

Chapter Seventy-Three

In Chapter Seventy-Three of *If These Wings Could Fly*, the narrator grapples with a profound inner conflict regarding a fire that has ignited, one that they clarify they did not directly set. Despite this statement, there is an unmistakable acknowledgment of their deeper, more sinister feelings that contributed to its onset. The narrator expresses a complex mix of denial and complicity, highlighting their emotional turmoil. They suggest that although they did not physically ignite the flames, they had a longing for destruction that had bubbled beneath the surface of their psyche.

This longing, they admit, had been nurtured by years of accumulated fear and resentment stemming from their experiences. The visceral imagery of the fire serves as a metaphor for their suppressed emotions—bitterness and anger manifesting into an uncontrollable blaze. The phrase “Burn, baby, burn,” encapsulates their wish for release, symbolizing a cathartic transformation of their bottled-up feelings through an external event.

As the flames roar to life, the narrator's ambivalence becomes evident; while they had not taken action to ignite the fire, there is an almost compelling thrill in its unfolding. Their decision not to extinguish the flames once they began speaks volumes about their inner state—perhaps also reflecting a desire for change or liberation from their current life circumstances. Through this dynamic, the chapter paints a stark portrait of a person wrestling with the consequences of their own repressed desires and the liberation that chaos may bring.

Overall, the chapter captures the complexity of human emotions, particularly those tied to anger and the destructive impulse that can reside within even the most seemingly innocent individuals. This paradox raises questions about accountability, desire, and the often thin line between intention and consequence.