

Has been watching all this through the bars of the next cell.

DAVID

Not quite, Wonder Woman.

WONDER WOMAN

How do you know who I am?

Batman stares at him.

BATMAN

Because he's the man we're looking for.

DAVID

David Clinton, inventor of the Chronosuit, at your disposal.

WONDER WOMAN

You tried to steal Batman's utility belt.

DAVID

And you chased me. But Time Tunnels are somewhat counter-intuitive. Even though you were only seconds behind me, I arrived here nearly six months before you did.

BATMAN

Where's your time travel device?

DAVID

Now, that's a story. As soon as I got here, I was robbed.

WONDER WOMAN

By Tobias Manning.

DAVID

Yes ma'am. He took my suit and used it to take over this town. He keeps taking trips to the future and coming back with stolen technology. He keeps me here to teach him how to use the stuff he can't work out for himself.

LASH

Which I'd suspect is most of it. What with him being so mule-stupid and all.

DAVID

It's been horrible here. Humiliating. I just want to go home. I'll gladly take my punishment if you help me get back.

GREEN LANTERN

How'd Tobias take over a whole town with a time machine?

DAVID

Future tech. Like his extradimensional six gun.

BATMAN

And his surveillance cameras.

Batman indicates something above their heads.

BATMAN'S POV

A tiny camera. We see the red LED, indicating that it's on.

BATMAN (CONT'D)

We need to go. Now.

Wonder Woman RIPS open David's cell door.

WONDER WOMAN

You're with us.

As they head towards the front, Lash asides to Green Lantern.

LASH

That's a healthy gal.

CUT TO:

INT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

The cells were in the back. They all head for the front door. The second they open it, they're blasted by heavy small arms fire. Green Lantern makes a SHIELD (NOT a globe). Lash doesn't trust the shield. He flinches and ducks unnecessarily.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

There are a half dozen MEN in positions on the street firing at the front door (one with a gattling gun).

GREEN LANTERN

I've got their positions. I'm going to take them down.

WONDER WOMAN

Don't hurt anyone, we could accidentally change history.

GREEN LANTERN

Little late for that, don't you think?

BEHIND THEM

The Guard who knocked himself out earlier staggers around the corner, still holding his sore head. Batman sees him. The Guard's about to reach for his holstered weapon.

Batman shrugs open his duster, revealing his own holster. It's a gunfight.

BATMAN

Go ahead. Give me an excuse.

The Guard DRAWS his weapon. So does Batman, pulling out a Batarang, THROWING it and disarming the Guard as he squeezes off a SHOT that goes harmlessly into the ceiling.

GUARD

(CRY of pain)

Green Lantern is puzzled.

GREEN LANTERN

Something's happening out there...

EXT. STREET - DAY.

A Gunman is behind cover, firing away. Some one taps him on his shoulder. He turns around to see SHERIFF OHIYESHA SMITH, who punches him out with a single blow.

MAN #1

(impact GRUNT)

A Sniper is on the roof across the street. A WHIP CRACKS, curling around the barrel of his gun, then pulling it out of his hands.

SNIPER

(GRUNT of surprise)

He sees El Diablo, reeling the rifle in, then throwing it aside.

A WATER TOWER

Has two more GUNMEN running the Gattling gun.

ON THE STREET BELOW

JONAH HEX walks calmly up the street with a shotgun, pumping and firing again and again at one of the wooden support struts of the water Tower. Finally he's blasted through. He watches calmly as the tower and Gunmen crash to the street.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The heroes are watching the scene outside.

LASH

Something's happening alright. The
calvary's arrived.

Green Lantern drops the shield. The heroes step outside as Smith,
Hex and El Diablo arrive. Smith introduces himself.

GREEN LANTERN

Who are you people?

SMITH

Sheriff Ohiyasha Smith.

El Diablo bows, gallantly.

EL DIABLO

El Diablo, ever at the service of
justice.

HEX

Jonah Hex. Don't have a lot of time
for jawing. In these parts, there's
an abundance of bad men who need
setting straight.

Hex pumps his shotgun with one hand. He's ready to fight some
more, if need be.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DAY

Moments after the fade out. Hex is threatening trouble with his shotgun.

HEX (CONT'D)

If you boys are workin' for Tobias,
there's going to be difficulty.

Lash steps forward, in between the two groups.

LASH

Easy, Jonah. They're with me.

Jonah hangs his shotgun over his shoulder.

LASH (CONT'D)

They helped me out of a spot while
I was here incognito, trying to
find out more about Tobias.

SMITH

What have you learned?

LASH

Among other moral failings, the man
cheats at poker.

HEX

I coulda told you that. (SPITS)

Jonah SPITS into the dirt.

WONDER WOMAN

How about somebody tells us what's
going on?

SMITH

I've lived in Elkhorn since the war. Been Sheriff most of that time.

DISSOLVE TO:

FLASHBACK

A SERIES OF ANGLES (maybe a series of stylized still pictures? Watercolors like the old "Gunsmoke" production design?)

A bustling mining town.

A couple of Miners in a fist fight. Sheriff Smith is breaking it up.

Families dressed in Sunday best, heading for church.

SMITH (V.O.)

This here's a mining town. Booming too. Folks sometimes get a mite rowdy on payday but it's still a good place to live. There's never been any mischief here I couldn't handle, until about six months ago. Tobias Manning's always been trouble. I'd run him out of town before. Well, he came back.

Tobias Manning gets the drop on Sheriff Smith with his "Six Gun." This is in the winter, there's snow on the ground.

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

Except this time he had, I dunno. Magic powers.

EL DIABLO (V.O.)

There is no such thing as magic, my friend. It was some sort of trickery.

SMITH (V.O.)

Well, he tricked me near to death.

Manning is beating up Smith. He leaves him face down in the snow.
Smith is limping away from town.

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

He whipped me good. Ran me out of
town like a stray dog.

Tobias is lording it over shackeled, beaten-down miners.

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

He took over the town, runs it like
his own personal kingdom, treats
the townspeople like slaves.

END OF FLASHBACK

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. STREET - DAWN

Smith concludes his story. He's resolute.

SMITH (CONT'D)

That's unacceptable to me.

EL DIABLO

The sheriff went looking for men
who would help take Tobias down. He
found us.

HEX

What's your stake in this?

GREEN LANTERN

We're lawmen too.

HEX

From back East?

BATMAN

Sure.

Wonder Woman grabs David by the forearm to make her point.

WONDER WOMAN

We came here to bring this man to justice. Indirectly, he's the source of your trouble too.

GREEN LANTERN

Tobias stole a weapon from him. It's the source of his "magic."

BATMAN

We'll need to take that weapon back.

WONDER WOMAN

Since we all want pretty much the same thing, we should work together.

SMITH

I ain't about to turn down help.

BATMAN

What's the plan?

Hex turns and begins walking down the empty street.

HEX

Plan? We put him in the ground.

The others follow. The "magnificent seven" walk up the main street, backlit by the rising sun, looking like a western version of the old Justice League title sequence.

EXT. THE PRAIRIE - SUNRISE

On horseback, the "Justice Riders" head for Tobias' ranch. As he rides, Hex looks at his utility belt curiously.

HEX (CONT'D)

Fancy gun belt you got there.

Batman doesn't respond. Hex continues.

HEX (CONT'D)

I'm thinking you folks are time
travellers.

BATMAN

Where would you get a crazy idea
like that?

HEX

Experience.
(off Batman's look)
I've had an interesting life.

SHERIFF SMITH

Calls back to the others.

SMITH

We're getting close. I want to warn
you. There's some downright unusual
activity going on hereabouts. Don't
let it throw you.

GREEN LANTERN

Don't worry about it. We've got a
lot of experience with unusual...

Green Lantern looks up at a CYBORG PTERADON, being ridden by a
Cowboy.

GREEN LANTERN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. You were saying?

EL DIABLO

We've been sighted. They will be
ready for us.

WONDER WOMAN

I sincerely doubt that.

She FLIES up off of her horse in pursuit of the Pteradon. The Cowboy riding it fires an ENERGY GUN at her. She deflects the energy pulses with her bracelets until she's close enough to fly right THROUGH the Pteradon's wing.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

(impact GRUNT)

The Pteradon trails thick, black smoke as it nosedives. The Cowboy EJECTS, hang-gliding to apparent safety as the Pteradon CRASHES.

SMITH

That likely woke any layabouts.

Smith SPURS his horse. They all speed towards the gates of Tobias' Ranch.

EXT. RANCH DAY

Not what you'd expect. It's a sprawling, anachronistic structure mixing old West and Futuristic technology. CYBORG COWBOYS are stationed along the front gate, firing energy weapons.

THE HEROES

Dodge back and forth. Energy bursts zip by their heads and crater the ground at their feet.

SMITH

Shots are spookin' the horses.

LASH

Shots are spookin' me!

DAVID

Turns his horse, riding away from the others, covering his ears and cowering. He's afraid.

GREEN LANTERN

Aims fires several BLASTS that strike the gun hands of Cyborg Cowboys one after the other.

COWBOYS

(impact GRUNTS)

BATMAN

Is first to the gate. He LEAPS off of his horse, FIRING a grapnel. It finds purchase and he SWINGS up and over the top of the gate, kicking a guard off on the way.

WONDER WOMAN

Swoops down from the air and smashes the gates open. A giant, MECHANICAL HAND catches her in mid-flight.

WONDER WOMAN

(GRUNT of surprise)

NEW ANGLE

Reveals a giant MECHA. We can see the grizzled COWBOYS operating the machine from the control room in the Mecha's head.

GREEN LANTERN

Slices off the hand holding Wonder Woman with a POWER BEAM. Wonder Woman strains, BURSTING free of the remains of the hand.

WONDER WOMAN (CONT'D)

(GRUNT of effort, then success
GRUNT)

Wonder Woman and Green Lantern double team the Giant Mecha, which retaliates with energy beams.

COWBOYS RIDING RAPTORS

Charge out to attack the heroes, FIRING energy blasters.

EL DIABLO

Charges a Raptor and LEAPS from his horse, tackling the rider and knocking him off his steed.

COWBOYS

(impact GRUNT)

BATMAN

Finds himself in the path of the riderless raptor. He SIDESTEPS its charge and wraps his arm around its neck, BULLDOGGING it like a steer at the rodeo.

BATMAN

(sustained GRUNT of effort)

The Raptor finally goes down. Batman instantly ROLLS to his feet, THROWING two explosive BATARANGS that take out ROBOT COWBOYS who were taking aim at him.

HEX

Blasts away at ROBOT COWBOYS, confidently moving steadily forward. Noticing that he's out of ammo, he discards his weapon and picks up an ENERGY RIFLE from one of his many downed foes. He checks the rifles battery as if he's done it a thousand times, and satisfied, starts blasting again.

LASH

Punches out a Cyborg Cowboy, then winces and holds his fist. He reaches down and steals the cash in the cowboy's wallet.

GREEN LANTERN AND WONDER WOMAN

Tear the Mecha to shreds with Power Ring BLASTS and FLYING PUNCHES. They move clear as it TOPPLES.

SMITH

Rides right UNDER the falling Mecha. Just making it past. He's headed right for the main house.

SMITH

Tobias!

Smith dismounts and pulls his gun, careful as he heads for the porch. He hits the ground, losing the gun in his hand as an ENERGY BLAST from inside BLOWS the front door off the hinges.

TOBIAS

Is standing in the doorway, cocky. He's got his gun aimed at Smith.

TOBIAS.

If it isn't Pow Wow Smith. Wasn't expecting to see your sorry hide again.

SMITH

I've told you before about calling me that. It ain't gonna happen again.

TOBIAS

No. I expect this is the last time.

Smith's eyes flick to his gun, just out of reach. Tobias notices.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Go for your gun, Chief...

Tobias' SIX GUN UNFOLDS. Smith is now semi-surrounded by six guns.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

...So I can ventilate you proper.

NEW ANGLE

Reveals the rest of the heroes have arrived. They're 15 to 20 yards behind Smith. Tobias calls out to them.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

You'd best stay out of this.

BATMAN

Talks to the others without turning to look at them.

BATMAN

Six guns, six of us. Nobody miss.

THE SIX HEROES

Act as one. Lash, Hex and El Diablo draw and take a single shot with their weapons. Batman throws a Batarang. Wonder Woman throws her Tiara. Green Lantern fires a powerbeam.

TOBIAS

Reacts as the incoming fire DEMOLISHES all six of his weapons.

TOBIAS

My guns...

Smith climbs to his feet, smiling grimly.

SMITH

You and me, Partner. Right now.

TOBIAS

Another day, lawman.

(shouting)

Nova!

NOVA, a WHITE WINGED HORSE swoops down. Tobias runs alongside it to mount it. Smith runs behind him.

GREEN LANTERN

Raises his fist to fire a power beam. Hex gently puts his hand on Green Lantern's arm.

HEX

Let him. A man needs to balance his
own accounts.

Green Lantern relents.

TOBIAS has mounted Nova, who begins to RISE. Smith leaps for Tobias' heel and grabs it. He's hanging from Tobias' foot, thirty feet above the ground. The overloaded horse can't get any more lift though.

SMITH AND TOBIAS

(GRUNTS of effort)

Smith climbs Tobias' leg and DECKS him with a right cross.

TOBIAS

(impact GRUNT)

THE HORSE

Falls the thirty feet to the ground. Smith leaps clear, tucking and rolling. The Horse is SMASHED. It was a robot. Tobias is down for the count. Smith pulls the Time Belt from around his waist and holds it up for the others to see.

SMITH

This what you're lookin' for?

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TOBIAS' RANCH - LATER

Tobias is trussed up, as are several of his men. Green Lantern (now in his costume as are Wonder Woman and Batman) wraps an energy globe around a big pile of HIGH TECH MACHINERY AND DEBRIS. Wonder Woman and the Cowboys watch Green Lantern's work.

GREEN LANTERN

Near as my ring can figure, that's everything that shouldn't be here.

The Globe RISES and FLIES up towards the sun.

LASH

Shoot. I wanted me one of those fancy ray-guns.

HEX

Ain't dependable. They jam.

Nearby, Batman is working on the Time Belt as David watches. Batman calls over.

BATMAN

Okay. I've about figured out how to use this thing.

DAVID

You forgot to reset the
compensator. Here let me...

David innocently reaches over and flicks a switch. The Belt is
ELECTRIFIED.

BATMAN

(CRY of pain)

Batman falls over, unconscious. David grabs the belt.

DAVID

Or maybe I'm lying.

David opens a TIME SLIDE and vanishes.

WONDER WOMAN

Scoops up Batman and dives through the quickly closing tunnel.
Green Lantern is right beside her.

THE TIME SLIDE

Vanishes. And the Cowboys look at it in wonder.

SMITH

You think they'll be alright?

LASH

Those guys? You can bet on it.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEO GOTHAM - NIGHT

A Time Slide OPENS, depositing Wonder Woman, Batman and Green
Lantern on the street at the feet of several technologically
enhanced JOKERZ: SOBBO (a sad hobo); HARLLETTE (a female Joker)
HONKO, who carries a sonic horn; RODEO (a rodeo clown); UGMO (a
mindless, hulking clown) and their leader ALPHA CLOWN. They loom
threateningly.

ALPHA CLOWN

Hi-de-ho, boys and girl. We've been
expecting you.

They move forward, murder in their eyes. Suddenly they're cut off
by a BLAST of PURPLE ELECTRICITY from above.

STATIC (O.S.)

Maybe so--

NEW ANGLE

Reveals the source of the blast. Hovering heroically in the air
is the JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED; SUPERMAN (older and wearing a
black costume), "BATMAN BEYOND" (capeless, with a red bat
symbol,) STATIC (an adult, fit but well into his sixties) and
WARHAWK (the winged, armored hero from "The Call.")

STATIC (CONT'D)

--But I bet you weren't expecting
us.

Green Lantern recognizes a friendly face.

GREEN LANTERN

Superman? Who are these people?

Warhawk takes a good look at Green Lantern and presses a stud,
sliding back his mask and revealing his face. Warhawk is a light-
skinned black male. He looks at Green Lantern in astonishment.

WARHAWK

Dad...?

FADE OUT.

TO BE CONTINUED...