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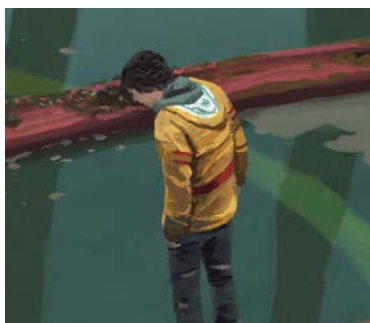
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RIKSENERGI



WELCOME TO THE LOOP

The landscape was full of machines and scrap metal connected to the facility in one way or another. Always present on the horizon were the colossal cooling towers of the Bona Reactor, with their green obstruction lights. If you put your ear to the ground, you could hear the heartbeat of the Loop – the purring of the Gravitron, the central piece of engineering magic that was the focus of the Loop's experiments.



It was the middle of summer, and my little sister, Klara, had tried to follow me and my friend around for weeks. Her best friend was out of town and my mother tried, without much success, to arouse my sympathy. I had always taken care of Klara, not only because of her hearing impairment, but because there has always been something fragile about her, as if she can be easily damaged or broken. However, this summer had awakened the desire in me to ride as far away as possible on my bike, and to do things on my own. When Klara suddenly disappeared, guilt hit me like a blow to the stomach, and I remembered she had talked about meeting a new friend called Bettan.

We found them on the other side of the strait; I still don't know how they managed to cross. We crept toward them through the tall grass as the wind tore at the pines. A woodpecker could be heard in the distance. Klara sat on a stone and leaned forward to place a daisy chain on the head of a runaway robot, her new friend "Bettan." I signaled to my friends to keep quiet and snuck around to the other side. When I looked back, Bettan was staring at me, its eyes narrowing to tiny black dots as it took my sister in its arms.