NUMBERS AND NARRATIVE: MODELING, STORY TELLING AND INVESTING

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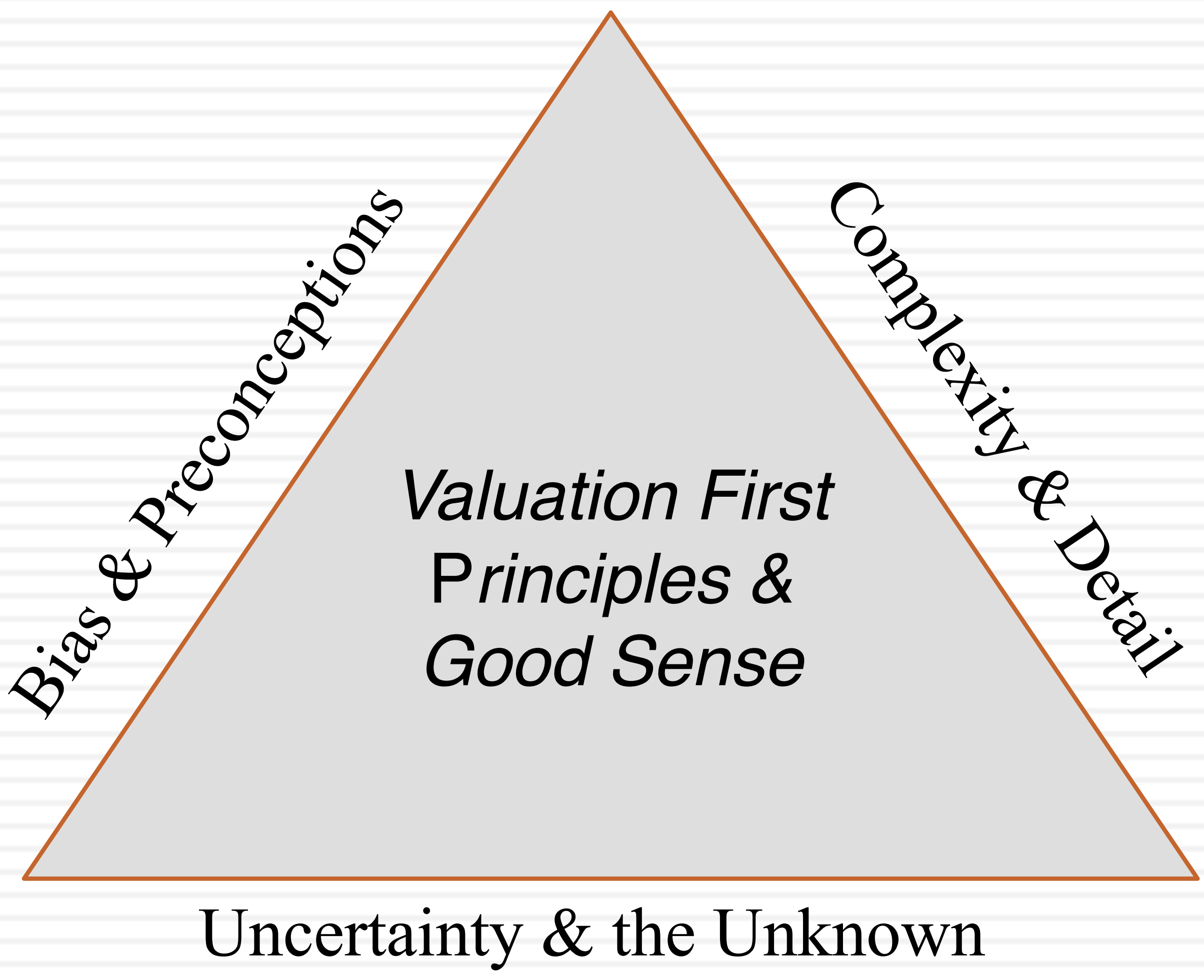
Valuation: Science, Art or Something else?

- In a science, if you get the inputs right, you should get the output right. The laws of physics and mathematics are universal and there are no exceptions. **Valuation is not a science**.
- In an art, there are elements that can be taught but there is also a magic that you either have or you do not. The essence of an art is that you are either a great artist or you are not. **Valuation is not an art.**
- A craft is a skill that you learn <u>by doing</u>. The more you do it, the better you get at it. **Valuation is a craft.**

The Bermuda Triangle of Valuation



Intrinsic Valuation 101

DCF: Unraveling the Mysteries

- The value of a risky asset can be estimated by discounting the expected cash flows on the asset over its life at a risk-adjusted discount rate:

$$\text{Value of asset} = \frac{E(CF_1)}{(1+r)} + \frac{E(CF_2)}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{E(CF_3)}{(1+r)^3} \ldots.. + \frac{E(CF_n)}{(1+r)^n}$$

1. *The IT Proposition*: If "it" does not affect the cash flows or alter risk (thus changing discount rates), "it" cannot affect value.
2. *The DUH Proposition*: For an asset to have value, the expected cash flows have to be positive some time over the life of the asset.
3. *The DON'T FREAK OUT Proposition*: Assets that generate cash flows early in their life will be worth more than assets that generate cash flows later; the latter may however have greater growth and higher cash flows to compensate.

The Key Questions in valuation…

What is the **value added** by growth assets?
Equity: Growth in equity earnings/ cashflows
Firm: Growth in operating earnings/ cashflows

What are the **cashflows from existing assets**?
- Equity: Cashflows after debt payments
- Firm: Cashflows before debt payments

How **risky are the cash flows** from both existing assets and growth assets?
Equity: Risk in equity in the company
Firm: Risk in the firm's operations

When will the firm become a **mature firm**, and what are the potential roadblocks?

Theme 3: Good valuation = Story + Numbers

Appeal
Numbers provide a sense of control, a sense of precision and the appearance of objectivity.

The Number crunchers

Dangers
Without narratives to back them up, numbers can be easily manipulated, used to hide bias or to intimidate those not in the loop.

A Good Valuation
Story + Numbers

Appeal
Stories are more easily remembered than numbers and connect with human emotions.

The Storytellers

Dangers
Stories that are not anchored to or connected with numbers can veer into fairy tales, leading to unreal valuations.

DCF as a tool for intrinsic valuation

Value of growth
The future cash flows will reflect expectations of how quickly earnings will grow in the future (as a positive) and how much the company will have to reinvest to generate that growth (as a negative). The net effect will determine the value of growth.
Expected Cash Flow in year t = E(CF) = Expected Earnings in year t - Reinvestment needed for growth

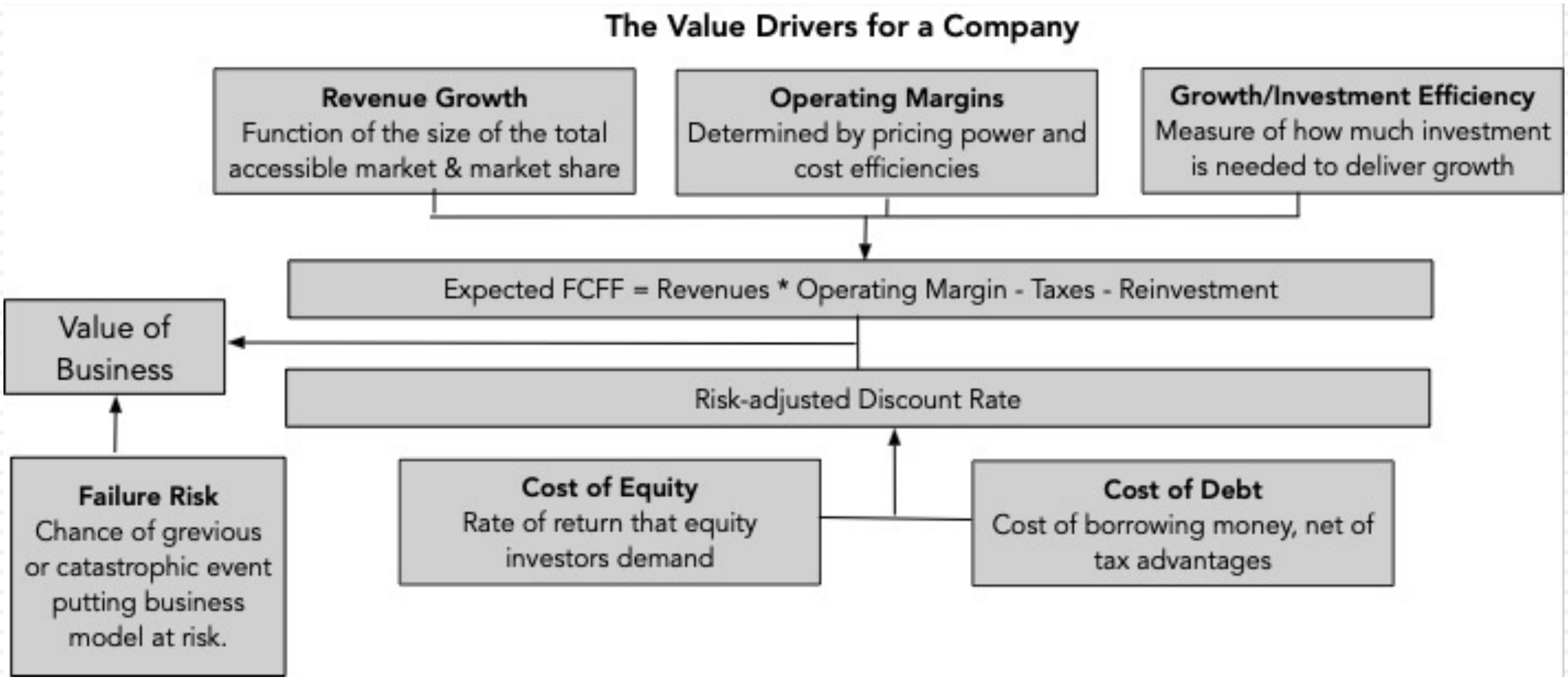
Cash flows from existing assets
The base earnings will reflect the earnings power of the existing assets of the firm, net of taxes and any reinvestment needed to sustain the base earnings.

$$\text{Value of asset} = \frac{E(CF_1)}{(1+r)} + \frac{E(CF_2)}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{E(CF_3)}{(1+r)^3} \ldots.. + \frac{E(CF_n)}{(1+r)^n}$$

Steady state
The value of growth comes from the capacity to generate excess returns. The length of your growth period comes from the strength & sustainability of your competitive advantages.

Risk in the Cash flows
The risk in the investment is captured in the discount rate as a beta in the cost of equity and the default spread in the cost of debt.

And Business Drivers that determine value…



1. Revenue Growth

Revenue Growth and Magnitude

Market Size and Growth

1. *Current Market size:* The size of the market for the company's products & services, given geography it is targeting and product type.
2. *Expected Growth in Market*: Gowth in total market, as technology and market conditions change.

X

Market Share

1. *Company's current market share*: If company's current market share is low, potential for growth in market share at expense of competition.
2. *Industry economics*: Nature of the business (a few big winners or splintered competition).
3. *Strength of company's competitive advantages*: Stronger and more sustainable competitive advantages should allow for higher market share.

The potential for revenue growth is greater for companies with small revenues (and market share) in a big and growing market, especially if the company has strong competitive advantages in winner-take-all businesses.

2. Target Margins (and path there)…

Operating Margin: Target and Pathway

Target Operating Margin → **Pathway to Profitability**

Target Operating Margin

1. *Unit Economics*: Profits on extra unit sold (Gross Margins), as percent of price, with higher profitability going with higher operating margin.
2. *Economies of scale*: Costs growth relative to revenue growth, with greater economies of scale allowing for higher margins.
3. *Competition*: Pricing behavior among competitors, with more aggressive pricing leading to lower margins.

Pathway to Profitability

1. *Company's current operating margin:* The lower a company's current margin, relative to the target, the steeper the path to profitability.
2. *Profitability versus Growth trade off:* Companies that put growth ahead of profitability will wait longer before getting to target margin.
3. *Business model:* The more well formed a business model, the speedier the pathway to the target margin.

While all companies would like higher margins in steady state, the level of these margins will be determined by the sector in which a firm operates and its choice of business model, and the speed with which you move towards those target margins will be determined by a company's ambitions and business model choices.

3. Sales to Invested Capital: A Pathway to estimating Reinvestment

Sales to Invested Capital: Reinvestment

Current (Historical) Sales to Capital

The sales to invested capital ratio relates the revenues of the firm to its invested capital, with the latter defined the same way that you would in the return on invested capital calculation.

Sales to Capital
= Revenues/ (Book Equity + Book Debt – Cash)

The ratio measures the efficiency with which a firm delivers its revenue growth, with higher values indicating more efficiency. You can look at:

1. The company's historical sales to capital ratio
2. The industry average sales to capital ratio

→

Future Sales to Capital

1. Scaling Effects: As companies get bigger, the sales to invested capital ratio can rise or fall, depending on the sector being analyzed. (Looking at the peer group may give some guidance).
2. Excess Capacity: If a company has excess capacity, created by past investments, it should be able to generate revenue growth with less investment, i.e., with higher sales to capital ratios.
3. Lag between investment and growth: If reinvestment creates growth quickly (or instantaneously), the reinvestment in a year can be estimated based upon revenue change in that year. If there is a lag, the reinvestment may have to be tied to revenue change in a future year.

A company with higher expected growth in revenues will need to reinvest more, though how much will be determined by the businesss that it operates in, with less reinvestment needed if it has excess capacity and a lag between reinvestment and growth.

Stories or Numbers?

What are you?

- If you were asked to categorize yourself, would you more naturally think of yourself as a
  a) Numbers Person
  b) Story Person
  c) Not sure
- When did you make this decision and how has it affected your educational and career choices?
- At your current job or position, do you find yourself hanging out with people who are like you (in inclination and training)?

Dueling Perspectives

- **Numbers people** believe that
  - valuation should be about numbers
  - narratives/stories are distractions that bring in irrationalities into investing.
- **Narratives people** believe that
  - valuation and investing is really about great stories
  - it is the height of hubris to try to estimate numbers, when you face uncertainty.
- They speak different languages and often past each other.

The delusions of the number crunchers

- The illusion of precision: If you use numbers, you are being more precise than when you don't, and the more numbers you use, the more precise you become.
- The illusion of "no bias": Numbers don't lie and data does not have an agenda. Thus, analysts who use numbers are more likely to be unbiased.
- The illusion of control: If you put a number on something (your cash flows, expected growth rate, risk etc.), you can control it better.

The delusions of the story tellers

1. Number crunchers don't dream in technicolour: Creativity and Numbers are mutually exclusive. If you talk about numbers, you cannot be creative, and if you are being creative, talk about numbers only crimps your creative instincts.
2. Creativity is deserving of reward: If your story is good, your business will success and your investment will pay off.
3. Experience is the best teacher: If you have pulled this off before (started and succeeded at running a business), your story is more believable.

Bridging the Gap

Favored Tools
- Accounting statements
- Excel spreadsheets
- Statistical Measures
- Pricing Data

A Good Valuation

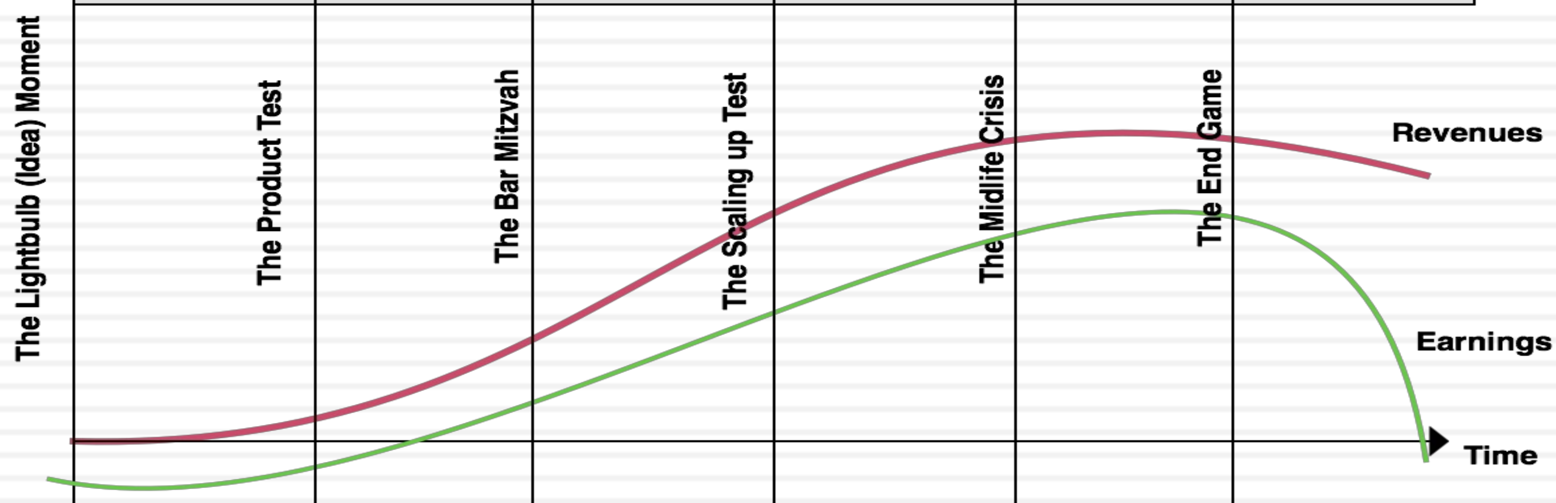
Favored Tools
- Anecdotes
- Experience (own or others)
- Behavioral evidence

The Numbers People ⟷ The Narrative People

Illusions/Delusions
1. Precision: Data is precise
2. Objectivity: Data has no bias
3. Control: Data can control reality

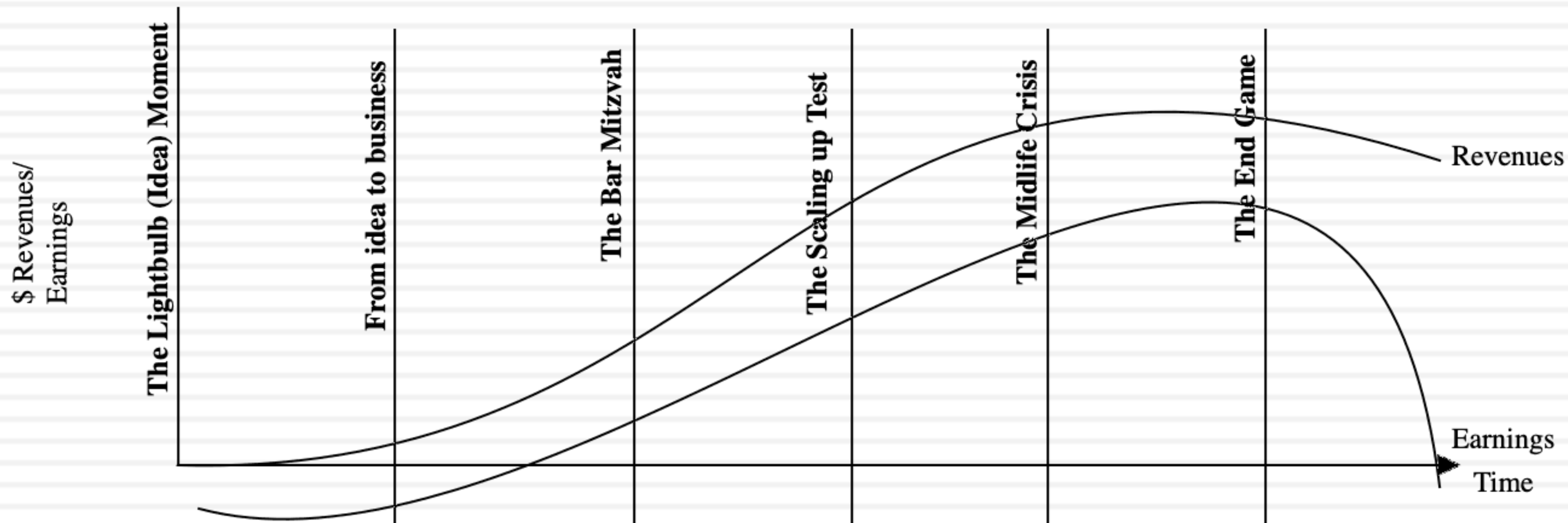
Illusions/Delusions
1. Creativity cannot be quantified
2. If the story is good, the investment will be.
3. Experience is the best teacher

The Corporate Life Cycle



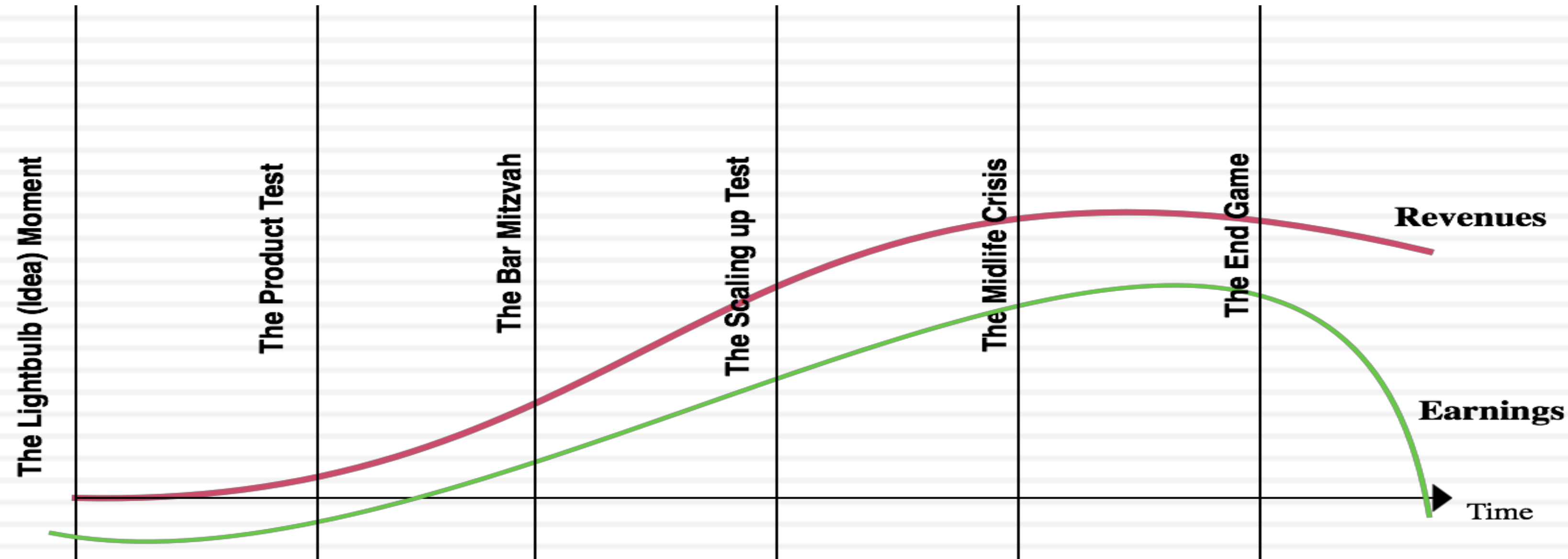
	1. Lime 2. AI	1. Tesla 2. Uber	1. Netflix 2. Nvidia	1. Facebook 2. Google	1. Coca Cola 2. Walmart	1. GE 2. Ford
Lifecycle stage	**Start-up**	**Young Growth**	**High Growth**	**Mature Growth**	**Mature Stable**	**Decline**
Description	Have an idea for a business that meets an unmet need in the market.	Create a business model that converts ideas into revenues	Build the business, looking for scaling benefits (moving to profitability)	Grow your business, with revenue growth & higher margins	Defend your business from competitors & find new markets	Scale down your business as market shrinks.

A Life Cycle View of Uncertainty



Growth stage	Stage 1 Start-up	Stage 2 Young Growth	Stage 3: High Growth	Stage 4 Mature Growth	Stage 5 Mature Stable	Stage 6 Decline
Uncertainty about	Does the idea have potential?	Is there a business model for the idea to be commercialized?	Will the business model generate profits?	Can the business be scaled up?	Can the business be defended?	Will management face reality?
Type & Magnitude	*Company specific*	*Macro worries*				*Company specific*

In value, the emphasis shifts as well, from narrative to numbers…



Lifecycle stage	**Start-up**	**Young Growth**	**High Growth**	**Mature Growth**	**Mature Stable**	**Decline**
Narrative versus Numbers	All Narrative	Mostly narrative	Narrative + Numbers	Numbers + Narrative	Mostly Numbers	All Numbers
Narrative Drivers	How big is the narrative?	How plausible is narrative?	How profitable is narrative?	How scalable is narrative?	How sustainable is narrative?	How happy is the ending?
Narrative Differences	Unconstrained & Large differences	*Constraints mount as numbers build up* *Differences across investors narrow, as history deepens*				Constrained & Narrow differences

From Stories to Numbers: A Five-step approach

The Steps

Step 1: Develop a narrative for the business that you are valuing
In the narrative, you tell your story about how you see the business evolving over time.

Step 2: Test the narrative to see if it is possible, plausible and probable
There are lots of possible narratives, not all of them are plausible and only a few of them are probable.

Step 3: Convert the narrative into drivers of value
Take the narrative apart and look at how you will bring it into valuaton inputs starting with potential market size down to cash flows and risk. By the time you are done, each part of the narrative should have a place in your numbers and each number should be backed up a portion of your story.

Step 4: Connect the drivers of value to a valuation
Create an intrinsic valuation model that connects the inputs to an end-value the business.

Step 5: Keep the feedback loop open
Listen to people who know the business better than you do and use their suggestions to fine tune your narrative and perhaps even alter it. Work out the effects on value of alternative narratives for the company.

Step 1a: Survey the landscape

- Every valuation starts with a narrative, a story that you see unfolding for your company in the future.
- In developing this narrative, you will be making assessments of
  - Your company (its products, its management and its history.
  - The market or markets that you see it growing in.
  - The competition it faces and will face.
  - The macro environment in which it operates.

Understanding Uber in 2014

Higher income for drivers, relative to traditional taxis.

The drivers
Anyone with a car in one of Uber's covered cities can apply to be a Uber driver. If you pass the Uber screens, you are given a Uber iPhone and are in the system.

Uber App

The customers
Uber subscribers download its app to their phones and when they need a ride, use the app. They can track the car as it approaches them on their devices.

Convenience, comfort and /or cost savings, relative to traditional cab

Fare quotes, based on distance, car type & demand period

Pricing & payment
Uber set the prices for rides, with premium prices for rides during peak demand times. Customers pay Uber for the rides, using their credit cards and don't pay Uber drivers.

Safety & Secure transactions

Even with Uber's 20% cut, drivers make more than they do from status quo.

Splitting the proceeds
Uber splits the ride receipts with the driver, keeping a percentage of the receipts for itself (revenues to Uber). While this percentage has historically been 20%, Uber had reduced it in some cities, when faced with competition from Lyft and Hailo.

Stronger competition from Lyft, Hailo & others will reduce Uber's split

Uber has a low-cost model that should allow it to keep a large percent of its revenues as profits.

From revenues to profits
From these revenues, Uber covers its expenses.These include R&D, technology development, customer acquisition costs (including rebates to new customers), marketing and the employees/infrastructure it needs in each of the cities that it operates in.

Regulatory & legal issues with offering service will increase costs.

Should be kept low because Uber does not invest in cars or other expensive infrastructure.

Reinvest to grow
While Uber does not own the cars that its drivers operate, it still has to invest in technology (R&D) and acquisitions to grow. That reinvestment is likely to be modest initially, but will scale up as the company grows.

Local companies may need to be acquired to gain foothold in some markets

Understanding Ferrari in 2015

It is in the Auto Business

Low Growth

Year	Revenues ($)	% Growth Rate
2005	1,274,716.60	
2006	1,421,804.20	11.54%
2007	1,854,576.40	30.44%
2008	1,818,533.00	-1.94%
2009	1,572,890.10	-13.51%
2010	1,816,269.40	15.47%
2011	1,962,630.40	8.06%
2012	2,110,572.20	7.54%
2013	2,158,603.00	2.28%
2014	2,086,124.80	-3.36%
ounded Average =		5.63%

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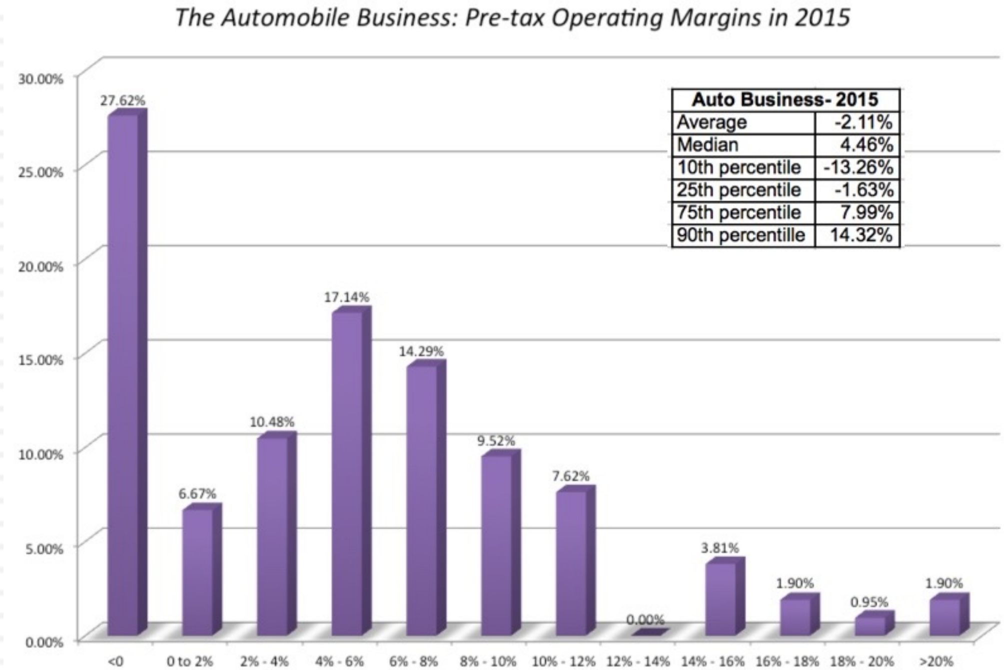
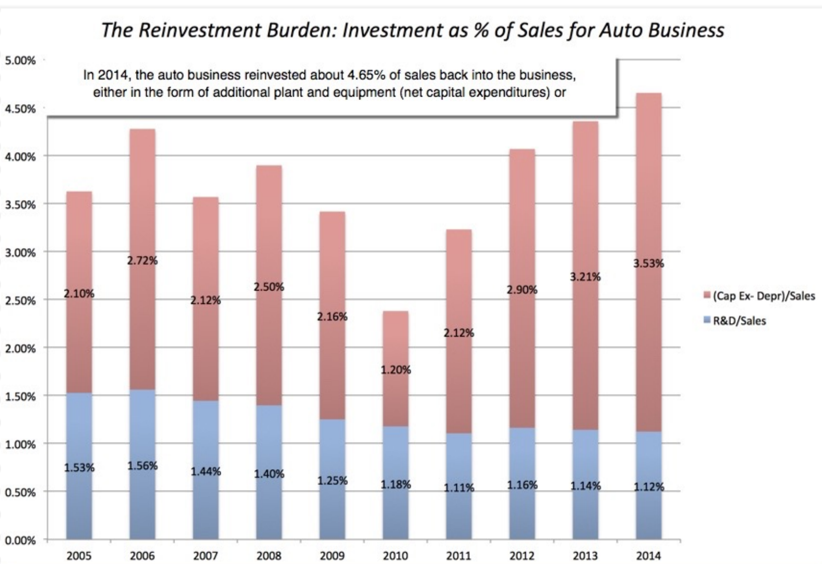
Low Margins



High & Increasing Reinvestment



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Bad Business

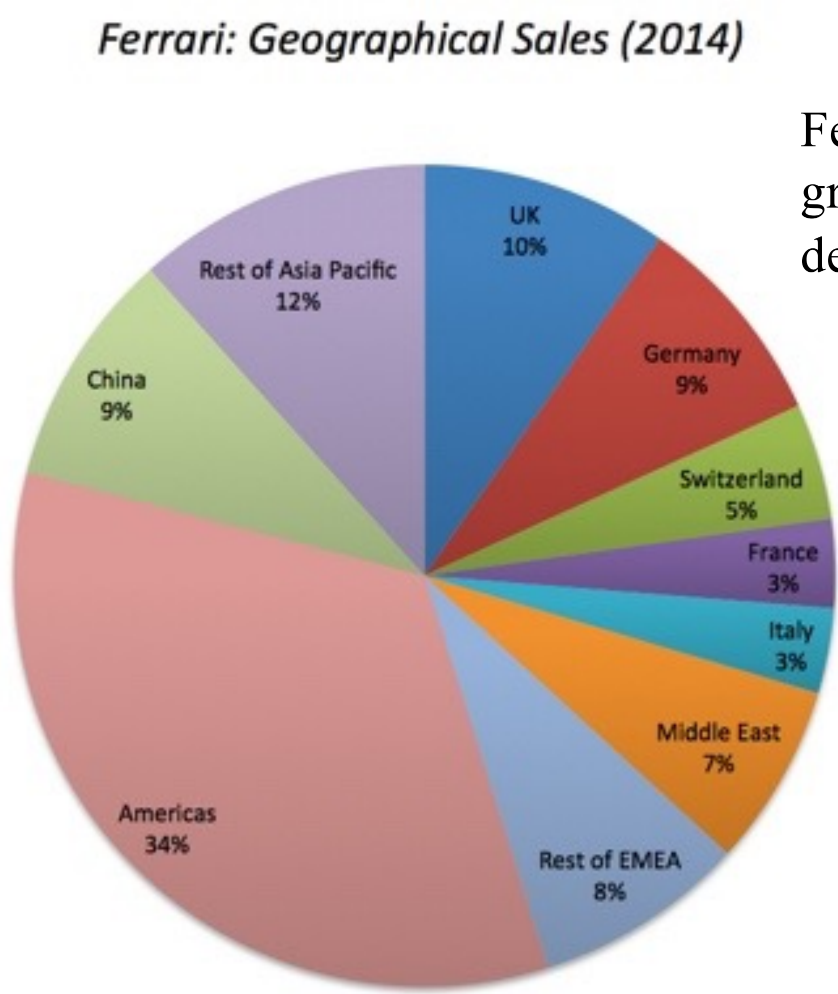
	ROIC	Cost of capital	ROIC - Cost of capital
2004	6.82%	7.93%	-1.11%
2005	10.47%	7.02%	3.45%
2006	4.60%	7.97%	-3.37%
2007	7.62%	8.50%	-0.88%
2008	3.48%	8.03%	-4.55%
2009	-4.97%	8.58%	-13.55%
2010	5.16%	8.03%	-2.87%
2011	7.55%	8.15%	-0.60%
2012	7.80%	8.55%	-0.75%
2013	7.83%	8.47%	-0.64%
2014	6.47%	7.53%	-1.06%

Only once in the last 10 years have auto companies collectively earned more than their cost of capital

But it is not just another auto company..

Ferrari sold only 7,255 cars in all of 2014

Ferrari had a profit margin of 18.2%, in the 95th percentile, partly because of its high prices and partly because it spends little on advertising.



Ferrari sales (in units) have grown very little in the last decade & have been stable

Ferrari has not invested in new plants.

Step 1b: Create a narrative for the future

- Every valuation starts with a narrative, a story that you see unfolding for your company in the future.
- In developing this narrative, you will be making assessments of your company (its products, its management), the market or markets that you see it growing in, the competition it faces and will face and the macro environment in which it operates.
  - Rule 1: Keep it simple.
  - Rule 2: Keep it focused.

The Uber Narrative: An Urban, Car Service disruptor

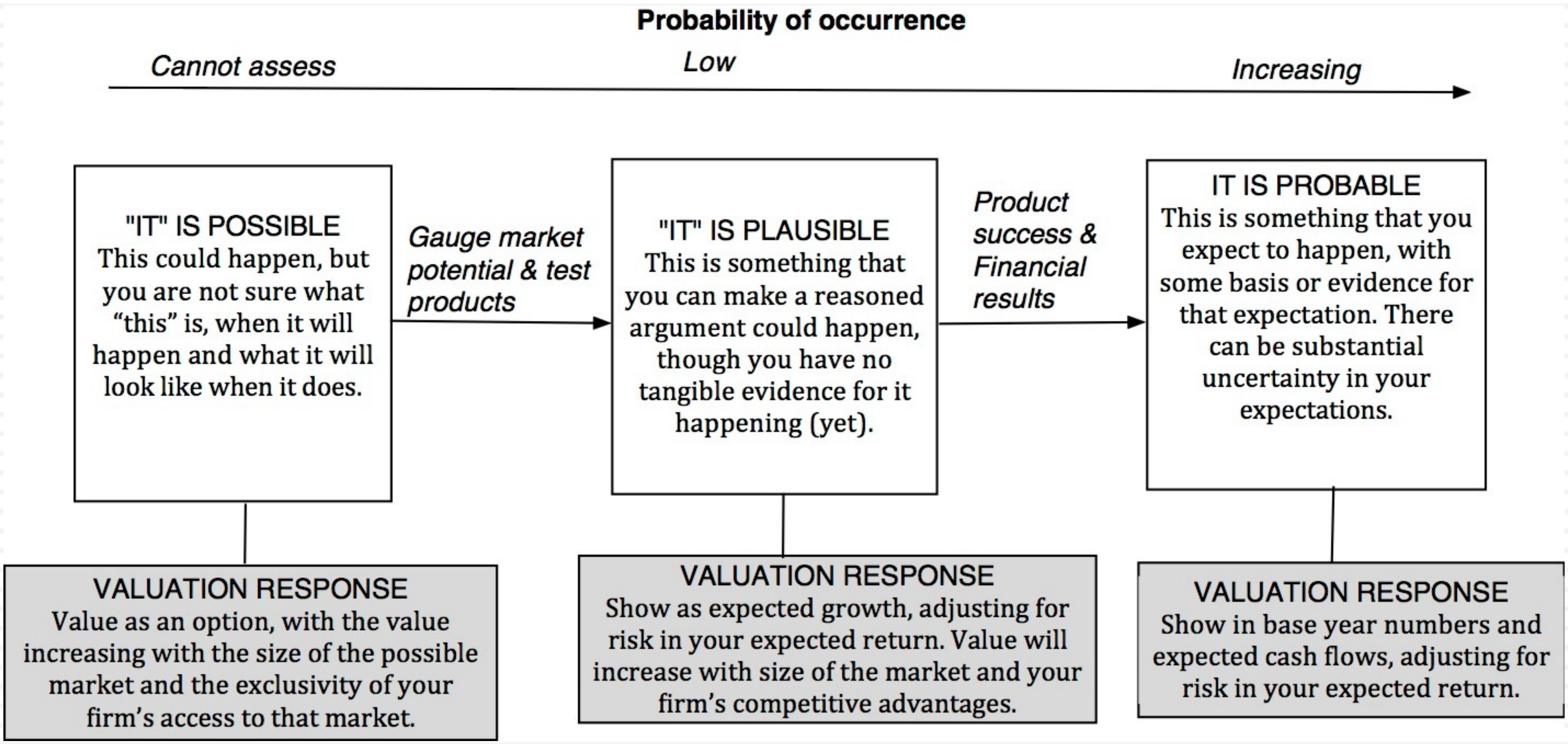
In June 2014, my initial narrative for Uber was that it would be

1. An urban car service business: I saw Uber primarily as a force in urban areas and only in the car service business.
2. Which would expand the business moderately (about 40% over ten years) by bringing in new users.
3. With local networking benefits: If Uber becomes large enough in any city, it will quickly become larger, but that will be of little help when it enters a new city.
4. Maintain its revenue sharing (20%) system due to strong competitive advantages (from being a first mover).
5. And its existing low-capital business model, with drivers as contractors and very little investment in infrastructure.

The Ferrari Narrative: An Exclusive Club

- Ferrari will stay an exclusive auto club, deriving its allure from its scarcity and the fact that only a few own Ferraris.
- By staying exclusive, the company gets three benefits:
  - It can continue to charge nose bleed prices for its cars and sell them with little or no advertising.
  - It does not need to invest in new assembly plants, since it does not plan to ramp up production.
  - It sells only to the super rich, who are unaffected by overall economic conditions or market crises.

Step 2: Check the narrative against history, economic first principles & common sense



The Impossible, The Implausible and the Improbable

The Impossible

Bigger than the economy
Assuming Growth rate for company in perpetuity> Growth rate for economy

Bigger than the total market
Allowing a company's revenues to grow so much that it has more than a 100% market share of whatever business it is in.

Profit margin > 100%
Assuming earnings growth will exceeds revenue growth for a long enough period, and pushing margins above 100%

Depreciation without cap ex
Assuming that depreciation will exceed cap ex in perpetuity.

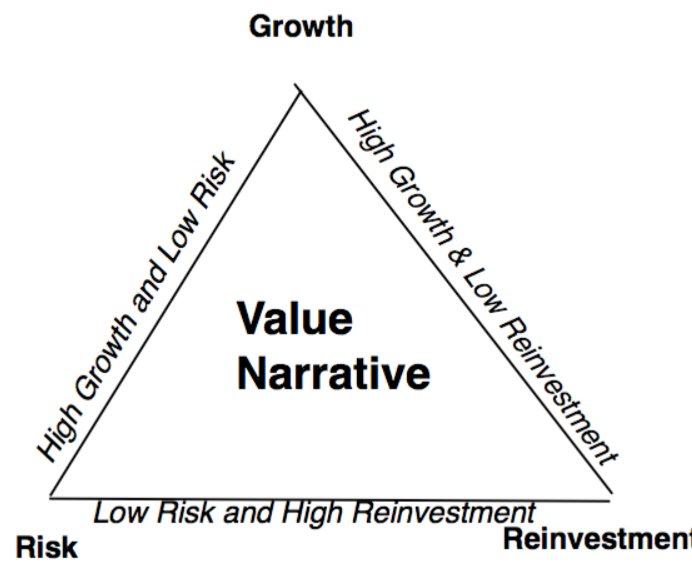
The Implausible

Growth without reinvestment
Assuming growth forever without reinvestment.

Profits without competition
Assuming that your company will grow and earn higher profits, with no competition.

Returns without risk
Assuming that you can generate high returns in a business with no risk.

The Improbable



The Improbable: Willy Wonkitis

Tesla: Summary 15-year DCF Analysis (DCF valuation as of mid-year 2013)

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Unit Volume	24,298	36,883	64,684	86,713	149,869	214,841	291,861	384,747	466,559	550,398	643,850	726,655	820,645	922,481	1,034,215	1,137,780
% Growth		*52%*	*75%*	*34%*	*73%*	*43%*	*36%*	*32%*	*21%*	*18%*	*17%*	*13%*	*13%*	*12%*	*12%*	*10%*
Automotive Revenue Per Unit ($)	93,403	85,342	83,432	78,932	65,465	58,258	56,407	55,553	55,991	56,586	56,969	57,540	58,138	58,603	59,002	59,554
% Growth		*-9%*	*-2%*	*-5%*	*-17%*	*-11%*	*-3%*	*-2%*	*1%*	*1%*	*1%*	*1%*	*1%*	*1%*	*1%*	*1%*
Automotive Sales	2,462	3,321	5,613	7,051	10,025	12,720	16,685	21,595	26,347	31,357	36,897	42,022	47,949	54,283	61,221	67,980
Development Service Sales	16	40	42	44	46	49	51	54	56	59	62	65	68	72	75	79
Total Sales	**2,478**	**3,361**	**5,655**	**7,095**	**10,072**	**12,768**	**16,736**	**21,648**	**26,403**	**31,416**	**36,959**	**42,087**	**48,017**	**54,355**	**61,296**	**68,059**
% Growth		*36%*	*68%*	*25%*	*42%*	*27%*	*31%*	*29%*	*22%*	*19%*	*18%*	*14%*	*14%*	*13%*	*13%*	*11%*
EBITDA	**148**	**417**	**920**	**1,042**	**1,586**	**2,150**	**3,138**	**4,066**	**4,857**	**5,723**	**6,328**	**7,182**	**8,144**	**9,688**	**10,874**	**12,099**
% Margin	*6.0%*	*12.4%*	*16.3%*	*14.7%*	*15.7%*	*16.8%*	*18.7%*	*18.8%*	*18.4%*	*18.2%*	*17.1%*	*17.1%*	*17.0%*	*17.8%*	*17.7%*	*17.8%*
D&A	103	158	172	203	301	353	389	537	606	696	811	938	1,088	1,260	1,451	1,661
% of Capex	*41%*	*79%*	*55%*	*65%*	*62%*	*69%*	*78%*	*86%*	*79%*	*77%*	*75%*	*76%*	*76%*	*76%*	*76%*	*77%*
EBIT	**45**	**259**	**748**	**839**	**1,285**	**1,796**	**2,749**	**3,529**	**4,252**	**5,027**	**5,517**	**6,244**	**7,056**	**8,429**	**9,423**	**10,439**
% Margin	*1.8%*	*7.7%*	*13.2%*	*11.8%*	*12.8%*	*14.1%*	*16.4%*	*16.3%*	*16.1%*	*16.0%*	*14.9%*	*14.8%*	*14.7%*	*15.5%*	*15.4%*	*15.3%*
Net Interest Income (Expense)	(27)	(1)	9	33	47	90	108	155	199	278	358	445	542	651	784	934
Other Income	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pretax Income	**46**	**258**	**758**	**872**	**1,332**	**1,886**	**2,857**	**3,684**	**4,451**	**5,305**	**5,875**	**6,688**	**7,598**	**9,080**	**10,207**	**11,373**
Income Taxes	3	2	14	34	86	262	462	641	807	1,003	1,134	1,317	1,470	1,761	2,028	2,323
% Effective Rate	*6%*	*1%*	*2%*	*4%*	*6%*	*14%*	*16%*	*17%*	*18%*	*19%*	*19%*	*20%*	*19%*	*19%*	*20%*	*20%*
Net Income	**44**	**256**	**744**	**839**	**1,246**	**1,624**	**2,395**	**3,043**	**3,644**	**4,303**	**4,741**	**5,372**	**6,128**	**7,319**	**8,179**	**9,050**
Plus																
After-tax Interest Expense (Income)	27	1	(9)	(33)	(47)	(90)	(108)	(154)	(199)	(278)	(357)	(444)	(541)	(650)	(782)	(932)
Depreciation of PP&E	103	158	172	203	301	353	389	537	606	696	811	938	1,088	1,260	1,451	1,661
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Less																
Change in Working Capital	(155)	(14)	(157)	(167)	(172)	(325)	(163)	(81)	(28)	(299)	(356)	(328)	(219)	(329)	(365)	(376)
% of Change in Sales		*-2%*	*-7%*	*-12%*	*-6%*	*-12%*	*-4%*	*-2%*	*-1%*	*-6%*	*-6%*	*-6%*	*-4%*	*-5%*	*-5%*	*-6%*
Capital Expenditures	250	200	312	312	486	510	497	623	765	906	1,078	1,236	1,437	1,660	1,898	2,149
% of Sales	*10%*	*6%*	*6%*	*4%*	*5%*	*4%*	*3%*	*3%*	*3%*	*3%*	*3%*	*3%*	*3%*	*3%*	*3%*	*3%*
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlevered Free Cash Flow	**78**	**229**	**750**	**863**	**1,186**	**1,702**	**2,343**	**2,884**	**3,314**	**4,113**	**4,472**	**4,959**	**5,456**	**6,597**	**7,315**	**8,005**

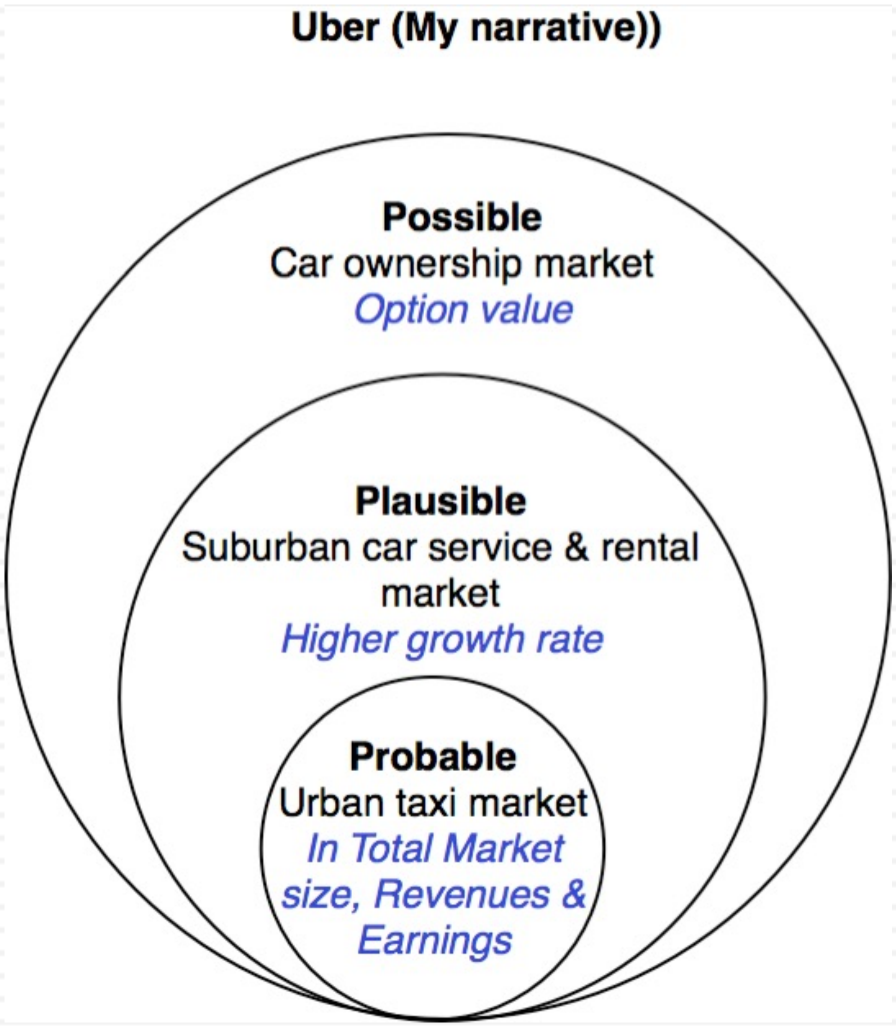
EBITDA	12,099
Sales	68,059
Net Debt (Cash)	(260)
Tesla Diluted Shares	142

Exit EBITDA High	12.0 x	Exit PPG High	5.0%	Exit P/Sales High	180%
Exit EBITDA Low	8.0 x	Exit PPG Low	3.0%	Exit P/Sales Low	130%

Discount Rate High	13.0%	FY Month of Valuation	1.0 (Beginning of this Month)
Discount Rage Low	9.0%	Month of FY End	12.0 (End of this Month)

Uber: Possible, Plausible and Probable

The larger & more ambitious your story, the more onus there is on you to show that it is possible, plausible & probable.



Big Story or Small One?

- The upside of a big story is that it will generally deliver a higher value for your company, if you can get others to believe it is plausible and probable.
- The downside is two-fold:
  - Your sales job becomes a lot more difficult, as your story gets bigger. In fact, there is a danger that you could be categorized as a fairy tale teller, if your story is too big.
  - Even if you succeed in convincing others that the story is plausible and probable, you will now have to act and deliver on that big story. That can stretch resources to breaking point and distract you from building your primary business.

The Runaway Story: When you want a story to be true…

- With a runaway business story, you usually have three ingredients:
  1. Charismatic, likeable Narrator: The narrator of the business story is someone that you want to see succeed, either because you like the narrator or because he/she will be a good role model.
  2. Telling a story about disrupting a much business, where you dislike the status quo: The status quo in the business that the story is disrupting is dissatisfying (to everyone involved)>
  3. With a societal benefit as bonus: And if the story holds, society and humanity will benefit.
- Since you want this story to work out, you stop asking questions, because the answers may put the story at risk.

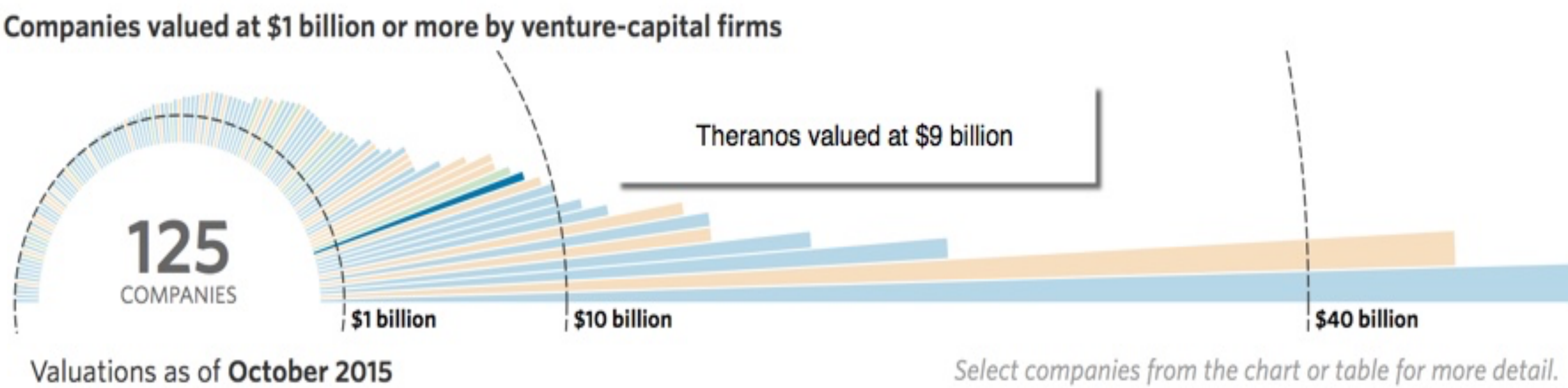
The Impossible: The Runaway Story

The Story

The Checks (?)

Board Member	Designation	Age
Henry Kissinger	Former Secretary of State	92
Bill Perry	Former Secretary of Defense	88
George Schultz	Former Secretary of State	94
Bill Frist	Former Senate Majority Leader	63
Sam Nunn	Former Senator	77
Gary Roughead	Former Navy Admiral	64
James Mattis	Former Marine Corps General	65
Dick Kovocovich	Former CEO of Wells Fargo	72
Riley Bechtel	Former CEO of Bechtel	63
William Foege	Epidemologist	79
Elizabeth Holmes	Founder & CEO, Theranos	31
Sunny Balwani	President & COO, Theranos	NA

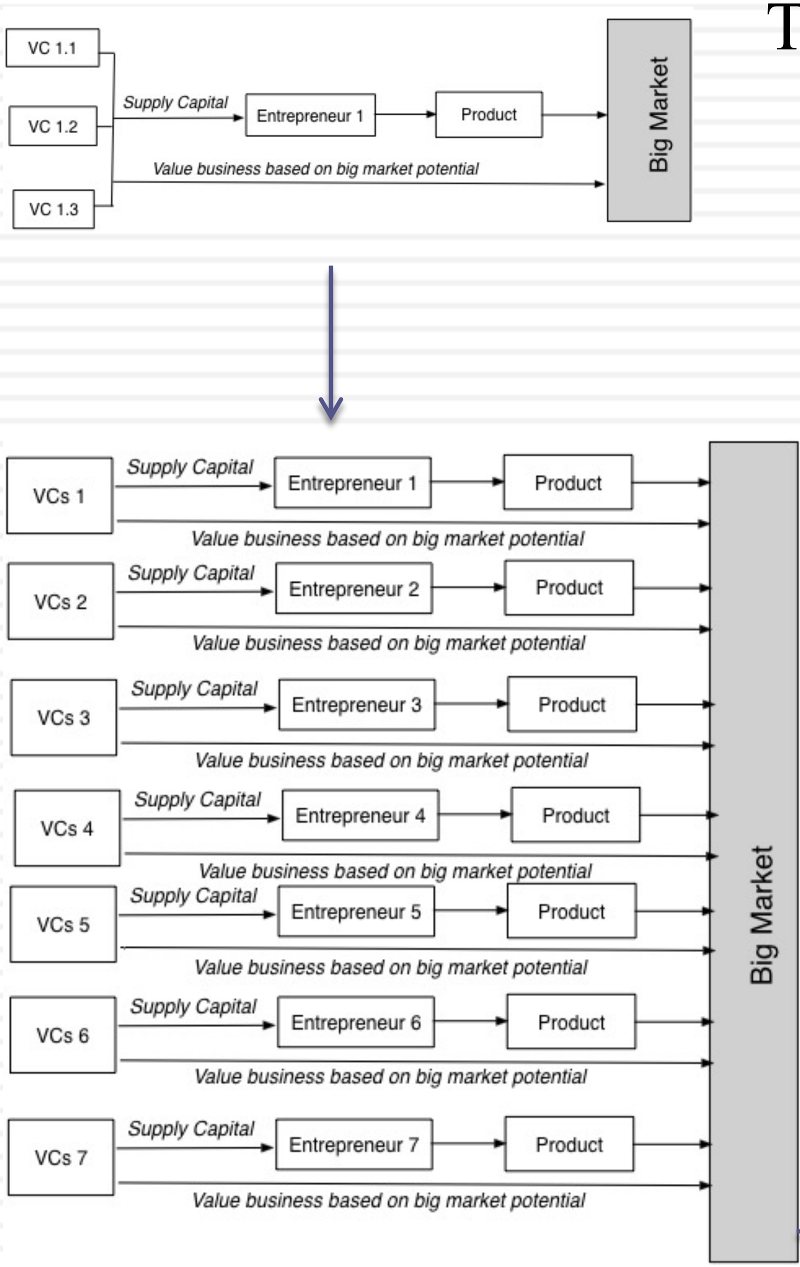
+ Money



The root of implausible and improbable stories: Over confidence!

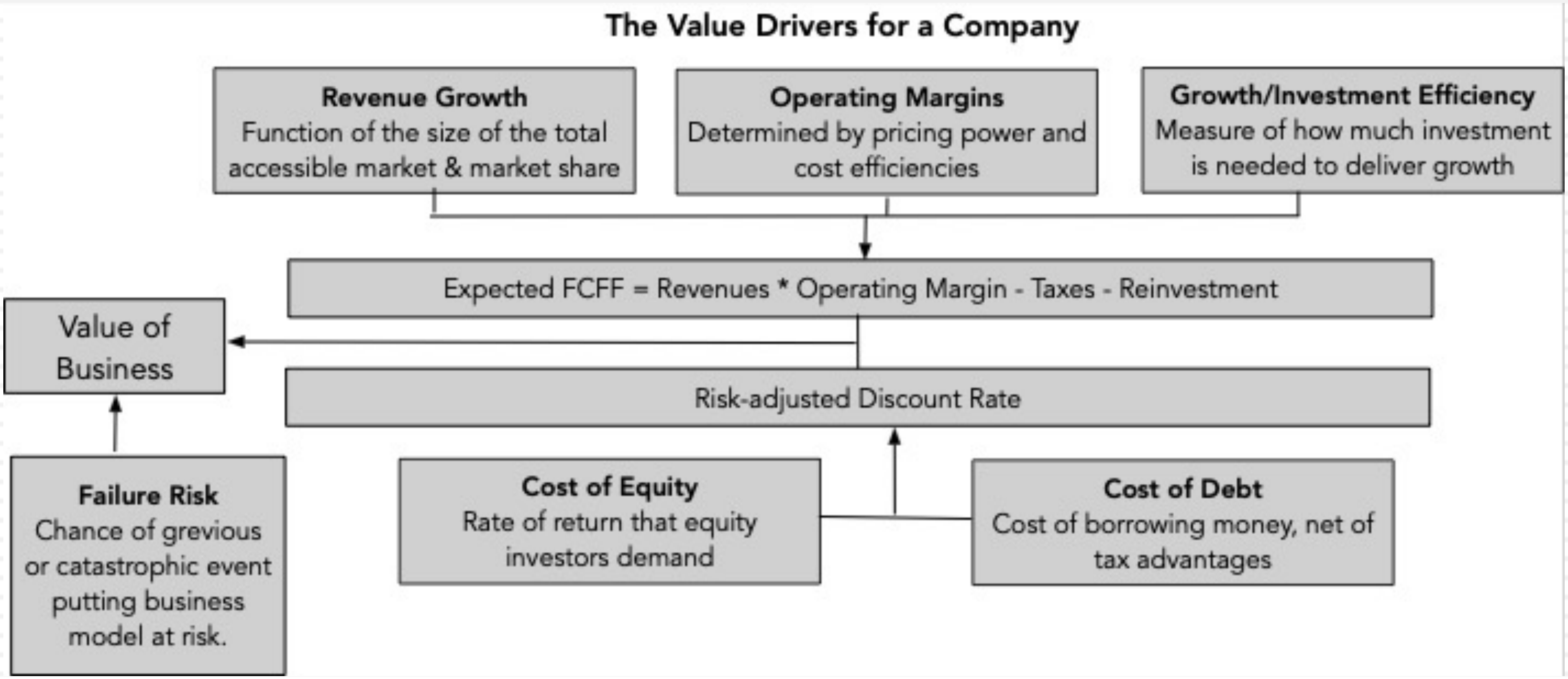
- In the last three decades of research on behavioral finance, researchers have uncovered the not so surprising truth that as human beings, we are not only capable of thinking irrationally, but hard wired to do so.
- Of all of the character attributes that human beings have, the one that seems to create the most consequential errors is over confidence.
- Over confident founders, with over confident investors providing them capital, shoot for big markets, often fail but change the way we live in significant ways.

The Implausible: The Big Market Delusion

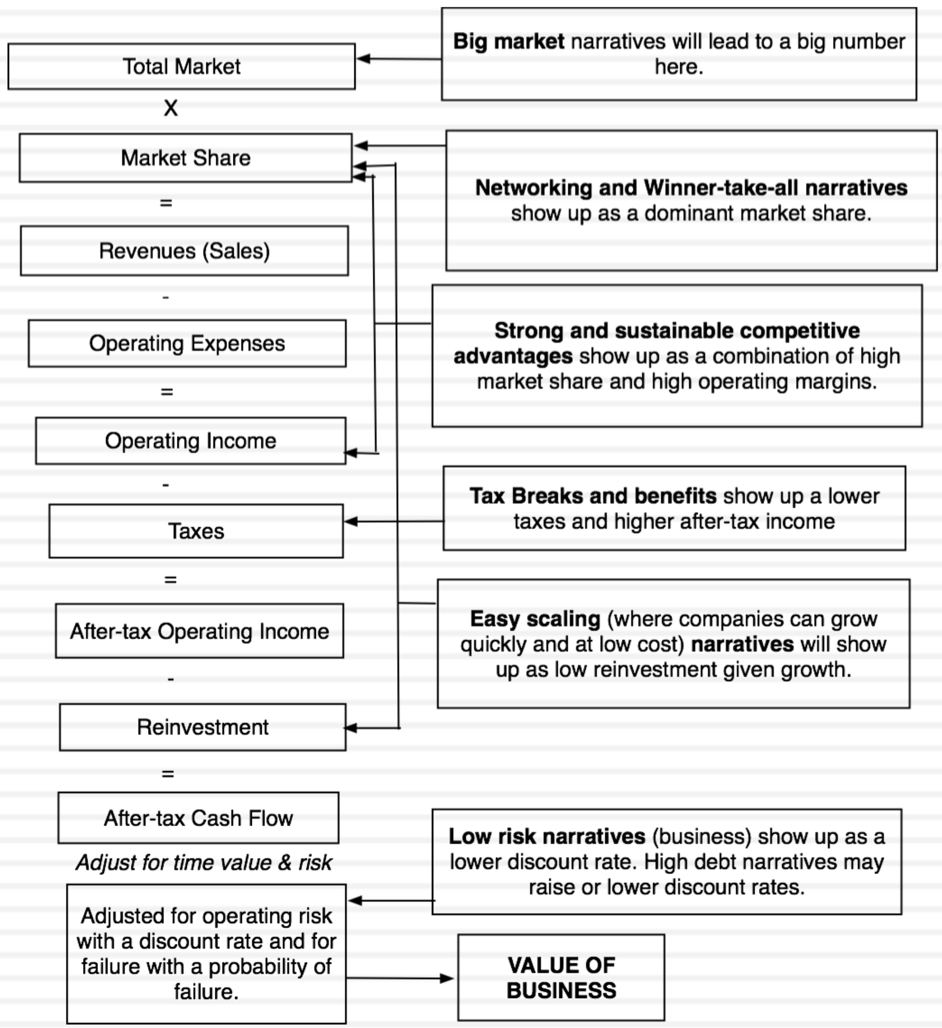


Company	*Market Cap*	*Enterprise Value*	*Current Revenues*	*Breakeven Revenues (2025)*	*% from Online Advertising*	*Imputed Online Ad Revenue (2025)*
Google	$441,572.00	$386,954.00	$69,611.00	$224,923.20	89.50%	$201,306.26
Facebook	$245,662.00	$234,696.00	$14,640.00	$129,375.54	92.20%	$119,284.25
Yahoo!	$30,614.00	$23,836.10	$4,871.00	$25,413.13	100.00%	$25,413.13
LinkedIn	$23,265.00	$20,904.00	$2,561.00	$22,371.44	80.30%	$17,964.26
Twitter	$16,927.90	$14,912.90	$1,779.00	$23,128.68	89.50%	$20,700.17
Pandora	$3,643.00	$3,271.00	$1,024.00	$2,915.67	79.50%	$2,317.96
Yelp	$1,765.00	$0.00	$465.00	$1,144.26	93.60%	$1,071.02
Zillow	$4,496.00	$4,101.00	$480.00	$4,156.21	18.00%	$748.12
Zynga	$2,241.00	$1,142.00	$752.00	$757.86	22.10%	$167.49
Total US	**$770,185.90**	**$689,817.00**	**$96,183.00**	**$434,185.98**		**$388,972.66**
Alibaba	$184,362.00	$173,871.00	$12,598.00	$111,414.06	60.00%	$66,848.43
Tencent	$154,366.00	$151,554.00	$13,969.00	$63,730.36	10.50%	$6,691.69
Baidu	$49,991.00	$44,864.00	$9,172.00	$30,999.49	98.90%	$30,658.50
Sohu.com	$18,240.00	$17,411.00	$1,857.00	$16,973.01	53.70%	$9,114.51
Naver	$13,699.00	$12,686.00	$2,755.00	$12,139.34	76.60%	$9,298.74
Yandex	$3,454.00	$3,449.00	$972.00	$2,082.52	98.80%	$2,057.52
Yahoo! Japan	$23,188.00	$18,988.00	$3,591.00	$5,707.61	69.40%	$3,961.08
Sina	$2,113.00	$746.00	$808.00	$505.09	48.90%	$246.99
Netease	$14,566.00	$11,257.00	$2,388.00	$840.00	11.90%	$3,013.71
Mail.ru	$3,492.00	$3,768.00	$636.00	$1,676.47	35.00%	$586.76
Mixi	$3,095.00	$2,661.00	$1,229.00	$777.02	96.00%	$745.94
Kakaku	$3,565.00	$3,358.00	$404.00	$1,650.49	11.60%	$191.46
Total non-US	**$474,131.00**	**$444,613.00**	**$50,379.00**	**$248,495.46**		**$133,415.32**
Global Total	**$1,244,316.90**	**$1,134,430.00**	**$146,562.00**	**$682,681.44**		**$522,387.98**

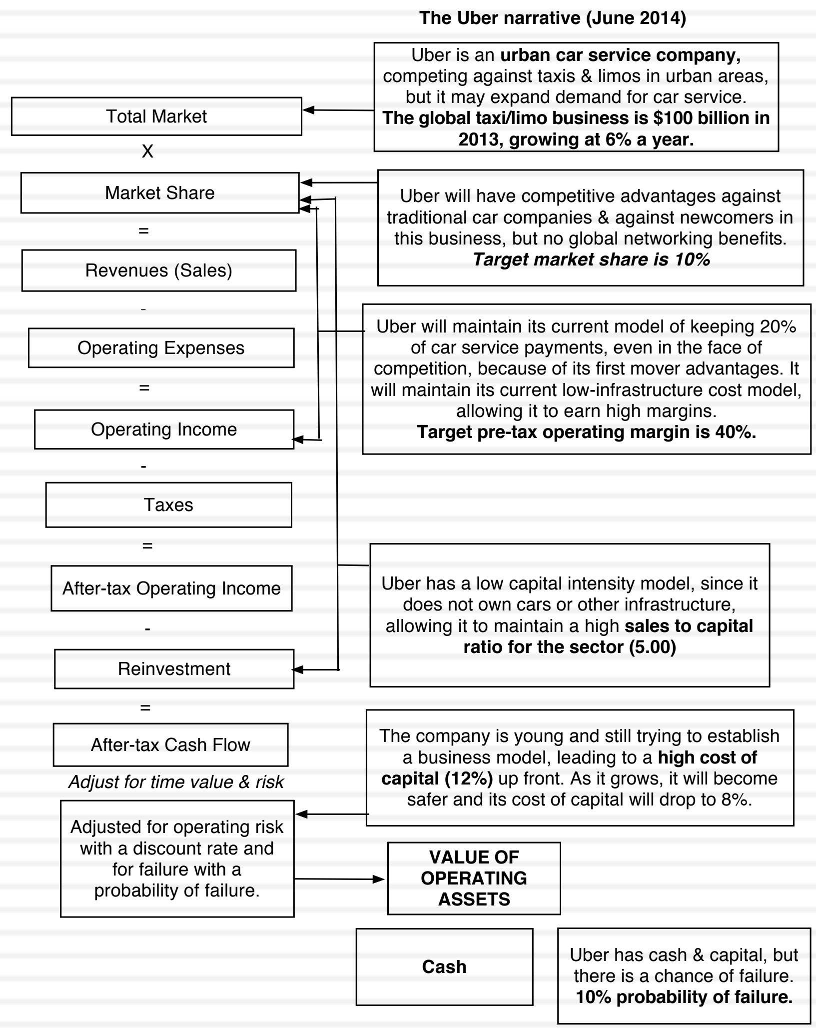
Step 4a: The Drivers of Value



Connect your narrative to key drivers of value



The Uber Link



Ferrari: From story to numbers

Valuation Input	*The Story*	*Valuation Inputs*
Revenues	*Keep it scarce*	Revenue growth of 4% (in Euro terms) a year for next 5 years, scaling down to 0.7% in year 10. Translates into an increase in production of about 25% in next 10 years
Operating Margin & Taxes		
Operating Income	*And pricey*	Ferrari's pre-tax operating margin stays at 18.2%, in the 95th percentile of auto business.
Reinvestment	*Little need for capacity expansion*	Sales/Invested Capital stays at 1.42, i.e. every euro invested generates 1.42 euros in sales
Cash Flow		
Discount Rate (Risk)	*Super-rich clients are recession-proof*	Cost of capital of 6.96% in Euros and no chance of default.

Step 4b: Value the company (Uber)

Uber: Intrinsic valuation - June 8, 2014 (in US $)

Stable Growth (after year 10)
Expected growth rate = 2.50%
Cost of capital = 8%
Return on capital= 25%
Reinvestment Rate= 2.5%/25% = 10%

Terminal Value$_{10}$= 793/(.08-025) = $14,418

Term yr
EBIT (1-t) $881
- Reinv 88
FCFF $793

Global taxi market is $100 billlion currently, expected to grow 6% a year for next ten years.

Uber will keep 20% of the gross cab receipts as its revenues

Uber's market share of this market will increase to 10% over the next 10 years.

Uber's operating expenses will amount to 60% of its revenues. (Operating margin=40%)

Uber will pay a tax rate of 30% on its income, increasing to 40% over the next 10 years

Uber will generate $5 in incremental revenues for every dollar of incremental capital.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Overall market	$106,000	$112,360	$119,102	$126,248	$133,823	$141,852	$150,363	$159,385	$168,948	$179,085
Share of market (gross)	3.63%	5.22%	6.41%	7.31%	7.98%	8.49%	8.87%	9.15%	9.36%	10.00%
Revenues as percent of gross	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%
Annual Revenue	$769	$1,173	$1,528	$1,846	$2,137	$2,408	$2,666	$2,916	$3,163	$3,582
Operating margin	7.00%	10.67%	14.33%	18.00%	21.67%	25.33%	29.00%	32.67%	36.33%	40.00%
Operating Income	$54	$125	$219	$332	$463	$610	$773	$953	$1,149	$1,433
Effective tax rate	31%	32%	33%	34%	35%	36%	37%	38%	39%	40%
- Taxes	$17	$40	$72	$113	$162	$220	$286	$362	$448	$573
After-tax operating income	$37	$85	$147	$219	$301	$390	$487	$591	$701	$860
Sales/Capital Ratio	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
- Reinvestment	$94	$81	$71	$64	$58	$54	$52	$50	$49	$84
Free Cash Flow to the Firm	-$57	$4	$76	$156	$243	$336	$435	$541	$652	$776

Based on the investment of $1.2 billion made by investors, the imputed value for Uber's operating assets, in June 2014 ,was $17 billion.

Discount back the cash flows (including terminal value) at the cumulated cost of capital.

Value of operating assets = $6,595

Adust for probability of failure (10%)
Expected value = $6,595 (.9) = $5,895

Cost of capital for first 5 years = Top decile of US companies = 12%

Cost of capital declines from 12% to 8% from years 6 to 10.

Ferrari: The “Exclusive Club” Value

Stay Super Exclusive: Revenue growth is low

	Base year	*1*	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*	*7*	*8*	*9*	*10*	Terminal year
Revenue growth rate		4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	4.00%	3.34%	2.68%	2.02%	1.36%	0.70%	0.70%
Revenues	€ 2,763	€ 2,874	€ 2,988	€ 3,108	€ 3,232	€ 3,362	€ 3,474	€ 3,567	€ 3,639	€ 3,689	€ 3,714	€ 3,740
EBIT (Operating) margin	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%	18.20%
EBIT (Operating income)	€ 503	€ 523	€ 544	€ 566	€ 588	€ 612	€ 632	€ 649	€ 662	€ 671	€ 676	€ 681
Tax rate	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%
EBIT(1-t)	€ 334	€ 348	€ 361	€ 376	€ 391	€ 407	€ 420	€ 431	€ 440	€ 446	€ 449	€ 452
- Reinvestment		€ 78	€ 81	€ 84	€ 87	€ 91	€ 79	€ 66	€ 51	€ 35	€ 18	€ 22
FCFF		€ 270	€ 281	€ 292	€ 303	€ 316	€ 341	€ 366	€ 389	€ 411	€ 431	€ 431
Cost of capital		6.96%	6.96%	6.96%	6.96%	6.96%	6.96%	6.97%	6.98%	6.99%	7.00%	7.00%
PV(FCFF)		€ 252	€ 245	€ 238	€ 232	€ 225	€ 228	€ 228	€ 227	€ 224	€ 220	

Terminal value	€ 6,835
PV(Terminal value)	€ 3,485
PV (CF over next 10 years)	€ 2,321
Value of operating assets =	€ 5,806
- Debt	€ 623
- Minority interests	€ 13
+ Cash	€ 1,141
Value of equity	€ 6,311

High Prices + No selling cost = Preserve current operating margin

Minimal Reinvestment due to low growth

The super rich are not sensitive to economic downturns

The FANGAM stocks, in January 2010

- The Lagging Giant: At the start of 2010, Microsoft had a market capitalization in excess of $270 billion, and was second only to Exxon Mobil, with a market cap of $320 billion, but that represented a come down from its status as the largest market cap company at the start of 2000, with a market cap exceeding $500 billion.
- The Rising Star: At the start of 2010, Apple's market cap was approaching $200 billion, a quantum leap from its market cap of $16 billion, ten years earlier.
- The Field of Dreams Company: By early 2010, Amazon had cemented its status as online retailer, capable of growing its revenues at the expense of its brick and mortar competitors, but without a clear pathway to profitability. The market seemed to be willing to overlook this limitation, giving the company a market cap of more than $50 billion, a significant comeback from the dot-com bust days of 2001, when it was valued at less than $4 billion.
- The New Tech Prototype: In January 2010, Google was already the prototype for the new tech model, reaching a hundred-billion dollar market cap threshold than any other company in history, with a market capitalization of more than $160 billion in early 2010.
- On the cusp: In early 2010, it is unlikely that anyone would have put Netflix on the list of big-time winners, since its market capitalization was less than $4 billion and its business model of renting content and signing up subscribers was already under strain.
- The glimmer in the market's eye: At the start of 2010, Facebook was still a private business, though venture capitalists were clearly excited about its prospects, pricing it at roughly $14 billion in January 2010, based primarily on its user numbers.

Valuing the FANGAM stocks: Reframing the story in 2020

Company	*Sept 2020 Narrative*	*Information/News*	*Feb 2022 Narrative*
Facebook	Will use its immense & engaged platform to continue to grow its online advertising business, notwithstanding regulatory moves on privacy.	Name change & recent drop in user number suggest that backlash is having an effect on growth.	User platform remains key asset, but growth will be constrained & costs will inctrease, as regulators and competitors push back on privacy.
Amazon	Disruption platform, targeting any large business where the status quo is inefficient. Biggest challenge it faces is regulatory/legal pushback.	In the face of pressure from polticians and regulators, its business model was resilient, delivering sustained revenue growth & improving margins.	Disruption platform rolls on, alllowing for continued growth and improviing margins. Regulators will try to constrain the company, but given its reach across businesses & geographies, they will fall short in stopping
Netflix	The subscription machine will keep adding users, even in the face of competition, and content costs will scale down over time.	Disney+ represents the most significant competition in the streaming business yet, and the chase for users is becoming more difficult and costly.	Netflix will continue to try grow its subscriber base, but it will find it more expensive to grow and more difficult to getcontent costs under control, as competitors also play the content game.
Google	The search engine will continue to be drive earnings and cash flows, but the company's other busienss bets will start paying off, augmenting growth over time.	Google continued to see growth in the online ad business, perhaps at the expense of Facebook, while increasing its profit margins.	The search engine and online advertising will remain the center of Google's business model, but its investments in other businesses will start delivering profits.
Apple	The smartphone company, living (and dying) off the success of the iPhone, but its services business will continued to grow, adding to its revenues and delivering high margins.	More of the same, as the iPhone continued to deliver, and Apple services continued to grow.	The company will stay the course, and bring more of its supply chain under its own control. In keeping with its history, the company will not over reach (no expensive acquisitions or entering unfamilar businesses).
Microsoft	The company will continue its transition from being a software company to a platform company, augmenting its growth and profits with its cloud business.	The acquisition of Activision expands Microsoft's platform business into gaming, and brings in young users who are lightly reporesented on the company's existing platforms.	The multiple platforms (Office 365, LinkedIn and Activision) will give the company many sources of revenue and perhaps opportunities to cross sell, allowing for continued growth and sustained high margins.

Step 5: Keep the feedback loop open

- When you tell a story about a company (either explicitly or implicitly), it is natural to feel attached to that story and to defend it against all attacks. Nothing can destroy an investor more than hubris.
- Being open to other views about a company is not easy, but here are some suggestions that may help:
  - Face up to the uncertainty in your own estimates of value.
  - Present the valuation to people who don’t think like you do.
  - Create a process where people who disagree with you the most have a say.
  - Provide a structure where the criticisms can be specific and pointed, rather than general.

The Uber Feedback Loop: Bill Gurley

1. Not just car service company.: Uber is a car company, not just a car service company, and there may be a day when consumers will subscribe to a Uber service, rather than own their own cars. It could also expand into logistics, i.e., moving and transportation businesses.
2. Not just urban: Uber can create new demands for car service in parts of the country where taxis are not used (suburbia, small towns).
3. Global networking benefits: By linking with technology and credit card companies, Uber can have global networking benefits.

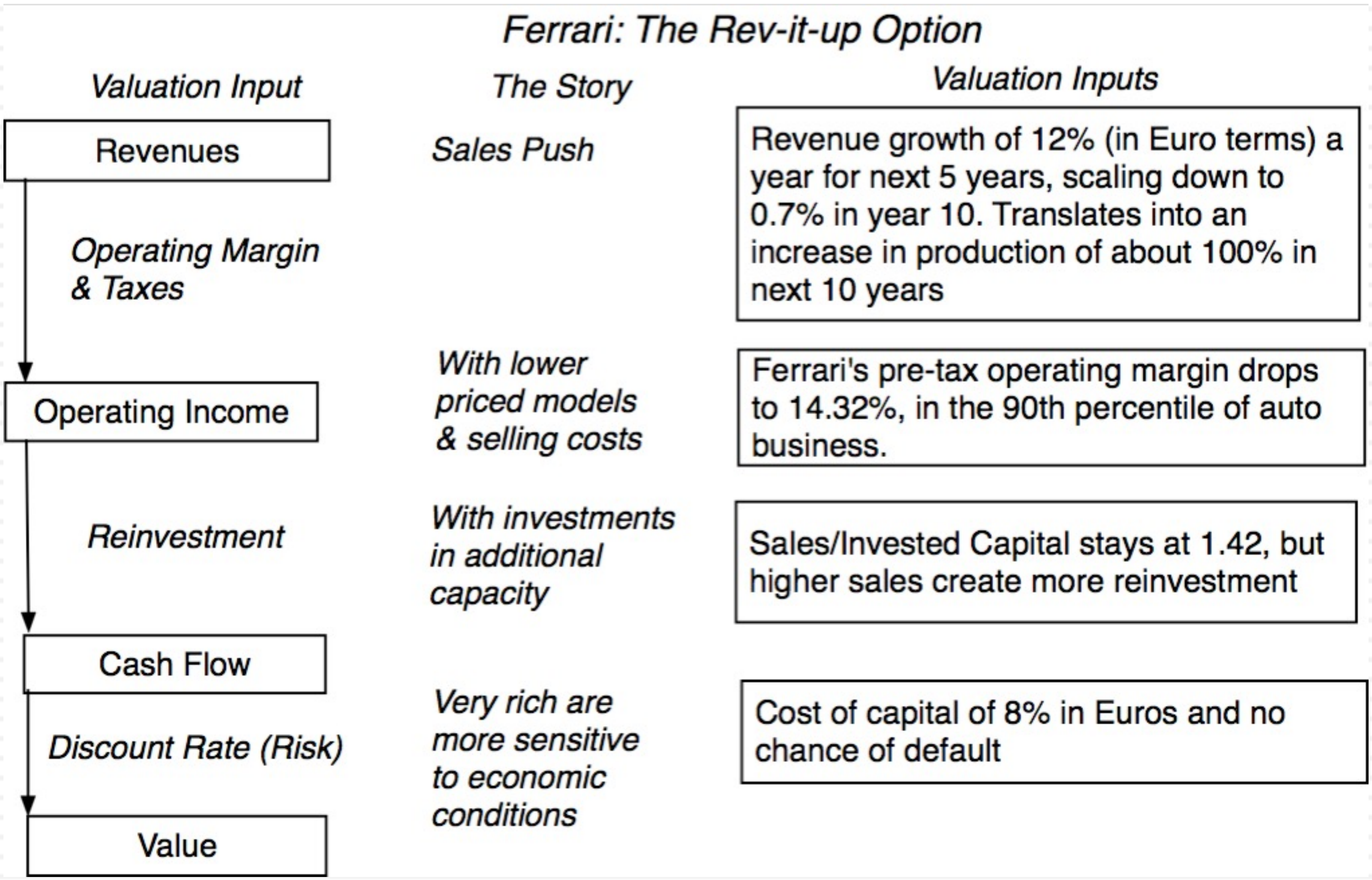
Valuing Bill Gurley's Uber narrative

	Uber (Gurley)	*Uber (Gurley Mod)*	*Uber (Damodaran)*
Narrative	Uber will expand the car service market substantially, bringing in mass transit users & non-users from the suburbs into the market, and use its networking advantage to gain a dominant market share, while maintaining its revenue slice at 20%.	Uber will expand the car service market substantially, bringing in mass transit users & non-users from the suburbs into the market, and use its networking advantage to gain a dominant market share, while cutting prices and margins (to 10%).	Uber will expand the car service market moderately, primarily in urban environments, and use its competitive advantages to get a significant but not dominant market share and maintain its revenue slice at 20%.
Total Market	$300 billion, growing at 3% a year	$300 billion, growing at 3% a year	$100 billion, growing at 6% a year
Market Share	40%	40%	10%
Uber's revenue slice	20%	10%	20%
Value for Uber	$53.4 billion + Option value of entering car ownership market ($10 billion+)	$28.7 billion + Option value of entering car ownership market ($6 billion+)	$5.9 billion + Option value of entering car ownership market ($2-3 billion)

Different narratives, Different Numbers

Total Market	*Growth Effect*	*Network Effect*	*Competitive Advantages*	*Value of Uber*
A4. Mobility Services	B4. Double market size	C5. Strong global network effects	D4. Strong & Sustainable	$90,457
A3. Logistics	B4. Double market size	C5. Strong global network effects	D4. Strong & Sustainable	$65,158
A4. Mobility Services	B3. Increase market by 50%	C3. Strong local network effects	D3. Semi-strong	$52,346
A2. All car service	B4. Double market size	C5. Strong global network effects	D4. Strong & Sustainable	$47,764
A1. Urban car service	B4. Double market size	C5. Strong global network effects	D4. Strong & Sustainable	$31,952
A3. Logistics	B3. Increase market by 50%	C3. Strong local network effects	D3. Semi-strong	$14,321
A1. Urban car service	B3. Increase market by 50%	C3. Strong local network effects	D3. Semi-strong	$7,127
A2. All car service	B3. Increase market by 50%	C3. Strong local network effects	D3. Semi-strong	$4,764
A4. Mobility Services	B1. None	C1. No network effects	D1. None	$1,888
A3. Logistics	B1. None	C1. No network effects	D1. None	$1,417
A2. All car service	B1. None	C1. No network effects	D1. None	$1,094
A1. Urban car service	B1. None	C1. No network effects	D1. None	$799

The Ferrari Counter Narrative



Ferrari: The "Rev-it-up" Alternative

Get less exclusive: Double number of cars sold over next decade

	Base year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Terminal year
Revenue growth rate		12.00%	12.00%	12.00%	12.00%	12.00%	9.74%	7.48%	5.22%	2.96%	0.70%	0.70%
Revenues	€ 2,763	€ 3,095	€ 3,466	€ 3,882	€ 4,348	€ 4,869	€ 5,344	€ 5,743	€ 6,043	€ 6,222	€ 6,266	€ 6,309
EBIT (Operating) margin	18.20%	17.81%	17.42%	17.04%	16.65%	16.26%	15.87%	15.48%	15.10%	14.71%	14.32%	14.32%
EBIT (Operating income)	€ 503	€ 551	€ 604	€ 661	€ 724	€ 792	€ 848	€ 889	€ 912	€ 915	€ 897	€ 904
Tax rate	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%	33.54%
EBIT(1-t)	€ 334	€ 366	€ 401	€ 439	€ 481	€ 526	€ 564	€ 591	€ 606	€ 608	€ 596	€ 600
- Reinvestment		€ 233	€ 261	€ 293	€ 328	€ 367	€ 334	€ 281	€ 211	€ 126	€ 31	€ 35
FCFF		€ 133	€ 140	€ 147	€ 153	€ 159	€ 230	€ 310	€ 395	€ 482	€ 566	€ 565
Cost of capital		8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	8.00%	7.90%	7.80%	7.70%	7.60%	7.50%	7.50%
PV(FCFF)		€ 123	€ 120	€ 117	€ 113	€ 108	€ 145	€ 181	€ 215	€ 244	€ 266	

Terminal value	€ 8,315
PV(Terminal value)	€ 3,906
PV (CF over next 10 years)	€ 1,631
Value of operating assets =	€ 5,537
- Debt	€ 623
- Minority interests	€ 13
+ Cash	€ 1,141
Value of equity	€ 6,042

Lower Prices + Some selling cost = Lower operating margin

Reinvestment reflects higher sales

The very rich are more sensitive to economic conditions

And the world is full of feedback.. My Ferrari afterthought!

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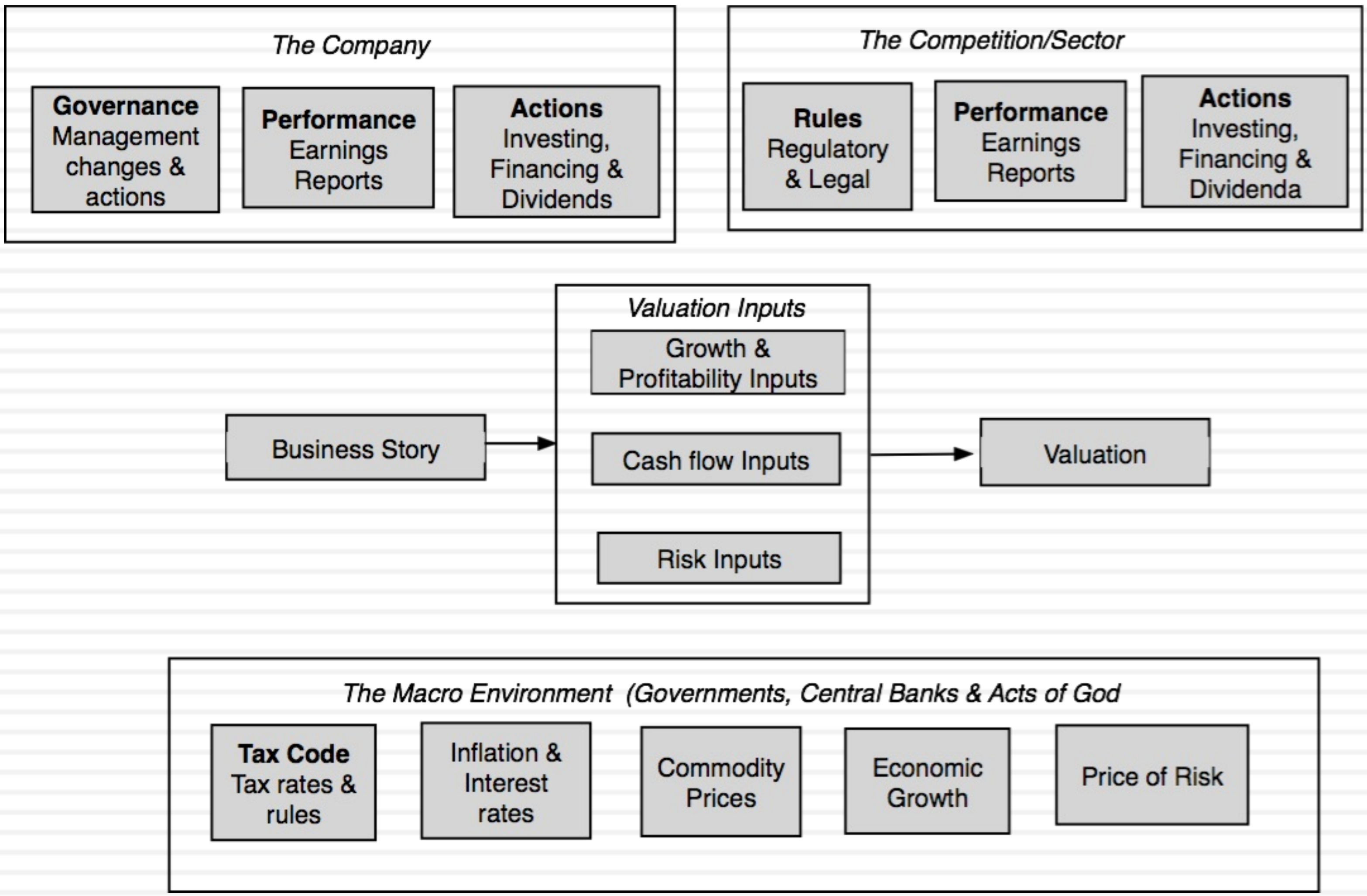
Story Breaks, Changes and Shifts

Why narratives change



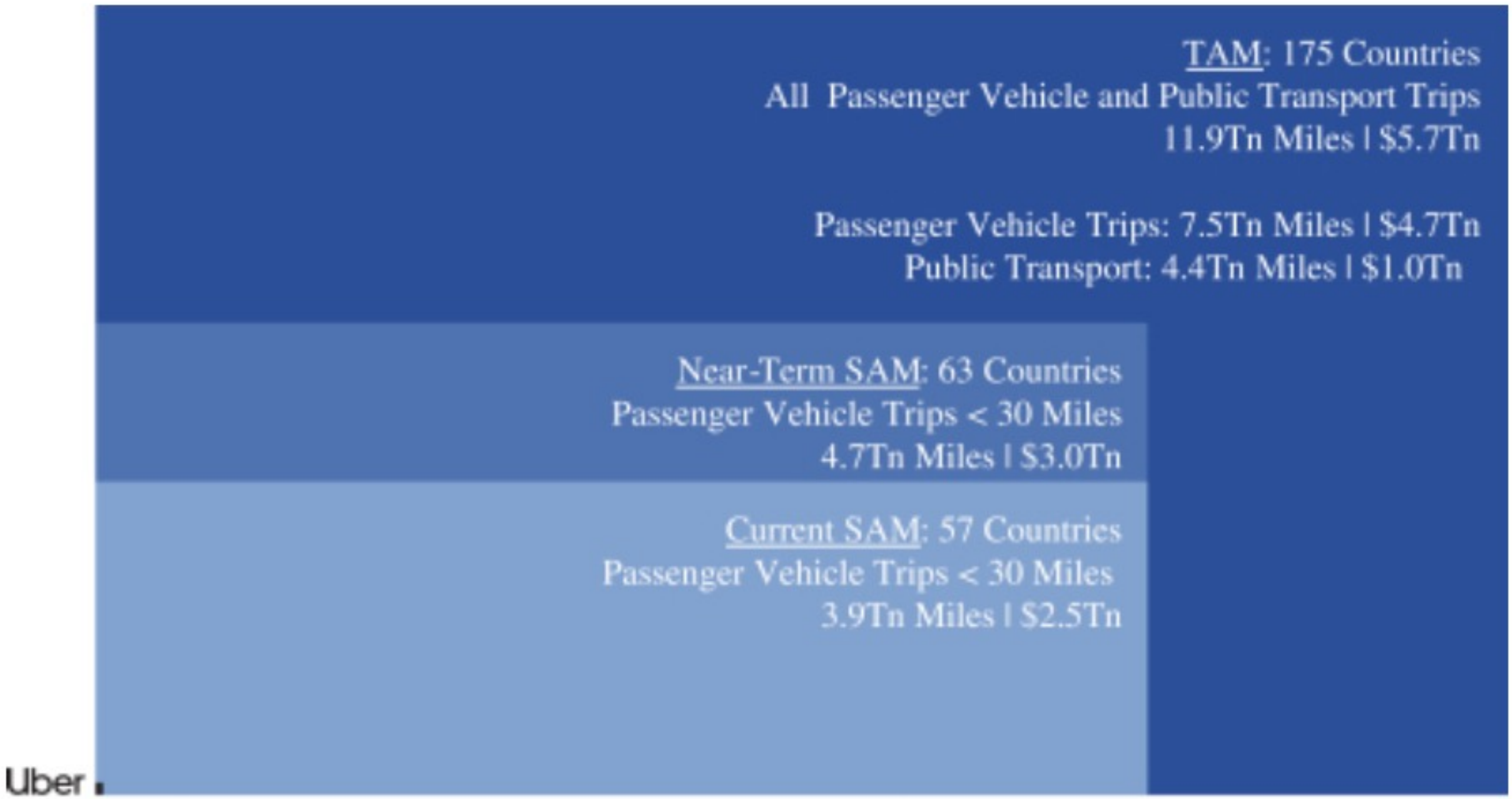
How narratives change

Narrative Break/End	Narrative Shift	Narrative Change (Expansion or Contraction)
Events, external (legal, political or economic) or internal (management, competitive, default), that can cause the narrative to break or end.	Improvement or deterioration in initial business model, changing market size, market share and/or profitability.	Unexpected entry/success in a new market or unexpected exit/failure in an existing market.
Your valuation estimates (cash flows, risk, growth & value) are no longer operative	Your valuation estimates will have to be modified to reflect the new data about the company.	Valuation estimates have to be redone with new overall market potential and characteristics.
Estimate a probability that it will occur & consequences	Monte Carlo simulations or scenario analysis	Real Options

The Uber IPO in 2019: The Prospectus

- It's big and dense: To get a sense of where Uber stands now, just ahead of its IPO, I started with the prospectus, which weighing in at 285 pages, not counting appendices, and filled with pages of details, can be daunting.
- Disclosure's dark side: It is a testimonial to how information disclosure requirements have had the perverse consequence of making the disclosures useless, by drowning investors in data and meaningless legalese.
    - I know that there are many who have latched on to the statement that "we may not achieve profitability" that Uber makes in the prospectus (on page 27) as an indication of its worthlessness, but I view it more as evidence that lawyers should never be allowed to write about investing risk.

The Business Spin! Personal Mobility? Really?



Personal Mobility Near-Term SAM Miles Penetration: less than 1%

Uber

Uber: Personal Mobility Player?

Uber is primarily a ride sharing company, with ambtions of being a global logistics player. Its revenue growth has been astonishing, though it is starting to slow, but it remains a big money loser, as it searches for a business model that delivers more stickiness. In this story, Uber uses a combination of economies of scale and a more capital intensive business model to create a pathway to profitability. Along the way, it will become a less risky company, though its losses leave it exposed to a 5% chance of failure.

The Assumptions

	Base year	*Years 1-5*	*Years 6-10*	*After year 10*	*Story link*
Total Market	$400,000	Grow 10.39% a year		Grows 2.75% a year	Global logistics
Gross Market Share	12.45%	6.71%>30%		30%	Global Network benefits
Revenue Share	20.13%	Unchanged		20.13%	Market dominance keeps billing share high.
Operating Margin	-24.39%	-24.39% ->20%		15.00%	Full employee & more regulations
Reinvestment	NA	Sales to capital ratio of 4.00		Reinvestment rate = 7.5%	Low capital investment model
Cost of capital	NA	9.97%	9,97%->8.24%	8.24%	At 75th percentile of US firms
Risk of failure	5% chance of failure, if pricing meltdown leads to capital being cut off				Cash on hand + Capital access

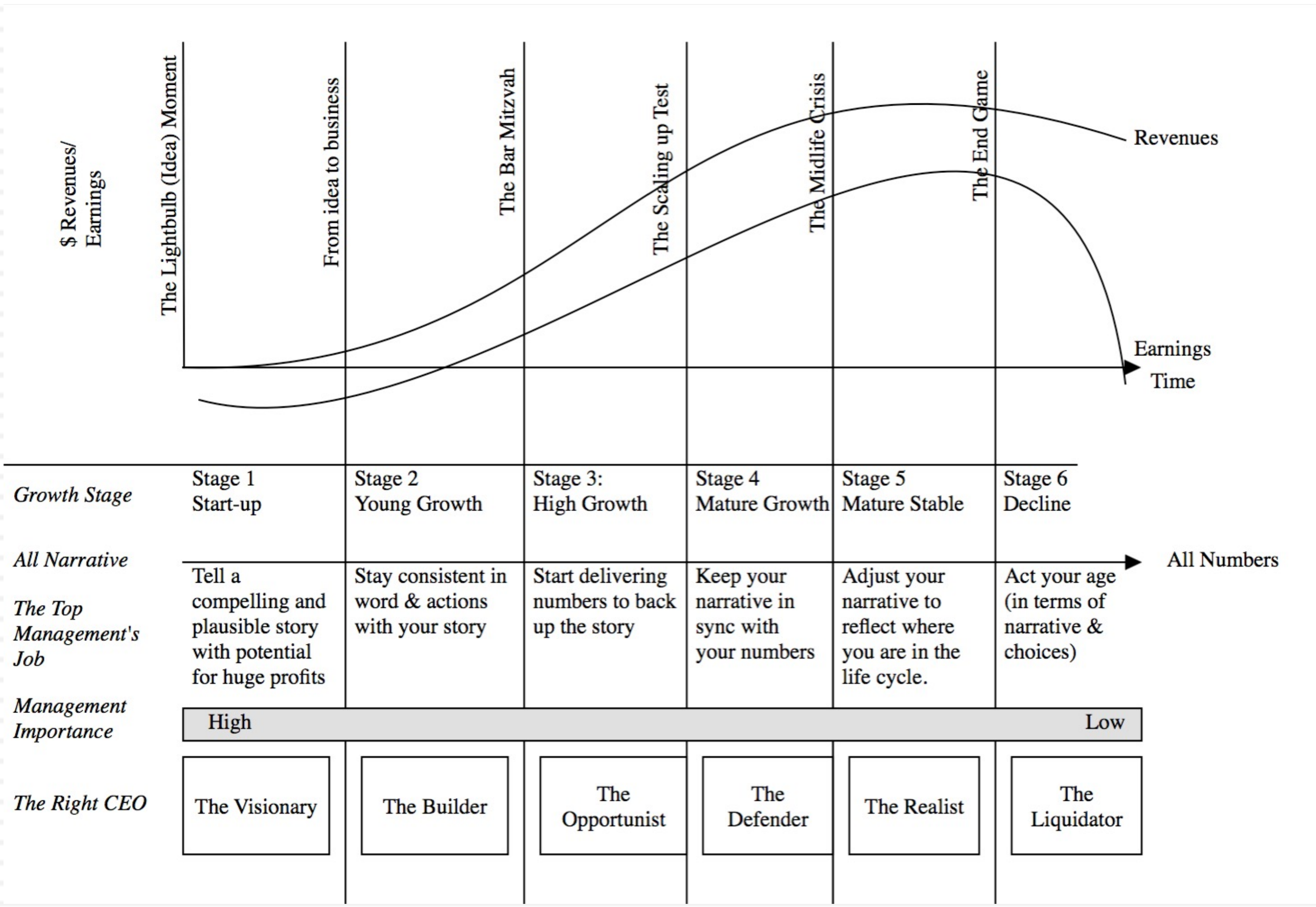
The Cash Flows

	Total Market	*Market Share*	*Revenues*	*EBIT (1-t)*	*Reinvestment*	*FCFF*
1	$ 441,560	14.20%	$ 12,627	$ (2,369)	$ 650	$ (3,019)
2	$ 487,438	15.96%	$ 15,661	$ (2,057)	$ 759	$ (2,816)
3	$ 538,083	17.71%	$ 19,189	$ (1,441)	$ 882	$ (2,323)
4	$ 593,990	19.47%	$ 23,281	$ (438)	$ 1,023	$ (1,461)
5	$ 655,705	21.22%	$ 28,017	$ 1,050	$ 1,184	$ (134)
6	$ 723,833	22.98%	$ 33,485	$ 3,139	$ 1,367	$ 1,771
7	$ 799,039	24.73%	$ 39,787	$ 5,292	$ 1,576	$ 3,716
8	$ 882,059	26.49%	$ 47,037	$ 5,292	$ 1,813	$ 3,479
9	$ 973,705	28.24%	$ 55,365	$ 6,229	$ 2,082	$ 4,147
10	$1,074,873	30.00%	$ 64,915	$ 7,303	$ 2,387	$ 4,915
Terminal year	$1,101,745	30.00%	$ 66,537	$ 7,485	$ 936	$ 6,550

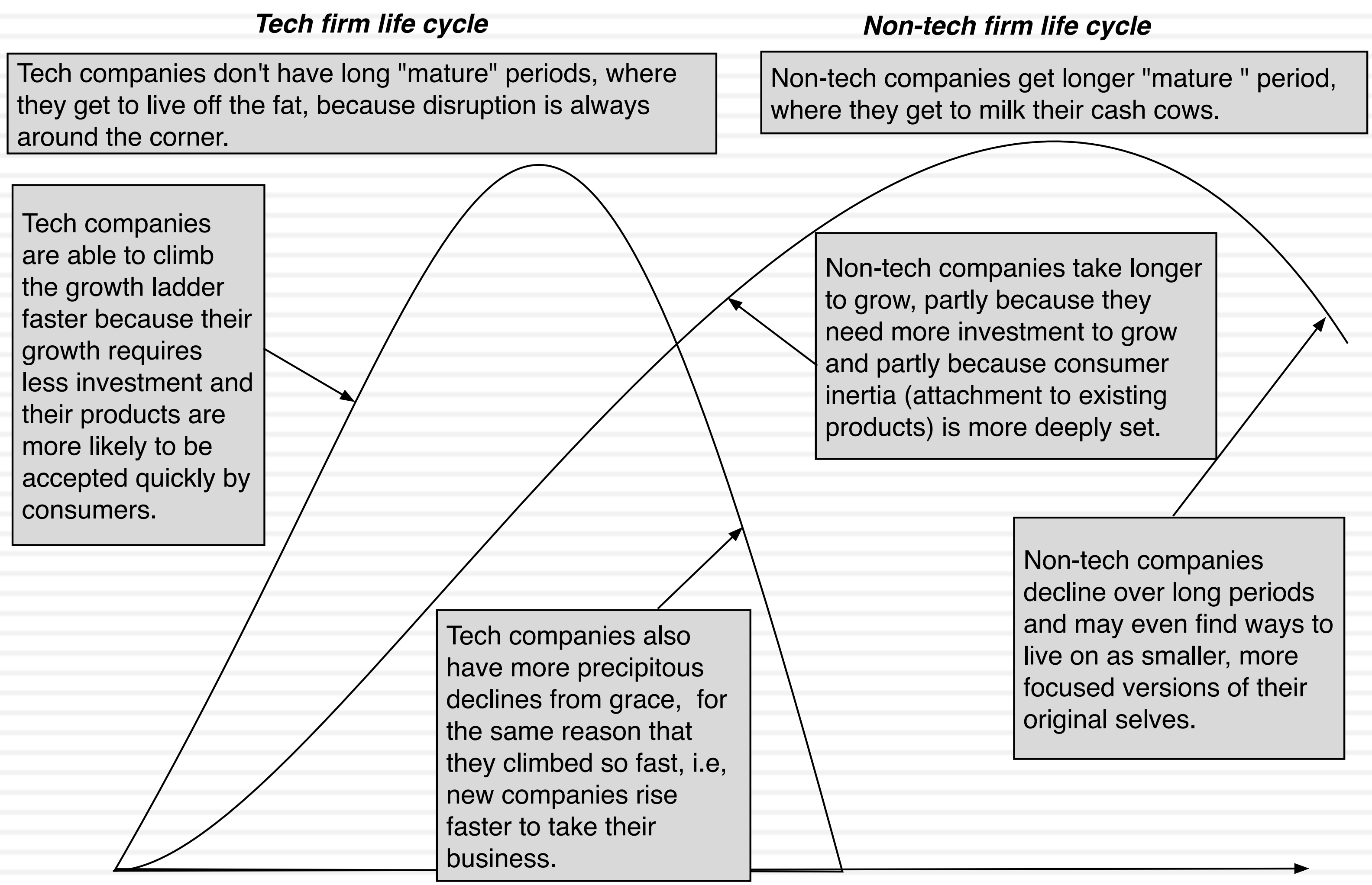
The Value

Terminal value	$ 114,108
PV(Terminal value)	$ 46,258
PV (CF over next 10 years)	$ 501
Value of operating assets =	$ 46,759
Probability of failure	5%
Value in case of failure	$ -
Adjusted Value for operating assets	$ 44,421
+ Cash on hand	$ 6,406
+ Cross holdings	$ 8,700
+ IPO Proceeds	$ 9,000
- Debt	$ 6,869
Value of equity	$ 61,658
Value per share	$ 32.91

The Managerial Challenge



The Compressed Life Cycle?



The Consequences

- When life cycles were long, stretching over decades, time and aging allowed for smoother transitions, since CEOs aged with their companies, and moved on.
- As life cycles shorten, managers are far more likely to find their companies changing under them so quickly that they can no longer adapt.
  - To be a long tenured CEO, you will either need to be versatile and/or be able to delegate the work that you cannot do to people you empower and trust.
  - If these transitions are not well managed, there will be far more turnover in top management and activist investing will flourish.

The End

"There is no real ending. It's just the place where you stop the story."