

OFFICIAL CHRONOLOGY
Sean Gilbert

- May 11, 1971 Michael Raleigh is born. His family moves around a lot because of his father's work, so he has a great deal of difficulty developing strong and longlasting relationships with others.
- His relationship with his father was never very close. His father was strict and often abusive, both emotionally and physically. He gets along well with his mother, but she somehow blames him for provoking his father, making Michael's adolescence and early adulthood almost unbearable. This conflict is the driving force behind Michael's decision to leave home.
- 1991 Michael begins college. Breaking away completely from his parents, he is left to pay his own way. This forces him to take quarters off periodically to make enough money to support himself.
- He lives in the dorms when he first starts classes, and his first roommate is Christian, who swiftly becomes his best friend.
- It is during this year that Michael first meets Adam, who is at this point an acquaintance from class.
- 1992 Taking some time off school, Michael moves into an apartment with Christian. They bring in their friend Leeza as a third roommate.
- It is during the summer of this year that Michael begins working at WCLB, the college radio station.
- 1993 Michael and Christian meet Leeza, and the three of them become inseperable.
- 1994 The three of them move into a house together.

Lindsay, Leeza's best friend from back home, moves into town to take classes. The four of them become good friends.

Later this year, Michael and Leeza become romantically involved.

1995

Sometime this year, Leeza sets up Adam and Lindsay. They move in together with a third roommate, Adam's friend Kevin.

Christian comes out. Having an identity crisis, he moves out of the house and leaves town.

Leeza is taken by a devastating depression. She and Michael begin to drift apart. She quits her job.

With Christian gone and Leeza out of work, Michael is left to pay all the bills on his own.

Leeza spends much of her time hiding out at Lindsay's house. Because of this, Michael becomes even more distant from her as well as Adam and Lindsay. He starts hanging out with his friend Sammy, who works at the radio station, too. It is through Sammy that he meets Will Brody, who becomes one of his best friends.

1996

Early this year, Michael and Co. meet Walter, one of his least stable friends. Michael, Sammy, Will, and Walter become a force to be reckoned with. The four of them begin producing a television show for the college station. Their accomplishments in everything from radio television lead them to adopt the term "golden boys", in reference to their self-proclaimed ability to do anything they want.

Convinced they can do anything, they begin to study film and plan to make a movie.

Spring Break, 1996

Leeza dumps Michael. Bewildered and dejected, he agrees to go on a road trip over the break with Walter and Sammy. Will is

unable to go because he has enlisted in the Army and is about to ship out for basic training.

On the trip, Michael and Co. meet Camptown Minnesota, a street performer and ronin deadhead who suggests they go with him to Savannah.

In Savannah, Michael meets Diana and develops a crush on her. The rebound affection is short-lived, and he loses touch with her shortly after returning home.

Walter stays behind a while when the others leave Savannah. Camptown returns with them to help them make movies.

On the trip home, Michael and Co. are thrown through a temporal rift that sends them five years into the future.

Summer, 1996 “The Dark Summer”: Shortly after the disappearance of Michael, Sammy, and Camptown, the Earth is invaded by Mutant Sharkmen from another dimension.

One the origin points of the dimensional shift is Savannah; there are no reported survivors.

Earth strikes back. Believing all his friends are dead, Will volunteers to fight the “Sharkies” on the front line.

1997 After but a few months of fighting, most of Earth’s front line is destroyed. Surviving through clever strategy and sheer force of will, Brody soars through the ranks in the field.

1999 The war is not going well; the remaining forces of humanity fight bravely to drive back the Sharkies, but it’s no use: The superior technology and pure animal frenzy of the Sharkmen is too much for us to combat. This is the twilight of Humankind.

2000 “The Apocalypse”: The Mutant Sharkmen dominate the Earth. Earth’s Armed Forces are scattered, and many splinter off into separate resistance groups to fight the Sharkmen. One of the

leaders of this resistance is Will Brody.

Another resistance leader, the mysterious “Coyote”, strikes out a number of powerful blows against the Sharkmen.

The Sharkmen are compelled to tighten their security, forcing them to use their technology (especially the Dimensional Shift Generator) beyond the designated safety levels. As a result, the DSG begins releasing powerful surges of energy at dangerous levels, creating a number of time-space rifts that threaten the integrity of our dimension.

Spring Break, 2001 A surge of energy from the DSG creates a rift that opens a portal between the present and five years in the past. Michael and Co. inadvertently travel through that rift into their future.

Blundering through a battle between the Sharkmen and the resistance forces, Sammy is given a memory disk of vital information to be delivered to Coyote.

They are intercepted by Will Brody’s forces and reunited with their old friend.

Racing against the clock to find Coyote and deliver the disk, Sammy finds Coyote and discovers that he is Walter.

Having survived “The Savannah Offensive”, Walter went into hiding until the time came for him to fight back. Now he has discovered a way to defeat the Sharkmen once and for all.

Working together, the reunited golden boys devise a plan to attack the DSG at its central power core. They theorise that at the moment the core is destroyed, every rift it has generated will simultaneously open, then close again, as if they’d never been opened at all. In short, if Michael, Sammy and Camptown can destroy the core at the source, they can re-open the rift in time and space that brought them to the future, as well as the rift that brought the Sharkmen to our dimension, sending the Sharkies back the way they came and sending themselves home.

Spring Break, 1996 Defeating the Sharkmen and destroying the Dimensional Shift Generator, Michael, Sammy and Camptown return to their own time, secure that they have closed up the portal so that it is no longer possible for the Sharkmen to break the barrier between

our dimension and their own.

April 1996	Lindsay and Adam break up. She starts hanging out with Michael again. Michael takes up smoking.
May 1996	“The Time of the Comet”: A mysterious comet appears in the sky. While it is there, Michael and Adam renew their friendship. They become closer than they’ve ever been, bonding over the downfall of their respective relationships.
June 1996	“The Fifty-Year Storm”: Bad things start to happen. Michael, Sammy, and Camptown negotiate a picture deal to produce their movie, but the deal falls through. They begin to go their separate ways.
July 3, 1996	Michael gets the call that his friend, Brian Strait, has been killed in a car accident.
July 4, 1996	Michael returns home to attend Brian’s wake. He sees his parents for the first time since he left for college. The reunion does not go well. That night he reacquaints himself with the town. He runs into Christian, who has moved there since he ran off. Reunited with Christian, he puts away the past and they become friends once more, if briefly. He stays the night with his boyhood friend, Joe, and reminisces. Brian comes to Michael in a dream and urges him not to waste the precious time he has left with self-doubt.
July 5, 1996	He leaves after Brian’s funeral, understanding that the storm is something we carry with us, that we make our own luck, and that no matter what happens, so long as we are alive, there will always be opportunities for second chances and redemption.
August 1996	Michael graduates college, but never finds a career job. Instead, he just works one part-time job after another trying to get by.
1997	Walter never returns home from Savannah. He meets his friend Bob there and starts to dabble in the internet.

Michael and Camptown continue to work together, committed to the idea of producing a film of their own.

They both become involved in relationships with separate girls. Michael, still unable to develop an intimate bond with another person, has trouble becoming involved. He does not have the proper emotional foundation one should have in order to be part of an adult relationship, and his inability to commit becomes an aversion to becoming intimate.

Camptown has the opposite problem. He can't commit, so intimacy is all he has to share with a woman. Because of this however, he can't win enough trust in his relationship to establish any real intimacy.

The Sharkmen never return.

1998

Early this year, Michael and Camptown near completion on their film. They quit smoking.

Unable to gain his girlfriend's trust, Camptown splits up with her. Michael is unsure of what to do. He is in love with his girlfriend, but he is afraid to tell her. Camptown comes to the same conclusion, and resolves to make things right. Michael does the same.