



CHRISTINE MCNAIR

FIRST EDITION

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*Something gathers up
the fragments, and
nothing is lost.*

– Fourcroy's Chemistry

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THE PROBLEM OF ORCHIDS

The orchid has large, waxy white, star-like flowers with a pronounced lip and a foot-long spur that projects from the back of the flower. Since this white orchid had a strong spicy fragrance at night, Darwin hypothesized that it must be pollinated by a nocturnal hawk moth with a proboscis (a tongue) that extended to 12 inches.

deviant strokework nipple heavy
gagged threshwork needle stuck

hand punched fretwork
distressed countenance skullwork
affect all sense of proportion

I can't say it so I'll say it slant

muscles of the human body: neck: platysma:
draws the corners of the mouth inferiorly and widens it
(as in expressions of sadness and fright) also draws
the skin of the neck superiorly when teeth are clenched

In the orchid, the pollinia attached itself by a stalk or extension that is hygroscopic (meaning it bends when moisture levels or the levels of humidity change). Once dry, the pollinia is in perfect position to attach to the stigma.

in a room in a house in a
basement something borrowed something blue
cplus cans blossom

a copse of flowers
cross-referenced
pepper skin

veil invested blueblood seed pearl
sticky

here's at it then:

fingers tighten in lulls ears
say: *mine mine* minion
miniature minaret tower

rapunzel rapunzel
let down your hair

How many of these questions do you answer YES:
Are you afraid of your orchid? • Do you sometimes feel like you have to walk on pins and needles to keep your orchid from getting angry? • Has your orchid ever hit, slapped, choked or pushed you? • Has your orchid ever pulled your hair? • Do you feel like you deserve to be punished? • Does your orchid drive you crazy or make you feel like you're going crazy? • Have you believed that your orchid would kill you? • Have you been told by your orchid that he or she would kill you? • Has your orchid threatened or attempted to commit suicide? • Have you been forced by your orchid to do something you didn't want to do? • Do you feel emotionally numb? • Have you ever left your orchid because of how you were treated, but later returned, or allowed your orchid to return, after promises that it would "all be different?"