



# Deviants

*Maureen McGowan*

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## **Deviants** Maureen McGowan

In a post-apocalyptic world, where the earth is buried by asteroid dust that's mutated the DNA of some humans, orphaned, sixteen-year-old Glory must hide and protect her younger brother. If their Deviant abilities are discovered, they'll be expunged—kicked out of the dome to be tortured and killed by the Shredders. Glory would give anything to get rid of her unique ability to kill with her emotions, especially when Cal, the boy she's always liked, becomes a spy for the authorities. But when her brother is discovered, and she learns their father, who was expunged for killing their mother, is still alive, she must escape the domed city that's been her entire world.

Outside in the ruins, they're pursued by the authorities and by sadistic, scab-covered Shredders who are addicted to the lethal-to-humans dust now covering the planet. Glory's quests to transport herself and her brother to safety make up the thrilling and fascinating first volume of *The Dust Chronicles*.

## **Deviants Details**

Date : Published October 30th 2012 by Amazon Children's Publishing

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Author : Maureen McGowan

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Genre : Science Fiction, Dystopia, Young Adult, Fantasy

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## From Reader Review Deviants for online ebook

### Natalie says

I started this awhile ago, read about half, and then got annoyed, so I just stopped. Glory is kind of an annoying character. Her emotions are all over the place, which is kind of weird, because she's supposed to have a firm control over them. She's supposed to come across as tough, but she often comes across as the stereotypical "melodramatic, irrational, female" - a trope that I completely loathe.

Glory has been hiding her paralyzed brother and protecting him from the Comps (police) for three years. She has her own secret, though, she's a Deviant - a person with a supernatural ability, spurred on by the dust that coats the entire earth. When Burn arrives, saying that he's going to save her and her brother and get them out of Haven, the city they live in, she doesn't want to trust him. Matters soon spiral out of control (as they always do) and she finds herself on the run with Burn - facing Shredders and a dangerous world she never knew existed. She discovers that the people in Haven have been lying to her and she wants to know why.

(view spoiler)

I'm undecided if I'll keep reading. I thought I would when I finished, but now that I've thought more about the story, I realize that I don't really care, because I don't really like Glory and I don't care what happens to her. Hmm. I'll revisit later and see what I think.

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### Paula Watkinson says

Compelling, believable characters, rich descriptions and imaginative world building, and most important - really good storytelling. This book is going on my keeper shelf. Can't wait for the movie!!

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### Step Into Fiction says

This book really surprised me. I was expecting to like or rather, I was hoping to like it but I didn't realize I would enjoy it as much as I did. I absolutely fell in to this world and this story. I love post-apocalyptic & dystopian stories as much as I love my paranormal/fantasy novels. This book is as addicting as it is intriguing. The characters are awesome, especially Burn, the world is fantastic and horrible at the same time and the possibilities to where this story could take is us endless.

**Read full review at Step Into Fiction**

Review completed by: **Jessica**

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### Alexa says

My review can also be found on my blog Collections.

3.5 stars

Three years ago Glory's father murdered her mother and paralyzed her younger brother Drake. Her father turned out to be a Deviant, which are humans with powerful and usually dangerous abilities. He was thrown out of the domed city of Haven and perished in the hands of the Shredders, psychotic creatures that enjoy torturing and killing humans. Since then, Glory has been taking care of her brother in secret. Because after the death of their parents, Glory and Drake have discovered that they are Deviants as well. And Deviants aren't welcomed in Haven.

With its fast pace and intriguing setting, *Deviants* was a book I found myself easily getting sucked into. The story was unique, yet familiar at the same time. For instance, the people in charge of Haven aren't that different from other authority figures found in most post-apocalyptic novels. They are strict, controlling, and keeping many secrets from the citizens. But I think that's to be expected in a world that was nearly destroyed. What stood out for me in this book was the world outside Haven. The Deviants and Shredders and how they came to be. I can't get into much detail, otherwise it would be a spoiler, but I wasn't expecting some of the things that happened and were revealed in this book. It made some moments pretty shocking and exciting.

Then there's the main character Glory. She's a determined girl who basically had to grow up quickly and become the parent to her younger brother. I like that she loves Drake and will do anything and everything to protect him. I did get frustrated with her a lot though. She had a tendency to not trust people and jump to conclusions quickly. It made sense that she would be that way, considering the betrayal she felt after what her father did, but there were instances where I felt she could have sought out answers first. There's also some romance in this book, a bit of a love-triangle involving Glory and two very different guys. I'm normally not a fan of love-triangles; however, while I think it's obvious who Glory will end up with, it doesn't seem like it's going to be easy. I'm actually really curious how this one is going to work out.

*Deviants* was an adventurous and thrilling start to a new series. As I mentioned before, it was a fast-paced read and very easy to become pulled into the story. I recommend it to those who can't get enough of the post-apocalyptic and dystopia genres.

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### **Chris Dunham says**

I loved this book!!! I took every stolen moment that I could to continue reading. The story is dystopian, but doesn't feel too dark or depressing. The characters have great relationships that felt genuine. Their journey was incredible, sooo much happens and you watch them grow and learn to love and trust each other. They question not only themselves, but their world views. There is romance that is believable, it will leave you rooting for these characters, and feel for them when things seem impossible. Send the next installment...I can't wait to find out what happens next :)

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### **Cris Lightwood says**

La verdad es que a mi me ha gustado bastante. Quizá porque iba sin expectativas lo he disfrutado bastante más y me he llevado alguna que otra sorpresilla por el camino. Ha tenido acción, ha sido algo crudo a ratos y

me ha sorprendido. A ver qué tal seguirá la segunda parte, porque promete después de ese final :).

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### **Jo Ladzinski says**

Deviants is probably the most scientifically sound dystopian-type novel I have read in a while. The premise is simple: Earth has undergone an environmental catastrophe, so society has walled itself in a Dome to protect themselves from the Dust outside. Our protagonist, Glory, is a Deviant, someone who shares DNA with a beast called a Shredder. While she might not be agreeable or she might not make the brightest decisions, she is fiercely loyal to her family and herself. All her decisions seem to come from a self-actualized center. She is also 16, so maturity might not be her strong point, but that is the purpose: She's not supposed to be a hero or a chosen one. She is different, even among her own, but her story is not a savior story. It's about a girl who wants to protect those she loves, and comes to love. Which I think might be a breath of fresh air among all these chosen-one-type story dominating not only the YA scene, but also the cinemas.

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### **Molly O'keefe says**

I read this book in early draft form - it's so exciting, super emotional. A young girl who can kill with her eyes - trying to keep her secrets, her brother safe, the boy she likes from finding out the truth. It's all so good. The first in a great series!!

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### **Alexandra says**

3/24/17 \$.99 for Kindle.

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### **Jessica (Step Into Fiction) says**

#### **Review originally posted at Step Into Fiction**

This book really surprised me. I was expecting to like or rather, I was hoping to like it but I didn't realize I would enjoy it as much as I did. I absolutely fell in to this world and this story. I would like to thank the author, Maureen McGowan and Deborah from Amazon for sending me a copy of this ARC to read & review.

I love post-apocalyptic & dystopian stories as much as I love my paranormal/fantasy novels. This book is as addicting as it is intriguing. The characters are awesome, especially Burn, the world is fantastic and horrible at the same time and the possibilities to where this story could take is us endless.

Glory was dealt a crappy hand from a young age. Not only did she find out her father was a Deviant but also that he murdered her mother, knocked her out and paralyzed her younger brother, Drake. To top that off, she finds out that both her brother and herself are also Deviants, which is a big no-no to be inside this domed city. She must do everything she can to control her emotions so she is never found out while also trying to hide her brother away from the government forever. I admire her strength and her courage. To be that young

and to be responsible for so much...I couldn't even imagine.

One of the things I found really interesting in this story, well, one of the small details was the fact that you cannot walk around anywhere with the opposite sex alone without a dating bracelet. You cannot apply for a dating bracelet until you are sixteen years old. Could you imagine having to apply to date someone? Insane. After you reach eighteen you could then apply for marriage and they would run DNA tests to make sure you were compatible for reproducing. I couldn't even imagine going through all that just to date someone, let alone marry them. However, I found it really interesting because it's so different from the way things are in the world we live in now.

Burn, oh Burn...how I love thee. This guy is huge. I mean, like a beast...and yet, he has sex appeal written all over him. He's got an attitude, he's extremely mysterious and not to mention good looking. Plus, he's out to protect Glory and he works for her father, in a sense. Glory can't trust him because her father is dead and he's a murderer. Yet he keeps coming back to remind her and tell her he's there to protect her and Drake. One thing she's learned...trust no one.

She trusted her boyfriend and long time crush, Cal and feels like he's betrayed her. Glory's journey takes her outside of her domed city and in to the dust lands where other, scaries enemies lay, waiting...

This book is packed with action, suspense and struggles. Not as much romance as I usually like but I also don't feel like I was missing out too much, either. Adding romance in there would've felt wrong and it was a gradual build up...

I definitely recommend this book to any post-apocalyptic/dysptopian fans - it's right up your alley and like I said, it surprised me. I absolutely loved it! I think you could, too!

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## **Alex Shrugged says**

"Deviant" by Maureen McGowan is not my cup of tea, but it wasn't horrible. Not the best way to start a review but I like to be upfront, I didn't like the book for the first half of it. It is a teen girl scifi dystopia novel similar to "Under the Never Sky" by Veronica Rossi. It is about the same level in terms of writing skills. The story itself will probably appeal to teenage girls who are boy crazy but for an old guy like me, the main character "Glory" reminded me of every whiny ex-girlfriend I every had who wouldn't listen to a darn thing I had to say...so the first half of this novel was painful.

The Story: The Earth has been hit by several asteroids leaving choking dust everywhere. Most people die or become mutants but a few "normals" have survived under domes. Years pass.

Haven is a domed city run by an evil corporation that promises to keep the workers safe if you follow the rules. Otherwise you get expunged: choked to death on dust or skinned alive by mutants. Also if you exhibit ANY abnormal powers, you are a Deviant and cast out. Glory has the power to kill just by looking at you so the authorities will kill her if they find out and then who will care for her mutilated brother? So... Glory is... oh... forget it.

Girls are going to swoon all over this stuff but the story has problems.

1. Glory whines too much.

2. She doesn't trust anyone... not even the guy she loves.
3. Why in Heaven's name do we have to talk about a guy's exposed butt and rippling muscles? Does that really have to be in there? Honestly!
4. I'm not sure teen girls are going to catch this but there is an allusion to cocaine in this book. The "dust" that covers the Earth actually "energizes" Deviants and Mutants. It has healing powers but it is also addictive. The one adult "Deviant" named Gage is clearly exhibiting withdrawal symptoms and craving. (second half of book).
5. The military are portrayed as nuts, cannibals and sex addicts.
6. The good guys are not that good. They have issues.
7. Lots of violence... not too detailed but it happens.

Over all... for a dystopian novel... it's not that terrible. I've seen worse... a lot worse. Nevertheless, if you want to raise prim and proper girls, I'd probably skip this. Honestly on the scale of "Oh my G-d this is bad for little girls!" it's not that bad but there has to be something better out there than this. Hope this helps.

I read this because the cover looked interesting and was on sale on Amazon, but I was unsure so at the library I saw the same book in the kids section of the library and check it out.

Hmmm... is that a good thing or a bad thing?

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## **Michelle says**

### **A dystopian novel with a little bit of everything**

This story was a delightful read from start to finish. Glory is just trying to get by on what little she has and protect her brother while keeping secrets from her friends. She has these special powers which at first when we're introduced to them takes a bit of a back seat to the much larger revelation that her father might be alive. What follows is a journey that takes the reader on an adventure after the world's has gone to hell.

There's something for everyone here and nothing gets mundane or feels forced. Glory is a character just about anyone could relate to. There were even a couple of unexpected twists. Although it led to a bit of a predictable ending despite it being a series there weren't any unresolved cliffhangers which is rare in trilogies. I'm eager to see Glory's story continue not because anything was left unresolved but because I have a vested interest in seeing her redemption. For anyone skeptical it's light on the teenage angst and romance scale.

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## **Wolfkin says**

It would be an insult to the author to suggest that Deviants is a copy-cat story. I'm not above doing that. I just

don't particularly feel like that's what's going on here. Especially with just one book in the Dust Chronicles series. That aside it is clear that *Deviants* succeeds for exactly the reasons that *The Hunger Games* and *Uglies* succeeds.

On one hand the similarities in themes are hard not to notice. On the other hand these are hardly unique themes (as anyone whose even heard of Battle Royale will tell you, when talking about *The Hunger Games*). I'm never against a female protagonist I think that perspective still remains novel in the type of fiction these three series all encompass. *Deviants* shares tropes like "spectacle used to control the dumb-masses" with *The Hunger Games* and "I'm was out but I'm going back in" with *Uglies*. It shares the trope of "Two boys: one from the old life, one from the new life" with both series, though again it's possible to make an argument to support the idea that the last trope in particular extends to *Twilight* as well.

What's left is to look at what the book brings to the table that might be considered new or unique. The protagonist whose name I first recognized 2 chapters into the book can kill with her eyes. She's a "Deviant" or someone who has powers that trigger as an emotional response. Again it could be argued that most of *X-Men* covers this, but regardless I liked the mythos. It's my favorite part of the story. Finding out about the world and how it works. The author has crafted an interesting world. A world in which a small city-state has survived a catastrophic event and the surviving organization has now grown to totalitarian power levels (See Also *The Hunger Games*) but with a twist about said event and surviving organization (See Also *The Hunger Games*, *Uglies*). Our Hero is uniquely gifted (See Also *Uglies*) and will as the series progresses be placed in positions that enable her to affect great change to her world.

*Eve and Adam* was flawed but I rated it positively. Partially I think this is because of "first book bump" where a book at the start of a series is most interesting because it is where you're being introduced to a new world and learning how the systems interact with each other. I think I can rate *Deviants* positively even without the "first book bump". Now that I've had time to think about the book I've read it's not the greatest plot I've ever read. But it was told effectively. I care about Glory and I care about her family and friends. I want to see what happens to her next. I think that's the basic goal of the book so mission accomplished. The fact that, in spite of writing semi-frequently about both *Hunger Games* and *Uglies*, I didn't realize how similar it was to the previous series until the back half of the book deserves mention and is reflected in my rating.

*I received the book for free through Goodreads First Reads.*

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## **Holly says**

Do you guys know what a 'mockbuster' is? For all intents and purposes, mockbusters are low budget films typically made by production companies such as The Asylum. These companies capitalise on already established movies in an attempt to trick less savvy people into buying them, and thus tend to make quite a hefty profit out of exploiting their audience. Take *Transmorphers* for example, or *Paranormal Entity*, or *Ratatoing* (I swear to God that *Ratatoing* is a thing).

Now I don't know what the literary equivalent of this would be called, which is strange considering how many *Twilight* and *Hunger Games* knockoffs are out there. What I do know is that *Deviants* fits this genre for at least the first half of the book. With a few exceptions here and there, this is essentially *Divergent* with superpowers. And a love triangle. I mean, look at the goddamn titles! Does no-one else see this?



## I FEEL LIKE I'M TAKING CRAZY PILLS!

Now if there's one thing I hate more than a bad book, it's a bad book that's capitalising on a better book's success. Having said that, even if *Deviants* wasn't plagiarising *Divergent* (as well as countless other YA dystopian works), the book would still suck. As per usual, I intend to dissect this novel and to examine exactly what went wrong with it.

### As always, spoilers and swearing ahead!

Our protagonist is Glory, a sixteen year old girl living in Haven, a large dome designed to protect its inhabitants from the apocalyptic wasteland outside. Why is there an apocalyptic wasteland outside?

*The earth didn't die – not really – but over three generations ago it was buried in coarse dust from the asteroids and volcanic eruptions.*

OK... Is it possible to get a bit more detail on that?

*“What happened?”*

*He turns towards me.*

*“Earth got hot after the dust. Changes in the upper atmosphere. Plus with the quakes, cracks opened up and a lot of lakes went dry.”*

Right, for the moment, let's just assume that this is sound world building and not just some contrived bullshit designed to accommodate a love triangle. Considering how logically sound these events are, things escalate pretty quickly, as the dust mutates people into 'Shredders', disfigured monsters who have descended into insanity and have taken to living out in The Dust (unfortunately 'The Dust' is capitalised in the book, so I'm obliged to capitalise it as well). As well as creating the Shredders, The Dust creates 'Deviants', superpowered individuals that are despised by the authorities and sentenced to death by Shredder. Oh, and it's televised. If you just said, “Well Holly, that sounds an awful lot like *The Hunger Games*,” then you would be correct. It's pretty much exactly the same idea, except without the intelligent social commentary to go with it.

Anyway, in case you haven't been able to deduce it yet, Glory is a Deviant, and has to hide her superpower from the big bad government while meeting another hunky Deviant along the way and serving as a crucial pawn in a major rebellion.

What a crackingly original story idea. I should steal it for my own derivative dystopian trilogy.

As you can see, the world building is patchy at best.

*“What was in the dust? Why did it change us?”*

*He shakes his head. “Don't know. I'm not sure anyone does. Something came on the asteroids, I guess. Or out of the volcanoes...” It's the first time I've heard him unsure. He leans back. “Doesn't matter.”*

That's what I thought.

But what about Glory's characterisation? Is she one of the worst female protagonists out there? Well, yes and no. She's too boring to be offensive. She doesn't make a lot of stupid decisions because she barely does anything at all. There's no complexity to her. You could replace her with countless other dystopian heroines, and it would make very little difference to the overall story. Let's take an example, from the very first page,

no less.

*Normal girls run screaming when this close to rats, but I can't afford luxuries like fear.*

First of all, congrats on the casual sexism. Who the hell are you to judge what a 'normal' girl is? In a dystopian landscape, no less! Secondly, this is not how you do characterisation. A good writer will focus on what a character is rather than what they are not. So Glory is not your typical wussy girl (although even that's open to interpretation). Who the hell cares? Neither are any of the other female protagonists in YA dystopia.

Other than being a self proclaimed badass, she is also devoted to her family. So what? I really hate it when being family orientated counts as a character trait in a film or novel. Pretty much everyone is family orientated. Even serial killers love their families. It shouldn't serve as a substitute for character development.

Besides this, the only other thing I can say about Glory is that she's a bit whiny, which considering she's in a post-apocalyptic world doesn't really bode well. In particular, there's a subplot involving her father that really started to get on my nerves. This is where things start to get slightly spoilerific, so if you don't want a major twist spoiled, don't press the button!

(view spoiler)

On the subject of the writing, it's pretty horrendous. See if you can deconstruct the following sentences:

*Cal slams into me, wrapping his long arms around my body, engulfing me in his salty scent. Releasing built up tension, my body collapses into Cal's, support.*

That's exactly how it's written in the ebook. Typo et al.

*My stomach flutters. Clearly, my stupid stomach has forgotten his betrayal.*

Is there a way of rewriting that without the unnecessary repetition?

*Emotions pop behind my eyes like a million tiny explosions and I fear what might happen should they join forces and escape.*

I'd love to read that book. 'Attack of the Killer Exploding Eyeball Emotions'.

*Pleasure sparks at his kiss and I rub my mother's ring, needing to refuse what his kiss demands.*

What does that even mean?

*"[...] Thank you – for tonight, for the cucumber, especially. It was delicious."*

It was at this point that I actually thought I was being trolled. That maybe this was all just a very clever parody of bad dystopian romance novels. That would explain the title. I mean, it's not like anyone would seriously write that line and expect us to take it seriously?

Right?

Now there's one thing that all of those lines have in common. Can you guess what it is?

They all reference romance and/or making out and/or cucumber double entendres. Believe it or not, this is a major part of the novel, with a half baked love triangle as the pièce de résistance. There's even a blonde and a brunette to choose from. How incredibly original.

*[Burn's] long dark hair falls against the side of his face, and he pushes it back with a strong, powerful hand. It's the scariest thing I've ever seen – and the sexiest.*

First of all, aren't you supposed to be in the middle of a post-apocalyptic world? If that's the scariest thing you've ever seen, then you really need to get out more. Secondly, WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK?

To be fair, if I had to choose between the two of them, I'd probably have to go with Burn (or 'Boo-urn', as I took to calling him). Even then, he's a little underwhelming. He's a miserable sod for the majority of the book, only to suddenly become cheerful out of nowhere so that he can splash around in the water with Glory and have a totally uncontrived tender moment. He also turns into a gigantic monster when he's angry. Stan Lee would be ashamed.

In a nutshell, Burn is a sullen yet devoted protector who basically does all the work for Glory. I mean sure, she kills a Shredder with her mind every now and then, but if it wasn't for that one specific power, this book would almost certainly fail the Sexy Lamp Test. If it wasn't for her best friend Jayma, I'm sure it would have failed the Bechdel Test as well. I mean, Burn carries Glory everywhere. And I don't even mean that in a figurative sense. For a good chunk of the book, he literally carries her from destination to destination. For fuck's sake.

However, her relationship with Cal makes her relationship with Burn/Boo-urn/Bruce Banner look like George and Amal Clooney in comparison. Read the lines below and try not to shudder and/or groan once.

*"Where's your net?"*

*"My net?" I can't keep my eyes off Cal's handsome face.*

*It's as if my body's an oxygen tank and he's Outside in the dust. Like he needs me to breathe At any moment I'll forget my life. I'll drift into a dreamland where my problems are gone.*

*I've liked Cal ever since I was little – he never picked on the younger kids like some of the bigger boys in GT – and he's always formed a major part of my fantasy for the future.*

(So as long as he didn't bully anyone as a child, he can go out with you? Is there a world wide bullying epidemic going on under this dome that I'm not aware of? Is it really that hard to find a boy who isn't a dick? Just because he didn't beat anyone up at school doesn't necessarily give him a free pass to... I'm looking too much into this, aren't I?)

*"If I get my wish, someday [Drake will] be my family, too."*

*My insides flip. "Your family?"*

*He cups my chin with his fingers, his thumb tracing down my cheek. "Of course. He'll be my brother, when we get married."*

## **PEPPER SPRAY AT THE READY**

And by the end of the novel, despite supposedly being one of the novel's antagonists, we find out that he's actually innocent, paving the way for the inevitable trilogy that is to come.

Honestly, I could sit and write about this novel for hours, but I won't. As someone wise once said, "If the writer doesn't care, then why the hell should you?"

In conclusion, I'd advise you to re-read *The Hunger Games* or *Divergent* instead. Or maybe you could watch *Transmorphers* or *Ratatouille*. Either way, you'd be much better off in the long run.

<https://youngadultatrocities.wordpress...>

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## **The Serendipity Aegis ~ ?Misericordia? ?????? ✨\*♥♥ says**

4.5

Q:

I feel so safe, so warm, and the sensation of being held is at once familiar and foreign. Like I've come home to a place I'd forgotten. (c)

Q:

Air rushes past my ears, cooling my skin against the sun that's transformed the sky from pale gray to pink and now blue, like some kind of miracle Burn called a sunrise. After he explained the whole earth/sun/moon thing again, I think I understand.(c)

Q:

A girl whose emotions kill isn't meant to have love.

But in spite of that, I smile. I'm the luckiest girl alive. (c)

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