

Chapter Seventy-Five

In Chapter Seventy-Five of "If These Wings Could Fly," the scene unfolds dramatically as the characters confront a life-threatening situation inside a burning house. Campbell, in a panicked state, races into the inferno, prompting a desperate reaction from Mom, who tries to intercept him but fails. Her attempt to save him from the fire, which she inadvertently caused, fills the protagonist with a crushing guilt. The protagonist wrestles with their emotions, wishing they were the one responsible for the fire so that the burden of guilt might feel more bearable, acknowledging that they would have allowed Campbell to burn if it meant avoiding the turmoil of the present.

As the smoke and flame engulf the space, the protagonist dashes into the house, undeterred by the crows that previously guarded the entrance. Inside, the scene is harrowing as Campbell lies unconscious, weighted down, and it becomes evident the protagonist must assist in his rescue. The air is thick with smoke, and breathing becomes increasingly difficult. Despite the danger, the protagonist urges Campbell to leave, but Mom's insistence on saving her son complicates their escape. Understanding the urgency, the protagonist joins forces with Mom, dragging Campbell towards safety, overcoming the flames that threaten to engulf them.

Simultaneously, the ambient tension escalates as the house begins to collapse around them. Moments of hesitation stretch into a painful eternity as they struggle to pull Campbell out. Finally, they manage to roll him out into the yard just as the structure of the house shudders, revealing its fragility under the heat. A horrifying moment ensues as the whole building eventually folds in on itself, marking the culmination of their frantic efforts. The chapter captures the urgency of the situation, the emotional depth of familial connections, and the instinctive drive to save loved ones against overwhelming odds.