



The Treehouse

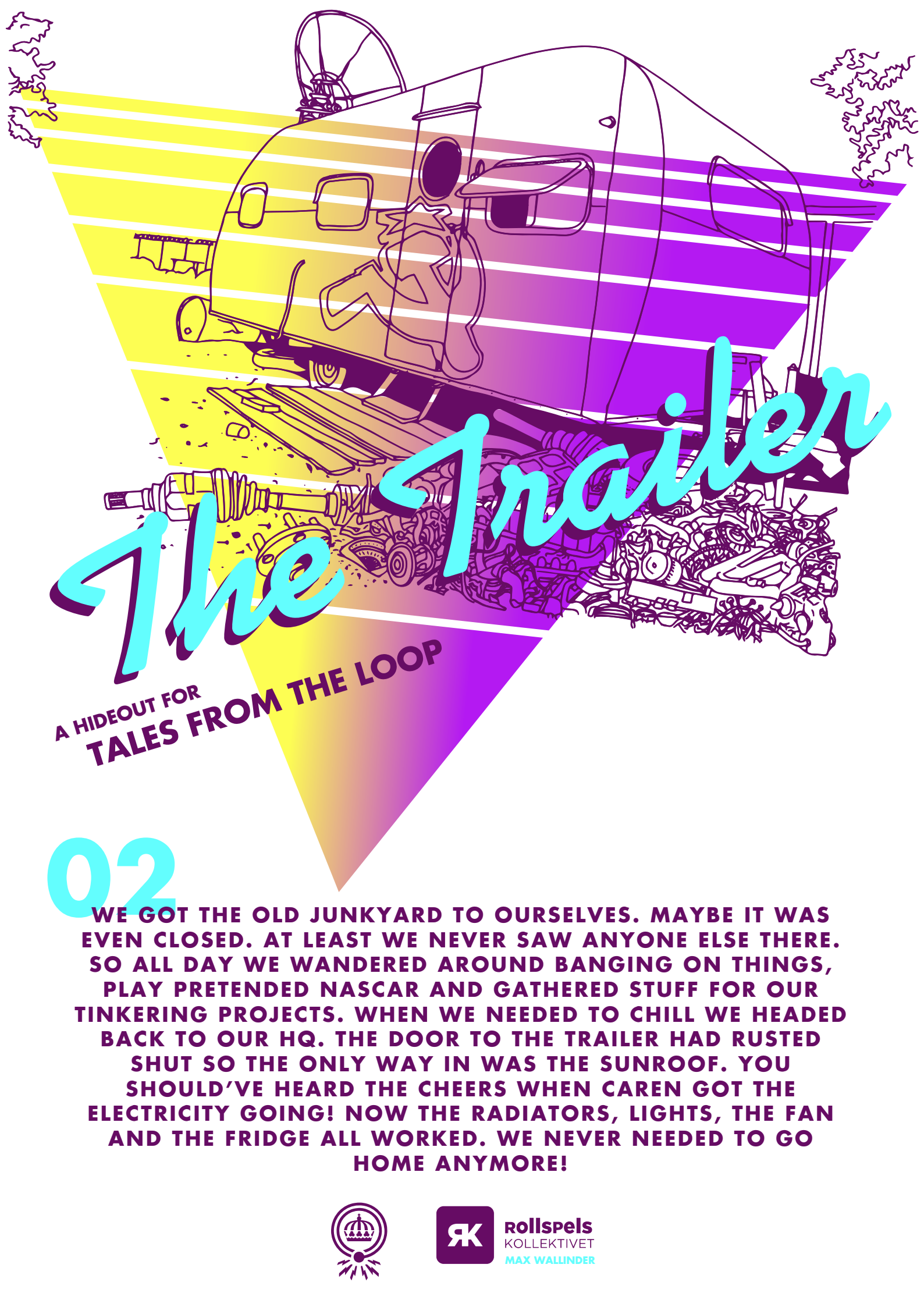
A HIDEOUT FOR
TALES FROM THE LOOP

01

FINISHED AT LAST! THE AMOUNT OF WORK WE PUT IN! COOPERATED, FOUGHT, COMFORTED EACH OTHER AND CRIED. IT MIGHT NOT LOOK A LOT TO THE WORLD BUT IT'S A SECOND HOME TO US AND WE BUILT IT ON OUR OWN. THE TICKLING FEELING OF PRIDE CLIMBING THAT LADDER THAT NEVER SEEMS TO END BURSTS WHEN LEANING AGAINST THE RAILING LOOKING OUT INTO THE FOREST. AND WHEN WE CLOSE THE DOOR, TURN THE FLASHLIGHTS ON AND WRAP OUR BLANKETS AROUND US, IT'S LIKE WE'RE IN ANOTHER WORLD - A WORLD WE CREATED OURSELVES.



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The Trailer


A HIDEOUT FOR
TALES FROM THE LOOP

02

WE GOT THE OLD JUNKYARD TO OURSELVES. MAYBE IT WAS EVEN CLOSED. AT LEAST WE NEVER SAW ANYONE ELSE THERE. SO ALL DAY WE WANDERED AROUND BANGING ON THINGS, PLAY PRETENDED NASCAR AND GATHERED STUFF FOR OUR TINKERING PROJECTS. WHEN WE NEEDED TO CHILL WE HEADED BACK TO OUR HQ. THE DOOR TO THE TRAILER HAD RUSTED SHUT SO THE ONLY WAY IN WAS THE SUNROOF. YOU SHOULD'VE HEARD THE CHEERS WHEN CAREN GOT THE ELECTRICITY GOING! NOW THE RADIATORS, LIGHTS, THE FAN AND THE FRIDGE ALL WORKED. WE NEVER NEEDED TO GO HOME ANYMORE!



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The Abandoned House

A HIDEOUT FOR

TALES FROM THE LOOP

03

IT JUST STOOD WAITING FOR US THERE AT THE EDGE OF THE WOODS. THE DRY FLOOR BOARDS CREAKED ECHOING AGAINST THE BARE WALLS. THE HOUSE SMELLED MORE OF THE WOODS THAN OF AN OLD CABIN. IT HAD RETURNED TO NATURE. CARLA IMMEDIATELY STARTED TO FANTASIZING ABOUT WHY IT HAD BEEN ABANDONED. IT WAS BUILT ON A GRAVEYARD AND WAS HAUNTED. A RANGER HUNG HIMSELF BECAUSE OF A BROKEN HEART. A WOMAN KILLED HER KIDS WHO ENDED UP IN AN ORPHANAGE WHILE SHE WENT TO PRISON. WE TOLD EACH OTHER STORIES ABOUT IT ALL SUMMER.



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A HIDEOUT FOR
TALES FROM THE LOOP

04

I GUESS NOBODY SAID IT OUT LOUD BUT EVERYONE KNEW. FROM THE DAY WE FOUND THE ECHO SPHERE UNDER THE BRIDGE, WE KNEW. IT WASN'T THAT WEIRD, REALLY. WE WERE THERE EVERY DAY ALL THE TIME. SOMEONE STARTED BY BRINGING SOMETHING TO SIT ON. THEN SOMEBODY BROUGHT SOMETHING TO USE AS A TABLE. AND THEN JUST MORE AND MORE STUFF. OUR PATCHED REFUGE GREW ORGANICALLY IN THE SHADOW OF THE ECHO SPHERE. IT WAS NEVER FINISHED BUT WAS BUILT ON ALL THE TIME. LAYER UPON LAYER. OUR PAPIER MÂCHÉ HOME.





The Storm Drain Pipe

A HIDEOUT FOR
TALES FROM THE LOOP

05

IT MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST OF PLACES. WELL ACTUALLY IT'S QUITE BAD. THE PIPE IS ROUNDED SO NOTHING STANDS EVEN, IT'S DAMP AND OFTEN THERE'S A TRICKLE OF WATER ON THE FLOOR. BUT THE ROBOTS! NOT ONLY DO THEY HAVE THEIR ROUTE EXACTLY OVER THE STORM DRAIN PIPE. IT'S ALSO A LOOKOUT SPOT FOR THEM. THEY CAN STAND THERE FOR HOURS. WHEN THE ROBOTS WALK THE WHOLE GROUND VIBRATES, DUST SHAKES DOWN FROM THE CEILING AND BENJAMIN WALKS OUT COZ HE'S SURE THE WHOLE PIPE'S GONNA CRASH DOWN. THEY'RE CALLED BALANCED MACHINES BUT THEY'RE MORE LIKE MECHANICAL DOGS. SUPER SWEET.



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