

E2 - What the Guardian Serpent Heard

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

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Timer:

QC:

(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

[00:06] Kotoko

Those are pretty.

[00:08] Kotoko

Are you going to visit your cousin again?

[00:11] Kuro

You sure have excellent timing.

[00:14] Kuro

Was it your usual deduction skills,

[00:16] Kuro

or did your yokai friends tell you I was here?

[00:18] Kotoko

I have an appointment for
my eye and leg, as well.

[00:21] Kotoko

It was pure coincidence.

[02:00] Kotoko

Ever since that ordeal the other day,

[02:02] Kotoko

the ayakashi won't stop talking about you.

[02:06] Kotoko

"He must be an unrivaled yokai.

[02:08] Fallen Warrior

My lady!

[02:09] Kotoko

I bet he's gonna cook us up and eat us!"

[02:09] ---

My lady, help!

[02:12] Kuro

I helped you guys out,
and that's the thanks I get?

[02:15] Kotoko

Well, it's your power that scares them.

[02:18] Kotoko

So your left arm is really okay?

[02:23] Kuro

What? You're actually worried about me?

[02:25] Kotoko

I'm the one who involved you in all this.

[02:33] Kuro

See? It's fine.

[02:36] Kuro

Ever since I ate mermaid
flesh at the age of eleven,

[02:40] Kuro

my body always repairs itself,

[02:42] Kuro

no matter how badly it gets hurt.

[02:49] Kotoko

It's been said that those
who consume mermaid flesh

[02:52] Kotoko

will become immortal
and gain eternal youth.

SIGN Mermaid

Diagram

[02:55] Kotoko

But I must say that you
definitely don't look eleven.

[02:59] Kuro

Yeah... I think that's because the other yokai

[03:02] Kuro

whose flesh I ate along with the mermaid's
is nullifying some of the effects.

[03:06] Kotoko

What was the other one?

[03:10] Kuro

I have to get going.

[03:12] Kuro

I'll be late for visiting hours.

[03:16] Kotoko

Kuro-san.

[03:19] Kotoko

I actually had a request.

[03:22] Kotoko

Tonight, I'm going to see a giant serpent

[03:25] Kotoko

who is the guardian spirit of the
mountains in the next prefecture over.

[03:29] Kotoko

Would you come with me?

[03:31] Kuro

A giant serpent in the mountains?

[03:33] Kotoko

Yes.

[03:34] Kotoko

About ten days ago, one of
its servants visited me.

[03:38] Kotoko

It said the guardian is so
troubled by something

[03:40] Kotoko

that it can't even sleep at night.

[03:43] Kotoko

So this is a job for the Goddess of
Wisdom to the spectres.

[03:48] Kuro

You're going to put yourself in danger again?

[03:51] Kuro

You don't even have any special powers.

[03:53] Kotoko

How rude!

[03:55] Kotoko

I have a very special power

[03:57] Kotoko

that allows me to talk to the
ayakashi and even touch ghosts!

[04:02] Kuro

But that's it, right?

[04:03] Kuro

You don't have superhuman strength,
or the ability to fly,

[04:06] Kuro

or talismans to create
supernatural phenomena.

[04:09] Kuro

You don't have any physical
or spell-like powers.

[04:12] Kuro

What if you run into another
violent, aggressive monster

[04:16] Kuro

like the other day again?

[04:18] Kotoko

If you're so worried about me,
you should just come with me.

[04:21] Kotoko

If you were to help out despite
how much they fear you,

[04:25] Kotoko

I'm sure it'll make negotiations
and mediations go much smoother.

[04:29] Kuro

I can't tonight.

[04:30] Kotoko

Huh?

[04:31] Kuro

I want to enjoy the pork
miso soup I made last night.

[04:34] Kuro

So go by yourself.

[04:38] Kotoko

Honestly!

[04:40] Kotoko

Why is he like that?!

[04:42] Kotoko

Who lets a poor defenseless
girl go off into the mountains

[04:44] Kotoko

on her own in the middle of the night?!

[04:46] Yosuzume

I'm terribly sorry it's so late, my lady.

[04:49] Yosuzume

Oh! The swamp is coming into view.

[05:12] Serpent

I humbly thank you for
traveling so far to see me,

[05:20] Serpent

my lady.

[05:26] Kotoko

It's no problem.

That is my duty, after all.

[05:29] Kotoko

There's no need to thank me.

[05:31] Kotoko

You were once worshiped as a water god.

[05:35] Kotoko

It's only natural that I come
to see you if you need me.

[05:39] Serpent

It's been quite some time since the
humans worshiped me as a water god.

[05:45] Serpent

The small shrine has long been forgotten,

[05:47] Serpent

and no one offers me anything
for it to rain anymore.

[05:50] Serpent

Though, even when they
did pray to me for rain,

[05:52] Serpent

I never had the ability to control
the weather to begin with.

[05:55] Serpent

So it is presumptuous that
they ever considered me a god.

[05:58] Serpent

It's no wonder I've been forgotten.

[06:02] Serpent

The human world develops so quickly that

[06:05] Serpent

there are many things I don't understand.

[06:08] Serpent

That is why I sent one of my
servants to summon you, my lady,

[06:11] Serpent

so I could borrow some of your great wisdom.

[06:15] Serpent

So, well...

[06:18] Serpent

I do apologize that I cannot be more
hospitable here in these mountains,

[06:22] Serpent

but please do not be angry with me.

[06:25] Kotoko

Oh, no! It's totally fine.

[06:27] Kotoko

If I seem to be in a bad mood,
it isn't because of you.

[06:30] Kotoko

It's due to something personal.

[06:32] Serpent

Something personal?

[06:34] Kotoko

Indeed.

[06:37] Kotoko

I have a boyfriend named Sakuragawa Kuro.

[06:41] Kotoko

I asked him to accompany me here tonight,

[06:42] Kotoko

but he declined, saying he'd rather
stay home and eat pork miso soup.

SIGN Sakuragawa

[06:51] (Flashback) Kuro

So you had some yokai track me...

[06:54] (Flashback) Kotoko

Kuro-san! Please take a look at this!

[07:01] (Flashback) Kotoko

You actually did make pork miso soup?

[07:03] (Flashback) Kuro

Don't just go barging into people's homes!

[07:05] (Flashback) Kuro

Wait...

[07:06] (Flashback) Kuro

You're going into the mountains dressed like that?

[07:08] (Flashback) Kotoko

Well done, Kuro-san!

I knew you had good taste!

[07:11] (Flashback) Kotoko

It's my spring apparel!

My "I've been invited" dress!

[07:13] (Flashback) Kuro

But you were invited into the mountains...

[07:16] (Flashback) Kotoko

Wait, no! You shouldn't be so forceful!

[07:17] (Flashback) Kuro

Come on. Just stay still.

[07:19] (Flashback) Kotoko

Wh-What is this?

[07:22] (Flashback) Kuro

The jacket I wore when I went mountain climbing in grade school.

[07:24] (Flashback) Kotoko

How did you dig this up so quickly?!

[07:28] (Flashback) Kotoko

Now what are you doing?!

[07:29] (Flashback) Kuro

It's bug repellent.

[07:37] (Flashback) Kotoko

What do you think you're... doing...

[07:39] (Flashback) Kuro

Here, take some pork miso soup with you.

[07:41] (Flashback) Kuro

And some rice balls, too.

[07:43] (Flashback) Kotoko

Wait...

[07:45] (Flashback) Kotoko

Kuro-san!

[07:47] (Flashback) Kuro

Don't do anything rash again.

[07:50] Kotoko

So you see, even though I told him

[07:52] Kotoko

I would be meeting a giant serpent
that might like to eat humans,

[07:55] Kotoko

he had no intention of coming.

[07:57] Serpent

Goodness, no! I would never
dream of eating you, my lady!

[08:02] Serpent

Besides, humans are too
hard to eat, with the clothes

[08:05] Serpent

and metal accessories they put on...

[08:07] Kotoko

So you have actually eaten some before?

[08:10] Serpent

I can't say that I haven't...

[08:12] Serpent

I was rumored to be a man-eating
serpent back in the day,

[08:16] Serpent

but humans don't particularly
taste that good.

[08:19] Serpent

And nowadays,

[08:20] Serpent

it would cause far too much trouble,
so I prefer to avoid that.

[08:24] Serpent

By the way, my lady,

[08:26] Serpent

if you were able to bring your soup here,

[08:28] Serpent

couldn't your boyfriend have
brought his to eat here, too?

[08:34] Serpent

Er, I mean, he probably didn't have
another thermos! That must be it!

[08:41] Kotoko

We've gone off track.

Let's get to the issue at hand.

[08:44] Kotoko

You're concerned about the murdered
corpse you found in your swamp, right?

[08:49] Serpent

Yes. I cannot fathom why
that woman came all the way

[08:53] Serpent

to my swamp to dispose of the body,

[08:55] Serpent

so I'd like to hear an explanation
I can be satisfied with.

[09:00] Kotoko

About a month ago,
on April 23rd, just past 2 PM,

[09:05] Kotoko

two hikers who were picking
mountain vegetables

[09:08] Kotoko

found a man's body here at Tsukuna Swamp.

[09:12] Kotoko

Because he had been stabbed in
the chest with a sharp knife,

[09:15] Kotoko

they ruled his death a murder.

[09:17] Kotoko

However, despite a few days
passing since he was murdered,

[09:21] Kotoko

and him having no cellphone or ID,

[09:23] Kotoko

they were able to identify him immediately.

SIGN Yoshihara Hiroo

[09:25] Kotoko

Yoshihara Hiroo, 35 years old.

He worked for a large construction firm.

[09:31] Kotoko

Eventually, a 30-year-old woman
was arrested as a suspect.

[09:35] Kotoko

Tanio Aoi.

[09:36] (Flashback) Aoi

It was me.

[09:39] Kotoko

They got a confession from her.

[09:41] Kotoko

While many unanswered questions remain,

[09:42] Kotoko

they're working mostly on
gathering evidence right now.

[09:47] Kotoko

It's pretty much an open and shut case.

[09:51] Kotoko

I assume she threw the body
into the swamp to hide it,

[09:54] Kotoko

or perhaps to delay its discovery?

[09:56] Serpent

Nay! It was not to hide the body!

[09:59] Serpent

I just happened to see her
as she dumped the body...

[10:21] Serpent

That woman did, indeed, do something
so spiteful as to throw that corpse

[10:24] Serpent

into this swamp whose water
I drink from time to time.

[10:28] Serpent

But there are times when
animal corpses float in it,

[10:30] Serpent

as well as humans who throw trash into it.

[10:33] Serpent

So I have the ayakashi that live in
these mountains clean it regularly.

[10:37] Serpent

That's fine and all,

[10:40] Serpent

but there's still something
amiss about all of this.

[10:43] Serpent

The woman didn't put anything on the body

[10:45] Serpent

to weigh it down when she threw it in.

[10:48] Serpent

So the corpse rose to the top
and was discovered immediately.

[10:52] Serpent

Above all, at that moment,
I heard the woman clearly say...

[10:58] (Flashback) Aoi

I really hope they find you.

[11:03] Serpent

Despite taking the time and effort
to dispose of the corpse here,

[11:07] Serpent

she talked about how she
wanted him to be found.

[11:10] Kotoko

At first glance, it does seem
her actions don't make sense.

[11:15] Serpent

Indeed! I don't understand it at all!

[11:18] Kotoko

It must be difficult for a woman
to push a wheelbarrow

[11:20] Kotoko

with a body in it up a mountain at night.

[11:23] Kotoko

The police had some doubts about that
as well, and asked her about it.

[11:26] Kotoko

"Why did you bother carrying
this corpse to this swamp?"

[11:31] Kotoko

And that's when the suspect, Tanio Aoi, said...

[11:34] (Flashback) Aoi

There's a huge serpent living in that swamp,

[11:36] (Flashback) Aoi

and I've heard that it eats people,

[11:39] (Flashback) Aoi

so I thought if I dumped the body
there, the serpent would eat it.

[11:43] Kotoko

It was a rather irrational confession,

[11:46] Kotoko

so it even appeared in newspapers.

SIGN Dead Man Found

in Mt. Tsukuna

[11:49] Serpent

I saw that confession, as well.

[11:52] Kotoko

Tanio Aoi's family home is right
at the base of this mountain.

[11:56] Kotoko

It could be she actually believed the legends

[11:58] Kotoko

she'd heard as a child
about a man-eating serpent.

[12:01] Kotoko

And in a desperate attempt,
she brought the corpse up here...

[12:05] Kotoko

Of course, that's not the case.
She was actually trying to hide the body.

[12:10] Kotoko

She wasn't trying to bury it
or let it sink into the swamp.

[12:14] Kotoko

She just wanted you to devour it.

[12:17] Serpent

Then what about what that woman
said when she dumped the body?

[12:21] Kotoko

She didn't mean it as,

[12:23] Kotoko

"I brought it all the way here,
so I hope someone will find it."

[12:28] Kotoko

What she meant was that she
hoped you would find the body.

[12:32] Serpent

Nay! Even if I had found the body,
there was no guarantee that I'd eat it.

[12:37] Serpent

If the woman truly wished
to dispose of the body,

[12:39] Serpent

she would've said, "I truly hope it eats you."

[12:45] Kotoko

*For being so huge, this guardian really
gets hung up on minute details.*

[12:49] Serpent

This brings up another question.

[12:52] Serpent

Why did that woman give a false confession?

[12:55] Kotoko

This is going to take a while...

[12:58] Kotoko

It was probably to hide the real reason
she threw the corpse into the swamp.

[13:02] Serpent

Aye. I would like to hear an
answer I can be satisfied with.

SIGN What the Guardian Serpent Heard

[13:17] Kotoko

Let's go back over the details of this case.

[13:20] Kotoko

You seem rather wise, but we need to make
sure there aren't any discrepancies.

[13:25] Kotoko

It all started five years ago.

[13:28] Kotoko

Tanio Aoi had a boyfriend
named Machii Yoshikazu.

[13:33] Kotoko

But he died with a different woman,

[13:35] Kotoko

who was his coworker, in what
looked like a double suicide.

[13:40] Kotoko

Machii worked in the accounting
department of a large construction firm,

[13:45] Kotoko

but after he died, it came to light that

[13:47] Kotoko

he had messed with some numbers
and embezzled a large sum of money.

[13:50] Kotoko

Machii realized he wouldn't be
able to hide the fact that he had

[13:53] Kotoko

embezzled the money, so he convinced
the woman to die with him.

[13:56] Kotoko

Or, at least, that was what everyone believed.

[14:00] Kotoko

Aoi was deeply hurt by this and returned here

[14:03] Kotoko

to her family home at
the base of Mt. Tsukuna.

[14:07] Kotoko

She lived as a shut-in for about two years,

[14:10] Kotoko

but she eventually found a job near home

[14:12] Kotoko

and began to gradually
get back on her feet.

[14:17] Kotoko

And it was right around that time...

[14:19] Kotoko

On Friday, April 21st of
this year, around 7:30 PM,

[14:25] Kotoko

Yoshihara Hiroo showed
up at Tanio Aoi's house.

[14:28] (Flashback) Hiro

I want to apologize for what
happened five years ago.

[14:30] Kotoko

Yoshihara was a coworker of Machii's,
so Aoi knew his name and face.

[14:36] (Flashback) Hiro

I'm the one who killed Machii, and I'm
the one who embezzled the money!

[14:41] (Flashback) Hiro

Machii and that woman
realized that and told me

[14:44] (Flashback) Hiro

that if I didn't confess,
they'd make this public.

[14:47] (Flashback) Hiro

That's why I killed them...

[14:50] Kotoko

Yoshihara Hiroo's plan went accordingly.

[14:53] Kotoko

He got away with the embezzlement,

[14:55] Kotoko

and it's said he was living
a decent life afterwards.

[14:58] Kotoko

But starting this year, he was
met with a series of misfortunes.

[15:03] Kotoko

He made a huge mistake at work.

[15:06] Kotoko

His wife and child died in an accident.

[15:08] Kotoko

On top of that, they found a
malignant tumor in his body.

[15:12] Kotoko

Truly a series of unfortunate
events he never expected.

[15:15] Kotoko

Yoshihara thought this was happening
because of the incident five years ago,

[15:19] Kotoko

so he visited Aoi to repent for his crimes.

[15:23] Kotoko

He thought that if he showed remorse now,
he could escape all this fateful punishment,

[15:27] Kotoko

and that he might at least
get away with his life.

[15:32] (Flashback) Guy

I'm so sorry...

[15:35] (Flashback) Guy

I'm so sorry!

[15:39] Kotoko

That pretty much sums up
Tanio Aoi's confession.

[15:44] Kotoko

Apparently, Yoshihara had also
contacted Machii's younger brother,

[15:47] Kotoko

asking if they could meet up soon

[15:49] Kotoko

regarding what had happened five years ago.

[15:52] Kotoko

Machii's brother was busy at the time,
so he couldn't talk to him in detail.

[15:57] Kotoko

That probably prompted
Yoshihara to go see Aoi first.

[16:04] Kotoko

As the investigation went on,

[16:05] Kotoko

the embezzlement and supposed
double suicide came back to light,

[16:08] Kotoko

and they also learned that the person
connected to the prior case, Tanio Aoi,

[16:11] Kotoko

lived at the base of the mountain
where the corpse was found,

[16:14] Kotoko

and made the connection.

[16:17] (Flashback) Aoi

Yoshihara-san was about my size, and his
body had wasted away due to his illness,

[16:23] (Flashback) Aoi

so it wasn't much trouble
to get him up the mountain.

[16:26] Kotoko

The next day, Saturday the 22nd,

[16:28] Kotoko

no one came to the swamp,

[16:30] Kotoko

possibly because it rained that day,

[16:32] Kotoko

so the body wasn't discovered
until two days later, on the 23rd.

[16:36] (Flashback) Aoi

I figured the serpent wouldn't want to eat his wallet and cellphone,

[16:39] (Flashback) Aoi

so I removed them.

[16:41] (Flashback) Aoi

I burned his employee ID back at my house,

[16:43] (Flashback) Aoi

and I threw the knife into the swamp with the body.

[16:47] (Flashback) Aoi

But...

[16:49] (Flashback) Aoi

It didn't eat him.

[16:51] Serpent

The police have been coming to this swamp quite often during the day recently.

[16:56] Serpent

It would seem they are looking for that knife.

[16:59] Kotoko

I'm sure they'd have a hard time finding it here.

[17:02] Kotoko

So, did the suspect throw anything in along with the corpse?

[17:07] Serpent

Hm, I'm not certain...

[17:10] Kotoko

Sadly, the information I can get is limited,

[17:13] Kotoko

so I'll have to use my imagination to fill in some holes...

[17:17] Kotoko

But I still believe the suspect dumped the body into the swamp

[17:20] Kotoko

for a very simple reason.

[17:22] Serpent

A simple reason?

[17:24] Kotoko

Yes.

[17:25] Kotoko

In most cases like this, it's to protect the real killer.

[17:29] Kotoko

Yoshihara Hiroo had contacted Tanio Aoi beforehand,

[17:32] Kotoko

saying he'd like to come see her.

[17:35] Kotoko

He was connected to a
very dark part of her past.

[17:37] Kotoko

Do you think she'd agree to see him alone?

[17:39] Serpent

That is a good point, but...

[17:41] Kotoko

No one would suspect anything
if she had someone

[17:44] Kotoko

with her when Yoshihara came over.

[17:45] Kotoko

Oh, I know. I think Machii's younger
brother would be a perfect example.

[17:49] Kotoko

Yoshihara told Machii's
brother on the phone that

[17:52] Kotoko

he had also contacted Machii's former girlfriend.

[17:55] Kotoko

He might have had a bad feeling
about that and contacted Aoi.

[17:59] Kotoko

After learning the truth of his brother's
death, he impulsively killed him.

[18:07] Kotoko

But he still had a future.

[18:09] Kotoko

On the other hand, Aoi had been living
as a shut-in and had very little to lose.

[18:14] Kotoko

That's why she decided she would protect him.

[18:18] Kotoko

After sending the real killer away,

[18:20] Kotoko

she decided to dump the corpse
at the swamp in the mountains.

[18:23] Kotoko

There are three reasons for this.

[18:25] Kotoko

First, to let the swamp water
wash off any traces of

[18:28] Kotoko

the true killer that may have
ended up on the corpse.

[18:31] Kotoko

Second, to give the true killer an alibi.

[18:35] Serpent

But then why did the woman say,
"I really hope they find you"?

[18:42] Kotoko

This is why the third reason exists.

[18:45] Kotoko

Tanio Aoi tried to get rid of any
trace of the true killer at her house.

[18:49] Kotoko

If she carefully cleaned every inch of
her house, that could be possible.

[18:53] Kotoko

But what about outside the house?

[18:57] Kotoko

There's no telling what traces
could've been left behind.

[19:01] Kotoko

And that's why Aoi threw
the corpse into your swamp!

[19:05] Serpent

What do you mean?

[19:07] Kotoko

What else? She wanted it to rain!

[19:11] Kotoko

You were known as a water god and

[19:13] Kotoko

received prayers for rain
in the past, didn't you?

[19:16] Kotoko

If it poured, tire tracks and anything
he might've accidentally dropped

[19:20] Kotoko

would get washed away.

[19:22] Serpent

A moment, please...

[19:24] Serpent

I was regarded as a water
god a very long time ago.

[19:28] Serpent

Besides, dropping a body into the
swamp as an offering is unheard of!

[19:31] Serpent

And did they honestly think
they'd be blessed with rain

[19:34] Serpent

by throwing in the corpse of
a filthy middle-aged man?

[19:36] Serpent

If they wanted to give me an offering,

[19:38] Serpent

it should've been a beautiful, living girl!

[19:40] Serpent

Give me a girl as a sacrifice!

[19:44] Kotoko

Er, Guardian?

[19:46] Kotoko

There are usually two types of rain rituals.

[19:49] Kotoko

First is to pray to a water god
and have them grant your wish.

[19:54] Kotoko

That'd be the orthodox method.

[19:55] Kotoko

But there is also the opposite method
of making the water god angry

[20:00] Kotoko

so that they go on a rampage and make it rain.

[20:02] Serpent

Oh, I do believe I've heard
that somewhere before.

[20:05] Kotoko

And it appears that you were indeed enraged.

[20:09] Serpent

Goodness me... And it
actually did rain the next day.

[20:14] Kotoko

So, this explains why you
heard her say what she did.

[20:18] Kotoko

Tanio Aoi wanted you to find
the corpse and go berserk.

[20:24] Kotoko

That's why she let "I really hope they
find you" slip out without thinking.

[20:31] Serpent

Nay! That explanation is still lacking!

[20:34] Serpent

In that case, wouldn't she have said,
"I really hope it actually does pour,"

[20:38] Serpent

or, "I really hope the
giant serpent gets mad"?

[20:43] Kotoko

Of course!

[20:46] Kotoko

If somebody visited from outside by car,
someone would've witnessed it.

[20:51] Kotoko

The police would be investigating that, too,

[20:53] Kotoko

to see if there might've been
another killer or accomplices.

[20:57] Serpent

Y-You seem to deny your own
claims rather readily...

[21:01] Kotoko

That's why the only suspect is Tanio Aoi.

[21:04] Kotoko

Most of what she confessed
to the police is true.

[21:08] Kotoko

I think the only thing that's different is

[21:10] Kotoko

the reason she dumped the
corpse into this swamp.

[21:30] Kotoko

Kuro-san!

[21:33] Serpent

So that is my lady's boyfriend...
How terrifying...

[21:39] Kuro

Who said I was your boyfriend?

[21:41] Kotoko

So you came after all.

[21:43] Kuro

At least correct him!
Tell him I'm not your boyfriend!

[21:45] Kotoko

We can have our lovers' quarrel later.

[21:48] Kotoko

Right now, we have to resolve
any lingering questions he has.

[21:51] Serpent

P-Precisely, my lady.

[21:55] Kuro

And how are you planning to do that?

[21:57] Kotoko

I wish you would've come out sooner
if you were listening this whole time.

[22:00] Serpent

My lady!

[22:02] Serpent

So what is the real reason the suspect
threw the corpse into this swamp?

SIGN To Be Continued

SIGN Preview

[23:46] Kotoko

A wave of incidents involving a phantom
killer threatens Makurazaka City.

[23:48] Kotoko

The culprit is a faceless
woman wearing a red dress.

[23:51] Kotoko

Are the incidents really
caused by Steel Lady Nanase,

[23:54] Kotoko

the ghost of a former idol?

[23:56] Kotoko

Next time, "The Rumors of the Steel Lady."

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