

# Chapter Sixty-Four

In Chapter Sixty-Four of "If These Wings Could Fly," the scene unfolds outside a small house lit by the flashing red and blue lights of police cars. The atmosphere is tense as the narrator, despite the cold gripping her, holds onto a smaller hand, suggesting a protective bond. They are both in flannel pajamas, which offer little defense against the biting wind. The arrival of Officer Bill DiMarco introduces a wave of anxiety; will he let their father go again? This time, however, the outcome is different—Officer DiMarco apprehends him and puts him in handcuffs, displaying a detached demeanor as though he doesn't recognize him.

Another officer quickly arrives, drawing the mother aside to explain the procedures for obtaining an emergency protection order. Due to the holiday season, a proper court hearing may be delayed, but a temporary order can be extended until the new year. This protection order is crucial as it bars the father from the house and requires him to surrender his firearm within twenty-four hours if released. After escorting their father to the police car, Officer DiMarco approaches the narrator. He conveys his sympathy for what they have endured, referencing an essay the narrator wrote, which he found painful to read. The narrator responds, expressing her exhaustion and frustration with adult apologies.

Officer DiMarco reassures the mother that he will personally deliver a physical copy of the protection order later. Throughout this ordeal, the mother remains steadfast and unwavering in her resolve. As the night progresses, the narrator reflects on the situation, feeling a glimmer of hope for safety that had been absent for a long time. There is a profound sense of relief in being heard, suggesting that perhaps, for now, they can feel secure. Despite the challenges ahead, this moment brings an overwhelming sense of empowerment and safety to the narrator, signaling a turning point in their lives.