

## SPLINTERED LIGHT / Synopsis of Book III

**Logline:** A young girl comes of age as the first of a new species of human, a near-god, in the middle of social upheaval and conflict between the love of power and the power of love.

**Summary:** The monkey trap test was applied to the human race 16 years ago, to determine humanity's spiritual readiness for its next evolutionary step. A male and a female test subject successfully rejected power for love, thus passing the test. This removed a genetic suppression imposed on human evolution for millennia. The test subjects, lovers, promptly conceived Eva, the firstborn of the *Nova sapiens* species. As this third story begins, Eva has just turned 15; at puberty, the unfettered Nova gene begins to manifest, bringing Eva near-godlike powers.

The primary observable effect of the gene in prepubescent Nova children is empathy; but it's empathy in a very broad sense -- an awareness and appreciation not only for the emotions and inner workings of humans and other beings, but also for the fundamental workings of reality, including other dimensions. When they are young children, before puberty, only those Novas in or near a psychic energy locus (seven exist on the planet) have supernatural powers. But as these children approach puberty and their integrated brains can handle the load, Novas learn to exercise their supernatural powers independent of location; they carry a personal energy locus and dip at will into dimensions the rest of humanity cannot even perceive. Novas can transpose (teleport) to different locations, levitate and create localized gravity waves, turn their hands into energy weapons. The capacity of each Nova to manipulate the physical world and their interactions with it vary by individual, but for all practical purposes, Eva is becoming a god.

Eva's parents still lie in a coma from a previous battle seven years ago. Her older brother Joshua, now 25, is her guardian. He is an almost-Nova, both an intellectual savant and a fierce Jedi-like warrior. His duty is to protect Eva and others (that have been born with the now-unfettered gene) until there is a critical mass of Novas sufficient to defend themselves. This young warrior always walks close to the edge of a moral abyss in his role as Eva's protector. His plan has been to conceal the Nova development during this critical early stage, until they can be made safe in the world. The plan has worked reasonably well to date, with the cooperation of friendly elements in the US government (who want to avoid the social upheaval that would result from a sudden disclosure that humanity is becoming obsolete).

But now, as the Nova development becomes public, that plan crashes in flames. Governments/cultures/splinter groups begin to jockey for position; they want to gather up Novas, influence them, seduce and traduce them, kidnap and brainwash them. Or if they can't do that... destroy them. At root, this is a mythical tale about the dangers of power, and especially about how established power reacts to a disruptive threat -- which the Novas surely represent. Eva and Joshua realize they must thread the needle with a solution that protects the Novas but doesn't harm humanity.

Such a development, a societal macroshift, is a delicate time -- a beginning requiring the most exquisite care and balance. If the sculptor doesn't appreciate the intricacies of the stone's structure, the artwork may end up fractured. Eva knows this. She also knows she's at the top of a slippery slope; the balance easily could go one way or the other. Even though intellectually and spiritually prepared by her innate empathy and intensive mental and physical training, she is only 15 years old, and has awful choices to face. A terrible responsibility for one so young.