

Divergent Study Guide

Divergent by Veronica Roth

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Plot Summary

In Beatrice's world, there are five factions that carry out the daily duties of civilized living. They are Abnegation which is in control of the government, Dauntless which is in charge of security both inside the city and at the city walls, Amity which is the faction that grows most of the food and fills the role of caregivers, Erudite which is in charge of education and research, and Candor which is in control of law and justice. A child is born to a faction, but once they reach about sixteen years of age, they are given an aptitude test to help them decide which faction they will live in for their rest of their lives. Those who choose to leave their own factions are free to do so but must pledge loyalty to that faction of their own family. The idea is sound with each faction teaching and cultivating the traits necessary for their functions, but the reality is jealousy and fighting among the factions.

Beatrice is a sixteen-year-old member of the Abnegation faction as the story opens. She has been raised to be completely selfless but doesn't believe she fits into the ideals of her faction. All teens around sixteen years old undergo an aptitude test designed to help them decide which faction they should join. Beatrice and her older brother, Caleb, are among the teens undergoing the testing on a particular day. Beatrice is tested by a member of the Dauntless faction who reveals that Beatrice's results tag her as a "Divergent." The woman tells Beatrice that she should never tell anyone what she is and that her life is in danger if she does. With only that information, Beatrice goes home and begins trying to decide which faction she'll choose. When the Choosing Day ceremony arrives, Caleb decides to leave the faction for the Erudites and Beatrice initially believes she'll have to remain in Abnegation because she hates the idea of leaving her parents alone. However, she does decide to leave and joins the Dauntless.

Once there, she discovers the leaders have lost sight of protecting the city and its residents. Instead, cruelty is taught and expected. She meets a Dauntless nicknamed Four and discovers he's the son of an Abnegation leader. Beatrice manages to survive the initiation process but uncovers a plot hatched by the Erudite to use the Dauntless to overthrow the Abnegation. The Erudites take control of the Dauntless through a simulation device and the members of the Dauntless faction wage a bloody war on the Abnegation. Beatrice's parents fall victim as do others before the situation is brought to a conclusion by Beatrice, Caleb, and Four. As the story comes to a close, the three are taken in by the Amity faction though Beatrice knows they can't hide there forever.



Chapters 1 through 5

Chapters 1 through 5 Summary

As the story opens, Beatrice Prior is in the upstairs hallway of her home, seated in front of the home's only mirror while her mother, Natalie, trims her hair. The haircut, which happens every three months, is the only time Beatrice is allowed to look at herself in the mirror. The rule is one of many governing her faction, the Abnegation. The faction is the ruling party of the country and denies all forms of self-indulgence and selfishness. Beatrice goes downstairs with her mother and, after breakfast, catches the bus with her older brother, Caleb. They arrive at the Sears Tower which is called the "Hub" and houses the school. On this particular day, Beatrice and the others of her age or near her age - including Caleb - are to take aptitude tests. These tests are designed to help each youngster know to which of the five factions they are most suited. The testing process is a complete secret. None of the youngsters knows what they will face in the testing process. Beatrice is very worried but when she asks Caleb if he is also worried, he says he isn't. Beatrice admits to being very attracted to the Dauntless though her father calls them "hellions." She watches each day as they jump from the train upon their arrival at school.

In chapter two, all the test administrators are Abnegation except two. No one is allowed to test anyone of their own faction so the Abnegation children are tested by members of other factions. Beatrice is called to a testing room and a young Dauntless woman named Tori is administering her test. Beatrice is told to drink a vial of colorless liquid and she does. An instant later, she finds herself in the cafeteria of the school. There is a knife on the table and a large hunk of cheese. A voice demands that Beatrice choose but she doesn't. Instead she asks why she has to choose and then crosses her arms, refusing to choose either object. Just then a huge dog enters the room and Beatrice realizes if she had chosen the knife she'd have to kill the dog and if she'd chosen the cheese, she would be able to befriend it. She instinctively sinks submissively to the ground in front of the dog and it nudges her, then licks her. Then a little girl enters the room and the dog lunges for the child. Beatrice grabs the dog which disappears, as does the girl.

She soon finds herself in a bus and sees a man with a newspaper. The headlines refer to a murder, which is unheard of in the community. The man points to the picture of a man wanted for the crime and asks if Beatrice knows him. She says she doesn't. The man on the bus says Beatrice "can save me" if she admits to knowing him. Beatrice continues to reassure herself the situation isn't real and refuses to say she knows the man.

In chapter three, Beatrice wakes to find herself still in the chair. Tori says she is "perplexed" by the test results and asks Beatrice to wait a moment. Tori returns and says each phase of the simulation is designed to rule out factions, typically leaving only one. Tori says Beatrice only ruled out Candor and Amity. She says Beatrice is equally



suited for Abnegation, Dauntless, and Erudite, and that a person with these results is called "Divergent." She warns Beatrice to tell no one about the findings and that doing so could be dangerous. She asks Beatrice to leave the school without talking to anyone. She walks home and encounters a homeless man. The homeless are those who failed to make the grade with their chosen factions. These people hold menial jobs and are despised and pitied by the factions.

In chapter four, Beatrice is at home that night when her mother, who works for the government, says a friend told her there was a problem with one of the students who was tested that day. She says the student became ill and had to go home early. When she asks Caleb and Beatrice about it, they both lie, saying they don't know anything about it. During dinner, Beatrice's father says there is a new report released by the Erudites indicating that Tobias - son of Marcus who is an important politician - left the Abnegation faction in favor of the Dauntless because his father was abusive. Beatrice's father makes it clear that he thinks Tobias was wrong to choose another faction. When Beatrice and Caleb go to their rooms that night, Caleb tells Beatrice that they have to think of their families but that they must also think of themselves when it's time to choose.

In chapter four, the day of the Choosing Ceremony arrives. The young people who are choosing on this day stand at the edge of the floor. There are five huge metal bowls. There are gray stones in one, representing Abnegation. Erudite's bowl holds water, Amity's holds dirt, Dauntless's holds burning coals, and Candor's holds glass. Each young person will cut his or her hand and drip their blood into the bowl of the faction of their choosing. Beatrice's father says he'll "see you soon," indicating he has no doubt they will return home with him. Her mother tells Beatrice she loves her, "no matter what." Marcus gives a speech in which he explains the origin of the factions. He says their ancestors created the factions to eliminate the human failures that were responsible for the "world's disarray" during their lives. He says the people who formed the Amity faction blamed aggression for the woes of the world. The Erudites blamed ignorance, the Candors blamed duplicity, Abnegations blamed selfishness and Dauntless blamed cowardice. Most of the young people choose their own factions but a Dauntless boy chooses Candor. When it's Caleb's turn, he chooses Erudite. Beatrice is stunned but remembers the times she's seen Caleb studying in his room and realizes she shouldn't be surprised. The Abnegation members are outraged and Marcus has to call for quiet. Then it's Beatrice's turn. She's torn. She doesn't know what she'll choose but now she feels obligated to remain in Abnegation because otherwise her parents will lost both children. She takes the knife and cuts her hand, but hesitates and her blood drips first on the floor. Then she holds her hand over the coals and chooses Dauntless.

Chapters 1 through 5 Analysis

Beatrice has an unreasonable view of life in the Abnegation faction but this is probably true of all the factions. She sees the actions of some of the Abnegation people and tries to model herself after them. For example, Caleb stands on the bus and gives his seat to someone else. Beatrice says she would never have thought to do that, but that giving



up his seat is the kind of selfless act that comes naturally to Caleb and to other members of the Abnegation faction. The problem is that Beatrice has set her sights much too high and is trying to be perfect. She doesn't seem to realize that others struggle to be the best they can be, and that it comes "naturally" to very few people.

The five factions are Abnegation, Amity, Dauntless, Erudite, and Candor. Members of the Abnegation are supposed to be entirely selfless. Because of this, they are the political leaders. Imagine a politician who makes all his decisions based on the good of the people without any thought of what it means to them. That was the idea behind the Abnegation faction and the reason they are the lawmakers. However, like all factions, that selflessness has changed over the years and they are no longer all focused on the good of the people. The members of the Amity faction are the kind people. They are largely responsible for growing crops and taking care of others. The Erudites are studious and exhibit a thirst for knowledge. They are the researchers of the community but over the years they have become hungry for the power held by the Abnegation faction. The Candor faction is filled with people who speak the truth always. They don't even care if their words hurt another, as long as they are truth. The members of Candor provide the law. The Dauntless are fearless. They are the people who guard the city from outside attacks though it's never explained what lies outside the city that could be a threat. Like Abnegation and Erudite, the faction's focus has changed over the years. They have lost sight of their purpose, and have become cruel and vicious.

While Beatrice waits her turn to be tested, she notices what the members of the other factions are doing. The Amity girls are playing a sing-song game and members of the Candor faction are involved in a "debate." Meanwhile, members of Beatrice's faction sit quietly as is demanded by the faction. Apparently, finding a way to amuse herself while she waits would be self-serving, and is therefore not allowed. Beatrice is not happy with aspects of the faction rules and this seems to be one of them. She doesn't say so but she does say that she doubts the Erudites want to spend every single minute studying but that they can't deny their faction any more than she can.



Chapters 6 through 9

Chapters 6 through 9 Summary

In chapter six, Beatrice and the other initiates leave the Choosing Ceremony and Beatrice takes one last look at her parents. Her father's eyes are filled with accusation and Beatrice almost cries when she sees him. Her mother is smiling. Beatrice sees Caleb standing among the Erudites and smiling. She believes the transfer was an easy decision for him. Beatrice is then rushing down the stairs with the Dauntless and running across the street. Beatrice realizes they are going to have to jump onto the approaching train and that it isn't going to stop for them. Everyone makes it onto the train except a Erudite boy who is unable to catch up. He's left behind and Beatrice realizes that he's failed initiation, which means he's now factionless. Christina meets a girl named Christina, formerly a Candor. The Dauntless members prepare to jump off the train and one boy refuses. As they pass a roof, Christina and Beatrice jump together. They make it but a Dauntless girl begins to scream and they see a member of the faction lies dead on the pavement.

A Dauntless named Max instructs the new recruits to jump from the building into an unseen "entrance" to headquarters. Beatrice believes it's safe to jump and goes first. She lands in a net at the bottom. The boy who helps her from the net is named Four, but the reader later learns his real name is Tobias. When he asks her name, Beatrice hesitates then says her name is Tris.

In chapter seven, there are nine initiates to Dauntless that were not Dauntless-born who have made it to this point. They have a tour of part of the headquarters, including the Pit, which is a huge underground cavern with paths going various directions and a surging river running through the bottom. They eat together and Beatrice has her first taste of meat. They see Eric, a young man who is also a Dauntless leader who will be in charge of some of their training.

Eric later reveals that only the top ten initiates are accepted into the faction, and the nine who are not Dauntless-born will be evaluated along with those who are. That night, Beatrice hears a boy named Al, formerly from Candor, crying. He's a large boy and Beatrice is surprised that he's the one who breaks down.

In chapter eight, Beatrice and the other initiates are taught to shoot a gun. Beatrice struggles at first but eventually masters the skill. At lunch time, Beatrice thinks about her designation as Divergent. She says she'd worried it would be apparent to anyone but that hasn't been the case. She's still concerned. An Erudite boy named Will sits at the table with Beatrice and Christina. After lunch, Four begins teaching them to fight. At supper, Al announces he plans to get a tattoo, stop crying about leaving his old faction, and focus on succeeding as Dauntless. Christina helps Beatrice put on makeup and she enjoys the luxury of staring at herself in the mirror for a long time. They then go to watch Al get a tattoo. Beatrice encounters Tori, the woman who gave Beatrice her aptitude test



results. Beatrice says she has questions for Tori, but Tori says it's best if Beatrice figures out the rest on her own. Beatrice decides to get a tattoo of three flying birds on her collar, one for each of the family members she left behind.

In chapter nine, Beatrice arrives at the training room to discover everyone is paired up to fight another initiate that day except her. Three of the other initiates, Peter, Drew, and Molly, are inseparable and all are fitting into the Dauntless lifestyle. Christina says Peter has always been mean. Four says the fights will continue until one person is unable to continue. He says someone can also concede but Eric says those were the old rules, and that under the new rules, no one can give up. Al beats a boy named Will and Four helps Will out of the room.

When it's Christina's turn to fight Molly, Christina loses and when she is lying on the floor, battered and bruised, she concedes. This makes Eric furious, and he takes the group to the Pit where he makes her hang from a rail for five minutes to prove she isn't a coward. She manages but barely.

Chapters 6 through 9 Analysis

It's fairly obvious from the beginning that Eric is cruel and enjoys subjecting others to pain and anguish. There are nine beds in the room where the initiates are to stay and Eric says that's because they expected ten of the transfers to make it to this stage. When Christina points out that twelve were in the initial group, Eric says some always fail on the way to headquarters.

The idea of the factions is a good premise for a story but the human nature and bonding of families makes it improbable. Theoretically, a child who chooses some faction other than his or her own is cut off from their family forever. Children are taught that the bond of their faction is more important than the bond of their family. However, the idea that a mother could leave her sixteen-year-old child to live on the streets because that child was unable to jump on a moving train doesn't seem reasonable. There is apparently a large factionless population and it's noted early on that Beatrice's mother often volunteers to work with the factionless, providing food and clothes for them and helping them find jobs. While this seems like the typical actions of the wealthy toward the poor community, it doesn't seem that a person like Beatrice's mother would turn her back on Caleb or Beatrice if one of them were homeless and starving in the streets.

Another aspect of the story that seems unrealistic is that none of the youngsters knows anything about the testing process or the initiation process. It seems likely that if the young man who failed to catch the train had been aware that would be required of him, he would have chosen another faction. He was not physically fit and was likely to fail this test, so would have chosen something less physically strenuous. All the young people go to school together and the generations live together as family units within the faction. It seems impossible that someone wouldn't have revealed some aspect of initiation to their youngsters, and that rumors of that wouldn't have spread among the other youngsters at school.



It's not clear whether the Dauntless initiation is typical of all factions. The Dauntless leader, Eric, says they will take only the top ten of the initiates into their faction. A girl named Molly who transfers to the Dauntless from the Candor faction says that isn't fair. Eric counters, saying the person who fears failure isn't cut out for Dauntless anyway. It's unclear whether Eric is telling the truth or just encouraging them to be ruthless with each other in their training. It seems that if all the factions limited their initiates so severely, the factionless population would be increasing dramatically.

Eric's cruelty is evident from early in the book. When the teams are paired up for the first fight, Eric says no one is allowed to quit, even if they are beaten. Al, who is very large, is pitted against Will, who is much smaller. Al hates the idea of hitting Will for the sake of a game but Will goads him into a fight that ends with Al hurting Will. Then it's time for Christina and Molly. When Christina is on the ground, Molly kicks her mercilessly until Christina says she can't take any more. This makes Eric so angry that he makes Christina hang from a rail over the chasm. If she drops, she'll be killed in the river below. This puts Beatrice in a serious quandary. She and Christina have become good friends quickly and she feels the need to help Christina. But she also knows that if she tries to help Christina, she will be forced to do the same thing. She worries that she won't be strong enough to hold onto Christina even if she tries, and that she'll wind up factionless if she tries and fails. While she's struggling with these things, she's also thinking about what her parents would do and she hates that she is so willing to think selfishly about her fear of being factionless when Christina's life hangs in the balance. It's a battle Beatrice and others will face throughout the story and one that creates division within the factions when they should be seeking bonds to make them loyal to each other. It is later revealed that Eric is not a true Dauntless but that he's planted there to create this kind of division.



Chapters 10 through 12

Chapters 10 through 12 Summary

In chapter ten, Beatrice finds someone has spray painted "stiff" on her pillow. She believes it's Peter and confronts him and he says that he and Beatrice will "never be in the same faction." Al tells Beatrice not to rise to the antagonism. When they arrive at the training room, Beatrice discovers she's slated to fight Peter. Beatrice is beaten quickly but refuses to give up. She's bloodied and bruised when she wakes in the infirmary. Al, Will, and Christine visit and announce they are all supposed to catch the train the following morning.

In chapter eleven, Beatrice is sore the following day but manages to get on the train when they go to the city's boundaries. Beatrice says there was a class during which they learned about the various jobs performed by the Dauntless, and that the jobs are limited to monitoring the city's security, guarding the fence, working in the compound at some job such as tattooing, or work for the faction's leaders. Beatrice hopes for the latter. A truck arrives loaded with apples and Beatrice sees Robert, a former Abnegation boy her age who also changed factions, though he selected Amity. He notes Beatrice's swollen face and is concerned. He says he believes Abnegation will make an exception, accepting her back into the faction, if she were to return home.

There is limited conversation about what Dauntless is protecting the city from but Beatrice notices that the gates lock from the outside. This catches her interest and she wonders if the Dauntless are actually keeping something out or if the gate is designed to keep the people inside. This question is never answered.

Four tells Beatrice she will do better in fights if she strikes the first blow. She's surprised that he knows anything about her fighting ability because he left the training area only a few seconds into her fight against Peter. He says he didn't want to watch her fight but doesn't explain what he means by that.

In chapter twelve, Beatrice is paired against a girl named Myra and wins easily. They are awakened in the middle of the night and told they are going on another field trip. Beatrice realizes they are playing some sort of game when they are given paintball guns. They catch a train and Four explains that they'll divide into two teams with him leading one and Eric leading the second. Four chooses Beatrice as his first team member and Christina as his second. The teams go to different areas and each is to hide a flag with the team who finds the opposing team's flag first declared a winner. They arrive at old fairgrounds with a Ferris wheel. While they are trying to decide what to do, Beatrice climbs the Ferris wheel to see if she can determine what Eric's team is doing. Four climbs up as well and Beatrice discovers he is afraid of heights. They figure out where Eric and his team are and begin to create a strategy. As Beatrice begins the climb down, she slips and is dangling from a crossbar. Four goes on down and starts up



the Ferris wheel though he later says he wasn't sure it would still run. When Beatrice is near the ground, she drops, unharmed.

Once they rejoin the group, Beatrice decides how they will split up, with some of them heading straight into Eric's camp, forcing them to form a barrier and leaving the flag largely unguarded. The plan works and Beatrice and Christina are the first to reach the flag. Christina says Beatrice has already proven herself today and insists she be allowed to retrieve the flag. Beatrice gives in to the request. A couple of the Dauntless-born initiates become friendly with Beatrice. A boy named Uriah squeezes a paintball, intending to hit Beatrice with it, but squirts himself instead. A girl named Marlene laughs at it. Beatrice feels happy and tired, and realizes that all she has to do is survive initiation in order to have this as her life forever.

Chapters 10 through 12 Analysis

The antagonism between the factions is very real and becoming more of an issue as time passes. There is something similar to a civil war brewing as many members of factions believe others are not holding up their roles. Some make fun of others which increases the animosity. The Abnegations are sometimes referred to as "stiffs" because their unbending determination to remain selfless makes them seem unnaturally composed. Beatrice isn't at all comfortable with public displays of affection and is embarrassed when two of the Candors - Peter and Molly - kiss in public.

Beatrice is still struggling with how to deal with the emotional toll of leaving home and trying to figure out what the future has in store for her. At one point she wishes she could have talked to her parents about the fact that she has been labeled Divergent and asked them to help her figure out what it means. She says she couldn't do that because she "didn't trust them with the secret." It's interesting she trusts Tori with the instruction that she was never to tell anyone about the label but she doesn't trust her parents. This may lend a little more credence to the idea that bonds to factions are thicker than bonds to family.

Al is an interesting character who is a prime example of the struggles experienced by Beatrice and some of the others. He's a large boy and when he hits Will during their first fight, he easily knocks Will out. Al says it doesn't take bravery for him to knock Will out. He also stands up to Eric when Christina is hanging out over the chasm. Al helps Christina back on solid ground and Eric objects, saying Christina has to do it on her own. Al says she's already done what Eric told her to do, and helps anyway. This takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to Eric. Still, Al is something of a gentle giant and hates the idea of cruelty. He will later commit suicide because he is unable to deal with his role in the events that unfold.



Chapters 13 through 16

Chapters 13 through 16 Summary

In chapter thirteen, the initiates begin training with knives. When Al repeatedly fails to have his knife stick in the target, Eric tells him to go get his knife. Others are throwing and Al would be in danger of being hit by a knife. He refuses and Eric has everyone stop throwing, then makes Al stand in front of the target while Four throws his knife. Beatrice objects, saying Eric is being a bully which is another form of cowardice. Eric challenges Beatrice to take Al's place and she does. Beatrice stands still as Four throws and his final throw nicks her ear, making it bleed. When everyone is gone, Beatrice yells at Four for nicking her ear. He says he's tired of waiting for her to "catch on," but doesn't elaborate.

In chapter fourteen, Beatrice is to fight against Molly. Molly saw Beatrice naked earlier and she now taunts her, saying Beatrice is very pale and asking if she has a birthmark on her butt cheek. Beatrice is furious and when she beats Molly to the ground, she continues kicking the girl until Four pulls her off.

In chapter fifteen, Visiting Day arrives. Beatrice doesn't expect her family to show up but she finds her mother, Natalie, waiting for her. She says she hasn't been to see Caleb because the Erudites aren't allowing members of the Abnegation faction onto their campus. She also says Beatrice's father has been selfish in his attitude toward Beatrice and Caleb. Natalie introduces herself to Four and confides that she knows some things about the Dauntless initiation and had been worried about Beatrice. Natalie gets Beatrice away from everyone else for a moment and asks about the fights and Beatrice's current ranking. When Beatrice says she's near the bottom, her mother says that isn't a bad thing because she isn't a target in that position. Natalie then asks what Beatrice's test results indicated. Beatrice uses the word "inconclusive" rather than "Divergent." Natalie says she'd expected that and says it happens sometimes to Abnegation children. Natalie doesn't know why that's the case. She asks Beatrice to find a way to visit Caleb and to ask him to "research the simulation serum." Natalie then instructs Beatrice to have a piece of cake and says the chocolate is "delicious." Beatrice realizes her mother was a Dauntless but Natalie is gone before Beatrice can ask about it.

In chapter sixteen, Beatrice finds Al who says he didn't visit with his parents though they were in the compound. Al says his parents made no secret of their admiration for the Dauntless and that's the reason he joined this faction. There's an awkward moment as Al seems on the verge of expressing his feelings for Beatrice but she avoids it and the moment passes. That evening they are in the cafeteria when the subject of pets arises. There is a discussion then of the aptitude tests and how each who was best suited for Dauntless picked up a knife during the simulation, then used it to kill the dog that attacked. Christina, trained by the Candors to tell when someone isn't telling the truth, picks up on the fact that Beatrice isn't comfortable with the conversation and quizzes



her so that Beatrice admits she didn't kill the dog. When how she managed to get a Dauntless designation without killing the dog, she says she was given an Abnegation designation but chose Dauntless anyway. It seems to appease their curiosity.

When the rankings are posted the following day, Beatrice is sixth. Al is eighth. Molly is furious that she's number five, one below Christina, and is told she lost ground because she lost a fight to Beatrice who is ranked lower than she. She tells Beatrice she'll get even. That night Edward, who was ranked first, wakes the entire dormitory with his screaming. When the lights are turned on, he is on the floor with a knife sticking out of his eye. The next day, they learn that Edward has been cut and his girlfriend, Myra, dropped out as well.

Chapters 13 through 16 Analysis

Natalie almost recognizes Four and she comments that he looks familiar, a statement that seems to make him somewhat upset. He says that he's not in the habit of associating with the Abnegation faction and Natalie says not many from outside Abnegation are currently willing to associate with them. She doesn't seem upset at that moment but just a few moments earlier she told Beatrice that tensions were at a fever pitch. What Beatrice doesn't learn until sometime later is that Natalie has met Four prior to this day because Four's father, Marcus, is a frequent guest at the Prior home and she's probably seen him at least a few times. Early in the story, Beatrice says she has never met Tobias, explaining why she didn't recognize him.

Beatrice notices that her mother isn't staring at the Pit, the chasm that drops down to the roiling water, or the strange people who are surrounding her. Beatrice believes it's because her mother, as a member of Abnegation, isn't curious about anything. When Natalie wants a moment alone with Beatrice, she directs her daughter into a tunnel that Beatrice has never entered. Beatrice thinks it's odd that her mother isn't afraid. In fact, Beatrice will soon learn that her mother actually knows more about the Dauntless than Beatrice because her mother was born into that faction.



Chapters 17 through 19

Chapters 17 through 19 Summary

In chapter seventeen, Beatrice is out of the dormitory because she imagines she can still smell Edward's blood though it has been thoroughly cleaned. She encounters the Dauntless-born initiate named Uriah who says they are going on an outing and invites her along. She hops the train with them and only then asks where they're headed. Uriah says he doesn't know but points out his older brother, Zeke. A girl named Shauna says Four told her about Beatrice which rouses Beatrice's curiosity. They arrive at the Hancock building and discover the power is on so the elevators are working. They all go to the one hundredth floor where there is a zip line set up. Beatrice is thrilled with the ride and doesn't hesitate when it's her turn.

In chapter eighteen, all the initiates are in a dark hall waiting for their turns behind a closed door. They don't know what awaits them. When it's Beatrice's turn, she finds a chair like the one she'd sat in for the aptitude test. She's immediately worried that her divergence will be revealed. Four tells her to take a seat. Four says the simulation will teach her to face her personal fears in a scary situation. He says she will stay in the simulation until she either conquers the situation or her heart rate returns to a normal level.

Her first simulation involves a huge flock of birds, pecking at her. She wills herself to stop screaming and manages to slow down her heart rate, but when she's back in the chair, she's terrified. Four walks her back to the dorm. Beatrice rages at him, saying she knows she's failing. When he asks how long she was in the simulation, she guesses a half hour. He reveals that it was three minutes. He says that's faster than the other initiates. Four says she'll get better at it. He points out that the simulation isn't completely accurate with regard to her personal fears. She agrees that she wouldn't run from a flock of crows and Four says the crows represent something but only she can figure out what. He touches her as they stop to talk and Beatrice discovers she is very attracted to him.

In chapter nineteen, there's a flyer circulating that refers to the "mass exodus of the children of the Abnegation leaders." The article questions the Abnegation teachings and quotes Molly as saying she'd heard Beatrice crying out in her sleep for her father to "stop doing something." Beatrice is furious with Peter who is reading the article and she screams that he's talking about her father, her family, and her faction. Will pulls Beatrice aside and points out that the Abnegation is no longer her faction.

Chapters 17 through 19 Analysis

At the end of the zip line ride, Beatrice has to release her sling and drop into the waiting arms of other members. She says she has to trust that they will catch her and she



drops, indicating she has that trust. What's interesting here is that some members of the faction don't seem to be totally caught up in their need to bully and berate others. Beatrice says her father would have thought the zip line a foolish stunt but she believes they are closer because they've shared something so dangerous. Beatrice is at the heart of what was probably once the most important part of being Dauntless. They originally formed with a pledge to stand up for each other and for the weak. Somewhere along the way, they've lost sight of that, as some of the other factions have lost sight of their missives.

Will, Christina, Al, and Beatrice spend some time together and forge a friendship that might have been very strong in some other situation. The fact that they are competing for a limited number of slots in the Dauntless compound doesn't really seem to bother them but there's no doubt there's a troubled undercurrent. Still, they are young and being encouraged to run wild. They are racing down the path with Al carrying Christina and all of them laughing, and Beatrice says the peace of her former life is restrained compared to this freedom.



Chapters 20 through 24

Chapters 20 through 24 Summary

In chapter twenty, Beatrice is in another simulation. This time she is in a glass enclosure and water is pouring in, threatening to drown her. She frantically tries to break the glass but can't. She forces herself to stop and think, and remembers that it's a simulation. She is completely covered with water when she pounds the glass again and then kicks it, breaking it. She sits up in the chair and Four asks how she broke the glass. They leave the room and Four announces that Beatrice is Divergent. She asks what that means but Four says it's obvious by the fact that she can manipulate the simulations. He says he's going to erase the footage of today's simulation but that she has to learn to hide it during simulations or she'll wind up dead.

In chapter twenty-one, there are new articles accusing the Abnegation of wrongdoing, including withholding goods and services because they personally don't find those things appealing. Beatrice continues to go through the simulations. In one of those, she is required to shoot her family. Beatrice says she knows about true fear by this point. She also realizes she wasn't the first to jump off the roof during initiation because she wanted to prove she was brave, but did it because she already was Dauntless and wanted to acknowledge it. Most of the initiates are hardly sleeping and showing the strain of the simulations. By the time the simulations are finished, Beatrice is far ahead in the rankings. It produces division and even Will is angry, asking if Beatrice is somehow manipulating someone to gain an advantage.

That night, Beatrice hears a voice talking to Eric, saying the simulations will reveal the Divergent rebels. She continues to listen but doesn't know the woman's voice. Then she's grabbed and hauled away. Peter and Al are among the boys who haul Beatrice to the chasm, beat her up, and are about to throw her in when Four arrives.

In chapter twenty-two, Beatrice wakes in Four's room. Four says they beat her up because she was strong. He says if she would try to show some signs of vulnerability, she would be safer from them. When Beatrice objects, Four points out that it's sometimes more important to be alive than to be right. He then says that when she does see the chance, she should "ruin them."

In chapter twenty-three, Beatrice tells Will and Christina that Peter, Drew, and Al caused her injuries, which are very visible. Uriah says they have to push Drew, Peter, and Al out of the rankings. Beatrice recalls that Christina and Will were angry with her when she came out top in the rankings but are now determined to protect her because she's weakened. She compares this to Uriah and Marlene, both Dauntless-born, who have been her friends all along, and doesn't know who she trusts more. They arrive in a new training room. Four announces they will begin a new round of simulations, this time with everyone knowing they are in a simulation. Beatrice is relieved that everyone will know so she won't be in danger of revealing herself as different, therefore Divergent. Four



says the number of fears will be different for each person. Peter says it isn't fair that each person has a different number of fears. Four points out that it isn't meant to be fair and that Peter has already proven one thing he's afraid of is a "short, skinny girl from Abnegation." Back in the dorm, Al asks to speak to Beatrice. Will stands protectively in the way. Beatrice knows her childhood has taught her to forgive but she tells Al to stay away from her.

In chapter twenty-four, Beatrice wakes to find that Al has committed suicide. When a large group has gathered, Eric says Al has proven his bravery by his willingness to "explore" the uncertainty of death. Eric calls him "Al the Courageous." Beatrice tells Four she should have forgiven Al and that maybe he wouldn't have killed himself. Four responds that she shouldn't feel guilty, but should use it as a lesson to do better in the future. Beatrice recognizes this as the teachings of Abnegation and asks what faction Four came from, but he doesn't tell her.

Chapters 20 through 24 Analysis

After the situation in which Beatrice manipulates the simulation so that she breaks the glass, Four warns her that she can't continue to do that or she'll be killed. Beatrice doesn't know what this means and Four won't tell her. Beatrice goes to Tori. She isn't busy and Beatrice asks her again about the Divergent label. Tori says the Divergent is able to realize during simulations that the situation is not real, and can even shut down the program. She says the Divergent, especially the Dauntless Divergent, is apt to die. Tori says the Dauntless leaders don't yet know about Beatrice but that they will kill her if they discover she's Divergent. Beatrice says she doesn't believe the leaders of a faction would kill her but Tori says her brother went missing and that Beatrice is no safer than he was. Beatrice says her brother, Georgie, had become really fast at the simulations and said they weren't at all scary, pushing him to the top of the rankings. One of the Dauntless leaders sat in on the final day of the simulations and the next day Georgie was missing, never to be heard from again. Tori says she doesn't know if there were other factors that brought Georgie to the attention of the Dauntless leaders. Beatrice mulls this information but neither she nor Tori knows why the ability to manipulate the simulations is so important. What Beatrice will later discover is that Erudites have infiltrated the Dauntless leadership and are planning to take over the community. To do this, they will tap into the simulation process, taking over every Dauntless because they have simulation chips in their bodies to make the simulation process easier. If there were many people able to manipulate the simulation by understanding the situation wasn't real, the Erudite's plan wouldn't work.

The emerging relationship between Four and Beatrice is a somewhat predictable aspect of the story. Beatrice has realized she is attracted to him though she also feels some fear of him because of his position as a trainer. When he rescues her from Peter and Al, he seems to want to try to make her understand that she needs to protect herself. At one point that evening, she calls him "Four" and he says he doesn't want her to call him that any longer. Beatrice asks what she should call him and he responds, "Nothing, for the moment." He seems to want to tell her about his past but doesn't. There's a



humorous comment the morning after the attack. Beatrice is trying to get ready for the day and she is in a great deal of pain. She says that it "only hurts when I breathe" and that Peter would probably throw a party if she were to stop breathing. Four says, apparently serious, that he would "only go if there was cake." It makes Beatrice laugh though the movement causes additional pain.

When Eric talks about Al's bravery, Beatrice loses control. In Abnegation, suicide is considered selfish, and therefore never happens. Four drags her away and reminds her that she's being watched by the Dauntless leadership. He says she has to be more careful. Four says the leaders don't really care what she does, but they want to make sure everyone thinks in predictable ways so the leaders don't have to worry about a threat. He doesn't say why they would be worried. Four points out that Beatrice becomes stronger when she's afraid and that she continues to exhibit the selflessness of Abnegation.



Chapters 25 through 27

Chapters 25 through 27 Summary

In chapter twenty-five, Beatrice has Tori give her a tattoo of the Abnegation symbol. She knows it's dangerous but it's important to her that she acknowledge that side of her identity. Beatrice, Christina, and Will gather at the chasm with a stack of flyers from the Erudites. They shred them, throwing the pieces into the river. Will says one woman, Jeanine, is very smart and is trying to create a simulation serum that will last longer. Will and Christina leave and Beatrice joins Four as he undergoes a simulation, facing his own fears. They enter his simulation together and the first fear is of heights. Beatrice encourages him to jump and they do. The next fear is of a very tight space. Four is obviously very afraid and says the fear was borne of being put in a small closet as punishment when he was a child. Beatrice talks to him and he eventually comes to terms with the fear so that the box dissolves. The next fear puts Four face-to-face with a woman. There is a gun on a table and a single bullet. Beatrice realizes he has to shoot her and he says he isn't panicked during this simulation but she senses his dread.

After the woman is dead on the floor, the scene dissolves and Four is left to face his final fear. Beatrice sees the Abnegation leader, Marcus, facing Four and realizes that Four is Marcus's son, Tobias. Marcus attacks Four, striking him repeatedly with a belt and Beatrice realizes the Erudite report that Marcus had been cruel was true. Beatrice steps into the attack and Marcus strikes her. This makes Four furious and when he stands up to his father, Marcus disappears.

In chapter twenty-six, Four says he continues to face the same four fears and has made no change in the simulations. Beatrice asks again about his test results. He says the tests suggested Abnegation but he chose Dauntless to get away from his father. He says he now doesn't believe he belongs in Dauntless because of their attitudes and actions. They continue to talk and Four kisses her.

In chapter twenty-seven, Beatrice expects Four to notice her the following morning but he doesn't. He later explains that he doesn't want others to think their relationship was the reason she did well. The initiates are subjected to a fear of another Dauntless trainer. Beatrice finds herself in a kidnapping scenario and it morphs into the night Peter and Al kidnapped her. When the simulation ends, Four snaps at her to get a grip which makes her angry enough to do so.

Chapters 25 through 27 Analysis

In chapter twenty-five, Beatrice and Four are trapped in a very small space as Four goes through the simulation of his four greatest fears. Beatrice tries to get Four's mind off the situation so that he'll be able to get through the situation more quickly and she begins to talk to him. The conversation turns to the aptitude tests and Four hints that his



aptitude test wasn't a clear-cut designation that he was suited for Dauntless. He says the test is irrelevant which leads Beatrice to believe there was something less than typical in Four's results as well. He later says that's not the case.

The relationship between Beatrice and Four is beginning to emerge in this section of the book. When Beatrice leaves the chasm where she, Christina and Will were destroying the Erudite flyers, Beatrice heads off to find Four. He almost seems to be waiting for her and she says she isn't certain that's the case, but she's glad it worked out that way. Four is now opening up to Beatrice and they are beginning to connect. When they are in the confined space during Four's fear simulation, Beatrice puts Four's hand on her heart so that he'll feel her steady rhythm. He points out that her heart is beating fast and she laughs, saying it's because she's near him and has nothing to do with the confinement.



Chapters 28 through 31

Chapters 28 through 31 Summary

In chapter twenty-eight, Beatrice sneaks away to the Erudite compound where she searches for Caleb. She finds him and relays her mother's message. Caleb says there's "something big" happening but he doesn't know what that is. They argue and Beatrice turns to walk away but is taken into custody by Erudite officials. She's taken to Jeanine's office where she recognizes her voice as the woman instructing Eric to find the Divergents at the Dauntless compound. She also realizes it was Jeanine's voice instructing her during the simulation of the aptitude test. Beatrice instinctively knows Jeanine will kill her if she discovers Beatrice is Divergent. Beatrice knows she's in danger as long as she's in Jeanine's office, so she tells lies about her successes, her reasons for joining Dauntless, and her agreement with the Erudite attitudes toward the Abnegation.

A Erudite drives her back to the Dauntless compound where Eric is waiting. As soon as she sees him, she realizes Eric is really a Erudite who has become completely sadistic. Eric takes Beatrice to a room but Four interrupts. Beatrice manages to conjure up tears and says she'd left the compound because Four tried to kiss her. Her show of vulnerability works and Eric allows her to leave. Outside, Four apologizes for hurting her feelings earlier and they agree to meet again that evening.

When Beatrice reaches her room, she finds Christina there with the news that she and Will are now in a relationship. She also discovers that Christina is afraid of moths.

Beatrice meets Four and they catch a train out of the Dauntless compound. When they arrive at the Erudite headquarters, Four points out that the Erudites are ignoring the city ordinance requiring that lights be off at night to conserve energy. He says he's discovered some plans among the Dauntless files that include commands, maps, and supply lists, all originating from the Erudites. Beatrice wonders if there are plans for a war. They talk over the situation some more and come to the conclusion that the Erudites are going to use the Dauntless to fight, though they don't yet know how the Erudites plan to make that happen.

In chapter twenty-nine, Beatrice compares memories of Abnegation initiation ceremonies which include a calm meal and the older Abnegation members washing the feet of the initiates. In Dauntless, everyone is drunk and there are fights early in the day. Beatrice naps in the afternoon and then joins the other initiates for their final test. They have faced only minor fears and the fears of others during the simulations up to this point. This time, the simulation will take them through all their fears. Everyone can watch as the initiate goes through the simulations but outsiders can't see what the initiates see. When it's Beatrice's turn, Eric administers the shot.



In chapter twenty-nine, Beatrice faces flocks of birds and the tank of water. She is then in a huge body of water. She knows she isn't afraid of water and realizes she has to be afraid of being out of control. She finds footing on a rock and pulls herself out of the water. Next, she's tied to a stake and Peter is setting a pile of wood on fire. Beatrice calls for rain and the fire is extinguished. Next she faces down kidnappers. As the next scene unfolds, Beatrice is with Four and he reaches out to hold her. She realizes she's afraid of the shows of affection required of a relationship. She kisses him and the scene changes again. Next she's faced with the fear that something will happen to her family and it will be her fault. She allows herself to be killed to save her family.

In chapter thirty-one, Beatrice learns she faced seven fears, a low number compared to most. Eric takes her to another room where she is told she'll now have a tracking device installed. She doesn't want to, but doesn't see a way to refuse and submits. Beatrice later goes to Four's room. They talk and she faces her fear of intimacy.

Chapters 28 through 31 Analysis

When Beatrice and Caleb are talking, Caleb reveals that something is wrong in the Erudite compound but that he doesn't know what is happening. He says there are constant speeches about the corrupt Abnegation faction. Beatrice is angry at this and tells Caleb that he's chosen this. She says the Erudites are arrogant, which makes Caleb angry. The siblings are split over faction and family, both apparently trying to find a balance in their own lives. Caleb seems on the verge of siding with the Erudite against the Abnegation but when Beatrice says she's seen their mother, Caleb is obviously hurt that Natalie chose to see Beatrice rather than him. When he asks why Natalie didn't visit him as well, Beatrice points out that the Erudites no longer allow the Abnegation on their compound.

Beatrice grabs some food during the Dauntless initiation and goes back to the dorm to avoid the chaos. She realizes only after she's there that she has chosen food typical of Abnegation choices, peas, chicken, and brown bread. The book notes that she sighs. This is significant because it indicates that Beatrice is very aware of her choices and that she wishes she were different. Beatrice spent her entire childhood being taught the values and ideals of the Abnegation faction. It seems incredible that everyone would expect that teaching to evaporate once the person joins a different faction.



Chapters 32 through 36

Chapters 32 through 36 Summary

In chapter thirty-two, Beatrice realizes she's now finished with initiation and has to think about the role she'll want to have in the Dauntless faction. She had hoped to work for the Dauntless leaders but knows it would be dangerous to be that near the leadership that would be too willing to kill her if they discovered she is Divergent. The results of the initiation process are announced and Beatrice is ranked first. Peter remains but Drew, another of Beatrice's attackers, is cut, now factionless. Four kisses Beatrice in front of everyone, not caring now if their relationship is in the open. All of a sudden, Beatrice realizes the Erudites are planning to use the transmitters from the serum as a means of getting the Dauntless to fight. She wants to tell Four but doesn't have the chance.

In chapter thirty-three, Beatrice wakes in the middle of the night to find others walking out of the dormitory. They are functioning but don't acknowledge Beatrice's presence at all. Beatrice dresses quickly and follows the group, trying to act as if she is also sleepwalking. They board the train which is stopped with open cars waiting for them. She finds herself in the car with Four and he is also not under the control of the Dauntless. He tells her to run but she can't bring herself to leave without trying to save her family. Beatrice sees some of the Abnegation members murdered and knows others are probably dead as well. They pass Eric who is explaining to someone that the Dauntless are receiving computerized commands from the transmitters that were injected into them earlier. Eric pulls his gun and plans to kill Four. Beatrice can't allow it to happen and reveals that she isn't under their control.

In chapter thirty-four, Beatrice and Four are captured and taken into custody. Jeanine reveals that she'd hoped her last batch of serum would be equally effective on Divergent personalities, but she now has a "new batch" ready to test on Beatrice and Four. Jeanine explains more about her plans, saying she will soon be "responsible" for maintaining order with the members of Abnegation who will come under her control. She decides that Four will be administered the new serum she has ready for testing but Beatrice, who has been wounded, is to be executed immediately. When Four has been given the drug, he seems alert but doesn't recognize Beatrice and mindlessly acts on the commands being given him by the Erudites.

In chapter thirty-five, Beatrice is put in a tank that begins to fill with water, very similar to one of her fear simulations. She knows Jeanine is watching to see if she reacts as she did in the simulations and she becomes determined not to struggle. She imagines she sees her mother's face, then there's the sound of a gunshot and the water rushes from the tank. In fact, it is Natalie and she has broken the glass. She tells Beatrice they now have to run for their lives. As they escape, Beatrice asks questions. Natalie confirms she was born into the Dauntless faction. She also reveals that she is also Divergent. Natalie says her own mother, recognizing that Natalie was Divergent, urged her to leave Dauntless for a safer faction. Natalie, however, wanted Beatrice to make her own



decision. When they become cornered, Natalie says she loves Beatrice and breaks from cover, leading their pursuers away and leaving Beatrice free to make her way to a basement where Natalie said Abnegation families are hiding.

In chapter thirty-six, three of the Dauntless chase Beatrice. One of them is Will and when he chambers a bullet, Beatrice kills him and is horrified at what she had to do. She finds her father and Caleb is already there. Beatrice says that after turning against the Erudite, she's certainly factionless but her father says she's "with us." Beatrice still has a bullet in her shoulder and her father removes it, surprising Beatrice with both his skill and his willingness. Beatrice explains to those gathered why the Dauntless are attacking. Beatrice believes the only way to bring an end to the slaughter is to destroy the Erudite computers issuing the commands. She believes those are located at Dauntless headquarters.

Chapters 32 through 36 Analysis

Jeanine says most of the Divergent personalities come from Abnegation and she doesn't understand that because she believes the Abnegations are weak-willed. It is never explained but it seems possible that it's because the children of Abnegation are taught to be selfless.

When Natalie breaks in to save Beatrice, her actions go against many of the teachings of the Abnegation. When Beatrice questions her mother, Natalie says she is, first and foremost, Beatrice's mother. She says she doesn't care about the faction when her daughter's life is at stake. This is a radical statement considering every faction teaches that loyalty to the faction is more important than any level of loyalty to biological families. However, Natalie's reaction seems ultimately human and is probably more believable to most readers than if she had simply allowed Beatrice to die.

Natalie addresses the question of why Divergent is something faction leaders fear and notes that the leaders of all factions hate the Divergent. She says a typical faction member will accept the training of the faction and will become predictable in their willingness to act as the faction requires. Those with Divergent personalities think along different lines. Natalie says Divergents "can't be confined to one way of thinking, and that terrifies our leaders" because it means they are never fully under the control of the faction.



Chapters 37 through 39

Chapters 37 through 39 Summary

In chapter thirty-seven, Beatrice, Caleb, their father (Andrew), and Marcus head for Dauntless compound. Once inside, Beatrice encounters Peter and realizes he isn't being controlled by the computer. He says the Dauntless leaders decided to remove him from the simulation and Beatrice realizes it's because Peter is so cruel he doesn't need the simulation to make him kill. Beatrice gets the jump on him and holds him at gunpoint, forcing him to tell her where the computers are located. He refuses and she shoots him in the arm. Peter says the leaders are listening and that if he tells her, they'll kill him. He says he'll give Beatrice the information but only if she takes him with her when she leaves the compound. She reluctantly agrees. Peter directs them to the correct building.

Once inside, Beatrice encounters some guards. One is obviously awake and gives Beatrice the signal to continue without confrontation. Beatrice realizes he must be Divergent. Andrew is involved in a gun battle and is fatally wounded. Beatrice wants to quit but forces herself to remember members of Abnegation are dying by the moment. She goes into the control room and finds Four at the panel.

In chapter thirty-eight, Four tells Beatrice to drop her weapon and obviously is under the Erudite control. Beatrice tries to reach him but is unable to. She knows she can't bring herself to kill him and she also can't beat him in a fight. She stops struggling and gives herself to the moment. She hears the shell click into the chamber as the chapter ends.

In chapter thirty-nine, Four is awake. He says Beatrice's voice pulled him from his unconscious state. He rushes to the control panel and stops the program. They watch monitors and see Dauntless drop their hands and their weapons, then look around, confused. Outside, Four and Marcus meet. When Marcus tries to talk to Four, Beatrice intervenes. The group, including Caleb and Peter, catch a train headed out of the city. Beatrice says they plan to seek sanctuary with Amity for the moment though she doesn't believe they'll be safe there for long. She and Four wonder what the Candor faction will do when the situation comes to light. She also wonders what will happen to their world.

Chapters 37 through 39 Analysis

Beatrice thinks about how her world has changed with these new developments. She knows that she will never be willing to return to Abnegation but she also knows she won't be able to return to Dauntless. Aside from the fact that she wouldn't be safe from the leaders, she knows she could never face Christina. As a former member of Candor, Christina has laughingly pointed out each time Beatrice betrayed herself as being untruthful. Christina knows how to read truth in another person. Beatrice says if she

were to see Christina again, she would not be able to face the fact that she'd killed Will and that she would never be able to hide it from Christina.



Characters

Beatrice Prior

Beatrice is sixteen as the story opens and is faced with deciding which faction she will join for the rest of her life. She has an older brother and believes Caleb will choose to remain with their family, leaving her to choose another faction. When Caleb chooses to leave their faction, Beatrice immediately believes she has to remain. However, when the moment of decision comes, she chooses Dauntless. Beatrice is told by a Dauntless that she is Divergent, but she is warned that it's dangerous and that she must not tell anyone. Beatrice struggles with this because she doesn't understand what Divergent means or why it's dangerous for others to know. She eventually comes to realize that things aren't as clear-cut as she wishes they were and that she really might be in danger. When it comes to the Dauntless training, Beatrice is elated at the freedom granted by the lifestyle though the activities are physically and emotionally exhausting. She is ranked about midway among the initiates early in the training but when it comes time to the mental simulations meant to help initiates learn to face their fears, she rises quickly to the top because her Divergent personality allows her to realize she's in a simulation. Beatrice comes to realize she needs to keep that part of her personality hidden but is ultimately unable to do so. Beatrice struggles with the idea of faction over family and clings to her love for her parents and brother though it isn't acceptable.

When Beatrice jumps from the rooftop into the Dauntless compound for the first time, she's asked her name. She hesitates and is told that it's a good thing to consider renaming herself as one aspect of starting her new life. She decides on "Tris." For the sake of clarity, she is referred to as Beatrice in this guide except in direct quotes.

Four

A member of Dauntless, he was formerly a member of Abnegation though Beatrice doesn't realize for a long time that he is actually Tobias, the son of an important Abnegation leader. His Dauntless name is Four because he has only four fears to face - a ridiculously low number compared to the typical number. Four's decision to leave the Abnegation faction prompts questions about his home life and the fact that his father was abusive comes to light. Tobias is the more reasonable of the two initiate trainers. Eric is overbearing and something of a sociopath, uncaring when someone is hurt. By contrast, Four is tough and brave but sees a difference between bravery and cruelty. Four sees many things about the Dauntless faction that is not in keeping with their original goals and the manifesto that is supposed to rule the faction. He says they were once a noble faction with an important calling. Four realizes that somewhere along the way, the faction forgot that calling and became a group of rowdy people who enjoy danger for the sake of danger. Four is attracted to Beatrice but realizes a relationship between them would make it appear Beatrice was receiving special treatment, so insists they remain secret until initiation is complete. Four is a Divergent as well though he is



more susceptible to the simulation than Beatrice when the Erudites attempt to kill all the Abnegation. For the sake of clarity in this guide, this character is referred to as Four rather than Tobias, except in direct quotes.

Caleb Prior

Beatrice's brother, he chooses his new role at the same time as Beatrice. Beatrice is greatly surprised when Caleb decides he will leave their parents and the Abnegation faction for the Erudites but later realizes she should have expected it based on the amount of time Caleb spends in the pursuit of knowledge.

Andrew Prior

Beatrice's father, he is an important leader in the Abnegation faction but is ridiculed because both his children choose to join other factions when they are of an age to choose. On visiting day, Beatrice's mother arrives to visit her but Andrew doesn't come and Beatrice's mother says Andrew has become selfish. It seems likely he has merely expressed the hurt he feels because his children chose a different life.

Natalie Prior

Beatrice's mother, she seems to be the typical Abnegation woman, but Beatrice learns her mother was born into the Dauntless faction. Natalie is concerned about Beatrice but loves her and is willing to allow both her children to make their own way in the world. She is strong and when it comes time for her to protect her children, she does so.

Tori

A tattoo artist for Dauntless who administers the aptitude test to Beatrice. Tori discovers that Beatrice is Divergent, and warns Beatrice that allowing others to know about the Divergence is dangerous. Tori wants to help Beatrice but it's obvious that she's concerned for her own safety. She eventually tells Beatrice that her brother had been Divergent and he'd disappeared, apparently murdered by the Dauntless leaders.

Al

One of the initiates who begins the training with Beatrice's group, he is a large boy who doesn't see the point of being cruel to others. When Al is called on to fight, he does so but reluctantly. Al is about to be cut from the program when he joins two other boys and beats Beatrice. They seem on the verge of throwing her into the chasm when they are interrupted. Al asks Beatrice for forgiveness but she refuses and he commits suicide. After his death, he is hailed by the Dauntless as "courageous."



Christina

One of the initiates who begins Dauntless training with Beatrice, she came from the Candor faction. Christina is outgoing and is capable of standing up for herself against the brutality of others. Early in the story, Eric insists she hang from a rail above the chasm and she does so for five full minutes though Beatrice isn't sure she's going to be able to complete the task.

Eric

One of the two responsible for the majority of the initiates' training, Eric is something of a sociopath who enjoys inflicting pain and seeing others hurt. Eric is actually a plant from the Erudites who is charged with finding the Divergents among the Dauntless because the Erudites are planning a coup against the Abnegation.

Peter

Another of the Dauntless initiates, Peter exhibits the same cruel streak seen in Eric. When it becomes evident that Beatrice is holding her own against the competition, Peter and his close friends try to kill her though they say they were only trying to scare her. When a boy named Edward is at the top of the rankings, someone stabs him in the eye with a knife. Beatrice believes it's Peter though she has no real proof.



Objects/Places

Abnegation

One of the five factions, Beatrice and her family are members of this group as the story opens - though Beatrice and her brother Caleb leave it when they are of an age to choose.

Dauntless

One of the five factions, this group consists of those who are fearless. They guard the border, though what they are protecting their city from is never revealed.

Erudites

One of the five factions, this group consists of those who spend their time in the pursuit of knowledge. It's the Erudites who are behind the uprising that results in many lives lost and the collapse of civilization.

Candor

One of the five factions, this group consists of those who believe being honest is the most important trait of all. They claim never to lie even when the truth is hurtful to another.

Amity

One of the five factions, this group consists of those who try to maintain peace and harmony everywhere they go.

Divergent

The term used to describe someone who exhibits equal aptitude for multiple factions, and is therefore less easily predicted and control. A sign of Divergence is the ability to manipulate simulations.

The Sears Tower

Also known as the Hub, it's the building that houses the school.



Choosing Day

A formal event in which each child around sixteen years old is given the opportunity to choose which faction he or she will formally join. The ceremony calls for the child to cut his palm, then drip blood into the substance representing the faction of their choice.

The Pit

A large underground cavern with a river running through it.

Hot Coals

The item that defines Dauntless. Beatrice and the other initiates cut themselves and drip blood onto the hot coals to indicate their intention of joining that faction.

The Factionless

The group of people who don't belong to a faction, usually because they failed the initiation process.



Themes

Corruption among the factions

The idea of the faction is that one group of people would focus on traits to serve a purpose in the daily lives of a civilization. In Beatrice's world, there are five factions with responsibilities that include protection, law, government, care-giving, and education. Civilization prior to the establishment of the factions was in trouble and the factions were formed to address what people saw as fundamental flaws in their city. The problem is that some of the factions eventually lost sight of their true missions, becoming corrupt and jealous. For example, the Dauntless manifesto mentions taking care of the weak and protecting the city from outside threats. They were originally dedicated to the service of their fellow man but became cruel in their pursuit of strength. As they lost sight of their mission in their training, they lost sight of their true role in the community. The Erudites have spent their time in study and the pursuit of knowledge. Those who are very smart have also become jealous of the other factions and want more power for themselves. This desire for control leads them to the abuse of the simulation serum. While the Abnegation members are selfless, they have probably taken this to an extreme. They are accused of withholding goods and services that would make life more comfortable for others because the Abnegation don't believe in doing something just because it would make their lives more comfortable. The Candor members are another example. Though they are supposed to focus on truth and honesty, they have become rude, saying whatever they think and feel regardless of the fact that it will hurt someone else. This theme is a major driving force behind the story and ends with murder and destruction.

Coming of age

Overcoming one's fears and self-awareness are interwoven themes in this book that come to light as Beatrice's coming of age. The Dauntless undergo simulations to address their various fears. These take a toll on the initiates and some members of the Dauntless face dozens of fears each time they enter the simulation. This is the reason Tobias is nicknamed Four - because four fears is an incredibly low number compared to the typical fears. As Beatrice faces her fears for the first time, she discovers there are only seven. One of those is intimacy and she's forced to face the fear she has of having someone touch her. While she's in the simulation, Beatrice remains aware that the situation is not real but she still struggles occasionally to figure out how to deal with the simulation in order to pass that stage. In her case, she knows the Four she faces isn't real but she also knows she has to overcome her fear of intimacy before she can move past this stage. She returns his kiss as a means of facing this fear but she is also very aware that being raised to believe public displays of affection are self-serving has prompted this fear. Another aspect of this theme is seen as Beatrice stops focusing on what she's denied in order to recognize her parents as individual people with personalities of their own.



Family connections

The book begins with a dedication of the author to her mother, "Who gave me the moment when Beatrice realizes how strong her mother is and wonders how she missed it for so long." This is a tease to the events of the book and Beatrice's relationship with her family, especially her mother, is an important theme in the story. In Beatrice's world, the people are forced to swear allegiance to faction, putting their faction above everything else, including family. In the case of Beatrice and her family, this isn't easy to do. When visiting day at the Dauntless compound arrives, Beatrice's mother, Natalie, arrives to check on Beatrice's progress. Many families don't show up for visiting day because they are hurt that their child could choose another faction over their own. Natalie offers Beatrice advice, which obviously means Natalie loves Beatrice too much not to help. As the story is coming to culmination, Beatrice learns that Natalie's mother had urged Natalie to choose a different faction, hoping Natalie would be safer there. When Beatrice realizes the people of Abnegation are in mortal danger, she considers running for safety with Four, but she can't bring herself to leave her family behind without trying to save them. Beatrice's connection to her mother is probably stronger than it might otherwise have been because they are both Divergent. When Beatrice is in the basement with her father, Marcus, and Caleb, she says she will no longer be welcome as a Dauntless and that she'll certainly be factionless at that point. Her father says she'll return to his house, though he doesn't yet realize that won't be possible either. The fact that he is willing to go against the "faction before family" rule indicates his love for his children. Beatrice's parents both die trying to keep their children safe, another sign of that bond. Another example of this theme is seen when Beatrice learns that the Erudites are circulating flyers with negative comments about the Abnegations, especially against Beatrice's father. Beatrice is furious because the Erudites are lying about her father.



Style

Point of View

"Divergent" is written in first person from a very limited perspective. This limited point of view is vital in order to keep the reader in suspense. For example, Beatrice's mother seems the epitome of the Abnegation faction, selfless and giving. It's only when her mother goes to visit Beatrice at the Dauntless headquarters that Beatrice realizes her mother was from the Dauntless faction herself. Another important twist is that members of the Erudite are planning a coup against the Abnegation, and Will has been planted in the Abnegation to find the Divergent. Beatrice doesn't know these details until late in the story. The fact that the reader only learns about them as Beatrice comes to the understanding is the means by which the author creates a climactic twist to the story. There are other instances in which the limited perspective keeps the reader in suspense. Beatrice and Tobias connect romantically well before Beatrice completes her training. However, the next time they meet at mealtime, Tobias acts as if he doesn't know Beatrice. This hurts her but he later explains the reason for his action. The reader should remember that the limited perspective means the reader doesn't always know the truth about what's going on but sees only Beatrice's thoughts and ideas. For example, Beatrice is enthralled with the Dauntless before she joins their faction. She considers them fearless and brave. However, once she's in the faction, she realizes some of them have lost sight of the difference between bravery and cruelty. The limited perspective is realistic and appropriate to the story.

Setting

The story is set in Chicago in some unnamed future. The physical setting is identified by the fact that Beatrice and the other youngsters go to school in the Sears Tower, which is called "the Hub" in their time. That building is a famous structure in Chicago and is often touted for its height. In Beatrice's world, members of the Dauntless faction often climb on a large metal structure at the front of the tower. The Hub is only a minor part of the overall setting but serves as a means of identifying the city. Another specific setting in the story is the Dauntless headquarters. The majority of this is underground and there is a river passing through it. The descriptions are thorough and the author is obviously providing the reader with enough information to create a mental picture of the various settings. Other specific settings include the Erudite campus which resembles a university campus, and Beatrice's home. The house seems to be typical of a suburban neighborhood. Though the details of what happened to modern civilization are never revealed, there seems to have been some catastrophic event. Beatrice says a group of volunteers worked several years before the opening of the story to rebuild roads though not all the streets have been renovated. The time setting is obscure and it can only be assumed this is some distance in the future though there is very little technology in use.



Language and Meaning

"Divergent" is written in a reasonably straight-forward manner, but the setting and ideas presented are so foreign to the average reader that some readers may have difficulty understanding some sections of the story. The overall tone of the story is one of hope though there are moments of tension and fear. An important aspect of the story is the plot by the Erudites to use the Dauntless to overthrow the Abnegation. There are clues to that conclusion throughout the book. In some ways, the book is very predictable with Beatrice's Divergent personality saving the day and Beatrice connecting romantically with Four. The story is set in some futuristic time and there are indications that the time is not too far in the future. One day Christina indicates she has something important to tell Beatrice. She asks if Beatrice can be a girl for a moment. When Beatrice doesn't understand, Christina says she wants Beatrice to be a "silly annoying girl." Beatrice answers by twirling a strand of hair around her finger and saying, "Kay." The reference seems to be to the typical air-headed blond of modern day literature. None of the factions seem to promote this kind of behavior as typical so it's left to the reader to determine the importance. The story is divided between dialogue and narrative. Both are reasonable and acceptable to the story, the characters, and the setting.

Structure

The story is divided into thirty-nine paragraphs of widely varying lengths. The chapters are identified by number only. There are no titles to give the reader a clue about the upcoming events. The story flows roughly in chronological order. Some chapters actually begin with a reference to time. For example, chapter ten begins with the words "That night" and chapter eleven begins with "The next morning." There is a great deal of history offered up as explanation throughout the story. In most cases, these are given through narrative as a normal part of the story. For example, Beatrice is at school and the author presents explanations of how the school operates, where it is located, and other key details. There is no effort to disguise the historical background in dialogue or through flashbacks. The method is effective for the story because there are so many details that will seem strange to the average reader. There are several instances of foreshadowing. In chapter thirty, Beatrice comes to realize how the Erudites will force the Dauntless to fight against Abnegation. The chapter ends with that statement. Chapter thirty-eight ends with Beatrice accepting that Four is probably going to kill her and she hears the sound of a bullet sliding into its spot in the chamber of the gun he's holding. These are obvious efforts to build tension and keep the reader moving to the next chapter, and it's effective.



Quotes

"On these mornings when my brother makes breakfast, and my father's hand skims my hair as he reads the newspaper, and my mother hums as she clears the table - it is on these mornings that I feel guiltiest for wanting to leave them." Chapter 1

"Are there any old Dauntless? Do they not last that long, or are they just sent away when they can't jump off moving trains anymore?" Chapter 7

"Leaving us with Eric is like hiring a babysitter who spends his time sharpening knives." Chapter 9

"In less than a week, the Dauntless-born initiates will find their families on the Pit floor, or in the glass building above the compound, and do whatever it is the Dauntless do when they reunited. Maybe they take turns throwing knives at each other's heads - it wouldn't surprise me." Chapter 10

"Divergent is a dangerous thing to be. I just don't know why, or even what it really means, still." Chapter 15

"Maybe Dauntless was formed with good intentions, with the right ideals and the right goals. But it has strayed far from them." Chapter 16

"I jumped because I already was like them, and I wanted to show myself to them. I wanted to acknowledge a part of myself that Abnegation demanded that I hide." Chapter 21

"Peter, Drew, and Al were ready to throw me into the chasm out of jealousy - what is so unbelievable about the Dauntless leaders committing murder?" Chapter 23

"For the first time, I recognize Eric for what he is: an Erudite disguised as a Dauntless, a genius as well as a sadist, a hunter of the Divergent. I want to run." Chapter 28

"My worst fear: that my family will die and that I will be responsible." Chapter 30

"She is dressed like my mother and she looks like my mothers, but she is holding a gun, and the determined look in her eyes is unfamiliar to me." Chapter 35

"The bullet hit him in the head. I know because that's where I aimed it." Chapter 36

"Maybe it will be as easy to let him shoot me as it was in the fear landscape, as it is in my dreams. Maybe it will just be a band, and the lights will lift, and I will find myself in another world." Chapter 38

Topics for Discussion

Describe Beatrice. How does her character change over the course of the story? Why does she change? What is her attitude about Dauntless and Abnegation early on, and how does it alter as the story progresses?

Who is Four? Why is he called Four? What is his real name? What was his birth faction? What kind of character is he? What are the things that motivate him?

Who is Al? Who is Peter? Compare the two characters. How are they similar? How are they different? They perform one act together. What is that, and what brings them together? What are their fates?

Describe the five factions. What is the role of each in Beatrice's society? What are some of the problems faced by the various factions? Why do these exist?

Who is Caleb, and what faction does he join? Why do you believe he joins that faction? What kind of job would you expect Caleb to have as a member of this faction? Do you believe Caleb belongs in this faction? Why or why not?

Who is Christina? Uriah? Eric? Tori? Edward? What are the roles of each in the story? Are they likeable characters? Believable?

What faction would you belong to if you lived in this community? Why would you choose that faction? What might your job be in that faction?

Describe the plan the Erudites have to take over control of the government and the city as a whole. How is the plan executed? What happens to bring the plan to a halt?