

# Hearthville Serial: Episode 9

by

Charles Peters

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Much Thanks.

Charles Peters

FADE IN:

EXT: BACKYARD AT BASEMENT DOOR - DAY

TIFFANY LANE backs her jeep toward the open basement door. WADE ESSY and BRYAN WOHAND are standing at the open door. Using their hands they give Tiffany opposite and nonsensical directions to her backing. Tiffany looks in the rear view mirror at the clowns. Trish walks into view just inside of the basement door. Bryan turns and looks at Trish, his wife.

BRYAN WOHAND

Hey, darling.

TRISH WOHAND

I am not your darling any more.

BRYAN WOHAND

Were you sucking Leslie's vagina because you were hoping she would give you that hospital cleaning service contract?

TRISH WOHAND

It is none of your business.

Wade looks at Bryan and then at Trish.

WADE ESSY

Leslie McApple may not be a looker but she is real nice. Are you in love with her.

TRISH WOHAND

Love is just a four letter word. So is hate. So is fuck. So is shit.

WADE ESSY

And your point?

TRISH WOHAND

I know a lot of four letter words. But to how I feel about Leslie, I  
(MORE)

TRISH WOHAND (cont'd)  
supercalifragilisticexpialidocious  
her.

WADE ESSY  
That is an adjective.

TRISH WOHAND  
And you are an asshole.

BRYAN WOHAND  
So your relationship with her is  
more complicated than love.

TRISH WOHAND  
Yes.

BRYAN WOHAND  
And what about your relationship  
with me?

TRISH WOHAND  
We no longer have a relationship.

BRYAN WOHAND  
Yes we do. We will always have a  
relationship. You might can divorce  
me but you can't unmarry me. You  
can't erase the past.

TRISH WOHAND  
If the government and media can  
rewrite history, why can't I. I  
think I can. I wasn't married to  
you. I was married to Tom Cruise  
jumping up and down on the couch  
lying to himself, Oprah, and  
everyone.

BRYAN WOHAND  
You wanted me to be a man who would  
have sex with a gay porn star.  
That is who you wanted to be your  
husband.

TRISH WOHAND  
I wanted to be married to a man who  
could at least pretend he loved me.

BRYAN WOHAND  
I did not have to pretend. I love  
you for real.

TRISH WOHAND  
You loved your work. Even when you  
lost your license, you could not  
stop being a detective. Everything  
was an investigation for you. Even  
(MORE)

TRISH WOHAND (cont'd)

I was something to be investigated.  
You don't investigate someone you  
love.

BRYAN WOHAND

You don't have to be afraid of what  
I might discover about you. I am  
tough. Whatever you have gotten  
yourself involved in, I can handle  
it. There is no reason for you to  
lie to me. There is no reason for  
you to try to protect me by pushing  
me away. You might can stop me  
from being your husband but you  
can't stop me from trying to  
discover whatever jam you have  
gotten yourself into. I think you  
want to protect me and I know that  
I want to protect you.

TRISH WOHAND

If you don't leave me alone, I will  
get a restraining order.

TIFFANY LANE walks to the basement door.

TIFFANY LANE

You are kicking him out of your  
life because he is a detective.  
Right. You are not trying to  
protect him. You are trying to  
protect yourself because you are  
afraid of what he might discover.

TRISH WOHAND

Get the computer equipment and  
leave.

BRYAN WOHAND

That is the reason you would not  
let me have my stuff that I use for  
snooping. You are afraid of me  
being a detective.

TRISH WOHAND

Bryan, do you want to get the both  
of us, maybe the four of us,  
killed. Is that what you want?

BRYAN WOHAND

What is going on? Trust me. Tell  
me.

TRISH WOHAND

Get your stuff and leave or I will  
call the law.

TIFFANY LANE

Come on. Let us get the stuff and get out of here. There is no way to help someone who does not want to be helped.

INT. - THE KITCHEN INSIDE OF THE DUDDLEY HOME - DAY

VICTOR DUDDLEY, JUDY DUDDLEY, STEWART DUDDLEY, ELLEN DUDDLEY, and ELLIOT DUDDLEY are sitting at the kitchen table and eating. The table is in front of a large picture window where the beautiful outdoors can be seen.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

So I am thinking about making a trip to Atlanta.

ELLEN DUDDLEY

You are forgetting about Covid. You do not need to be traveling to Atlanta.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I wish someone would cure that crap already. I am so fucking sick of it.

JUDY DUDDLEY

Why don't you come up with a cure?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Yeah. Right. Lately I've been feeling brain dead. I am like in a fog. That dream I had knocked me for a freaking loop. So weird. I am such a weirdo. I hope someone puts that on my tombstone. May the weirdo rest in peace.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

You are not a weirdo.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I want to go to Atlanta.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Why? Why do you want to go to Atlanta.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Maybe I want to see Tabitha. Maybe I want to have sex with Tabitha.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Don't say that kind of stuff in front of mom and Judy.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I am sorry.

STEWART DUDDLEY

I am pretty sure that Arthur Ramsey is in Hearthville. She still works for him, right?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Yes, but unless he has moved to Hearthville temporarily, she would not be with him.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

You should call her and find out.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I don't know. I, uhh, just don't know.

JUDY DUDDLEY

You weren't really going to Atlanta to visit her, were you?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Where would I be going?

JUDY DUDDLEY

A better lie would have been to just say you needed to go Atlanta on business.

STEWART DUDDLEY

When you visit Terence on business do you ever see Roger or Jossette?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I am finished eating. I think I will go up to my room and pretend that I have a life.

Elliot and Ellen give one another looks. Victor leaves the table. Elliot stands up and follows.

INT. - THE STAIRCASE INSIDE OF THE DUDDLEY HOME - DAY

ELLIOT DUDDLEY climbs the staircase and catches up with VICTOR DUDDLEY.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

You need to tell them that Jossette is dead so you don't have to lie when you want to go to the cemetery to visit her grave. Plus, they should be told anyway.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

No.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

At some point they are going to find out. I am surprised that they have not already found out.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I am going to Atlanta. And yes, it is to visit the cemetery. I keep hoping that her ghost will come to me.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

Son. Thinking that way is not healthy.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Do you know what is not healthy? I feel like I have done something awful and I don't know what. But still, there it is in mind. It is blank in my mind and yet I dwell on it. What I am feeling is so fucking insane.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

You need to go over to the junkyard and work on cars with Sam and Sally. Working with them always helps you to take your mind off of things and helps you to feel better.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

When I get back from Atlanta I will call Sam.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

So you are going to Atlanta?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Father, I love you, but you do know that I am grown. Right?

EXT: FRONT DOOR OF THE DUDDLEY HOME - DAY

Harry Walsh is standing at the front door. He rings the doorbell. He looks up and whistles while waiting for someone to answer the door. He rings the doorbell again.

INT: LIVING ROOM OF THE DUDDLEY HOME - DAY

ELLIOT DUDDLEY walks to the front door. He opens the door. HARRY WALSH walks inside.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

You missed lunch. It was pretty good.

HARRY WALSH

I ate at home. My mom actually fixed some pretty good eats. Stewart and Victor around.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

Stewart is in the kitchen finishing up his plate. Victor has gone upstairs. He is planning on going to Atlanta.

HARRY WALSH

Business?

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

I don't know. I wish he wouldn't go but he has his mind set on whatever reason he has for going.

STEWART DUDDLEY enters the living room from the kitchen.

STEWART DUDDLEY

So we bought an above ground pool. Do you want to help us to put it up?

HARRY WALSH

Sure. I imagine I will be spending as much time in it as you do. It is ridiculous we can't lounge around the beach.

STEWART DUDDLEY

I know. I know. Crazy. Insane.

VICTOR DUDDLEY comes down stairs with a small bag.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I will be back by noon tomorrow.

HARRY WALSH

Why are you going to Atlanta?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

To see TABITHA.

HARRY WALSH

I saw her sunning outside the McTwist House with Arthur Ramsey and his wife Clarice. I don't why Arthur bought that house when he already has a mansion in Hearthville over near the Bare Estate.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I don't know. Rachel lived there and ... Oh fuck.



ELLIOT DUDDLEY

What is wrong?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

A sharp pain in my head. God damn, it hurts.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Victor, please do not go to Atlanta. I know you were just pretending to go see Tabitha but do go see her.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

(holding his head)

I've got to go sit down.

HARRY WALSH

If you give me that covid shit I am going to be so fucking pissed.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I don't have covid. I just have a pain in my head and I seriously do not need you being a pain in my ass.

Victor walks to the sofa and plops down. Harry and Stewart follow and sit in separate chairs on each side of the couch.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Harry, where is the McTwist House. I have heard people talk about it. You know, where it is supposed to be haunted I have heard the stories, but I don't know where the house is.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

Before Arthur bought the place, it was a boarding house. It is right at Hearthville Lakeview Trailer Park. I don't know how Harry would have seen anyone sunning there because it is back off the road.

HARRY WALSH

I was over at my grandfather's and helping him unload hay. His barn is near the beach area that is on the McTwist property.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

Oh, that is right. Your grandfather has a farm there. How is your grandfather?

HARRY WALSH

He is doing good.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

Does he still sell pecans and apples?

HARRY WALSH

Yeah. And peaches when they are ripe. And also...

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

I haven't been there in a long time. I really should go by there and see him. I like Manny.

HARRY WALSH

And also, he used to sell the best moonshine in Georgia. Or so I've been told.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

Hell yeah. Broke my heart when the damn FEDs shut him down.

HARRY WALSH

The FEDs were okay. It was the dang GBI that had my granny crying. Mean sons of bitches.

STEWART DUDDLEY

What did they do to have her crying?

HARRY WALSH

They yanked the phone away from her and tossed her down on the floor. They handcuffed her.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I imagine getting arrested is never fun. But still. I am sorry she went through that.

HARRY WALSH

My granny sometimes asks about you. I have never been clear on how she knows you.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Your grandfather and her are good friends with Dick Smith and Paps Ogelby. They bring their cars over for Sam to work on and they sell antiques to Paps. But I have never been over to their farm. I didn't know it was next to the McTwist property.

ELLIOT DUDDLEY

You really need to call Sam. Sam told me that he and Sally have been missing you coming around. He wondered if you had gotten mad about something.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

No. I am not mad about anything. I've been spending a little bit more time with Deven and Leroy and I don't know. I don't know where time goes.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Are you feeling better?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Yeah. I sometimes get those headaches. They come and go. I am feeling better now.

STEWART DUDDLEY

So what do you say we go over to Manny's? And then maybe over to the McTwist Home where you can visit with Tabitha.

HARRY WALSH

Sure. My grandparents will like the company.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Okay. It has been awhile since I have seen Manny and Candice.

EXT: HARRY'S TRUCK - DAY

HARRY WALSH, STEWART DUDDLEY, and VICTOR DUDDLEY are shocked to see SARAH KELLY sitting in the passenger seat. The truck is parked on the road.

HARRY WALSH

What are you doing in my truck?

SARAH KELLY

I was riding around with my brother Ralph and saw you parked here so I decided I would surprise you.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

We can go over to your grandparent's house some other time.

SARAH KELLY

We can all go? I can sit in the back of the truck.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I can sit in the back. You three  
sit in the front.

STEWART DUDDLEY

I will sit in the back with you.

Harry walks around and gets in the driver's seat. Victor and Stewart climb in the back of the truck. Harry cranks the truck. It backfires. He drives off. After a turn Tiffany Lane's jeep follows in behind them.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Who is driving that jeep behind us?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

(looks)

That is Tiffany Lane.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Cool name.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

She and Wade Essy are planning on getting married. He is in the passenger seat. I am not sure who that man is in the back.

TIFFANY LANE pulls into the other lane and drives up even with the back of the truck. WADE ESSY waves at Victor and Stewart. BRYAN WOHAND is looking in a box.

TIFFANY LANE

Hey Victor.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Back at you. What are the three of you up to. No good I hope.

TIFFANY LANE

(laughs)

Bryan Wohand back there has wife problems. We were getting his computer stuff from his wife.

WADE ESSY

He is married to Trish Black. Do you remember her?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Hell yeah. She was always nice to Jack Minx.

WADE ESSY

I liked Trish but today was the first time I saw her in like for ever.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Sometime give me her address. Jack and I will drop in on her. It will be cool to see her again.

BRYAN WOHAND

I would say she will like seeing the two of you but these days I don't know what is going on with her.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

So your breakup is not on good terms.

BRYAN WOHAND

Anything but. That said, I still love her but she is pushing me away.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I am sorry. Maybe the two of you will get back together and you will be able to put your problems behind you.

BRYAN WOHAND

I hope but I have my doubts.  
(pushes the box aside)  
So it is none of my business but what happened between you and Jossette?

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Things happened. Life got in the way.

(Stewart pats his brother  
on the back.)

And it was all complicated.

STEWART DUDDLEY

We are going to over to Harry's grandparents and then we are going to slip over to the McTwist House to see if we can fix Victor up with Tabitha. She is Arthur Ramsey's maid.

TIFFANY LANE

Cool. A man needs a little romance in his life.

WADE ESSY

Hell yeah.

BRYAN WOHAND

Arthur Ramsey. You were on Arthur Ramsey's helicopter. You risked  
(MORE)

BRYAN WOHAND (cont'd)  
your life to save that little boy's  
life. That was so amazing.

WADE ESSY  
Victor is an amazing person.

BRYAN WOHAND  
So I take it that you know Arthur  
Ramsey pretty well.

VICTOR DUDDLEY  
Not really.

STEWART DUDDLEY  
Aren't you involved with some club  
he is setting up or something?

VICTOR DUDDLEY  
That is Constance Bare's club. But  
yeah, I guess I do know him fairly  
well. I don't know. It is not  
like we are real tight.

BRYAN WOHAND  
I have some bitcoin that I need to  
turn into dollars and then I need  
to smuggle the dollars back into  
US. Could you or Arthur help with  
that?

VICTOR DUDDLEY  
I don't really know you. You could  
be an undercover cop as far as I  
know.

A car comes straight toward the jeep.

TIFFANY LANE  
Well, we have to make a turn here.  
Bye.

VICTOR DUDDLEY  
Bye.

The car is right in front of the jeep when Tiffany turns  
just in time to avoid the car.

STEWART DUDDLEY  
Wow. That was close. Damn.

INT. INSIDE OF HARRY WALSH'S TRUCK - DAY

SARAH KELLY is brushing her hair. HARRY WALSH is driving.

SARAH KELLY  
I heard the most juicy gossip.

HARRY WALSH

So tell me.

SARAH KELLY

Jossette Ogleby got pregnant by Victor and she went to France to have the baby. She is living in France.

HARRY WALSH

(rolls his eyes)

You can't believe all the gossip you hear. I am pretty sure Victor and Jossette never had sex.

SARAH KELLY

Because he is gay.

HARRY WALSH

He is not gay.

SARAH KELLY

Come on. You can tell me. I keep your secret. I can keep his. Have you and Victor ever had sex.

HARRY WALSH

No. Victor and Stewart are almost like my brothers. I don't think of them like that.

SARAH KELLY

What about Victor and Jack Minx?

HARRY WALSH

I would doubt it. You know that Victor and Jossette were in love.

SARAH KELLY

But you said that they didn't have sex.

HARRY WALSH

They were young.

SARAH KELLY

Well, I heard that Jossette was seen in France and she was a mother.

HARRY WALSH

I am sure that if whoever actually saw someone who favored Jossette, it wasn't actually Jossette. People favor other people. I am a dead ringer for Brad Pitt.

SARAH KELLY

In your dreams. Your wet, gay dreams.

HARRY WALSH

You know, Tabitha favors her half-sister Jossette.

SARAH KELLY

I don't think I've ever met Tabitha.

HARRY WALSH

Tabitha was never very social. She liked to keep to herself. She loves to read.

SARAH KELLY

So do you know her pretty well.

HARRY WALSH

Not really. Back in those days Stewart was more friendly with Roger Ogelby than me. Roger and I never got along well.

SARAH KELLY

Why is that?

HARRY WALSH

I don't know.

INT. WADE ESSY'S CAMPER - DAY

BRYAN WOHAND finishes setting his computer up. WADE ESSY and TIFFANY LANE are laying bed and flipping channels on the TV.

BRYAN WOHAND

This takes up more space than I realized. I've got to get my own place.

TIFFANY LANE

You were asking Victor about getting dollars back into the US. How much money are you talking about?

BRYAN WOHAND

I don't want to talk about it. You all could be undercover cops.

TIFFANY LANE

That was a shitty thing for Victor to say. But you know, he doesn't know you.



BRYAN WOHAND

I realize. It is only \$250,000 but I seriously need it. And I don't want it tracked.

WADE ESSY

Where did you did you get the money.

BRYAN WOHAND

I helped someone locate an inheritance where part of the money was hidden offshore. The guy that died was a drug dealer. My client didn't have the money to pay me up front and so my payment is a small part of the money I found and it is in bitcoin. But see, I don't know how to help them smuggle any of the money back into the states or get my payment without the government getting in the middle of it. My part is only \$250,000 but the total amount stashed offshore is several million dollars.

TIFFANY LANE

I was wondering why you lost your detective's license. Now I think I know.

WADE ESSY

Sometimes Rachel Ramsey is pretty lucid. I will see if I can talk to her and find out if she has any advice.

TIFFANY LANE

Or what about Leroy Bare and his mom Constance. They are shady as fuck.

BRYAN WOHAND

It goes back to what Victor said. They don't know me and have no reason to trust me. But to be clear my client is a really nice young woman. She was not involved in her brother's crime activities. And it is her money.

WADE ESSY

You are trying to avoid the revenue man. That is as criminal as selling drugs.

BRYAN WOHAND

In my case yeah. But in her case, if the government finds the money, they will try to confiscate all of it. It is not all about the revenue man.

WADE ESSY

We are not your enemy. We cross that line between being honest and being a criminal every fucking day. Tiffany and I are whores and do other side hustles. But understand, there is that line and what you are talking about is crossing that line.

TIFFANY LANE

The first time I looked in the mirror and realized that I was a criminal and the government was my enemy, I felt sick to my stomach. I wanted to be somebody. I wanted to do good. And there I was. Sirens were blaring. I knew the police were moving in. I had just let a bank robber fuck me for \$1,000.

(silence)

BRYAN WOHAND

What happened?

TIFFANY LANE

He and I got the hell out of the room just in time. It was close. I don't know exactly where he scrambled off to with the money. I had my thousand dollars and was hiding in a tree with the room in view when the police broke the door down. I was so fucking scared.

WADE ESSY

But it was exciting, wasn't it. The feel of your heart racing. The adrenaline. The knowing that one minute you were alive and the next minute you could be dead.

TIFFANY LANE

I didn't like the feeling. It was awful.

WADE ESSY

Bullshit. You live this life because you like this life. You chose this life. When you got into the car with that bankrobber you

(MORE)

WADE ESSY (cont'd)

knew what you were doing. You knew you were risking being violently raped or murdered. You might not have knew that he was a bankrobber but you knew that you were taking a risk and that risk excited you.

TIFFANY LANE

The risk might excite me, but that reality was shit. The idea of beating, cheating, death might have excited me but actually facing death or jail sure as hell did not excite me. It was awful.

WADE ESSY

But you didn't die and you didn't go to jail. And you weren't a victim. You are not a victim. And even if you had died or ended up in jail, you still would not have been a victim.

TIFFANY LANE

I was not trying to say that I was a victim. I didn't mean to sound like I was trying to get you two to feel sorry for me. I don't want anyone feeling sorry for me. I was just saying I was scared and it was an awful feeling.

WADE ESSY

Was it an awful feeling when you were having sex with the bank robber.

TIFFANY LANE

No. I like bad boys. That is the truth. You can put that on my tombstone. Here lays Tiffany. She liked bad boys with big cocks and long tongues.

WADE ESSY

Tiffany. I love you.

TIFFANY LANE

Back at you, baby.