

Working together

Dean's POV

I wait for Tamara at the place we always meet. I hope she and her Pack has decided to join us. We can do with their help, and we need their magical protection. Miriam has promised to protect us, but I do not know if she has kept the promise—so far, the hunters and humans have not detected us, although we were near the lab earlier. I wanted to look around and familiarize myself with the territory around the lab before I took Tamara and her Pack with me there. I know it is very dangerous and that humans and hunters can detect us at any moment, but we must take that chance to see what is happening there. We could not get too close because they were moving around a lot around the camp, and I could not see any of the werewolves they had taken.

They must keep the werewolves inside the laboratory where they are experimenting on them or using them to turn humans into super creatures. I wouldn't say I like either one of the ideas. One will never know. Maybe there are only using the blood of the werewolves to fight a virus. I hope so because that is the least of our problems. Still, I don't like that they have our blood and are trying to do something with it. Maybe they are trying to create a virus or a super creature that can fight their wars for them. I wish I knew what was going on in that laboratory. I wonder how we are going to get our creatures out of there. It looks like the humans and hunters are on high alert. It is as if they are expecting something. But we think they expect the original vampires to attack, and they will not expect us to attack them, because they believe they frighten us. They also know that we are not their natural enemy and will not attack humans if we do not have

a reason to. So far, they have not given us a reason to attack them, but they have to stop taking our people, or we will have to attack them to release them from their laboratory. We have not found any bodies of any of our creatures. So we cannot attack because we do not know what is happening in that lab.

"Have you been waiting a long time? I'm sorry. I'm late. We had some problems that we had to sort out first," Tamara sees from the tree above me.

"What problems? Did the hunters and humans attack you?" I ask, as I'm worried about Tamara and her Pack.

"No, we had to figure out who would be the Alpha of the Pack if we started the new Pack. And what the name of the further Pack will be? Because we are not joining the Red River Pack. It will also be easier for both our Packs if we get a new name for the Pack under which we will work together. So the day we are not the one Pack anymore, we can change the names back to our Packs and dissolve the new Pack. What do you think about our plan?" Tamara says. I am slightly furious because I thought that Tamara would join back the Red River Pack and that I could convince her and her Pack to stay with us after the war.

I know I cannot show Tamara, but I am angry. For now, I will have to play along. I do not know what else I can do about it. If that is the only way we can work together for now, then it is better than not working with her. At least I will see her daily, and she will realize I care about her. Maybe if she sees that I am not as bad as she thinks I am, she will reconsider joining my Pack. She is my mate, and I am so angry at myself for letting her go. I want her back. I want my mate by my side for the rest of my life. For now, we have other problems. But

later on, I must convince her to take me back as her mate. I know she will do nothing without the approval of her wolves. So maybe it will be better for me to make friends with her wolves first and then try to convince her to accept me back as her mate. Perhaps she will consider becoming my mate if she sees her wolves and I get along famously. 1

"I do not mind. You can be the Alpha for all I care, and I do not care about the name of the Pack," I say, and I still do not feel happy about all of this. I guess you can see that I am not satisfied. She smiles down at me from the tree.

"We decided to keep you the Alpha, and we will call it the Red Mountain Pack, a combination of our two Packs' names. If you're happy with that, we can continue talking, or else we can leave everything, and everyone goes their own way and fights their own war," Tamara says, and I am glad, pleasantly surprised about the name and the fact that they made me Alpha.

"I am happy with that but disagree with being the Alpha, and I think that both of us should be the Alpha. We will be the first Pack to have two Alphas, and now that is sorted, get out of the tree so we can talk. I would have wolves without the train together, and I think we have a lot to learn from each other. We must get a new Packhouse and grounds until we can return to our Packhouses and Packs. We will need a central place to train and plan our strategies. Do you know how important that is for a Pack to be one? The Wolves will have to feel that they can trust each other. They must understand that the guy fighting next to him has his back. At the moment, I think of each other as enemies, and that will not help us during a war. It is strategy. And I'm not trying to get close to you if that is what you think," I say, and I try to sound businesslike. 1

"You are right, we will have to be in one place, and we will have to train wolves together. They must learn to fight as a unit and not against each other. At the moment, they do not have much love for each other. And I think that is not a good thing. Luckily, there are a lot of empty Packhouses at the moment because the Alphas have been taken, and most of the people have joined your or my Pack. We must pick one of the Packhouses close to the laboratory to be close to the enemy. It must be big enough to host two Packs and the gypsies. It will also make it easier for Mariam to protect both Packs simultaneously because she only has to protect one area. I did not think about that," Tamara says. 1

"I am just trying to think logically here. The closest Packhouse is the Yellow Moon Pack's grounds, and they have significant buildings. So we will be able to host everyone. At the moment, I feel that we must not tell the vampires where we are and even ask Miriam to protect us against them so that they cannot detect us. I still do not trust them. I do not know how you feel about it, but I have never trusted a vampire," I say. 1

"I agree. And I think we all should start moving in tonight, and I'll ask Mariam to protect us so that the hunters and humans cannot see us moving. The hunters of the humans have not been so active at night lately, and I think they have realized that we are no longer going out at night. Also, they believe because they cannot detect us. I think we all should go to our Packs and get started. We will meet you at the Yellow Moon Pack in a while. It will be best if we move all our stuff there because we do not want the hunters and humans to get any trace of us and that we are still around here. Maybe after we have moved, the hunters and humans will think we have moved out of this area. We will also have to start the new Pack tonight. We will all have

to link. And, you know, it can take a while. It is a whole process that we will have to go through. Now go and fetch your wolves, and I will go and bring my wolves and the gypsies," Tamara says.

"Be careful, and we will see you in a while," I say, but Tamara has already gone. I ran back to my Pack. I tell everyone what we have decided, and they agree with me, and they do what I say and start packing. It does not take us long because we are available and can move things fast, and we load our trucks and everything in a small amount of time. We reached the Yellow Moon Pack first, and I hope Tamara and everybody with her are fine. Just before daybreak, they arrive. I can understand why they do longer than us because their trucks are old, and they have the gypsies with them. If only they were not so hard-headed, we could have helped them. We have not moved in our stuff yet because we first want them to choose where to stay. We will stay wherever we can. 1

"I think we should first do the blood ritual to link before we move in and start in this new Pack," I say. One of the elders steps closer with an old goblet we brought. All the wolves swear their allegiance to us as their Alphas, and everyone cuts their hands and lets the blood drips into the cup. After everybody has given their blood Tamara and I walk forward. We swear we will protect them, be their leaders, and love them like our children. We promise to give our lives for them and call upon the Moon Goddess to bless our new Pack. The Red Mountain Pack has been born. It took a long time, and it was almost noon when the whole ritual was over. We started unpacking everybody decided where they were going to stay.

"Alpha, do you remember Miriam? I hate to give it a lot of trouble in school when we were younger," Martin asks me.

"Yeah, I remember her. Why are you asking me? Isn't she the magical wolf that is protecting us?" I ask.

"Yes, that is Miriam, the magical wolf. I ran into her earlier, and I am sure she is my mate, but she is pretending not even to know me. I tried to talk to her, but she just walked away. I know I was awful too well when we were younger, but I wanted to ask her to forgive me. I think I did before, but I'm not sure. What do you think I should do?" Martin asks me.

"Wow, you came to the right guy to ask. You do remember that I rejected my mate for a bloody vampire, and You should ask somebody else for help with love and stuff like that. Because obviously, I suck," I say. I hear somebody laughing at us. And as I turn around, I see Gazelle, the gypsy, looking at us.

"You two sound so pathetic you should ask for a gypsy to help you. We know how to keep our lovers happy and how to keep our mates. First of all, do not piss your mate off, and second of all, do not change your mate away. And thirdly, do not treat your mate for a vampire," She laughs as she walks away.

"Thank you for nothing. We already know that," I say.

"You're welcome. If you want real advice, come and see me later. Both of you," Gazelle laughs.