My eyes turned from the door as Silvia sat down. It was hard to believe it had been a year since I arrived. As she made herself comfortable, I brought out our usual cups for tea. I only had the two, really, but then, I never entertained much. She was my only guest most days, be it for books or company. As we settled in, she smiled that odd little smile and said, "So, it's been a year Ven, think you can finally start talking to me about *it*?" I could hear the emphasis, as always, and even the note of exasperation in her tone. She clearly didn't expect any answers from me today.

This time, however, I was ready.

I smiled before moving out of my seat. Reaching to my counter, I took the Lost Driver in hand and placed it at my waist. I calmly said, "Hey Fang? Showtime, buddy." And in seconds, the little Dino-like mech was in my right hand. With a few well practiced motions, he was in Memory form, and I was smirking at Silvia. She looked worried, but all I said was,

"*Henshin.*"

Setting Fang into the belt, the familiar cry of "*Fang~u!*" pierced the air as the armor began to form. This time, my body was ready for it, my form much less pudgy and more solid. Soon, I felt the helmet seal, and with a burst of blue light, my transformation was complete. Silvia looked equal parts amazed and concerned. I waved my hand as I re-took my seat.

"Hey, no worries, I've been working at this for a while now. My body is MUCH stronger than it was, and I can hold the transformation indefinitely if I'm not exerting myself now. My total time while training is about five minutes, but I'm improving each day." I stopped for a moment, before undoing the transformation, and smiled. "I owe it all to you, for helping me get in shape and looking after me. Thanks Doc, you've helped me make a dream of mine come true." Her eyes got a bit misty when she replied, "Of course you big dope. I'm your doctor, it's kind of my job." She them came around and hugged me, we both knew how much this meant to each-other.

After a few moments, we separated and I took on a serious expression. "Now, I think I still owe you a full explanation, about Fang, myself, and just what this armor is and means, right?" She seemed surprised, but nodded. I smile ruefully, before continuing, "Then take a seat, this is gunna be a bit of a long one. But I think I can cover the important bits.

First of all, where I come from, there has been a long line of heroes who where suits like mine. Mind you, they come in many forms, shapes and designs. And furthermore, their sources of power, and histories tend to differ quite a bit. However, each one has had an element of tragedy to how they came into the power. And each one, one way or another, found themselves fighting to protect others, and came to be known by the people as Kamen Riders. I myself, seem to be the latest of a particular generation of riders, known loosely as Gaia Memory Riders."

I paused a moment, to let all this sink in. As I continued, I brought out a paper with symbols drawn on it. "You see, the generation of Riders I belong to all gain their power from what are called Gaia Memories. These items are derived from a single, planetary energy that holds imprints from all concepts and histories that occurred on said planet. This energy is known as the Planetary Memory, or the True Gaia Memory to some. When this was discovered, the ones who found it, the Sonozaki family, developed away to copy the energy patterns into data, and then load that data onto special, small devices that were designed to merge with living organisms. These devices themselves were called Gaia Memories, and would change the user via the full force of that compiled energy pattern contained within. For instance, one memory could be for the concept of Magma, and in turn when merged with a living being would given them fantastic control over heated rock in liquid or solid form, and even fire-based powers outright. However, when merged directly into the organism, the data would mutate the being's own natural form to better suit the copy's power, and heighten aggression.

This mutation resulted in instability in most cases, bordering on insanity. These poor beings would be classified as Dopants, pronounced (Dough-pants). In the case of the Sonozaki's, they developed the first Drivers, a device worn around the waist to filter the power's influence on the mind, while still gaining the majority of the power to transform into Dopants and do as they pleased. They believed this was a natural way to evolve the human species, and that any who could not or would not agree would be acceptable losses for the world they wanted to create. Naturally, where such evil came to be, good would rise to stop them.

The first Gaia Memories, and the mass produced ones in general, tended to be unrefined, or at least not properly processed to have complete or accurate re-creations of the data from the True Gaia Memory. However, one of the Sonozaki family memories faked her own death, and began developing far more refined Gaia Memories, and further a new type of driver, that would grant the power of the memories, without the cost of losing one's physical form to gain them. Designing the driver to create armor instead of mutation, the first Lost Driver was developed, and the first fully refined memory was given to the first of the Gaia Memory Riders...Kamen Rider Skull."

I paused again, recounting the many stories and references to Skull in the show. The way I was speaking of these things gave no indication that any of this was fake. So I really had to be serious about how I spoke of the Riders that appeared. "He was originally a man named Narumi Sokuchi, a detective of a place called Futo City. He solved mysteries, of which there were several that involved Gaia Memories. Over time, he met up with the Sonozaki member who had faked her own death, and in exchange for helping her stop her family's mad plans, he gained the Lost Driver and the Skull Memory. He would work for several years, gaining an assistant by the name of Shoutaro Hidari, and eventually strike against the Sonozaki family's organization, Museum.

That day, his assignment was to find the rescue a boy, who had been directly exposed to the energy from the True Gaia Memory. The results left him with a near complete copy of it in his own mind, but had wiped away his own memories, and a good deal of his humanity in the process. Searching for the boy, it was Skull's assistant that found him, and confronted him. The boy, who it turned out was instrumental in the creation of Mass Production Gaia Memories, was dismissive of Shotaro, and in a minor scuffle, the boy was drawn deeper into the stronghold. After locating him again, Skull confronted the boy, who said he no longer remembered his own name. Skull named him Phillip, after one of his favorite detective protagonists. Upon doing this, and re-sparking some of the boy's own personality, they made to escape.

Sadly, this was where Skull met his end.

From behind, Skull was killed by three guards, their weapons hitting him in the back, while his armor had been left off." I had to catch my breath, the memory of my own death by gunshot coming to mind with great clarity. Clearing my throat, I continued, " It was at this time Skull passed on his hat, a symbol of his own maturity and skill, to Shotaro, and told him to get Philip to safety. As his mentor died, Shotaro and Philip were corned by the security forces of the facility. Philip, in turn took a suitcase Skull had with him, reveling a Driver like his own, but instead of one red slot with a silver band, it had two, with a gold band on the opposite side. Philip, knowing how to use it from his own large pool of knowledge, had Shotaro wear it, and together, they became the second Gaia Memory Rider, Kamen Rider Double."

(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xChtr49TnaI Skull's first Transformation)

(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-PQRXXoxu0 [the first transformation shown is all you need to see] Double's belt and transformation.)

I stopped again, before recounting the different adventures from Double's universe. I told of how the two unlikely males fought against Museum, working to save their city. I told of the other Riders that would rise, Kamen Rider Accel and Eternal, the first fueled by vengeance and later, justice. The second being driven insane after obtaining his mantle and seeking to destroy what he might have otherwise protected. Through it all, I emphasized a few things.

"Double as a Rider used eight Gaia memories, in combinations of 2, specifically. Only 2 of those memories were ever used alone in Lost Drivers, Cyclone and Joker. But speculation says that the others COULD have been used similarly. My memory, Fang, was Double's second most powerful, second only to the Extreme memory, which was designed and needed a Double Driver to work anyway. My form revolved around the concept of Fangs, or any creature that ever had a 'fang' and used it, and I mean every one. Mind you, as it was later discovered, certain people are predisposed to work well with certain Gaia memories. Some even call it their 'Fated memory'. Fang, from what I can tell, is my fated memory, though I don't have any other ones with me to compare. All the same, my form has a LOT of power, and I need to be much stronger myself to unlock it all, let alone use if effectively."

I took a long, deep breath, feeling the exhaustion. I looked at Silvia, seeing her scribbling in her notebook, taking cliff notes on all I'd talked about. Smiling slightly, I asked, "Any questions? I think I've ranted long enough." She looks up, before replying, "Just a couple. For one, if Fang was Philip's personal memory, why is he with you now?" I smiled, "Heh, if you recall, when we met, I said *my* Fang was just a toy, a recreation in design, but no power. Something changed my Fang into a real Gaia Memory, though I have no idea why or how." Nodding she made a small mark before continuing.

"Another thing, you mentioned that there was a True Gaia Memory. Do you think there might be one here in Equestria, and that IT might have brought Fang to life somehow?" I shook my head, "I have no clue. But my gut tells me Fang was changed before I arrived. As it is, even if it's true, I think such a thing *could* exist here, but I have no clue where to start looking, or what to do if I found it. Overexposure to it is bad, so letting it stay hidden may be for the best right now." Silvia looked back and nodded, while I stifled a yawn. Catching me, she shook her head smiling, "Getting tired?" "Heh, no getting past you is there? I think I have one more question in me, hit it." Looking down at her notes, she looks at me seriously and asks, "So Memory Breaks, or Maximum Drives, whichever you call them. Those final attacks can expel Gaia Memories and even be destructive enough to damage non-Dopant enemies. Would you say they could beat supernatural enemies that weren't Dopants, like say, zombies or some such?" I frowned, rubbing my chin as I considered this.

"Well, generally other riders can affect the enemies another Rider is suited for: say a Gaia Memory Rider went up against an enemy of a past Rider, say an undead. They might be able to injure them, but in the case of an undead, unless they can seal the monster as the primary Rider would, then they wouldn't be as effective. However, another rider with a finishing move like a memory break could possibly expel a Gaia memory from a Dopant...so, I'd say 50/50 chance, honestly. Depends on the forces at work and if the Gaia Memory power is similar enough to the needed power to end the enemy in question." Her response seemed subdued when I said that, and I got the feeling that wasn't the answer she wanted. Still, I knew only what the shows told me, and I still had a blot to learn about this world before I could say one way or another.

Moving from my seat, I went over and hugged her. Smiling lightly, I said, "Well, now you know most of it. Any questions you have, I'll answer once we are back here. I'm also training to get stronger, so I won't be so limited in my use of Fang. Truth is, until I master his power, I don't consider myself worthy of the name Kamen Rider yet. Besides, as Shotaro once said, 'The name Kamen Rider is given by the people. They see us as their hope, a protector of their lives and dreams, and I won't let you drag that name through the mud.' I'm hoping I can earn the title that way, it's the least I can do to honor their memory."