

The Book of Bowie 5

In a stolen nest high in a fir tree, Bowie delves into the fragmented memories of Avelot, encountering vivid yet puzzling images—a jet bead, a dry fountain, and a girl haunted by moths in a white dress. These snapshots evoke a sense of loss and fear, reflecting Avelot's troubled past and her complex relationships. Bowie contemplates the nature of love and kindness through the memories of Kristofer and Thomas, two men who influenced Avelot's life in markedly different ways. Kristofer's passionate yet volatile love contrasts with Thomas's gentle kindness, highlighting Avelot's struggle to understand and accept love.

Bowie reflects on the transformation of Thomas, whose kindness has been stripped away in his service to Malo Mogge, symbolizing the corrupting influence of power and allegiance. The dynamics between Bogomil, Anabin, Thomas, and Kristofer suggest a looming conflict and the potential loss of humanity as the brothers might become servants to dark forces. Despite this, Bowie finds delight in change and transformation, embracing freedom and the ability to shift forms and identities, unlike Avelot, who remained trapped and fixed in her fate.

The narrative explores the tension between freedom and responsibility as Bowie considers the possibility of becoming a guardian of the door that separates realms. While this role offers protection from Thomas's deadly pursuit, it also entails the sacrifice of personal freedom and the chance for change. Bowie yearns to learn kindness and to live freely, resisting the roles imposed by others. The image of the moths escaping from the wardrobe symbolizes transformation and liberation, encouraging a perspective of hope and renewal even in darkness.

The chapter culminates with a sudden attack, as Thomas discovers Bowie's hiding place and wounds him. Bowie's swift escape, shifting into a fox, underscores his resilience and determination to evade capture. The pursuit by Malo Mogge's forces

intensifies the stakes, emphasizing the perilous nature of Bowie's journey. This closing scene reinforces themes of survival, identity, and the ongoing battle between oppressive forces and the desire for freedom and kindness.

