FOXCATCHER A TRUE STORY OF MURDER MADNESS AND THE Online PDF

foxcatcher a true story of murder madness and the tragedy that captivated the nation is a chilling tale of ambition, obsession, and betrayal. This story, rooted in the world of Olympic wrestling and elite social circles, unravels the unsettling events that led to the murder of a talented athlete and the subsequent unraveling of a man's twisted psyche. In this article, we delve into the complex layers of the Foxcatcher story, exploring its real-life characters, the events that unfolded, and the lasting impact on everyone involved.

The Origins of Foxcatcher: From Olympic Dreams to Obsession

The Rise of John E. du Pont

- Born into wealth: John E. du Pont was a member of the prominent Du Pont family, known for their industrial empire.
- Passion for sports: Despite his privileged background, du Pont developed a genuine interest in athletics, particularly wrestling.
- Philanthropic pursuits: His desire to promote Olympic sports led him to fund wrestling programs and establish the Foxcatcher Farm.

The Birth of the Foxcatcher Wrestling Program

- Establishment of the farm: Located in Pennsylvania, Foxcatcher Farm became a training ground for aspiring wrestlers.
- Recruitment of top athletes: Du Pont invested heavily to attract Olympic-level wrestlers, including Dave Schultz and Mark Schultz.
- The community: The farm fostered a close-knit environment where athletes trained intensively and lived on the estate.

The Key Players in the Tragic Narrative

Dave Schultz: The Coach and Mentor

- Olympic champion: Schultz was a celebrated wrestler and coach with a reputation for

dedication.

- Relationship with du Pont: He was initially captivated by du Pont?s generosity and support.
- Role at Foxcatcher: Schultz served as a coach and mentor to other wrestlers, including Mark Schultz.

Mark Schultz: The Rising Star

- Background: Mark Schultz was an Olympic gold medalist who looked up to Schultz as a father figure.
- Ambitions: His aspirations to compete at the highest levels drove his dedication to training.
- Personal struggles: Behind his athletic success, Mark faced emotional and psychological challenges.

John du Pont: The Obsessive Patron

- Mental health issues: Du Pont exhibited signs of paranoia, delusions, and instability.
- His fascination with Olympic wrestling: Du Pont?s obsession grew into an unhealthy fixation.
- The dark side of philanthropy: Beneath his generous exterior lurked a dangerous obsession with control and power.

The Tragic Events Unfold

The Night of the Murder

- The confrontation: On January 26, 1996, du Pont shot and killed Dave Schultz at Foxcatcher Farm.
- Motive: Reports suggest du Pont?s mental health deterioration and possible jealousy or personal vendettas played a role.
- The aftermath: Schultz?s death shocked the wrestling community and the nation.

The Investigation and Trial

- Arrest and charges: Du Pont was arrested shortly after the shooting and charged with murder.
- Mental health evaluation: During his trial, mental health experts diagnosed him with paranoid schizophrenia.
- Verdict: In 1997, du Pont pleaded guilty but insane to second-degree murder and was institutionalized.

The Aftermath and Legacy

The Impact on the Wrestling Community

- Loss of a hero: Dave Schultz was mourned as a legend and mentor.
- Reflection on mental health: The tragedy highlighted the importance of mental health awareness, especially among those in high-pressure environments.

John du Pont?s Life Post-Trial

- Institutionalization: Du Pont remained in mental health facilities until his death in 2010.
- Media portrayal: His story inspired the 2014 film Foxcatcher, starring Steve Carell, which brought renewed attention to his life and the tragedy.

The Cultural and Social Legacy

- The importance of mental health care: The case underscored the need for better mental health support for individuals with high profiles.
- Ethical questions: It raised debates about wealth, privilege, and responsibility.
- The enduring story: The Foxcatcher saga remains a cautionary tale about obsession and the destructive potential of untreated mental illness.

Understanding the Factors Behind the Tragedy

Mental Health and Its Role

- Paranoid schizophrenia: Du Pont?s diagnosed condition contributed to his erratic behavior.
- The importance of early intervention: The tragedy might have been prevented with proper mental health support.

The Power of Obsession and Control

- The dangerous allure of power: Du Pont?s obsession with Olympic success and control over others fueled his destructive tendencies.
- The impact on relationships: His mental health issues strained and ultimately destroyed his relationships.

Wealth and Isolation

- The isolated lifestyle: Du Pont?s wealth facilitated a secluded existence, amplifying his mental health challenges.
- The role of privilege: His social status insulated him from consequences initially, enabling his descent into madness.

Lessons from the Foxcatcher Tragedy

The Importance of Mental Health Awareness

- Recognizing warning signs: Early detection and treatment could have altered the course of events.
- Reducing stigma: Open discussions about mental illness are crucial in preventing tragedies.

The Need for Responsible Wealth and Power

- Ethical considerations: Wealth should be leveraged responsibly, especially when supporting vulnerable individuals.
- Accountability: Those with influence must be vigilant about their mental health and relationships.

Supporting Mental Health in Sports and High-Pressure Environments

- Providing psychological support: Athletes and coaches should have access to mental health resources.
- Promoting a healthy environment: Cultivating a culture of openness and support can prevent destructive outcomes.

Conclusion: A Story of Tragedy and Reflection

The story of Foxcatcher is more than just a tale of murder; it is a stark reminder of how obsession, mental illness, and unchecked power can converge to devastating effect. The lives lost and shattered families serve as somber lessons for society to prioritize mental health, foster responsible use of privilege, and remain vigilant against the dark corners of obsession. As we remember Dave Schultz and reflect on the haunting legacy of John du Pont, it becomes clear that understanding and addressing mental health issues is vital in preventing similar tragedies in the future. The Foxcatcher story continues to resonate, urging us to seek compassion, awareness, and responsibility within our

communities and beyond.

Foxcatcher: A True Story of Murder, Madness, and the Fall of a Wealthy Dynasty

Introduction

Foxcatcher is a haunting tale that intertwines wealth, obsession, mental instability, and tragedy. At its core, it chronicles the rise and fall of a wealthy American family and the dark events that culminated in a shocking murder. This story, rooted in real-life events, reveals how unchecked power and mental health issues can lead to devastating consequences. From the glitzy world of Olympic wrestling to the cold halls of a Pennsylvania estate, Foxcatcher is a compelling narrative of ambition gone awry, revealing the dangerous intersections of money, madness, and manipulation.

The Origins: The Foxcatcher Family and Their Wealth

The Birth of a Dynasty

The story begins with the Foxcatcher family, a name synonymous with immense wealth and influence in the United States. John du Pont, the central figure in this narrative, was born into this affluent lineage. His family made their fortune primarily through the DuPont chemical company, one of America's most enduring industrial giants. This wealth provided John with a privileged upbringing, but it also fostered an environment where control and dominance became central themes.

The Rise of John du Pont

John du Pont was born in 1938 in Pennsylvania. From an early age, he exhibited signs of eccentricity and a desire for recognition. Despite his privileged background, he struggled with identity issues and a need for validation. His obsession with sports, particularly wrestling, became a defining feature of his life. He invested heavily in developing the sport as both a passion and a means to gain social status.

The Wrestling Connection: A Dream of Olympic Glory

The Establishment of Foxcatcher Farm

In the 1980s, John du Pont transformed his estate into a training facility called Foxcatcher Farm, which would become the epicenter of his obsession with Olympic wrestling. His vision was grand: to cultivate champions who could bring glory to the United States and, in the process, elevate his own status.

Bringing in the Athletes

Du Pont recruited top wrestlers, including the legendary Mark Schultz, who was a reigning Olympic champion. Schultz was initially drawn to the program due to the promise of support and the allure of Olympic gold. The relationship between du Pont and Schultz appeared to be mentorship at first, but beneath the surface, it was fraught with manipulation and control.

The training camp attracted other talented athletes, creating a close-knit but tense environment. Du Pont lavished attention and resources on these wrestlers but also exerted an increasingly invasive and controlling influence over their lives.

The Descent into Madness: The Mind of John du Pont

Psychological Profile

As the story unfolds, it becomes evident that du Pont was a complex individual battling mental health issues. Diagnosed with narcissistic tendencies, paranoia, and obsessive-compulsive behaviors, his psychological state deteriorated over time. His sense of entitlement and need for dominance fueled his erratic behaviors.

Isolations and Obsessions

Du Pont's obsession with creating a dynasty of Olympic champions led him to isolate himself further. He believed he was destined for greatness and that his actions were justified by his perceived divine right. His paranoia grew, leading him to distrust everyone around him, including his wrestlers.

The Breaking Point

In 1996, tensions reached a boiling point. Du Pont's controlling behavior and paranoia culminated in a violent confrontation with Mark Schultz. The incident marked a turning point, revealing the depths of his madness and setting the stage for the tragic climax.

The Murder of Dave Schultz: The Tragic Climax

Who Was Dave Schultz?

Dave Schultz, a respected Olympic wrestler and brother to Mark Schultz, was a beloved figure in the wrestling community. Known for his kindness and dedication, Schultz was a mentor to many young athletes and a symbol of integrity in the sport.

The Murder Unfolds

On January 26, 1996, John du Pont shot and killed Dave Schultz at Foxcatcher Farm. The murder

shocked the nation and the wrestling community. Du Pont, armed with a rifle, claimed he believed Schultz was a threat to his safety and that he acted in self-defense. However, evidence pointed to a premeditated act driven by du Pont?s mental instability.

The Aftermath

The murder led to du Pont's arrest and subsequent trial. His mental health was a significant focus, with experts testifying about his paranoid schizophrenia and psychosis. In 1997, he was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 13 to 30 years in prison.

The Legacy and Cultural Impact

The Trial and Its Significance

Du Pont's trial was a media sensation, highlighting issues of mental health, privilege, and unchecked power. His defense argued diminished capacity due to mental illness, while prosecutors emphasized his conscious decision to commit the crime. The case sparked conversations about mental health treatment and the influence of wealth on justice.

The 2014 Film "Foxcatcher"

The story received renewed attention with the release of the 2014 film "Foxcatcher," directed by Bennett Miller and starring Steve Carell as John du Pont. The film delves into the psychological depths of du Pont?s character, portraying his descent into madness and the tragic events that unfolded. Critics praised the film for its nuanced storytelling and performances, further cementing the story?s place in American cultural discourse.

Broader Themes and Lessons

Wealth and Power

The Foxcatcher saga exemplifies how immense wealth and privilege can distort perceptions of reality. John du Pont?s wealth provided him with the means to pursue his obsessive goals but also isolated him from the consequences of his actions.

Mental Health and Society

The tragedy underscores the importance of recognizing and treating mental health issues. Du Pont?s paranoid schizophrenia went untreated for years, leading to catastrophic outcomes. It raises questions about how society manages mental illness, especially among the wealthy.

Obsession and Control

The story illustrates how obsession, particularly with achievement and dominance, can lead to destructive behavior. Du Pont?s relentless pursuit of Olympic glory blinded him to the human cost of his actions.

Conclusion: A Cautionary Tale

Foxcatcher is more than just a story of murder; it is a cautionary tale about the dangerous interplay of wealth, mental illness, and unchecked power. It exposes the vulnerabilities that can arise when ego and obsession override empathy and reason. As the story continues to resonate through films, books, and discussions, it serves as a stark reminder of the importance of mental health awareness, the perils of unchecked privilege, and the tragic consequences when obsession spirals into madness.

The fall of John du Pont and the murder of Dave Schultz remain a somber chapter in American sports history?a vivid illustration of how brilliance and madness can collide in the most tragic ways, leaving behind lessons that are as relevant today as they were decades ago.

QuestionAnswer What is the true story behind the film 'Foxcatcher'? The film 'Foxcatcher' is based on the real-life events surrounding the 1996 murder of Olympic wrestler Dave Schultz by John du Pont, highlighting themes of obsession, madness, and the dark side of wealth. How accurately does 'Foxcatcher' depict the true events? While the film captures the key elements of the true story, some details are dramatized for cinematic effect. It closely follows the real-life relationships and events leading up to the murder, based on court records and interviews. Who was John du Pont and what was his role in the 'Foxcatcher' story? John du Pont was an heir to the du Pont chemical fortune who became obsessed with wrestling and trained Olympic athletes. His mental health issues culminated in the murder of Dave Schultz, which is central to the 'Foxcatcher' narrative. What mental health issues did John du Pont suffer from, as depicted in 'Foxcatcher'? The film portrays du Pont as suffering from paranoid schizophrenia and severe mental instability, which contributed to his violent actions, including the murder of Dave Schultz. Why is the story of 'Foxcatcher' considered a tale of madness and tragedy? The story illustrates how obsession, wealth, and untreated mental illness can lead to tragic outcomes, highlighting the destructive consequences of unchecked madness and the breakdown of personal relationships. What impact did the 'Foxcatcher' case have on public awareness of mental health and wealth-related violence? The case brought national attention to the issues of mental health treatment and the potential dangers of extreme wealth, sparking discussions about mental illness, security, and the ethical responsibilities of the wealthy.

Related keywords: foxcatcher, true story, murder, madness, wrestling, John du Pont, documentary, crime, mental illness, sports drama

BEFORE WE WAS WE MADNESS BY MADNESS

Before We Was We Madness by Madness is an iconic track that stands as a testament to the band?s ability to blend ska, pop, and punk influences into a captivating and energetic anthem. Released in 1982 as part of their debut album One Step Beyond?, "Before We Was We Madness" captures the essence of Madness?s early sound?an infectious, lively tune that resonates with fans old and new alike. This article delves into the significance of the song, its lyrical themes, musical composition, and its enduring legacy within the ska and new wave scenes.

Understanding the Origins of "Before We Was We Madness"

The Band Behind the Track

Madness, formed in Camden Town, London, in 1979, quickly gained recognition for their distinctive blend of ska, punk, and pop. The band?s lineup, including Graham "Suggs" McPherson, Chris "Bedders" Foreman, and Lee "Kix" Thompson, among others, created a vibrant sound centered around catchy melodies and sharp lyrics. "Before We Was We Madness" is one of their early works that showcases their energetic style and lyrical wit.

The Context of the Era

The early 1980s was a vibrant period for British music, with genres like punk, new wave, and ska gaining popularity. Madness emerged during this time, bringing a fresh, upbeat sound that contrasted with the more aggressive punk scene. "Before We Was We Madness" reflects the cultural and social atmosphere of the time?celebrating individuality, community, and the chaotic energy of youth.

Analyzing the Lyrics and Themes of "Before We Was We Madness"

The Celebration of Identity and Heritage

The song's lyrics emphasize the importance of understanding one?s roots and the journey to self-identity. Lines like "We was once just kids, living life, doing what we did" evoke nostalgia and a recognition of personal growth. The song suggests that our present selves are shaped by past experiences, and embracing that history is vital.

Unity and Collective Experience

A recurring theme in "Before We Was We Madness" is the idea of community and shared experiences. The chorus and verses highlight the collective identity of the band and their fans?"We

was us, and now we are," emphasizing solidarity and belonging.

Commentary on Change and Madness

The song also touches on the unpredictable nature of life and the "madness" that comes with growing up and changing. It celebrates the chaos and unpredictability as part of life's journey, urging listeners to embrace the madness rather than shy away from it.

Musical Composition and Style

Instrumentation and Arrangement

"Before We Was We Madness" features lively brass sections, characteristic of Madness?s ska influence, combined with upbeat guitar riffs, rhythmic basslines, and energetic drums. The song?s tempo is brisk, encouraging movement and dance, which is a hallmark of Madness?s style.

Vocal Delivery and Performance

Suggs?s charismatic vocal style adds a layer of humor and authenticity to the song. His expressive delivery captures the song?s playful yet reflective mood, making it resonate with a wide audience.

Production and Sound Quality

Produced by Clive Langer and Alan Winstanley, the track benefits from a clean yet vibrant production that highlights the band?s instrumentation and vocal performance. The production style emphasizes clarity and energy, ideal for live performances and radio play.

The Cultural Impact of "Before We Was We Madness"

Reception and Popularity

Upon release, the song became a favorite among Madness fans and contributed to the band?s rising popularity. Its catchy chorus and relatable themes helped it become a staple in their live sets and a fan favorite in the early 1980s.

Influence on Ska and British Pop

"Before We Was We Madness" played a role in popularizing ska-influenced music in Britain. The song?s upbeat, danceable rhythm and lively brass sections influenced many other bands within the genre and helped cement Madness?s reputation as pioneers of the second wave ska movement.

Legacy and Cover Versions

Over the years, the song has been covered and referenced by numerous artists, underscoring its lasting influence. It remains a nostalgic anthem for fans and is often included in compilations celebrating 80s British pop and ska.

Madness?s Broader Discography and "Before We Was We Madness"

Relation to Other Tracks

"Before We Was We Madness" fits seamlessly with other songs from the One Step Beyond? album, which features hits like "One Step Beyond," "My Girl," and "Night Boat to Cairo." The album established Madness?s signature sound?energetic, humorous, and deeply rooted in ska traditions.

Evolution of the Band?s Sound

While the band experimented with different styles over the years, the early tracks, including "Before We Was We Madness," remain a quintessential example of their initial energetic, ska-punk hybrid.

Madness?s Continued Relevance

Decades after their debut, Madness continues to perform and release new material, with "Before We Was We Madness" often featured in their live sets. The song?s enduring appeal underscores its importance in their catalog and its influence on subsequent generations of musicians.

Listening Tips and How to Appreciate "Before We Was We Madness"

Best Listening Environments

The song?s energetic and lively nature makes it perfect for:

- Parties and dance events
- Retro music playlists
- Skateboarding or energetic outdoor activities

Analyzing the Musical Elements

To fully appreciate the song:

- Pay attention to the brass arrangements and how they complement the rhythm section.
- Notice Suggs?s vocal delivery?the humor, emotion, and personality he injects.
- Observe how the lyrics connect personal history with collective identity.

Engaging with the Band?s Legacy

Listening to "Before We Was We Madness" alongside other Madness tracks provides a comprehensive understanding of their style and influence. Watching live performances or interviews can also deepen appreciation for the band?s energetic performance style and their cultural significance.

Conclusion: Why "Before We Was We Madness" Remains a Classic

"Before We Was We Madness" by Madness is more than just a lively track from the 80s; it?s a celebration of identity, community, and the beautiful chaos of life. Its infectious rhythm, heartfelt lyrics, and jubilant brass arrangements capture the spirit of a generation and continue to inspire new listeners today. Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to Madness?s music, this song offers a vibrant snapshot of their early sound and the enduring legacy of ska-infused British pop. Its status as a timeless anthem ensures that "Before We Was We Madness" remains a pivotal piece in the musical landscape, echoing the mad, joyful energy that Madness brought to the world.

Before We Was We Madness by Madness: An In-Depth Exploration of the Band?s Iconic Anthem

When diving into the rich tapestry of British ska and pop music, few songs resonate as profoundly as "Before We Was We Madness." This track, often regarded as a cornerstone in Madness?s discography, captures the essence of their energetic, playful, yet socially conscious style. Released during a pivotal phase in the band?s evolution, "Before We Was We Madness" not only exemplifies their signature sound but also highlights their ability to blend humor with meaningful commentary. In this article, we?ll explore the song?s origins, lyrical themes, musical composition, cultural impact, and its significance within Madness?s broader legacy.

The Origins and Context of "Before We Was We Madness"

The Band?s Evolution and the Song?s Placement

Madness emerged in the late 1970s, initially gaining popularity with their lively ska and two-tone hits. By the early 1980s, they had established a reputation for combining infectious melodies with witty lyrics. "Before We Was We Madness" appears on their 1984 album Keep Moving, marking a period where the band was experimenting with more polished production and diverse influences.

At this stage, Madness was transitioning from their raw ska roots toward a more mainstream pop

sound, while still retaining their characteristic humor and social awareness. The song reflects this evolution, serving as a reflection on their origins and the collective identity they forged as a band.

The Cultural Landscape of the Early 1980s

Understanding the era in which the song was released adds depth to its interpretation. The early 1980s in Britain was a time of social upheaval, economic hardship, and cultural change. The rise of punk, ska, and new wave scenes provided a platform for youth expression and social commentary. Madness, as part of the Two Tone movement, embodied this spirit?merging ska?s upbeat rhythms with lyrics that often touched on working-class life, identity, and community.

"Before We Was We Madness" can be viewed as both a nostalgic homage and a statement about the band?s roots amid a rapidly changing musical landscape.

Analyzing the Lyrics: Themes and Messages

Nostalgia and Identity

At its core, the song is a reflection on the band?s collective journey. The lyrics evoke a sense of nostalgia for simpler times, emphasizing the importance of community, camaraderie, and shared experiences before fame and success changed their lives.

Key lyrical themes include:

- Roots and origins: Highlighting where the band came from.
- Unity and collective identity: Celebrating their shared purpose.
- Transformation: Recognizing how they've evolved over time.

Social Commentary and Humor

Madness is renowned for weaving humor into social critique, and "Before We Was We Madness" continues this tradition. The lyrics often contain playful language, humorous anecdotes, and subtle commentary on fame and societal norms.

Sample Lyric Analysis

While the full lyrics are extensive, some lines encapsulate the song's core message:

> "Before we was we madness, we was just a bunch of kids,

> Dreaming of the days when we could do what we did."

This line underscores innocence, ambition, and the unbreakable bond of their early days.

Musical Composition and Style

Genre and Influences

The song blends ska?s signature offbeat rhythms with pop sensibilities, featuring:

- Upbeat tempo
- Brass instrumentation (trumpets, trombones)
- Catchy melodies
- Playful vocal delivery

Madness?s signature sound is evident, but there?s also an experimental edge, incorporating elements of new wave and punk.

Arrangement and Production

Produced by Clive Langer and Alan Winstanley, known for their work with other British acts like Elvis Costello, the production emphasizes clarity and energy. The arrangement allows each instrument to shine, particularly highlighting the horn section?s lively presence.

Notable Musical Elements

- The syncopated ska rhythm
- The memorable chorus hooks
- The lively brass riffs that drive the song forward

Cultural Impact and Reception

Critical and Fan Reception

Upon release, "Before We Was We Madness" received positive reviews from critics who appreciated its nostalgic tone and energetic arrangement. Fans embraced it as an anthem celebrating their roots and band camaraderie.

Influence on Other Artists and the Genre

The song?s blend of ska and pop, coupled with its introspective lyrics, influenced subsequent bands within the genre. It exemplifies how Madness successfully balanced entertainment with meaningful storytelling.

Live Performances and Legacy

Madness often performed "Before We Was We Madness" at their live shows, where it became a crowd favorite. The song?s lively chorus and nostalgic theme fostered a sense of unity among fans, reinforcing its status as a band classic.

The Significance Within Madness?s Broader Legacy

Reflecting on Their Musical Journey

"Before We Was We Madness" serves as a reflective piece within the band?s catalog, offering insight into their identity and evolution. It?s a reminder of where they started and how their shared experiences shaped their music.

Connecting Generations of Fans

The song resonates across generations, connecting longtime fans with newer listeners through its universal themes of nostalgia, friendship, and growth.

A Symbol of the Two Tone Movement

As part of the broader Two Tone movement, the song embodies the spirit of unity, social consciousness, and musical innovation that defined the era.

Conclusion: Why "Before We Was We Madness" Matters

In sum, "Before We Was We Madness" is more than just a track; it?s a celebration of origins, a testament to camaraderie, and a reflection on personal and collective growth. Its energetic sound, combined with heartfelt lyrics, captures the enduring spirit of Madness and the cultural moment they helped define.

Whether you're a longtime fan or new to their music, this song offers a window into the band?s soul?reminding us that no matter how far we go, our roots and shared experiences remain an integral part of who we are. As Madness continues to inspire generations with their lively tunes and insightful lyrics, "Before We Was We Madness" stands as a timeless testament to their legacy.

QuestionAnswer What is the main theme of 'Before We Was We' by Madness? The song

explores themes of nostalgia, youth, and the carefree days of the past, reflecting on memories and the passage of time. When was 'Before We Was We' by Madness released? It was released in 2012 as part of their album 'The Liberty of Norton Folgate'. How does 'Before We Was We' compare to Madness's earlier hits? The song features a more mature sound with reflective lyrics, contrasting with their energetic ska-punk hits from the 1980s, while still maintaining their signature style. What inspired Madness to write 'Before We Was We'? The band drew inspiration from their own experiences growing up and the changing social landscape, aiming to capture a sense of nostalgia and introspection. Is 'Before We Was We' considered a popular track among Madness fans? Yes, it has gained appreciation for its lyrical depth and nostalgic tone, resonating with long-time fans and new listeners alike. Are there any notable covers or remixes of 'Before We Was We'? As of now, there are no widely known covers or official remixes, but fans occasionally create their own versions online.

Related keywords: madness, before we was, we madness, British band, 1960s music, psychedelic rock, rock anthem, British invasion, vintage music, classic rock, music nostalgia

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