



# Ripped

*Shelly Dickson Carr*

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## **Ripped** Shelly Dickson Carr

Katie Lennox wishes her parents were still alive. Having to leave Boston to live with Grandma Cleaves in London was hard, but she's making new friends, working on her British accent and even learning some Cockney rhyming slang. London's cool and actually feels like home in some ways, like she's been here before, belongs here.

When a museum visit with her cousin and his cute friend turns funky, Katie finds herself in a long, uncomfortable dress, wearing a ridiculous hat, wondering what happened to her jeans and high-top sneakers? And where's her iPhone?...

It's London, 1888. Smart and gutsy, Katie knows she's here to stop Jack the Ripper. The serial killer didn't just slash his victims' throats; he butchered the women. Katie has read about the Ripper, knows the names of his victims and where and when they were killed. She's watched her fair share of CSI. Can Katie save their lives?

With 60 illustrations by Chris Gall. (in color on color devices)

## **Ripped Details**

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Author : Shelly Dickson Carr

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## From Reader Review Ripped for online ebook

### Robin (Saturndoo) says

After a couple of weeks of trying to plod my way through this one, I finally forced myself to finish it today. YAY!!!! I'm finally done with this uninteresting piece of rubbish.

I don't know really what to say except that this is an excessively long book that should have been shortened and been done with 350 pages ago. The beginning chapters were overly descriptive, redundant paragraphs about the characters. None of which I truly care about. The premise was interesting enough but the delivery was a failure. As the story moved on, the boredom went from bad to worse. I felt like many things were left unexplained. I didn't care for the Cockney slang that was thrown into the writing.

Overall, I had many issues with this book based on the knowledge I have about Jack the Ripper. I was not impressed with this novel nor would I recommend it.

I received a free copy via NetGalley in exchange for my free and honest review.

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### Joni Thomas says

This book was... interesting. I've never really read a time travel novel before and I felt that this book could be a bit confusing. But I'm a murder mystery lover so I wanted to give this book a try. I don't know much about the case of Jack the Ripper so if there were any blatant mistakes in the writing of this book I truly didn't notice them but I have seen reviews that are angry about the mistakes in the case. Now, in the author's defense, at the very end of the book she clearly states that she purposely changed details, victims, etc to suit the book.

I really liked the main character Katie. She was skunky and spirited and it was quite comical to read about her experiences living in Victorian London where girls were demure and quiet. She messed up quite often by acting in ways that were totally inappropriate back then. It was fun to read as she tried to explain her way out of her quirkiness without casting too much suspicion on her.

Also, the identity of Jack the Ripper was never made obvious throughout the novel. I was clueless even as he was being revealed and had to reread the page a few times to make sure that I had read correctly.

The book is intriguing and all around a fun read. If you want a book that's going to stick to the case of Jack the Ripper to a T, don't read this novel. If you want a book that going to take a case that is known throughout the world and put their own spin on it and "solve" the mystery, then this book should interest you. I know I found it to be an entertaining, if at sometimes confusing, read.

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### Chechoui says

This murder mystery had its merits and for a first novel, it was pretty decent. Hopefully the author will improve and excel in her second novel. The story centers around a girl in London who travels back in time to

solve the Jack the Ripper murders. There was lots of whodunit story lines as well as a light teen romance. There were certainly some far-fetched moments, but overall the story grabbed you enough to pull you in to find out who was Jack the Ripper and what happens when she goes back in time in the impact of it. What I really couldn't get past however was the Cockney slang. I actually liked that piece of it, but I didn't like how the author insults the reader by having to explain every single instance of it and translate which is like every other sentence. It was very annoying and is condescending to the reader. Even a 10-year-old can figure out the rhymes. "Stop staring at me with those minced pies." - let's see what stares - eyes stare. Does eyes rhyme with pies? ding ding ding! Wow, I think I got it. I don't think anyone over a child needs that explained to them, let alone the age of the targeted readership here. And then, to make it worse, it was just translated once - it was translated every single time the slang was used. We had 29 times to learn that "twist n swirl" meant "girl." It was as if they assumed all readers had significant memory loss. I can't believe that an editor would have allowed that in the dialogue, to restate in a full sentence dialogue to translate every single instance of the Cockney slang. It isn't true to the character - teenagers don't repeat back to you full sentence responses. If someone says, "stop staring at me with those minced pies," teenagers don't say, "I will stop staring at you with my eyes." They would just say or grunt, "whatever" or "no", "fine" etc. The whole point of learning new vocabulary words anyway is context. We learn new words from context which could've easily been done here and made it an interesting aspect to the story. Instead it was a burden and encumbered it. I think "jellied eel" was used at least 500 times. For that poor writing aspect it brought down an otherwise interesting time travel, YA, murder mystery.

I received this review copy from NetGalley.

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## Sannie Hald says

Ripped - received a free digital copy by requesting on Netgalley.

The thoughts that Katie has about living in the 19th century are thoughts that I have. What would it really be like? In many novels we only see the romantic side of the century but I know for a fact that I couldn't be content with just being a trophy wife who went to tea parties (unless it would be with the mad hatter!), going for walks, attend social balls, sewing and what not. I couldn't, however, be of the working class either. Consider the living conditions of the poor! I would not be a street-walker like so many young less fortunate girls in London's street at that time.. Especially not with Jack around, oh no..

One thing though... If the Jack The Ripper *exhibition* freaked her out that much... How can se be content with travelling back in time trying to rewrite history be catching the mysterious mass murderer? How can she not be scared when it is **real**? She is in Britain, hasn't she watched some *Doctor Who* - changing history is dangerous... Almost as dangerous to write about who Jack the Ripper actually was.. But the author is bold enough, so I guess her protagonist is as well...

(view spoiler)

It bugs me she doesn't have a relationship with the person she is so desperately trying to save?! Do they even exchange one word to each other?!

At 40% through the book the author gives us a hint but I do not believe it!  
Clever author, clever! (view spoiler)

(view spoiler)

Thoughts with spoilers!!:  
(view spoiler)

Now, I absolutely hate it when authors write about real life people especially the good old classics. This is basically a fan fiction then, isn't it? About Jack the Ripper? I hope not.. Being a fan of Jack the Ripper is not normal. You can speculate about all the mystery and how he managed not to get caught but never be a fan... But there are plenty of other famous people in there.. A very bold and dangerous thing to do..

In the end Katie gets one of her wishes to come true :)

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### **Julie (Bookish.Intoxication) says**

I recieved this novel from NetGalley.

This novel was a great read, the characters were engaging and the time travel via the London stone was believable and realistic. I loved how the action started early in the novel and how the names of the characters were the same throughout the different eras.

The downfall to this novel was that because the action started so early, there was a lull towards the middle of the novel that made it feel slow and blunderous, the information given aided in pulling the reader along but if it weren't for the amazing characters than this novel would have floundered in the middle.

I enjoyed how there was a slight love interest for the main character, and how this didn't obscure her judgement, as so many other Young Adult protagonists seem to encounter.

This novel was fun to read and would be a fantastic addition to any YA readers book shelf

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### **Tony says**

So, I have been trying to get to 100 percent reviews with Net Galley. I got this book 4 years ago or so, and I never read it. I chased it down via Interlibrary Loan and maybe I should have sat this one out.

It is not good. I did not finish. I knew on page three I was not going to like it, but, I want to give it more than three pages. A few things to point out.

Third person books do not need and should not have parenthetical asides. Those are there for funny first person narratives, blogs or personal letters. Also, did you see how annoying it was what I just did there by

over explaining that thing about parenthetical asides and how odd it is that I am still going on and on about something that was already explained and honestly did not need any explanation?

Yeah, this book does that too.

I see a lot of folks like it. That is great. I want people to like books.

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## **Cora ? Tea Party Princess says**

DNF at 22%, the start of Chapter 14.

The first thing that I have to say is that I really, honestly, thought I'd love this book. I wanted to. I love historical fictions and I know A LOT about Jack the Ripper.

But I know far too much about British history and the Ripper case to fully appreciate this book. I was left a little confused, and the massacre of the Ripper story just didn't sit well for me - I'm all for being inspired by historical events but it felt a little disrespectful to the victims that their story was messed around with so much. I felt it would have been better with Ripper-inspired murders rather than the author inventing whole new victims.

It was a good idea, but my goodness, it wasn't executed well. For me anyway. Some people might love it. If you don't know much about British history and the Ripper cases, and you don't mind countless (and often with patronising explanations thrown in) Cockney rhyming slang in the text, then you'll probably enjoy it.

The thing that annoyed me the most was the horrific characterisations of the British characters. It honestly felt as though the author had stumbled upon a wiki-page of Cockney rhyming slang and thought "I know, I'll write a book and cram as many of these sayings into it as possible!" It made for dated speech with the English characters. There was a "glossary" of sorts at the front of the book with the meanings of a lot of the phrases, but despite this the reader was treated like an idiot and every time a phrase was used within the story, the character would define it in what felt like a rather patronising way. Especially when it happened again and AGAIN with the same phrase. And it's over used.

*Georgie flushed scarlet thinking about Cecilia's long, shapely bacon and eggs, and her beautiful dark mince pies.*

Katie is quite the little Mary Sue. She lived in Boston for practically her WHOLE life, but can easily affect an English accent. And her parents are dead, but hey, her sister's a famous rock star!

One of the first quotes I picked out was: *She'd read so many Victorian novels that she was starting to feel she'd have been better off in that time period. It was safer and much more romantic.*

And I just stared at the page. Safer? SAFER? Even the most basic of history lessons would teach you that this was not the case, and most certainly not in London where this book is set. If you didn't die of cholera or some other disease, then you'd probably starve to death or be murdered or mutilated in some horrific accident. And then the stench. The stench of the industrial age, smoggy skies, millions of unwashed bodies and poor sanitation. There's no way that's romantic.

And that wasn't the end of the inaccuracies - historical or cultural. Heck, the author claims that Hogwarts is an English boarding school. ENGLISH! And then there's Oscar Wilde (oh yes, just one of the famous writers our Mary Sue meets) who was laughable. And so unbelievable. And poor Mary Kelly (actual Ripper victim) is described as a Marilyn Monroe lookalike. And the English apparently like to say things like "ass over teakettle". Ass? I've never heard anyone say ass. It's a very American term.

*I received a copy of this for free via NetGalley for review purposes.*

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## **Anna says**

From my blog, The Writer Diaries.

Ripped – received a free digital copy by requesting on Netgalley.

Let me just say, I love Jack the Ripper stories. The mystery surrounding his reign of terror fascinates me. How he was never captured, and no one ever found out who he was.

Unfortunately, this didn't live up to my love of the subject. I adored *The Name of the Star* by Maureen Johnson, and was hoping this would be a grisly, fun YA horror. However, there was very little horror.

Katie travels back in time to the summer of 1888 when Jack the Ripper terrorized White Chapel London when she touches the London Stone and thinks to herself how she wishes she could solve the mystery of Jack The Ripper and keep him from killing all those poor girls, mainly, her ancestor, Lady Beatrix Twyford.

While the premise is interesting, the story dragged on in places and some things were never explained. Much of the action of Jack the Ripper is all pushed up at the end of the book. It didn't seem thrilling to me, not as it should. I feel as if most of Kate's time was spent hanging around with Toby and Colin's great-great grandfathers (who just happened to be exact replicas, as well as Katie's sister Courtney looking like Beatrix). I found myself skipping ahead and skimming pages waiting for something interesting to happen.

There were some things in the book that irked me, such as Toby knowing all this info to a T on how the Stone worked. I get it, he traveled in time, but really, half of what he recited to Katie was not something you could monitor in one time traveling adventure, and it only works once for any particular person.

Another was that if Katie was THAT freaked about Madame Toussard's ripper show, why did she want to go back and experience it for real? And changing the past, doesn't anyone understand how in every tv-show and movie involving time traveling, it is dangerous? The girls in Britain, hasn't she ever watched a single episode of Doctor Who? Some things are set in stone.

It really bugged me that she wanted to save Lady Beatrix so badly, but the two basically exchanged a word or two and never came together again really for the rest of the book.

It just wasn't my cup of tea. Especially when it was revealed who Jack the Ripper was... really? I suppose it was the shock factor, but the shock factor was moreover why HE was this dastardly ripper. I don't want to ruin the plot for anyone who hasn't read it, so I shall not name him.

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## **Michelle says**

I'm all for taking a fantasy and twisting it into something else, But not when it's a real story. The idea was good but It would have worked better if it was set back in London in 1888 rather than going back to the past. If you're that scared of Madame Tussauds house of horrors how is it not scary to actually be back in time with the real Jack the Ripper. For me it just didn't work. Even the character placement didn't work. I really wanted to like it.....I just didn't :(

## Ian Wood says

A complete review can be found on my blog.

I started out liking this although the Cockney nonsense is way overdone. Yeah, Whitechapel is within a mile or so of St Mary Le Bow - the church within the earshot of which you have to be born to be a true Cockney, but let's not run away with ourselves, shall we?! Cockney hasn't always meant what it means today. FYI, St Mary's was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, who also designed St Paul's. The chapter titles of the book are based on Oranges and Lemons, an old nursery rhyme the words of which seem to be tied to the sound the various bells supposedly made. But with sixty chapters, there's an insufficiency of verses in that ditty to title them all so the author has to make up a few weird ones to fill the gaps.

The first interesting thing about this novel is that it's purportedly written by Shelly Dickson Carr, but it's copyrighted to Michelle Karol. There's no explanation for this that I can find in the ebook, and there's no information about Carr or Karol on wikipedia. But my first problem with it arose with the instadore Toby character who was your typically profoundly boring he-teen and the masturbators of the universe type. Seriously, can we not get away from this tedious rubber-stamp male love interest? Apparently not. It would be nice if he turned out to be the villain, but it never looked like that was going to happen. I find it abhorrent that women - especially modern independent women like Katie - are constantly attracted in these novels to men who treat them like dirt of which calling her 'pet' and 'lass' are the least of his infractions. This is an appalling message to send to young women.

Anyway, the novel begins with Katie, an American teen living in London with her grandmother. Her sister is Courtney (as in Courtney Love, but not really) who is in a punk band which is apparently very successful, but this sister can't be bothered to call her sister, and she plays no part in the story. Katie and Courtney's parents are conveniently dead - a major trope for YA novels. While Katie is getting ready to visit Madame Tussauds waxworks (yes, bad grammar, but that's the way it is!) with Collin (yes with two L's), a cousin, she notices how much the portrait (which her grandmother has conveniently dug out of storage and placed in her room) looks like Courtney. Note that Katie is a history buff - yeah, we get it, time-travel, history buff, going to see the waxworks exhibit of Jack the Ripper, etc etc. Let's get on with the story instead of reading the Daily Telegraph, shall we?! So off they go to Tussauds where they meet Collin's friend Toby, of course, with his dark eyes, cleft chin, unruly hair, and devilish manner.

Aforementioned issues aside, the story is reasonably well written, and very readable. As long as it didn't insist upon straying over the line, I could see myself enjoying it, but it all depended on how strong that line was and how good Shelly Dickson Carr/Michelle Karol was at coloring inside it, which promised to be problematical given that Toby inappropriately kept grabbing at Katie as they entered the chamber of horrors, as though she was a worthless weak slip of a girl who needed to be manhandled or she would wilt away and die like a plucked flower. That Katie reacted so limply to his inappropriate behavior gave me little hope that she would turn out to be a decent female protagonist.

Carr also goes well past the accepted victims of the Ripper (which numbered five), adding three fictional ones. Molly Potter was never a victim: it was Elizabeth Stride who was part of the double murder along with Catherine Eddowes. And no, Eddowes was neither buxom nor a singer by profession, although she did sing to herself apparently, but I prefer George Carlin's version of the 'Tara-raboom-de-eh' (Tara-raboom-de-eh, did you get yours today? I got mine yesterday, that's why I walk this way...!), so Carr was evidently planning on having Katie change history. There are those who argue that Stride was not a Ripper victim, and others who argue that she was, but that the Ripper was interrupted before he could carry out his grisly obsession in

full, and that's why Catherine Eddowes was murdered just an hour later. The Ripper's blood lust had not been slaked. The actual last victim was Mary Jane Kelly - and no, she didn't look like Marilyn Monroe or Anna Nicole Smith, not even close, but Carr has the last victim as Lady Beatrix Twyford, who happens to be the same woman who was in the portrait back in Katie's room at her grandmother's! So yes, an interesting twist, if that's what it is. It reminds me of my own *Timeless* in some regards.

So naturally we wonder about the perp in this story, and there are several possible candidates. I discount Brown, as I've mentioned. There's also something not quite right with the Reverend Pinker who is with the theater party, and while I would like it to be him, I excluded him, too. I still can find no explanation for his meandering through this tale; it would have remained almost exactly the same story had his character been entirely absent from it.

I've also considered that Lady Beatrix herself - a character who is hardly in this story at all - is a potential Ripper, but after all this, my suspicions fell heavily on Collin right from the start. Of course, as you all know if you read my reviews, my guesses are typically worthless! So were they in the case? You'll have to read the story to find out. Perhaps I'm supposed to mistakenly think it's Collin; Carr is dropping endless, really clunky blaring announcements that it's him, while having Collin point an accusing finger at Brown. This ought to make me think it isn't Collin. OTOH, perhaps Carr is being so brazen with the clues because she wants us to think she wouldn't drop these massively telegraphic "hints" if it actually was him! Who knows - maybe it's Toby and he's implicating Collin out of resentment that he has to spend so much of his life keeping him out of trouble?

In the end I rated this as a worthy, but I had real issues with it and was not pleased with it too often. Yes, *Ripped* intrigued me, but in the end it just didn't get my bunny hopping. It wasn't that the story itself was so bad, but there were too many inexplicables for me - where I was left asking "what?". I don't like stories like that, but maybe you will like this one. Maybe this one for someone who knows a lot less about the Ripper murders than I do - but then that was the sole reason I opted to read it in the first place!

And no, I don't know who did it! No one does; that's why the true events are so fascinating for writers. You can make up your own explanation, as indeed I did in the *Manuscript Found* in a *Lead Casket* short story which is contained in the *Poem y Granite* collection.

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## Naomi says

Read my full review: <http://bit.ly/ZRh6w7>

My opinion: I enjoyed this quick, light read targeted towards the younger audience. The book, for the most part, was clean enough from romance and violence that even for your younger, more advanced readers to delve into. The author focused on developing an engrossing storyline demanding use of one's imagination than utilizing sex and violence to grab interests. It was very refreshing. I have seen a number of reviews criticizing this lack of horror and my response would be that this is a YA book; do we really need to subject our youth TO MORE VIOLENCE?!?!?

How well thought out was this book? The author includes a glossary of terms not only for present day London slang, but late 1800's slang, as well.

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## Gigi says

The author's grandfather was the great John Dickson Carr, one of my favorite mystery novelists. Talent must run in the family, because Shelly Dickson Carr's RIPPED was impossible to put down.

The twists and turns were unexpected, yet perfect, and even though the book was a long one, when I reached the last page I found myself wishing I could spend more time with Katie and the rest of the cast.

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## a\_tiffyfit says

Review to come on the blog June 22.

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Kate, the protagonist in this story, gets her wish and travels back in time to London 1888, the time when the notorious serial killer, Jack the Ripper, roamed the London streets in the Whitechapel area, and frightened its citizens so famously. She swears to herself that she'll discover who Jack the Ripper is and stop him from killing innocent women, but mostly to stop him from killing one of her ancestors.

In the process, Katie discovers and learns a lot about Victorian England, experiencing what the like was like for both the common people as well as the noble. What Katie finds out is that it isn't as she has always imagined it. Although she's read many books pertaining to its time, she had romanticized the period, so when she actually had to experience a few of the actual life styles, all those fanciful thoughts were promptly dashed. For instance, the beautiful gowns and accessories she had so admired and fantasized wearing were not as she had imagined! The binding corsets, the sheer number of undergarments that ladies had to wear to support the yards and yards of heavy but "gorgeously embellished" fabrics were not to her liking. She disliked the inability to breathe properly in a stifling environment because of those tightly bound corsets, which isn't something a woman can even get into alone, but rather must be aided by a lady's maid servant. Then there's her discovery of the males and learning not all is as she thought. A dashing, charming Romeo they were not, but rather she finds them highly chauvinistic and often unable to be withstood due to their opinions of women.

Although the story was fun, imagining time-traveling and the possibility of changing history, at times I found myself lost, not quite understanding what the point of this story was. I felt it sidetracked often and far away from the original idea, where Katie would ease her suffering of losing her parents and the distancing from her sister by somehow affecting something in the past so that the pains of her heart are eased.

Yes, in the end, those things did come together, but I lost the point of what Jack the Ripper had to do with Katie.

I came off the story feeling satisfied because of the wrap up, but couldn't shake the feeling that something was just off about the novel/story as a whole, something I may have missed, etc. It's hard to describe this vague feeling of unfinished business or muddled sense of satisfaction, but the tangents disrupted the flow and threw me off. All in all, an enjoyable book.

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## Gayle Noble says

The first thing I saw for this book were several 1-star reviews which almost put me off, but I'm glad they

didn't. Yes, the rhyming slang is straight from the Dick Van Dyke School of Speaking Cockney but if you can ignore that (and it does get easier), this is quite a good little story.

It does take some liberties with the facts of the real Jack the Ripper case but this is a work of fiction based on the case, not a true crime book. The story itself was well-thought out (although I did guess who it was fairly early on) and I didn't feel it was too long or dragged out. Well worth a read.

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## **Arra Abella says**

Finally, I'm going to share with you my first book review of the year! Yay! Hopefully, it's not the last. Shelly Dickson Carr's Ripped is based on the reign of terror by a mysterious serial killer dubbed as Jack the Ripper. He was known for committing brutal murders of young women through slitting their throats, mutilating their faces and genital-area, and evisceration of the internal organs. Clearly, it was a horrifying event during the nineteenth century. Despite this, it made Jack the Ripper the most famous serial killer to date. Until now, the identity of Jack the Ripper remains a mystery to everyone that many writers are pushed by their curiosity to write and wield the facts to create their own versions of the story. Hence, this book.

I have to say that it was pretty interesting. I love novels that explore the past because it helps me picture out what it's like to live in the past centuries. Putting my self in the shoes of the protagonist, Katie Lennox, I would've also had a hard time adjusting to a society with norms and customs that are quite different to mine. I would've been clueless and panicking the moment I realize I'm in a different time.

Ripped intrigued me. I was so excited to read how it will turn out, who is Jack the Ripper, and if Katie can stop him. The murders were written spot on that I was able to imagine every single one and found myself having goosebumps at some point. It made me mentally nervous and scared for my life if I really did live in that time. I also find the Cockney slang very entertaining and challenging at the same time. It thrilled me to figure out the words by myself and hey, I learned something new! The plot was well-written and well-researched. But I just wish that it wasn't that long. I think there were more or less sixty chapters and 509 pages. It got a bit draggy when I reached the middle and I felt like it was endless.

I really appreciate the explanation towards the end on how the story was created, why some famous authors were present and how they were involved, etc. I also love the Harry Potter references! Cheers to you, Shelly! I think she is a Potterhead! Yay!

Overall, it was a very good read especially to those YA readers who love mysteries and historical fiction. Add this to your reading list of Jack the Ripper-related novels!

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