

ADVENTURES OF ULYSSES BY BERNARD EVSLIN Handbook

Adventures of Ulysses by Bernard Evslin is a captivating retelling of one of the most enduring tales from Greek mythology. This book offers readers a vivid, accessible, and engaging narrative of the legendary hero Odysseus and his epic journey home after the Trojan War. Designed for young readers and adults alike, Evslin's version of Ulysses' adventures combines rich storytelling with educational insights, making it a timeless classic in mythological literature.

Overview of *Adventures of Ulysses* by Bernard Evslin

About the Author

Bernard Evslin was a renowned author and storyteller, celebrated for his imaginative retellings of classical myths. His ability to distill complex stories into compelling narratives has earned him a beloved place in children's literature and mythography. Evslin's writing emphasizes the moral lessons, cultural significance, and human elements within mythological tales, making them resonate with contemporary audiences.

Scope and Purpose of the Book

Adventures of Ulysses aims to bring the ancient Greek hero's journey to life for modern readers, highlighting themes of bravery, cleverness, resilience, and the importance of perseverance. The book covers Ulysses' (Odysseus') ten-year voyage back to Ithaca, focusing on key episodes that showcase his ingenuity and leadership.

Plot Summary and Key Adventures

The Fall of Troy and Departure

The story begins with the fall of Troy, where Odysseus plays a crucial role in devising the Trojan Horse strategy. After the Greeks' victory, Odysseus sets sail for home, but his journey is fraught with peril from the outset.

The Land of the Lotus-Eaters

One of the early adventures involves Odysseus and his men landing on the land of the Lotus-Eaters. The inhabitants offer a mysterious flower that causes forgetfulness of home. Evslin

vividly describes how Odysseus must resist the temptation to stay and how this episode teaches the importance of focus and purpose.

The Cyclops Polyphemus

Perhaps one of the most famous episodes, Odysseus and his men encounter the Cyclops Polyphemus. Evslin recounts how Odysseus cleverly blinds the giant and escapes, but not before incurring the wrath of Poseidon, the god of the sea. This adventure underscores the hero's cleverness and the consequences of hubris.

The Sirens' Song

Odysseus' journey takes him past the Sirens, whose enchanting voices lure sailors to destruction. Evslin describes how Odysseus orders his men to plug their ears with beeswax and has himself tied to the mast, illustrating themes of self-control and cunning.

Scylla and Charybdis

Navigating between the monstrous Scylla and the deadly whirlpool Charybdis, Odysseus faces a perilous choice. Evslin emphasizes Odysseus' bravery and strategic thinking in choosing the lesser evil to save his crew.

The Return to Ithaca

After many years and adventures, Odysseus finally reaches Ithaca, disguised as a beggar. With the help of his son Telemachus and a few loyal servants, he confronts the suitors vying for his wife Penelope's hand and reclaims his throne.

The Themes and Lessons of *Adventures of Ulysses*

Heroism and Cunning

Evslin highlights Odysseus' intelligence as much as his bravery. His cleverness in devising plans, such as the Trojan Horse and the escape from Cyclops, exemplifies the importance of wit in overcoming obstacles.

Perseverance and Loyalty

Throughout his arduous journey, Odysseus demonstrates unwavering perseverance. His loyalty to his family and homeland motivates him to endure hardships and remain committed to his goal of returning home.

The Power of Hospitality and Respect

Many episodes, like the encounter with Circe and the Phaeacians, explore themes of hospitality, respect, and reciprocity, which are central values in Greek culture.

Human Flaws and Growth

Evslin does not shy away from portraying Odysseus' flaws, such as pride and impulsiveness, which lead to difficulties. These human qualities make the hero relatable and emphasize moral lessons about humility and self-awareness.

Educational Significance of *Adventures of Ulysses*

Introduction to Greek Mythology

The book serves as an excellent introduction for young readers to Greek myths, mythology's influence on Western literature, and ancient Greek culture.

Language and Literary Style

Evslin's language is accessible yet lyrical, capturing the grandeur of the myth while remaining easy to understand. His storytelling style encourages imagination and engagement.

Discussion and Critical Thinking

The stories invite readers to analyze characters' decisions, moral dilemmas, and the cultural context of ancient Greece, fostering critical thinking.

Why Read *Adventures of Ulysses*?

- **Engaging Narrative:** Evslin's storytelling makes ancient myths lively and compelling.
- **Educational Value:** It provides insights into Greek mythology, history, and moral lessons.
- **Universal Themes:** Themes of heroism, perseverance, and cleverness are relevant across ages.
- **Illustrative and Accessible:** The book is suitable for both young readers and adult enthusiasts of mythology.

Conclusion

Adventures of Ulysses by Bernard Evslin remains a timeless retelling that captures the adventurous

spirit and moral complexity of Odysseus' legendary journey. Its vivid narratives, thematic depth, and educational insights make it a valuable addition to any library, inspiring readers to explore the rich world of Greek mythology and the enduring human qualities embodied by its heroes. Whether you are new to Greek myths or a seasoned enthusiast, Evslin's version offers a memorable and inspiring adventure, emphasizing that resilience, intelligence, and faith in oneself are the true keys to overcoming life's challenges.

Adventures of Ulysses by Bernard Evslin is a captivating retelling of one of the most enduring and mythologically rich stories from ancient Greece. Evslin's version of Ulysses' journey combines fidelity to classical sources with a fresh, engaging narrative style that appeals to readers of all ages. This book stands as a testament to the timeless nature of Homer's Odyssey, bringing the legendary hero's adventures to life through vivid storytelling, detailed characterizations, and thoughtful thematic exploration.

Overview of the Book

Adventures of Ulysses is a condensed yet comprehensive retelling of Homer's Odyssey, crafted specifically for a young adult audience but equally enjoyable for older readers. Bernard Evslin's narrative captures the essence of Ulysses' long voyage, emphasizing adventure, heroism, cunning, and human vulnerability. The book covers key episodes from Ulysses' journey, blending mythological elements with accessible language, making it an ideal gateway into Greek mythology.

Key features include:

- A clear chronological retelling of Ulysses' major adventures.
- Rich descriptions of mythological creatures and gods.
- Emphasis on themes such as perseverance, cleverness, loyalty, and hubris.
- Engaging dialogue and character development.

Authors' Approach and Style

Bernard Evslin's storytelling style is straightforward yet poetic, balancing narrative clarity with a sense of wonder. His language is accessible, making complex mythological concepts understandable to younger readers without sacrificing depth.

Notable stylistic elements:

- Use of vivid imagery to evoke the fantastical elements of Greek myths.
- Incorporation of humor and human moments to make characters relatable.

- A focus on moral lessons woven seamlessly into the storytelling.
- Dynamic pacing that maintains reader interest from start to finish.

Evslin's approach is both educational and entertaining, encouraging readers to explore further Greek myths and consider their relevance to human nature.

Major Episodes and Content Breakdown

The book meticulously covers the most iconic episodes from Ulysses' voyage, each emphasizing different aspects of heroism and human experience.

1. Ulysses' Departure from Troy

- The story begins with Ulysses' departure after the Trojan War, setting the stage for his arduous journey.
- Highlights his cunning plan to deceive the Trojans with the Trojan Horse.
- Explores Ulysses' leadership qualities and strategic thinking.

2. The Land of the Cicones

- Ulysses' men raid the land, leading to a swift and harsh counterattack.
- Demonstrates the consequences of greed and overconfidence.
- Emphasizes the importance of discipline during voyages.

3. The Lotus-Eaters

- The crew encounters the Lotus-Eaters, whose fruit induces forgetfulness and apathy.
- Ulysses' resolve in rescuing his men illustrates leadership and loyalty.
- Symbolizes temptation and the danger of complacency.

4. The Encounter with Polyphemus (the Cyclops)

- One of the most famous episodes, where Ulysses uses wit to escape the Cyclops' cave.
- The clever ruse of blinding Polyphemus and hiding under sheep.
- Highlights the theme of intelligence over brute strength.
- The curse from Polyphemus ('Nobody' trick) foreshadows future dangers.

5. The Island of Aeolus

- Ulysses receives a bag of winds to aid his voyage home.
- His crew's curiosity leads to opening the bag, causing a storm.
- Reflects themes of trust and the perils of greed.

6. The Laestrygonians and Circe's Island

- The destructive Laestrygonians attack Ulysses' fleet.
- Ulysses' encounter with the sorceress Circe, who transforms men into pigs.
- The importance of wisdom, caution, and divine favor.

7. The Land of the Dead

- Ulysses consults the prophet Tiresias in the underworld.
- Encounters with spirits, learning about future challenges.
- Emphasizes the necessity of foresight and respect for the dead.

8. The Sirens' Song

- Ulysses' crew must resist the enchanting songs of the Sirens.
- Ulysses' self-control and the crew's discipline prevent disaster.
- Illustrates the danger of temptation and the value of restraint.

9. Scylla and Charybdis

- Navigating between the six-headed monster and the deadly whirlpool.
- Demonstrates the hero's resilience and decision-making under pressure.

10. The Cattle of the Sun God Helios

- The crew's disobedience leads to the destruction of their ship.
- Ulysses' survival and perseverance exemplify endurance amidst adversity.

11. Ulysses' Return to Ithaca

- Disguise and patience as Ulysses plans his revenge against the suitors.
- The reunion with his wife Penelope and son Telemachus.
- The final test of loyalty and cleverness in reclaiming his throne.

Themes and Moral Lessons

Evslin's retelling emphasizes several core themes that resonate with readers:

- **Cunning and Intelligence:** Ulysses' cleverness is often more vital than physical strength. His strategies and wit are central to his survival and success.
- **Perseverance and Endurance:** The long journey and numerous hardships teach the value of resilience.
- **Loyalty:** Ulysses' devotion to his crew, family, and homeland underscores the importance of loyalty.
- **Temptation and Self-Control:** Encounters with Sirens and Circe illustrate the dangers of succumbing to temptation.
- **Hubris and Humility:** Instances of arrogance lead to consequences, reminding readers of the importance of humility.
- **The Human Condition:** The book portrays Ulysses' vulnerabilities, fears, and hopes, making him a relatable hero.

Illustrations and Presentation

Though primarily a narrative retelling, Evslin's book is often complemented by illustrations that enhance the storytelling. The artwork vividly depicts mythological creatures, gods, and epic landscapes, immersing readers into the world of Greek mythology. The visual elements serve to clarify complex scenes and add an element of excitement, especially for younger audiences.

Educational Value and Reception

Adventures of Ulysses is praised for its ability to distill the complex, poetic language of Homer into a digestible format without losing the story's essence. It acts as both a standalone adventure story and an educational tool for introducing Greek mythology.

Strengths include:

- Accessibility for middle-grade readers and beyond.
- Encourages curiosity about classical myths.
- Serves as a springboard for further exploration of Greek literature and history.

- Promotes critical thinking about moral and ethical issues.

Many educators and parents consider it an excellent resource for teaching mythology, heroism, and literature.

Critiques and Considerations

While Bernard Evslin's retelling is widely appreciated, some purists argue that:

- The book simplifies some of the more nuanced aspects of Homer's original Odyssey.
- Certain mythological details are condensed or altered for clarity.
- The poetic depth of Homeric language is less pronounced, which may be a drawback for advanced literature students.

However, these critiques are often balanced by the book's engaging narrative and educational accessibility.

Conclusion

Adventures of Ulysses by Bernard Evslin is a masterful retelling that captures the spirit of Homer's Odyssey while making it accessible and exciting for a broad audience. Its engaging storytelling, vivid descriptions, and thoughtful exploration of themes make it a timeless addition to any reader's collection of mythology or adventure literature. Whether used as a classroom resource or as a captivating read for leisure, Evslin's book continues to inspire curiosity about heroism, ingenuity, and the enduring power of myth.

In summary, Bernard Evslin's Adventures of Ulysses is not just a retelling; it's an invitation to explore the depths of myth, human resilience, and the timeless journey of a hero. It offers a vivid, memorable, and meaningful experience that honors the spirit of the original tales while making them resonate with contemporary audiences.

Question What is the main focus of 'Adventures of Ulysses' by Bernard Evslin? The book reimagines the adventures of Odysseus (Ulysses) as a series of exciting and accessible stories, emphasizing his bravery, cleverness, and perseverance during his journey home from the Trojan War. **Answer** How does Bernard Evslin make the story of Ulysses appealing to young readers? Evslin uses vivid storytelling, engaging language, and adventurous episodes to bring the myth to life, making it accessible and exciting for children and young readers. Which famous episodes from Ulysses' journey are included in Evslin's book? The book covers key episodes such as the Cyclops encounter, the Sirens' temptation, the visit to the Underworld, and the final return to Ithaca, among others. Is 'Adventures of Ulysses' suitable for educational purposes? Yes, it is often used in

classrooms to introduce students to Greek mythology and the story of Odysseus in an engaging way that encourages further exploration. What makes Bernard Evslin's portrayal of Ulysses unique compared to traditional myths? Evslin's adaptation simplifies complex mythological themes for younger audiences while maintaining the excitement and moral lessons of the original stories. Has 'Adventures of Ulysses' received any notable awards or recognition? While it may not have major awards, the book is widely praised for its storytelling quality and has become a popular introduction to Greek mythology for young readers.

Related keywords: Ulysses, Bernard Evslin, Greek mythology, Odysseus, epic poetry, adventure stories, classical literature, Homer's Odyssey, mythological characters, heroic journey

Ulysses oxford world s classics

Ulysses Oxford World's Classics: A Comprehensive Guide to the Iconic Modernist Novel

Introduction

When exploring the landscape of modernist literature, few works are as influential and challenging as James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Recognized for its innovative narrative technique, complex symbolism, and linguistic richness, *Ulysses* has cemented its place as one of the most significant novels of the 20th century. For readers and scholars seeking an accessible yet scholarly edition, the **Ulysses Oxford World's Classics** edition offers an exceptional resource. This article provides an in-depth look at this edition, its significance, and why it remains a vital addition to any literary collection.

Understanding Ulysses and Its Significance

The Legacy of James Joyce's Ulysses

Published in 1922, *Ulysses* is celebrated for its groundbreaking narrative style, which combines stream-of-consciousness technique, experimental language, and intricate symbolism. The novel parallels Homer's *Odyssey*, chronicling a single day—June 16, 1904—in Dublin through the experiences of its characters. Its influence extends well beyond literature, impacting modernist art, philosophy, and cultural studies.

The Challenges of Reading Ulysses

Despite its importance, *Ulysses* is notorious for its difficulty. Its dense allusions, varied stylistic chapters, and linguistic innovations can intimidate even seasoned readers. That's where annotated

editions like the Oxford World's Classics come into play, facilitating a deeper understanding and appreciation.

The Oxford World's Classics Series: An Overview

About Oxford World's Classics

The Oxford World's Classics is a renowned series of literary editions that aim to preserve and promote great literary works with scholarly rigor and accessibility. Each edition typically includes:

- The full text of the original work
- Contextual introductions explaining historical, literary, and cultural background
- Critical notes and annotations clarifying obscure references and language
- Selected appendices or supplementary materials

These features make the series invaluable for students, scholars, and general readers alike.

Why Choose the Ulysses Oxford World's Classics Edition?

The **Ulysses Oxford World's Classics** edition stands out for its meticulous scholarship, clear presentation, and comprehensive supplementary materials. It is designed to enhance both understanding and enjoyment, making it an ideal choice for those new to Joyce or for those seeking a definitive scholarly edition.

Features of the Ulysses Oxford World's Classics Edition

Introduction and Contextual Background

The edition usually includes a detailed introduction that covers:

- Joyce's biography and the historical context of the novel's writing
- Literary influences and innovations present in Ulysses
- The novel's reception history and its impact on modern literature
- An overview of the novel's structure, themes, and symbolism

This background helps readers appreciate the depth and complexity of the text.

Annotations and Textual Notes

One of the most valuable aspects is the extensive annotations that:

- Clarify obscure references, historical allusions, and cultural nuances
- Explain Joyce's experimental language and stylistic choices
- Offer interpretations of complex symbols and motifs

These notes serve as a guide, making the novel more accessible without diluting its richness.

Textual Integrity and Critical Apparatus

The Oxford edition often provides:

- A carefully edited text based on authoritative manuscripts
- Critical apparatus that discusses variations and editorial decisions
- Footnotes that enhance understanding of Joyce's literary techniques

This scholarly rigor ensures readers engage with the most authentic version of the work.

Additional Materials

Some editions include:

- Selected essays and critical perspectives
- Chronologies of Joyce's life and Dublin's history
- Glossaries of Irish terms and references

These resources deepen the reader's engagement with the novel's multifaceted layers.

Why Ulysses is a Must-Read in the Oxford World's Classics Series

Accessibility for Modern Readers

While Ulysses is inherently complex, the Oxford edition's annotations and contextual notes help demystify the text, making it approachable for students and general readers.

Scholarly Rigor

The edition's authoritative texts and critical apparatus ensure that readers are engaging with

Joyce's work in its most authentic form, supported by expert scholarship.

Enhancing Literary Appreciation

The comprehensive introductions and supplementary materials foster a richer understanding of the novel's themes, stylistic innovations, and its place within modernist literature.

Ideal for Academic and Personal Use

Whether for coursework, research, or personal exploration, the Oxford World's Classics edition of Ulysses offers a balanced blend of accessible presentation and scholarly depth.

How to Get the Most Out of the Ulysses Oxford World's Classics Edition

- **Read with Annotations:** Use the footnotes and notes to clarify difficult passages.
- **Refer to the Introduction:** Gain insight into Joyce's intentions and the novel's structure.
- **Explore Supplementary Materials:** Engage with essays and background sections for broader context.
- **Join Reading Groups or Discussions:** Sharing insights can deepen understanding of complex themes.
- **Revisit Chapters:** Read multiple times to appreciate stylistic nuances and symbolism.

Conclusion

The **Ulysses Oxford World's Classics** edition stands as a definitive resource for anyone serious about exploring Joyce's masterpiece. Its scholarly annotations, contextual introductions, and carefully edited text make it an invaluable tool for both newcomers and seasoned readers. Engaging with this edition not only facilitates a deeper understanding of Ulysses but also enriches one's appreciation of modernist literature as a whole.

Whether you're reading for academic purposes, personal interest, or literary exploration, the Oxford World's Classics edition of Ulysses offers a comprehensive and accessible gateway into one of the most complex and rewarding novels ever written.

Keywords: Ulysses Oxford World's Classics, James Joyce Ulysses edition, modernist literature, annotated Ulysses, Oxford Classics, Joyce scholarly edition, modernist novel, Dublin literature, literary analysis, classic literature editions

Ulysses Oxford World's Classics: An In-Depth Review

The Ulysses Oxford World's Classics edition stands as a significant milestone in making James Joyce's groundbreaking novel accessible to a broad readership. Renowned for its exhaustive annotations, critical introductions, and faithful reproduction of the original text, this edition has garnered praise from scholars, students, and casual readers alike. Whether you're delving into Joyce's complex narrative techniques for the first time or seeking a reliable scholarly resource, the Oxford World's Classics edition of Ulysses offers a compelling package that balances readability with academic rigor.

Overview of the Oxford World's Classics Series

The Oxford World's Classics series is known worldwide for providing affordable, high-quality editions of classic literature. These editions typically include:

- The full original text
- Critical introductions that contextualize the work
- Footnotes or annotations explaining obscure references
- Appendices or supplementary materials
- Durable, attractive bindings suitable for long-term use

The series aims to make classic works accessible to students, scholars, and general readers, often featuring renowned editors and scholars as contributors.

Features of the Ulysses Oxford World's Classics Edition

Text and Content

The Oxford edition of Ulysses preserves Joyce's original text with meticulous care. It adheres closely to the authoritative texts, ensuring that readers experience the novel as Joyce intended. The edition includes:

- The complete, unabridged text of Ulysses
- Clear, readable typography suitable for dense, complex prose
- Consistent formatting that aids navigation through Joyce's experimental structure

Annotations and Critical Notes

One of the standout features of this edition is its comprehensive set of annotations and footnotes, which elucidate:

- Cultural, historical, and literary references
- Obscure vocabulary and phrases
- Biblical allusions and mythological parallels
- Joyce's experimental language techniques

These notes significantly enhance understanding for readers unfamiliar with early 20th-century Dublin or Joyce's allusive style.

Introduction and Contextual Material

The critical introduction, penned by a leading Joyce scholar, offers valuable insights into:

- Joyce's life and influences
- The novel's composition and publication history
- Major themes and stylistic innovations
- Critical interpretations and debates surrounding the work

This contextual material provides essential background, enriching the reading experience and aiding academic analysis.

Additional Materials

Some editions include appendices with:

- Timeline of Joyce's life and Ulysses's publication
- Selected letters or essays
- Glossaries of key terms and references

These features are particularly useful for students and first-time readers seeking depth and clarity.

Pros and Cons of the Oxford Ulysses Edition

Pros

- Faithful Representation: Preserves Joyce's original text with high fidelity.
- Comprehensive Annotations: Explains complex references, making the novel more accessible.
- Scholarly Introduction: Provides valuable context for understanding the novel's significance.
- Durable Design: Well-constructed binding suitable for frequent use.

- Affordable Price: Offers excellent value compared to more expensive scholarly editions.
- User-Friendly Formatting: Clear layout that aids navigation through Joyce's dense prose.

Cons

- Density of Annotations: Some readers may find the footnotes overwhelming or distracting.
- Limited Critical Perspectives: Depending on the edition, some may desire more diverse critical essays.
- Size and Weight: The comprehensive nature makes it a somewhat hefty volume to carry around.
- Textual Variants: Purists might prefer editions that include multiple textual variants or editor's notes on differences.

Who Should Buy the Oxford Ulysses Edition?

This edition is particularly suited for:

- Students studying Joyce, modernist literature, or 20th-century literature
- Scholars seeking a reliable, annotated text for research
- Literary enthusiasts interested in a comprehensive, thoughtfully annotated version
- Libraries and institutions requiring a durable, scholarly edition

If you are new to Ulysses, this edition provides enough guidance to help you navigate the novel's challenges. For seasoned readers or academics, it offers detailed notes and contextual insights that deepen understanding.

Comparison with Other Editions

While there are numerous editions of Ulysses, the Oxford World's Classics stands out for its balance of accessibility and scholarly depth. For example:

- Modern Library and Penguin Classics editions often feature shorter introductions and fewer annotations.
- Gabriel Conroy's edition (if available) might offer more extensive critical essays.
- The Bodleian or Harvard editions could include more extensive scholarly apparatus or textual variants.

However, for those seeking an affordable, well-annotated, and reliable edition, Oxford's Ulysses

remains a top choice.

Final Thoughts and Recommendations

The Ulysses Oxford World's Classics edition is an excellent resource that bridges the gap between scholarly rigor and reader accessibility. Its careful presentation of Joyce's complex text, combined with insightful annotations and contextual material, makes it an invaluable companion for anyone serious about understanding Ulysses. Whether you're a student tackling Joyce for the first time or a scholar conducting detailed research, this edition provides the tools necessary to navigate one of modern literature's most challenging and rewarding works.

In summary:

- It offers a faithful reproduction of Joyce's text
- Its comprehensive notes demystify complex references
- The introductory material enriches understanding
- It is affordably priced and well-built
- It may be dense for casual readers but invaluable for committed scholars

If you are looking to invest in a robust, scholarly edition of Ulysses, the Oxford World's Classics version is undoubtedly worth considering. Its blend of clarity, scholarly depth, and durability ensures it remains a staple on bookshelves for years to come, inspiring countless readers to explore the depths of Joyce's literary genius.

Question What is the significance of Ulysses in the Oxford World's Classics series? Ulysses is considered one of the most important modernist novels, and its inclusion in the Oxford World's Classics series offers readers an accessible, scholarly edition that highlights its literary and historical significance. How does the Oxford World's Classics edition of Ulysses enhance the reading experience? The edition typically includes expert annotations, contextual essays, and critical introductions that help readers understand the complex references and themes of James Joyce's Ulysses, making it more approachable for students and scholars alike. Are there any recommended editions of Ulysses in the Oxford World's Classics series for first-time readers? Yes, the Oxford World's Classics edition of Ulysses is highly recommended for first-time readers due to its clear introduction, helpful footnotes, and accessible language, which aid in navigating Joyce's intricate narrative. What themes are explored in Ulysses, as presented in the Oxford World's Classics edition? The novel explores themes such as identity, consciousness, the passage of time, Irish nationalism, and the modern human condition, all of which are illuminated through the detailed annotations and contextual notes in the Oxford edition. Where can I purchase the Oxford World's Classics edition of Ulysses? The Oxford World's Classics edition of Ulysses is available at major bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and can often be found in university libraries or specialized

booksellers.

Related keywords: Ulysses, Oxford World's Classics, James Joyce, modernist literature, literary classics, 20th-century novels, experimental fiction, Irish literature, literary analysis, classic novels

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