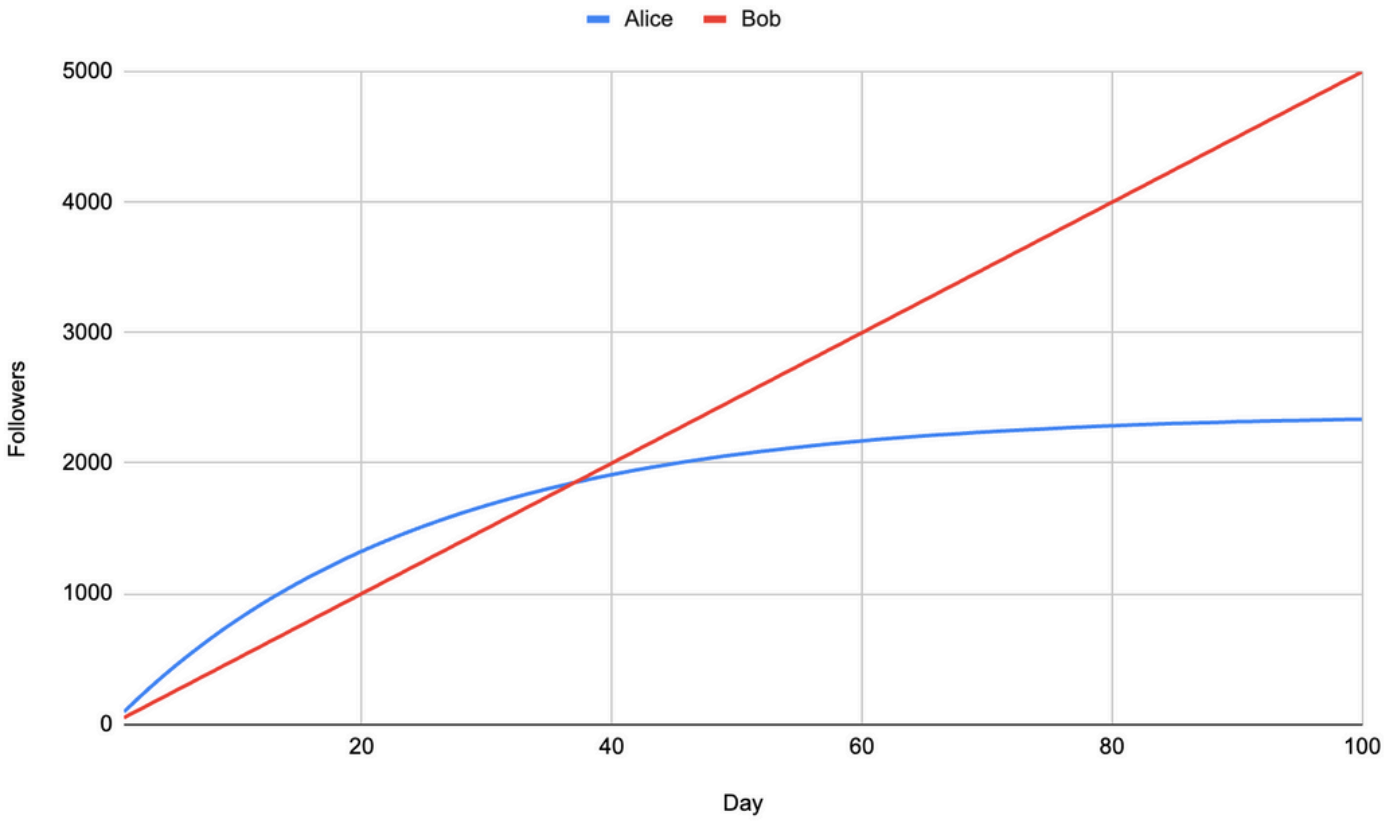
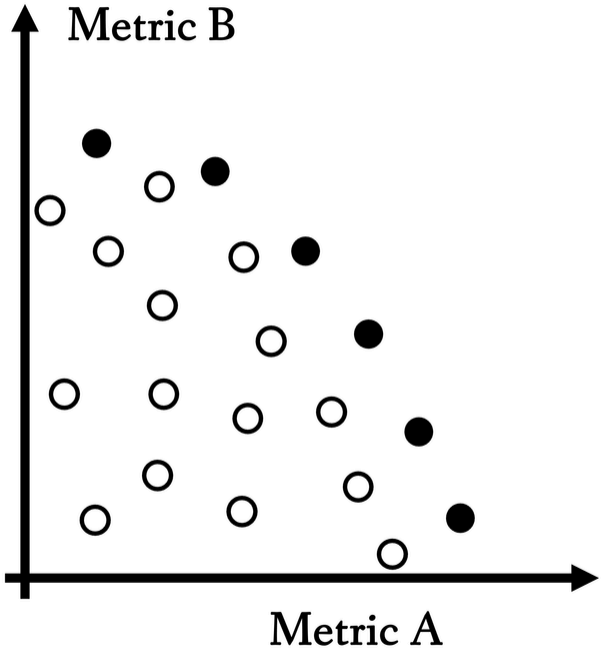
Figures for Winning Long-Term Games





Daniel Vassallo
@dvassallo

Work under uncertainty:
- Hard work → Trial & error
- Focus → Many things at once
- Optimization → 80/20 rule
- Consistency → Intensity
- Avoid distractions → Embrace randomness
- Practice 10,000 hrs → 100 bets
- Goals → Stay in the game
- Efficiency → Slack in the system

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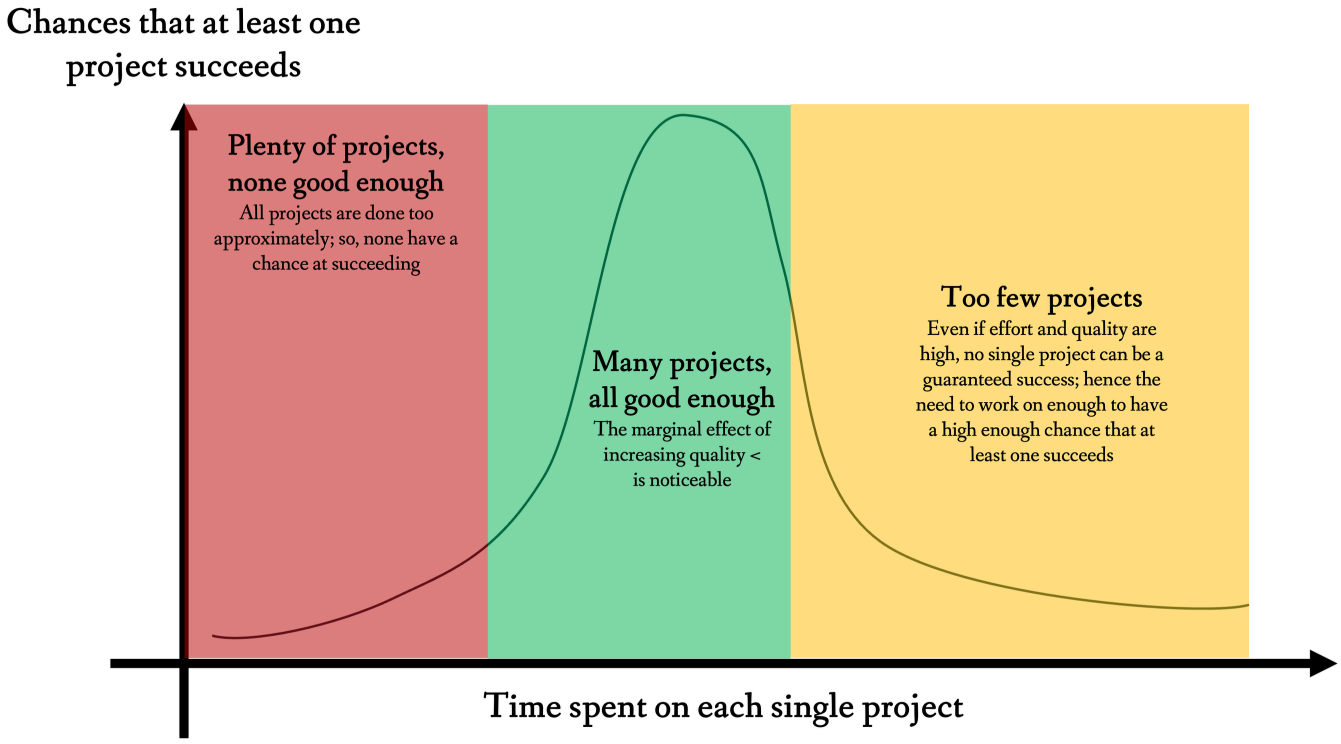
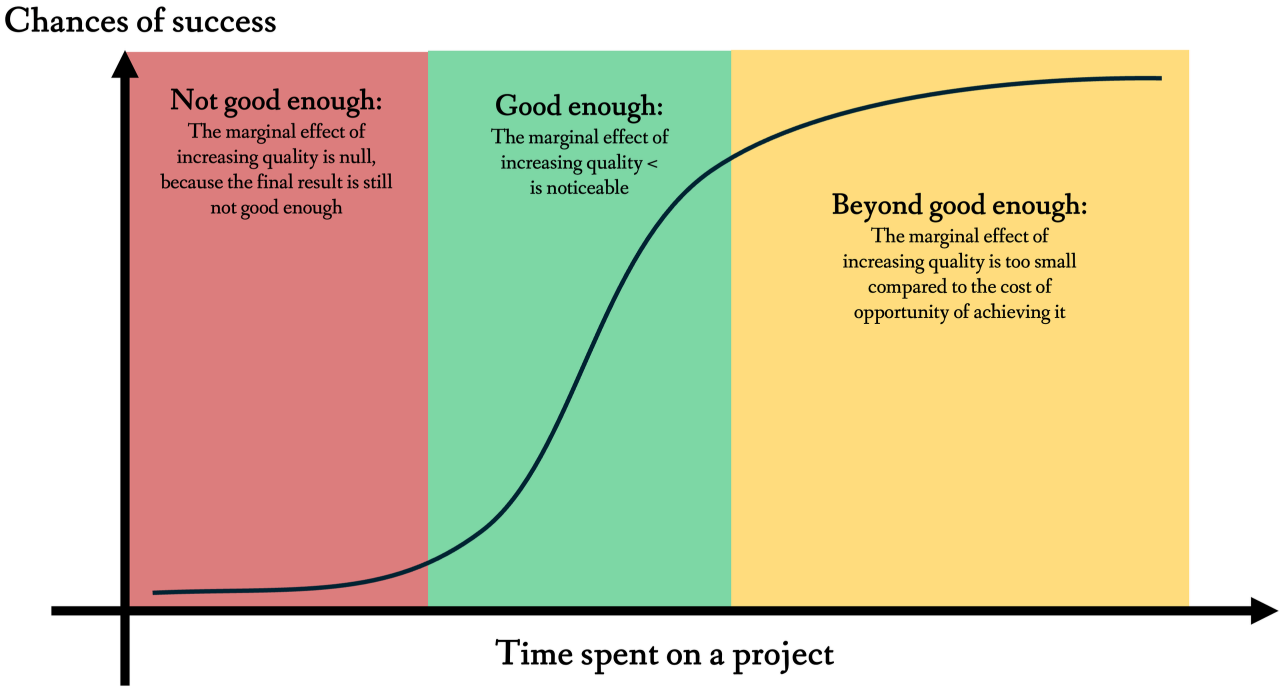
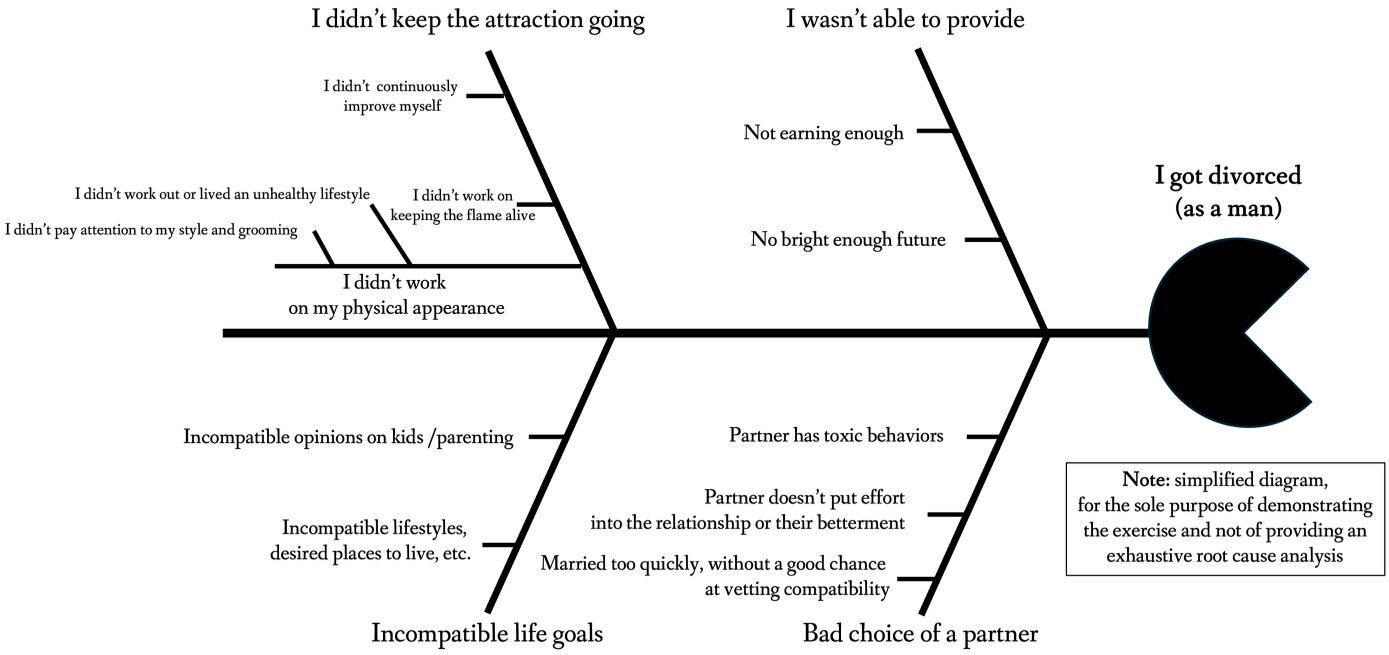
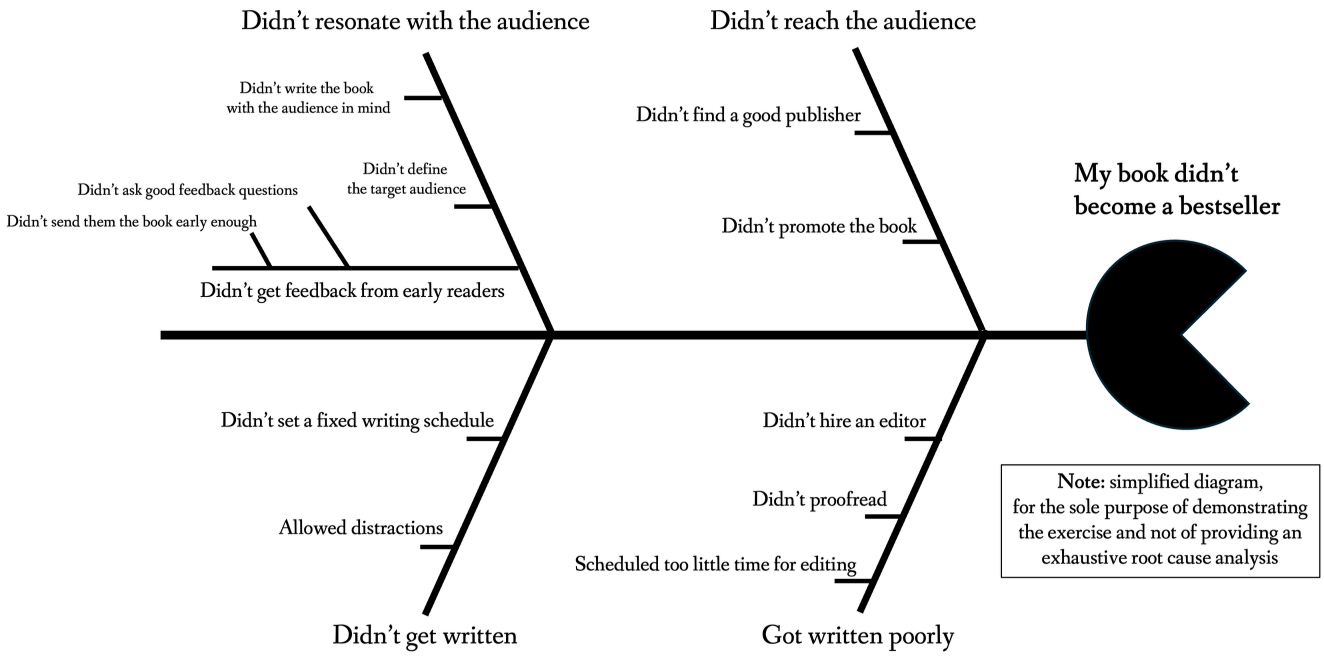
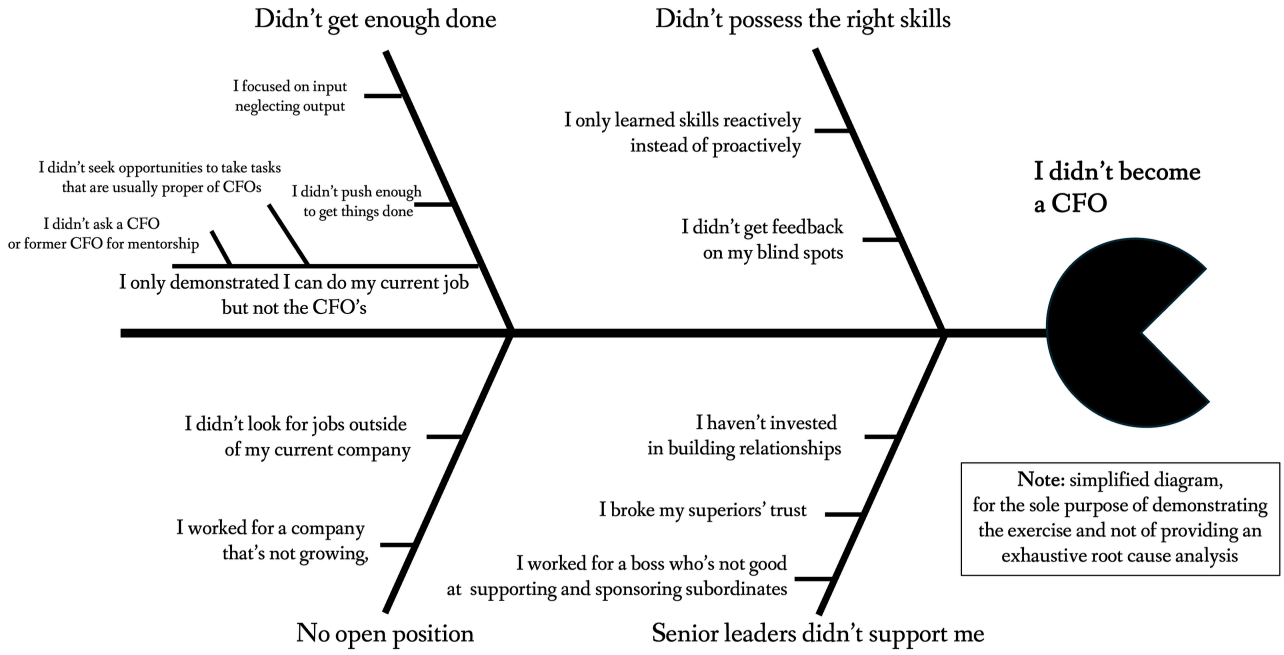
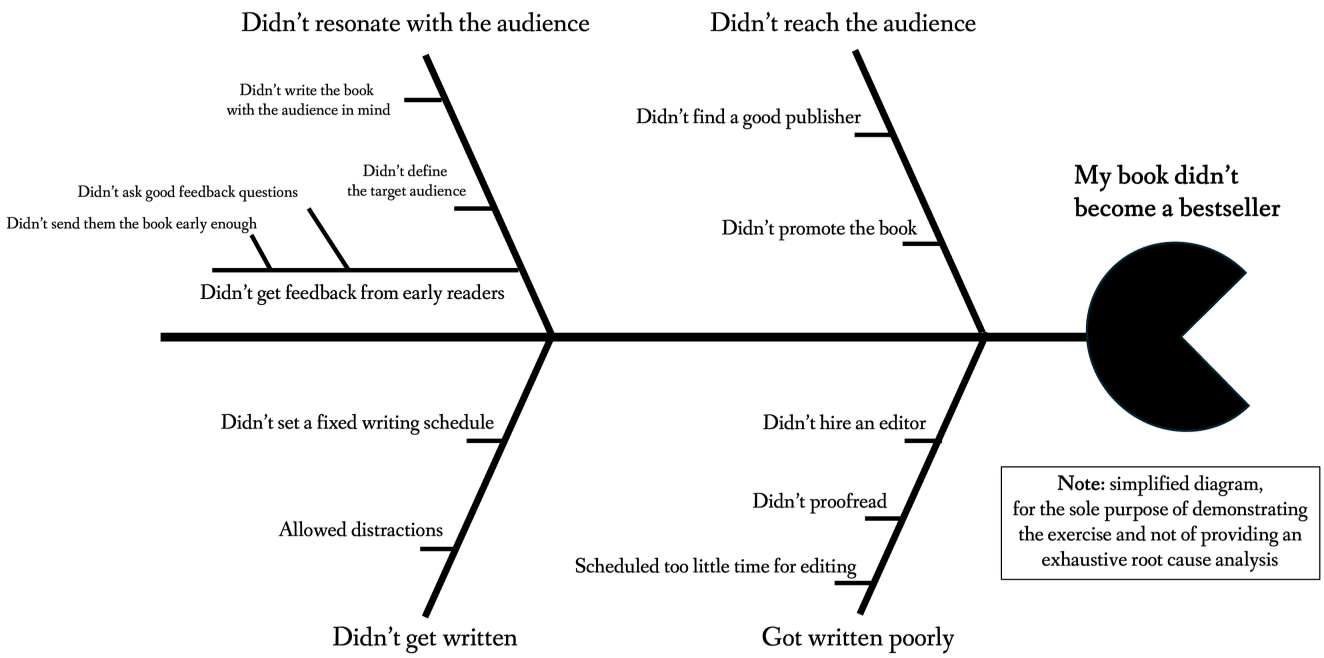



Chances of success
Not good enough:
The marginal effect of increasing quality is null, because the final result is still not good enough
Good enough:
The marginal effect of increasing quality < is noticeable
Beyond good enough:
The marginal effect of increasing quality is too small compared to the cost of opportunity of achieving it
Time spent on a project


I didn't keep the attraction going
I didn't continuously improve myself
I didn't work out or lived an unhealthy lifestyle
I didn't work on keeping the flame alive
I didn't pay attention to my style and grooming
I didn't work on my physical appearance
Incompatible opinions on kids /parenting
Incompatible lifestyles, desired places to live, etc.
Incompatible life goals
I wasn't able to provide
Not earning enough
No bright enough future
Partner has toxic behaviors
Partner doesn't put effort into the relationship or their betterment
Married too quickly, without a good chance at vetting compatibility
Bad choice of a partner
I got divorced (as a man)
Note: simplified diagram, for the sole purpose of demonstrating the exercise and not of providing an exhaustive root cause analysis


Didn't resonate with the audience
Didn't reach the audience
Didn't write the book with the audience in mind
Didn't define the target audience
Didn't ask good feedback questions
Didn't send them the book early enough
Didn't get feedback from early readers
Didn't find a good publisher
Didn't promote the book
My book didn't become a bestseller
Didn't set a fixed writing schedule
Allowed distractions
Didn't hire an editor
Didn't proofread
Scheduled too little time for editing
Note: simplified diagram, for the sole purpose of demonstrating the exercise and not of providing an exhaustive root cause analysis
Didn't get written
Got written poorly


Didn't get enough done
Didn't possess the right skills
I focused on input neglecting output
I didn't seek opportunities to take tasks that are usually proper of CFOs
I didn't push enough to get things done
I didn't ask a CFO or former CFO for mentorship
I only demonstrated I can do my current job but not the CFO's
I only learned skills reactively instead of proactively
I didn't get feedback on my blind spots
I didn't become a CFO
I didn't look for jobs outside of my current company
I worked for a company that's not growing,
I haven't invested in building relationships
I broke my superiors' trust
I worked for a boss who's not good at supporting and sponsoring subordinates
Note: simplified diagram, for the sole purpose of demonstrating the exercise and not of providing an exhaustive root cause analysis
No open position
Senior leaders didn't support me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