

george orr dream novel

george orr dream novel is a reference to the classic science fiction story "The Lathe of Heaven," written by Ursula K. Le Guin. This novel centers around the character George Orr, whose dreams possess the extraordinary ability to alter reality. The narrative explores themes of power, responsibility, and the ethical dilemmas arising from this unique phenomenon. The george orr dream novel has captivated readers with its innovative plot and profound philosophical questions about the nature of existence and human influence. This article provides an in-depth analysis of the george orr dream novel, including its plot summary, thematic exploration, character study, and its impact on science fiction literature. Additionally, the article examines the adaptations and lasting legacy of this seminal work.

- Plot Summary of the George Orr Dream Novel
- Thematic Exploration in the George Orr Dream Novel
- Character Analysis: George Orr and Key Figures
- Literary Style and Narrative Techniques
- Adaptations and Cultural Impact
- Legacy and Influence in Science Fiction

Plot Summary of the George Orr Dream Novel

The george orr dream novel, "The Lathe of Heaven," follows the life of George Orr, an unassuming man who discovers that his dreams have the power to reshape reality. When George seeks help to control his dreams, he meets Dr. William Haber, a psychiatrist who attempts to harness Orr's abilities for what he perceives as the greater good. However, each alteration of reality leads to unintended consequences, raising complex questions about the ethics of control and manipulation. The story unfolds as a psychological and metaphysical journey, where the boundaries between dreams and reality blur. Throughout the novel, the consequences of George's dreams escalate, culminating in a surreal and thought-provoking climax that challenges the protagonist's understanding of existence.

Thematic Exploration in the George Orr Dream Novel

The Nature of Reality and Perception

One of the central themes in the george orr dream novel is the fluidity of reality. The novel questions what is real when dreams can alter the tangible world. It explores the subjective nature of perception and the instability of a world shaped by unconscious forces. This theme encourages

readers to reflect on the limitations of human understanding and the potential for unseen influences on reality.

Power and Responsibility

The novel delves deeply into the ethical implications of wielding power without full knowledge of its consequences. George Orr's dreams give him god-like abilities, and the story examines his struggle with the responsibility that comes with such power. Dr. Haber's attempts to control and direct these dreams highlight the dangers of authoritarianism and the hubris of trying to impose idealistic visions onto the world.

Individual vs. Society

The tension between personal autonomy and societal control is a recurring theme. George Orr represents the individual whose unique abilities set him apart and make him vulnerable to exploitation. The novel critiques societal tendencies to suppress individuality in favor of collective ideals, often leading to conflict and loss of freedom.

Character Analysis: George Orr and Key Figures

George Orr: The Dreamer

George Orr is portrayed as a reluctant and humble protagonist, burdened by his uncontrollable dreams. His character embodies themes of vulnerability, moral integrity, and the search for self-determination. Despite his power, he prefers to avoid influencing reality, aware of the potential dangers his dreams pose.

Dr. William Haber: The Manipulator

Dr. Haber serves as the foil to George Orr's cautious nature. Ambitious and confident, Haber represents the scientific and authoritarian impulse to control and optimize reality according to human designs. His character arc reveals the pitfalls of unchecked power and the ethical blindness that can accompany it.

Supporting Characters

The novel also features several supporting characters who contribute to the narrative's complexity, including psychiatrists, friends, and individuals affected by George's dreams. These characters often reflect societal attitudes and provide contrasting perspectives on the unfolding events.

Literary Style and Narrative Techniques

The George Orr dream novel is notable for its blend of science fiction with philosophical inquiry. Ursula K. Le Guin employs a clear, evocative prose style that balances accessible storytelling with profound thematic depth. The narrative structure blurs the lines between dream sequences and reality, using shifting perspectives and surreal imagery to immerse the reader in George Orr's

experience. The novel's pacing allows for both introspective moments and dramatic tension, effectively conveying the psychological complexity of its characters.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The George Orr dream novel has inspired several adaptations, most notably the 1980 television film "The Lathe of Heaven," which brought the story to a wider audience. These adaptations have varied in their faithfulness to the source material but consistently highlight the novel's central themes of dream-induced reality alteration. The story's influence extends into popular culture, often cited in discussions about the power of the subconscious and the ethical questions surrounding manipulation of reality.

- 1980 Television Film Adaptation
- Radio Dramatizations
- Influence on Contemporary Science Fiction Works
- Academic and Critical Reception

Legacy and Influence in Science Fiction

The George Orr dream novel remains a landmark in science fiction literature due to its innovative exploration of dream reality and moral philosophy. It has inspired numerous authors and filmmakers to explore similar themes of altered realities and the consequences of human intervention in natural processes. The novel's approach to blending speculative elements with psychological depth has set a precedent for character-driven science fiction narratives. Its enduring popularity underscores its significance as a work that challenges readers to contemplate the complexities of power, identity, and reality in a rapidly changing world.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is George Orr in the novel 'The Lathe of Heaven'?

George Orr is the protagonist of Ursula K. Le Guin's novel 'The Lathe of Heaven.' He possesses the unique ability to alter reality through his dreams, which sets the central conflict of the story.

What is the main theme of George Orr's dream ability in 'The Lathe of Heaven'?

The main theme revolves around the power and consequences of altering reality through dreams, exploring ethical dilemmas, the nature of reality, and the unintended effects of trying to control the world.

How does George Orr's dreaming affect the world around him?

George Orr's dreams have the power to change reality itself, often leading to unintended and sometimes dangerous consequences that affect society and the environment.

What role does Dr. Haber play in relation to George Orr's dreams?

Dr. William Haber is a psychiatrist who attempts to control and manipulate George Orr's dreams to create a better world, but his interventions often exacerbate problems instead of solving them.

Is George Orr aware of his dream-induced reality changes from the beginning?

Initially, George Orr is confused and fearful about his dreams and their consequences, but over time he becomes more aware of his ability and the impact it has on the world.

What genre does the novel featuring George Orr fall under?

The novel, 'The Lathe of Heaven,' is primarily a science fiction work with elements of fantasy and philosophical fiction, focusing on speculative concepts related to dreams and reality.

How does the novel explore the concept of reality through George Orr's dreams?

The novel uses George Orr's dreams to question the nature of reality, suggesting that reality can be subjective and malleable, influenced by perception, consciousness, and external forces.

What is the significance of dreams in George Orr's character development?

Dreams are central to George Orr's character development, as they represent both his burden and power, forcing him to confront ethical choices and his sense of responsibility towards the world.

Has the novel featuring George Orr been adapted into other media?

Yes, Ursula K. Le Guin's novel 'The Lathe of Heaven' has been adapted into television films, notably in 1980 and 2002, bringing the story of George Orr and his dream-altered realities to a wider audience.

Additional Resources

1. *The Lathe of Heaven* by Ursula K. Le Guin

This novel explores the life of George Orr, a man whose dreams can alter reality. As he undergoes experimental therapy, the boundaries between dream and waking life blur, raising profound

questions about power, ethics, and the nature of existence. Le Guin's narrative delves into the consequences of manipulating reality through subconscious desires.

2. *Dreams and Reality: The Paradox of George Orr* by Michael S. Hart

A critical analysis of the themes and philosophical questions presented in "The Lathe of Heaven," this book examines the interplay between dreams and reality. It investigates how Orr's dreams challenge our understanding of identity and free will, blending literary critique with psychological insights.

3. *The Dream Architect* by Lila Morgan

This speculative fiction novel follows a protagonist who, like George Orr, discovers the ability to reshape reality through dreams. Morgan weaves a suspenseful tale about the responsibilities and dangers of wielding such power, exploring the thin line between creation and destruction.

4. *Waking Paradox* by Samuel T. Reed

Reed's novel centers on a character whose dreams begin to alter the fabric of the world around him, mirroring Orr's experiences. The story probes into the philosophical implications of controlling reality and the ethical dilemmas that arise when one's subconscious can rewrite the future.

5. *Dreamscapes: A Journey Beyond Consciousness* by Dr. Eleanor Fields

Combining neuroscience and philosophy, this non-fiction book explores the science of dreams and their impact on human perception and reality. Drawing parallels to fictional accounts like George Orr's, Fields discusses how dreams might influence or reflect our waking lives.

6. *The Weaver of Realities* by Jonathan K. Hayes

In this fantasy novel, the protagonist possesses the rare gift to weave new realities through dreams, echoing the premise of "The Lathe of Heaven." Hayes explores themes of destiny, control, and the consequences of altering the natural order through fantastical storytelling.

7. *Echoes of a Dream* by Clara Vance

Vance's novel follows a dreamer whose visions start to affect the real world in unexpected ways. The narrative delves into psychological suspense, examining the intersection of mental health, perception, and the power of dreams to reshape personal and collective realities.

8. *Between Two Worlds: Dreams and the Subconscious* by Dr. Marcus Levin

This psychological study investigates how dreams influence our waking decisions and sense of self. Referencing literary works such as George Orr's story, Levin offers insights into the subconscious mind's role in shaping human experience and reality.

9. *The Dreamer's Dilemma* by Sophia Grant

A contemporary novel about a woman who discovers her dreams can change her surroundings, Grant's story explores the moral challenges and emotional turmoil that come with such a gift. The book raises questions about control, sacrifice, and the search for identity within shifting realities.

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george orr dream novel: Ursula K. Le Guin Jeremy K. Brown, 2013-11 Ursula K. Le Guin is one of the most distinctive and celebrated voices in the landscape of literature.

george orr dream novel: Play in Utopian and Dystopian Fiction Matthew Leggatt, 2025-07-28 Play in Utopian and Dystopian Fiction is a wide-ranging and interdisciplinary study of the different forms of play to be found in depictions of radically better and radically worse societies across literary, filmic, and televisual texts. The book sets out to dismantle common myths about the role of play in such fiction by arguing that, far from being dull and static, utopias are primarily playful and dynamic. In contrast, in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, dystopian fiction has been popularized by reader and audience expectations of spectacular and exciting action, but in this book such readings of dystopia are also challenged. Accompanying this is a discussion about labor and its role in relation to a future society that might privilege play over work. The book covers texts as diverse as Thomas More's originary 1516 travel narrative, *Utopia*, and South Korean Netflix dystopian hit *Squid Game* (2021-25). It consists of chapters detailing the nature of play in utopian fiction; the connection between utopia and stasis; dystopian forms of violent and deadly play; boring dystopias; the absurd in utopian and dystopian fiction; and, finally, the future of play promised by new digital utopias and made possible by videogame technologies.

george orr dream novel: *Enjoying What We Don't Have* Todd McGowan, 2013-07-01 Although there have been many attempts to apply the ideas of psychoanalysis to political thought, this book is the first to identify the political project inherent in the fundamental tenets of psychoanalysis. And this political project, Todd McGowan contends, provides an avenue for emancipatory politics after the failure of Marxism in the twentieth century. Where others seeking the political import of psychoanalysis have looked to Freud's early work on sexuality, McGowan focuses on Freud's discovery of the death drive and Jacques Lacan's elaboration of this concept. He argues that the self-destruction occurring as a result of the death drive is the foundational act of emancipation around which we should construct our political philosophy. Psychoanalysis offers the possibility for thinking about emancipation not as an act of overcoming loss but as the embrace of loss. It is only through the embrace of loss, McGowan suggests, that we find the path to enjoyment, and enjoyment is the determinative factor in all political struggles—and only in a political project that embraces the centrality of loss will we find a viable alternative to global capitalism.

george orr dream novel: *Capitalist Realism* Mark Fisher, 2022-11-25 An analysis of the ways in which capitalism has presented itself as the only realistic political-economic system.

george orr dream novel: The Science Fiction Handbook Nick Hubble, Aris Mousoutzanis, 2013-11-28 As we move through the 21st century, the importance of science fiction to the study of English Literature is becoming increasingly apparent. The Science Fiction Handbook provides a comprehensive guide to the genre and how to study it for students new to the field. In particular, it provides detailed entries on major writers in the SF field who might be encountered on university-level English Literature courses, ranging from H.G. Wells and Philip K. Dick, to Doris Lessing and Geoff Ryman. Other features include an historical timeline, sections on key writers, critics and critical terms, and case studies of both literary and critical works. In the later sections of the book, the changing nature of the science fiction canon and its growing role in relation to the wider categories of English Literature are discussed in depth introducing the reader to the latest critical thinking on the field.

george orr dream novel: The Lathe Of Heaven Ursula K. Le Guin, 2015-07-30 'Her worlds have a magic sheen . . . She moulds them into dimensions we can only just sense. She is unique. She is legend' THE TIMES 'Le Guin is a writer of phenomenal power' OBSERVER George Orr is a mild and unremarkable man who finds the world a less than pleasant place to live: seven billion people jostle for living space and food. But George dreams dreams which do in fact change reality - and he

has no means of controlling this extraordinary power. Psychiatrist Dr William Haber offers to help. At first sceptical of George's powers, he comes to astonished belief. When he allows ambition to get the better of ethics, George finds himself caught up in a situation of alarming peril.

george orr dream novel: Ursula K. Le Guin Beyond Genre Mike Cadden, 2005-07-08 This book critically examines Le Guin's fiction for all ages, and it will be of great interest to her many admirers and to all students and scholars of children's literature.

george orr dream novel: The Otherwise Mark E Smith, Graham Duff, 2021-07-13 The first ever publication of Mark E. Smith's supernatural film treatment, co-authored with Graham Duff. In 2015 Mark E. Smith of The Fall and screenwriter Graham Duff co-wrote the script for a horror feature film called The Otherwise. The story involved The Fall recording an EP in an isolated recording studio on Pendle Hill. The Lancashire landscape is not only at the mercy of a satanic biker gang, it's also haunted by a gaggle of soldiers who have slipped through time from the Jacobite Rebellion. However, every film production company who saw the script said it was 'too weird' to ever be made. The Otherwise is weird. Yet it's also witty, shocking and genuinely scary. Now the screenplay is published for the first time, alongside photographs, drawings and handwritten notes. The volume also contains previously unpublished transcripts of conversations between Smith and Duff, where they discuss creativity, dreams, musical loves (from Can to acid house) and favourite films (from Britannia Hospital to White Heat). Smith also talks candidly about his youth and mortality, in exchanges that are both touching and extremely funny.

george orr dream novel: Ursula K. Le Guin: Five Novels (LOA #379) Ursula K. Le Guin, 2024-02-20 Together for the first time, all 5 standalone novels from the Hugo and Nebula award-winning writer who reinvented science fiction, including one restored to print. Spans from the 1971 classic *The Lathe of Heaven* to her career-crowning 2008 masterpiece *Lavinia*. This 7th volume in the definitive Library of America edition of Ursula K. Le Guin's works presents 5 remarkable standalone novels that showcase her boundless creativity and literary range. In the Locus Award-winning *The Lathe of Heaven* (1971), one of Le Guin's most admired works of science fiction, George Orr begins to have effective dreams: dreams that change reality itself. But when he turns to the sleep researcher William Haber for help, the doctor sees an opportunity to use Orr's strange gift for his own ends. A former Terran prison colony on the planet Victoria seems destined for revolution in *The Eye of the Heron* (1978), when the authoritarian leaders in the City try to assert control over the peaceful farmers who have been sent to live around them. *The Beginning Place* (1980) is a parable-like story in which Hugh and Irena have both found their way to the Beginning Place, a gateway to another world. The two initially become enemies, but must learn to work together when the utopia they've found turns out to have a shadow. The long out-of-print *Searoad: Chronicles of Klatsand* (1991) is a Winesburg, Ohio-like series of linked stories set in a small vacation town on the Oregon coast, where some of the characters have come for a weekend and some for longer, but all are pilgrims in the grip of inexpressible longings. And Le Guin's final, powerfully feminist novel, *Lavinia* (2008), reimagines Virgil's *Aeneid* from the perspective of a woman who, in poet's telling, never speaks a word. Special features include an appendix presenting three essays by Le Guin related to the novels, previously unseen hand-drawn maps by author herself, helpful annotation, and a chronology of Le Guin's life and career. Brought together here for the first time, these 5 remarkable standalone novels showcase a Hugo and Nebula Award-winning master at her very best.

george orr dream novel: Dystopia Gregory Claeys, 2016-11-24 *Dystopia: A Natural History* is the first monograph devoted to the concept of dystopia. Taking the term to encompass both a literary tradition of satirical works, mostly on totalitarianism, as well as real despotisms and societies in a state of disastrous collapse, this volume redefines the central concepts and the chronology of the genre and offers a paradigm-shifting understanding of the subject. Part One assesses the theory and prehistory of 'dystopia'. By contrast to utopia, conceived as promoting an ideal of friendship defined as 'enhanced sociability', dystopia is defined by estrangement, fear, and the proliferation of 'enemy' categories. A 'natural history' of dystopia thus concentrates upon the centrality of the passion or emotion of fear and hatred in modern despotisms. The work of Le Bon,

Freud, and others is used to show how dystopian groups use such emotions. Utopia and dystopia are portrayed not as opposites, but as extremes on a spectrum of sociability, defined by a heightened form of group identity. The prehistory of the process whereby 'enemies' are demonised is explored from early conceptions of monstrosity through Christian conceptions of the devil and witchcraft, and the persecution of heresy. Part Two surveys the major dystopian moments in twentieth century despotisms, focussing in particular upon Nazi Germany, Stalinism, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, and Cambodia under Pol Pot. The concentration here is upon the political religion hypothesis as a key explanation for the chief excesses of communism in particular. Part Three examines literary dystopias. It commences well before the usual starting-point in the secondary literature, in anti-Jacobin writings of the 1790s. Two chapters address the main twentieth-century texts usually studied as representative of the genre, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. The remainder of the section examines the evolution of the genre in the second half of the twentieth century down to the present.

george orr dream novel: *Cinefantastique* , 1990

george orr dream novel: *Watching the World Die* Mike Bogue, 2023-10-26 During the 1980s, popular fear of World War III spurred moviemakers to produce dozens of nuclear threat films. Categories ranged from monster movies to post-apocalyptic adventures to realistic depictions of nuclear war and its immediate aftermath. Coverage of atomic angst films isn't new, but this is the first book to solely analyze 1980s nuclear threat movies as a group. Entries range from classics such as *The Day After* and *WarGames* to obscurities such as *Desert Warrior* and *Massive Retaliation*. Chronological coverage of the 121 films released between 1980 and 1990 includes production details, chapter notes, and critical commentaries.

george orr dream novel: *Pandexicon* Wayne Grady, 2023-03-07 Did you keep a list of the words coined by Covid? Wayne Grady did! They're deftly woven into a journal/timeline, taking us through two years of surrealism and limbo.—Margaret Atwood This exploration of the many new terms of the Covid-19 pandemic provides insight into the ways an ever-evolving vocabulary helped us cope with our anxiety and adapt to a new reality. When the pandemic struck in early 2020, Wayne Grady started collecting the words and phrases that arose from our shared global experience. Some, such as “uptick” and “pivot,” had existed before but now took on new meaning, and others, such as “covidivorce,” “quarantini,” “covexit,” and “shecession,” appeared for the first time, their meaning instantly clear. Through this new vocabulary, we became more able to adapt to change, to domesticate it in a sense, and to reduce our fears. Moving from the very beginning of the pandemic (the “Before Times”) and our early response to it through the peaks and troughs of the various waves in countries throughout the world, and ending with a contemplation of what the “After Times” might look like, this book takes us on a journey through the pandemic and illuminates both how this new language has unfolded and how it has changed the way we think about ourselves and each other.

george orr dream novel: *The Influence of Imagination* Lee Easton, Randy Schroeder, 2008-01-23 This collection of essays examines the potential connections between speculative fiction and actual social change. Through a variety of approaches, the contributors explore whether consumers of science fiction and fantasy narratives can experience a real shift in their worldviews as a result of that consumption. Topics include the utopian vision of California in Ursula K. LeGuin's *Always Coming Home*, the changing role of women in science fiction pulp magazines, and the representation of progress and social change in popular graphic novels.

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will provide you with a wealth of new books to add to your reading list and inspire you to explore the many different ways dystopian literature can be used to explore important themes and ideas. This guide also makes a great reference book for librarians, book club leaders and English teachers. Don't miss out on the opportunity to expand your dystopian literature knowledge, order your copy today!

george orr dream novel: Reading the Fantastic Imagination Dana Percec, 2014-06-26 The purpose of *Reading the Fantastic Imagination: The Avatars of a Literary Genre* is the observation of the very hybridity of the fantastic genre, as a typical postmodern form. The volume continues an older project of the editor and a large number of the contributors, that of investigating the current status of several popular genres, from historical fiction to romance. The scrutiny continues in this third volume, dedicated to the fantastic imagination and the plethora of themes, moods, media, and formats deriving from it. FanLit is surely trendy, even if it is not highbrow, despite its noble ancestry. This apparent paradox characterizes many of the literary genres en vogue today, from historical fiction to romance. This very contradiction forms part of the basis for this book. After the success of the previous book in the series dedicated to a "borderline" literary genre - *Romance: The History of a Genre* was declared by Cambridge Scholars Publishing as the Critics' Choice Book of the Month in January 2013 - this collection of studies about the fantastic imagination takes a further step into completing a larger research project which seeks to investigate the varieties of popular fiction. Although all contributors in the series teach canonical literary texts, they did not hesitate to plunge into the opposite area of fictional work and, moreover, continued doing so even though such a project caused the "raise of a few (high)brows," (Percec 2012, 232) as argued in the Endnote of *Romance: The History of a Genre*.

george orr dream novel: Feminism and Science Fiction Sarah Lefanu, 1989 Su objetivo es profundizar en la cuestion de si la ciencia ficcion, a pesar de su orientacion predominantemente masculina, podria ofrecer a la mujer escritora una libertad por encima de las posibilidades del resto de la literatura, tanto en terminos de estilo, como de contenido. En un sentido mas amplio, se trataria de averiguar si puede ofrecer un medio de fusion entre contenidos politicos, feminismo e imaginacion. Desde el punto de vista del feminismo, supone tambien un analisis del resto de la literatura de ciencia ficcion, deteniendose especialmente en la imagen de la mujer que esta ha ofrecido.

george orr dream novel: James Tiptree, Jr. Julie Phillips, 2015-01-06 "Phillips's superb depiction [of] the woman behind the persona of science-fiction writer James Tiptree is an extraordinary achievement." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year A Washington Post Book World Best Book of the Year One of Entertainment Weekly's 10 Best Nonfiction Books of the Year Alice Bradley Sheldon was born in Chicago in 1915. As a child, she crossed Africa with her explorer parents. Later she became a painter, a CIA agent, a psychologist, and at age fifty-one made yet another career change. James Tiptree, Jr., appeared on the science fiction scene in 1967. His stories were fast-paced and hard-boiled, his letters frank and sensitive. For nearly ten years he carried on intimate correspondences with fellow writers Philip K. Dick, Harlan Ellison, and Ursula K. Le Guin. But no one knew who he really was. Then, assumptions about writing and gender were demolished when "he" was revealed to be Alice B. Sheldon. Based on extensive research and full access to Sheldon's papers, James Tiptree, Jr., is the suspenseful, engrossing, and tragic biography of a profoundly original writer and woman far ahead of her time. "An incredible life, done elegant justice. Tiptree-Sheldon is one of the century's astonishing figures." —Jonathan Lethem, bestselling author of *The Fortress of Solitude* "Fascinating . . . May make you rethink your ideas about what it means to be male or female—or, for that matter, human." —Francine Prose, O, The Oprah Magazine "The meticulous, emotionally intelligent biography of an extraordinary writer." —William Gibson

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and literature--are rooted in the sacred tradition and form the center of meditation. From ancient times the arts have conveyed mystical knowledge besides practical skills of their crafts. The treasure discovered on the golden path is paradoxical thinking, the key to a higher consciousness. Offering the reader a dare, Caris shines light on the path to cultivate a higher consciousness. Many examples selected from literature, philosophy, art, and music illustrate paradoxical thinking and its blossoming. Among those artists and philosophers discussed are Bela Bartok, M. C. Escher, Frank Herbert, Hermann Hesse, Carl Jung, Ursula Le Guin, Pablo Picasso, Plato, Tom Stoppard, and Edgar Varese. Some of the important ideas investigated include personal transformation, microcosm-macrocosm, gender duality, perceptual viewpoints, magic theater of the mind, intuitive use of signs, paradoxical thinking, sacred geometry, and continuing the quest.

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