

1 you just told us before on uh, meeting with Roy, what he saw, what he said and
2 what you guys found and, and so on.

3 **DD:** Okay.

4 **EE:** If you need to refer to the drawing that you did for me I'll, I'll open it up to that
5 page.

6 **DD:** Okay, on uh, August 11th I helped uh, Roy Kronk on uh, the route that does uh,
7 Hope Springs and Suburban. And uhm, when we finished with the uh, southeast
8 uh, the south section of that route we went over to the school to read the master
9 meter and the lift station. When we were finished reading those we stopped
10 under uh, the shady area by the swamp because we knew it was too early to
11 come into work and uh, we hadn't taken our lunch break yet. So uh, we decided
12 we ought to take our lunch break at that time. While we were sitting there uhm,
13 Roy had went down into the swamp to take a pee. Uhm, while he was down in
14 the swamp uhm, Chris had pulled up. And me and Chris were talking. And uhm,
15 Roy had stated that he had uh, seen a bag in there. Uh, we didn't take him
16 serious on what he said. Uh, we thought he was just joking. And then uh, after
17 that uh, we were talking about you know, different things and stuff. And uhm,
18 Roy had walked along the swamp line and uh, went behind Chris' truck. And
19 then uhm, he looked into the swamp and he says, "Hey guys, uhm, I see a skull
20 in here." Well we didn't really take him serious with that. But I did want to see
21 what he seen. So I walked toward him. And then that's when I just about
22 stepped on the biggest rattlesnake I ever seen in my life. And it startled me so
23 much that I, I let out a little yell. And uh....

24 **EE:** Was Roy standing close to that rattlesnake as well?

25 **DD:** Roy was about fifteen feet from it at that time.

1 **YM:** Half past it?
2 **DD:** Half past it.
3 **YM:** Okay.
4 **DD:** And uhm, then everything went, all the attention went from what Roy said to that
5 snake. So I got my shovel and I picked the snake up and put it in the back of my
6 truck. And then we sat there and talked about that and, and everything. Then it
7 was about time to come into the office.
8 **YM:** Let me stop you there for a minute. What time of day was this approximately?
9 **DD:** I would say about 1:20 to 1:30....
10 **YM:** Okay.
11 **DD:** ...p.m.
12 **YM:** And just some clarification what happened. You said you went down to the
13 school. Do you remember the name of the school of the top of your head? Or
14 the name of the road you were on?
15 **DD:** The road is Suburban.
16 **YM:** Okay. So...
17 **DD:** The name of the school, I think it's Oak Meadows. I could be wrong.
18 **YM:** Okay. But it was the, the elementary school at the dead end of Suburban, on
19 the....
20 **DD:** Yeah (affirmative).
21 **YM:** ...far east side?
22 **DD:** Yes sir.
23 **YM:** And when, well when uhm, Roy went into the woods to take a pee, it wasn't the
24 same place he made the uh, the skull comment, right? The skull comment was
25 made, you, you had estimated before about forty feet further west.

1 **DD:** That's correct.

2 **YM:** And....

3 **EE:** From where he saw the bag?

4 **DD:** That's correct.

5 **YM:** Alright. So that's where he made a, a statement or a comment about hey look,

6 there's a skull, or something like that? After the snake was found did he ever

7 mention the skull again to you that day?

8 **DD:** No sir. No sir.

9 **YM:** Uh, what about the bag?

10 **DD:** No sir.

11 **YM:** Did he ever mention having looked in the bag, or what he saw in the bag, or

12 manipulating the bag? Anything like that?

13 **DD:** No sir. Uh, he, he couldn't have looked in the bag uh, because we'd have seen

14 him. Chris and I would have seen him uh, do it.

15 **YM:** Did you actually see the bag he was talking about?

16 **DD:** No sir. Uh, that's why we didn't take him serious. We thought he was joking

17 about it because you know, he didn't continue, you know, with the bag, so.

18 **EE:** So he actually said, he made that statement from up by the roadway? He didn't

19 go back into the foliage again?

20 **DD:** No sir. He made uh, that statement while he was peeing down there in the

21 swamp.

22 **EE:** No, the skull statement....

23 **DD:** Oh, the....

24 **EE:** ...not the bag.

25 **DD:**skull statement?

1 **EE:** I'm sorry, I, I jumped topic...

2 **YM:** You did.

3 **EE:** ...on you I believe. Yeah (affirmative), the skull statement. When he walked

4 back over here forty, forty feet or so, did he enter that weed line again or....

5 **DD:** No sir.

6 **EE:** So then he made that comment from the grassy area?

7 **DD:** Yes sir.

8 **EE:** Okay. And you say it was dry at that time? No standing water?

9 **DD:** It was, it was dry at that time.

10 **EE:** Okay.

11 **YM:** Uh, back to the bag. Would uh, when he, did, was he out of eyesight when he

12 was taking a piss?

13 **DD:** No.

14 **YM:** Okay, so you saw the back, or saw....

15 **DD:** Yes.

16 **YM:** ...a little bit of him? So did, you didn't see him bending down or, or messing with

17 any type of bag?

18 **DD:** No sir.

19 **YM:** You didn't see any bag around him when he made the comment or before or

20 after?

21 **DD:** No sir.

22 **YM:** Okay. Uhm, you guys gather the snake. You put it in the truck. You came back

23 here. Apparently it was, it was quite the thing that day. A lot of people came out.

24 Do you remember uh, any comments that people might have been making to

25 Roy, or any, any kind of jabs about the bag or, or, you know, uh....

1 **DD:** No.

2 **YM:** ...making fun of Roy, what he made have said, or....

3 **DD:** No sir.

4 **YM:** ...you know, making light of what he may have said?

5 **DD:** No. No sir, no comment was made about any uh, the bag or the skull. It was just

6 everything was concentrated on the snake.

7 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative). Oh, we asked before. You said maybe there was a bit of

8 bantering back and forth reference, or a statement uh, when you guys came back

9 here.

10 **EE:** Guys needling guys.

11 **YM:** Yeah (affirmative).

12 **DD:** Uh, that was, you were talking about the day he found the skull.

13 **YM:** Oh, no, no. The, the day that you guys found the snake was there any of that

14 going on?

15 **DD:** Oh. No, not about the bag or the skull, uh, but about the snake.

16 **YM:** Okay.

17 **DD:** Yeah (affirmative).

18 **YM:** And from that day to the day that Roy actually found the uh, the remains, was

19 there any conversation with Roy about having, about going back to the area, or

20 about calling the police, or about Crimeline tips, or about his theory, uh, uh,

21 anything at all?

22 **DD:** No sir. There was no mention of uh, him making any calls or, or get in touch with

23 anybody.

24 **YM:** So he never told you he would, or he, he called the Sheriff's Office, or he'll call

25 Crimeline?

1 **DD:** No sir; never said anything.

2 **YM:** You mentioned before that when you guys first met up at that area after checking
3 the meters at the school, you had told him, or you shared with him about your
4 theory. And what was your theory?

5 **DD:** My theory was uhm, when we pulled up and he was out smoking a cigarette, I
6 told him, I says, "You know Roy, I think that little girl's in that swamp right there. I
7 just have this feeling." You know how you get a feeling, your hair stands on the
8 back of your neck and stuff? Because I remember Casey had said that she was
9 close when she was talking to her mother and her father when she was in jail.
10 She said, "She's really close Mom." And I just had that feeling that that swamp is
11 as close as you can get....

12 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

13 **DD:** ...if you're going to dump a, you know, something in there. Besides, this is
14 August. The school's not open and nobody's going to walk by there. So you
15 figure if you throw something in there the smell isn't going to attract a whole lot of
16 people. You know uh, how long does the smell last before you know, you know,
17 in the wild before it disappears. Uh....

18 **YM:** Did, did Roy share that thought with you, or share that theory with you? Did he
19 agree, disagree?

20 **DD:** He....

21 **YM:** Add anything?

22 **DD:** ...he did share that he, yeah (affirmative), agreed that he thinks that you know,
23 there's a possibility she could be in there. You know, because he felt the same
24 way I did that you know, that she did say that she was close by.

25

1 **EE:** You said the area looked undisturbed like it hadn't been thoroughly searched and
2 that struck you odd as well?

3 **DD:** Yes sir, that struck me odd. I, I, I just felt that that would have been one of the
4 first places you know, that, that people should have checked being that close to
5 the house. Uhm, and looking at the girl, you know, you don't have to go too far in
6 the swamp because I don't think that she uh, is the type of girl that would go
7 deep into a swamp. Besides, that swamp looks pretty uh, ominous. It looks
8 pretty you know, like you go down in there and... I know I wouldn't go down in
9 that swamp because uh, I got a fear of water moccasins and that's what's in a
10 swamp.

11 **EE:** But it wasn't really standing water at that time? It was uh, maybe some in the
12 distance, or you couldn't see water at all?

13 **DD:** Uh, if there was any water in there it was very little. I mean it was dry enough for
14 Roy to walk down in there and, and not get wet and anything.

15 **YM:** Is that, was that normally your route to work, or do you work that area?

16 **DD:** We, we work that area, but I work different areas.

17 **YM:** Okay.

18 **DD:** Uhm, we kind of....

19 **YM:** Do you remember the last time?

20 **DD:** We kind of rotate. Uh, not everybody has a certain route. Uhm, being Roy's kind
21 of new, uhm, I was help training him for the first month. And then uhm, after that
22 he went out on his own and this is one of his routes that, that uh, Rusty had given
23 him. It's a pretty easy route for somebody to do. And he just had me come over
24 there and help him uh, with the route.

25

1 **YM:** Were you, or had your were, been in that route, uh, this is August, July or June
2 do you remember being on that route, or in that area of Suburban that, this area
3 on Suburban back in June or July?
4 **DD:** No, I don't recollect. Uhm, if I was in that area it was probably at the Newport
5 section uhm, just south uh, of that area. Uh, it's, it's....
6 **YM:** But no, I'm just asking Suburban....
7 **DD:** No sir.
8 **YM:** ...Drive.
9 **DD:** No, no.
10 **YM:** Okay.
11 **DD:** And Suburban, no. I don't remember being...
12 **YM:** Okay.
13 **DD:** ...doing that route.
14 **YM:** Let me uh, let me fast forward to the 11th of December when you found out that
15 Roy found some remains, or some banter going back and forth on the radio. Tell
16 me about that. What did you....
17 **DD:** Yeah (affirmative), uhm....
18 **YM:** ...hear? How did you first learn of this?
19 **DD:** Okay, uh, well I was over on Young Pine uhm, doing....
20 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
21 **DD:** ...uhm, doing a route over there. And I heard on the radio Roy called into uh,
22 David, our 3980 dispatch, and uhm, mentioned that he had found a, a skull with
23 uh, tape on the head. And uh, I think his d... exact words were uh, uh, "3980
24 uhm, I just found a skull." And, you know and it, I said, "What?" You know, and I
25 was thinking you know, I knew he had that route because he asked me about

1 that route that morning. He, because he always you know, asked me how the
2 route is.

3 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

4 **DD:** You know. Because I know all these routes. And I told him, "Yeah (affirmative),
5 that, you remember that route. You did that route before and that's a pretty easy
6 route, you know."

7 **EE:** Did the rattlesnake come up in conversation at that point?

8 **DD:** No sir. Not....

9 **EE:** Or, or the....

10 **DD:**not at that time.

11 **EE:** ...that, so that whole incident didn't come up with you?

12 **DD:** No.

13 **EE:** Okay.

14 **DD:** No sir. Uhm, and uhm, and then over the radio, after him and David uh, were
15 finished talking and everything, uhm, I came back on the radio and I uh, said uh,
16 "I told you she was in there." And he came back and said, "No, I told you." And
17 then I thought to myself that was pretty stupid of me staying that over the radio.
18 And uh, I didn't say anything after that because I knew I had made a mistake
19 uhm, in uhm, radio uhm....

20 **EE:** Etiquette?

21 **DD:**talk; etiquette, you know, in, in saying that. So I didn't say anything after that.

22 **YM:** Did you go down to the uh, scene at all?

23 **DD:** No sir, I did not. Uh, Rusty uh, our supervisor told us to stay away from the area.

24 **YM:** Do you know of anyone that went to the scene that also saw the body besides
25 Roy and law enforcement?

1 **DD:** Uhm, Alex, our uh, senior supervisor...

2 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

3 **DD:** ...was there.

4 **YM:** He was down there. Did he actually say yeah (affirmative), I saw the body, I saw

5 the skull, or I saw the bag? Anything like that or did he just....

6 **DD:** No, no.

7 **YM:** Okay.

8 **DD:** No, he didn't.

9 **YM:** So as far as you know, nobody else besides Roy and law enforcement went to

10 the body, to your recollection?

11 **DD:** Uhm, to my recollection, except for Alex, yes sir.

12 **YM:** Okay. Alex was there, but did Alex say anything about seeing the, the remains

13 or....

14 **DD:** No sir.

15 **YM:** Okay.

16 **DD:** No sir.

17 **YM:** I just wanted to make sure....

18 **DD:** No.

19 **YM:** ...I'm, I'm clear. Uh....

20 **EE:** The snake. In the parking lot, people taking pictures of it here at Orange County

21 government building....

22 **DD:** Yes sir.

23 **EE:** ...on the 11th, August 11th, right?

24 **DD:** Yes sir.

25 **EE:** Has that left your custody since?

1 **DD:** No sir. The snake is in my freezer at home.

2 **EE:** So when you left work that day you took it to your house and it's been in the
3 freezer since?

4 **DD:** Yes sir. Uh, I've taken it out and taken a couple pictures of it myself. But that's,
5 you know, just normal for me. I can't believe I didn't take a camera and take a
6 picture when I first got it and stretched it out with a measuring tape and
7 everything.

8 **EE:** Roy showed us a picture of it on his phone. He took a picture with his phone
9 camera.

10 **DD:** I don't, I can't remember who all took a picture, but there was a lot of people....

11 **EE:** Taking pictures.

12 **YM:** (Laughing.)

13 **DD:** ...with you know, cell phone cameras taking pictures.

14 **EE:** Quite a conversation piece?

15 **DD:** Quite a conversation piece. Pretty intimidating snake.

16 **EE:** And looking at your picture that you drew, you indicated that the snake about
17 splits the difference between where he originally said he saw a bag where he
18 relieved himself, came back out of the wood line, and then walked down towards
19 that fence area. And then that, the statement where he says he saw a skull, the
20 snake was kind of in the middle of those two different locations?

21 **DD:** Yes sir.

22 **EE:** On the side of the road, in the grass?

23 **DD:** Yes sir.

24 **EE:** Not on the roadway?

25 **DD:** Not on the roadway.

1 **EE:** Uh, and I asked did it appear that the snake had been run over by a car, and
2 your answer was?
3 **DD:** No.
4 **EE:** So uh, the cause of death without....
5 **DD:** Is suspicious to me.
6 **EE:**unknown.
7 **YM:** (Laughs.)
8 **EE:** Unknown.
9 **DD:** Unknown.
10 **YM:** Unknown.
11 **EE:** Okay.
12 **DD:** Now I have no idea.
13 **EE:** Okay. And do you have a problem with us coming and, well we're going to come
14 get that snake. Are you, are you going to give us that snake voluntarily...
15 **(All laughing.)**
16 **EE:** ...is my question.
17 **DD:** Oh, you mean (inaudible)....
18 **EE:** Now....
19 **DD:** Yes, absolutely.
20 **EE:** Okay.
21 **DD:** The snake will be uhm, voluntarily given up and uh, and I hope it helps you in any
22 way that it...
23 **YM:** I appreciate it.
24 **EE:** (Inaudible.)
25

1 **YM:** Real, real quick where he made the skull statement, how far from the fence, or
2 the corner of the fence was he? Do you, I, I know I'm asking a lot here. Do you
3 remember if it was like, was the fence like right there, five feet away? Was it fifty
4 feet away? Was it within view?

5 **DD:** I would say fifty feet. At, I would say at the end of the fence was probably uh....

6 **YM:** One truck length?

7 **DD:** Thirty....

8 **YM:** Two?

9 **DD:** ...thirty to fifty feet.

10 **YM:** Okay.

11 **DD:** I would say.

12 **YM:** Okay. So he walked about forty feet. Had he walked about another thirty to fifty
13 feet he would have been at the corner of the fence that uh, I guess that, that
14 corner property right there in the back corner.

15 **DD:** Though the way the, the way the swamp line goes I believe it drops down like
16 that and then....

17 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

18 **DD:** ...the fence goes into it like that.

19 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

20 **DD:** I think that's how it curves into.

21 **YM:** Okay. So about thirty to fifty feet from where it curves into the fence?

22 **DD:** Yes sir.

23 **YM:** Okay. And it's just an estimate.

24 **DD:** Yes.

25 **YM:** I'm, I'm just asking you to....

1 **DD:** Yeah (affirmative), just a rough est...estimate. I hadn't been over there since you
2 know, we were there that day on August 11th. Uh, I haven't...

3 **YM:** Okay.

4 **DD:** ...been over there since. Uh....

5 **EE:** Okay, this, this sheet of paper here that you signed and dated with August 11th
6 on it, today's date you have uh, 01/06 of '09 I believe you signature and my
7 signature on the top, correct?

8 **DD:** Yes sir.

9 **EE:** And this is all your drawing?

10 **DD:** Yes sir.

11 **EE:** Okay. Not to scale, but the best of your recollection?

12 **DD:** Yes sir.

13 **YM:** Is there anything we haven't asked you about uh, reference uh, to Mr. Kronk's
14 statements or what you may have seen? Anything (inaudible) we asked you
15 about that you feel is important that you wanted to share with us?

16 **DD:** Uhm, no, I, I think I've pretty much uh...

17 **YM:** Okay.

18 **DD:** ...tried to tell you as honest and as clear to everything I could, you know, that you
19 asked me about.

20 **YM:** Okay.

21 **DD:** And everything. So....

22 **YM:** Would you do me a favor? Raise your right hand for me. Do you swear and
23 affirm everything you've told us is the truth to the best of your knowledge?

24 **DD:** Yes sir.

25 **YM:** Alright, thank you.

1 **EE:** It's uh, what is it, twelve after ten?

2 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

3 **EE:** Alright.

4 **End of recorded statement.**

5 **This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.**

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CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

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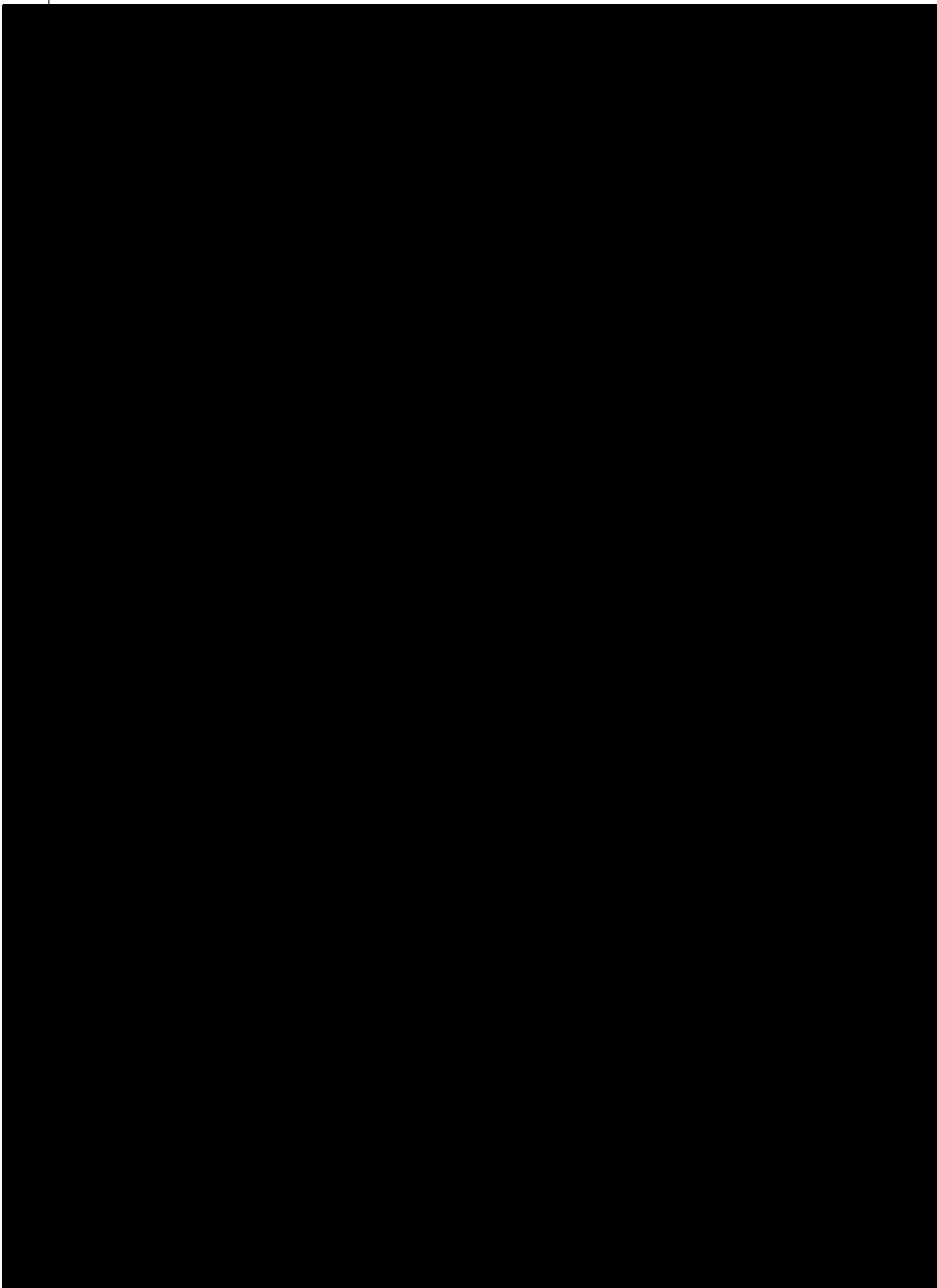
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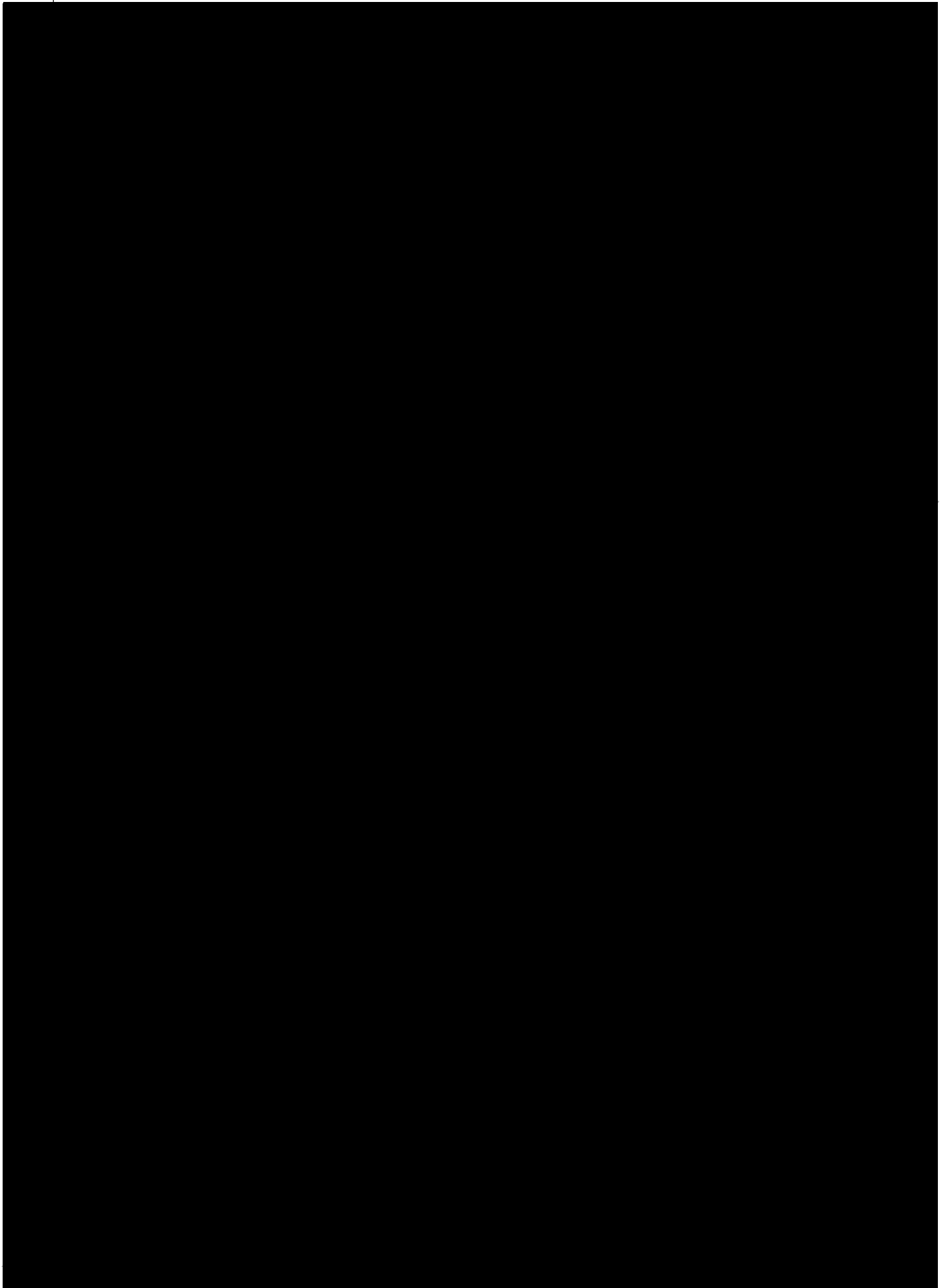
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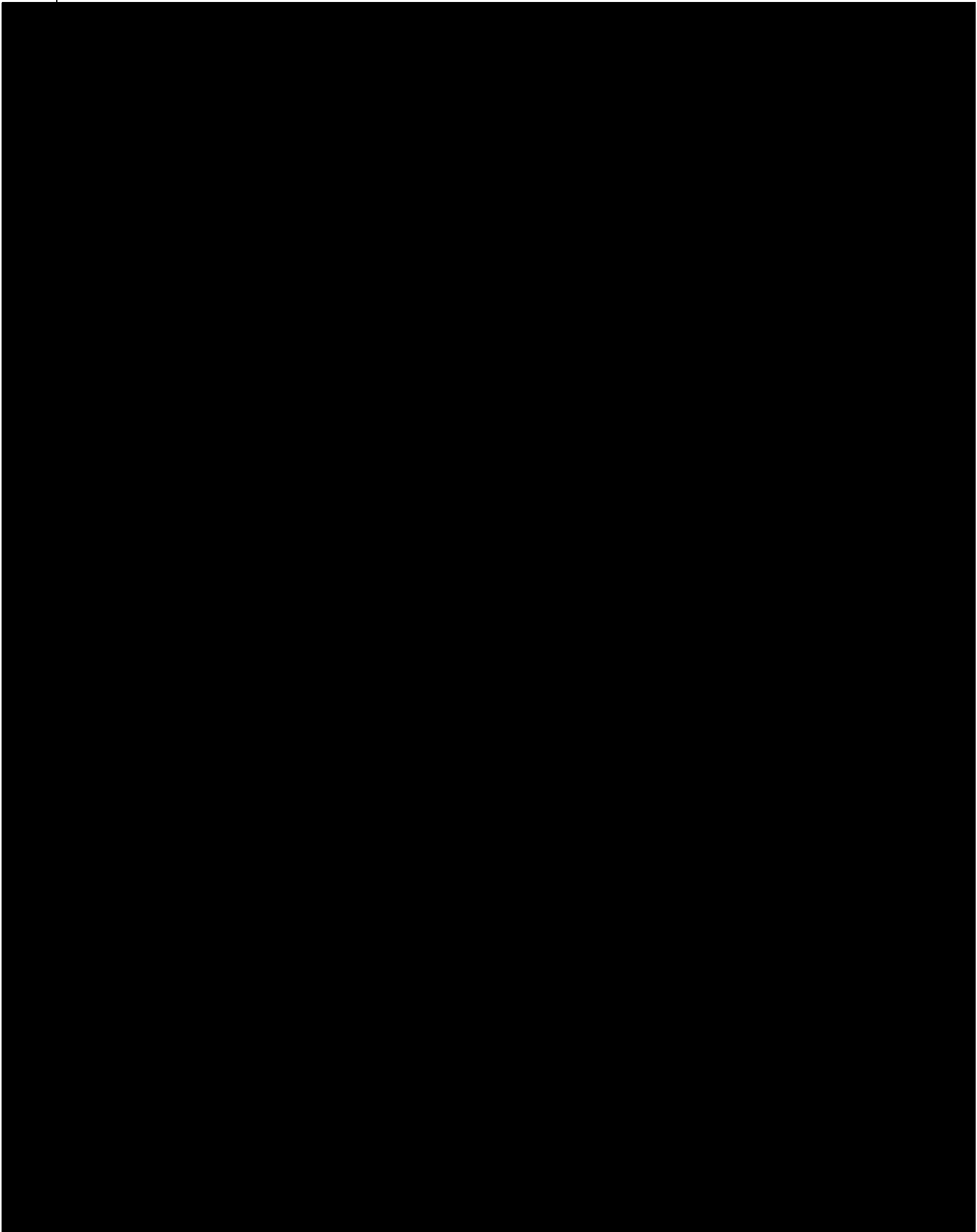
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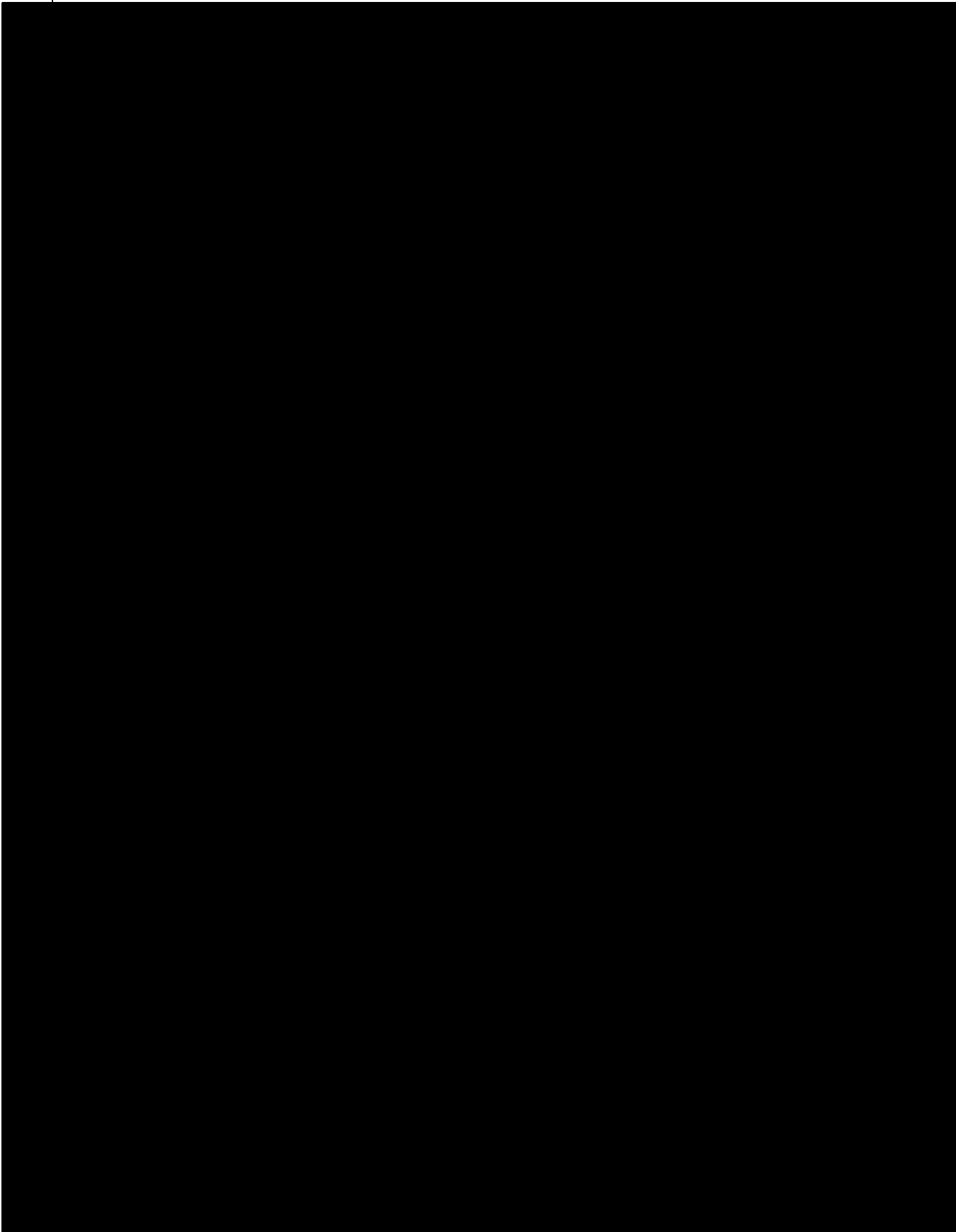




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