

Chapter Sixty-Eight

In Chapter Sixty-Eight of "If These Wings Could Fly," the protagonist finds herself reflecting on her relationship with Liam as he drives away into the night. Standing on the edge of a sidewalk, she imagines a hopeful future filled with promises, contrasting sharply with the tense reality awaiting her. The sight of Liam's red taillights disappearing into darkness brings a smile, but is soon interrupted by the explosion of fireworks marking the New Year. This moment of joy quickly shifts as she notices the unexpected darkness of her home; no lights are on, despite it being a festive night.

As she approaches the house, the dread sets in—she realizes all the windows are open. When she stands at the front step, her heart sinks upon sensing another presence in the house. A man's shadow looms in the foyer, a figure lurking in the dark. The protagonist recognizes this figure as someone who has broken a protection order. Panic and fear intertwine as she questions the safety of her situation, concerned for the girls inside. The thought of running away flits through her mind, but the terror of possibly leaving them vulnerable weighs heavily on her.

Opening the door reveals a figure that embodies all her fears, the darkness around him exacerbating the sense of dread. The fleeting moment of optimism she had—imagining a welcoming home filled with safety and love—turns into a haunting reminder of what she has to confront. This chapter illustrates a poignant struggle between hope and fear, reflecting the protagonist's desire for a brighter future alongside the harsh realities of her present circumstances. As the memories of potential happiness fade away, she grapples with the intense feeling of anxiety that her imagined future is slipping further out of reach.