

# Chapter Sixty-Three

In Chapter Sixty-Three of "If These Wings Could Fly," the protagonist wakes up in the early hours of Christmas Day to the sound of Axl Rose's music and raised voices from downstairs. Feeling uneasy, they sneak into their sisters' room, where they find them huddled in fear. As the commotion continues, it is clear that their father is in a volatile state, searching for his lost cell phone. After fixing a broken lock on their door with a screw found on Liam's windowsill, they muster the courage to join their mother and confront the chaos in the kitchen.

Their father, visibly angry, holds a copy of the Auburn Gazette that features the protagonist's essay, which has been anonymously published. Although the essay is a heartfelt expression aimed at healing and understanding their family dynamics, the father perceives it as a threat to his reputation and their family's construction business. The daughters, caught in the crossfire of the escalating tension, fear for their safety as their father's rage becomes increasingly unpredictable. He lashes out, blaming the protagonist for ruining their lives and threatens harm.

The situation deteriorates as he physically assaults their mother, leading the protagonist to intervene out of desperation. This act of bravery results in a chaotic confrontation marked by fear and desperation, as the siblings try to protect each other amid their father's aggression. The chapter captures the fraught dynamics of family trauma, the desperation to escape violent situations, and a son's instinct to protect his mother and sisters.

As the chapter progresses, the tension heightens and culminates in an alarming moment when the protagonist realizes the gravity of their father's actions and their own vulnerability. Just when hope seems lost, something unexpected crashes in: Dad's lost cell phone falls onto the windowsill, symbolizing a flicker of hope amidst the chaos—a potential means to communicate and seek help.