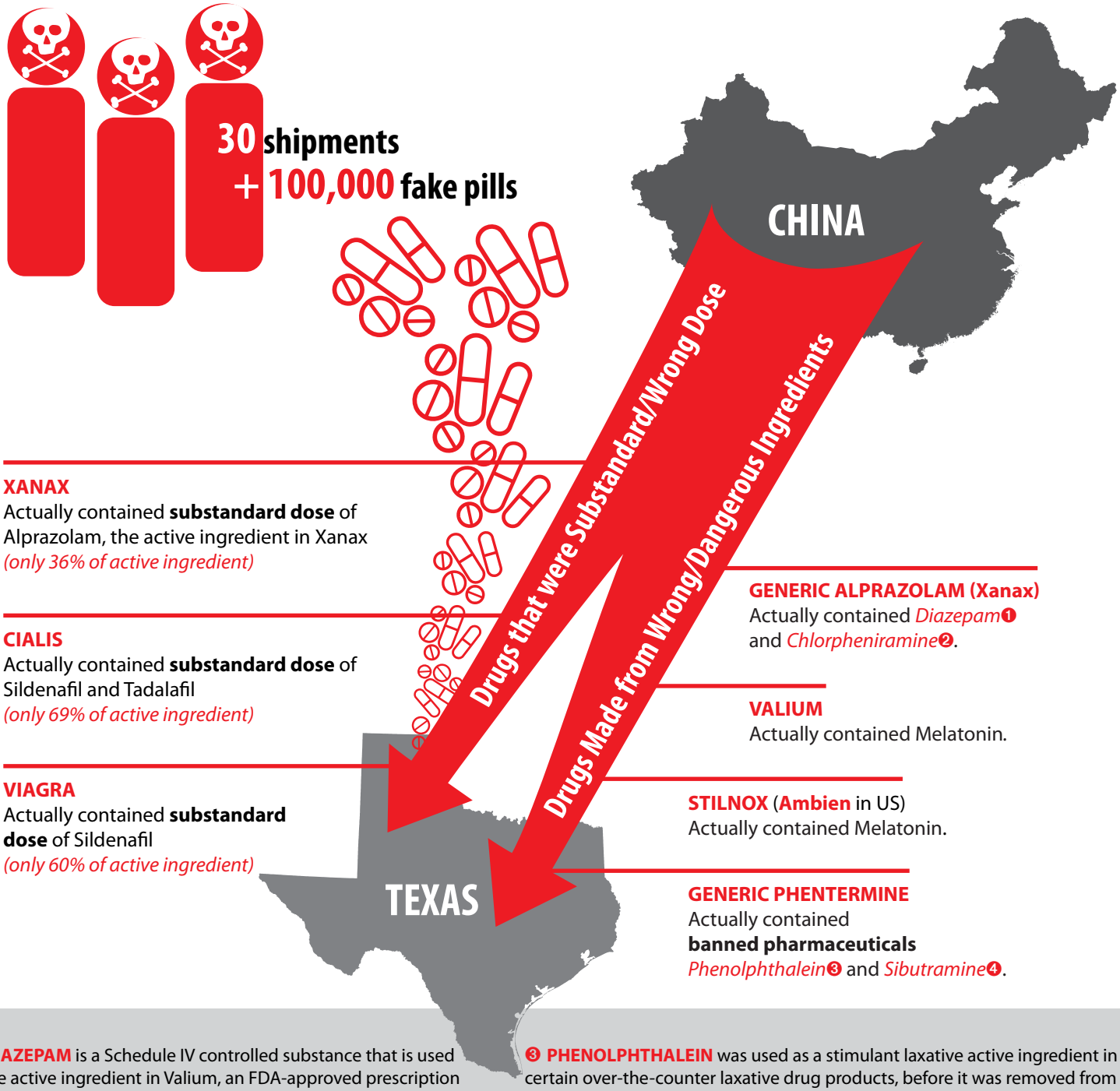
TWISTED TALE OF THE TEXAS TRIO WHO IMPORTED 100,000 FAKE PILLS

Charged with conspiracy to smuggle merchandise into the US, causing the introduction of misbranded drugs into interstate commerce with the intent to defraud or mislead, smuggling, and tampering with a witness. Without any pharmacy licensed, they are alleged to have imported medications for sale that fooled the eye, but were not what they purported to be.

Here is what they did get:



XANAX
Actually contained **substandard dose** of Alprazolam, the active ingredient in Xanax
(only 36% of active ingredient)

CIALIS
Actually contained **substandard dose** of Sildenafil and Tadalafil
(only 69% of active ingredient)

VIAGRA
Actually contained **substandard dose** of Sildenafil
(only 60% of active ingredient)

GENERIC ALPRAZOLAM (Xanax)
Actually contained *Diazepam*❶ and *Chlorpheniramine*❷.

VALIUM
Actually contained Melatonin.

STILNOX (**Ambien** in US)
Actually contained Melatonin.

GENERIC PHENTERMINE
Actually contained **banned pharmaceuticals** *Phenolphthalein*❸ and *Sibutramine*❹.

❶ **DIAZEPAM** is a Schedule IV controlled substance that is used as the active ingredient in Valium, an FDA-approved prescription drug indicated to treat anxiety disorders, the short-term relief of the symptoms of anxiety, acute alcohol withdrawal, skeletal muscle spasm caused by local pathologies such as inflammation, and convulsive disorders.

❷ **CHLORPHENIRAMINE** or **CHLORPHENIRAMINE MALEATE** is the active ingredient in several FDA-approved antihistamines sold both over-the-counter and in prescription drugs, used for the treatment of symptoms related to colds, flu, and allergies.

http://safedr.ug/TexTrio

The Partnership for SAFEMEDICINES.org

❸ **PHENOLPHTHALEIN** was used as a stimulant laxative active ingredient in certain over-the-counter laxative drug products, before it was removed from over-the-counter sales by the FDA in 1999. FDA removed it from the market because phenolphthalein is not safe and not of sufficient medical value to outweigh the potential risks associated with its over-the-counter use.

❹ **SIBUTRAMINE** was a Schedule IV controlled substance and the active ingredient in Meridia, a prescription drug that had been approved by the FDA to treat obesity. In October 2010, FDA requested that Meridia be removed from the market due to cardiovascular events and strokes. As early as November 2009, the FDA publicized its concerns about the increased risk of heart attack, stroke, and death posed by sibutramine. On December 21, 2010, the FDA withdrew its approval of Meridia (sibutramine). Since it was banned, Sibutramine has turned up as the actual ingredient in "herbal" dietary supplements for weight loss and in counterfeit versions of the weight loss drug Alli.