The Free Press Short Story

THE TREASURED GIFT

BY MARIANNE GAVISS

Haliburton, Ruth Haliburton, looking "Do go on!" murmured Ruth. "How girl, with red nose, light hair, and here? You see, the Endowment Fund were calloused from handling the ax artists among our graduates, but we're and plow like a man, and at the same always terribly afraid the true geniuses time flabby from washing suds.

"I say," whispered the tall young man with Miss Haliburton, "Ruth, what's I really-want to study is in Parus, this your mother has here, a new maid. or a dust storm from out in the dry

a giggle. "Both your guesses are wrong, Sir: it looks to me like a cow.

free tuition from the Endowment again.

her!" cried the young man.

The small, brown-eyed girl, called ,n this tountry." Irene, now spoke for the first time: "I person, something in her tone made the fell. - . boy wince as if he had received a rebuke.

Maggy Jell did not know that she red-haired girl, Alice. was discussed; she was thinking of the blip of paper enclosed by the dean when waved her pretty hand. "It's just that her envelop of specimen work was re- the dean says nice things about me, and turned to her. The paper crackled under everybody praises me when I don't deher walst, now, and she knew every word serve it. Now, I'll tell you what you ered. on it by heart. "We are proud to have should do to raise money, Miss Jeli: you at Western Arts," the dean had exhibit in the salon, in Paris. What? you're not to be greatly discouraged varieties from which seed is required two greased 10-inch or three 9-inch fy my feeling that in accepting you; them to hang your picture there, and as an endowment student. You've never isolated part of the garden. The plants F.) thirty minutes. Spread with divinity greased paper, press cover tightly down the most economical drink next to plain the school may share in the education whatever you do, don't let them sky had the rudiments of drawing, and I are grown in the usual way and the frosting.

of him writin' that to me!" She had connoisseurs come to the salon, to buy, principles." not been sure the pictures sent in with you know, and quite often one little "I never got to go to high school, and and stored until spring. Glass scalers made her ache.

the little red-haired girl hurrled in bing. She heard the others go away; As Maggy stood silent, it seemed the These will begin to come up in about across the wet floor and sat down just then caught the sound of their voices foundations were going from under her one week and may continue to germinoutside the flow of suds. "We're ter- in the next room. The brown-eyed feet. When at last she came to herself, ate for a month or longer. When about ribly interested in what we hear about senior called Irene, must have found the dean was talking, "It's better to see three inches high transplant to other honor to get the first thing."

but they claim a person don't have to possible that a follower of Jesus would bows. have their high school diploma by the try to keep another person down? terms of the Endowment Fund if only they got talent. I sure have talent."

this out?" murmured Ruth. Irene looked at her entreatingly.

the brown eyes seemed to beg. Ruth had said repeatedly that while ! she was always kind to people who erackling paper under her shirtwaist! the more sophisticated students. Irene will lose interest in you. Every employshowed a decent humility, she could not No, this could not be; the dean said she married a young professor and was er knows how easy it is to secure a

Maggy Jell had a large faith in the were a beautiful gray, with fire in them | Building to-night." like a sunrise through fog. "I've got no to school, though they was sure good saying: "Well, I guess I could come." to me. All my life I drored and painted; It allus seemed to me if I could paint a when Maggy assented to this, she cried couldn't realize that there was anything real, framed pitcher just once, that's be out gleefully, "Oh, thank you." enough for me, I'd be willin' to de. Still I didn't know I had talent until forward with pleasure to the party. She Arts, she had so much conceit it's rea lady paintin' teacher come and stop- put on an evening dress she had made ped out our way and she asked the for herself, a pink satinet, which her folks where I stayed if I could take friends at home had said looked almost lessons. Well, I had done washings like expensive satin. While she had round there and I had eight dollars, only her thick high books, there was and took lessons of her and she said plenty of shoe polish in her bottle, and eager.' right off there was no doubt I had she blackened them well, in her rented talent. The very second lesson I 'ook, room at Mrs. Flanigan's. Her skirt just she give me a card to dror from that touched her shoe tops, and the other her a Christmas present." she didn't hardly ever give out till the girls, she had noticed, wore longer fifth. It was of a stag-at-eve. Then dresses; still she felt that she must look I painted a pitcher off of another cord.' rather nice in her new clothes. Miss Jell looked about the room, hop- Seven o'clock, she guessed, would be happened at Western Arts; she had the

Maggy Jell at Western Arcs "Pharach's Horses." "You ain't got one Annex where she had begun here, but it's called 'Fairles' Horses. to earn rent money for the second It's a lovely thing the way I done it." semester, by scrubbing some old paint | She had now wrung the rag, applied from a floor in the house of Professor brown soap, and resumed her scrubbing.

Her hands gives us a chance to count really great will decide on some other school."

"Of course," replied Maggy Jell, "where ain't so much for what I would learn there as because if you have went to eyes of the dryland girl. Paius, people think you amount to more. A small, red-haired girl broke in with I ain't got the money, so I says to the folks, I would try at Western Arts."

"Now wasnt that lucky for the school?" surprised you know so little of natural asked the red-haired girl. She had not the pleasant ways of Ruth, and for the "That's a new first time suspicion stirred in Maggy's student from Nodaway County; she heart. The girl plunged with both hands wants to work for her board and get into her suds pail and did not look up

"What? The committee won't take continued Ruth, "because you must have important." gone nearly as far, now, as you can go

Maggy had loved Ruth for her beauty should hope they will if she shows and dainty ways; she sent a wistful ability." Though she seemed a shy glance toward her, then her gray eyes

"Ruth's an artist," explained the shrill,

"Oh, but I'm not talented." Ruth

She paused, wringing the scrub rag, red color began to climb over Maggy's sample work!" and her eyes strayed to a window beyond cheek-bones; then suddenly, a flame of The dean took the slip in his fingers. fore sowing the seed. After sowing which she could see the university fury leaped into the gray eyes. "Dear me, dear me, I must be growing cover the seed with about one-quarter campus, white and dark green, shot Ruth gasped and involuntarily drew absent-minded," he remarked, as if such inch of sifted soil, press lightly and through with gold sunshine. The beauty back, as if in fear of a blow. Maggy a thing had never been suggested before. water thoroughly using a fine sprinkler. Suddenly, the other students entered; gaze and once more bent over her scrub- Miss Ruth Haliburton." you. Are you really going to be an en- fault, for Ruth's sweet tones replied, beauty than to paint it; better still to boxes. dowment student? That's a frightful "It's good for people to learn humility. put beauty into life." Now, how could Maggy know that the wrecked lots of lives. It makes a person pushing at her aching eyelids. When lottetown Experimental Station this is dean was an absent-minded person who who could be a good washerwoman try the kind man had gone, she ran, stum- considered to be about the tenth of June. frequently put into a student's envelope to make an artist or a musician of herself bling up Mrs. Flanigan's stairs to that The seedlings after being set out are the slip intended for some one else? and end in the poorhouse. I don't care." poor room she had rented so joyously given the same treatment as plants Her voice throbbed ecstatically as she Interrupting Ruth, Maggy heard a dis- one week before. She flung her pos- grown from tubers. The crowns should replied: "Yes, I guess I like the school tinct: "Sh!" Then silence fell. At first sessions back into her trunk, packing not be pinched out. well enough to stay. It may surprise Maggy's eyes were hot and dry; but in furious haste. you, but I never went to high school." presently a few tears splashed into her At midnight, she chanced to spy, lying clumps of roots the first year but will "Indeed we are surprised. We thought scrub bucket. Out there on the dry- on a chair, where she had flung it in require to be grown for at least two ere a college girl, come back to lands, toiling in heat and cold for money her misery, a flat package. Now, at years to establish the variety. take art." Ruth, who made this re- enough to pay her car care to the West- last, she drew out her Christmas gift:

mark, was a beautiful and gifted girl, ern Arts, she had prayed all day long the reprint of a portrait by some great said to be the most popular at the for help. When she became sure she modern artist, and below the picture in University majoring in art. She plan- had ten talents, she had asked a chance dainty lettering done by Irene, the ned to study portrait-painting in the to make them grow, and God had given lines: "If you have a dream of beauty it to her. This girl. Ruth. was said to God will let you tell it. Trust Him!" Maggy Jell continued, "At first I felt be a Christian, and Maggy had not A smile shot across her face, and the kind of bad, not havin' any schooling'; thought of distrusting her. Was it drops on her eyelashes shone like rain- that should be the ambition of you young

Suddenly a fear gripped Maggy Jell. Christmas day without a word to any-What if she had made a mistake and "My goodness, when did you first find misunderstood God? Suppose Ruth was right, and what she needed was humil- obliterated the memory of the disapity! What if she really ought to go pointed girl. Ruth graduated and went able circumstances. The same would be "Don't draw the girl out any further!" back to the drylands and wash and East to study; but she did not become a true of hundreds. If you are ill, howscrub for the rest of her life?

loving-kindness of the world; besides, Maggy lifted her head to look into a a very famous artist who had been on a and trustworthy, however, is not so easy she had been so exalted by that note pair of warm brown eyes as Irene paus- visit to the drylands, painting portraits. to find. from the dean, that she did not suppose ed beside the girl. "Miss Jell?" She This woman, Miss Munchacksky, was The friend, who stands by you regardany one could fail to recognize her had a shy, little smile, that of a very tall, but not beautiful; still she was fas- less of your changing circumstances, greatness. Sitting back on her feels humble person, who felt a little back- cinating on account of the light in her who is as loyal through poverty and illbeside the suds pail, she used one large ward in 'addressing others. "I just eyes. wet arm to brush the hair from her wanted to ask you to our Christmas forehead. It now appeared that her eyes party in the basement of the Fine Arts great painter a cup of tea. Miss Mun- with those of the firm, is so rare and

folks of my own. The people that took gifted like Ruth, there was something me out of an orphan's home lived out about her which seemed to hypnotize you paint her portrait up in the dryon the drylands so they couldn't send me one; and before Maggy realized, she was lands?" "Make it a promise," urged Irene; and a girl," replied Miss Munchacksky. "She

the proper hour for beginning; so, when she had cooked and eaten her supper and you." ". washed the dishes, she hurried to the The warm brown eyes had become basement of the Fine Arts Building, riveted on the stranger's face. (Why There, she walked about, looking at the you-you look like Maggy Jell." exhibits of students' work. In spite

At eight-thirty, the other students lands." began to arrive, and everywhere she Irene was shy as ever; she seemed chocolate tree grew. in from the library, saw Maggy as a large did you happen to think of comer heard them talking about Ruth Halibur- bewildered by the beauty of the gift, prized as a drink by the ancient Aztecs. humble!" cried one. "She always feels poor p:ofessor's wife, the possessor of a beans, beating the fluid into a thick as if the prizes she gets ought to have Munchacksky. gone somewhere else."

"I don't know whether she's numble or not." The remark came from a thoughtful girl Maggy had never seen before and it caused fire to flash in the

Maggy prayed under her breath: "Keep me from hating Ruth."

Soon the happy students were having the Christmas tree and some one put into her hand a flat package which card reading: "From Irene Hunt."

As Maggy was about to untie the ribbons, Mrs. Flanigan's little girl sought her out. "Ma says to tell you the dean "You'll have to be saving your money," is at our house waiting to see you. It's

When she reached home, the old dean rose from beside Mrs. Flanigan's baseburner and came to meet her. He was shivering; still, because he had had a cold walk, due to the fact that on leaving home he had absently picked up his wife's lace smock instead of his own overcoat. His face was shining with kindly feeling. "I felt I must see you before you left."

"Before I left?" cried Maggy, bewild-

written, "These samples of work justi- Did you never hear of the salon? Get because we felt we couldn't admit you should be grown by themselves in an layer pans in moderate oven (325 degrees it. Tell them you'll take it back if it would suggest that you return to your blooms left to form seed. The seed pods Maggy murmured to herself, "Think doesn't get a good place. All the wealthy high school to take a course in first should be cut when ripe and thoroughly

her request for membership at Western picture will bring ten thousand dollars." I never will." Maggy answered dully, make excellent storage containers. Arts were good enough; she had even Maggy looked at the other girl in but presently she flared out; "I think Early April is sufficiently early to start feared she would not be admitted, but doubt, until a shrill giggle broke from it's a funny thing you say you won't plants. Sow the seed in pots or shallow now she saw she had been too humble. Ruth's red-haired chum, Alice. A brick- admit me after enclosing this with my boxes which have been filled with good,

Maggy Jell left the university town on one. Later, a shy letter from Irene remained unanswered; and then the years portrait painter because her feelings

chacksky suddenly asked, "I wonder if so valuable that it is no exaggeration to Though Irene was not beautiful nor you remember a girl called Maggy Jell?" call him indispensable. That is what Irene started, then smiled. "Why, did all you young people should aim to be.

"I was thinking of her when she was in life but painting pictures; she was After all. Maggy found herself looking art mad. When she applied at Western

> "I don't know about that," objected Irene. "I always thought she must have getfulness. Nothing is forgiven unless talent, or she wouldn't have been so it is forgotten.

down into Irene's face. "You once gave begin all over again.

"What? She told you about that?"

"Naturally; for I'm Maggy herself. You proclaimed and it does not take a great

something like scales had begun to fall had been a Russian painter. He died they were right. from her eyes. Her work seemed to her defeated in Chicago years ago. As I The male of the species has many inferior to that of these trained students; grew up, though the Jells had been so favorite dishes. Cook them well and there crept over her, dumbly, a doubt kind to me, I felt I wanted his name, he will smile to your entire satisfaction, amount of syrup forms a soft ball in that she could draw. Again and again, After I left here, I was ready to give Among his favorites we must certainly cold water, or spins a long thread when found whereby the beneficial properties as she recalled it, the remark of Ruth everything up; but your Christmas gift list chocolate cake. In fact, he seems dropped from tip of spoon (240 degrees of cod liver oil can be taken in a pleacut like a whip: "It's good for a person" gave me heart to write to some people to have a leaning toward chocolate in F.). Pour syrup in fine stream over santly patable form. By the new process to be humble!" Perhaps she had made who had known my father, and they any form-chocolate cake, chocolate ice egg whites, beating constantly. herself ridiculous by applying to the let me work my way through school. cream chocolate pudding or even choco-Endowment Fund! What if she should Well, I guess you know the story now." late fudge. This fondness for chocolate go to the office this very evening and suddenly she who had been Maggy Jell is not newly acquired. Long before say she had made a mistake? Then put upon Lene's lap a small picture Columbus discovered America cocoa 10-inch layers or three 9-inch layers. she could go back to the drylands and "I want you to have this little thing beans were being used as food by the wash and scrub for the rest of her life. of mine. I did it for you, in the dry- natives of Mexico, South America and

"She's not merely gifted, she's and perhaps, too, by finding herself, a They made it by crushing the cocda

wonder if you thought, because I said zuma, their great emperor, was very nothing about it long ago that I wasn't fend of this curious drink. grateful for that Christmas gift. Thank | After the conquests of these daring you, thank you, thank you. And now, explorers, chocolate was introduced into

GROWING DAHLIAS FROM SEED

tion of seedling plants. Cheap seed, or seed from poor varieties, rarely if ever produces anything but inferior blooms. It should be remembered also that seedling plants are seldom alike, and while they may resemble the parent plants in some particular, the resemblance is

- Home grown seed may be obtained in

two ways: (1) by hybridization or hand pollination. This is a relatively difficult methow and should only be attempted by those with a knowledge of flower structure and breeding technique. From plants which have been allowed to cross naturally. This method is easier one to follow and many of the best varieties in existence to-day we:e dried in a light, airy room, then cleaned

fibrous loam. Press the soil firmly be-Jell had by this time withdrawn her "I'm sure I intended this slip to go to Keep the boxes moist and in a warm, sunny place until the seeds germinate.

I don't care if she is angry. Self conceit Maggy could not listen, with the tears danger of frost is past. At the Char-

INDISPENSABLE

We are likely to laugh at young people who think of themselves as indispensable. To the observer this seems like an indication of colossial conceit; yet people, to be indispensable to your friends, to your employer,

To fill the places of some people who call themselves your friends is easy enough. All they mean by that is that they enjoy your company under favor-With one hand she grasped the were deeply hurt by the superior air of their entertainment or pleasure, they stand concert. She laughed back at had talent and would make a great deeply loved by all homesick students. stenographer or a clerk. An advertise-One day shortly before the Christmas ment in the paper will bring applicants There was a footfall on the floor; holidays, there came to Western Arts in flocks. A worker who is intelligent

When the professor's wife gave the worker who identifies his own interests.

FORGIVENESS

Forgiveness is the measure of the heart: it is its highest expression. The man who is able to forgive most

To forgive is to forget they are like markable she didn't burst like a bal- twin words, children of their common substance Love. Forgiveness has but one form: for-

To forgive is to mean that wrong has "Umph." The great artist laughed changed nothing; the path is/ free to

All men have inherited the quality forgiveness from the Creator. The only 'She's never parted with it. You see," thing they have to do is to use it, to continued the artist, "two big things distribute it at home and in the world THE WAY TO A MAN'S HEART By Betty Barclay

of her cherished faith, she feared that see, the Jells raised me, but my father deal of studying on our part to decide,

froth, and flavoring it with vanilla and The artist seized both her hands. "L'chili peppers. It is said that Monte-

perhaps you wouldn't mind if I kissed Europe where it soon became the fashionable drink.

To-day, chocolate and cocoa are used in many dishes other than beverages Here are three particularly attractive Only seed from the best varieties of recipes. If you wish to make the males in your own home happy, place one or

> FAVORITE DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE 2 cups sifted cake flour

1 teaspoon soda 14 cup butter or other shortening 14 cups brown sugar, firmly packed 2 eggs. unbeaten

6 squares unsweetened chocolate, melt-14 cups sweet milk

sift together three times. Cream butter thoroughly, add sugar gradually, and cream together until light and fluffy. alternately with milk, a small amount

DIVINITY FROSTING 3 cups sugar 1 teaspoon light-corn syrup 11/3 cups boiling water 4 egg whites, stiffly beaten 1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine sugar, corn syrup and water Place over low flame and stir constantly

PUDDING 14 squares unsweetened chocolate, cut

CREAMY CHOCOLATE RICE

4 tablespoons rice

14 teaspoon salt. 3 cups cold milk ---

214 teaspoons gelatin 14 cup sugar

1/3 cup nut meats, broken 14 teaspoon vanilla

16 cup cream, whipped Add chocolate rice, and salt to 2%

cups milk, and cook in double boiler minutes, stirring occasionally. Cover and cook 114 hours longer. Combine gelatin with remaining 14 cup milk and let stand 5 minutes; add sugar. Add gelagelatin is completely dissolved. When slightly thickened, add nuts and until mixture thickens again. Serve in sherbet glasses, with or without addltional whipped cream. Serves 6.

PARFATT MAZARIN 1 cup sugar

1 cup water 3 egg whites, stiffly beaten 2 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted

2 cups cream, whipped tablespoon vanilla

amount of syrup forms a soft ball in cold the Add eggs, one at a time, and beat well. water, or spins a long thread when drop-Add chocolate and beat well. Add flour, ped from tip of spoon (238 degrees F.). Who, to save their industry, have reobtained in this way. To ensure cross at a time. Beat after each addition whites, beating constantly. Continue to advance. Tea packers, particularly "Yes, Miss Jell, I wanted to say that pollination between desirable plants, the until smooth. Add vanilla. Bake in beating until mixture is cool. Fold in those supplying very fine quality teas, over paper, and pack in equal parts of water.

ice and salt. Let stand 3 to 4 hours. Or place in freezing trays of automatic refrigerator and let stand 3 to 4 hours. Serve in parfait glasses and top with whipped cream. Makes 14 quarts par-

CHEMISTS' NEW DISCOVERY

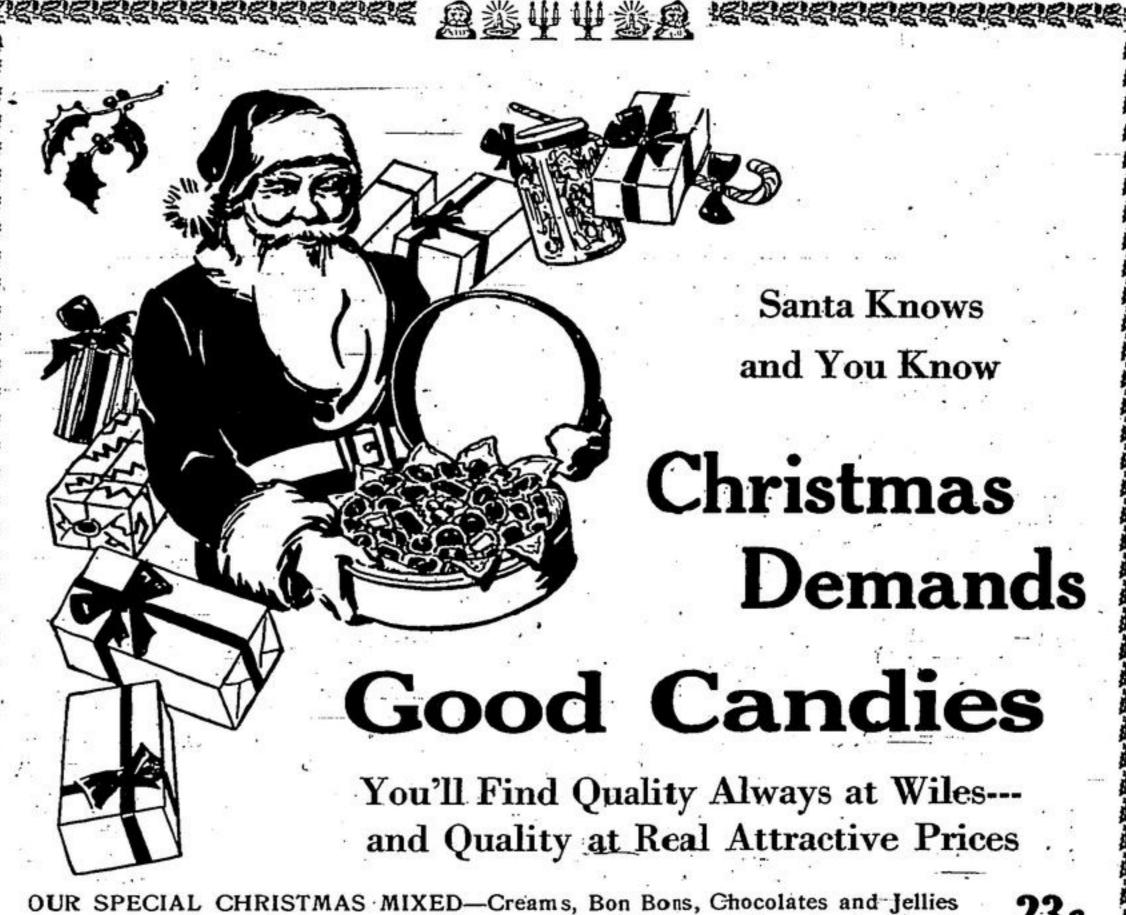
Add the fresh cod livers can be mixed with promoting properties of the livers are etained without any oiliness or objectionable taste or odor remaining, and the mixture can be successfully used in the manufacture of a chocolate-coated

Manufacture of the candy has already been undertaken and although a small bar contains the equivalent of a tablespoonful of cod liver oil; persons who have eaten it declare that it is impossible to notice any taste of the oil. The liver-cocoa mixture has also been used in making ice cream, and milk and egg shakes. On the other hand, while the mixture carries no taste or smell of oil t is produced by a "cold process" and it is stated that there is no impairment of the livers by chemical or physical changes and they therefore retain, unchanged in quality, their natural maxitin mixture to hot rice and stir until | mum quantity of Vitamin A, the growth vatimin, and Vitamin D. the anti-rickets preventive, as well as substances for vanilla; fold in whipped cream. Chill goitre therapy and the correction of pernicious anaemia.

Among the fish caught in the sea fisheries of Canada cod is one of the most valuable. The annual catch is about 15,000,000 pounds, practically all of which is caught in the Atlantic.

DESPITE PRICE RISE TEA STILL MOST ECONOMICAL DRINK

For the past two years people is Cook sugar and water until a small Canada have been enjoying the lowest prices for tea in a decade, but this has meant tremendous losses to growers. Pour syrup in fine stream over cgg stricted tea exports, and caused prices chocolate cream and vanilla. Pour into have reluctantly been forced to increase mold. filling it to overflowing, cover with prices. Notwithstanding this, tea is still



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Our Annual Christmas Guessing Contest this year is on the Huge Candy Sucker displayed in our window. The nearest guess to the weight takes this Big Candy. Register your guess any time before Saturday Evening, December 23, at 6.00 p. m. The guesses will be tabulated and the candy weighed following that time. See our window. How much does the Candy Sucker

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