

HIDING HAND / Synopsis

Logline: A boy comes of age in a blistering conflict between the love of power and the power of love... and is forced to confront his own dark side as human evolution explodes around him.

Summary: The story takes place in the present-day, in normal settings. It spans a few weeks, starting with an attack on:

EVA CONNARD, an eight year old girl, the first of the *Nova sapiens* species to be born, destined to be a true Earth Mother and potential savior for a troubled humanity; and...

JOSHUA O'DONNELL, a seventeen year old young man, half-brother and surrogate parent to Eva, an almost-*Nova* warrior sworn to protect his baby sister; by...

MUHAMMAD ZURVAN, a brilliant psychopath masquerading as a pious Islamic cleric, who wants the incipient power of the *Novas* all to himself.

This story continues the metaphysical fable begun in *Monkey Trap*, but it's nine years later. At her young age, Eva hasn't yet acquired the *Nova* powers that come with puberty, and Zurvan manages to kidnap her. The child is resourceful, though; she manages to escape from the cleric's stronghold in the jungles of New Guinea.

A mysterious young Muslim woman, Elia, is rescued by Joshua from a related Zurvan kidnapping. After being thrown together by circumstance, a plane crash lands them in New Guinea, where they set out to find Eva. Elia is another almost-*Nova*; she helps Joshua by using her rapport with the psychic forces building in the jungle. The two fall in love, a thing forbidden to her and unwise for him.

But Zurvan is in hot pursuit of Eva. He has overwhelming resources, including a quantum machine that broadcasts a signal to degrade the part of the brain dealing with moral balance. Joshua is slowly stripped of his resources: first losing his uncle and mentor, then his parents, then a Special Forces team standing by offshore. Finally, Zurvan captures Elia, and Joshua is forced to go on totally alone. He has only his mind and soul to rely on, and Zurvan's machine is nibbling away at his mind. It works on the primitive part of the brain, enticing him to let it loose... which will turn him into a full *Nova*, with all the powers of that state, but with no morality.

So Joshua walks the razor's edge: he can lose his moral balance and acquire *Nova* powers that will let him get his little sister back, but what then? Is that first step off the slippery slope reversible? Or will it make him a power-loving monster like Zurvan? And what does that imply for his role as protector of both his sister and the evolving new species? In a rapid series of confrontations, he rescues Eva, then Elia. The questions are answered by the power of love.

Twists/disclosures like *Sixth Sense*. Escalating chase scenes like *Terminator 2*. A parent/protector vibe like *Taken*, with a goodly body count.

Note: *Hiding Hand* is the second story of a book trilogy. *Monkey Trap* is the first. *Splintered Light* is the third.