

Chapter 65

Chapter 65 of *If These Wings Could Fly* introduces the preparations for a special New Year's Eve evening at Leighton's house. The atmosphere is filled with excitement as she and her friend Sofia get ready, dressed in striking outfits for the occasion. Leighton dons a black satin dress that perfectly complements her reddish hair, adding a touch of elegance to the moment. The light-hearted banter between the two friends highlights their close relationship, with Sofia humorously likening Leighton to a blend of Audrey Hepburn and Strawberry Shortcake, a playful remark that adds warmth and charm to their interaction. This exchange underscores the easygoing and supportive nature of their friendship, with each complimented by the other's playful teasing, a reflection of their deep bond and shared sense of humor.

As the girls are about to leave, they are greeted by a knock at the door, and Campbell enters, adding his own compliments to Leighton's look. His admiration adds another layer of affection to the moment, reinforcing the sense of love and camaraderie surrounding Leighton. Their preparations are met with the supportive presence of Leighton's mother, who watches them with a mixture of nostalgia and pride. She reflects on her own past as she observes her daughter and Sofia, seeing them prepare for their night out. Outside, the cold air serves as a stark reminder of the bleakness of their environment, where the town has been overtaken by crows. The crows' presence marks a foreboding end to the year, symbolizing deeper issues within their community. This eerie atmosphere contrasts with the warmth inside, where Sofia's car provides a brief sanctuary from the frigid weather, but the ominous presence of the crows remains a constant reminder of the larger troubles looming over their world.

When they arrive at the school, the mood shifts to one of excitement as Liam greets Leighton with enthusiasm, admiring her unexpected glamour. His quirky decision to wear a Superman t-shirt underneath his tuxedo showcases his fun-loving personality,

adding a lighthearted and unique touch to the evening. Their playful interaction, filled with teasing and laughter, reflects the easy chemistry between them. During their conversation, Liam shares the news of his acceptance into an art program, a piece of good news that boosts both his future prospects and his spirits. This moment of success brings a sense of hope and positivity, underscoring the potential for new beginnings in their lives. As the night unfolds, Leighton feels pride in her own writing as Liam quotes her work from a local newspaper article addressing the town's problems. The crows' overwhelming presence in the town becomes a symbol for deeper, unresolved issues, suggesting that the situation is more complex than it first appears. This thought-provoking exchange between the two provides a sense of clarity and reflection, urging Leighton to consider how her words can make an impact.

The chapter beautifully captures moments of friendship, love, and personal growth amidst a backdrop of uncertainty. As Leighton and Liam share a dance in the gym, lost in each other, the noise of the outside world seems to fade away. This moment becomes one of solace and joy, where they are able to find comfort in each other, despite the chaos surrounding them. Leighton's reflection on a past rainstorm offers a metaphor for the present moment, suggesting that even amidst life's unpredictable nature, there are moments of bliss and clarity. This perfect moment with Liam serves as a reminder of the beauty and simplicity that can be found even in the most uncertain of times. The chapter blends emotional depth with a sense of hope, illustrating how meaningful connections can offer a sense of peace and renewal amidst the challenges that life presents.