

# Orchids

## Ned Rorem

You hold me inside your iris like a  
A terminal stain on life  
You condescend to my primal brain and  
Twist me around like a knife Can't begin to explain  
The feelings I have restrained  
Don't ask me how I am  
Because you're too busy planning your epitaph  
Let me tell you Don't try to be the one person  
Who has stayed just to say  
They never left me  
Aggravated, complicated, someone say it  
God, I never learn You keep me hidden behind a curtain  
An audible human display  
You feed me orchids to give me courage  
And keep me in line with disdain Can't begin to explain  
The feelings I have restrained  
Don't ask me how I am  
Because you're too busy planning your epitaph  
Let me tell you Don't try to be the one person  
Who has stayed just to say  
They never left me  
Aggravated, complicated, someone say it  
God, I never learn I have nothing left for you  
You left me with nothing  
And I have nothing left for you  
You left me with nothing I live at arm's length and die a little  
Between your constants by day  
I want my soul back before it's over  
I can't even wish you away Can't begin to explain  
The feelings I have restrained  
Don't ask me how I am  
Because you're too busy planning your epitaph  
Let me tell you Don't try to be the one person  
Who has stayed just to say  
They never left me  
Aggravated, complicated, someone say it  
God, I never learn  
I never learn

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