

Orkideh

In "Orkideh, Martyr!", the narrator reflects on the complexities of death and art, articulating a personal journey marked by grief and existential inquiry. The chapter begins with the speaker's experience of death—one filled with absence and longing for meaning during a moment that felt disconnected from reality. This introspection leads them to create an installation called "Death-Speak," intended as a means to confront their own mortality and invite viewers into a raw, unfiltered experience of death.

The narrator is inspired by the lines of the poet Farrokhzad, who conveys a sense of urgency and despair. This resonates with the speaker, who grapples with the superficial nature of art that has evolved to prioritize beauty over authenticity. They argue that true art transcends mere ornamentation and is deeply intertwined with human experience and emotion.

Amidst these contemplations, a pivotal relationship with Sang emerges. Their past romance has transformed into a friendship, and Sang, now more a professional ally, plays a crucial role in the narrator's final artistic endeavor. The narrator's attempt to share their journey of impending death is met with a dismissive response from Sang, highlighting the emotional strain of unshared pain. Despite this, she suggests naming the installation "Death-Speak," a title that resonates with the narrator's quest for authenticity.

As they navigate their conversations, the narrator feels the weight of unexpressed truths and past affection, recognizing how love can complicate emotional honesty. The tension between them encapsulates a deeper exploration of connection: how personal narratives are often intertwined yet need not completely define each other. The narrator grapples with self-awareness of their desire to use art as both a mirror and a vessel to share the visceral realities of dying, finally affirming their path despite external pressures. In the end, the narrative suggests a profound commitment to honesty, both in life and through the medium of art, cementing the significance of this final act of creation.