

mail boxes etc. /2/ not the guy

■ I came to the door _____ a bearded man _____ holding a large brown box. The store was **closed**. It was 3:30 p.m. How _____ the guy close his store _____ when he's so _____ time? Then _____ both noticed a small yellow _____ the window.

■ _____: "The owner of this store died yesterday. _____ a **memorial service** tomorrow at 3 p.m. at the church _____. We _____ normal _____ until _____." It was signed by the assistant.

■ The bearded man and I stood there, _____. "He died—**that guy died**? Jesus. That's _____ crazy." I said. "_____, " the man replied, and he added, "God, he was a _____." -- "I know," I said. "_____" -- "But, yes, it is horrible. Yeah."

■ We stood there _____ we were both trying to _____ how you're _____ feel when a

_____ **background player** in your life dies. But not someone like the jogger who stretches outside your window every morning. _____ actively hate.

■ Oh, God, _____ sick? I _____. If he was sick _____ and **that's why** he was so angry _____ the world, then, wow, that is the saddest thing _____. But if he _____ a truck, well, that would be sad, too. But _____ sad.

■ Then the man _____ his box and said, "Well, FedEx is just a mile _____." -- "Yeah, I know, thanks." But I went home. When I _____ the store the **next week** and the little bell went off, a _____ man with a _____ head _____ behind the _____. He smiled _____ me and said, "Let me know if I can help you with anything."

■ I know I _____ calm and _____, but I didn't. _____ I thought: Hey, **don't be nice** to people. He _____ me this way. It was his store. Ten years. Have some damn _____.