

Chapter Sixteen

Tobias wakes at midnight, restless and overwhelmed by thoughts, while Tris sleeps beside him. He wanders the unfamiliar wooden hallways, contrasting them with the stone and chasm sounds of the Dauntless compound. His mind drifts to a memory from his initiation, when Amar encouraged him to join a game of Dare, leading to his first tattoo—a painful yet meaningful experience. The chapter sets a reflective tone as Tobias grapples with his past and present, highlighting his internal turmoil and the weight of his memories.

Tobias finds himself in an atrium filled with suspended plants and a towering tree with exposed roots, evoking the Amity greenhouses. Amar surprises him, revealing he had followed Tobias from the hotel. Their conversation shifts to Amar's unexplained survival, which Tobias had already suspected was faked. Amar explains that he and other Divergent were secretly saved from execution by Jeanine, with Natalie Prior's help. The revelation underscores the hidden machinations within their society and the sacrifices made to protect the Divergent.

The mood darkens as Tobias learns that Tori's brother, George Wu, is alive, while Tori died just hours before their escape. The tragic irony of their missed reunion weighs heavily on Tobias, leaving him speechless. Amar's explanation about the use of memory serum to fake his death adds another layer of deception to their world. Tobias's initial anger fades as he processes the cruelty of being deceived into grief twice—first with Amar and earlier with his mother. The emotional complexity of the scene highlights the cost of lies and the fragility of trust.

By the chapter's end, Tobias's resentment gives way to relief as he reunites with Amar, embracing him despite his usual reserve. Amar teases him for his lingering Abnegation traits, lightening the mood. The chapter closes with a mix of sorrow and hope, emphasizing the enduring bonds of friendship amid the chaos of their fractured

world. The lush, impractical beauty of the atrium serves as a stark contrast to the harsh realities they face, symbolizing the duality of their existence.

