

CHAPTER THREE

The chapter begins with Beatrice undergoing a simulation test to determine her faction aptitude in the dystopian society. Nervous and sweating, she anxiously awaits the results from Tori, the test administrator. When Tori returns, she reveals that Beatrice's results are inconclusive, showing equal aptitude for Abnegation, Dauntless, and Erudite—a rare condition known as "Divergent." Tori warns Beatrice to keep this information secret, emphasizing the danger of being Divergent, though Beatrice doesn't fully understand why. The revelation leaves her shaken and uncertain about her future.

Beatrice reflects on the implications of her test results, fearing the possibility of becoming factionless, which would mean living in poverty and isolation. She recalls her mother's words about the importance of community and purpose, reinforcing her dread of being cast out. Tori explains the unusual nature of Beatrice's responses during the simulation, which defied the typical linear progression of eliminating factions. Her choices—such as refusing to tell the truth or take the knife—created a complex scenario that made her results difficult to interpret.

Tori's urgent warning about the dangers of Divergence adds tension to the chapter. Beatrice agrees to secrecy but is left confused and overwhelmed. The weight of her impending Choosing Ceremony looms over her as she grapples with the responsibility of deciding her faction without clear guidance from the test. The chapter highlights the societal pressure to conform and the stakes of faction allegiance, as well as the mystery surrounding Divergence and why it must be hidden.

The chapter concludes with Beatrice leaving the testing center, choosing to walk home alone to avoid early detection by her parents. Her thoughts wander as she observes the decaying cityscape, a mix of old and new buildings, reflecting the slow progress of societal renovation. The physical journey mirrors her internal turmoil as she

contemplates her three possible factions—Abnegation, Dauntless, and Erudite—and the unsettling label of Divergent. The chapter ends on a note of uncertainty, setting the stage for her pivotal decision in the Choosing Ceremony.

