

The story of Carman Kenny:

The story of Carman's death as told from Irene's viewpoint is one that she believed to be true. Her siblings however disagreed. After the tragic incident, the siblings rarely talked about what happened. That silence allowed guilt to fester in each sibling who witnessed the event.

It was not until the elderly siblings met one day while Robert was visiting from the island that the conversation turned to reminiscing of days long gone by. Most were in their late 70's or early 80's by then.

As I understand the story to go, according to my father Art, Carman fell into the horse trough that winter's day and contracted pneumonia from which he never recovered. The family was devastated. Marion who thought of Carman as her little doll to dress and play with, was racked with guilt as she had forgotten to add a sweater to his outdoor clothing. This she thought caused the pneumonia. Each of the older siblings owned the blame, as they felt they had not paid close enough attention to what Carman was doing.

Again, as I understood dad to feel, Grandma (Alice) Kenny did blame the older children and told them so. Neither parent said anything to relieve the children's guilt and remorse.

It was not until that meeting, all those years later, that each sibling voiced his or her feelings of guilt. They were astounded to hear that each one of them blamed themselves. Whether or not both parents then became more religious is plausible as tragedies do often result in such action. Whether or not Carman spoke the words Irene has described is up to the reader to decide. It is not my place to say otherwise as I am simply repeating, the best I am able, the story as I understand it.

As with any family story, there will be versions from each point of view that differs from another.

Karen (Kenny) Wemyss (niece of Carman Kenny)
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