



INSPRE

ONLINE CRAFT & DECORATING MAGAZINE

EDITION 9
JANUARY
2009

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FROM THE EDITOR....

Well it has gone as quick as it arrived....Christmas has been celebrated for another year and the new year is here. January is a good month to sit back and take a look at 2008....its out with the old and in with the new..but not before we have an opportunity to take a look back over 2008.

2008 was no doubt filled with both challenges and memorable events. January is a great time to take stock of what 2008 meant to you, and plan for what you would like to get out of 2009. Whether this is in the form of New Years Resolutions, or simple goals. Another year brings new things, and fresh challenges!

This month we have jumped straight into the New Year by looking at two of the current trends in craft and decorating...the Owl and the Softie, both which take on many forms, we have a number of projects lined up, and we also launch our Business feature.

Happy New Year!

Nicole & the team at
Inspire Online Magazine



Did you make our Spirit of Christmas Quilt? We'd love to share photos with our other readers...why not email us via the address given in the Magazine Information section..

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NEW LOOK FOR INSPIRE...

New Format.....

Last month we gave you a sneak preview of the changes we have in store for 2009. One of these changes was the addition of a BLOG for Inspire. We are very excited to announce that as of February 2009, the Inspire Online Magazine website will take on this new format. The Magazine itself will continue as it currently stands, but the website format and the way that you can access the magazine editions will change. In our new format, we will have photo albums where our readers can contribute photos of the Inspire projects they have completed. We have the ability to keep you informed better by having news delivered to you throughout the month, via RSS Feeds, and the opportunity for you our readers to enter competitions by simply leaving a message. The new format means easier navigation for readers, and gives us lots of opportunity for new growth in the future.

The current Inspire website.....

As mentioned in our last edition of Inspire...we will be opening an Inspire Online shop. This will be opened at the current Inspire Website. Subscriptions will be available, project kits when available for the projects we feature in the magazine, special offers from our advertisers, and subscriptions for the Embellishment Club.

2009 will bring some great things, make sure you are part of it!



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2009 CALENDAR PROJECT... What you will need:



- FRANCHEVILLE White Chipboard Large Gift Tags (book) or some relatively thick cardboard (use template over leaf to cut out your shapes).
- Modge Podge Gloss Medium, Brush
- Super Glue
- Variety of scrapbooking papers
- Variety of embellishments such as Vellum flowers, ric rac, buttons, ribbons, stickers etc
- Magnets or decorative ribbon
- Printer, scissors

You could either hang these calendars by putting a hole at the top and threading some nice ribbon through, or you could simply glue a magnet to back and use them on the fridge.

Instructions:

1. If you are creating your own tags by using the template overleaf, print and cut out the template, then trace onto thick card as many times as you need, and cut the tags out.
2. Arrange your papers and embellishments into how you want them to appear.



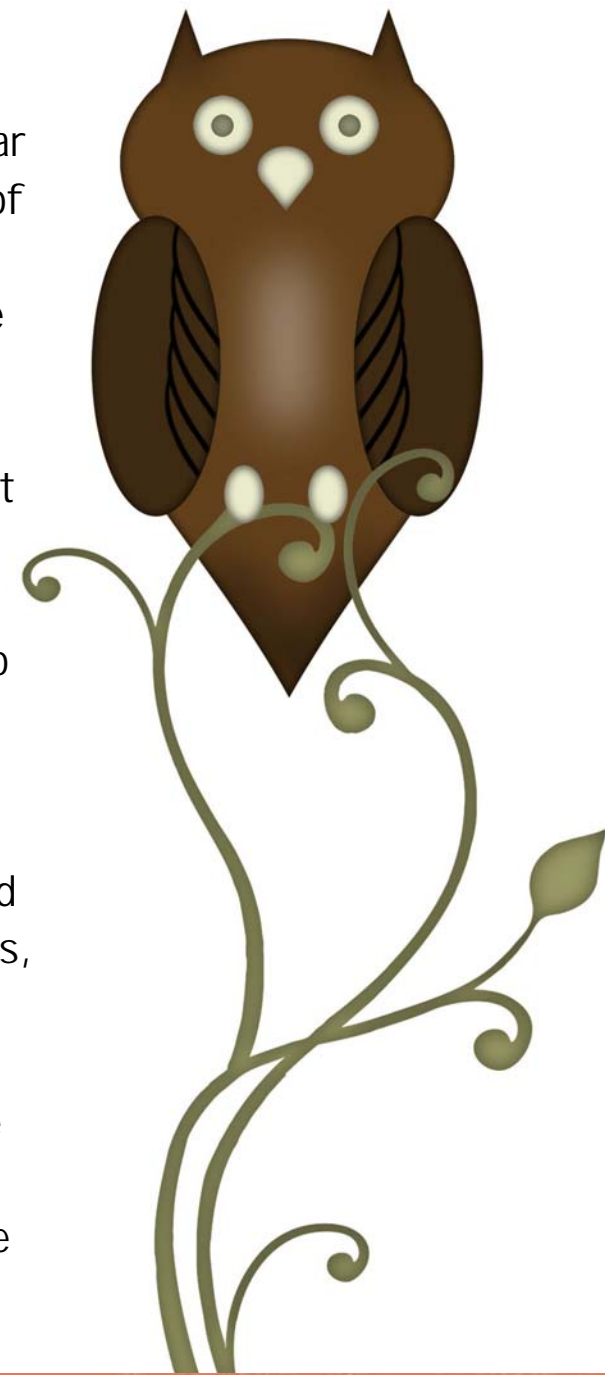
TRENDS: WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE OWL....

You may have noticed recently that the 'Owl' seems to have made its debut as a popular icon in craft circles. This cute little animal seems to be enjoying the spotlight as one of the most recent trends in not only craft circles but the design world at large. In fact the more I look through homewares, clothing ranges, and craft ranges, the more I see this little creature.

What is it about the Owl that is so popular. There will be differing opinions on this...but my initial thoughts on this cutie, are that his simplicity as a shape and icon, fit well within the simplicity of the modern trend we are experiencing across the board at the moment. Now that he's grabbed our attention, we are finding more and more ways to present him....whether it be bright and funky, or a darker primitive style, or in the bright simple colorings of the modern design world.

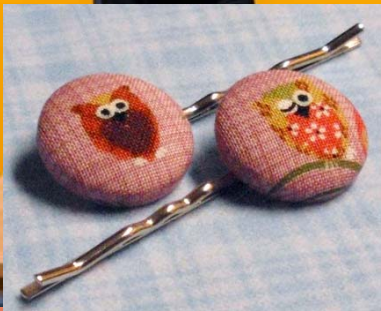
To give you some idea of the popularity of this little guy.....a simple search on the word 'Owl' on Etsy gave me 10,991 items to choose from, ranging from clothing, jewelry, cards, baby items, handmade dolls, bags, keyrings, and much much more...

So if you're looking for something a little different, why not give the Owl a go! As the Editor of this magazine, I had the priviledge of window shopping on Etsy to pick out some of the Owl items that I thought were unique. These items were available for sale at the time of publishing, so click on the photo for more information. See over page..



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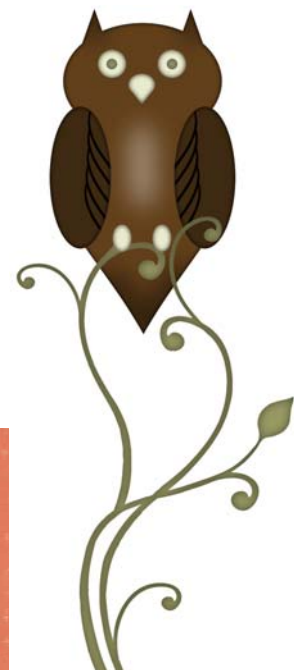
TRENDS: THE OWL...EDITORS PICKS



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2009 CALENDAR PROJECT...CONT

3. Trace the shape of the tag onto the back of the scrapbooking paper you wish to use. Cut out on the inside of your traced line.
4. Pour a small amount of Modge Podge into a container (that can be thrown out). Using a brush, cover the back of the tag cut out with a thin layer of Modge Podge.
5. Place your scrapbooking tag shape neatly onto the base tag template ensuring it is straight. If you want to punch a hole in the top, punch it now.
6. Using your brush, brush another layer of Modge Podge over the top of the scrapbooking paper.
7. Continue to layer your papers and embellishments from the bottom layer to the top layer, applying a layer of Modge Podge after each layer.
8. Print out the Calendar Template, cut along the cut lines and staple together at the top. If you have a thick stapler you can staple straight through the card as well. Or punch 2 holes and thread some thin ribbon through.



Large tag template for Calendars

Cut the tags in one piece on the
outside outline only...



January

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December

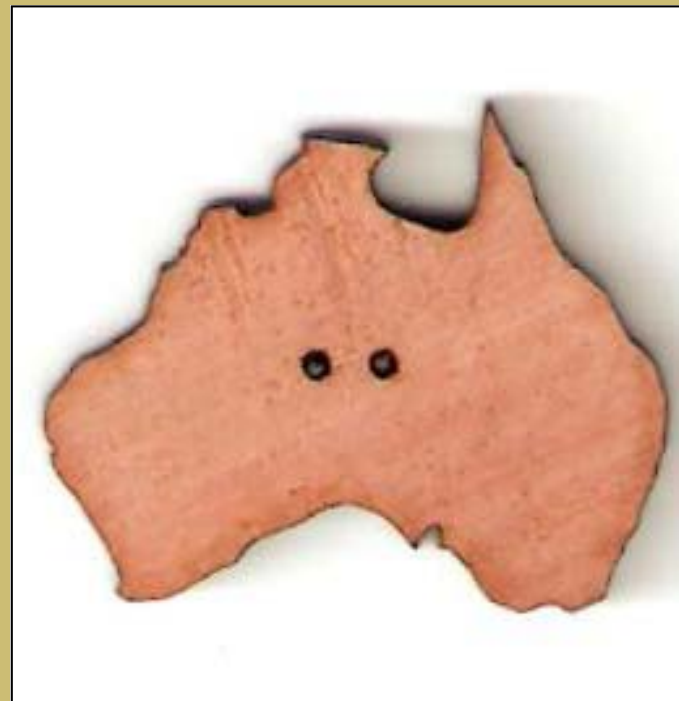
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Print as many calendars as you require.

You may like to create your own calendars in Publisher or other similar programs, or do a search on the internet for printable calendars.

Button Bliss

Celebrate Australia Day with our new range of Australiana Wooden Buttons



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GIVEAWAYS..

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Garden of Dreams
Quilt, Runner & Cushion Pattern

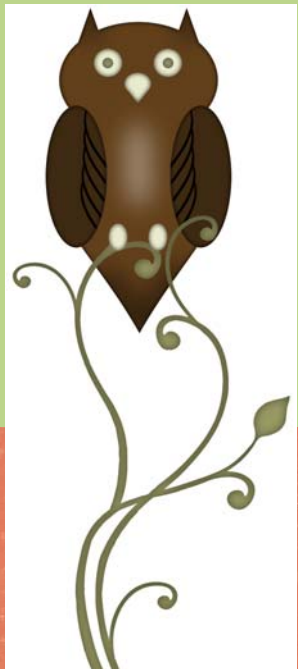
Quilt 30.5 x 55 in
Runner 31 x 115 in
Cushion 15 x 15 in

Congratulations to Laurie Becker, Anne David, & Erika Lawler on winning a copy of the Garden of Dreams Quilt, Runner and Cushion Pattern.

January Giveaway

To celebrate the release of our new subscription offer...we are giving away 5 subscriptions to Inspire. When you subscribe to Inspire, you receive the Magazine in your Inbox on the day it is published, saving you the job of downloading the Magazine each month. Subscribers also get informed first of specials and sales by our advertisers, along with an extra PDF project each month.

To enter, simply send us an email and put 'January Giveaway' in the Subject Line to be in the running.



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PROJECT ...OWL CARDS

Julie from Scrap of Your Life, has created these two Owl cards for readers to create. They are full of color and style, and would make lovely gift cards.

See Page 11 for instructions.



Project Kits are available from Scrap of Your Life for \$12.99 plus postage and includes the items marked with an * in the supply list.

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PROJECT...OWL CARD 1

What you will need for both cards:

- Heart punch
- Adhesive
- Jo Sonyas Paint - brown, lemon and burgundy
- Tsukeindo Ink - brown, burgundy, olive green and white
- 1 x 12 x 12 Olive green Cardstock *
- 1 x Remember When Chipboard owl "I know who loves you" *
- 1 x Remember When Chipboard owl "owl on a branch" *
- 1 x 6 x 6 Burgundy cardstock *
- 1 x 12 x 12 sheet of Red striped paper *
- 1 x 12 x 12 sheet of Basic Grey Two Scoops Candles paper *
- 1 x 12 x 6 Bazill Scalloped cardstock, lemon and white *
- 1 x 25cm Burgundy Ribbon *
- 2 x brown brads *
- 2 x black brads *
- 2 x gold heart brads *
- 1 x blue 5cm petal *
- 1 x orange 5cm petal *
- 1 x 2.5cm blue polka dot brad *

* Denotes items included in Project Kit.

Step 1 – Paint or ink your owl in the colours your desire. I used a lemon, brown and burgundy paint – set aside to dry.

Step 2 Cut a piece of 15cm x 15cm piece of cardstock – olive green, fold in half

Step 3 Cut a piece of red patterned dot or stripe paper slightly smaller than the cardstock – about 14.5 cm and glue onto the cardstock

Step 4 - Cut a square piece of basic grey Two Scoops "candles" paper 12 x 11cm and glue this onto the paper about 2cm from the bottom.

Step 5 - Cut a 10cm length off the colour scalloped cardstock and glue this under the paper, aligning to the left

Step 6 - Cut a piece of burgundy cardstock 8 x 3 cm and stamp "Happy Birthday". Ink the edges with gold ink and adhere with two heart brads top left of the Basic Grey paper

Step 7 - Cut a heart shape using a heart punch 4cm in diameter, small enough to fit under the owl.

Step 8 – Tie a burgundy ribbon to the branch of the owl and adhere the chipboard owl as shown.



PROJECT...OWL CARD 2

Step 1 – Paint or ink your owl in the colours your desire. I used brown, burgundy and white ink – set aside to dry.

Step 2 - Cut a 16cm x 4 cm length of Basic Grey paper and adhere at the base of the cardstock leaving approx 1cm gap.

Step 3 - Cut a piece of 16cm x 13cm piece of cardstock – olive green, fold in half

Step 4 - Cut a square piece of basic grey Two Scoops “candles” paper 16 x 4cm and glue this onto the top of the cardstock.

Step 5 – Cut a piece of Bazill scalloped cardstock 16cm x 3cm and adhere 1.5cm under the Basic Grey paper – this means there will be a gap.

Step 6 - Cut a piece of red patterned dot or stripe paper 16 x 2.5 and glue on the cardstock under the Basic Grey paper and overlaying on the white scalloped cardstock.

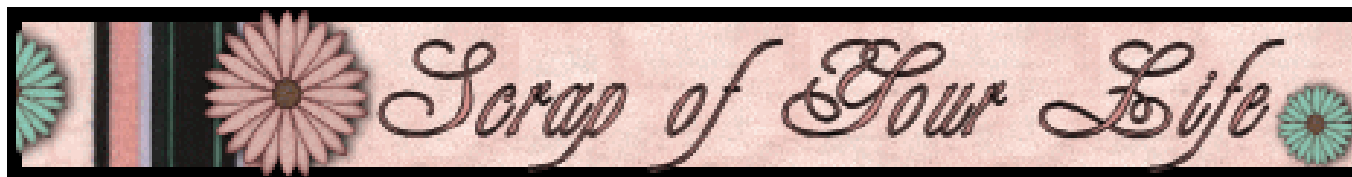
Step 7 – Using a shaped cutter cut a strip of Basic Grey Candles paper 16 x 4 and adhere to the bottom of the olive green cardstock.

Step 8 – Overlay the blue polka dot brad onto the orange and blue flower and place top right of card.

Step 9 – Use the black brads eyes for the owl and adhere the owl to the card slightly to the left and centred. Not shown on card.



For a large range of current scrapbooking items...visit Scrap of your Life.



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TRENDS: CUTE & CUDDLY SOFTIES....



What is a Softie?
Softie is another name for doll. These come in all shapes and sizes, and can be sewn, crocheted, knitted, you name it.

Some of them can be used as toys for kids..others look great when displayed in a lounge room.

Here are a few of my favorites from Etsy.

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IN BUSINESS... TIME MANAGEMENT

In previous Editions of Inspire, we have looked at some of the aspects of running a business from home. Our new monthly Business feature, will be more focused in on the different components needed to run a successful business. Time management is something that comes easier for some than others. There are things that we can do to ensure that we use our time in the most productive way, and that wasting time is limited to things that are beyond our control. Below are a few tips from my own personal experience in Business, to help you along the way.

OFFICE/WORK AREA SET UP—This is a crucial part in the equation of Time Management. You need to have your work area set up in such a way that allows you to find things quickly and easily. For example with regards to paperwork, you might have a number of filing trays, one for receipts, one for invoices, one for current things you are working on, and one for the filing of finished jobs. Instead of looking through a big 'shoebox' of paper, you will be able to put your hand onto the piece of paper you want in much less time. Otherwise if you're anything like me, the piece of paper I am looking for is normally sitting on the bottom of the box! The second part of this is that we need to remember to put things back where they belong, rather than on the closest bench. Putting things away as you go, will save you a big clean up every few months, and time throughout your day.

The same goes for craft supplies and fabric. If things are organized into smaller boxes and containers that are marked, you will be able to put your hand on the item you are looking for a lot quicker.

STORAGE—Organise things in such a way that you have the supplies etc you use the most closest to your work area, and the things you might use every now and again packed away.

PLAN YOUR DAY—This sounds very formal, but it doesn't have to be. If you have a number of phone calls to make, make them all at once while you are sitting at the phone, rather than throughout the day. I have found that the best time for me to do this, is first thing in the morning, at 9am. I would then bulk other jobs together and do them in an orderly fashion throughout the day.



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DIFFICULT JOBS—One of the biggest things that hinders good time management is pro-crastination. I can make and drink a number of coffees before I sit down and get into a job that looks difficult. While I am not an early morning person, I have found that I am the freshest earlier in the morning, when I first get up. This is the time that I tackle the difficult jobs. I can think through something, and complete the job in half the time with little hassle when I am fresh. I then feel like I'm getting somewhere and feel a bit more motivated to keep going through my jobs. If I leave these jobs until later in the day, I am tired, I procrastinate more, and drink more coffee!! Wasting precious time.

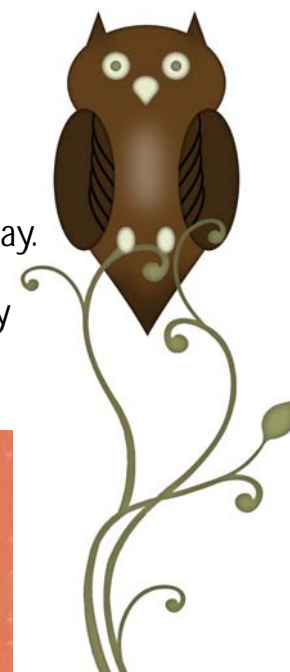
As I am a work at home mum, I have a toddler running around often requiring attention. I plan to do the important jobs that require thought and maybe a little uninterrupted time, while she is resting or playing in her room for an hour rather than trying to tackle something six times during the day, or while tea is being prepared. There are times when we need to be mum, wife and housecleaner. The times that I have juggled jobs during these times (eg.dinner time), I have only found myself frustrated, and wasting time.

STRESSING—When I have a lot of jobs to do, I find that I can feel overwhelmed very easily and quickly. The best remedy for me has been to attack one job at a time. When I stress about my workload, I am not being productive, rather I am getting very little done. If I am having a few busy days at home, I will try to do just a few little jobs sometime in my day. That way I am still attacking my workload one job at a time, but I am also feeling like I am progressing and moving forward.

LISTS—Write lists. I often have a piece of paper sitting on the table, and when things I need to do jump into my mind, I write them down and do them at a more appropriate time. This stops me from worrying about forgetting, about forgetting, and allows me to stay focused on the task at hand.

SCHEDULE TIME OUT—As time goes on, I am learning the importance of having a day off a week, even if I still have things that need to be done. Having a total break, even for half a day a week, or scheduling in a day for family activities or things you wouldn't normally do like shop, or have lunch with friends, can be very refreshing. It takes a few goes to not feel guilty about taking a break, but it does us no good to be flat out every spare minute of the day.

These are a few of the things I have learnt in my business journey. I use these time management principles in every part of life (including housework), and it certainly makes things a little easier to manage. Nicole Jones



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SUBMISSIONS

for projects, articles, and advertising are now being booked for the next 6 months. If you are interested in submitting something please email us at submission@inspireonlinemagazine.com.

EDITORS

This Magazine has been designed and published by Nicole Jones of Buzzy Bee Buttons. Project editing and management by Helen Henry.

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Are you a designer or do you own a Business? Why not throw your business into the spotlight with affordable online advertising. Not only is your ad published in our online magazine for a whole month, all our previous editions remain on the official Inspire Online website for readers to be able to look back through and refer to. Your advertising dollar remains active as long as your business does.

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Nicole—Inspire Online

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