Chapter Forty-Two

The chapter opens with Tobias waking up beside Tris in a hotel room, observing the birds tattooed on her collarbone. Their closeness feels different this time—not born of necessity or comfort, but simply because they wanted to be together. The intimacy between them is palpable as Tobias traces her tattoos and they share tender moments, though Tris eventually reminds him of their pressing responsibilities for the day. Their playful banter and physical closeness highlight the deepening bond between them, even as reality intrudes.

Tobias suggests helping Tris's brother, Caleb, with target practice to prepare for upcoming challenges. Despite his lingering dislike for Caleb, Tobias is willing to set aside his feelings for Tris's sake. The group moves to a training room, where Tobias takes on a mentoring role, teaching Caleb how to handle a gun. The scene contrasts Caleb's nervousness with Tobias's confidence, while Tris and Christina observe with amusement. Tobias's willingness to help Caleb reflects his growth and commitment to Tris.

As the training session progresses, Tobias reflects on the stakes of their mission. Success would mean safety for Chicago, transformation for the Bureau, and a chance for him and Tris to build a new life together. The hopeful tone underscores his optimism, even as he focuses on the practical task of preparing Caleb. The camaraderie among the group is evident, with Tris and Christina sharing whispered jokes and Tobias teasing them in return. The scene balances tension with lightheartedness, emphasizing their unity.

The chapter closes with Caleb's comically poor first attempt at shooting, which amuses Tobias and prompts Christina to offer advice. The dynamic between the characters—Tobias's patience, Caleb's frustration, and the women's playful teasing—adds levity to the serious context of their mission. The training session serves

as both a practical preparation and a moment of bonding, reinforcing the themes of trust and collaboration as they face an uncertain future together.