

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 21

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group of friends.

“No, more people will show up,” Logan assured. He was called away and went off to attend to something. “Oh good, you already have food,” Adriana said, coming up beside Serena with her own plate. “I’m glad you’re here.” She walked with Adriana to a nearby backyard bench and sat down to enjoy their burgers together.

“Don’t mind Holly and her friends,” Adriana said, nodding the circle. “They took refuge here, and it really promotes a deeper bond.” Serena swallowed a half-chewed bite. “Refuge?” she asked. Adriana nodded. “Holly is from Moonshine, the former Alpha’s daughter. Those are other members of Moonshine that made it out,” she explained. “They took refuge here in Night Sky, to protect themselves.” Serena sighed. “I didn’t know,” she said. “I never really gave much thought to what happened to Moonshine members after the takeover. I always thought that they didn’t have a choice but to bow down.” “I think most of them did,” Adriana said. “Holly was in danger though, a threat to the illegitimate Alpha. She had to get out.” Serena nodded, feeling new pity swell inside her at understanding Holly’s past.

Her parents were dead, her pack was taken over, and she’d had to find a way to survive. Taking refuge in a foreign pack with no family for support and only a few friends that had also escaped. It was sad, and Serena was even more willing to stay out of Holly’s way. She could see why the other female was so protective over Logan. She’d lost everyone and everything, and it must have terrified her to think that she could lose Logan too. Even though she had no interest in Logan, other than finding out if he was the father of her twins, but Holly would be threatened by any female. As a single female in his age range, Serena was a mate candidate, and if Logan hadn’t committed to mating to Holly, then she would obviously see Serena as a potential threat. She just felt bad for Holly, but she didn’t think her past gave Holly the excuse to be a jealous bitch. “It was a difficult time,” Adriana was saying. “Moonshine being taken over, withdrawing from the Federation. It’s been a long road back, and even now, things are strained.” “So, I’ve seen” Serena said with a nod. “At least the last attack didn’t have an casualties.” Adriana nodded in agreement. “Would you like a drink?” she asked. “I’m going to grab myself something. “Sure,” Serena said with a nod. Adriana went off towards an ice bucket with drinks in it. Serena looked around the backyard: Logan’s yard was huge, which shouldn’t have 2/4

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surprised her because of how big the house was.

It was fenced in, which helped with privacy. Not that there was anyone around from where his house was on the hill. She wondered why they had put a fence in. It seemed binding, like a cage.

There were two grills still smoking and sizzling with meat and plenty of ice buckets full of drinks around. Serena surveyed the other party guests. Logan was at the grill. Flo was standing beside him, saying something that the Alpha clearly didn't want to hear based on his expression. Smiling to herself, Serena looked around at the other guests. When she looked at Holly and her friends, they all quickly looked away from her, giggling and whispering in hushed voices. It was catty.

Serena smiled at them, unwilling to be drawn into their games. Holly rolled her eyes and started saying something to her friends, using her hands to talk. Adriana had gotten caught up talking to someone else. Serena was comfortable sitting alone and watching the others, but she was soon joined by a male she didn't know. "You're new," he said, sitting on the bench where Adriana had been sitting. "Uhm...yea," she said. "I'm Serena, the new doctor. Well, resident doctor." "It is nice to meet you, my name is Matt," he said. Serena nodded, smiling warmly. "It is nice to meet you too," she said.

"I have to ask, why are you sitting all alone over here?" Matt asked. Serena shrugged. "Adriana left to get me a drink, but she has been distracted," Serena said with a giggle.

She nodded towards Adriana. "Well, then, I should offer to keep you company until she returns," Matt said. Serena sighed, she had come to meet more pack members, and Matt didn't seem like he was part of Holly's group.

"I appreciate that," she said. "What is it you do for work?"

"I work at the school," he told her. "Teaching Phys Ed." "That sounds like it will keep you busy." Serena said, smiling at Matt. He chuckled and nodded. He wasn't bad to look at and he was close to her age. Serena had enough to worry about with her kids and Logan though. She didn't need a new male in her life, but she was happy to have the chance to talk to someone new. "Yes, I spend the majority of my days running around after young pups," he said. "You're not from Night Sky originally." "No," Serena said, shaking her head. "I am from Starseeker. I left to go to medical school and I just got back. Adriana had a position for me to complete my residency under her." "That's great," Matt said. "Sounds like perfect timing."

"Yes," she said. "I spent a lot of time in the human world, and it has been nice to come back to a pack." "The human world, huh?" he asked. "That sounds...intriguing." Serena shrugged again.

"It was different," she admitted. "I'm still adjusting back, but I think I prefer pack life."

"So, Serena," Holly called out. Serena looked away from Matt, watching as Holly approached her from across the lawn.

"What is it, Holly?" Serena asked when the other female got closer to her. The look in Holly's eyes told Serena that she should be wary of what was about to happen.

"It is nice to see you are making friends in the pack," she said, nodding to Matt.

"I'm glad you think so," Serena said, brows knitting together. She looked back at Matt who shrugged. "It is really too bad your kids couldn't be here," Holly said, smirking cruelly. Serena sighed.

"You have kids?" Matt asked. He suddenly looked like talking to Serena was the last thing he wanted to do.

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Chapter 22: Holly and Serena

Serena winced as Matt scoffed and stood up, walking away. Shaking her head, Serena looked back at Holly who had a triumphant smirk on her lips. "Don't worry, I'm sure there are some desperate males around that would love to have a female and her bastard children," Holly said. Serena shook her head. "I'm not looking," Serena said. Holly shrugged. "How are the kids, anyway?" she asked. "You never did tell me who their father is." "I didn't know you were interested," Serena said, shifting uncomfortably. "Oh, I'm very interested," Holly said, flicking her eyes to Flo. Had Logan's mother talked to Holly about how much Oliver looked like Logan as a child? "He's not around" Serena said, looking down at her lap. Behind her, Holly's friends giggled and rolled their eyes. Logan was finishing the next round of burgers on the grill when he heard Holly's friends laughing in a way that meant they were teasing someone. Sometimes, Holly's friends could get catty. He turned to see Holly standing in front of Serena. "That is too bad" Holly was saying, flipping her hair over her shoulder. "I guess not all females can have good sense when choosing the father of their kids." Logan could see how uncomfortable Serena was. For once, she wasn't hiding what she was feeling. Her body was rigid, eyes in her lap as she leaned away from Holly. "My kids mean everything to me," Serena told Holly. "It doesn't matter whether their father is around or not." Holly laughed, shaking her head. Logan growled under his breath, flipping the burgers on the grill. "This party might get interesting after all," his mother said, chuckling and slipping away from him. Logan rolled his eyes. He wanted the meat to cook faster so he could stop Holly before she made a big scene. He still listened to what was being said so he could gauge whether or not he'd have to jump in quickly. "Don't you feel all alone?"

Holly asked. "Raising twins by yourself, not having anyone there to support or comfort you?" Logan shook his head. What was Holly doing!?

"I have the pack," Serena said. "That is all the support I need."

Logan piled the cooked burgers on a plate and set his spatula down. He headed over to the women, a plate with a fresh burger on it in hand. "Have you eaten yet?" he asked Serena. He stood next to Holly, who immediately wrapped her arm around his, attempting to pull him away. He shook his head at her and she pouted.

"Uhm, no, thank you." Serena said, taking the plate with a grateful nod. Logan smiled..

at her.

"Come on, let me show you around," he said, holding his hand out to her. Serena looked at his offered hand suspiciously. "Logan, don't you want to spend time with me and my friends?" Holly asked. Logan glanced sideways at her. "I've got to be a good host," he said. Holly groaned and rolled her eyes. "You can be a host to my friends," Holly said, pouting. Logan shook his head. "I'll have plenty of time for you and your friends," he said, keeping himself calm and collected. A short temper was one thing that he had never been able to control, and Holly's nagging had been bringing it out more and more. "But, Logan, it is our party," Holly said. "We should be playing host and hostess together," she said. Logan disengaged his arm from Holly's. "I'll find you soon," he said. Holly glared at Serena. Logan arched an eyebrow at her, and Serena just shrugged. She was a rock, and Logan admired that about her. "Fine, fine," she said, waving him away dismissively. She went back to her friends. Logan smiled, sitting beside Serena on the bench. "Thanks for that," she mumbled, picking at the burger on her plate "She can be really sweet," Logan said. "I don't know why she has been like this to you." "Logan, I am no stranger to the competitive ways of female werewolves," she pointed out. He smiled, nodding. "I know being a single mom has its challenges," he offered. Serena raised an eyebrow at him, setting her plate aside. "Do you?" she asked, grinning. Logan sighed, shaking his head. "No, I guess I don't, know," he admitted. "I just mean, I know it can't be easy. If you need anything.." "I'm not looking for trouble," Serena said, casting her eyes towards Holly. "Well, as Alpha, I have a responsibility to you and your kids. You're all part of my pack," he reminded her. "If Holly doesn't understand that then...well, she will have to. The pack comes first, regardless of what relationship I have with her." "You're only offering as the Alpha?" she asked, raising an eyebrow at him. Logan chewed on the inside of his lip. It was a good question. He could use the Alpha excuse all he wanted, but there was a curiosity he had about her that went beyond his responsibilities as Alpha.

"I won't deny my curiosity about who you are," he admitted. "I know nothing about you. As Alpha, I should know. You're past has greatly eluded me." Serena smiled. "There is

a reason for that," she said. Holly walked back over. Logan looked up at her. She had a softer expression on her

face now. Logan nodded at her, hoping she would be willing to bury the hatchet. "I'm sorry, Serena" Holly said. "I shouldn't have butted in on your conversation." Serena looked up, her expression void of emotion. Logan didn't like that. He wanted her to be happy and feel welcomed in the pack. It was her pack now, here home, and she should feel safe and wanted! "Thank you," Serena said with a nod. "I'm not here to cause trouble. I understand we all have difficult pasts, and my intention is not to cause friction or undermine your position here." Holly sighed, glancing at Logan quickly. Logan nodded encouragingly towards her, hoping she would continue with her apology and make peace. "I understand," Holly said with a nod. "Thank you." Her 'thanks' was a little stiff, but she smiled and then headed back to her friends. "See, she can be sweet," Logan said, smiling at Serena. "I'm not the only one that has had a colorful past" she said. "You're right, Holly and her friends have had it rough," Logan said, looking at Holly. She was very dressed up for the party, and he liked to see her long legs on display and her cherry red lips pouting out. He swore she did that just for him! "You let them take refuge in your pack," Serena said. It wasn't a question. "I did," Logan said with a nod. "Moonshine's retraction from the Federation was...complicated. I couldn't let anyone who sought refuge be left alone." "That is very noble of you," Serena said. Logan smiled, even though she wasn't looking at him.

"Serena, I am so sorry, I got held up," Adriana said, appearing in front of them. She handed Serena a drink. "No worries," Serena said. Logan stood up, giving Adriana her seat back. The two women began talking again, and Logan went to Holly's side, as he had promised he would

"That took long enough," Holly said snidely. "It is a little disrespectful to me, your mate, sitting on a bench with and chatting up another female."

"Holly, I'm Alpha," Logan told her, slipping his arm around her waist. She bit her lower lip, her friends all giggling. "I have responsibilities to the pack as a whole, and to the individuals.

"I know. I just wish...weren't so open and public about it," she said. Logan suppressed an eye role. "You wanted my attention," he said. "I'm here." "Oh, I wanted you to keep the girls company for me, being a good host and all" Holly said. She stepped away from Logan, disappearing. Logan had a bad feeling about it, but Holly was gone, and he was left to deal with her friends. If they reported to Holly

that he had left them alone after she requested, he entertain them...he didn't want to upset her more. "How are you ladies enjoying the party?" Logan asked. They all started chattering and gushing over each other and the party. Logan tuned most of it out, glancing over at Serena and Adriana several times. He tried to be discreet, nodding and making the appropriate sounds to emulate listening to what Holly's friends were saying. It was all mindless chatter he didn't care for. Despite Holly's friction with Serena, he

didn't want to give into her insistence that he stay away from her. If he stayed away from all the females in the pack, then he wouldn't be a very good Alpha. If he ostracized one member, other pack members would do the same. Serena would become an outcast, and her kids would be too. He didn't want that for any of them!

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Chapter 23: Cruel Games

"Serena," Holly called from across the yard. Serena looked up and saw Holly waving to her. She beckoned her over. Serena looked at Adriana. "Oh, go on, she won't do anything here," Adriana assured. "Besides, she did apologize." "Yes, a very forced apology," Serena said with a sigh. She set her drink down. "Come on, Serena," Holly called again. "I better go," she said. She gave Adriana a small wave. The doctor nodded as she departed. Serena went to Holly. She was standing behind the grills near the back porch of Logan's house.

"What can I do for you?" Serena asked, keeping her voice friendly. "We got off on the wrong foot," Holly said. "But, you're part of the pack now. As future Luna, it is my job to welcome you, just like it is Logan's." "That's nice of you," Serena said with a nod. Holly's comfort with referring to herself as Logan's mate and future Luna were odd to Serena. Logan hadn't mentioned anything to her, and if anything, he seemed standoff-ish to the idea of commitment. It wasn't Serena's place to judge it, though. "Come on, let me show you around the house," she said. She looped her arm through Serena's smiling brightly. Serena smiled warmly, allowing herself to be led up the steps and into the house. "Thanks," she said. Holly brought her into the kitchen, where the back door led. "This house has been in Logan's family for generations," she explained, heading from the kitchen into the living room. Serena didn't want to tell Holly that she had seen the living room already. If Holly actually wanted to mend bridges with her, then she would go along with it.

She didn't want to rekindle any friction by disrupting the tour and telling Holly that she'd been in the Alpha's house. She had no way of knowing if Logan had told her, or how she would feel about it. "This room has a lot of history in it," Serena commented, looking around at all the pictures. She hadn't had a chance to really look at them the last time she was there. Between having the kids, meeting Logan's mother, and discovering how much Oliver looked like Logan at age five, she had been a little preoccupied. "There is," Holly agreed, going to the mantle and holding her arm out to some of the more recent pictures. There were a few of Logan and Holly together enjoying some kind of date activity. Serena smiled, looking them over. If Holly was just trying to bait her, she wasn't going to fall for it!

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“And this, this was Logan’s dad” Holly said, showing a picture of Flo with a male. “I heard he passed away.” Serena said somberly. Holly nodded, her lips curving down in a frown.

“I lost my father too,” she admitted. Serena hadn’t expected them to have a bonding or sharing moment, but she offered the other female a sympathetic look. “Logan was really the only one who could know what I was going through when I came here. We were both the children of Alphas who died before their time.” “I am sorry.” Serena said. “It is a terrible tragedy.”

“Yes, it is,” Holly said, turning away from the picture. Serena saw actual emotion in the other female’s eyes. She didn’t want to overstep her bounds by offering a comforting touch, though “It must have been comforting to find someone else who understood” she said, feeling awkward. Why did Holly want to show her past traumas? “It was. That is what brought us together. That is why we are so good together, because we understand each other,” Holly said. “I believe that is true,” Serena said. Holly rounded on her, a glare etching into her features. “Why are you always so passive?” she snapped. “Can’t you get mad, show some emotion?” “Holly, I’m not trying to compete with you for Logan,” Serena said slowly. “There is nothing to get mad over, at least not for me.” Holly sneered at her. “You’re a fool!” she spit. “Besides, you’ve made it clear that no male in this pack would think twice about me because I’m a single mother, why do you think Logan is any different?” Serena asked. Holly rolled her eyes. “He’s noble,” she said. “He likes to rescue the damsel in distress.” Serena laughed; she couldn’t help it. Quickly, she covered her mouth to stifle it. “I’m not a damsel in distress,” she said. “I don’t need a male or a mate, and I am doing fine on my own with my kids. I have been for a long time.” Holly rolled her eyes again. “Well, aren’t you just the perfect saint?” she asked, throwing her arms up in the air. “Guys really go in for that whole independent, sweet, soft, and approachable female bit.” Serena sighed, shaking her head. “Did you want to finish taking me on a tour of the house?” she asked. Holly sighed. “No,” she said. “Clearly, there is nothing I can say to get a rise out of you.” Serena was surprised by Holly’s admission to her plan. “Maybe you can feel comfortable in the fact then, that I am not trying to snare Logan or come between the two of you,” she said. Holly shrugged. “Well at least I know he will always come back to me,” she said. It wasn’t exactly the pie cu cruel Games

response Serena was hoping for. She shrugged. “I’m going to go back to the party,” she said. She headed back through the kitchen; Holly close behind her. Out the back door, Serena headed for the porch steps. She went to step down, but something heavy pinned the back of her skirt to the porch. Serena’s skirt caught, causing her to trip forward. The pressure released, and she pitched forward, falling down the porch steps. Unable to catch herself, Serena hit the edges of the steps heavily, groaning as she rolled down, slamming into the ground on her shoulder

For a moment everything was numb. Her vision was blurred, sounds were muffled, and her body was tingling. Then, the pain set in. She groaned, rolling off her injured shoulder. Sound flooded back first. She heard Holly laughing, chorused by several other girls laughing around her. Serena sat up, the impact from her fall fading. Her cheeks burned red suddenly when she saw that her skirt had been pulled down to her knees. Her hands shook as she righted her skirt, but already most of the party goers had gathered around her. Matt was leering along with Holly's friends. Some of the other members were laughing too, and Holly stood triumphant on the porch. "Don't move!" Adriana said, rushing to Serena's side. "You could have a concussion." "I'm fine," Serena tried to argue. Her cheeks still burned with heat. She just wanted to get out of there. "Serena, let me make sure you are okay." Adriana insisted. "That was a nasty fall." Serena sat still, looking at the ground so she didn't have to see the staring, laughing faces.

Adriana checked her eyes to make sure she wasn't concussed, and then tested her arm to make sure it wasn't broken. "You're okay," she said standing up and holding her hand out to Serena. She took it, letting the doctor help her up, but she held the waist of her skirt in an attempt to keep it from falling down again. She could tell her face was still red, and she imagined her hair was a total mess too! It had been silly to think that Holly was actually trying to be nice. Serena wanted to kick herself for opening herself up to this kind of humiliation. "I should go," she said to Adriana. "Please thank Logan for inviting me." Adriana bit her lower lip. "Do you want me to go with you?" she asked. Serena shook her head. "I've got this," she assured. Serena left the yard, not looking back even though she could feel Holly and her friends' laughing eyes and smiles following her. Serena held her injured arm against her chest as she walked. She started to wonder whether or not she should have come back to the pack. Night

Sky needed her, and she loved having a relationship with her family again, but was it worth all this? She'd made enemies of a female for no reason other than being a single female! She had forgotten how catty females could be when competing over a male.

Sure, that existed in the human world, but it wasn't something Serena had ever worried about because she wasn't dating or trying to date. Not that she was here, but

among werewolves, any single female was a potential threat.

Serena sighed, just wanting to get home to see her kids again. When she arrived, Dana was giving them their dinner. It was still light out, and would be for a few more hours.

"Are you okay, hon?" Dana asked. "You look...scuffed." Serena looked down at her clothes to see some grass stains. Her cheek stung, indicating she had a scrape there. The rest of her body was already sore. "I'm okay," she said. "I'm just going to go get cleaned up."

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Chapter 24: The Apology

“Holly, why’d you do that?” Logan asked, grabbing Holly’s arm and pulling her inside. He didn’t want to make a scene in front of the others, but his temper was at a tipping point. He grabbed her elbow hard, until she winced with pain. “It was just a bit of fun,” Holly protested. Logan snarled, furious at her actions. “We welcome new members of this pack, not humiliate them, or have you forgotten?” he threw her away from him and raised an eyebrow at her as she flew across the kitchen.

“I’m...I’m sorry,” Holly said, her lower lip quivering. “Logan, I was just having fun.” She pouted, but Logan was unimpressed. He crossed his arms disapprovingly. “When you and your friends came to this pack, we welcomed you with open arms, treated you as equals,” he said vehemently. “That is how I expect you to treat anyone new to this pack!”

“That was different, Logan,” Holly said, putting her hands on her hips. “We were refugees, we never had no where to go, our pack went rogue!” “I don’t care what circumstances bring someone to this pack. I don’t care if they are refugees or if they are just here for a job, everyone new is welcomed into this pack,” he said through clenched teeth. “Logan, please, I’m sorry,” Holly said, crossing the kitchen and trying to put her arms around Logan’s neck. The Alpha slapped her hands away, not amused. “I was just trying to have fun.” “It stops now,” he said. He turned to leave. “Where are you going?” Holly asked, grabbing for his arm. He shook her off. “To fix your mess,” Logan said, casting a disapproving look over his shoulder. He left Holly alone in his kitchen. The party was winding down. Logan could leave Holly to play with her friends. He wanted to make sure there was no permanent damage done to Serena’s desire to be

in the pack. He headed off to her house, hoping that she wasn’t too mad to talk to him. Holly had behaved entirely inappropriately! He was embarrassed about what she’d done. There was no logical reason for Holly to be behaving that way. Logan was angered by it, and he just wanted her to be the woman that he had grown so fond of. “Serena?” Logan called, knocking on her front door when he arrived. He could hear the kids inside, but no one came to the door. He waited several minutes and then knocked again.

The kids got quiet. He could hear a woman’s voice on the other side, but it wasn’t Serena’s. Another few minutes went by before the door opened. Serena opened it just an inch, looking out at him with sharp eyes She had showered and changed. There was still a scrape on her cheek from the fall, and she was holding the arm she’d landed on. Logan sighed, tilting his head to the

side

“Are you okay?” he asked his voice soft, Serena sighed, opening the door and stepping out onto the porch. “I’m fine* she said. “A few bumps and bruises, but we heal fast.” Logan nodded, but he lifted his hand and brought it to her cheek, his thumb touching the edge of the scrape. She gave a humorless smile and tilted her head to the side slightly “Im sorry about what Holly did,” he said. Serena scoffed.

You don’t have to apologize for her,” she said. Logan rolled his eyes. Actually, I do,” he said. “I’m Alpha, and I am responsible for the pack and the members in it. That means I am responsible for Holly’s actions and I am also responsible for your wellbeing.” Tm okay,” she said, nodding. Logan still didn’t believe it. He crossed his arms over his chest

Serena I don’t want you to question whether or not you should be here,” he told her. *This is your home now. You have as much of a right to be here as she does.”

Logan, I appreciate the sentiment, but I’m fine, really,” she said. She walked past him to the edge of the porch, looking out at the street. Logan turned and walked up beside her. *look I know that it isn’t easy to relocate to a new pack,” he said. “Really, from all your experience?” Serena asked him playfully. Logan chuckled. ‘I helped the refugees assimilate into this life,” he said. “I took responsibility for them and made sure they acclimated.” “So, you witnessed first hand how hard it could be,” she said. Logan nodded. “Please, don’t think that Holly’s actions reflect the rest of the pack’s opinion on you,” he said. Serena scoffed and rolled her eyes. Logan didn’t like seeing her so detached. He didn’t always know what others were thinking, least of all her, but he got the sense that she was one second away from walking off pack territory with her kids, never to come back “I was an outsider in the human world,” Serena told him, opening up for the first time. Logan was not going to interrupt her and risk her shutting down again. “I’m no stranger to being looked at, laughed at, ridiculed.”

You’re among your own kind now, you shouldn’t have to feel like that.” Logan said, reaching out and placing his hand on Serena’s shoulder. He expected her to pull away, but she didn’t. She closed her eyes, as if that brief moment of comfort was exactly dad

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“Thank you,” she said with a nod. “I don’t know why Holly has fixated on you,” he said softly. “She acts as though I’ve never spoken to another female before.” Serena shrugged. “Yes, and I seem to be the least likely one that any male in this pack would be interested in,” she said, nodding back to the house. “Apparently, single mothers aren’t...desirable.” Logan chuckled. “I think you’ll find your wrong about that,” Logan said. Serena shook her head. “Don’t let Holly hear you saying that,” she teased, glancing sideways at the Alpha. Logan smirked at her. “You know, I’m not just apologizing for what Holly did,” he said. “I’m apologizing for the fact that your joining of the pack hasn’t been as smooth as it could have been. I’m apologizing for not helping more with that.” Serena smiled. “You’ve done more than enough, Logan,” she said.

“Playing with the kids, taking me on a tour of the territory, taking an interest. I didn’t expect this to be easy.” Logan sighed. She was more resilient than he was, and he admired that about her. The y stood next to each other, looking out at the colorful sky. The sun was setting, making the sky orange and purple. “Where does that come from?” Logan asked her. “Where did what come from?” Serena asked. “Your strength and resilience?” he asked. Serena chuckled. “I was a werewolf living in the human world raising twins on my own while in medical school, where do you think it came from?” she asked, biting her bottom lip. Logan smiled.

“You know, you sort of remind me of someone I knew once,” he said. He hadn’t thought much about a one night stand he’d had over five years ago. He’d been drunk and it had been fleeting. It had been a good time, but he hadn’t pondered it much.

Sometimes, there were flashes in Serena’s personality that made him think of the woman he’d met that night. He never thought about it for long, but he couldn’t help making the comparison now. Immediately, the smile on Serena’s face faded. “Really?” she asked, stiffly. “I’m sorry if that was offensive,” Logan said. “That was...that was rude of me.” Serena shrugged. “There is every chance we’ve met before,” she said. “We are from neighboring packs.” Logan shrugged. It was possible, but her scent wasn’t one he was familiar with, until she’d come to the pack. “True,” he said. “Perhaps when we were kids.” Serena nodded.

“Do you want to come in for a minute?” she asked. “I know the kids would like to see you again.”

“Sure,” Logan said, smiling and nodding. Serena opened the front door, and Logan followed her in.

“Logan!” Olivia shouted, jumping up from her play mat and running over to him. She threw her arms around his leg almost knocking him back. Logan chuckled, bracing himself. The kids were always fun.

“Hi, Logan,” Oliver said, getting up more slowly. He didn’t hug Logan, but he smiled at him boyishly.

“Are you here to play with us?” Olivia asked, her eyes hopeful.

“I could play for a while,” Logan said, looking to Serena. She nodded her confirmation.

“Let’s go outside!” Oliver suggested. He grabbed Logan’s hand and started dragging him to the back door. Olivia grabbed his other hand and pulled too. Logan smiled, letting himself be led away. He felt Serena coming along behind him. Spending a little time with the kids would make him feel better about what Holly had done.

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Chapter 25: Werewolves

Out in the yard, the kids were dragging Logan around and showing him all the things that they had to play with. A lot of it was stuff Serena's mom had sent. She enjoyed seeing how excited they were, and she also liked seeing Logan playing with them. Everything that had happened at the barbeque had bothered her, but now she could see her kids having fun. She did appreciate Logan's attempt to apologize, but his reference to her reminding him of someone had shut her down quickly. She didn't want him being reminded of her! "We saw a pack of wolves running through the streets this morning." Olivia told Logan. "It was so cool!" "Wolves, really?" Logan asked, looking up at Serena. "The kids have never seen wolves before," she said. "It is something new to them." She hoped Logan understood her implication. "Is that so?" he asked. "Well, maybe they need a lesson about wolves." "Yea, mommy, please?" Olivia asked.

"I want to know about the wolves," Oliver agreed. Serena sighed, thinking it over. She had hidden the truth from them because she didn't want them to say the wrong thing to the wrong person in the human world.

"Alright, let's talk about wolves," Serena said. "Logan, why don't you show them?" she asked. She didn't want to shift herself, because she didn't want Logan to smell her in her wolf form. "Why don't you?" he asked. "Someone has to explain things to them," she said. "Fine, fine," Logan said. He disappeared behind the nearest tree.

"What are you doing, Logan?" Olivia asked trying to peak around the tree. Serena ran forward and grabbed her daughter. "Wait back here with me," she said. She beckoned Oliver over and he obliged. Logan tossed his clothes out from behind the tree. The kids started laughing. "He's getting naked!" Olivia screamed, pointing towards the tree. Serena laughed. "He has to," Serena explained. "He's going to turn into a wolf." "Really?" Oliver asked, amazing. He looked up at his mother, eyes wide as saucers. "Really," Serena confirmed with a nod. A few moments later, Logan appeared from behind the tree, in his wolf form. Serena sniffed, Logan's strong scent almost overpowering her. He was definitely the wolf she'd nearly encountered the other night!

When he walked out from behind the tree, the kids ran away from Serena, rounding the tree and looking at Logan's pile of clothes. "Woe!" Olivia said. "He turned into a wolf!" "Yes, he did," Serena said. She laughed and went over to her kids. Logan was standing nearby, watching the kids and Serena. He had his head tilted slightly, ears perked up, his eyes shining in the setting sun. "Can I go touch him?" Olivia asked. Serena looked at Logan. He made a sound of approval.

“Go on,” she said ushering her kids in the direction of the wolf. They ran to him, petting his soft fur and running their fingers along his sides. Serena watched how excited the kids were about the wolf. She let them pet Logan for a while, and then she motioned him back behind the tree. “Come here, kiddos,” she said, going to where they couldn’t see Logan again. “We can do that?” Olivia asked. “Someday,” Serena said. “You are werewolves, just like me, just like Logan.” “We are?” Oliver asked. Serena nodded. “I want to be a wolf!” Olivia shouted, jumping up and down. Serena chuckled, patting her daughter’s head. “You will be, some day. You’ll be able to shift whenever you want,” she explained. “Are there other werewolves?” Olivia asked. “The whole pack is made up of werewolves,” she explained. “You grandparents are werewolves too, so are Dana and Adriana.” “Wow,” Olivia muttered. Logan came out from behind the tree, fully dressed. “I can’t believe you never told your kids about werewolves,” he said, approaching Serena. “I want to be a wolf,” Olivia said. She ran off and Oliver ran with her. Serena turned to Logan. “I was in the human world,” she reminded him. “You think that toddlers can keep that kind of secret.” Logan shrugged. “Do you think that anyone would believe them?” he countered. Serena giggled. She glanced over at her kids. They’d shed their clothing and were running around on their hands and knees, barking and howling. “I’m glad that they will be able to know who they are now and be part of a pack growing up,” she told the Alpha. “For the longest time, I thought that they would be better off in the human world. But now, seeing them as part of the pack, seeing them curious about wolves, I know they belong here.” “You do too,” Logan said. Serena smile. She liked what he said sometimes. Olivia pounced on Oliver and growled, tackling him to the ground. Serena shook her head. Naked five-year-olds in their own backyard wasn’t a problem, and as long as they didn’t hurt each other, she didn’t care that they were acting like wolves. “Thank you for showing them,” she said. “I hope that wasn’t in any way weird.” “Not at all,” Logan said. “They’ll need to know more about where they come from and who they are. Also, what they will become.” He looked over at them and Serena followed his gaze. Olivia was biting Oliver’s neck. “Werewolves, honey,” Serena said. “Not vampires.” Logan chuckled as the kids went back to tackling each other in the grass. She watched them play together, remember how she and her brother used to play. She had run wild with Santino a lot, and he had always been her best friend and playmate. She missed having him around regularly, but she did like seeing her own kids acting just like she and her twin had. “I can answer their questions,” Serena assured. “Can you?” Logan asked. “Knowing about only one side of their heritage will leave a lot of open-ended questions.” Serena sighed and looked away from Logan. He had a point, but she didn’t want to think about that. She hoped he wasn’t saying it because he felt some fatherly connection to them. “Well, when they start to ask questions about their father...then I will worry about it,” she assured. Logan smirked.

“You made it sound like you don’t know who he is,” he pointed out. She shrugged.

“You don’t know all my secrets,” Serena reminded him, biting her lip. She was flirting! That wasn’t good. Olivia howled loudly, and then Oliver started howling too. Serena laughed, walking over to collect their clothes.

“Come on, guys, let’s get inside,” she called to the kids, waving their clothes in her hand. The sun was setting faster and it was almost dark. Serena didn’t want to lose track of the kids in the dark.

“Olivia, Oliver, it was fun playing with you today,” Logan said when they were back inside. He was saying goodbye to the kids. Serena piled the kids clothes up on the couch while they said their goodbyes. “Will we see you again soon?” Olivia asked. “I’d like that,” Logan said. “Then, can we be wolves too?” Oliver asked. Logan chuckled. “It will happen, and when it does, we can all run together,” he promised. Serena hated how close they were getting. At the same time, she loved seeing the kids have a positive, strong male influence in their life. The fact that he might be their father complicated matters, but it was still good to see. “Thank you for stopping by, Logan” Serena said, walking with him to the door. Dana

came up from her basement apartment and started getting the kids upstairs to get them cleaned up and changed for bed. “It always seems to be a good time,” Logan said smiling. Serena opened the front door for him. “Also, I accept your apology,” she added with a grin. Logan nodded. “Good,” he said before leaving. Serena shut the door and sighed. She was happy to have her house to herself again. Though, educating the kids on werewolves had been exciting. She could hear them splashing around in the bathtub, howling as Dana tried to calm them down. Serena went upstairs and stood in the doorway of the bathroom. “That’s enough,” she said. “Settled down and let Dana give you your bath.” The twins grumbled, but they stopped splashing and howling. “I guess you two just learned that you’ll be able to shift into wolves someday,” Dana said.

“That’s right,” Serena said. “I’ll go get your pajamas.” She went to their rooms and picked out matching pajamas, something she used to do with Santino. Dana was drying them off when she got back to the bathroom. Serena helped them into their pajamas and settled them down for bed. She laid down herself, still feeling a little sore from her fall earlier. Her arm was bruised, but it didn’t hurt as much as it had earlier. After a good night’s sleep, she thought that she would be feeling much better. The excitement of the day was passed, and she fell into her bed happily.

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 26

Kids from One Alpha
Chapter 26
Chapter 26: Preparations

The twins’ birthday was fast approaching, and Serena had begun making preparations for their party. She wanted to invite people that they were comfortable with and that they liked, but they hadn’t given her any names of other kids that they’d want to invite from daycare. She wanted them to have a fun, pack-oriented birthday, for the first time in their lives.

“Grandma and grandpa can come,” she told them while Dana was making them breakfast.

“I want Uncle Santino to come too.” Olivia demanded. “Yes, of course, he will be here,” Serena said. Obviously, her own twin would be there! She wouldn’t deny him the chance to be there for a big moment in his niece and nephew’s lives.

Serena hadn’t made a lot of friends in the pack yet. She knew Adriana would come to the party, but that meant a lot of adults, and it was supposed to be the kids’ day. She knew that Santino would play with them and be the fun uncle to keep them entertained, but she wanted more than just family there. She’d met some nurses at the hospital, but no one that knew the kids. While they ate their breakfast, Serena was busy setting up streamers and balloons, lost in her own world in regards to the party. She had already planned most of it, it was just getting the guests that would make a difference to the kids. There was a knock on her front door and then it opened, Charlotte, Thomas, and Santino coming in with arms full of presents and more decorations. “Hey, come on in,” Serena beckoned. “Grammy!” Olivia shouted, standing on her chair. “Olivia, sit down and finish your breakfast,” Serena said firmly. “You can say ‘hello’ when you’re done eating.” “I am done eating,” Olivia insisted. “Me too,” Oliver said, sliding out of his chair. Serena rolled her eyes as the kids left half-empty dishes on the table to run over and say hello to their grandparents and uncle. Dana laughed to herself before she got to work cleaning up. “I’ll give you a hug in a minute, let me get this cake into the refrigerator,” Charlotte said, stepping around the kids and going into the kitchen. “I thought I told you I was going to take care of everything,” Serena said, giving her father a side hug, and accepting a kiss on the cheek from her brother as he handed her some more party decorations. “To be honest, sis, we didn’t have full confidence in your ability to throw a real pack party,” Santino told her. Serena sighed; shaking her head. She looked at her mother,

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who shrugged innocently. She knew exactly where that thought had originated! “Just be grateful.” Charlotte said, hugging her daughter. “I am,” Serena said, opening more packages of decorations. Santino helped her hang them.

“So, when does this party get started?” he asked. “This afternoon,” Serena explained, pinning up a decorative poster above the gift table, that was suddenly piled high since the arrival of her parents. “Who else is coming, a bunch of pack kids?” he asked. Serena shrugged. “The kids haven’t asked me to invite anyone from daycare,” she explained. “My boss and friend Adriana will be here.” “Wow, that’s a small crowd,” Santino said. Serena sighed, listening to Olivia laugh at something her parents did.

“We are still new here,” Serena reminded her brother.

“Well, I’ve got some classic party games to keep those little monsters occupied all day,” he said.

“Good,” Serena said. She finished with the decorations and then went to the kitchen. Dana was working on the party snacks. The whole house had been transformed into a five-year-old’s dream house! Santino had started getting the games out, and already, Olivia and Oliver were begging him to show them the rules. Charlotte joined Serena in the kitchen. “You seem like you’re settled,” she commented. Serena shrugged. “There have been some...setbacks,” she admitted. “What happened?” Charlotte asked. Serena sighed. She didn’t want to talk about her altercation with Holly, but she hadn’t felt like she had had the chance to really get it off her chest. “Some of the pack females have been less than welcoming,” she said, her arm stinging at the reminder of falling down the stairs. It wasn’t bruised anymore, but it had hurt enough to make her arm twinge at the memory. “That’s to be expected,” Charlotte said. “You’re a young, single female who comes from a good bloodline. Besides, you are absolutely beautiful.” Serena rolled her eyes. “I just want to get by here,” she said. “Make some friends, have a life for my kids.” “You really have been out of the pack too long,” her mother teased. “I’m not surprised that the females are hazing you a bit.” “It isn’t so much ‘females’ as it is ‘female,’” Serena said, poking at some of the snacks on a platter Dana set on the table. “Who is this little wretch?” Charlotte asked.

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“The Alpha’s girlfriend,” Serena said. Charlotte sighed and shook her head, she chuckled and placed her hand over Serena’s. “She sounds like she feels threatened by you,” her mother said. Serena nodded. “I know, but I haven’t done anything to make her feel that way” Serena argued. “Mommy, can we invite Uncle Logan to the party?” Olivia asked, running into the kitchen. Serena scoffed at her child’s adopted name for the Alpha. She hadn’t encouraged it, but they had just started calling him that on their own! Charlotte giggled and looked sideways at her daughter. “No, you haven’t done anything to give her a reason to feel threatened,” she said sarcastically. Serena motioned her mother out of the kitchen, and Charlotte took Olivia’s hand, taking her back to where Santino was showing Oliver how to play twister.

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Serena hadn’t wanted to invite Logan, so she hadn’t brought it up. Now that they had asked, she figured she had to at least extend the invitation to him. Part of her hoped he wouldn’t come. Another part of her hoped that inviting him wouldn’t mean inviting Holly too. She didn’t know how connected the two of them were. But it was the twins’ birthday, and she couldn’t deny a request from them. Adriana showed up next, adding more gifts to the table. The kids weren’t as familiar with her, but they greeted her and invited her to play some games with them. “Thank you for coming,” Serena said to her friend, taking her coat. “This is my twin Santino, my mother Luna Charlotte, and my

father Alpha Thomas," she said, introducing her family. "It is lovely to meet you, Adriana," Charlotte said, taking the gifts Adriana had. Serena went back to the kitchen to check on snacks. "I think that will be enough," she said to Dana. "If you want to bring these out and mingle, I can look for the candles." "You're not going to give the Alpha a call?" Dana asked. Serena sighed. She knew she had to extend the invitation. It was her duty as a mother, trying to make her children's birthday meaningful. "I don't have his number" Serena admitted. "Go over to his house, it isn't that far," Dana said. "I'll tell the kids you're getting them a special present." She winked at Serena. "What if he declines?" she asked. "I don't want the kids to get their hopes up." Dana chuckled and shook her head, picking up the platter and heading out of the kitchen. "He won't decline," she said. Serena sighed, following her back into the living room. Santino had brought out a few more fund board games and he was showing the kids how to play them. They were ganging up on him, and winning! He looked genuinely perplexed at their ability to work together to win a game against him.

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"I'm going to run out, kiddos," she said. "Where are you going?" Olivia asked. Oliver looked up from the game. He had a look in his eyes, something was bothering him. "Oliver, is something wrong?" Serena asked. He shook his head.

"Don't go away long," he said. Serena nodded.

"I won't be gone long," she assured, running her fingers through his hair. "Don't open presents or eat cake without me." "Then hurry!" Olivia told her firmly. Serena nodded. "Alright, I'll be back," she told everyone else. Heading towards the Alpha's house, Serena wrestled with her kids' desire to see Logan. He had been around them enough, and had fun with them, of course, they looked to him as a friend or even a family member. She hadn't been back to Logan's house since Holly had pulled that joke on her. As she climbed the steps of the front porch, she chewed her lower lip nervously. She hesitated in reaching for the door to knock, pausing with her fist raised. Sucking in a deep breath, Serena knocked on the door, thinking of all the things she would say to Logan when she saw him, or what she could say. She wanted him to know she was there for the kids and nothing more!

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 27

Kids from One Alpha
Chapter 27
Chapter 27: The Invitation

"You could be nicer to me," Holly said, pulling her robe on. Logan hadn't gotten out of bed yet. He was lying on his stomach, looking away from Holly so he didn't have to

watch her. He was still attracted to her, but the cattier she became, the less interest he had in being around her.

“You could be nice to other members of the pack,” Cogan pointed out. Holly scoffed. He could hear her pacing back and forth on the floor, but he had no interest in getting up and spending the day with her. The Alpha was secretly hoping for some excuse not to spend the day with her

Some kind of pack business could come up that would pull him away and require all his attention.

“Well, you aren’t dating other pack members, you’re dating me,” Holly said. He imagined her putting her hands on her hips. “No, but I am Alpha, and the way you treat other pack members reflects back on me,” he reminded her. He opened his eyes a little to look out at his sunny back yard. From where he was lying, he could see the whole backyard. There were dark clouds curling in the sky, the kind of clouds that could easily become a storm. “So, what are we going to do today?” Holly asked. Logan sighed, wrapping his strong arms around his pillow and burying his face in the downy softness. “I’m not doing anything,” he said. “Come on,” Holly said, hopping back on the bed and lying across his back. “I’m bored and I want to do something.” Logan groaned, sighing heavily. He didn’t want to entertain her for the day. After the party and the stunt she’d pulled with Serena, he hadn’t been wanting to spend much social time with her. She still had her uses in his life, and he was still entertaining them, but it was getting less fulfilling to have the other aspects of a relationship with her.

Before he had to answer there was a knock on the door. Logan could have laughed with joy! Sometimes when he asked the universe for something, it delivered. “I should get that,” he said, sitting up and forcing Holly off his back. “I’ll get it,” Holly said, jumping up. “Just meet me down there.” She left so Logan could get dressed.

Serena knocked on Logan’s front door. Her taps were light at first, but then she put more force behind her fist. There was an extra car in the drive way, one that probably belonged to Holly. Serena still wasn’t clear on whether or not Holly actually lived with Logan.

She hadn’t seen much at the party, but it had seemed like Logan wasn’t as friendly with her anymore. She had seen Logan practically drag her away after Holly had

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shoved her down the stairs. When the door opened, it was Holly who answered it. She was wearing a silk robe, nearly see-through, very short around the hips and hardly

pulled closed around her breasts. Serena averted her eyes quickly. Clearly, whatever Logan was feeling for Holly wasn't that terrible. Serena swallowed into her dry throat. "Is Alpha Logan home?" she asked. Serena winced at her own question. Of course, the Alpha was home! Why else would Holly be half-naked in the entryway? "He's here, what do you want?" the other female asked snidely. Serena sighed. "My kids," she said. "They...it is their birthday today, and they wanted Logan to be there." Holly rolled her eyes, but the stairs behind her shook as heavy steps thudded down them. Logan appeared behind Holly. "Serena, what are you doing here?" he asked. "Come in, you don't have to stand outside." He grabbed Holly's arm and pulled her back so Serena could step inside. "Logan, is someone at the door?" Flo called from the kitchen. She appeared at the end of the hall too.

Serena awkwardly stepped inside. The hallway was narrow, especially when Flo, Holly, and Logan were standing nearby. She leaned back against the furthest wall from them, trying not to feel so trapped. "Welcome, Serena, you're out and about early," Flo said. Serena nodded at the Luna. "Good morning, Luna," she said. "Today is my twins' birthday. They made a special request to have Logan at their party."

"That's so cute," Holly said sarcastically. "As if the Alpha doesn't have better things to do than go to some child's birthday party." Serena looked down at the floor. "Holly, don't be so crude," Flo chastised. "Olivia and Oliver are special twins." Serena looked up quickly, wondering what Flo meant by that! Had she made the connection of who their father was? She was the one who said that Oliver looked like Logan! "Special?" Serena gulped out. Flo smiled. "They aren't accustomed to pack life," she said. "It is important to make them feel welcome." Serena sighed with relief, nodding. "They are still getting used to it," she admitted. "Sometimes, they still act as though the entire world is made just for them." She glanced at Logan when he smirked.

"Good qualities for an Alpha," he said. Again, Serena winced at his statement. It could so easily be taken the wrong way, like he was admitting that he thought Oliver and Olivia were descended from his Alpha bloodline. "Well, then, I guess we have to cater to their delicate needs;" Holly said snidely. Flo cleared her throat. "Holly, that is just about enough," she said. Serena looked at Logan.

"I'm sure you have other plans today," she said. "If you could stop by, even for a couple minutes, it would mean a lot to them." Logan smiled at her over Holly's head. "I can make time," he said. Silence descended on them. Serena wanted to leave, but a stiff awkwardness had taken over. She looked at Flo who was smiling at her and Holly who had her arms crossed. "Um... Flo, Holly, you are welcome to come too," she threw in, hoping it broke the awkwardness. It didn't.

"That sounds great," Flo said, nudging her son in the ribs. "Fine," Holly said, sighing. "I'll go get dressed." She ran up the stairs, her robe hardly covering her butt as she disappeared. Serena made sure to look away. "Let me just grab my shoes and my jacket," Flo said, running back to the kitchen. "Serena, you really didn't have to invite them," Logan said. She shrugged. "It seemed better than standing here awkwardly," she

said. Logan chuckled. "I can't believe your kids want me there on their birthday," he said. "This is the first party they've ever had," she admitted. "And, the first party as part of a pack." "I guess, I feel honored then, that they want me to be there," he said. Flo returned from the kitchen. "I haven't been to a birthday party in ages," she said happily. "Your kids are just so adorable. I can't wait to see them again." Serena couldn't help but smile. She was so proud of her kids, and any time anyone wanted to praise them or was excited to see them, it made her happy. "Come on, Holly," Logan called. "This isn't an event you have to get all dressed up for. If you don't hurry, we'll leave without you." Serena glared at Logan. "Don't be mean" she warned. "Holly already hates me enough. Don't give her more of a reason." Logan smirked at her, shrugging with one arm. "I'll be right there," Holly called down.

When Holly appeared, Serena was a little concerned about her choice of outfit. It wasn't entirely appropriate for a birthday party for five-year-old twins. She clearly didn't have much experience with kids. It bothered Serena to know that she had to let her come, but she was hoping Holly would be on her best behavior. It wasn't just Logan and Flo there that she'd have to behave around. Charlotte and Thomas were an Alpha and Luna of another pack, and they would keep Holly in check. Besides, Santino would never let anyone harm the twins or her, or just be mean to them. "Ready," Holly said, placing her hand seductively on the back of Logan's neck. "Alright, let's get going," Serena said, heading out the front door and taking a deep breath of fresh air.

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Chapter 21.ITIE FRILUUU!

Flo, Logan, and Holly followed her out. Holly was holding Logan's hand, marking her territory. Serena refused to look at them, not wanting to give Holly the satisfaction of having an audience.

"Oh, I don't have a present for the kids," Flo said as they headed to Serena's house.

"Don't worry, they've got plenty of presents from their grandparents and uncle," she assured.

"It is still the pack's responsibility to pamper them and support them," Flo said. "They are our future."

"But we're just stopping by for a minute, right?" Holly asked.

"I don't want to disappoint the kids," Logan said. Serena looked over just to see Logan wink at her. Serena couldn't believe she was inviting Holly to her house!

Kids from One Alpha By Selena Lynch Chapter 28

Kids from One Alpha
Chapter 28
Chapter 28: The Party

When they all got back to the house, Olivia and Oliver immediately ran to greet Logan, abandoning the game of twister with Santino. "Logan!" Olivia called out to him happily. Serena winced at Holly's sharp glare at her kids. They were hugging Logan's legs and tugging at his shirt. Santino jumped up. "Hey, you left the game unfinished," he argued. "Let me introduce everyone," Serena said. "Luna Flo, this is my mother and father, Luna Charlotte and Alpha Thomas." Her parents greeted the other Luna. "It is nice to meet you," Flo said, shaking their hands. "This is Alpha Logan," she continued. "My brother Santino, and Adriana, my boss." Everyone shook hands and said hello. "Also, Holly." Serena wasn't sure what to call her, but no one really seemed to mind.

Dana came in from the kitchen with drinks to pass around to everyone. Serena got herself a glass of the offered iced tea.

"Now that everyone knows each other, the party can really get going," Santino said. "The twins and I were enjoying a game of twister. Want to join Logan?" "I'd love to," Logan said, passing his iced tea to his mother. Flo, Charlotte and Thomas were talking pack politics, which Serena didn't think had any place at a children's birthday party, but there weren't a lot of other kids around "Your kids haven't made a lot of friends," Holly said, coming up beside Serena. "This is a lame party." "As opposed to the party you planned just to humiliate me?" Serena asked back. Holly laughed, sipping her drink through a straw. "That wasn't just to humiliate you," she said. "Though, you made it all too easy." Serena sipped her own drink, watching her kids' smaller limbs getting tangled with Santino and Logan's. They really did seem to like that game. "I'll go get the candles lit on the cake," Dana said. "Now that we are all here, we can get to the good parts of the party." Serena nodded. "That sounds great," she said. "Excuse me, Holly, I want to play with my children." Serena set her drink down and went to join in the game of twister. "Spin the wheel, Serena" Santino teased her. Serena spun the wheel. "Hurry mom, I'm going to fall!" Olivia told her. "Alright, it looks like left foot on green," she said. She put her foot down on the designated color. In a shifting mass of limbs and grunts of strain, the mass of bodies on the twister matt started to move. Serena smiled, laughing as she used her toe to spin it again.

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Chapter 28: The Party "My arms hurt," Oliver said, giggling delightedly. "Okay, everyone, put your right hand on yellow," Serena said. "I can't reach!" Olivia protested. Serena bent over the tangle masses, trying to put her hand in the right position. A little foot kicked her leg when one of the twins lost balance, and Serena fell forward, landing

on Santino and Logan. "Oh no!" Santino cried as they all toppled onto the floor. The twins screamed and laughed, and Serena was dragged down onto the pile. She laughed too, unable to control herself once she hit the floor. "You're horrible at this game," Logan said. Serena hadn't realized how close she was to him until his voice sounded right near her ear. She sat up quickly, scooting away from them. "I came in late," she argued, but she favored the Alpha with a smile. He smirked back. Dana appeared in the doorway with the cake, candles lit. She had started singing "Happy Birthday." Everyone stood up and they all came together, singing the song. Oliver and Olivia ran over to Dana, jumping up and down to try and catch a glimpse of the cake. She set the cake down on the coffee table, and the twins crowded around.

"Wait until the song is over before blowing the candles out," Serena said, catching Olivia's fingers as she tried to grab a candle. "Happy birthday, twins," Charlotte said, clapping. Everyone else started clapping too. Serena nodded to Olivia and Oliver letting them know they could blow the candles out.

"Don't forget to make a wish," Logan said, touching Oliver's back. He nodded and then took a deep breath to blow out the candles. Not to be out down, Olivia blew a big breath on the candles too.

Serena couldn't stop smiling at her kids. They were really enjoying their party, even though there weren't any kids to play with. Dana cut up the cake and started passing pieces around. Holly went over to Logan and was starting to flirt with him. Serena wanted to keep her kids from watching them or making comments. "I think it is time to open presents," Santino said, coming to the coffee table with an armful of packages. "Presents!" Olivia shrieked, leaving her half-eaten cake behind and jumping up to take a wrapped box. Serena laughed, shaking her head. "You did great for them, today," Logan told Serena, coming up behind her. "They're my kids," she told him. "Why wouldn't I make this day great?" "Good point," he said. "You know, I do appreciate the invite." Serena watched her kids tear into the paper of the next present. Everyone was watching with awe, making all 2/4

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Chapter 28: The Party

the right sounds of excitement when they opened up a new toy, some kind of new clothes, or a fun game. Holly was standing on the opposite side of the coffee table from Logan and Serena. Serena did not miss how her eyes kept darting to Logan, who was standing closer to Serena than she would have liked. "I'm glad you could make it," Serena said. "Otherwise, I'd have two disappointed children."

"I know," he said, his lips too close to her ear. Serena shuddered, keeping her eyes on her kids. She couldn't shake the feeling that he was trying to play some twisted game with her and Holly. Everything she knew about Logan told her that he was a good guy and cared about her children. He was still speaking to her and getting close to her

despite the clear objections from the woman he had a relationship with! It felt like a game, but she was trying not to read into it too much. “Mommy, look at this,” Olivia said, holding up a new toy. “Wow,” Serena said. “That looks like so much fun. It matches your other stuffed animals too.” “I already know what I’m going to call him,” Olivia said, grabbing the next package her uncle gave to her.

The windows darkened with clouds, and Serena glanced out at the changing sky. Rain was imminent. She could feel the thunder approaching, even though there was no sound yet. “I’m bored,” Holly said, coming up beside Logan, which put her too close to Serena. Uncomfortably, Serena stepped away slightly, looking out at the sky. “There’s a storm coming,” she muttered to herself. “Can we go?” Holly asked Logan. “Holly, the kids aren’t done with their presents yet,” Logan said. Serena glanced over, watching Holly pout. “Kids are so boring,” Holly said with an eyeroll. Olivia looked up from her presents. “You didn’t play with us at all, you’re boring,” she pointed out. Holly scoffed and crossed her arms. “Mommy, what are you looking at?” Oliver said, standing up from his discarded wrapping paper and coming to Serena’s side. He looked up at her nervously. Serena looked down, Oliver’s eyes reflecting the gathering storm clouds. “There’s a storm coming, baby,” she said, putting her hand on Oliver’s head. His eyes widened further, and he looked terrified. “I want the party to be over, now,” Oliver said softly. Serena nodded. “Alright, honey,” she said. Oliver was scared, she could smell it on him, see it in his

eyes. The storm was bothering him. “Sounds like the party is wrapping up,” Charlotte said. “I think the kids have had too much cake and too many presents,” Serena said. “There’s a large storm coming. You should all get home before it gets nasty.” Serena went to start cleaning up the presents and wrappings while Dana took care of the food and cake.

“Oliver, Olivia, can you guys start putting your toys away?” Serena asked. The twins did as they were told, but Serena could tell that Oliver was scared. He was staying so close to his sister with each step. Logan started to help clean up too. “Logan, you don’t have to help,” Serena said. “Why don’t you get your mother and Holly home before the storm hits. It looks like it is going to be a bad one.” “The wind has hardly picked up,” Logan said. “We contributed to the mess, I’d feel bad leaving.” Serena shook her head. She paused in cleaning. “Goodbye sister,” Santino said, hugging her. “I’ll see you soon,” she said. “Goodbye mom and dad.” “See you soon, sweetie,” they called back. Adriana bid Serena farewell too. Holly was waiting for Logan, but Flo was with Dana in the kitchen. “Well, thank you,” Serena said. A huge clap of thunder caused the whole house to shake, even Serena jumped and Holly screamed.

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“That was bracing,” Logan said. “Mommy!” Olivia cried, running down the stairs. She jumped into Serena’s arms. “Where is your brother?” Serena asked, hugging her daughter. “I’ll go get him,” Logan said. Serena nodded. Logan headed upstairs, looking for the young boy. He could hear his soft whimpers coming from somewhere on the second floor. Oliver wasn’t in his bedroom, so Logan checked Olivia’s bedroom and then Serena’s.

He felt like it was an invasion of Serena’s privacy to be in her bedroom, so he ducked out the moment he knew Oliver wasn’t in there. He doubted she’d be too happy about him lurking in her room. Though, the idea brought a subtle smile to his face. Logan found Oliver hiding in the bathroom, curled up in the bathtub. “Hey buddy,” Logan said, kneeling down next to the tub. “What’s going on? The child trembled as he uncurled and looked at the Alpha. “There’s lightning outside,” he said, his voice shaking. Logan reached into the tub and scooped Oliver up in his arms. “It’s okay,” he said softly. “Inside, we are safe from the thunder and lightning. Besides, your mom is here, and she will always protect you.” “Will you stay too?” he asked. Logan started bringing Oliver downstairs. “I can stay,” he said. “Oliver, what’s wrong, love?” Serena asked, coming over and taking the boy from Logan’s arms. “I’m scared, mommy,” he said. Serena hugged her son, rubbing his back. Logan watched her with the boy, seeing just how maternal and warm she was. It was a pleasant change from Holly’s crudeness. “Logan said he’d stay for the storm,” Oliver said. “Logan!” Holly snapped, putting her hands on her hips. Logan went over to Holly and his mother. The wind had picked up outside, howling through the trees. Another clap of thunder hit and the sky lit up with lightning. “Holly, go home with my mom. Get inside before the storm gets too bad,” Logan said. “I don’t want to go out there without you,” Holly argued. Logan crossed his arms and looked at his mother.

“Come on, Holly, I can’t go out there alone,” Flo said, tugging at Holly’s arm. “No, I don’t want to go without you,” Holly insisted. “Why do you need to stay with them anyway?”

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Chapter 29 The Storm

“The kids are scared,” Logan said. “I’m just going to stay with them through the storm. Then I’ll come find you.” “No,” Holly argued.

“Well, I’m going.” Flo said. “And Holly, if you don’t come with me, I could get hurt.” Flo headed for the front door. Logan raised an eyebrow at Holly. She growled and stamped her foot. “Fine! I’ll see you later,” she said. She took off after Flo. Logan turned back to Serena. “You don’t have to stay,” she said. “The kids and I have been through rough storms together before.”

"No, we want him to stay!" Olivia said, running to Logan's side and grabbing his hand. Logan smiled down to her. "The storm is getting bad" Logan said. "I don't mind staying if it puts the kids at ease." There was another loud bang of thunder that shook the whole house. Both kids screamed and cried. The sky opened up and rain pelted down on the house, splattering the windows. "Come on," Serena said. "Let's sit on the couch and read a book." Olivia hopped up on the couch and Serena sat down, Oliver still clinging to her. "Can you pick a book, Logan?" Olivia asked. Logan nodded, heading to the book shelf in the living room. Oliver whimpered with each rumble of thunder. "How about Call of the Wild?" Logan asked, holding the book up. "Is it about wolves?" Olivia asked. "There are wolves in it," Logan said, coming back to the couch and sitting down with Olivia tucked snugly between him and Serena. Oliver was still in his mother's lap. He turned his teary eyes towards Logan as he opened the book and started reading. It was a good distraction for the kids, and Logan read as calmly and smoothly as he could. He even used funny voices for the different characters, getting Olivia to laugh and Oliver to sniffle away his tears. Eventually, Olivia fell asleep leaning against Logan's arm and Oliver was asleep in his mother's arms. "Thank you," Serena said, looking at Logan as he closed the book. "We should get them to bed." Logan picked up Olivia and Serena stood up with Oliver in her arms. "We'll put them down in Olivia's room. They'll want to be together," she said. Logan nodded, following her up the stairs. He liked seeing her so gentle with the kids. She put Oliver down in the bed, tucking him in and kissing his forehead. His red, puffy face relaxed and he squirmed, grabbing for the nearest pillow to hug. Logan thought back to his morning, hugging a pillow in hopes of not having to get out of bed.

Turning to him, Serena took Olivia from his arms. She laid the girl down beside her twin, and they turned towards each other, clinging to each other.

"The storm is picking up," Logan said, looking out the window. Branches were bending in the wind, and rain pelted against the glass.

"I guess you're stuck here until it passes," Serena said. Logan smiled at her. The thunder pounded and the power went out, Serena gasped, clutching at her chest, and the kids sat up in bed, screaming. Serena grabbed Oliver, and Logan picked up Olivia again. The ground shook, the entire house trembled. "That wasn't thunder," Serena said. Logan looked out the window again, seeing that a few trees had fallen down.

"Trees are coming down," he said. "Let's get to the bathroom." The kids continued to cry, and no amount of rocking and hugging would sooth them. They had to feel safe!

In the bathroom, Logan motioned for Serena to get into the tub. She did, sitting down and taking Olivia in her arms along with Oliver. "You'll be safe there," Logan said. "I'm going to check the rest of the house and bring back a flashlight."

"There should be one in the kitchen," Serena said. "If not, there are candles in the living room." Logan nodded and headed out of the bathroom.

With the power out, the lightning flickered even brighter, making the house and the sky flicker with brightness. Logan found the flashlight in the kitchen. He raced back upstairs and gave Oliver the flashlight. He turned it on and the boy looked a little less frightened. "Trees are coming down all over the neighborhood" Logan said. "You should be safe in here." Serena nodded.

"It doesn't feel that way," she said, hugging her kids tighter. The house swayed in the wind, and Logan was annoyed that the housing construction wasn't sturdier. "The storm can't last that much longer," he said, trying to be optimistic. Serena's smile was weak and didn't reach her eyes. Logan placed a hand on the backs of each of the twins. There was a creaking sound from outside, the sound of a tree straining against the wind.

"That's the tree in the backyard" Serena said, eyes widening. Logan rushed to Olivia's bedroom so he could look outside. The wind was tossing the branches around, the tree arching awkwardly, bark splitting. The tree was going to come down! Back in the bathroom, Logan hopped into the tub with Serena and the kids. "The tree in the back is coming down," he said. "It might hit the house." "It's okay, babies," Serena told her kids; rocking them as best she could.

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When the tree split, the crack was almost as loud as thunder! Logan grabbed Oliver, curling around him. Serena did the same with Olivia, protecting the kids as the roof crumbled in and the tree crashed down on them.

"Okay."

Olivia and Oliver screamed. Serena screamed too, her hand reaching out to grab Logan's arm. Water poured down on them, leaves and bark scattered over them, but the branches weren't long enough to actually hit them. "It's okay," Logan said firmly. "We're all okay." The rain was letting up. The sounds of thunder were drifting away into the distance. Logan sat up, uncovering Oliver's body. He was clinging to his shirt, crying and whimpering. Serena sat up, breathing deeply. The fear in her eyes tugged at Logan's heart. He looked at the tree that had crashed through her roof. The floor of the bathroom had also caved in, damage to the rooms below was unavoidable, but his only concern was getting them safely out of the bathroom without the rest of the house crumbling around them. "We've got to get out of here," Logan said. Serena nodded. Logan took Oliver first, carefully navigating around the tree and the broken floors. He set Oliver down on the floor in his bedroom, the least damaged room on the second floor. "Don't leave me," Oliver said, grabbing at Logan's arm. "I've got to go get your sister and your mother," he told the boy. "Stay right here, hold onto the flashlight so I can find my way back. Be brave." He touched Oliver's cheek. Oliver nodded, tears in his eyes. The floor boards creaked dangerously under Logan's weight as he headed back to the bathroom. He held his breath, hoping the floor wouldn't crumble under him.

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Chapter 30: Leaving Home

Logan stepped to the left, his foot falling through one of the boards. He groaned, Olivia screamed and Serena gasped. "I'm okay," Logan called out. He got back on steady footing and retrieved Olivia from Serena's arms. "I'll follow you," Serena said. Logan nodded, carefully bringing Olivia out of the bathroom. Oliver was seated on the floor, rocking back and forth, but holding the flashlight out just as Logan had asked. "Good job, buddy," Logan said, setting Olivia down on the floor beside her brother. "Let me go help your mother."

The sky was clearing. It was still early enough that the sun was up, bringing new light on the destruction of the house. Logan headed back to the bathroom. He held a hand out for Serena. She took it, and he carefully led her out of the dangerous room. He brought her to where the kids were.

"This can't be as bad as it looks," Serena said, looking at the damage from the tree. "We'll get a better look when we get outside," Logan assured. They each grabbed one of the kids. The stairs were still intact, so getting downstairs wasn't too difficult. Logan was still careful in case there was structural damage. The walls were smeared with dirt and smooched bark, water dripped from the hole in the roof, and there were still branches to navigate around. Getting outside wasn't difficult, but it was precarious. Logan set Oliver down on the ground when he got outside. He looked at the damage from the outside. It didn't look that horrible, but it would still take a lot to repair the damage. It wasn't going to be an easy, overnight fix. "I should call my mother, make sure she got home safe," Logan said when Serena joined him in the front. She nodded; her eyes nervous as she assessed the damage for herself.

Logan pulled his cellphone out and dialed his mom's number.

"Logan are you alright? How are the kids, how is Serena?" Flo asked when she picked up the phone. Logan smiled. "I take it you and Holly are fine?" he asked. "We are," she said. "We made it back before the storm really started." "Good," Logan said. "The kids are pretty shaken up, and a fallen tree caved in their roof. I don't know how complicated it will be to repair the damage." They'll be needing a place to stay," Flo said, hinting at the obvious. Logan sighed.

Chapter 30: Leaving Home "I'll figure it out," he said. "Just...don't say anything to Holly yet." "My lips are sealed," Flo said. "Come home soon." "I will. Send me any other calls on damage reports to pack territory," he said. "I'll keep you updated" she promised. Logan hung up. "This is as bad as it looks, isn't it?" Serena asked, setting Olivia down.

The kids started splashing around in puddles that had been made in the grass. Oliver seemed to recover well from his fright.

“It isn’t good,” Logan admitted. “The damage can be repaired, but it will take a while. The tree has to be removed first, and it isn’t a small tree. The house has to be assessed, structural damage repaired first, then any internal systems like plumbing and electrical. Walls need to be replaced, fixtures repaired, and finally the roof put back on.”

Serena sighed, shaking her head. She hadn’t taken her eyes off the damaged house yet.

“That sounds like a lot,” she muttered. Logan reached out and put a hand on her shoulder.

“It will get done,” he assured. “There could be a delay with other areas of the town that are damaged.” “I figured,” she said. “It isn’t like my house takes priority.” “I could make a few calls,” Logan offered. Serena shook her head. “No, I don’t want special treatment,” she said turning to face Logan. He nodded. “Okay, but I do need to give you a place to stay,” he said. “I can’t let the twins be homeless.” “That is appreciated,” she said. “Good, it is settled then, there is plenty of space at my house,” he said. “What!?” Serena asked. “No, that’s not what I was agreeing to.” Logan smirked at her. “Come on, pack some of your things,” he urged. “Let the kids get their things too, whatever hasn’t been damaged. My house is big enough for the three of you.” “Logan, you do realize that the more you are nice to me, the more Holly will torment me,” she pointed out. Logan shrugged. “Let me worry about Holly,” he said. “It isn’t like we have a motel or bed and breakfast you can stay at. Adriana’s house is a one bedroom. At least at my house the twins would have their own room, and so would you.” Serena didn’t look convinced, but Logan wasn’t going to take ‘no’ for an answer. “You enjoy putting me in awkward situations, don’t you?” she asked. Logan smirked at her again. “Come on, kids, let’s pack some of your things.” She went back inside with the kids following her. Logan followed too to make sure no one was going to get hurt.

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The kids headed around the mostly undamaged living room, collecting their toys and piling them on the table. Logan chuckled. “Don’t you want to get clothes and shoes too?” Logan asked. “I’ll get those things,” Serena said. “I don’t want the kids upstairs anyway.” Logan nodded. “I’ll keep an eye on them,” he said. “My new stuffy is all wet,” Olivia whined, throwing the sopping wet stuffed animal on the table. “The book is ruined too.” Oliver said, holding up the soggy version of Call of the Wild. “We’ll get another one;” Logan said. “I’ll finish reading it to you another time.” Oliver smiled and went back

to collecting his things. Serena came back downstairs with two bags packed. She set one on the ripped, wet couch and opened it so the kids could put their toys in. "Only pack what will fit," she said. They started shoving their toys into the bag. "If you're really not okay staying with me, I can make other arrangements," Logan offered. He had offered because he knew his house had the space. He had a yard for the kids to play in, and the kids could share a room by themselves, their mother having a separate room. The three of them wouldn't be cramped together, and the kids would have plenty of space to play. He'd also offered because he was Alpha, and it was his responsibility to make sure that she was cared for and had a place to stay. Since she didn't know many people in the pack, he knew that she wouldn't have anywhere else to go. Adriana didn't have the space for them to all comfortably live together so some unknown amount of time. "I understand the reasoning behind it," Serena said. "It does make the most sense. I'm not sure how many pack members would be willing to put up a single mother and twins that they don't know very well." "At least at my place, the kids will have a yard and a room. My mother always loves having little ones around," he said. Serena nodded. "I appreciate it," she said. "But, can I ask that Holly is kept away from the kids as much as possible?" Logan chuckled. "I will see what I can do about that," he promised. "I'm sure she will find lots of reasons not to be around as much with you and the kids living there." "Or be around more often," Serena pointed out. Logan shrugged. He picked up her bag off the couch and slung it over his shoulder.

"Either way, it is only temporary," Logan pointed out. He reached for Oliver's hand. Serena took Olivia's and grabbed the second bag. The four of them headed out of the damaged house and went in the direction of Logan's house,

There were trees all over the neighborhood that had come down Cracketawa hung dangerously, and there were leaves and debris all over the ground with accumulated too, and both the twins wanted to jump and stomp in each puddle

"I know this isn't ideal," Logan said, walking beside Serena "We'll get you back in own house quickly. I wish there was a vacant house to relocate you to, but all the empty homes are being renovated and aren't move in ready" "I understand," she said with a nod. Again, her resilience and strength amazed him Given un-ideal circumstances, and she was still making the best of it. She had it wanted to agree to stay with him. He'd known that, but she had evaluated how it would benefit the kids, and that was what had been the deciding factor

She really was a great mom! Logan couldn't imagine Holly ever being like that, yo selfless and strong in the face of adversity. It made him question his relationship with her even more.