

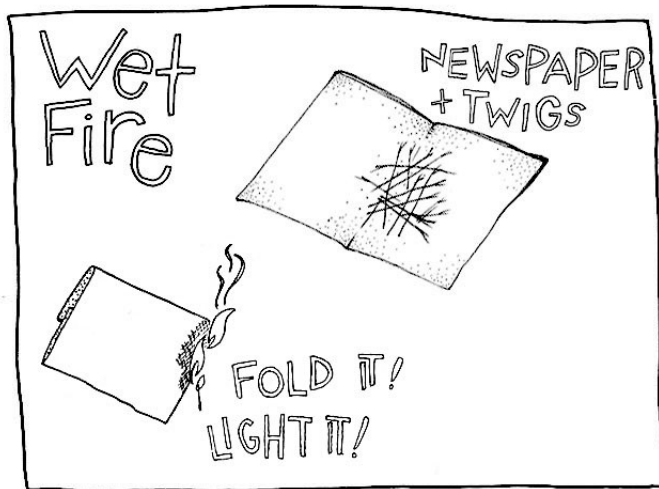


How To Build A Fire

BY THE HAIRPIN • FEBRUARY 11, 2015



by Jessie Singer



For a year, I lived in a trailer in the woods outside Austin, Texas.

Rather, I lived in the remnants of a trailer. Its wheel hubs sat stacked on cinderblocks. The tires, like the windows and all the valuable parts, had long since been stolen by passersby. Any wire that wasn't copper was left dangling behind.

Electronics hung from the ceiling and spilled out of holes in the façade like the guts of a Tauntaun. They once charged batteries, pumped water and internal toilet tanks, and powered the lights and sounds of the portable home.

But none of that missing electronic equipment mattered. There was no electricity where the trailer sat immobile. There was no running water either.

Lacking plumbing, I installed gutters on every shed and outhouse. The gutters connected to

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