

Mine

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A stalwart and lovesick mining robot, B-M1N3, writes a passionate letter to its loved one, a charging robot named HU6-M3, who awaits it back home about the dangers it faces on the frontier in its quest to return home with a precious fuel crystal. B-M1N3 makes its way across the barren frontier to the mine, where it enters and bravely descends towards the depths in search of a crystal. It emerges with a crystal, but a low battery and attempts to make its way back to the city before it runs out of juice. It runs out of energy short of its goal, but is rescued by a towing robot and finally reunited with its loved one, and its battery and heart are full again.

Lettering note: All of the dialogue in this story is part of a letter, written by B-M1N3 to HU6-M3.

Page 1

Panel 1

A large panel featuring an establishing shot of a large dome city on an otherwise desolate planet. The dome glows bright green and is filled with lush foliage and tall buildings with a solarpunk aesthetic. In contrast, the area surrounding the planet is dark and arid, devoid of anything but rocky formations. A small mining robot named B-M1N3 is exiting the city, casting a long shadow onto the rocky ground ahead.

1. B-M1N3:

My beloved, without whom I have neither light nor life,

Panel 2

Close-up of B-M1N3 with the dome city now somewhat distant in the background. We see B-M1N3's battery meter is fully charged.

2. B-M1N3:

It seems to me an epoch has passed since I last felt the enervating glow of your embrace.

Panel 3

The dome city is now just a faint green glow as B-M1N3 continues on into the dark, desolate terrain that surrounds the city, leaving a trail of treads in his wake.

3. B-M1N3:

The lingering remains of that night we spent enveloped in each other's arms

Panel 4

The glow of the dome is no longer visible, but a small mine entrance now appears ahead of B-M1N3 at the top of a hill.

4. B-M1N3:

are all that propel me forward across this desolate valley, searching desperately for a way back to you.

Page 2

Panel 1

B-M1N3 arrives at the mine, and enters.

1. B-M1N3:

Life is hard, rest is scarce, and joy is but a memory out here on this lonely frontier, and thus I do not take for granted those fleeting moments we spent together.

Panel 2

We see another robot coming towards us in the opposite direction, triumphantly carrying a bright fuel crystal.

2. B-M1N3:

As I do not wish for your family to consider me a deadcell, I will continue my toil out here in these mines until I have obtained something to show for myself.

Panel 3

Other robots gawk jealously as the robot with the crystal passes them, faces lit up by the bright glow of the crystal in otherwise dimly lit mine.

3. B-M1N3:

If all goes according to my intentions, I shall return with quite the prize in my hands, and consequently I trust they will not stand in the way of our reunion.

Page 3

Panel 1

B-M1N3 travels deeper into the mine, passing a pile of debris with broken robot pieces sticking out of it.

1. B-M1N3:

I would be remiss were I to tell you that my labors out here are without peril.

Panel 2

B-M1N3 finds an open site next to an open chasm and begins chipping away at the rock wall.

2. B-M1N3:

The dangers in these mines grow steadily as we dig deeper and closer to that which lies below.

Panel 3

As it digs, a crack forms, splitting all the way to the ground.

3. SFX:

CRACK

Panel 4

The crack runs almost underneath it and the ground gives way, falling into the chasm, which glows a blazing orange. B-M1N3 totters on the precipice, just barely avoiding falling in.

5. B-M1N3:

I could not look you square in the eyes and assure you that my time here has been with nary a close call.

Panel 5

However, the crack reveals a bright fuel crystal, even larger than the one we saw the other robot carrying earlier.

6. B-M1N3:

Nonetheless, I know how invaluable the fruits of our efforts are to the good folk back home.

Page 4

Panel 1

B-M1N3 heads towards the exit of the mine, prize in tow, but several robots surround the exit menacingly.

1. B-M1N3:

For them and above all, for you, my dearest, I face these dangers willingly.

Panel 2

B-M1N3 tries to push through them, but is dogpiled on by the mob.

2. B-M1N3:

Though they press on me from all sides,

Panel 3

B-M1N3 is hit, knocking it onto its side off of its treads just outside the entrance to the mine, but holds on tightly to the crystal.

1. SFX:

BANG

5. B-M1N3:

I shall not return to you empty handed.

Panel 4

B-M1N3 is hit again, and starts to tumble down the hill away from the mine.

1. SFX:

WHACK

5. B-M1N3:

I may not be the same one I was when I left you so many cycles ago.

Panel 5

The mob chases after B-M1N3 as it tries to run from them. A storm can be seen brewing on the horizon, wind sweeping dust off the ground.

5. B-M1N3:

This journey continues to wear me down.

Panel 6

The mob halts at the edge of the storm as B-M1N3 continues onward into the storm. The visibility gets worse and worse the further we get into the storm. We see that B-M1N3's battery meter is low.

5. B-M1N3:

Both my body and my heart ache mightily

Panel 7

B-M1N3 continues into the heart of the storm, strong winds pelting it with pebbles swept up off the planet surface.

5. B-M1N3:

after such a time and distance away,

Panel 8

Close up on B-M1N3 in the darkness, battery meter now empty. Its eyes are shut and it is hugging the fuel crystal tightly. However, in the distance we can see a small dull green glow from the dome city—it's not too far from home!

5. B-M1N3:

but one way or another, I will find my way back to you.

Page 5

Panel 1

A large splash panel shows B-M1N3 back in the city, wrapped up in the loving arms/tentacles of HU6-M3, a charging robot. A towing robot labeled RS-Q stands nearby, happy to have been of service in rescuing B-M1N3 after its battery went completely dead. B-M1N3 is awake again, battery indicator shows that it is charging and the two of them are smitten and overjoyed to be together again.