

Chapter Thirty

In Chapter Thirty of "If These Wings Could Fly," the narrator portrays a sense of normalcy amidst their challenging life. After her father falls asleep, the main character, Leighton, spends time at the mall with her friend Sofia, trying on various dresses for an upcoming dance. While Sofia shines in every outfit, Leighton struggles with her appearance, often feeling washed out in the neon colors that are popular for the eighties-themed dance.

The mood shifts when Sofia hands Leighton a stunning black dress with the perfect cut, complete with pockets. This dress evokes excitement and a sense of belonging to typical high school experiences. Despite its allure, Leighton is hindered by the price tag, prompting a discussion between the friends about priorities and financial restrictions. Sofia, ever supportive, wishes for Leighton to embrace the opportunity.

After their shopping escapade, they discover a Tiffany Blue bike on clearance at a sporting goods store. Torn between using her savings for the dress or the bike, Leighton ultimately decides that some moments cannot be sacrificed. When they return home, Sofia helps her present the bike to her younger sister, Campbell. Leighton covers Campbell's eyes and leads her outside, where the reveal elicits an unexpected but heartwarming reaction from their usually reserved sibling.

As the chapter concludes, Leighton finds herself searching through old dresses in her armoire, facing a wardrobe that no longer fits her. In a playful turn of events, Campbell brings her a bag with a dress from the store, conveying Sofia's lighthearted ultimatum: if Leighton doesn't wear it to the dance, their friendship is at stake. This chapter encapsulates themes of friendship, the struggles of adolescence, and the small joys in life, while also highlighting the narrator's internal conflicts and familial bonds.