

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 141

Chapter 141

Chapter 141: Spending the Night

“What would you think of me spending nights at the house with you and the twins?” Logan asked Serena over dinner one night. They’d tried to make a weekly habit of going out to dinner together on an ‘adult date. “Like, moving in together?” Serena asked, pausing with her fork halfway to her mouth. Logan shrugged. “Maybe not permanently,” he said. “I could spend nights now and then, though, if you’re open to it.” “I guess that makes sense,” Serena said with a nod. “I’m not sure how I feel about us sharing a bedroom, though. I mean, we still need to set an appropriate example for the twins. And that part of our relationship is still so new.”

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Logan chuckled and nodded.

“I wasn’t going in that direction,” he admitted. “There’s a room on your first floor, right, a play room? We did once talk about converting it into another bedroom.” Serena smiled at Logan. She had forgotten about that conversation but she was glad he remembered it. She really liked how Logan was never pushy. He didn’t expect them to be the perfect, conventional couple until it felt right for her and the twins. She appreciated him respecting her boundaries. “I think that is a great idea,” she said. “I know the twins will love having you around more. It would mean you could stay over whenever; we wouldn’t have to make some big plan about it.” “That was my thinking,” Logan said. “I can keep some of my clothes and things there. If you have a late night at the hospital, I can be there with them so they still have time with at least one parent. I know Dana helps out a lot, but I’d like to be a second pair of hands when I can.” “Dana is great,” Serena agreed. “You’re right, though. The twins should have at least one parent tucking them in and eating with them at night or in the morning. Both of our schedules are a little up and down.” “Okay, so it is a plan,” Logan said. Serena nodded. “After dinner, why don’t we go and take a look at the room,” Serena offered. “We can talk about how you want to set it up and everything. I’ll have to figure out what to do with the toys. I’m sure the twins would rather have you in that room than toys.” She giggled.

Logan smiled at her. She felt her cheeks warm. After they’d spent the night together,

she felt self-

conscious every time he looked at her or smiled at her in a certain way. It was like she knew exactly what he was thinking, and he wasn't the only one thinking it!

Serena knew that having Logan around would make it more difficult for her to be an

appropriate adult role model for the kids, but his room would be on a different floor than theirs. She shook her head, forcing those thoughts out quickly. They finished dinner and headed back to the house. Dana had already put the twins to bed and was down in her apartment. Serena and Logan went past the kitchen and down the hall to the playroom. She flipped the light on. Logan walked into the center of the room and looked around. "It is a good size," he said. "I can make some calls tomorrow and have the basic furniture brought in, bed, dresser, lamps, bedside table." "I'd like to talk to the twins about it," Serena said. "Just to make sure it is okay with them. I can't imagine why it wouldn't be, but still..." "Yeah, absolutely," Logan said.

Serena and Logan said their goodbyes and Serena went to bed. She was woken up by the twins jumping on her bed, bouncing up and down. Serena groaned, throwing her arm over her eyes. "What are you two doing?" she asked. "Mommy, it is time to get up," Olivia insisted. Serena smiled, pulling her arm from her face. "Come sit with me," Serena said. She pulled herself up and leaned back against the pillows. Olivia and Oliver sat on each side of her and she wrapped her arms around them. She kissed them each on the head.

"What do you want to talk about?" Oliver asked.

"Your dad and I had a chat last night, and we were thinking it was time to make a change around here, but we wanted to make sure it was okay with you first," Serena said.

"What is it?" Olivia asked a little nervously. Serena kissed them each again.

"Logan and I were talking about turning your playroom into a bedroom for him," Serena said.

"Where would our toys go?" Olivia asked. Serena chuckled. "They can be in your bedrooms or in the living room," she said, "We won't have to get rid of them." "Why would he need a bedroom downstairs? Why can't he stay in your room?" Olivia asked. Serena giggled and sighed. "This is just the way we want it for now," Serena explained. "Logan can stay nights whenever he wants. He can be here to tuck you and have breakfast with you. He can be here if I have to work late at the hospital. What do you think?" "Well, as long as we don't have to throw our toys out, I'm okay with it," Olivia said. "I want him here," Oliver said more directly. Serena kissed them each again.

Chapter 141 Spending the Night “Good, now go get dressed and get breakfast from Dana. I will be downstairs shortly.” she said. The twins scooted off her bed and ran out of her room. Serena sighed and reached for her phone. She called Logan, hoping it wasn’t too early.

“God morning, good morning,” he said when he answered. Serena laughed and rolled her eyes.

“I spoke to the twins, and they are happy to let you have their playroom as a bedroom,” Serena told him.

“After breakfast, I’ll clear the toys out before work. Then you can take your time getting everything set up.” “Sounds like a plan,” Logan said. “Alright, I’ll see you later,” Serena said.

“See you later,” Logan told her. She hung up and flopped down on her bed again. Her stomach twisted with giddy delight.

The idea of having Logan staying in her house for overnights was thrilling. They’d be staying in separate rooms, but she liked the idea of having him closer. He’d be there for family moments, and she knew the kids would love having the extra time with him.

Serena finally got out of bed and joined the kids for breakfast. The table had four chairs, but they rarely had anyone sitting in the fourth. It seemed like that would be changing soon. She knew Logan wouldn’t be living there full time, yet, but it was a good start.

After Dana took the kids to daycare, Serena pulled their toys from the playroom. They had a lot! She divided them up as best she could between their rooms and left a few in the living room. She’d let Olivia and Oliver sort out how they wanted them divided later.

There was a play mat in the room too, a rug that had roads and a small village on it. Oliver liked to drive his trucks along the roads and run his wooden wolves through the forests. She moved that into his bedroom, knowing he’d get more use out of it.

With the room empty, Serena made her way to the hospital for work. The moment she arrived, Adriana handed her a slip of paper. “What’s this?” she asked.

“A message came through for you from the human world,” Adriana said, “That’s unusual,” Serena said, “I don’t think any of my human world contacts know my location, let alone how to contact me.”

“Oh, this guy is a werewolf,” Adriana said “He said you’d know who he was” Serena looked at the name on the paper She smiled It was one of her old medical school professors!

The only werewolf she'd met out in the human world, and he'd been a professor in medical school. Serena had only had him for a few courses, but she had left a strong

connection to him because they were both wolves. "I'll have to return his call," she said. She hadn't expected to hear from him again, since he lived outside the pack.

"Serena, you're blushing," Adriana said.

"I am not," Serena argued, folding up the paper and tucking it into her pocket. Adriana raised an eyebrow at her.

"Are you sure? How well do you know this guy?" she teased. Serena rolled her eyes.

"He was one of my professors in college," Serena said. "That is the extent of our relationship. I guess he just wanted to follow up after I returned to the pack." "I don't know, it seems like something more to me," Adriana said. Serena shook her head.

"Okay, I'd appreciate it if you wouldn't spread those rumors around," she told her friend and boss. "Things with Logan are going really well, and I don't need him getting the wrong idea, especially when it is the wrong idea!" "Okay, okay," Adriana said dismissively. Serena grabbed her medical files and got to work.

[Previous Chapter](#)

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 142

Chapter 142

Chapter 142: Family Time

It didn't take long for Logan to get settled into the new room. After the furniture was moved in and assembled, the twins came in and watched him as he put the bedcovers on and folded his clothes into the dresser. "Can we help?" Oliver asked,

"Okay." Logan said with a nod. "Grab the corner of the quilt. Olivia, get the other corner on that side." The twins did as they were told. Logan grabbed both corners on his side. The three of them pulled the comforter out, stretching away all the wrinkles. With the bed made, Logan started pulling his clothes out of his suitcase and folding them on the bed, sorting them out. "Are you going to live here all the time?" Olivia asked. Logan smiled at her. "Not all the time," he said, "I'll be here as much as I can be, though. I want to be here as much

h as possible. “We want you here too.” Olivia said with a nod. “Are you almost done?” Oliver asked. “I’ll be done soon,” Logan promised.

The twins watched him while he folded and sorted his clothes. Then he tucked them away into the dresser. He had left a good portion of his clothing and belongings back at his house too, but he’d brought enough with him to make the room feel cozy and personal.

“Come play with us, now,” Olivia demanded once Logan was done.

“Okay.” Logan said with a smile. Olivia took his hand and pulled him out into the living room.

The twins got some of their toys and started playing. Logan sat down on the couch and watched them with their toys and fantasy games. It was the first night he was going to be staying there. He’d given Dana the night off completely because he wanted to full family experience with Serena and the twins.

When Serena got back from work, she seemed surprised Logan was sitting on the couch while the twins played. “All settled in?” she asked with a smile. Logan nodded.

“Yes,” he said. He stood up and took her white doctor’s coat from her. She bit her lower lip, her cheeks reddening slightly. He loved when that happened, and he liked how it happened more since they had spent the night together in the grass and at his house,

“Where’s Dana?” she asked.

“Out for the night,” Logan said, “I was just about to start dinner.”

“You’re amazing.” Serena said. Logan winked at her and headed into the kitchen. Serena got down on the floor with the twins and started playing. She used some interesting voices while they played. Logan threw together a quick meal. He didn’t want to do anything too elaborate for their first night. He was supposed to be treating it like any old family night, not some special occasion. He served up the plates and called everyone into the kitchen. “I was thinking this morning how nice it would be for all four of us to be at the table together,” Serena said. She went to the refrigerator and poured the twins glasses of milk

“I was looking forward to it as well,” Logan admitted. The four of them sat down and Logan smiled at everyone. He watched them all eat for a moment, wanting to fully enjoy the first real family meal they were having together, a meal where he wasn’t going to have to rush off at the end to get home. After dinner, Serena started washing the dishes. “I can do t

hat," Logan offered. Serena shook her head. "You cooked, I'll clean. If you want to help, take the kids to get a bath," she said. Logan smirked and nodded.

"Come on, you two, let's get in the tub," he said. Olivia and Oliver ran up the stairs.

"I have this little duck I want to show you, and my blue elephant robe," Olivia gushed as she raced up the stairs. Logan laughed.

He'd been there before to help with the nighttime routine and to tuck them in. Now he was the one in charge of the nighttime routine. It changed the dynamic significantly. Serena was also trusting him to get it right. He was a little nervous about that part, but she wasn't overreacting, which meant she was confident he could do it all.

In the tub, Logan helped the twins soap themselves up and wash their hair. They had tons of floating bath toys that they played around with, making big splashes. "Woah, let's try to keep the water in the tub," Logan said grabbing a towel to wipe some splashes off his face and arms.

"That's no fun," Olivia argued. Logan chuckled.

When Olivia and Oliver's fingers and toes started to prune, he pulled the stopper out and the water started to drain.

"Alright, come on you two, time to get out" Logan said. Olivia stood up and Logan wrapped her in a towel first, picking her up and moving her from the tub to the bathmat. He repeated the process with Oliver,

"I want my robe," Olivia said, pointing to the blue, fuzzy, elephant robe hanging on the back of the door. There was a red fox one right next to it that Logan assumed

belonged to Oliver.

He rubbed his hands up and down on the towel around Olivia until she was a dryer, then he switched her to her robe. Again, he did the same with Oliver too. They were absolutely adorable in their little animal robes. "Will you read to us?" Oliver asked. "Yeah, of course," Logan said. Oliver held his hand and Olivia took his other hand. They went into Oliver's room. "I picked out a good book," he said going to his bed and holding it up. "That is

a good one," Logan said. "Olivia, go change into your pajamas, and then we can read in here in Oliver's room for a while." Okay," Olivia said skipping off. Oliver got his own pajamas out and Logan went back to the bathroom to clean up the towels and toys quickly. Even the simplest of fatherly tasks felt good to him. He wasn't officially living there, but he also wasn't going to leave more work for Serena in his wake. The twins were snuggled up in Oliver's bed when

Logan returned. He sat on the edge of the bed and Oliver handed him the book. He read to

them until they were so sleepy their eyelids were drooping. Oliver fell back on his pillows. "Okay, I think it is time for bed," Logan said. He marked the place in the book and set it next to Oliver's bed. "Carry me to bed?" Olivia asked. Logan chuckled and nodded. "I'll come back to tuck you in, Oliver," Logan assured. He picked Olivia up and carried her to her bed. He tucked her in, patting her blankets down around her. "Can you get my stuffy?" Olivia asked, pointing to a stuffed animal across the room. Logan nodded and brought it back over to her. He tucked the stuffy into bed with her. Olivia giggled and hugged it close. "I'll see you in the morning," Logan promised. "We'll have breakfast together." "Can't wait!" Olivia said. Logan leaned down and kissed her forehead. When he returned to Oliver's room, the boy was nearly asleep. Logan pulled his covers back and got Oliver

more comfortably positioned on his pillows. Then he tucked the covers in around him. "You'll be here in the morning?" Oliver asked. Logan nodded. "I will," he said placing his hand on Oliver's forehead. "We'll have breakfast." "Okay," Oliver said. He closed his eyes. Logan kissed Oliver's forehead. Serena was still in the kitchen when Logan came downstairs. "If you want, I can finish the dishes and you can say goodnight to the twins," he offered. He came up behind Serena, putting his hands on her hips and kissing the

back of her neck. She shuddered and giggled. "Alright," she said. "When you come back down, maybe we can indulge ourselves in a late-night glass of wine," he whispered in her ear. Serena laughed.

"I'll take you up on that offer," she said. "I'll be back soon." She slipped out of Logan's hands. He chuckled.

Logan finished the dishes quickly and then got out a bottle of wine. He poured two glasses and went to the couch. Serena returned in a pair of pajamas. Logan raised an eyebrow at her. "I'm allowed to be comfortable in my house," she said. "I wasn't judging," Logan said, handing her a glass of wine. Serena sat on the couch beside him and leaned against him. Logan put an arm around her. "You know, I didn't think this would feel so good," Serena admitted. "What do you mean?" Logan asked. "I mean this," she said. "Ending our nights like this, it is kind of perfect." "I agree," Logan said, clinking his glass against hers before he kissed her forehead. He sipped his wine. It was nice not to worry about having to leave at any time.

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 143

Chapter 143

Chapter 143: Visiting Professor

At the hospital on her next shift, Serena decided to call her professor back. She hadn't returned his call initially, because of what Adriana had said, She really didn't want any complicated rumors causing problems between her and Logan The truth was, there wasn't anything going on between her and her professor He had been a guide to her in the human world, and she felt

grateful to him. She wanted to think that she could explain that to Logan and he would understand, be respectful, and trust her. They had come so far! "Hello?" a male voice said on the other line, "Professor Alex Henderson?" Serena asked. "This is he," the professor replied. "Alex, it is Serena," she said with a little laugh. Alex sighed into the phone.

"Way to keep me hanging," he said. "I thought I'd get a call back in less than forty-eight hours. I was ready to give up on you." Serena giggled. "Sorry," she said. "Things have been hectic in my life. There's a lot going on for me personally, and with the pack." "Ah yes, the pack," Alex said, "I do want to hear all about it. Do you think your hectic life can pause long enough for a visit with an old friend?" "A visit? Alex, you know I can't leave the pack whenever I want for a trip into the human world," she reminded him with a head shake. "Serena, you know me better than that," Alex said with a chuckle. "I was asking if I could come visit you." "Really?" Serena asked. "You want to come to pack territory? Okay, what happened to the professor I knew?" Alex laughed on the phone, "Nothing at all," he said, "I'm in need of a vacation and I have been wanting to follow up with you to see where life has taken you. It seemed like as good a time as any." "I'd love for you to come visit, I just need to get clearance from the Alpha first," she said.

"Alpha Logan?" Alex asked. "Yes," Serena said. "He's my Alpha and my mate of all things." "Then, do you really need his permission?" Alex asked. Serena sighed. She knew she needed it. Logan would be much more likely to have a jealousy attack if a random male from her past showed up without any warning. "It is the respectful thing for me to do," she said. "He is still my Alpha."

"Alright, alright," Alex said. "I was hoping to leave here tomorrow afternoon, which would allow me to arrive in Night Sky territory the following morning. Unless I hear otherwise, I will make my travel arrangements." "Sounds good," Serena said. "I'm looking forward to seeing you." "As am I," Alex said. He hung up.

Serena couldn't help her glowing smile throughout her work day. Every patient she saw commented on it. She was excited to see her old professor because he had helped her a lot. Being a werewolf in the human world could be hard. Alex was her support system and helped her land on her feet. Though they'd never had anything romantic, he was still important to her success in the human world and her success as a doctor. On her lunch break, Serena went to Logan's office. She wanted to talk to him about her professor in person and she wanted to do it somewhere where the kids wouldn't witness an argument if it came to that. She wasn't ruling it out with how jealous Logan could get.

“What an unexpected surprise,” Logan said. He stepped back from the door and let Serena into his office. “Something wrong?” He arched an eyebrow at her. “No,” Serena said. She sat down in a chair and Logan went around his desk, taking his seat again.

“Okay, Serena, why have you come to see me in the middle of the afternoon?” he asked. He smirked and looked her up and down. “Not that I mind.” Serena giggled, her cheeks flushing. “Sorry, I’m here for something else,” she said. “Do you know a wolf named Alex Henderson?” Logan creased his brow. “The name is somewhat familiar,” he admitted. “Not a name I have heard in a long time, though.” “That’s because he lives in the human world. He was a professor of mine in med school, helped me adapt to human life,” she explained.

“Okay,” Logan said with a nod,

“Well, he reached out to me, wanting to follow up on where my life has taken me since med school,” she explained. “He says he wants to come for a visit, but I wanted to clear it with you first.”

Logan’s lips lightened for a moment and Serena worried he was about to have an angry outburst, then he cracked a smile. Logan stood up and moved to the front of his desk. He leaned his hips against the desk and bent forward, placing a hand on Serena’s knee.

“Why would I have a problem with that?” he asked. Serena shrugged.

“You’re still my Alpha, and he isn’t a member of the pack. I didn’t want to make a decision that allowed a non-pack member entrance to the territory,” she pointed out. Logan smirked.

“I see,” he said. “You have my permission to have a visit from a former professor. I won’t stand in your way.” “Thank you, Logan,” Serena said, “I think you’ll really like him.” “I’m sure I will,” Logan said with a nod. Serena stood up and kissed Logan quickly on the lips.

“I’ve got to get back to work,” she said. He nodded.

Serena was surprised with how well Logan had taken the news. She had expected some resistance, or at least Logan saying he needed time to think about it. He was showing her that he respected her and trusted her. She liked that! Back at the hospital, Serena called Alex again and confirmed that he could come for a visit. She confirmed the timing and then went back to work. Serena topped by the nurse’s station, pulling new charts out for patients that were waiting in exam rooms. “You’re smiling again,” Adriana said. Serena rolled her eyes. “My professor is coming for a visit,” she said. “And before you get any idea, I already cleared it with Logan, and it is supportive of it.” “Good,” Adriana said with a nod.

"You're not going to make any jokes or twisted remarks?" Serena asked. Adriana laughed.

"Not this time," she said. "If Logan is okay with it, then clearly I was way off the mark." Serena laughed and nodded.

She went to the next exam room on her list. A wolf had come in complaining of a stomach ache and sore throat.

"Go ahead and lie back," Serena said, reviewing the chart quickly. The wolf laid back on the table and Serena put her stethoscope on.

She listened her patient's stomach and intestinal tract. Then she put the stethoscope aside and gently probed at her patient's stomach.

"Does any of this hurt?" she asked.

"No," her patient said. Serena nodded. There weren't any hard lumps, but she did feel a few pockets of gas in her intestines. Next, Serena checked the wolf's throat. Her glands were pretty swollen.

"You have some indigestion," Serena said. "And you might have a viral infection causing the sore throat. I'll prescribe you some anti-acid and an anti-viral."

"Thank you, Serena," the wolf said. Serena wrote up the script and gave her patient her discharge form.

She updated the patient file and went on to the next exam room.

When Serena got home from her shift at the hospital, Logan was already there. He had even started dinner again. "Do you actually like cooking?" Serena asked. Logan shrugged. "I don't dislike it," he admitted. "You're really okay with my professor coming to visit, my professor who is male?" she asked. Logan chuckled. "Why wouldn't I be?" he asked. Serena shrugged, moving into the kitchen and starting to set the table for dinner.

"You have a jealous streak," Serena reminded him. Logan laughed again and shook his head.

"Are you saying you had a romantic relationship with him?" he asked. Serena shook her head.

"Not at all," she assured.

"Then why would I be worried?" he asked. "You were worried about Carson and me, after both of us told you there was nothing romantic going on," she reminded him.

m. Logan sighed. "I trust you, Serena," he said. "I told myself when we started seeing each other that I would continue to trust you unless I had reason not to. I don't have a reason not to. I trust you, I trust your judgement, and if you want to visit with an old friend it is not my place to stand in the way of it." Serena smiled, setting out glasses of milk and water. "Thank you, Logan," Serena said. "It means so much that you said that." She liked seeing Logan taking responsibility for his emotions, and acknowledging that he had overreacted before. He was growing.

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 144

Chapter 144

Chapter 144: Lone Wolf

Professor Alex Henderson arrived in Night Sky territory in the middle of the afternoon. Serena was still at the hospital, and Alex showed up in the middle of her shift. He came in to the hospital while she was at the nurse's station.

"Alex, you're early," she said, raising an eyebrow at him. Alex shrugged.

"I thought I'd come by while you were at work and take a look at where you were working. Maybe you could even show me around," he said. "I heard a rumor from a few suppliers that you were in charge of a major renovations operation here."

"I was only partially in charge," Serena said filing the folders in her hands into their proper locations. "Dr. Adriana, she handled most of it."

Adriana, hearing her name, joined Serena at the nurse's station.

"You're talking about me," Adriana said with a light laugh.

"Adriana, this is my old professor, Alex Henderson," Serena said, motioning to her professor. Adriana raised an eyebrow at him. "Oh, you are younger than I thought," she admitted, reaching her hand out. Alex shook it with a confident smirk.

"I'm a fast learner," he said. "And you're the head of medicine here?" "I am," Adriana said. "Speaking of, I have a call to take. Serena, why don't you show your old professor around? I'm sure he's no stranger to hospitals." "Yeah, I'll get right on that," Serena said with a giggle. She rolled her eyes and looked back at Alex. "Do you really want to see? I feel like all hospitals are kind of the same after a while."

Alex chuckled and shook his head.

“Please, I’d like to see what you have going on here,” he said. Serena nodded and grabbed a pen, stethoscope, and clipboard. If she was going to show Alex around, she thought it would be a good time to check inventory in a few places as well. “You’ve settled into pack life well, it seems,” Alex commented as she showed him around the waiting room, the reception area, and the nurse’s station. “Honestly, I didn’t know if I would,” Serena admitted. “Being in the human world for so long, it was hard, but I made it work. I had a lot of support.” “I’m glad you were able to make the adjustment. Me, pack life never suited me,” Alex admitted.

Serena brought him into one of the basic exam rooms. “This is where I spend most of my time,” she explained. “Ever since our rival pack, Moonshine, was handled, fewer major injuries have been coming in and fewer surgeries have been performed.”

“This is a state of the art facility,” Alex admitted, glancing around the room. “Let me show you the Or, it is a little more exciting than an exam room” Serena offered. Alex grinned and nodded. She updated him quickly on the improvements she had made to the equipment and the medical practices. Alex seemed impressed, nodding and smiling as she pointed things out. “So, how is the lone wolf life working out for you?” Serena asked conversationally as she wrapped up her tour of the hospital. Alex sighed and shrugged. “You know how it is being in the human world,” he said. “It can be isolating, lonely, and feel like the whole world is against you. At least, when you were in my classes, had someone who understood.” Serena giggled and sighed. She shook her head as they walked back to the nurse’s station.

“That was always temporary for me,” she pointed out. “You were the one who wanted to live outside a pack because you didn’t like the politics or dynamics.” “I know, I know,” Alex said with a sigh. “I guess I didn’t realize how much I missed having someone around who understood being a werewolf.” Serena fixed him with a look, filing her inventory sheet. “Is that why you came to visit, because you are lonely?” Serena asked. She didn’t have any romantic feelings for Alex, but she was questioning his motives suddenly. “I came to visit because you were my only werewolf student in a long time, and I wanted the chance to follow up with you. It gave me the excuse to come see pack life, as well,” he said. “Alright,” Serena said. “I appreciate you coming by. You’re staying for a few days, right?” “That was the plan,” Alex said.

“Good, because I’d like to show you around the territory. It is much different than the city you live in,” Serena explained. “Are you going to try and convince me to become part of the pack?” Alex asked. He reached out and put his hand on top of Serena’s. Serena raised an eyebrow at Alex and pulled her hand away.

"I'll let you come to your own conclusion," Serena said. Alex smirked at her and chuckled.

"I'm looking forward to it," he said. "Is there anything you need help with, or a second pair of eyes on?"

"Actually, I do have a few cases that I could use your expertise on," Serena admitted. All the time, pack members were coming in with problems and concerns about symptoms they were experiencing.

Sometimes, Serena could connect them quickly and come up with a diagnosis. Other times, she couldn't always make the connection. Adriana would often help her, but she was on a conference call. "Sure," Serena said, taking a few folders off the desk and handing them to Alex. "This woman came in complaining of abdominal pain and a sore throat. The abdominal pain cleared up with an anti-acid, but the throat swelling has persisted." "Let me look over her history," Alex muttered. He walked off with the file. Serena smiled to herself and shook her head.

It was a great blast from the past, and she was happy to be working alongside Alex again. He had always been so inspiring to her, a lone wolf living without a pack.

When she'd first gotten pregnant and had the twins, she had considered it. Serena had considered becoming a doctor in the human world and raising her kids separate from the pack. She had been encouraged by Alex's life and his own success. Serena hadn't been able to do it, though. She knew she could have been successful on her own, but she hadn't wanted to deprive her kids of the chance to be part of a pack. Werewolves wanted to be in a pack, and whether she chose that or not, she couldn't choose for her own children.

It would be too confusing, too agitating to them to try and make sense of their heritage and their shifts if they were also forced to keep it a secret. Returning to the pack had been more for the kids than it had been for her. Now that she had such strong ties to Night Sky and Starseeker, she knew she would never give up pack life in exchange for living as a lone wolf in the human world. "I think you did everything you were supposed to," Alex said, coming back with the file. "But, she is likely suffering from a food allergy, which is why the antivirals haven't helped with her swollen throat. That is probably the source of her stomach pain as well."

Serena smiled, taking the file back.

"I'll have an allergy panel run on her," she said. "See, sometimes a second pair of eyes is necessary." "Agreed," Alex said with a strange smile. Serena felt uncomfortable suddenly with how he looked at her. She turned away, making the notes in the file. She sat at her computer and quickly submitted the order for the allergy test "I'm

surprised *you* didn't figure it out on your own," Alex muttered, "What do you mean?" Serena asked, raising an eyebrow at him. He chuckled.

"I always taught you that it is rare for symptoms for two different problems to present themselves in a patient," he reminded her. "Most symptoms are interconnected."

Serena sighed, finishing her work on the computer. She stood up and turned to face Alex from across the desk.

"Yes, you're right, I overlooked that," she said.

"I'm glad I could help, and remind you a little of your medical past," he said. Serena nodded.

"Where are you staying?" she asked. Alex sighed, stroking his chin. "I hadn't considered it," he said.

"Honestly, I was hoping you had a few recommendations." Serena scoffed. "I wouldn't know," she admitted. "I moved right into a house. I've never had to seek temporary accommodations, well unless you count the time a tree fell on my house and the Alpha put me and the kids up for a while." "The Alpha?" Alex asked. "Your mate?"

"We didn't know we were mates at the time," Serena said. "Things with Logan have always been...complicated. I can ask him if he has any suggestions, though." "I'd appreciate that," Alex said with a nod. "Let me finish my rounds for the day, then I'll introduce you to him and we can figure out where you'll be staying," she offered. Alex nodded and Serena got back to work.

5 Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 145

Chapter 145

Chapter 145: Family Separated

Logan was finishing up for his day when Serena and a wolf he didn't recognize came into his office. Logan raised an eyebrow at Serena. Normally she knocked and waited for him, but this time, she let herself right into his office. Normally, he would have been intrigued by her forwardness, but this time, he was wondering the motive behind it, since she was with another male. "This must be Professor Alex Henderson," Logan said. Serena nodded. "Alex, this is Alpha Logan," she said. Logan stood and moved around his desk. He shook the other male's hand.

Alex was strong, but he wasn't Alpha strong. He was fit and obviously intelligent. Logan could tell he lacked certain qualities, like being a strong leader, being selfless, and wanti

ng to support and guide others. Logan buried his innate distrust for a non-pack member standing in his office. "It is nice to meet you," Alex said with a nod. "Likewise," Logan said. "Logan, we were trying to figure out where Alex could stay for a few days, but I didn't have any ideas," Serena said. "I thought you'd want to meet him and maybe give him some ideas?" Logan smiled tightly. He went back around his desk, feeling better when he had a massive piece of wooden furniture between them. "You have a spare bedroom at your house," Logan said. Serena creased her brow. "I do?" she asked. Logan smiled lightly at her. She sighed and turned to Alex. "Can we have a minute?" she asked. Alex nodded and left the office, closing the door behind him.

Serena approached Logan's desk. She didn't sit across from him, though. She came around the desk and sat right in Logan's lap. He smirked at her and put his hands on her hips.

"Is this why you asked the good professor to leave?" he asked. Serena smiled and shook her head. "No," she admitted shyly, looping her arms around Logan's neck. "But Logan, that room is for you. You just put all your clothes in there, and the kids are psyched to have you around."

"I know," he said. "But I still have my room at my mother's place, and we already agreed that there would be times I might not be able to stay there. Alex is your friend and you should be allowed to put him up at your house."

Serena sighed.

"You're a great man, Logan, and an even better Alpha," she said. She leaned in and kissed his lips. Logan grunted, kissing her back for a passionate moment. He couldn't deny that he was a little upset that Serena hadn't put up more of an argument about letting Alex stay at her house. He wanted her to argue that the room belonged to him. He was trying to be more flexible, though, especially when it came to Serena. He had to continue to show her that he wasn't going to be jealous and full of rage all the time.

"I'll come by later and clear my things out so that Alex can get comfortable," he said a little reluctantly. "How long is he staying?" "Just a few days," Serena assured. "Then the room is all yours again." She smiled sweetly at him.

"Alright, if you say so," he teased. "I'm going to show him around a little. He hasn't been in pack territory for a long time," she said. Logan nodded as she slipped off his lap. She looked back to give him a quick wave before leaving his office. Logan nodded to her. Once Serena was gone, he sighed and leaned back in his chair.

She'd assured him there was no romantic relationship between them. Logan trusted her, but he didn't trust the professor. He didn't know the professor! He was a strange wolf in Logan's territory, one that didn't understand what it meant to be part of a pack, one that was fixated on his mate.

There was a vibe that came from Alex, a vibe that Logan didn't like. He was almost certain that the professor had ulterior motives. He hadn't wanted to voice them to Serena, though. He didn't want to sound jealous and paranoid, even though he knew he was.

When he finished up at the office, Logan went straight over to the house. Olivia and Oliver were already there with Dana.

"Daddy! You're home," Olivia said, running up and hugging him. Logan smiled. He hugged both the twins. It hurt his heart suddenly, to tell them that he was breaking up the family.

Even though it was temporary, he didn't want to let the kids down. "I am, I'm here, but not for long," he said. "Why?" Oliver asked. "You're not going to play with us?" Olivia asked. Logan smiled at the kids. "I wish I could," he said. "Your mom has a friend from school visiting. He is going to stay here at the house for a few days. That means I need to go back to my house and stay there for a few days."

"What!?" Olivia asked looking shocked. Logan sighed. He stood up and headed to his room. The twins followed behind him. "You're leaving us? You just got here!"

"I won't be gone long," Logan promised. "Just a few days. Besides, I'll still come to see you all the time. I'm not going to vanish or disappear."

"We're supposed to be family," Olivia argued as Logan started packing up his clothes. Logan's heart pounded in his chest. He hated hearing her sound so upset. Logan took a knee in front of both the kids. He put a hand on each of their cheeks. "Olivia, Oliver," he said seriously. "We are family. Nothing is going to change that, not

even if I'm not living here, okay?"

"Okay," the kids grumbled. Logan kissed each of them on the forehead.

"I wish I didn't have to go, but this is just for a few days, I promise," he said.

"You better come back," Olivia said, crossing her arms. "Yeah, we still have a book to finish," Oliver said. "I wouldn't miss it," Logan said. "Go on back to the living room and play." The kids ran off.

Logan finished packing up his things. He wasn't thrilled about it. Already that room had become cozy to him, along with the sounds of the kids playing down the hall.

As the Alpha was bringing his things out onto the porch, Serena and her professor showed up. They were laughing together, reminiscing about something from back when she was in school. "Logan, you're here," Serena said when she saw him, panting to catch her breath from the laughter. "The room is all set," Logan said. "Thank you." Alex said with a smile. "I appreciate your willingness to relocate. I know it isn't easy to be separated from your family." Logan raised an eyebrow at him.

"Do you?" he asked. Alex made a sound of confusion and looked between Logan and Serena.

"He's wondering how you can know that being a lone wolf and not being part of a pack," Serena filled in. Logan smiled at her, pleased that she could interpret his thoughts and intentions. Alex gave a dry chuckle. "Aren't I qualified, then? I'm always separated from my pack and family," Alex said. Logan shrugged. "By choice," he pointed out. Serena stepped in.

"Either way, Logan, Alex and I appreciate your kind gesture. I thought you'd at least stay for dinner," she said looking down at his bag. Logan smiled, pleased at the invite. "I'd like that. I think the kids would like that too," he said.

"Of course, they would," Serena said. She beckoned Alex to follow her and they went inside. Logan brought his bags to the car and then he rejoined his family and Alex.

"Olivia, Oliver, this is mommy's friend from school, Alex," Serena said, introducing her professor to the twins. They hardly looked up from their toys as they said 'hi'. Logan's lips tugged with a satisfied smile. The twins either hadn't met him before or they didn't remember him. They

might have met him and not liked him too. That at least made Logan feel a little better. He knew Serena would never have anything or do anything with anyone that the twins didn't approve of or really like. After talking to Carson, Logan had gotten the impression that one of the reasons Serena hadn't tried to pursue anything with him was

because the twins hadn't had much fun with him when they went bird watching. "Dinner's almost ready," Dana said from the kitchen. "I'll set the table," Serena said, disappearing. Logan stepped up

to Alex. "I do wonder what brings a lone wolf to a pack after years of isolation in the human world," Logan said under his breath. "How many of your human students do you follow up with?"

Alex grinned at Logan. "Do I need to justify my reasons to you?" he asked. "I'm Alpha of this pack and

Serena is my mate. The twins are my children. Do you think you need to justify yourself to me?" he countered. Alex chuckled. "I'm just here as a friend," Alex assured. Logan wasn't convinced.

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 146

Chapter 146

Chapter 146: Jealousy

Logan suddenly felt like an outsider to his own family. The twins were happy to have him for dinner, but Serena's full focus was on the professor. "I don't think I've ever had such a gifted student," Alex praised her. Serena blushed and looked down at her plate. "How many classes of Serena's did you teach?" Logan asked. "Only one, a first year class, but I knew there was something different about her right away," Alex explained. "And it wasn't just because she was a werewolf." "And, I proved you right," Serena said with a laugh. She reached across the table and ran her hand down the back of Olivia's head.

"It seems you had more going on in your life than I thought," Alex said, eyeing the twins. "I can't believe you were raising twins in school, and you never told me." Logan watched the other male's expression. He was looking for any hint that the professor might think the twins were his. Serena had told him they hadn't had a romantic relationship, but he hadn't had a real romance with her either and that still resulted in the twins.

She hadn't explicitly stated that she and Alex hadn't slept together, even if for a one-night stand. "Yes, the twins were my little secret in school," Serena said with a giggle. She looked across the table at Logan and winked at him. Logan smiled, chewing on his chicken slowly. "Ahh, the two of you have a history," Alex said, motioning between the two of them. Logan saw Serena blush again. He wondered what she had told Alex about them. "An ironic twist of events that one might call fated," Logan said with a nod. Alex chuckled. "I always taught Serena that she makes her own fate," Alex said, glancing sideways at Serena. Logan swallowed the growl that rose in his throat.

"I think it is time I should be getting the twins to bed," Logan said. He stood up. The twins didn't have any problem following him upstairs. He went through their bedtime routine, happy to have the time alone with them. They were clearly still upset about him moving out, even just for a few days. When he tucked them in, he again assured them both that he would be back soon. Logan returned to the kitchen to find Serena and

Alex angled towards each other and leaning in to each other as they spoke. "I really never expected you to come back to pack life," Alex was saying, "It seemed like you shared my vision of freedom and independence." Logan cleared his throat as he sat down again. Serena leaned away from Alex slightly

"Priorities change," she said flashing a smile at Logan. He wanted to think that her expressions towards him were genuine, but it almost seemed like she was overcompensating. "I understand that," Alex said. Logan noticed how the professor looked at Serena. "Serena, I'm going to head out for the night," Logan said. Serena stood up. "I'll walk you out," she said. At the front door she paused. "Logan, you don't have to go. You're welcome

here any time. If you want to stay and reminisce with us, you can." She grabbed his upper arm. Logan smiled at her offer. "I appreciate it," he said. "I don't think I have much to offer reminiscing about medical school and the human world. But you can tell me all about it later." Serena sighed and nodded.

She seemed genuinely upset that Logan didn't want to stay. He considered suggesting that he could stay in her room with her, but he thought the timing would seem too odd. He didn't want Serena to think he was trying to sneak ways to keep an eye on her and the professor.

"Alright," she said. She opened the front door and walked out onto the porch with him. "He's just staying a few days, right?" Logan asked when the door closed. Serena nodded.

"Yes, just for a few days," she promised. "Logan, I know this isn't easy on you, to be away from the kids." "That's not..." he trailed off, taking a deep breath to settle the volume and tenseness in his voice. "That's not my concern." Serena rolled her eyes. "I know you have issues with jealousy," she said. "I promise there is nothing going on between Alex and me. We never had a romantic relationship, and we never had an intimate relationship. Is that enough for you?" Logan growled. It should have been enough for him! He should have been able to look at Serena and just trust her. He should have been able to acknowledge that she was telling him the truth and making an effort to ease his concerns. "I wish it was," he said, "This isn't about you." Logan took her hands in his. "I know," she said. "You don't trust Alex. But please, Logan, trust me to tell you the truth. If he did anything that I thought was inappropriate or that crossed a line, I would tell you, and I would absolutely shut him down." Logan sighed. Again, he should have been able to trust her word. He didn't know why his jealous temper was brewing so much, "I'm trying to be okay with this," Logan said. "I hope that is enough for you." Serena smiled and squeezed his hands. She stepped closer and kissed Logan on the lips. He kissed her back but she pulled

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"It's for me," she said. Logan smirked.

"Alright, I will see

you tomorrow," he offered, Serena nodded, "Have a good night," she said. "You too," he replied. As he walked off her porch, Serena clung to his hand, Logan turned and smiled at her as she reluctantly let him go. He could see the desire in her eyes to keep him there overnight. For the time being, that was enough to satisfy Logan's jealousy. She still held affection for him. Whatever she might have had for the professor, he knew that she only looked at him that way now. The cool night helped chill Logan's temper as he drove home with the windows *down*, He wasn't planning on unpacking his luggage from the car. He'd just have to bring it back to Serena's house in a few days, Flo was still awake when Logan got home. She was surprised to see

him, though. "Logan, what are you doing here?" she asked. She was wearing a nightgown and a robe like she had been getting ready for bed. "Serena has a friend visiting from out of town," Logan said. "She needed the spare room in her house for a few days." "That was very big of you" Flo said, Logan snarled and rolled his eyes, "Thanks, mom," Logan said sarcastically. Flo chuckled at him and patted his shoulder, "It is just a few days," she said. "I'm sure you don't want to be separated from your kids either." "I can see them any time," Logan muttered, "They weren't happy to see me go, even for a few days," "Logan, what is it that is bothering you? Clearly, something about this temporary situation is upsetting." "It is nothing, mother," Logan insisted, shrugging her hand from his shoulder. "Logan!" Flo said firmly when Logan tried to turn away. "Serena has a male staying in her home," he grumbled. Flo sighed. "Oh," she said. Logan turned around to face his mother again.

"Oh?" he asked. "That's all you have to say? You're not going to lecture me on jealousy and my *temper*?" Flo snorted a laugh. "No, not this time," she said, "I know you can trust Serena, and I know she cares about *you and would* never lie to you again. But I also understand how jealous Alphas can get *over something* so little. There is nothing I can say to calm you. You'll feel better once he is gone."

Logan nodded. He was glad his mother understood, Serena seemed to understand

Chapter 146: Jealousy

too, even though she wasn't doing anything to make the situation better.

"Thanks," Logan said. "I've got to get to bed." Flo nodded. Logan went up to his room and laid down on the bed. Already, the mattress felt so different from where he'd been sleeping. The house smelled different. He didn't think he'd actually get any sleep. Normally, he could sense the energies of Serena and the twins close by.

Alone in the house with just his mother, he felt so far away from his family. It wasn't just jealousy over Serena spending time with another male, he was beginning to resent Alex for coming between Logan and his family. If that male tried anything, like asking to stay longer, or otherwise getting between him and the twins further, Logan knew his jealous rage wouldn't be containable! Closing his eyes, Logan took a deep breath and tried to sleep. He pretended he was back in Serena's house with the twins running around upstairs, which was what usually woke him in the morning. He imagined that he was sleeping in the bed that he'd gotten comfortable with and could smell Serena's coffee brewing in the kitchen. It was enough to get him to sleep:

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 147

Chapter 147

Chapter 147 : Kids on Kids on Kids

Alexandra invited Larissa and her baby over. She had a little boy named Simon. He was still very young, but Alexandra wanted the kids to meet their cousin and she wanted the kids to see what it was like to be around a baby,

Now that she was going to have another baby, they needed to understand how fragile and little babies were,

Victoria was there to help out. She'd been coming over to their house almost every day since Alexandra got released from the hospital. She said Alexandra needed to take it easy, especially since she was pregnant and still healing.

"He's so cute!" Sophia said, pointing at Simon.

Larissa sat on the couch with her son while the kids ogled him. "He's kind of wrinkly," Charlie said, scrunching up his face. "Will our baby look like that?" Gabriel asked Alexandra. She chuckled, shaking her head. The kids had started referring to their unborn sibling as "our baby." She thought it was adorable that they were already claiming their new sibling as theirs. "Our baby could. Simon is your cousin," she explained. "He's so tiny," Gabriel said. "Is he breakable?" Sophia asked, poking the child gently. Larissa laughed. "He is a baby. He's going to grow up big and strong. Right now, he is still little, but he won't always be."

"He looks kinda mushy," Charlie said. "Are you good here?" Alexandra asked Larissa, She nodded, rocking and humming to her son while the kids asked questions and stared at him.

Alexandra joined Victoria in the kitchen and got herself a drink of water. She was already feeling a little more fatigued than usual. She sat and watched Victoria moving around her kitchen, fixing a snack for everyone, No matter where she was, Victoria always seemed to be cooking and feeding people. "How are you feeling?" Victoria asked. "I'm fine," Alexandra shrugged. "Then why is your face full of worry lines?" Victoria asked, winking at her as she arranged fruit slices on a tray. "You know how much damage Damon caused. I'm still working to restore the pack, and I've been running myself ragged, I won't be able to keep that up once my

1105

Chapter 147 Kids on kids on Kids

pregnancy advances or once the baby is here," she explained. "Your priorities will shift, but they won't go away." Victoria offered. She patted Alexandra's hand quickly and went back to her food arrangements. "I don't think those things should be put on hold, though. It could take years before I can work towards repairing the damage Damon caused," she said, shaking her head. "Honey, the pack is going to understand," Victoria assured. "Will they?" she asked, creasing her brow.

"We are a community and we support each other. No one expects you to put your personal life on hold until the pack is perfect. The idea that there will come a time where everything is peaceful and settled, well that may never happen. Families, your family, will still grow in the meantime," Victoria said.

Alexandra smiled and nodded. She loved that her grandmother could really put things in perspective for her. Victoria always seemed to know what to say. "Besides, you'll have help from Santino, the kids, me, and from Barbara. You're not going to be raising this child on your own. You'll have plenty of support," she said. "That's true," Alexandra muttered. She was basing her concerns off of what it was like to be a single mother to triplets while being Damon's maid and constantly tiptoeing around him.

This time around, she wouldn't have triplets and she wouldn't be alone. That made things so much easier.

"Maybe I won't have to put the pack on hold for so long," she mused aloud.

"It is worth thinking about," Victoria nodded. "At the hospital, you and Santino seemed happy about the pregnancy." "Oh, I still am," Alexandra assured. She put a hand on her stomach and smiled. "I didn't get to be there every step of the way with the triplets. Santino wasn't there at all. This is kind of a second chance for both of us." "Yes, I agree. That is a good way to look at it," Victoria said. She picked up her tray of food.

Alexandra grabbed a little finger sandwich off the edge of the tray and ate it quickly. She followed Victoria back into the living room and sat beside Larissa,

"Mind if I hold him?" she asked, "Not at all," Larissa said, She carefully transferred Simon to Alexandra's arms. "Oh, he is so cute. What a precious little boy." Alexandra cooed. "Is he cuter than us?" Charlie asked, muffled by a mouthful of food. Alexandra chuckled and shook her head. "All babies are cute in their own way." "How are you adjusting, Larissa, to motherhood?" Victoria asked, finding a seat across from them.

Chapter 147 Kids on Kids on Kids

Larissa grabbed herself some cheese and crackers. "I didn't know what to expect. My mother has been helping out a lot, but it would still be better if I had..." she trailed off. "A mate?" Alexandra asked. "Yes," Larissa said with a sigh. "For a time, I hoped that could be Damon. His life imprisonment won't allow that. How many males out there want a woman with a pup from another male?"

"You'd be surprised," Alexandra chuckled. "Santino didn't know the triplets were his when he pursued me. Logan didn't know the twins were his when he pursued Serena."

"Well, those are good points," Larissa said. She smiled weakly. There was something in the way she talked about Damon that had Alexandra concerned. Larissa clearly still cared for him. She remembered her own fantasies about finding Santino and being a family with him. Larissa was younger than she had been. It must have been harder for her to imagine having a life and family with Damon.

"Things will work out. And Simon is my great grandson too. If you ever need help, I would be happy to assist," Victoria offered. "I really appreciate that," Larissa said. Alexandra gently bounced Simon in her arms. She hadn't held an infant in so long, but it felt normal, natural. She'd never forget how to be a mother and she was starting to long to have another baby in her arms. "That will be a permanent look for you soon," Larissa teased. "Yes, it will," Alexandra chuckled. When Simon started fussing, Alexandra gave him back to Larissa and she excused herself to nurse him. Alexandra looked at her grandmother. "Do you think the continuation of Damon's bloodline is a good idea?" Alexandra asked.

"I think if he is raised in a nurturing environment, Simon won't bear the burden of his sire," Victoria said.

Alexandra hoped that was true. Simon would wonder who his real father was one day, even if Larissa married someone else. If he sought the truth about Damon, he might try to be more like him, in an effort to connect to his father. That wasn't uncommon with children who had an absent parent.

"I hope you're right," Alexandra said. She didn't want her kids to be at odds with their own cousin if he tried to take over the pack. It would be her kids in positions of power by that time.

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 148

Chapter 148

Chapter 148: Appeals for a Prisoner

"Can you take me to see Damon?" Larissa asked Alexandra on their weekly coffee date.

Alexandra thought Larissa needed more support, more family, and she'd taken it upon herself to be a sister—

figure to her. "Just you?" she asked. "Well, if Simon can go too, that would be ideal," Larissa nodded, sipping her coffee. "I can make it happen, but Larissa, why do you want to do this?" she

asked. She trusted Larissa, but when it came to Damon, Alexandra knew Larissa had a soft spot. Like any young woman in love, she was blinded by it. Damon being the father of her son complicated matters. "I want Damon to

know he has a child, that he did one good thing in his life. I also want Simon to know his father, even if he'll never remember seeing him. When he asks, I can honestly tell him that he met his father," she explained. "Okay," Alexandra agreed. As far as reasons, they were valid. Alexandra wasn't going to deny Larissa the chance for closure or for Simon to know his father. No matter what Damon had done, he still had a right to know his own flesh and blood. "It is going to be a supervised visit. I'll be there the whole time to prevent him from doing anything," she explained. "I understand," Larissa said.

Alexandra saw a slight change in Larissa's eyes. It worried her, but there was nothing either Larissa or Damon could

do during a supervised visit. Larissa, Simon, and Alexandra made the trip to Night Sky territory. Santino hadn't been that happy about it, but Alexandra had convinced him it was the right thing to do. It still bothered her that every time she had a need to see her brother, Santino would get upset and grumpy. He'd *always try* to stop her. Even when she was logical and reasonable, he would get cranky, *only* agreeing because he knew Alexandra would probably go with or without his blessing. She'd made it clear she was telling him so there weren't any secrets between them, not for his permission "I

want two guards at this door" Alexandra said when she and Larissa arrived at the prison. "If the visit goes longer than an hour, I want a third guard to come in and check on us."

"Yes, Luna," the guard said, nodding.

"That's a bit excessive, isn't it?" Larissa asked 1/3

Chapter 148. Appeals for a Prisoner "Maximum security," Alexandra said, shrugging casually. Larissa didn't need to know that she was making special arrangements just because of her and the baby. Not that

she thought Damon or Larissa would try anything while she was there, but she wanted to ensure they didn't get any ideas. As it was, she doubted she'd agree to bring Larissa and Simon back for another visit. She didn't want Larissa thinking it was a regular event.

If the young woman was still fantasizing about a life with Damon and their son, reoccurring visits would only make that fantasy harder to break away from. Larissa needed to form healthy relationships, especially for her son. "Let me go first," Alexandra said, holding a hand up to Larissa. She headed down the corridor to Damon's cell and set up the chair far from his bars. Damon raised an eyebrow at her, pursing his lips.

"You're back again, so soon?" he taunted.

"I brought someone who wanted to see you. She made a convincing argument on your behalf," she said. "Oh?" Damon asked smoothly.

Alexandra motioned for Larissa to come down and sit in the chair. She did, walking slowly and clutching the baby close to her.

"Larissa," Damon purred.

Alexandra noticed how her cheeks flushed. Boy, she really did have it bad. That wasn't necessarily a good thing. Alexandra knew that Larissa wouldn't be able to visit Damon without her, or another Alpha or Luna present. Santino would never agree. Neither would Serena or Logan. She hoped Larissa understood that too. "Damon," Larissa said, plopping down in the chair. "You are looking rather... worn out," Damon said, narrowing his eyes. Larissa gulped. "... um..." "Damon, don't be an a*s," Alexandra said putting a comforting hand on Larissa's shoulder "Don't get me wrong, it is still a pleasure to see you," Damon said. "It is good to see you too. I've missed having you around," Larissa admitted. "I recently heard that you had a baby, my baby. Is that the bundle of joy?" he asked, motioning to the child in Larissa's arms. Larissa smiled and stood up. She turned her arms so Damon could see his son. When she tried to step forward, Alexandra grabbed her arm and pulled her back to a safe distance.

Damon snarled. "Can't you let me see my own child up close?" he asked. "You can see him from there," Alexandra insisted.

"Him?" Damon asked, eyes brightening. He smiled, he actually smiled! Alexandra hadn't seen a genuine, emotional reaction from him like that in a long time. "His name is Simon. He has your eyes," Larissa said. She pulled Simon's blanket back so Damon could see. "My son. My beautiful baby boy," Damon muttered. "Can I hold him." I held his arms through the bars. Larissa stepped forward to oblige, but Alexandra grabbed her again. "No, you can't," she insisted. "Alex, don't be so cruel. He is my son, my own flesh and blood. I would spend the rest of my life caring for him, doting on him, and raising him right, if I could," Damon said. "I wish you could," Larissa said, her voice breaking slightly. "Damon, it is so hard being on my own. Simon needs a father." "Please, Alex, I should be allowed to be a father. I can redeem myself through my son," he pleaded. Alexandra shook her head. She wasn't convinced. Yet, Damon did seem changed. He seemed like he really meant what he was saying about redemption. She'd heard his lies before, though, and they always sounded so pretty. "It isn't for me to decide.

The pack gave you your sentence. Perhaps this is the punishment the moon goddess sees as just. You can't raise or influence your son to be like you," she said.

"I wouldn't raise him to be like me," Damon said. He dropped to his knees and shook his head. "Please, Alex, plead my case to your husband. I want the chance to see my son grow. I want to raise him to be a better man than me." Alexandra sighed. It wasn't like Damon to beg. It wasn't like him to ask Alexandra favors. It wasn't like him to admit that he had faults he didn't want to pass onto his own child. Those actions alone made Alexandra think that he had changed. She, better than anyone, knew what having a child could do, how it could change someone. Damon seeing his son might have humbled him, given him something real to care about other than power and domination. "I make no promises, but I will talk to Santino," Alexandra said. Larissa and Damon both looked at her hopefully. Alexandra rolled her eyes. Another conversation she really didn't want to have. Santino was going to love this...

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 149

Kids from One Alpha
Chapter 149

Chapter 149 : Accusations

"I'm not talking about this again," Santino growled. Alexandra sat across from him at his desk. She always came to his office to talk about Damon now, because it was a frustrating conversation and she never wanted to have it in front of the kids. Santino didn't even need her to say anything, now. She had a certain expression on her face when she'd come into his office and sit down.

"You haven't even heard what I have to say," Alexandra said, crossing her arms. "You don't have to say anything. I know what this is about," Santino grumbled, shifting the papers on his desk. Of course, Alexandra caught him at a time when he didn't have anything to work on. A lull in his day. He had no reason to make an excuse to back out of the conversation and he doubted anyone would be calling him. "Santino, you can't keep avoiding this conversation," Alexandra argued. "We've had the conversation. My answer hasn't changed," he said. "But you didn't see him. He really sounded like he'd changed and like he'd give up his lust for power for the chance to raise his son," Alexandra said in a rush.

Santino had heard it all before.

"I know this. You've said it before," he pointed out. He grabbed a pen and flipped it back and forth between his fingers.

“But you’re not listening,” Alexandra argued.

Santino growled and sat up straight, throwing the pen aside. “I am listening. I’m just not willing to jeopardize the safety of the pack on a hunch. You shouldn’t be either!” “It isn’t a hunch,” Alexandra cried, throwing her arms up. “I saw him!” “He’s tricked you before,” Santino reminded her, propping his elbows on the desk and resting his chin on his hands. “He is just asking for an appeal,” Alexandra said.

“The pack had a fair trial and the sentence was imprisonment for life. If he wants an appeal, he will have to wait until the proper amount of time has passed to petition for one. I can’t grant appeals on your word alone. That would be unfair to the sentence the pack voted on,” he explained. He shouldn’t have had to explain any of this. Alexandra knew pack law. She knew how it worked, but she was asking Santino to make exceptions for a man he had no desire to see free ever again. As an Alpha, he couldn’t always let his personal feelings get in the way, but on this matter, he was relying on his personal feelings and the experiences he’d had with Damon already. The madman was still dangerous.

Chapter 149. Accusations The fact that Alexandra was asking Santino to show favoritism and break pack protocol for her brother told him that she wasn’t thinking rationally. Damon had her good and fooled, again. Santino had to protect the pack and protect his family. That included Alexandra. Even if meant protecting her from herself. “It doesn’t seem like you’re actually listening to me,” Alexandra complained, shaking her head.

“I’m sorry, Alex. I wish I could say that I trusted him enough to make an exception, but I don’t. He will just have to show, over time, that he’s changed. Then the pack can decide whether he is deserving of an appeal,” Santino said. “That is the only fair way.” “I wish you could have seen what I saw,” Alexandra sighed, softening in her chair.

“Even if I’d seen it, I wouldn’t be playing favorites with him. Damon will have the chance for an appeal when the time is right, based on pack law. If he is still remorseful and willing to do right by his son by then, then he’ll have a better case,” he said.

“You know, you don’t have to trust Damon,” Alexandra muttered. “You could just trust me.” “That is not fair,” Santino said slamming his hand on the desk.

Alexandra started and leaned away from him.

“This has nothing to do with me trusting you. It is about Damon, his manipulative skills, and your repetitive wish to trust him,” Santino said. “Why can’t you trust who I trust? You did the same thing with William,” Alexandra accused.

Santino rolled his eyes. “Alex, we’ve come a long way since then. Besides, William was trying to sleep with you. Damon could try and take over the pack again. Both impact me and our family personally.” Mercifully, the phone on Santino’s desk rang. He sighed in

relief and answered it. "Santino, we have a problem," Logan's voice came through the line. "Is it Serena, the twins?" Santino asked, immediately thinking the worst. "No, they are all fine. Damon has escaped," Logan reported. "WHAT!?" Santino roared, jumping out of his seat. "The guards said a woman with a baby came to visit him. Apparently, she'd been there before with Alexandra, so the guards let her in without question. Next thing they know, Damon, the woman, and the baby were gone." Logan explained. Santino sighed and dropped down in his chair again. His hand tightened around the phone.

"I have to go," Santino said. He needed to get to the prison and see if he could pick up Damon's trail. He grabbed his coat and headed for the office door. "Santino!" Alexandra called after him. He sighed and turned around slowly. "Larissa helped Damon escape from prison. Apparently, you brought her there so the guards thought she was cleared for visits," he explained.

"Oh no. Is this real?" Alexandra asked, face paling. "Are you really that surprised?" Santino asked. "What does that mean?" Alexandra countered, surprise turning to anger.

"You've been pestering me to appeal his sentence for days and you took Larissa to see Damon behind my back, again. Knowing that she's in love with him," Santino said. "Are you accusing me of something, Santino?" Alexandra asked, crossing her arms. "Should I be? It seems awfully convenient that he escaped now and you can't deny bringing Larissa there in the first place," he said, shrugging. "I can't believe you'd even think that! I want Damon to get his freedom legally, on an appeal. I'd never help him escape, or help someone help him escape," she argued, throwing her arms out to the sides, her head back on her neck.

"Unfortunately, I don't know if I believe you. I've got to go see if I can track Damon and Larissa down before they get too far," he muttered. He left the office and Alexandra.

He knew that if he stayed any longer, he'd run the risk of losing his temper. He wasn't sure if he actually thought that Alexandra was capable of helping Damon escape, but it seemed like a possibility.

Given Alexandra's desire to help Damon, he couldn't rule it out. Even if she hadn't intended things to go that far, she could have put the idea in Larissa's head, unintentionally. Not to mention, she hadn't reinforced the 'no visitation' rule with the guards, which allowed Larissa to waltz right in to break Damon out. That meant Alexandra was involved, directly or indirectly. He couldn't forgive that. Once Damon was secured again, he was going to have a serious chat with Alexandra. They needed to establish some kind of neutral ground for dealing with Damon, because she clearly had mixed feelings about him.

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 150

Kids from One Alpha
Chapter 150

Chapter 150 : Enough is Enough

Alexandra packed some things for the kids and brought them over to Victoria's house. "Why are we staying with grandma again?" Sophia asked as they drove. "Victoria misses us. We are just going to keep her company for a while," Alexandra explained. "But she could come stay with us," Charlie argued. "She could, but grandma is older. It is harder for her to pack her things and move. This is so she can get her fill of spoiling you three," Alexandra laughed lightly. "Does that mean we get cookies every day?" Sophia asked, kicking her legs in her seat excitedly. "I'm sure she will make you lots of cookies," Alexandra assured. When she got to Victoria's house, the kids ran right in begging for cookies. Alexandra had called ahead and gave a quick rundown on what was going on. Victoria was expecting them.

She pulled their bags out of the car. Hers were still back at the house and she was going to go back for it later. She'd have to talk to Santino when he got back, anyway. Inside, the kids already had glasses of milk and cookies. Alexandra chuckled and shook her head. She brought the kids' bags upstairs and then joined them in the kitchen for her own cookie, which, with her pregnancy hormones, seemed like the most delicious thing in the world suddenly. "Don't worry, grandma, we'll keep you company," Charlie said through a mouthful of cookie. "And I am very grateful," Victoria said, patting his head. "Can we talk?" Alexandra asked, nodding to the living room. Victoria followed her out. "Can you tell me what is really going on?" "Damon escaped. Larissa helped him. Santino accused me of helping," she said, crossing her arms. "That's." Victoria shook her head. "I'm sorry, Alex." She put her hands on her granddaughter's shoulders. "I don't know what is going to happen, but I need time away from him. He doesn't trust me. How can we be together if he doesn't trust me after everything we've been through?" she asked, her voice catching in her throat. "I know, it isn't easy. I'm sure he'll come around," Victoria offered. Alexandra shook her head. "It'll be too late."

"You know you're welcome to stay here as long as you want.

he is coming from. As Alpha, he has to put the pack above personal feelings, even your sometimes," Victoria said.

"This isn't about that." Alexandra sighed and shook her head. "I'm going to go back to the house and wait for him to come home. We've still got a lot to talk about." "The kids will be fine here with me," Victoria assured. "Thanks," Alexandra smiled weakly. Back at the house she packed her own bags. She didn't know how long she was going to be gone, but at least she'd be able to come back and get the things she needed. Victoria's house wasn't too far. While she was packing up her clothes, Santino returned home.

She heard the door close and silence, a pause, like Santino was waiting for something. The kids, maybe? "Hello?" Santino called.

"Up here," Alexandra said stacking some shirts in her suitcase. "Alex, what's going on?" Santino asked. Alexandra flipped the suitcase closed and pulled the zipper shut. "The kids and I are going to stay with Victoria for a while." "Umm... because of our argument?" Santino asked. He didn't sound surprised, and that hurt Alexandra even more.

She couldn't turn to look at him yet. He was so close, she could feel him behind her, but she didn't want to look at him.

"No, because you made it clear today that you don't trust me. You don't trust or value my opinions, observations, or feelings, and you certainly don't trust my priorities or my loyalty to you and the pack," she explained curtly. "Well, honestly, when it comes to Damon, no, I don't trust you," Santino said. The words were like a knife in Alexandra's heart. She'd known it. She'd always known he would never trust her because of who her brother was, and now she was admitted it. How had she let herself get in so deep? "Then we can't be together," Alexandra muttered. She wasn't sure if she was expecting Santino to fight and disagree. Part of her wanted him to say she was wrong and he did trust her. That he had been wrong in his accusations and they were going to work through things. "You know there is no such thing as divorce in werewolf society," Santino said. That was not what Alexandra wanted to hear. He spoke so flatly, emotionlessly, like he actually agreed that that couldn't be together. Tears pricked her eyes. She wasn't going to let them fall in front of Santino, though, He lost the right to see her vulnerable.

"I know," Alexandra sighed, setting her suitcase on the ground. She swallowed several times to keep her voice from cracking. "But you're right. We can't be together if we don't trust each other," he agreed. "I have no problem trusting you, Santino. You're the one who can't trust me," Alexandra said blatantly. She wanted Santino to understand the harsh reality. This was all on him. She'd done nothing wrong except want to see a better future for her brother.

Sure, Damon had done some awful things, but second chances, the chance to make amends, that never should be denied anyone who wants to take that chance. "What... what about the baby?" Santino asked as Alexandra wheeled her suitcase to the door.

"I guess I will uphold my tradition as a single mother," Alexandra said flatly. "You don't have to," Santino said. "I'll still be there for the kids and for this new baby."

"We'll see what happens. I don't want you to get your hopes up on anything," she said. "What does that mean?" Santino asked, crossing his arms. "It means that if we're not staying together, I don't know if my future is going to be here in the pack," Alexandra admitted. She didn't want to be in a situation where she was stuck sharing pack

leadership with a male that didn't trust her. The only way to break ties as Luna would be to leave the pack. It wasn't what she wanted, and she knew it would devastate Victoria and the kids, but if she and Santino were permanently separating, it was the only way. "Alex, you can't do that! You can't take the kids," Santino argued, following her through the house.

"Nothing is set or finalized. It is just a possibility," Alexandra said. "I'm just trying to be honest so you don't turn around and accuse me of doing things behind your back, again." "Alex," Santino warned with a growl. "I'm sure you'll be busy for a while tracking Damon down. I don't expect you to keep me updated or to be around for the kids while you're focused on that," she said sharply. "Wow, you don't mess around," Santino sighed, rolling his eyes. "Do not try and put this on me!" Alexandra snarled. "You're the one who can't trust me or look past what my brother did. You're the one who has accused me again and again of being disloyal and unfaithful, I can't live like that. I can't take it anymore!" "You're right," Santino muttered, "Enough is enough." "That's right. The kids and I will be staying with Victoria. You can find us there, but it would be best if you call first or something. No surprise visits or big gestures. This is a trial separation and I expect you to treat it like that," Alexandra said. 3/4

She didn't like playing hardball, but every time she'd given in and forgiven Santino in the past, it had backfired. She needed him to know that she was serious this time, that Santino was going to have to work hard to earn her affection and win back his family.