

Chapter XIII

In Chapter XIII, the emotional turmoil surrounding Mibs intensifies as she deals with her father's accident while on a bus driven by Lester Swan. Mibs struggles with feelings of guilt and despair, crying aboard the bus after vowing to be better in exchange for reassurance about her father's health. The atmosphere on the bus grows tense with voices criticizing Lester; Rhonda and Carlene express disdain for him, and Mibs finds herself drawn to the gentle, reassuring presence of her friend Samson, who offers comfort without words.

As Mibs watches Lester futilely attempt to secure damaged windows, the chapter highlights the dynamics among the group, revealing underlying tensions and loyalties. Lester's reliance on Mibs to tend the injuries of their fellow passengers demonstrates a shift in responsibility that she takes on, weighed down by her own feelings of inadequacy. Bobbi's sarcasm further emphasizes the collective discomfort, yet Mibs steps forward to help Lester, eager to redeem herself in both God's eyes and her own.

Mibs navigates the chaos of the bus and attempts to care for Will Junior, who has sustained an injury. Their interaction reflects her self-doubt, as she insists she is not a freak, despite being aware of how others perceive her. Will's curiosity about the Beaumont family's unique abilities adds another layer of complexity, as Mibs grapples with the pressure of her family's legacy and her own identity.

The chapter culminates in Mibs' internal conflict about her abilities and the way they shape her relationships, particularly with Will. His insistence on understanding her family's special qualities sharpens her struggle with self-acceptance and the burden of their expectations. Amid chaos and critical voices, Mibs seeks clarity and connection, striving to navigate her feelings and duties in a fractured setting .