

Hearthville Serial - Book 6 - Episode 6

by

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FADE IN:

EXT: IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE HEARTHVILLE HOSPITAL - DAY

LESLIE MCAPPLE gets out of the jeep.

LESLIE MCAPPLE
Thanks for driving me here.

WADE ESSY smiles.

WADE ESSY
Good luck with your board meeting.

LESLIE MCAPPLE
I will need it.

Leslie McApple turns and walks to the front door of the hospital. BRYAN WOHAND and TIFFANY LANE watch Leslie McApple enter the hospital.

BRYAN WOHAND
Well, she doesn't seem so bad.
Maybe I misjudged her when I found
my wife sucking her pussy.

WADE ESSY
She seems nice enough. I guess we
should go back to your home and get
your computer equipment.

BRYAN WOHAND
I hope Trish has not changed her
mind.

WADE ESSY
I am sure she hasn't changed her
mind. I am fairly certain she has
been pushing you away because she
is trying to protect you.

BRYAN WOHAND
Protect me from what?

WADE ESSY
I don't know. She says Leslie is
not blackmailing her and it does
seem their sexual relationship is
just Trish whoring to get a
contract with the hospital.

BRYAN WOHAND
It is hard for me to believe that
Trish would prostitute herself for
a business contract. It is not
like her cleaning service is doing
badly.

TIFFANY LANE
Maybe she has been sucking a lot of
pussy to keep her business going.

BRYAN WOHAND

No! She is not that kind of woman.

WADE ESSY

In high school Trish Black was wild. Bisexual. We weren't seriously involved but I had sex with her a couple of times.

TIFFANY LANE

Should I be jealous?

Wade shakes his head no. He clears his throat. He rubs his nose.

WADE ESSY

I liked her. Do not misunderstand. But she was a strange girl.

TIFFANY LANE

(Laughs)

And you were a strange boy. Or so I've been told. I wish I had gone to your high school.

WADE ESSY

No you don't. You would have hated me. Back in those days I obsessed on Clint Eastwood. I mean, in high school I liked to wear ponchos and boots. I liked to quote lines from his movies.

BRYAN WOHAND

I had a friend who would deliver the full late night show monologue of Johnny Quiver. He obsessed on that dude.

TIFFANY LANE

I remember Johnny Quiver. He was funny. Is he still alive?

BRYAN WOHAND

No. My friend obsessed on him so much that he started stalking him and then he murdered him.

TIFFANY LANE

Seriously?

WADE ESSY

No. He is lying. Johnny Quiver teaches at the Hearthville College now. He is married but he has paid me a few times to suck his dick.

TIFFANY LANE

No one famous ever pays me to have sex with them.

WADE ESSY

He is not famous now. He is just a closet case in a bad marriage.

BRYAN WOHAND

I once thought I could be famous. But then I decided I did not want to become a serial killer.

TIFFANY LANE

Do you know Leroy Bare? Because damn. You two have a similar sense of humor.

BRYAN WOHAND

I know the name. We have shot pool together once. But I don't really know him.

WADE ESSY

What about Deven Raven?

BRYAN WOHAND

Not really.

WADE ESSY

Leroy thinks he is in love with Deven but Deven considers himself straight.

BRYAN WOHAND

And I should want to know that why?

WADE ESSY

I don't know. Tiffany, get this jeep rolling and let us get back to his home to get his computer equipment picked up.

Tiffany hits the clutch with her foot and puts the jeep in gear and floors the gas. She makes a sharp turn as she exits the hospital parking lot.

EXT: ON THE ROAD - DAY

TIFFANY LANE drives down the road. The speedometer shows that she is slightly speeding. She is changing lanes and passing cars. BRYAN WOHAND looks from the backseat at the speedometer and then Tiffany's breasts. WADE ESSY slaps Bryan in the face.

WADE ESSY

What do you think you are doing?

BRYAN WOHAND
Looking at the speedometer.

WADE ESSY
Sure.

TIFFANY LANE
Bryan, stop checking out my
boyfriend's crotch.

BRYAN WOHAND
I wasn't. You know, not everyone
is gay.

TIFFANY LANE
Maybe not but you do know that your
wife Trish may have decided that
she is a lesbian. She may have
been sucking Leslie's pussy because
she was enjoying it. And her
pushing you away may have nothing
to do with trying to protect you.
That is, not in any real sense, but
just trying to avoid the situation
by pushing you away.

WADE ESSY
No. Trish likes dick just as much
as she likes pussy. I am pretty
sure she is trying to protect Bryan
but I have no clue to what she is
trying to protect Bryan from. She
is not a bad person. She really
isn't.

TIFFANY LANE
Are you trying to convince Bryan or
yourself?

WADE ESSY
Maybe she is bad. Maybe I am bad.

BRYAN WOHAND
Not me. I am a fucking saint. The
fake pope just doesn't want to give
me the credit that I am due.

WADE ESSY
Fake pope. You sound like my mom.
When we have an argument I always
threaten to start going to the
Catholic Church.

BRYAN WOHAND
I like your mom.

TIFFANY LANE
Yeah. She rocks.

INT. CORRIDOR OF HEARTHVILLE HOSPITAL - DAY

LESLIE MCAPPLE is walking down the corridor.

LESLIE MCAPPLE
Damn this hospital feels like a
ghost town. It is spooky.

Leslie McApple touches her face.

LESLIE MCAPPLE
Damn. I forgot to put on a face
mask. That Covid-666 shit. Should
I take the elevator or the stairs?

She walks toward the stairs.

LESLIE MCAPPLE
Oh God, I want a cigarette so bad.

SELBY JAMES comes out of a room. Leslie does not see him.
He touches her on the shoulder. She jumps.

LESLIE MCAPPLE
(screams)
What the hell?

SELBY JAMES
(laughs)
I am sorry. I did not mean to
scare you.

LESLIE MCAPPLE
I am not so sure but I will take
your word.

SELBY JAMES
Are you okay?

LESLIE MCAPPLE
No. I am not okay. I think I am
going to tell them that I do not
want to be on the board.

SELBY JAMES
But you do want to be on the board.
You want to stop them from using
animals in medical test.

LESLIE MCAPPLE
That is true. But. I am not
qualified to sit on any board. I
am going to be way over my head.

SELBY JAMES
Of course you are qualified. Do
not be silly. But if you need
someone to help you with something,
just call me. I will help you.

LESLIE MCAPPLE

Why did you want me to sit on the board rather than having yourself named to the board. You should sit on the board. Not me.

SELBY JAMES

I have too much going on. I would end up missing too many meetings. Speaking of which, if you do not get the move on then you are going to miss the meeting.

Leslie walks to the stairs. Selby opens the door to the stairs.

INT. STAIRWELL - DAY

LESLIE MCAPPLE begins climbing the stairs. She stops and looks back down at SELBY JAMES through the door he continues to hold open.

LESLIE MCAPPLE

Are you coming?

SELBY JAMES

No. You are going to be okay. I would just be an unnecessary distraction.

LESLIE MCAPPLE

Oh God. I am feeling so nervous.

Selby releases the door and it slowly closes. Leslie begins to climb the stairs.

INT. BOARDROOM - DAY

LESLIE MCAPPLE enters the boardroom. She looks at ARTHUR RAMSEY.

LESLIE MCAPPLE

I am sorry that I am late.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

No. You are not that late. Several other people are not yet here either.

Arthur Ramsey hands Leslie McApple a piece of paper.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

This is what you and Selby wanted.

Leslie looks at the paper.

LESLIE MCAPPLE

This will only stop the testing for 6 months or at least that is what you want me to think. There are so many clauses here establishing reasons that the testing will continue that this paper is worthless.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

With this covid we do not want to tie our hands. There is a lot of government money available right now and we would be stupid to limit our options.

LESLIE MCAPPLE

Fair enough, but you were trying to mislead me. Why even pretend?

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Well, it would make you look good and make us look good and it seemed like a good idea at the time.

Arthur Ramsey takes the paper from Leslie and tears it up.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

I am sorry.

LESLIE MCAPPLE

Look. I don't expect anything as broad as stopping all testing. I know that is unrealistic.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

So what do you want?

LESLIE MCAPPLE

As a starting point I would like an agreement that would stop animals from being used in studies that serve no purpose.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Meaning?

LESLIE MCAPPLE

Like you know that HG7ab4 is pointless. The FDA will never approve it. It has already failed three studies. There is no reason to do another study on it.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

I am not familiar with that study. Let us walk over to the computer over there against the wall. I will
(MORE)

ARTHUR RAMSEY (cont'd)
see if I can pull the information
up on the drug and the study.

They walk over to the computer that is on the far wall.
MALCOMB COMBS walks up.

MALCOMB COMBS
We are not going to have enough
people for the board meeting.

ARTHUR RAMSEY
Fine. Tell everyone who showed up
that they can go home but to answer
their phones if I call them.

MALCOMB COMBS
Okay.

Malcomb Combs starts to walk away as Arthur leans over the
desk and types on the keyboard to pull the study up on the
computer screen.

ARTHUR RAMSEY
Shit. Why? Why in the hell did
Malcomb approve this?
(screams)
Malcomb get back over here.

Malcomb turns and walks back to where Arthur is looking at
the computer screen.

ARTHUR RAMSEY
Why did you approve this?

Malcomb Combs reads the computer screen. His lips move.

MALCOMB COMBS
HG7ab4 has potential.

ARTHUR RAMSEY
No. It does not.

MALCOMB COMBS
The Raleigh Trust gives us money if
we are working on a drug for
Parkinsons. HG7ab4 is the only
drug we have in the works. If we
don't do the study then we do not
get the money.

ARTHUR RAMSEY
This comes very close to fraud. I
want the study stopped and the
money returned to the trust.

MALCOMB COMBS

The amount of money is close to a million dollars that you are throwing away.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Money that should be going toward the development of a viable drug. This is not it.

MALCOMB COMBS

Garret is not going to be happy.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Garret can suck my dick.

Arthur typed in a few keys.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

This study is now cancelled. Leslie, thank you.

MALCOMB COMBS

Leslie, you can be removed from the board.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Malcomb, you can also be removed from the board.

MALCOMB COMBS

Not likely.