Omnibus Press 2017-18
For over forty years Omnibus Press has been publishing the stories that matter from the music world. Omnibus Press is the World’s/Europe’s largest specialist publisher devoted to music writing, with around thirty new titles a year, with a backlist of over two hundred and seventy titles currently in print and many more as digital downloads.

Omnibus Press covers pop, rock, classical, metal, country, psyche, prog, electronic, dance, rap, jazz and many more genres, in a variety of formats. With books that tell stories through graphic art and photography, memoirs and biographies, Omnibus has constantly evolved its list to challenge what a music book can be and this year we are releasing our first talking books. Among Omnibus Press’ earliest acquisitions was Rock Family Trees, by acclaimed music archivist Pete Frame, three editions of which remain in print to this day and have been the basis of two BBC TV series. Over the following decades Omnibus published many best-selling, definitive biographies on some of rock’s greatest superstars. These include Morrissey & Marr: The Severed Alliance by Johnny Rogan, Dear Boy: The Life Of Keith Moon by Tony Fletcher, Uptight: The Velvet Underground Story by Victor Bockris, Catch A Fire: The Life of Bob Marley by Timothy White, Stevie Nicks - Visions, Dreams & Rumours by Zoë Howe, Without Frontiers The Life And Music Of Peter Gabriel by Daryl Easlea and Under The Ivy: The Life & Music of Kate Bush and George Harrison: Behind The Locked Door, both by Graeme Thomson, all of which are regularly cited by magazines and critics as being amongst the finest rock biographies ever published.

More recently Omnibus has published titles including That’s Entertainment: My Life In The Jam by Rick Buckler, Supersonic, a collection of photographs of Oasis and their cover art by Michael Spencer Jones, Mods: The New Religion by Paul ‘Smiler’ Anderson, Teenage Kicks: My Life As An Undertone by Michael Bradley and The Thunder Story, which is already into its second printing. Last year Omnibus Press released Wyatt at the Coyote Palace, Kristin Hersh’s tenth solo album, their first music release. Omnibus also distribute the enormously successful Rare Record Price Guide, produced by Record Collector magazine.
The 1980s songwriting partnership of McLennan/Forster was a little like an Australian Lennon/McCartney. The pair wrote all the band’s distinctively original material and, like their more famous counterparts, shared the credits and alternated on lead vocals.

Grant & I is an extraordinary portrait of an intense, creative, sometimes fraught friendship that represented a genuine meeting of artistic minds. In Grant & I, the reader is given a front-row seat at the sessions that produced an incredibly prolific and diverse song catalogue.

Just as The Go-Betweens were like no other music group, so this book is like no other music memoir. It is wise and witty, poignant, insightful, self-deprecating and knowledgeable. Robert Forster is as natural a storyteller and prose writer as he is a songwriter, and Grant & I is an unforgettable ride.

Please contact Penguin Australia for rights information.
Following the success of their books *Celebrity Vineyards* (2013) and *California Celebrity Vineyards* (2016), authors Nick Wise and Linda Sunshine have turned their attention to Oregon’s Willamette Valley to reveal the fascinating tale of how this region went from farming nuts and Christmas trees to the ever elusive Pinot Noir grape, and evolved into a billion-dollar wine empire in less than 50 years.

Today Oregon is recognized as one of the world’s premier producers of Pinot Noir wines and Chardonnay is thought to be next.

In addition to extensive tasting notes, you’ll find hotel and restaurant recommendations for your own tour of the valley, along with a map of all the featured wineries.

Rights available, please contact Robert Lecker Agency for more information.

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About the Author...

Nick Wise earned a Bachelor’s degree in wine at the Wine & Spirit Education Trust in London, worked for various English wine and spirit companies, and both created and sold a corporate champagne company called casevalue.com.

In 2013, he wrote *Celebrity Vineyards* (Welcome Books), distributed by Random House. He currently lives in London.

Linda Sunshine is the author of more than 50 books, including *How NOT to Turn Into Your Mother*, *She’s Just THAT Into You*, and *The New York Times* bestseller, *Plain Jane Works Out*. She has written extensively about Hollywood and the making of feature films. She lives in Los Angeles.

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The Cake and The Rain is Jimmy Webb’s memoir, touching on his background, musicianship, growth as a songwriter and his many friendships and collaborations with the likes of Frank Sinatra, John Lennon, Harry Nilsson and Elvis Presley. The Wall Street Journal called it “novelistic, perfectly plotted and quite possibly the best pop star autobiography yet written”. It is a spectacular book. With content exclusive to this UK edition.

Please contact St Martin’s Press for rights information.

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About the Author...

Jimmy Webb is the only artist to ever receive a Grammy Award for music, lyrics and orchestration. Inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame and achieving the NAS Lifetime achievement award amongst many other prestigious titles including (according to BMI) his song ‘By the Time I Get to Phoenix’ being the third most performed song for fifty years between 1940 and 1990!
Leonard Cohen
All The Answers Are Here

Here are the complete lyrics of Leonard Cohen accompanied by Malka Marom’s intimate portrayal of her friendship with Cohen, which spanned four decades.

From the saving grace Cohen’s book The Spice-Box of Earth offered a lonely woman fresh from Tel Aviv in the foreign cold climate of Montreal in 1961, through their first interview held over five days in 1974 on the release of Cohen’s album New Skin for the Old Ceremony, Marom shares her interviews and recollections – detailing Cohen’s political activity, his devotion to his spiritual teachers, his connection to Phil Spector, friendship with Bob Dylan, and his absolute devotion as a father.

Sharing their conversations, Cohen’s lyrics, thoughts on writing, performance, poetry, music and love, Marom takes us into Leonard Cohen’s home and shows us his heart.

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About the Author...

Malka Marom began her career as a folk singer in the popular duo Malka & Josa, who were the first to bring world music to Canada.

As a soloist, Marom has performed on stage, TV and radio around the world. She is also known and respected as a radio broadcaster and award-winning documentary maker and is the author of the bestselling novel Sulha.

Marom is the author of Joni Mitchell: In Her Own Words (Omnibus Press).

Liner Notes

A memoir by the influential Grammy Award-winning singer and actor — son of journalist Loudon Wainwright, father of Rufus, Martha, Lucy, and Lexie — a captivating meditation on relationships and creativity from the patriarch of one of America’s great musical families.

Wainwright’s song lyrics are represented throughout the book, amplifying his prose and showing the connections between the songs and real life. A funny and insightful meditation on family, inspiration, and art, Wainwright’s memoir will thrill fans, readers, and anyone who appreciates the intersection of music and life.

Please contact Blue Rider Press for rights information.

About the Author...

Loudon Wainwright III is an American songwriter, folk singer, humorist, and actor. He is the father of musicians Rufus Wainwright, Martha Wainwright, and Lucy Wainwright Roche, brother of Sloan Wainwright, and former husband of the late folksinger Kate McGarrigle. To date, Wainwright has released 26 studio albums and continues to tour and record.
George Michael was pop’s great survivor, UK radio’s most-played artist of the last 35 years and the superstar behind the legendary eighties’ Faith album and tour, he was a musician with international credibility. He was also a disaster-magnet whose serial missteps and scandals never seemed to dent his professional reputation.

This searching biography throws a light on Georgios Panayiotou, the Anglo-Greek London boy who had to hide his homosexuality when he was half of the pop phenomenon Wham! before becoming a global superstar and an overtly gay man. In Careless Whispers author Robert Steele details every step of the conflicted star’s career and digs deep into his closely-guarded private life. Drawing on first-hand accounts from Michael’s ex-manager and the journalist who was part of his social circle in the 1980s, Careless Whispers goes on to explore the more recent scandals and the imprisonment that might have derailed George Michael’s career but, perhaps predictably, proved to be just another interruption in the métier of a much-loved icon.

Rights available, please contact Robert Lecker Agency for more information.

The Kinks are the quintessential British sixties band, revered for an incredible series of classic songs (‘You Really Got Me’, ‘Waterloo Sunset’ and ‘Lola’ to name but a few) and critically acclaimed albums (The Village Green Preservation Society).

Featuring original interviews with key band members Ray Davies, his brother Dave and Mick Avory, as well as Chrissie Hynde and many others close to the group, every stage of their career is covered in fascinating detail: the hits, the American successes of the 1970s and the legendary band in-fighting. Nearly 50 years after they formed, The Kinks influence is still being felt today as strongly as ever.

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About the Author...

Nick Hasted has written for The Independent, the Guardian and Uncut. He is the author of Jack White: How He Built an Empire from the Blues, The Dark Story of Eminem and continues to write for The Independent and Uncut, as well as Classic Rock, Jazzwise and The Arts Desk.
“Nobody knows Dolly like Dolly,” declares Dolly Parton. Dolly’s is a rags-to-riches tale like no other. A dirt-poor Smoky Mountain childhood paved the way for the buxom blonde butterfly’s metamorphosis from singer-songwriter to international music superstar.

The undisputed “Queen of Country Music,” Dolly has sold more than 100 million records worldwide and has conquered just about every facet of the entertainment industry: music, film, television, publishing, theater, and even theme parks.

It has been more than fifty years since Dolly Parton arrived in Nashville with just her guitar and a dream. Her story has been told many times and in many ways, but never like this.

Please contact Chicago Review Press for rights information.

About the Author...

Schmidt has served as creative consultant for several television documentaries on the Carpenters, including VH1’s Behind the Music.

He teaches music in Denton, Texas.

Not Dumb, Not Blonde
Dolly In Conversation

When the world’s greatest pop band played their final public concert, in January 1969, there were no tickets or posters printed. When John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr emerged at lunchtime from the headquarters of their own company, Apple, five storeys above London’s Savile Row, only a select group of people knew what the hell was happening.

The rooftop concert was one of the Beatles’ most spontaneous acts. The Beatles on the Roof studies the rooftop concert in penetrating detail, uncovering new truths and debunking old myths about the event. Nobody knew it yet – not even the band – but this was the last time they would play live to the public.

Please contact Conville and Walsh for rights information.

About the Author...
Since 1997, Tony Barrell has contributed regular features to The Sunday Times on pop music, modern art and popular culture. Topics have included The Beatles, Abbey Road Studios, the longest songs ever recorded, the history of tribute bands, the world’s strangest concert venues, and the exercise music used by celebrities.

Tony has also interviewed and profiled many music stars, such as Ronnie Wood, Jimmy Page, Shirley Manson, Joan Baez, Alison Goldfrapp, Celine Dion and Mike Oldfield.
Ludwig van Beethoven (German: 17 December 1770 – 26 March 1827) was a German composer and pianist. A crucial figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras in Western art music, he remains one of the most famous and influential of all composers.

Born in Bonn, Beethoven displayed his musical talents at an early age and at the age of 21 he moved to Vienna and began studying, quickly gaining a reputation as a virtuoso pianist.

By his 30s his hearing began to deteriorate, and by the last decade of his life he was almost totally deaf, giving up conducting and performing in public but continuing to compose, with many of his works come from these last years.

Lavishly illustrated throughout, this fascinating new biography sets Mozart’s musical revolution in the context of the times.

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He became famous with Genesis but simply to call Peter Gabriel a pop star would be to sell him very short indeed. A quintessential Englishman, he has since pursued several overlapping careers, bringing to each of them his trademark preoccupation with quality control and restless curiosity.

In 1975, after leaving the band that made him famous he diversified into writing movie soundtracks, became world music’s most illustrious champion, launching the WOMAD festival and recording solo albums that featured musicians from every corner of the globe. Taken from hundreds of hours of new interviews with key friends, musicians, aides and confidants, Without Frontiers gets to the very heart and soul of Peter Gabriel, his music and his complex life.

Rights available, please contact Robert Lecker Agency for more information.
Examining and illustrating the art scene surrounding the birth of modernism and its simultaneous rise among the burgeoning working class Mod scene of the 60’s, Paul Anderson’s Mod Art is the definitive work on the visual culture of Mod.

With interviews from key artists, scene members, a rich understanding of the how the collision of high art and mass culture formed Mod Art this book will appeal to fans of history, music, fashion and art.

Gorgeously illustrated with a treasure trove of hundreds of colour photographs of famous, rediscovered and rare photographs from the era Mod Art will be read and re-read for years to come.

Paul Anderson’s previous title with Omnibus, Mods: The New Religion has sold over nine thousand copies since publication.

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About the Author...

Paul ‘Smiler’ Anderson fell in love with the Mod way of life in 1979. Since the Eighties he has been involved in organising numerous Mod events, publishing fanzines and running club nights.

Paul was also co-curator of the biggest Sixties Mods exhibition to date, and has written many magazine articles and record sleeve notes. He is also the author of the best-selling Mods: The New Religion.

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A comic book retelling of the band members’ teenage years before the group was famous, including fascinating digressions about their influences and the times in which they were growing up.

The story reaches its climax with the meeting of Morrissey and Marr, the formation of the band in 1982 and their first gig as The Smiths.

Introduction by drummer and early Smiths associate Simon Wolstencroft.

Rights available, please contact Robert Lecker Agency for more information.

About the Author...

Con Chrisoulis is a Greek-Australian comic book artist who lives in Brighton.

Having enjoyed a long career in indie and mainstream comics in Greece in 2012, he began publishing online a daily comic strip devoted to the early and unknown days of the seminal indie band, The Smiths.

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1968. A year of riots, revolution and world-changing rock ‘n’ roll. Except for Elvis Presley. The King of the 50s had become the Clown of the 60s, churning out bad music in dismal films, a humiliating spectre of his former glory.

In the words of the hip young director assigned to his first TV special, Elvis’ reputation was “in the toilet.” Only the same director, Steve Binder, was now about to save it. Together they would embark on the biggest creative fight of Elvis’ life.

Overcoming insecurity, paranoia, a failing marriage, network censors, drugs, the over-protective Memphis Mafia, the sabotaging whims of manager Colonel Tom Parker and the heat exhaustion of his soon-to-be iconic black leather suit, with his ’68 TV Special, Elvis gave the defining performance of his career. He never sang harder, rocked wilder or blazed sexier. This was Elvis, The Resurrection.

Please contact Jenny Brown Associates for rights information.

About the Author...

Simon Goddard is a music journalist and the author of several "thrillingly unusual" (The Observer), "ludicrous and brilliant" (The Scotsman) and "endlessly entertaining" (The Independent) books about pop. These include Ziggyology (the origins of David Bowie’s Ziggy Stardust), Simply Thrilled (the preposterous story of Postcard Records) and Rollaresque (The Rolling Stones retold as a picaresque novel).

Halfway to Paradise
The Life of Billy Fury

Ronald Wycherley was pushed on stage at the Birkenhead Essoldo on 1st October, after offering some of his songs to pop manager Larry Parnes, to make his stage debut as a singer. The next day he joined The Larry Parnes Extravaganza and Billy Fury was born.

Censured for his stage act, beloved as a singer, songwriter and actor, Billy Fury was an overnight sensation, with The Beatles auditioning to be his backing band, but a childhood bout of rheumatic fever would leave with the ailment that caused his death at the age of 42.

The first major biography of Billy Fury, Halfway To Paradise covers the rise and fall of the teen idol, from his days as a docker in Liverpool to his tragic death on the cusp of his comeback album release.

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About the Author...

David and Caroline Stafford are award-winning writers of scripts and screenplays for stage, screen, TV and radio, books, stand-up and journalism.

Their books include Maybe I’m Doing it Wrong: The Life & Times of Randy Newman, Fings Ain’t Wot They Used T’Be: The Life of Lionel Bart and Cupid Stunts: The Life and Radio Times of Kenny Everett.
**I’m With The Band**
Confessions of a Groupie

Pamela Des Barres was a regular on the Sunset Strip, where she knocked on rock stars’ backstage doors and immersed herself in the drugs, danger, and ecstasy of the freewheeling 1960s.

Over the next 10 years she had affairs with Mick Jagger, Jimmy Page, Keith Moon and Jim Morrison, among others. As a member of the GTO’s, a girl group masterminded by Frank Zappa, she was in the thick of the most revolutionary renaissance in the history of modern popular music.

Warm, witty, and sexy, this kiss-and-tell–all stands out as the perfect chronicle of one of rock ‘n’ roll’s most thrilling eras, I’m With The Band is widely regarded as a feminist classic and becomes more iconic with every passing year.

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**I Am Damo Suzuki**

Damo Suzuki is a Japanese musician who has been living in Germany since the early 1970s and is best known as the former lead singer of the seminal German krautrock group Can.

I Am Damo Suzuki (named after the tribute by post-punk cult band The Fall, released in the mid-1980s period when Damo returned to music) tells the singular tale of a musical enigma in his own words. This unique first-person narrative shows the other side of the coin: the sometimes startling personal odyssey of the enduringly active voice of Can.

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**About the Author…**

Despite her infamy as “the World’s Most Famous Groupie” or “Queen of the Groupies,” Pamela Des Barres has many other facets, fascinations and unique talents.

Known mostly for her heady dalliances and friendships with classic rock’s elite dandies in the 60s and 70s, she presciently kept copious diaries about those madcap revolutionary days and nights. Pamela has written four books, I’m With the Band, Take Another Little Piece of My Heart, Rock Bottom: Dark Moments in Music Babylon, and most recently, Let’s Spend the Night Together: Backstage Secrets of Rock Muses and Supergroupies.

**About the Author…**

Paul Woods has written and edited books on crime, pop culture, cult cinema and pulp fiction.

He is the author of The Curious Life and Work of Scott Walker, also published by Omnibus Press.
**Diary of a Rock ‘n’ Roll Star**

Ian Hunter’s *Diary of a Rock ‘n’ Roll Star* has received plaudits has been described as what “may well be the best rock book ever” and “an enduring crystallisation of the rock musician’s lot, and a quietly glorious period piece” from Q and The Guardian.

A brutally honest chronicle of touring life in the 1970s, and a classic of the rock writing genre, *Diary of a Rock ‘n’ Roll Star* remains the gold standard for rock writing. This new edition includes new content from Hunter and a foreword from Johnny Depp.

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**The Monkees From Reel to Real**

The biggest and most comprehensive Monkees book ever! In 1965 America launched its assault on The Beatles – a blueprint boy band assembled by audition called The Monkees who against all the odds triumphed with their music, their personalities and their zany half-hour TV shows.

Remembered now for hits like ‘I’m A Believer’, ‘Last Train To Clarkesville’ and ‘Daydream Believer’, the quartet of Davy Jones, Micky Dolenz, Peter Tork and Mike Nesmith spent three years in a blazing spotlight before disintegrating into a mess of recriminations and ill-feeling.

With contributions from all the major players in the Monkees’ saga – including the four Monkees themselves – *Reel To Real* is an oral history of the group that follows their adventures from the concept dreamed up by businessmen through to their eventual split with the realization that the only ones who didn’t make any money out of The Monkees were The Monkees themselves.

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More than simply the iconic group of the 1970s glam rock era, Slade’s huge popularity and the enduring levels of affection for the band establish them as one of the quintessential British rock acts. Although the original quartet ceased working as a unit in 1992, Noddy Holder, Dave Hill, Jim Lea and Don Powell remain household names thanks to the continuing interest in the group’s classic material and the indelible impression that they have imprinted on popular culture.

The first serious biography of Slade since 1984, Whatever Happened to Slade? details the complete story of this unique band, as well as the personal histories of the four unique individuals who were Slade. Featuring new interviews with all four members of the band, as well as a host of other key figures in their history, Whatever Happened to Slade? represents the final word on a band that won hearts and perforated eardrums across four incident-filled decades.

About the Author...
Daryl Easlea has written for Mojo, Record Collector and bbc.co.uk. He is also the author of Without Frontiers: The Life and Music of Peter Gabriel, also published by Omnibus Press. He compiles and annotates CDs, has DJ’d at festivals and is a regular on TV and radio music documentaries.

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Poly Styrene was many things: a pop star, a punk, a songwriter, a single mother, a woman of colour, a Hare Krishna convert and an artist, but she is best known as the singer of X-Ray Spex.

For the first time ever Poly’s Daughter, Celeste Bell, and Zoé Howe are sharing Poly’s creative work from her archives. Ranging from the flyers and early design drafts for X-Ray Spex to her later visual art and lyrics, Turn the World Dayglo is the definitive statement on Poly Styrene as an artist. The book will be published to coincide with the release of the new Poly Styrene documentary I Am A Cliché.

About the Author...
Celeste Bell is the lead singer of Celeste Dos Santos and The Tabloid Queens, narrator and co-writer of the documentary I Am A Cliché and Poly Styrene’s daughter. Zoë Howe is a writer, musician and visual artist based in Essex. Her books include Lee Brilleaux – Rock ’n’ Roll Gentleman, a biography of the celebrated Dr Feelgood frontman, Typical Girls? The Story Of The Slits, How’s Your Dad? Living In The Shadow of a Rock Star Parent and Wilko Johnson – Looking Back At Me.

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proved unstoppable. In 2011, following the release of the album "Who Are You," Jessie J won a Brit Award for Critics Choice and an ill-fated stint in a girl group was followed by a solo record. An unknown support act, Jessie J was often booed off the stage. Childhood bullying, an irregular heartbeat, a serious fall from the stage and a minor stroke at the age of 18 all threatened to derail her career. But although dogged by ill-health and career setbacks she persevered. First pursued fame through dance and the musical theatre, she quickly realized that she was not really that good at anything. Over time, Jessie J found her voice and started to reinvent herself. This is the story of how she did it. This extraordinary biography tells the health and career of the BRIT school student who has interviewed record producers, school friends, classmates, dance tutors and many others to unearth the real Jessie J. It is the story behind Jessie J's improbable road to fame. It is the story of how she did it. It is the story of Who's Laughing Now? by Chloe Govan.
The seemingly endless appeal of the gothic aesthetic, My Chemical Romance, the gothic subculture was first born through the dark rock of The Sisters of Mercy, through to the macabre industrial output, from album covers and ephemera to fashion, book jackets, and image-conscious movement. Written by Natasha Scharf—whose work is known for its lyrical and vivid storytelling—The Art of Gothic lifts the coffin-lid on the art of gothic and explores the full spectrum of gothic’s visual and cultural influence. This richly illustrated history of gothic subculture covers its followers dressed head-to-toe in black, often with extreme makeup, from gothic lolita, steampunk, and neo-noir. More than 400 artworks provide a striking record of this visual and image-conscious movement. Written by Natasha Scharf—whose work is known for its lyrical and vivid storytelling—The Art of Gothic makes for the ultimate visual journey through the gothic underground.

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From the staccato post-punk of Siouxsie and the Banshees and the output, from album covers and ephemera to fashion, book jackets, its followers dressed head-to-toe in black, covered include post-punk, gothic rock, industrial, deathrock, cinematography, computer graphics and fine art. The styles make for the ultimate visual journey through the gothic underground. Written by Natasha Scharf—the world’s foremost authority on gothic culture—and with a foreword by Andi Sex Gang, The Art of Gothic lifts the coffin-lid on the seemingly endless appeal of the gothic aesthetic, Metal of Marilyn Manson and the funereal emotional pop of My Chemical Romance, the gothic subculture was first born through the Anarchy Tour. More than 400 artworks provide a striking record of this visual image-conscious movement.
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