# The Scorch Trials

In *The Scorch Trials*, the second installment of the *Maze Runner* series, **Thomas** and his fellow Gladers emerge from the deadly Maze—only to face an even deadlier challenge. Thrust into a desolate wasteland known as the **Scorch**, they must cross a **sun-blasted, disease-ravaged** landscape to reach a promised safe haven within **two weeks**.

But the **Scorch** hides horrors worse than the Maze:

- **Cranks**, zombie-like victims of the **Flare virus** who attack anything that moves.
- **WICKED's new trials**, designed to push the Gladers to their breaking point.
- **Betrayal from within**, as alliances fracture and trust becomes a liability.

With time running out and WICKED's motives growing more sinister, Thomas must decide who to follow—and what he's willing to sacrifice to uncover the truth.

Dashner ramps up the **action, suspense, and moral dilemmas** in this relentless sequel, where survival is just the first test.

## Chapter 1

Thomas awakens in a dimly lit dormitory, momentarily disoriented and fearful that he has returned to the terrifying confines of the Maze. The familiar surroundings of bunk beds and sleeping boys reassure him that he is safe, rescued from the horrors of the Glade and the Grievers. His relief is palpable as he reflects on the end of their ordeal, though his peace is interrupted by Teresa, a girl who communicates with him telepathically. Their exchange reveals their shared trauma, as Teresa confesses her

inability to sleep due to haunting memories of the Grievers and the Maze.

The conversation between Thomas and Teresa highlights their deep connection and the emotional scars left by their experiences. Teresa expresses frustration at being separated from the group, while Thomas attempts to lighten the mood with humor, masking his own unresolved grief. The memory of Chuck’s death lingers in Thomas’s mind, though he avoids sharing this pain with Teresa. Their banter provides a fleeting sense of normalcy, but the underlying tension of their unresolved trauma and uncertain future remains.

As Thomas drifts back to sleep, he experiences a vivid dream of his childhood, where a woman—presumably his mother—speaks to him with a mix of love and sorrow. The dream fragments hint at a troubled past, with mentions of his father’s instability and a cryptic warning about his own special nature. The dream leaves Thomas unsettled, grappling with fragmented memories and a profound sense of loss. The chapter subtly underscores the theme of identity and the lingering effects of the characters’ erased pasts.

The chapter concludes with Teresa’s urgent telepathic message, signaling that something is amiss. This abrupt ending reintroduces tension, suggesting that their perceived safety may be illusory. The blend of emotional introspection and looming danger sets the stage for the next phase of their journey, leaving readers questioning the true nature of their rescue and the challenges that lie ahead.

# Chapter 2

Thomas awakens from a deep, oppressive slumber, struggling to break free from the weight of exhaustion. Teresa’s distant voice calls to him, but her words feel muffled, as if heard through a tunnel. Despite her urgent screams, Thomas dismisses the fear as part of a dream, convinced they are safe. However, unsettling noises—thumps, clangs, and distant screams—begin to seep into his consciousness, though they remain dulled, as if he’s wrapped in a thick cocoon. The line between dream and reality blurs as he fights to wake up, sensing something is terribly wrong.

As Thomas battles the pull of sleep, he experiences a sudden, visceral loss—Teresa’s presence vanishes from his mind, as if a part of him has been torn away. Panicked, he mentally calls out to her, but receives no response. The absence of her comforting closeness jolts him into full awareness. When he finally opens his eyes, chaos greets him: the other Gladers are in disarray, shouting and reacting to unseen horrors. The room is filled with agonized screams, and the boys scramble to understand what’s happening, their fear palpable. Thomas realizes with a pang that he doesn’t even know most of their names, a stark reminder of their fractured bonds.

The scene outside the window shatters any illusion of safety. A deranged man, his face disfigured by sores and scars, grips the bars with bloody hands. His appearance is monstrous—hairless, with greenish moss-like patches and a gaping cheek wound. The man’s bloodshot eyes radiate madness as he screams, declaring himself a “Crank.” His desperate, repetitive pleas to be killed underscore the horror of his condition. The sight of him, combined with the chaos inside, forces Thomas to confront the brutal reality of their world, where safety is an illusion.

The chapter culminates in a moment of visceral terror, as the Crank’s screams echo through the room, amplifying the Gladers’ panic. Thomas’s fleeting sense of peace from earlier conversations with Teresa is obliterated, replaced by the grim

understanding that their survival is far from assured. The juxtaposition of the boys' frantic reactions and the Crank's inhuman suffering highlights the brutality of their new environment. The chapter leaves Thomas—and the reader—grappling with the unsettling question of what horrors lie ahead, setting a tone of dread and uncertainty for the trials to come.

# Chapter 3

The chapter opens with Thomas and the Gladers waking to chaos as deranged individuals, referred to as "Cranks," scream and claw at the barred windows of their dormitory. Minho alerts Thomas to the severity of the situation, noting the absence of their rescuers. Despite his fear, Thomas suppresses his panic and focuses on assessing their surroundings, questioning the security of the windows and the group’s next steps. Newt suggests organizing a Gathering to devise a plan, but the noise and terror make it difficult to think clearly. Thomas, meanwhile, struggles to reach Teresa telepathically, growing increasingly worried by her silence.

As the Gladers regroup, they discover the door to the common area is locked, prompting Newt and Minho to break the handle with a fire extinguisher. Frypan expresses hesitation about venturing into the unknown, but Minho insists they have no choice but to explore. The tension escalates as the door swings open, revealing a foreboding darkness. Thomas senses something is wrong but agrees with the need to move forward. The group’s dynamic is strained, with Minho’s boldness contrasting Frypan’s caution, while Newt remains focused on leading them to safety.

Thomas follows Minho and Newt into the dark common area, his senses heightened by the oppressive gloom and the unsettling smell. The chapter emphasizes the psychological toll on the characters, as their brief respite from danger is shattered by the new threat. Thomas’s internal struggle—balancing leadership with his personal fears—mirrors the group’s collective anxiety. The absence of Teresa and the relentless Cranks outside amplify the sense of isolation and impending doom.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger as the Gladers step into the darkness, unsure of what awaits them. The abrupt cutoff heightens the suspense, leaving readers questioning the fate of the group and the nature of the horrors they will face. The themes of survival, trust, and resilience are central, as the characters are forced to

confront their fears and rely on each other in a world that seems determined to break them. The vivid descriptions of the Cranks and the oppressive atmosphere reinforce the dystopian tone of the narrative.

# Chapter 4

The chapter opens with Thomas and the Gladers waking to a horrifying scene: their common area is filled with hanging corpses, triggering shock and nausea among the group. Thomas, struggling with despair, tries to reach Teresa telepathically but fails, heightening his panic. He focuses on finding her, spotting a yellow door labeled with her name and the ominous title "The Betrayer." The discovery of her last name, Agnes, briefly distracts him, but the urgency to locate her overrides his curiosity. The group rallies, breaking into the room with a fire extinguisher, hoping Teresa is safe inside.

Inside Teresa’s dorm, the Gladers find no immediate sign of her, though an unmade bed suggests recent activity. Relief washes over Thomas when they hear a toilet flush, assuming Teresa is alive. Newt advises caution, reminding Thomas to respect her privacy, while Minho organizes the others to gather in the cleaner, windowless room. Thomas, however, remains anxious, still unable to sense Teresa mentally. The tension builds as the group waits, their body language reflecting shared unease about the situation and the mysterious label branding Teresa a betrayer.

The tension peaks when the bathroom door opens—but instead of Teresa, a□□ boy steps out, dressed similarly to the Gladers. His short dark hair and olive skin contrast with the group’s expectations, and his sarcastic response to Thomas’s demand for answers escalates the confrontation. Thomas, already on edge, barely restrains himself from attacking the boy, who seems either oblivious or deliberately provocative. The Gladers are left stunned, their hope of finding Teresa dashed, replaced by confusion and suspicion about the boy’s identity and role in their ordeal.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, leaving the Gladers—and the reader—with more questions than answers. The boy’s appearance undermines their assumptions about Teresa’s whereabouts and the nature of their captivity. Thomas’s frustration and the group’s collective anxiety underscore the deepening mystery, setting the stage for

further conflict and revelation. The label "The Betrayer" lingers ominously, casting doubt on Teresa’s loyalty and the true motives of their captors.

# Chapter 5

In Chapter 5 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers encounter Aris, a mysterious boy who seems traumatized by shared horrors. Thomas senses Aris's genuine fear and realizes he knows nothing about Teresa's disappearance. The group attempts to piece together their fragmented memories, but confusion mounts as Minho reveals the facility has no other rooms or exits, despite their recollections of food and doors from the previous night. Thomas grows increasingly desperate to find Teresa, refusing to delay the search, even as the others prioritize understanding their situation.

Thomas searches the common area, a grim space filled with rotting bodies, but finds no trace of Teresa. The facility's layout baffles him—plain walls, no windows, and steel doors chained shut from the inside. His frustration deepens as he questions whether their memories have been altered again by WICKED. The lack of logical explanations heightens his anxiety, and he reluctantly rejoins the group, hoping Aris might hold answers. Meanwhile, the Gladers rearrange the room to create a makeshift meeting space, though tensions simmer over Aris's trustworthiness.

Back in the dorm, the Gladers form a circle to share information, but Minho openly suspects Aris of being a WICKED spy or even the murderer of the bodies outside. Newt tries to mediate, urging cooperation, but hunger and fear fuel the group's impatience. Thomas, though distracted by worry, acknowledges their need for food and water, realizing their survival depends on unraveling the mystery. Aris, however, refuses to speak first, demanding the Gladers explain their origins, which only escalates Minho's hostility.

The chapter ends with the group at an impasse, torn between uncovering the truth and addressing immediate dangers. Thomas struggles to balance his concern for Teresa with the need to collaborate, while the others grapple with distrust and

exhaustion. The locked facility, missing memories, and Aris’s enigmatic presence create a claustrophobic tension, leaving the Gladers with more questions than answers as they face an uncertain and threatening environment.

# Chapter 6

In Chapter 6 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers encounter Aris, a new boy who reveals he shares Thomas's telepathic abilities. Aris explains that his partner, Rachel, was killed by an unknown group, mirroring Thomas's connection to Teresa. The revelation unsettles Thomas, who draws parallels between Aris's story and his own experiences in the Maze, particularly Chuck's death. The group is skeptical and confused, especially when Aris mentions a female-dominated Maze, raising questions about the true nature of their captivity and the motives of their captors, WICKED.

The tension escalates when a Glader notices a mysterious tattoo on Aris's neck, reading "Property of WICKED. Group B, Subject B1. The Partner." Aris insists the tattoo wasn't there before, sparking disbelief and fear. As the boys investigate, they discover identical tattoos on their own necks, each labeled with "Group A" and unique designations. Minho's tattoo identifies him as "The Leader," while Newt is called "The Glue," hinting at their roles within the group. The discovery sends the Gladers into a frenzy, as they realize WICKED still has control over them.

Thomas grapples with the implications of the tattoos, questioning why WICKED has branded them and what their designations signify. The chapter highlights the boys' vulnerability and the pervasive influence of their unseen oppressors. Newt's reaction to his title, "The Glue," suggests a deeper emotional weight, as he struggles to comprehend WICKED's manipulation. The tattoos serve as a stark reminder that their escape from the Maze was never truly freedom, but part of a larger, more sinister experiment.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, with Thomas awaiting Newt's response to his own tattoo, which Newt hesitates to reveal. The atmosphere is charged with dread and uncertainty, as the Gladers confront the reality that they are still pawns in WICKED's game. The tattoos symbolize their loss of autonomy and foreshadow further trials

ahead, leaving readers eager to uncover the next twist in their harrowing journey.

# Chapter 7

In Chapter 7 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers are abruptly startled by a familiar clanging alarm, identical to the one used in the Maze to signal the arrival of a newbie. The noise overwhelms the group, causing confusion and discomfort as they search for its source. Thomas recognizes the sound but is baffled by its reappearance in their current confined space. The Gladers react with frustration and exhaustion, some covering their ears while others sit helplessly, unable to escape the relentless noise.

As the alarm continues, tensions rise among the group. Frypan attempts to force open a door, but it remains sealed, heightening their sense of entrapment. Thomas, feeling Teresa’s absence keenly, tries unsuccessfully to reach her telepathically amidst the chaos. The sudden silence that follows the alarm’s cessation is almost as jarring as the noise itself, leaving the group on edge. Newt and Minho speculate about the possibility of new arrivals, their sarcasm masking deeper unease about the unpredictable nature of their ordeal.

The chapter takes a darker turn when the door to the common area creaks open, revealing a pitch-black space. Minho volunteers to investigate, joking about zombies but hinting at his grief for Chuck. Thomas, though irritated by the reminder of their lost friend, focuses on moving forward. The group’s dynamic shifts as Minho steps into the darkness, with Thomas close behind, both wary of what lies ahead. The absence of the rotting corpses’ stench is the first clue that something has changed.

When Minho restores the lights, the Gladers are shocked to find the common area completely cleared of the bodies that had previously littered the floor. The disappearance of the corpses, without a trace, underscores the sinister and manipulative forces at play in their environment. This unsettling discovery leaves Thomas and the others grappling with more questions than answers, reinforcing the

theme of relentless uncertainty that pervades their journey.

# Chapter 8

In Chapter 8 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers are stunned to discover the corpses that had been hanging in the room have mysteriously vanished without a trace. The absence of the bodies, along with the sudden disappearance of the foul smell, leaves the group baffled. Newt and Minho argue that it would have been impossible for anyone to remove the corpses so quickly, especially since the room was locked from the inside. The eerie silence replacing the earlier screams of the Cranks outside adds to the unsettling atmosphere, heightening the group’s confusion and dread.

The Gladers rush to the dorm room windows, only to find that brick walls have been erected outside, completely blocking their view. The walls appear solid and aged, as if they had always been there, further deepening the mystery. Thomas speculates that their captors are manipulating their perception, much like the invisible hole in the Cliff from their past experiences. The group spends the next half-hour inspecting the room, noting other inexplicable changes: freshly made beds, rearranged furniture, and new supplies, including digital watches. The alterations suggest a deliberate, orchestrated effort to disorient them.

The most jarring discovery is the altered plaque outside Teresa’s former room, now labeling Aris as "The Partner" instead of Teresa as "The Betrayer." This change devastates Thomas, symbolizing her abrupt replacement in their group. Overwhelmed, he retreats to his cot, attempting to reach Teresa telepathically. To his shock, she responds with hostility, threatening him and denying any recognition of who he is. Her violent rejection leaves Thomas heartbroken and confused, as he grapples with the implications of her betrayal and the loss of their once-close connection.

The chapter ends with Thomas succumbing to exhaustion and grief, crying himself to sleep. He dreams of a childhood memory involving masked figures and fragmented,

terrifying conversations, hinting at a darker past. The dream’s unsettling imagery mirrors the Gladers’ current reality, where nothing is as it seems, and trust is a fragile commodity. The chapter underscores the group’s growing desperation and the psychological toll of their unpredictable, manipulated environment.

# Chapter 9

Thomas wakes up disoriented and in pain, haunted by Teresa's harsh words and a disturbing dream that leaves him questioning its reality. Newt, standing by his bed, tries to lighten the mood with sarcasm, but their conversation quickly turns to their dire situation—trapped in a bricked-up room with no food or clear escape. Despite the grim circumstances, Newt remains optimistic, drawing parallels to their arrival in the Glade, where they had to organize and adapt to survive. Thomas, though skeptical, begins to consider that their current predicament might also be part of a larger, purposeful test.

The discussion shifts to the origins of the Glade, with Newt recounting how the original Gladers overcame their initial terror and built a functional society despite their wiped memories. Thomas, intrigued, asks about the logistics of their early days, and Newt explains how they relied on trial and error to establish order. This history reinforces Newt's belief that their current confinement is another deliberate challenge, though Thomas worries about the lack of resources and the possibility of abandonment. Newt dismisses these fears, insisting that their captors wouldn't go to such lengths only to let them starve.

As days pass without food, hunger becomes an unbearable torment for Thomas and the other Gladers. The group grows weaker, their movements sluggish and their spirits crushed. Thomas obsesses over Teresa's betrayal, which adds emotional weight to his physical suffering. The cycle of sleep, water, and exhaustion dominates their existence, with death feeling increasingly imminent. Despite this, Thomas clings to fleeting hope, though his body and mind are pushed to their limits.

On the third day, a mysterious humming sound interrupts the monotony, but Thomas, too exhausted to investigate, drifts back into sleep. Minho eventually rouses him, hinting at a potential change in their situation. The chapter ends with Thomas on the

brink of another discovery, leaving the reader to wonder whether this signals salvation or another cruel twist in their ordeal.

# Chapter 10

In Chapter 10 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers awaken to find a mysterious man in a white suit sitting at a desk, reading calmly. The man’s appearance is unsettling—pale, thin, and dressed entirely in white—yet he ignores the boys as they eat. Thomas attempts to approach him but collides with an invisible wall, baffled by its undetectable presence. Despite pounding on the barrier, the man remains indifferent, only responding with annoyance when Thomas disrupts his reading, revealing they must wait 47 minutes for "Phase Two of the Trials."

The Gladers, including Minho and Newt, react with a mix of frustration and resignation to the bizarre situation. Minho nicknames the man "Rat Man" and mocks his pretentious demeanor, while Newt urges patience. Thomas, though initially shocked, quickly adapts to the strangeness, a numbness settling over him as he focuses on replenishing his energy with food and water. The boys’ banter reveals their weariness, yet they remain wary of what Rat Man’s impending announcement might entail for their fate.

Aris, the new boy, lingers on the periphery, his grief over a murdered girl mirroring Thomas’s concern for Teresa. The Gladers’ dynamic is tense but familiar, their camaraderie underscored by dark humor. As they wait, Thomas reflects on how quickly the surreal has become normal, a testament to their harrowing experiences. Rat Man’s eventual preparation of a messy folder hints at looming revelations, heightening the suspense.

The chapter culminates in anticipation as Rat Man finally sets aside his book and retrieves documents, signaling the start of Phase Two. The boys brace themselves, knowing the Trials will escalate, yet uncertain of what horrors await. Thomas’s internal resolve strengthens, but the ominous tone leaves readers questioning the true nature of the challenges ahead and the motives of those controlling their fate.

# Chapter 11

In Chapter 11 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers are confronted by Rat Man, who reveals the grim reality of their situation. Despite the shocking claims that their past trials were merely the beginning and that their brains have been manipulated, Thomas feels more curiosity than fear. Rat Man explains that the Maze Trials were not just about survival but part of a larger experiment by WICKED, a global organization combating the devastating effects of sun flares and the deadly Flare virus. He drops another bombshell: all the Gladers have already been infected with the Flare, and their only hope for a cure lies in completing the next phase of trials.

Rat Man outlines the Scorch Trials, a brutal challenge set to begin the next morning. The Gladers must step through a mysterious "Flat Trans" portal within a five-minute window, then journey 100 miles north across the Scorch to a safe haven within two weeks. Failure means succumbing to the Flare, which slowly erodes sanity and humanity. Thomas recalls the horrors of the virus, described earlier by a rescuer, and the Cranks he’s seen—its victims—reinforcing the urgency of their mission. Despite the dire stakes, the Gladers are given no rules or assistance, only the stark choice to comply or face execution.

The room erupts with questions, but Rat Man dismisses them, emphasizing that WICKED already knows the Gladers will obey out of self-preservation. Thomas remains silent, seething with hatred for WICKED and the world that has trapped them. Minho, frustrated, shuts down the others’ futile questioning. Rat Man coolly reiterates the stakes, warning that those who refuse to enter the Flat Trans will be executed. His abrupt departure—vanishing into the wall—leaves the Gladers in stunned silence, grappling with the impossibility of their task and the cruelty of their captors.

The chapter ends with the Gladers reeling from the revelations. Thomas’s dread is palpable as he processes the inevitability of the Scorch Trials and the Flare’s ticking

clock. Minho’s whispered exclamation—*"Well, shuck me"*—captures the group’s disbelief and resignation. The stage is set for a harrowing journey, with survival hanging by a thread and trust in WICKED utterly shattered. The Gladers are left with no choice but to confront the horrors of the Scorch or face certain death.

# Chapter 12

In Chapter 12 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas seeks solitude in a bathroom to process the chaos surrounding him. The Gladers are overwhelmed by recent events: bodies mysteriously appearing and disappearing, a stranger with an impossible shield, and the realization that their rescue from the Maze was a setup by WICKED. Thomas grapples with the uncertainty of their situation, questioning whether they can trust anything they see or remember. The chapter highlights his internal turmoil as he reflects on Teresa’s absence, the loss of Chuck, and the ominous Phase Two they must face the next day.

Thomas’s grief and frustration are palpable as he recalls Chuck’s death and contemplates whether death might be preferable to the horrors ahead. His thoughts are interrupted by Minho, who lightens the mood with sarcastic banter, though the underlying tension remains. The two discuss the mysterious "Flat Trans," a potential doorway to their next challenge, while Newt joins them, shifting the conversation to leadership and organization. The group’s dynamic reveals their shared fear and determination, even as they struggle to make sense of their dire circumstances.

Newt emphasizes the need for structure and leadership as they prepare for Phase Two, arguing that the group must unite under a clear leader. Minho dismisses the importance of their tattoos, which designate roles, but Newt insists they hold significance. The tension escalates as Newt reveals Minho’s tattoo branding him as the Leader, forcing Thomas to confront his own ominous marking: a tattoo declaring he is to be killed. This revelation adds another layer of dread to their already precarious situation.

The chapter underscores the Gladers’ psychological and emotional strain as they face an uncertain future. Thomas’s internal conflict, the group’s fractured morale, and the looming threat of Phase Two create a sense of impending doom. The tattoos symbolize

WICKED’s manipulation, leaving the characters—and readers—questioning their fate. The chapter ends on a foreboding note, setting the stage for the trials to come and the sacrifices they may entail.

# Chapter 13

As night falls, Thomas and the Gladers prepare for the challenges ahead by crafting makeshift packs and water containers from available materials. Despite their rudimentary solutions, the group acknowledges the necessity of these preparations. Leadership tensions ease as Minho reluctantly accepts the role, providing a sense of structure. The atmosphere is heavy with unease, as the Gladers, haunted by past horrors inflicted by WICKED, struggle to sleep, their minds racing with fear and uncertainty about the trials to come.

Thomas grapples with despair, reflecting on the losses of Chuck and Teresa, and the cruel manipulations of WICKED. The organization's actions—using a disease and its cure as leverage—deepen his resolve for revenge. Though emotionally drained, he finds a twisted comfort in the thought of surviving to defy WICKED. The chapter highlights his internal conflict between grief and determination, setting the stage for his hardened mindset as the group faces the unknown.

The Gladers wake early, their alarms synchronized for the impending departure. Thomas, unable to sleep, prepares for the journey, aware it may be their last chance for basic comforts like showers. The group gathers nervously, clutching their makeshift supplies, as the invisible shield reappears, signaling the imminent arrival of the Flat Trans. A brief conversation between Thomas and Aris about their telepathic experiences offers a moment of vulnerability, but the focus quickly shifts back to survival.

Minho asserts his leadership with a stern demeanor, quelling any dissent as the group prepares to step into the unknown. The Flat Trans materializes, its unstable surface heightening the tension. Minho volunteers to go first, instructing Thomas to ensure everyone follows. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger as Minho disappears into the gray void, leaving the Gladers to confront the next phase of WICKED's trials with a mix of

dread and resolve.

# Chapter 14

In Chapter 14 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers reluctantly step through the mysterious Flat Trans, a gray portal leading to an unknown destination. Each boy hesitates before entering, and Thomas ensures everyone goes through, leaving him alone with Aris and Newt briefly. Aris attempts telepathic communication, unsettling Thomas, who prefers to keep such exchanges exclusive to Teresa. After Aris and Newt depart, Thomas takes a final moment to reflect on their past struggles before stepping into the portal himself, experiencing a chilling sensation as he transitions into complete darkness.

Upon entering the dark space, Thomas stumbles into another Glader, causing chaos until Minho takes charge. The group counts off to confirm everyone’s presence, but they remain disoriented in the pitch-black environment. Minho directs them to move forward, feeling their way along the walls of what seems to be an endless tunnel. The oppressive darkness and eerie silence amplify their tension, with Thomas drawing parallels to his earlier confinement in the Box, though he finds solace in having his friends and a clearer purpose this time.

Their progress is interrupted by a cryptic, whispering voice from above, urging them to turn back to avoid being "sliced." The message sparks debate among the Gladers, with some advocating for retreat while others, like Thomas, dismiss the warning as untrustworthy. The voice repeats its ominous message, heightening the group’s fear and confusion. Thomas insists they press forward, recalling the dire consequences promised by the desk attendant if they retreat, but Frypan and others question which authority to believe, leaving the group divided.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, with the Gladers grappling with uncertainty and fear in the darkness. The whispering voice’s threats and the lack of visibility create a palpable sense of dread, emphasizing the psychological toll of their journey. Thomas’s

determination to move forward clashes with the growing unease among his companions, setting the stage for further conflict and challenges as they navigate the unknown dangers of the Scorch Trials.

# Chapter 15

In Chapter 15 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers face a horrifying encounter in the darkness. While attempting to help a screaming boy, Thomas touches what he believes is the boy’s head, only to discover it’s a wet, metallic sphere. The boy—later identified as Frankie—dies instantly, leaving Thomas shocked and covered in blood. The other Gladers, confused and terrified, struggle to comprehend the surreal event as the metal ball rolls away, leaving them in a state of panic and disbelief.

The group’s fear escalates when Newt confirms the existence of the blood-covered metal sphere, describing it as perfectly round and larger than a human head. Thomas, desperate to escape the darkness, urges the Gladers to run, warning them to stay alert for more attacks. As they flee, another boy is killed by a similar metal ball, his screams abruptly cut short. Despite the horror, no one stops, driven by sheer terror and the need to survive.

Exhausted and traumatized, the Gladers finally halt when Minho discovers a stairway. Climbing the metal steps, they reach a ceiling, where Minho finds a hidden mechanism. Upon triggering it, an intense burst of light and heat overwhelms them, forcing Thomas and the others to shield their eyes. The sudden return to darkness leaves them disoriented, but Minho and Newt devise a plan to gradually acclimate to the light by wedging a shirt into the opening.

The chapter ends with the group preparing to face the unknown beyond the doorway, their hope tempered by caution. Thomas, though wary of optimism, recognizes the possibility of escape from the oppressive darkness. The Gladers’ resilience is tested as they confront both physical threats and psychological terror, underscoring the relentless challenges of their journey.

# Chapter 16

In Chapter 16 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers face a terrifying encounter with a mysterious silvery substance that attacks Winston. As Thomas follows Winston down the stairs, he witnesses the molten metal ball consuming Winston’s head, causing excruciating pain. Despite Winston’s desperate attempts to remove it, the substance clings stubbornly, blistering his skin. Thomas steps in, using a bedsheet to protect his hands, and manages to peel the silver goop off Winston’s head, hurling it down the stairwell. The substance reforms into a sphere before fleeing, leaving Winston severely injured but alive.

The aftermath of the attack leaves the group in shock. Winston is left with a raw, bleeding scalp, his hair gone and his ears damaged. The Gladers, including Minho, Newt, and Aris, are horrified by the encounter, questioning the nature of the silver entity. Aris speculates it might be advanced technology, though none recall anything like it from their fragmented memories. The group’s fear is palpable as they realize the danger they’re in, with Frypan urging an immediate escape from the area.

Minho takes charge, organizing the group to move forward. He assigns tasks—helping Winston, gathering scattered supplies—and declares that he, Thomas, and Newt will lead the way. His decisive actions hint at his growing leadership qualities. Thomas and Newt exchange glances, both feeling a mix of fear and curiosity, but agree that pressing on is better than dwelling on the traumatic event. The chapter highlights the group’s resilience and the unknown threats they face in their harsh environment.

The chapter underscores the Gladers’ vulnerability and the surreal dangers of their world. The silver entity remains unexplained, adding to the mystery and tension. Thomas’s bravery and Minho’s emerging leadership are central, while Winston’s suffering serves as a grim reminder of the stakes. The group’s determination to keep moving, despite the horror, reflects their survival instincts and the relentless

challenges of their journey.

# Chapter 17

In Chapter 17 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas, Minho, and Newt prepare to step outside into a blindingly bright and scorching environment. The other Gladers watch as the trio cautiously tests the heat, realizing they need protection from the intense sun. They improvise by using bedsheets as makeshift robes, joking about their ghostly appearance while acknowledging the potential dangers ahead. Despite their lighthearted banter, the tension is palpable as they brace themselves to face the unknown.

As they emerge into the harsh sunlight, the sheets prove ineffective against the overwhelming heat and blinding light. Thomas struggles to breathe, feeling as if his chest is on fire, while the others also react to the extreme conditions. The landscape before them is a barren wasteland—devoid of life, with only dust, rocks, and a distant cluster of buildings breaking the monotony. The group’s initial excitement gives way to shock and discomfort as they confront the reality of their surroundings.

The trio observes the desolate terrain, estimating the distance to the town and mountains ahead. Minho, drawing on his experience as a Runner, calculates the distance, while Thomas notes the sun’s position to determine direction. The conversation turns grim as they speculate about the extent of the environmental devastation, wondering if the entire world has been ravaged by sun flares. Their humor fades, replaced by a sense of resignation and determination to press forward.

Thomas reflects on the irony of their situation: while they are no longer confined by walls like in the Maze, survival now depends on reaching the designated destination in this hostile environment. The chapter ends with the group steeling themselves for the journey ahead, their camaraderie and resilience tested by the brutal conditions. The contrast between their past imprisonment and their current freedom—underscored by the unforgiving landscape—highlights the relentless challenges they face.

# Chapter 18

The chapter opens with Thomas and the Gladers halting as two mysterious figures approach them in the scorching heat. Despite outnumbering the strangers, Thomas feels an inexplicable fear. Minho orders the group to prepare for a potential fight as the figures, later identified as Cranks, come into focus. Their eerie appearance—wrapped in tattered cloth with only their scabbed hands visible—unnerves the Gladers. The Cranks pant heavily, adding to the tension as they silently circle the group, scrutinizing them with hidden eyes.

Minho demands answers, but the Cranks respond cryptically, revealing they are there to determine if the Gladers have the Flare. Their disjointed dialogue hints at varying levels of sanity among Cranks, warning the group to discern friend from foe quickly. The Cranks ignore the Gladers' questions about their origins and mission, instead emphasizing the urgency of understanding their environment. Their unsettling behavior and vague threats leave the Gladers uneasy, especially when they mention another group destined to kill them.

The encounter ends abruptly as the Cranks run back toward the distant town, leaving the Gladers in stunned silence. Thomas and Aris speculate whether the "other group" refers to Group B, while Minho focuses on the immediate danger posed by the Cranks' warnings. Thomas worries the threat might be directed at him personally, given his ominous tattoo, but Minho insists the group must stick together. Frypan's joking remark about survival adds a darkly humorous yet tense undertone to the discussion.

With no clear alternative, the Gladers decide to press on toward the town, recognizing it as their only chance for shelter and supplies despite the risks. The chapter underscores their precarious situation—trapped between the lethal environment and the unknown dangers posed by the Cranks and the Flare. The encounter leaves them with more questions than answers, heightening the sense of dread and uncertainty as

they continue their journey through the Scorch.

# Chapter 19

In Chapter 19 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and the Gladers hear the chilling screams of a girl in the distance as they traverse the barren landscape. The unnerving sound evokes memories of their past horrors, particularly the Griever stings from the Maze. Despite their fear, the group debates whether WICKED has created new threats, with Thomas speculating that worse dangers may lie ahead. They decide to rest briefly, eat, and continue their journey under cover of darkness, though the girl’s screams persist, heightening their unease.

As they resume running, the Gladers discuss WICKED’s motives, pondering the Rat Man’s cryptic remarks about "Variables" and their role in the trials. Thomas reflects on their predicament, realizing that despite knowing they’re being tested, survival remains their only focus. The group presses on toward the flickering lights of a distant town, which appears larger and more organized than they initially thought. The possibility of reaching it by the next day fuels their determination, even as the eerie screams continue to unsettle them.

Thomas engages Aris in conversation, learning about the parallels between their experiences and Group B’s Maze. Aris recounts his group’s similar ordeal, including the coded Maze, the sudden escape, and the tragic death of a girl named Rachel. The symmetry between the two groups’ trials strikes Thomas as bizarre, raising questions about WICKED’s intentions. The revelation that Aris was Teresa’s counterpart in Group B adds another layer of complexity, leaving Thomas grappling with the implications.

The chapter ends with Aris hinting at a possible explanation for the existence of two groups, leaving Thomas intrigued but unsettled. The girl’s screams crescendo, amplifying the tension as the Gladers press forward. The chapter underscores the psychological toll of WICKED’s experiments, blending mystery, horror, and the characters’ relentless drive to survive despite the unknown dangers ahead.

# Chapter 20

Thomas spots a mysterious girl standing near a building in the distance and immediately hopes it’s Teresa, despite their telepathic connection having vanished. He tries reaching out mentally but gets no response. The girl’s posture suggests she’s watching them, sparking debate among the group about her intentions. Minho jokes about “psycho girl ninjas,” but Thomas insists on approaching her alone, driven by a mix of hope and caution. Newt protests, but Thomas walks toward her, convinced by her familiar stance that it’s Teresa.

As Thomas nears the building, the girl retreats inside, leaving the door open. Despite the potential danger, he follows her into the dark, cool interior, hearing her breath but seeing nothing. When she lights a candle, Thomas confirms it’s Teresa—clean, well-dressed, and strikingly beautiful, yet visibly terrified. Her tearful, trembling demeanor confuses him, especially when she screams at him to stay away. Her fear reminds him of Gally’s erratic behavior before Chuck’s death, deepening his concern.

Thomas tries to reassure Teresa, expressing how much he’s missed her, but she remains distraught. Suddenly, she rushes forward, embracing him tightly and kissing him. The moment overwhelms Thomas, erasing his earlier confusion and fear. However, the abrupt shift in her behavior leaves unanswered questions about what she’s endured and why she’s so afraid. The emotional intensity of their reunion contrasts sharply with the uncertainty of her situation.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, with Thomas and Teresa’s kiss symbolizing both connection and unresolved tension. Her unexplained terror and sudden physical affection hint at external forces manipulating her actions. The scene underscores the emotional stakes for Thomas, who remains torn between relief at finding her and dread over what might come next. The building’s mysterious setup and Teresa’s erratic behavior foreshadow further challenges ahead.

# Chapter 21

Thomas flees the building in distress, refusing to explain his abrupt departure to the Gladers. Overwhelmed by emotion, he runs ahead, consumed by the pain of leaving Teresa behind after a brief, intense reunion. Despite his anguish, he clings to the hope that she is alive, which drives him forward. Exhausted, he eventually stops to rest, allowing the others to catch up, though his actions have left them confused and frustrated.

Minho confronts Thomas, demanding an explanation for his erratic behavior. Reluctantly, Thomas reveals that he encountered Teresa, who warned him of danger, forcing him to abandon her. The group is stunned into silence, processing the revelation. Thomas omits details of their kiss, focusing instead on Teresa’s possessed state and her sacrifice to save them. The emotional weight of the encounter lingers as the Gladers absorb the news.

As dawn breaks, Thomas reflects on Teresa’s warning, convinced their reunion was a trap that could have doomed the group. He fears for her safety, believing WICKED will punish her for aiding them. Minho offers reassurance, arguing that Teresa’s resilience will see her through. His words provide Thomas with a measure of comfort, easing his guilt and reinforcing his determination to reunite with her.

Exhaustion finally overtakes the group, and Minho insists they rest despite the late hour. Thomas, emotionally and physically drained, falls asleep instantly, shielding himself from the sun and his lingering sorrow. The chapter ends with a sense of temporary respite, though the challenges ahead—and the unresolved fate of Teresa—loom large in their minds.

# Chapter 22

The chapter opens with the Gladers waking after a brief rest, enduring the scorching heat that makes their journey unbearable. Thomas notices the oppressive body odor and the stark contrast to their previous comforts, like showers in the dorm. Despite the grim conditions, he clings to two hopes: discovering what lies in the approaching city and finding Teresa alive, possibly ahead of them. Minho rallies the group to continue their trek, but the relentless sun and dwindling supplies force them to walk rather than run, conserving energy and water.

As they march across the arid landscape, the Gladers use sheets for shade, though the wind makes it difficult to keep them in place. Thomas, isolated due to the others' discomfort around him after Teresa's story, finds solace in solitude. The group's morale is low, with minimal conversation as they focus on surviving the heat and dust. Thomas obsesses over the city's proximity, noting its seemingly abandoned streets and lack of vegetation, questioning how anyone could live there. The urgency to replenish their supplies drives them forward, even as exhaustion sets in.

The journey becomes a monotonous cycle of walking, brief breaks, and enduring the relentless heat. The wind offers little relief, instead blowing dust and grit into their faces. Thomas struggles with dehydration, acutely aware of their dwindling water supply. The city grows closer, its details becoming clearer—stone buildings, broken windows, and empty streets. Despite the uncertainty of what awaits them, Thomas is confident they’ll reach their destination the next day, though he doubts the wisdom of entering. The group presses on, driven by necessity rather than choice.

As night falls, the wind intensifies, bringing a slight chill that Thomas welcomes. By midnight, the city's fires are visible, but the wind grows stronger, whipping around them. Exhausted, Thomas settles down to sleep, and the chapter transitions into a dream. He sees a younger Teresa, who chastises him for failing to communicate

telepathically. Their playful yet tense exchange reveals their deep connection, even as Teresa threatens to cut off communication. The dream ends with Thomas successfully sending a teasing message, highlighting their bond and shared history, leaving readers curious about their past and future interactions.

# Chapter 23

Thomas awakens to a fierce wind and cold darkness, realizing his sheet has blown away during the night. The harsh conditions remind him of a dream—or memory—involving Teresa and their shared telepathic abilities, stirring guilt over his past involvement with WICKED. He tries to suppress these thoughts, focusing instead on the sudden weather shift, which he rationalizes as a storm. The cold, though uncomfortable, is a stark contrast to the scorching heat they've endured. Thomas grapples with the possibility that his memories are returning, torn between curiosity about his identity and fear of what he might discover about his role in the Gladers' suffering.

As dawn breaks, the Gladers face a dreary landscape under thick clouds, with the city looming closer. The wind and dirt make the journey arduous, and Thomas feels the grime caked on his skin. Minho urges the group to move quickly, hoping to reach the city before the storm worsens. Thomas expresses concern about encountering Cranks, but Minho dismisses it, confident in their ability to handle threats. The group presses forward, eating sparingly as they march toward the city, the oppressive sky threatening rain at any moment.

Their progress is interrupted when they discover an elderly man lying motionless in the sand, his weathered appearance suggesting extreme hardship. The man seems oblivious to their presence, staring blankly at the sky. Thomas and Newt attempt to communicate, hoping to glean information about the city's dangers. Despite their shouts over the wind, the man remains unresponsive until Thomas locks eyes with him, sparking a faint awareness. The Gladers see him as a potential source of guidance, but his silence frustrates their efforts.

The chapter takes a tense turn when the old man suddenly grabs Thomas's wrist with surprising strength, cutting off Thomas's words. This abrupt action leaves the

group—and the reader—on edge, hinting at hidden dangers or revelations about the city ahead. The encounter underscores the uncertainty and peril the Gladers face as they approach their destination, with the old man’s cryptic behavior adding to the mystery of their journey.

# Chapter 24

As Thomas and the Gladers approach the city, they are engulfed by a thick, suffocating dust storm that obscures their vision and crusts their eyes. The wind intensifies, hurling debris like branches, paper scraps, and even small animals through the air, creating a chaotic and painful environment. The towering building they are desperate to reach looms ahead, a shadowy giant barely visible through the brown fog. The relentless storm and deteriorating conditions heighten the urgency of their mission, pushing them forward despite the physical toll.

The situation worsens as lightning begins to strike unpredictably, illuminating the landscape with blinding flashes and deafening thunder. Thomas and the others struggle to maintain their footing, helping each other up as they press onward. The static-filled air leaves Thomas’s hair standing on end, and the acrid smell of scorched earth and metal fills his nostrils. The group’s cohesion fractures as visibility drops, leaving them to fend for themselves in the blinding, chaotic storm. Thomas realizes their survival hinges on reaching the building before the lightning claims them.

A horrifying moment occurs when Thomas witnesses Jack struck by lightning, leaving him severely injured and mutilated. The graphic sight of Jack’s charred body shocks Thomas, who vomits in response, overwhelmed by guilt and helplessness. Minho pulls Thomas away, urging him to keep moving, as there is nothing they can do for Jack. The group’s morale plummets, and Thomas’s focus narrows to sheer survival, his humanity momentarily stripped away by the brutality of their circumstances. The storm’s relentless assault turns them into desperate, instinct-driven beings.

The chapter reaches a climax as Minho is struck by lightning, his clothes catching fire. Thomas acts quickly, smothering the flames with dirt before dragging Minho toward the building. Despite Minho’s injuries, they press on, their progress marked by the continuous barrage of lightning and collapsing structures around them. The storm’s

intensity shifts, the clouds darkening further, but the Gladers’ determination remains. Thomas’s resolve hardens as he fights to keep himself and Minho alive, embodying the grim reality of their struggle for survival in a merciless world.

# Chapter 25

The chapter opens with Thomas and the remaining Gladers sheltering from a violent storm inside a dilapidated building. Thomas, recovering from the deafening effects of the storm, gradually regains his hearing as the rain continues to pour. The Gladers are physically and emotionally drained, lying motionless as they grapple with the trauma of the storm and the harsh reality of their world. The oppressive atmosphere reflects their collective despair, with Minho severely injured from a lightning strike and the group too exhausted to organize or mourn their losses.

As night falls, Thomas drifts in and out of sleep, his body stiff and sore. By morning, the storm has passed, leaving behind a ruined building and a stark silence. Thomas wakes to intense hunger and surveys the damage around him, noting the structural instability of their shelter. The clear sky outside offers a fleeting sense of relief, but the Gladers' exhaustion and injuries overshadow any hope. Newt, visibly bitter, engages Thomas in a somber conversation about survival, where Thomas briefly voices his doubts about the value of living in such a brutal world.

The mood lightens slightly as Minho regains consciousness, his burns painful but not life-threatening. The boys exchange weary banter, attempting to mask their grief with humor. However, the reality of their dwindling numbers—only eleven Gladers remain—quickly dampens the moment. Thomas is haunted by guilt over his past involvement with WICKED, though he keeps this to himself. Newt and Minho clash over their priorities: Newt mourns the lost Gladers, while Minho pragmatically focuses on their next steps in the dangerous city ahead.

Tensions rise as Minho emphasizes the need for leadership and strategy, dismissing Newt's emotional response as counterproductive. The chapter ends with the group fractured by grief and exhaustion, yet forced to confront the immediate challenges of survival. The stark contrast between their fleeting camaraderie and the overwhelming

odds against them underscores the relentless brutality of their journey.

# Chapter 26

The chapter opens with Thomas and the Gladers encountering Jorge, a self-proclaimed Crank who drops unexpectedly into their midst. His bizarre behavior—joking about eating eyeballs—immediately unsettles the group. Despite his seemingly playful tone, Jorge’s underlying menace becomes apparent as he warns them about the dangers of the Flare and the harsh realities of their world. The Gladers, particularly Minho, react with defiance, but Jorge’s unsettling confidence hints at a deeper threat lurking in the ruined city.

Tensions escalate as Jorge demands answers from the Gladers, asserting his dominance by threatening violence. Minho’s sarcastic retort provokes Jorge, who begins a countdown to force an apology. Thomas, sensing the danger, urges Minho to comply, but Jorge kicks Minho’s burns, escalating the confrontation. Minho eventually apologizes half-heartedly, only to retaliate by attacking Jorge, sparking a physical altercation. Thomas intervenes, fearing the consequences, but the damage is done—Jorge’s rage is palpable, and the situation spirals toward violence.

The conflict reaches a critical point as more Cranks descend from above, armed with crude but deadly weapons. Thomas realizes the Gladers are outnumbered and outmatched, pleading for restraint to avoid a massacre. Jorge, now bleeding and furious, signals his followers, who brandish an array of brutal implements. The chapter underscores the Gladers’ vulnerability in this lawless environment, where survival hinges on navigating the unpredictable brutality of the Cranks.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, with Thomas desperately trying to de-escalate the situation as the armed Cranks close in. The encounter highlights the pervasive threat of the Flare and the moral decay it has wrought, leaving the Gladers at the mercy of a group teetering between madness and survival. The tension underscores the broader themes of power, control, and the fragility of order in a collapsing world.

# Chapter 27

Thomas and Jorge enter a dark, damp hallway leading to a sparse room with only two chairs and a table. Jorge, a Crank infected with the Flare, maintains a threatening demeanor, warning Thomas against any defiance. Despite his fear, Thomas tries to assert his dignity, refusing to be intimidated. The tension between them is palpable as they sit down to talk, with Jorge demanding Thomas speak first, setting the stage for a high-stakes negotiation.

Thomas begins recounting his group’s harrowing experiences, from the Maze to their current mission to reach a safe haven. He explains WICKED’s manipulation and the Flare’s threat, hoping to find common ground with Jorge. Though Jorge remains stoic, Thomas senses a flicker of interest when he mentions a potential cure. He strategically proposes an alliance, suggesting Jorge and his fellow Cranks could also be cured if they help Thomas’s group survive the journey.

Jorge’s demeanor shifts slightly when Thomas mentions the cure, revealing a glimmer of hope beneath his hardened exterior. He questions Thomas about the Flare’s effects, revealing his own recent infection and the grim reality of the disease’s progression. Jorge explains that while he and his group are in the early stages, the Flare eventually drives people to madness, hinting at the horrors Thomas might encounter in the city. His tone mixes bitterness with a reluctant curiosity about Thomas’s offer.

The chapter ends with an uneasy tension, as Jorge’s recognition of Thomas’s name hints at deeper connections yet to be revealed. Thomas’s proposal hangs in the balance, with Jorge weighing the possibility of salvation against his distrust. The exchange underscores the desperation of both characters, trapped in a world where survival and sanity are constantly at stake. The chapter sets the stage for further collaboration or conflict, leaving their alliance uncertain.

# Chapter 28

In Chapter 28 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas firmly refuses Jorge’s demand, sparking tension between them. Jorge, a Crank leader, is angered by Thomas’s defiance after offering protection through a dangerous city. Thomas argues pragmatically, emphasizing the need to keep Minho alive due to his combat skills, though his personal bond with Minho also drives his stance. Jorge, initially threatening, eventually loosens his grip, hinting at a shift in his approach, though the confrontation underscores the volatile dynamics between the Gladers and the Cranks.

Jorge reveals his decision to spare Minho, citing two reasons: the possibility that WICKED’s experiment rewards group survival and his own strategic pivot toward stealth over brute force. Thomas hides his relief, intrigued by Jorge’s logic. Jorge dismisses the idea of leading a large group of Cranks, advocating for a smaller, stealthier team—including Brenda, a skilled ally. The negotiation highlights Jorge’s unpredictability and the fragile trust forming between him and Thomas.

The chapter’s tone shifts as Jorge and Thomas rejoin the others, where Jorge announces his resolutions to the Cranks and Gladers. He orders food for the Gladers and declares Minho’s punishment for attacking him: the loss of two fingers. Thomas observes the Cranks’ reactions, noting their brutality but also spotting Brenda, who stands out as composed. Minho remains defiant, unfazed by the threat, while Thomas braces for the fallout of Jorge’s decisions.

The chapter closes with Jorge’s chilling proclamation, leaving Minho’s fate hanging. Thomas’s hunger and exhaustion mirror the group’s dire circumstances, emphasizing the high stakes of their alliance with Jorge. The interplay of survival, loyalty, and power dynamics sets the stage for the next phase of their journey, where trust remains precarious and violence looms.

# Chapter 29

In Chapter 29 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and his group find themselves at the mercy of Jorge and his Crank followers. Despite Jorge’s threatening demeanor—including a plan to cut off Minho’s fingers—Thomas senses a hidden agenda in Jorge’s eyes, which momentarily eases his panic. Minho, however, reacts violently and is restrained by Brenda, who holds a knife to his throat. Jorge announces a plan to separate the group, claiming they will retrieve food and meet the others later, though tensions remain high as the Cranks question his trust in the newcomers.

As the main group of Cranks departs, led by the skeptical Barkley, Jorge and Brenda remain with Thomas and his friends. Brenda lowers her knife, revealing a mix of threat and reluctant camaraderie, warning Minho against further defiance. Jorge reassures the group they are not yet infected by the Flare but emphasizes their need for food. Thomas, picking up on Jorge’s subtle cues, tries to communicate to Minho that cooperation is their best chance for escape, though Minho remains wary of Jorge’s intentions.

Brenda’s interaction with Thomas adds a layer of complexity as she questions his leadership role and unexpectedly kisses his cheek, leaving him flustered. Her teasing yet dangerous demeanor hints at a possible alliance or further conflict. Jorge□□ the group to move, and they follow Brenda outside into the scorching heat, heading toward an underground stash. Thomas notices Brenda’s readiness with her knife, a reminder of the precarious trust between them.

The chapter concludes as Brenda leads the group into a cramped, dimly lit storage room filled with supplies. Thomas and the others wait in the hallway, exhausted and desperate for food. Brenda’s brief moment of kindness contrasts with her earlier threats, leaving Thomas uncertain about her true motives. The chapter underscores the fragile alliances and constant danger the group faces as they navigate the harsh

world of the Scorch.

# Chapter 30

In Chapter 30 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and Brenda flee blindly through dark tunnels after an explosion separates them from the other Gladers. Trusting Brenda completely, Thomas follows her lead as they navigate the chaotic aftermath, his mind racing with worry for his friends. The destruction fades behind them as they move deeper into the unknown, with Thomas torn between his instinct to stay with Brenda and his concern for the others. The chapter highlights his internal conflict and the urgency of their escape, setting a tense and disorienting tone.

Brenda guides Thomas through a network of hidden passages called the Underneath, revealing it as a dangerous labyrinth infested with "Cranks"—people severely affected by the Flare virus. Thomas grows uneasy about their safety and presses Brenda for answers about the explosion and their next steps. Her cryptic behavior and intimate proximity unsettle him, as she suddenly demands a promise that he'll take her back to WICKED for a cure. The interaction is charged with tension, blending vulnerability with suspicion, as Thomas struggles to reconcile her actions with their dire circumstances.

The dynamic between Thomas and Brenda grows increasingly strange as she clings to him, laughing off his discomfort and attributing her forwardness to cultural differences. Thomas, though momentarily distracted by her closeness, feels guilt over Teresa and the Gladers, refocusing on their survival. Brenda's suggestion to abandon the others and flee alone alarms him, revealing her pragmatic yet ruthless side. Their exchange underscores the moral dilemmas and trust issues inherent in their fractured world, with Thomas determined to reunite with his friends despite the risks.

The chapter culminates in Thomas asserting his resolve to return for the Gladers, rejecting Brenda's proposal to leave them behind. Though she apologizes and agrees to accompany him, her motives remain ambiguous, leaving Thomas wary. Their uneasy alliance reflects the broader themes of loyalty and survival in a hostile

environment. The chapter ends with Thomas leading the way back, his priorities clear but the path ahead fraught with uncertainty and potential betrayal.

# Chapter 31

Thomas and Brenda navigate the grim, labyrinthine tunnels of the Underneath, a decaying underground structure with damp concrete walls and broken fixtures. The oppressive environment feels like a haunted tomb, leaving Thomas to speculate about its original purpose—whether for work, emergencies, or escape. Their journey is marked by silence, broken only by the echoes of their footsteps and distant water droplets. Despite Brenda's confidence in leading the way, Thomas grows weary, his energy fading until they pause to eat, their surroundings a monotonous blend of dust and dampness.

As they resume their trek, Brenda playfully startles Thomas with a flashlight under her face, prompting a tense exchange about their shared fate as Cranks—infected with the Flare virus. Thomas clings to hope for a cure, but Brenda's blunt acknowledgment of their condition unsettles him. Their conversation shifts to the Rat Man's promises, though doubts linger. The physical exertion of walking numbs Thomas's anxieties, and his thoughts drift to Teresa and the Gladers, wondering if they've escaped the city safely.

The pair reaches a large, multi-tunneled room, which Brenda identifies as the city's center. Their brief respite is interrupted by the sound of breaking glass, suggesting they're being followed. Brenda dismisses it as rats, but Thomas suspects a trap, arguing against investigating. Their debate is cut short when a grotesque, disfigured man emerges from the shadows, his appearance horrifying—missing an eye, nose, and covered in sores. His sudden presence and bizarre statement, "Rose took my nose, I suppose," heighten the tension, leaving Thomas and Brenda frozen in fear.

The chapter culminates in a chilling standoff, as the deranged man's unnerving demeanor and cryptic words amplify the sense of danger. Brenda's earlier bravado fades, replaced by genuine alarm, while Thomas grapples with the surreal horror of the

encounter. The scene underscores the unpredictability of their journey, blending physical exhaustion with psychological dread, and leaving their next move uncertain as the threat looms closer.

# Chapter 32

In Chapter 32 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and Brenda encounter a grotesque, disfigured man afflicted by the Flare, who taunts them with disturbing humor about his missing nose. The man’s unsettling laughter and animalistic demeanor unsettle Thomas, while Brenda remains eerily composed. When the man advances, Brenda reacts swiftly, throwing a can at his face, triggering a shriek that draws more Cranks—similarly mutilated and deranged—from the darkness. The group’s menacing presence heightens the tension as Thomas realizes the full horror of the Flare’s effects on its victims.

As the Cranks close in, Thomas and Brenda flee, their pursuers’ cries echoing like a nightmarish chorus. Despite the Cranks’ injuries, Thomas fears more may lie ahead. Brenda leads him through a maze of turns, eventually turning off her flashlight to evade detection. Trusting her guidance, Thomas follows blindly, questioning his reliance on her but seeing no alternative. The pair stops in the darkness, listening as the Cranks draw nearer, their chaotic noises amplifying the sense of dread.

Brenda reveals a hidden compartment under a table, urging Thomas to crawl inside with her. The tight space forces them into close proximity, lying side by side in silence. Thomas struggles to stay calm as the Cranks’ noises grow louder—coughing, shouting, and mad laughter filling the air. Brenda squeezes his hand, a small comfort amid the terror. Thomas rationalizes their hiding spot, hoping the Cranks will pass by without discovering them, though doubt lingers.

The Cranks eventually enter the room, their disjointed voices and movements unnervingly close. The lead Crank taunts them, demanding their noses, while others dismiss the room as empty. The creak of the table suggests they’re inspecting it, leaving Thomas and Brenda in breathless suspense. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, emphasizing the pair’s vulnerability and the ever-present threat of the Flare’s victims

closing in.

# Chapter 33

In Chapter 33 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and Brenda face a violent confrontation with a Crank, a deranged and infected individual. The chapter opens with Thomas being violently slammed against a wall by the Crank, who exhibits surprising strength despite his scarred and weakened appearance. Brenda attempts to intervene with her knife, but the Crank’s relentless attacks leave Thomas bloodied and disoriented. The scene is chaotic, with Thomas struggling to break free while Brenda maneuvers to strike the Crank, ultimately stabbing his forearm and forcing him to release his grip.

The Crank retreats briefly, but Brenda insists they cannot let him escape, fearing he will alert others. Thomas, despite his injuries, follows Brenda out of the opening, where they find the wounded Crank crouched nearby. The man snarls and bites at the air, but Brenda remains defiant, taunting him. However, the Crank suddenly retaliates with a swift kick, knocking both Thomas and Brenda to the ground. The struggle intensifies as the Crank lunges for the knife, prompting Thomas to tackle him in a desperate attempt to regain control.

Brenda quickly subdues the Crank, pinning him to the floor and demanding Thomas kill him to end the threat. Thomas hesitates, grappling with the moral weight of taking a life, even that of a dangerous enemy. Brenda’s urgency grows as the Crank’s inhuman screams fill the room, and she instructs Thomas to stab him in the heart. The tension mounts as Thomas, sweat-drenched and exhausted, wrestles with the decision, his internal conflict mirroring the physical brutality of the scene.

Ultimately, Thomas overcomes his hesitation and plunges the knife into the Crank’s chest, ending the confrontation. The chapter highlights the brutal realities of survival in a dystopian world, forcing characters to make harrowing choices. Thomas’s internal struggle and the graphic violence underscore the themes of morality and desperation, leaving readers to ponder the cost of survival in such a merciless environment.

# Chapter 34

In Chapter 34 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas grapples with the moral weight of killing a Crank—a Flare-infected man—in self-defense. The act leaves him physically and emotionally drained, his guilt overwhelming as he struggles to reconcile the brutality of the act. Brenda, pragmatic and focused on survival, urges him to move on, warning that the noise may attract more Cranks. Thomas, however, demands an escape from the oppressive darkness of the tunnels, yearning for daylight as a reprieve from the relentless horrors they've endured.

Emerging from the underground, Thomas and Brenda find themselves in a desolate cityscape marked by decay and death. The towering buildings and scattered corpses amplify the dystopian dread, but they press forward, navigating the ruins while avoiding detection. Brenda directs them toward the distant mountains, their supposed sanctuary, though the path remains uncertain. Thomas scans the environment anxiously, hoping for signs of his missing friends, the Gladers, while dreading further encounters with the infected.

As night falls, Brenda insists they seek shelter, leading Thomas to a secluded alley with abandoned trucks. Despite Thomas's initial reluctance, she convinces him the location is defensible. Inside a rusted truck cab, exhaustion and pain weigh heavily on Thomas, compounded by the grim realization that he may now be infected with the Flare. His thoughts spiral into guilt over killing the Crank, and Brenda attempts to comfort him, emphasizing that his actions saved both their lives.

Their conversation shifts to shared grief and survival, with Brenda expressing gratitude for Thomas's companionship in their dire circumstances. Thomas, though haunted by loss and uncertainty, acknowledges the solace of not being alone. The chapter closes with a moment of quiet connection between them, underscored by the ever-present threat of the Cranks and the looming journey toward the mountains—a fragile hope in

a world unraveling around them.

# Chapter 35

Thomas awakens from a nightmare about his friends Minho and Newt being attacked by Cranks, leaving him unsettled. In the darkness of the truck cab, Brenda consoles him, assuring him that Jorge will protect the other Gladers, though her attempt at humor falls flat. Thomas expresses his frustration over their separation and his fragmented memories, prompting Brenda to share grim details about the post-apocalyptic world. She describes the devastation caused by the Flare, the unification of governments under WICKED, and the desperate search for a cure, painting a bleak picture of their reality.

The conversation shifts to their current location, which Brenda identifies as the Scorch—a wasteland spanning former tropical regions like Mexico. She explains how WICKED’s experiments, including the Maze Trials, are part of a larger effort to combat the Flare, though their methods remain controversial. Thomas grapples with his role in WICKED’s plans, feeling the weight of his missing memories. Brenda’s sarcastic remark about Cranks underscores the harshness of their environment, leaving Thomas overwhelmed by the scale of the crisis.

Brenda reveals the existence of the Bliss, a numbing agent that slows the Flare’s progression by dampening brain activity. While it offers temporary relief, it’s inaccessible to most and not a cure. Thomas senses the importance of this information but struggles to connect it to his fragmented past. The discussion leaves him agitated, as Brenda advises him to rest, though his mind races with unanswered questions about WICKED’s motives and the Trials.

As Thomas finally drifts back to sleep, he dreams of a childhood memory with Teresa, eavesdropping on WICKED officials discussing the Variables and the brutal nature of the Trials. The overheard conversation hints at Thomas’s pivotal role and the ethical dilemmas surrounding the experiments. The chapter ends with Thomas waking at

dawn, still haunted by the unresolved mysteries of his past and the uncertain future of their world.

# Chapter 36

In Chapter 36 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and Brenda confront a mysterious plaque that bears Thomas’s name, sparking tension and confusion. Brenda reveals that similar signs are scattered throughout the city, suggesting a deliberate connection to Thomas. He reacts with anger and disbelief, feeling betrayed that Brenda withheld this information. The discovery deepens the mystery of Thomas’s role, as Brenda implies he is meant to be a leader, adding to his frustration amid the chaos of their survival.

Their conversation shifts as Brenda probes Thomas about his past, including his experiences in the Maze and his complicated relationship with Teresa. Thomas reluctantly shares his story, revealing his trauma and lingering emotions for Teresa. Brenda’s teasing question about their connection triggers Thomas’s defensive reaction when she uses Teresa’s nickname for him, highlighting his unresolved feelings. The exchange underscores the emotional weight Thomas carries, even as he tries to focus on their immediate dangers.

The quiet moment is shattered by ominous thumping sounds, leading them to investigate a disturbing scene: a hidden door with raucous music and unsettling laughter. Realizing it’s a gathering of Cranks—infected but not yet fully deranged—Thomas and Brenda attempt to flee, only to be cornered by three intimidating strangers. The Cranks mockingly invite them to a party, their tone laced with menace. Thomas’s unease grows as the situation escalates, sensing the threat beneath their faux hospitality.

The confrontation turns dire when one of the Cranks brandishes a gun, forcing Thomas and Brenda into a corner. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger as the armed Crank and his companion reveal weapons, leaving Thomas and Brenda with no clear escape. The encounter underscores the pervasive danger of the Scorch, where even seemingly functional Cranks pose a lethal threat, compounding the protagonists’ struggle for

survival.

# Chapter 37

Thomas and Brenda are abruptly pulled into a chaotic, crowded room filled with dancing Cranks, their senses overwhelmed by deafening music and erratic flashlight beams. A long-haired man, who recognizes Thomas, ushers them through the throng, explaining they had been observed earlier. Brenda clings to Thomas for safety as they notice armed figures trailing them. The long-haired man insists Thomas is special and offers protection, though Thomas remains wary, planning to play along until they can escape. The atmosphere is tense, with the armed group watching closely, and Thomas senses danger beneath the surface of the seemingly welcoming chaos.

The long-haired man leaves to fetch drinks, leaving Thomas and Brenda surrounded by the armed observers. Brenda, seemingly exhausted, suggests staying with the Cranks for safety, but Thomas insists they must reach the safe haven for a cure. Their conversation is interrupted as they unintentionally begin dancing, their bodies pressed close. Brenda expresses doubt about the cure’s existence, her eyes wet with tears, while Thomas tries to reassure her. His trust in her wavers briefly, but he dismisses the thought, focusing on their need to escape the volatile situation.

The long-haired man returns with drinks, and Thomas’s instincts scream that the beverages are dangerous. When he tries to refuse, Blondie presses a gun into his side, forcing him to drink. The liquid burns Thomas’s throat, and Brenda follows suit. Almost immediately, Thomas feels the effects—a warm, calming sensation spreading through his body, distorting his perception. The room spins, faces stretch grotesquely, and Brenda appears more beautiful than ever. Despite the drugged haze, he manages to ask what they were given, and Brenda confirms it was something harmful, her voice barely audible over the music.

As the drugs take full effect, Thomas and Brenda’s movements become sluggish, their surroundings warping into a surreal nightmare. Brenda’s face seems to jiggle as she

stares at him, her beauty magnified in his altered state. The chapter ends with their reality unraveling, leaving their fate uncertain. The Cranks’ true intentions remain unclear, but the forced ingestion of the drugged drink marks a turning point, heightening the danger and uncertainty of their predicament.

# Chapter 38

Thomas awakens bound to a chair, disoriented and in pain, surrounded by three Cranks—Blondie, Ponytail, and Tall and Ugly—who taunt him with dark humor about cannibalism and their unstable mental states. Brenda, also restrained, is gagged and visibly furious. Blondie threatens violence if Thomas refuses to cooperate, setting a tense tone for the interrogation. Thomas, recognizing his helplessness, decides compliance is his only option, though he remains wary of their erratic behavior and the dire situation.

Blondie begins questioning Thomas, demanding to know why his name appears on signs throughout the city. Thomas explains his journey, mentioning the Flat Trans and WICKED’s experiments, which surprises the Cranks due to the technology’s rarity and cost. Blondie, a former lawyer, senses Thomas is telling the truth and urges him to continue. Thomas recounts his escape from the Maze, the Scorch mission, and the potential cure, hoping to leverage this information for their help.

The Cranks’ reactions shift from mockery to intrigue as Thomas details his experiences, particularly the involvement of WICKED and the memory wipes. Blondie’s legal background lends credibility to Thomas’s account, and the group’s demeanor softens slightly. Thomas seizes the opportunity to emphasize the importance of his mission, subtly appealing to their self-interest by hinting at a possible cure. He also inquires about the other Gladers, though the chapter cuts off before the Cranks respond.

Throughout the exchange, Thomas balances fear and strategy, gauging the Cranks’ unpredictability while trying to forge an alliance. The chapter highlights the precariousness of trust in a world ravaged by the Flare, as both sides navigate survival instincts and hidden agendas. The tension lingers, leaving Thomas’s fate—and Brenda’s—uncertain as the interrogation continues.

# Chapter 39

Thomas is stunned when Minho and the other Gladers rescue him and Brenda from their captors. Minho explains that Jorge led them through the city, avoiding Cranks and scavenging for food. They had spotted Thomas and Brenda being held at gunpoint and planned an ambush, overpowering the mostly intoxicated or sleeping captors. Despite his relief, Thomas struggles with a pounding headache from the drugs he was given, while Brenda remains distant, clearly hurt by his earlier comment comparing her unfavorably to Teresa.

Brenda’s anger boils over when Thomas attempts to apologize, as she vehemently denies any romantic feelings for him, accusing him of arrogance. Her outburst leaves Thomas emotionally stung, and he briefly reaches out telepathically to Teresa, only to find her still absent. The group then moves to the main room, where they find their other friends guarding the subdued captors. Thomas is overjoyed to see Frypan, Newt, and Aris alive, exchanging relieved greetings amid the chaotic scene.

Thomas grows concerned when he realizes Blondie, the armed leader of their captors, is missing. Newt confirms that a few enemies escaped, including Blondie, who poses a threat due to his firearm. Minho dismisses the danger, insisting they leave the city immediately. As the group prepares to depart, Thomas notices Brenda’s continued silence and regrets his earlier words, though he remains conflicted about his feelings for her and Teresa.

Minho takes charge, ordering the group to move out while warning the remaining captors not to follow. Thomas, still disoriented, follows the others outside, with Brenda reluctantly joining. Jorge, Newt, and Minho cover their retreat, weapons drawn. The chapter ends with the group on the verge of escaping the city, though the threat of Blondie’s return lingers, and Thomas’s unresolved emotions add tension to their precarious situation.

# Chapter 40

The chapter opens with Thomas being shot in the shoulder during a chaotic confrontation. The impact spins him to the ground, and he hears gunfire, grunts, and the sounds of a struggle nearby. Minho tackles Blondie, who had shot Thomas, while Newt rushes to Thomas's side. Thomas examines his wound, horrified by the blood and intense pain. As Newt applies pressure to the injury, Thomas nearly passes out from the agony, wishing for unconsciousness to escape the suffering. The group decides to flee the area, carrying Thomas as he drifts in and out of awareness, barely registering the distant screams of Cranks and the scorching heat.

Thomas awakens later to find himself being transported by his companions, his shoulder still throbbing with pain. The group stops in an open area, where Jorge prepares to remove the bullet using a heated knife. Thomas barely processes the warning that the procedure will be excruciating before the pain overwhelms him, sending him into unconsciousness once more. When he wakes again, Brenda holds his hand under a starry sky, but his relief is short-lived. A deep, gnawing ache spreads through his body, suggesting infection. Thomas feels increasingly weak and feverish, his condition deteriorating rapidly.

The next morning, Thomas's pain has worsened, consuming his entire body. Despair sets in as he struggles to comprehend how he'll survive the day. Suddenly, the group reacts to a loud, thrumming noise—a Berg approaching from the sky. The wind intensifies, and Brenda, visibly distressed, apologizes to Thomas for an unspecified reason. Before she can explain, two masked figures in strange uniforms seize Thomas, their appearance terrifying and inhuman. One grabs his legs while the other lifts him by the armpits, causing him to scream in pain and fear.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger as Thomas is forcibly taken by the mysterious figures, his fate uncertain. The group's panic and Thomas's deteriorating health

heighten the tension, leaving readers questioning the identity and motives of the newcomers. The scene underscores the relentless danger and unpredictability of the Scorch, as Thomas faces yet another life-threatening ordeal. The chapter’s vivid descriptions of pain and fear emphasize the physical and emotional toll on the characters, setting the stage for the next phase of their harrowing journey.

# Chapter 41

Thomas awakens to a blinding white light, disoriented and unsure of his surroundings. The sterile environment and muffled whispers suggest he’s in a hospital, though he can’t fathom how such a place exists in the Scorch. A woman in a gas mask and goggles examines him, her anger evident as she questions how a rusted bullet infected him. A man urges her to act quickly, and before Thomas can process their conversation, excruciating pain in his shoulder causes him to lose consciousness again.

When Thomas regains awareness, the pain is gone, replaced by a surreal sense of euphoria. He observes the sterile, high-tech room but finds no one around. The absence of agony feels unnatural, leading him to suspect he’s drugged. He drifts in and out of sleep, barely conscious, until faint voices pull him back. Pretending to still be asleep, he listens intently, hoping to uncover clues about his captors and their motives.

The voices belong to a group discussing Thomas’s role as a "Candidate," with one woman asserting he’s their greatest hope due to his sharp responses to "Variables." They debate whether his awareness of their conversation could influence his behavior, but the man dismisses concerns, claiming Thomas wouldn’t understand enough to alter his actions. A woman with a crystalline voice taunts Thomas, warning him they’ll return him to the Scorch soon. Their cryptic remarks hint at a larger, controlled experiment, with Thomas as a key subject.

As the drugs overwhelm him again, Thomas hears a final, puzzling statement: "It’s what you would’ve wanted us to do." The chapter ends with Thomas slipping back into unconsciousness, leaving him—and the reader—with unanswered questions about WICKED’s true intentions and his own past. The scene underscores the manipulation and mystery surrounding Thomas’s journey, blending physical recovery with

psychological intrigue.

# Chapter 42

Thomas awakens suspended in a canvas litter, being lowered from a massive aircraft—referred to as a "Berg"—by mysterious figures associated with WICKED. Upon landing, he reunites with his friends, including Minho, Newt, and Brenda, who bombard him with questions. Though disoriented, Thomas notices his shoulder wound has been treated, and he wears fresh clothes. The group retreats to a dilapidated wooden shelter to escape the scorching heat, where Thomas prepares to recount his experience. His rescue by WICKED raises unsettling questions about their surveillance and selective interventions.

Thomas explains that WICKED intervened to save him because the gunshot-induced infection was an unforeseen variable in their plans. He shares fragments of overheard conversations about "Candidates," "killzone patterns," and the organization's cryptic motives. His companions react with frustration and confusion, struggling to reconcile WICKED's actions with their harrowing ordeal. Minho and Newt speculate that the group is being tested, with Thomas singled out as a potential leader—a role he hesitates to embrace. The signs in the abandoned city about Thomas's significance resurface in their discussion.

The group debates WICKED's surveillance methods, recalling the beetle blades from the Maze and considering satellites or long-range cameras. Jorge questions Thomas's apparent importance, echoing the signs that labeled him the "real leader." Thomas, however, remains uneasy about the attention, wary of WICKED's manipulative tendencies. The conversation underscores their lack of control and the pervasive uncertainty about their roles in WICKED's grand, inscrutable experiment.

As the discussion winds down, the focus shifts to their immediate survival: navigating the brutal environment and reaching the safe haven within five days. Thomas's return reinvigorates the group, but the underlying tension about WICKED's motives lingers.

The chapter closes with a sense of urgency, as they prepare to trek through the night, balancing physical endurance with the psychological weight of their unanswered questions. The mountains ahead symbolize both a literal and metaphorical obstacle in their fraught journey.

# Chapter 43

In Chapter 43 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas struggles with the emotional aftermath of a brief mental connection with Teresa, who warns him of an impending terrible event but urges him to trust her. Her sudden presence and departure reopen the void of her absence, leaving Thomas conflicted and unable to reconcile her cryptic message. He grapples with guilt over growing closer to Brenda, feeling as though he has betrayed Teresa, and his frustration mounts as he fails to find clarity or solace in the oppressive heat.

The chapter highlights Thomas’s internal turmoil as he questions WICKED’s motives, despite their recent intervention to save his life. Newt points out the inconsistency in WICKED’s "no rules" stance, adding to Thomas’s confusion about their true agenda. Brenda, now distant and resigned to her fate with the Flare, further complicates Thomas’s emotions, as their friendship has become strained. Newt’s teasing about Brenda being Thomas’s "new girlfriend" only amplifies his sense of guilt and confusion.

As the group resumes their journey toward the mountains, the atmosphere is tense and silent. Thomas reflects on the overwhelming challenges ahead—the Flare, the limited time to reach the safe haven, and the uncertainty of WICKED’s endgame. Newt and Thomas discuss the mysterious signs in the city and WICKED’s selective rescue of Thomas, but neither can decipher the larger purpose. Thomas withholds Teresa’s warning, feeling it’s not the right time to share, and the conversation leaves them with more questions than answers.

The chapter closes with Thomas walking alone in the dark, burdened by the weight of unanswered questions and the looming threats ahead. His brief interactions with Newt and Minho provide little relief, and the group’s silent march underscores their collective exhaustion and uncertainty. The chapter captures Thomas’s isolation and the pervasive sense of dread as they press forward into the unknown.

# Chapter 44

Thomas is stunned when Teresa, whom he had mentally communicated with the day before, suddenly appears before him and the Gladers. Despite knowing she was alive, her physical presence initially lifts his spirits—until he notices her armed with a spear and remembers her ominous warning. The situation escalates as a group of armed girls, presumably from Group B, surrounds the Gladers, their weapons drawn and arrows aimed. Thomas grapples with fear and confusion, questioning whether Teresa would truly allow harm to come to them, especially given his tattoo marking him for death.

Teresa remains cold and commanding, silencing the Gladers with threats of violence if they resist. She moves through the group, pausing to exchange a hateful glare with Brenda before confronting Thomas directly. Despite his attempts to reconnect with her, Teresa responds with brutality, striking him twice with her spear and demanding confirmation of his identity. Her uncharacteristic aggression shocks Thomas, who struggles to reconcile her actions with their past bond, including their shared kiss.

As tensions rise, Teresa issues an ultimatum: Thomas must go with her, or the girls will begin executing the Gladers one by one. Minho protests, but Thomas, unwilling to risk his friends' lives, steps forward. Teresa's relentless hostility continues as she strikes him again, leaving him bloodied and disoriented. The chapter highlights Thomas's internal conflict—his desire to trust Teresa clashes with her apparent betrayal and the looming threat of Group B's violence.

The chapter ends with Thomas being forced into submission as two girls prepare to cover him with a burlap sack. Teresa's final warning leaves no room for resistance, emphasizing her control over the situation. Thomas's physical pain mirrors his emotional turmoil, as he questions how Teresa could inflict such cruelty. The encounter leaves the Gladers powerless, with Thomas's fate uncertain and the group's

survival hanging in the balance.

# Chapter 45

In Chapter 45 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas is brutally captured by Teresa and a group of armed girls, who tie him inside a burlap sack and drag him across the rough terrain. Despite his protests and physical agony, Teresa threatens to harm his friends if he resists. Thomas struggles to reconcile Teresa’s violent actions with her whispered plea for him to trust her, leaving him confused about her true intentions. The chapter highlights his physical suffering and psychological turmoil as he is dragged toward an uncertain fate.

As the group ascends a mountain, Thomas endures further abuse, including kicks and punches, while Teresa maintains a facade of cruelty. She reveals they are following orders, likely from WICKED, and plans to kill him once they are out of sight of the other Gladers. Thomas attempts to reason with his captors, but his sarcastic defiance only provokes more violence. The tension between Teresa’s harsh actions and her secretive whispers deepens Thomas’s internal conflict.

The journey up the mountain is grueling, with Thomas carried in shifts by the girls until they reach a shaded crevice. When they finally remove the sack, Thomas faces Teresa and her armed companions, who seem unnecessarily overprepared for one unarmed boy. His sarcastic remark about their numbers underscores the absurdity of the situation, but Teresa’s readiness to strike him down silences him. The chapter ends with Thomas resigned to his fate, yet still grappling with Teresa’s enigmatic behavior.

Throughout the chapter, Thomas’s physical pain and emotional despair are juxtaposed with fleeting moments of hope sparked by Teresa’s cryptic messages. The ambiguity of her loyalty—whether she is acting under duress or has truly turned against him—drives the narrative tension. The harsh desert setting and the brutality of his captors emphasize the dire stakes, leaving Thomas and the reader questioning what lies ahead in WICKED’s twisted game.

# Chapter 46

Thomas, confused by Teresa’s accusation that he had wronged her, is forcibly taken by Group B to their camp in the Scorch. The journey is grueling, with the harsh environment and limited water adding to his discomfort. Upon arrival, he observes their makeshift camp and the armed girls, noting Teresa’s apparent leadership over Harriet and Sonya. Despite their hostile actions, Thomas senses underlying guilt in their demeanor, hinting at reluctance in their mission to kill him.

Teresa orders Thomas tied to a dead tree, mocking him while providing minimal food and water. Thomas, though physically restrained, remains mentally alert, questioning Teresa’s motives and recalling the "Betrayer" label from their past. He speculates whether WICKED is manipulating her or if she genuinely believes he deserves punishment. His tattoo and city signs, which labeled him as the true leader, further complicate his understanding of the situation.

Thomas attempts to reason with Harriet and Sonya, challenging their willingness to kill him. Harriet dismisses his concerns, boasting about their survival skills, while Sonya admits they are following WICKED’s orders to secure their own safety. Thomas sarcastically critiques their moral compromise, but their resolve wavers slightly, revealing internal conflict. Teresa interrupts, reinforcing their hostile stance, though Thomas detects fleeting hints of hesitation in her behavior.

The chapter culminates in a tense exchange between Thomas and Teresa, where he demands an explanation for her sudden hatred. She cryptically insists he knows his wrongdoing, refusing to elaborate. Despite her threats, Thomas remains defiant, determined to uncover the truth behind her betrayal and WICKED’s schemes. As the group settles for sleep, Thomas resolves to survive, his mind racing with unanswered questions about trust, survival, and the true nature of their ordeal.

# Chapter 47

In Chapter 47 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas experiences a vivid and unsettling dream while sleeping on hard rock. The dream transports him to a memory—or vision—of himself at fifteen, standing with Teresa in front of a bank of screens displaying live feeds from the Glade and the Maze. The footage, captured by beetle blades, shows Gladers like Minho, Newt, and Alby alive and active, contradicting Teresa's statement that "they're all dead." Thomas feels detached from his younger self, confused by the conversation about dead Creators, replacements, and a mysterious "killzone." The dream hints at a larger, darker plan involving patterns and sacrifices, leaving Thomas disturbed upon waking.

Upon awakening, Thomas finds Harriet and Sonya watching him intently. They demand to know what he has learned, signaling a shift in their attitude. Though still wary, they express doubts about their mission to kill him, suggesting a possible alliance. Thomas, still grappling with the dream's implications, tries to buy time by engaging in a tense conversation. When he asks if they've reconsidered killing him, Harriet and Sonya remain pragmatic, framing their dilemma as a choice between his life and the survival of their group. Thomas argues that their orders might be a test, urging collaboration instead of violence.

The dialogue escalates as Sonya presses Thomas to admit what he would do in their position. He acknowledges the gravity of their choice but insists he wouldn't kill him if roles were reversed, claiming the situation feels like a setup. Harriet and Sonya exchange glances, revealing their underlying skepticism about their mission. They agree to gather the others for a discussion, hinting at a potential truce. Thomas, however, remains anxious, sensing urgency to resolve the conflict before Teresa returns, whose absence and role in his dream add to his unease.

The chapter ends with a cliffhanger as Harriet and Sonya leave to rally the group, leaving Thomas to ponder his next move. The dream’s cryptic references to “patterns” and the “killzone” weigh heavily on him, suggesting deeper layers to the Gladers’ ordeal. Meanwhile, the shifting dynamics among the group introduce hope for Thomas’s survival, though the threat of Teresa’s return looms large. The chapter masterfully blends psychological tension with plot progression, leaving readers eager to see how the confrontation will unfold.

# Chapter 48

In Chapter 48 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas, tied to a tree, addresses the group of girls who have captured him, including Harriet and Sonya. He argues that WICKED is testing them by manipulating their actions, suggesting that killing him would serve no purpose and might even be part of the trial. Thomas emphasizes that their survival depends on rational thinking and cooperation, not violence. The girls listen intently, though some remain skeptical, questioning whether his plea is merely a desperate attempt to avoid death.

Thomas appeals to their logic, insisting that WICKED's true test lies in their ability to think independently and reject blind obedience. He points out that killing him, an outnumbered and unarmed captive, proves nothing about their strength. Harriet counters that eliminating a rival leader could be the real challenge, but Thomas disputes this, highlighting Minho's leadership role instead. The tension rises as the girls debate his fate, with Thomas hoping his arguments will sway them. The chapter underscores the psychological warfare WICKED employs, forcing the characters to question their motives and decisions.

As night falls, Teresa returns to the camp, and the girls convene to discuss Thomas's fate. The conversation grows heated, with Teresa seemingly isolated in her insistence on executing him. Eventually, she storms off, leaving the group to make their decision without her. Harriet unties Thomas, revealing they've chosen to spare him, acknowledging the shared doubts about WICKED's intentions. Thomas feels little surprise, as if he'd anticipated their mercy, but the revelation that Teresa genuinely wanted him dead leaves him hurt and confused.

The chapter concludes with Harriet warning Thomas to be wary of Teresa, whose hostility toward him remains unresolved. Thomas grapples with mixed emotions—relief at surviving, but pain over Teresa's betrayal. The group's decision to spare him

suggests a growing awareness of WICKED’s manipulations, yet the personal conflicts, particularly Teresa’s animosity, hint at deeper tensions to come. The chapter leaves Thomas vulnerable, both physically and emotionally, as the group prepares to continue their journey under the shadow of distrust.

# Chapter 49

Thomas travels with Group B through a mountain pass, wary of their sudden friendliness after their earlier hostility. Though he stays at the back, he acknowledges his dependence on them for survival, as he lacks supplies to reunite with his own group. The journey is physically taxing, and Thomas remains alert for potential threats, his mind troubled by unresolved dreams and uncertainty about Teresa’s betrayal. When Harriet walks beside him, she reveals that Teresa’s earlier actions, including their kiss, were orchestrated by WICKED, deepening Thomas’s sense of betrayal and confusion.

Harriet explains that Group B was instructed to capture and eventually kill Thomas in a mountain facility, though their perceptions of him shifted after realizing Teresa’s descriptions of him were false. Thomas grapples with the revelation that Teresa actively participated in the plan, erasing his hope that she was coerced. Despite his shock, he presses Harriet for details, learning the execution was scheduled for two days later at a mysterious mountain location. The conversation leaves Thomas emotionally drained but determined to uncover the truth, even as he continues the grueling march with Group B.

After days of travel, the group reaches the end of the mountain pass, only to find a barren valley with no sign of the promised safe haven. The girls attempt to stay optimistic, suggesting the haven might be hidden underground, but Thomas scans the desolate landscape with growing unease. Teresa’s absence is noted, but Harriet dismisses her, urging the group to descend the mountain and rest. Thomas, however, glances back, torn between his confusion and a lingering curiosity about Teresa’s whereabouts.

As the group descends the switchback trail, Thomas remains detached, his mind numb from the emotional and physical strain of the journey. The chapter ends with him

trailing behind, his thoughts blank yet heavy with the weight of betrayal, unanswered questions, and the looming threat of WICKED’s plans. The barren landscape mirrors his internal emptiness, leaving readers with a sense of impending confrontation and uncertainty about what lies ahead.

# Chapter 50

In Chapter 50 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas follows Teresa through a eerie, moonlit forest, their surroundings adding to the tension between them. He confronts her about her earlier betrayal, questioning why she continued to threaten him despite others agreeing to spare his life. Teresa deflects by abruptly asking if Thomas knows Aris, a boy from their past, leaving Thomas confused and wary. Her cryptic behavior and refusal to explain immediately heighten the sense of unease, setting the stage for a shocking revelation.

Teresa reveals that Aris was a significant part of her life before the Maze and that they share a telepathic connection, just as she once did with Thomas. She coldly explains that their relationship was merely part of WICKED’s tests, and now she and Aris are following orders. Thomas is stunned, refusing to believe her, but Teresa remains indifferent, even mocking his disbelief. The situation escalates when Aris appears behind Thomas, holding a knife to his back, forcing him to comply with their demands.

Led to a hidden cave, Thomas is trapped between Teresa and Aris, who openly display their closeness, further deepening his sense of betrayal. The cave’s eerie green light casts a sinister glow, amplifying the tension as Teresa justifies her actions, claiming she had no choice but to manipulate Thomas to pass WICKED’s Trials. She insists her loyalty lies with Aris, not Thomas, and that their survival depends on his cooperation. Thomas, furious and heartbroken, lashes out, demanding they end the charade and proceed with whatever they’ve planned.

The chapter culminates in Thomas’s emotional breakdown as Teresa and Aris prepare to open a mysterious door, signaling his impending fate. His trust in Teresa is shattered, and he realizes she has fully aligned herself with WICKED’s agenda. The green-lit door pulses ominously, symbolizing the unknown dangers ahead, while Thomas’s anger and despair underscore the chapter’s dark turn. The betrayal leaves

him isolated, forced to confront the harsh reality that those he once trusted are now his enemies.

# Chapter 51

In Chapter 51 of *The Scorch Trials*, tensions escalate as Thomas, Teresa, and Aris confront each other in a cave with a mysterious green glass door. Thomas, resolved to resist but biding his time, watches as Teresa activates a hidden keypad, causing the door to swing open. The door reveals a dark, mist-filled space with silvery walls covered in small protrusions, deepening Thomas's unease. Despite his curiosity, he remains silent, wary of Aris's knife and Teresa's allegiance, as they prepare to force him into the enigmatic room.

As the door fully opens, Teresa investigates the interior with a flashlight, confirming the room matches their expectations. Aris taunts Thomas, suggesting compliance might spare him worse consequences, while Teresa avoids eye contact, signaling her conflicted loyalty. Thomas, however, refuses to submit passively. Seizing a momentary lapse in Aris's focus, he attacks, disarming him and landing a blow to his stomach. The confrontation intensifies as Teresa intervenes, striking Thomas with her spear and leaving him dazed and bleeding.

Despite his injuries, Thomas attempts to fight back, kicking both Teresa and Aris as they try to drag him toward the room. Overpowered and weakened by a likely concussion, he pleads with them to stop, but his efforts are futile. Teresa and Aris work together to push him across the threshold, ignoring his whispered protests. The chapter captures Thomas's physical and emotional turmoil as he compares his plight to Ben's banishment in the Glade, emphasizing his sense of betrayal and despair.

The chapter ends with Thomas lying helpless in the strange room, his body wracked with pain and his mind clouded by injury. Teresa's final words, calling him stubborn, underscore the fractured trust between them. The scene leaves readers questioning the room's purpose and Thomas's fate, while highlighting the brutal dynamics of survival and loyalty in the group. The tension between action and helplessness drives

the narrative forward, setting the stage for the next phase of Thomas’s ordeal.

# Chapter 52

The protagonist finds himself trapped in a small, eerie room illuminated by a green glow from the door behind him. Overwhelmed by excruciating pain in his head and eyes, he resists the urge to cry, though the emotional agony of Teresa's betrayal gnaws at him. Time becomes meaningless as he reflects on her deceit, realizing her message to trust her was a cruel trick that deepened his sense of betrayal. The oppressive atmosphere and his physical suffering amplify his despair, leaving him in a state of helpless contemplation.

As hours pass—or perhaps mere minutes—the room's silence is shattered by the hissing of gas jets spraying mist from holes in the walls. The protagonist, already weakened by pain, recognizes the threat but feels a bitter resignation. He questions the absurdity of his impending death by poison gas after surviving countless horrors, including Grievers, Cranks, and WICKED's manipulations. The gas symbolizes the ultimate betrayal by the very organization that once saved him, leaving him with a sense of futility and anger.

Struggling to move, the protagonist attempts to fight back but is quickly overwhelmed by exhaustion and the gas's effects. His body fails him as he succumbs to the poison, his thoughts growing disjointed and his movements sluggish. The physical and emotional toll of Teresa's betrayal merges with his deteriorating state, leaving him questioning why their relationship had to end so tragically. His consciousness fades, punctuated by the thud of his head hitting the floor, a final, helpless surrender.

In his final moments, the protagonist's thoughts linger on betrayal—both Teresa's and WICKED's—as the gas consumes him. The chapter ends with a haunting sense of inevitability, underscoring the cruelty of his journey and the futility of his struggles. The hissing gas and his fading consciousness serve as a grim conclusion to a chapter steeped in pain, loss, and the harsh reality of a world that has repeatedly deceived

him.

# Chapter 53

In Chapter 53 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas experiences a vivid memory-dream while suspended between life and death. The dream transports him back to a moment when he was sixteen, standing with Teresa, an unfamiliar girl, and Aris. The group’s somber expressions and Teresa’s tears suggest a pivotal, emotionally charged event. Thomas’s dialogue—"It’s time to go"—hints at an impending separation, while Aris’s mention of "the Swipe" and "the Maze" foreshadows the trials they are about to endure. The scene is heavy with unspoken tension and sorrow.

The emotional core of the chapter revolves around Thomas and Teresa’s poignant farewell. Teresa clings to Thomas, sobbing, and he realizes he is crying too, their tears mingling in a tight embrace. This moment underscores their deep connection and the pain of their impending separation. Aris’s urgency—"You have to go now"—contrasts with Thomas’s desire to linger, savoring what he knows will be his last moment of unaltered memory. Teresa’s reassurance that "It’s all going to work" offers a glimmer of hope amid the overwhelming sadness.

Thomas’s departure marks a turning point in the dream. As Aris opens a door and leads him away, Thomas steals a final glance at Teresa, attempting to appear hopeful despite his aching sadness. His parting words—"See ya tomorrow"—carry a bittersweet irony, as the statement is technically true but underscores the pain of their fractured future. The chapter masterfully captures the duality of hope and despair, emphasizing the emotional weight of their shared journey and the sacrifices they must make.

The dream concludes abruptly, leaving Thomas submerged in "the blackest sleep of his life." This ending mirrors the uncertainty and darkness of his current reality, blurring the lines between memory and present suffering. The chapter serves as a powerful exploration of loss, foreshadowing, and the enduring bonds between characters, while deepening the mystery of their past and the challenges ahead.

# Chapter 54

Thomas regains consciousness in complete darkness, disoriented but physically unharmed. He recalls being betrayed by Teresa, who locked him in a gas chamber, yet he feels no pain—only a strange euphoria. As he explores his surroundings, he realizes he’s trapped in a small, pitch-black room. Memories of his involvement with WICKED flood back, filling him with anger and shame. He questions his past actions and Teresa’s loyalty, struggling to reconcile their former closeness with her recent betrayal.

The door suddenly opens, revealing a tearful Teresa, who apologizes profusely, claiming she acted under WICKED’s threats to save his life. Thomas remains distant, unable to trust or forgive her despite her apparent remorse. Aris, another survivor, interrupts, urging them to focus on escaping before their time runs out. Thomas reluctantly agrees to move forward, though his emotions are in turmoil. The group debates their next steps, with Teresa insisting they follow WICKED’s instructions despite the barren landscape.

As they prepare to leave, Thomas learns that the other Gladers are alive and heading north. Though momentarily tempted to give up, he pushes aside his doubts and joins Teresa and Aris. The trio sets off through a dead forest, with Thomas masking his inner conflict with determination. Teresa teases him about their running abilities, lightening the tension slightly, but Thomas remains guarded. The overcast sky hints at an impending storm, adding urgency to their journey.

The chapter ends with the group descending a mountain trail, racing against time to reach the supposed safe haven. Thomas pushes forward, refusing to let his emotions slow him down, though questions about WICKED’s motives and Teresa’s sincerity linger. The bleak landscape and looming storm symbolize the uncertainty of their mission, leaving Thomas torn between survival and the weight of his fractured trust.

# Chapter 55

In Chapter 55 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas grapples with confusion and frustration as Teresa and Aris reveal unsettling truths about their past and the manipulations of WICKED. Thomas struggles to reconcile his fragmented memories with their claims, particularly Teresa’s admission that she and Aris were part of a plan to make Thomas feel betrayed. The chapter highlights Thomas’s internal conflict as he questions the motives behind WICKED’s actions and the occasional return of his memories, which only deepen his sense of distrust and uncertainty.

Teresa explains that WICKED forced her and Aris to deceive Thomas, threatening his life if she disobeyed. She reveals that the betrayal was orchestrated to serve an unknown purpose within WICKED’s larger plan, though she remains unclear on the specifics. Thomas recalls vague dream memories involving Aris, hinting at a shared history, but these fragments only add to his frustration. The dialogue underscores the tension between the characters, with Thomas oscillating between anger and reluctant acceptance of the situation.

The chapter delves into the mechanics of Teresa’s telepathy, as she describes how she communicated with Aris during their comas, a skill she compares to controlling one’s limbs. Thomas, however, remains skeptical and overwhelmed by the lack of clear answers. Teresa’s recounting of her abduction and forced participation in WICKED’s schemes further emphasizes the organization’s ruthlessness. Thomas’s headache symbolizes his mental exhaustion, mirroring the reader’s sense of mounting questions and unresolved plot threads.

The chapter concludes with a strained moment between Thomas and Teresa, as she kisses him in an attempt to reconnect, but Thomas feels nothing. This emotional disconnect underscores the damage caused by her betrayal and the lingering mistrust between them. Aris’s presence adds another layer of complexity, as Teresa’s

instructions to him hint at further hidden agendas. The chapter leaves Thomas—and the reader—with more questions than answers, setting the stage for future revelations about WICKED’s true intentions.

# Chapter 56

In Chapter 56 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas, Teresa, and Aris descend the mountain amid worsening weather conditions. Thomas struggles to suppress his resentment toward Teresa for her past actions, choosing to prioritize their survival. Despite their tension, they agree to work together to reach the safe haven. The group presses forward, battling harsh winds and dust, while observing the distant movements of Groups A and B ahead. Teresa’s attempt to lighten the mood with humor falls flat, underscoring the underlying strain in their relationships.

As they reach the barren wasteland, the trio notes the slow progress of the other groups and the absence of the promised safe haven. Aris expresses concern about an impending storm, while Thomas grapples with growing despair. Teresa suggests catching up to the others to regroup, and they begin running despite the exhausting conditions. Thomas privately tests Teresa’s loyalty by sharing fragmented memories of their past with WICKED, probing for clues about her true intentions. Their telepathic exchange reveals lingering mistrust but also a reluctant acknowledgment of their shared history.

The chapter intensifies as Thomas, Teresa, and Aris finally reach the merged Groups A and B, who are gathered around an unseen object. Minho, alive and seemingly unharmed, greets them with his characteristic smirk, surprising Thomas with his apparent camaraderie with Group B. Harriet, a girl from Group B, has apparently explained their situation, easing tensions between the rival groups. Thomas remains wary but relieved to see Minho, hinting at unresolved questions about the groups’ sudden alliance.

The chapter ends on a note of cautious hope as the characters unite, though the safe haven’s location remains uncertain. The worsening storm and Thomas’s lingering doubts about Teresa and WICKED’s motives cast a shadow over their progress. The

group’s dynamics shift as they face the unknown together, setting the stage for further revelations and challenges in their desperate race for survival.

# Chapter 57

Thomas and his group arrive at what they believe is the safe haven, only to find it marked by nothing more than an orange ribbon tied to a stick. Confused and frustrated, Thomas questions the purpose of their journey, while Minho remains optimistic, insisting there must be a reason for their arrival. Teresa shares Thomas's skepticism, warning that something ominous likely awaits them. Tensions rise as Minho openly expresses his distrust of Teresa, highlighting the fractured dynamics within the group.

The arrival of Brenda introduces further tension, particularly between her and Teresa. Brenda's dark humor about being a Crank—a person infected with the Flare virus—adds an unsettling tone to their interaction. Thomas, caught in the middle, feels guilty and overwhelmed, choosing to distance himself from both girls. The group's unease is compounded by the approaching storm, with ominous clouds and flashes of light signaling impending danger. The bleak atmosphere mirrors their growing desperation and uncertainty about what lies ahead.

Thomas reunites with Newt, Frypan, and Minho, who are waiting resignedly for the next challenge. He recounts his recent experiences with WICKED and Teresa, revealing his lingering distrust despite their temporary alliance. Minho remains hostile toward Teresa and Aris, while Newt questions the logic behind WICKED's manipulations. The group's exhaustion and dwindling supplies amplify their frustration, yet they resolve to wait out the remaining time, hoping for answers. The storm's intensifying winds and darkening sky heighten the sense of impending doom.

The chapter culminates in a shocking discovery as sections of the desert floor begin to flip open, revealing coffin-like containers reminiscent of those used to house the Grievers in the Maze. Thomas recognizes the objects, realizing their terrifying implications. As more panels open around them, the group is surrounded, signaling the

arrival of a new threat. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, leaving the characters—and readers—bracing for the unknown horrors about to emerge.

# Chapter 58

In Chapter 58 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and his group witness a terrifying transformation in the desert landscape. Metal sections of the ground rotate and reveal large black squares, each bearing a bulbous white coffin-like pod. The deafening noise stops, leaving only the howling wind and dust. The group is encircled by at least thirty of these mysterious pods, creating an eerie and tense atmosphere. Thomas and the others brace themselves, unsure whether the pods contain Grievers or something even more dangerous, as the wind and cold add to their discomfort.

Teresa communicates telepathically with Thomas, questioning if the pods might house Grievers or serve as a means of transport to safety. Thomas is skeptical but considers the possibility. The group debates their next steps, with Minho and Newt preparing for a potential fight. Harriet and Sonya from Group B join the discussion, suggesting the pods could be related to the Grievers' origins. The tension escalates as thunder rumbles overhead, and Thomas notes they have only twenty-five minutes before an unknown deadline.

Suddenly, the pods hiss and begin to open, revealing dark blue light and bulky, indistinct shapes inside. The group instinctively huddles together, wary of the unknown threat. Thomas observes a grotesque creature emerging from the nearest pod—a misshapen, humanoid figure with glowing orange growths on its limbs and torso. The creature's writhing fingers and lack of facial features heighten the horror. Similar monsters emerge from the other pods, each moving in sync, their bizarre forms illuminated by the storm's flashes.

As the first creature fully exits its pod, Thomas and the others are paralyzed by fear and disbelief. The monster stands taller than any human, its body covered in glowing protrusions. Minho shouts in confusion, but no one can identify the creatures. Thomas, mesmerized yet terrified, watches as the monsters turn toward the group, their

intentions unclear. The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, leaving the fate of Thomas and his friends uncertain as the storm intensifies and the creatures advance.

# Chapter 59

In Chapter 59 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and his companions prepare for a desperate battle against WICKED's monstrous creations. As lightning flickers across a stormy sky, Teresa arms Thomas with a large knife, while Minho and Harriet organize their groups into a defensive circle. The tension mounts as the glowing, blade-covered creatures advance, now only thirty feet away. Thomas and Teresa silently choose their targets, and Minho signals the charge, prompting the group to rush forward despite the overwhelming odds. The scene is chaotic, with the wind howling and the acrid scent of electricity filling the air.

Thomas hesitates briefly, overwhelmed by memories of past battles and losses, including Chuck’s sacrifice. However, the thought of Chuck snaps him into action, and he charges at his assigned monster, screaming as he swings his knife. The others follow suit, each focusing on their own foe. Thomas closes in on his creature, noting its faceless, mechanical appearance and the pulsing orange bulbs embedded in its body. He attacks its leg but hits something metallic, barely dodging a counterstrike. The creature roars like a Griever, intensifying the fight.

Realizing the creatures are vulnerable, Thomas observes Teresa targeting the orange bulbs on her monster, causing it to weaken. He shifts his strategy, aiming for the bulbs on his own foe. Each successful strike causes the creature to falter, its movements growing slower. Around him, others struggle—some attacking limbs instead of bulbs, resulting in casualties. Thomas sustains minor cuts but persists, popping bulb after bulb. The battlefield is a mix of desperation and determination, with sparks flying as more bulbs are destroyed.

By the chapter’s end, Thomas and a few others have discovered the key to defeating the monsters: destroying the bulbs weakens them significantly. Though the fight is far from over, this revelation offers a glimmer of hope. Thomas continues his relentless

assault, focusing on the remaining bulbs, while the creature’s strength dwindles. The chapter captures the brutality of the battle, the resilience of the group, and the strategic thinking required to survive WICKED’s latest horrors.

# Chapter 60

The chapter opens with a chaotic scene as lightning strikes violently around Thomas and his companions, leaving destruction in its wake. The group is scattered—some fighting monstrous creatures, others injured or recovering. Thomas, Teresa, Minho, Newt, and Frypan assess the damage while Brenda and Jorge continue battling. The storm rages on, with rain pouring down and thunder booming. Amid the chaos, Thomas realizes they must find shelter quickly to survive the next wave of lightning. He checks his watch, noting they have only ten minutes left, and suggests they take cover inside nearby pods, despite the risks.

Thomas and Teresa sprint to the nearest pod, a split-open container filled with dirty water. They prioritize their own survival, trusting the others to follow their lead. As they climb inside, lightning strikes nearby, emphasizing the urgency. Brenda and Jorge arrive just in time, squeezing into the cramped space before Thomas and Teresa seal the pod shut. The group huddles in darkness, listening to the storm outside and hoping their friends have found similar refuge. Despite the tension, there’s a brief moment of camaraderie as Jorge thanks Thomas for letting them in, though Brenda’s sarcastic remark hints at underlying distrust.

Inside the pod, the situation grows dire as lightning strikes again, cracking the ceiling and letting in water and steam. The group debates whether to stay or risk opening the pod to investigate a strange, humming sound growing louder outside. With only minutes left on the timer, Thomas decides they must act, convincing the others to push the lid open despite the danger. The storm’s intensity is overwhelming, but the sight of a massive, descending aircraft—the Berg—captures their attention, offering a glimmer of hope amid the chaos.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger as the Berg, the same ship that once rescued Thomas, hovers above them, its thrusters blazing. The group’s relief is tempered by

uncertainty, as they don’t yet know whether the aircraft brings salvation or new threats. The timer on Thomas’s watch ticks down to the final second, leaving their fate unresolved. The chapter masterfully blends action, tension, and character dynamics, setting the stage for the next dramatic turn in their survival ordeal.

# Chapter 61

In Chapter 61 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and his companions face a frantic race against time to escape a storm-ravaged battlefield and board a departing Berg, their only hope for safety. The scene is chaotic, with heavy rain, thunder, and lightning obscuring visibility as the group battles both the elements and grotesque bulb creatures armed with blades. Despite the treacherous mud and relentless weather, Thomas leads the charge, urging everyone forward with a newfound fearlessness. The Berg’s cargo door stands open, but its armed occupants refuse to assist, forcing the group to fight their way through the creatures to reach it.

The battle is intense and desperate, with Thomas and his friends targeting the creatures’ glowing bulbs to neutralize them. Teresa, Minho, Jorge, and others join the fray, working together to defeat the monsters. Thomas, fueled by adrenaline, takes down one creature with precise strikes, bursting its bulbs until it collapses. The group quickly dispatches the remaining threats, but the Berg begins to lift off, forcing them to sprint and leap onto the rising ship. Thomas and Teresa barely make it, then turn to help others, including Brenda, who dangles precariously until they pull her to safety.

As the Berg ascends, the survivors collapse inside, relieved but exhausted. Thomas embraces Teresa, momentarily forgetting their past conflicts in the joy of survival. However, their respite is short-lived when a red-haired man confronts them, pointing a gun at Brenda and Jorge and demanding to know why "citizens" were brought aboard. Thomas defends them, explaining their crucial role in the group’s survival and the deal they made for the cure. The man dismisses this, insisting the rules were violated, creating tension as the open cargo door leaves everyone vulnerable to the storm’s fury.

The chapter ends on a cliffhanger, with Thomas standing his ground to protect Brenda and Jorge, even as the Berg climbs higher and the threat of ejection looms. The

confrontation highlights the moral and logistical conflicts within the group, as well as the unpredictable dangers of their world. Thomas’s defiance signals his growth as a leader, but the unresolved tension leaves the reader questioning what consequences await them aboard the Berg.

# Chapter 62

In Chapter 62 of *The Scorch Trials*, Thomas and his companions face a critical moment aboard the Berg. Brenda is dragged toward the hatch by a stranger, seemingly destined for death, but Thomas intervenes, tackling the man and seizing his gun. With the weapon pointed at the stranger, Thomas declares an end to the brutal tests, refusing to let anyone else die. The tension escalates as the cargo door closes, trapping them in a standoff, but the stranger, now identified as David, surprisingly concedes, stating the trials are over and promising safety.

David attempts to reassure the group, claiming their ordeal was part of a larger plan and that they will soon understand its purpose. He promises no more tests or lies, offering them a cure and safety upon arrival at their destination. However, Thomas and Minho remain skeptical, having heard empty promises before. Thomas demands an end to the games, while Minho vows to fight back at the first sign of betrayal. David’s calm demeanor and cryptic remarks only deepen their distrust.

Despite their skepticism, the group is left with little choice but to follow David’s lead. He invites them to eat, rest, and prepare for the long flight ahead, emphasizing that their cooperation is now voluntary. The Gladers exchange uncertain glances, weighing their options, but ultimately, they comply, recognizing their lack of alternatives. David’s confidence and the group’s exhaustion leave them no room for resistance, even as they brace for potential deception.

The chapter ends with a mix of reluctant acceptance and unresolved tension. While David insists the worst is over, Thomas and his friends remain wary, their trust shattered by past betrayals. The promise of answers and safety looms, but the group’s determination to fight back if necessary underscores their hardened resolve. As they follow David, the chapter leaves readers questioning whether this is truly the end of their trials or merely another layer of the maze they’ve been trapped in.

# Chapter 63

After a tense stand, Thomas and the group settle into a period of mundane activities, including eating, showering, and receiving medical care. Despite the apparent normalcy, Thomas remains wary, suspecting they might be lulled into another trap like their previous experience after escaping the Maze. However, with no immediate threats from David and his staff, the group has little choice but to go along with the situation. Thomas, though refreshed, feels uneasy, his internal turmoil simmering beneath the surface as he grapples with uncertainty about their next steps.

Thomas finds himself sitting alone on a couch in the Berg, avoiding Teresa until she joins him. Their strained relationship is evident as he struggles to interact with her, still hurt by her past actions. When Teresa asks what he’s thinking, Thomas admits he’s trying not to think at all, to which she suggests enjoying the temporary peace. Her casual demeanor frustrates him, as she acts as if nothing has changed between them, despite the betrayal he feels. Thomas confronts her, unable to tolerate her pretending their friendship remains intact.

Teresa acknowledges their relationship is forever altered but defends her actions, stating she wouldn’t change anything because it saved Thomas’s life. She believes they will eventually remember WICKED’s purpose and comply with their plans, but Thomas vehemently disagrees, determined to stop the organization’s exploitation. Their conversation ends with Thomas feigning agreement, unwilling to engage further. Teresa then shifts the topic to their exhaustion, highlighting her own fatigue and quickly falling asleep, leaving Thomas to reflect on their fractured bond.

As Thomas observes the others sleeping around him, he notices Minho’s failed attempt to chat with a girl and the absence of Jorge and Brenda, which unsettles him. He realizes how much he misses Brenda but succumbs to his own exhaustion, deciding to search for her later. Overcome by weariness, he finally drifts into sleep, surrendering

to the temporary escape of unconsciousness amidst the lingering tension and unanswered questions about their future.

# Chapter 64

Thomas awakens to an unsettling, all-white void, devoid of any shapes or shadows. Initially dismissing it as a dream, he becomes aware of his physical sensations—breathing, touching his skin—yet remains surrounded by an eerie, featureless brightness. The surreal environment triggers a flicker of panic, but he rationalizes it as a vivid dream. This disorienting setting establishes a tone of confusion and unease, hinting at deeper psychological or supernatural elements at play.

A voice interrupts Thomas's thoughts, one he recognizes as belonging to a girl. The exchange feels familiar, as if they've communicated this way before. She asks if he's okay, her tone troubled, which puzzles him. When she cryptically mentions that he'll "understand more very soon," Thomas grows wary. The conversation takes a darker turn as he notices something off about the voice, sparking a creeping sense of dread.

Thomas's fear intensifies when he questions the identity of the speaker, no longer convinced it's who he initially believed. After a tense pause, the voice claims to be Brenda, a revelation that fills him with terror. Her ominous warning—"Things are about to get bad for you"—shatters any remaining sense of security. The chapter's tension peaks here, as the line between dream and reality blurs, leaving Thomas vulnerable to an impending threat.

Overwhelmed by fear, Thomas screams uncontrollably until he jolts awake, escaping the nightmare. The chapter ends abruptly, leaving the nature of the experience ambiguous—whether it was a dream, a psychic intrusion, or a premonition. This chilling conclusion underscores the psychological horror of the narrative, setting the stage for darker developments. The brevity and intensity of the chapter amplify its impact, leaving readers unsettled and eager for answers.

# Chapter 65

Thomas wakes up disoriented in a stark white, padded room, immediately sensing that something is terribly wrong. The sterile environment, with its spongy floor and bright lights, feels eerily familiar, reminiscent of the Box from his past. Despite the unsettling surroundings, he remains oddly calm, refusing to panic. He notices a solitary brown desk and a door, but an invisible barrier prevents him from reaching them. Resigned to his situation, Thomas decides to wait, convinced this is another phase of the Trials orchestrated by WICKED.

Attempting to reach out telepathically, Thomas calls for Teresa, Aris, and even Brenda, but receives no response. The silence deepens his isolation, and he begins to question whether his memories of Brenda are real or fabricated. His frustration grows as he realizes he’s trapped, yet he suppresses his fear, choosing instead to sit and rest. Eventually, he falls asleep, only to be abruptly awakened by Teresa’s voice in his mind, revealing that days have passed since their separation.

Teresa explains that WICKED has taken Thomas away, claiming the Flare has driven him violent. Thomas, however, suspects this is another manipulation tactic. The revelation that he’s been unconscious for nearly a week unsettles him, and he struggles to trust Teresa, given her past deceptions. His confusion and anger simmer as he questions her motives and the authenticity of their connection. The emotional weight of their fractured friendship becomes unbearable, fueling his resentment.

In a burst of rage, Thomas demands Teresa leave him alone and cuts off their communication, refusing to participate further in WICKED’s games. Teresa’s final words, “WICKED is good,” leave him grappling with doubt and betrayal. The chapter ends with Thomas alone, consumed by anger and determination to break free from the cycle of control, signaling a turning point in his resolve to resist WICKED’s influence.

# Epilogue

The epilogue of *The Scorch Trials* is presented as a memorandum from Chancellor Ava Paige to her associates, reflecting on the progress and challenges of the Scorch Trials involving Groups A and B. Despite unforeseen setbacks, Paige emphasizes the significant advancements made in collecting essential patterns for their research. She urges her team to remain professional and focused, underscoring the gravity of their mission. The lives of many depend on their work, and maintaining vigilance is critical during this pivotal phase of the study.

Paige expresses confidence in the subjects' readiness once their memories are restored, highlighting the importance of the Candidates who remain central to their plans. She reassures her team that the final pieces of their strategy will fall into place, even as they navigate complications. The memorandum underscores the belief that the sacrifices made—including lives lost—are justified by the potential to save humanity. The tone is resolute, with Paige framing the trials as a necessary means to a greater end.

The chancellor’s message reinforces the overarching goal: securing a cure for the Flare, a deadly disease threatening humanity. She mentions the Psychs' ongoing deliberations, which will determine when to reveal the subjects' immunity status. This step is crucial for the next phase of their plan, as it will dictate how the remaining subjects are utilized. Paige’s unwavering faith in the process is evident, as she anticipates the successful extraction of patterns and the creation of a blueprint for survival.

Ultimately, the epilogue encapsulates the moral ambiguity and high stakes of WICKED’s mission. Paige’s cold pragmatism shines through as she prioritizes the future of the human race over individual lives. The memorandum ends on a note of determination, with the promise of revealing the truth to the subjects soon. This

closing chapter sets the stage for the next installment, leaving readers with a sense of impending resolution—or further conflict—as the trials near their conclusion.