

*The following is an excerpt from the Winds of Numa Sera **Graphic Novel Script** written by Morgan Rosenblum, which as you can see serves as a clear road map to direct the artist on exactly what to illustrate on each page.*

PAGE 4

Large $\frac{2}{3}$ splash PANEL 1 with two inset panel

Large main panel:

We're on the top of a hill overlooking the Hillgren township and it's fort (which is under attack) in the far distance. In the foreground atop the hill, we see the backs of Iddy and one of his bannermen on horseback, as they oversee the battle from a far. We are not meant to get a clear idea of how big Iddy's army is (yet) , as the rest of his men are out of frame behind them.

Iddy and his bannerman are having a conversation with one another as they look on the battle from a far.

IDDY

I'm tired of Father sending me to do the Empress' dirty work. Meanwhile my sister gets to drink and mingle with the nobles.

BANNERMAN

Yes, my lord.

Inset panel 1

Reverse shot, from their torsos up - to show them from the front/angle so we can see their faces closely. We still don't want to reveal their army behind them yet.

Iddy is complaining about his father while the other bannerman's attention is squarely on the battle.

IDDY

It's like we were born in the wrong bodies.

BANNERMAN

Yes, my lord.

IDDY

What I wouldn't give to trade places with her right now.

BANNERMAN

Yes, my lord.

Inset panel 2

A variation of the above shot, but with different facial expressions. Iddy is now realizing that the bannerman isn't listening to him, and decides to stop complaining and nonchalantly turns his attention back to the battle.

IDDY

I see that your focus is elsewhere. How goes our assault?

PAGE 5
(7 Panels)

Panel 1

EXT. FORT HILLGREN - DAY

Medium low angle shot of the outside of the Fort - The outside walls are bristling with arrows. We see that the fort has been refortified, with long sharp wooden spears now protruding from the base of the perimeter wall at a 45 degree angle, making it nearly impossible to charge the walls without getting skewered. We can see part of a dead knight's body in frame.

Panel 2

Pull out to a wide shot of the fort - revealing numerous dead Dena Valean (DV) soldiers (both cavalry and infantry) outside the fort, pinned to the ground by spears.

There are still some DV cavalry and infantry anxiously moving around the perimeter walls of the fort looking for a weakness or a way in.

Note that the fort is at the center of a small farming village, so the only way to get to the fort is to go through the village, but it was essentially burned to the ground several days ago by the Siaan De'e when they first raided this settlement. A total of about 50 DV knights (consisting of both Cavalry and Infantry) were sent in the first wave attack on the fort. About 30 of them are dead already to this point - we don't need to show all of them dead, but just wanted to give you an idea for context.

Panel 3

Suddenly, we see wheels spin violently through the mud.

Panel 4

Pull out to see a group (6-10) of DV foot soldiers running at full speed pushing a large wheeled battering ram towards the fort's main doors.

Panel 5

But before the battering ram can make contact with the blockaded fort doors, a dozen Siaan De'e pop up at the top of the archer's balcony and sling spears down upon them.

Panel 6

The DV soldiers are impaled by a storm of spears from above - one of the spears lands through the wheel - forcing the ram to topple over --

Panel 7

it slides across the blood-soaked mud and comes to a full stop in front of the fort doors (and towards camera)

PAGE 6
(8 Panels)

Panel 1

INT. FORT HILLGREN - ARCHER'S BALCONY - MOMENTS LATER

Now we cut to inside the fort, where we see that Feisja, Sjorsja, and several other Siaan De'e are taking cover atop the perimeter wall, holding shields and spears.

Panel 2

BBBRRRRGGGGHGHHHHHHHHH

-- a horn is sounded from outside of the village, where we see the rest of the Dena Valean Army waits at attention on a grassy knoll.

Panel 3 (*perhaps this could be combined into panel 2?*)

Feisja peers over the top of the fort wall to see the remaining DV soldiers of the first wave are retreating back to their knoll to rejoin the rest of their army .

Panel 4

He turns to Sjorsja with adrenaline and pride.

FEISJA

You see that baby brother!? They're retreating!

Panel 5

He now stands up and addresses all of the Siaan De'e (23 in total) who we see are all sheltering around the interior top shelf of the fort wall.

FEISJA

They're fucking retreating! Ha Ha!

They lost too many men in the first wave and now they know they can't get in here!

Panel 6

JUNDRA

And we didn't lose a single Siaan De'e!

FEISJA

I told you they are no match for us even with their numbers!

Panel 7

He pounds on his chest and lets out a beastly roar.

FEISJA

AWOOOOHHHH!!!

Panel 8

The other Sian De'e all stand up and pound their chests --

ALL SIAAN DE'E

AWWOOOOOOHHH! AWWOOOOOOHHHH!

(7 Panels)

Panel 1

We cut all the way across the landscape to the remaining Dena Valean army on the grassy knoll. It's still a decent sized battalion. Maybe 100 soldiers still remain, compared to the 23 Siaan De'e at the fort.

We see Iddy (the Baron's son) atop his horse staring out at the Fort - he can hear them chanting and celebrating in the distance, as the DV stragglers (8-12) that retreated from the fort rejoin them.

Iddy turns to his bannerman beside him and speaks very casually.

IDDY

Well it looks like we're *not* taking the fort back.
I guess the Empress will simply have to build a *new* one.
BURN it to the ground.

Panel 2

The bannerman raises a banner that is emblazoned with a flaming arrowhead.

Panel 3

A troop of archers push forward through the phalanx, as we see a foot soldier at the front of the line carrying a torch.

Panel 4

IDDY

Draw!

The archers with their flaming arrows all pull back their bows and aim them towards the sky.

Panel 5

Cut back to Feisja's perspective from atop the fort. They're still chanting and celebrating.

Panel 6

Sjorsja stares off to the knoll and sees what looks like a row of fireflies.

Panel 7

He turns back to his people and yells --

SJORSJA
Shields!

PAGE 8
(6 Panels)

Panel 1

Cut back to Iddy and the DV army. Iddy's hand is held high -- He chops his arm down in a powerful motion-- as we see the archers behind him release their arrows.

IDDY
Loose!

Panel 2

A hundred burning arrows pierce the sky.

Panel 3

Cut back over to inside the fort.

TING TING DINK TING DINK

The Siaan De'e have their shields covering them, as the arrows deflect off their metal. But most of the arrows were not intended for the warriors in the fort - but rather the fort itself.

Panel 4

FFFTTTT FFFTTTTTT FFFFFFFT FFFTT FFFTT

The arrows stick in the wood of the fort, and their flames ignite fires that quickly spread and grow.

Panel 5 - big panel

wide shot of the inside of the fort, where everyone is frantically trying to put out the fires.

VISHKA
They're trying to smoke us out!

FEISJA
Put out the fires!

They throw buckets of water at the fire, but the fire is way too big at this point.

Horses inside the fort stables are neighing in fright.

Panel 6

JUNDRA
Cough -- the fire's too strong! Cough Cough--!

VISHKA
If we leave the fort, we're like sheep to the slaughter!

PAGE 9
(6 Panels)

Panel 1

They all look to Feisja for direction. He is panicked, unsure.

FEISJA
I... we should... uh... --

Panel 2

The flames and smoke begin to consume the fort. Everyone is frozen and panicked now.

Panel 3

Sjorsja who has now mounted a horse, commands the attention of his people--

SJORSJA
They want to fight us **face to face?! So be it!**

"If all who live were born to die..."

Panel 4

Jundra is inspired --

JUNDRA
“I’ll show no fear and tell no lie...”

Panel 5

SJORSJA
“I’ll make my fate and take what’s mine...”

Panel 6

All of the siaan de’e come together in a mighty roar --

ALL SIAAN DE’E
“And greet the Gods when it’s my time!”
