

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 71

Kids from One Alpha

Chapter 71

Chapter 71: An Awkward Attempt at Apology

Every time Serena went to look after Logan as he recovered, Holly stood there, looming over them. It made her feel awkward and judged as she did her work. She peeled Logan's hospital gown back, opening it up over his chest and down far enough that he was almost entirely exposed in the front. Keeping her eyes trained on the bruises down his abdomen, she gently pressed them, watching for reactions of pain. "What are you doing?" Holly asked when Serena palpated Logan's stomach. Her hands were rather close to his exposed groin, but she was doing a proper medical examination. Serena's eyes flitted to Logan's and he smirked at her. Shaking her head, Serena covered Logan up again. "A medical exam, to make sure that there is no internal damage that we missed initially and to make sure he is healing properly," she said shortly.

"Holly, why don't you go get me something to eat?" Logan asked. "You don't have to be here for this." Holly rolled her eyes, but she left. "You didn't have to send her away," Serena argued. "I'm capable of doing my job with an audience." Logan chuckled. "Oh, I know," he said. "I just thought it might be awkward to be mostly naked in front of two females. That hasn't happened to me for a while."

Despite herself, Serena cracked a stiff smile. Logan was trying to joke with her, that meant he wasn't mad at her anymore, but she still hadn't decided how she felt about him.

She'd been so concerned about him, had wanted to save him. She'd gone to great lengths to save his life and even broken some rules of medical practice. Still, she wasn't ready to forgive him yet. "Let me change your bandages," she said curtly. Logan's smile faded. He gave a nod. She changed the bandages on his throat first, an attempt to keep him from talking. Then she changed the bandages on his chest. Nothing looked infected, and he was healing quickly, as was expected. "You're healing fast." Serena said, making a note on his chart. "You'll be able to leave here soon." "Great," Logan said. He winced as he tried to sit up. Automatically, Serena went to his side and helped him up. Then she propped his pillows up behind him. He leaned back into the added support, His hospital gown had fallen open again. Serena groaned and stepped back. Logan hastened to close it again.

"You seem awfully eager to get me naked again," he teased her, Serena shook her head. "Please, don't shame my profession by making it into something it isn't," she said sternly. "I'm sorry, Serena," Logan said. She knew his apology was for more than his

jokes, but she still wasn't ready to forgive him. "You're going to be fine," she reiterated. She started walking away. "Serena, wait," Logan said. She paused, debating whether or not to turn back to him. Finally, she turned around slowly. "Was there something else?" she asked. "I wanted to apologize for my behavior yesterday," he said. "It wasn't right for me to get so angry. Your personal life is your business. I had no right to make accusations or call your professionalism into question."

"No, you didn't," Serena said, crossing her arms and raising an eyebrow at him. His apology was genuine, she knew that, but he was telling her things she already knew. He was going to have to do better than that to win her over! "I was angry," he said. "Out of my mind with rage. It was like a poison in my veins. I even went and took on a whole pack of rogues just to prove something to myself." He looked down at the bandages on his chest.

As he spoke, his voice became hoarser, so Serena went to the water pitcher and poured him a cup of water. He nodded in thanks when she handed it to him.

"That was stupid," she said rigidly. Logan chuckled.

"I know that now," he said. "But I was also told about what you did for me, to save me." Serena blushed slightly and turned her eyes away from him. It seemed almost too intimate to think about Logan have her blood in his veins. It was a very deep exchange of fluids, and remembering it made her a little uncomfortable. She'd done what she had to in order to save him, but she hadn't wanted him to know!

"My job is to save lives, and I will do whatever is in my power to achieve that," she informed him. "I would have done that for anyone."

Her words weren't entirely true. As Alpha, Logan was entitled to more intense medical care. If she'd had more than one patient to tend to, she wouldn't have been able to risk giving them all blood and losing consciousness. It was a very situation specific remedy. Logan didn't need to know that, though. "I understand," he said, drinking his water and laying back on his pillows. "Did you have a good visit with the twins this morning?" Serena asked. Logan nodded. "I'd like to see them again," he said. "Bring them by, anytime." "I've got a lot of work to do," Serena said. An Awkward Attempt at Apology

Holly returned to the room, her eyes immediately narrowing in on how close Serena was standing to Logan's bed. She still had a hand on the pillows she'd been fluffing.

"Every time I leave the room, this is the kind of thing I come back to!" Holly snapped. She dropped the tray of food from the cafeteria onto Logan's lap. He grunted. "Holly, I'd ask you not to be so rough with the patient," Serena said. "He may enjoy that in other situations, but right now, he needs to heal." Serena's implication was not lost on Holly or Logan. The Alpha smirked, but Holly snorted and crossed her arms over her chest. "How would you even know that?" she asked accusingly. Serena glanced at Logan. He

shrugged. "That was a joke," Serena said. "But thank you for that lovely exchange of images. I've got other work to do."

"Will you bring the twins by later?" Logan asked as Serena started walking towards the door. She looked over her shoulder.

"Sure," she said in a non-committal tone. She didn't want to make any promises. Her mood could change throughout the rest of her day.

She left a sour looking Holly at Logan's side. He was healing fast, but Holly's moodiness and confrontations would be sure to exhaust him.

"Every time I turn around, your off with Serena or her kids!" Serena heard Holly whine as she left. "What are you trying to do to me?" Serena shook her head. So much drama! Every time she was around Logan or Holly, there was some kind of drama. She was over it. She was over Logan's controlling behavior, short temper, and mixed signals. She needed a break! Although she was still made at him, Serena knew that a positive environment would help him recover faster. Since she had gone to such lengths to save his life, letting his health fail now would be such a waste! He wanted to see the twins, and she had a feeling they would help improve his mood and speed up his recovery, especially after all the time he spent battling Holly. Finishing her rounds, Serena filed her papers for the day. She went to the phone at the nurse's station and dialed Dana's number. "Dana, I have a favor to ask," she said. "What can I do?" Dana asked. "Can you bring the twins by the hospital after daycare?" she asked. "Logan wants to see them, and I'm sure they want to see him too."

"Yes, of course," Dana said. "We will be packing up and leaving here shortly. They drew a lot of pictures today." Serena smiled into the phone.

"Have them bring some of the pictures, too," she said. "Tell them Uncle Logan wants to see their artwork. An Awkward Attempt at Apology

"I'm sure they'd love to show him, too," Dana said. "They've been talking about him all day." Serena thanked Dana and hung up. It worried her, how close the kids were getting to Logan, how attached they were getting. He couldn't be their father, even if he did know he was. Not with Holly and another baby on the way. She didn't want them to get hurt

She thought that it might be best for all of them to get away for a little while. She had so much work to do, and she had to make sure that Logan was out of the woods completely, but Serena began to think that an extended trip to see her parents would help put some distance between herself and Logan and the twins and Logan.

They would play with Uncle Santino and their grandparents, being far too busy to ask about Logan or miss him. It was a possibility; one the Serena was liking more and more.

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Chapter 72: Jealousy and Drawings

“Is Uncle Logan going to get to go home now?” Olivia asked when Serena met the kids and Dana outside the hospital. “He’ll be able to go home soon,” she said. “Did you bring pictures for him?” “Yea!” Oliver said excitedly. He pulled his backpack off to indicate that was where the pictures were.

“Thank you, Dana. I’ll stay with the twins. You can head on home,” she said. Dana nodded.

“I’ll have dinner for you when you get home,” she said.

“Great, thanks,” Serena said. She took the twins hands.

“Logan said he would read to us more when we came back,” Olivia told Serena. “Can we stay and read with him?” “Why don’t you start by showing him your pictures,” Serena said. “We don’t want to tire him out too much.” She walked the twins to Logan’s room while Olivia chattered about her day and why she hadn’t wanted to go daycare. Serena listened, but she was also concerned about what Holly would do when she saw the twins again. She’d already made it clear that she didn’t want to see Serena or the twins in Logan’s room again. When they got to the door, Serena knocked lightly. The voices muffled behind the door stopped. “Come in,” Logan called. Serena took a deep breath and pushed the door open. Immediately, Olivia and Oliver ran in, cheerily saying hi to Logan. Holly sneered, walking backwards to get out of their way as they ran at the table. “You came back,” Logan said, smiling. “Yes,” Holly said moodily, crossing her arms and rolling her eyes. Serena remained by the door. She shut it, but stayed back. She had nothing left to say to Logan, but she was there because she had told him he wasn’t going to be alone with her kids until she could trust him again. “We drew all kinds of pictures today,” Olivia said. Oliver took his backpack off and pulled the zipper open. A whole pile of pages fell out onto the bed, scattering around. Logan laughed. “Ugh, playing family with kids that aren’t even yours, again,” Holly sneered. Logan didn’t respond, but Serena glared at Holly. She didn’t like how Holly was so rude and made assumptions about her and her kids. The fact that Logan was their real father made things more confusing. Holly didn’t know that. If she did, Serena knew she would throw a massive tantrum, one that could get her kicked out of the pack, or worse!

Chapter 72 Jealousy and Drawings Watching Logan look at the pictures the twins had drawn, Serena knew that he was ready to be a father. Whether or not he believed it. She knew, just by watching them, that he had spoken true when he said he would never lose his temper at them. She trusted that to be true, but she didn't want to let go over her anger at him yet. It hadn't been the twins that he had been yelling at or making accusations at. It had been her at the end of his wrath. She would have to forgive him in her own time. Olivia and Oliver were holding up their pictures one at a time, showing Logan what they'd painted. He was very good at guessing too, which was something a parent was good at. It took a parents' eyes sometimes to see what a child drew or painted. "Is this another wolf?" Logan asked Oliver. "I like the wolves," Oliver said. "I want to be one." "You will be, someday," Logan assured. "And this one is you," Olivia said, holding up a picture. Logan's brow creased. Serena chuckled, she imagined that Olivia's rendition of other people wasn't quite accurate. "Who else is in this picture?" Logan asked, pointing to other figures on the paper. "That's me, running around as a wolf," Olivia said. "An Oliver."

"Who's that?" Logan asked, pointing to the final figure. "That's mommy," Olivia said. Holly went over to the bed and looked at the picture. Her eyes darkened and she snatched the picture away from Olivia. "Hey!" Serena snapped, stepping forward to come between Holly and Olivia. "Why do your kids think you and Logan are so close?" she asked, waving the page in front of Serena's face. Serena looked at the image, seeing that Olivia had drawn her and Logan with their arms around each other. It was an innocent enough drawing for a young child. The fantasy of their mother and her friend. Serena sighed, shaking her head. "Kids will be kids," she said. "They don't see things how we see them." Holly scoffed and tossed the drawing back on the bed. "This is why I don't think you should be spending so much time with them," Holly snapped at Logan. Serena went to the end of the bed so she wasn't standing between Holly and Logan. She beckoned the kids towards her, and they crawled to the end of the bed. "They are already getting confused, thinking that you and Serena are together or something." Holly said, putting her hands on her hips. "Holly, kids don't understand adult relationships," Serena defended. "It is nothing to get so upset about." "Can we read now?" Olivia asked. Serena shook her head, silencing her child. "Really, Holly, they're just kids," Logan said.

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Chapter 72 Jealousy and Drawings

"You're siding with her now too?" Holly asked, pointing an accusing finger at Serena. "Oliver, why don't you get your drawings and your backpack" Serena said. "It is time we should be going." "Yea, it is long past," Holly spat at them. Shyly, Oliver got off the bed. Logan handed him the pictures, and he put them back in his backpack. Once again, Serena felt like she needed to get away! The twins' attachment to Logan was just going to aggravate Holly more. It wasn't good for her and her baby, and it wasn't good for the

twins to be around. "I'm sorry our visit was cut short, again," Logan told the twins. "We will read together again, soon." "Promise?" Olivia asked, crawling up the bed to hug him. "I promise" he said. Oliver went to the side of the bed and Logan ruffled his hair. "You should probably get going, now," Holly said, speeding their departure along. Serena sighed, taking her kids' hands and heading out of the room. "Thank you for bringing them by," Logan asked. Serena nodded, but she didn't turn around. She made a mental note to herself to make sure Holly wasn't around the next time Logan saw the twins. Although, she imagined that the closer Holly got to having her baby, the more she would be around Logan and the more she would cling to him. "What do you think about taking a little trip?" Serena asked the kids as they headed home. "A trip where?" Olivia asked.

"To stay with my parents for a little while," Serena said. "Without you?" Oliver asked sadly. Serena chuckled.

"No, no, all of us, as a family," she said.

"Can Logan come?" Olivia asked. Serena sighed. She couldn't tell her children that one of the reasons she wanted to leave was because she wanted to get away from Logan. "Logan isn't a part of our family," Serena said. "He is a good friend, but there is a difference between friends and family."

"Can he be part of our family?" Olivia asked. Serena didn't answer right away. It was a lie to tell her kids that Logan wasn't part of their family. He was their father! She couldn't tell them that without it getting back to him though, so she had to keep playing the part of them thinking he was just a friend "Logan has his own family with Flo, and Holly, and the baby that they are going to have," she explained. "Can we all be a family together?" Oliver asked, looking up at his mother hopefully...

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Chapter 72: Jealousy and Drawings

Serena smiled at them.

She would love nothing more to be a complete family with their father, but she'd never want Holly to be a part of that. "I didn't think you liked Holly," Serena said. "She can't be part of our family." Oliver said firmly. Serena hid her smile. Her kids were good at picking up on things like who was nice and who wasn't. "Well, then, Logan can't be part of our family, because his family is with Holly," she said. Both the kids became sullen the rest of the walk home. She felt bad for letting them down, for dashing their hopes that Logan could be part of their family. Technically, he was their family, but as long as Holly was in the picture, Serena had no intention of combining them.

It made a complicated situation more complicated, because if Logan ever found out the truth, she knew he would never forgive her! “So, do you want to go see my parents for a while?” Serena asked. “And Uncle Santino?” Olivia asked. “Yes, absolutely,” Serena confirmed. “That sounds like fun,” Oliver admitted.

“I think it would be too,” Serena said. The twins ran inside to wash up for dinner. Whatever Dana made smelled amazing all the way out on the porch!

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Chapter 73

Chapter 73: Carson's Inquiry

Carson stopped by to visit and check on Logan while Serena was discharging him from the hospital. “How are you holding up?” Carson asked Logan while he signed the discharge papers. Serena sat behind the front desk, waiting for Logan to pass her the papers back. “I’m much better,” he said. Serena gave him a one over. He was breathing easier, and the bandages were off his neck and throat. Even though he was dressed, she knew that his chest was still bandaged underneath. His breathing was smooth and even, and his voice wasn’t as raspy anymore, but he wasn’t fully healed yet. “You still have to take it easy,” Serena reminded him. Logan nodded at her. “I will” he said. She wasn’t convinced by his casual tone. “Logan, I’m serious,” she said. “You were very badly injured. Just because you can walk and can leave here, doesn’t mean you are out of the woods.” “I’ll be careful,” he assured. Carson winked at Serena. “I will look after him,” the Beta said. “Good, he needs it,” Serena said firmly. She was still being cold to Logan, but as his doctor, she had to make sure that he was going to take care of himself and be okay. “I don’t need to be babysat,” Logan said. “I’m just going to go home and get some rest.” Logan departed, but Carson remained behind. Serena watched Logan nervously to see if he would react to Carson remaining with her and talking to her. “This is risky,” Serena said, smiling at him. “Why you think Logan will get mad again?” Carson asked. “I’m sure he learned his lesson.” Serena shrugged, collecting the paperwork and bringing it to the nurse’s station to file. Carson followed her. She felt his eyes on her. It was clear that he had something more he wanted to say or talk about. “Something else on your mind?” she asked, sitting at the nurse’s station and opening up some files on her computer.

“I was just wondering about what happened the night Logan was attacked,” Carson said.

"You saw him, you saw what happened" Serena said absently. She had some lab results to look up on her computer and match to the files of some other patients, part of her daily work "That's not what I meant," he said. Serena looked up and raised an eyebrow at him.

"What do you mean then?" he asked

Chapter 73 Carson's Inquiry "When I came to your house, you were already awake," he said. "When I told you something had happened, you didn't seem particularly surprised." Serena sighed. She hadn't wanted to talk to Carson about that, or anyone. The reality was, based on his strong scent when she'd encountered Logan in his wolf form – while she was hiding – and the reaction she had to him being injured, she was starting to consider the possibility that Logan was her mate.

All the pieces fit, but she didn't want to say anything or make a big deal out of it when she didn't know for sure. She also didn't know if she wanted to know. Not with the complicated place their relationship was in, and not with the fact that he was going to have a baby with another female.

She hadn't really let herself think about it, but now that Carson was asking questions, she thought maybe others were starting to notice it too. "I couldn't sleep," she said. "The twins had a long day."

"Really?" Carson asked. Serena nodded. "You just seemed like you were waiting for bad news, or something." Serena closed her eyes and sighed. "Sometimes, as a doctor, I wake up in the middle of the night worrying," she said keeping things as vague as possible. "It is an occupational hazard. Especially with Moonshine attacks becoming more frequent." "That seems awfully convenient," Carson said, resting his elbow on the nurse's station and giving Serena a suspicious look. "Carson, I have a lot of work to do," she said. "I don't know what you are fishing for." "I just want to know if something is going on between you and Logan," he said. Groaning, Serena shut the computer off and faced Carson. "Is this some more jealous male crap?" she asked. Carson chuckled and shook his head.

"No, no," he said, holding up his hands in surrender. "I'm not asking out of jealousy. I'm asking out of curiosity." Serena shook her head, but she smiled at Carson.

"Logan has been a very involved Alpha," she said. "For whatever reason, he has taken a liking to my kids and has taken an interest in my well-being, even when it is hard on his own relationship." "That is strange," Carson muttered.

"If you say so," Serena said with a casual shrug. She didn't want to make a big deal out of nothing. She also didn't want anyone else to make a big deal out of it.

"You don't think it is unusual?" Carson pressed. Serena shrugged.

"I don't have a good frame of reference," she said. "I haven't seen him interact with 2/4

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Chapter 73 Carson's Inquiry anyone else transferring in. Although, he is having a baby with someone who is from another pack, so it seems like he enjoys being there for new transfers." Carson chuckled, leaning on the nurse's station again. His smile was warm, but Serena had a feeling it was meant to be more suggestive. With how busy she had been, and stressed about the situation with Logan, she wasn't entirely receptive to his flirting. "You make a good point," he said with a nod. "Yes, I do," Serena said, giving him a playful smile to keep the mood from getting too serious.

"Still, I think it is weird that you'd wake up worried about your job the same night that Logan was viciously attacked. Between that and his reaction to thinking we were involved..." Carson trailed off when Serena glared at him. "I don't pretend to understand what the Alpha's moods are about," she said. "I've always known he has a short temper, and that means whatever sets him off isn't usually the core of his anger." "I suppose that is true too," Carson said, sighing. Serena didn't like how Carson was prying. She had deflected everything, and told Carson she had work to do, but he kept pushing for answers.

"I think you're looking for answers that aren't there," she said, grinning at him. Carson grinned back and gave a one shouldered shrug. "I don't know," he said. "Logan did tell me about running into a wolf he'd never smelled before, and how it was totally breathtaking."

"Logan has never run into me in my wolf form," Serena argued. It was a lie, but Logan didn't know it was her, so Carson didn't need to know either. "He did say he never discovered her identity," Carson drawled. "You were still pretty new to the pack at the time." Serena sighed.

"Don't you think that if I smelled Logan in his wolf form and had the same reaction he had to his mystery wolf, I would have said something...before Holly got pregnant?" she asked, raising an eyebrow. Carson laughed, rolling his eyes at Serena. Truth be told, she probably wouldn't have spoken up, even if Logan hadn't been dating someone else. Her twins were still the most important thing to her, and if Logan couldn't handle being a dad, or he didn't think he was ready, or his anger was out of control, there was no way she could admit to whatever connections they had. "There's a lot that needs figuring out, Serena," Carson said. "You're either deflecting efficiently, or you are blissfully ignorant." He chuckled again. "Maybe you should do as you promised and check up on Logan," she said. Carson nodded and headed out of the hospital. Serena didn't like how curious he was about her relationship, or lack of relationship,

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Chapter 73 Carson's Inquiry with Logan. She knew she couldn't hide it forever, but things were still too complicated. Until she found a way to uncomplicate things, if that was possible, she had to hold her tongue.

Carson's curiosity was just another reason that Serena thought she should get away for a bit. The kids could benefit from spending time with their grandparents and Santino. She wanted to see her family too.

A break from Logan, Holly, and Carson would also help. She turned the computer back on and submitted a formal 'time off' request in the employee portal. Going back to Starseeker would prevent Carson from digging deeper. It would hopefully fade from his mind by the time she returned.

Serena picked up her clipboard and stethoscope to finish her rounds for the day. She'd been in the hospital so much lately, between the renovations and the Moonshine attacks, she felt like she spent more time there than with her kids sometimes. She loved her job, she loved helping others, but she needed to take some time to help herself and help her family, her kids.

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Chapter 74

Chapter 74: Going Home

"You're really leaving us?" Adriana asked, stopping by to see Serena before her shift ended. Serena smiled. "You got my time off request?" she asked. Adriana nodded. "I did," she said. "I've got to admit, I'm not all that surprised." "I'm sorry it was short notice. Why isn't it a surprise?" Serena asked, falling into step beside Adriana as they headed to the locker room. It was the end of the day, time to shower, change and go home. "Your work with Logan was top notch, but I imagine it was pretty stressful too," she said. "I can see why it would be important for you to step away, visit your family, spend some quality time with your kids." "Yes, I think it is needed," Serena said, smiling at her friend. "Honestly, it is more than that. There has been some drama with Holly and Logan, especially with Holly being pregnant and Logan having a relationship with my kids." "Oh, I think everyone who visited Logan's room during recovery is aware of that," Adriana said with a chuckle. "Anyone that was on the floor during his stay is aware of that." Serena's cheeks reddened in frustrated embarrassment. It just furthered her need to get away for a little while. "What about you and Carson, the two of you were spending some time together," Adriana said. "That didn't go south already, did it?" Serena chuckled and shook her head. She opened her locker to get a fresh change of clothes. Adriana's

locker was directly behind hers, so they stood back-to-back. "Carson and I were just spending some time together," Serena said. "It wasn't anything serious or romantic. Though, Logan took it very personally. Another reason I need to step away. I don't know why he feels so possessive over me..." she trailed off. If her suspicions about Logan being her mate were true, then she knew exactly why he was behaving that way. Even if he hadn't put the pieces together yet, he might know it on a subconscious level, a biological level that he wasn't fully aware of. "I don't envy being stuck between Logan and his baby mama, or the Alpha and the Beta," Adriana said with a sigh. "Hence my need to take a step back," Serena said. "I completely understand. Don't worry about the paperwork, I'll take care of it," she assured. "Thank you." Serena said, stripping her clothes off and wrapping herself in a towel. "Just, don't stay away too long, and please call me and update me on anything and everything" Adriana said.

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Chapter 74 Cong Home "I will," Serena said. She headed to the showers to clean herself off and change before going home. When she was done, Adriana was still in the shower. She called a quick goodbye to her friend and boss before collecting her things and heading out. On her way to her car, she called Dana. "Are you home yet?" she asked. "Just getting there," Dana said. "The twins had a long day and are exhausted." "Good," Serena said. If they went to bed early, she could pack for them and they could all leave early in the morning. "I'll get started on dinner when I get there," Dana said. "That is much appreciated," Serena replied. "The kids and I are going to be taking a little vacation starting tomorrow." "Do you need me to come along?" Dana asked, a note of concern in her voice. "Not this time," Serena said. "We are going to visit my parents and brother. I will have more help than I know what to do with." "Great" Dana said with a sigh of relief. "I don't think the daycare would be able to cover for me."

"I understand, it is last minute, but the timing just seemed right. I will see you shortly. I'm on my way home too," she said. "See you soon," Dana said. Serena hung up and got in her car. When she got home, the kids were already eating. Dana made up a plate for Serena,

and she sat down with the kids. They looked tired, but they were always able to muster energy for their mom. "So, what did you do today?" Serena asked. "I played hopscotch," Olivia said. "I drew a huge scotch board!" "That sounds exciting," Serena said. "Did your friends play too?" "Yes, but I beat them all," she said with a satisfied nod. "How about you, Oliver, what did you do today?" Serena asked, turning to her son.

"I drew," he said. "And I played on the slide." Serena looked at Dana. From the sounds of it, Oliver still wasn't making lots of friends or feeling like he fit in very well. When they were done eating, Serena sent the kids upstairs to play until she was done with dinner.

"Is Oliver doing okay at daycare?" she asked. "He is fine," Dana said. "He plays with the other kids when he wants to, but you know him, he likes to be on his own." "I know. I just wonder if I should be worried," she said.

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Chapter 4 Geng Hone

"Not at all," Dana said as she started cleaning up dinner. "He is the quiet artistic type, but that doesn't mean he doesn't have friends or doesn't have fun." Serena nodded, relieved to hear it.

She got the twins in the bathtub while Dana finished cleaning up and started packing their things. "Remember how we talked about going to see Grandma and Grandpa?" Serena asked them. "Are we going?" Olivia asked excitedly. Serena nodded. "Yes, we are going to leave tomorrow," she said. "Before you go to bed, I want you to grab any toys, games, books, or art supplies you want to bring with us." Olivia stood up in the tub, dripping with soap and water. She tried to get out, but Serena stopped her. "After your bath," she said, encouraging Olivia to sit back down again. Olivia glared at her mother, but she complied. "Will Uncle Santino be there?" Oliver asked. "Of course," Serena said. "He will want to see the two of you, and he'll have lots of games to play." "Good, he is a lot of fun," Olivia said with a nod.

Serena finished their baths and sent them off to collect the things they wanted to bring with them. She hadn't given Adriana a firm return date, so she knew the kids would need plenty to keep them occupied. Not that her mother and father would let the kids get bored. They would provide all the entertainment, toys, and games needed.

When the kids were packed, Serena went to their rooms to tuck them in. Olivia and Oliver were so tired, they didn't even ask to be read too. Serena tucked them in and kissed them goodnight, grabbing their suitcases and bringing them downstairs. She packed her own bags and set them by the door too. Dana was enjoying a cup of tea in the living room. "I'm sorry for the short notice," Serena said. "Please, don't worry about it," Dana said, pulling a knitting project from her purse. "I've got plenty to keep myself busy." "Good," Serena said. She sat on the couch beside Dana. "I heard you had a rough few days at the hospital," Dana said, giving Serena the space to talk about it. "Having the Alpha mortally wounded and his life literally being in my hands alone...that was stressful" she admitted. "He pulled through, though, and I know I did everything I could for him."

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Chapter 34 (Mig Home)

"Is that why you are taking time off?" Dana asked. Serena sighed. "I'm due for a break," she said. "My parents want to see the kids, and I've hardly spent any time at home since I returned from the human world." "It sounds like the timing is right, then." Dana said, agreeing with one of her statements from earlier.

Serena headed to bed shortly after. She knew she wouldn't start feeling relief until there was enough physical distance between her and Night Sky that she could leave all her troubles behind, at least for a little while. Although she was tired, she kept tossing and turning while she was trying to sleep, thoughts running through her head. Carson's questioning had really bothered her. She didn't want anyone else in the pack to become suspicious of things with her and Logan.

Holly had suspicions. Serena could chalk those up to jealousy, but if Carson was noticing something too...she shook her head and rolled over again. She had just wanted to return to pack life, have a normal job, raise her kids around friends and family! She hoped that spending time with her parents and her own family would help give her a clearer picture of what she wanted to do with the knowledge that she had. Logan was in a particularly volatile situation, between Moonshine, Holly, their baby. His outburst at her had shown just how stressed he was becoming. She didn't want to burden him with more. It was just another excuse to avoid telling him the truth.

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Chapter 75

Chapter 75: Fallout

Logan woke up to his phone ringing. He had gone home and just went back to resting. Being out of the hospital was a relief, but he still wasn't up to his full strength. Most of the exterior wounds had healed, and he was able to breathe, talk, and stand, but he was still feeling a little sore and weak from the attack. Feeling around on his bed, he couldn't find the phone and it kept vibrating more and more viciously. Groaning, he finally opened his eyes and threw pillows off the bed until he found the device.

He wanted to be angry at whoever was calling him so early, but his screen showed him that it was Serena calling. Sighing, he mastered his frustration. He didn't want her to be even more wary of him and his temper! "Hello," he said into the phone. "Logan did I wake you?" she asked, her voice concerned. Logan sighed. "Yes, but I should be getting up anyway," he said. "I've got a lot of work to catch up on."

"I'm sure Carson handled it while you were in the hospital," she said. Logan swallowed the instinctive growl that rose in his throat. He still didn't like that she spoke of Carson so familiarly. "Yes, he knows what to do." Logan forced the words out. "I know it is early," Serena went on. "I wanted to let you know that the kids and I are leaving for a while." "Leaving?" Logan asked, sitting up the rest of the way. He pushed his covers back and got up, finding a t-shirt to throw on. "Sorry, that sounded final." Serena said with a chuckle. "Olivia, Oliver, and I are going back to Starseeker for a while. We haven't spent much time with my family, and I think it would be good for all of us." The way she said 'all of us,' Logan knew that she was referring to her too. He nodded, even though she couldn't see him. She was probably right. He had to focus on the pack and Moonshine. He also had to focus on mending bridges with Holly and preparing for the baby. "I think that is a good idea," he said slowly. The words almost stuck in his throat. He really didn't want her to go!

There was so much left unsaid and undone. His dream still haunted him, and he felt like he hadn't even started to thank her for saving his life! He hadn't been able to earn back her trust or even her forgiveness. Logan still had a lot of confusing thoughts and feelings towards her. He wondered if

that would settle and go away in her absence or if it would get harder for him. "I wanted to let you know personally," she said, "Adriana and Dana know, obviously, but circumstances being what they are..." she trailed off. "I appreciate the call" Logan said. He grunted as he pulled his t-shirt on. His ribs still a little sore. "I also wanted to call to remind you to take it easy," she said. "You heal fast, but you're still in a fragile state." Logan chuckled. "Fragile, am I?" he asked playfully. Serena giggled on the line. Logan smiled, glad that he could still get that reaction from her.

"For another few days, at least," she said. "I won't be there to save you again, so be careful." There was true concern and sentiment behind Serena's teasing. "Thank you." Logan said. "I will take your advice to heart." "I'll let you know when we are coming back," she said. "Please do," Logan said. They said their goodbyes and Serena hung up. When he put his phone down, the news of her departure really sunk in! Sighing, Logan sat back down on the edge of his bed. He felt like all the warmth in his body was sucked away, his strength with it. She hadn't said when she would be back, and she'd made it sound like she was going to be gone for a while. Logan understood she wanted to spend time with her family, but he felt like there was a lot more to it than that.

There had been an undertone in her words, something implying she needed space from him. He couldn't help but take that personally! "Babe, you're awake," Holly said, coming into the bedroom. She looked around at the mess of pillows and blankets Logan had made, but she didn't attempt to pick them up or do anything domestic. Holly had never been the type to do housework. Even when Logan was recovering from a deadly injury and major surgery, she couldn't be bothered to help out around the house.

Getting off the bed again, Logan picked up the pillows and blankets, wincing each time he bent down.

"Yes, I'm awake," he said. "It is so early," she said. "You could have slept in." That was her attempt to be sympathetic towards Logan's injuries. "I'm fine," Logan said, throwing the pillows and blankets back on the bed. "Were you on the phone?" Holly asked. Her voice was innocent enough, but Logan knew that she was fishing for information. Sighing, he put his slippers on and headed down to the kitchen. Holly followed right

"Yea, pack business," he said dismissively. Holly scoffed. "We are going to have a baby together, Logan," she said. "I'll be your Luna someday, that means you can tell me about pack business." Logan sighed. He hadn't considered making Holly his Luna, even though she was pregnant with his baby. That was a whole other conversation for another day. He wasn't willing to fight with her on it, though. "Serena is going back to Starseeker to stay with her family for a while," he said. He didn't confirm that it was Serena on the phone, hoping that Holly would assume it was Adriana. Starting his day with an argument, when he still wasn't feeling his best, wasn't what he wanted.

"Oh, she is?" Holly asked. Logan looked over his shoulder at Holly. She was smiling widely, both hands on her stomach. "Yes," Logan said. He offered no other details. Usually, Holly would pry for more, but her big smile told Logan that she didn't care about anything except that Serena was gone. "How long will she be gone?" Holly asked. Logan shrugged and continued onto the kitchen.

He was getting himself some breakfast and Holly took a seat at the table, waiting for his answer. "I guess she hasn't confirmed a return date, yet," he said with another shrug. Holly's smile widened even more. "Wow, that just made my day," Holly said. Logan paused in his eating. "Why?" he asked, raising an eyebrow at her. "Well, she is always meddling and getting in the way of things," Holly said. "First she demands bloodwork from me when her lab was the one that screwed up, then she's always hanging around you with her kids, like you owe them something." Logan suppressed an eye roll, not wanting Holly to think he was upset by Serena's departure. He was upset, though. It bothered her that he was part of the reason she was leaving and he couldn't even talk to her about it!

"I don't think that is her intention," Logan said casually. Holly sneered.

"Yea, that's because you aren't a female," she said. "We pick up on things like that. Subtle intentions, hidden desires." Logan stopped mid-chew, again, and looked up at Holly. "Hidden desires?" he asked, tilting his head to the side slightly. Holly rolled her eyes. "Don't get too excited," she warned. "Serena took off, she left everything behind." "It isn't like she ran away, she will come back," Logan assured. Holly shrugged. "Whatever," she said. "As long as I get a break from her. Speaking of, are you actually going to start focusing on me and our baby?" "I will," Logan said with a single nod. "I have a lot to catch up on with the pack since I've been in the hospital." "Carson has been handling that," Holly said with a dismissive wave. Logan nodded.

"True, I need to be updated on everything that happened, and it is time to begin focusing on how we are going to deal with Moonshine and their attacks," he explained.

Holly scoffed. "That is boring," she said. "Your baby is so important to the pack, why can't that be your focus?" "It is part of my focus," Logan said. He shook his head and went back to eating. Holly wanted to know about the pack business, but then she got bored with it or thought it unimportant. Could Logan make her Luna? She was pregnant with his child, but that didn't mean she had to become Luna. He couldn't very well put another female in that position though, not when they were still together and raising a baby. He didn't want to think about it! Moonshine was the most pressing threat to the pack, and that was what he had to resolve first. The rest could be fixed later.

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Chapter 76: Fishing

Serena woke up early to the sounds of her mother making something in the kitchen. Her parents had been overwhelmed with joy when Serena asked if she could come stay with them for a while. Since she'd arrived, she'd spent more time with her brother than she had since she was a child, and her parents had kept the kids occupied almost every minute of the day. Serena had nothing but play time with them. Thomas and Charlotte took care of the cooking and the house, and her mom even did her laundry! Part of her felt like she was a kid again, herself. She was greatly enjoying having the quality time with her whole family, not having to worry about the pack or emergencies, or when Logan might do something else strange. Stretching, Serena looked out her bedroom window. She groaned. The sun had barely started to rise! Dragging herself out of bed, she went down to the kitchen, finding her father with his fishing pole and tackle box. The kids were at the breakfast table eating and there were two new kid's fishing poles next to them. "Oh good, you're up." Thomas said, winking at her. "Going fishing?" Serena asked, taking the coffee her mother handed her. It was an automatic gesture every time she entered the kitchen in the mornings now. "That was the plan, why else would we be up so early?" Thomas asked her. Serena chuckled. "Want to come, mommy? We got new fishing poles!" Olivia said. "I see that," Serena said. "I could use a day on the lake." "Great," her father said. "I still have your old fishing gear." Serena raised an eyebrow. "I'm sure I've outgrown that," she said. Laughing from behind her, Santino entered the kitchen, getting his own cup of coffee. "You can barrow mine, sis," he said, patting her on the back as he walked past her. "Thanks," she said. "But, weren't you planning to go?" she looked at the clothing Santino was wearing. He had clearly been gearing up to go out on the boat. "I'll go next time," he assured. "Have a day on the water with your kids." "Okay," she said with a smile. Serena went upstairs and quickly changed into clothes that were appropriate for fishing. She sighed, taking a quick look at herself in the mirror She hadn't been fishing in a long time! Although Serena really loved her life in Night Sky, she had forgotten just how amazing

it was to be in a household filled with family. With just her, the kids, and Dana, it wasn't the same. At her parents' house, there was always warm food available, plenty to do, all kinds of warm hugs and friendly smiles. Everyone always had advice, and they way they all learned to move around each other in a perpetual, graceful dance. She missed that. Even Santino's gesture of letting her go fishing instead...she missed that closeness! The kids had never been on a boat before, and they were thrilled to speed through the waters until they got to the best fishing grounds. Thomas slowed the boat way down so they wouldn't scare the fish as they approached. "Go fast again," Olivia said. "We will go fast on the way back," Thomas assured her. Already, the twins were damp with spray from the motor. Serena shook her head, laughing at them.

"Want to learn how to bait your hooks?" Serena asked, opening the tub of nightcrawler worms they'd got as bait. The twins each held out their rods to her.

"Be very careful, kids," Thomas said, "those hooks are sharp. Never touch one, okay? If you need something, get your mother or me." "Okay," the twins mumbled. "That's right. Don't wave them around, either," Serena warned. "Always make sure no one is next to you when you drop your line. You don't want someone else to get hurt with your hook." The twins nodded. "Those are worms," Olivia said, making a face as Serena pulled one out. "Fish like worms," she said. Thomas handed her a knife and Serena swiftly cut the worm in half.

"Eww," Olivia said.

"It's okay, the worm can't feel anything," Serena said. "Now, you just put the worm on the hook like this..." she showed them. "Can I go next?" Olivia asked. Serena shook her head. "You let me or Grampy bait your hooks today, okay?" she said firmly. Olivia nodded. Once the twins had their lines in the water, Serena sat in the seat next to her father. She turned it so she could watch them while also keeping her line in the water.

The lake was calm, perfectly mirroring the forest around them on its glassy surface. A low mist hung around the shoreline. There weren't any other boats on the water this morning. "If I catch a fish, can I bring it to show Uncle Logan?" Olivia asked, looking over at her mother. "Maybe you should just draw a picture of it for him," Serena said. "We can also take pictures of you with your fish."

"Okay. I'll catch the biggest fish for him!" she said. "No, I'll catch the biggest fish!" Oliver argued. The competition was on! Serena laughed, looking over at her father. "Logan, the Alpha of Night Sky?" he asked. She nodded. "The kids have grown quite attached to him," she explained. "For some reason, he has taken it upon himself to be involved in their lives." "That's good, isn't it?" Thomas asked. "Having someone to help out." Serena shrugged. "He is having a baby with another woman," Serena said. "I don't want them to get too attached only to have him..." she trailed off.

"It doesn't sound like he is the type to abandon something he has committed to," her father said. "I've had enough dealings with him to know he is a good man." "Mommy, I think I got something!" Olivia cried, jumping up and down. Thomas grabbed the net and Serena ran to her daughter's side. "Okay, reel it in nice and slow," she said. "You definitely got a fish on that line!"

They reeled in the fish and Thomas scooped it into the net. While Olivia and Oliver watched with glee, Thomas took the hook out of the fish's mouth. "Hold it up like this." Thomas said, showing Olivia out to hold the fish's lip so it dangled down. Serena stepped back and took a picture of Olivia with her fish.

"Okay, now throw it back into the water," Serena said. "Why?" Olivia asked. "I want to take it home and keep it." Serena laughed. "The fish belongs in the lake," Serena said. Olivia pouted, but she threw the fish back. "I really wanted to show Logan," she muttered. Oliver caught a fish next. He got his picture with the fish, but just after the shot was snapped, the fish wriggled and Oliver dropped it. It flopped around on the boat floor. Both the kids screamed and ran around, rocking the boat. Thomas captured the fish in the net again and tossed it back into the water. Serena had to hide her laughs as her kids clung to her. "That was exciting." Thomas said.

"Should we call it a day?" Serena asked. The sun was getting high enough that the fish would retreat deeper into the water. A breeze had picked up too, shattering the glassy lake surface.

"Good idea," Thomas said, starting the boat engine again and taking off. "When can we see Logan again?" Oliver asked, resting his head on Serena's lap. "We'll see him soon," Serena said with a sigh. She knew how much her kids missed him. They asked about him every day. It bothered her a little to see just how muc

they missed him. Already they were so attached! If she was being perfectly honest with herself, Serena would say she missed Logan too. She hadn't noticed it first, but it crept up on her at night, his face being one of the last things she thought of before sleep. She hadn't thought anything of it at first, but as time went by, she knew it was because she missed him. Was that further proof that he was her mate? She didn't know. Whatever it meant, she couldn't do anything about it. Even if he was her mate, would he abandon Holly and their baby? Serena thought it was better not to know.

When they got back to the house, the kids ran inside to tell Charlotte about their fishing adventure. Serena met Santino on the porch. "What has you so glum?" he asked her. Serena gave him an innocent look, but he was her twin. He would always know what she was feeling. "I just miss home..." she trailed off. Santino smirked at her. "You mean you miss someone at home," he said. Serena rolled her eyes. "Come on, you can tell me." Serena shook her head. "It is far too complicated to verbalize," she said. "Well, at least let me help you take your mind off it?" Santino asked handing her a glass of wine. Serena smiled. "Perfect," she said. She sat on the porch swing beside her brother, indulging in an afternoon glass of wine. They had a good view of the lake from where

they sat. Santino put his arm over her shoulders. "When you do need to tell someone, I'm here for you," he said. "I know," Serena said. "Thank you."

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Chapter 77: Missing the Kids

Another morning dawned, and Logan woke up staring at his ceiling. He listened to the rest of the house, noting how desolate and quiet it was. Serena and the twins had moved out a while ago, but he still waited to hear the sound of the twins' footsteps pounding down the halls or the sounds of their hushed giggles from inside his closet. There was nothing. Since Serena had taken them back to Starseeker, he had been listening more intently every morning, just hoping to hear a sound of them. It was silly, wishing for them to be there when he knew they weren't. In his mind, he had this fantasy of waking up one morning to hear them running through his house, like Serena had come back and brought them to see him first thing.

Thinking he was going crazy, Logan sat up and stretched. Holly was still asleep. He had been careful not to disturb her in the mornings. She'd become so high maintenance since telling him about the pregnancy. Even before, Logan would have considered her high maintenance, now she had gone off the charts! He couldn't really blame her, the whole time she'd been pregnant, he'd been colder to her. He had pushed her away, too confused about his own thoughts and feelings. On top of that, he had been spending more time with Serena and the twins, chasing down false ideas of Serena being with another man. Of course, Holly had reason to be high maintenance. It didn't make Logan feel any better, though. If anything, it made his relationship with her more strained.

He knew he had to do right by her, because he had equally contributed to the pregnancy. No matter how he felt about it, he had decided he wasn't going to leave his own child without a father. Heading to the kitchen, he got himself some coffee and breakfast. Flo was sitting in the living room, laughing at something. Logan joined his mother. "What's so funny?" he asked, seeing his mother sitting on the couch with her phone. "Oh, I just got a few pictures from Serena," she said, handing her phone over. Logan smiled as he saw the pictures of the kids holding fish. It looked like they were on a boat fishing. "Why is she sending them to you?" Logan asked, raising an eyebrow at his mother as he handed the phone back. "I asked her to keep me updated while she was away," Flo said. "Why?" Logan asked. Flo shrugged. "I like those kids," she said. "Besides, Serena is a member of this pack. She might hail from Starseeker, but she

belongs here, now. I wanted to make sure she was doing alright. Her sudden departure was...unexpected.”

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“For you.” Logan grumbled. “What was that?” his mother asked. He shrugged. “I lost my temper on her, she thought it was best to get the kids away for a while,” he admitted with a sigh. He sat down next to his mother. “I’ve told you that temper of yours is no friend,” Flo pointed out. “I know,” Logan said, shaking his head. “Well, at least it looks like they are keeping busy and having fun,” she said. She scrolled to the next picture and burst out laughing again. She tilted her phone towards Logan, and he grinned at the picture. It showed a blurry Oliver jumping away from a fish that had wiggled out of his hands. Logan felt a pang of sadness strike him. He wished he could have been there with them to see that in person! “Those kids do have something,” Flo said. “It was like they brought a whole new life to the pack.” “Don’t all kids do that?” Logan asked. Flo shrugged. “I think it takes a special kind of child to win the hearts of everyone they meet...almost anyone,” she said. Her eyes drifted upwards. Logan knew she was referring to Holly.

“I wonder why they are so charismatic to everyone here,” Logan said, thinking aloud. Flo shrugged again. Her subtle smirk told Logan she had a few theories of her own, but his mother was unlikely to share even if he pried. Since day one, the twins had belonged. They had slipped right into Night Sky as if they had always been there. Logan had the strangest though blossom in his mind. Serena didn’t know who their father was. At least, she said he wasn’t in the picture. Maybe there was a reason she had come to Night Sky instead of returning to Starseeker. If she was looking for their father, or hoping to find him... If the twins were related to someone from Night Sky, Logan thought that could be one reason they fit right in and felt like they belonged. A connection through blood would be very strong, whether they knew it or not. Some werewolf instincts went much deeper than normal perception. “It is okay to miss them,” Flo said. “I know they aren’t part of our family, but they are still part of the pack.” “I know,” Logan said. “I’m rather fond of them. I have my own child to think about, though.” “Right,” his mother said with another one of her suggestive undertones. Whatever she thought she knew, Logan was deadly curious. “What is that supposed to mean?” he asked. She gave him an innocent look. “Nothing,” she said. “You’re right, you do have your own child to worry about. I hope you never forget that.”:

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Flo’s deeper meaning was lost on Logan for the time being,

"I won't," he assured "Logan?" Holly called to him from upstairs, sighing, he left his mother and went to see what she needed

"What is it?" he asked from the bottom of the stairs. "Can you bring me breakfast?" she asked. Her voice was soft, sweet even. She did that when she wanted something. Logan rolled his eyes. "Sure," he said. Breakfast in bed was one of Holly's newest demands, almost every morning. Logan tried to be out of the house and at his office as often as possible to avoid waiting on her when she woke up. In the kitchen, he methodically put together breakfast for her. She was still too early in her pregnancy to be showing, but Logan had noticed she hadn't been experiencing

other symptoms like morning sickness, cravings, or anything. He had noticed that she had become much more temperamental and quicker to anger. She'd also become more demanding. If Logan tried to deny her anything, she would get all fussy and claim he didn't care about her or their baby.

She had said more than once that he needed to step up and take care of their child. It wasn't even born yet, and already, she had him going above and beyond taking care of her and the small fetal clump of cells.

Logan knew it could be hormones that were making her act that way, so he tried to ignore most of it.

When he brought breakfast to her, he found Holly wearing lacy lingerie. She bit her lower lip and patted the bed beside her. Logan set her breakfast down. "I have to get to the office," he said, blowing off her attempts at seduction. "Seriously?" Holly asked, her sultry look becoming harsh in an instant. "You're always working! You never have time for me anymore." "I also have a rival pack breathing down my neck and wanting to kill us, steal our resources, and take over our territory," he reminded her. "I have a lot of priorities to juggle. I made you breakfast, though." Holly sneered, grabbing the sheet and covering her over-exposed body. Clearly, the request for breakfast was just a ploy to get him upstairs so she could attempt to seduce him

"I'm not even hungry, anymore," she said, crossing her arms and turning away from

"Holly, you have to eat something," Logan argued. "It isn't good for the baby." She scoffed

"So now you do care?" she asked "Of course, I care," he said sharply "I have a pack to manage and can't be here every

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second of the day. I wish I could, but I can't right now." Holly sniffled,

Logan could tell that her tears and crying were fake. She did that a lot now too, and he was better at determining whether her tears were real or fake. When she couldn't get a rise out of him with anger and bitter remarks, she would try tears.

"Just go!" she snapped. "I didn't realize that being pregnant would make you never want to touch me again!" Logan sighed. He left the room.

He had no idea what she was actually mad about anymore. Was she mad that he had rejected her sexual advances? Was she mad that he had to work to keep the pack safe? Was she mad that he wasn't devoting every moment of his time and attention to her? He couldn't figure her out!

Even though Serena had secrets, Logan felt like he always knew where he stood with her. He realized suddenly that he missed Serena just as much as he missed the twins! It was an odd feeling, making his heart beat faster. How he had missed it, he didn't know. Why he missed her so much...he didn't know.

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Chapter 78: A Meeting of Alpha's

"Another attack?" Thomas asked Serena as they all sat down for lunch. "It has been happening more and more frequently," she admitted. "I've been treating so many wolf bite injuries." "I had no idea Moonshine had gotten so out of control" her father said, shaking his head. "Perhaps we should talk about something else," Charlotte suggested, nodding towards the kids. "Did you tell Grandma about the fish you caught?" Serena asked the kids. They nodded.

When lunch was finished, Serena joined her father and Santino on the back deck. Charlotte was playing with the kids in the yard, so they could talk without being overheard.

"You said Moonshine has been sending in raiding parties?" Thomas asked her. Serena nodded.

"Logan figured out they were doing a systematic raid for resources at the store houses, never hitting one more than once. It helped him anticipate some of the attacks and prevent a lot of damage. Unfortunately...that didn't help him when he was ambushed."

"An Alpha, ambushed?" Santino asked, looking concerned. "He's fine now," Serena said. "I saved his life." She looked down as she spoke, but she felt Santino watching her. Remembering that night was confusing and terrifying. Knowing that the Alpha of her pack would have died without her...it was a responsibility she hadn't been prepared for. She'd handled it better than anyone, but her heart still ached when she thought about how close he had come to death.

"That is a whole new level of seriousness," Thomas muttered.

"Something has to be done, Dad" Serena said. "I'm surprised Logan hasn't reached out to you." "If he won't reach out to me, I'll reach out to him," Thomas said with a nod.

Serena

smiled. She left them to go play with her kids and her father called Logan. Logan heard his office phone ringing while he was still unlocking the door. He hurried to open it and picked up the phone. "Hello?" he asked.

"Alpha Logan?" the masculine voice on the other line asked. Logan thought it sounded familiar, but he couldn't place it.

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"Speaking," he said "This is Alpha Thomas from Starseeker," the other male said. Logan swallowed. He had the irrational fear that Thomas was calling him to tell him something bad had happened to Serena or the kids!

"Thomas, it is good to hear from you," he said, his throat drying up.

"I have recently heard that Moonshine has been giving you a considerable amount of trouble," he said. Logan sighed, partially relieved. "Serena," he muttered. Thomas chuckled.

"Yes, my daughter has given me a full update. I am glad you've recovered under her care," he said. "She is very skilled," he said. "I'd like to meet with you. Come to Starseeker. Santino and I can work with you to come up with an offensive plan against Moonshine," Thomas offered. Logan felt elated at the chance to see Serena and the kids. Also, a chance to put some distance between him and Holly.

"I'll make the arrangements," he said.

"I'd like to surprise my grandkids with your arrival" Thomas added. "They have been missing you." Logan smiled into the phone. His heart tugged pleasantly, knowing they missed him too. He noticed that Thomas didn't say anything about Serena missing him either, though. He wondered if that was because she didn't talk about him like the twins

did. "I'll keep my mouth shut," Logan said. "We'll see you soon." Thomas said. "I'm looking forward to it," Logan said before hanging up. The moment the phone was down, dread filled him. Already, Holly hated that he had to go to his office so much. How would she react to him going to Starseeker to see Serena's family? He couldn't think about it! What mattered was that he was going to meet with Thomas and Santino to come up with a plan in order to combat Moonshine. That was important to his pack, Starseeker, and the Federation! Holly would have to understand

"Are you serious?" Holly asked while Logan was packing. Apparently, he had given her 100 much credit when he thought she would understand.

"Holly, this is pack business," he said. "We can only prevent more Moonshine attacks if we work together with Starseeker. Alpha Thomas and his son Santino are going to be strong allies, and I need their help. Think of the safety of the pack, our home, the future for our baby." Holly huffed, but she sat on the edge of the bed. Logan made a mental note to use that argument more often. Holly couldn't argue if he mentioned the baby's future,

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"I'll just miss you so much," Holly said. "And who will take care of us, protect us?" "My mother will look after you," Logan assured, taking her hand in his. "Carson and the rest of the warriors are ready to defend everyone in the pack to the death, including you and our baby." Holly gave him a weak smile. "You'll hurry back?" she asked, looking at him with big eyes. Logan nodded.

"I'll be back soon," he said. He tried not to look like he was rushing off, but the reality was that he was looking forward to having a break from Holly. Guilt gnawed at his stomach for even thinking that! He couldn't help it. He had been missing Serena and the twins, with no way to see them or talk to them, and suddenly he was being given the opportunity for both!

Logan said goodbye to his mother and he got in his car. It was a few hours to get to Starseeker, so he stepped on the gas and took off. It had been a long time since he had sat down with Alpha Thomas and Santino to discuss Federation matters. Since Moonshine had left the Federation, the packs had somewhat gone back to governing themselves.

Old alliances were fragile and hardly honored anymore. It wasn't a good way to live in such close quarters. Logan had been concerned the Thomas would see him as too young to deal with, that he wouldn't be respected or taken seriously. He had thought Alpha Thomas would look down on him for not being able to defend his own!

That clearly wasn't the case, and Logan was glad Thomas had reached out to him. When Logan arrived at Starseeker, Thomas and Santino were waiting outside in front of the house for him. "Welcome to Starseeker," Thomas said, shaking his hand. "Thank you for inviting me," Logan said with a nod. Santino, Serena's twin, gave him an odd look, but shook his hand. "Come inside," Thomas invited. "We can meet in the living room and talk while the others are out."

"Out?" Logan asked. "Luna Charlotte has taken the kids and Serena out for the afternoon," Thomas explained. "It will give us Alphas time to talk." Logan nodded.

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He was a little disappointed. He'd wanted to see the twins and Serena as soon as he could, but he had to prioritize the pack matters first. Moonshine was the threat and the real reason he was there.

Logan made himself comfortable in the living room.

"You should have reached out to me, the moment these attacks became more than you could handle," Thomas chastised. Logan sighed.

"I know," he said slowly. "I figured you would see me as weak." Thomas scoffed and shook his head,

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Chapter 78 A Meeting of Alpha's "I know the Federation has been greatly weakened, but I still honor the agreement we all made," Thomas said. "I would like to as well," Logan admitted. "I know my father was more involved.." he trailed off. Thomas waved Logan's concerns away. "Your father was a great Alpha, and he taught you everything you need to know about being an Alpha," Thomas assured.

"How have you been able to keep the attacks so quiet?" Santino asked. Logan sighed heavily.

"We keep prisoners," he said. "Anyone who crossed into our territory never makes it out."

"That's ominous," Santino muttered. "I was hoping that eventually they would run out of rogues..." Logan trailed off again, touching the scars on his throat. "Yes, Serena said you had a bad run in with them." Thomas said. Logan nodded. "She saved my life," Logan said, a note of admiration in his voice.

“If Moonshine sent a band of rogues in that were willing to attack and Alpha, they have become far too bold and something must be done,” Thomas said. “It is the same kind of boldness that Alpha Damon showed when he started the unrest that led to his takeover in the first place,” Santino reminded them. “You think he is planning something bigger?” Logan asked. “Like another take over?” “I don’t want to speculate,” Thomas said. “We aren’t going to let it come to that.” Logan nodded. Speaking to other Alphas that understood the responsibility of running a pack and the priorities of pack safety was refreshing to Logan. He regretted not reaching out to them sooner. Clearly, Thomas and Santino could give him the support he’d been lacking from within his own pack! “I don’t like to suggest all-out-war.” Logan trailed off again. “Force could be our advantage when teamed together,” Thomas said, thoughtfully looking at the ceiling. Logan caught Santino giving him another odd look. He turned his eyes to the other male and raised an eyebrow. Santino smirked and looked away.

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Chapter 79: What to do About Moonshine

“All-out-war,” Thomas muttered. “That does have a ominous sound to it.” “Then again, force is all Alpha Damon has ever responded to” Santino said. Logan sighed, looking between the father and son. It made him nostalgic for the days he and his own father worked alongside each other. He wondered if Holly were to have a boy, would he have similar moments with his own son?

“My pack is strong,” Logan assured. “Moonshine has depleted their resources. That already gives us an advantage. With Starseeker on our side, it would only increase our odds.” “But at what cost?” Thomas asked, eyes falling to the floor. Logan crossed his legs. “This is another reason I have been hesitant in seeking your involvement,” he admitted. “Damon and his pack are weakening, but that doesn’t mean they are weak or can’t do plenty of damage.” “I understand your concerns,” Thomas said. “We aren’t going to leave you to handle this yourself, though,” Santino promised. “Alpha Damon crossed a line. He nearly killed you, and it isn’t just petty power grabs anymore, he is endangering the lives of females and pups by raiding your resources.” Logan chuckled, appreciating Santino’s enthusiasm. They were about the same age, so he could relate to Santino on an emotional level. The eagerness to take a stand, the desire to show what he was capable of. One thing Logan had that Santino didn’t was experience. He felt the weight of his experiences rest on his shoulders like added years that Santino didn’t have. “My pack is perfectly well cared for and fed,” Logan assured. “Though, if Moonshine continues, they may not always be.” “Well, not to sound selfish or anything, but my sister and niece and nephew are also at risk with Moonshine coming after your pack,” Santino pointed out. “Yes, Serena’s involvement does give us a personal interest

in the matter,” Thomas echoed the sentiment. “I would never let anything happen to her, to any of them,” Logan promised, sitting up straight and nodding for emphasis. “That is a bold statement to make,” Santino pointed out, raising an eyebrow at Logan. Pursing his lips, Logan crossed his arms over his chest. “Isn’t that what one is supposed to say when someone expresses concern over a loved one?” he asked. Santino smirked at him. “That’s enough,” Thomas said, ending the argument before it started.

“Sorry, Dad” Santino said. Logan didn’t like the way Serena’s brother kept looking at him. It reminded him of how his own mother kept giving him glances and making pointed comments. Santino obviously suspected something that Logan wasn’t aware of. He wondered how much Serena had told her family about him and his recent behavior towards her. It made him uncomfortably suddenly, sitting in the home of a female he’d lost his temper on, made horrible accusations to, and acted like a controlling, possessive jerk!

After all that, she’d still saved his life, and he’d just let her leave without putting up any kind of fight or giving her a genuine apology! He hoped that Thomas and Santino didn’t know all that, that they weren’t judging him or silently seething. Thomas’s comment about wanting to surprise the twins with his presence would lead him to think otherwise...but Santino’s looks and remarks...

Logan sighed, shaking his head to get past the insecurity. “Serena and my pack doctor Adriana have spent time updating our medical facility. All the equipment and supplies has been fully updated and renewed. With my staff and updated facilities, we have the ability to treat and care for any wounded, including any overflow from Starseeker,” he offered. Thomas nodded. “Good,” he said. “We aren’t lacking resources, but if we are going to take on Moonshine directly, it would be easier to set up an encampment within Night Sky territory. Yours does border theirs.” “Yes,” Logan said with a nod. “Probably why we have seen most of the aggression.” “I do apologize for never stepping in or offering a hand before now.” Thomas added. “I honestly didn’t know how bad it had gotten.” “I fear that we were only prolonging the inevitable,” Logan admitted. “The attacks are more frequent and more desperate. If we were to lose any ground at all, they’d be coming here next.” “My fear as well” Thomas admitted. “So, that’s it?” Santino asked. “We are really going to go to war with Moonshine? They were our friends.”

“Were,” Thomas said.

“They left the Federation, remember?” Logan pointed out. “I don’t want to hurt any innocent wolves who are only there because they have nowhere else to go.”

“Then we do this neatly,” Thomas said. “We go straight for Damon and his most loyal underlings. Everyone else is spared, at least until we can discover where their loyalties lie.” “That makes sense” Logan said with a nod. “Anyone who is below Damon or those he trusts most...they won’t have the authority to gather the troops. They will be

too lost and confused to rally enough force to gyercome us before we gain the upper hand.”

“You don’t think Damon has been planning for this or anticipating this for a while!” Santino asked. Logan rolled his tongue around in his mouth as he thought. “I think he is prepared for this,” Logan admitted. “Though, I don’t think he has considered what kind of force we can muster and I don’t think he would anticipate us going directly for him and his most loyal wolves.” “Damon is the type to send underlings to do his dirty work,” Thomas concurred. “He will send the pawns into battle, and we have enough warriors to keep them occupied while we slip in from behind and go directly for him.” “It is a good plan,” Logan said with a nod. He turned towards the front door when he heard a car pull into the driveway. He heard the kids talking along with car doors slamming. They didn’t come through the front door though. The voices faded, and Logan heard them again from the back of the house. He wanted to go out there and see the kids and Serena. His heart practically burned for it! He stared at the door off the living room into the backyard. “Enjoying the scenery?” Santino asked, reminding Logan that he had an audience. He looked back at Santino’s grinning face. “You’ll get your chance to see them,” Thomas added. “I don’t know, it seems like we are done here,” Santino said. “Besides, I want to see Serena’s face when she finds you here.” Logan rolled his eyes. “I doubt she will care much,” Logan muttered, though he was hopeful. Santino laughed and shook his head. “Sure, sure,” he said. “Okay, okay.” Thomas said, jumping in again. “I think we should act on this Moonshine matter immediately.” “Agreed” Logan said. “Fine, fine,” Santino said. “When I go back to Night Sky, you are welcome to join me so we can set up the encampment. You can send for your warriors after that.” “That sounds like a plan” Thomas said. Logan nodded. “Well, now that the boring stuff is out of the way, Logan, what are your intentions for my sister?” Santino asked. Logan raised an eyebrow. “I don’t understand,” he said. “Well, you’ve gotten awfully close to the twins,” Serena’s brother said. “One might think you have...other intentions.” The suggestiveness in Santino’s tone was not lost on Logan. “She saved my life,” Logan said. “I don’t think I could ever repay her for that.” “It sounds like you’ve been interested in her a lot longer than that,” Santino pressed. 3/4

Thomas sighed and left the room. Logan knew that meant the meeting was over, but Santino wasn’t letting him get off so easily. “I helped her out when she transferred in,” Logan said vaguely. “The twins got attached, and I enjoy being around them. Other than that, I’m not sure what you want me to say.” “Alright,” Santino said, not looking convinced. Logan felt himself getting angry. He clenched his fists at his sides to prevent himself from lashing out. “You do know I am involved with another female, right?” he asked. “One who is pregnant with my child?” Santino stopped smiling. “No, I didn’t know that,” he admitted. “Funny how she only comes up now...” Logan growled and rolled his eyes. “I know you have a certain loyalty to your sister, and I think she is a wonderful female; strong, independent, a good mother,” Logan said. “I can’t dwell on anything that might have happened, should circumstances be different.” After talking so much, Logan cleared his throat, touching the scars again. He still wasn’t able to carry on long conversations without his throat going dry. His voice would still strain too easily, and he

couldn't muster the same force in his words as he used to "I understand," Santino said. "Wait here, I'll get you something to drink." Logan nodded.

"Thank you," he said as Santino left for the kitchen. Logan got up and went to the mantle to look at family photos.

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Kids from One Alpha

Chapter 80

Chapter 80: Picture of the Past

The pictures on the mantle were a clear progression of Serena and Santino's childhood. Logan scanned over them, smiling. There were pictures of Serena and Santino out on the boat with their dad, fishing. They were similar to the pictures he had seen of Olivia and Oliver.

Looking at the pictures, Logan felt like he had a window into Serena's past, a part of herself she always kept hidden from him. It was clear from the pictures, though, that their parents put much more focus on Santino, probably because he was going to be the next Alpha

As the siblings got older, Serena was less and less of a focal point for her family. There were fewer pictures of her by herself, and most of them were at events where she had achieved something. Like graduations. When he came across the picture of her at her undergraduate graduation, Logan paused. He picked up the frame to examine it closer. He felt like he'd seen her when

she was younger like that, but he couldn't place where.

"Enjoying a look at our family?" Santino asked, returning with a glass of water. Logan set the picture down and took the water. He drank deeply to sooth his throat before answering.

"I never understood why parents would put a complete photographic history of their families out where everyone could see," Logan said. "It seems a bit invasive." Santino chuckled, putting a hand on one of the frames with him and Serena when they were younger, making a sandcastle at the beach. "Your parents do the same?" he asked. Logan nodded. "Do you know if I've met your sister before, in the past?" he asked the question on his mind. Santino shrugged. "My sister is kind of private," he said. "Even with me sometimes. You know, she always felt like she was 'second best when my

parents focused on me as the next Alpha. It wasn't always easy on our relationship." Logan nodded absently. He'd picked up on that from the pictures. It wasn't uncommon in a family of Alphas for the successor to be considered the 'golden child but Logan could see how that would be harder on twins. Serena was supposed to be Santino's equal in everything. Just like Olivia and Oliver. "I can't shake the feeling that I've met her before," Logan said. "But...I feel like I should remember more clearly, knowing who she is now. She is not very forgettable." Santino chuckled and clapped Logan on the back. "Our packs have intermingled a lot," Santino said. "Especially when we were younger. I'd be surprised if you hadn't run into her before."

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"True," Logan muttered. He sighed, finishing his water. "Look, I don't want to tell you your business or anything, but I know Serena came here to get away from you, at least in part," Santino said. Logan growled under his breath and pulled away from the other male. He didn't need to be reminded of that fact! He felt guilty suddenly, standing in her parents' living room while she was just outside, and she had no idea he was there! He should have let her know he was coming, even if Thomas wanted to surprise the twins. It was the courteous thing to do, the respectful thing. Instead, he was sneaking around behind her back because he had been desperate to see her and the kids again.

"I know why she is here," Logan assured. "I'm not here to get in her way or cause any problems. When the safety of my pack is at stake, I will do whatever is necessary." "Good," Santino said. "Because this whole Moonshine thing isn't going to be as easy as my dad made it out to be. I think you know that, just like I do." Logan looked at Santino, quirking and eyebrow. Now he was beginning to think that the other male had secrets of his own. He made it sound like he had some kind of personal tie to Moonshine, or some history with them. "Deciding the fate of any pack, your own or another, is never easy," Logan pointed out. "It is a calculated risk, but we have to weight the pros and cons." "You're right," Santino said. "Can I ask you something kind of personal?" Logan shrugged, taking a seat again. Santino sat in the chair across from him. "Go for it," he said. "You're going to be a father soon, right?" he asked. Logan nodded.

"I guess I am," he said with a sigh. "You don't seem particularly thrilled about it," Santino pointed out. Logan chuckled humorlessly and shook his head. "It came as a bit of a shock," he admitted. "I suspect I will adjust and accept it when the time comes." Santino laughed. "I guess I just figured you were a father already, because Serena has talked about how good you are with the twins. They also never stop talking about you," he said. Logan fought the smile that tugged at his lips. He couldn't help it! He cared so much for the twins, and knowing that they cared about him and missed him too, it made him uncontrollably happy. "Do you ever wish you were their father?" Santino asked, tilting his head at the Alpha. Logan was a bit caught off guard by the question. He

grunted, stroking his chin. It wasn't something he had really thought about before. He'd liked being a male authority figure to them, but thinking in terms of being their 'father' had always seemed like crossing some kind of invisible boundary in his mind.

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"Do you mean biologically, or do you wonder if I wish I could raise them as my own with Serena?" he asked for clarification, not sure what Santino was asking. "Whichever," Santino said with a shrug. "You just seem much more interested in them than your own child." "It is easier to be interested in children that I know, who I have met and understand," Logan explained. "I have no idea how my own kid is going to turn out. Olivia and Oliver are so amazing because they have an amazing mom. I think of all the ways I could fail my own child of how Holly..." he trailed off, not wanting to talk too much about how he

thought Holly might not be a great mom. Santino was smirking at him, as if he had received some kind of confirmation to an unasked question.

"What?" Logan asked when the other male wouldn't stop smirking at him. Santino shook his head.

"Oh, nothing," he said. "You just say some interesting things sometimes," Santino said with a chuckle.

"Interesting how?" Logan asked, narrowing his eyes. Santino laughed again. "You said that you love who the twins are because of who their mother is," he said. Logan shook his head. "That isn't exactly how I said it," he argued. When he thought about it though, in the simplest terms, Santino wasn't wrong. He loved who the twins were, and he had attributed who they were to their mother and the way she'd raised them. Shaking his head, Logan looked at his empty glass of water. "I'm going to get a refill," he said. Santino nodded. Logan went to the kitchen where Alpha Thomas had a territory map spread out on the table. "Is this up to date?" he asked as Logan went to the sink to get more water. Logan drank first and then glanced over Thomas's shoulder. He grabbed a pencil and made a few marks on the map to update some landmarks.

"That looks better," he said.

"Thank you," Thomas said.

"Is that all for our meeting?" Logan asked. Thomas nodded.

"I have everything I need," he said. "I suppose that means you want to see the kids now?" Logan smiled.

"I would," he admitted. "Although confronting Moonshine is a top priority, I wouldn't come all this way to not see them." Thomas grinned. "They do have that affect, don't they?" he asked. Logan nodded, drinking more water. His throat was rather dry with all the talking. "I'll go see where they have gotten off

to."

Thomas left Logan alone in the kitchen. He looked over the map. It showed all three

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territories, a map of what was once the Federation. Moonshine territory mostly bordered Night Sky, only touching on Starseeker territory in a few places.

No wonder Moonshine had only been going after his territory! Logan finished his water and ran a hand over the map, drawing his finger along the border of his own territory. Moonshine's territory was volatile.

Night Sky had more territory than Starseeker, and Logan wanted to ensure that Starseeker got some kind of reward for aiding in his battle against Moonshine. Increased land holdings seemed like a good way to go. It was another problem to consider on another day. First, they had to handle the threat, then they could figure out what to do with the spoils.

"Logan, come on out to the yard!" Thomas called from the back deck. Logan finished his water and left his glass behind.

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