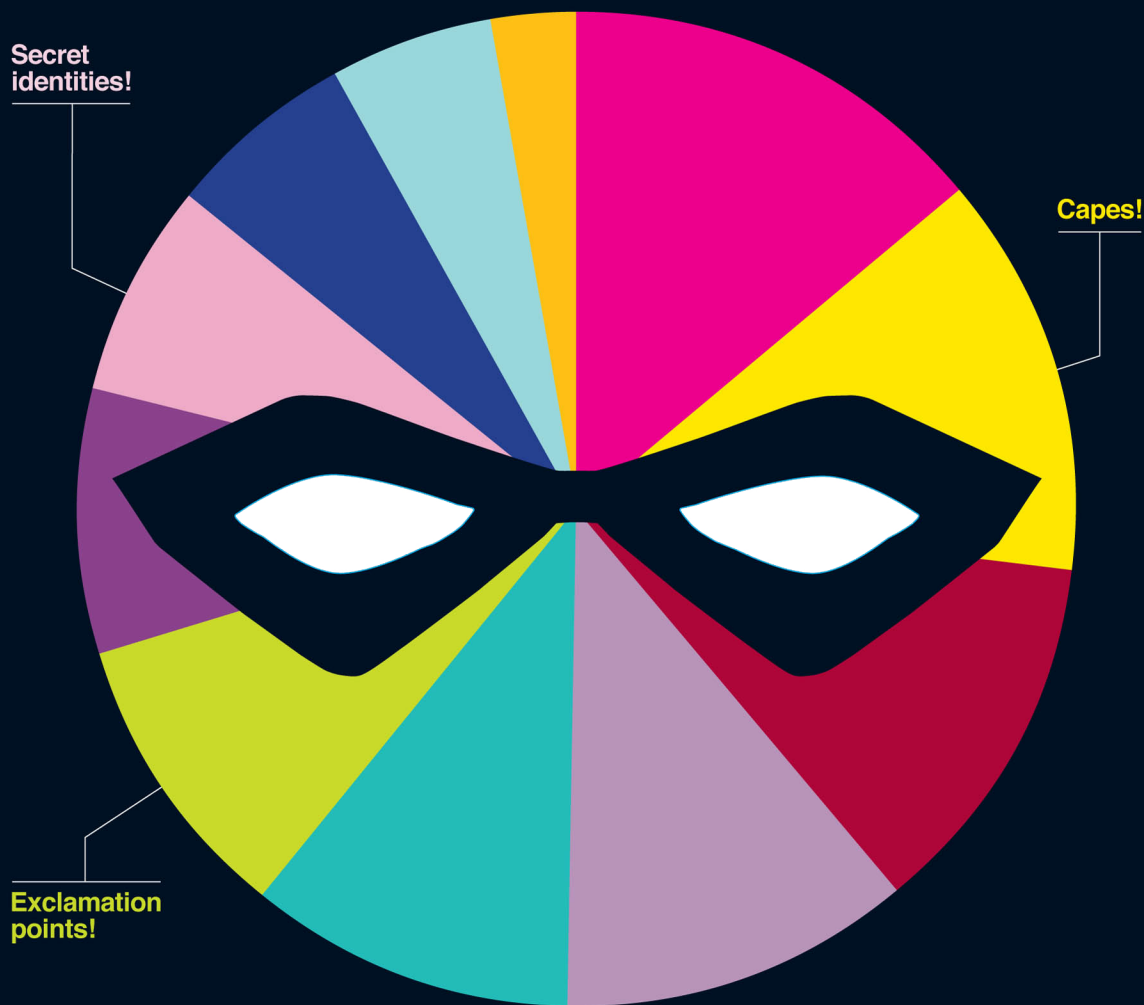
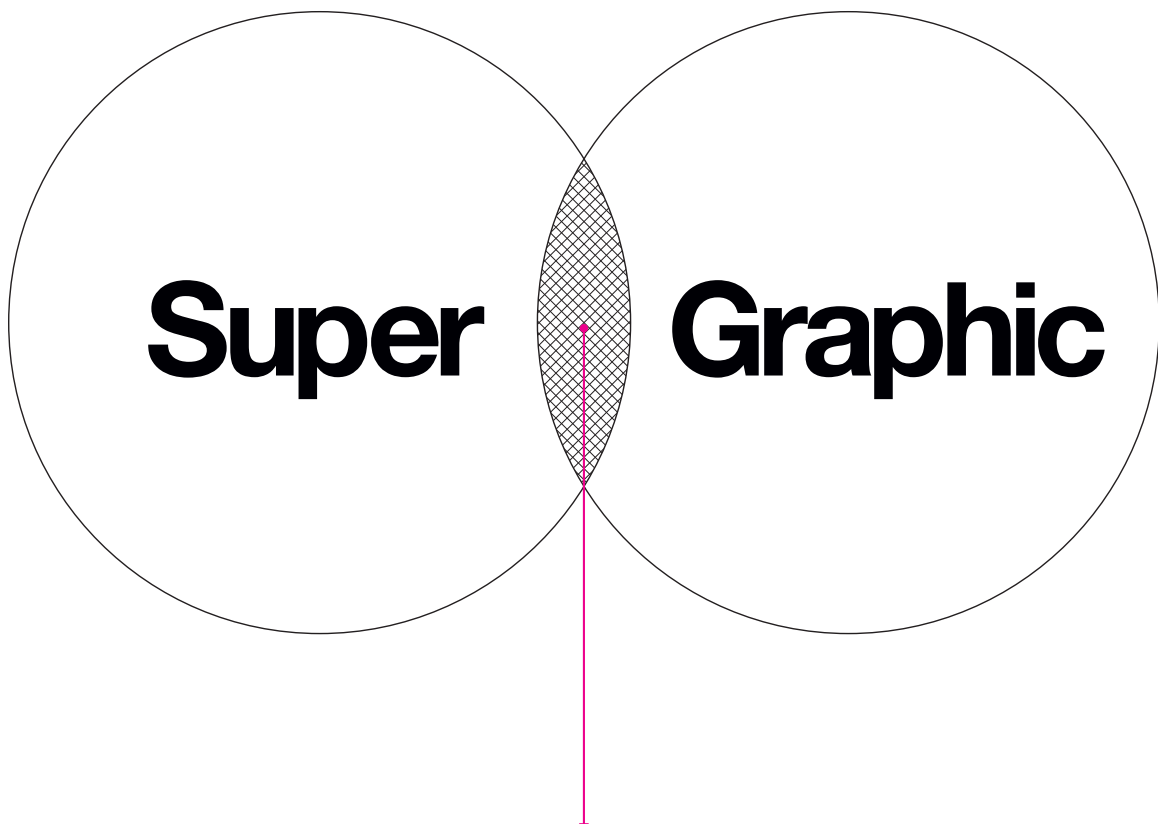


Super Graphic



A VISUAL GUIDE TO THE COMIC BOOK UNIVERSE

Tim Leong



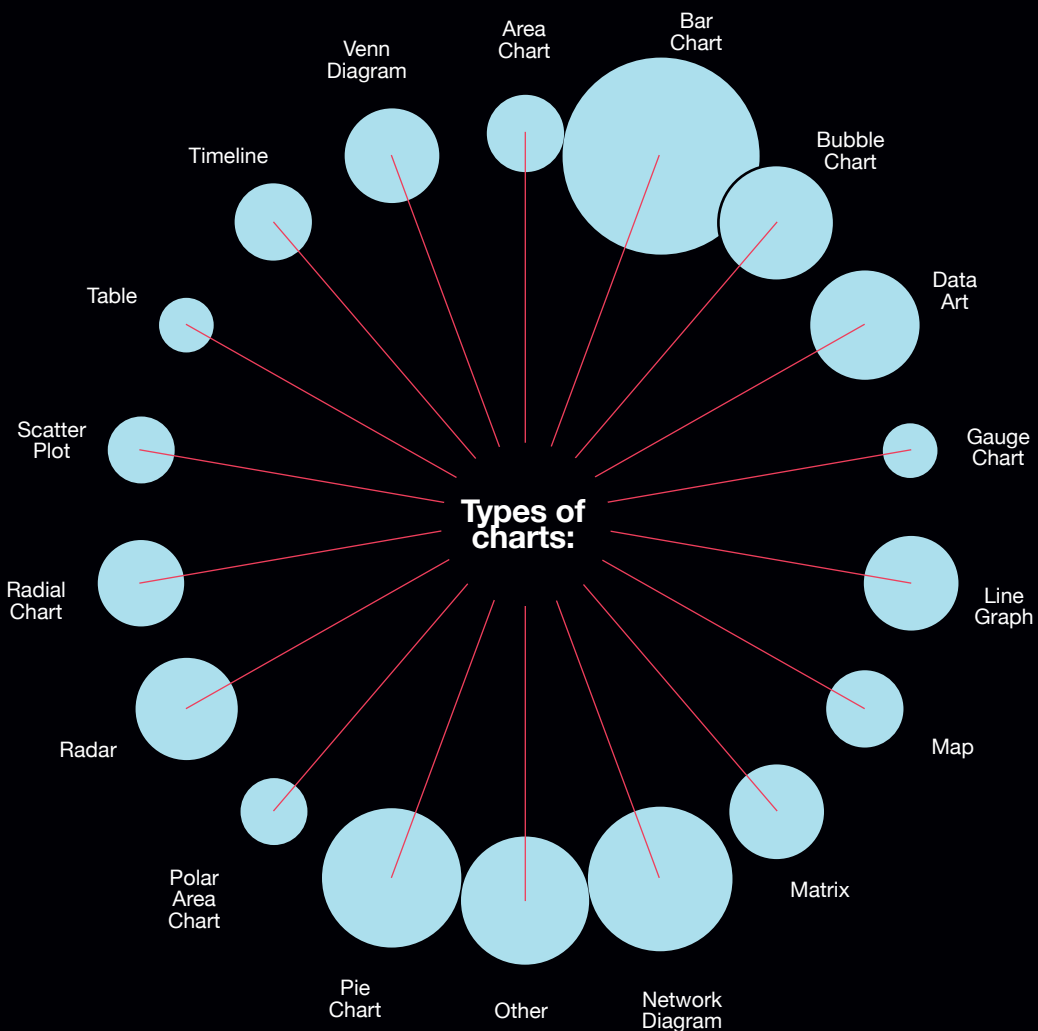
A VISUAL GUIDE TO THE COMIC BOOK UNIVERSE

Tim Leong



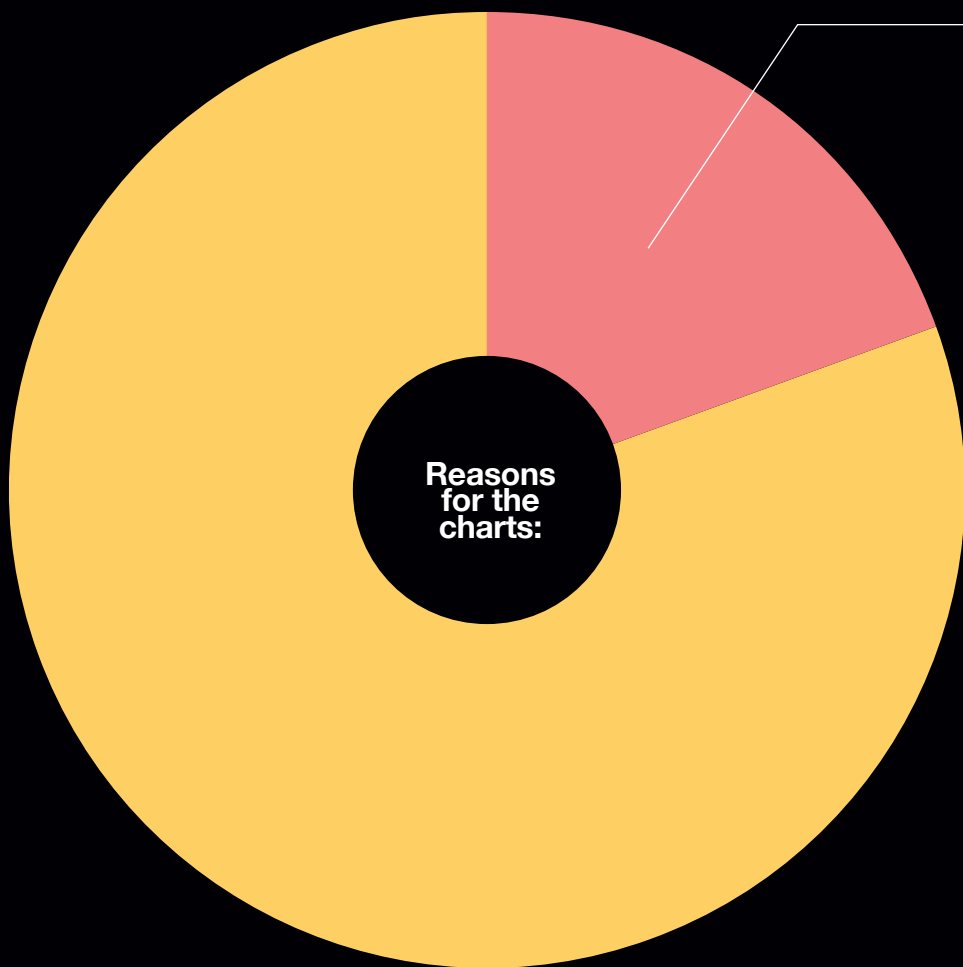
CHRONICLE BOOKS
SAN FRANCISCO

What's in This Book?



What the charts are about:

SUPERHEROES	NON-SUPERHEROES
-------------	-----------------



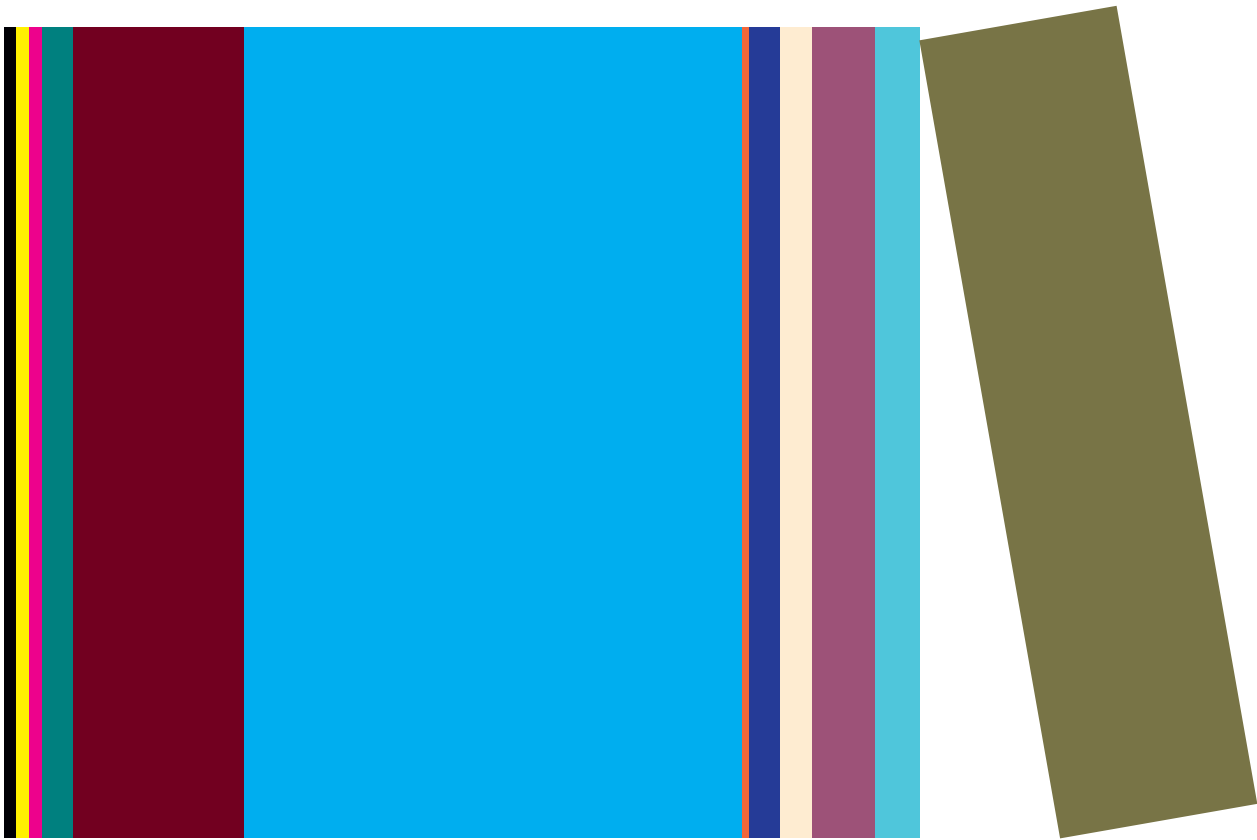
● TO INFORM

● TO ENTERTAIN

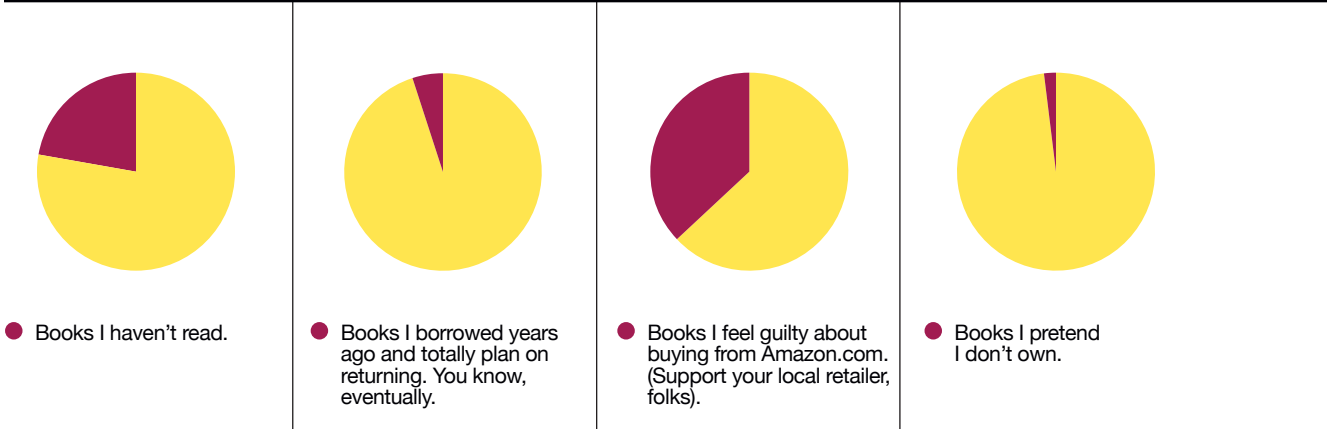
Charts
that are
funny

Charts that are not as
funny as I think they are
(including this one)

My Bookshelf

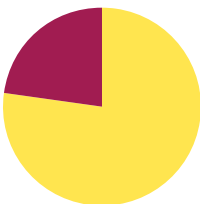


● Ad House Books ● Archaia Entertainment ● BOOM! Studios ● Drawn & Quarterly ● Dark Horse Comics ● DC Comics
● Dynamite Entertainment ● Fantagraphics Books ● First Second ● Icon ● IDW Publishing ● Image Comics

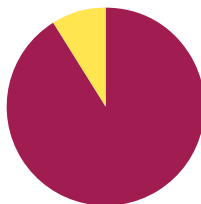




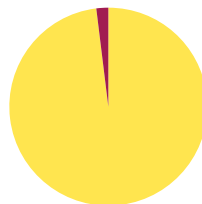
● Marvel Comics ● MAX ● Oni Press ● Other ● Pantheon Books ● Scholastic ● SLG Publishing ● Tokyopop
 ● Top Shelf Productions ● Vertical, Inc. ● Vertigo ● Viz Media ● Wildstorm



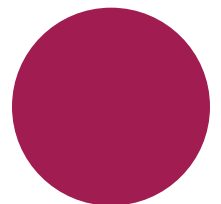
● Books I've read more than once.



● Books I bought only because I like the writer.



● Books I've bought multiple copies of because I forgot that I owned them.



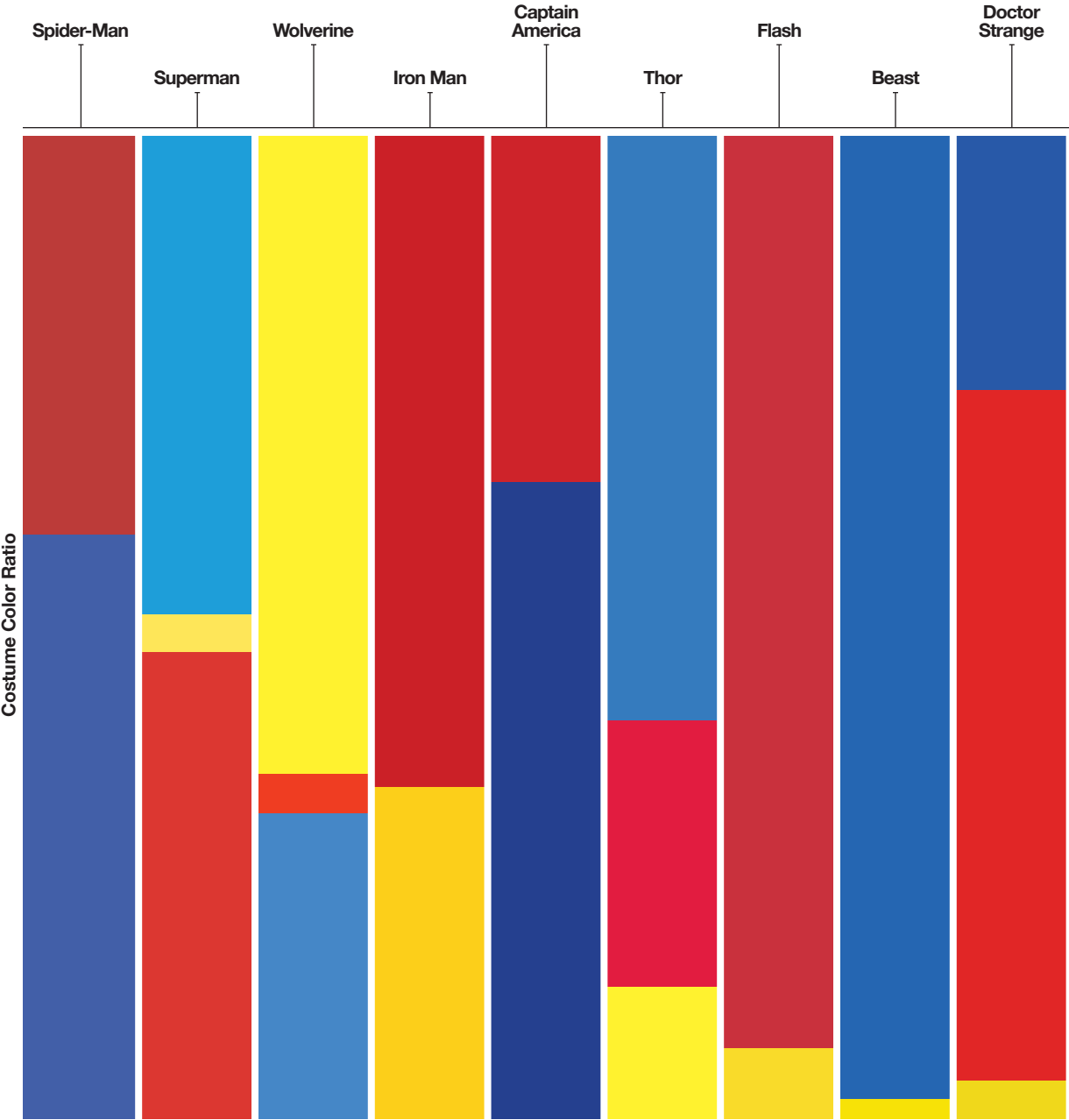
● Incomplete series I plan on compulsively completing.

True Colors

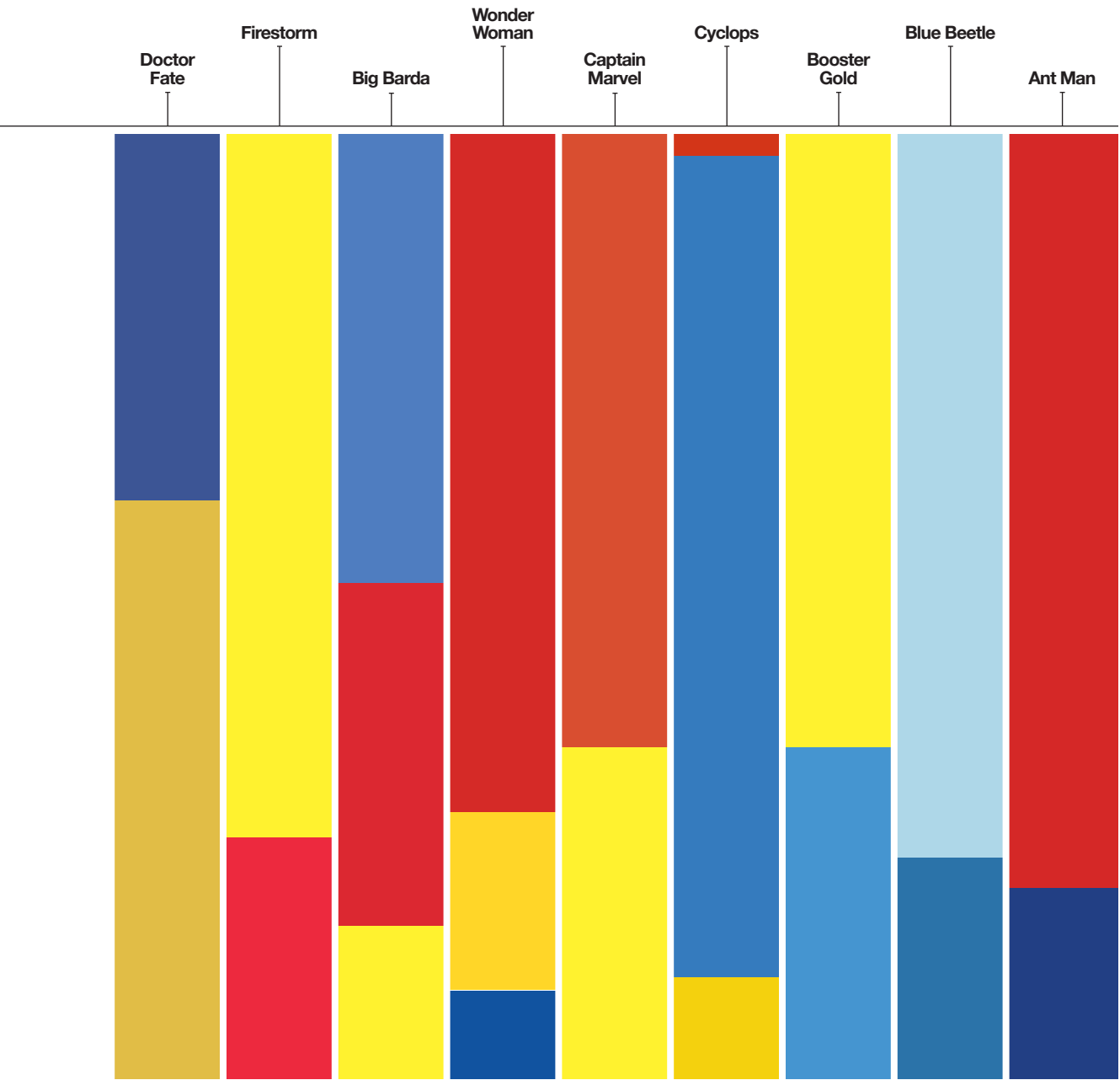
Crimson Cavalier	Crimson Daffodil	Scarlet Scarab	Red Ronin	Red Hulk	Pink Pearl	Green Torpedo
Crimson Dynamo	Scarlet Witch	Red Nine	Omega Red	Pink Lady	Yellow Claw	Fiddler's Green
Scarlet Spider	Red Tornado	Redwing	Percy Pinkerton	Yellow Kid	Hershel Greene	Green Turtle
Red Skull	Red Sonja	Red Hood	Pinky Pinkerton	Yellowjacket	Green Lama	Green Hornet
Red Robin	Red Ghost	Lonesome Pinky	Booster Gold	Green Arrow	Green Lantern	Blue Streak
Rose Red	Pinky	Yellow Wasp	Jade Dragon	Jade Emperor	Blue Diamond	Blue Falcon
Rose	Yellow Peri	Abe Brown	Jade	Blue Devil	Rafaella Blue	Ultra Violet
Agent Orange	Charlie Brown	Sage	Blue Beetle	Cobalt Blue	Indigo Eshun	Black Bolt
Stephanie Brown	Yorick Brown	Blue Bolt	Deep Blue	Odysseus Indigo	Black Adam	Black Panther

Green Skull	Bomo Greenbark	Green Thumb	Blue Marvel	Blue Eagle	Purple Zombie	Black Widow
Green Sorceress	Green Ghoul	Blue Shield	Norwegian Blue	Purple Claw	Black Canary	Blackheart
Green Goblin	Crazy Blue Rocket	Bluebird	Purple Phantom	Black Knight	Black Cloak	Black Goliath
Blue Blade	Boy Blue	Purple Mask	Camilla Black	Black Talon	Silver Surfer	Silver Squire
Code Blue	Purple Marauder	Black Mamba	Black Lightning	Silver Fox	Silver Sable	White Queen
Violet Grey	Black Jack	Black Spectre	Silver Samurai	Silver Racer	Ebony White	Aelfyre Whitemane
Black Tom Cassidy	Black Mantis	Silver Scorpion	Silverclaw	Jean Grey	White Dragon	White Ghost
Black Cat	Silver Dagger	Silver	Graymalkin	Whiteout	White Rabbit	White Noise
Silvermane	Silver Sentry	Nate Grey	Perry White	Whiteface	White Wolf	White Tiger

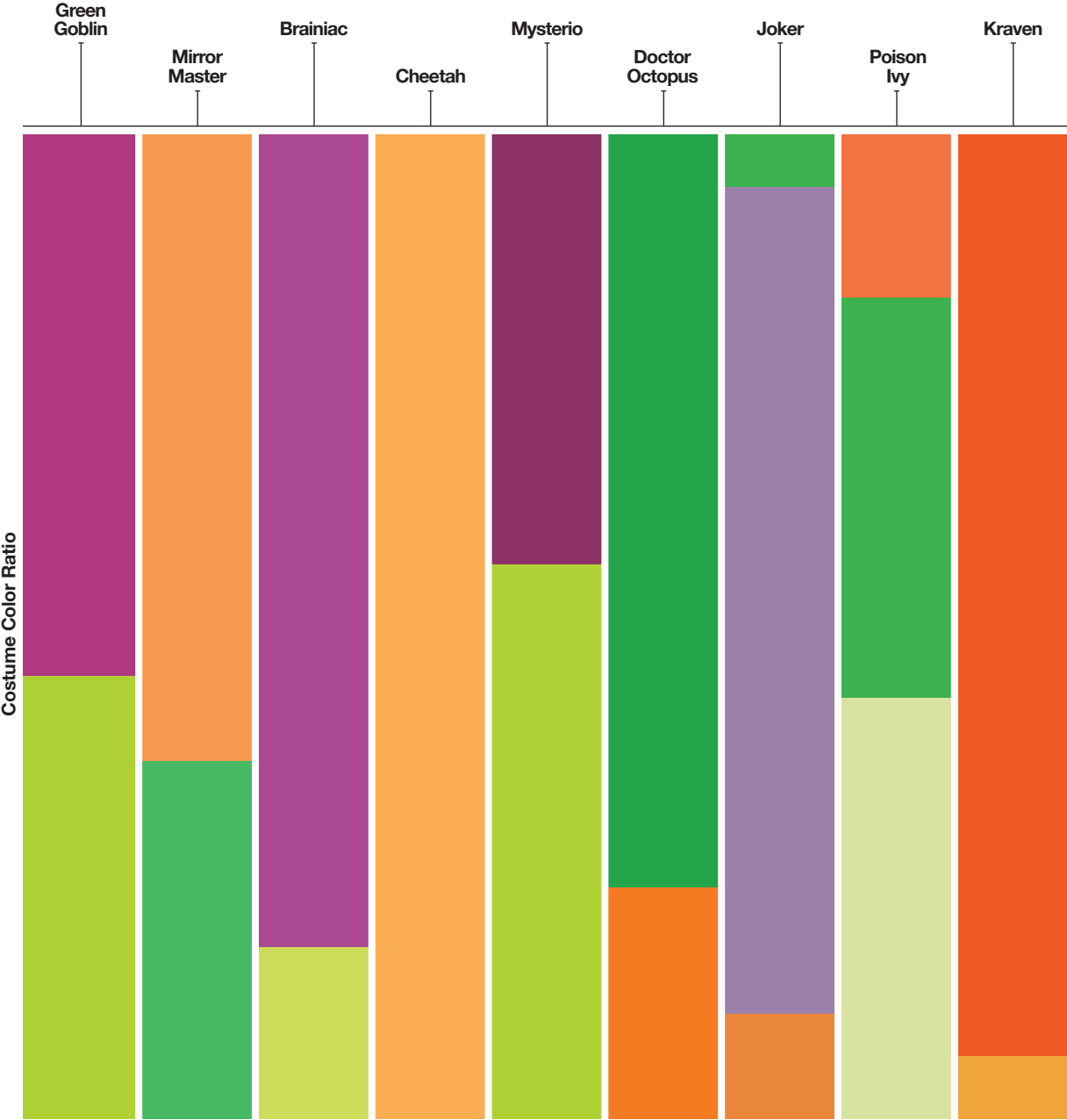
Superheroes and Primary Colors



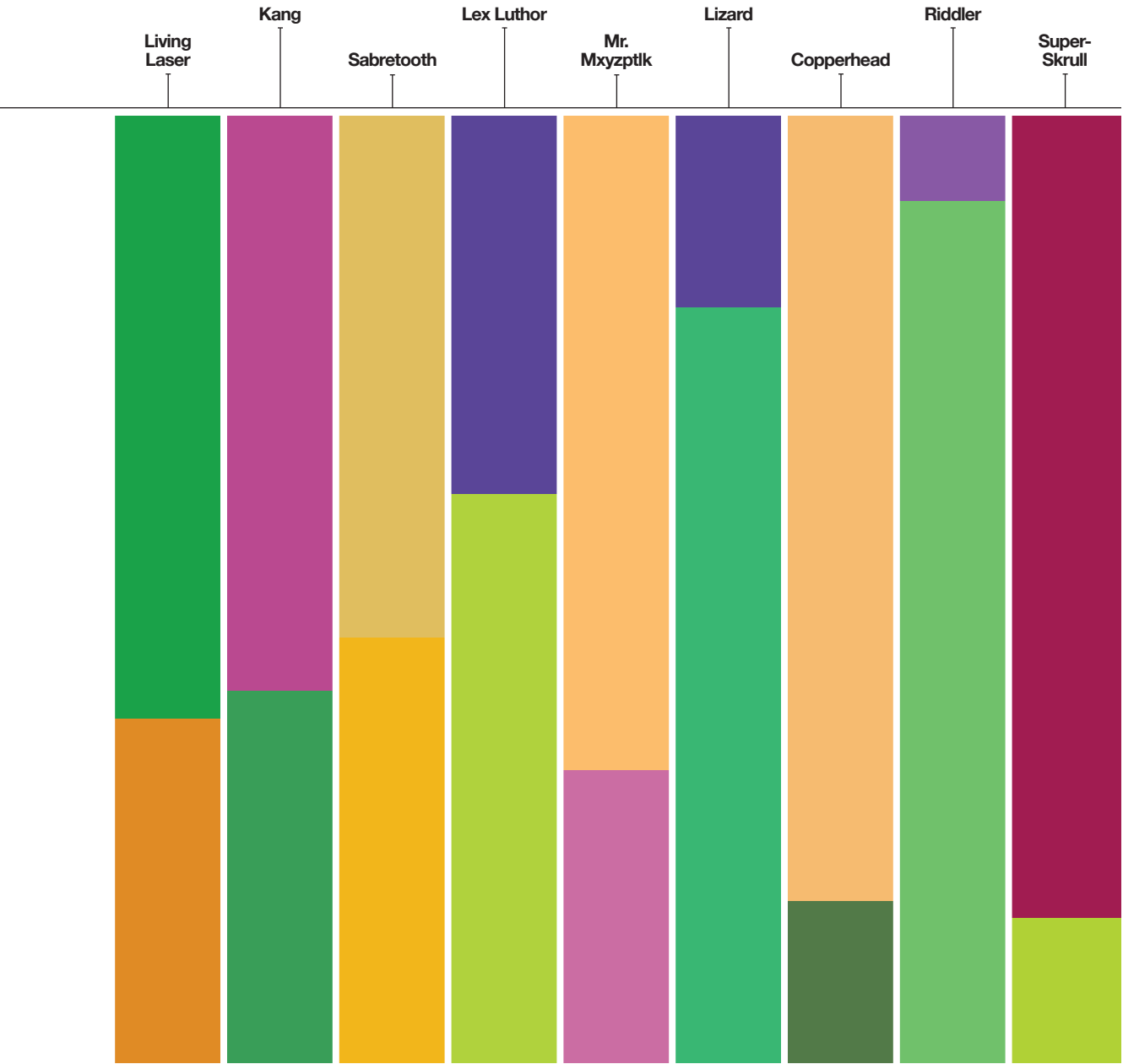
Historically, superhero costumes have been designed in reds, yellows, and blues. The decisions are about more than just what looks good; spandex in primary colors is a visual cue to the character's heroic nature.



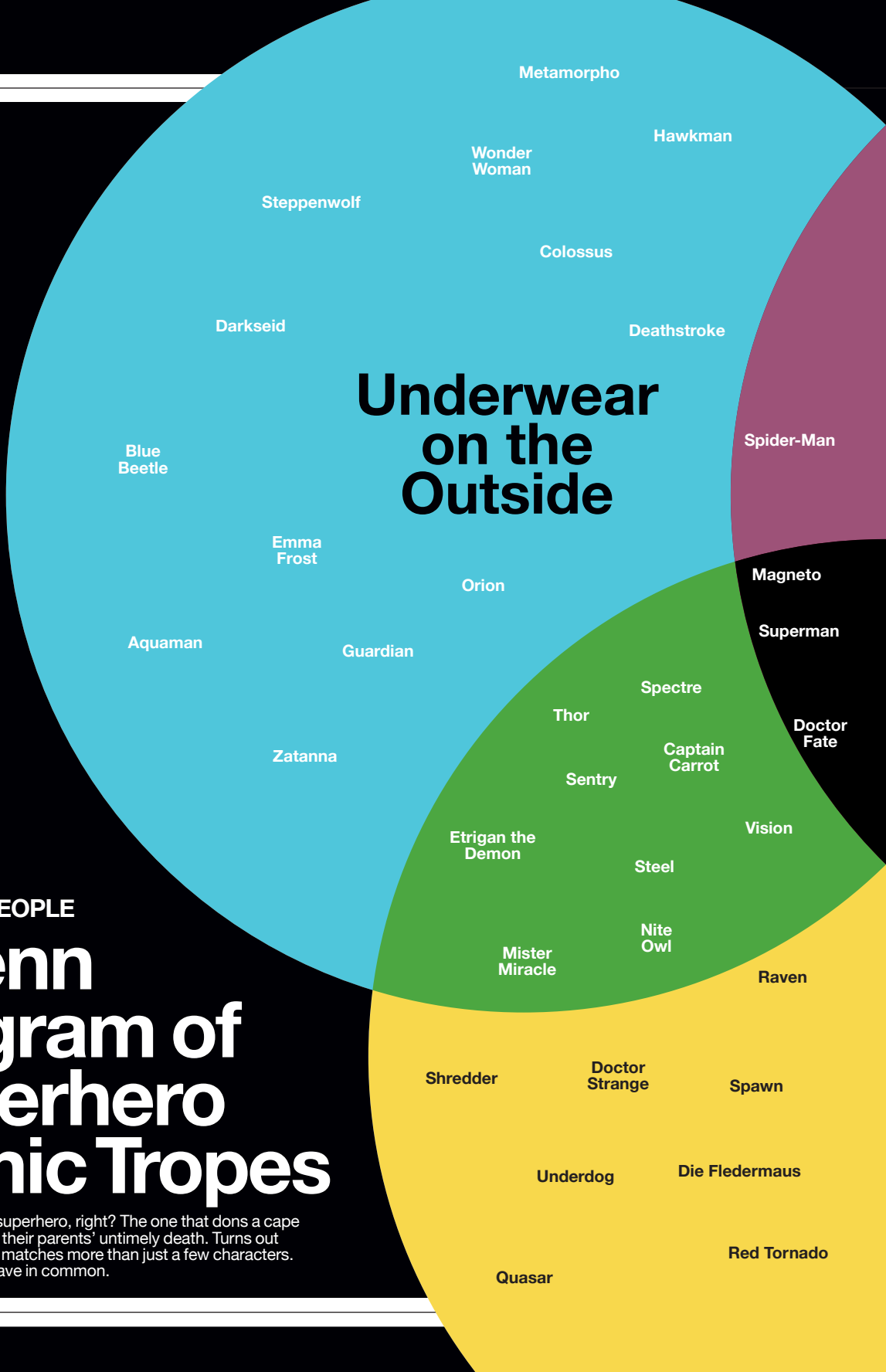
Supervillains and Secondary Colors



Like superheroes, supervillains developed a set of costume conventions early on, too. Orange, green, and purple are a signal of a character's evil intentions.



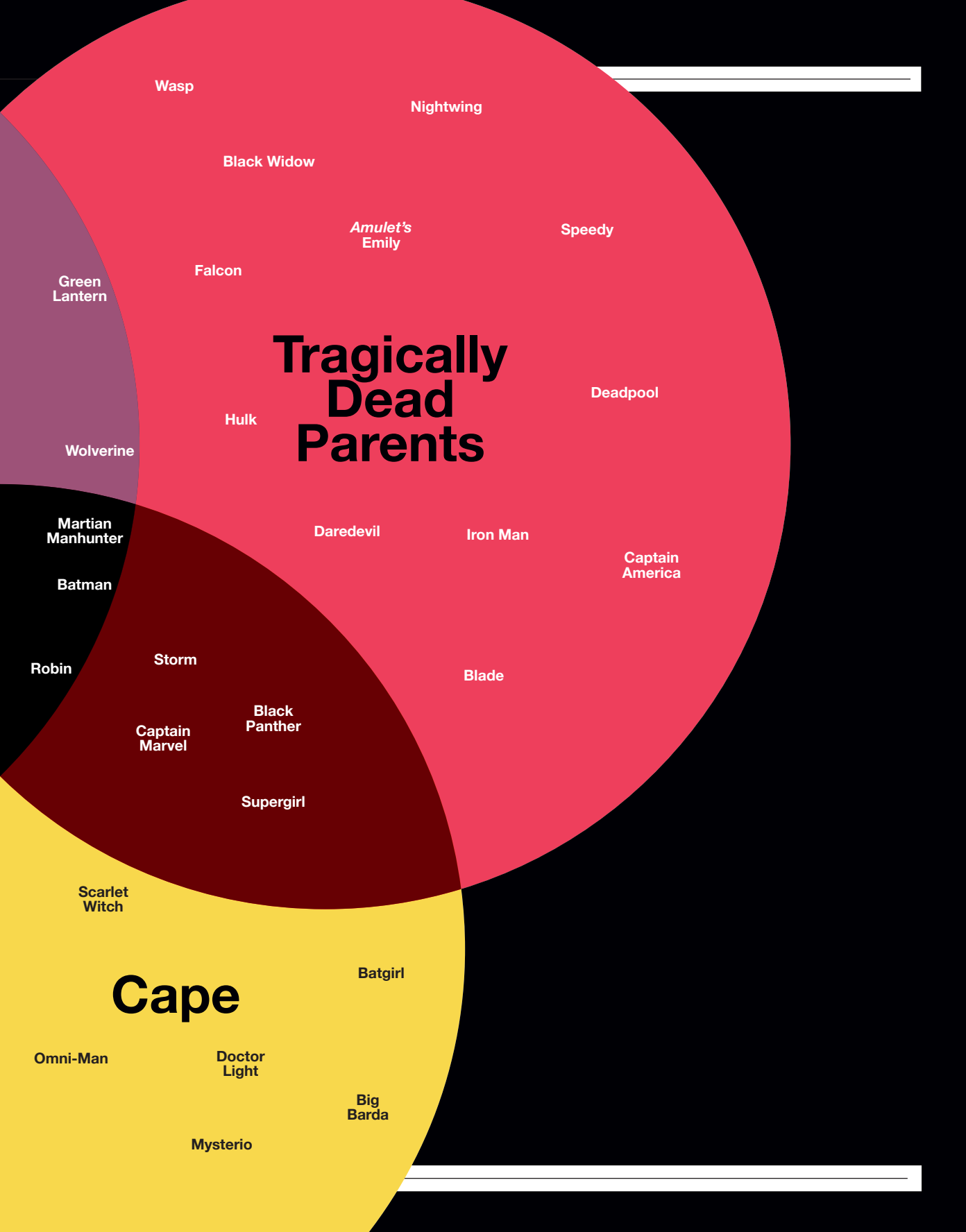
Underwear on the Outside



COMMON PEOPLE

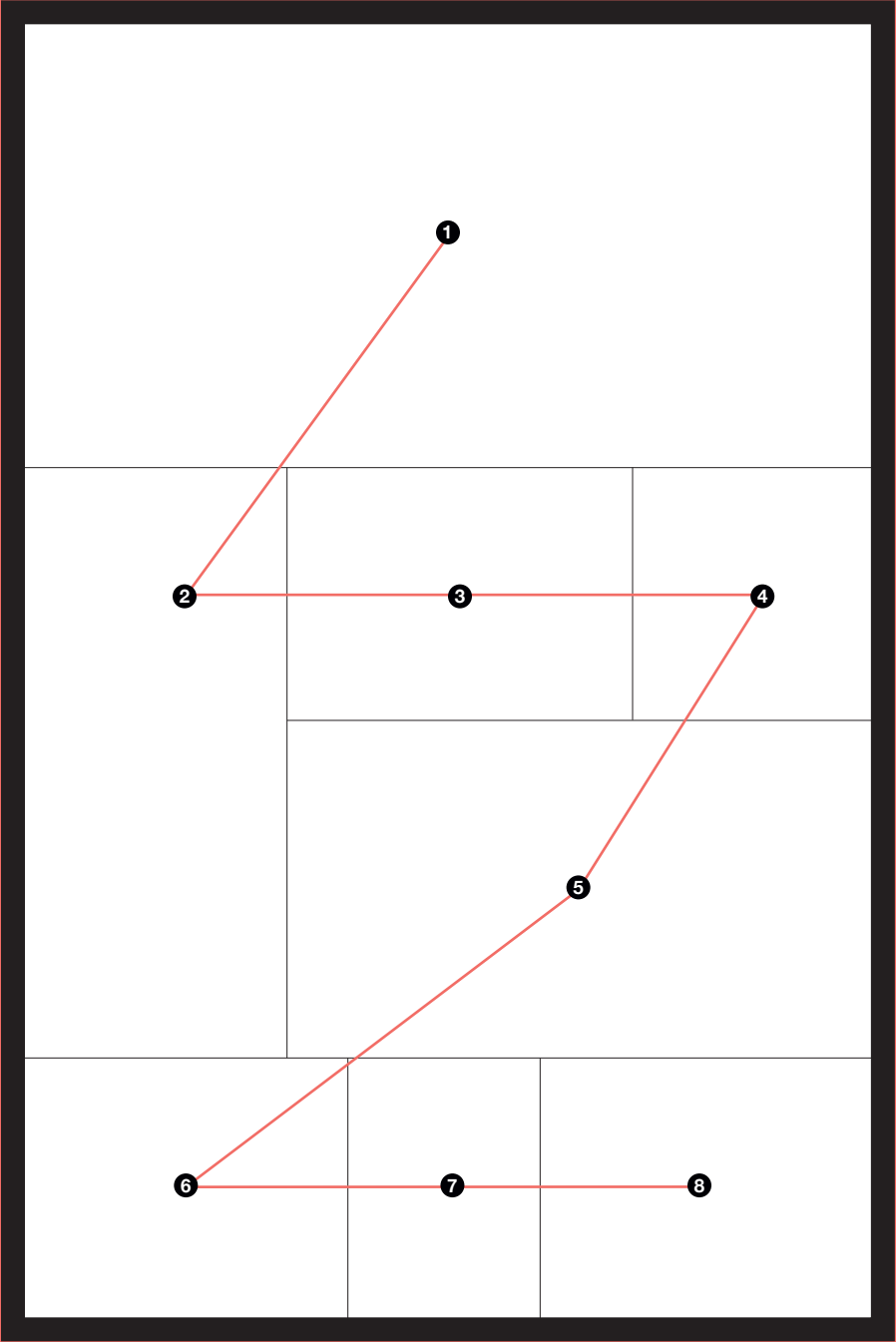
A Venn Diagram of Superhero Comic Tropes

You know that one superhero, right? The one that dons a cape and tights following their parents' untimely death. Turns out that the description matches more than just a few characters. Here's what most have in common.



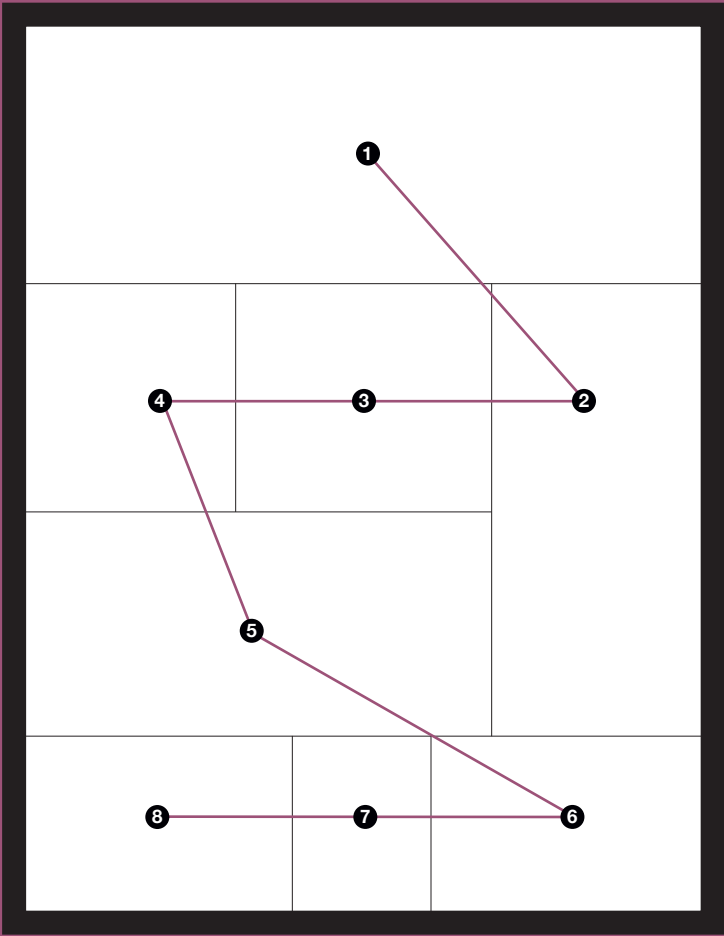
How to Read a Comic Book

ENGLISH



The 22 pages that are standard in American comics are read pretty much like any other book you pick up: from left to right and top to bottom. Japanese comics though, called *manga*, are bound on the other side and are read from right to left. Manga is printed on smaller-sized paper than its American counterpart and has six times the number of pages.

JAPANESE



What Is Manga?

Manga is the Japanese word for comics. In Japan, it's a massive industry, making up nearly a quarter of all printed material. Typically, manga is first published in 850-page anthology magazines that serialize chapters from several different comics. Successful stories are then collected individually and sold afterward as books known as *tankobon*. Manga created in the United States is called OEL manga, or Original English-Language manga.

History

Though manga has ties to Japanese art and culture dating back to the 1800s, modern manga originated after WWII.

Around 1920, Japan started printing magazines with illustrated stories focusing on fun. In the 1930s, however, the tone shifted to military heroism and soldiers preparing for battle.

With Japan's entry into WWII, manga was limited to all-ages content, and in some cases, propaganda against the Allied forces.

After Japan's defeat and the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the country found solace in lighter fare including:

Sazae-san (1946), the story of a resilient housewife. The creator, Machiko Hasegawa, was one of the few women working in the industry at the time.

Another success was Osamu Tezuka's manga and eventual TV show, *Astro Boy* (1951), about a super-powered robot boy. Tezuka went on to become the animation equivalent of Walt Disney in Japan.

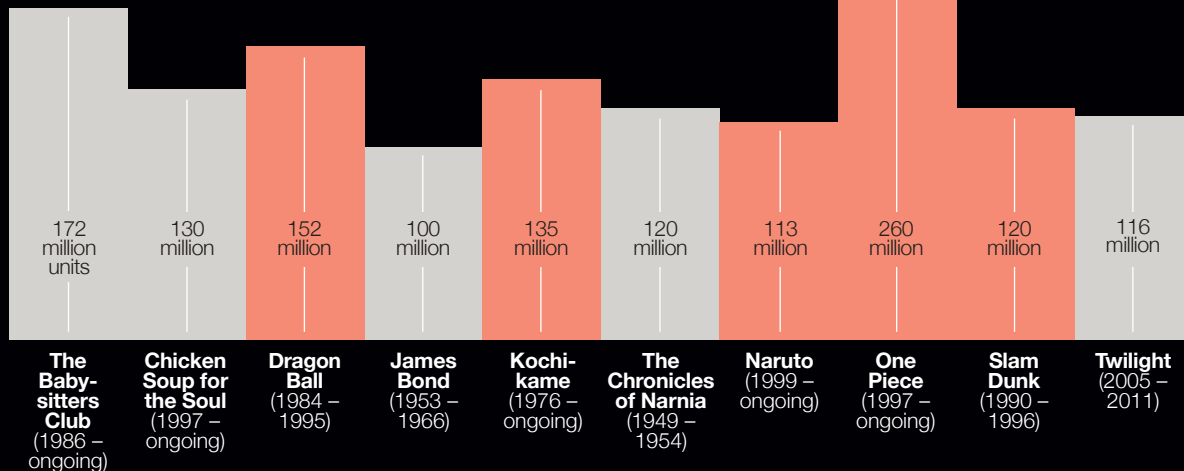
Longest-running manga

Golgo 13 (1969 – ongoing), 160 vol. ***Dokaben*** (1972 – ongoing), 165 vol. ***Kochikame*** (1976 – ongoing), 176 vol.

Bestselling manga in Japan vs. worldwide bestsellers

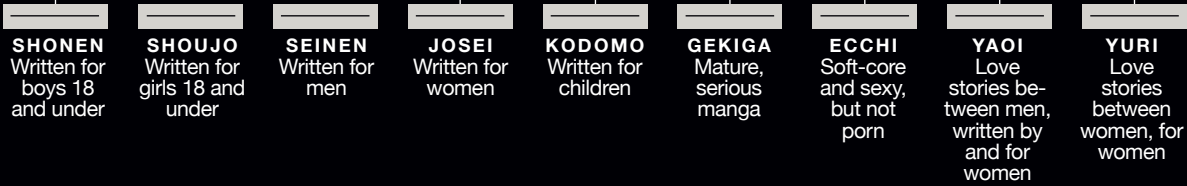
as of 2012

■ MANGA ■ NON-MANGA



Types of manga

If this were a manga, the headline would be over here. And in Japanese.



Manga content

While superheroes dominate American comics, Japanese manga is much more diverse and without a single genre overshadowing the market.

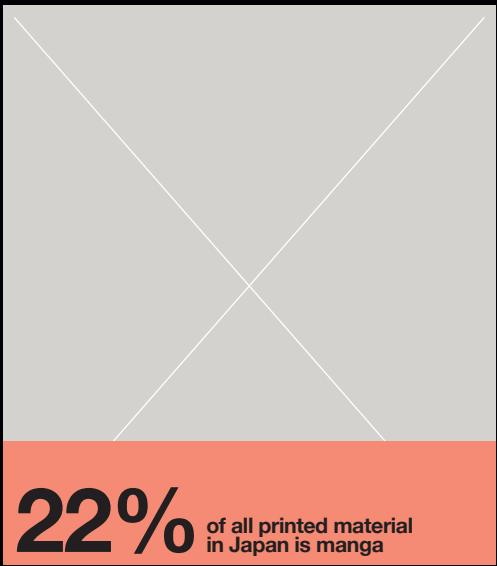
Japan

ACTION	ADVENTURE	BUSINESS
COMEDY	FANTASY	FOOD
HORROR	MYSTERY	ROMANCE
SCIENCE FICTION	SEX	SPORTS

America

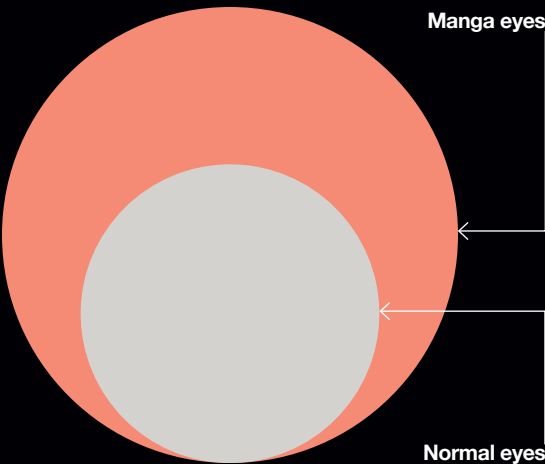


Big in Japan



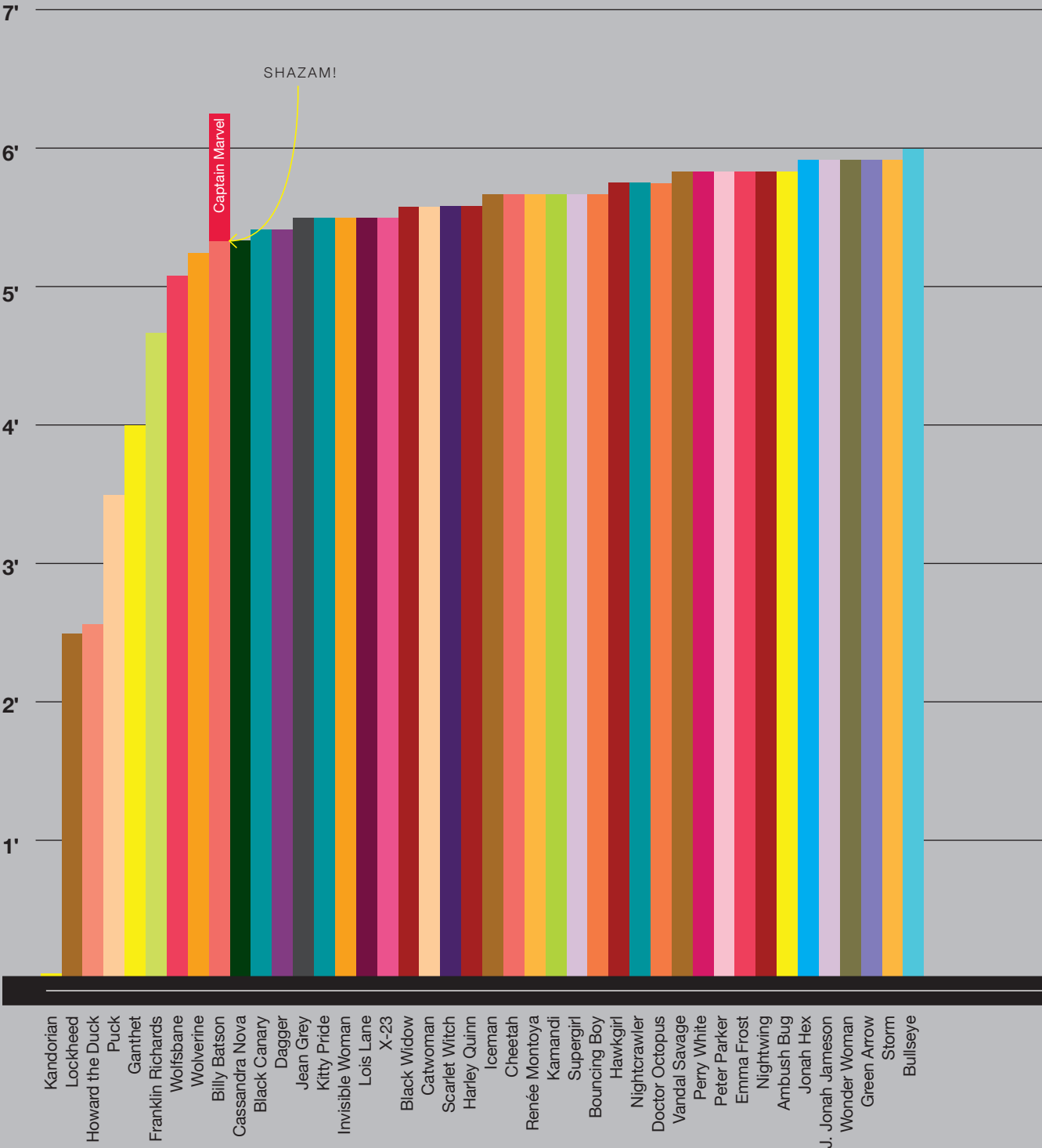
Physical attributes

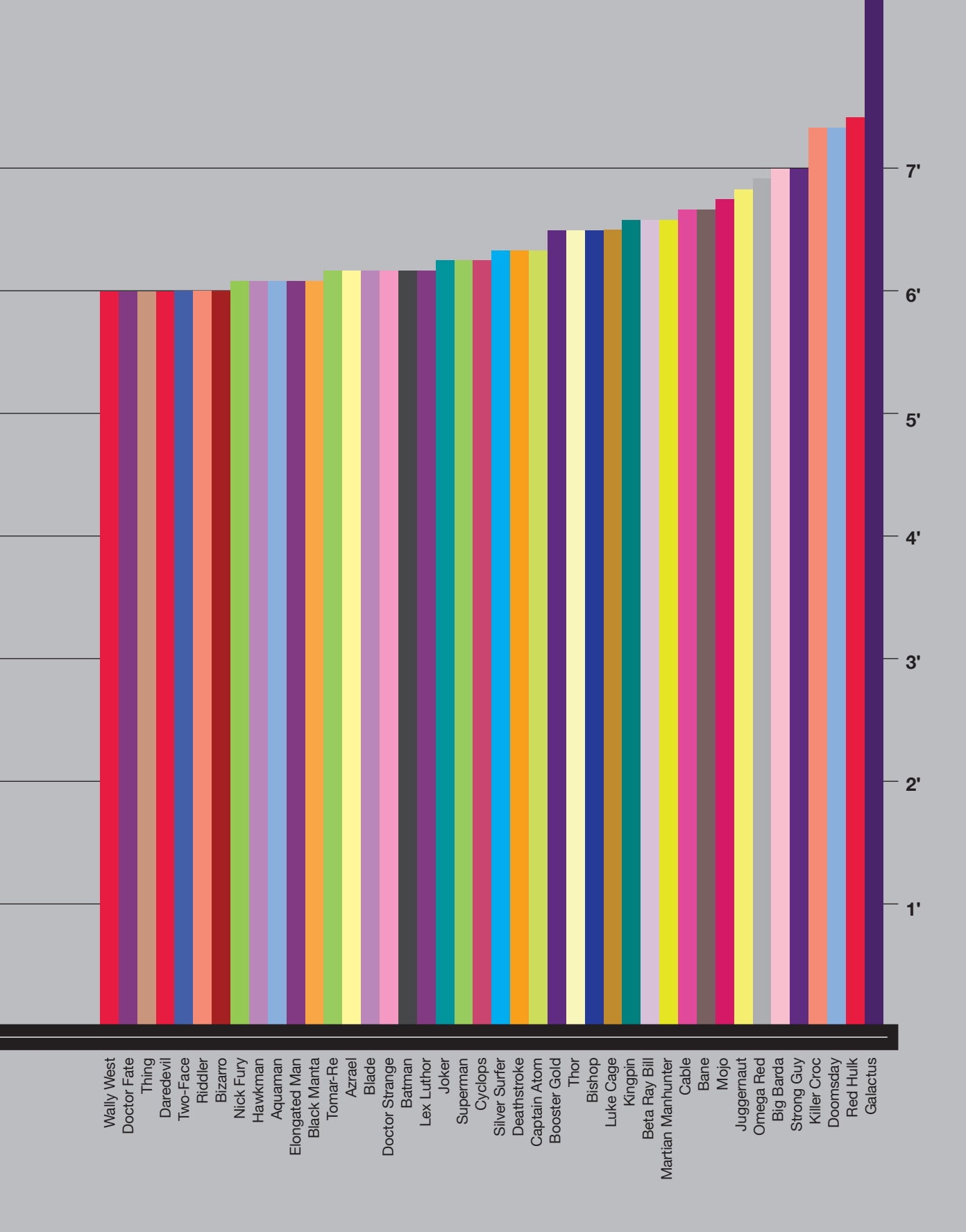
Some characters tend to be drawn with exaggerated eyes, a small nose, and a very expressive mouth.



Character Lineup

From insect-sized to giant, this crowd is full of standouts in stature.





Character Weigh-In



Juggernaut
1,900



Deathlok
825



M.O.D.O.K.
750



Cyclops
195



Black Manta
205



Batman
210



Captain
America
220



Silver
Surfer
225



Lobo
250



Sentry
194



Joker
192



Black Lightning
182



Big Barda
175



Spider-Man
167



Alfred
Pennyworth
160

Sometimes weight means power. You wouldn't think so by looking at him, but Kingpin is all muscle mass. The same can't be said for Chunk, who is aptly named. Here's how superheroes and villains in Marvel and DC titles compare on the scales, in pounds.



She-Hulk
650



Darkseid
515



Chunk
515



Kingpin
450



Namor
278



Wolverine
300



Bane
350



Beast
402



Luke Cage
425



Renée
Montoya
144



Catwoman
133



Barbara
Gordon
121



Black
Canary
120



Aunt May
110



Longshot
80



Bat-Mite
47



Doll
Man
7.5

Map Quest

Locating the fictional world's most important super cities and countries.

● Character lives/is from here ○ Location referenced in character's series



Antarctica



The Arctic

Fortress of Solitude
(Superman)

Territory of Polar Parasites
(Kamandi)

Monster Island
(Mole Man)

Neo-Tokyo
(Akira)

Nanda Parbat
(Deadman)

Providence
(Cable)

Gaipajama
(Tintin)

Kanga Rat Murder Society
(Kamandi)

Slorenia
(Bloodwraith)

Rumekistan
(Cable)

Latveria
(Dr. Doom)

Genosha
(Magneto)

Wakanda
(Black Panther)

Transia
(New Men)

Olympia
(The Eternals)

Gorilla City
(Gorilla Grodd)

Symkaria
(Silver Sable)

Markovia
(Terra/
Teen Titans)

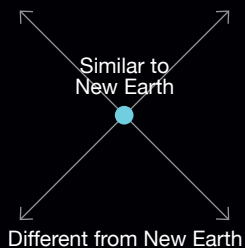
Braddock Lighthouse
(Excalibur)

Muir Island
(X-Men)

WELCOME TO THE MULTIVERSE

Wait, There's More Than One Earth?

There's no easy way to say this . . . this Earth is not the only Earth. Still with me? Okay. So, the DC Comics world you're most familiar with—the one where Superman grows up in Smallville and Bruce Wayne decides to avenge his parents by becoming Batman—(a.k.a. New Earth) is actually a part of a larger “multiverse” where there are an endless number of possible Earths. But that changed in 1985 when DC used its fiftieth anniversary to launch one of the most famous stories of all time, *Crisis on Infinite Earths*. During the 12-issue series, most of the alternate Earths are destroyed. The few that remain are pulled together to form one single Earth, destroying the multiverse in the process. This single-Earth setup lasts twenty years until the sequel, *Infinite Crisis*, relaunched the multiverse. This time around the possibilities aren't endless, as the multiverse hosts a finite number (52 at the moment) of possible Earths.



Every day is opposite day. Here, Abraham Lincoln assassinates President John Wilkes Booth, and Ultraman (Superman), Owlman (Batman), and Johnny Quick (Flash) are members of the Crime Society of America. The Joker (Joker) is the hero, naturally.

EARTH 3

EARTH 15

EARTH 8

EARTH 11

Genders are flipped on Earth 11. Here you'll find Superwoman, Batwoman, and Wonder Man.

EARTH 6

EARTH 33

EARTH 32

EARTH 34

EARTH 16

Home of the Cartoon Network show *Young Justice*.

EARTH 22

EARTH 1

EARTH 2

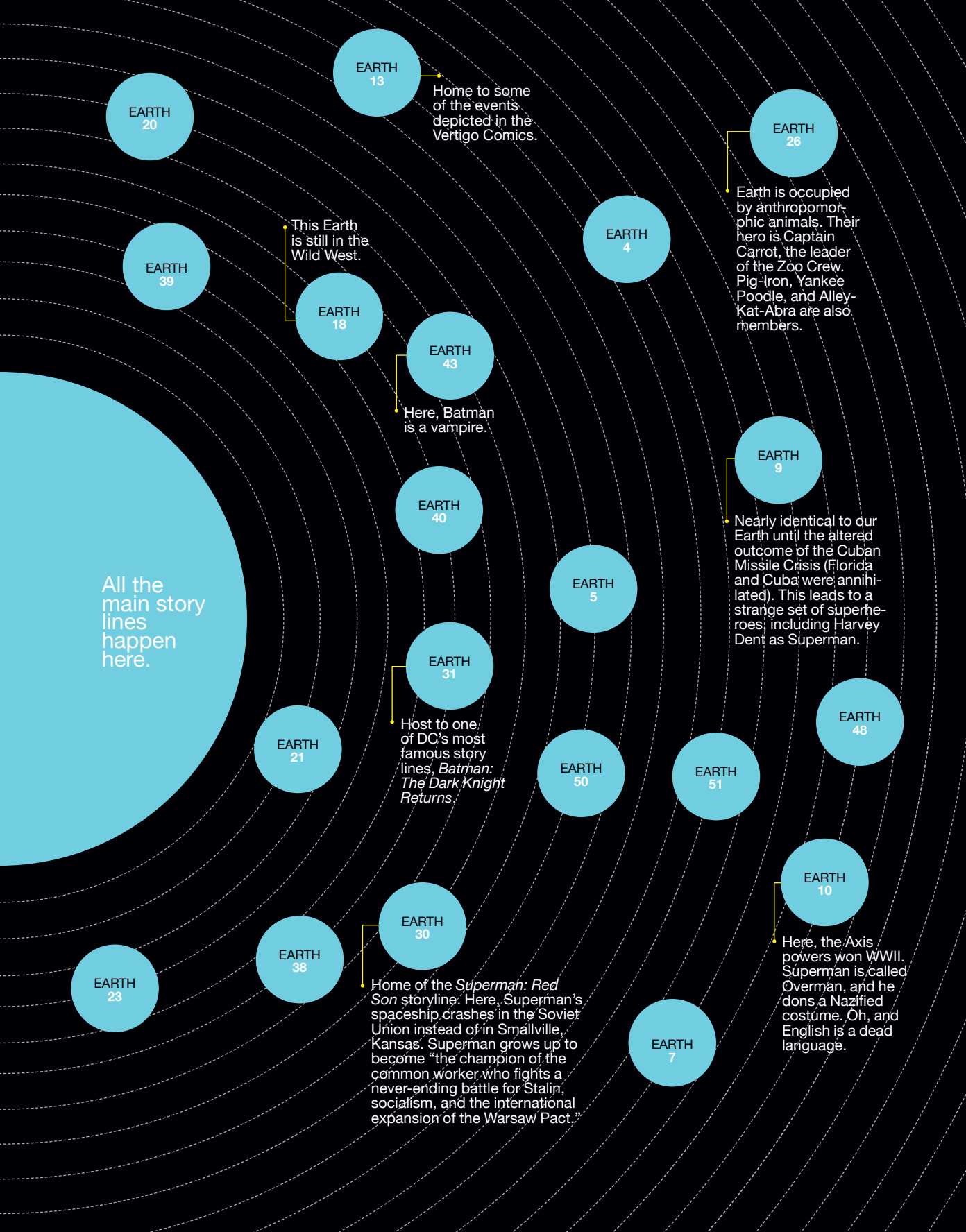
EARTH 19

EARTH 44

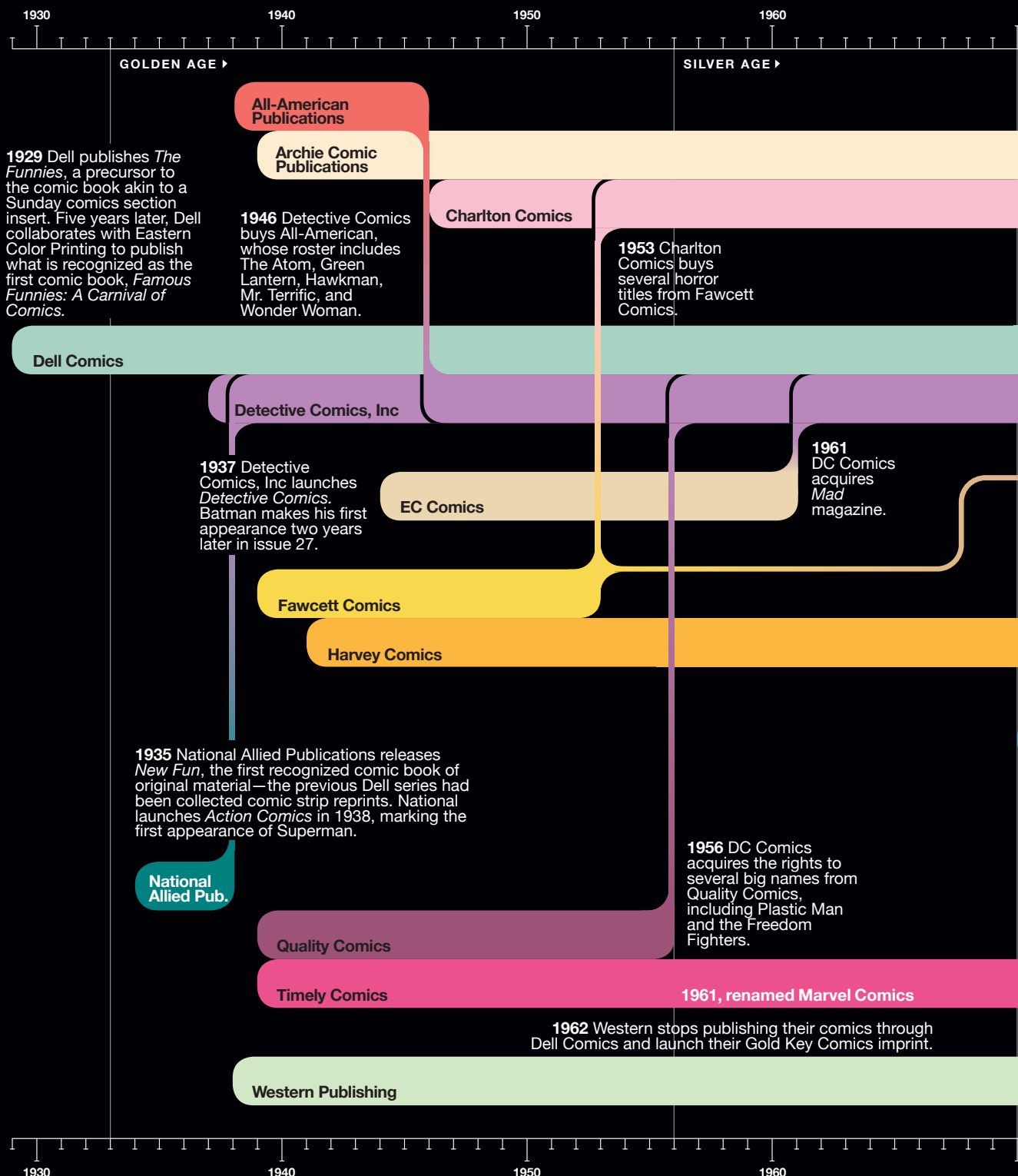
EARTH 12

EARTH 37

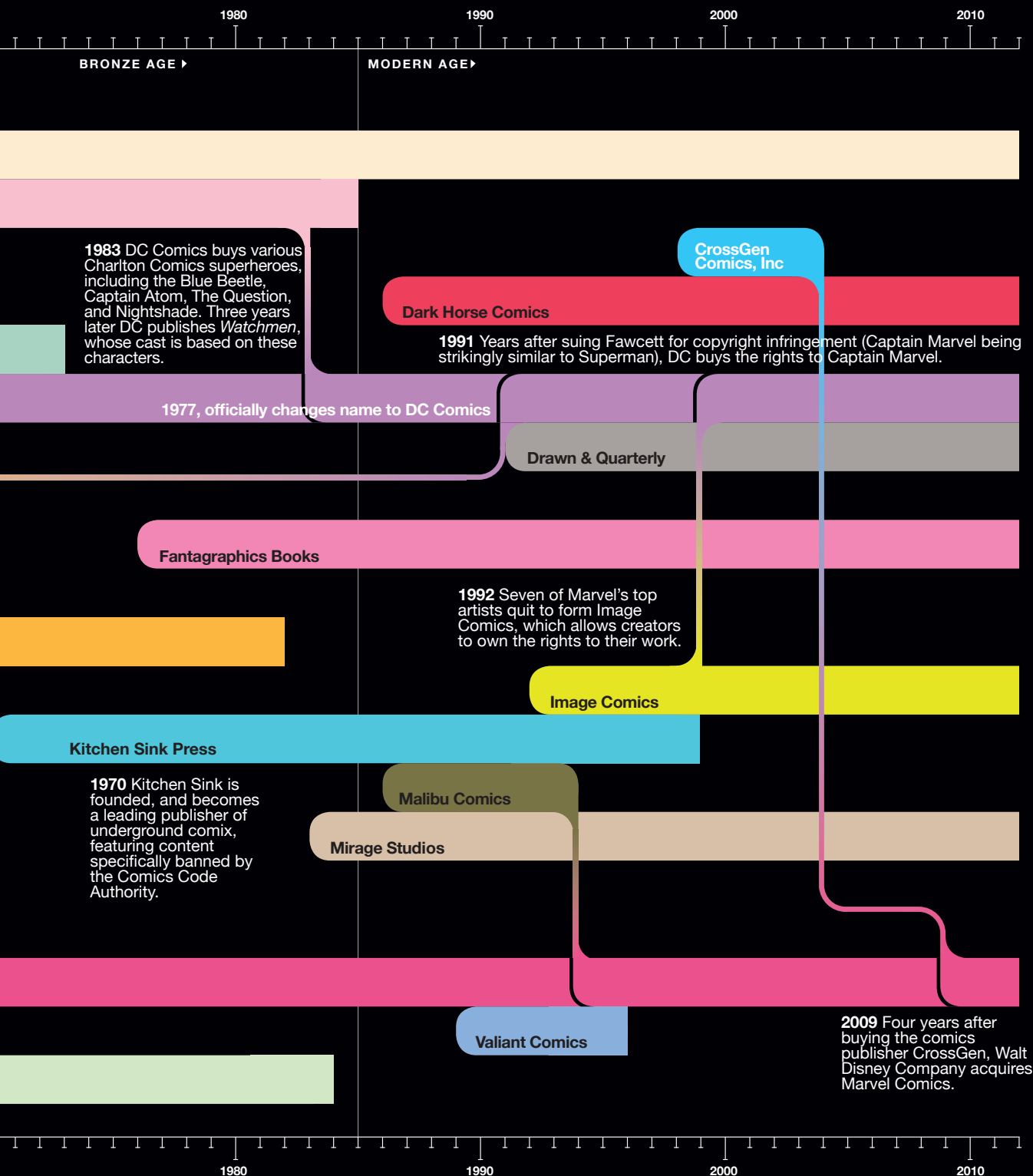
New Earth



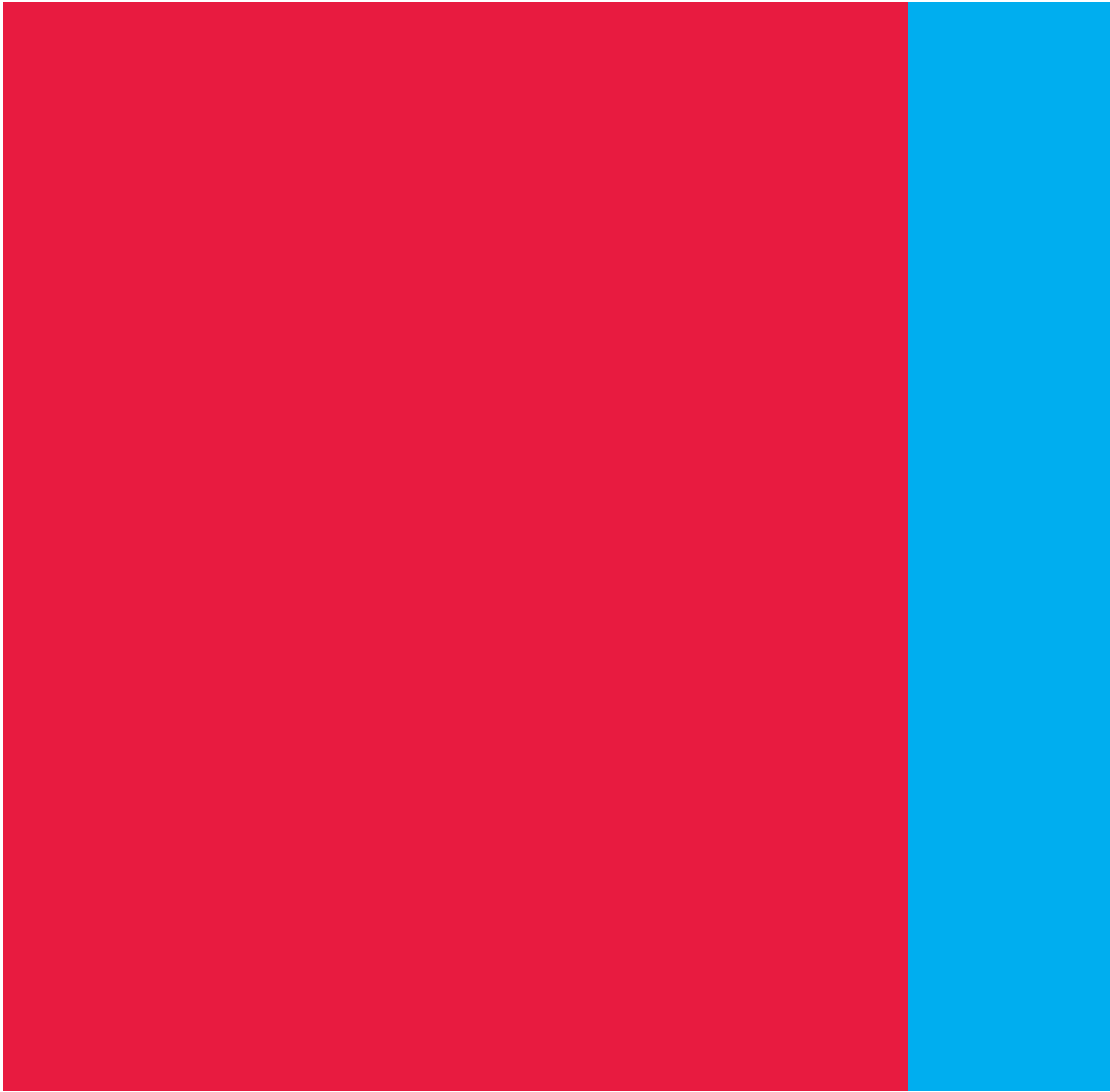
A History of Heroic Proportions



The story behind the companies that publish your favorite comics is one of intense competition, censorship, and idea theft. Artists defected, characters were traded, and new companies were born.



Power Publishers



COMPANY, MARKET SHARE:
Marvel Comics, 40.93%
DC Comics, 36.77%
Image Comics, 4.71%
IDW Publishing, 3.78%

Dark Horse Comics, 3.35%
Dynamite Entertainment, 2.85%
Publishers not in the top 25, 1.79%
BOOM! Studios, 1.43%

THE REST, HAVING LESS THAN 1% EACH:
Archie Comics, 0.74%
Zenescope Entertainment, 0.64%
Avatar Press, 0.54%

Although there are dozens of independent presses and thousands of indie artists stapling together passion projects, most of what sold in comic stores in 2011 came from just a few influential paper-pushers.



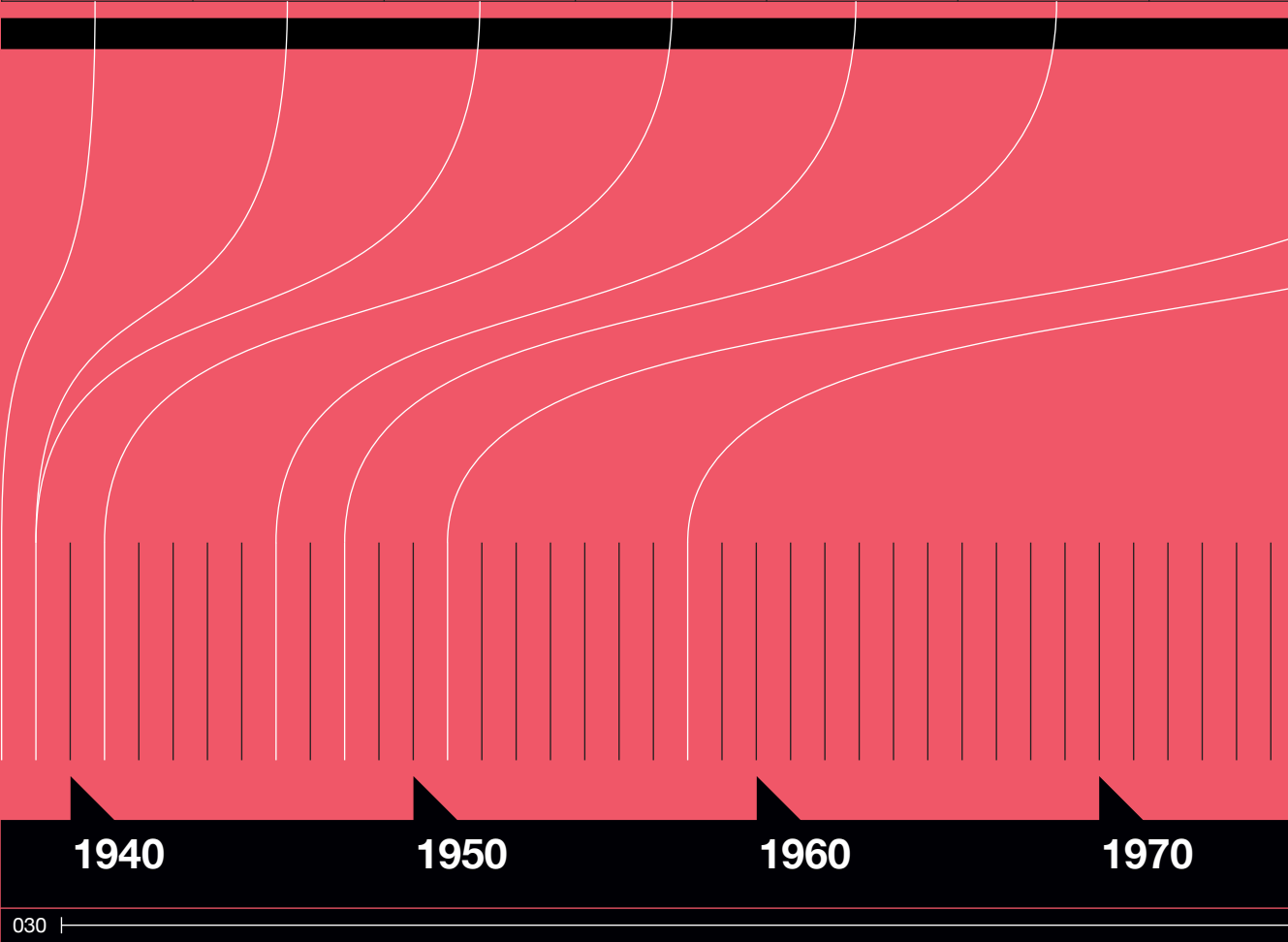
Viz Media, 0.47%
Aspen MLT, 0.35%
Bongo Comics, 0.34%
Eaglemoss Publications Ltd., 0.23%
Random House, 0.17%

Oni Press, 0.15%
Hachette Book Group USA, 0.12%
Fantagraphics Books, 0.11%
Titan, 0.10%
Abstract Studios, 0.10%

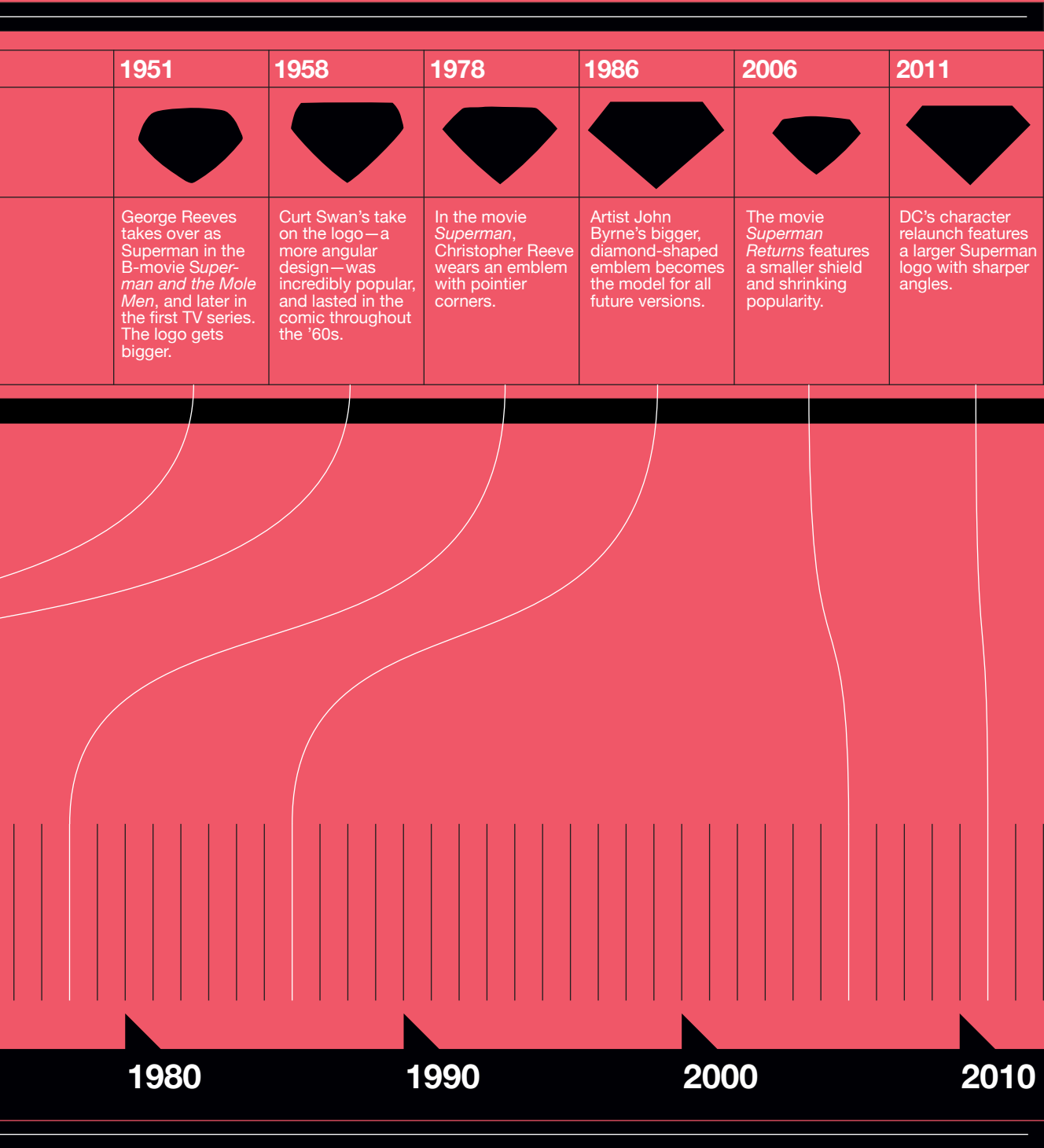
Archaia, 0.09%
Tokyopop, 0.09%
Top Shelf Productions, 0.08%
Drawn & Quarterly, 0.05%
Humanoids, 0.02%

Evolution of Superman's Logo

1938	1939	1939	1941	1946	1948	
						
Akin to a police badge, the first emblem to grace Superman's chest is on the cover of <i>Action Comics</i> #1, his first appearance.	The original design doesn't last, however, and by the time <i>Superman</i> #1 debuts that next year it has already become more triangular.	The first two are blended. The bottom becomes more rounded and the shape expands.	When Max Fleischer creates his art deco Superman cartoons, the shield becomes much wider and gets notched corners.	By the time Wayne Boring becomes the comic's regular artist, the top becomes flatter and the bottom wider.	The first live-action Superman hits screens as a 15-part serial starring Kirk Alyn. The logo shrinks.	

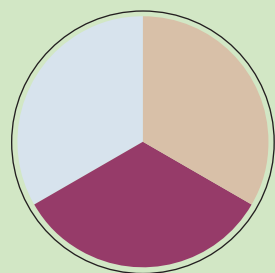


The Man of Steel was a pioneer in more ways than you probably realize. Created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, Superman is one of the first (and most successful) superheroes ever. He was also one of the first to wear a logo on his chest, which later became standard superhero fare. What was not standard, though, was what exactly appeared there. The Superman logo shape, like the stories themselves, morphed over time.

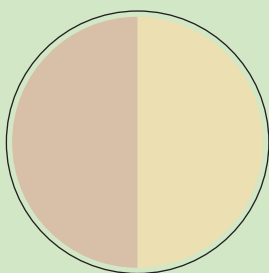


SHELL POWER

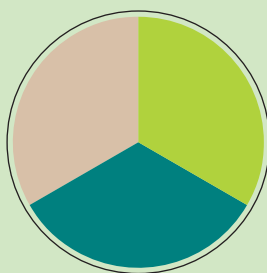
The Pizzas of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



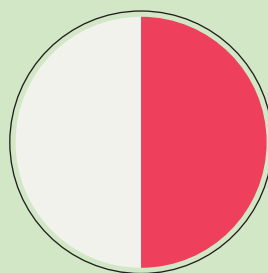
Tuna fish,
peanut butter,
grape jelly



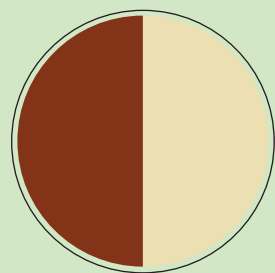
Peanut butter,
clams



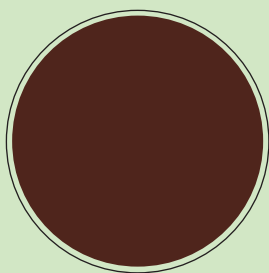
Peanut butter,
avocado,
extra pickles



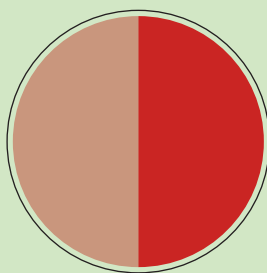
Marshmallow,
pepperoni



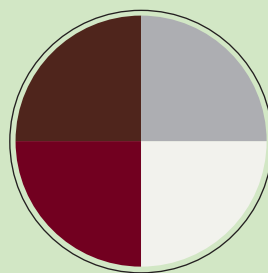
Chocolate sprinkles,
clam sauce



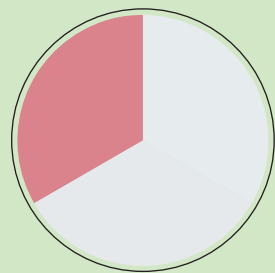
Chocolate-chip



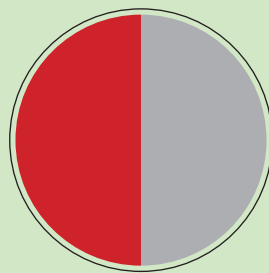
Granola,
licorice



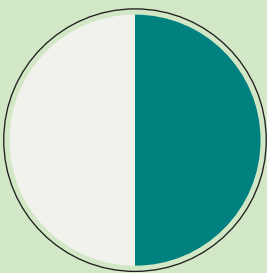
Chocolate fudge,
sardine,
chili pepper,
whipped cream



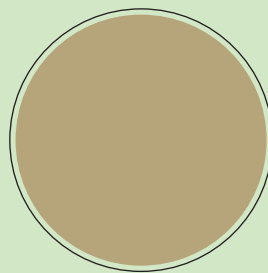
Salami,
double yogurt



Strawberry,
anchovy sauce



Shredded coconut,
sweet pickles

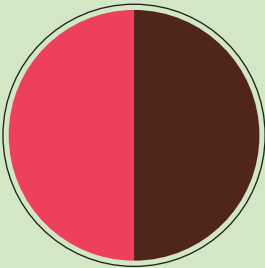


Hot oatmeal

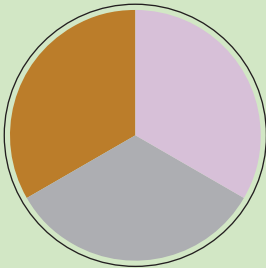
In the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles cartoons that aired for ten years in the '80s and '90s, the Turtles were passionate about three things: defeating the Foot Clan, saying “Cowabunga!,” and eating strange, strange pizza.



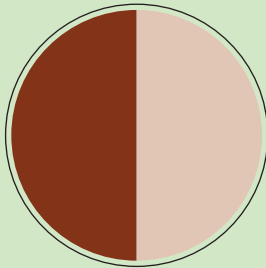
Marshmallow,
asparagus



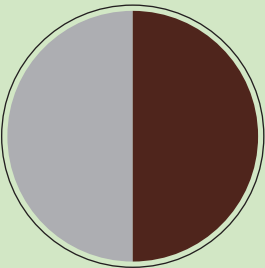
Pepperoni,
hot fudge



Butterscotch,
onions,
anchovies



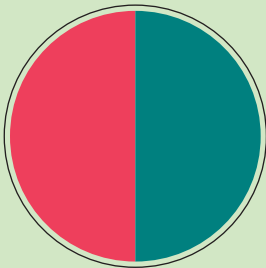
Tea, toast



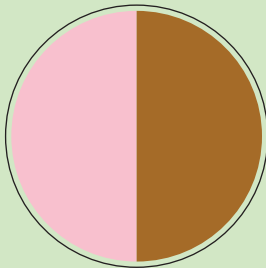
Anchovies,
hot fudge



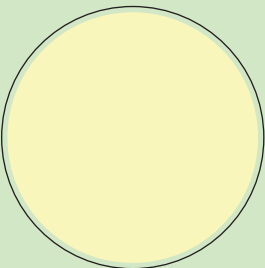
Guacamole,
marshmallow



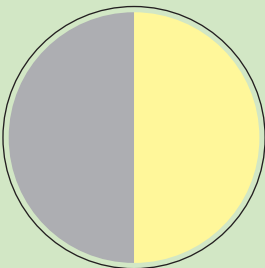
Pepperoni,
pickles



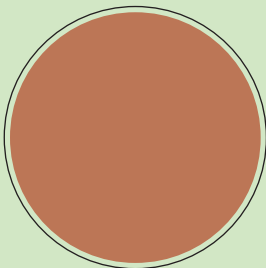
Jelly bean,
sausage



Popcorn



Anchovies,
bananas



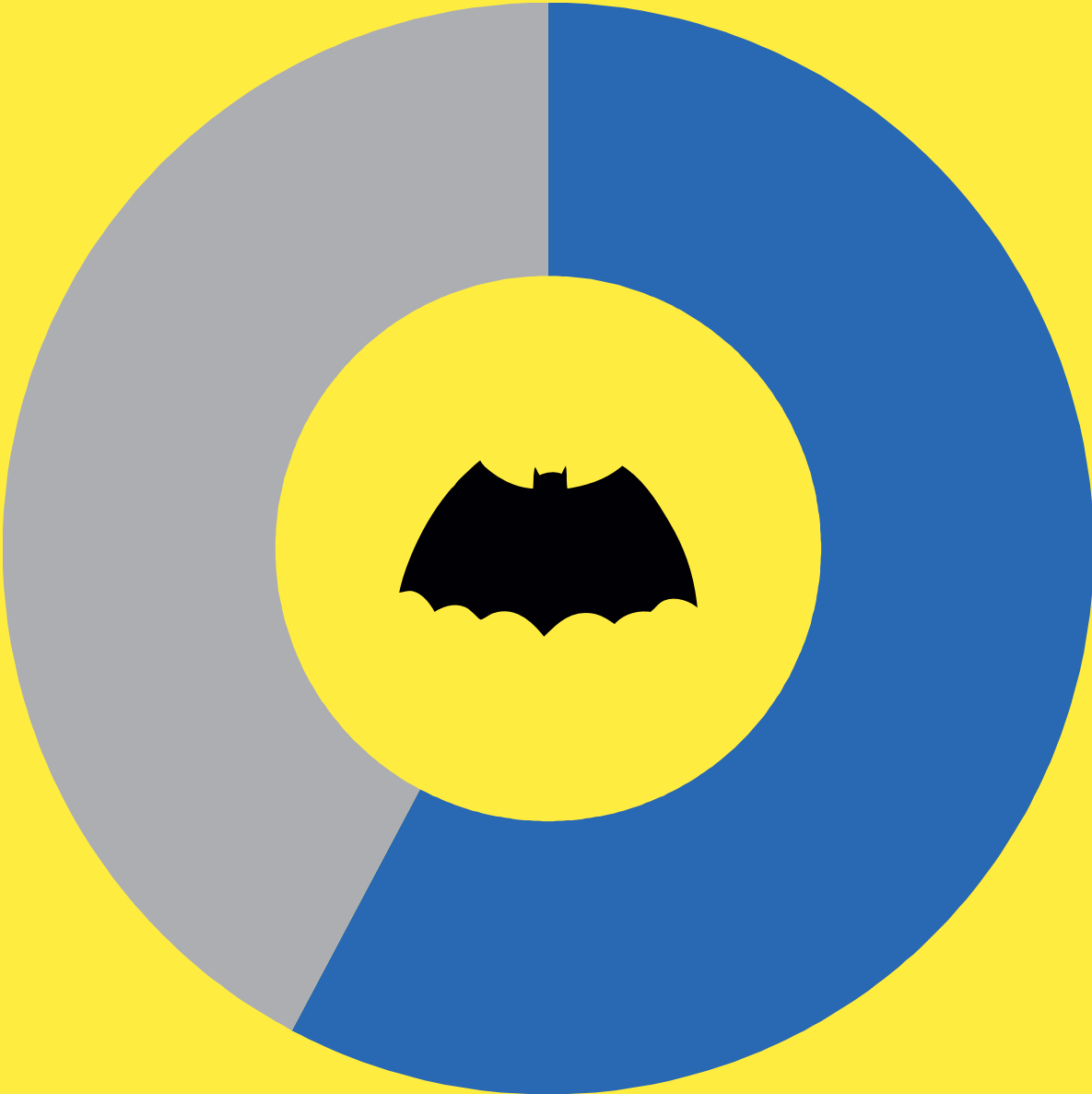
Goulash



None

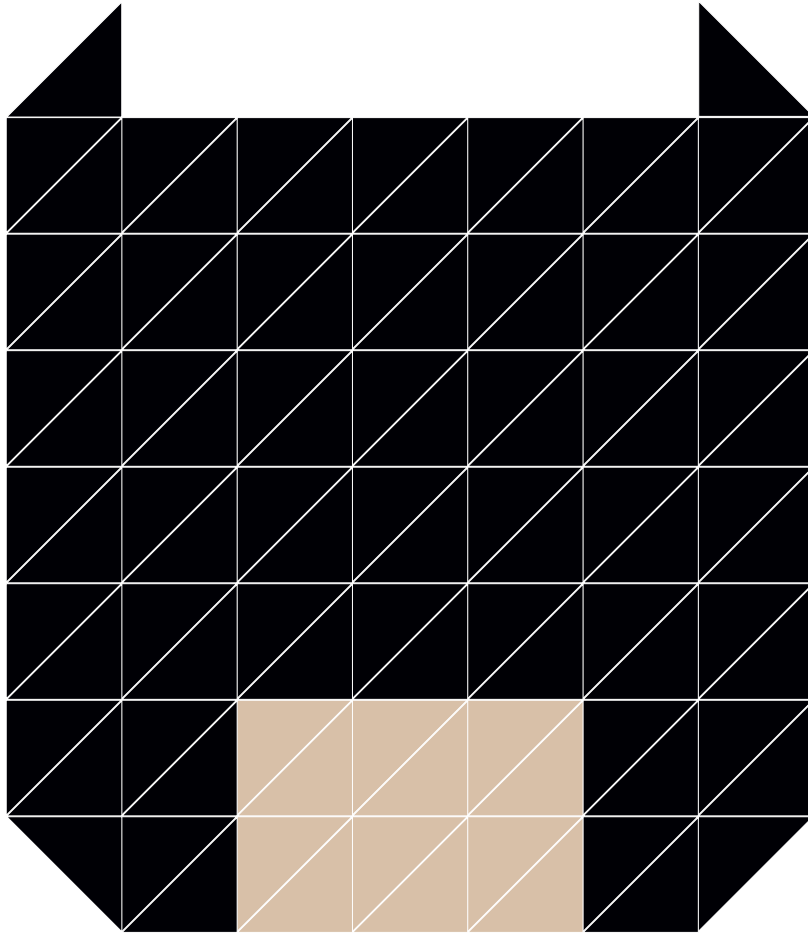
The Batman Theme Quantified

Only two words make up the popular '60s theme song.



● "Batman!" ● "Da"

The Joker's Favorite Questions for Batman



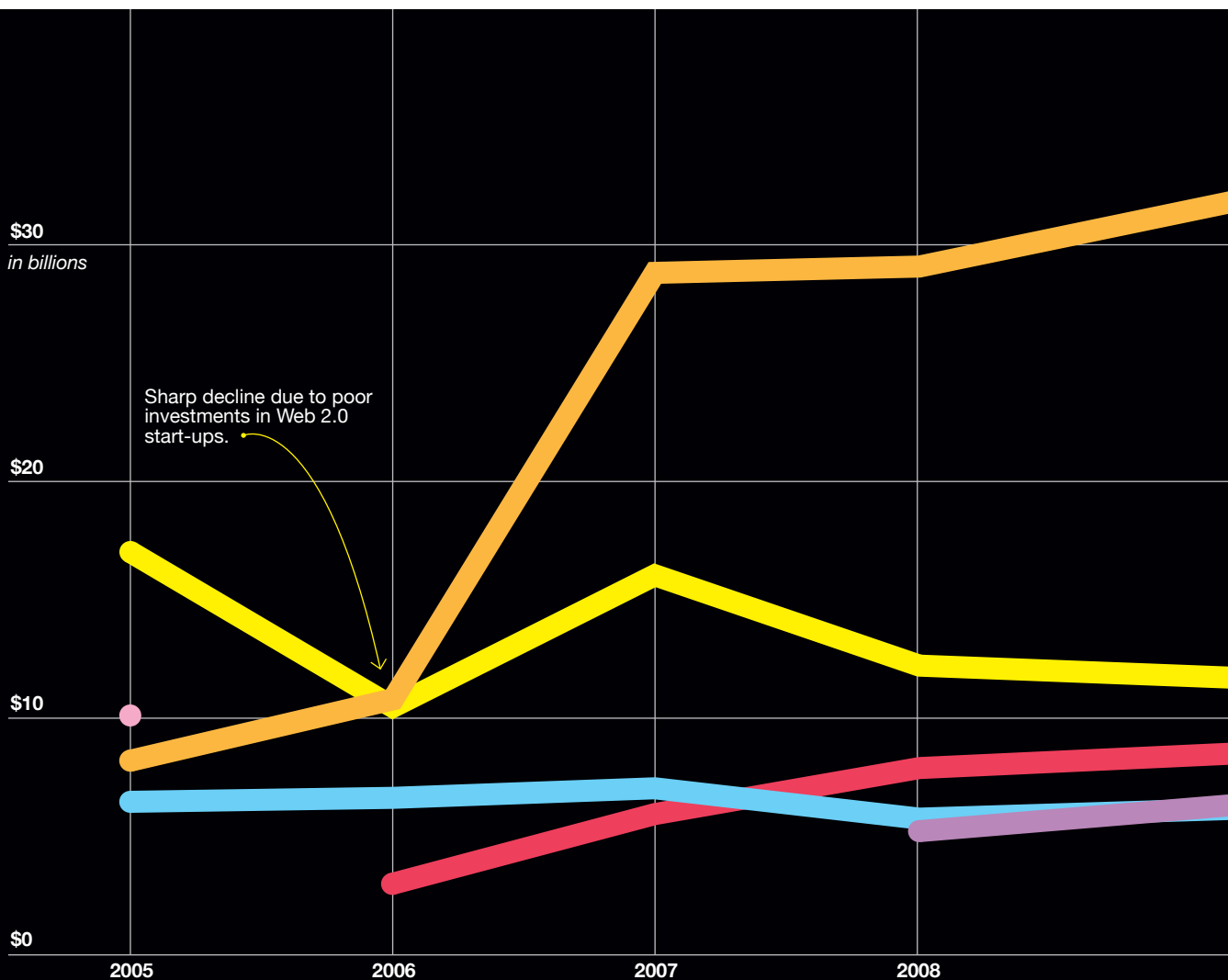
▲ Why so serious?

▲ Where does he get those wonderful toys?

THE COLORS OF MONEY

Following Fictional Fortunes

Every year (except 2009) *Forbes* ranks the net worth of fictional characters. Criteria for inclusion mandate that characters be authored fictional creations, star in a body of work, and are known for being rich. Net worth is based on real-world economies pitted against each character's source material.



Richie Rich

COMIC: *Richie Rich*
SOURCE: Inheritance,
conglomerates



Lex Luthor

COMIC: *Superman*
SOURCE: Defense,
software, real estate



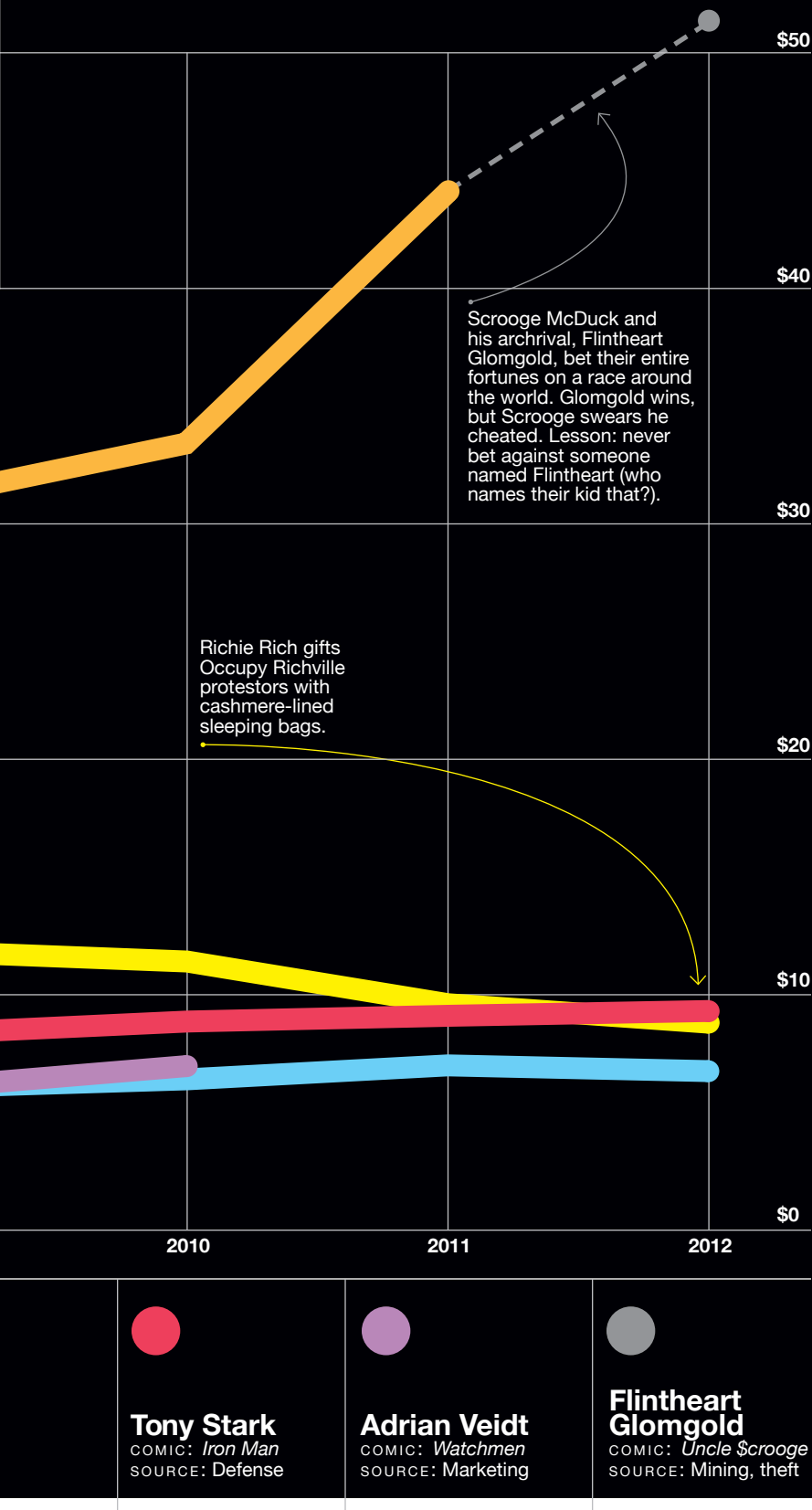
**Scrooge
McDuck**

COMIC: *Uncle \$crooge*
SOURCE: Mining,
treasure hunting



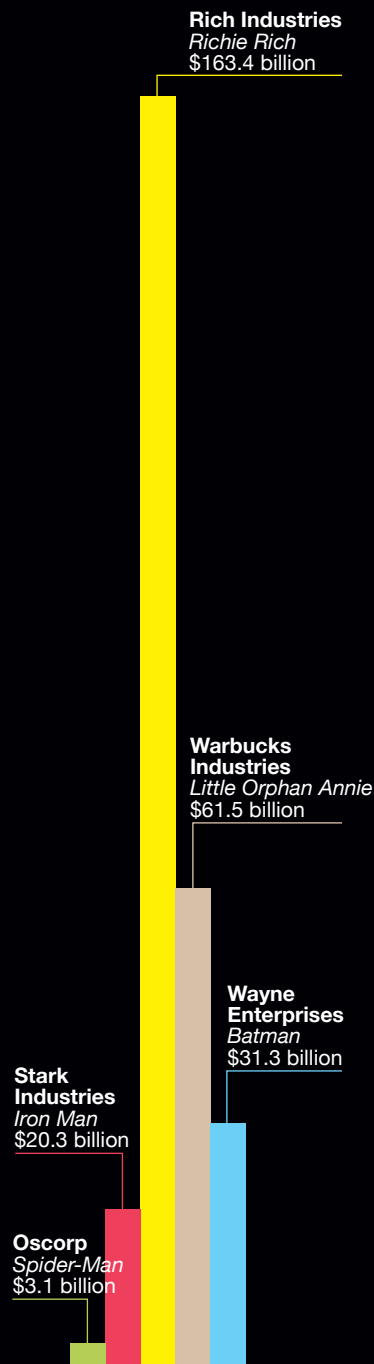
Bruce Wayne

COMIC: *Batman*
SOURCE: Inheritance,
defense



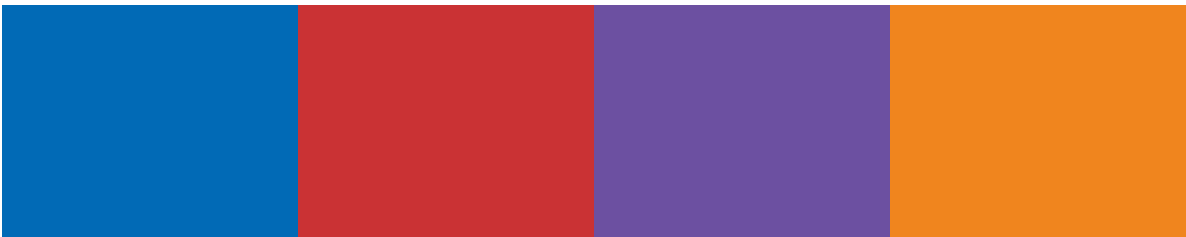
Highest grossing companies

In 2007, *Forbes* also rated the net worth of fictional corporations.



Team Colors

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



Leonardo Raphael Donatello Michelangelo

Mighty Morphin Power Rangers



Zack Taylor Kimberly Ann Hart Jason Lee Scott Tommy Oliver Trini Kwan Billy Cranston

Lantern Power Rings



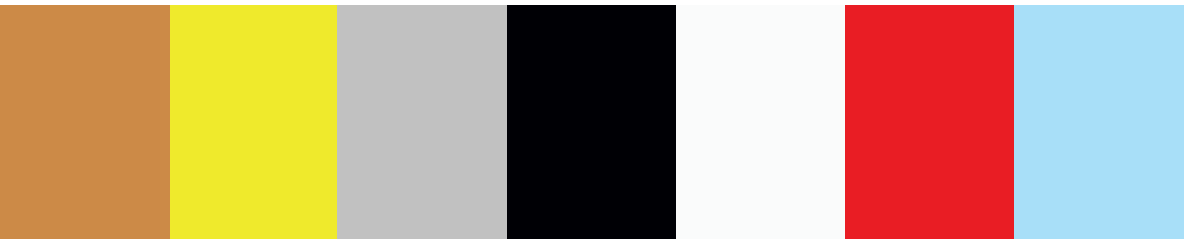
Rage Avarice Fear Willpower Hope Compassion Love

Voltron



Keith Lance Pidge Hunk Sven/Princess Allura

The Metal Men



Copper Gold Lead Iron Platinum Mercury Tin

The Beagle Boys



Baggy Babyface Bankjob Bigtime Bouncer Bugle Burger

The Fantastic Four



Mister Fantastic Invisible Woman The Thing Human Torch

The Avengers



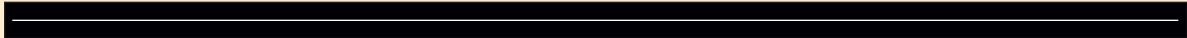
Black Widow Captain America Hawkeye Hulk Iron Man Thor

Richie Rich vs. Royal Roy

Harvey Comics first published *Richie Rich*, a comic about an extremely wealthy and kind boy, in 1953. Marvel Comics decided to enter the rich-and-nice-boy market in 1985. As you can see, *Royal Roy* was a totally original take on the theme.



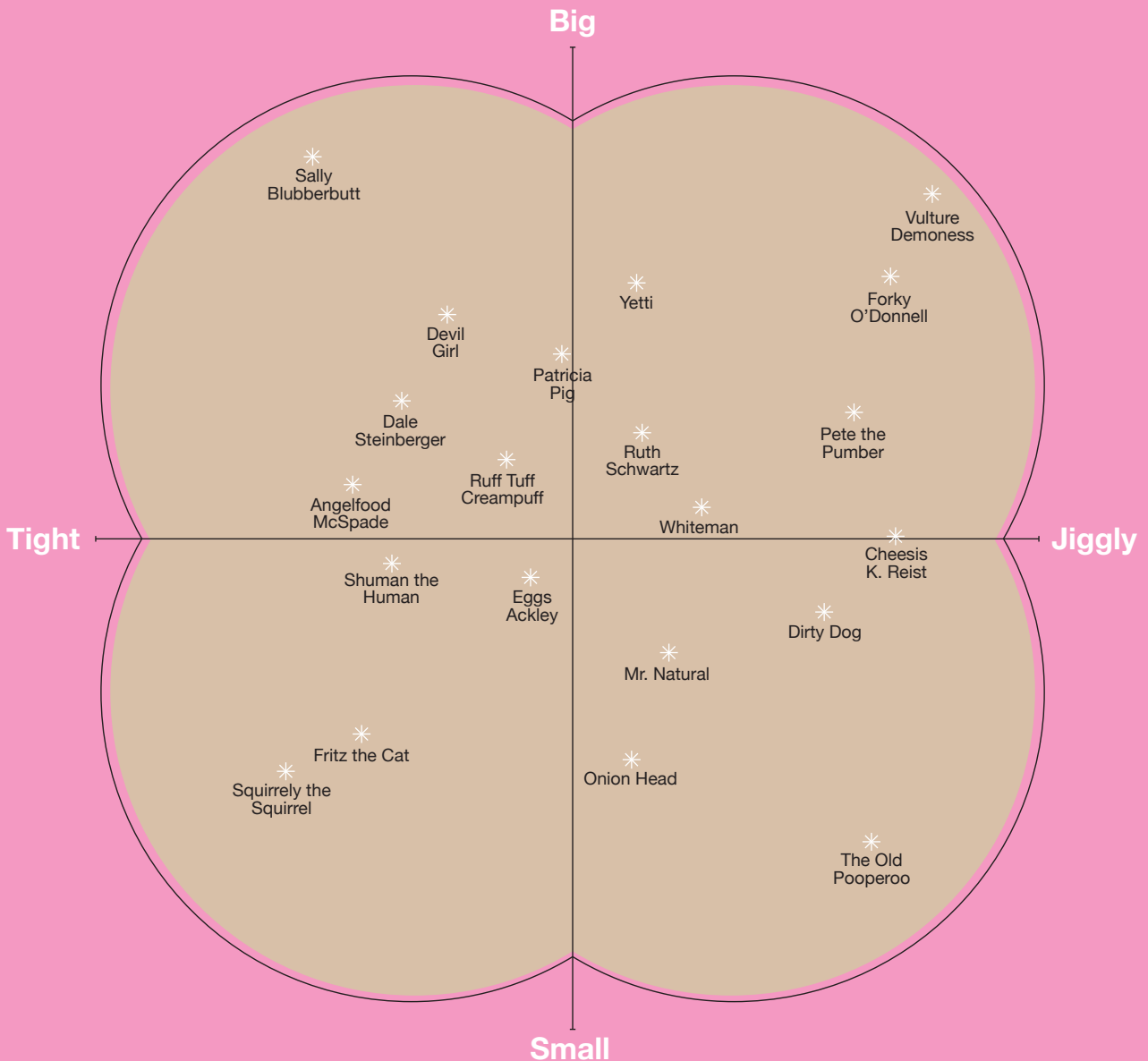
Richie Rich: The Poor Little Rich Boy
Royal Roy: A Prince of a Boy



Young boy with extreme wealth	Alliterative name starting with R	Moneyed hometown	Wears a bowtie	Has a commoner girlfriend with an alliterative name	A snooty girl with an alliterative name vies for his affection	Co-created by Warren Kremer	Publisher was sued for copyright infringement	Lasted more than six issues
(\$\$\$)	(Richie Rich)	(Richville)	(Red)	(Gloria Glad)	(Mayda Munny)	(1953)		(600+)
(\$\$\$)	(Royal Roy)	(Cashelot)	(White)	(Crystal Cleer)	(Lorna Loot)	(1985)	(1985)	

The Definitive R. Crumb Butt Matrix

R. Crumb was responsible for sparking the underground comix (with an x) revolution of the '60s and '70s that brought satirical and adult-themed titles into the mainstream. He was one of the most important figures in comic history. Also: he really liked big butts.



SECOND CITY

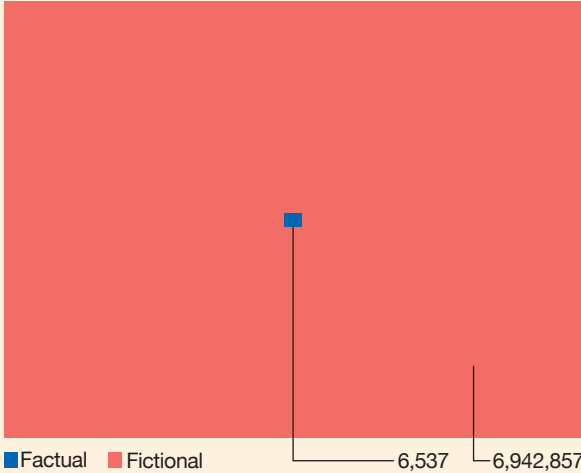
The Real Metropolis

THE ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DECLARED METROPOLIS, ILLINOIS, THE OFFICIAL HOMETOWN OF SUPERMAN ON JUNE 9, 1972.

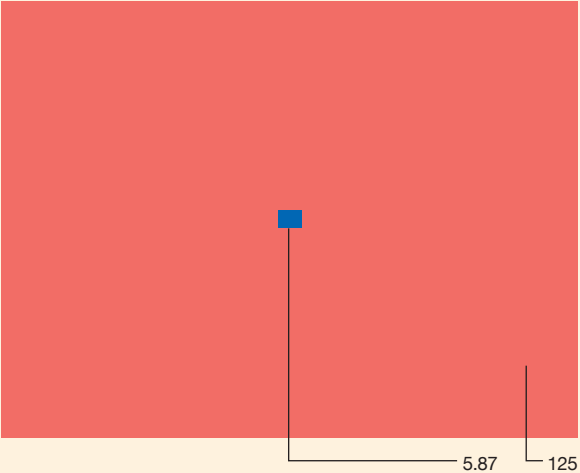
The Amazing World of Superman, a theme park planned in Metropolis, Illinois, should have opened in 1973. A simulated rocket ride to Krypton, an interplanetary zoo, and a Bizarro playground were to be attractions. A 200-foot Superman statue and a giant key to the Fortress of Solitude were supposed to stand beside boating and skating rinks, a movie theatre, and a supermarket on the grounds. But the oil crisis, compounded by an interstate construction delay, effectively shuttered the park to be. The town had already made a significant investment when the project collapsed, and it took years to recover. A Superman museum did open in 1973, but it only lasted a year. In 1993, across the street from the city's (substantially smaller than planned) 15-foot Superman statue, the town gave the Man of Steel museum idea another shot. Today the Super Museum is home to more than 20,000 Superman-related items, including kryptonite from the Christopher Reeve films and the device that allowed actor George Reeves to "fly" in the 1950s television show. The museum currently attracts around 200 visitors a day.



Population



Geographical size in square miles



In the TV show *Smallville*, Metropolis was located in Kansas, just a few hours away from the real thing.

Metropolis

FACTUAL



Metropolis

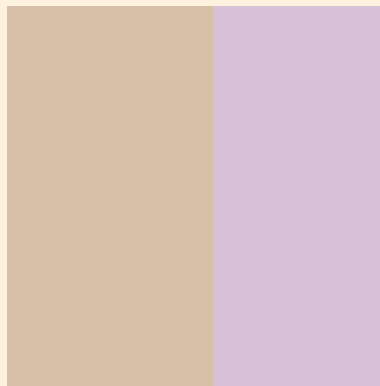
FICTIONAL

The exact location of Metropolis has varied over the years in the comics, but has always doubled as the unofficial DC Comics version of New York.



Fast facts: Metropolis, IL

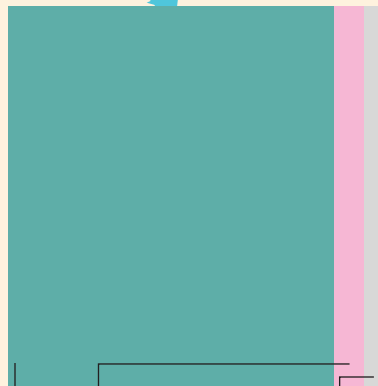
GENDER BREAKDOWN



Female

Male

RACE BREAKDOWN

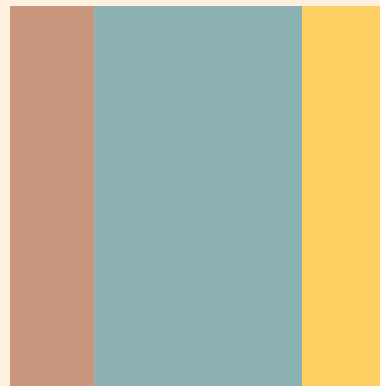


White

Black

Other

AGE BREAKDOWN



<18

18-65

>65

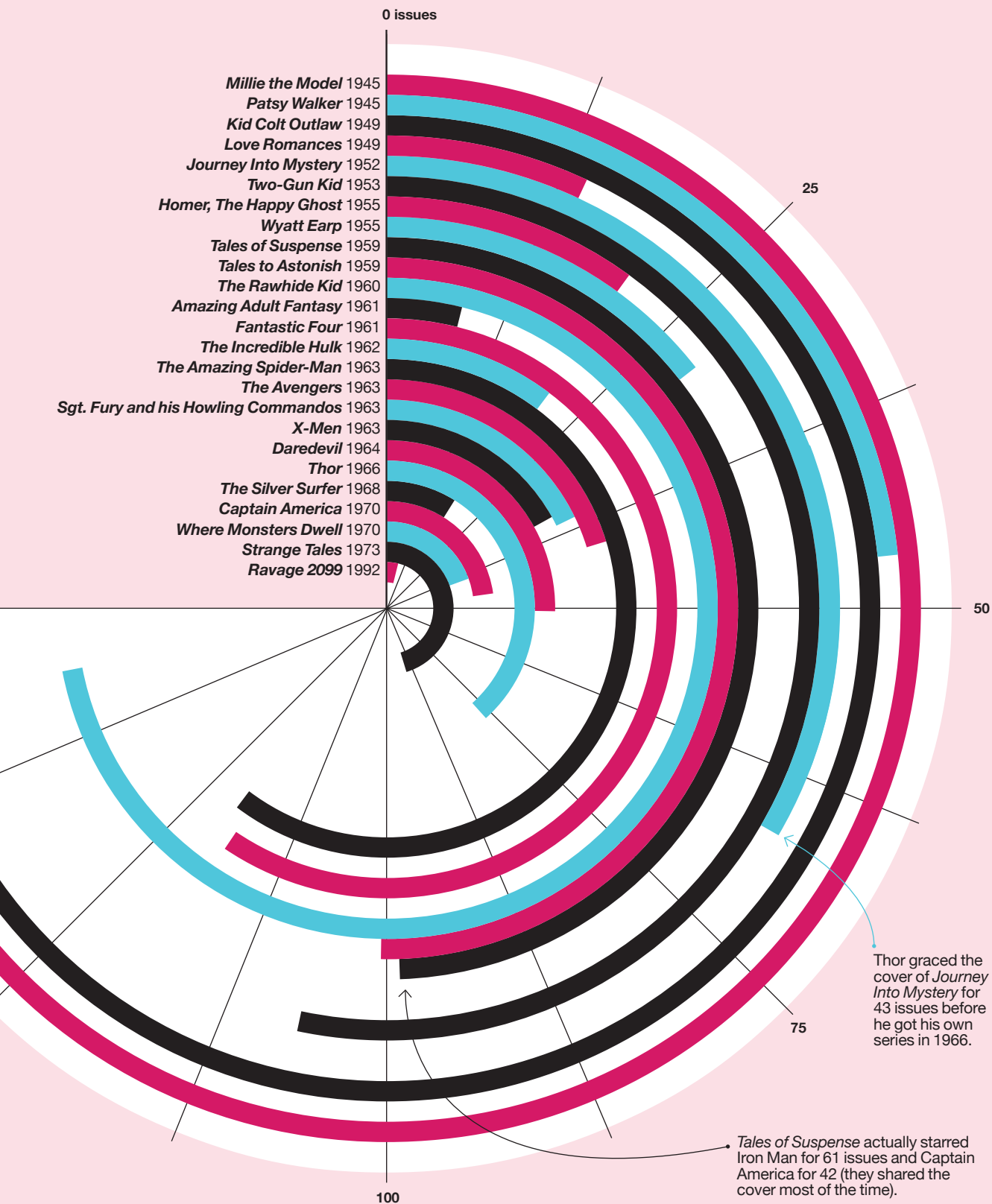
NUFF SAID

Stan Lee Has Issues

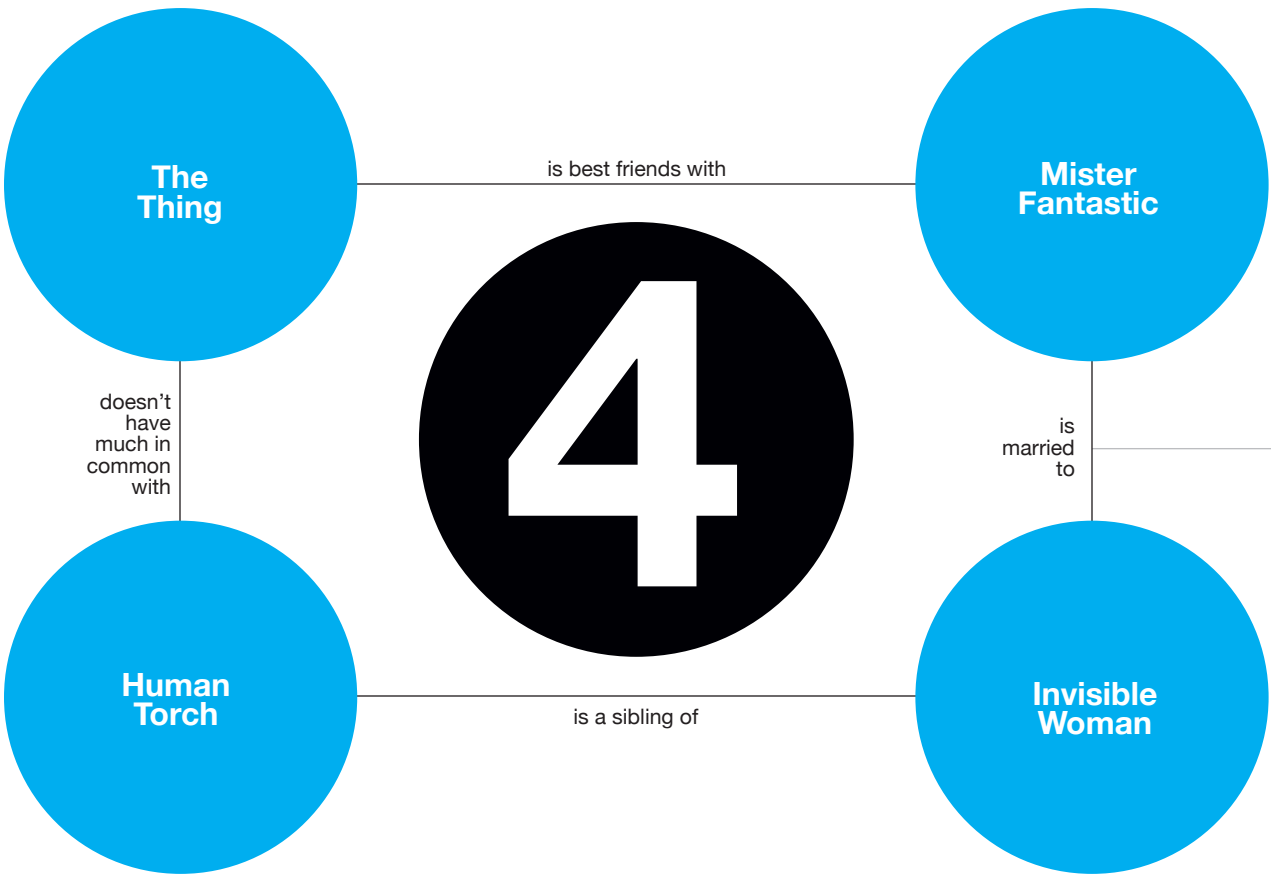
Stan Lee was Marvel Comics' top editor for nearly 30 years (ending in 1972). During that time he co-created some of the most iconic characters of all time, including Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four, and the Hulk. But, as it turns out, his longest-running author credits occurred on comics you've probably never heard of. (He had quite a fling with *Millie the Model*!) Here's a look at the man and (most of) his issues.

150

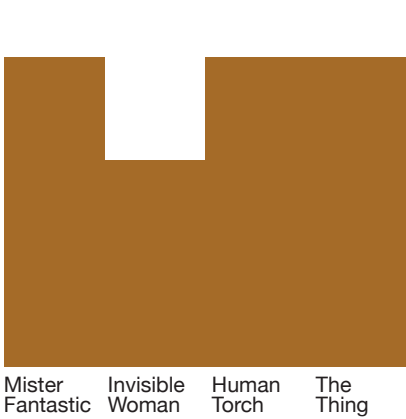
125



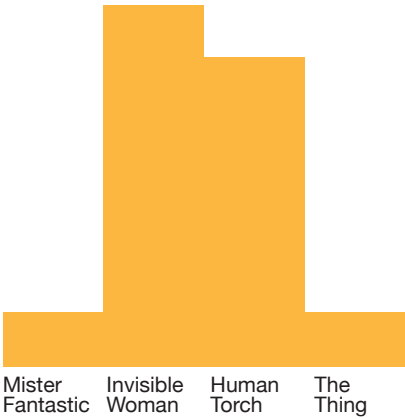
A Fantastic Four Primer



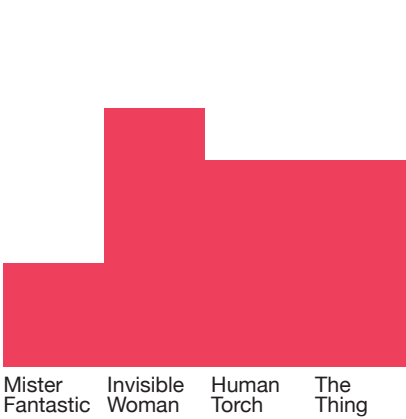
Official Marvel Rankings
DURABILITY

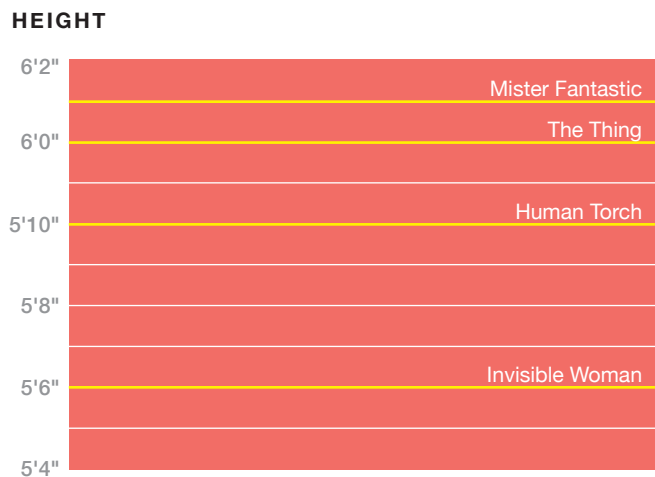
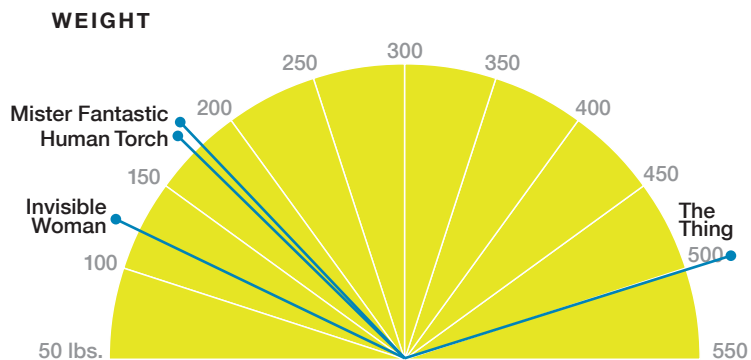
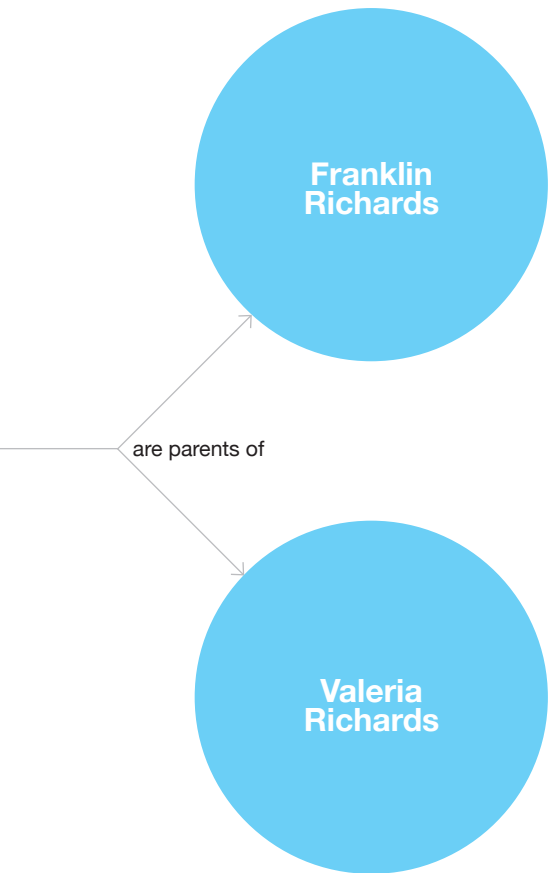


ENERGY PROJECTION

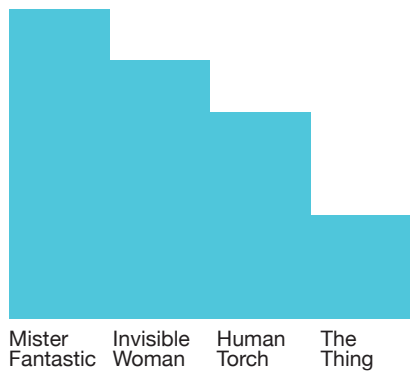


FIGHTING SKILLS

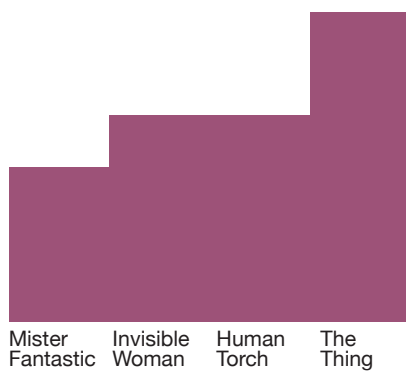




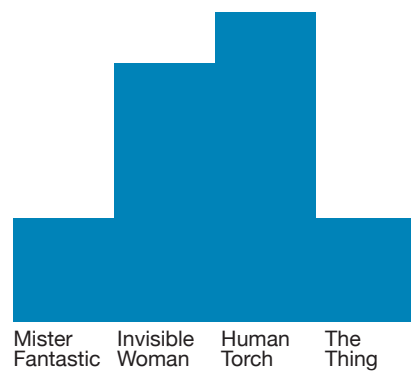
INTELLIGENCE



STRENGTH

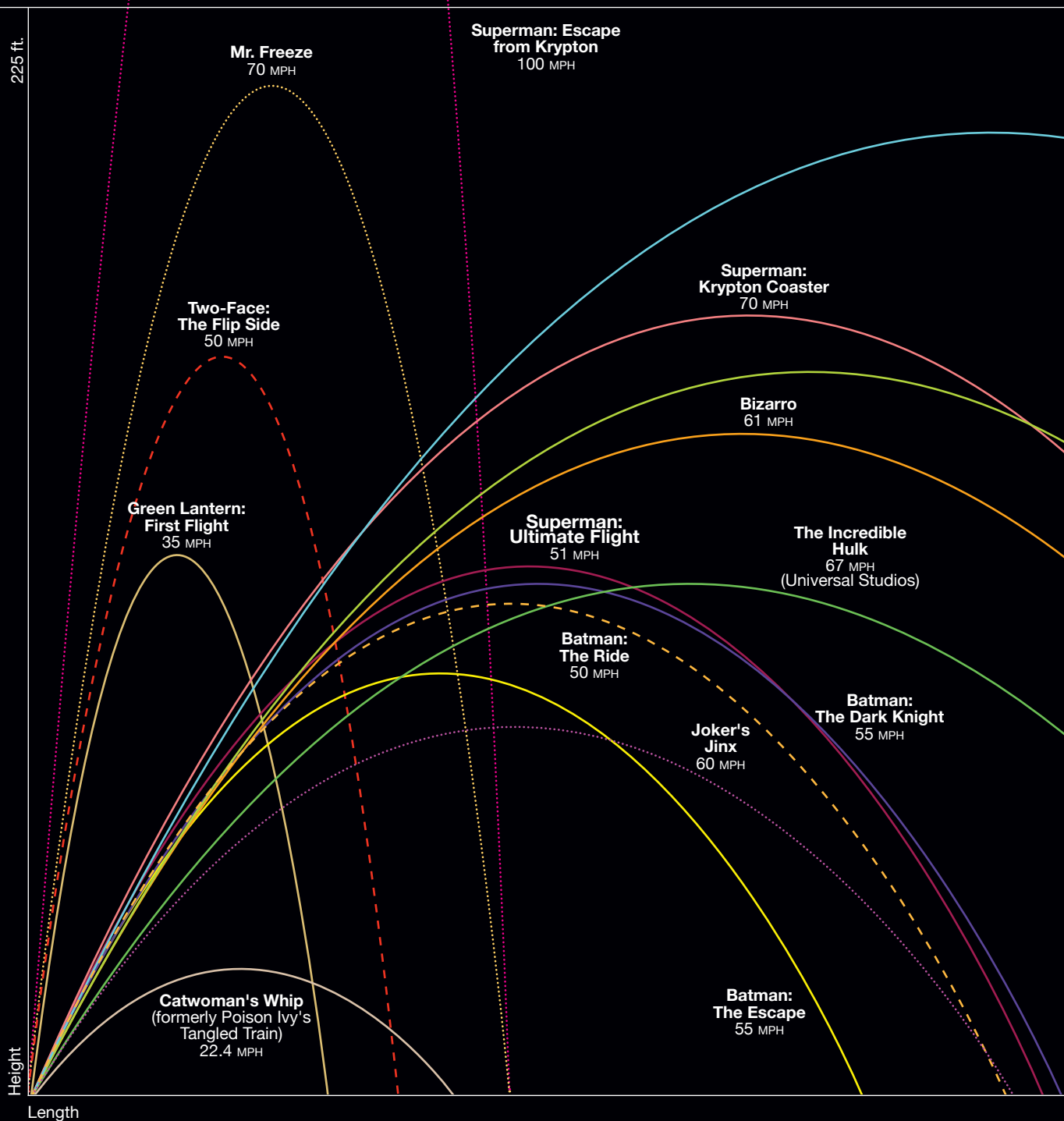


SPEED



Super-Rollercoasters

Because Six Flags and DC Comics were once owned by the same company (with licensing agreements afterwards), it kicked off a number



of superhero- and supervillain-themed rides around the country. Here's how their power measures up.

- DURATION:
- 0-1 MINUTE
 - 1-2 MINUTES
 - 2+ MINUTES

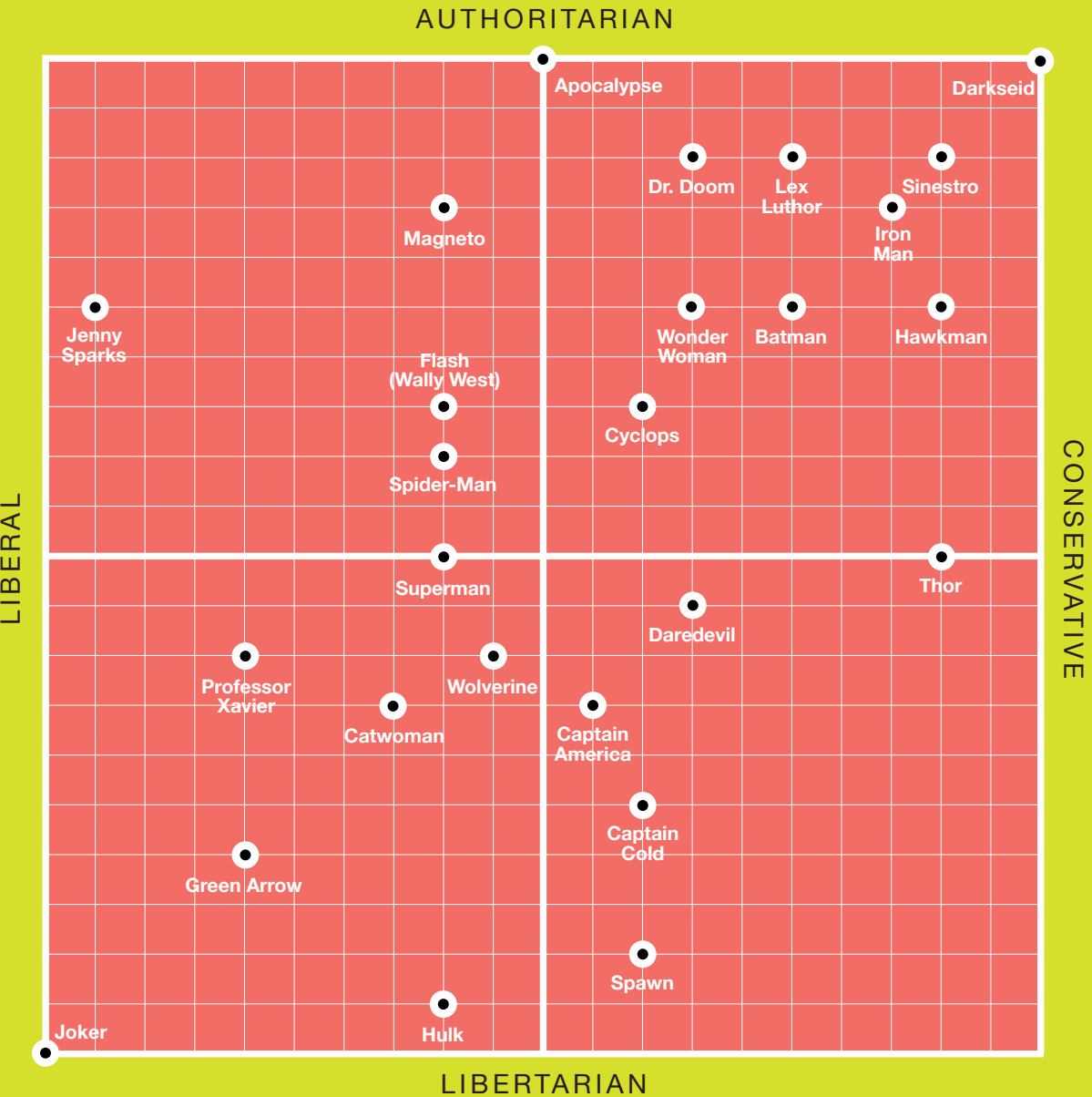
Superman:
Ride of Steel
73 MPH

Riddler's
Revenge
65 MPH

5,500 ft.

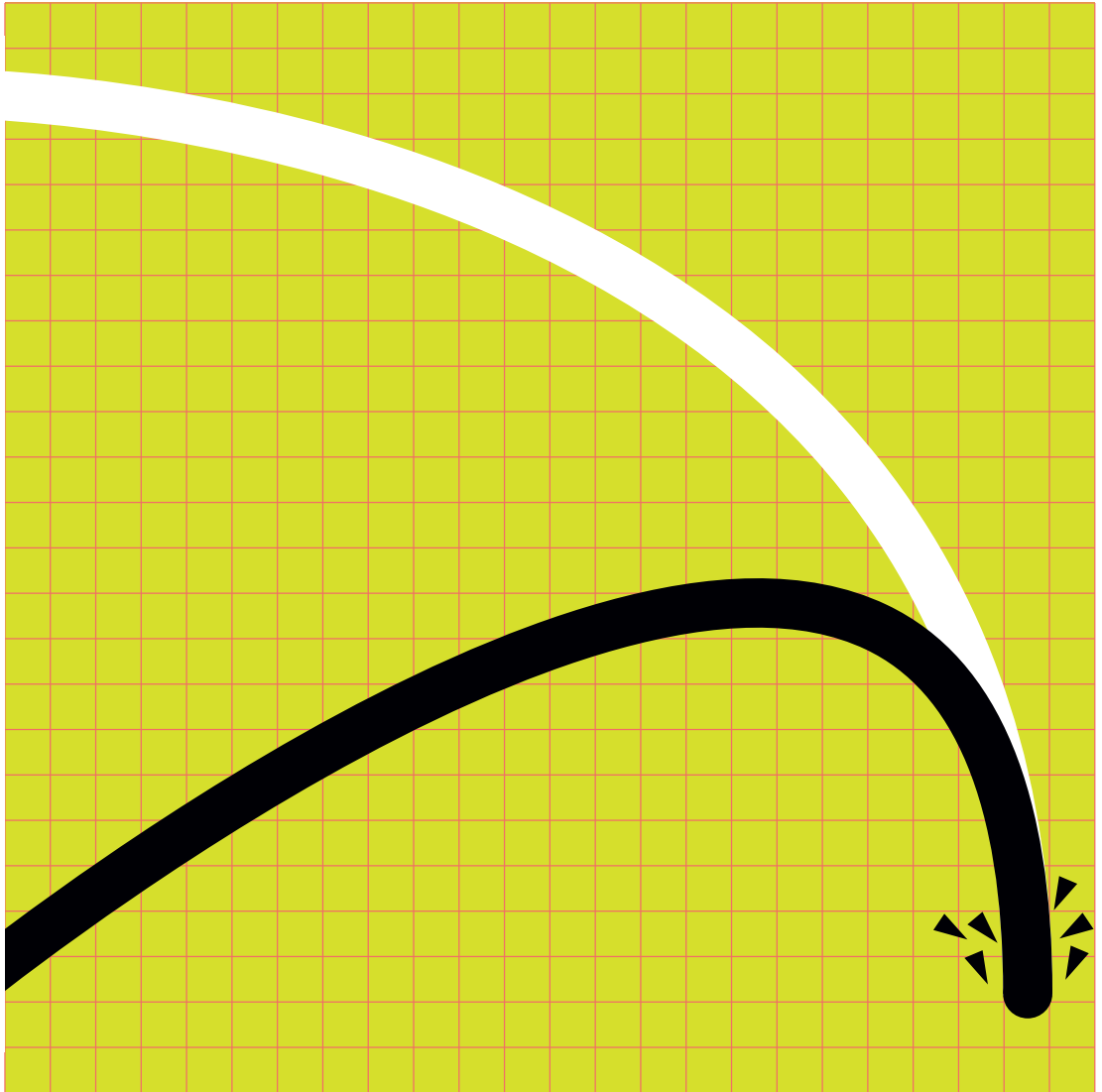
The Politics of Good vs. Evil

When your business is either saving the world or destroying it, it's only natural that characters would ideologically identify themselves.



PISSED OFF

A Calvin and Hobbes Trajectory



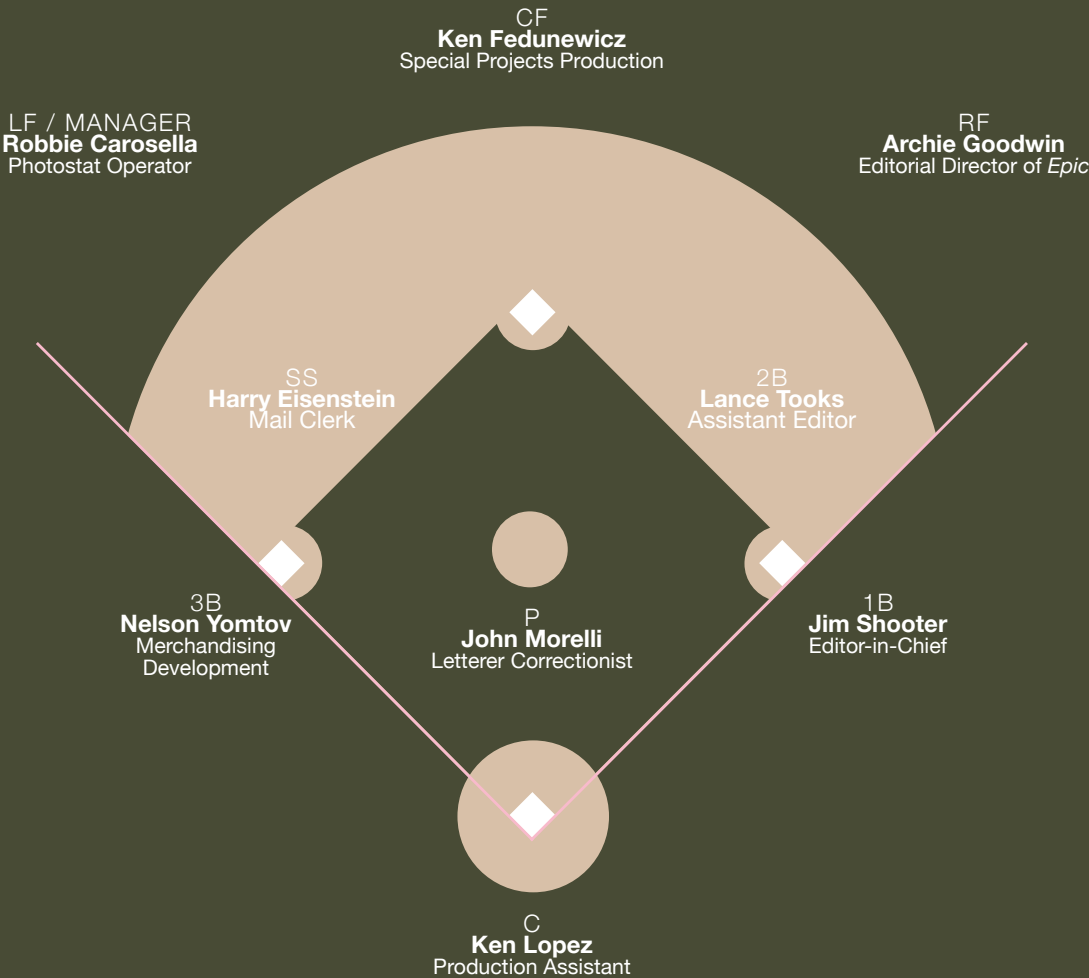
■ Urine trajectory on “Calvin peeing” decals

□ My faith in humanity every time I see one of those decals

Fast-Ball Special

THE MARVEL COMICS EDITORIAL BASEBALL TEAM

For years, Marvel Comics has had a company softball team. Here's how Marvel's Bullpen Bombers fared against the Warren Warriors on August 3, 1982.



BATTING ORDER

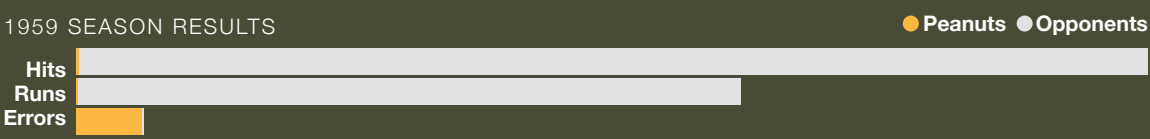
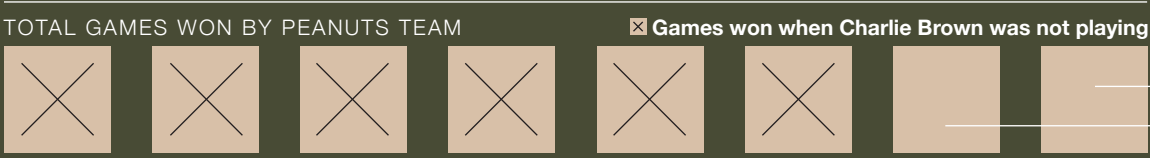
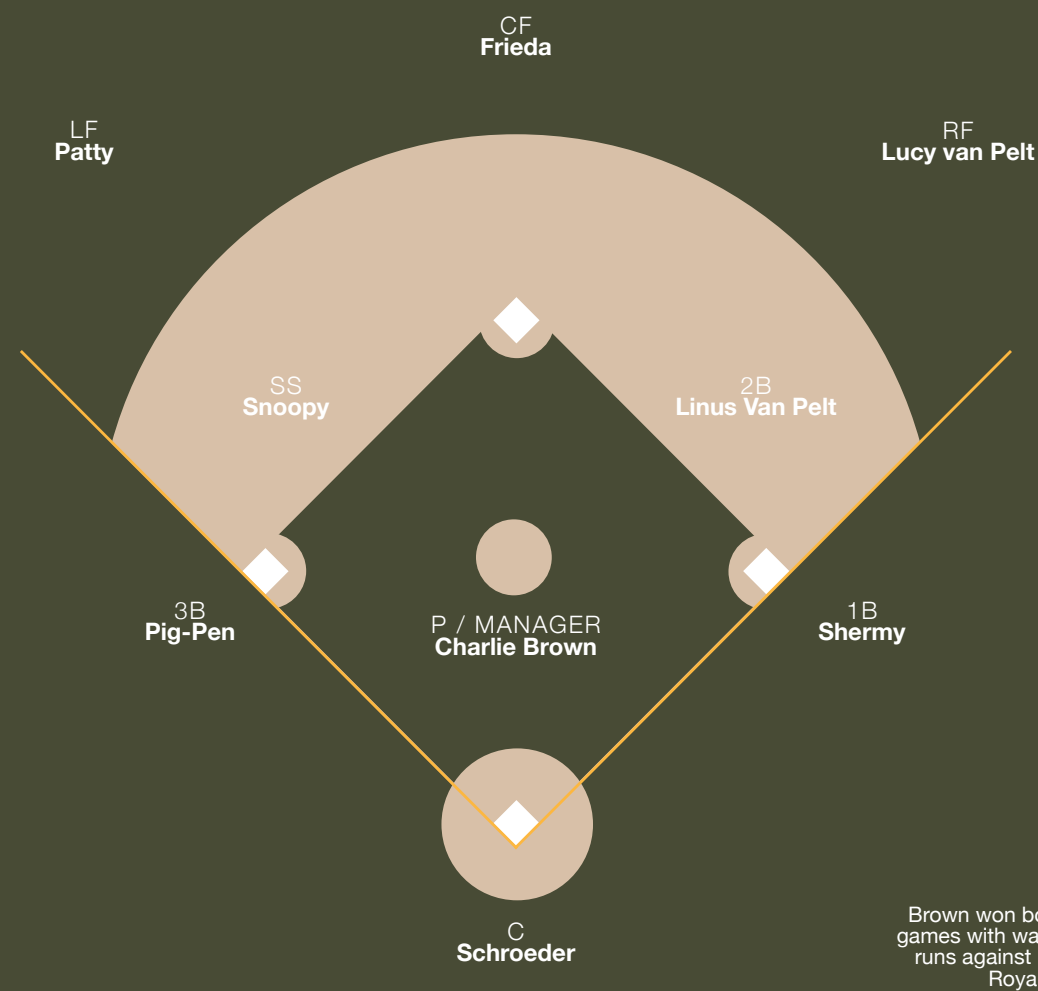


FINAL SCORE



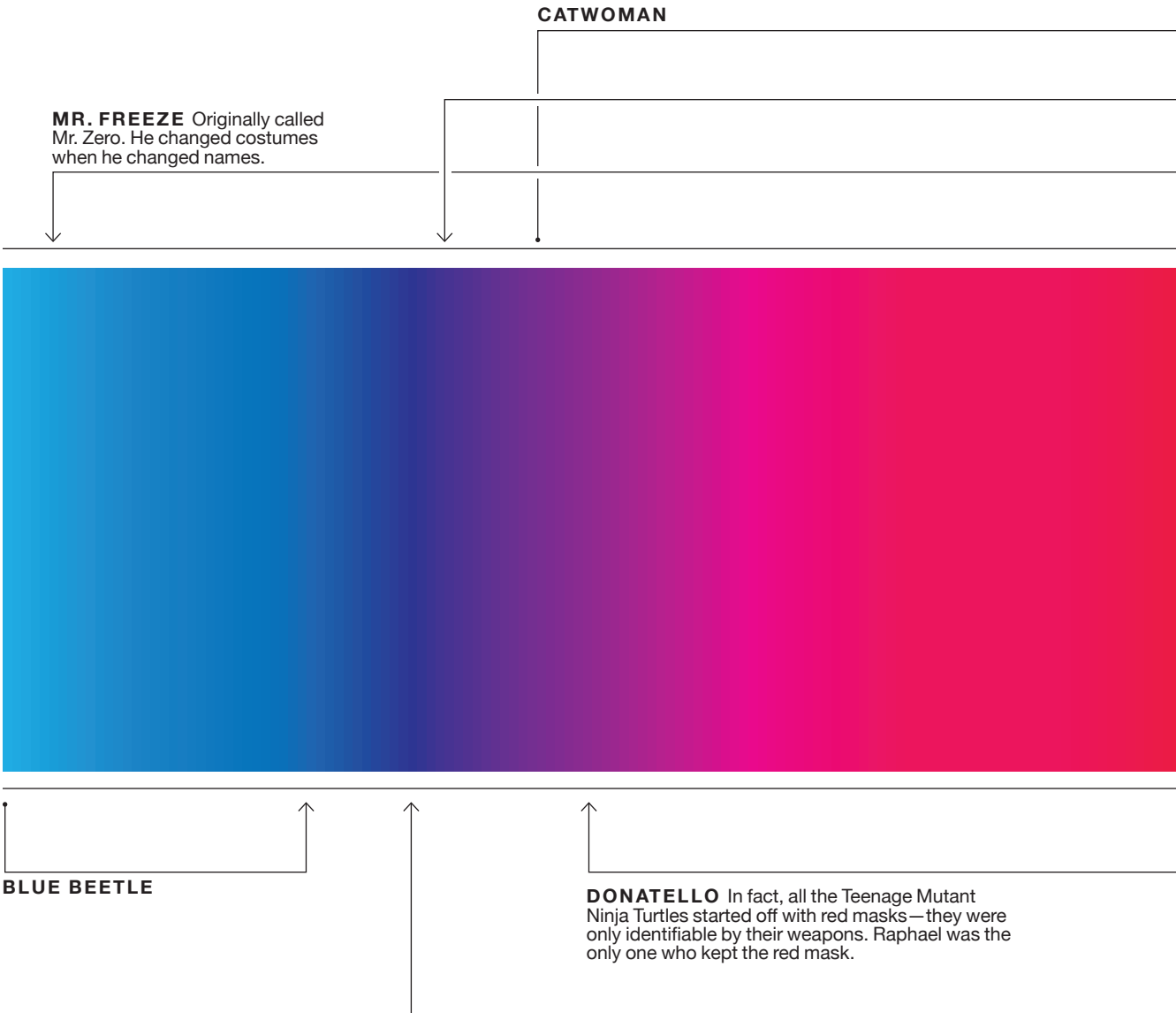
CHARLIE BROWN'S BASEBALL TEAM

Save for Snoopy, Charlie Brown's team was notoriously terrible. Good grief.

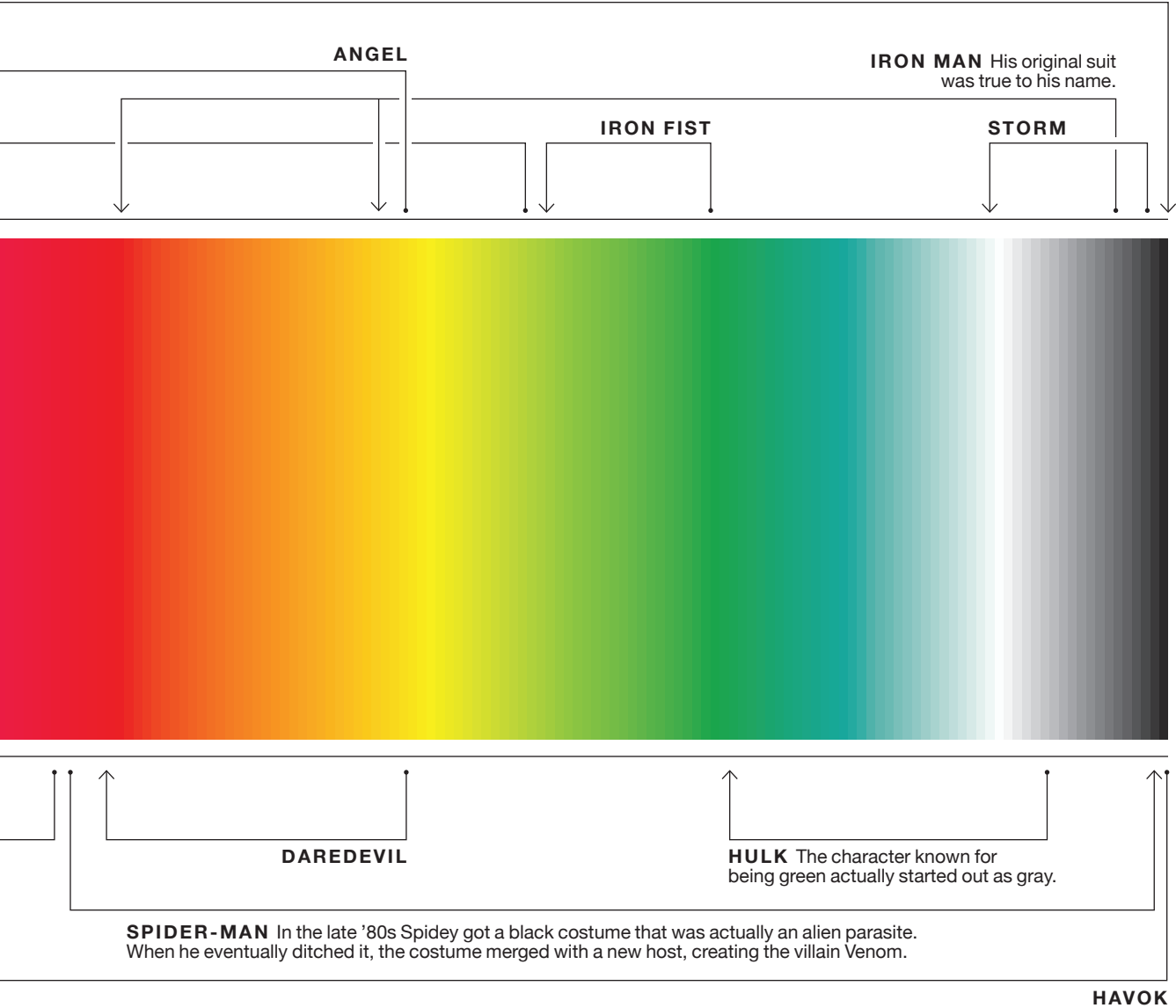


Changes in Costume Color

- Original color
- ✓ New color



Costumes are important elements in comics. They help identify not only who the character is, but what they're about as well. That's why costume redesigns are so significant. Everyone's style changes a bit over time — especially when characters have been around for 70 years; the makeovers below mark some of the most drastic and longest-lasting in comics.

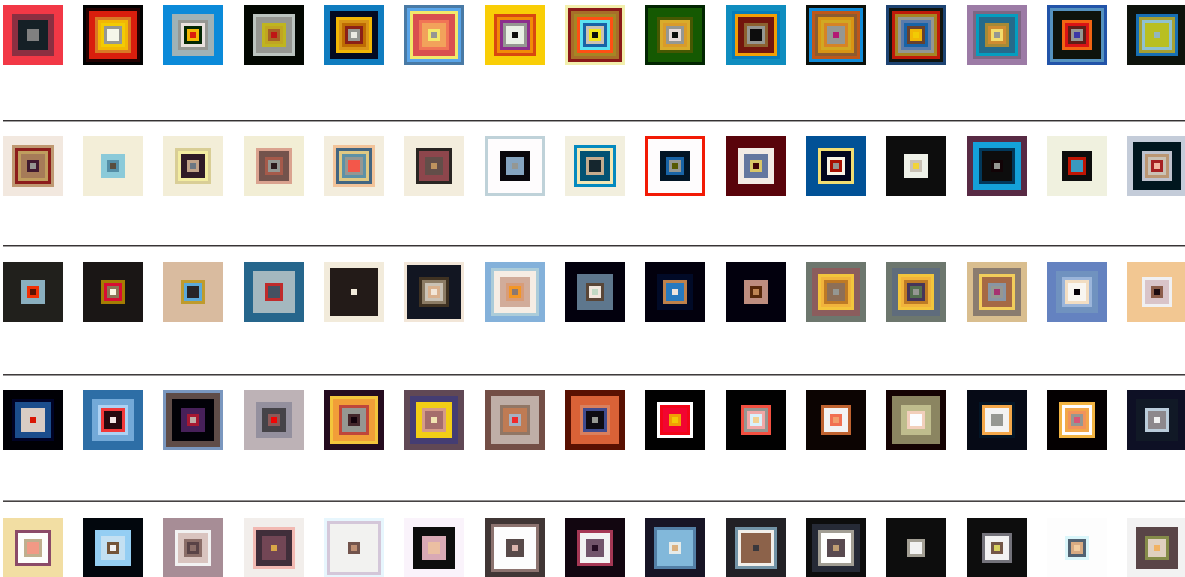


Cerebus: Judging a Comic By Its Covers

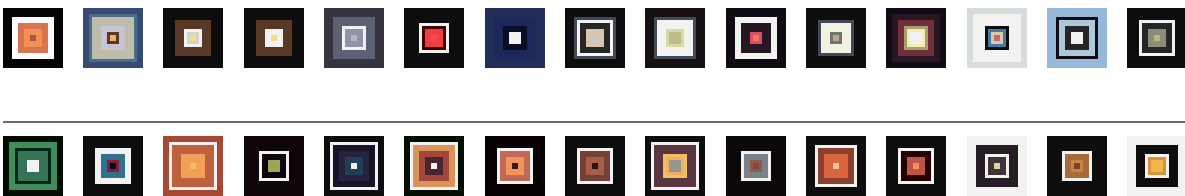
Over the course of 27 years starting in 1977, the writer and artist Dave Sim (with additional art by Gerhard) produced 300 issues—a whopping 6,000 pages—of his independent comic *Cerebus the Aardvark*. Below is a representation of the dominant colors in each issue's cover. Although the interior panels were printed in black and white, the comic's covers were a kind of color compass for what was to come.

✕ = Never collected into a larger volume

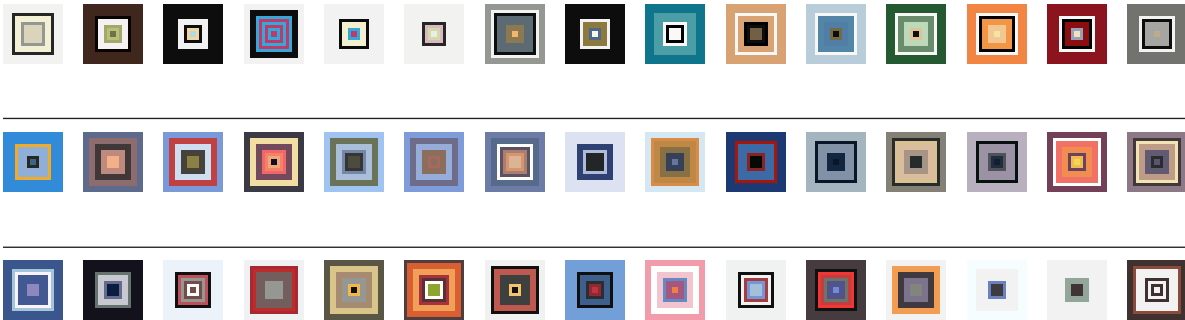
STORYLINE: *Cerebus*, 1977–1981



Mothers & Daughters, 1991–1995



Rick's Story, 1997–1998





Archer Appeal

GREEN ARROW: The DC Comics archer has a vast array of arrows that's always changing. Here are a few classics.

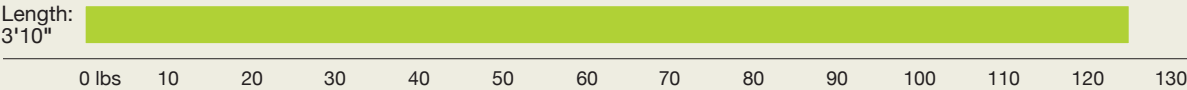
First used in 1947, the boxing glove arrowhead was originally the size of a baseball. Later in his career it increases in size (and hilarity) to a full-scale glove.

When chasing a criminal in a car, Green Arrow fires this arrow. It attaches to the bumper, inking the path to the criminal hideout with a pen that drags on the ground.

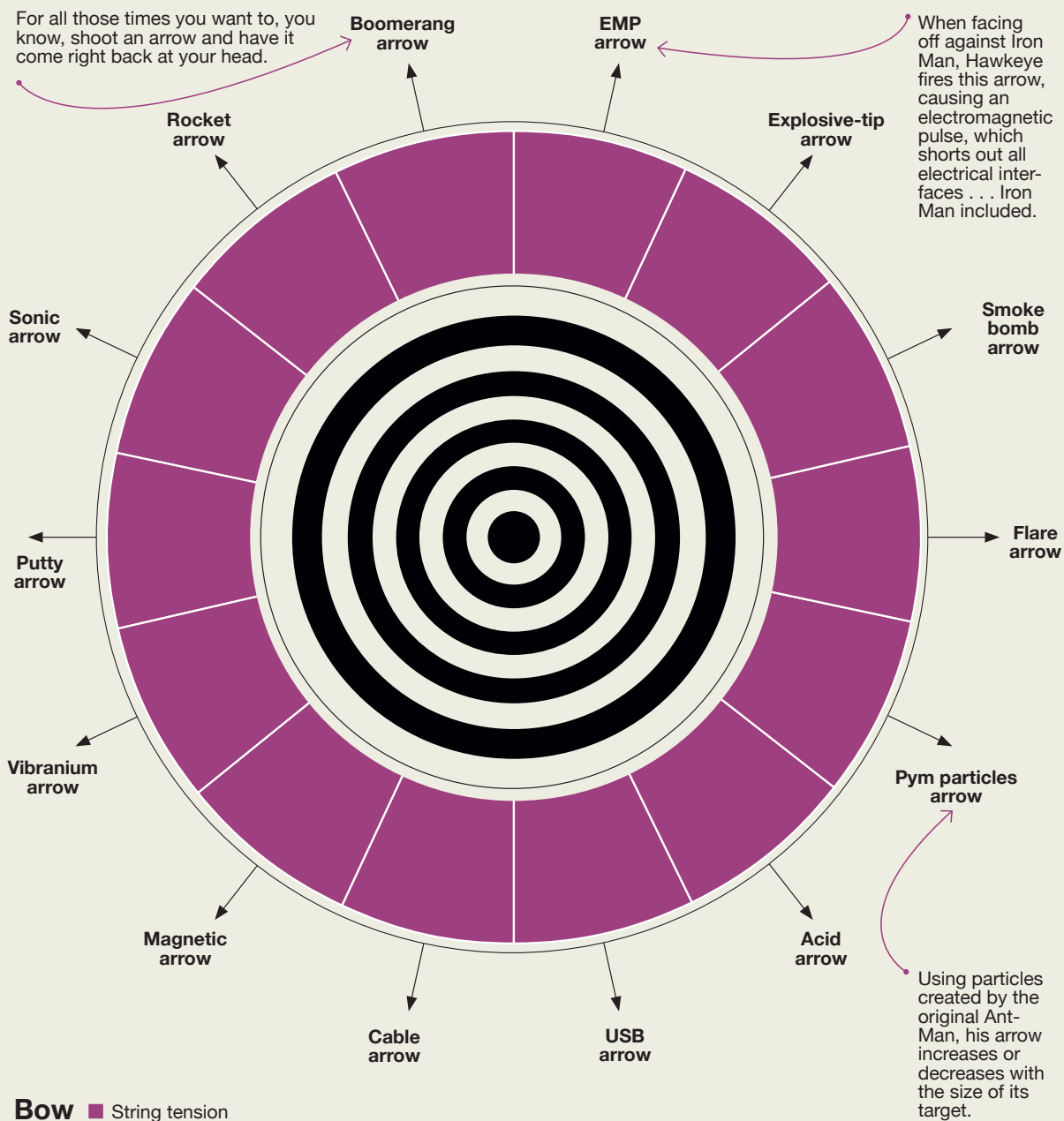


In 2001, Green Arrow (Oliver Queen) is back from the dead and also . . . homeless? He fends off a group of muggers with a makeshift bow and a bleach bottle arrow.

Bow ■ String tension

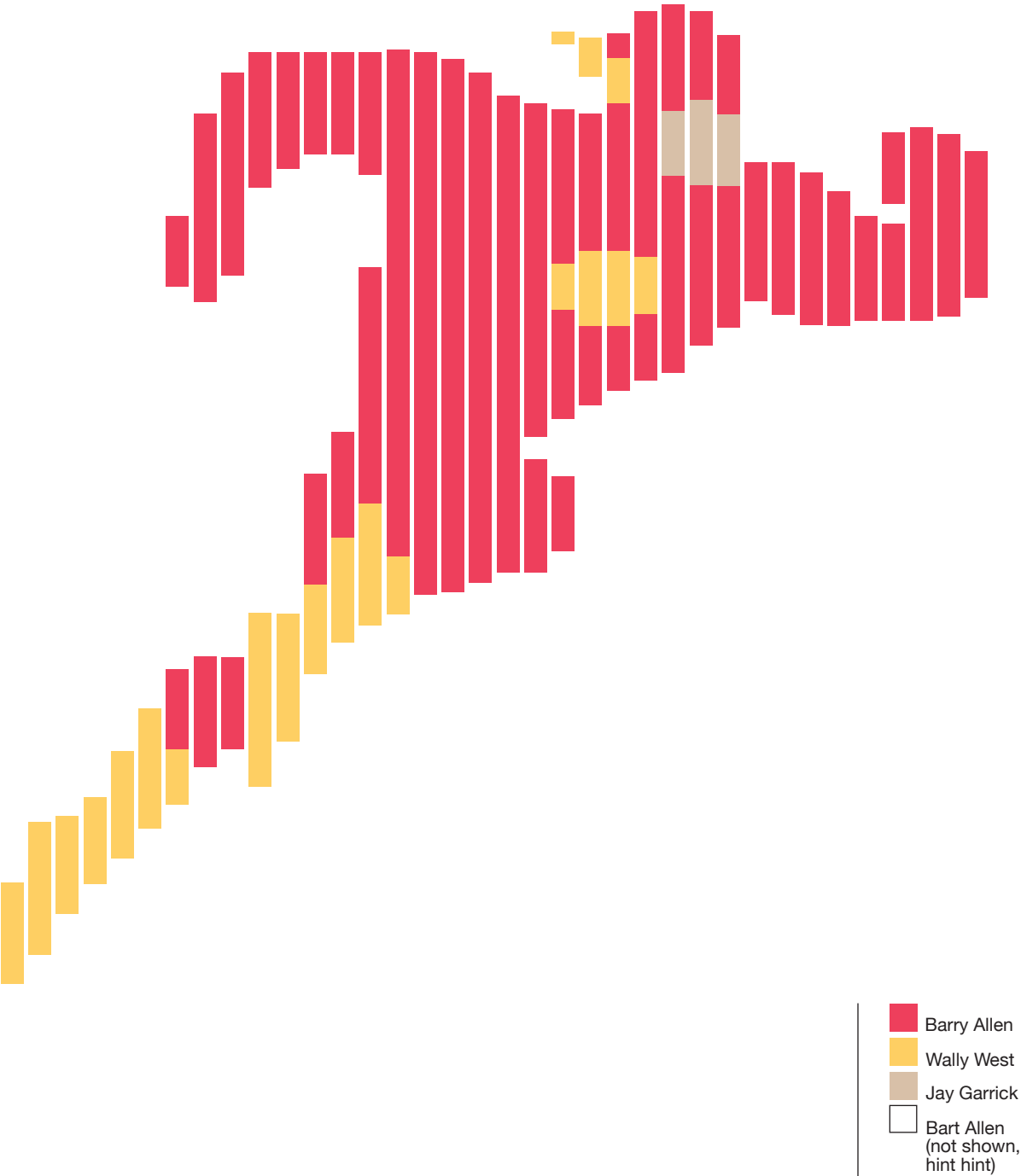


HAWKEYE: The Marvel Comics archer also has an evolving quiver.



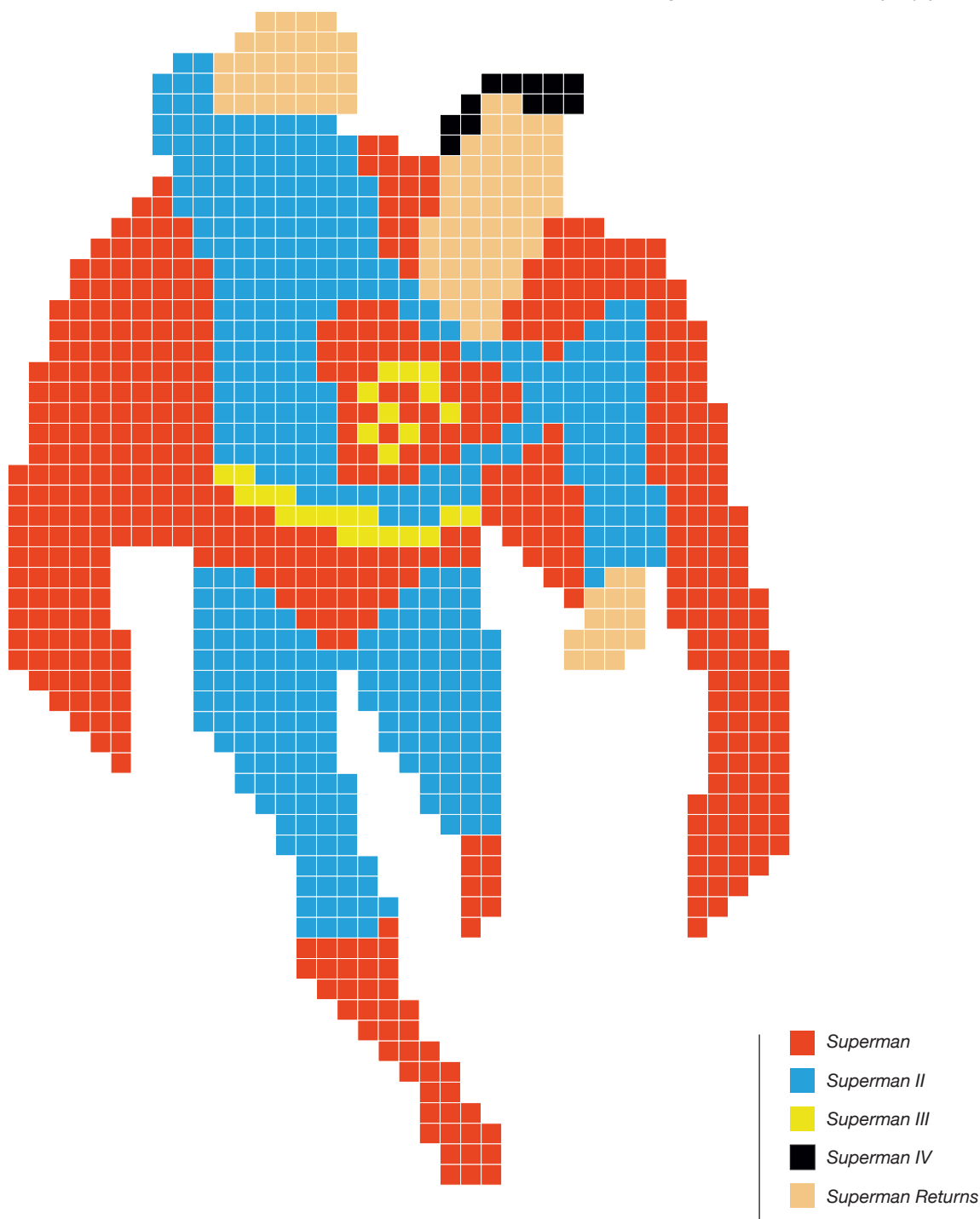
The Flash

Ranking the Scarlet Speedsters by likability.



Superman's Movies

Ranking the Man of Steel's films by enjoyment.



Who Is the Fastest Man Alive?

Clocking the races between Flash and Superman.

1967 The United Nations organizes a race between the two speedy superheroes for charity. Rival gangs place heavy bets and try to rig the outcome. Flash and Superman decide to tie to prevent either gang from profiting.

Flash

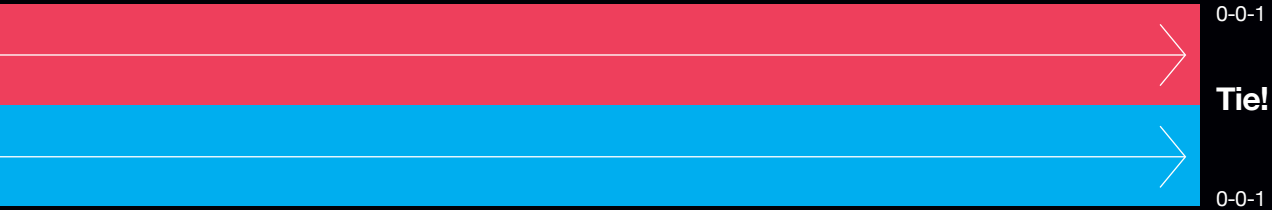
Superman

1967 Frustrated with the outcome of the first race, two gambling aliens (yup, it's exactly what it sounds like) force Flash and Superman to a rematch—with their home cities at stake. The race to the edge of the Milky Way and back turns out just to be a ploy to kill Flash. The two heroes outsmart the aliens and tie a second time.

1970 Flash and Superman try to hunt down robots traveling at the speed of light—and decide to race in the process. In pursuit, they beam to an alien planet, injure their legs, and end up scooting to the finish on their elbows. Superman admits defeat. The Flash is the fastest man alive . . . on this particular alien planet.

1978 During a time-traveling mission to stop a war between two alien nations, Flash and Superman square off.

1990 After Barry Allen dies, Wally West takes over as The Flash and he too races Superman. The race determines if the villain Mr. Mxyzptlk will have to leave Earth. The triumph sends the evil imp abroad for 90 days.

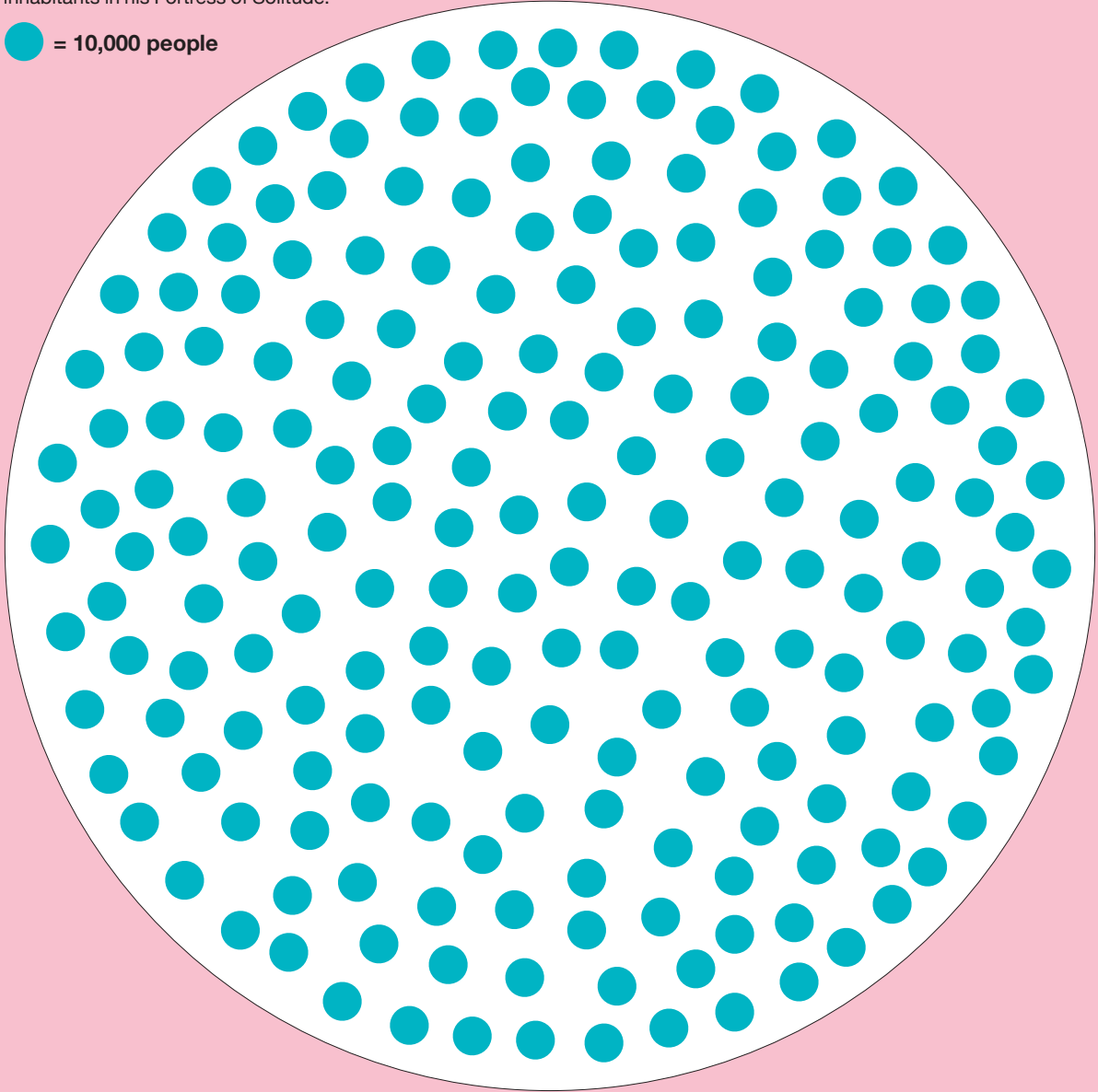


SMALL WONDER

How Big Is the Miniature City of Kandor?

Kandor, the capital city of Krypton, was stolen and shrunk by the alien android Brainiac. Superman keeps the city and its inhabitants in his Fortress of Solitude.

● = 10,000 people

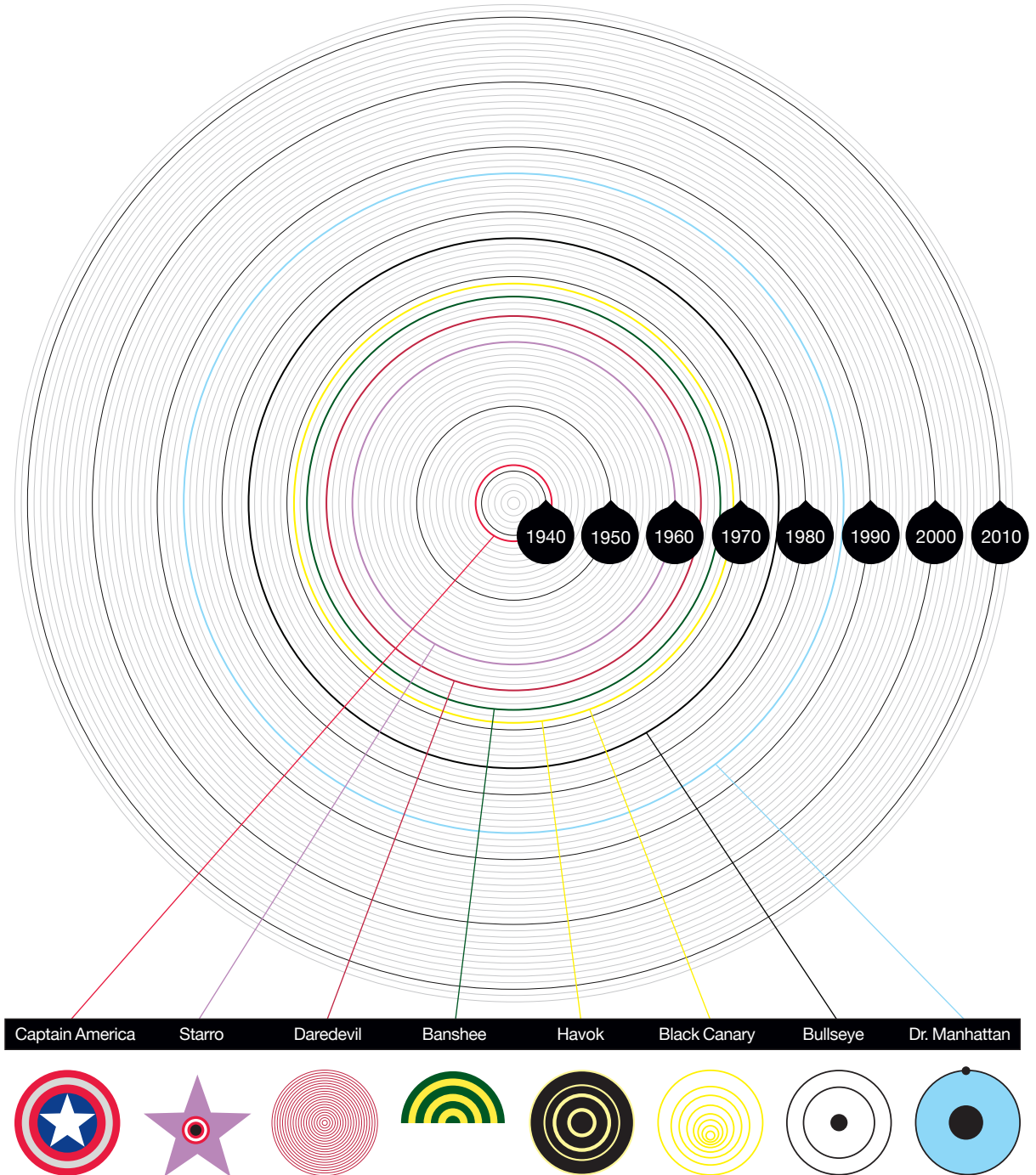


(contained in a bottle roughly 18 inches in diameter)

PUT A RING ON IT

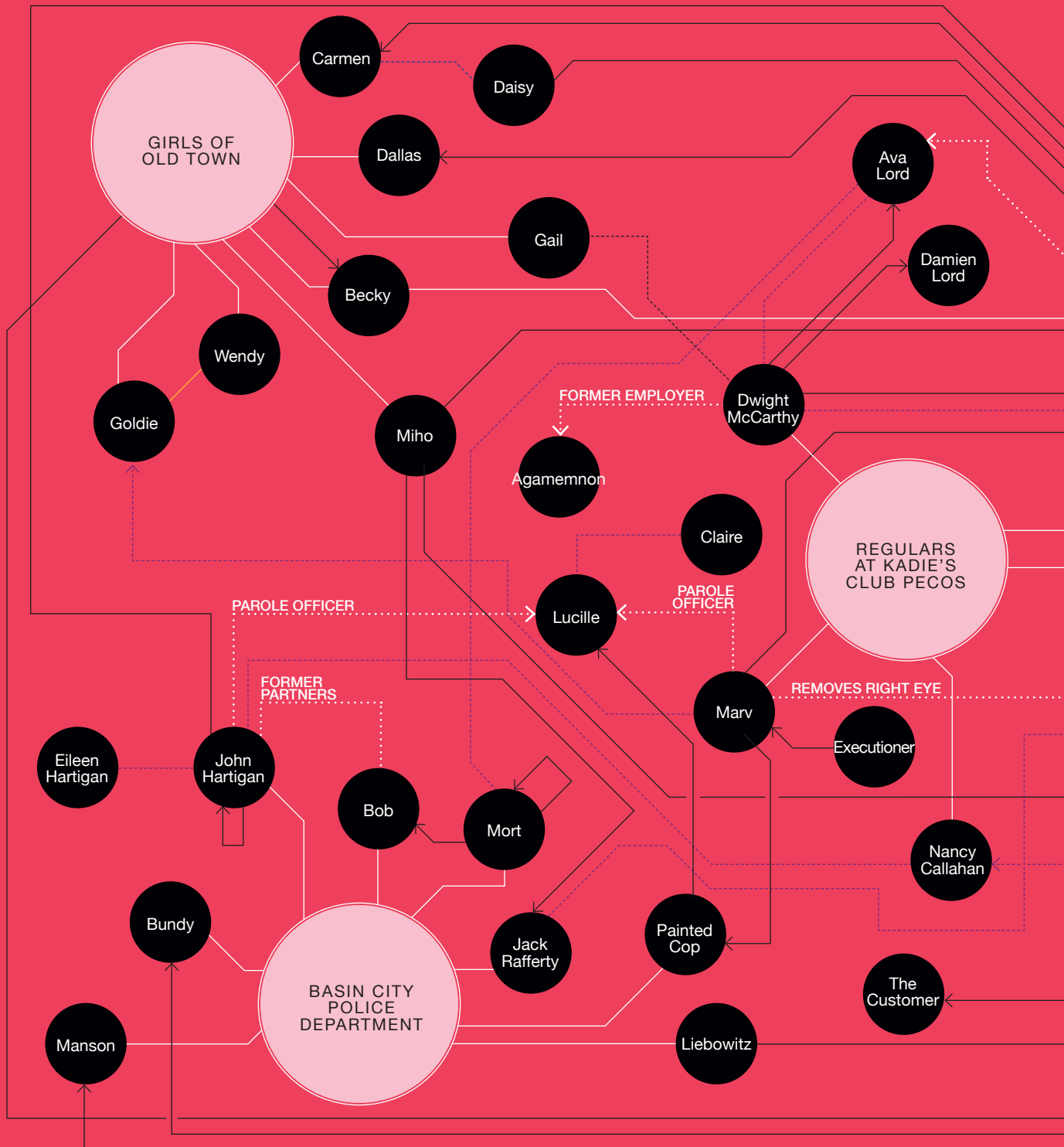
A History of Concentric Circles

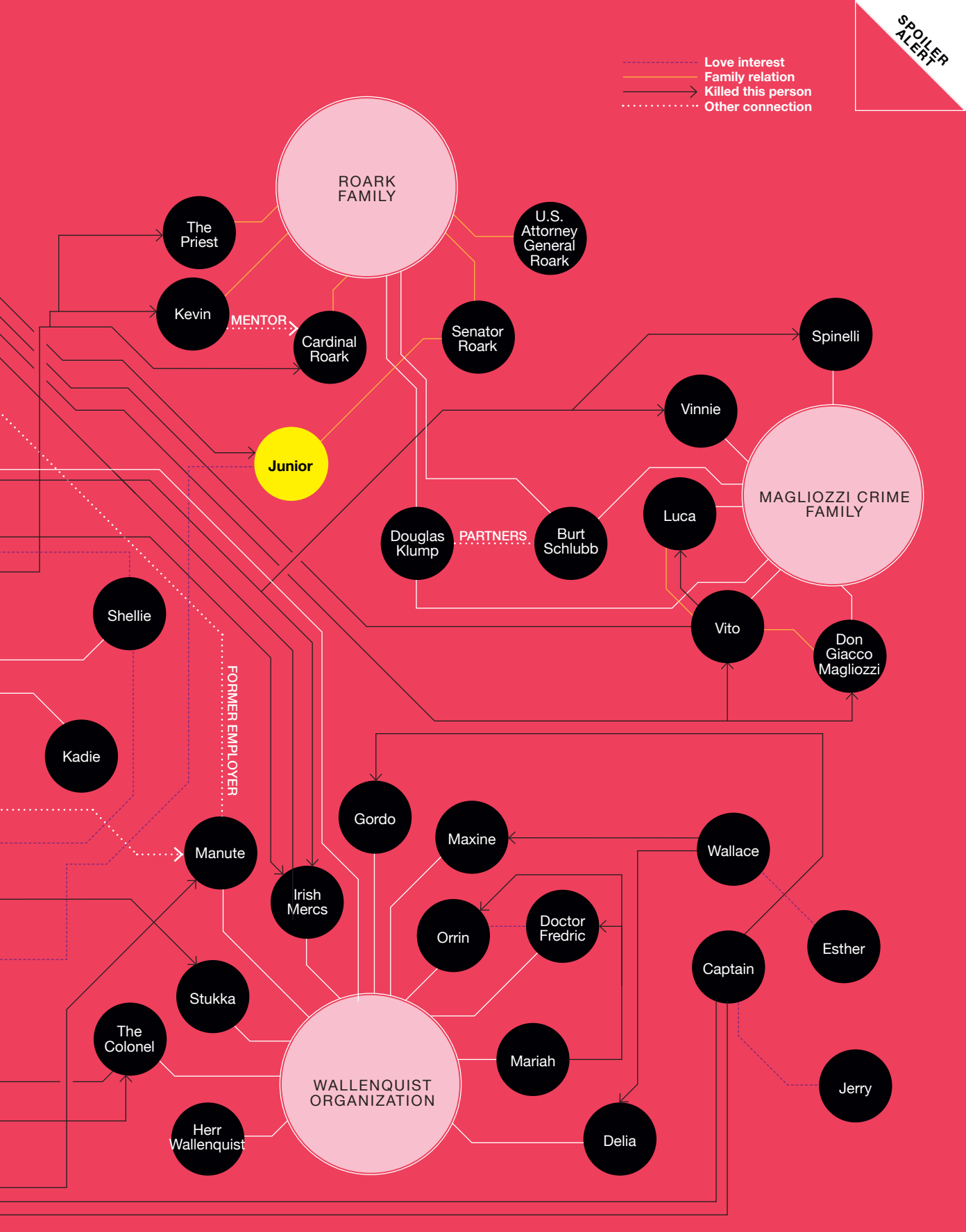
A common graphic device, the concentric circle comes back around over time.



Who's Who in *Sin City*

In Frank Miller's dark classic, everyone knows your name—and has your number. Here's how they're all connected.

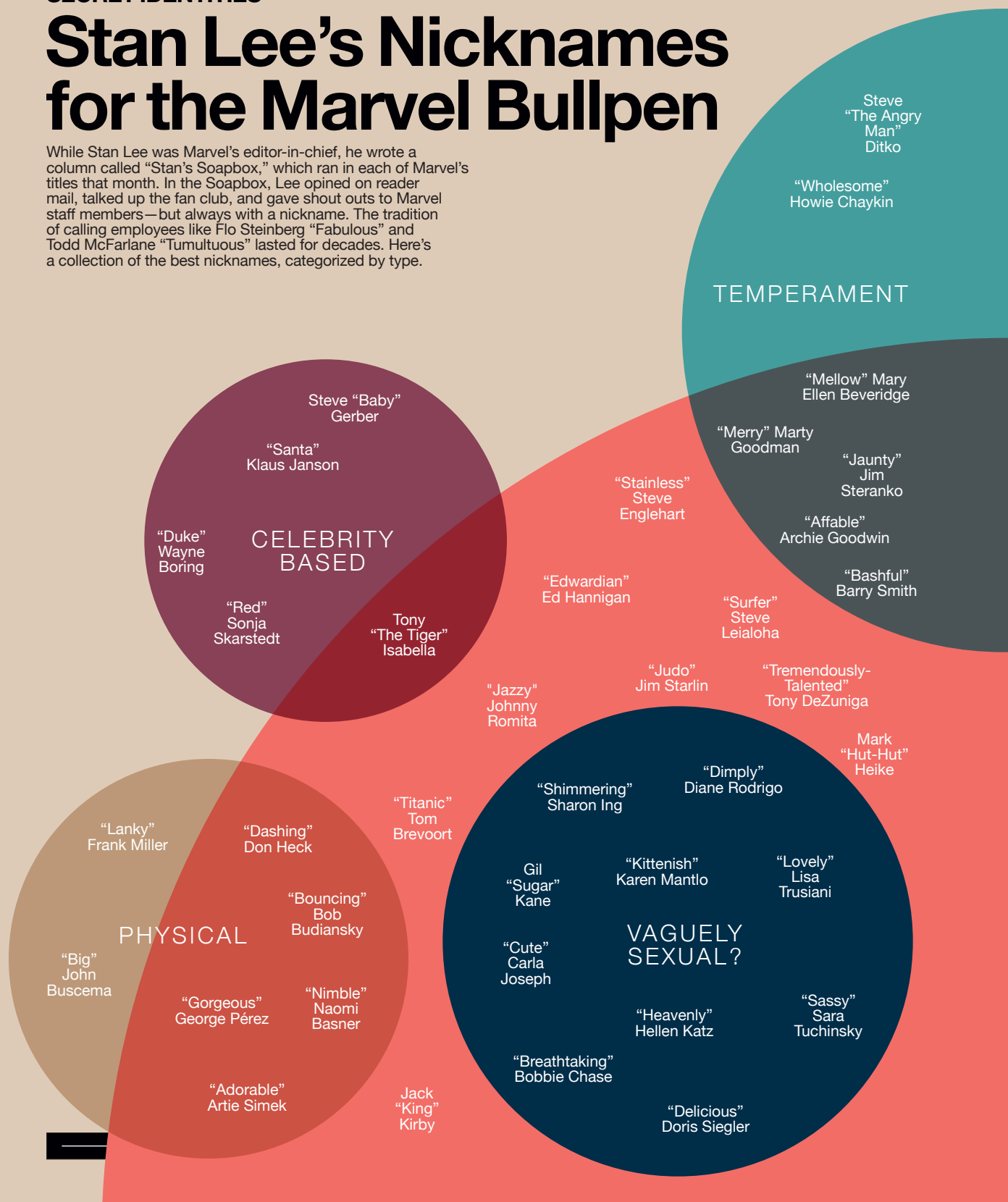


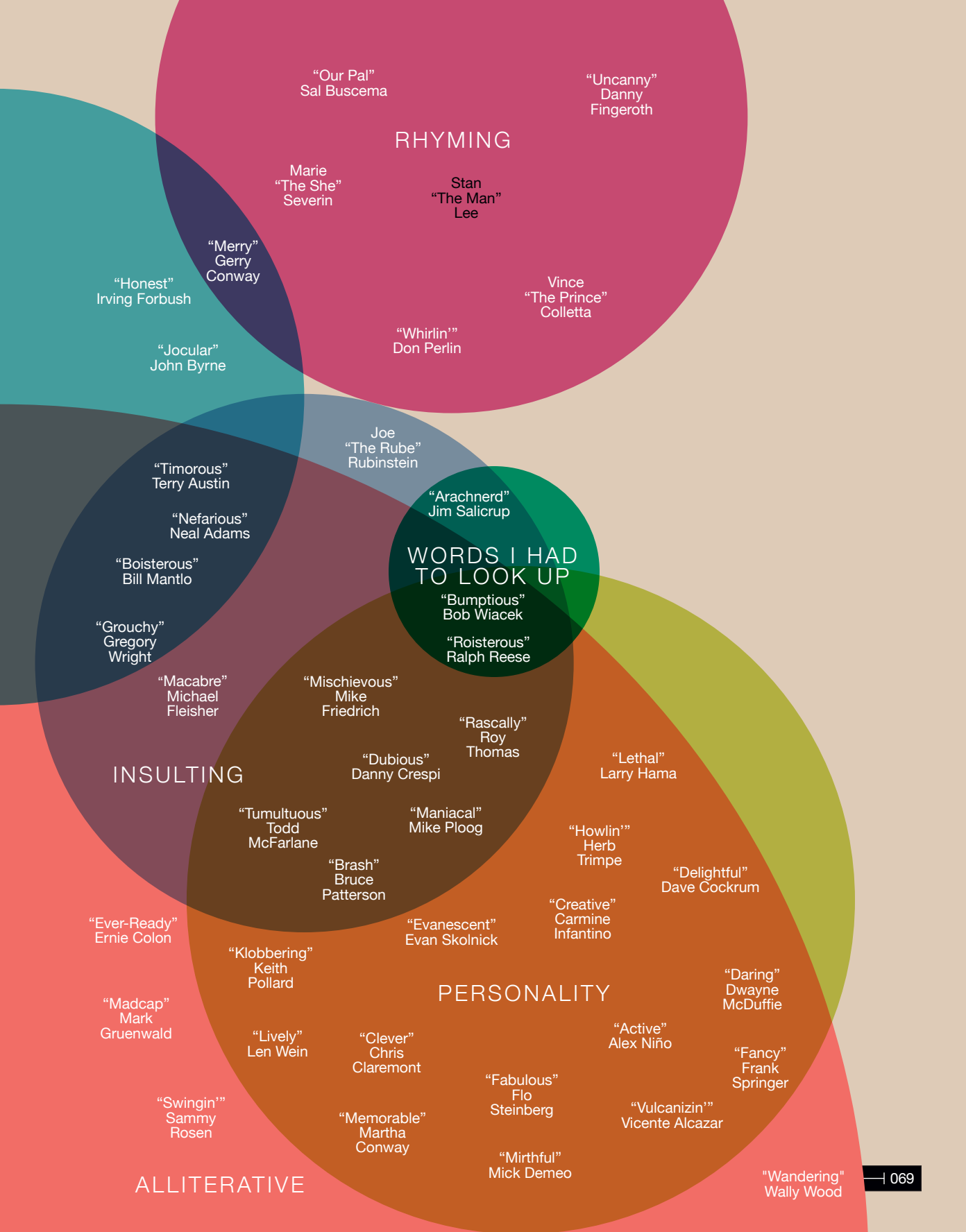


SECRET IDENTITIES

Stan Lee's Nicknames for the Marvel Bullpen

While Stan Lee was Marvel's editor-in-chief, he wrote a column called "Stan's Soapbox," which ran in each of Marvel's titles that month. In the Soapbox, Lee opined on reader mail, talked up the fan club, and gave shout outs to Marvel staff members—but always with a nickname. The tradition of calling employees like Flo Steinberg "Fabulous" and Todd McFarlane "Tumultuous" lasted for decades. Here's a collection of the best nicknames, categorized by type.





The Periodic Table of The Metal Men

The Metal Men are a team of robots who pull their names and abilities from—yup, you guessed it—different metals. The members of the original team, created in 1962, were Gold, Iron, Lead, Mercury, Platinum, and Tin. But over time, more were created—spin-off teams and enemies—all springing from the Periodic Table.

[illegible]

The Metal Men. Copper is the only element not from the original team.

The Metal Men's backup team.

An evil team of robots built by an evil robot version of Doc Magnus.

The first robot built by Doc Magnus.



Doc Magnus's robot servant.

A robot shown in *Silver Age Secret Files* as a learning tool.

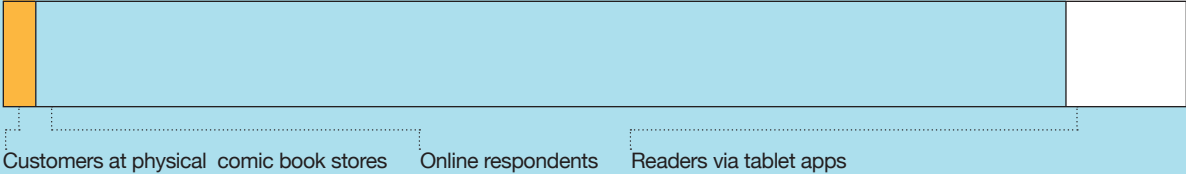
Through issue 16, each comic includes a "Metal Facts and Fancies" page. These are the robots that make an appearance.

Iron, Platinum, Gold, and Mercury were transformed into these metals. They are the Death Metal Men.

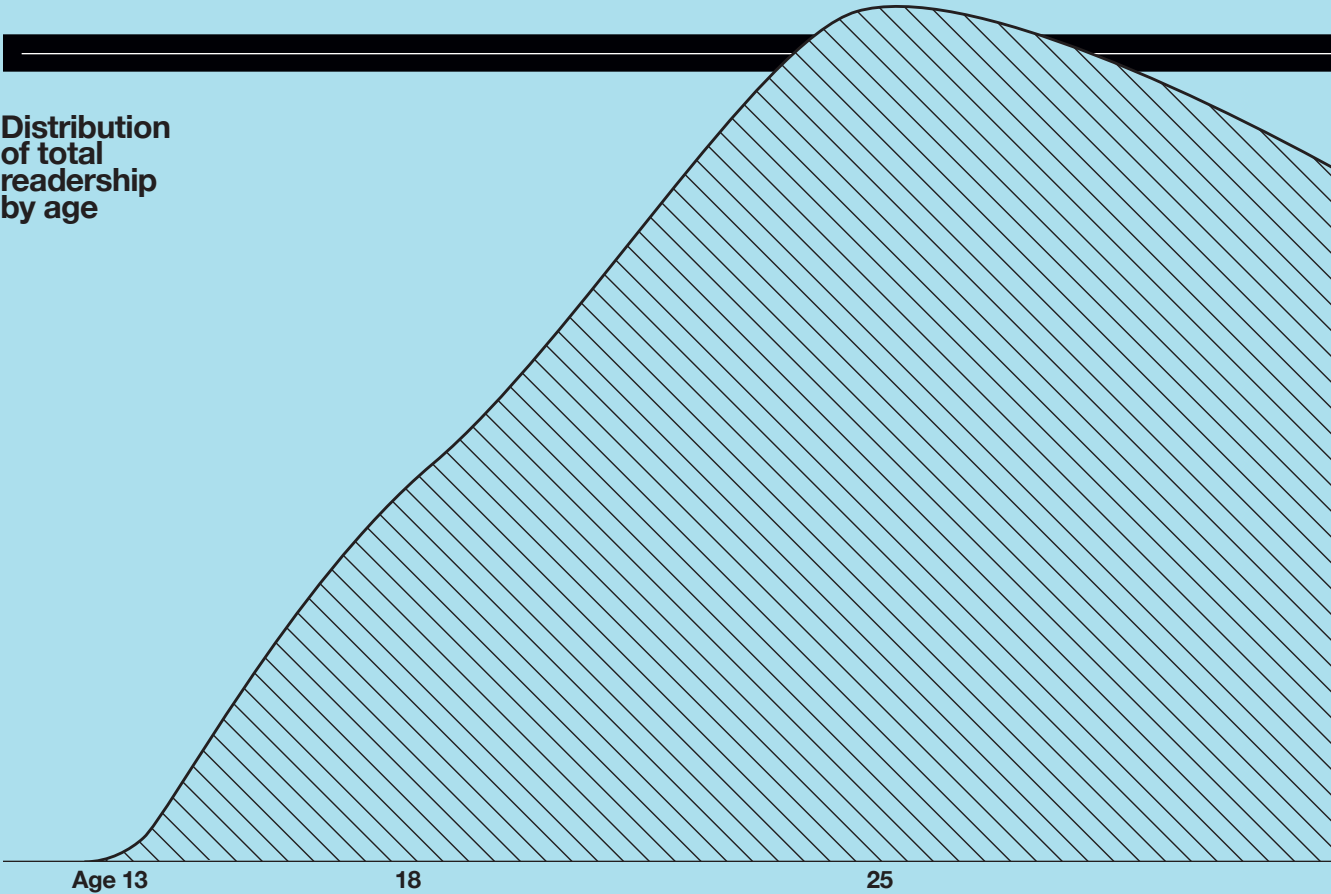
Who Reads DC Comics?

In 2011, right after a massive relaunch of all their characters, DC Comics polled readers to find out whom their so-called *New 52* line was reaching. Here are the results.

Data collection



Distribution of total readership by age



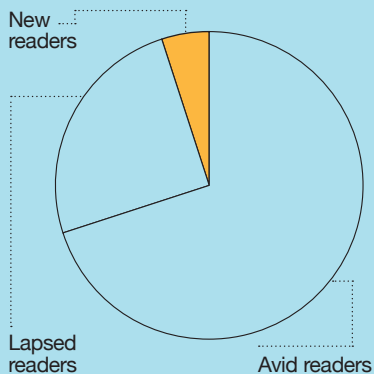
Gender



Income

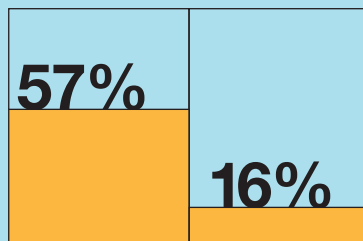


Types of readers



Digital readers polled who also read print comics

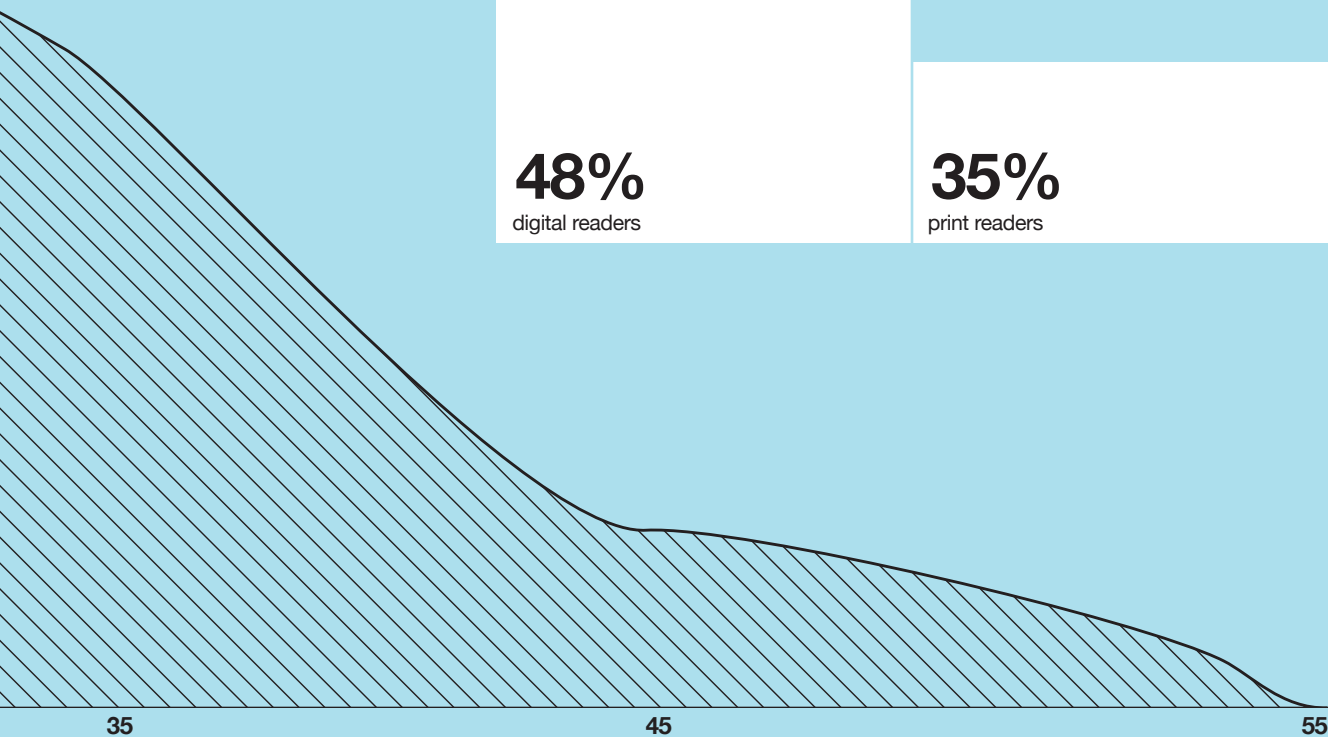
Print readers polled who also read digital comics



Readers over 35

48%
digital readers

35%
print readers



Purchasing

Four in ten respondents said a *New 52* title they wanted was out of stock at their store.

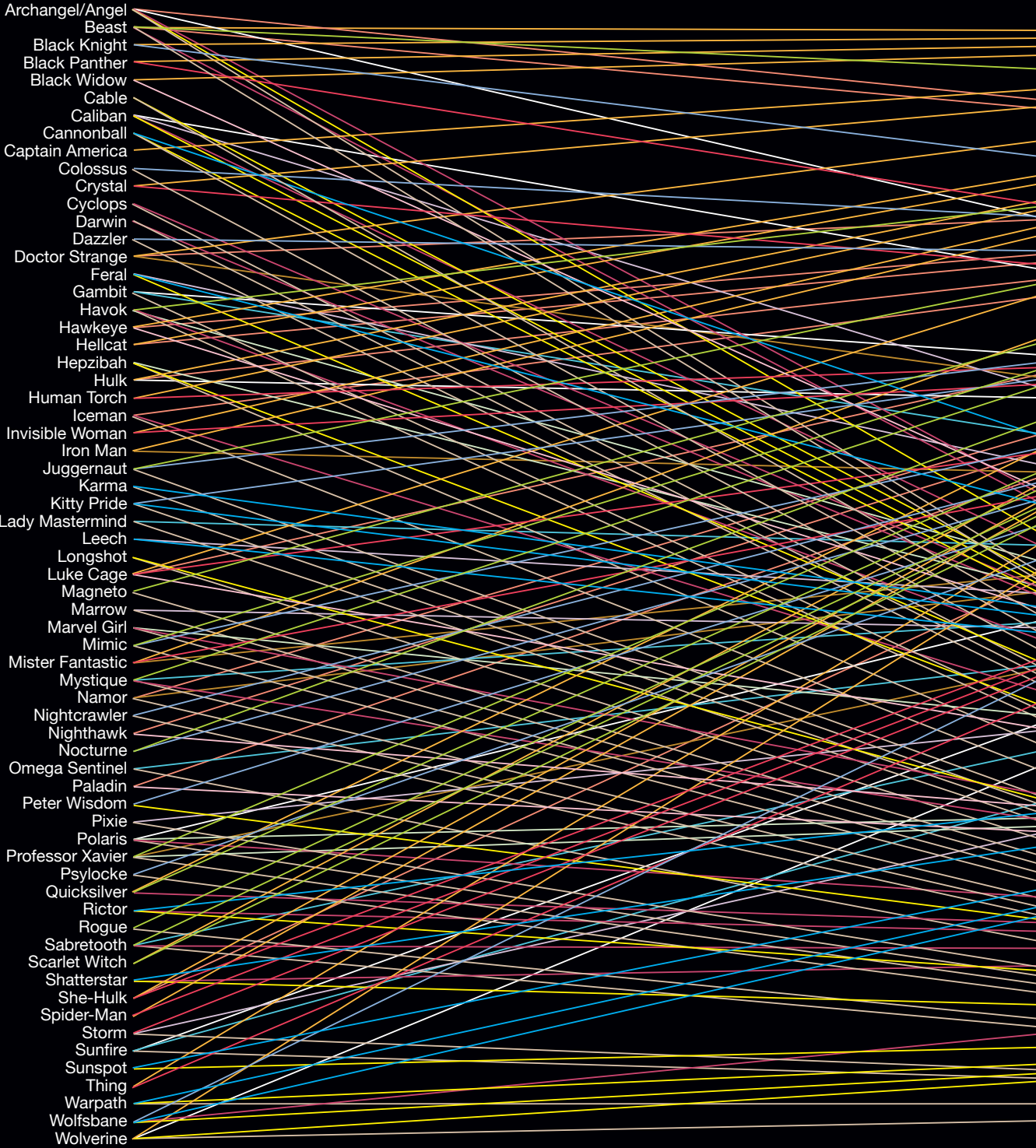


Two-thirds made an impulse buy.

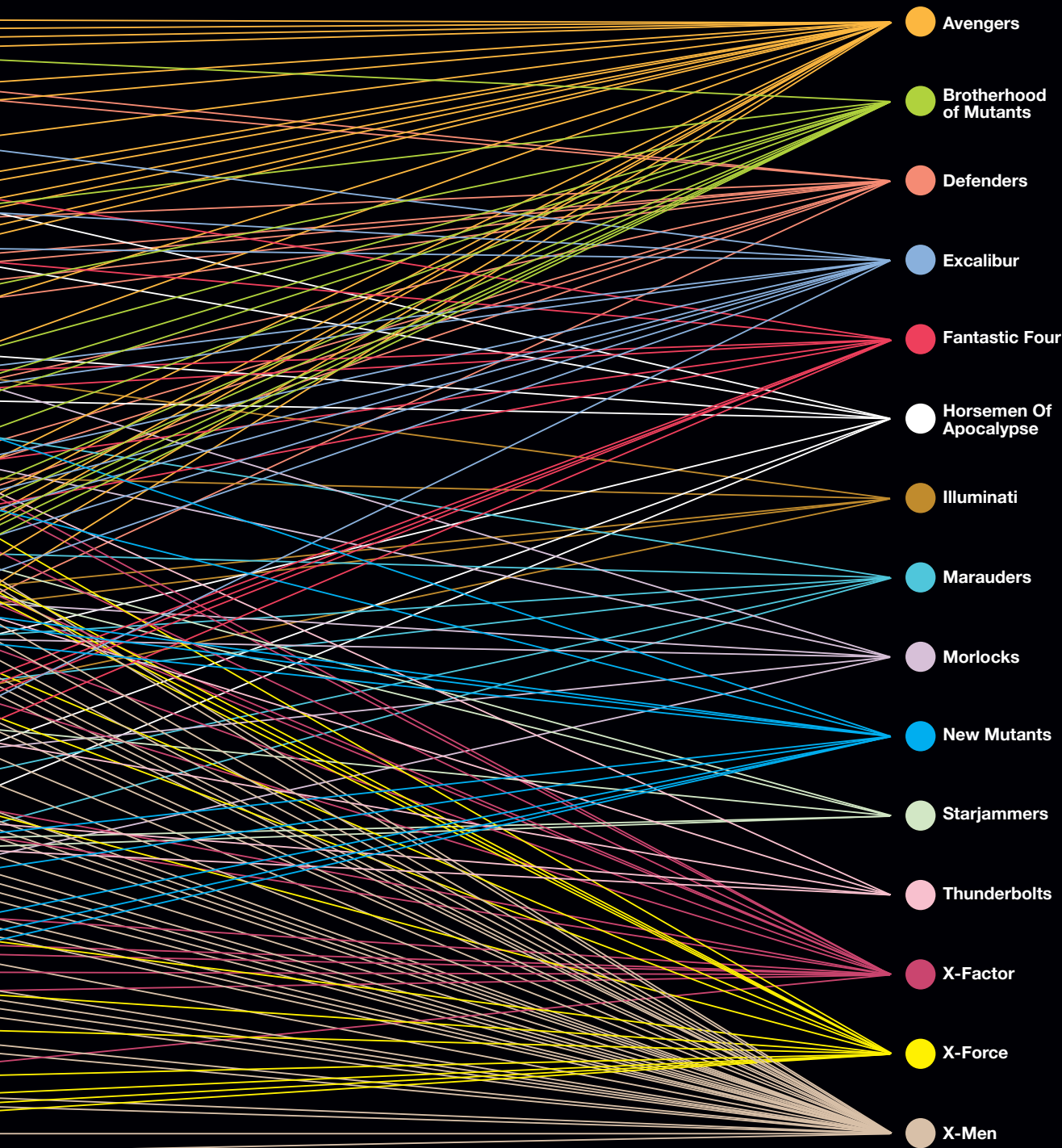


PLAYING FOR THE OTHER TEAM

The Many Affiliations of the Marvel Universe

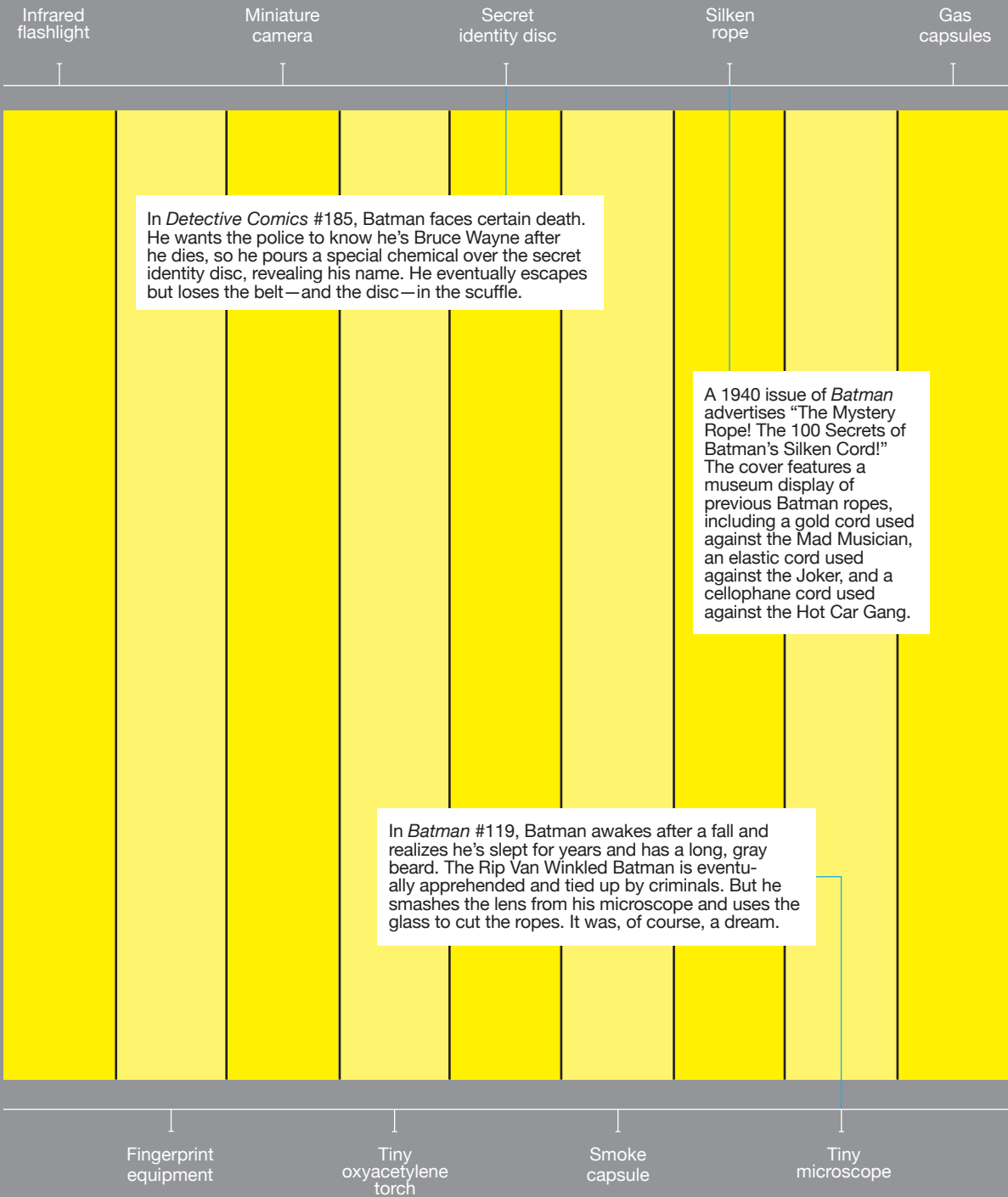


If you're a superhero or a mutant, you're almost required to spread your powers around.

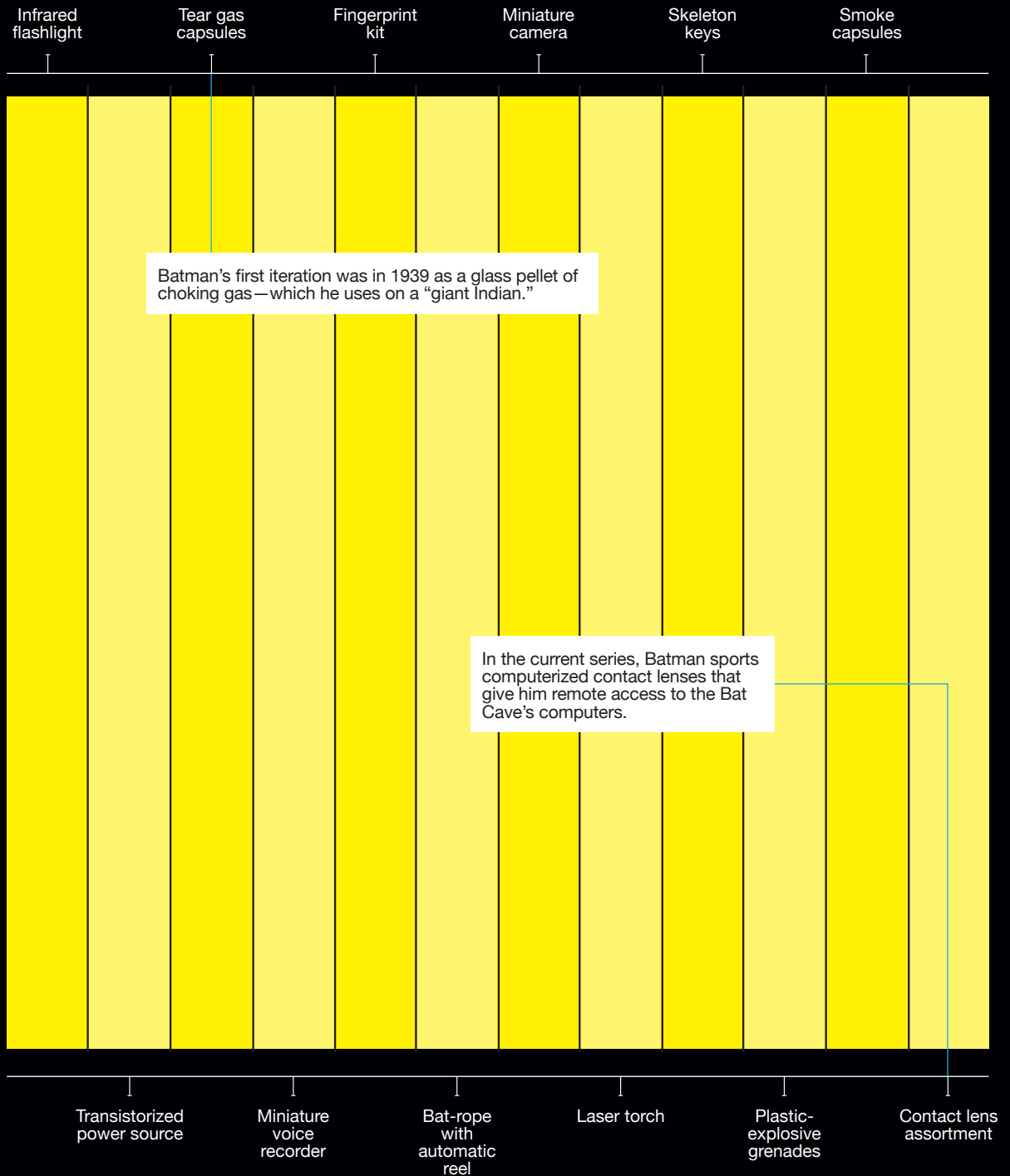


Batman's Utility Belt, 1952

The Dark Knight is constantly updating the contents of his trusty belt with better gadgets; a lot changes in crime-fighting tech over the years.

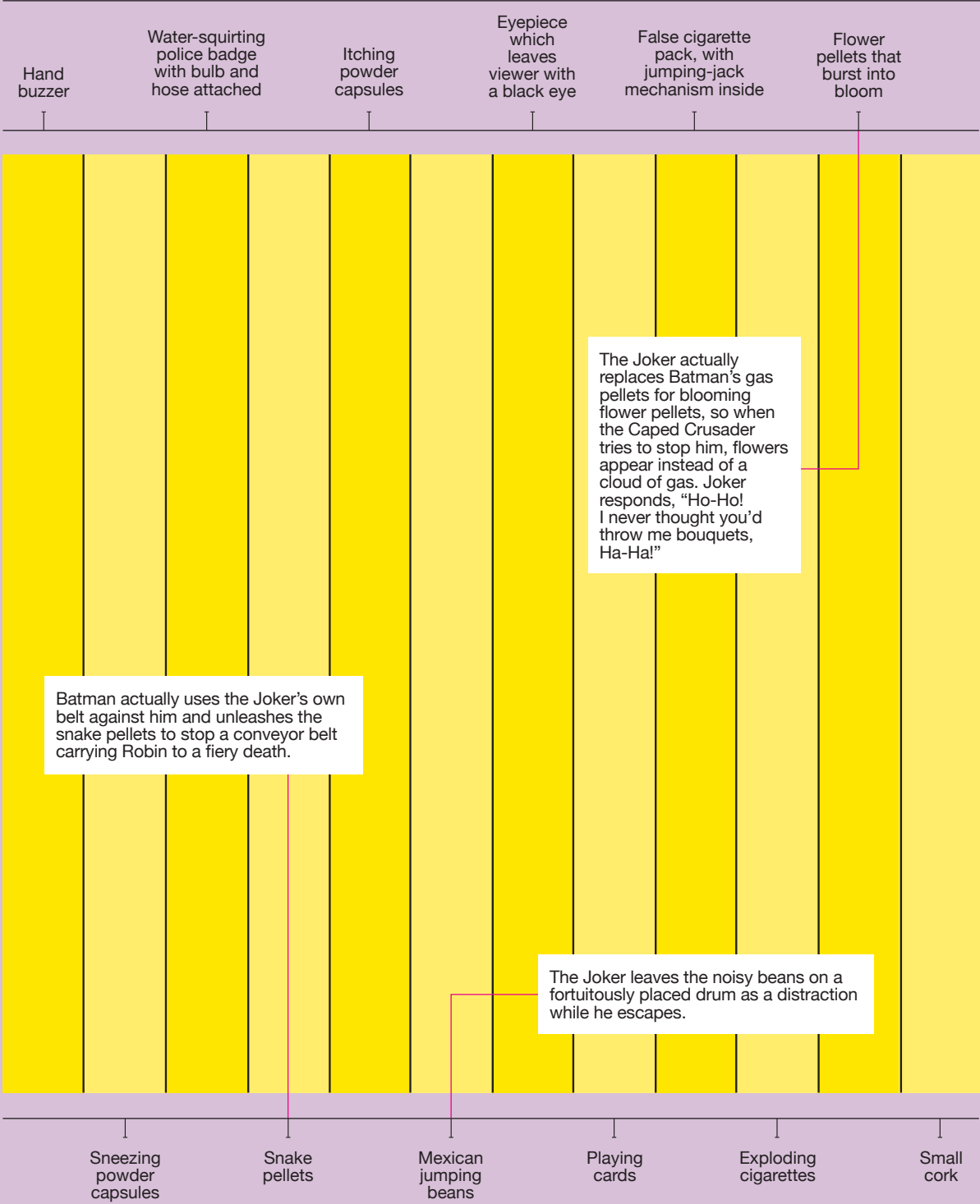


Batman's Utility Belt, 1968

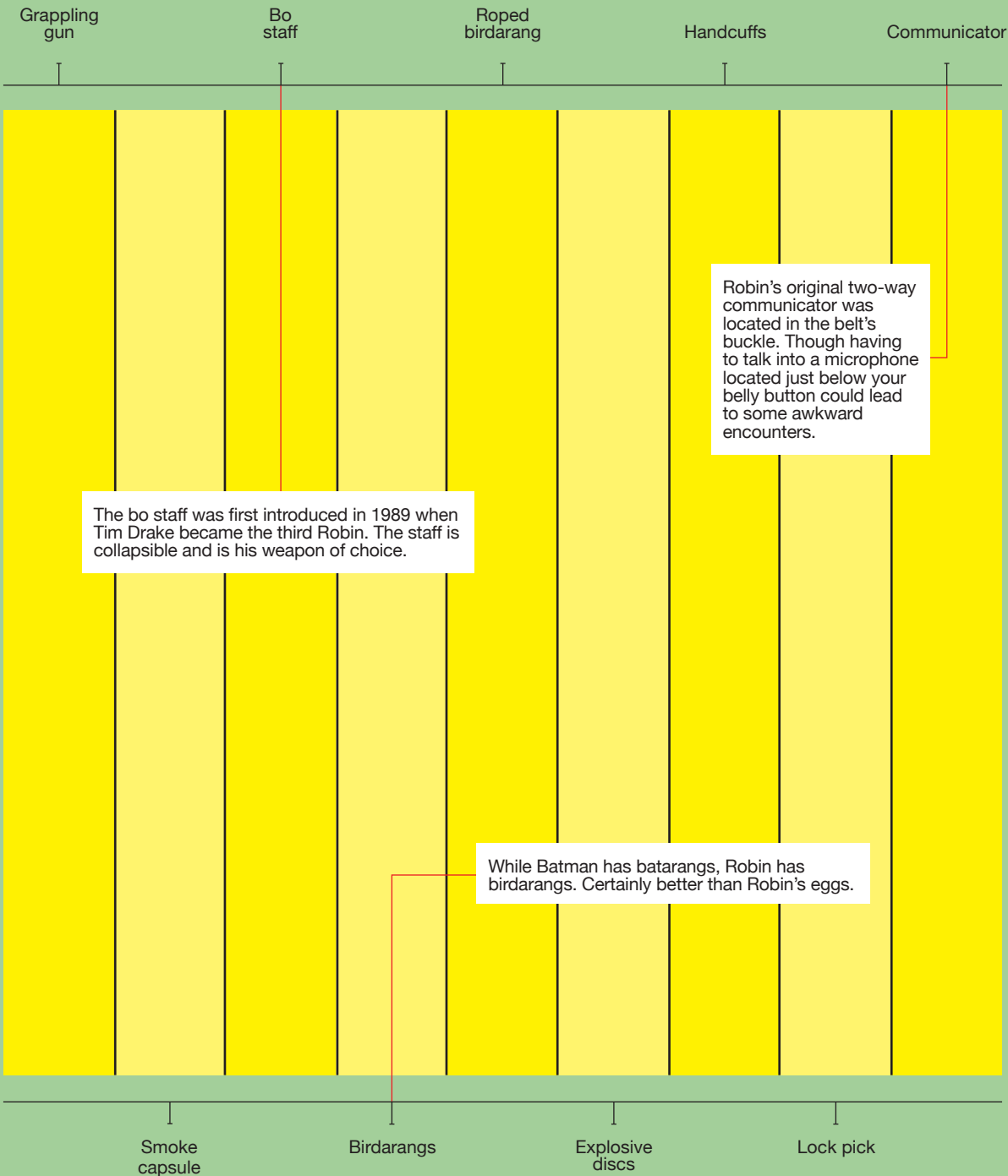


Joker's Utility Belt, 1952

After being bested by Batman in *Batman #73*, the Joker decides he wants his own utility belt. It's a short-lived conceit.



Robin's Utility Belt, 1994



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 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

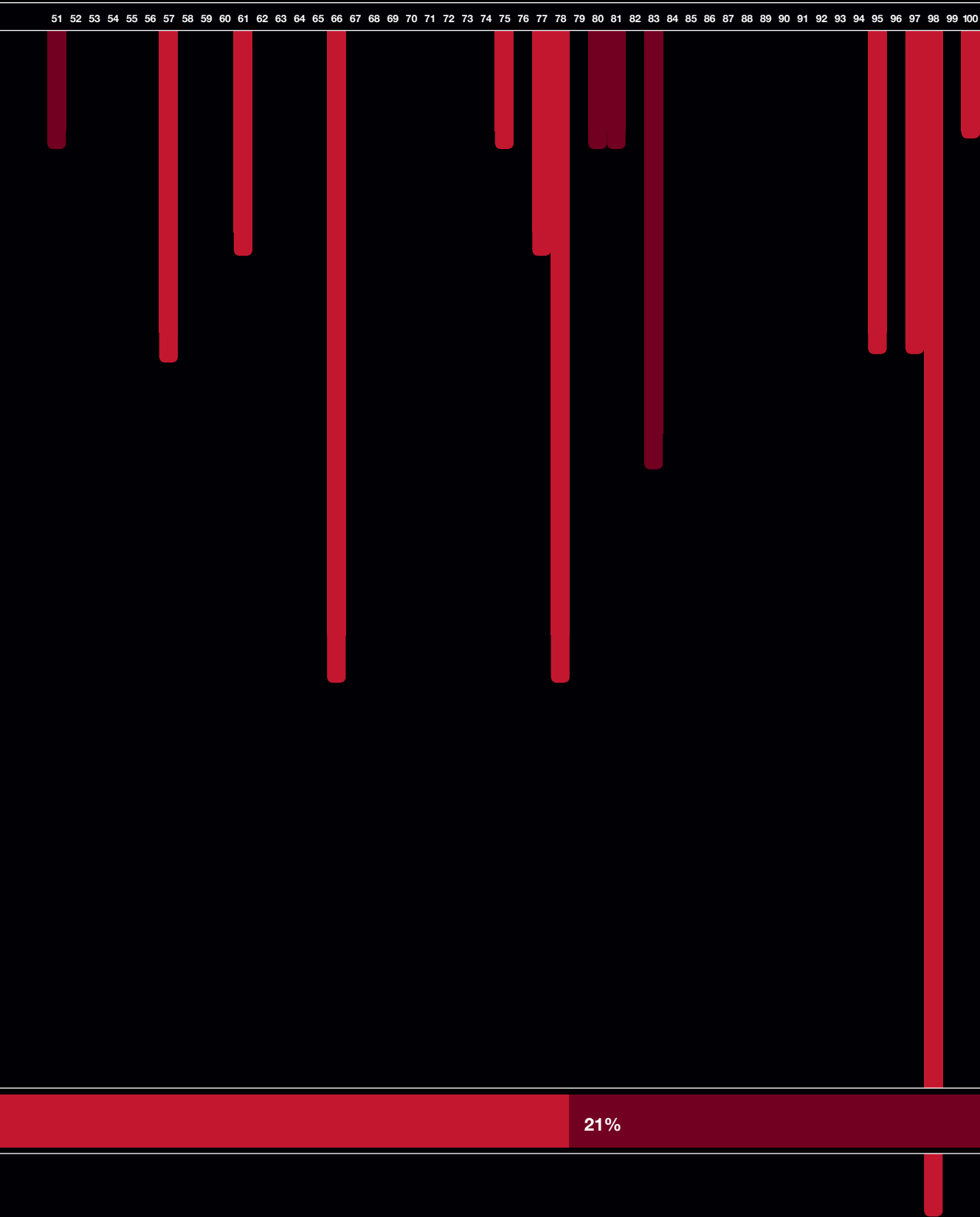
The Walking Dead Kill Counter

You think a zombie hoard is the ultimate worst case scenario? Think again.

● Death by human ● Death by zombie

OVERALL DEATHS BY HUMAN AND ZOMBIES





Who is Left in *Y: The Last Man*

After a plague kills off every other man on the planet, Yorick Brown has to deal with being his gender's sole survivor. With most firefighters,

GENDER BREAKDOWN AFTER THE PLAGUE

World population



Fortune 500 CEOs



World landowners



World mechanics, electricians, and construction workers



World agricultural labor force



US commercial pilots, truck drivers, and ship captains



US violent felons



World government representatives



World Catholic priests, Muslim imams, and Orthodox Jewish rabbis



US physicians



US registered nurses



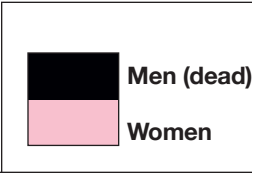
US local police



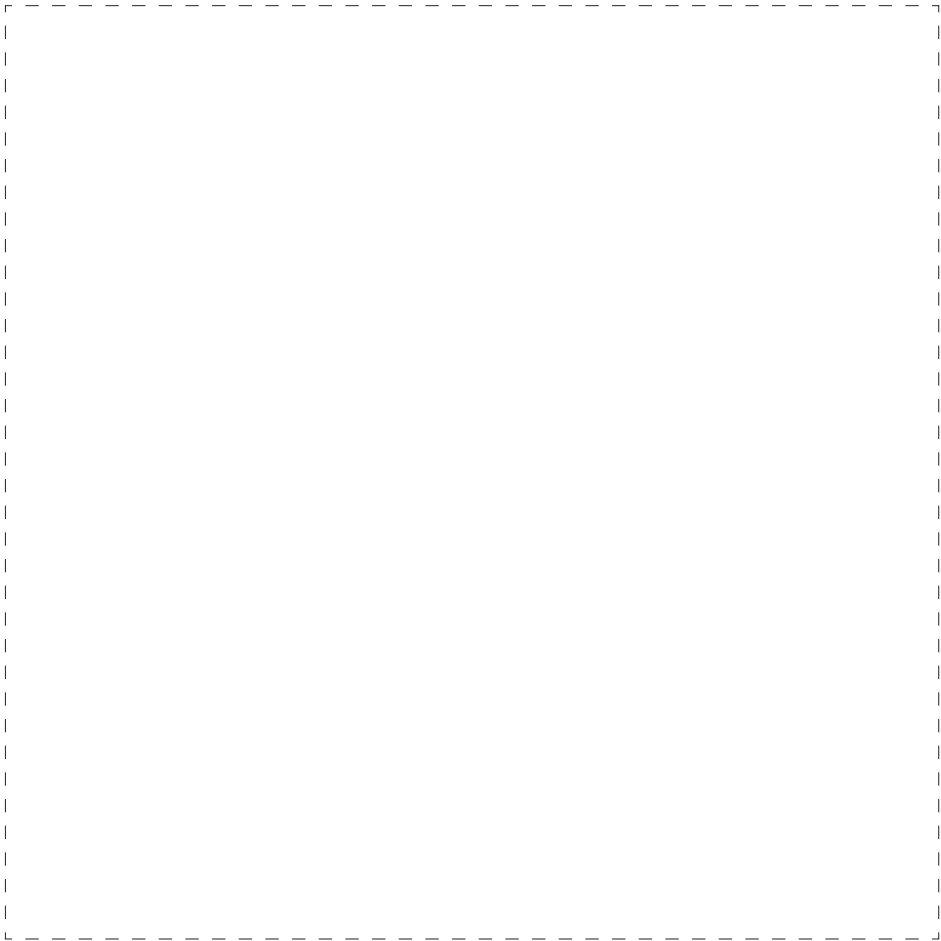
US firefighters



felons, and physicians now dead, this is what's left of the world.



Why Guys Like Invisible Woman



-
- ☐ Her maiden name is Storm, which is just cool
 - ☐ She makes force fields
 - ☐ They're secretly hoping her clothes will turn invisible

Why Guys Relate to Spider-Man



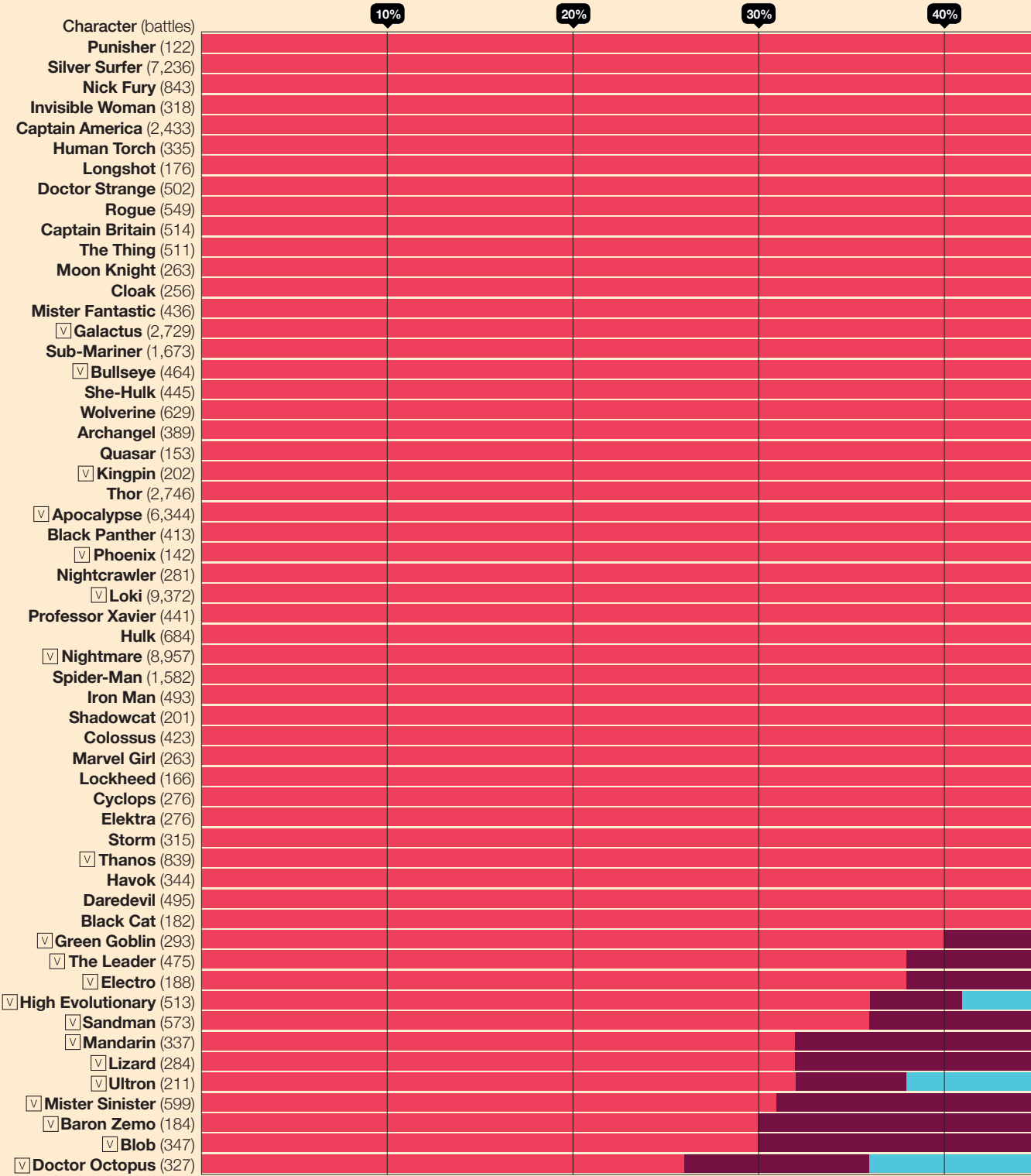
■ He's bullied in school

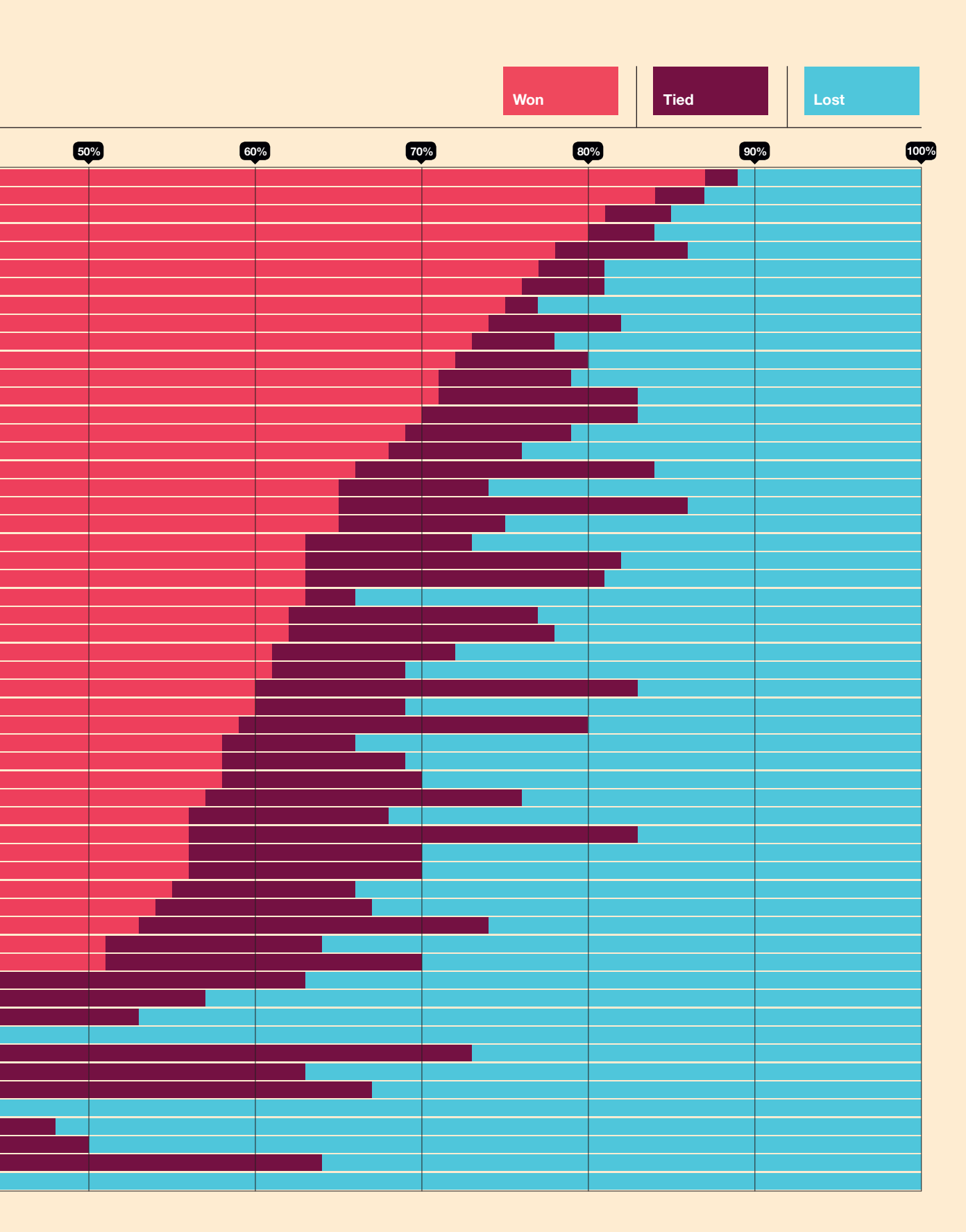
■ He has a crush on a girl out of his league

□ Constantly shoots sticky, white fluid from his body

Battle Breakdown

How Marvel characters stack up, according to the 1990 Marvel Universe Trading Cards Series. ☐ = villain



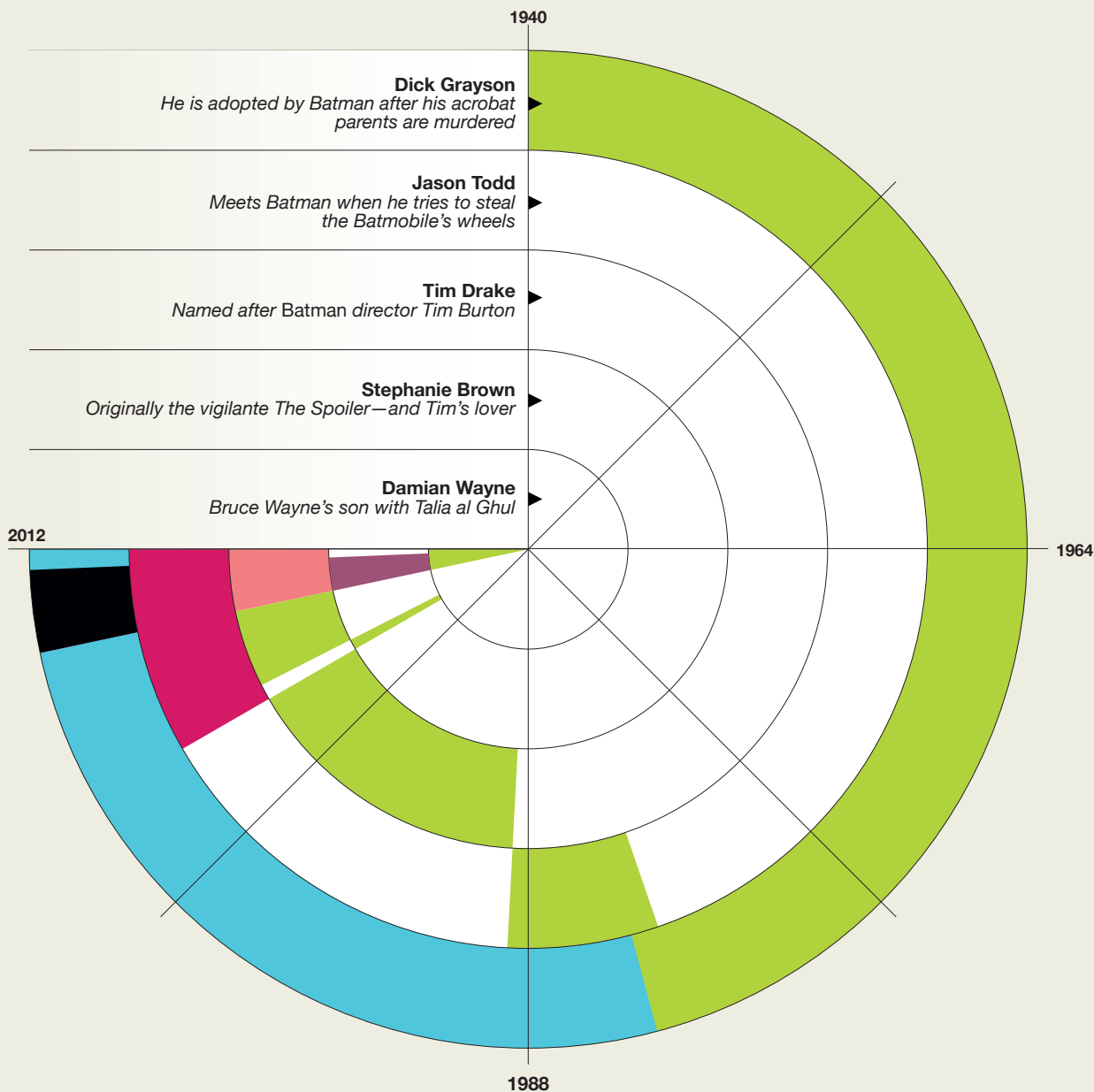


BIRD WATCHING

The Five Faces of Robin

It's tough being Batman's sidekick. You get no thanks and crummy pay. And some crazy guy in clown makeup is always trying to blow you up. It's no wonder turnover for the position has been relatively high. Here's the rundown of the five youths who have taken the mantle of the Boy Wonder (and the characters they became afterwards).

● Robin ● Nightwing ● Batman ● Red Hood ● Red Robin ● Batgirl



1988

Fans kill the widely disliked Jason Todd by voting for his death in a phone-in campaign. He returns, miraculously, in 2005 as the anti-hero Red Hood.

2006

Batman meets his previously unknown ten-year-old son Damian, whom The League of Assassins grew in a lab and trained to be a killer.

2004

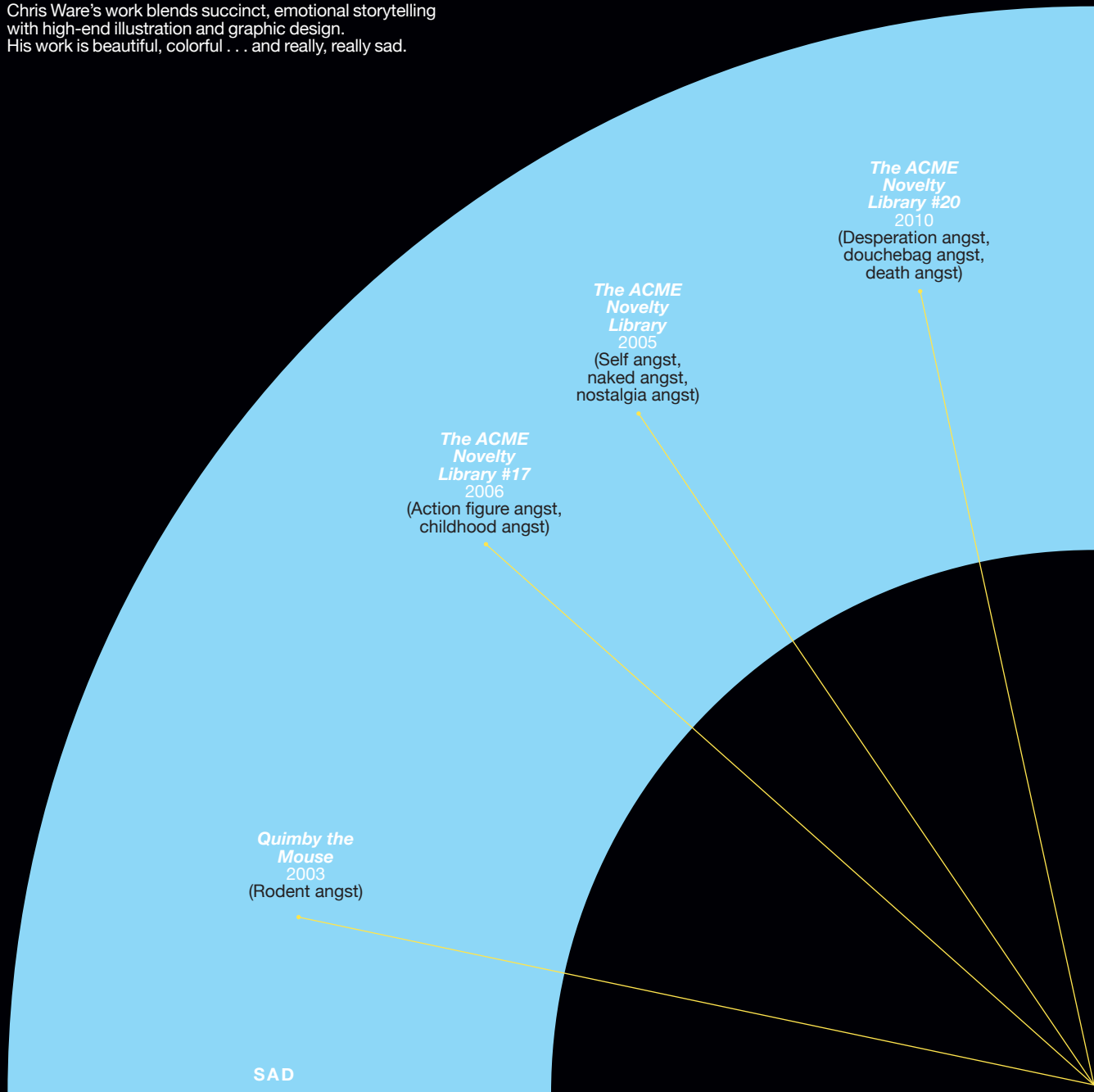
Stephanie gets the boot after refusing to follow orders. Oh, and then she fakes her death after inadvertently starting a Gotham gang war.

2009

Dick becomes Batman for a bit when Bruce Wayne is sent through time by Darkseid's Omega beams.

The Chris Ware Sadness Scale

Chris Ware's work blends succinct, emotional storytelling with high-end illustration and graphic design. His work is beautiful, colorful . . . and really, really sad.



*The ACME
Novelty
Library #16*
2005
(Bully angst,
daddy issue angst,
suicide angst)

*Building
Stories*
2012
(Relationship angst,
prosthetic leg angst,
loneliness angst)

*The ACME
Novelty
Library #19*
2008
(Loneliness angst,
action figure angst,
Mars angst, murdered
dog angst)

*Jimmy
Corrigan,
the Smartest
Kid on Earth*
2000
(Relationship angst, loneliness
angst, Dead Superman angst,
daddy issue angst, angst angst)

SOUL-CRUSHING DEPRESSION

META HUMAN

Pop Culture in *Scott Pilgrim*

Although Bryan Lee O'Malley's series may star a Canadian slacker, its set of cultural references are absolutely on point, from Scott Pilgrim's band's name (Sex Bob-Omb) to his ex-girlfriend's (The Clash at Demonhead).

Scott wears a New Pornographers t-shirt in a dream sequence.

A *Mr. Show* DVD is on display at the local video store.

This volume's title is a reference to The Smashing Pumpkins' album *Mellon Collie and the Infinite Sadness*.

The group that plays before Scott's band at a gig, Crash and the Boys, pulls its name from the 1992 Nintendo game *Crash 'n the Boys: Street Challenge*. Bonus: During the show the lead singer is wearing a Kinks T-shirt.

The title page is an homage to the '90s Nintendo game *Bonk's Adventure*.

Scott Pilgrim's Precious Little Life

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World

Scott Pilgrim & the Infinite Sadness

- COMICS
- MUSIC
- TV
- VIDEO GAMES
- MOVIES

While at a friend's house, Roxie reads a volume of Brandon Graham's comic *King City*.

The sword Scott and Ramona use in the final battle is named The Power of Love, which is also a song by Huey Lewis and the News.

A copy of Madonna's *True Blue* appears in Ramona's room...

...and a *Fargo* poster hangs on her wall.

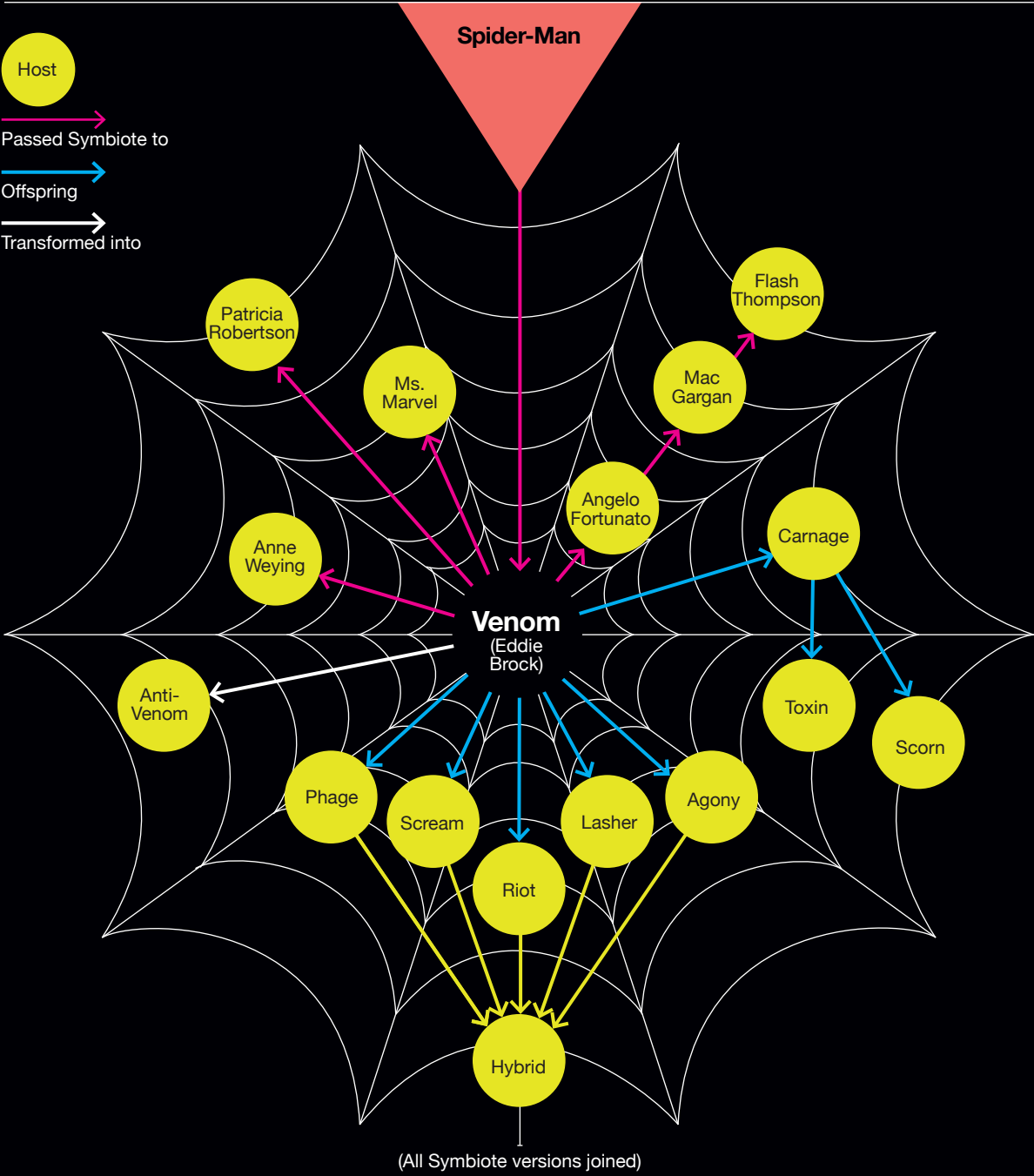
Scott Pilgrim Gets It Together

Scott Pilgrim vs. the Universe

Scott Pilgrim's Finest Hour

Venom's Family Web

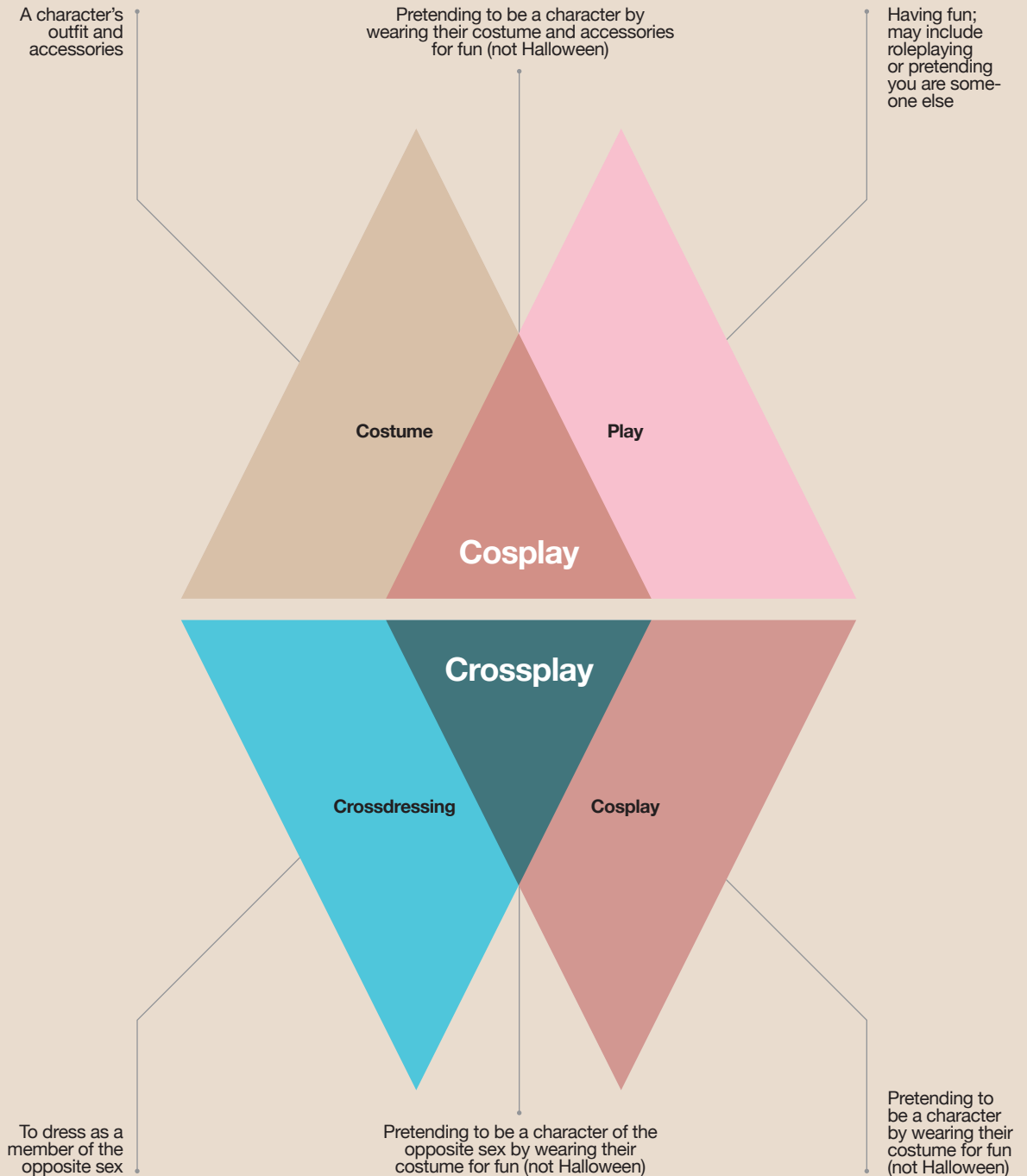
When Spider-Man receives a new, black costume in 1984's *Secret Wars* storyline, it turns out the outfit is actually alive. It's a Symbiote, or a member of an alien race that gives powers to the host it bonds with. Spider-Man eventually rejects the Symbiote and the costume escapes, quickly finding a new host in the former *Daily Bugle* reporter Eddie Brock. Brock and the Symbiote bond, and together they become Venom, creating one of Spider-Man's arch rivals. The Symbiote, however, doesn't stop at Brock. It's history with hosts, transformations and offspring (yup, the costume has spawn) created a tangled...er, web of hosts.



DRESSED TO KILL

Explaining Cosplay and Crossplay

Want to dress up as your favorite character? Make sure you know what terms are in fashion.

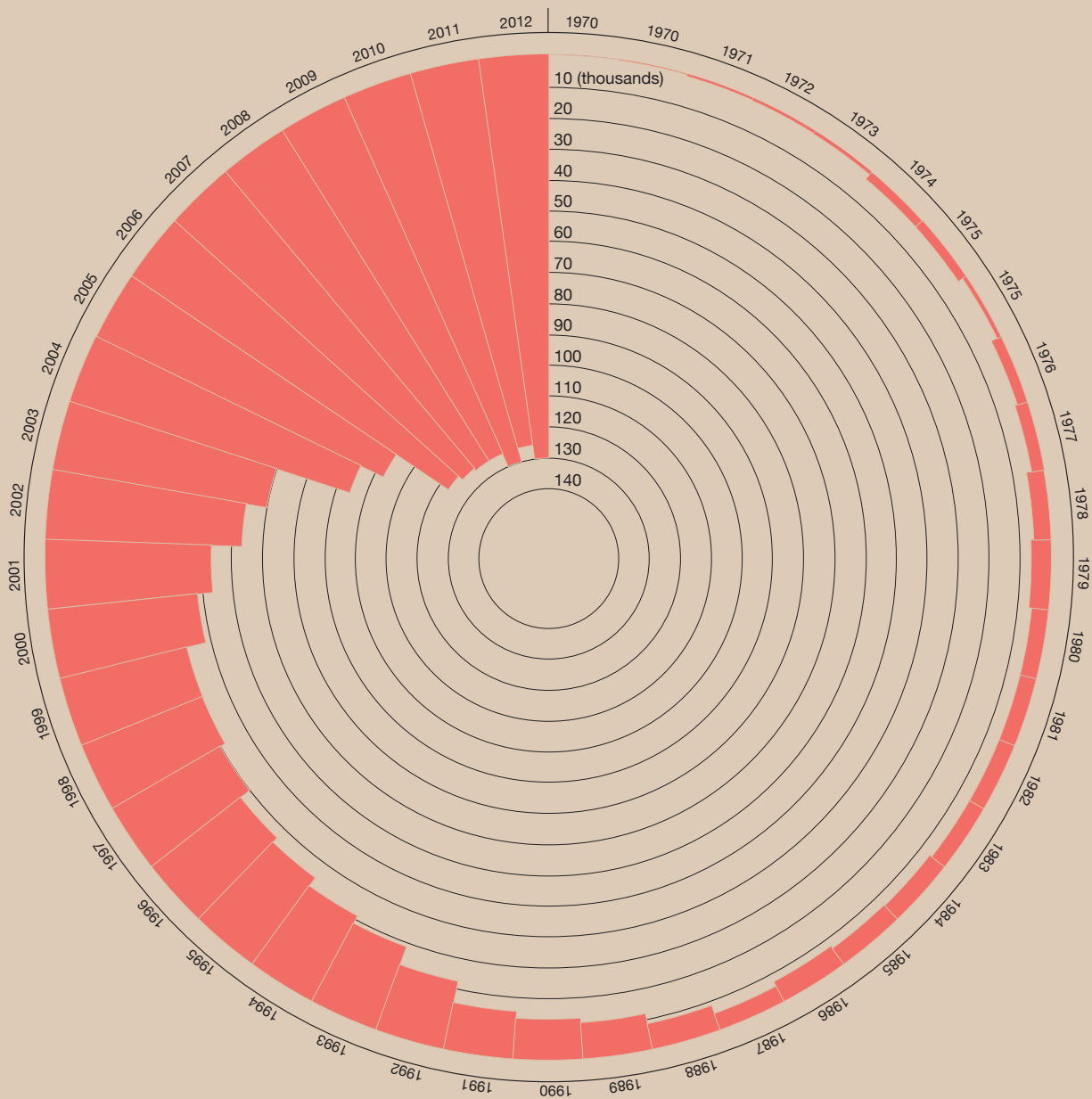


NERD PROM

Comic-Con Attendance

San Diego Comic-Con International has attracted more than 100,000 people every year since 2005. It's a beacon for comics, movies, and video games—a major pop-culture force. But it wasn't always the behemoth it is today; when it started more than 40 years ago as the Golden State Comic-Con, it was just a few hundred people talking about comics. Here's how the biggest event in comics has grown up.

March 1970 145 people turn up for a one-day miniature convention to raise money for a bigger show that August.	1972 The name changes to San Diego's West Coast Comic Convention.	1975 Guests include Milton Caniff, Frank Capra, Chuck Jones, Russ Manning, and Charles Schulz. It's the first year of the costume masquerade.	1984 The convention takes place in June—a month earlier than usual because of the summer Olympics in Los Angeles.	
--	---	---	---	--



1992

The convention hosts Jack Kirby's 75th birthday party. (The cake had vanilla icing).

1996

Due to the Republican National Convention in San Diego, Comic-Con is held a month earlier on July 4th.

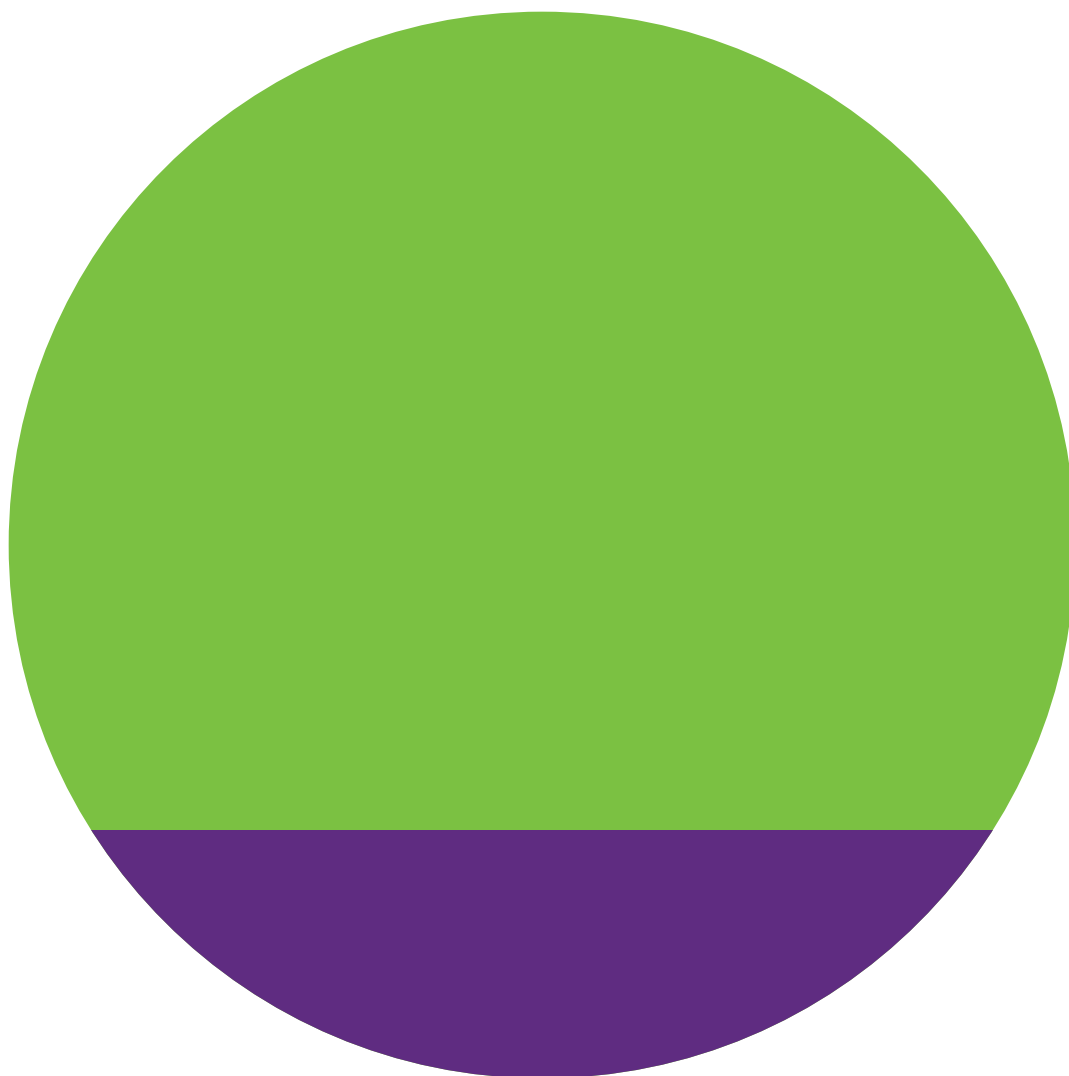
2011

Between attendee spending, hotels, and taxes, Comic-Con brings in more than \$162 million to San Diego.

2012

All passes sell out just 90 minutes after they become available online.

The Hulk



● Bare skin

● Padded costume

X-Men Characters I Remembered Thanks to Cosplay

Changeling

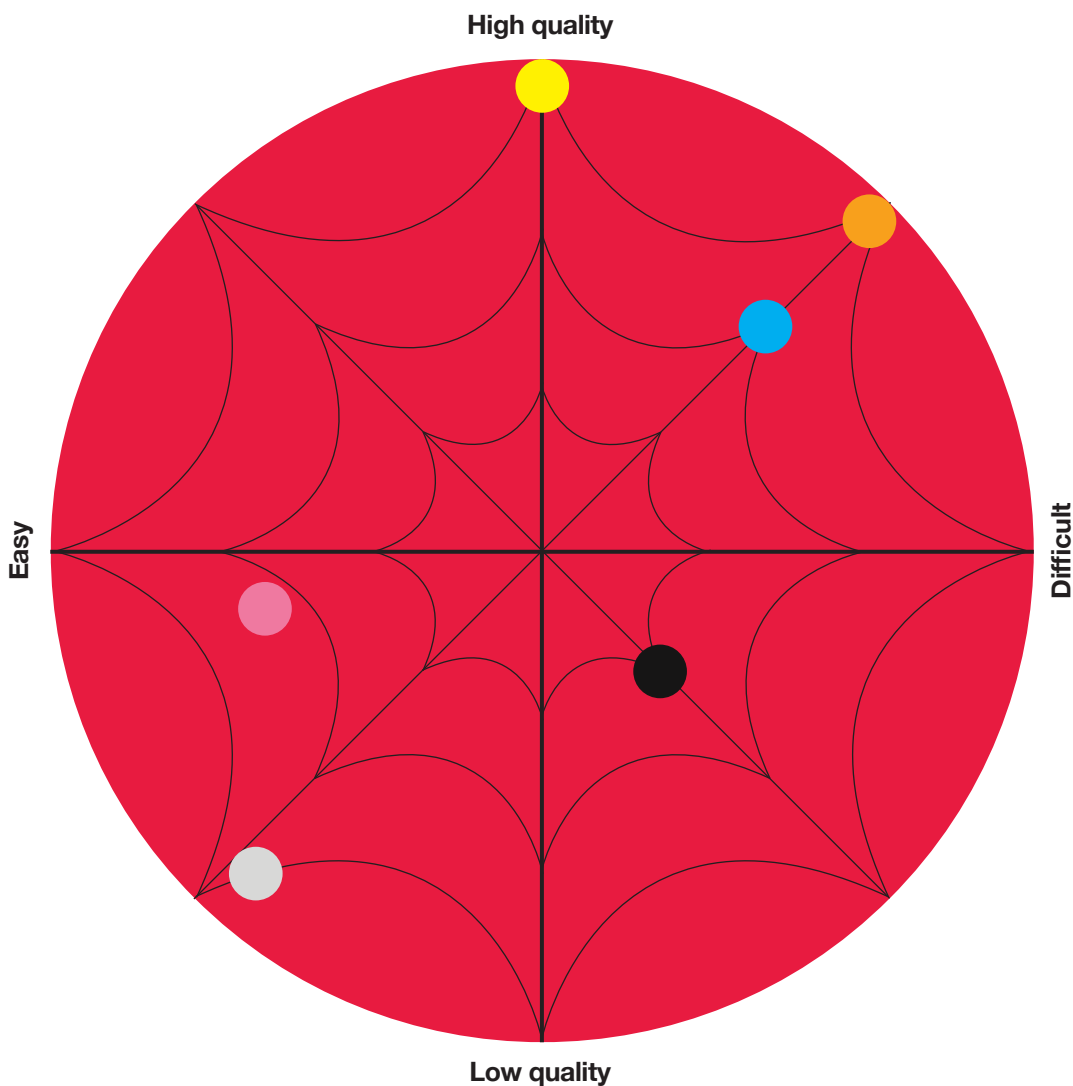
Vulcan



Hepzibah

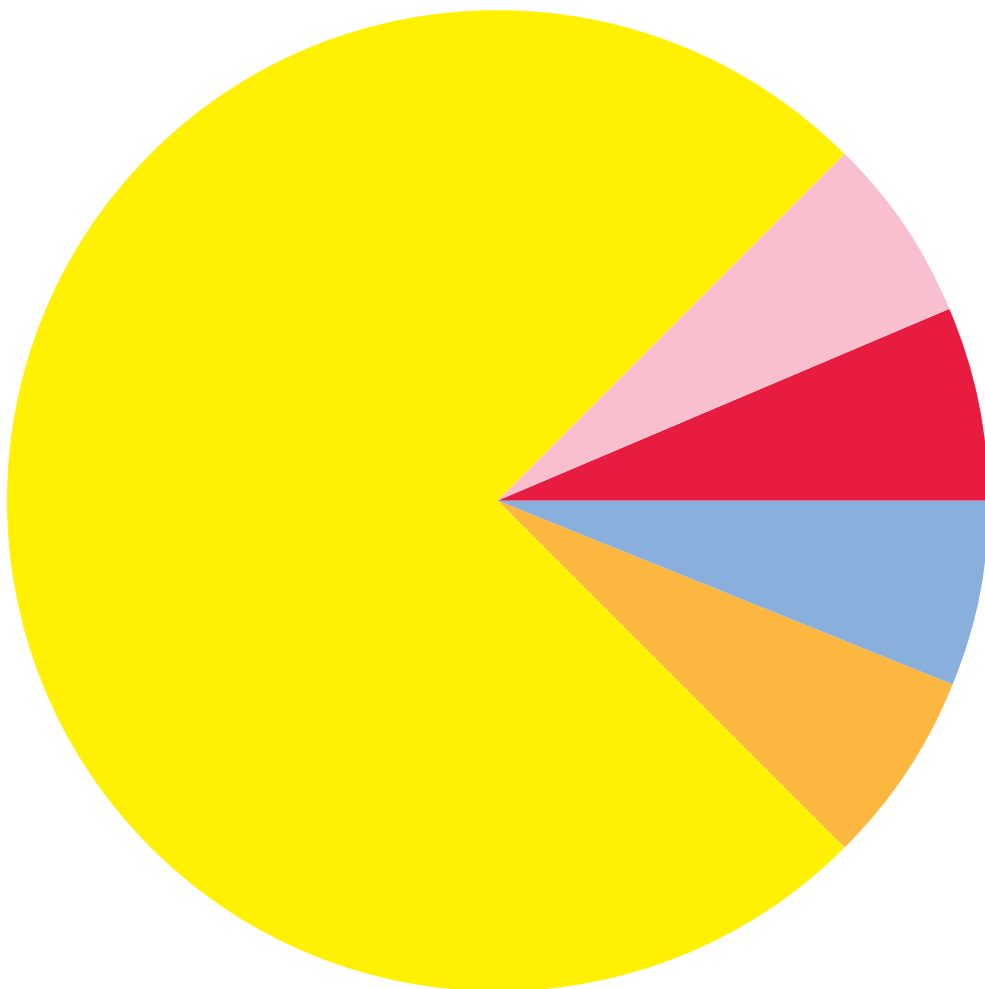
Psylocke

Spider-Man



- Spider-Man
- Venom
- Carnage
- Mary Jane Watson
- Gwen Stacy
- Aunt May (turned out to just be a grandma)

Pac-Man



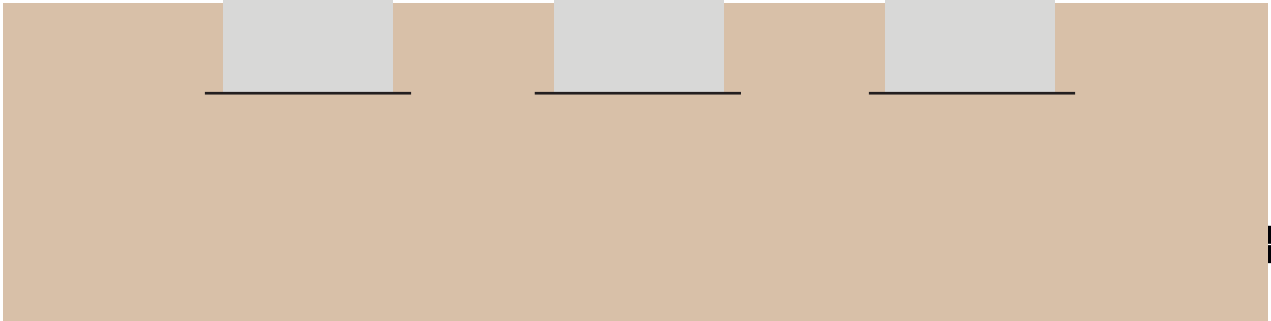
Wolverine

by prevalence of defining feature

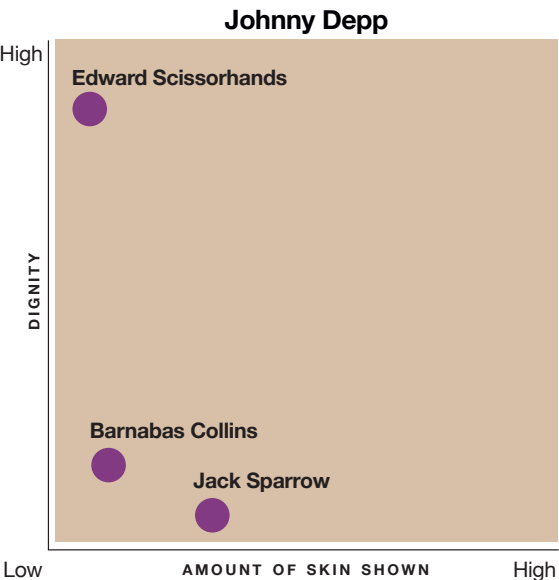
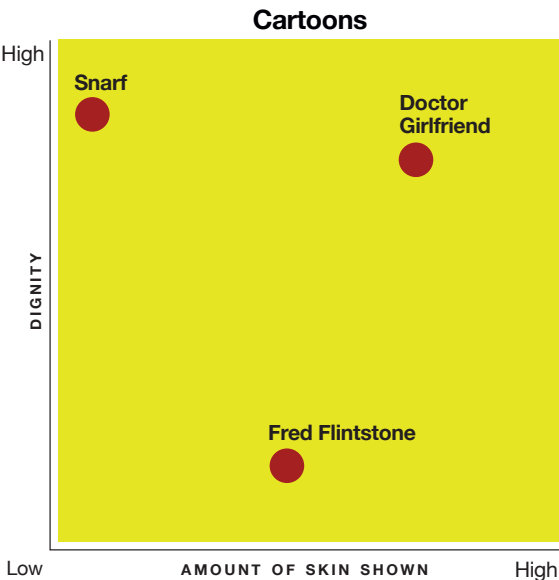
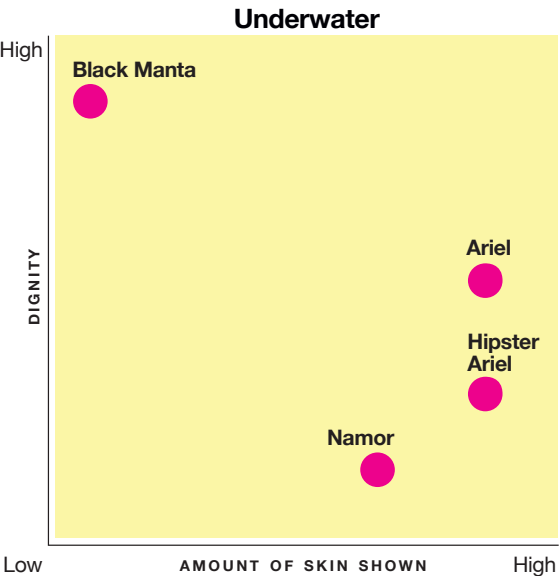
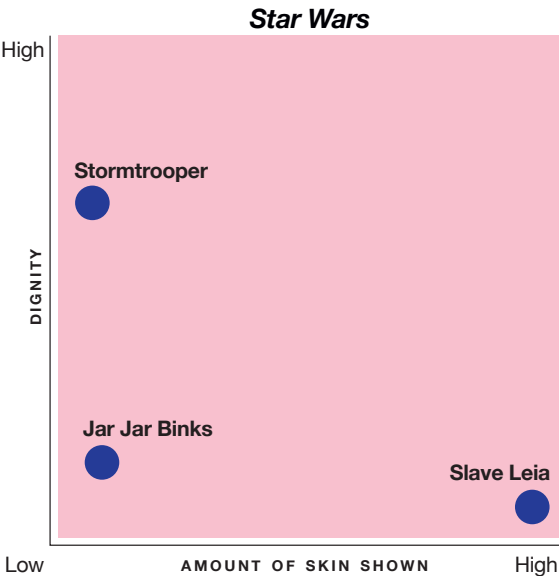
Black leather
outfit

Brown leather
jacket
and cigar

Bone
claws

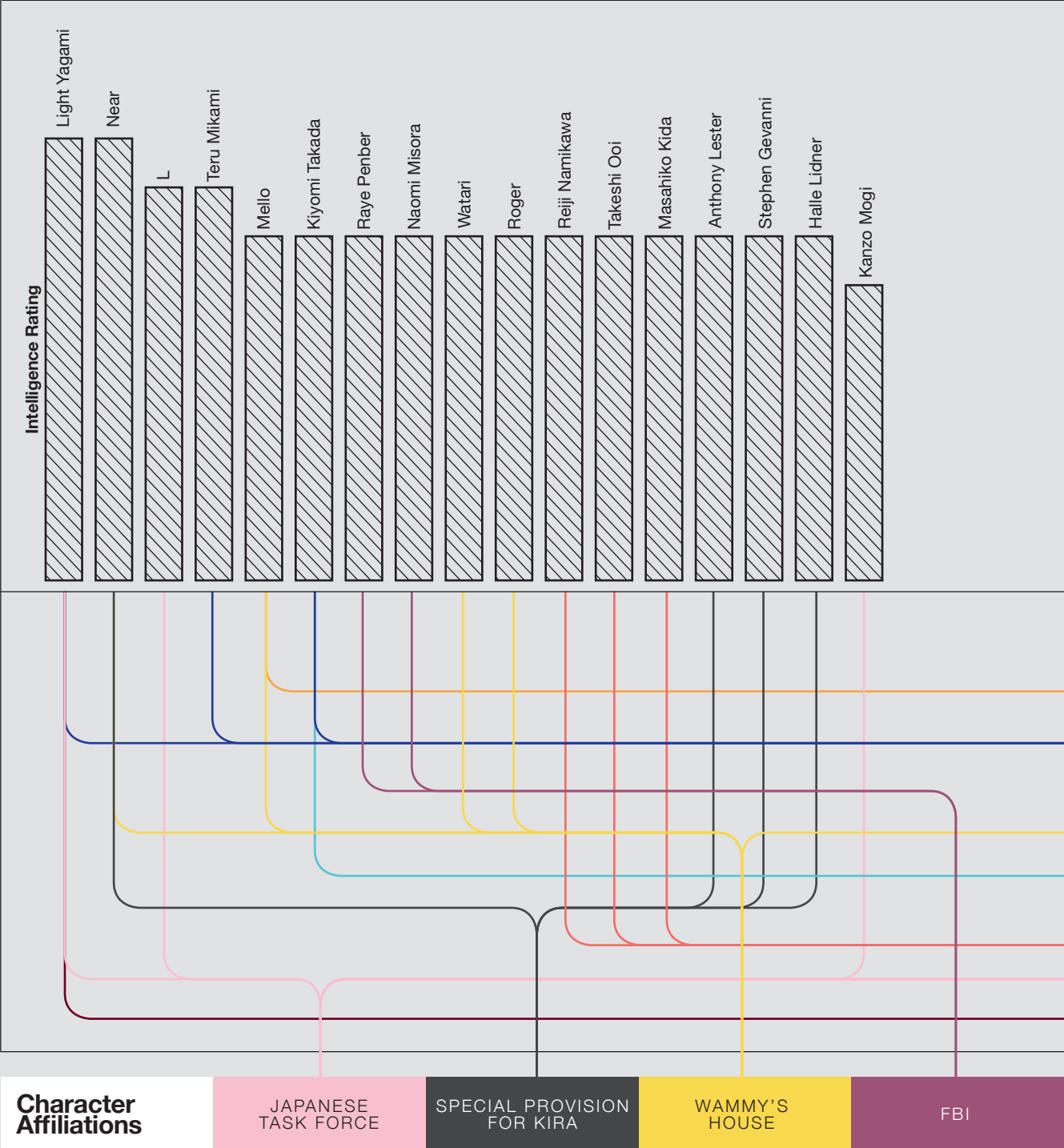


Popular Costumes

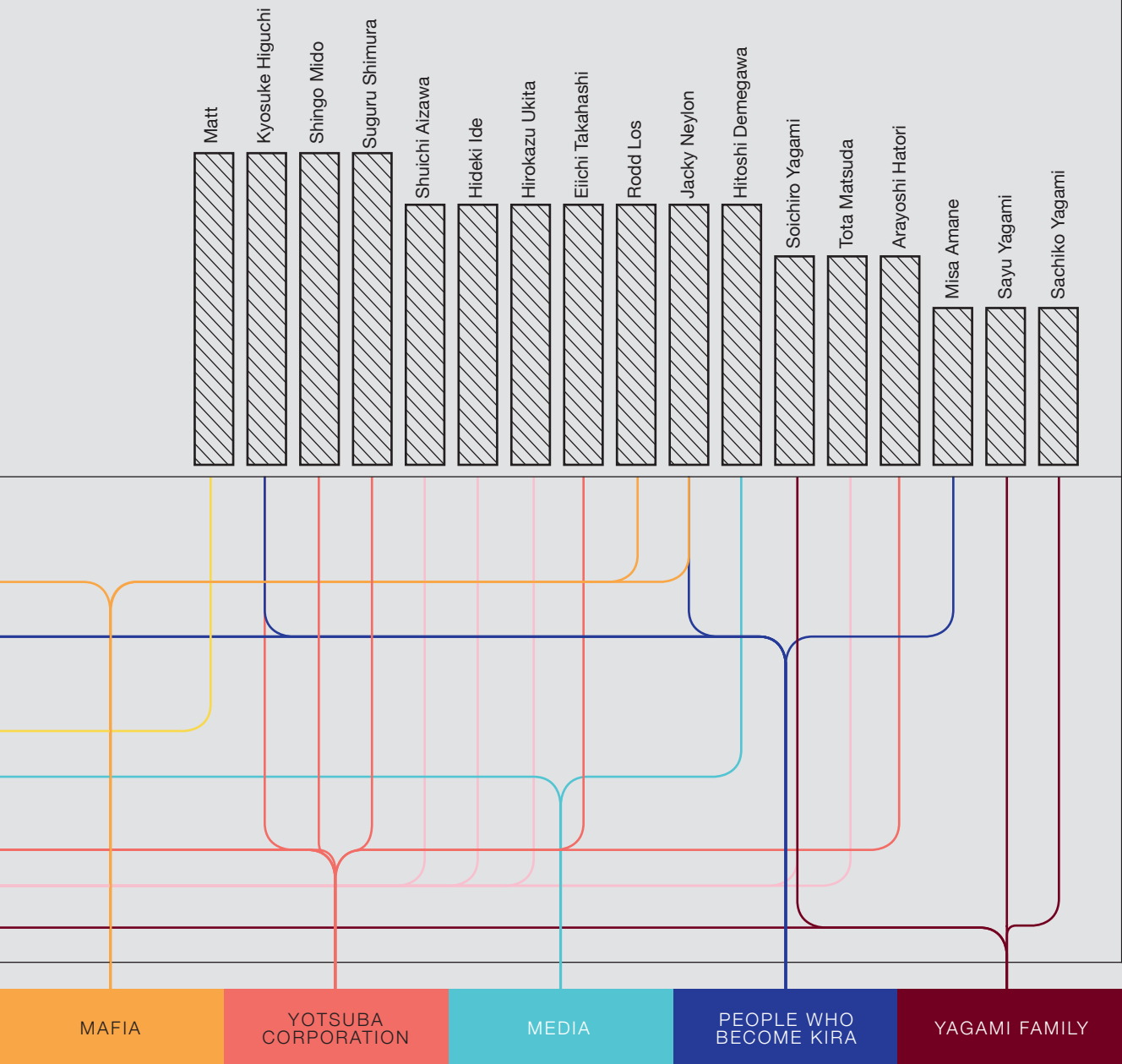


MANGA MURDER

Outsmarting Death



In the manga thriller series *Death Note*, whiz kid Light Yagami uses a magical notebook belonging to a Death God to kill criminals, calling himself “Kira.” The police try figuring out who Kira is so they can stop him. The result is an intense game of cat and mouse with allegiances betrayed just as fast as they’re made and each side trying to outsmart the other to victory. Below are the intelligence ratings for the significant characters in this 12-volume series, as noted by creators Tsugumi Ohba and Takeshi Obata, and how they’re all connected.



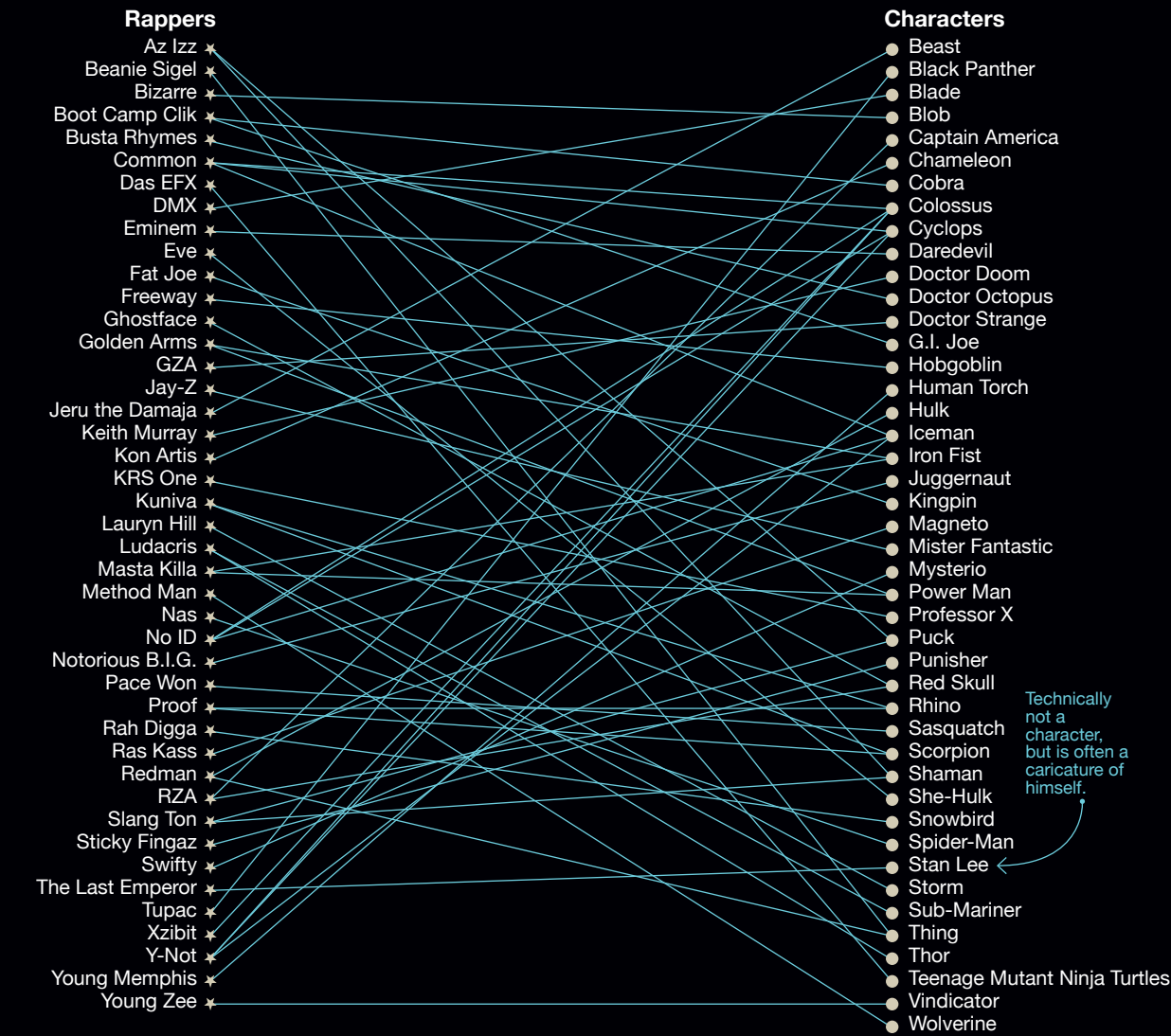
Boom Boom Pow

Comics have influenced rap more than any other genre of music. Here's a look at where the two intersect.

Match-ups in Secret Wars

Philadelphia rapper The Last Emperor released the ultimate comic book rap song in 1997, titled "Secret Wars, Part 1" (a reference to the infamous Marvel crossover series). In the song Last Emperor details an epic battle between rappers and comic book characters. He followed it with "Secret Wars, Part 2" in 2003, which included even more cross-platform fights. Here's who took the title in each.

★ = winner



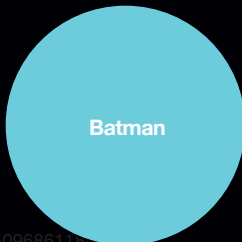
Microphone check

The quality of comic books written by rappers:



Snoop Dogg's "Batman & Robin" (feat. Lady of Rage, RBX), 2002

WORD FREQUENCY

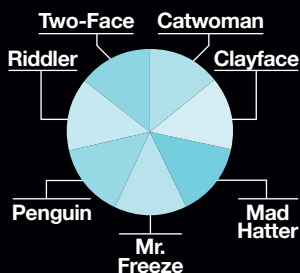


Batman

Robin

Gotham

VILLAINS MENTIONED



Two-Face

Catwoman

Riddler

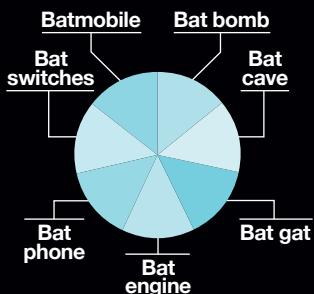
Clayface

Penguin

Mr. Freeze

Mad Hatter

BAT-GADGETS MENTIONED



Batmobile

Bat bomb

Bat switches

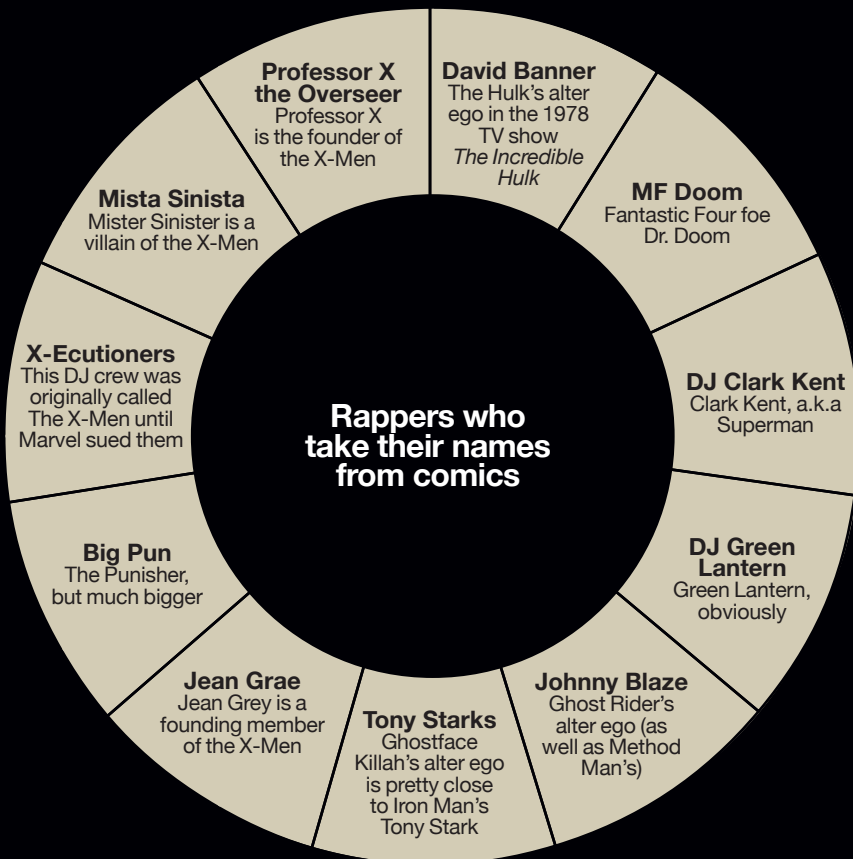
Bat cave

Bat phone

Bat gat

Bat engine

Rappers who take their names from comics



**Professor X
the Overseer**
Professor X
is the founder of
the X-Men

David Banner
The Hulk's alter
ego in the 1978
TV show
*The Incredible
Hulk*

MF Doom
Fantastic Four foe
Dr. Doom

DJ Clark Kent
Clark Kent, a.k.a
Superman

**DJ Green
Lantern**
Green Lantern,
obviously

Johnny Blaze
Ghost Rider's
alter ego (as
well as Method
Man's)

Tony Starks
Ghostface
Killah's alter ego
is pretty close
to Iron Man's
Tony Stark

Jean Grae
Jean Grey is a
founding member
of the X-Men

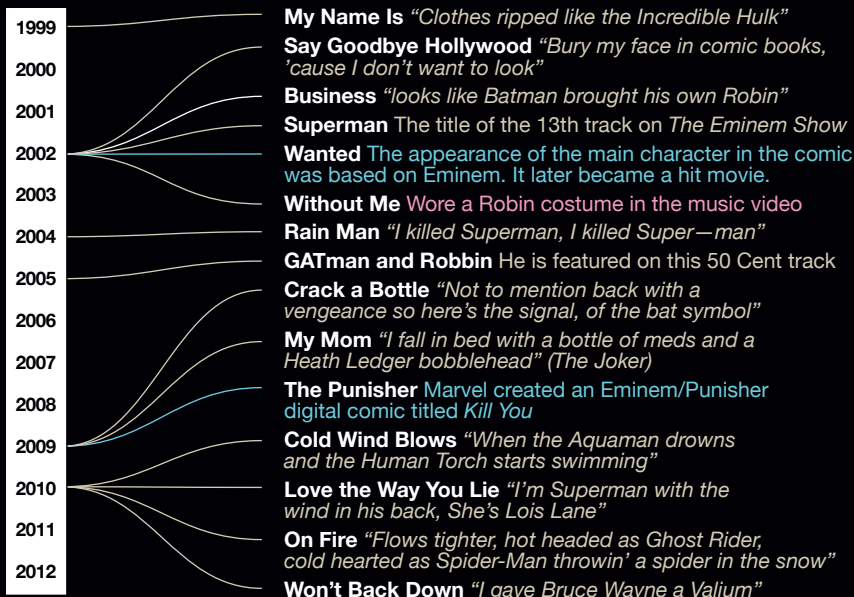
Big Pun
The Punisher,
but much bigger

X-Ecutioners
This DJ crew was
originally called
The X-Men until
Marvel sued them

Mista Sinista
Mister Sinister is a
villain of the X-Men

Eminem's comic history

● Audio ● Print ● Video



1999

My Name Is "Clothes ripped like the Incredible Hulk"

2000

Say Goodbye Hollywood "Bury my face in comic books, 'cause I don't want to look"

2001

Business "looks like Batman brought his own Robin"

2002

Superman The title of the 13th track on *The Eminem Show*

2003

Wanted The appearance of the main character in the comic was based on Eminem. It later became a hit movie.

2004

Without Me Wore a Robin costume in the music video

2005

Rain Man "I killed Superman, I killed Super—man"

2006

GATman and Robbin He is featured on this 50 Cent track

2007

Crack a Bottle "Not to mention back with a vengeance so here's the signal, of the bat symbol"

2008

My Mom "I fall in bed with a bottle of meds and a Heath Ledger bobblehead" (*The Joker*)

2009

The Punisher Marvel created an Eminem/Punisher digital comic titled *Kill You*

2010

Cold Wind Blows "When the Aquaman drowns and the Human Torch starts swimming"

2011

Love the Way You Lie "I'm Superman with the wind in his back, She's Lois Lane"

2012

On Fire "Flows tighter, hot headed as Ghost Rider, cold hearted as Spider-Man throwin' a spider in the snow"

Won't Back Down "I gave Bruce Wayne a Valium"

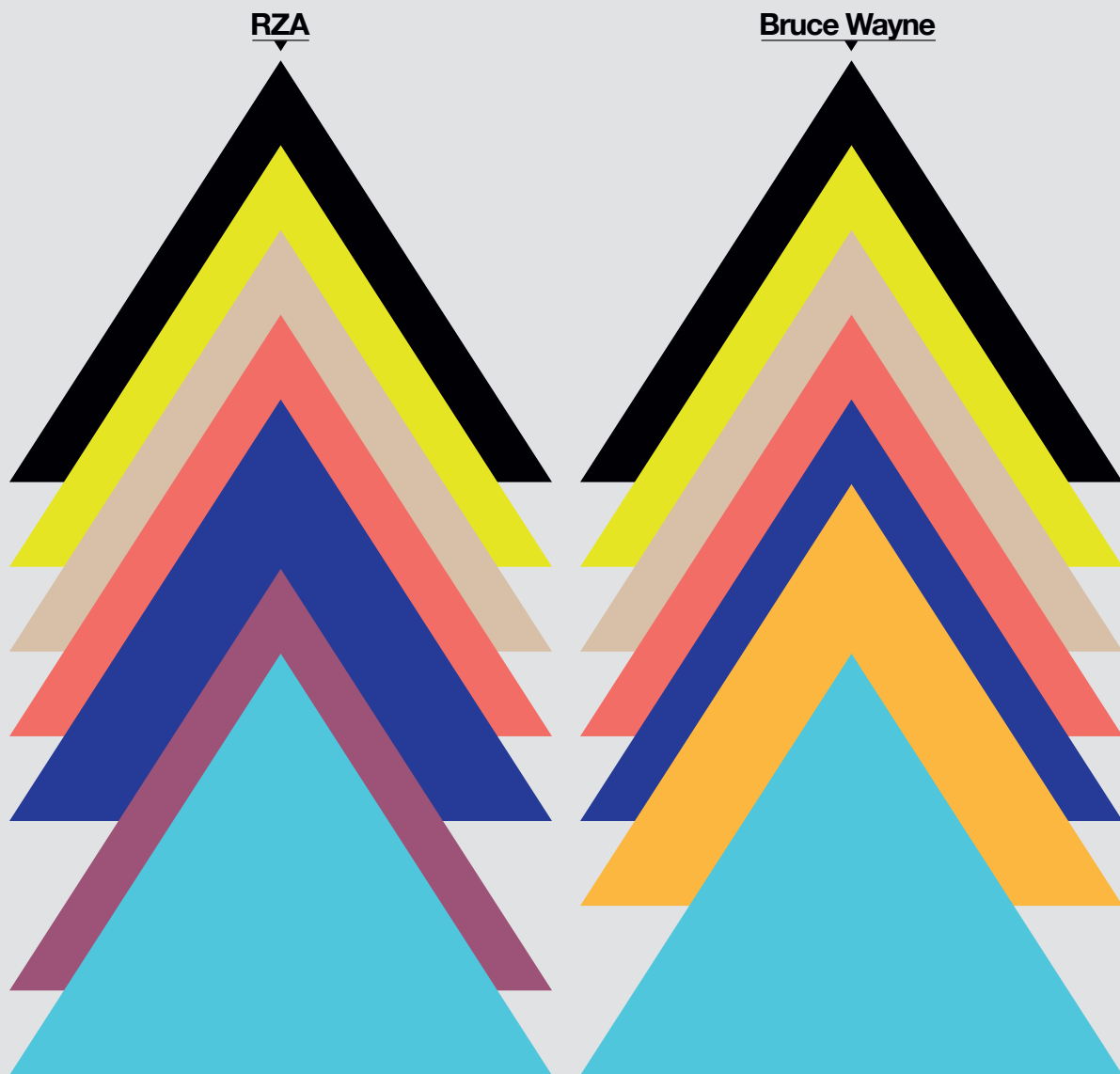
A Personal History of Saying “Good Grief”



ALTER EGOS

Bobby Digital vs. Batman

In 1998, the rapper RZA, best known for being the unofficial leader of the Wu-Tang Clan, released his first solo album under the pseudonym Bobby Digital, a futuristic superhero. RZA stuck close to the persona and after a while, the rapper's life began looking somewhat familiar.



- ▲ Superhero alter-ego ▲ Extremely wealthy ▲ Butler on staff ▲ Bomb-proof and bulletproof custom car
▲ Bulletproof and knife-proof super-suit
▲ Crime-fighter ▲ Gold album ▲ Cover by artist Bill Sienkiewicz

Married

Killed this person →

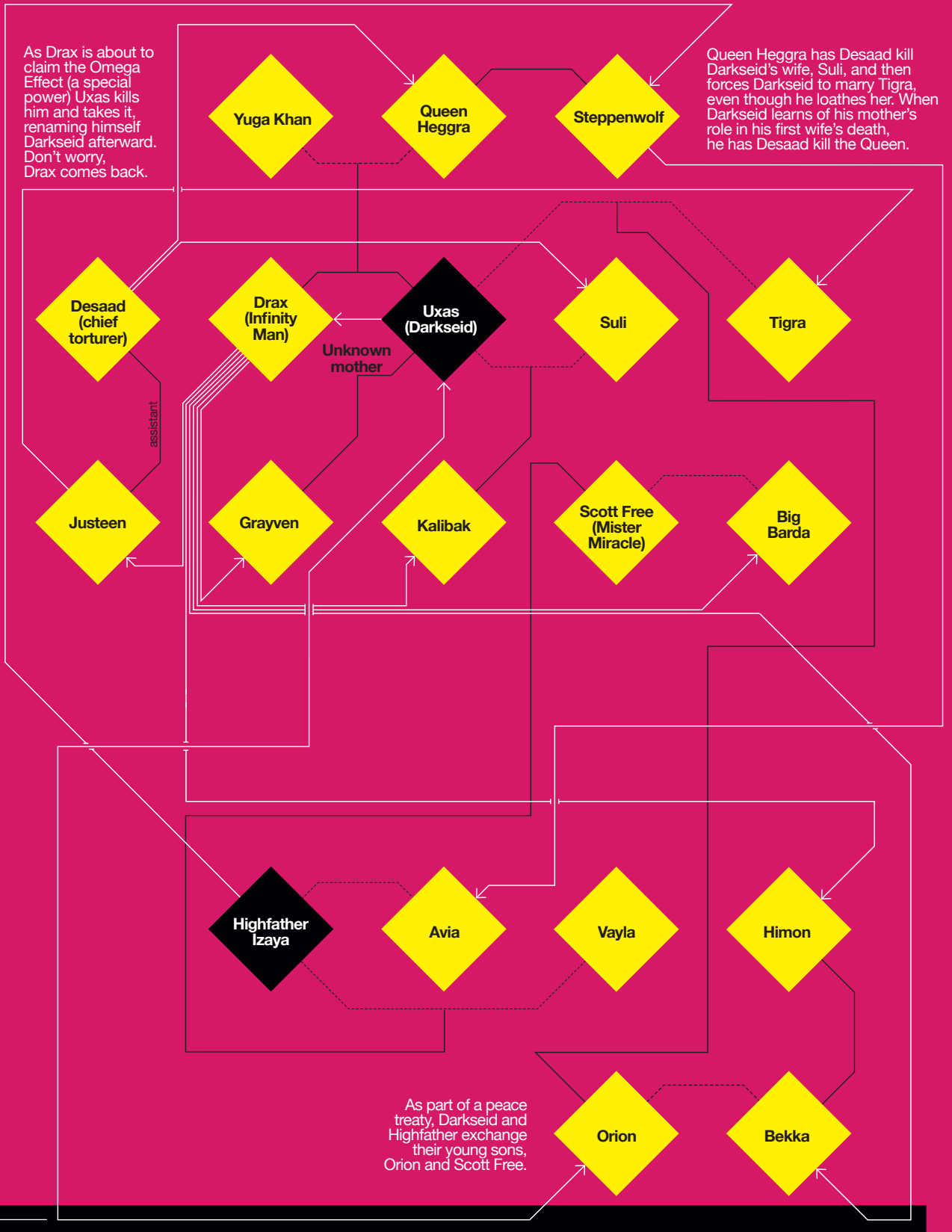
APOKOLIPS

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Mapping the Relationships of the New Gods

When master storyteller Jack Kirby started working for DC Comics in the early '70s, he introduced one of comic's most memorable creations: The Fourth World, and its inhabitants, The New Gods. With action that spanned four titles (*Superman's Pal Jimmy Olsen*, *The Forever People*, *Mister Miracle*, and *The New Gods*), the story follows the ruling families of two planets (New Genesis, led by Highfather, and Apokolips, led by Darkseid) through a messy and murderous battle.

NEW GENESIS



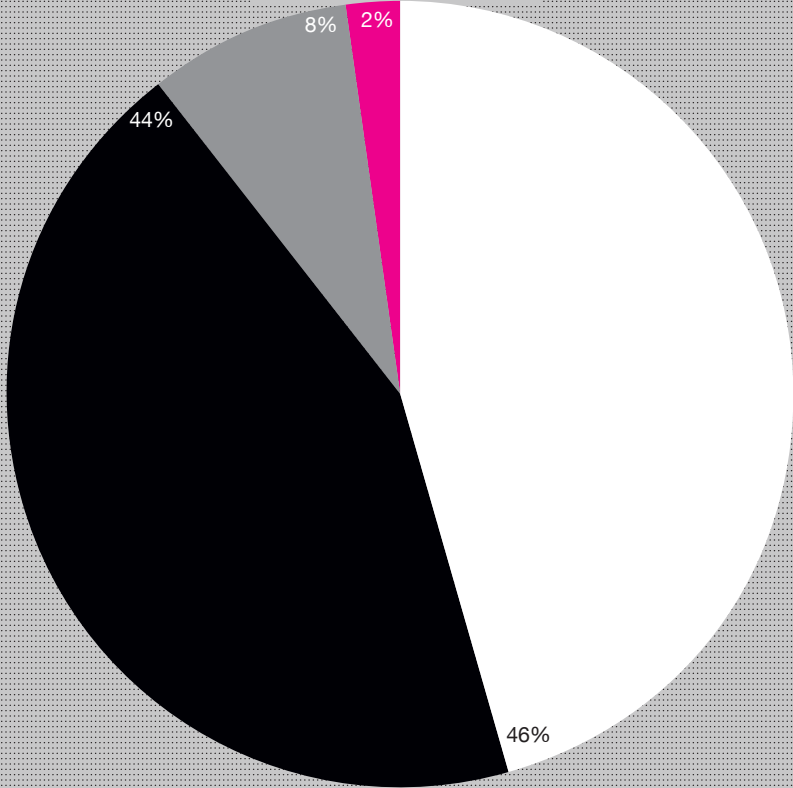
Spy vs. Spy

Soon after he started at *MAD* magazine in 1960, Antonio Prohías introduced one of the most recognizable cartoons, well . . . ever. *Spy vs. Spy* ran for more than 25 years under his hand, starting in January of 1961, and featured two pointy guys constantly trying to off each other. Here's how they matched up.

115

Victories

Win distribution



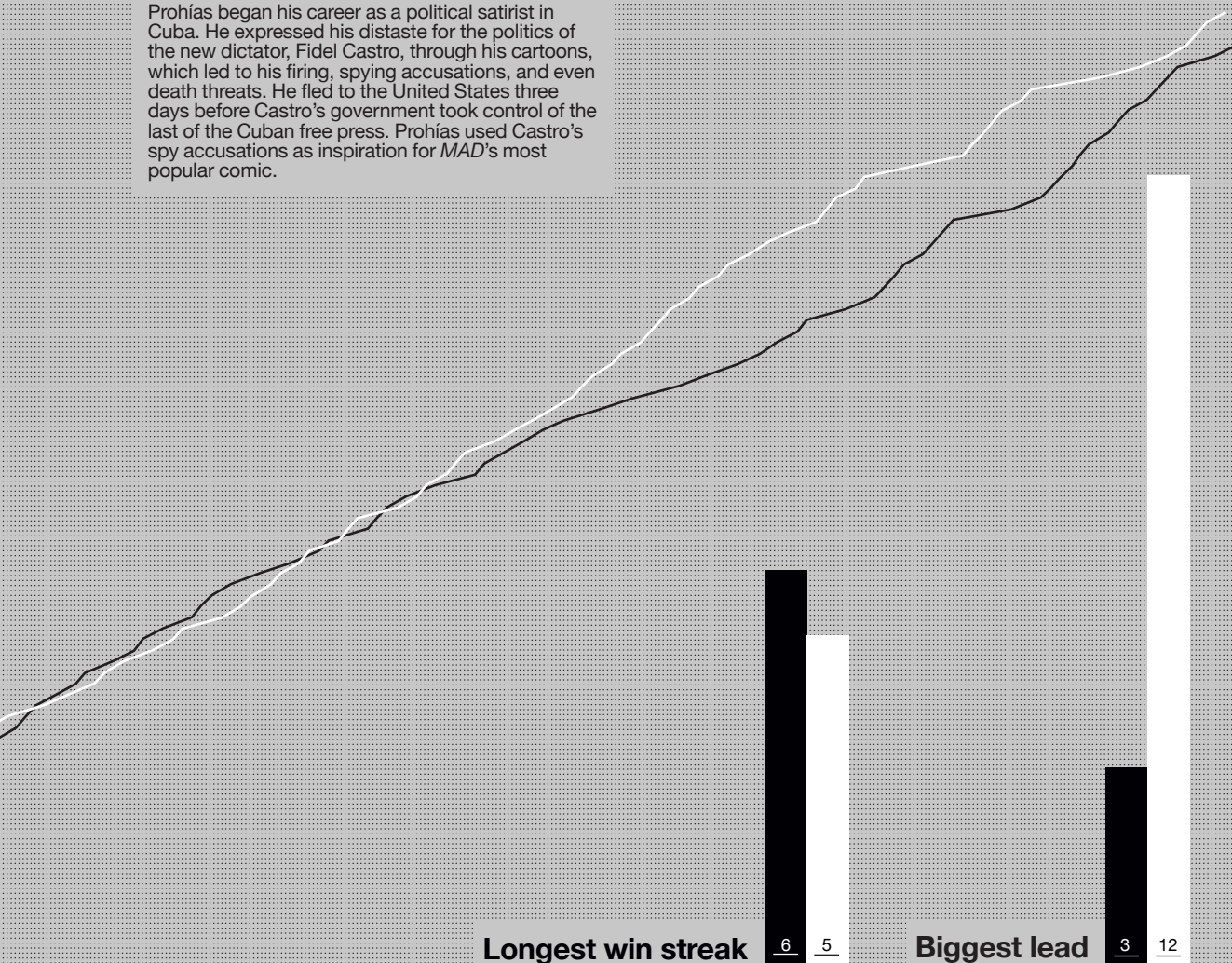
0

1961



Live free and spy hard

Prohías began his career as a political satirist in Cuba. He expressed his distaste for the politics of the new dictator, Fidel Castro, through his cartoons, which led to his firing, spying accusations, and even death threats. He fled to the United States three days before Castro's government took control of the last of the Cuban free press. Prohías used Castro's spy accusations as inspiration for *MAD*'s most popular comic.



The Gray Spy

Prohías introduced a third, female spy in 1962, The Gray Spy, or The Lady in Gray. She won in every appearance, as she used her female prowess to pit the Black and White spies against each other.



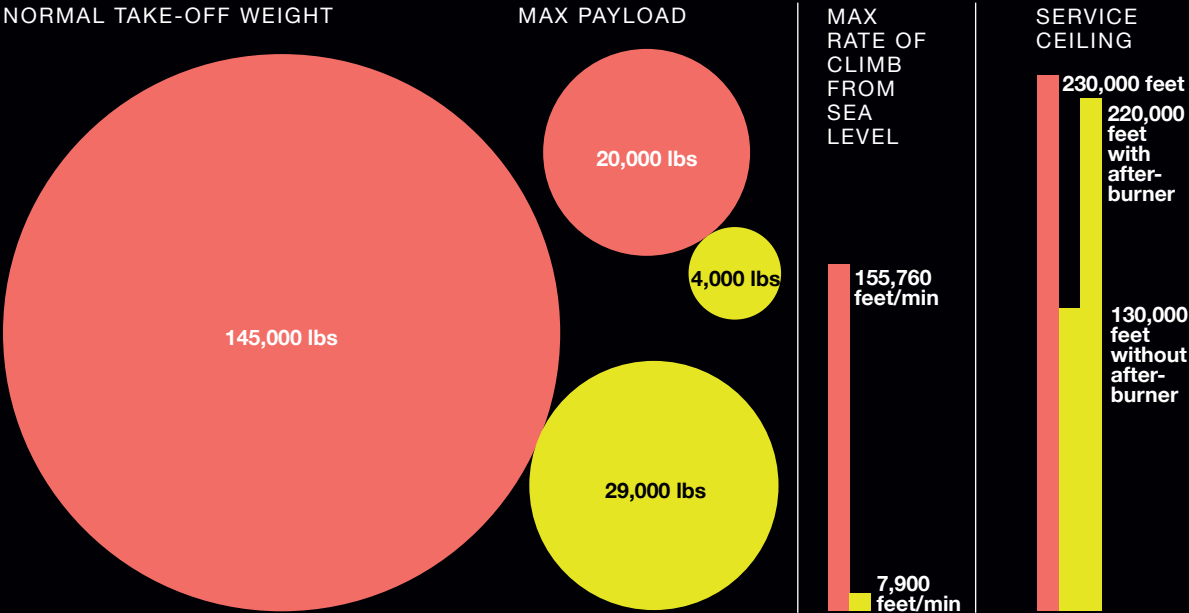
● Gray Spy appearance W Gray Spy win

JET SET

Avengers vs. X-Men

Forget long lines, in-seam patdowns, and body scanners at the airport, the Avengers and X-Men man their own jets.

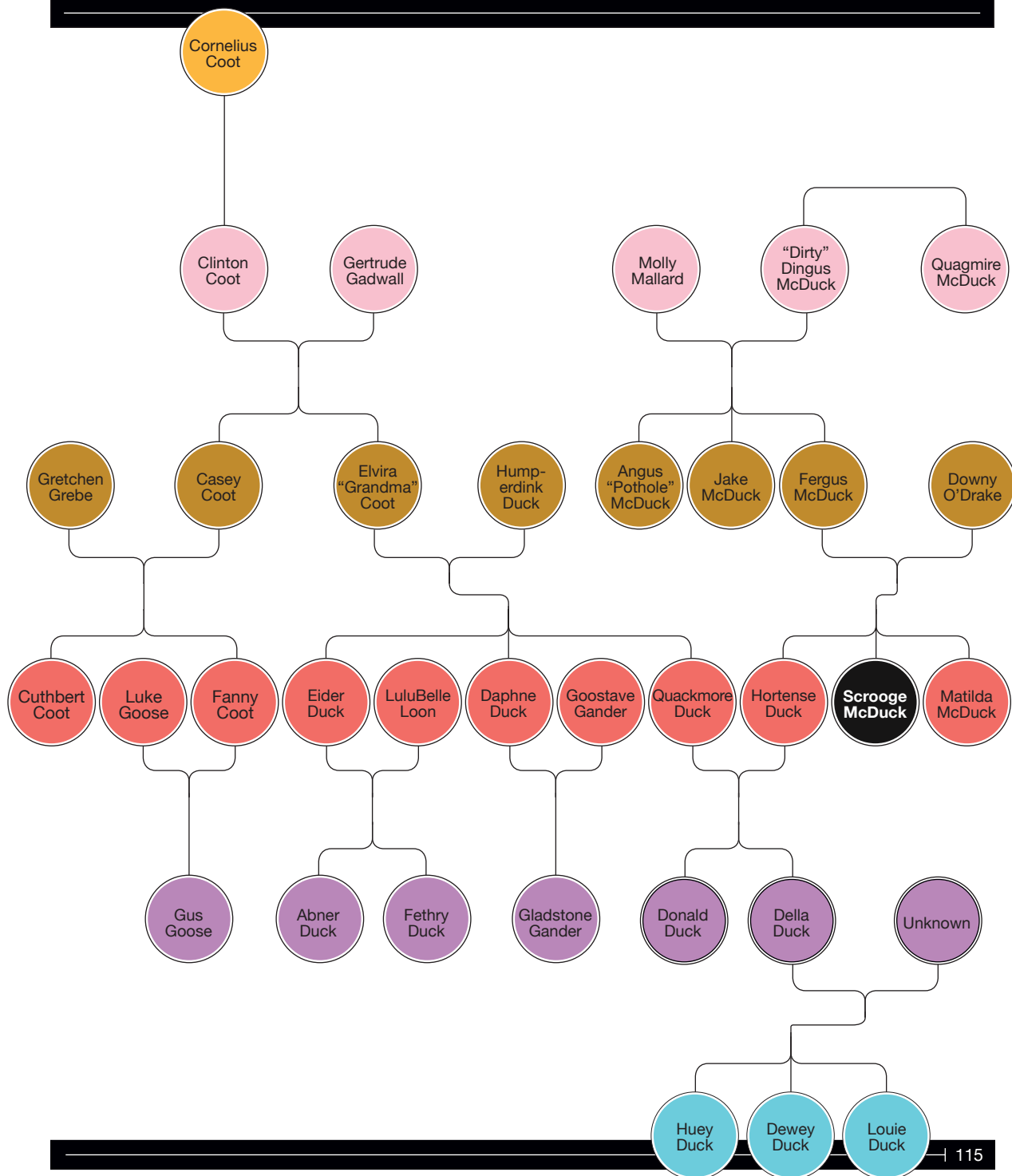
X-Men Lockheed/SHIELD (RS150) Blackbird	vs	Avengers Stark International Quinjet A-1
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BIRDS OF A FEATHER

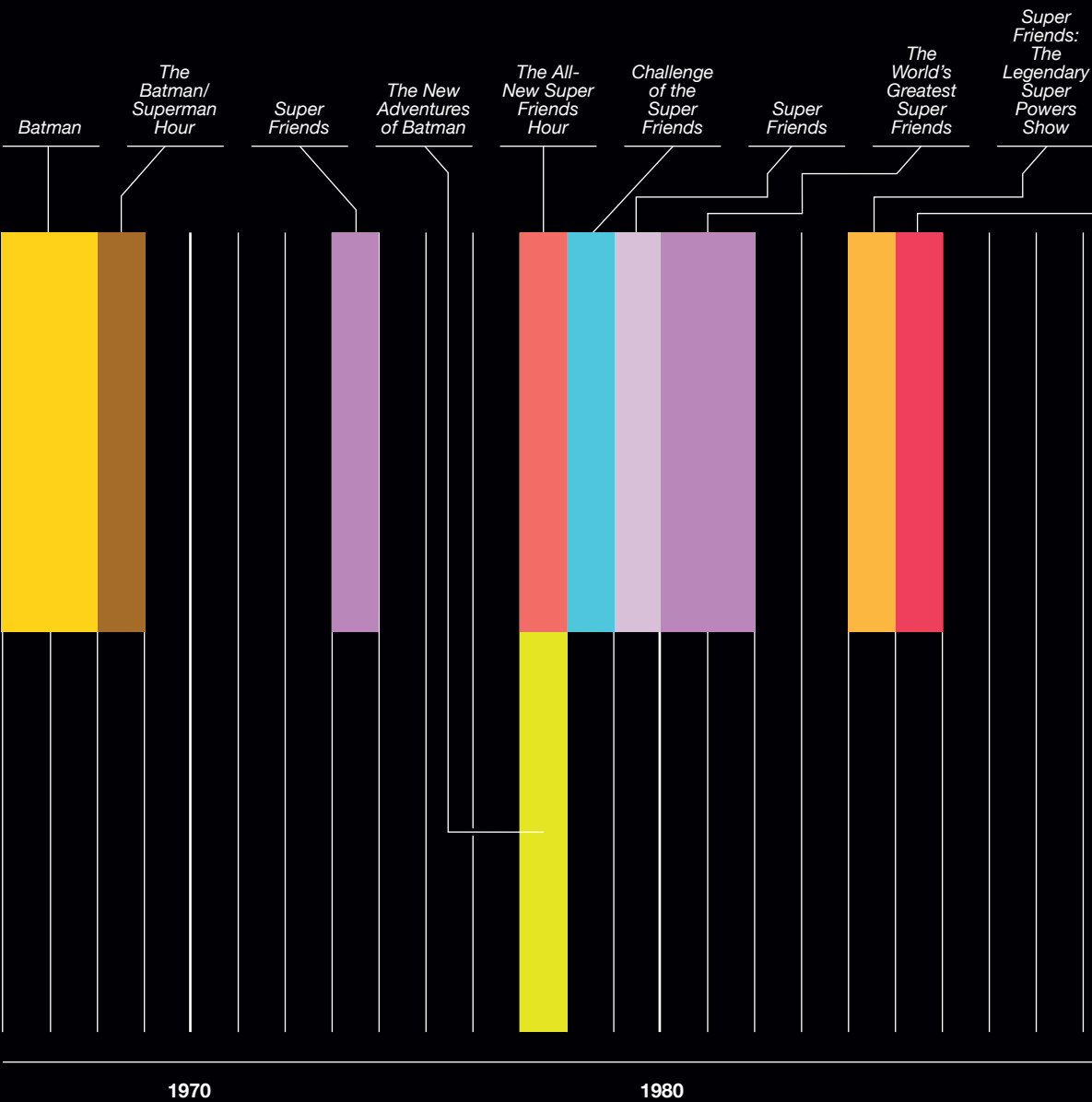
Scrooge McDuck's Family Tree

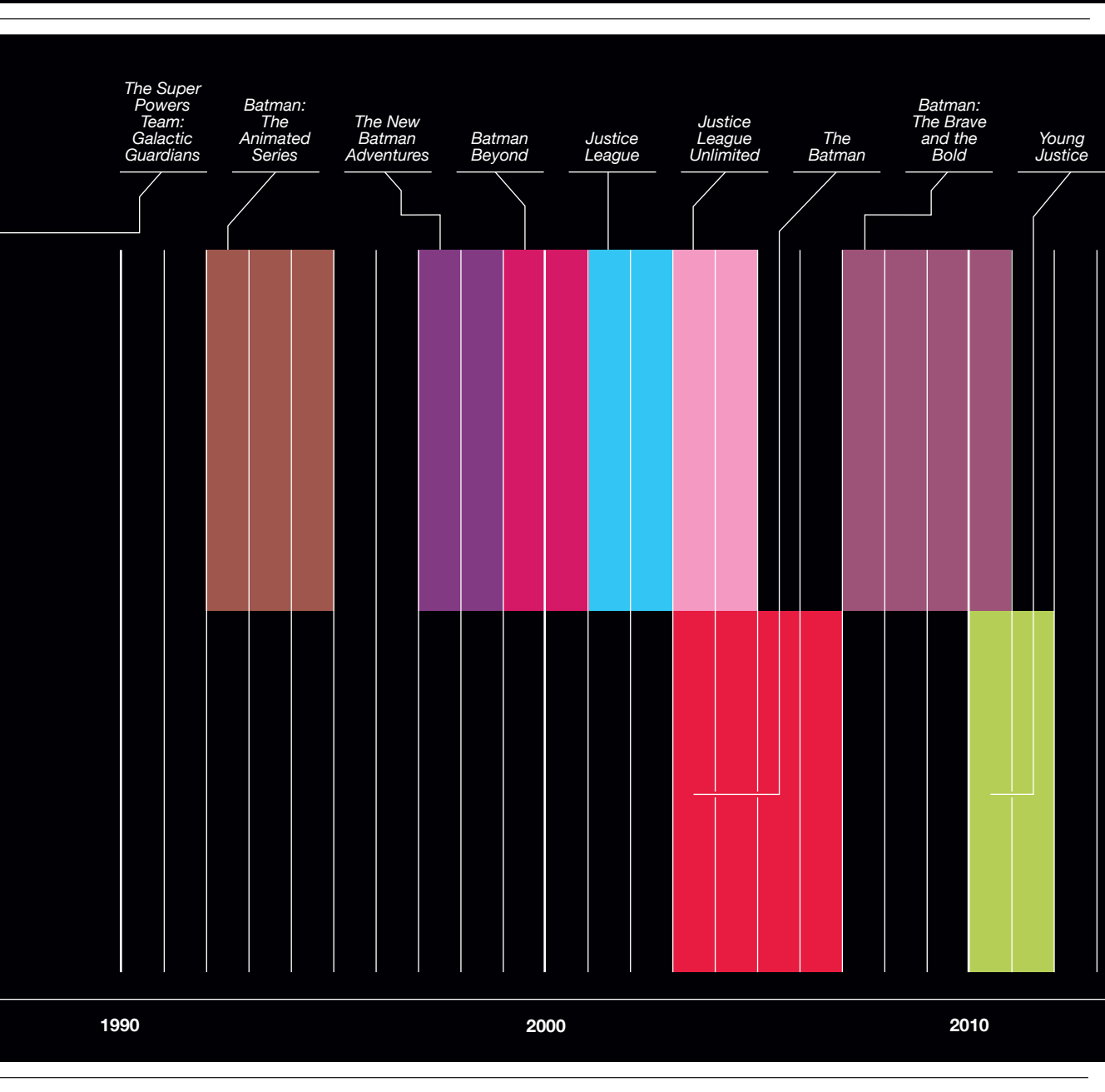
The story of the McDucks actually dates back to AD 122 when the clan was known as the MacDuichs. They dropped the Gaelic spelling 800 years later. The modern history, however, is a different (duck) tale.



BAT CHANNELS

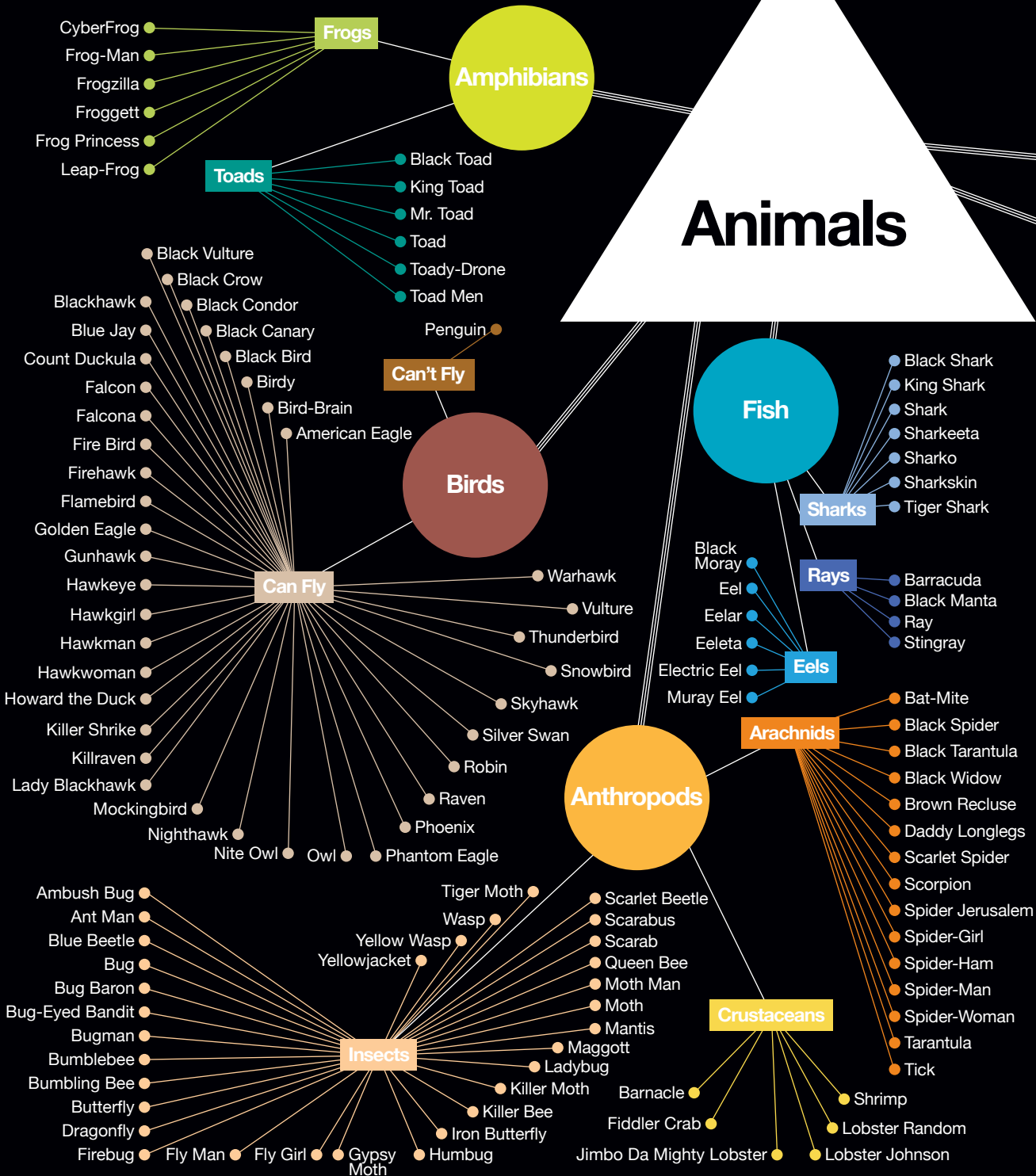
Every TV Show Starring Batman

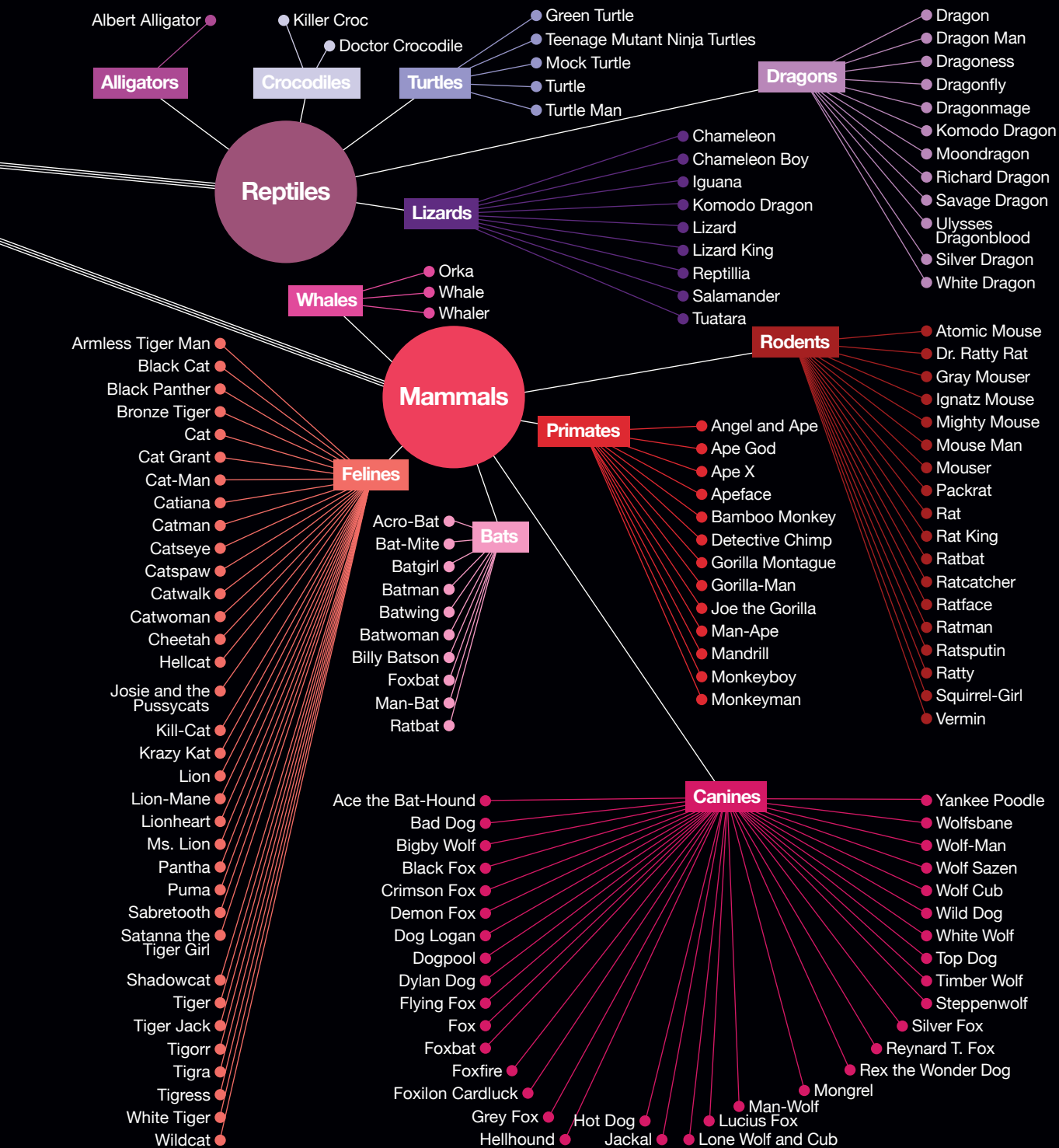




Character Kingdom

A taxonomy of characters, classified by name.





The Punisher's Kill Count

Piling up all The Punisher's bodies from movies and comic books



60

The Punisher
(1989)
starring
Dolph
Lundgren



22

The Punisher
(2004)
starring
Thomas Jane

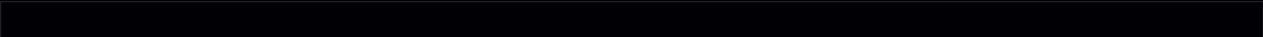


97

*Punisher:
War Zone*
(2008)
starring
Ray Stevenson

48,502

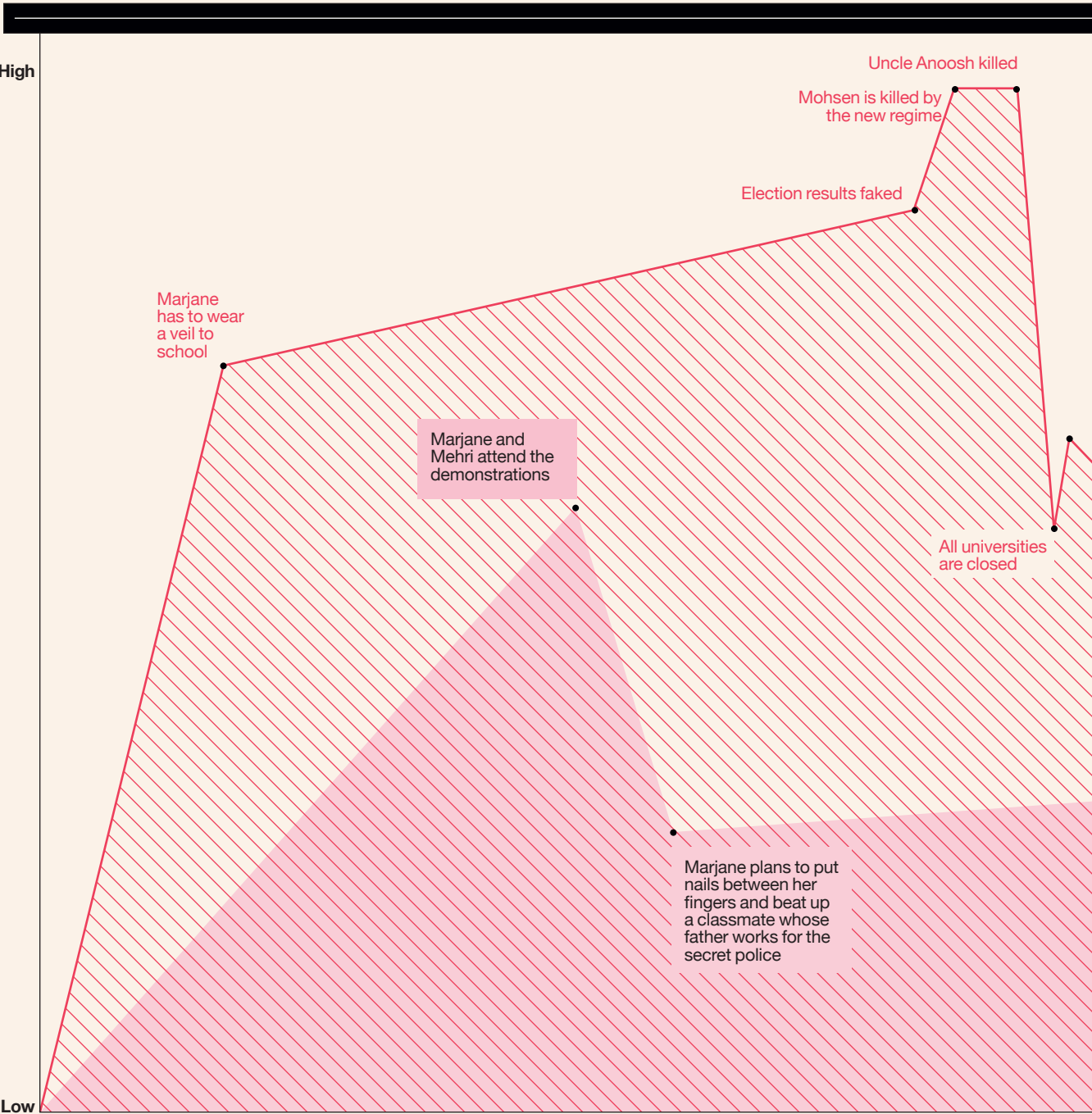
The Punisher
in comic books,
1974–2011



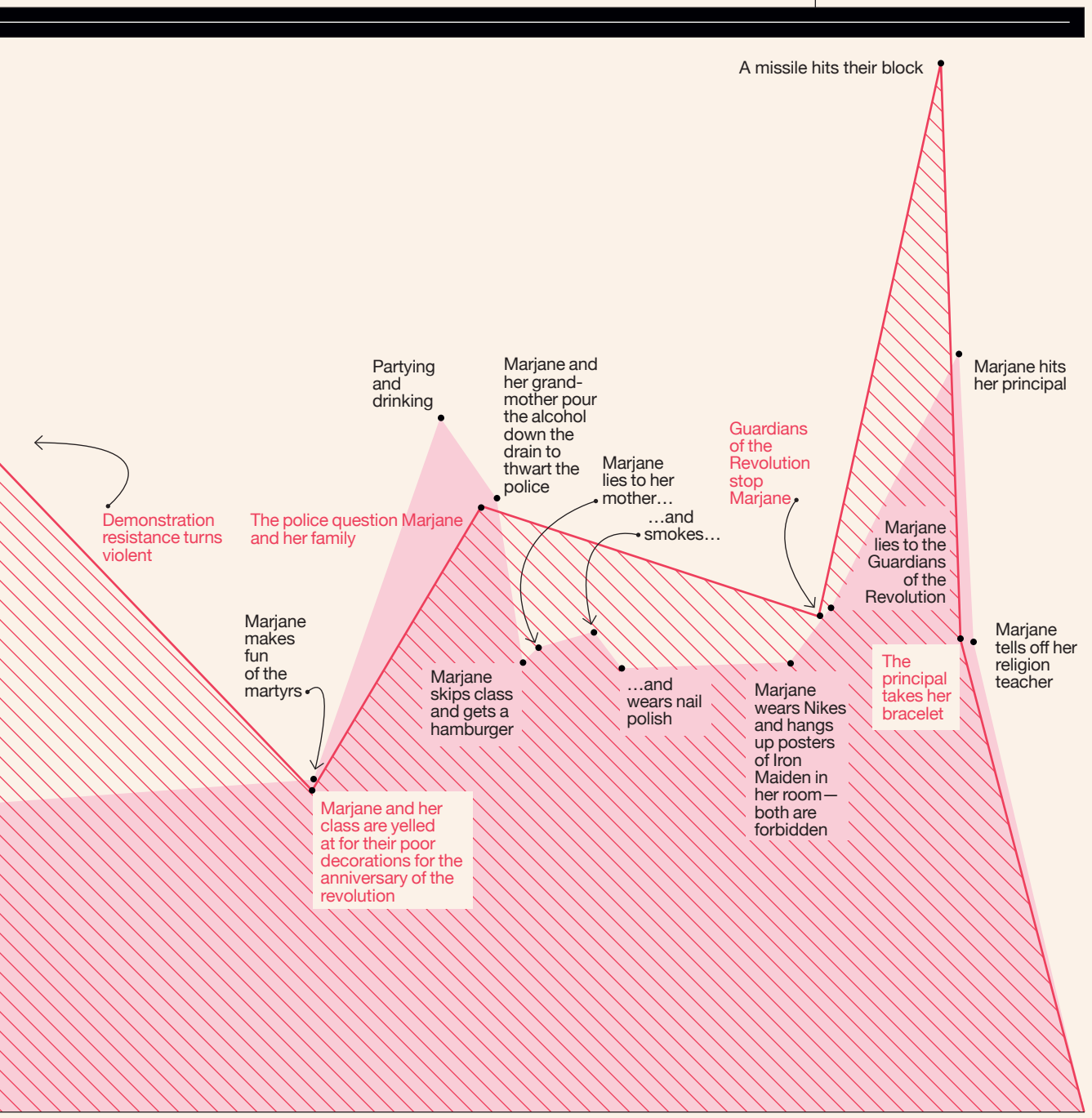
FIGHTING FORCES

Oppression and Rebellion in *Persepolis*

Persepolis is the true story of Marjane Satrapi, a young girl growing up during the Iranian Revolution in the 1980s. Satrapi is a free spirit growing up in an oppressive world. Despite an environment that's closing in on her and her independent-minded parents, Satrapi isn't afraid to give as good as she gets.

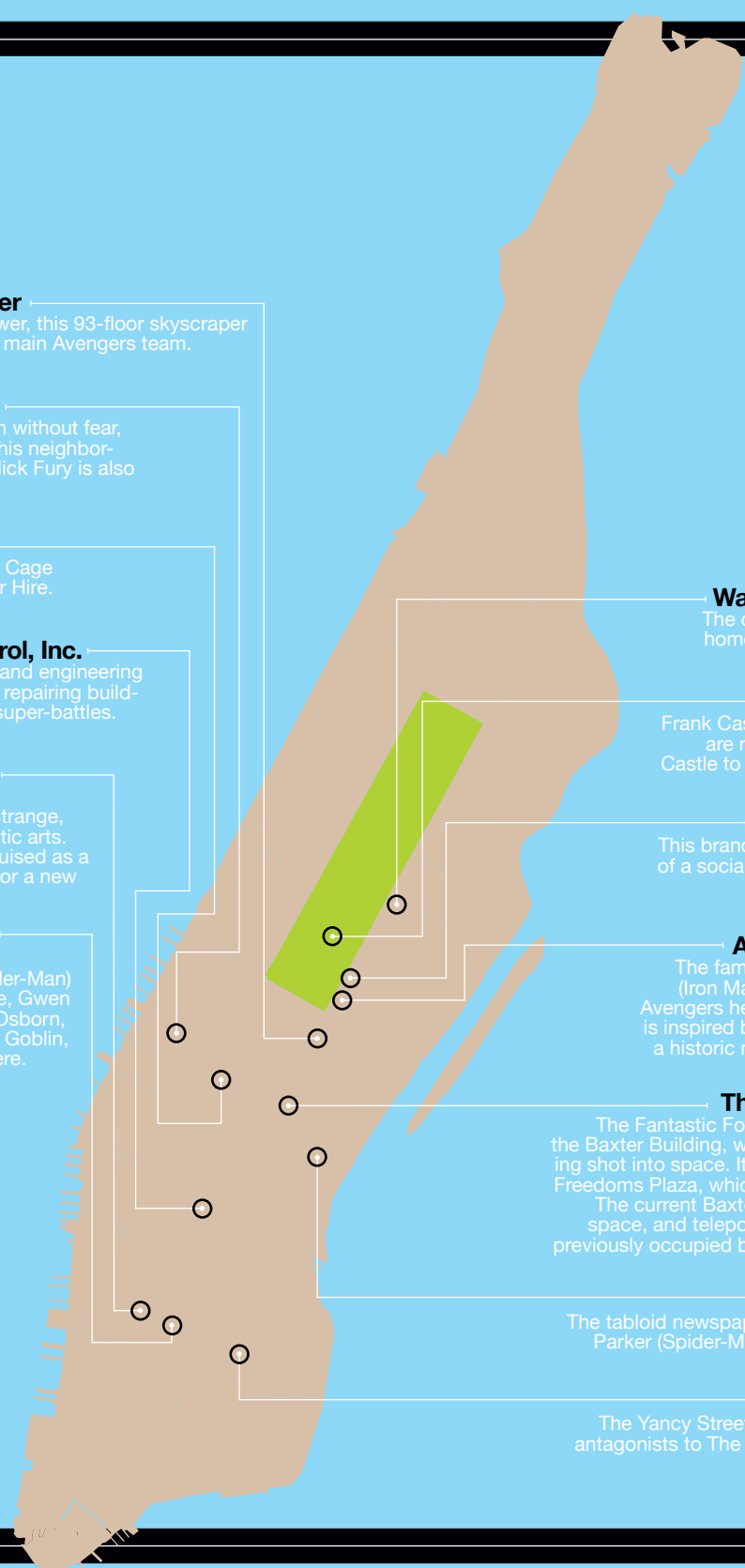


Oppression
Rebellion



Mutant Manhattan

A guide to New York locations in the Marvel Comics universe



Avengers Tower

Formerly Stark Tower, this 93-floor skyscraper is the home of the main Avengers team.

Hell's Kitchen

Daredevil, the man without fear, lives and patrols this neighborhood. Superspy Nick Fury is also from the area.

Gem Theater

The office of Luke Cage and the Heroes for Hire.

Damage Control, Inc.

This construction and engineering firm specializes in repairing buildings damaged in super-battles.

The Sanctum Sanctorum

Home of Doctor Strange, master of the mystic arts. It's magically disguised as a construction site for a new Starbucks.

Empire State University

Peter Parker (Spider-Man) meets his first love, Gwen Stacy, and Harry Osborn, the second Green Goblin, while in college here.

Wakandan Embassy

The consulate to Wakanda, home of the Black Panther.

Central Park

Frank Castle's wife and children are murdered here, leading Castle to become The Punisher.

The Hellfire Club

This branch has the appearance of a social club, but is a front for clandestine terror.

Avengers Mansion

The family home of Tony Stark (Iron Man), is converted to the Avengers headquarters. Its design is inspired by the Frick Collection, a historic museum in Manhattan.

The Baxter Building

The Fantastic Four's first headquarters, the Baxter Building, was destroyed after being shot into space. It was replaced by Four Freedoms Plaza, which was also destroyed. The current Baxter Building was built in space, and teleported into the empty lot previously occupied by the original building.

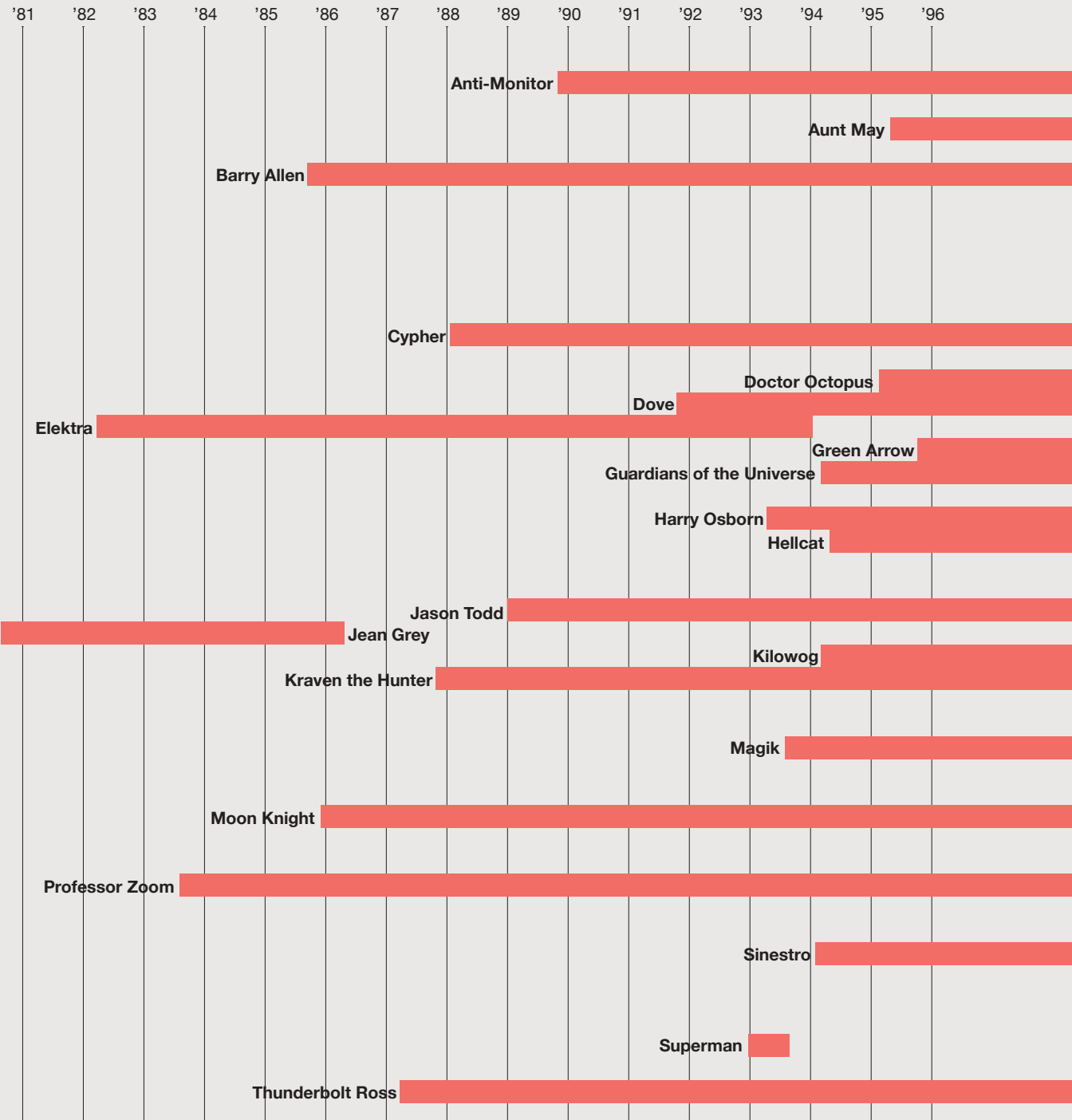
The Daily Bugle

The tabloid newspaper that employs Peter Parker (Spider-Man) as a photographer.

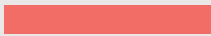
Yancy Street

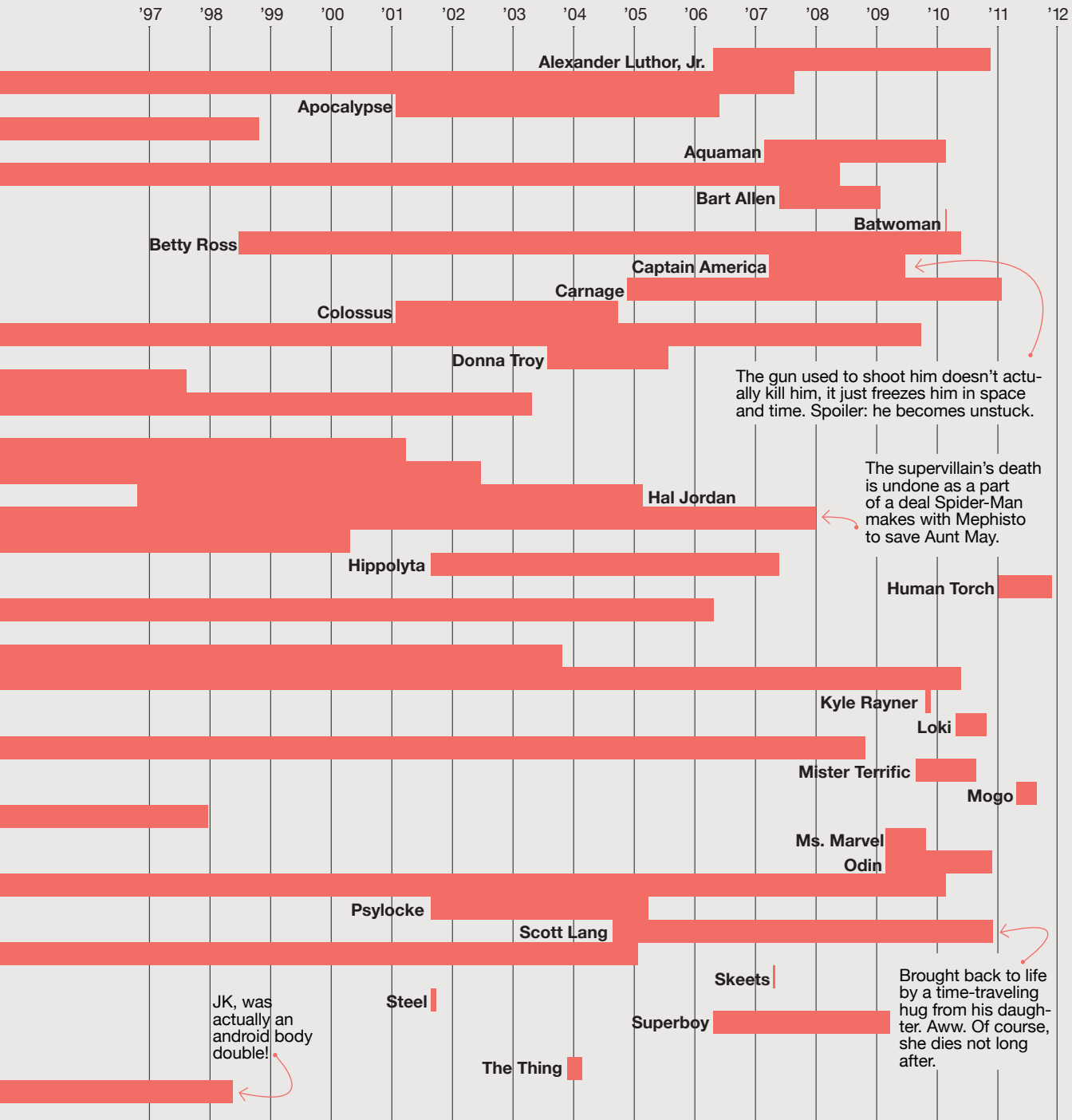
The Yancy Street Gang often serves as antagonists to The Thing (Fantastic Four).

How Long Characters Stayed Dead



Favorite character get killed off? Don't worry. Chances are, they'll rise again. That heart-stopping moment will be explained away (a clone! a dream! that darn multiverse!) and [insert character here] will return to the land of the living.

 = Dead



CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

The *MAD* Magazine Mystery Record

CHORUS:

It's a great big, beautiful,
wonderful, incredible,
super-spectacular day

And your heart is humming
with good times coming

And you got that happy feel-
ing things are going your way

All the bells are ringing and
a little bird's singing while he
sits on your windowsill

Saying yessiree, I can surely
see, it will plainly be, most
definitely

A super-spectacular day!

Untillllllllll . . .

'Round quarter
to five your
relations arrive

And you greet
cousin Beth
with terrible
breath

And a fat
British guy
who destroys
your hi-fi

'Round seven
at night you go
out for a bite

The streets are
aglow from a
large UFO

A creature
comes out with
two heads and
a snout

You walk out
the door of a
dry cleaning
store

And you're
grabbed by sur-
prise by three
Mafia guys

Who mistak-
enly think that
you're Hymie
the Fink

A quarter past
eight you pick
up your blind
date

And you really
go ape for
her fabulous
shape

Of the girls
that you've
met she's the
classiest yet

You're called
down in class
and you feel
like an ass

'Cuz you don't
have a clue
and you know
that it's due

To those
classes you
skipped and
your fly is
unzipped

You develop
a twitch and a
horrible itch

And you're
covered with
spots and
you're getting
the trots

And your
feet start to
swell and it's
easy to tell

Your sister
pours glue in
her hair and
blames you

And your neigh-
bor says that
you're abusing
her cat

And you just
left the john
with the water
turned on

You go out
for a spin and
your sunroof
caves in

And the steer-
ing wheel
shakes so you
slam on the
brakes

And the gears
get all stuck as
you sideswipe
a truck

In the summer of 1980, *MAD* magazine tucked an exclusive flexi-disc record within its pages. Depending on where the needle landed on it, the record would play one of eight variations of the song, "It's a Super-Spectacular Day."

And your great-uncle Fred who gets drunk in your bed

And your third cousin Dick who is mentally sick

And his creepy friend Joe and six more you don't know

And you're sure there and then as you're shafted again. . .

It talks like a frog and throws up on your dog

It thinks you are great and wants you for its mate

You're sealed in a case and go flying in space

And you silently say as the Earth fades away. . .

They break your right arm and do bodily harm

And you're writhing in pain and you try to explain

That your name is Jerome and you're on your way home

And you let out a sigh as you're left there to die. . .

And she's pretty and bright and it's love at first sight

And it's really a shame she's not feeling the same

'Cuz she thinks you're a schmuck and she says "lots of luck"

And you sob in despair as she gives you the air. . .

And your acne has spread to the back of your head

And some jerk spreads the word that you're some kind of nerd

And you fight in the hall and punch through a wall

And there isn't a doubt as they're flunking you out. . .

From this hideous wheeze that some awful disease

So you call an M.D. and he says, "Don't ask me

If it gets any worse you can speak to my nurse"

And you manage to say as you wither away. . .

And the house gets all wet and your mother's upset

And you'd die if you knew what your dad's gonna do

And your python gets loose and you know it's no use

And you cry there in fear and it's now very clear. . .

And you run out of gas while you're trying to pass

And you're stalled on the tracks and you try to relax

But the train's coming through and it's heading for you

And you have a quick flash as you brace for the crash. . .

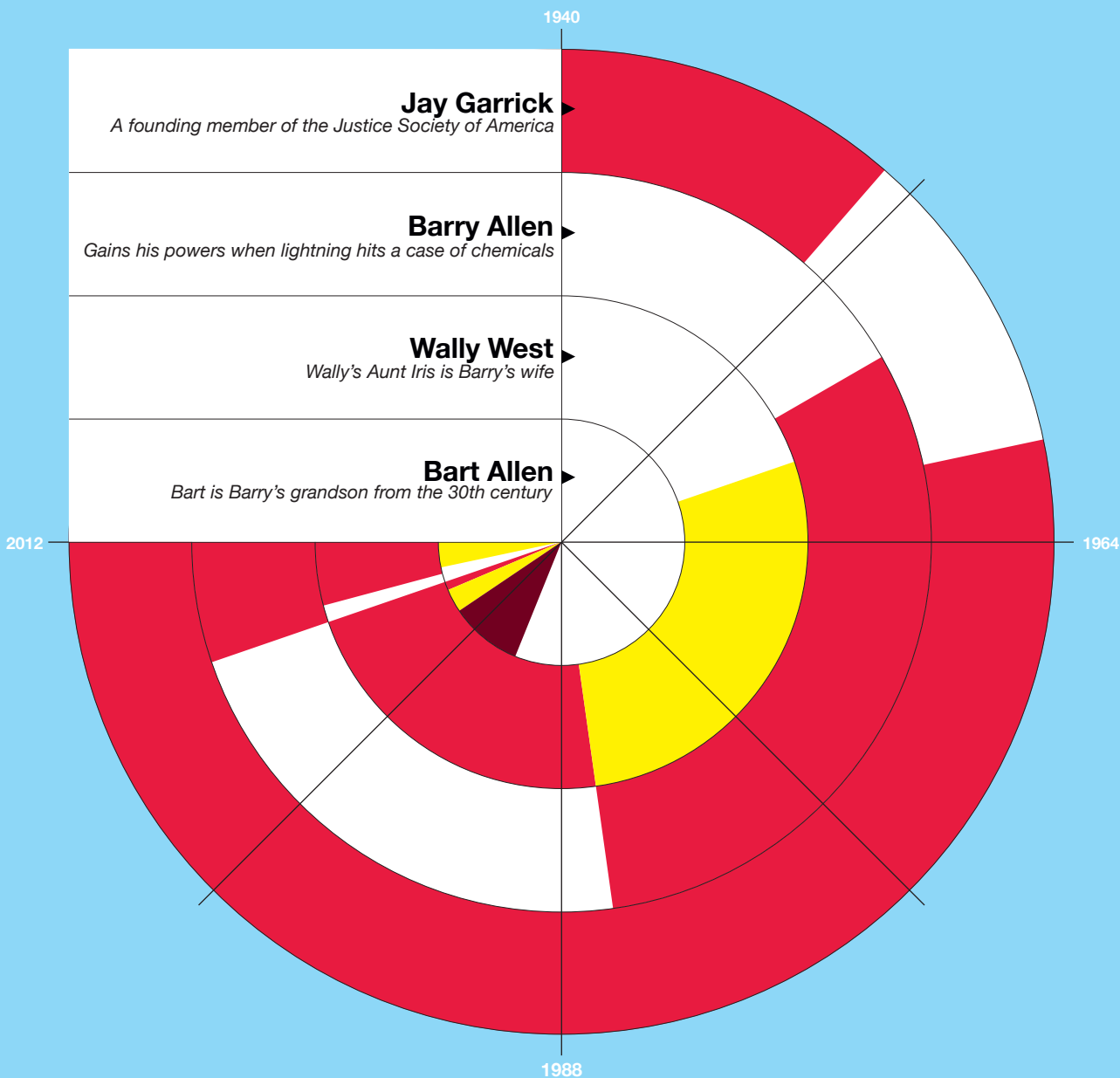
... that it's not such a super-spectacular day!

FAST COMPANY

The Four Faces of The Flash

Since 1940, four different people have put on the famous red costume—and sometimes at the same time. Blame alternate realities, a return from the grave, and time travel. It's confusing! Here's a guide to the fastest men alive.

■ THE FLASH ■ KID FLASH ■ IMPULSE



A Watchmen Primer

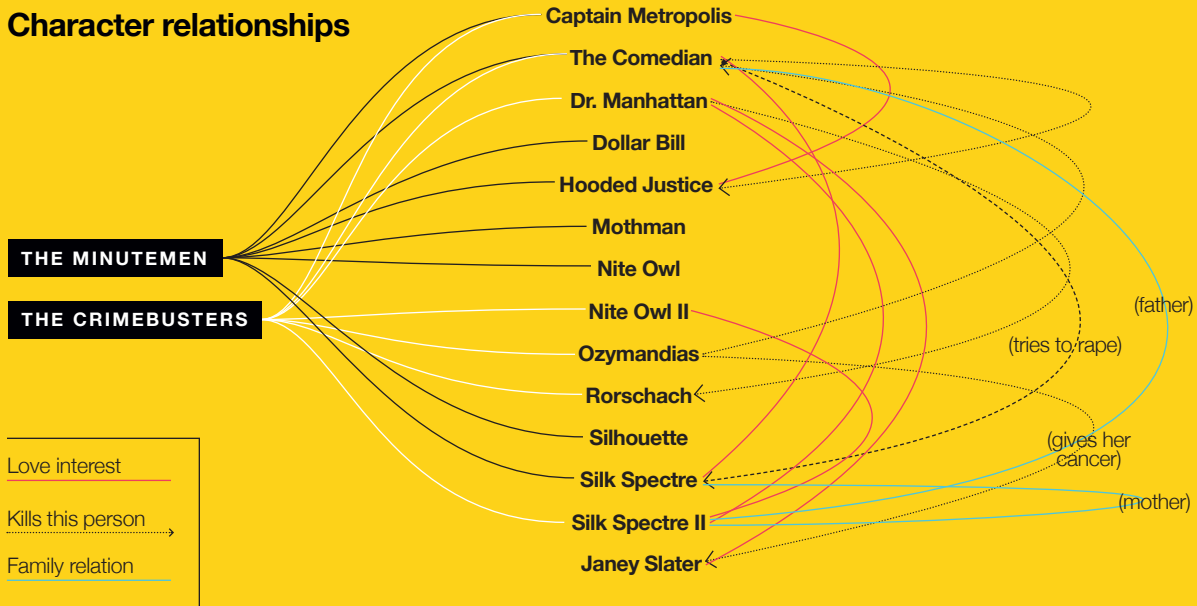
Originally published by DC Comics as a limited 12-issue series in 1986, *Watchmen* is widely regarded as the best comic . . . ever. The story, written by Alan Moore and drawn by Dave Gibbons, spans generations of superhero teams, as much of a critique of the genre as an exploration of it.

The *Watchmen* effect

Watchmen changed everything. It showed just how layered and how adult a comic book could be—and the industry took notice. After its publication books became significantly less jokey.



Character relationships



Watchmen timeline, 1935–1985

1938 Hooded Justice stops a robbery and inspires Hollis Mason to become Nite Owl.

1940 Comedian leaves the group after attempting to rape Silk Spectre.

1946 Silhouette is outed as a lesbian and removed from the group. She and her lover are murdered six weeks later.

1947 Silk Spectre retires and marries her agent. Dollar Bill, a member of the Minutemen, dies in action.

1949 The Minutemen disband.

1950 Silk Spectre gives birth to Laurie Juspecky.

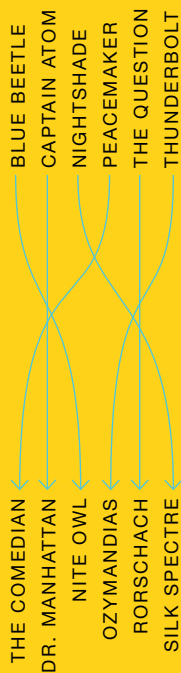
1959 Jon Osterman is disintegrated during an accident. He rematerializes later as Dr. Manhattan.

1958 Ozymandias makes his crime-fighting debut.

1939 The Minutemen become a team.

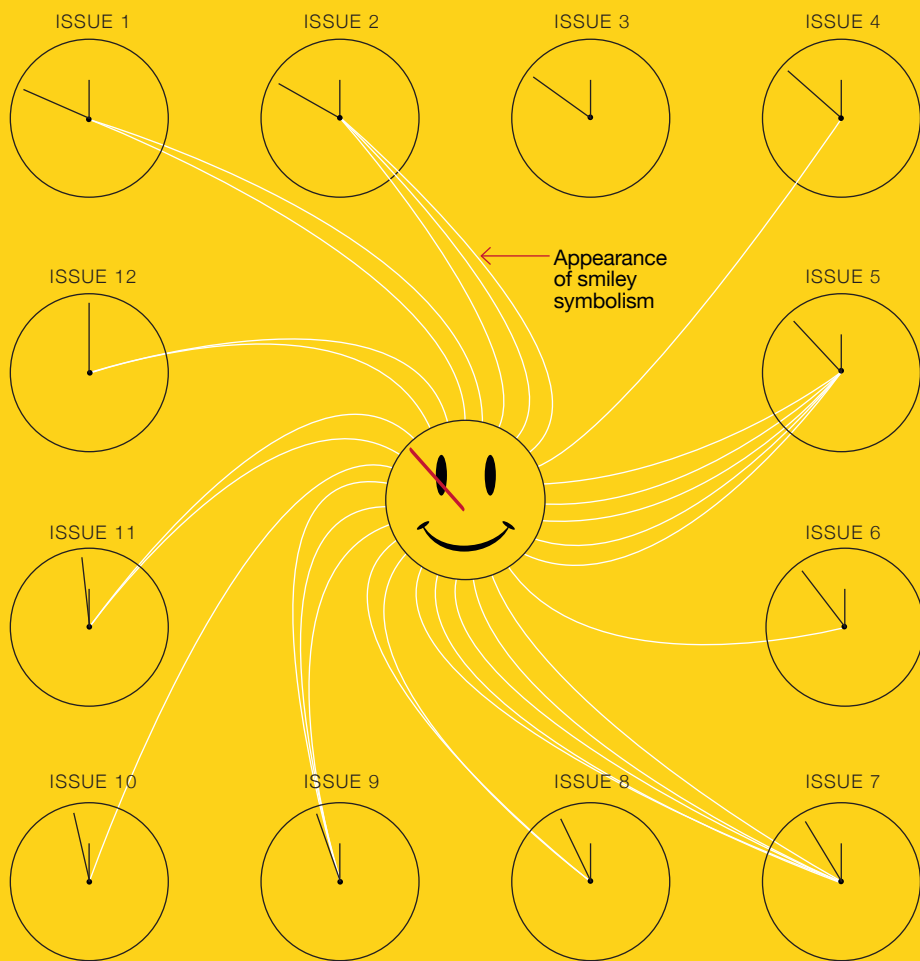
Characters origins

Alan Moore's original pitch for *Watchmen* had included characters that DC Comics acquired from Charlton Comics a few years prior. Realizing their inclusion in *Watchmen* would render many unusable thereafter, Moore's editor, Dick Giordano, suggested creating original characters. Moore did just that, but based his cast on the Charlton lot. Here's where he pulled his inspiration.



The smiley face

Watchmen's most iconic image is the smiley face button belonging to the Comedian. When the Comedian dies in the opening pages, his blood splatters in a dripping line on the smiley face. The smiley face imagery is a direct visual metaphor to the face of the doomsday clock that is prominently featured in each issue. The circle and line imagery also appears in many subtle forms throughout the series, including a radar screen, goggles and the sun. Here's how many times you can spot the symbolism in each issue.



1962 Hollis Mason retires as Nite Owl. Dan Dreiberg later asks to take on the superhero's name, as Nite Owl II.

1965 Crime-fighters Rorschach and Nite Owl II team up.

1966 Captain Metropolis forms the Crimebusters. Laurie Juspezyk joins as Silk Spectre II.

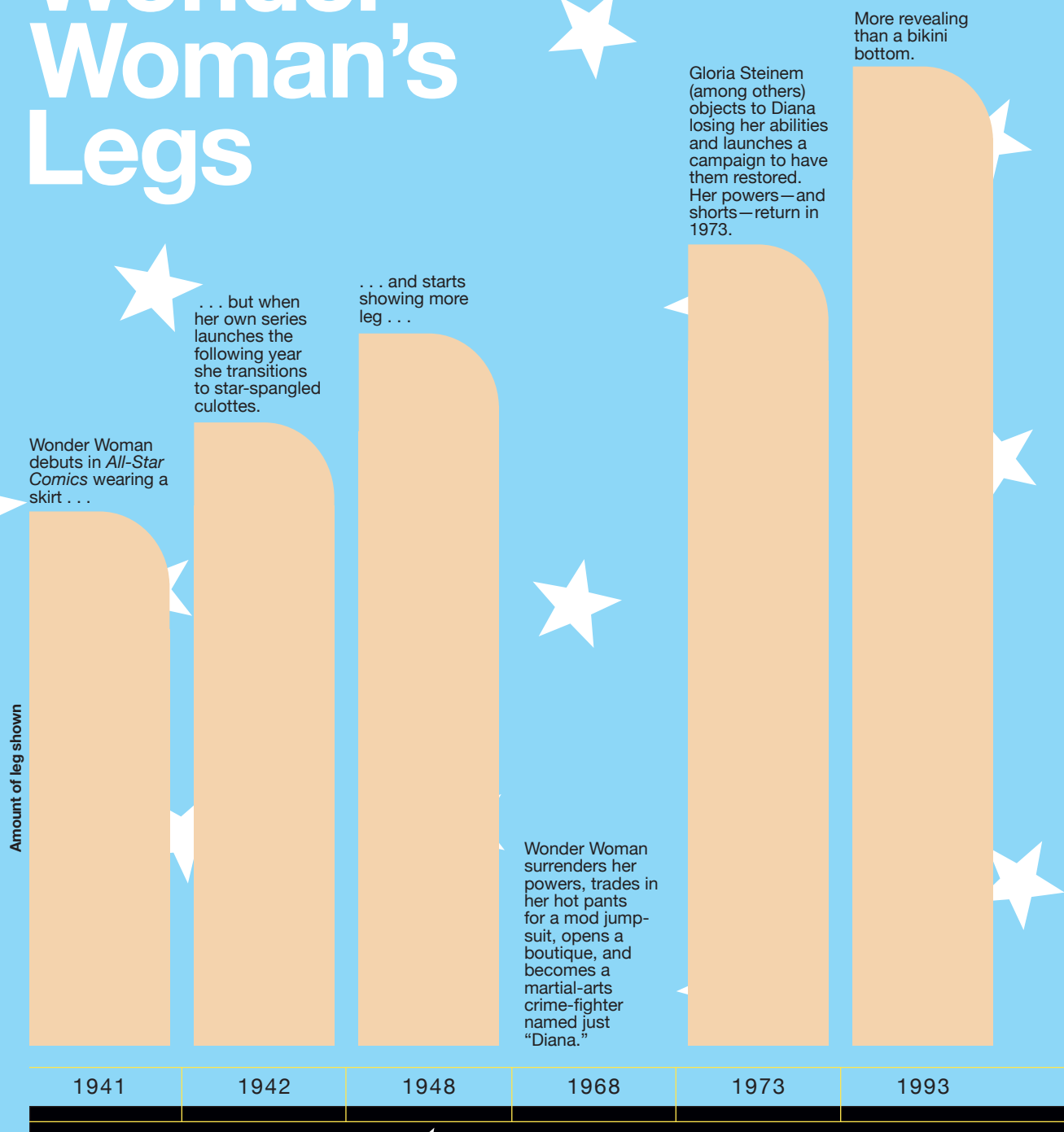
1971 President Nixon sends Dr. Manhattan to Vietnam.

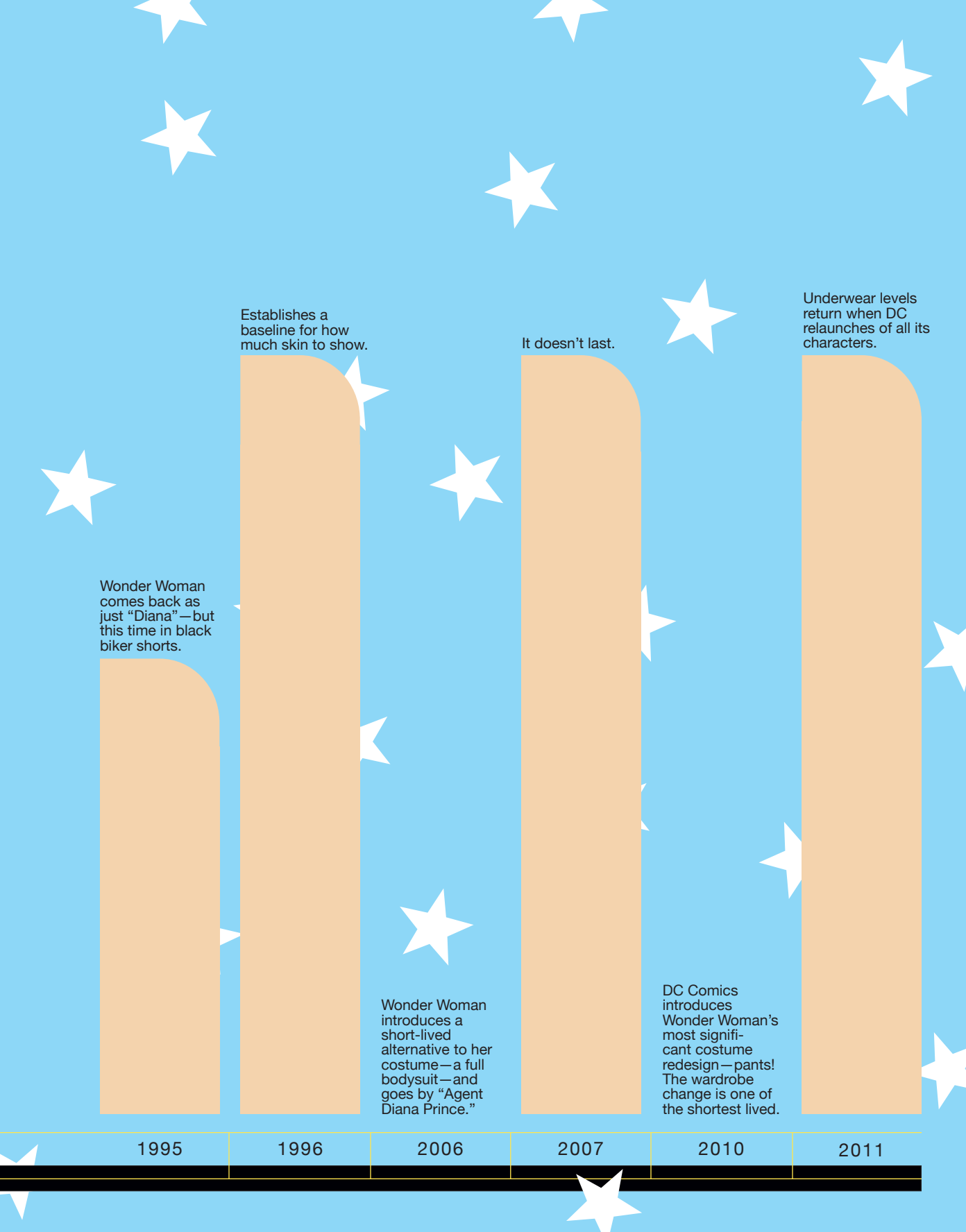
1977 America outlaws non-government-sanctioned costumed superheroes, by way of the Keene Act.

1985 With the world on the brink of nuclear war, The Comedian discovers Veidt's plan to beam an artificial alien monster to New York. First Veidt offs The Comedian. Then he transports the monster to New York, killing 3 million people. Silk Spectre II, Nite Owl II, and Rorschach try to stop him, but fail. Because the truth would cause more strife, Dr. Manhattan kills Rorschach, a teammate threatening to expose Veidt. The world bands together and finds peace, united against a threat that never was.

AMAZONIAN PRIME

70 Years of Wonder Woman's Legs





Wonder Woman comes back as just "Diana"—but this time in black biker shorts.

Establishes a baseline for how much skin to show.

It doesn't last.

Underwear levels return when DC relaunches of all its characters.

Wonder Woman introduces a short-lived alternative to her costume—a full bodysuit—and goes by "Agent Diana Prince."

DC Comics introduces Wonder Woman's most significant costume redesign—pants! The wardrobe change is one of the shortest lived.

1995

1996

2006

2007

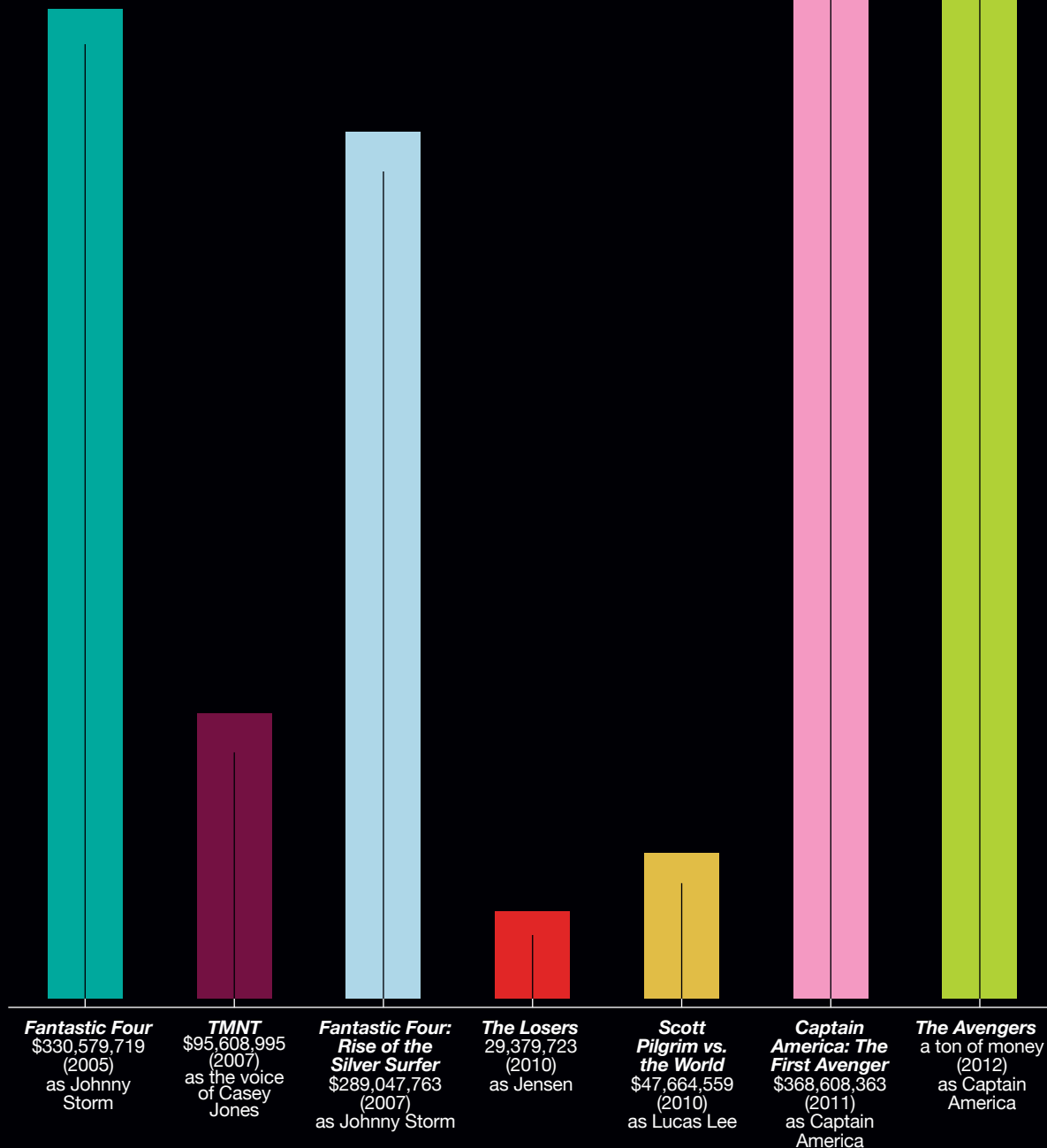
2010

2011

RECURRING CHARACTER

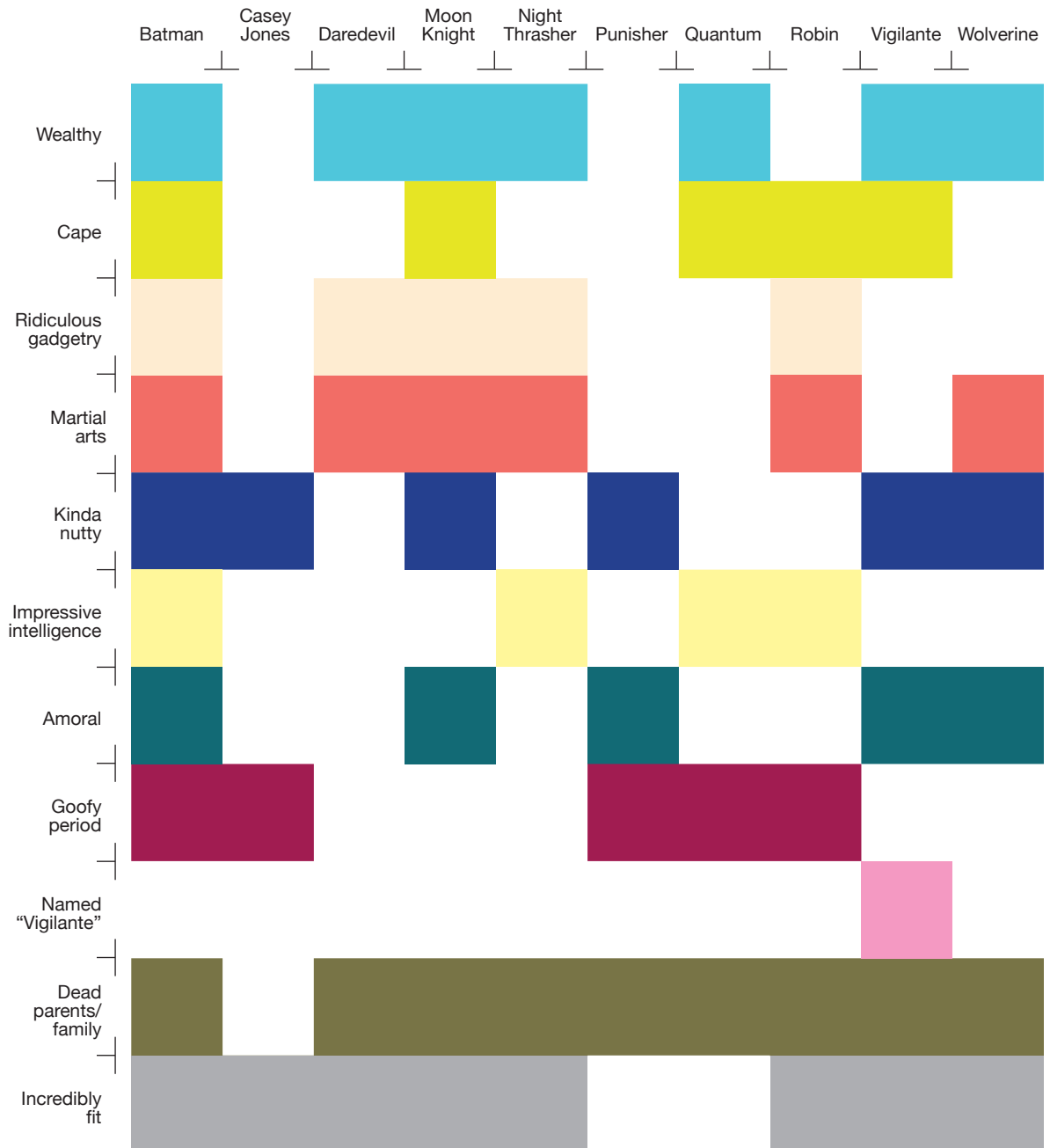
Chris Evans

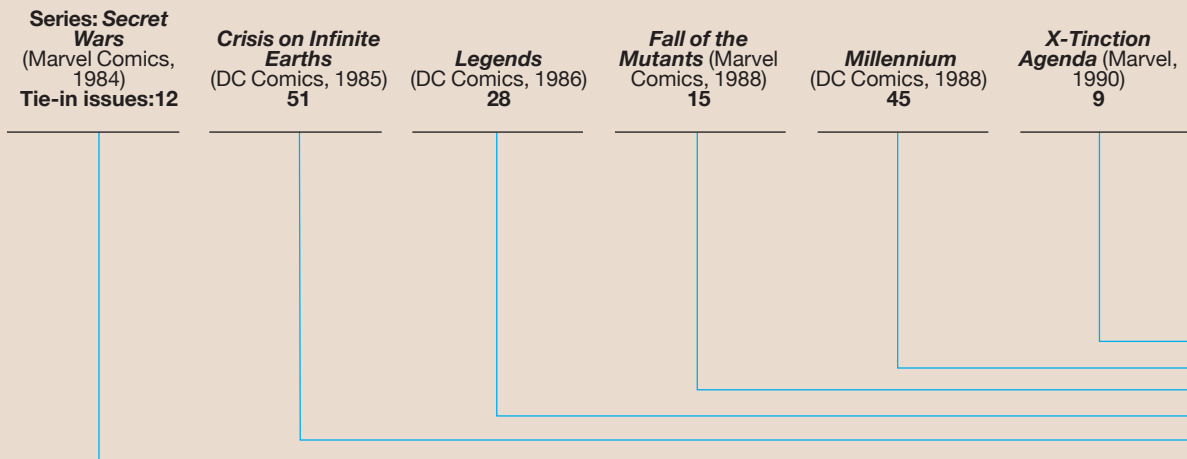
The actor has the notable distinction of having appeared in more comic book movies than any actor before him. While we're going to ignore the questions of quality (what's up, not-so-*Fantastic Four*?), some of his performances have fared better at the box office than others.



How to Spot a Vigilante

This class of superheroes has more in common than just their ability to kick major ass.

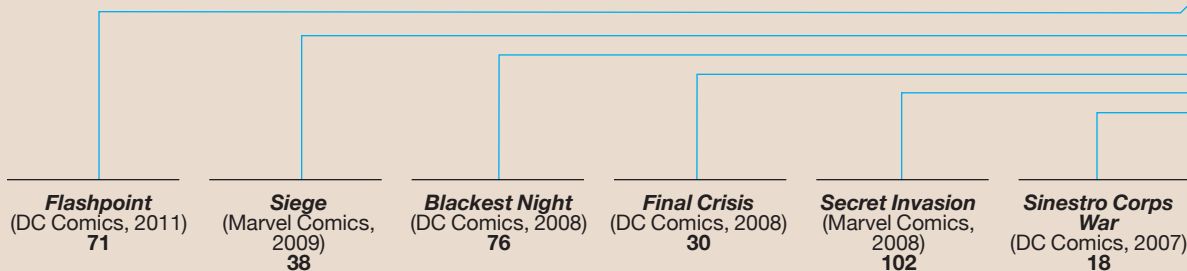


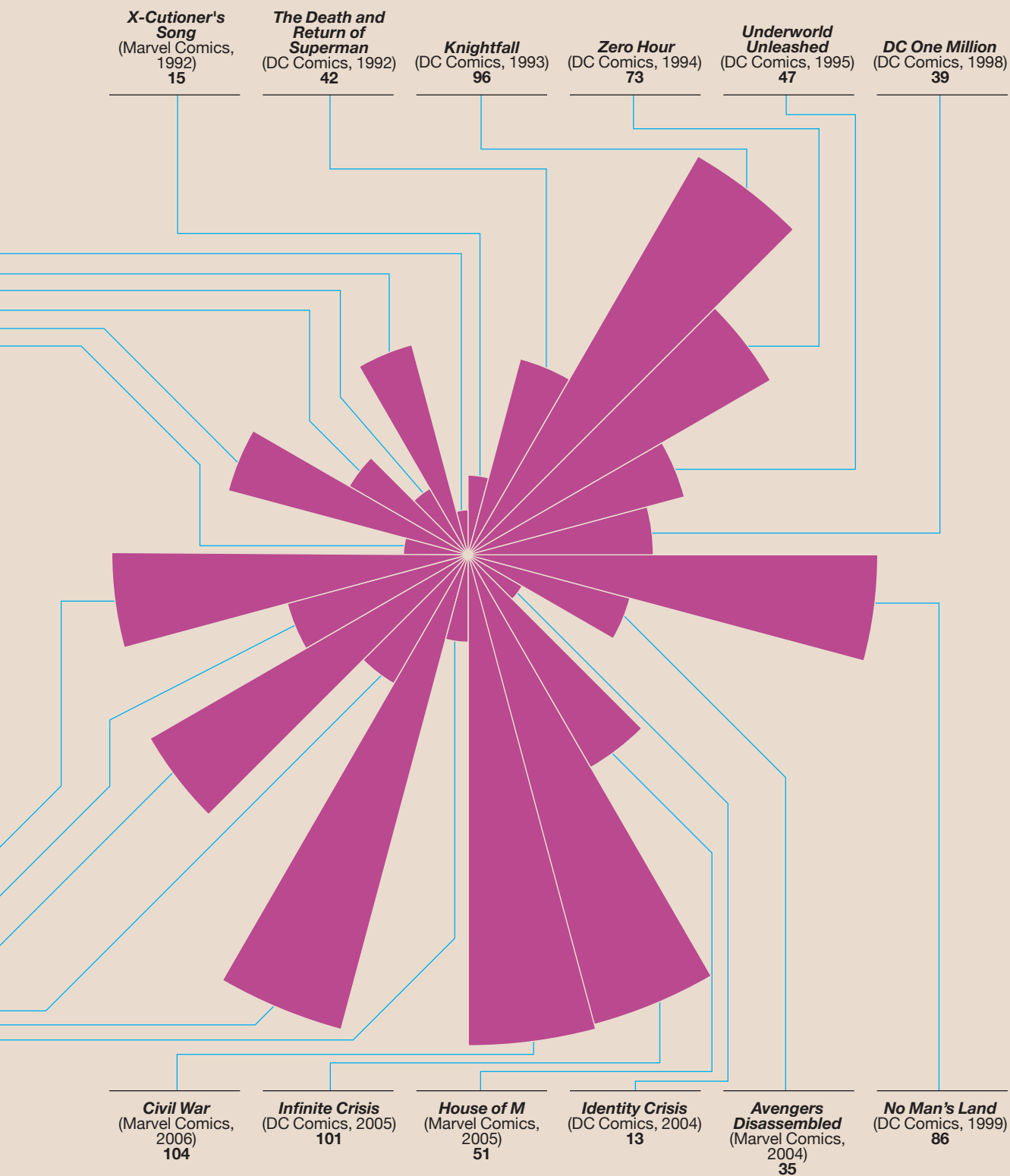


NOT STANDARD ISSUE

An Explanation of Crossover Issues and Their Tie-Ins

Big events that span multiple series are a boon to sales, but the stories tend to be so expansive that they require additional issues just to explain what the heck is going on. These extras are called tie-ins. Here's how many tie-ins were needed to explain each series crossover.





Tintin's Travels

Hergé's *The Adventures of Tintin* stars the titular Tintin, a young investigative reporter who travels all over the world—and sometimes out of it—in search of a story.

BOOK:

Tintin in the Land of the Soviets 1930

Tintin in the Congo 1931

Tintin in America 1932

Cigars of the Pharaoh 1934

The Blue Lotus 1936

The Broken Ear 1937

The Black Island 1938

King Ottokar's Sceptre 1939

The Crab with the Golden Claws 1941

The Shooting Star 1942

The Secret of the Unicorn 1943

Red Rackham's Treasure 1944

The Seven Crystal Balls 1948

Prisoners of the Sun 1949

Land of Black Gold 1950

Destination Moon 1953

Explorers on the Moon 1953

The Calculus Affair 1956

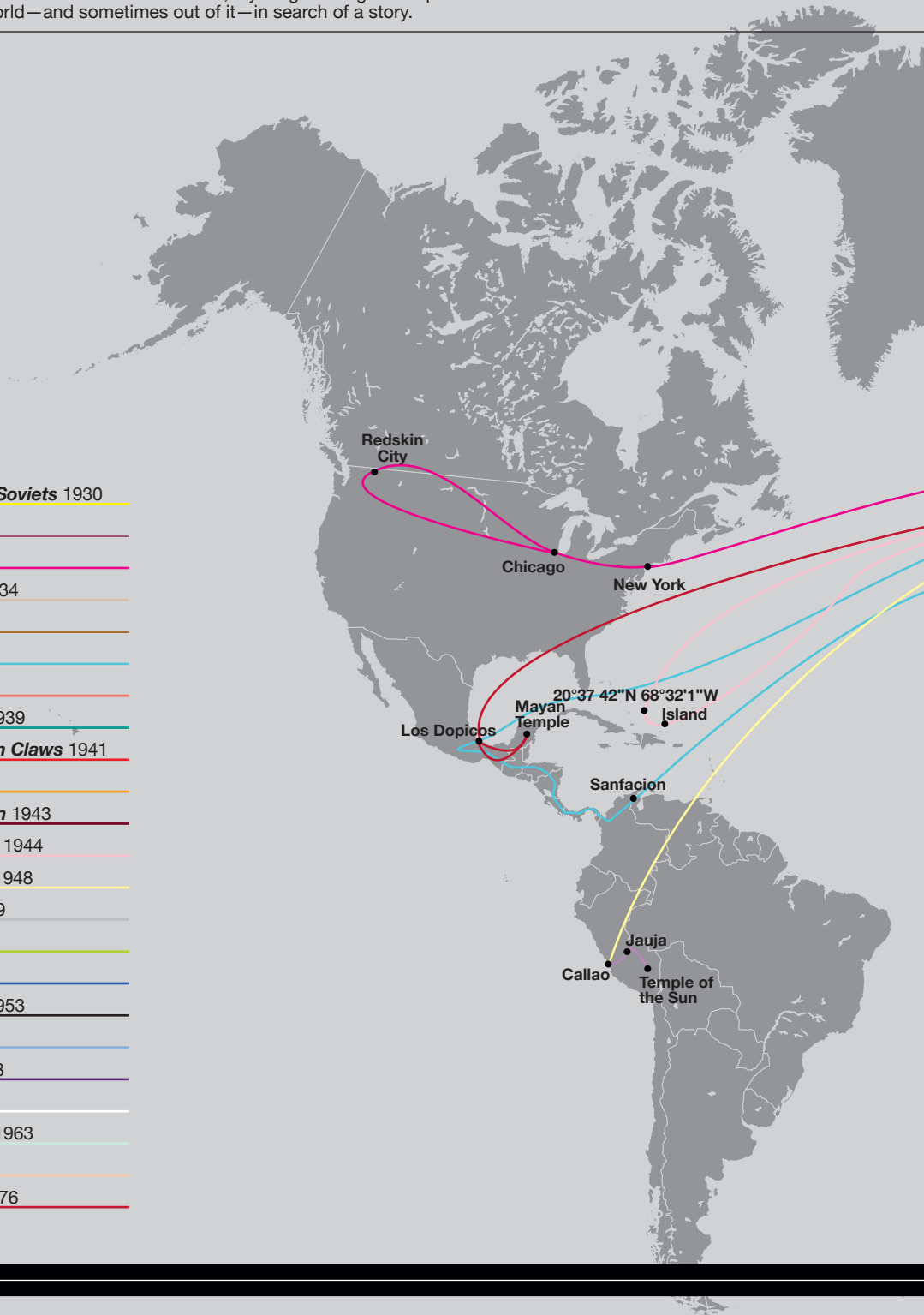
The Red Sea Sharks 1958

Tintin in Tibet 1960

The Castafiore Emerald 1963

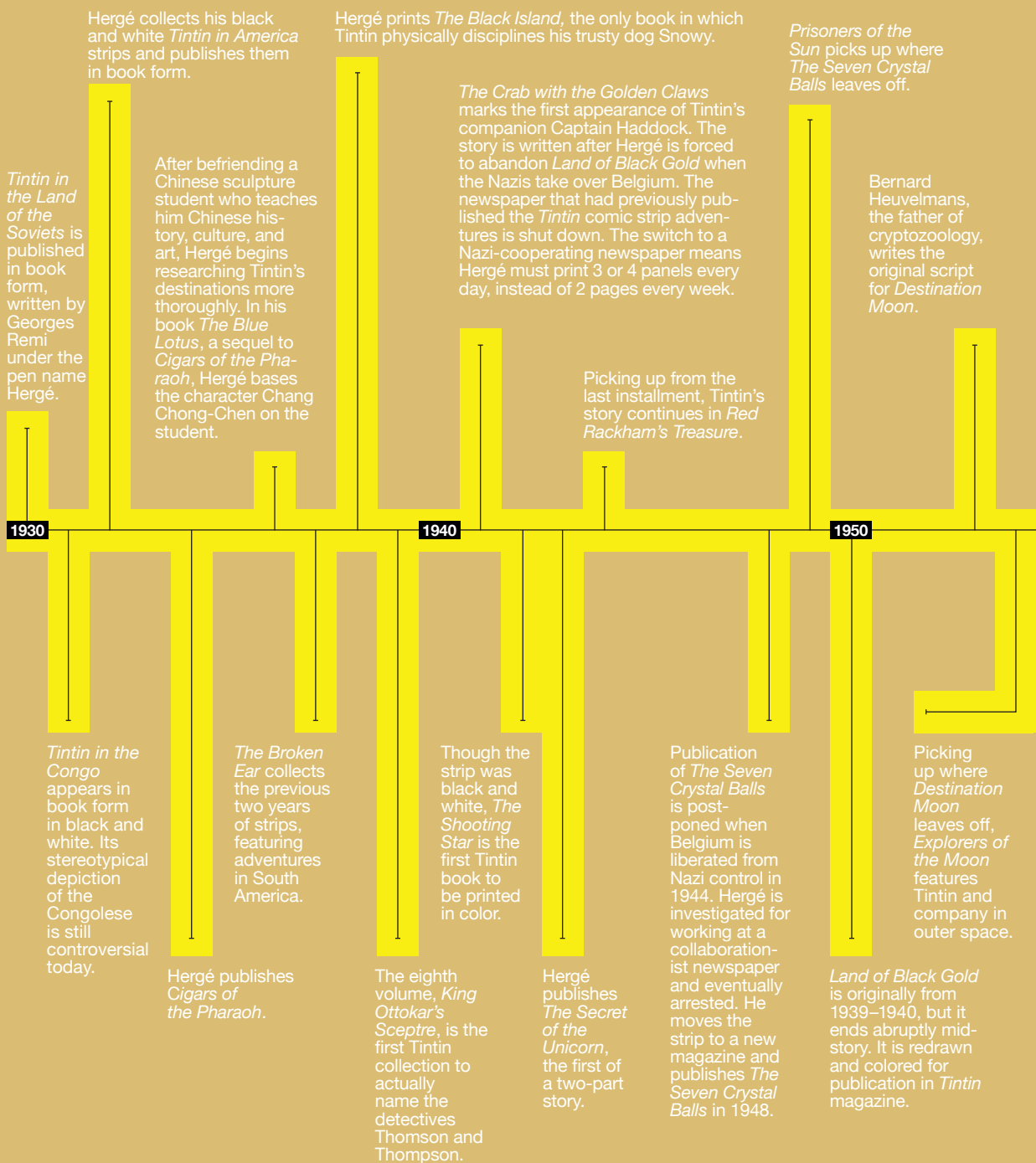
Flight 714 1968

Tintin and the Picaros 1976





Tintin Publication History



First serialized several years earlier, *The Calculus Affair* debuts in book form.

Flight 714 is noted for its heavy supernatural content, including telepathy and flying saucers.

The Castafiore Emerald is one of two books in which Tintin does not visit another part of the world. It also is void of guns, villains, and danger.

After several years of illness Hergé dies at age 75. His 24th volume, *Tintin and Alph-Art*, goes unfinished. It's released in 1986 as a series of sketches and notes.

1960

1970

1980

The twentieth volume in the series, *Tintin in Tibet*, Hergé's personal favorite, is praised by the Dalai Lama. During its creation, Hergé falls out of love with his wife and is plagued with nightmares of overwhelming whiteness. A psychoanalyst student of Carl Jung recommended quitting *Tintin*. Hergé *instead* finishes *Tibet*, separates from his wife (whom he divorces 17 years later) and begins a relationship with a young artist in his studio (whom he marries 17 years later).

The Red Sea Sharks reunites many former Tintin characters from previous volumes.

Tintin and the Picaros depicts Tintin older and changed; he practices yoga and wears bell bottoms. In the course of the work, Hergé realizes he has created 63 pages instead of the required 62, so he removes an entire page that does not affect the story.

REVISIONIST HISTORY

30 Years of Changing Tintin

1943

Hergé re-edits and colors *The Crab with the Golden Claws*. He also adds four arbitrary full-page panels since the original strips didn't have enough material to fill the 62-page quota set by the publisher.

1946

Hergé redraws and colors *Tintin in the Congo* in his new *ligne claire* style. He also scraps nearly half the pages, adds cameos by Thomson and Thompson, and removes several references to Belgian rule in Africa.

1955

Hergé re-draws and colors *Cigars of the Pharaoh*. He cuts full pages including the scenes where Tintin dons makeup to pass as a Muslim and where Snowy plays a gramophone to warn his owner of an approaching cobra.

1961

The original strips that make up this volume ran during Germany's occupation of Belgium. Amidst accusations that Hergé is anti-Semitic, he removes several offensive Jewish characters and all references to God in *The Shooting Star*.

1930

Tintin in the Land of the Soviets

Tintin in America

Tintin in the Congo

Cigars of the Pharaoh

The Blue Lotus

The Broken Ear

The Black Island

1940

King Ottokar's Sceptre

The Crab with the Golden Claws

The Shooting Star

The Secret of the Unicorn

Red Rackham's Treasure

The Seven Crystal Balls

Prisoners of the Sun

Land of Black Gold

Destination Moon

1950

Millions of people have read *Tintin*, but the stories they picked up may not have been the same ones originally published. The reason: Tintin creator Hergé often went back to rewrite, re-draw, and re-edit his famous series. Sometimes he did it for space, sometimes to add color, and sometimes to subdue controversy.

1962

After complaints, Hergé removes the Air India logo from plane crash debris that appears in *Tintin in Tibet*.

1966

The Black Island is updated to portray Great Britain more accurately, including names, police uniforms, locations, and modern vehicles.

1971

Hergé again updates *Cigars of the Pharaoh* when it is translated into English. Hergé redraws a scene where a Sheik shows Tintin that he's reading *Destination Moon*, a Tintin volume published 19 years after *Cigars*' original release.

1972

Land of Black Gold changes locations. Palestine turns into the fictional Arab state of Khemed and actual Arabic is inserted into the dialogue in place of nonsensical imagined script.

1975

Hergé again re-draws a page from *Tintin in the Congo* for Scandinavian publishers. He changes a scene where Tintin kills a rhinoceros by drilling a hole in its back, filling it with gunpowder, and lighting it on fire. In the updated version, the rhino runs away scared after accidentally firing Tintin's gun.

1960

1970

The Calculus Affair
Explorers on the Moon

The Red Sea Sharks

Tintin in Tibet

The Castafiore Emerald

Flight 714

Tintin and the Picaros

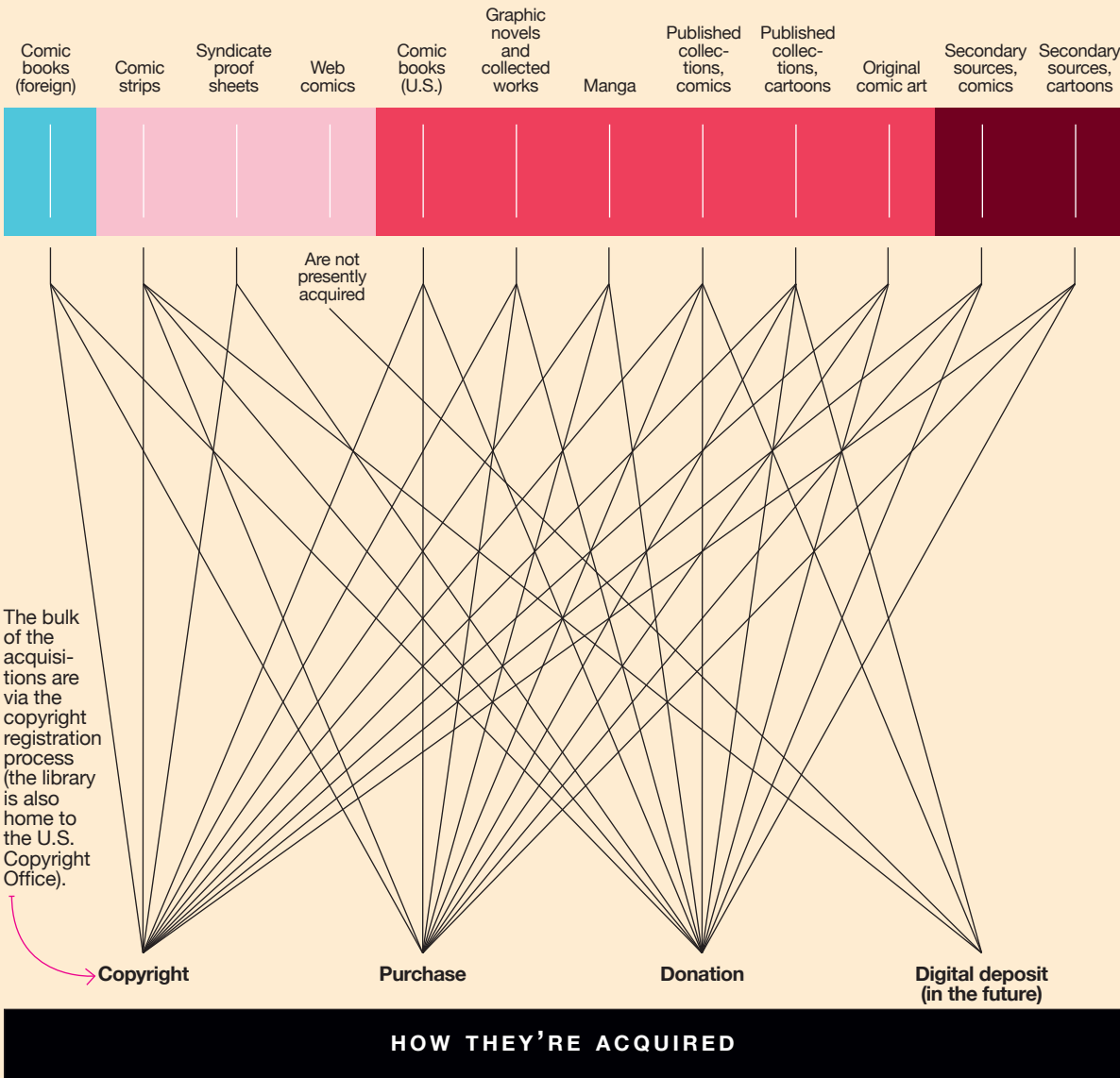
BOOK REPORT

The Library of Congress Comic Collection

The Library of Congress's mission, according to official policy, is to create a "comprehensive record of the Platinum, Golden, and Silver Ages of US comic book publishing (representing the formative years of comic book development as well as current trends)." They collect a lot; but they also miss a lot. Here's how they go about beefing up their collection.

How thoroughly the library collects different subjects

- Basic**
Materials introducing the subject
- Intermediary**
Enough to support undergrad instruction
- Advanced**
All important reference works
- Comprehensive**
All significant works



ART, WORK

The Schedule of a Manga Artist

In Japan, giant magazines hundreds of pages thick are printed every week. To meet the page count, comic book artists work some pretty crazy hours. Here's a week in the life of one artist.



COVER TO COVER

Marvel and DC's Price History

● Marvel Comics ● DC Comics

In the late '70s Marvel begins producing more titles and more original stories, which led them to become the unmistakable industry leader. Trying to regain a foothold, DC counters with "The DC Explosion," launching more than 50 new titles, adding eight pages to each issue, and raising prices from 35¢ to 50¢. Weak sales, however, forced DC to cancel more than two dozen titles, reduce the number of pages in each issue, and lower issue prices to 40¢. The whole ordeal padded Marvel's lead and is now known as "The DC Implosion."

1970

1980

The industry hits record highs in sales as limited editions and new series launch. The price spike coincides with a speculation boom; it was believed that a comic's value would go up over time. Boom turns to bust, however, as the titles fail to live up to the hype. The resulting crash hits the industry hard, and Marvel is forced to declare bankruptcy in 1996.

TIER ONE

TIER TWO

Both Marvel and DC introduce tiered pricing levels for all their titles in the '90s—a practice previously only in place for special issues. Here's each publisher's high and low end.

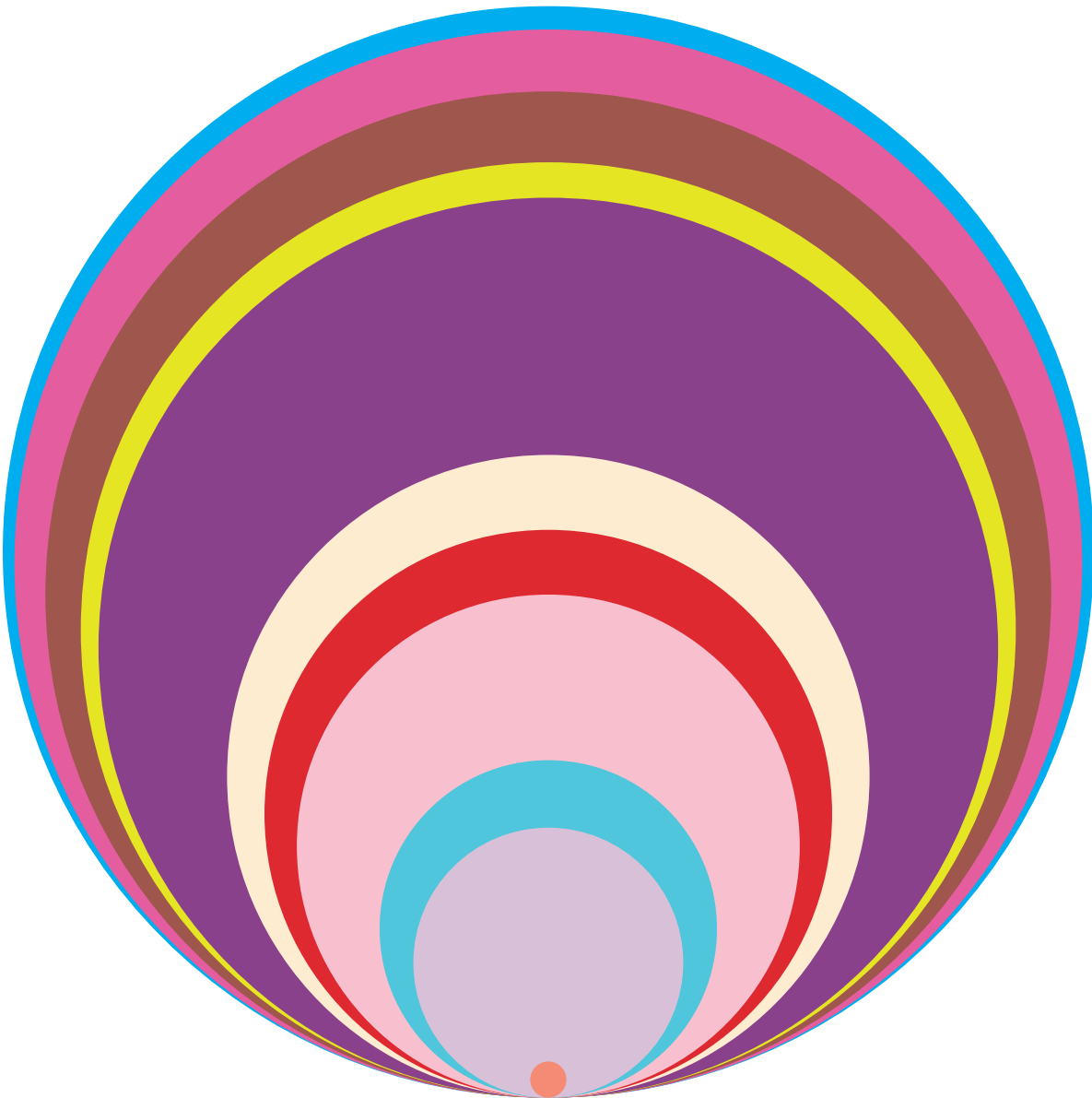
1990

2000

2010

Size Matters

Here's how Marvel and DC's super cities (and a few small countries) stack up against real-world urban development.

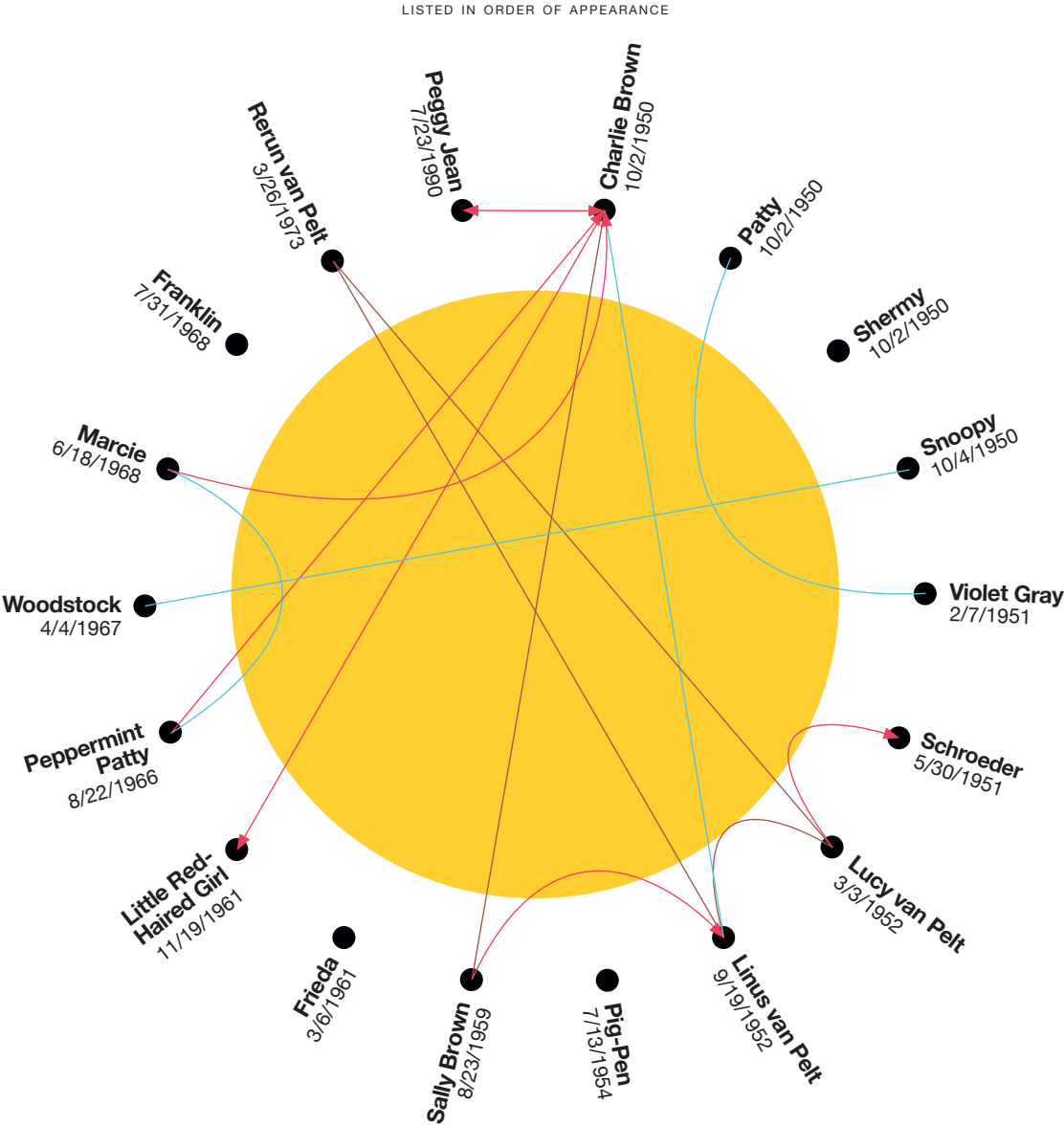


- Atlantis 9,000
- Kingdom of Latveria 500,000
- Coast City 781,071
- Star City 1,735,714
- Paris 2,211,297
- Chicago 2,833,321
- Gotham City 5,554,285
- Kingdom of Wakanda 6,000,000
- Metropolis 6,942,857
- London 7,830,000
- New York 8,175,133

Assorted *Peanuts*

Best friends, brothers, and budding love in Charles Schulz's long-running strip.

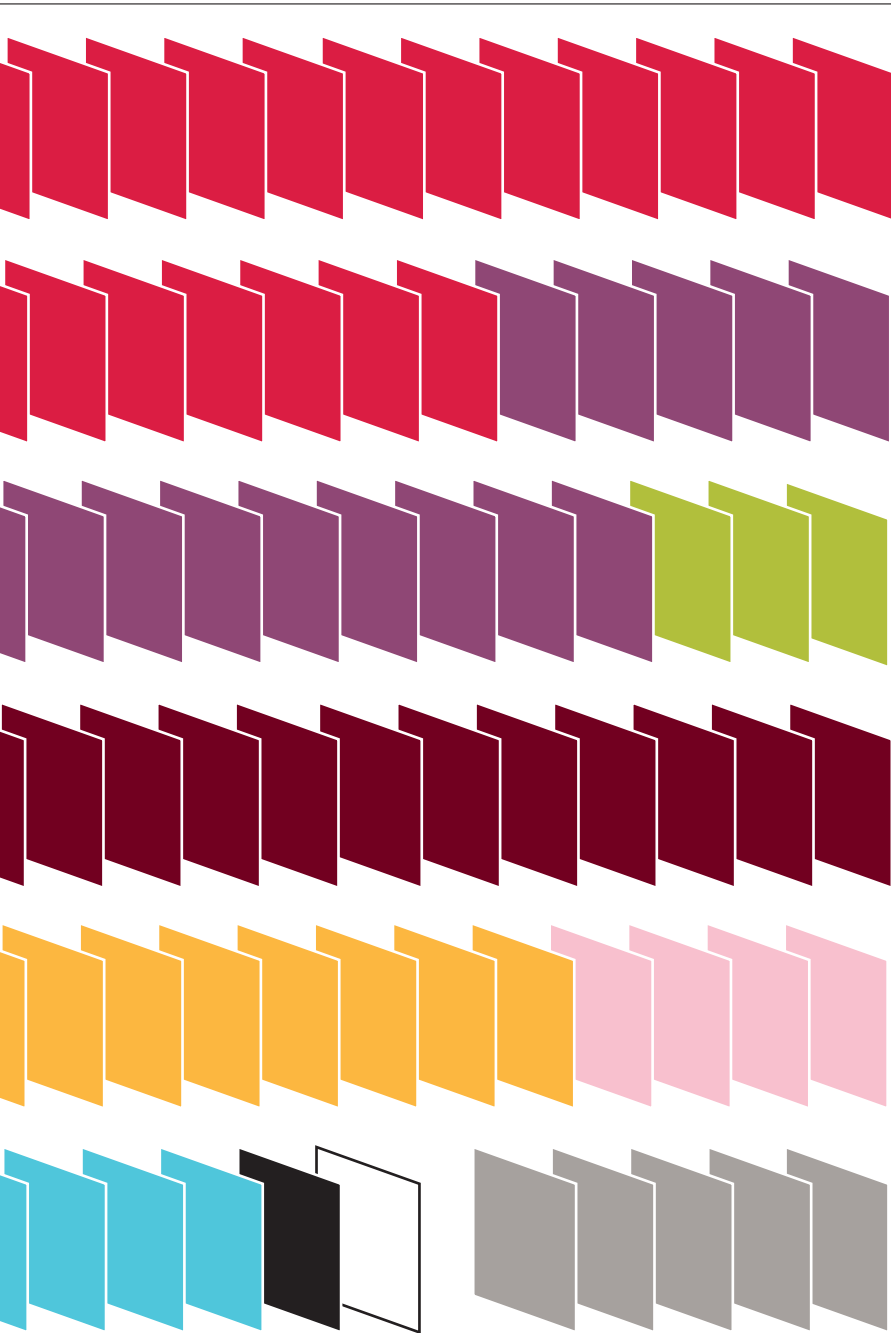
- Best friends
- Love interest
- Family



Marvel Universe Trading Cards

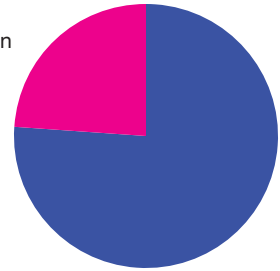


Just as the comic book industry enjoyed booming sales in the '90s, so did collectible trading cards. It started when Marvel Comics released their first set in 1990. The 167-card set featured notable characters, famous battles, and even 12-cards featuring Spider-Man interviewing his peers.



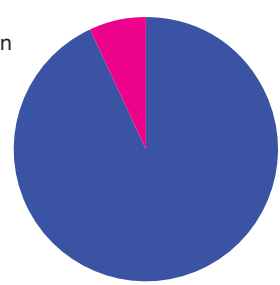
Superheroes

Men
Women



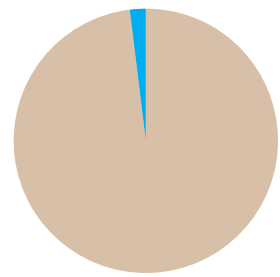
Supervillains

Men
Women



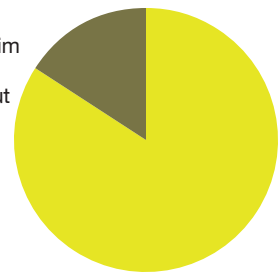
Cards

I Have
I Need



Spider-Man

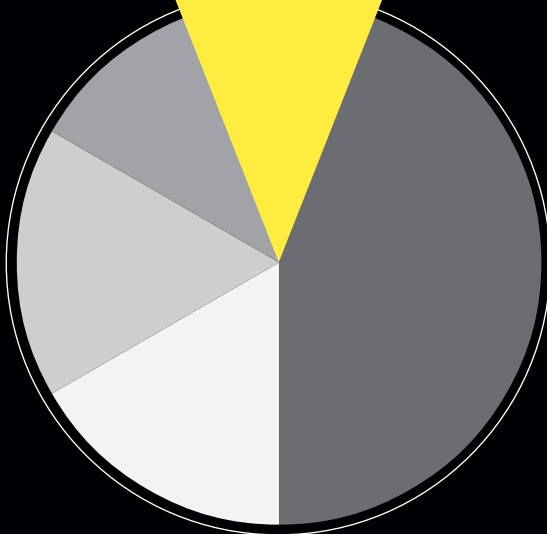
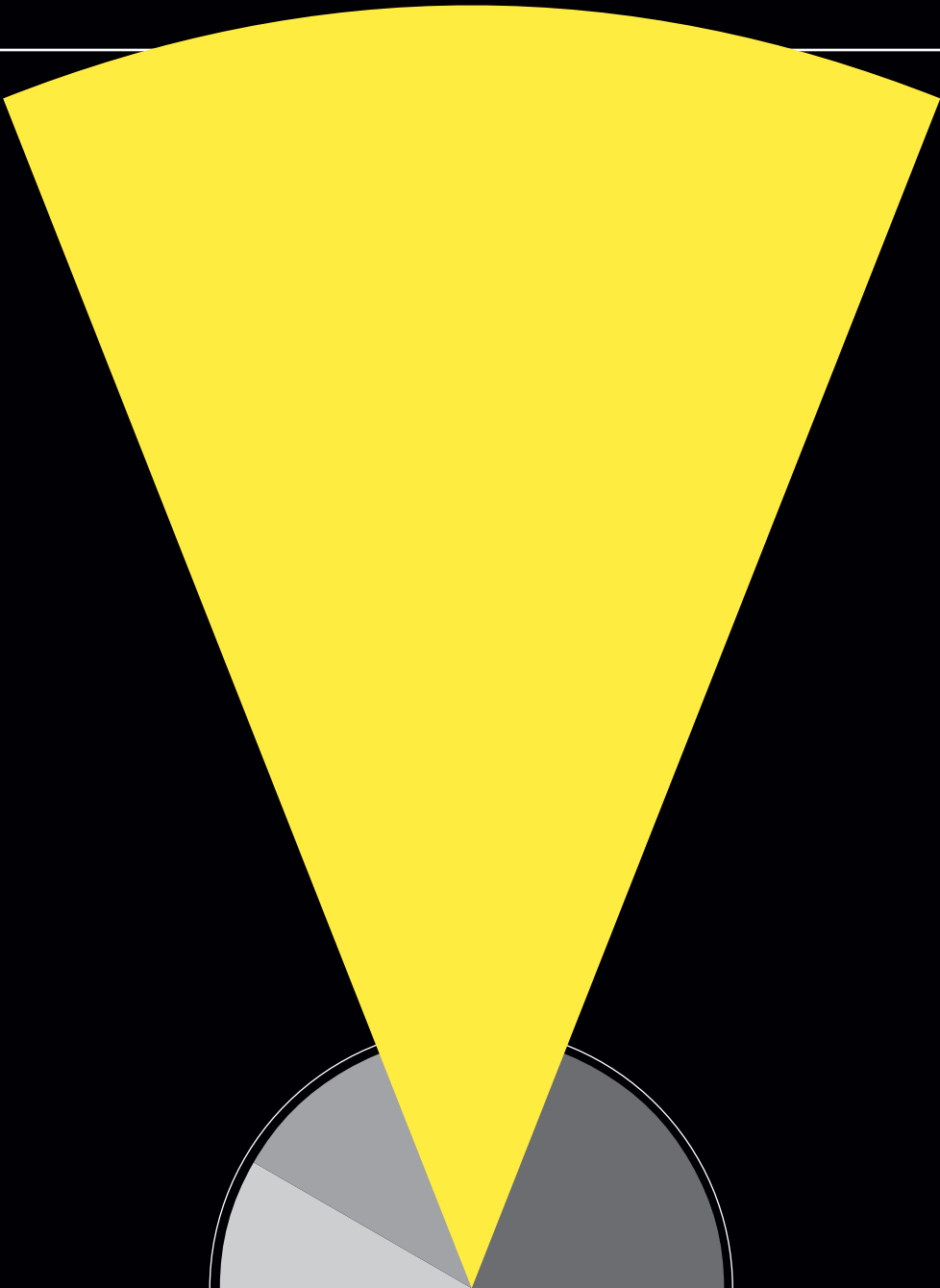
Cards with him
Cards without him



Spider-Man Presents Stan Lee Checklist Holograms

Gotham City Police Department Utility Bill

When the city needs to call in its big gun,
it does so at a big price.



- Bat Signal
- Electricity
- Water
- Sewer
- Heating

Power Pack

Super strength is not the only asset artists have given Power Girl.



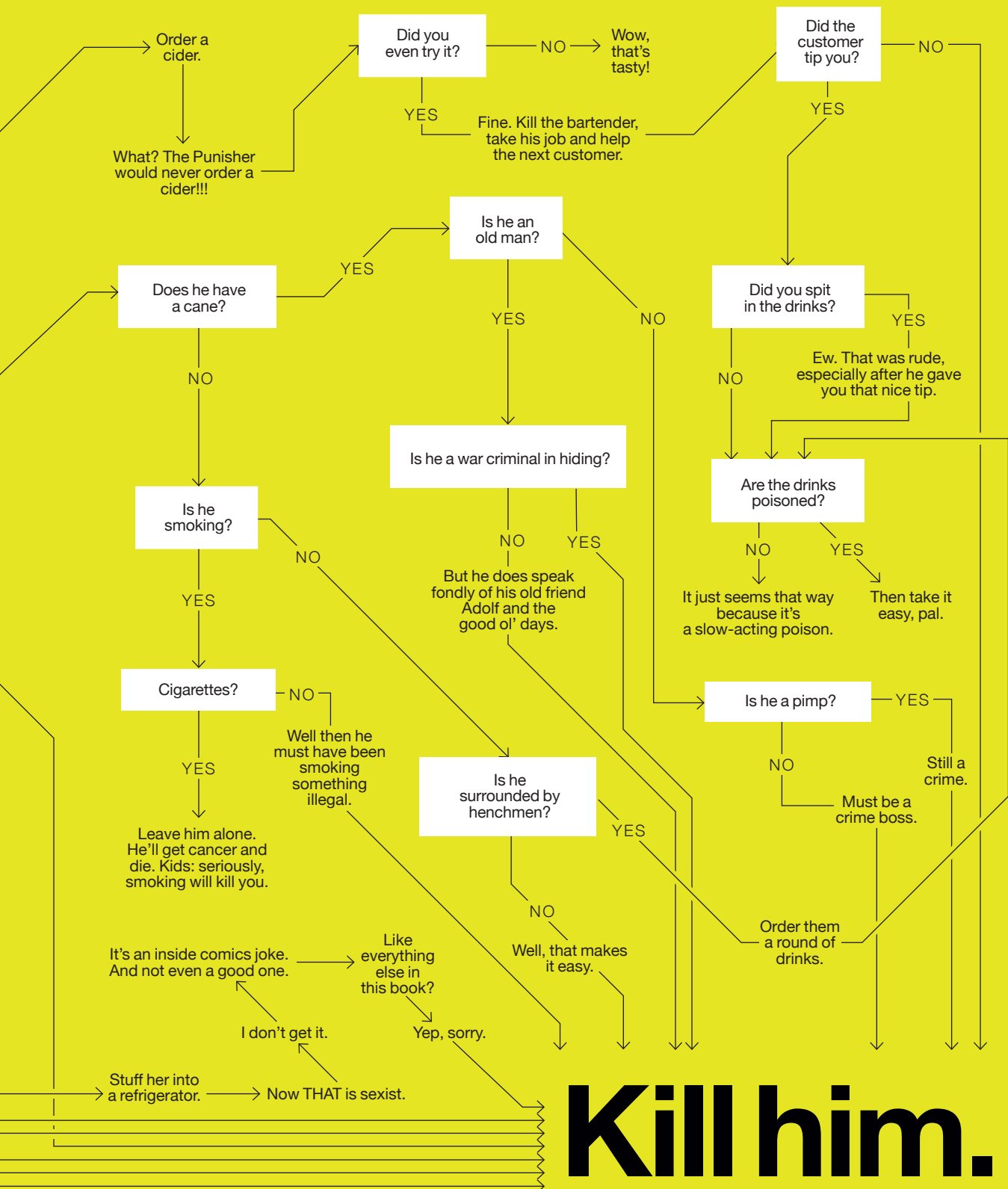
Completely
superfluous
level

POWER GIRL'S
BREAST SIZE

If You Were The Punisher, What Would You Do?

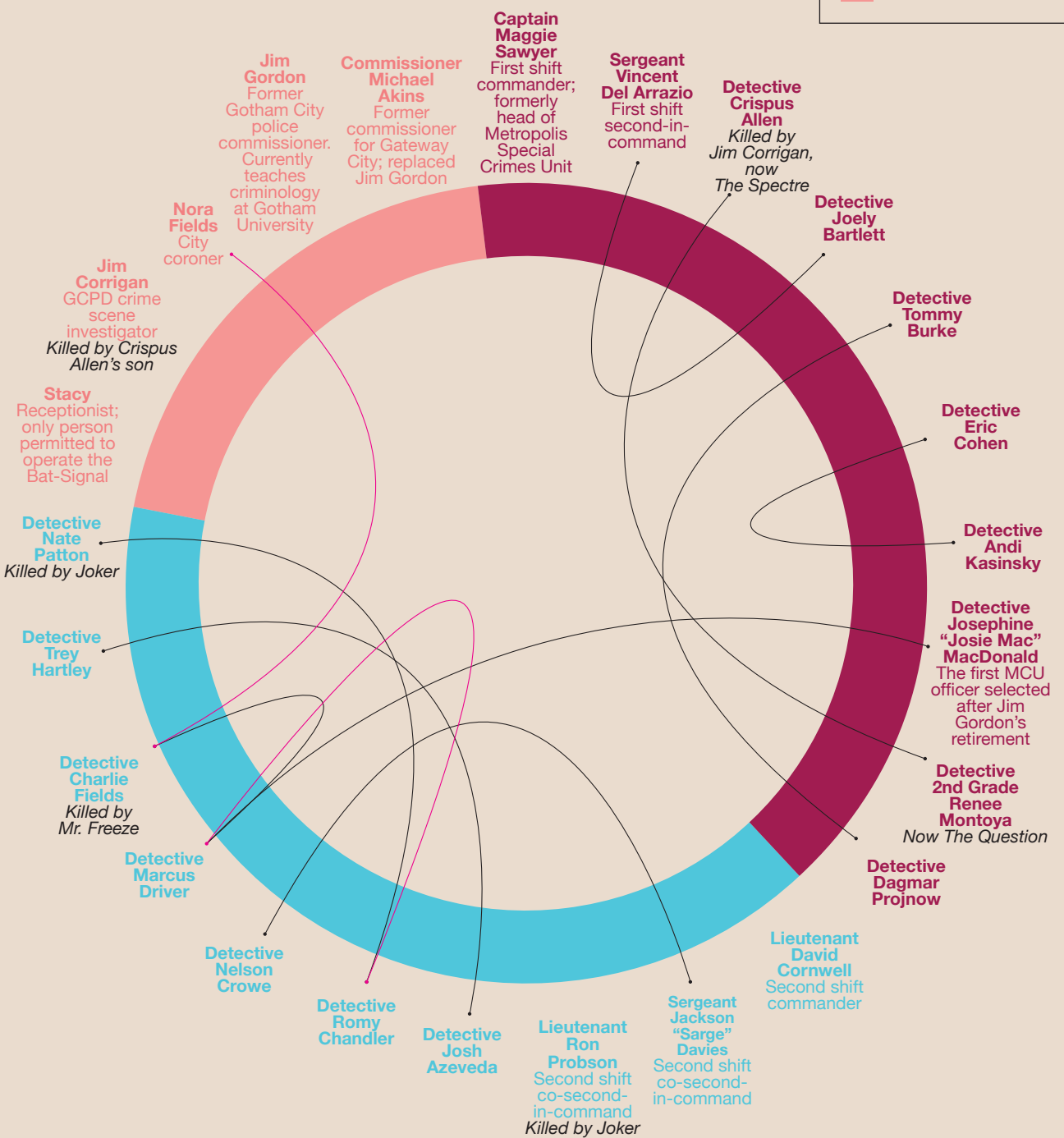
A glimpse into the mind of Frank Castle, a man searching for someone who deserves to die.





Gotham City Police Department

The Major Crimes Unit in the DC Comics series *Gotham Central* deals with the toughest cases in the Police Department—including all superhero and supervillain issues. Here's how the squad has paired up to fight crime . . . and each other.



The Most Quotable Lines from 300

This is
blasphemy!

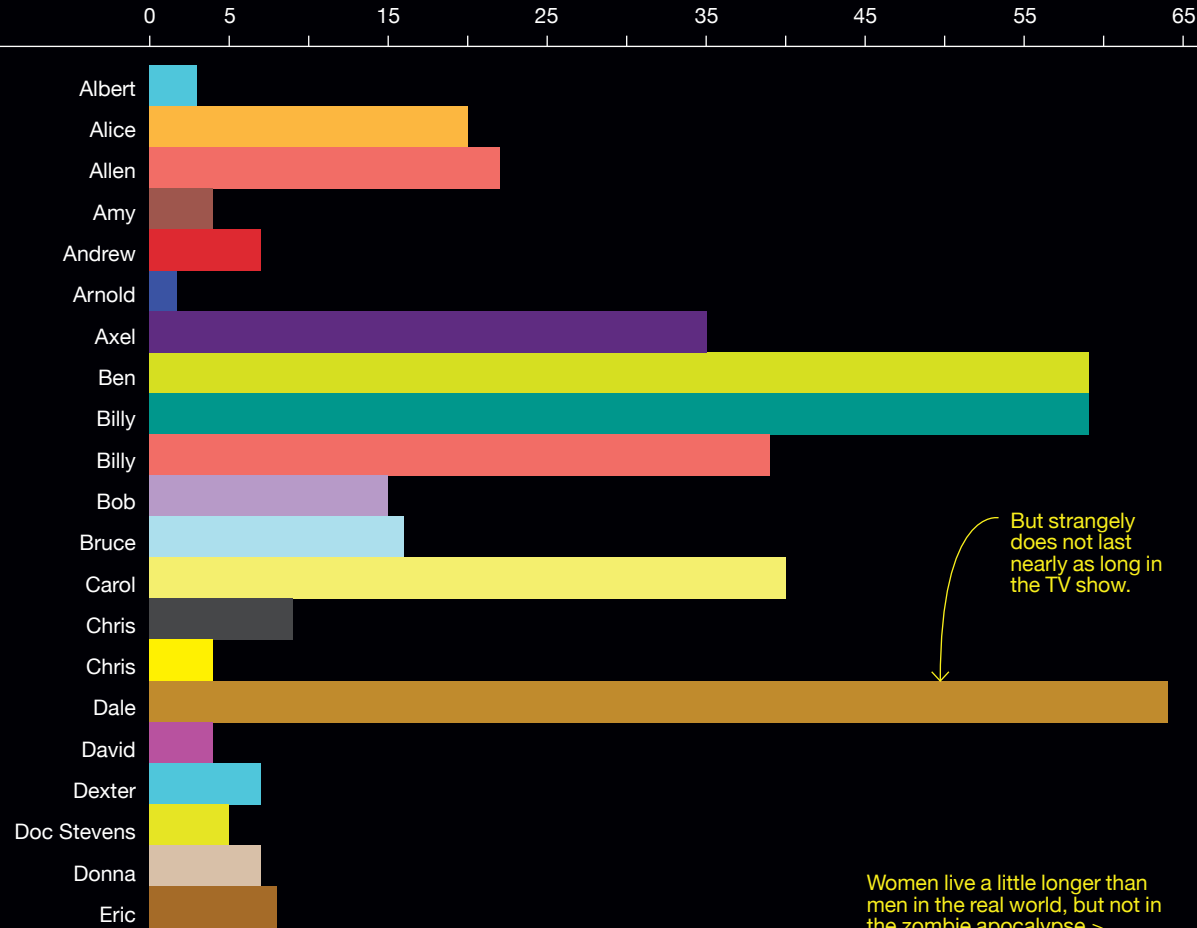
This is
madness!

This is
Sparta.



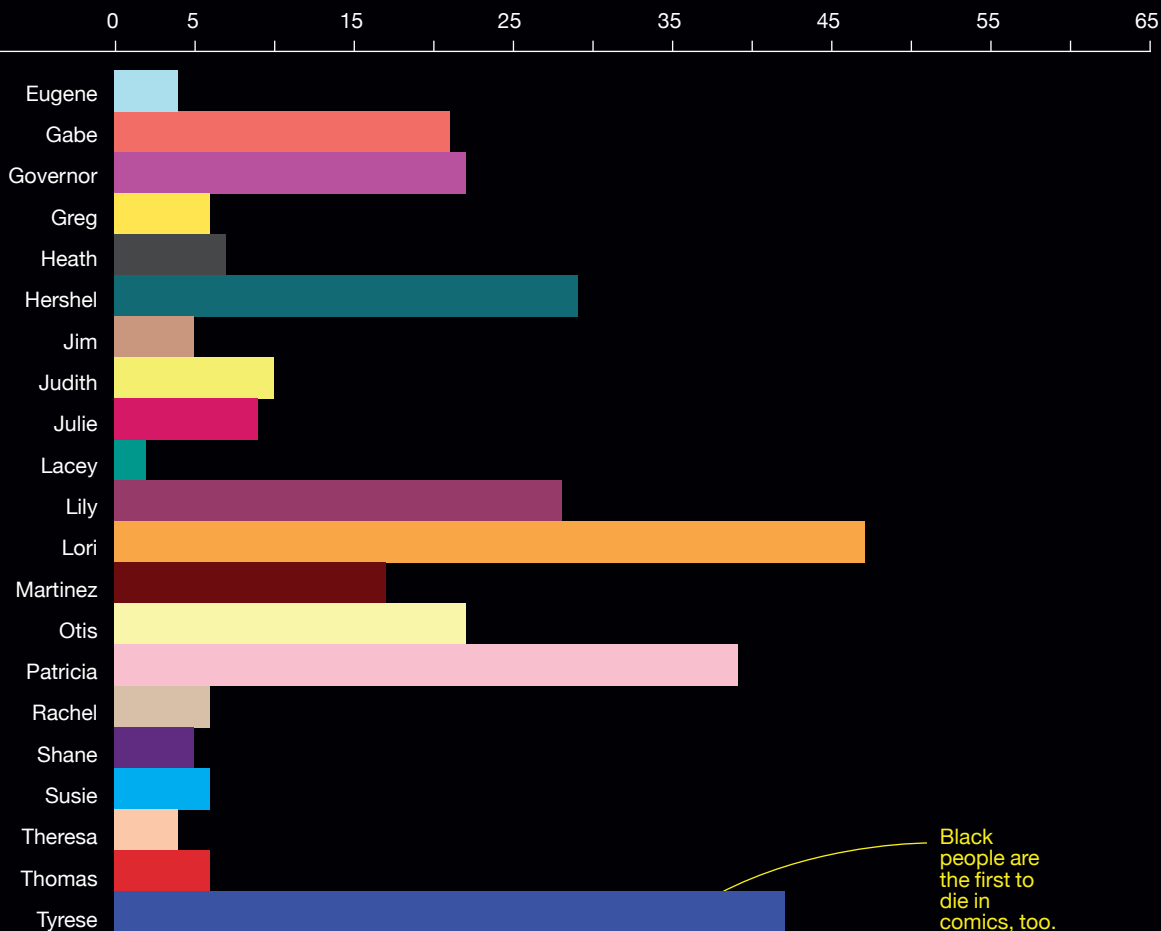
Lifespans of Characters in *The Walking Dead*

HOW MANY ISSUES EACH CHARACTER LASTED



ON AVERAGE, HOW MANY ISSUES A CHARACTER SURVIVES	Survival, by gender (in issues)	
	MEN	WOMEN
18	19	17

It's hard to stay alive for long when all your neighbors are either zombies or the people freaked out by them. Here's a breakdown of the first 75 issues of *The Walking Dead*, tracking how long characters survived after they were introduced.



Survival, by race (in issues)

WHITE

19

BLACK

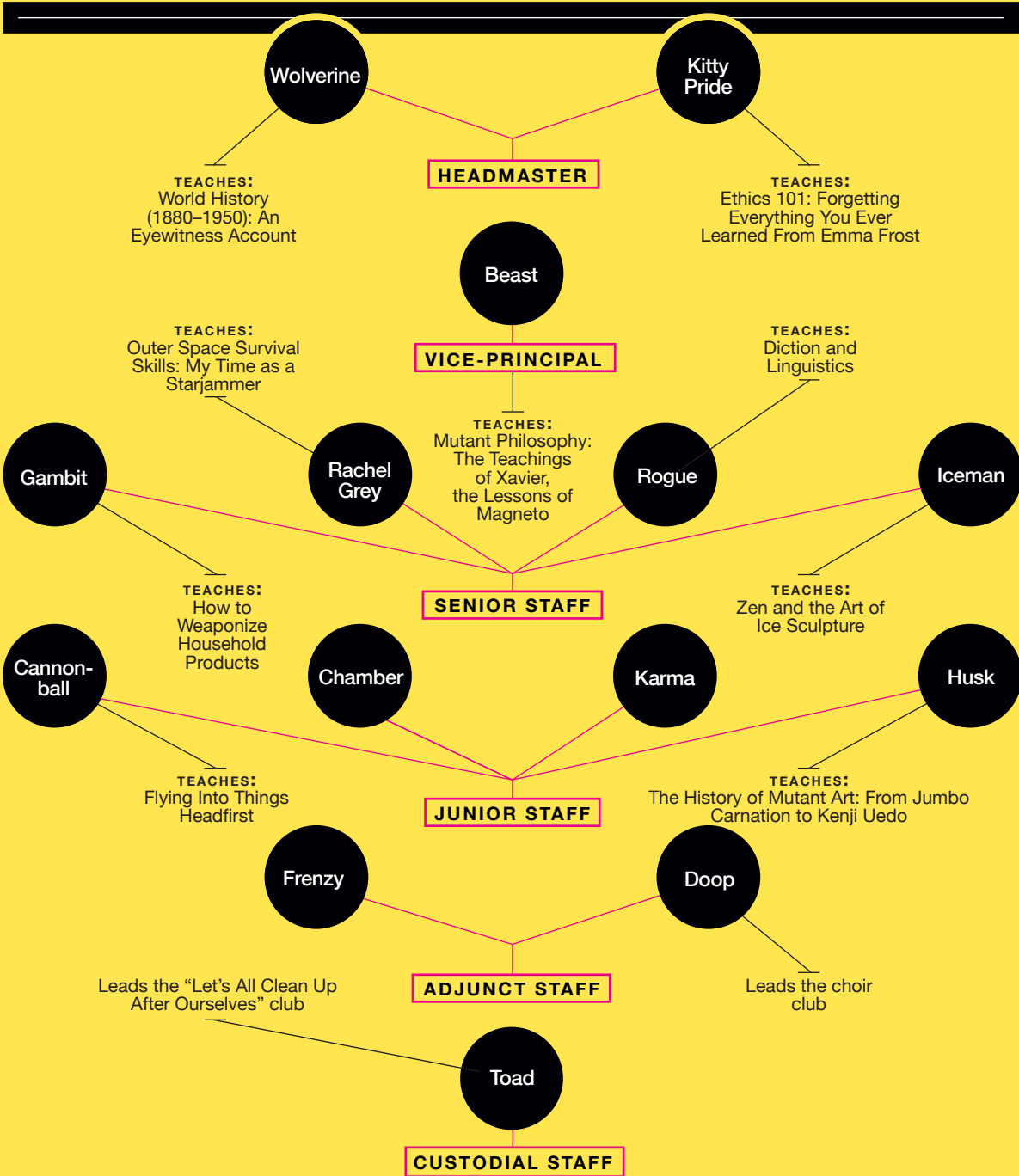
14

LATINO

20

A Peek Inside the Jean Grey School for Higher Learning

When the X-Men first debuted, the mutants, then teenagers, all studied at Professor Charles Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters. As the X-Men drew more enemies, the school came under constant attack. Needing a change of scenery, the X-Men eventually moved their headquarters from Salem, New York to San Francisco, California. But Wolverine decided to stay put, rebuilding the old facility under a new moniker (an ode to his one-time teammate Jean Grey, RIP) and reopening it in 2011 with a brand new faculty.



CALLING THE SHOTS

How Fans Voted to Kill Robin

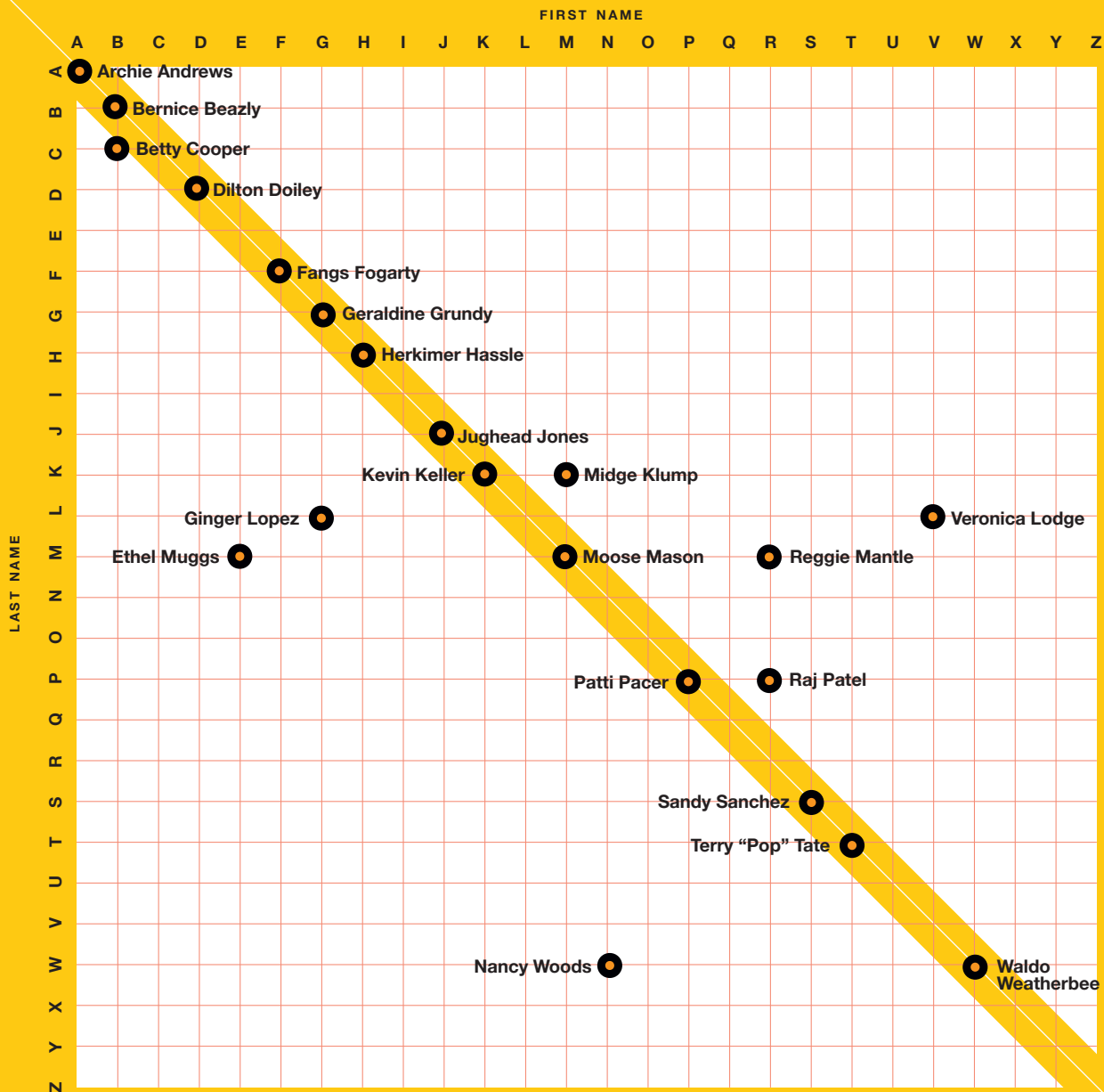
In late 1988 the DC Comics brass became aware of the public's unfavorable opinion of the current Robin, Jason Todd. So that September, DC set up a phone line to determine the fate of Batman's sidekick and instructed fans to call 1-900-720-2660 to save Robin, or 1-900-720-2666 to kill him. With the phone lines open for two days and each call costing 50¢, more than 10,000 people voted.



According to then *Batman* editor Denny O'Neil, one man programmed his phone to dial the "kill" number every 90 seconds for 8 hours, which could have generated enough votes to sway the outcome (and cost the caller \$160).

Archie's Ample, Awesome, and Awful Alliteration

Riverdale's Archie Andrews is best known for being in the middle of a love triangle between Betty, the girl next door, and Veronica, the one-percenter. But his acquaintances are vast, and have similar sounding names.



What Makes Nick Fury So Intimidating



■ Head of the nation's most
powerful security force

■ Eyepatch

Reasons to Like Cyclops

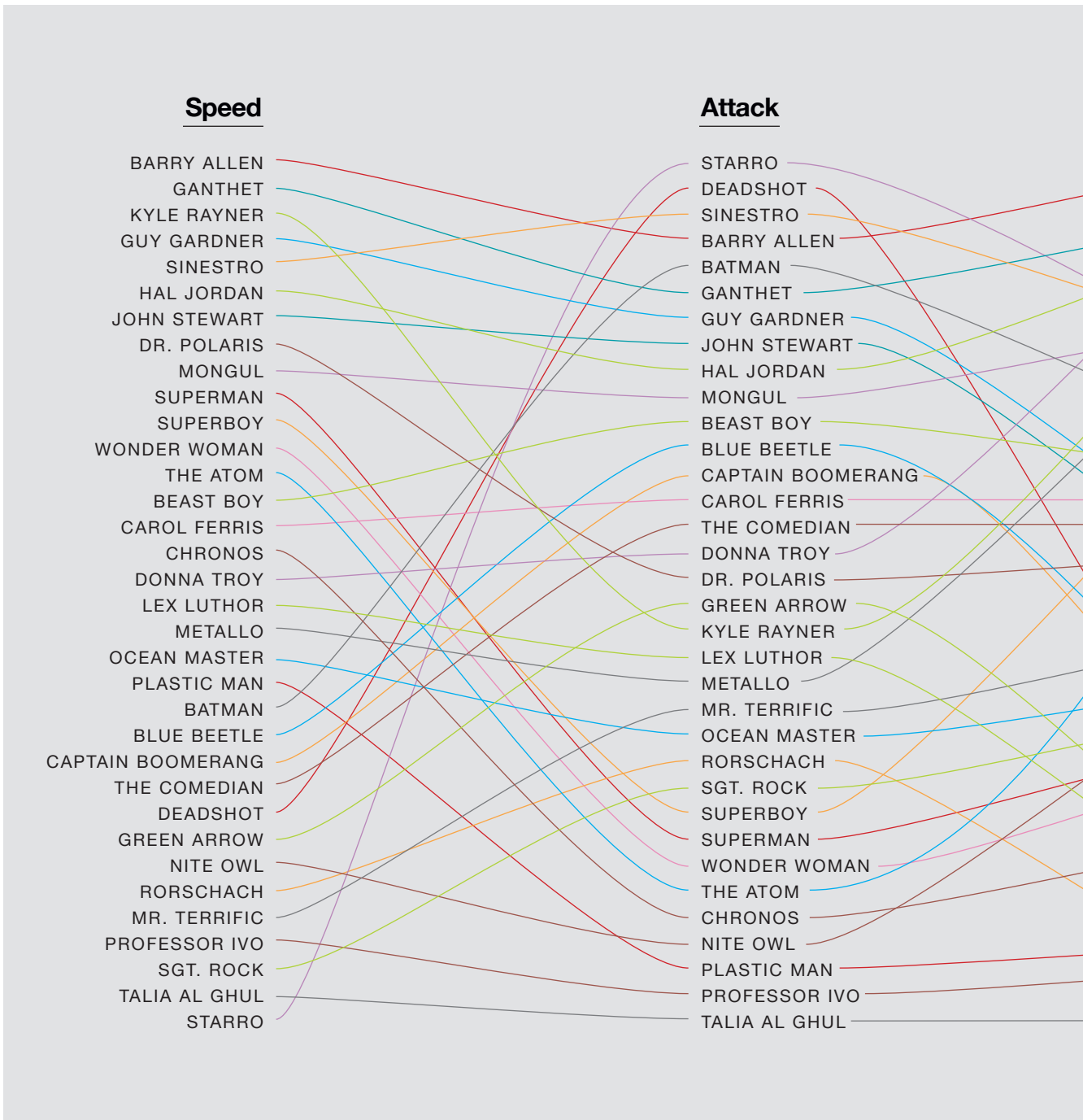


 Team leader

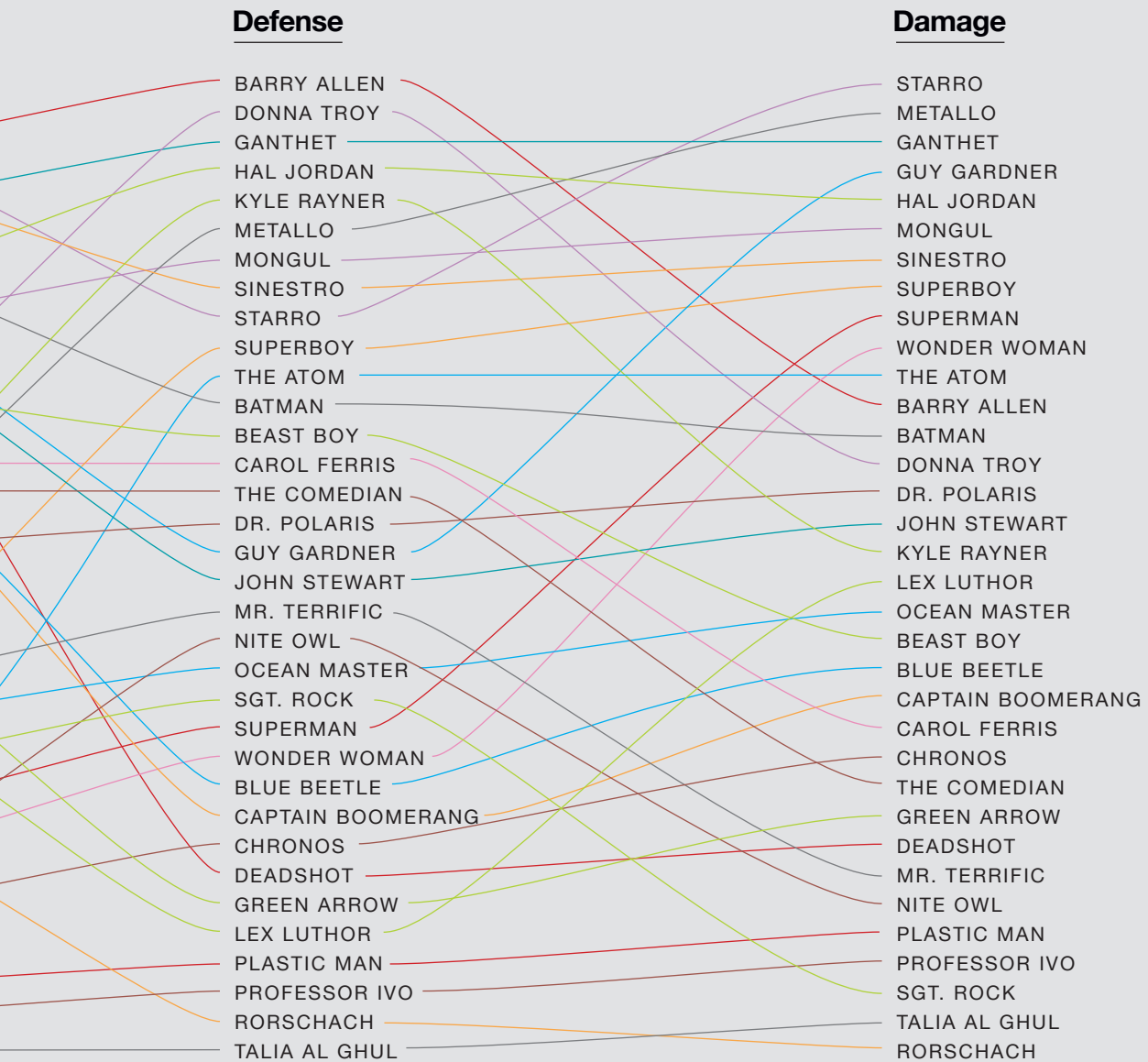
 Cool sunglasses

 Dude gets the hottest X-women even though he's kind of a stiff

How DC Characters Rank in HeroClix

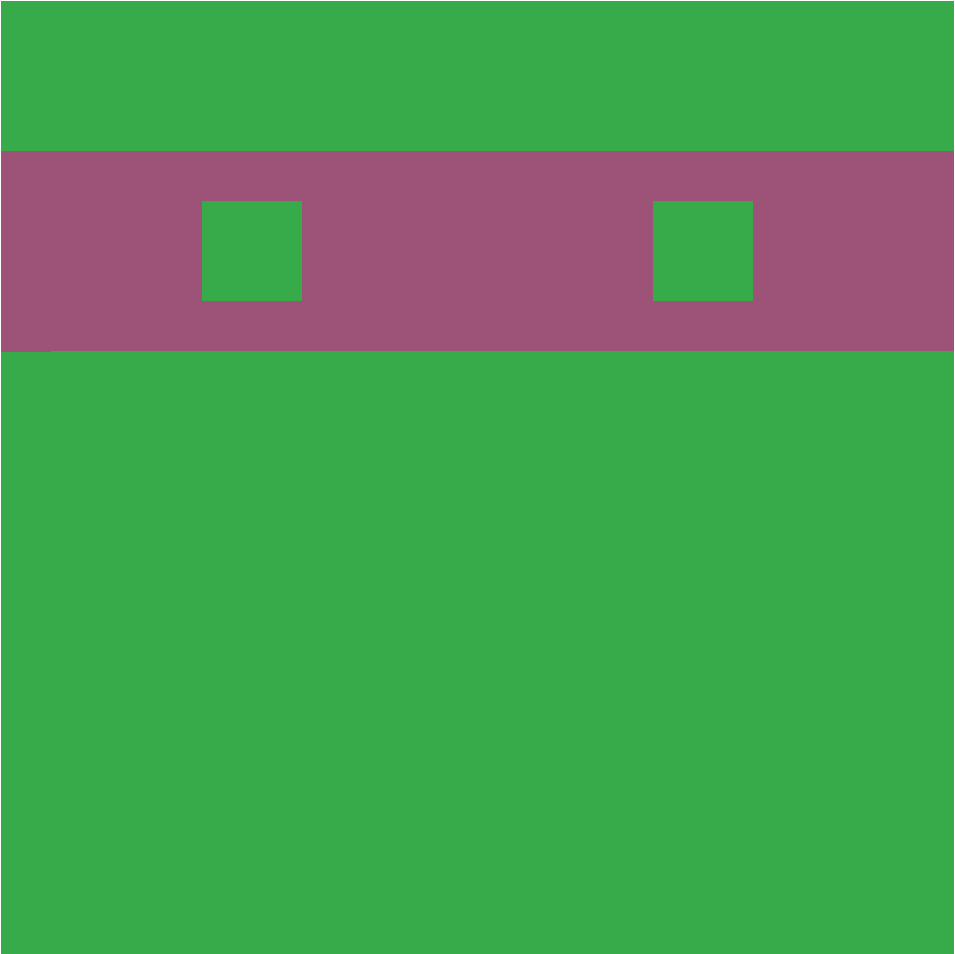


Launched in 2002, HeroClix is a game where players battle each other with miniature comic character figurines. Each figure has ratings for Speed, Attack, Defense and Damage dealt, which are updated during gameplay. They're interesting because the ratings don't exactly align to the comics—in fact, they can't, because DC Comics doesn't use official power ratings the same way that Marvel Comics does (see page 184).



Shell Boy

The other Turtles constantly make fun of Donatello. Here's why:



 He spends his time studying science

 He spends his time playing with his staff



Five Easy Pieces

Captain America has repeatedly broken his shield. Fingers crossed he took out the extended warranty.

1982

Damage: Molecule Man destroys the shield, Iron Man's armor, Thor's hammer, and the Silver Surfer's surfboard.
Repair: Molecule Man reassembles them all save for the armor, which is too complex.

1985

Damage: While wielding the power of the Beyonder, Dr. Doom partially destroys the shield.
Repair: The villain Klaw's shockwave power inadvertently realigns the nano-structure of the taped-together shield.

1991

Damage: Thanos punches the shield while in possession of the Infinity Gauntlet. (It has magic powers).
Repair: Nebula obtains the gauntlet and command-Zs all of Thanos's damage.

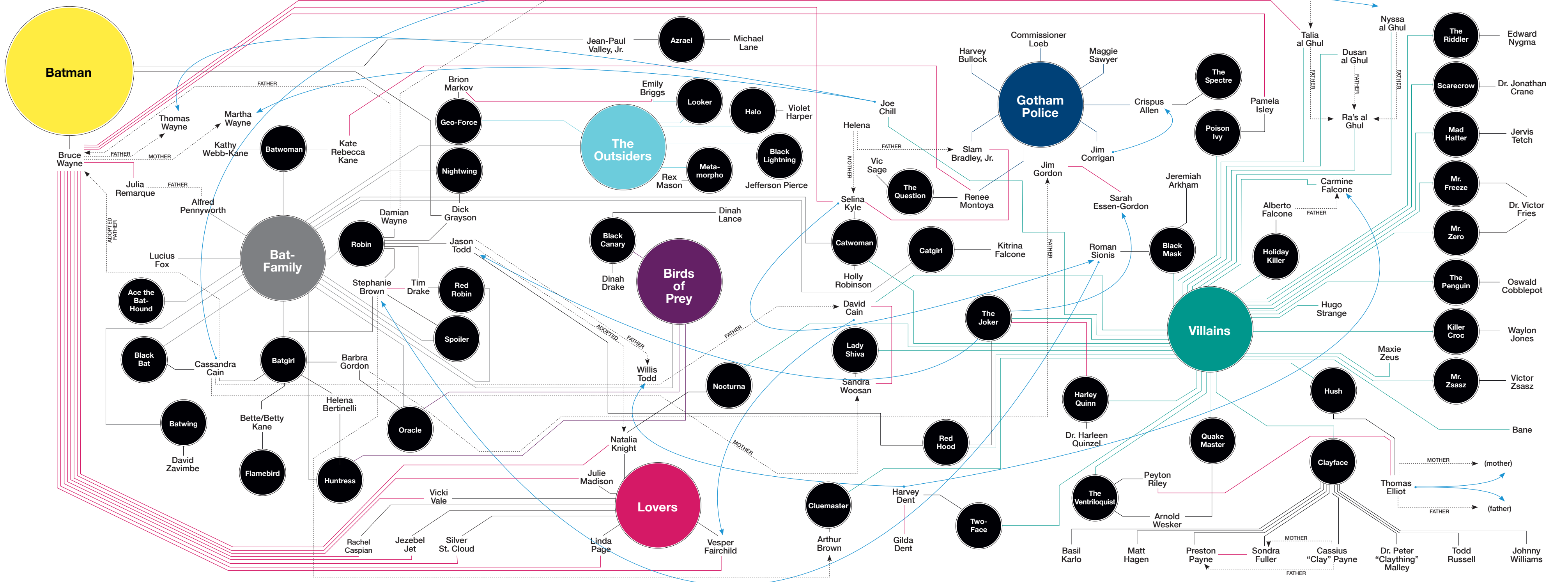
2004

Damage: Wielding the Odinfence, Thor dents the shield with Mjolnir, his hammer.
Repair: Thor later hammers out the dents.

2011

Damage: Snapped in half by the Serpent, the Asgardian god of fear.
Repair: Iron Man reconstructs the shield using the mystical Asgardian metal *Uru*.

The World of the Caped Crusader



PANEL TO SCREEN

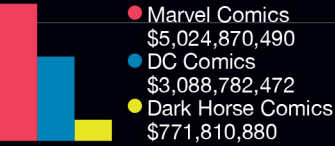
The History of Comic Book Movies

Taking illustrated stories to the screen hasn't always been as prominent or as commercially successful as it is today — more than half of all comic book movies were made in the past decade. Below compares the domestic box office returns (top) to the Rotten Tomatoes score (bottom) of every widely released movie based on a comic book.

NUMBER OF FILMS



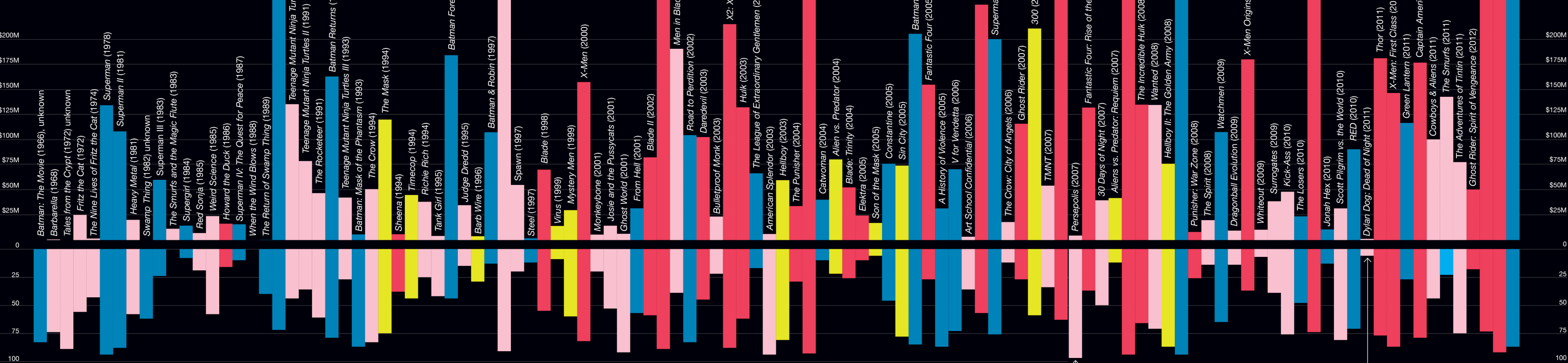
MONEY MADE



AVERAGE ROTTEN TOMATOES SCORE



DOMESTIC BOX OFFICE



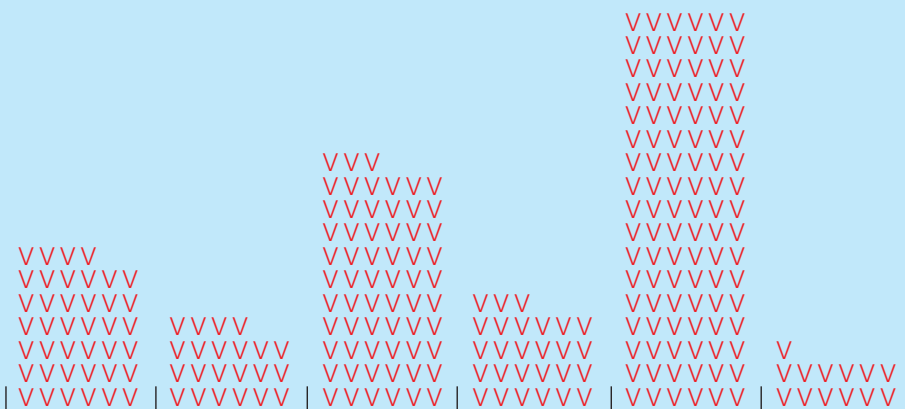
ROTTEN TOMATOES QUALITY SCORE

The Letter V

in *V for Vendetta*

1 Book

chapter:	1	2	3	4	5	6
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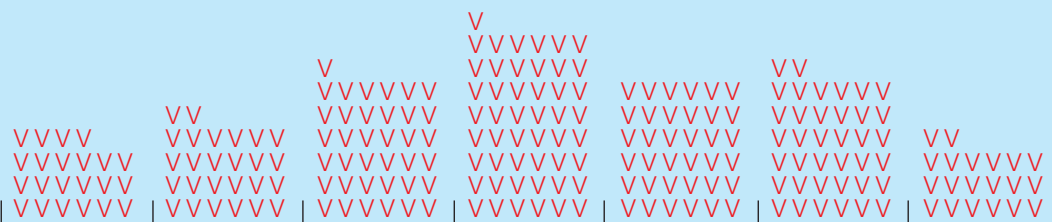
2 Book

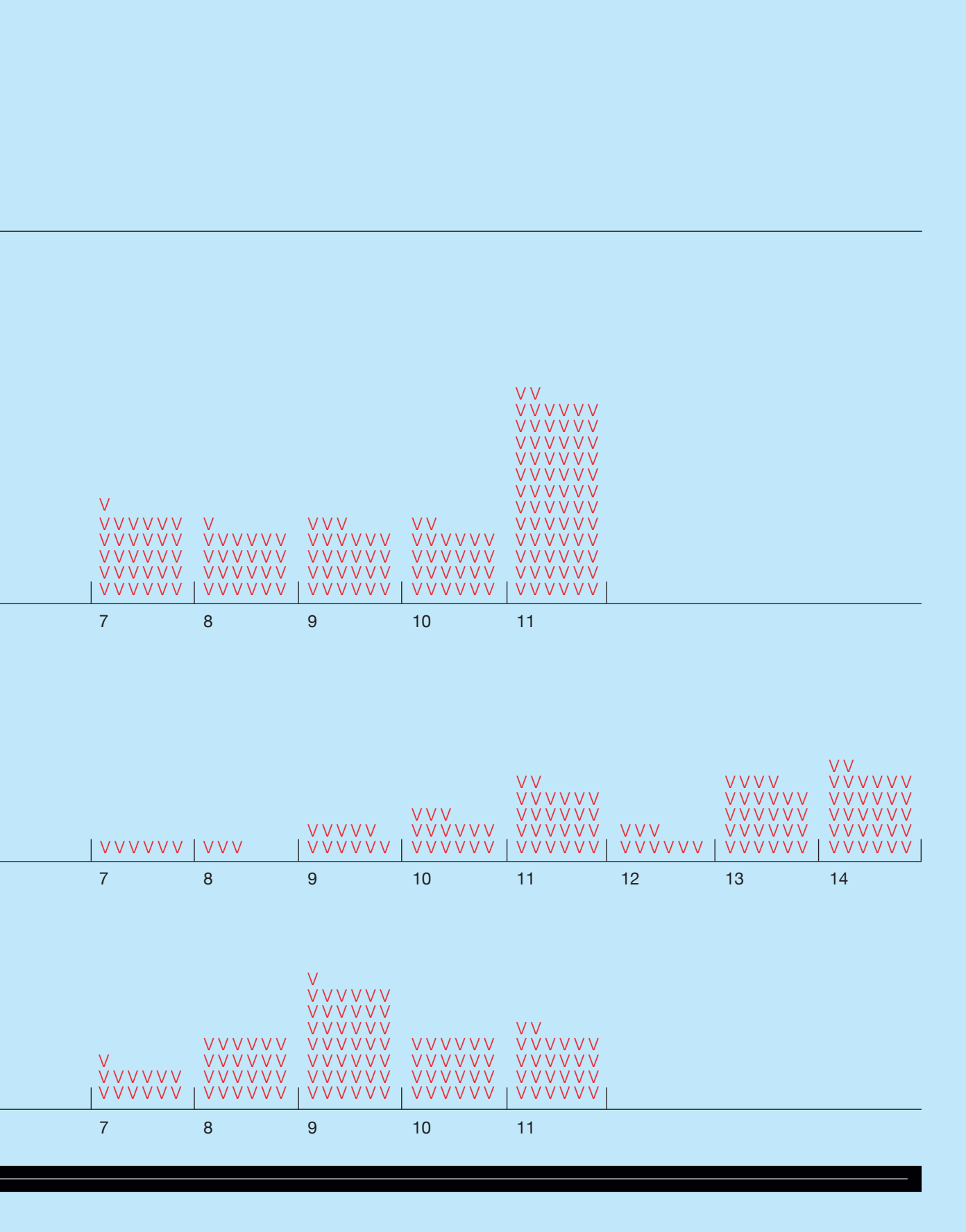
chapter:	Prologue	1	2	3	4	5	6
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3 Book

chapter:	Prologue	1	2	3	4	5	6
----------	----------	---	---	---	---	---	---





FIGHTING WORDS

The Evolution of the Green Lantern Oath

The very first Green Lantern was introduced in 1940. He neither received his powers from a dying alien, nor was he a member of the intergalactic peace-keeping force, the Green Lantern Corps. The earliest Green Lantern was railroad engineer Alan Scott, who, like the modern Green Lantern, sports a ring that transforms his thoughts into real world manifestations. Over time, though, the ring loses power. Recharging requires a power battery and a recited oath. While battery tech has stayed the same, the Green Lantern's oath has evolved over time.

1940

JULY 1940

And I shall shed my light over dark evil, for the dark things cannot stand the light, the light of the Green Lantern!

SUMMER 1942

I shall shed my light upon dark evil, For evil cannot stand the light of Green Lantern!"

FALL 1942

Let the light of the lantern penetrate the dark places of ignorance and wrong, setting all minds right and overthrowing all servants of evil! I shed my light upon the darkness! Evil has no place to hide itself! Green Lantern goes forth to conquer!"

DEC. 1942

My rays strike the darkest corner, banishing all wickedness!

WINTER 1942

"Let all power and triumph be mine in whatever right I do!"

WINTER 1942

The light of the Green Lantern pierces darkness and mystery, and its radiance will strike at the heart of evil!"

2013

FEB. 1943

As the green rays strike forth into darkness, so may all black evil be exposed and driven away!

FALL 1943

In brightest day, in blackest night, no evil shall escape my sight! Let those who worship evil's might beware my power—Green Lantern's light!

1949

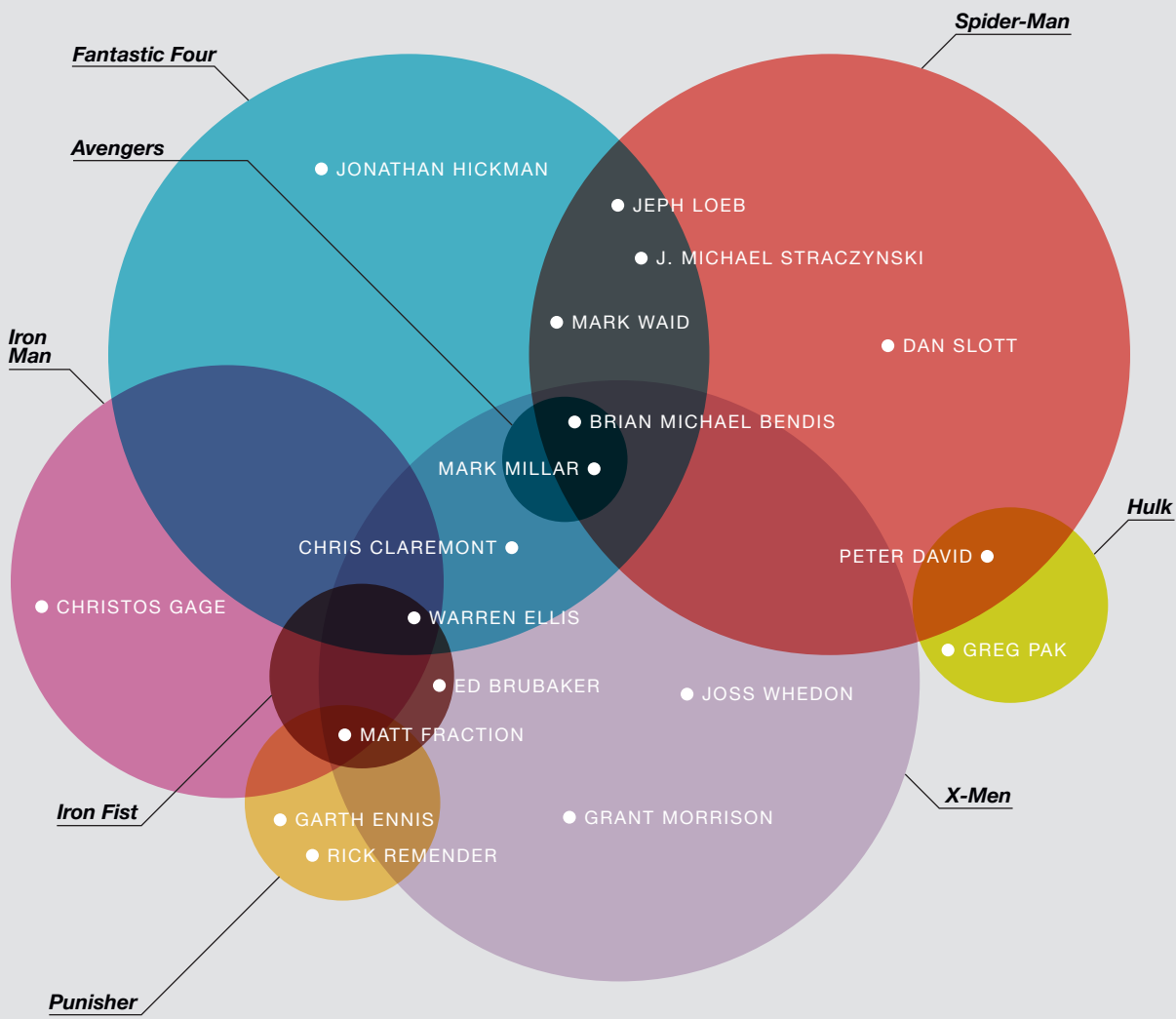
The original Green Lantern series starring Alan Scott is cancelled.

1959

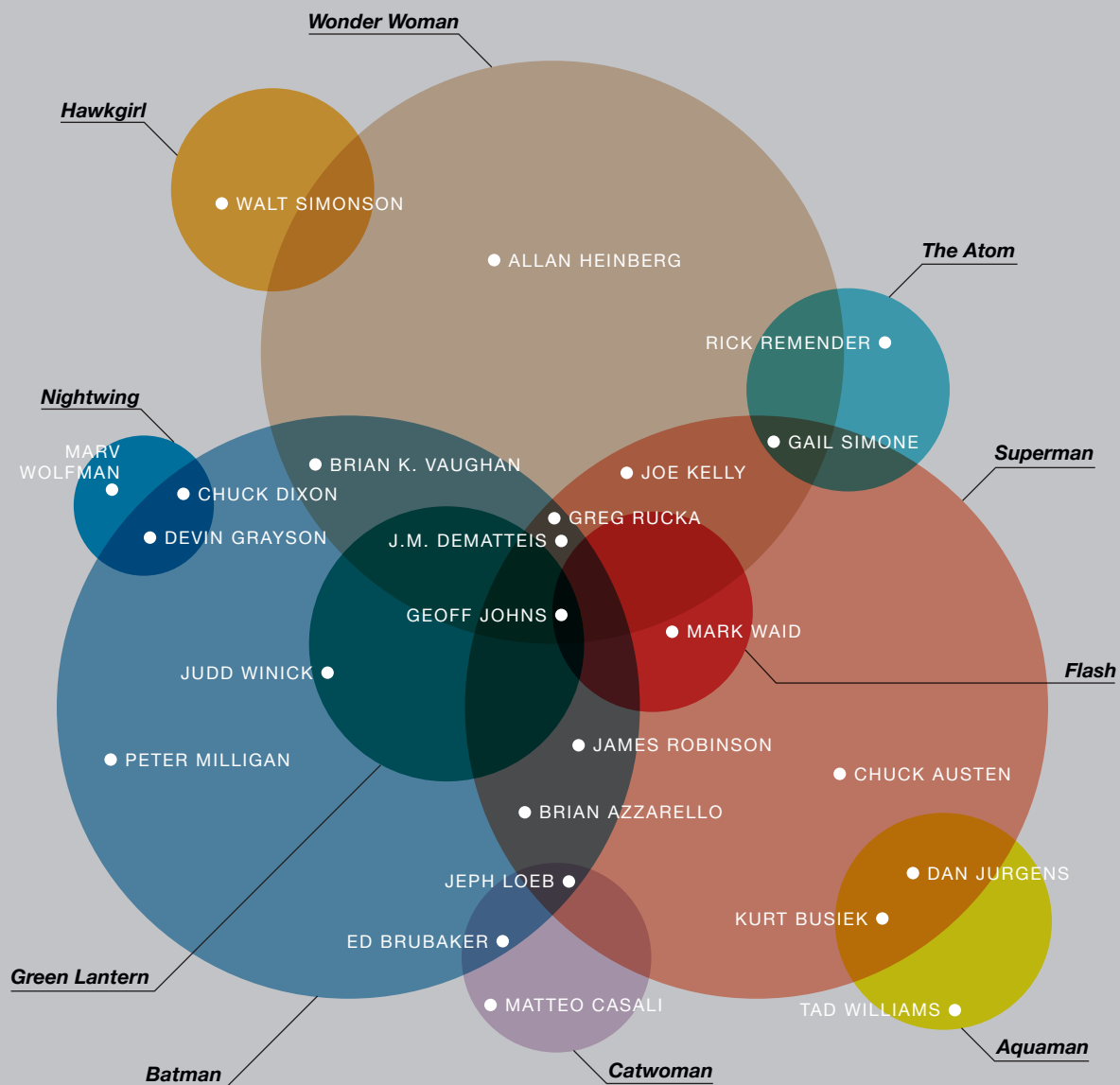
A new series debuts starring Hal Jordan (the current Green Lantern), who uses the last oath from 1943.

Overlapping Interests

SOME OF MARVEL'S MOST PROLIFIC WRITERS: 2000-2010



SOME OF DC'S MOST PROLIFIC WRITERS: 2000-2010



SUPER ANALYTICS

Rating the Characters in the Marvel Comics Universe

To keep track of the thousands of characters in their library, Marvel Comics catalogues each one and rates them according to their attributes. Heroes, villains, and even civilians are given a score in the following categories: fighting ability, intelligence, strength, speed, durability, and energy projection. Use the key to the right to see how the characters on the next couple of pages measure up.

Fighting ability

PROFICIENCY IN HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT

- Poor 1
- Normal 2
- Some training 3
- Experienced fighter 4
- Master of a single form of combat 5
- Master of several forms of combat 6
- Master of all forms of combat 7

Intelligence

ABILITY TO THINK AND PROCESS INFORMATION

- 1 Slow/impaired
- 2 Normal
- 3 Learned
- 4 Gifted
- 5 Genius
- 6 Super-genius
- 7 Omniscient

Energy projection

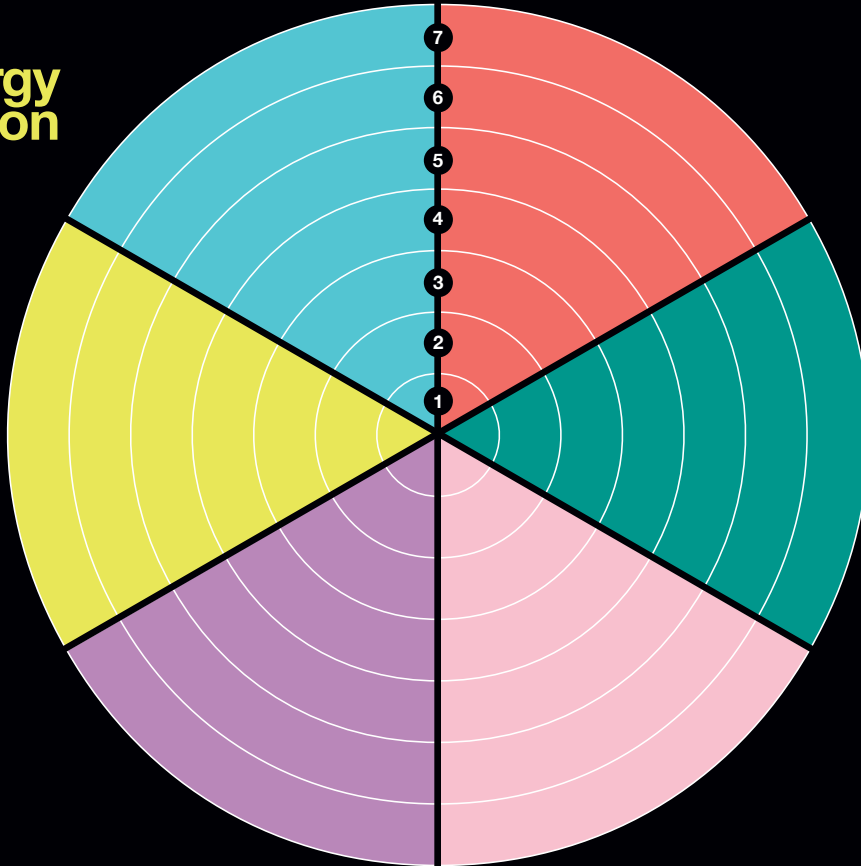
ABILITY TO DISCHARGE ENERGY

- None 1
- Ability to discharge energy on contact 2
- Short range, short duration, single energy type 3
- Medium range, duration, single energy type 4
- Long range, long duration, single energy type 5
- Able to discharge multiple forms of energy 6
- Almost unlimited command of all forms of energy 7

Strength

ABILITY TO LIFT WEIGHT

- 1 Weak: cannot lift own body weight
- 2 Normal: able to lift own body weight
- 3 Peak human: able to lift twice own body weight
- 4 Superhuman: 800 lbs–25 ton range
- 5 Superhuman: 25–75 ton range
- 6 Superhuman: 75–100 ton range
- 7 Incalculable: in excess of 100 tons



Durability

ABILITY TO RESIST OR RECOVER FROM BODILY INJURY

- Weak 1
- Normal 2
- Enhanced 3
- Regenerative 4
- Bulletproof 5
- Superhuman 6
- Virtually indestructible 7

Speed

ABILITY TO MOVE OVER LAND BY RUNNING OR FLIGHT

- 1 Below normal
- 2 Normal
- 3 Superhuman: peak range: 700 MPH
- 4 Speed of sound: Mach 1
- 5 Supersonic: Mach 2 through orbital velocity
- 6 Speed of light: 186,000 miles per second
- 7 Warp speed: transcending light speed

● Intelligence ● Strength ● Speed ● Durability ● Energy projection ● Fighting ability

☐ Hero ☐ Villain ☐ Civilian



Adam Warlock

☐



Archangel

☐



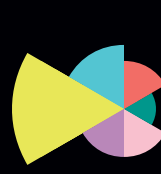
Apocalypse

☐



Aunt May Parker

☐



Banshee

☐



Black Panther

☐



Blade

☐



Blob

☐



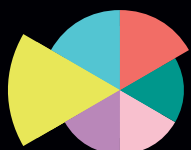
Cable

☐



Callisto

☐



Cyclops

☐



Daredevil

☐



Darkhawk

☐



Dazzler

☐



Deadpool

☐



Elektra

☐



Emma Frost

☐ ☐



Falcon

☐



Fantomex

☐



Fin Fang Foom

☐



Beast

[H]



Ben Urich

[C]



Beta Ray Bill

[H]



Black Bolt

[H]



Black Cat

[H]



Cannonball

[H]



Captain America

[H]



Captain Britain

[H]



Carnage

[V]



Colossus

[H]



Doc Samson

[H]



Doctor Doom

[V]



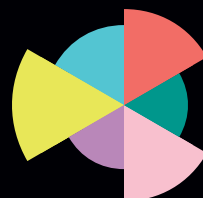
Doctor Octopus

[V]



Doctor Strange

[H]



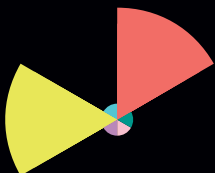
Electro

[V]



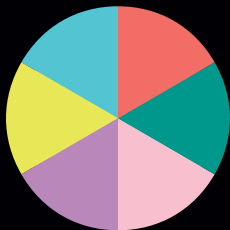
Forge

[H]



Franklin Richards

[H]



Galactus

[V]



Gambit

[H]



Ghost Rider

[H]

● Intelligence ● Strength ● Speed ● Durability ● Energy projection ● Fighting ability

[H] Hero [V] Villain [C] Civilian



Green Goblin

[V]



Gwen Stacy

[C]



Hank Pym

[H] [V]



Havok

[H]



Hawkeye

[H]



Iceman

[H]



Invisible Woman

[H]



Iron Fist

[H]



Iron Man

[H]



J. Jonah Jameson

[C]



Kitty Pride

[H]



Kraven the Hunter

[V]



Lady Deathstrike

[V]



Lizard

[V]



Luke Cage

[H]



Mister Sinister

[V]



Mojo

[V]



Moon Knight

[H]



Multiple Man

[H]



Mystique

[V]



Hellcat



Howard the Duck



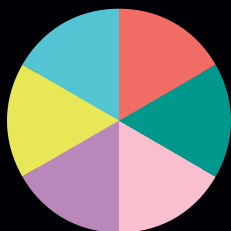
Hulk



**Human
Torch**



Humbug



Jean Grey



Jubilee



Juggernaut



Ka-Zar



Kingpin



M.O.D.O.K.



Magneto



Mandarin



Microchip



**Mister
Fantastic**



Namor



Nick Fury



Nightcrawler

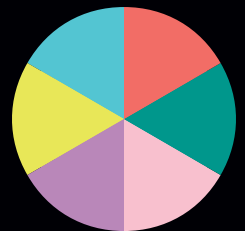


Northstar



Nova





V



V



H





Polaris



Professor Xavier



Proudstar



Psylocke



Puck



Rogue



Sabretooth



Scarlet Witch



Shadowcat



Shanna the She-Devil



Spider-Woman



Storm



Strong Guy



Stryfe



The Thing



Warpath



Wasp



Wolverine



Wonder Man



X-23



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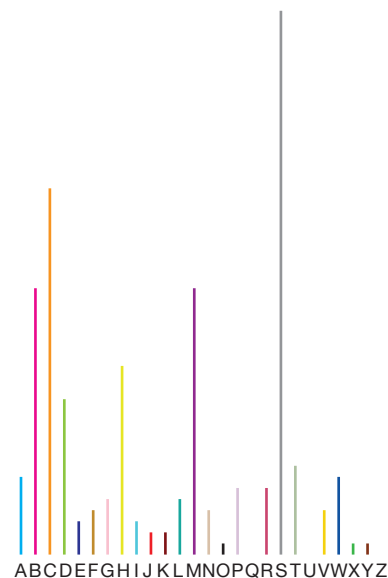
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Y

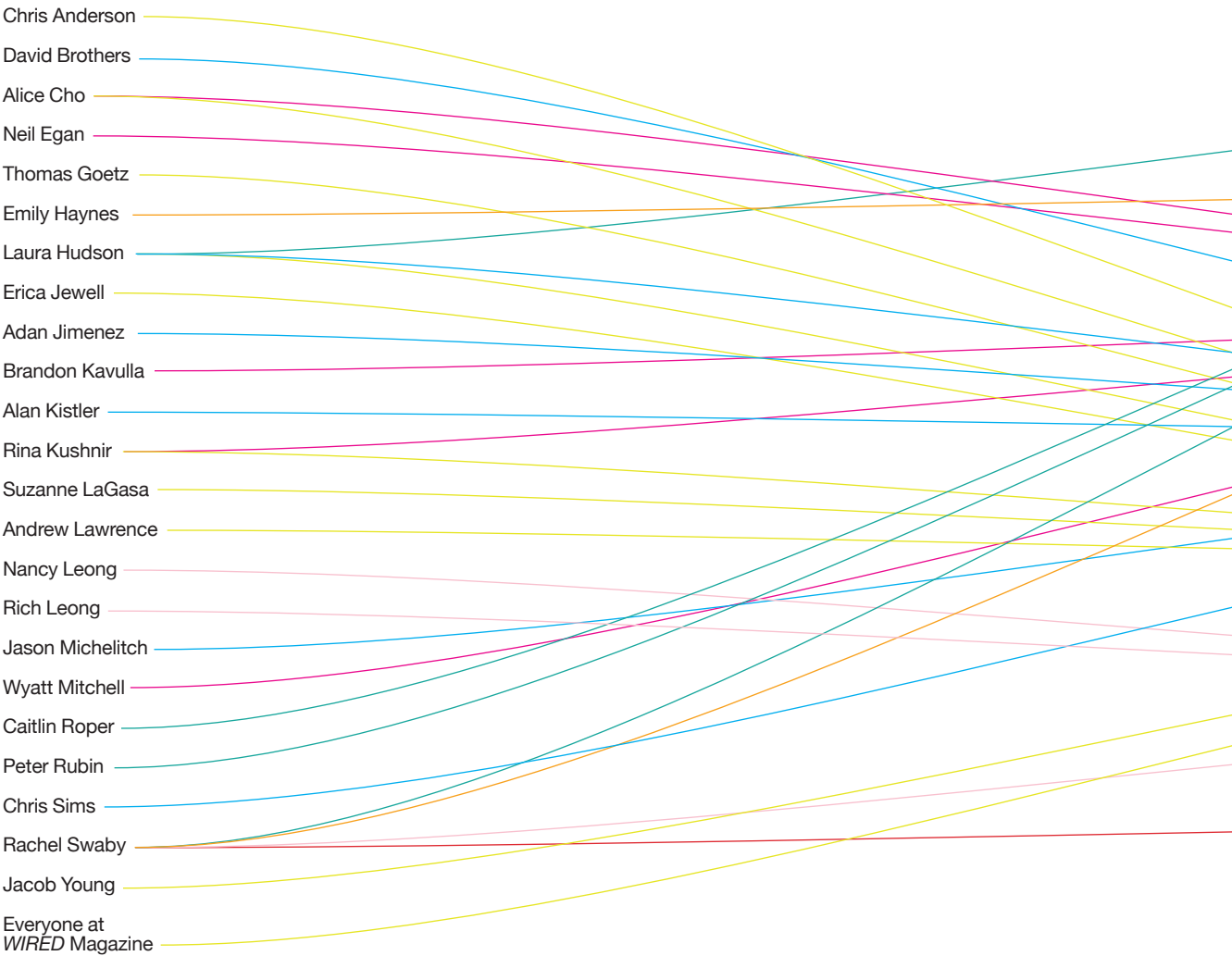
Y: The Last Man, 82–83

Most popular letter section by sub-category



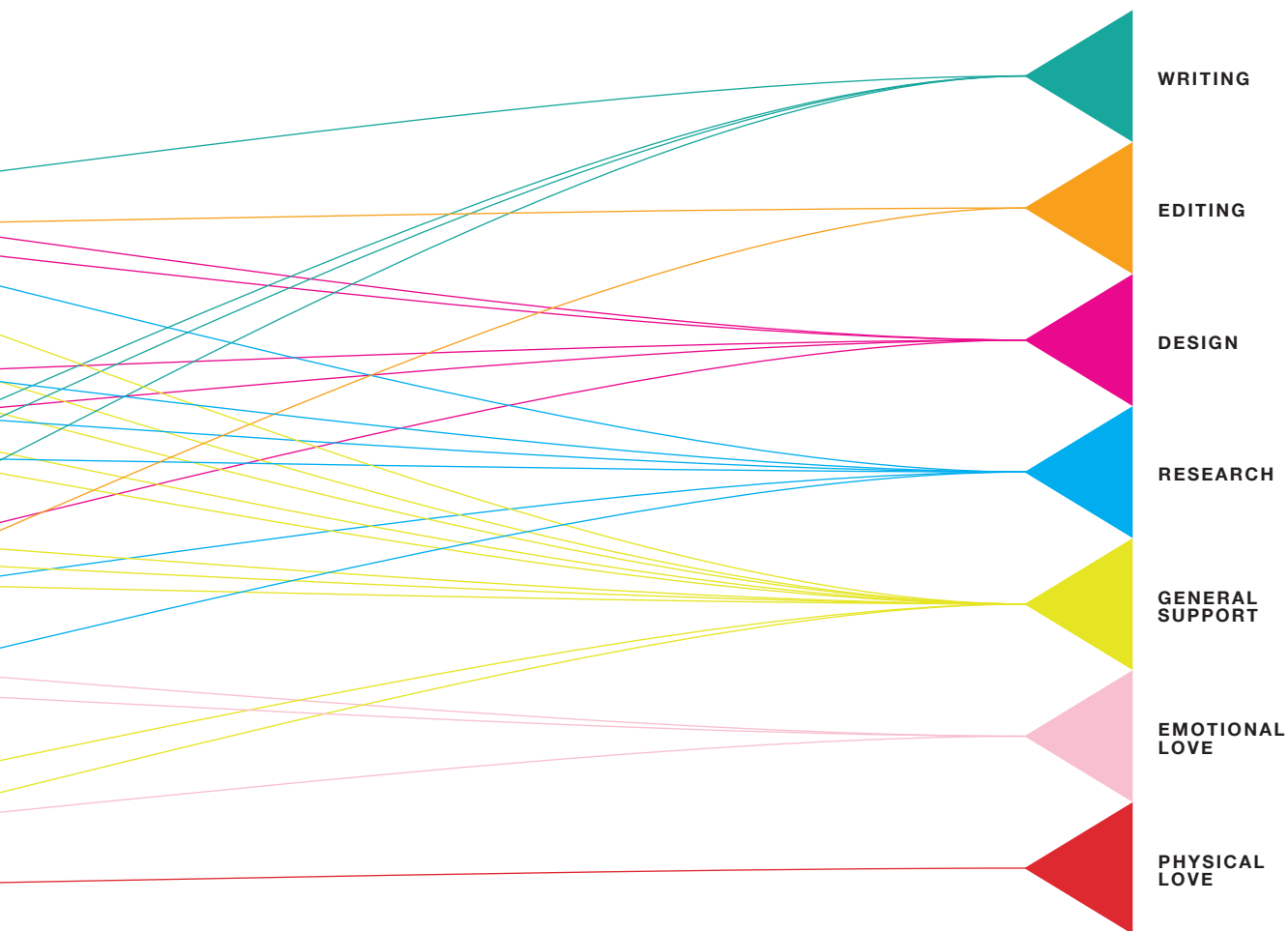
Acknowledgments

HUMANS



SUPERHUMANS

To Rachel, for not breaking up with me during this long process, but also for supporting me through it with incredible love, enthusiasm, and inspiration. Thank you for pointing out when I got things wrong in the book, though I still don't know why you took so much pleasure in doing so. You made this book, and my life, so much better, and I love you so much for it. I could not have done this without you, nor would I have wanted to.



Thanks to everyone at *Wired* for teaching me so much about infographics and being so overwhelmingly supportive.

To all the former readers of *Comic Foundry*. Your support still means the world, and pushed me to take on this project.

NON-HUMANS

To comic books and everyone that makes them and reads them. This book is a love letter to the medium, and hopefully a way to give back to the industry that I owe so much to.

Tim Leong is the Director of Digital Design at *WIRED* Magazine. He was previously the Design Director at *Complex* Magazine, and before that he founded and edited the Eisner Award-nominated magazine, *Comic Foundry*. He organizes his graphic novels by color and lives in San Francisco, California.

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San Francisco, California 94107
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What do Superman and Magneto have in common?

What is the Joker's favorite question for Batman? Are there more deaths by human or by zombie in *The Walking Dead*? These are just a few of the questions answered in this infographic guide to the comic book universe. Author and designer Tim Leong has creatively visualized everything from the historical (the contents of Batman's utility belt) to the current (a guide to cosplay at Comic-Con, and the unexpected (rappers who take their names from comics).

Super Graphic might be my favorite book ever. I am a complete statistics nerd. I am also a comic book/sci-fi nerd. Never before have I seen anything that combines these two separate worlds so brilliantly. I wouldn't describe the act of ingesting this book as "reading" per se, more of an effortless flow of information into the readers mind.

— NEILL BLOMKAMP

Oscar®-nominated writer and director of the critically acclaimed films *District 9* and *Elysium*

Tim Leong's mixture of deep nerd data and gorgeous information design are the perfect chocolate-and-peanut butter combo you didn't know your eyes needed. It's part beautiful, part fascinating, occasionally challenging and sometimes completely useless—in other words, a work of art.

— MATT FRACTION

Eisner Award-winning writer of *The Invincible Iron Man*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Casanova*

I could leaf through this book for hours. It's fun, it's smart, it's informative, and I'm saying that as student of comic art, not as a fan geek. (Even though the author is horribly, tragically, staggeringly wrong in his analysis of which Flash is the best.)

— MARK WAID

Writer of *The Flash*, *Daredevil*, and *Kingdom Come* and former editor-in-chief of BOOM! Studios

This is a wonderful book, both clever and informative while also being a joy to look at. Highly recommended. . . !

— PAUL POPE

Eisner Award-winning writer and illustrator of *Heavy Liquid*, *100%*, and *Batman: Year 100*

REVIEWING THE REVIEWS

