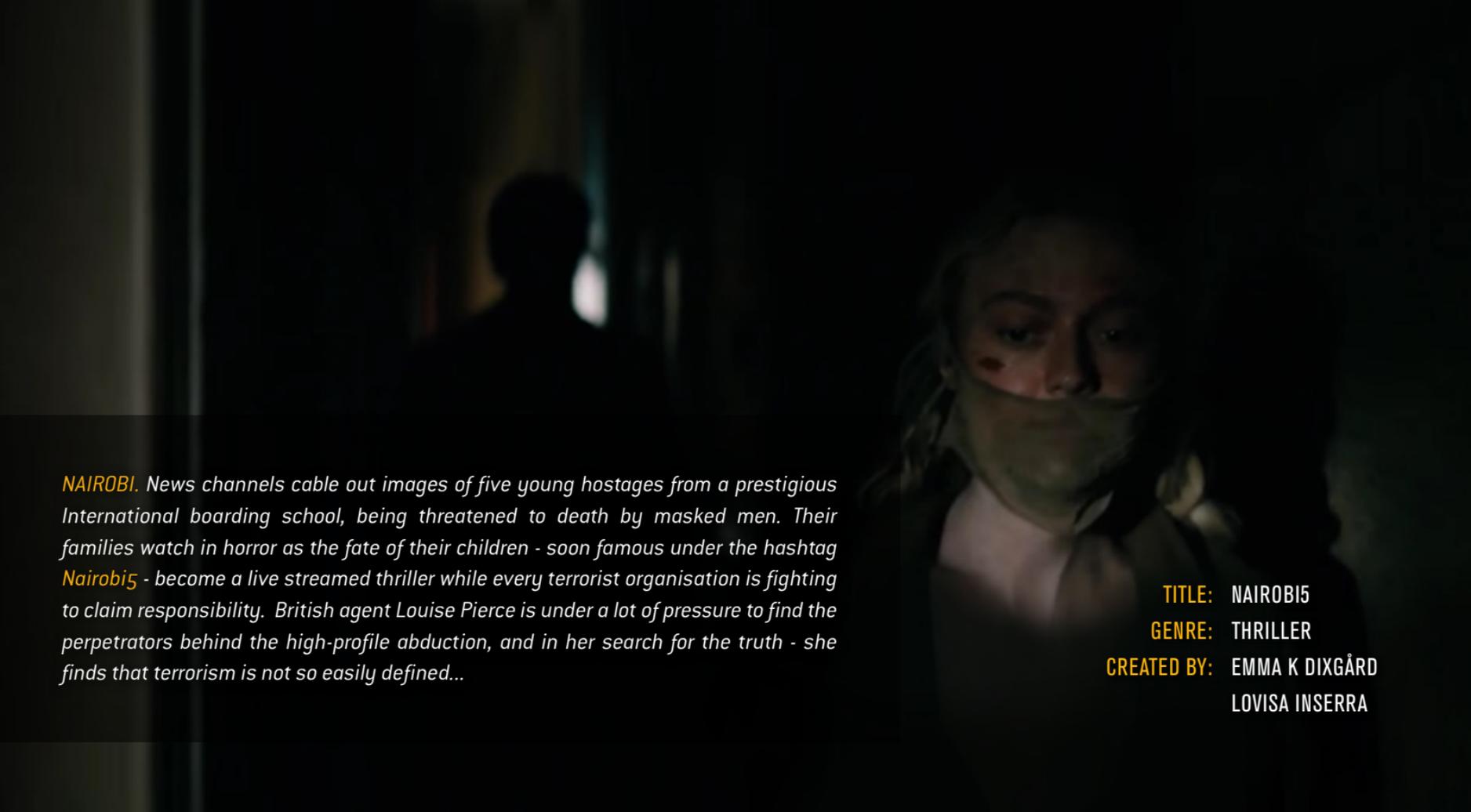




# NAIROBI5

BY EMMA K DIXGÅRD & LOVISA INSERRA



***NAIROBI.** News channels cable out images of five young hostages from a prestigious International boarding school, being threatened to death by masked men. Their families watch in horror as the fate of their children - soon famous under the hashtag **Nairobi5** - become a live streamed thriller while every terrorist organisation is fighting to claim responsibility. British agent Louise Pierce is under a lot of pressure to find the perpetrators behind the high-profile abduction, and in her search for the truth - she finds that terrorism is not so easily defined...*

**TITLE:** NAIROBI5  
**GENRE:** THRILLER  
**CREATED BY:** EMMA K DIXGÅRD  
LOVISA INSERRA



*"If a woman kills them, they'll go to hell."*

*- Alastair Horn, Consular Project Officer*

*"...but if I kill an innocent, so will I."*

*- Louise Pierce, Agent CTC*

## HOSTAGES



Daniel Stone



Holly Martell



Sonny Aston



Ethan Dorsey



Keira Savage

## PARENTS



Walter Stone



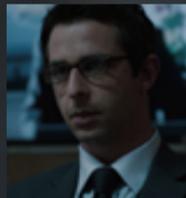
Sonya Savage

# CHARACTERS

## LEAD AGENTS CTC Counter Terrorism Command



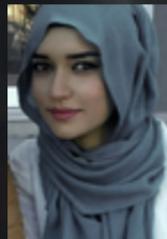
Louise Pierce



Matthew Selby

Walter & Ann Stone  
Scott & Beth Martell  
Eugene & Bonnie Aston  
Arthur & Phyllis Dorsey  
Stanley & Sonya Savage

## SUSPECTS



Sherafiya Afolabi  
Former student



Azizi Femi  
Local boy working  
at the school



Sokoro Imani  
Al-Shabab leader

## LAW ENFORCEMENT



Sylvester Wright  
Private Mercenary



Rosie Fitzroy  
Commander CTC



Limo Akachi  
Military commander

Alastair Horn  
Consular Project officer  
Counter Terrorism

Herbert Breckenridge  
British High Commissioner

# STORY

LOUISE PIERCE is rushed from the London office to Nairobi, to head up The Counter Terrorism Command's investigation into the kidnapping of five British teenagers from an elite boarding school there.

The parents of the abducted teenagers are rich and influential and they will stop at nothing to get their children back. Video clips showing the once happy, bright and beautiful teenagers are broadcast, pleading for the public to help bring them back to safety. But those images compete with horrific videos showing the faces and bodies of the teens as they are repeatedly beaten and violated. The terrorist organizations use the brutal clips to gain support as well as spread fear among the masses.

As the violent films gain viewer ratings on the scale of celebrity porn, the pressure to find the teens, mount.



*"We're fine-combing a country with 44 million citizens and with every terrorist available acting as bait. Don't expect us to find those kids tomorrow." - Rosie Fitzroy, Commander, CTC*



*"It's different here. You've got to be firm or you lose control..."*

Trying to navigate through the minefield of different entities fighting for control of the investigation, Louise finds her most productive working hours in the hotel bar and on the streets of Nairobi. There she picks up gossip about the parents and the boarding school. A picture of white privilege, corruption and inequality paints an unflattering picture of the world the children come from. There are tons of reasons for the kids to be kidnapped but the investigation is strictly focused on the abduction as an act of terror. Louise however is leaning towards another theory - someone is using terrorism as a disguise.

Louise is told by her commander to be careful about broadcasting her theories. Being suspicious of the elite in a corrupt world is dangerous. This only fuels her curiosity and she confides in her new partner **MATTHEW SELBY**, hoping he will cover for her while she follows up leads outside of the main investigation. Matthew however is ambitious and exposes Louise to their superiors. He promises to keep an eye on her for them.



*"... and when you lose control of Al-Shabaab - people die."- Walter Stone, Parent*





*"What did you expect? Their kids are being beaten to death." - Sylvester White, Mercenary*



*"I expected them to follow the law. Most people still do." - Louise Pierce, CTC*

After one of the kidnapped boys gets beaten to a pulp, he disappears from the clips. Rumours of his death start flooding the news and with no reported progress from the investigation, the parents decide to take matters into their own hands. They hire a mercenary, **SYLVESTER WHITE**, to help find their children. Sylvester is a former US marine who knows the ins and outs of the country and he begins by tracking down a Muslim girl, **SHERAFIYA**, who left the boarding school a month earlier. He works under the theory that Sherafiya was radicalized and used in the plot to abduct the kids.

Sylvester finds her in a remote village and with help from local militia he quickly moves in. Sherafiya is killed in the operation but there is no sign of the missing kids. The young Muslim girl was in hiding because she was pregnant and the mystery behind the abduction of the Nairobi5 continues to be unsolved.

**--- CUT TO ---** The Nairobi5 sit in a dimly lit room in the basement of an abandoned construction site. They are counting the hits of their most recent upload and basking in the outpour of love coming from all corners of the world wishing for their safe return. Seeing how different the world has reacted to their kidnapping, as opposed to the 237 Nigerian girls that Boko Haram kidnapped, has more than proven their point. The world is unjust as no price has seemed high enough to save them - the white and the privileged.

Soon it's time for them to reveal the truth and they are moved and a little bit saddened by having to write the final episode of their "series". They are proud of their achievement. They've been egging each other on during their filmed beatings, where the pain and the blows have been real. Also, they've been smart enough to not leave any traceable evidence online, and more than careful not to reveal anything other than their frightened faces and beaten bodies in the clips. Soon they will enter a media storm where they will stand on the world's political arena like Malala once did. Young, ambitious and well-spoken, they will use their privilege to tell the world that lives are equal and should be treated as such. No one can call their actions anything but brave.

Just as they are ready to break the silence and expose their hoax, news of the death of their friend Sherafiya reaches them. The Muslim girl from the boarding school was killed because of them. Having only seen the beauty of their charade, suddenly the larger implications dawn on them. Their film clips are used as a recruiting tool for radical jihadists and real violence and death has come as a result of their actions. It looks like they've proven how unequal the world is in a much more horrible way than they intended to.



*"I don't care about fame, but I can't stand the thought of living a life that no one remembers."*

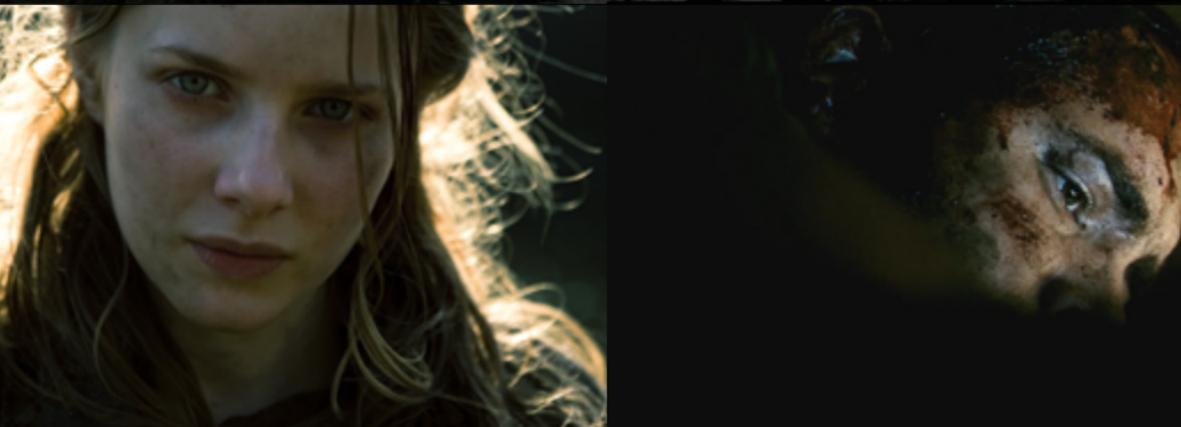
*- Daniel Stone, Nairobi5*



*"Who's the father?" - Sonny Aston, Nairobi5*



*"Isn't it obvious? I've never seen him this upset before." - Kiera Savage, Nairobi5*



The group is divided. Some of them want to confess, but DANIEL STONE, the self-proclaimed leader of the group, says that if they don't want to be arrested for being accomplices in the murder of their friend (and his secret girlfriend), they will have to stage a fake escape and continue the lie.

Back to the investigation. The parents and Louise's superiors have decided to cover up the incident with the Muslim girl, something Louise cannot accept. She threatens to go public with what actually happened with Sherafiya and is promptly booted off the job, with Matthew happily taking over as the lead investigator. Louise however, has found an unexpected ally in the - now equally unpopular - private investigator, Sylvester White, whose criticism toward the parent's actions turned harsh to say the least. Unbeknownst to her superiors Louise stays in Nairobi, and she and Sylvester team up to find the teens, going against both the law and their better judgement.

The friendship within the group of kidnapped teenagers gradually falls apart and is followed by a Lord-of-the-Fly-like power struggle where trust is replaced by threats and violence. As the rift deepens between them, Louise, Sylvester and Al-Shabaab close in on the group, as their imaginary story slowly becomes real.

# BENCHMARKS

**NAIROBI 5** is a story that is both a political thriller as well as a psychological drama between the abducted teens. **THE HONOURABLE WOMAN** is an example of a series that dealt with an international plot with both accuracy and intelligence but we also find inspiration in great international thrillers like the **BOURNE** series or **ZERO DARK THIRTY** for pacing and intrigue.

When it comes to the dynamics of the teenagers as they try to entangle themselves from their situation **RIOT CLUB**, **SPRINGBREAKERS** or the book **THE SECRET HISTORY** by Donna Tartt are stories that inspire.



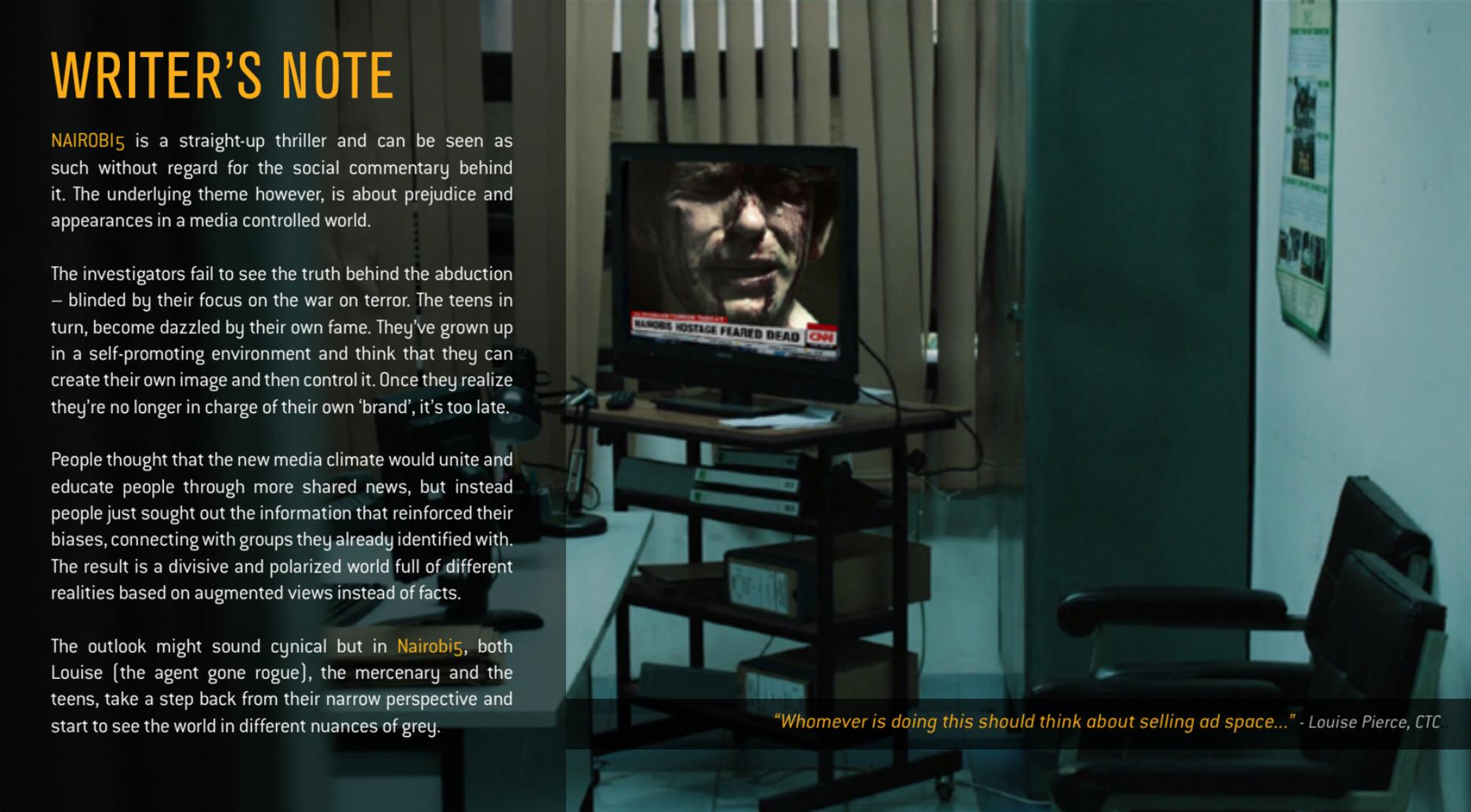
# WRITER'S NOTE

**NAIROBI5** is a straight-up thriller and can be seen as such without regard for the social commentary behind it. The underlying theme however, is about prejudice and appearances in a media controlled world.

The investigators fail to see the truth behind the abduction – blinded by their focus on the war on terror. The teens in turn, become dazzled by their own fame. They've grown up in a self-promoting environment and think that they can create their own image and then control it. Once they realize they're no longer in charge of their own 'brand', it's too late.

People thought that the new media climate would unite and educate people through more shared news, but instead people just sought out the information that reinforced their biases, connecting with groups they already identified with. The result is a divisive and polarized world full of different realities based on augmented views instead of facts.

The outlook might sound cynical but in **Nairobi5**, both Louise (the agent gone rogue), the mercenary and the teens, take a step back from their narrow perspective and start to see the world in different nuances of grey.



*"Whoever is doing this should think about selling ad space..." - Louise Pierce, CTC*

# THE SISTERS

Emma & Lovisa are a sister duo who have been working together since their first feature **BUSTER**. Currently they are writing a 10 episode TV-series, **GAME**, about hybrid warfare, with support from the Swedish Film Institute. They have also been commissioned by SVT (The Swedish National Broadcaster) to write a season's outline for a sitcom about a failed Mars mission **MARS MELLOW**.

## EMMA K DIXGÅRD

Producer/Writer [emma@redsister.se](mailto:emma@redsister.se)

Red Sister AB is owned and operated by Producer Emma K. Dixgård. Emma is a lawyer specialized in media law and a former music supervisor who used to head a talent agency, who now focuses on producing and developing unique international stories. She has a Master of Law from University of Stockholm, a Master in Audio-visual Management from Magica (MEDIA Program) in Rome, a year of human rights law and international law at Aristoteles University in Thessaloniki. She was selected amongst 11 others for a mentor/network program hosted by the regional fund, FRSM, called "The Producer as a Leader" 2013-14, and is an EAVE graduate from 2014. She is a creative producer who also writes together with her sister.

## LOVISA INSERRA

Writer [lovisa@redsister.se](mailto:lovisa@redsister.se)

Lovisa Inserra started her career as an assistant to directors and producers in New York. In 2001 she founded **GOVERNESS FILMS** [www.governessfilms.com](http://www.governessfilms.com), an international community of independent female film artists. Her first feature was **BUSTER**, a super 8 film shot in Brooklyn. In 2009 Lovisa moved to Bangkok to research **BETTY BANGKOK** a fictional tale about Veterans and street kids. Since 2012 she's been researching hybrid war scenarios for the TV thriller **GAME** and undergone training ranging from military crisis communication to UN's cyber threat masterclass to producing TV during military exercises. Aside from writing and researching she is engaged in issue based projects like:

[www.hashtagreporter.com](http://www.hashtagreporter.com) - [privacyinnovation.wordpress.com](http://privacyinnovation.wordpress.com) - [www.democraticdevelopmentfilm.com](http://www.democraticdevelopmentfilm.com)

An aerial photograph of a densely packed informal settlement, likely a slum, taken during sunset. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper right quadrant, casting a warm, golden light over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, hazy clouds. The ground is covered with a vast expanse of small, closely packed structures, many with corrugated metal roofs that reflect the low light. The overall atmosphere is one of quiet, somber beauty.

# CONTACT

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