

Chapter Thirty-Six

The chapter opens with Tris returning to the compound in the snow, reflecting on her discomfort with carrying a gun and the stark contrast between the Bureau's pristine environment and the harsh conditions of the fringe. She notices the cleanliness of the compound, which unsettles her after witnessing the struggles of those outside. Upon entering the dormitory, she finds only Peter and Caleb, the latter engrossed in their mother's journal. Their strained interaction highlights the unresolved tension between them, though a brief moment of humor about Caleb's bruised nose offers a glimmer of connection.

Caleb informs Tris about recent upheavals in the city, where the Allegiant, led by Johanna Reyes and Marcus Eaton, have attacked Evelyn's weapons storehouse. Tris feels detached from the conflict, as most of her loved ones are now at the compound. The news disturbs her, but she acknowledges the inevitability of the uprising. Their conversation lapses into silence, underscoring the emotional distance between them. Tris then follows Caleb's directions to the genealogy room, where she finds Tobias studying his family tree with a distant expression.

In the genealogy room, Tris observes Tobias's quiet desperation as he traces his family lineage, recognizing the internal conflict he faces between his desire for connection and his resentment toward his past. She reflects on her own failure to see his pain and the complexity of his emotions. Drawing from her mother's wisdom about recognizing evil in everyone, Tris realizes the need for mutual forgiveness and understanding in their relationship. This moment of introspection shifts her perspective on their struggles.

Tris approaches Tobias, who greets her with a guarded expression. She admits that forgiveness isn't the central issue but rather whether they are still good for each other. Reflecting on Amar's advice about relationships, she acknowledges the inevitability of

repeated forgiveness in any partnership. The chapter ends with Tris poised to address the deeper question of their compatibility, leaving their future together uncertain but framed by a newfound clarity about the nature of love and resilience.

