

# Chapter Fifteen

In Chapter Fifteen of "If These Wings Could Fly," Juniper and the narrator enjoy a quiet morning in their backyard while the chill of early autumn hangs in the air. As the weather remains unseasonably warm, Campbell is out riding her bike, despite a recent mishap involving a rosebush that almost ended her biking season early. The narrator juggles calculus homework, newspaper research, and frustration over an art elective that hasn't gone well, while Juniper reads a book of fairy tales.

Amidst their work, the annoying cawing of crows surrounding them becomes a recurring distraction. The narrator has been researching the influx of crows in towns across America and shares that a nearby town has seen around fifty thousand crows as they migrate from Canada. This astonishing figure surprises Juniper, sparking a discussion about the local crows' numbers and the ongoing football success of Auburn's team, which the narrator finds peculiar.

As crows land near them, the narrator impulsively throws raisins, disregarding a local ordinance Juniper had mentioned in a recent paper. This rebellious act brings joy to both, and they laugh over Juniper's lost leather cuff bracelet, which she feels guilty about misplacing. They discuss methods other towns have employed to scare away crows, revealing the darker side of hunting practices in their area, which gives Juniper an uncomfortable thought about the safety of the local crows.

The lighthearted mood shifts as Juniper reveals that she has been writing letters to Joe, a crow she admires, leaving treats for him in hopes of receiving gifts. The narrator is skeptical but considers the possibility after Juniper presents a shiny marble she claims is a gift from Joe. Campbell, their sister, disrupts their fun by mocking the idea, but Juniper's earnestness remains intact as she confidently shares her letter to Joe.

The chapter takes a darker turn when Campbell's bike is run over by a returning truck. The narrator witnesses Campbell's heartbreak and frustration as she stands helplessly in the yard, grappling with the loss of her bike and an uncertain future for her biking adventures. The emotional weight of her situation paints a somber conclusion to an otherwise playful and nostalgic scene.