

Claiming His Tempting Mate novel chapter 71

Savannah's POV

"Are you fine?"

I chuckled "7th time"

"What?*" He looked confused.

"This is the 7th time you are asking me"

"I can't help it" he shook his head then checked my body again rubbing slowly "that bastard dared to lay hands on you" he clenched his fist as a low growl erupted through his throat.

"Hardwick, he is dead already. He got what he deserved" I tried to calm him down.

"I still felt like going back and shred his body into pieces"

I shook my head "he is dead. You don't have to get your hands dirty by doing that. For a person like him, it will only stain your hand with his filthy blood"

Hardwick caressed my cheek softly "I will ask Sadie to put ointment on your cheek. It's still red"

I smiled "I am fine, nothing happened to me. Do you know why? Because you came to save me. You came at the right time. How am I going to thank you for this?"

He leaned and joined our forehead "just stay by my side forever"

"Hardwick"

"Yes"

"I love you"

"I love you more baby" he whispered, kissing me. The familiar taste filled my mouth. That dominating taste of him melted my heart in an instant.

"Where is she?" The door flung open, startling me.

"Fuck" he cursed then glared at the person standing at the door.

"Opps, I didn't know you both....." Sadie grinned "uh, I will just come in a minute"

“Stop right there,” Hardwick said coldly. He got up from bed “since you are already here. Just come and do your work”

Sadie walked in smiling and put her medical box down on the table.

“Next time you better be careful or I will chop your head” Hardwick hissed at her.

“Haha, I will take care” Sadie laughed nervously. I shook my head rolling my eyes.

Sadie sat on the bed and checked my pulse “hmm.. it’s normal. Because of too many activities your body is tired. You need a good amount of rest Luna. I will prescribe some medicine that will help you recover your body from exhaustion”

“Sadie, I need to tell you something”

“What is it?”

“Um...on the kidnapping night I took that tablet you showed me. If it was not for it, I wouldn’t be able to survive and make my body stronger to stay active”

She nodded “I know, I found the pill missing. But don’t worry it won’t affect your baby” she assured.

“There’s something else too,” I sighed. “Avan injected me with a kind of drug that will keep my wolf sleep, weakening my power. Can you help me with that?”

“He did?” She frowned. “I never thought they would get such medicine” she shook her head then pulled out an injection “don’t worry, I have been researching about it for years already and you are lucky that I finally found the antidote” she smiled.

“Why does that make such medicine?” I asked as Sadie prepared to inject me with the antidote.

“To defeat enemies” Hardwick answered “it will cause the inner wolf to sleep which will definitely weaken one’s power and strength. And that situation was the perfect time to kill your enemies without exhausting yourself”

“Done” Sadie smiled “your wolf will wake up in few hours”

“Thanks” I smiled.

She laughed “don’t embarrass me by thanking”

“Savannah” Mom and dad walked in hurriedly.

“Mom, dad,” I smiled.

“How are you sweetheart?” Mom looked worried.

“I am fine mom” I smiled trying to assure her “Sadie also checked me and said there’s nothing to worry”

“Thank God, I have been so worried,” she cried.

“Are you alright princess?” Dad asked.

I nodded “yes dad”

He turned to Hardwick and patted his shoulder with a proud look “you are worthy to be the Alpha of Dark Forest. You know how to handle things even in difficult situations. Thank you for saving my daughter and bringing her back unharmed”

“It’s my responsibility towards my mate. Please don’t thank me. As long as I am alive, I will never let anyone bully her no matter what” Hardwick replied.

“I am really proud of you son” then they hugged. I smiled looking at them. Dad really accepted him wholeheartedly and it makes me happy to see them like this.

“Everyone is here” Tanea joined in with Devak.

“I am so glad to see you here darling” Tanea hugged me smiling.

“Thanks”

I looked at my brother “how did you guys find me so fast?”

“We wouldn’t be able to if it was not for that so-called sister of yours” Devak replied “but I am glad she chose the right thing and helped us to locate you or anything could have happened” he shook his head.

“I am really surprised to see her there. I mean since I started to understand things I just knew she is always hostile towards me no matter what I did. She used to put all the blame she did in the past making me fool before everyone. But how come she suddenly changed so that she came forward to help me?” Thinking about the past made me stunned. The last thing I was expecting anyone to be my saviour was Reese. Even though she came out at the right time, I couldn’t help but be shocked at her actions.

“May be she understand now” mom replied “time changes everything including people’s heart and thinking”

“But she is not reliable,” Devak snorted.

“She doesn’t have a place to live, Dev” Tanea frowned “though she made mistakes but it was also her who helped you in the end. Just think if she didn’t offer the location then what would have happened to Sav. That’s why even if you do don’t like her, you don’t need to insult her”

“Fine, I will just stay away from her, that’s all. If I don’t see her then I don’t need to be angry”

Tanea rolled her eyes then looked at me “even if you two are not blood related but you stayed with her as sister. Sav I think she has changed and since she was the one who saved you, you should at least thank her. So that you won’t have any debt from her”

I nodded “I will. There’s also many things I want to know from her.

Later that evening, I felt good. After taking medicine and eating well I walked towards the garden. I stopped on my track when I saw a figure sitting under the small gazebo in the garden. Giving some thought I walked towards it.

“Can I sit?” I asked once I reached there.

Reese turned around looking stunned “uh, yeah of course. It’s your place anyways”

I sat down on the chair and looked at her. She has changed. She looked pale and aged with her current form. She used to look vibrant, always starting from clothing to shoes, she always liked to show off. But now looking at her looks like she is not the same person.

I sighed “I am sorry for your parents”

“You don’t have to” she shook her head. Her voice was gentle and there was no proudness like it used to before.

“You are not resentful?” I asked.

“Is there any point?” She looked at me “everything happened was caused by Avan himself. So the main culprit here was him. He died but he took the pack with him”

“Why do I feel that You are not sad because he died?” I frowned. She used to love him so much. But her eyes were not showing any pain for him.

“There’s no point to be sad thinking about him” her reply was quite shocking. I couldn’t hold back the stunned expression of mine.

“You were so in love with him, weren’t you?” I asked her.

She shook her head “I made a mistake. I thought he was a prince who would put charm in my life but I was wrong. I understood the reality so late until I had nothing. It’s all become empty”

I frowned “Reese you-”

“I am sorry” she stopped me in the middle. I looked at her.

“I know saying sorry won’t change anything. But still I want to say sorry to you. Whatever I did in the past, humiliating you, mocking you and even snatching your real mate” she shook her head “I was such a dumb”

“What happened to you Reese? You are not like this”

“Because I understood the reality. Understood that dreams and reality are too different things. It’s okay to dream but it’s not okay to take the dream as reality. I have been wanting the man all my life who was not mine in the first place. Avan was never mine no matter how much I tried to get him. I thought by seducing him and getting favoured by him, I can achieve things but I was wrong. I should not have been blinded by greed and made these mistakes. At the end it left me nothing but a broken heart” her voice sounded so painful that it hit the weak spot of heart.

“You should have accepted your real mate Reese instead of rejecting him,” I told her.

Reese turned to me with a surprised look “youyou knew?”

“No, I guessed” I shrugged “but looks like it’s true”

“I couldn’t. He was good but I was not. I have devoted myself to Avan even after losing my virginity. And for my mate....” She paused, “I have nothing to give him. My body was not pure nor my mind and heart. I know it was wrong but even if I accepted him, would he love me after knowing the truth?” Her eyes filled with pain “It is better for him to find another if possible than leaving me. I don’t want my past or my situation”

I hold her hand “mates are not about physical love. Mate is a connection from the heart. Maybe he would have accepted you if you told him the truth. Or maybe you still have that chance”

“No, I lost everything with Avan Savannah. There’s nothing left for me. I don’t want to ruin others’ lives. I have committed so many sins and this is the punishment I deserve. To live my life alone”

“Reese, life is not easy. I can never forget the past things but that doesn’t mean I will live with it. To live your present and build your future you need to let go of your past. That’s what I did and I am happy now. And you have already realised your mistake and that’s enough”

“You think so?” She asked.

I nodded “no one is perfect you know. We all make mistakes but we also need to realise it and try to rectify it. And in your case you rectified your mistakes by helping me last night. I wouldn’t be here if you didn’t show up at the right time. Thank you for that” I smiled.

“That’s nothing. Avan has crossed all his limits and I couldn’t just sit and watch him doing all the wrongs. I hated him for everything. I want to curse him for everything he made me to do”

“He is gone now. There’s no Avan anymore. You should forget about him and move on in your life. Though your pack is destroyed, if you want you can live here”

She smiled “You are so good Savannah. I always knew that. But I can’t live here. It will make me feel more guilty. Thanks for the offer”

“Are you sure? What are you going to do now?”

“I will travel around,” she shrugged.

“You will be called rogue once you leave”

She nodded “I know but I don’t care anymore. I don’t have anyone to care for so wherever it takes I will just go. I want to be free from everything”

“Reese, why don’t you find your mate? I mean what if he is still waiting for you?” I asked.

“I can’t go back to him” she gave a small smile “I can’t give him anything other than pain” she sighed again “I had a miscarriage and it led me to be infertile for life. With what face I can go back to him? ”

I gasped. She can’t give birth anymore? I never knew this.

“You...”

She chuckled “I was punished for my sins”

“I am sorry”

“It’s fine. I should be going now” she got up then looked at me with a smile “since you are fine, I wish you a good life. Even if in names we are sisters once so I hope you can forgive me. If there’s a chance we will meet again” then she shifted in her wolf form before running into the deep forest.

I watched her leaving with a heavy heart. How time has changed making the gorgeous girl trying into a pale and lifeless one. I felt a hand sneaking around my waist. The familiar scent hit me and I leaned more into his touch.

“She left?”

“Hmm...”

“She is the lucky one to survive the whole crisis,” Hardwick said again.

I sighed “she is changed so much that it’s almost unrecognisable”

“Everyone has their own fate”

I didn’t reply to him but closed my eyes while leaning on him. He is right everyone had their own fate and this was something we can’t decide.

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Savannah’s POV

Two years later...

“Wow, you look so beautiful. You know I am totally envious now” Tanea smirked as she eyed my dress. I chuckled looking at her through the mirror. The white lace flowing like a river behind me while the perfectly fitted diamond coated dress hugged my body tightly reflecting my curves.

“I still can’t believe Hardwick really proposed to you in front of everyone. God, a hard headed Alpha man like him to bent on his knee then propose you with a ring” she chuckled “it was a sight to see you know”

I turned around to look at her “you think I was not amazed?” I rolled my eyes playfully “I still can’t believe he really did that. Who could have thought that in the name of taking me to my parents’ anniversary he would propose to me so suddenly?”

“Right, mom and dad looked so happy. Even Dev who always held so much grudges against him looked so pleased” Tanea laughed.

I still remember that day. Dev invited us to attend the anniversary of our parents. On that day Hardwick also said he has a big gift for them. But I never expected that the big gift he was talking about was meant for me. I was so shocked when I saw him suddenly kneeled before me and pulled a velvet box. His words were so touching that I couldn’t help myself but cry out of joy.

“Earth to Sav ” Tanea waved her hand in front of my face.

“What?” I shook my head.

“It’s not a time to dream about your mate now. Let’s put the flowers in your hair first” she said then tugged the flower in my bun.

“There you look so enchanting. I guess today Hardwick will faint if he sees you like this” she grinned.

I turned around and checked myself again. The white flowers look beautiful, matching the dress code of my dress. I don’t know how Hardwick managed to find these matches. He personally instructed the designers to bring it.

“You are ready. I am so happy that he is giving you a huge wedding like this Sav. I always knew he is the best choice of mate for you” she hugged me lightly.

“I guess you are right,” I nodded in agreement. Hardwick is the best one I could ever ask for. He never let me down no matter what. After the end of those tragic incidents two years ago, our life finally became smooth and comfortable. It’s not that there’s no problems in these two years, but it was much easier to deal with when the enemy is a stranger, someone for whom we have no feelings at all. At least it is better than dealing with your own pack members as enemies. I sighed inwardly. Life, being a Luna is not easy but since I was chosen to be one then I would do anything with my power to secure my position and my pack.

“Are you guys really?” Mom walked in, opening the door.

“Oh, my dear you looked so beautiful today” she gasped.

I smiled at her “thanks mom”

“Here, this little guy is nagging about you. Looks like he couldn’t wait to get you” mom chuckled, handling the little guy in her arms.

“Mum-mum” the little guy mumbled in his cute voice.

“My baby” I kissed his chubby cheeks “are you missing mummy?” I held him while he clutched me with his small arms.

“He is not the only one who is missing you” suddenly dad walked in with a smile.

“Dad”

He walked towards me and planted a small kiss on my forehead “you look gorgeous princess”

"Thanks dad" I grinned. He still talks to me like I am a kid and Pampers me to hell. He never let me feel like I am a grown up woman and a mom too. I chuckled at the thought but my heart fluttered with happiness.

"Come on now. Your mate is getting restless standing at aisle" he laughed "I guess he is more impatient than Alvis"

I glanced at the little man who was mumbling something in his baby language. I could not help but smile. I know my son will become powerful and strong just like his father when grow up in the future and I am really looking forward to it. He raised his head and looked at me with his beautiful purple orbs. Yes, my son is the junior version of Hardwick but I am glad at least he got my purple gen at the end. Even dad was surprised when he saw that. But I am too happy.

"Give the little guy to your mom and start the wedding. Everyone is waiting outside for the bride" Dad said.

I nodded smiling and handed Aldric to his grandmother. Dad led me out of the room linking our arms. I am nervous but happy, though in our tribe this formal wedding is not really necessary but I am glad Hardwick gave me this honor to walk down the aisle. I could not feel more lucky than this. Every pain of the past is really worth it.

As we stepped out of the door the slow instrumental music of ' I Love You More Than You'll Ever Know' started to play in the background. My face was hidden under the lace transparent veil. I smiled as I looked around. Dev stood beside Tanea holding his little baby girl while Ryan stood at side wearing the best man attire. Jenny will be my maid of honor and two little kids were throwing flower petals on the aisle leading towards the priest waiting for us. Then my eyes fell on the handsome man who was in all white with a smirk on his face. My heart jolted suddenly looking at him. He is my mate.

~ Our mate ~ Red corrected immediately.

I chuckled inwardly and calmed my heart as we reached the center. Dad handed my hand to Hardwick with a smile. Hardwick kissed the back of my hand and pulled me beside him. Soon the priest started to chant his words.

"Before God, your friends, and your families, I ask you to affirm your willingness to enter the covenant of marriage and to share all the joys and sorrows of your lives and your relationship, whatever the future may hold." The priest said then looked at Hardwick.

" Alpha Hardwick Leon, do you want this woman to be your wife? Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live?"

Hardwick looked at me and smiled. His eyes were reflecting the unending love as he replied "Yes, I do"

The priest nodded and turned to me “Luna Savannah Lang, do you take this man to be your husband? Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live?”

I nodded my head smiling while my eyes become wet “Yes, I do”

“An unbroken and never-ending circle symbolizes a commitment of love that is also never-ending. This ring should be a reminder of the commitment to love each other that you have made today. Please exchange the rings” the priest said and Ryan and Jenny immediately brought our rings.

Once we exchanged the rings everyone clapped and cheered happily. Hardwick and I looked at each other. Today we are bound officially with the witness of this world.

“May God bless you and keep you. Alpha Hardwick and Luna Savannah, by the power vested in me, I now pronounce you husband and wife. Alpha, you may kiss your Luna” The priest ended closing the book in his hand.

Hardwick didn’t waste any time before pulling me to his chest holding me tight and kissed me with extreme eagerness. My mind flooded with pleasure and my heart filled with love. I love this man so much that I couldn’t think of anything but him.

Everyone present there cheered for us and shouted our names. He pulled away and smiled. Joining his forehead with mine he whispered.

“I love you”

I closed my eyes and smiled “I love you too”

Reese’s POV

I watched the happy wedding and the couple in the center. My eyes brimmed with tears and I felt my chest tightening. Savannah was someone who always hide behind the scenes and always wanted someone to protect her. She used to be timid and weak. And easy to bully. But who could have thought that at the end she will be the one who has her dream come true?

I looked up at the sky. Finally Savannah had her happy ending unlike me. I don’t have the heart to attend the wedding. I know even if I try hard it will hurt me but I will be guilty. I was the one ruining her first mate and now I don’t have such courage to face her like nothing happened. She is happy with her new life. A good family, a loving mate and a cute baby boy.

The baby boy! My heart saddened as it started to twist. The pain of losing my baby was the final blow for me. Though the baby was started to get Avan and Luna’s position but

at the end he became more important than anything. Even if Avan didn't give me anything I would be happy if I had my baby in my arms but I was not lucky enough.

Tears fell like streams not wanting to end. How could I expect to have happy life after ruining someone's life. Robbing her mate, how could I think that I will be happy? Moon Goddess has punished me by taking my baby with her. Since I can't even become a good person, how could I become a good mother? I watched Savannah dancing with her mate. I sighed and got up from the stone. The wedding was held outside the pack house and since I am standing at the high place I can clearly see the arrangements. Shaking my head I turned around and walked towards the forest.

Now I don't have anyone beside me. For Avan I sacrificed everything. If only I was rational enough and ended everything before it started then maybe my situation would be much better than this. But what's the point of regretting after the destruction? My life was my own choice. I was so blind to think I could be happy with someone who was not even bonded by heart.

"You are such a fool Reese" I mumbled, shaking my head. It's better to live wandering around. The new place would help me heal my own sanity now. I walk through the narrow path brushing the small flowers with my fingers. Forest is peaceful and beautiful. At least the dark shadows of the past won't affect me here. I stopped on my track when I heard a noise. I frowned. Usually this place is scheduled. This area of forest doesn't come into any territory of packs then how come there's someone here?

The noises increased followed by groans and moans. I walked towards the bush and hide myself in it. Parting the stems I looked forward to. There are a few people a little far. Some were lying on the ground and some were standing. I frowned looking at the scene.

"I never thought that these things would be this easy," a rough-sounding man laughed. "Do you think you can be against us? If you don't want to lose you life just hand over the box"

"You bastard, dream on" a familiar voice replied, making my heart jolt. My eyes widened. I can't see the face of the man who was bound by the enemy party.

The rough man laughed again "you are already at your dead end. But you are still protecting the box. I must praise your loyalty. How about we make a deal huh? I guess it will benefit both of us" he paused then smirked "come and join my pack. Such a loyal member like you, it's hard to come by. I will give you more better position than your current pack"

"No, don't listen to him," another man said.

"Shut up" the rough man shouted and punched the second man who spoke, making him groan.

“So John Smith, what do you think about my offer?”

John Smith? My heart raced. My mate? His voice was so familiar too. But what is he doing here? Didn't he say he is the beta of Silver Shine Pack?

“Fuck you, Avedor” John growled at him.

“Fine since you rejected my offer then the only way left for you is to die. Go die you fucker” that rough man shouted angrily.

I clutched the stems tightly. He is not my mate anymore but watching him die in front of my eyes is not something I could accept. Besides, the enemy party has more manpower than them. I really don't want to involve myself in it but.... I gritted my teeth and got out of the bush before running towards them.

Fuck it.

The rough man was about to stab John with a sharp machete but I kicked it away.

“Fuck, who the hell is it?” The rough man who was called Avedor growled.

“Can't you guys just shut up. So noisy” I glared at him.

“Oh looks like there's a beautiful rogue running around in the wild huh” Avedor smirked.

I rolled my eyes at him. His face was filled with cuts and he looked so ugly already.

“Reese?”

I turned around and found John looking at me with shock. He was kneeling on the ground with his hand tied behind his back while his enemy was holding from behind.

“What are you doing here?” He asked, shaking his head.

“Oh so you both know each other?” Avedor laughed “what a coincidence! Now I will take the box and this beauty too. It has been a long since I fucked a beauty like her”

“Avedor you fucker, if you dare to lay a finger on her I will chop you off” John growled.

I looked at him with shock. What happened to him suddenly? Even though we were mates once, it was already broken. I shook my head. I need to get out of here. I can't stay here for long. Besides After living like a rogue for 2 years I have already cultivated my skills and become stronger.

“You are disgusting” I snapped at Avedor then turning around I kicked the man who was holding John. John freed himself then pounced on Avedor in a swift manner. Another man who was kneeling beside John also freed himself then they started to fight.

I watched them fighting severely. Suddenly John threw a green coloured box towards me. I caught it and frowned.

The fight ended with Avedor’s death. Once they made sure there’s no enemy left, John walked towards me.

“What are you doing here?” He asked, frowning.

I threw the box at him “you should be grateful that I am here or else you would have died”

“Why don’t you just answer my question?” He gritted his teeth.

“Hey man, none are alive. Should we proceed?” The man who was with John walked towards us “huh? You both know each other?” He frowned.

“Since you are fine, I am leaving” I turned around to leave but John grabbed my wrist.

“What the hell are you doing?” I glared at him.

“Ethan go take this box and meet with others” he tossed the box to Ethan.

“What about you?” Ethan asked. He eyed me more than John.

“I will meet you in the pack” John replied without avoiding my gaze.

“Okay” Ethan didn’t waste any time before running away in the forest leaving us alone.

“Now what are you doing here? And you are alive? Isn’t your pack destroyed by the Dark Forest?” He asked.

“I guess I was lucky” I replied shortly.

“That Alpha also died?”

I rolled my eyes but didn’t reply.

“You have become a rogue?” He asked again.

“What do you think you are doing? Whether I have become a rogue or not it has nothing to do with you. Now can you just let my hand go?” I asked.

Something flashed in his eyes “no”

My eyes widened “what do you mean by no? Let my hand go” I hissed.

“I said no” he looked so determined that it made my heart jump. What the hell is this man thinking of doing now?

I sighed “John what are you doing? Our bonding has already ended years ago. It’s better to move on and live our life”

“Do you know when I heard your pack was destroyed years ago I was shocked, thinking you also died there. I felt like my wolf was on the verge of dying. I couldn’t pull myself back but now seeing you here alive, I am feeling good all of a sudden. My wolf came into life” instead of answering he told me.

I frowned “what are you trying to say?”

“I am saying that I can just forget about your past and take you back in my pack as my mate”

My eyes widened “are you out of your mind?” How could he say that?

“Why not? That Alpha you loved is already dead. Do you want to live alone all your life? Isn’t it better to live with your destined mate?” He insisted.

“You don’t know anything about me” I hissed “let me go”

“Fuck with that. Who cares? I am gonna take you to Silver Shine and tell everyone that you are alive”

I frowned at him.

“Come on, let’s go. Stop thinking about that dead Alpha” he turned around and started to pull me with him.

“Wait, what are you doing?” I almost screamed. You already rejected me. How could you do this?”

“I know, I was harsh that day. I never wanted to reject you in the first place but you forced me. I never meant those words I said that night. It was just a moment of anger for losing you, thinking you loved your Alpha instead of your mate. But now since he is already gone now I can take you without anyone disturbance”

“No you are wrong. I can’t go” I tried to pull my hand back.

He stopped and looked at me “you can’t run away”

I gulped “there’s no point in taking me with you. I..... Can’t give you anything”

“What do you mean? Won’t you let me make love to you? You are my mate so it’s my right to have you” he frowned.

I stared at him “I can’t give birth. I lost that ability” he will definitely let me go after hearing this. No man will want a woman who can’t give him a child. And people will laugh at him in the future when he takes me with him.

John looked at me for sometime “that’s it? Is that why you were resisting?”

“Yes, besides our bond is already broken” I lowered my head.

He sighed then loosened his grip on my wrist but didn’t let it go “even if I rejected our bond is still there so we can do something to recover it” he shook his head “and about that baby thing...”

I squealed loudly when he threw me over his shoulder “it doesn’t matter anymore”

Then started to walk again while I was hanging on his broad shoulder.

THE END