

Chapter Thirty-Five

The chapter opens with Tris preparing for her impending execution, donning loose black clothing and reflecting on her father's quiet rituals. She seeks a sense of connection to him before her death, lacing her fingers in silent contemplation. Peter, her escort, avoids eye contact, underscoring the grim atmosphere. As they walk through the hallway, Tris hears Tobias's desperate shouts to see her, prompting Peter to allow a brief, poignant moment at a window where their hands align against the glass. The encounter is heart-wrenching, leaving Tris in emotional pain as she turns away.

The narrative shifts to Tris's somber procession through a hallway crowded with Dauntless traitors, who part silently to let her pass. Some nod in respect, though their motives remain unclear. The pounding of fists against the walls creates a rhythmic, almost ceremonial backdrop, heightening the tension. Tris moves forward with resolve, entering the execution chamber where Erudite members, including Jeanine, await. The cold metal table and hovering cameras emphasize the clinical brutality of the scene, as Tris lies down, acutely aware of the life slipping away.

As Peter attaches a heart monitor, Tris's internal turmoil erupts. She realizes she doesn't want to die, despite her earlier acceptance of sacrifice. The desire to live burns fiercely within her, contradicting her previous beliefs about honoring her parents' deaths through her own. Jeanine steps forward with a syringe of purple serum, and Tris's mind screams in defiance. The moment is charged with desperation as she grapples with the sudden clarity that living, not dying, is her true purpose.

The chapter closes with Peter's unexpected words of encouragement—"Be brave, Tris"—echoing Tobias's past reassurance. This jolts Tris, sparking confusion about Peter's motives. As the serum takes effect, her body relaxes, and her head drops, leaving the outcome ambiguous. The scene lingers on the edge of life and death,

capturing Tris's internal struggle and the unsettling juxtaposition of cruelty and fleeting kindness in her final moments.

