

Chapter Twenty-Seven

In Chapter Twenty-Seven of "If These Wings Could Fly," the protagonist finds solace in the newsroom after a frustrating day filled with a literature exam. Upon entering, she encounters her friend Sofia, who immediately senses her distress. The playful banter between them reveals their close friendship, with the protagonist playfully chastising Sofia for idling and insisting on working, despite Sofia's teasing about their youthful romantic interests.

As the protagonist attempts to contact an ornithologist for research, her concentration is disrupted by Sofia, who excitedly shares details about an upcoming winter formal. The protagonist expresses disinterest in the event, particularly due to its timing on New Year's Eve, which is coupled with concerns about underage drinking. However, the allure of an "eighties" theme and Sofia's playful insistence that a boy named Liam is likely to ask her to the dance slowly intrigues her.

Despite her reluctance, the protagonist agrees to let Sofia accompany her to the ornithologist so they can practice interview skills together. Their conversation reflects the mingling of youthful aspirations and the tension of impending adulthood, as they navigate social situations and the protagonist's hesitance toward romantic engagements. Sofia's light-hearted insistence on saying "yes" if Liam asks her further demonstrates the theme of friendship and the unspoken desires that accompany adolescence.

After the call to the ornithologist, she reflects on the unexpected excitement of the winter formal, feeling a twinge of hope that Liam might indeed ask her to go. However, her thoughts also drift toward an overwhelming essay contest announcement, which stands as a challenge she struggles to face. This juxtaposition of youthful joy and the weight of responsibilities encapsulates her inner turmoil as she balances friendship, potential romance, and self-doubt in a moment marked by significance in her teenage journey.