



# LESSONS IN FINDING GREAT COMPANIES

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### SUCCESS IN THE RIGHT SECTORS































































NET LIMITED PARTNER IRR OF

SINCE 2003<sup>1</sup>

MERITECH

ER IRR OF

PERFORMING VENTURE FUND OF 2005 VINTAGE<sup>2</sup>

MCP III IS THE

45

IPOS/SALES OF PORTFOLIO COMPANIES SINCE SEPTEMBER 2009

- 1. As of June 30, 2016
- 2. Cambridge Associates First Quarter 2016 Venture Capital Industry Benchmark Statistics Report, Report provided free of charge.

#### ABOUT ME

- COO at ancestry.com
- EIR at Benchmark Capital
- Independent board member at 8 different companies
- 18 angel investments
- Joined Meritech in 2011
- 6 investments at Meritech
- 11 exits so far



MERITECH

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## **LESSONS WE'VE LEARNED**

### CHARACTERISTICS OF GREAT-POTENTIAL COMPANIES



- Momentum
- Huge market
- Value Proposition
- Retention
- Weak/old/slow competitors
- Talented team with huge ambitions and aggression - but not reckless
- High gross margins
- Riding a secular behavioral change



Same as B2C, but also:

- Enterprise traction
- Upsell rates
- Financial planning

## WHY

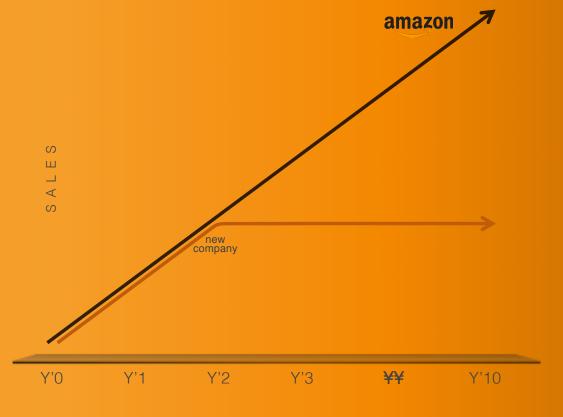
### MANY GOOD COMPANIES DON'T BECOME GREAT COMPANIES:

## B2C

Market is smaller than you think

## B2B

- Competition
- Market wasn't ready



## WHY

## GOOD VC'S OFTEN STILL MISS THE GREAT ONES: SOMETHING IS UNINTUITIVE (I.E.: NEW)







Company is at the forefront of a secular change that we don't understand

## **CONCLUSION:**

IN THE FACE OF NEW THINGS, YOU MUST



You must recognize new (unintuitive) trends

- Use, research, talk



Pick the winner

- Follower often wins





### CASE STUDY: **ZULILY**

2007 - 2010:

Flash Sales e-commerce Companies

Fab.

**GILT** 





#### MAKING A GREAT VC

### How can you structure your VC to make good judgements?

- Encourage diversity of opinion and voting process
- Hire young people and give them authority to invest
- Psychologically safe environment
- Minimize reports and paperwork!
- Example: Ancestry

## SUMMARY:

- We've had some success but we're still learning
- Always opportunity for us and you to up your game

