

Chapter Twenty-Nine

Tobias, restrained with plastic ties, reflects on his injuries and the chaotic aftermath of his arrest. Despite enduring worse pain before, the wild anger in the soldier's eyes unsettles him. Nearby, Mary and Rafi sit wounded, separated by guards, with Rafi nodding approvingly at Tobias. Yet, Tobias feels a gnawing guilt, questioning the success of their mission. Reggie reassures him that Nita and the fringe group will take the blame, but Tobias remains uneasy about the prolonged silence from their captors and the absence of Nita, suspecting their actions may have caused fatalities.

The uncertainty deepens as Tobias confronts Reggie about Nita's true intentions, realizing Tris was right—they were deceived about stealing memory serum. A guard interrupts their conversation, reinforcing the tense atmosphere. Tris arrives, bandaged and bloodied, delivering updates about David's critical condition and other injuries. Tobias's guilt intensifies as he grapples with the destruction caused by their actions, realizing he participated in something far more sinister without knowing the full truth.

Tris confronts Tobias with the harsh reality: his allies sought poison to assassinate government officials and incite war. Her voice trembles with anger as she reveals Uriah's grave condition, injured by one of their diversionary explosives. The news strikes Tobias like a physical blow, flooding him with memories of Uriah's vibrant personality and his broken promise to protect him. Tris's words underscore the irreversible damage done, leaving Tobias shattered by the consequences of his blind trust.

The chapter closes with Tris expressing her devastation, unsure if she can ever reconcile with Tobias. His remorse is palpable as he faces the weight of his actions—betrayal, unintended casualties, and the potential loss of a dear friend. The emotional confrontation leaves Tobias questioning his judgment and the irreversible fractures in his relationships, marking a pivotal moment of reckoning in the narrative.