

HEAVY METAL BAND NAMES

HEAVY METAL IS A GENRE OF ROCK distinctive for its loudness, machismo, and theatricality. So it's no wonder that heavy metal band names are similarly theatrical. What is perhaps unexpected is their universally pessimistic slant. You would think being in a heavy metal band is fun: rocking out, hanging with the guys, scoring groupies. Yet most heavy metal names focus on the negative: death, darkness, and rampant misspelling.

Of all the band name charts I've drawn⁽¹⁾, heavy metal band names are the most homogenous in their philosophical worldview. Blackness and darkness are the prevailing themes of heavy metal band

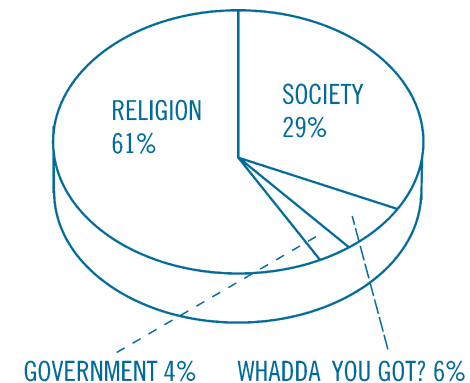
(1) A cappella, Acid jazz, Adai-adai, Ambient, Anti-folk, Appalachia, Bamboo band, Bob Marley tribute bands, Calypso, Celtic Reggae, Delta Blues, Doo wop, Dubtronica, Emo, Ethereal Wave, Futurepop, Garage Bands, Gypsy funk, Hard bop, High School Marching Bands, Jam Bands, Jug bands, Kabuki, Mambo, Muzak, Naked funk, Nerdcore, Nintendocore, Polka, Progressive trance, Quadrille, Raggamuffin, Ramvong, Sacred harp, Sea shanties, Tropicalia, Weird AI, and Zydeco.

names. Heavy metal bands view this darkness as complete and inescapable. Not only do they talk about the darkness in everyday life—Venom, Poison, Anthrax, Anal Apocalypse—they go on to assure viewers that there is no light in the afterlife.

A large percentage of heavy metal band names are open criticisms of modern culture (see *Figure 1: What is Heavy Metal Rebelling Against?*), but their favorite thing to rebel against is definitely organized religion, because it accomplishes multiple goals.

1. It's easy to make fun of God, because ever since the New Testament, he usually turns the other cheek.
2. Biblical words—sabbath, ragnarok, stigmata, testament—sound badass, and are closely related to three secondary heavy metal band name categories: arcane words, death, and medieval.

FIGURE 1: WHAT IS HEAVY METAL REBELLING AGAINST?



3. You gotta rebel against something. Why not religion?

Religious oxymorons like Black Sabbath and Shotgun Messiah create especially memorable names. Their popularity suggest that heavy metal bands are attracted to the hardcore cache of the badass, vengeful God of the Old Testament while

simultaneously repelled by the loving Jesus of the New Testament.

I often see interesting shapes emerge when I'm charting a subject, but even I was shocked when, during my work on this chart, a flaming pentagram appeared in the middle of the page. It emerged suddenly, accompanied by a clap of thunder that shook my house and stopped all the clocks at midnight. Just as suddenly as it appeared, it disappeared, leaving nothing but the stench of sulfur and a burn mark on my Ikea coffee table (its name is Ölm—note the umlaut). The debate that raged in the 1980s about the link between heavy metal and Satan worshipping can now be put to rest: heavy metal is the Devil's music. This explains the

popularity of the sign of the horns as a heavy metal gesture, and the comparative obscurity of the unicorn horn gesture. (See *Figure 2: Know Your Horns.*) This does not, however, mean that listening to metal automatically makes you a Satan worshipper, it simply means you and Satan have one more thing in common besides enjoying porn.

An interesting aspect of heavy metal band names is the large percentage of arcane, foreign, misspelled, or completely made up words: Queensryche, Pantera, Motley Crue, Megadeth, Agathodaimon, Ratt. Their usage seems to be a band's way of saying "We don't belong to this world, we don't speak your language . . . now get out of my room."

Of the foreign words heavy metal bands appropriate, most are German or Scandinavian. A few are Spanish, and none are French. (See *Figure 3: Badass Ranking of Foreign Languages.*) Germanic languages are an obvious choice because of their universally menacing tones and bitchin' umlauts (even my coffee table's name sounds tough). As an added bonus, the blackletter fonts associated with Germany look great on T-shirts and album covers, and can make any word look badass. (See *Figure 4: Logo for the Death Metal Band Bunny Hug.*) Just because a band name isn't German, that doesn't mean it can't have an umlaut or three. Why? *Why not.* The answer is bold in its simplicity, and typifies the heavy metal band's disregard for rules both societal and grammatical.

FIGURE 2: KNOW YOUR HORNS

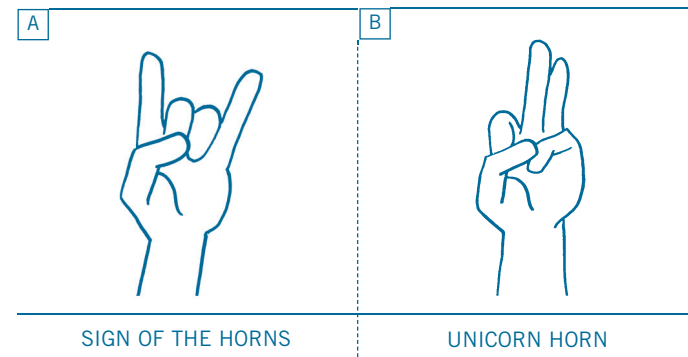


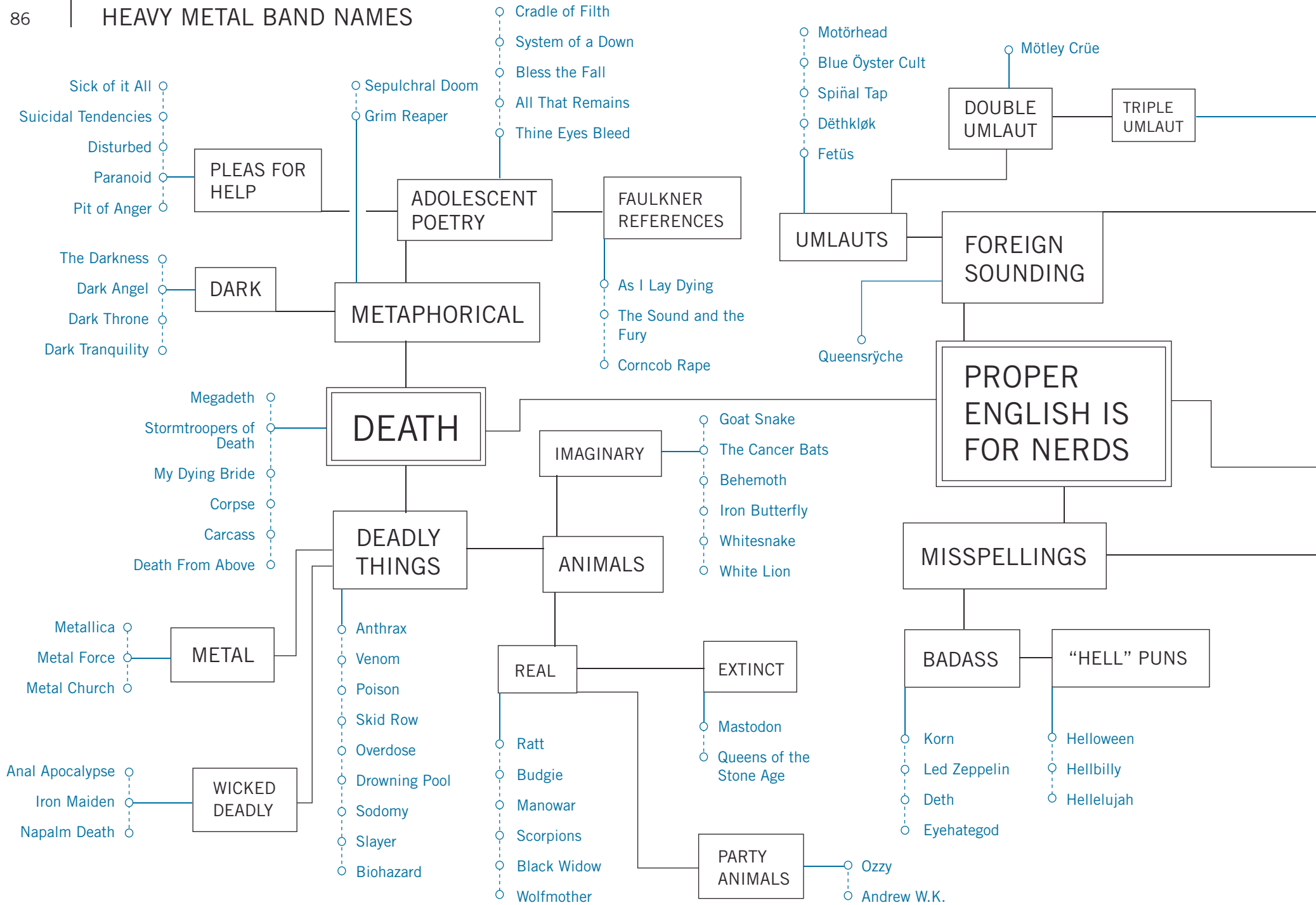
FIGURE 3: BADASS RANKING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. German | 6. Italian |
| 2. Russian | 7. American |
| 3. Spanish | 8. French |
| 4. Cockney | 9. British |
| English | 10. Indian |
| 5. Japanese | 11. Chinese |

FIGURE 4: LOGO FOR THE DEATH METAL BAND BUNNY HUG



HEAVY METAL BAND NAMES



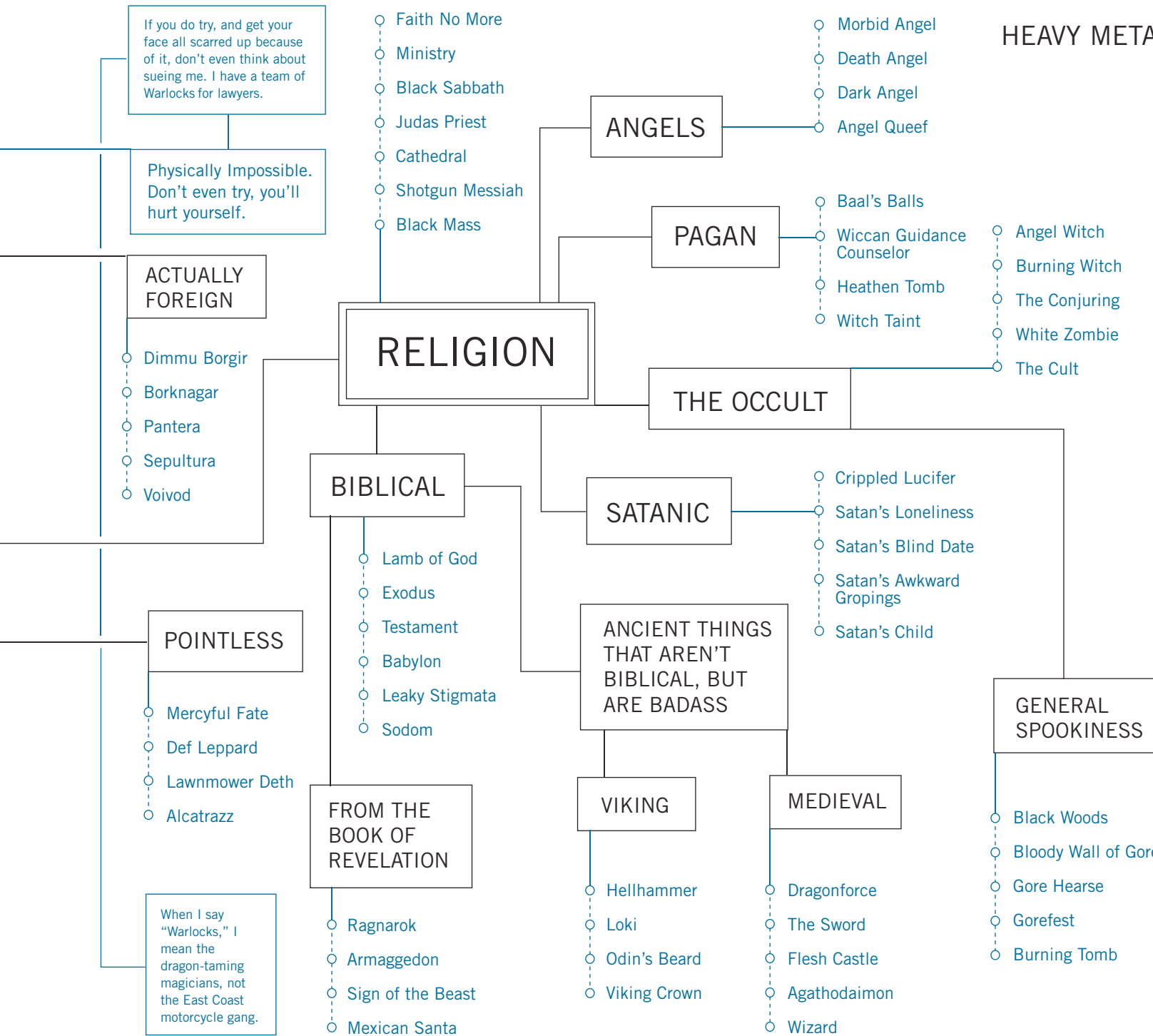


FIGURE 5: CURRENTLY AVAILABLE, COPYRIGHT-FREE HEAVY METAL BAND NAMES

- Gun Knife
- Pregnancy StairKase
- Judas' Hammer
- Lord Metal and his Axe-Slingers of Death
- Murder Wizard
- SliKK Kitty
- Baby Graveyard
- Angel Smashers
- A Quiet Party in Hell for Two
- Anger Force
- The Drums of the Anti-christ
- Spies of Saruman
- Transylvania Pie
- Lovecraftian Tryst
- Rapelings from Planet X
- Goddkil
- Gargoyle Nightmare
- Hitlarious
- Heavenshitt
- Edje Ridor
- Curb Stomp Tango
- Belt of Souls
- Purgatory
- Spleen Karkass
- Death Ride
- At the Summit of Mt. Sorrow
- Rings of the Succubus
- Sword Cunt
- Handicapped Sacrifice
- Premature Decapitation

STAND-UP COMEDY

MANY PEOPLE THINK COMEDY is an art, but in actuality it is an exact science just like math, physics, or greyhound racing. As such, it has proven laws and equations that, if followed, will result in surefire laughs. I realize this may come as a surprise to you, since—to the casual observer—it seems like stand-up comedians are pouring their hearts and souls out on stage, relating unique anecdotes and observations; a small percentage of comedians actually *are*, but these suckers are doing it the hard way. Nobody likes these smarty-pants, and they always have to sit at a table by themselves in the comedy cafeteria. (See *Figure 1: Which Comedian Would you Rather Be?*)

The hilarious poet Robert Frost said it best in his poem “The Road Not Taken”:

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the far easier road,
the one with road signs,
and now I'm a famous and rich comedian.*

FIGURE 1: WHICH COMEDIAN WOULD YOU RATHER BE?



A. RED SKELTON

Made funny faces, fell down a lot. Imitated an idiot named Clem Kaddidlehopper, and a toddler whose catch phrase was “I dood it!” Died rich and beloved at the age of 84.

B. LENNY BRUCE

Skewered society with his razor sharp, insightful wit. Arrested multiple times for obscenity and drug possession. Junkie. Died on a bathroom floor, ruined and penniless at the age of 41.

Correct answer: A

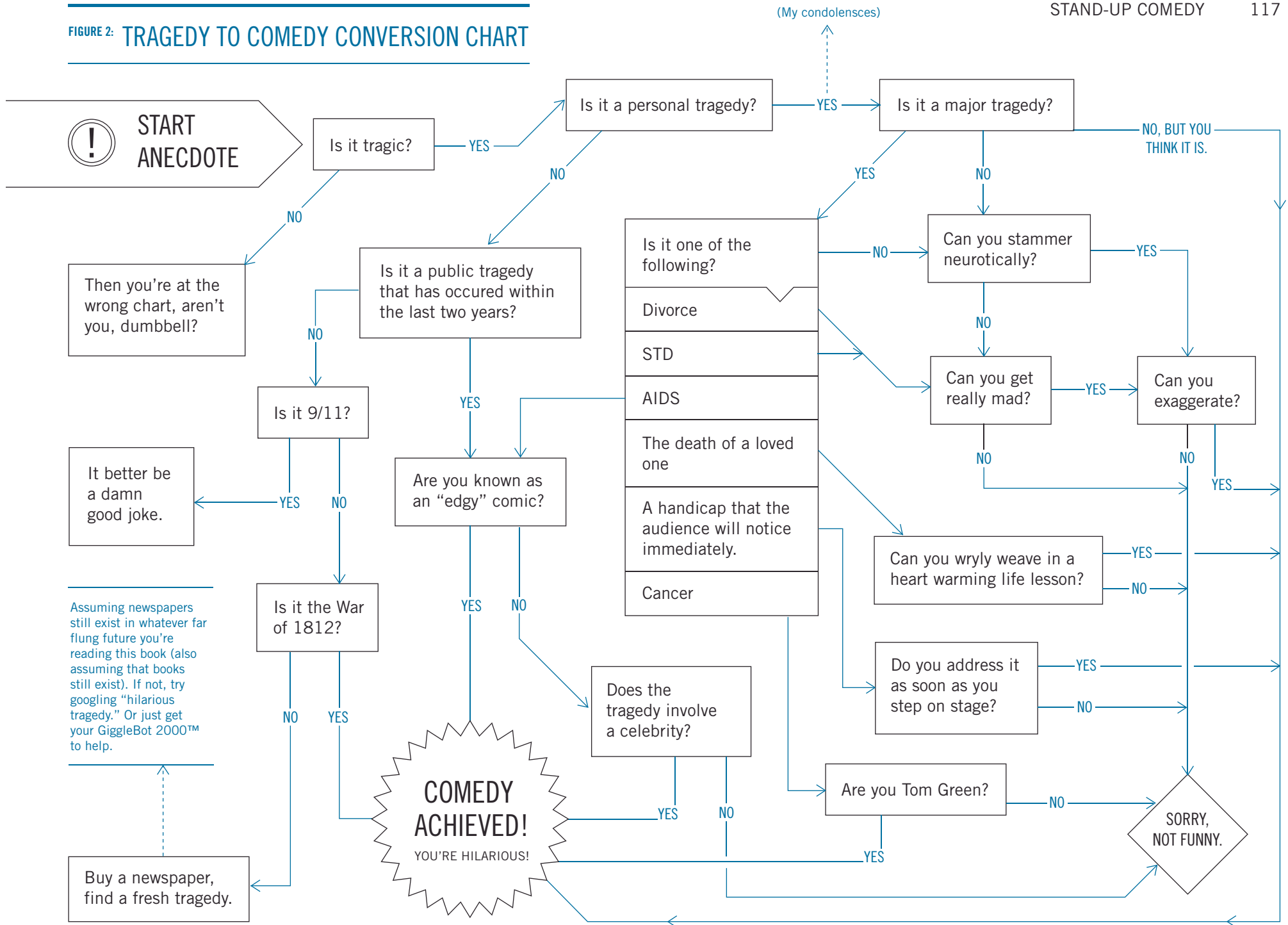
The Road Not Taken was the last poem Robert Frost ever wrote, because after that he was able to afford a ghostwriter. Ghostwriters are worth considering if you like to be on stage and have

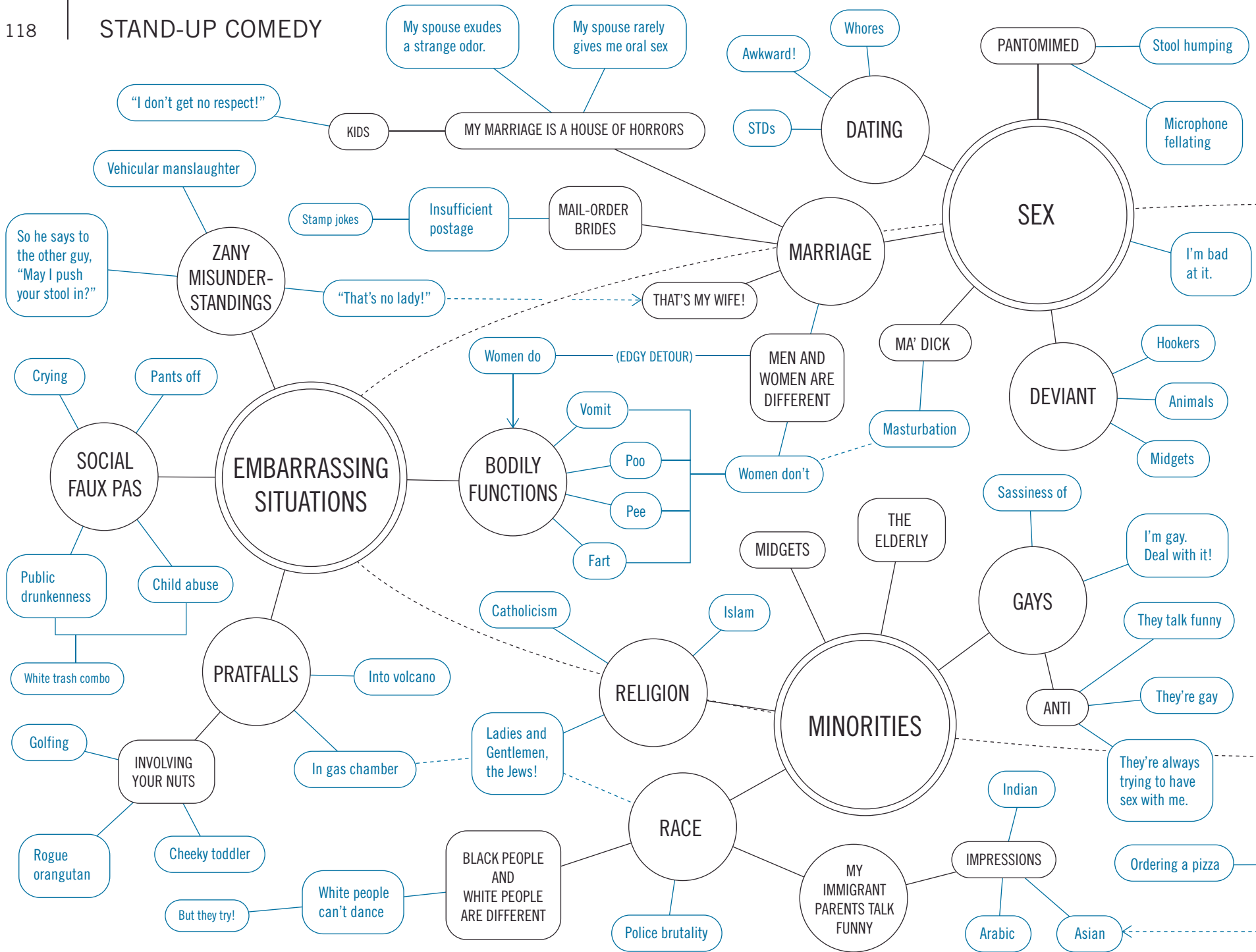
everyone listen to you, but don’t actually care what you’re screaming about.

If you insist on writing your own semi-original material, then I can deduce that you lead a tortured and tragic life, since you always insist on doing things the hard way. Well you’re in luck, because having a crappy life is a surefire recipe for comedy meat loaf! (Note: everyone loves meat loaf.) It’s a paradoxical truth that the sweet fruits of comedy often grow from the bitter soil of tragedy. But how do you achieve this alchemy? How do you turn the lead bricks of tragedy into comedy gold? Luckily for you there’s the Tragedy to Comedy conversion chart. (See *Figure 2: Tragedy to Comedy Conversion Chart*.) That’s right, two comedy charts for the price of one! Now you can turn your shitty life into shitty jokes. Who’s laughing now? That’s right: everybody—at you⁽¹⁾.

(1) In a good way

FIGURE 2: TRAGEDY TO COMEDY CONVERSION CHART





"I don't get no respect!"

KIDS

MY MARRIAGE IS A HOUSE OF HORRORS

My spouse exudes a strange odor.

My spouse rarely gives me oral sex

Awkward!

Whores

PANTOMIMED

Stool humping

STDs

DATING

Microphone fellating

SEX

I'm bad at it.

Vehicular manslaughter

ZANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS

So he says to the other guy, "May I push your stool in?"

Stamp jokes

Insufficient postage

MAIL-ORDER BRIDES

MARRIAGE

THAT'S MY WIFE!

"That's no lady!"

Women do

(EDGY DETOUR)

MEN AND WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT

MA' DICK

DEVIAN'T

Hookers

Animals

Midgets

Crying

Pants off

SOCIAL FAUX PAS

EMBARRASSING SITUATIONS

BODILY FUNCTIONS

Vomit

Poo

Pee

Fart

Women don't

Masturbation

Sassiness of

I'm gay. Deal with it!

They talk funny

They're gay

ANTI

They're always trying to have sex with me.

Public drunkenness

Child abuse

PRATFALLS

Into volcano

White trash combo

Catholicism

Islam

RELIGION

MINORITIES

MIDGETS

THE ELDERLY

GAYS

Golfing

INVOLVING YOUR NUTS

In gas chamber

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Jews!

RACE

MY IMMIGRANT PARENTS TALK FUNNY

IMPRESSIONS

Indian

Arabic

Asian

Ordering a pizza

Rogue orangutan

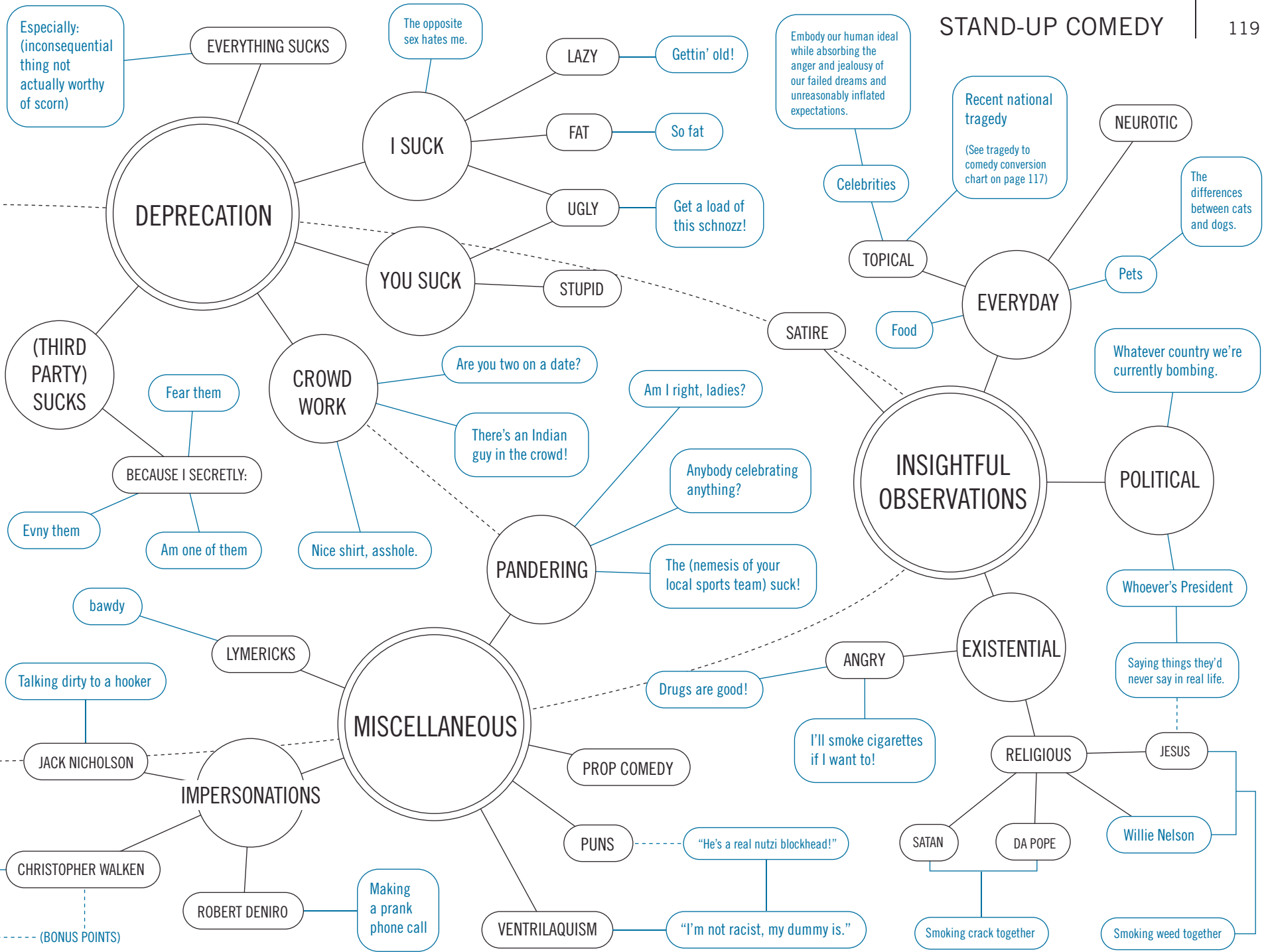
Cheeky toddler

BLACK PEOPLE AND WHITE PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT

Police brutality

But they try!

White people can't dance



TATTOOS

YOU WANT TO GET A TATTOO, but you don't know what tattoo to get. You realize that the right tattoo could transform your life: motivate you to take that cross-country motorcycle trip, get that hot barista at Starbucks to notice you, and make your big belt buckle appear un-ironic. But you also know that the wrong tattoo could ruin your life: get you kicked out of drama club, send unintended secret messages to bisexuals, and prevent you from wearing short sleeves at family reunions.

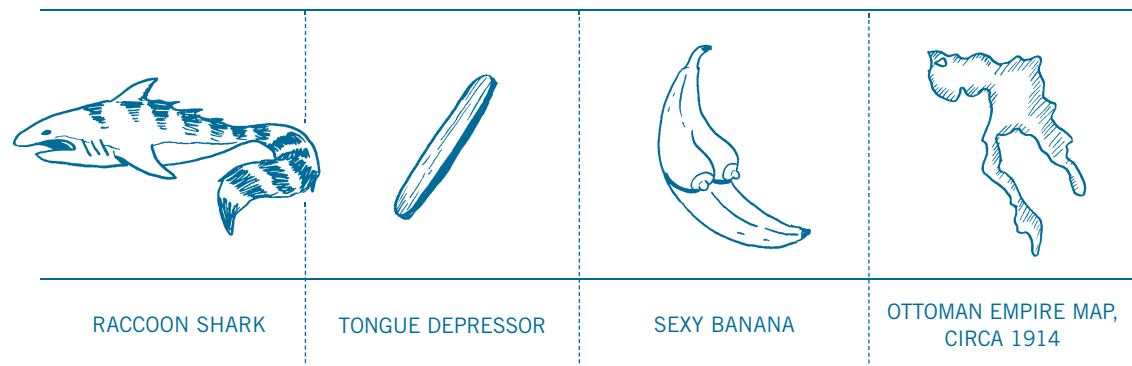
Choosing what tattoo to get is literally the most important decision you will ever make in your entire life, and if you accuse me of hyperbole I will never forgive you in a billion years. Like most important decisions, choosing a tattoo is something you're not qualified to do on your own, which is the same reason we have the electoral college. Luckily for you there is now a flowchart to answer the question that your pastor is too holier-than-thou to help you with.

Using a combination of statistics, psychology, science, and good old-fashioned witchcraft, the Perfect Tattoo Flowchart™ is guaranteed to lead you to a tattoo that's right for you. Perhaps you're thinking "But I don't want a tattoo off a chart, I want a totally unique, one-of-a-kind tattoo, to reflect my completely unique and special-like-a-snowflake personality." I hate to break it to you, but there are no unique tattoos left, and snowflakes are an optical illusion created by swamp gas. Everything that can be tattooed onto a person (or pot-bellied pig) has been, except for the

following four tattoos (*see Figure 1: The Only Tattoos that Haven't Been Used Yet*), and depending on when you read this, those tattoos may have been taken too, probably by Johnny Depp.

Choosing a tattoo is a two-part process. You must not only choose the tattoo, but also its placement on your body, which will affect the tattoo's meaning. (*See Figure 2: Who Should Get Tattoos in the Following Places?*) If you go into the tattoo shop and don't specify where you want that ink, it could end up anywhere,

FIGURE 1: THE ONLY TATTOOS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN USED YET, BUT NOW THAT THEY'RE IN A BOOK, HAVE PROBABLY BEEN USED



even on someone else. Here's an example of how the same tattoo in different locations sends vastly different messages.

- **American flag on arm:** You're a proud patriot.
- **American flag on thigh:** You're a patriot, but only willing to reveal that information to certain people.
- **American flag on butt:** You're unpatriotic.
- **American flag on forehead:** You're a psycho.
- **American flag covering entire face and both fists:** You're a government engineered superhero.

People often decide to get a tattoo because of a dramatic life change—a difficult breakup, whirlwind summer in Thailand, or mob initiation ceremony. Be careful not to let the emotional turmoil of that moment cloud your tattoo judgment. Remember that that tattoo is going to be inscribed in your flesh for the rest of your life, until the day you die and are denied burial in a Jewish cemetery because you defaced your body and broke your grandmother's heart—you monster.

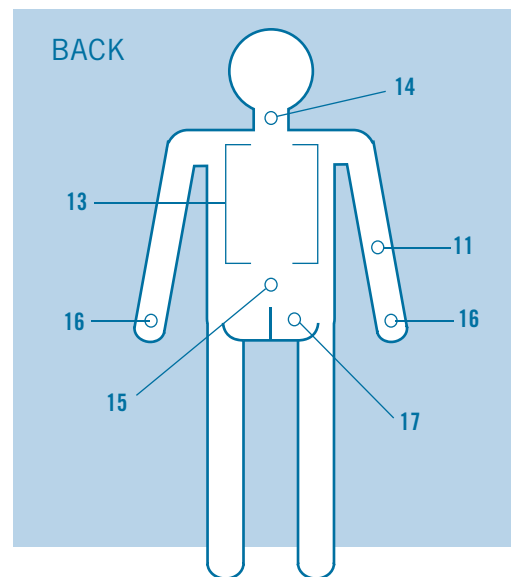
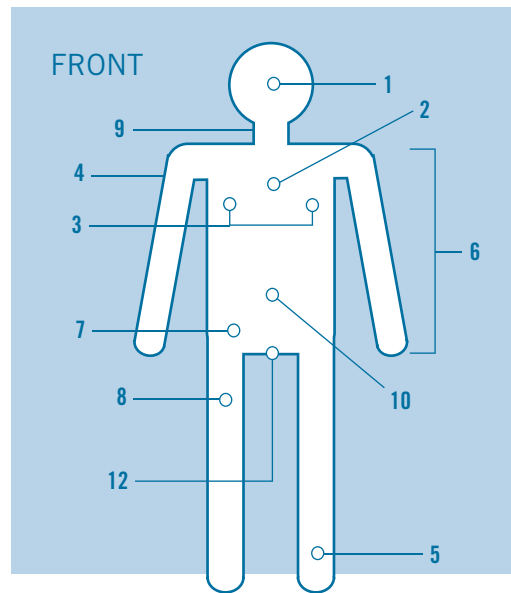


FIGURE 2: WHO SHOULD GET TATTOOS IN THE FOLLOWING BODY LOCATIONS?

1. **FACE:** Carnies, Prize Fighters, Heavy Metal Drummers, Jailhouse Snitches
2. **STERNUM:** Secret Society Members, Assassins, Prisoners, Tortured Souls
3. **BOOBS (FEMALES ONLY):** Burlesque Dancers, Exhibitionists, Crazy Bitches
4. **UPPER ARM:** Normal People, Average Joes, Plumbers
5. **ANKLE:** Islanders, Surfers, Cowards
6. **FULL SLEEVE:** Bikers, Artists, Lead Guitarists
7. **PELVIS:** Sexy Divorcees, Cock Teases
8. **THIGH:** Introverts, Bassists
9. **NECK:** Serious Customers, Thugs, Mixed Martial Arts Experts, Bus Drivers with Mysterious Pasts
10. **STOMACH:** Optimists, Rappers
11. **FOREARM:** Sailors, Baristas, Truckers
12. **GENITALS: MALE:** Perverts, Rapists, Porn Stars
FEMALE: Dancers, Suicide Girls, my Ex-Girlfriend
13. **FULL BACK:** Yakuza, Freaky Hot Chics, Patriots
14. **BACK OF NECK:** Dystopia Worker Drones, Buddhists
15. **LOWER BACK:** Tramps, Hos, Young Naifs
16. **PALMS:** Wizards, Witches, Hypnotists
17. **BUTT:** Party Animals, Drunks, Steve O., You



START

Are you a relatively normal person who just thinks it would be kind of cool to get a very small tattoo in a subtle location?

- STAR
- CELTIC KNOT
- SWALLOW
- YOUR ZODIAC SIGN
- SOME PHRASE IN LATIN
- BUTTERFLY

Please proceed to column 2 on page 134, ma'am.

Do you defy gender stereotypes?

Are you badass?

ONCE YOU GET THIS TATTOO YOU WILL BE

- SKULL + flames, top hat
- SNAKE
- SPIDER
- SCORPION + erect phallus
- PANTHER + clawing his way out of your skin

Are you a trucker?

Have you recently lost a friend or loved one?

- THEIR FACE
- THEIR NAME
- "IN LOVING MEMORY"
- BIGGIE
- TUPAC
- + angels, R.I.P.

Are you in love?

- THE NAME OF YOUR BEAU
- THE NAME OF YOUR CHILD
- MOM
- + banner, heart, nice scripty font

Are you a woman?

- NAKED LADY
- SEXY ROBOT
- DISEMBODIED VAGINA
- HULA GIRL
- FEMALE DRAGON
- NAKED ANGEL
- TIGER LADY
- BARBARIAN LADY
- DOLLY PARTON
- SEXY ALIEN
- + snake, jungle cat, uzi, viking helmet, come-hither glance

Do you never want to be stuck without something to masturbate to?

Why not?

- YOUR RIG
- YOUR RIG'S NAME
- A LONE WOLF + full moon
- YOSEMITE SAM

Are you in prison?

- DEMON RAPING ANGEL
- PENTAGRAM + goat's head
- 666
- DEVIL PIMP
- HOT DEVIL CHIC
- DEMON FETUS + smoking blunt

- BLEEDING JESUS ON CRUCIFIX + flames, barbed wire
- CROWN OF THORNS
- JESUS HOLDING LAMB
- ANGEL AND DEMON GRAPPLING
- VIRGIN MARY
- THE SACRED HEART

Do you love Jesus, but in a badass kind of way?

YOU PREFER SATAN

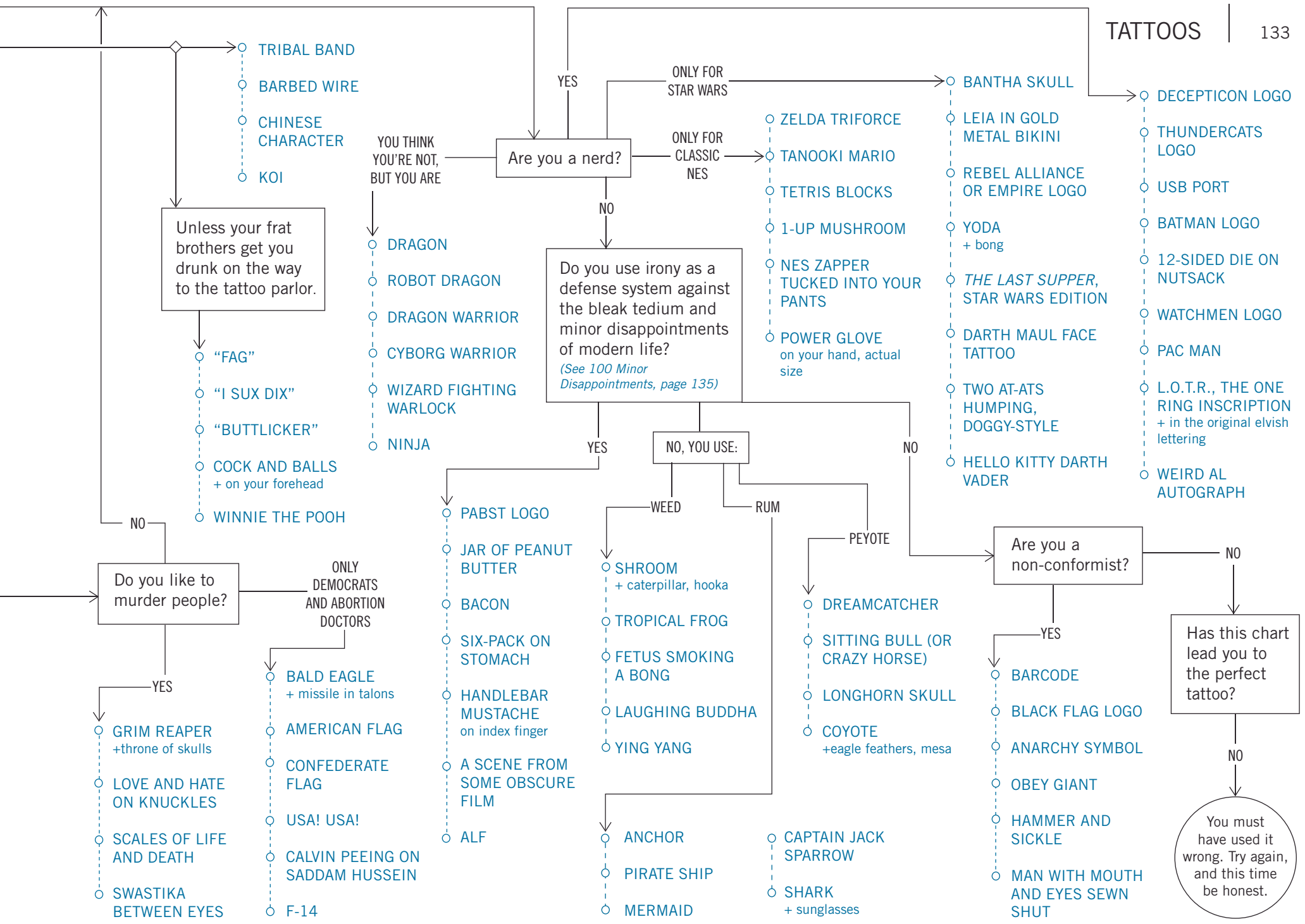
AND YOU ENJOY THE ARTWORK OF THE RENAISSANCE

- THE LAST SUPPER
- MICHELANGELO'S LAST JUDGEMENT

- A TEAR FOR EVERY PERSON YOU'VE KILLED
- SPIDERWEB
- ACE OF SPADES RIDDLED WITH BULLET HOLES
- CLOCK WITHOUT HANDS

- IN RUSSIA
- ORTHODOX CHURCH + 1 minaret for every year in prison
- CRUCIFIX ON CHEST
- TOMCAT

- NOT YET
- "THUG LIFE"
- AK-47
- SCARFACE
- PIMP ROLLING DICE
- ALIEN PIMP





HELLO LADIES

(You look especially lovely this evening.)

Do you believe in magic?

- FAIRY +riding dragonfly, mushroom
- PREGNANT FAIRY + lilies
- DANCING WOOD NYMPH
- SORCERESS
- UNICORN

Do you believe in true love?

- HEART + together forever, roses

NOT ANYMORE

- "TRUST NO MAN, FEAR NO BITCH"
- BROKEN HEART
- HEART PIERCED BY DAGGER
- HEART-SHAPED PADLOCK
- THE TATTOO YOU GOT OF YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND'S NAME POORLY COVERED BY HUGE TATTOO OF A BLACK ROSE

What a sad life you must live

Are you pure and sweet?

- ANGEL WINGS ON BACK
- ANGEL
- CHERUB
- CUPCAKE
- DOVE
- WHITE LILY

- PLAYBOY BUNNY
- TRAMP STAMP +hearts, butterfly, tribal

Are you a classy dame?

- FLEUR DE LIS
- RIBBON AND BOW
- STARS
- DEMURE GEISHA

Are you a sexy bitch?

- JAGUAR SPOTS
- "SEXY BITCH"
- TIGER PAW
- "CHOCOLATE CAKE" on ass, works only for black girls
- A SEXY BITCH + nude, eating a cherry

Have you matured at all since you were ten years old?

- WINNIE THE POOH
- EEYORE
- SNOW WHITE
- CINDERELLA
- BETTY BOOP
- TINKERBELL
- MINNIE MOUSE

Do you love nature?

- PUPPY
- KITTEN
- BEAR CUB
- BABY SEAL
- ONLY BABY ANIMALS
- ONLY FLOWERS
- ONLY THE AQUATIC PORTIONS
- DOLPHIN
- MANATEE
- STARFISH
- SEASHELL
- NARWHALE
- BUTTERFLY
- TREE OF LIFE
- SUN AND MOON
- NAKED WOMAN CUDDLING LION
- CLIMBING VINES
- RAINBOW
- LOTUS BLOSSOM
- ROSE
- LILY
- SUNFLOWER

Has this chart lead you to the perfect tattoo?

- CHERRIES
- SWALLOW
- OLD SAILOR TATTOOS
- HORSESHOE
- STARS
- PIN-UP GIRL
- FLAMES on nipples and vagina
- ANY TATTOO YOU'D EXPECT TO SEE ON AN OLD MAN.

Find some other way to reinvent yourself.

- PIERCING
- SEXUAL ORIENTATION REVERSAL
- BUDDHISM * see page 17

(from *Tattoos* chart, page 133)

100 MINOR DISAPPOINTMENTS

1. Fortune cookie empty
2. Antique worthless
3. Puppy too sleepy to play
4. Hot tub tepid
5. Mall Santa slightly Asian
6. Long story pointless
7. Spouse aging
8. Caricature looks nothing like you
9. Potato chips baked
10. Savages not noble
11. Picnic rained out
12. Summer camp friends drift apart in the Fall
13. Au pair not attractive; not even French
14. Vacation too short
15. Revenge hollow
16. *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*
17. Mentor lecherous
18. Sasquatch sighting faked
19. Outfit that looked great in the store looks not so great at home
20. Cookies eaten by roommate
21. Grandparents racist
22. Amish village touristy
23. Organic food unhealthy
24. Pancakes too filling
25. Company outing businesslike
26. Triscuits unsalted
27. Twist ending predictable
28. Crossword puzzle difficult
29. Magic eye picture not working
30. Comedian tragic
31. Birthday ignored
32. Presents crappy
33. No free refills on soda
34. Prayer unanswered
35. Nature buggy
36. Ebay bid outbid
37. Innocence slowly eroding
38. Sex anticlimactic
39. Star Wars prequels
40. Party not wild
41. "Best years of your life" okay
42. Nostalgia unwarranted
43. Foreign film hard to follow
44. New haircut funky—and not in a good way
45. Swimsuit unflattering
46. Master's degree useless
47. Foreplay cursory
48. New sweater not complimented
49. Blog unread
50. Limerick not bawdy
51. Toast burnt
52. Poem unintentionally hilarious
53. Daughter plain
54. Altoids not as intense as their marketing claims
55. Hero rude
56. Bin Laden uncaptured
57. Cat unaffectionate
58. Baby ugly
59. Sermon soporific
60. Imported cheese smelly
61. Portion too small
62. Fancy cigar tastes like a bundle of burning leaves
63. Really cute heels uncomfortable
64. Leftover french fries inedible
65. Beach crowded
66. Beloved film from your childhood not as good as you remember it
67. Three-day weekend squandered
68. Role model sexist
69. Boxing match civilized
70. Chicken salad sandwich dry
71. Dog disobedient
72. Season finale inscrutable
73. No room for dessert
74. Youth fleeting
75. Second place
76. Psychiatrist preoccupied
77. Old person not full of wisdom
78. Art unappreciated
79. Retirement boring
80. Christmas not white
81. Circus ratty
82. Fortune-teller vague
83. Effects of exercise regiment gradual
84. Solar eclipse unimpressive
85. Vending machine out of order
86. Soda flat
87. Expensive wine's taste indistinguishable from regular wine
88. Buffet selection limited
89. New cubicle same as old cubicle
90. Sequel not as good as original
91. Awesome dream just a dream
92. Son not good enough to play major league ball
93. Pen pal poor speller
94. Lap dance perfunctory
95. High five left hangin'
96. Scrabble triple word score word disputed
97. Inspirational quote uninspiring
98. Monkeyhouse closed for cleaning
99. Disappointment list one disappointment short