

## The Leaning Tower

Imagine you are in Italy. Pisa. It's a beautiful day and it's just you at the Leaning Tower of Pisa. A beautiful landmark. Out of seemingly nowhere, a huge gust of wind sweeps in - and the Leaning Tower of Pisa falls.

It's devastating. Everyone flecks to the once beautiful tower. So many questions - what happened? What caused this? What direction did the wind come from? How fast was it going?

The tower had been through lots of wind storms in the past - why would this gust of wind be any different? And the townspeople turn to you - You were there, why didn't you stop it? Why didn't you say something? You saw it was windy - why wouldn't you call and tell someone it was windy?!

It's not about the gust of wind. The tower is going to fall, eventually. It's not one moment in time that will do it - it's all the moments. It's been eroded over hundreds of years, slowly falling. Just small moments over time, until it eventually can't take anymore - and it falls. If the Leaning Tower of Pisa wasn't leaning, we wouldn't even be talking about it. It would be unremarkable. But, all of its faults - centuries of erosion - have made it a remarkable, beautiful landmark. Something people flock to see. Something people love, and care for.

On Monday, Carey fell.

I keep looking back at my texts with her that day. I should've called her.

I should've known that it was windy.

But it wasn't this one gust of wind, or one conversation, or one moment - she had been falling all along. Her mind was wearing her down, eroding her. All of her experiences, things she went through - made her remarkable. Beautiful. Someone people flocked to. Someone we loved, and cared for.

The last several years, she was looking for an answer. Her mind was sometimes telling the truth, and other times not. It was tormenting her with a question. She tried so many answers, but on Monday she gave her final one. And it's easy for us to say that was the wrong answer.

But the truth is, she was the only one who knew the question.

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