

# extremely loud and incredibly close novel

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close Novel: A Deep Dive into Jonathan Safran Foer's Touching Masterpiece

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel** is a poignant exploration of loss, grief, and the intricate ways human beings cope with trauma. Written by Jonathan Safran Foer and published in 2005, this emotionally charged story has captured the hearts of readers worldwide. Its unique narrative style, compelling characters, and profound themes make it a standout work in contemporary literature. If you've ever wondered why this novel continues to resonate with so many or are looking to understand its deeper layers, this article offers an engaging and thorough look into the book's essence, themes, and cultural impact.

## The Story Behind the Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close Novel

At its core, the extremely loud and incredibly close novel centers on the life of a young boy named Oskar Schell, who embarks on a quest to find the lock that matches a mysterious key left behind by his father, who died in the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Oskar's journey through New York City brings him into contact with a host of unique characters, each adding depth to the narrative.

What sets this novel apart is not just the plot but the way Foer addresses grief from a child's perspective. The story moves beyond mere tragedy, delving into the complexities of healing and the different forms that memory and communication can take.

## Jonathan Safran Foer's Inspiration and Writing Style

Understanding the author's background enriches the reading experience. Jonathan Safran Foer drew heavily on personal and historical events to craft this novel. His experimental writing style, which includes unconventional typography, illustrations, and narrative shifts, mirrors the emotional turbulence of the characters.

Foer's prose is both lyrical and fragmented, reflecting the confusion and hope that coexist in the aftermath of loss. The novel's inventive structure challenges traditional storytelling, making readers engage more actively with the text.

## Key Themes Explored in the Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close Novel

One of the reasons the extremely loud and incredibly close novel remains relevant is its exploration of universal themes that touch upon the human experience. Here are some of the most significant themes woven throughout the book:

## **Grief and Healing**

Grief is the novel's beating heart. Oskar's search for the lock is symbolic of his attempt to unlock his feelings and memories about his father. The narrative doesn't shy away from depicting the rawness of sorrow but also highlights moments of tenderness and resilience.

## **The Significance of Memory**

Memory in this novel is portrayed as both a blessing and a curse. Characters struggle with remembering and forgetting, grappling with how memories shape identity and relationships. The novel suggests that memory is crucial in the healing process but can also trap individuals in pain.

## **The Innocence and Curiosity of Childhood**

Oskar's childlike perspective offers a fresh lens through which to view trauma. His inventive mind and boundless curiosity provide a contrast to the adult characters' more restrained ways of coping. This juxtaposition deepens the emotional impact of the story.

## **Impact and Reception of the Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close Novel**

Upon its release, the extremely loud and incredibly close novel quickly garnered both critical acclaim and public interest. It was praised for its originality and emotional depth, though some critics debated its portrayal of 9/11 and its aftermath.

## **Critical Acclaim and Awards**

The novel was shortlisted for the National Book Award and the Booker Prize, highlighting its literary significance. Many readers appreciated Foer's innovative storytelling and his ability to tackle a sensitive topic with empathy and nuance.

## **The Novel's Role in 9/11 Literature**

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close occupies a unique place in the corpus of 9/11 literature. It humanizes the tragedy by focusing on individual grief rather than political or historical analysis. This personal approach has helped many readers process their own emotions related to the event.

# Adapting the Novel: From Page to Screen

The popularity of the extremely loud and incredibly close novel led to a film adaptation released in 2011. Directed by Stephen Daldry and starring Thomas Horn as Oskar, the movie aimed to capture the novel's emotional intensity and narrative complexity.

## Challenges of Adaptation

Translating Foer's innovative narrative style and internal monologues to film was no easy task. While the movie received mixed reviews, it succeeded in bringing the story to a broader audience and sparking conversations about how trauma is represented in media.

## Differences Between the Book and the Film

The film simplifies some of the novel's experimental elements and focuses more on visual storytelling. Fans of the book often note that the rich inner world and literary devices are difficult to fully convey on screen, making the novel a more immersive experience.

## Why Read Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close Novel Today?

In an age where stories about loss and resilience are more relevant than ever, the extremely loud and incredibly close novel offers valuable insights into how people, especially children, navigate the complexities of grief. Its blend of humor, tragedy, and hope makes it not just a story about a specific event but a universal tale of love and healing.

## Tips for Readers New to the Novel

If you're picking up the extremely loud and incredibly close novel for the first time, here are a few pointers to enhance your reading experience:

- **Embrace the unconventional format:** Don't be surprised by the unique typography and illustrations—they're part of the storytelling.
- **Take your time:** The narrative is layered, so reading slowly allows you to absorb the emotional nuances.
- **Reflect on the themes:** Consider how the novel's exploration of grief and memory relates to your own experiences.

- **Discuss with others:** Joining a book club or online forum can deepen your understanding through shared perspectives.

## **Exploring Further: Related Works and Authors**

If you find the extremely loud and incredibly close novel compelling, you might also appreciate works by authors who explore similar themes or employ experimental narrative styles. Writers such as Art Spiegelman, with his graphic novel "Maus," or Markus Zusak's "The Book Thief," delve into trauma and memory through innovative storytelling.

Additionally, exploring more of Jonathan Safran Foer's bibliography, including "Everything Is Illuminated," can offer further insight into his unique voice and thematic interests.

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The extremely loud and incredibly close novel is more than just a story about loss; it's a heartfelt exploration of how love, memory, and courage can help us face even the most overwhelming challenges. Its lasting impact lies in its ability to connect readers with the universal experience of grief, reminding us that even in the loudest moments of despair, there can be incredible closeness and hope.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the central theme of 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'?**

The central theme of the novel is grief and healing, exploring how a young boy named Oskar Schell copes with the loss of his father in the 9/11 attacks.

### **Who is the protagonist of 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'?**

The protagonist is Oskar Schell, a highly intelligent and inquisitive nine-year-old boy who embarks on a quest to find the lock matching a mysterious key left by his father.

### **How does the novel 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' address the events of 9/11?**

The novel addresses 9/11 through the personal lens of Oskar's loss and trauma, portraying the emotional impact on individuals and families rather than focusing on the broader political or historical aspects.

## What narrative style is used in 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'?

The novel employs a first-person narrative from Oskar's perspective, incorporating unique typography, illustrations, and unconventional storytelling techniques to reflect his emotional state and thought processes.

## Has 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close' been adapted into other media?

Yes, the novel was adapted into a feature film released in 2011, directed by Stephen Daldry and starring Thomas Horn as Oskar Schell, along with Sandra Bullock and Tom Hanks.

## What is the significance of the key and lock in 'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'?

The key and lock symbolize Oskar's search for meaning and connection to his deceased father, driving the plot as he attempts to unlock a mystery that helps him process his grief.

## Additional Resources

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close Novel: A Deep Dive into Jonathan Safran Foer's Poignant Narrative

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel** has captivated readers and critics alike since its release in 2005. Written by Jonathan Safran Foer, this debut novel delves into the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, exploring themes of grief, trauma, and the search for meaning through the eyes of a precocious nine-year-old boy, Oskar Schell. The novel's unique narrative style and emotional depth have made it a significant work in contemporary American literature, sparking discussions about how tragedy is processed and portrayed in fiction.

## Context and Background of the Novel

Set in post-9/11 New York City, the extremely loud and incredibly close novel follows Oskar Schell's journey as he attempts to solve a mystery left behind by his deceased father. Oskar discovers a key in a vase that belonged to his father, leading him on a city-wide quest to find the lock that it opens. This quest is not just a literal search but also a metaphorical journey into understanding loss, memory, and connection.

Jonathan Safran Foer, a young author at the time, combined experimental literary techniques with a deeply emotional storyline, resulting in a work that is both innovative and accessible. The novel's release came at a time when America was still grappling with the emotional and political reverberations of 9/11, giving it particular resonance.

# **In-depth Analysis of Themes and Narrative Style**

The extremely loud and incredibly close novel is notable for its exploration of grief from multiple perspectives. Oskar's voice presents a child's innocence and intelligence, contrasting sharply with the weight of the tragedy surrounding him. The narrative also incorporates letters from Oskar's grandparents, adding layers of intergenerational trauma and reconciliation.

## **The Portrayal of Trauma and Grief**

Foer does not shy away from depicting the complexities of mourning. Oskar's father's death leaves a void that the young protagonist attempts to fill through his detective-like quest. The novel captures the disorientation and fragmentation that often accompany grief, employing a non-linear storytelling method and visual elements such as photographs and typographical play.

## **Innovative Use of Visual Elements**

One of the most distinctive features of the extremely loud and incredibly close novel is its incorporation of images and unconventional page layouts. Foer uses photographs, blank pages, and varied fonts to enhance the emotional impact and to mimic the scattered thoughts and memories of the characters. This multimodal approach challenges traditional narrative forms and invites readers to engage with the text in a more interactive way.

## **Character Development and Complexity**

Oskar Schell emerges as a complex protagonist, embodying a mixture of childlike wonder and profound sensitivity. His traits—a mix of intelligence, anxiety, and determination—make him relatable and compelling. The supporting characters, including his mother, grandparents, and various New Yorkers he encounters, contribute to a rich tapestry of perspectives that deepen the novel's emotional resonance.

## **Comparisons with Contemporary Literature**

In the landscape of post-9/11 literature, extremely loud and incredibly close novel occupies a distinctive place. Unlike more politically charged or journalistic accounts of the tragedy, Foer's work is intensely personal and psychological. When compared to other novels addressing similar themes, such as Don DeLillo's "Falling Man" or Colum McCann's "Let the Great World Spin," Foer's narrative is more experimental and centered on a child's viewpoint.

This focus on a young protagonist sets the novel apart and allows it to explore trauma in an intimate, less direct manner. While some critics argue that the novel's style can be overwhelming or distracting, many praise its emotional honesty and creative risks.

## Strengths and Criticisms

- **Strengths:** Emotional depth, innovative narrative style, successful portrayal of complex grief, and compelling character development.
- **Criticisms:** Some readers find the visual elements interruptive, and the narrative's emotional intensity can feel heavy or uneven.

## Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The novel's influence extended beyond literature when it was adapted into a film in 2011, starring Tom Hanks and Sandra Bullock. While the movie brought the story to a wider audience, it received mixed reviews, with some critics feeling that the cinematic version struggled to capture the novel's intricate narrative and emotional nuances.

Despite this, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* remains a significant cultural work, often included in academic discussions about trauma literature and post-9/11 art. Its examination of how individuals, particularly children, confront loss continues to resonate with readers worldwide.

## Relevance in Today's Literary and Social Context

More than fifteen years after its publication, the novel retains relevance as discussions about trauma, mental health, and collective memory have grown in public discourse. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* offers valuable insight into the personal dimensions of large-scale tragedy, making it a useful reference for understanding how fiction can help navigate historical trauma.

## Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

Jonathan Safran Foer's *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is a poignant exploration of loss, resilience, and the search for meaning in the aftermath of tragedy. Its innovative narrative techniques and heartfelt storytelling have earned it a lasting place in contemporary literature. While it may not be without its flaws, the novel's ability to evoke empathy and provoke reflection ensures its continued relevance and impact. For readers interested in post-9/11 narratives, trauma literature, or experimental fiction, it remains a compelling and thought-provoking choice.

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**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close** Jonathan Safran Foer, 2005 Oskar Schell, the nine-year-old son of a man killed in the World Trade Center attacks, searches the five boroughs of New York City for a lock that fits a black key his father left behind.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Everything Is Illuminated** Jonathan Safran Foer, 2015 Hilarious, energetic, and profoundly touching, a debut novel follows a young writer as he travels to the farmlands of eastern Europe, where he embarks on a quest to find Augustine, the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis, and, guided by his young Ukrainian translator, he discovers an unexpected past that will resonate far into the future. Excerpt in The New Yorker.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Extremely loud & Incredibly close / Жутко громко и запредельно близко.** Книга для чтения на английском языке Джонатан Сафран Фоер, 2020-08-26 Трогательная история рассказана от лица 9-летнего мальчика, отец которого погиб во время теракта 11 сентября 2001 года в одной из башен-близнецов. В ней есть и интрига, и почти что детективный сюжет, и неожиданная развязка. Атмосферная, оригинальная, по-детски непосредственная и по-взрослому глубокая книга найдет отклик в сердце каждого, кто её прочтёт.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: A Study Guide for Jonathan Safran Foer's "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close"** Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-06-29 A Study Guide for Jonathan Safran Foer's Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close (Study Guide)** BookCaps Study Guides Staff, 2011 The perfect companion to Jonathan Safran Foer's Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, this study guide contains a chapter by chapter analysis of the book, a summary of the plot, and a guide to major characters and themes. BookCap Study Guides do not contain text from the actual book, and are not meant to be purchased as alternatives to reading

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**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer** Adam Ford, 2007

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close** Jonathan Safran Foer, 2006 A new novel by the author of *Everything Is Illuminated* introduces Oskar Schell, the nine-year-old son of a man killed in the World Trade Center bombing who searches the city for a lock that fits a black key his father left behind. Jonathan Safran Foer emerged as one of the most original writers of his generation with his best-selling debut novel, *Everything Is Illuminated*. Now, with humor, tenderness, and awe, he confronts the traumas of our recent history. What he discovers is solace in that most human quality, imagination. Meet Oskar Schell, an inventor, Francophile, tambourine player, Shakespearean actor, jeweler, pacifist, correspondent with Stephen Hawking and Ringo Starr. He is nine years old. And he is on an urgent, secret search through the five boroughs of New York. His mission is to find the lock that fits a mysterious key belonging to his father, who died in the World Trade Center on 9/11. An inspired innocent, Oskar is alternately endearing, exasperating, and hilarious as he careens from Central Park to Coney Island to Harlem on his search. Along the way he is always dreaming up inventions to keep those he loves safe from harm. What about a birdseed shirt to let you fly away? What if you could actually hear everyone's heartbeat? His goal is hopeful, but the past speaks a loud warning in stories of those who've lost loved ones before. As Oskar roams New York, he encounters a motley assortment of humanity who are all survivors in their own way. He befriends a 103-year-old war reporter, a tour guide who never leaves the Empire State Building, and lovers enraptured or scorned. Ultimately, Oskar ends his journey where it began, at his father's grave. But now he is accompanied by the silent stranger who has been renting the spare room of his grandmother's apartment. They are there to dig up his father's empty coffin.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Handbook of the American Novel of the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries** Timo Müller, 2017-01-11 Increasing specialization within the discipline of English and American Studies has shifted the focus of scholarly discussion toward theoretical reflection and cultural contexts. These developments have benefitted the discipline in more ways than one, but they have also resulted in a certain neglect of close reading. As a result, students and researchers interested in such material are forced to turn to scholarship from the 1960s and 1970s, much of which relies on dated methodological and ideological presuppositions. The handbook aims to fill this gap by providing new readings of texts that figure prominently in the literature classroom and in scholarly debate – from James's *The Ambassadors* to McCarthy's *The Road*. These readings do not revert naively to a time "before theory." Instead, they distil the insights of literary and cultural theory into concise introductions to the historical background, the themes, the formal strategies, and the reception of influential literary texts, and they do so in a jargon-free language accessible to readers on all levels of qualification.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: A Case Study Of Oskar Schell In J. S. Foer's Novel "Extremely Loud And Incredibly Close"** Natalia Gresty, 2016-08-25 Bachelor Thesis from the year 2016 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, University of Presov (British and American Studies), language: English, abstract: This bachelor thesis analyses Oskar Schell, the fictional character from Jonathan Safran Foer's novel *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*. The chosen technique is called „a case study“ since it examines the case of Oskar Schell with an emphasis on his mental state. The thesis is divided into two main parts; theoretical and practical. The theory briefly deals with the author and his literary purpose, explains the plot, the basic theories of three mental disorders – posttraumatic stress disorder, autism and clinical depression. The practical part demonstrates symptoms of these illnesses in Oskar's passages and in the end provides a possible diagnosis.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: The Trauma of 9/11 and the Effects of Visual**

Writing in Jonathan Safran Foer's Novel "Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close" Inna Warkus, 2020-06-07

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel:** *The 9/11 Novel* Arin Keeble, 2014-06-04 This is a comprehensive study of the first decade of literary representations of 9/11, moving from Art Spiegelman's *In the Shadow of No Towers* (2003) to Amy Waldman's *The Submission* (2012). It traces the way literature has dealt with an event that continues to shape world conflict and resonate prominently in the American imagination, and argues that the corpus of literary fiction discussing 9/11 is characterized by a fundamental sense of conflictedness related to the tensions between trauma or mourning and political imperatives. The work offers in-depth analyses of texts that have historicized 9/11 and shaped the way we understand this key moment in American and world history.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Multimodal Poetics in Contemporary Fiction** Thomas Mantzaris, 2024-10-24 This book explores the growing body of multimodal literary texts: books that creatively experiment with the potential of design to represent narrative content. Examining five North and Central American novels from the first two decades of the twenty-first century, this study draws attention to texts that combine verbal text (writing) with non-verbal elements (photographic images, varied typography, maps, color, etc.) as integral parts of their narratives. Their experimentation both reconfigures the potential for print-based (and born-digital) fiction in the future, and holds a mirror to past practices of design and typography that were rendered invisible, or which received limited attention by authors, publishers, and readers. By placing the five case studies and related texts within a broader history of experimentation in literature, this book demonstrates how multimodal novels have changed the conceptualization of narrative content in literary texts and ushered in a new era for fiction.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Literature and Terrorism**, 2012-01-01 The years following the attacks of September 11, 2001 have seen the publication of a wide range of scientific analyses of terrorism. Literary studies seem to lag curiously behind this general shift of academic interest. The present volume sets out to fill this gap. It does so in the conviction that the study of literature has much to offer to the transdisciplinary investigation of terror, not only with respect to the present post-9/11 situation but also with respect to earlier historical contexts. Literary texts are media of cultural self-reflection, and as such they have always played a crucial role in the discursive response to terror, both contributing to and resisting dominant conceptions of the causes, motivations, dynamics, and aftermath of terrorist violence. By bringing together experts from various fields and by combining case studies of works from diverse periods and national literatures, the volume *Literature and Terrorism* chooses a diachronic and comparative perspective. It is interested in the specific cultural work performed by narrative and dramatic literature in the face of terrorism, focusing on literature's ambivalent relationship to other, competing modes of discourse.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Multimodal Stylistics of the Novel** Nina Nørgaard, 2018-10-08 This book advocates for a new analytical framework that extends our understanding of multimodal meaning-making in the novel. Integrating theoretical traditions from stylistics and the influential social semiotic approach to multimodal communication developed by Kress and van Leeuwen, Nørgaard applies this method of analysis in order to build on existing stylistic practices that look at linguistic features in the novel to encompass other semiotic resources found in the form, such as typography, layout, images, paper and book-cover design. The volume grounds the discussion with supporting examples from novels that feature experimentation with multiple semiotic resources as well as more traditional novels, furthering the argument that all novels are inherently multimodal. Offering new insights and tools for unpacking multimodal meaning-making in this critical literary genre, this volume is an indispensable resource for graduate students and researchers in multimodality, stylistics and literary studies.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Millennial Memory Perspectives in Jewish American Fiction** Heidi Schorr, 2017 Diese in englischer Sprache verfasste Dissertation fußt in den Feldern englische Literaturwissenschaft/Amerikanistik, Cultural Studies und Jewish American Studies. Sie untersucht die Repräsentation von Erinnerung in Werken von Jonathan Safran Foer,

Shalom Auslander und Nicole Krauss, Mitgliedern der sogenannten third generation jüdisch amerikanischer SchriftstellerInnen, welche um den Millenniumswechsel publizieren. Der Fokus liegt auf Werken von Nicole Krauss. Symbolische Charaktere und Objekte, welche in Verbindung zu Erinnerung stehen, werden herausgearbeitet und im Detail analysiert. This work is rooted in the fields of English Literary Studies, Cultural Studies, and Jewish American Studies. It examines memory representation in exemplary works published around the millennial change by third generation Jewish American writers Jonathan Safran Foer, Shalom Auslander, and Nicole Krauss. The focus lies on the latter's work. Symbolic characters and objects connected to memory are discerned and analyzed in detail.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel:** *Mapping Generations of Traumatic Memory in American Narratives* Dana Mihăilescu, Roxana Oltean, Mihaela Precup, 2014-06-12 This volume collects work by several European, North American, and Australian academics who are interested in examining the performance and transmission of post-traumatic memory in the contemporary United States. The contributors depart from the interpretation of trauma as a unique exceptional event that shatters all systems of representation, as seen in the writing of early trauma theorists like Cathy Caruth, Shoshana Felman, and Dominick LaCapra. Rather, the chapters in this collection are in conversation with more recent readings of trauma such as Michael Rothberg's "multidirectional memory" (2009), the role of mediation and remediation in the dynamics of cultural memory (Astrid Erll, 2012; Aleida Assman, 2011), and Stef Craps' focus on "postcolonial witnessing" and its cross-cultural dimension (2013). The corpus of post-traumatic narratives under discussion includes fiction, diaries, memoirs, films, visual narratives, and oral testimonies. A complicated dialogue between various and sometimes conflicting narratives is thus generated and examined along four main lines in this volume: trauma in the context of "multidirectional memory"; the representation of trauma in autobiographical texts; the dynamic of public forms of national commemoration; and the problematic instantiation of 9/11 as a traumatic landmark.

**extremely loud and incredibly close novel: Falling After 9/11** Aimee Pozorski, 2016-04-21 Falling After 9/11 investigates the connections between violence, trauma, and aesthetics by exploring post 9/11 figures of falling in art and literature. From the perspective of trauma theory, Aimee Pozorski provides close readings of figures of falling in such exemplary American texts as Don DeLillo's novel, Falling Man, Diane Seuss's poem, Falling Man, Jonathan Safran Foer's Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close, Frédéric Briegbieder's Windows on the World, and Richard Drew's famous photograph of the man falling from the World Trade Center. Falling After 9/11 argues that the apparent failure of these texts to register fully the trauma of the day in fact points to a larger problem in the national tradition: the problem of reference-of how to refer to falling-in the 21st century and beyond.

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**An idle worthless person 9 letters - 7 Little Words Answers** Welcome to the page with the answer to the clue An idle worthless person. This is just one of the 7 puzzles found on this level. You can make another search to find the answers

**Extremely annoying 11 letters - 7 Little Words** Extremely annoying Answer: Infuriating Now it's time to pass on to the other puzzles. This puzzle was found on Daily pack. Click to go to the page with all the answers to 7

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