What they didn t teach you in photo school what y Ebook

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Photography is often viewed as a straightforward craft: master the camera, learn composition, understand lighting, and you?re set to create compelling images. However, the reality of professional photography extends far beyond the technical lessons typically taught in photo schools. Many aspiring photographers discover that the most valuable skills and insights are often learned through experience, trial and error, and real-world interactions?areas rarely emphasized in traditional curricula. In this article, we explore what they didn?t teach you in photo school about the nuances, mindset, and practicalities that truly shape a successful career or passionate pursuit in photography.

Understanding the Limitations of Formal Education in Photography

The Focus on Technique Over Business and Marketing

While photo schools excel at teaching camera settings, lighting setups, and editing techniques, they often neglect the essential business skills needed to thrive as a professional photographer. Graduates may possess technical proficiency but struggle to secure clients, price their work effectively, or navigate the competitive marketplace.

Overemphasis on "Art" Without Practical Application

Many curricula emphasize the artistic side of photography?composition, expression, aesthetics?yet overlook the importance of understanding client needs, project management, and the realities of working on deadlines. Artistic talent alone does not ensure a sustainable career.

The Gap Between Classroom and Real-World Experience

In a classroom, students work on assignments in controlled environments, often with supportive instructors. In contrast, real-world scenarios involve unpredictable variables, clients with specific demands, and the necessity for adaptability?experiences that can?t be fully simulated in school.

What They Didn?t Teach You About the Photography Industry

The Importance of Networking and Relationships

Success in photography often hinges on who you know as much as what you know. Building relationships with clients, models, stylists, and other creatives can open doors that technical skill alone cannot.

- Attend industry events and workshops
- Engage actively on social media platforms
- Collaborate with other artists and professionals

Understanding the Value of Personal Branding

Your reputation and personal brand can be your most powerful tools. Developing a consistent visual identity and voice helps attract clients who resonate with your style.

Learning Client Management Skills

From initial inquiries to delivering final images, managing client expectations, contracts, and feedback is critical. Clear communication reduces misunderstandings and fosters long-term relationships.

Practical Skills That Are Often Overlooked in Photo School

Post-Processing Beyond Basic Editing

While basic editing is taught, many professionals develop advanced retouching, color grading, and compositing skills that elevate their work and set them apart.

Workflow Optimization and Time Management

Efficient workflows ensure productivity, especially when handling multiple projects or clients.

- Organize your files systematically
- Use batch processing when appropriate
- Automate repetitive tasks with presets and scripts

Equipment Maintenance and Troubleshooting

Understanding how to care for your gear and quickly resolve technical issues saves time and prevents setbacks during shoots.

Developing the Right Mindset for Success

The Importance of Resilience and Persistence

Rejection, slow bookings, and technical failures are part of the journey. Cultivating resilience helps you stay motivated and learn from setbacks.

Embracing Continuous Learning

Technology and trends evolve rapidly. Staying curious and investing in ongoing education?workshops, online courses, mentorships?keeps your skills sharp.

The Significance of Authenticity and Personal Voice

Clients seek genuine work that reflects your unique perspective. Developing your authentic style distinguishes you in a saturated market.

Business and Financial Aspects of Photography

Pricing Your Work Appropriately

Many photographers undervalue their services due to lack of confidence or understanding of market rates. Learning to price adequately ensures sustainability.

Managing Finances and Taxes

Handling invoices, taxes, and expenses is crucial. Professional financial management prevents future stress and legal issues.

Creating Multiple Revenue Streams

Diversifying income sources?shooting events, selling prints, stock photography, workshops?provides stability.

Ethics and Responsibility in Photography

Respecting Subjects and Cultural Sensitivities

Understanding consent, cultural contexts, and ethical considerations ensures respectful and meaningful work.

Legal Knowledge: Copyright, Model Releases, and Usage Rights

Being well-versed in legal matters protects your work and clarifies rights and responsibilities.

Final Thoughts: Beyond the Camera

Photography is as much about mindset, business acumen, and interpersonal skills as it is about technical mastery. While photo schools provide a solid foundation, the journey to becoming a successful photographer involves continuous learning, adaptability, and personal growth. Recognizing the skills and knowledge not typically taught in formal education allows aspiring photographers to fill their gaps, develop resilience, and build sustainable careers. Remember that the most profound lessons often come from real-world experience, mentorship, and a relentless passion for capturing the world around you.

Summary: What They Didn?t Teach You in Photo School

- The importance of networking and industry relationships
- Developing a strong personal brand
- Client management and communication skills
- Advanced post-processing techniques
- Workflow efficiency and time management
- Equipment maintenance and troubleshooting
- Business skills including pricing, contracts, and taxes
- Building resilience and a growth mindset
- Ethical considerations and legal knowledge
- Creating multiple revenue streams for stability

Ultimately, mastering photography involves more than just technical skills. It requires a holistic approach?embracing business, communication, ethics, and personal development?that is rarely fully covered in traditional photo education. By actively seeking out these lessons, aspiring photographers can better navigate the complexities of the profession and turn their passion into a sustainable and fulfilling career.

What They Didn?t Teach You in Photo School: Uncovering the Hidden Lessons of Photography

Photography is often portrayed as a straightforward craft?learn the technical basics, master your camera, and start capturing stunning images. However, anyone who has delved into the world of professional or serious amateur photography quickly realizes that formal education only scratches the surface. Many vital lessons?those that truly transform a good photographer into a great one?are

seldom covered in traditional photo school curricula. These unspoken truths, practical insights, and nuanced skills often make the difference between passing as a competent shooter and excelling as an artist or storyteller behind the lens. In this article, we?ll explore what they didn?t teach you in photo school, shedding light on the real-world knowledge, mindset shifts, and creative strategies that can elevate your photography journey.

The Limitations of Formal Photography Education

Before diving into the overlooked lessons, it?s important to understand the scope and limitations of conventional photo school programs.

Focus on Technique Over Creativity

Most photography courses emphasize mastering technical skills?aperture, shutter speed, ISO, composition rules, and editing basics. While these are essential, they often come at the expense of fostering creativity, personal style, and storytelling. Students learn how to operate their gear but are rarely encouraged to develop an authentic voice or to push boundaries.

Standardized Curriculum and One-Size-Fits-All Approach

Photo programs tend to follow a preset syllabus designed to cover fundamental concepts. However, this approach may neglect specialized fields like street photography, fine art, commercial work, or documentary storytelling. As a result, students may leave with a well-rounded technical foundation but without guidance on how to navigate the unique challenges of different genres.

Limited Real-World Experience

In-class assignments are often staged and controlled, which can fall short of preparing students for unpredictable real-world scenarios. The complexities of client work, spontaneous moments, and personal projects require adaptive skills that are seldom taught explicitly.

What They Didn?t Teach You: The Hidden Lessons

Many of the most valuable lessons in photography are acquired through experience, mentorship, and experimentation. Here are some of the key insights often missing from traditional curricula.

The Power of Personal Vision and Style

While technical proficiency is important, developing a personal style is what sets a photographer apart. Photo school rarely emphasizes the importance of cultivating a unique voice that reflects your worldview, interests, and emotional sensibilities.

Key Points:

- Experiment extensively to discover what resonates with you.
- Study photographers whose work inspires you, but avoid mimicking them.
- Use editing and sequencing as tools to reinforce your artistic identity.

Understanding Light Beyond the Basics

Technical knowledge of lighting is foundational, but mastering light?s subtleties?its quality, direction, color temperature, and mood?requires nuanced understanding.

What?s often missing:

- The ability to read and anticipate natural light changes.
- Using light creatively to evoke emotion or highlight storytelling elements.
- Manipulating light with modifiers, reflectors, and artificial sources to craft a desired atmosphere.

The Role of Composition as a Narrative Tool

Standard composition rules (rule of thirds, leading lines, framing) are taught, but their true power lies in how they guide viewers? perception and emphasize storytelling.

Insights include:

- Breaking rules intentionally to create tension or surprise.
- Using composition to direct viewers? attention or convey a mood.
- Developing an intuitive sense of balance and harmony tailored to your subject.

The Importance of Patience and Persistence

Many students expect immediate results, but mastery often requires perseverance.

Lessons include:

- Waiting for the decisive moment rather than rushing.
- Repeatedly revisiting the same subject to understand it deeply.
- Accepting rejection and failure as part of growth.

The Business and Marketing Side of Photography

While technical and artistic skills are emphasized, the entrepreneurial aspects are rarely covered.

Essential topics:

- Building a portfolio that communicates your niche and style.
- Networking and client outreach strategies.
- Pricing, contracts, copyright, and managing a photography business.

Developing a Critical Eye and Workflow

Post-shoot editing and selection are crucial skills often overlooked.

Key skills include:

- Curating images thoughtfully to tell a cohesive story.
- Developing a consistent editing style that enhances your vision.
- Managing digital files efficiently to streamline your creative process.

Ethics, Cultural Sensitivity, and Responsibility

Understanding the social and cultural impact of your work is vital.

Important considerations:

- Respect for subjects, especially in documentary and street photography.
- Avoiding exploitation or misrepresentation.
- Recognizing your influence and responsibility as an artist.

Practical Lessons Gained Outside the Classroom

Many lessons are best learned through hands-on experience, mentorship, and self-directed projects.

Learning Through Personal Projects

Engaging in consistent personal work allows you to explore your interests deeply and develop a distinctive voice.

Tips for success:

- Set specific themes or narratives for your projects.
- Review and critique your work regularly.
- Share your projects with peers for feedback.

The Value of Mentorship and Community

Connecting with experienced photographers can accelerate learning.

How to leverage mentorship:

- Attend workshops, seminars, and photography meetups.
- Seek constructive critique and advice.
- Collaborate on projects to learn different approaches.

Travel, Observation, and Spontaneity

Real-world experience and exposure broaden your perspective.

Suggestions:

- Travel with purpose, seeking out new environments.
- Practice active observation?notice details others may overlook.
- Be adaptable; spontaneous moments often yield the most authentic images.

Developing a Holistic Approach to Photography

Ultimately, the lessons not taught in photo school converge into a holistic approach that balances technical mastery, artistic development, and professional acumen.

Key principles include:

- Cultivating curiosity and a lifelong learning mindset.
- Embracing mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Balancing preparation with spontaneity.
- Continually refining your craft through review, critique, and experimentation.

Conclusion: Beyond the Classroom

While formal education provides a strong foundation, it is only the beginning of a photographer?s journey. The real mastery lies in the lessons learned through experimentation, persistence, and personal growth. Understanding the nuanced roles of light, composition, storytelling, and ethics, along with developing your unique voice and business skills, are the hidden treasures that transform a technically competent shooter into an impactful artist. As you navigate your photographic path, remember that the most profound lessons often come from outside the classroom?through the lens of experience, curiosity, and an unwavering commitment to your craft.

QuestionAnswer What are common techniques in photo editing that aren't typically covered in photo school? Many photo schools focus on camera settings and composition, but often overlook advanced editing techniques like color grading, retouching, and using software like Photoshop or Lightroom to enhance images creatively. How can understanding lighting outside of classroom setups improve my photography? Learning to read natural light, use reflectors, and manipulate shadows in real-world scenarios can dramatically improve your photos and give you more control, skills often not emphasized in traditional photo school curricula. What practical tips for building a successful photography business are rarely taught in photo school? Photo schools often focus on technical skills, but real-world business tips like branding, marketing, networking, invoicing, and client management are crucial for success and are usually learned through experience or online resources. Why is understanding storytelling important in photography, and how can I develop this skill? Storytelling adds emotional depth and context to your images, making them more compelling. Developing this skill involves studying visual narratives, practicing sequencing, and understanding your subject's story beyond technical composition. What are some underrated considerations when choosing gear that aren?t typically taught in photo school? Factors like the ergonomics of a camera, weight for portability, durability in different environments, and the compatibility of accessories can significantly impact your workflow and comfort, yet are often overlooked in formal education.

Related keywords: photo tips, photography secrets, beginner photography, camera techniques, photography tricks, photo editing, composition tips, lighting skills, DSLR guide, photography tutorials

they drew as they pleased 4

They Drew as They Pleased 4: A Deep Dive into the Artistic and Narrative World of the Series

They Drew as They Pleased 4 continues the captivating journey of the acclaimed series that has fascinated audiences with its unique blend of art, storytelling, and character development. Building

upon the rich legacy of the previous installments, this fourth chapter pushes the boundaries of creativity, exploring new themes and artistic styles that resonate with both longtime fans and newcomers alike. In this article, we delve into the origins of the series, its thematic significance, artistic evolution, and what makes *They Drew as They Pleased 4* a standout installment in contemporary visual storytelling.

Understanding the Origins and Context of They Drew as They Pleased Series

The Genesis of the Series

The series *They Drew as They Pleased* originated as a project that aimed to celebrate the diverse ways artists interpret and express their creativity. Initially conceived as a small anthology, it quickly gained popularity for its bold approach to storytelling through visual art. The core premise revolves around showcasing the personal artistic visions of various creators, emphasizing freedom and individual expression.

Evolution Over the Years

Over the years, the series has evolved from a simple collection of artworks into a comprehensive narrative universe that explores complex themes such as identity, freedom, and societal norms. Each installment, including the highly anticipated *They Drew as They Pleased 4*, introduces new artists, styles, and stories, enriching the series' tapestry and expanding its audience reach.

Thematic Exploration in They Drew as They Pleased 4

Emphasis on Artistic Freedom and Personal Expression

- **Core Theme:** The series champions the idea that art is a personal journey, emphasizing the importance of artistic freedom.
- **Message:** Encourages viewers and creators alike to embrace their unique voice without fear of judgment or conformity.

Exploration of Identity and Self-Discovery

In *They Drew as They Pleased 4*, many pieces focus on themes of self-identity, gender, and societal roles. Artists delve into personal stories, shedding light on marginalized voices and fostering inclusivity.

Challenging Societal Norms

The series often acts as a platform for challenging traditional norms and encouraging critical thinking. Through provocative imagery and narratives, it questions authority, cultural expectations, and the status quo.

Artistic Styles and Innovations in They Drew as They Pleased 4

Diverse Artistic Mediums and Techniques

The series is renowned for its eclectic mix of artistic styles, including:

- Traditional Illustration
- Digital Art
- Mixed Media Collages
- Abstract and Surrealist Pieces
- Animation and Motion Graphics

Innovative Visual Narratives

Artists push the boundaries of storytelling by incorporating experimental techniques such as:

- Layered storytelling through multiple visual planes
- Interactive artworks
- Augmented reality integrations
- Dynamic color schemes to evoke specific emotions

Highlighting Notable Artists and Their Contributions

Some of the standout contributors to *They Drew as They Pleased 4* include:

- **Artist A:** Known for surreal landscapes that explore subconscious themes.
- **Artist B:** Focuses on vibrant, abstract compositions emphasizing emotional expression.
- **Artist C:** Combines traditional portraiture with digital manipulation to challenge perceptions of identity.
- **Artist D:** Creates interactive installations that engage viewers physically and emotionally.

The Narrative and Storytelling Aspects of They Drew as They Pleased 4

Connecting Art to Personal Stories

The series doesn?t merely showcase static images; it intertwines stories that give context to the artworks. Many pieces serve as visual narratives, offering insights into the artist?s personal journey, societal commentary, or fictional worlds.

Use of Symbolism and Metaphor

Symbolism plays a vital role in conveying complex ideas succinctly. For example:

- Butterflies representing transformation and freedom
- Chains symbolizing societal constraints
- Mirrors reflecting self-awareness

Interactive and Multimodal Storytelling

In *They Drew as They Pleased 4*, storytelling extends beyond static images, incorporating elements such as augmented reality, sound design, and viewer participation to create immersive experiences.

Impact and Reception of They Drew as They Pleased 4

Critical Acclaim

The series has received praise from critics and art enthusiasts for its innovative approach and powerful messages. It has been featured in major art festivals and exhibitions worldwide, cementing its status as a contemporary cultural phenomenon.

Community Engagement and Inclusivity

One of the series? strengths lies in its inclusive ethos. It actively encourages participation from diverse voices, fostering a global community of artists and viewers who share a passion for expressive freedom.

Educational and Cultural Significance

They Drew as They Pleased 4 serves as an educational tool, inspiring aspiring artists and promoting awareness about social issues through visual storytelling. Its impact extends beyond entertainment, influencing cultural discourse and artistic practices.

Why They Drew as They Pleased 4 Is a Must-See

Unparalleled Artistic Diversity

The series offers an expansive view of contemporary art, showcasing styles and themes that reflect the multifaceted nature of human experience.

Provocative and Thought-Provoking Content

It challenges viewers to think critically about societal norms, personal identity, and artistic expression, making it a meaningful viewing experience.

Innovative Use of Technology

Its incorporation of cutting-edge technology like augmented reality and interactive media positions it at the forefront of modern art trends.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of They Drew as They Pleased Series

They Drew as They Pleased 4 continues to push the boundaries of artistic expression, fostering a community where freedom, diversity, and innovation thrive. Its blend of compelling storytelling, innovative visuals, and social commentary makes it a vital part of contemporary art culture. Whether you are an artist, a critic, or simply an admirer of creative freedom, this series offers a rich tapestry of inspiration and insight. As it evolves, it promises to remain a powerful platform for voices that dare to draw as they please, shaping the future of visual storytelling for generations to come.

They Drew As They Pleased 4: An Artistic Evolution and Cultural Reflection

In the realm of contemporary art, few projects have managed to encapsulate the spirit of unfettered creativity quite like They Drew As They Pleased 4. This fourth installment in the acclaimed series continues to challenge traditional notions of artistic boundaries, encouraging artists to explore their unique voices without restraint. As a cultural phenomenon, the project offers a compelling lens through which to examine the evolution of artistic expression in the digital age, highlighting both individual innovation and collective dialogue. In this article, we delve into the origins, thematic developments, notable contributors, and the broader significance of They Drew As They Pleased 4, providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of its place in contemporary art discourse.

Origins and Conceptual Foundation of They Drew As They Pleased

The Birth of a Movement

They Drew As They Pleased first emerged as an independent online initiative in 2016, conceived by

a group of passionate artists and curators aiming to democratize art creation. The core philosophy was simple yet profound: provide a platform where artists could freely interpret prompts or themes without the constraints of commercial expectations or institutional oversight. This approach fostered a culture of spontaneity, experimentation, and authentic self-expression.

Evolution Over Time

With each subsequent edition?They Drew As They Pleased 2, 3, and now 4?the project has expanded its scope, incorporating more diverse mediums, international voices, and collaborative efforts. The series has transitioned from a loosely organized online showcase to a globally recognized event, featuring curated exhibitions, interactive workshops, and digital galleries. Its growth mirrors broader trends in art, where the lines between traditional and digital media blur, and community-driven projects flourish.

The Artistic Philosophy Behind the Series

Embracing Unrestrained Creativity

Central to They Drew As They Pleased is the rejection of rigid artistic standards. Unlike conventional exhibitions that often prioritize technical perfection or thematic coherence, this project celebrates raw, unfiltered expression. Artists are encouraged to interpret prompts in ways that resonate personally, leading to a rich tapestry of styles, narratives, and techniques.

Inclusivity and Diversity

A defining feature of the series is its inclusivity. It actively seeks participation from artists across different backgrounds, skill levels, and cultural contexts. This diversity results in a vibrant mosaic of perspectives, fostering cross-cultural dialogue and understanding through visual storytelling.

The Role of Digital Platforms

The advent of digital platforms has been instrumental in amplifying the project's reach. Online galleries, social media hashtags, and interactive forums enable artists to share their work globally instantly. This technological integration democratizes access, ensuring that even emerging artists from remote regions can contribute and gain visibility.

Notable Themes and Artistic Trends in They Drew As They Pleased 4

Thematic Diversity

The fourth iteration of the series continues to showcase a broad spectrum of themes, reflecting

contemporary societal issues, personal narratives, and abstract explorations. Some prevalent themes include:

- Identity and Self-Expression: Artists explore personal histories, cultural heritage, and individual identities.
- Environmental Concerns: Works addressing climate change, conservation, and humanity's relationship with nature.
- Technological Impact: Visual commentary on digital life, artificial intelligence, and virtual realities.
- Social Justice: Art reflecting movements for equality, rights, and systemic change.

Artistic Styles and Mediums

They Drew As They Pleased 4 is notable for its eclectic mix of artistic styles, such as:

- Digital Illustration and Animation: Embracing new tools like graphic tablets and animation software.
- Traditional Media: Watercolor, ink, charcoal, and mixed media works that showcase tactile craftsmanship.
- Experimental Techniques: Augmented reality overlays, interactive installations, and 3D modeling.
- Hybrid Approaches: Combining multiple mediums to create layered, multidimensional pieces.

This diversity exemplifies the project's ethos: that there are no fixed rules to artistic creation.

Highlighted Contributors and Their Impact

Rising Stars and Established Artists

The series features a mix of emerging talents and established figures who bring unique perspectives and technical prowess. Notable contributors include:

- Lina Chen: A digital artist known for her surreal landscapes that blend traditional Chinese aesthetics with cyberpunk motifs.
- Carlos Ramirez: A muralist whose vibrant, socially charged imagery emphasizes community solidarity.
- Aisha Bello: An experimental filmmaker integrating animation into her narrative art.
- Mikhail Ivanov: A classical painter exploring digital reinterpretations of classical themes.

Their participation demonstrates the series? capacity to bridge different generations and artistic disciplines.

Collaborative Projects and Cross-Cultural Exchanges

Beyond individual works, They Drew As They Pleased 4 emphasizes collaboration across borders. Artists have co-created pieces, engaged in thematic dialogues, and participated in virtual workshops. These exchanges foster mutual learning, break down cultural barriers, and showcase the universality of creative expression.

The Broader Cultural and Social Significance

Challenging Artistic Norms

They Drew As They Pleased challenges the conventional art world's gatekeeping, highlighting that creativity thrives outside institutional constraints. It democratizes artistic visibility, empowering marginalized voices and encouraging experimentation.

Influencing Contemporary Art Discourse

The project contributes to ongoing conversations about the role of digital technology in art, authenticity, and community participation. Its success underscores the importance of accessible platforms that prioritize expression over commercialism.

Inspiring Future Generations

By showcasing a wide array of styles and stories, They Drew As They Pleased 4 serves as an inspiring model for aspiring artists, emphasizing that the act of creation is valuable regardless of technical mastery or traditional standards.

Future Directions and Continuing Legacy

Expanding Accessibility and Engagement

Looking ahead, organizers aim to further integrate virtual reality, augmented reality, and AI-driven tools to deepen engagement. Plans include:

- Interactive virtual exhibitions
- Real-time collaborative drawing sessions
- Educational programs for youth and underserved communities

Sustaining the Spirit of Unrestricted Creativity

Fundamentally, They Drew As They Pleased 4 seeks to sustain its core philosophy: that art should be driven by personal impulse and collective dialogue. This ongoing commitment ensures that the project remains a vital space for innovation and cultural exchange.

Conclusion

They Drew As They Pleased 4 stands as a testament to the enduring power of unfettered artistic expression in a rapidly changing world. By providing a platform that celebrates diversity, experimentation, and community, it continues to influence contemporary art and inspire countless creators globally. As it evolves, the project reaffirms that the most meaningful art often emerges when creators are free to draw as they please?unbound by conventions, driven by passion, and connected through shared human stories.

QuestionAnswer What is 'They Drew as They Pleased 4' about? 'They Drew as They Pleased 4' is a collection of comic stories that showcase diverse LGBTQ+ themes and narratives, emphasizing creative freedom and representation within the community. Who are the main contributors or artists behind 'They Drew as They Pleased 4'? The anthology features works from a variety of talented LGBTQ+ artists and writers who contribute stories that reflect their experiences and perspectives, celebrating diverse voices and styles. How does 'They Drew as They Pleased 4' differ from previous volumes? This fourth installment continues to expand its inclusivity and thematic range, incorporating more diverse identities, genres, and experimental storytelling techniques compared to earlier editions. Where can I purchase or read 'They Drew as They Pleased 4'? The anthology is available through major comic book stores, online retailers like Amazon, and independent comic shops. Some stories might also be accessible via digital platforms dedicated to indie comics. What impact has 'They Drew as They Pleased 4' had on LGBTQ+ representation in comics? The volume has been praised for amplifying LGBTQ+ voices, promoting visibility, and inspiring other creators to explore queer themes, thereby contributing positively to diversity in the comic industry. Are there any notable stories or themes in 'They Drew as They Pleased 4' that stand out? Yes, the anthology features stories exploring themes like identity, love, self-discovery, and community, often with bold artistic styles and innovative storytelling that push traditional boundaries.

Related keywords: they drew as they pleased 4, art, creativity, illustration, freestyle, drawing, sketch, artistic expression, doodling, imagination

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