The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan

The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan Introduction "The Lost Thing" by Shaun Tan is a captivating and thought-provoking illustrated story that explores themes of belonging, individuality, and societal conformity. First published in 2000, this beautifully illustrated narrative has garnered critical acclaim and numerous awards, including the 2011 Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film. The story's universal themes, unique artistic style, and poignant message make it a significant work in contemporary children's literature and visual storytelling. In this comprehensive article, we will delve into the origins of "The Lost Thing," analyze its plot, themes, and artistic style, and explore its impact on readers and critics alike. Whether you're a teacher, parent, student, or simply a lover of art and storytelling, understanding the depth of Shaun Tan's work enhances appreciation and fosters meaningful discussions about its messages.

Overview of "The Lost Thing" by Shaun Tan

Background and Publication

"The Lost Thing" was originally a picture book created by Shaun Tan in 2000. It was later adapted into an animated short film in 2010, directed by Tan himself. The narrative originated from Tan’s interest in the surreal and the mundane, blending fantastical elements with everyday settings. The story reflects Tan’s signature artistic style—detailed, textured illustrations that evoke a sense of wonder and melancholy. The work is often used in educational contexts to discuss themes such as creativity, societal norms, and the importance of individual expression. Its universal appeal lies in its ability to resonate across ages and cultures, emphasizing the importance of noticing and caring for the overlooked or marginalized.

Plot Summary of "The Lost Thing"

The Main Storyline

"The Lost Thing" follows a young boy who discovers a strange, mechanical-looking creature on a beach. The creature, which appears to be a hybrid of various mechanical parts and organic forms, is lost and searching for its place in the world. The boy notices the creature's oddity and attempts to understand it. He takes the creature home and tries to find its owner or a place where it belongs. However, he encounters societal indifference and bureaucratic obstacles—symbolized by the mundane and gray urban environment—that dismiss or overlook the creature's needs. Despite his efforts, the boy realizes that the creature is different and perhaps misunderstood by society. Eventually, the boy leads the creature to a mysterious, hidden place—a sort of sanctuary—where it

can belong. The story ends on a hopeful note, suggesting that understanding and compassion can help the overlooked find their rightful place.

Key Events in the Story

- Discovery of the lost creature on the beach. - The boy's curiosity and initial fascination. - Attempts to find the creature's owner or a suitable home. - Encounters with indifferent society and bureaucratic barriers. - The journey to a hidden sanctuary where the creature finds belonging. - Reflection on themes of acceptance and individual uniqueness.

Themes and Messages in "The Lost Thing"

1. Belonging and Acceptance

At its core, "The Lost Thing" emphasizes the importance of belonging—both personal and societal. The lost creature symbolizes those who are different or marginalized, and the story advocates for recognizing and accepting diversity. The boy's compassion demonstrates that understanding and kindness can help others find their place in the world.

2. Society's Conformity and Indifference

Tan critiques societal norms that prioritize conformity and productivity over individuality. The bureaucratic obstacles and grey urban environment symbolize how society often dismisses or ignores those who don’t fit the standard mold. The story urges viewers to look beyond appearances and question societal values.

3. Creativity and Imagination

Shaun Tan's illustrative style and storytelling celebrate imagination and curiosity. The fantastical creature challenges perceptions of reality and encourages viewers to see the extraordinary within the ordinary. The story advocates for nurturing creativity and paying attention to the overlooked.

4. Environmental and Technological Reflection

While not explicitly about environmental issues, the mechanical aspects of the creature evoke themes of technology and industrialization impacting nature and society. It invites reflection on how technological advancements can alienate or disconnect us from the natural world and each other.

Artistic Style and Illustrations

Visual Elements

Shaun Tan’s artwork in "The Lost Thing" is characterized by intricate, textured illustrations that blend collage, painting, and drawing techniques. The illustrations evoke a sense of nostalgia, melancholy, and wonder, capturing the fantastical creature against mundane urban backgrounds. Some notable visual features include: - Detailed textures and layered images. - A subdued color palette dominated by earthy tones and muted shades. - Surreal and whimsical creature designs that evoke curiosity.

Impact of Artistic Style

Tan’s illustrative approach enhances the story’s themes by creating a vivid contrast between the fantastical creature and the dull, bureaucratic environment. This contrast emphasizes the creature’s otherness and the societal indifference it faces, while also inviting viewers to look closer and appreciate the details. The visual storytelling complements the narrative’s emotional depth, making it accessible and engaging for audiences of all ages. It also encourages viewers to interpret the images beyond words, fostering imagination and empathy.

Adaptations and Recognition

Animated Short Film

In 2010, Shaun Tan adapted "The Lost Thing" into an animated short film, which received widespread acclaim. The film’s animation style closely mirrors the illustrations, maintaining the textured, layered aesthetic. It won the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film in 2011, highlighting its cultural significance and artistic achievement.

Educational Use and Cultural Impact

The story is widely used in classrooms to discuss themes of diversity, acceptance, and environmental awareness. Its universal message and compelling visuals make it a valuable tool for fostering empathy among students. Furthermore, "The Lost Thing" has inspired exhibitions, discussions, and further works exploring similar themes of societal conformity and individual uniqueness.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Shaun Tan’s "The Lost Thing" is celebrated for its poetic storytelling, innovative artwork, and meaningful themes. Critics have lauded it as a powerful commentary on societal issues wrapped in a whimsical and accessible narrative. Its success has cemented Shaun Tan’s reputation as a master storyteller and visual artist. The story continues to resonate with audiences worldwide, prompting reflections on kindness, diversity, and the

importance of noticing the marginalized.

Conclusion

"The Lost Thing" by Shaun Tan is more than just a children's story; it is a profound reflection on society, individuality, and compassion. Through its captivating illustrations and thoughtful narrative, it invites viewers to look beyond appearances, embrace differences, and recognize the beauty in the overlooked. Its enduring relevance and artistic brilliance ensure its place as a significant work in contemporary literature and visual storytelling. Whether read as a children’s book or viewed as an artistic statement, "The Lost Thing" challenges us to reconsider how we perceive and treat those who are different from us. Its message is a reminder that everyone deserves a place to belong and that kindness and curiosity can make a difference in the world. Keywords for SEO Optimization: - The Lost Thing Shaun Tan - Shaun Tan story analysis - The Lost Thing themes - Shaun Tan illustrations - The Lost Thing short film - Children's literature about acceptance - Surreal art in children’s books - Modern Australian authors - Stories about belonging and diversity - Shaun Tan awards and recognition Final Thoughts Exploring "The Lost Thing" by Shaun Tan offers insight into the power of visual storytelling and the importance of compassion in society. Its rich illustrations and layered themes make it a timeless piece that encourages reflection, empathy, and imagination. Whether used in educational settings or enjoyed as a piece of art, it remains a vital work that continues to inspire and provoke thought across generations.

The Lost Thing by Shaun Tan: An Enchanting Tale of Discovery and Belonging Shaun Tan’s The Lost Thing is a captivating and thought-provoking picture book that masterfully blends illustration, storytelling, and philosophical themes. First published in 2000, this work has garnered widespread acclaim for its unique artistry and profound message about identity, community, and the often-overlooked aspects of society. In this comprehensive review, we will delve into various facets of The Lost Thing, examining its narrative, artwork, themes, and cultural significance to understand why it remains an essential piece in contemporary children's literature.

Overview of The Lost Thing

The Lost Thing is a wordless picture book that tells the story of a young boy who discovers a strange, ambiguous creature while wandering through a seemingly monotonous, industrialized city. The creature, which appears to be a hybrid of various animals and objects, is lost and searching for a place to belong. As the boy helps the creature find its way, the story subtly explores themes of alienation, societal neglect, and the importance of recognizing the overlooked or ignored. The narrative is simple yet layered, allowing readers of all ages to interpret its messages on multiple levels. It was later adapted into an animated short film in 2010, directed by Shaun Tan himself, which

further amplified its reach and impact.

The Artistic Style and Illustrations

Visual Aesthetic

Shaun Tan’s illustrations in The Lost Thing are a defining feature that elevates the story beyond words. His mixed-media approach combines collage, watercolor, ink, and digital techniques, creating a textured, detailed, and immersive visual experience. - Color Palette: Tan employs a subdued, often muted color palette dominated by browns, greys, and earthy tones. This choice reflects the bleakness of the city environment and underscores themes of neglect and societal indifference. - Detail and Composition: Each page is rich with intricate details, inviting readers to explore every corner of the illustrations. The cluttered cityscape contrasts sharply with the strange, organic form of the lost creature, emphasizing its alien nature amidst the mundane urban surroundings. - Character Design: The lost creature itself is a marvel of design—an amalgamation of various objects and animals, with an ambiguous yet endearing appearance. Its simplicity in form contrasts with the complexity of the city, symbolizing the feeling of being out of place.

Impact of Visuals

The visual storytelling is so powerful that the book is largely wordless, relying on imagery to convey emotion and narrative. This encourages active engagement from readers, prompting them to interpret the scenes and empathize with the characters. The illustrations evoke a sense of wonder and melancholy, fostering a reflective mood that aligns with the story’s themes.

The Narrative and Themes

Plot Summary

While The Lost Thing is largely wordless, the sequence of images narrates a compelling story: 1. Discovery: A young boy notices a strange creature with a body composed of various found objects, sitting amidst a dull cityscape. 2. Curiosity and Compassion: The boy approaches and begins to understand that the creature is lost and seeking a place to belong. 3. Attempted Help: He tries to find the creature’s home, questioning various authorities and looking through directories, but to no avail. 4. Acceptance and Reflection: Ultimately, the boy recognizes that society often overlooks or dismisses the oddities and marginalized beings around them. 5. Resolution: The story ends with the boy’s acceptance of the creature’s uniqueness, hinting at the importance of compassion and understanding.

Core Themes Explored

- Alienation and Otherness: The lost creature symbolizes those who are different or marginalized—be it individuals, ideas, or communities—that struggle to find acceptance within societal norms. - Neglect and Society’s Indifference: The city is depicted as a monotonous, industrial environment that ignores the peculiar or the different. This critique of societal apathy resonates with themes of urban alienation. - The Search for Belonging: Both the creature and the boy are on journeys of discovery—seeking connection, acceptance, and understanding. - Imagination and Curiosity: The book celebrates the importance of curiosity and imagination in recognizing the beauty and significance of the unconventional.

Symbolism and Interpretative Depth

The Lost Thing is rife with symbolism that invites multiple interpretations: - The Creature as a Metaphor: Its bizarre appearance can symbolize societal outsiders, misfits, or individuals who do not conform to mainstream standards. - The Cityscape: An industrial, repetitive environment that reflects societal neglect and the dehumanization often associated with urban life. - The Boy’s Role: Represents innocence, empathy, and the potential for change. His willingness to look beyond appearances exemplifies compassion and open-mindedness. - The Ending: Suggests the importance of embracing diversity and recognizing the value in what society may deem ‘odd’ or ‘unimportant.’ Interpretative Layers: - On a superficial level, it’s a charming story about helping a lost creature. - On a deeper level, it challenges readers to examine their perceptions of difference and the societal structures that exclude or ignore the marginalized. - It also encourages reflection on how communities can become more inclusive and compassionate.

The Short Film Adaptation

In 2010, Shaun Tan adapted The Lost Thing into an animated short film that garnered critical acclaim, including an Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film in 2011.

Differences and Enhancements

- The animation expands on the visual story, adding movement, sound, and voice to deepen emotional impact. - It captures the whimsical yet melancholic tone of the book while making the story more engaging for a broader audience. - The film emphasizes the themes of societal oversight and individual compassion through dynamic visuals and an evocative soundtrack.

Impact of the Film

The adaptation broadened the reach of The Lost Thing, allowing it to resonate with

audiences worldwide and prompting discussions about societal neglect and kindness.

Critical Reception and Cultural Significance

1. **Critical Acclaim:** The book has been praised for its evocative illustrations, subtle storytelling, and layered themes. It’s often lauded as a masterpiece of modern picture books that transcends age boundaries.
2. **Educational Use:** Teachers and librarians utilize The Lost Thing to discuss themes of diversity, empathy, and community involvement. Its wordless nature makes it an excellent tool for fostering visual literacy.
3. **Impact on Children's Literature:** Shaun Tan’s work is credited with elevating the picture book form, demonstrating how illustrations can carry complex themes without reliance on text.
4. **Recognition and Awards:** Besides the Academy Award, the book has received numerous accolades, including the CBCA Picture Book of the Year award in Australia, affirming its significance in children’s literature.

Conclusion: Why The Lost Thing Endures

Shaun Tan’s The Lost Thing stands out as a beautifully crafted work that combines exquisite artwork with a powerful message. Its exploration of themes like alienation, societal neglect, and the importance of compassion remains as relevant today as when it was first published. The book encourages readers to look beyond the surface, embrace differences, and recognize the beauty in the overlooked. Its visual storytelling invites multiple interpretations, making it a timeless piece that appeals to children and adults alike. Whether viewed as a simple tale of helping a lost creature or as a profound commentary on societal values, The Lost Thing challenges us to reflect on our own roles in creating inclusive communities. In sum, Shaun Tan’s The Lost Thing is a masterful blend of art and storytelling—a testament to the power of imagination and empathy—and continues to inspire generations to look for the extraordinary in the ordinary.

The way people search for knowledge has changed significantly over the past decade. Access to information is no longer limited by physical shelves, store availability, or opening hours. Today, being able to download ***The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan*** has become an important part of how individuals learn, research, and develop new perspectives.

For many readers, the journey begins with a specific need. It might be an academic assignment, a professional challenge, or a personal interest that requires deeper understanding. Instead of waiting or relying on fragmented sources, having direct access to a complete book provides structure and clarity from the start.

Speed plays an important role. When information is needed, delays can disrupt focus and motivation. Downloadable PDF books allow readers to move forward immediately. This instant access supports productive learning habits and keeps curiosity alive.

Flexibility is another major advantage. ***The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan*** can be opened across different devices, allowing readers to continue where they left off without being tied to one location. Whether reading at a desk, during travel, or in short breaks between activities, learning adapts naturally to daily routines.

Consistency of layout adds to comfort and comprehension. PDF files preserve original formatting, page structure, charts, and images. This reliability is especially helpful for educational and reference materials where visual organization supports understanding.

Interaction with the text enhances retention. Highlighting important passages, adding notes, and creating bookmarks allow readers to engage actively rather than passively consuming information. Over time, these interactions transform the book into a personalized resource.

Search functionality adds long-term value. Instead of rereading entire chapters, readers can quickly locate relevant terms or sections. This makes ***The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan*** useful not only during initial reading but also as an ongoing reference.

Trust in the source matters. Reputable platforms that provide legal access ensure content accuracy and user safety. Readers can focus fully on learning without concerns about file integrity or copyright issues.

Affordability expands opportunity. When quality books are accessible without high costs, exploration becomes more inclusive. Students, independent learners, and professionals gain access to materials that might otherwise be out of reach.

Academic use remains one of the strongest reasons people seek downloadable books. Students benefit from offline access, organized study materials, and the ability to revisit complex topics repeatedly. This supports deeper understanding rather than surface-level memorization.

For educators and researchers, ***The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan*** provides a reliable foundation for analysis and comparison. Being able to reference material quickly improves efficiency and accuracy in academic work.

Professional readers often approach books differently. They look for clarity, relevance, and practical insight. Having the book readily available allows them to consult specific

sections when challenges arise, making learning directly applicable.

Independent learners value autonomy. Without fixed schedules or external pressure, progress happens naturally. Downloadable books support this self-directed approach by remaining accessible whenever interest returns.

Accessibility features contribute to broader inclusion. Adjustable text sizes, compatibility with screen readers, and flexible viewing options allow more people to engage comfortably with the content.

Organization simplifies long-term use. Files can be categorized, backed up, and stored securely. Even after extended periods, returning to ***The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan*** feels familiar rather than overwhelming.

Environmental considerations also influence reading choices. Reduced reliance on printed materials helps limit paper consumption and transportation demands, supporting more sustainable learning practices.

Global access strengthens shared knowledge. Readers from different regions can engage with the same material, fostering diverse perspectives and collective understanding.

Revisiting familiar sections often reveals new meaning. As experience grows, ideas once overlooked become relevant. This layered engagement is a sign of meaningful learning.

Rather than being consumed once and forgotten, ***The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan*** remains available as a steady reference. Its value increases through repeated use rather than diminishing over time.

Learning, in this context, becomes continuous. There is no pressure to finish quickly. Progress unfolds through reflection, application, and return.

The relationship between reader and content evolves gradually. What starts as a simple download grows into a dependable resource that supports thinking, decision-making, and growth.

In everyday life, this kind of access encourages a calmer approach to knowledge. Information is no longer something to chase urgently but something that is readily available when needed.

With ***The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan*** within reach, learning becomes part of routine rather than an interruption. It blends into moments of focus, curiosity, and quiet

reflection.

This accessibility reshapes habits. Reading becomes less about obligation and more about engagement. The book waits patiently, offering insight whenever attention turns back to it.

Over time, the presence of a reliable resource supports confidence. Questions feel less intimidating when answers are close at hand.

Ultimately, the value of downloading ***The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan*** lies not only in convenience but in continuity. Knowledge remains present, adaptable, and ready to support growth whenever the reader chooses to return.

Questions & Answers About the lost thing by shaun tan

No	Question	Answer
1	What is the main theme of 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan?	The main theme of 'The Lost Thing' is about belonging and the importance of recognizing and accepting the unusual or different in society.
2	How does Shaun Tan use illustrations to convey the story's message in 'The Lost Thing'?	Shaun Tan's detailed and surreal illustrations emphasize the contrast between the ordinary and the strange, helping readers explore themes of curiosity, acceptance, and wonder.
3	What age group is 'The Lost Thing' suitable for, and why is it often used in classrooms?	'The Lost Thing' is suitable for children and young teenagers, and it is often used in classrooms to encourage discussions about diversity, empathy, and creativity.
4	How does 'The Lost Thing' relate to Shaun Tan's broader body of work?	'The Lost Thing' reflects Shaun Tan's signature style of blending fantastical imagery with meaningful social commentary, similar to his other works like 'The Arrival' and 'The Red Tree.'
5	Has 'The Lost Thing' been adapted into other media?	Yes, 'The Lost Thing' was adapted into an animated short film directed by Shaun Tan himself, which received critical acclaim and won the Academy Award for Best Animated Short Film in 2011.
6	What lessons can readers learn from 'The Lost Thing'?	Readers can learn the importance of curiosity, compassion, and accepting those who are different, as well as understanding the value of looking beyond appearances to find meaning and connection.

children's book, Australian literature, illustrated story, fantasy, imagination, friendship, coming of age, environmental themes, award-winning, Shaun Tan

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBook Resource

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks provide structured digital knowledge.

Core Discussion

Digital books help readers maintain productivity.

Practical Use

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks support consistent study routines.

Conclusion

Digital reading improves access to information.

This integration allows learners to connect reading materials with broader knowledge management practices.

Digital storage ensures content remains accessible without physical deterioration.

Extended focus improves comprehension and retention.

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks align with documentation-driven workflows.

Many professionals rely on The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks for skill development, ongoing education, and quick reference during real-world application.

Many learners report improved discipline when using The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks.

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks align with modern productivity systems.

Ultimately, The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks offer an efficient, scalable, and flexible approach to continuous learning.

Digital access enables quick consultation during real-world application.

Many readers prefer The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks due to their flexibility and ability to adapt to individual reading habits. Adjustable fonts, searchable text, and portable access significantly improve comprehension and engagement.

Readers value The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks for their consistency in structure and presentation.

As technology evolves, The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks continue to offer stability.

Many readers prefer The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks due to their flexibility and ability to adapt to individual reading habits. Adjustable fonts, searchable text, and portable access significantly improve comprehension and engagement.

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks balance depth and clarity, making complex topics easier to understand.

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The convenience of The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks supports long-term educational goals alongside professional responsibilities.

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks balance depth and clarity, making complex topics easier to understand.

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks help bridge the gap between theory and applied knowledge.

Digital materials ensure consistent knowledge transfer across teams.

When learning materials are readily available, readers are more likely to return regularly.

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Navigation tools improve efficiency when reviewing specific topics.

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The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks reduce dependency on physical books while maintaining high information density and long-term usability for repeated reference.

Methodical study improves mastery.

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The digital nature of The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks makes distribution fast and efficient, enabling instant access to updated information without the delays associated with print publishing.

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Ultimately, The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks represent a scalable, efficient, and future-oriented approach to knowledge delivery.

From an educational standpoint, The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks encourage active reading through annotation, highlighting, and structured navigation tools.

Consistent formatting allows readers to focus on content rather than navigation challenges.

Professionals often prefer The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks for reference-based

learning.

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks are valued for their reliability.

Navigation tools improve efficiency when reviewing specific topics.

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks balance depth and clarity, making complex topics easier to understand.

The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks serve as reliable reference materials that can be revisited whenever questions arise.

This flexibility allows knowledge acquisition to occur naturally throughout the day.

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Educational institutions increasingly adopt The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks due to their scalability and consistency.

How to choose the best eBook platform for The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan?

Choosing the best eBook platform for The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan is an important decision that can significantly affect your overall reading experience. With so many

digital platforms available today, each offering different features, pricing models, and device compatibility, it is essential to understand what suits your personal needs and reading habits best.

The first factor to consider is device compatibility. Some eBook platforms are closely tied to specific devices, while others offer greater flexibility. For example, Amazon Kindle books work seamlessly with Kindle eReaders and Kindle apps on smartphones, tablets, and computers. Platforms like Google Play Books and Apple Books are designed to integrate smoothly with Android and iOS ecosystems. If you use multiple devices, choosing a platform that supports cross-device synchronization ensures you can continue reading The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan exactly where you left off.

Another important aspect is user interface and reading comfort. A good eBook platform should provide a clean, intuitive interface with customizable reading settings. Features such as adjustable font size, font style, line spacing, background color, and night mode can make a big difference, especially for long reading sessions. Before committing to a platform, explore screenshots, demos, or free samples to see how comfortable it feels for reading The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan content.

Content availability is equally crucial. Not all platforms offer the same catalog. Some specialize in fiction, others in academic, technical, or educational materials. Make sure the platform you choose has a wide selection of The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan eBooks, including new releases, popular titles, and older editions. Platforms with partnerships with major publishers often provide higher-quality and more reliable content.

Pricing and access models should also be evaluated. Some platforms sell eBooks individually, while others offer subscription-based access. Services like Kindle Unlimited or Scribd allow users to read multiple The Lost Thing By Shaun Tan books for a monthly fee, which can be cost-effective for avid readers. However, ownership models may be preferable if you want permanent access to specific titles. Understanding how you prefer to access and pay for content will help narrow down the best option.

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