

## Reclaim My Heart

From Chapter Ten

Tyne looked out the car window at the lush, green trees flanking the narrow country road.

"You know," she said, "I've been so focused today that I haven't thought about Zach. I wonder what he's doing."

Lucas glanced at the clock on the dashboard. "He's probably cleaning the fish they caught. Or stacking the firewood he collected." He grinned. "Or sitting in a hole trying to figure out how to get out."

"*What?*" She couldn't tell if he was serious or if he was teasing her. "What are you talking about?"

"Uncle Jasper put me in a hole once."

Tyne couldn't believe her ears. "Lucas. Come on. Don't tease me."

"I'm serious." He lifted one hand off the steering wheel. "First, he made me dig the hole. I spent a whole day with a shovel in my hands. 'Deeper,' he kept saying. 'Deeper.' And he made me go to sleep next to it that night not knowing what the dangd thing was for. 'That is for tomorrow,' was all he'd tell me before sliding into his sleeping bag."

Lucas's smile never faltered. "The next morning he told me to jump down into the hole. Which I did, no questions asked. He told me I could have breakfast as soon as I'd climbed out, and then he walked away."

She was quiet, her mind taken up with the idea of Zach out in the woods with Jasper... maybe standing in a hole he'd been forced to dig.

"Nearly three hours later and I was still standing there. Filthy from trying to scale the walls, frustrated as hell that I couldn't."

"Your tone is telling me this is a good memory," she said, "but for the life of me, I don't understand."

He laughed. "Neither did I. And that was precisely the point of why I was in the hole for hours."

She frowned.

"Little did I know, but my uncle was busy in the night. While I slept, he'd angled the sides of the hole so the opening was smaller than the base. It would have been impossible for me to climb out. It'll be impossible for Zach to climb out too."

"Lucas! You are not making me feel any better. Get to the good part, please."

"I just hope he figures it out quicker than I did," Lucas continued easily. "You see, many of those camping tasks will emphasize independence. They're about learning self-reliance. But the hole? The hole is designed to make a man realize there are times when he can't go it alone. He needs others."

Tyne nestled into the seat, crossing her arms tightly over her chest. "My son's out in the woods somewhere, digging a hole," she muttered. Her tone lowered. "Trapped in a hole." She heaved a sigh and shook her head. "Wonderful."

Reviews:

"Fasano's best book yet." ~BooksAndPals.com

"Captivating and beautiful..." ~NerdGirl Reviews