

lesson before dying

lesson before dying is a powerful phrase that captures the profound themes and emotional journey of Ernest J. Gaines's acclaimed novel. This article explores the enduring impact of lesson before dying on literature, culture, and education. Readers will discover a comprehensive analysis of the story's plot, main characters, and central themes, including justice, dignity, and the search for meaning in the face of adversity. The article will also provide insights into the historical context of the novel, key literary devices, and the ways lesson before dying continues to influence discussions about race, morality, and personal transformation. Whether you are a student, educator, or avid reader, this guide will deliver valuable perspectives on lesson before dying and its significance in American literature.

- Overview of lesson before dying
- Plot summary
- Main characters and their roles
- Major themes in lesson before dying
- Historical and cultural context
- Literary analysis and techniques
- Impact on education and society
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Overview of lesson before dying

Lesson before dying is a celebrated novel by Ernest J. Gaines, published in 1993. Set in rural Louisiana during the late 1940s, the story revolves around a young Black man named Jefferson who is wrongfully convicted of murder and sentenced to death. The narrative is told through the eyes of Grant Wiggins, a schoolteacher tasked with helping Jefferson regain his sense of dignity before his execution. The novel addresses complex topics such as racial injustice, personal transformation, and the power of human connection. Gaines's evocative writing style and vivid portrayal of life in the segregated South make lesson before dying a cornerstone of modern American literature.

Plot summary

At the heart of *Lesson Before Dying* is the journey of Jefferson, a young man from a poor Black community who finds himself on trial after being present at the scene of a crime. Despite his innocence, Jefferson is convicted and sentenced to death by an all-white jury. The story unfolds as Grant Wiggins, a local schoolteacher, reluctantly agrees to visit Jefferson in jail at the insistence of Miss Emma, Jefferson's godmother. Through their interactions, Grant attempts to teach Jefferson how to die with dignity, challenging him to reject the dehumanizing label of "hog" that was placed upon him during the trial. Their evolving relationship becomes a testament to resilience, hope, and the enduring struggle for self-worth in the face of oppression.

Main characters and their roles

Jefferson

Jefferson is the novel's central figure, a young Black man who becomes a symbol of suffering and injustice. Throughout *Lesson Before Dying*, Jefferson undergoes a profound transformation, moving from despair and self-doubt to a state of acceptance and dignity by the end of the story. His character embodies the struggles faced by many African Americans during the era of segregation and highlights the psychological impact of systemic racism.

Grant Wiggins

Grant Wiggins serves as the narrator and one of the most complex characters in *Lesson Before Dying*. A college-educated schoolteacher, Grant is disillusioned with his environment and often questions his ability to make meaningful change. His reluctant journey to help Jefferson ultimately becomes a lesson in personal growth, responsibility, and the importance of community. Grant's internal struggles and evolving relationship with Jefferson drive much of the novel's emotional depth.

Miss Emma

Miss Emma is Jefferson's godmother and one of the driving forces behind the story's central mission. Her unwavering dedication to Jefferson's dignity and her insistence on Grant's involvement reflect the strength and resilience of Black women in the face of adversity. Miss Emma's character offers a poignant reminder of familial love and the fight for justice.

Other significant characters

- Tante Lou: Grant's aunt and a pillar of the local community, who plays a crucial role in motivating Grant to help Jefferson.
- Reverend Ambrose: The local preacher who provides spiritual guidance and grapples with the meaning of faith in dire circumstances.
- Henri Pichot: A white plantation owner whose power and authority highlight the racial dynamics of the era.

Major themes in lesson before dying

Racial injustice and inequality

One of the most prominent themes in lesson before dying is the pervasive racial injustice faced by African Americans in the United States. The novel's depiction of Jefferson's trial and conviction exposes the deep-seated prejudice and discrimination within the legal system. Gaines uses these events to illustrate the broader societal forces that shape the lives of Black individuals and communities.

Dignity and humanity

Lesson before dying explores the concept of human dignity in the face of dehumanization. Jefferson's struggle to reclaim his sense of self-worth becomes a central focus of the narrative, prompting readers to consider the importance of personal identity and respect. Grant's efforts to teach Jefferson how to die with dignity resonate with the universal desire for recognition and empathy.

Education and transformation

Education plays a vital role in lesson before dying, both as a means of empowerment and as a catalyst for change. Grant's role as a teacher extends beyond the classroom, emphasizing the transformative power of knowledge and mentorship. The story raises important questions about the limitations and potential of education in overcoming social barriers.

Faith and hope

The interplay between faith and hope is woven throughout *Lesson before dying*. Characters like Miss Emma and Reverend Ambrose rely on spiritual beliefs to cope with hardship and uncertainty. The novel examines how faith can offer comfort, guidance, and strength, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Historical and cultural context

Lesson before dying is set in the Jim Crow-era South, a period marked by institutionalized racism and segregation. The historical backdrop is essential to understanding the novel's depiction of social hierarchies, injustice, and resistance. Gaines draws on his personal experiences growing up in Louisiana to create an authentic portrayal of life in Black rural communities. The cultural context shapes the characters' interactions, motivations, and sense of identity, making the novel a valuable resource for exploring American history and race relations.

Literary analysis and techniques

Narrative style and structure

Ernest J. Gaines employs a first-person narrative through Grant Wiggins, providing readers with intimate access to the protagonist's thoughts and emotions. The linear structure allows for a gradual unfolding of events and character development, while frequent shifts in tone highlight the tension between hope and despair.

Symbolism and motifs

Lesson before dying is rich in symbolic imagery, such as the recurring motif of hogs, which represents dehumanization and the struggle for dignity. Food, religious references, and the schoolhouse also serve as symbols of cultural identity, resistance, and transformation. Gaines's use of symbolism deepens the emotional impact of the story and reinforces its central themes.

Dialogue and characterization

The novel's dialogue is authentic and reflective of the regional dialects and speech patterns of Louisiana.

Gaines's attention to detail in characterization brings depth to each individual, making their struggles and triumphs relatable and compelling. The nuanced interactions between characters reveal complex relationships and underscore the importance of empathy.

Impact on education and society

Lesson before dying is widely taught in schools and universities for its thought-provoking exploration of social justice and personal growth. Educators use the novel to encourage critical thinking about ethics, history, and contemporary issues. The story's relevance extends beyond the classroom, sparking conversations about race, inequality, and moral responsibility in modern society. Its enduring legacy is reflected in numerous awards, adaptations, and scholarly analyses, cementing its status as a cornerstone of American literature.

Frequently asked questions about lesson before dying

Q: What is the main message of lesson before dying?

A: The main message is the importance of dignity, humanity, and personal transformation in the face of injustice. The novel urges readers to recognize the value of every individual, regardless of circumstances.

Q: Who is the author of lesson before dying?

A: Ernest J. Gaines is the author of lesson before dying, a celebrated American writer known for his works exploring the African American experience in the South.

Q: Why is lesson before dying considered an important work in American literature?

A: The novel is important for its honest portrayal of racial injustice, complex characters, and exploration of ethical and social themes that remain relevant today.

Q: What historical period does lesson before dying depict?

A: The story is set in the late 1940s during the Jim Crow era, when segregation and institutionalized racism were pervasive in the Southern United States.

Q: What role does education play in lesson before dying?

A: Education serves as a tool for empowerment and change. Grant Wiggins, as a teacher, seeks to inspire Jefferson to reclaim his dignity, highlighting the transformative power of learning.

Q: How does lesson before dying address the theme of faith?

A: The novel explores faith through characters like Miss Emma and Reverend Ambrose, who rely on spiritual beliefs to navigate hardship and provide comfort.

Q: What literary devices are used in lesson before dying?

A: Gaines utilizes symbolism, authentic dialogue, and a first-person narrative to enrich the story's emotional depth and thematic complexity.

Q: What impact has lesson before dying had on education?

A: The novel is a staple in literature curricula for its ability to foster discussions about social justice, morality, and the African American experience.

Q: Who are the main characters in lesson before dying?

A: Key characters include Jefferson, Grant Wiggins, Miss Emma, Tante Lou, Reverend Ambrose, and Henri Pichot.

Q: What does the phrase "lesson before dying" mean?

A: It refers to the process of learning and personal growth that occurs before one's death, specifically Jefferson's journey to reclaim dignity and self-worth.

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Lesson Before Dying: A Deep Dive into Gaines' Powerful Narrative

Are you ready to explore a novel that grapples with profound themes of racism, injustice, and the search for dignity in the face of death? Then settle in for a journey into Ernest J. Gaines' masterpiece, *Lesson Before Dying*. This post will delve into the heart of this critically acclaimed novel, examining its complex characters, its unflinching portrayal of the Jim Crow South, and its enduring legacy. We'll unpack the central themes, explore the literary techniques Gaines employs, and ultimately consider why this story continues to resonate with readers decades after its publication.

Understanding the Core Narrative of Lesson Before Dying

Lesson Before Dying unfolds in the racially charged landscape of 1940s Louisiana. The story centers around Jefferson, a young, wrongly accused Black man sentenced to death for a crime he didn't commit. His impending execution becomes a catalyst for a transformative experience, not only for Jefferson but for the community surrounding him. The novel intricately weaves together the perspectives of several characters, showcasing the impact of Jefferson's fate on their lives. Grant Wiggins, a disillusioned schoolteacher, is tasked with providing Jefferson with a "lesson before dying"—a mission that challenges his own beliefs and compels him to confront the realities of racism and his own sense of purpose.

Exploring the Key Themes: Race, Justice, and Dignity

Several potent themes intertwine to form the backbone of *Lesson Before Dying*:

The Crushing Weight of Systemic Racism: Gaines doesn't shy away from depicting the brutal realities of Jim Crow-era Louisiana. The pervasive racism shapes every aspect of the characters' lives, from their limited opportunities to the constant threat of violence and injustice. The trial itself serves as a stark reminder of the biased legal system and the vulnerability of Black individuals in a society rigged against them.

The Search for Meaning and Purpose in the Face of Death: Jefferson's journey is one of profound self-discovery. Initially portrayed as apathetic, he undergoes a gradual transformation, driven by the desire to prove his humanity and leave a legacy beyond his unjust death. This search for meaning mirrors Grant's own internal struggle, forcing him to re-evaluate his life choices and commitments.

The Power of Education and Mentorship: Grant's role as Jefferson's teacher transcends the simple act of imparting knowledge. He becomes a mentor, guiding Jefferson's intellectual and spiritual growth, ultimately offering him the dignity denied by society. This mentorship highlights

the transformative power of education and the importance of human connection in the face of adversity.

Community and Resistance: While the novel portrays the overwhelming oppression of the Jim Crow South, it also highlights the resilience and strength of the Black community. The characters, particularly Miss Emma and Vivian, demonstrate their unwavering commitment to supporting Jefferson and challenging the system, offering a glimmer of hope amidst despair.

Gaines' Literary Techniques: Crafting a Powerful Narrative

Gaines masterfully employs various literary techniques to amplify the emotional impact of his narrative:

First-Person Narrative: The use of Grant Wiggins' first-person perspective provides intimate access to his thoughts, feelings, and internal struggles. This perspective allows readers to empathize with his disillusionment and witness his gradual transformation.

Symbolism and Imagery: The novel is rich in symbolism, utilizing imagery of the land, the church, and the prison to represent broader themes of oppression, community, and spiritual awakening.

Character Development: Gaines carefully crafts his characters, creating complex individuals with flaws and strengths, making them relatable and fostering deeper emotional engagement from the reader. Even seemingly minor characters contribute to the richness of the narrative.

The Enduring Legacy of Lesson Before Dying

Lesson Before Dying remains a powerful and relevant work of literature decades after its publication. Its unflinching portrayal of racial injustice continues to spark conversations about systemic racism and the ongoing fight for equality. The novel's exploration of human dignity, resilience, and the transformative power of education resonates deeply with readers from diverse backgrounds. It serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of empathy, understanding, and the ongoing struggle for justice.

Conclusion:

Lesson Before Dying is not just a story; it's a powerful indictment of systemic racism and a testament to the enduring human spirit. It's a novel that challenges, provokes, and ultimately leaves a lasting impression on the reader. Its themes of racial injustice, dignity, and the power of human connection continue to resonate today, making it a vital and essential read.

FAQs:

1. Is *Lesson Before Dying* a difficult read? Yes, the novel deals with challenging themes of racism and death, which can be emotionally intense for some readers. However, the powerful storytelling and complex characters make it a rewarding experience.
2. What age group is this book suitable for? While suitable for mature high school students, *Lesson Before Dying* is best appreciated by adult readers due to its complex themes and mature language.
3. How does the novel end? The ending is both heartbreaking and hopeful, leaving the reader to reflect on the lasting impact of Jefferson's life and death.
4. Are there any film adaptations? Yes, there is a film adaptation of *Lesson Before Dying*, which is also worth exploring.
5. What other books should I read if I enjoyed *Lesson Before Dying*? Readers who appreciate *Lesson Before Dying* might enjoy other works by Ernest J. Gaines, such as *A Gathering of Old Men* or *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. You might also appreciate works exploring similar themes of racial injustice and the American South.

lesson before dying: A Lesson Before Dying Ernest J. Gaines, 2004-01-20 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • A deep and compassionate novel about a young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to visit a Black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting. An instant classic. —Chicago Tribune A “majestic, moving novel...an instant classic, a book that will be read, discussed and taught beyond the rest of our lives (Chicago Tribune), from the critically acclaimed author of *A Gathering of Old Men* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. *A Lesson Before Dying* reconfirms Ernest J. Gaines's position as an important American writer. —Boston Globe Enormously moving.... Gaines unerringly evokes the place and time about which he writes. —Los Angeles Times “A quietly moving novel [that] takes us back to a place we've been before to impart a lesson for living.” —San Francisco Chronicle

lesson before dying: A Lesson Before Dying Ernest J. Gaines, 1997-09-28 NATIONAL BOOK CRITICS CIRCLE AWARD WINNER • A deep and compassionate novel about a young man who returns to 1940s Cajun country to visit a black youth on death row for a crime he didn't commit. Together they come to understand the heroism of resisting. A “majestic, moving novel ... an instant classic, a book that will be read, discussed and taught beyond the rest of our lives (Chicago Tribune), from the critically acclaimed author of *A Gathering of Old Men* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*.

lesson before dying: The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman Ernest J. Gaines, 2012-10-24 “Grand, robust, a rich and big novel.”—Alice Walker, *The New York Times Book Review* “In [Jane Pittman], Ernest Gaines has created a legendary figure. . . . Gaines's novel brings to mind other great works: *The Odyssey*, for the way his heroine's travels manage to summarize the American history of her race, and *Huckleberry Finn*, for the clarity of [Pittman's] voice, for her rare capacity to sort through the mess of years and things to find the one true story of it all.”—*Newsweek* Miss Jane Pittman. She is one of the most unforgettable heroines in American fiction, a woman whose life has come to symbolize the struggle for freedom, dignity, and justice. Ernest J. Gaines's now-classic novel—written as an autobiography—spans one hundred years of Miss Jane's remarkable life, from her childhood as a slave on a Louisiana plantation to the Civil Rights era of the 1960s. It is a story of courage and survival, history, bigotry, and hope—as seen through the eyes of a woman who lived through it all. A historical tour de force, a triumph of fiction, Miss Jane's eloquent narrative brings to

life an important story of race in America—and stands as a landmark work for our time.

lesson before dying: The Tragedy of Brady Sims Ernest J. Gaines, 2017-08-29 A courthouse shooting leads a young reporter to uncover the long story of race and power in his small town and the relationship between the white sheriff and the black man who whipped children to keep order—in the final novella by the beloved Ernest J. Gaines. After Brady Sims pulls out a gun in a courtroom and shoots his own son, who has just been convicted of robbery and murder, he asks only to be allowed two hours before he'll give himself up to the sheriff. When the editor of the local newspaper asks his cub reporter to dig up a human interest story about Brady, he heads for the town's barbershop. It is the barbers and the regulars who hang out there who narrate with empathy, sadness, humor, and a profound understanding the life story of Brady Sims—an honorable, just, and unsparing man who with his tough love had been handed the task of keeping the black children of Bayonne, Louisiana in line to protect them from the unjust world in which they lived. And when his own son makes a fateful mistake, it is up to Brady to carry out the necessary reckoning. In the telling, we learn the story of a small southern town, divided by race, and the black community struggling to survive even as many of its inhabitants head off northwards during the Great Migration.

lesson before dying: Catherine Carmier Ernest J. Gaines, 1993-03-31 A compelling debut love story set in a deceptively bucolic Louisiana countryside, where blacks, Cajuns, and whites maintain an uneasy coexistence--by the award-winning author of *A Lesson Before Dying* and *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*. After living in San Francisco for ten years, Jackson returns home to his benefactor, Aunt Charlotte. Surrounded by family and old friends, he discovers that his bonds to them have been irreparably rent by his absence. In the midst of his alienation from those around him, he falls in love with Catherine Carmier, setting the stage for conflicts and confrontations which are complex, tortuous, and universal in their implications.

lesson before dying: A Lesson in Dying Ann Cleeves, 2013-08-15 Ann Cleeves Classic Crime - engaging mysteries to savour, beloved characters to meet again. *A Lesson in Dying* is the first mystery novel in the Inspector Ramsay series by Ann Cleeves, author of the Shetland and Vera Stanhope crime series. Who hung the headmaster in the playground on the night of the school Halloween Party? Almost everyone in Heppleburn either hated or feared the viper-tongued Harold Medburn. Inspector Ramsay is convinced it was the headmaster's enigmatic wife but Jack Robson, school governor and caretaker, is determined to prove her innocence. With the help of his restless daughter Patty, Jack digs into the secrets of Heppleburn, and uncovers a cesspit of lies, adultery, blackmail and madness . . . Continue the classic whodunit series with *Murder in My Backyard*.

lesson before dying: A Gathering of Old Men Ernest J. Gaines, 2012-10-31 A powerful depiction of racial tensions arising over the death of a Cajun farmer at the hands of a black man--set on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation in the 1970s. The Village Voice called *A Gathering of Old Men* "the best-written novel on Southern race relations in over a decade."

lesson before dying: King Lear Jeffrey Kahan, 2008-04-18 Is *King Lear* an autonomous text, or a rewrite of the earlier and anonymous play *King Leir*? Should we refer to Shakespeare's original quarto when discussing the play, the revised folio text, or the popular composite version, stitched together by Alexander Pope in 1725? What of its stage variations? When turning from page to stage, the critical view on *King Lear* is skewed by the fact that for almost half of the four hundred years the play has been performed, audiences preferred Naham Tate's optimistic adaptation, in which Lear and Cordelia live happily ever after. When discussing *King Lear*, the question of what comprises 'the play' is both complex and fragmentary. These issues of identity and authenticity across time and across mediums are outlined, debated, and considered critically by the contributors to this volume. Using a variety of approaches, from postcolonialism and New Historicism to psychoanalysis and gender studies, the leading international contributors to *King Lear: New Critical Essays* offer major new interpretations on the conception and writing, editing, and cultural productions of *King Lear*. This book is an up-to-date and comprehensive anthology of textual scholarship, performance research, and critical writing on one of Shakespeare's most important and perplexing tragedies.

Contributors Include: R.A. Foakes, Richard Knowles, Tom Clayton, Cynthia Clegg, Edward L. Rocklin, Christy Desmet, Paul Cantor, Robert V. Young, Stanley Stewart and Jean R. Brink

lesson before dying: Top Five Regrets of the Dying Bronnie Ware, 2019-08-13 Revised edition of the best-selling memoir that has been read by over a million people worldwide with translations in 29 languages. After too many years of unfulfilling work, Bronnie Ware began searching for a job with heart. Despite having no formal qualifications or previous experience in the field, she found herself working in palliative care. During the time she spent tending to those who were dying, Bronnie's life was transformed. Later, she wrote an Internet blog post, outlining the most common regrets that the people she had cared for had expressed. The post gained so much momentum that it was viewed by more than three million readers worldwide in its first year. At the request of many, Bronnie subsequently wrote a book, *The Top Five Regrets of the Dying*, to share her story. Bronnie has had a colourful and diverse life. By applying the lessons of those nearing their death to her own life, she developed an understanding that it is possible for everyone, if we make the right choices, to die with peace of mind. In this revised edition of the best-selling memoir that has been read by over a million people worldwide, with translations in 29 languages, Bronnie expresses how significant these regrets are and how we can positively address these issues while we still have the time. *The Top Five Regrets of the Dying* gives hope for a better world. It is a courageous, life-changing book that will leave you feeling more compassionate and inspired to live the life you are truly here to live.

lesson before dying: Dying to Be Me Anita Moorjani, 2022-03-08 THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER! I had the choice to come back ... or not. I chose to return when I realized that 'heaven' is a state, not a place In this truly inspirational memoir, Anita Moorjani relates how, after fighting cancer for almost four years, her body began shutting down—overwhelmed by the malignant cells spreading throughout her system. As her organs failed, she entered into an extraordinary near-death experience where she realized her inherent worth . . . and the actual cause of her disease. Upon regaining consciousness, Anita found that her condition had improved so rapidly that she was released from the hospital within weeks—without a trace of cancer in her body! Within this enhanced e-book, Anita recounts—in words and on video—stories of her childhood in Hong Kong, her challenge to establish her career and find true love, as well as how she eventually ended up in that hospital bed where she defied all medical knowledge. In *Dying to Be Me*, Anita Freely shares all she has learned about illness, healing, fear, being love, and the true magnificence of each and every human being!

lesson before dying: A Lesson Before Dying Ernest J. Gaines, Sparknotes, 2002 I was not there, yet I was there. No, I did not go to the trial, I did not hear the verdict, because I knew all the time what it would be ... So begins Grant Wiggins, the narrator of Ernest J. Gaines's powerful exploration of race, injustice, and resistance, *A Lesson Before Dying*.

lesson before dying: The Way of Kings Brandon Sanderson, 2010-08-31 From #1 New York Times bestselling author Brandon Sanderson, *The Way of Kings*, Book One of the Stormlight Archive, begins an incredible new saga of epic proportion. Roshar is a world of stone and storms. Uncanny tempests of incredible power sweep across the rocky terrain so frequently that they have shaped ecology and civilization alike. Animals hide in shells, trees pull in branches, and grass retracts into the soilless ground. Cities are built only where the topography offers shelter. It has been centuries since the fall of the ten consecrated orders known as the Knights Radiant, but their Shardblades and Shardplate remain: mystical swords and suits of armor that transform ordinary men into near-invincible warriors. Men trade kingdoms for Shardblades. Wars were fought for them, and won by them. One such war rages on a ruined landscape called the Shattered Plains. There, Kaladin, who traded his medical apprenticeship for a spear to protect his little brother, has been reduced to slavery. In a war that makes no sense, where ten armies fight separately against a single foe, he struggles to save his men and to fathom the leaders who consider them expendable. Brightlord Dalinar Kholin commands one of those other armies. Like his brother, the late king, he is fascinated by an ancient text called *The Way of Kings*. Troubled by over-powering visions of ancient times and

the Knights Radiant, he has begun to doubt his own sanity. Across the ocean, an untried young woman named Shallan seeks to train under an eminent scholar and notorious heretic, Dalinar's niece, Jasnah. Though she genuinely loves learning, Shallan's motives are less than pure. As she plans a daring theft, her research for Jasnah hints at secrets of the Knights Radiant and the true cause of the war. The result of over ten years of planning, writing, and world-building, *The Way of Kings* is but the opening movement of the Stormlight Archive, a bold masterpiece in the making. Speak again the ancient oaths: Life before death. Strength before weakness. Journey before Destination. and return to men the Shards they once bore. The Knights Radiant must stand again.

Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson *The Cosmere* *The Stormlight Archive* ● *The Way of Kings* ● *Words of Radiance* ● *Edgedancer* (novella) ● *Oathbringer* ● *Dawnshard* (novella) ● *Rhythm of War* *The Mistborn Saga* *The Original Trilogy* ● *Mistborn* ● *The Well of Ascension* ● *The Hero of Ages* *Wax and Wayne* ● *The Alloy of Law* ● *Shadows of Self* ● *The Bands of Mourning* ● *The Lost Metal* Other Cosmere novels ● *Elantris* ● *Warbreaker* ● *Tress of the Emerald Sea* ● *Yumi and the Nightmare Painter* ● *The Sunlit Man Collection* ● *Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection* *The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians* series ● *Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians* ● *The Scrivener's Bones* ● *The Knights of Crystallia* ● *The Shattered Lens* ● *The Dark Talent* ● *Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians* (with Janci Patterson) Other novels ● *The Rithmatist* ● *Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds* ● *The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England* Other books by Brandon Sanderson *The Reckoners* ● *Steelheart* ● *Firefight* ● *Calamity Skyward* ● *Skyward* ● *Starsight* ● *Cytonic* ● *Skyward Flight* (with Janci Patterson) ● *Defiant* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

lesson before dying: *A Lesson in Vengeance* Victoria Lee, 2022-08-09 A dark, twisty thriller about a centuries-old, ivy-covered boarding school haunted by its history of witchcraft and two girls dangerously close to digging up the past. The dangerous romance and atmospheric setting makes it a perfect read for fans of dark academia. Felicity Morrow is back at the Dalloway School. Perched in the Catskill Mountains, the centuries-old, ivy-covered campus was home until the tragic death of her girlfriend. Now, after a year away, she's returned to finish high school. She even has her old room in Godwin House, the exclusive dormitory rumored to be haunted by the spirits of five Dalloway students—girls some say were witches. The Dalloway Five all died mysteriously, one after another, right on Godwin grounds. Witchcraft is woven into Dalloway's past. The school doesn't talk about it, but the students do. In secret rooms and shadowy corners, girls convene. And before her girlfriend died, Felicity was drawn to the dark. She's determined to leave that behind now, but it's hard when Dalloway's occult history is everywhere. And when the new girl won't let her forget. It's Ellis Haley's first year at Dalloway, and she has already amassed a loyal following. A prodigy novelist at seventeen, Ellis is a so-called method writer. She's eccentric and brilliant, and Felicity can't shake the pull she feels to her. So when Ellis asks Felicity to help her research the Dalloway Five for her second book, Felicity can't say no. Given her history with the arcane, Felicity is the perfect resource. And when history begins to repeat itself, Felicity will have to face the darkness in Dalloway—and herself.

lesson before dying: *Slaughterhouse-Five* Kurt Vonnegut, 1999-01-12 Kurt Vonnegut's masterpiece, *Slaughterhouse-Five* is "a desperate, painfully honest attempt to confront the monstrous crimes of the twentieth century" (Time). Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best novels of all time *Slaughterhouse-Five*, an American classic, is one of the world's great antiwar books. Centering on the infamous World War II firebombing of Dresden, the novel is the result of what Kurt Vonnegut described as a twenty-three-year struggle to write a book about what he had witnessed as an American prisoner of war. It combines historical fiction, science fiction, autobiography, and satire in an account of the life of Billy Pilgrim, a barber's son turned draftee turned optometrist turned alien abductee. As Vonnegut had, Billy experiences the destruction of Dresden as a POW. Unlike Vonnegut, he experiences time travel, or coming "unstuck in time." An instant bestseller, *Slaughterhouse-Five* made Kurt Vonnegut a cult hero in American literature, a reputation that only strengthened over time, despite his being banned and censored by some

libraries and schools for content and language. But it was precisely those elements of Vonnegut's writing—the political edginess, the genre-bending inventiveness, the frank violence, the transgressive wit—that have inspired generations of readers not just to look differently at the world around them but to find the confidence to say something about it. Authors as wide-ranging as Norman Mailer, John Irving, Michael Crichton, Tim O'Brien, Margaret Atwood, Elizabeth Strout, David Sedaris, Jennifer Egan, and J. K. Rowling have all found inspiration in Vonnegut's words. Jonathan Safran Foer has described Vonnegut as "the kind of writer who made people—young people especially—want to write." George Saunders has declared Vonnegut to be "the great, urgent, passionate American writer of our century, who offers us . . . a model of the kind of compassionate thinking that might yet save us from ourselves." More than fifty years after its initial publication at the height of the Vietnam War, Vonnegut's portrayal of political disillusionment, PTSD, and postwar anxiety feels as relevant, darkly humorous, and profoundly affecting as ever, an enduring beacon through our own era's uncertainties.

lesson before dying: *The Things They Carried* Tim O'Brien, 2009-10-13 A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing. *The Things They Carried* won France's prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize; it was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

lesson before dying: *Lord of the Flies* William Golding, 2012-09-20 A plane crashes on a desert island and the only survivors, a group of schoolboys, assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of bright fantastic birds and dark blue seas, but at night their dreams are haunted by the image of a terrifying beast. As the boys' delicate sense of order fades, so their childish dreams are transformed into something more primitive, and their behaviour starts to take on a murderous, savage significance. First published in 1954, *Lord of the Flies* is one of the most celebrated and widely read of modern classics. Now fully revised and updated, this educational edition includes chapter summaries, comprehension questions, discussion points, classroom activities, a biographical profile of Golding, historical context relevant to the novel and an essay on *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding entitled 'Fable'. Aimed at Key Stage 3 and 4 students, it also includes a section on literary theory for advanced or A-level students. The educational edition encourages original and independent thinking while guiding the student through the text - ideal for use in the classroom and at home.

lesson before dying: *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* V. E. Schwab, 2020-10-06 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER USA TODAY BESTSELLER NATIONAL INDIE BESTSELLER THE WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER Recommended by Entertainment Weekly, Real Simple, NPR, Slate, and Oprah Magazine #1 Library Reads Pick—October 2020 #1 Indie Next Pick—October 2020 BOOK OF THE YEAR (2020) FINALIST—Book of The Month Club A "Best Of" Book From: Oprah Mag * CNN * Amazon * Amazon Editors * NPR * Goodreads * Bustle * PopSugar * BuzzFeed * Barnes & Noble * Kirkus Reviews * Lambda Literary * Nerdette * The Nerd Daily * Polygon * Library Reads * io9 * Smart Bitches Trashy Books * LiteraryHub * Medium * BookBub * The Mary Sue * Chicago Tribune * NY Daily News * SyFy Wire * Powells.com * Bookish * Book Riot * Library Reads Voter Favorite * In the vein of *The Time Traveler's Wife* and *Life After Life*, *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* is New York Times bestselling author V. E. Schwab's genre-defying tour de force. A Life No One Will Remember. A Story You Will Never Forget. France, 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever—and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone

she meets. Thus begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and a dazzling adventure that will play out across centuries and continents, across history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name. Also by V. E. Schwab *Shades of Magic* *A Darker Shade of Magic* *A Gathering of Shadows* *A Conjuring of Light* *Villains* *Vicious* *Vengeful* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

lesson before dying: Of Love and Dust Ernest J. Gaines, 2012-10-24 This is the story of Marcus: bonded out of jail where he has been awaiting trial for murder, he is sent to the Hebert plantation to work in the fields. There he encounters conflict with the overseer, Sidney Bonbon, and a tale of revenge, lust and power plays out between Marcus, Bonbon, BonBon's mistress Pauline, and BonBon's wife Louise.

lesson before dying: The Sky is Gray Ernest J. Gaines, Lafayette Reads Ernest Gaines, 2002 A poor African American boy and his mother experience both discrimination and kindness during a trip to town to see the dentist.

lesson before dying: Eagle Strike Anthony Horowitz, 2006-02-16 Alex Rider is now an IMDb TV/Amazon Original Series! Alex Rider is an orphan turned teen superspy who's saving the world one mission at a time—from #1 New York Times bestselling author! Sir Damian Cray is a philanthropist, peace activist, and the world's most famous pop star. But still it's not enough. He needs more if he is to save the world. Trouble is, only Alex Rider recognizes that it's the world that needs saving from Sir Damian Cray. Underneath the luster of glamour and fame lies a twisted mind, ready to sacrifice the world for his beliefs. But in the past, Alex has always had the backing of the government. This time, he's on his own. Can one teenager convince the world that the most popular man on earth is a madman bent on destruction--before time runs out?

lesson before dying: In My Father's House Ernest J. Gaines, 1992-06-30 A compelling novel of a man brought to reckon with his buried past... In St. Adrienne, a small black community in Louisiana, Reverend Phillip Martin—a respected minister and civil rights leader—comes face to face with the sins of his youth in the person of Robert X, a young, unkempt stranger who arrives in town for a mysterious meeting with the Reverend. In the confrontation between the two, the young man's secret burden explodes into the open, and Phillip Martin begins a long-neglected journey into his youth to discover how destructive his former life was, for himself and for those around him. "...on every page there's an authentic moment, or a dead-right knot of conversation, or a truer-than-true turn of phrase..."—Kirkus Reviews

lesson before dying: From Blood and Ash Jennifer L. Armentrout, 2020-03-30 Captivating and action-packed, *From Blood and Ash* is a sexy, addictive, and unexpected fantasy perfect for fans of Sarah J. Maas and Laura Thalassa. A Maiden... Chosen from birth to usher in a new era, Poppy's life has never been her own. The life of the Maiden is solitary. Never to be touched. Never to be looked upon. Never to be spoken to. Never to experience pleasure. Waiting for the day of her Ascension, she would rather be with the guards, fighting back the evil that took her family, than preparing to be found worthy by the gods. But the choice has never been hers. A Duty... The entire kingdom's future rests on Poppy's shoulders, something she's not even quite sure she wants for herself. Because a Maiden has a heart. And a soul. And longing. And when Hawke, a golden-eyed guard honor bound to ensure her Ascension, enters her life, destiny and duty become tangled with desire and need. He incites her anger, makes her question everything she believes in, and tempts her with the forbidden. A Kingdom... Forsaken by the gods and feared by mortals, a fallen kingdom is rising once more, determined to take back what they believe is theirs through violence and vengeance. And as the shadow of those cursed draws closer, the line between what is forbidden and what is right becomes blurred. Poppy is not only on the verge of losing her heart and being found unworthy by the gods, but also her life when every blood-soaked thread that holds her world together begins to unravel. Reviews for *From Blood and Ash*: Dreamy, twisty, steamy escapism. Take me back! -New York Times bestseller Wendy Higgins "Jennifer Armentrout has the power to control

my emotions with every word she writes. From swooning to crying to racing through the pages to find out what happens next, I couldn't stop reading about Hawke and Poppy, and you won't be able to either." - Brigid Kemmerer, New York Times Bestselling Author of *A Curse So Dark and Lonely*

"Action, adventure, sexiness, and angst! *From Blood and Ash* has it all and double that. So many feels and so many moments it made me cheer for the character. Read. This. Book! You'll be obsessed!" - Tijan NYT bestselling author "*From Blood and Ash* is a phenomenal fantasy novel that is filled to the brim with danger, mystery and heart melting romance. I loved every single second of it and I couldn't get enough of this new fantastical world. A heart stopping start to what is clearly going to be a stunning series, perfect for both those who love fantasy and those who are new to the genre. A must read." Kayleigh, K-Books

If you think you are ready for *From Blood and Ash*, think again. Jennifer L. Armentrout has woven a new fantasy universe that will leave you reeling. Filled with action, heart wrenching twists and the most delicious romance, this unputdownable novel comes with a warning: keep a fan close by, because the temperatures are about to rise. Elena, The Bibliotheque Blo

"In this exciting new novel by Jennifer L. Armentrout, she introduces a fantastical world filled with immense detail, and characters who are poignant and fierce, Jennifer truly has out done herself!" - BookBesties

"*From Blood and Ash* is a fantastic fantasy that will hook you immediately from the very first page! I loved every single moment and all of the characters are ones you will fall in love with! Jennifer L. Armentrout has done it again with her amazing writing skills and lots of detail! Get this book immediately!!!" - Amanda @Stuck In YA Books

"Jennifer has stepped into the fantasy genre with this absolutely amazing novel. With characters you will love and more than a few twists and turns, get ready for one amazing adventure." -Perpetual Fangirl

This magnificent book has so many pieces in it: fantasy, mystery, forbidden romance, supernatural, lies, deceit, betrayal, love, friendship, family. And so, so, so many secrets your head will be spinning. Jennifer L. Armentrout has created another masterpiece that I will be rushing to buy, and will be telling everyone to read it ASAP! ~Jeraca @My Nose in YA Books

"*From Blood to Ash* is the first high fantasy book from Jennifer L Armentrout, but hopefully not the last. Like all her other works, her ability to create worlds, create swoon worthy men, and feisty strong female characters is amazing. Fantasy, mystery, romance, betrayal, love, and steamy scenes, this book has it all." - Lisa @The Blonde Book Lover

"*From Blood & Ash* is everything we love about JLA's fantasy writing...pumped up on steroids. There's epic world building and plot twists, a strong female lead, a swoon worthy book hottie, a steamy forbidden love story, and side characters that can't help but steal your heart. My mind was blown by the end of this book." - Kris S. (frantic4romantic)

"Step into an exciting new fantasy world by Jennifer L. Armentrout, *From Blood And Ash* takes you on a fantastic ride with twists and turns galore. Characters you will love to laugh and cry with. A phenomenal start to an exciting new series." - Lori Dunn an avid reader

"*From Blood and Ash* was everything I wanted in a high fantasy novel. The myths, the legends, the epic romance, and an adventure that will keep you on your toes beginning to end. I couldn't put the book down. Truly a brilliant start to what I believe will be yet another amazing series by Jennifer L. Armentrout.

-Sabrina, Books Are My Life

"Jennifer L. Armentrout takes her first step into the high fantasy genre with *From Blood and Ash*. A story of forbidden love, lies, secrets, and betrayal - it will leave you wanting more after the very last page." - Love Just Is Books

"*From Blood and Ash* is like reading my favorite book for first time." - Raquel Herrera

"With *From Blood and Ash*, Jennifer Armentrout successfully takes on the genre of high fantasy, proving, once again, that she is a master of her craft. Filled with epic adventure, forbidden romance, deceit, lies, and betrayal, *FB&A* draws you in from page one and refuses to let go!" - Erica, The Rest Just Falls Away

"Jennifer L. Armentrout comes trough once again with *From Blood and Ash* as it kept me enthralled throughout the full book. You won't be able to put down this epic story once you start." - Julalicious Book Paradise

"*From Blood and Ash* strikes the perfect balance between fantasy and romance elements leaving the world feeling live in and full while allowing the relationship between the main characters feeling real and authentic." - Nads Book Nook, Nadine Bergeron

"Be prepared to spend your whole day reading *From Blood and Ash*. Once you start reading this high fantasy novel, you won't want to put it down."

- Love Book Triangle "From Blood and Ash is absolutely breath taking. JLA does what she does best by creating a fantastical world filled with romance, lies, betrayal, adventure and all things we love and expect from JLA characters that melt our hearts and steal our hearts and souls. I cannot wait for the next one!" - Pia Colon "From Blood and Ash, Jennifer L. Armentrout brought to life a high fantasy that is enthralling. Another masterful addition to my collection. Get ready to stay on your toes from start to end." - Amy Oh, Reader by the Mountains "From Blood and Ash is the first high fantasy novel by Jennifer L Armentrout and she absolutely nails it. This is fantasy for skeptics and unbelievers because it makes you want to be a fantasy fan! This page turner makes you want to devour it in one night and at the same time savor every detail. Heart stopping and inspiring and grips you from page one." - Tracy Kirby "An intriguing puzzle of a world, a ruthless hero, a determine heroin, and a plot that will keep you up late, this book is one of the best I've read this year." - Valerie from Stuck In Books "From Blood and Ash, a thrilling high fantasy that packs a punch, each page will leave you wanting more!" - Tracey, Books & Other Pursuits

lesson before dying: The Last Lecture Randy Pausch, Jeffrey Zaslow, 2010 The author, a computer science professor diagnosed with terminal cancer, explores his life, the lessons that he has learned, how he has worked to achieve his childhood dreams, and the effect of his diagnosis on him and his family.

lesson before dying: The Midnight Library Matt Haig, 2021-01-27 Good morning America book club--Jacket.

lesson before dying: The Gift of the Magi O. Henry, 2021-12-22 The Gift of the Magi is a short story by O. Henry first published in 1905. The story tells of a young husband and wife and how they deal with the challenge of buying secret Christmas gifts for each other with very little money. As a sentimental story with a moral lesson about gift-giving, it has been popular for adaptation, especially for presentation at Christmas time.

lesson before dying: This Is Water Kenyon College, 2014-05-22 Only once did David Foster Wallace give a public talk on his views on life, during a commencement address given in 2005 at Kenyon College. The speech is reprinted for the first time in book form in THIS IS WATER. How does one keep from going through their comfortable, prosperous adult life unconsciously' How do we get ourselves out of the foreground of our thoughts and achieve compassion' The speech captures Wallace's electric intellect as well as his grace in attention to others. After his death, it became a treasured piece of writing reprinted in The Wall Street Journal and the London Times, commented on endlessly in blogs, and emailed from friend to friend. Writing with his one-of-a-kind blend of causal humor, exacting intellect, and practical philosophy, David Foster Wallace probes the challenges of daily living and offers advice that renews us with every reading.

lesson before dying: Ellen Foster (Oprah's Book Club) Kaye Gibbons, 2012-10-17 Filled with lively humor, compassion, and intimacy. —Alice Hoffman, The New York Times Book Review When I was little I would think of ways to kill my daddy. With that opening sentence we enter the childhood world of one of the most appealing young heroines in contemporary fiction. Her courage, her humor, and her wisdom are unforgettable as she tells her own story with stunning honesty and insight. An Oprah Book Club selection, this powerful novel has become an American classic. Winner of the American Academy of Arts and Letters' Sue Kaufman Prize for First Fiction and the Ernest Hemingway Foundation's Citation for Fiction.

lesson before dying: After the Fall Arthur Miller, 1992 THE STORY: As Howard Taubman outlines the play: At the outset Quentin emerges, moves forward and seats himself on the edge of the stage and begins to talk, like a man confiding in a friend. In the background are key figures in his life, and they m

lesson before dying: The Seven Ages of Man William Shakespeare, 1885

lesson before dying: A Lesson Before Dying Romulus Linney, 2001 THE STORY: Jefferson, an innocent young man, is condemned to death in backwoods Louisiana in 1948. At the trial his lawyer, trying to save his life, called him no more a human being than a hog. In prison, he acts like one, insisting that he will be

lesson before dying: Revelation and the Old Testament Chris Wardwell, 2019-03-04 Live Jesus in Our Hearts is a prayer said daily by Lasallians all over the world. Our new high school religion curriculum reflects this prayer, and our mission--that every young person would invite Jesus' presence into their hearts. We sought to begin answering the needs of today's youth, in a generation where the spiritual and religious landscape has shifted dramatically. Revelation and the Old Testament is the first semester course in the new high school series Live Jesus in Our Hearts. This series takes a fresh approach to the Framework outline, bringing in new themes such as in-depth use of scripture, extensive online resources, and an invitational, evangelizing approach. Revelation and the Old Testament is an Old Testament overview (with a sneak peak of the New Testament) that includes all the required Framework content related to Revelation. Used with Jesus Christ and the New Testament, you can now teach an overview of the Bible in freshman year using a Framework approved curriculum! Plus, help students connect using: Short stories about young people that relate a teaching or belief to a young person's lived experience. Focus questions introduce each unit in the voice of a teen, guiding students in focusing on what they might learn; units end with an image of a real student and his or her reflections on the unit focus question, inviting the students to check their own understanding. A Unit Highlights section that uses graphic organizers to visually represent the key concepts from each chapter Hmmm questions at the end of each article that encourage students to think critically about Christian beliefs. A full page visual feature at the end of each chapter that engages students to reflect on the chapter content in a unique way.

lesson before dying: Another Generation Almost Forgotten Jefferson Wiggins, 2003 The principle that no child should be left behind is now codified in the laws of the United States, but Jefferson Wiggins grew up in a different United States, under a very different set of laws. From the night the Ku Klux Klan came to hang his father to the afternoon he received an honorary doctorate in recognition of his life's work, Jeff's memoir is a story of human triumph over adversity, a story of individuals who can and do make a difference in the lives of others. Most of all, his memoir reminds us of the extraordinary stories that often lie below the surface of seemingly ordinary lives. No reader can help but be moved to tears by this compelling, inspirational work.

lesson before dying: My Brother Sam Is Dead James Lincoln Collier, Christopher Collier, 2012-05-01 The classic story of one family torn apart by the Revolutionary War All his life, Tim Meeker has looked up to his brother. Sam is smart and brave, and is now a part of the American Revolution. Not everyone in town wants to be a part of the rebellion. Most are supporters of the British, including Tim and Sam's father. With the war soon raging, Tim knows he will have to make a choice between the Revolutionaries and the Redcoats, and between his brother and his father.

lesson before dying: Brain Jack Brian Falkner, 2011-08-09 A Top Ten YALSA Pick for Popular Paperbacks for Young Adults! Fans of Cory Doctorow's Little Brother and M. T. Anderson's Feed will love this high-octane cyber thriller. In a dystopian near-future, neuro-headsets have replaced computer keyboards. Just slip on a headset, and it's the Internet at the speed of thought. For teen hacker Sam Wilson, a headset is a must. But as he masters the new technology, he has a terrifying realization. If anything on his computer is vulnerable to an attack, what happens when his mind is linked to the system? Could consciousness itself be hacked? Brian Falkner, author of The Tomorrow Code and The Project, delivers an action-packed and thought-provoking sci-fi thriller in which logging on to a computer could mean the difference between life and death.

lesson before dying: Tell It Not in Gath C. Vernon Hines, 2005-07 William Martin, an illiterate black share-cropper in the rural South and his wife, Maria, move from their small farm to a large southern city in the midst of the great financial depression to give their two sons the opportunity for a better education. They all face almost insurmountable obstacles to better themselves because of the segregation, discrimination, subjugation, and humiliation imposed by the ruling white supremacy. The younger son, Sam, is confronted with the daily challenge of either accepting his secondary life as a black or rising above his environment and being accepted as a person regardless of the color of his skin. The injustices inflicted upon him and his family breeds a hatred within him. How he handles this hatred determines his personal destiny.

lesson before dying: The Book of Self-Care Mary Beth Janssen, 2017 Real wellness isn't just the absence of injury or illness. Janssen shares a consciousness- and compassion- based system for navigating wholeness in mind, body, and soul. This whole-body approach is the start of a vital, fulfilled life.--

lesson before dying: Holy Bible (NIV) Various Authors,, 2008-09-02 The NIV is the world's best-selling modern translation, with over 150 million copies in print since its first full publication in 1978. This highly accurate and smooth-reading version of the Bible in modern English has the largest library of printed and electronic support material of any modern translation.

lesson before dying: Macheth ,

lesson before dying: Ttyl Lauren Myracle, 2005-04-01 Chronicles, in instant message format, the day-to-day experiences, feelings, and plans of three friends, Zoe, Maddie, and Angela, as they begin tenth grade.

lesson before dying: A Study Guide for Ernest Gaines's A Lesson Before Dying Gale, Cengage Learning, 2015-03-13 A Study Guide for Ernest Gaines's A Lesson Before Dying, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

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