

Chapter Thirty-Seven

Tris arrives at David's office for her first council meeting, noting his exhausted appearance with dark circles under his eyes and raw, chewed fingernails. Despite her own lingering heaviness from a truth serum test earlier, she offers to help push his wheelchair. As they navigate the dim, windowless halls of Terminal 5, Tris observes David's evident stress and paranoia, though she remains focused on her hidden agenda. The atmosphere is tense, with David hinting at a recent crisis he dealt with overnight, but refusing to elaborate further.

The council meeting begins with David announcing a critical situation in Chicago: the Allegiant, a group of faction loyalists, are rebelling against the factionless government. Evelyn Johnson has discovered hidden stores of deadly serum, escalating the potential for catastrophic violence. David emphasizes that another revolution could jeopardize the entire experiment, risking shutdown by their superiors. His determination to prevent this outcome is clear, as he views the experiment as vital to combating genetic damage, revealing his unwavering commitment to the cause.

David proposes a drastic solution: using a memory serum virus to "reset" all four experiments, erasing the memories of those involved to quell the uprising. Tris, shocked, interrupts to question the morality of this plan, prompting David to explain that resets have been used before to maintain control. He reveals that the physical devastation in the factionless sector was the result of a past uprising and subsequent memory erasure. This revelation stuns Tris, who had never connected the destruction to such deliberate, large-scale manipulation.

Tris is overwhelmed by anger at the council's cold calculation, realizing they see the people of Chicago as mere genetic containers rather than individuals with autonomy. The chapter ends with Tris grappling with the ethical implications of the reset plan, while the council moves forward with discussions on timing. The tension between the

council's utilitarian goals and Tris's growing moral outrage sets the stage for further conflict, highlighting the dehumanizing nature of their experiments and Tris's resolve to resist.

