

Chapter Seventy-Seven

In Chapter Seventy-Seven of "If These Wings Could Fly," the early morning scene unfolds with the awakening of crows in the yard. As the sun begins to rise, these crows gather, creating a spectacle of movement in the sky. Among the crows, a flash of gray is noticeable, prompting Juniper to quietly say goodbye to Joe, indicating a deeper connection and sentiment toward someone absent.

The crows gather momentum, resembling a reverse domino effect as each bird follows the one before it into the darkening sky. What starts as a handful transforms into a vast assembly with thousands, then tens of thousands, turning the dawn crimson. The sunlight reflects off their black feathers, giving the illusion that they are on fire or rebirth, similar to phoenixes rising above Auburn. This image evokes a sense of new beginnings, symbolizing the end of a nightmare and the dawn of a new world.

As the vibrant spectacle unfolds, Campbell and Juniper move closer to the narrator, each taking a hand. This simple gesture brings a profound shift within, as a sense of calmness envelops the narrator. The once frantic "winged thing" in their chest settles down, bringing a sense of silence and safety. The chapter concludes with the powerful declaration: "We're home." This statement summarizes the emotional journey, emphasizing feelings of belonging and the positive transformation symbolized by the crows and the rising sun. The mix of vivid imagery and introspection ties together themes of hope, renewal, and the comfort found within familial bonds.