

MCU | PHASE 2

An as-brief-as-it-can-get summary of all the movies in Phase 2
(Based solely on the MCU, sorry no comic lore included)

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THE RECAP DESK

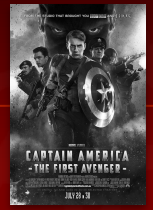
MOVIES IN THE INFINITY SAGA

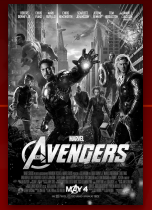












PHASE 1













PHASE 2

PHASE 3



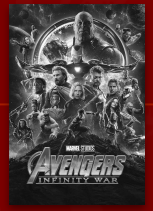








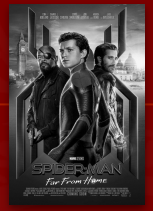














IRON MAN 3

(2013)

KEY CHARACTERS



Tony Stark
Iron Man



Aldrich Killian



Trevor Slattery
The Mandarin



Pepper Potts



Rhodey
War Machine/Iron Patriot



Harley



Maya Hansen



Happy Hogan

BRIEF MOVIE RECAP

TINY SPOILERS

Tony Stark is dealing with some serious PTSD after the Battle of New York. He is hyper-fixated on continuously building better Iron Man suits to hopefully keep the people around him safe from all the impending possible threats that he can't explain (like aliens because WTF). Another one of these threats, at present, is a terrorist known as The Mandarin who has been orchestrating bombings across the United States.

Aldrich Killian, a man that approached Tony back in 1999 hoping to work with him, meets with Pepper Potts at Stark Industries to propose a collaboration with her and his company AIM, specifically their project Extremis. The Extremis project manipulates human genetics to help strengthen a person's body such as by helping them regrow absent limbs. Pepper rejects the proposal, fearing it could lead to using the test subjects as weapons.

When Happy Hogan gets injured in one of The Mandarin's bombings, Tony issues a threat to The Mandarin that he will get his revenge. Tony's home then gets attacked by presumably The Mandarin's army. Tony protects Pepper from harm as his home collapses. Tony is assumed to be dead by the public but he actually escaped and ended up in Tennessee. He finds refuge in the garage of a kid named Harley. Tony recruits Harley to help him fix his Iron Man Suit and to investigate a small bombing in the area that Tony suspects is connected to The Mandarin. He comes face to face with superhumans who have extreme healing and heating powers (they make things, including themselves very hot). He acquires a file that reveals to him that AIM is connected to the fire people and The Mandarin. He requests help from Rhodey (War Machine) and goes to find him.

Maya Hansen, the genetics scientist who originally created Extremis, informs Pepper that Aldrich may be working for The Mandarin. As she fills Pepper in on how the project went sideways, Aldrich walks in and takes Pepper as ransom to get Tony's attention.

ENDING

MAJOR SPOILERS

Tony locates The Mandarin's base, only to discover that The Mandarin is an actor by the name of Trevor Slattery who has been hired by Aldrich to pose as the face of the terrorist operations. Tony and Rhodey get captured by Aldrich and Maya and are held hostage in separate rooms. Aldrich shows Tony that somewhere off-site, his AIM team is administering the Extremis serum to Pepper against her wishes..

Tony summons his Iron Man suit and escapes with Rhodey (whose War Machine/Iron Patriot suit has been taken by Aldrich). Trevor fills them in on Aldrich's plan to kill the U.S. President. Tony and Rhodey find the U.S. President stringed up on an oil rig guarded by a team of Extremis beings. Tony summons all of his autopilot Iron Man suits to attack the Extremis beings.

Rhodey saves the President while Tony goes after Aldrich. With the help of an Extremis-powered Pepper, they kill Aldrich who has confessed to being the true Mandarin. Tony destroys all of his Iron Man suits, reverses Pepper's Extremis effects, and has the reactor permanently removed from his chest along with the remaining shrapnel left from his initial capture in Afghanistan. It is implied he is done being Iron Man.

TIDBITS FOR LATER

- Trevor Slattery genuinely thought The Mandarin was just an acting gig, not terrorist activity.



THOR: THE DARK WORLD

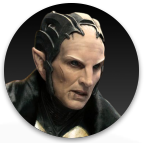
(2013)

KEY CHARACTERS


Thor


Loki


Jane Foster


Malekith


Kurse


Odin

BRIEF MOVIE RECAP

TINY SPOILERS

Back on Asgard following the Battle of New York, Loki is imprisoned in the dungeons for life for starting a war on Earth. Meanwhile, Thor is continuing to prove himself worthy of the Asgardian throne by bringing peace to the Nine Realms. He is still hung up on Jane, which as it turns out Jane is also still head over heels for Thor. Her and Darcy are in London continuing their research when she locates a building with bizarre activity and unbeknowingly comes in contact with the Aether. The Aether is an ancient liquid relic - a source of power the Dark Elves and their leader Malakith have been searching for for years.

Feeling something is wrong, Thor goes to Earth to find Jane and takes her to Asgard. With some help from Odin, they figure out Jane has the power of the Aether running through her veins.

Elsewhere, Malekith is seeking revenge on Asgard for the mass death of the Dark Elves. Despite having been believed to all be dead, the remaining Dark Elves rise from their hibernation now that the Aether has appeared again. Malekith sends his right-hand man (Kurse) undercover as a prisoner to Asgard, where he wreaks havoc in the castle while other Dark Elves invade Asgard. They failed to find the Aether/Jane but they do kill Frigga - Thor & Loki's mother.

Thor is concerned about the Dark Elves returning to Asgard for the Aether/Jane. He offers Loki, who is in absolute shambles over the death of his mother, the chance to covertly escape prison and get his revenge on Malekith in order to help Thor protect Jane. Against Odin's wishes to not act on his plan, Thor, Loki, and Jane escape from Asgard with the help of Thor's friends. They land on Svartalfheim where Thor, Loki, and Jane come in contact with Malekith. Loki stabs Thor, and hands Jane over to Malekith. Malekith then fully extracts the Aether from Jane.

ENDING

MAJOR SPOILERS

After the extraction, Loki and Thor (who is fine btw, the stabbing was a little trick) try to destroy the free roaming Aether but fail. Malakith reforms the Aether, consumes it, and escapes. Loki gets in the middle of a fight with Kurse and is impaled to death. Thor and Jane go to Earth where they figure out Malakith is planning on using the Aether to manipulate the Convergence - a cosmic event where the Nine Realms align and create portals between them all - and destroy the Nine Realms.

The Dark Elves attack Earth, and the Convergence occurs. Thor uses the portals to his advantage and transports Malekith to Svartalfheim where his ship collapses on him, kills him, and Thor then closes the portals.

Thor renounces his title to the Asgardian throne, stating to Odin he wants to protect the realms from beyond a chair. As he leaves, it is revealed Odin is actually Loki in disguise, who is still alive… again.

POST CREDIT: Thor's friends find The Collector and give him the Aether to keep safe.

TIDBITS FOR LATER

- The Aether is the Reality Stone.
- Thor takes the Aether to the Collector because the Asgard Vault already held another Infinity Stone (in the Tesseract), and it was too risky to store two in the same place.
- Thor is able to move between Earth and Space freely without portals now.



CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER

(2014)

KEY CHARACTERS



Steve Rogers
Captain America



Natasha Romanoff
Black Widow



Bucky Barnes
The Winter Soldier



Sam Wilson
The Falcon



Nick Fury



Alexander Pierce



Agent Maria Hill

BRIEF MOVIE RECAP

TINY SPOILERS

Steve and Natasha are called to rescue a group of SHIELD agents being held hostage by pirates. Natasha is on a side quest to backup SHIELD data from this ship onto a hard drive. After completing their mission, Fury shows Steve Project Insight - three helicarriers that will float in the stratosphere and target individuals who pose a threat on Earth. Steve is not thrilled about having guns in the sky ready to launch at any moment. Fury tries to access the SHIELD data from Natasha's hard drive but is blocked out. He asks Alexander Pierce, a SHIELD official, to delay the launch of Insight while he investigates the drive.

Nick Fury gets attacked on the street by "cops" and a masked assassin. He retreats to Steve's apartments, gives Steve the hard drive, and they are found again by the masked assassin - the Winter Soldier. Fury is severely injured and is declared dead at the hospital. Steve goes to Pierce to get more details and learns that Fury was operating undercover to retrieve classified information, going as far as hiring the pirates that held the SHIELD agents captive. Steve is attacked by SHIELD's STRIKE team but escapes. SHIELD declares Steve a fugitive, claiming he knows more about Fury's death than he's leading on.

Natasha and Steve track the drive's datapoint to a lab that was once run by Dr. Zola. They learn that HYDRA has been secretly operating within SHIELD for years. Sam Wilson (an ex-vet/the Falcon) joins Natasha and Steve, and they discover Zola's algorithm was designed for Insight, and it actually targets everyone who's *predicted* to be a threat to HYDRA, now and in the future. On their way to stop Insight's launch, the Winter Soldier attacks. Steve takes the Winter Soldier's mask off and realizes it's his old BFF Bucky Barnes, who has no recollection of Steve nor himself. Steve, Natasha, and Sam are arrested by the STRIKE team but Agent Hill helps them escape and takes them to a bunker where Fury is alive and secretly investigating SHIELD's true intent with Insight.

Pierce goes to the Winter Soldier, who is having lapses of Bucky memories. Pierce tries to reset him and prepare him to target Captain America again.

ENDING

MAJOR SPOILERS

Fury, Hill, Natasha, Steve, and Sam go to SHIELD to shut down Project Insight and stop the helicarriers from killing off thousands of predetermined targets upon launch. Steve exposes that SHIELD has been compromised by HYDRA with Pierce as their leader. They race to deactivate the Insight helicarriers in the air while being attacked by HYDRA/STRIKE and the Winter Soldier. Steve fights the Winter Soldier while trying to deactivate the last helicarrier, Fury and Natasha release all of SHIELD's data files to the public to expose HYDRA's operations.

The helicarriers are hijacked to shoot each other down, saving all the targets selected by Zola's algorithm. Still on the helicarrier, the Winter Soldier attempts to kill Steve. For a moment, Bucky seems to remember Steve before Steve falls off the exploding helicarrier. The Winter Soldier rescues Steve before walking away visibly distraught.

SHIELD falls, Fury is on a mission to find other HYDRA operatives, and Steve and Sam start their search for Bucky.

POST CREDIT: A HYDRA operative is in possession of Loki's scepter, and the Maximoff twins. Bucky goes to the Captain America exhibition at the Smithsonian and finds a section about himself.

TIDBITS FOR LATER

- While held captive in 1943, Bucky was being experimented on by Zola before he was rescued by Steve. After his fall from the train he was once again taken in by Zola and HYDRA, and made the Winter Soldier.
- Agent Sharon Carter used to be Steve's neighbor, operating undercover for SHIELD.



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY

(2014)

KEY CHARACTERS


Peter Quill
Star Lord


Gamora


Drax


Rocket Raccoon


Groot


Ronan


Yondu

BRIEF MOVIE RECAP

TINY SPOILERS

A group of solo outlaws are arrested on Planet Xander. Pre-arrest, Peter Quill worked with Yondu to steal and pawn off valuable artifacts (his most recent item being an Orb); Gamora is the adopted daughter of Thanos who was sent by Ronan to locate Quill and the Orb; Rocket Raccoon and Groot are bounty hunters who were also looking to bring Quill in. The four of them meet Drax in prison and devise a plan to escape with the Orb.

Ronan, the leader of the Kree, is on a vendetta to destroy Xandar. He is working alongside Thanos (the most powerful being in the universe), and Thanos' other daughter Nebula (who Thanos is pretty abusive towards FYI).

The escaped outlaws go to Planet Knowhere to meet with a buyer for the Orb known as The Collector. Identifying that the Orb contains the Power Stone, he goes on to explain the history of the Infinity Stones to the group. They take the Orb back and decide they will give it to the Nova Corps (an intergalactic police force), hoping it will make it harder for Ronan to steal. Drax, in search of a personal revenge on Ronan, stupidly summons him to them and Ronan's army takes the Orb. Gamora and Quill end up with Yondu and the Ravagers, and Drax, Rocket, and Groot go after them. The group makes a deal with the Ravagers in which they will work together to help them get into Ronan's ship and take the stone back, after which Yondu will take the stone and sell it to a buyer. They also request help from the the Nova Corps.

Ronan keeps the Orb/Power Stone for himself instead of handing it over to Thanos. They track Ronan to the planet Nova where they attack his fleet while the city is actively being evacuated.

ENDING

MAJOR SPOILERS

The group takes on Ronan's fleet of ships with aid from the Nova Corps and the Ravagers. They manage to get to Ronan but fail to kill him before the ship goes down. Groot sacrifices himself to shield the Guardians as they crash into Nova.

As Ronan is about to use the Power Stone to destroy Xandar, Quill does a little dance to distract him. The rest of the group attacks, and Quill takes the stone. With the power of the stone being too strong for Quill to handle on his own, the rest of the Guardians unite hand in hand to share the power, and use it to destroy Ronan.

Quill hands Yondu a fake Orb, keeping the real stone for himself. Quill does the good thing though and gives it to the Nova Corps for safe keeping. In appreciation for saving Xandar, the Nova Corps pardon the group for all their crimes, and they officially become the Guardians of the Galaxy.

TIDBITS FOR LATER

- Peter Quill grew up on Earth. Yondu was hired by Quill's dad to snatch him up after Quill's mom died, but Yondu didn't deliver him to the his dad.
- The Nova Corp discover Quill is only half human - his father's identity is still unknown but he's not human.
- Groot is seen growing back after Rocket replants a little remnant off him.



AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON

(2015)

KEY CHARACTERS


Tony Stark
Iron Man


Steve Rogers
Captain America


Thor


Natasha Romanoff
Black Widow


Bruce Banner
The Hulk


Clint Barton
Hawkeye


Ultron


Wanda Maximoff
Scarlet Witch


Pietro Maximoff
Quicksilver


Vision


Rhodey
War Machine

BRIEF MOVIE RECAP

TINY SPOILERS

In the midst of fighting HYDRA agents in search of Loki's scepter, the Avengers meet the unhinged Maximoff Twins, Wanda and Pietro. Wanda possesses telekinetic and mind manipulation powers, and Pietro has superspeed. Tony finds the scepter and brings it back to Avengers Tower to assess. Tony decides he is going to use the power in the scepter to create an artificial intelligence that will serve as a peacekeeping program named Ultron.

The Ultron AI gains too much awareness, and creates a robotic body for itself. Ultron goes to Sokovia to find the Maximoff Twins and recruits them to help end the Avengers. They locate and steal some Vibranium from Ulysses Klaue, a black market mercenary. The Avengers find Ultron and the Twins and try to stop them from taking the Vibranium. Wanda puts Natasha, Steve, Thor, and Hulk in a dream state, while they get away. Clint takes the shaken Avengers to his family's countryside home to lay low where they figure out that Ultron is planning to create another version of himself in a more human form. Meanwhile, Thor leaves for a sec to find Dr. Selvig to check up on something he saw while in his dream state.

In Avengers Tower, Ultron uses the Mind Stone that was in Loki's scepter to create a humanoid body and download himself into it. As the body is being created, Wanda reads Ultron's mind and discovers his true plan is to destroy Earth, not just the Avengers. When the Avengers locate Ultron, The Twins decide to side with the Avengers instead. Ultron gets away, but leaves behind the box with the unfinished humanoid in it.

Against Steve's wishes, Tony decides to download JARVIS, Tony's lifetime AI, in the humanoid body. Thor jolts the humanoid to life with lightning and the humanoid, known as Vision, is brought to life. In Thor's dream state he saw the destruction of the universe through the Infinity Stones. He hopes that having Vision, who is powered by the Mind Stone, can help them defeat Ultron. The Avengers go to Sokovia to evacuate the city before Ultron attacks.

ENDING

MAJOR SPOILERS

Ultron separates part of Sokovia from land, levitating it to use as a meteor that can crash into Earth and cause a global extinction. The Vibranium acquired earlier by Ultron powers the core that is keeping the isolated part of Sokovia in the air. The Avengers and the Maximoff Twins fight Ultron and his army. Tony concludes the only way to save the planet is to blow up the floating city before it makes impact on the surface. Fury and Rhodey come in to help get people in the city back to the ground before the floating part of Sokovia explodes.

The Avengers assemble to shelter the core from Ultron. Pietro is killed while protecting Hawkeye. A grieving Wanda takes a final swing at Ultron, but one of Ultron's minions get to the core and sends Sokovia flying down. As the city drops, Tony and Thor blow it up preventing it from causing more damage to the Earth. Vision finally kills Ultron. Hulk is sent away on a jet flying into the unknown. Thor goes off to find out what the recent presence of various Infinity Stones could mean. The rest of the Avengers lay low at the new Avengers Compound.

POST CREDIT: Thanos has created a gauntlet...

TIDBITS FOR LATER

- The Maximoff Twins got their powers from the Reality Stone after being voluntarily experimented on as kids.
- Ulysses Klaue is branded as a thief by the Wakandans.
- Vision, Wanda, War Machine, and Falcon are now considered part of the Avengers.



ANT-MAN

(2015)

KEY CHARACTERS



Scott Lang
Ant-Man



Hank Pym



Hope Van Dyne



Darren Cross



Luis



Sam Wilson
The Falcon

BRIEF MOVIE RECAP

TINY SPOILERS

A retired Hank Pym, the developer of the Pym Particle, is invited to Pym Tech for a presentation by his employee Darren Cross. Cross found Hank's research on miniaturizing people with the Pym Particle and has taken it upon himself to create his own miniaturizing suit for soldiers to use in battle (the Yellowjacket). Hank however is strongly against his technology being used for military purposes and disapproves of the presentation.

Nearby, freshly released from prison Scott Lang is under pressure to pay child support so he can see his daughter freely. With no luck of getting a job, he breaks into Hank's home to steal from his vault but instead of money finds the Ant-Man suit. Hank watches the robbery unfold on his security cameras. Scott tries the suit on and discovers its ability to shrink its wearer while increasing the person's strength. Freaked out by the powers of the suit, he returns it to the vault but is arrested. Hank visits Scott in jail and reveals he actually planned for Scott to steal the suit and requests his help in exchange for his freedom. He sneaks the suit into Scott's jail cell and Scott escapes. Hank and and his daughter Hope help Scott prepare to infiltrate Pym Tech and steal Cross' data.

First, they send Scott to retrieve a signal decoy prototype that is in the Avengers Compound - previously one of Howard Stark's storage facilities for SHIELD. Scott has a tiff with Sam Wilson/The Falcon but against all odds manages to retrieve the signal decoy.

Cross invites Hank to Pym Tech to view the final results of his Yellowjacket/Pym Particle replication project. Hank, Hope, and Scott recruit Scott's ex-con friend Luis and the rest of his crew to help them get into Pym Tech during Cross' presentation. Security has been taken up a notch and there are cops on the premise ready to arrest Hank for suspicion in aiding Scott escape jail. Cross' presentation confirms that he has perfected his version of the Pym Particles and is now looking to sell the Yellowjacket suit to HYDRA agents.

ENDING

MAJOR SPOILERS

A shrunken Scott, along with a gazillion ants, breaks into Pym Tech, shuts down its servers, and attempts to steal the Yellowjacket suit. He gets caught by Cross mid-presentation, who exposes Scott's identity to the room of HYDRA agents. Scott gets out his confinement as Cross tries to escape with the Yellowjacket suit. Scott goes after him as the Pym Tech building disappears behind them.

Cross puts on the Yellowjacket suit and takes on Scott in a miniature sized battle. Cross gets momentarily caught in a bug zapper while an unshrunk Scott gets arrested by the cops. In the meantime, Cross goes after Scott's daughter. Scott escapes from the cops, goes subatomic (going beyond the suit's safe limits and entering the Quantum Realm) and destroys the Yellowjacket suit from the inside causing Cross to implode. Scott makes it out of the Quantum Realm unharmed and reunites with his daughter.

Scott finds out through Luis that Sam Wilson has been looking for him.

POST CREDIT: Hank presents Hope with her own suit. Steve Rogers and Sam Wilson have found Bucky Barnes.

TIDBITS FOR LATER

- Howard Stark once tried to replicate the Pym Particle for SHIELD's use.
- Hank Pym was the original Ant-Man and his wife Janice was known as the Wasp. She disappeared into the Quantum Realm after going subatomic during one of their missions.
- A HYDRA operative stole a vessel of Cross' Pym Particles

PHASE 2 TAKEAWAYS



Tony Stark was dealing with PTSD after realizing aliens exists and they could return to attack Earth again.

Tony has advanced the Iron Man suit technology to create multiple variations, including ones that operate on their own.

Tony and Pepper take down a terrorist act operated by The Mandarin/Aldrich Killian.

After removing the arc reactor from his chest and destroying his suits, Tony has seemingly quit being Iron Man.



Thor protected the Nine Realms from the Dark Elves when the Aether reemerged and possessed Jane Foster.

The Aether was revealed to be the Reality Stone.

Thor declined becoming King of Asgard, choosing to protect the realms from beyond the throne.

Loki is alive and posing as Odin. Thor thinks he is dead.



Steve and Natasha learned SHIELD had been infiltrated by HYDRA for many years.

Bucky Barnes is alive but has been brainwashed by HYDRA and turned into an assassin.

SHIELD was dismantled and Natasha publicly released classified SHIELD/HYDRA files.

Bucky appeared to remember Steve. He saved him, and then disappeared.

Nick Fury is “dead”, and is in hiding from the public.



The Guardians escaped prison together and reluctantly formed a team to prevent Ronan the Accuser from getting the Orb.

The Orb contained the Power Stone.

The Guardians harnessed the power of the Power Stone together to destroy Ronan.

They officially united as The Guardians of the Galaxy and go off to protect the galaxy.



Avengers recovered Loki’s scepter with the Mind Stone.

Tony and Banner accidentally created Ultron with the Mind Stone. Then they purposefully created Vision.

The Maximoff Twins switched sides and fought Ultron alongside the Avengers.

Battle of Sokovia took place, leading to the destruction of Sokovia.

Thor left to investigate the Infinity Stones while the rest start training new heroes at the Avengers Compound.

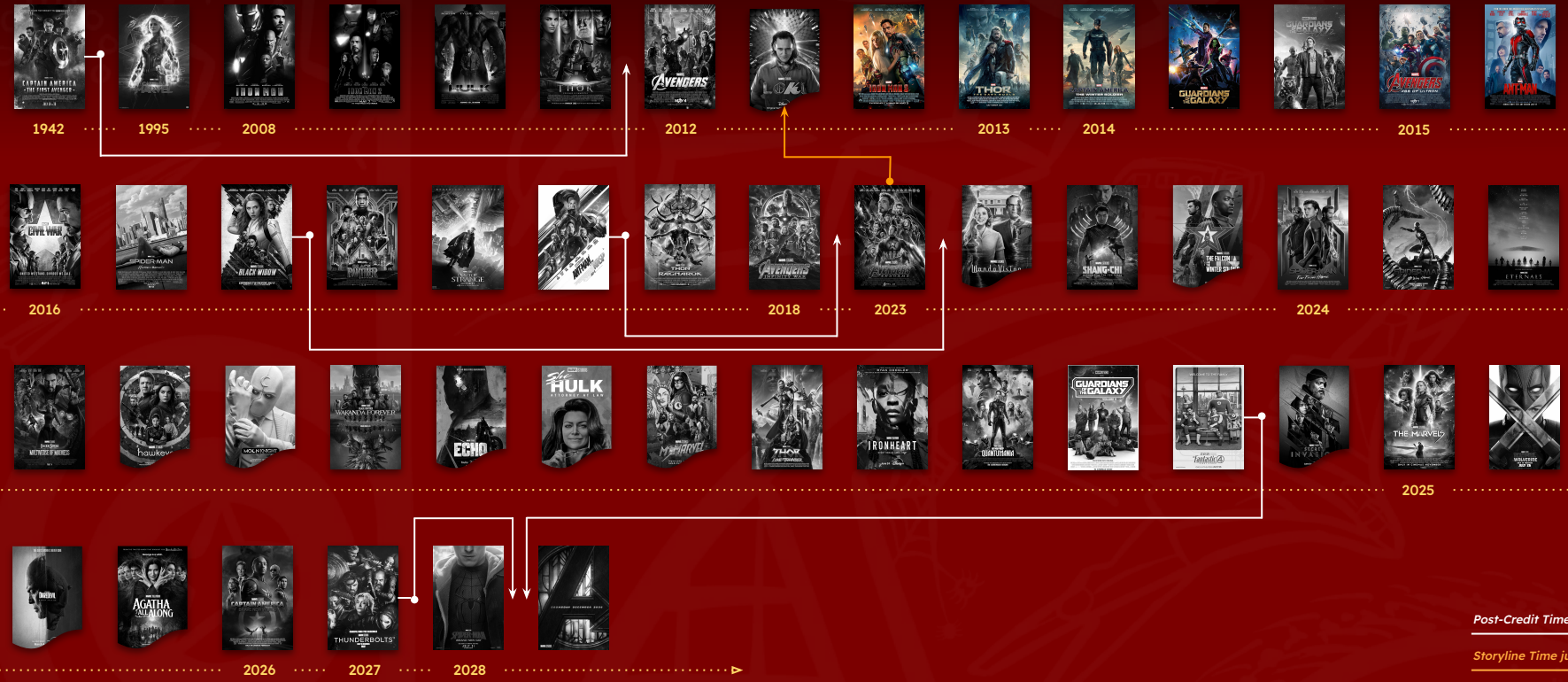


Scott Lang was recruited by Hank Pym to wear the Ant-Man suit and helped him prevent Cross from developing his own suit to use as a weapon.

Scott entered the Quantum Realm to defeat Cross. He made it out which was previously thought to be nearly impossible by Hank.

Hope Pym is given the Wasp suit.

PHASE 2 ON THE TIMELINE



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