We thought we could fly with cardboard wings. Pipe cleaner feathers and dreams of the sky seemed enough to make us soar above the pale-blue-painted houses and road-speckled hills that were our runway to the rest of the world.

What we didn't know is that cardboard would crumple when exposed to the rain. Feathers could be torn off when glued to a façade. And dreams weren't enough to weather the storms waiting on the other side of the mountains protecting our perfectly Silicon Valley.