

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

The chapter opens with the protagonist waking up and immediately recalling the previous day's events, marked by tension and violence. She observes Molly's injuries and dresses quickly, noting the somber mood among her peers as they prepare for visiting day. Eric, a Dauntless leader, delivers a stern warning about showing attachment to their families, emphasizing the faction's principle of "faction before blood." His words carry an implicit threat, reinforcing the pressure to conform to Dauntless ideals. The protagonist feels a pang of guilt when Eric praises her, suspecting his approval means she has compromised her own values.

As she leaves the dormitory, the protagonist notices Christina and Wil laughing together, but she hesitates to join them, sensing an unspoken boundary. She searches for Al but doesn't find him, adding to her unease. When she reaches the Pit, she observes the families of other initiates, contrasting their Dauntless appearances with her own Abnegation upbringing. She spots Peter with his Candor parents and wonders if they know his cruel nature. The sight of her mother, standing alone and out of place, overwhelms her with emotion, and she rushes to embrace her, relieved yet conflicted.

The reunion with her mother is bittersweet, filled with quiet affection and unspoken regrets. Her mother admires her physical transformation and insists on focusing the conversation on her daughter, a rare departure from Abnegation selflessness. The protagonist learns that her father chose not to visit, and her mother's uncharacteristic criticism of him shocks her. She also discovers that Caleb, her brother, is isolated in the Erudite compound, where Abnegation visitors are barred—a sign of escalating faction tensions. The news troubles her, stirring sympathy for Caleb despite their past conflicts.

The chapter closes with the protagonist grappling with her mixed emotions: gratitude for her mother's visit, sadness over her father's absence, and concern for Caleb. The

encounter highlights her struggle to reconcile her Dauntless identity with her Abnegation roots. The faction's rigid expectations weigh heavily on her, and Eric's earlier warning lingers in her mind. As she stands with her mother, she feels the ache of lost connections but also a tentative hope for the future, even as the divisions between factions grow deeper.

