



**an orchid
and a man**

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Printed in the United States
ISBN 9798526310949
Cover art by Luther.M.E. Bottrill

If you take a flower in your hand and really look at it,
it's your world for the moment.

—Georgia O'Keeffe

An orchid is being carried out of a hospital by a man. He received it before he was admitted. It was handed to him by a woman who was going away. A man fell down with an orchid and banged his head. A railway platform collided with a cranium and still an orchid was set down safely. An orchid is what a man saw when everything went black and then later on an overbed table when a white petal unmelted into focus. A specialist went unheard saying that an age is reached when those at risk to fall start falling. An orchid is in a man's hands on a walk down a hill.

An orchid and a man are having a headache. On an orchid's windowsill is a fly rubbing its head. A tiny head is taking a break from being rammed into a pane. A fly's headache is a headache for everyone.

An orchid is brought by a man into a store of things people had and no longer want. A container is needed to stabilize an orchid's flimsy plastic pot. A man takes from a shelf a thick ceramic coffee mug and by a thick handle shakes it with a vigor. A thick ceramic mug with a thick handle feels sturdy to a man. An orchid's pot fits snugly. A mug's color (white) and a saying (DON'T TALK TO ME UNTIL I'VE HAD MY COFFEE) go unnoticed. What a man is buying is a space inside a thing where an orchid can endure.