

741.5

OSAMU TEZUKA'S MANGA CLASSIC

ASTRO BOY

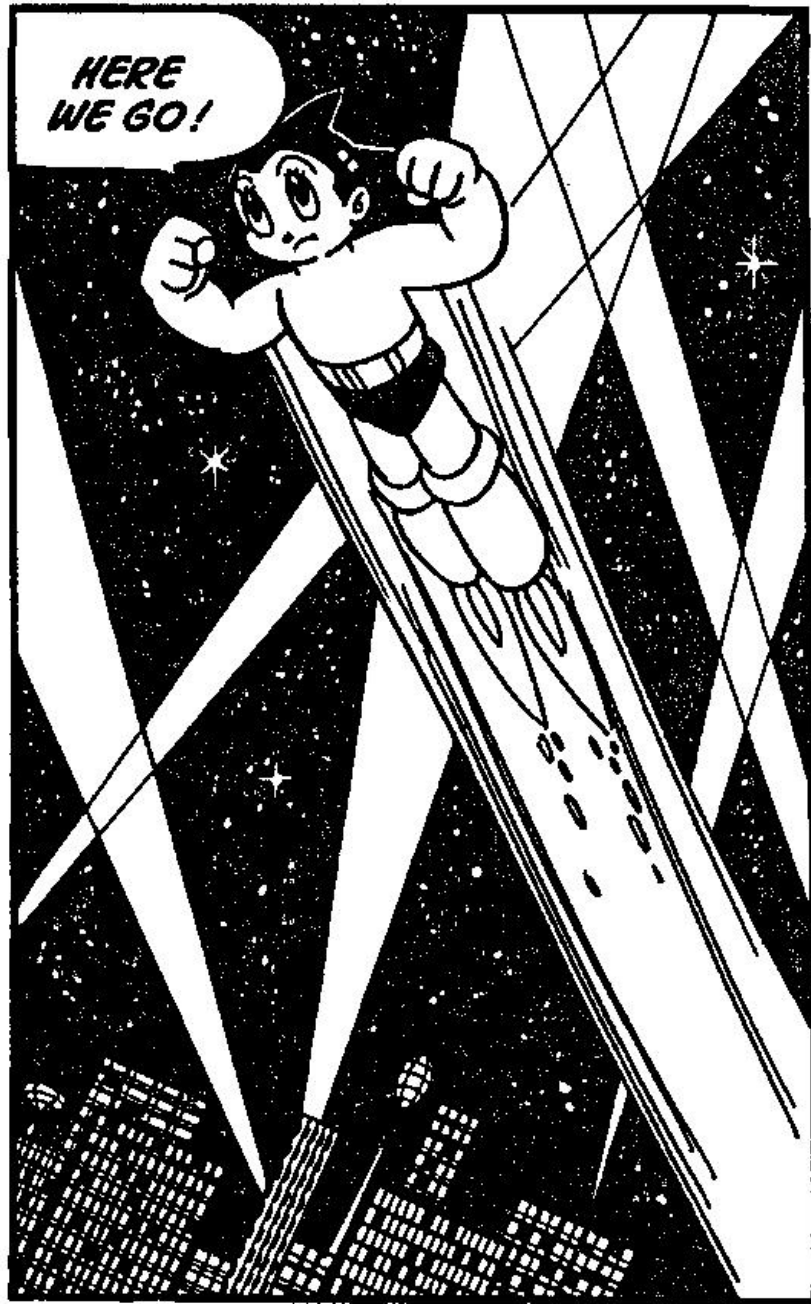
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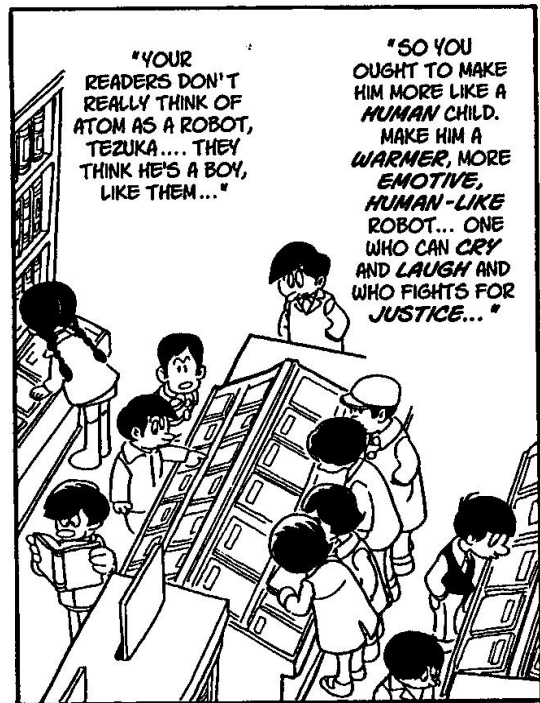
The Comics & Graphic Novel Bulletin of



Lexington Public Library
Reading Is Just the Beginning!

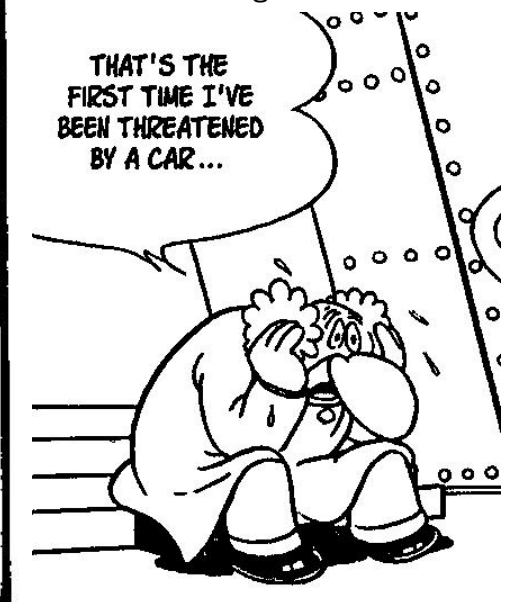


Known to *gaijin* as Astro Boy, Tetsuwan Atom (Mighty Atom) was not the first creation of Osamu Tezuka, but he was the most popular. The little robot who could was one of the leading manga characters from his debut in 1952. His cartoon was not the first anime, but came to define the medium, especially after Astro Boy was syndicated in the U.S. But for the most part, the actual comics went untranslated. Now Dark Horse has released the entire series in a format much like the Japanese collections, small but thick bricks of pulp and ink that run to seven editions (*below*) containing 700-plus pages of comics and background info. (As well as an apology for the ethnic stereotypes common to early manga, so let the reader beware.) Most of the stories center on robots — good robots like As-



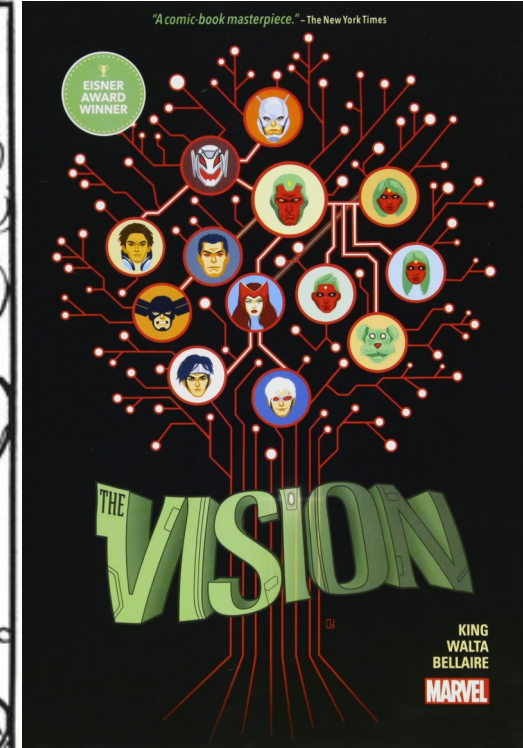
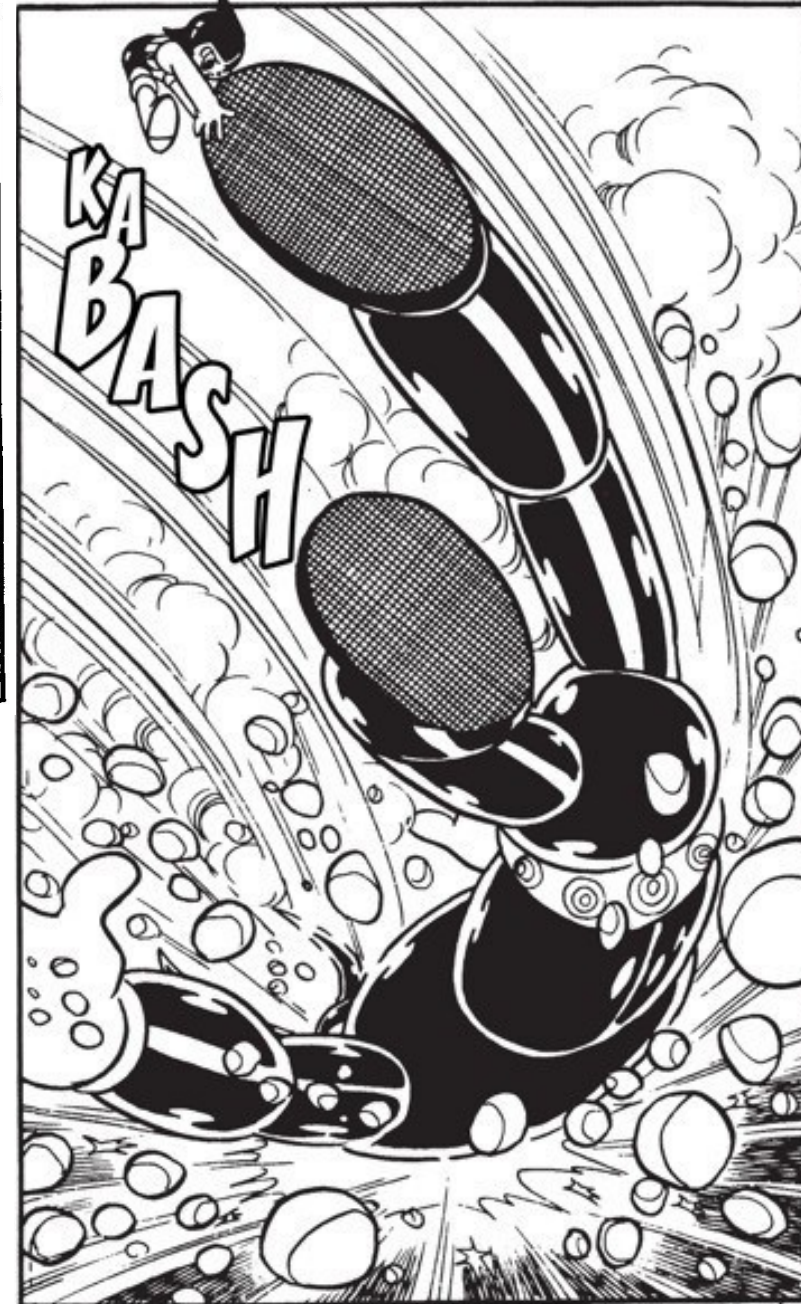
"YOUR READERS DON'T REALLY THINK OF ATOM AS A ROBOT, TEZUKA.... THEY THINK HE'S A BOY, LIKE THEM..."

"SO YOU OUGHT TO MAKE HIM MORE LIKE A HUMAN CHILD. MAKE HIM A WARMER, MORE EMOTIVE, HUMAN-LIKE ROBOT... ONE WHO CAN CRY AND LAUGH AND WHO FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE..."



THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN THREATENED BY A CAR...

tro and his family and friends and bad robots like Pluto (*right*). The good robots struggle to find a place in a society that sees them as either chattel or threats. The bad robots tear things up until Astro Boy stops them. But there are also space invaders and giant insects, cyborg dogs and super-villains. Rendered in Tezuka's strong, detailed style, it's a sci-fi mix of Disney sweetness and the rambunctious physicality of Popeye cartoons. Called "the God of Manga" in Japan, Tezuka himself appears in the comics to provide context. So every volume is also a history of manga, from the innocence of the 1950s (*above*) to the tumult of the '60s. Each a visual treat, these books are available from the Central juvenile collection!



Artificial humans have starred in comic books since the original Human Torch...whose body was used by the mad robot Ultron to create the most popular of all androids, the **Vision**. As a member of the Avengers, the Vision "has saved the Earth 37 times," as he reminds his suspicious neighbors...hostile schoolmasters...the cops...his wife. No, not the Scarlet Witch, but Virginia — she was created by the Vision himself, along with their children, Viv and Vin, and the family dog, Sparky. It sounds very homey, but this Eisner Award-winning graphic novel was written by **Tom (Sheriff of Babylon) King**, so it all goes horribly wrong. When one of your "brothers" is the Grim Reaper (*below*), how can it be any other way? **Gabriel Walla's** art works in tandem with **Jodie Bellaire's** autumnal coloring to bring to life King's violent rumination on identity and belonging. You can find it at Beaumont and Central.

A bereaved scientist builds a robotic substitute for his dead son, then turns against his own creation! So begins the adventures of *Astro Boy*!

Clones, dictators and a shape-shifting snow leopard from space vie for Astro Boy's attention, with a trip to the atom-powered year of 1993!

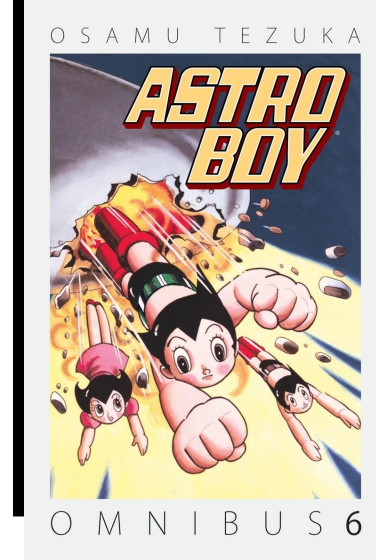
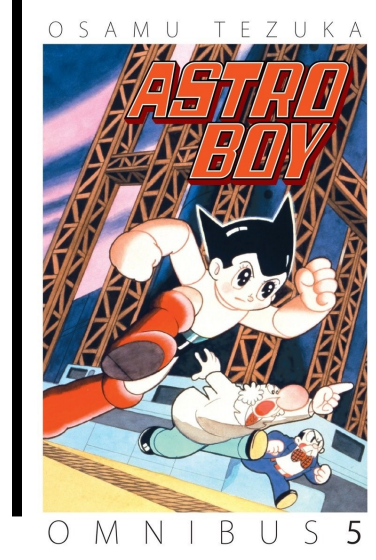
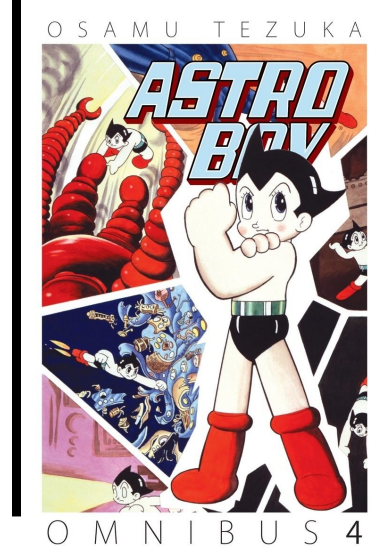
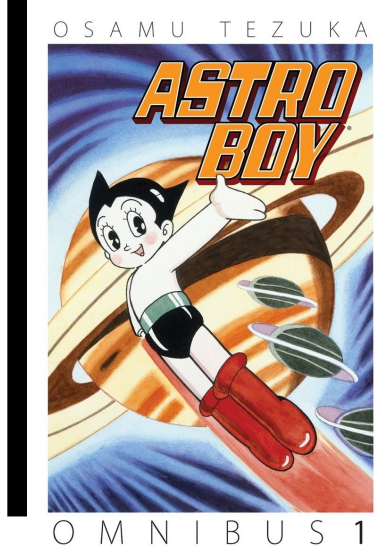
Astro Boy battles an alien fungus, a head-hunting robot and an invisible giant! Meanwhile, Astro meets new pal Cobalt and guest star *Garon*!

Astro and sister Uran get new grown-up bodies...but it's all a crooked con! Then psychic powers run amok, creating an unstoppable *monster*!

Centaurs, gangsters and enormous robot bugs are just a few of the foes faced by Astro in this volume, which features his first adventure *ever*!

Things get weird when giant bats, rats and centipedes run wild as Astro and family are swept up in a robot rebellion led by the *Blue Knight*!

Join Astro Boy as he journeys to Mars and travels to the age of dinosaurs! Then Astro's mad creator returns — and he wants his *robot*!

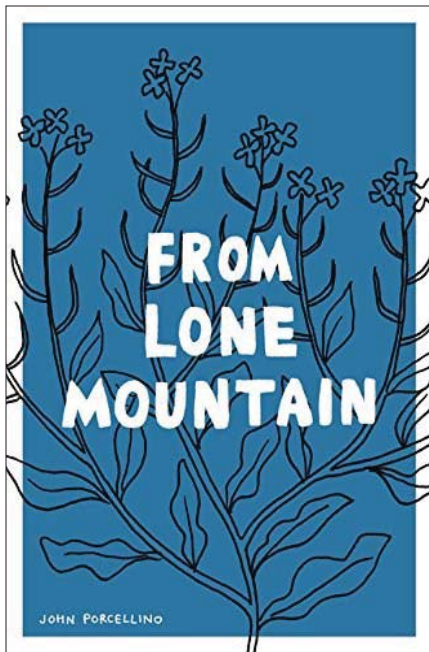


DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T FIND YOU?

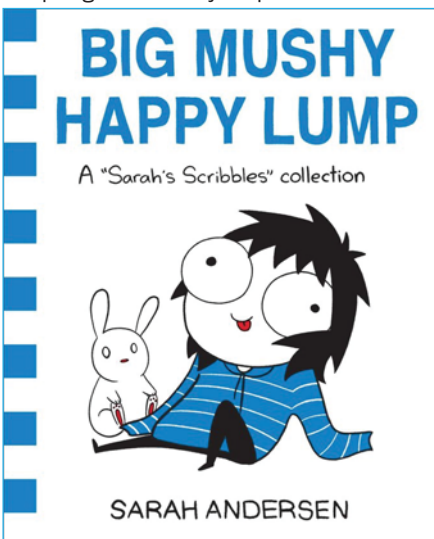
EVERYWHERE I LOOK, I SEE YOU.

EVERYONE IS SO EAGER TO SHARE THEIR PHOTOS OF THE NEW PERFECT FAMILY.

MOTHER? MOTHER? MOTHER?

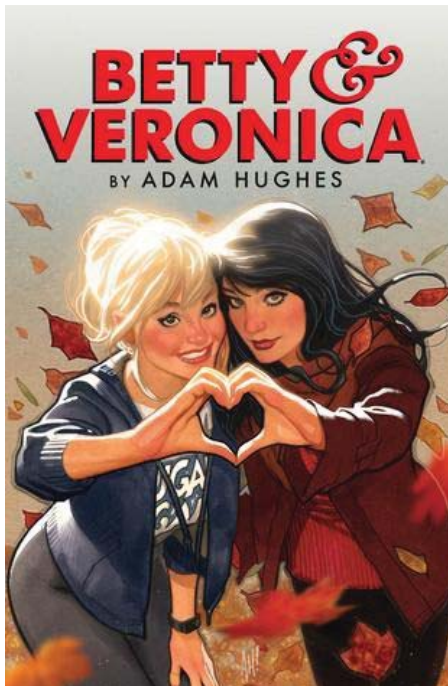


Like many alternative cartoonists, **John Porcellino**'s had a rough life. Bad jobs, bad relationships, bad decisions made with a bad brain— he's been around. But unlike his peers, **Porcellino** doesn't dwell on the dark side of things. His stories are either homely narratives of everyday life, zen-like descriptions of a certain moment, or travelogues full of local flavor. His artwork is full of light. Using only thin outlines without a hint of blacks, **Porcellino** draws simply, his minimalist approach near worshipped by fellow inkslingers as an example of cartooning at its purest. Drawing on work from 2003-2007, *From Lone Mountain* is the latest collection of his long-lived zine *King Cat Comics & Stories* and can be found at Central and Eastside. Another minimalist is **Sarah Andersen**. Her *Sarah's Scribbles* is one of the most shared comic strips on the internet. That's because she's funny - and very real. Her art is indeed scribbly, a sloppy, simple gush of ink just plain fun to look

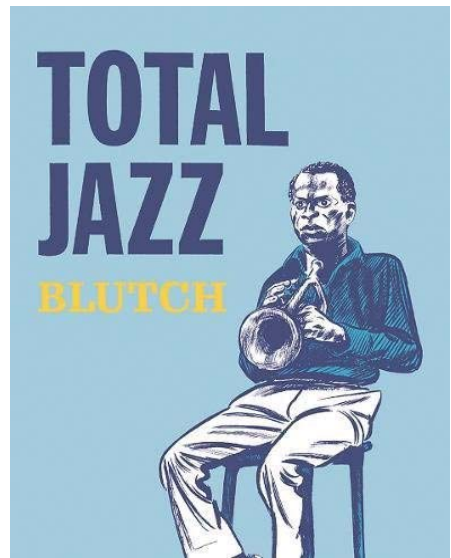


MEANWHILE

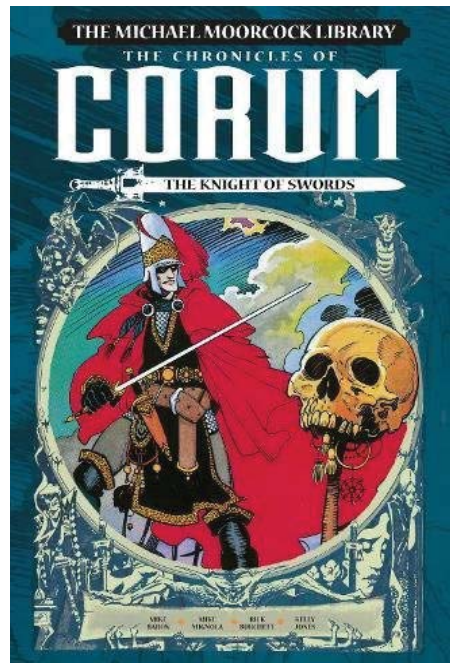
at. **Andersen** details the trials and tribulations of a modern girl. Work, romance, culture are lampooned, along with the important things, like puppies in sweaters. She doesn't shy away from the gnarly side of life; indeed, some of **Andersen's** funniest strips are about her terrible periods, her uterus drawn as a goofy little character with fallopian tubes for arms, raising hell with a smile on its face. Two new compilations of *Sarah's Scribbles* are available. *Big Mushy Happy Lump* (below right) is available in the TEEN section of Beaumont, Central, Eastside and Tates Creek. *Herding Cats* can be found in the Adult collections of those locations. On the other end of the spectrum of girl comics lies **Adam Hughes**



and his *Betty and Veronica*. A member of that small group of cartoonists known mostly for cover art, **Hughes** won over fans with his stunning covers starring DC superheroes such as Zatanna and Wonder Woman. His luminously sensual approach reflects not only the influence of pin-up artists like **Gil Elvgren** but also classic illustrators such as **Coles Phillips** and **Herbert Paus**. That makes him a perfect contributor to the all-American oeuvre of Archie Andrews and his pals'n'gals. Part of the great modernization that's made Archie Comics a major player in the biz once again, this mini-series was also written by **Hughes**. The story sets blond girl-next-door Betty Cooper against raven-haired rich girl Veronica Lodge, whose daddy is intent on replacing Riverdale's fave hang-out, Pop's Chocklit Shoppe, with a Starbucks-style coffee joint. Things get hilariously intense, as **Hughes** perfectly captures the manic enthusiasm of



Betty and the slinky self-assurance of Veronica. You can find a copy in the TEEN section of every LPL location. Central and Northside feature *Total Jazz* by **Blutch**. Fantagraphics compiles his best strips from the French magazine *Jazzman*. His swirling brush and scratchy pen expresses the spirit of the music. **Blutch** draws jazz lovers learning jazz, living jazz, and leaving jazz. And he lauds and gibes jazz performers, including a lovely tribute to **Duke Ellington**. As many a musician has discovered, influences can be hard to get past. **Mike Mignola's** debt to **P. Craig Russell** is obvious in *The Chronicles of Corum: The Knight of Swords*. The latest volume in Titan Comics' *Michael Moorcock Library* reprints work from the late 1980s, before **Mignola** adopted his trademark shadowy, ink-laden style. A tale both fanciful and brutal finds Corum, the last of his eldritch race, battling the murderers of his people — humankind! You'll find it at Beaumont!



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