

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 121

Chapter 121

Chapter 121: Wooing of Serena

Dana had let the kids stay up to wait for Logan and Serena. They were sitting on the couch, already in their pajamas. Oliver was drawing a picture and Olivia was reading a book.

“Mommy, daddy!” Olivia said when they came in. They both jumped off the couch and ran over to hug their parents. “Hey you two,” Logan said, dropping to a knee to hug them better. “How were they?” Serena asked Dana. “Perfect angels, as always,” Dana said. “We can put them to bed if you want to turn in” Serena offered. “Great, thank you,” Dana said. “I will take them to daycare in the morning.” Serena nodded and waved goodnight to Dana. “You should say goodnight to Dana and thank her for dinner,” Logan told the twins. “Thank you, Dana. Goodnight,” they both said together. “Alright, it is time for you two to get up to bed too.” Serena said to the kids. “Can you tuck us in?” Olivia asked Logan. “That’s why I’m here,” he said. Serena followed them all upstairs. She was happy to see the twins bonding with Logan, and to see how hard he was trying to be a good dad. Serena hung back though, watching as Logan tucked each twin in to their respective beds. She went in after and kissed them each goodnight. Seeing as Logan wasn’t there every single night, she wanted to give him the chance to take control and be the primary caregiver when he was around. It created a stronger bond between him and the kids. There was still a lot he missed out on, at least until Serena was sure she wanted them all to live together. When they got scared at night, it was her bed they crawled into. She was there for all their bumps and scrapes and questions.

Logan still only had split time with them.

“When can we go stay at your house?” Olivia asked Logan as he was tucking her head.

“Oh, I don’t know,” Logan said. “I think we will all live together sometime.” “No, I mean, when can Oliver and I come stay with you for a while?” she clarified. Serena stood in the doorway, listening to the conversation. It made her heart hurt a little to hear that they wanted to go stay with their father. She almost felt like she and Logan were a divorced couple trying to figure out joint

custody. Their situation was the exact opposite, but it made sense that the twins would still want to split time between their mother and father.

“If you really want to come stay at my house for a while, we can talk about that with Oliver and your mother,” Logan said. He kissed Olivia’s forehead and stepped away. Serena went to Olivia and kissed her goodnight. She and Logan went back to the living room “Thank you for the date tonight,” Serena said. She walked out onto the porch with Logan. Serena looked up at the night sky, leaning her shoulder against the porch rail pillar. Logan came up beside her and put his arm around her waist. “It was a good date,” he said, slowly caressing her hip with his thumb. Serena gasped, closing her eyes. Talking about their shared night at the masquerade had stirred up a lot of heated memories and feelings for Serena. Even such a simple touch had desire stirring inside

of her “And now we say goodnight?” she asked. “If you want,” Logan said with a chuckle. Serena turned towards him. She slipped her arms around his neck and stepped closer to him. Logan held her hips in his strong hands. “Goodnight,” she said, biting her lower lip playfully. Logan scoffed and shook his head. He dipped his head low, catching her lips with his. Serena gasped. His lips were warm and soft, pressing gently to hers. Serena closed her eyes, succumbing to the feelings coursing through her. She kissed him back, the moment turning from a simple goodnight kiss into a heated, passionate kiss in seconds. Logan’s hands ran up and down her sides and Serena curled her hands in his hair. She pressed her body as close to his as she could, and Logan stepped back, leaning against the porch pillar behind him. With a soft moan, Serena pulled away, panting for breath. Her cheeks were flushed. Logan released her so she could step back and catch her breath. She looked up at him to see him smiling at her, a goofy grin. “That was a perfect end to a perfect date,” he said. Serena giggled. “Yeah, I think so,” she said. “Goodnight,” he said with a nod. He chucked her chin and headed off the porch. Serena watched Logan disappear in to the darkness. She felt a knotted frustration building in her stomach, like she needed some kind of release from the heat that wound through her.

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Going to work after her date, Serena couldn’t help the smile that was plastered all over her face. Her cheeks were aching from smiling so much, but she couldn’t help it, and she couldn’t stop, even if she wanted to.

“You are in a remarkably good mood,” Adriana pointed out. “How was your night last night?”

Serena’s smile pulled even wider.

“Logan and I went on a date,” she explained. “And then we got home in time to tuck the kids in.”

"Wow, he is really stepping up to the plate with you," Adriana commented.

"It is so wonderful," Serena said. "I forgot how great dating could be." "I'm sure he is pulling out all the stops," Adriana said. She motioned to the door of the waiting room. A flower delivery man came in with a large bouquet of beautiful red flowers. Serena just stared at them. "I've got a delivery for Serena," the delivery man said. "Over here," Adriana called, waving the delivery man over. Serena still stared in shock. "Here you are," the flower delivery man said, setting the bouquet on the reception desk next to Serena. "They are from Alpha Logan."

"Yeah, big surprise," Adriana said. "Th-thank you," Serena said with a nod. "Why don't you go put those in your office," Adriana suggested. Serena blinked, breaking out of her shock. "All the stops," she said with a giggle. Adriana laughed and called in her next patient. Serena took the flowers to her office. She set them on her desk and opened a window curtain to give them some natural light.

There *were* red roses, red peonies, red carnations, mixed with white baby's breath and green foliage. It was the most beautifully crafted and lush bouquet that Serena had ever seen. She leaned in, pressing her face right into the flowers to smell them. A small card was pinned to the vase. Serena opened the card.

Serena,

Thank you for an amazing night last night. I've forgotten how great dating can be. Though, I think for that to happen, it has to be with the right person, someone special.

Being with you, being a father to the twins, is more important to me than I think you'll ever know. Again, I say, thank you. I will be wooing you in all the most romantic ways possible until I win your heart

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completely. -Logan Serena pressed her hand over her heart as she read his card. It was such a beautiful sentiment. Her knees even went a little weak when she thought of what that meant. She hadn't been romanced like that in a long time, and she was starting to look forward to it

Serena got back to work, her mind on the bouquet all day. She didn't want to think about how much Logan had spent on the flowers. It was a very nice, very expensive gesture.

As much as Serena appreciated it, she didn't want Logan to feel like he had to spend a lot of money on her. She also didn't want him to think that spending money on her and getting gifts from him would make her a 'kept' woman. When she had a break, she called Logan quickly. "I wasn't expecting to hear from you today," Logan said. "Even after sending me that huge bouquet?" Serena asked with a giggle. "Ahh, I'm glad you

like it," he said. "I really do," Serena admitted. "I know you want to do all the big romantic gestures, and I'm fine with that, but I want to make sure you don't..." she trailed off. "That I don't what?" he asked. "Well, I don't want you to think you have to spend a lot of money on me," she said. "Oh, I don't," Logan said casually. "I just want to." "Okay," Serena said with a laugh. "There's something else too, isn't there?" Logan asked. "Yea...I don't want you to think this makes me like...a kept woman or something. Like the presents and gifts are a way to control me," she said. Logan laughed into the phone. "Oh, no, I don't think that at all" Logan assured. "Just remember, the things I do are because I want to. I want to romance you, appreciate you as the mother of my kids, and thank you for letting me be a part of the family." Serena smiled, pleased that Logan was just acting out of kindness and caring.

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Chapter 122: Courting

Logan changed into something a little nicer after he got home from his office. He was taking Serena and the kids out for an evening, but he still wanted to look nice. He had a rose for Olivia, a carved wooden wolf for Oliver, and a velvet jewelry box for Serena.

He'd meant it when he said that he wanted to romance her in all the right ways. He also knew that he had to win the kids over too. He'd also signed a contract to give Olivia gifts

It was early enough that Logan had planned for Dana to bring the kids home early from daycare. He'd called in a favor to her to get them ready to go out. He was going to take them to a park on the opposite side of the territory.

There was a picnic dinner packed in the car with a blanket and a picnic basket. The park had a pond with ducks in it, and some small fish. Logan had packed two small fishing rods as well. The park also had a treehouse and a playground. It was in a spot where the sunset would reflect perfectly on the water and then open up to a night sky full of stars. As Logan was leaving, he ran into his mother on the front porch. "Oh, where are you going in such a hurry?" Flo asked. "Out with Serena and the kids," Logan said. "Good," Flo said with a nod. "I hope you are treating them well." "Of course, I am," Logan said with a nod. He held up the gifts he had for all of them. Flo smiled at her son.

"You learned from the best," she said, pointing to herself. Logan chuckled and shook his head

"Don't wait up, mom," he teased. Flo chuckled and shoed him off the porch.

Logan drove over to Serena's house. He knocked on the door and Dana let him in. "Serena isn't back from the hospital yet, but the kids are ready to go," she said. "Thanks for your help on this today, Dana," Logan said with a nod. "Anything to help get Serena out and having a good time," Dana said with a smirk. "I called Serena and she said that she was going to be back on time." "Daddy Logan," Olivia said. "Hey there." Logan said. "I brought you a gift, as our contract stated." "What is it, what is it?" Olivia asked, jumping up and down. Logan handed Olivia the rose. She swooned. "Wow! A real flower for me!" she spun around, dancing through the living room. "It is so pretty!" Courting "What about me?" Oliver asked. Logan chuckled and handed him the carved wolf. "Awesome," Oliver said. He took the wolf and jumped on the couch, howling as he bounced up and down on the cushions.

The front door opened and Serena came in. "What is going on here?" she asked, smiling at how excited the kids were. "Just making good on my contract," Logan said. "Now, go shower and change. We've got a special night planned." "Um...okay," Serena said. She was quick to get ready to go. Logan got the kids in the car while Serena finished getting ready. The drive wasn't too long, even though it was on the opposite side of the territory "You two will love this park" Logan told the twins. "Are we going to fish?" Oliver asked, tapping the fishing pole. "You can if you want," he said. "What is this park?" Serena asked. Logan reached over the seat and took her hand in his, squeezing gently. "You'll see," he said with a smile. Serena sighed and shrugged, but she didn't ask more questions. Logan pulled up at the park. The sun was just setting and an orange glow consumed the entire area. "This is beautiful," Serena admitted. "There's a picnic in the trunk," Logan said. "If you want to set that up, I'll get the fishing poles out for the kids." "Alright," Serena said. Logan noticed the sweet smile on her lips. It was the first family outing she'd had where she didn't have to do everything for the twins and for herself. Logan imagined there was some relief in that. Logan got the twins set up with their poles. There was a small dock on the pond for them to stand on and fish off of. They were happy to be left there fishing and chatting. Logan went back to where Serena was laying out the picnic blanket and pulling things from the basket. "Did you make all this?" Serena asked as Logan sat down. "No," Logan said shaking his head. "I wish I could take credit, but I'm not this skilled in the kitchen,

There was a bottle of bubbly in the basket too, alcohol free so the kids could have some.

"I brought something else, just for you," Logan said, pulling the jewelry box from his pocket. Serena raised an eyebrow at the box.

"What is it?" she asked.

"Open it and find out," Logan said with a chuckle. Serena seemed nervous when she took the box. "It isn't an engagement ring," Logan assured. Serena sighed and opened the box more easily. "Logan," she gasped. Her smile was genuine, and Logan smiled too. He was unable to stop smiling seeing how happy she was. Inside the box was a

sterling silver charm bracelet. Logan had put two twin wolf charms on it and a heart charm. "This is absolutely beautiful," she said. Logan took the box from her and removed the bracelet.

Serena held her wrist out and he clasped it into place. Serena held her wrist up, looking at the bracelet in the setting sun. "Thank you," she said. "I figured it would be a happy medium. Rather than getting you jewelry all the time, I can just get charms for the bracelet," he said.

Serena smiled.

"I like that compromise," she said. She leaned over to Logan, kissing him quickly on the lips.

His heart raced at the kiss and he wanted to pull her closer and kiss her harder. He refrained, hearing the twins laughing at the pond. "Olivia, Oliver," Serena called. "We have food if you're hungry." The twins pulled in their lines and ran to the picnic blanket. "Yummy!" Olivia said. Logan poured the bubbly into the plastic champagne glasses. He handed one to the kids and to Serena, "Is this wine?" Olivia asked. Logan shook his head as she took a big sip. "No, sweetie," he said. "It is a bubble drink that kids can have." The sun set fully by the time they finished their picnic meal. Werewolves had night vision, though, even the twins who hadn't shifted yet. Stars quickly appeared in the sky, helping them see even better. Serena looked up at the stars and gasped. She leaned her head on Logan's shoulder.

"This is a beautiful spot," Serena said. "Can we go play again?" Oliver asked.

"Stay on the playground" Serena said. "Don't go near the water in the dark."

"Okay," the twins said before running off. "Did you see the treehouse?" Logan asked. Serena chuckled. Logan slipped his arm around her shoulders and hugged her a little closer. "I did," she said.

"Maybe, someday, we can come back here together and try it out," he said playfully. Serena giggled. "Well, play your cards right, and I'd say that is definitely in the books," Serena said. She lifted her head from his shoulder and kissed his cheek. Logan sighed. It was all so tame, but he was willing to wait. The most important thing was that the twins were having a good time. "Oh, I did bring something else just for you," Logan said. He reached into the picnic basket and pulled out a banana pastry from the restaurant the night before. He didn't have any ice cream, but he'd brought some whipped cream. "It isn't warm, and we don't have ice cream, but I thought it would be a nice reminder of our first date," Logan said. Serena chuckled. Logan put a layer of whipped cream on the pastry and held it to Serena's lips. She took a bite, moaning in pleasure at the delectable taste. Logan ate the other half of the pastry. He had whipped cream on his fingers, and Serena grabbed his hand, bringing his fingers to her lips. She slowly licked the whipped cream off. "You are a bit of a tease," Logan said in a husky voice, her

tongue sending all the right kinds of tingles through his body and into his groin. "Just want to keep you guessing," Serena said with a wink. "So, how long until this romance and courting wears off?" "I'd say a month or two, at least," Logan said with a chuckle. "Look at the stars with me?" Serena asked. Logan nodded. Serena and Logan lay back on the blanket looking up at the stars. Logan took Serena's hand in his, bringing it to his lips and kissing her fingers as they both gazed up at the wide expanse of stars. It was a beautiful night and Logan was happy that he'd been able to make it so special for Serena and the twins.

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Chapter 123: Serena and Carson Talk

Carson dropped by the hospital during one of Serena's shifts. She hadn't had the chance to talk to him about her new relationship with Logan yet. At first, it had just been so new and different, then she wasn't sure how to tell him without hurting his feelings.

It wasn't like she and Carson had been dating or in any kind of actual relationship. Serena knew he had wanted more, though, and she hoped he wouldn't hold it against her.

"Serena, how are you doing?" Carson asked, walking right up to the nurse's station. Serena smiled at him, setting her medical charts down. "I'm good," she said, unable to hide her bright

smile. She'd been doing that a lot since Logan had started taking her on dates and spending family time with the kids. "You look really good," Carson commented, grinning at her. Serena blushed and looked down. "Are you here for a medical reason?" she asked. "Actually, yes," Carson admitted. He held up his wrist. "I think I sprained it or

something." "Alright, I'm free now," Serena said. "Let's take a look." Serena grabbed Carson's medical file from the cabinet behind the nurse's station. She motioned for Carson to follow her into one of the exam rooms. Serena patted the table so he would sit on it. "You need me to sit on the table to look at my wrist?" Carson asked playfully. Serena rolled her eyes. "I think it would be more comfortable for you to sit," she said. "But if you want to stand, I won't stop you." Carson chuckled, but he sat down on the exam table.

"What did you do?" Serena asked, opening his file to a fresh page. "Just wrangling some of the rogues," Carson said with a casual shrug. "How's that going?" she asked. "I didn't know you were so concerned with the inner pack workings," Carson countered.

Serena bit her lower lip. She **had been inquiring** more about the pack politics and the way things worked in Night Sky because there was the potential for her to become Luna one day. She realized she'd slipped with Carson. Shrugging, Serena thought fast for an answer.

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Serena turned around quickly, cheeks flushed. She felt embarrassed, wondering if it was that obvious to everyone. "Yea, actually," she said. Carson grinned. "He told me that at the two of you were...seeing each other," Carson admitted. Serena sighed with relief. "Oh, I didn't know," she said. "I was just thinking about how to tell you." She giggled nervously. Carson chuckled. "Don't worry about it, Serena. I know that you and Logan have had some kind of tension brewing since you got here," he said. "Honestly, I only thought I had a shot because he was with someone else." Serena bit her lower lip and looked away. "I had a really great time with you," she said. "I don't want you to think I didn't. I don't want you to think that I led you on or anything." "What?" Carson asked. He hopped off the table and put a hand on Serena's shoulder. "I would never think that. You were always straight with me. I didn't have any unrealistic expectations. Besides, I want you to be happy, and I want Logan to be happy." "You're a good man, Carson," Serena said. "Someday, you'll make a lucky female incredibly happy." Carson grinned at her, shaking his head. "You're sweet," he told her. "If Logan does anything to take you for granted or upset you, let me know and I will take care of it." "Thanks, Carson," Serena said. "Actually, I could use your help with something. I asked about the rogues because I've been wrestling with the fact that I could become Luna someday." "Wrestling?" Carson asked with a chuckle. Serena closed his medical folder and tucked it under her arm. "I want to get to know the pack better," she said. "But I don't want Logan to think that I'm uncomfortable or that I'm trying to rush things." "You don't think he'd be happy to know that you're considering what it means to be Luna?" Carson asked. Serena shrugged. "I honestly don't know," she said. "We **agreed to take things slow**, and I don't want him to think I'm making assumptions." Carson chuckled again. He rolled his eyes at her. "**Serena, Logan would be over the moon to know you're considering that future**," Carson said. "If you want, I can help you get to know the pack members and some of the inner workings."

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"I really would like that," Serena said. "Alright, when is your next day off?" Carson asked. "Tomorrow," she said with a smile.

"My timing is great, then," he said. Serena nodded and gave him his discharge form.

Serena returned to the nurse's station. She liked how easy Carson had made telling him the truth. She didn't even know why she expected anything different. Carson had always been light hearted and friendly. An easy-going guy.

It pained Serena to see him alone, because he was a really great guy! She felt bad about their relationship never progressing any further. At the same time, she was happy that he wanted to help her and remain friendly. Serena didn't want to make waves or cause tension between the Alpha and Beta.

She knew she'd have to tell Logan that she was spending some time with Carson, otherwise he might get all jealous again. She spent the rest of the afternoon trying to figure out the best way to tell him without making it seem like she was hiding something.

She wasn't ready to come clean about her concerns about becoming Luna if that was where their relationship progressed. She also didn't want him to think she was doing anything romantic with Carson. He could get so jealous, though! Serena called Logan on her way home from work. "Hey you," Logan said. "Hey, how's your day going?" she asked. "Working late, as usual," Logan said with a grumble. Serena giggled lightly. "Um, so, I wanted to tell you this upfront so you don't lose your cool," she said. "Wow, that is an ominous preface to whatever you're about to say," Logan said seriously. "Well, I know how jealous you can get, and I just want to make sure you are over the phase, **seeing as we are together** now," she said with a laugh. Logan sighed into the phone. "Alright, hit me with it," he said. "I have the day off tomorrow, and Carson offered to help me out with something." Serena said quickly. "Why can't I help?" Logan asked. "Because it is kind of something for you." Serena said. She wanted to be as vague as possible, but give a good reason for Logan not to have the details. It wasn't a lie. She **really was getting** to know the pack for Logan's benefit, because if she **became Luna, he'd have to have** confidence in her and she'd **have to have** confidence in herself.

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Chapter 124: Getting to know the Pack

Carson had arranged for a small lunch gathering in one of the parks. Serena knew most of the wolves in the pack from working in the hospital, but she hadn't interacted with them socially

When she was at the hospital, she was all business. Even those that had thanked her at the inauguration had been thanking her for her medical expertise and the work she'd

done. This time, she wanted things to be casual. She wanted to get to know pack members on a personal level.

“It is a good day for a barbeque,” Carson said when Serena showed up.

“It is,” she said. “Was this an open invitation?”

“Sort of,” Carson said. “I opened it up to adults that had free time today during the hours of two and four. I didn’t want to overwhelm you too much.”

“Thanks,” Serena said. “And what did you tell them it was for?”

“I said it was a barbeque you were hosting to promote health and wellness in the aftermath of the Moonshine battles,” Carson said. Serena nodded.

That seemed like a good enough reason, and also wouldn’t be the kind of event a lot of wolves would take time off of work for. Serena was glad with the turnout. The number of guests was manageable. “Well, go on and mingle,” Carson said, nudging Serena. She chuckled and went into the crowd. Carson had arranged for someone to man the grill, and already most of the guests had drinks and plates of food in their hands. There was also a table filled with condiments, buns, and other dressings and toppings, along with snacks and a salad. “This is lovely, Carson,” Serena muttered.

“Hey, I can make almost anything you want happen,” he said. “I’m kind of a pivotal figure here in the pack.” Serena giggled.

“Yes, you are,” she agreed.

Serena went to the grill and got herself a burger. “This was a great idea, Serena,” the wolf at the grill said. “All the big, important celebrations, it feels like we haven’t been able to just relax and be casual for a while.” “I’m glad you’re enjoying yourself,” Serena said with a nod. “I thought it was about time I get to know pack members beyond their medical charts.” The wolf at the grill chuckled. “Well, everyone here is already a fan of yours,” he said. Serena nodded and thank him for the burger. She headed over to the table to put toppings on it. Serena’s mind was put at ease

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slightly. Hearing that there were a lot of wolves that already liked her made her feel more accepted. “Looks like you finally have some free time now,” one of the females at the table said to Serena “Free time?” Serena asked.

"Oh, between hospital renovations, the relief hospital, and your twins, you've been so busy," she said. "We've all seen it. Most of us have been inspired by your determination, energy, and ability to accomplish what seems impossible." "Thank you," Serena said. "That is so sweet."

"I mean, not just with the hospital, but being a single mother too. Not to mention how well you handle Alpha Logan. No one has ever stood up to him like you do," the female went on

Serena chuckled. "How did you know I stood up to him?" she asked. The female laughed and flipped her hair over her shoulder. "Who doesn't?" she asked. "Seriously, rumors have been flying about the times you've stood up to him for a while." Serena flushed. She wasn't sure how public her relationship was with Logan yet, but apparently the wolves in the pack had had eyes on them for a while. She knew she'd stood up to Logan several times in the hospital waiting room. It seemed like word had spread. "Well, it is my job to ensure that all wolves get proper medical care. Not even the Alpha can get in the way of that," she said. The female giggled again. "Oh, we all heard about it," she said, motioning to her friends. "It was very inspiring. You took charge, and you managed the situation so professionally." "Well, as long as it was inspiring," Serena said with a smile. She regrouped with Carson who was having a beer with a couple other males. "There she is, the woman behind this lovely event," Carson said, raising his beer to her. "We haven't seen much of you outside the hospital," one of Carson's companions said.

"It has been a busy few months," Serena said. "I'm glad to have the time now." "Us too," Carson's friend said. "You've always been a bit of a mystery. A wolf spending years in the human world, coming into the pack as a transfer, taking charge and making changes."

"Is that really what I did?" Serena asked, raising an eyebrow.

"Oh, sweetie, the pack's moral has definitely changed since you arrived." Carson's

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friend said.

Serena looked at Carson and he nodded. "Believe every word of it," Carson said. Serena spent her afternoon mingling with the other pack members. Everyone seemed to already know a lot about her. Whether it was rumors or truth, she had obviously been a person of curiosity and the other pack members had wanted to know more about her.

As she mingled, she got to know several more of the pack members. Most of them seemed happy and cheerful. Carson explained to her that was because the threat of

Moonshine was gone. Any lingering animosities and tensions had started to fade. The pack was in the most prosperous, safest space it had been in for years! "Are you satisfied with getting to know the pack?" Carson asked her as the guests began to leave and the barbeque was wrapped up. "Everyone seems to already know a lot about me," Serena admitted. "Yes, they do," Carson said. "Does that really surprise you?" "Yea, it does, actually," Serena said. "It is like they knew Logan and I were mates or something." Carson laughed, throwing his head back and clutching his chest. "I don't think they could tell that," he said still chuckling. "I do think that there was always some vibe between the two of you that was detectable. You've made an impression on a lot of wolves, and they see you as a leader, isn't that what a Luna is?" "A leader?" Serena asked. Carson nodded. "Yes, a Luna is a leader who keeps the

Alpha in check." "Well, there, you already meet those two requirements," Carson said. "I should get home," Serena said. "Dana has been with the kids all day." "Alright, Serena, it was good to spend some time with you again," Carson said. "You too," she said with a nod. She waved to some of the last guests and headed out. On her walk home, Serena thought about what she'd learned. The pack saw her as a leader, as someone who challenged the Alpha and kept him in check. If she was a male, she could have been seen as a challenger for leadership. Since she was female, she was seen as a good mate choice, a good Luna. "Mommy, mommy, where have you been all day?" Olivia asked when Serena went inside the house.

Serena smiled, hugging her kids. "I was just getting to know some of the pack members," she said. "Are you and Daddy Logan going to get married?" Olivia asked again. Serena sighed.

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"I think you love each other," Olivia said.

Serena looked at Oliver. "Do you think that too?" she asked. Oliver nodded. "Obviously," Olivia said. "I think it is about time the two of you start getting ready for bed," Serena said. She nodded to Dana who went upstairs with the twins. Serena sighed and pulled out her phone. She wanted to call Logan and tell him how her day went.

Their relationship was still new, but already she was at the point where she wanted him involved in her day, even if only by telling him about it. She called Logan at his office but he didn't answer. She called at the house, but there was no answer there either. Finally, she called his cell phone, hoping her multiple calls wouldn't be too annoying to him. "Hey you, how'd your day with Carson go?" Logan asked, not sounding at all annoyed she'd tried every line to get ahold of him. "Good," Serena said. "Where are you?" There was a knock on her front door. Serena went to look outside and saw Logan standing on her front porch. "Right here," he said. Serena giggled and hung up her phone. She pulled the door open and stepped out onto the porch. "What are you doing here?" she asked, hugging Logan. He kissed her lips quickly. "I wanted to see you after my long

day” he said. “This is great,” she said, resting her head on his shoulder and tightening her arms around him.

“Honestly, I wanted you to be the last person I saw and spoke to before going to bed tonight,” Logan told her. Serena nearly melted in Logan’s arms. He was being so sweet and she was falling right into it all!

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Chapter 125: To be Luna

Still unsure of whether or not she had what it took to be Luna, Serena decided to speak to Flo about it. While the kids were at daycare and Logan was at his office, she went over to Logan’s house to have lunch and tea with Flo. “Come in, please,” Flo said opening her front door. “I’m sorry to drop in so suddenly,” Serena said. Flo shook her head. “Not at all,” she said. “You’re always welcome.” “I was hoping we could have lunch together and catch up,” Serena offered, holding up the bag with sandwiches she had brought over. “That sounds lovely. Would you like some tea? I can put on a pot,” Flo offered. “Yes, please,” Serena said. She followed the Luna into the kitchen and got some plates, remembering where everything was from her stay there. While Flo put on the tea water and got mugs, Serena set up plates with their sandwiches.

“I appreciate you coming by to catch up, but I am sensing there is more going on that what you’ve let on,” she said. Serena giggled nervously. “How do you do that?” she asked. “Between being a mother and being Luna, not much gets past me,” Flo said with a laugh.

The tea kettle was whistling, so she took it from the stove and poured the water into the mugs. She sat across from Serena at the table, handing one of the steaming mugs over. “So, what is on your mind, darling?” Flo asked. “If it is about Logan, you know I am a little biased.” Serena smiled. “I know. It isn’t about Logan,” she said. “It is about me, me and my possible futures.” “Your possible future?” Flo asked, biting into her sandwich. “If Logan and I continue to see each other and get more serious, which seems to be the direction we are going in, then I am going to be Luna someday,” Serena said. “Why should that concern you?” Flo asked. “Your mother is a Luna and your father is Alpha. You have a great bloodline and already know everything you need to be a good Luna.”

“I do?” Serena asked. Flo chuckled and nodded.

"Sweetie, I have seen you with the pack, how you run the hospital, with your kids..." she trailed off.

Serena sighed Everyone kept saying the same things that she had heard that she

Chapter 125 To be Luna handled herself professionally. "That is what everyone keeps saying," she muttered, sipping her tea. Flo munched on her sandwich for a moment.

"You don't believe them?" she asked after swallowing. Serena sighed, shaking her head.

"I don't know," she admitted. "There is just something that I can't put my finger on about being Luna that has me anxious." "And you want me to tell you my thoughts on being Luna?" Flo asked. "Were you ever nervous about it?" Serena asked. Flo smiled.

"I was," she admitted. "I was terrified that the pack wouldn't accept me, that I would do something wrong, that I wouldn't be able to stand up to my mate." "I already know I can stand up to Logan," Serena said with a laugh. "The pack already accepts you," Flo reminded her. "How did you overcome it?" she asked. Flo sighed, sipping her tea. "I don't know if I ever did," she said. "Even now, I wonder if I could be doing things differently. During the war with Moonshine, I felt like I wasn't doing enough, I was constantly second guessing whether or not there was more the pack needed from

me"

"That isn't exactly helpful," Serena pointed out. Flo chuckled, grinning across the table at Serena. "I'm sorry I can't be more helpful," she said. "Being Luna is an incredible honor, but it is also a full-time job. The pack becomes everything to you. The same as it is to Logan in his position as Alpha. It can be complicated at times, especially with a family." "Thank you for being honest," Serena said. Flo reached across the table and took her hand. "Everything I know about you tells me you'd be a great Luna," Flo assured. "I hope your concerns on that aren't what is holding you back from going all in with my son." Serena shook her head. "No, not at all," she assured. "Thank you for having lunch with me." Serena departed. Flo hadn't given her the answers she wanted, but she had given her more to think about. There was one other Luna that Serena could call and get insight from. While she walked home, she pulled out her phone and called her mother. "Serena, it has been a while. How are you, how are the twins?" Charlotte asked. "Hi, mom," Serena said. "I'm fine, they are fine. Everything here is good." "Good. What can I do for you?" Charlotte asked. "I wanted to ask you about being Luna" Serena said "Logan and I have been getting closer, and a relationship with him comes with Luna strings attached to it." Charlotte laughed into the phone. "What do you want to know?" she asked. "Did you ever have doubts or insecurities?" Serena asked.

"Oh, all the time," Charlotte said. "That isn't what is bothering you, though. You are confident and a natural born leader."

Serena's heart swelled in her chest. She couldn't remember ever getting such praise from her mother. It warmed her fully and gave her a new feeling of confidence "Then what is bothering me?" Serena asked. "Honestly, I'm surprised you didn't figure it out, you of all people," Charlotte teased her. Serena groaned, her warm glow fading quickly. "Come on, mom, don't drag this out," Serena said. "Alright, darling, the reason you are having doubts is because of how independent you

are," Charlotte said.

Serena took a moment to think about what her mother said. Flo had said that being Luna could be complicated because of the responsibility to the pack, balancing that with family. Serena already had kids. She understood Logan's responsibility to the pack and she'd always accepted it and respected it.

Knowing that as Luna, she'd have to give so much of herself in the pack, she knew

she'd have to give up some of her independence. "Serena, you're my daughter, and I love you. You've always been independent, though," Charlotte spoke again. "Even before you lived as a human and became so self-reliant, you always wanted to do things your way. There is nothing wrong with that, but as Luna, sometimes you have to rely on others, and you have strong ties to the pack that you can't just walk away from. That terrifies you." "Yea, it does a little bit," Serena admitted. "It is scary for all of us," Charlotte admitted. "Having a pack, a mate, a career, and a family to juggle...that is why most Luna's don't have another profession. You know that, and you know you don't want to give up your career in medicine."

Once again, her mother had hit the nail on the head. Serena had worked so hard to become a doctor and have a professional career. She didn't think she'd be able to balance that with being Luna. How could she give up something she'd worked so hard for?

"What should I do?" Serena asked her mother. "You'll have to figure that out on your own, love," Charlotte said. "But the truth is, Serena, if anyone can balance all of that, you can. Being a doctor and being Luna might have a lot of overlap, caring for the needs of the pack and their medical care." "That's a good point," Serena said feeling a little more optimistic. "I know you've worked hard for your career," Charlotte elaborated. "If you can't make it work alongside being Luna, that doesn't mean you've failed. Sometimes when one thing doesn't work out, what you get instead is something better." Serena sighed. Her mother's words were making a lot of sense. It helped her think through her fears and concerns much more than her conversation with Flo. "Thank you, mom, I have a lot to think about now," Serena said. She said her goodbyes to Charlotte and finished her walk back to the house. Her mother had known her concerns and fears before she had. It was refreshing to hear someone else tell her what she was thinking and feeling.

Now, she just had to figure out if she was willing to make that sacrifice. If she chose her career over Luna, she'd have to give up Logan, breaking up her family. If she chose being Luna over her career, she'd have her family but she'd lose something she worked so hard for.

Serena sighed. She didn't need to make any snap decisions. She had time to weigh her options. Logan hadn't made any indication that he wanted her to be Luna someday, even though it was silently implied if their relationship progressed. Until she was in the position to decide, she vowed that she would attempt to balance things as best she could.

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Chapter 126

Chapter 126: Santino's Survival School Part 1

"Let's go, mommy, let's go," Olivia said, tugging on Serena's arm. Oliver and Santino were already walking ahead, and Olivia was impatient to catch up. "We're going," Serena said with a chuckle.

"We are falling behind!" Olivia said with a dramatic wail.

"You can go and catch up," Serena said. She pushed Olivia *forward*. Olivia *ran* off to catch up with her twin and uncle.

Santino had dropped by at their house for a visit. He said he had a special game planned for the kids. Serena couldn't say no. She wanted to see what it was that Santino had planned, and she wanted the kids to have the chance to get out and play in the woods.

They were heading into the woods near her house. Despite not being a pack member, Santino seemed to know his way around. He'd helped with some of the rogues, which meant traversing Night Sky territory. "Where are you taking us, Santino?" Olivia asked. "It isn't that much further," he assured. "Where are we going?" Serena asked, picking up the pace so she could catch up to her brother and her kids.

"There's a place nearby with a stream," he said. "I thought it was time to teach the kids some of their base survival skills. They do have a rich heritage of surviving in the wilds."

Serena chuckled and nodded. It was true, most wolves learned basic survival skills from a young age. "That sounds good to me," Serena said. They made it to the stream. The trees parted slightly so there was plenty of underbrush around the stream and across the forest floor. The sun was shining brightly, and it was a good day to be out in

the woods. Serena recognized the area as where she'd almost encountered Logan in her wolf form. Santino took his backpack off. He set it down on the ground.

"Alright, kiddos, open the pack and see what is inside," Santino said. The kids dove at the bag and started tearing it open. Santino laughed and Serena stood beside him, looping her arm through his. "How intense are you going to get with this?" she asked, knowing her brother could take things over the top a lot. "Don't worry" Santino said. "Nothing too adventurous or dangerous, at least not today," he assured. Serena rolled her eyes, not believing it.

"There's just two little knives in here," Olivia said after the twins had torn the backpack apart

"That's right," Santino said. "That's all you need for my survival class. Pick which one you want, and we'll get started."

Olivia picked the purple knife and Oliver was happy to have the red one. Serena raised an eyebrow at her brother. Giving kids knives wasn't exactly what she had in mind for a tame, safe survival day.

"Knives?" she asked, crossing her arms. "Don't worry, they meet all the safety requirements," Santino teased. "They have a catch so they won't close on anyone's fingers, and they have a release to open." Santino dropped down on one knee to show the twins how the knives worked. "The blades are sharp," he warned. "Don't ever touch those with your fingers. Practice opening and closing them." While the twins played with their knives, Santino stood beside Serena again. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a full-sized pocket knife for her. Serena recognized it as the one her father had given to her when he was teaching her the same survival skills. "Oh, memory lane," she said with a chuckle. "I still have mine too," Santino said, pulling his out of his other pocket. Serena had carved her name into the knife handle. Santino kept his polished and in pristine condition. Serena rolled her eyes at her brother.

"I got it," Oliver said, holding up his knife and showing that he could open and close it safely. "Me too, me too!" Olivia said. Not to be outdone, she stepped forward and showed Serena and Santino that she could also work her knife. "Good," Santino said. "Now, the first thing you need to do if you are in a survival situation is to make fire. It will come in handy for a lot of things like warmth, cooking, sending up smoke signals." "Fire?" Serena asked. "Santino, your definition of 'safe' is really..." she trailed off when Santino shook his head at her.

"We learned all this when we were there age," he reminded her. Serena sighed, but she nodded. "Okay, these are special knives with special blades," Santino said. "I can show you how to make fire in two different ways, one with your knives." "That's so cool!" Olivia said, jumping up and down. "Show us, Uncle Santino," Oliver chimed. Santino smirked at Serena. She rolled her 1

“Okay, first, I need the two of you to find yourself a rock. You’ll each need your own rock, and it has to be dry and free of dirt,” Santino said. “Stay here by the stream where we can see you.” Olivia and Oliver toddled off to find their rocks. “You want to do this too?” Santino asked.

“I’d rather watch,” Serena said with a laugh. “I remember what it was like to learn these skills from dad.”

The twins returned with their rocks and Santino inspected them. He nodded his approval.

“Okay, now you’ll need to collect a few more things,” he said. “First, I want you to find some really dry grasses. Whole bundles of it. You’ll also need some tiny twigs and birch bark. Make sure it is dry and off the ground. Don’t cut anything from a living tree.” He sent the twins off again. They were having a lot of fun gathering the right supplies in the woods. “Help me build a small fire pit here, won’t you?” Santino asked. He was at the edge of the stream, collecting rocks. Serena nodded and went to her brother’s aid. They build a contained fire pit. Nothing big or overwhelming, but Serena didn’t want them to light a big, dangerous fire anyway. Olivia and Oliver returned with their collected items. Santino explained how the grass would be used as a fire starter, the birch bark would be the next level, then the tinder – the really small twigs – would go next.

He had them go into the woods to find some dry kindling and sticks too, explaining the sizes and what they were used for. He also showed them how to tell if the wood was wet, dry, or too green. “They’re having a lot of fun,” Serena observed. Santino grinned at her. “Did you think they wouldn’t be?” he asked. Serena shrugged. “No, I just forgot how much fun this kind of thing could be,” she admitted. “A nice day with my brother and the kids, out in the woods. Feels like forever since we’ve had a chance to do something like this.” “I know what you mean,” Santino said. When the twins returned again, Santino showed them how to set up their grass bundles and how to use the rock to make sparks against the knife blade until the grasses lit. Quickly, he would toss birch bark on the smoldering grasses, then adding the tinder, kindling and sticks. The twins were in complete awe! They clapped and laughed, getting all excited about making fire. Serena and Santino sat back and watched as they made their own attempts.

It took a while, but soon the twins had made themselves little fires in the fire pit.

“This is so cool!” Olivia said. “I’m a fire master,” Oliver said. Santino and Serena laughed together. “What’s next?” Olivia asked. “How do we make fire without the knife?” Santino stepped up to the fire pit. He had a canteen of water that he used to put the fire out. He showed the twins how to safely put out a fire in the woods by sprinkling water on it so the coals didn’t float away and cause a forest fire. Teaching Olivia and Oliver how to make fire with two sticks was more frustrating for the twins. They could get some smoke going, but their arms tired out quickly. Serena hoped they wouldn’t be in a situation where they would need to light their own fires, but at least they could do it with their knives. It would be a few more years before they had the strength and endurance

to light fires with the stick method. "Alright, you know how to make fire now. Who wants to learn how to hunt?" Santino asked. "Me, me!" Olivia and Oliver both cried, jumping up and down with their hands raised. Serena sighed and rolled her eyes. Of course, her brother would start with the big things first. "Alright, let's make some traps," he said. "Before we go off and hunt, remember that there is plenty of water around in the woods. You can drink running water from a stream, river, or brook, but never drink still water." "Still water?" Oliver asked.

"A lake, a pond, or a puddle," he explained. "Running water is cleaner and safer to drink. Understand?" The twins nodded their heads. "Good, let's go hunting."

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Chapter 127

Chapter 127: Santino's Survival School Part 2

Santino showed Olivia and Oliver how to build a few different kinds of traps, bait them with nuts from the woods, and wait for some hungry critter to wander into them. It really was amazing how much could be accomplished with just a knife.

He gave Olivia and Oliver each a chance to catch something. They got a squirrel and a rabbit. "Wow, we are real hunters now," Olivia said. "You are," Serena said. "You're fast learners." "We can survive anything," Oliver said. Santino showed them how to skin the squirrel and the rabbit, then how to make a spit for a fire so they could cook. It was just about lunch time when the rabbit and squirrel were ready to eat. "It tastes funny," Olivia said, wrinkling her nose. Serena sat down beside them and used her own knife to cut off a strip of rabbit meat. "That's because it isn't seasoned with any salt or anything," she explained. "It will keep you strong and healthy out in the woods, though." "Oliver and I will eat like kings out in the woods," Olivia said, tapping her knife against one of the rabbit bones. "Let's go check the fishing traps," Santino suggested. He had showed them how to weave little nets out of grass and they'd stuck them in the stream to float in the current. Fish would get stuck in them from the current and be unable to swim against it to get back out. Olivia and Oliver waded into the stream with Santino. They lifted their nets up to check for fish. Olivia frowned when she looked in her net.

"They are just tiny minnows," she grumbled. Santino laughed.

"That can happen sometimes," he said. "Still, it is important for you to know how to catch fish when there is water nearby." "What if we can't catch anything?" Oliver asked, his eyes wide and terrified. Santino chuckled.

"There are all kinds of things you can eat in the woods," Santino said. "Let's go for a little walk," Serena offered, motioning to a thicket with bushes down the stream. "You don't want to eat any berries or mushrooms that you find in the woods," Santino said. "Some of them can make you really, really sick." "How do we know what to eat?" Olivia asked. "I'll show you several berries and mushrooms that are safe to eat and are easy to

Chapter 127 Santino's Survival School Part 2

spot," Santino said. "Don't eat any that I don't show you, okay?" "Okay," the twins said. "Olivia, Oliver," Serena said. "This is serious. Look at me and tell me *you* won't eat anything that Uncle Santino doesn't show you. It could make *you* really sick." "I promise," Olivia said. "Me too," Oliver said with a head nod. Serena nodded back. "Good, let's get back to the lesson," she said. Santino showed the twins three different mushrooms and four different berries they could safely eat. He also showed them a type of nut that was safe to eat too. "What about acorns?" Olivia asked, picking a few up off the ground and throwing them into the stream. "Right now, don't eat them," Santino said. "They have to be cooked a special way before you can eat them. That is a lesson for another day." With their bellies full of all the different foods they'd explored that day, Santino and Serena led the twins back to where they had started at the stream. The sun was moving towards the western horizon, but they still had a few hours before dark.

"Now, you know how to make fire for warmth and cooking," Santino said. "You know what water to drink, how to hunt and catch fish, and what berries, mushrooms, and nuts to eat. You know how to be safe with your knives and safely put out a fire. What else do you think you'll need to know?" "I don't know," Olivia said. Oliver shrugged. "What do you have at home?" Serena asked. "Food, warmth, water..." "Clothes?" Olivia asked. "A roof," Oliver said. Serena smiled at both her kids. "Good guesses, both of you," Santino said. "One of the most important parts of survival is making yourself a shelter. You won't always need one, but it protects against rain, snow, cold, wind, and insects." "Oh," Olivia and Oliver said together. "There are lots of different shelters you can make out in the woods. We'll start with some easy ones," Santino said.

The rest of the afternoon, he showed them how to make shelters by laying down leaves and pine for the 'floor' of the shelter and then leaning sticks up against a log or around a tree. Then he showed them how to pile leaves, moss, and pine branches on the outside for insulation and better cover. The twins were very proud of their shelters. Olivia and Oliver crawled into their little lean to's, laughing and playing with each other. "You're good at this," Serena said when Santino came over to her. He wanted to give 2/4

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Chapter 127 Sarones Seal School Part 2 the twins a chance to play around some after their long day of work and learning. "I was always better at the survival part than you," he said. Serena chuckled and shook her head.

"I mean with the kids," she said, "You ever think about it? You are going to be Alpha You'll need a Luna and an heir."

Santino sighed and shook his head.

"That is not something in need to think about right now," he assured. "I love your kids, but I love being able to give them back to you at the end of the day." Serena giggled. "Alright, well you can have them any time *you* want," she said. "I think that is enough for today," Santino said. He went and knocked gently on the kids' shelters. Olivia and Oliver crawled out, sticks and moss stuck in their hair. "Are you two ready to go home?" Santino asked. "I want to go camping now," Olivia said. "We can do everything ourselves." "Can we go camping, Mom?" Oliver asked. Serena went over to the kids and pulled some of the dirt and sticks out of their hair. "We will plan a camping trip together, with a tent and real supplies," she said. "Awe," Olivia said, looking down. "Come on, let's get *you* two home and cleaned up," she said. Oliver, Olivia, Santino, and Serena headed back home. Santino hung out in the living room with Serena gave the twins a quick bath and changed them into something more comfortable. "Did you have fun today?" she asked, running a comb through Olivia's hair. "Yea, I want to go in the woods and survive again," she said. "When can we go camping?" Oliver asked. *As much as Serena loved her brother for teaching the kids about survival, she felt like they'd never stop pestering her about going camping now.* "Don't *you* want to wait until we can get your father to go along too?" Serena asked. "We could go camping as a whole family." "Yeah, I want to do that," Oliver agreed. Serena *ran* the comb through Oliver's hair too, just to make sure all the sticks and moss came out.

They all rejoined Santino in the living room. Dana was in the kitchen making dinner for everyone. Serena took a seat on the couch beside her brother while the twins got into some of their toys. "Thank you for today, Santino," Serena said.

Chapter 127 Santino's Survival School Part 2 "It was fun, but Serena, you've got to stop wearing your anxiety on your sleeve," her brother teased her. Serena raised an eyebrow at him. "What are you talking about?" she asked. "You, dear sister. I always know when something is bothering you. So, tell me what it is and I'll make it better," Santino said. Serena sighed, shaking her head. "I don't think you can, not this time," she admitted. "It is just my own fears talking, nothing else." "What's going on with those fears?" Santino pressed. Serena shrugged. "Logan and I have been seeing each other. With that comes certain expectations, should our relationship go to where I think we both want it to go," she explained. "Ahh, you being Luna," Santino said with a nod. Serena raised an eyebrow at him. "Mom said you called." Serena rolled her eyes. Of course, her mother had blabbed! Serena couldn't be made, though. It wasn't like it was some big secret that she'd become Luna if her relationship with Logan lasted. "Yup, that would be the one," Serena said with a sigh. She sank into the couch, wishing it would swallow her up. "A little ironic isn't it?" Santino asked, "You worked so hard to make a name for yourself, a career for yourself outside of your family's legacy. Now, your fated mate is an Alpha."

“Yea, ironic,” Serena said with another eye roll. “You’re supposed to be comforting me.” Santino chuckled. “I can’t say anything you don’t already know,” he admitted. “You just need to figure out what it is that you really want. I mean really want. Not what you wanted six years ago, but what you want now.”

“Thanks for the pep talk,” Serena teased. Santino wasn’t wrong, though, she had to figure out what it was she wanted now that she’d grown into herself more.

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Chapter 128

Chapter 128: Independence

“Serena, you’ve always been the more independent of the two of us,” Santino told her. The kids were eating dinner with Dana, and Serena was enjoying an evening chat on the front porch with her brother. “I know that,” she teased. Santino rolled his eyes. “Look, all I’m saying is that facing the idea of becoming Luna is testing your independence,” Santino said. “Just think about it.” “Mom said something similar,” Serena admitted. She sighed. It was time that she really did think about why she had concerns over being Luna. She knew she should talk to Logan about it too, because he needed to know where her mind was at with it

all.

“Alright, I’ve got to get going,” Santino said getting out of his porch chair. He finished off his beer and set the bottle down.

“Now, it is pretty late,” Serena pointed out. “Dad and I have some things to work on starting early tomorrow, with the Moonshine transfers and everything,” Santino explained. He stretched his arms up into the air.

“Fine, fine,” Serena said. “Just say goodbye to the kids.” “Of course,” Santino laughed. He went back inside and said his farewells to the twins. Serena listened to them thanking him for their ‘survival school’ and excitedly telling him they couldn’t wait to go camping. When her brother reappeared on the porch, Serena stood up to give him a hug. “Whatever concerns you have about being Luna, just know that you’ll be great at it,” Santino said, “You were literally born for a leadership role like that. So, don’t let concerns about whether or not you’ll be good at it get in the way.” “I won’t.” Serena promised. Santino kissed her on the cheek and walked off his porch to the car. Serena watched him drive off and then went inside to take over the night routine for the kids.

They'd been fed and bathed, so she just had to get them into bed. "I've got it from here," Serena said. "Thank you," Dana said with a smile. "I'll just clean up the dishes and head to bed myself. There are some leftovers in the oven for you." "Great, thanks, Dana," Serena said, nodding to her. "I want to sleep outside tonight," Olivia insisted. Serena laughed. "We'll go camping sometime soon," she said. "For now, we've got to sleep in our beds."

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She led the twins upstairs and got them in their own beds. They *were* so tired from their day out in the woods they didn't even want her to read to them. Serena kissed them each and made sure they were tucked in snugly. Oliver had already closed his eyes by the time Serena pulled the covers up and kissed his forehead. Olivia was more alert, but still clearly tired. "When will daddy Logan come over again?" she asked. "I'm sure he will come over as soon as he can," Serena assured. "I can call him if you want?"

"Yeah, tell him to come over tomorrow," Olivia said. "Alright, I'll see if he is free," Serena said. She kissed Olivia and headed back downstairs. She and Logan had made a good habit of calling each other every night, especially when they hadn't been able to see each other during the day. Serena got the leftovers out of the oven and sat down at the table to eat and call Logan. "Hey you," Logan said. "I was hoping you'd give me a call tonight." "I'm sorry it is so late," she said. "Not at all," Logan told her. Serena smiled, pausing to take a bite of her dinner. "What did you and the kids do today?" "Santino came for a visit and taught them some survival skills out in the woods...hunting, making fire, making shelters, foraging, that sort of thing," she

explained. "I bet they loved that," Logan said with a laugh. "They did. They want to go camping with the both of us at some point," Serena said. Logan laughed again. "That sounds like a great time," he admitted. Serena ate some more of her dinner, and then she sighed. "Is there something else going on?" Logan asked her. Serena swallowed the bite of food in her mouth and took a sip of water before answering. "I've just been thinking about things," she said. "You know, us, the future." "That sounds ominous," Logan admitted, revealing a sense of vulnerability in regards to their relationship. "Oh, it isn't anything bad" Serena said quickly. "At least, I hope it isn't. I'm not really sure what to think about it." "Again, I say that sounds ominous," Logan said seriously. Serena sighed, setting her fork down. "We've talked a lot about our future together with the kids, and our relationship," she said. "I know that any progression in our relationship would eventually lead to me

becoming Luna." "That's true," Logan said slowly. "I think I know where this is going." "You do?" Serena asked with a nervous giggle. "Serena, you are one of the few people I've ever met who truly understands the responsibility that an Alpha or Luna has to the pack, without actually being an Alpha or Luna," Logan said. "I grew up around Alphas and Lunas," she reminded Logan. "Then you have an upper hand," he said. "I know you, though. You're not worried about not being able to handle the job or be good enough for the pack. That is in your blood, and you know you'd succeed." Serena giggled into the

phone. Apparently, Logan did know her well, because he was saying all the right things about her own thoughts and feelings. “No, I’m not,” she admitted. “I know I’d be a great Luna. I just don’t know if I can let go of my independence to fill that role.”

Logan sighed, silence taking over the conversation. Serena sat on the phone with him for a long time. She hoped that she hadn’t offended him or said something that made him change his mind about wanting to be in a relationship with her. She’d already begun to care for him so much. Upsetting the dynamic now would be more damaging to her emotions and the kids’ than if they never started seeing each other in the first place. “I know how you feel,” Logan admitted. “I always knew I was going to be an Alpha, but I thought it would be years from when I actually took on the role. It wasn’t easy, and there were a lot of times when I thought it would be better for me and the pack if I just ran off and let someone else take over.” “That must have been really confusing, without anyone to turn to,” Serena admitted. Suddenly, her own concerns didn’t seem so serious. At least, she still had a choice. Logan had been forced into the position. “The point is, I trusted myself to do right by the pack, always,” he explained. “I trusted myself to do what was best for those who relied on me, including myself. Because let’s face it, I was the only one taking care of myself too.”

Serena chuckled, hearing a humorous tone in Logan’s voice.

“I understand it is a big undertaking for a female who has a solid career and two children to consider,” Logan said. “You’re not the first female or the first Luna to have a career and children. If anyone could create the right balance between all three, I know it is you.”

“You’re not the first person to say something like that,” Serena admitted. “It must be true, then,” Logan said with a laugh. “I’m not going to pressure you. I’m also not going to lie to you. There is a large part of yourself that you will have to give up to become Luna. But you would gain something else in return.”

“What would that be?” Serena asked.

“You’d gain the love and devotion of a pack, an entire family that would always be there for you, no matter what you need. You’d gain a purpose greater than the one you already have, and I know how much you want to have a meaningful purpose. You’d also gain the support and devotion of an Alpha who could help you find the right balance and share in the responsibility of the pack and the twins,” Logan explained.

“Well, when you put it like that...” Serena trailed off. Logan’s words did make her feel a lot better. She yawned into the phone, suddenly feeling very tired.

“How about I come by tomorrow morning and take you out to breakfast before you have to be at the hospital,” Logan offered. “We can finish this conversation then.”

“Alright,” Serena said. “Just, after I go to work, can you stop by and see the kids before Dana takes them to daycare? They want to see you.”

“Yea, I’ll pencil that into my schedule,” Logan teased. “Goodnight, Serena.” “Goodnight, Logan,” Serena said before hanging up and going to bed.

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Chapter 129

Chapter 129: Concerns for the Future

Logan took Serena to a small bakery for coffee and breakfast pastries. It was early enough that they were some of the only people there and they could continue their conversation without drawing too much attention.

Serena had her hands wrapped around her warm coffee mug, a cheese Danish sitting on a plate beside her.

“You should have told me of your concerns earlier,” Logan said to open up the conversation. Serena sighed. “I know,” she said. “I was having trouble really getting to the bottom of it, though. I talked to Flo, I talked to my mother, I also talked to Santino. I couldn’t really figure out what was bothering me so much.”

“I get it,” Logan said with a nod.

“I know you do,” Serena said, smiling warmly at him. “At least I have people to talk to about it. People that can offer the right support.” Logan smirked. “I made due,” he said with a shrug. He bit into his croissant. Logan hadn’t thought much about whether or not Serena would have doubts about becoming Luna. He’d always thought that she would welcome the opportunity, based on what she’d told him about her parents. “You know, I’m honestly a little surprised about this,” Logan said. Serena raised an eyebrow at him from across the table.

“Why?” she asked. Logan chuckled.

“When you told me about why you became a doctor, it had been a way to prove yourself to your parents,” he reminded her. “A way to step out from under your brother’s shadow. You admitted to being jealous of Santino for getting to be Alpha, wanting to show you had the same abilities as him.” “Yes, I know the story,” Serena said with an eyeroll. Logan chuckled again. “And becoming Luna doesn’t help fulfill that desire?” he asked. He tilted his head at Serena, studying her as she drank her coffee. There was so

much about her that was worth admiring. Logan didn't think he'd ever understand the strength she possessed, but he wanted to bask in it.

"It isn't the same as working for something and succeeding," she said. "To become a doctor, I had to study, work hard, make the right connections, compete with other humans and wolves. It was all me. Becoming Luna...that's just destiny, fate, because the Moon Goddess fated us to be mates." Logan shrugged.

"Is that any different than Santino becoming Alpha?" he asked. "He was fated to be Alpha because he was the oldest and only son born to your parents."

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Serena looked down at her pastry, her mind working through what Logan said. Logan munched on his croissant, pausing to drink coffee in between. "You do have a point," Serena said. "Of course, I do," Logan said playfully. He smirked at her. Serena sighed, shaking her head.

"I've got to get to the hospital. Thank you for breakfast," she said. Logan nodded.

"Dana is expecting me to drop by?" he asked. Serena nodded. She gathered her things and left.

Logan finished his coffee slowly. He had a feeling that Serena's concerns were rooted more deeply than just being concerned about giving up her independence to become Luna. He had a feeling it had more to do with their relationship than being Luna. He'd have to talk to her about it more when she got out of work. As it was, he had planned to spend the day with the kids instead of taking them to daycare. "Come on in, Logan," Dana said, opening the door when Logan arrived at the house. "The kids are just finishing breakfast." "Dana, how would you feel about letting me keep them home from daycare today?" he asked. Dana raised an eyebrow at him. "I should clear that with Serena," Dana muttered. Logan sighed. "Sure," he said with a nod. "I'd just like to have a day with them. Dana pulled out her phone to make the call, Logan went into the kitchen where the kids were eating cereal. "Daddy Logan!" Olivia greeted him excitedly. Logan grinned at her. "You can just call me 'dad' you know," he told her. "Are you here to play with us?" Oliver asked, "I am," Logan said. "All day, just the three of us. How does that sound?" "Perfect!" Olivia sang. She jumped down from her chair and hugged Logan tightly around the thighs. Logan smiled, putting his hand on the back of her head. Dana came into the kitchen, tucking her phone into her pocket. "Serena says that is fine," Dana said. "I'll just clean up from breakfast, and then I've got a shift at the daycare. Were you planning on staying at the house all day?" "We'll see where the day takes us," Logan said. "I will have them both back here before Serena comes home from work, though. If we do go out, that is." "Alright," Dana said with a nod. "Come out to

the back yard,” Olivia said, taking Logan’s hand and dragging him towards the back door. Logan grinned at the kids. Oliver was out in front of Olivia, leading the way

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The backyard had a sandbox, a swing set, and several other toys that kids enjoyed. Oliver wanted to play soccer, so Logan kicked the ball around with him while Olivia played on the monkey bars on the swing set. Olivia called out to them, telling Oliver what direction to go with the ball to avoid Logan. It didn’t take long for Oliver’s stamina to wear out though, and he flopped down in the grass, breathing heavily.

“...can’t...go...on,” he gasped dramatically. “Just leave me.” Logan scooped Oliver up in his arms and threw him over his shoulder like a sack of potatoes. “No man ever gets left behind,” he said. “What about women?” Olivia asked. She jumped down from the monkey bars and ran over to Logan’s side. “Carry me too!” Logan grinned. He grabbed Olivia in his other arm and threw her over his shoulder too. Olivia giggled and kicked her legs back and forth. Logan ran around the yard with them once before he too started feeling tired. He set them both down on the ground. “Again, again!” Olivia said. She held her arms up and jumped up and down. Logan put a hand on his chest, breathing heavily. “I need a minute,” Logan said. He sat down in the grass and Olivia and Oliver sat with him.

“When are you going to come live with us?” Olivia asked. Logan took a deep breath.

“I don’t know,” he said. “That’s a conversation that your mother and I are going to have.” “Why can’t we talk about it?” Olivia asked. “Yea, we want you to live with us, daddy,” Oliver said. “Why does mommy have to say it?” Logan chuckled, ruffling Oliver’s hair. He still wasn’t used to explaining those complicated adult things to kids. He didn’t want to lie to them, but he didn’t want to say anything that could strain the relationship between the twins and their mother. He didn’t want them to think that she was keeping him from the twins or anything. It wasn’t that Serena was doing anything like that, but he didn’t know how kids processed certain bits of information. “Your mother and I are working things out,” Logan said. “Sometimes, what kids want and what parents want are two different things. We want to make sure that everything we decide is best for all four of us. That’s what families do.” “Okay, okay,” Olivia grumbled. She got up and went to the swing set again. “I’ll push you,” Oliver said. “I bet you can’t push me all the way around the top,” Olivia teased.

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“Yes, I can!” Oliver said, rising to the challenge. Logan smiled at the kids. They never did run out of energy. He was happy to have a day with them but it gave him a good look on how Serena’s life had been for years. Logan still had the luxury of saying “enough is enough.” Serena didn’t have the chance to step away like he did. Logan didn’t want to step away. He wanted to be there for the kids and for Serena,

giving her the chance to step away when she needed it. "Come on, dad!" Olivia shouted. "Push me higher."

"Me too," Oliver said getting on the other swing. "Push me too!" Logan groaned, heaving himself up onto his feet. He went behind the swing set and started push them, alternating back and forth. The both laughed and kicked their legs out. The sound of children's laughter warmed Logan's heart. He pushed them as high as he could, then slowly let them lose their momentum until they were begging him to push them again. He repeated the process until his arms were too tired to keep going. The twins were exhausted after, so Logan brought them inside. He made them a snack and let them take nap on the couch. He had his own lunch time snack while he watched them sleep. They clung to each other happily. Logan still wasn't sure about the future, but he knew he wanted the twins and Serena in his.

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Chapter 130

Chapter 130: Restless Minds at Ease

When Serena got home, Logan and the kids were still playing together. Logan looked a little haggard, like he was starting to get worn out from all the activity.

"I didn't know you were going to spend all day here," Serena teased him. Logan shrugged and laughed.

"There wasn't much else on my to do list today," he admitted.

"Do you need a break?" she asked. Logan sighed, sitting down on the couch.

"Maybe for a few minutes," he said. Serena smiled and nodded.

"Olivia, Oliver, why don't you go play in your rooms for a little bit," she said. "Logan and I have some things to talk about." "Okay," they chorused. The twins grabbed hands and ran up the stairs. Serena watched them go, smiling as they disappeared. They were chattering to themselves, already lost in some fantasy game.

"Are you still having concerns about being Luna?" Logan asked. Serena shrugged one shoulder.

"I don't really know," she confessed. "I mean, everything you said this morning is true. I guess I just need to remember that." "Look, Serena, I'm not a perfect Alpha. I don't always know what I'm doing. I mean, look at how I've reacted to you ever since you

joined the pack. There's no manual for how to do this, no right or wrong answer," he explained.

"I've been so focused on my career and my own successes that I haven't thought about what comes next," she said. "I guess I just never thought what I would do once I solidified my career as a doctor. I wasn't thinking beyond that."

"Being Luna would be a great step to take, padding your resume even more," Logan teased her. Serena rolled her eyes and shook her head. She got off the couch and went into the kitchen.

Logan followed her, putting on a pot of coffee for himself like he was perfectly comfortable in her home. Serena didn't mind. But she wondered where they would live if they ended up getting to that point in their relationship. Logan's house had been in his family for generations, and his mother still lived there. The twins loved that house. It was big. Still, it was so lived in by Logan's family, that Serena thought she might always feel like a guest there. "Can you make me a cup too?" she asked, busying herself with washing a few dishes that were left over from what looked like snacks Logan had prepared for the kids. "Sure," Logan said. "You know, we don't have to figure everything out at once." "I know,

"Whatever happens, happens," he continued. "Trust me, I have my own insecurities about the future."

"Really, what are they?" Serena asked, turning to look at Logan. He was leaning against the counter. He chuckled and shook his head.

"The point is, if you worry too much now, then when the time comes, you will always choose the more cautious route," he said. "We don't know what is going to happen. We may get to a point with each other and the twins where the rest is inevitable and just feels right. That is my hope, anyway." "You are a wise Alpha," Serena said with a smile. Logan chuckled and got some coffee mugs while Serena finished the dishes. They returned to the couch with their coffee and sat down together. "So, what are some of your insecurities?" she asked again. Logan grinned at her. "A lot of them are the same as yours," Logan said. "Though, I think mine also include concerns about you deciding you don't want me to be a part of the twins' lives, or that you might take them away and live in the human world again." "Logan, that would never happen," Serena assured. Logan nodded. "I believe that. On a basic level, of course, I believe that," he said. "But that's the nature of insecurities, isn't it?" "I guess so," Serena said with a light laugh. "So, let's make a deal with each other right now," Logan offered. He angled towards her on the couch. He held his coffee mug between his palms. "Okay, what deal?" Serena asked. "We will face our insecurities together so that we can build a stronger future for each other, our kids, our family, and our pack," he said. Serena bit her lower lip. "Deal," she said. She held her mug out and Logan clinked his against hers. He smiled widely at her. Serena looked into Logan's eyes. She saw how much he cared about her and the twins. In that moment, all her concerns about being Luna

vanished. She trusted Logan and she trusted herself to make the right decisions for the kids and for themselves.

Heat spread across her skin from the intensity of Logan's gaze. She wanted to lean in closer to him.

The front door opened, interrupting the intimate moment brewing between Serena and Logan. "Oh, I didn't know you would both be here tonight," Dana said walking in. She took her shoes and coat off. "The kids certainly don't lack for energy," Logan said with a chuckle.

"Not at all," Dana said with a smile. "Shall I get dinner started?" "Yes, please," Serena said. "Will you be joining us, Logan?" Dana asked the Alpha. He looked at Serena. She shrugged. Logan sighed, putting his empty coffee mug on the coffee table. "Not tonight," Logan said. He stood up and stretched. "My mother has been hinting that I've been leaving her alone too much." He chuckled slightly. "You should say goodbye to the kids," Serena said, standing up too. They went upstairs together while Dana got started in the kitchen. Olivia and Oliver were in Olivia's room together. They stopped their game when their parents appeared. "I've got to go, kiddos," Logan said. "What?" Olivia asked pouting. "Why?" Oliver asked. Logan smiled gently. "I'll be back soon, don't worry," he said. He knelt down and held his arms out. Olivia and Oliver rushed at him, hugging him tightly.

"When will you not have to leave?" Olivia asked. Logan looked over his shoulder at Serena. Serena sighed and smiled. "We're getting there," she said. Logan stood up and stepped out of the room. "Dana is making dinner. Go downstairs and let her help you get washed up." "Okay," they said, running off down the hall and the stairs. Serena and Logan walked down together more slowly. "Thank you for spending the day with the kids," Serena said as they walked down the stairs. "I know they are so energetic, but they really love having every minute they can with their dad." "I know," Logan said with a chuckle. They paused in the conversation while they headed out onto the porch. "I hope you know that it means a lot to me too," Serena said, touching Logan's arm. He smiled at her, taking her hand and bringing it to his lips. He kissed the back of her hand warmly. "I think it is safe to say that it means a lot to all of us," Logan agreed. "Does it help?" "Help what?" Serena asked, tilting her head to the side. "You," he said. "I love spending time with the kids, but I hope it is beneficial to you too." Serena laughed. "Oh, yes," she said. "The kids will sleep very well tonight, and I will hopefully be awake enough to indulge in a glass of wine." "That sounds like the perfect end to a day like today," Logan said. Serena bit her lower

lip. She stepped closer to Logan and he slipped his arms around her. The embrace was warm and affectionate. Logan kissed her on the cheek. It was so tame and chivalrous, but Serena was pleased he wasn't pushing or being some typical male animal.

“I’ll see you soon,” he said. “Count on it,” Serena said with a giggle. Logan left and Serena went back inside to join the kids and Dana for dinner. Even though Olivia and Oliver were chattering to each other, Serena could tell that they were getting tired.

Serena smiled at her kids, loving to see them bonding with Logan. She knew it was confusing to them and hard on them not having him live there. Kids couldn’t always understand why adults did things a certain way, and Serena wanted to take things

slow. Olivia and Oliver were just so in love with Logan and wanted him to be part of the family, they didn’t understand the more serious implications that came with romantic ties between adults. Serena sighed and shook her head. She had made a deal with Logan to face their insecurities together. She wanted to take his advice and stop worrying about the things that were far off in the future. For the time being, the kids were so happy to know Logan was their father and to have him in their life. Serena was also so happy to have Logan and their budding romance. She wanted to focus on those good, happy thoughts.