

The man who loved flowers



**ASSIGN
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Ever since humans have existed they have learned that it is better to focus on the positive things in their lives rather than the negative, to uphold a positive attitude towards the things that they do. This method can be helpful in some certain situations, but as it is portrayed in Stephen King's "The Man Who Loved Flowers" from his Night Shift trilogy, it is not helpful to the citizens of New York. New Yorkers are so infatuated with love that they fail to face the reality of who the young man in the story really is.

Firstly, the hammer murderer seems so in love that the flower vendor eliminates the negativity around him because he is so infatuated with and focused on how the young man looks. The young man gave off positive vibes and seemed very docile so the flower vendor decided to help the young man buy flowers, without having a clue that he was the hammer murderer. The flower vendor also envied the young man. This is evident when the flower vendor says, " Give her a kiss for me. " (King 457) after the young man purchases the flowers.

It proves that the flower vendor wants to be a part of something, relationship wise, so desperately that he feels the need to be involved with the young man's relationship with his woman, because the flower vendor sees that the young man has what he wants; a relationship. Additionally, the flower vendor was also so attentive to the young man that he did not even listen to all of the bad news spewing out of the radio " The radio poured out bad news that no one listened to: a hammer murderer was still on the loose;... an unidentified woman had been pulled from the East River;... None of it seemed real, none of it seemed to matter. (453)

The hammer murderer stands out from the society of New York because everyone is so infatuated with his appearance since he seems so chivalrous and in love, that they do not realize the negativity that is happening all around them; they are blinded by the face of what they think love is. Since the citizens of New York are so focused on how this young man looks, they fail to see that they are among the hammer murderer's presence and that any young woman, who fits the description of "Norma", is in potential harm of being the hammer murderer's next victim.

Even after the hammer murderer has killed another woman, citizens still face the fact that he is in love and disregard the fact that he is the killer. After the hammer murderer has struck again New Yorkers still see him as a lover because he does such a skillful job of hiding the fact that he is a murderer. After killing his 6th victim "He began to smile. A bounce came into his step as he walked on down Seventy-third Street. A middle-aged married couple sitting on the steps of their building watched him go by, head cocked, eyes far away, a half-smile on his lips.

When he had passed by the woman said, "How come you never look that way anymore?" (460) The hammer murderer hides into society so well after his murder, that people do not even see the blood stains on his suit from killing the woman because they are so drawn to the way he looks. Since he appears to be so happy, people tend to focus on that factor, much more than the dark passenger inside him that makes him kill innocent women. The fact that he seems so ecstatic and in love people would assume that nothing could be wrong in the young man's life and that he is just an innocent man who is only love-struck.

Citizens of New York are so infatuated by how the young man appears to be in love that they do not see who he really is. Since the young man seems so in love citizens tend to drain out the negativity around them to focus on the positivity of the young man. The young man blends into the society so well that being the hammer murderer is unpredictable to the citizens, and the understanding of who the hammer murderer is, is abstruse to them. Love is blind and when people are surrounded by the presence of love they eliminate the negativity surrounding them.