

Cressida cowell how to train your dragons

From Page to Screen: Cressida Cowell's How to Train Your Dragon and Its Enduring Legacy

If you're a fan of fantastical stories, fiery dragons, and unlikely friendships, then you've likely heard of Cressida Cowell's "How to Train Your Dragon" series. This beloved children's book series, now a global phenomenon thanks to its successful film adaptations, has captured imaginations worldwide. Today, we're diving into the world of Vikings, dragons, and the powerful message of understanding and acceptance that Cowell masterfully weaves throughout her tales.

A Whimsical World of Vikings and Dragons

Cressida Cowell's "How to Train Your Dragon" series follows the adventures of Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, a young Viking who lives on the island of Berk. Unlike his fellow Vikings, who see dragons as fearsome beasts to be slain, Hiccup is fascinated by them. When he stumbles upon a wounded Night Fury dragon, he names him Toothless and, instead of fighting, chooses to befriend him. **Visualize this:** Picture a world of rugged cliffs, swirling mists, and fierce Vikings battling against powerful, fire-breathing dragons. Imagine the vibrant colors of the Viking longboats, contrasting against the dark, scaly skin of a Night Fury as it soars through the sky. That's the captivating world Cowell has created.

The Power of Understanding and Acceptance

Through Hiccup and Toothless's extraordinary bond, Cowell beautifully illustrates the power of understanding and acceptance. It's a powerful message that resonates with readers of all ages, reminding us that true strength lies in embracing differences and seeking common ground. **Think about this:** How often do we judge others before understanding their perspectives? Just as the Vikings initially feared dragons, we can be quick to judge what we don't understand. "How to Train Your Dragon" reminds us that understanding is the key to overcoming fear and finding peace.

Practical Tips from the Series

Cressida Cowell's stories aren't just entertaining, they offer valuable life lessons. Here are a few practical takeaways from the series: **1. Embrace Curiosity:** Hiccup's curiosity about dragons is what leads him to understand and befriend Toothless. Don't be afraid to ask questions, explore different perspectives, and challenge your own beliefs. **2. Don't Judge by Appearances:** We learn that dragons are not the fearsome beasts they're made out to be. This emphasizes the importance of looking beyond appearances and understanding the true nature of things. **3. The Importance of Friendship:** Hiccup and Toothless's friendship is the heart of the series. Cultivate strong friendships and value the connections you make. **4. Never Give Up:** Hiccup faces numerous challenges throughout the series. His perseverance and determination show us that we can overcome obstacles with effort and belief in ourselves. **5. Find Your Own Path:** Hiccup doesn't follow the traditional Viking path. He carves his own path, showing us that it's okay to be different and follow our own dreams.

Beyond the Books: The Enduring Legacy

Cressida Cowell's "How to Train Your Dragon" has transcended the pages of books and captured hearts through its vibrant animated films and television series. The movies have brought the world of Vikings and dragons to life, offering stunning visuals, heartwarming storylines, and memorable characters that have become cultural icons. **Think about this:** Remember the iconic opening scene of the first movie, where the Vikings face a dragon attack? It's a powerful visual representation of the fear and conflict that fuels the series' story. The "How to Train Your Dragon" series has also inspired a plethora of merchandise, from toys and games to clothing and home decor, making this world even more accessible and beloved by fans.

Summary of Key Points

- Cressida Cowell's "How to Train Your Dragon" is a captivating series that combines adventure, humor, and heartwarming messages.
- The series emphasizes the power of understanding, acceptance, and the importance of challenging our own beliefs.
- It offers practical life lessons like embracing curiosity, looking beyond appearances, and finding your own path.
- The series has been adapted into successful animated films and television series, solidifying its cultural impact.

FAQs

1. *What is the age range for the "How to Train Your Dragon" series?* The books are generally geared towards children ages 7-12, but their themes and messages resonate with readers of all ages. 2. **What is the main message of the series?** The main message revolves around understanding and acceptance, challenging preconceived notions, and embracing the power of friendship. 3. Are the "How to Train Your Dragon" books and movies faithful to the original story? While the movies maintain the core themes and characters, they offer their own interpretations and expanded storylines. 4. **What makes "How to Train Your Dragon" so successful?** The series' success lies in its captivating characters, witty dialogue, exciting adventures, and the timeless message of understanding and acceptance. 5. **What other books are similar to "How to Train Your Dragon?"** If you enjoyed "How to Train Your Dragon," you might also enjoy fantasy series like "The Chronicles of Narnia," "Percy Jackson and the Olympians," or "Artemis Fowl."

Final Thoughts

Cressida Cowell's "How to Train Your Dragon" is more than just a fun children's book series. It's a reminder that kindness, understanding, and courage can overcome any challenge. So, whether you're revisiting the series or discovering it for the first time, get ready to embark on a journey filled with laughter, adventure, and powerful lessons that will stay with you long after you turn the last page.

There are few stories that have captured the imaginations of both children and adults quite like [Cressida Cowell's](#) 'How to Train Your Dragon' series. What began as a series of beautifully illustrated children's books has blossomed into a global phenomenon, encompassing blockbuster movies, popular TV shows, video games, and even theme park attractions. At the heart of it all is the brilliant mind of Cressida Cowell, a storyteller who has a knack for weaving tales of unlikely friendships, courageous journeys, and the magical bond between humans and dragons.

If you've ever wondered about the inspiration behind Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III and his fearless dragon Toothless, or the whimsical world of the Viking island of Berk, you've come to the right place. We're diving deep into the world of Cressida Cowell and her iconic 'How to Train Your Dragon' universe.

The Genesis of a Dragon Tale: Cressida Cowell's Vision

Cressida Cowell didn't just wake up one day and decide to write about dragons. The seeds for 'How to Train Your Dragon' were sown in her own childhood. Growing up in a remote cottage on the coast of Scotland, with no television and limited company, Cowell spent her days exploring the wild landscape and dreaming up fantastical adventures. This sense of isolation and the power of imagination are palpable in her writing.

She has often spoken about her fascination with myths and legends, particularly those involving dragons. For Cowell, dragons weren't just fearsome beasts; they were complex creatures with their own lives, societies, and even personalities. This nuanced perspective is a hallmark of her work, setting her dragons apart from the typical fire-breathing monsters of other stories.

From Pages to Pixels: The 'How to Train Your Dragon' Books

The first book, '[How to Train Your Dragon](#)', was published in 2003. It introduced readers to the young Viking Hiccup, who, despite his name, is far from the fiercest warrior. Unlike his fellow villagers who are trained to hunt and kill dragons, Hiccup is small, bookish, and often finds himself the butt of jokes. His journey begins when he encounters a small, injured dragon that he names Toothless.

What makes Cowell's books so special is their rich detail and unique voice. The world of Berk is vividly brought to life with its quirky characters, the ever-present threat of dragon raids, and the surprisingly intricate social structures of both humans and dragons. The illustrations, also by Cowell, are an integral part of the storytelling, adding charm and character to the narrative. They are whimsical, often humorous, and perfectly capture the essence of the characters and their world. The visual style has become instantly recognizable and beloved by fans.

The book series, which spans numerous titles, follows Hiccup's growth from a somewhat awkward and overlooked teenager into a wise and respected leader. He learns not only how to train dragons but also how to understand them, respect them, and form a deep, lasting bond. This central theme of empathy and understanding resonates powerfully throughout the series.

Key Elements of Cowell's 'How to Train Your Dragon' Books:

1. **The Unlikely Hero:** Hiccup is a refreshingly relatable protagonist. He's not the strongest or the bravest, but his intelligence, kindness, and resourcefulness make him a true hero.
2. **Complex Dragons:** Cowell's dragons are not mere monsters. They have distinct personalities, breeds, and even social hierarchies. Toothless, in particular, evolves from a seemingly insignificant creature into Hiccup's most loyal companion.
3. **The World of the Vikings:** Berk is a harsh but vibrant place, filled with unique Viking traditions and a healthy dose of humor.
4. **Themes of Friendship and Empathy:** At its core, the series is about the power of connection, understanding, and looking beyond surface appearances.
5. **Cowell's Distinctive Illustrations:** The hand-drawn images are as much a part of the story as the words, adding a visual layer of charm and detail.

From Books to Blockbusters: The 'How to Train Your Dragon' Films

In 2010, DreamWorks Animation brought Cressida Cowell's world to the big screen with '[How to Train Your Dragon](#)'. The film adaptation, while taking some liberties with the source material, managed to capture the spirit and heart of Cowell's novels. The animation was breathtaking, showcasing the majestic flight of dragons and the

rugged beauty of Berk. The character of Toothless, in particular, was a triumph of CGI, becoming an instant fan favorite with his endearing personality and expressive eyes.

The film series, which includes '[How to Train Your Dragon 2](#)' (2014) and '[How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World](#)' (2019), continued Hiccup's adventures, exploring themes of destiny, identity, and the evolving relationship between humans and dragons. The movies have been critically acclaimed for their stunning visuals, compelling narratives, and emotional depth, proving that Cowell's story has universal appeal.

The Cinematic Evolution of Hiccup and Toothless:

1. **Visually Stunning Animation:** The films are renowned for their groundbreaking animation, bringing the dragons and their world to life with unparalleled detail and fluidity.
2. **Emotional Storytelling:** Despite being animated films, they tackle complex emotional themes that resonate with audiences of all ages.
3. **Faithful to the Spirit:** While some plot points differ from the books, the core message of friendship, courage, and understanding remains intact.
4. **Introduction of New Characters and Dragons:** The films expand the 'How to Train Your Dragon' universe with exciting new characters and an even wider array of dragon species.

Beyond the Screen: TV Series, Games, and Merchandising

The success of the books and films has spawned a whole ecosystem of related media. The 'Dragons' television series, such as '[Dragons: Riders of Berk](#)' and '[Dragons: Rescue Riders](#)', have allowed fans to continue their adventures with Hiccup and his dragon companions, exploring new stories and expanding the lore. These series often cater to a slightly younger audience, introducing the world of dragons and Viking life to a new generation.

Video games have also allowed players to step into Hiccup's boots and interact with the dragons themselves, offering immersive gameplay experiences. Furthermore, the 'How to Train Your Dragon' franchise has generated a vast amount of merchandise, from toys and clothing to books and collectibles, allowing fans to bring a piece of Berk into their own lives. This extensive merchandising further solidifies the cultural impact of Cowell's creation.

Cressida Cowell: A Master Storyteller

Cressida Cowell's 'How to Train Your Dragon' series is more than just a fantasy adventure; it's a testament to the power of imagination, the importance of empathy, and the enduring appeal of stories that celebrate unlikely friendships. Her unique blend of humor, heart, and breathtaking adventure has resonated with millions worldwide.

What makes Cowell's storytelling so captivating is her ability to craft worlds that feel both fantastical and deeply human. She understands that even in a world filled with fire-breathing dragons, the most compelling stories are often about connection, bravery, and finding your place in the world. Whether you first encountered Hiccup and Toothless through the pages of a book, the magic of the cinema, or the interactive world of a video game, the impact of Cressida Cowell's vision is undeniable. Her creation continues to inspire, entertain, and remind us of the extraordinary possibilities that lie within the bonds we form and the courage we find within ourselves.

The enduring popularity of 'How to Train Your Dragon' is a clear indicator of its lasting legacy. It has inspired countless children to read, to dream, and to believe in the magic of friendship. Cressida Cowell has truly gifted the world with a timeless saga that will be cherished for generations to come.

Exploring the World of "How to Train Your Dragons": A Cultural and Narrative Phenomenon

Cressida Cowell's "How to Train Your Dragons" is far more than a children's fantasy series—it is a richly layered narrative that has captivated audiences worldwide, transcending age and genre boundaries. At its core, the story reimagines Viking culture through the eyes of young Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, offering a nuanced perspective on courage, friendship, and understanding. The series, beginning with the seminal book and expanding into films, animated series, and immersive experiences, invites readers and viewers to explore themes of empathy and coexistence in a world once defined by conflict.

Origins and Narrative Depth

Born from Cowell's imagination and brought vividly to life through collaborations with illustrator Tonke Dragt, the "How to Train Your Dragons" universe blends Norse mythology with heartfelt storytelling. Rather than portraying dragons solely as fearsome beasts, the narrative humanizes them, revealing complex emotions, social structures, and bonds with human companions. This approach not only challenges traditional fantasy tropes but also fosters emotional intelligence in its audience. The meticulous worldbuilding—from dragon physiology to Viking societal norms—creates an immersive environment where every flight, friendship, and misstep carries authentic weight.

Key Insights: Bridging Imagination and Real-World Values

One of the most compelling aspects of the series lies in its exploration of coexistence. Hiccup's journey toward training dragons becomes a metaphor for overcoming fear through patience and mutual respect. This message resonates deeply in today's global climate, where cross-cultural understanding and peaceful collaboration are increasingly vital. The series subtly teaches that true strength lies not in domination, but in connection—an insight applicable far beyond the realm of dragons. Moreover, the series celebrates innovation and thoughtful problem-solving. Each dragon has unique traits, requiring Hiccup to adapt rather than force compliance. This mirrors real-world challenges, encouraging audiences to embrace diversity and think creatively when navigating differences. The emphasis on collaboration—whether between humans and dragons or among human allies—positions the story as a timeless guide for fostering inclusive communities.

Applications and Broader Impact

The cultural footprint of "How to Train Your Dragons" extends well beyond entertainment. Educational institutions have integrated the series into curricula focused on literacy, emotional development, and social studies, leveraging its narrative to teach empathy, teamwork, and resilience. The franchise's expansion into interactive media, including apps and virtual reality experiences, further amplifies its accessibility and educational potential. Businesses and creative industries have also drawn inspiration from Cowell's vision, using the story's principles to inform team-building programs and innovation workshops. The emphasis on listening, adaptability, and trust aligns closely with modern leadership philosophies, making the narrative a valuable resource for organizational development.

Future Outlook: Expanding the Legacy

Looking ahead, the future of "How to Train Your Dragons" appears both vibrant and expansive. With ongoing developments in animated series, merchandise, and immersive experiences, the world continues to evolve

while preserving its foundational values. Emerging technologies such as augmented reality and interactive storytelling offer fresh avenues for audiences to engage with the dragons and their world in deeply personal ways. Moreover, the series' enduring appeal suggests a sustained commitment to exploring themes of inclusion and understanding. As global conversations about diversity, environmental stewardship, and peaceful coexistence grow in importance, Cowell's narrative remains not just relevant, but profoundly necessary. The next chapter promises to deepen these connections, offering new generations a story that inspires wonder, empathy, and the courage to bridge divides—one dragon flight at a time. In essence, "How to Train Your Dragons" endures as a testament to the power of storytelling to shape minds, spark imagination, and nurture values that resonate across time and cultures. Through Cowell's visionary work, dragons become more than mythical creatures—they become companions in a shared journey toward a more compassionate world.

Cressida Cowell's 'How to Train Your Dragon': A Legacy of Bravery, Belonging, and Beloved Beasts

In the vast landscape of children's literature, few series have captured the imaginations of young readers – and the hearts of their parents – quite like Cressida Cowell's 'How to Train Your Dragon'. What began as a whimsical tale of a scrawny Viking boy and his unlikely dragon companion has blossomed into a global phenomenon, spanning bestselling books, blockbuster animated films, and a host of related media. But beyond the dazzling visuals and thrilling adventures, the enduring appeal of Cowell's creation lies in its profound exploration of universal themes: courage in the face of adversity, the power of friendship, the acceptance of the 'other,' and the true meaning of heroism. This article delves into the intricate tapestry of Cowell's world, examining the literary genius behind the 'How to Train Your Dragon' series and its lasting impact.

The Genesis of a Dragon-Sized Dream

Cressida Cowell, a British author and illustrator, conceived the 'How to Train Your Dragon' series with a singular vision. Inspired by her own childhood spent between England and a remote island off the coast of Scotland, she sought to create a world that felt both ancient and fantastical. Her initial inspiration, she has often stated, came from the myths and legends of the Vikings, a culture known for its seafaring prowess and fierce warriors. However, Cowell's interpretation of Viking life on the island of Berk is far from a stereotypical portrayal. Instead, she imbues it with a quirky, humanistic charm, where even the most hardened Vikings have their vulnerabilities and, crucially, a deep, often hidden, capacity for empathy.

The central premise of the first book, published in 2003, introduced Hiccup Horrendous Haddock III, a young Viking who is decidedly not the dragon-slaying hero his community expects. Overweight, asthmatic, and generally clumsy, Hiccup is the polar opposite of the muscular, battle-hardened youths of Berk. His path to heroism is not paved with brute strength, but with intelligence, wit, and a remarkable ability to understand and connect with creatures deemed monstrous by his people. His accidental discovery and subsequent taming of Toothless, a small but fearsome Night Fury dragon, sets in motion a series of events that will challenge everything Hiccup, and indeed the entire Viking tribe, thought they knew about dragons.

Toothless: More Than Just a Dragon

At the heart of the 'How to Train Your Dragon' phenomenon is the remarkable bond between Hiccup and Toothless. Toothless, as depicted in the books, is a far cry from the sleek, agile creature of the animated films. He is initially portrayed as a rather grumpy, even somewhat pathetic, dragon. However, it is precisely this imperfection that makes him so relatable. Cowell masterfully crafts Toothless as a character who is misunderstood and feared, mirroring Hiccup's own social standing within the Viking community. Their shared status as outsiders forms the bedrock of their extraordinary friendship.

The act of "training" a dragon in Cowell's world is not about domination or subjugation. Instead, it is about understanding, communication, and mutual respect. Hiccup learns to see the world from Toothless's perspective, recognizing his needs, his fears, and his innate intelligence. This approach, so revolutionary for the Viking society, becomes the key to not only Hiccup's survival but to the eventual harmony between humans and dragons. The evolution of their relationship, from wary alliance to unbreakable brotherhood, is a testament to Cowell's skill in depicting emotional depth and character development.

Themes of Bravery and Belonging

Beyond the dragon-riding escapades, 'How to Train Your Dragon' delves into powerful themes that resonate deeply with readers of all ages. Bravery is a recurring motif, but Cowell redefines it. True bravery, she suggests, is not the absence of fear, but the ability to act in spite of it. Hiccup, with his constant anxieties and physical limitations, embodies this redefined courage. His willingness to stand up for what he believes in, even when it means defying his father, Stoick the Vast, and the entire tribe, showcases a moral fortitude that is far more impactful than any physical feat.

The theme of belonging is equally poignant. Hiccup, ostracized for his differences, yearns for acceptance. His journey is one of finding his place, not by conforming to societal expectations, but by embracing his unique qualities. This message of inclusivity extends to the dragons as well. Initially viewed as purely destructive beasts, they are gradually revealed to have complex personalities, emotions, and societies of their own. Cowell's nuanced portrayal of these creatures challenges the reader's preconceived notions and encourages empathy towards those who are different.

The Literary Landscape: Cowell's Unique Voice

Cressida Cowell's writing style is a significant contributor to the series' charm. Her prose is lively, often humorous, and infused with a child-like wonder. She employs vivid imagery, creating a sensory experience for the reader. The descriptions of dragon species, from the playful, but mischievous, Gobi Moon to the fearsome Red Death, are imaginative and detailed, igniting the reader's imagination. Cowell's use of italics, sometimes for emphasis and sometimes to convey a character's internal thoughts, adds a dynamic layer to her storytelling.

Furthermore, Cowell's self-illustrated books are a treat for the eyes. Her distinctive artwork, characterized by its bold lines and whimsical details, perfectly complements her narrative. The illustrations bring the characters and the world of Berk to life, adding another dimension to the reading experience. This synergy between text and image is a hallmark of her work and a key reason for the series' cross-generational appeal. The visual storytelling in the books often mirrors the narrative arcs, enhancing the overall impact.

From Page to Screen: A Phenomenal Adaptation

The 'How to Train Your Dragon' series achieved stratospheric success with the release of DreamWorks Animation's first film in 2010. While the animated films take liberties with the source material, they remain remarkably faithful to the spirit and core themes of Cowell's books. The adaptation beautifully captures the essence of Hiccup and Toothless's relationship, translating their bond into breathtaking CGI animation. The filmmakers embraced Cowell's vision of a complex, often humorous, Viking world, and the result was a critically acclaimed and commercially successful franchise.

The films, including 'How to Train Your Dragon 2' and 'How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World,' expanded the narrative, introducing new characters and exploring deeper philosophical questions. They further cemented the 'How to Train Your Dragon' universe in popular culture. The success of the films undoubtedly introduced a new generation of fans to Cowell's original books, creating a virtuous cycle of engagement. The visual design of the dragons in the movies, while different from the book illustrations, has become iconic in its own right, influencing fan art and merchandise worldwide. Many fans now associate Hiccup with the more agile, streamlined Toothless seen on screen.

The Enduring Legacy of 'How to Train Your Dragon'

More than two decades after its inception, the 'How to Train Your Dragon' series continues to captivate audiences. Its success is a testament to Cressida Cowell's unparalleled ability to craft stories that are both entertaining and meaningful. The series offers a powerful message about the importance of empathy, understanding, and courage, particularly for those who feel like outsiders. In a world that often celebrates conformity, Hiccup's journey reminds us that our differences are our strengths.

The 'How to Train Your Dragon' books, along with their cinematic counterparts, have fostered a generation of readers and viewers who have grown up with Hiccup and Toothless. They have learned the value of kindness, the courage to be different, and the profound impact of interspecies friendship. Cressida Cowell's creation is not merely a collection of stories about dragons; it is a rich exploration of the human condition, wrapped in the thrilling adventure of a boy and his dragon. The intricate world-building, coupled with the deeply human characters, ensures that the legacy of 'How to Train Your Dragon' will continue to soar for years to come. The enduring popularity of characters like Hiccup, Astrid, and the various dragon species demonstrates the timeless appeal of Cowell's storytelling. The series' impact on popular culture, from educational initiatives to fan conventions, is a testament to its profound and lasting influence.

In the modern educational landscape, downloading **Cressida Cowell How To Train Your Dragons** represents more than just a technological convenience—it reflects a meaningful shift in how people seek, absorb, and apply knowledge. Not long ago, access to quality information was limited by physical availability, financial constraints, or geographic location. Today, digital formats have quietly removed many of those barriers, allowing learning to happen in ways that feel more natural, flexible, and personal.

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Perhaps most importantly, digital access connects learners globally. Downloading **Cressida Cowell How To Train Your Dragons** allows people from different cultures, backgrounds, and locations to engage with the same ideas. This shared access encourages dialogue, collaboration, and mutual understanding, strengthening the global learning community.

In conclusion, the digital availability of **Cressida Cowell How To Train Your Dragons** empowers learners in a

way that feels practical, human, and forward-looking. Through convenience, affordability, interactivity, and ethical access, digital books support meaningful learning experiences. When used responsibly through trusted platforms, **Cressida Cowell How To Train Your Dragons** becomes more than just a downloadable file—it becomes a companion for continuous growth, curiosity, and intellectual development.

Questions & Answers About cressida cowell how to train your dragons

No	Question	Answer
1	What's the biggest difference between Cressida Cowell's 'How to Train Your Dragon' books and the movies?	While both feature Hiccup and Toothless, the books are more grounded in Viking sagas and feature a less-than-heroic, often bumbling Hiccup who relies on wit and luck. The movies present a more streamlined adventure with a heroic Hiccup and a more universally lovable Toothless.
2	Beyond the main characters, which creatures from Cressida Cowell's books are particularly unique and worth knowing about?	Cowell's books are filled with a fascinating array of dragons! The Monstrous Nightmare, the Gronckle, and the terrifying Red Death are key, but the books also introduce dragons like the Scauldron and the Common Burple Banger, each with distinct personalities and abilities not always seen in the films.
3	What themes does Cressida Cowell explore in the 'How to Train Your Dragon' series that resonate with young readers?	Cowell beautifully explores themes of overcoming adversity, the importance of friendship and loyalty, embracing one's differences, and finding courage in unexpected places. The series also subtly touches upon environmentalism and respecting nature.
4	How has Cressida Cowell's own background influenced the 'How to Train Your Dragon' world?	Growing up in the Scottish Highlands and spending time in the Hebrides, Cowell was immersed in Norse mythology and island folklore. This rich heritage directly inspired the Viking setting, the dragon lore, and the rugged, often windswept landscapes of her books.
5	Where does the 'Race to the Edge' series fit into the 'How to Train Your Dragon' timeline, and how does it connect to the books and movies?	'Race to the Edge' is a Netflix animated series that bridges the gap between the first movie and 'How to Train Your Dragon 2'. It delves deeper into Hiccup's leadership, explores new dragon species, and expands on the characters' relationships, offering a rich addition to the Cowell-inspired universe.

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