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MISSING IN ACTION - PEOPLE AND POLICIES

1948 - 1973

VOLUME II

*by*

*James J. White*

~~Secret~~

DDA OP 13  
December 1974

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MISSING IN ACTION - PEOPLE AND POLICIES

1948 - 1973

VOLUME II

*by*

*James J. White*

Approved:



Fred W. M. Janney  
Director of Personnel  
Directorate of  
Administration

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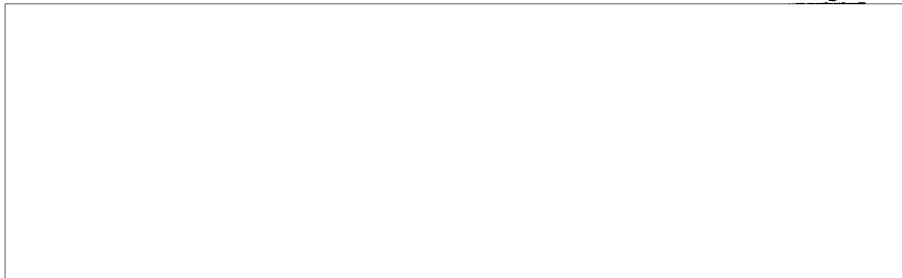
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APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX A



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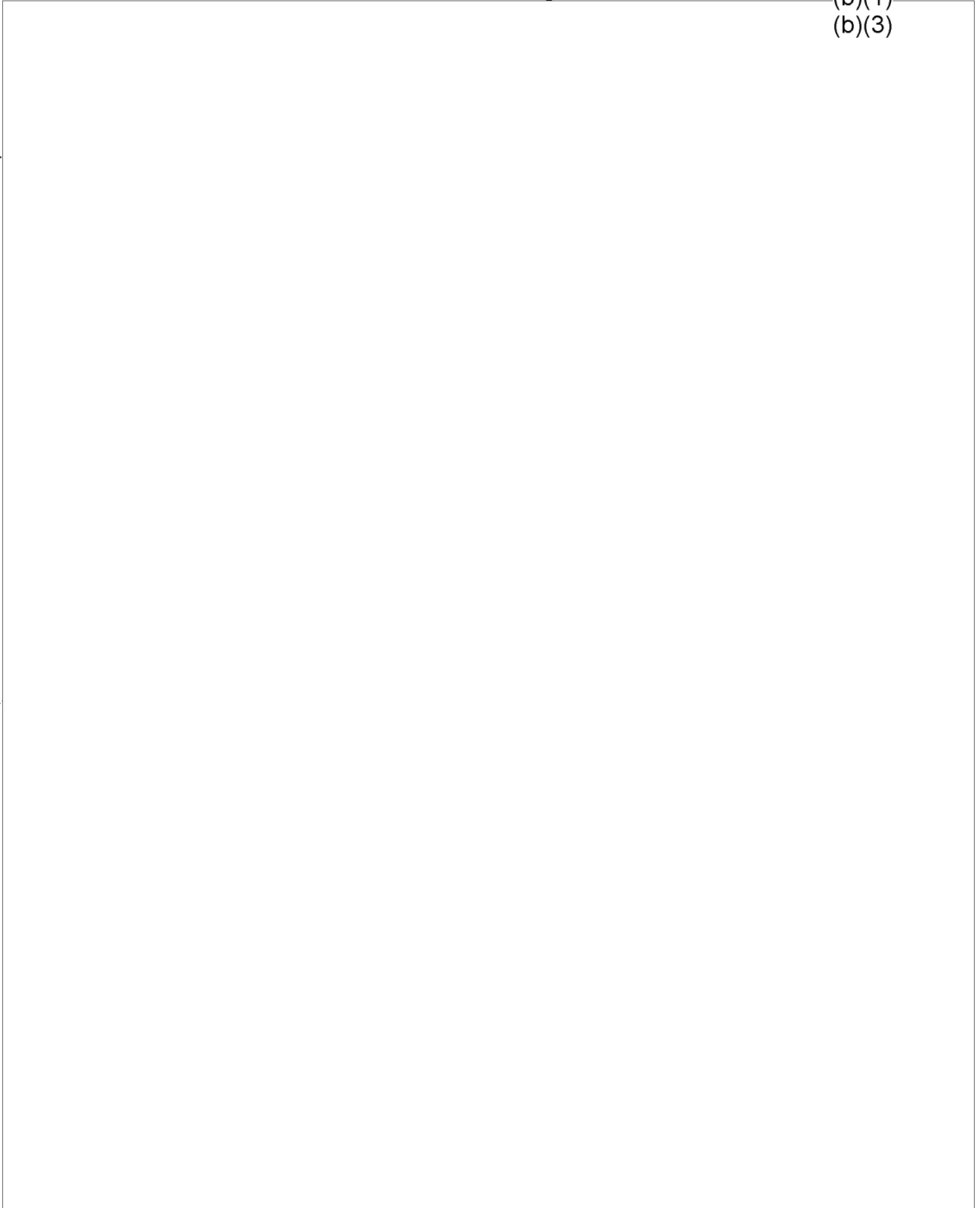


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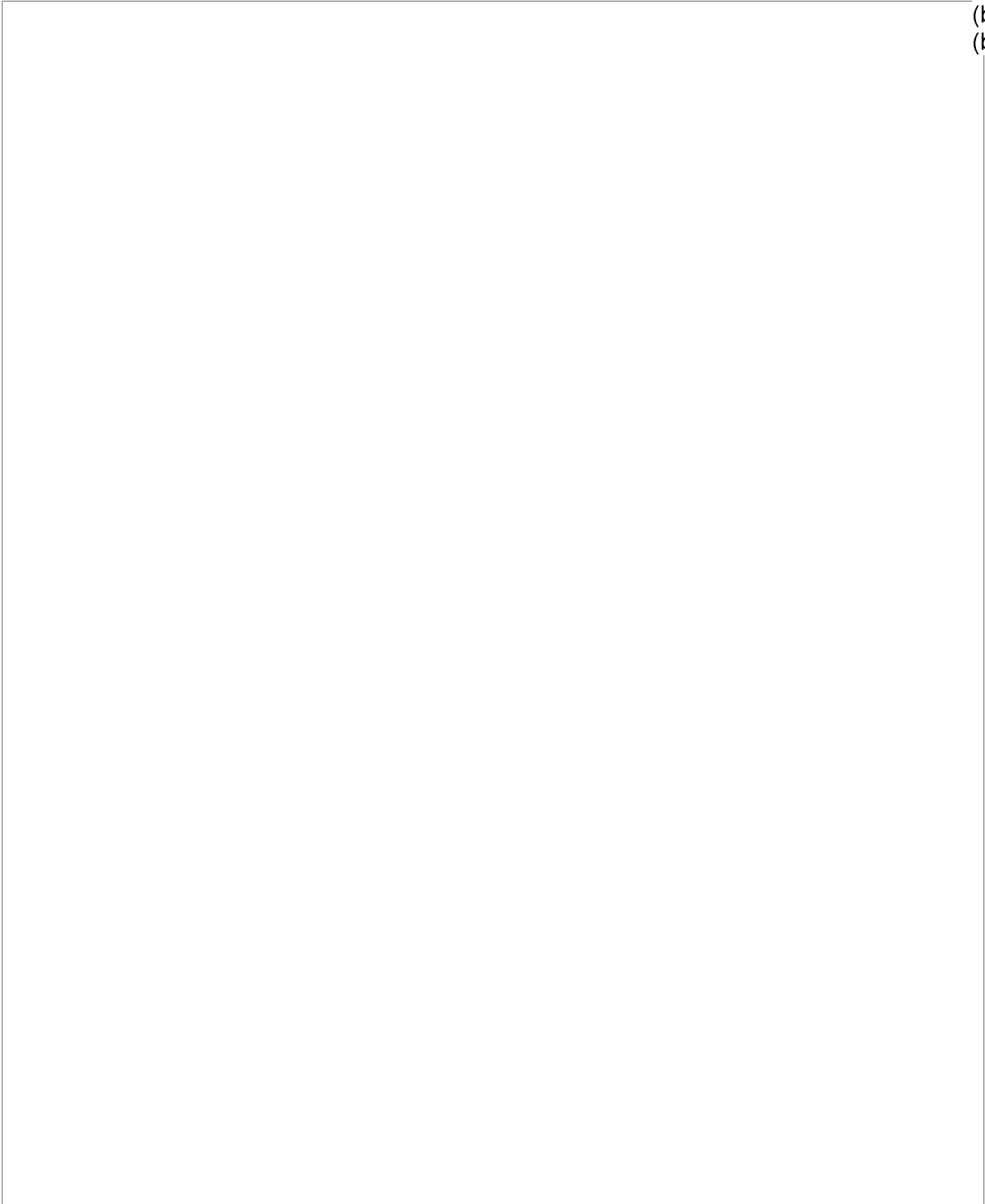


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APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B

Chronology 1951 - 1973

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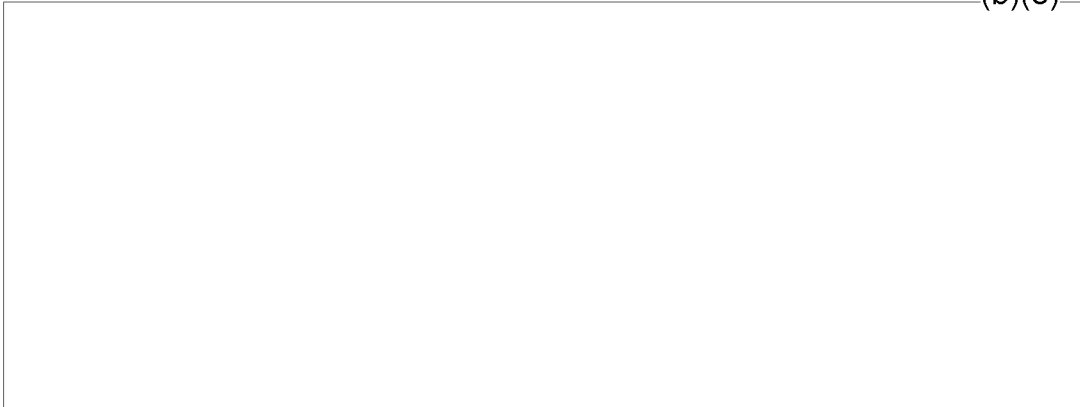
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Chronology 1951 - 1973

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1951



1952

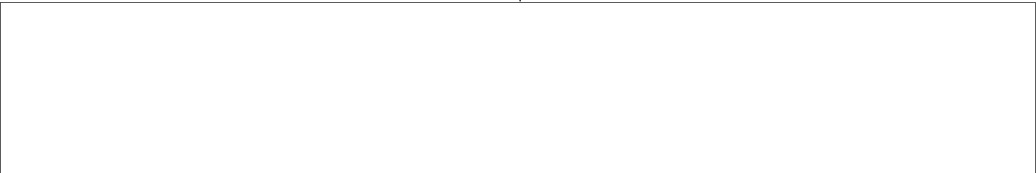
29 Nov Two young paramilitary officers, John T. Downey and Richard G. Fecteau, disappeared on an overflight of northeast China. Their Civil Air Transport plane was piloted by CAT pilots Robert Snoddy and Norman Schwartz.

18 Dec Downey and Fecteau officially declared Missing in Action.

1953

4 Dec Presumptive finding of death of a missing person made in each case one year after Downey-Fecteau disappeared in accordance with the Missing Persons Act. Their insurance and federal benefits paid to survivors over the period of the next few months.

1954



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1954 (cont.)

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

23 Nov Two years after their disappearance, Peking announced to the world that Downey and Fecteau were in custody, having been tried, convicted, and sentenced for espionage. Downey received life imprisonment and Fecteau twenty years.

Announced simultaneously was the sentencing of eleven American airmen, the crew of a downed B-29 commanded by Col. John K. Arnold, USAF, who received a 10-year sentence, the crew receiving lesser sentences.

(b)(3)  
(b)(1)

1955 5 Jan Secretary General Hammarskjold met for 13 hours with Chou En-lai in Peking -- 90 percent of the time, according to the UN, spent on the military prisoner issue.

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~~SECRET~~1955 (cont.)

7 Jul Ad hoc committee revitalized under Chief/FE to focus on evacuation plan in case Downey and Fecteau were released. Chaired by William Nelson, Chief [redacted] the committee was composed of representatives of OS, OP, FI, PP, and TSS.

(b)(3)

4 Aug The Chinese Communists released the eleven US airmen, the so-called Arnold Group. No mention made of Downey and Fecteau. Airmen brought out first direct word on the two CIA men.

11 Sep The Agreed Announcement of the Ambassadors of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China was issued at Warsaw. It set up the requirement that each country take appropriate measures so that American and Chinese nationals desiring to return to their respective countries could exercise their right to do so.

1956

9 Jan

[redacted]

(b)(3)

28 Apr DCI approved code of conduct for Agency employees subject to capture by an enemy.

17 Sep

[redacted] Pay and Allowances for Missing Persons replaced [redacted] of the Confidential Funds Regulations.

(b)(3)

(b)(3)

1957

29 Jan

State Department Release: The Facts Concerning the Chinese Communists Failure to Release Imprisoned Americans in Violation of the 10 September 1955 Agreed Announcement of the Ambassadors of the United States of America and the People's Republic of China.

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~~SECRET~~1957 (cont.)

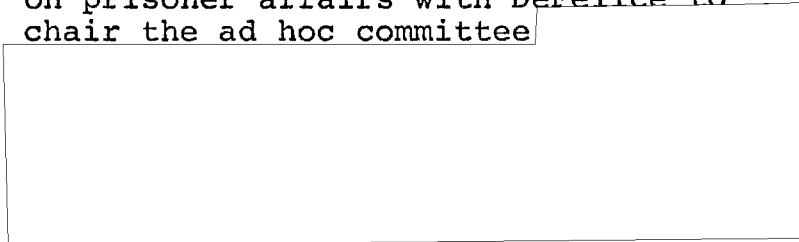
- Aug Mrs. Downey met with President Eisenhower, the first of four Presidents with whom she was to plead for measures to obtain her son's release.
- 19 Aug Memo, Chief/FE to DDP, subject: Scope and Duties of Committee on Americans held in Prison in Communist China. This memo placed overall responsibility for the prisoners with the committee, expanding its previous task of evacuation planning.
- 24 Oct Memo, Chief/FE to DCI, subject: Actions taken, CIA Connected Americans in Chinese Communist Jails. (b)(1)  
(b)(3)
- 19 Dec Memo, Chief/FE to D/Pers, subject: Promotions for Personnel Imprisoned in Communist China. Downey from GS-7 to GS-11/4, Fecteau from GS-7 to GS-11/3, (b)(1)  
(b)(3)
- 1958 Jan First visit to prisoners in China made by Mrs. Downey, Mrs. Fecteau accompanied by John Downey's brother, William. DCI had previously (19 Dec 1957) approved the payment of travel funds for the visit in the amount of \$14,000, accounting to be made upon return. (b)(1)  
(b)(3)
- 17 Feb Mrs. Downey, William Downey, met with the DCI Allen Dulles prior to a widely publicized meeting with the new Secretary of State, Christian Herter, later that month. (b)(1)  
(b)(3)

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1958 (cont.)

22 Sep DCI approved C/FE recommendation transferring primary responsibility for CIA prisoners in Communist China to the Director of Personnel. D/Pers designated Ben DeFelice, Chief, Casualty Affairs Branch, as his representative on prisoner affairs with DeFelice to chair the ad hoc committee

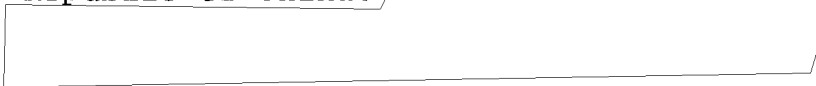


(b)(1)  
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1959

13 -  
19 Jul

Visit of William Downey who had moved to Hong Kong to devote his full time to obtaining release of his brother. The visit triggered, through British attorney George E. S. Stevenson and a Communist intermediary named Percy Chen, a plea for clemency citing the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.



(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

23 Sep

[redacted] Mrs. Downey,  
[redacted] Mrs. Fecteau, [redacted] met with  
Secretary of State Herter on prisoner release.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)  
  
(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

29 Sep

UPI release quoted Communist diplomatic sources as stating prisoners might be released on 1 Oct, supposedly at Khrushchev's suggestion, coincident with 10th Anniversary of founding of People's Republic of China.

Also in Sep the prisoner issue was included on the agenda for President Eisenhower's meeting with Premier Khrushchev at Camp David.

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~~SECRET~~1959 (cont.)

- 1 Oct Petition for the release of John Downey based on general amnesty being given to Chinese prisoners in connection with the 10th Anniversary celebration was forwarded to the Supreme Court of the PRC by Stevenson, Chen having dropped out of the picture.
- 20 Nov Memo, John L. Bischoff (DeFelice's superior) to D/Pers, subject: Agency Action on Release of CIA Prisoners in China.

1960

- 1 May U-2 piloted by Francis Gary Powers missing on an overflight of the Soviet Union somewhere between Peshawar in Pakistan where the flight originated and Bodo in Norway where it was supposed to terminate. US releases news item on missing weather plane.
- 7 May Khrushchev announced that the Soviets held both pilot and plane after shootdown deep in the Soviet Union.
- 17 May Summit meeting in Paris suspended, President Eisenhower's visit to USSR cancelled, and he returned to the United States.
- Aug Mrs. Downey and William Downey visited John Downey in Peking prison.
- 17 Aug Moscow trial of Francis Gary Powers began with his family in attendance. Powers sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for espionage.
- 15 Sep David L. Christ, GS-15, C/Audio Support Branch, TSD; Thornton J. Anderson, GS-14, C/Section III, Engineering Br, TSD; Walter E. Szuminski, GS-9, Audio Support Specialist,  
  
 arrested by Castro G-2 in Havana.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)~~SECRET~~



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1960 (cont.)

26 Oct Memo, [redacted], to D/Pers, (b)(3)  
subject: Investment of Pay and Allowances  
of Missing Personnel. This memo authorized  
C/Monetary Branch, OF, as directed by D/Pers  
to withdraw money from prisoner accounts  
for the purchase of Series E Bonds.  
Later savings accounts were authorized and,  
eventually, in Dec 1964 investment in

[redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

17 Dec Cuban Military Court sentenced the three  
TSD "Techs" to 10 years in prison on  
charges of crimes against the stability  
of the state, specifically the setting  
of wire taps [redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

1961

3 Jan The United States broke off diplomatic  
relations with the Cuban Government after  
the Castro Government demanded that the  
US Embassy be reduced to eleven persons.

28 Mar Mrs. Christ met with the DCI, Allen Dulles.

[redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

17 -  
19 Apr Bay of Pigs invasion and failure.

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1961 (cont.)

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

16 Aug Mrs. Christ met with Gen. Maxwell Taylor for the Attorney General, Robert Kennedy. Background papers prepared by the DDCI for Vice President Johnson and MacGeorge Bundy.

1962

10 Feb Francis Gary Powers exchanged for KGB Col. Abel on Glienicker Bridge between East and West Berlin. Deal arranged at high levels in the two governments with New York attorney and OSS alumnus James Donovan as intermediary. A Board of Inquiry under Federal Judge E. Barrett Prettyman exonerated Powers in Mar 1962. His pay and allowances were released.

4 Mar Mrs. Mary Downey met with the new DCI, John McCone, to ask for measures to be taken to gain her son's release.

1 Apr Downey, Fecteau promoted to GS-12

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

3 Apr At the 109th meeting in Warsaw, US Ambassador John M. Cabot again raised question of conformance to 1955 Agreed Announcement permitting civilians to return to their respective countries. Ambassador Cabot's claim that early release of such persons would reduce international tensions rejected by PRC Ambassador Wang Ping-nan.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

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~~SECRET~~1962 (cont.)

28 Apr Supplemental (to 1959) petition by way of appeal for John Downey submitted to Peking, [redacted] Barrister at Law, Hong Kong, on instruction of G. E. S. Stevenson. (b)(3)

16 May Mrs. Mary Downey visited her son John in Peking, making the journey alone. The visit was preceded by a visit of Mrs. Downey to the Attorney General Robert Kennedy, which was the occasion of a review of the prisoner issue. [redacted]

(b)(3)

18 Jun Report of Audit of Pay and Allowances of Missing Persons to 30 Nov 1961. This 10-year audit showed the accounts to be in good shape except for minor discrepancies which were corrected. The graduated retroactive in-step and grade promotions had been accurately posted.

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

16 Oct State Department telegram for US Embassy, Stockholm, referenced possible ChiCom willingness to release Americans as tribute to Dag Hammarskjold as proposed by Dr. Uno Willers, Librarian of the Royal Library, Stockholm, a friend of Dag's. This lead was pursued through Apr 1963 but again without success.

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1962 (cont.)

- 22 -
- 28 Oct Cuban missile crisis.
- 6 Dec Mrs. Christ met with Attorney General Robert Kennedy concerning husband's release.
- 23 Dec Castro began to free Cubans from the Bay of Pigs brigade in exchange for \$50,000,000 of food, medical supplies, and farm equipment, supposedly raised privately. James Donovan, the intermediary, had by then established personal rapport with Fidel Castro; and Attorney General Robert Kennedy was coordinating the effort.

1963

- Jan David L. Christ [redacted] Thornton J. Anderson [redacted] Walter E. Szuminski [redacted] (b)(3)
- 22 Apr Castro released Christ, Anderson, and Szuminski. The latter two returned to full duty status on 2 Sep and are still\* employed by the Agency; Christ returned on 9 September and retired from the Agency in 1968.

[Large redacted area]

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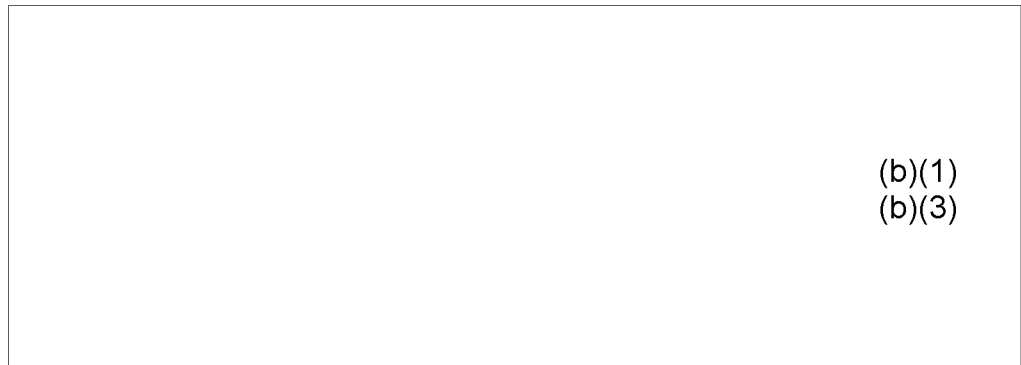
1964

\* Nov 1973

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~~SECRET~~1964 (cont.)

- Nov Mrs. Mary Downey and son, William, visited John Downey in Peking.
- 7 Dec At the 123rd meeting of the Ambassadorial-level talks in Warsaw, US Ambassador Cabot said to his Chinese opposite number, Ambassador Wang: "We have yet to secure the release of the four Americans who you hold, in our opinion, contrary to the Agreed Announcement. In this connection, I do wish, however, to express our appreciation for the permission which you gave Mrs. Downey and William Downey to visit John Downey. We have noted newspaper reports to the effect that Chinese Red Cross officials have reminded Mrs. Downey of the Chinese People's Republic general policy of leniency and early release for good behavior. We hope that this means that Downey and [redacted] other Americans will be released soon." (b)(1)  
(b)(3)  
(No reply was received from Ambassador Wang on the prisoner issue.)

1965(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

- Apr Francis Gary Powers received the Intelligence Star.
- 3 Oct Article in the *Boston Globe* on Richard Fecteau described how he spent his time with "7 years to go."

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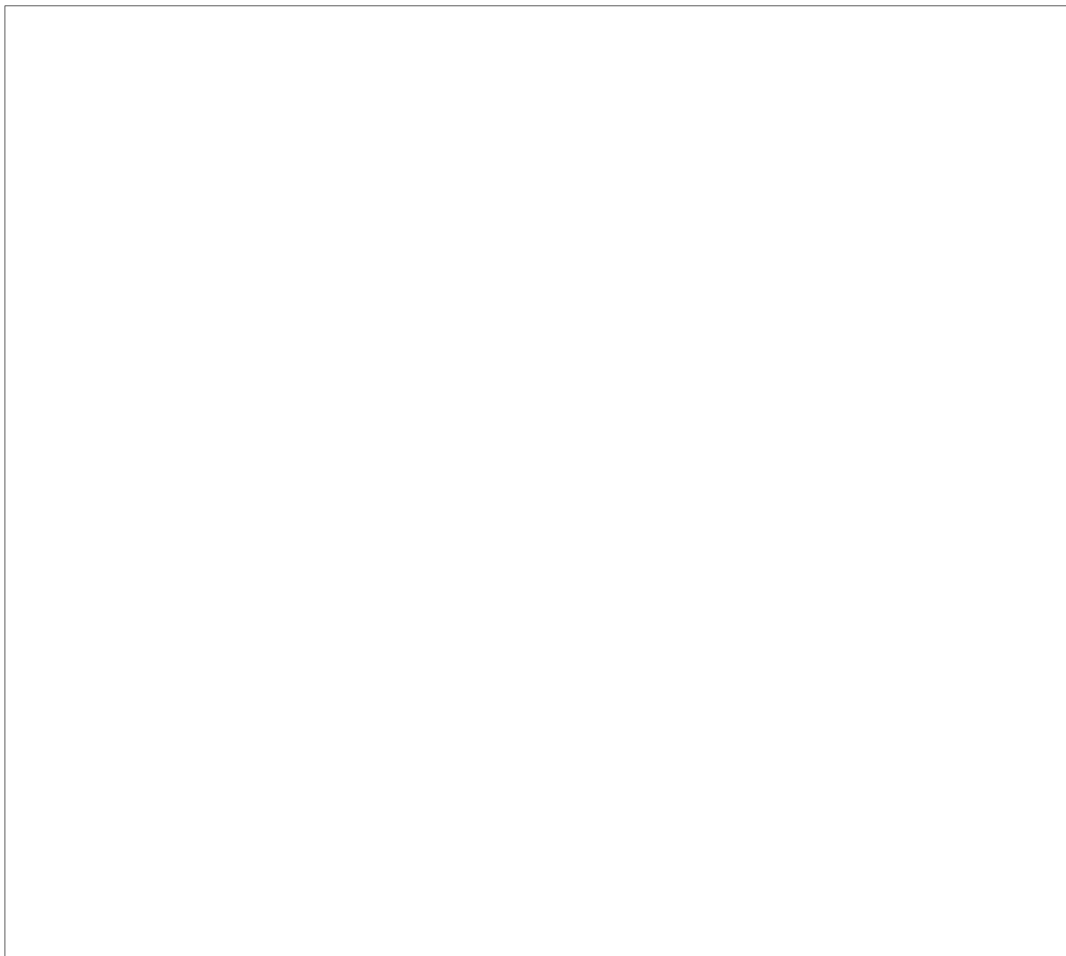
1966

1 Feb Prisoners sponsored for participation in the CIA Retirement and Disability System (CIARDS) by D/Pers.



(b)(1)  
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1967



(b)(1)  
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Aug Downey and Fecteau promoted GS-13.

1968



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1968 (cont.)

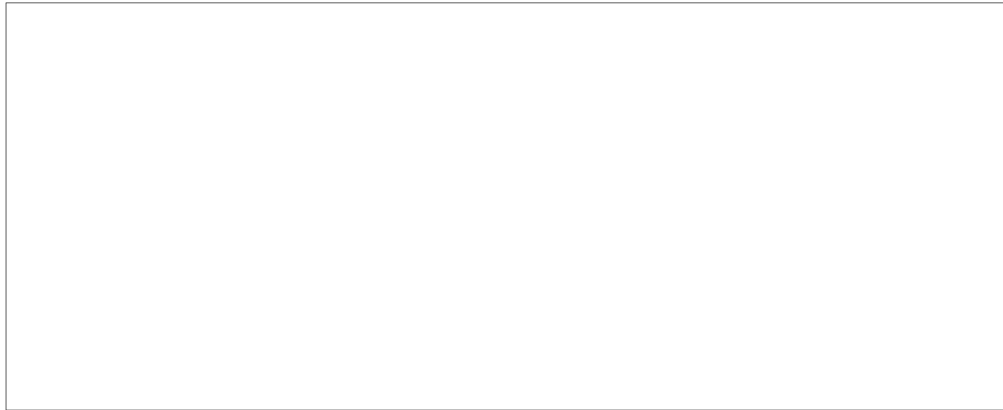


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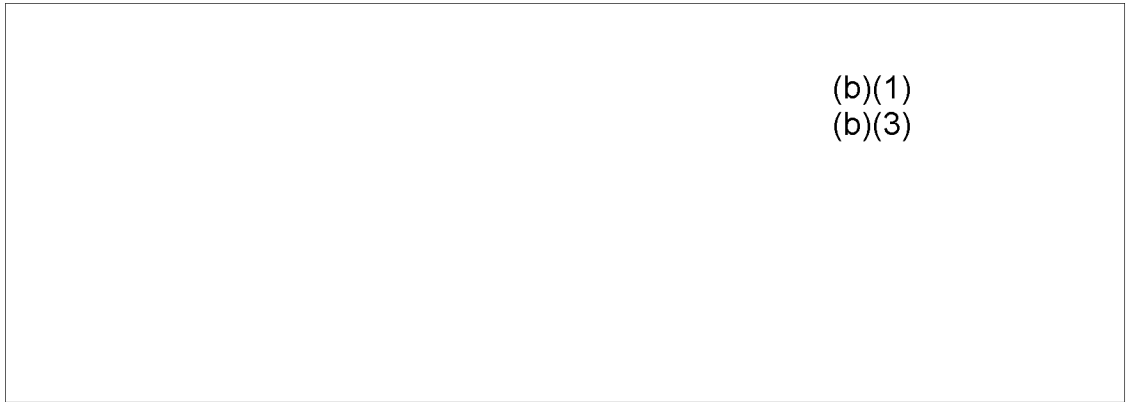
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1968 (cont.)



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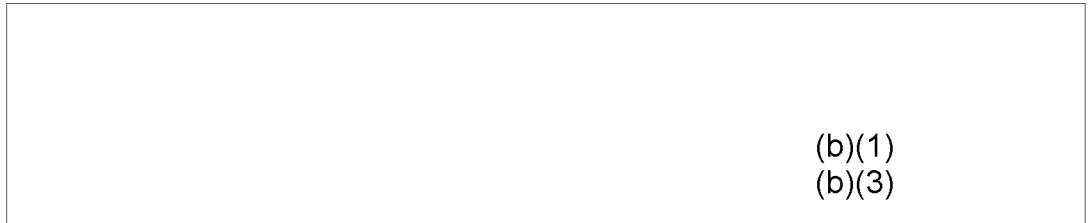
15 Nov Letter received from Chinese Communist Government replying specifically to the June letter from the State Department stating that, "the Chinese Government does not see any need at present to give the US Government information about the convicted American criminals who are serving prison terms in China."



(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

1969 21 Feb The new US Ambassador to the Warsaw talks, Walter J. Stoessel, took ChiComs to task on the prisoner issue in a strongly worded letter to the Chinese charge.

1970



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(b)(3)

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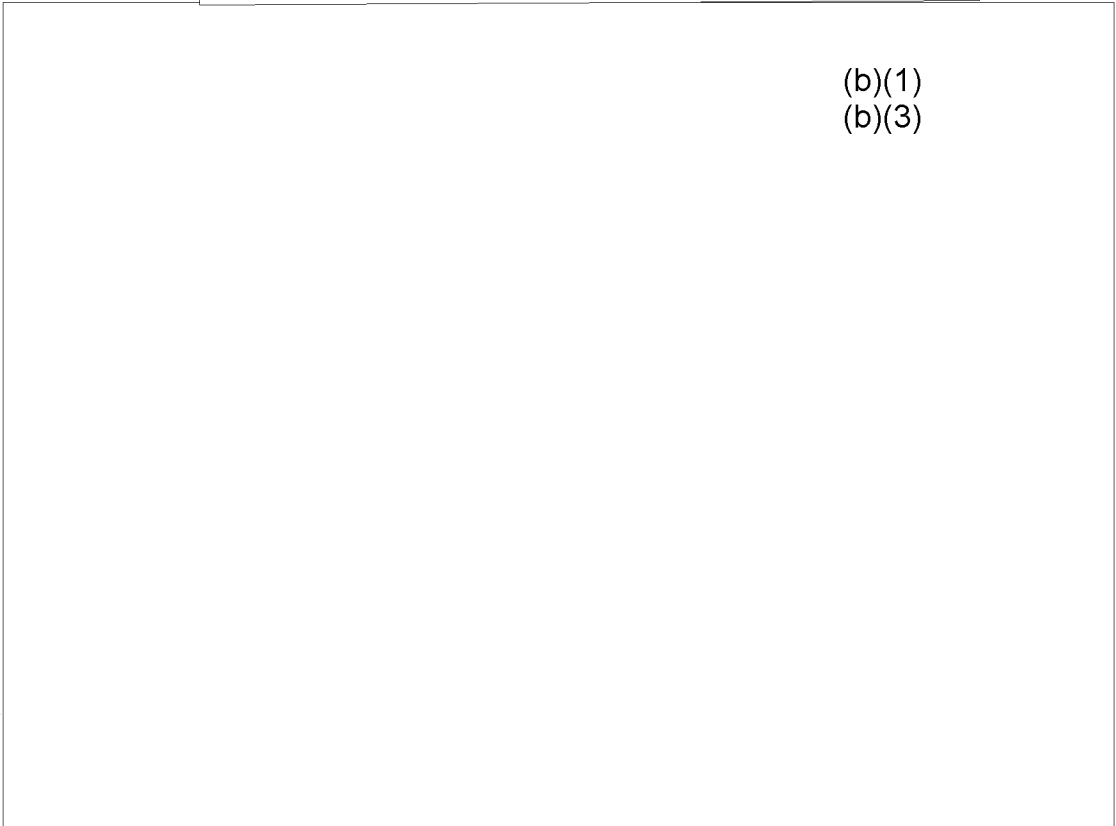
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1970 (cont.)



(b)(1)  
(b)(3)



1971

Jun Dr. Jerome Cohen, Jack Downey's Yale classmate, Harvard Law School professor, and acknowledged authority on Chinese criminal law appeared before the Fulbright (Senate Foreign Relations) Committee testifying at some length on his thesis that the USG was at fault on the Downey-Fecteau case. Cohen believed that if the USG would acknowledge culpability and apologize, the two men would be freed. The Yale Class of 1951 made the theme of its 20th reunion "Free John Downey."

9 -

11 Jul Dr. Henry Kissinger made his secret visit to Peking as President Nixon's emissary to Chou En-lai.

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1971 (cont.)

2 -  
16 Nov Mrs. Mary Downey, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. William Downey, visited John Downey in Peking. They also had brief visit with Richard Fecteau.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

13 Dec Richard G. Fecteau was released and returned to the United States, having served 19 years of a 20-year sentence. Extensive coverage in the US press. Fecteau was flown directly to the Valley Forge Military Hospital in Pennsylvania. His MIA status was officially ended on 17 Dec 1971.

Dec Downey and Fecteau promoted to GS-14 as recommended by D/Pers with concurrence of the DDP, the CS Personnel Management Committee, and the Chief/FE.

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

1972

14 Jan-  
16 Feb Fecteau [Redacted]

(b)(3)

Feb President Nixon's "Journey for Peace" to Peking.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

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1973

1 Feb President Nixon at a news conference publicly identified the only civilian American known to be in a Chinese prison -- Jack Downey -- as an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency.

7 Mar Notification received by the Agency from William Downey of Mrs. Downey's stroke. Her condition considered serious with very slim chance of survival.

12 Mar Following personal intervention by President Nixon, John Downey freed after serving 20 years and 4 months of a life sentence. The release was widely publicized in the US press. Downey was flown directly to New Britain (b)(1)  
(b)(3)

15 Mar LCDR Robert J. Flynn (USN) shot down in China on 21 Aug 1967 and Maj. Phillip Smith (USAF) shot down in Sep 1965, both of whom had been imprisoned with Downey and Fecteau in Peking, were released by the Chinese Communists.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

20 Mar Downey's MIA status was ended and he was returned to regular employment rolls on

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

4 -  
20 Apr Downey debriefing.

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1973 (cont.)

17 Jul Memo, D/Pers to Exec/Sec., CIA Management Committee, forwarded the honor awards recommendations of the ad hoc committee. (b)(1)

[redacted] (b)(3)

Fecteau and Downey were recommended for the Intelligence Star. The committee also recommended that Fecteau be granted an additional award -- the Intelligence Medal of Merit -- for his outstanding performance and personal conduct following his release until the time Downey was released. (b)(1)

[redacted] (b)(3)

This was the last official act of the ad hoc committee and it was disbanded on 24 Jul 1973.

28 Aug At a meeting of the Agency's Honor and Merit Awards Board attended by the Director, William E. Colby, and by the full membership of the ad hoc committee,\* the following awards were approved by the Director:

[redacted] (b)(1)  
[redacted] (b)(3)

John Downey - Distinguished Intelligence Medal

Richard Fecteau - Distinguished Intelligence Medal

[redacted] (b)(1)  
[redacted] (b)(3)

In addition, the Intelligence Medal of Merit was approved for Fecteau in recognition of his exemplary conduct following his release and prior to that of Downey.

(b)(3)

\* Ben DeFelice, O/Pers, Chairman; [redacted] CI/OPS; [redacted] EA; [redacted] EA; and [redacted] CCS, members MIA Ad Hoc Committee. (b)(3)

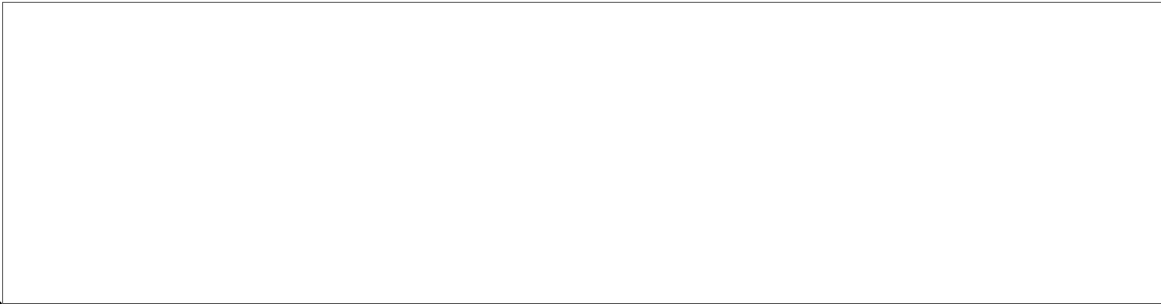
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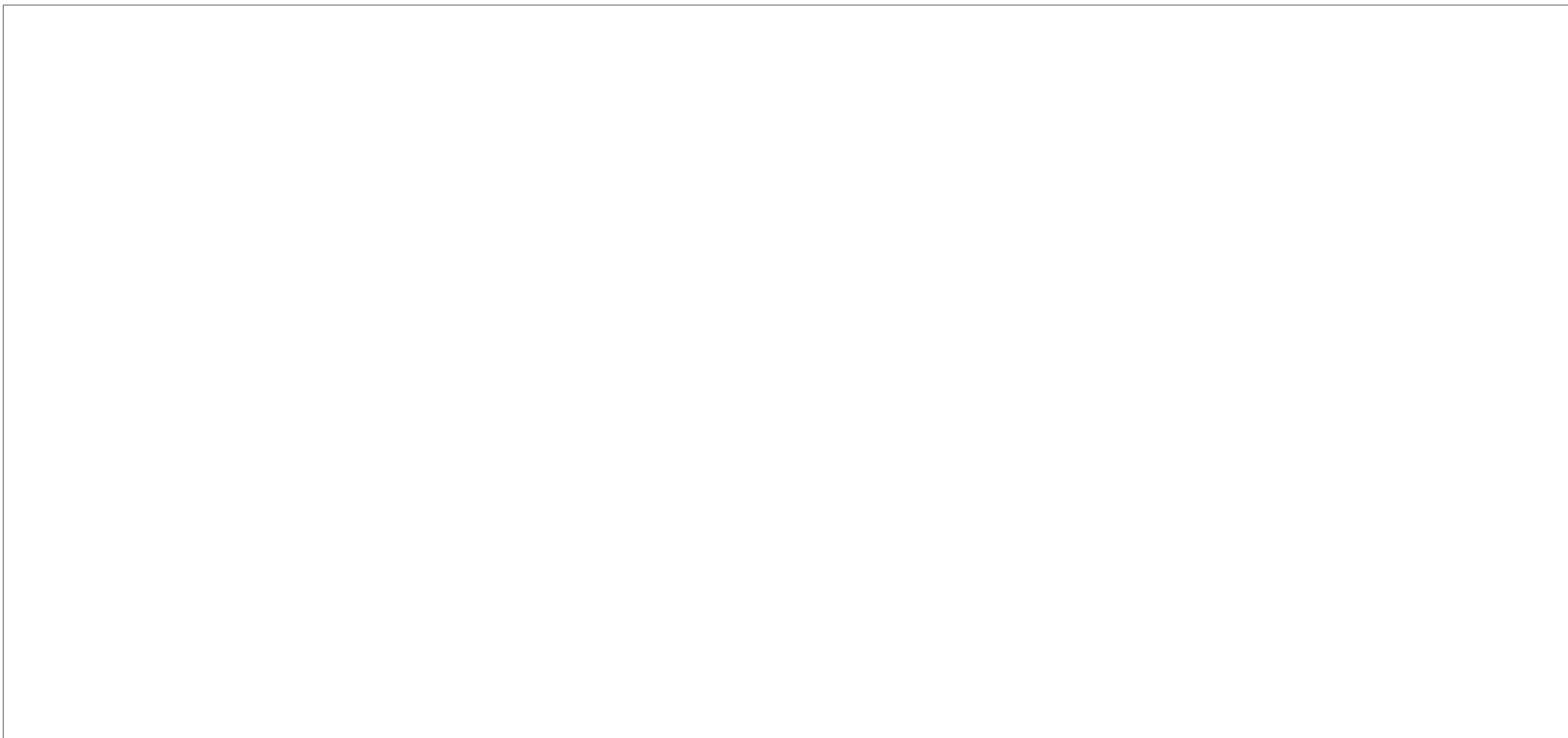


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APPENDIX C

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John T. Downey  
GS-7, FE

Disappeared 29 Nov 52  
China

12 Mar 73  
Hong Kong

Aircraft shot down on  
operational mission.  
Received life sen-  
tence.

Richard G. Fecteau  
GS-7, FE

Disappeared 29 Nov 52  
China

12 Dec 71  
Hong Kong

Aircraft shot down on  
operational mission.  
Received 20 year sen-  
tence.



(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

Thornton J. Anderson  
GS-14, TSD

Arrested 15 Sep 60  
Havana, Cuba

22 Apr 63  
Cuba

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

David L. Christ  
GS-15, TSD

Arrested 15 Sep 60  
Havana, Cuba

22 Apr 63  
Cuba

"

Walter E. Szuminski  
GS-9, TSD

"

"

"

Robert L. Neet  
GS-11, FE

Arrested 15 Sep 60  
Havana, Cuba

16 Sep 60  
Cuba

[Redacted]

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269 -

Francis G. Powers  
DPD

Arrested 1 May 60  
USSR

10 Feb 62  
E. Berlin,  
E. Germany

Awarded Intelligence  
Star Apr 1965. Re-  
signed 15 Oct 62.

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APPENDIX D

Finding of Death of Missing Person  
John T. Downey

APPENDIX D

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Washington 25, D. C.

FINDING OF DEATH OF MISSING PERSON

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of the Act of 7 March 1942 (Public Law 490, 77th Congress) as amended, upon direction and delegation by the Director of Central Intelligence, I find Mr. John Thomas Downey to be dead. He was officially reported as missing as of the third day of December 1952. For the purposes stated in said Act, death is presumed to have occurred on the fourth day of December 1953.

/s/

(b)(3)

Date: 4 December 1953

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Acting Personnel Director

-- 0 0 0 0 --

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Date of Birth:

Date Entered on Duty:

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3 June 1951

Home Address:

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Emergency Addressee:

Name: Mrs. Mary V. Downey

Relationship: Mother

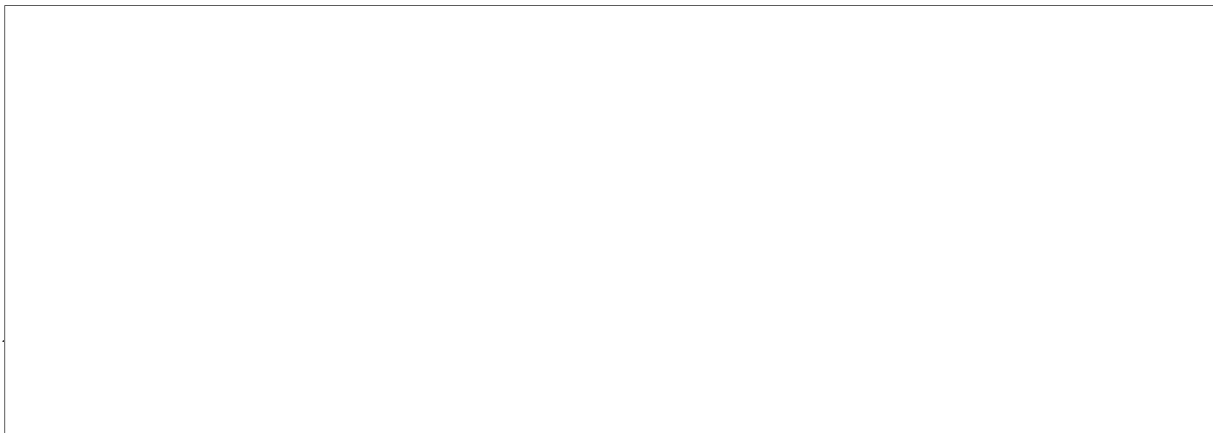
Address:

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APPENDIX E

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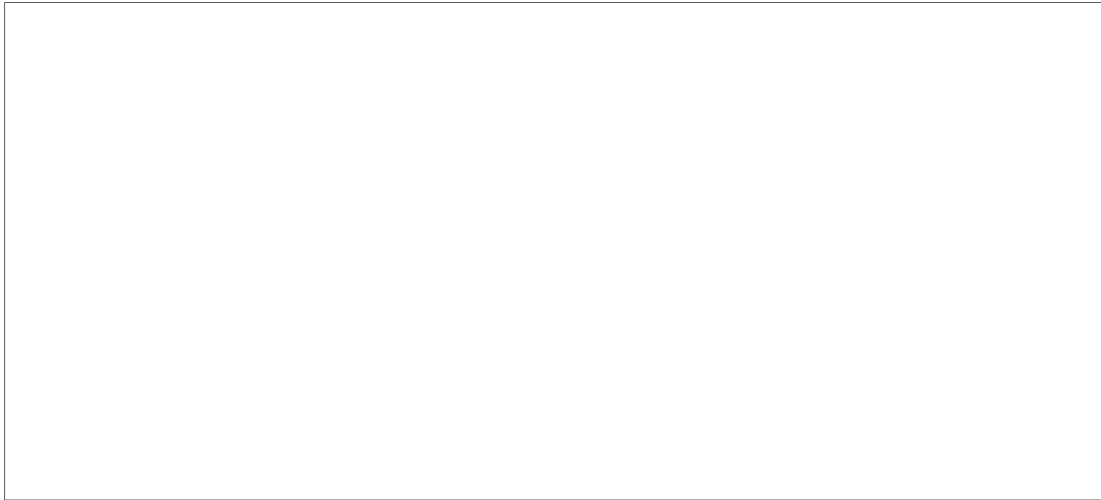
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APPENDIX F

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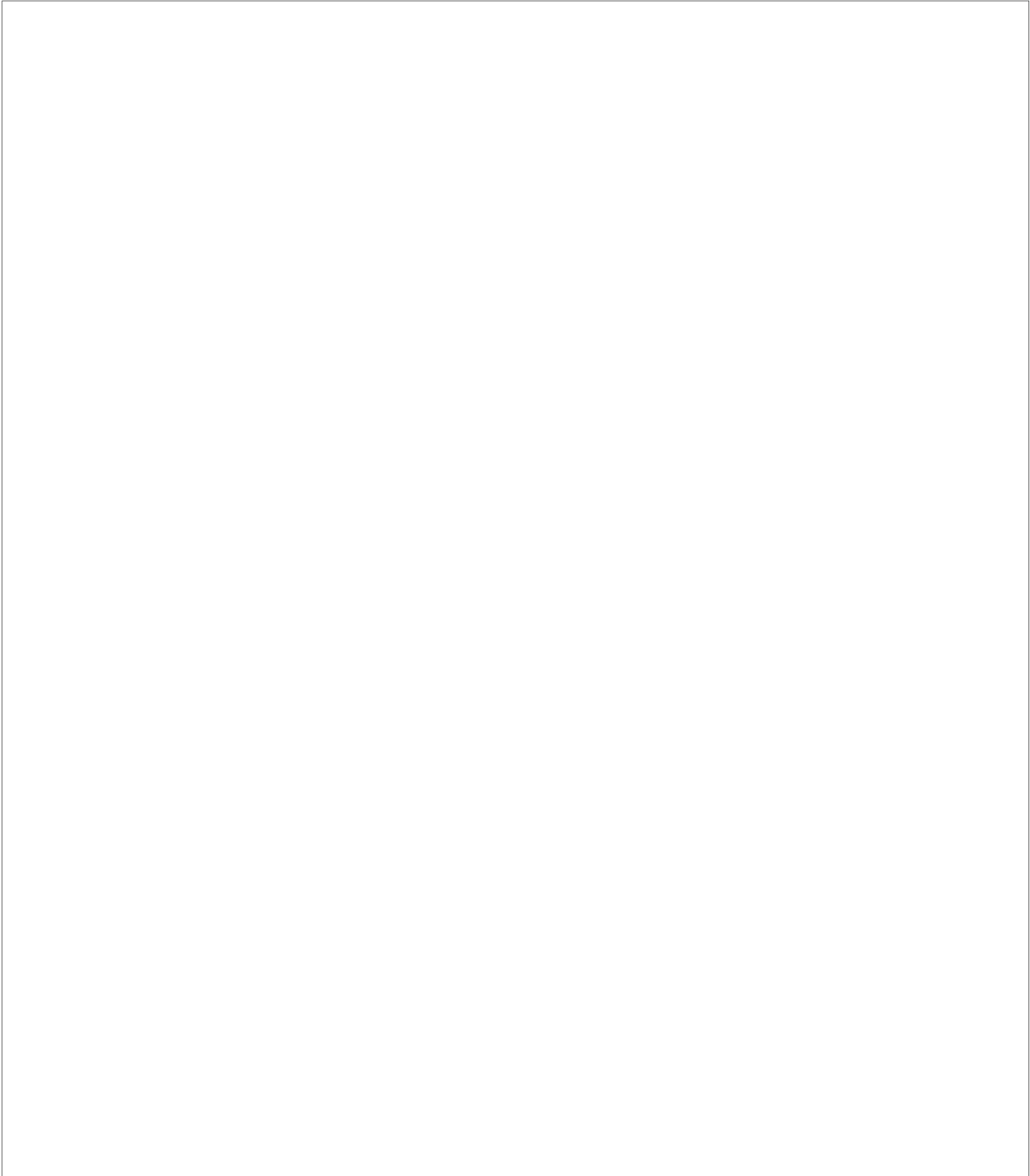


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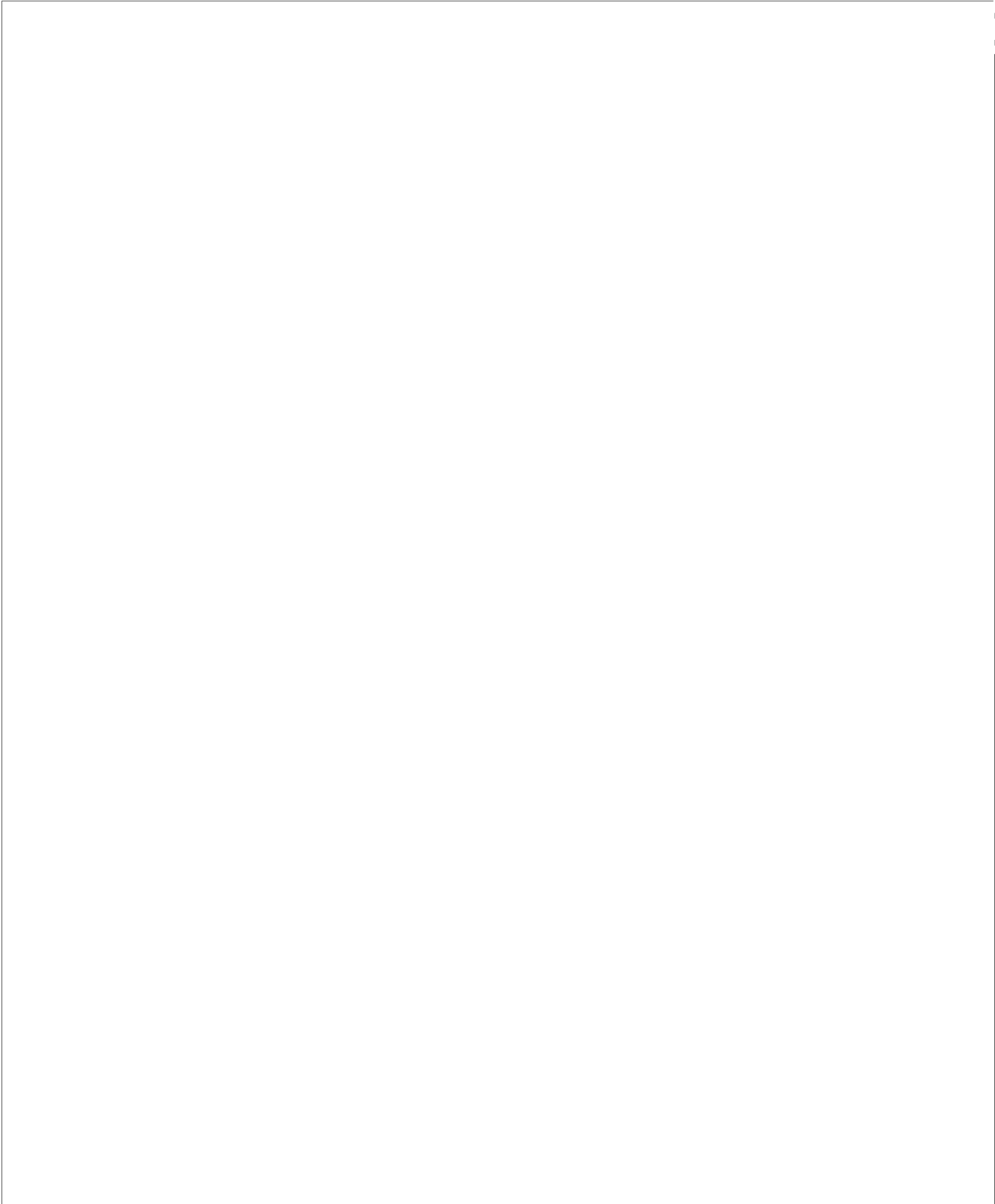
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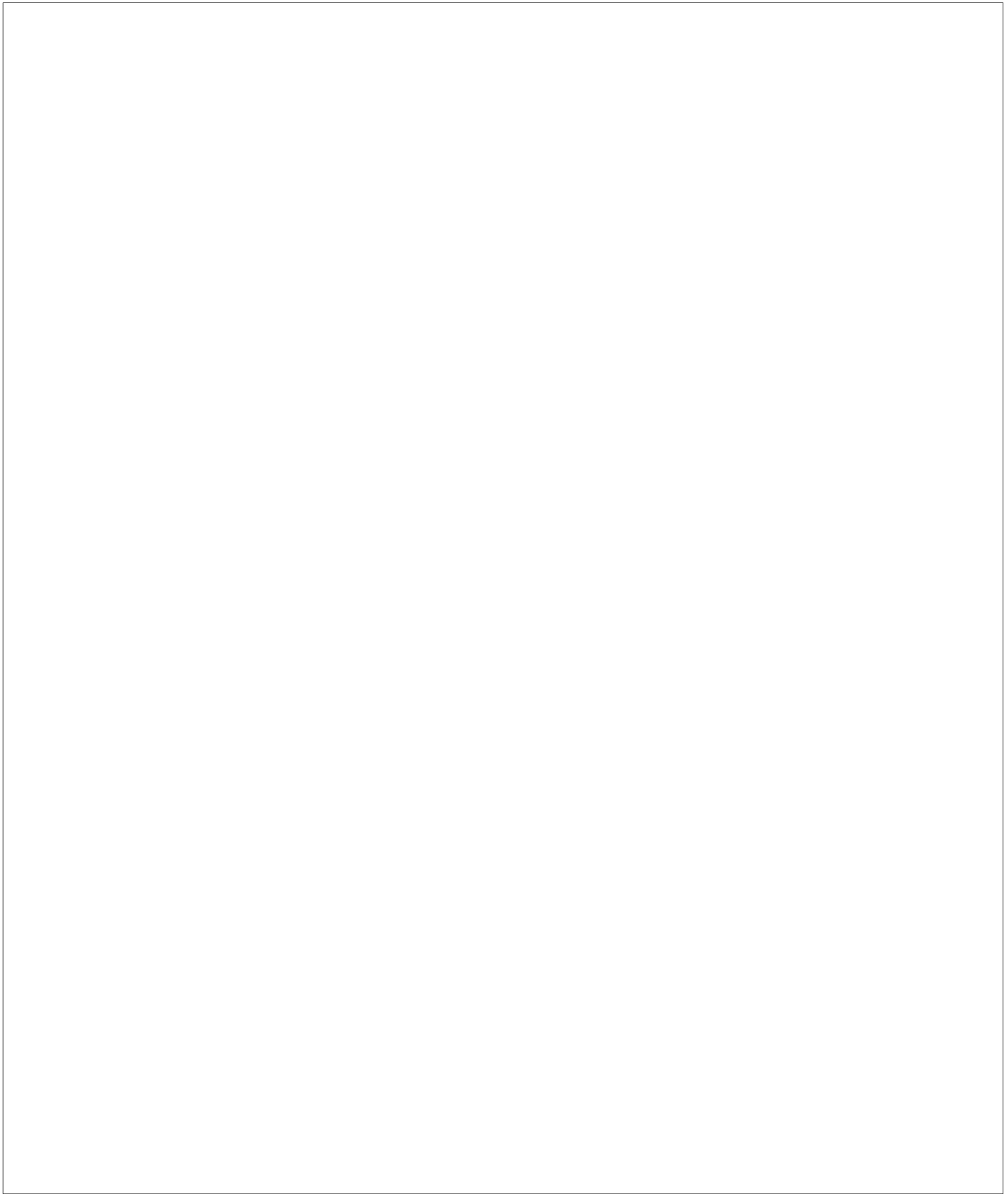
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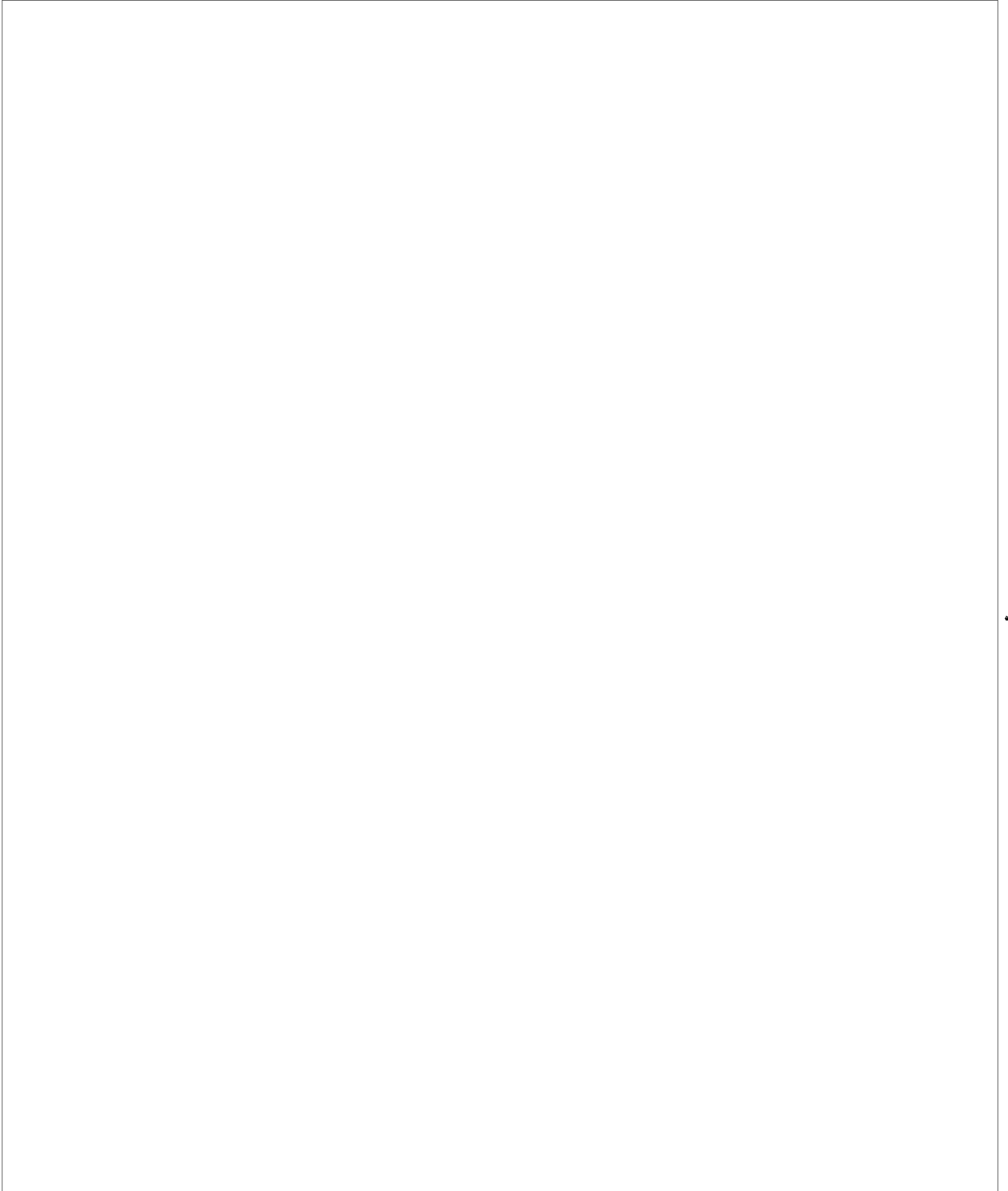


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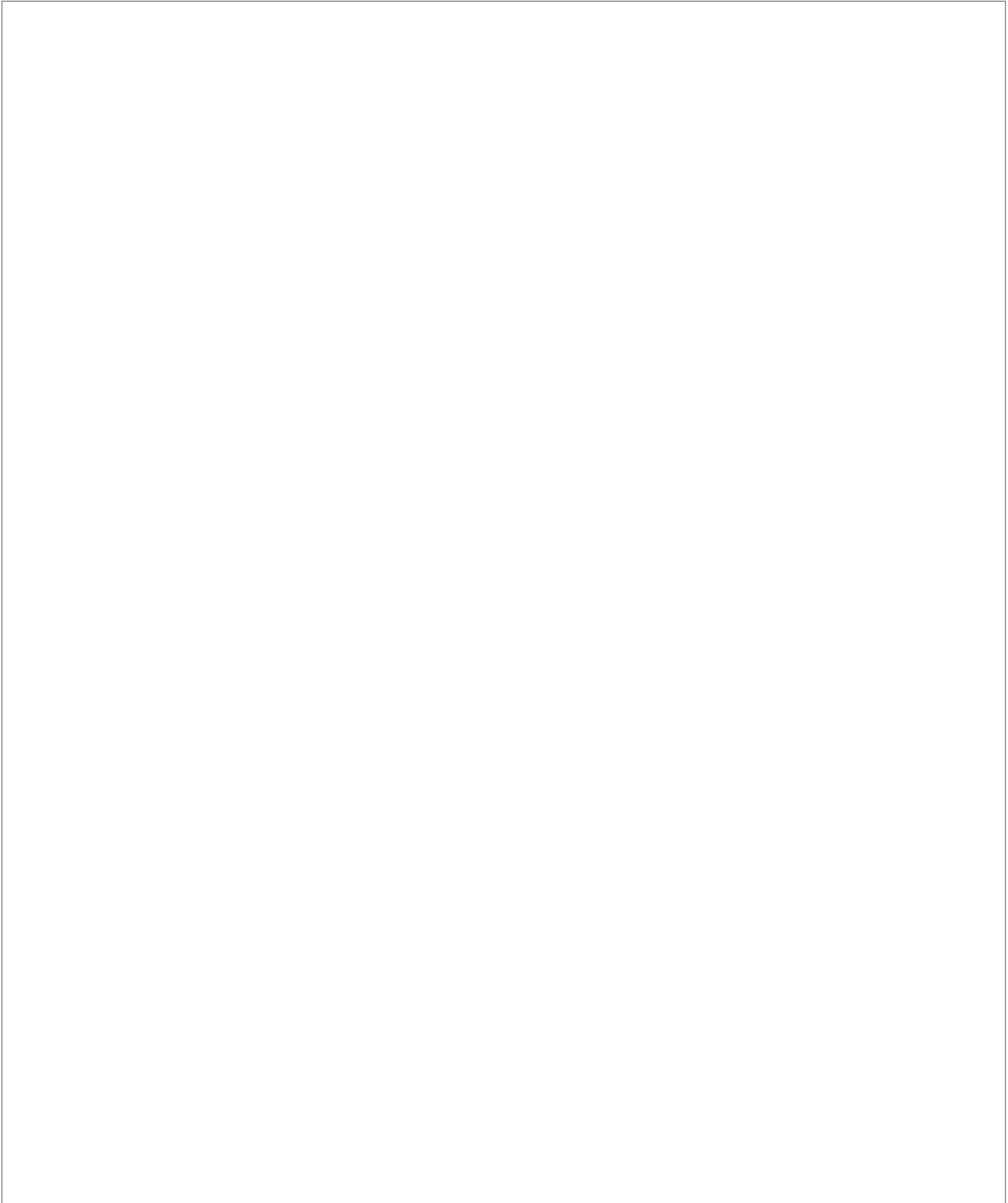
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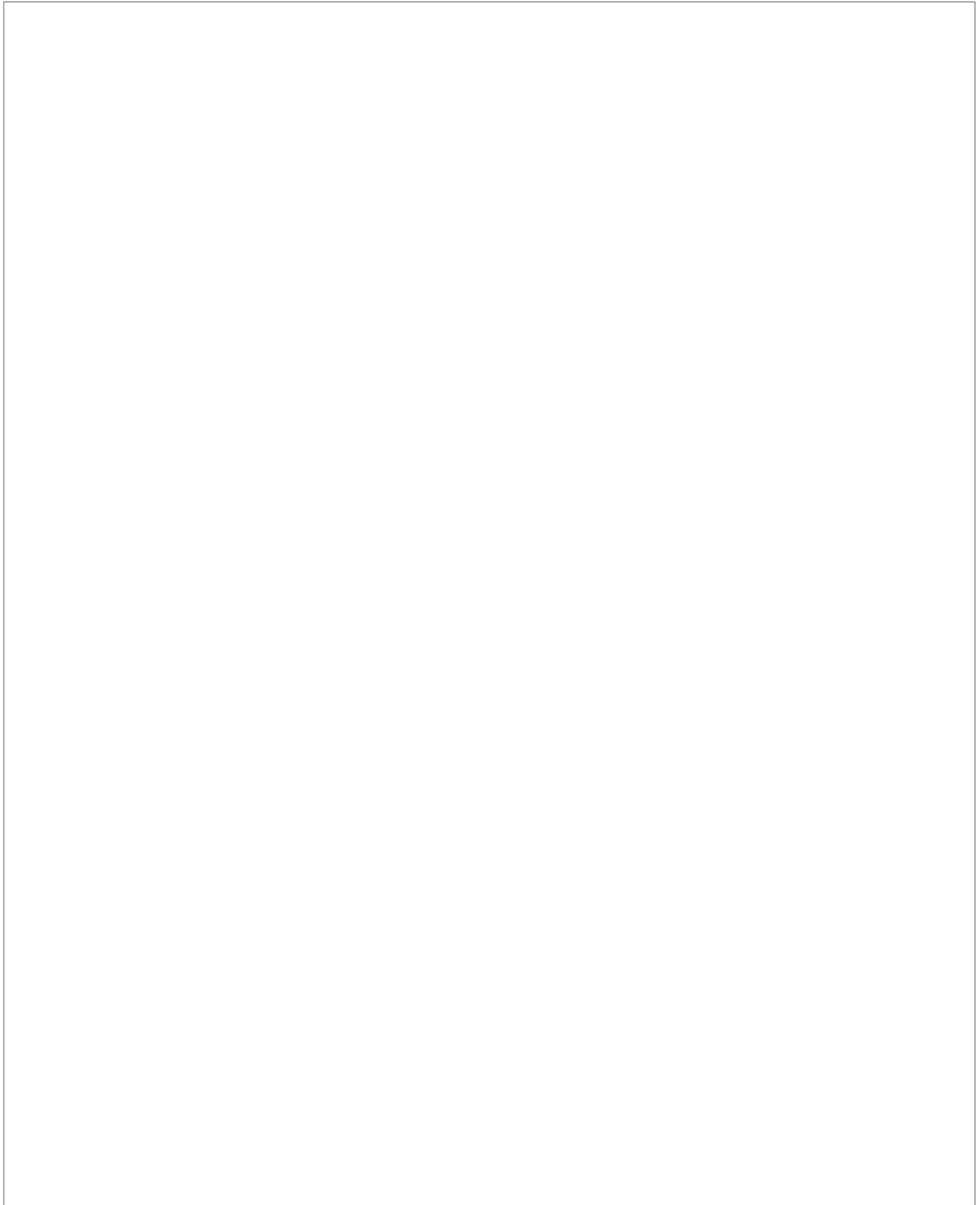
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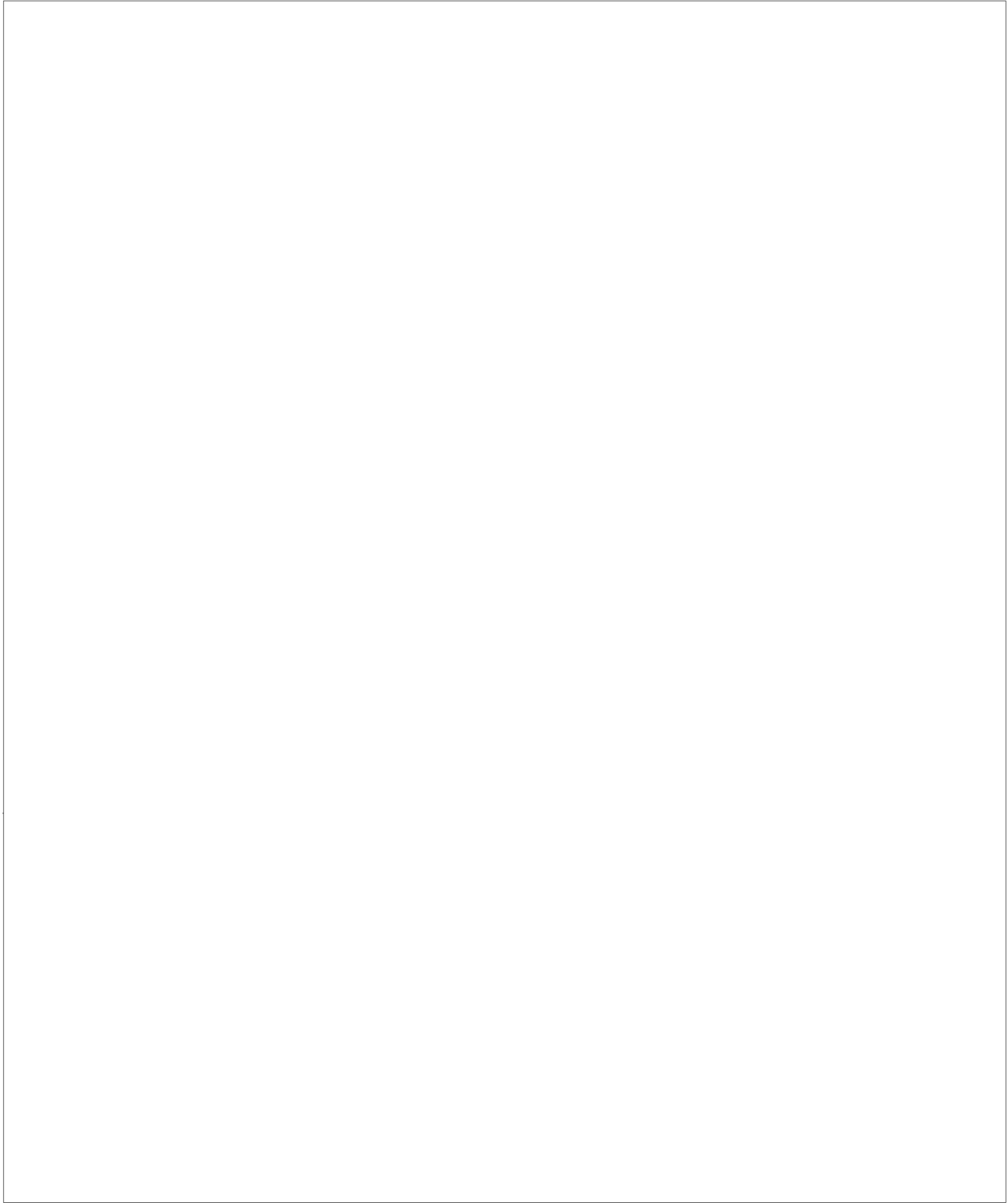
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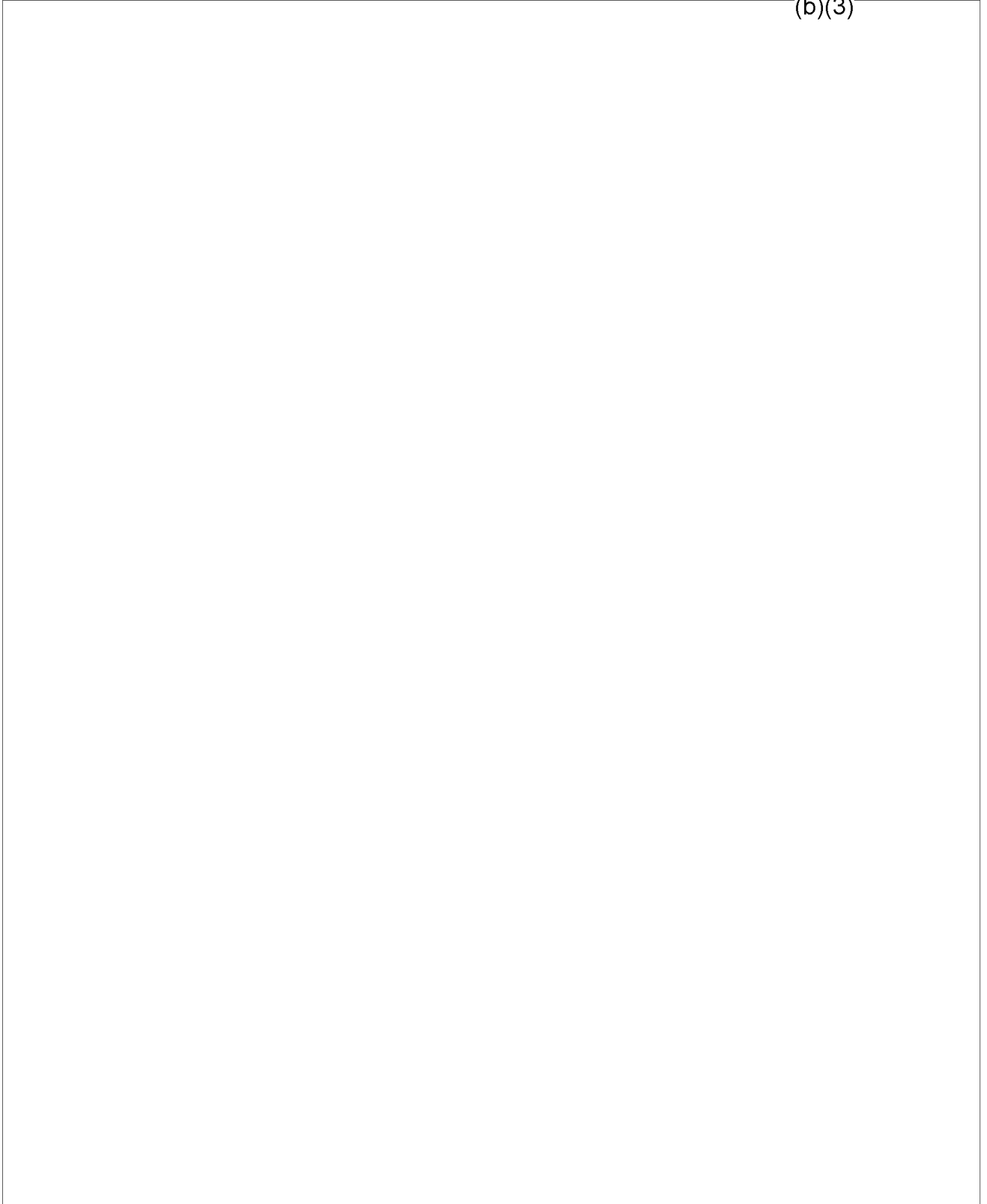
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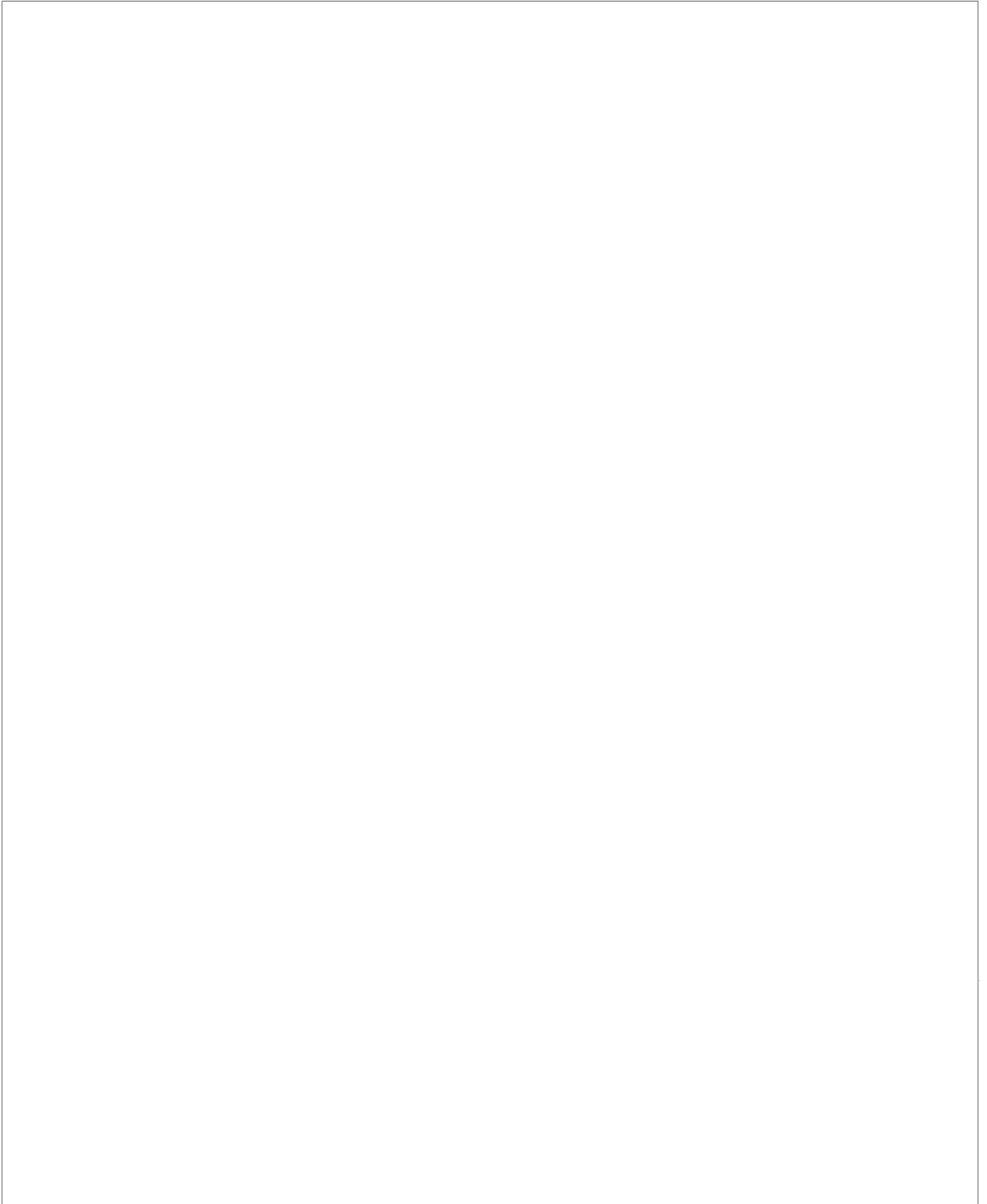


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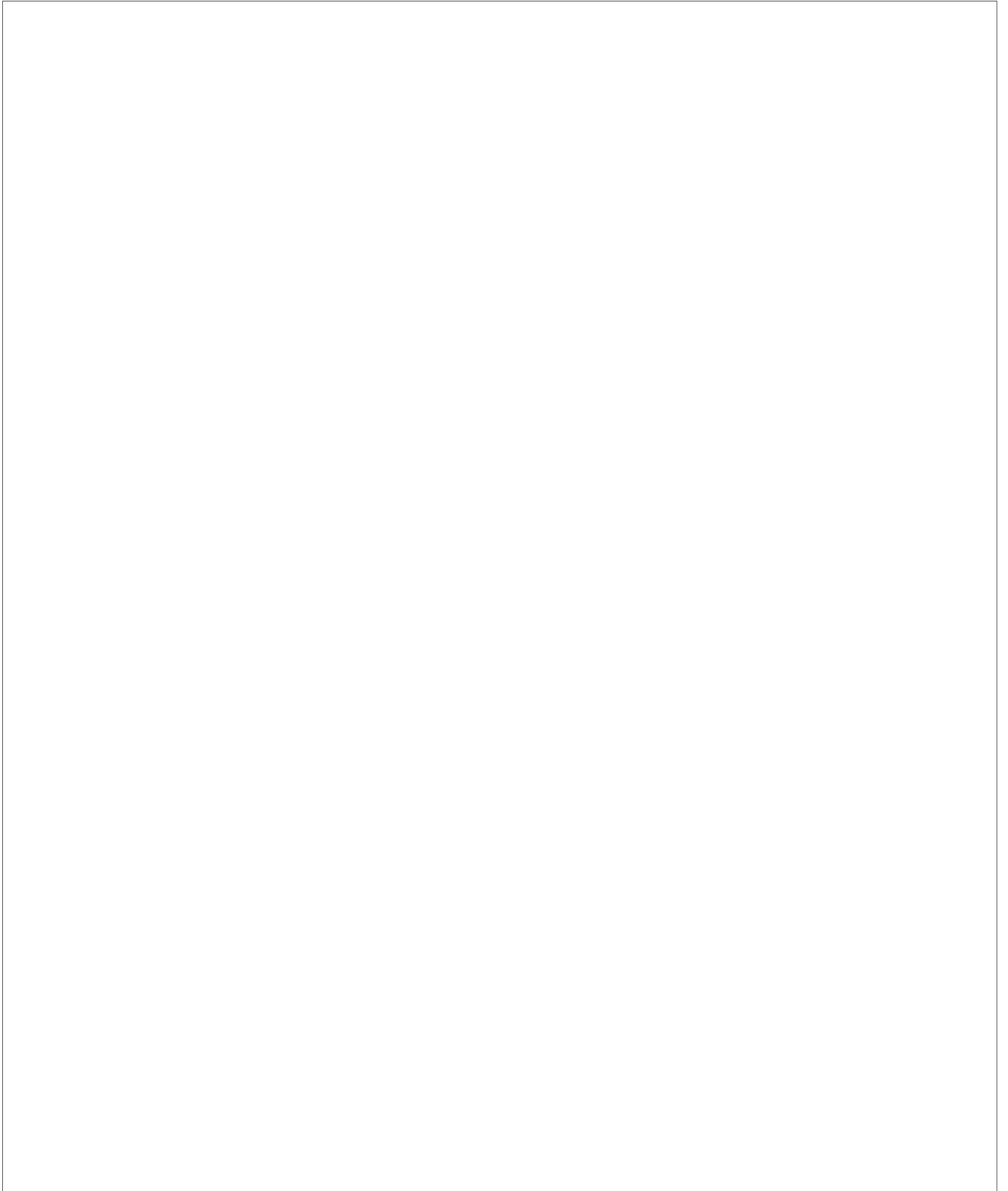
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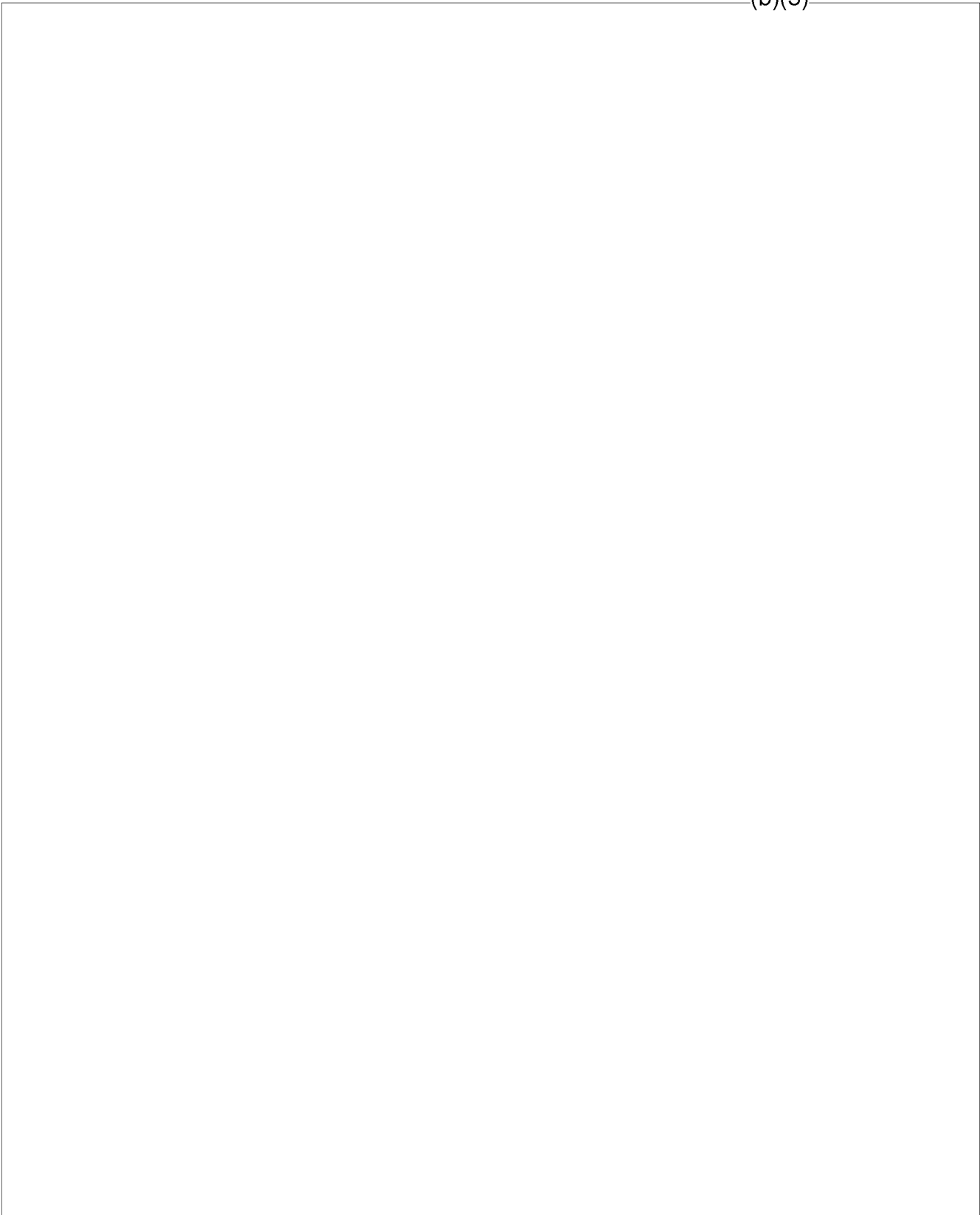
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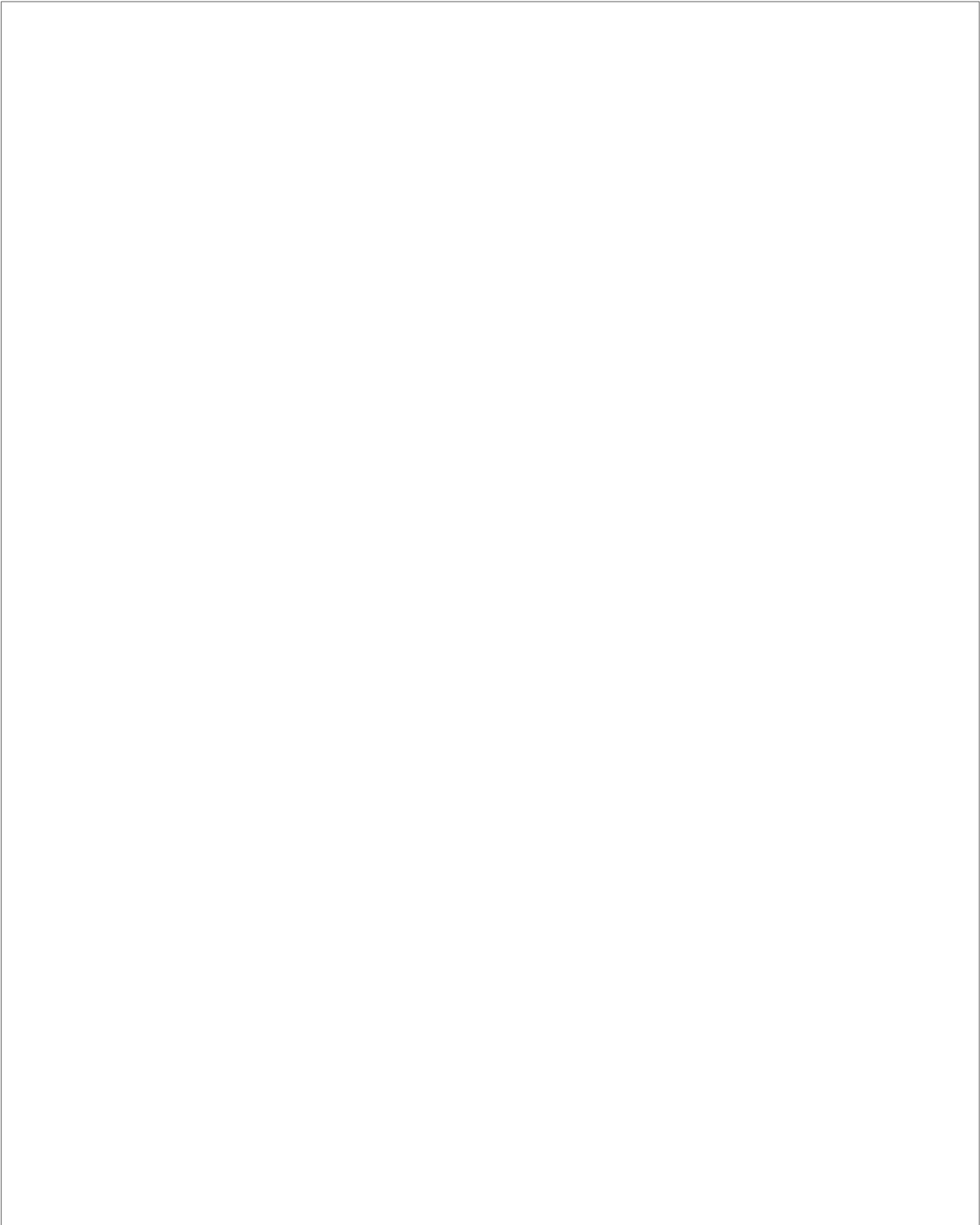
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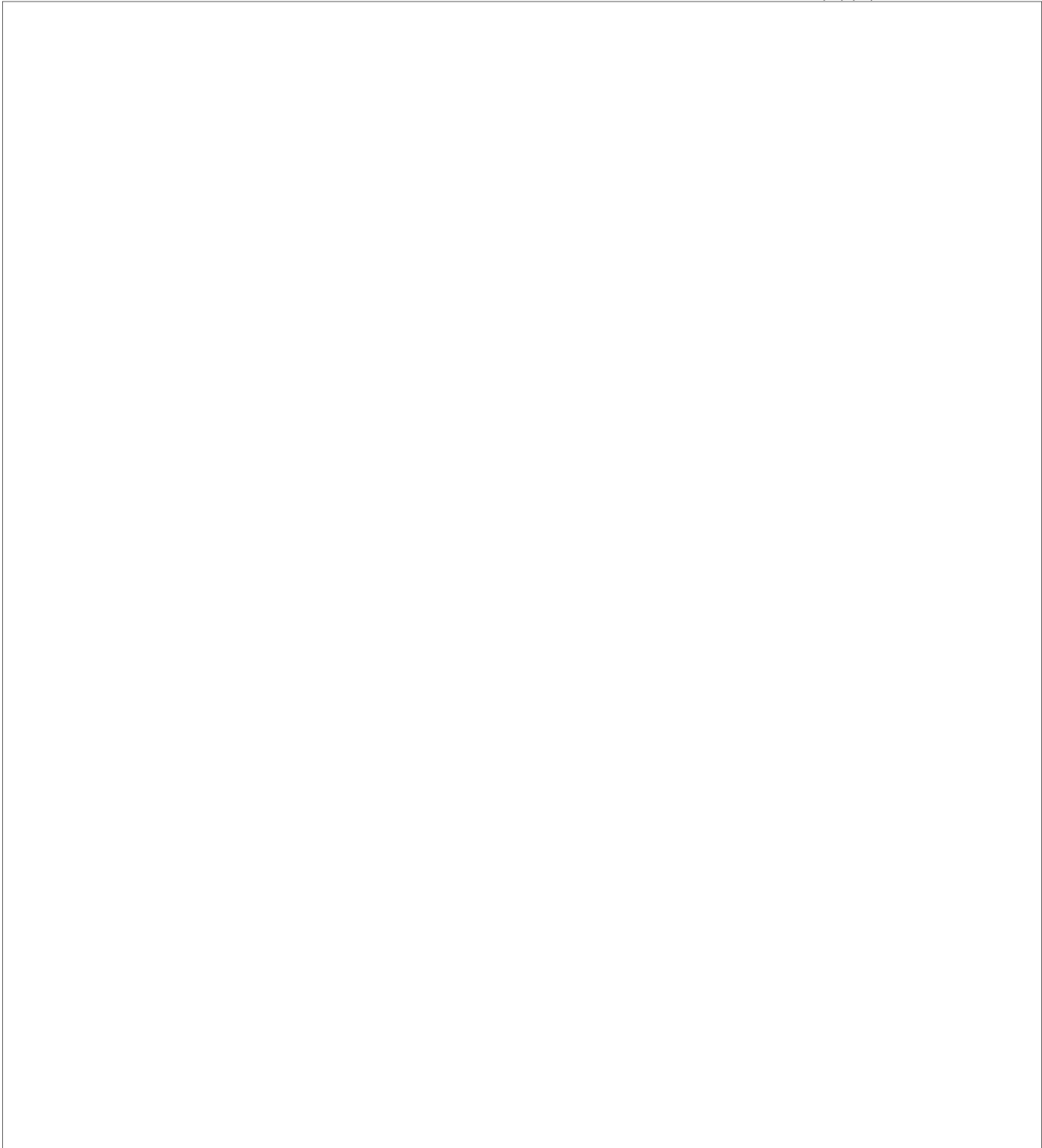
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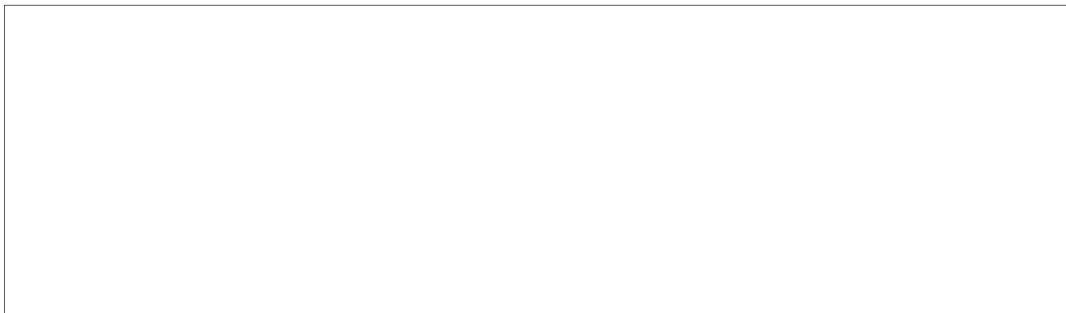
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APPENDIX G

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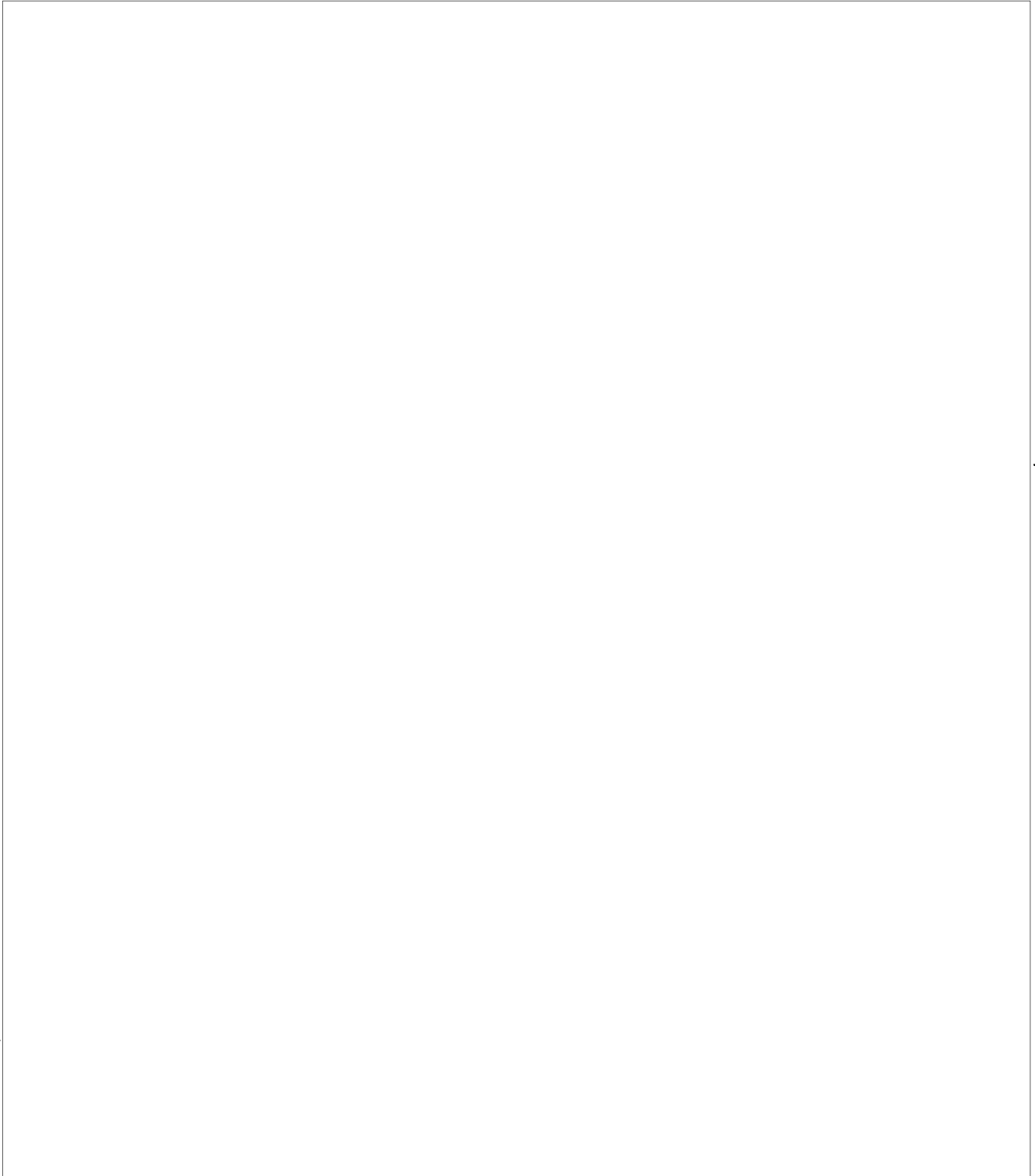


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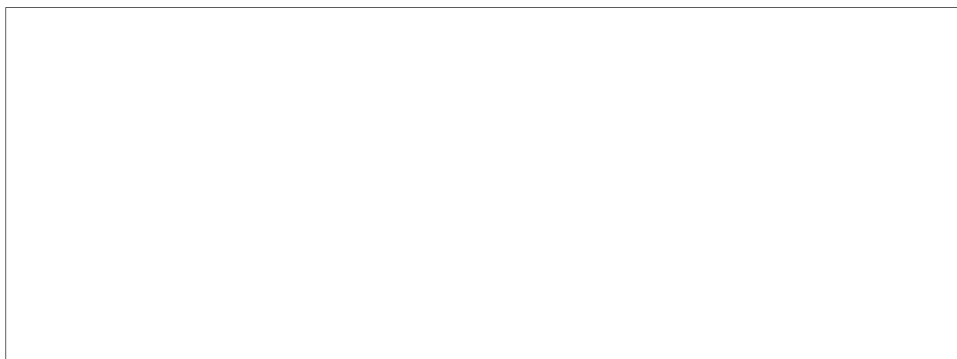
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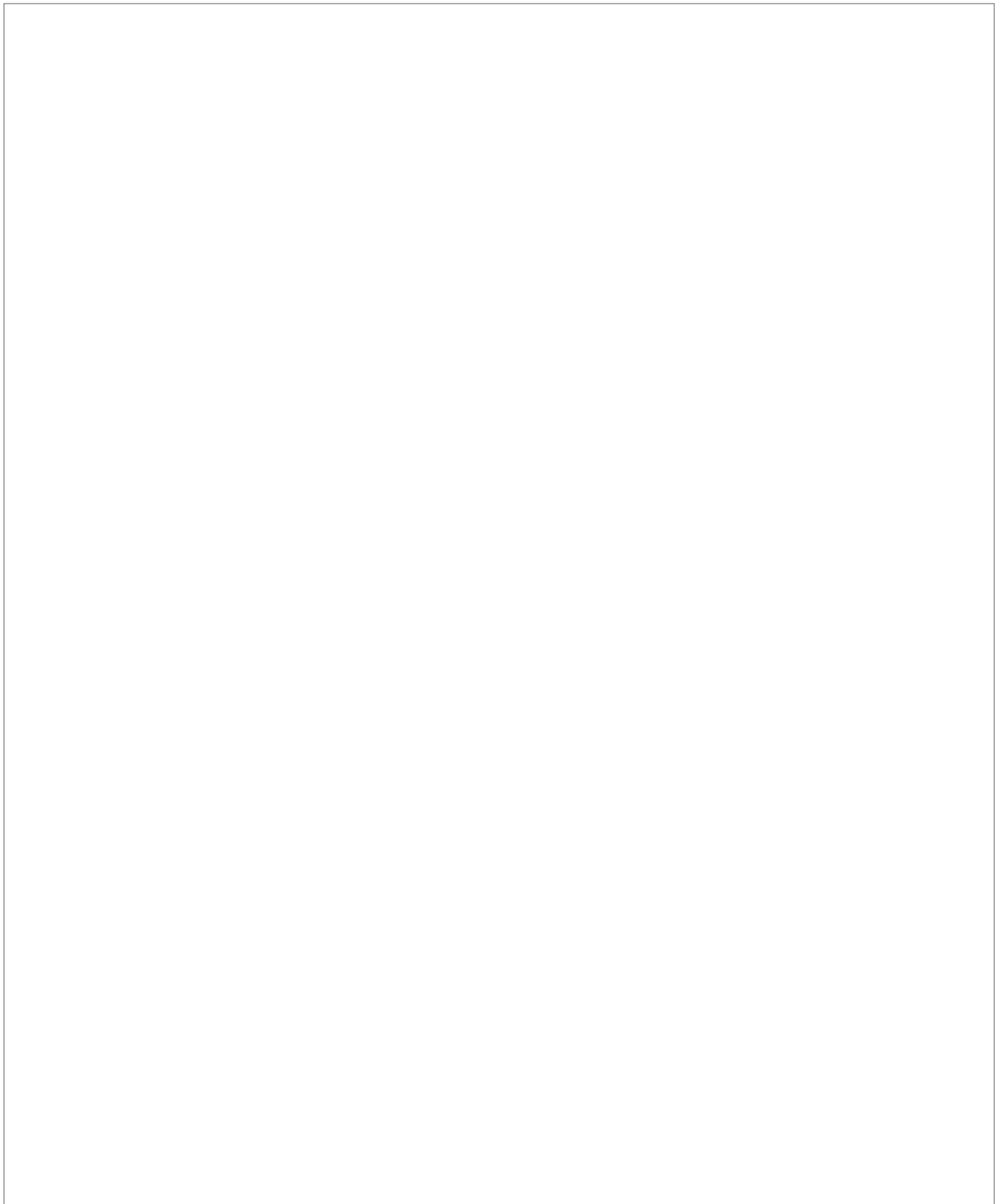
APPENDIX H

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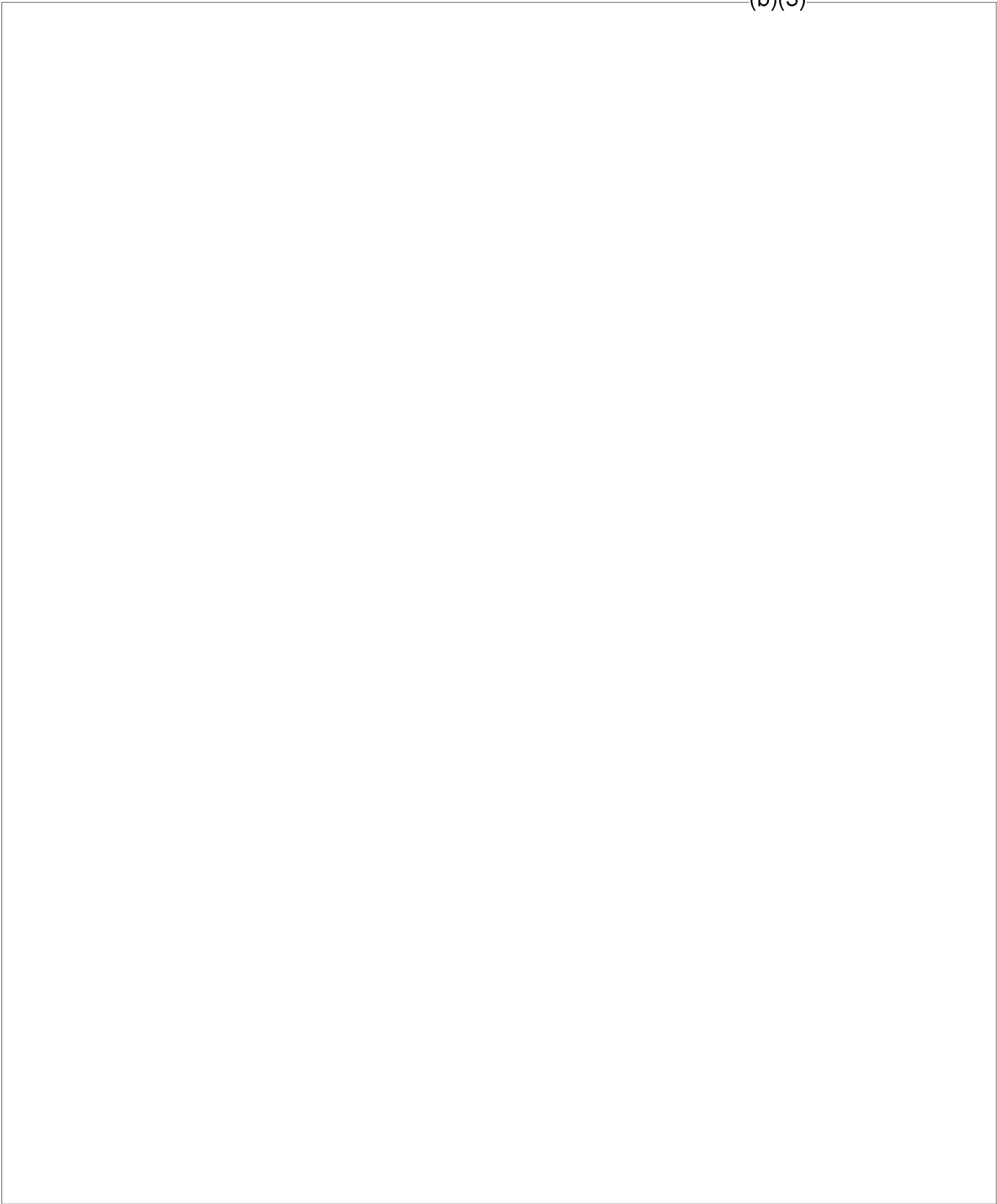


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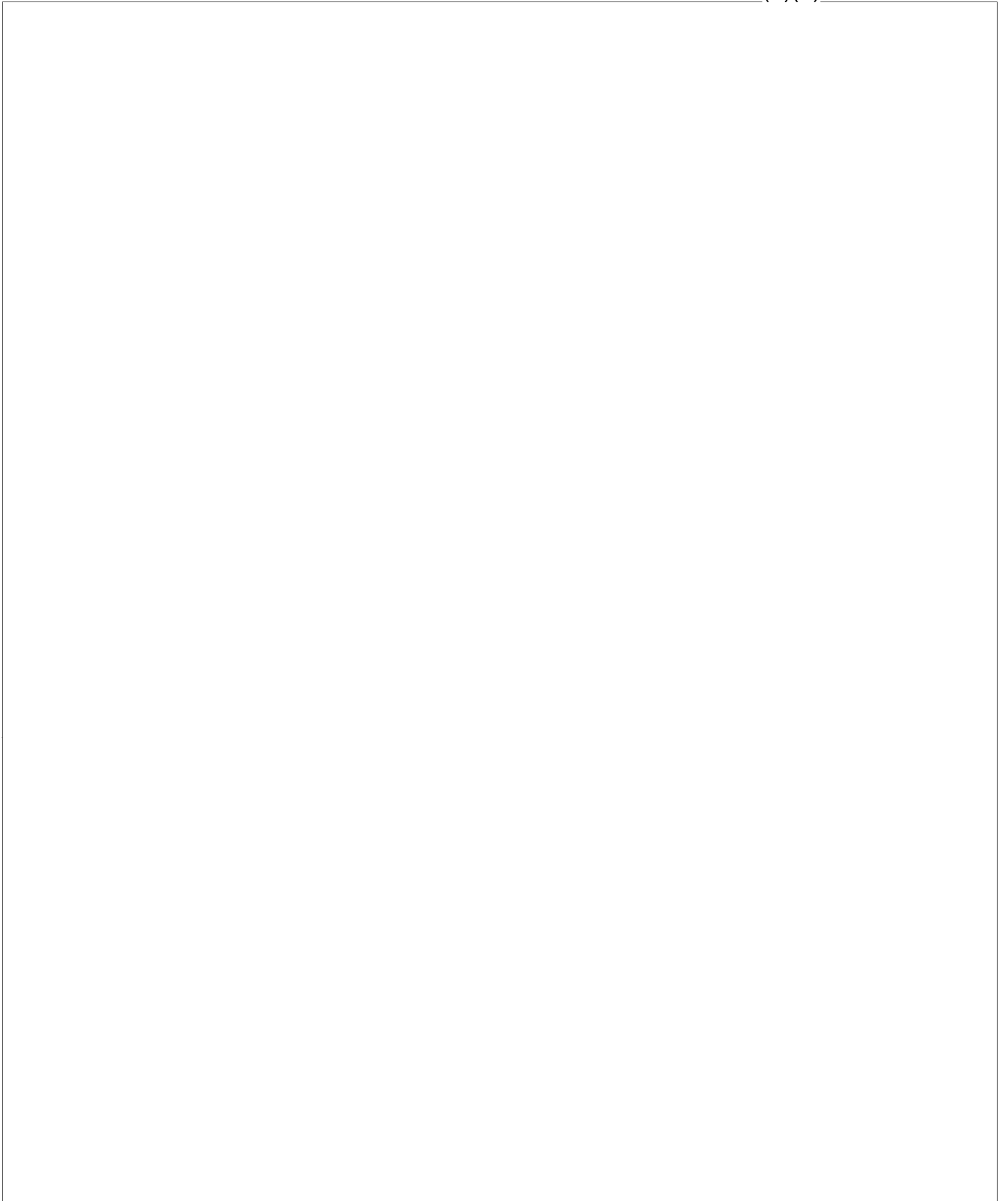
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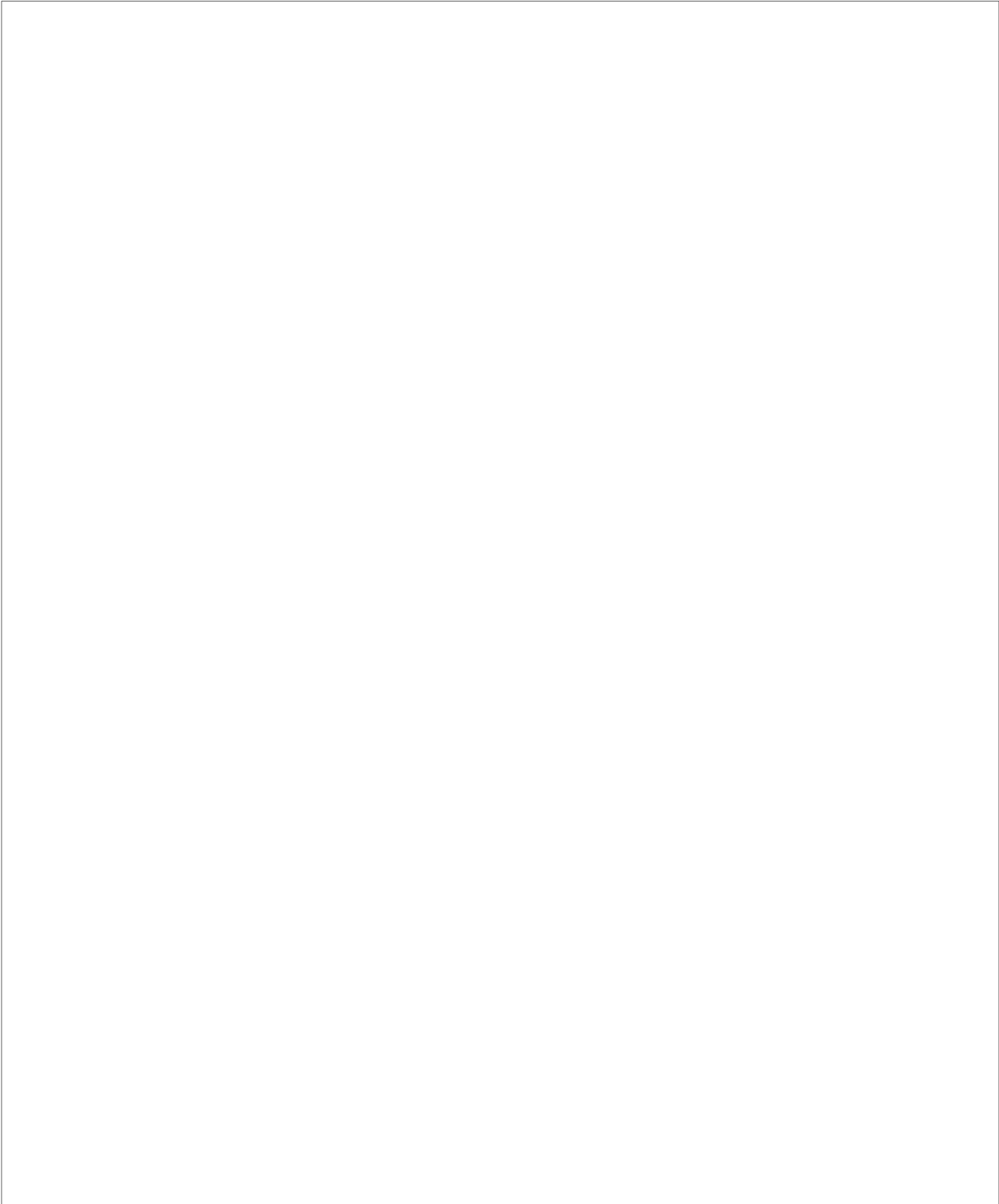


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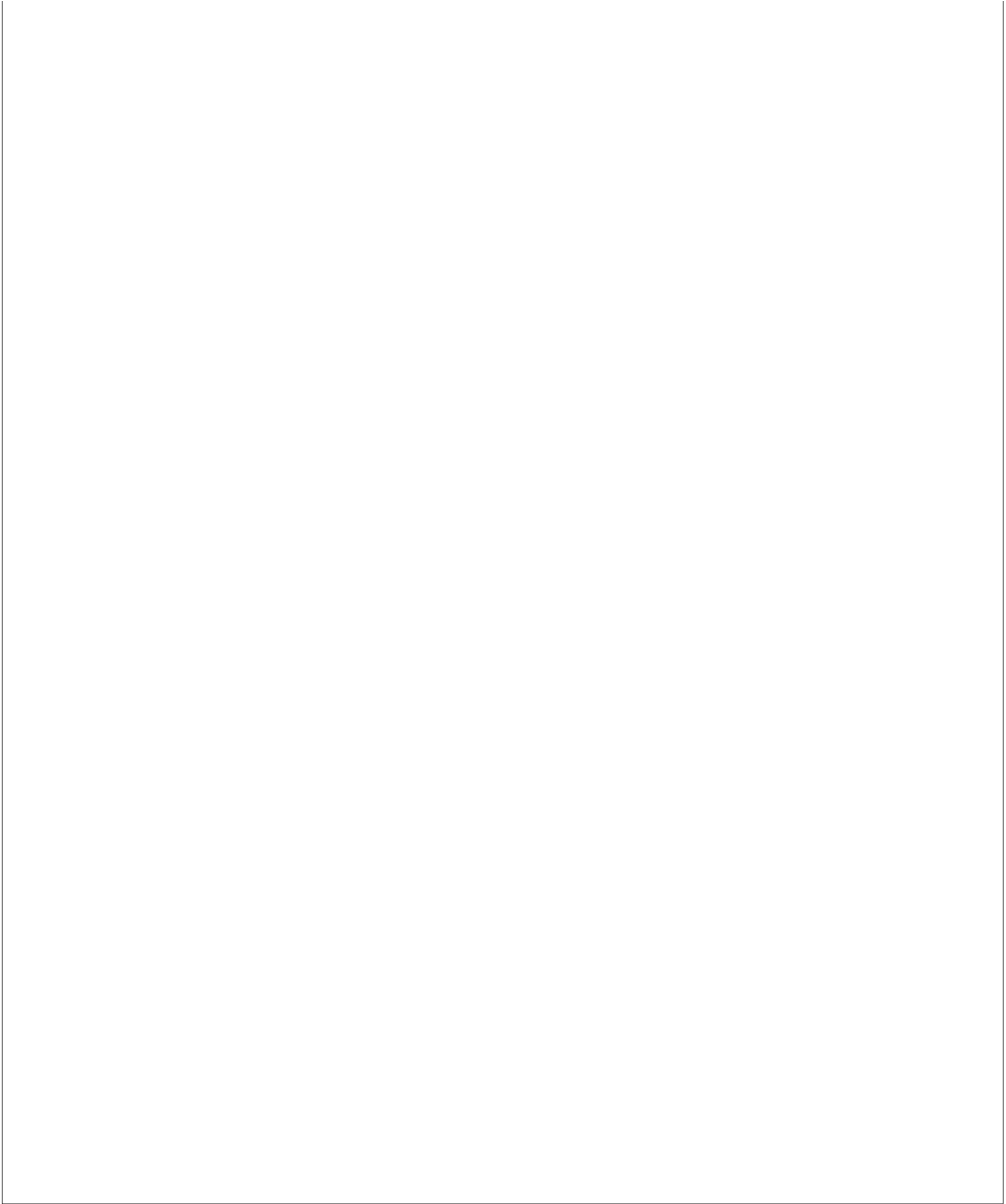
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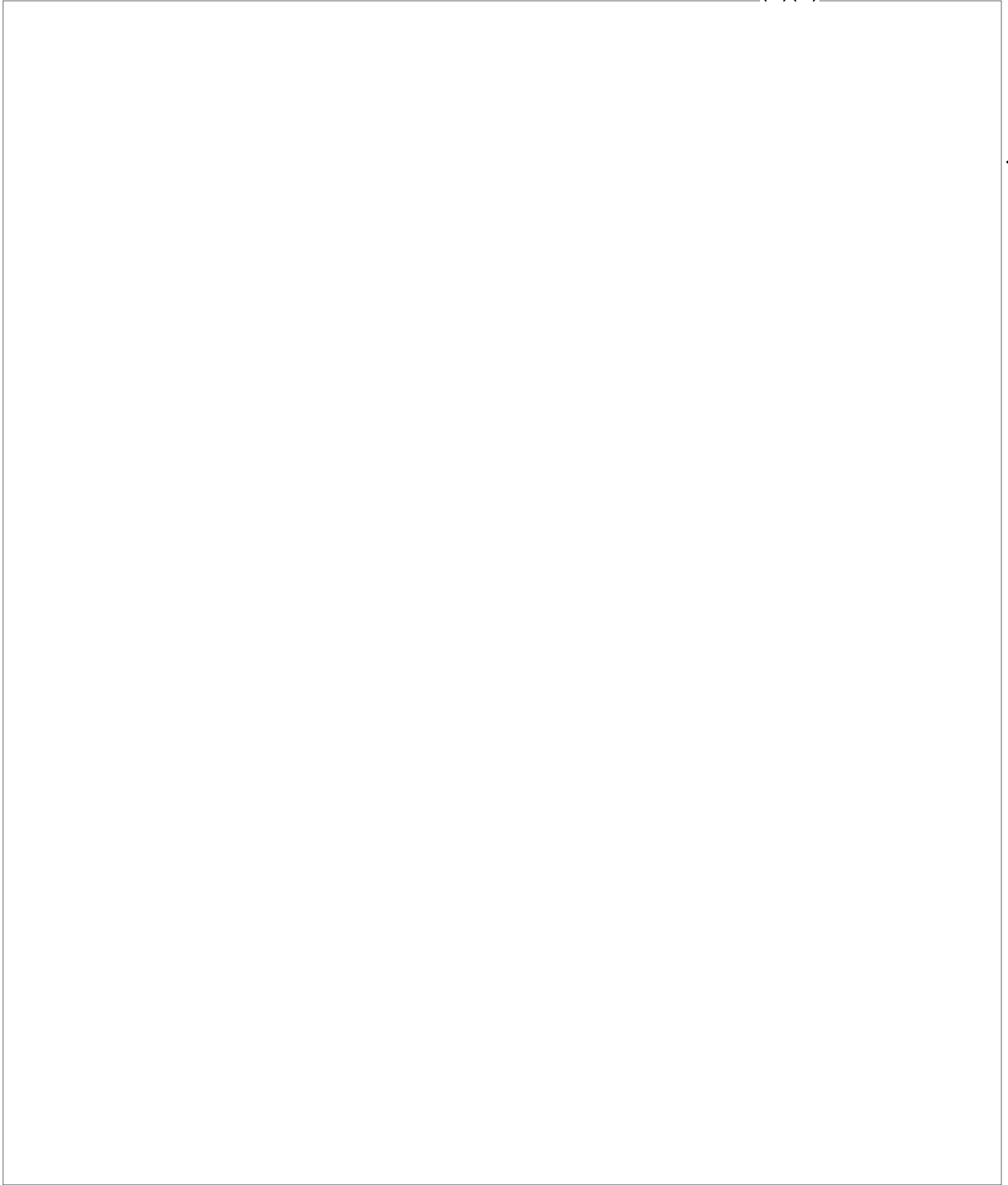


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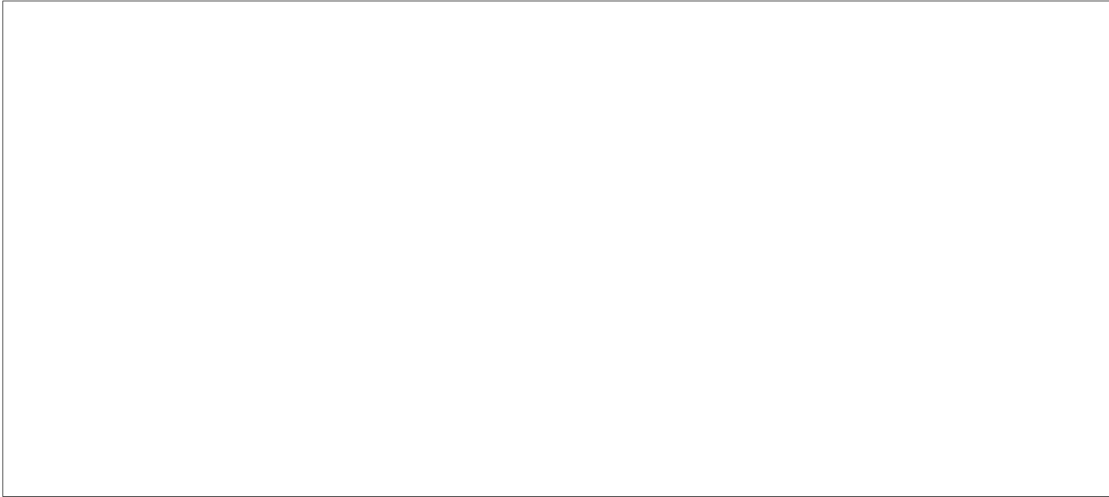
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APPENDIX I

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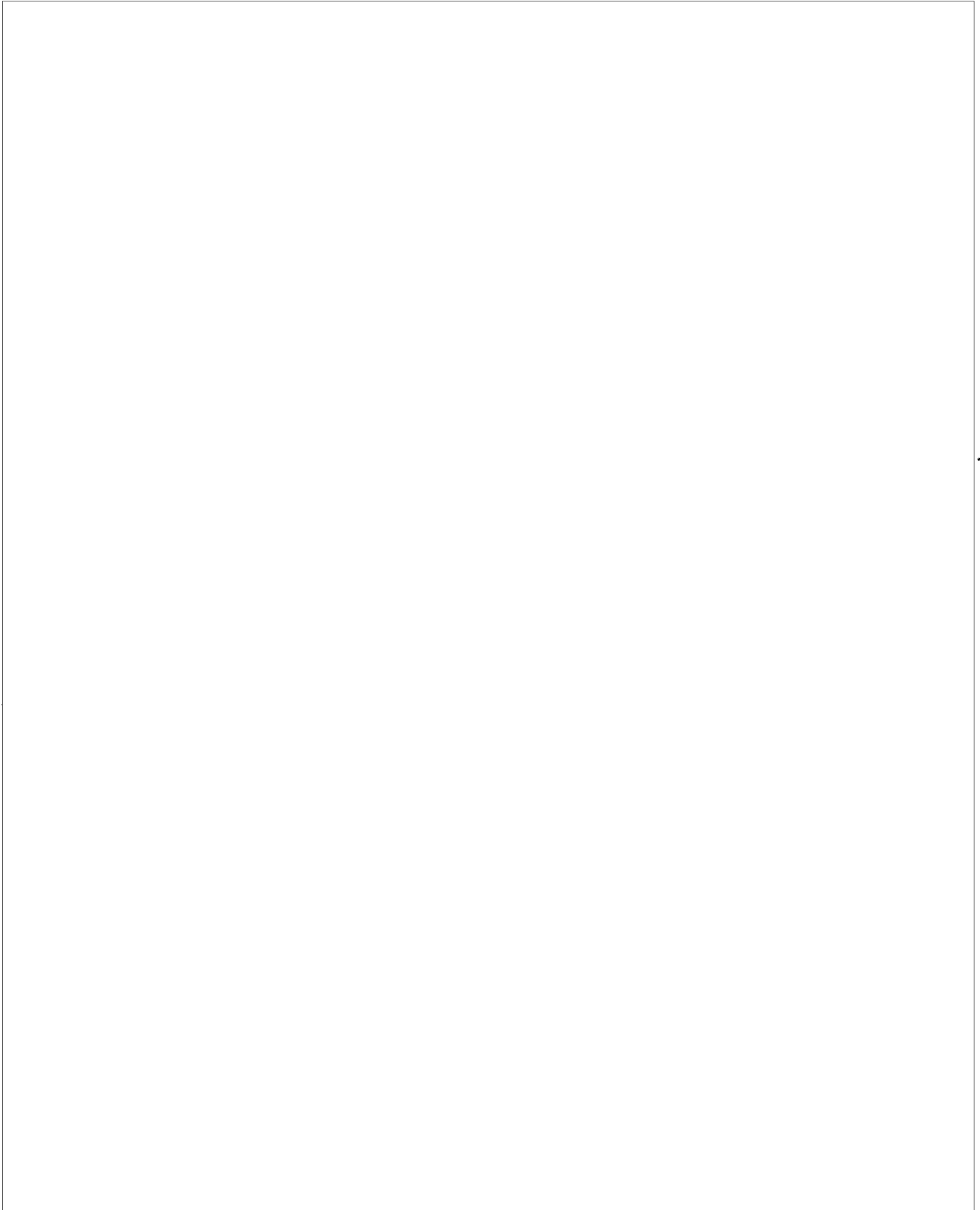
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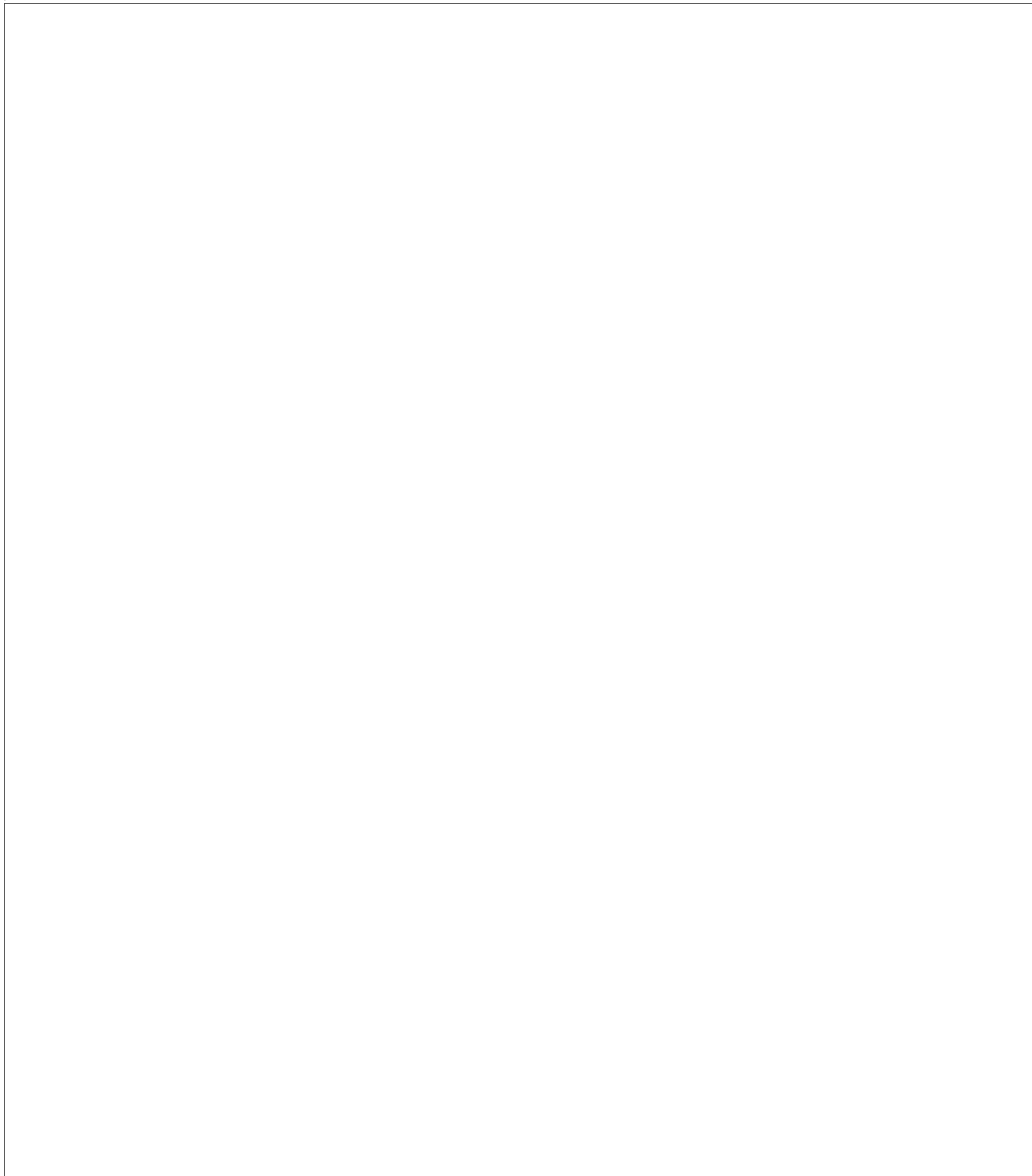


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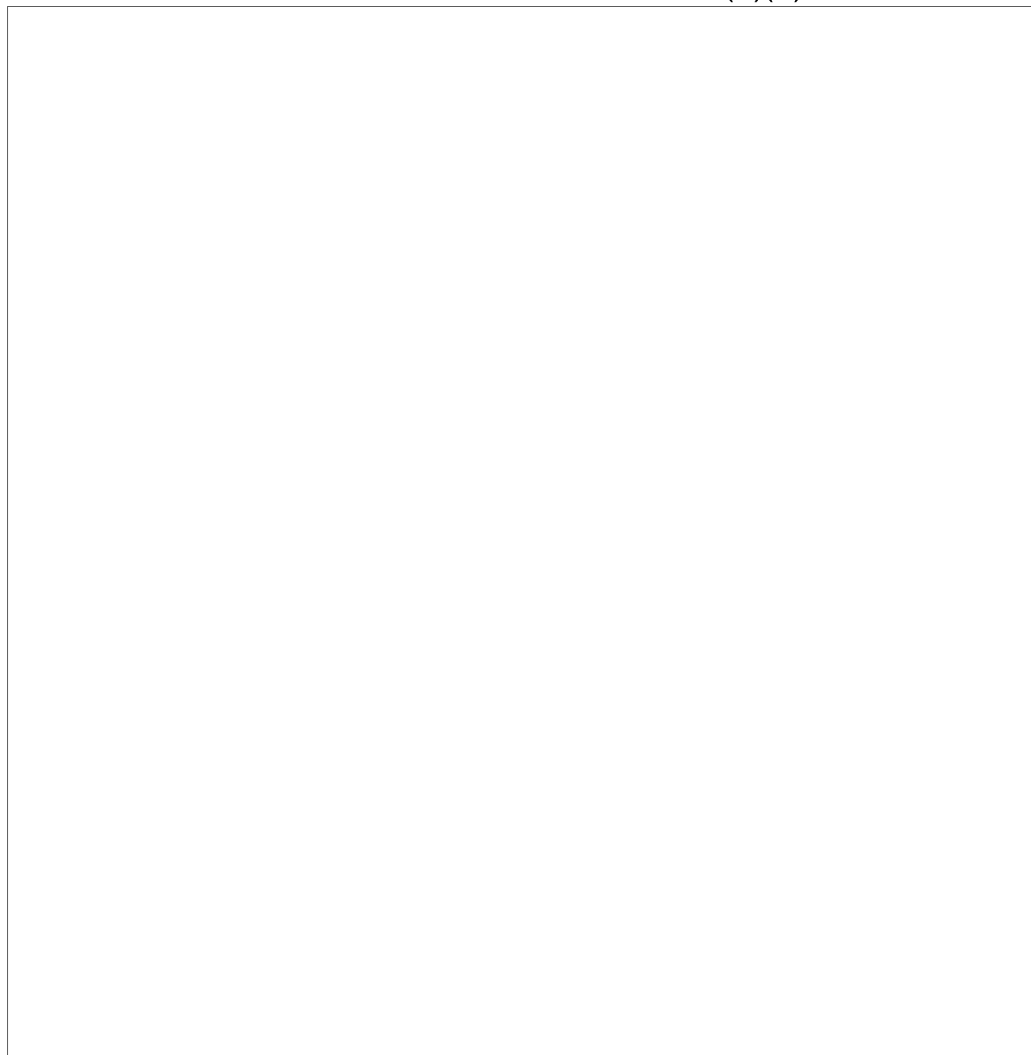


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APPENDIX J

OP Oral History Project  
(Selected) Tape Transcripts

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APPENDIX J

OP Oral History Project (b)(1)  
(Selected) Tape Transcripts (b)(3)



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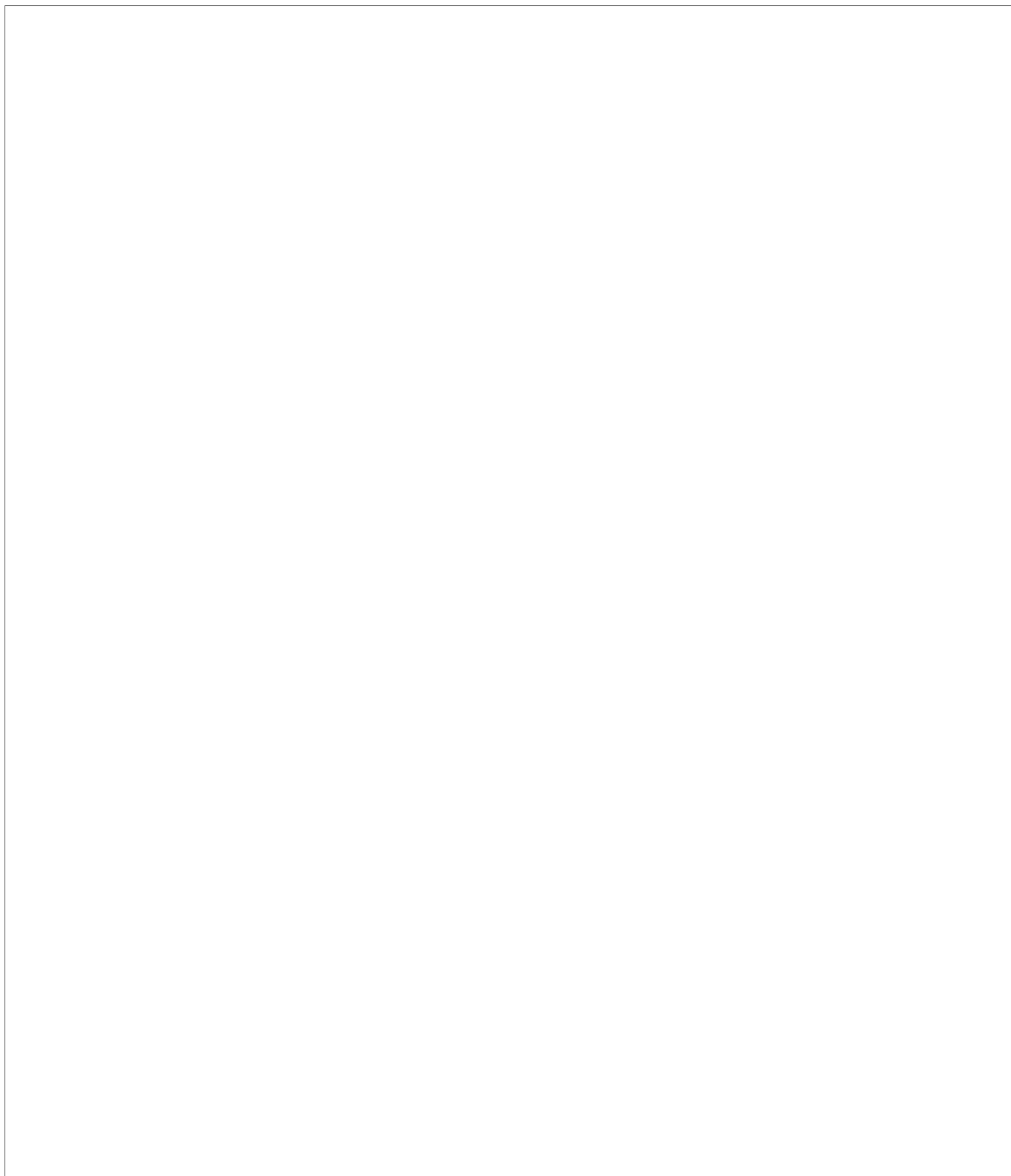


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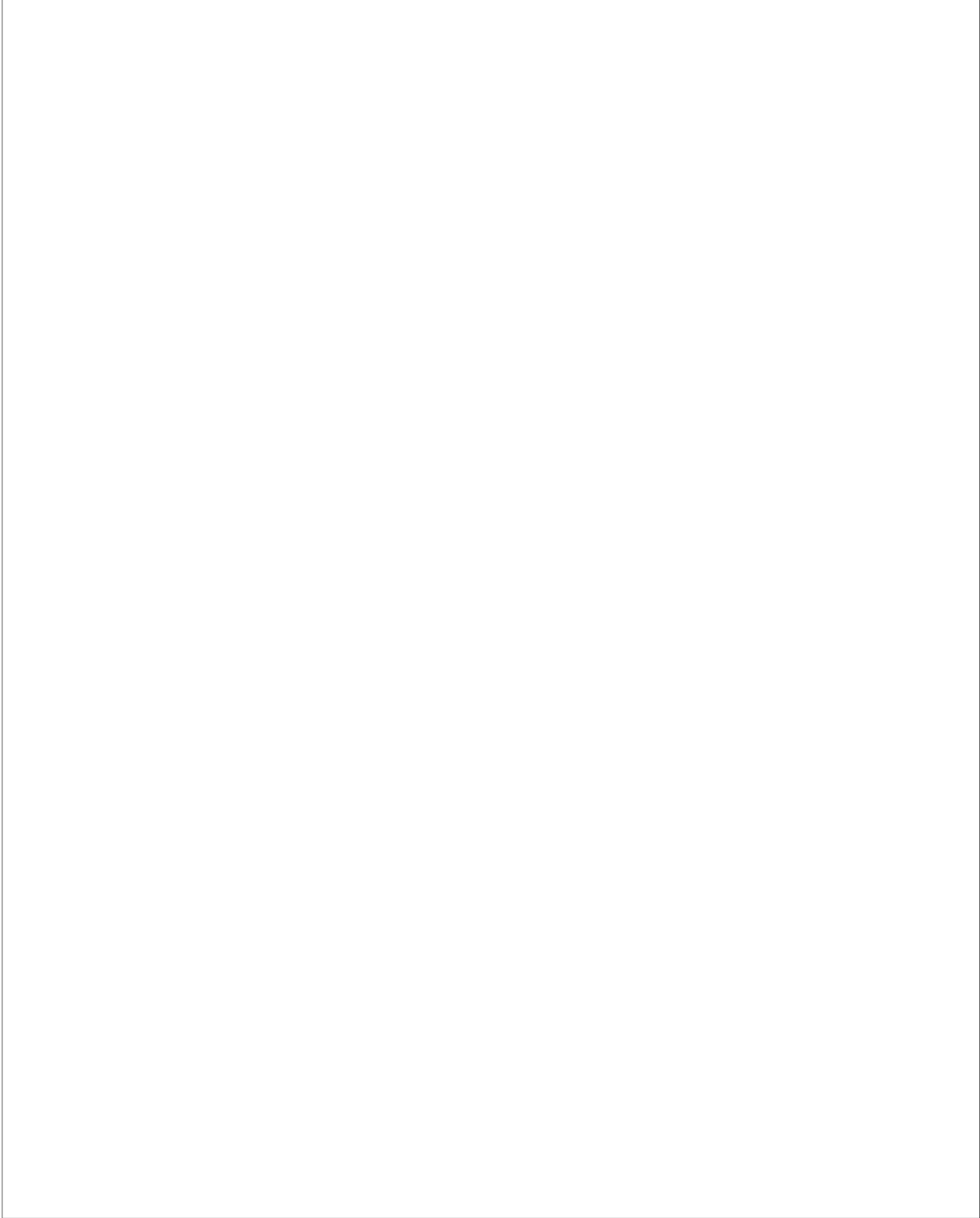


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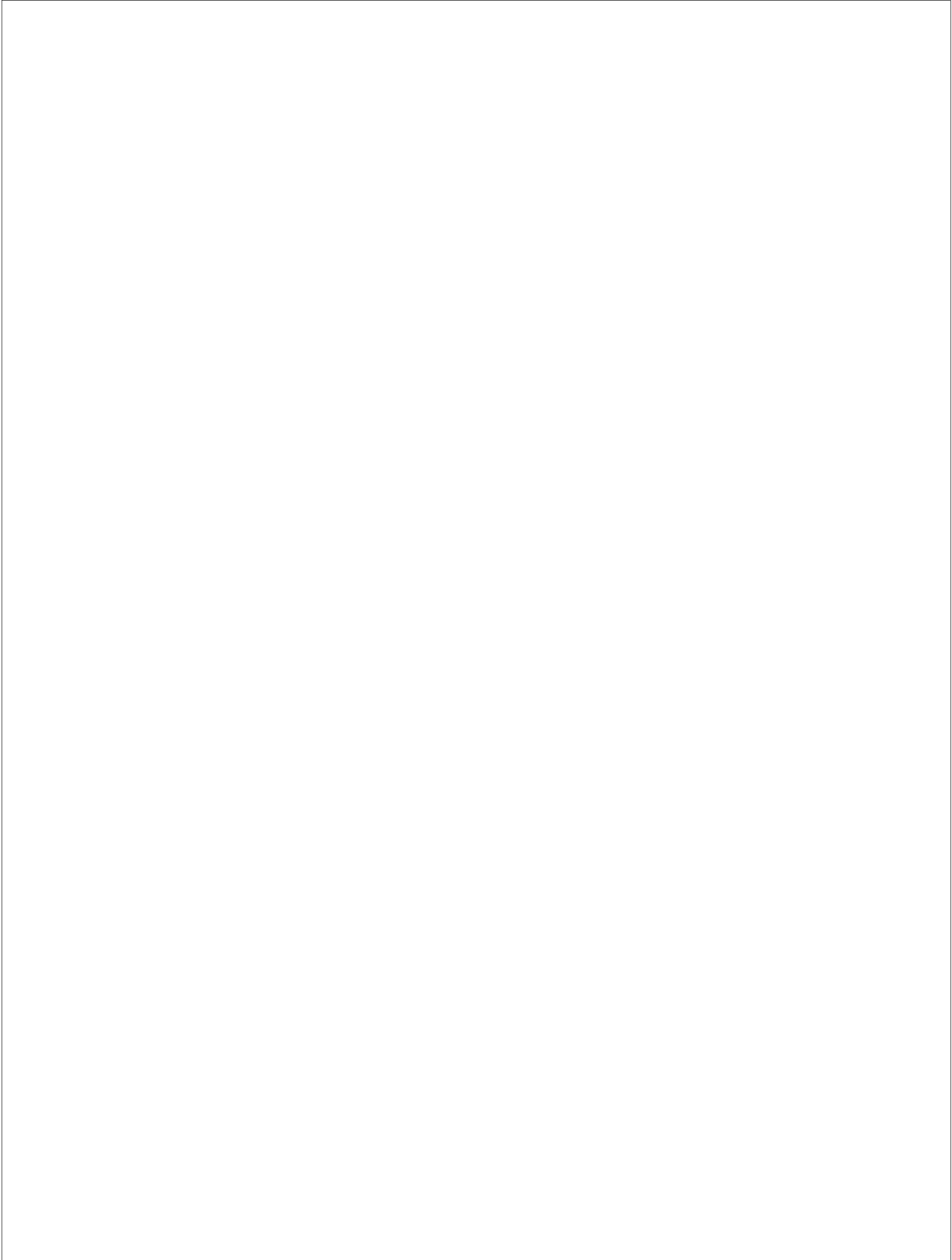
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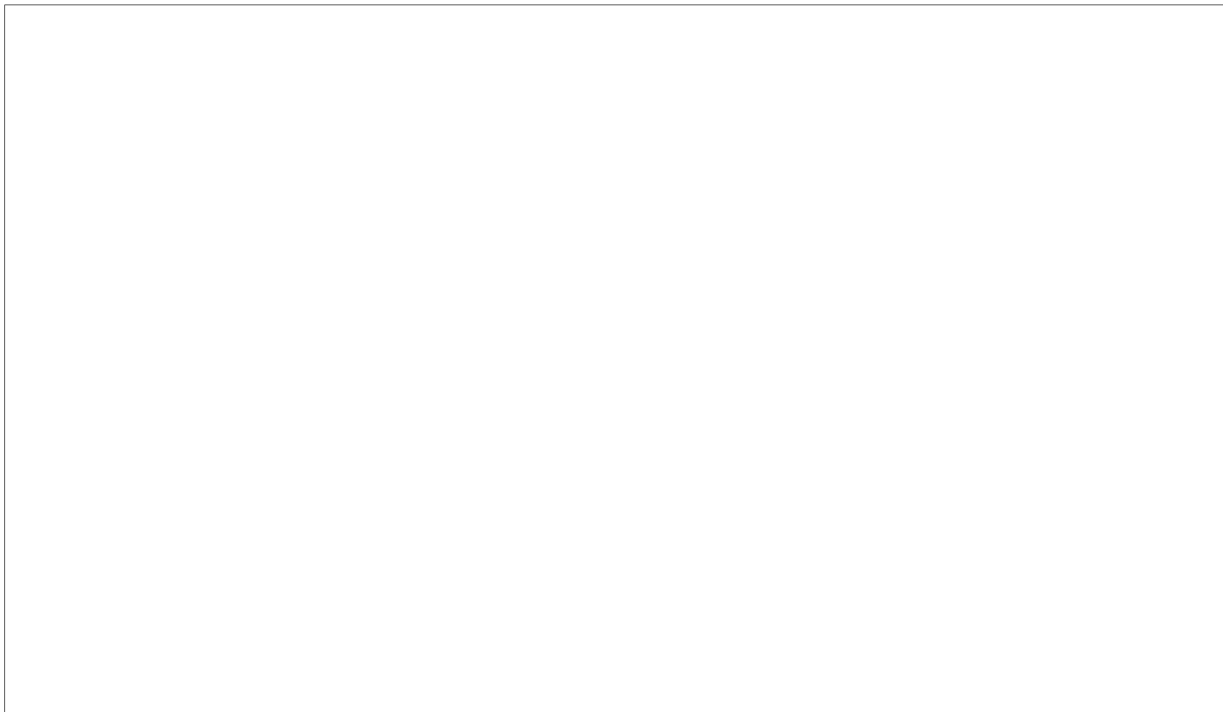
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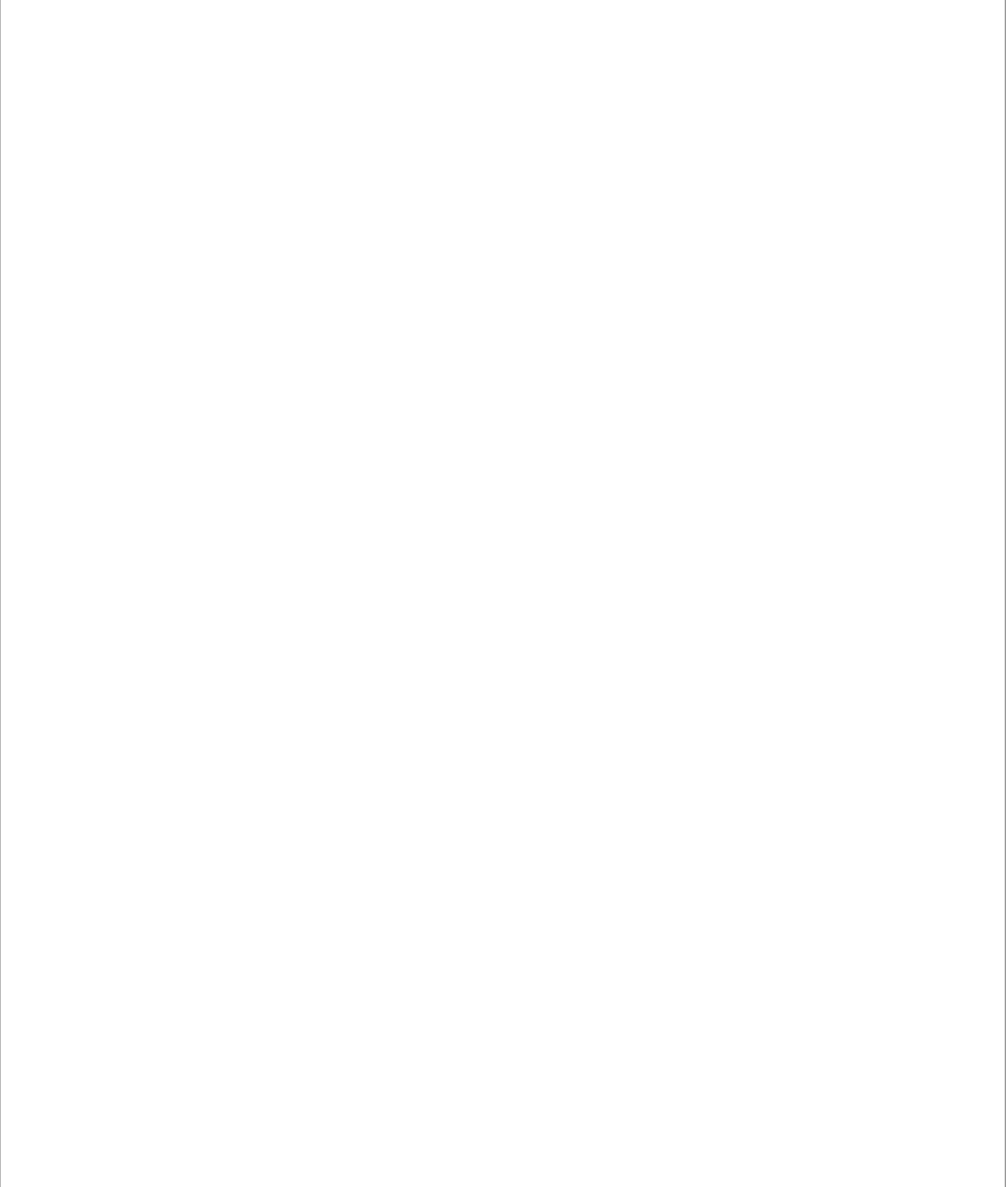
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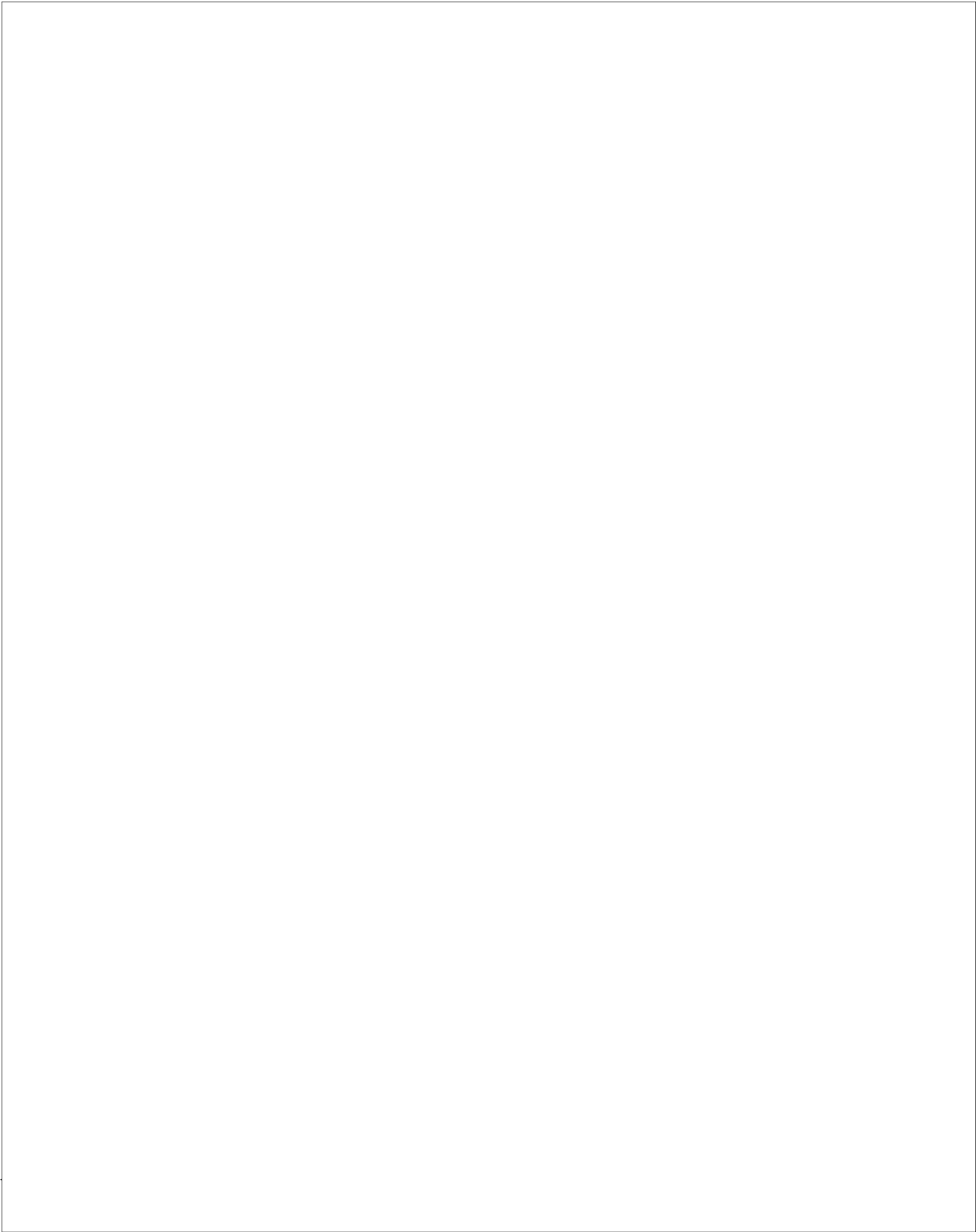


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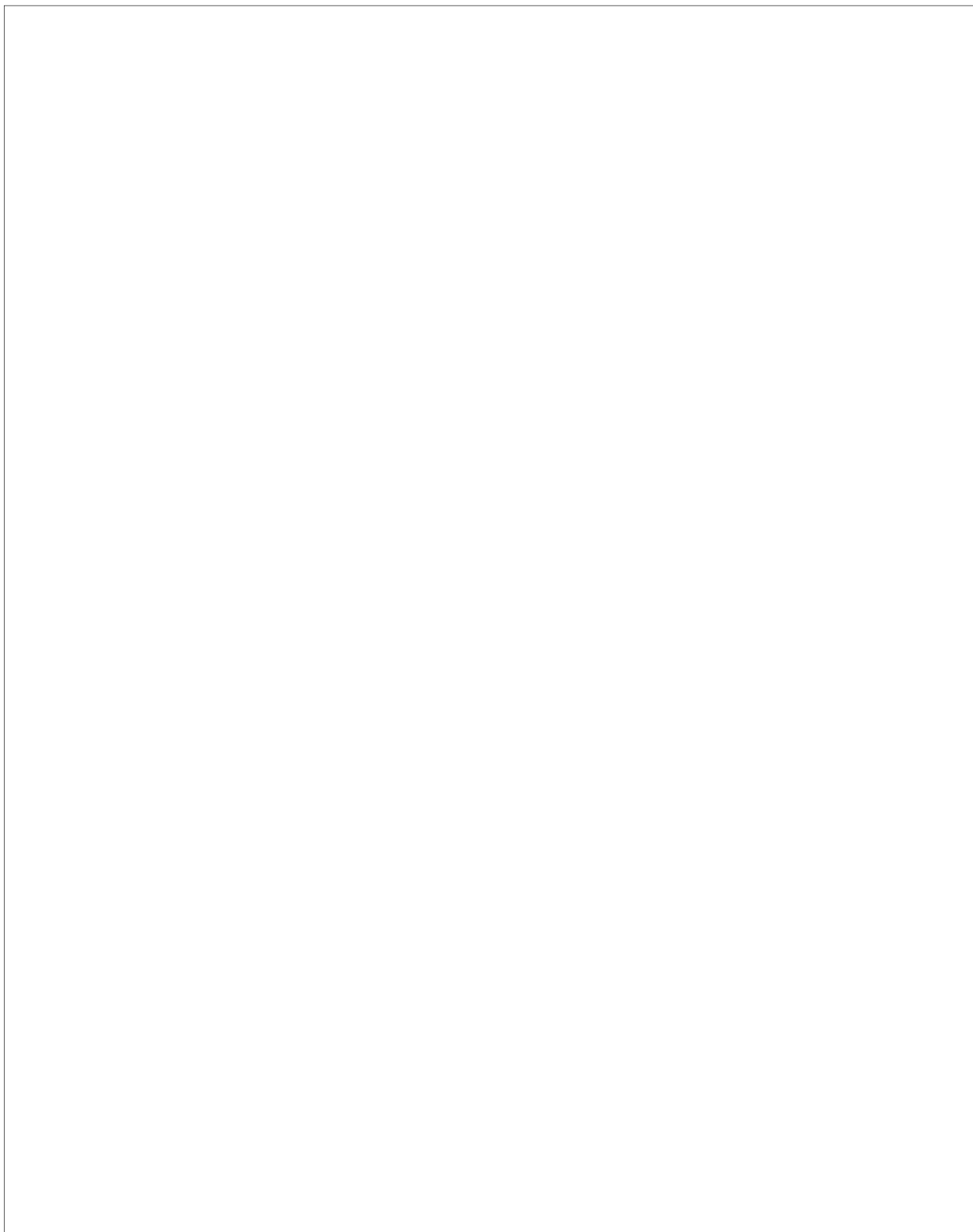
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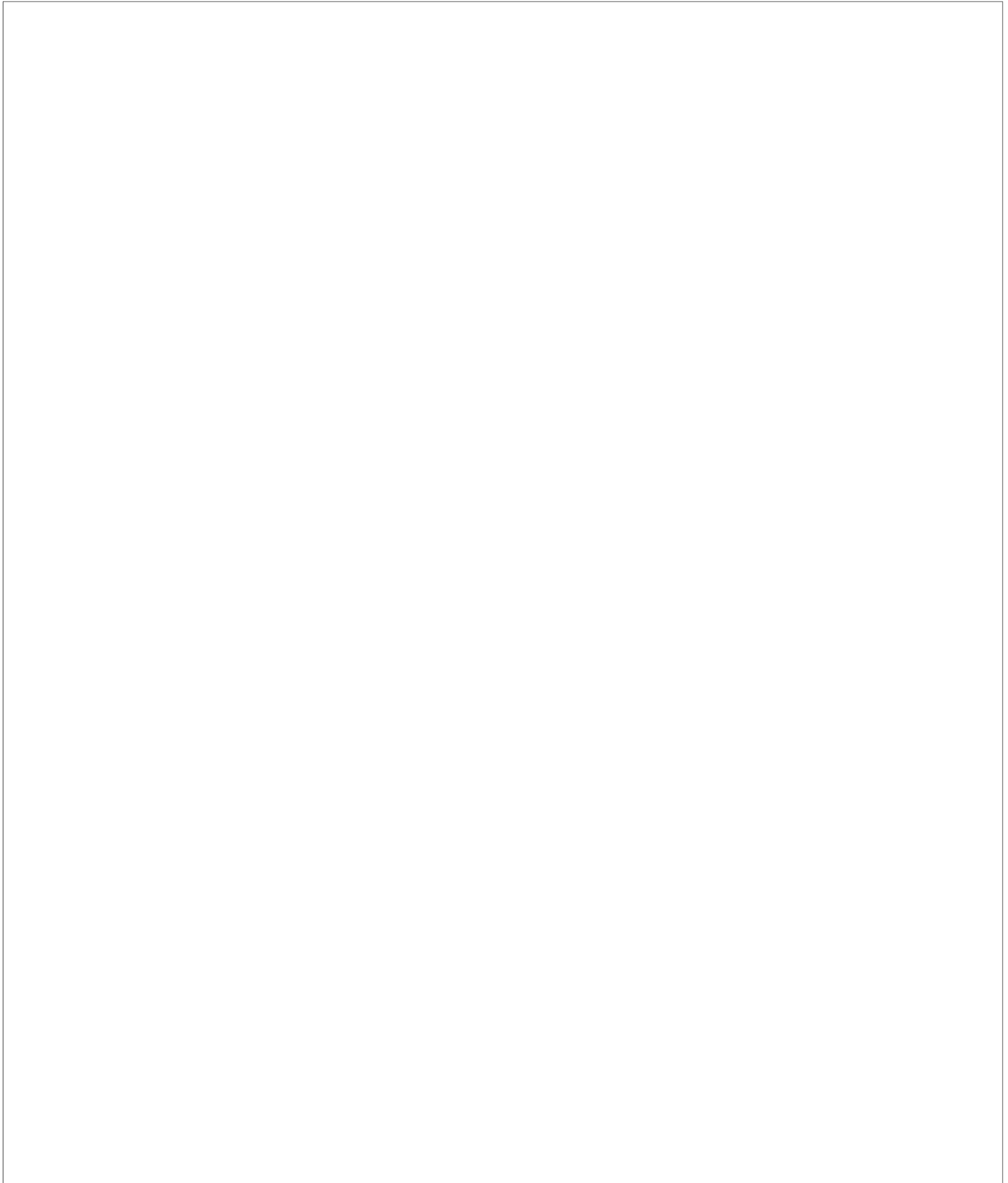
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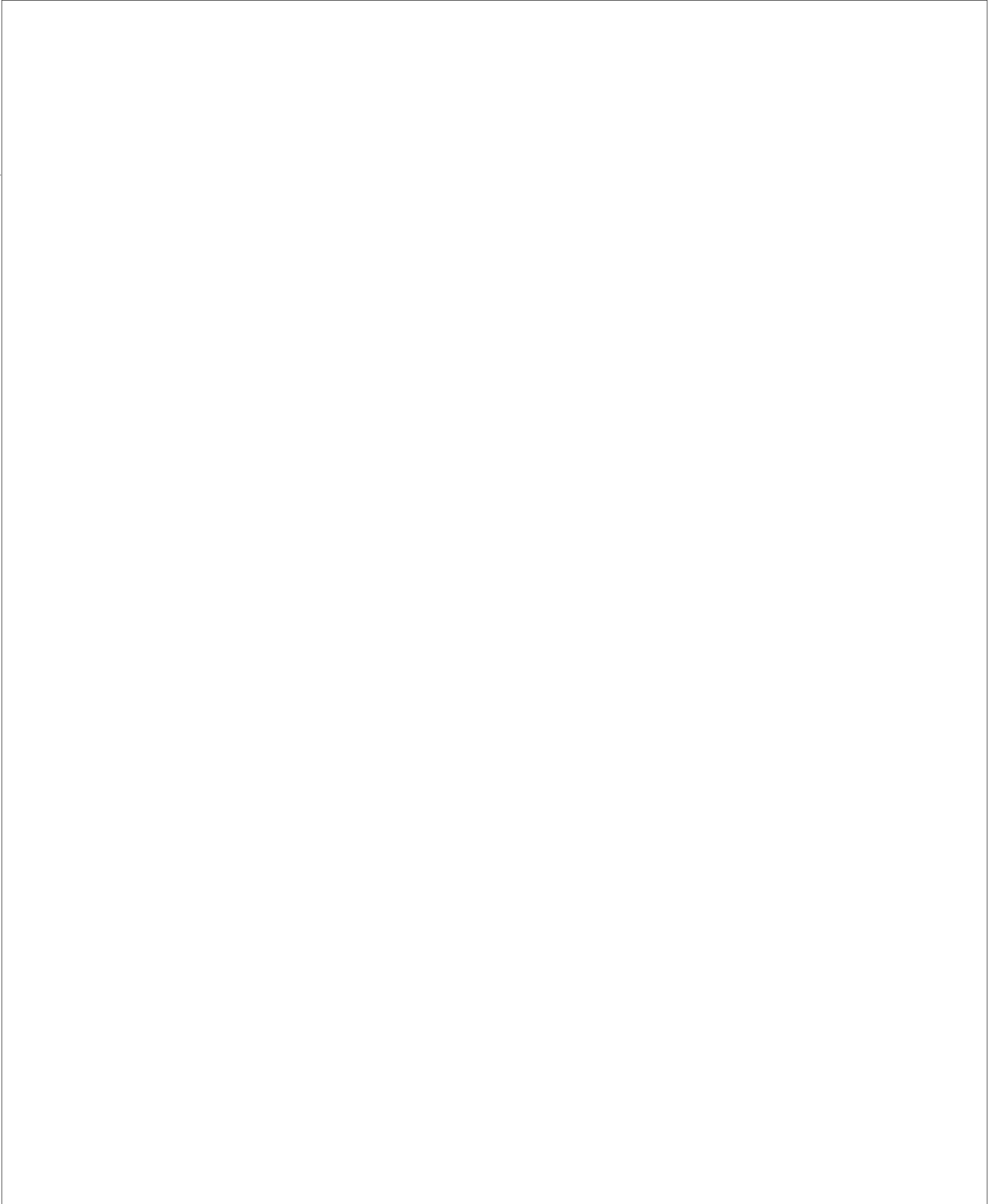
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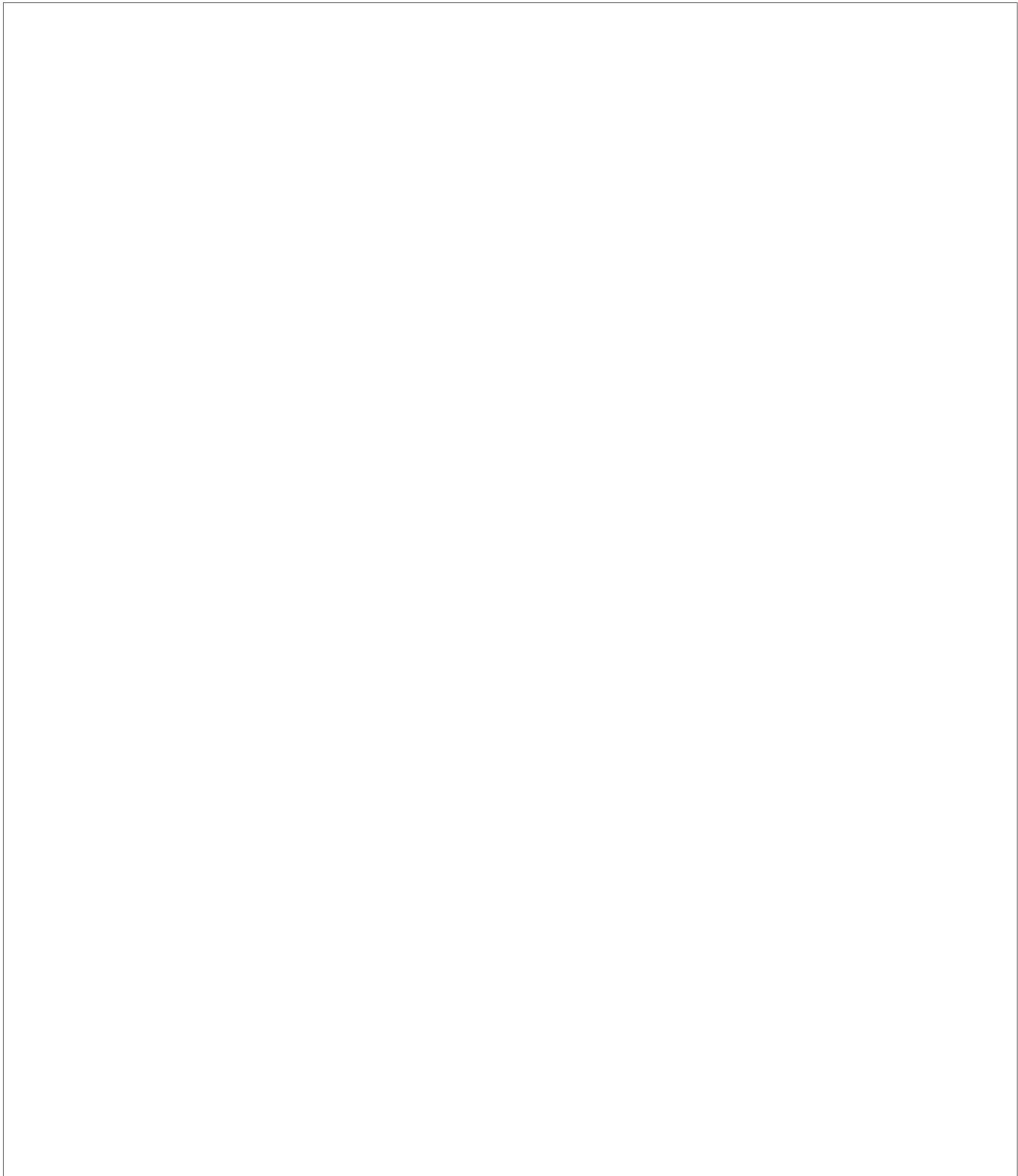
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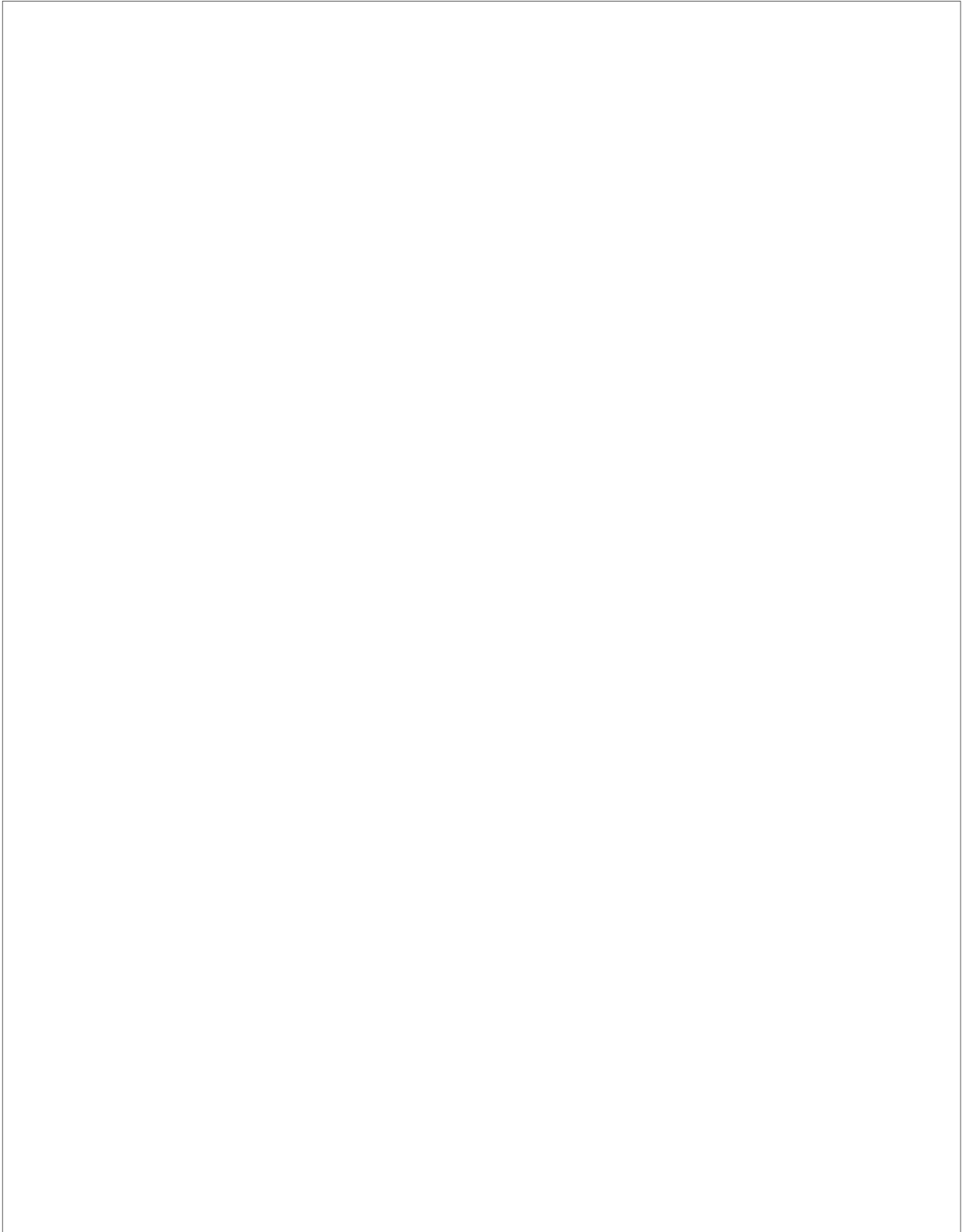


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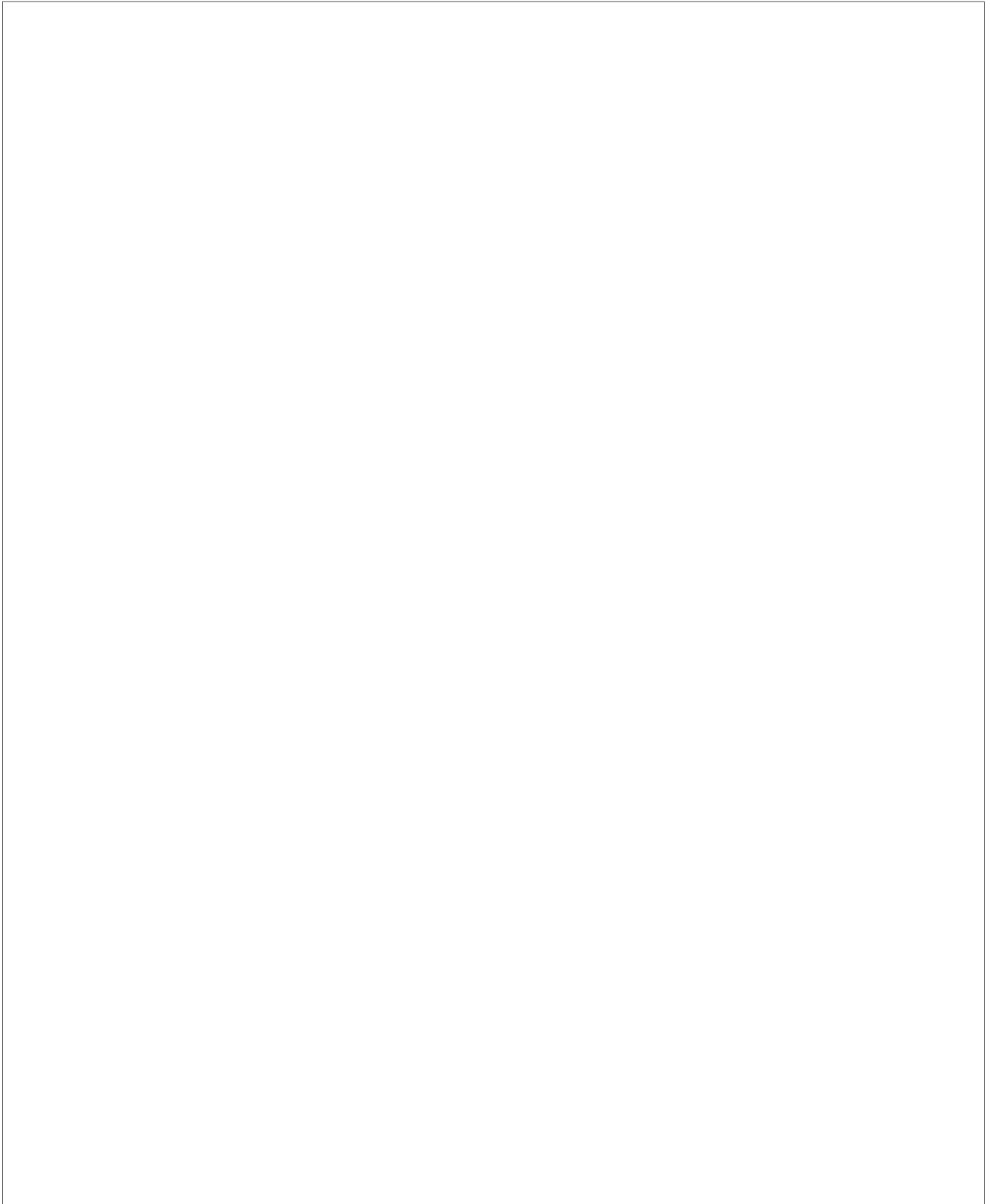
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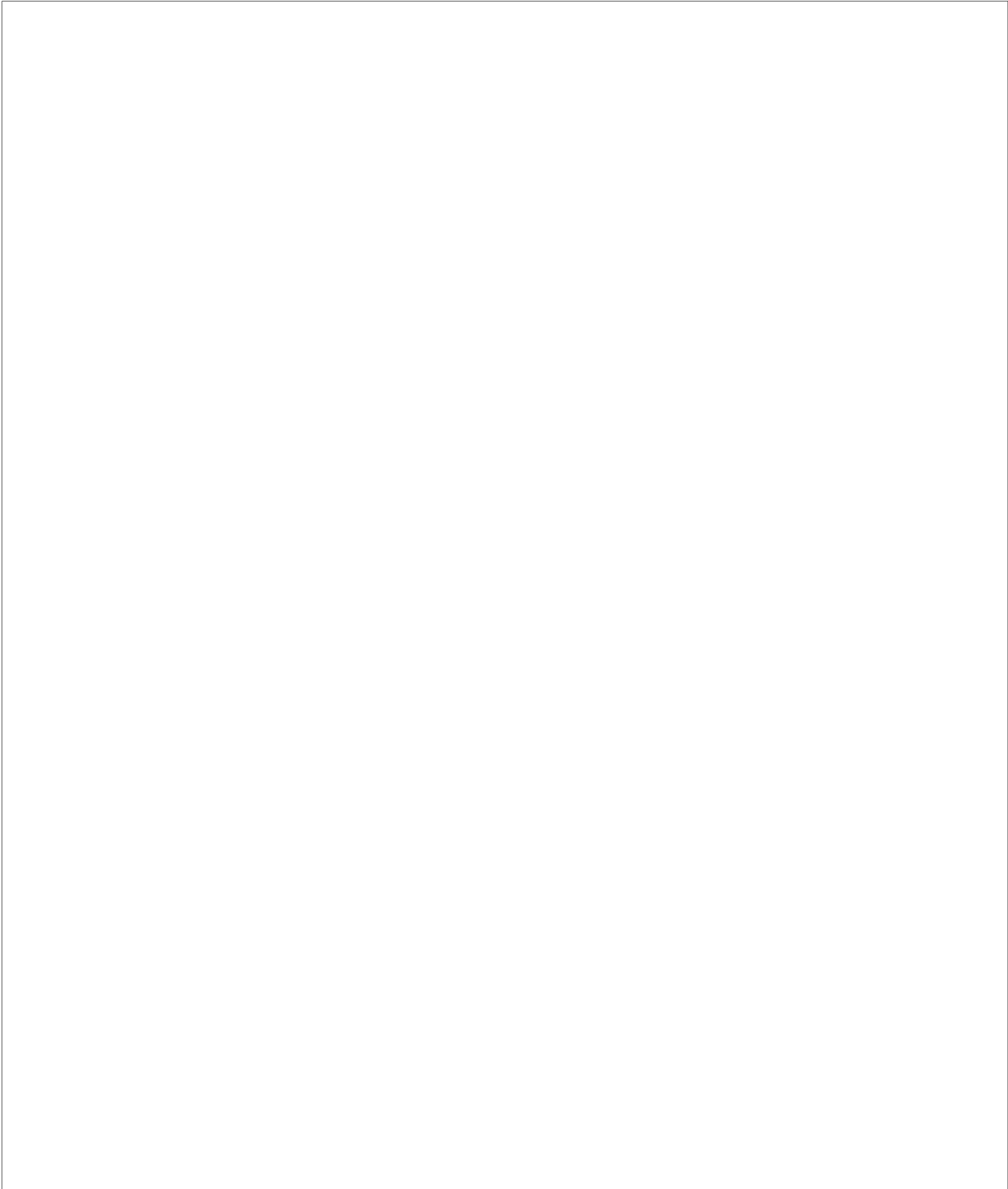


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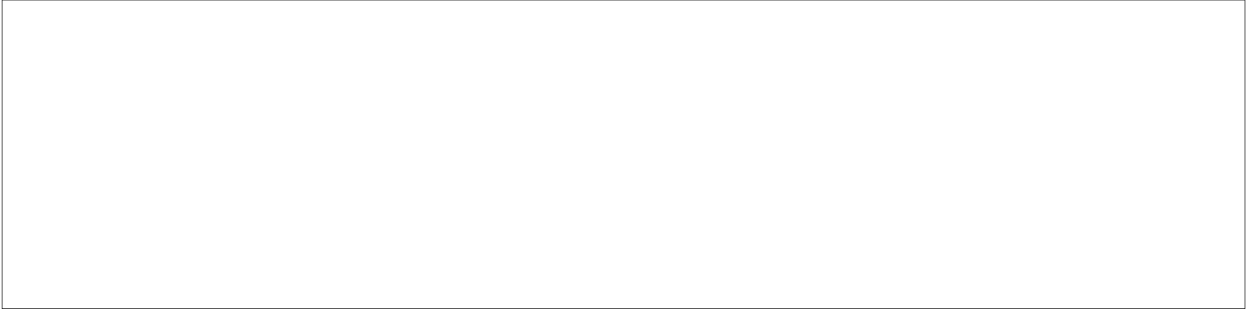
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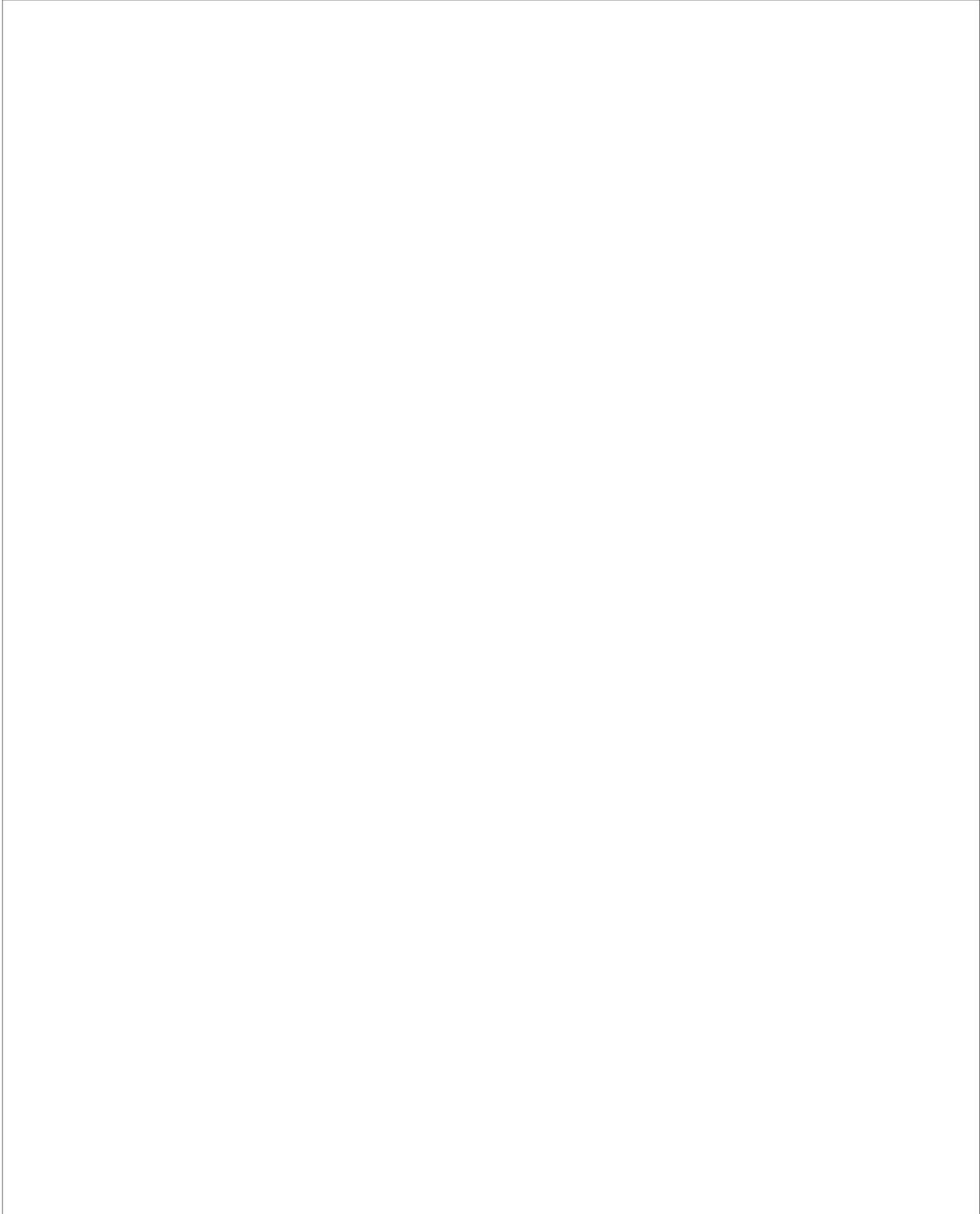
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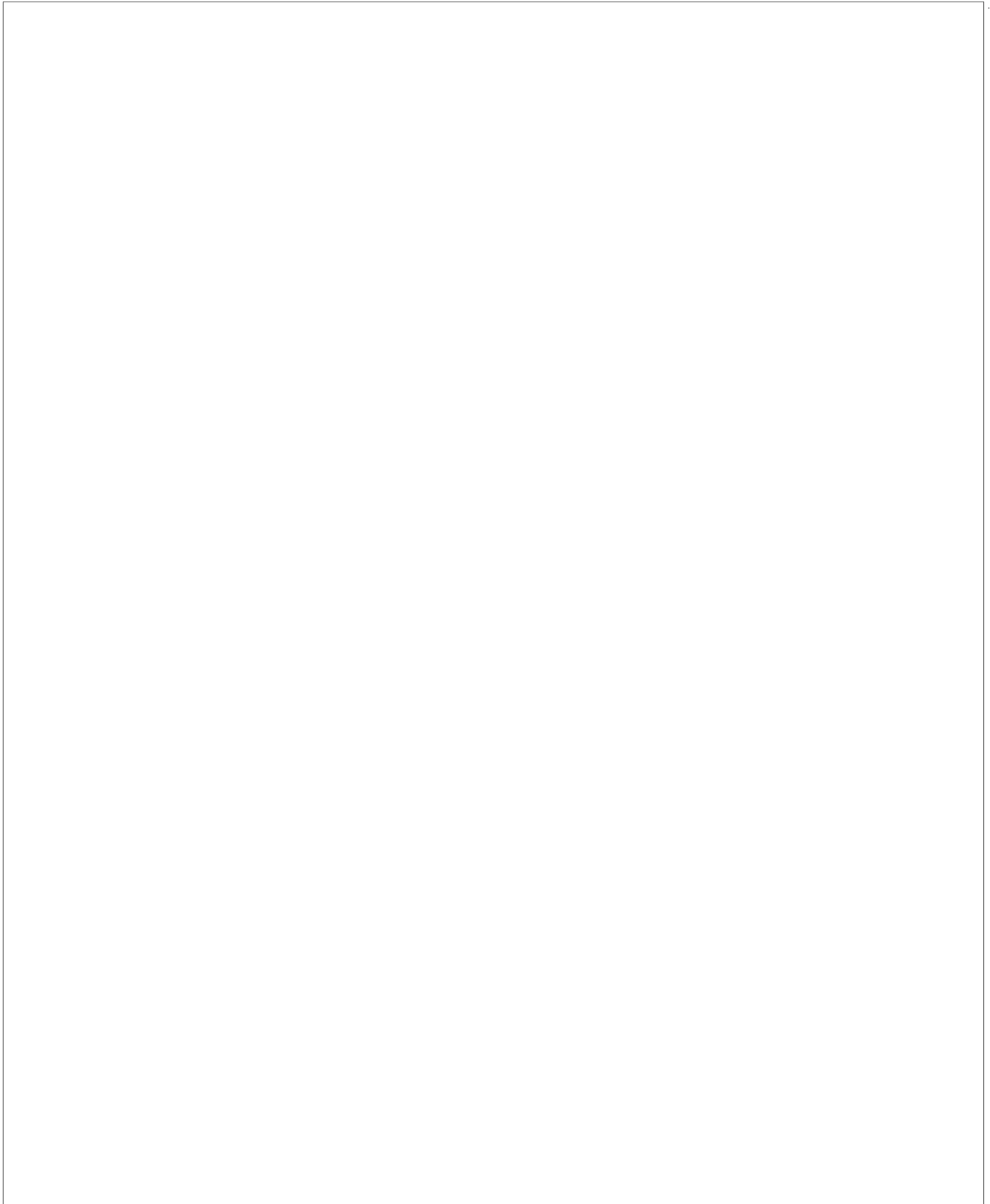
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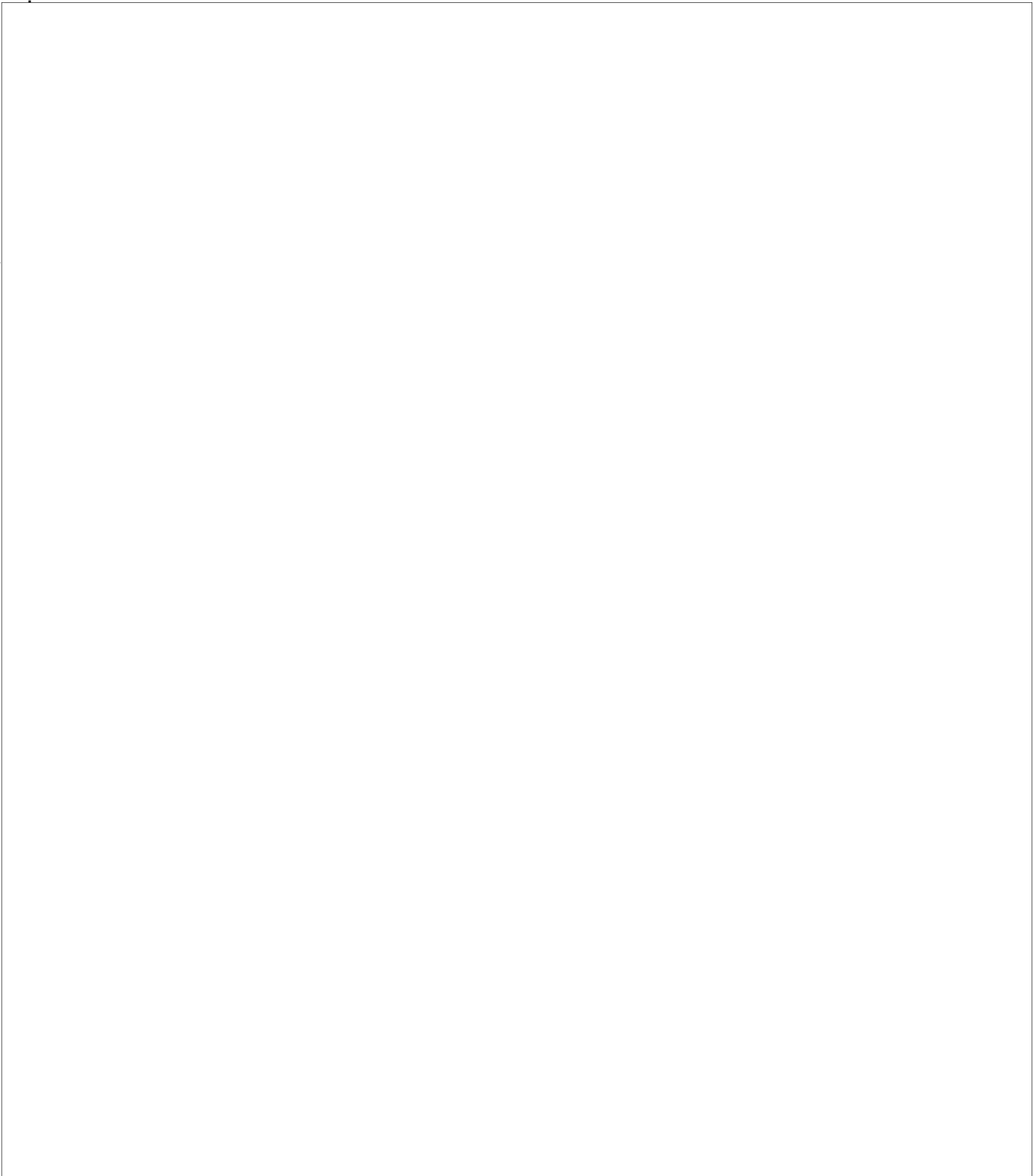
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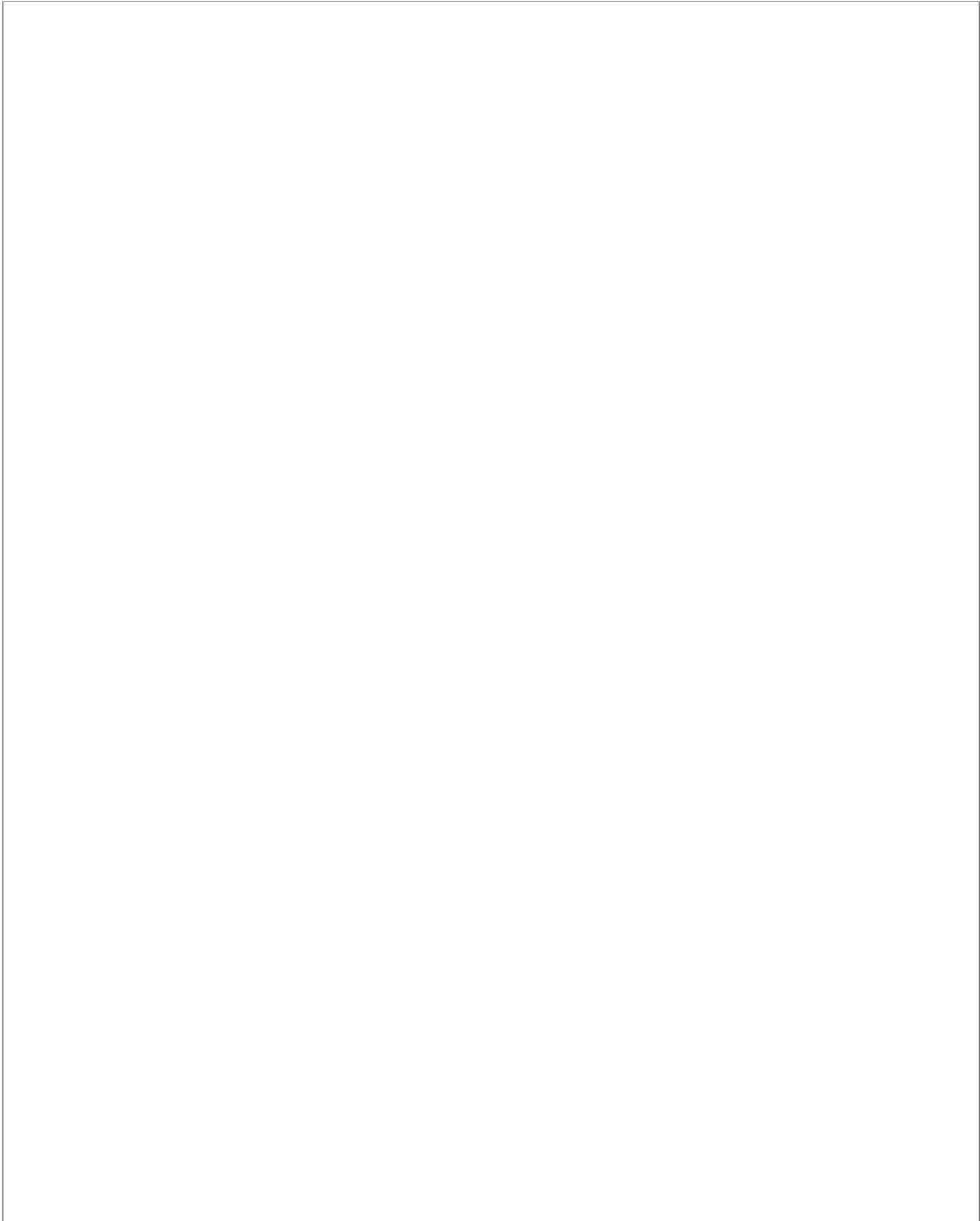
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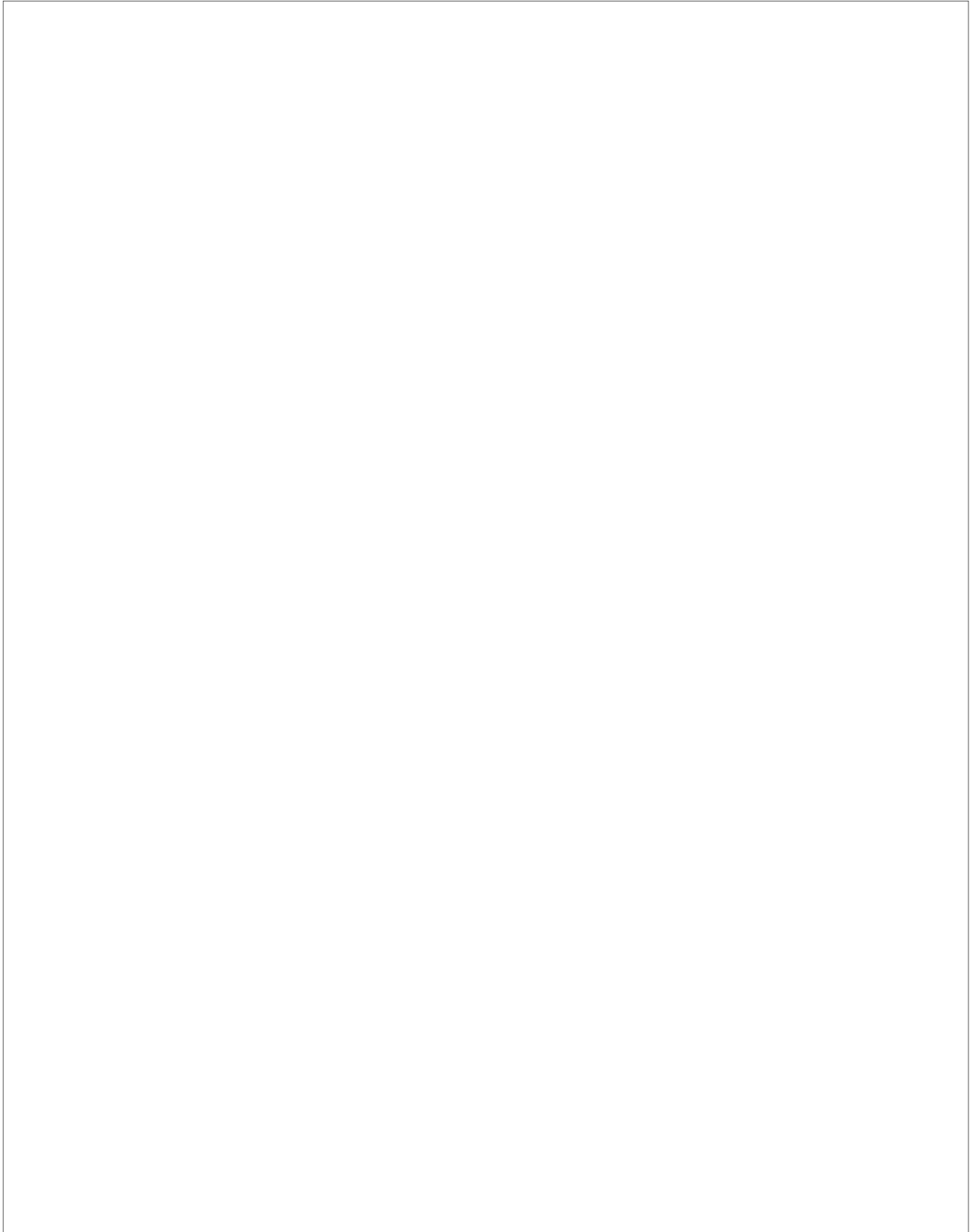


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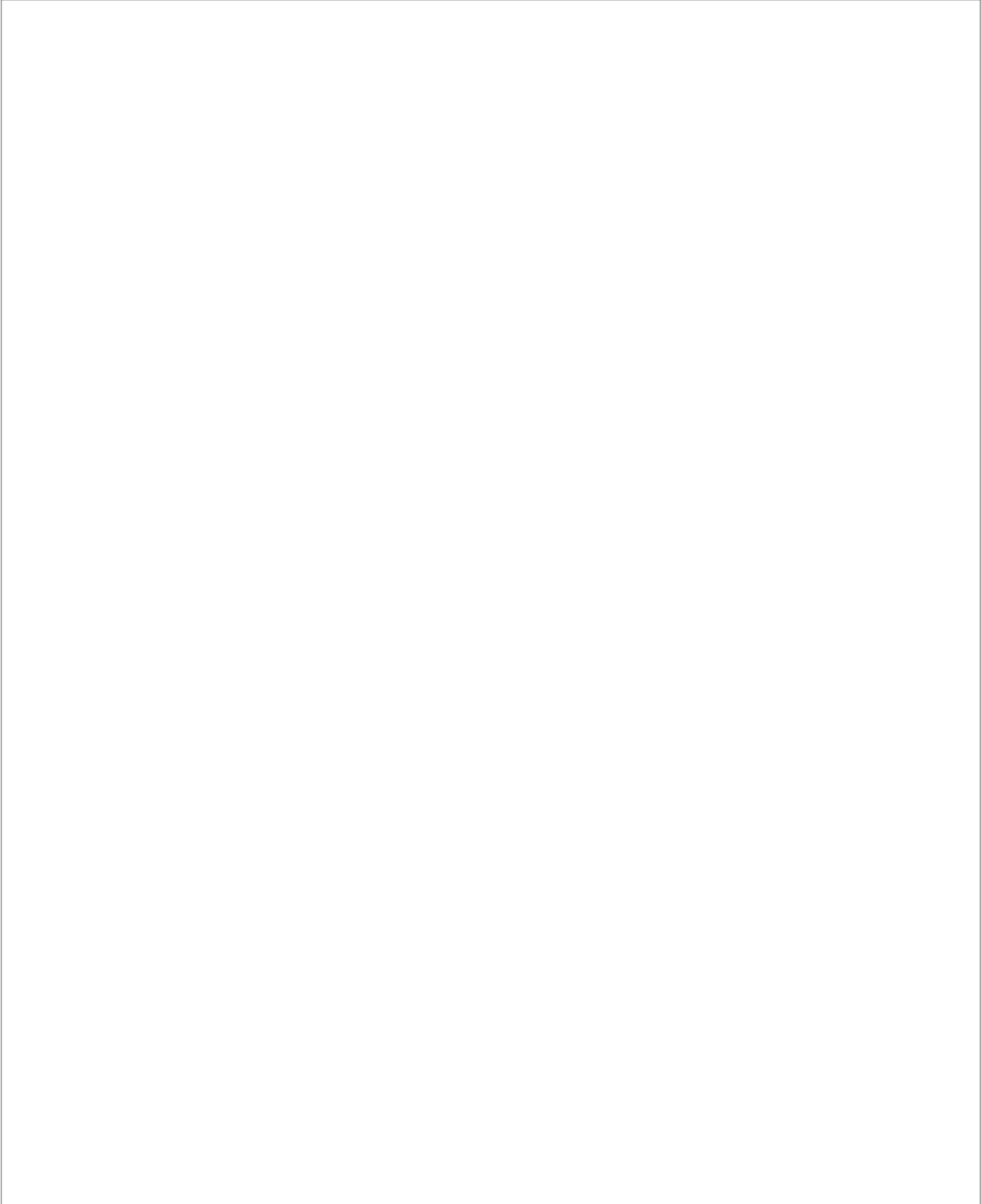
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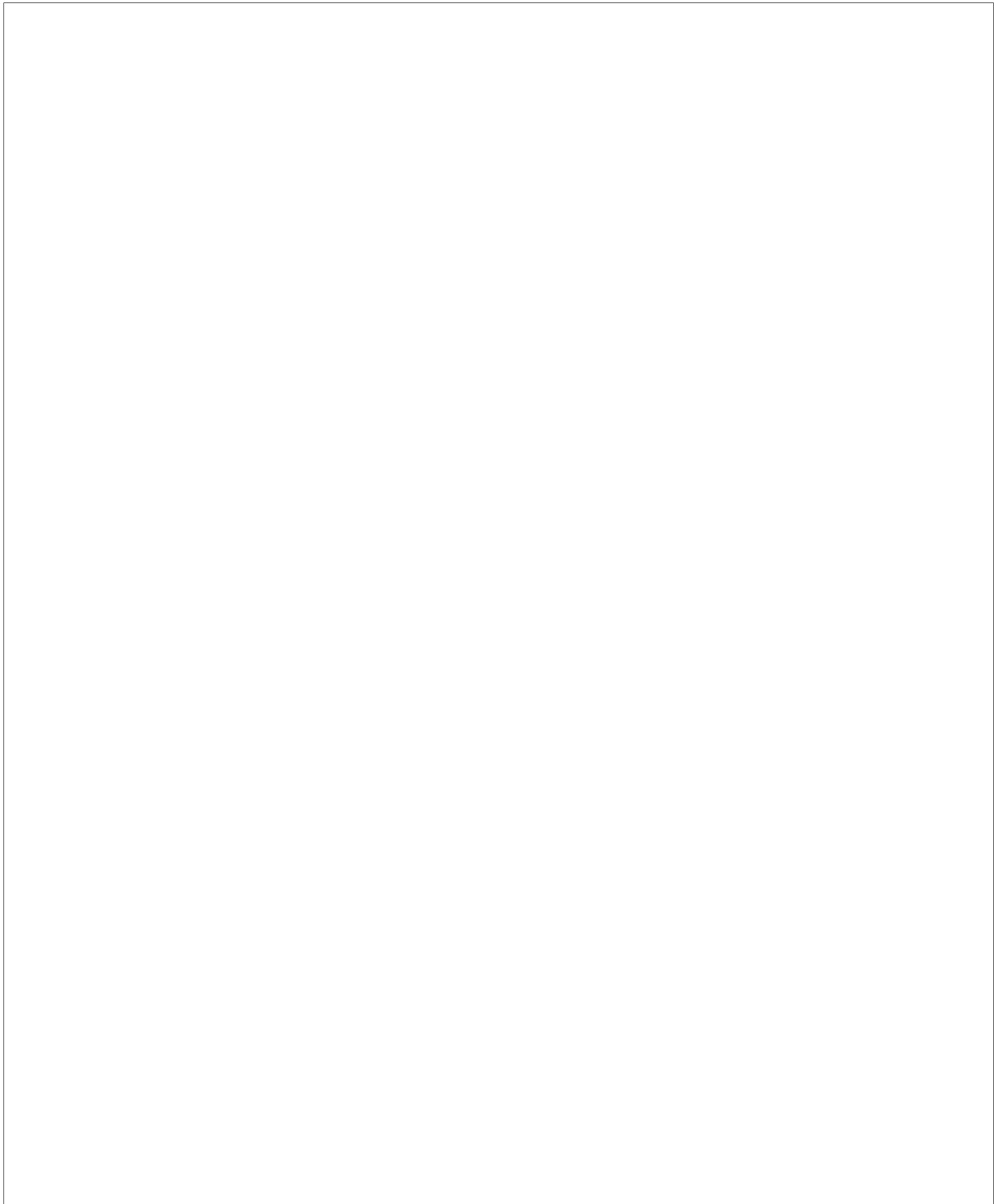


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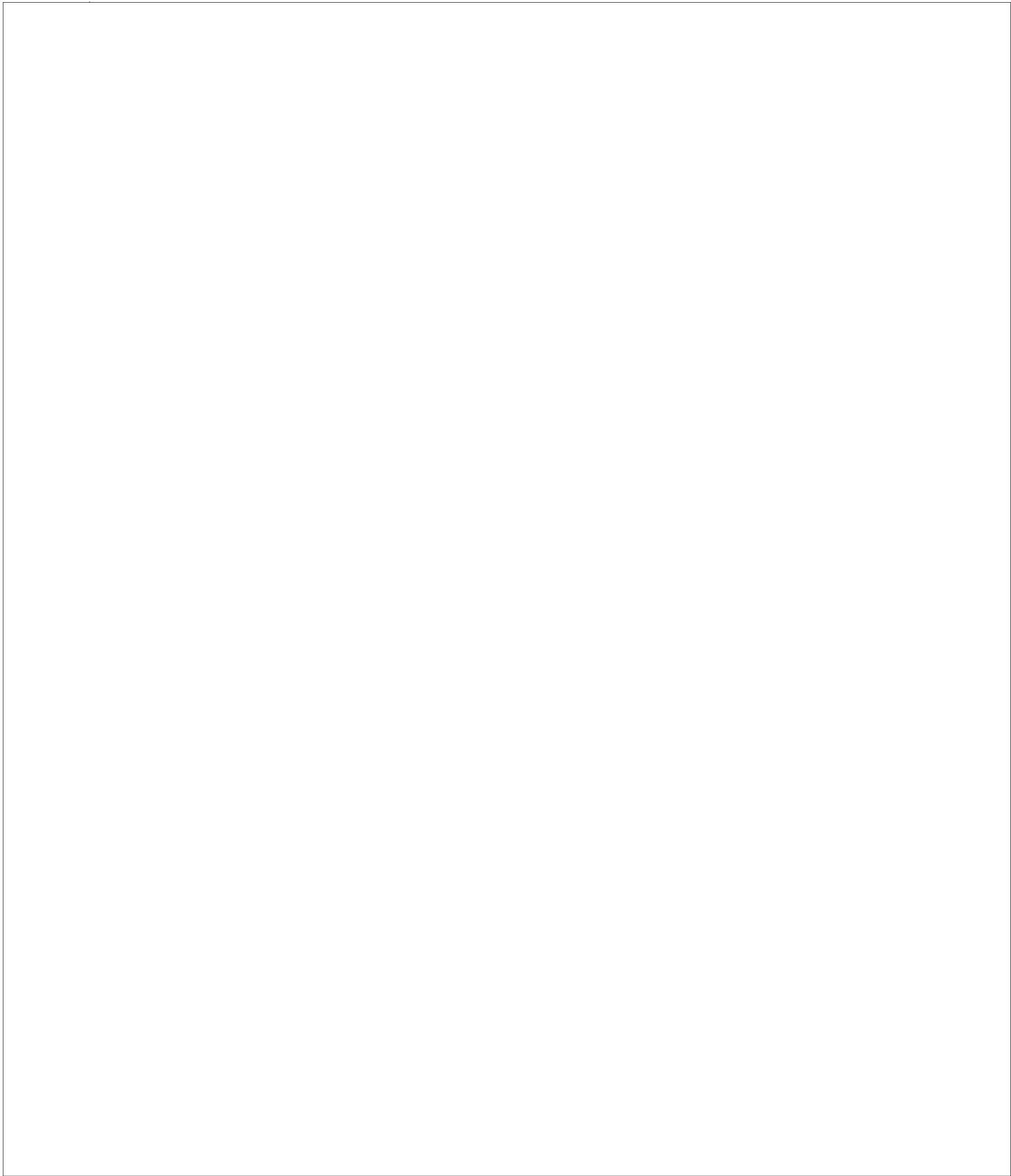


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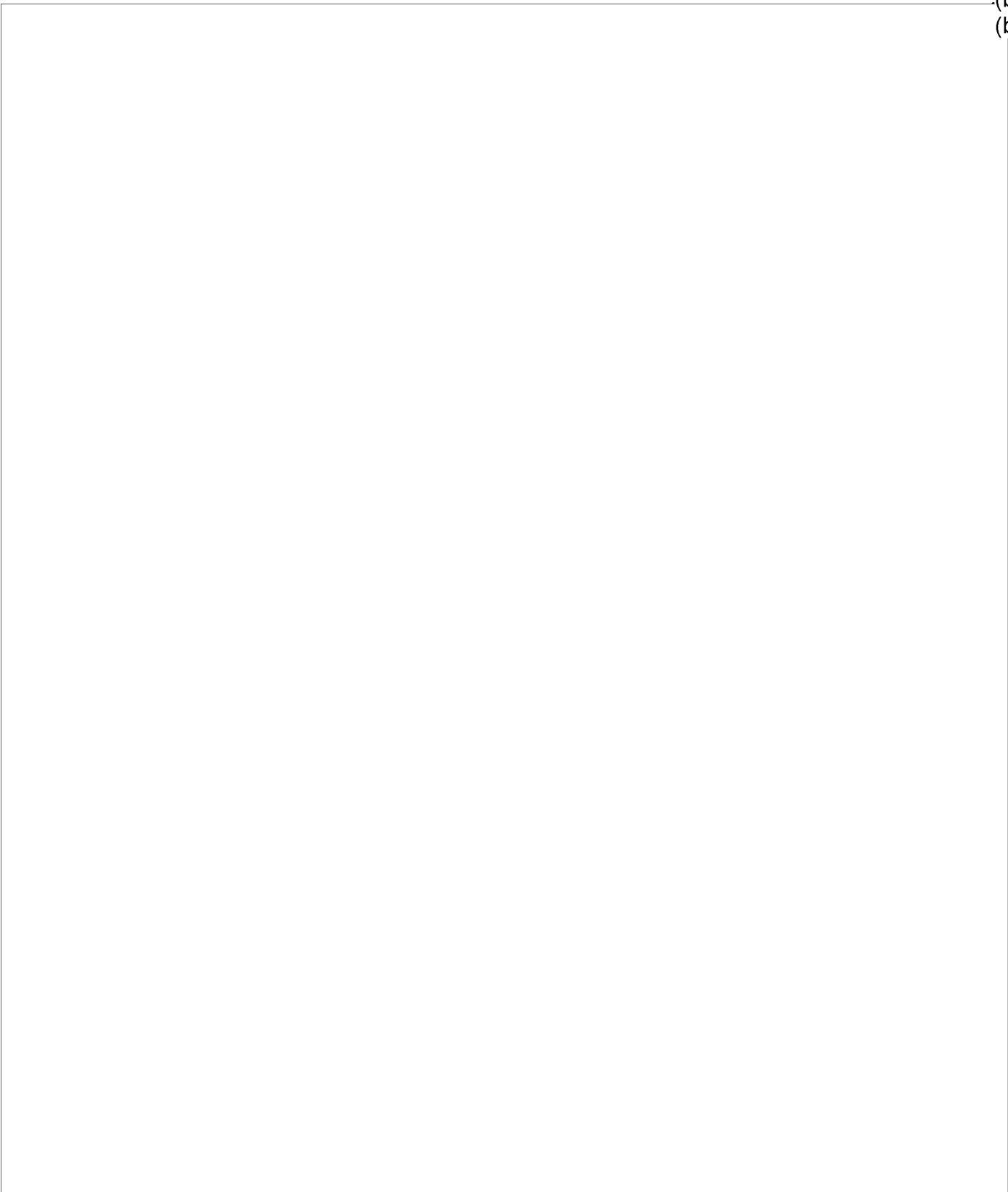
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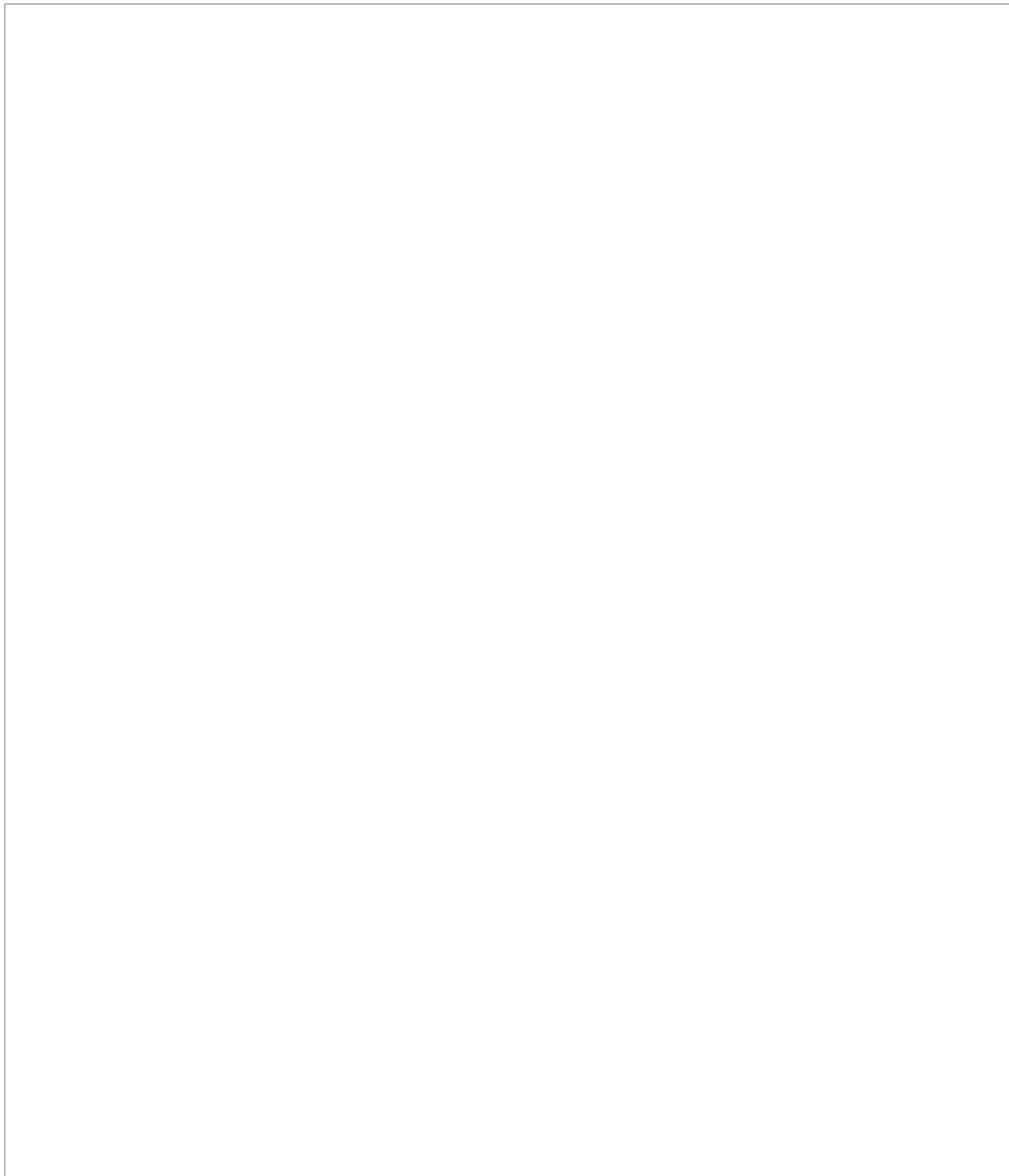


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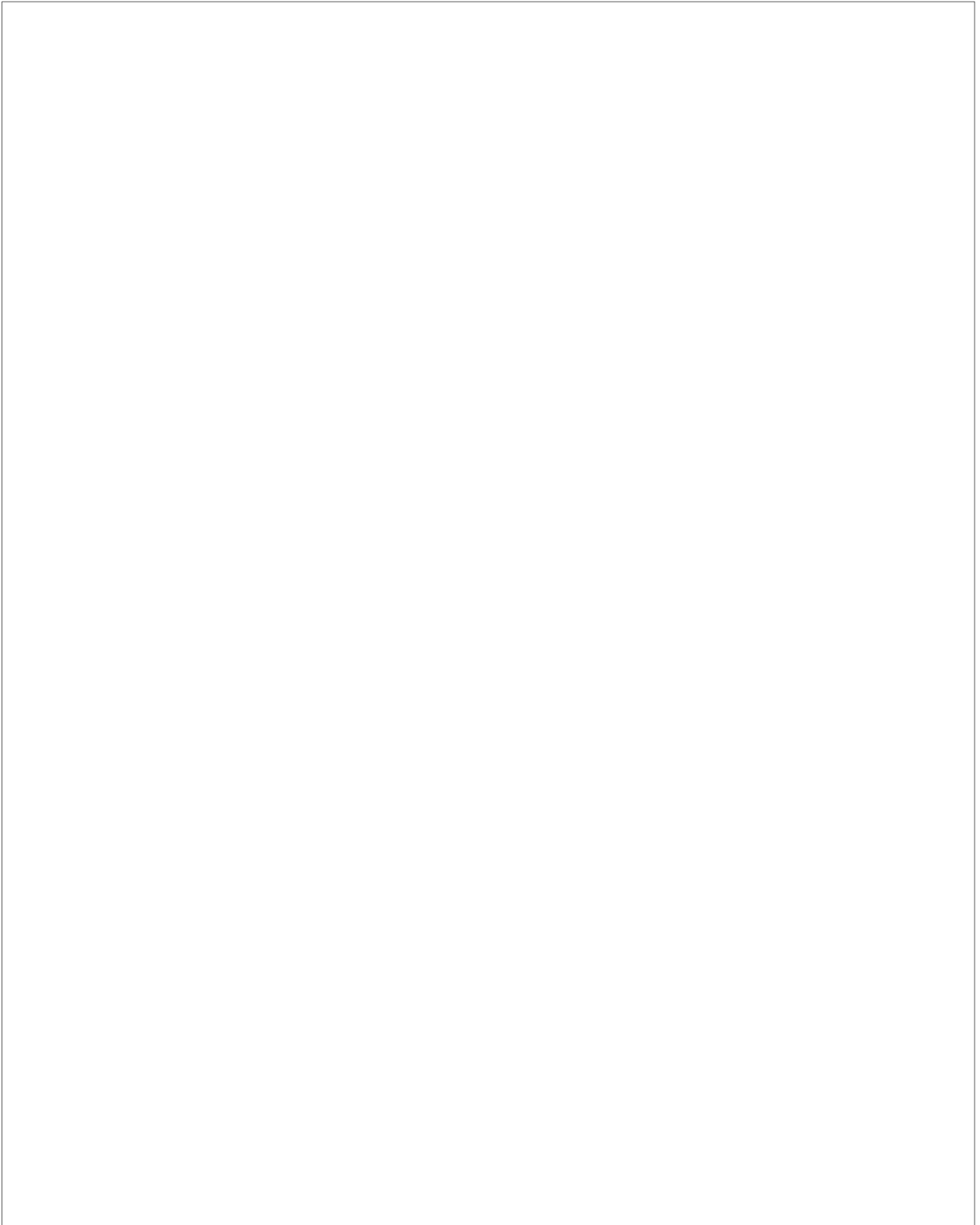
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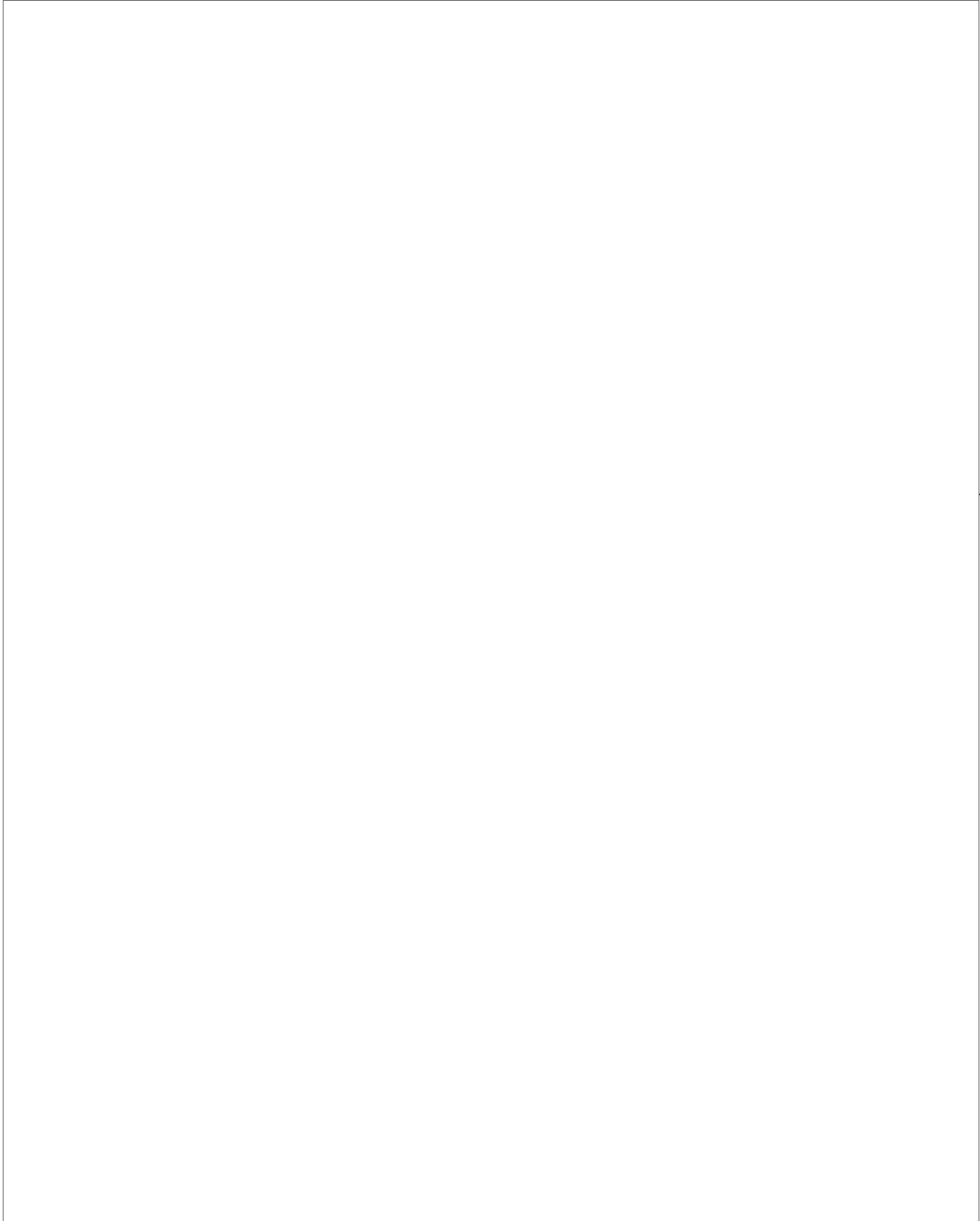


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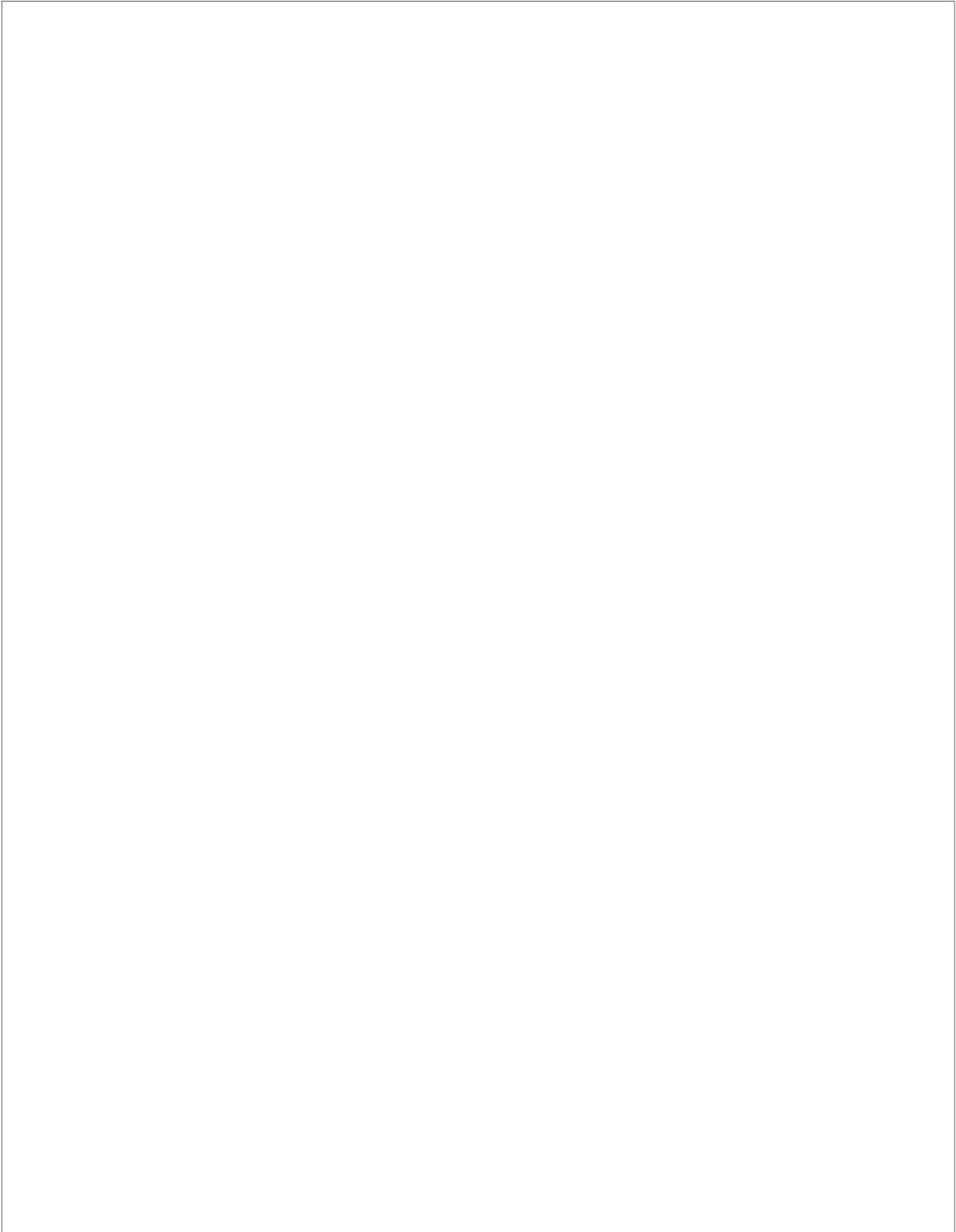
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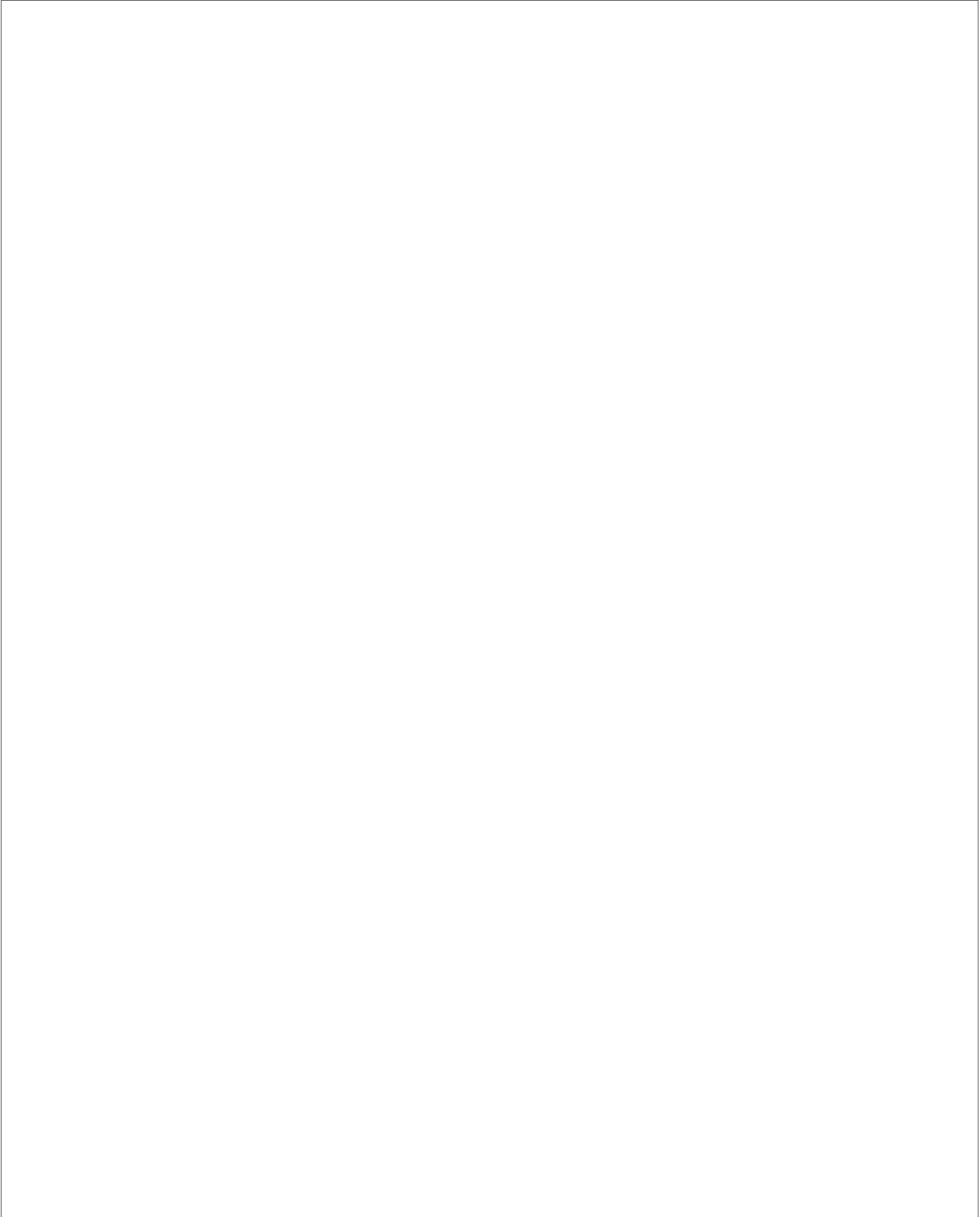


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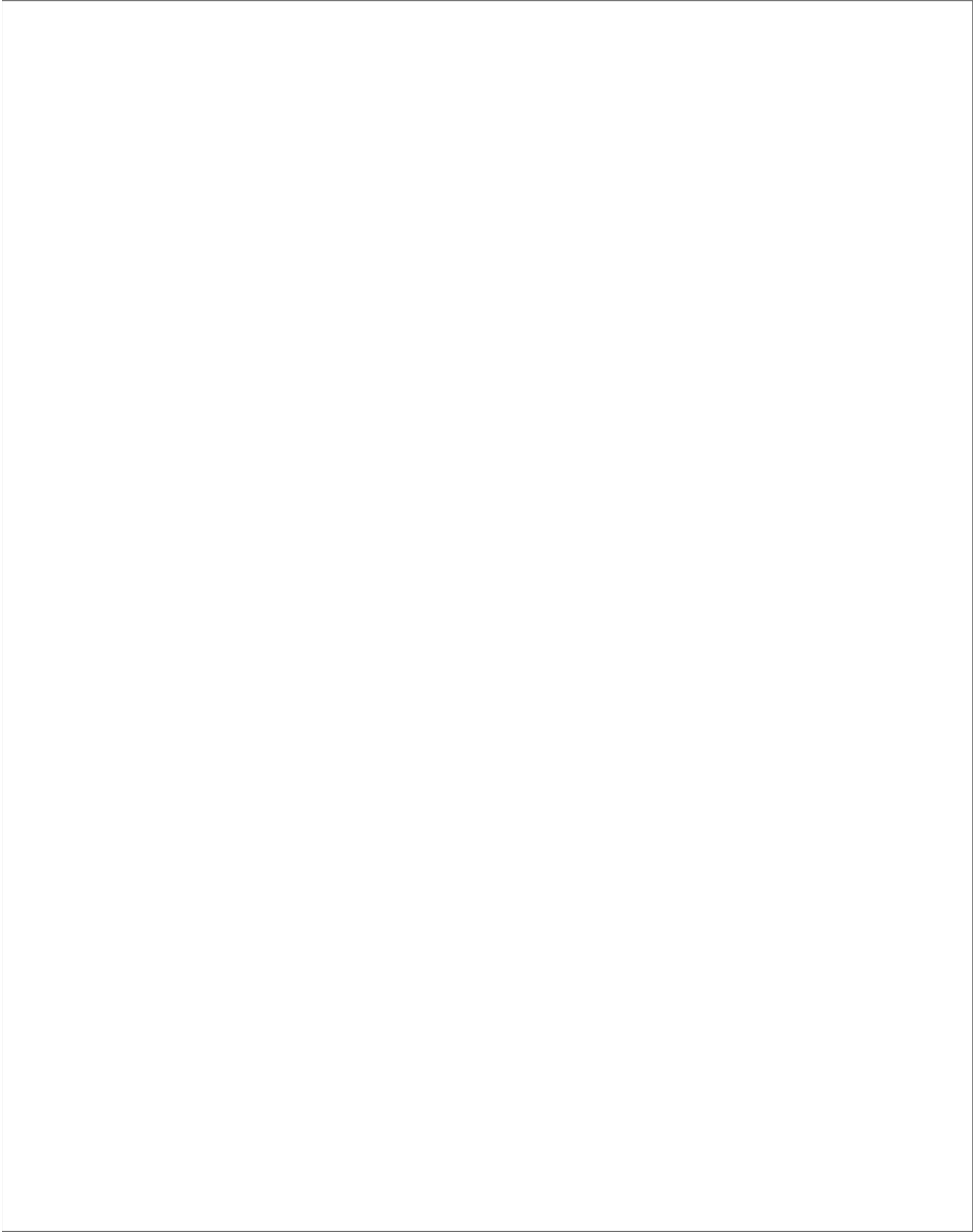
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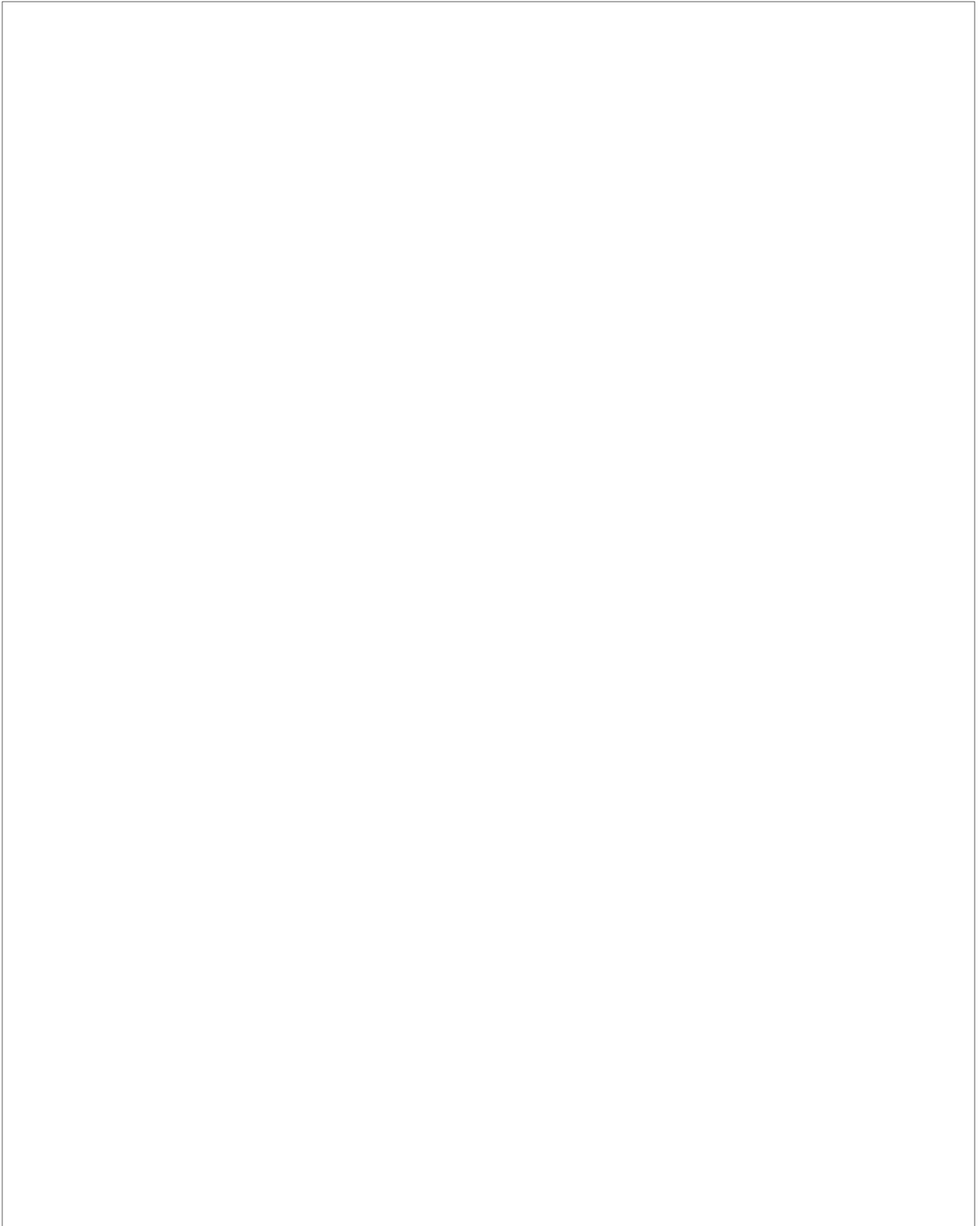
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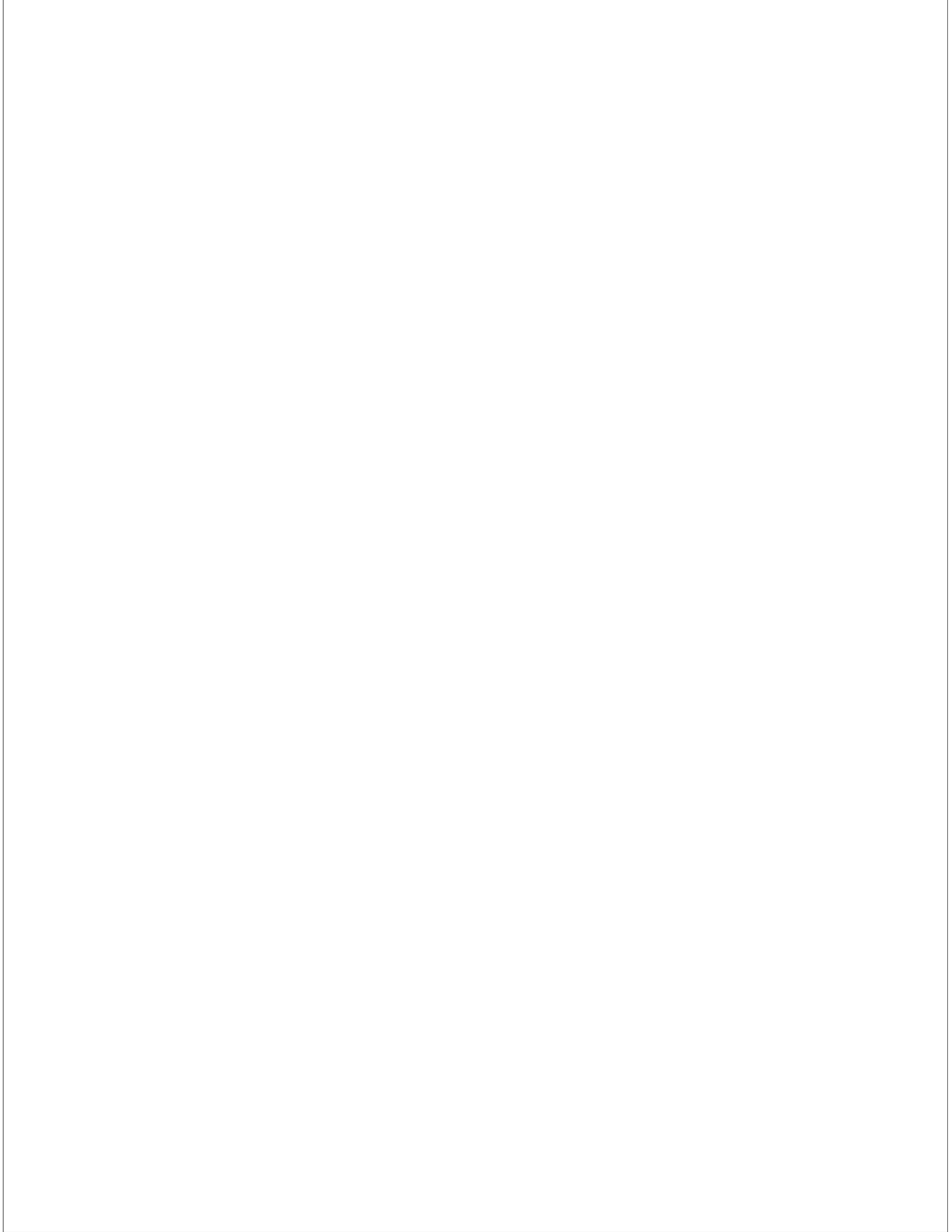


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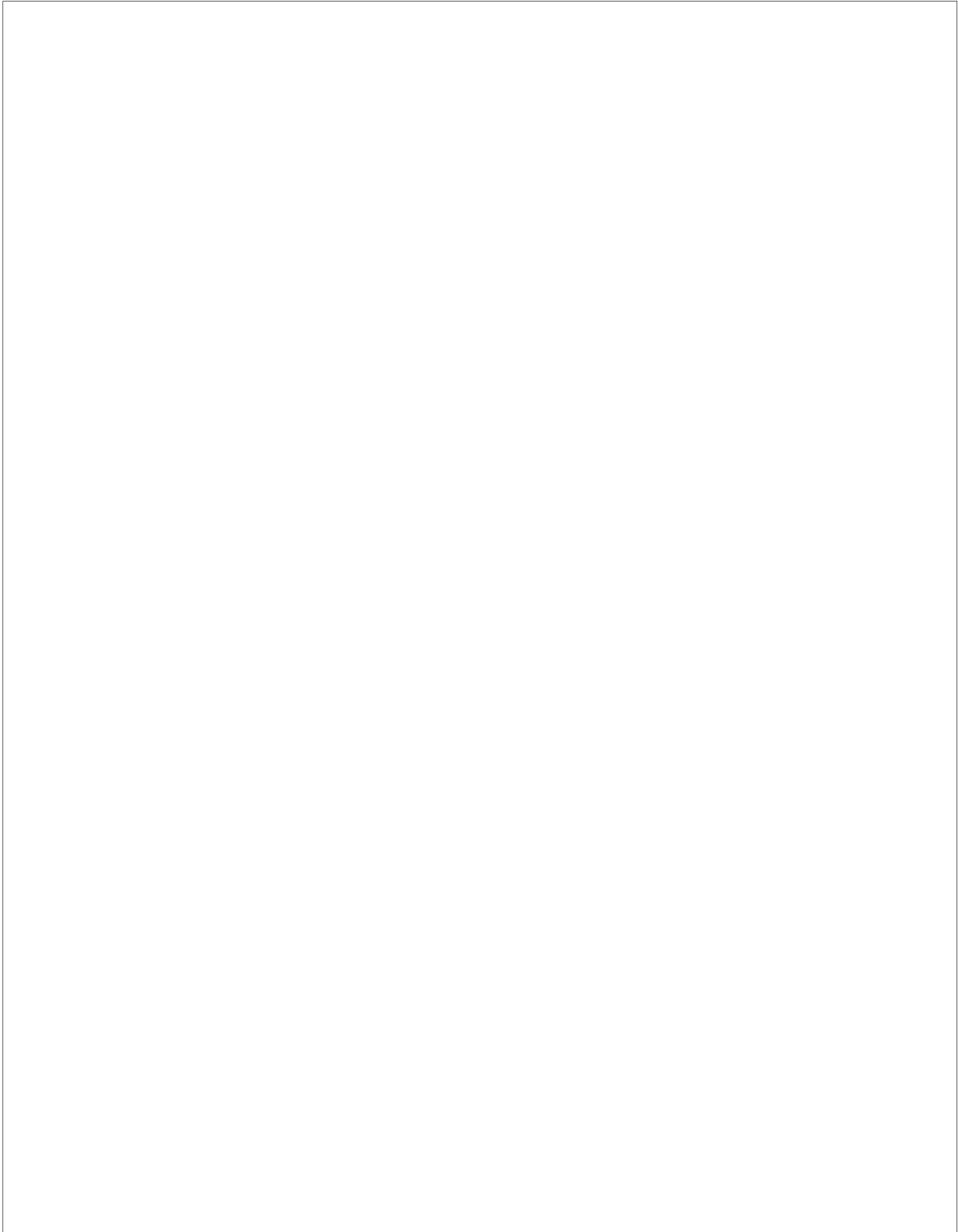
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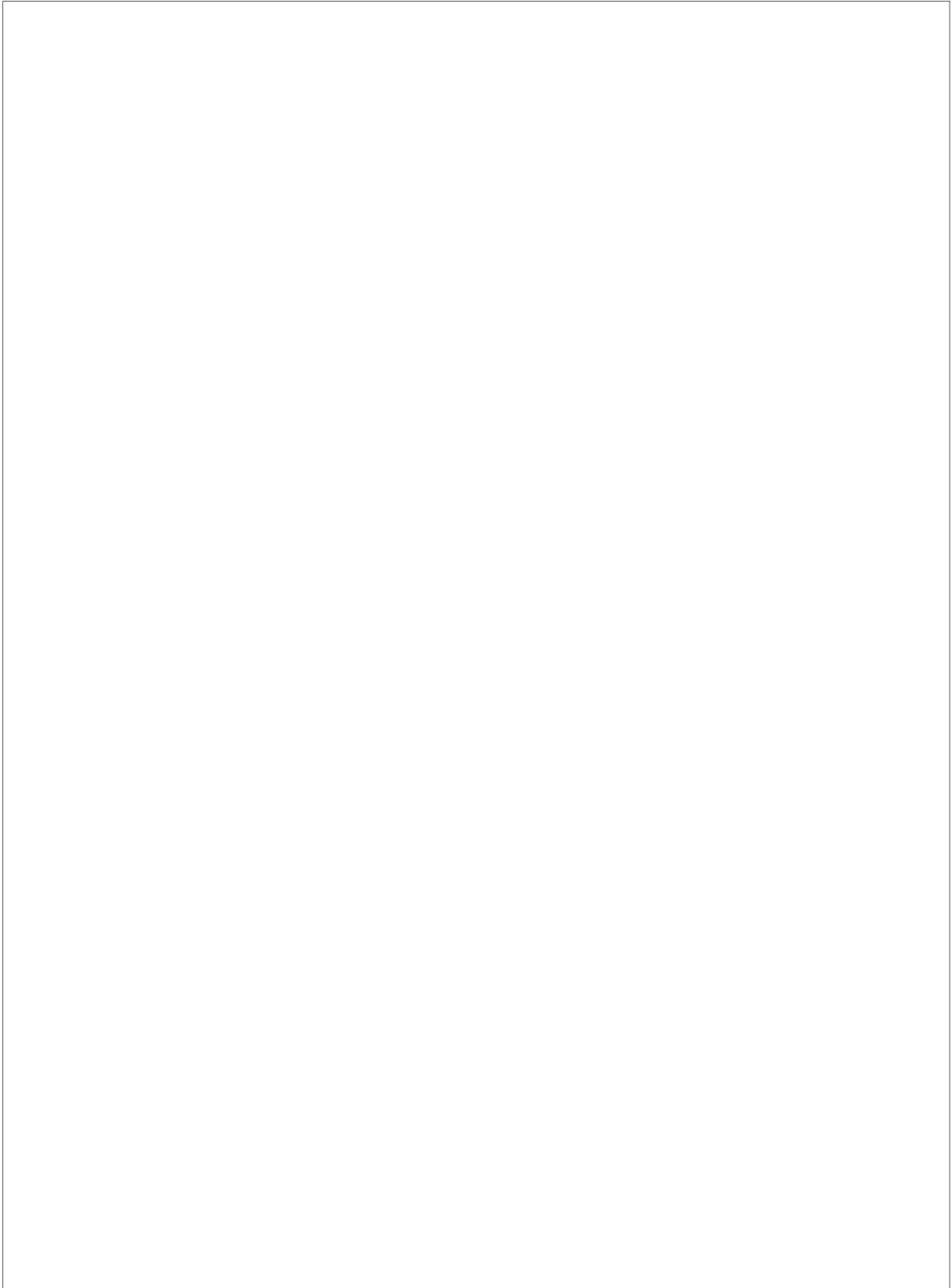
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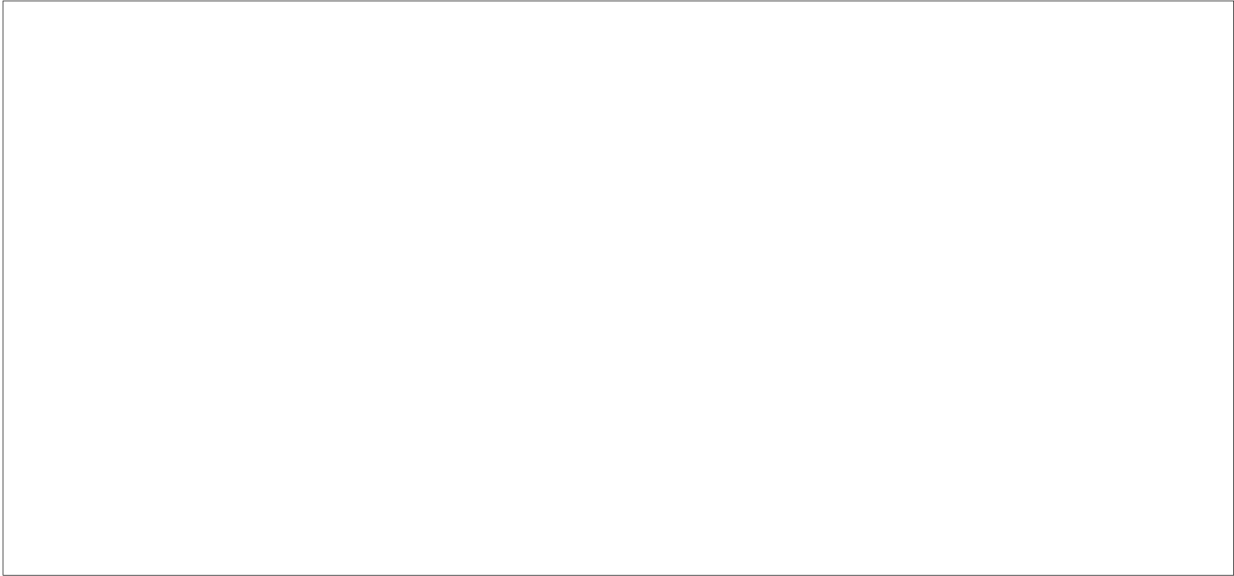
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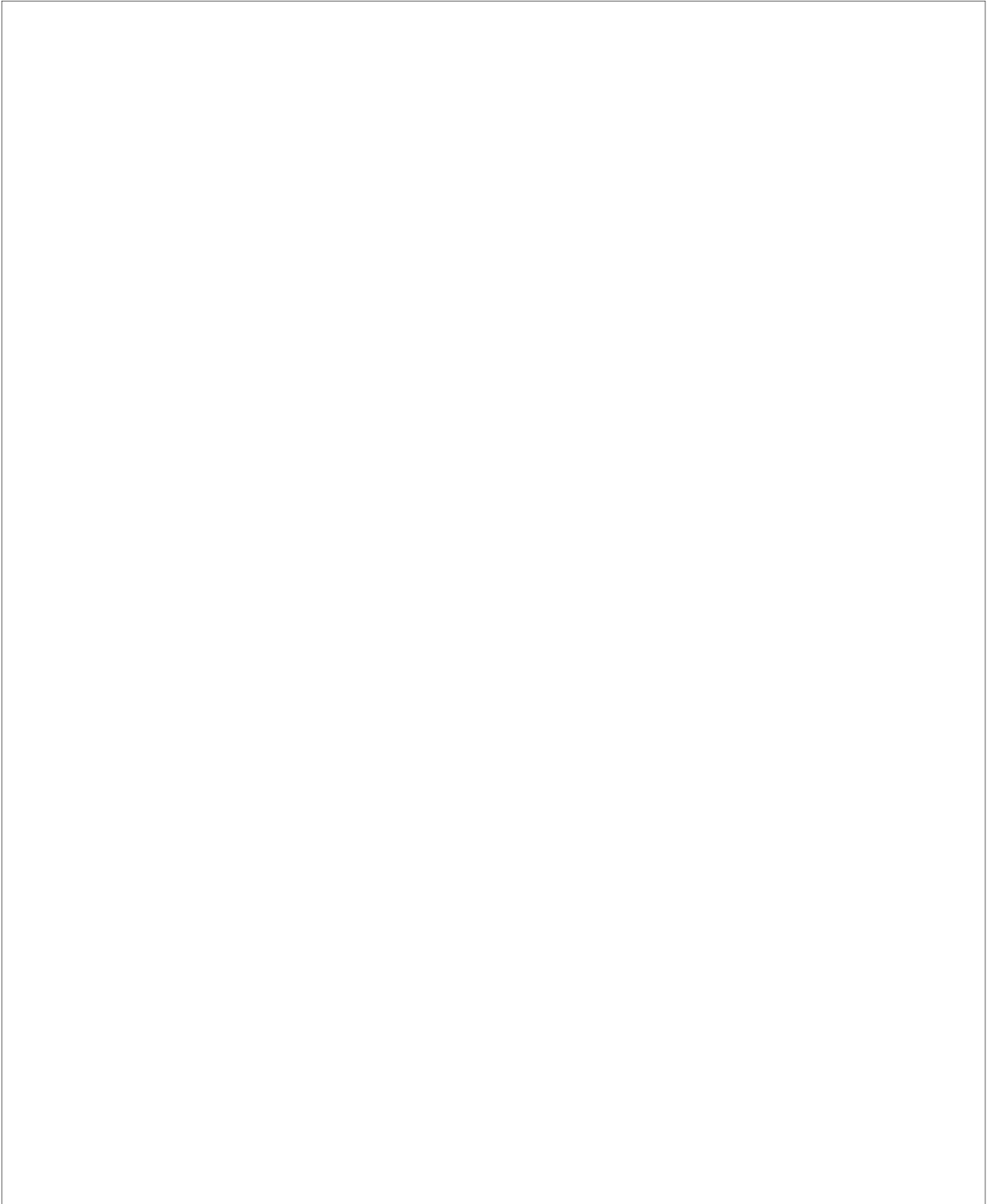


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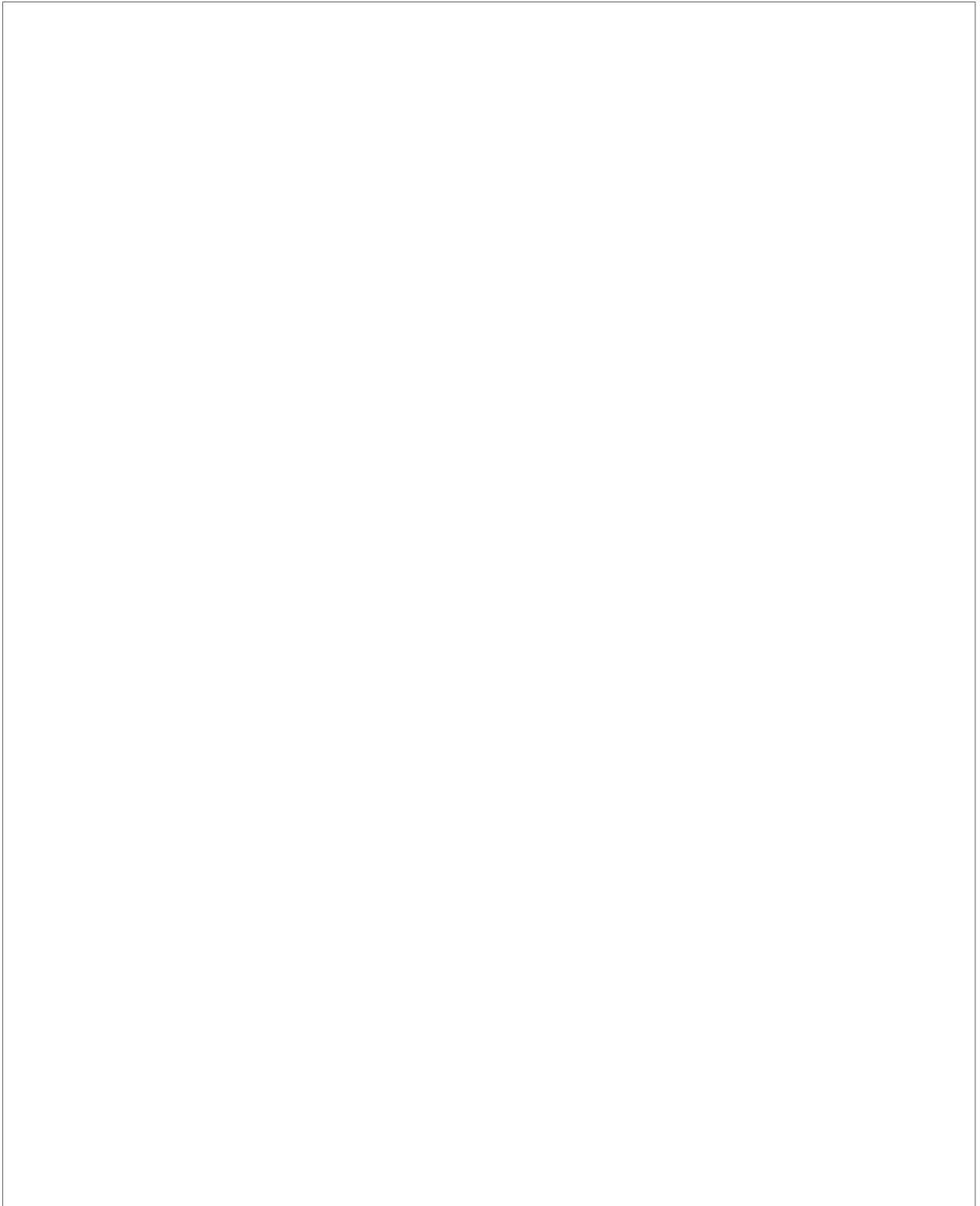


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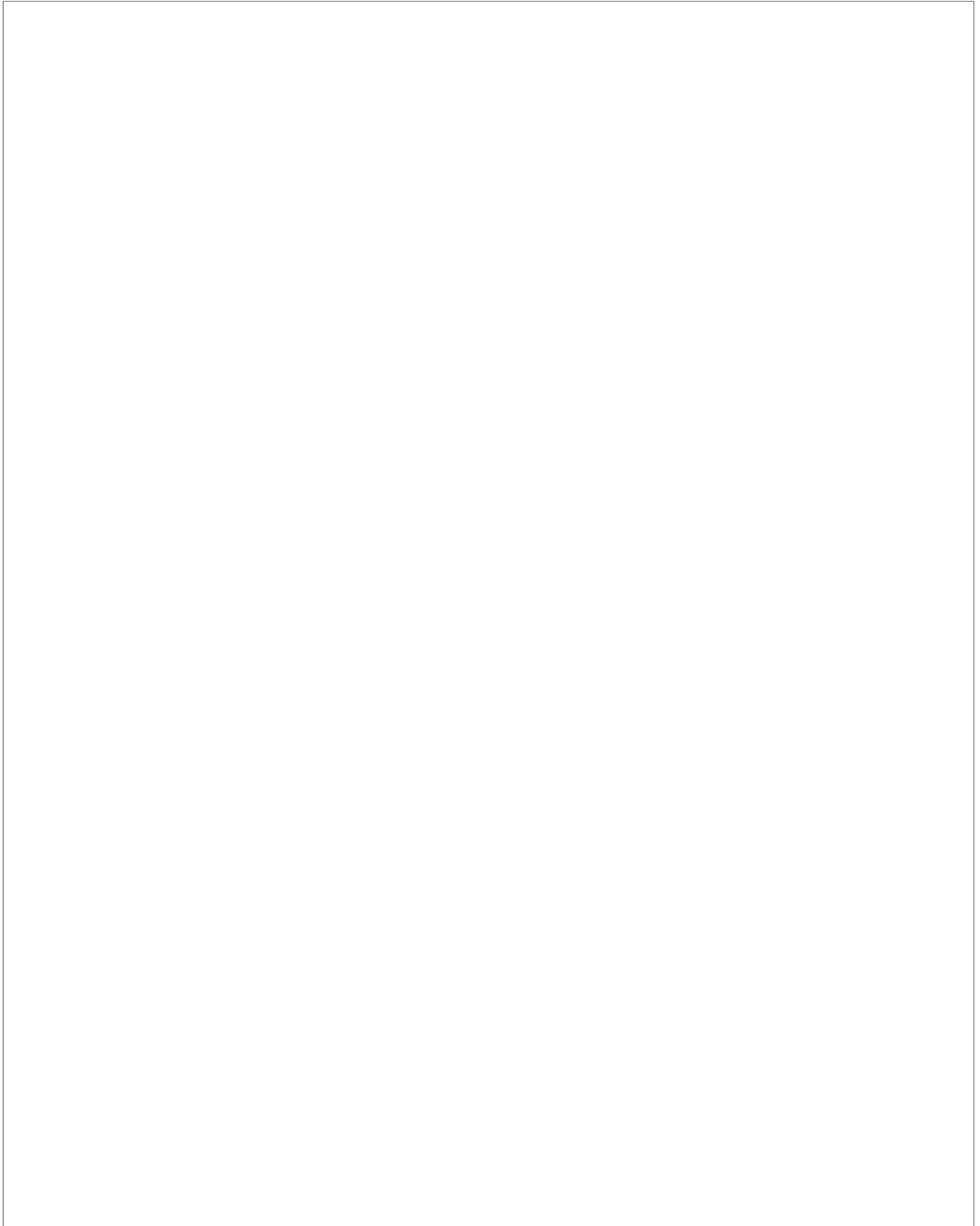
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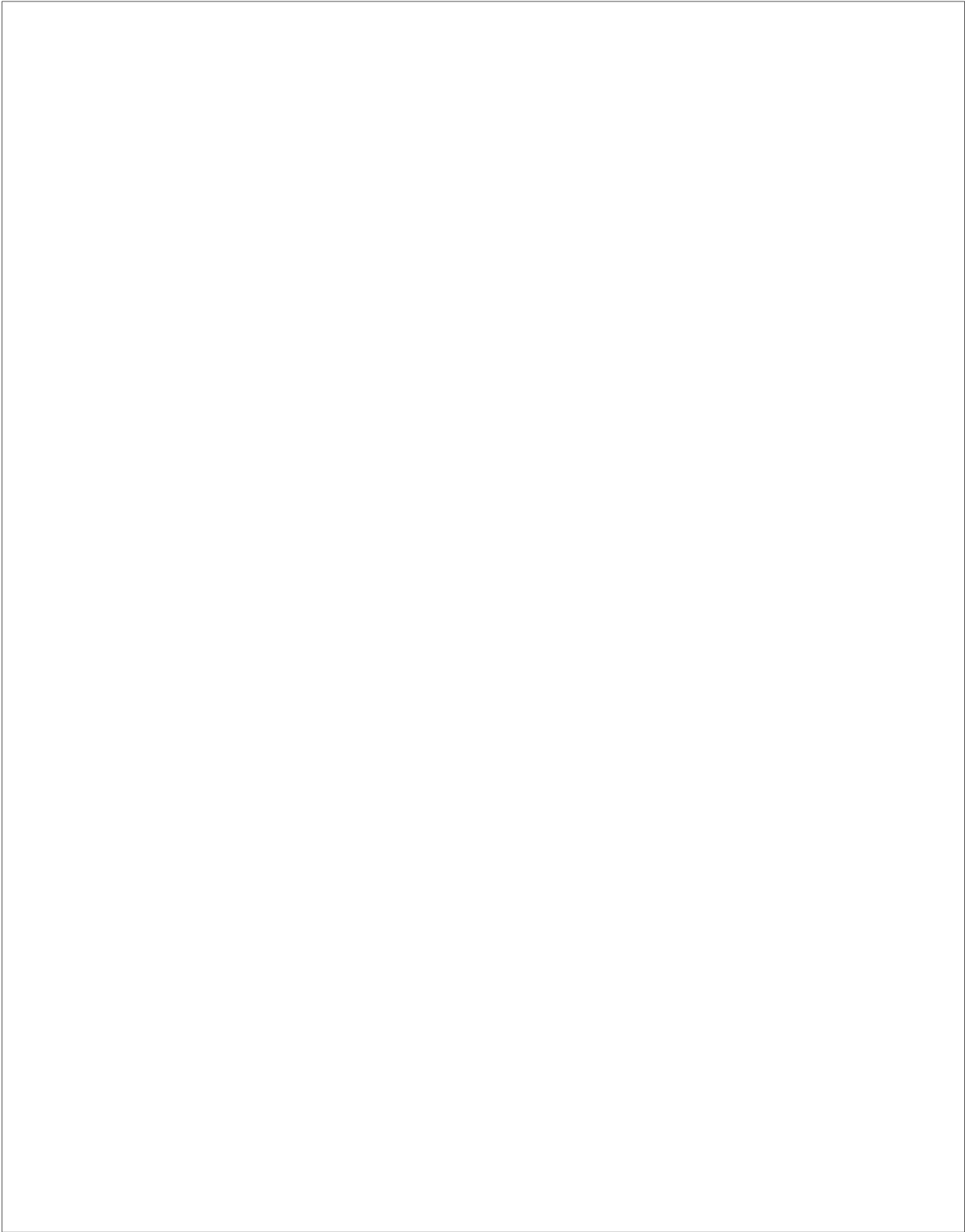


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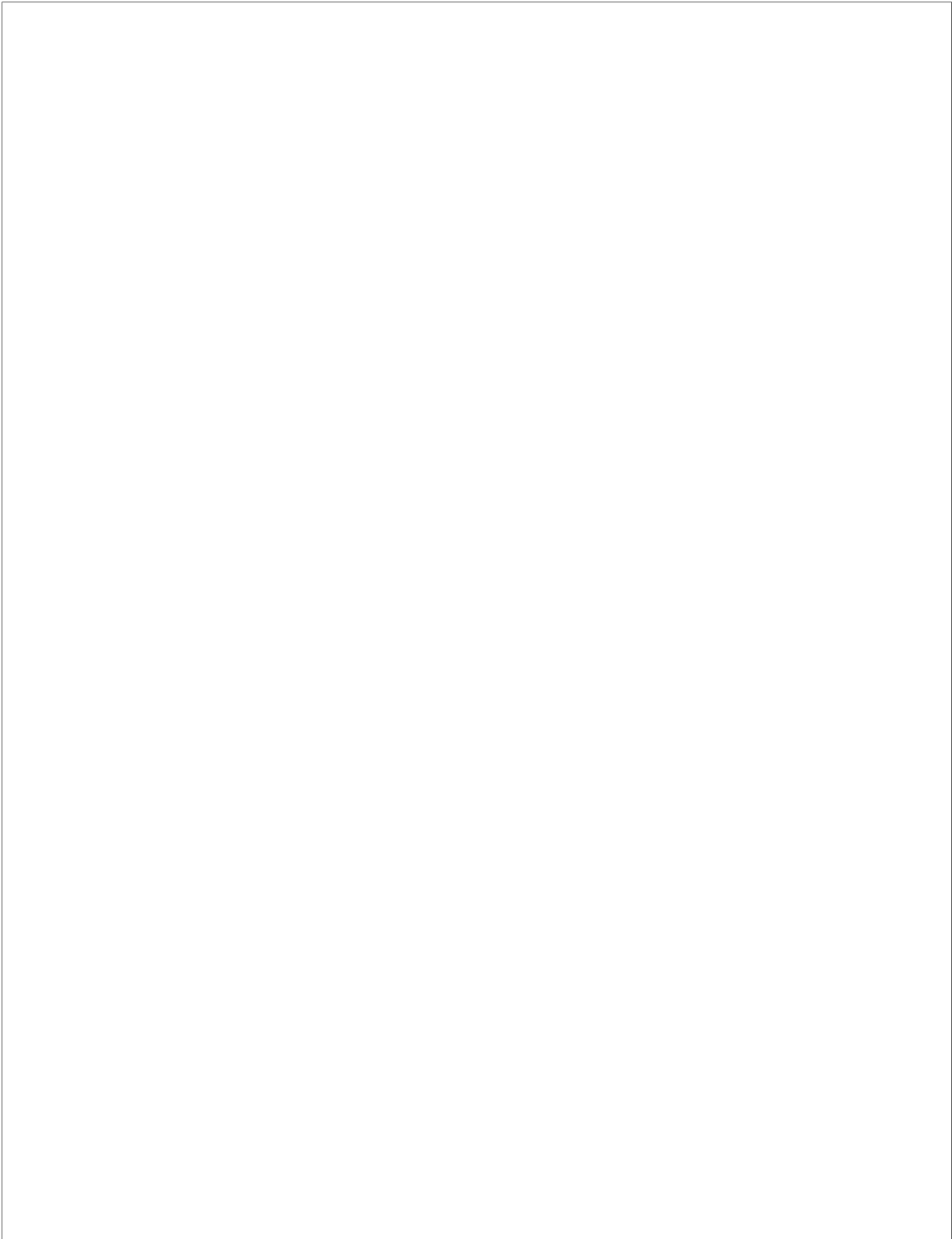
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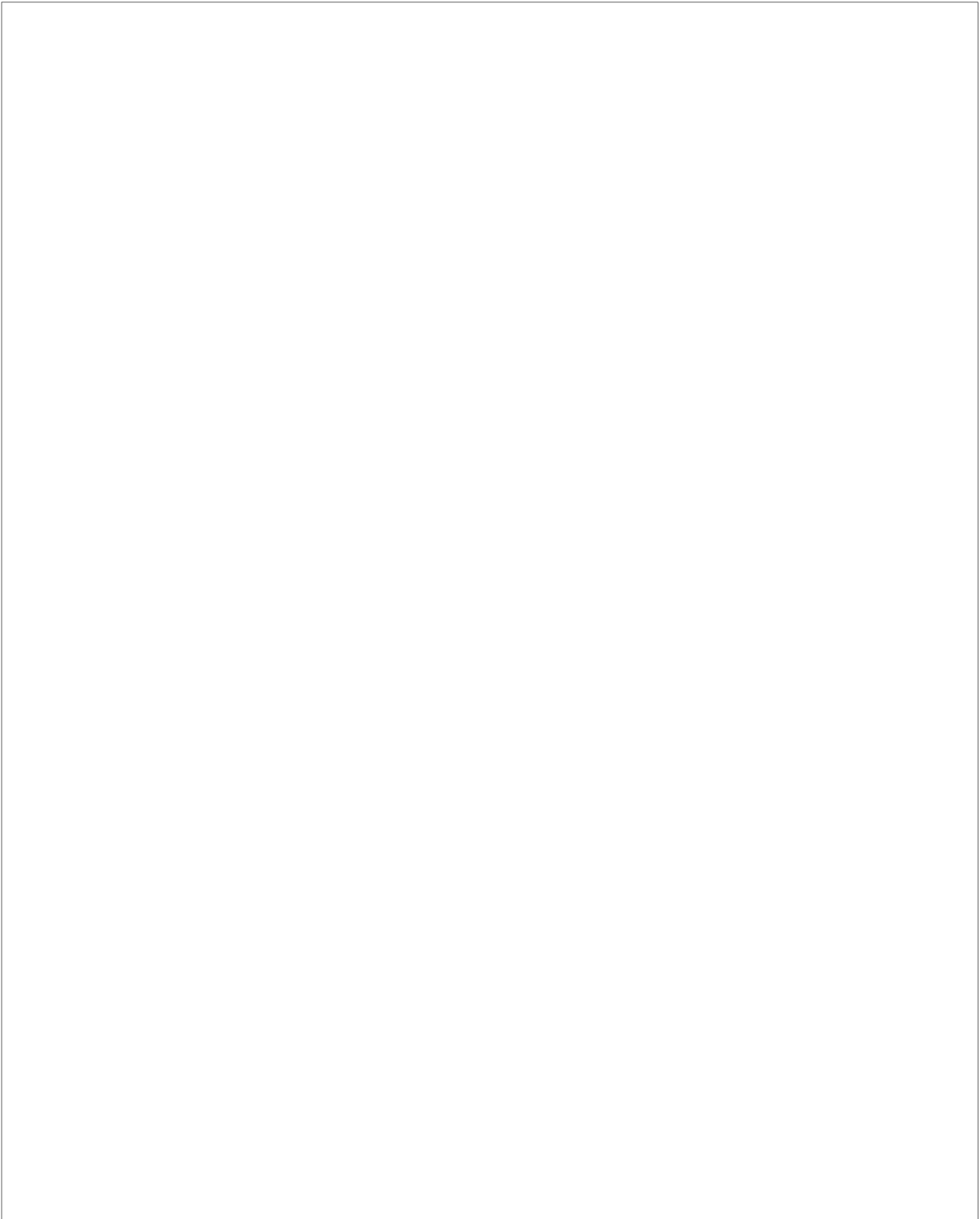


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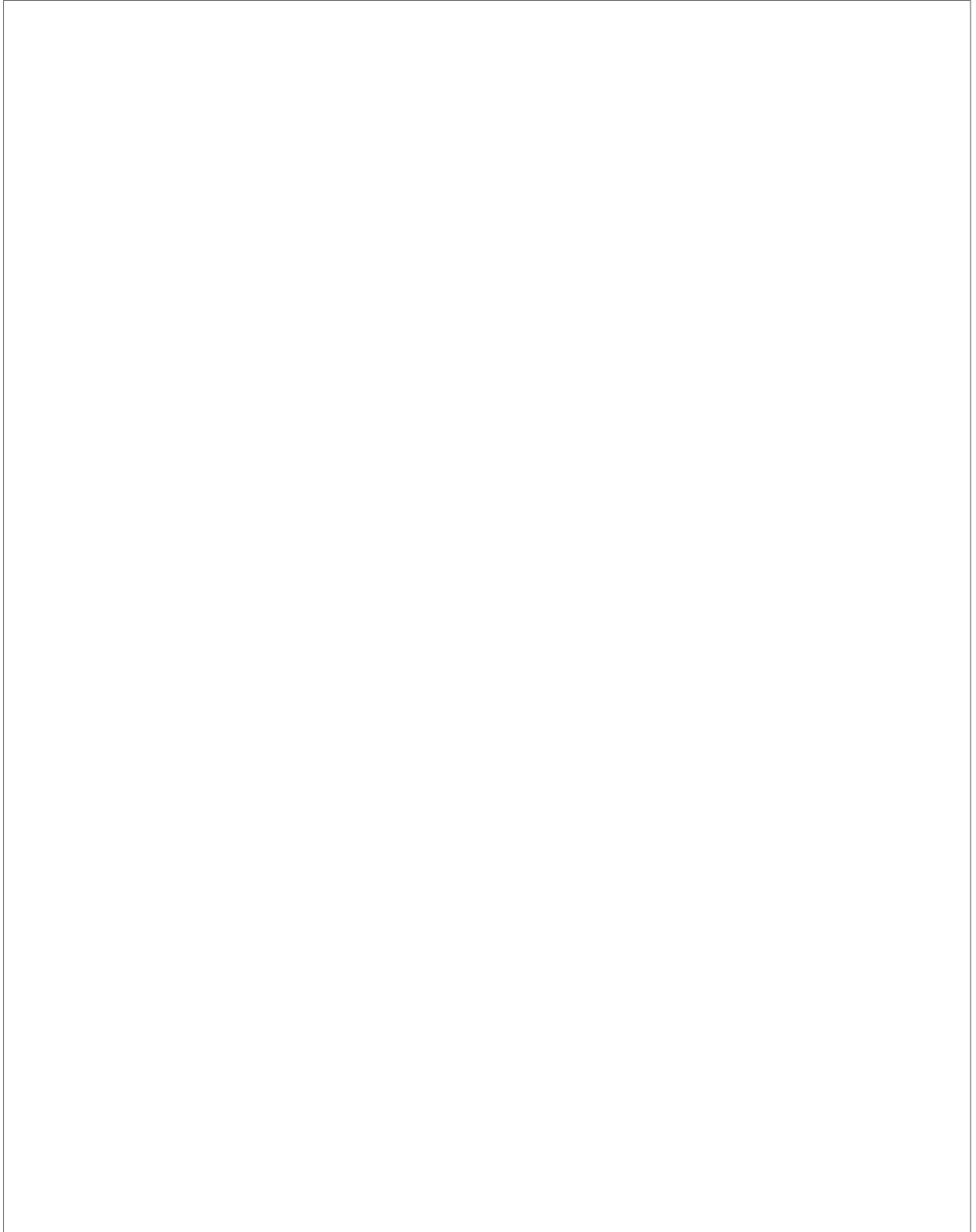
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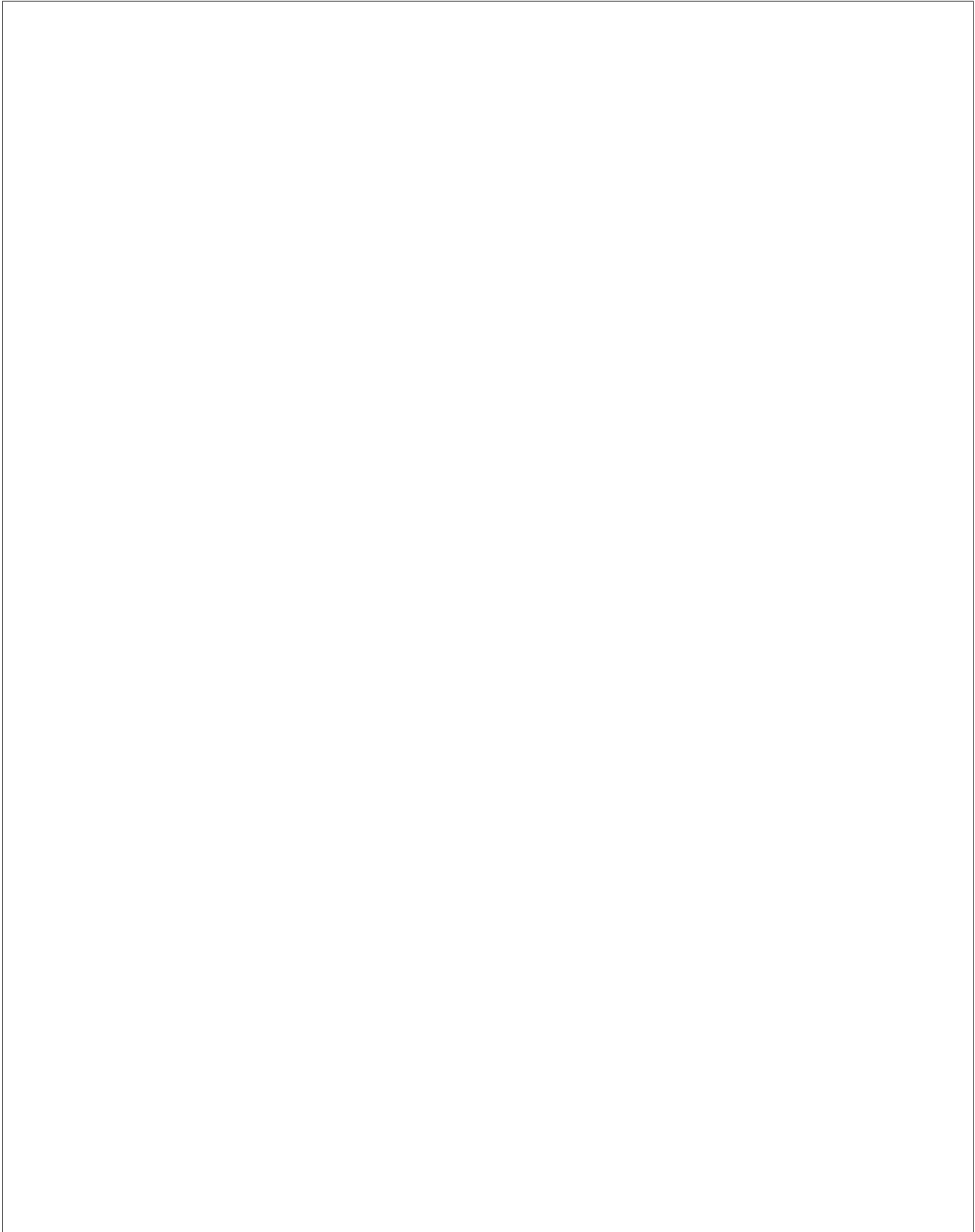
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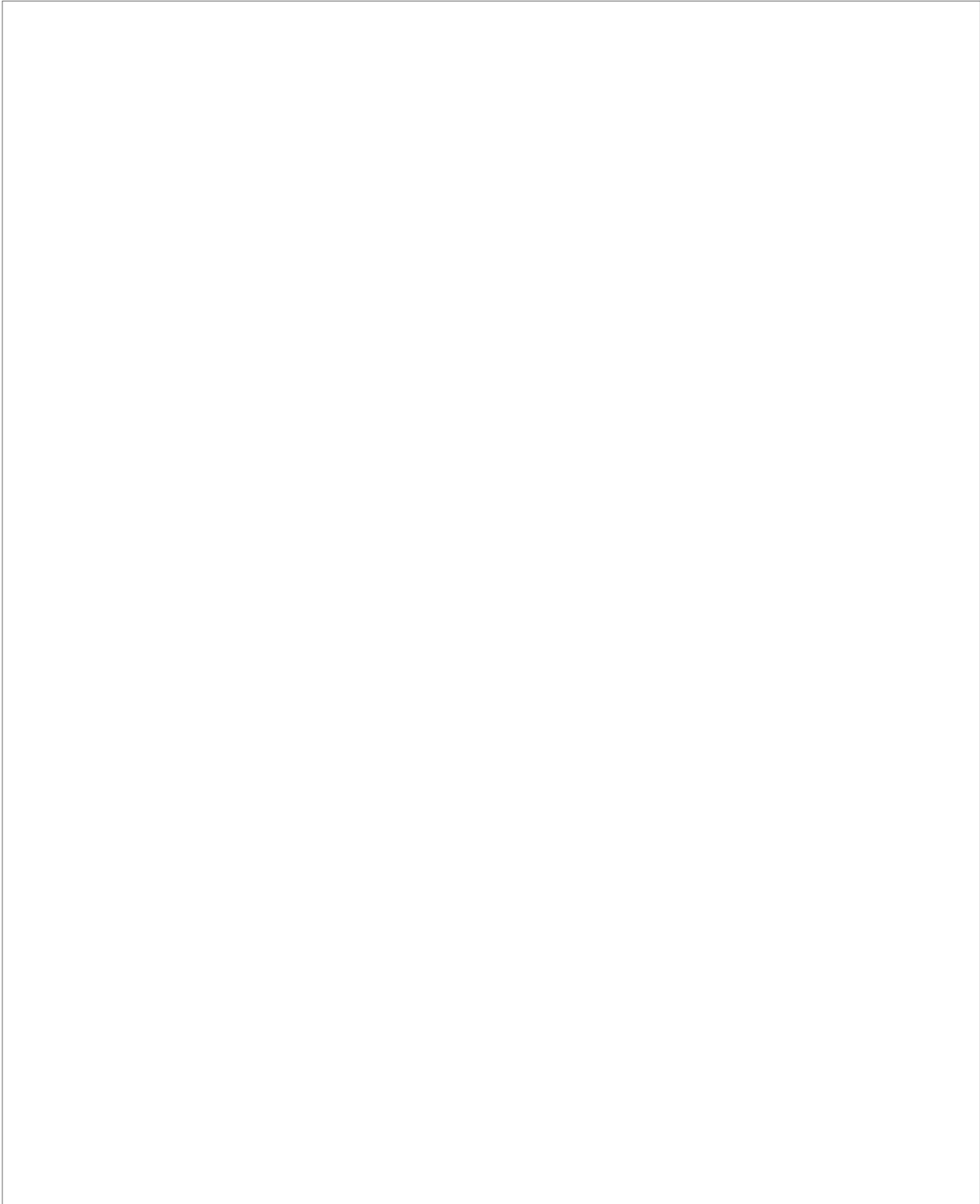


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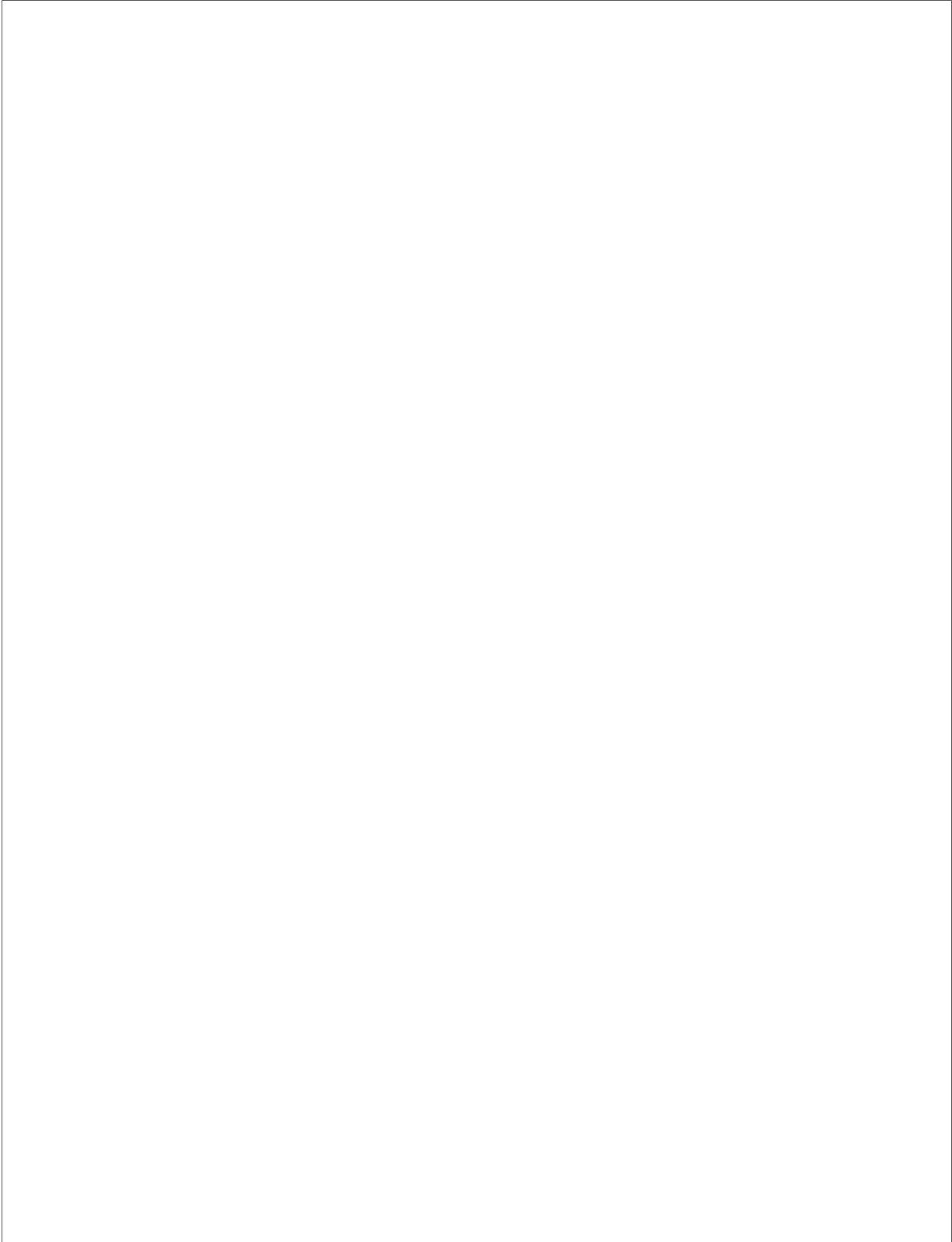


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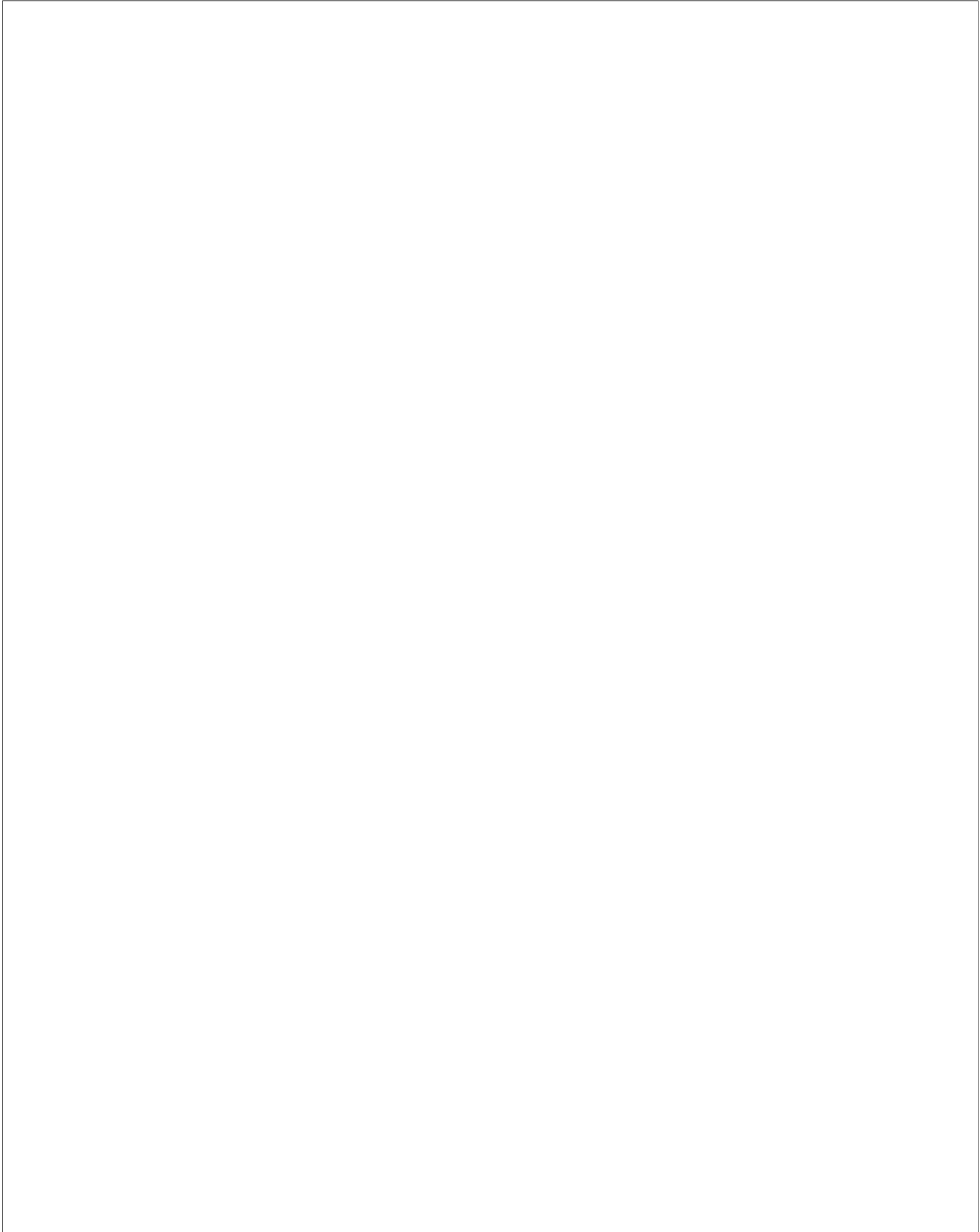
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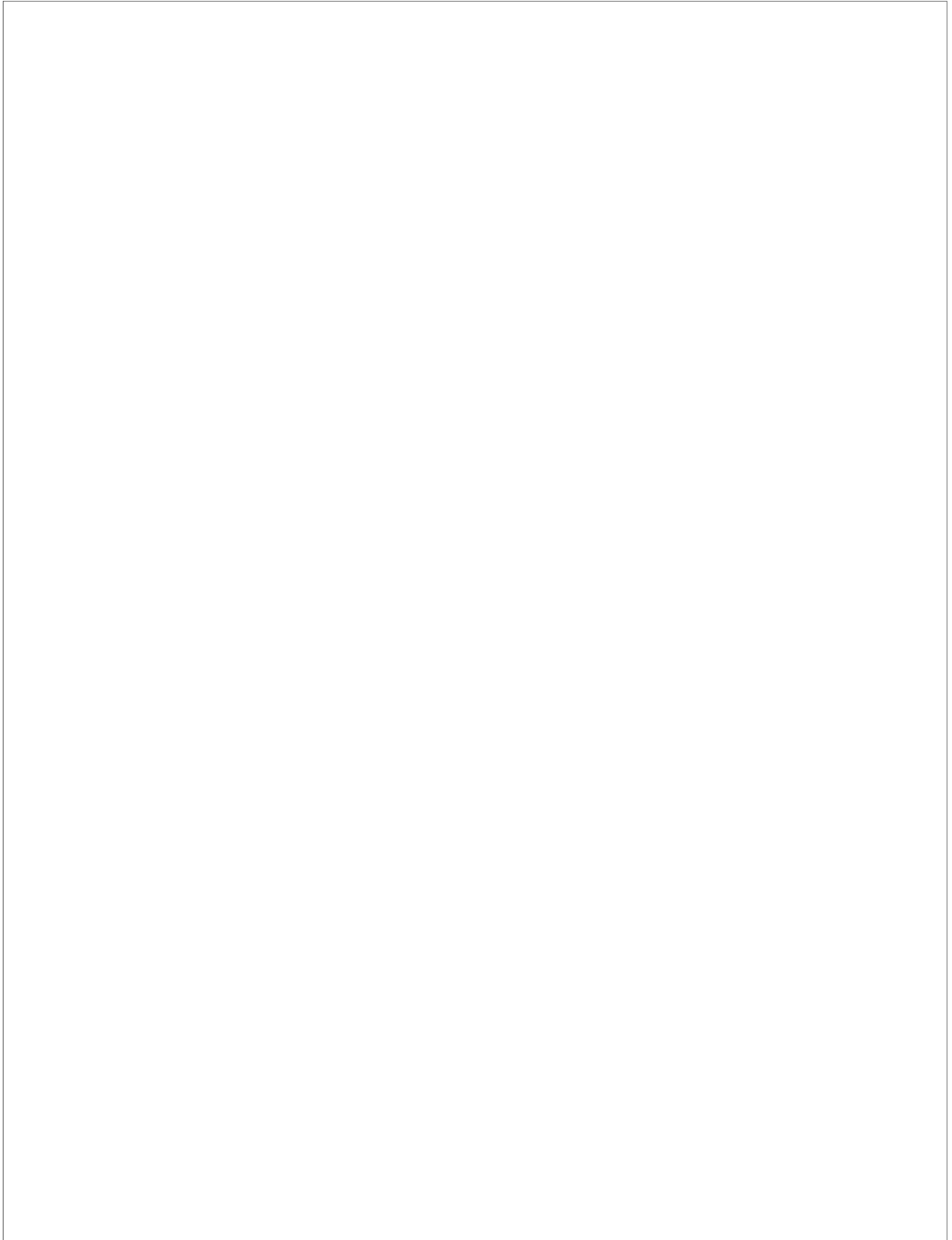
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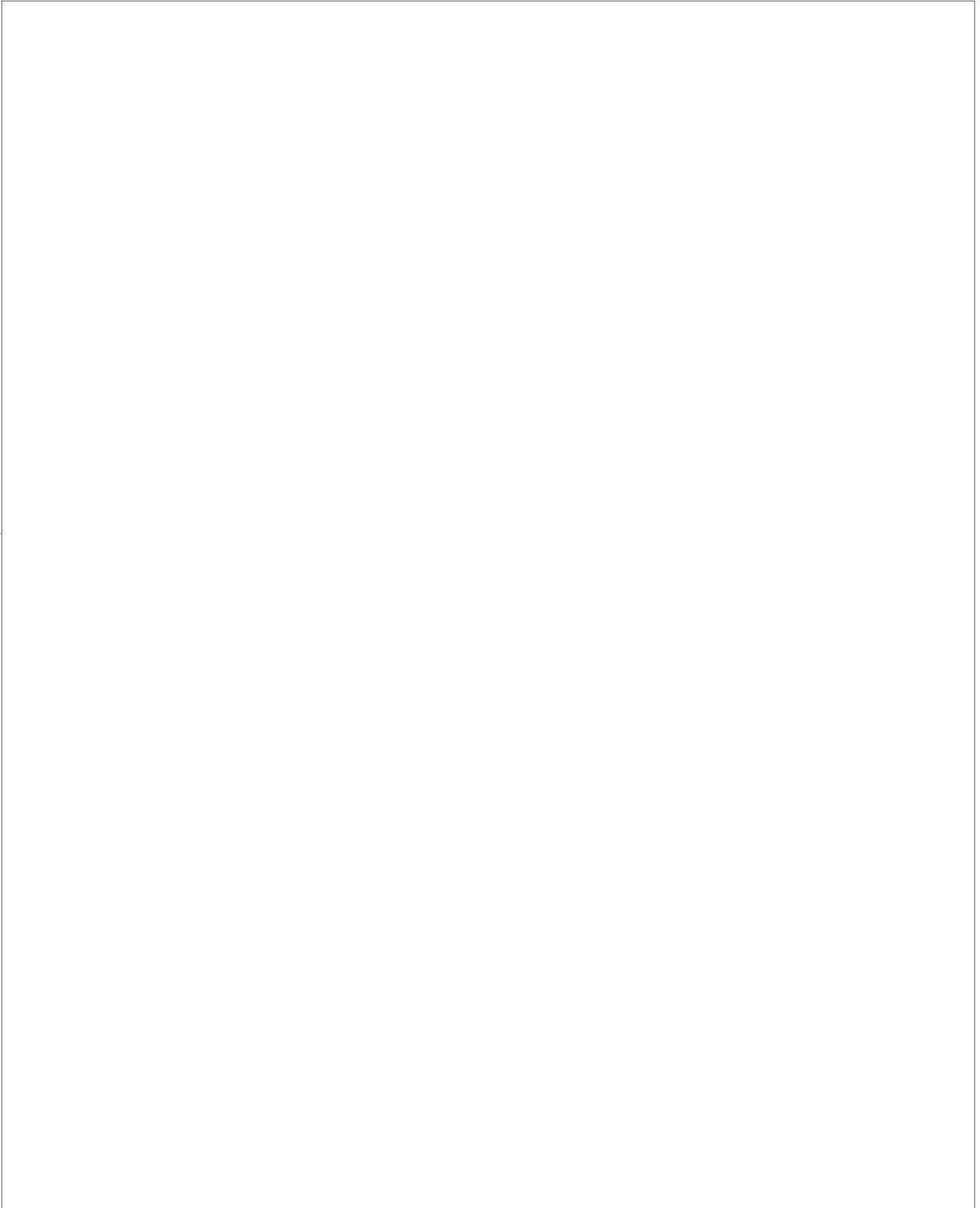
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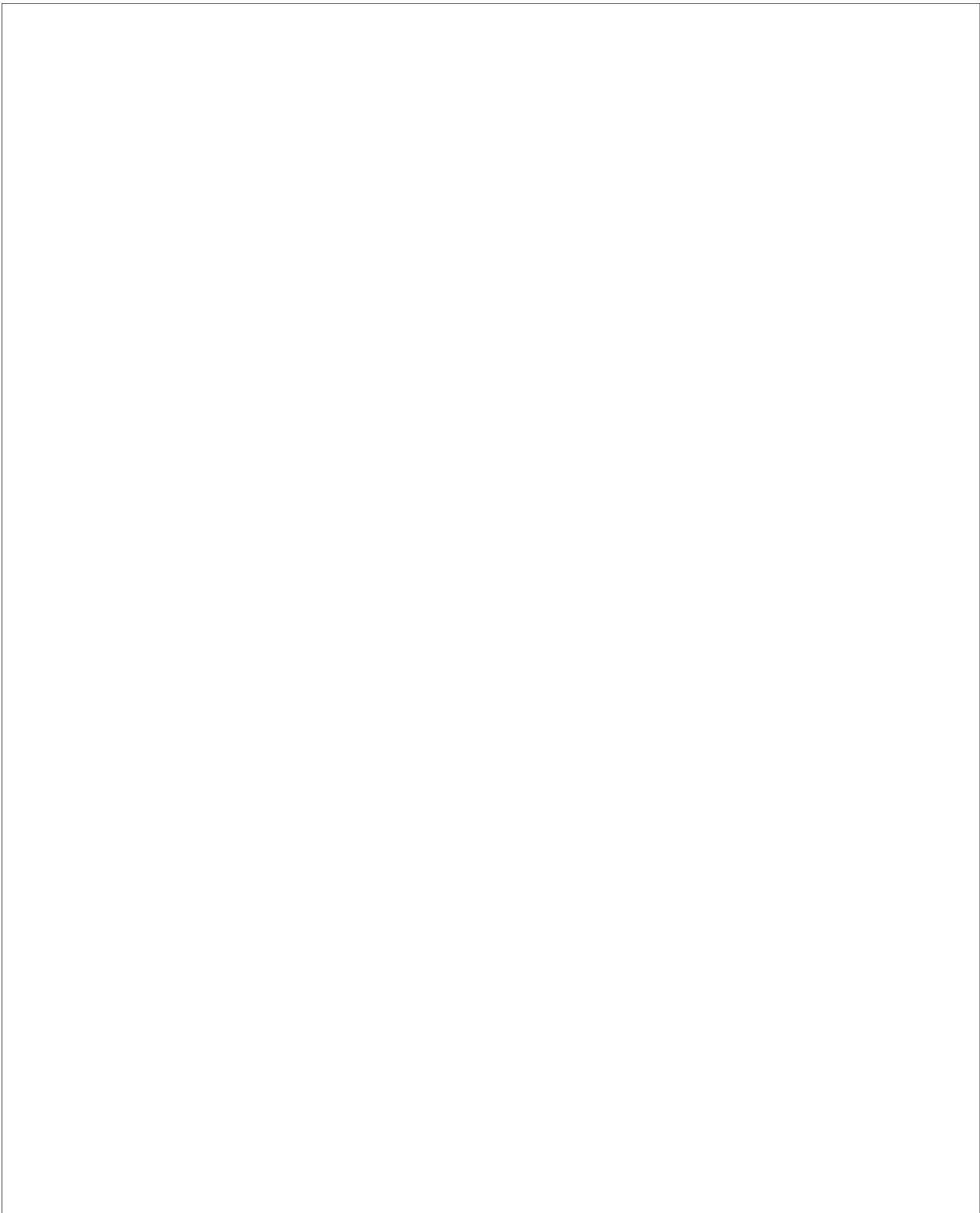


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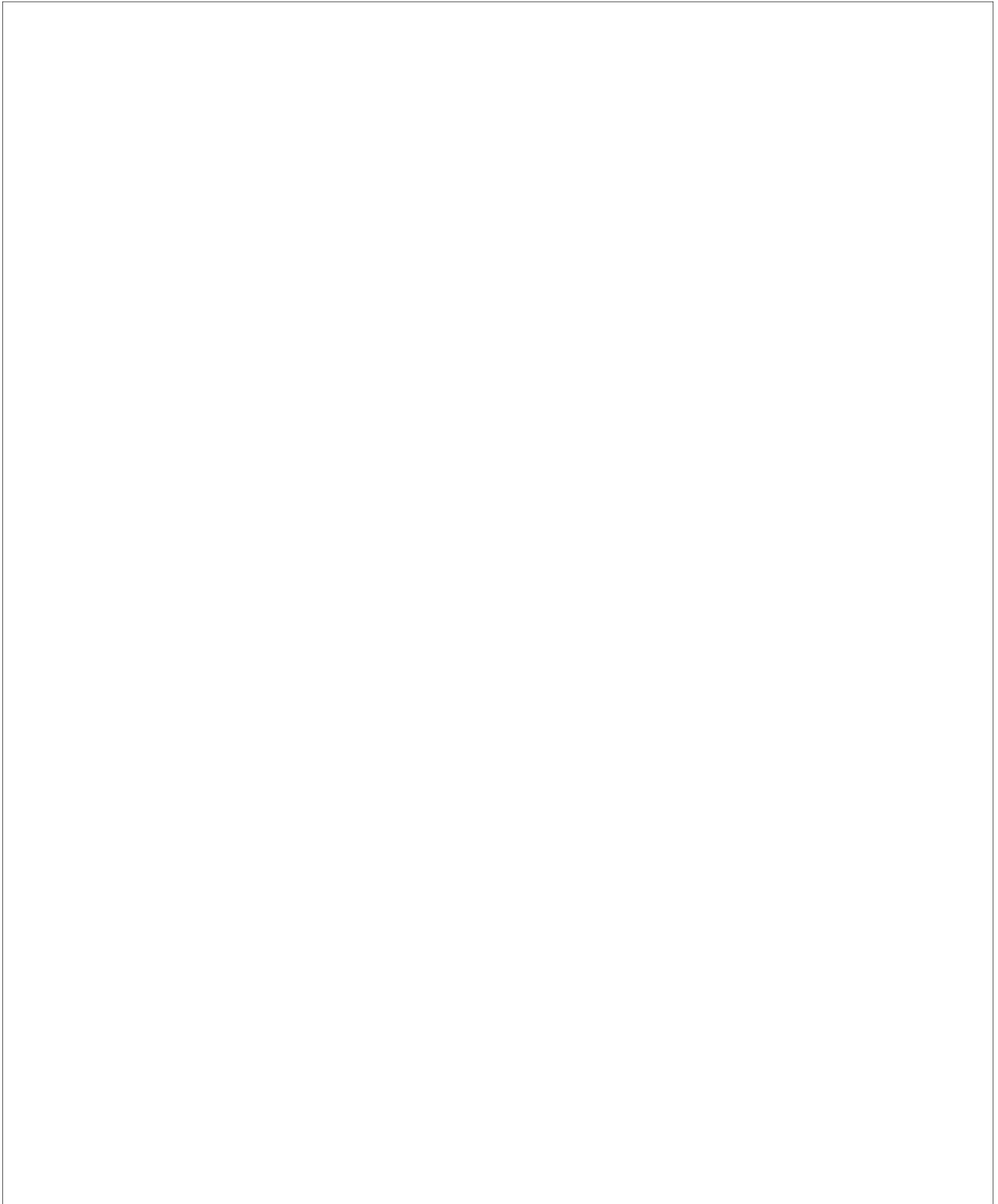


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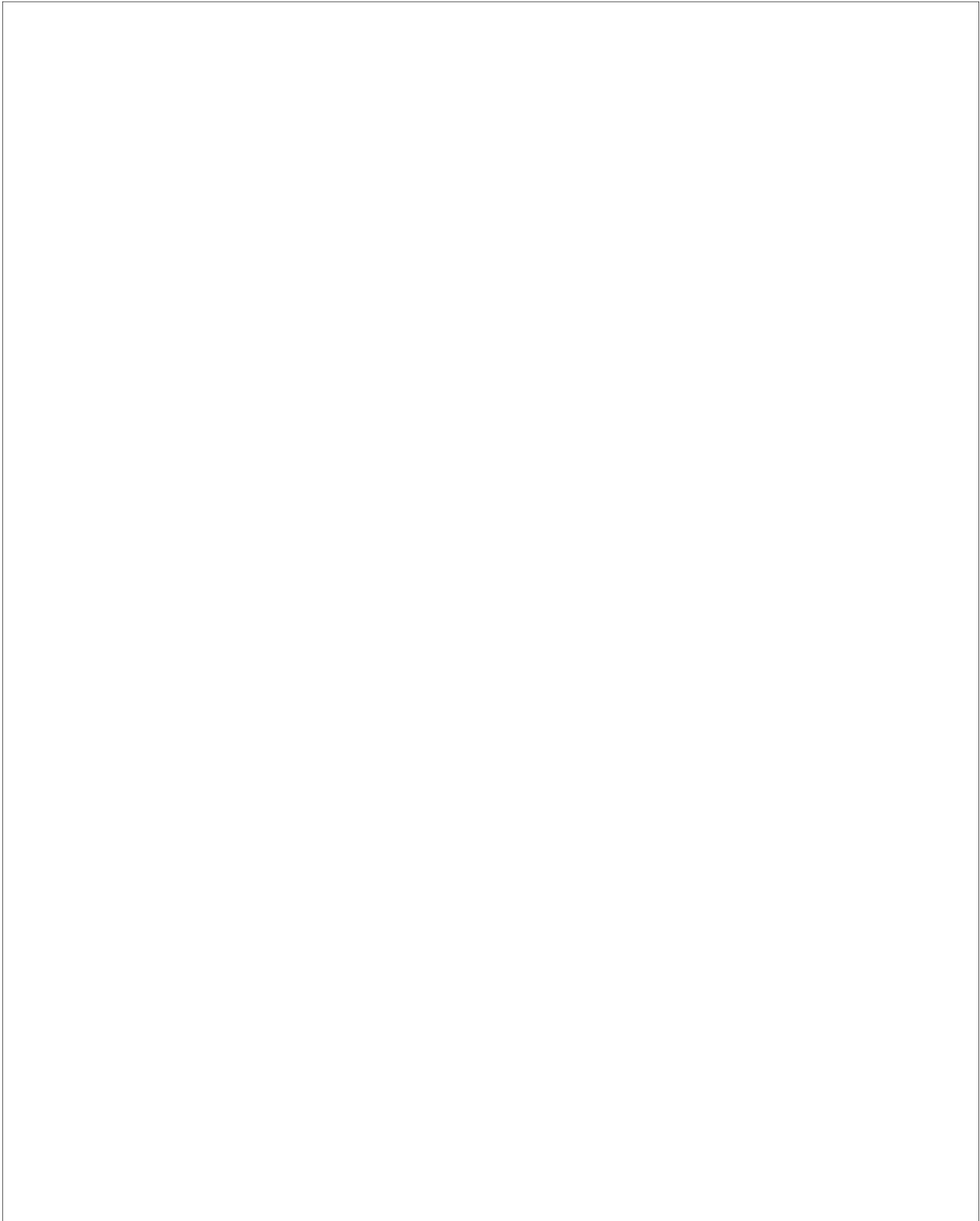
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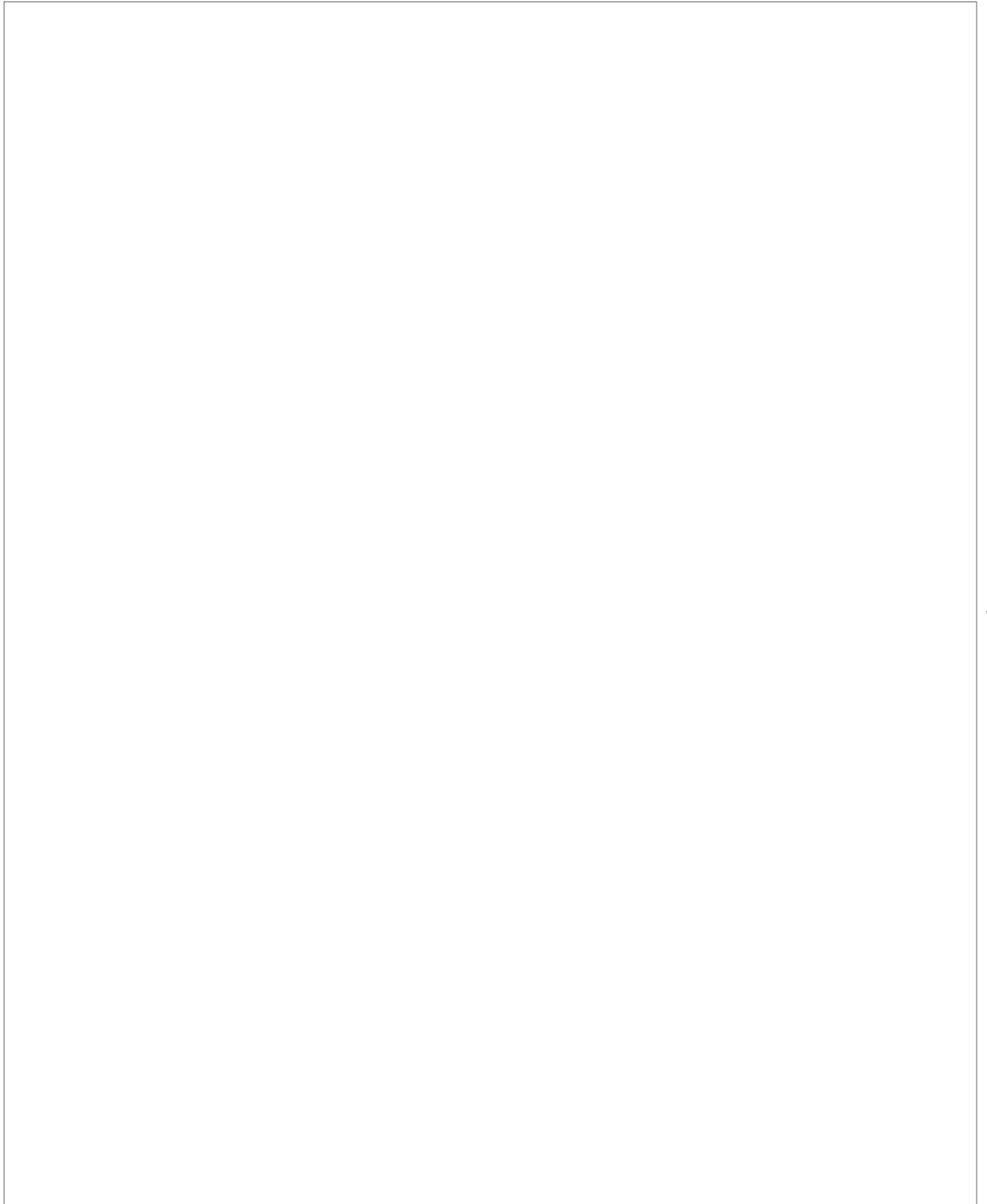
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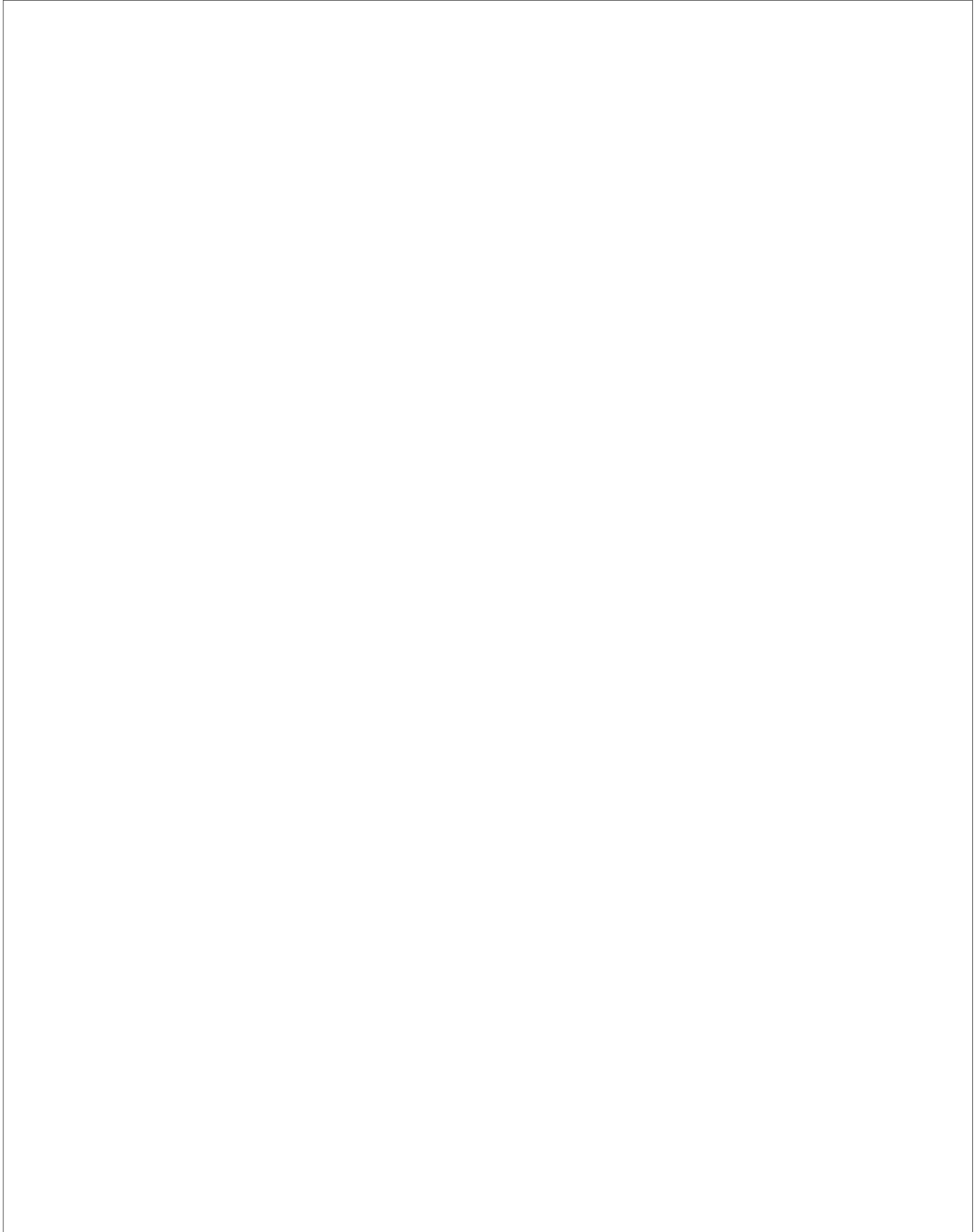
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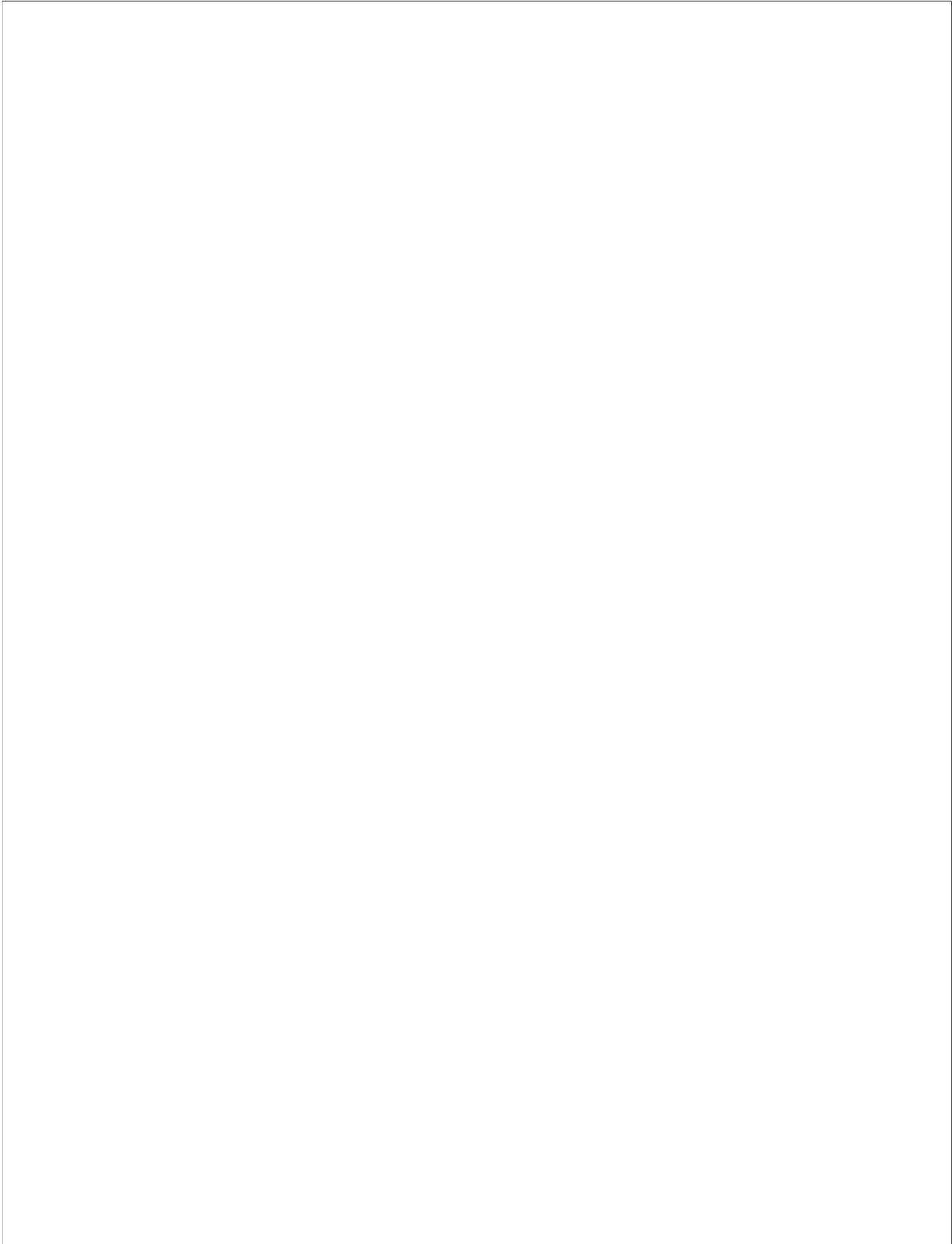
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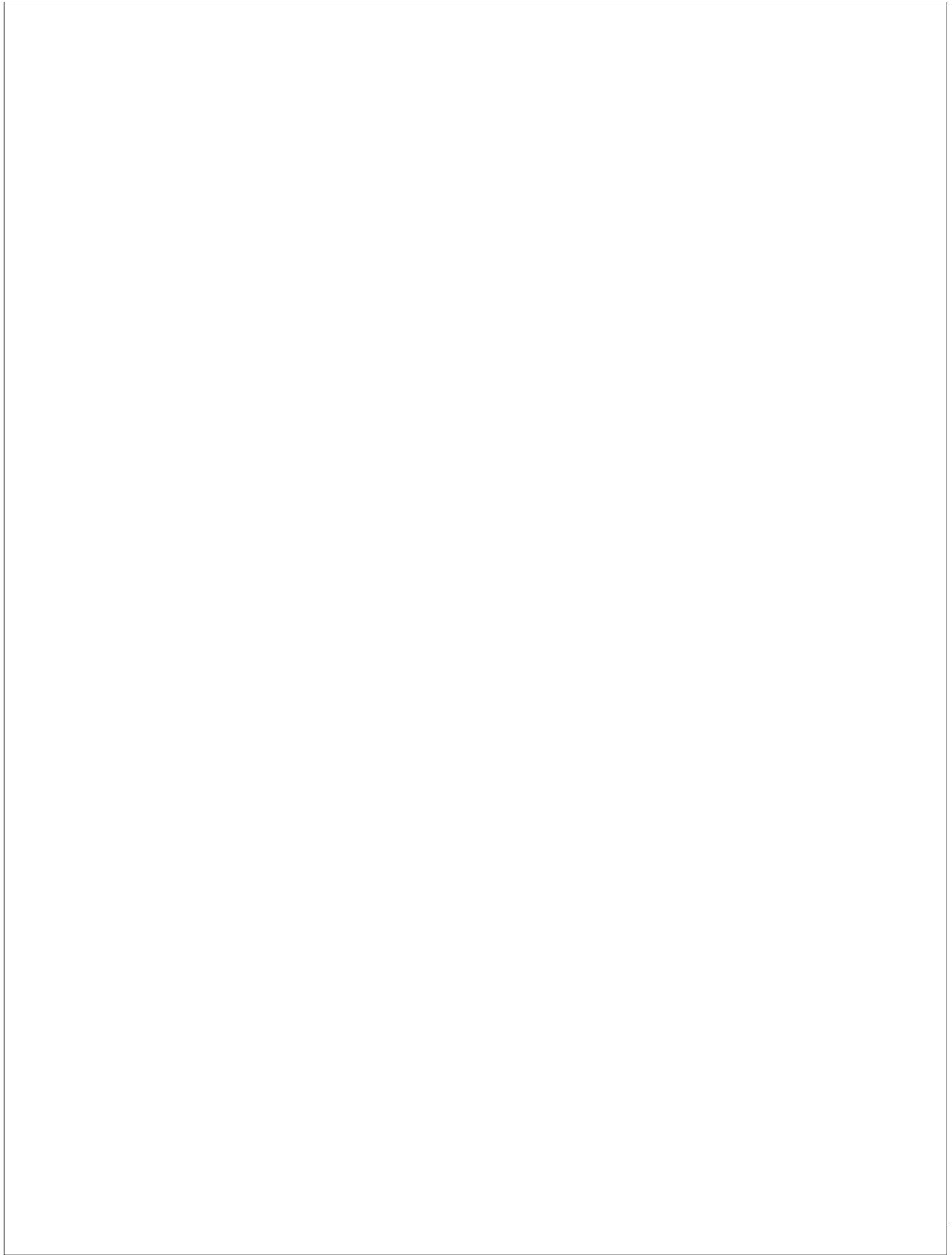


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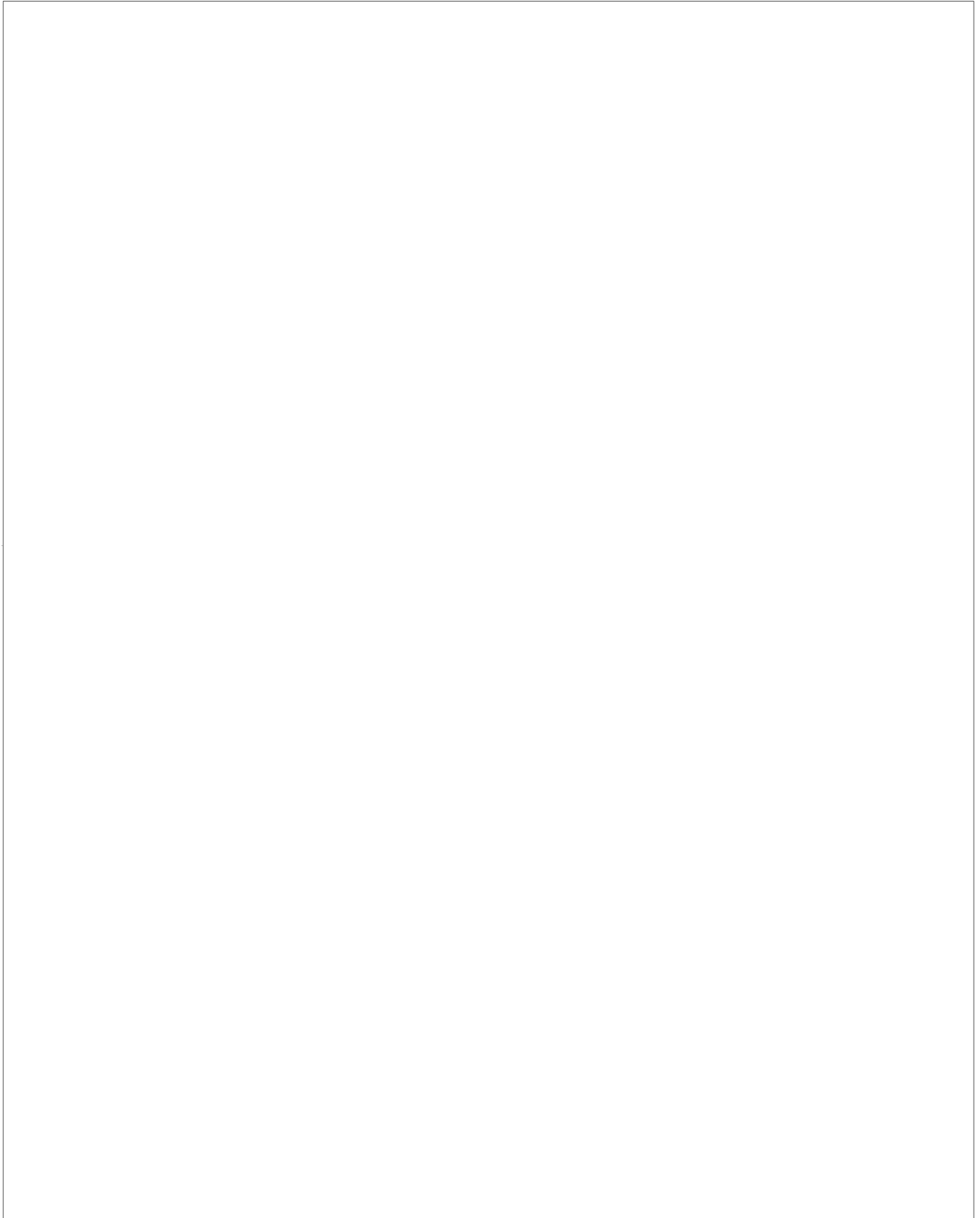


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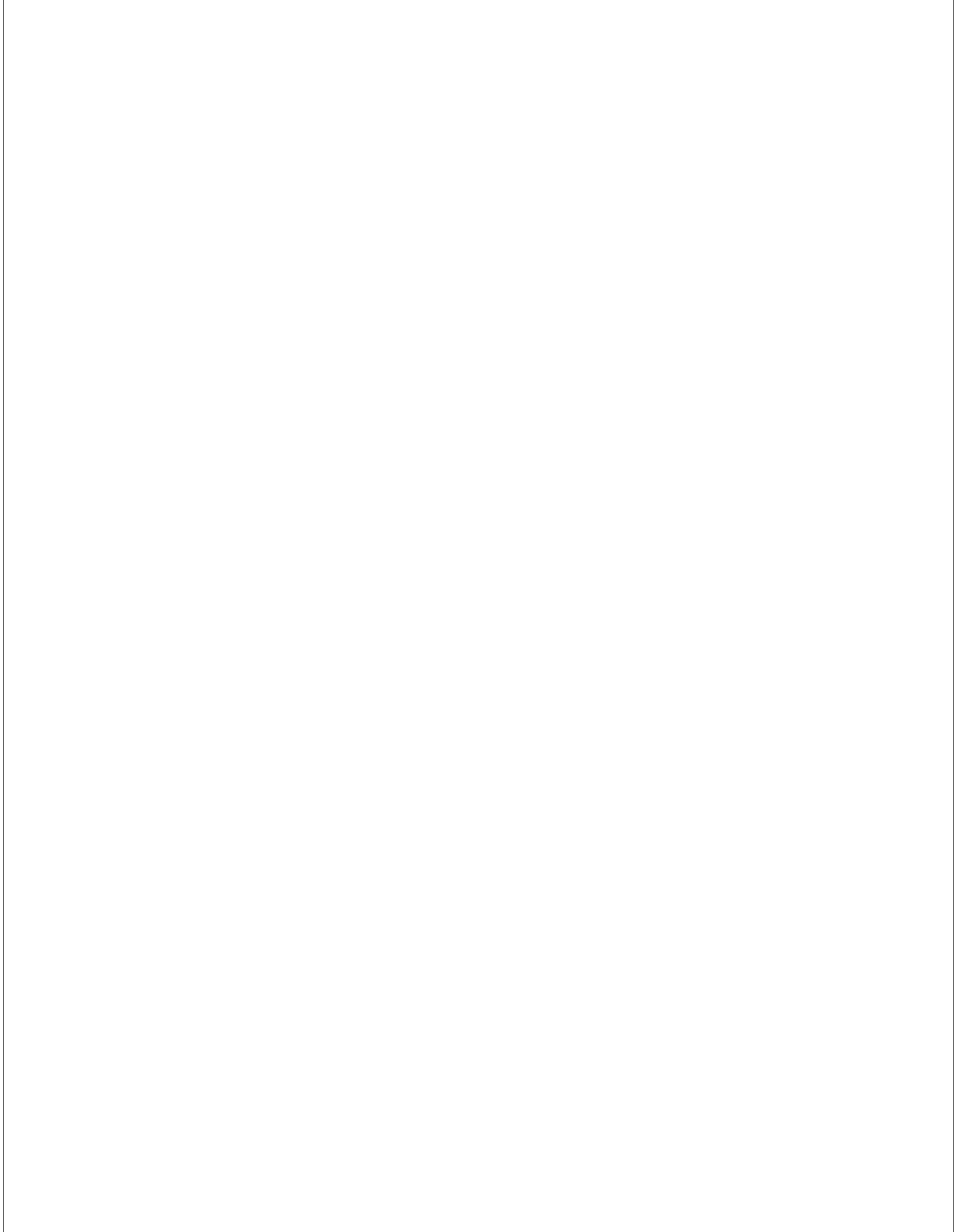


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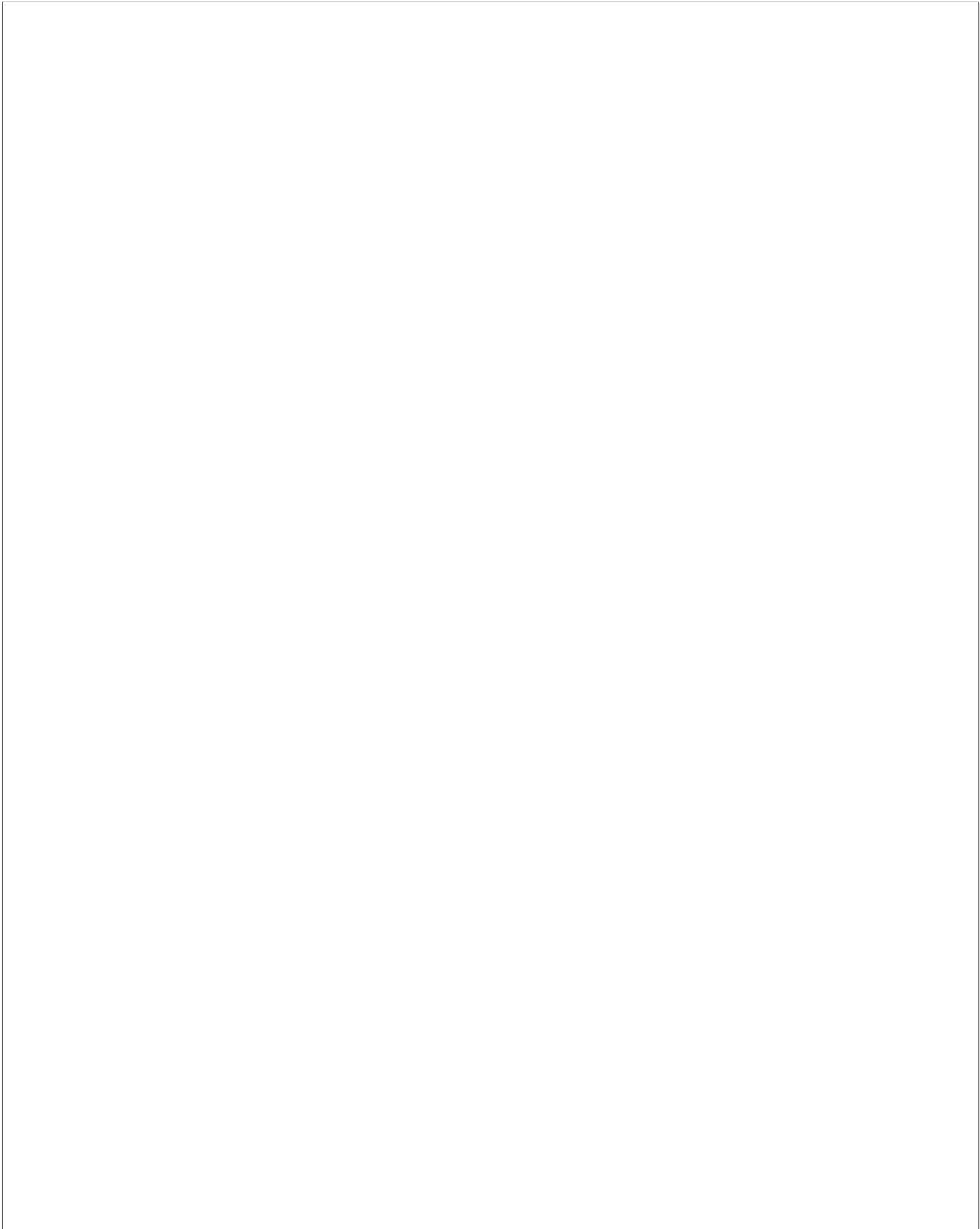
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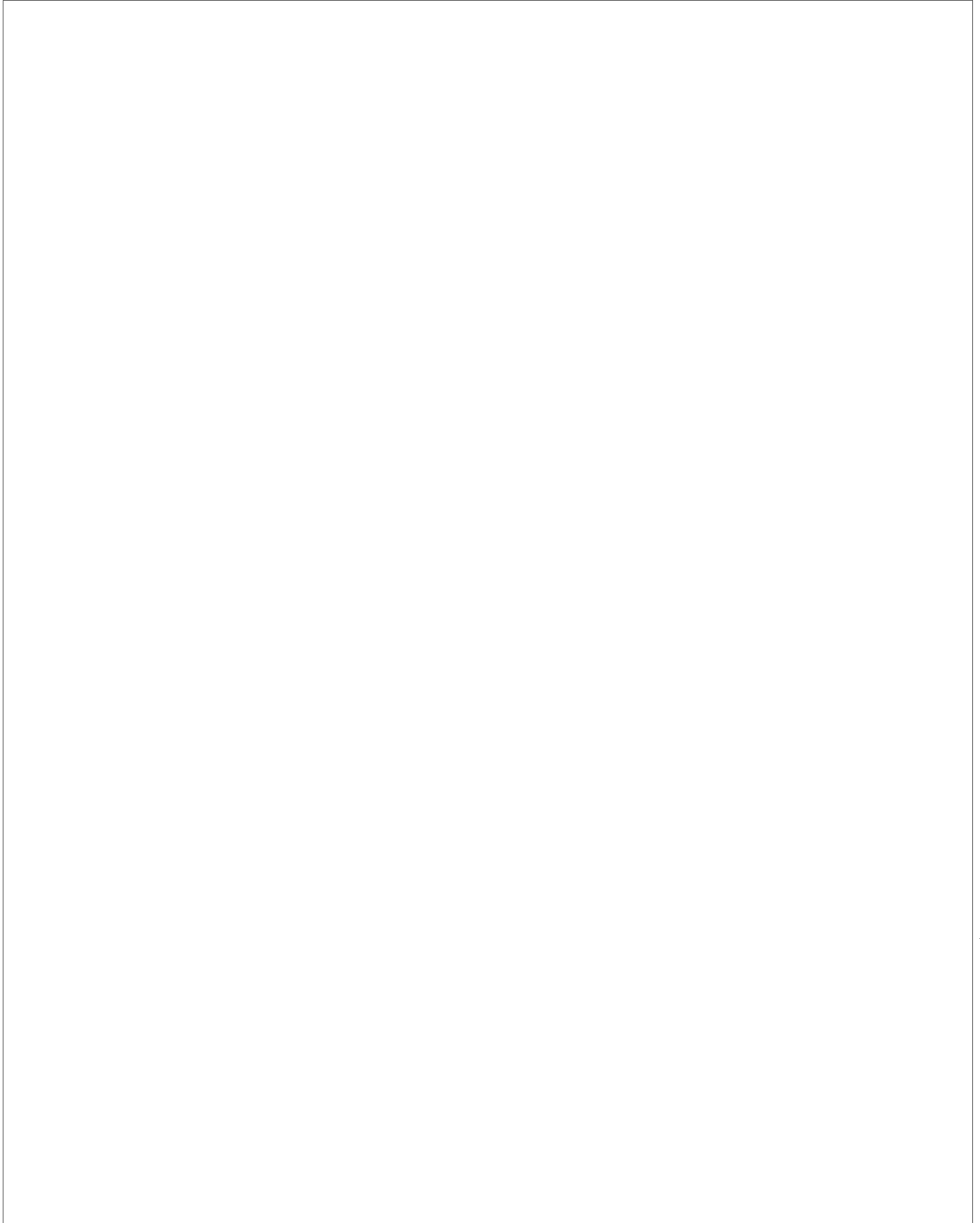
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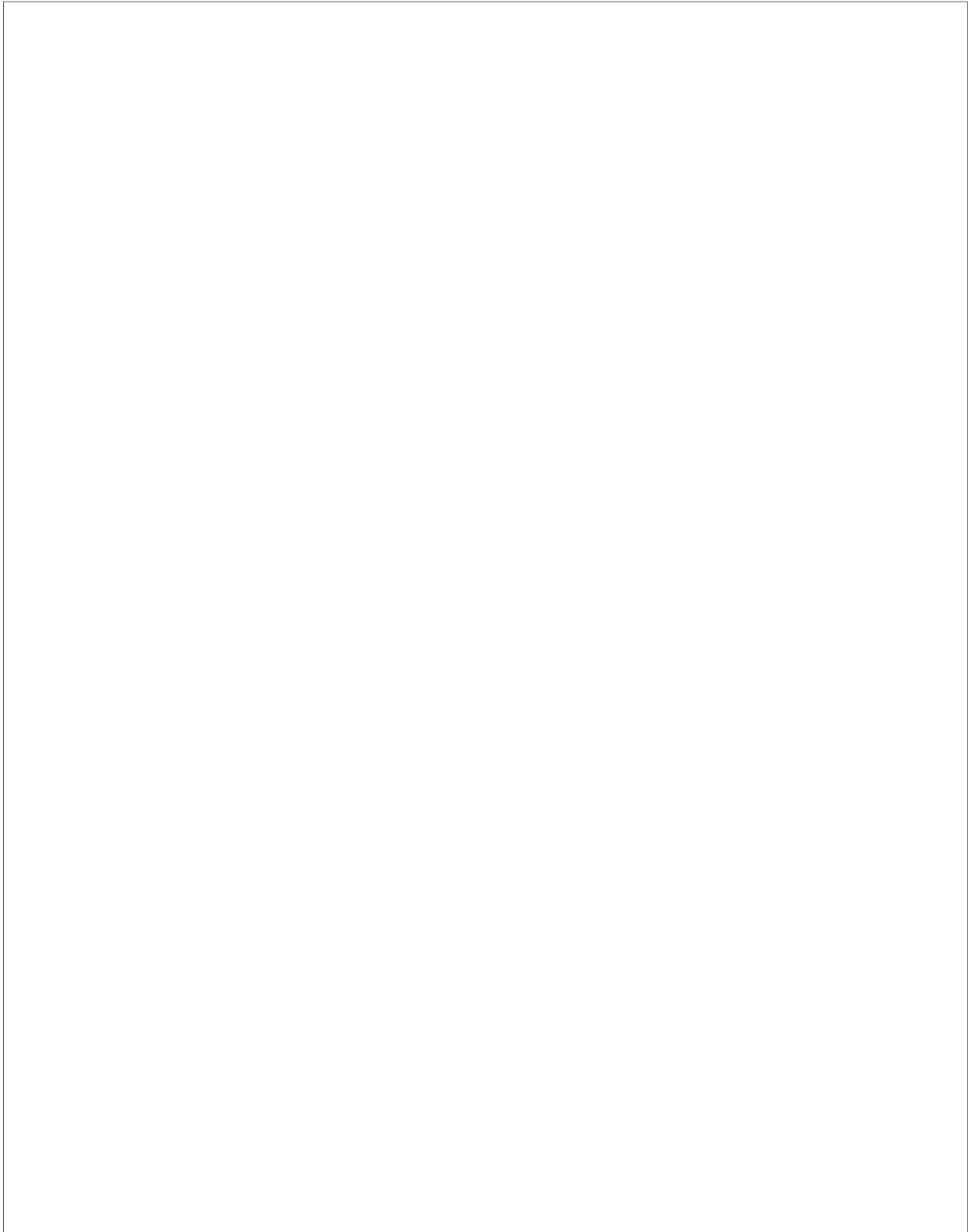


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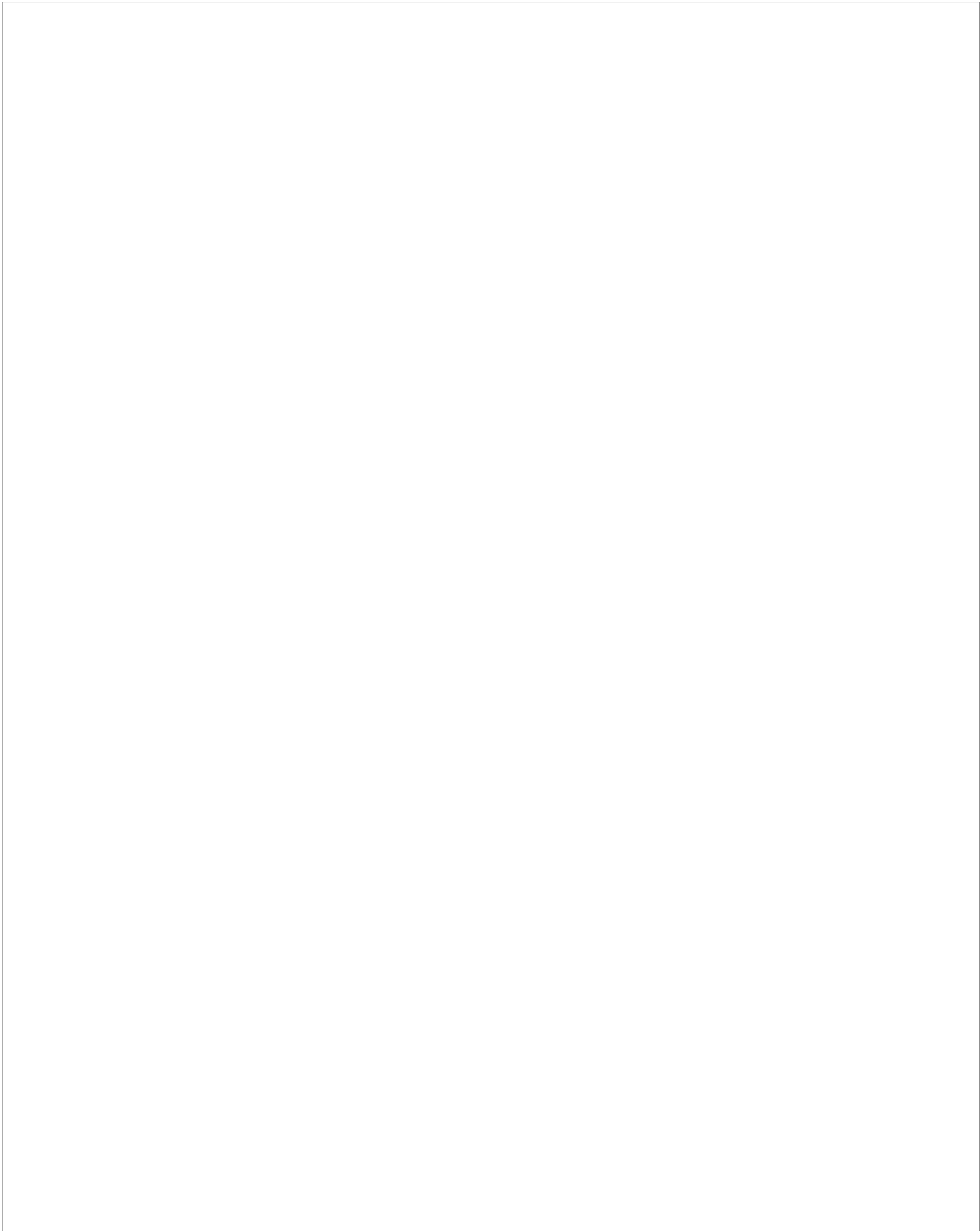


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APPENDIX K

Weekly Visit to La Cabana Fortress Prison

APPENDIX K

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## APPENDIX K

5 December 1960

SUBJECT: Weekly Visit to La Cabana Fortress Prison

Today I delivered six cartons of cigarettes and a box of cigars to the four Americans detained at La Cabana. While talking with the men, Dr. Colomar also called on them. He said their case is still with the Ministry of Armed Forces awaiting a decision as to whether or not it is within the jurisdiction of the Military Tribunals.

I explained to Taransky, Carswell and Danbrunt the recommendation I had made regarding the news of their families. They thought this an excellent idea, i.e., that the families write short notes to be read by me and the news therein passed on orally to the men. Carswell and Danbrunt were especially pleased. Danbrunt said he has two children and Carswell six. The main news they would especially like is just to know that the families are well.

I asked the men if there was any particular thing they would like their families to send for Christmas. They said no, but requested that I arrange to bring them an electric frying pan. They preferred this over a hot plate (after much discussion between them) as the heat element can be controlled. I explained it would be difficult to find an electric frying pan in Habana but that I would see if one could be sent from the U.S.

The weather has been chilly lately and the men requested light jackets and sweaters, etc., Dr. Colomar said he would attend to this and submit his bill for expenses to Mr. Murphy.

In order to furnish as much information [as possible] to the families of the men, I questioned them closely regarding their daily habits and schedule of the prison. I told them this information would be relayed to their

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relatives together with any other facts that they would like to have known.

Their daily schedule is as follows:

Around 5:30 a.m. daily the cooks start work in the kitchen and the sweepers start sweeping the open patio. Around 7:00 a.m. the guards unlock the various cells (there are 12 cells each containing from 40 to 50 men - the cells are approximately 40 feet wide by 75 feet long with ventilation at both ends). After roll call the men are permitted to leave their cells and have breakfast. This meal is from 7:30 until 8:00 a.m. and consists of black coffee and bread. After breakfast the prisoners are permitted to walk about the patio all day until 9:00 p.m. at which time they are returned to their cells and locked in for the night. From 9:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. the men pass the time in their cells reading, talking or playing cards. Card playing is not officially permitted but is overlooked. Lights go off for the night anytime from 11:00 until 11:30 p.m. and during the night hours the only person permitted to enter the prison not officially on duty is the Chief of the Prison, 1st Lt. Manuel FERNANDEZ Contreras.

Lunch is served to the men anytime from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and dinner around 5:00 p.m. Both meals are usually rice and beans with an occasional piece of poor quality meat.

In the afternoons the prisoners are permitted to organize a baseball game. The four Americans do not take part in these games. They explained their non-participation due to the game being played in bare feet and they did not relish the idea of running around the cobblestone patio barefooted where there is an ample amount of spittle to be stepped in. The four Americans have, however, managed to keep themselves in excellent physical shape by doing physical exercises. Carswell said his weight was the same as when he was first detained but he had lost two inches around his waist. Taransky said he had actually gained weight. Danbrunt's weight has remained the same but he appears stronger. All four men said they lost weight during their first few weeks of detention at the time they were held at G-2 headquarters on 5th Avenue and 14th Street. They all added that they have gained

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their lost weight back. They attributed their good physical condition to the extra food that is brought to them as it would not be possible to maintain their good health on the prison fare.

Taransky gave Dr. Colomar his Rolex wristwatch to have cleaned and repaired if necessary. He thinks it only needs cleaning. It is an automatic winding type and the other men kidded him saying the only thing wrong with the watch was that Taransky did not move enough to make the hands run.

The men expressed a desire to have reading material of the following type: *Life*, *Time*, *Playboy*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and *Esquire*. Danbrunt asked for a magazine called *Aviation Week* published by McGraw Hill. He said he is not an aviator but an engineer and the magazine contains technical information he enjoys reading.

Danbrunt said he had an ingrown toenail removed by the prison doctor. Carswell also has an ingrown toenail and the others were kidding him about his fear of having it removed. Danbrunt also has a slight skin infection. He said the doctor examined him and found it a mild condition due to the change in the weather. The doctor gave him a prescription and Danbrunt, in turn, gave the prescription to Dr. Colomar to have filled.

Taransky, Danbrunt, and Carswell said they felt reluctant to request so many things, such as sweaters, jackets, frying pan, etc., feeling the expense was too much. I did my best to reassure them that expense was no problem, that their "relatives" wanted them to have everything they needed that was within the prison regulations.

While talking to the men, 1st Lt. FERNANDEZ Contreras entered the room. He was dressed in a leather jacket, green army uniform and an officer's dress sword at his side. He appeared in a cheerful mood. He had earlier informed me on the telephone that I was permitted to bring the men cigarettes and cigars but no canned food. He said the restriction on canned or other preserved food was a temporary measure. During Colomar's conversation with Contreras, Contreras explained the reason for his order. It was, he said, because Major William Morgan was now out

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of solitary confinement and free to mingle with other prisoners in the patio. Contreras said he had reason to believe Morgan was planning a prison breakout or riot. For this reason, Contreras said, he was stopping the prisoners from hoarding canned food. This was so the prisoners could be brought under control, if necessary, by withholding their food. If a supply of canned food was available, he said, the prisoners would be able to continue a riot as long as their food supply lasted.

Recently the men arranged to have hot food brought to them. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] It is usually chicken, hams, etc. Due to the weather being cool, the men have managed to stretch this supply from 5 to 6 days.

We visited with the men for about one hour. Contreras remained in the general area. Rather than prolong the visit and risk Contreras' displeasure, we all agreed that the visit had already gone past the usual expected time. The men returned to the patio and I returned to the Embassy with Colomar.

I showed Dr. Colomar Mr. Murphy's letter dated November 15. He said he was glad to hear from Mr. Murphy but did not want to take the letter with him for his files as it was addressed in care of me with the address of the Embassy. Colomar would like Mr. Murphy to write another letter using his Habana address. Colomar also expressed an interest in knowing Mr. Murphy's reaction to the memorandum Colomar circulated through Dr. Lona to members of the tribunal.

Colomar also said Dr. Longa had requested him to return to his office this Wednesday, December 7, to ascertain whether or not there was any news regarding the decision of the Ministry of Armed Forces.

Action Requested:

I suggest Mr. Murphy have forwarded through the pouch an electric frying pan (110-115 V. A. C.), small transistor radio, and subscriptions to magazines as indicated in this memorandum. They should be addressed to the individual

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men to make delivery at the prison easier.

Mr. Murphy might also write another letter to Dr. Colomar using Colomar's Havana address. Colomar is running a risky life handling this case and has indicated he would like a "pat on the back" occasionally.

For Christmas the relatives of the men might send small parcels containing items such as those sent to men overseas during World War II, e.g., candy, sewing kits, and other odds and ends avoiding canned food. I think this would not harm their case and would appear to be the normal thing expected.



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Hugh D. Kessler

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APPENDIX L

Illustrations

(Note: Photos will be found only  
in Copies 1 and 2 of this history.)

APPENDIX L

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