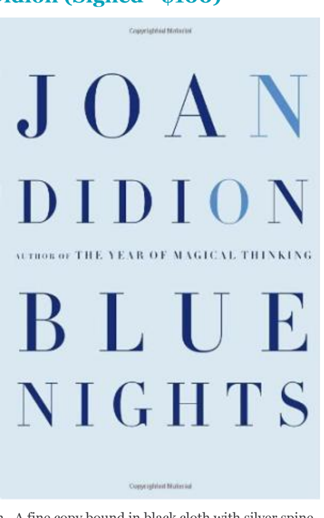
20 Classic Rare Books for Holiday Gifts from Crawford Doyle

Here are some nice books which would make thoughtful presents. Take a look and if you're interested, call us at 212 289 2345 or send us an Email at cdrarebooks@gmail.com. Thanks for your interest.
--John Doyle

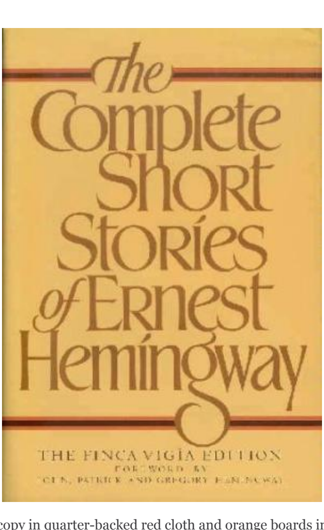
Blue Nights by Joan Didion (Signed - $100)

Joan Didion, the noted American journalist and writer of novels, screenplays, and autobiographical works, is best known for her literary journalism and memoirs. She suddenly lost her husband, the author John Gregory Dunne, to a heart attack in 2003, impelling her to write a wrenching memoir, *The Year of Magical Thinking,* describing the event. Two years later, she lost her only daughter, Quintana Roo Dunne, to a sudden illness. In *Blue Nights*, she describes her desperate efforts to cope with and survive this tragedy.



New York: Knopf, 2011. First Edition. A fine copy bound in black cloth with silver spine lettering in an fine dustwrapper. The author has signed this copy on the title page.

The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway ($150)

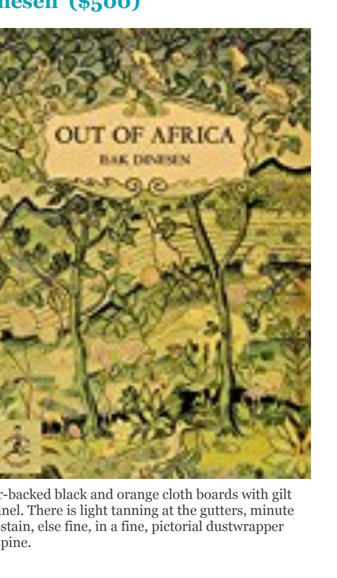


This comprehensive Hemingway edition includes all of the stories from *The First Forty Nine* plus fourteen stories published subsequently, seven never-before-published short stories and three extended scenes from unfinished novels. This is the definitive collection of the author's short stories. Hemingway's most beloved classics are here, including "The Snows of Kilimanjaro," "Hills Like White Elephants," and "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place." Readers will delight in the seven new tales published here for the first time.

New York: Scribner, 1987. The Finca Vigia First Edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed red cloth and orange boards in a fine dustwrapper with a hint of sunning to the spine. There is a foreword by the author's three sons and a preface by Charles Scribner, Jr.

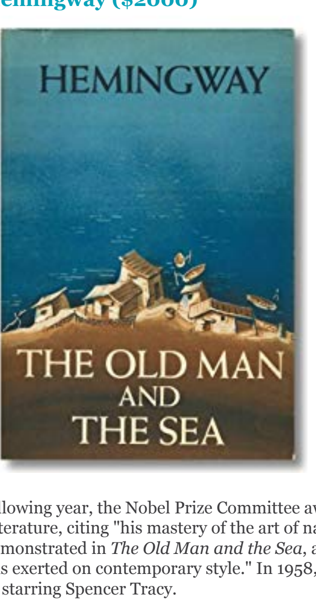
Out of Africa by Isak Dinesen ($500)

Isak Dinesen (also known as Karen Blixen) produced her most-renowned work in *Out of Africa*. The book recounts events of the seventeen years Blixen spent in Kenya, then known as British East Africa. She lived on a coffee farm she loved, first with her husband, later alone after a divorce. Her fondness for the native peoples and for the local animals is evident in her evocative writing. *Out of Africa* formed the basis for a great movie starring Meryl Streep and Robert Redford which won seven Academy Awards, including Best Picture.



New York: Random House, 1938. First edition. A near-fine copy in quarter-backed black and orange cloth boards with gilt spine lettering and décor on the front panel. There is light tanning at the gutters, minute edge wear and a little spotting to the topstain, else fine, in a fine, pictorial dustwrapper with minuscule wear at the head of the spine.

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway ($2000)

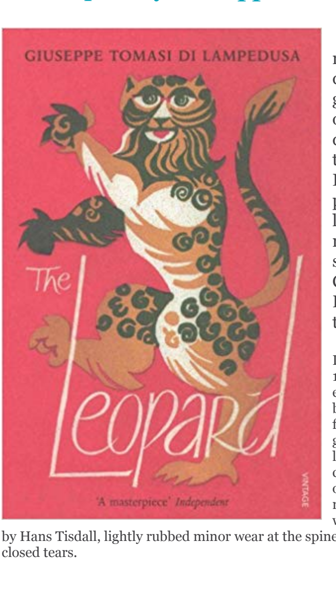


Hemingway's epic tale of a man and a fish. Santiago, an aging, experienced fisherman, has gone 84 days without catching a fish. On the eighty-fifth day, he takes his skiff into the Gulf Stream, sets his lines and by noon, a big fish has taken his bait. Santiago is sure it's a great marlin. But the fish is so large that he is unable to haul it in. Two days and nights pass with Santiago and the marlin battling. Then ensues a trial of mental and physical courage that becomes the ultimate test for Santiago of his worth as a man.

Hemingway was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953 for this novella. The following year, the Nobel Prize Committee awarded him the Prize for Literature, citing "his mastery of the art of narrative, most recently demonstrated in *The Old Man and the Sea*, and for the influence that he has exerted on contemporary style." In 1958, a great movie was made of it, starring Spencer Tracy.

New York: Scribner's, 1952. First edition. First issue. A near-fine copy bound in light blue cloth with the fragile silver spine lettering intact in a near-fine, first-issue dustwrapper, bright and whole, with micro chips at the spine ends and slight tanning to the endpages. All the identifying first-issue points are present and the $3.00 price is intact. A lovely volume.

The Leopard by Giuseppe di Lampedusa ($300)

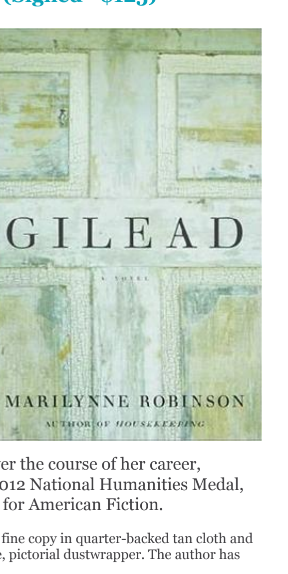


This Italian classic, set in the mid-nineteenth century, describes the author's Sicilian great grandfather, the Prince of Salina, at the point of decline of his and the traditional Italian way of life. It has become one of the most popular books of Italian literature. A fine film was made from the book in 1963, starring Burt Lancaster, Claudia Cardinale and Alain Delon, which was awarded the *Palm d'Or* at Cannes.

London: Collins and Harvill Press, 1960. First English-Language edition. Translated from the Italian by Archibald Colquhoun. A near-fine copy bound in green cloth and gilt spine lettering, with spine ends lightly rubbed and the tip of one corner bumped, resulting in a touch of bruising to a few leaf corners. A nice crisp copy in the handsome, wraparound dustwrapper designed by Hans Tisdall, lightly rubbed minor wear at the spine panel ends and with two tiny closed tears.

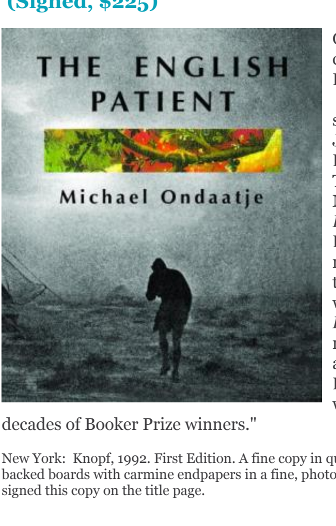
Gilead by Marilyn Robinson (Signed - $125)

There are few writers in America who command the respect of Marilyn Robinson, the novelist and essayist who has received about every award available in the course of a long career. She is perhaps best known for two towering novels, *Housekeeping* (1980) and *Gilead* (2004). In her novels, she writes of both rural life and faith. A rich streak of religion's influence on people's lives permeates her work. In Gilead, the narrative is a single, albeit episodic, document fashioned as a fictional journal and memoir of an elderly Congregationalist pastor in the small, secluded town of Gilead, Iowa, who knows that he is dying of a heart condition. Robinson was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2005 for *Gilead.* Over the course of her career, Robinson has also been awarded the 2012 National Humanities Medal, and the 2016 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction.



New York: Farrar Straus, 2004. First edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed tan cloth and paper boards with silver spine lettering in a fine, pictorial dustwrapper. The author has signed this copy on the title page.

The English Patient by Michael Ondaatje (Signed, $225)

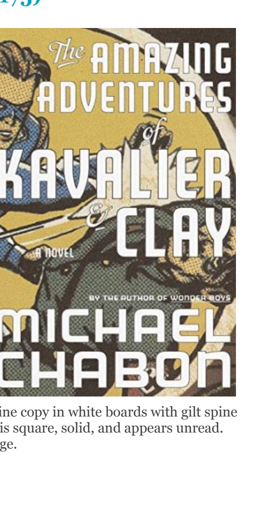


Ondaatje's intense love story, co-winner of the Pulitzer Prize for 1992, was made into a terrific movie in 1996 starring Ralph Fiennes, Juliette Binoche, Willem Dafoe, and Kristin Scott Thomas, directed by Anthony Minghella. *The English Patient* is Ondaatje's 1992 Booker Prize co-winner and a novel which many consider the Canadian author's finest work. This year, *The English Patient* received added recognition when it was awarded the Golden Man Booker Price for the "best work of fiction from five decades of Booker Prize winners."

New York: Knopf, 1992. First Edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed tan cloth and paper-backed boards with carmine endpapers in a fine, photographic dustwrapper. Ondaatje has signed this copy on the title page.

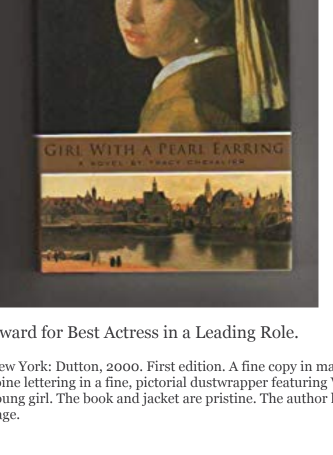
The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay by Michael Chabon (Signed - $175)

This novel traces the lives of two Jewish cousins, Czech artist Joe Kavalier and Brooklyn-born writer Sammy Clay, in the period around World War II. Kavalier and Clay become major figures in the comics industry from its beginning into its Golden Age. The novel became a *New York Times* Best Seller and won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It was also nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award and PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. Chabon has consistently produced solid books such as *Wonder Boys* and *The Yiddish Policemen's Union,* novels which leave readers smiling and smarter.



New York: Random House, 2000. First edition. A fine copy in white boards with gilt spine lettering in a fine, pictorial dustwrapper. This book is square, solid, and appears unread. Michael Chabon has signed this book on the title page.

Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier (Signed - $85)

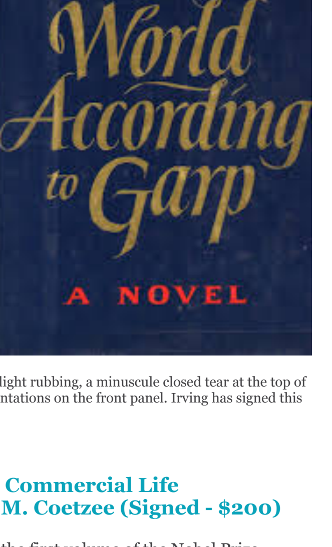


Vermeer's painting of a Dutch girl from 1665 was recently selected by the Dutch public as the most beautiful painting in the Netherlands. Tracy Chevalier, an American-British historical novelist, decided to construct an entire life for the Girl as a maid in a contentious Vermeer family. The story was widely praised and turned into a movie in 2003 starring Scarlett Johansson as Griet, the girl with the pearl earring, and Colin Firth as Vermeer. Johansson was nominated for various awards including a Golden Globe Award and a BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role.

New York: Dutton, 2000. First edition. A fine copy in maroon and tan boards with gilt spine lettering in a fine, pictorial dustwrapper featuring Vermeer's famous portrait of the young girl. The book and jacket are pristine. The author has signed this copy on the title page.

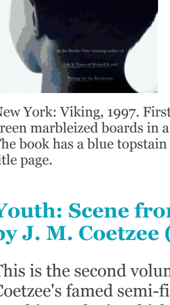
The World According to Garp by John Irving (Signed - $500)

Irving's most popular book tells the story of a man, born out of wedlock to a feminist leader, who grows up to be a writer. The author follows Garp's career along a remarkable, byzantine path in which he encounters a series of characters and incidents complex and exotic. Published in 1978, the book has been a bestseller for many years. It was a finalist for the National Book Award for Fiction in 1979, and its first paperback edition won the award the following year.



New York: Dutton, 1978. First Edition. A fine copy bound in quarter-backed black cloth and tan paper-backed boards with rose-colored endpapers in a near-fine dustwrapper with minimal edgewear at the spine ends, slight rubbing, a minuscule closed tear at the top of the front panel, and several small indentations on the front panel. Irving has signed this copy on the title page.

Boyhood: Scenes from Commercial Life by J. M. Coetzee (Signed - $200)



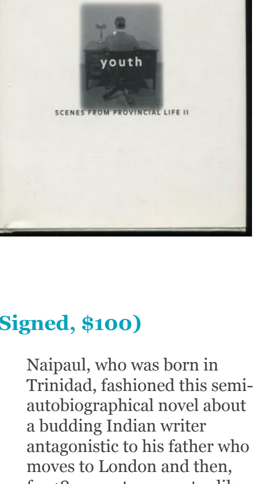
This is the first volume of the Nobel Prize winner's autobiography, a mesmerizing recounting of Coetzee's youth in Cape Town, growing up with a father he despised and a mother he adored and resented. He led a double life: an exemplary student at school, a troubled and searching life elsewhere. There is a reason Coetzee is a Nobel Prize winner and the winner of two Man Booker Prizes. You see the underpinning here in this marvelous book.

New York: Viking, 1997. First edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed blue cloth and light green marbleized boards in a pristine dustwrapper showing a rear portrait of a young boy. The book has a blue topstain and appears unread. The author has signed this copy on the title page.

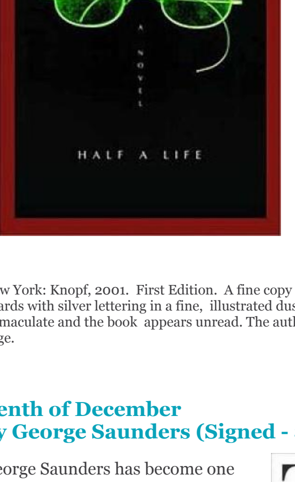
Youth: Scene from Provincial Life II by J. M. Coetzee (Signed - $250)

This is the second volume of Coetzee's famed semi-fictional autobiography in which the narrator moves to London after finishing school in Cape Town and fleeing its political unrest. He is seeking inspiration to become a great poet but mostly engages in a series of un-fulfilling affairs and disappointing jobs. Coetzee, a Nobel Prize winner, has won innumerable literary prizes. One critic called him "inarguably the most celebrated and decorated living English-language author".

New York: Viking, 2002. First edition. A fine copy in white boards with gilt spine lettering in a fine dustwrapper with a photograph of an author on the front panel, both book and cover pristine. He has signed this copy on the title page.



Half a Life by V. S. Naipaul (Signed, $100)



Naipaul, who was born in Trinidad, fashioned this semi-autobiographical novel about a budding Indian writer antagonistic to his father who moves to London and then, for 18 years, to a country like Mozambique where he lives with an African woman. But he comes to realize that he has been living other people's lives and mimicking their behavior. He moves to Berlin to live with his sister, finally to find peace with himself. Naipaul, who died in August, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2001. He is best known for his caustic portrayals, in novels and non-fiction, of the legacy of colonialism.

New York: Knopf, 2001. First Edition. A fine copy in quarter-backed red cloth and black boards with silver lettering in a fine, illustrated dustwrapper. The book and jacket are immaculate and the book appears unread. The author has signed this copy on the title page.

Tenth of December by George Saunders (Signed - $100)

George Saunders has become one of America's great short story writers.

Tenth of December was selected as one of the 10 Best Books of 2013 by the *New York Times* Book Review. It was also a finalist for the 2013 National Book Award for Fiction. It won any number of other prizes for outstanding fiction. His recent first novel, *Lincoln in the Bardo,* received critical acclaim, and won the 2017 Man Booker Prize

New York: Random House, 2013. First Edition. A fine copy in white boards with black spine lettering in a fine, bright dustwrapper, book and jacket unblemished and with no stickers attached. Saunders has signed this copy on the title page with his characteristic squiggle.

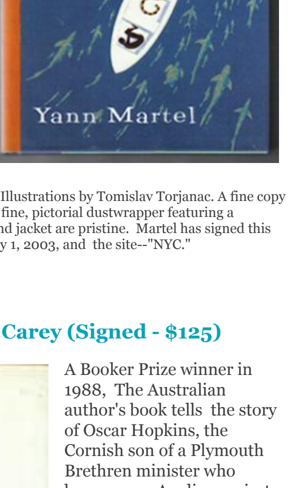
The Siege of Krishnapur by J. G Farrell ($150)

A very nice copy of Farrell's fifth novel, the second of his masterful 'Empire' Trilogy, and the winner of the 1973 Booker Prize. The novel is about the Indian Mutiny and the astonishing reactions of the British community in Krishnapur to the siege. "Suspense and subtlety, humour and horror, the near-neighbourliness of heroism and insanity," is the description from the *Times of London.* A book you will not regret reading and owning.

New York: Harcourt Brace, 1974. First American edition. A fine copy in tan cloth with bright gilt spine lettering and crimson endpapers in a fine pictorial dustwrapper featuring the British flag.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel (Signed - $175)

A fantasy adventure novel written by Canadian author Martel in which the protagonist Piscine "Pi" Molitor Patel, an Indian boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age, which come in handy when he finds himself stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger as his shipmate. He survives 227 days as the two get to know each other. This extraordinary novel won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 2002. A great film came out in 2012, directed by Ang Lee.



New York: Harcourt, 2001. First American edition of Martel's popular book. Illustrations by Tomislav Torjanac. A fine copy in blue and green paper-backed boards in a fine, pictorial dustwrapper featuring a magnificent Royal Bengal tiger. The book and jacket are pristine. Martel has signed this copy on the the title page with the date--May 1, 2003, and the site--"NYC."

Oscar & Lucinda by Peter Carey (Signed - $125)

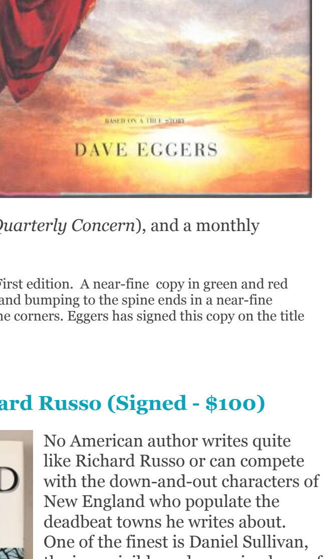
A Booker Prize winner in 1988, The Australian author's book tells the story of Oscar Hopkins, the Cornish son of a Plymouth Brethren minister who becomes an Anglican priest, and Lucinda Leplastrier, a young Australian heiress who buys a glass factory. They meet on a ship to Australia, and discover that they are both gamblers, one obsessive, the other compulsive. Lucinda bets Oscar that he cannot transport a glass church from Sydney to a remote settlement at Bellingen, some 400 km up the New South Wales coast. This bet changes both their lives forever. A charming story, later made into a popular film starring Ralph Fiennes and Cate Blanchett.

London: Faber & Faber, 1998. First British edition. A near-fine copy bound in blue cloth with white spine lettering and with slight tanning as usual to the text pages, otherwise fine, in a fine, decorated dustwrapper, bright and with no flaws. Carey has signed this copy on the title page.

A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers (Signed--$50)

Eggers' first book is a fictionalized memoir which focuses on the author's struggle to raise his younger brother in San Francisco following the deaths of both of their parents. The book quickly became a bestseller and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction.

Eggers is the author of ten books, including *A Hologram for the King*, a finalist for the 2012 National Book Award. He is the founder of McSweeney's, an independent publishing company based in San Francisco that produces books, a quarterly journal of new writing (*McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*), and a monthly magazine (*The Believer*).



New York: Simon & Schuster, 2000. First edition. A near-fine copy in green and red boards with mild rubbing throughout and bumping to the spine ends in a near-fine dustwrapper with a few tiny chips at the corners. Eggers has signed this copy on the title page.

Nobody's Fool by Richard Russo (Signed - $100)

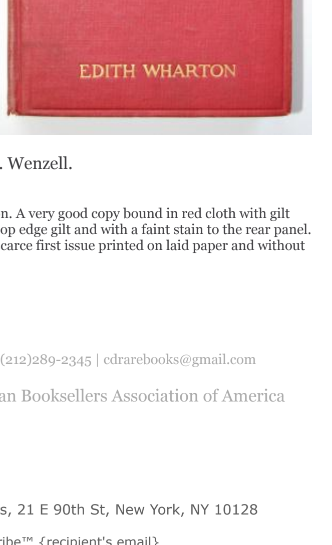
No American author writes quite like Richard Russo or can compete with the down-and-out characters of New England who populate the deadbeat towns he writes about. One of the finest is Daniel Sullivan, the incorrigible and engaging hero of this charming book: "Throughout his life a case study underachiever, Sully -- people still remarked -- was nobody's fool, a phrase that Sully no doubt appreciated without ever sensing its literal application -- that at 60, he was divorced from his own wife, carrying on halfheartedly with another man's, estranged from his son, devoid of self-knowledge, badly crippled and virtually unemployable -- all of which he stubbornly confused with independence."

This book was the basis for the 1994 Paul Newman and Jessica Tandy film. Russo also wrote *Straight Man, The Risk Pool*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Empire Falls* and his recent, *Trajectories: Stories.*

New York: Random House, 1993. First Edition. A near-fine copy in quarter-backed gray cloth and gray paper boards with a tiny red remainder mark on the top textblock, else fine, in a fine dustwrapper. Russo has signed this copy on the title page.

House of Mirth by Edith Wharton (Signed - $150)

Lily Bart, the heroine of this book published a century ago, has become a popular figure among modern feminists. They have joined lovers of American literature in recognizing this author as one of the nation's greatest. Living in the upper stratum of New York society in the Gilded Age, Lily faces an irremediable conflict between her moral views, which abhor the idea of a loveless marriage for money, and her equally strong desire to live well, surrounded by beautiful things. *Mirth* displays Wharton's surprisingly contemporary opinions, bolstered by wonderful black and white illustrations throughout by A. B. Wenzell.



New York: Scribner's, 1905. First edition. A very good copy bound in red cloth with gilt lettering on the spine and front panel, top edge gilt and with a faint stain to the rear panel. Issued without dustjacket. This is the scarce first issue printed on laid paper and without the ads bound into later copies.

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