

This is a document that compiles everything that currently exists regarding The After Times, which is a setting I made for a DND campaign. It's set in an alternate Earth that diverges from ours at the 1980 presidential election, then has aliens. For the record, I came up with the plague plotline in 2019, so shut up.

Timeline

~~ THE BEFORE TIMES ~~

Pre-1980s: rough match with IRL human history, with the exception that the Pueblo stuck around in New Mexico and became the highly secretive Acapaw Nation, developing advanced technology in their underground home (think the Institute but better written)

1980: Jimmy Carter wins reelection in the US against Ronald Reagan, and is in position to push back against a lot of the bullshit Thatcher pulls. With increased international pushback, Thatcher is not quite the juggernaut of privatisation she intends to be. Carter eventually recognizes that the solution to stagflation is public investment, and that car-centric infrastructure is tanking the local economies of particularly the Western US, and so combines the two observations into a nationwide program of restricting car access in major cities. In doing so, he parallels Dutch PMs Dries van Agt and Ruud Lubbers.

1981: The most enthusiastic early adopters of pedestrian infrastructure in the US are in California, with the California Coalition being a consortium of metropolitan areas dedicated to curing America's car addiction. It is initially formed by LA, San Diego, and San Francisco, later joined by Portland and Seattle, reluctantly Sacramento, and eventually Las Vegas, Philadelphia, and the entire Northeast Corridor. The South and Rust Belt put up considerable resistance, but Austin and Atlanta will eventually get in on the action, and Chicago, viewing the moment as the perfect time to establish dominance as the train capitol of North America, will eventually break ranks with their Midwestern brethren to join the increasingly inaccurately named Coalition. In the decades to come, as those regions outside the Coalition begin to realize that Coalition cities are leaving them behind, the plan will eventually gain grudging buy-in from remaining holdouts.

1982: Chumbawamba is formed in Burnley, UK.

1986: Space shuttle Challenger is a success: the engineering team's warnings are heeded and the launch is postponed, which leads to a launch on a later, warmer day, which causes the rocket not to explode. Investment in the space program is not halted. The Fairness Doctrine remains in place.

1991: the Soviet Union does not dissolve, but continues to decentralize. Conditions are not as unfavorable without the influence of Reaganomics in the West, and Yeltsin lacks the support to

perform his runaround. Both sides of the Cold War are now recognizing the massive waste of everyone's time and energy the whole thing was, and are continuing to normalize trade and diplomatic relations. Neither side wins, but the people of the Eastern Bloc don't get screwed over quite so much.

1991 still: Iraqi armed forces invade Kuwait and commandeer a number of oil wells. President John Lewis attempts diplomacy rather than military aggression. Negotiations are ultimately unsuccessful, and the Kuwaiti people are left without access to one of their primary natural resources. This engenders tremendous anger at the US in Kuwait.

1996: the Telecommunications Act of 1996 is voted down in the Senate. Ska is still as short-lived on the radio as IRL, but blink-182 is a bit more of a flash in the pan, and Travis Barker comes back to the Aquabats after Enema Of The State. Chumbawamba's Tubthumping is a massive success on both continents. The Fairness Doctrine more or less forces all networks to say something not entirely negative about it, and the growing openly socialist movement within the Democratic Party rallies around the anarcho-communist music collective. Chants of "I get knocked down, but I get up again" deafen anybody who attends a rally of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Daniel Inouye. This spooks corporate America and a vicious smear campaign is launched against Inouye, who loses a bitter, hard-fought race against Republican Sen. Bob Dole.

1999: After winning back the House of Representatives in 1998, Democrats launch an investigation into the 1996 election. The bulk of the allegations leveled against Inouye are determined to have been outright lies, and Dole is shown to have known as much and kept his mouth shut. Inouye himself testifies about it: citing their shared history of recovering from war wounds at the same army hospital in WWII, he reproaches Dole's betrayal in a moment that will go on to live in television infamy. Military leaders denounce Dole en masse.

2000: Mass disgust with Dole's actions in 1996, as well as his lax response to the Martin County coal slurry spill, sweeps Barbara Lee into the presidency. Tomas Kalnoky leaves Catch-22 to form Bandits Of The Acoustic Revolution.

2001: A major terror attack is thwarted as President Lee, acting on military intelligence, inserts federal and state agents into security checks at all major airports in the Eastern states in the wee hours of September 11. A series of arrests are made, and the Kuwaiti suspects confess to attempting to fly planes into the World Trade Center in retaliation for the continued economic and environmental devastation in Kuwait, which they blame on the US for their failure to negotiate with Iraq in 1991. President Lee addresses the event from her bully pulpit, citing the inherent security risks of air travel, plus its environmental costs, as reasons to pursue alternatives where possible, but crucially not blaming Kuwait for the attempted attack: this leads to renewed calls for nationwide high-speed rail but only minimal anti-Kuwaiti prejudice among reactionaries. Airlines eventually accept the plan because they're allowed to run some of the trains, but they're not happy about it. The Netherlands is now the dominant economy in Europe

with the blast furnaces that are their cities, and every other country on the continent is following their lead: eliminating or redeveloping road infrastructure, increasing population density, transit support, and walkability. The world's cities are beginning to look a bit more solarpunk: dense, but pleasant. Several of the worse outlying towns around major metro areas are emptying out and becoming ghost towns, particularly ones that don't have train service, like San Ramon, CA.

Also 2001: With the Y2K bug safely in the rearview mirror, Congress passes the Electronic Postage and Information and Communication Act of 2001, or the EPIC Act, which makes the USPS also be an ISP tasked with bringing the Internet to every inhabited corner of the country. The fees are cheap and the service is fast.

Also also 2001: The midnight premiere of Shrek takes place in Hollywood. Smash Mouth becomes an international smash overnight. Americans feel like all-stars. Bandits of the Acoustic Revolution releases A Call To Arms EP, then breaks up. Tomas forms Streetlight Manifesto.

2003: The US does not invade Kuwait. Instead, work is rapidly proceeding on the nation's high-speed rail network. Streetlight Manifesto releases Everything Goes Numb. The White Stripes release Elephant, with Seven Nation Army as its lead single. It charts, but isn't a mirror on the zeitgeist and so fades from cultural memory after a few years.

2004: President Lee easily wins re-election against Texas governor George W. Bush.

2005: Amy Winehouse dies of a drug overdose. Chumbawamba goes on tour with Reel Big Fish and Streetlight Manifesto to promote Cheer Up! and Everything Goes Numb, respectively. A Better Place, A Better Time rockets to the top of the charts. Music critics are surprised to see a two-year-old, six-and-a-half-minute song on the Billboard charts, but rationalize that the world is mourning Winehouse at the same time as Streetlight has the Chumba Charm. Somehow, most of them miss Tears Dry On Their Own at number 2.

2007: On the eve of the first HSR run between Los Angeles and San Diego, the housing market collapses. In the face of a widespread and rapidly worsening economic crisis, President Lee signs an executive order allowing all Americans to take out zero-interest loans from their local post office, and another one freezing evictions and prohibiting all rent hikes. The banks fail, but Americans are pretty much okay. The USPS becomes the largest bank in the country overnight. This is both a very useful profit center for the organization and an extremely useful service for the country. Linkin Park releases Minutes To Midnight: Shadow Of The Day tops the charts the same week Goldman Sachs shuts down. Rolling Stone reports "And The Sun Will Set For Goldman Sachs." Teen Vogue throws a lot of shade and it absolutely rips.

2008: The Great Recession is pretty much over, and the Postal Banking Act is signed into law. Several US industries including banking and rail are fully or partially nationalized, the working class is economically healthy, most US cities have been dragged into a low-car lifestyle whether they like it or not, and high-speed rail lines now connect most of the country's population

centers. President Lee endorses Senator Michael Gravel to replace her, and he defeats Sen. John McCain in a landslide, then celebrates by wordlessly throwing a big rock in a lake for some reason. The scientific consensus is that we are on track to avert environmental collapse. Who's ready to see how we fuck this up?

2009: Has anyone checked in on NASA lately? Oh fuck, they've announced plans to build a base on the Sea of Tranquility. I guess we're doing this now.

2012: The Holophonics cover Radioactive by Imagine Dragons. The cover quickly overtakes the original as the dominant radio version, because the original is stodgy and boring and the cover references an old Aquabats song. Travis Barker is still in the Aquabats. Chumbawamba retires after 30 years and plays a farewell concert with the Rolling Stones and Britney Spears at Glastonbury. After the show, Charlie Watts gets into a fight with Britney's dad and shoves him down a flight of stairs, which lands Mr. Spears in the hospital with severe brain damage, effectively ending his conservatorship of Britney. UK courts rule that Charlie is guilty of assault, but Mr. Spears had it coming. With the conclusion of the Denver-St. Louis HSR line in the US, it is now possible to take a high-speed train all the way from one coast to the other.

2016: Bill Wurtz releases history of japan. It's really cool.

2017: Bill Wurtz releases history of the entire world, i guess. It's also really cool.

2019: Groundwork begins on the moon base on the 50th anniversary of the first landing. Vulfpeck plays to a crowd of 14,000 people at Madison Square Garden that's able to sing a concert G on command. Theo Katzman quizzes the crowd on which trains they took to get there. Bill Wurtz releases might quit, then doesn't post any new music for almost two years.

2020: A new coronavirus, first detected in China in 2019, quickly spreads across the globe. It's highly transmissible, has a long incubation period, and kills you slowly and painfully. It's bad. New York real estate mogul Donald Trump gets it and dies, but not before spreading it to several other New York old-money assholes who all give off heavy pedophile vibes, including Henry Kissinger, who also dies. So maybe some good does come out of it after all. Moving Van is formed in Oakland, California.

2021: People want to get to the moon base because things are still pretty rough down here. Work is accelerating. Moving Van plays a few small shows around the Bay Area. A vaccine for the coronavirus is released and quickly slashes infection and death rates. A small anti-vaccination movement arises, but quickly dies out. Write your own joke.

2028: Environmental collapse still hasn't happened. The moon base is now operational. NASA vows to expand it over time. Future Jazz becomes the number one genre on Spotify.

2038: The moon colony of New New York has officially been named the first city on the moon, much to the amusement of both Yorkers and New Yorkers. Moving Van plays the first live music performance on the moon to celebrate.

2041: Advancements in propulsion technology have cut the travel time and expense to and from the moon by 75% for the same payload since 2019. NASA announces plans to colonize Mars.

2050: The Mars colony is operational. Largely constructed below the planet's oxidized surface, the base is given the name Ironheart by Dr. Petra Galveston, head of the project and native of the Acapaw Nation. Moving Van bassist Lars Aquinonez says something dumb about it on Twitter and gets made fun of a lot.

~~ FIRST CONTACT ~~

2053: A listening post on the Martian surface reports an anomalous reading from beyond the Kuiper belt. It's a radio signal. Put through a receiver, it's staticky, but seems to create something resembling speech, though in nothing resembling any human language. This sends tongues a-wagging across all of human-controlled space: are we really not alone out here? A hail is sent out from Ironheart, and a much clearer signal is received shortly after, which, while still unintelligible, is clearly a response. Someone is definitely out there.

2054: First contact with the Iruki and the Konchu. Hails are determined to be peaceful and the alien starship touches down near Tokyo. The mysterious blue Iruki, roughly humanoid in shape and a bit smaller in stature, are able with some hiccups to get their auto-translators running with Japanese within a few months, and with most other major languages not long after. It's almost like they planned for contact with aliens. Once translation is established, however, it's made known that the Iruki ship has been separated from the fleet (*how?*) and suffered damage, and will need extensive repairs requiring considerable raw materials and probably years before it's spaceworthy again. In exchange for the cooperation of the Japanese, Cmdr. Valon promises the Japanese prime minister assistance in understanding the technology that powers Iruki starships. The Konchu are introduced to Japanese prog metal and think it's dope as fuck.

2055: The US strongarms the Japanese space agency into teaming up with NASA and spilling the tea about what the Iruki are telling them in exchange for help with any upcoming projects. Cmdr. Valon recognizes that the US is still one of the world's more powerful entities and accepts the help, "strongly encouraging" the Japanese agency to do the same. Japan isn't happy about it but doesn't have much of a choice in the matter. Work begins on a human-focused starship that can make the Mars colony run in days instead of months, with a payload of up to many tons. Work progresses exceptionally fast, as for the Iruki, this is basically the equivalent of building a kit car.

2056: The HSV Hermes completes its maiden voyage to New New York and Ironheart, and is back on Earth after only a couple of weeks. "Home in time for 'za," reports Teen Vogue, and

work begins on a fleet of Hermes-class vessels that can traverse the solar system and set up colonies. Work continues on the much more complicated Iruki vessel, but behind the scenes, a ripple goes through those Iruki planetside when contact with the fleet abruptly goes silent, with the last message received from High Command being *“Entering radio silence. Threat conditions elevated. All units prepare.”* Opinions are divided within the Iruki: Commander Valon thinks that continuing to uplift the humans will allow them to build enough strength to help fight back against *[big space bad]*, while Lt. Lania wants to bring the humans under control and engineer them for greatness. The ship’s chief medical officer, Dr. Qinhorn, does view the humans as excellent test subjects, but he’s more interested in enhancing humanity without subjugating them: among his ideas is a biological agent that can recombine with human DNA, with various tailorable effects. Lania starts getting frustrated with Valon and Qinhorn’s inaction in the face of what she perceives as an existential threat against the Iruki. Mexican space funk is the absolute happening scene right now and everybody loves it, driven by Guadalajara-based quintet Los Limones and their hit single Fuera Del Mundo.

2060: The HSV Troy, a ship capable of transporting enough resources to begin the terraforming process on a distant planet, makes its first shakedown run, first to New New York and Ironheart, then to Jupiter’s moon Europa to do a test landing, led by Captain Yiannis Auvrakis of Greece. Lots of people make lots of very smart jokes referencing Odysseus. Work begins on scaling a fleet of Troy-class vessels to fly humans to a number of promising exoplanets in neighboring star systems.

2061: The first three Troy-class starships liftoff. The first humans to cross the Kuiper belt are led by Captain Sergey Lewandowski, a Polish-American former pilot, aboard the HSV Perun. He beams back a message saying “To the ground that nurtured us for eons, farewell: our destiny awaits among the stars.” Lots of commentators shed tears live on air. Rolling Stone reports on “The Starmen Waiting In The Sky.” Every time the Iruki seem to be making progress towards getting their vessel spaceworthy, something goes wrong and sets things back months. Lania is starting to suspect that Valon may have turned from their mission.

~~ THE PLAGUE ~~

2062: Days after the fourth and fifth Troy-class starships lift off to head for new horizons, a severely damaged Ekara liveship crashes on the north island of New Zealand. Shortly after the humans make contact, the Iruki Cmdr. Valon turns up dead and a new, particularly virulent disease begins spreading through New Zealand, and has escaped into Asia before anybody is able to do anything about it. No matter what anybody does, it continues to spread.

Parallels are drawn to the 2020 coronavirus, but it quickly becomes clear this is a whole different beast. Populations are decimated in weeks. Terrified humans turn to their Iruki allies for help, and some Iruki doctors are able to cybernetically enhance humans to resist the plague, but it’s not until squads of Konchu technicians take to the skies with a cure to inoculate the remaining

humans several months in that the terrifying plague is finally stopped, with Earth's population stabilizing at about 13% of pre-plague levels.

While the outpost populations in New New York and Ironheart, as well as the colony populations on the five Troy-class vessels that have thus far escaped the Earth, are unaffected, most remaining humans are concentrated in cities around the Pacific Rim. Cities in Europe, Africa, central and south Asia, and the eastern Americas are in most cases reduced to silent monuments marking open-air mass graves of tens of millions of people, their hospitals, morgues, and crematoria overwhelmed, in many cases ceasing to function with the deaths of anybody capable of running them. After a couple of months, most dead in these areas will simply remain where they lie, leaving particularly ghastly scenes for any intrepid future explorer to sift through. Notably, however, the Acapaw Nation is largely unaffected: they simply retreat into their subterranean lair when the first reports arrive and don't come out until they make contact with a Konchu cure squad passing through New Mexico. The unfortunate exception is Dr. Petra Galveston, who is unable to make it back to Stoneheart before the plague catches up with her: her death is one of the hardest for the space program to recover from, and her body will not be recovered from the ruins of Houston for several years.

It takes very little persuading for those humans who remain to believe that the plague originated from the planet's newest wiry, owl-like visitors, but in reality, no such Ekara pathogen exists: the plague is, in fact, Dr. Qinhorn's unfinished biological agent, and both its release and the death of Cmdr. Valon are the work of Lt. Lania, who has since taken charge of the detachment. Lania firmly believes that subjugating the humans is the only way to stop them from learning what the Iruki did to the Ekara (*what did the Iruki do to the Ekara? Also, when did they do it?*), which is required to keep both separate and compliant. She sees a smaller, but dependent and therefore compliant, humanity as a more useful tool for fighting *[big space bad]* than a larger and stronger but independent humanity.

Sheniku, the leader of the Konchu, does not agree, and after a series of increasingly desperate arguments with an officers' corps that is clearly scared to go against the will of Lania, he finally leads a small team of his Konchu supporters into the lab complex at the heart of the downed ship to steal Dr. Qinhorn's antidote. The group escapes with one vial, and soon makes contact with a group of researchers at Stanford University's Biomedical Laboratories who had survived by locking themselves in the labs, led by Dr. Jaren Flint, coincidentally another member of the Acapaw Nation. Together, they're able to scale synthesis of the cure and begin the massive-scale distribution effort that will finally stop the plague.

As for the Ekara, their relations with humanity have gotten off to a rocky start. A mob of humans is gearing up to attack the Ekara ship's crash site in New Zealand shortly after the plague kicks off when Sheniku, at the head of a force of the most intimidating Konchu at his command, plus a few sympathetic Iruki and a smattering of humans, intervenes and forces a truce. It will be years before the Ekara are able to carve out pockets of human society where they can move and

trade without facing constant abuse, and Cmdr. Lania's ongoing disinformation campaign does not make it any easier for them.

~~ THE AFTER TIMES ~~

The Plague is commonly considered to have begun on January 19th, 2062, and ended on November 8th of the same year. The dates are marked by the crash-landing of the Ekara on Earth and the final eradication of the pathogen in living humans by the Konchu technician teams. The Ekara, along with the Konchu and those Iruki aligned with Sheniku, argue that the start of The Plague should be marked as February 14, that being the day the pathogen was actually released by Lania, but the severely weakened remnants of humanity are severely traumatized, desperate for any sources of comfort they can find, and not at all down with the idea of connecting The Plague to Valentine's Day, even those who wouldn't have previously cared much about it. This is reinforced by Lania's iron-fisted control of information about the disease, which makes it extremely difficult for an average human to learn the truth of the matter.

It will be years before anybody ventures into the Old Cities. The Plague might be over, but the bodies remain, a great many of them still exactly where they died, and they can still harbor dangerous pathogens that can still kill you, not to mention the stench and the sheer stomach-turning horror of it all. The Pacific Rim cities that still have surviving humans are able to clean themselves up relatively quickly with help from the Konchu and Iruki, but reclaiming the rest of the Earth is going to take a very, very long time.

New Zealand, hit first and hardest, is now populated exclusively by Ekara, and it's rare to see one anywhere else. This fact plays into the subtle Iruki propaganda around the Ekara: they don't broadcast looping messages by jumbotron or anything, but it's "just common knowledge" that the Ekara took over New Zealand because they wiped out all of the humans there, and will do the same if allowed to spread beyond their exclusion zone. Obviously, this is false, but that is not common knowledge.

Hanging over all of this is the very real threat posed by *[big space bad]*, which continues to lurk in the back of Lania's mind as the Iruki fleet's radio silence continues. She is sure it's only a matter of time before it finds its way to this little backwater planet, at which point it'll be make-or-break for everybody, and they'd better be ready for that.

After this is when actual things like TTRPG campaigns and anything else I end up making in this setting will be set. That's why the setting is called The After Times.

Who are the different species?

- The Iruki

The Iruki are, to hear them tell it, the dominant species in the galaxy. Their skin is a distinctive blue color: they are hairless, but with a sexual dimorphism that's otherwise broadly similar to humans, because I don't feel like engaging in hours of theoretical biology that's only going to serve to make lewd fanart harder to justify. Males of the species average about 5'2, while females are typically around 4'10, although outliers may become as tall as 6'. They are capable physically, but their relatively small size means that it's rare for one to match the physical strength of an average human. They come from a culture that heavily values intelligence and cleverness in problem-solving over brute force, which allowed them to develop spaceflight and escape their home system only about a thousand Earth years after inventing the wheel. Their colonies can be found throughout the galaxy, and their technological superiority is undisputed.

- The Konchu

Standing on average between seven and eight feet tall, the Konchu are big, strong, tough, and ugly, but that doesn't mean they can't love, nor does it mean they're stupid. Originally rescued from a dying world by the Iruki fleet in the early years of Iruki interstellar travel, these bug-like people have become a loyal client race to their rescuers, serving as muscle at times where brains aren't enough. They are welcomed allies and feared enemies in a ground engagement, with the natural chitinous plating over much of their bodies able to deflect some melee strikes and absorb some ranged damage. Their courage and determination is accompanied by a strong sense of honor, and on the occasion that this puts them in opposition to their Iruki leaders, tensions can quickly flare into violence. A popular tale among Konchu foot soldiers is that of Arashu, a Konchu who refused to follow an order from her commander to launch an air raid on a civilian settlement just because his intelligence suggested they were sheltering a dangerous terrorist. She instead led a small Konchu team to commandeer an Iruki fighter craft and landed in the heart of the settlement, whereupon the group intimidated the locals into handing over the fugitive with no bloodshed. She then brought the fugitive aboard and headbutted the Commander. The moment is immortalized by a Konchu ballad titled, translated, "The Vengeance Of Arashu."

- The Ekara

Little is known on Earth about these reclusive, about-human-sized, owl-like people. They've made New Zealand their home, and no human has gone to visit since The Plague. To those in the know, however, they're a beautiful (and sometimes sexy) people with a rich culture of art and music inspired by their status as the galaxy's constant underdogs (underowls?). They've even picked up and figured out how to play a number of human musical instruments, and Ekara-Maori fusion jazz is really hot down there. However, their entry into the galactic community was not a pleasant one: by the time they achieved space flight, the Iruki had already colonized most of their star cluster, and this caused no shortage of trouble. While relations are better now than they were at one time, they still don't exactly get along. *[still need to figure out what the Iruki did]*. In combat, the Ekara are most often guerrillas, assassins, and spies, preferring hiding in the shadows and launching surprise attacks on weak spots over all-out assaults. Every Ekara military recruit has the mantra "See without being seen, hear without being heard" drilled into their head from the first moment of basic. This leads to disadvantages in straight-up fights, but no one in the galaxy is better at capitalizing on the element of surprise.

- Humans

Humans are everybody's favorite featherless bipeds. They mostly bumble around, bumping into each other and getting stuck in washing machines, but every so often, they do some dumb shit like build a spaceship and start a colony on the moon. These days, most of them are dead, *except* for the ones in space, and who on earth thought that's how that would play out, huh? While humans survive around the Pacific Rim, and some cities are even starting to recover, the only place that didn't get some amount of stomped by the Plague was the Acapaw Nation of New Mexico, which, fine, let's give them their own thing:

- The Acapaw Nation

The Acapaw Nation is a North American Indigenous tribe that has spent most of its existence living underground, and as such has been thriving uninterrupted for thousands of years. Their members come and go as they please within the outside world: it's not uncommon for them to attend school, work, or live in the aboveground world, or even marry outsiders, and their families are welcomed into the tribe as a way to maintain genetic diversity, but those who are not explicitly trusted by the tribe are not permitted to enter their underground complex. They have used this security and stability to devote their attention to science and engineering, learning everything they can from outsiders and doing their own work to push that knowledge as far as it will go. As such, many Acapaw names have found their way into lists of scientific greats.

- Smallfolk / Smallerfolk

Working names. There are people who've been experimented on by the Iruki. The results include small people, who are functionally hobbits or gnomes. I've had one character of each of these races in a TTRPG party, and the Smallfolk was an Australian aborigine who could talk to kangaroos and the Smallerfolk was basically Steve Irwin, but stupid, small, and j a c k e d for some reason. They're kinda all over the place, tbh, and I really don't have a good explanation for their biology other than "I was ripping off the races from DnD 5E." More Iruki experiments may yield more of this sort of thing in the future.



How do stories work here?

In this setting, humans are jacks-of-all-trades (very original, I know), while Iruki are better at thinky stuff, Konchu are better at fighty stuff, and Ekara are better at the awkward combination of sneaky, fiddly, and talky stuff that typically makes up Rogue-type classes. Any member of any species can have any combination of the other traits, but those do buck the trends.

For example, a TTRPG party set here could very conceivably contain a Konchu wizard, an Ekara fighter, an Iruki bard, and a human druid who's basically just a dipshit in a fursuit or something. It'd be weird, but nothing there contradicts any lore.

Humans may exist on other planets. Five Troy-class ships left Earth before the plague hit, and we kinda forgot about them. It's entirely possible they successfully landed and founded colonies on inhabitable exoplanets. Those would be ripe for discovery. Maybe it even happens so far in the future that people are conflicted on what Earth really was. Maybe their stories have to do with the internal politics of a space colony. Maybe it turns out they're in conflict with existing colonies of other types of aliens who have not encountered Earth yet. Maybe they run up against *[big space bad]*. I haven't thought that far ahead yet. This is The After Times, that's sort of the point.

I also briefly toyed with xenophilia in the form of the half-elf analogue, the half-Iruki, after somebody wanted to join with a half-elf character and I had to make it work within the setting (and then she ghosted me immediately after so it was all for nothing anyway, how

disappointing). Those ideas are not as fleshed out, so there could conceivably (lol) exist such things as the half-Ekara and half-Konchu (hey, if Commander Shepard can get down with Garrus, then anything is possible). The same presumably holds true between the other species, so the Konchuki, Irara (Ekuki? Fuck) and Konchara could all exist, though I don't want to put a lot of thought into that right now and it would probably just complicate things excessively.