

"Four Pops and Counting"

Pop Shaffer

Such a kindly fellow, a liberal Lutheran lay leader who welcomed me to befriend his daughter every Sunday morning for a summer, while I prayed inwardly God would deliver her — heart, not body — to me. (He didn't.)

Pop Wang

That feckless caitiff who divorced his wife in a place and time that marked her forever an enemy of the family, all because she bore him twins—a daughter, then their stillborn son

The tragedy of Pop Kee, a careless airline pilot and mile-high paramour with one testicle,

Lost under bumpy conditions

And then came Pop Phillips, an obese recluse and suspected pederast whom I knew only through his daughter's rants about the tiny, swarthy, smoke-choked apartment he sat in day and night, after his family forsook him

And a broken Boone's's bottle finally severed his pain.

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All of their grandchildren's thoughts of me will likely concern the alimony.