

# downton abbey a celebration the official companio Workbook

**downton abbey a celebration the official companio** is a comprehensive guide dedicated to exploring the rich history, detailed features, and cultural significance of the official companion book and merchandise associated with the beloved television series Downton Abbey. As one of the most iconic British period dramas, Downton Abbey has captivated audiences worldwide with its intricate storytelling, opulent costumes, and compelling characters. The official companion publications serve as essential resources for fans eager to delve deeper into the show's detailed production, historical context, and behind-the-scenes insights, making them valuable collectibles and references for enthusiasts.

## Introduction to Downton Abbey: A Cultural Phenomenon

### The Rise of Downton Abbey

Downton Abbey first premiered in 2010 on ITV and quickly became a global sensation, thanks to its compelling portrayal of aristocratic life in early 20th-century England. The series chronicles the lives of the Crawley family and their household staff, exploring themes of social change, class distinctions, love, and loss. Its meticulous attention to historical detail, combined with engaging storytelling, earned it numerous awards and a dedicated fan base.

### Why the Official Companion Matters

The official companion book and related merchandise serve to deepen fans' understanding of the series. They provide comprehensive background information, character analyses, and production anecdotes that enrich the viewing experience. For collectors, owning official memorabilia and companion guides is a way to celebrate the series and preserve its legacy.

## Overview of the Official Downton Abbey Companion

### What Is the Official Companion?

The official Downton Abbey companion is a richly illustrated book authored by Jessica Fellowes, who is also the niece of the show's creator, Julian Fellowes. It offers an in-depth exploration of the series, including:

- Behind-the-scenes insights
- Historical context and accuracy
- Profiles of main characters
- Details about the costume and set design
- Anecdotes from cast and crew

## Key Features of the Companion

- Photographic Content: High-quality images from the series, production stills, and exclusive behind-the-scenes photos.
- Detailed Chronicles: Episode summaries, character arcs, and development insights.
- Historical Context: Exploration of the societal and political landscape of early 20th-century Britain.
- Production Details: Information about filming locations, costume creation, and set design.

## Why Fans and Collectors Value the Official Companion

### Educational and Inspirational Resource

The companion book serves as a valuable educational resource for history buffs and students interested in British history, fashion, and societal change during the Edwardian era.

### Enhancing the Viewing Experience

Readers can gain a deeper appreciation of the show's intricate details, which enhances their enjoyment of each episode.

### Collectible and Memorabilia Value

Limited editions, signed copies, and special releases make the companion a highly sought-after collectible item.

### Community and Fan Engagement

Owning the official companion fosters a sense of connection within the Downton Abbey fan community, allowing fans to share insights and discuss details more profoundly.

## Official Downton Abbey Merchandise and Companion Products

### Books and Publications

- The Official Downton Abbey Companion Book by Jessica Fellowes
- Downton Abbey: A Celebration ? a visual history book
- Special Edition Releases ? including signed copies and collector's editions

## Merchandise and Memorabilia

- Costume replicas inspired by characters like Lady Mary or Carson
- Household items ? mugs, stationery, and home décor featuring Downton Abbey motifs
- Limited Edition Collectibles ? miniature sets, autographed photos, and replica props

## Digital Content and App Integrations

- Interactive apps featuring character bios, episode guides, and quizzes
- Virtual tours of the Downton Abbey sets and filming locations

## How to Access and Purchase Official Downton Abbey Companions

### Where to Buy

- Major online retailers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Waterstones
- Specialty bookstores and collector shops
- The official Downton Abbey website and merchandise store
- Digital platforms for e-books and audiobooks

### Tips for Collectors

- Look for signed editions and limited releases
- Check for authenticity and official licensing
- Consider special packaging or collector's boxes

### Price Range

- Standard editions typically range from \$20 to \$50
- Limited editions and signed copies can go upwards of \$100 or more

## Impact of Downton Abbey's Companion on Popular Culture

## Educational Use

Many educators incorporate the companion book into history or media studies curricula to provide students with a multifaceted understanding of early 20th-century Britain and television production.

## Inspiration for Fans and Creators

The detailed insights have inspired fan fiction, cosplay, and even amateur historical reenactments.

## Legacy and Continued Relevance

As Downton Abbey continues to enjoy popularity through new series, movies, and merchandise, the official companion remains a cornerstone for fans seeking to explore the depths of this cultural phenomenon.

## Conclusion: The Ultimate Downton Abbey Experience

The official Downton Abbey companion is more than just a book; it's a portal into the world of one of television's most beloved series. Whether you're a long-time fan, a history enthusiast, or a collector of fine memorabilia, owning the official companion and related merchandise allows you to immerse yourself fully in the grandeur, drama, and historical richness of Downton Abbey. With its detailed insights, stunning visuals, and authoritative content, the companion serves as an essential resource for celebrating the legacy of this iconic show.

## Summary of Key Points

- Comprehensive Resource: Offers detailed behind-the-scenes, character, and historical insights.
- High-Quality Content: Features exclusive photographs and production stories.
- Cultural Significance: Enhances understanding of early 20th-century Britain.
- Collectible Value: Limited editions and signed copies are highly sought after.
- Merchandise Variety: Ranges from books to costume replicas and memorabilia.
- Accessibility: Available through multiple retail channels, both physical and digital.
- Community Engagement: Fosters a deeper connection among fans.

Embrace the world of Downton Abbey through its official companion and merchandise, and experience the elegance, drama, and history of this timeless series like never before.

Downton Abbey: A Celebration ? The Official Companion

By immersing readers in the grandeur, complexity, and compelling storytelling of the beloved series,

"Downton Abbey: A Celebration ? The Official Companion" stands out as an essential volume for fans and newcomers alike.

## An Introduction to the Companion Book

"Downton Abbey: A Celebration ? The Official Companion" serves as the definitive guide to the critically acclaimed television series created by Julian Fellowes. Published to coincide with the show's continued popularity and the release of subsequent films, this comprehensive volume offers a behind-the-scenes look into the making of the series, its historical context, and the rich tapestry of characters and storylines that have captivated audiences worldwide.

This book is more than just a memorabilia collection; it's an immersive experience that takes readers on a journey through the grandeur of early 20th-century England, the intricate social dynamics, and the meticulous craftsmanship that went into bringing Downton Abbey to life.

## Historical Context and Setting

Understanding the world of Downton Abbey is crucial to fully appreciating its depth and appeal. The series is set amidst the tumultuous period from the early 20th century through the 1920s and 1930s, a time of significant social change.

### The Edwardian Era and Early 20th Century England

- The companion provides detailed insights into the socio-political landscape of the era, including the decline of the aristocracy and the rise of the middle class.
- It explores the impact of major historical events such as the Titanic disaster, World War I, and the interwar period on both the fictional Downton estate and British society at large.

### The Estate as a Microcosm

- The grand estate of Downton Abbey acts as a microcosm for the shifting class structures and societal expectations.
- The companion discusses how the series reflects these changes through its characters, settings, and storylines, emphasizing the importance of tradition versus modernity.

## Deep Dive into Characters and Cast

One of the series' greatest strengths is its rich character development and stellar cast performances. The companion dedicates significant space to exploring each character's arc,

background, and relationships.

## Main Characters and Their Evolution

- The Crawley Family: The aristocratic owners of Downton, including Lord Robert Crawley, Lady Mary, Lady Edith, and others.
- The Servants: A detailed look at the lives of the downstairs staff like Mr. Carson, Mrs. Hughes, and Anna Bates.
- Supporting Figures: Characters like Thomas Barrow, Daisy, and others who add depth and complexity to the narrative.

## Actors and Performances

- An exploration of the performances by Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery, Maggie Smith, and others, including insights from interviews and behind-the-scenes footage.
- The book highlights how casting choices influenced character portrayal and audience engagement.

## Character Relationships and Dynamics

- The companion examines key relationships—romantic, familial, and professional—that drive the plot forward.
- It discusses how these dynamics reflect societal expectations and personal growth.

## Production Insights and Behind-the-Scenes Details

"Downton Abbey" is renowned for its meticulous attention to detail in production design, costume, and cinematography. This section offers fans a rare peek into the making of the series.

## Set Design and Locations

- Detailed descriptions of the iconic Downton estate's interiors, gardens, and external locations.
- Insights into the selection of filming sites, including Highclere Castle, the real-life estate that doubles as Downton Abbey.

## Costume and Wardrobe

- An extensive look at the costumes, emphasizing accuracy to period styles and the craftsmanship involved.
- Highlights of key wardrobe pieces that define characters, like Lady Mary's elegant dresses or the servants' uniforms.

## Filming Techniques and Cinematography

- Exploration of the camera work, lighting choices, and filming schedules that contributed to the show's distinctive visual style.
- The use of lighting to evoke mood and period authenticity.

## Challenges and Innovations

- Behind-the-scenes anecdotes about logistical challenges, such as recreating historical events or managing large ensemble casts.
- Innovations in special effects, set construction, and costume design.

## Storylines and Thematic Elements

The series is celebrated for its compelling storylines that intertwine personal dramas with historical events.

### Major Plotlines

- The love stories, including the romantic entanglements of Lady Mary and her suitors.
- The struggles of the downstairs staff, including class tensions, ambitions, and personal tragedies.
- Historical storylines, such as the impact of WWI, the Spanish flu, and the changing political landscape.

## Themes Explored

- Tradition versus progress: How characters navigate societal change.
- Love, sacrifice, and duty: Core themes that resonate through character choices.
- Class and social mobility: The ongoing tension between maintaining status and embracing change.

## Episode Summaries and Key Moments

- The companion provides detailed synopses of pivotal episodes, highlighting character turning points and memorable scenes.

## Reception and Cultural Impact

"Downton Abbey" has left an indelible mark on television history and popular culture.

## Critical Acclaim and Awards

- The series received numerous awards, including Golden Globes and Emmys, which the companion discusses in context.
- Its critical reception underscored its storytelling, production quality, and performances.

## Fan Engagement and Fandom

- The book delves into the passionate fanbase, conventions, and online communities that celebrate Downton Abbey.
- It also examines how the series influenced fashion, tourism (notably Highclere Castle), and charity work.

## Legacy and Future

- The companion discusses the series' revival through the 2019 film and upcoming projects, emphasizing its enduring popularity.

## The Official Companion as a Collector's Item

Beyond its informational content, "Downton Abbey: A Celebration" is a beautifully produced book, making it an essential piece for collectors.

## Design and Presentation

- The book features high-quality photography, period illustrations, and exclusive artwork.
- Its layout is thoughtfully organized, blending narrative, images, and sidebars for a seamless



reading experience.

## Additional Features

- Interviews with cast and crew.
- Rare behind-the-scenes photographs.
- Reproductions of costumes, scripts, and memorabilia.

## Value for Fans and Scholars

- Serves as a comprehensive reference for fans, historians, and students interested in early 20th-century British history and television production.

## Conclusion: A Must-Read for Downton Enthusiasts

"Downton Abbey: A Celebration ? The Official Companion" is more than just a book; it is a love letter to the series and its universe. It offers a nuanced, detailed, and visually stunning exploration of one of television's most beloved dramas.

Whether you are a die-hard fan eager to revisit every storyline and behind-the-scenes detail, or a newcomer curious about the series' historical richness and production artistry, this companion delivers. It encapsulates the grandeur, complexity, and emotional depth that make Downton Abbey a timeless classic.

In an era where television series often come and go, "Downton Abbey" endures, and this companion ensures that its legacy can be appreciated and studied for generations to come. It is a testament to the show's craftsmanship, storytelling, and the universal themes of love, duty, and change that continue to resonate.

In sum, "Downton Abbey: A Celebration ? The Official Companion" is an indispensable resource, a visual delight, and a heartfelt tribute to a series that has captured the imagination of audiences worldwide.

**Question** What is 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration' about? 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration' is an official companion book that offers behind-the-scenes insights, exclusive photographs, and stories celebrating the hit series' legacy and its characters. Who are the main contributors to 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration'? The book features contributions from the show's creators, cast members, and historians who provide personal anecdotes and detailed analyses of the series' impact. How does 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration' enhance the viewer's understanding of the

series? It offers in-depth commentary, behind-the-scenes stories, and context about the show's production, helping fans appreciate the depth of the series and its characters. Is 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration' suitable for new viewers? While it offers valuable insights, the book is primarily aimed at fans and those familiar with the series, providing enriched context and nostalgic content. Are there exclusive photographs in 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration'? Yes, the book includes rare and exclusive photographs from the show's filming, cast events, and behind-the-scenes moments. Does 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration' cover the entire series or just specific seasons? The book provides a comprehensive overview of the series' entire run, highlighting key moments, characters, and themes from start to finish. Can 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration' be considered a must-have for collectors? Absolutely, especially for dedicated fans and collectors of Downton Abbey memorabilia, as it offers exclusive content and beautifully curated visuals. Are there new insights or revelations in 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration'? Yes, the book includes new interviews, behind-the-scenes stories, and reflections from cast members that fans haven't seen elsewhere. Where can I purchase 'Downton Abbey: A Celebration'? The book is available through major booksellers, online retailers, and official Downton Abbey merchandise stores.

**Related keywords:** Downton Abbey, A Celebration, official companion, Julian Fellowes, Edwardian era, British aristocracy, TV series, costume design, historical drama, cast interviews

## WALLACE W ABBEY A LIFE IN RAILROAD PHOTOGRAPHY

### Wallace W Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography

Wallace W Abbey is a name synonymous with the golden age of railroad photography. His work captures the essence of America's railroads, showcasing the beauty, power, and nostalgia associated with trains and the rail industry. **Wallace W Abbey a life in railroad photography** is a story of passion, dedication, and an eye for the perfect shot that has inspired generations of railfans and photographers alike. This article explores the life and legacy of Wallace W Abbey, highlighting his contributions to railroad photography, his unique style, and the enduring impact of his work.

### Early Life and Introduction to Railroads

#### Background and Childhood

Wallace W Abbey was born in the early 20th century, growing up during a period when railroads were the backbone of American transportation. From a young age, Abbey developed an interest in trains, often watching them pass by his hometown. His fascination with locomotives and rail yards laid the foundation for his future career as a railroad photographer.

## First Encounters with Photography

Abbey's initial foray into photography began as a hobby. He experimented with cameras, capturing trains in motion and static shots of locomotives. His early images exhibited a keen sense of composition and an appreciation for the mechanical beauty of trains, setting him apart from amateur enthusiasts.

## Developing a Passion for Railroad Photography

### Transition from Hobbyist to Professional

As Abbey's skill and passion grew, he started to pursue railroad photography more seriously. His photographs began to appear in local newspapers and railway publications, earning him recognition within the railfan community. His dedication to capturing authentic scenes made him a sought-after photographer among rail companies and collectors.

## Signature Style and Techniques

Wallace Abbey was known for his vivid imagery, capturing trains in dynamic environments. His techniques included:

- Using natural lighting to highlight the metallic sheen of locomotives
- Capturing trains in motion to convey speed and power
- Focusing on unique angles that showcased the industrial beauty of railroads

His work often featured a combination of sharp detail and atmospheric backgrounds, creating images that were both technically impressive and artistically compelling.

## Notable Works and Contributions

### Iconic Photographs

Abbey's portfolio includes numerous iconic images that have become classics in railroad photography. Some notable scenes include:

- The bustling freight yards with trains weaving through complex tracks
- Steam locomotives emitting clouds of smoke against dramatic skies
- Passenger trains gliding through picturesque landscapes

These images not only documented the railroads but also evoked a sense of nostalgia for a bygone era.

## Publication and Recognition

His photographs appeared in major railway magazines, calendars, and even books dedicated to rail transport. Abbey also contributed to the preservation of railroad history by documenting the decline of steam engines and the rise of diesel locomotives. His work helped educate the public about the importance of railroads in American history.

## Impact on Railroad Photography and Preservation

### Influence on Future Photographers

Wallace Abbey's work set a high standard for railroad photography. His attention to detail, composition, and storytelling inspired countless photographers to pursue railroads as a subject. Many of today's renowned railroad photographers cite Abbey as a major influence.

### Contributions to Railroad Heritage

Beyond photography, Abbey was passionate about preserving railroad history. His images serve as visual documentation of the industry's evolution. His efforts contributed to historical archives and museums, ensuring that future generations could appreciate the significance of railroads in America's development.

## Legacy and Continued Relevance

### Preservation of His Work

Today, Wallace W Abbey's photographs are treasured by collectors and rail enthusiasts worldwide. Numerous collections and exhibitions showcase his work, emphasizing his role as a pioneer of railroad photography.

### Inspiration for Modern Railfans

Abbey's images continue to inspire modern photographers and railfans. The timeless quality of his photographs demonstrates the enduring allure of trains and the importance of capturing moments that tell a story.

### Educational and Cultural Significance

His photographs serve as educational tools, illustrating the technological and industrial advancements of the rail industry. They also evoke cultural memories, celebrating the role of trains in shaping American society.

## Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Wallace W Abbey

Wallace W Abbey's life was a testament to the power of photography as a means of storytelling and preservation. His dedication to capturing the spirit of the American railroad has left a lasting legacy that continues to resonate today. Through his lens, Abbey immortalized an industry and era that defined a nation's growth and innovation. **Wallace W Abbey a life in railroad photography** remains an inspiring story of how passion, talent, and a keen eye can create images that transcend time, inspiring future generations to appreciate the beauty and history of railroads. Whether viewed in galleries, archives, or personal collections, his work continues to remind us of the vital role trains played and still play in shaping the American landscape.

### Wallace W Abbey: A Life in Railroad Photography

Wallace W Abbey's name is etched into the annals of railroad history, not just for his pioneering engineering pursuits but more vividly for his evocative and meticulously crafted photographs of America's railroads. His life's work offers invaluable insights into the golden age of railroading, capturing moments of industry, innovation, and Americana that continue to resonate with enthusiasts and historians alike. This article delves into the life of Wallace W Abbey, exploring his journey as a railroad photographer, the techniques and themes that defined his work, and his enduring legacy in the world of transport photography.

### Early Life and Introduction to Railroads

#### Childhood and Background

Wallace W Abbey was born in the early 20th century, in an era where the railroad was the backbone of America's economic expansion. Growing up in a small town with a train yard nearby, Abbey developed an early fascination with trains. His childhood days were filled with watching steam locomotives roar past, sparking a lifelong passion for railroads and the stories they carried.

#### First Encounters with Photography

Abbey's interest in photography was piqued during his teenage years, initially as a hobby. Armed with a basic camera, he began capturing trains and railway scenes around his hometown. These early images, though rudimentary, reflected a keen eye for composition and a desire to document the dynamic world of railroads.

## Transition to Professional Railroad Photography

### Combining Engineering and Art

Abbey's background in engineering provided him with a unique perspective on the technical aspects of railroads. This technical knowledge allowed him to anticipate train movements and understand the intricacies of locomotive design, which he skillfully translated into compelling photographs. His images often combined aesthetic appeal with technical precision, making them stand out in the era before digital technology.

### Building a Portfolio

In the 1930s and 1940s, Abbey began to expand his portfolio, traveling across the United States to photograph different railroads and locomotives. He captured iconic steam engines, freight trains, passenger trains, and railway infrastructure—each image telling a story of industry, progress, and innovation.

### Artistic Style and Techniques

#### Emphasis on Composition and Light

Wallace Abbey's photographs are renowned for their balanced composition and masterful use of light. He often shot during the golden hours—early mornings and late afternoons—to harness the warm, diffuse sunlight that imbued his images with a nostalgic glow. His careful framing often included elements like trackside signals, station buildings, and natural landscapes, creating layered and context-rich scenes.

#### Use of Perspective

Abbey was adept at using perspective to convey the scale and power of trains. Low-angle shots accentuated the size of locomotives, emphasizing their strength and engineering prowess. Conversely, high vantage points provided panoramic views of rail yards and train movements, illustrating the complexity of railroad logistics.

### Black-and-White Aesthetic

During most of his career, Abbey primarily worked in black-and-white photography. His mastery of contrast, shadow, and texture allowed him to produce images that were both dramatic and detailed. The monochrome palette also lent a timeless quality to his work, evoking the historic period he sought to document.

## Themes and Subjects in Abbey's Work

### Steam Locomotives and Industry

Abbey's portfolio is rich with images of steam engines—massive, intricate machines that symbolized industrial progress. His photographs often highlighted the craftsmanship involved in locomotive design, showcasing the boilers, pistons, and wheels in detail.

### Rail Yard Scenes

A recurring theme in Abbey's work was the bustling activity within railroad yards. These images captured the choreography of switching engines, loading cargo, and managing train movements. They offer a vivid glimpse into the logistical backbone of America's transportation network.

### Scenic and Landscape Shots

Beyond the operational scenes, Abbey also captured trains in picturesque landscapes—mountain passes, river crossings, and open plains—highlighting the harmony between man-made infrastructure and natural surroundings.

### Historic Moments and Locomotive Preservation

As railroads evolved, Abbey also documented historic locomotives and preserved railway stations, contributing to the cultural memory of America's railroading heritage.

### Impact and Legacy

#### Influence on Railroad Enthusiasts and Historians

Wallace Abbey's photographs have become invaluable records of a bygone era. They serve as references for model railway enthusiasts, historians, and preservationists who seek to understand and celebrate the golden age of steam.

#### Inspiration for Modern Rail Photography

Abbey's technical mastery and artistic sensibility continue to inspire contemporary photographers. His work demonstrates how technical knowledge and artistic vision can converge to produce compelling visual narratives.

### Preservation of Railroad History

Many of Abbey's images are now part of archival collections, museums, and private collections. They help preserve the visual history of American railroads, ensuring that future generations can appreciate the scale and significance of this transportation marvel.

### The Enduring Appeal of Abbey's Work

#### Nostalgia and Americana

In a rapidly modernizing world, Abbey's black-and-white photographs evoke a sense of nostalgia. They capture not just trains, but the spirit of an era marked by industrial optimism, frontier expansion, and American ingenuity.

#### Educational Value

Abbey's images serve as educational resources, illustrating the engineering and operational aspects of railroads. They provide insight into locomotive design, safety features, and railway infrastructure.

#### Artistic Appreciation

Beyond their documentary value, Abbey's photographs are celebrated for their artistic qualities—composition, lighting, and storytelling—making them appreciated by art collectors and photography enthusiasts.

### Conclusion

Wallace W. Abbey's life in railroad photography exemplifies a harmonious blend of technical expertise and artistic expression. His images transcend mere documentation, capturing the soul of an industry that shaped a nation. Through his lens, we glimpse the power, beauty, and resilience of America's railroads—a testament to his enduring legacy as one of the greatest railroad photographers of all time.

Abbey's work continues to inspire, educate, and evoke nostalgia, ensuring that the stories of steam and steel remain alive in the collective memory of railway aficionados and the wider public alike. As the rails of history stretch forward, Abbey's photographs remain a vital link to the past—a visual tribute to a transformative era in American transportation history.

**QuestionAnswer** Who was Wallace W. Abbey and what was his significance in railroad photography? Wallace W. Abbey was a renowned railroad photographer known for capturing historic and iconic images of American railroads, documenting their evolution and preserving their legacy through his compelling photographs. What distinguishes Wallace W. Abbey's photography style



from other railroad photographers? Abbey's style is characterized by his attention to detail, dramatic compositions, and ability to capture the essence of railroad life, often showcasing expansive landscapes and historic trains in striking black-and-white or color images that evoke nostalgia. How has Wallace W. Abbey contributed to the preservation of railroad history through his photography? His extensive collection of railroad photographs serves as a visual archive, helping to preserve the history and heritage of railroads, and inspiring enthusiasts, historians, and preservation efforts worldwide. Are there any published works or exhibitions featuring Wallace W. Abbey's railroad photography? Yes, Abbey's work has been featured in various books, exhibitions, and publications dedicated to railroad history, allowing a wider audience to appreciate his contributions to photographic documentation of the rail industry. What are some of the most iconic photographs taken by Wallace W. Abbey? Some of Abbey's most iconic images include historic steam locomotives in scenic landscapes, vintage trains at sunset, and scenes capturing the grandeur of railroads during their golden age, many of which are celebrated in railroad enthusiast circles. How can modern photographers or enthusiasts learn from Wallace W. Abbey's approach to railroad photography? They can learn the importance of composition, attention to lighting, and capturing the spirit of the railroad experience, as Abbey's work emphasizes storytelling through compelling imagery that celebrates railroading heritage.

**Related keywords:** Wallace W Abbey, railroad photography, train photography, railway photography, transportation photography, black and white photography, train enthusiasts, railroad history, train stations, locomotive photography

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