DAGON

#694, **APA-Q** #605

January 2018

PERDITA LILLY BOARDMAN

(Baxter Springs, KS, 27 December 1931 - Frederick, MD, 26 November 2017)

As I stated in a quick announcement for which there was just enough room as I was completing **Dagon** #693, my wife Perdita died in her sleep on the night of 25-26 November 2017. As regular readers of **Dagon** know, she has suffered for about eight or ten years, in an increasing degree, from vascular dementia, the effect of a diminishing supply of blood to the brain. While the cause is not the same as that of Alzheimer's disease, the effects seem to be quite similar.

Her daughters Karina and Deirdre realized that she required more care than we could give her at home. In 2009, therefore, we sold our home in Brooklyn and moved to Frederick, MD, where they were then living. She and I moved to a succession of assisted living facilities in Frederick until the spring of 2015, when Perdita moved to a nursing home in Frederick. Meanwhile, my daughter Deirdre was living with her daughter Melissa and her family, but found this rather cramped, and moved to a three-story apartment in Clarksburg. The lowest floor of this apartment is a large room with an adjacent bathroom and access to the garage. At Deirdre's invitation I moved into this room, and have lived here comfortably since April of 2015. We both had frequent opportunity to visit Perdita in the nursing home. In the meantime, Karina and her husband lived in one of Washington's Virginia suburbs until he retired, and then they moved to Orlando, FL.

Perdita had been born in Baxter Springs, KS, the first of six children. Her father worked for a mining company, keeping their machinery in repair. We usually think of Kansas in terms of farming rather than mining, but the southeastern corner of Kansas holds part of the Ozark Mountains, which contain ores of lead and tin, and even a little silver. (Once, visiting the Smithsonian Museum with our daughters, we found an exhibit of ore samples from mines where their maternal grandfather had worked.)

With his expertise in machinery, Mr. Lilly and his family moved to Detroit in 1942 and he applied this expertise to the machinery used in manufacturing the weapons of war. Like many, they remained there after the war. Perdita married her first husband there, Radell Faraday Nelson. With him, she moved in 1951 to the south side of Chicago, where I was beginning my third and last year of undergraduate work at the University of Chicago. We became acquainted there, and she also met a friend who lived in the same college dormitory as I did: Michael Girsdansky.

I fell out of touch with Perdita when I left Chicago in 1952 to pursue graduate work in Ames, Iowa at Iowa State College (now Iowa State University, not to be confused with the State University of Iowa in Iowa City). In the next few years she divorced Ray and married Mike, and they had a daughter, Karina. Meanwhile, I got my advanced degrees in physics and moved to New York City, where I taught at campuses of the City University of New York, mostly at Brooklyn College.

I dated women from time to time in those years, but found none I wanted a permanent

relationship with. In 1962 I received the announcement of an upcoming membership meeting of a chapter of Mensa, which I had joined a few years earlier. I knew that Perdita also belonged to Mensa, and thought I should attend the meeting and try to renew acquaintance with her. So I attended and found that she was secretary of that chapter. After the meeting we struck up acquaintance, and began dating. I learned that she and Mike were divorced, and that she was raising Karina, who was then 7. It was not long before we decided to get married. There was no proposal; we were simply both convinced that marriage would be a good idea. It was indeed, and we eventually had 54 years together.

Deirdre was born two years after our marriage. In 1969, mainly at Perdita's initiative, we bought the house in Flatbush which so many New York City s-f fans remember. We lived there for forty years, the only time either of us had lived continuously at one address for so long a period.

From the time I moved to Deirdre's apartment in Clarksburg, a small town in Montgomery County, Maryland, just west of the District of Columbia, it was obvious that Perdita's memory and other intellectual facilities were slowly declining. Her death left us sorrowing but not surprised, and we sent out word for a family gathering. This took place on the following weekend, 2-4 December, particularly on the afternoon of Sunday 3 December. Deirdre had taken from Perdita's room at the nursing home two large bulletin boards covered with photographs of Perdita with other members of her family. Above the bulletin boards was an unobtrusive container which held Perdita's ashes. Unlike my parents, who decided that their ashes should be scattered over a Pacific cliff in California, Perdita's will probably eventually rest in a more elaborate container on a descendant's mantelpiece.

Present at the gathering were every descendant of Perdita: Deirdre; Deirdre's eldest son Anthony, his wife Karen, and their children Charlotte ("Charlie") and Mason; Deirdre's second son Michael and his daughter Carmen (Michael's wife Bethany couldn't make it); Deirdre's daughter Melissa, and her two daughters, the eldest and the youngest of my five great-grandchildren. Melissa's elder daughter Elliana turned six, two days later, but the exigencies of the adults' schedules had moved her party for the day before the gathering of the whole family on Sunday the 3rd. It will be a while before Alisia, Melissa's younger child, will learn about birthdays, as her first will be on 24 July 2018.

I noted that Karen's family follows a tradition of my own parents. My middle name, Melton, was my mother's maiden name, and her son's first name, Mason, is his mother's maiden name.

At Anthony's birth in 1984 I noted that great-grandfathers are more common than they used to be. I checked with both sides of his family, and learned that, at his birth, Anthony had six living great-grandparents. At the time of my birth in 1932, I had only two living great-grandparents, and one died in the following year. The other lasted until he was 90 and I was 15, but his mind was far gone by then.

As the evening of the 3rd drew on, I withdrew to my room downstairs and did a little channel-surfing on the television until I had the good luck to tune in the beginning of a two-hour retrospective of *The Carol Burnett Show*, which had run from 1967 to 1978. During its first run, Perdita and I had regularly tuned in to that show, as it was one of the few that was a favorite of both of us. All the

surviving actors of the show made appearances discussing their memories of the show, particularly Carol Burnett and Vicki Lawrence, who are now both in their middle eighties. I spent the next couple of hours watching those re-runs, and recalling the pleasure that the show had given us in its first run. Then, as our other guests came downstairs to get their cars and leave, I bade them goodbye.

Several reminiscences of Perdita came in from kith and kin, and near and far, by mail, the Internet. or APA-Q. So many people wrote in their condolences that I had to single-space them in an attempt to get them all into this issue.

Deirdre 'Dee' Perez with Karina Wright: I wanted to share with family (& friends) about the passing of my mom this morning peacefully in her sleep.

Many know she has been suffering from severe dementia well over a decade now, but she became very sick about two weeks ago and moved to hospice care,

Born Dec. 27, 1931 in Baxter Springs, KS, she grew up outside of Detroit, bounced around a bit living in Chicago, San Francisco, Virginia, and finally settling in New York City about 1960, first in Manhattan, then Park Slope and finally her well known home in Flatbush. She spent her final years in Frederick, MD to be close to Karina & I.

She has loved science fiction & fantasy (as well as mysteries & recently romances) novels since the '50s and was an avid reader. She was a talented artist, master seamstress and knitted the most amazing sweaters! I could go on all daty.

One of the funny quotes from the other day after being annoyed by nurses prodding her was, "I am Perdita Ann Lilly Nelson Boardman and I am going to sleep."

Good night, mom.

Jane Gordon Fairchild: So sorry, Dee. Praying for you and family.

Tara Nichole: Will keep you and your family in prayer.

Sara Lane: Sorry for your loss, Deirdre.

Mauricia Andre: Oh, Dee, I am so sorry to hear this. My deepest condolences to you and the family. Big hugs.

Emilie Haller: So sorry for your loss. Prayers for you & your family.

Al Nofi: Very sorry to hear that...hugs. She was a terrific woman.

Yaz Talay: My condolences to you and your family during this time. May your memories and love comfort you during this time. Hugs.

Gabriela Herrera: I'm so sorry for your loss. Keeping you in my prayers.

Michael Santos: My deepest of sympathy to you and yours, Deirdre. She definitely was a fearless independent woman.

Brenda Campos Marquez: Our most sincere condolences ti all family & friends!

Krista Boardman: My condolences. She sounds like an amazing woman

Deleane Ramirez: I'm so sorry for the loss of your mother. My condolences. The video clip is a beautiful tribute.

Georgia Allen: So sorry for your loss.

Pauline Macomber: So sorry for your loss. Love and prayers to you and your family. Paula Fellers: I'm so sorry, Dee. May she rest in peace. Sure she is at peace now.

Celeste Mullins: Beautiful story.

Bernice Washington: There is no one like Mom. May Jehovah, the God of peace and comfort get you and the family through this most distressing time.

Ray Heuer: My condolences. The world will be a little darker with the loss of her light.

Angie Hulton: I'm so sorry, Dee.

Sandy Sutton: Dee, I am so sorry to hear about your Mom. Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Megan Sappington-Harper: Prayers. Sorry for your loss.

Winnie Robinette Umberger Ward: Ohhh Dee what a lovely tribute! I am so sorry for your family's loss of your mom but not sorry that she has "gone to sleep" now. It's all so hard. Relief for the family and then guilt for feeling relief. Wonderful memories and then hope that you did everything right...hold on tight for your emotional roller-coaster and take care of yourself.

Joy Sheri: So sorry for your loss. May your years of happy memories guide you with comfort during this time. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this time.

Astrid Jordana Byro: Oh no, I'm so sorry to hear this, Deirdre.

Joseph Rogers: Sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Jennifer Hurd: What a beautiful and fun woman. Thinking about you all.

Angie Weller Harpster: Oh Dee, I am so sorry for your loss.

Elizabeth Lockwood: (a/k/a Betty Berg Lockwood) So sorry for your loss, but glad she is at peace now.

George Garland: Sad to hear that Perdita is gone, that generation of cousins spans birth years of about 1917 (Cousin Walter son of Ella) to 1953 (my brother Richard son of Carl). We have lost so many of them and I miss them all. Perdita was a very talented artist and dress/costume designer who had a reputation for costuming sci-fi around 1950. Everyone who knew her was aware of how bright and talented she was. Again, so sorry for your loss, you were blessed to spend so many years with her.

Jenifer Insley Gushue: Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves memory no one can steal. Thinking of you.

Karen Andre: My deepest condolences to you and your family.

Jean Breznai Davis: I am so very sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Mary Edith Moore: I'm so sorry. Keeping you and the family in my prayers.

Kimberly Butler: I'm sorry to hear this. Praying for your family.

Bruce Wood: So sorry for your loss, a free spirit set free.

Teresa Boardman-Conboy: Goodnight & sweet dreams, Aunt Perdita. Deirdre, Karina, & Uncle John, you're in my thoughts today. Wishing you all strength and comfort at this sad and

difficult time.

Claire Hieble Heath: Sending sympathy, love, prayers and hugs

Pam Green: So sorry for your loss Dee and family.

Rebecca Winpigler: So so sorry.

Christina Arnold: I'm soooo sorry. So sad to hear this! As I told Melissa, please let me know if there is anything I can do for you all during this tough time.

Mark Blackman: So so very sorry for your loss.

Tamara Martinez: Dee, I'm so sorry for your loss. May your memories give you comfort and peace during this difficult time. You are an awesome daughter.

Chelcee Nicole: Thinking of you and your family...sp sorry for your loss.

Patricia Barasch: So sorry for your loss...thinking of you and your family during this difficult time.

Sindy Kalish Cohan: I'm sorry for your loss. Thinking of you.

Jennifer Smetanick Cebrat: Awe...so sorry Dee!

Charlene Ambush: Sorry for ur loss.

Octavia "Tavie" Phillips: I'm so sorry Deirdre, All my love to you all.

Nancy Thalblum: So sorry for your loss. My condolences for the entire family at this very sad time.

Channing "Chiggz" Saunders: Sorry for your loss Ladi.

Andrew Byro: My heartfelt condolences to you.

Corinne Diggs: Dee, I am so very sorry. You are and your family are in my prayers. I pray for comfort for you at this time. love you Dee.

Sandy Meškys: Ed and I are sorry at her passing. She was truly an amazing woman. Hugs to you and John.

Moshe Feder: Deirdre and Karina, there was no one else like her. She was a constant delight to be with, a font of warmth, generosity, and fun. She was, in the best sense, a true matriarch of New York fandom. [Here Deirdre interpolated, "I liked this...matriarch of fandom.".]

Debra Harris: I am so sorry for your loss.

Zelma Nickens: Hello Dee, very sorry to hear about your loss. Condolences to you and your family.

Alicia Palm-Cartnail: Dee so sorry for your loss. Praying for you.

Kimmi K-Wills: Sending my sincere condolences to you and your family during this time,

Shawn Jdm Branch: Very sorry to hear about your loss my prayers to you and your family.

Tatianna Julia Marquez: I'm so sorry for your loss dee.

Deb Wunder: My deepest condolences to you, John, and Karina. May her memory be a blessing to you.

Kelly Riggleman: Dee I am so sorry for your loss. My deepest condolences to you and your family. I'll be keeping you in my prayers.

Joyce Rafeedie Sanquist: So sorry for your loss. Prayers to you and your family.

Phylicia Vega: My condolences to you and your family. At least now you know she is in peace. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this trying time.

Verlie Butler Lilly: My condolences Deirdre to you, Karina, & your Dad. Not many Lilly's left. So sad! You were a loving Daughter to stand by her during this long period of time. LU

George Randall: Sorry for your loss.

Gail Johnson: Dee my heartfelt condolences to you and your family. So sorry for your loss.

Robin McLean Schwanke: Deirdre and Karina, I join you in mourning the loss of your Mom. I also join you in a sense of relief in your mom no longer suffering that dreaded disease. I only wish I had the opportunity to know Aunt Perdita. My mom always spoke fondly of her. Best wishes to your families. Love, your cousin Robin.

Joyce Fane: So sorry Deirdre. Sending my deepest sympathy to you and your family.

Lynzy Hoffler: Dee I pray God grants you and your family peace during this time of transition.

Kathy Henry: Deirdre - so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. I'm sure she is at peace, and hope that peace extends to you and your family.

Gloria Fortune Parsley: So sorry Deirdre. May your Mother RIP.

Tracey Daniel: So sorry for your loss!! Praying for peace for you and your family.

Marion Strawhorne: So sorry for your sad news.

Vera Clarke-Redhead: My condolences to you and your family Dee!

Anja Stephan: Wonderful I love it the Video from her. Sorry for your loss.

Floyd McCool: Ny deepest condolence Dee.

Tina M. Decatur: I am so sorry for your loss. Lifting all in prayer.

Debbie Seabaugh: So sorry for your loss, no more suffering prayers for you and your family. **Cindy Cicalese:** Dee, we are so very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

Cheryl Marriott: My condolences to the family.

Teresa Blackwell: My deepest condolences to you and your family.

Tami Rinehart Ramos: I'm so sorry for your loosss.

Laney Vonder Bruegge Robertson: Prayers and hugs.

Grace Giambi: Sending prayers...may she be at Peace.

Andrew Baughman: Very sorry for your loss.

Teri Nicholson: Prayers and comfort.

Teresa Sutton Snyder: I've been thinking about you and your mom. I'm sorry for your loss.

Andrea Hickey-Tate: So sorry to hear about the passing of your Mom. You have so many happy memories of her that will sustain you through this sad time. My thoughts especially for your dad who lost his life partner.

Loui Clark: So sorry. Sounds like she had a good life and a peaceful passing as well as a loving daughter. A blessed life.

Amy Archer: I am sorry for your loss.

Maureen Accardo: At last she is at peace. May God Bless you all.

*

Many readers will recognize, among the above mourners, the names of our friends and relatives. Krista Boardman is the wife of my nephew Flint, the first son of my brother Karl. Teresa Boardman-Conboy is the daughter of my other brother Keith. George Garland is a cousin of Perdita on the side of her mother, whose maiden name was Garland. Bruce Wood is also a relative on Perdita's side of the family. (With the names "Garland" and "Lilly" on her grandmother's side of the family, it is no wonder that Deirdre's daughter Melissa has a good business in planning the decoration of brides.) Tom Byro's daughter Astrid and his son Andrew are the offspring of Tom Byro, whose death was reported in the December Dagon. Elizabeth Lockwood is the daughter of Bill Berg, who like Al Nofi, Mark Blackman, Moshe Feder, Ed Meškys, Deb Wunder, and Ray Heuer is an old friend from New York. Octavia "Tavie" Phillips is a daughter of Fred Phillips and his late wife. Verlie Lilly, as you might suspect from her name, is the wife of Marvin Lilly, and therefore Perdita's sister-in-law. Robin Schwanke is Perdita's niece, and daughter of her sister Nancy. Kathy Henry is the wife of Karina's brother Paul, and those who did not know that Karina has a brother are learning here that after Karina's parents were divorced, her father Mike Girsdansky married Catherine Owen, with whom I was acquainted when we both rented rooms in the same rooming house in Syracuse when I was a graduate student there. But he had been introduced to me years ago as "Paul Scott Girsdansky". Where the change of names comes from is beyond my comprehension.

These later reminiscences also came in with the preceding ones, and were downloaded by Deirdre.

Mark Blackman: I notified the Lunarians/Lunacon And FISTFA/BPLF crowd and old-timegans, and her passing was reported on the FB Lunacon page and in the fannish sf newszone File <u>770.com</u>. If you like, I can send you & Karina their responses. (Most were "Sad news", "Sorry to hear this", but a few were substantial. Stuart Hellinger wants to make bouillabaisse on her memory.)

HELLIOsphere is small but will likely benefit in attendance from there being no Lunacon a few weeks apart.

Thee is a small snag, though. HELIOsphere came about in an acrimonious split from Lunacon (competition from it is one reason there's no Lunacon in 2018 - most fans (and pros) can't afford 2 cons in a month, so have to choose), and a number of Lunarians/Lunacon people are not welcome there. Of course, one can attend a party without a badge of membershipbut it might be awkward. How is your father taking it? [See p. 1 for my feelings.] It's hard to tell from his one paragraph in the accompanying **Dagon** (which, by chance, recounts much Boardman/Melton family history.)

Again, my deepest condolences.

Stuart C. Hellinger: It is with much sadness that we have to announce the passing of long time member of the Lunarians and honorary member of the Lunarians/Lunarians (2), Perdita Boardman yesterday morning.

Perdita had been in ill health for some time.

John and Perdita Boardman had hosted many Lunarians meetings, Lunacon meetings and

Lunarians holiday parties (with her famous bouillabaisse) in their home in Brooklyn, NY, as well as many other fannish activities and meetings.

Among Perdita's many other accomplishments were the creation of the Lunarians banner that was displayed for many years at meetings, Lunacon, or at other conventions where we had parties or fan tables.

Perdita also did one of the early versions of the Lunarians spaceman logo prior to the better known Wally Wood version.

For many, many years she ran the Lunacon Con Suite, as well as having several other jobs on the convention,.

We have a lot of other memories of Perdita that will live on forever.

Our condolences go out to Deirdre, Karina, John and the rest of their family She wuill be missed.

Larry Nelson: May her memory forever be a blessing.

Roberta Rogow: So sorry to hear this. We're losing our elders, one by one. May her memory be for a bldessing.

Laura VanDuzen Hindle: Sorry to hear. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family md friends.

Michael Pinto: Such a sweet lady and amazing spirit.

Alina Chu: Sorry to hear we lost her. My condolences to her finally and friends.

Alan Polyniak: She ran the best Con Suites ever. Her like will not be seen again.

Prescy Hendrix: May she rest in peace.

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An obituary by Mike Glyer appeared in his news fanzine FILE 770. It was written by Perdita's and my daughter Deirdre, and has been printed on p. 3 of this issue of Dagon. And Ted White noted that Andy Porter neglected to mention Mike Girsdansky, who was Perdita's second husband, and who was published in the prozine (?) Worlds of Tomorrow in 1965. Ted also mentioned that Perdita "was a Futurian (Mk II) and a Fanoclast. She was an important part of the '67 Worldcon bid. She was a talented artist. And she was a nice person."

I am greatly indebted to our daughter Deirdre to collecting and printing for me the numerous letters of memory and condolence that have come in from those who remember Perdita fondly. I had hoped to cite all of them in this issue of **Dagon**, but there is simply not enough room for them. So I will pass the others on to you in the February issue, and devote the two remaining pages of this issue to other matters.

Some readers have recalled Perdita's role in planning the 1967 World Science Convention in New York City. At that time, our daughter Deirdre was two years old, but Perdita carefully explained to her the role she was to play in the Worldcon's opening announcement. First the convenion's chair would begin his opening announcement. Then I walked out, clad in the robes of a medieval magician, as styled by Perdita. I faced into one wing of the stage, and pronounced the Latin

words by which a magician would conjure - something. On cue, Perdita released Deirdre, who walked out on stage towards me as if she were a spirit I had conjured up. The act brought down the house.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

This is	Dagon, a monthly fanzine of commentary on science, science fiction,
	fantasy, mystery novels, comic art. role-playing games (RPGs), and anything
O At	else that seems like a good idea at the moment, is published by John Boardman,
P Great	12716 Ginger Wood Lane, Clarksburg, MD 20871. My land-line telephone
E Intervals	number is (301) 515-4271. The number of my new cell-phone, like that of its prede-
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O Optic	<pre><marklblackman@juno,com>. The qopy qount for APA-Q is 15 print qopies.</marklblackman@juno,com></pre>
N Nerves	Dagon also goes to others who have indicated an interest in its subject
	matter. Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$10 in the United States, and for \$25
#2229	elsewhere. I also trade with other amateur publications.

On page 2 of the December issue of **Dagon** I listed the addresses of six readers whose copies had come back in the mail, and asked if anyone knew of their present addresses. I now find that there is a seventh address to be included in that listing:

William Waldon, 1622 Peach Basket Road, Felton, DE 19942

I plan to devote most of the space in this issue of **Dagon** to my own reminiscences of Perdita, and those of other people. Any other space will be principally devoted to keeping the "**Dagon** Directory" up to date. The 2018 issue of this Directory will be in the February, not the January, issue of **Dagon**, so readers may have an adequate amount of time in which to send in any necessary changes which I plan to put into the next "**Dagon** Directory".

I knew that, despite our loss, a number of more mundane concerns would come up to be recognized. However, I did not think that one of them would be a book I had enjoyed in childhood but scarcely thought about since. But recently I have learned from newspaper and television commentary that it has never been out of print since its first publication in 1936, recently expanded in an animated cartoon feature for children, and is once more selling well. And when I asked Deirdre whether she had ever heard of the book, she told me that she had had a copy when she was a girl, and that Anthony and her other children had also read it in their turn.

The book is *The Story of Ferdinand*, better known as *Ferdinand the Bull*, written by Munro Leaf, with illustrations, which are a large part of the book's appeal, by Robert Lawson. The title

character is a Spanish bull, one of several being raised on a farm to eventually encounter matadors in the bull ring. Upon reflecting on the book's plot, it occurred to me as an adult that *Ferdinand the Bull* is an anti-war tract. All the other bulls were earnestly hoping that they would be chosen for the bull ring, with no worries about what would happen to them there. But Ferdinand preferred to sit in their pasture and smell the pretty flowers.

And consider the setting in which Ferdinand the Bull was published. There had been a war a few years earlier, and the unsuccessful nations hoped that they could rebuild themselves with dictatorships and win the next war. By the middle 1930s, Italy and then Germany had undertaken this course of action, and their troops were going to fight in Spain, in a 2½-year campaign which overthrew the Second Spanish Republic and established yet another militaristic Fascist state in Europe. This Spanish setting was reproduced in Ferdinand the Bull. As men came to seek out fierce bulls that would make a good showing in the bull ring, Ferdinand accidentally sat on a bee. His violent reaction to this shock caused him to race around the pasture, exhibiting all the signs of ferocity, and the men from the bull ring selected him as the fiercest, set him in a cart, and trundled him off.

In the bull ring, Ferdinand was unimpressed by all the men with sharply pointed or edged objects, but paid attention only to "all the pretty ladies with flowers in their hair", a line repeatedly used in the book to indicate his real interests. The efforts of the toreros to get him to fight were all failures, and at last the management had to put him in a cart and carry him back to his native pasture, where he presumably spent a long and happy lifetime smelling "all the pretty flowers". (This also occurred to Adolf Hitler, who banned the book, presumably for promoting democratic weakness.)

Think of the implications of the career of Ferdinand the Bull (and, of course, the other bulls) whenever some politician or advertiser on television carries on about "our brave defenders" or even offers discounts on his products to soldiers or veterans.

Dagon #694 (APA-Q #605)

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() - if this space is checked, you may find something of interest to you on page.