

Chapter Seventeen

The chapter opens with Tobias recounting how Cara, Will's older sister and an Erudite, helped loyal Dauntless escape during the attack. She led them to a fire escape, allowing them to regroup and ambush the Dauntless traitors, who were unprepared for the resistance. The traitors fled, believing only the Divergent were conscious. This revelation highlights Cara's unexpected alliance and the strategic turning point for the loyal Dauntless.

Tris discovers a strange metal disc embedded in her shoulder, which she painfully removes using a knife. The disc has a needle attached and leaves blue dye under her skin, suggesting an injection of unknown purpose. She speculates it's not lethal, as the attackers could have killed them outright. This moment underscores the mystery of the Erudite's motives and the unsettling nature of the injection.

Uriah enters the restroom, noticing Tris's injury and the removed needle. Their conversation shifts to the aftermath of the attack, with Uriah revealing Eric is alive but under interrogation by Candor. Tris and Uriah puzzle over the Erudite's actions, questioning why they targeted the Divergent when Jeanine already controls an army. Tris theorizes Jeanine seeks control, possibly planning another simulation to eliminate resistance.

The chapter concludes with Uriah asking Tris to keep his Divergence a secret, fearing Shauna's reaction. Tris agrees, highlighting the ongoing stigma around Divergence. Their discussion reinforces the themes of trust and fear within the faction system, while leaving the purpose of the injections and Jeanine's plans unresolved, setting the stage for further conflict.