

SHELTER

"Pilot"

Written by
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FIRST DRAFT

ACT ONE

EXT. DEEP SPACE - PRESENT DAY

A motionless star field somewhere near Jupiter. A rhythmic 'BEEP,' like a sonar ping, comes from-

A trio of NUCLEAR-TIPPED IMPACTORS, each branded in CHINESE LETTERING. Their reaction jets fire as they maneuver towards-

The massive 15-mile wide, oblong ASTEROID known as NE-11. Thrusters ramp up to full speed -- warheads ready to collide.

INT. BEIJING AEROSPACE CONTROL CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Chinese officials in BEIJING MISSION CONTROL view live RADAR RETURNS of the ASTEROID and INTERCEPTORS on a central screen.

PLA GENERALS outnumber SCIENTISTS and state-sanctioned MEDIA. Six NASA SCIENTISTS are relegated to observe the mission from a corner -- a CHINESE TRANSLATOR minds them.

CHINESE SCIENTIST
San fenzhong zhídào yingxiang!

CHINESE TRANSLATOR
Three minutes until impact.

Black astrophysicist CALVIN WATTS, 40, a mid-rank NASA professional, rubs a wallet-size PHOTO of -- a young BOY.

CHINESE TRANSLATOR (CONT'D)
Son?

Calvin glances. Translator shows smartphone pics of his son.

CALVIN
That yours? He's handsome too.

CHINESE TRANSLATOR
In a few moments, no more worries for them. Yes?

NASA TEAM LEADER (O.S.)
... it's like Schrödinger's Cat.

Translator glances at -- NASA TEAM LEADER, pacing worriedly.

CHINESE TRANSLATOR
(to Calvin)
Sorry, your leader, I don't understand. He uses many idioms.

(CONTINUED)

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CALVIN

Hah -- we struggle with that too!
It's, uh, like a proverb. About
fate. How this feels, staring at a
screen, waiting on a radio signal
to reach Earth, waiting on results
of an event that already occurred.

(re: translator's muddle)

Never mind, it's complicated.

Nearby, a Chinese official BLOVIATES to the press.

CHINESE TRANSLATOR

Gen. Li is saying, 'America had a
chance to join our mission. Let
the world know it is China, not the
U.S., who saves the world today-'

(silences himself)

I am sorry. Gen. Li is very proud.

NASA leader turns away -- anxious, but more so, bitter. A
teammate nudges Calvin to say something.

CALVIN

... sir, we all know you tried.

NASA TEAM LEADER

China is right to gloat. It should
have been a NASA mission. I was in
the room with the president, I told
him he was misjudging the threat-

Team leader goes quiet -- but for an odd reason. Telemetry
screens all go BLANK. 'WHOOOP,' 'WHOOOP' -- siren. NASA team,
confused. Chinese officials rush into action.

NASA TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)

(to translator)

Explain. What happened?

CHINESE TRANSLATOR

Sorry, many officials talking. Uh,
'zero data, no carrier signal.'

CALVIN

All telemetry is gone. Why don't
they just reestablish on X-band?
(beat) These numbers make no sense.

Beijing scientists turn frantic. NASA team leader sees the
CHINESE FLIGHT DIRECTOR grimly back into a corner. *Our group
starts to read the tea leaves.* Sudden 'GASPS' as-

(CONTINUED)

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Main radar image shows -- nukes fly right by. NE-11 remains.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ -- they missed.

CHINESE TRANSLATOR
'*Fenghuang Observer*, no contact.
Fenghuang Observer is offline."
(gross understatement)
... there's been an *anomaly*.

NASA TEAM LEADER
(to translator)
Please remind the flight director,
our data relay teams are available-

'BANG' -- gunshot. NASA leader lurches forward.

NASA TEAM LEADER (CONT'D)
No!

We see only the flight director's arm, gripping a pistol as he thumps on the floor -- *Chinese chief just shot himself*.

Room freezes. Army staff races to stop the press from filming. Medics hurry to the fallen flight director.

CHINESE TRANSLATOR
They're locking the doors. I...

Calvin sinks away. NASA leader, ashen, grabs his coat, heads for the exit -- Calvin and team are unsure whether to follow.

CHINESE TRANSLATOR (CONT'D)
Please. Where are you going? They
want us to stay.

NASA TEAM LEADER
For an *accident investigation* --
what's the point? You failed. We
failed. Men, tend to your
families. As of today, life as we
know it is over.

HARD CUT TO:

INT. MARINO HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Chyron:

4 MONTHS LATER

12 HOURS TO ARK CLOSURE/18 HOURS TO IMPACT

(CONTINUED)

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BART MARINO, 38, dull hair, stress-worn eyes, slight paunch, holds -- a SHOTGUN. Gazes through living room shutters at:

- A nearby suburban home defended by CONCERTINA WIRE.
- Other neighbors cram cars with luggage and evacuate.
- An OLDER COUPLE sits idly on a porch -- they sip lemonade with a look of utter ambivalence.

A hand grabs Bart's shoulder -- Bart spins back, startled-

VIVIAN
Honey, it's me!

Bart freezes. Wife VIVIAN, 36, in two-day-old NURSE SCRUBS.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
The bus is on its way, I can't do
this alone. Please, lose the gun.

INT. MARINO HOME - BASEMENT SHELTER - A MOMENT LATER

The Marino basement, an ad hoc shelter, brims with SURVIVAL GEAR. At a GUN SAFE -- Bart, hesitant to stash his weapon.

We see family photos (three KIDS) beside an old craft project -- tin-can phone labeled, 'FOR GRANNY; IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.'

On a TV -- CNN. A Google Earth GRAPHIC zooms from satellite view to a wooded site in southern Indiana labeled 'THE ARK.' The animation moves THROUGH THE SOIL, into what looks like -- a subterranean cruise ship. Mammoth sized, lavish public spaces, control centers, and countless guest rooms. Then-

CNN REPORTER, desperate to stay on air even as his cameraman flees, broadcasts from a refugee camp above. TV chyron:

OUTSIDE 'THE ARK,' 60 MI. FROM INDIANAPOLIS

CNN REPORTER (TV)
I'm told shelter residents are all inside, all except the thousand or so construction workers let in by Tuesday's final lottery. Outside the Ark -- must be 200,000 people here. Some seem to be workers not admitted. Others, clearly older than the mandated cut-off at age 40. I see many, wheelchair-bound. A group of gay activists protesting their exclusion from the Ark.

(MORE)

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CNN REPORTER (TV) (CONT'D)
 These are -- all victims of the
 strict lottery rules that barred
 entry for anyone not healthy or not
 in their peak child bearing-

INT. MARINO HOME - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

In the kitchen, Vivian's mother HELEN, 60s, pure maternal energy, helps her daughter pack. Helen finds a construction uniform branded -- 'LOCAL 330; ELECTRICAL WORKERS UNION.'

VIVIAN
 No, that stays. He won't need it,
 his union days are over.

Helen finds -- photo of Bart's FATHER and UNCLES.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
 Toss it.

HELEN
 Bart has so few photos of his dad.

VIVIAN
 We don't need *that* one. We got
 enough memories of his uncles.

'WOOF' -- family COONHOUND, Otis, sprints in, runs circles around -- Vivian's son DANIEL, 12, trying to calm the dog.

DANIEL
 Otis thinks we're goin' on a trip.

VIVIAN
 Danny, please. Go get packed.

DANIEL
 What am I supposed to tell Otis?

No answer. Otis barks. Daniel distracted by a nearby TV.

CNN REPORTER (TV)
 - mood here at the Ark is very
 tense. I see Armed Ark Terranauts
 guarding the entrance now. Indiana
 Governor Uri Starr sent messages
 begging this crowd to disperse.

VIVIAN
 Daniel, you hear me? Go pack-

DANIEL
 I am packed, two days ago, Christ.

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CONTINUED:

HELEN

Whoa, sweetie, shh, Mom's trying to help. Come here, babe, it's okay.

Helen hugs Daniel -- looks sympathetically at Vivian.
Vivian, painfully at a loss for how to soothe her own son.

TV goes to static -- then cuts to a CNN ANCHOR.

CNN ANCHOR (TV)

Uh, alright. We lost Don Tesker in Indiana. Bear with us, doing our best. We're -- let's recap what we know. The asteroid, NE-11, is now 18 hours from Earth. Best estimate still puts impact near Nova Scotia. Homeland Security cites over 2,000 shelters in operation, but unlike the Ark, Red Cross is calling all federal sites wholly inadequate and asking anyone who can, to shelter in place. It's been *two days* since we've heard from the White House-

STATIC. Then 'BEEP' -- an EMERGENCY BROADCASTING message.

VOICE (TV)

This is a test of the emergency broadcasting system. This is only a test. If this had been a *real-*

Bart enters -- turns off the TV. Family, tense. When-

'RING' -- home phone. Vivian lunges to answer. Bart too.

VIVIAN

(on the phone)

Hello? Hello, Becky, is that you?

BART

Becky? Talk to us. Where are you?

BECKY (PHONE)

Guys, hello? I'm in Columbus. The Indianapolis airport, it shut down. Our jet from the Ark got rerouted.

VIVIAN

... Columbus? But, that's -- *four hours*. The bus will be here in...

BART

Did they find you ground transport?

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BECKY (PHONE)

They're trying. I don't know -- I don't know what to do. I should've stayed at the Stanford shelter.

BART

Sweetie, no. Listen to me.

BECKY (PHONE)

Dad, I'm scared-

'CLICK' -- line cut. Vivian checks the phone.

VIVIAN

Hello? Becky? Becky? (beat) Bart? We can't leave, not without her. We should've brought her home from school six weeks ago -- I told you.

BART

Viv'. Take it easy. Stanford's shelter was Becky's best shot at survival, we agreed. There are 10 other Ark residents in her group now. Staff will do all they can to get them here, I'm sure.

VIVIAN

... *taking it easy* isn't a plan. Becky is 200 miles away from us.

BART

Trusting me is a plan -- damn it, can't you try it? Just once-

Bart silences himself. We can tell these are old wounds.

Bart checks his SMARTPHONE. Uses -- a TRACK MY PHONE app.

BART (CONT'D)

Look. We can track her cell phone. And if she doesn't make progress...

They eye the map, wait anxiously for motion. When suddenly-

BART (CONT'D)

There. She's coming. All good.

BECKY'S BEACON exits the airport. Vivian remains on edge.

INT. MARINO HOME - CHILDREN'S BEDROOMS - CONTINUOUS

TRACK THROUGH -- the children's linked bedrooms:

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- One neatly packed, an air-rifle, sports memorabilia, multiple ad posters for 'THE ARK.'

- Another that looks like a tornado hit. Bras, punk rock, a giant spray-painted wall tag -- 'IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD.'

Shower runs in the BATHROOM. Daughter CLAIRE, 15, uses it as cover -- smokes MARIJUANA. 'KNOCK' on door. Claire hides.

DANIEL (O.S.)
Claire, I need help.

CLAIRE
Daniel? Go away, I'm not dressed.

'KNOCK' -- Daniel keeps at it. Claire, annoyed, throws open the door to find her brother with -- their coonhound.

DANIEL
It's Otis. We can't leave him -- he'll die out here. Please.

CLAIRE
You're kidding. You know he's not allowed. What am I supposed to do?

Daniel glances at Claire's ARK-BRANDED DUFFEL BAG -- then his bag, overloaded with possessions.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
What -- smuggle him in? Are you nuts? No. Empty your bag.

DANIEL
You said you *didn't care anymore*, said you didn't want anything-

CLAIRE
I was exaggerating!

Daniel, near tears. Claire, irked, reluctantly consoles him.

DANIEL
Hear Mom and Dad fighting again -- about Becky? She's not gonna make it, is she? It sucks, this all sucks. Granny, Otis. Now Becky?

CLAIRE
You got me, okay? We'll get through this. We relied on each other before -- we'll do it again.

EXT. MARINO HOME - FRONT LAWN - A MOMENT LATER

Daniel and a group of pre-teen boys on the lawn, say goodbye. He hands one boy a box of Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issues.

PRE-TEEN BOY 1
Shit, these go back to the '90s.

DANIEL
I only get one duffel in the Ark.
(beat) Jefe, you want my Xbox?

PRE-TEEN BOY 1
How come I don't get the Xbox?

PRE-TEEN BOY 2
... thanks but no Xbox. My mom
wants to know if you got more *food*.

That quiets the kids. Bart yells from the doorway.

BART (B.G.)
Daniel, I told you, stay inside.

PRE-TEEN BOY 3
I hear Tanya Winters' family paid
for a spot in a private Iron
Mountain shelter. Bet they'll be
almost as safe as you, Daniel.

PRE-TEEN BOY 1
My dad said spots in a private
shelter costs a cool million each.

PRE-TEEN BOY 2
My cousin in Queens is living in a
subway station with 15,000 people.

PRE-TEEN BOY 3
This is so screwed. Daniel, you're
so lucky, you don't even know it.

PRE-TEEN BOY 1
My dad installed an original Cold
War nuke bunker in *our* cellar.

PRE-TEEN BOY 3
Goddamn, Lee, we know you're
special, okay? Just shut up.

Boys on edge, when, 'RUMBLE' -- an ARMORED MILITARY STRYKER
VEHICLE appears, followed by -- a MINIBUS branded, 'THE ARK.'

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PRE-TEEN BOY 1
Dang. Is that your ride, Daniel?

'WHISTLE' -- Bart insists Daniel return.

Boy 2 quietly slips Daniel -- a BASEBALL CARD.

PRE-TEEN BOY 2
Hank Aaron, All Star, '58. Keep it safe? And if I see you again...

DANIEL
... he's still yours. I swear.

EXT. MARINO HOME - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

Claire nervously races Otis out back -- to the woods. Offers a powerful hug, then -- leaves him. Otis, confused, follows.

CLAIRE
No, go. You're a runner, a hunter,
I want you free. The cellar with
Granny will be like a jail, nothing
but Dinty Moore Stew for God knows
how long. (beat) The world's
ending. Be happy while you can.
It's a better way to do it. Go.

Claire, emotional. Otis turns, as though he understands. But when the coonhound looks back with doe eyes -- Claire runs after Otis, wraps him in her arms and cries.

I/E. MARINO HOME - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Seen through living room windows, armed ARK PERSONNEL carry the Marinos' bags to the minibus. Envious NEIGHBORS gather on the street. Vivian does a last hurried check inside.

Shes pauses at -- a childhood growth chart on a doorjamb labeled 'BECKY.' Vivian unexpectedly -- erupts in TEARS.

VIVIAN
Don't fall apart. Focus, focus.

She clenches her fists. Bart enters, sees his wife's state -- wraps her in his arms to calm her. *He has done this before.*

Bart watches Vivian pull meds from a pocket PILL ORGANIZER.

BART
... Viv'.
(she waves she is okay)
No, babe, listen. Where is Claire?

EXT. MARINO HOME - STREET - A MOMENT LATER

The family searches frantically out front.

VIVIAN
 Claire?! Claire, where are you?!

An ARK STAFFER stops Bart -- as Helen signals from the porch.

DANIEL
 Mr. Marino, no more time, we have
 to leave. What do you want to do?

HELEN
 Bart, Vivian, I saw her. Out back,
 in the gully with Otis. I'll go.

BART
 Helen, no. I'll get her. Viv',
 you and Daniel, board the bus.
 (to Ark personnel)
 Wait for us! Our daughter is just
 saying bye to our dog, I'm sure.

Bart sprints off. Daniel, confused. Vivian, scared.

Helen, pulls Vivian into a last devastating hug.

VIVIAN
 What am I doing? Should've found a
 way to take you. Mom, I'm sorry --
 I hate that we won the lottery.

HELEN
 Don't say that. I'll manage -- you
 hear? Bart stashed enough gear in
 the basement to last 'til I'm 90.
 This is the right thing. You won a
 slot in the Ark, you're the hope of
 mankind. You're my pride and joy.

VIVIAN
 It's not supposed to be like this.
 Goodbyes aren't supposed to happen
 on sunny days between people in
 perfect health. I love you.

Helen sees Daniel watching, crying -- hugs her grandson too.

HELEN
 Big boys don't say bye, right? See
 you later is all. Granny will
 always adore you. That's all.

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Staffer 'WHISTLES.' Bart, still nowhere to be seen.

VIVIAN

I know, I know, we're coming.

ARK STAFFER

Ma'am, we can't wait any longer.

NEIGHBOR (B.G.)

My family is here. Take us.

A NEIGHBOR on the street pines. Then others. Staff and bus passengers grow anxious. Lead staffer signals, and-

They begin to unload the Marino's bags. Bus starts up.

VIVIAN

Wait, *what*? Is this a joke -- you're leaving without us? My husband is just out back, please.

ARK STAFFER

We have other families, and every second counts, I'm sorry. If you get to the Ark on your own by noon, we'll try to hold your spots open.

VIVIAN

Our own? People are being shot out there. (beat) Bart! Get back here!

Staffers board the bus. Daniel, scared. Helen, helpless.

Vivian races over, grabs the main staffer, fishes into her duffel and reveals -- two ARMY MEDALS.

ARK STAFFER

Your husband being a veteran doesn't make a difference, ma'am.

VIVIAN

They're not his, they're *mine*. Indiana National Guard, 152nd Cav., combat medic, two tours. My kids spent years without their mother. Know what that does? Our dog might as well have been my stand-in, that's how much he means, that's why my daughter had to say goodbye. It's my fault, so please, spare them, and wait -- one minute.

Ark staffer pauses. Vivian holds in uncertainty. When-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BART (O.S.)
I'm here! We're coming!

Bart races back with Claire and Otis. Vivian, joyous relief. Bart hands the dog to Helen, kisses his mother-in-law bye.

HELEN
Danny, Claire, I got food galore --
Otis will eat like a king, I swear!

Staffer SIGNALS TO BOARD at once. Daniel gives Otis a final hug. Claire cries. Bart races his family aboard, takes a grateful look at Helen, his home, and just as the bus rolls-

I/E. ARK MINIBUS - SUBURBAN STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Bart climbs in, door seals, and -- *he thanks Jesus*. Claire curls up on a seat. Daniel waves longingly at Granny.

Six other anxious FAMILIES on the bus. As Bart sits -- BUS MATE a row up strangely casts a glare as dirty as can be.

BART
Sorry for the trouble back there.

Bus mate gathers his TEENAGE SONS, urges them away from Bart.

BART (CONT'D)
Damn, guy, said I was sorry.

BUS MATE
I know who you are, Marino. And I know how you got in the Ark. My brother is pre-diabetic. Lottery rules wouldn't even let him apply cause of it. I think what you did is *sick*. You, your uncles-

Bart rises to confront the man -- Vivian stops him.

VIVIAN
Leave it, Bart -- enough, enough.

BART
(sits back down uneasily)
My uncles didn't win a spot, now did they? Bud, we got in fairly.

EXT. INDIANAPOLIS STATEHOUSE - DAY - ESTABLISHING

TRACK ABOVE Indianapolis. Streets empty. Cars upturned. Billboards advertize: 'THE ARK LOTTERY; APPLY TODAY.'

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For how deserted the streets are, the grounds of Indiana's statehouse are packed. SOLDIERS atop M-1 ABRAMS TANKS guard the capitol from -- thousands of refugees. Signs read: 'WE HAVE NO SHELTER, NO FOOD.' 'WHAT DO WE DO? WHERE DO WE GO?'

Crowd suddenly BELLOWS as soldiers exit the well-defended portico with -- INDIANA GOVERNOR URI STARR, 50s, and staff. They run him to a pair of waiting 'ARK'-BRANDED BLACKHAWK HELICOPTERS. It feels like the fall of Saigon.

REFUGEES (VARIOUS)

Governor Starr, tell us what to do.
(another) Don't leave us. (another)
You should've been president!

That last comment catches Starr. At any other time, Starr is a charismatic tour de force, steadfast to the point of being hypnotic. But now, the emotion gets to him.

EXT. ABOVE INDIANAPOLIS - DAY

The governor's Blackhawk flies south from the capitol, over:

- Fire trucks and police cars, abandoned.
- People stranded on foot, waving at Starr's helo for rescue.

I/E. BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER - THE ARK - DAY

Starr's helos crest a ridge, we get our first view of THE ARK:

The 100-acre, wooded hillside reveals little of the massive installation below, other than a TUNNEL ENTRANCE poking into the hill's belly. Rung by PERIMETER FENCES and gun bunkers, the site is guarded like Fort Knox. *Good thing, because-*

Outside the fences is a sea of TENTS and CONEX CONTAINERS -- a mind-boggling number of workers-turned-REFUGEES.

GOV. STARR

Never seen so many here. They have to disperse, I should address them.

GOVERNOR'S STAFFER 1

Sir, security wants you in at once.
(beat) Your constituents are the people of the Ark now. Not them.

EXT. THE ARK - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Helos land within the Ark's perimeter fence. Good looking LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TREAT LAGRANDE, 34, greets Starr to lead him and staff inside. A P.A. loop plays to refugees.

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ARK P.A.

Only lottery winners are allowed in the Ark. There is no more space...

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE

Governor, thank God you're here. It's been real hectic. I got your wife and son in your stateroom. Reactors are finally at full power.

GOV. STARR

Treat, good work. I'm here now.

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE

Right. I'm gathering department chiefs for a final pre-closure briefing. I can't find Bramini.

GOV. STARR

Treat, I'm here. Relax.

Starr and entourage proceed without him. Lagrande, quieted. Starr's staffer pats Lagrande sympathetically as she passes.

INT. THE ARK - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Ark's wide tunnel entrance is a kilometer-long. An entire FREIGHT TRAIN fits within -- personnel hurry to unload it.

ELECTRIC CARTS arrive for Starr's group. They ride through the tunnel, past a line of RESIDENTS screened by security. Signs read: 'NO WEAPONS,' 'NO DRUGS,' 'NO FLAMES.'

GOVERNOR'S STAFFER 1

These and 100 residents topside are our last entries -- winners of the workers lottery. Wish we could've held that drawing sooner.

Starr rolls through a COLOSSAL VAULT-LIKE STEEL DOOR into-

INT. THE ARK - CONTINUOUS

The Ark -- an underground city, larger but more austere than CNN's animation. Starr's cart descends giant levels. Upper floors (starting at 'LEVEL 1') are residential -- cafeterias, workshops, busy people. Lower down feels like a Navy ship.

Signs denote 'RESIDENCES,' 'INFIRMARY,' and 'ARK SCHOOL.' But also -- active construction equipment, areas half-built. 'SPORTS ARENA,' a hall packed with supplies, is unfinished.

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GOV. STARR

I thought the arena foundation was poured last week -- what happened? All community areas were supposed to be on the *expedited* schedule.

GOVERNOR'S STAFFER 1

This *is* the expedited schedule.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

Arriving on LEVEL 3, Starr enters -- ARKCON ('Ark Control'), the nerve center of all Ark operations, with stadium-seating video screens, American flag and the Ark's mission flag hung overhead, and packed with ARK STAFF. Entire room stands.

GOV. STARR

Hello. Good to see everyone.

Starr is met by -- COMMANDERS of TERRANAUT CORPS, the elite crew responsible for the Ark's operation and protection.

TERRANAUT COMMANDER

Welcome, governor. Terranaut Corps confirms all systems go for closure. But external protection is becoming a problem. Too many refugees. We're short on manpower, even *with* the aid of Ark Security.

GOV. STARR

Isn't Gen. Bramini handling this?

TERRANAUT COMMANDER

We thought he was with you.

Starr turns to his staffer -- escalating concern.

INT. THE ARK - SCIENCE CENTER - CONTINUOUS

ARK SCIENCE CENTER has the appearance of a warship combat operations room. Windows overlook ARK CONTROL.

TRACK IN on -- a man with his own entourage. MAJOR GENERAL BEN BRAMINI, 50, Army Corps of Engineers, the unshakable commander of the Ark (the overseer of operations, as opposed to Starr's political position). A STAFFER enters, whispers.

ARK STAFFER

Gen. Bramini, governor is on site.

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CONTINUED:

But Bramini is distracted by -- the 10-man ARK SCIENCE TEAM. CALVIN WATTS, from the NASA team in China, in charge. Other SCIENTISTS Skype in from around the world.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS OF NE-11 play on a central screen. Numbers cycle, trajectories shift. Instead of landing in the sea near Nova Scotia, as was long assumed, NE-11's impact point shifts -- to the far side of the globe, ID'ed as:

NEW IMPACT SITE -- 20.4 MI. S.E. OF BEIJING

SWEDISH SCIENTIST (VIDEO)

I confirm, new impact site -- 40 km south of Beijing. New arrival time -- two hours ahead of schedule.

ARK SCIENTIST

Do we have visuals from Kepler yet? If you tell us NE-11 is outgassing, then I might believe these numbers.

HAWAIIAN SCIENTIST (VIDEO)

Kepler is tracking her, but visuals still blocked by ejaculate. Little green men could be partying on NE-11's surface and we wouldn't see.

CALVIN (B.G.)

Guys.

Bramini glances at Calvin -- running his own numbers.

SWEDISH SCIENTIST (VIDEO)

The asteroid is accelerating. But it can't be because of outgassing.

HAWAIIAN SCIENTIST (VIDEO)

You have a better explanation, Kaj?

CALVIN

Excuse me.

SWEDISH SCIENTIST (VIDEO)

No, I haven't a better explanation, but it makes no sense. We tracked this object for over a year and it speeds up now by 10 m/s -- how?

CALVIN

Guys, excuse me.

(group quiets)

This is Dr. Calvin Watts, CSO at the Ark in Indiana. Forget for a sec' what caused the shift. Don't you see -- we got a bigger problem?

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CONTINUED: (2)

Calvin puts his data on the main screen -- stunned silence.

HAWAIIAN SCIENTIST (VIDEO)
My God. Our models show it too.

GEN. BRAMINI
What? Show what, Calvin-

Suddenly, staff scrambles to their feet as -- Gov. Starr enters, then slows when he notices -- panic in the room.

GOV. STARR
... talk to me. Gen. Bramini,
where have you been? What is this?

Bramini turns to Calvin. Calvin, unsure of himself, plays a crude GRAPHIC -- NE-11 hits Earth, shock wave ripples through and triggers a huge EXPLOSION on the planet's OPPOSITE SIDE.

CALVIN
Governor, we always knew when NE-11 hit, its collision would echo right through the planet. We just never expected it to line up like this. The asteroid's path has changed. Look what's opposite the new impact site. (beat) Wyoming. Yellowstone.

GOVERNOR'S STAFFER 1
Afraid of setting off Old Faithful?

CALVIN
Ma'am, we're concerned about what's-

GOV. STARR
(interrupting)
- what's underneath. I watch the *Discovery Channel*, I get it. That area is a volcano that once blew up half of North America. (beat) How likely is it to be triggered? An honest damage estimate.

CALVIN
Sir, if NE-11 hits China, as now looks assured, an eruption here -- is all but guaranteed. Alleghenies to the Rockies, anyone lacking basic cover will be *vaporized*. The rest, sky awash in CO2 and ash, the period survivors will need to stay underground will be -- longer than ever imagined.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GOV. STARR

Calvin, you've been telling me for a year, there would be pockets of survivability on the surface.

CALVIN

Sir, no more, nowhere on Earth. This'll be -- *global annihilation*. As of now, I can tell you -- we are facing an extinction level event.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. THE ARK - SCIENCE CENTER - DAY**

Chyron:

10 HOURS TO ARK CLOSURE/16 HOURS TO IMPACT

Gen. Bramini, Starr, and Calvin hover at a computer console.

GEN. BRAMINI

Sealing the Ark two hours early? I can expedite some procedures, but getting final residents inside...

GOV. STARR

General, do what you have to.

Bramini curses. He hurries for the exit, when-

ARK SCIENTIST

Dr. Watts, new impact estimates.

Bramini stops. *We only see the SHOCKED RESPONSE to the data.*

GOV. STARR

Is that the additional number of *months* we need to stay underground?

CALVIN

No, sir, not *months*. Years.

GEN. BRAMINI

... years?

GOV. STARR

Who else knows this?

And then, as if on cue -- 'BEEP,' intercom, Ark COMM OFFICER.

COMM OFFICER

Gov. Starr, hold for the president.

Bramini immediately signals science staff to exit. On speaker -- PRE. JULIEN ARMAND, 50s, a deep if shaky voice.

PRESIDENT ARMAND (PHONE)

Uri, it's me. Have you heard yet? We built the White House shelter in Bozeman to avoid a tidal wave in DC -- wound up 90 miles from a Goddamn *super-volcano*. What irony. We're coming to you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PRESIDENT ARMAND (PHONE) (CONT'D)
 The Constitution and Declaration of
 Independence are on Air Force One
 with me. I need you to clear 100
 spots in your shelter *to assure the
 survival of the U.S. government.*

The full gravity of the request lands like a brick.

GOV. STARR
 ... Mr. President, with all due
 respect -- I can't.

Lurching shock -- both in the room and from Armand.

PRESIDENT ARMAND (PHONE)
 Uri? Maybe we misheard each other.

GOV. STARR
 No, I understand the request. But
 we're at the extreme limit of our
 space and supplies. You're asking
 that I expel people.

PRESIDENT ARMAND (PHONE)
 Governor, I'm not *asking*.

GOV. STARR
 Sir, we chose each resident with
 exceeding care, stuck religiously
 to our limit, as you well know.
 I've personally turned away more
 world leaders than I want to admit.

PRESIDENT ARMAND (PHONE)
 Uri, careful. Is this personal?
 Remember who you're talking to.
 They could call it *treason*.

GOV. STARR
 And what will they call forcing 100
 innocent people to their deaths
 because you refused to prepare?

PRESIDENT ARMAND (PHONE)
 You are out of line.

The governor's staffer lunges to put the phone on mute.
 Starr's staff is apoplectic. But he does not waver.

PRESIDENT ARMAND (PHONE) (CONT'D)
 Hello? You there? Look, I
 recognize your constraints. It's a
 terrible position I've put you in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Starr, momentary relief, takes the phone off mute.

GOV. STARR
Okay. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT ARMAND (PHONE)
But, Uri -- figure it the f**k out.
Because I'm on my way.

'CLICK' -- line dead. Everyone on the balls of their feet.

INT. THE ARK - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Starr eats HARD CANDIES from a jar, alone in his Ark office.
On a bookshelf -- items in moving boxes. He lifts from one-

A framed NEW YORK TIMES -- with HIS PHOTO and the headline:

GOV. STARR WINS POPULAR VOTE, ELECTORAL
COLLEGE TIED; JULIEN ARMAND WANTS OHIO RECOUNT

Starr, heavy-hearted, turns to -- an ARK RESIDENT MANIFEST, a
list of all 20,000 people with names, photos, and bios. Each
resident is either early in life with incredible promise or
already lauded. *In short, these people are amazing.*

GOV. STARR
... treason. How dare he say that
to me?

He is *not* alone. CAROLINE, 50, more at peace than events
should permit, points in his manifest to a LIST OF 100 NAMES.

CAROLINE
Here. One of three groups not yet
processed in. Easier to keep them
out than cut residents already
below. Julien should never have
put this on you. You offered to
bring his administration in a year
ago. This is his fault.

GOV. STARR
I won't fold for Armand, not again.
I'm not kicking anyone out. (beat)
We'll double-occupy the residences.
I'll cut rations if need be.

CAROLINE
... Uri, no. Shh. Rations are at
minimum. Nothing more you can do.

She KISSES Starr soothingly -- we see MATCHING WEDDING BANDS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOV. STARR

A hundred lives.

CAROLINE

That we can't save. It's hard, I know, but holding onto these people now is no act of strength. It's a lack of leadership.

GOV. STARR

You're advising I *back down*.

CAROLINE

For the president, yes. He's on his way. You cannot bar entry. Sacrifice now so we can fight another day. Avoiding tough choices is the *old mistake*.

GOV. STARR

... so is that what you call *Ohio* now, me taking the easy road? What I did then was to protect you, to keep your situation from the limelight. Don't rewrite it.

CAROLINE

Pumpkin, there were a lot of things you might've been protecting that night. But I wasn't one. Take the list. In the end, Julien will be blamed for this loss. Not you.

(no response)

Honey, focus. A hundred residents have only hours left. Give them a chance to find new shelter. You cannot save every life-

'KNOCK' on the door. Starr and Caroline reflexively straighten up -- as if their disagreement never happened.

A head pokes in -- ELON, 19, slick but still adolescent. Starr waves for him to wait. But Elon strangely remains.

ELON

Mallory said you'd arrived. I was worried. Tell me you're okay? I want to help. What can I do? I have updates on resident outreach.

Starr turns to face the framed New York Times.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CAROLINE

Uri, if only we'd been tougher that night. You could've saved millions of lives today, not 20,000. (beat) Do what you have to. Each hour delayed is one less for these families to prepare.

She GIVES HIM THE LIST, kisses Elon's head -- and exits.

ELON

What's she telling you to do?
(beat) Why do you let her?

GOV. STARR

Don't make a scene. I *heed her advice* cause I love her. And cause nine out of 10 times, she's right.

ELON

Bull. I heard about the president. She's urging you kick people out?

GOV. STARR

Elon, calm down. You've led far too easy a life to tell anyone else how to lead theirs. Especially me.

ELON

Don't you get it? I'm saying your instincts are *right*. The president ordered you to do something insane, and you said *shove it*. Own that. Don't let her deter you, not now-

GOV. STARR

(interrupting)
Goddamn, enough. Do not question me or your mother -- not *anymore*.

Elon, silenced. Starr eyes the candy jar on his desk -- LOCKS THE JAR in a drawer. Elon, confused. Starr grabs the framed New York Times -- cracks it in half, THROWS IT AWAY. Elon, shocked. Starr takes Caroline's LIST -- heads out.

ELON

What the hell, Dad, what's wrong?

GOV. STARR

You really want to help -- do this for me. Spread the word, Elon, that everything is -- *just fine*.

I/E. ARK MINIBUS - INDIANAPOLIS - DAY

The Marinos' minibus rolls through downtown.

Bart looks out at -- empty stores, no gas. Vivian reads -- 'THE ARK LIVING MANUAL,' a brochure on life in the shelter, catalog-like pics of perfect-looking families and amenities.

BART

It'll be nice below. See the underground park? Soccer field? Daniel will love that. (beat) Please, Viv', I don't know what to say to make this hurt less.

VIVIAN

What's there to say? Who's got the words? The lottery upended things. Our future changed with two days to prepare -- how could anyone manage? (beat) I was set to shelter at home. At least I knew the family would be together. Then, six weeks ago, you somehow convince me Becky would be better off at Stanford, our baby a million miles away-

(Bart tries to interrupt)

I'm not attacking you, just listen. When we heard we won the lottery, I was happy. But in the next breath, I learn my mom can't come, she's too old. We left her to die. Now this -- Becky on her way but might not make it. Where'll she end up if not with us? We're losing both-

(Bart wants to speak)

No, please, just let me say my piece. We're all hurting, everyone on this bus, in the world, I know. And I hate to be ungrateful, but -- look, Bart, I'll never forget what you endured cause of my deployments in Iraq. But I was the one who had to say goodbye to family then. I've had to say bye too many-

BART

(interrupting)

Stop. Stop, please. We've talked this out so many times. These are hard choices, we both hurt. Baby, I'm locked on one goal now. I'll do what it takes for us to survive.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A tear wells in Vivian's eye. Bart, saddened.

BART (CONT'D)

Let me just say, whatever you and I think about my *uncles*, they were right on one point. Time my pop near lost his leg, the cave-in at the shaft, when the company wouldn't pay a dime. How Dennis and Brock got Tilson to cough up for Dad's care, it saved his life. Seeing that when I was a kid, that when push comes to shove, you do whatever it takes for family, even things -- you aren't proud of -- I never forgot. Viv', our fate is inside the Ark. No matter what.

Suddenly -- VIOLINS. Confused passengers look out at -- an ORCHESTRA in the middle of the street, an impromptu concert for awestruck locals, like musicians on the Titanic.

Vivian takes her husband's hand.

I/E. AIRLINE CATERING TRUCK - OHIO ROADS - DAY

An AIRLINE CATERING TRUCK careens down Ohio roads.

Inside, armed ARK PERSONNEL and 10 incoming ARK RESIDENTS, including -- BECKY MARINO. She desperately phones 'MOM' and 'DAD' -- but no calls go through. Her battery, almost dead.

Handsome resident BENJAMIN, 30, rubs her back -- she glances.

BENJAMIN

Want to hear something funny? When I was a kid, anytime it rained, I'd imagine I could outrun lightning. Figured if I saw a bolt, I'd just sprint aside, like Speedy Gonzales. I wonder -- could we outrun NE-11?

BECKY

... you ever seen me run?

BENJAMIN

(briefly amused)

Always wanted to be a better runner -- thought I'd get a coach one day. So many things left *unfinished*.

BECKY

I've never eaten fish. Not a bite.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BENJAMIN

No way. Not even fish sticks?

BECKY

Not even. I promised, if they ever served it in the Ark, I'd-

(sheds a tear)

We're not gonna make it, are we?

Benjamin grips her hand. She needs a hug. So he leans in, their cheeks brush -- Becky reflexively tries to KISS HIM-

BECKY (CONT'D)

(freezes)

Jesus. I was -- I wasn't thinking.

Benjamin offers to shake hands, and we realize -- *these two are strangers.*

BENJAMIN

Benjamin. Bramini. Good to meet.

BECKY

I'm, stupid. I mean -- that's not my name. Becky. I'm -- so sorry. So inappropriate. (beat) *Bramini*, huh. Same name as the guy who runs the Ark, you know.

BENJAMIN

Yeah -- I do. I'm Gen. Bramini's son. Kinda' why I'm in this group.

(surprises Becky)

Don't worry about *making it*. I'm pretty sure they'll wait for me.

INT. THE ARK - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - DAY

Back in very busy ArkCon -- Bramini, alone, ducks into-

The COMMUNICATIONS ROOM. He looks over his shoulder as if breaking the rules. Then Skypes with -- 'LEAH BRAMINI.'

I/E. ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

A gigantic tent covers Indianapolis' St. Vincent Hospital to protect those within during the nuclear winter.

Doctors and patients fill the inside. LEAH BRAMINI, 40s, Red Cross regional chief, as badge denotes. Her Skype app rings.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LEAH BRAMINI
 (on videoconference)
 Ben? Gotta call you back. Ames
 County just shut. Sent us their
 entire ICU. I'm trying to hand off
 command. I'll head out soon.

GEN. BRAMINI (VIDEO)
 ... you need to be here.

LEAH BRAMINI
 Can't hear you. It's a mess. I
 don't know how I can leave them.

GEN. BRAMINI (VIDEO)
 No, you need to be here now.
 (secretive)
 Volcano rumors are true. And not
 even the whole story. Understand?
 (beat) Leah, something else.
 Benjamin isn't -- his jet got
 rerouted. I'm trying to get him
 and his group in by road. But...

Leah turns grim.

I/E. ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL - A MOMENT LATER

Leah quietly alerts select members of her STAFF.

LEAH BRAMINI
 Moving the Ark crew out early. Go.

Leah tries to keep her exit secret, but HOSPITAL NURSES watch
 with judgement. Leah hangs her head in shame -- and leaves.

More local nurses hurry in. Leah pauses in the driveway.

RED CROSS STAFFER
 Ma'am, are we leaving or not?

LEAH BRAMINI
 Yes. Yes, you six, go. Get the
 convoy to the Ark. I'll finish the
 handoff and take the next ride.
 (beat) Go. Get out of here.

RED CROSS STAFFER
 Ma'am, there is no *next ride*.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**INT. THE ARK - ARK-FARM - DAY**

Chyron:

6 HOURS TO ARK CLOSURE/10 HOURS TO IMPACT

ANTS parade unimpeded through the underground, multi-acre ARK-FARM. With warm air and daytime grow lights, it feels like Eden. But ants are everywhere. ARK FARMERS surround-

Prodigy agribusiness exec, now Ark CHIEF OF AGRICULTURE, SHANNON HERALD, 20s. She lifts a plant -- dying leaves.

SHANNON

And the cockroach shall inherit the Earth. It's like these little buggers *know* they found the last farm around. I want spraying upped to twice a day, 30 percent spread.

Suddenly, murmurs from workers as -- Starr and Bramini enter.

INT. THE ARK - SHANNON'S OFFICE - A MOMENT LATER

Bramini and Starr alone with Shannon in her private office.

GEN. BRAMINI

Ms. Herald, what we're about to tell you, no one else knows and it must stay secret at all costs. Our science team has updated damage estimates based on NE-11's new path. The time we need to stay underground has *increased*.

SHANNON

Okay. You built in a margin. Max prediction was a year below, you stocked rations for 18 months. How much longer could it be?

GEN. BRAMINI

Five years.

(cold silence)

Rations will run out, guaranteed. Either this farm needs to grow enough food to support the entire Ark. Or we'll have to stop feeding two-thirds of our people.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHANNON

Five years underground -- you're kidding. Supporting the entire Ark from our farm, it can't be done.

GEN. BRAMINI

We don't have a choice. If anyone could pull this off...

SHANNON

No, no one could, not even my team. You asked us to supplement food supply, not replace it. Conditions are awful. We're overrun by ants and aphids. Who would've predicted that in a nearly air-tight cavern?

GEN. BRAMINI

We'll assign more manpower. Or redirect construction efforts and double your space.

SHANNON

Space isn't the problem.

GEN. BRAMINI

Then tell us what you need.

SHANNON

My father.

GOV. STARR

... Ms. Harold, your father assured us you were up for this mission.

SHANNON

I am. And if any firm could handle this task, it's ours. But you're asking me to do the impossible. (beat) My dad's science team was a unit I never ran. A few years ago, before anyone was talking asteroids, DOD asked him to develop a new crop line. One that could thrive in extremity, Afghanistan or Iraq. So we doubled down on *Eugena* -- our GMO program. (beat) Yields tripled with those seeds. Four wheat harvests in six months. Want us to survive? This is how. My father developed the line. The seeds are in our headquarter's lab.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GEN. BRAMINI

Your lab? Why not here? Why are we just learning of this now?

GOV. STARR

(a wary eye on Shannon)
Because I told Mosley I wouldn't let the seeds inside.

(Bramini, shocked)

These were genetically modified seeds, plants that invaded normal farms, caused unknown fatal illness in every lab rat.

SHANNON

Flawed results from early tests. The seeds are safe.

GOV. STARR

The Pentagon banned them.

SHANNON

I'll eat the first crop. Let my father in, let us retrieve the seeds, give us a fighting chance.

GOV. STARR

Ms. Harold, it was his choice that you be here instead of him. You met the age requirement, he didn't.

SHANNON

None of us knew then you'd be so Goddamn lenient with VIP exemptions, did we? Let him in.

(no response)

General Bramini, say something.

GEN. BRAMINI

Governor, at least get Mosley and the seeds *inside*. Debate later whether to plant. (beat) What good is worrying over long-term health effects if none of our residents make it back to the surface in the first place-

Starr demands silence -- hates to be challenged.

GOV. STARR

If I send a Terranaut squad for him, how long will they take?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GEN. BRAMINI

By air, four hours. It's doable.

SHANNON

Our seed vault is impenetrable without a double-key entry. My dad and I would both have to be there.

Starr weighs the decision heavily.

GOV. STARR

I never trusted those seeds. But I need options. General, send Ms. Harold with a team. Have them back in four hours. Not a minute past. Shannon, I pray those seeds are safe for our people. And I pray -- we never need to find out.

EXT. MOSLEY HAROLD'S MANSION - DAY - ESTABLISHING

A sprawling country estate, seen from the air.

INT. MOSLEY HAROLD'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Scientist-turned-agribusiness magnate, MOSLEY HERALD, 70s, tends to a ROBUST CROP. An irrigation system feeds his underground greenhouse -- much healthier than the Ark farm.

Suddenly -- 'RUMBLE.' Harold, concerned, races upstairs to a sprawling ranch-style MANSION packed with supplies. Windows boarded up, a closed-circuit TV feed reveals-

EXT. MOSLEY HAROLD'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER on the lawn -- Shannon at the fortified front door. Mosley opens up. Unshaven, old field clothes -- Shannon hardly recognizes him.

SHANNON

Dad?

Shannon's tough veneer falls -- she hugs him with tears.

I/E. BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER - INDIANAPOLIS - DAY

Mosley aboard the Blackhawk with Shannon and three TERRANAUTS -- over Indianapolis. A fireball erupts from a mall, rioters stream away. PILOT leans in from the cockpit.

PILOT

Just getting word, ArkCon reporting that the volcano news leaked.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PILOT (CONT'D)
 CNN has it. Things could get bad
 down there.

I/E. BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER - HERALD AGRICULTURE - DAY

Blackhawk orbits above -- HERALD AGRICULTURE's office park headquarters. Below, angry LOCALS try to loot the building.

MOSLEY
 Our firm is holding a month's worth
 of seed grain for the National
 Guard. Looks like word got out.

'RAT-A-TAT-TAT' -- Terranaut gunner fires a warning. Crowd flees. Helo lands near the entrance.

Gunner uses his mighty M240 to hold off a reassembling horde.

TERRANAUT GUNNER
 Hurry.

INT. HERALD AGRICULTURE - CONTINUOUS

Terranauts escort Mosley and Shannon into vacated executive suites, beneath a central lobby inscription:

HERALD AGRICULTURE -- WE FEED THE WORLD

The Heralds power up a high-tech COMPANY LABORATORY. At a secure zone, they use simultaneous biometric scanners to open-

A LABORATORY VAULT. Mosley quickly, delicately fills a SAMSONITE TITANIUM CASE with -- SEEDS held in vials.

EXT. HERALD AGRICULTURE - CONTINUOUS

Mosley and Shannon slow to take a last look at their company. Terranauts race them along. Group jogs to the parking lot-

'RAT-A-TAT-TAT' -- GUNFIRE. Terranaut teammate wails on his Blackhawk M240 as -- now-violent locals charge the helo.

TERRANAUT
 (to Mosley and Shannon)
Stay by the entrance.

Squad leader and wingman race forward, rifles aimed.

Bullets ricochet off the wall behind the Heralds -- Shannon 'YELPS' as Mosley pulls her to safety.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Locals reach the helo -- pilot has to lift off or be overrun. Attackers grab the gunner, he strafes his own tail rotor. Airborne Blackhawk spins -- towards the other Terranauts.

TERRANAUT (CONT'D)
Back, get back.

SHANNON
No!

KABOOM -- helo crashes, fireball consumes all the Terranauts.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - DAY

Starr and Bramini, busy in ArkCon. A staffer signals them.

INT. THE ARK - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - A MOMENT LATER

Starr listens to a recorded phone call at a radio console.

SHANNON (PHONE)
- all dead. Barricaded my dad and I in the vault. General, we can't get out. We're marooned. Help us.

Starr tensely raps his fist on the console.

GOV. STARR
Three Terranauts on that helo?

GEN. BRAMINI
And two pilots.

Starr, mournful, weighs his options.

GEN. BRAMINI (CONT'D)
I already moved the remaining Blackhawk fleet below to storage. We have no more air transport. I can only do it by ground.

GOV. STARR
Damn it. (beat) Ben, find your best squad. Retrieve the Heralds. And no matter what, they all come home.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**EXT. BRONTYN ESTATE - DAY - FLASHBACK**

FLASHBACK -- ONE YEAR AGO. A more sublime era. Gardeners trim topiaries at a rich estate. A line of limos and police cars fill the curving driveway.

INT. BRONTYN ESTATE - CONTINUOUS

Blond NAOMI, 30s, carries lemonades through her palatial home. BODYGUARDS block her entry to the parlor.

NAOMI

Excuse me, that's my fiancé in there. This is *our* home.

The bodyguards could care less.

INT. BRONTYN ESTATE - PARLOR - CONTINUOUS

In the parlor -- two men, alone. Governor Starr, seated. And standing by the window -- PAUL BRONTYN, 38, in a stylish Tom Ford suit, with a cutting Jacksonian profile.

BRONTYN

I won't negotiate against myself.
How much? Name a price.

GOV. STARR

A minimum buy-in of -- *100*.

BRONTYN

Not one hundred *thousand*.

GOV. STARR

\$100 million. Mr. Brontyn, I know how much you're worth.

BRONTYN

And it sounds like you want it all.

GOV. STARR

(confident)

This should never have become an ugly debate like global warming, but it has. My science advisors insist that the chance of impact is higher than the White House admits. I believe my guys. And the consequences of getting it wrong are *unimaginable*. Armand embracing the deniers might be good politics.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOV. STARR (CONT'D)

But he's playing Russian Roulette. Half the country asked me to lead in the last election -- I'm taking up that mantle. If there's a shot at *saving mankind*, I'll risk being wrong. Except my legislature isn't as brave. Mr. Brontyn, I need your money to begin building the Ark. Public funds will come, once the threat is clear, I guarantee.

Brontyn sits down across from Starr.

BRONTYN

I suspect you'll be surprised to know, I agree with you. On this one issue Julien is misled. But here's the rub. You're asking me to embarrass my friend. I still advise the White House. How will this *not* be cable news headlines? I'd rather build a nice shelter for my fiancée and I, as I had planned.

GOV. STARR

You *could*. Save yourself -- probably more comfortably than what I can offer. But what sort of world would you return to? My goal isn't survival of a wealthy few. I aim to rebuild civilization. We will hold 20,000 of the world's best and brightest. You and your friends, you'll be lucky to survive a week back on the surface alone.

(Brontyn, still obstinate)

And -- I want you in my cabinet-

(Brontyn perks up)

I need a man with Wall Street grit to run our finance system. A man who can rebuild the world economy. How does -- *finance chief* sound?

BRONTYN

Finance chief?

GOV. STARR

Would you prefer *head of treasury*?

BRONTYN

Not the title that's bothering me. It's how you choose your cabinet. You're asking me to back autocracy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRONTYN (CONT'D)

A new world government with you at the head. I think all you want to rebuild is your reputation and power. Need my money -- here's the cost. You stand for election. Once that shelter is sealed, you ask for *permission* to lead.

GOV. STARR

And then I assume -- you'll run?

Silence. Then -- Starr shakes his no. Brontyn, upset.

GOV. STARR (CONT'D)

When that door seals, we'll have to fight for our lives every day. You don't change horses mid-stream. As long as we're below ground, I'm in charge. Mr. Brontyn, this is your one chance. Our only chance.

BRONTYN

(weighs the moment)

Then this. As your *finance chief*, I choose my own staff. For my \$100 million -- I get spots for 12 of my colleagues and immediate families.

GOV. STARR

Residents are chosen by lottery.

BRONTYN

Apparently not *me*! Relax. I've worked with these men for years. None are more qualified to rebuild global finance. I owe them. I want to protect them. That's my offer. Take it or leave it.

GOV. STARR

I asked \$100 million just for *you*. Each new staffer -- costs 100 more.

BRONTYN

Pardon? That's -- \$1.2 *billion*.

GOV. STARR

Consider it, the most philanthropic gift in history. That's my offer and it's a sweet one. *Take it or leave it.*

INT. THE ARK - DAY - PRESENT DAY

Chyron:

4 HOURS TO ARK CLOSURE/10 HOURS TO IMPACT

PRESENT DAY. Paul Brontyn, as well-dressed as before -- storms down a crowded Ark corridor, not happy.

INT. THE ARK - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

ArkCon security and Starr's staff stop Brontyn as he aims defiantly towards -- Gov. Starr in the comm room.

GOVERNOR'S STAFFER 1

The governor will join you at the cabinet meeting shortly.

BRONTYN

(calls out, unbowed)

Starr, I had to get a note directly from the president saying he was coming. Why wasn't I told? Why are no preparations being made?

Room quiets. Starr, bothered, heads over to be discreet.

GOV. STARR

Armand's arrival is one of *many* issues we're addressing.

BRONTYN

It's a primary issue. Residents must see the immediate transfer of power from your staff to his. There can be no question of who's in command.

GOV. STARR

There is no question. The president is our guest.

BRONTYN

Sir. He is your nation's leader.

GOV. STARR

And when we return to whatever is left of the nation above, he still will be. In the meantime, we have a cabinet meeting. I will be there shortly. Mr. Brontyn, go. Now.

Brontyn, shocked by the rebuff.

INT. THE ARK - BRONTYN'S STATEROOM - DAY

The lieutenant governor knocks on Brontyn's stateroom door. Brontyn's fiancée Naomi answers.

NAOMI

He's not taking visitors.

BRONTYN (O.S.)

Dear, it's okay, let Treat in.

Naomi steps aside. Treat enters Brontyn's lavish stateroom--

Likely bigger than the governor's -- a wall-size screen plays scenic images. Brontyn and STAFF work in a living room area.

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE

Mr. Brontyn, the cabinet is waiting. Starr asked I personally escort you back. (beat) Paul, you just upset a lot of people. I say this as an old friend. This isn't a fight anybody wants right now.

BRONTYN

So what's your solution? I stand idle as Starr attempts a veritable coup? (beat) I thought by joining him, I'd be a counterweight. Vowed to do all in my power to give our nation moral leadership through its crisis. Instead -- I've ordained a king. The president is on his way. When he arrives, I'll be at his side. I expect you will too. (beat) Treat, you worked with Starr since, what -- 19? Will he abdicate peacefully?

Lagrande eyes Brontyn's staff -- *12 distinctly large men.*

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE

I became Starr's intern at 16. I've been by him forever. You're asking if my *mentor* will step aside peacefully? (beat) You know how I feel. *I love my country.*

I/E. TERRANAUT STRYKER VEHICLE - INDIANAPOLIS - DAY

In Indianapolis, LOOTERS flee -- an ARMORED STRYKER VEHICLE. The eight-wheeled, machine gun turreted transport carries--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Five ARK TERRANAUTS -- led by commander LT. NICOLAS JASPER, 33, a straight-edge warrior. And SERGEANT FIRST CLASS TIMUR LAKE, 30, his cocky Kenyan-born number two.

SFC. TIMUR
Maybe she forgot her cellphone-

'RAT-A-TAT-TAT' -- Timur fires warning shots at a fast car.

SFC. TIMUR (CONT'D)
... sorry. Or maybe Ms. Herald left the Ark for some guy she always loved but never had the guts to tell -- a last shot at romance.

LT. NICOLAS
Guys, shut up. Heads down.

SFC. TIMUR
Aren't you curious, sir?

LT. NICOLAS
No. We lost men today cause of the ag chief. ArkCon wants her back, no questions asked. They picked us because they trust us.

SFC. TIMUR
Or, cause our squad is disposable.

One of the Terranauts snickers.

TERRANAUT DRIVER
Road block, 12-o'clock, 100 meters.
Can't go through.

LT. NICOLAS
Why not? What's the problem?

Blocking the route, an UPTURNED SEDAN and -- a CRYING TWO-YEAR-OLD TODDLER sits in the street. Nicolas curses.

Timur jumps out to take care of it. He lifts the toddler, soothes the girl as she cries. Checks in the car -- empty.

SFC. TIMUR
Shh, easy now, lil' bear. Where's mama? Who's takin' care of you?
(calls out)
Anyone here? Whose baby is this?!

Not a soul around. Stryker pushes the sedan aside, then waits on Timur. He puts down the girl -- she cries fiercely.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LT. NICOLAS
Sergeant, let's roll!

Timur fishes MRE candy from his bag, tries to feed her.

LT. NICOLAS (CONT'D)
On the clock, Sergeant. Move it!

INT. TERRANAUT STRYKER VEHICLE - INDIANAPOLIS - A MOMENT LATER

Nicolas faces Timur as he boards again -- with the girl.

LT. NICOLAS
... the f**k are you doing? There was an orphan collie on the corner. Gonna grab him too? Sergeant?

SFC. TIMUR
Nag me all you want, Chief, but I ain't gonna leave a kid to die. I got this. Please, sir. Let's go.

Nicolas, torn. The other soldiers bow their heads -- not willing to speak up but clearly sympathetic.

I/E. ARK MINIBUS - THE ARK - DAY

The Marino family's minibus makes it to the Ark -- through the half-mile thick layer of refugees outside.

Bus passengers face forward, lest they be forced to look these poor souls in the eye. Refugees call aloud.

REFUGEES (VARIOUS)
Just take my child. (another) Don't leave us. I'll do anything.

'WHAM' -- a construction worker pounds the window by Bart.

CONSTRUCTION WORKER
Bart Marino, I know you. Your uncles said our union would help us. Don't leave me. Marino, don't-

A Terranaut whips the worker back. Passengers stare at Bart.

INT. THE ARK - SURFACE PROCESSING CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Inside the fence, Marinos and fellow passengers unload into a warehouse-size PROCESSING CENTER adjacent the Ark. Roughly 100 incoming residents line up to be admitted by ARK STAFF.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tension is high, papers pushed about, mistakes being made. A staffer hands the Marinos each -- an ORANGE TAG.

ARK STAFFER

Your group's processing badges.
Wear them until you're safe inside.

The Marinos find themselves awkwardly beside -- Bart's accusatory bus mate, whom eyes Bart warily.

BART

Now look, buddy. If it weren't for Local 330, you wouldn't be here -- no worker would. So cool it-

Bart goes silent, confusing the man. But then they both see a worrying scene -- a platoon of TERRANAUTS arrives in force.

DANIEL

... Dad? what's going on?

TERRANAUT (P.A.)

Your attention, incoming residents of Center Four, Ark Command regrets to inform you, as of 0900, due to unforeseen challenges, despite best efforts, your workers lottery spots in the Ark have been *revoked-*

('GASPS' from the crowd)

We are making every effort to find alternate shelters. Or if you elect, we hope to let you exit on your own volition. We'll brief you on the options in 30 minutes. But again, as of now, you are no longer residents of the Ark-

INCOMING RESIDENT (VARIOUS)

Why?! (another) Exit and go where?
(another) But we won the lottery!

'YELLS' of anger from the crowd. Bart grabs a staffer.

ARK STAFFER

Sir, I have no information.

BART

No, listen. I'm an electrician -- with Tilson Corp. You know? The company that ran the site when it was cold storage, before the Ark. I helped build this place.

(staffer pulls away)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BART (CONT'D)

No, please. I have key knowledge about operations, you need me...

BUS MATE (B.G.)

- need me. My family belongs here.

Bart overhears accusatory bus mate making the same argument to another staffer. In fact, every incoming resident does.

Bart, moribund, backs towards his family.

CLAIRE

Dad, what's going on? What shelter are they putting us in?

BART

... there are no other shelters.

Bart sees residents turn aggressive. More Terranauts enter -- THEY BEGIN TO LOCK DOORS. Bart's mind races.

INCOMING RESIDENT (B.G.)

He's hurting me! Someone -- help!

'WHAM,' 'YELL' -- a shoving match. Crowd lurches. When- Vivian unexpectedly grabs the kids -- runs for the door.

BART

Vivian? The hell are you doing?!

EXT. THE ARK - SURFACE PROCESSING CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Vivian races the kids outside, heads for a minibus -- Bart stops her. A TERRANAUT follows from the processing center.

TERRANAUT (O.S.)

You four, back inside. Now.

VIVIAN

Bart, they won't help us. We're done here. I'm getting us home, while we still can.

Terranaut curses. Signals for reinforcements. Bart sees his choices narrow, and this decision comes quick-

He takes Vivian and family -- races them AWAY from the bus. Past temporary structures -- to the thick WOODS over the Ark.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

We're going the wrong way!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BART

No, I'm ahead of you. Please, do what I say. Go left. Now.

Vivian, startled, as Bart sends her left, feints right -- draws the Terranauts in his direction and loses them. Vivian and children arrive in the woods, alone and confused-

Bart reunites, but Vivian halts. Needs an explanation. Bart sees more Terranauts gather -- point their way.

BART (CONT'D)

You need to trust me. I knew this kind of thing might happen. I have a plan.

VIVIAN

What plan?

BART

In case we didn't win the lottery. Had it a long time, it's still an option. We can -- sneak in.

(Vivian, shocked)

There's no hope for us at home.

VIVIAN

What about Becky?

Bart goes silent -- recognizes Vivian's point.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

How will she meet us now?

BART

(re: the Terranauts)

... Viv', we gotta go. I'm doing my best. You know I want Becky here -- don't you know this is hard for me too? I can get us in the Ark, keep us alive. What else am I supposed to do?

'YELLS' grow louder from the workers in the processing center -- Terranaut ranks swell. Vivian faces her kids, petrified.

BART (CONT'D)

If we stay *here*, we're done for. Vivian, we're dead. Decide now -- quit or live? Decide now.

Vivian looks Bart in the eye. Terranaut squad nears. And-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE**EXT. THE ARK - ABOVE THE SITE - DAY**

Chyron:

3 HOURS TO ARK CLOSURE/9 HOURS TO IMPACT

The Marinos chose to run. Bart races them up a steep, wooded hill -- *into the unknown*. Near a tower SURVEILLANCE CAMERA-

BART

Vivian, not that way -- camera!

Bart keeps the family moving -- hard work, sweat pours off. Claire twists her ankle, 'YELPS.' Bart helps her up.

'SCREAMS' -- half-mile back at the base of the hill, former bus mates fight the Terranauts -- herded back at gunpoint.

BART (CONT'D)

That could've been us. Let's go.

(while running)

The Ark's designers knew from the get-go -- workers might try to break in. They never gave any one of us too much security info. Only a guy in touch with every worker -- could put the pieces together.

They reach -- a small CLEARING in the woods, atop the hill. Rotating surveillance cameras -- Bart hides his family.

BART (CONT'D)

Stay by this berm. (beat) There's a door, an airlock, here. They made it as a back entrance once the Ark was sealed. I gotta find it.

VIVIAN

You knew this, planned all this -- and didn't tell me?

BART

I didn't risk telling *anyone*, Viv'.

VIVIAN

But we'll be *stowaways*.

Bart sees the kids nod -- agreeing with their mother.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BART

Guys, please -- this'll work.
Unfinished parts of the cave go far
beyond where Ark construction ends.
I've stored food and gear, bit by
bit. We'll make it. We have to.

I/E. TERRANAUT STRYKER VEHICLE - HERALD AGRICULTURE - DAY

Timur buckles his fearful toddler into a Stryker jump seat.

SFC. TIMUR

I know it's scary. But you're
safe, lil' bear, I swear.

'BAM,' 'BAM' -- gunshots outside, Nicolas fires warnings at --
a single LOCAL. Herald headquarters' lot is otherwise empty.

Nicolas signals the squad to deploy. Timur looks at the girl
-- no choice, he seals the vehicle, leaves the baby behind.

INT. HERALD AGRICULTURE - LABORATORY - CONTINUOUS

Mosley and Shannon -- locked in a laboratory vault. On CCTV
SECURITY MONITORS, Shannon sees the Terranauts.

SHANNON

Dad, look. Oh, thank God.

INT. HERALD AGRICULTURE - CONTINUOUS

Nicolas leads his squad, combat formation, through company
headquarters. They kick open doors, clear rooms. In the
lab, Nicolas and Timur kneel by the vault door.

LT. NICOLAS

Mr. Herald, this is Lt. Nicolas
Jasper of Ark Terranaut Corps and
we're here to rescue you. Are you
and your daughter safe? Are you
able to open the door?

No response. Nicolas signals. Squad breacher sets C-4, when--

'HSSS' -- door opens, men aim their guns -- Mosley exits with
his seed-filled SAMSONITE CASE, as if nothing were wrong.

MOSLEY

Thank you. We're set.

Shannon appears defensively carrying a crowbar. Nicolas
takes it away. He reaches for Mosley's case -- Mosley yanks
back, protective. The Terranauts find it odd.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LT. NICOLAS

Ms. Herald, are you or your father
injured? Can you move quickly?

Shannon nods. So Terranauts get the Heralds running.

SFC. TIMUR

Miss, what's in the case? Psst.
Your dad's case, must be important.

Shannon glances -- pointedly ignores his question.

I/E. STRYKER VEHICLE - HERALD AGRICULTURE - A MOMENT LATER

Terranauts guard the Heralds as they jog across the lot,
board the Stryker, and immediately throttle up.

Onboard, as they roll out, the Heralds freeze seeing -- the
crying toddler. Timur picks her up, bounces the girl.

SHANNON

Whose is she? (beat) Who's caring
for her?

SFC. TIMUR

Long story.

Shannon watches skeptically. Crying worsens -- so Shannon,
unasked, takes the girl.

SHANNON

Her diaper is dirty -- don't you
know? Find a towel or something.

Timur, surprised to be helped, only finds -- a MYLAR BLANKET.
Shannon sighs, starts removing her own shirt -- Mosley stops
her, wary of *five men* watching. He offers his COAT instead.

Shannon tears out the coat lining, cleans and swaddles the
girl -- cradles her until the crying ends. Timur impressed.

SHANNON (CONT'D)

I can't be responsible.

Timur nods. Nicolas groans. Timur lobs the diaper outside.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - DAY

ArkCon. All hands on deck. Screens show engineering status.

GEN. BRAMINI

Power to 90%, cut exterior lines.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARK STAFFER
Roger, powering down external.

GEN. BRAMINI
Report on atmosphere.

ARK STAFFER 2
Waste gases steady. Oxygen at
17.5% mean. Ready for full
recycled air on your orders.

GEN. BRAMINI
Let's breathe our own air.

Starr watches CCTV as -- massive topside louvres shut.

GEN. BRAMINI (CONT'D)
Governor, 30 minutes, and we'll be
independent from the world.

Starr notices -- his wife enter and sit in the corner. She
'COUGHS' as she is about to greet Lt. Gov. Lagrande.

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE
You okay, ma'am?

New arrival -- SECURITY CHIEF JIM MACALLAN, 50s, Boston-bred,
head of internal safety. Steps aside with Bramini and Starr.

CHIEF MACALLAN
Governor, I got multiple reports of
refugees trying to breach our
perimeter. Skirmishes at the
fence. Not sure how much longer we
can hold out with only non-lethals.
I need -- shoot-to-kill ROE.

GOV. STARR
Tell your men to do their best. It
goes bad fast if we start shooting.

CHIEF MACALLAN
Which would be *when*, sir? (beat)
What about the residents displaced
for the president?

Starr hangs his head with guilt.

GEN. BRAMINI
Still trying to find them suitable
shelter. We might not pull it off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHIEF MACALLAN

Then those people are gonna be a threat too. I need to move them, put them on buses, get that group off-site. Sir, it's bad already.

GOV. STARR

Jim, who'll drive the buses?

CHIEF MACALLAN

Maybe I'm not being clear. Until the volcano news came out, families topside thought they had a chance. Their backs are against a wall now. They will fight us. These are no longer *refugees*. They're a hostile force. (beat) I officially request we initiate -- the Barricade Plan.

GOV. STARR

Barricade? You mean -- detonating the construction tunnel.

CHIEF MACALLAN

Seal off our entrance permanently before impact. We have the heavy equipment to dig our way out when the day comes. I know you're against it, but it's the one way I can guarantee -- the security of the Ark. I need to act fast.

Starr looks at Bramini. He looks at Caroline in the corner. Starr approaches a CCTV monitor -- reviews surveillance feed:

- Refugees outside. Children playing. A church group.
- The processing center -- 100 ex-residents wait to be saved.

Caroline grips Starr's hand, *as if to strengthen his resolve*.

GOV. STARR

How many people must I sacrifice for our *security*?

'COUGH' -- Caroline covers her mouth. Starr pats her back. Sees her TISSUE -- covered in her BLOOD. Their eyes connect, a look of PANIC. Starr instantaneously POKETS THE TISSUE.

He spins around -- Macallan and Bramini have no reaction.

CHIEF MACALLAN

Governor, your orders?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Caroline, like a wounded doe, she needs Starr's protection.

GOV. STARR
... we'll blow the tunnel.

INT. THE ARK - GOVERNOR'S OFFICE - A MOMENT LATER

Caroline alone in Starr's office -- looks at herself in a mirror. Starr enters -- he locks the door.

CAROLINE
... the air is so dry down here.
(mea culpa)
Did they see it? I got to be so much more careful. I should lock myself in the stateroom, I'm sorry.
(after a moment)
I keep retracing steps in my head -- how we ever got here. That time way back with my father, our studio apartment at OSU Law. Remember? He came to visit. You literally were throwing clothes out the back window so he wouldn't think we were living together.

GOV. STARR
How could I forget? Crushed my good watch! Funny. He never cared we were shacking up, you know.

CAROLINE
No, Uri. He cared. That's my point. Like every person in this Ark will care -- what I'm not telling them. (beat) Listen. It's not too late for me to leave...

Starr pulls her into his embrace.

I/E. TERRANAUT STRYKER VEHICLE - INDIANAPOLIS - DAY

Timur joins Nicolas atop the Stryker's turret. They are downtown. Nicolas looks in the sky -- at a shimmering LIGHT.

SFC. TIMUR
Is that Venus?

LT. NICOLAS
That's the *asteroid*. Looks so harmless. Give it six hours.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SFC. TIMUR

We're not soldiers anymore, you know. Our code is different now -- our job is to build, not destroy.

LT. NICOLAS

Do I look heartless? Think I wanted to leave that baby? There are billions who won't wake up tomorrow and you saved *that girl* -- why? What makes *you* God?

Silence. A hint of unexpected emotion between these men.

TERRANAUT DRIVER (O.S.)

Lieutenant?! Ahead -- militia.

Squad hits a GIANT TRAFFIC JAM at a DRAWBRIDGE -- cordoned off by a vigilante MILITIA. Scared CIVILIANS hurry to the Stryker to beg for help.

TERRANAUT DRIVER (CONT'D)

Only road through. What do I do?

LT. NICOLAS

(calls to civilians)

Hey! What's going on up there? How many militiamen on that bridge?

CIVILIAN

Food -- they want food. They shot anyone who tried to cross!

Nicolas uses a scope -- sees EIGHT MILITANTS.

LT. NICOLAS

Guys, listen up. State is under martial law, I got armed combatants doing harm, we have legal status to engage. Any objections, speak now.

The men prepare their weapons. Shannon looks worriedly at her father -- cradles the baby.

LT. NICOLAS (CONT'D)

Alright. Eight reds, five on front, three in the bridge-house. Take us in, high-speed, assault on my mark. Timur on the SAW. Ready?
(to the Heralds)
You two, stay down. (beat) Move!

Nicolas signals the driver -- here they go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Stryker races past impacted cars like a fire-breathing dragon. 'BAM,' 'BAM' -- horrified MILITIAMEN take potshots. 'BRR-RAT' -- Timur lets fly ballistic fury from the mini-gun.

LT. NICOLAS (CONT'D)
Oscar mike, deploy.

Stryker's back door flips down. Timur and Nicolas charge the bridge -- dispatch militiamen with precision. When suddenly-
Drawbridge BEGINS TO LIFT.

SFC. TIMUR
They're cutting the road.

Civilians sees this as well -- and cars race at the bridge.

CUT TO:

INSIDE THE STRYKER

In the cab, door open, Heralds see the civilian stampede.

Suddenly -- a scared MILITIAMAN boards the Stryker. Shannon yells for the Terranaut driver to help, when-

'BAM' -- militiaman shot in the face by -- Mosley.

SHANNON
(stunned)
Dad? What'd you -- you killed him.

Mosley returns a smoking PISTOL to his hidden chest holster.

Terranauts pour back onboard.

LT. NICOLAS
Get us across the bridge! Go.

Bridge, overrun with cars -- buckles under their weight.

TERRANAUT DRIVER
Bridge is collapsing.

LT. NICOLAS
Take us over cars if you gotta!

SFC. TIMUR
Sir, those are civilians.

LT. NICOLAS
Goddamn, Timur, I know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Stryker nearly goes airborne as it crushes sedans. The overloaded bridge begins to heave -- trusses snap. Stryker motors up the ascending span, about to jump the gap-

TERRANAUT DRIVER
Everyone, hold on!

Too late -- bridge gives out. Stryker falls with her, but-
Her wheels amazingly grip the safe side. Entire span falls to the ravine behind them -- dozens of cars swept away.

Stryker makes it across. All onboard are stunned but safe.

ARK STAFFER (RADIO)
Stryker four, ArkCon, over.

SFC. TIMUR
(into the radio)
... ArkCon, Stryker four, go ahead.

ARK STAFFER (RADIO)
Stryker four, be advised, ArkSec has put closure procedure Barricade in effect. After 0330 zulu -- no new entries possible. State position and intentions. Over.

MOSLEY
30 minutes? Let's get moving.

Shannon eyes her dad with paranoia -- *he seems completely unaffected by having taken a life. This is a different man.*

Terranauts jump into place -- Stryker rolls. Nicolas and Timur look back at the departed mayhem with pain.

SFC. TIMUR
I hope this mission was worth it.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - DAY

In ArkCon, Bramini and Macallan face a MOVING MAP.

GEN. BRAMINI
Herald and the west coast residents are our last arrivals. We seal the tunnel after them.
(to staff)
What's ETA on the West Coast group?

CHIEF MACALLAN
Your son is on that transport, yes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARK STAFFER
Columbus group -- 60 to 90 minutes.
(Bramini, startled)
They're reporting roadblocks, sir.

GEN. BRAMINI
... it was 30 minutes before.

CHIEF MACALLAN
That would only leave us-

Bramini holds up his hand -- knows Macallan's point.

CHIEF MACALLAN (CONT'D)
I'll hold off as long as I can.

EXT. THE ARK - ABOVE THE SITE - DAY

Bart unhooks a surveillance camera. Signals his family to stay behind the berm. He races into the clearing, when-

A SIREN and 'WHAM' -- a 15-foot ROBOTIC GUN TURRET catapults from the soil -- towers above Bart. A deep digitized VOICE.

ROBOTIC TURRET VOICE (P.A.)
Attention. You have entered a
restricted area. Evacuate now.
Lethal force has been authorized.

BART
Holy shit -- what is this?!

Bart dives behind a tree. Gun automatically tracks him.

DANIEL
Dad?!

BART (CONT'D)
Danny, no -- get down!

Gun spins towards Daniel. He darts -- gun follows.

VIVIAN
Danny, come back!

ROBOTIC TURRET VOICE (P.A.)
Evacuate in three, two...

Daniel dives behind a distant berm -- family now split.

Gun rotates ferociously, no target in sight.

DANIEL
Help! What do I do?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BART
Daniel, don't move! I got you.

But Bart *not sure how to help*. So Vivian stands -- gun aims.

BART (CONT'D)
Vivian, stop, I'll figure it out!

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

In ArkCon, a staffer sees a console SECURITY WARNING.

CHIEF MACALLAN
Send a squad for those people.
Before they get themselves shot.

EXT. THE ARK - ABOVE THE SITE - CONTINUOUS

Siren by the Marinos is deafening. Behind his berm, Bart scouts -- sees a distant electrical boxes, a power conduit. Bart runs into the clearing -- gun fires. Claire screams in fear -- Bart dives into a trench.

VIVIAN
Bart! What just -- I can't see!

Bart waves her to wait. Vivian looks to her scared son.

Bart pries open -- the buried ELECTRICAL CONDUIT.

BART
Christ, high-voltage, low-voltage --
who designed this thing? This
wasn't supposed to be here!

Bart uses bare hands, breaks and connects wires. Sparks fly.

Vivian looks back at the distant processing center -- now being emptied. She looks at Claire -- horrified.

CLAIRE
What's he doing-

'RAT-A-TAT-TAT' -- gun fires ferociously, not clear at what. Vivian and Claire cover their ears. It keeps shooting.

VIVIAN
Bart! Bart, talk to me! I can't-

Silence. Smoking gun turret goes limp. Siren shuts off.

Bart, dirtied, stands in the trench. Daniel races over -- Bart lifts Daniel in his arms. Vivian runs to them, hugs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
How'd you do that?!

Bart lowers his son -- steps into the clearing.

Vivian sees a DEEP CUT on Daniel's knee, tries to treat it.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)
Bart. Bart, Daniel needs stitches-

No response. So Vivian turns to see -- Bart on his knees.

BART
... it's not here.

VIVIAN
What? What isn't?

BART
The entrance. It isn't here. I just, the gun's power lines, they said it was for an airlock, they showed me plans. They lied.

VIVIAN
I don't -- what are you saying?

BART
Vivian, they lied. There's no back door. Construction here was always for a gun. There is no way in.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX**EXT. THE ARK - DAY**

Chyron:

1 HOUR TO ARK CLOSURE/7 HOURS TO IMPACT

Six TERRANAUTS race into the woods in pursuit of the Marinos.

EXT. THE ARK - ABOVE THE SITE - CONTINUOUS

From the clearing atop the hill, Bart sees the entire mile-wide ring of refugees. His family -- on the safe side of the fence but just as helpless as those below.

CLAIRE

We don't know where they moved our processing group. Maybe they got us shelter. Maybe they...

Bart holds his head -- trying to think.

DANIEL

Dad, over there!

Daniel points -- the Terranaut squad ascends the hill.

BART

... let's go right up to the door. We march to the Ark's entrance, demand to be let in. I know every wire, cable, conduit. I can map those tunnels with my eyes closed.

VIVIAN

They'll shoot if they see us run.

BART

Then let's run before they see us! I might know people by the entrance. Goddamn, I just proved I can break their gun -- they need me. Vivian, it's all I got.

CLAIRE

Becky.

Parents turn. Claire holds up her PHONE -- tracking Becky.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Lawson. That's where she is. It's like -- 45 minutes away, right?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIVIAN
... Becky is coming?

Vivian looks at Bart, the Terranauts, at the phone.

BART
Please, Viv'. We gotta try.

Vivian fortifies herself. She eases Daniel onto his bleeding leg. Daniel winces -- can barely stand. Vivian -- kisses the boy's wound, a mother's touch. Daniel fights his tears.

VIVIAN
Let's get inside.

EXT. THE ARK - PERIMETER FENCE - CONTINUOUS

Bart's accusatory bus mate and sons are now outside with the refugees. A man grabs their bags -- bus mate beats him off.

ARK P.A.
Warning, all Ark personnel, proceed below. All Ark personnel must be inside at this time.

TEEN BOY
We're messed up. Aren't we, Dad-

'WHAM' -- refugees suddenly slam the teens. The bus mate caught unprepared as -- refugees stampede to the gate.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

Elon enters ArkCon, a fly on the wall. On CCTV -- refugees in tumult. Elon sees his father watching the images as well. Caroline pulls Elon back to her side.

ELON
Dad, you gotta do something. Talk to them at least. Like those striking miners in Henderson. I've seen you stop riots before.
(no response)
Then f**k, I'll do it.

Starr grabs him. They both watch CCTV -- families crushed.

GOV. STARR
Jim. A security detail. Let's go.

CHIEF MACALLAN
Sir? You can't go out there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Starr turns to exit. Caroline tries to intercede -- but he walks right by. Elon follows. Caroline grabs her boy.

INT. THE ARK - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Starr is driven by conveyance through the Ark. Terranauts meet them en route. They enter the construction tunnel.

EXT. THE ARK - PERIMETER FENCE - CONTINUOUS

Starr shields his eyes from sunlight as he exits the tunnel.

GOV. STARR

I can't plead for calm from inside
a protective cage. We're going out
the gate, Jim, get ready.

CHIEF MACALLAN

Sir, going out is not an option-

Starr, undeterred -- Macallan curses, grabs a sidearm.

The multi-layer fence is 500 meters away, a protected space from the tunnel to there. Beyond, refugees stretch seemingly to the horizon, front rows crushed by the surge from behind.

Outside the fence now, past the well-defended main gate -- Starr grabs a bullhorn, climbs atop a bus, faces the crowd. Macallan and a Terranaut platoon set a perimeter.

GOV. STARR

(via a bullhorn)

Hello. Listen to me.

No one pays attention -- a staffer hands Starr a P.A. MIC.

GOV. STARR (P.A.) (CONT'D)

I'm Gov. Starr -- listen!

His voice echoes for miles -- the crowd goes quiet.

GOV. STARR (P.A.) (CONT'D)

You know me. Some of you voted for me. Hooisers, I'm you're governor. I'm with you now, and I want to save you. Here's how...

(after a moment)

Go home. Go to public redoubts. The Marengo Cave is an hour away. Red Cross has spots in Louisville-

REFUGEE (B.G.)

The Ark is our only shelter!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOV. STARR

No, there are places that can help.
But not here. You control your own
fate. I'm asking you to go not
cause I don't care, but because I
can't help. I prayed for the power
to do more, but you deserve an
opportunity that I can't give.

REFUGEES (B.G.)

Let us shelter in your tunnel!
(another) Give us a few days!

The call is echoed by others as the crowd grows loud again.
Macallan signals to Starr -- *end this speech now*.

GOV. STARR (P.A.)

The tunnel is not a shelter. We've
no extra space or supplies. You're
safer *elsewhere*. But that's not my
point. Our lottery winners have --
an awesome responsibility. The Ark
wasn't built to save *individuals*.
It's to preserve mankind. I'm
asking, let us do our job. Let us
fight for the survival of all we've
created, the wisdom of generations,
art and ideas that humans 100 years
from now can still share because we
chose to keep going. Save your
families, and let us save the world-

Starr sees something out the corner of his eye and pauses.
There, another one -- a lone STREAK OF FIRE in the sky.

Macallan's RADIO buzzes -- he tosses it to Starr.

CHIEF MACALLAN

Science team on the radio.

GOV. STARR

(into the radio)
What is this? It's early.

CALVIN (RADIO)

Governor, it's not the asteroid.
Corona cloud. *Rock dust*. Precedes
impact by a few hours. Harmless.

The celestial fire-show intensifies.

GOV. STARR

People up here don't know that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CAROLINE
You tried to help them. You tried.

EXT. THE ARK - ABOVE THE SITE - CONTINUOUS

Marinos run through the woods -- hear gunfire. They see FIREBALLS overhead, an awesome sight -- whole family slows.

BART
Gotta keep moving.

EXT. THE ARK - PERIMETER FENCE - CONTINUOUS

TRACK IN on -- Chief Macallan curled up by the bus, bloodied, injured, but alive. He drags himself to a radio -- crushed.

REFUGEE (B.G.)
Up the guard tower. Follow me!

Refugees organize. Lead REFUGEE takes dozens of men up a guard tower by the gate. NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS aim guns-

CHIEF MACALLAN
(under his breath)
Shoot 'em. They're invading, shoot
'em.

But the soldiers, out of fear or empathy, do not shoot.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

Starr re-enters ArkCon. Bramini and Lagrande meet him, see blood on his shirt -- Starr waves, *he is uninjured*.

Starr approaches Elon, cowed by guilt. Elon immediately hugs his father -- Starr pulls him tight.

GOV. STARR
Not your fault. It was mine

On the countdown clock -- '25 MINUTES' to door closure. On the video screens, one horrible image after another:

- Refugees breach the guard tower -- throw soldiers over.
- Refugees break down the outer layers of fence.

GEN. BRAMINI
The refugees are in revolt. We seal the tunnel or we lose the Ark.

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE
Governor, what about the president?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Starr and Bramini glance at Lagrande. Everyone on guard.

GOV. STARR
Comm, call Air Force One. (beat)
How far is Mosley Herald?

ARK STAFFER (B.G.)
Stryker four, ETA 10 minutes!

GOV. STARR
Ben, the other convoy -- your son?
(beat) How far is your son?

GEN. BRAMINI
They're not going to make it.

Silence.

ARK STAFFER
Air Force One, president on comm!

Starr puts the radio on speaker.

PRESIDENT ARMAND (P.A.)
Uri? Not our lucky day, is it?
Had to detour. We're low on fuel.

GOV. STARR
Mr. President, our security status
is degrading. How far are you?

PRESIDENT ARMAND (P.A.)
Listen. I'm told -- we're going to
California. A bunker below Fort
Irwin. I'm not going to make it.

Shock in the room. Starr picks up a phone, talks directly.

GOV. STARR
We made space for you.

PRESIDENT ARMAND (PHONE)
I know. Trust me, I'd rather be
there. Uri, can I say something,
between us? In the end -- sort of
wish you *had* won Ohio. Good luck.
The nation is counting on you.

President hangs up. All eyes on Starr, more power than ever.

GOV. STARR
The 100 residents I kicked out --
get them back in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GEN. BRAMINI

They're gone. Scattered. We need
to close the door. Give the order.

On the main video screen -- refugees seen nearing the tunnel.
On another screen -- the EMPTY PROCESSING CENTER.

GOV. STARR

... I could've have saved them.

GEN. BRAMINI

Governor. The order.

STARR

A hundred lives for nothing. Governor.

BRAMINI

GOV. STARR

Bramini -- seal the Ark.
(to Caroline, with guilt)
This is it.

I/E. THE ARK - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

'HOOAH' -- KLAXONS in the tunnel, STEEL DOOR begins to close.

The only Ark personnel outside, 20 Terranauts defending the
tunnel, face -- a tidal wave of REFUGEES.

ARK P.A.

Door closure in progress. Five
minutes and counting.

TERRANAUT

Are we shooting to kill or not?

TERRANAUT 2

We hold the Ark!

EXT. THE ARK - PERIMETER FENCE - CONTINUOUS

Nicolas and Timur's Stryker roars headlong into -- the far
side of the refugee crowd. Crowd swarms them, Stryker slows.

TERRANAUT DRIVER

I can't get through this.

LT. NICOLAS

East service entrance, go around.

EXT. THE ARK - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

The Marinos break out of the woods -- almost to the tunnel,
just 400 yards away. Family races for it, ecstatic, when-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

'WHAM' -- pursuing Terranauts tackle Bart and the family, drag them kicking and screaming to -- a PERIMETER GATE.

BART
No, we belong! We're lottery winners. Don't do this!

ARK P.A.
Door closure -- four minutes.

EXT. THE ARK - PERIMETER FENCE - A MOMENT LATER

Terranauts drop the Marinos AT THE FENCE and retreat. Bart tries to follow. 'BAM' -- a Terranaut fires a warning. Marinos, stuck in crossfire between refugees and the Ark. Bart drags his family *away from the Ark*, out to the refugees.

OUTSIDE THE FENCE -- they huddle behind an OVERTURNED BUS.

BART
Hold on -- just hold onto me.

Family hugs. Stampede thickens. When-
A hand grabs Vivian's ankle -- she jumps.

CHIEF MACALLAN
... you're orange.

By their feet at the bus -- Macallan. Bart guards his wife.

CHIEF MACALLAN (CONT'D)
Help me. Don't go.

Vivian, torn between her instincts as a nurse and a mother. She kneels by Macallan, cuts his shirt, treats his wound.

BART
Vivian, no -- not now.

Violent refugees swarm -- Bart fights them off, saves Vivian.

CHIEF MACALLAN
... you're orange.

VIVIAN
Don't try to talk. I'm a nurse.

CHIEF MACALLAN
Orange badge. Lottery winner.

Vivian pauses -- she and Bart both heard that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LT. NICOLAS
Everyone, out. Move it!

Terranauts race out with the Heralds -- Mosley with his Samsonite case. Timur exits with the toddler-

LT. NICOLAS (CONT'D)
You're really gonna bring her in?
(Timur does not waver)
Then I'll defend you. Let's go.

INT. THE ARK - TUNNEL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Only a few feet left before the Ark door seals. Marinos run. Claire and Daniel -- get in. Bart, reveling -- gets in. But Vivian stops -- outside. Bart looks back.

BART
Honey? What are you doing?!

VIVIAN
My baby is out here.

Bart, inside, no idea what to say -- reaches for her hand.

BART
... Viv', don't do this.

Vivian closes her eyes, weighs this hard, door nearly closed.

The Heralds make it through -- along with Nicolas and team.

Further back, Timur sprints with the girl. Only a few inches of door space left. Timur 'YELLS' with exertion.

BART (CONT'D)
Vivian, please.

... Vivian steps inside. Bart wraps her in his arms.

BART (CONT'D)
I love you. Thank you.

And -- Timur makes it in, topples. Looks back at -- the SKY at the end of the tunnel. He holds the girl tight.

SFC. TIMUR
That's the sky. Remember it.

'KA-THUNK' -- Ark door seals.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

All eyes in ArkCon watch CCTV -- rioters at the tunnel.

ARK STAFFER	ARK STAFFER 2
Stryker four team is inside!	We have door closure.
	Repeat, Ark door <u>is closed</u> .

GOV. STARR
... God help and protect us. (beat)
Blow the tunnel.

GEN. BRAMINI
Barricade, Barricade. Go.

Staff relays orders by radio. 'BOOM' -- echoes throughout the Ark. CCTV of the tunnel -- cut to STATIC.

I/E. THE ARK - CONTINUOUS

The Marinos, Heralds, and Terranauts on the safe side as 'KABOOM' -- blast wave hammers the steel door beside them.

Inside the tunnel, 'KABOOM' -- fireball incinerates refugees who made it in. Then 'WHAM' -- tons of rock cascade down.

Outside the tunnel as 'WHAM' -- dust blows out horizontally.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

Final rumbles of the collapse reverberate through ArkCon. Bramini gets a radio call, listens, then-

GEN. BRAMINI
We're sealed. Bless their souls.

GOV. STARR
God save us all.

END OF ACT SIX

ACT SEVEN**INT. THE ARK - ARKCON LAVATORY - DAY**

Chyron:

5 HOURS TO IMPACT

'GASP' -- Starr hunches over a sink, he heaves.

GOVERNOR'S STAFFER 1 (O.S.)
(from outside the door)
Sir, they're waiting.

GOV. STARR
I'll be a minute.

He faces a lavatory mirror. He looks horrible.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - A MOMENT LATER

Protected by staff, Caroline powders Starr's nose.

CAROLINE
Do we need more time?

Starr shakes his head no. Caroline, wary.

A staffer leads Starr to the ArkCon P.A. CONSOLE -- a video camera and TELEPROMPTER. Starr sits.

ARK STAFFER
Governor, your speech is in the
Teleprompter. Live on internal
P.A. in -- 20 seconds.

CAROLINE
Just read the speech. The words
will carry you through.

ARK STAFFER
In ten, nine...

Staffer cues Starr. A 'CHIME' rings -- Starr is broadcast on video screens throughout the Ark.

GOV. STARR
(into camera)
... hello, this is Gov. Starr.
Thirty minutes ago, the door to-

Silence. Confused staff in ArkCon glance worriedly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOVERNOR'S STAFFER 1
Sir, we're live.

GOV. STARR
This is the governor. When we-
(starts to drift)
This is -- we sealed our door and --
the door. Our door. Our big outer-

Starr grows disoriented, no words come out.

CAROLINE
(snaps at staffer)
Cut it.

'BEEP' -- every video screen cuts to COLOR BARS.

INT. THE ARK - CORRIDOR - A MOMENT LATER

Caroline corners him in the hallway.

CAROLINE
You can't do this, not now.
They're waiting for you to speak.

GOV. STARR
It's everything I feared -- the
riots, the panic. I didn't just
fail to save people, I killed them.

CAROLINE
Uri, pull it together. For God's
sake, you're in your wheelhouse.
I'm telling you, right now, more
than ever, people need to see the
man in charge. Who else can do it?

INT. THE ARK - INFIRMARY - DAY

CLOSE ON -- a video screen. Color bars are replaced by-

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE (VIDEO)
Hello, this is Lt. Gov. Lagrande.
Excuse our technical difficulties --
Gov. Starr will be back with your
shortly. (beat) Four hours remain
until NE-11. Let's use this time
to review preparations...

In the busy Ark infirmary, we find the Marinos too unsettled to watch. They hold hands, fight valiantly against tears -- the day's repressed emotion bursting forth all at once. Medics treat Daniel's laceration. Vivian focuses on-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Macallan in an OPERATING BAY. Medic shakes his head, grim.

BART

The others who were on our bus?

MEDIC

You're the only ones who made it.

Bart and Vivian go silent, a difficult moment.

Staffers enter and set up RESIDENT PROCESSING EQUIPMENT. They scan the Marinos fingers and eyes, collect DNA samples.

ARK STAFFER

ID reconfirmed. Security clearance -- good. Work, school, residential assignment -- all confirmed.

Second staffer injects -- a RFID ID CHIP in Claire's hand.

CLAIRE

Ow! What was that?

ARK STAFFER

Ark ID, ma'am. Security badge and ration counter. Like a debit card.

Bart rubs his daughter's back.

INT. THE ARK - A MOMENT LATER

A RESIDENTIAL BLOCK CAPTAIN escorts the Marinos from the infirmary, through the sprawling shelter.

BLOCK CAPTAIN

Technically I'm your *block captain*, but think of me like a class rep. I run the apartments on level two.

En route to their new home, the Marinos discover:

- A SHOPPING ZONE, like Main Street USA, with storefronts and streetlights -- but stores not yet open.
- The UNDERGROUND PARK, a soaring ARBORETUM, but hardly as depicted in the Ark brochure -- trees are still in crates.

BLOCK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

It'll take another month to plant. I think you know, everything below level five is still being built. (beat) Here's one of our residence types, for VIPs and leadership.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They pass a first RESIDENCE AREA -- a gated section.

Then, a cavern filled with thousands of FEMA TRAILERS.

BLOCK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

This is the 'trailer park.' Don't let the name fool you, those babies are nice. Construction teams ran out of time on apartments and FEMA had no use for fair-weather RVs.

CLAIRE

Are the trailers where we live?

Block captain shakes his head, pulls them to-

INT. THE ARK - MARINOS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Third area -- the APARTMENTS. Long well-lit corridors, and their new home. Only 250 square feet, but cozy -- fit with chic features like fold-out beds and a wall-mounted TV.

BLOCK CAPTAIN

This is home -- the 'apartments.' Each block has 100 families. Your mess hall is down the corridor to the right. Bathroom to the left.

(senses Claire's unease)

Miss, I know conditions seem hard. But we'll grow. It took a million man-hours to build just what you see -- the minimum of what 20,000 people need. Mr. Marino, you worked on our construction, no?

BART

Until a year ago, I was the only electrician here.

BLOCK CAPTAIN

Look, you went through a lot today. Take a moment to settle in. You came without personal effects? I put spare clothes in your locker.

Block captain exits. No one sure what to do. Daniel tries a bed. Vivian puts away her now useless PHONE -- anguished. Claire finds CREW UNIFORMS in otherwise EMPTY closets.

CLAIRE

... we left everything behind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIVIAN

I want to pray. We pray, for
Becky, for everyone back home

Vivian folds her hands, whispers incantations. Family watches with unease. Bart has an idea -- pats his pockets--

BART

Didn't leave *everything* behind. A
gift, from Granny -- almost forgot.
From our tree. Last taste of home.

He reveals -- a small bag of very bruised PLUMS. Kids are instantly moved. Daniel eats hungrily.

BART (CONT'D)

Slowly.

DANIEL

I'm starving.

BART

... *slowly*. These may well be the
last plums in the world.

Daniel pauses -- a lump in his throat. Bart hugs his son, pulls Claire in, reaches for Vivian -- but she shifts back, apparently praying -- clearly suffering.

INT. THE ARK - ARKSEC BARRACKS - DAY

Starr arrives in the Ark's internal security barracks, known as ArkSec ('Ark Security'). Officers, surprised to see him. Starr finds -- his rescuer ROBERT MARS by the lockers, still cleaning Macallan's blood off his uniform. Mars freezes.

GOV. STARR

They say Abraham Lincoln would
sneak from the White House to visit
soldiers during the war. That was
his outlet, his balm. He needed
contact with people like some men
need religion. Officer Mars, I
heard you tried to return for my
security chief. I needed to thank
you. (beat) Until Jim heals, his
deputy is filling in. And I'd like
you -- to be second in command.

(no response)

Don't make me beg.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARS

Sir, I'm sorry, but -- please don't promote me. It's -- not my style.
 (beat) There's one job I *would* do.
 You don't have a protective detail.

GOV. STARR

Bodyguards? No, not since my White House run. *It's -- not my style.*

MARS

Well, if a presidential nominee needs guards, I think the leader of every last human on Earth does too.

INT. THE ARK - SCIENCE CENTER - DAY

Calvin, alone in the science center, scrolls through Reddit.

'1 MILLION PEOPLE AT ST. PETERS BASILICA.'

'RUSSIAN PRES. UNDER POLAR ICE CAP IN SUB.'

'WORD JUST IN. THE ARK IS SEALED. GODSPEED.'

Suddenly, a Skype call -- badly scrambled.

HAWAIIAN SCIENTIST (VIDEO)

Calvin, hello? We're getting video-

CALVIN

What? You're breaking up.

HAWAIIAN SCIENTIST (VIDEO)

From Kepler. NE-11. Her surface.

(Calvin perks up)

Uploading now. Calvin, you gotta see this. It's like nothing I-

Image freezes. Calvin, concerned, calls again -- no answer. He jogs to a console, finds the video downloading, but the connection is so bad that the progress bar reads, '4 HOURS.'

GEN. BRAMINI (O.S.)

Goddamn it!

Calvin hears Bramini, distraught, next door.

INT. THE ARK - COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Calvin finds Bramini, trying to Skype with Leah -- no luck. He pounds the console, troubling rage. And only then sees Calvin. Bramini immediately straightens himself up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GEN. BRAMINI

I was -- I'm bad with computers.

CALVIN

Not the computer. Communication networks are failing.

GEN. BRAMINI

... she stayed at her post. All the way to the end. And my boy-

Bramini pauses, holds back his emotion.

CALVIN

I'm alone too. My team snuck out to spend a minute with families.

GEN. BRAMINI

So go be with your son. He's here, no? That photo at your console.

CALVIN

No, sir. Bee sting, anaphylaxis. Three years ago. No way to help. He was four when he passed. Wife left too. I keep his photo close.

GEN. BRAMINI

I didn't know. I'm sorry. (beat) And yet, you soldier on.

CALVIN

I think it's only because -- I have nothing more to lose.

The men go quiet -- for the moment, they have each other.

INT. THE ARK - RESIDENT MESS HALL - DAY

Marinos join 300 neighbors in their block's MESS HALL -- communal tables, familiar brands at the counter like 'SUBWAY' and 'KFC.' But currently all stands are shuttered.

Instead, the group sits auditorium style to hear block captain's pre-impact briefing. HARD HATS are distributed.

BLOCK CAPTAIN

Helmets are for seismic events. Remember, big concerns are cave-ins and fire. Uncontrolled flames will consume a whole floor's air supply in 90 seconds flat. (beat) Alright, we're gonna hand out boxed meals.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BLOCK CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Last chow before the event. I can take questions. I'm supposed to say something lofty here, but-

Block captain grows emotional. A stranger hugs him. Briefing clearly over -- staff passes out packaged MREs.

Marinos' NEIGHBORS the BROOKS, a young family uncomfortable with open emotion, nod at Bart and Vivian.

NEIGHBOR

Hi. Dr. Brooks. Ark medical team. My wife, Pepper. Ark school now, but formerly at Princeton. That's where we're from. You're...

BART

Bart. From Indiana. Construction.

Neighbor nods with dismissive superiority.

Another neighbor, RAVI ANAND, 29, intercedes.

RAVI

Think they'd at least give us KFC as our last meal. Fast food chains to outlast mankind -- how much are these branding rights, huh?

ARK P.A.

Your attention. Time to impact, one hour. One hour to impact.

The Brooks, anxious about time, excuse themselves.

RAVI

Don't stress over Dr. Brooks. Fact is, everyone here's special. I'm Ravi. Mental health unit. Guess someone thought *overpaid shrinks* would be useful in the new world.

Daniel hungrily eyes the food line. Bart, peeved by Dr. Brooks, nods to Ravi, leads his family to eat. Ravi follows.

RAVI (CONT'D)

Let's be fair. This next year will be all about mood management. Six-day work weeks to keep people engaged. Get your family to the daylight rooms, even fake sunlight helps seasonal affective disorder. And watch your politics.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RAVI (CONT'D)

Certain tension source, worse than at home. Hot button now -- *what if too many women get pregnant*. You know, limited supplies and all.

Vivian frets Ravi's persistence. Bart receives MREs.

BART

Look, Ravi, sorry, but we're just not talkative. We got a daughter.

RAVI

Who didn't make it in. I know. Sometimes talking helps. That's what I'm here for. That's *my job*.

Bart realizes -- *Ravi approached them on purpose*.

Husband and wife nearby start to ARGUE -- not clear why.

RAVI (CONT'D)

We all gotta find new ways to cope. Nowhere private to run anymore. Small things grow big. People tell me they plan to start a new life in the Ark. Truth is, I think all our problems came in with us. Want to create a better world? I say, best start by fixing this one.

When -- commotion at the door. Gov. Starr and staff.

A resident points at the Marinos. Starr heads to Vivian.

GOV. STARR

Mrs. Marino? You're the RN who rescued my security chief? I'm honored to meet you. You're a hero. One of many in this Ark-

Unexpectedly, Vivian cries. Starr, startled, looks to Bart -- then reflexively, Starr empathetically hugs her.

GOV. STARR (CONT'D)

... what can I do?

VIVIAN

I'm sorry, but we aren't heroes. Hiding underground, leaving others behind. My baby, my mom, everyone above who actually has to fight their way through -- that's heroic.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Don't let us forget them. *That's*
what you can do.

Bart takes Vivian into his arms. Starr feels for them both.
Claire and Daniel -- honestly moved by their mother.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - DAY

Starr returns to ArkCon. Personnel strap into their seats.
Room's door is sealed. Countdown clock -- '0 days, 0 hours,
10 minutes.' CCTV images reveal:

- Topside refugee camp, a virtual wasteland -- peaceful
civilians fled, only rioters remain.
- Ark residents move into corridors, brace against walls.
- Fire doors seal, infirmary beds are locked down, the power
plant shifts to safe mode, all lights are dimmed.

INT. THE ARK - APARTMENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Marinos join the crowd of residents in the apartment corridor
-- everyone against the wall. Block captain calls out.

BLOCK CAPTAIN

Hard hats on, electronics off.
Nothing that can create a spark.
No sharp objects, no eyeglasses.

CLAIRE

My God. I don't know when it came.
Must've been before the door shut.

Parents glance over to see -- VOICEMAIL from 'GRANDMA HELEN'
on Claire's cellphone. Vivian springs alert. Claire plays-

HELEN (PHONE)

Claire, it's Granny. I called
every phone. You need to tell your
parents that Becky is-

Silence -- only the FIRST SECONDS downloaded. Vivian, amazed
and horrified, grabs the phone.

VIVIAN

Where's the rest of the message?

Bart stands, thinks quick -- races down the hall.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Bart?

BLOCK CAPTAIN

Marino, where are you going?!

INT. THE ARK - MARINOS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

In their apartment, Bart tears through drawers to find -- his PHONE, turns it on -- no signal, no messages.

He finds Vivian's cell as -- block captain enters, grabs him.

BLOCK CAPTAIN

Mr. Marino, we have minutes left.

BART

Just let me check my phone. Let me say goodbye to my daughter!

INT. THE ARK - APARTMENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Block captain hurries Bart back to his family.

BLOCK CAPTAIN

I'm begging, sir, stay down -- impact is about to happen.

CLAIRE

Dad. Voicemail!

Claire points to Vivian's phone, turning on -- one VOICEMAIL. Bart, surprised. Vivian, ecstatic -- she checks the message.

BECKY (PHONE)

Guys. It's Becky. I'm home.

VIVIAN

Oh my God!
(to residents)
It's my girl.

Sympathetic faces. Vivian plays on SPEAKER for her family.

BECKY (PHONE)

- Mom, Dad, I love you. Danny boy, Claire, you're amazing

HELEN (PHONE)(B.G.)

Vivian, I got her, I'll protect her with my life -- whatever it takes.

BECKY (PHONE)

I'm okay. Dad stocked so much gear. And I met someone. He's gonna help. Oh God, I miss you. I cherish you. I love you so-

Line cuts. Vivian gleeful and devastated at the same time.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANIEL
... but she's still outside.

Vivian nods. Other residents reach to touch the Marinos -- a sense of shared destiny.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

Starr sees -- Brontyn enter ArkCon, whisper to Lagrande. The pair approach a TV airing CNN, only network still going -- their shocked expression says it all.

Starr signals to put CNN on the main screen. **Headline:**

AIR FORCE ONE -- REPORTED CRASHED

'GASPS' echo in the rooms. Staffers stand.

GOV. STARR
Contact NORAD. Get confirmation.

ARK STAFFER
Hearing advisories now. It's real.
No word on survivors. President's
status -- unknown.

BRONTYN
Can't be. So senseless. The
president should've been here.

GOV. STARR
So much should've been different.

'HOOAH' -- final warning klaxon. Starr straps himself into a seat. Everyone in ArkCon braces, including Brontyn, upset.

CCTV images from inside the Ark:

- Strangers reach out to one another, some stare into space.
- Terranauts in silver FIRE SUITS at emergency stations.
- A MAN, leg shaking, wonders if he still has time to pee.

Countdown clock nears zero. Caroline takes Starr's hand.

INT. THE ARK - SHANNON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mosley, in the Ark-Farm office -- locks away HIS PISTOL. He steps out to be with his daughter, but she is not there.

INT. THE ARK - TERRANAUT BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Sfc. Timur tries to calm his baby in the TERRANAUT BARRACKS. Nicolas waves -- they need to move into position.

Timur desperately begins to fashion an *ad hoc* BabyBjorn, when-

Shannon appears at the door -- takes the toddler, and urges Timur to go. It is obvious -- Timur is in love.

INT. THE ARK - APARTMENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Bart pulls Vivian close. Claire takes Daniel under her wing.

ARK P.A.

Impact in three, two, one...

END OF ACT SEVEN

ACT EIGHT**INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - DAY**

Chyron:

IMPACT T-MINUS 10 MINUTES

The countdown clock now counts upwards -- and no impact. On CNN, live video of Beijing, Paris, and Rome -- all intact. On CCTV, residents begin to poke their heads up, confused.

ARK STAFFER

We're at impact plus 10 minutes.

GEN. BRAMINI

What the hell happened? Someone give me an answer. I'm looking at Beijing on the Goddamn TV.

GOV. STARR

... Calvin, did NE-11 miss?

CALVIN

Don't know. Might be a timing error. Standby.

GOV. STARR

Solid data, please.

CALVIN

I'm trying, sir!

ARK STAFFER

Governor, getting a recorded transmission. From -- Fort Irwin.

GOV. STARR

... the president?

ARK STAFFER

No, sir. Vice president.

It goes on speaker.

VICE PRESIDENT (P.A.)

- can only assume that President Julien Armand has passed. Fifteen minutes ago, I asked the chief justice to administer to me the presidential oath of office.

Some 'CRIES' on the far side of the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOV. STARR

Easy, everyone. Let's address issues one at time.

BRONTYN

We need to broadcast an affirmation of the transfer of power.

(Starr waves him to wait)

The nation is on the edge of chaos. Julien Armand might be dead. Let's not confuse who is in charge.

GOV. STARR

Not now, Mr. Brontyn.

BRONTYN

Governor, the asteroid might have missed. The president would've been right, and you and I wrong. Don't make this any worse.

The room is silenced by the open confrontation.

Suddenly -- CNN goes to STATIC. Calvin's Skype calls freeze.

ARK STAFFER

Whoa. Just lost all incoming feed.

GEN. BRAMINI

Get me pictures from outside.

GOV. STARR

Calvin? Impact?

Calvin's team works feverishly -- no answers

GEN. BRAMINI

I need a link to the outside world-

Bramini goes mute. All of ArkCon go pale with fear. Men who stood, rapidly strap themselves in, because on CCTV-

A stratospheric PYROCLASTIC CLOUD barrels over the horizon.

GEN. BRAMINI (CONT'D)

... my God, what is that?

CALVIN

The volcano. It happened.

ARK SCIENTIST

We have impact.

Cloud slams the Ark's topside at supersonic speed-

CCTV lasts long enough to see -- last refugees pulverized.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ARK SCIENTIST (CONT'D)
 Measuring p-waves off-scale. Brace
 -- shockwave! Brace!

I/E. ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Bramini's wife Leah, at the entrance of St. Vincent Hospital, watches in horror as the pyroclastic cloud rockets at them.

A NURSE, a stranger -- squeezes her hand.

EXT. HAWAII'S MAUNA KEA OBSERVATORIES - CONTINUOUS

On an island mountaintop, Hawaiian scientist who spoke with Calvin watches the sky glow red behind NE-11's CONTRAIL.

Staffers run as -- horizon darkens with a mile-high TSUNAMI.

I/E. MARINO HOME - STREET - CONTINUOUS

Becky, outside her family's home with pet coonhound Otis.

HELEN (O.S.)
 Becky, get in here!

But Becky is mesmerized by the approaching volcanic cloud. Someone grabs her -- Benjamin Bramini Jr. They race to Helen in the cellar SHELTER. Benjamin slams the door shut as--

Shock wave hits -- room goes BLACK.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

ArkCon staffer hits the GENERAL ALARM as 'WHAM' -- whole room shifts. The Ark is in a paint mixer. Violent shaking.

ARK STAFFER
 Power station offline! Reactors
 one through five to safety mode!

ARK STAFFER 2
Fire, fire -- zone 4F, by ArkSec.

GEN. BRAMINI
 Seal that room, halon-extinguisher.

ARK STAFFER 2
 I got ArkSec officers inside. Seal the door. BRAMINI

GOV. STARR
 No, stop -- delay that order!

Seen on CCTV -- fire in Ark security traps -- Robert Mars.

INT. THE ARK - ARKSEC BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Throughout the Ark, only Terranauts manage to stay mobile. Nicolas and Timur reach other units fighting the ArkSec FIRE.

TERRANAUT

Three men inside. The fire is by the armory. She's gonna blow!

TOO HOT to enter, but Nicolas tosses Timur an extinguisher and -- Timur leaps into the burning barracks.

INT. THE ARK - APARTMENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Shaking intensifies in the Marinos' corridor. Emergency lights. A steam pipe bursts -- an unseen resident 'SCREAMS.'

Having initially refused Vivian's maudlin request -- Marino kids now grab hands to pray.

CLAIRE

Dear God, help us survive this-

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

Earthquake growing worse -- ArkCon tracks mounting damage.

ARK STAFFER

Steam rupture in the apartments!

GEN. BRAMINI

Stop all climate control.

ARK STAFFER 2

ArkSec fire, spreading to the hall.

On CCTV -- Timur tries to reach Robert Mars. Flames worsen.

GEN. BRAMINI

Governor, door has to close. (beat)
I need that fire contained now.

Caroline grabs Starr. Starr signals aggressively to wait.

INT. THE ARK - ARKSEC BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Nicolas peers into the inferno for Timur -- flames too thick. 'RUMBLE' -- ceiling falls. Other Terranauts RETREAT.

NICOLAS

Where's Timur?

TERRANAUT

Sir, we're pulling back!

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

Starr holds a railing to brave the shaking. On CCTV -- Nicolas, no regard for himself, runs into the fire to help.

ARK STAFFER

Now two Terranauts inside. Fire in the armory -- we're at two-minutes!

GEN. BRAMINI

Sir, I seal that room -- or we lose the whole floor.

CAROLINE

Uri, let him go. You have to.

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE

Governor? Governor, please. (beat)
Sir, what are you waiting for?!

Lagrande, ignored -- looks to Brontyn.

Suddenly SPARKS shoot out of ArkCon's wall -- LIGHTS GO OFF.

Starr closes his eyes -- maybe in prayer. Bramini seems ready to revolt. When-

ARK STAFFER (B.G.)

They're out -- they got them.

Starr's eyes shoot open. On CCTV Nicolas and Timur, Mars and colleagues -- topple to safety. Audible exhales in the room.

GEN. BRAMINI

Seal that door -- activate halon!

INT. THE ARK - ARKSEC BARRACKS - CONTINUOUS

Nicolas, Timur, and Mars gasp for air.

INT. THE ARK - APARTMENT CORRIDOR - A MOMENT LATER

Quaking finally pauses. Bart checks the kids.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

Every time ArkCon staffers try to stand, an aftershock hits.

GOV. STARR

Calvin, talk to me. What hit us?

CALVIN

Everything! Asteroid, volcano...

INT. THE ARK - TRAILER PARK - CONTINUOUS

A despairingly LARGE CAVE-IN at the FEMA trailers. Residents pull away rocks by hand -- search for survivors.

INT. THE ARK - APARTMENT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Shrieks of horror in the Marinos' corridor. Roof is holding.

BLOCK CAPTAIN (B.G.)

I need a doctor. Someone help!

Dr. Brooks -- a pipe impaled his leg. His wife is panicked.

BART

... Viv'?

Vivian, scared but uninjured, rallies herself -- offers aid. Dr. Brooks grips her hand, grateful.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

Controlled chaos in ArkCon.

GEN. BRAMINI

Updates. Damage assessment.

ARK STAFFER

Power team, no leaks. Time to reactor restart unknown.

ARK STAFFER 2

Casualty report. Nine dead. Over 200 injured, and rising.

Starr approaches Lagrande. Bramini watches the exchange.

GOV. STARR

That man in the fire saved my life. You'd have locked them in, Treat?

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE

To save 20,000 others -- with respect, sir, that's your duty.

GOV. STARR

They *all* survived because I waited.

LT. GOV. LAGRANDE

You didn't know that would happen.

Starr feels the precariousness of the moment, eyes the CCTV:

- Residents cry in fear -- no one sure what to do.

- Pandemonium at the infirmary, many victims carried in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Starr, in deep contemplation, looks to his wife.

GOV. STARR
... comm, activate video P.A.
General announcement.

CAROLINE
You're not addressing residents now-

Starr waves her quiet -- Caroline pulls him aside.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
This isn't over. Manage the crisis
-- comfort them later.

GOV. STARR
I can't do one without the other.

CAROLINE
Your next appearance is scheduled,
first thing tomorrow.

GOV. STARR
Caroline, stop -- stop it now. I
have faced many painful choices.
Whether or not to guide my people
in their darkest moment, isn't one
of them. I got this.

Starr sits at the console. 'CHIME' -- he appears Ark-wide.

GOV. STARR (CONT'D)
(into the P.A.)
Hello, this is Uri Starr. Continue
your efforts -- but hear my voice-

Starr pauses -- Caroline watches him search for his words.

CAROLINE
(whispers to staffer)
Cut the feed.

GOV. STARR
(before staffer can act)
- I talk now even as rescuers save
lives and Terranauts fight fires.
Here is what you need to know...

INT. THE ARK - CONTINUOUS

We catch moments throughout the Ark:

- Residents and rescuers pause to listen, even in chaos.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

- Vivian gets Dr. Brooks to the infirmary, then joins the medical team. Crying patients strain to hear Starr.

GOV. STARR (VIDEO)

The asteroid struck. The volcano blew. But we're still here. Our ship is afloat. And it's now up to us whether we reach safe harbor. Work together, help those next to you -- we will get through.

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

In ArkCon, Brontyn and Lagrande on full alert. Caroline stares fearfully at the empty Teleprompter.

GOV. STARR

... there's a reason every faith speaks of *hell* underground-
(Caroline steps forward)
Our situation looks bleak. We left so much behind -- neighbors, homes, whole lives. If I could've wrapped it up, brought the world with us, I would have. Instead we start today saddled with regrets. The things we could've done better. The guilt of survival. If you feel a burden now too great to bear, believe me, we all do. But I tell you, giving up is no longer an option.

Elon arrives in ArkCon, Caroline sees him. It takes a moment but they let their guard down -- and hug. Starr, pleased.

Starr sees Calvin holding his SON'S PHOTO. Then Bramini -- pulls out a PHOTO of his family. Starr swallows emotion.

GOV. STARR (CONT'D)

Here's what we must do. It'll be hard, but it's the one road I know. Pick the values and things we hold dear, recommit, and start again.

INT. THE ARK - MARINOS' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Bart gets his children back to their apartment. They shed tears as Claire stows her phone with Becky's message.

GOV. STARR (VIDEO)

We can't return to the past to atone. Can't ask for forgiveness from those we once harmed.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GOV. STARR (VIDEO) (CONT'D)

But we can move *forward*, vow not to repeat mistakes, dig deep in our souls -- and become the people we always hoped to. We can get off the paths walked too many times before.

(with conviction)

From this moment on, we live with a purpose -- we choose the fate of every generation to come. It is a journey bigger than any one person. An opportunity filled with as much promise as that of the Pilgrims, the pioneers, or even Adam and Eve. Will you strive with me? Will you follow me onto unseen shores?

INT. THE ARK - ARKCON - CONTINUOUS

All of ArkCon is on their feet engaged, watching Starr with mounting respect. Caroline and even Brontyn seem moved.

GOV. STARR

Our old world is over. The new one, we build *together*. Flames will be doused, limbs straightened, and broken hearts crying for lives lost will mend. And if we succeed, if we reach for the light, we can climb to the surface and reclaim our *Earth*. Residents of the Ark, Godspeed. I ask, as your grateful and humble leader, let's make it back to daylight. Fight with me -- and I'll get you home.

END OF ACT EIGHT

TAG**INT. THE ARK - SCIENCE CENTER - NIGHT**

Calvin, half-asleep at a console. Staff in ArkCon pared back -- but still busy with emergencies.

ARK SCIENTIST

Sir, gonna try for some shut eye.

Ark scientist takes leave -- science center empty. Calvin gets up, finds cold coffee, puts on his glasses-

Notices on a computer, a VIDEO playing on repeat:

KEPLER VIDEO -- DOWNLOADED

SURFACE OF NE-11 -- 4 HOURS PRIOR TO IMPACT

CALVIN

Oh crap, when did this come-

Coffee falls from Calvin's hand.

He sees -- TELESCOPIC IMAGERY of NE-11's surface.

It looks nothing like we would have imagined -- nothing that could exist in nature. The asteroid resembles a mighty, living CIRCUIT BOARD. Its surface -- moves. Reconfigures itself like a game of Tetris, but at indescribable speed.

This supposed body of ice and rock -- *looks like a MACHINE.*

INT. THE ARK - MARINOS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Dark room. Claire, in bed in the Marino apartment -- awake.

She takes her coat, keeps an eye on sleeping parents, and pulls from a hidden pocket -- her last MARIJUANA JOINT.

INT. THE ARK - CONSTRUCTION ZONE - A MOMENT LATER

Rescuers and Terranauts still work busily as Claire sneaks to-

Lower-level, unused CONSTRUCTION ZONE. Past the barrier, she takes a seat by an UNFINISHED ROCK WALL. Readies her joint, pats her coat for matches.

CLAIRE

Oh, dang it.

No matches or lighter. Thwarted, puts her head in her knees.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

'WHAM' -- Claire bolts up, hears something, sees nothing.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
... hello? I'm leaving. So sorry.

'WHRR' -- a mechanical groan from the wall in front of her.

Claire, confused, backs away, when -- unfinished wall begins to move. Individual sand grains -- dance. Particles move unnaturally, against gravity, to form striking arrangements.

The wall begins to resemble -- NE-11'S CIRCUIT BOARD SURFACE.

Claire, disturbed but captivated, slowly reaches out-

'KA-BAM' -- wall plunges inward. Clair topples back.

A SHAFT now extends impossibly deep into the wall, as though hollowed out in an instant by a giant, invisible drill.

'WHRR' -- same mechanical sound, now louder. A light inside.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Someone? What's happening?

Claire gets back on her feet, from where she can see-

Deep in the shaft, in the cave wall -- a distant MACHINE. Huge throbbing pistons, like a massive spectral locomotive.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
Help me, someone please-

'WHAM' -- shaft clamps shut -- DUST shoots outward. Claire spins back, ducks to protect herself, screams, and-

Silence. No motion. Wall behind Claire is -- immaculate.

Claire sprints out of the construction zone, pauses in the stairway, gasps for breath.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)
What kind of shelter is this?

END OF EPISODE