

## HIDING HAND / Synopsis of Book II

**Logline:** A boy comes of age in a blistering conflict between the love of power and the power of love, and must confront his dark side as human evolution unfolds around him.

**Summary:** The story takes place in the near future, in normal earthly settings, and spans just a few weeks. When his parents are attacked and almost killed, and his uncle is killed, the boy Joshua becomes the sole protector of his baby sister Eva. Eva is the first *Nova sapiens* -- a new species of humanity. When she matures, she will be a true Earth Mother, a potential Messiah for a troubled humanity. But she is kidnapped by the darkest of beings, a brilliant psychopath masquerading as a pious Muslim cleric; he wants the power of the new species all to himself. Eva hasn't yet acquired true *Nova* powers -- those come only with puberty -- but the child is resourceful, and escapes from the cleric's stronghold in the jungles of New Guinea.

Joshua gives chase, in the process accidentally rescuing a mysterious young Muslim woman, Elia, from the cleric's minions. Although initially ambivalent and suspicious, Elia helps him on his mission, using her strange rapport with an ancient Sisterhood to harness the psychic forces building in the jungle. Their aircraft is shot down and crashes in a highland lake. Joshua almost drowns, but Elia saves him. They fall in love, a thing forbidden to her and unwise for him.

The cleric psychopath has overwhelming resources, including a quantum machine that broadcasts a signal to degrade that part of the brain dealing with moral balance. Joshua is slowly stripped of his resources; first his uncle and mentor, then his parents, then a Special Forces rescue team standing by offshore. Elia recognizes the nature of the machine's insidious attack and gives Joshua a psychic link that provides some shielding. But then the cleric recaptures Elia; Joshua is forced to proceed alone. Now he has only his own mind and soul to rely on; without Elia's support the cleric's machine nibbles away at his mind, insidiously pushing him toward an insane love of power. These are old parables from the myths of many cultures:

A psychodrama of a young man caught in the evil of his own monkey trap.

A mystical cautionary tale about archetypes of the human condition when given power.

A love story at the intersection of morality and necessity.

If Joshua succumbs to the power and uses it, he possibly could mount a surprise attack and rescue Elia, but his first duty as the defender of both his baby sister and the next stage of human evolution is to rescue Eva. Torn, he must confront more than the material forces arrayed against him: the far greater danger comes from within the darkness of his evolving self as the cleric's machine urges him toward use of a primal power he can never control.

**The Trilogy:** Eva, rescued at the end of this story, later comes of age as the first of a new species. Her old nemesis the Islamic psychopath returns, this time in an unholy alliance with a Christian fundamentalist. She is forced to deceive her brother Joshua and his wife Elia, and ultimately must surrender herself to the powers of darkness to achieve stability for the peaceful evolution of the new race. Her story is told in Book III: Splintered Light.