

# Chapter Eleven

In Chapter Eleven of "If These Wings Could Fly," the protagonist reflects on the allure of brand-new notebooks, equating their unmarked pages to perfect potential, much like babies. However, she acknowledges that as life unfolds, these notebooks become filled with imperfections, much like our own lives. She expresses excitement about having her own column in the school's newspaper, though she struggles to determine a theme while others, like her friend Sofia, are actively engaged in sports coverage.

Sofia's inquiries into the protagonist's interactions with Liam, a boy she has been connecting with, bring a mixture of embarrassment and intrigue. Despite protesting that they are "not a thing," Sofia insists that recent exchanges indicate otherwise. This marks a pivotal shift as the protagonist's casual conversations with Liam evolve into something more meaningful. Sofia teases her about having a crush, while the protagonist is both flattered and hesitant to label her feelings. The narrative dives into her thoughts about the status of her relationship with Liam and her ambitions, revealing a more vulnerable side of her character.

Amidst this personal exploration, an idea for her column emerges, inspired by the crows that frequently inhabit the baseball fields outside her classroom. She resolves to investigate their presence, recalling how their numbers have even garnered attention from local news. The chapter further unfolds to showcase her ambitions beyond high school and her desire to escape the confines of rural Pennsylvania, aiming for a future at New York University. However, she grapples with financial limitations and the expectations her family has concerning her education. Discovering a flyer for a scholarship essay contest, she sees a potential path to fund her dreams, prompting her to consider the significance of being "Auburn born, Auburn proud."

This chapter intricately weaves themes of youthful love, ambition, and the journey toward self-discovery, establishing a relatable and poignant narrative as the protagonist navigates her aspirations and relationships amidst a backdrop of personal and external challenges.