

Led zeppelin you shook me

Led Zeppelin's "You Shook Me" – A Deep Dive into a Masterpiece of Blues-Rock

Led Zeppelin's "You Shook Me" isn't just a song; it's a sonic tapestry woven from blues inspiration, raw energy, and Jimmy Page's masterful guitar work. This seminal track, released in 1971 on **Led Zeppelin III**, showcases the band's burgeoning musical identity and its masterful blend of blues-rock and progressive elements. This will delve into the intricacies of "You Shook Me," exploring its composition, lyrical themes, and enduring impact on rock music.

The Blues Foundation's Influence The song's genesis is rooted in the profound influence of classic blues music. Jimmy Page, renowned for his extensive blues knowledge, channeled the spirit of legendary guitarists like Robert Johnson and Muddy Waters. This influence is evident in the song's structure, rhythmic drive, and Page's signature guitar style.

- **** The song's structure mirrors the traditional twelve-bar blues pattern, creating a grounded and familiar foundation.**
- **Rhythm:** The rhythmic driving force of the song, built on a strong bassline and drumbeat, is crucial to the track's energy and soulful intensity.
- **Guitar Style:** Page's characteristic use of bends, vibrato, and slide guitar is prominent, enhancing the song's emotional depth and intensity.

Unveiling the Lyrics and Themes The lyrics of "You Shook Me" are relatively straightforward. They portray a sense of vulnerability, desire, and perhaps even a touch of bewilderment, or perhaps a plea. The song's ambiguity invites different interpretations, adding to its lasting appeal.

- **Simplicity:** The lyrics are concise and focused, avoiding complex imagery in favour of

expressing raw emotion. • Emotional Resonance: *The lyrics resonate with a primal energy that speaks to the human experience of passion, vulnerability, and the unexpected.* • Ambiguity: **The lack of specific imagery allows listeners to project their own experiences and feelings onto the song, making it relatable across generations.** Page's Guitar Mastery on Display Jimmy Page's guitar playing on "You Shook Me" is a testament to his skill and creativity. He crafts a truly distinctive sound, blending blues and rock influences in an evocative manner. • Distinctive Tone: **Page's unique tone and techniques are instantly recognizable, showcasing his mastery of the instrument.** • Rhythmic Virtuosity: **The rhythmic accuracy and precision of his guitar playing are crucial to the song's overall dynamism.** • Harmonies: The interplay of Page's guitar with the other instruments creates a rich tapestry of sound and feeling. A Fusion of Styles and Influences *"You Shook Me" demonstrates Led Zeppelin's ability to seamlessly blend various musical influences. This fusion of blues, rock, and even hints of folk creates a unique sonic landscape.* • Folk Influences: *Subtle touches of folk, often present in the rhythm guitar parts or subtle instrumentation, add to the song's complexity.* • Rock Elements: **The energy and raw power characteristic of rock music are palpable throughout the track.** • Overall Sound: **This fusion of styles creates a sound that is both familiar and innovative, setting the stage for the band's future musical exploration.** The Impact and Legacy **"You Shook Me" has had a profound impact on rock music and remains a highly regarded track within Led Zeppelin's extensive catalog. Its influence can be heard in countless subsequent rock acts.** • Inspiration: **The song's intensity and energy inspired countless guitarists and musicians.** • Enduring Popularity: **The song's appeal transcends generations, continuing to resonate with fans of all ages.** • Influence on Subsequent Artists: *It served as a stylistic benchmark for various artists and*

bands, showcasing the power of authentic blues-rock fusion. Key Takeaways • "You Shook Me" embodies the raw energy and blues-rock mastery of Led Zeppelin. • Jimmy Page's guitar work is a cornerstone of the song's unique sound. • The song's emotional resonance and lyrical ambiguity are essential to its enduring appeal. • The song demonstrates the band's mastery of blending diverse musical influences.

Frequently Asked Questions **1.** What inspired Jimmy Page's guitar playing on the track? **Page's playing was heavily influenced by his deep understanding of blues music, drawing inspiration from Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and other greats.** **2.** What are the main lyrical themes explored in the song? **The lyrics primarily convey a sense of vulnerability and emotion, leaving room for individual interpretation.** **3.** How does the song blend different musical styles? **"You Shook Me" expertly fuses blues, rock, and subtle folk elements, creating a unique sound.** **4.** Why is the song considered a significant moment in Led Zeppelin's career? **The song marked a moment in their early career where they combined their blues mastery with their energetic rock style. It displayed their evolving musical vision.** **5.** How has the song influenced other musicians? **** The song's combination of raw energy and blues foundation proved inspirational to countless musicians, especially guitarists, who followed in their footsteps.**

Led Zeppelin's "You Shook Me": A Bluesy Riff That Shook the World

When you think of Led Zeppelin, what comes to mind? Is it the soaring vocals of Robert Plant, the thunderous drums of John Bonham, the mystical riffs of Jimmy Page, or the solid basslines of John Paul Jones? For many fans, it's a potent cocktail of all these

elements, a sonic force that defined hard rock and blues-rock for generations. Among their vast and iconic discography, there's a particular track that stands out, not just for its raw power, but for its deep roots in the blues and its role in cementing Zeppelin's early sound: "You Shook Me." This wasn't an original composition in the strictest sense, but a masterful reinterpretation. Yet, Led Zeppelin took the song and infused it with their signature intensity, transforming it into something entirely their own. It's a track that encapsulates their early mission: to breathe new life into classic blues structures and make them resonate with a 1970s audience hungry for something primal and electrifying. Let's dive deep into the story behind "You Shook Me," its blues origins, its impact on Led Zeppelin's debut album, and why it continues to be a fan favorite.

The Bluesy Pedigree: Where "You Shook Me" Came From

Before we explore how Led Zeppelin made "You Shook Me" their own, it's essential to understand its lineage. The song is a cover, a blues standard that predates the rock era. It was originally written by Willie Dixon, a legendary blues songwriter, producer, and musician for Chess Records. Dixon was a pivotal figure in shaping the Chicago blues sound, penning numerous iconic songs for artists like Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, and Little Walter. The song was first recorded by Muddy Waters in 1962, featuring a powerful, albeit more understated, delivery compared to Zeppelin's version. Another significant recording came from the R&B artist Lord Brewer, also in 1962. These original versions lay the groundwork, showcasing the song's infectious groove and suggestive lyrical themes. Led Zeppelin discovered the song through their own deep appreciation for American blues. Jimmy Page, in particular, was a voracious collector of blues records and was deeply influenced by the masters. He saw the potential in "You Shook Me" to be a vehicle for

showcasing the band's burgeoning power and their ability to channel the raw emotion of the blues.

Building the Zeppelin Sound: "You Shook Me" on Their Debut Album

"You Shook Me" found its place on Led Zeppelin's self-titled debut album, released in 1969. This album was a statement of intent, a furious explosion of blues-infused hard rock that immediately set them apart from their contemporaries. While tracks like "Whole Lotta Love" (which would appear on their next album) and "Dazed and Confused" often steal the spotlight when discussing Zeppelin's heavier moments, "You Shook Me" is arguably the bedrock of their bluesy foundation on this seminal record. The recording of "You Shook Me" for the debut album was a testament to the band's live energy and improvisational prowess. It was recorded in a whirlwind of sessions, with much of the album being laid down quickly and efficiently. This approach allowed the raw, unadulterated energy of the band to shine through. Page's guitar work on the track is a masterclass in blues-rock. He employs his signature Telecaster to deliver a gritty, distorted riff that forms the backbone of the song. His solos are fiery and dynamic, filled with bends and vibrato that perfectly capture the spirit of blues guitar. It's not just about technicality; it's about emotion and raw power. Robert Plant's vocals on "You Shook Me" are also crucial to its impact. He adopts a more aggressive, almost primal vocal style, channeling the sensuality and raw desire inherent in the lyrics. His shrieks and wails add a layer of intensity that was revolutionary for its time. You can almost feel him embodying the narrative of the song. John Bonham's drumming provides the thunderous foundation. His powerful, no-nonsense approach drives the song forward, with intricate fills that are both powerful and precise. And John Paul Jones' basslines are the steady anchor, providing a deep, resonant groove that locks in with

Bonham's rhythm. The interplay between these four musicians is what makes "You Shook Me" so compelling.

Lyrical Themes: More Than Just a Love Song

The lyrics of "You Shook Me," penned by Willie Dixon, are relatively simple but incredibly evocative. They speak of a profound physical and emotional connection, of being so deeply affected by someone that it leaves a lasting impression. Lines like "You shook me, all night long" and "You woke me up this morning, and the house was burning down" paint vivid pictures of intense passion and overwhelming sensations. While these lyrics can be interpreted in various ways, their blues origins often lend them a certain earthiness and directness. Led Zeppelin's interpretation certainly amplifies the sensual and powerful aspects of the lyrics, making the song feel more like an anthem of unbridled desire. It's this raw, relatable emotion that resonates with listeners, even decades later. The repetitive nature of the chorus, "You shook me," is a classic blues technique, allowing the emotion and impact of the statement to sink in. It's hypnotic and powerful, drawing the listener into the song's narrative.

The Impact and Legacy of "You Shook Me"

"You Shook Me" was a crucial track for Led Zeppelin in their formative years. It demonstrated their ability to honor their blues heroes while simultaneously forging their own distinct sound. It was a bridge between the old and the new, introducing a generation of rock fans to the foundational elements of blues music. On the debut album, it sits alongside other blues-influenced tracks like "Dazed

and Confused" (another Willie Dixon connection, though its attribution is more complex) and "Bring It On Home," further solidifying their reputation as a band deeply rooted in the blues. The song's impact extends beyond just the debut album. It became a staple of their early live shows, where the band could truly stretch out and improvise, turning the track into an extended jam session that showcased their musical virtuosity. Live versions often featured extended guitar solos from Page and powerful vocal improvisations from Plant, making each performance unique. For fans of Led Zeppelin, "You Shook Me" is more than just a song; it's a testament to their artistry and their deep understanding of the blues. It's a track that embodies their raw power, their musical chemistry, and their ability to take a classic and make it their own, in a way that left an indelible mark on the landscape of rock music.

Why "You Shook Me" Still Resonates

In a world saturated with music, what makes a song like "You Shook Me" endure? It's a combination of factors:

- * **Timeless Blues Structure:** The underlying blues progression is inherently catchy and emotionally resonant. It's a framework that has captivated audiences for decades.
- * **Led Zeppelin's Signature Sound:** The sheer power and charisma of Plant, Page, Jones, and Bonham elevate the song to another level. Their individual contributions, when fused together, create an irresistible sonic force.
- * **Raw Energy and Emotion:** The song possesses an unadulterated energy that speaks directly to the listener. It's passionate, raw, and undeniably human.
- * **Nostalgia and Reverence:** For long-time fans, "You Shook Me" evokes powerful memories and a sense of nostalgia for an era of groundbreaking rock music. It's a cornerstone of their early sound that is held in high regard.
- * **The Power of a Great Riff:** Jimmy Page's riff is instantly recognizable and incredibly influential. It's a prime example of how a simple, yet

powerful, guitar riff can define a song. "You Shook Me" is a perfect example of Led Zeppelin's genius in taking something established and making it vital and exciting for a new era. It's a blues song reborn, infused with the thunderous energy of rock and roll, and delivered with the unmatched swagger of one of the greatest bands of all time. It's a track that continues to shake us, all night long, and will undoubtedly continue to do so for generations to come. The legacy of this blues-rock anthem is secure, a testament to its enduring power and the legendary status of the band that brought it to a global audience. It remains a cornerstone of their early output, a powerful reminder of their roots and their unparalleled ability to reinterpret and redefine.

The Enduring Impact of Led Zeppelin's "You Shook Me"

Led Zeppelin's "You Shook Me" stands as a powerful testament to the band's revolutionary influence on rock music, transcending generations through its raw energy, emotional depth, and sonic innovation. Released in 1970 on the landmark Physical Graffiti album, this track exemplifies the band's ability to fuse blues roots with daring experimentalism, creating a soundscape that still resonates with listeners today. Though primarily known for its hard rock and heavy riffs, "You Shook Me" contains subtle yet profound moments of vulnerability and intensity that distinguish it within Zeppelin's discography.

Understanding the Song's Musical

Identity

At its core, “You Shook Me” is a dynamic interplay between relentless rhythm and shifting moods. The song opens with a hypnotic bassline and thudding drums, establishing a commanding presence grounded in blues tradition. As the track unfolds, Jimmy Page’s guitar work takes center stage—not just with power chords, but with intricate phrasing and harmonic tension that elevates the song beyond typical rock fare. The verse introduces a haunting vocal delivery, where Robert Plant’s delivery oscillates between restrained intensity and momentary release, contributing to the track’s emotional complexity. The instrumental bridge serves as a pivotal moment, where the band explores atmospheric textures and rhythmic shifts, showcasing their mastery in balancing aggression with introspection.

This nuanced approach reflects Led Zeppelin’s broader evolution as artists—never content to repeat past successes, they consistently pushed creative boundaries. “You Shook Me” captures this spirit, offering listeners a rich, layered experience that rewards repeated listening. Its ability to merge raw power with emotional subtlety has helped define the band’s lasting legacy in the rock genre.

Cultural Significance and Emotional Resonance

Beyond its musical innovation, “You Shook Me” holds a special place in music culture as both a fan favorite and a touchstone for artists across genres. Its dramatic shifts and intense delivery have inspired countless musicians, cementing its status as a benchmark for dynamic songwriting in rock. The song’s title itself captures a universal truth: the indelible mark of a moment that shakes one’s

very foundation. Whether performed live or experienced through recordings, it evokes visceral reactions—fear, awe, empowerment—reminding audiences of music’s profound ability to connect on a deeply human level.

In live performances, “You Shook Me” often becomes a highlight, drawing massive energy from crowds as Page’s guitar solos ignite the stage and Plant’s vocals soar with raw emotion. This live interpretation reinforces the track’s timelessness, proving its relevance decades after its initial release. Its enduring appeal lies not only in its sonic strength but in its capacity to communicate powerful emotions without words.

Applications and Broader Influence

The influence of “You Shook Me” extends beyond rock into film, advertising, and contemporary music. Its intense rhythm and gripping vocal tone have made it a popular choice for dramatic scoring and high-energy trailers, amplifying emotional impact through familiar, powerful motifs. In modern production, producers and artists frequently revisit the song’s structure and dynamics as a blueprint for crafting compelling, multi-dimensional tracks.

Moreover, the song underscores Led Zeppelin’s broader impact on shaping hard rock’s evolution. By blending blues authenticity with experimental flair, they inspired generations of musicians to prioritize authenticity and innovation. “You Shook Me” stands as a microcosm of their artistry—uncompromising, emotionally rich, and endlessly adaptable.

Looking to the Future: Legacy and

Continued Relevance

As music continues to evolve, “You Shook Me” remains a vital artifact of rock’s golden era. Its continued presence in live sets, covers, and cultural references ensures that its influence endures. For new generations discovering Led Zeppelin, the song serves as a gateway to understanding the depth and innovation behind one of rock’s most iconic acts.

With digital platforms enabling global access and streaming services preserving the integrity of original recordings, “You Shook Me” reaches audiences worldwide, fostering appreciation across cultures and eras. This accessibility ensures that the song’s emotional resonance and musical brilliance will continue to inspire, reminding listeners of the timeless power of great art—proof that some moments truly shake the soul.

Led Zeppelin's "You Shook Me": A Deep Dive into Blues Power and Mythic Resonance

Few songs in the Led Zeppelin canon elicit such a visceral reaction as “You Shook Me.” It’s a track that crackles with raw energy, a testament to the band’s foundational blues roots, and a powerful demonstration of their burgeoning, mythic sound. More than just a cover, “You Shook Me” became a cornerstone of Led Zeppelin’s early identity, showcasing their ability to take a well-worn blues standard and infuse it with a seismic, almost primal, force. This analysis will explore the origins of “You Shook Me,” its pivotal role in Led Zeppelin’s debut album, the masterful performances within, and

its enduring legacy in the pantheon of rock and roll.

The genesis of "You Shook Me" is rooted in the rich soil of American blues. The song is a cover, originally written and performed by the legendary Willie Dixon, and first recorded by Muddy Waters in 1962. Dixon, a prolific songwriter and producer for Chess Records, penned numerous blues anthems that formed the bedrock of modern blues and influenced generations of musicians, including the members of Led Zeppelin. Robert Plant, in particular, had a deep reverence for blues pioneers, and the inclusion of "You Shook Me" on their debut album was a deliberate homage.

From Chess Records to Olympic Studios: The Transformation

When Jimmy Page, then assembling the embryonic version of the New Yardbirds that would soon become Led Zeppelin, sought to craft an album that would announce their arrival with thunderous impact, drawing from the blues well was a strategic and authentic choice. The band's initial performances, before the solidified Zeppelin lineup, often featured extensive blues covers. "You Shook Me" was a natural fit, possessing a potent lyrical theme and a strong, repetitive musical structure that allowed for improvisation and the kind of heavy amplification that Page envisioned.

The recording of "You Shook Me" for their self-titled debut album, *Led Zeppelin*, in October 1968, at Olympic Studios in London, was a crucial moment. Unlike many of their contemporaries who treated blues standards with careful reverence, Led Zeppelin approached the material with a fierce, unbridled energy. They didn't just replicate; they reinvented. The song became a canvas for their unique sonic alchemy, a blend of raw power, atmospheric tension, and virtuosic musicianship.

Robert Plant's Vocal Prowess: A Testament to Blues Inflection

At the heart of "You Shook Me" is Robert Plant's extraordinary vocal performance. Drawing directly from the call-and-response tradition of blues singing, Plant delivers a performance that is both raw and sophisticated. His vocalizations, filled with grit, anguish, and a palpable sexual tension, are a masterclass in blues inflection. He bends notes, wails, and shouts, imbuing the lyrics with a desperate, almost pleading intensity. The iconic opening line, "Well, I'll tell you, baby," sets the stage for a narrative of intense desire and its overwhelming effect.

Plant's interpretation transcends mere mimicry. He injects his own persona and burgeoning rock star charisma into the performance. His screams and moans, particularly in the later sections of the song, are not just vocalizations but primal expressions of emotion that would become a hallmark of his singing style. This raw vocal delivery, combined with the lyrical themes of sexual conquest and its aftermath, cemented "You Shook Me" as one of the band's most sexually charged songs, a characteristic that would define much of their appeal.

Jimmy Page's Guitar Work: The Architect of Sonic Fury

Jimmy Page's guitar playing on "You Shook Me" is nothing short of spectacular. He doesn't just play the blues; he redefines it with his signature heavy guitar sound. His Rickenbacker, amplified to blistering volumes, delivers riffs that are both powerful and intricate. The iconic slide guitar solo, a serpentine, menacing beast, is a masterstroke of blues-rock improvisation. It's a sound that was

revolutionary for its time, showcasing Page's innovative use of distortion and feedback to create a truly unique sonic texture.

Page's arrangement of "You Shook Me" also highlights his meticulous attention to detail. He layers his guitar parts, creating a dense and compelling soundscape. The interplay between his stinging lead lines and the more foundational rhythm work is exceptional. The solo section, in particular, builds in intensity, a testament to Page's ability to craft compelling instrumental narratives. His exploration of sonic possibilities, pushing the boundaries of what the electric guitar could achieve, is clearly evident here. This track, alongside others on the debut, firmly established Page as a guitar hero for a new generation.

John Bonham and John Paul Jones: The Unshakeable Foundation

While Plant's vocals and Page's guitar often take center stage, the rhythm section of John Bonham on drums and John Paul Jones on bass and organ provides the unshakeable foundation upon which "You Shook Me" is built. Bonham's drumming is, as always, a force of nature. His powerful, thunderous beats are the driving engine of the song, providing a primal energy that complements Plant's wails and Page's riffs. His fills are explosive, adding punctuation and drama to the already intense musical landscape.

John Paul Jones, a multi-instrumentalist of exceptional talent, adds crucial layers to the track. His bass lines are solid and groovy, anchoring the song with a deep, resonant pulse. Furthermore, Jones's organ work on "You Shook Me" is a vital element, adding a soulful, almost church-like atmosphere to the bluesy framework. The Hammond organ provides a rich, harmonic texture that contrasts and complements the raw guitar work, creating a more

complex and nuanced sound. This instrumental synergy is a key reason why "You Shook Me" stands out.

Lyrical Themes and Sexual Undertones

"You Shook Me" is, at its core, a song of intense sexual encounter and its profound effect. The lyrics, originally penned by Willie Dixon, speak of a woman who has had such a powerful impact on the narrator that he is left stunned and reeling. "You shook me all night long" is the central refrain, a declaration of overwhelming physical and emotional satisfaction.

While the blues genre has always embraced themes of love, loss, and desire, Led Zeppelin's delivery of "You Shook Me" amplified the sexual undertones to an unprecedented degree for a mainstream rock band. Robert Plant's vocalizations and the driving, sensual nature of the music created an atmosphere of unadulterated passion. This explicit, yet poetic, exploration of sexuality became a significant aspect of Led Zeppelin's early appeal, drawing in listeners who were captivated by their bold and uninhibited sound.

Legacy and Influence: A Blueprint for Blues-Rock Power

The inclusion of "You Shook Me" on *Led Zeppelin* was instrumental in defining the band's early sound and establishing their credentials as masters of blues-rock. It demonstrated their ability to take established blues structures and imbue them with a contemporary, hard-rocking sensibility. The track became a live staple, allowing the band to showcase their improvisational skills and musical chemistry. Its raw power and sonic innovation served as a blueprint for countless bands that followed, solidifying the blues as a vital ingredient in the burgeoning heavy rock scene.

Beyond its immediate impact, "You Shook Me" has endured as a fan favorite and a critical touchstone. It's a song that perfectly encapsulates the raw power, sexual energy, and blues authenticity that characterized Led Zeppelin's initial sonic assault on the music world. The song's enduring popularity is a testament to its timeless appeal, a primal scream from the heart of the blues that continues to resonate with audiences decades later. Its placement on the debut album is a clear indication of its importance in the band's formative years, shaping their path towards becoming one of the greatest rock bands of all time.

In conclusion, "You Shook Me" is far more than just a cover song. It's a testament to Led Zeppelin's profound respect for the blues, their innovative spirit, and their unparalleled ability to translate raw emotion into electrifying rock and roll. It's a track that shook the foundations of the music industry and continues to shake listeners to their very core.

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Questions & Answers About led zeppelin you shook me

No	Question	Answer
1	What's the story behind Led Zeppelin's 'You Shook Me'?	'You Shook Me' is a cover of a Muddy Waters song, originally released by Led Zeppelin on their debut album in 1969. It's a powerful blues-rock track known for its raw energy and Robert Plant's impassioned vocals.

2	Is 'You Shook Me' an original Led Zeppelin song?	No, 'You Shook Me' is a cover. While Led Zeppelin made it their own with their signature sound, the original song was written by Willie Dixon and first recorded by Muddy Waters in 1962.
3	What makes 'You Shook Me' stand out on Led Zeppelin's first album?	Its intense blues foundation and Plant's vocal delivery are key. The song showcases the band's deep respect for blues music while infusing it with their heavy, amplified rock style, making it a standout track.
4	Who are the original writers credited for 'You Shook Me'?	The song 'You Shook Me' is credited to Willie Dixon, a prolific blues songwriter and producer, and first performed by Muddy Waters.
5	How does Led Zeppelin's version differ from Muddy Waters' original 'You Shook Me'?	Led Zeppelin's rendition is significantly heavier and more amplified. They incorporated a more aggressive guitar riff, a driving drum beat from John Bonham, and Plant's high-pitched, almost frantic vocal performance, giving it a distinct rock edge.
6	What's the lyrical theme of 'You Shook Me'?	The lyrics express a powerful, almost overwhelming romantic and physical experience, using metaphors of shaking and trembling to convey intense emotions and desire.
7	Does 'You Shook Me' feature any notable guitar solos?	While the song is a powerful ensemble piece, Jimmy Page delivers a searing and dynamic guitar solo that is a hallmark of his playing, blending blues phrasing with raw rock power.
8	Why is 'You Shook Me' considered an important early Led Zeppelin track?	It highlights the band's early influences and their ability to reinterpret classic blues songs with their own unique sound. It also demonstrated Robert Plant's vocal prowess and Jimmy Page's guitar mastery from the outset.

9	Was 'You Shook Me' a single released by Led Zeppelin?	No, 'You Shook Me' was not released as a single by Led Zeppelin. It was included as a track on their self-titled debut album in 1969.
10	What's the overall mood or atmosphere of 'You Shook Me'?	The song has a raw, primal, and intense atmosphere. It's a passionate and energetic blues-rock anthem that evokes a sense of overwhelming emotion and powerful desire.

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