

Chapter 12: Trigger

Nick

I've never held a rifle before. The metal feels scalding hot and dangerous, even when it isn't loaded. I feel like it might burn my hands if I hold it too long.

But what else can I do with it? I am already here, on this rooftop... In just a few minutes, Accada will be right there, on that boulevard with those trees.

He will come out of that glass door over there and I will shoot him. I will aim and wait for the scope to turn green, then I'll pull the trigger.

I'll pull the trigger and stop him. I'll pull the trigger and he won't hurt anyone ever again.

I can feel my hands getting sticky, this waiting is killing me.

Fuck, Alex, if you could see me now... Would you strangle me or throw me off this building?

I think I'd do both.

Maybe I will.

What am I doing here? Is this what I want?

I want this, I think, but I don't think I want to *do* this. Raven would do it if they could.

I can be like them. I can be Collective.

Viper

I can't be like them. I can't be the Eye.

I don't want this. I don't want to do this. Seer would do it if he could.

What is this? What have I become?

Maybe this is me.

I think it could.

Damn it, Alex, if you could see me now... Would you kiss me like you used to or would you leave me here, behind?

It is so cold, this place is killing me.

I'll do this and I'll stop them. I'll do this just once and I'll free them.

They will writhe against change and I will hold them. They will writhe against the deep and I'll keep them still.

But what else can I do? I am already right here, in the dark... In just a few moments, the Eye will open and I will remember no more.

I've never seen eternity before. The pit seems freezing cold but peaceful, even when it's dark. I feel like it might swallow me whole if I linger too long.