

Chapter Twenty

In Chapter Twenty of **Allegiant**, Tobias meets Nita, who leads him through an underground tunnel in the Bureau's facility. The dimly lit passage, adorned with shifting colored lights, reveals a stark division between the genetically damaged (GDs) and the genetically pure (GPs). Nita explains that GDs, like herself, are relegated to support roles, while GPs hold positions of power. Tobias questions the fairness of this system, drawing parallels to the factionless hierarchy he once knew. The conversation highlights his growing frustration with the Bureau's rigid genetic determinism and its impact on societal roles.

Nita shares her tattoo of broken glass, symbolizing damage—a bitter joke about her genetic status. This resonates with Tobias, who grapples with his own genetic test results and the limitations imposed on him. Their dialogue underscores the tension between genetic destiny and personal agency. Nita attempts to reassure Tobias by stating that even GPs have limitations, but he rejects this notion, arguing that the system is about more than just genes. His anger simmers as he confronts the injustice of being defined by his DNA, a theme central to the chapter.

The pair eventually arrive at a vibrant underground bar, filled with music and chatter. The atmosphere shifts abruptly when a man announces a verdict, prompting a rush of people to leave. Nita speculates it's about Marcus, Tobias's abusive father. Tobias sprints back through the tunnel, torn between conflicting emotions—whether he desires Marcus's punishment or mercy remains unclear. His internal struggle reflects the broader theme of moral ambiguity, as he wrestles with the duality of his parents' actions and their perceived masks of virtue or cruelty.

The chapter ends with Tobias running toward the control room, driven by a mix of urgency and unresolved emotions. His physical sprint mirrors his psychological turmoil, caught between his past trauma and the Bureau's oppressive structures. The narrative

leaves readers questioning whether Tobias will confront Marcus or Evelyn, and how his actions will align with his evolving understanding of identity and freedom. The chapter effectively blends personal conflict with broader societal critique, setting the stage for future confrontations.

