

Chronology

2003 Pete Townshend introduces the background to the story. Lifehouse, Psychoderelict, and Lifehouse Method are all touched on and reviewed. The ground is laid for Ray High's story about the three neighbourhood kids who become Glass Household, a successful and ambitious band who start off in the mid-'80s with pop music and move on to more complex things.

2035 Ray High (the narrator) begins telling the story in 2035. He is suffering from Alzheimer's, and has drug flashbacks, and moments of lucidity. He believes he is travelling back and forth in time, but in fact he is simply telling us a story in which the chronology sometimes goes awry. Hence the need for this chronological guide.

1945 Raymond Highsmith is born to Rosalind and Jack who is a show business conjuror who uses rabbits in his act. Little Raymond is often left in the care of a depraved woman.

1944 Damoo Irani born. His Mother is a very devout Muslim.

1961 Ray starts art college – meets Henry Silverman, who has foreseen the way the supercomputers of the future might change the function of the artist of that future.

1963 Damoo marries a great beauty. Qualified and expert sound engineer and communications expert working for the BBC in Iran. Moves to Britain and Acton in '60s and meets Highsmith.

1962 Gabriel is born to Donnie and Connie Pirelli, light musical entertainers. He is brought up by his Aunt Trilby (based very loosely on Pete Townshend's real life Great Aunt Tril).

1962 Josh is born. Mother Myrna, older brother Hymie born in 1952. Father Morry, travelling salesman, typical absent father.

1965 Ray calls himself 'Ray High' and starts a band called 'The Ray' that do very well.

1966 Ray Marries Kay. Two daughters born, Amy 1970 and Claire 1971.

1967 Leila's mother dies when Leila is just two years old.

1967 Ray goes to India to meet Bollo.

1967 Trilby starts to look after Gabriel when Donnie and Connie begin to tour.

1968 Gabriel is becoming a prodigy

1971 Ray has his apocalyptic vision – first apocalyptic ranting in public about the internet.

1972 Ray and Damoo meet and establish BBZee in South Acton. Big sound experiments. Big dreams for Gridlife.

1973 Ray breaks with Damoo who moves BBZee to Isleworth - Ray moves to glass house in Cleeve

1973 Gabriel is abused in the Sea Scouts. He is photographed by one of the sailors.

1975 Ray writes in Rolling Stone about reincarnation.

1975 Gabriel Hears music. Gets proper lessons from Trilby becomes a real prodigy.

1975 Josh Bar Mitzvah. He hears voices. Becomes good poet.

1975 Trio meet and become friends.

1975 Leila can fly – she is a beautiful, wilful and independent girl. Damoo, becomes sexually distracted by her.

1975 Trio visit BBZee and begin to collaborate. They discover a book The 36 Dramatic Situations that Ray High has left with Damoo. They become rather obsessed by it.

1975 Tril and Hymie start dating and Myrna is dead set against the match.

1975 Josh writes Trilby's Piano based one of the headings in The 36 Dramatic Situations – A Sister Slaying Through Professional Duty.

1975 Trio dream of putting on a play or event to bring their families together over the matter of the marriage of Hymie and Trilby.

1976 Myrna's husband is blown up in Israel. Leila realizes that Josh's play might be adapted to work in everyone's favour.

1976 Trio develop and put on Trilby's Piano at BBZee.

1978 As a result of seeing the play Myrna eventually drops her objections to Tril and Hymie's match and they get engaged.

1978 Ray High quits performing with The Ray after seventeen fans die at one of their concerts.

1982 Tril and Hymie get married

1983 Hymie dies of natural causes. Tril swears to stick by him forever.

1983 Trio take over BBZee from Damoo as their HQ and start to study old Ray High footage

1983 Trio go to see gig at which The Ray perform a Come Back under Ruth Streeting's direction. (This is the event that Ray writes about later in his autobiographical music play Psychoderelict).

1983 The GLASS HOUSEHOLD – inspired - start to write and record hit songs

1984 Leila becomes sex symbol

1984 Leila and Gabriel get together

1985 Band is hugely successful.

1985 Ray does public lecture predicting music downloading and child pornography on the internet (a few years away still) – more ranting, is ridiculed.

1993 Ray High releases Psychoderelict.

1993 to 2003 ‘Glass’ burn rapidly through an incredibly successful career. Gabriel becomes a drinker, Josh begins to display signs of manic depression, Leila hears Psychoderelict and hires Rastus Knight to manage her affairs within the band. Together the band continue to explore the possibility of reviving Ray’s Gridlife. As technology evolves, the prospect of making it happen gets closer.

2003 Ray begins to suffer his first real forays into mental instability. He visits the sanatorium/rehab unit based in the old Convent in which he was born, near BBZee.

2004 January. Glass, driven on by Rastus and Leila, decide to revive Ray’s mad idea and start to speak about a Great Event some time in the future. Leila christens it the METHOD

2004 Gabriel is drinking extremely heavily.

2004 Victoria, first Method experiments successful.

2004 Gabriel, drunk, after finding an image of himself with the Sea Scouts on the internet watches Victoria have sex with her cousin on a covert webcam.

2004 February. Leila senses trouble with Gabriel. She herself begins to lose control in public – is raped outside a nightclub.

2004 Gabriel meets fan Angie after a show.

2004 Leila, despairing of Gabriel and Josh’s lack of drive takes over the entire METHOD project.

2004 Gabriel visits Ray High to buy his house. Ray taunts him. After the meeting Ray moves permanently into the convent sanatorium.

2004 Gabriel finally has sex with Angie and impregnates her.

2004 GLASS at BBZee watch film of the disaster at Ray High's 1978 concert.

2004 March. Despite his drinking Leila chooses Gabriel to marry.

2004 October. They marry in BBZee on the old Trilby's Piano set that they have kept standing. Angie stalks. Leila, assisted by Rastus, is given major shareholding of Grid. JOSH starts to go really mad

2004 Damoo tries to help Josh but fails.

2004 November. Angie has Gabriel's illegitimate son. Leila sees the child. She and Gabriel have failed to conceive. He says he has no sperm.

2004 Gabriel leaves GLASS. Occupies Ray High's old house. Moves in with Angie and his son (little Hymie).

2004 Angie crashes car on drugs and little Hymie dies.

2004 December. Leila creates a new Victoria and gives Victoria ONLY ONE HYMIE as a cover and she gets a hit.

2004 Leila promises METHOD will happen with or without Gabriel. Josh goes on about a reunion all the time.

2004 Angry with Leila - Gabriel refuses to let them use his music.

2004 Josh – broke but lucid - tries to persuade Gabriel to join in the reunion. He tells Gabriel that Leila is threatening to expose Gabriel's depravity with the original Victoria. Rastus is repeating Ruth's old trick that worked so well with Ray.

2004 They go to New York. Gabriel finds a groupie and has an alcoholic collapse. Terrorist attacks in NY trigger delirium. He SEES the Great Method event. He starts to lose control. He SEES apocalypse

and suicide. And decides to jump out of his window. Josh arrives to save him in the nick of time.

2004 Leila and 'Victoria' arrive minutes later. They console the men. Victoria's massive hit with ONLY ONE HYMIE after the death of the namesake child decides Gabriel to join in the Method concert and allow a reunion.

2004 New Year's Eve. Method Concert for New York. Terrorists repeatedly hit the city but the event goes ahead and is a great success. In the hysteria and excitement of the finale Josh's schizophrenia kicks in, he has stopped his medication, and he hears voices and grabs a gun from a security guard and shoots Gabriel who disappears. Josh is first committed to prison, later to the convent sanatorium where he is placed in a cell next to Ray. Years pass as both Ray and Josh hear Gabriel transmitting to Josh by Ham Radio across the ether.

2035 Josh and Leila meet at the sanatorium after the performance by the inmates of a play written and directed by Josh, based on his own Trilby's Piano and Ray's Gridlife Chronicles that he has had in his possession for many years. Josh, discovering Ray is the next room to him, has collaborated with him. Gabriel still transmits to Josh, but it is only Ray who hears him clearly. Gabriel has been tied entirely to Josh, unsure he can make Josh hear him, to forgive him, so they can both move on. When the play takes place in the sanatorium he feels time converge, and is released as a result of reliving that play, but also the concert in New York, and – as Ray waits to return to his cell – passes through the little theatre and then through the old man's famous 'mirror door' that patiently awaits Ray himself, and Leila and Josh, and all of us who are ready to be artists. Ready to finish things. Behind the stage at the sanatorium theatre is a pub called The Black Hole. It appears that there is an after-show party going on there. Ray, and it seems most of the audience, decline to take part. Ray returns to his cell to begin to tell us the story.

2035 Josh and Leila, also back in Josh's cell after the show, take tea. If you wish, the entire story may begin again.

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