

## The Mandela Effect by Sage Ruiz



I'm sure you remember seeing people argue over whether it was spelt Berenstein or Berenstain, and many people remember specifically one way or the other, but what if I told you that this tiny disagreement could be tied back to a huge conspiracy theory called the Mandela Effect?

I'll admit, I wasn't much of a believer at first either. I've never been involved too deeply with any conspiracy effects other than just to learn about them. When my dad first told me about the Mandela Effect, I felt the same way about it as any other conspiracy, and to humor him I would watch videos and read articles about it, so that I could stay up to date with him, but then I saw something that really looked wrong; Febreeze, was no longer Febreeze. It read Febreze. Now I know a lot of you might be shaking your head in disbelief, but I checked, double-checked, even triple-checked the Febreeze website for any trace of the name change, or maybe an old bottle that still read Febreeze, I even had my friend send me a picture of her own Febreeze bottle, but it was right in front of my eyes. It had never been Febreeze apparently, it had always been Febreze.

Now, I could say this led me into a spiral of madness, but it was almost like learning a new thing in school. I didn't question it any further, I didn't see it as a fallacy, I simply did more research into it, and the more research I did, the more it makes sense.

My grandfather is Cuban, and when Fidel Castro died, he called me on the phone and cried, because now we could see each other whenever we wanted. But he never died, he's alive and well, and still governing the country of Cuba. He died in 2009, to the best of my recollection, but everywhere else I've looked claims that he is still living. I've even read articles about his brother Rafael taking over, but no longer in 2009 but in 2017.

Another one that really got to me, was Muhammed Ali's death. I may not remember it nearly as vividly as Castro's, just because that one really hit home for me, but I still remember it being a big

deal. Even on my Facebook timeline I was hearing about nothing but Ali's death. I remember watching videos and documentaries about his life, and this is the same year that Castro died, 2009. But now, no matter where you look, he died June 3rd, 2016. This year. But not even a peep about it. Why did nobody care about his death this time around? Why was it so hushed? I accidentally found out about Ali while I was looking for an article about famous dead celebrities. Granted, I expected to see him on that list, but not so recently.

Before I continue, I should probably explain what the Mandela Effect is. In theory, a physics research organization called CERN ("Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire", or European Council for Nuclear Research) has opened



a portal into another dimension, and somewhere along the way, the 2 different timelines from each dimension got crossed, and that's why some people remember things one way versus the other. People started noticing things "changing", right around 1980's, when Mandela died in prison. As you might have already noticed, Mandela didn't die in prison. In this timeline. In another timeline, Mandela did die in prison, but when our timelines crossed paths, certain things passed through, including some truths, such as Castro's and Ali's deaths happening later than they really did. There are some smaller, less noticeable changes, like "Magic Mirror on the wall, whose the fairest of them all?" Don't remember it that way? You're not alone, I have yet to see someone who remembers it that way, but that's what it says in the movie. A friend and I watched her old VHS tape of Snow White and the Seven Dwarves, and even then it still said "Magic Mirror".

Or from Star Wars, "No, I am your father", when even the actor who played Darth Vader himself even remembered it as "Luke, I am your father" Which, from a psychological standpoint, would make more sense, because as a parent trying to reinforce an idea into their child's head, they would state their name before stating the message they are trying to share. And I don't know about you guys, but I've seen people with shirts that say "Luke, I am your father", or postcards, and even one year my friend had a Star Wars themed cake that said Luke, not No. But, again, that's just me. There is no wrong way to remember an effect, either. Say you remember it from before the timeline collision, and you now remember a "wrong" thing in this timeline. You aren't wrong, you just

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remember it from a previous timeline. Hopefully, if you were intrigued by the idea of colliding timelines, you'll go on to do more research.