

#18

ARK II

"THE CRYOGENIC MAN"

PROLOGUE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SHANTY TOWN - ARK II 1

A number of the Inhabitants are gathered around the Ark, murmuring and gesticulating. The clam shell door is open and a thick power line leads out of it and into a ramshackle building. From the murmurs of the crowd, and their attitude, it is apparent that something is going on. We HEAR:

JONAH'S VOICE

Ark Two log. Entry sixty-seven.
We are now in the community of Poolsville, hoping to achieve a miracle of science...

2 INT. ARK LAB 2

where Jonah is speaking into the audio unit. Samuel is working dials and buttons on the computer. Adam is also busy at a board. The power line is plugged into one of the boards.

JONAH *

We are about to revive two people who were preserved in a cryogenic capsule some five hundred years ago. At that time medical science was unable to cure their illness. For us it will be a wonderful opportunity to see what people of the twentieth century were like.

(to Samuel)

Ready, Samuel?

SAMUEL *

Yeah, but I'm worried about the equipment. It could all blow.

JONAH *

We'll have to chance it.

3 OMIT

3

4 ANOTHER ANGLE 4

Jonah punches a button on the audio.

JONAH

Ruth?

RUTH'S VOICE

(filter)

Ready, Jonah.

Jonah exits.

5 EXT. CRYOGENIC HUT 5

A building that is open on one side. Villagers, dressed mostly in rags, have gathered, curious. MOVE IN as Ruth clicks off her wrist teleradio, turns to the equipment, readying some kind of medical instrument. The power cable is lying on the floor, leading to two clear-plastic capsules. Finished inspecting the instrument, Ruth goes to capsules, inspects them. Alongside one of the capsules is the small atomic unit that powered them. CAMERA MOVES in on a plastic name tag attached to one of the capsules. It reads "Arnold Pool...1930 - 1986.

RUTH

SHOOTING OVER her shoulder. Both capsules are frosted over from the cold inside of them. We can make out a figure lying in each of them. A hand moves INTO FRAME, drops onto Ruth's shoulder. She starts, turns.

RUTH AND JONAH

Ruth smiles with relief. Jonah's wrist teleradio begins to BEEP. He presses it.

SAMUEL'S VOICE

(filter)

Ready to start temperature rise, Jonah

JONAH

Go.

6 INT. ARK LAB 6

as Samuel presses a few buttons, twists some switches.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED

6

SAMUEL

Adam. Lower the temperature resistor three points.

Adam obeys. CAMERA MOVES IN on the digital readout as the machinery begins to whine and the digital computer begins to change numbers rapidly.

7 EXT. CRYOGENIC HUT

7

The machinery's WHINE is heard here too. Lights begin to flash on the small atomic unit. PULL BACK TO INCLUDE Jonah and Ruth.

JONAH

You're sure you'll be able to restore them?

RUTH

I think so. I've got all the necessary medication ready.

Suddenly there is a flash from the atomic unit, a puff of smoke, and its lights go out.

JONAH

(into wrist)

Samuel, the capsule's atomic power unit just shorted out.

8 INT. ARK LAB - DIGITAL READ-OUT

8

Numbers mounting fast. A red warning light starts flashing. Samuel reacts.

SAMUEL

I know. It's shorting my number three mode. I gotta switch off.

9 EXT. CRYOGENIC HUT

9

RUTH

Samuel, we need sixteen seconds more to reach body temperature.

CAMERA IN CLOSE on a flashing light on Ruth's machinery.

WIDEN ANGLE

TO INCLUDE the capsules. They're no longer frosted. The figure in each--a man--is clearly visible. One of the figure--ARNIE POOL-- is holding a metal box that rests on his stomach.

10 INTERCUT: CLOSEUPS: RUTH/SAMUEL/JONAH 10

SAMUEL
(scared)
We can't do it, Ruth. Jonah
we're taking a big chance.
The whole Ark could blow!

RUTH
Ten seconds.

JONAH
We'll take the chance,
Samuel.

RUTH
Nine...eight...seven.

11 INT. ARK LAB - DIGITAL READOUT 11

Red warning light is flashing, the board vibrating.

RUTH'S VOICE
(filter)
Six...five...

SAMUEL
(with Ruth)
Six...five...

CAMERA PANS to Samuel. He's sweating.

FADE OUT

END OF PROLOGUE

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

12 INT. ARK LAB

12

CLOSE ON the digital read-out, then PULL BACK TO INCLUDE Samuel. He's desperate now. The board is glowing.

SAMUEL

Four...three...two....
one...

RUTH'S VOICE

(filter)

Four...three...two....
one...

Samuel has his hand on the proper switch. He and Ruth hit "Zero!" at the same time and he throws the switch. He breathes a sigh of relief as the WHINE begins to die, wipes his brow and slumps against the board.

13 EXT. CRYOGENIC HUT

13

Ruth and Jonah, Ruth ready with her equipment. They stare at the capsules, listening to the sound of an ELECTRONIC SERIES OF CLICKS, like safe tumblers. The CLICKS cease, and the capsules automatically open with an accompanying WHEEZE of air. Ruth is ready with medical equipment.

ANOTHER ANGLE

as Ruth moves to Arnie Pool and begins to make a series of passes over him with her equipment. Like the other man, he's dressed circa 1976.

RUTH

Metabolic medication--on full.
Illness cured. Await respiration.

JONAH

(turning switch)

Metabolic medication-- on
full.

They wait. After a few beats Pool's closed eyes begin to move. His eyelids flutter. He takes a deep breath.

RUTH

Respiration complete.

(excited)

Ready for the next one.

They move to the second man, NORMAN FUNK and start to repeat the process. We STAY with Arnie while

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

they're doing so. He sits up, and as his senses return to him, we see him go from confusion to self-awareness, a tough self-made man, he's Archie Bunker as a successful businessman. During his awakening:

RUTH

Metabolic medication-- on full. Await respiration.

JONAH

(turning switch)

Metabolic medication-- on full.

Norman's eyelids flutter. He takes a deep breath. Ruth straightens in satisfaction.

RUTH

Respiration complete.

Samuel and Adam enter. Adam leaps up beside Pool. Pool pulls back, clutching the metal box.

POOL

Good grief-- the world's been taken over by apes!

ADAM

I'm a chimp.

POOL

(gulps hard)

And they talk yet!

Pool shuts his eyes tight. Jonah laughs and shakes his head. Pool dares to open one eye, sees Jonah.

POOL

(suspiciously)

My name's Pool, Arnie Pool. Who are you?

JONAH

Jonah, Commander of the Ark Two. You just met Adam. This is Ruth. Samuel.

POOL

How come you don't dress like normal people?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED - (2) :

13

JONAH

This is the twenty-fifth century, Mr. Pool. We're scientists.

POOL

The twenty-fifth century! Well I'll be a monkey's uncle.

ADAM

taken aback. He shakes his head.

ADAM

Never. Too ugly.

*

14 OMIT

14

15 EXT. SHANTY TOWN - POOL

15

holding the metal box. Aghast is not the word for his expression. His mouth is hanging open. He's in shock. PULL BACK to include Jonah, Samuel, Ruth and Adam, then further BACK to include the villagers. They stare at him, a bedraggled mass of humanity.

*

POOL

Where'd it go-- the houses,
the stores, the sidewalks,
everything...What happened?

JONAH

(gently)

Pollution, overpopulation,
wars. I'm sorry, Mr. Pool.

Pool's shock doesn't last long. His native optimism takes over.

POOL

Then we'll rebuild--make it
the way it was before. Right,
Norman?

*

NORMAN

Right, Mr. Pool.

POOL

Who's in charge here?

JEB, a tall gaunt man, steps forward, extends a hand.

JEB

I am. My name is Jeb.

POOL

Pool. Arnie Pool. This
here's Norman. What are
you, Jeb-- Democrat or
Republican?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

Jeb doesn't understand. He looks at the other villagers. They shrug. Jonah smiles. *

JONAH

You'll have to excuse us,
Mr. Pool. We have work to
do.

POOL

Sure sure-- gawhead.
(as crew leaves)
Listen, Jeb, I don't care
what y'are. I got a job
for ya, for alla ya. I
wanna build me a big house.

Jonah, Ruth and Adam move off. Pool opens the metal box. It's loaded with stacks of money. Pool digs his hands in the stacks and starts waving them at everyone. *

POOL

I'm payin' ten bucks an hour to
any honest workman.
(a long pause)
Awright-- twenny, money's no
object when it comes to Pool.

The silence is heavy. The villagers stare.
Pool throws a packet in the air. The bills flutter
down and a couple of people pick them up to look at
them curiously. But they're not really interested.
Pool is devastated. *

POOL

This is a sick bunch. They don't
know what money is! *

16 EXT. ARK II

16

CLOSE ON the rear door as it opens and the Roamer comes moving down. PULL BACK to show Samuel, his hand on his utility belt. The Roamer stops and Samuel presses a button on the belt. The Ark door closes. Samuel gets in the Roamer, Adam with him. During this:

JONAH *

You're gonna have to cover a lot of ground before you find the best growing area. How long you think it'll take to collect all those soil samples?

SAMUEL

Few hours maybe.

JONAH

See you soon.

Samuel drives off. Jonah heads for the door of the Ark.

17 EXT. VILLAGE

17 *

where Pool and Norman are sitting at a crude table. Jeb is preparing some food. He puts it down in front of the two men.

POOL *

What's that?

THE PLATE

a few scrawny vegetables on it, including five battered-looking peas.

POOL *

Who'd you grow 'em for--midgets?

(CONTINUED)

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

JEB

We've had bad harvests lately.
That's why we've asked those
scientists to test the soil
while they're here.

Pool suddenly comes alive.

POOL

Soil problems! Now you're talkin'
my language. Norman, whattaya think?
Ya think if we maybe looked around
where the old factory used to be...?

Norman is uncertain.

18 EXT. FACTORY - CLOSE ON PLASTIC CAN OF "POOL'S PLANT
POWER" 18 *

The can is half-buried in the rotted wood floor,
but the label is discernible.

POOL'S VOICE

Whammo! Pool's Plant Power!! P.P.P. *

CAMERA PULLS BACK as Pool, Jeb and Norman watching,
unearths the can and brushes it off. The factory
itself is in ruins. Pool shows the can to Jeb.

19 EXT. FACTORY

19

The villagers are grouped around Pool who is putting
seeds in the ground. Norman holds a watering can. As
Pool addresses them, Jonah and Ruth appear to observe
the proceedings. Pool suits actions to words.

POOL *

Now m'friends, I'm gonna show you
the way we did it in the old days.
Put in lettuce seeds...add P.P.P.
Add water...

Norman sprinkles the ground.

20 SERIES OF SLOW CROSS DISSOLVES - EARTH & SEEDS

20

Lettuce head forms and grows, and grows, and grows
until it becomes large, rich and full.

21 ANOTHER ANGLE

21

as the crowd and Jonah and Ruth react.

POOL

Just another fantastic pro-
duct Pool chemicals was
developing when-- my time came.

RUTH

How safe are the chemicals
involved?

POOL

Safe as baby powder, girlie.

NORMAN

That's not completely tr...

POOL

(glaring)

Norman!

(a BEAT)

I already put together the machinery
in there. I'm ready to go into
production.

(to Jonah)

How about letting me use some power from
that big buggy of yours.

JONAH

We'll run some tests. If that
stuff is safe, you'll have yourself
a power supply.

~~He takes the can from Pool, then he and Ruth move~~
off. Pool scowls, exchanges a look with Norman.

(CONTINUED)

22 EXT. VILLAGE - TIGHT SHOT 22

Adam is shoveling a soil sample into a small can.

SAMUEL

Good job, Adam. One more sample
and we'll head back for the village.

He closes the can and gets up.

23 OMIT 23

24 EXT. FACTORY 24

where Pool is in the center of the villagers.
He's holding a head of cabbage, waving it for
emphasis.

POOL

I'm asking you to think--what
if them people tell us they
won't give us the power?

JEB

They're scientists, they should
know--

POOL

They're bureaucrats. Always
lookin' to tell you what you
can't do. They don't care.
They'll take the food right outta
your mouth. You wanna starve?

He looks around. Everyone shakes their head.

POOL

Then leave it to me. I know how
to deal with bureaucrats.

24A INT. ARK LAB

24A *

where Ruth is completing a chemical analysis of Pool's Plant Power. The can is in evidence.

RUTH

We're going to have to tell Mr. Pool he can't manufacture this stuff. It's poisonous.

JONAH

That won't make him happy.

RUTH

I'm sure when I explain he'll understand.

Jonah makes a face that indicates Ruth is more hopeful than he is. Ruth exits lab.

25 EXT. FACTORY

as Ruth approaches Pool and the villagers.

RUTH

Mr. Pool, I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but you can't make that stuff.

Pool looks around at everyone as though to say 'What did I tell you?' They surround Ruth.

POOL

Is that right?

RUTH

It's a very toxic chemical.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

Pool, like a maestro, points a finger to someone O.S.

26 ANOTHER ANGLE 26

Norman and the other villagers are surrounding her.

POOL

We had a feeling you were
gonna tell us that, girlie.

He starts to move towards her. She backs off. The
other villagers close in on her also. She reaches
for her Brite-Lite, but someone grabs her hand.

27 INT. ARK LAB 27

We HEAR the BEEP BEEP of the telecom. Jonah moves
to the audio.

SAMUEL'S VOICE

(filter)

Samuel to Ark Two. Samuel to
Ark Two. Come in, Ark Two.

JONAH

(pressing a button)

How you doing, Samuel?

SAMUEL'S VOICE

Just about done and on my way
home.

Jonah clicks off the receiver and a moment later we
HEAR Pool's voice. *

POOL'S VOICE

Hey, Commander, you better come quick.
Something happened to your friend,
Ruth. *

Jonah reacts. He hurries out. *

28 EXT. CRYOGENIC HUT

28

as Jonah and Pool approach. Jeb and others are blocking the entrance. They make way for Jonah.

*

29 HIS POV - RUTH

29

lying in one of the capsules. It's frosted over.

30 ANOTHER ANGLE

30

as Jonah reacts, then turns when he HEARS:

POOL'S VOICE

Hey, Commander!

HIS POV - POOL

His hand is behind his back. He whips it forward. He's holding Ruth's Brite-Lite. He turns it on and the screen is filled with light.

POOL'S VOICE

Okay, grab 'im!

(CONTINUED)

31 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - MATCH CUT 31

Light glints off the dashboard of the Roamer, which is moving. Samuel punches a button.

SAMUEL

Ark Roamer to Ark Two.
Ark Roamer to Ark Two.
Come in Ark Two....

32 INT. ARK LAB 32

deserted.

SAMUEL'S VOICE

Ark Roamer to Ark Two. Hey,
how about it?

33 EXT. HUT - CLOSE ON CRYOGENIC CAPSULE 33

It's frosted over. Jonah is inside. PULL BACK to include Pool, Norman, Jeb and villagers.

POOL

That's it, kiddies. That's
gonna keep 'em on ice for
a while...!

As he has a good laugh:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

34 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - ARK ROAMER - MOVING 34

Samuel at the wheel, Adam alongside.

SAMUEL

(into telecom)

Ark Roamer to Ark Two.

Ark Roamer to Ark Two....

Jonah? Ruth?

(a long BEAT)

Adam, I don't like it.

ANOTHER ANGLE - THE ROAMER

as it picks up speed and races back towards Poolsville.

35 EXT. FACTORY 35 *

The Ark II parked nearby. A second cable now runs from the Ark to the factory. Lots of villagers mill about.

36

The cable from the Ark II is attached to a huge vat. Pool throws the switch. The equipment begins to hum. The vat bubbles and burps. Pool smiles with satisfaction. Jeb stays to watch.

37

36 ANGLE Norman and Pool step aside. *

POOL

Take a look around for that kid and the monkey.

NORMAN

I still think that what we did to those people...

POOL

Yeah?

Unhappy, Norman starts to say something, but changes his mind. Pool heads back to the factory. Norman wanders off.

37 OMIT 37 *
38 NORMAN 38

Still in sight of the Ark, he is rounding the corner of a shack. He stops, reacting to:

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

HIS POV - ADAM

sitting in the Roamer and, since he's draped over the back of a seat, apparently relaxed.

ANOTHER ANGLE

as Norman steals up to him, clears his throat. Norman has obviously never addressed a chimpanzee on equal terms.

NORMAN

Um uh, uh, excuse me. Uh, is your friend around?

Adam nods.

NORMAN

You're very bright for a--
Can you tell me where he is?

ADAM

gives him a huge grin, makes a sound resembling a laugh, then points.

ANOTHER ANGLE

as Norman wheels around to confront an angry:

SAMUEL

SAMUEL

What's going on here, Norman?

Norman backs off a little.

NORMAN

I'll give you a break. Just beat it for a few hours until we're done and I'll forget I saw you.

NORMAN

We're manufacturing Pool's Plant Power. It's a product Mr. Pool invented and --

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: SAMUEL (cutting in) 38
Where's Ruth and Jonah!

NORMAN
In trouble for the moment.

SAMUEL *
In trouble!

Samuel stares at him long and hard, then:

SAMUEL
Norman, did you know that
they risked their lives for
you and Pool?

NORMAN
Risked their lives?

SAMUEL
Yeah. When we revived you
we were afraid everything was
going to blow up. We could
have shut down and saved our
skins, but we didn't.

NORMAN
Why?

SAMUEL
'Cause you're people. We care
about people.

POOL (O.S.) *
Norman!

Samuel, Norman and Adam look in Pool's direction.

39 ANGLE - FACTORY - POOL AND SOME VILLAGERS - THEIR POV 39 *
heading towards Samuel, Adam and Norman.

40 BACK TO SHOT 40

NORMAN
(Sotto voce)
Run! Or you're done for.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

Samuel and Adam take heed. They run like mad.

POOL

Stop them! Don't let 'em
get away!

The villagers take off after them. Pool joins Norman.

41 EXT. FACTORY

41

where Jeb is still at the vat. It's not only bubbling
and burping now, but it's gulping and belching and
making other terrible sounds. Some of the stuff inside
begins to leak out. Jeb runs out.

42 ANGLE - POOL AND NORMAN

42

POOL

You're a big help, lemme
tell you.

NORMAN

(concerned)

'Mr. Pool. I think we had
better have a talk.

POOL

Later, Norman, later.

NORMAN

No, Mr. Pool. Right now!
Did you know that those young
people saved our lives at the
risk of their own?

POOL

Norman, what's the point?

NORMAN

The point is that they're
neither bureaucrats nor
dummies. They--

POOL

Now see here, Norman, I will
not tolerate disloyalty.

NORMAN

I have followed your orders
for many years--

POOL

Norman, either follow 'em
now or get out.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

NORMAN

You don't mean that.

Pool regrets his words, but he can't back off.

POOL

I do.

Norman's lip is almost quivering. He turns and walks off. The villagers who had been chasing Samuel and Adam return. Before they can say anything, Pool waves a hand that indicates he's not interested in hearing excuses.

POOL

I know, I know. They got away. Forget 'em. They can't hurt us.

Jeb comes rushing up.

JEB

Mr. Pool, you'd better come quick. Something's gone wrong. That machinery is making awful sounds.

POOL

Jeb, relax. Machinery's makin' a lotta noise?

43 ANGLE - FACTORY

43 *

CLOSE ON a master switch, Pool's hand holding it.
PULL BACK to include a confident Pool, and Jeb.

POOL

No problem. We just throw the master switch and shut down for repairs. See?

He throws the switch as we PAN to the still bubbling vat.

ANOTHER ANGLE

as the two men wait for the noise to stop. It doesn't. Pool shows the beginnings of concern.

44 EXT. VILLAGE

44

as Norman moves along, shoulders slumped. He perks up at an O.S. WHISTLE, looks off.

45 NORMAN'S POV - SAMUEL AND ADAM 45

peering out from behind another shack.

46 ANOTHER ANGLE - FAVORING NORMAN 46

He looks around to see if anyone is watching, sees he is unobserved and hurries to Samuel and Adam.

47 ANOTHER ANGLE - SAMUEL AND ADAM 47

as Norman joins them.

SAMUEL

Now will you tell me where
Jonah and Ruth are?

NORMAN

As his former employee, I
still owe Mr. Pool loyalty.

SAMUEL

(frantic)

Norman, you haven't worked
for him in five hundred years!

NORMAN

You know something-- you're
absolutely right.

48 EXT. FACTORY - CLOSE ON SWITCH 48 *

as Pool opens and closes it. PULL BACK to show
him and Jeb side by side. Pool is horrified.

POOL

Must be a chemical chain
reaction. I can't stop it!

A stream of green vapor spews out of the vat. Jeb
starts to run. Pool grabs him.

POOL

No! We gotta open the
pressure release valve:

Beginning to cough, he moves toward a valve wheel.

49 ANGLE 49

People are beginning to drift over to the factory
moving away from the Ark.

50 EXT. CRYOGENIC HUT - JONAH 50

inside the frozen capsule. PAN to Ruth, also encapsulated, then PULL BACK to show Samuel and Adam staring. Norman stands to the side, wringing his hands.

NORMAN

I'm so sorry...

SAMUEL

Adam, get up to the Ark fast. Turn on the power lead to this cable, then when I tell you throw the temperature control.

Adam starts out.

51 EXT. FACTORY - JEB AND POOL 51 *

trying to get closer to the valve as a jet of green vapor spews out from the vat. *

Jeb and Pool make it to the valve, a large wheel-like affair. They struggle to turn it, but can't. Coughing, Jeb moves away.

POOL

Come on back here!

But Jeb can't take it. He keeps going.

52 ANGLE 52 *

as Jeb stumbles, coughing. The people gather around him, worried.

53 INT. ARK LAB - DIGITAL READOUT 53 *

The red warning light is flashing the whine of machinery as loud as it was when Samuel was handling this control in the Prologue. PULL BACK to show Adam watching the glowing board. We HEAR: *

SAMUEL'S VOICE

(filter)

Nine...eight...seven...

ADAM

Danger, Samuel.

SAMUEL'S VOICE

I know, Adam. Five...four...three...

54 EXT. CRYOGENIC HUT 54

where the WHINE continues over, Samuel watching over the instruments tensely. Norman is scared.

SAMUEL

...two...one..Zero! Switch off, Adam!

The WHINE dies.

55 EXT. FACTORY 55 *

as Adam comes out of the Ark. Green vapor is enveloping the factory area.

56 EXT. CRYOGENIC HUT 56

Adam runs toward it. The villagers pay no attention to him; they're preoccupied with what's going on at the vat.

57 EXT. CRYOGENIC HUT 57 *

as Adam rushes in. Jonah and Ruth are in the same position as when we last saw them. The ELECTRONIC TUMBLERS are CLICKING. Clicking stops, and CAPSULES WHEEZE open.

SAMUEL

Jonah! Ruth!

A pause, then suddenly both Jonah and Ruth's eyelids flutter. Then their eyes open. They're awake. Samuel breathes a sigh of relief. Before anyone can say anything Adam comes running in.

ADAM

Jonah, trouble topside!

Jonah gets up, a little unsteady.

58 EXT. FACTORY 58 *

as the Ark crew and Norman come running up to it. Jeb and a number of villagers are standing around, coughing. The Ark crew also starts to cough from the green mist that hangs in the air.

JONAH

All of you-- clear out of here. Run as far as you can!
(to Jeb)
Where's Pool?

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

Jeb points to the factory then takes off with the rest of the villagers. Norman heads for the factory entrance, but Jonah stops him. *

JONAH

I'll get him. Get away from here! It's too dangerous!

He gives Norman a gentle shove and Norman takes off.

JONAH

Gas masks!

The crew heads for the Ark.

59 EXT. FACTORY - POOL

59 *

struggling with the wheel of a valve, coughing. It won't move. Jonah enters wearing a gas mask, reaches Pool just as Pool is ready to keel over. He helps him out, Pool offering no resistance.

60 ANGLE

60

as Jonah struggles out with Pool and they move toward Adam who is waiting with resuscitation equipment. Adam also wears a gas mask.

61 INT. ARK LAB

61

The clam shell door is open. Ruth and Samuel are wearing gas masks. A cannister is on the floor, a hose from one of the boards connected to it. Samuel is working on a readout, Ruth working dials and buttons in response to what he says.

SAMUEL

Fifteen parts anhydrous plant protein. Point zero one parts arsenic, one part plant growth hormone. That's it.

Ruth hits some more dials and buttons. When she hits the last one the hose leading to the cannister jerks a little and we hear the rush of air. The cannister is being filled. Jonah enters, moves quickly towards a cabinet. *

RUTH

We'll have a neutralizer ready in a moment, Jonah. *

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

Jonah removes what he's looking for-- the laser gun.

JONAH

Good work. There's a leak in the vat.
I'm hoping the laser can seal it.

The rush of air stops and the hose on the cannister droops.

RUTH

Neutralizing gas ready.

Samuel moves to it, detaches the hose. He and Ruth grab a handle on each side of it.

Jonah goes out, Ruth and Samuel after him.

62 EXT. FACTORY

62

as the Ark crew exits the Ark, Samuel and Ruth toting the cannister, Jonah carrying the laser. They dash past Adam, who is sitting beside a prone Pool administering oxygen to him.

63 ANGLE

63

Jonah approaches the vat, which is really spewing out stuff with a vengeance now.

He turns the laser on, adjusts it, then aims it at the rent. Just then the vat begins to RUMBLE. The SCREEN shakes.

64 ANGLE - POOL

64

opening his eyes to see a sight that makes him shudder and AD LIB a sound of horror.

POOL'S POV - ADAM

wearing a gas mask. If you weren't Pool, you'd think he was cute.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: 64

ANOTHER ANGLE - POOL AND ADAM

As Pool realizes it's the chimp and makes a sound of disgust with his own show of fear.

ADAM

Put on gas mask.

Adam hands him a mask. Pool takes it, puts it on.

POOL

I know. I know.

There is a RUMBLING SOUND and again the SCREEN shakes. Pool almost loses his balance. He looks up to see:

65 SAMUEL AND RUTH - POOL'S POV 65

spraying the neutralizing gas into the air. *

POOL'S VOICE

Get out of here! Get out!
That vat's gonna blow! *

66 ANOTHER ANGLE 66

Pool dashes to the vat where Jonah is training the laser on the rent. He's got part of it welded, but there's more to go. The RUMBLE comes again and the SCREEN shakes. Pool comes over. He has to yell above the noise of the laser, the escaping gas, etc. *

POOL

You gotta get outta here!

JONAH

Thanks for telling me!

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

POOL

I mean it. This place is gonna go sky-high if you seal that!

JONAH

Not if I can help it! There's a pressure release valve there.

POOL

It's stuck!

JONAH

I'll unstick it! Get outta here!

66A THE RENT IN THE VAT finally closed

66A

66B ANOTHER ANGLE

66B

Jonah turns off the laser. Pool is in a panic. The RUMBLE is getting worse. As Jonah moves to the pressure release wheel, Pool heads away. Then he pauses, turns around, looks at Jonah, wrestling with himself. The better part of him wins out and he strides over to Jonah, grabs the wheel. As they struggle to turn it:

JONAH

What's in it for you, Pool?

POOL

Whattaya mean?

JONAH

Helping your fellow man. Since when are you worrying about someone else?

POOL

Aw shut up!

The wheel moves a little, the two men grunting and straining. It moves a little more...a little more. A rush of air begins, more and more until the rush of air is deafening. Pool puts a hand on Jonah's shoulder and shouts something to him that's inaudible. The rush of air lessens enough for us to hear Jonah's shout.

JONAH

What'd you say!

Pool shouts his answer, but the shout is unnecessary. Silence overtakes him in mid-sentence.

POOL

I SAID YOU'RE QUITE A GUY!
(during silence)

for a bureaucrat

66 CONTINUED - (2)

66

Jonah pats him on the shoulder and they walk out together.

67 EXT. SHANTY TOWN - ARK

67

The whole village and the Ark crew are gathered near it, Pool and Norman also. Jeb shakes Jonah's hand.

JEB

I want to thank you for everything you've done.

JONAH

Forget it. I gather from what Samuel said that you'll be able to solve your soil problem... It was good meeting you, Mr. Pool.

POOL

(tough as ever)

If I was you that's the last thing I'd be saying. But you got class, buddy. Alla you got class... I'll tell you somethin' else. I got -

(patting Norman)

I mean my partner and I got - big plans for this place, big plans. Only this time I'm not gonna make the same mistake. This time I'm gonna consider the, uh, the uh...

(snaps a finger)

Norman!

NORMAN

The ecology.

POOL

Ecology-- right! Howzzat grab ya?

JONAH

I hear you.

They shake hands. MOVE IN on them, then:

ARK EMBLEM

START CLOSE ON it, then PULL BACK as the Ark begins to move, the villagers waving as it leaves the village.

We HEAR:

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

JONAH'S VOICE

Ark Two log. Entry sixty-
eight. The people of Poolsville
learned a lot from this incident.
And so did we...

68 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - ARK II - MOVING-

68

JONAH'S VOICE

...that if we're not careful we
can make the same mistakes over
and over again. Or we can learn
and we can grow-- and we don't
need a miracle chemical to do it.

As the Ark moves off:

FADE OUT.

THE END