

# CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

Tris, still shaken by the violent incident involving Edward the previous night, seeks solace in an unfamiliar hallway to escape the dormitory's lingering scent of blood. She reflects on her mother's influence, finding comfort in small acts like scrubbing the floor, which remind her of home. Her attachment to her old gray sneakers symbolizes her unresolved longing for her past life. When Uriah, a fellow initiate, finds her, he invites her to join a secret Dauntless ritual, offering her a distraction from her grief and a chance to reclaim her sense of belonging.

Uriah leads Tris and a group of Dauntless-born initiates to a hidden staircase, where they join older members for an undisclosed adventure. Tris, though initially hesitant, feels a surge of excitement, embracing the Dauntless spirit she once might have feared. The group boards a moving train, and Tris successfully jumps on, proving her growing adaptability. Uriah's older brother, Zeke, is among the members, adding a layer of familiarity to the otherwise mysterious outing. Tris's curiosity about their destination grows, but the others keep it a surprise, heightening the sense of adventure.

During the train ride, Tris interacts with Shauna, a Dauntless member who mentions Four, Tris's instructor. Shauna's casual revelation that Four spoke of Tris as a "Stiff" stirs mixed emotions in her, including embarrassment and curiosity. Tris learns that Four is respected but rarely participates in these rituals, hinting at his fear of heights—a vulnerability Tris alone seems to know. Shauna's anecdote about Four's kindness during her initiation contrasts with Tris's perception of him, leaving her unsettled and oddly jealous, though she can't pinpoint why.

As the train approaches its destination, the Dauntless members leap off at high speed, and Tris follows without hesitation, determined to prove her courage. The chapter captures her emotional turmoil and gradual transformation, balancing her grief with

her desire to fit into Dauntless. The ritual serves as a turning point, allowing Tris to momentarily escape her trauma and embrace the thrill of the unknown, while her interactions with Uriah and Shauna deepen her connections within the faction. The chapter ends on a note of anticipation, leaving Tris's next steps uncertain but charged with potential.

