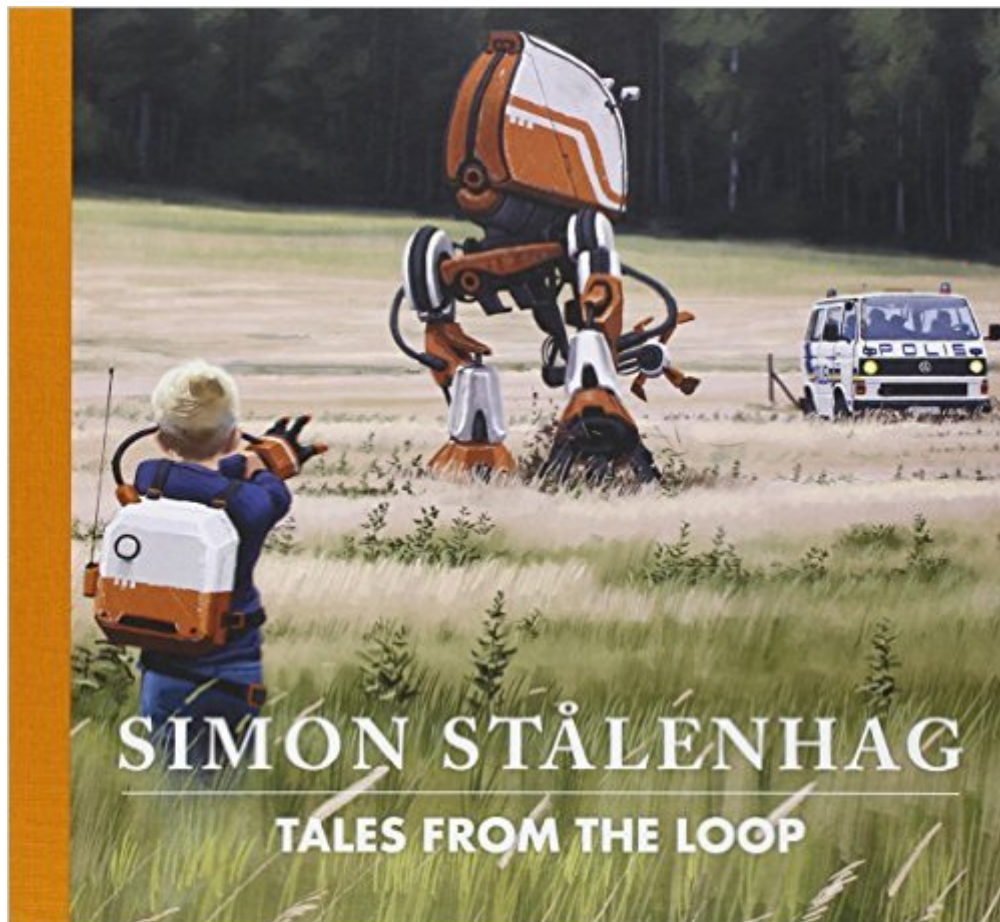


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Tales From The Loop



Synopsis

Simon Ståhlén's Tales from the Loop is a wildly successful crowd-funded project that takes viewers on a surprising sci-fi journey through various country and city landscapes •from small towns in Sweden and the deserts of Nevada to the bitter chill of Siberia•where children explore and engage with abandoned robots, vehicles, and machinery large and small, while dinosaurs and other creatures wander our roads and fields. Ståhlén's paintings and stories take place in an alternate version of Sweden in the 1980s and 1990s, primarily in the countryside of Mälaren, a string of islands just west of Stockholm, and how this reality came about: the development of the Loop, a large particle accelerator and the side effects of the massive project. These incredibly captivating works and accompanying text capture perhaps a not-too-distant reality that is both haunting and imminent: addressing the many ways developing technology and nature can create havoc and wonder in our world •plus, its impact on the next generation. This is the English edition of the first book in Swedish that sold out in its initial printing.

Book Information

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Product Dimensions: 11.2 x 0.8 x 10.1 inches

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (24 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #40,180 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Arts & Photography > Other Media > Conceptual #721 in Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Science Fiction > Post-Apocalyptic

Customer Reviews

• To see more pictures from the book, please visit my blog via my profile link. Initially conceived as a 2 volume kickstarter art book project, Simon Ståhlén's Tales from the Loop is a mesmerizing sci-fi journey that takes the viewer through various desolate country and city landscapes inhabited by abandoned robots, machinery and giant mecha. Ståhlén combines his stunning eye for pleasing aesthetics and apt application of visual tricks like atmospheric perspective, depth of field and subtle rim lighting to create highly cinematic images that really draw

viewer in. And I love his taste for mecha and machinery. The 2 volume kickstarter set was a little out of my price range, so I'm really glad this general release is now available and I wasted little time picking it up, lest it goes out of print again. Highly recommended.

This is a table art book, telling a visual story of a world that never was. Sure, there are some actual written passages but the art pieces speak for themselves. I was a backer on Kickstarter for the project that brought this book to life. There will also be a second book next year. The Verge did a nice writeup on the author, the backstory for the pieces, and provided a small sample of about 5 images. Check it out!

Another Kickstarter backer, here. I received my copy of *Tales from the Loop* a couple weeks back. It's stunning. Haunting. Wonderful. I'm waiting on tenterhooks to get the second book (*Stålens* expanded the project when the Kickstarter took off). A little explanation may be in order, here. This is an art book -- the sort you set out on your coffee table. But it's also a piece of alternative-history science fiction, set in a 1980s Swedish town where a massive underground particle accelerator has fiddled a bit with space-time. So, you know ... there are some dinosaurs wandering around. There's alternative tech, too -- androids, robots, flying machines. But all this technology has since been largely abandoned. It marks the landscape the way post-industrial cities might be strewn with old factories and bulldozers. The paintings are interspersed with paragraphs of narration. These paragraphs aren't captions; rather, they contextualize the paintings by relating vignettes about the events they arise from. The stories never give quite as much information as we'd like, leaving a tantalizing feeling of mystery. The narrator is an adult recalling childhood events. This choice heightens the uncanniness built into the alt-hist approach, layering it over with the familiar-but-now-mostly-forgotten strangeness of a child's POV. The art is beautiful. I'm not well acquainted with the visual arts, but *Stålens*' work has a quiet emptiness and muted palette that reminds me a bit of Edward Hopper's (though not so stylized and pregnant with symbolic meaning). *Stålens*' images combine landscape, clothing, cars, homes, and even haircuts that feel decades old with futuristic elements that have that realistically beaten-up, industrial look the early *Star Wars* movies did so well. The objects feel real and weighty. Much of the technology is vaguely biological in shape. Stuff looks like eyeballs, like ribs, like spines, like faces. The mysteriousness conveyed in the narration is borne out in the images' refusal to show everything we'd like to see. Two large theropods circle and ice cream truck. We know the driver's still in there, since the brake lights are on, but we can't see him and don't know what he's feeling. A boy looks

down into a deep, greenish pool; he stands riiiiight at the edge of a narrow walkway that extends over the water without visible support. In the cover image, a smaller boy guide a robot across a field toward a van full of police. The narrator says he realized, at that moment, that "a line has been crossed," but we do not know what the police are about to do -- if anything. The moment is captured, and the whole story hinted at, but in the end things are left open. This is a truly wonderful book. I'd recommend it to anyone who appreciates speculative fiction, art, good writing.

An incredible view into an alternate Sweden in the 80s and 90s where a massive project called "The Loop" forever changed the world and the technology of the times. Robots, androids, wormholes, and dinosaurs create an entirely unique atmosphere. Every few pictures have a short introduction that explain a story of a young boy growing up in the midst of these changes. I was really not expecting there to be a coherent story with this book as I thought it would just be a series of pictures with some information on each one but I was very happy to find otherwise. The pieces are amazing and the detail is stunning overall. This would be a great gift for a sci-fi lover of any age.

The images of a future non future should scare the heck out of any passionate robotics believer. Simon's work is a futuristic tour de force made even more believable set inside daily country life with inimitable Saabs and Volvos trundling around in the background. The joy of this type of sci fi art is it has to be totally believable (unlike our think tanks) and he succeeds in spades. Just peruse the art or read the text enjoyment is equal and if your jaw does not drop by page 5 you are not from this planet. Also shows Kickstarter what a real community project should look like.

One of the things you need to do when you hit age 25 is get appropriate furniture. That means bedroom tables, real bookcases, and the coffee table. And along with coasters you will need coffee table books to put them on. For people who have hit that change, but don't want to cover the coffee table in typical boring art books, this is perfect. The stories crafted in the pages seem like something akin to Chris Van Allsburg, and I can only imagine the kind of stories and inventions that this book might inspire in the youth of today. Well if you can get them off the laptops. To sum it up, if you want a cool coffee table book pick this one up.

I can't say enough about how much I love this book. I have seen Simon's art online for years now and it has taken a long time for this book to become reality. Beautiful images with an interesting backstory to go with.

Bought it for the art. The narrative sometimes helps and sometimes seems entirely superfluous. Would have happily just bought a book of art and honestly basically did that. Still want to live in Stalenhag's head.

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