

General

Shinsuke “Shin” a.k.a Cynthia Koyama is a TMA nonbinary, while Shin is just sort of a nickname, while the latter is preferred, they will not care if you refer to them as Shinsuke. It’s supposed to feel weird, though, as it is the equivalent to referring to Badger as Brandon or Skinny Pete as Peter, for example. Pronouns wise, they are exclusively referred to with they/them pronouns for the sake of convenience, although you are to refer to them with they/she pronouns, any gendered terms are OK. The aforementioned Badger, too, plays an important part in their story—hence will be appearing in this doc fairly often, being referred to with he/him pronouns and masculine terms, again, for the sake of convenience, but it is to be noted that I otherwise like to think of him preferably being referred to with she/he pronouns (in order of preference) and to significantly prefer feminine terms.

Familiarity with Vince Gilligan’s “Breaking Bad” is helpful while navigating through certain timelines in the shows’ canon, but not needed. The focus lies on Shin’s story, events from the show will be kept simple, although spoilers will be tagged accordingly. This document’s formatting is inspired by [Sunny](#) (he/it/rag). Some OCs belong to [May](#) (any pronouns).

Formatting

This doc is preferably to be read in light mode otherwise the highlighted warnings won’t be censored. To read the highlighted warnings, select them, however they aren’t essential to Shin’s overall story.

General warnings for:

Murder

Major character death(s) in general

Drug usage and/or addiction

Smoking

Addiction(s) in general

Red text = Self-harm mention

Orange text = Spoilers

Blue text = Motorised vehicle, motorbike to be specific, accident mention

Purple text = Abuse mention

Pink text = Snuff film mention

Grey text = Suicide mention

Prologue

Tomorrow would be the day, the day where everything would finally end. Would eternal salvation or suffering follow, or even just simply nothing. Shin shuddered at the thought and rolled over for the nth time in their bed, clinging onto their blanket. Their cotton candy pink hair grew out and their naturally black hair took over their roots years ago, never bothering to redye it, being a jumbled mess on their head, a few strands falling into their face. Their obsession with religion, it was all their parents' fault. Especially of that stupidly devoted Christian man their mother remarried. He was part of the family. Somewhat? But Shin never saw him as their dad. Never ever. That man was never their dad.

Thoughts started forming about checking their computer to see if really all formalities with Keita were talked about, but the energy to get up wasn't there. Keita, an eccentric individual, who Shin met as the drummer of the band they formally were one of the guitarists in, with eerily similar hair to their brothers', who they had found themselves admiring, was the only former band member they were still in contact with at this point. He was also a snuff filmer. And a cannibal. Zenith, a messy history indeed.

Shin rolled over again. The blanket who was supposed to give them warmth wasn't doing its job. They craved warmth, Badger came to mind. The brunet, freckled, significantly taller man who they had known since high school always had something comforting about him, something warm, they longed for the warmth, Badger's warmth. He was a good man. Much better of a person than them, they thought. He actually could've had a bright future. It was all their fault. Regardless, why the hell did he choose them out of everyone? Nevertheless, they missed him. Oh, they missed him deeply. But they didn't want to make it harder than it had to be. He would find out. Eventually. Shin didn't want to think about his reaction after finding out. Yet it was okay, everything will end soon, they didn't have to think about things like that anymore. They didn't make their way all the way back to Japan for nothing, besides, besides maybe Badger, there was nothing to live for, anyway. Did they even accomplish anything in their miserable, short life? Shin couldn't think of anything. In any case, this whole situation they found themselves in was a little bit insane. But it had to end in some way. They wanted control over that, at least. Besides, when did all of this start in the first place?

The earliest, well not the earliest, but definitely the most significant earliest memory was when they watched "Akira" on TV when they were young. At least their parents allowed them to watch TV, they scoffed. Weren't even allowed to play video games like any other boy their age did. Badger had to teach them. Constant supervision. Weird times. Referring to themselves as a boy, although it would make sense to think about themselves as such before realising that they weren't one made them feel weird. At least their parents thought they were a boy, they would never even get the idea of outing themselves to them. They'd probably blabber on and on about sinning again. Even as a kid Shin—or rather Shinsuke—figured out that it's better to shut up and do as their parents say. At least they had a roof over their head, they should be thankful. Shin rolled their eyes. Remember, they're doing this out of love. Yeah, right. They were a decently earning middle class family somewhere in Japan, and if mum managed to cope with the help of Christianity, sure, leave her be! But no need to pull her children into it if they don't want to. With way too much unnecessary pressure.

But the man that their mother remarried that they reluctantly called dad still wasn't their dad. Shin never thought any better of their biological father either, a man in his late 40s at that time, also a notorious chain-smoker and **abuser of not only substances, he would often let his misery out in the people around him**. At least Shin could look him in the eye—not in a literal sense however, as he had been imprisoned as long as they could remember—and think: “That’s my dad, and I hate him”. Even as a child, the one thing Shin knew was that they wanted to make sure with all their might that they would never become like him. It would make sense for their mother to remarry, however ever since the first second they met him, something was off about him. The other thing young Shinsuke knew was that they could never see that pathetic excuse of a man as their father and they would refuse to call him that. Although until watching that movie, not a single thought of active rebellion had occurred to them. It inspired them for all the wrong reasons, they were too young to understand the underlying message within the movie, they just thought the main biker gang was super cool. And that maybe they wanted to be in a biker gang too. Initially, that was just a young boy’s thought, but out of every stupid thought they had at that age, of course this one had to come true.

Japan. **You know how many people kill themselves in Japan. It was just so ironic that they, as a Japanese person, are going to kill themselves as well soon. In Japan.** But they didn’t spend their entire life there, as a teen their family moved to America at some point. Albuquerque, New Mexico. Apparently, their (biological) father was from there. But they didn’t move because of him, in fact, Shin had no idea what he was up to. What was he even up to now, they wondered. But oh well, they figured that they’d move there for their older brother to attend university there. Tsubasa Koyama. Tsucchan. Shin never knew what went on in his head. At this point in their life, they still got along fairly well, **reminiscing about how he would force himself to get along with their parents better for Shin’s sake, even though their signals were too mixed for their own good. On one hand, neither of them were sure if their parents even loved them, on the other hand, both of them were convinced that the other was favoured at times**. Although at some point, things tragically turned sour between them. But no matter how much he tried to separate them from Badger, they couldn’t hate their dear brother. Even wrote so in their letter. Currently, they still got along, but as the siblings’ contact to each other inevitably became less, it was time for a new network, new friends.

Until now, their brother had been their best friend, however Shin would've never guessed down what road one seemingly normal day would lead them, when they were just thinking that they were on their way to high school once in a while. They realised pretty soon afterwards that all of the school skipping wasn’t their brightest idea, but they had no friends at that point still. They were pretty sure that they weren’t exactly liked either, in addition to most teenagers' lack of enthusiasm for school, they just didn’t see the point of attending classes at that time. **Nevertheless, despite all of this, it was still a tad bit better than at home**, so school would become a means to kill time for them. Shin was late a lot, there were no familiar faces on their way, albeit hardly any faces at all, until they waited at the usual crossing on their way, as a group of people rode past them on their motorbikes. It felt like the seemingly countless people were way too close to the sidewalk, the strong breeze they left behind made a total mess of Shin’s hair. This didn’t leave them mad in the slightest, it was

sort of just like in “Akira”. Back in their bed, Shin cracked a little smile at the thought of that sentence.

Soon after, Shin would find themselves to be invited to be part of the biker gang, who were always open for new recruits, as they had only been willing to consist of Japanese students, which were hard to assemble in a singular school in the midst of the States, which they gladly accepted. During their time in the gang, they met and got close to Kazuki Shigoku, nicknamed “Kazu”. A year older than Shin, which didn’t seem much to most, but in teenage Japanese biker gangs like this, you were taught to respect your elders. Looking back, Kazu was the only somewhat kind of authority they respected. Kazu was already multiple steps closer to rebellion from similar problems in her household, presenting as male over there, but managing to present as her true female self within the gang and on the streets. She used her naturally black hair to her advantage, styling it in crazy, pointy ways and it was noticeable that she put effort into her make-up, being very daring with how she’d present herself. She was also looking forward to getting piercings at 16 and tattoos in adulthood. This lifestyle was freeing for people like Kazu and Shin.

The second Shin joined the gang, that was the moment where Shinsuke Koyama became Shin. Everything started off fast, Shin acquired a motorbike soon after, as the gang had their resources, and as they assembled for their once in a while yet regular campfire in the middle of the forest, their usual meeting spot, the gang decided that they would be known, as surprisingly they still didn’t have a name at that point, via Shin’s suggestion, as “The Neo-Capsules”. **Kazu also gained a habit of putting her cigarettes out on Shin’s arms which led Shin into their self-harm addiction, they always had a lot of pent-up anger which significantly increased in their teens, for which cutting themselves but also generally being a part of The Neo-Capsules was a good outlet for.** However, all of that was nothing in comparison to what had yet to come.

Starting ca. 2001

The year 2001 was the year where Kazu completely influenced Shin, fullending Shinsuke Koyama’s transformation to Shin. Kazu continued to experiment with her presentation, setting on looks that were inspired by the visual kei/metal band Dir En Grey’s vocalist during this time. Shin, who never cared much about their outward appearance before, never thought that they, too, would start adopting the rising alternative/emo/gothic style of this age. They both had piercings by now, Shin would also lay off their previously worn glasses, switching to contact lenses. At age 16, Shin figured out that they were nonbinary, as a result of which they let her hair grow out.

2001 sure was an eventful year, so eventful, that it was the only exact year worth remembering. The Neo-Capsules were the only reason they attended school, to kill time aside from that, they would frequent a niche spot inside the school within the students, which therefore the teachers didn’t check. Hanging out alone at said spot, eventually, a certain brunet, freckled, significantly taller boy started to attend the spot, although he wasn’t as tall back then. Yes, that’s right. 2001 was the year they met Badger. First impressions. Shin was (somehow) slightly annoyed at the fact that he seemed to just frequent the spot as a hiding

spot to smoke at that time. Otherwise, they don't remember having much of a first impression of him, aside from thinking that he was incredibly handsome which held up over the years, as they figured. Good intuition, they could give themselves a pat on the shoulder for that. But back then, he was just another schoolmate that caught their eyes, who they couldn't figure out was new or not. From starting to sit beside each other, to exchanging glances, to shallow conversations, which Badger carried miles better than Shin, to listening to music together to sharing the way back home together, it didn't take long for Shin to fall for him, at that time in denial still. That would drag on for a while, becoming closer to Badger—known as Brandon Mayhew back then—over the years was the only thing Shin managed to be persistent at **in their soon to be ended life**.

Eventually, Shin would get their hands on their trusted gun. They vaguely glanced over to it, nearly invisible, cloaked by the darkness, although shining through the night. Their means of hope, but it'd also throw them into despair head first. It was when Kazu acquired it on one of the gang's hauls. Shin would then end up receiving it through a majority vote. Unrelated to that, Shin developed a habit of keeping their motorbike helmet on when around the gang, even when not on the motorbike. Probably just too lazy to take it off. They also wore a black jeans jacket, with a patch on the right upper arm of it, referencing their favourite movie. They would take the jacket off when in school, secret identity sort of thing. The day Badger saw them with their helmet and jacket on was the day everything changed forever. It all started when soon after Shin acquired the gun, they witnessed their friend being picked on by a rival gang of The Neo-Capsules' out of all days, on the one they couldn't head home together. Shin never really looked into it, but now that they thought about it, they must've seen him and them together and misinterpreted things. So Shin acted before they thought and impulsively shot the loudest one in the leg, easy as. And after expressing his gratitude he told them that he thought they're Kazu, to their face (not really). How much did he know and when did he start knowing, they wondered. The thought that more of their schoolmates knew scared them a fair bit. Could it be that they were on the news at some point? Where else could he possibly know from? But now he knew, and he would get involved into The Neo-Capsules' business too deep for Shin's liking. Aside from that one moment before where another member approached Shin due to problems with a different rival gang at their hangout spot with Badger around.

So one day Badger just outright asked if he could tag along as such an incident happened again. Shin assumed at that time that it was part of his usual dorkiness and jokingly agreed, not aware of the disastrous consequences about to follow. At least he got his nickname "Badger" at that time, which he used to this day, they were glad that he seemed to like it that much. Interestingly, he and Kazu seemed to know each other. Although never having been a full part of the gang, he was still an honorary member of some sort, the rest of the gang would tease Shin about their liking towards him often, no matter if he was around or not. Was it really that obvious?

Oh, Badger. He always had a big role of support in their life, they couldn't deny that. They did think about him every time before drifting to sleep usually, but now that they were deep in their thoughts about how their life went, what else was there? Right, he was the stepping

stone of Shin realising that **there was at least something off with how their parents treated them, that it was not normal**. They clasped the cross of their golden cross necklace, which they wore, always. His gift to them. He even clasped it on them that day. Badger seemed to be aware of how important Christianity was to Shin at that time, in a sense, but with his help, they were made aware for the first time in a clear manner that **their parents' methods were wrong and their discomfort was reasonable**. He did all of this for them, and what did they do for him in return? Introduce him into the world of drugs, of which the effects would be felt to this day.

Basically, The Neo-Capsules eventually got their hands on hard drugs as they dived deeper into the criminal world. It all just happened so fast, they couldn't even recall the steps it took to that. At first it was mostly, if not only stealing and vandalism, just wreaking havoc around the city with their motorbikes. Fights with rival gangs were limited, but would become increasingly violent the more they would get involved in the underground teenage Japanese biker gangs' businesses, then Shin shot a guy in the leg with their own hands and now drugs. Shin continued to refuse, they always partook in significantly less activities surrounding smoking, or in this case snorting or or injecting various materials into their arms with dirty syringes they acquired somewhere, because that's what dad did, and they were not and never would be their dad. **Besides, they already harmed themselves enough**, there was no need to harm themselves in a different way, the only thing their parents were good for, they supposed. Coincidentally, out of any day Badger could have decided to check up on the gang again, it was one of those days where they were doing drugs. That day, he decided to try them out as well. Also, Shin's fear of going into hell after death started to worsen. **Turns out Christianity was never important for them, it was kind of forced into them, even if not on purpose. Now that they thought about it, it would make sense for their parents to not want their children to be like their biological father either, resorting to faith, which however backfired. Religious trauma, it couldn't become even worse, or could it?**

Let's think of something else. From the moment Shin and Badger listened to music together, as Kazu influenced Shin, Shin influenced Badger's music taste. They wanted to teach themselves guitar together, even joking about founding a band together. But there was one problem: Shin didn't own a guitar. Not needing to have to buy a new one, they knew however, that Tsubasa owned one, although even though he rarely touched it, he took it with him to college. So first step, retrieve their brothers' guitar. They'd announced to him that they were coming over before, however, there was no mention of the possibility of his roommate answering the door to their room, as Shin visited. Not differing in height much, what was striking about the man was that he wore an opened plaid button up shirt of which the sleeves were rolled up, with another shirt matching the colours of the plaid shirt beneath, alongside with his glasses and well-kept hair, this made him have something peculiar and somewhat nerdy about him.

Taking a look around the room, Shin got to take a peek of Tsubasa's art, which they didn't got to see often, due to a combination of Tsubasa being unwilling to show his creations and Shin not bothering to ask, although they were happy that their brother was able to pursue his passions. There was also filmmaking material scattered in another corner, which Shin wasn't as interested in, although their brothers' roommate turned out to be very interested in

it. The man's name was Marshall Dixon, he was a filmmaking student, better known to Shin as his brothers' roommate and would-be boyfriend. The idea of Shin wanting to found a band with Badger came up—albeit still jokingly, although Marshall offered that if the time came, he would be willing to help film promotional videos for them, which led them to exchange contacts. Shin and Badger teaching themselves guitar together turned out to not only be a fun hobby to have in common, but also a success, leading the latter to further find his musical talent and finding himself to be just as good in playing bass and singing.

Later, eventually, Shin would get into a motorbike accident. It was when a rival gang infiltrated one of The Neo-Capsules' campfire meetings, the escape had to be fast, there was no time to extinguish the fire, the gang members racing with the stars into the night, zigzagging across the trees. Before they could blink, Shin ended up falling from their motorbike big time (A/N: Unintentional Akira reference). The fire caught up to them, embracing their wounded body, however, despite everything, it ended up only being a mild accident, receiving a bit of blood on their head and a mild concussion from it at most, the other wounds not being as severe. Badger was there to further keep them company and to keep them safe, too, getting them away from the fire first and foremost and extinguishing it when it was all clear. It all happened so quickly. They didn't like thinking about it too much. Since then, they refused to drive any motorised vehicle up until this day, losing contact with the gang.

Starting ca. Mid-2000s

The accident marked the last eventful thing that happened in their teenage years, Kazu moved all the way to Japan after graduating, she and Shin wouldn't contact each other for an extended period of time. Shin and Badger took the idea of founding a band together more seriously over time and soon after graduation both of them split up to assemble future bandmates, promising each other they'd get in contact again as soon as either of them successfully got people together. Badger managed to pull this off faster than Shin, having attended high school significantly more frequently than Shin, although the latter would increase their attendance in order to see the former, having been fairly popular and having had his fair share of connections, leading to him being able to assemble old friends and acquaintances together for an alt-emo thrash metal concept—"TwaüghtHammër", which Shin was quickly invited to. Around that time, Shin had dyed their hair the eye-catching pink, which was still the length they had in high school and usually kept in pigtails back then. Badger immediately pointed that out at their reunion, but he had changed too. He was always taller than them, but during the time span where they didn't see each other, he had this miraculous growth spurt, even Shin's platform boots which they made a habit of wearing continuously since their teenage years didn't do them much justice anymore. Another thing worth remembering was the awkward, yet tender hug they'd exchange. They'd hug sometimes before, yes, such as when Badger hugged (which was more of a hold than a hug, really) them to support them moments after their accident, but this one was different. Despite everything, Shin did manage to push themselves into receiving a driver's licence, but eventually their brain just started suppressing any knowledge of driving they had had out of

trauma response. Which was weird, considering that much of the other stuff Shin used to do within the gang was much more violent than [that silly little accident](#), but somehow, that was the one other thing that chased them the most since their long gone days in The Neo-Capsules.

TwaüghtHammër marked, alongside the first time where they watched “Akira”, the start of another significant era in Shin’s life, and as all of the starts to their new eras, it seemed to be promising a bright future at first. Shin would contact Marshall, who was now Tsubasa’s boyfriend, to film a music and a promotional video, as agreed upon. However, aside from being an extraordinary filmmaker, he was also a notoriously greedy businessman, which caused Shin to be indebted to him, confident that with the direction the band seemed to go, they’d pay off the debt easily. Eventually. It didn’t take long for their promotional video to reach their target audience, as soon after its release a man who didn’t seem to shy away from presenting himself femininely, with purple hair just a bit shorter than Shin’s barged into one of their sessions, claiming to have found them through it. Shin was just glad that someone out there seemed to acknowledge their attempt to also cater to a Japanese audience and make themselves a name in the VKei world. The man’s name was Kara Aoyagi. Ah, Kara. He always had a lot of mystery around him, no one knows to this day if “Kara” even is his real first name or not. He asked Shin to be part of his band, which they refused, but from here on things would get exciting. Although not in a positive sense. Maybe Kara was some sort of otherworldly manifestation of evil who brought all this turmoil into Shin’s life from then on all along, which wouldn’t even be surprising.

Quite a bunch of people would be introduced into Shin’s life from then on. After Kara, there was Kamden, “Kam” for short. Kazu, Kara, Kam, Keita, a strange amount of people who had an equally as strange influence on Shin’s life’s names interestingly started with the letter K. Back to Kam, the ginger, half Cambodian man was the most if not only notable member of a band TwaüghtHammër would have a friendly rivalry with as they dived deeper into the business, better known to Shin as their probably most significant would-be ex-friend. Friends were helpful during the time, since things weren’t looking good on Badger’s side with his friend Jesse, who both had different ideas of in which direction the band was supposed to go, which caused a lot of infighting. Overall, getting into the real business was hard and ended up being a hassle, and with Badger and Jesse both having ongoing drug addictions [and Shin having their ongoing self-harm addiction, three addicts at one place never were off to a good start](#). Sure, it was fun getting to spend time with Badger again and shredding their guitar was a significantly better coping mechanism and outlet for their aggression, but TwaüghtHammër was doomed to disband as quickly as it did, and that sooner rather than later. Shortly after their separation, the band Kam was a part of would also disband.

The debt to Marshall would unfortunately not suddenly disappear however, which led Shin to reconsider Kara’s offer in a heartbeat. This led them and Badger having to part once again, as they had to step foot in Japan for the first time after leaving in their childhood. From then on, Shin would be part of Kara’s band, “Zenith”. Zenith, a messy history indeed, although Shin had to reluctantly admit that they really liked the concept to this day. The direction they went, Iryou Kei, was a particularly nice and especially grimy subgenre of

Visual Kei. The little contact with Kam they had at that time was on good terms still, who, alongside with Badger, made sure to show his utmost support in this new chapter of their life through and through. Contact with Tsubasa continued to be rare, though it did not feel strange. Remembering some of his art they got to see on the visit to his room that one time, they convinced him to paint album covers for the band. Another thing Kara sensed was Shin's closeness to Badger, although he wasn't special for that, as how it was established earlier, apparently, their fondness towards him was quite obvious. When seeing them for the very first time he mistook them for being in a relationship and despite both of them denying it, in the end, a man will still be a man and he couldn't help but joke about Badger being Shin's boyfriend. Shin's feelings on the other hand were still just as serious as when they fell for him first and they grew closer in high school.

Kara was the initial founder and vocalist of the band. The rest of the Zenith members included the rhythm guitarist Hana. Hana was a deeply anxious woman with long, light green, luscious hair, who Kara had known for a long time. She was also the co-founder of the band, which was why, to her, it was atrocious that Shin took her place as the sole lead guitarist. The latter was just happy to be there, and both of them knew they couldn't do anything against this, it was Kara who made the rules. Although never asserting his authority as the initial founder per se, the other members assumed that he had a leader position within the band and no one dared to speak against him, there was just something about him that didn't allow you to. The one in charge of the bass was Fuyuka, also known as "Fuyu" or "Francis" (A/N: I haven't decided on Fuyu's pronouns for now, for now, please refer to them with they/them). Although the only similarity they had to Badger were being the bassist and being a drug addict, Shin would oddly enough see Badger in them sometimes. And there was Keita. There was way too much to unpack about Keita, the energy surrounding him being even stranger than the one surrounding Kara, but no one but Shin seemed to see it. At least his cats were cute.

At some point in the band's history, to fill the void of their unresolved love towards Badger on Shin's side, Shin and Kara tried to be in a relationship, which ended as quickly as it started, although this didn't affect their relationship as friends and ultimately fellow musicians at that time. Kara got into a relationship with Hana soon after, which surprisingly wasn't something that Hana would rub into Shin's face. It was just something that happened. Hana's jealousy, which blossomed into hate, which was still an understatement, manifested in different ways, as it got to the point where she attempted to murder them. **Another notable event was when Shin stumbled upon one of Keita's snuff tapes, it was nothing like anything Zenith portrayed in their music or onstage, it was a very real, brutal business of Keita's outside of the band.** The second it ended, Shin had found themselves looking up to him. Even though Zenith tumbled down faster than TwaüghtHammër, Shin stayed longer, their last straw however was when they went bankrupt, meaning Shin couldn't pay their debt off. Marshall insisted that it was fine at this point, he was an asshole at most, not a monster, but Shin was also insistent that they could still make it. They left to take it upon themselves to start a solo career. Fuyu had this twin, Natsu (A/N: Same for Natsu, I haven't decided on their pronouns for now, so they/them for now), also a guitarist and drug addict, who Shin was convinced would support them.

Fuyu and Natsu were seemingly opposites, the characters in their names translating to “Winter” and “Summer” respectively, among other things. To further amplify that, Fuyu fittingly dyed their hair blue and Natsu theirs red. Their oppositeness also showed in Fuyu having permanent furrowed eyebrows, while Natsu was seen with a permanent frown on their face. And last but not least, maybe even more important than the translation of their names: Fuyu injecting drugs via syringes while Natsu consumed them in the form of pills. But before Shin could blink, Zenith got Natsu to play for them. As their replacement. Of course they managed to get back on track the second they left, what else. Now that they thought about it, this must’ve been how Hana felt. Because their former bandmates had now thoroughly failed them, they thought less and less about almost all of them, but that was not all, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Tsubasa would find out before Shin. This caused their relationship as siblings to plummet, Shin losing the support of probably the first person they felt true care towards, worsening their anger issues.

Starting ca. Breaking Bad present canon, season 3

Although their brother didn’t want them to see each other anymore, Badger was not to blame. Badger is never to blame. With Zenith’s reputation worsening, Shin ended up being relieved that they left the band halfway through, but still, these debts won’t pay off themselves. All of this led Shin back where they came from into this mess in the first place—into the States. It also led to them cutting a significant part of their hair off, as they had to go into hiding from their band days, in a sense, that was also the moment where Shin became Cynthia. A lot of things happened on Badger’s side in their absence, it turned out that [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Shin was brought into the world of drugs as his replacement in the friend group, where they met Skinny Pete. The group worked under someone called “Heisenberg”, directly under him within the hierarchy was Jesse, below them were the rest. Working under such an hierarchy was unusual for Shin, as the last time they were exposed under such was in high school, under their teachers, who had failed them, leading to think very little of this Heisenberg, but they had to comply for the business. Not only having earned money in an unethical way but also straight up dealing drugs made them think about the promise they made to their young self. But they didn’t do drugs themselves as most low-level distributors did, because that’s what dad did, and they were not and never would be their dad, leading to them having been convinced that that promise could still be kept intact.

Until they managed to own an apartment of their own, Shin lived over at Skinny Pete’s, who she borrowed his clothes from. They also initially got their beanie from him, for covering their hair, but also complementing their overall style. As time progressed, the two would become close friends. Skinny Pete’s personality was fairly different from Badger’s, his calm and rational, yet slick demeanour would even out Shin’s feistiness. Distribution wise, it went well, Shin’s usual selling territory having been established to be around clubs. More things went well, so many things went well in such a short amount of time, that even though the circumstances spoke otherwise, it seemed like a dream. Shin and Badger eventually managed to (finally) eventually confess their feelings to each other, albeit rather hastily. It was in an alleyway on the run from the cops, to mislead them, Badger suggested that they

would kiss. It was dark, humid, narrow and uncomfortable, but being with him, his lips on theirs, their arms around each other, it felt so right. From then on they were a thing. On the other hand, Kam, using the great aversion towards drugs he always had to his advantage, was now a DEA agent, meaning he was part of the enemy. He still could've been Shin's friend, if only he wouldn't try to talk them out of the business, the only thing that could possibly still save them, their financial situation, and the only way they could possibly be in contact with their boyfriend. Shin despised Kam from then on and they would never speak again.

The search for their apartment was successful, but it would also mark the first—albeit short—time of living unsupervised. They never trusted themselves with themselves, proving themselves right **as one time, during a mental breakdown, they cut themselves deeper than planned. Blood gushed out of their arm, the whole bathroom was a mess, they felt dizzy seconds after**, the first one they called? Badger. He was there to accommodate for them, although they had to agree to a compromise: They would live with him from then on. They separated within the business soon, however, as Kristian Walker stepped into Shin's life. Better known as being referred to as “Kris”, possessing short, shaggy black hair whose haircut was reminiscent of Jesse's and also blindness. An individual almost as eccentric as Badger, having met him in a bar, after they both received a huge beating from the other, he would become Shin's lifelong friend. He was also a dealer who was more than willing to work under Shin, with the experience they had gathered over the past time, they would venture out by themselves, no longer dependent on Badger and his connections, although they still lived together.

At this point, the only old acquaintance Shin was in contact with was Keita, still finding themselves looking up to the brutality of his tapes and killings. They attempted to record a snuff tape themselves, which would mark their first and last one. Their reasoning for this? Debatable, seemingly none, they still ask themselves about it, they didn't like thinking about it too much. The victim caused disturbance in Shin and their people's distribution, as they convinced themselves. Taking place in the victim's very own basement, one of the various weapons used for the torturing and killing was the very gun Shin owned since high school. Shin gifted the tape to Keita. The tapes' existence was never known by anyone but these two, Kris, and the other people in the group Shin distributed with. **The events** lingered in their brain even more than **their motorbike accident**, to the point where they'd get frequent nightmares, or even flashbacks during the day about **the killing**. **This also marks the first time Shin touched anything drug related, as they impulsively attempted suicide, locking herself in the bathroom, trying to overdose on all of the pills they could find (A/N: This, too, is an Akira reference, albeit an intentional one).** Fortunately, Badger's worried call for them brought them back to their senses.

Starting ca. Post Breaking Bad present canon, El Camino

Alongside Keita, Shin started to reconnect with Kazu, and, again, would make their way back to Japan to work together with her instead. As Kazu moved on from a simple biker gang to making herself a name in Japan's criminal world it could be seen as a promotion of some sort,

. She didn't change much since they last saw her, except that she transitioned and grew her hair out, since there weren't any family members anymore to dictate how she'd keep her hair. She followed her plan to get tattoos as well. The way she presented herself in her youth, trying to seem as intimidating as possible, as the leader of a teenage biker gang would, seemed a little silly at first, but now it was serious. It was serious, yes. They never got to speak in person since their arrival in Japan. All of this time reminiscing their life, sorting their thoughts, lulled Shin back into sleep.

In contrary to their countless cutting sessions, the act of taking their own life was planned for a while, aside from last letters, they had contacted Keita to film one last confession they had in mind for a long time, as he was one of the only two filmmakers they knew, they couldn't possibly bother Marshall with this and they were too lazy to set everything up themselves. It all took place in the apartment Kazu provided for them, wearing one of their favourite band tees, this time with nothing covering their scars on their arms. They couldn't remember the last time where they had the freedom to let their scars breathe, as they didn't want Badger to worry or bother anyone else. It was freeing. Everything about the current situation was frightening, but freeing. With the events that led to them coming to this conclusion combined with the pent-up anger they most likely inherited from their father their worst nightmare came true. They had become exactly like their dad, in fact, maybe they were like him all along in the first place. The suicide would commence right after the filming of the tape, which was supposed to only be seen by Badger and Keita, if he wanted to.

"You have long surpassed me, Shin."

"What?"

"Recording a tape confessing everything before my suicide...I do not plan on doing that."

The gun found its third and last use. It was messy.

Epilogue

Kazu was also allowed to know the general idea of the tape, but not the full contents of it. She had the job of delivering the news, tape and gun in a paper bag to Badger. The delivery was a success. It was rainy, they hadn't spoken since high school, it was awkward. At first, Badger thought it was some sick joke, but soon after invited her over to temporarily stay at his place. Shin's trusted gun hadn't found a single use since, it collected dust kept safely in a drawer somewhere, while Badger tried to forget about it and didn't want to think about its last use. Him and Kazu both would get a sting in their chest whenever they tried to step foot in Shin's former room. It was unfortunate, although Kazu also had the assignment to deliver the news and letter with her own hands to none other than Tsubasa. As the years had passed, he and Marshall were still together and would live a humble, mundane life by each other's side. He thought it was a bad prank first as well, although as opposed to Badger, this flared up into an argument between Tsubasa and Kazu. Tsubasa always thought of Badger as a bad influence to Shin, but was well aware that Kazu had started everything in the first place. After that, he was struck by grief, taking a long time for him to open let alone read the letter addressed to him, but managed to paint one last piece to honour his sibling. Kris and Keita also died soon after, albeit unrelated to Shin's death. It was the deciding factor for Kazu to

eventually get out of the criminal lifestyle and leave her punk phase behind for good as well. She continued to live a normal, modest life, working at a stable office job.

Zenith had disbanded after all that happened, for the rest of the members other than Keita, it took a while for the news of Shin's death to arrive, although it didn't affect any of the members much, as they weren't as close to them. Kara and Hana, for example, lived a humble, mundane, normal life together, raising twins, up until the day Kara published his book confessing things about Zenith, containing his reasoning for why he founded it in the first place. Assuming that he was being truthful, the contents in that book were so disturbing that he was imprisoned soon after publication. Surprisingly, despite everything, the book wasn't taken from the market, as someone had to tell the truth, and hardly could it be anyone other than the founder himself, who wrote the book in an astoundingly objective way.