

# Noone Was Surprised

I've dealt with death, now, for some time, and I will say that there is very little about death that is pleasant. I've seen a lot of sad stories come through these doors and I'm certain that each story can make a case for being the most unsettling.

This is just one.

He was in his twenties. He was from a small town south of the city. He had been shot by another man in a drug deal, gone bad.

That all sounds pretty typical for the morgue, I guess. But it was what was said when they brought him in that I found most disturbing. When I asked the ambulance attendant what happened to the young man, his response was...

"Oh, there ain't a person in the town who's surprised to see this guy come here tonight."

He continued on with the story, but as the night went on, I couldn't help but keep chewing on those words. Noone was surprised that this young man, not yet in his prime, would end up in the morgue tonight.

Certainly I do not condone the life that this young man had chosen... a life of selling drugs, dodging the law and obviously making few friends. But when the entire community shrugs its' shoulders and treats this young man's death with a 'so what' attitude, I think there is a lot we have to learn about being a civilized people.

I'll be the first one to lead the fight against drugs. I'd love to get into every elementary school and tell the children what the life of drugs will do for them. I'm all for getting tougher with people who chose to waist their lives and those of others on drugs. But that's not the point.

How can the general attitude of a town be so complacent about one of their own dying a violent death as this man had? How can they shrug their shoulders and tell us that they're not surprised? How can they be comfortable with the abrupt ending of such a youthful life?

I've seen a lot of death, here, and to be honest with you, I've seen my share of cases that might be considered 'poetic justice'. But I have never seen a death that has left me feeling complacent or thinking, 'so what'. Every death brings some sadness. We should all feel surprised when a young man dies, regardless of the circumstances. We should all feel a sense of

responsibility when a young person travels down such a troubled road. A road that would lead to a dead end. And we should not feel good about our community when it shrugs it's shoulders at the death of one of it's young people.

They said no one was surprised?

I was.