

Chapter Six

Tobias senses tension brewing among the factionless as he observes their hushed conversations in the cafeteria. He recalls overhearing Evelyn mention a "demonstration," which makes him question her trust in him. While eating breakfast, he notices a group of factionless acting nervously, particularly a young girl who keeps checking the clock. Suddenly, shouts erupt, and the factionless rush outside, where a crowd has gathered to protest against the faction system, chanting "Death to the factions!" Their anger is palpable, and Tobias follows, curious about the commotion.

The protest centers around the overturned faction bowls from the Choosing Ceremony, their contents spilled and mingling on the road. Edward, a factionless leader, begins destroying one of the bowls with a sledgehammer, which distresses Tobias, as the bowls symbolize his personal defiance and escape from his past. An Erudite man attempts to stop Edward, leading to a physical struggle. Tris, witnessing the chaos, tries to intervene but is held back by Christina. Edward, overpowering the Erudite man, accidentally strikes him with the sledgehammer, causing severe injury and igniting a violent frenzy in the crowd.

Amid the chaos, Tobias wrestles the sledgehammer from Edward and knees him aside, then tries to reach Tris. The situation escalates when gunshots ring out, scattering the crowd in panic. Tris and Christina tend to the injured Erudite man, who lies motionless, while Edward is revealed to have been shot in the gut. Other bystanders are also injured or trampled, suggesting the bullets were targeted at Edward. Tobias searches for the shooter but finds no trace, leaving the scene shrouded in uncertainty.

In the aftermath, Tobias kneels beside Edward, who is still alive but gravely wounded. The chapter ends abruptly, leaving the consequences of the protest and Edward's fate unresolved. The violence underscores the deepening divisions between the factionless and those clinging to the old system, with Tobias caught in the middle, torn between

his past allegiances and the unfolding rebellion. The scene sets the stage for further conflict and raises questions about trust, loyalty, and the cost of resistance.

