



# Always Orchid

a novel

A Novel

By Carol Van Den Hende

*He almost let her go. Her past could tear them apart. But a love like theirs is worth fighting for...*

Phoenix Walker will never be the same. Nine months after a heroic act leaves him forever changed, he refuses to hurt Orchid Paige ever again.

Orchid is ready to forgive. Convincing her guy she still loves him, no matter his injuries, she works to rebuild their intimacy. But their move to her family's ancestral country unveils China's superstitions against people with disabilities. Worse, their friend's life has been upended by those prejudices.

*Will Phoenix and Orchid find a way to beat the odds and turn discrimination into acceptance?*

*Always Orchid* is the riveting third book in the *Goodbye, Orchid* series and can be read as a standalone. If you like relatable characters, surprising twists, and stories that pull on your emotions, then you'll love award-winning author Carol Van Den Hende's journey to unconditional acceptance.

#### Overview:

- Capable beauty executive wins a coveted job assignment to China; which forces her successful boyfriend to give up his business and move to a country that unfairly judges his disability
- Award-winning BIPOC voice with fresh multicultural contemporary fiction made for book clubs
- With themes of identity, disability, and the redemptive power of love, AO is perfect for fans of *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* by Gabrielle Zevin and *Archer's Voice* by Mia Sheridan
- *Always Orchid* is shortlisted for the Hawthorne Prize and has been featured by Bookish, Hastybooklist, and Bookycall. The series has been featured in Glamour, Popsugar, Brit+Co, Parade, Travel+Leisure and BuzzFeed, was selected as Pulpwood Queens Bonus and International Books-of-the-Month, and won 30+ awards including the Independent Press Award for Best Contemporary Novel, Royal Dragonflies for Cultural Diversity and Disability Awareness, American Advertising Award Gold Medal Addy for Cover Design, Chanticleer International First Place Chatelaine Fiction Award, Springboard Consulting Disability Hero of the Year Award.

*Always Orchid*

A Novel by Carol Van Den Hende

On Sale October 24, 2023

Hardcover \$32.95 ISBN 978-1-958223-00-0 | Paperback \$19.95 ISBN-13 978-1-958223-04-8

| Ebook \$9.99 ISBN 978-1-958223-05-5

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**Advanced Praise:**

"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**

"A compelling story of sacrifice, resilience, and acceptance, *Always Orchid* crosses countries and cultures to stir emotion and self-reflection."

— **Robert Gwaltney, award winning author of *The Cicada Tree***

"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* 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."

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

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"*Always Orchid* hits it out of the park! The lovers may be fictional, but the emotions and physical challenges are genuine. 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* explores the power of love and perseverance in the face of trauma and discrimination. A heart-warming story with compassionate connections. Readers won't be disappointed!"

— **Rachel Barenbaum, author of *Atomic Anna***

"Honest and stirring, *Always Orchid* 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***

"Phoenix and Orchid's journey explores what it means to be a whole person, in body and in heart. It questions what it means to be fulfilled, whether alone or with another. Theirs is not an easy story, but Carol Van Den Hende tells it with kindness and care."

—**Jeffrey Dale Lofton, award-winning author of *Red Clay Suzie***

"A powerful, emotional story, *Always Orchid* follows the welcome reunion of lovers Phoenix and Orchid only to have the demons of his injuries and the ghosts of her past drive them apart again. Carol Van Den Hende's artistic gaze is unflinching in the depiction of Phoenix's recovery and Orchid's ongoing PTSD. Propulsive and richly detailed, this third book in the *Goodbye, Orchid* series is an absorbing read. Absolutely gripping!"

—**Jeannée Sacken, award-winning author of *Behind the Lens* and *Double Exposure***

## About the Author:



CAROL VAN DEN HENDE is an award-winning novelist who pens stories of resilience and hope. Her novels *Orchid Blooming* and *Goodbye, Orchid* draw from her own Chinese American family's history, and have won 30+ literary awards, including the American Fiction Award, IAN Outstanding Fiction First Novel Award, and Royal Dragonfly Awards for Disability Awareness and Cultural Diversity.

Buzzfeed, Parade, and Travel+Leisure named "heartwarming, heartbreaking" *Goodbye, Orchid* a most anticipated read. Glamour Magazine recommended this "modern, important take on the power of love." The International Pulpwood Queens selected *Goodbye, Orchid* and *Orchid Blooming* as Bonus and International Books-of-the-Month.



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Carol's mission is unlocking optimism as a writer, speaker, global marketer, digital strategist, Board Trustee and Climate Reality Leader. One secret to her good fortune? Her humorous husband and twins, who prove that love really does conquer all.

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

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