

Always Orchid Book Club Kit

THEIR LOVE IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

Always Orchid a novel

"Full of rich characters,
real challenges,
and deep emotion."

KRISTAN HIGGINS,
New York Times
bestselling author



CAROL VAN DEN HENDE
BOOK THREE: AWARD-WINNING GOODBYE, ORCHID SERIES

PRAISE FOR
ALWAYS ORCHID

"Carol Van Den Hende never disappoints. Her books are full of rich characters, real challenges and deep emotion."

—**Kristan Higgins, *New York Times*, *USA TODAY*,
Publisher's Weekly bestselling author**

"Profound and redemptive, *Always Orchid* made me understand the power of forgiving each other and ourselves."

—**Rebecca Rosenberg, award-winning novelist of
Champagne Widows Novels**

"*Always Orchid* hits it out of the park! The lovers may be fictional, but the emotions and physical challenges are genuine. The anguish, the black humor, and the subtleties of how couples support, protect and love each other are spot-on. I couldn't put this book down."

—**Dr. Linda Olson, author of *Gone a Memoir of Love, Body,
and Taking Back My Life***

"*Always Orchid* is an important book that will help people. Every detail of Phoenix's reaction to his injuries is authentic. Reading the interactions, his thoughts, his actions, and reasoning behind them takes me back to my initial recovery and daily challenges a decade after injury. All-around excellence."

—**Doc Jacobs, Bronze Star with Valor and Purple Heart-decorated
Navy Corpsman, author of *MaCoven* and *There and Back Again***

"Honest and stirring, *Always Orchid* holds a piece of my heart like no book since *American Sniper*. This story inspires hope for every wounded veteran. *Always Orchid* earns 5 Purple Heart decorated stars."

—**Sgt Bryan Anderson, Purple Heart-decorated veteran,
actor *American Sniper*, author *No Turning Back***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In *Always Orchid*, Phoenix Walker must move from New York to Beijing to be with Orchid. What did he give up and gain in doing so? What are examples of compromises you've seen in real-life relationships?
2. Although Phoenix and Orchid have known each other for a year, they must adjust to his life-changing accident together. Which parts of his adaptations and their discovery surprised you?
3. In Beijing, the characters experience bias from Chinese superstitions that disability is a sign of sins from a prior life. What do you think are effective ways to shift long-held biases?
4. In book one, *Orchid Blooming*, images of combat-wounded veterans trigger Orchid's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from witnessing her parents' car accident. How has she healed by the time she and Phoenix reunite in *Always Orchid*? What strategies does she use to help ameliorate her PTSD?
5. When Phoenix arrives in China, he reconnects with his agency friend, Kit. In what ways did Kit's appreciation for disability inclusion grow?



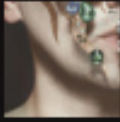
6. Readers meet Billy at the Great Wall. He's drawn to Phoenix when he realizes that they're both amputees. How did the fact that his girlfriend's parents didn't want her to be with someone with a disability make you feel? How did this rally Phoenix and Orchid towards inspiring more inclusivity?
7. In *Always Orchid*, we get to know Roy, the man that Phoenix saved in the subway station. When did you feel empathy for Roy? Anger? How did his character change your perceptions of people who are temporarily unhoused?
8. Roy botches his attempt at reparations. Have you seen real-life examples of good intentions gone awry? Please share.
9. This novel delves into themes of forgiveness, unconditional acceptance, and self-compassion. Which moments in the story illuminated insights in these areas for you?
10. Throughout the book, what are ways that each character discovers their purpose in life—Roy, Phoenix, and Orchid?
11. The book's final scene takes place at an advertising shoot for products that elevate medicinal care to luxury levels. How does using the medium of ads coupled with products for amputees help Phoenix grow and feel loved? How did the ending make you feel?
12. Taking a page from favorite literary works, *Always Orchid* ends at an emotionally-satisfying yet real-life juncture for Phoenix and Orchid. Some readers, though, have requested books about other characters from this series. Would you purchase a novel about Caleb & Sascha or others? Message me at <https://carolvandenhende.com/contact> to let me know.

If your book club would like to meet with me, schedule a virtual author visit through Novel Network: <https://novelnetwork.com/vendor/carol-van-den-hende/>

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

 love shayla

▶



Running Up That Hill

Georgia

6



This Mess We're In

PJ Harvey, Thom Yorke

7



Magic

November Növelet

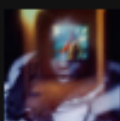
8



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

"Have you ever been
in the middle of a
moment...
suspended between
what was and what is
about to be?"



linktr.ee/cvdh

"She was wild and
beautiful and capable.
Confucius says that an
orchid's character
shines through, no
matter what hardships
she endures."



linktr.ee/cvdh

He took one look at her
loose locks and punk-
edged outfit and
stopped in his tracks.
"I just fell in love with
you all over again."



linktr.ee/cvdh

WHO WOULD YOU CAST AS?



Phoenix



Orchid



Roy



Billy



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.



Read the award-winning *Goodbye Orchid* series

