

Chapter Thirty-Six

In Chapter Thirty-Six of "If These Wings Could Fly," the narrator reflects on their contentious relationship with Campbell, particularly noting his tendency to demand silence when he is angry. The narrator possesses a unique ability to provoke Campbell's anger, often finding a biting comment that transforms his mild irritation into outrage. Despite this, there is a deeper struggle within the narrator, who suppresses a torrent of unsaid words. Each unexpressed thought is likened to a painful object lodged inside, illustrative of a buildup of frustration.

The metaphor of words as sharp, painful objects captures the emotional turmoil the narrator endures. These unspoken thoughts twist and contort within, creating a sense of agony as they remain pent up. The narrator imagines that if they were to be cut open, all the words they have held back would spill out, comparing their situation to that of a whale that has ingested too much debris and now embodies a collection of humanity's refuse. This vivid imagery starkly illustrates the weight of unexpressed emotions and the detrimental effects they have on the narrator's mental state.

This chapter encapsulates not only a struggle with communication but also a broader sense of silent suffering. The juxtaposition of Campbell's anger with the narrator's internal battle emphasizes the complexity of interpersonal dynamics filled with unarticulated sentiments. The narrator's experience serves as a poignant exploration of the impact of words left unsaid, portraying a visceral representation of emotional pain and the desire to articulate one's true feelings in the face of conflict.