

# Chapter Eight

The chapter follows Tris, Tobias, Caleb, and Susan as they flee along railroad tracks toward the city, exhausted and wary of pursuit. Tris detects an approaching train by feeling vibrations in the rails, and the group debates whether to board, risking potential Erudite control. Despite their fatigue, they decide the train offers their best chance of escape. With Caleb's instructions, they successfully jump onto the moving train, only to discover it is occupied by the factionless, who immediately confront them with weapons drawn.

The factionless, a mix of individuals wearing torn and repurposed clothing from all factions, are led by Edward, a former Dauntless initiate Tris recognizes. Edward, now wearing an eye patch from a past attack, initially threatens the group but lowers his guard when Tobias reveals his identity as Tobias Eaton. The name carries unexpected weight, prompting the factionless to relent and allow them to stay. Edward hints that someone in the city has been searching for Tobias, adding intrigue to their already precarious situation.

As the train moves toward the city, Tris and Tobias sit together, discussing the mysterious person seeking Tobias. He admits there's much he hasn't told her, and Tris acknowledges she also has secrets to share. Their quiet moment underscores the deepening bond between them amid the chaos, while the unresolved tension about Tobias's past lingers.

The chapter concludes as the train arrives in the factionless sector of the city, a familiar yet unsettling place for Tris. The group prepares to disembark, with Susan expressing fear about their safety. Tris reassures her, promising to jump together, but the uncertainty of their reception by the factionless leaves their fate hanging in the balance. The scene sets the stage for further revelations and challenges in the next chapter.