

# CHAPTER TWO

The chapter opens with Beatrice Prior and her brother Caleb awaiting their aptitude tests in the cafeteria, surrounded by members of their Abnegation faction and other factions like Dauntless, Erudite, Amity, and Candor. Each faction exhibits distinct behaviors, reflecting their societal norms—Abnegation sits quietly, Dauntless is boisterous, Erudite studies, and Amity plays games. Beatrice observes these differences, noting how faction customs suppress individual preferences. Caleb is called for his test first, leaving Beatrice anxious about her own upcoming evaluation, which will determine her future faction.

After Caleb returns from his test visibly shaken, Beatrice is called alongside Susan Black. Despite her fear, she follows protocol and proceeds to a mirrored testing room. The sterile environment and intimidating machinery heighten her tension. The Dauntless test administrator, Tori, stands out with her black blazer and a hawk tattoo, symbolizing her conquered fear of the dark. Beatrice's curiosity about the tattoo momentarily overrides her Abnegation-trained restraint, revealing her inner conflict between conformity and individuality.

As Tori prepares Beatrice for the test, she attaches electrodes and hands her a vial of clear liquid to drink. Beatrice's nervousness peaks, but she complies despite her unanswered questions about the test's nature. The scene underscores the oppressive weight of faction rules and the lack of transparency in the testing process. Tori's cryptic reassurance—"it doesn't hurt"—does little to ease Beatrice's dread, leaving her to face the unknown alone.

The chapter concludes with Beatrice drinking the vial's contents, her eyes closing as the test begins. This moment marks a pivotal transition, symbolizing her leap into uncertainty and the looming choice that will define her identity. The tension between societal expectations and personal instincts lingers, setting the stage for her eventual

divergence from the rigid facton system.

