

Chapter Thirty-Six

The chapter opens with Tris in a paralyzed state, pretending to be dead after being injected by Peter. Jeanine orders her body taken to the lab for an autopsy, unaware Tris is still alive. As Peter wheels her away, Tris remains motionless but conscious, her hand accidentally hitting a wall. Peter's behavior shifts as he abruptly changes course, speeding through corridors before lifting her and revealing he knows she's awake. The tension builds as Tris realizes Peter is aiding her escape, though his motives remain unclear.

Peter brings Tris to a hidden room where Tobias is waiting, shocked to see her alive. Peter explains the paralysis will wear off soon and urges Tobias to prepare to run. Tobias takes Peter's gun, and the trio flees through Erudite headquarters, dodging threats. Tris gradually regains movement, her confusion mingling with relief as Tobias stays by her side. The urgency escalates with shouts and gunfire, but Peter's quick thinking guides them to safety, showcasing an unexpected alliance.

The group reaches a trash incinerator, which Peter has disabled to serve as an escape route. Tris slides down first, followed by Peter and Tobias, all landing painfully but safely in the dark, ash-filled chamber. The cramped space and lingering smell of fire heighten the sense of danger, yet Tris feels a renewed appreciation for being alive. Peter's sarcastic remarks contrast with the gravity of the situation, leaving Tris to ponder why he helped her. The trio then navigates a dank hallway toward an exit sign, symbolizing their narrow escape from death.

As they emerge, Tris reflects on how different the world looks when she's no longer facing execution. The chapter ends with the group poised to continue their flight, their dynamics shifting as Tris grapples with Peter's unexpected role in her survival. The ordeal underscores themes of trust and survival, leaving readers questioning Peter's true allegiance and the trio's next steps in their rebellion against Erudite.