

Orchid Blooming Book Club Kit

TO BLOSSOM, SHE HAD TO TRUST AGAIN

Orchid Blooming

a novel

"Tension and compelling chemistry that will leave you breathless."

—BARBARA CONREY,
USA Today bestselling author
of *Nowhere Near Goodbye*

CAROL VAN DEN HENDE

BOOK ONE: AWARD-WINNING GOODBYE, ORCHID SERIES



PRAISE FOR **ORCHID BLOOMING**

"Tension and compelling chemistry that will leave you breathless."

—Barbara Conrey, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Nowhere Near Goodbye*

"A love story for our times, *Orchid Blooming* reminds us of the power of empathy and will stay with you long after the last page."

—Lainey Cameron, award-winning author and host of *The Best of Women's Fiction* podcast

"Precise and alluring command of language. *Orchid Blooming's* compelling imagery kept me reading. Another gold medal is on the horizon!"

—SSGT Aaron Michael Grant, author of *Taking Baghdad: Victory in Iraq with the US Marines*

"Rich with strong characters and a powerful sense of place, Orchid and Phoenix's story is also an important message about the serious nature of post-traumatic stress disorder, the importance of honesty in a relationship, and the enduring power of love and forgiveness."

—Susan Cushman, author of eight books, including *Pilgrim Interrupted* and *John and Mary Margaret*

"Five-stars for *Orchid Blooming*! This page-turning novel is modern, ambitious, tempestuous, and ultimately gut wrenching. Torn between two conflicting worlds, Orchid must find the courage to forge her own path, even as she fears losing everything she holds dear."

—Rebecca Rosenburg, award-winning author of *Champagne Widows*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Readers and book clubs love discussing Phoenix and Orchid's relationship. Contact Carol at <https://novelnetwork.com> to schedule a virtual visit with your book club!

1. During Orchid Blooming's opening, Orchid tells her best friend Mandy that she wants to win an assignment to China. Why does she want to go there? What place holds a special personal connection for you?
2. Phoenix offers to help Orchid get the work experience she needs; what's his initial reason for helping her? How do his motivations change over time?
3. Orchid sets ground rules for their professional relationship, that they must keep to business, all business. When do you first sense that this will be hard for her to adhere to? How about Phoenix?
4. On the surface, Phoenix appears to have everything going for him, yet on the inside, he harbors insecurity. How does his feeling he can never live up to his dad drive his actions?
5. Orchid faced trauma in her childhood. Phoenix lost his father a year ago. How does their shared grief shape their relationship?
6. Phoenix and Orchid both strive to be good people, yet their struggles cause angst. Which parts of Phoenix and Orchid's experiences touch you? Which can you relate to? Do any remind you of personal experiences?
7. In the opening chapter, Orchid describes being multi-racial. "Beautiful, dark-haired Mom was the artist in the family, the woman who amused young Orchid with drawings of dogs in tutus, and cat soirees. When she was little, Orchid thought her Chinese half was connected to her creative side. Her analytical brain was from her dad's side, his long English ancestry stamped with stories of tradesmen and entrepreneurs." What are the varied or paradoxical ways that Orchid experiences being half Chinese?
8. Phoenix is an agency founder. Orchid is successful in the beauty industry. What do they have in common that draws them together? In your experience, how do shared professional interests develop into mutual respect?
9. What leads Phoenix to feel protective towards Orchid? How might his honorable intentions cause conflict for them later?

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10. Which portions of Phoenix and Orchid's experiences or beliefs foreshadow difficulties that they'll experience later in their relationship?
11. How do both Phoenix and Orchid grow when the secret of how they met is revealed? Have you ever forgiven someone for keeping a secret?
12. At the beginning of the story, Orchid believes that going to China will bring her closer to her mother. By the end of the story, does she still need this trip to connect with her mom?



PLAYLIST

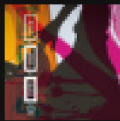
TITLE

1



So Typical - Julia Bondar Remix
Fragrance, Julia Bondar

2



Misery Is a Butterfly
Ex:Re

3



Fleurs Du Mal - Fragrance Remix
Julia Bondar, Fragrance

4



Desperado - Slowed
E love shayla

▶



Running Up That Hill
Georgia

6



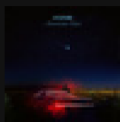
This Mess We're In
PJ Harvey, Thom Yorke

7



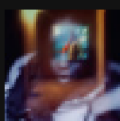
Magic
November Növelet

8



American Cars - Richard X Edit
Annie, Richard X

9



Sweet Love - Original Version
Joy Wellboy

10



La Neige Et Ses Messes Noires
Julia Bondar, Maman Küsters

PRINT THESE BOOKMARKS

"Grace, bravado, and strength shone from Orchid...in the luminous bright amber of her pupils."



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Orchid Blooming

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"Questions swirled...like a thousand moths aloft in a moonlit field."



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WHO WOULD YOU CAST AS?



Phoenix



Orchid



Mandy



Caleb



Azine Press™

STORIES FOR GOOD™



About the Author:

CAROL VAN DEN HENDE is the award-winning author of the *Goodbye, Orchid* series, which aims to inspire of empathy and hope. She's also a speaker, strategist, and serves on Boards of Directors.

One secret to her good fortune? Her humorous husband, fun-loving twins, and rescue cat, who prove that love really does conquer all.



Coming in 2023...

Always Orchid

