

# **Hearthville Serial**

## **Book 6**

### **Episode 9**

by

Charles Peters

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Much Thanks.

Charles Peters

FADE IN:

EXT. WALSH FARM, AT BARN - DAY

HARRY WALSH gets out of his truck. SARAH KELLY gets out of the truck. VICTOR DUDDLEY and STEWART DUDDLEY crawl over the tail gate, step on the bumper, and jump onto the ground. Victor rubbs his knees. He looks up at his brother Stewart. Victor stretches.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Remember when we used to ride in  
the back of a truck going to  
vacation bible school.

Victor and Stewart walk around to where Harry is standing. Sarah walks around.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Vacation bible school. We were so  
young back then. And stupid.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

We are still stupid.

SARAH KELLY

I had such a crush on you Victor  
back in those days. I was so  
jealous of Jossette.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Crush. Bullshit. You have always  
hated me. And Jack. You ran him  
naked through the girl's locker  
room.

SARAH KELLY

That was so funny.

HARRY WALSH

It really was not funny. He got  
suspended. And he didn't even get  
you in trouble.

SARAH KELLY

Yeah, you gays have always got to  
stick together.

HARRY WALSH

Shut up. You wish I were gay so  
you could have a gay best friend.

MANNY WALSH, Harry's grandfather walks from around the barn.

MANNY WALSH

Harry I love you, but two visits in  
one day.

HARRY WALSH

(laughs)

VICTOR DUDDLEY

It has been awhile since I have seen you and Candice.

HARRY WALSH

And I was telling them about seeing Tabitha sunning with Arthur and Clarice. We were kind of hoping to get Victor fixed up with Tabitha.

MANNY WALSH

I see.

(grins)

Tabitha is a sweet heart. I think she is dating someone by the name of George though.

SARAH KELLY

Having rival suitors can be fun. Victor, I say you should go for it.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I mainly wanted to come here to visit you Manny and Candice.

MANNY WALSH

Well, we are all down at the lake. Arthur is grilling hamburgers. Tabitha is reading a book. Candice is fishing. And Clarice is doing something on her computer.

SARAH KELLY

It is like fate.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Yeah, Victor, now is your chance to stop crushing and actually do something about your feelings toward Tabitha.

They walk around the barn.

EXT. WALSH FARM, PATH DOWN TO THE POND - DAY

Manny Walsh, Harry Walsh, Sarah Kelly, Stewart Duddley, and Victor Duddley walk down to the pond. Two birds fly above them.

EXT. WALSH FARM, BEACH AND LAKE - DAY

ARTHUR RAMSEY is at grill turning the hamburgers over. He looks up and sees VICTOR DUDDLEY walking down to the beach. He puts the spatula aside. He rushes to Victor. He grabs Victor into his arms and hugs him.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

When I heard what you did, I could not believe it.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

What did I do?

HARRY WALSH and STEWART DUDDLEY step up behind Victor.

HARRY WALSH

Arthur Ramsey is hugging your brother.

STEWART DUDDLEY

I see.

Arthur Ramsey looks at Harry and Stewart. Victor turns and steps away from being hugged. Arthur Ramsey shake's Harry's hand. He then shakes Stewart's hand.

TABITHA AGHAR puts her books aside. She stands up. She walks over to Victor. She pulls him into her arms. She kisses him on the mouth. She steps away and puts her hands on his shoulders.

TABITHA AGHAR

I've missed you.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

I didn't know you all had moved here.

Tabitha removes her hands from Victor's shoulders. She cocks her head to one side. There is a frown on her face and a sadness in her expression as she looks at Victor.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Well, I had started spending more time in Hearthille than Atlanta. Clarice decided she would move her office down here. We still have our place in Atlanta but we like it down here.

SARAH KELLY

Tabitha, you look so much like Jossette. Harry was telling me but now I am seeing it. You two could be twins. So have you ever been to France.

TABITHA AGHAR

I have vacationed there. It is beautiful. Why do ask?

SARAH KELLY

No reason. I have just been thinking about vacationing in France. And someone had told me that you or Jossette had vacationed there.

TABITHA AGHAR

God, I wish Jossette could have  
li...

VICTOR DUDDLEY

No. Don't. Please.

TABITHA AGHAR

I wish Jossette and I could have  
vacationed there together.

Victor sees a rowboat at a dock on the lake.

VICTOR DUDDLEY

Tabitha. Let us take that rowboat  
out on the lake.

TABITHA AGHAR

Sure. That sounds like fun.

Victor and Tabitha go to the rowboat. Stewart and Harry  
watch them.

STEWART DUDDLEY

I honestly did not think he knew  
her that well.

HARRY WALSH

So Sarah, why don't you ever kiss  
me like that.

SARAH KELLY

I might ask the same thing, but I  
know the answer.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Victor is special. You have no  
idea how special your brother is.

STEWART DUDDLEY

I worry about him.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Tabitha would never hurt Victor.

STEWART DUDDLEY

I did not mean to suggest that. He  
said he was going to Atlanta to see  
Tabitha and I thought he was lying.  
I didn't even realize he knew her  
that well.

CLARICE RAMSEY walks over.

CLARICE RAMSEY

He has business with Terence  
Ogleby. And from what Terence has  
told me, he always goes by the  
cemetery.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Why does he go to the cemetery in Atlanta?

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Clarice. No.

CLARICE RAMSEY

Arthur, I don't understand. She is dead. People should know.

SARAH KELLY

Who is dead?

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Just someone Victor knew.

MANNY WALSH

Paps thinks she was murdered. He does not believe for a second it was simple food poisoning.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Please. Let us change the subject. Talking about it is upsetting.

CLARICE RAMSEY

Yeah. Change the subject. Pretend she is not dead. That is what all of you do.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Who?

CLARICE RAMSEY

I have been told by my master to change the subject, so I will change the subject. Have you figured out who your sister is dating?

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Clarice. You are seriously pissing me off.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Steed Ramsey. Is he related to you?

CLARICE RAMSEY

(laughs)

Nooooo. Of course not. Because heaven forbid your darling sister should know she is dating the son of a mobster.

HARRY WALSH

Wait. Steed is Mark. I understand how I wouldn't realize it and

(MORE)

HARRY WALSH (cont'd)  
Stewart might not realize. And  
Judy. She is oblivious to  
everything. But how in the hell  
could Victor not realize it. At  
one point he and Mark were best  
friends.

ARTHUR RAMSEY  
Please do not tell Judy.

STEWART DUDDLEY  
Why would I not tell Judy?

ARTHUR RAMSEY  
Talk to Steed first. Please.

SARAH KELLY  
That goody two shoes is dating the  
son of a mobster. That is  
hilarious.

CLARICE RAMSEY  
Steed is a good boy. A girl could  
do a lot worse than dating Steed  
Ramsey.

STEWART DUDDLEY  
I don't want my sister hurt. I  
will talk to Steed. Just to be  
clear my intent is not to try to  
break them up, but Judy thinks  
Steed is a poor drifter who has to  
work at that garage.

HARRY WALSH  
Stewart. Judy's ignorance is her  
bliss. It is not a big deal  
because at the end of the day Steed  
is still Steed. What should  
concern you is that Victor does not  
know who Steed is? It does not  
matter how much I have changed.  
Even if we had not seen one another  
in a period of time, would you not  
know who I am.

STEWART DUDDLEY  
I might not. If you changed your  
name and was introducing yourself  
as someone else. I might just  
accept what you tell me at face  
value.

HARRY WALSH  
Bullshit. Even I wondered if Steed  
and Mark were the same person.



STEWART DUDDLEY

Maybe Victor does know and is just going along with Mark pretending to be someone else. That is what Arthur wants me to do.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Victor does not know. On the one hand Steed has been glad about that but on the other hand it has been driving him crazy. He worshipped Victor. When Rachel and I were not being the best parents we should have been, Victor basically saved Mark's life. I did not know what was going on with my son but Mark was basically killing himself with self loathing. He hated me and he hated himself. And Victor got Mark playing football. He got Mark involved in doing other stuff. Victor and Jossette saved Mark's life. I am not exaggerating.

Sarah lays her head on Harry's shoulder.

SARAH KELLY

I remember the football games. Victor and Jossette were such goofs. But god, we had so much fun.

STEWART DUDDLEY

I know there is something wrong with Victor. Tell me, who is in the cemetery.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

No. I am not going to tell you.

HARRY WALSH

Stewart. Just think about it. Whose death would cause Victor to want to kill himself. Stop being stupid. It is Jossette. Jossette is dead.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Jossette?

Arthur Ramsey solemnly nods yes.

STEWART DUDDLEY

And Victor didn't tell us.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Your father knows. Victor could not deal with her death. On the  
(MORE)

ARTHUR RAMSEY (cont'd)  
 one hand he knows it but on the  
 other hand he can't face it. There  
 was no malice in you and Judy not  
 being told. Victor had another  
 trauma before Jossette's death. He  
 can't deal with that either.

STEWART DUDDLEY  
 What?

ARTHUR RAMSEY  
 I can't tell you.

CLARICE RAMSEY  
 Tell them.

ARTHUR RAMSEY  
 No.

CLARICE RAMSEY  
 Rachel, Arthur's x wife that is  
 Steed's mom, and Rita Angster  
 tried to murder Victor. He almost  
 died in the boot of a car after  
 being severely beaten.

HARRY WALSH  
 Rita that was Mark's girlfriend and  
 who now dates Sam?

CLARICE RAMSEY  
 Right. Victor shut the memory out.

Tears streaming down Stewart's face. Focus on Sarah who is  
 starting to cry. Stewart raises his hands and arms to try to  
 cover his face and hide his tears. Harry takes hold of  
 Stewart's hands and pulls them to his face.

HARRY WALSH  
 It is okay to cry for your brother.  
 It is okay to cry for yourself.

Harry drops Stewarts hands and arms to fall to Stewart's  
 side.

STEWART DUDDLEY  
 I knew it had to have been  
 something awful that would have  
 changed Victor. But my god.

CANDICE WALSH who has been listening walks up.

CANDICE WALSH  
 Poor Victor. Why? Why did they  
 try to kill him?

ARTHUR RAMSEY

You are not going to believe this but it was not fully them. There was a ghost using them. Still, there was a motive. Victor and Jossette were found together naked and Rachel went crazy. I found Victor in the boot of the car where he had been put and we got him help.

CLARICE RAMSEY

Arthur and some of his friends saved Victor.

STEWART DUDDLEY

And Victor doesn't remember?

ARTHUR RAMSEY

If his mind starts to focus on it, something happens. He becomes sick. You can't tell Victor what you have been told.

MANNY WALSH

Was Steed involved?

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Not in trying to hurt Victor. In trying to save him. But there was supernatural involvement. Steed's memory on what happened is not clear either.

STEWART DUDDLEY

Are you trying to protect Steed from what he did to my brother. Victor might not know that Steed is Mark but he dislikes Mark.

ARTHUR RAMSEY

Mark worshipped Victor. He loves Victor. Rachel thought their love was more than just friendship. She thought they were gay. She thought Victor had been fucking both Mark and Jossette. But that was not true.

STEWART DUDDLEY

So why does Victor dislike Steed?

CLARICE RAMSEY

I am guessing it is because he can't deal with the memory. And he wants to avoid the memory being triggered. Steed was there in the attic trying to stop the beating

(MORE)

CLARICE RAMSEY (cont'd)  
 when Rita locked he and Jossette in  
 the closet. Steed does not have a  
 clear memory of the event but he  
 would have dreams; nightmares. He  
 would talk in his sleep. Hearing  
 the anguish and desperation in his  
 voice as he dreamed was horrible.  
 That was when Steed and I were  
 dating. It got so where I could  
 not stand to sleep in the same bed  
 with him for fear of his night  
 terrors.

SARAH KELLY  
 Wait. You were dating Steed first  
 and then married his father. Poor  
 Steed.

CLARICE RAMSEY  
 I love Arthur and he loves me.  
 Steed and I were just two ships but  
 I am still very fond of Steed.

Arthur and Clarice give one another a look. Arthur's look  
 is of jealousy and Clarice's look is a look of guilt.

HARRY WALSH  
 Tabitha looks so much like  
 Jossette. Steed would trigger the  
 memory but she would not?

EXT. ON THE LAKE, VICTOR AND TABITHA IN ROWBOAT - DAY

The rowboat rocks in the waves as VICTOR GEORGE DUDDLEY and  
 TABITHA AGHAR look the short distance toward the people on  
 shore.

VICTOR GEORGE DUDDLEY  
 Why did you kiss Victor like that?

TABITHA AGHAR  
 I was not kissing Victor. I was  
 kissing you. I knew you were  
 George.

VICTOR GEORGE DUDDLEY  
 No. I was still Victor. He liked  
 that kiss way too fucking much.

TABITHA AGHAR  
 On some level, you and Victor are  
 the same person. You freak, don't  
 make me choose between you and  
 Victor when you and he are the same  
 damn person.

VICTOR GEORGE DUDDLEY  
We are not the same person. I am  
better looking.  
(devious grin)

TABITHA AGHAR  
Yeah, man. I can totally see that.

VICTOR GEORGE DUDDLEY  
Do you love me?

TABITHA AGHAR  
With all my heart but I am not the  
girl for you. I am not Jossette  
and I can't replace Jossette.  
Also, you go through periods where  
George does not even come out and I  
don't hear from you. I think we  
should start dating other people

VICTOR GEORGE DUDDLEY  
I guess you are right. But God, I  
do love you. Still I know that  
Victor needs someone and as long as  
I am with you I will not allow that  
to happen.

TABITHA AGHAR  
If you and he could both date me  
that would be weird but I've  
considered that. But you get  
jealous of Victor and more times  
than not just seeing me turns him  
into you.

VICTOR GEORGE DUDDLEY  
He loved Jossette so much and you  
are so much like her. When he sees  
you, though, he starts to remember  
stuff that can only hurt him.

TABITHA AGHAR  
So you are agreed that we should  
date other people?

VICTOR GEORGE DUDDLEY  
Can we still be friends? Can I  
call you?

TABITHA AGHAR  
Sure. And we can still date, but we  
both need to find someone new.

VICTOR GEORGE DUDDLEY  
I love you.

TABITHA AGHAR  
And I love you.

Victor George Duddley starts rowing the rowboat back to shore.