

# "Orchids"

SUBTITLE: HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, THREE WEEKS EARLIER

The office is decorated with potted flowers, Audobon posters, lots of books. Kaufman, nervous and sweaty, watches Margaret, a soulful development executive, unpack boxes.

M/W - C  
Kaufman  
Margaret

KAUFMAN

So anyway I just wanted to stop by to congratulate you on your promotion.

MARGARET

Well, thanks again. It's all so stupid.

KAUFMAN

I think it's great. Your photo in the trades and everything. Pretty cool.

MARGARET

Anyway. Yeah. So what's up with you?

KAUFMAN

I'm considering jobs. Mostly crap. There's one you might like, about flowers.

MARGARET

Flowers? Really? What is it?

KAUFMAN

They want me to do an adaptation of a book called The Orchid Thief.

MARGARET

Oh my God! You're kidding? I read that! I loved that book!

Kaufman is thrilled; he's scored. Margaret pulls a copy of The Orchid Thief from her bookshelf.

MARGARET (cont'd)

See, see, see! I'm not lying to you!

KAUFMAN

I loved the book.

MARGARET

Oh, Charlie, orchids are the most amazing flowers. So complex.

Margaret plops onto the couch next to Kaufman.

KAUFMAN

I know. They're really great.

MARGARET

You should take this job. Doesn't it sound exciting, to immerse yourself in a

real subject and learn everything about it? Blake wrote about seeing heaven in a wild flower. And after you learn all this stuff, you can teach me!

KAUFMAN

(thrilled but controlled)

That'd be fun.

MARGARET

God, they're such beautiful flowers. And so sexy. Y'know?

(whispering)

Did you know that orchid means --

KAUFMAN

Testicle. I just read that.

MARGARET

(shrieks with delight)

Testicle! Can you believe it!

Margaret giggles happily. Kaufman giggles weirdly.

MARGARET (cont'd)

I swear, it'd be fucking great for someone to have the testicles to make that book into a movie, man. Instead of this bullshit all the time. Something not about sex and violence and car chases and love stories, people learning profound lessons. Jesus, isn't nature enough?