

# Chapter Forty-Four

Tobias prepares for a critical mission with Amar and George, monitoring the movements of key figures like Evelyn and Marcus via surveillance screens. With limited time, he must choose between resetting one of his parents using a memory serum—a decision weighing heavily on him. The group gears up amidst a snowstorm, with George providing a gun and coordinating their plan from a control room. Tobias secretly urges George to inoculate himself against the serum, hinting at deeper concerns about the mission's consequences.

The team piles into a truck, navigating through heavy snowfall toward the city. Tobias is tasked with manning a digital map, though he questions the need for stealth given the obvious landmarks. As they drive, he reflects on the Bureau's negligence, condemning their passive role in the city's suffering until their genetic interests were threatened. The journey back stirs mixed emotions, with Peter and Tobias sharing quiet disbelief about returning to the chaotic city they left behind.

Tobias wrestles with his moral dilemma: whether to erase Marcus, his abusive father, or Evelyn, his estranged mother, to reshape the city's future. Each choice feels selfish—freeing himself from Marcus's tyranny or recreating Evelyn as a nurturing figure. The weight of the decision paralyzes him, as neither option clearly benefits the city more. Meanwhile, the truck crosses the symbolic boundary between the Bureau's world and the experiment zone, a transition that feels jarring and surreal to Tobias.

As they approach the city, Amar asks for directions to find Zeke, a key contact aligned with the revolt. Tobias suggests heading where the rebels are concentrated, focusing on reuniting with allies. The chapter ends with tension lingering over Tobias's unresolved choice and the group's precarious mission, underscored by the oppressive snowfall and the looming confrontation with their past.