

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 111

Kids from One Alpha

Chapter 111

Chapter 111: Rescue Part 1

“Something’s not right,” Santino said. Logan sniffed him and raised an eyebrow. “I don’t remember you wearing the perfume earlier,” Logan said. Santino sneered. “Ha – Ha,” Santino said. “That’s not what I’m talking about.” “What’s wrong?” Logan asked, smirking at the other male. Santino was definitely not in the playful, humorous mood. “I don’t know, I can just feel it. I think something is wrong with Serena,” he admitted. “If she was hurt, I would know,” Logan assured. Just like Serena had felt when he was badly injured, he would feel something similar if she was too. “No, I don’t think it is that,” Santino said, shaking his head. “Is this some freaky twin thing you are trying to tell me is going on?” Logan asked, raising an eyebrow. Santino sighed and shrugged, grabbing a beer off the nearest table. The celebration was winding down, but many of the wolves were still lingering, enjoying late night beverages and chatter amongst themselves. Logan had been getting ready to leave himself when Santino had come up to him. He looked Santino over, seeing that a couple buttons on his button-up shirt weren’t in the right holes. He’d definitely been having a good time. “She went back to the hospital,” Logan said. “You know how she can’t rest unless she checks on her patients.” “Right,” Santino said. “I’ll swing by there on my way to my bed and see if she’s still hanging around.” “We did good work these past few days,” Logan reminded Santino. “We’re out of the woods now.” Santino nodded. He waved over his shoulder as he took off for the hospital.

Logan finished his own beer. Now that Santino had put it into his head, he was concerned about Serena too. He didn’t think there was a reason to be, but Santino had obviously been serious in his concern. The Alpha headed back to his house, leaving the event tent open for those that wanted to stay up later. Temporary accommodations had been made for the Moonshine wolves close by, so they didn’t have to wander around a foreign territory. Logan exited the tent at the rear, one of the lesser used entrances. He was walking along the lawn when he caught a scent that made him stop. It was Serena, and it was mixed with something else, fear and blood. Logan looked around quickly for any sign that she was nearby, and he listened closely. There was so

nothing else to hear or smell, but he saw the grass shredded. Clear signs of a struggle. Pulling out his phone, Logan quickly called Santino. “Is Serena at the hospital?” he asked before Santino could even greet him. “No, the nurses said she never came by for her night rounds,” he said. “I can hear it in your voice, what’s wrong?” “Look around the area, see if there are any signs of a struggle” Logan demanded. He waited while he heard Santino leave the hospital and look around. “There’s something here,” he said. “What is it, what do you see?” Logan asked, panic rising in his chest. “The pavement is scuffed, claw marks, at least four or five sets,” Santino said. “Can you follow the trail?”

Logan asked. "Yea, it heads off the road. There are some clothes here, men's clothes," he reported. "And...I can smell Serena underneath the other scents. Hang on." he trailed off. "What is it?" Logan asked when Santino didn't respond right away. "I found some of her clothing," Santino said. "A ripped shirt." "She shifted while running," Logan said somberly. "It looks like," Santino said. "There's no blood or anything to show she was injured." "There is over here," Logan said. It didn't take long until Santino tracked the prints to where Logan was standing. They remained on their phones with each other until they were within earshot. "I found shreds of her skirt all along the trail" Santino said when he joined Logan. "Her attackers, at least four or five you said?" Logan asked. Santino nodded. Logan swore under his breath. "This is where they got her. The ground is...there was a fight here." "But then she stops struggling," Santino said, pointing to the trail of prints that led off towards the woods. The prints were clearer and less flustered. "Some of these prints are deeper, and human" Logan pointed out. "They were carrying her." "We have to follow the trail!" Santino said, eyes flaring with anger. "Yes, we do," Logan agreed. "First, we need to check in with Alpha Thomas and Beta Carson. They need to know where we are going. Call your father." Santino grunted, but he nodded, grabbing his phone again. Logan got through to Carson quickly. "There was a rogue attack deep in our territory," Logan said.

"Not possible, Logan, we've been tracking all the rogues," Carson said.

"Not all of them," Logan hissed. "They came right into town, snatched Serena, and took off. Santino and I are going after them."

"Logan, wait, you need backup!" Carson insisted. "There's no time," Logan said. "We have no idea what they are going to do with her, what they've already done."

"Tell me what direction you are headed, and I will send reinforcements," Carson said.

"Santino and I are heading into the woods at the west," Logan said. He knew it would be better to have backup when they caught up to the rogues. The anger that was bubbling inside of him made him think he would be able to take down an entire band of rogues without anyone else's help though. Some low-life rogues took it upon themselves to come into his territory and make off with his mate.

He wasn't going to let them get away with it, or escape with their lives. "What could they want from her?" Santino asked, coming up beside Logan when he hung up with Thomas. "Probably to bargain her for Damon's release," Logan snarled. "It won't come to that," Santino growled. "We are going to kill them all before that is even an option."

He took his clothes off, knowing he would be able to track their scent better if he was in his wolf form. Santino did the same.

The two wolves headed off in the direction of where Serena's captors had taken her. They weren't the smartest because they'd done nothing to conceal their scents. Either they thought that Logan would be too busy at the party to notice, or they wanted him to

follow to try and lead him into a trap. Either way, they were foolish to think he wouldn't notice and just as foolish to think he would go into a trap unprepared. Whatever their plan was, he wasn't going to let it happen. Growling, Logan nudged Santino and led him in the direction where her scent was stronger. He stopped at a point where all the scents became more pungent. Based on the tracks, it looked like Serena had been put down. The wolves carrying her had probably switched roles. The scents were stronger because the rogues had been in the one place longer. Santino whined, spinning in a circle and pawing at the ground. Logan responded with another nudge and they headed off into the woods again. Both Logan and Santino tread with careful footing, their paws light and springy against the ground, not making a single sound.

Logan knew they were getting closer when Serena's scent started to become stronger. Two wolves on four legs could easily catch up to a larger band of rogues on two legs with a prisoner they were carrying.

His ears caught their voices as they approached and he slowed down. Santino mimicked him, and both wolves lowered their heads. They didn't want to give themselves away too soon. "Rest here," one of the rogues said. "It is a pain to drag this broad through the woods." Logan swallowed the growl that rose in his throat. He had to be perfectly quiet. It was the perfect time to attack, though. They were resting, unaware of their pursuers. Logan looked at Santino. The other wolf nodded. They would attack together, take the whole camp by surprise. Logan's nose could tell that none of the rogues were in wolf form. That put them at an advantage, one he intended to fully exploit. As he was readying to spring and make the first attack, Logan was hit with a strong realization. The panic he'd felt at Serena's capture, the desire to rescue her, hating how the rogues insulted her, how he could accept her kids as his and no one else's, he loved her!

The realization hit him like a punch to the throat. He almost lost his foot, but Santino steadied him. The mate bond connected them, and obviously that led to certain feelings, but the swell of emotion he felt wasn't from the mate bond, it was true emotion, pure love. Serena had to survive so he could tell her.

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Chapter 112: Rescue Part 2

With one final exchange of glances, Santino and Logan pounced into the rogue camp. There were five of them in human form.

Logan only had enough time to see Serena bound and gagged on the ground before he jumped onto the nearest rogue, knocking him to the ground. His temper flared, his teeth tearing into the shoulder of the rogue he'd toppled over. The man screamed and thrashed on the ground, so Logan stamped on his throat with a paw. He whipped around as another rogue came up behind him, diving straight at his stomach and biting into his abdomen.

Intestines spilled out, and the rogue grabbed at the wound, groaning and collapsing in his own blood.

Santino had taken care of two of the others, but the leader went straight for Serena.? He put a knife to her throat.

"Don't move a muscle!" he demanded, glaring right at Logan. Santino growled, dropping the leg he'd been chewing on. Logan found Serena's eyes with his. She looked scared, but there was something else there. She nodded at him, her eyes bright. Logan understood.

Growling, he lowered his head to the ground and prepared to spring off his hind legs. He looked at Serena once more, and she gave a final nod.

Leaping forward, Serena's captor stared at him, giving her time to duck away. Under the cover of Logan's furry body, the rogue couldn't grab her again. Logan landed on the rogue, the knife getting knocked from his hand, getting lost in the leaves on the ground. Logan pinned the rogue leader down, snapping close enough to his face that specks of saliva covered his skin. The leader cowered, whimpering. "Just kill me!" he said. Logan backed off, shifting back into his human form. "I'm not going to kill you," he said. "You're going to be reunited with Damon, isn't that what you wanted?" he asked. The rogue looked around at his dead comrades and he shuddered.

Logan smirked. Santino came up to him, Serena's bindings and gag in his hands. "I'll tie this waste of space up," he offered. Logan nodded. He went to Serena, dropping down onto his knees. Without thinking, Logan pulled Serena into a hug. She made a startled sound in her throat, muffled against his chest. He didn't care that he was naked or that she was only partially clothed in whatever the rogues had put on her.

Logan held her tightly against his chest. Serena sighed, wrapping her arms around him too.

"Are you okay?" he asked her.

"I'm fine," Serena said. "I'm fine." Her voice broke a little. She was more scared than she'd been letting on. "How'd this..." Logan trailed off. He shook his head and released her. Serena gave a nervous laugh and went to one of the rogues, pulling a spare set of

clothing out of his backpack. She tossed a pair of pants at Logan and one to Santino. Santino was dragging the rogue leader closer to them. "I didn't think the rogues would come all the way into town," Serena said. "I wasn't on guard. They took me by surprise and got the jump on me." "I shouldn't have let you go off on your own, not with this threat out there," Logan said. Serena shook her head. "This isn't your fault, Logan" she said. "You couldn't know what would happen." Howls in the woods told them that Carson's reinforcements had arrived. Most came in on four legs, but a few were on two.

"Alpha Logan, is everyone okay?" one of the warriors asked. Logan nodded. "Yes, we caught up with the rogues in time," Logan said. "This is their leader. Take him to be reunited with Damon."

"Yes, of course," the warrior said. "Should we call a medical team out?" Logan looked at Serena

"I'm fine," she said. "A little bruised, but I'll be okay." "That's not necessary," Logan said. "I want a full sweep of this area to see if there are any more rogue factions hiding out." Several of the wolves offered small howls and sounds of compliance. The two that were in human form grabbed the rogue leader and the others spread out through the woods. "Their plan was to trade me for Damon's release," Serena said. She got to her feet and held a hand out to Logan. He smiled and accepted her offering. "That is what I suspected," Logan said. Santino ran over and hugged Serena.

"I just knew something was wrong! I wen to check on you at the hospital and..." he trailed off.

"The rogues left us quite a trail to follow." Logan said. "They weren't very organized" Serena concurred. "They also had no plans to actually return me to you once they got Damon." "I wouldn't have made a deal with them that could jeopardize your life,"

assured. "I know," Serena said with a smile. She stepped away from her clinging brother. Serena moved closer to Logan, and he took her hands in his, squeezing them gently. "You're sure they didn't hurt you?" he asked. "My pride, a little," she admitted with a dismissive laugh. Logan chuckled. "I'm sorry it took us so long to realize something had happened. With the party and everything. If Santino hadn't gone to check on you, if I hadn't left the party from the exit closest to where you were taken..." Logan sighed, shaking his head. "It all worked out," Serena said. "I didn't doubt for a moment that you would come for me."

Logan looked into her eyes. She was telling him the truth. She had full confidence in him and his ability to protect her and keep her safe. "You were a little reckless," she pointed out "Running in with no backup." Logan smirked at her, squeezing her hands again. He stepped in and pulled her in for another hug. The inappropriate timing of his love realization, but seeing her safe and uninjured, had him unwilling to stick to propriety and defensiveness at the moment.

“Lecture later,” he said. “Just appreciate the moment.”

Serena chuckled lightly and hugged him back. Now that they were both mostly clothed and standing, it was far less awkward. Logan felt something he’d never felt before...completion. When they stepped back from each other, Serena looked around at the bodies. “Wow, I guess you didn’t need backup,” she muttered. “When it comes to your safety, nothing will stand in my way,” Logan told her firmly. There was something in Serena’s eyes that made Logan puff up a little with pride. He got the sense that coming after her like he did, protecting her, defending her, and being concerned with her wellbeing, somehow proved something to her. Like he was capable of redirecting his temper in a way that would benefit her and her kids. At least, that was what he hoped she was showing him. “Where are we?” Serena asked. “Come on, let’s get you home,” Logan said. He put his arm around her shoulders and she didn’t pull away. Santino stood close beside Serena as they headed out of the forest, back along the trail they’d walked. “Thanks for coming to my rescue, brother,” Serena said to Santino. “Always, sis,” he said with a wink. “Rut Santino, where did you get such a lovely, feminine perfume?” she asked, teasing

him. Logan chuckled too. Even with the sweat and blood, the perfume from Santino’s romantic encounter still lingered on his skin. Any sensitive nose could pick it up. Santino rolled his eyes. “You two are more alike than you realize,” he said. “I’ve got to call dad with an update.” He broke off from them to make the call. “I need a shower,” Serena said. “Yes, you do,” Logan agreed, wrinkling his nose and chuckling. She smelled like she’d been dragged through the woods, and there was still a strong odor of fear on her. “Can you come back to my house with me?” she asked, her cheeks reddening. She looked at Logan shyly. His heart thudded in his chest, pulses sky rocketing. “Sure,” he said smoothly. “I don’t want to be alone right now,” she elaborated. Logan nodded. He knew she could have turned to her brother, but tonight, Serena saw him as her protector, so she wanted to be near him. She wanted to feel safe, and Logan understood that. He would be there for her in whatever way she needed. “I won’t let you out of my sight,” Logan promised. Serena blushed deeper. “That might be a problem,” she said. They were at the edge of the forest, and Logan led her in the direction of her house. Logan chuckled at her statement. “Maybe for you,” he said playfully. Serena gave a nervous giggle. “I won’t push anything. Do whatever makes you comfortable.” “When did you become so nice and accommodating?” she asked. Logan shrugged. “Since I could be,” he said. Serena’s brow creased. “Are you even going to let Holly know that you’re staying with me so I can feel safe?” she asked. Logan shook his head. “We have a few things to talk about,” he said. “First, get cleaned up.” He opened the front door to her house and ushered Serena inside

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Chapter 113: Coming Clean

Logan waited in the bathroom while Serena was in the shower. When he'd offered to be in the bathroom with her, he'd expected her to protest, but Serena had just nodded and closed the door long enough to take her clothes off and get into the tub.

She was more shaken by her kidnapping than she was letting on.

"You said we had some things to talk about," Serena said over the sound of pattering water. "I was hoping to have that conversation face to face," Logan said with a chuckle. Serena sighed. "It feels very awkward. Knowing you're sitting out there in silence," she admitted. "Right," Logan said. He crossed his legs and leaned back. He'd made himself comfortable on the toilet, closing the lid. It was the best seat he could find in the bathroom.

"So, are you going to talk to me about that or are you going to talk to me about something else?" she asked. "Okay, we'll talk," Logan said. "You asked if I would be telling Holly that I was staying with you to... keep an eye on things." "Well, she should know," Serena said. "She already has problems with me and my kids."

"Our kids," Logan corrected quickly. He almost missed Serena's sigh through the cascading shower water. "Yes, our kids," she said. "After we talked about Holly and the lab work, I decided to have her take a home pregnancy test, like you suggested. It came back negative," Logan explained. "Negative?" Serena asked, turning the shower water off. Logan stood up and grabbed a towel off the back of her door. He slipped it through the shower curtains so he couldn't see Serena. She took the towel. He saw a bath robe on the back of the door too, and he grabbed that, throwing it over the shower curtain rod for Serena when she was ready for it.

"Yup. It appears that Holly wasn't pregnant at all," Logan explained. "I guess she swapped her blood sample for another that belonged to a pregnant wolf." "That's...sad," Serena said with a humorless chuckle. She pulled the shower curtain back, revealing herself in a robe with her hair wrapped up in the towel.

Logan smirked at her. She glared, tightening her robe around her and crossing her arms over her chest.

"I confronted her about it and she had all kinds of excuses," he went on. "The one she

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used most was in regards to being jealous of you and wanting to make sure I never had a reason to leave her.”

“Again, I say that’s sad” Serena muttered.

Logan opened the bathroom door. Serena went out ahead of him, going for her bedroom. Logan followed. She didn’t tell him to leave or give him any dirty looks. “What do you mean?” Logan asked.

Serena was pulling pajamas out of her dresser, tossing the pants and shirt on her bed.

“I mean she was so insecure in her relationship with you that she had to lie and try and trap you into staying with her,” Serena said. “Can you turn around or go into the hall for a minute or something?”

Logan nodded and backed out of her room. He closed the door almost all the way, but didn’t let the latch click closed “I mean, did she think you wouldn’t find out?” Serena asked. “She went off birth control after telling me she was pregnant, thinking she’d get pregnant fast enough...” Logan trailed off. It was a pretty personal topic to share with Serena, but he wanted to share it with her. He wanted to come clean with her entirely. “Anyway, I broke up with her,” he continued. “What else was I supposed to do?”

Serena opened the bedroom door. She nodded for Logan to come in. He raised an eyebrow at her.

“I’m going to lie down and hopefully get some rest,” she said. “If you’re okay with it, there is a comfy chair in my room. Or you can sleep in the guest room downstairs.”

Her voice dropped off slightly when she spoke of the guest room. Logan understood that to mean she didn’t want him that far away. “The comfy chair is fine,” Logan said. He entered her room again and went straight for the chair. “I told you I wasn’t going to let you out of my sight.” Serena smiled weakly and nodded. “Thanks,” she said. She got under the covers while Logan made himself comfortable in the chair. “So, you broke up with her.” “And my mother was not pleased with her follow up tantrum. Holly has since relocated,” Logan explained. “I wondered why Flo was being extra maternal to me at the relief hospital,” Serena said with a chuckle. “She didn’t mention anything?” Logan asked settling into the chair. The lamp on the bedside table beside Serena’s bed was still on, casting a warm, soft light around the room. With her hair still damp and her eyes still worried, she looked

absolutely stunning against her pillows. “She told me she was excited to have grandchildren,” Serena said. “I’m sorry I didn’t tell you sooner,” Logan said. “Everything with Moonshine was pretty distracting.” “Yeah,” Serena agreed. “You don’t need to keep me updated on your personal life.” “I know but...” Logan trailed off. He wasn’t sure how he was going to approach this subject. “But what?” Serena asked. She turned on her side, propping herself up on her elbow to look at him.

"If you're tired, we can talk tomorrow," Logan offered. Serena shook her head. "You have me intrigued," she said with a smile. Logan chuckled. "Now that I know the kind of woman Holly is, and I know she isn't pregnant, it has opened up some new potential opportunities," he said. "You make it sound like a business proposition," Serena said with a laugh. Logan shook his head. "I'm sorry, talking about this sort of thing isn't really one of my strengths," he admitted. "Yeah, tell me something I don't know," Serena teased. Logan smiled. He liked having her joke with him, after everything they'd been through. Not to mention her recent kidnapping. She was going to be okay, even though she was still a little shaken.

"Serena, we are mates," Logan said. "We have children together. Finding out about the twins so close to when Holly's deception was revealed. It makes me think that we are supposed to give this a shot." "Give what a shot?" Serena asked. Her tone changed slightly. "You and me," Logan said. "Us, together, like as a couple and as parents." Serena sighed. Logan watched her to see if he could read her feelings or understand what she was thinking. Her face was expressionless. "You said you weren't ready to be a parent," she reminded him. "Maybe I just wasn't ready to be a parent to a child I didn't want," Logan said honestly. "I couldn't see Holly as a mother and I didn't want to have a kid with her. The twins, though, I love them and they love me. They are great kids."

"They are," Serena agreed.

"I know how I feel" Logan said. "I feel like I want us to give this a shot, and I care about you a lot more than I thought I would. What are your thoughts or feelings?" Logan braced himself for some kind of rejection. He was being forward with her, something he didn't always do.

"You were kidnapped," he added. "I almost lost my mind when I realized that. I was ready to do anything to get you back. I was ready to fight my way through an army if I had to. I knew then what my feelings were." "Logan, I like you a lot too," Serena said with a sigh. "I don't know if I am ready to try anything like that. Olivia and Oliver are my focus, along with my career. I don't know if I want to split my attention a third way." "I understand," Logan said with a nod. He was pleased she cared about him, but it wasn't what he had wanted to hear from her.

Serena lay back on her pillows. "Rest now," Logan said as more of an order. "You've had a long day." Serena nodded, turning the lamp out and closing her eyes. Logan could still see her in the dark. He could tell when she went to sleep, but he was planning on staying up and watching her. She needed to feel safe.

Alone with his own thoughts, Logan was glad he'd told Serena how he felt. Even if she didn't want the same thing, the truth was out in the open now. She knew where he stood, and he knew where she did. It was possible things would change for her once she became a licensed doctor, or if they spent more time together parenting the twins. Now that Holly was out of the picture, he would have all the time in the world for the twins! Logan told himself that he would get Serena to give him a chance.

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Chapter 114: One Step at a Time

When Serena woke up in the morning, Logan was asleep in the comfy chair. She smiled tenderly at him. He didn't even move when she got up. Grabbing some clothes, Serena went to the bathroom to change. She came back to

find that Logan was still fast asleep.

Going over to him, Serena reached out and smoothed some of his hair out of his face. She hadn't been expecting him to ask if they could have a more intimate relationship. She hadn't been expecting him to confess feelings for her either! It had caught her off guard, and she had given the typical excuse that was expected. Serena had made her excuses quickly, but now she was having second thoughts about her decline.

Logan was a great Alpha, a wonderful male, and he had proven more than once that he loved the twins and would protect her. He'd been an upstanding gentleman when Holly told him she was pregnant, committing to stay with her even though he didn't want to. It was all very admirable.

Serena's fingers slipped from Logan's hair and brushed his cheek. The Alpha started awake, causing Serena to pull back quickly. "Sorry," she said quickly. Logan raised an eyebrow at her. "I must have dozed off," he said, shaking his head and blinking several times. "It's alright," Serena assured. "Want some coffee and some breakfast." "Are you cooking?" he asked, running his hand down his face. Serena giggled. "I promise I will make something simple, like cereal," she said. She couldn't exactly get offended by something so true, like how horrible her cooking was. "I'm in," Logan said with a nod. Serena headed downstairs to the kitchen while Logan collected himself. She put on a pot of coffee and got a few boxes of cereal out of the cabinet. Most of them were kids' cereals with marshmallows or fruity colors.

"I smell coffee," Logan said. "It smells good." Serena smiled at him, handing him an empty mug. She pulled the sugar and milk out for Logan.

The pot was still bubbling, the coffee moments from being done. "I don't have breakfast for adults," she said with a little laugh as she waved her hand over the cereal boxes. Logan chuckled, pouring himself a mug of coffee and handing one to Serena too. Serena nodded in thanks.

“Don’t worry about it,” Logan said. “I can make a manly breakfast out of this

“Logan, did you mean what you said last night?” Serena asked once Logan was seated with a bowl of cereal

“Umm yeah,” he said with a nod. “I wouldn’t have said it otherwise.”

Logan stopped with his spoon halfway to his mouth,

“What do you mean?” he asked.

Serena sighed, looking out her kitchen window. There were some dishes in the sink that she was absently washing. The house seemed so quiet without the kids around.

Moonshine was no longer a threat and the rogues were mostly taken care of. She wanted to go back to Starseeker and get the twins as soon as possible. She hated being away from them, and she wanted Logan to have the chance to really bond with them.

“I made excuses,” she said. “The obvious ones about my career and the twins. But I should be able to acknowledge now that you have the twins’ best interests at heart too.”

“I do,” Logan said with a nod before he resumed eating his cereal. “Are you going to have breakfast with me?”

Serena chuckled humorlessly. She turned from the sink, getting herself a bowl of cereal and sitting with Logan at the kitchen table.

“As for my career, I’ve been able to focus on it with the twins, with you breathing down my neck, with the drama Holly incited, the war with Moonshine, I already know I can handle my career with split attention and under pressure,” she explained.

“Where are you going with this?” Logan asked, raising an eyebrow at her. “What I think I’m concerned about most is that things could work out between us,” she admitted

“That is concerning to you?” Logan asked, sipping his coffee. Serena nodded, moving her cereal around with her spoon.

“Yeah,” she said. “If things went really well between us and then they didn’t..” she trailed off.

“You’re afraid of getting hurt,” he said.

“If it was just me I had to worry about, then I wouldn’t be so reluctant,” she said. “But, the twins...”

“I know what you mean,” Logan said.

Serena took a bite of her soggy cereal. She cringed as it turned to mush in her mouth and set her spoon down quickly. She covered up the bad flavor with a sip of coffee. “I’d be willing to give it a try, but it has to go slow. Like glacier-aly slow. One step at a time kind of thing,” she explained. Logan smirked at her from across the table.

“I wouldn’t expect things to move quickly,” he said. “I understand how this goes. Being around for the twins as a friend and being around them as a parent is different. I think I am ready, but I want to ease into it so I don’t disappoint them, or myself.”

“It is comforting to hear you say that,” Serena said, wrapping her hands around her coffee. “For a while now, I’ve considered what it would mean if we were to take our relationship in this direction, especially after learning we were mates.” “And what did you consider?” Logan asked. “Well, I thought about all the possibilities if it went badly, but I also thought about the possibilities of if it went right,” she explained. “I’d rather go about this the right way, for you, for me, and for the twins,” Logan said. “Okay,” Serena said. She bit her lower lip and collected the dishes from the table. She put them in the sink to clean up, but Logan came up behind her. He took her hand and turned her to face him.

“This could be really great,” he said. “I’ve already felt like you’re my family, like the twins are family, and now we know that is true.” “It is,” Serena said. “So, we’re really going to do this?” Logan asked. Serena chuckled, her cheeks reddening. She put her hands on Logan’s shoulders. He was looking at her in a way that made her stomach squirm. He had proven to her the night before that he would fight for her and protect her. She knew that he would do the same for her kids...their kids. “As long as you’re okay with taking things slow,” she said. Logan nodded. “I am confident you are worth the wait,” he said with a smirk. Serena felt her blush deepen. “Should we hug now?” she asked. Logan chuckled. “Yeah, I think we should,” he said with a nod.

Serena leaned in, looping her arms around Logan’s neck. He slipped his arms around her waist, giving her a little pull towards him.

Serena sighed, feeling safe, warm, and comfortable in his arms. She hadn’t noticed it the night before when he’d hugged her after rescuing her. She’d been so shocked and shaken that she’d been a little out of it. Now, she was able to relax into him and really enjoy the way it felt. She felt the mate bond tingle on her skin, and for a moment, she thought about throwing the whole ‘taking it slow’ out the window and going all in. Logan pressed his lips to her forehead and then gently released her, respecting her

desire to take things one step at a time, even as she was considering letting it all go! Serena stepped back too and returned to the sink. “That felt really nice,” she admitted. Logan ran his fingers down her back. “Yeah, it did,” he agreed. “Now that the conflict with Moonshine is over, can we go get the twins and bring them home?” she asked.

“You want us to go together?” he asked. Serena nodded. “I think it would be nice to get them together and bring them home to Night Sky,” she told him.

“I’d really like that,” Logan said. “I mean, as long as you don’t think I’d be intruding.” Serena smiled at Logan. “Not at all,” she said. “I think it would be a good way to ease them into this whole ‘us trying to be together’ thing.”

“Alright, first thing tomorrow morning we can check in with Santino and Thomas and go get the twins,” Logan promised. “Thank you, Logan,” Serena said. “You know, for being honest with me. But more importantly, for staying with me last night. It helped me feel safe, and I needed that. You were really there for me.”

“There’s no where else I would have been last night,” Logan said. “You needed me.” “I did,” Serena said, her cheeks reddening again. She giggled slightly. It gave her a new sense of excitement to think that she and Logan were actually going to pursue being a couple.

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Chapter 115

Chapter 115: The Fort

Serena and Logan drove back to Starseeker to see the kids. Thomas and Santino had returned already, working on updating the pack on the integration with Moonshine and getting more permanent residences established. Serena could only think of getting to her kids and seeing them again. She couldn’t wait to hug them and kiss them and see their laughing faces.

After her talk with Logan at breakfast, she felt like a huge knot of anxiety had uncurled in her stomach. She’d been holding that knot since she arrived in Night Sky.

It wasn’t just about thinking he was the one who fathered her kids, it was about wondering what would happen between the two of them. Especially once she discovered that he was her mate. Talking about their feelings, and deciding to try and have a relationship, along with removing Holly from the situation, had made her feel much better about her connection to Logan.

“I like where things are going,” Serena said. “Good, me too,” Logan said, grinning. “I just...I want to make sure it is okay with the kids too,” she said. Logan reached over and took her hand in his. He gave it a gentle squeeze. His hand was warm around hers; the

contact was comforting and brought a smile to Serena's lips. "Of course, we will make sure that it is okay with the kids," he said. "I doubt they will have any problems. They always ask when I can see them again and if I can be around more."

Serena giggled. "Yeah, they are pretty fond of you," she agreed. When they got to her parents' house, Serena was out of the car before Logan had even put it in park. She ran right up the stairs and through the front door. "Serena!" Charlotte gasped when she saw her daughter. "Mom, where are the twins?" Serena asked, practically ignoring her mother's presence.

"In the living room," she said with a secretive smile. Serena gave her mother a quick hug and then ran into the living room. Charlotte followed her and Logan was close behind.

The living room was covered in boxes.

"What is this?" she asked. Charlotte laughed, coming up beside Serena, "They dragged some boxes out of the attic and built this great fort," she said, "It is very impressive," Serena admitted. "Mommy?" Olivia's voice called. She stuck her head out of one of the boxes. "Olivia!" Serena said. "Come give me a hug." Olivia pulled herself out of the box and ran over to Serena. Oliver came out next. Soon, Serena had them both in her arms. She was hugging them and kissing their faces. "I missed you so much," she told them. "We missed you too," the twins said. Serena hugged them tighter until they both squealed and she had to release them.

Leaving the kids with her mother wasn't new. Serena trusted Charlotte to look after them. She knew that they were in good hands and would have plenty of fun. While she had been working in the relief hospital it was nice to know her kids were safe and looked after so she could focus on what she had to do.

After she got kidnapped, there were moments when Serena was concerned that she would never see the kids again. There was a chance she would have been killed by the rogues before they made a deal with Logan or before anyone could rescue her.

She hadn't really thought about it until they'd been on their way to see the kids. Her burning desire to hold them and look at them came from that fear of never seeing them again. "How were they?" Serena asked, standing up to face her mother. The twins had gone back to playing in their fort. "Come play with us, Logan. We'll show you the fort" Olivia called. Serena raised an eyebrow at Logan.

"How could I resist?" he asked. He got down on his hands and knees and crawled into the fort. Serena chuckled and went with her mother into the kitchen.

"The kids were great," Charlotte said. "It has been such a joy to have them here. Your father has kept me updated on the situation." "Good" Serena said. "They weren't too much trouble?" "Not at all," Charlotte said. Serena smiled, nodding. "You look different,

sweetie.” “Different how?” Serena asked. She didn’t know if her mother knew she’d been kidnapped. She wondered if her fear and concern still showed. “Different like you’ve changed” she said with a shrug. “I was kidnapped,” Serena explained. “By some of the rogues. Logan and Santino saved me.”

“Logan, huh?” her mother asked. Serena crossed her arms.

She leaned backwards so she could glance out into the living room to see what the kids and Logan were doing. They were having a good time in the fort. Logan was even helping them build it up more. “What does that mean?” she asked.

“Oh, I don’t know,” Charlotte said with a laugh.

“Mom, come on, be straight with me,” Serena said, not in the mood to be teased by her mother.

“Honey, we’ve all seen the way that you two dance around each other. When he rescued you, I’m willing to bet he was absolutely ruthless,” Charlotte said. “Well, yea, actually,” Serena said with a shrug. She sighed and looked back out into the living room.

Logan was crawling through the fort chasing after Olivia and Oliver. It was easier for them to crawl through and get away. Logan, being an adult, kept getting stuck and having to readjust so he didn’t bring the whole fort down on top of them. “Logan and I are working on things,” Serena said. “That sounds more serious than it is. We want to talk to the kids about how they feel, and then make our decisions from there.”

Charlotte laughed and shook her head. She reached across the counter and touched Serena’s hand.

“The kids have talked about him just as much as they’ve talked about you,” Charlotte told her. “I don’t think they will have a problem with it. It is nice to hear you two finally had the ‘mate’ talk.” Serena rolled her eyes, a little embarrassed to be talking about that kind of thing with her mother. She didn’t have anyone else to talk to about it at the moment, though. She and Logan hadn’t discussed how they were going to handle telling the rest of their pack or their friends and family that they were together. “Things with Holly ended rather abruptly when Logan found out she was lying about being pregnant. Now we actually have the chance to explore our feelings, with the mate bond and aside from it,” she explained, giving her mother the shortest version possible. “I’m glad you two decided to take that step,” Charlotte said. “You should be happy and have someone to help you out with the twins.” “We’ll see how it goes,” Serena said. “Well, remember, it can take a lot of wrong turns before you get the right one,” she said. “That’s isn’t very helpful, mom,” Serena said with another eyeroll. Charlotte laughed. “All I mean is, sometimes you have to keep trying to make something work,” she explained. “It might not always be easy, but that doesn’t mean you should give up the moment something gets rough”

"I'll keep that in mind, thanks, mom," Serena said with a nod. "Mommy, help!" Olivia called. "Logan is the tickle monster!"

The twins squealed in the living room. Serena laughed, heading back towards where Logan had both the twins on the floor, tickling them. They were laughing so hard their faces were red. "I can't breathe!" Oliver cried out, still laughing. Logan dialed back on the tickling.

"Hey, you two," Serena said. The twins looked at her. "Want to get your things ready to go?"

"Go where?" Olivia asked.

"It is time to go home," Serena said. The twins jumped up and ran to their room. "Are we leaving right away?" Logan asked. "I think we should get them home and talk to them together," Serena said. Logan smiled.

"That sounds good to me," he said. He waved at Charlotte who winked at him. "I'll go help them pack," Logan offered. "Sure. Thanks," Serena said with a nod. She turned back to her mother when Logan was out of earshot. "When he rescued me from being kidnapped, it was like I realized he would be a great protector and provider for the twins," she admitted. "He'd said he would be there for them before, but seeing it in action. That was different." "I bet it was," Charlotte said. "Who knew, that was all it would take for me to give him a chance?" she asked, grinning. Charlotte laughed. "Yes, all it took was you getting kidnapped by rogues," Charlotte said. Serena laughed too. "Mommy, we're ready to go." Olivia called from the front door. "That's my cue," Serena said. She hugged her mother goodbye. "Thank you for taking care of them." "Any time, darling," Charlotte said. Serena got in the car with the twins, thinking about how she and Logan would talk to them about him being their dad. It was a big conversation to have.

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Chapter 116

Chapter 116: Talking to the Kids

Olivia and Oliver immediately wanted to start playing when they got back to the house. Serena set their bags aside for the time being. "Olivia, Oliver, can we all sit down together and talk?" Serena asked. "Now?" Logan asked. "Better get it all out in the open," she said. Logan nodded. The kids came over to her and sat on the couch. Serena sat across from them on the coffee table. Logan stood beside her. "Mommy, you look serious," Olivia commented. Serena smiled and looked up at Logan. "How would

you two feel about me being your dad?" Logan asked them. Serena sighed at his straight forwardness. She had said it would be better to get it all out in the open.

"I thought you were our uncle," Oliver said.

"No, honey, Santino is your uncle because he is mommy's brother," Serena explained. "Logan is mommy's friend, but he could be part of the family if that's okay with you."

Olivia and Oliver looked at each other. They leaned in and began whispering to each other. Serena looked back at Logan and gave a shrug. He smirked at her. "Apparently, my change in status needs to be carefully considered," he said with a mirthful grin. "I'd say so," Serena said with a giggle. "You're kind of already like our dad," Olivia said when she and Oliver stopped whispering. "A really cool, fun dad," Oliver said. Logan smiled widely, his grin uncontrollable. "Don't get too used to it," Serena said. "As your dad, he gets grounding privileges." Olivia pouted. "You wouldn't, would you?" she asked Logan. Logan chuckled. "I will do whatever is best for all of us," Logan said. He put his hand on Serena's shoulder and squeezed gently. Serena smiled, comforted by the contact. "That means no grounding." Olivia insisted. She stood up on the couch. "Olivia, please sit down." Serena said. Olivia 'hmp'ed, but plopped back down on the couch.

"Are you going to live here with us now?" Oliver asked Logan. Serena and Logan exchanged another glance. She wanted to take things slow, at least with their relationship. She didn't want the kids to only have half a father.

though. "We will hopefully get to that point soon," Serena said. "For now, Logan will still live at his house and the three of us will live here."

"I want to live all together," Olivia argued, pouting again.

"I hope we will get that chance," Logan said. He stepped forward and knelt down in front of the twins. "But your mom is right, this is the way it has to be for now. We will get to spend a lot more time together even though I'm not living here." "Because Holly isn't your friend anymore?" Olivia asked. Serena barked a quick laugh and then covered her mouth. Logan looked back at her. "I didn't say anything," she assured. "I didn't even know they understood." she trailed off shaking her head.

Logan smirked at her and then looked back at the twins.

"Holly isn't my friend anymore," Logan said. "She did some mean things." "Good, we didn't like her," Olivia said. "She was mean," Oliver agreed.

"Well, you don't have to worry about her anymore," Logan assured. He put one hand on each of the twins' cheeks affectionately. "So, do we call you daddy?" Olivia asked, looking at Serena. "If you want to," Serena said. "Unless there is something else you

want to call him.” “No, I like ‘daddy,” Olivia said. “Me too.” Oliver said. “I do too,” Logan said. “Are you really?” Olivia asked. “What do you mean, Olivia?” Serena asked. “Are you really our daddy?” she asked. Serena raised an eyebrow at her daughter, wondering how much about the birds and the bees Olivia understood or knew. Logan looked at Serena for help. “I don’t understand,” Logan admitted, playing it safe. Serena sighed in relief when he did.

“Well, all our friends have mommies and daddies,” Olivia said. “Some only have mommies,” Oliver said. “And some only have daddies,” Olivia said back. “But it takes a mommy and a daddy to have a baby,” Oliver said. Serena chuckled, shaking her head at how clever her kids were. Logan looked at her for help. She put a hand on his shoulder and he stood up. Serena leaned in to address her kids.

“A long time ago, before you were born, Logan and Mommy were friends,” Serena explained. “Then I left to go to medical school. Logan and I didn’t see each other for a long, long time, but he was still your daddy.” “Then why didn’t he say so before?” Olivia asked, crossing her arms and looking at Logan. He chuckled.

“We didn’t know before,” Logan said. “It had been so long since we were friends, it took us a while to remember.”

Serena hoped her kids wouldn’t ask more questions. It was the simplest way she knew how to describe it without going too deep into mature topics they weren’t ready for.

“Okay,” Olivia said with a shrug. “That’s fine,” Oliver said. Serena gave Logan a relieved look. “Are you going to stay the night tonight?” Olivia asked. “How about Logan stays for dinner and tucks you into bed,” Serena said, jumping in before too much was promised. “I like that plan,” Olivia said. “Can you give us a bath too, daddy?” Oliver asked. Serena looked at Logan. He was smiling foolishly at being called ‘daddy’ for the first time. Serena rolled her eyes. “How about it?” Serena asked.

“I think I can make that work,” Logan said.

“Just don’t let mommy cook,” Olivia said, sticking her tongue out at Serena. Laughing and shaking her head, Serena went to the kitchen. “I won’t cook. Logan, can you make something?” she asked. “I’ve got it,” Logan said. He went to the refrigerator and started digging around for something to put together. “When is Dana coming home?” Olivia asked, sitting dutifully at the table. Oliver sat next to her. They were being so well behaved. “She’ll be home tomorrow,” Serena said. “I told her I’d let her know when you two got home, but I think you’d like to have time with Logan tonight.” “Yeah, yeah, yeah,” the twins shouted. While Logan cooked, Serena set the table. It was going to be like a real, family dinner. “Can I have some paper, mommy?” Olivia asked. “And some crayons.” “Sure, sweetie,” Serena said. She grabbed the paper and crayons from a nearby drawer, giving them to Olivia before

Chapter 116 Talking to the kids going back to setting the table. Olivia hummed while she started writing on the paper "I want to draw too," Oliver said grabbing a sheet of paper. "I'm not coloring," Olivia said. Serena looked over her shoulder and saw that she was writing, as well as a five-year-old could. "What are you writing?" Serena asked. "Things need to change here," Olivia said. "Now that Logan is our daddy." Serena didn't ask. She let Olivia write on her paper. When Logan finished cooking, Serena cleared away the crayons and paper and the four of them sat down together. Logan gave Serena a look from across the table. She blushed and looked down at her dinner.

"This is so yummy!" Olivia crowed as she ate.

"It really is," Serena agreed.

The kids started talking to Logan, asking him all kinds of questions about what was going to happen next, when they were going to all live together, and how long it would take before they had brothers and sisters. Serena cringed at the last question. Logan looked at her, raising an eyebrow. Serena smiled, but shook her head. She didn't know if she'd ever want to have more kids, even if everything with Logan worked out. "Okay, why don't the two of you focus on eating," Serena said, tapping Olivia's plate. Olivia grumbled, but kept eating. "I think it is fair to say that your mother and I are still working out the details," Logan said.

He winked at her. Serena's stomach flip flopped. She kept having to remind herself that they were taking things slow. Slow, slow, slow, she told herself. She wanted to take her relationship with Logan slow!

No matter how many times she repeated it, she couldn't stop the little tingles that fluttered through her every time he looked at her. She'd been lonely a long time, and she hadn't given much thought to pursuing romantic relationships.

Now that Logan knew the truth about everything and she knew he was her mate, she wanted to explore that more. It made the looks he gave her a little more exciting and it made her look forward to the time they'd have alone, when that happened. "I'll take care of the dishes," Serena said, clearing the table. "Take them upstairs and put them to bed."

"As you wish," Logan said. He took the kids hands and started up the stairs with them.

Serena watched them go. She was so happy to see them happy and Logan involved. Things couldn't have worked out any better.

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Chapter 117

Chapter 117: The Contract

Serena brought Olivia's paper up when she heard them getting out of the tub. Logan was sitting on Olivia's bed. Both Oliver and Olivia were tucked in together and Logan was reading to them from *White Fang* by Jack London.

"Olivia, you left this downstairs," Serena said, handing her the paper.

Olivia smiled and snatched the paper. "Right, Daddy Logan, this is for you," she said handing him the paper. Logan glanced at Serena. She shrugged and Logan looked over the paper. Serena had already read what Olivia wrote, and she wondered if Logan would understand the strange spellings Olivia had used. "This is a contract?" Logan asked, glancing at Serena again. "Mommy, do you have a pen?" Olivia asked. "I'll get one," Serena said. She backed out of the bedroom and grabbed a pen off her own night stand. Then she rejoined the kids and Logan.

She handed the pen to Logan.

"Any questions about what you're signing?" Serena asked. Logan chuckled.

"It seems that I am signing a paper contract that ensures I will be giving Olivia lots of gifts, now that I am her dad," Logan said. "Is that right?" he turned to Olivia.

"Yes," she said with a nod. She pointed to the line she'd drawn at the bottom of the paper for him to sign. "I need lots of presents to prove you're Mr. Daddy."

Logan chuckled and signed his name. Olivia snatched the contract from him and folded it up. She dropped it into the drawer of her nightstand. "Was there anything you needed from me, Oliver?" Logan asked. Oliver shook his head.

"No," he said. "You're dad now, not uncle." "Good" Logan said, ruffling Oliver's hair. He opened the book again and began reading again.

Serena stood in the doorway, watching Logan read to the kids. She'd seen him do it before in the hospital, but this was different.

Olivia and Oliver began to nod off. Logan set the book aside when they were both sleeping soundly. "I should get Oliver to his room." Serena said. Logan was quicker, though. He picked Oliver up and headed down the hall. Serena walked behind him to keep up Logan was a natural with the kids. They tucked Oliver in together. He was still asleep, but Logan handled him with such

care. Serena was impressed, more than she'd been before.

They left Oliver's room and went back downstairs. Serena poured them each a glass of wine and they sat on the couch together,

"Long few days," Serena said with a sigh. Logan nodded, clinking his glass against hers.

"Yes, it has been," he agreed.

"You didn't need to sign that contract," Serena said. "You know she is going to hold you to it."

"I know," Logan said with a grin. "Maybe we should talk about a few things too." Serena said. "Should we have a contract?" Logan asked, sipping his wine and raising an eyebrow. "Is this going to become a BDSM arrangement?"

Laughing, Serena leaned forward to set her wine glass down on the coffee table. She curled her legs up underneath her and propped her elbow up on the back of the couch so she could look at Logan.

think we need a contract. It would be nice to cover some of the basics, though."

"Agreed," Logan said. "Your kids are going to try and push things along faster. I can already tell that. They clearly want us to be a family." "Yes, I picked up on that with all the questions about us living together and having more kids," Serena said with a laugh. "I know it is still early, but is that something you want?" Logan asked her, taking another sip of wine. "More kids?" she asked. "Logan, that isn't something I can think of right now. There's still a lot going on with the hospital and we have only just started working on this family concept..." Serena trailed off. "No, no," Logan said. "That's not what I meant. I meant about us living together." Serena laughed nervously and then chewed on her lower lip. Her cheeks heated with a blush at the misinterpretation.

"Oh," she said softly. "You don't need to rush to answer," he said. Serena shrugged. "I think in the long run it would be better," she said. "It would be easier. I just want to make sure that you and I are able to coexist."

Logan chuckled. "Yeah, I suppose that would be the best approach" he agreed. "I know you'll be great with the kids. I know they will love you and you'll take care of them and protect them. We both know, though, that the mate bond doesn't mean we

can make this work," she said. Logan nodded, finishing his wine before he set the wine glass down. "So, what ground rules should we set?" Logan asked. "Well, I guess we should talk about the obvious," she said. "I'm sure there will be times when you'll be here late or something, and it would be convenient for you to spend the night. But I don't want to give the kids the wrong idea. There is a playroom on the first floor that could be

converted into a guest bedroom.” “That sounds good enough,” Logan said with a nod. “And, we didn’t really talk about it, but do you think you’d ever want to twins to stay with you and your mother for a weekend or something?” she asked. Serena looked down at her lap. She wasn’t sure she wanted to know the

answer to that, but if she and Logan were going to co-parent, they needed to set certain presidents in the event that their relationship didn’t work out. “Only if you’re comfortable with that,” Logan said. He reached across the couch and put his hand on Serena’s knee. She looked down at his hand, smiling and biting her bottom lip. “I don’t know, honestly,” she admitted. “But I think I should give you the option. I mean, if we are in a relationship, then it would be nice to spend as much time with the kids together. But I don’t want you to feel like you can’t have time with them alone, like I’m looking over your shoulder.”

“I don’t think that,” Logan assured.

“Mommy, daddy?” Olivia asked from the stairs. Logan pulled his hand away from Serena’s knee. They both looked over to the stairs. Olivia was walking slowly down the stairs and rubbing her eyes. “What’s wrong, honey?” Serena asked, patting the couch. “I can’t sleep,” Olivia said. She came over to the couch and sat right between Logan and Serena. Serena softly ran her fingers through Olivia’s hair. The little girl leaned back on the couch, resting her head against Logan’s shoulder. “Were you having bad dreams?” Serena asked. “No,” Olivia said. “I just couldn’t sleep. I wanted to be down here with you two.” “We’re just talking,” Serena said. “Nothing exciting happening here.” “Yea, but, you’re together. I was all alone up there,” Olivia pointed out. Serena and Logan exchanged looks.

“Do you want to snuggle up with Oliver?” she asked. “He’s very tired,” Olivia grumbled. Serena chuckled, smoothing out Olivia’s hair again. Of course, Olivia would check on Oliver first if she couldn’t sleep. She loved her twin brother. She probably heard Serena and Logan talking while checking on Oliver and when she couldn’t wake him up, she came downstairs to see what they were doing. “Do you want us to bring you back to bed?” Logan asked. Olivia sighed, leaning more heavily on him. “No,” she said softly. “I want to stay here with you.” Logan looked at Serena. She gave a nod. “Alright, you can sit down here with us,” Serena said. “Just until you get to sleep again.”

“Okay,” Olivia said softly

She was drowsy, so Serena didn’t feel like she had to stop her conversation with Logan entirely. She spoke more softly, though.

“Just let me know if you want more one-on-one time with them,” she said. “I’m sure they’d enjoy it, and sometimes I feel bad about not being around so much because of my job. I think it would be good for you and them to have that extra time with a parent.”

Logan nodded, wrapping his arm around Olivia. She slumped over into his lap.

“As the situations arise, we can figure out what makes sense,” Logan said. “I’ll be honest, I’m probably going to be spending a lot more time around here.” Serena grinned. “Yes, now that the twins know you’re their father, they will always be looking for reasons for you to be around” she said. Logan reached across the couch and took Serena’s hand in his. “I don’t mean just for them,” he said. Serena blushed and looked away quickly “Are you two going to get married?” Olivia asked, perking up and wide awake suddenly

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Chapter 118

Chapter 118: The Future

“Are you two going to get married?” Olivia asked, perking up and wide awake suddenly Logan quickly dropped Serena’s hand. They’d been talking about plans to be parents and be in a relationship, but Serena had said she wanted to take things very slow. Logan didn’t want to be the first to answer Olivia’s question and say something that offended or upset Serena. “Olivia, Logan and I are taking things one step at a time,” Serena explained. “You mean ‘daddy,’” Olivia corrected. Serena laughed and nodded. Logan chuckled too, catching Serena’s eyes. She seemed a little uncomfortable at the moment, trying to think of the best answer.

Logan nodded to her, waiting to hear what she would say. He was interested in what she thought as well. Their future was wide open and they’d only just scratched the surface of what they could be. “I think that could happen,” Serena said. “If everything goes the way we want them

to.”

She looked over at Logan. He felt a swell in his chest, hopeful that their relationship could get to that point. He hadn’t fully confessed his feelings for Serena, only telling her how much he cared about her.

He didn’t tell her that he loved her or that he wanted to be with her in every way that mattered. He’d had to keep it as basic as possible to not overwhelm her or scare her off. Logan didn’t know if Serena returned his feelings with the same intensity. Hearing her say that they could get married someday, that she wanted things to go that way, he felt a lot better about the future. “Good,” Olivia said. “Then we can all live together and be a family.”

Logan looked at Serena again. She was flushed, her cheeks, her neck. In the low light of the darkened living room, Logan found her far too attractive. He wanted to reach out to her, but Olivia was still between them on the couch.

“I want to go back to bed now,” Olivia said. Serena stood up automatically and picked Olivia up in her arms. “Wait here,” she said to Logan. He nodded. He would have liked to put Olivia to bed again, but he figured too much interaction would keep her up longer. He’d have to talk to Serena about certain parenting techniques so he could make sure that he wasn’t doing things the wrong way. Being a parent was still very new to him. Serena came back down the stairs several minutes later.

“Poor thing,” she said as she took a seat on the couch. “She’s so overtired she just can’t get herself to sleep.”

“That happens sometimes?” Logan asked.

“It can happen a lot with kids,” she explained. “They get so worn out they just can’t get to sleep. Their bodies and minds are just too exhausted to process anything and it makes them cranky because they can’t sleep.” “Lots of late-night tantrums?” he asked. Serena shrugged. “Sometimes,” Serena admitted. “It doesn’t happen as often anymore. When they were younger, like under two years old, it happened a lot. So many late nights before exams trying to rock them both to sleep while studying.” Logan sighed, feeling guilty for not being there. “I should have been there,” he said, voicing his thoughts aloud. “I don’t want to think about the past,” Serena said smiling at Logan. “We can’t fix anything from the past, but we can change the future.” “You’re right,” Logan said with a nod.

“I’m getting pretty tired,” Serena said. “I’d invite you to stay but...”

“But the guest room isn’t set up yet?” Logan asked, smirking at her. Serena giggled and nodded. “That’s alright,” Logan said. “I could use a walk.” Standing up, Logan stretched and brought the empty wine glasses to the sink. He was contemplating where he could take Serena on a real date at some point. She walked him to the door. “Thank you for tonight,” Serena said. She reached out and took his hand in hers, squeezing his fingers. Logan smiled, raising his other hand and tucking her hair behind her ears. He leaned in, kissing her forehead. “Thank you,” Logan said. “Tonight I actually felt like I was their father, for once.” “Well, you should start feeling like that all the time,” Serena told him. They hugged each other. Logan wanted to kiss her, but he held back. He kissed her forehead again and opened the front door. “We’ll touch base again tomorrow,” Logan said. Serena nodded. Logan stepped out onto the porch. Serena closed the door behind him. He took a big, deep breath of the night air and walked off the porch. It wasn’t a long walk back to his own house, but it gave Logan time to think things over. He was happy that he was looking towards his future with Serena and the twins.

Chapter 118: The Future All at once, he had gotten a family, complete with kids and with a great woman. His mate. Logan felt sure that he would always be there with them,

that he would always care about them. He was ready to move things along faster, but he had to respect Serena's wish for moving slow. She had more to worry about than he did. From her perspective, she'd been protecting her kids, she'd watched Logan going around with Holly and confessing things like not knowing if he was ready to be a parent. It was true that Logan hadn't given her any reason to trust him or to think she could rely on him. That had changed, and now he just had to continue to prove it. Eventually, she wouldn't be so closed off. Logan hoped to prove it to her sooner than later. He wanted her to be ready to move things along. When Logan made it home, Flo was waiting for him. She had never stopped being a mother, and still always waited up for him unless he told her he wouldn't be home. "You look happy," Flo said when Logan came in. "It was a good day, a good night too," he said with a smile. "Were you with Serena?" Flo asked. Logan couldn't help his smile. His mother smiled right back "Yeah, I was helping her with the kids tonight," he explained. "We're going to give it a try" "Good," Flo said. "I love Serena and I love those twins. I had a feeling they belonged to

you."

Logan rolled his eyes. He groaned and tried to head up the stairs.

"Logan, don't run away," Flo said. "Why don't you invite them to come live here again?" "Serena and I are taking things slow," Logan said. Flo raised an eyebrow at her son.

"And that means she can't live here?" the Luna asked. Logan shrugged.

"I want her to be comfortable with all of it and I want to show that the twins are my priority." Logan said. "Serena needs a little time to adjust and feel ready for the next steps." "I understand," Flo said, placing her hand on Logan's as he rested on the banister. "Being a mother can be hard. It makes it difficult to trust anyone else. After you were born, I was so nervous to leave you alone with your father."

Logan creased his brow.

"I thought dad was good with me when I was younger?" he asked. "Oh, he was, completely," Flo assured with a light laugh. "But I was so devoted to you, had trouble trusting my own mate with your basic needs and care. Imagine how it is with Serena who has been everything for those kids for years."

"That is exactly why I am letting her set the pace," Logan explained. "Okay." Flo said. "But if it takes too long, don't be afraid to push her out of her comfort zone. There are sparks there, I've seen them."

"Mom, I really don't need dating advice from you," Logan said. Flo shrugged. "I'm more thinking about getting her in position to become Luna," she admitted. Logan rolled his eyes.

“And with that, I’m going to bed,” Logan said. He nodded to his mother. Up the stairs and to his room, he still wasn’t used to Holly and all her things being gone. At the same time, he enjoyed having the space to himself. As he looked around the room, he thought it could benefit from a woman’s touch. Specifically, Serena’s touch. The idea of laying down next to her after a long day and snuggling together and talking about the pack, their kids, and every day nonsense. That was the kind of life he wanted. It wasn’t what he’d had with Holly, and there was no way he could imagine having that with her. Serena on the other hand, she was the

relationship Logan went to bed that night happily. All the weights had been lifted from his shoulders. Everything was starting to work out, and he was able to let go and really rest.

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Chapter 119

Chapter 119: Inauguration

The last of the hospital renovations had finally been finalized. To celebrate the new facility being completed and up and running to full capacity, Logan had planned an inauguration celebration to honor Adriana and Serena for the great accomplishments. He had postponed the inauguration celebration for when all the wolves from the Moonshine battle had recovered and been relocated.

All of Night Sky had come to the inauguration. Logan watched as Serena received praise and acceptance from the pack members. She was so eloquent and professional Logan felt silly for never seeing her true worth before. He’d always respected her and seen her as a strong woman, but now he saw her as something more. She was the mother of his children, she was the doctor who had saved his life and countless other lives. It was impossible for him to see her as anything but strong and amazing.

Now that he saw her being adored and complimented by all the pack members, it was obvious how great of a Luna she would be. The hospital lobby had been decked out for the celebration. That was where the drinks and refreshments were. Logan was standing close enough to Serena to hear all the thanks and praise she was getting. Almost everyone in the pack now knew someone or had a loved one that Serena had helped or saved. “I thought this was a party for the hospital” Adriana said, coming up beside Logan.

“Isn’t it?” he asked. Adriana laughed. “Everyone seems more interested in her,” the head doctor said. “I’m sorry, Adriana, you deserve the same praise and adoration. You managed half the work,” Logan said. Adriana chuckled and waved off his concerns.

"That's not what I meant," she said. "Serena deserves this. I may be the head doctor, but she was the star out in the campaign hospital. She saved you, our Alpha, going above and beyond what even I would have done. No offense." Logan chuckled.

"None taken," he said. "I wouldn't expect anyone to do something like that for me, even her."

"That's what makes her so special," Adriana said. "Things have changed between the two of you. Don't take her for granted." "I won't" Logan promised. Adriana smiled and headed off into the crowd. Logan slowly made his way over to

Serena. As much as he appreciated her, he knew she'd probably want a break from all the adoration.

"Excuse me, all, I need to steal the guest of honor," Logan said. He took Serena's hand and pulled her away from her fans. Serena giggled and followed along with him. "Thank you," she said. "For what?" Logan asked. "Rescuing me from that never ending line of praise," she said with a laugh. Logan looked over his shoulder at her and smirked. "I had a feeling you needed a break," he said. He led Serena into a corner where they could speak privately for a moment. Where both of them could escape the crowd. Logan backed Serena into the corner, holding both her hands in his. "What are you doing?" she asked, her cheeks becoming red as she smiled at him. "Taking a moment," he said. "For us." "You're kind of sweet," she said. Logan gave a one shouldered shrug. "Honestly, I wanted to thank you for everything you've done," he admitted. "I mean, for the hospital, for the pack, for me." "I do what I have to in order to save lives," Serena muttered, looking down. Logan squeezed her hands. "No, you don't," Logan said. "You always go above and beyond, and I am here because of that. This hospital is functioning like never before because of you. Moonshine suffered minimal casualties because of you, and that has helped us establish peaceful relations." "That is just who I am," Serena said. "It is, and I am sorry that I didn't fully appreciate it before. I should have been more grateful to you and your tenacity," he said. Serena blushed harder. "Stop it," she said. "I can't take so much praise at once." "You won't let it go to your head, I know that," Logan said. Serena giggled. "I should get back out there," she said. "I don't really want to let you go," Logan said, pouting slightly. Serena sighed. She stepped closer to Logan, pressing her body against his. Logan smirked, slipping his arms around her waist. "Logan," she said softly. IV. a/banolead ruhina har honk nantly with one of his hands

"I have a hospital to inaugurate," she teased, whispering close to his ear.

Serena stepped away from him, slipping out of his arms. Logan sighed and shook his head, watching her walk back into the crowd of guests. She was teasing him now, and he was enjoying every moment of it. Though, if she kept it up, he'd be looking to move things along faster. When the time came, Logan gathered the pack together and he addressed them all at once.

"It is with great honor and pride that I officially present the completely renovated, state of the art medical facility for the health, wellness, and benefit of the entire pack," Logan said, waving his arm around the lobby. The other pack members clapped politely. "I'd like our head of medicine, Adriana, to say a few words about the reopening of the hospital," he said. He stepped aside and motioned for Adriana to come forward. Adriana glared at him, and Logan winked at her. He took a stance beside Serena and watched the head doctor.

"Welcome, Night Sky, to a new age in medical care," Adriana said. "Not only have we renovated each room for the comfort of our pack members and updated the facilities for the best possible care and recovery, but we have updated all the equipment to ensure that everyone gets what they need."

There was more polite clapping. "Did you want to get up there and say something?" Logan asked Serena. She quickly shook her head. "Oh, no," she said. "I've had enough eyes on me tonight." "Alright," he said. "I think you should say something, though. I mean, this is mostly because of you." "Logan, I don't need to say anything." Serena insisted. "I don't even need them to know most of this was because of me." "You really don't want the recognition?" he asked, amazed and awed by her humility. "I've gotten enough, thanks," she mumbled. "Serena, you care about the pack. You have done so much for everyone here," Logan reminded her. "And they know it" Serena said. "I don't need to remind them." "Very well" Logan said. He's hoped she would step up and take on the responsibility to see how she would fare in a leadership role. If their relationship went where he wanted it to go, she would become Luna. She'd have to take the stand sometimes. "I know what you're doing," she said under her breath as Adriana finished her address

and everyone went back to mingling and enjoying their snacks and refreshments. "And what is that?" Logan asked, grabbing finger sandwiches off a nearby platter. He handed one to Serena. She took the sandwich and nibbled on it lightly. "You want to know how I would handle being Luna," she said. Logan shrugged but nodded.

"It is a legitimate curiosity," he said. "I know," Serena said. "All you really have to know is I will go above and beyond for the whole pack and that I am descended from a line of Alphas and Lunas. You know I could be a good Luna. I should have to prove that at this point." Logan smirked at her, eating his finger sandwich in one bite. "You're right, I don't need to know more," he said. Serena rolled her eyes. She was soon distracted again by more pack members seeking her out directly. Logan stepped away, letting her have the spotlight again. "This seems like a nice way to wrap up the conflict with Moonshine and usher in a new era," Carson said, walking up beside Logan. "A new beginning with the hospital, a new beginning for the pack," Logan said. "And a new beginning for you and Serena, I see," Carson said with a chuckle. "Yea, that was unexpected but welcome," Logan said. "That's alright with you, isn't it?" Carson laughed and clapped Logan on the shoulder. "Serena and I were only ever friends," he said. "Maybe I wanted more, but I can see now that she was preoccupied with someone else." Logan looked at his Beta, concerned that it would cause a rift between them. "I'm fine with it, Logan," Carson

assured. "You deserve to be happy and so does she. Let's leave it at that, okay?" "Fair enough," Logan said. "We are mates." "Really?" Carson asked. "That actually explains a lot." "Yea, it does," Logan admitted. "We are just seeing where things go for now, but I have a good feeling about it." "Then I do too," Carson said. "You know you have to take her somewhere special for a first date." "Oh, I know," Logan agreed. "I've got just the place. Reservations have been made." Carson smirked at him. "Good," he said. "Treat her right." Logan nodded and waved as Carson walked off.

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Chapter 120

Chapter 120: The Start of Something New

Logan had told Serena that they were going out to dinner for their first official date. They'd been in romantic and emotionally intense settings before, but this was the first time they were calling it a date. Serena had been told nothing about where they were going to eat, but she'd been told to wear something nice. She'd dressed in a casual dressy dress that made her feel pretty "Are you going on a date, mommy?" Olivia asked. "I am," Serena said. "Dana is going to stay here with you two while I'm out." "With Daddy Logan?" Oliver asked. Serena smiled. "That's who I'm going out with," she said with a nod. Dana was in the kitchen working on dinner for the twins. Serena had told her about her budding relationship with Logan. Dana didn't seem all that surprised. No one Serena told had seemed that surprised. She wondered what that said about her and Logan. Did it mean that they were fated to be together? That everyone else could see the sparks between them when they themselves couldn't? Or had they both been in denial about what they really meant to each other? "Why can't we come?" Olivia asked, pouting. "You'll have plenty of time with your father," Serena assured. "Mommy needs time with him too." "OOO," Olivia said making a kissy face. Serena rolled her eyes at her own daughter! "Be good for Dana, and I will be home later," she said. The twins gave her casual waves. Serena stepped into the kitchen to check in with Dana.

"Thank you for watching them tonight," Serena said.

"That's what I'm here for," Dana reminded her. "Have fun, as much as you want." Dana winked at her.

"You're not going to tell me not to have too much fun?" Serena asked, playfully. "Oh, I hope you have a lot of fun," Dana said with a chuckle. "You and Logan are both due for some playful, romantic, fun." "I'll keep that in mind," Serena said. "I better get going or I'll be late." Serena would have liked Logan to come pick her up so they could go to the restaurant together, but she knew that if Logan showed up at the house, they'd never make their reservation.

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The twins would distract him and keep him occupied and they'd never get out. As much as Serena wanted the twins to have as much time with their father as they wanted, she also needed to take time to get to know him as the Alpha and as a man separate from being a father and Alpha.

It was important to her to learn who he was and see if they really could be together.

Serena walked to the restaurant. It wasn't too far from the house. Logan could walk her home after and see the twins if they were still awake. That was the plan anyway.

When she arrived, she saw Logan sitting at a table for two in a corner of the restaurant. It was the kind of romantic restaurant shown in movies with low lighting, candles on the tables, and single flower vases with red roses in them.

Logan stood up when Serena entered and motioned her over. He even held her chair out for her while she sat down. "Thank you," she said. "This place is lovely." "A well-kept secret here in the village," Logan explained. "It is all two top tables, mostly for couples coming out on dates or enjoying their anniversaries." "I had no idea the pack had anything like this." Serena admitted. Logan chuckled and handed her a menu. "I hope you don't mind, but I did order us a bottle of wine already," he said. "I don't mind," Serena said with a smile. Their waiter came over with the wine and poured them each a glass. "This is a robust red that will have your tastebuds tingling," he said. "It pairs well with the fish or red meats."

"Thank you." Serena said. She picked up the glass and took a sip. "That is delicious," she said, nodding at Logan. Logan smirked and sipped his own wine. "So, what are you thinking about for food?" he asked. Serena shrugged, looking over the menu. There were a lot of good options, things werewolves would like that were heavy on the meat side. They ordered their food and passed the menus off to the waiter. He left the bottle of wine for them. "I'm not really sure what I'm supposed to do on a date," Serena admitted. "I spend so much time with my kids and..." she trailed off.

Logan was smiling at her again. "You don't have to try here. Not tonight, not with me," he said. He reached across the table and covered her hand with his.

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Serena smiled shyly, looking down at the table. "I thought you'd like to have a quiet night for just the two of us," he said. "It is nice," Serena agreed. "It is weird, though. I mean, we already know so much about each other. This isn't the kind of date where we

small talk to feel each other
out."

"No, it isn't," Logan greed. He stroked the back of her hand with his fingertips. Serena blushed as warm tingles spread from her hand up her arm. "So, Alpha Logan, what is it that we should talk about?" she asked, raising an eyebrow at him and giving him a sultry smirk. "The party," Logan said. "The masquerade." Serena chuckled and shook her head. "What more do we need to say about that?" she asked. "I looked for you," Logan said. Serena creased her brow at him. "Really?" she asked. Logan nodded, continuing to caress her hand. "It was a good night," he said. "You were gone before I even woke up, and I felt the desire to follow up. Maybe that was a result of the mate bond, but I didn't know that at the time." "I'm sorry I disappeared," Serena said. "I wasn't sure what to expect. I think it was easier to vanish than have that awkward morning after conversation." Logan chuckled. "Did *you* ever think of following up?" he asked. Serena sighed. "There was a longing," she admitted. "I guess it was the mate bond. For a while thought about who you were, whether you thought of me, and if I'd know you if I got the chance to see you again." "It seems we were destined to come back together again, one way or another," Logan said.

Serena took a sip of her wine. "And now?" she asked. "Are we here because of destiny or are we here because we both feel something?" Their conversation paused when their meals were delivered. Logan released Serena's hand so they could start eating. The fragrance of the steak on her plate had her mouth-watering, and she stopped asking questions to take a few bites. "I'd like to think we are both here because we feel something," Logan said to answer her question.

Serena gazed at him. In the low lighting he looked incredibly handsome, the glow of the candle casting rugged shadows across his face. Serena licked her lips, looking away quickly when she saw Logan was watching her too. He chuckled.

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The rest of the dinner, they casually talked about the pack and Logan becoming Alpha. Serena knew the story, but she liked hearing it from him, seeing the emotion on his face when he spoke about his father. It made her heart soften to him more, and she reached over, touching his arm. "Would you like anything for dessert?" the waiter asked when he came to clear their plates. "I'm all set," Serena said.

"Oh no," Logan said. "There is a reason I chose this place. We'll have your special."

"Very good choice," the waiter said. He nodded and left. "What is the special?" Serena asked. "Let yourself enjoy the surprise," Logan said with a smirk. Serena rolled her eyes. Logan definitely knew how to get under her skin. Before, it bothered her. Now, it made her squirm with passionate delight. Maybe the way they challenged each other was a way to strengthen their relationship. "I want to make a toast before dessert," Logan said, raising his wine glass. Serena followed. "To found families." "To found families," Serena echoed. They clinked their glasses and drank. It was a perfect toast for their situation.

The waiter brought out the dessert. It was a bowl of three scoops of ice cream, vanilla, sweet cream, and coconut, with a platter of banana pastries topped with powdered sugar. Logan grabbed one of the pastries and dipped it into the ice cream. He held it out to Serena. She leaned in, biting into the warm pastry covered in three flavors of melting ice cream.

“Oh my,” she muttered through a full mouth. She swallowed quickly. “Good, isn’t it?” Logan asked. “That is the most amazing dessert ever,” she said. “You were right, this was definitely worth it.”

Logan chuckled and dipped the pastry in the ice cream for another bite. Serena and Logan finished the dessert and Logan picked up the check. Serena put up a bit of a fight, but Logan insisted. “Come on, I’ll walk you home,” he said. “I’d like to catch the twins before they go to bed.”

“I’m sure they’ll love that,” Serena agreed. It was the start of something new, something good.