

INSURGENT

DISCUSSION GUIDE

ONE CHOICE CAN DESTROY YOU



INSURGENT

#1 *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *DIVERGENT*

VERONICA ROTH



ABOUT THE BOOK

Tris's initiation day should have been marked by celebration and victory with her chosen faction; instead, the day ended with unspeakable horrors. War now looms as conflict between the factions and their ideologies grows. And in times of war, sides must be chosen, secrets will emerge, and choices will become even more irrevocable—and even more powerful. Transformed by her own decisions but also by haunting grief and guilt, radical new discoveries, and shifting relationships, Tris must fully embrace her Divergence, even if she does not know what she may lose by doing so.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tris often relies heavily on her instincts to guide her. Find at least two examples of this in *Insurgent*. What do you think are the benefits and drawbacks of following one's instincts? Do you follow your own instincts to make decisions in your life?
2. In deciding between gathering information and taking action, Tris says, "I don't believe it's more important to move forward than to find out the truth. . . . The truth has a way of changing a person's plans" (pp. 31–32). What do you think she means by this? Do you agree with her?
3. Caleb tells Tris that, according to the Faction History book, Erudite and Amity are the "essential factions" (p. 34). Do you agree? What factions do you think are necessary for people's survival? Why?
4. Tobias says, "Sometimes people just want to be happy, even if it's not real" (p. 68). Relate this statement to the expression "ignorance is bliss." Do you think bliss is possible in Tris's world, or in the real world? What do you think of "ignorance is bliss" as a way of life?



5. Consider Tobias's statement from page 104: "Once the Dauntless reach a certain level of physical deterioration, they are asked to leave. In one way or another." What are the implications of this?
6. Tris prefers to fall asleep surrounded by sounds, saying that "noise and activity are the refuges of the bereaved and the guilty" (p. 106). What other ways does she find to cope with her guilt? Do you have similar or different ways of coping with guilt and other strong emotions?
7. The people of Candor are "merciless, but honest" (p. 119). Do you think the truth is always merciless? Does it have to be?
8. Members of Candor also see charm as deceptive. Do you agree? Is it possible for a person to be charming and candid at the same time?
9. Would the factionless have a symbol? If you think they would, what would it look like? What about for the Divergent?
10. Tris mentions reading about how crying defies scientific explanation, and she theorizes, "I think we cry to release the animal parts of us without losing our humanity" (p. 341). Do you agree? What other human habits and responses can be seen as defying explanation?
11. What do you think happens after the last page of *Insurgent*? From the point of view of any character in the story, write a bonus chapter that describes what you think might happen next.
12. Are you in favor of the idea that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one? Why or why not?
13. Put yourself in Tris's shoes, having the opportunity to interact with all of the factions and collect life lessons from each of them. What are the main lessons you'd take away?

ONE CHOICE

A choice becomes a sacrifice

A sacrifice becomes a loss

A loss becomes a burden

A burden becomes a battle

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Veronica Roth is the author of *Divergent* and *Insurgent*, both #1 *New York Times* bestsellers and the first two books in a trilogy that she began writing while still a college student. Now a full-time writer, Ms. Roth and her husband call the Chicago area home. You can visit her online at www.veronicarothbooks.com, on Twitter @VeronicaRoth, and on Tumblr at www.theartofnotwriting.tumblr.com.



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