

# letters of note by shaun usher

**\*\*The Enduring Charm of Letters of Note by Shaun Usher\*\***

**Letters of Note by Shaun Usher** have captivated readers around the world, breathing new life into a timeless form of communication. Shaun Usher, the curator and author behind this remarkable collection, has transformed ordinary letters into extraordinary glimpses of history, emotion, and human connection. Whether it's a heartfelt message from a famous figure or a forgotten note tucked away in an attic, these letters offer a fascinating window into the past, making us appreciate the power of the written word in an age dominated by digital communication.

## Who Is Shaun Usher and What Are Letters of Note?

Shaun Usher is a British writer and editor who launched the Letters of Note project in 2009 as a website dedicated to publishing fascinating letters, postcards, telegrams, and memos from history. His passion for uncovering hidden gems and sharing them with a global audience quickly gained a devoted following. The project eventually evolved into a bestselling book series, with beautifully curated collections that celebrate the art of letter writing.

Letters of Note by Shaun Usher is more than just a book; it's a cultural phenomenon that reminds us of the intimacy and personality inherent in handwritten correspondence. Usher's meticulous research and elegant presentation make these letters not only informative but deeply moving.

## Why Letters of Note by Shaun Usher Resonates with Readers

In today's fast-paced world, emails and instant messages dominate our communication. Letters of Note by Shaun Usher offers a refreshing contrast — a return to thoughtful, deliberate expression. But what exactly makes this collection so compelling?

## A Window into History and Humanity

Each letter in Usher's collection tells a story. They reveal the thoughts, fears, hopes, and humor of people across different eras and walks of life. From love letters penned during wartime to notes of encouragement and even quirky musings by famous authors, these letters humanize historical figures and connect us to their experiences.

## **Diverse Voices and Perspectives**

One of the standout qualities of *Letters of Note* by Shaun Usher is its diversity. The letters come from poets, presidents, artists, scientists, and ordinary people whose extraordinary words have survived time. This inclusive approach gives readers a panoramic view of human emotion and intellect.

## **Beautiful Presentation and Accessibility**

Usher's dedication to showcasing the original handwriting, typefaces, and aesthetics of each letter adds an authentic touch. The books and website often feature facsimiles of the letters themselves, making the experience tactile and real. This visual element enhances the emotional impact and invites readers to linger over each piece.

## **The Impact of Letters of Note on Modern Letter Writing**

In a digital age where communication is often rushed and ephemeral, *Letters of Note* by Shaun Usher has inspired a renewed interest in the art of letter writing. Many readers find themselves compelled to pick up pen and paper, hoping to capture something more meaningful than a quick text or email.

## **Encouraging Thoughtful Communication**

Reading these letters highlights the value of careful wording, patience, and reflection. Usher's collection shows how letters can serve as powerful tools for persuasion, consolation, love, and humor — qualities that can get lost in today's instant messaging culture.

## **Educational Uses and Creative Inspiration**

Educators and writers often use *Letters of Note* as a resource to teach literary techniques, history, and empathy. The letters serve as examples of authentic voice and narrative, providing inspiration for creative writing and historical research alike.

## **Exploring Notable Letters Featured in Letters of Note by Shaun Usher**

While the entire collection is rich with treasures, a few letters stand out for their historical

significance and emotional resonance.

- **Virginia Woolf's Letter to Her Sister:** A poignant reflection on writing and mental health.
- **Winston Churchill's Wartime Correspondence:** Demonstrating leadership and resolve during crisis.
- **David Bowie's Advice to His Younger Self:** A candid and inspiring note about creativity and perseverance.
- **Frida Kahlo's Love Letters:** Revealing passion and vulnerability in her relationship with Diego Rivera.
- **Charles Darwin's Letters on Evolution:** Offering insights into the development of groundbreaking scientific ideas.

These letters are just a glimpse into the vast archive curated by Shaun Usher, each piece contributing to a richer understanding of the people who shaped history and culture.

## How to Get the Most Out of Letters of Note by Shaun Usher

If you're new to the world of Letters of Note, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

1. **Take Your Time:** Unlike fast-paced novels, letters invite slow reading and reflection. Allow yourself to absorb the emotion and context.
2. **Consider the Historical Context:** Understanding the time period and circumstances of each letter adds depth to the message.
3. **Pay Attention to the Visuals:** Examine the handwriting, margins, and even corrections to get a sense of the writer's personality.
4. **Use Letters as Writing Inspiration:** Try writing your own letters inspired by the styles and themes you encounter.
5. **Share Letters with Others:** Discussing these letters with friends or book clubs can reveal new perspectives and interpretations.

# The Digital Evolution: Letters of Note Online

Beyond the books, Letters of Note by Shaun Usher thrives online, where a dedicated website and social media channels continue to share rare and fascinating letters. The digital platform allows for a wider, interactive audience, fostering a global community of letter enthusiasts.

The website often features letters that didn't make it into the books, as well as new finds and reader submissions. This evolving archive demonstrates the ongoing relevance of letter writing in connecting people across time and space.

## Engaging with Letters in the Digital Age

Ironically, digital media has played a key role in reviving interest in handwritten letters. The Letters of Note website allows readers to:

- Search letters by theme, author, or date.
- Download and print copies of favorite letters.
- Participate in discussions and share content easily.
- Submit their own letters or discoveries.

This blend of old-world charm and modern accessibility keeps the spirit of letters alive and flourishing.

## Why Letters of Note by Shaun Usher Matters Today

In a world overwhelmed by information and fleeting interactions, Letters of Note by Shaun Usher offers something enduring and human. It reminds us that behind every letter is a person with a story, emotions, and intentions that transcend time.

By preserving and celebrating these letters, Shaun Usher invites us all to pause, listen, and connect — whether through reading or writing. The collection serves as a testament to the power of words to inform, inspire, and bring us closer together, even across the centuries.

If you haven't yet explored Letters of Note by Shaun Usher, you're in for a captivating journey through history, emotion, and the art of communication that continues to resonate deeply in our modern lives.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is 'Letters of Note' by Shaun Usher about?

'Letters of Note' is a collection of fascinating, poignant, and sometimes humorous letters from famous and ordinary people throughout history, compiled and curated by Shaun Usher.

## Who is Shaun Usher?

Shaun Usher is a writer and curator known for his work on historical letters and correspondence, and he is the creator of the 'Letters of Note' website and book series.

## What makes 'Letters of Note' unique compared to other letter collections?

Unlike typical anthologies, 'Letters of Note' presents letters with rich context, beautiful reproductions, and engaging commentary, highlighting the human stories behind the correspondence.

## Are the letters in 'Letters of Note' authentic?

Yes, all the letters featured in 'Letters of Note' are authentic and sourced from archives, museums, and private collections, ensuring historical accuracy.

## Has 'Letters of Note' inspired any other projects?

Yes, the success of 'Letters of Note' has led to additional books, a podcast series, and even exhibitions showcasing notable letters from the collection.

## Can 'Letters of Note' be used as an educational resource?

Absolutely, 'Letters of Note' is widely used in educational settings to teach history, literature, and communication through real-life examples of personal correspondence.

## Where can I find 'Letters of Note' by Shaun Usher?

'Letters of Note' is available for purchase online, in bookstores, and can also be explored through Shaun Usher's dedicated website and podcast series.

## Additional Resources

Letters of Note by Shaun Usher: A Profound Exploration of the Written Word

**letters of note by shaun usher** represent a unique intersection of history, emotion, and

personal storytelling, capturing moments across time through the intimate medium of letters. Shaun Usher, a British writer and curator of the acclaimed website Letters of Note, has compiled an extraordinary collection that has resonated deeply with readers worldwide. His work goes beyond mere archival interest, offering a compelling window into the human experience via authentic correspondence from notable figures and everyday people alike.

The concept of letters as a form of communication has long fascinated historians, literary enthusiasts, and cultural scholars. In the digital age, where instant messaging and social media dominate, the tactile and deliberate nature of letter writing offers a nostalgic yet powerful contrast. Shaun Usher's Letters of Note project revitalizes this art form, presenting letters that are both historically significant and emotionally engaging. The success of the Letters of Note books and website underscores a growing appetite for tangible connections to the past, revealing narratives that might otherwise remain obscure.

## **The Genesis and Evolution of Letters of Note by Shaun Usher**

Shaun Usher first launched Letters of Note as a website in 2009, driven by a simple but ambitious idea: to share interesting, funny, and poignant letters with a global audience. What began as a personal passion project quickly evolved into a cultural phenomenon. The website now hosts a meticulously curated archive of letters from a diverse array of sources, encompassing famous personalities such as Virginia Woolf, Albert Einstein, and David Bowie, as well as anonymous correspondences that shed light on universal human themes.

The transition from digital platform to print was a natural progression. Usher's compilation, *Letters of Note: An Eclectic Collection of Correspondence Deserving of a Wider Audience*, published in 2013, brought the project to an even broader demographic. The book's success led to subsequent volumes, including *Letters of Note: Volume 2* and *More Letters of Note*, each expanding the collection and deepening the exploration of letter writing's cultural significance.

## **Curatorial Approach and Selection Criteria**

A key factor in the Letters of Note by Shaun Usher's appeal lies in the careful curation and presentation of each letter. Usher's editorial process is characterized by a dedication to authenticity, historical context, and emotional resonance. Letters are chosen not only for their historical importance but also for their ability to convey vivid personal stories or insights into human nature.

The selection spans a wide temporal and thematic range—from letters penned during wartime to missives expressing love, regret, humor, or creativity. This diversity makes the collection accessible and relatable to readers from various backgrounds and interests. The inclusion of facsimiles and high-quality reproductions enhances the immersive experience, allowing readers to engage with the original handwriting and visual nuances of each letter.

# Features and Unique Aspects of Letters of Note by Shaun Usher

One distinguishing feature of Letters of Note by Shaun Usher is its ability to blend historical documentation with narrative storytelling. Unlike traditional archives or anthologies, Usher's compilations read like curated stories, each letter accompanied by insightful annotations that provide background and context without overwhelming the reader.

## Emotional Depth and Human Connection

The emotional depth present in many letters is a hallmark of the collection. For instance, readers encounter letters of farewell and hope from soldiers during World War I, passionate artistic correspondence revealing the creative processes of renowned writers, and candid reflections on personal hardships. These letters humanize historical figures, stripping away layers of myth and formality to reveal the vulnerabilities and aspirations beneath.

## Visual Presentation and Design

The design of the Letters of Note books is another significant aspect contributing to their popularity. Usher's attention to detail ensures that the visual presentation complements the content. Letters are often reproduced in their original handwriting, accompanied by photographs or sketches when available. This design choice fosters a sense of intimacy and authenticity, setting the collection apart from typical text-based anthologies.

## Comparative Analysis: Letters of Note vs. Traditional Letter Anthologies

When compared to traditional letter anthologies, Letters of Note by Shaun Usher offers several advantages that enhance reader engagement and accessibility.

- **Curatorial Diversity:** Usher's collection includes letters from a broader spectrum of society, mixing famous figures with anonymous voices, whereas traditional anthologies often focus exclusively on well-known authors.
- **Contextual Commentary:** Each letter is accompanied by succinct, well-researched notes that elucidate historical background and personal circumstances, aiding comprehension without detracting from the letter's impact.
- **Visual Authenticity:** The inclusion of original handwriting and related imagery provides a tangible connection to the past, which is frequently absent in conventional compilations.

- **Accessibility:** The narrative style and thematic arrangement of Letters of Note appeal to general readers, not just academics or historians.

However, some critics might argue that the selection process is inherently subjective, potentially leading to a curated narrative that prioritizes emotional appeal over comprehensive historical representation. Nonetheless, this approach aligns with Usher's goal of celebrating the art and power of letter writing rather than producing an exhaustive historical record.

## **Impact on Contemporary Appreciation of Letter Writing**

Letters of Note by Shaun Usher has played a significant role in reviving contemporary interest in letter writing as a meaningful form of communication. The project highlights the value of patience, reflection, and personal expression—qualities often lost in today's fast-paced digital interactions. Additionally, the success of the Letters of Note books has inspired similar projects and exhibitions dedicated to preserving and showcasing correspondence.

## **Digital Presence and Multimedia Extensions**

Beyond the books, Shaun Usher's Letters of Note website remains a dynamic platform that continues to attract millions of visitors annually. The site is regularly updated with new letters, offering readers a continuous stream of fresh content. This digital presence complements the print editions and extends the reach of the project.

The Letters of Note brand has also expanded into podcasting and exhibitions, further broadening its impact. The podcast, hosted by Usher, features readings of selected letters, adding an auditory dimension that enhances the emotional resonance of the correspondence. Museum exhibitions showcase original letters and related artifacts, creating immersive experiences that engage diverse audiences.

## **SEO Relevance and Keywords Integration**

For those interested in exploring letters of note by Shaun Usher, the project's multifaceted nature makes it relevant across various search queries and keywords. Commonly associated terms include "historical letters," "famous correspondence," "letter collections," "Shaun Usher books," and "personal letters archive." These keywords naturally intersect with topics such as "letter writing history," "handwritten letters," and "epistolary communication," all of which contribute to the growing organic search traffic surrounding the Letters of Note phenomenon.

By expertly weaving these related terms into the content, the Letters of Note project maintains strong SEO visibility, ensuring that readers searching for authentic, engaging

letter collections can easily discover Usher's work.

Letters of Note by Shaun Usher stands as a testament to the enduring power of the written letter. Through meticulous curation, thoughtful presentation, and a commitment to storytelling, Usher has created a cultural touchstone that bridges past and present. As readers continue to seek authentic narratives and meaningful connections, this collection remains a vital repository of human experience captured in ink and paper.

## **Letters Of Note By Shaun Usher**

**letters of note by shaun usher: Letters of Note** Shaun Usher, 2013-10-24 Letters of Note is a collection of over one hundred of the world's most entertaining, inspiring and unusual letters, based on the seismically popular website of the same name – an online museum of correspondence visited by over 70 million people. From Virginia Woolf's heart-breaking suicide letter, to Queen Elizabeth II's recipe for drop scones sent to President Eisenhower; from the first recorded use of the expression 'OMG' in a letter to Winston Churchill, to Gandhi's appeal for calm to Hitler; and from Iggy Pop's beautiful letter of advice to a troubled young fan, to Leonardo da Vinci's remarkable job application letter, Letters of Note is a celebration of the power of written correspondence which captures the humour, seriousness, sadness and brilliance that make up all of our lives.

**letters of note by shaun usher: Letters of Note: Volume 1** , 2014-05-06 This spectacular collection of more than 125 letters offers a never-before-seen glimpse of the events and people of history—the brightest and best, the most notorious, and the endearingly everyday. Entries include a transcript of the letter; a short contextual introduction; and, in 100 cases, a captivating facsimile of the letter itself. The artfulness of Shaun Usher's eclectic arrangement creates a reading experience rich in discovery. Mordant, hilarious, poignant, enlightening—surprise rewards each turn of the page. Colorfully illustrated with photographs, portraits, and relevant artworks, Letters of Note is an instant classic.

**letters of note by shaun usher: More Letters of Note** , 2015-10-01 FOLLOW-UP TO THE PHENOMENAL INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER INCLUDING LETTERS FROM: Jane Austen, Richard Burton, Helen Keller, Alan Turing, Albus Dumbledore, Eleanor Roosevelt, Henry James, Sylvia Plath, John Lennon, Gerald Durrell, Janis Joplin, Mozart, Janis Joplin, Hunter S. Thompson, C. G. Jung, Katherine Mansfield, Marge Simpson, David Bowie, Dorothy Parker, Buckminster Fuller, Beatrix Potter, Che Guevara, Evelyn Waugh, Charlotte Brontë and many more. Discover Richard Burton's farewell note to Elizabeth Taylor, Helen Keller's letter to The New York Symphony Orchestra about 'hearing' their concert through her fingers, the final missives from a doomed Japan Airlines flight in 1985, David Bowie's response to his first piece of fan mail from America and even Albus Dumbledore writing to a reader applying for the position of Defence Against the Dark Arts Professor at Hogwarts. More Letters of Note is another rich and inspiring collection, which reminds us that much of what matters in our lives finds its way into our letters.

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Shaun Usher brings together some of the most remarkable letters that encapsulate the human experience of war, from unimaginable feats of courage and compassion, to unthinkable episodes of violence and horror. Includes letters by: Martha Gellhorn, Alexander Hamilton, Kurt Vonnegut, Mohandas Gandhi, Mark Twain, June Wandrey, Evelyn Waugh, Luis Alvarez, Lord Horatio Nelson & many more

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**letters of note by shaun usher: *Letters of Note: Fathers*** Shaun Usher, 2021-05-06 In *Letters of Note: Fathers*, Shaun Usher collects together remarkable correspondence by and about fathers, including proud parental words of love, advice from experienced dads to new ones, as well as letters from both frustrated and adoring offspring. Includes letters by: Anne Frank, W.E.B. Du Bois, Jawaharlal Nehru, Groucho Marx, Che Guevara, Ted Hughes Katherine Mansfield, Fergal Keane, Arthur Conan Doyle, Samuel Bernstein & many more

**letters of note by shaun usher: *Letters of Note: Art*** , 2020-03-05 In *Letters of Note: Art*, Shaun Usher celebrates extraordinary correspondence about art, from missives on the agony of being overlooked, the ecstasy of producing work that excites, to surprising sources of inspiration and rousing manifestos. Includes letters by: Michelangelo, Salvador Dali, Frida Kahlo, Artemisia Gentileschi, Oscar Howe, Martin Scorsese, Henri Matisse, Mick Jagger, Augusta Savage, Vincent van Gogh & many more

**letters of note by shaun usher: *Letters of Note: Grief*** Shaun Usher, 2021-05-06 In *Letters of Note: Grief*, Shaun Usher gathers together some of the most powerful messages about grief, from the heart-wrenching pain of losing a loved one to reliving fond memories of those who have passed on. Includes letters by: Audre Lorde, Robert Frost, Nick Cave, Rainer Maria Rilke, Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette, Kahlil Gibran, Edith Wharton, Mary Wortley Montagu, Seungsaahn Haengwon & many more

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& many more

**letters of note by shaun usher: Letters of Note: Sex** , 2021-11-02 A surprising and varied collection of letters on the subject of sex curated by the founder of the globally popular Letters of Note website. The first volume in the bestselling Letters of Note series was a collection of hundreds of the world's most entertaining, inspiring, and unusual letters, based on the seismically popular website of the same name--an online museum of correspondence visited by over 70 million people. From Virginia Woolf's heartbreaking suicide letter, to Queen Elizabeth II's recipe for drop scones sent to President Eisenhower; from the first recorded use of the expression 'OMG' in a letter to Winston Churchill, to Gandhi's appeal for calm to Hitler; and from Iggy Pop's beautiful letter of advice to a troubled young fan, to Leonardo da Vinci's remarkable job application letter. Now, the curator of Letters of Note, Shaun Usher, gives us wonderful new volumes featuring letters organized around a universal theme. In this volume, Shaun Usher turns to the subject of sex. Includes letters by John Cheever, Dorothy Day, Frida Kahlo, Margaret Mead, Henry Miller, Anaïs Nin, Mae West and many more.

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**letters of note by shaun usher: Letters of Note: Fathers** , 2021-06-01 A delightful collection of letters about fathers and fatherhood, curated by the founder of the globally popular Letters of Note website. The first volume in the bestselling Letters of Note series was a collection of hundreds of the world's most entertaining, inspiring, and unusual letters, based on the seismically popular website of

the same name--an online museum of correspondence visited by over 70 million people. From Virginia Woolf's heartbreaking suicide letter, to Queen Elizabeth II's recipe for drop scones sent to President Eisenhower; from the first recorded use of the expression 'OMG' in a letter to Winston Churchill, to Gandhi's appeal for calm to Hitler; and from Iggy Pop's beautiful letter of advice to a troubled young fan, to Leonardo da Vinci's remarkable job application letter. Now, the curator of Letters of Note, Shaun Usher, gives us wonderful new volumes featuring letters organized around a universal theme. In this volume, Shaun Usher turns his attention to the topic of fathers and fatherhood. Bringing together a selection of remarkable correspondence by and about fathers from across the ages and around the world, Letters of Note: Fathers includes proud parental words of love, advice from experienced dads to new ones, as well as missives from both frustrated and adoring offspring. Featuring letters by Barack Obama, Che Guevara, Ted Hughes, Saul Bellow, Anne Frank, Groucho Marx, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Kurt Vonnegut, Eddie Glaude, W.E.B. Du Bois, Dashiell Hammett, Rudyard Kipling, Lily Collins, Mohandas Gandhi, Spalding Gray, Katherine Mansfield, Spotswood Rice, Fergal Keane and many more, this is a compulsive collection of entertaining, inspiring, and powerful letters with fathers at their heart.

**letters of note by shaun usher: Love Music: Where is the Love? / Imagine (2in1-Bundle)**

Lars Amend, 2024-05-01 Auf der Suche nach Liebesglück und Lebenssinn – Das persönlichste Buch und die erste spirituelle Erzählung von Lars Amend in einem Band! „Where is the Love?": ist das persönlichste Buch des Bestseller-Autors in erweiterter Taschenbuchausgabe mit einem neuen Nachwort. Lars Amend führt ein Leben, um das ihn viele beneiden: Als erfolgreicher Autor und Life-Coach verhilft er dem Glück anderer auf die Sprünge, indem er Ehen rettet und bei ersten Dates undercover Tipps gibt. Doch als er sein eigenes Liebesleben unter die Lupe nimmt, gerät er ins Grübeln: Es langweilt ihn, immer nur kurze Affären zu haben. Wo ist in meinem Leben die Liebe?, fragt er sich und macht sich auf die Suche. Lars stellt sein Mindset infrage, erforscht, warum Liebe Selbstliebe voraussetzt und befragt Freunde nach dem Geheimnis ihrer langjährigen Beziehungen. Dann lernt er auf ungewöhnliche Weise eine besondere Frau kennen. Mit ihr muss er seine Feuertaufe bestehen. Er lässt sich auf das Abenteuer Liebe ein – und findet endlich Antworten auf all seine Fragen. „Imagine!": Eine inspirierende Erzählung über den Sinn des Lebens und wahre Erfüllung: ob man das bekommt, was man will oder das, was man ist. Erik ist 37 Jahre alt und ein erfolgreicher Life Coach. Bis der plötzliche Tod einer Schulfreundin erste Zweifel über sein Leben hervorruft. Wenn ich heute sterben würde, hätte ich dann wirklich ein erfülltes Leben geführt? Wann war ich das letzte Mal eigentlich von Herzen glücklich? Wann habe ich zuletzt Tränen gelacht? Fragen, die Erik auf dem Rückweg von der Beerdigung jener Freundin durch den Kopf gehen. Als sein Zug plötzlich mitten im Nirgendwo zum Stehen kommt, geht Erik zu Fuß los. Er gelangt in ein Dorf, wo in einem Geschäft zu dieser späten Stunde noch das Licht brennt. Ein Schallplattenladen, der ihn sofort an jene Zeit erinnert, als er noch davon träumte, als DJ die Welt zu erobern. Ohne es zu ahnen, beginnt für Erik in dieser Nacht eine musikalische Reise zu sich selbst ...

**letters of note by shaun usher: Benedict Cumberbatch: Transition Completed** Lynnette Porter, 2014-11-21 Star Trek: Into Darkness, The Fifth Estate, 12 Years a Slave, August: Osage County, The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug—these would be milestones in most actors' entire career. For Benedict Cumberbatch, roles in these films are merely a year's additions to his already-vast resume. 2013 proved to be the final step in Cumberbatch's transition from respected working actor to bona fide worldwide celebrity and recipient of BAFTA Los Angeles' Britannia Award for British Artist of the Year. Like its predecessor, Benedict Cumberbatch, In Transition (MX Publishing, 2013), Benedict Cumberbatch, Transition Completed: Films, Fame, Fans explores the nature of Cumberbatch's fame and fandom while analysing his most recent roles. This in-depth performance biography does more than critique the actor's radio, stage, film, and television performances—especially his star turn in the long-awaited yet controversial third series of Sherlock. It also analyses how and why the actor's work is so memorable in each role, a perspective unique to this performance biography. Cumberbatch's role in popular culture, as much as his acting in multiple media, is well worth such scrutiny to illustrate that Benedict Cumberbatch represents both

the best of acting and of the power of celebrity.

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