

Chapter Fifteen

The chapter opens with the protagonist, Tris, recovering from a gunshot wound that left a hard bump on her shoulder but no bleeding. As she assesses her surroundings, she notices metal cylinders releasing a strange white smoke that quickly dissipates. Around her, Dauntless soldiers lie unconscious, including her allies Uriah and Lynn. Tris quickly deduces that the smoke was a simulation-inducing gas, though its effects defy the rules she knows. She feigns unconsciousness as Dauntless traitors, led by the cold and calculating Eric, enter the lobby, discussing their plans to subdue rather than kill their opponents.

Realizing she must act quickly, Tris notices a nearby gun but hesitates due to her fear of panicking. Once the traitors disperse, she springs into action, grabbing a knife and searching for a way to blend in. She takes a blue armband and jacket from a dead Dauntless traitor, trying to ignore the gruesome sight of the woman's bullet wound. Uriah, who is also Divergent and immune to the gas, joins her, and the two disguise themselves in the traitors' uniforms. Tris is disturbed by the young age of some of the dead traitors, but she pushes aside her emotions, focusing on their mission to warn the Dauntless upstairs.

Tris and Uriah debate their next steps, with Uriah advocating for escape while Tris insists on confronting the threat head-on. Despite the recklessness of her plan, Tris feels a disturbing indifference to the danger, driven by a need to uncover the truth. She directs Uriah to evacuate the third floor while she heads to the second floor to find other Divergent who might be hiding. As they separate, Tris reflects on the brutality of the Dauntless, recalling a Candor children's song that portrays them as cruel and self-destructive.

The chapter ends with Tris stepping over unconscious bodies in the hallway, her mind echoing the haunting lyrics about the Dauntless tearing each other apart. Her

determination to fight back is tempered by a sense of inevitability, as she prepares to face the chaos unfolding around her. The scene underscores the internal and external conflicts Tris faces, highlighting her resilience and the grim reality of the factional warfare engulfing her world.

