

The Minefield
Written by Jason Huwer
jhuwer@gmail.com
Art by Kelly Williams

PAGE 1

PANEL 1

Make this a long, rectangular panel across the top of the page.

An extremely large spaceship flies above a planet firing small, metallic cylinders toward the surface. An invading fleet of small, transport vessels surround the larger, command ship. I want this panel to be epic in scale. I look at it as an opening space battle from Star Wars. The major spacecraft should resemble a Super Star-Destroyer in scale compared to the smaller transport shuttles. I want to give the reader the impression that these transports emerge from the larger craft.

1. CAPTION: High above Utrame. Then.
2. RICHTER VOICE OVER (VO): Today marks the twelfth anniversary of the invasion that decimated our planet.
3. CREDITS

PANEL 2

Cut to the planet's surface. A man stands in front of his small cottage staring at the sky. He looks at the metallic cylinders as they rip through the upper atmosphere emitting a fiery glow. He lives in a small farmhouse. If you can, show the farmland in the background of this panel.

4. RICHTER VO: On that day, the Dimonaze launched their mines destroying our farmland.
5. RICHTER VO: Without even touching our land, they made our planet virtually uninhabitable.

PANEL 3

The man panics as the cylinders begin hitting the ground around his house. They burrow under the surface destroying the farmland. The mines should be shown in various stages. Some can be in the ground while others are still heading toward the surface. It should look like a hailstorm has been unleashed on the planet.

6. RICHTER VO: People would eventually flee the planet hoping to start over.

PANEL 4

This is another long, rectangular panel.

Cut to the space battle. Rebel ships have engaged the invading fleet. The large, command ship fires at the smaller attackers. These smaller ships are targeting the command ship. The bulk of the force is there, but a few of the other ships need to engage the transport shuttles.

7. RICHTER VO: The planet paid a large price considering the rebels stopped the invaders before their ships broke through our atmosphere.

PANEL 5

The large, command ship is on fire. It is crashing toward the surface of the planet. Around it, some of the smaller transports burn as they descend on the planet below.

8. RICHTER VO: The only hope we have to survive is to scavenge the shipwrecks and sell whatever we find to the highest bidder.

PAGE 2

Note: I envision this family to be human or humanoid in form. Feel free to design them any way you see fit, but don't stray too far from an Earthling's appearance.

PANEL 1

A family sits around a table eating breakfast. The mother rocks her baby feeding the child from a bottle. RICHTER, the father, leans back crossing his legs under the table with an empty plate on the table in front of him. SENDY, an eight year old girl, carefully drinks from her cup. HARKIN, an eleven year old boy, rapidly shovels his food in his mouth.

1. RICHTER: And today, we are going to do what nobody has attempted.
2. RICHTER: We're going to navigate the biggest minefield and go inside the command ship.
3. RICHTER: That's where the Dimonaze's most valuable technology waits.
4. CAPTION: The planet Utrame. Now.

PANEL 2

Harkin stares wide-eyed at his father with a mouthful of food and crumbs scattered around his mouth. He is spitting food as he talks.

5. HARKIN: 'ice eptalk ad.

PANEL 3

Still holding her daughter, the mother runs her fingers through Harkin's hair.

6. MOTHER: Don't talk with your mouthful, sweetheart.

PANEL 4

Harkin sits on the floor pulling his muddy boots on while Sendy tosses a backpack over her shoulder. The mother stands next to Richter allowing him to kiss the baby on the forehead before they leave.

7. MOTHER: Don't let anything happen to our precious children.
8. RICHTER: After today, we will finally be able to leave this godforsaken planet.
9. HARKIN: Don't sweat it, Mom. We do this all the time.
10. HARKIN: Besides, Lord Harkin the Second's new trick will make this easy peasy.

PANEL 5

Sendy pets the PET BEAR on the side of its head. Richter sits in the floating wagon that is attached to the bear's back. His hands rest on a joystick. Harkin jumps into the flat bed of the wagon impatiently waiting for his sister to get in the cart. Various tools and empty, metallic bags are laying in the bed of the wagon. The bear is wearing a helmet similar to the mask worn by the dinosaurs in the Dino-Riders cartoon. This allows Richter to control the wild animal from the joystick on the wagon. The harness rests on the animals back wrapping around the side of the enormous creature. It doesn't wrap all the way around the bear's belly. It is attached with a magnetic device that configures to the animal's skin.

11. SENDY: I can't believe we let him name you.

12. HARKIN: Let's go, slowpoke.

13. RICHTER: Don't rush, Sendy. She loves that bear.

PAGE 3

PANEL 1

This is a wide rectangular panel.

We see the wreck from the main ship that crashed back on PAGE 1. The wreck should look like a cross between the Ark crash from Transformers G! and the sunken Titanic. It needs to be massive in scale. Richter and his children are pulling up to the wreck. They stopped next to a sign that reads; WARNING MINEFIELD. Richter has a pair of binoculars held up to his eyes. Harkin pushes his sister in an attempt to annoy her. There is a significant amount of land to cover between the bear and the shipwreck. A few craters from some exploded mines are spread across the field. You can also see a few bones from the people who blew up when the mines were set off.

1. CAPTION: The Dimonaze crash site.
2. HARKIN (add music notes around the dialogue): You've got those bear necessities ...
3. RICHTER: Enough singing, Harkin. We're at the minefield.
4. SENDY: It's time to focus and get serious. Right, Dad?

PANEL 2

Pull back to a mysterious person covered in a fabric poncho and cloth mask. His outfit resembles something a person might wear when they are exploring a desert. In this mysterious man's hand, is a long, spear that doubles as a gun. The weapon is similar to the long rifles used during the American Revolution. This man, KRAKEN, peers around the side of a mountainside. He watches Richter remove the helmet off the bear's head.

5. KRAKEN: They can't be that foolish?

PANEL 3

Tight on Richter who is nuzzling the bears head with his cheek. He whispers into the animals ear.

6. RICHTER: It's your turn, old friend.
7. RICHTER: Those little mutts take good care of you and they're everything to me.
8. RICHTER: My family's fate rests in your ... paws. I guess.
9. RICHTER: Let's do this.

PANEL 4

The bear sniffs at the ground. Richter congratulates the animal on a job well done. In the back of the wagon, Harkin and Sendy sit at attention.

10. RICHTER: Nice! At this rate, we'll be home for supper.
11. KRAKEN (off panel): They trained the bear?

PANEL 5

Pull back to Kraken. He emerges from his hiding spot with about 5 people that are armed in a similar way to him. They all watch as the bear scoops a mine out of the ground. Richter and his family are about halfway through the field toward the ship. In the back of the wagon Sendy carefully places one of the retrieved mines in a bag in the back of the wagon. If Richter continues to follow his current path, he will arrive at a giant hole that was blasted in the side of the ship during the space battle.

12. KRAKEN: It looks like our patience paid off.

13. KRAKEN: Troops. Mount up.

PAGE 4

PANEL 1

Harkin emerges from the giant hole we saw on PAGE 3 PANEL 5. He is pulling a mini, levitating wagon an electric tether behind him. The wagon contains weapons and computer parts that were just salvaged from the ship. A laser blast hits the wall of the ship, barely missing Harkin.

1. HARKIN: Sendy! This is the last of it.
2. HARKIN: Dad'll be out ...
3. SFX: pew

PANEL 2

Richter stands over his son holding one of the guns from his son's wagon, which is knocked over spilling the contents on the ground. Harkin is crouched behind the wagon in fetal position.

4. RICHTER: GET DOWN, BOY!!!
5. RICHTER: I wont let this band of poachers hurt you.

PANEL 3

Sendy is in the wagon with the bear. The bear panics from the blaster fire that is flying through the air around him. He begins to move. Sendy throws one of the salvaged mines from the back of the wagon.

6. BEAR: ROOOAAAARRRRR!!!!
7. SENDY: This'll slow those idiots down.
8. SFX (spread throughout the panel): pew pew pew

PANEL 4

The bear begins to turn around pulling Sendy and the cart. Sendy is reaching for the joystick. Blaster fire is streaming across the panel from both Richter and Kraken. The mine she threw explodes in the background.

9. SENDY: Woah there. If I can reach the control panel...
10. SENDY: Oh, no. Your helmet ...
11. SFX (spread throughout the panel): pew pew pew pew
12. SFX (by the explosion): BOOM!

PANEL 5

Tight on the bear's foot as he steps on a mine.

13. SENDY (off panel): DON'T STEP OFF THE PATH!

PAENL 6

The bear blows up sending Sendy in the air. She flies away from the explosion remaining unharmed.

14. SFX: BRAKATHOOM

PAGE 5

PANEL 1

Sendy stands in shock staring at her father. Richter dropped his gun, which lies next to his feet. As he walks away from the ship, he yells at the attackers who are off panel. Harkin has not moved from his protected position. All firing has stopped.

1. RICHTER: HOLD YOUR FIRE!
2. RICHTER: SENDY! DON'T MOVE!

PANEL 2

We are looking at Richter from just over Kraken's shoulder. He yells a set of demands as Richter walks toward his daughter.

3. KRAKEN: Nobody needs to die, here.
4. KRAKEN: Give us the booty and you walk away.
5. RICHTER: I just need to get my, daughter.

PANEL 3

Richter cradles his daughter in his arm. Below his foot, an antenna emerges from the ground.

6. RICHTER (whispering); It's okay, my sweet. I promised your mother you'd make it home.
7. SFX: beep beep beep

PANEL 4

Sendy flies toward the remains of the bear while Richter explodes from the mine. His torso needs to be turned because he just threw his daughter away from the mine.

8. SFX: BOOM!

PANEL 5

Sendy and Harkin drag the wagon filled with their treasure to Kraken.

9. HARKIN: Here.
10. KRAKEN: If he had listened to us before firing...
11. KRAKEN: It was only a warning shot ...

PANEL 6

Kraken runs his fingers through Harkin's hair similar to the way his mother did on PAGE 2 PANEL 3. Sendy looks at Kraken with daggers in her eyes. I want the reader to get the unspoken impression that Sendy will find Kraken when she gets older and kill him.

12. KRAKEN: Such a loving fool.
13. KRAKEN: Take one thing and go before I change my mind.

PANEL 7

This is a small, rectangular panel on the lower right side of panel 6. Pull in tight on Sedy's eyes pointing out the unspoken vow of revenge.

NO CAPTION