

remarkably bright creatures analysis

Remarkably Bright Creatures: A Deep Dive Analysis

Introduction:

Have you ever wondered about the hidden depths of connection, the resilience of the human spirit, and the unexpected beauty found in the most unlikely of places? If so, then you'll appreciate the intricate tapestry woven in Shelby Van Pelt's captivating novel, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. This isn't just a heartwarming story about a giant Pacific octopus; it's a profound exploration of grief, healing, and the surprising ways we find solace in the most unexpected friendships. This in-depth analysis will delve into the novel's central themes, character development, narrative structure, and the overarching message it conveys, providing you with a comprehensive understanding of what makes this book so remarkably brilliant. We will examine the symbolic power of Tobey, the octopus, analyze the compelling character arcs of Tova Sullivan and her son, and uncover the intricate layers of meaning embedded within Van Pelt's prose. Prepare to be captivated once more – or for the first time – by the magic of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*.

I. Tobey: More Than Just an Octopus

Tobey, the giant Pacific octopus, is far from a mere plot device. He serves as a powerful symbol of intelligence, emotional depth, and unwavering loyalty. His presence challenges anthropocentric views, highlighting the complex cognitive abilities of creatures often overlooked. Van Pelt masterfully uses Tobey to showcase empathy and understanding, demonstrating that communication transcends verbal language. We explore Tobey's role not just as a companion but as a catalyst for Tova's emotional growth and healing. The detailed descriptions of Tobey's behavior, his interactions with Tova, and the way he observes and reacts to the human world all contribute to his compelling characterization. We will examine specific instances within the novel that demonstrate Tobey's intellectual capacity and his uncanny ability to connect with Tova on an emotional level. This section will also analyze how Tobey's unique perspective enriches the narrative and adds a layer of magical realism to the story.

II. Tova Sullivan's Journey of Grief and Healing

Tova's journey forms the emotional core of the novel. Widowed and grappling with the lingering pain of loss, she finds herself unexpectedly drawn to Tobey. This unlikely friendship becomes the foundation for her healing process. We'll analyze Tova's character arc, tracing her transformation from a woman consumed by grief to one who gradually learns to embrace life again. This examination will focus on the pivotal moments in the narrative where Tova confronts her past, confronts her son's past and accepts the present, and discovers new avenues for hope and connection. We'll explore how her relationship with

Tobey helps her to navigate her grief, to forgive herself, and to ultimately find a renewed sense of purpose. This section will also delve into the complexities of grief and the different ways individuals cope with loss.

III. The Intergenerational Bonds and Family Dynamics

Remarkably Bright Creatures masterfully portrays the complexities of family relationships across generations. The strained relationship between Tova and her son, Marcellus, serves as a poignant exploration of parental guilt, unspoken resentment, and the challenges of maintaining connection despite significant emotional distance. We'll analyze their interactions, identifying the key events that shape their bond and exploring the gradual mending of their fractured relationship. The novel's exploration of family dynamics extends beyond the immediate family unit, highlighting the importance of chosen family and the profound impact of community support. We'll analyze how the supporting characters contribute to Tova and Marcellus's journey toward reconciliation. This section will also consider the different types of familial bonds depicted in the novel and their significance to the overall narrative.

IV. The Narrative Structure and Literary Techniques

Van Pelt employs a captivating narrative structure that seamlessly blends past and present, allowing readers to gradually uncover the layers of Tova's past and the complexities of her present. We'll analyze the author's use of flashbacks, foreshadowing, and other literary devices that enhance the story's emotional impact and create a sense of suspense. This section will examine the pacing of the novel, its shifting perspectives, and the deliberate choices made by the author to create a captivating and emotionally resonant reading experience. We'll also discuss the novel's use of descriptive language and imagery to paint a vivid picture of the setting and characters.

V. The Overarching Message of Hope and Resilience

Ultimately, Remarkably Bright Creatures is a story about hope, resilience, and the extraordinary capacity of the human spirit to overcome adversity. It's a testament to the power of connection, the importance of empathy, and the surprising ways we find meaning and purpose in life's unexpected twists and turns. This concluding section will synthesize the key themes explored throughout the novel, offering a comprehensive interpretation of the author's message. We'll discuss how the novel challenges readers to reconsider their perspectives on intelligence, empathy, and the interconnectedness of all living things. We'll conclude by highlighting the lasting impact of this heartwarming and thought-provoking story.

Book Analysis Outline: Remarkably Bright Creatures

Name: A Deep Dive into Shelby Van Pelt's Remarkably Bright Creatures

Outline:

Introduction: Briefly introduce the novel and its central themes.

Chapter 1: Tobey – A Symbol of Intelligence and Connection: Analyze Tobey's role as a catalyst for Tova's healing.

Chapter 2: Tova's Journey of Grief and Renewal: Explore Tova's character arc and her transformation.

Chapter 3: Family Dynamics and Intergenerational Bonds: Analyze the complex relationships between Tova, Marcellus, and other characters.

Chapter 4: Narrative Structure and Literary Techniques: Examine Van Pelt's use of flashbacks, foreshadowing, and other literary devices.

Chapter 5: The Overarching Message of Hope and Resilience: Discuss the novel's core themes and their lasting impact.

Conclusion: Summarize the key findings and offer final thoughts.

(The detailed analysis of each chapter point is provided above in the main body of the article.)

FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*? The central theme revolves around grief, healing, and the unexpected connections we form with others, even those outside our species.
1. What is the significance of Tobey, the octopus? Tobey symbolizes intelligence, empathy, and emotional depth, challenging anthropocentric views and serving as a catalyst for Tova's emotional healing.
1. How does the novel portray family relationships? The novel explores the complexities of family dynamics, highlighting both strained and supportive relationships across generations and emphasizing the importance of chosen family.
1. What literary techniques does the author employ? The author utilizes flashbacks, foreshadowing, descriptive language, and a carefully paced narrative structure to create a compelling and emotionally resonant reading experience.

1. What is the setting of the novel? The novel is set in a fictional coastal town, likely drawing inspiration from the Pacific Northwest.
1. What is the overall tone of the novel? The tone is heartwarming, hopeful, and emotionally resonant, with moments of humor and poignancy.
1. Who is the target audience for this book? The book appeals to a broad audience, particularly readers who enjoy literary fiction, stories about animals, and explorations of grief and healing.
1. What makes this book "remarkably bright"? The book's brilliance lies in its insightful exploration of human emotions, its compelling characters, and its ability to connect readers with the often-overlooked beauty of the natural world.
1. Is the book suitable for all ages? While generally appropriate for adult readers, teenagers with mature reading preferences may also enjoy it.

Related Articles:

1. The Power of Animal Companionship in Literature: Explores the use of animals as catalysts for human growth and healing in various literary works.
1. Grief and Healing in Contemporary Fiction: Analyzes how different novels approach the complexities of grief and the process of emotional recovery.

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1. Shelby Van Pelt's Writing Style and Narrative Techniques: A closer look at the author's distinct literary style and its effectiveness in creating engaging stories.

1. Book Review: Remarkably Bright Creatures – A Heartwarming Tale of Connection: Provides a concise and insightful review of the novel.

1. Comparative Analysis: Remarkably Bright Creatures and Other Animal-centric Novels: Compares and contrasts Remarkably Bright Creatures with other novels featuring significant animal characters.

1. The Importance of Empathy and Understanding in Human Relationships: Examines the role of empathy in fostering strong and meaningful connections.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Summary of Remarkably Bright Creatures Alexander Cooper, 2023-04-24 Remarkably Bright Creatures - A Comprehensive Summary Shelby Van Pelt created the character Tova in Remarkably Bright Creatures, based on her Swedish grandmother who coped with grief by constantly keeping busy. The story revolves around various characters who

feel trapped and swim in circles, trying to break free from their constraints. Despite the story's human themes, the inspiration for the book came from Van Pelt's writing exercise on an octopus narrator. She was inspired by a viral video of an octopus attempting to escape from a tank and delved deeper into exploring these creatures and their capabilities. Through the character of Marcellus, Van Pelt gained a new perspective on human strengths and weaknesses. Listening to her internal Marcellus allowed her to examine her own behavior and observe the human tendency to justify damaging actions. Van Pelt discovered that viewing things from an external, anthropomorphic perspective can help people see their habits in a new light. The novel opens with Marcellus's perspective, but the central theme is how he encourages people to examine their behavior in a different way. Here is a Preview of What You Will Get: □ A Detailed Introduction □ A Comprehensive Chapter by Chapter Summary □ Etc Get a copy of this summary and learn about the book.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Summary of Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt:A Read with Jenna Pick GP SUMMARY, 2023-04-24 DISCLAIMER This book does not in any capacity mean to replace the original book but to serve as a vast summary of the original book. Summary of Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt:A Read with Jenna Pick IN THIS SUMMARIZED BOOK, YOU WILL GET: Chapter astute outline of the main contents. Fast & simple understanding of the content analysis. Exceptionally summarized content that you may skip in the original book Remarkably Bright Creatures is a charming, witty and compulsively readable exploration of friendship, reckoning, and hope that traces a widow's unlikely connection with a giant Pacific octopus. Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium, deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. Shelby Van Pelt's debut novel is a gentle reminder that taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Remarkable Creatures Tracy Chevalier, 2010-01-05 From the New York Times bestselling novelist, a stunning historical novel that follows the story of Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot, two extraordinary 19th century fossil hunters who changed the scientific world forever. On the windswept, fossil-strewn beaches of the English coast, poor and uneducated Mary learns that she has a unique gift: the eye to spot ammonites and other fossils no one else can see. When she uncovers an unusual fossilized skeleton in the cliffs near her home, she sets the religious community on edge, the townspeople to gossip, and the scientific world alight. After enduring bitter cold, thunderstorms, and landslips, her challenges only grow when she falls in love with an impossible man. Mary soon finds an unlikely champion in prickly Elizabeth, a middle-class spinster who shares her passion for scouring the beaches. Their relationship strikes a delicate balance between fierce loyalty, mutual appreciation, and barely suppressed envy, but ultimately turns out to be their greatest asset. From the author of *At the Edge of the Orchard* and *Girl With a Pearl Earring* comes this incredible story of two remarkable women and their voyage of discovery.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *His Name Was Walter* Emily Rodda, 2018-08-01 From Australia's favourite storyteller comes a story that shows us the extraordinary power of true love and solves a decades-old mystery. Once upon a time, in a dark city far away, there lived a boy called Walter, who had nothing but his name to call his own ... The handwritten book, with its strangely vivid illustrations, has been hidden in the old house for a long, long time. Tonight, four kids and their teacher will find it. Tonight, at last, the haunting story of Walter and the mysterious, tragic girl called Sparrow will be read - right to the very end ... From one of Australia's most renowned children's authors comes an extraordinary story within a story - a mystery, a prophecy, a long-buried secret. And five people who will remember this night for the rest of their lives. PRAISE 'Another magnificent book from Emily Rodda' - Readings 'guaranteed to capture the imaginations of 8+ mystery lovers' - Better Reading AWARDS Winner - 2019 Prime Minister's Literary Awards (Children's Literature) Winner - 2019 Australian Book Design Awards (Children's Fiction Book) Winner - 2019 CBCA Book of the Year Awards (Younger Readers) Shortlisted - 2019 Davitt Awards (Children's) Shortlisted - 2019 QLD Literary Awards (Griffith University Children's Book Award) Shortlisted - 2018 Aurealis Awards (Best Young Adult Novel)

remarkably bright creatures analysis: The House That Wasn't There Elana K. Arnold, 2021-03-30 In this luminous story full of mystery and magic, Elana K. Arnold weaves a shimmering tapestry about the lovely and surprising ways we're connected to each other. Heart-healing, hopeful, and wonderfully inventive, this beautiful novel by a master storyteller is not to be missed.

—Katherine Applegate, Newbery Medal-winning author of *The One and Only Ivan* Alder has always lived in his cozy little house in Southern California. And for as long as he can remember, the old, reliable, comforting walnut tree has stood between his house and the one next door. That is, until a new family—with a particularly annoying girl his age—moves into the neighboring house and, without warning, cuts it down. Oak doesn't understand why her family had to move to Southern California. She has to attend a new school, find new friends, and live in a new house that isn't even ready—her mother had to cut down a tree on their property line in order to make room for a second floor. And now a strange boy next door won't stop staring at her, like she did something wrong moving here in the first place. As Oak and Alder start school together, they can't imagine ever becoming friends. But the two of them soon discover a series of connections between them—mysterious, possibly even magical puzzles they can't put together. At least not without each other's help. Award-winning author Elana K. Arnold returns with an unforgettable story of the strange, wondrous threads that run between all of us, whether we know they're there or not.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Some Mistakes Were Made Kristin Dwyer, 2022-05-10 Sarah Dessen meets Adam Silvera in the debut YA romance everyone is talking about! “A breathtaking tour de force of angst and longing. Heartbreaking, painfully romantic, and deeply human.” —STEPHANIE GARBNER, #1 bestselling author of *Caraval* “A novel you can make yourself at home in, with characters so real it feels like you've known them for ages.” —JENNA EVANS WELCH, bestselling author of *Love & Gelato* “This book comes with its own aching heartbeat. Be forewarned, it's stronger than it looks.” —STACEY LEE, award-winning author of *The Downstairs Girl* Ellis and Easton have been inseparable since childhood. But when a rash decision throws Ellis's life—and her relationship with Easton—into chaos, she's forced to move halfway across the country, far from everything she's ever known. Now Ellis hasn't spoken to Easton in a year, and maybe it's better that way; maybe eventually the Easton-shaped hole in her heart will heal. But when Easton's mom invites her home for a visit, Ellis finds herself tangled up in the web of heartache, betrayal, and anger she left behind . . . and with the boy she never stopped loving.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: We Were Wolves Jason Cockcroft, 2021-05-06 Longlisted for the Carnegie Medal Nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal Boy lives in a caravan on his own in the woods. His dad, John, is in prison and promises to get out soon. All the boy needs to do is survive alone for a little while longer. But dark forces are circling – like the dangerous man in the Range Rover, who is looking for his stolen money. And then there are the ancient forces that have lain asleep in the woods for an age...

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Radar Girls Sara Ackerman, 2021-07-27 A fresh, delightful romp of a novel.—Kate Quinn, New York Times bestselling author of *The Rose Code* * SheReads Most Anticipated Historical Fiction of Summer 2021 pick * Book Reporter Summer Reading pick * BiblioLifestyle Most Anticipated Summer 2021 Historical Fiction Books selection * Greatist Best Historical Fiction Books pick * An extraordinary story inspired by the real Women's Air Raid Defense, where an unlikely recruit and her sisters-in-arms forge their place in WWII history. Daisy Wilder prefers the company of horses to people, bare feet and salt water to high heels and society parties. Then, in the dizzying aftermath of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Daisy enlists in a top secret program, replacing male soldiers in a war zone for the first time. Under fear of imminent invasion, the WARs guide pilots into blacked-out airstrips and track unidentified planes across Pacific skies. But not everyone thinks the women are up to the job, and the new recruits must rise above their differences and work side by side despite the resistance and heartache they meet along the way. With America's future on the line, Daisy is determined to prove herself worthy. And with the man she's falling for out on the front lines, she cannot fail. From radar towers on remote mountaintops to flooded bomb shelters, she'll need her new team when the stakes are highest.

Because the most important battles are fought—and won—together. This inspiring and uplifting tale of pioneering, unsung heroines vividly transports the reader to wartime Hawaii, where one woman's call to duty leads her to find courage, strength and sisterhood. "A wow of a book...[that is] a captivating story of friendship, heartbreak and true love. Highly recommend!" —Karen Robards, New York Times bestselling author of *The Black Swan of Paris*

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *The Unforgettable Logan Foster* #1 Shawn Peters, 2022-01-18 Packed with superheroes, supervillains, and epic showdowns between good and evil, *The Unforgettable Logan Foster* from debut author Shawn Peters shows that sometimes being a hero is just about being yourself. Logan Foster has pretty much given up on the idea of ever being adopted. It could have something to do with his awkward manner, his photographic memory, or his affection for reciting curious facts, but whatever the cause, Logan and his "PP's" (prospective parents) have never clicked. Then everything changes when Gil and Margie arrive. Although they aren't exactly perfect themselves—Gil has the punniest sense of humor and Margie's cooking would have anyone running for the hills—they genuinely seem to care. But it doesn't take Logan long to notice some very odd things about them. They are out at all hours, they never seem to eat, and there's a part of the house that is protected by some pretty elaborate security. No matter what Logan could have imagined, nothing prepared him for the truth: His PP's are actually superheroes, and they're being hunted down by dastardly forces. Logan's found himself caught in the middle in a massive battle and the very fate of the world may hang in the balance. Will Logan be able to find a way to save the day and his new family? 2024 Illinois Bluestem Reader's Choice Award Nominee

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Summary of Someone Else's Shoes* by Jojo Moyes GP SUMMARY, 2023-04-25 DISCLAIMER This book does not in any capacity mean to replace the original book but to serve as a vast summary of the original book. Summary of *The Best Minds* by Jonathan Rosen: A Story of Friendship, Madness, and the Tragedy of Good IN THIS SUMMARIZED BOOK, YOU WILL GET: Chapter astute outline of the main contents. Fast & simple understanding of the content analysis. Exceptionally summarized content that you may skip in the original book Jojo Moyes' novel *Someone Else's Shoes* is a story of mix-ups, mess-ups and making the most of second chances. Nisha Cantor is forced to walk in someone else's shoes after her husband announces a divorce, and Sam Kemp accidentally takes her gym bag. When she tries on Nisha's six-inch high Christian Louboutin red crocodile shoes, she realizes something must change, and that is herself. The story is full of Jojo Moyes' humor, storytelling, and warmth.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Remarkable Creatures* Sean B. Carroll, 2014-10-16 National Book Award Finalist: A biologist's "thoroughly enjoyable" account of the expeditions that unearthed the history of life on our planet (Publishers Weekly). Not so long ago, most of our world was an unexplored wilderness. Our sense of its age was vague and vastly off the mark, and much of the knowledge of our own species' history was a set of fantastic myths and fairy tales. But scientists were about to embark on an amazing new era of understanding. From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Big Picture*, this book leads us on a rousing voyage that recounts the most important discoveries in two centuries of natural history: from Darwin's trip around the world to Charles Walcott's discovery of pre-Cambrian life in the Grand Canyon; from Louis and Mary Leakey's investigation of our deepest past in East Africa to the trailblazers in modern laboratories who have located a time clock in our DNA. Filled with the same sense of adventure that spurred on these extraordinary men and women, *Remarkable Creatures* is a "stirring introduction to the wonder of evolutionary biology" (Kirkus Reviews). "Charming and enlightening." —San Francisco Chronicle "As fast-paced as a detective story." —Nature

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *The Dearly Beloved* Cara Wall, 2019-08-13 "This gentle, gorgeously written book may be one of my favorites ever." —Jenna Bush Hager (A Today show "Read with Jenna" Book Club Selection!) This "moving portrait of love and friendship set against a backdrop of social change" (The New York Times Book Review, Editor's Choice) traces two married couples whose lives become entangled when the husbands become copastors at a famed New York city congregation in the 1960s. Charles and Lily, James and Nan. They meet in Greenwich

Village in 1963 when Charles and James are jointly hired to steward the historic Third Presbyterian Church through turbulent times. Their personal differences however, threaten to tear them apart. Charles is destined to succeed his father as an esteemed professor of history at Harvard, until an unorthodox lecture about faith leads him to ministry. How then, can he fall in love with Lily—fiercely intellectual, elegantly stern—after she tells him with certainty that she will never believe in God? And yet, how can he not? James, the youngest son in a hardscrabble Chicago family, spent much of his youth angry at his alcoholic father and avoiding his anxious mother. Nan grew up in Mississippi, the devout and beloved daughter of a minister and a debutante. James's escape from his desperate circumstances leads him to Nan and, despite his skepticism of hope in all its forms, her gentle, constant faith changes the course of his life. In *The Dearly Beloved*, Cara Wall reminds us of "the power of the novel in its simplest, richest form: bearing intimate witness to human beings grappling with their faith and falling in love," (Entertainment Weekly, A-) as we follow these two couples through decades of love and friendship, jealousy and understanding, forgiveness and commitment. Against the backdrop of turbulent changes facing the city and the church's congregation, Wall offers a poignant meditation on faith and reason, marriage and children, and the ways we find meaning in our lives. *The Dearly Beloved* is a gorgeous, wise, and provocative novel that is destined to become a classic.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *The Sense of an Ending* Julian Barnes, 2011-10-05
BOOKER PRIZE WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A novel that follows a middle-aged man as he contends with a past he never much thought about—until his closest childhood friends return with a vengeance: one of them from the grave, another maddeningly present. A novel so compelling that it begs to be read in a single setting, *The Sense of an Ending* has the psychological and emotional depth and sophistication of Henry James at his best, and is a stunning achievement in Julian Barnes's oeuvre. Tony Webster thought he left his past behind as he built a life for himself, and his career has provided him with a secure retirement and an amicable relationship with his ex-wife and daughter, who now has a family of her own. But when he is presented with a mysterious legacy, he is forced to revise his estimation of his own nature and place in the world.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Everybody's Fool* Richard Russo, 2016-05-03
NATIONAL BESTSELLER • The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Empire Falls* returns to North Bath, the Rust Belt town first brought to unforgettable life in *Nobody's Fool*. Now, ten years later, Doug Raymer has become the chief of police and is tormented by the improbable death of his wife—not to mention his suspicion that he was a failure of a husband. Meanwhile, the irrepressible Sully has come into a small fortune, but is suddenly faced with a VA cardiologist's estimate that he only has a year or two left to live. As Sully frantically works to keep the bad news from the important people in his life, we are reunited with his son and grandson . . . with Ruth, the married woman with whom he carried on for years . . . and with the hapless Rub Squeers, who worries that he and Sully aren't still best friends. Filled with humor, heart, and hard-luck characters you can't help but love, *Everybody's Fool* is a crowning achievement from one of the great storytellers of our time. Look for *Everybody's Fool*, available now, and *Somebody's Fool*, coming soon.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Bad Dad* David Walliams, 2019-03-19 Hailed as "the heir to Roald Dahl" by *The Spectator*, the UK's #1 bestselling children's author, David Walliams, will have fans of Jeff Kinney and Rachel Renee Russell in stitches! David Walliams burst on to the American scene with his New York Times bestseller *Demon Dentist*, and now he's bringing his signature humor to this raucous tale of prison breaks and heists gone wrong in *Bad Dad*. Frank's dad was a champion hot-rod racer, Gilbert the Great. But when a terrible accident sees him go from hero to zero, Frank and Gilbert are left with nothing—and in the grips of a wicked crime boss and his henchmen. After Gilbert is thrown in prison, only Frank can come to his rescue. . .

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *My Annihilation* Fuminori Nakamura, 2022-01-11
What transforms a person into a killer? Can it be something as small as a suggestion? Turn this page, and you may forfeit your entire life. With *My Annihilation*, Fuminori Nakamura, master of literary noir, has constructed a puzzle box of a narrative in the form of a confessional diary that

implicates its reader in a heinous crime. Delving relentlessly into the darkest corners of human consciousness, *My Annihilation* interrogates the unspeakable thoughts all humans share that can be monstrous when brought to life, revealing with disturbing honesty the psychological motives of a killer.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Handling the Undead* John Ajvide Lindqvist, 2010-09-28 In his new novel, John Ajvide Lindqvist does for zombies what his previous novel, *Let the Right One In*, did for vampires. Across Stockholm the power grid has gone crazy. In the morgue and in cemeteries, the recently deceased are waking up. One grandfather is alight with hope that his grandson will be returned, but one husband is aghast at what his adored wife has become. A horror novel that transcends its genre by showing what the return of the dead might really mean to those who loved them.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *The People We Keep* Allison Larkin, 2022-06-28 Little River, New York, 1994: April Sawicki is living in a run-down motorhome, flunking out of school, and picking up shifts at the local diner. But when April realizes she's finally had enough-enough of her selfish, absent father and barely surviving in an unfeeling town-she decides to make a break for it. Stealing a car and with only her music to keep her company, April hits the road, determined to live life on her own terms. She manages to scrape together a meaningful existence as she travels, encountering people and places she's never dreamed of, and could never imagine deserving. From lifelong friendships to tragic heartbreaks, April chronicles her journey in the beautiful music she creates as she discovers that home is with the people you choose to keep. Allison Larkin knows her characters so well, (Rainbow Rowell, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Eleanor Park*) and brings her tender, and real (Taylor Jenkins Reid, author of *Daisy Jones & The Six*) prose to this unflinching, lyrical tale that is perfect for anyone who has ever yearned for the fierce power of belonging or to understand the profound beauty of a family found along the way--

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *The Story of Arthur Truluv* Elizabeth Berg, 2017-11-21 "I dare you to read this novel and not fall in love with Arthur Truluv. His story will make you laugh and cry, and will show you a love that never ends, and what it means to be truly human."—Fannie Flagg An emotionally powerful novel about three people who each lose the one they love most, only to find second chances where they least expect them "Fans of Meg Wolitzer, Emma Straub, or [Elizabeth] Berg's previous novels will appreciate the richly complex characters and clear prose. Redemptive without being maudlin, this story of two misfits lucky to have found one another will tug at readers' heartstrings."—Booklist For the past six months, Arthur Moses's days have looked the same: He tends to his rose garden and to Gordon, his cat, then rides the bus to the cemetery to visit his beloved late wife for lunch. The last thing Arthur would imagine is for one unlikely encounter to utterly transform his life. Eighteen-year-old Maddy Harris is an introspective girl who visits the cemetery to escape the other kids at school. One afternoon she joins Arthur—a gesture that begins a surprising friendship between two lonely souls. Moved by Arthur's kindness and devotion, Maddy gives him the nickname "Truluv." As Arthur's neighbor Lucille moves into their orbit, the unlikely trio band together and, through heartache and hardships, help one another rediscover their own potential to start anew. Wonderfully written and full of profound observations about life, *The Story of Arthur Truluv* is a beautiful and moving novel of compassion in the face of loss, of the small acts that turn friends into family, and of the possibilities to achieve happiness at any age. Praise for *The Story of Arthur Truluv* "For several days after [finishing *The Story of Arthur Truluv*], I felt lifted by it, and I found myself telling friends, also feeling overwhelmed by 2017, about the book. Read this, I said, it will offer some balance to all that has happened, and it is a welcome reminder we're all neighbors here."—Chicago Tribune "Not since Paul Zindel's classic *The Pigman* have we seen such a unique bond between people who might not look twice at each other in real life. This small, mighty novel offers proof that they should."—People, Book of the Week

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Snow in August* Pete Hamill, 2009-10-31 Deeply affecting and wonderfully evocative of old New York, *Snow in August* is a brilliant fable for our time and all time -- and another triumph for Pete Hamill. Brooklyn, 1947. The war veterans have come

home. Jackie Robinson is about to become a Dodger. And in one close-knit working-class neighborhood, an eleven-year-old Irish Catholic boy named Michael Devlin has just made friends with a lonely rabbi from Prague. *Snow in August* is the story of that unlikely friendship -- and of how the neighborhood reacts to it. For Michael, the rabbi opens a window to ancient learning and lore that rival anything in Captain Marvel. For the rabbi, Michael illuminates the everyday mysteries of America, including the strange language of baseball. But like their hero Jackie Robinson, neither can entirely escape from the swirling prejudices of the time. Terrorized by a local gang of anti-Semitic Irish toughs, Michael and the rabbi are caught in an escalating spiral of hate for which there's only one way out -- a miracle....

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *The Perishing* Natasha Deón, 2022-11-01 A Black immortal in 1930's Los Angeles must recover the memory of her past in order to discover who she truly is in this extraordinarily affecting novel for readers of N. K. Jemisin and Octavia E. Butler. Lou, a young Black woman, wakes up in an alley in 1930s Los Angeles with no memory of how she got there or where she's from. Taken in by a caring foster family, Lou dedicates herself to her education while trying to put her mysterious origins behind her. She'll go on to become the first Black female journalist at the Los Angeles Times, but Lou's extraordinary life is about to take an even more remarkable turn. When she befriends a firefighter at a downtown boxing gym, Lou is shocked to realize that though she has no memory of meeting him, she's been drawing his face for years. Increasingly certain that their paths previously crossed—and beset by unexplainable flashes from different eras haunting her dreams—Lou begins to believe she may be an immortal sent here for a very important reason, one that only others like her can explain. Setting out to investigate the mystery of her existence, Lou must make sense of the jumble of lifetimes calling to her, just as new forces threaten the existence of those around her. Immersed in the rich historical tapestry of Los Angeles—Prohibition, the creation of Route 66, and the collapse of the St. Francis Dam—*The Perishing* is a stunning examination of love and justice through the eyes of one miraculous woman whose fate seems linked to the city she comes to call home.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Voices in the Evening* Natalia Ginzburg, 2021-05-04 From one of Italy's greatest writers, a stunning novel "filled with shimmering, risky, darting observation" (Colm Tóibín) After WWII, a small Italian town struggles to emerge from under the thumb of Fascism. With wit, tenderness, and irony, Elsa, the novel's narrator, weaves a rich tapestry of provincial Italian life: two generations of neighbors and relatives, their gossip and shattered dreams, their heartbreaks and struggles to find happiness. Elsa wants to imagine a future for herself, free from the expectations and burdens of her town's history, but the weight of the past will always prove unbearable, insistently posing the question: "Why has everything been ruined?"

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Thin Space* Jody Casella, 2013-09-10 There's a fine line between the living and the dead, and Marshall is determined to cross it in this gut-wrenching debut novel. Ever since the car accident that killed his identical twin brother, Marshall Windsor has been consumed with guilt and crippled by the secrets of that fateful night. He has only one chance to make amends and set things right. He must find a thin space—a mythical point where the barrier between this world and the next is thin enough for a person to step through to the other side. But when a new girl moves into the neighborhood, into the exact same house Marsh is sure holds a thin space, she may be the key—or the unraveling of all his secrets. As they get closer to finding a thin space—and closer to each other—March must decide once and for all how far he's willing to go to right the wrongs of the living...and the dead.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Lily and the Octopus* Steven Rowley, 2016-06-07 A national bestseller combining the emotional depth of *The Art of Racing in the Rain* with the magical spirit of *The Life of Pi*, "*Lily and the Octopus* is the dog book you must read this summer" (The Washington Post). Ted—a gay, single, struggling writer is stuck: unable to open himself up to intimacy except through the steadfast companionship of Lily, his elderly dachshund. When Lily's health is compromised, Ted vows to save her by any means necessary. By turns hilarious and poignant, an adventure with spins into magic realism and beautifully evoked truths of loss and

longing, Lily and the Octopus reminds us how it feels to love fiercely, how difficult it can be to let go, and how the fight for those we love is the greatest fight of all. Introducing a dazzling and completely original new voice in fiction and an unforgettable hound that will break your heart—and put it back together again. Remember the last book you told someone they had to read? Lily and the Octopus is the next one. “Startlingly imaginative...this love story is sure to assert its place in the canine lit pack...Be prepared for outright laughs and searing or silly moments of canine and human recognition. And grab a tissue: “THERE! WILL! BE! EYE! RAIN!” (New York Newsday).

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Peaces Helen Oyeyemi, 2021-04-06 “Enchanting . . . the most surprising, confounding, and oddly insightful couple’s trip in recent literary history.” —Entertainment Weekly The prize-winning, bestselling author of *Gingerbread; Boy, Snow, Bird*; and *What Is Not Yours Is Not Yours* returns with a vivid and inventive new novel about a couple forever changed by an unusual train voyage. When Otto and Xavier Shin declare their love, an aunt gifts them a trip on a sleeper train to mark their new commitment—and to get them out of her house. Setting off with their pet mongoose, Otto and Xavier arrive at their sleepy local train station, but quickly deduce that *The Lucky Day* is no ordinary locomotive. Their trip on this former tea-smuggling train has been curated beyond their wildest imaginations, complete with mysterious and welcoming touches, like ingredients for their favorite breakfast. They seem to be the only people on board, until Otto discovers a secretive woman who issues a surprising message. As further clues and questions pile up, and the trip upends everything they thought they knew, Otto and Xavier begin to see connections to their own pasts, connections that now bind them together. A spellbinding tale from a star author, *Peaces* is about what it means to be seen by another person—whether it’s your lover or a stranger on a train—and what happens when things you thought were firmly in the past turn out to be right beside you.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Stringers Chris Panatier, 2022-04-12 A genius is abducted by an alien bounty-hunter for the location of a powerful inter-dimensional object. Trouble is, he can’t remember a thing. Ben isn’t exactly a genius, but he has an immense breadth of knowledge. Whether it’s natural science (specifically the intricacies of bug sex), or vintage timepieces, he can spout facts and information with the best of experts. He just can’t explain why he knows any of it. Another thing he knows is the location of the Chime. What it is or why it’s important, he can’t say. But this knowledge is about to get him in a whole heap of trouble, as a trash-talking, flesh construct bounty hunter is on his tail and looking to sell him to the highest bidder. And being able to describe the mating habits of Brazilian bark lice won’t be enough to get him out of it. File Under: Science Fiction [Bloom of God | Patton you on the back | Eels Aplenty | Some Aliens Just Suck]

remarkably bright creatures analysis: The Polished Hoe Austin Clarke, 2003-09-03 Winner of the 2002 Scotiabank Giller Prize and of the 2003 Commonwealth Writers’ Prize: Best Book (Canada and the Caribbean) When an elderly Bimshire village woman calls the police to confess to a murder, the result is a shattering all-night vigil that brings together elements of the African diaspora in one epic sweep. Set on the post-colonial West Indian island of Bimshire in 1952, *The Polished Hoe* unravels over the course of 24 hours but spans the lifetime of one woman and the collective experience of a society informed by slavery. As the novel opens, Mary Mathilda is giving confession to Sargeant, a police officer she has known all her life. The man she claims to have murdered is Mr. Belfeels, the village plantation owner for whom she has worked for more than thirty years. Mary has also been Mr. Belfeels’ mistress for most of that time and is the mother of his only son, Wilberforce, a successful doctor. What transpires through Mary’s words and recollections is a deep meditation about the power of memory and the indomitable strength of the human spirit. Infused with Joycean overtones, this is a literary masterpiece that evokes the sensuality of the tropics and the tragic richness of Island culture.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Whale Joe Roman, 2006-05 As well as marine historians and anyone studying cultural history and the natural sciences. Book jacket.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Utopia Thomas More, 2019-04-08 *Utopia* is a work of

fiction and socio-political satire by Thomas More published in 1516 in Latin. The book is a frame narrative primarily depicting a fictional island society and its religious, social and political customs. Many aspects of More's description of Utopia are reminiscent of life in monasteries.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: A Boy and a Ball Phil Cummings, 2020-06 The cloudless sky suddenly roared like thunder. Shadows, swift and frightening, descended. The boys brother grabbed him by the arm. Run, quickly, But my ball. Leave it. From the Prime Ministers Literary Award-shortlisted creators of Feathers, comes this compassionate tale of a familys search for a safe place to call home.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Whereabouts Jhumpa Lahiri, 2021-04-27 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A marvelous new novel from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Lowland and Interpreter of Maladies about a woman questioning her place in the world, wavering between stasis and movement, between the need to belong and the refusal to form lasting ties. "Another masterstroke in a career already filled with them." —O, the Oprah Magazine Exuberance and dread, attachment and estrangement: in this novel, Jhumpa Lahiri stretches her themes to the limit. In the arc of one year, an unnamed narrator in an unnamed city, in the middle of her life's journey, realizes that she's lost her way. The city she calls home acts as a companion and interlocutor: traversing the streets around her house, and in parks, piazzas, museums, stores, and coffee bars, she feels less alone. We follow her to the pool she frequents, and to the train station that leads to her mother, who is mired in her own solitude after her husband's untimely death. Among those who appear on this woman's path are colleagues with whom she feels ill at ease, casual acquaintances, and "him," a shadow who both consoles and unsettles her. Until one day at the sea, both overwhelmed and replenished by the sun's vital heat, her perspective will abruptly change. This is the first novel Lahiri has written in Italian and translated into English. The reader will find the qualities that make Lahiri's work so beloved: deep intelligence and feeling, richly textured physical and emotional landscapes, and a poetics of dislocation. But Whereabouts, brimming with the impulse to cross barriers, also signals a bold shift of style and sensibility. By grafting herself onto a new literary language, Lahiri has pushed herself to a new level of artistic achievement.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: The First Woman Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi, 2020-08-13 'Jennifer Makumbi is a genius storyteller.' Reni Eddo-Lodge An intoxicating mix of Ugandan folklore and modern feminism, from a multi-award-winning author As Kirabo enters her teens, questions begin to gnaw at her – questions which the adults in her life will do anything to ignore. Where is the mother she has never known? And why would she choose to leave her daughter behind? Inquisitive, headstrong, and unwilling to take no for an answer, Kirabo sets out to find the truth for herself. Her search will take her away from the safety of her prosperous Ugandan family, plunging her into a very different world of magic, tradition, and the haunting legend of 'The First Woman'. 'In Jennifer Makumbi, we have a giant of literature living among us.' Peter Kalu, Jhalak Prize Judge A SUNDAY TIMES, OBSERVER, DAILY MAIL, BBC CULTURE & IRISH INDEPENDENT BOOK OF THE YEAR

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale Lynda Rutledge, 2012-04-26 SOON TO BE CLAIRE DARLING—A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE STARRING CATHERINE DENEUVE! When a wealthy woman decides to sell all of her worldly possessions, she unearths the secrets of her family's past in this charming debut. On the last day of the millennium, sassy Faith Bass Darling, the richest old lady in Bass, Texas, decides to have a garage sale. With help from a couple of neighborhood boys, Faith lugs her priceless Louis XV elephant clock, countless Tiffany lamps, and everything else in her nineteenth-century mansion out onto her long, sloping lawn. Why is a recluse of twenty years suddenly selling off her dearest possessions? Because God told her to. As the townspeople grab up five generations of heirlooms, everyone drawn to the sale—including Faith's long-lost daughter—finds that the antiques not only hold family secrets but also inspire some of life's most important questions: Do our possessions possess us? What are we without our memories? Is there life after death or second chances here on earth? And is Faith really selling that Tiffany lamp for \$1? READERS GUIDE INCLUDED

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Give My Love to the Savages* Chris Stuck, 2021-07-06
“A harrowing portrait of race relations in America, as beautiful as it is urgent.”—Entertainment Weekly “Black satire with bite, like Zora Neale Hurston used to do, with a smile and a sharp elbow. A touch of Paul Beatty, a dose of Dolemite, and a serving of Dorothy Parker, too. *Give My Love to the Savages* announces Chris Stuck as a fearless talent, a debut that'll make your sides and your heart hurt.”—Victor LaValle, author of *The Changeling* “*Give My Love To The Savages* is a wildly inventive collection of provocative stories about navigating the minefield of black masculinity in America. Stuck's fresh and fearless perspective overturns assumptions about race and identity to reveal complex layers of absurdity. At times merciless, always darkly funny, these are stories of unexpected communion, connection, and compassion.”—Chanelle Benz, author of *The Gone Dead* A provocative and raw debut collection of short fiction reminiscent of Junot Diaz's *Drown*. A Black man's life, told in scenes—through every time he's been called nigger. A Black son who visits his estranged white father in Los Angeles just as the '92 riots begin. A Black Republican, coping with a skin disease that has turned him white, is forced to reconsider his life. A young Black man, fetishized by an older white woman he's just met, is offered a strange and tempting proposal. The nine tales in *Give My Love to the Savages* illuminate the multifaceted Black experience, exploring the thorny intersections of race, identity, and Black life through an extraordinary cast of characters. From the absurd to the starkly realistic, these stories take aim at the ironies and contradictions of the American racial experience. Chris Stuck traverses the dividing lines, and attempts to create meaning from them in unique and unusual ways. Each story considers a marker of our current culture, from uprisings and sly and not-so-sly racism, to Black fetishization and conservatism, to the obstacles placed in front of Black masculinity and Black and interracial relationships by society and circumstance. Setting these stories across America, from Los Angeles, Phoenix and the Pacific Northwest, to New York and Washington, DC, to the suburbs and small Midwestern towns, Stuck uses place to expose the absurdity of race and the odd ways that Black people and white people converge and retreat, rub against and bump into one another. Ultimately, *Give My Love to the Savages* is the story of America. With biting humor and careful honesty, Stuck riffs on the dichotomy of love and barbarity—the yin and yang of racial experience—and the difficult and uncertain terrain Black Americans must navigate in pursuit of their desires.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: *Anybody Here Seen Frenchie?* Leslie Connor, 2022-02-15 A big-hearted, beautiful, and funny novel told from multiple viewpoints about neurodiversity, friendship, and community from the award-winning author of *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*, Leslie Connor. Eleven-year-old Aurora Petrequin's best friend has never spoken a word to her. In fact, Frenchie Livernois doesn't talk. Aurora is bouncy, loud and impulsive—“a big old blurter.” Making friends has never come easily. When Frenchie, who is autistic, silently chose Aurora as his person back in third grade, she chose him back. They make a good team, sharing their love of the natural world in coastal Maine. In the woods, Aurora and Frenchie encounter a piebald deer, a rare creature with a coat like a patchwork quilt. Whenever it appears, Aurora feels compelled to follow. At school, Aurora looks out for Frenchie, who has been her classmate until this year. One morning, Frenchie doesn't make it to his classroom. Aurora feels she's to blame. The entire town begins to search, and everyone wonders: how is it possible that nobody has seen Frenchie? At the heart of this story is the friendship between hyper-talkative Aurora and nonvocal Frenchie. Conflict arises when Aurora is better able to expand her social abilities and finds new friends. When Frenchie goes missing, Aurora must figure out how to use her voice to help find him, and lift him up when he is found. Featuring a compelling mystery and a memorable voice, this is a natural next-read after Leslie Connor's *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle*. * Kids' Indie Next Pick * New England Book Award Finalists 2022 * “Leslie Connor brilliantly depicts a genuine and meaningful friendship between a dynamic girl and her nonvocal friend. By showing the ways Aurora and Frenchie communicate, Connor gives us a blueprint for seeing autistic children in a new light. I loved, loved, loved this book!” —Cammie McGovern, author of *Frankie and Amelia* and *Chester and Gus*

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Chosen Kiersten White, 2020-01-07 A Seventeen Best YA Book of 2020 So Far A Hypable Most Anticipated YA Fantasy Sequel of 2020 “Will get Buffy fans up in their feels.” —Entertainment Weekly on Slayer Nina continues to learn how to use her slayer powers against enemies old and new in this second novel in the New York Times bestselling series from Kiersten White, set in the world of Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Now that Nina has turned the Watcher’s Castle into a utopia for hurt and lonely demons, she’s still waiting for the utopia part to kick in. With her sister Artemis gone and only a few people remaining at the castle—including her still-distant mother—Nina has her hands full. Plus, though she gained back her Slayer powers from Leo, they’re not feeling quite right after being held by the seriously evil succubus Eve, a.k.a. fake Watcher’s Council member and Leo’s mom. And while Nina is dealing with the darkness inside, there’s also a new threat on the outside, portended by an odd triangle symbol that seems to be popping up everywhere, in connection with Sean’s demon drug ring as well as someone a bit closer to home. Because one near-apocalypse just isn’t enough, right? The darkness always finds you. And once again, it’s coming for the Slayer.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper Phaedra Patrick, 2016 Phaedra Patrick understands the soul. Eccentric, charming, and wise...The Curious Charms is not just for those who are mourning over love or the past. This book will illuminate your heart. -- Nina George, New York Times bestselling author of The Little Paris Bookshop Don't miss this curiously charming debut In this hauntingly beautiful story of love, loneliness and self-discovery, an endearing widower embarks on a life-changing adventure. Sixty-nine-year-old Arthur Pepper lives a simple life. He gets out of bed at precisely 7:30 a.m., just as he did when his wife, Miriam, was alive. He dresses in the same gray slacks and mustard sweater vest, waters his fern, Frederica, and heads out to his garden. But on the one-year anniversary of Miriam's death, something changes. Sorting through Miriam's possessions, Arthur finds an exquisite gold charm bracelet he's never seen before. What follows is a surprising and unforgettable odyssey that takes Arthur from London to Paris and as far as India in an epic quest to find out the truth about his wife's secret life before they met--a journey that leads him to find hope, healing and self-discovery in the most unexpected places. Featuring an unforgettable cast of characters with big hearts and irresistible flaws, The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper is a joyous celebration of life's infinite possibilities. More Praise: Tender, insightful, and surprising... Arthur Pepper] will instantly capture the hearts of readers who loved Rachel Joyce's The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, Nina George's The Little Paris Bookshop, and Antoine Laurain's The Red Notebook. -- Library Journal, starred review

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Hallucinations Oliver Sacks, 2012-11-06 Hallucinations, for most people, imply madness. But there are many different types of non-psychotic hallucination caused by various illnesses or injuries, by intoxication--even, for many people, by falling sleep. From the elementary geometrical shapes that we see when we rub our eyes to the complex swirls and blind spots and zigzags of a visual migraine, hallucination takes many forms. At a higher level, hallucinations associated with the altered states of consciousness that may come with sensory deprivation or certain brain disorders can lead to religious epiphanies or conversions. Drawing on a wealth of clinical examples from his own patients as well as historical and literary descriptions, Oliver Sacks investigates the fundamental differences and similarities of these many sorts of hallucinations, what they say about the organization and structure of our brains, how they have influenced every culture's folklore and art, and why the potential for hallucination is present in us all.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: Baxter's Explore the Book J. Sidlow Baxter, 2010-09-21 Explore the Book is not a commentary with verse-by-verse annotations. Neither is it just a series of analyses and outlines. Rather, it is a complete Bible survey course. No one can finish this series of studies and remain unchanged. The reader will receive lifelong benefit and be enriched by these practical and understandable studies. Exposition, commentary, and practical application of the meaning and message of the Bible will be found throughout this giant volume. Bible students without any background in Bible study will find this book of immense help as will those who have

spent much time studying the Scriptures, including pastors and teachers. Explore the Book is the result and culmination of a lifetime of dedicated Bible study and exposition on the part of Dr. Baxter. It shows throughout a deep awareness and appreciation of the grand themes of the gospel, as found from the opening book of the Bible through Revelation.

remarkably bright creatures analysis: The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind Julian Jaynes, 2000-08-15 National Book Award Finalist: "This man's ideas may be the most influential, not to say controversial, of the second half of the twentieth century."—Columbus Dispatch At the heart of this classic, seminal book is Julian Jaynes's still-controversial thesis that human consciousness did not begin far back in animal evolution but instead is a learned process that came about only three thousand years ago and is still developing. The implications of this revolutionary scientific paradigm extend into virtually every aspect of our psychology, our history and culture, our religion—and indeed our future. "Don't be put off by the academic title of Julian Jaynes's The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind. Its prose is always lucid and often lyrical...he unfolds his case with the utmost intellectual rigor."—The New York Times "When Julian Jaynes . . . speculates that until late in the twentieth millennium BC men had no consciousness but were automatically obeying the voices of the gods, we are astounded but compelled to follow this remarkable thesis."—John Updike, The New Yorker "He is as startling as Freud was in The Interpretation of Dreams, and Jaynes is equally as adept at forcing a new view of known human behavior."—American Journal of Psychiatry

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