

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE FICTION MULTIVERSE, M-Z

COMPILED BY /u/RADDman AND MANY AWESOME PEOPLE AT /r/FictionMultiverse

Warning: Plenty of spoilers

Men In Black (film): By 1961 it was common knowledge that we are not alone. Astronauts had seen plenty of aliens by then, such as the Selenites on the moon¹, and some of them even came to Earth, such as the Krypton-born Superman² and the dangerous Molluscs from Mars³. However, there was little in the way of government regulation in regards to dealing with extraterrestrials, at least in the United States. Britain had its own system in place, with the Interplanet Space Fleet dealing with aliens on their own worlds⁴ and the Torchwood Institute protecting the homefront⁵. America simply regarded the whole thing as not their problem and, after 1938, typically relied on its superheroes to handle any problems they may cause.

However, in the 1950s things began to spiral out of control for the American government. 1951 saw a disastrous encounter where an alien named Klaatu, who only desired to discuss a peaceful end to the nuclear arms race that he and his race feared would eventually kill all life on the planet, was almost immediately shot at on sight and later hunted by the military on orders of paranoid leaders. A precious tool that could have been used to view life on other planets, initially brought as a gift by Klaatu for President Harry Truman, was destroyed when it was mistaken for a gun⁶.

Another tragedy occurred in October 1957, when a giant robot sent from another planet crash-landed in Maine. There it befriended a child who tried to keep its existence secret, but this largely benevolent and even childlike automaton was soon revealed to the world and targeted for destruction by military forces. Only after the incident, largely spurred by the machinations of a paranoid, self-serving government agent, did prominent people in Washington DC realize the potential ally they had lost in what was soon dubbed "The Iron Giant"⁷.

At this point, an unknown former government official felt that enough was enough and there needed to be a more coordinated response group for such events as alien visitors. In 1961, the Men in Black, a powerful organization virtually unknown to the American public, was established for the purpose of dealing with extraterrestrial negotiations and keeping as much of it hidden as possible in order to prevent further catastrophes*. This means that most immigrants from other planets are allowed to pass as human, but they could do very little to conceal the existence of Galactus once it sent a herald to New York City announcing his imminent arrival⁸.

Among their first agents, and certainly among their best and brightest, were two young men from Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Arthur Fonzarelli and Richard Cunningham⁹, respectively known as Agent A and Agent C**. For qualifications, Cunningham had military experience, marking him as a man of action; and Fonzarelli had natural compassion for those different than him, having been a champion of African-American civil rights starting in the earliest years of the movement. They also previously met and foiled the plot of an Orkan named Mork to take Cunningham back to his homeworld for study. Cunningham only thought this adventure was a

dream until he was deneuralyzed, which is not surprising considering that the neuralyzer is Orkan technology. Fonzarelli, however, was never neuralyzed, which partly spurred him to become a Man in Black. (An emissary told the Orkans that abduction without consent was prohibited on Earth, and they later sent Ork to Earth to study Earthlings in their natural environment instead¹⁰.)

To further prepare them for the role, the two Milwaukee men and friend/potential candidate Ralph Malph were picked up and taken on adventures around the world and cosmos. Their handler and recruiter, known to them only as Cupcake, was a Time Lady, one of the last Gallifreyans⁵ and a co-founder of the organization. Also with them was "Mr. Cool"¹¹, a Remoolian in disguise as a talking dog, which started a trend among Remoolian MIBs^{***}. Malph didn't quite make the cut and had his mind wiped of any memories of his travels while Cunningham and Fonzarelli were inducted. Once inside they met the man who recommended them in the first place: Charles Cunningham, older brother of Richard. Richard could not remember him because of the standard MIB process where each member's existence is erased as fully as possible, including the neuralyzing of those close to them, and it was a happy reunion^{***}.

The organization shaped much of the half-century, retooling certain foreign technologies for use by Earthlings and bringing in many immigrants who sought a peaceful place largely kept away from intergalactic conflicts. Earth basically became an escape point for refugees. Some of them even became famous and successful, including director George Lucas. A refugee from a galaxy far, far away^{****}, Lucas was fascinated with Earth's unique art form of cinema and later released film adaptations of a historical war in his home galaxy starting in 1977. His *Star Wars* series became massively successful, especially among Earth-based aliens who saw that their history and heritage did not need to be forgotten.

One prominent agent in the 1990s was Agent L, who was viewed as more than qualified for the job even before he was employed because in 1982, when he was only a boy, he befriended an extraterrestrial and managed to return it to its home planet¹² of Brodo Asagi¹³ in the Andromeda Galaxy^{*****}. After the experience, he still felt the emotional link they shared when the alien was on Earth. When the Men in Black personally asked him to join them, considering that he already knew the truth about aliens and could handle diplomacy with them well, he did not hesitate to join. His main goal as Agent L has always been to find his former friend, but Andromedans are largely unable to contact Earth and other Milky Way galaxies due to the massive distance.

The job, of course, is not for everyone, and even the Men in Black make errors when hiring. For every Agent J and Agent K, two other esteemed members of the agency, there may well be an Agent T. Agent T started out as an eager cadet but gradually lost his mind as he began to see more of the horrors of the fact that we are not alone. Upon the MIB's discovery that Pluto was an entire world filled with monstrosities largely incapable of being processed by the human mind¹⁴, he finally broke. While the MIB got busy thinking of ways to discourage space travel to Pluto (eventually deciding on the abstract solution of getting scientists to reclassify it as not actually a planet^{*****}), Agent T found an absolutely bizarre new life as a costumed crimefighting lunatic known as The Tick¹⁵.

¹*The First Men in the Moon* (book)

²*Superman* (comic series)

³*The War of the Worlds* (book and radio serial)

⁴*Dan Dare* (comic series)

⁵*Doctor Who* (TV series)

⁶*The Day the Earth Stood Still* (film)

⁷*The Iron Giant* (film)

*In the film, the existence of aliens is entirely unknown to the general public. Alas, it is not the same in the Fiction Multiverse, as mentioned in the first paragraph of this entry, but this is how I try to work it in. They just try to keep as much as they can a secret.

⁸*Fantastic Four* (comic series)

⁹*Happy Days* (TV series). Baffled? Don't blame ya, but it makes sense in my weird little head! These two are from the right time period, I would say in their 20s by the time 1961 rolls around, and they have experience.

**Agent C refers to how Fonzie would call Richie's dad "Mr. C", and Agent A, besides being Arthur's first initial, refers to his catchphrase of "Aaaaay!"

¹⁰*Mork and Mindy* (TV series). Oh yeah, did I forget to mention that this is a spin-off of Happy Days based on an episode where Mork tries to kidnap Richie? The more you freaking know. Before a spin-off show was made, it was revealed to be all just a dream of Richie's, but after the show came out, a new ending was filmed where it turned out that Mork erased the incident from Richie's mind so that he only *thought* it was a dream.

¹¹*The Fonz and the Happy Days Gang* (TV series). This is one bizarre spin-off cartoon - and you thought *Joannie Loves Chachi* was a weird idea. Initially, it was two weird for me to include, but /u/Torinju was more level-headed than I and worked very hard to convince my stubborn butt to do the obvious and put this in. After a lot of debating by him, with some back-up from /uthecnNSMB, it's finally in this entry.

***A reference to good ol' Frank the Pug.

****Chuck disappears after the second season of the show without explanation. Found one!

*****George Lucas, along with Steven Spielberg and *Men in Black* director Barry Sonnenfeld and several celebrities, are revealed to be aliens monitored by the MIB in the first movie. Took that sight gag and rolled with it, which seems to happen a lot when I'm writing things for this!

¹²*E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial* (film). Agent L is none other than a grown-up Elliot, who still loves and misses his friend.

¹³*Star Wars* (film series). In *Episode I: The Phantom Menace*, there is a cameo appearance by members of E.T.'s species. Expanded universe material they come from a world known as Brodo Asagi, which in one of that galaxy's languages means "The Green Planet."

*****The tagline for *E.T.* states that E.T.'s homeworld is three-million light-years away. The Andromeda Galaxy is close enough for his homeworld to be there. *Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace* establishes that E.T.'s species lives in the galaxy of *Star Wars* and even had representation in the Galactic Senate, meaning that *Star Wars* is set in the Andromeda Galaxy.

¹⁴The Cthulhu Mythos, baby. Lovecraft once said that the then newly discovered planet of Pluto could very well be Yuggoth, fictional home of his monsters.

*****And now you know the real reason (in-universe) for why Pluto isn't considered a planet. Who said this couldn't be educational?

¹⁵The Tick (TV series). Ideally the cartoon is the version canon to the FM, but this connection is based on the casting of Patrick Warburton, who played Agent T in *Men in Black II*, as the Tick in the short-lived live-action version. If I recall correctly, it was implied that the two characters are one and the same!

Metropolis (film): In the center of Berlin is a bustling art deco-style metropolis built in the 1920s to help the country save face even in the midst of financial troubles and worldwide embarrassment after losing the war. However, to achieve this architectural milestone, the city was built on the hard labor of overworked, underpaid workers, some of whom were killed by the sheer amount of work they had to do, and secret meetings and movements were soon organized. In 1927*, the worker uprising finally erupted, fueled by mad inventor C.A. Rotwang and his android Maschinenmensch. Freder Fredersen, the son of Berlin mayor Joh Fredersen, and Maria, the leader of the worker's movement whose android replica incited all this trouble, were able to mediate between the "head and the hands" of the city.

It later served as the capital of Nazi Germany under Adenoid Hynkel¹. Sometime in the late 1930s, Freder and Maria Fredersen, now the mayor and first lady of Berlin, were arrested for promoting what were deemed communist** values and sent to work camps for the duration of the Nazis' reign.

*The year the film was released (but not set within the film).

¹*The Great Dictator* (film)

**The film's message can be seen as quite socialist, with all this talk of equality between the bourgeois and the workers ...

Minecraft (video game): The period of Sweden's* history from the end of the nineteenth century to the first half of the twentieth century saw industrialization really picking up and aggressive exploitation of land due to innovations in the strong farming culture**. This was especially helped by the presence of an enigmatic and incredibly powerful individual often referred to as simply Staffan***. He was supposedly a masterful miner and an even more accomplished builder capable of carrying thousands upon thousands of pounds of valuable material and still leap a meter while holding it all.

When World War II struck, Staffan was as neutral as his country had claimed to be, but both the Allies and Axis wanted the unnaturally powerful being to be on their side. He decided to trade resources and weapons to both sides, but ultimately moved with the Allies (unlike

Sweden, which maintained neutrality but secretly traded arms to the Germans) because Adenoid Hynkel¹ promoted equal distribution of all land and there would just not be as much freedom to mine as he would enjoy with an Allied victory. He was also not pleased with how the Nazis normally treated dark-skinned individuals like himself. Upon discovering this, Hynkel ordered an immediate attack on Staffan, but due to his immense power, sending in troops was deemed wasteful and dangerous. It was instead ordered that some of Doctors Richtofen² and Schabbs³ experimental undead**** be sent to defeat Staffan, though it ultimately failed.

Some years after the war, Staffan proved impossible to locate, and theories abound as to where he's gone. Some speculate that he died, like any other man. Others believe that he now hides in the secluded Finnish valley of Mummindalen⁴, located along the Swedish border. Still more feel that he is simply mining even deeper than any man has ever gone before and he is simply delving further and further into the nether layers of the earth.***** Regardless, his impact can still be felt in Sweden, including in the popularity of IKEA, a store known for make-it-yourself furniture made in 1943 by a 17-year-old pupil *****.

*The game was programmed in Sweden.

**True story, and possibly an inspiration for the game. Another deciding factor in setting this as the time period where *Minecraft* is set within the FM is his attire; T-shirts were first used as casual wear by WWI veterans and popularized in the 1950s. Yet another is the technology within the game, such as mine carts, pistons, and modern saddles.

***Swedish version of "Steve," the default name for the character players control.

¹*The Great Dictator* (film)

²*Call of Duty: World at War* (video game), specifically the zombie mode.

³*Wolfenstein 3D* (video game). I chose both of these instead of the few books or movies featuring Nazi-made zombies because it is the same medium celebrated by the inclusion of *Minecraft*. Due to their influences on each other and this game's influence on *Minecraft*, I like to think that Schabbs was a mentor to Richtofen.

****This serves as the origin for the zombie mobs in *Minecraft*.

⁴This is Moominvalley, from one of my favorite children's book series, *Moomin*. Could this land of fantastical creatures be where the mobs originate?

*****Couldn't resist making a reference to the Nether.

*****It had to be somewhere in there! The history is also true in real life, minus the involvement of Staffan. What is it with Sweden and building things?

~Thanks to redditors /u/TheBerg123, who suggested the inclusion of *Minecraft* and gave many good ideas (especially with my lack of familiarity with the work); and /u/coldcupofjoe, who showed us the true strength of Steve (he can carry more than 98 million pounds of gold!!!) and the technology of the game.

My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic (TV series): In 1900, a group of individuals in London, England were whisked away to a newly-created parallel universe through a multiversal nexus known as the Wood Between the Worlds. One of them was a cab-pulling horse called Strawberry, the son of a cavalry officer's steed and a direct descendant of Shadowfax, the Lord of All Horses from a time when England was still a portion of the Middle-Earth subcontinent¹.

Aslan, the creator of this new universe called Narnia and the land's lion god-king, sensed this noble and magical blood in Strawberry, which is why he made him one of Narnia's first "talking beasts" and later bestowed him with wings.

While his master Frank became the first human king of the land, Strawberry, renamed Fledge by Aslan upon his transformation, acquired a mate and sired children. Despite everything he witnessed and how much better life was for him in Narnia than on Earth, he still believed in the power of Eru Illuvatar, the ancient god his legendary ancestor worshipped. Fledge would talk about Eru and Middle-Earth to his children, who spread the stories down the line as well. Interestingly, the combination of Shadowfax's royal blood and Narnia's magical blood resulted in great longevity and even magical ability, both of which grew stronger with each generation. It got to the point that though 2555 years passed in Narnia, the generation that was around for the Last Battle of Narnia was not far removed from their earliest ancestors from the land's creation.

The Last Battle ended in the fall of Narnia, and Aslan heralded an apocalypse to destroy the world that was once his. Fledge's living descendants, who wished for their own infant children to survive, chose not to follow Aslan and remembered the stories passed down their family line of another world that could be accessed by magic. They managed to permanently open the Wood Between the Worlds and crossed it shortly before Narnia froze over².

The magical horses came out in 1949* England, but not the world that their ancestor walked when he was still known as Strawberry. They landed in a hidden magical world, which they were able to get used to quicker than they would have in the non-magical world. The wizards and witches who first encountered them were shocked to discover that they were capable of speech and magic, and questions were raised throughout the Wizarding World about whether or not these horses represent a great threat. The Ministry of Magic, the wizarding community government of the area where the ponies appeared, resolved the disputes by giving them land to settle in and maintaining positive diplomatic relations with them.

This occurred under the advisement of Albus Dumbledore, an extremely influential wizard and war hero, who developed a friendship with the leader of the horses. It was a close enough relationship that upon Dumbledore's death, his beloved phoenix Fawkes³ flew off to the enclosed space where the horses lived** and came under the care of the leader who was befriended by Dumbledore. She intends to pass on the care of Fawkes, renamed Philomena after the latest rebirth, to her successors***.

For now, the descendants of Fledge are getting even stronger as time goes on, and it is possible that someday, they or their descendants will break off and form their own nation****.

¹*The Lord of the Rings* (book series)

²*The Chronicles of Narnia* (book series). The books specifically used for this entry are the earliest and latest in the series chronology, *The Magician's Nephew* (which tells of Narnia's creation) and *The Last Battle* (which tells of Narnia's destruction). The series features talking beasts and magic, which seemed to be a good place for the ponies of *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic* to get those traits in their genetics from.

*Though *The Last Battle* was released in 1956, the story is set in 1949.

³*Harry Potter* (book series). It's interesting how the three most famous fantasy series of the 20th

century were made to tie in with this!

**In the discussion that created this entry, /u/ProfUzo mentioned the process of insular dwarfism, where a species confined to a small space gets smaller in the succeeding generations. Maybe the magic horses were given land in a small location and that is how the normal-sized horses of Narnia became the ponies of Equestria?

***All this comes from how Princess Celestia has a phoenix named Philomena. If the ponies' ancestors lived in the same time as Dumbledore, might as well ...

****Essentially, *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic* is what we call a Possible Future. The future of the Fiction Multiverse is not set in stone, but there is a chance that one day these ponies will form their own nation and the events of that show will happen. The ponies' increases in power and longevity, if unchecked, would result in Celestia and the formation of Equestria. Judging from the geography of their world, they would likely establish the nation in the remains of the United States in a timeline where mankind's civilization is devastated and the magical world comes out of hiding - which also happens with *Adventure Time* (TV series). The Rainicorns of the latter work are cousins of the three tribes of equinoids, which are directly descended from Fledge and Shadowfax.

~This unprecedented entry was the result of an incredible collaboration between myself, /u/ProfUzo, /u/thecnoNSMB (who created the Reddit post requesting this), and /u/FaceDeer. Thanks to all of them. Without their awesome ideas and lively discussion, this probably never would have happened - and if so, then not nearly as interesting as this turned out.

Network (film): Howard Beale was known as “the Grand Old Man of News” and was one of the first major anchormen in the history of broadcast journalism. He was known for keeping a positive attitude even in times of darkness but not ever letting that cloud the facts, something that made him very popular and endearing to audiences. However, the events of the late 1960s and early 1970s - the Helter Skelter murders, the Vietnam War, the failure of the Avengers¹ mission to end that war, the Night Gwen Stacy Died², the Watergate scandal, a gradual slip in ratings as increasingly cynical audiences no longer felt warmth from the Old Man, and the death of his own wife - brought down Beale, who had to report on most of these events in detail, to a state of depression, and he started finding comfort in hard drinking*.

Eventually, in 1976, he was given a two-week notice to his firing and half-jokingly declared on-air that he would kill himself live on his last broadcast show. Ratings of *The UBS Evening News* soared once more, especially after a follow-up broadcast where he declared that everything was “bullshit” and encouraged viewers to open their windows and scream, “I’m as mad as hell, and I can’t take it anymore!” The increasingly erratic Beale, who was not given psychiatric help because the higher-ups of Union Broadcasting System feared they would lose their money-making “Mad Prophet of the Airwaves”, received a retooled and gimmicky version of the show called *The Network News Hour* (also nicknamed *The Howard Beale Show*), where he would voice the “popular rage” at the time until he passed out. After a time, ratings slipped once more and Beale was assassinated by his own network.

Critics have come to view the deterioration of his show and the death of the Grand Old Man of the News as the beginning of an extraordinary change in televised news that culminated in Ron Burgundy’s tenure on the Global News Network, which was a shift from informative

journalism to what some have called exploitative and even trashy television. Even Burgundy himself, in a notorious broadcast, said that people should be watching the kind of news he helped put an end to for television as he stepped down from his role as GNN anchor³.

¹*Avengers* (comic series). The idea of a failed attempt by the US government to use the Avengers to end the Vietnam War in a similar fashion to the use of superheroes in World War II has been on my mind, and I'd like to see a story made of it.

²*Spider-Man* (comic series)

*The movie doesn't show what Howard Beale was like before his lowered state in 1976, so I speculated how he might have been like in the better days of the postwar 1940s and the 1950s, as well as what exactly brought him down. The ratings slip, death of his wife, and turn to alcohol are mentioned in the movie.

³*Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues* (film)

***Nosferatu* (film):** In 1838 Count Orlok terrorized the German town of Wisborg, bringing a plague-carrying horde of rats from his ship and feeding on innocents before being defeated and expelled by the sacrifice of a woman named Ellen Hutter. However, Orlok faked his death and traveled around Europe, feeding in secrecy and watching his legend grow. In 1922 he learned that an upstart German film company was making an expressionist horror film about his adventure and wanted to be a part of it. He was approached by director F.W. Murnau, who wanted to make the most realistic vampire film of all time, and signed him onto the production under the stage name "Max Schreck"*. However, all this was a gambit by Murnau to both fulfill his vision of a great vampire film¹ and kill the vampire who tortured his family in Wisborg almost a century before.

*"Shreck" is literally German for "fright." It's hard to believe that it was his actual name!

¹*Shadow of the Vampire* (film)

"Nyarlathotep" (short story): Most of the incomprehensibly powerful extraterrestrials known as the Great Old Ones and the Elder Gods are, fortunately for life on Earth and perhaps elsewhere, either long dead or in a state of stasis, and thus do not pose much of a threat to us. Even those who are awake and about in the universe have little awareness of us - if they even regard us at all, it would be in the same manner as humans regard insects. The same cannot be said for Nyarlathotep, who serves as a sort of messenger of the gods and enacts what he interprets as their will (and also enacts his own will). He is the only one who truly understands human beings - which is precisely what makes him the most dangerous of all.

He has been sowing chaos on this earth for at least a few thousand years and was especially fond of Egypt, where he has ruled as a pharaoh and where most of the ancient and modern cults centered on him were/are based. In the autumn of 1920, after a dormancy period of unknown length, he made his "second coming" in Egypt in the familiar form of the Black Pharaoh. His return was preceded by so pervasively ominous an atmosphere, it was said that the Great Sphinx itself turned its head toward Bethlehem¹. This was around the time when Egypt was close to gaining independence from the British Empire, and his presence as a

supposed pharaoh from 2700 years prior, part of Egypt's glorious past, stirred nationalism in the country. This upset the British Empire, but not nearly as much as when he started putting on shows of dark, impossible powers, which helped convince the terrified British to give them independence. Nyarlathotep, pleased with how easily he brought humanity's most dominant society to their knees, spread out around the world once more.

Nyarlathotep has done much since then, for nebulous but more often than not nefarious purposes. In his form as the Royal Pant, he has given musicians, particularly blues musicians who confuse him for the Devil, advanced musical skill in exchange for their "soul," which to him means their free will. Robert Johnson met him on a Mississippi crossroads², as did Tommy Johnson, who scored his first hit shortly afterward with "Man of Constant Sorrow" featuring the Soggy Bottom Boys³ (as recorded in the book *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* by Sinclair Beckstein⁴). Robert, for his part, died at 27 for unknown reasons, but both became blues legends. He has also made an ongoing bet with Philemon, a wise spirit guide⁵, about the fate of humanity: while Philemon believes that the species can collectively achieve enlightenment, Nyarlathotep contends that they will only lead themselves into self-destruction - and does what he can to ensure he wins⁶. Lastly, and most puzzling of all, is his newest discovered manifestation, though it may be one of his "Million Favoured Ones": Nyaruko, a silver-haired Japanese schoolgirl. She (he?) has taken a strong interest in classmate Mahiro Yasaka to the point of entering a romantic engagement with him⁷. It remains to be seen what his (her?) true intentions are, but for all anyone knows, perhaps the Crawling Chaos has gone soft.

¹"The Second Coming" (poem). This poem by William Butler Yeats was included in Chaosium's anthology *The Nyarlathotep Cycle*.

²"Crossroads" (song). This is a popular legend surrounding the real Robert Johnson, based on this and a couple of other songs by him.

³*O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (film)

⁴*Sullivan's Travels* (film). The name of the Coen Brothers film mentioned above originates from this film, where the main character, director John L. Sullivan, wants to make a film based on a book of the same name by one Sinclair Beckstein.

⁵*Red Book* (book by Carl Jung)

⁶*Shin Megami Tensei: Persona* (video game series)

⁷*Nyaruko: Crawling with Love* (light novel series). The weird stuff I find for this project ...

Odyssey (epic): In ancient times, after the end of the Trojan War, the cunning Greek war hero Odysseus set off with his legion for their home island of Ithaca, where he may continue ruling as king beside his wife and child after ten years away from them. However, despite his brilliance, Odysseus was foolishly arrogant at times and failed to properly thank the god Poseidon for the idea of the "Trojan Horse." As a result, the voyage was legendarily plagued by awful currents, winds, and storms, and Odysseus was swept all around the Mediterranean Sea for another ten years. This included stops on the coastline of Italy, which he called a mysterious and dreadful land that should be avoided at all costs by future sailors of Greece*.

After a decade in Troy and another at sea, he finally returned home, violently defeated the many men who tried to be suitors for the Queen Penelope, and reclaimed his rightful place

beside the family he loved. Despite his gratefulness for being back with his wife and son, he knew that deep inside he could not deny the desire to return to life on the high seas and explore new lands. When he grew very old, Odysseus passed on the title of King of Ithaca to his son Telemachus and left with his wife Penelope**, whom he did not wish to be separated from again, to embark on a voyage from which they knew they would not return, with the goal being, in his words, “to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.”¹

In modern times, a high-end Greek cruise line called Odyssey Cruises offers to take tourists around the Mediterranean to visit the same lands that Odysseus found, setting sail from and landing in Ithaca in a little over a week with multiple stops. These stops include the island of Polyphemus, now home to a large sheep population; Aiolo, former home of Aiolos Hippotades and his family, whose ability to control and even pocket winds was supernaturally powerful; Ogygia and Aeaea, respectively the former homes of the enchantresses Calypso and Circe, where tourists typically spend romantic nights in the witches’ revamped palaces; and the ruins of Telepylus, formerly the capital city of the unusually large and cannibalistic Laestrygonians, whose tribe could not sustain its growth on such a diet.

The only place from the classic story not visited is the Land of the Lotus-Eaters in Tunisia because the addictive lotuses continue to bloom and therefore still present a threat to any visitors, even though few people have visited ever since the story was finally committed to writing many centuries ago. Unfortunately, at one distressing point in the 1970s, the drug operation once run by the notorious Aristotle Kristatos² managed to distill the chemical properties that make the plant so addictive into an extremely addictive and potent “upper” simply known as Lotus.

*Italy is supposedly where the islands of Circe and the Sirens are and Sicily is said to be the former home of the Laestrygonians. This is also a little joke about the Trojan War’s aftermath as written in *Aenied* (epic), where the few survivors of Troy sail away and establish a new home in what would become Rome.

**If he really did love Penelope as much as the epic claims, I can’t picture him leaving her again when he goes on another voyage. I think this time, he would want to show her the wonders he saw. How sweet!

¹“Ulysses” (poem)

²“Risico” (short story), from the *James Bond* book series. The dating here refers to the time that the film *For Your Eyes Only* was made, and I refer to him in the past tense because he was killed in the conclusion of the story. However, a drug trade is not easily quashed, even by MI6’s top agent ... and cut me a break, I can’t think of any other fictional Greek drug traders.

~Those entire last two paragraphs are all my own invention, not taken from any other work of fiction. It really sounds like something that enterprising Greek tour guides and drug manufacturers would do in a world where the lands of *Odyssey* were real! Now to figure out which fictional character(s) in any point of time would ever do such a thing as make a street drug out of the lotus flower.

Paprika (film): In the 19th century, some people chose to enter the world of dreams for various reasons, such as escape or exploration of the psyche, and through various means, including

assorted specialized drugs. One of them is a sleeping drug colloquially referred to as “Tallies,” after the 14th-century princess Talia (better known as the Sleeping Beauty) from what is now the Low Countries¹, and as the honorific implies, it is used to undergo extended periods of sleep for a longer-lasting presence in the Dreamlands.

In the late 1880s and early 1890s, Randolph Carter, a Massachusetts teen who would later be a major player in mankind’s struggle against ultrapowerful extraterrestrials, and “Kuranos,” a Cornwall man of gentry stock, would mutually explore a fantasy world hidden in dreams using such drugs. Kuranos eventually became obsessed with these “Dreamlands” and gave up his mortal life to live there forever². Carter abandoned dream exploration after that, but after increasingly horrific experiences in his later life he soon returned out of a desire to escape³.

Over time, advanced technology made these drugs either safer and less addictive, or completely unnecessary for the process, and thus more. In 2006, a Japanese scientist named Kosaku Tokita invented a device called the DC Mini, a miniaturized version of the machines normally used in the emerging field of psychiatry where doctors see the dreams of patients. A crisis occurred when criminals stole the prototypes, allowing them to hack and control the minds of victims. They were eventually recovered, though there may be a connection between the crimes and the type of corporate espionage in America where trained agents steal ideas from the minds of sleeping rivals⁴.

¹“Sleeping Beauty” (fairy tale). The name of Talia comes from perhaps the earliest written version of the story by Giambattista Basile, in his 1634 collection *The Pentamerone*. The dating and location come from the earliest known version of the story and perhaps its origin, the prose romance of *Perceforest*. The version of the story that is canonical to the FM is Charles Perrault’s 1697 book, though I am considering changing it to the Disney version, regarded as the definitive adaptation of the story and a film classic in its own right.

²“Celephais” (short story)

³“The Silver Key” (short story). For more information on Randolph Carter, see the entry on “The Statement of Randolph Carter” (short story)

⁴*Inception* (film)

Paul Bunyan (folktale): Contrary to popular belief, the giant lumberjack Paul Bunyan was not born in the United States. He was actually born in the wizarding world of England¹ and immigrated in search of better job opportunities, like many other people. Though he was not a native resident of the country that made him legend, a patriotic yet illogical exaggeration that simply spread, this does not diminish the way he embodied the American spirit - in fact, considering how important immigration has been to the nation’s history, this fact about his origin might actually mean he embodies it more than before.

Throughout his life, Paul Bunyan chopped down acres of trees for lumber, with his trusty giant blue ox Babe by his side. One day, the giant was challenged by an entrepreneur who claimed that his new invention, the chainsaw, could cut down more trees at a higher speed than Bunyan. The inventor actually won the competition and lumberjacks used chainsaws from then onward. Bunyan was initially so discouraged that he briefly gave up lumberjacking, but he got

his groove back when he was reminded that no one makes legends about chainsaws.

¹This is the wizarding world from the *Harry Potter* book series, where giants live. Hagrid, a side character, is described as half-giant.

Peanuts (comic series): Charlie Brown, upon turning 19*, enlisted in the United States military so he could be deployed in Vietnam to fight in the war. He enlisted because he had low self-esteem from his childhood and felt an intense desire to prove himself to his peers. He did not know it, but he was the son of the barber who briefly impersonated Adenoid Hynkel and tried (and failed) to grind the Nazi war machine to a halt with a message of peace¹. He believed that the war effort was important and supported his son's decision, though he wished there was a more peaceful way to end the conflict.

Once in Vietnam, he met Franklin Armstrong, a young man from his hometown whom he'd never seen before due to the racial segregation of schools throughout his childhood^{**}; Forrest Gump, an Alabaman recruit he only met in training and resented for having all the good luck he wished he had²; Dennis Mitchell, a Wichita boy with a naive and sunny outlook³; and Wally Sobchek, a young man from California who wound up being a good friend of his in the duration of the war. Wally was traumatized when a mistake by Mitchell caused their group commander and fellow soldiers to get ambushed and killed and left lying facedown in the mud, and Wally had to fake being dead for a full day and night⁴. Mitchell survived as well and had to be treated for PTSD.

Though he faced much hardship and nearly died, Charlie (who called himself "Chuck" the whole time because he did not want to be confused with the enemy^{***}) returned from the war, scarred but ultimately with more self-confidence. Upon his return in 1968, after three hellish years of combat, he reunited with his dear friend Patty during an anti-war rally at the National Mall and finally confessed his romantic feelings for her. When they kissed, they could hear cheering - but it turned out to be for a different couple embracing in the Reflection Pool².

While he was away, Brown's "baby sister," Sally, ran off to California with her boyfriend Linus van Pelt^{****}. Sally desired to "find herself"^{*****} and dyed her hair brown to make it more "earthy" while Linus, who had always been philosophical, was attracted to the hippie counterculture, and both also protested the Vietnam War to save her brother/his friend - they didn't believe that he would survive it. Along the way they met an anti-government teen protester named Hogarth Hughes, a Who fan who hated the government for not caring for the people⁵. Ultimately, they settled down, as Linus became a patent attorney and Sally became the mother of Calvin van Pelt, who had his mother's naturally blonde hair and his father's active imagination (and even a strong attachment to an inanimate object)⁶.

*The character was four years old in the series' debut strip in 1950. I put him as applying in 1965. I imagine that he would have gone for it as soon as he was eighteen but he figured that it would just come to him in the mail due to the draft. His luck with that went about as well as his luck in getting valentines in the same mailbox, and when he turned nineteen he just applied himself.

¹*The Great Dictator* (film). Both Charlie Brown's father and the protagonist of the film are

barbers, and the timing felt too good to pass up (Charlie was five in the strip's debut in 1950). Charlie Brown also once stated that his father fought in a war, though he couldn't recall which one it was.

****Franklin** first appeared in the July 31, 1968 strip, where he meets Charlie Brown at the beach. In the next day's comic, Brown asks if Franklin's whole family was there, to which Franklin replied that his dad was in Vietnam. Charlie Brown then replies that his father was also in a war, but he couldn't remember which, a factoid I used to support Charlie Brown's dad (a barber) being the barber from *The Great Dictator*. I was uncertain if I should have Brown meet Franklin in the Vietnam War or if he should meet Franklin's father so that Franklin is still an elementary-schooler in 1968 as he was in the comics.

²*Forrest Gump* (film). What a typical thing to happen to Charlie Brown. I also imagine Forrest to serve as a foil to Charlie - both were born around the same time, faced some conflicts with same-aged peers in childhood, and served in the Vietnam War, but one is an incredibly unlucky blockhead while the other trips into history.

³*Dennis the Menace* (comic series). The inspiration for Dennis, Dennis Ketcham, actually served in the Vietnam War and had to be treated for PTSD afterward.

⁴*The Big Lebowski* (film). I created some of Walter's backstory myself.

*******Besides being a reference to the U.S. military codename "Charlie" for the Viet Cong, this is a reference to how Peppermint Patty nicknamed him Chuck in the comic strip.

********C'mon, we knew it'd happen someday!

*********In the comics, Sally frequently expressed a frustration with her inability to "find herself," which I think would compel her to run off to San Francisco like so many youth did at the time.

⁵*The Iron Giant* (film), set in 1957. He'd be old enough to be a hippy in this time, and considering his previous experience with the government, I think he would. The film was produced by Pete Townshend, guitarist of The Who, who originally wanted the film to be a musical featuring music by him.

⁶*Calvin and Hobbes* (comic series). I know that Calvin's father wears glasses, but Linus actually did wear glasses too at one point in the comics, so it's not a stretch to think he'd need it again as an adult. This also means that the real name of Rerun van Pelt, who would be Calvin's uncle, is actually Max.

Percy Jackson and the Olympians (book series)*: Ever since an extraterrestrial entity brought a monolith of otherworldly power to developing hominids in Tanzania thousands of years ago¹, human beings have held a largely secretive power to bring something to existence if there is a strong enough belief in them. Its most significant application has always been to the creation of ultrapowerful beings called "gods." Humans first emerged in a world full of terrors, many of them too dangerous or tough to overcome alone or with ease. In a time when life was nasty, brutish, and short, many looked to the mysterious lights in the dark night sky and contemplated the existence of something far greater than themselves, with powers far beyond theirs, capable of either creating the horrors they faced or protecting them from these horrors. It was only when people organized into large enough groups, and then told each other stories featuring a singular cast of deities, that belief levels were high enough for gods to appear.

Upon creation, they can thrive indefinitely by any of two means. The first is by continued

belief alone. Yahweh Elohim (who has many other names, like most gods) has been actively worshipped for several thousand years, far outlasting the other elohim worshipped by the Canaanites and Babylonians**. The second, which many older gods and entities use exclusively when their followings shriveled or died out completely, is lasting influence. Western civilization owes so much to ideas of the ancient Greeks, including their extensive mythology, that their pantheon, the Olympians, have followed what they call “the flame” to wherever it “burns brightest.” This has been in Rome during the time of the Republic and Empire, then Germany, France, Spain, and Great Britain. As of the American colonies’ establishment of a government modeled after the Roman Republic and based on ideas from many former homes of the flame, the Olympians now reside in the United States.

When gods are followed by a certain people or attached to a certain culture long enough, they can develop “aspects,” alternate forms, to reflect the beliefs bestowed upon them. These changes, brought about by the thoughtform process, can be minor or drastic. For example, the Olympians stayed in Rome for so long that they have a Roman side to them. Besides aspects, gods can also choose to have “incarnations” or “avatars,” earth-walking embodiments of their spirits with less godly power. Yeshua Christ, son of Yahweh Elohim, wished to return to the plane of mortals again, but a prophecy said that if he chose to do this on Earth, where he was already incarnated and killed once, it would bring about an end-times event known as the Rapture. Not wanting to risk this happening***, and in an attempt to better prepare Yeshua for it in case it does, Yahweh gave him an avatar in a parallel universe called Narnia. Because all of the first inhabitants there were talking animals (humans would come shortly after), he took the form of a talking lion named Aslan. This went on for seven hundred years, which was the equivalent of merely forty-seven on Earth², giving Yeshua plenty of training for what He and his father fear may be the future while also allowing Yeshua to live again (if vicariously).

Gods are capable of “fading,” which is basically the reversal of the method through which they come to exist in the first place. If they are forgotten or people lose their belief in them, they run the risk of vanishing from the world. Two thousand years ago - for unknown reasons but possibly out of distraught at having to leave the woods of Greece behind with the Olympians’ move to Rome - Pan told a satyr to send out word that he was dead and tried to make his fading happen. However, his will and this rumor were not enough, as the other satyrs of the world continued to believe that he was simply lost somewhere and set out to find him. Over time, his continued existence brought out a dark side in him, with the creation of the child-snatching Peter Pan³, another example of an avatar sent to a parallel universe, and the siring of a particularly terrifying demigod named Helen Vaughan⁴. At last, Pan realized that this was not the right way to react nor the right way to keep the spirit of the wild alive, and he was finally able to fade in 2008 upon explaining to a small congregation, including the satyr Grover Underwood, why he wished to die.

Gods are capable of killing each other, as the Greek Diomedes wounded Ares at one point in the Trojan War and Ares actually fled the scene, but fading is the only way in which mortals can “kill” them. A very angry (for good reason) Spartan named Kratos set out to slaughter all of the Olympians. Though they did seem to die, some of them were injured and most of them were largely unaffected. All of them eventually returned to form and let Kratos

have his satisfaction⁵.

However, upon fading, gods can still return if there is a resurgence of belief in them. This was the case for Eru Illuvatar, whose patron civilization, Middle Earth⁶, disappeared under the sea long ago. His memory lived on in very few beings, including the last two Istari and the descendants of a powerful horse from Middle Earth. In the 1940s, the ruins, and subsequently the culture and mythology, of Middle Earth were rediscovered by Dr. Henry Jones Jr.⁷, and the subsequent translation of its history and legends by linguist JRR Tolkien quickly garnered renewed public interest in this long-gone civilization. The unanticipated arrival of a substantially sized family group of the aforementioned horse's descendants, who genuinely believed in Eru, from a dying parallel universe was enough to bring him back from the dead, which proved to be key to preventing the earth's destruction in 2012****.

And yet, with all their power, the gods, *all* gods, are still only second on the cosmic and metaphysical tier list. Above them all are seven entities known as the Endless, whose lives began at the dawn of the universe and will end with it⁸.

*This whole entry is essentially an outline of how gods operate in the Fiction Multiverse. It is categorized under this series because many of our rules for how gods work comes from this series, as well as its shared universe with *The Kane Chronicles* (book series). Rick Riordan, author of both, is a genius.

¹*2001: A Space Odyssey* (film). More information on this can be found in the article for *Space Odyssey* (film and book series).

**Possibly a controversial statement, but according to religious historians (and from what I understand, my history may be inaccurate), the Jews first lived under the Babylonian empire and had to worship their pantheon. But they decided upon monolatry, the worship of one god (elohim) over the rest that they believed in. After they were exiled (586-538 BC), they became flat-out monotheistic.

***Only evangelical Protestant Christians strongly believe that the Rapture will happen, if my sources are correct.

²*The Chronicles of Narnia* (book series). "Look for me in your world, where you will find me by another name." This series isn't exactly subtle in saying that Aslan is literally an alternate universe incarnation of Jesus Christ.

³*Peter Pan* (play).

⁴*The Great God Pan* (book)

⁵*God of War* (video game series). It may not be precise to the storyline of the games, but I really wanted to get this in there and twisted it a little to make it fit.

⁶*The Lord of the Rings* (book series)

⁷*Indiana Jones* (film series)

****The specifics of this can be found in the entry titled "Notes on the 2012 Apocalypse event."

⁸*The Sandman* (comic series)

~It was /u/DJessNL who first convinced me, very long ago, that gods of different religions and mythologies could coexist in the FM. You were right, all gods did have the potential. Then, /u/TheBerg123, seizing upon the former's mention of the works of Rick Riordan, fleshed out the idea further in a post of his own. Ten months later, we have this, and I could not have done it

without you guys. It was these guys who conceived of gods being created through thoughtform and surviving by means of legacy, as well as the whole idea that different pantheons can exist in the same world. Thank you, to the end.

Peter Pan (book and play): Long ago, the Olympian god of the wild Pan, still in hiding¹ and biding his time in the hopes that he would finally fade away, decided to create an avatar*. It took the form of an eternally prepubescent boy he named Peter, clad in the green of the forest, capable of flight, and adept at his trademark pipes. Not wanting to draw attention to himself, for fear that he would be exposed, the avatar was sent to a parallel world he named Neverland.

However, there was always something sinister to “Peter Pan,” who took his last name from his father as he knew all children do, from the moment he began to desire playmates and take children from around the world to his island. These “Lost Boys” were meant to stay for all time, but unlike Peter, they did not stay young forever, merely growing at a far slower pace. Some would inevitably run away and either die in the sometimes unforgiving jungles of Neverland or (in later years) join the pirates that somehow came to the island. Others would try to stay and keep up with Peter, and after they grew too old in Peter’s eyes he would “thin out” his group. This, as well as his callousness and refusal to ever accept responsibility like a grown-up would, is a reflection of Pan’s nature as the god of the wild, both innocent and heartless.

Pan and his Lost Boys liked to engage in battles, sometimes gruesome, against a gang of pirates that took residency on the island sometime in the mid-1700s. This gang was led by the notorious Captain James Hook, a cold-hearted monster in his own right. Hook’s early life is unknown because his records, kept at Eton College, were mysteriously burned. What is known for certain is that his life on the high seas began in 1718 as a boatswain to Blackbeard, and his career progressed and notoriety grew to the point that the vicious Long John Silver² felt the need to show superiority to him in a tavern encounter. Silver learned what Hook considered “proper form” in this one-sided beatdown, and Hook became the only man this reputable buccaneer truly feared. It is ironic that Hook taunted Silver for his peg leg (though in a show of “good form” he did not use it against Silver in their brawl), considering the fate of his right hand.

This scuffle served to enhance and spread his reputation across the high seas. Even young children in certain parts like English port towns and the Caribbean knew his name, and somewhere along the way, one such boy told Peter Pan of this frightening pirate. Up until then, Peter, who loved to fight (as one might expect from a boy with no parenting), had few available, capable opponents. The Lost Boys learned much or all of their combat skills from him, and they would be tiring after a while. The local mermaids were more interested in personal leisure and made it clear that they would drown Peter and the boys at the slightest offense, which was not exactly a fair fight. The local Native American tribe would only appear periodically because this particular group, actually indigenous to our universe, could reach Neverland in a sort of dream state or spiritual journey and could only stay as long as they were in this level of consciousness**. Peter figured that a pirate crew would be a perfect match, and the apprehension and protest by the Lost Boys only strengthened his enthusiasm.

So it was that one morning, without warning, Hook and the crew of the *Jolly Roger* found themselves off the shores of a strange island. They were not prepared for their first

confrontation with a gang of savage, armed boys led by a flying freak. The battle ended in a couple of anguishing deaths among the ship's crew and Peter cutting off Hook's right hand (and feeding it to a crocodile!). Though their mission at first was to get off the island, Hook was eventually consumed by vengeance and desired to slay Peter. Apparently, he was not exactly alone in his wish: sometimes, Lost Boys, not wishing to learn what it means to be "thinned out" by Peter or simply fed up with the lad, would willingly join his crew. It was in this way that Hook was able to sustain his own collection of "Lost Men."

Things changed one night in the 1870s, when Peter was on a routine visit to Kensington Gardens in England, one of his favorite spots for finding new Lost Boys. It was there that he met, to his surprise, a girl, and one who would change his life. Mary "Maimie" Mannering, barely a preteen, found herself stuck in the Gardens after "Lock-Out Time" and was thankful for the company of a friend. After playing games and swapping stories for a while, Peter, impulsive and lacking knowledge about such grown-up things, asked Maimie if he could marry her in a "fairy wedding." She did not stay with him all night because she knew her mother would worry if she stayed out too long, but the consequences of this wedding, a magical bond that can transcend generations, were massive. Maimie never forgot Peter because of the magic of the fairy wedding³, and she told the stories of Peter Pan to her own children.

Peter was tied to the bloodline of Maimie and often, without expecting or meaning to, found himself meeting one of her descendants. In 1902, he met her three children by George Darling: Wendy, John, and Michael. Though he would only hang out with other boys, Peter was particularly drawn to the almost teenaged Wendy (likely another magical result of the fairy wedding with her mother) and wanted her to be his first mother. The three stayed with him and his Lost Boys for a few weeks, in which time they believed they killed Captain Hook once and for all when Peter threw him off his own ship and into the waiting jaws of the crocodile that first ate his severed hand. Their stay in Neverland concluded with the Darlings, and every Lost Boy in the group with them, returning to the Darling residence. Peter had one last talk with Mary, where she told him that the Lost Boys would all be adopted, one or two by the Darlings themselves, and Wendy intended to see to it personally that they all find loving homes. When JM Barrie, a friend of the family, inquired about the sudden influx of savage young boys in the household, the Darlings told them a story that would become a sensation upon publication.

Time flows strangely and differently in Neverland than in our world, and though he promised to visit her each spring, several years passed by the next time he saw her. By then she already had her own daughter, Jane, who went with him to Neverland. The tradition went on with *her* daughter Margaret, and then with *her* daughter^{***}, Moira. After all these girls it was Moira who finally inspired him to grow up and stay on Earth (leaving behind the Lost Boys, who then chose a recently dropped-off and abused^{****} child named Rufio as chief of the Lost Boys). Wendy, already an old woman with a long and treasured history of finding homes for orphans, found a place for him with the Banning family, from San Francisco^{*****}.

Peter did return to Neverland one last time, but it was out of necessity. In 1991, Captain Hook, on the verge of suicide because he hadn't properly defeated his nemesis, snuck down to Earth with his loyal boatswain (and sometimes bunkmate^{*****}) Mr. Smee and carefully enacted a plot to kidnap Peter Banning's children Jack and Maggie. It happened during a ceremony commemorating the opening of a new wing at the Great Ormond Street Hospital (which JM

Barrie gave the rights of his account of the Darling children's adventures to in 1929) named in honor of the now elderly Wendy Darling for her charity work. Peter Banning had long since forgotten anything from before the age of 12, but with the help of Tinker Bell and the new Lost Boys he was able to defeat Captain Hook once and for all⁴. He continues to live on Earth as a happy family man and as an unusually pleasant mergers and acquisitions lawyer.

In the long run, Peter Pan wasn't all terrible, but his creation was just the beginning of a very dark phase for the once great god Pan. His desire to fade away, the means through which a god can die, was constantly foiled because the satyrs, his half-man half-goat followers, refused to believe that he was dead even though he had not been seen since around 0 AD. Forced to survive through a life he did not want, he resorted to taking out his anger on the world. While Peter Pan definitely had a benign side, he was more ruthless with his next creation: a demigod named Helen Vaughan. After learning in the late 19th century that a London professor named Dr. Raymond, was trying to find Pan as well for his own pseudoscientific purposes, he appeared before the girl Raymond experimented on, Mary, who was practically his daughter, and rendered her catatonic. He then went all over London, pushing noblemen to suicide and escorting Vaughan (his demigod child by Mary) while she committed her own horrors⁵. He then returned to his hiding place, which was actually discovered by a satyr in 1975. The year after, Pan sent him out with a possessed lawnmower to kill random people in need of trimmed lawns⁶. It may have been around the time that he appeared several times before Dr. Edward Jessup, during his experiments to "live" in other states of consciousness and being in 1980⁷ that the god of the wild simmered down.

¹*Percy Jackson and the Olympians* (book series). More information on Pan's desire to fade can be found in the entry for this series.

*Credit for the idea goes to u/IWasSurprisedToo, who came up with this smashing /r/WritingPrompts post, "[\[WP\] In the 1700s, an eternally young avatar of the Greek god of the wilds kidnaps dozens of children from their beds, taking them to his distant island to become a vessel for fey magicks like himself. There is only one man brave enough to take the children back: Captain Hook, the pirate.](#)"

²*Treasure Island* (book). Hook tries to intimidate the Lost Boys by saying he was a boatswain to Blackbeard and that he "frightened Barbecue," a nickname for Silver.

**The gist of this theory for the presence of Amerindians in Neverland was thought of by /u/another-social-freak in his /r/FanTheories post, "What's going on in Neverland?"

³This scene with Maimie comes from the 1906 JM Barrie book *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*. Though it came out after the original book and play, I prefer to think of this as a prequel. Saying that Maimie is a nickname for Mary isn't far off, right?

***It's been a while since I've seen *Hook*, so I don't recall if Moira is said to be Wendy's granddaughter or great-granddaughter. But to me, the matter of trying to date the births of Wendy's spawn makes the latter more feasible.

****Rufio tells Peter in the film, "I wish I had a dad ... like you." It may be a stretch, but I feel that this does not imply a happy relationship between Rufio and the father he had before becoming a Lost Boy.

*****If you look very carefully and pause at the right moment in the scene where Peter looks

inside Tinker Bell's house, where she has his driver's license, you can see that it's a San Fran license.

*****Bob Hoskins portrayed Smee in *Hook* as if he were in a homosexual relationship with Captain Hook.

⁴*Hook* (film). I just couldn't exclude this!

⁵*The Great God Pan* (book)

⁶"The Lawnmower Man" (short story)

⁷*Altered States* (film). Jessup thinks that he sees biblical figures, but the goatheaded man he sees in some of his visions looks very much like Pan might. And I know that it's probably meant to be Satan, but the goat characteristics attributed to the Devil (horns, hooves, the goat head) come from Pan. This combined with the similarities between this story and the opening of *The Great God Pan*, pushed me to put this awesome, awesome movie in the entry.

Pikmin (video game series): Following the now-famous expedition to a Bolivian plateau in which dinosaurs live, Professor Edward Challenger¹ set off on subsequent expeditions around the world to find more exotic flora and fauna for his museum of natural wonders. Among his unique discoveries was a unique species of tiny creatures in Japan that may be the first plant-animal hybrids. These creatures, called "Flower-men,"* were observed picking nectar out of flowers in people's gardens** and attacking small creatures like frogs in hordes like ants. Challenger housed several in his museum, where they were domesticated on a diet of nectar and even taught tricks, and after other museums looked to study what they previously believed to be merely Japanese folklore, the wild Flower-men population was depleted***. It did not help that Flower-men were discovered to be seemingly unable to reproduce when taken out of the wild****.

¹*The Lost World* (book). At the end, Challenger states that he will use his share of the money gained from something his group found in the plateau to open a private nature museum.

*In the game, they have leaves on stalks growing out of their heads that eventually grow into buds and then flowers, and they also feed on nectar, hence why Challenger would nickname them "Flower-men."

**Shigeru Miyamoto says that his hobby of gardening inspired the game.

***I imagine that they started off as being able to hunt creatures on their own (otherwise, the species would not have survived long) but becoming domesticated to the point that they forgot how to hunt, setting up the state of their species at the start of the first game.

****The problem of their reproduction must have been baffling to scientists unaware of their practice of taking fallen prey to their tiny spaceships.

~The "alien planet" where the Pikmin live is strongly implied to be Earth in the games.

~Related: *The Leaf Men* (book by William Joyce), whose titular characters may be a species related in some form to the Pikmin.

Plastic Man (comic series): Patrick "Eel" O'Brian was a Gotham gangster who, while robbing the Crawford Chemical Factory in 1941, was assaulted by Batman¹. He was accidentally pushed into a vat, along with some other chemicals from containers hanging above that got

holes from bullets in the shootout*. Batman discovered him after the shootout and attempted to pull him out, but realized that his limbs kept stretching.

Batman healed him and tried to help him get over the fact that he now has a superpower. After getting enough control to sustain both irregular forms and (harder for him still) his normal form (though he purposely made himself a little taller), O'Brian was touched by Batman's kindness and chooses to follow in his footsteps. He returned to the criminal underworld, but as an infiltrator from the inside. He couldn't keep up the charade forever, so when he was finally exposed, he embraced a new superhero persona the Plastic Man, with a superstretchy costume made by Wayne Enterprises.

He naturally had a goofball personality, but he is potentially one of the most dangerous people on the planet. He showed this when he fought the significantly younger Mr. Fantastic in the 1960s².

¹*Batman* (comic series)

*This is fairly reminiscent of the Joker's origin in his flashback in *The Killing Joke*, now that I think about it ... Could the Joker be one of the gangsters in the gang that Eel was in?

²*Fantastic Four* (comic series)

***Psycho* (film series):** In 1960 a string of gruesome murders occurred at the Bates Motel in Fairvale, California. Norman Bates, the owner of the hotel, was convicted and sent to an insane asylum for murdering Marion Crane and Detective Milton Arbogast while hallucinating that he was his own mother, whose rotten corpse was found in full dress in a room of the neighboring house.

In subsequent years, Bates made a decades-long journey of recovery from his condition, brought about by traumatic events in his childhood and, in the years following his first killing spree, temporarily revived by other forces. He was able to make a full recovery by the end of his life*. Sam Loomis, Marion's boyfriend, developed a fascination with serial killers that led him to become a psychologist specializing in them, and he was involved in the 1978 "Halloween killings"¹. Crane's nephew Jonathan, a teen at the time with a troubled childhood and a bullying problem, was likewise intrigued by the circumstances of his aunt's death. This - combined with his interest in his ancestor Ichabod Crane, who was supposedly haunted by a headless spectre in a secluded glen near Tarrytown, New York known as Sleepy Hollow² - spurred him to get a PhD in psychology, specialize in the study of fear, take a job at Arkham Asylum in Gotham City, New Jersey (notable for insane supercriminals), and ultimately become the supervillainous Scarecrow³. Two of Marion Crane's other, younger nephews by a different brother, Frasier and Niles, became more benevolent psychiatrists practicing in Seattle, Washington⁴.

*This comes from the three sequels to *Psycho*.

¹*Halloween* (film). Michael Myers' psychiatrist was named Dr. Samuel Loomis in tribute to the original slasher film. I initially imagined that Dr. Samuel Loomis was Sam Loomis's son, but it didn't make much sense for an old man to be the son of someone who was in his twenties in 1960.

²"The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" (short story)

³*Batman* (comic series)

⁴*Frasier* (TV series)

Red Star (book): One of the many societies of Mars was a socialist country. At least one human, Leonid “Leon” Trostky*, was taken there in 1908 by members of the society. Seeing the utopia inspired him to become very active in the Russian Revolution, and though he briefly stayed in the country with an extraterrestrial lover, he eventually returned to work in Josef Stalin’s government.

*The main character’s name is simply Leonid. I thought it was a good match.

Robocop (film): In 1990*, while Omni Consumer Products (OCP) was still considering working on the construction of Delta City (originally intended to take the place of Detroit, Michigan but later on being a separate and futuristic sister city), a Detroit rookie policeman named Alex Murphy was murdered in a failed sting on a group of infamous gangsters. However, his body was recovered by the Detroit Police Department (which was run by OCP), and it was combined with state-of-the-art cybernetics and robotics to create “Robocop,” a cyborg touted as “part man, part machine, all cop”**.

He was celebrated as a hero of the city for busting a major drug ring and providing order to the city during a brief yet disastrous police strike. However, people have increasingly been questioning whether or not Robocop’s methods are gratuitously violent. There are those who suggest that his aggressive use of force is unwarranted and that sometimes it can even exacerbate the problem. It came to a head in November 2008 when he was sent to keep the anti-Santos¹ protests from getting violent and he was the first to shoot, eventually leading to conflict between police officers and protesters that culminated in a massive fire².

Despite concerns about the ethics of the man, his technology has been universally received by people in the medical profession as the next great innovation in using artificial augmentation to save lives. The robotics used to revive Alex Murphy from near-death had previously been tested with some success in the early 1980s, when Maxwell Smart, a secret agent for a US government-contracted intelligence agency called CONTROL³, was left extremely disfigured and on the verge of death during a failed espionage operation. OCP offered to use Smart as the first human test subject of their new cybernetics technology, and Smart was able to continue serving with CONTROL. However, the “gadgets” he was equipped with would often malfunction and his neural networking was faulty, creating a clumsy and often bumbling cyborg⁴. Despite reassurances from fellow agents that Smart has always been like that, and the likely possibility that trauma induced by being unable to accept his new state of being may explain his performance, OCP went back to the drawing board and made revisions that would ultimately culminate in the transformation of Murphy into Robocop.

The technology has also notably saved the lives of French DJs Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo and Thomas Bangalter. The duo, known under their recording name as Daft Punk, were severely injured and put into comas on September 9, 1999 when their sampler exploded⁵. French doctors worked to save them, and the only option was to use the same technology that OCP used with Murphy. This was initially seen as a tragedy for electronic music

because the creators of the revolutionary house album *Homework* might be unable to create music anymore. However, something must have remained, because they released *Discovery* a few years later and continue to record and perform today. Daft Punk has also written songs about the experience, such as "Touch" from their newest album *Random Access Memories*.

*The film, made in 1987, is set in the near-future. 1990 is close enough, and in the FM it's technologically advanced enough for this to be plausible. As for why specifically 1990? I don't know, it's an admittedly arbitrary choice.

**This is the tagline for the film.

¹This refers to Matthew Santos from *The West Wing* (TV series).

²*21st Century Breakdown* (album). The song "Viva la Gloria!" has the lyric, "Weather the storm and don't look back on last November / When your banners were burning down."

³*Get Smart* (TV series). With all the times he got to say, "Missed it by that much!" his luck was bound to run out sometime.

⁴*Inspector Gadget* (TV series). Gadget was voiced by Don Adams, the same actor as Maxwell Smart, and the characters are extremely similar. I imagine that KAOS eventually collapsed in the 1970s and CONTROL was then engaged in the upstart terrorist organization MAD.

⁵Thomas Bangalter once said in an interview, "We did not decide to become robots, There was an accident in our studio. We were working on our sampler, and at exactly 9:09 a.m. on September 9, 1999, it exploded. When we regained consciousness, we discovered that we had become robots."

Salad Fingers (video series): The Great War, later known as World War I*, left much of the European landscape ravaged and created "lost generations" for multiple nations on the continent. This includes one city near France** where practically the only people left were those unable to fight: the children, the physically and mentally disabled, and a grotesque humanoid known for his greenish skin and strange, elongated fingers.

*There are multiple references to "the Great War" in the videos. Some think it's a large-scale nuclear war, but I think it's something far simpler and, sadly, devastating enough to leave the effect on the world you see in the videos. Salad Fingers has also made references to soldiers being in trenches.

**In one episode, Salad Fingers claims he can walk to France. Yes, perhaps it's just something weird he says, but he *is* shown to speak French in another episode. Maybe it really isn't too far.

~An alternative idea I had was that the town where Salad Fingers lived is a place to which the physically and mentally disabled are exiled to by a city or civilization that only approves of citizens who are at the physical and mental peak, Spartan-style, but I can't think of a place like this in fiction. Anybody got any ideas?

Santa Claus (various media): Father Christmas, known by many names in many cultures, is an immortal Elf who escaped the war between Hyrule¹ and Middle-Earth² and converted to Christianity when he grew convinced that Eru Ilúvatar and the Christian God were one and the same*. He lives in a hidden base in the North Pole and rarely makes himself seen when people

visit the region (for example, he did not make himself known even to Robert Peary and his expedition**). One of his few appearances was before a group of Nozz-a-la³ PR men and lawyers, where he agreed to work with them*** in the hope that in a postwar world (after the First World War), some publicity of his image could bring some hope.

Father Christmas reached a low point during the Second World War. He was initially disillusioned with humanity after observing their worst atrocities yet and sensing some familiarity with his past****, and he wept for how the war created a “lost generation” in several countries. Despite this, he eventually appeared before the world in 1947⁴ after a few years of self-preparation for the new postwar world. He was inspired to make this visit when, while passing through Europe on Christmas Eve of 1944, he observed a young soldier singing a song called “White Christmas”⁵, a song the lad had heard at the famed Holiday Inn in Connecticut weeks after the war began⁶. Since that year, he has reverted back to legend, which may be for the better because visitors often bring trouble with them. Of course, as nobody’s perfect, sometimes *he* brings trouble with him, such as the unfortunate accident on Christmas night in 1978 when his sleigh ran over and killed an elderly woman in America⁷.

In 1993, the role of Santa Claus was briefly usurped by Jack Skellington, a devilish, skeletal trickster who was common in English and French folklore and is also known as “Mr. Unlucky” in Kentucky folktales⁸ and “The Great Pumpkin” in Minnesota folktales. It is believed that Skellington, while stalking around St. Paul in his “Pumpkin King” costume in the early 1950s, came across a small child who confused stories of Jack for Christmas and earnestly waited for him in a “sincere” pumpking patch. He did not have the heart to reveal himself to the naive boy and terrify him, so he stuck around and heard more about unusual Halloween practices actually taken from Christmas celebrations⁹, which may have been a spark that kicked off this raid almost forty years later.

Due to the monumental population increase and a few other, more personal factors, Father Christmas only appears once in a person’s lifetime, on Christmas Night at a point in someone’s life that he deems most crucial, and gives them only one major gift to restore their hope and faith*****. He also tries to do this by inviting a select few children to the North Pole every year through a magical express train¹⁰. He does not give presents to every child in the world because so many adults are already convinced that they need to be the ones giving their children gifts, which helpfully lightens Father Christmas’ workload, and also because he feels a stronger need to help out children in a dark time with the simple kindness of a single gift on Christmas Day. It doesn’t always work, but goodness knows he tries.

¹*The Legend of Zelda* (video game series)

²*The Lord of the Rings* (book series). Santa being an elf himself would explain quite a few things, particularly concerning his magic and how he supposedly has elves working for him, and the elves of the book series are immortal, allowing for Santa to live over the centuries.

*This was probably J.R.R. Tolkien’s intent in the first place?

**Regarded, albeit with some controversy, as the first expedition to reach the North Pole.

³Nozz-a-la is a Coca-Cola stand-in that appears in a few of Stephen King’s works.

***A reference to the use of Santa Claus in Coca-Cola advertisements in the early 1930s, which were wildly popular and even falsely credited as the origin of the modern image of Santa Claus.

*****The Lord of the Rings* has been viewed by some as an allegory for World War II. I thought it would make for an interesting connection.

⁴*Miracle on 34th Street* (1947 film)

⁵*White Christmas* (film). The intro, where Bing Crosby's character sings the song of the same name, takes place in Christmas 1944.

⁶*Holiday Inn* (film). This film was released in 1942, twelve years before *White Christmas*, and it is where the song "White Christmas" came from. The movie takes place over the course of two years, leading me to think that the first Christmas of the eponymous hotel happened in 1941, which would have been mere weeks after Pearl Harbor was attacked, so the song still retains its resonance with American audiences during World War II. Also, how cool would it be for a character played by Bing Crosby (Bob Wallace in *White Christmas*) to watch and then imitate a performance by another character played by Bing Crosby (Jim Hardy in this movie)?

⁷"Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" (song)

⁸*The Nightmare Before Christmas* (film). In the song "Jack's Lament," Jack sings, "To a guy in Kentucky / I'm Mr. Unlucky / And I'm known throughout England and France." The two other holiday mascots depicted in the film, Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, are established in our mythology of their respective holidays and Jack Skellington is a wholly original creation for the film, so I determined that in this world he was probably an unofficial mascot of Halloween also taken from folklore.

⁹*Peanuts* (comic series). This was too good to pass up!

*****I know this is a weird source, but this is derived from a fan theory for *The Polar Express* (film) explaining why parents don't believe in Santa and don't wonder who's leaving the gifts under the tree. It makes a lot of sense and would be great for stories.

¹⁰*The Polar Express* (book)

Scooby-Doo, Where Are You! (TV series): In the late 1960s, a small enterprising private detective agency named Mystery, Inc. roamed California and the West Coast offering to solve mysteries, specifically of the paranormal variety. They investigated stories of hauntings and always exposed them as hoaxes perpetrated by criminals, with a disturbingly high number of them being unemployed, talented people. However, it was soon discovered that their image as pleasant and old-fashioned teens was a cover for a creepy cult of kids obsessed with the occult. Their leader, Velma Dinkley, was an outcast who sought comfort in tales of the supernatural and formed the group for the sake of finding and controlling monsters. She even set up a dimwitted boy, Fred Jones, to look like the real leader, with Daphne Blake serving as little more than a groupie. Norman Rogers, also known as "Shaggy," claimed to hear voices from his Great Dane, who served as the mascot of the group to further distract people from the dark underbelly. Though they committed a series of murders, they were soon captured and imprisoned.

The Shadow (radio series): Lamont Cranston was a New York socialite and an associate of Oliver Queen¹ and Bruce Wayne, the latter of whom noticed a strange shift in Cranston's character upon returning to Gotham City in the early 1930s². Wayne could not work out what it was but had the impression that at different times it was someone with an uncanny resemblance impersonating him*. In the times that he would go to New York City, Wayne also studied the

methods of The Shadow, one of the first (if not the first) costumed crimefighters based in NYC. This was a common thing he did in the 1930s as preparation for becoming Batman, and he also studied the methods of the French avenger Judex³ (who had a notable influence on the Shadow) and ultimately Superman⁴.

The Shadow used a supernatural trick where he would cloud the vision of targets in such a way that would make him invisible to them, but most of the time he used more normal methods to fight crime. He ran a network of agents who he often threatened and forced to retrieve information, which was eventually whittled down to Margo Lane, another New York socialite and sister of *Daily Planet* reporter Lois Lane⁴. He also may have been sick in the head, as he would laugh maniacally when trapping and killing his enemies. The Shadow's battle against the criminal underworld of New York was one of fear tactics and violence. This psychological state may stem from his World War I experiences, when he was a pilot named Kent Allard fighting with the French. After the war's end, he sought a new way to fight crime** (which was a form of relief to him from his trauma after some very negative experiences in the war) and it was in France where he first learned of Judex.

Having observed his method of "lowering the crime rate," Wayne used the parts of the Shadow's system that were effective in deterring crime but refuse to execute his opponents in such a way because he felt that this made the Shadow an evil man on the side of good.

¹*Green Arrow* (comic series)

²*Batman* (comic series). Some early stories were actually rip-offs of stories featuring the Shadow, so it makes sense to me that Bruce Wayne extensively studied and employed the methods of the Shadow.

*In the pulp comics, Allard made a deal with Cranston that he would impersonate him back home whenever Cranston traveled outside the city. The depiction of the character in the Fiction Multiverse is a mix of elements from the pulps, the stories, and the radio show.

³*Judex* (film). This 1916 French movie features a rich character fighting crime in a black disguise and using advanced tech that he keeps in a cave base under his mansion, and it was an influence on *The Shadow*, *Batman*, and just superhero stories in general.

⁴*Superman* (comic series). The connection between Margo and Lois Lane was first devised by Philip Jose Farmer, creator of the Wold Newton Family and the guy who really popularized the idea of connecting different works of fiction in one world. Is Wold Newton canon here? Definitely not the *whole* thing, some elements are a bit silly in my opinion and I'm striving for *some* originality here, but c'mon! Margo and Lois share a freaking last name and are both love interests to two of the earliest modern superheroes. It's impossible to pass up.

**This comes from the print stories and the rest of the paragraph is my own invention. A guy who laughs like a madman while gunning people down, criminal or not, is not mentally healthy.

The Snow Queen (fairy tale): Danish folktales tell of the Snedronningen, "The Snow Queen," the fabled queen who rules over snowflakes in the same way that queen bees rule over bees. A very long time ago, a child was said to have been enchanted and kidnapped by her and then taken to her ice castle, which still stands uninhabited in the island of Spitsbergen. A brave young girl named Gerda, who was best friends and even in love with the boy, embarked on a

legendary quest from her little village in Denmark to the kingdom of Arendelle¹ in present-day Norway* to Lapland (now known as Finland) and all the way to Spitsbergen with the help of a flying Finnish reindeer². There, she saved her friend Kai and they returned home healthy and happy once more. The two later married and moved to Arendelle, where the prince and princess had previously aided Gerda in her journey years before, and the prince, now king, gave the two prestigious positions in the royal court**.

The tale of Gerda and Kai's struggle against the sinister Snow Queen was already well-known across Scandinavia when Queen Elsa, the daughter of the now-deceased prince who helped Gerda and the recently coronated young queen of Arendelle, was revealed to be an ice witch herself. When threatened with violence from her royal subjects, who had grown up hearing of the evils of the Snow Queen (a common folk song went, "Beware the frozen heart!"***) and didn't want another one lording over them and causing unimaginable terror over their kingdom, she was forced to desert the kingdom, though only after accidentally creating an endless winter and was only saved through the efforts of her sister Anna, an ice-selling mountain man named Kristoff, and a sentient snowman known as Olaf¹.

Interestingly, Kristoff is tied to the stories of both snow queens due to his heritage. As a child, he was raised by a tribe of magic-practicing mountain trolls that was separated from a larger group centuries earlier when several of the trolls endeavored to defeat the Christian god with a mirror that was enchanted to make anything look monstrous and awful. Some of the trolls wanted to avoid any conflict with whatever beings may exist in the sky and the violent, invasion-prone humans who worship them, and they split into two sects. The ones that did not want the mirror to exist thrived in isolation and eventually raised Kristoff. The ones who wanted to use the mirror tried to use their mirror but dropped it, and it shattered into pieces that were then spread by the winds across Scandinavia. A few pieces supposedly pierced Kai's eyes and heart, which led him to coldly abandon everyone he knew and join the Snow Queen in her frozen fortress. The mirror trolls insist that they were close to Heaven when they dropped it, but it is also likely that they were simply careless and never came close.

¹*Frozen* (film). The movie is loosely based on *The Snow Queen*.

*The film features several aspects of Norwegian culture like Stave churches, Viking ships, and lutefisk as well as several landmarks of the country like the Arkeshus Fortress (in Oslo) and fjords.

²The idea of this evokes the mythology of Santa Claus, who is said in the traditions of some countries (including my native United States) to ride a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer. The story doesn't say that Bae the reindeer can fly (to my knowledge), but they had to get from Lapland to the island of Spitsbergen *somehow* and she was already riding him to Lapland.

**Though the film *Frozen* has a completely different cast of characters, Gerda and Kai make cameos in this capacity, which is what led me to think that *Frozen* follows *The Snow Queen* in the first place!

***This is a lyric from the first song in *Frozen*, "Frozen Heart."

Space Odyssey (film and book series): In prehistoric times, at the dawn of mankind's existence, the Earth was assaulted. Extraterrestrial monsters and godlike entities known to

modern scholars as “the Great Old Ones”¹ unleashed a mass invasion of the planet, pummeling and punishing it with all manner of unnatural beasts and horrors. These monsters and their spawn would continue to torture mankind over the next several million years, all the way to the present. The reasons for this vicious attack are unknown to mere mortals, who can only conjecture hypotheses for why these nebulous beings would be so cruel to a species that was barely sentient. It has been argued that it is the development of more advanced sentience in our species that sparked these creatures to be so sadistic to us, considering that both are estimated to have occurred at around the same time. In the same pantheon as the Great Old Ones are a more benevolent type that the aforementioned scholars have classified as “Elder Gods.” For equally unfathomable reasons, they sent a monolith to what we now call the Olduvai Gorge in the African country of Tanzania. This monolith, a tall, mysterious, upright, black rectangular object, bestowed upon the hominid tribe that discovered it something* that the species had previously been incapable of: the power of thoughtform**.

Thoughtform, also known to Buddhists as “tulpa,” is the ability to believe in something so strongly that it comes into existence. Smaller-scale examples of this power being exercised include a line of isolated Iranian sorcerers who literally dream their successors into being in ancient Persian ruins²; a species of fairy located in a parallel universe whose continued existence strangely depends on the belief by children of *our* universe in the concept of fairies³; and a monstrous entity called the Slender Man created by the overwhelming collective imagination of the Internet⁴. In prehistoric times, when they were being attacked by unspeakable evils, the first humans imagined beings that were like them, but powerful enough to do things that they could never do on their own and fight off the monsters and entities attacking them. When enough humans believed in the same basic god, it would come into being and rule over them while defending them. It is in this way, through the power of the monolith, that religion truly began in the world, and it changed the course of humanity and the planet forever***.

A second monolith was placed in the Tycho crater near the dark side of the moon so that when mankind reached it the creators of the monoliths would know that they are ready for the next step in their evolution, and this took a couple million years to occur. The very first manned mission to the moon was conducted in 1876 by the Baltimore Gun Club through a specially created, enormous, experimental Columbiad cannon. The trio of astronauts launched from Tampa, Florida, orbited the moon once, and returned to Earth over the course of several days. French adventurer and poet Michel Ardan later published his record of the expedition⁵.

In 1902 the first British expedition was conducted by Arnold Bedford and Henry Cavor. The two become the first humans to land on the Moon’s surface, and contrary to the Americans’ conclusion that the Moon was barren, they found a civilization of insectoids Cavor named Selenites. Life on the moon was actually spurred by the presence of the monolith, which accounted for the existence of multiple intelligent species. Only Bedford returned alive⁶, but the expedition was considered a success and led to the formation by the British government of the Interplanet Space Fleet⁷.

Starting in 1928 Germany revolutionized space travel by using an efficient rocket ship as transportation, exploring the dark side of the moon⁸, and establishing improved bases and later full-on colonies. The dark side of this innovation was that the Nazis would later set up secret bases on the far side of the moon. One was discovered by a trio of American teenage rocket

experimenters and subsequently destroyed under order of the United Nations in 1947⁹, but a larger and more technologically advanced one lurks unknown on the moon's far side planning a fresh Nazi invasion of the Earth¹⁰.

In 2000, an American research mission on the Moon uncovered a large black monolith that appeared to be transmitting a signal. A rocket to Jupiter was launched eighteen months later to trace the signal to its origin. Unfortunately, the HAL 9000 program used on the ship apparently malfunctioned, and for nine years it remained unknown what happened to *Discovery One*^{**}. A follow-up Russian expedition in 2010 was closely followed by an unprecedented celestial event directly caused by the monoliths: the Elder Gods sent millions of monoliths into Jupiter, increasing its mass to the point that it collapsed into a second, smaller sun. The purpose was to further spur the development of life on the moon of Europa, which was already in an extremely primitive aquatic stage, and to protect these lifeforms from further interference, a message was beamed by the monoliths to the aforementioned Russian expedition and all Earth declaring that Europa was to remain untouched^{****}.

On a darker note, since 2010 it has been noted that otherwise catastrophic cosmic threats have been entirely avoided in Europa. This may be due to special protection by the Elder Gods, which has stricken researchers as unnerving and unusual considering that the Earth was allowed to be subject to two Martian invasions¹¹ and attempted devouring by the planet-eating entity Galactus¹². There are fears that the Elder Gods are showing favoritism to another species and that humanity's purpose all along may have been to serve as pawns in a cosmic battle between incomprehensible forces, with no conceivable morality^{*****}.

¹The Cthulhu Mythos (book series and story series).

*This is the "Dawn of Man" opening scene from *2001: A Space Odyssey* (film). The location of the monolith is given in *2063: Odyssey Three* (book), which has yet to be adapted into film.

***2001: A Space Odyssey* (film)

²"The Circular Ruins" (short story). The one clue given to the origin of the main character is when he is said to be from a place "where the Zend language is not contaminated by Greek ...". According to Wikipedia, Zend "refers to late middle Persian language commentaries on the individual books of the Avesta within Zoroastrianism."

³*Peter Pan* (play). This is, of course, a reference to the "I do believe in fairies" scene, where the clapping and chanting of this phrase by the audience is used to restore the poisoned fairy Tinker Bell to health.

***In the Fiction Multiverse, the way gods operate is based largely on the rules of the *Percy Jackson* and *Kane Chronicles* series by Rick Riordan.

⁴The Slender Man Mythos (various media)

⁵*From the Earth to the Moon* (book)

⁶*The First Men on the Moon* (book). The first names of the characters are taken from the 1964 film version.

⁷*Dan Dare* (comic series)

⁸*Woman on the Moon* (film). The film was released in 1929, but it was originally a book published by the director's wife a year earlier, and 1929 happens to be the year when countries like Germany could no longer afford such costly endeavors as an experimental space

expedition, which is why the expedition is dated at 1928 rather than 1929. I just have far more information on the film than on the book.

⁹*Rocket Ship Galileo* (book)

¹⁰*Iron Sky* (film). Juxtaposed here are two stories, one old and one new, based on the concept of Nazis on the moon. Neat!

*****2010: Odyssey Two* (book). Interestingly, I was shown an online Encyclopedia of Science Fiction article about Jupiter and its moons in fiction, and Europa is almost entirely neglected. It's amazing how these things work out.

¹¹*The War of the Worlds* (book and radio broadcast)

¹²*Fantastic Four* (comic series)

****The beginning of this article averted HP Lovecraft's major themes in his Cthulhu Mythos, which is intended to demonstrate that humans are insignificant in the grand scale of the universe and that we are not nearly as special as we believe. This ending brings it back, though in a slightly different way.

~The ending of *2010: Odyssey Two* (book) was one of the biggest challenges I had with working on the Fiction Multiverse, and because of these issues I had the in-universe time set to early 2010 for quite a while. But the problem was brilliantly resolved by /u/thecnoNSMB, /u/ProfUzo, and /u/TheBerg123, who collaborated with me on Reddit through epic discussion. These three truly changed the Fiction Multiverse and opened more possibilities for it, and I will be forever grateful to these people.

Spider-Man (comic series): In 1962, less than a year after the arrival of the Fantastic Four¹ heralded a new age of superheroes, New York City was introduced to what seemed to be a new villain: the Spider-Man, who was actually the teenaged Peter Parker. He started off as a wrestler but moved on to superheroics after the tragic death of his uncle, which he indirectly caused through an act of selfishness.

However, he soon came under fire by the *Daily Bugle*, the prominent New York newspaper run by Jeremiah Jonah Jameson. The editor, who started off his journalistic career by documenting the battle between the first Human Torch and Namor in 1940² and doing a special article where he briefly stayed with Sgt. Nicholas Fury and the Howling Commandoes³ brigade during World War II, had a notorious hatred for Spider-Man that he constantly expressed by running op-eds and articles questioning his morality or even outright accusing him of crimes he thwarted.

Theories abound as to why he tried to turn the city and country against the hero for so long: his wife was killed by a mugger who couldn't be identified because of a mask; his father was called a war hero but would actually abuse his mother at home; after the Fantastic Four decided to publicly share their identities, people might be suspicious of a supposed hero who doesn't; an acute arachnophobia (highly unlikely to explain Jameson but perhaps a bit more for the masses); or, most intriguing of all, he knew that the scrawny boy who gave him such top-notch photographs of the wall-crawler was Spider-Man and knew that the only thing to keep the boy motivated is to give him something more to fight for - his reputation*.

¹*Fantastic Four* (comic series)

²This was a landmark event for the Marvel Universe, being the first time that two superpowered characters crossed over with each other. Kurt Busiek's book *Marvels* shows Jameson and Phil Sheldon (who is part of the FM as well) reporting on the clash.

³*Sgt. Fury and His Howling Commandos* (comic series)

*That last bit is an awesome fan theory from 4chan I once saw.

~"The Night Gwen Stacy Died" was released in 1973, but considering that it'd be eleven years after Spider-Man first appears in New York, the date might need some revision.

"The Statement of Randolph Carter" (short story): From the dawn of mankind to the early 20th century, there was little that was definitely known about the Old Ones, extraterrestrial/dimensional beings with powers and biologies far beyond our comprehension. Even less was known about how to counter their threats, and though their attacks on Earth became significantly less frequent after the dawn of man, they were still a terrible danger to our world. This changed largely because of the efforts of Massachusetts scholar and weird fiction author Randolph Carter.

Before getting mixed up with these eldritch beings, Carter was used to high strangeness as an explorer of the Dreamlands, a fantasy land and a subsection of the realm of Dream¹. He first got into this shortly after the age of ten, when relatives discovered that he could sometimes see the future in his dreams. He soon learned how to do this from a British lord who would only be known to him by his dream moniker of Kuran, a young man of Cornwall gentry stock (and friend of notorious Parisian eccentric Jean des Essientes²) who enjoyed the world of dreams more than waking life. Kuran showed Carter how to go beyond his own dreams and into the wider world itself, allowing him to explore these Dreamlands further and longer.

Unfortunately, this escape into dreams can be highly addictive, and shortly before Carter turned twenty, Kuran killed his "waking self" in order to reign in his dream city of Celephais*. Carter, now distraught, also began to tire of the waking world and desired to find his own dream, and he embarked on a quest to the Dreamland city of Kadath to find it. It was on this adventure that he ran into Richard Upton Pickman, a fellow Bostonian and friend who was now a dream ghoul; Kuran, who deeply regretted his decision and missed the waking world; and Nyarlathotep, of whom he had only heard from fearful whispers by Dreamland people in previous visits. Ultimately he discovered that his dream city was indeed Boston, in the waking world, and he heeded his deceased friend's words and ceased his sleep adventures for a time*.

Shaken by his experience with Nyarlathotep and close shave with Azathoth, Carter instead devoted his life to learning more about the Old Ones, figures that some of the more unusual texts and people in Miskatonic University alluded to. He became perhaps the first person since the author of the *Necronomicon* to actively compile information on these beings, and was probably the first ever to do so for non-sinister reasons. He investigated events from all over New England, both modern and historical, that may have any connection to these creatures in the hopes that understanding them could show humanity how to fight back. These hunts led him to a failed inquiry into a "blasted heath" in Arkham*; in-depth research on the viol compositions of German-French musician Erich Zann*; and the development of a friendship with Boston painter Robert Upton Pickman, whose controversial paintings were actually of the creatures that Carter was investigating*. (The two bonded over this, but it was a brief friendship,

as Pickman would later disappear in 1927 into the Dreamlands, where he turned into a ghoul. He would somehow recursively meet Carter in the Dreamlands during the scholar's search for Kadath.)

Besides heavy research (and a brief stint on the French battlefields of World War I), he decided some close encounters were in order, despite the extreme danger involved in trying to invoke even the softest of them. In 1915 he befriended an occultist, Harley Warren, who mysteriously perished in 1919 on an expedition to an ancient Florida graveyard*. In 1925 he and another companion, high school principal Joel Manton, encountered and survived an attack by an "unnamable" creature that haunted a dilapidated Arkham manor*. All the information he gathered in this time was given freely to Miskatonic University, but initially it was only begrudgingly accepted by head librarian Henry Armitage, who hid away Carter's notes because he believed them to be nonsense. However, they proved to be invaluable when an enormous invisible monster burst forth from the local Whateley family's barn and carved a path of death and destruction for several days. Armitage and two other Miskatonic personnel used Carter's information to destroy the creature, which turned out to be some horrid hybridized part of the family*.

Tragically, as Carter learned more and more about the horrible true nature of the world, he increasingly yearned for retreat. A sliver of the information he obtained had previously driven others insane, and naturally he wished to return to a time when things are simpler. In 1929, when he was 55 but already looking and feeling far older, he disappeared from this plane with an enigmatic silver key*, and he traveled not across time, but across space, meeting Yog-Sothoth itself, learning staggering secrets of the universe, and ending up in the body of an extraterrestrial sorcerer. He made a brief reappearance at the sale of his own estate in 1932, when he was officially declared dead, to explain to the acquaintances he had left just what happened to him. He has not been seen or heard from since*.

Despite the loss of Randolph Carter, the world gained so much from him. For the first time, scholars, researchers, and scientists actively researched a phenomena previously only known to fringe theorists, cult members, and occultists (as well as a few scattered magic practitioners). Old stories were finally taken as seriously as they needed to be, and organizations sprung up to research both the nature of the Old Ones and ways to combat them. World governments, inevitably, got involved and created special departments specializing in dealing with these forces, including the USA's Black Chamber³.

¹*The Sandman* (comic series)

²*Against the Grain* (book). Lovecraftian scholars have postulated that the book influenced "The Silver Key."

*Works from the Cthulhu Mythos specifically referenced here include, in the order they appear in this entry: "Celephais" (short story), *The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath* (book), "The Colour Out of Space" (short story), "The Music of Erich Zann" (short story), "Pickman's Model" (short story), "The Statement of Randolph Carter" (short story), "The Unnamable" (short story), "The Dunwich Horror" (short story), "The Silver Key" (short story), "Through the Gates of the Silver Key" (short story)

³*The Laundry Series* (book series)

***Stranger in a Strange Land* (book):** In the 1960s, Valentine Michael Smith, the son of Earth astronauts who was raised by the Sorns¹ on Mars, was taken to Earth, where he founded the Church of All Worlds in an attempt to enlighten humanity through the teachings of the Sorns. He was killed in a mob raised by a rival church, but the leader of that group, Jubal Harshaw, turned around the “Fosterites” and made them more like the Church of All Worlds. However, following his death, disgruntled members reverted/perverted it into a religion of greed, and though several modern actors like Lucas Lee² and Kit Ramsey³ subscribe to it, it has received much criticism from the public*.

¹*Out of the Silent Planet* (book)

²*Scott Pilgrim* (comic series). Lee bears similarities to Jason Lee, also skateboarder-turned-actor, and Jason Lee is a Scientologist.

³*Bowfinger* (film). In the movie, Ramsey is part of an alien-obsessed, celebrity-attracting organization called MindHead. It's been called a thinly-veiled parody of the Church of Scientology, though Steve Martin, who wrote the film, denies it. Suuure.

*Basically, it becomes like the Church of Scientology.

***Superman* (comic series):** In June 1938, the world was introduced to Superman, the first modern superhero, who mostly resided in the city of Metropolis, Delaware. Initially he was feared by the public, who were understandably terrified and awed by the presence of a man with power far beyond theirs and their weapons, and he worked hard to gain their trust. He would fight crime, root out corruption wherever he saw it, and stand up for the workers, leading to accusations of socialism. It did not help that he used to kill people before setting up a moral code sometime in 1940, possibly inspired by the example of Batman¹.

In his first of what would be many interviews with *Daily Planet* reporter Lois Lane, he explained to the world that he was born on the planet Krypton, was blasted off on a rocket by his scientist father Jor-El shortly before the planet exploded, landed on Earth as a baby, and was discovered and raised as a human on the values of truth, justice, and the American way. He did not mention that he was raised by farmers in Smallville, Kansas and had a secret fortress in the Arctic.

As he continued fighting crime and preventing disasters, two things happened: the public gradually began trusting him, which was helped by constant reports of his heroic exploits by the *Daily Planet*; and more people, almost always without powers of their own, put on colorful tights and waged war on crime. The most notable was Batman, who was already looking for a way to fight crime more effectively than an average policeman could when Superman first appeared and he realized that a twist on this approach could instill terror in the hearts of Gotham City criminals. He developed bat-themed gadgetry and a fighting style more apt for the darkness of the city's streets and alleys and finally debuted in May 1939¹.

The two initially disliked each other, but put aside their differences when Martian invaders landed in New Jersey², Batman's home state. The maturation of Superman's powers finally finished and he achieved the power of flight just in time, allowing him and Batman to defeat the alien threat. The two were finally celebrated as heroes.

Superman chose not to fight in World War II out of fear that the American government would use him as a weapon if they ever wanted to impose their interests over another country or people. However, after learning of the Holocaust and the “Rape of Nanking” from Namor, a former enemy of the United States who fought for the Allies in the war³, he regrets that he did not save more of the victims in the war.

During the war, Superman and Batman realized that besides a new and stronger League of Nations, the world might also benefit from a separate league comprised of the best superheroes on Earth. Thus they founded the Justice League at the war’s end, with Wonder Woman, the Flash, Martian Manhunter, Aquaman, and the Green Lantern⁴. At first they were stationed in a hollow mountain near Metropolis, where Superman once had a hideout of his own before moving to a fortress of ice in the Arctic*, but when they became more involved with the American government, they moved to a new headquarters in Washington, D.C. called “the Hall of Justice”**.

Among Superman’s recurring opponents was Lex Luthor, a brilliant scientist and businessman who used profits made from his company LexCorp to fund innovative technology and ambitious experiments. With the discovery of life on other planets, including alien species willing to exterminate humans, as demonstrated in the mollusc invasions of 1898 and 1939², and the sudden appearance of another alien whose physical power is miles above every human on Earth, he developed an obsessive concern that the human race was losing its meaning and its appreciation of itself. He sought to “put Superman in his place” and turned to heinous crimes to serve his purpose.

An example of his crimes was the use of a device to invade Superman’s brain and force him to experience a virtual world where the very laws of physics were against him. His flight was stilted, his supervision was hampered by massive fog, his movement was troubled, and everything was as difficult as if he were a man who just acquired Superman’s powers and had no experience in controlling or understanding them***.

¹*Batman* (comic series)

²*The War of the Worlds*. 1898 refers to the book and 1939 refers to the radio broadcast by Orson Welles.

³Namor is a character from Marvel Comics who first appeared in 1939 as a villain but was changed so that he fought with the Allies when the United States was drawn into World War II. The reason for this change has never been given, but he has said that as an outsider he always sides with the oppressed minority, which may be why he hated the Nazis and the Imperial Japanese so much.

⁴All of these are DC Comics characters and considered the “Big Seven” or “Magnificent Seven” of DC Comics. They are the original Justice League team in the comics as well.

*Besides being a reference to the Secret Sanctuary where the first Justice League met, its location refers to the similar predecessor of Superman’s Fortress of Solitude.

**The Hall of Justice is the building where the Justice League meets in *Challenge of the Superfriends* (TV series). How could I *not* include it? By the way, Washington, DC, anyone?

****Superman 64* (video game). In the FM, what’s been called the worst video game of all time is a different kind of torture.

Texas Chainsaw Massacre (film): In 1974 an inbred family was arrested for serial murders, the kidnapping and attempted murder of one teen tourist whose brother and friends were killed, and the defilement of local cemeteries. Interestingly, this turned out to be the family of Tom Sawyer, who was famous as a boy in his Missouri hometown for finding treasure¹. At the time of his arrest, he was the centenarian patriarch of the family, grandfather to the main killer “Leatherface,” and a man whose flash appeared to be rotten*.

¹*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (book)

*In the film, Grandpa is said to be about a hundred years old, placing him at around Tom’s age, and the family’s last name is said to be Sawyer. I thought that was enough to make this sick connection.

The Thin Executioner (book): Jebel Rum, the second-highest peak in the Wadi Rum valley in the southern desert of Jordan, is named for a legendary figure* from medieval times who supposedly undertook a perilous quest all around the desert, received invulnerability and superhuman ability from a deity sometimes referred to as Sabbah Eid, and established a highly modern prison system upon returning to his homeland. The mountain, once the destination of other such quests, used to be named for Sabbah Eid and is now abandoned following the death of the deity, but it still attracts tourists and the occasional pilgrim.

*In reality, author Darren Shan named the characters of the book after locations in Jordan. Here I just switched the order.

Thomas Swift (book series): In the wake of all the scientific advances in the mid-nineteenth century came an unexpected trend: the so called “boy geniuses,” young people (including even children) who forged their own paths in the way of science*. Many of them tried building strange contraptions and inventions of their own, a trend possibly related to the average child’s love of toys. One such person was Thomas A. Swift, whose electric rifle**, sometimes referred to simply as a “Swift,” is still used by police departments worldwide***.

*This is my explanation for the presence of all the boy genius stories in Victorian times.

***Thomas Swift and His Electric Rifle* (book)

***The TASER is an acronym for Thomas A. Swift’s Electric Rifle, named by its creator as a tribute to the character and his invention. The company that makes the product is also called Taser, so I figured that in this world the invention would have the shorthand name of Swift.

Thor (Norse mythology and Marvel comic series): In ancient times, Scandinavia was occasionally visited by incredibly powerful beings that slowly became deified by the Germanic peoples of Europe. At the time of their visits, they were humanoid aliens hailing from another dimension, alternatively known as a homeworld, world, or realm. This realm, Asgard, is connected to our own, Midgard, through cosmic means traditionally described as a rainbow bridge called the Bifrost, and to the other seven via similar cosmic means known by the Norse

as the “world tree” Yggdrasill*.

Among these beings was Thor, the god of thunder, strength, war, and the sky. He had a temper reflected in his fiery red hair, liked to do things for personal glory, and was not too bright, often leaving the planning to and serving as the muscle for Loki, the trickster son of the giant Jotunns and blood-brother to the Allfather Odin. But Thor was also capable of great kindness and commanded the respect of fellow gods and the mortals of Midgard alike. He was especially popular among his worshippers in Midgard because he had a strong affection for the denizens of the realm and frequently protected them in ancient times. It also helped that he did not ask for sacrifices, being satisfied enough with doing good and protecting the innocent, and this was the main reason that many people favored him over the sacrifice-demanding Odin.

Thor’s body is a seeming contradiction: though his strength is greater than that of the other gods, his face is effeminate enough, and his body lithe enough, that he managed to deceive the giant Thrymr into believing that he was the goddess Freyja. Thrymr once held Mjolnir captive and demanded the hand of Freyja for ransom, so with the assistance of Loki, he dressed in a bridal costume and posed as Freyja. It was convincing enough that he fooled the giant, who had to see him close-up the whole time, until *well into the reception***. A possible explanation for his body’s lack of musculature is that his natural superstrength precludes his muscles from getting a real work-out. As a result of all this, he was a bit self-conscious about his perceived masculinity and strived to do whatever would make him look manly in the eyes of his fellow gods, which included growing a large red beard.

The time of the Asgardians came to a terrible end after a series of unfortunate events caused by the forging of a magical ring from the enchanted waters of the Rhine by a Nibelung dwarf named Alberich. The giants Fasolt and Fafner demanded the hand of the goddess Freya as payment for finishing the gods’ new home of Valhalla ahead of schedule, Odin wanted to use the ring to pay them after Loki determined it was the only other thing in the nine realms that could satisfy the giants, and Alberich put a curse on the ring after Odin forcefully reclaimed it deeming that any bearer of the ring will be doomed to die by the hand of its next owner. Archeologists have puzzled over the similarity between the cursed ring and a similar tale in the legends of the ancient and possibly contemporary “Middle-Earth” civilization¹.

The ring was given to the giants, who immediately quarreled over which would possess it until Fafner killed Fasolt. He then took the ring and the accompanying pile of gold, used as further payment by Odin, into a cave and assumed the form of a fearsome dragon. Many years later, Fafner was slain by Sigurd, who took the ring and gave it to his new love, the Valkyrie Bryhildr, as proof that he was stay true to their love while he went off on further adventures. Hagen, son of Alberich, killed Sigurd over a broken oath and claimed the ring, which Sigurd stole from Bryhildr after being brainwashed by a king who wanted her as a bride. Before it could be truly his, Bryhildr suddenly took the ring from her dead lover’s hand and immolated herself on a funeral pyre on the Rhine, cleansing the ring of its curse and returning it to the Rhinemaidens, the original owners of the ring².

Despite the prevention of Alberich from using the ring to usurp the throne of the gods, this series of events was followed by three dreadful years without summer in Midgard (536-539 CE***), as the sun was blocked out by clouds of dust. This event, known to the Norse of Midgard as Fimbulvetr, was a prelude to Ragnarok, an epic war between the gods and the giants,

with Loki ultimately siding with the latter group. Thor finally slew Jormungandr, the Midgard Serpent, but perished from its poison. The overwhelming majority of the gods, including Loki and even Odin, all perished and Valhalla burned. As the heavens collapsed, massive floods occurred all around Midgard, causing much death³. It all seemed like it was over for the gods of Asgard.

However, as the centuries passed, their legends were resurrected and the gods started being worshipped again. It began when Vidarr and Vali Odinson, and some of the other few survivors of Ragnarok, allowed the ancient Swedish king Gylfi to enter a “castle of Asgard” (actually a mental projection) and ordered three beings to teach him about the gods and their history, while still taking care to refer to Ragnarok as something that hasn’t happened yet. Gylfi returned to his people and recounted his experience, paving the way for the thoughtform process to revive the fallen Asgardians as full-on gods⁴. However, because he was deceived into thinking that Ragnarok was a future event rather than something that has already passed (a necessary deception, because belief could not bring everyone to life if they are believed to be dead), this could mean that the thoughtform process also makes another Ragnarok inevitable. It has yet to be seen, but on the bright side, the gods still remember that event and may take steps to prevent it from occurring again.

Nevertheless, this new period of the religion among the Germanic peoples, starting from 600 CE and persisting as commonly related myth even after the advent of Christianity in Scandinavia from 800 CE onward, led to the return of Odin, Thor, Loki, and the rest of the pantheon. Through the strength of their belief and the continued influence of the gods even after the Christianization of Scandinavia, they were restored and even elevated in power from powerful extradimensional beings to full-fledged deities****. The events that led up to Ragnarok also caused some significant changes in character. Odin, whose selfishness and troublemaking caused all this, became much more reserved and would even scold Thor for causing wars when he would do just that in the age before Ragnarok. Loki was previously more willing to help the gods when needed but ultimately fought against them in Ragnarok, and his beast children killed Thor and the heroic Baldr, both children of Odin. He was resented and despised by the other gods, and this caused him to fully turn against them and plot to take Odin’s throne*****.

As time went on, order was restored and things went well for the gods. However, their visits to Midgard became more infrequent after the fiasco with the ring and the near-destruction of the Earth by the floods, which depressed Thor because he always had a great fondness for the attention he’d receive by people of Midgard. By the time he could return (and now with a muscular physique, because that is how his followers imagined him to look like during the belief rebirth period), though he was not forgotten, he did not feel as welcomed in the Christianized nations as when they truly admired him. He would travel around the Earth looking for fulfillment but could not seem to find it, his relationship with the increasingly distant and disdainful Loki grew very strained over the centuries, and there was an increasing sense of anomie among the Norse gods, who felt rather useless now that there were no worshippers to help, giants and monsters to battle, or anything to do with this new state of being. After a final desperate attempt at finding purpose in Philadelphia as an amateur boxer training with Mickey Goldmill, then a rising star and future legendary boxing trainer⁵, he shot himself in the head in 1932 and temporarily died⁶.

After returning to life due to the power of the same force that brought the gods back from their twilight centuries before, he was severely punished by Odin for what he perceived as impulsiveness and arrogance. He ordered Thor to be separated from his mighty hammer Mjolnir, exiled to Earth, and stripped of his godly status and memories until Odin deemed him worthy enough to wield that power again. With this, the thunder god was sent to Earth and eked out an existence as Dr. Donald Blake, a crippled medical student often forced to see the dark side of the humans he admired. In time, he came to be good at his job, found success in New York, and came to genuinely care for the humans. After ten years, Odin incepted the idea into Blake's mind that he should go to Norway, where he found Mjolnir in the same cave where he had been born.

At last, Thor returned and even joined the growing ranks of the new generation of superheroes, becoming a founding member of the superhero team known as the Avengers. Over the years, he thwarted many schemes by Loki to usurp Odin's throne on Asgard and conquer Midgard. He defeated all the elemental enemies Loki made, which more than resembles how he spawned the beasts prophesied to kill the gods on Ragnarok. At one point Loki was even sealed in an earthly prison in England, though he had to be freed in 1975 in exchange for Thor's hammer, which Loki secretly took and hid away as he was being imprisoned⁷. Thor also had to handle a string of incredibly gruesome murders by a number of people whose social inhibitions were removed and minds reduced to insanity by an enchanted mask of Loki's that Vikings had previously buried on the shores of what would one day be the Canadian metropolis of Edge City⁸. Most recently, he quashed an upstart cult of Odin-worshippers in the American Midwest who would kidnap girls in interracial relationships and indoctrinate them into their group for the purposes of polygamy and racial purity⁹.

Unfortunately, after the banishment of Thor from Asgard, his relationship with his father Odin has yet to recover. Even when Odin offered his son to resume the position in Asgard that he previously held and return to his wife, the goddess Sif, Thor chose to stay in Midgard with his new love, the human Jane Foster. They have yet to make up from the fall-out, and Odin still tells those who don't know otherwise that Thor never recovered from his suicide in 1932⁶.

*Well, that's my crack shot at conflating mythology with astronomy. I used the "realistic" (non-religious) explanation given in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, as described in the film *Thor*.

**The comedic poem *Thrymskvitha*, from the *Poetic Edda*, a compendium of Norse myths. The ideas presented here about Thor's body are merely humorous concepts based on a humorous myth.

¹*The Lord of the Rings* (book series). The similarities are there ... Besides, ancient myths often bear uncanny similarities to each other despite separation by ages and continents. How many flood myths can we find in ancient religions, again?

²*The Ring of the Nibelung* (opera series). I changed as many names as I could to the Norwegian language versions because, well, why would these Norse gods and characters have German names? I chose to go with this instead of the original legends of the heroes Sigmund (Siegmond) and Sigurd (Siegfried) because this is more popular and, more importantly, this entry shows the progress of the depiction of Norse mythology throughout history. Wagner's

operas were enormously popular and influential. In addition, this entry as a whole is a composite of different works based on the characters.

***Fimbulvetr, Norse for “awful winter,” is one of several signs in Norse mythology that Ragnarok would be imminent. There was a notable decrease in temperatures all across Europe in these years, and the dust covering the sun was an actual phenomenon in this range of time that occurred all around the world, from China to Teotihuacan.

³The aforementioned dating also means that whatever flood happened in ancient times, the one related in various myths and *The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask* (video game), is entirely separate from that which resulted from Ragnarok

⁴*The Tricking of Gylfi*, from the *Prose Edda*. This is Snorri Sturluson's classic introduction to Norse mythology. Man, am I glad I took that Ancient Mythology class in sophomore year of college.

***It can be difficult writing timelines ...

****Essentially, this “godliness through thoughtform” thing is like the *Percy Jackson* and *Kane Chronicles* book series by Rick Riordan, where gods come into being by the belief of people and their continued influence even if the number of worshippers dwindles. Besides the Norse gods, it's also happened to the Greek gods, the Egyptian gods, and many others. This is just a very dramatic example.

*****This is the bridge between the personalities of Odin and Loki's mythological versions and the personalities of their Marvel Comics versions. They were quite different, but a war that kills everyone can really change people like that. With this whole entry, I'm trying the best I can to unite the different incarnations of all these characters into one FM composite.

⁴*Rocky* (film series). “You're gonna eat lightning, and you're gonna crap thunder!” Just a cameo by a famous Philadelphian and something I figure Thor might do as a last resort to feeling like his immortal god life is worth something.

⁵*American Gods* (book). Mr. Wednesday says that Thor shot himself in Philadelphia in 1932.

⁶*Eight Days of Luke* (book)

⁷*The Mask* (comic series). The comics are a lot darker and freakier than the films ...

⁸*KD Rebel* (short story). The weird things I find during research ...

~u/DjessNL first brought up the idea of doing something with gods for the FM in a list of requests he made. /u/TheBerg123 finally convinced me that the idea was feasible and made a post proposing we do what Rick Riordan did for the *Percy Jackson* and *Kane Chronicles* series, where thoughtform brings gods to existence and their influence sustains them. /u/ilmارينen7 gave us his expertise on Norse mythology, and the information he gave proved useful. He also told me about *American Gods*, which I otherwise wouldn't have used. This entry wouldn't have been possible without them!

***The Time Machine* (book):** In the late 1870s, a young British man studying the sciences named Moses Nebogipfel² had a life-changing experience with an enigmatic man and woman who claimed to travel through time and space in a strange blue box mysteriously marked “POLICE”¹, and it inspired him to seek a method for physically traveling through time. He first built and tested a prototype called the Chronic Argo in 1888 while living in a small Welsh town called Llyddwdd. However, he was soon run out of the place by superstitious townsfolk who accused

him of witchcraft², and he moved to Surrey to improve upon his invention and then show it to a higher, more science-minded class of people.

He successfully concluded work on the time machine in 1891 and first traveled forward to the year 802,701 CE, where he encountered what he speculated to be the evolved forms of humanity's rich and the workers as, respectively, the childlike, herbivorous "Eloi" and the apelike, vicious "Morlocks." After a misadventure with them, he returned to 1891 and told his story to a collection of colleagues, including trusted friend H.G. Wells. Wells transcribed the story that "The Time Traveller" told them and published it after waiting for three years to see if his friend would ever return*.

Some years afterward, the Traveller returned to Surrey and tracked down his old friend Wells, now an established historian and popular author. He revealed to him that when he tried returning to an earlier point in history to save an Eloi he had developed a strong attraction to, he discovered that the future altered, either slightly or drastically, with each trip that he took. He felt that it may be due to what we now know as the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, which is that the mere act of observing changes the outcome of the experiment, or in this case history; or it could be an effect of time travel on the traveller. He also acknowledged that it could be something else entirely that he could not comprehend because he was the only person yet who could study time travel, and even then there was still so little that he understood about it.

Because of this, he claimed to have seen many possible futures: a 1984 England ruled by an oppressive and fascistic government that nearly had him killed³; a 1985 England where a battle between government-made superhumans Miracleman and Kid Miracleman kills 40,000 and leads to a totalitarian world order under the former⁴; and many more, some utopian, some dystopian, others downright apocalyptic. The Time Traveller stumbled upon one future where after a protracted world war in the mid-20th century, the world eventually united in a benevolent technocratic dictatorship⁵ and described the history of this timeline to Wells in the hopes that if this one future is preserved, even as fiction, it might stay permanent. To his distress, the Traveller learned that this was a false idea, and his whereabouts following this are unknown.

One other thing that is known about the Time Traveller's adventures is that in the 1940s of the main timeline used in this encyclopedia, he stumbled upon an American student of Oxford University on a field trip in Surrey. The student was uncertain of what exactly he saw as the Time Traveller's machine whirred away to another age, but the seed of an idea was planted in his mind and truly burgeoned after a hit to the head in 1955, when he envisioned a crucial part of the device called the flux capacitor. Three decades later, Dr. Emmett Brown, distantly related to rocket scientist Wernher von Braun**, successfully created a time machine out of a 1982 DeLorean DMC-12 and disappeared into the timestream on his own adventures⁶.

¹*Doctor Who* (TV series). I have no idea which regeneration of the Doctor or which companion would be right for this, or if it even matters. Also, what if the Time Traveller refers to himself as that title instead of by his name, or any other name, as a sort of tribute to the nameless Doctor?

²"The Chronic Argonauts" (short story). This story was H.G. Wells' first story involving a time machine, predating *The Time Machine* by seven years, and the first story in history to really develop the concept of a time machine at all. The Time Traveller of *The Time Machine* is unnamed, and some fan-written sequels say it's because he's embarrassed of his real name.

What's more embarrassing for a Victorian Englishman than Moses Nebogipfel?

*The book was written in 1894 and serialized in the first half of 1895, and at the end of the novella, Wells wrote that it had been three years since the Time Traveller shared his tale.

³1984 (book)

⁴*Miracleman* (comic series), specifically Alan Moore's run. I tried to only choose stories set in *England* because Wells' time machine can't move through space.

⁵*The Shape of Things to Come* (book), Wells' speculative chronicle of a utopian future that strongly reflected his socialist values.

**It's been established that before Doc Brown's ancestors moved to America, they were named Braun. Can't pass this opportunity up!

⁶*Back to the Future* (film). Ah, what fun it is to tie different time travel stories together! The Doctor begets the Time Traveller begets Doc Brown.

***The Wall (album)*:** An album released in 1980 by Pink Floyd based on the experiences of frontman and lead songwriter Floyd "Pink Floyd" Pinkerton. In 1979 he suffered a nervous breakdown during a concert, apparently hallucinated a sort of neo-Nazi rally, and spouted various slurs while threatening to shoot all who disagreed with him. It was later revealed that he was pushed onstage by his manager and given too much medication for mental issues. As part of his recovery, he wrote and recorded *The Wall*, an autobiographical album describing his life, everything that led to his mental health scare, and the outcome. The highly-successful album is almost entirely comprised of original material, but also includes reworkings of other songs, such as a sampling of "Echoes" for "Is There Anybody Out There" and a shortened version of the anti-war single "Bring the Boys Back Home" that included an orchestra*. Shortly afterward, he remarried his ex-wife and became a father.

*The tidbit about "Bring the Boys Back Home" is my own invention. It struck me that the song, which is simply one verse/chorus/both, sounded like it could have been a part of a longer song, and I thought an anti-war single would be the kind of thing that Pink, the son of a KIA soldier, would have written in the late 1960s when the band started.

~Also related: "The Final Cut" (song), which depicts Pink nearly committing suicide before a phone call stops him. I connected this call with his reunion with his wife and life, which he made at the end of the story.

***The War of the Worlds (novel and radio broadcast)*:** The First War of the Worlds occurred in 1898, when extraterrestrial pods, quickly identified as matching with astronomical observations of what were thought to be volcanic eruptions on Mars, crash-landed in Woking and other parts of Southern England. These pods contained invaders, commonly nicknamed "Molluscs" due to their appearance, and the enormous three-legged mecha called "tripods" that they used in their attacks. Their onslaught was devastating, with hundreds perishing from their heat rays and killing machines and "red weed" destroying local vegetation. The British military was unable to repel them and even Torchwood, an organization specifically created to counter extraterrestrial and supernatural threats to the country and empire¹, was next to useless, but the Martians were defeated by Earth germs that they lacked resistance to.

H.G. Wells, an acclaimed historian who had previously gained fame for writing a mostly transcribed account of an associate who supposedly built a time machine² and a critically-lauded documentation of the “Invisible Man” attacks in Iping, England³, wrote a firsthand account of his experiences during the Mollusc invasion of England that became one of the defining nonfiction works of the era*. One side effect of the war is a newfound xenophobia, especially in affected England, towards extraterrestrials. This drove the English government to place special focus on funding space exploration and weapons development. The Torchwood Institute was also given an increase in funding so they could be more prepared for the next threat to England, and they began their practice of reverse-engineering confiscated alien technology to combat future alien threats when they seized the remains of the fallen tripods.

The remaining Molluscs on Mars learned from their glaring error and developed spacesuits, as well as more efficient tactics and weapons. They first tested these tactics on weaker or more primitive civilizations of Mars, including completely annihilating the Tharks⁴ (with the exception of one survivor⁵) with their new and improved heat rays.** When they were satisfied with the new developments, they returned to Earth on Halloween 1939, this time landing in New Jersey.*** Though it looked like the Earth was doomed for certain this time, the invading forces were repelled by the combined efforts of Superman⁶ and Batman⁷, the latter a native of the state residing in Gotham City. Indiana Jones, an adventurer who attended college in New Jersey⁸, also helped guide the people in an effort to fight the attackers with some success, but his accomplishments are not as well-remembered as those of the two superheroes, who drove the parasitic Molluscs back to space.

This was the first time that the pair teamed up and also the point where the public began to really trust that the two were trying to help society. The boost in public opinion also led to a surge of nonpowered crimefighters. Meanwhile, isolationists and pro-involvement activists both used this attempted invasion as an argument for why the United States should or should not enter World War II.

¹*Doctor Who* (TV series). Torchwood was founded in 1879 by Queen Victoria, according to the 10th Doctor episode “Tooth and Claw.” Twenty years could not prepare them for such madness.

²*The Time Machine* (book)

³*The Invisible Man* (book)

*Wells usually wrote his works in the first person without giving a specific name to the narrator, and people like to give him the role of protagonist in fan fiction and adaptations. I did not think this was suited for *The Time Machine* because the main story is actually a framed narrative, an account related by the time traveller himself to a group of people, including the narrator, who I took to be Wells. *The Invisible Man* is told in the third person.

⁴*Barsoom* (book series)

⁵*Martian Manhunter* (comic series)

**J’onn J’onzz, the Martian Manhunter, is the only survivor of his race, which bears a resemblance to the Tharks, and has an intense fear of fire (his weakness in some versions). I thought it fit.

***The Second War of the Worlds is the notorious radio broadcast by Orson Welles on Halloween 1939.

⁶*Superman* (comic series)

⁷*Batman* (comic series)

⁸*Indiana Jones* (film series)

Watchmen (book): In 1985, Alan Moore, an author descended from and named for a bizarre 19th century writer who himself penned a number of unusual fan fictions,¹ wrote *Watchmen*, a cautionary tale and commentary on superheroes. It opened people's eyes to how difficult it could really be to be a superhero* and changed the world when some individuals missed the point and thought that they should imitate the violent tactics of the characters, leading to the rise in violent anti-heroes in the 1990s.**

¹The mention of "unusual fan fictions" is a reference to *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* (comic series). The description of the elder Moore comes from how the "About the Author" section in the back gives a humorously odd biography of Alan Moore, depicted as a contemporary writer with (among other things) a status as a former circus exhibit and a series of exploration novels about places he made up.

*This book is essentially kinda like the 1984 of this world.

**This parallels real life, where superhero comics became far more violent in response to *Watchmen*, as well as *The Dark Knight Returns* by Frank Miller.

Wild in the Streets (film): Among the popular rock bands in the 1960s who had a strong effect on the countercultural revolution were the Beatles, Bob Dylan with The Band, and Max Frost and the Troopers. They became heavily involved in the congressional argument over a possible amendment to the Constitution lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 and stunned the nation during a televised performance at a political rally when Frost called for the voting age to be lowered to fourteen. Despite the enormous popularity of the band and the "Fourteen or Fight" demonstrations that ensued, President Lyndon B. Johnson firmly quashed the proposal, citing that it was already difficult enough getting Congress to choose if they should lower it to 18, let alone 14. In privacy he said that maybe his youthful predecessor Timothy Kegan would have done it*, but Johnson wouldn't have it.

Old Guard politicians were also critical of Frost's politics and the counterculture movement in general. Some of them even expressed the wish for the United States to be more like France, where the incredible progress of technology changed the arts-focused Parisian society into a more austere country over the course of a century, to the point that contemporary songs had titles such as "Thiloriade, Great Fantasia About Condensation Of Carbonic Acid"¹. By that point they had forgotten that science and the arts could coexist, such as in the story of Michel Ardan, the poet who was in the first crew of humans to orbit the moon².

A couple of decades later saw the rise of Senator Bob Roberts, one of very few musicians in the folk music scene actively preaching conservative political views. He used his music to rise up the rungs of the political ladder in Washington and became a senator of Pennsylvania in the early 1990s³, and much to the chagrin of the liberal Frost**, he claimed inspiration from the example set by Frost and the Troopers.

*In the film, the band gains the support of a Kennedyesque senator. The events of the film therefore take place in an alternate universe, which I deemed necessary due to the crazy ending.

¹*Paris in the Twentieth Century* (book). Jules Verne wrote a book in 1863 predicting what Paris might be like in the 1960s, and the accuracy of his predictions as well as the story of a technologically austere society being challenged by *hippies* made it too good to not get a mention.

²*From the Earth to the Moon* (book), also by Jules Verne.

³*Bob Roberts* (film)

**In the movie, Frost is made to run as a Republican, which he dislikes.

List of historical replacements (fictional characters taking the place of figures in our world):

- Holden Caulfield from *The Catcher in the Rye* (book) for Mark David Chapman as the deranged assassin of John Lennon. It is theorized that Chapman was inspired by *The Catcher in the Rye* to kill Lennon.
- Timothy Kegan, Willie Harvey* Arnold, and Joe Diamond from *Winter Kills* (film) for John F. Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald, and Jack Ruby as the popular young American president from 1960 to 1963, his alleged assassin, and his assassin's murderer. Conspiracy theories abound as to who actually killed Kegan.
 - *I added the middle name of Harvey to Arnold.
- Adenoid Hynkel from *The Great Dictator* (film) for Adolf Hitler as the dictator of Nazi Germany. I know that Alan Moore already used this for *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, but I can't just pass this up!
- An adult Susan Pevensie from *The Chronicles of Narnia* (book series) for Margaret Thatcher as the first female Prime Minister of England during the 1980s. Though she could not join her family in Aslan's country when they all perished in a tragic train accident in 1949, Aslan did say, "Once a king or queen in Narnia, always a king or queen." I was considering making her a historical replacement of Diana, Princess of Wales, but I think Susan would be much too old. On that note, Susan and Thatcher were also born only three years apart.
- Jack Burton from *Primary Colors* (book) for Bill Clinton as the president of the United States from 1992 to 2000, known for his scandalous womanizing.
- Josiah "Jed" Bartlett and Matthew Santos from *The West Wing* (TV series) for George W. Bush and Barack Obama as the American president from 2000 to 2008 who initiated a war with a Middle Eastern nation (Qumar, not Iraq) and his Democrat successor from a racial minority
- Tom Davis from *In the Thick of It* (TV series) for Tony Blair as the British Prime Minister of the 2000s. The almost unflinching idealism of *The West Wing* contrasts greatly with the intense cynicism of *In the Thick of It*, which makes me think that the Davis administration would not be as close to the Bartlett administration as Blair's was to Bush's.
- Charles Foster Kane from *Citizen Kane* (film) for William Randolph Hearst as the late

- 19th-early 20th century yellow journalism pioneer and media mogul
- Sal Paradise from *On the Road* (book) for Jack Kerouac as the quintessential beat poet of 1950s America
 - Bob Harris from *Lost in Translation* (film) for Bill Murray as a popular American comedy actor
 - Willie Stark and Adam Stanton from *All the King's Men* (book) for Huey P. Long and Dr. Carl Weiss as the popular 1930s governor of Louisiana and the physician who assassinated him at the zenith of his career
 - Vincent Chase from *Entourage* (TV series) for Mark Wahlberg as a popular American actor. Wahlberg, executive producer for the series, made it as a fictionalized version of his own ascent to acting stardom.
 - Mia Wallace from *Pulp Fiction* (film) for Uma Thurman as the star of *Kill Bill*. Quentin Tarantino said that his movie *Kill Bill* is not part of the Tarantinoverse, but rather a film that people in the Tarantinoverse would watch. It's also somewhat similar to *Fox Force Five*, the failed TV pilot that Mia Wallace starred in. Wallace and the Bride are both played by Thurman, so it's not much of a stretch to think that that the film is a retooled version of the pilot. I'm willing to bet that Marcellus Wallace's stature in Los Angeles would have something to do with her ascent to film stardom.
 - Raoul Duke from *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (book) for Hunter S. Thompson as a prominent journalist in the 1960s who pioneered Gonzo journalism
 - Mel Funn from *Silent Movie* (film) for Mel Brooks as a popular director of Hollywood comedies in the 1970s and 1980s
 - Floyd "Pink Floyd" Pinkerton from *The Wall* (album) for Roger Waters as the lead singer and songwriter of the progressive rock band Pink Floyd. I thought it might be funny if in this world's version of the song "Have a Cigar," where an in-joke about the band's name is made ("By the way, which one's Pink?), a different question is asked: "Where did you come up with the band name Pink Floyd?" (or something similar)
 - Columbus Ohio from *Zombieland* (film) for Max Brooks as the author of a popular zombie survival guide and chronicler of World War Z. Unlike Brooks, whose book is fiction, Columbus records the zombie war as it actually happened in an alternate timeline where the events in *Night of the Living Dead* (film) actually occurred, eventually leading to a world of chaos that spiralled into the events of *World War Z* (book). Columbus's actual name is Max Funn, son of Mel Funn (*Silent Movie* film), reflecting how Max Brooks is the son of comedy director Mel Brooks. With a name that sounds like "maximum fun," wouldn't *you* change it if you wanted to be taken seriously?
 - Antoine Roquentin from *Nausea* (book) for Jean-Paul Sartre as one of the key figures of the philosophy of existentialism
 - Rocky Rhodes from "The Bard," an episode of *The Twilight Zone* (TV series), for Marlon Brando as a brilliant and talented yet difficult and demanding actor
 - Conrad Birdie from *Bye Bye Birdie* (play) for Elvis Presley as the hip-thrusting teen rock 'n' roll heartthrob idol of the 1950s who gets drafted into the army in 1958*.
 - *Elvis was drafted in 1957.
 - Credit goes to /u/ProfUzo for this.

- Meyer Wolfsheim from *The Great Gatsby* (book) for Arnold Rothstein as the man who fixed the 1919 World Series.
 - Credit goes to /u/thecnoNSMB for this.
- Rainier Wolfcastle from *The Simpsons* (TV show) for Arnold Schwarzenegger as a major Hollywood action hero actor (with several family comedies and some terrible films) during the 1980s and 1990s. In the '80s, he broke out with the *Jack Slater* films¹, but after some fatigue with the part he took the role of McBain and proceeded to appear in more than ten films as the character.
 - ¹*Last Action Hero* (film)
- Jimmy “B-Rabbit” Smith Jr. from *8 Mile* (film) for Marshall “Eminem” Mathers as a Detroit rapper. To the world’s shock, he came out as homosexual on *Skylark Tonight* in 2014¹.
 - ¹*The Interview* (film)
 - Initially I was gonna go with Slim Shady, Eminem’s persona, but B-Rabbit is truer to who Eminem actually is. I figured he just also has Slim Shady as an alter ego in his music.
-

Random notes on the Beatles*: In 1964 the band got in a spot of trouble when Paul McCartney’s grandfather caused a public disruption on the day they were supposed to do a television performance¹. In 1967, the band created an album called *Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band*, a name and concept that originated from an antique poster of a Victorian-era music group² that John Lennon discovered^{**}. They based certain songs and melodies in the album on songs from the original band and injected their own modern flair.

Because of the way they honored the band, the Beatles were summoned by a magical and garishly-colored submarine to save Pepperland, a magical underwater society off the coast of South America^{***} that promotes peace through music, with the power of their music. There they met the original Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band³, headlined by William Shears^{****}, and saved the realm from blue trolls³ originating from the Argentinian mainland.

The band was also notable for making songs based on current events and people, including the infamous Edison murder trial⁴.

In 1980 Lennon was assassinated by a deranged young man named Holden Caulfield⁵ outside of the Bramford, the apartment building he lived in⁶.

*I chose not to use the Rutles as the historical replacement of the Beatles because the band is already so fictionalized that they might as well be fictional characters. Besides, I could not fathom anyone in this world taking the band as seriously as we do here if they made that parody music, but I could be wrong ...

¹*A Hard Day’s Night* (film)

^{**}This is partly based on a very similar story behind the creation of the song “Being For the Benefit of Mr. Kite!”, from the same album.

^{***}When the leader of the Blue Meanies asks his lackey where they can go to after their defeat, the reply is “Argentina?” It is a joke on how some Nazis escaped trial for their war crimes to Argentina, but I suppose it can also be a sign that Argentina’s not too far.

²"Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" (song)

³*Yellow Submarine* (film)

****A lot of emphasis is placed on "the one and only Billy Shears!" at the end of the song.

⁴"Maxwell's Silver Hammer" (song)

⁵*The Catcher in the Rye* (book)

⁶*Rosemary's Baby* (film). The film was shot at the Dakota, the building Lennon actually lived in, and it's said to have a history of witchcraft and murder.

Random notes on superheroes: David Dunn, grandson of Detective Dan Dunn¹, is a more modern superhero mostly based in Tallahassee, Florida². There have been reports from Piqua, Ohio of a flying man clad solely in a polka-dotted red cape and tighty-whities³. Mexico also has a tradition of superheroes that boomed in the 1990s*, with heroes such as "The Red Cricket"⁴ and "White Pantera,"⁵ though the most famous superpowered Mexican in the United States remains the notorious criminal Bane⁶. Besides dealing with alien threats, the Power Rangers⁷ of Angel Grove, a suburb of Los Angeles, California, also had to deal with the racial tensions, corrupt police, and various social issues of LA**. The U.S. government has a special team of metahuman mercenaries on stand-by trained and ordered to kill superheroes in case they get out of control⁸.

¹*Dan Dunn* (newspaper comic and radio serial). It is said to have been important to the history of superheroes.

²*Unbreakable* (film). You can tell it is set in Tallahassee because he works as a security guard at Florida State University's Campbell Stadium.

³The one and only *Captain Underpants* (book series)

*Initially based on *El Tigre* (TV series), I learned that there really was a boom in Mexican superhero comics as more companies popped up and made new characters in the 1990s.

⁴*El Chapurrin Colorado* (TV series)

⁵*El Tigre* (TV series)

⁶*Batman* (comic series)

⁷*Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers* (TV series)

**The Power Rangers debuted in 1993, one year after the Rodney King race riots.

⁸*The Boys* (comic series)

Condensed early history of Britain: The land that is now the islands of Great Britain was once merely the peaks of a large subcontinent referred to in ancient writings and by archaeologists, including Dr. Henry Jones¹, as "Middle-Earth". For millennia, men, dwarves, elves, orcs, and smaller humanoids called "hobbits" lived, seemingly segregated from each other, and without much advancement in thousands of years beyond iron crafting². Some distance away, another land existed referred to as Hyrule. It did not constrict itself by technology quite as much and had a different mix of races: an elf-like species known as Hylians, waterborne Zoras, mountain-dwelling Gorons, and more³.

Both lands lived apart from each other until, according to legend, a magical entity that lived in another region used extremely powerful dark magic to bring the Moon closer to Earth.

Though it did not collide (obviously), its proximity unleashed massive flooding, significantly raising sea levels and wiping out a lot of life around the world⁵. A few islands remained over what was once Hyrule, now underneath the waters of the North Sea (known by them as the Great Sea) and its survivors eventually sailed off looking for a new place to revive their kingdom⁶. They stumbled upon what we now know as the British Isles, establishing New Hyrule in present-day Scotland* before expanding outward and overtaking the survivors of Middle Earth with their more advanced technology**. They soon died out or mixed in, though it is possible that the royal bloodline of Hyrule eventually mixed with that of England.

England itself was founded by Brutus, a Roman conqueror⁷ descended from Romulus and Remus themselves⁸ and thus descended from Aeneas of Troy⁹. Much of this information came from the work of Dr. Jones and linguist J.R.R. Tolkien, who later published the legends and histories of Middle-Earth***. The legends of Hyrule are popular as well, though some may simply be legends and nothing more****.

¹*Indiana Jones* (film series)

²*The Lord of the Rings* (book series)

³*The Legend of Zelda* (video game series)

⁴*The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask* (video game)

⁵Various myths in disparate ancient cultures depict an ancient flood. Whether or not it's a coincidence, it's awesome for this

⁶*The Legend of Zelda: Wind Waker* (video game)

*The Scottish tradition of kilt-wearing warriors is influenced in this universe by the legends of the green-clad hero who always sported a tunic in battle.

**Middle-Earth's technologically has not advanced beyond iron-crafting, and Tolkien makes sure that the good guys of *The Lord of the Rings* hate technology for its effect on nature. They wouldn't last long, I think

⁷*Historia Regum Britanniae* (book)

⁸Roman mythology. They are the founders of the city of Rome.

⁹*Aenied* (epic). Aeneas legendarily escaped from the razing of Troy by the Greeks (from Greek mythology) and made it to what is now Italy with a band of survivors. There they started the village that would one day become the Roman Empire

***Tolkien used *The Lord of the Rings* to showcase his linguist skills, including made-up languages.

****This is my alibi stating that not every Zelda game's story is reality in this universe - just whatever can fit.

Random notes on the Nazi Party: In the 1930s the post-Great War depression and the stipulations imposed by the Treaty of Versailles caused Germans to become very displeased with their place in the world. Out of the blue, the Nazi Party, led by Adenoid Hynkel¹, ascended to power, possibly through the manipulations of notorious supercriminal Dr. Mabuse in his 1933 crime spree². They enacted laws for the persecution of German Jews and other groups and started conquering European countries, thus igniting World War II. At some point in the early days of Hynkel's dictatorship, a barber who bore a remarkable resemblance to Hynkel briefly

took his place through strange circumstances. He tried to use this opportunity to call for peace¹, but it was a temporary victory and he fled to the United States, where he changed his name from Braun to Brown³.

Hynkel had a fascination with the occult and ordered agents to look for ancient artifacts, mostly of biblical origin, throughout the 1930s to aid his planned conquest of Europe⁴. Eventually, he formed a separate organization called HYDRA, run by Johann Schmidt, to extend the searches⁵. Aside from Schmidt and certain people involved in these missions, not many people in the upper echelons of the Nazi Party took Hynkel's obsession with the supernatural seriously, not even when the U-boat squadron sent to invade the island of England during the Blitz in 1942 reported that they were defeated by an enchanted army of floating armor⁶.

Hynkel was eventually shot down at a film premiere in occupied France by an Allied squadron of Jewish-American commandos in 1944⁷, ending the European theater of World War II. However, it has been speculated that this Hynkel was only a double, and there are numerous theories as to the fate of the real Hynkel: he may have been killed by the demon Hellboy in 1952⁸, or died in a British retirement home under an alias⁹. There is also the frightening theory that Dr. Josef Mengele may have escaped to South America and spearheaded a plot to create clones of the dictator, using DNA taken from scraped-together remains of Hynkel's blown-out brains from his assassination¹⁰, though nothing seems to have arisen from it - yet¹¹. Regardless of his fate, the Nazi party was crippled and destroyed by the loss of their leader.

¹*The Great Dictator* (film)

²*Dr. Mabuse, the Gambler* (book and films)

³*Peanuts* (comic series). Charlie Brown's father is also a barber, and that plus the timing (Charlie was five in the strip's debut in 1950) felt too good to pass up.

⁴*Indiana Jones* (film series). These searches include hunts for the Ark of the Covenant and the Holy Grail. It's interesting to note that in real life, Adolf Hitler actually disliked talk of the paranormal, saying something along the lines of Germany needing to lose its pagan history and move to the future. I guess that doesn't make for interesting fiction.

⁵*Captain America* (comic series). In the 2011 film version, Schmidt even says after locating the Tesseract, "And the Fuhrer hunts for trinkets in the desert ...", a clear reference to *Indiana Jones* (film series)!

⁶*Bedknobs and Broomsticks* (film)

⁷*Inglourious Basterds* (film)

⁸*Hellboy* (comic series)

⁹"Mr. Hilter" sketch from *Monty Python's Flying Circus* (TV series)

¹⁰This is a double reference to *They Saved Hitler's Brain* and to how Adolf Hitler died in real life by blowing his own brains out.

¹¹*The Boys From Brazil* (film)

Notes on the 2012 Apocalypse event: Rumors had been swirling for several decades of a massive apocalyptic event set to occur in the year 2012, mostly centered on the date of December 21. As the dreaded year dawned, the world increasingly became convinced that it would happen. There were plenty who dismissed the readings as absurdity, but not nearly

enough to prevent the process of thoughtform from taking shape. The process, first bestowed upon humanity by the “Great Old Ones” to keep the species and their planet safe from extraterrestrial dangers¹, was now being abused by a more terrestrial force to destroy them.

The threat was so colossal that it harkened the return of Arthur Pendragon, the legendary king of England. After being mortally wounded in the Battle of Camlann at the hands of his sinister nephew Mordred, he was set on a boat for the mystical isle of Avalon, where he would recover and sleep until the time when the land of England would need him most². Arthur, who still bore a scar from where Mordred stabbed him, returned on the same boat that had carried him to the island, known in Middle-Earth legends as the Undying Lands*, but this time he also returned with a second passenger: the equally legendary wizard of Gandalf, who knew fully well what exactly was threatening the world³.

“The White Wizard” and “The Once and Future King” were summoned by the old god of Middle-Earth known as Eru Illuvatar, alive once more for the first time in millennia after the ruins of the civilization that worshipped him were rediscovered, the myths were spread through translations by Professor JRR Tolkien, and, most incredibly of all, a colony of magic-using ponies hidden in the wizarding underground of England continued to worship him over any other gods since 1949⁴. Despite this recent boost, the god was still too weak to do much more than summon champions and create a new fellowship. Gandalf and Arthur were tasked to raise a suitable army to succeed where the previous fellowship believed they had.

It was recorded, and by this point well-known, that the War of the Ring six thousand years previously had ended in the defeat/death of Sauron when his main weapon and life source, the One Ring, was tossed into the volcano called Mt. Doom. However, the truth is that the ones meant to destroy the ring had failed to do so and Sauron, sensing imminent destruction, opted to lose the battle, fake his death, and go into hiding until a new opportunity presented itself. Sometime in the thousands of years since his defeat, he learned about the power of thoughtform and realized that belief could be just as much a weakness as a strength. His goal was always to revive his fallen master, the satanic Morgoth, who was buried into the earth (specifically, under the British Isles) by Eru Illuvatar. The only way to release Morgoth from his prison is to destroy the earth.

So Sauron waited until the world’s population had grown large and connected enough that news could travel quickly to several billion people, and over several decades he put his plan into action by whispering grave forebodings to unknowingly false prophets. Sources as vastly different as the Zodiac, the I-Ching, and even an alternate reading of the Mayan “Long Count” Calendar were used to pinpoint the winter solstice of 2012 as the day the world would end. Sauron himself did not have the power to bring about an apocalyptic event, but the combined belief of several billions can unwillingly harness thoughtform to make it happen. Eru recognized it and sent for Gandalf, and Arthur also sensed that this time his country was to face its direst hour.

Shortly afterward, with 2012 still just a new year, the trio held a secret meeting with Queen Elizabeth II; Prime Minister Michael Callow⁵; and Dame Emma Peel⁶, the chief of MI6 codenamed “M”⁷. Gandalf gave information on the nature of Sauron and their threat, and Prof. Henry Jones IV⁸, grandson of the archaeologist who first discovered the ruins of Middle-Earth civilization, was summoned to provide more knowledge of the civilization’s history after

Gandalf's death. They realized that they had to defeat Sauron, which meant finding the One Ring and destroying it in the fires of Mt. Doom ... Unfortunately, the true location of the One Ring is lost to history and that volcano had long lain dormant underwater.

Seeing that they needed a larger team, M allowed the legendary men to use her agency however needed. Callow revealed to Arthur and Gandalf that a massive wizarding underground had developed in England over the centuries. Very few non-magical humans, referred to as "muggles" by the wizarding folk, knew about it and a connection between the Prime Minister and England's Ministry of Magic was necessary for the continued survival of both sides of England**. He directed them there to find help and specifically recommended a brilliant 32-year-old auror named Harry Potter. He was rigorously trained in combatting "the dark arts" by Albus Dumbledore, who was actually one of the five "Istari" wizards sent by Eru to aid the peoples of Middle Earth in facing evil, and besides the powerful Lord Voldemort, he was, without his knowing, being trained to also defeat Sauron whenever he should return. Gandalf, himself an Istari, sought out the young man, now head of the Auror Office in the Ministry of Magic⁹, and enlisted his services.

It was then that a mysterious man in a trenchcoat came in seemingly out of nowhere. Though he looked human and even spoke in a Northern English accent, this man, who introduced himself simply as "The Doctor," claimed to be a time-traveling extraterrestrial with experience in saving the world from unimaginably powerful threats¹⁰. In fact, he had just come from 1979, where he managed to convince a race of aliens known as the Vogons to not destroy Earth and move their in-construction intergalactic highway elsewhere¹¹. He told them about thoughtform, something that he had witnessed in other adventures he's had, and they combined their knowledge on that and Sauron to figure out how the Lord of Darkness intended to carry out this plot.

With the Doctor's arrival, the core team was assembled, and at the extremely enthusiastic behest of Potter and the Doctor, who could scarcely believe that they were working with a legendary wizard and King Arthur himself, they dubbed themselves the New Knights of the Round Table. As expected, Arthur was the leader, commanding where the team should go, what shall be done, and what was needed. Gandalf served his king in the same capacity that Merlin did hundreds of years before, provided counsel to him and the others, and got them out of serious jams when there seemed to be no way out. Potter tried to rally support for their cause in the wizarding community, eventually becoming the leader of the auror force assembled, and served as the heart of the team more than anything. The Doctor was Arthur and Gandalf's guide to the 21st century and, as the one with the most experience in the politics and public life of "Muggles," served as the face when they had to go out in public. With the year still only dawning and a powerful team of legends at the helm, a massive yet subtle government project was carried out to convince the world that nothing would happen on December 21, enlisting top scientists and archaeologists to release information disproving or defaming all the evidence supporting an apocalyptic event at the end of the year.

However, M was suspicious that this might not be enough to avert the threat and wanted a contingency plan in case Sauron senses what the government is doing and chooses to retaliate. With her new knowledge on how the dark lord can be beaten, she sent MI6 agent James Bond⁷ to find Connor Macleod, a Scotsman who was once part of a race of immortal

humans until 1985, when he killed the last remaining immortal in a mystical contest called “The Reckoning.” Among other gifts, such as mortality and the ability to father children, he was bestowed with a type of telepathy that allowed him to reach and read the minds of every human being on earth¹². Bond brought him to MI6 (sometime before going on a disastrous mission to Istanbul^{***}) and Macleod was used to try and find if anyone on Earth possessed the Ring; according to Gandalf, it typically does not stay lost for long. The former immortal was disturbed that his ability and history were known and reluctant to leave his life of peace with his new family, but he recognized how dire the situation was and traveled with Bond to London.

After much scanning in his head, Macleod detected a lone voice from a being scarcely resembling a person. This was Samwise Gamgee, reduced to a shriveled and horribly disfigured humanoid after six millennia of possessing the Ring, and trapped in the interior of the Ryhope Wood. An elite team of MI5 agents led by one Sir Harry Pearce¹³ was sent there, and they thought it would be as easy as finding Gamgee raving to himself in his cave with the Ring in his possession, as with Gollum, and it helped that Ryhope Wood appears, from the outside, to be no more than three square miles in area. However, the forest, secretly a sanctuary for people and creatures where thoughtform takes far less effort than in the rest of the world, is actually enormous and labyrinthine¹⁴, and as unnerving as this was to a spy team unaccustomed to the magical, they uncovered something far darker. Somewhere far down a road to the “heart” of the forest lay the main encampment of a massive underground army created by Sauron to serve him and Morgoth upon the latter’s release from his earthly prison. Gamgee was kept in a dark cell, locked up and raving madly about the loss of his “precious.” Pearce caught sight of a cloaked, armored figure with daunting eyes who seemed to preside over them all. In his hand was a golden ring. Upon his return to MI6 Headquarters, Pearce reported that the situation was worse than they had feared: Sauron, unlike what Gandalf had previously said about him, had a physical form, possessed an army, and kept the one thing capable of destroying him on his person.

Months passed. Bond became sidetracked by a former MI6 agent-turned-terrorist, and M grew busy with defending her 00 program to the British government. The Doctor also disappeared into the timestream on his own adventures, though he was involved with two incidents in the 2012 London Olympics: one where he restored the entire crowd of the Olympic Stadium after they briefly vanished (he also lit the Olympic Flame), and one where he prevented the release of a zombification virus^{****}. Despite their absences, the program seemed to be working. The 2012 doomsday phenomenon wound down, especially after an American preacher made not one but two failed predictions of the Rapture within six months of each other^{*****}. All seemed well ... then Sauron was displeased. Realizing that there would soon be too few believers to bring about his end of the world, it was time to take drastic measures. If words wouldn’t make them believe, actions would.

On a November morning, London was awakened with a bang. Sauron and a thousand soldiers stood on Trafalgar Square, their black armor gleaming in spite of the grey clouds blocking the sun. He declared that he was the harbinger of the apocalypse and demonstrated his power by destroying surrounding skyscrapers. Panic ran high, as did belief that the end was nigh. War was declared, and it was time for the big guns to be brought out. The British Army was called onto the scene to do battle with Sauron’s forces, and Harry Potter himself, no longer

caring about hiding his magic skills from the muggles, dueled with the dark lord. American superheroes also joined the battle, including Batman¹⁵, Wolverine¹⁶, John Hancock¹⁷, and Thor¹⁸.

Images of the attack showed that Sauron was without his ring, and a mission was initiated to infiltrate his base and get the Ring. A collection of agents and mercenaries from England and its allies were sent, including a back-in-action James Bond, Jack Bauer of America's Counter-Terrorism Unit¹⁹, and a group of New Orleans mercs who called themselves "The Expendables"²⁰. Surprisingly, they were met by an army of aurors, marking the first time that wizards and muggles openly worked together.

After much hardship, they managed to retrieve the Ring, but the main problem now was that there seemed to be no way to destroy it. However, Gandalf was reminded that Mount Doom was connected to Sauron, and that it would be dormant when he was away ... and active when he was close to it again. King Arthur, the leader of the armies assembled against Sauron, managed to lead the war towards the western shores of England, closer to where the long-sunken land of Middle-Earth lay. Once Sauron was close enough, Arthur put on the Ring so that he would know that Arthur possessed it and where the king was. They clashed one-on-one and fell into the water, sinking quickly because of the weight of their armor, and only too late did Sauron realize that Arthur was being guided by Gandalf's magic into Mount Doom. Sauron's presence caused the volcano to flow anew, and they sank together with the Ring into the reactivated fires. The destruction of the One Ring was confirmed by the HMS *Goliath*, a Royal Navy stealth nuclear submarine stationed nearby the coast of England²¹. The Once and Future King returned from Avalon in Britain's darkest hour, and he sacrificed himself to save the world.

Despite this victory, it was too late to stop some catastrophes from occurring. Earthquakes occurred worldwide, killing millions of people. In California, the Yellowstone Caldera erupted, causing massive damage along the West Coast of the United States. Much of Los Angeles was destroyed in the ensuing ruptures²² and a chunk of the land the city was on even separated from the continent, forming a new island off the coast of the state^{*****}. Thousands perished in the battles, the disasters, and the ensuing chaos. Many bold heroes died in the battles against Sauron besides King Arthur, including the current Batman, whose mantle was taken up by Gotham City Police Detective Robin John Blake^{*****}. More would certainly have lost their lives if not for the efforts of these heroes and the heroic actions of extraordinary civilians and groups - including an upstart Japanese company called Better Living Industries, responsible for bringing much-needed pharmaceuticals and even assistance with both manufacturing and agriculture²³ to afflicted areas.

Despite all the devastation, the apocalypse has been almost entirely averted. Sauron was definitively destroyed, never to return again. The world mourned its dead, celebrated its victories, rebuilt what could be rebuilt, and carried on. Overall, even with the appearance of Sauron and his declarations of doom and destruction, it was nowhere near world-ending and humanity stuck it out through the power of faith - faith in each other, faith in the future, and faith that everything would be alright.

¹The Cthulhu Mythos (book and short story series). More information about them and thoughtform can be found in the entry for *Space Odyssey* (film and book series).

²The King Arthur legends (Celtic/British mythology)

*The similarities between the two seem clear enough to me ...

³*The Lord of the Rings* (book series). Gandalf came back once, surely he could do it again for one final go at Sauron. Background information that is crucial to this whole entry can be found in the entry for that series.

⁴These would be the ancestors of the characters in *My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic* (TV series). More information on this can be found in the entry for that show.

⁵*Black Mirror* (TV series). This is a year before the events of "The National Anthem."

⁶*The Avengers* (TV series)

⁷*James Bond* (film series).

⁸This guy is indeed meant to be the grandson of Indiana Jones, from the film series of the same name. He appears sans the first name (but c'mon, we know it's gotta be Henry) in the 1998 *Fantastic Four Annual*, set in Marvel's Earth-98, where the Marvel characters aged in real-time. The book as a whole isn't canon - sometimes I just pick and choose with my references.

**I recall reading somewhere that J.K. Rowling wrote that Prime Ministers are aware of the existence of the wizarding world.

⁹*Harry Potter* (film series)

¹⁰*Doctor Who* (TV series). The accent implies that this is the Ninth Doctor, played by Christopher Eccleston. Though I admit that David Tennant kills it as the Doctor, Eccleston just doesn't get enough love. Besides, he doesn't seem to have a companion before he meets Rose Tyler in his debut episode, allowing me to have just the Doctor in the group. The incident at the Olympic Stadium does feature Tennant's Tenth Doctor, as it is from the episode "Fear Her."

¹¹The Vogons and the space highway are from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (book). In the beginning of the book, they do destroy the world for this reason, spurring our main characters on their adventures across the galaxy. I couldn't have this happen to the main FM, so I just made it an alternate universe. I've wanted to use this idea, that the Doctor stopped the Vogons, for a long time now and finally found a place for it!

****Skyfall* (film). This movie is set in 2012, so sadly Bond and M can't be in the story for long.

****W. Interestingly, the forest itself is actually much larger, and the real Christopher Robin (son of author A.A. Milne) lived and played in the northeastern section of the woodland. Why would Pooh and friends not explore any further than that? I figured these woods contain a darker secret not meant for the innocent Christopher and his equally innocent friends ...

¹²*Highlander* (film)

*****This comes from the unfinished 2012 zombie-themed music festival documentary film *I Spit on Your Rave*. Wait, what did I just type?

*****Anyone else remember Harold Camping's mathematics-based conclusions that the Rapture would happen in May 2012, and then when that didn't work he said he made a mistake and it would be in October? That was pretty funny.

¹³*Spooks* (TV series)

¹⁴*Mythago Wood* (book series). Originally, Sauron's base was located in a cave in the depths of Sussex Down, beyond the edge of Christopher Robin's Hundred Acre Wood. When researching *Winnie the Pooh* (book series), I learned that the Hundred Acre Wood is meant to be Ashdown Forest in Sussex, which is far larger than a mere hundred acres. I figured, why are they limited

to that small area of a great forest? Maybe there was a dark secret not meant for the innocent boy and his equally innocent friends ... Then I heard about this bigger-on-the-inside fantasy world populated by characters created through what's basically thoughtform, and it just fit so perfectly.

¹⁵*Batman* (comic series). Actually, this would specifically be Terry McGinnis from the cartoon series *Batman Beyond*, the latest in a long line of Batmen. More on that lineage can be seen in the entry for the comic series.

¹⁶*X-Men* (comic series). Logan is a hardy fellow. As for the rest of the X-Men, I'm a little less certain and will make a clearer entry once I get to know more about them.

¹⁷*Hancock* (film). This version of Hancock is not the exactly the same as the film, with the convoluted backstory about gods and angels. This is Hancock as I and plenty of others believe he should have been.

¹⁸*Thor* (comic series). Not a lot of newly-made superheroes these days, which is why most of the ones I named are either long-living or part of a dynasty.

¹⁹*24* (TV series)

²⁰*The Expendables* (film series)

²¹*Deep Trouble* (radio series). While looking up works set in 2012, I found this quirky British radio show from 2005 and just ... found a place for it, I guess.

²²*2012* (film). *Had* to have this in there somewhere, but obviously not the entire thing.

*****This sets the stage for a possible future featuring *Escape from Los Angeles* (film).

*****John Blake is an original character from *The Dark Knight Rises* (film) and the ending implies that he will succeed Bruce Wayne in carrying on the Batman legacy. I figured he'd be perfect as the current Batman.

²³*Danger Days: The True Lives of the Fabulous Killjoys* (album). In the backstory, the largely mysterious "Fires of 2012" lead to the post-apocalyptic wasteland ruled by "BL/ind."

~Though I laid the *very basic* groundwork for the story of how the 2012 apocalypse would go down in the Fiction Multiverse, there's no way it would have been this awesome and detailed without my awesome partners in the FM's subreddit. Many, many thanks to /u/thecnoNSMB, who fleshed out the story and contributed a buttload of ideas, and to /u/ProfUzo, who gave some pertinent information and indirectly inspired quite a few elements of this entry. Also, thank you to /u/Angstangel for coming up with a dynamic for Gandalf and Arthur where he would essentially be his new Merlin, it made me realize that I didn't explain much about the team dynamics and got me to write something for that.