

I WAS STARTING THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR ON WHAT WAS GOING TO BE ABOUT A 4 MILE RUN. AFTER ABOUT 2.5 MILES, I RAN ACROSS A DAM IN CHICOPEE STATE PARK, AND THEN DOWN INTO A HEAVILY WOODED AREA, LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CUT UP THE HILL BACK TO THE PATH. (I WAS FAIRLY FAR OFF FROM WHERE ANYONE ELSE WOULD BE RUNNING).

I THEN SAW WHAT I THOUGHT WAS A YOUNG HOMELESS MAN SLEEPING. HE WAS ON HIS STOMACH AND HAD A BAG TIED AROUND HIS FOOT AND WAS FACED DOWN. (ASSUMED MAYBE THIS WAS SO PEOPLE DIDN'T STEAL HIS BELONGINGS WHILE HE SLEPT). AFTER RUNNING AROUND HIM, I FELT BAD FOR HIM, HE WAS SLEEPING FACEDOWN AND JUST LOOKED LIKE HE WAS IN A BAD PLACE. SO, I TURNED AROUND AND WENT BACK TO CHECK ON HIM.

I REALIZE HE ISN'T BREATHING, AND AS I GET AROUND TO THE FRONT OF HIM, ALL I SEE IS A LIFELESS FACE COVERED IN BLOOD. EVERYWHERE. LOOKED LIKE MAYBE SHOT, OR BLUNT FORCE. AT THIS MOMENT I FREAK OUT AND SPRINT UP THE STEEP HILL TO TRY AND FIND ANYONE WITH A PHONE TO CALL POLICE (I ONLY HAD MY APPLE WATCH AT THE TIME).

I FIND A COUPLE WALKING ON THE MAIN PATH ABOUT 30 YARDS AWAY AND USED THEIR PHONE. SPENT ABOUT AN HOUR DOING STATEMENTS WITH STATE TROOPERS, FBI, LOCAL POLICE, DETECTIVES, ETC FOR A COUPLE HOURS. THIS YOUNG MAN LOOKED LIKE MAYBE 18-25. COULDN'T TELL, CAUSE OF ALL THE BLOOD, BUT HIS SKIN WAS STILL WHITE. DIDN'T LOOK LIKE IT HAPPENED TOO LONG BEFORE I GOT THERE.

AFTER SOMETIME, THE OFFICERS FOUND A GUN IN ONE OF HIS HANDS UNDER HIS BODY. WHICH MEANS IT POTENTIALLY COULD HAVE BEEN A SUICIDE... NOT THAT THERE IS ANY TYPE OF THING THAT COULD HELP ME COPE WITH FINDING HIM LIKE THIS. BUT, FOR SURE KNOWING HE WASN'T THERE DISCARDED BY SOMEONE ELSE, AND THAT HE WAS THERE WHERE HE WANTED TO BE, WILL AT LEAST PUT ME A LITTLE MORE AT EASE.

I'M DOING WHAT I CAN TO PROCESS THIS, THE IMAGE, THE REALITY. IT'S BEEN A ROUGH 24 HOURS. SOMETHING, I'LL NEVER UNSEE. OR FORGET THE COUPLE MINUTES WHEN IT WAS JUST HIM AND I DOWN AT THE WATER AS I FIGURED OUT WHAT THE HELL WAS GOING ON AND WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO. DEAD SILENT MIDDLE OF A STATE PARK. JUST RUNNING WATER, AND HIM AND I... HE LOOKED LIKE A YOUNG, NORMAL KID. SOMEONE WITH A FAMILY PROBABLY WONDERING WHERE HE WAS 🙄

WHOEVER YOU ARE AND WERE
RIP FRIEND