

# Chapter Sixty-Five

In Chapter Sixty-Five of "If These Wings Could Fly," the preparations for a special evening unfold at the protagonist's house. It's New Year's Eve, and Leighton and her friend Sofia are readying themselves, adorned in striking outfits, including a black satin dress that accentuates Leighton's reddish hair. The playful banter about their attire reveals their close friendship, with Sofia humorously comparing Leighton to a combination of Audrey Hepburn and Strawberry Shortcake.

As they address a knock at the door, Campbell enters, admiring Leighton's look, which prompts further compliments. Before heading out, they are supported by Leighton's mother, who reflects on her past as she sees the girls prepare for their night. The cold outside is palpable, emphasizing the bleakness of their environment, where crows have overtaken the town, marking a foreboding end to the year and symbolizing deeper issues within their community. Sofia's car serves as a sanctuary from the frigid weather, yet the ominous presence of the crows outside cannot be ignored.

Upon arriving at the school, the atmosphere shifts to excitement as Liam greets Leighton, appreciating her unexpected glamor. His lighthearted decision to wear a Superman t-shirt under a tuxedo showcases his quirky personality. Their interaction is sweet, filled with teasing comments and moments of shared laughter. Liam also shares news of his acceptance into an art program, boosting both his future prospects and his spirits.

Their inspiring conversation reveals Leighton's pride in her writing, especially as Liam quotes her work in the local newspaper that confronts the town's problems, suggesting that the crows are just a symptom of deeper issues. The chapter encapsulates poignant moments where friendship triumphs over adversity, underscored by a sense of new beginnings as they dance together in the gym, lost in each other amidst a world of chaos. Leighton's reflection on a past rainstorm metaphorically ties to her current bliss, revealing how amidst the unpredictable nature of life, she finds solace and beauty in this one perfect moment with Liam.