

# Chapter Twenty-Seven

The chapter opens with a tense confrontation as Nita and her armed accomplices demand access to a secured area from David, who resists despite being held at gunpoint. When David refuses to reveal the passcode, the assailant shoots him in the foot, causing him immense pain. Tris, observing the scene, remains focused and arms herself with two guns, preparing for intervention. She discreetly instructs Matthew to seek help, setting the stage for an impending clash while grappling with her own moral conflict over David's suffering.

Nita escalates the situation by injecting David with a potent mix of truth and fear serums, causing him to hallucinate his worst nightmares. As David writhes in terror, Nita manipulates his vulnerable state, promising relief in exchange for the passcode. Tris, hidden around the corner, watches the brutality unfold, her resolve hardening. David, in his delirium, inadvertently points toward Tris, revealing her presence and forcing her to act decisively to protect the serum and herself.

Tris springs into action, firing her weapons to disable Nita and the armed man, creating chaos in the hallway. She uses David as a human shield, threatening to kill him if the attackers advance. A standoff ensues, with Tris asserting her indifference toward David's survival but her determination to prevent the serum from falling into the wrong hands. The red-haired woman calls her bluff, shooting David again and exposing Tris to gunfire, which grazes her arm.

Despite her injury, Tris manages to drag David to safety around the corner, her pain secondary to the urgency of the moment. The chapter ends with the sound of approaching footsteps, hinting at reinforcements or further danger. Tris's quick thinking and combat skills highlight her growth as a fighter, while the ethical ambiguity of her actions underscores the high-stakes conflict over the serum's control.