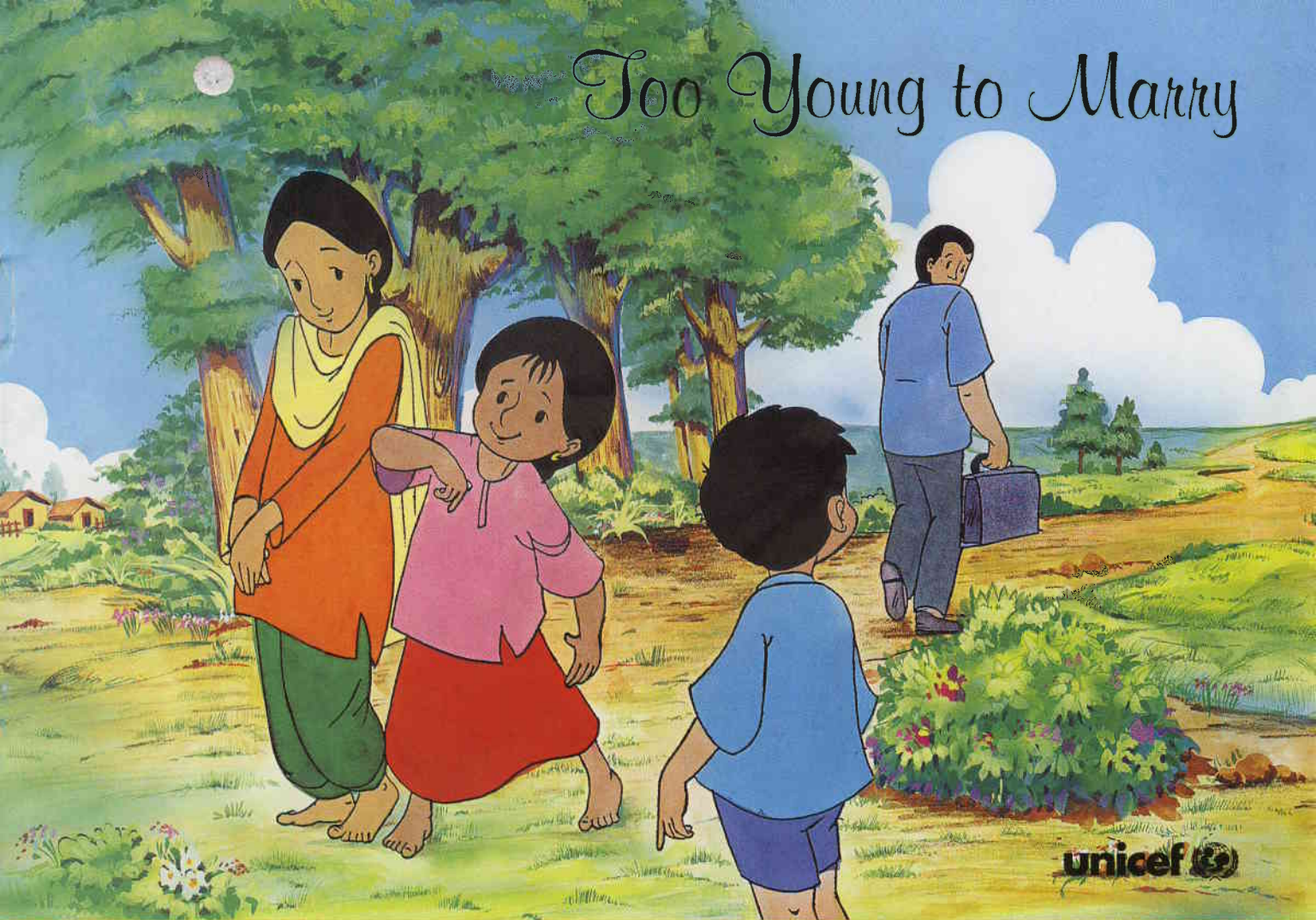
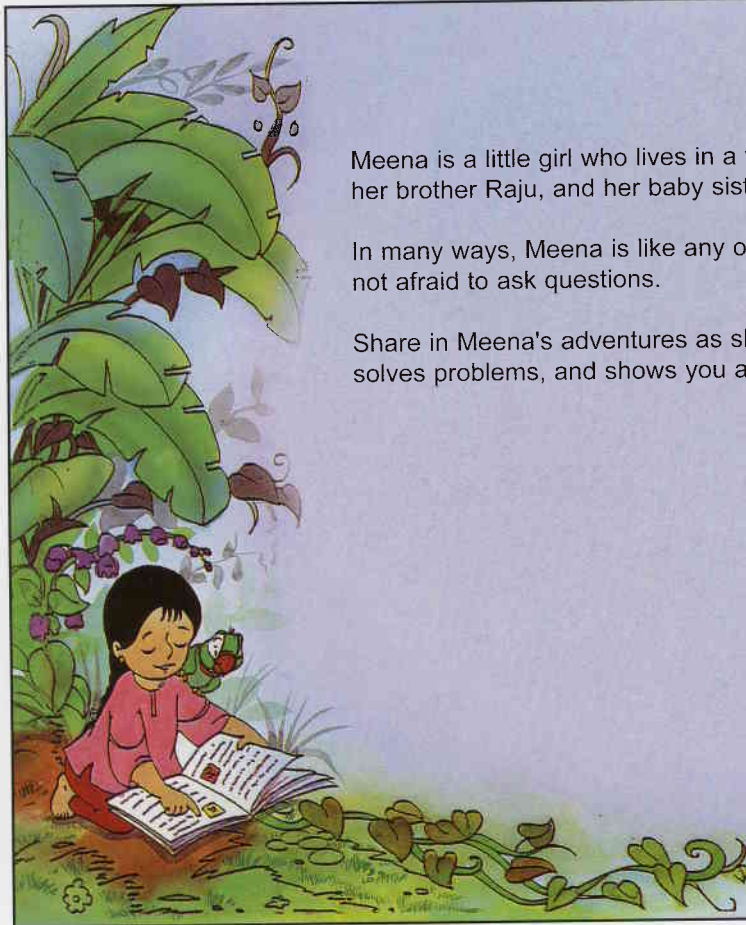


Too Young to Marry





Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju, and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

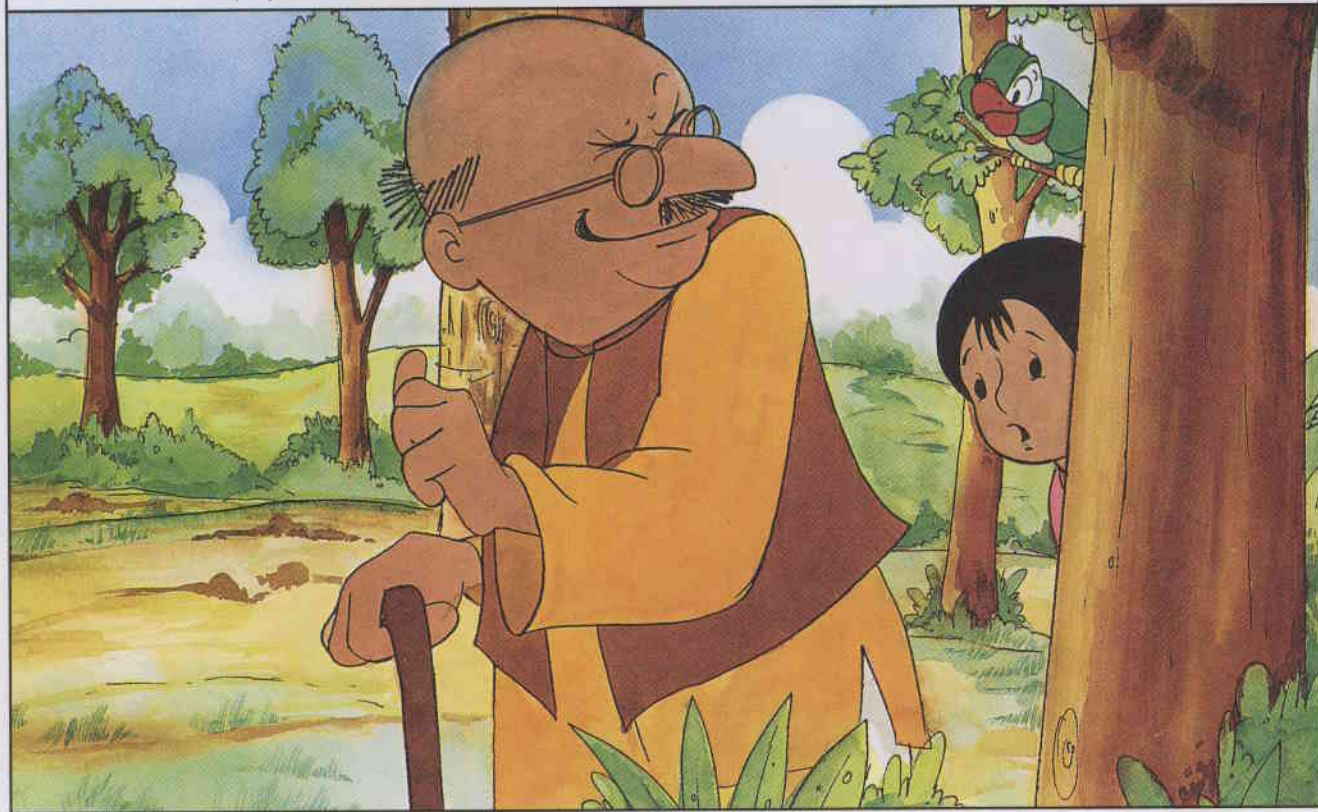
Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

Script:	Rachel Carnegie
Original concept:	Neill McKee
Comic book adaptation:	Deepa Balsavar and Deep Hari
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One day, Meena was visiting her cousin Rita's house with a big basket of ripe mangoes. As usual, she was accompanied by Mithu, her parrot.

On the way she saw the village shopkeeper. He was talking aloud to himself and dancing with joy for having found a young bride for his son. "A young girl will do all the housework and I won't have to pay for it!" he laughed.



Meena was very upset when she discovered that it was Rita who was to be the young bride. Rita was only 15 years old, and she wanted to continue her studies. She did not want to marry but she did not know how to tell her parents. Meena suggested that they ask Grandmother for help.



Grandmother tried to speak to her son. She told Rita's father that Rita was too young to marry. She herself had had her first child at 15. The baby had died, and Granny had almost died, too. She did not want Rita to suffer like her.

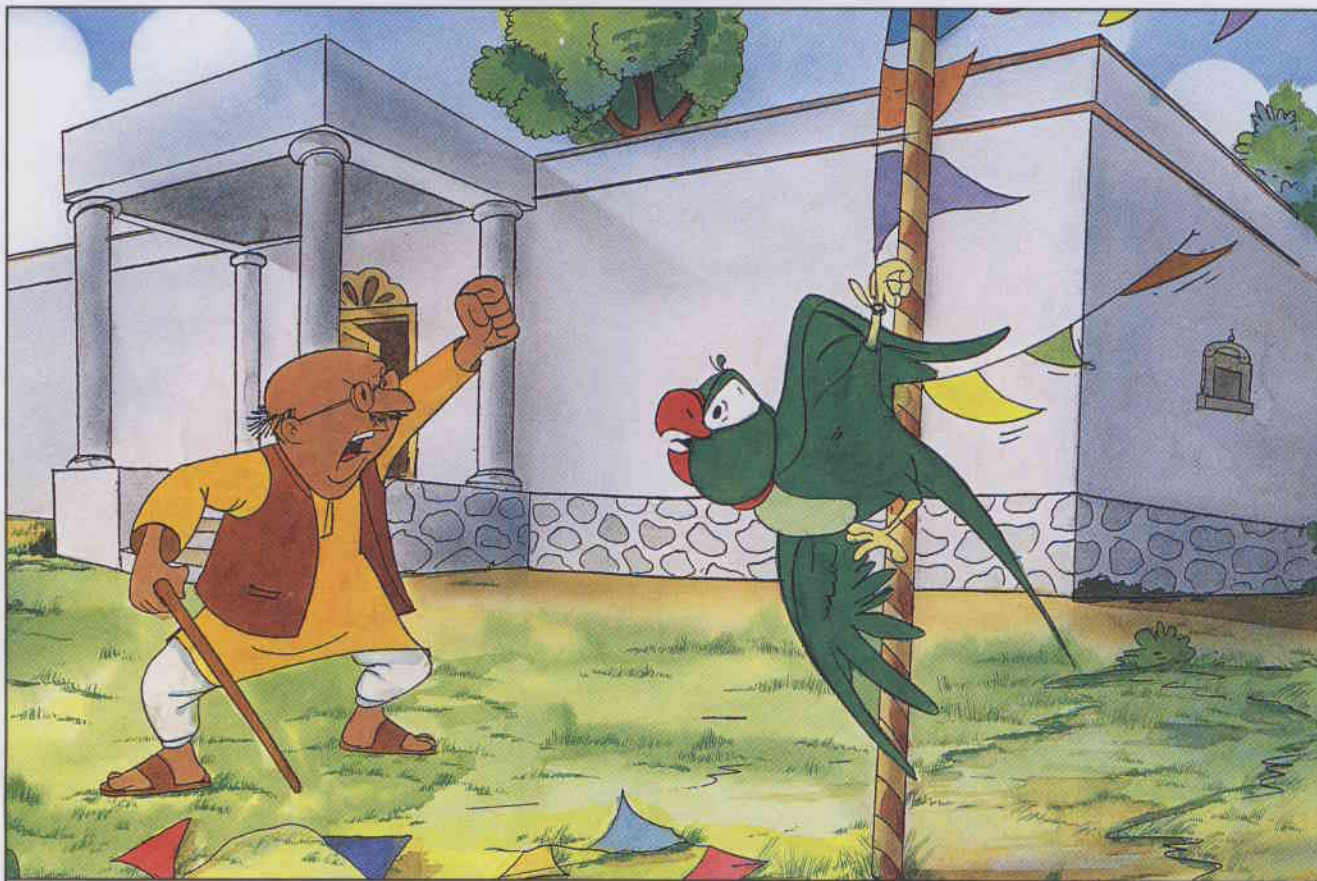


But Rita's father was worried. He did not want to turn down a good match. The shopkeeper's son, Babu, was studying to be a doctor and the shopkeeper was insisting on an early marriage. What could be done?

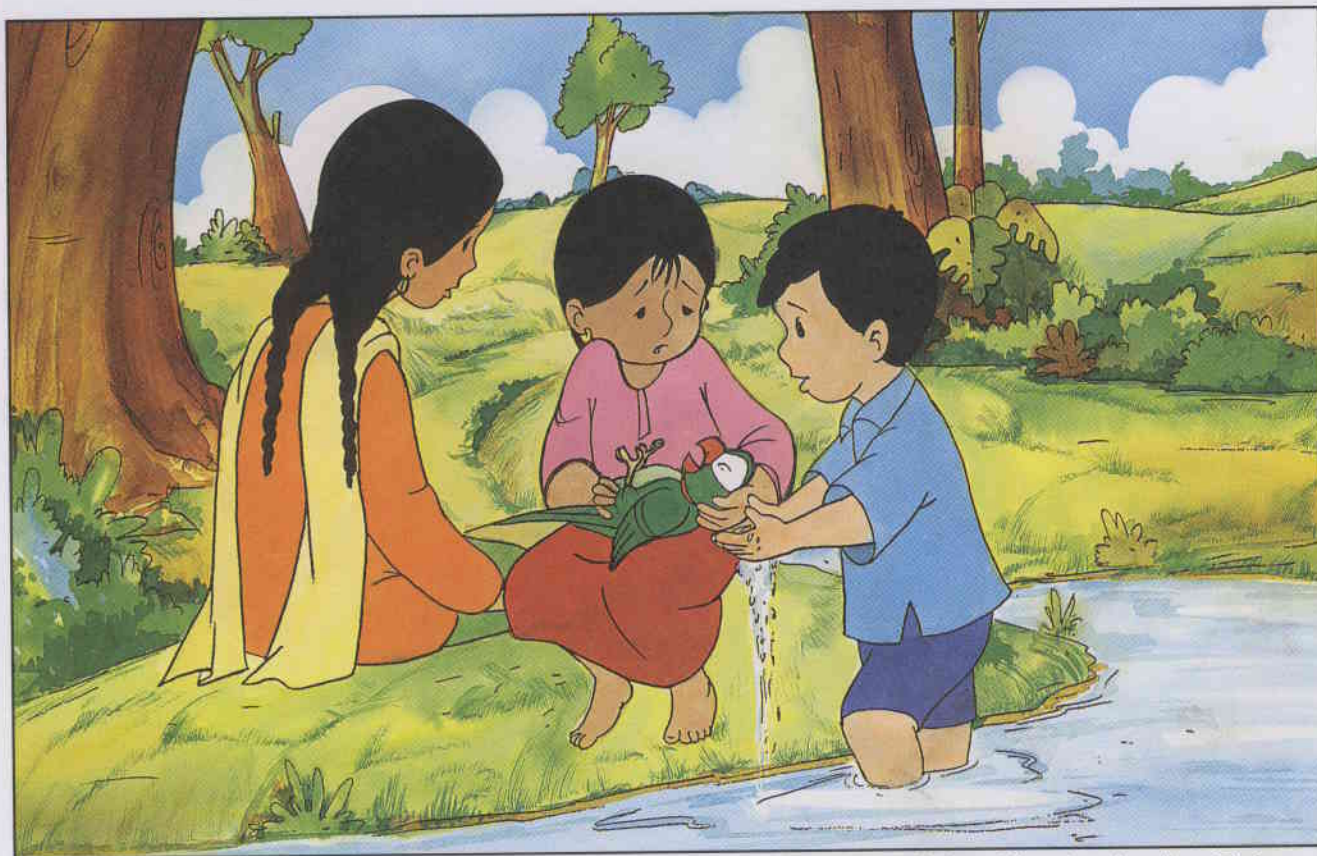




On the way home, Mithu had an accident. He had got entangled in the decorations put up for Babu's return to the village.



The shopkeeper chased him, and Mithu fell crashing to the ground, and hit his head.



When Meena found him, lying absolutely still, she thought he was dying. She, her brother Raju, and Rita tried hard to wake him up.



Suddenly, they heard an unfamiliar voice. "What is the matter?" asked a handsome young man.



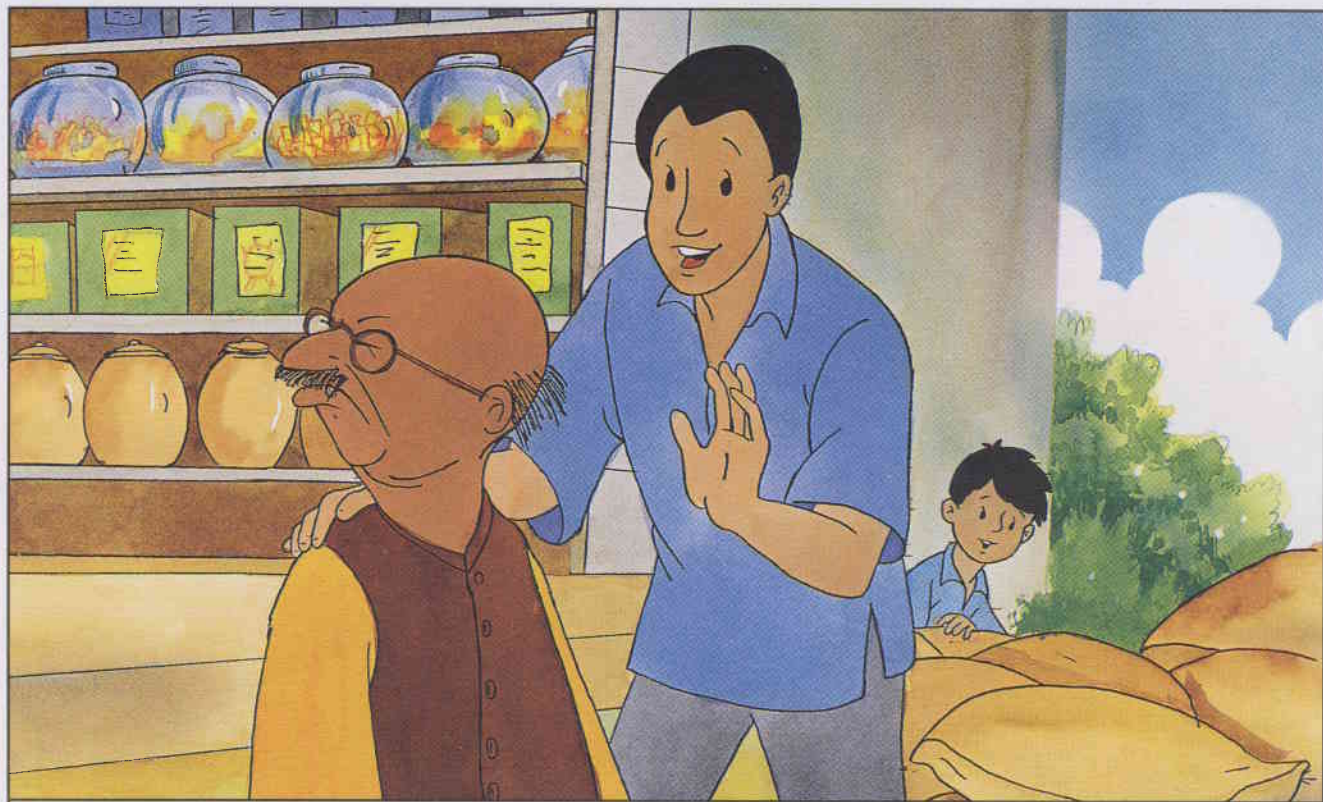
The youngman seemed to know what to do as he examined Mithu and tied a bandage around his head. Mithu soon got up.

Meena and Raju were overjoyed and thanked the youngman. And Rita blushed shyly when he looked at her.





Raju followed the stranger to find out who he was. He saw him being greeted joyously by the shopkeeper. "Babu! My son, my son!" shouted the shopkeeper. "Welcome back! I have some good news for you."



But the shopkeeper's happiness soon turned to anger when Babu refused to marry the girl chosen for him. "She is too young," he said. "It is illegal for girls under 18 to be married. And it is unsafe for a girl of that age to have children."



When Meena found out who the doctor was, she told him about Rita and how much she wanted to study. Babu agreed that it was a good idea for Rita to complete school.



Babu met Rita's father and convinced him that Rita was too young to marry.

Just then, Grandmother had a wonderful idea. It was decided that Babu and Rita would get engaged and wait three years for the marriage. In the meantime, both of them would complete their studies. The shopkeeper loved his son too much so he agreed to this as well.





Remember, girls below 18 are too young to marry.

Other titles in this series

1. Count Your Chickens
2. Dividing the Mango
3. Will Meena Leave School?
4. Who's Afraid of the Bully?
5. Saving a Life
6. Meena's Three wishes
7. Say No to Dowry
8. Take Care of Girls
9. I Love School
10. It's Got to Be a Boy!
11. A Girls' Story
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