

I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN Handbook

i never promised you a rose garden is a phrase that resonates deeply with many, symbolizing the often harsh realities that lie beneath the surface of idealistic promises. Originating from the 1964 novel and subsequent film adaptation, this expression has become a cultural touchstone for acknowledging life's inevitable struggles. In this article, we explore the origins, meaning, and relevance of the phrase "I never promised you a rose garden," its impact on mental health and personal growth, and how it can serve as a reminder of resilience and perseverance in the face of adversity.

Origins and Meaning of "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden"

The Literary and Cultural Roots

The phrase gained widespread recognition from the 1964 novel *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden* by Joanne Greenberg. The story follows a young woman battling schizophrenia and highlights her struggles with mental illness and her journey toward healing. The title symbolizes the disillusionment of expecting a perfect, idyllic life without challenges.

Later, the phrase was popularized by the 1977 film adaptation, further embedding it into popular culture. Over time, "I never promised you a rose garden" became a metaphor for the acknowledgment that life is not always smooth or easy, and that setbacks are an inherent part of human experience.

Literal vs. Metaphorical Interpretation

Literally, a rose garden is a symbol of beauty, tranquility, and reward. Metaphorically, the phrase underscores the idea that life does not guarantee comfort, ease, or happiness without effort. It emphasizes that personal growth often involves hardship, disappointment, and struggle, and that resilience is key to navigating life's inevitable challenges.

The Significance of the Phrase in Personal Development

Acceptance of Reality

One of the crucial lessons embedded in "I never promised you a rose garden" is the importance of accepting reality as it is. Recognizing that life includes ups and downs allows individuals to set

realistic expectations and develop healthier coping mechanisms.

Building Resilience and Perseverance

Understanding that hardships are part of the human condition encourages resilience. When individuals accept that obstacles are inevitable, they are better equipped to persevere through difficulties, learn from setbacks, and emerge stronger.

Managing Expectations and Disappointments

The phrase serves as a reminder to manage expectations. Expecting life to be perfect can lead to frustration and disappointment. Embracing the notion that challenges are normal helps foster a more balanced and resilient outlook.

The Role of ?I Never Promised You a Rose Garden? in Mental Health

Recognizing and Validating Struggles

In mental health contexts, the phrase underscores the importance of validating individuals' struggles. It encourages understanding that mental health journeys often involve setbacks and that progress is rarely linear.

Promoting Realistic Goals

Therapeutic approaches that incorporate this philosophy focus on setting achievable goals and accepting setbacks as part of the healing process. This mindset reduces feelings of failure and promotes persistence.

Encouraging Self-Compassion

Accepting that life isn't always easy fosters self-compassion. It reminds individuals that experiencing difficulties does not mean they are weak or inadequate but rather part of the human experience.

Applying the Philosophy to Personal and Professional Life

In Personal Relationships

- Expectations vs. Reality: Recognizing that conflicts and misunderstandings are natural can improve communication and patience.
- Growth through Challenges: Facing difficulties with an open mind can strengthen relationships

and foster empathy.

In Career and Education

- Handling Failures: Understanding that setbacks are part of growth can motivate perseverance.
- Setting Realistic Goals: Accepting the imperfections of the journey helps maintain motivation and reduce frustration.

In Health and Well-being

- Dealing with Health Challenges: Acknowledging that recovery may be nonlinear encourages patience and persistence.
- Maintaining Motivation: Recognizing that setbacks are normal helps sustain efforts toward wellness.

Strategies for Embracing the "Rose Garden" Philosophy

Developing a Growth Mindset

Adopting a growth mindset involves viewing challenges as opportunities for development. It shifts the focus from failure to learning.

Practicing Acceptance and Mindfulness

Mindfulness practices help individuals accept their current circumstances without judgment, fostering resilience and emotional stability.

Building a Support System

Having a network of supportive friends, family, or professionals provides encouragement during tough times, reinforcing that setbacks are temporary and surmountable.

Setting Realistic Expectations

Being honest about personal limits and circumstances prevents disappointment and promotes a balanced outlook on life's journey.

The Cultural Impact and Continued Relevance

In Literature and Media

The phrase continues to be referenced in books, movies, and motivational speeches, reinforcing its message of resilience.

In Popular Psychology and Self-Help

Many self-help resources emphasize embracing life's difficulties, echoing the core message of "I never promised you a rose garden" to promote mental well-being.

As a Cultural Reminder

This phrase serves as a reminder that life's difficulties are universal, and resilience is a shared human trait that helps us grow and find meaning despite adversity.

Conclusion: Embracing Life's Challenges with Resilience

The phrase "I never promised you a rose garden" encapsulates a vital truth about the human condition: life is full of hardships, disappointments, and setbacks. Recognizing this reality empowers individuals to develop resilience, manage expectations, and cultivate a more authentic and fulfilling life. Whether in personal relationships, careers, or mental health journeys, embracing this mindset can help us navigate adversity with strength and grace. Ultimately, understanding that a beautiful garden often requires patience and effort to cultivate reminds us that growth, like tending roses, takes time, perseverance, and a willingness to face the thorns along the way.

i Never Promised You a Rose Garden: An In-Depth Review of a Pioneering Mental Health Classic

Introduction: A Cultural and Literary Milestone

Published in 1964, "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden" by Joanne Greenberg is a seminal work that has profoundly impacted both mental health literature and popular culture. Through its compelling narrative, raw honesty, and empathetic portrayal of mental illness, the book has become a cornerstone in understanding schizophrenia, resilience, and the human condition. This review delves into the various facets that make this book a timeless classic, from its thematic depth to its influence and adaptation.

Overview of the Plot and Main Themes

"I Never Promised You a Rose Garden" is a semi-autobiographical novel recounting the journey of Deborah Blau, a teenage girl diagnosed with schizophrenia. The story chronicles her struggles with her mental health, her interactions with mental health professionals, and her path toward

self-awareness and healing.

Major Themes Explored:

- Mental Illness and Its Reality

The novel offers an unflinching look into the world of schizophrenia, illustrating the internal chaos and external challenges faced by those affected. Greenberg emphasizes that mental illness is complex, multifaceted, and deeply personal.

- The Power of Hope and Resilience

Despite the bleakness often associated with schizophrenia, Deborah's story underscores the importance of hope, perseverance, and the human spirit's resilience.

- Therapeutic Relationships and Treatment

The book explores the therapeutic process, highlighting the importance of understanding, patience, and compassion in mental health care.

- Identity and Self-Discovery

Deborah's journey is also one of self-exploration, questioning reality, and forging her identity beyond her illness.

- The Stigma of Mental Illness

The narrative critically examines societal perceptions and prejudices surrounding mental health, advocating for compassion and understanding.

Character Analysis and Development

The richness of the characters enhances the novel's depth, providing a nuanced view of mental health struggles.

Deborah Blau:

- Complex and Multi-dimensional

Deborah is portrayed not merely as a patient but as a young girl grappling with her inner world, fears, and desires. Her vivid internal monologues reveal her depth, creativity, and vulnerability.

- Symbol of Hope

Her progression from despair to a tentative sense of hope mirrors the potential for recovery and growth in mental health journeys.

Dr. Fried (the therapist):

- Compassionate and Patient

Dr. Fried exemplifies the ideal mental health professional—empathetic, non-judgmental, and committed to her patient's well-being.

- Catalyst for Change

Her interventions and understanding play a pivotal role in Deborah's path to self-awareness.

Supporting Characters:

- Deborah's Family

Their reactions and interactions highlight societal attitudes towards mental illness and add layers of familial dynamics.

- Other Patients and Staff

These characters expand the narrative, depicting various responses to mental health challenges and the diversity of experiences within psychiatric settings.

Narrative Style and Literary Devices

Greenberg's writing style is both accessible and poetic, balancing clinical insight with lyrical prose.

Perspective:

- First-Person Narration

The story is told from Deborah's point of view, immersing readers in her subjective experience and internal struggles.

Use of Language:

- Poignant and Vivid

Greenberg's descriptions evoke empathy, allowing readers to feel Deborah's fears and hopes.

- Metaphors and Imagery

The title itself is a metaphor for false promises and illusions, with the "rose garden" representing an idealized world that Deborah yearns for but struggles to attain.

Therapeutic Insights:

- The narrative often incorporates Deborah's therapy sessions, offering insights into cognitive and emotional processes, making the book educational as well as engaging.

Impact on Mental Health Awareness and Literature

"I Never Promised You a Rose Garden" has played a significant role in shaping public perceptions of schizophrenia and mental illness.

Cultural Impact:

- Challenging Stereotypes

The novel humanizes those with schizophrenia, moving beyond stereotypes of violence or unpredictability.

- Inspiring Further Literature and Media

Its influence extends to adaptations, scholarly discussions, and inspired works exploring mental health themes.

Educational Significance:

- Used in psychology and psychiatry curricula to illustrate patient experiences and therapeutic approaches.
- Encourages empathy and reduces stigma among students and professionals.

Adaptations:

- The 1977 film adaptation starring Kathleen Quinlan and Bibi Andersson brought the story to a broader audience, further cementing its cultural relevance.

Critical Reception and Legacy

The book received widespread acclaim for its honesty, depth, and compassionate portrayal.

Awards and Recognitions:

- Considered a classic in mental health literature.
- Recognized for its contribution to understanding schizophrenia.

Lasting Legacy:

- Continues to be referenced in mental health advocacy.
- Serves as an educational tool for clinicians, educators, and patients alike.
- Inspires ongoing discussions about treatment, recovery, and societal attitudes.

Strengths and Limitations

Strengths:

- Authenticity and Empathy

The personal narrative approach fosters genuine understanding.

- Educational Value

Offers insights into mental health treatment and patient experience.

- Literary Quality

Greenberg's poetic language enhances emotional engagement.

Limitations:

- Subjectivity

As a semi-autobiographical account, some may question its universality.

- Representation

Focuses primarily on schizophrenia; experiences of other mental illnesses are less explored.

- Potential for Misinterpretation

Without proper context, readers might oversimplify complex psychiatric conditions.

Conclusion: Why "I Never Promised You a Rose Garden" Remains Relevant

"I Never Promised You a Rose Garden" stands as a testament to the power of literature to foster understanding, empathy, and hope in the realm of mental health. Its honest depiction of schizophrenia, combined with compelling storytelling and psychological insight, continues to resonate with readers, mental health professionals, and advocates alike. The book reminds us that behind the labels and diagnoses are human beings seeking connection, understanding, and peace—a message as vital today as it was when first published.

Whether you are interested in mental health advocacy, literature, psychology, or personal growth, this novel offers invaluable perspectives. Its legacy endures, not just as a story about mental illness, but as a beacon of compassion and resilience in the face of life's challenges.

QuestionAnswer What is the main theme of 'I Never Promised You a Rose Garden'? The play explores themes of mental illness, inner struggles, and the quest for healing and understanding within a psychiatric hospital setting. Who is the author of 'I Never Promised You a Rose Garden'? The play was written by Joanne Greenberg, originally as a semi-autobiographical novel, which was later adapted into a play. What is the significance of the title 'I Never Promised You a Rose Garden'? The title reflects the idea that life and mental health recovery are not always easy or beautiful, and that hope involves facing challenges rather than expecting perfection. How does the play depict mental health treatment? The play portrays mental health treatment through the experiences of the protagonist, highlighting both the struggles and the hope for recovery, often challenging stereotypes about mental illness. Has 'I Never Promised You a Rose Garden' been adapted into other media? Yes, it was adapted into a film in 1977 starring Kathleen Quinlan and Barbra Streisand, and it has also been performed as a stage play in various theaters. What impact has 'I Never Promised You a Rose Garden' had on mental health awareness? The work has contributed to increased awareness and empathy regarding mental illness, emphasizing the importance of understanding and compassionate treatment. Are there any modern relevance or adaptations of 'I Never Promised You a Rose Garden'? Yes, the themes remain relevant today, and the story continues to be adapted and referenced in discussions about mental health, therapy, and overcoming internal struggles.

Related keywords: literary adaptation, mental health, emotional struggle, psychological drama, childhood trauma, family conflict, healing journey, mental illness, literary classic, personal growth

La Rose Blanche

Understanding La Rose Blanche: A Symbol of Peace and Resistance

La Rose Blanche is a name that resonates deeply within historical, cultural, and symbolic contexts. Translating to "The White Rose" in English, this phrase refers to various entities and movements that embody purity, hope, peace, and resistance against oppression. Whether as a symbol in art and literature or as a historical resistance movement, la rose blanche holds a significant place in collective consciousness. This comprehensive guide explores the origins, historical significance, symbolism, and modern interpretations of la rose blanche.

The Origins of La Rose Blanche

Historical Roots and Early Usage

The phrase "la rose blanche" has been used across centuries, but its most prominent associations stem from the 20th century, particularly during World War II. The white rose as a symbol predates this era, appearing in various cultural and religious contexts, often representing purity, innocence, and peace.

In the context of resistance movements, la rose blanche gained prominence due to the German White Rose (Die Weiße Rose), a nonviolent resistance group active in Nazi Germany during 1942-1943. This group was composed of university students who opposed the oppressive regime and sought to awaken moral consciousness among the German populace.

The White Rose Resistance Movement

Founded by students at the University of Munich, including Sophie Scholl and Hans Scholl, the White Rose movement distributed leaflets condemning Nazi policies and calling for active resistance. Their courageous efforts and moral stance made la rose blanche a symbol of defiance and moral integrity.

Key facts about the White Rose resistance:

- Operated primarily between 1942-1943 in Nazi Germany.
- Distributed anti-Nazi leaflets and posters across Munich and other German cities.
- Members faced arrest, imprisonment, and execution; their sacrifice cemented the symbol's significance.

Symbolism of La Rose Blanche

Meaning and Associations

La rose blanche embodies multiple layers of symbolism, including:

- **Peace and Innocence:** The white color signifies purity, peace, and innocence.
- **Resistance and Courage:** The association with the White Rose resistance movement highlights moral bravery and the fight against tyranny.
- **Hope and Renewal:** The image of a white rose suggests new beginnings and hope for a better future.
- **Spirituality:** In religious contexts, white roses often symbolize divine love or spiritual purity.

Visual and Cultural Representations

Throughout history, la rose blanche has been depicted in art, literature, and popular culture, often used to convey messages of peace and moral integrity. Its visual simplicity and elegance make it a powerful emblem.

Some notable representations include:

- **Artworks:** Paintings and sculptures featuring white roses symbolizing purity or resistance.
- **Literature:** Poems and stories referencing la rose blanche to evoke themes of innocence and hope.
- **Modern Movements:** Use of white rose imagery in campaigns advocating peace, human rights, and social justice.

La Rose Blanche in Literature and Art

Literature

Authors and poets have long used the motif of the white rose to express various themes:

- In romantic poetry, it symbolizes pure love and innocence.
- In resistance literature, it represents moral courage and the fight against oppression.
- Many stories feature la rose blanche as a symbol of hope amid adversity.

Visual Arts

Artists have employed la rose blanche as a subject to evoke serenity, spirituality, and resistance. Famous paintings and sculptures depict white roses in various settings, emphasizing their symbolic importance.

Modern Usage and Significance of La Rose Blanche

Peace Movements and Commemorations

Today, la rose blanche continues to serve as a potent symbol in various contexts:

- **Peace Campaigns:** White roses are used in events advocating for harmony and nonviolence.
- **Memorials:** Commemorating victims of war and oppression, often featuring white rose motifs.

- **Educational Initiatives:** Teaching about moral courage and resistance through the symbol of la rose blanche.

Symbol in Organizations and Logos

Many groups dedicated to peace, justice, and human rights incorporate la rose blanche in their branding and logos to signify their mission and values.

How to Incorporate La Rose Blanche in Personal and Collective Actions

Personal Reflection and Advocacy

You can honor the spirit of la rose blanche by:

- Displaying white roses or images in your home or workspace to symbolize peace.
- Supporting organizations dedicated to human rights and moral resistance.
- Participating in peace marches or educational events that promote nonviolence.

Creative Expressions

Express your commitment to peace and resistance through art, poetry, or community projects that feature the white rose motif.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of La Rose Blanche

La rose blanche remains a powerful emblem of hope, peace, and moral resistance. From its historical roots in the courageous actions of the White Rose resistance movement to its ongoing use in contemporary advocacy, this symbol continues to inspire individuals and communities worldwide. Embracing la rose blanche encourages us to stand for truth, purity, and justice, fostering a more compassionate and peaceful world.

Whether as a simple flower or a profound symbol, la rose blanche invites us to reflect on our values and actions. Its timeless message transcends cultures and generations, reminding us that even in the darkest times, hope and moral integrity can blossom like a white rose.

La Rose Blanche: An In-Depth Exploration of a Timeless Classic

Introduction

In the world of confectionery and artisanal sweets, few names evoke the same sense of elegance, tradition, and craftsmanship as La Rose Blanche. Known for its delicate craftsmanship and historical significance, La Rose Blanche is more than just a treat; it's a symbol of cultural heritage and culinary artistry. In this article, we delve into the origins, ingredients, production techniques, cultural significance, and contemporary relevance of La Rose Blanche, offering a comprehensive guide for enthusiasts, connoisseurs, and curious newcomers alike.

Origins and Historical Background

The Roots of La Rose Blanche

La Rose Blanche, which translates from French as "The White Rose," traces its origins back to the early 20th century in France, particularly within the regions renowned for their confectionery craftsmanship such as Lyon and Paris. Its creation is often linked to the aristocratic circles, where it was served as a luxurious delicacy during high-society gatherings.

Cultural Significance

- Symbolism: The white rose traditionally symbolizes purity, innocence, and new beginnings?attributes that are reflected in the delicate appearance and refined flavor profile of La Rose Blanche.
- Historical Context: During the Belle Époque era, confections like La Rose Blanche became a symbol of sophistication and artistic expression, often handcrafted by master chocolatiers and pastry chefs.

Evolution Over Time

Initially crafted as a limited-edition luxury item, La Rose Blanche gradually evolved into a popular confection accessible to a broader audience, especially during festive seasons and special occasions. Modern iterations have expanded beyond traditional recipes, incorporating new flavors and presentation styles, but the core principles of elegance and finesse remain unchanged.

Composition and Ingredients

Core Ingredients

La Rose Blanche's appeal lies in its harmonious blend of high-quality ingredients. The primary components typically include:

- White Chocolate: The defining element, made from cocoa butter, milk solids, and sugar. The use of high-quality white chocolate is crucial for achieving the signature smoothness and sweetness.
- Almonds or Hazelnuts: Often used for filling or decoration, providing a nutty flavor and textural contrast.
- Fruit Fillings: Some variations incorporate fruit preserves such as raspberry, apricot, or cherry for added flavor complexity.
- Edible Decorations: Gold leaf, edible flowers, or delicate sugar work are commonly used to enhance visual appeal.

Optional Ingredients and Variations

- Flavor Enhancers: Vanilla, lavender, or citrus zest can be added to introduce subtle aromatic notes.
- Colorings: Natural or artificial colorings may be used to create visual contrast or thematic designs.
- Vegan or Dietary Variants: With the rise of dietary preferences, some recipes substitute dairy ingredients with plant-based alternatives.

Production Techniques and Craftsmanship

Handcrafting Process

Creating La Rose Blanche is an art form that requires meticulous skill and patience. The typical process involves:

- Tempering White Chocolate: Ensuring the chocolate has the correct crystalline structure for a glossy finish and firm texture.
- Molding or Shaping: The chocolate is poured into molds shaped like roses or other floral motifs, or shaped by hand for a more artisanal appearance.
- Filling: Once the shell is set, fillings such as fruit preserves or nut pastes are added.
- Sealing and Decoration: The confections are sealed and decorated with edible embellishments like gold leaf or sugar flowers.
- Packaging: Final presentation often emphasizes elegance, with ornate boxes or wrapping that reflect the product's luxurious nature.

Artistic Techniques

- Piping and Detailing: Skilled artisans use fine piping tools to add intricate details.

- Airbrushing: For subtle color gradients or realistic floral effects.
- Gold Leaf Application: Applying edible gold leaf adds a touch of opulence and is a hallmark of high-end La Rose Blanche products.

Quality Control

Constant monitoring of temperature, humidity, and handling techniques ensures each piece maintains the desired appearance, texture, and flavor. Only the finest ingredients are selected, often sourced locally or from specialty suppliers.

Variations and Modern Interpretations

While traditional La Rose Blanche remains a beloved classic, contemporary artisans have introduced innovative twists:

- Flavor Infusions: Incorporation of exotic spices like saffron or cardamom.
- Design Innovations: Modern shapes and abstract floral motifs.
- Health-Conscious Versions: Reduced sugar, organic ingredients, or alternative sweeteners.
- Vegan and Dairy-Free Options: Using plant-based chocolates and fillings.

These adaptations keep La Rose Blanche relevant in a rapidly evolving culinary landscape while respecting its heritage.

Cultural Impact and Occasions

Celebratory Significance

La Rose Blanche is often associated with:

- Weddings: As a symbol of purity and new beginnings.
- Valentine's Day: As an elegant expression of love and admiration.
- Festivals: Such as Christmas or Easter, where ornate confections are part of traditional gift-giving.

Culinary Presentations

In haute cuisine, La Rose Blanche is sometimes used as a centerpiece or layered dessert component, demonstrating its versatility beyond simple confectionery.

Contemporary Market and Consumer Perception

Premium Positioning

Today, La Rose Blanche is primarily marketed as a luxury item, available in boutique chocolateries, high-end department stores, and specialized online shops. Its price point reflects the craftsmanship, quality of ingredients, and artistry involved.

Consumer Expectations

Modern consumers seek:

- Authenticity and craftsmanship
- Visual appeal and presentation
- Unique flavor combinations
- Ethical sourcing and sustainability

Many brands emphasize their artisanal methods and heritage stories to appeal to discerning buyers.

How to Choose and Enjoy La Rose Blanche

Selection Tips

- Opt for products with visible craftsmanship details.
- Check ingredient lists for quality indicators.
- Look for certifications such as organic or Fair Trade where applicable.

Serving Suggestions

- Serve at room temperature to appreciate the texture.
- Pair with light beverages like champagne, white wine, or herbal teas.
- Use as a decorative element in dessert platters or gift baskets.

Final Thoughts

La Rose Blanche embodies the perfect union of tradition, artistry, and luxury. Its delicate craftsmanship, evocative symbolism, and rich history make it more than just a confection—it's a celebration of culinary elegance and cultural heritage. Whether enjoyed as a personal indulgence, a

gift, or a centerpiece for special occasions, La Rose Blanche continues to captivate and inspire connoisseurs worldwide. As artisans refine their techniques and innovate with flavors and presentation, this timeless classic remains a shining example of confectionery mastery that transcends generations.

Question What is 'La Rose Blanche' and what is its significance? 'La Rose Blanche' (The White Rose) typically refers to the symbolic act of peace and remembrance, often associated with resistance movements against oppression, notably the White Rose resistance group in Nazi Germany. It symbolizes purity, hope, and the fight for justice. Who was involved in the historical White Rose movement? The White Rose was a non-violent resistance group composed mainly of university students in Munich, Germany, including Sophie Scholl, Hans Scholl, and Christoph Probst, who opposed Nazi policies and promoted resistance through pamphlets. Are there any notable cultural works titled 'La Rose Blanche'? Yes, 'La Rose Blanche' is also the title of a famous opera composed by Frank Martin, which depicts themes of innocence and tragedy during wartime, inspired by the story of the White Rose resistance. What is the symbolism behind the white rose in literature and history? The white rose symbolizes purity, innocence, peace, and remembrance. Historically, it has been used to honor fallen heroes and to signify hope and resistance in various cultural contexts. How is 'La Rose Blanche' commemorated today? It is commemorated through memorials, educational programs, and remembrance events honoring the White Rose resistance group, emphasizing the importance of courage and moral integrity in the face of tyranny. Are there any modern movements inspired by 'La Rose Blanche'? Yes, contemporary peace and human rights organizations sometimes adopt the symbolism of the white rose to promote non-violent resistance, tolerance, and the remembrance of past struggles against oppression. What are some key themes associated with 'La Rose Blanche' in art and literature? Key themes include innocence, resistance, sacrifice, moral courage, and the fight for justice during times of conflict or injustice. Can 'La Rose Blanche' be used as a metaphor in contemporary social issues? Absolutely, it often serves as a metaphor for peaceful resistance and moral integrity in struggles for freedom, equality, and human rights today. Is there a specific story or legend associated with 'La Rose Blanche'? While there isn't a single legend, the term is most famously connected to the White Rose resistance group in Nazi Germany, symbolizing youthful courage and the fight against tyranny during World War II.

Related keywords: la rose blanche, French cinema, wartime film, classic French movies, historical drama, 1930s films, French culture, wartime romance, silent films, French film history

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