

Chapter Fifty-Eight

In "Chapter Fifty-Eight" of *If These Wings Could Fly*, the narrative opens with a sense of quietness and reflection after a tumultuous night. The protagonist's mother, despite the restoration of their home, is acutely aware of the emotional and physical scars left behind. The atmosphere is palpable, characterized by a long, silent weekend filled with an oppressive feeling as the father maintains a firm grip on the household. He keeps the phone and the keys, restricting their freedom, leaving the protagonist feeling powerless and hesitant to resist.

As the protagonist engages in writing a crow-themed column, they delve into Celtic mythology, particularly the Morrigan, a goddess associated with fate and death, often depicted as a crow. This mythological reference serves as a poignant backdrop, paralleling the protagonist's own feelings of foreboding as they witness a swarm of crows blocking out the sun outside their window. The local government's decision to address the crow situation adds further tension, signaling imminent change as the crows' days in Auburn Township grow numbered.

A moment of distraction occurs when a wind scatters papers across the desk, leading to the discovery of a pink flyer about a scholarship contest with a looming deadline. This contest symbolizes the duality of pride—the pride that conceals harsh truths and encourages silence about injustices. The protagonist reflects critically on their community, noting how pride fosters an environment where horror is overlooked and cries for help go unanswered. They recognize the tendency of Auburn's residents to avoid uncomfortable truths, as they dismissively adhere to the notion that issues are "none of our business."

As the chapter concludes, the protagonist prepares to form a powerful thesis: "It is not the crows that make Auburn ugly." This statement underscores the primary theme of the chapter, hinting at a deeper exploration of underlying social issues within the town, illustrating how perception shapes reality and the ugly truths that persist beneath the surface.