

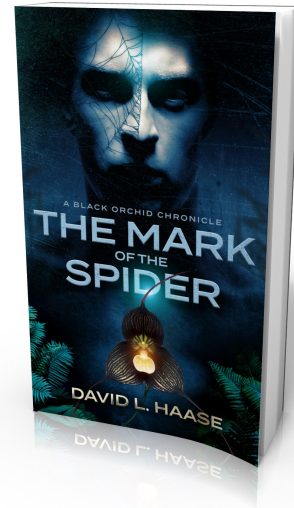
# The Mark of the Spider

## David L. Haase: Author QnA

### Q. What's this about spiders?

A. The mark in **The Mark of the Spider** refers to a spider web tattoo that covers the right side of the face of any person cursed by the spider demon.

My hero, Sebastian Arnett, photographs nature for a living after the death of his wife. He encounters an aged native woman while working in Borneo and is given a black orchid. Unknown to him, accepting the orchid is to accept a curse and a deadly new power from the spider demon.



### Q. What made you think to do a book about demons and spiders?



A. I can't recall at this point. I've been working on **The Mark of the Spider** (and two other Black Orchid Chronicles) for at least four years.

But it probably grew out of my fascination with taking macro-photos of flowers. Orchids are particularly complex and often difficult to photograph. So that's the orchid part.

Spiders? I just don't know. I guess I was looking for something creepy to pair with orchids. I think the pairing works out pretty well in the book.

### Q. Are orchids black?

A. No. There is no such thing as a black orchid. As I explain in **The Mark of the Spider**, so-called black orchids are just a very deep purple.

Because they don't exist, black orchids make a great subject for a work of fiction, and particularly one of supernatural suspense.

As an added note, the orchid on the cover of **The Mark of the Spider** is *Dracula vampira*, which is an incredibly cool name for a book like mine. Unfortunately, the flower is endemic to Ecuador, not Borneo. But, hey, this is fiction.

### Q. What are the Black Orchid Chronicles?

A. The chronicles comprise a trilogy of stories featuring nature photographer Sebastian Arnett and a small recurring cast, including:

- Col. Mike Owens, USMC – A military officer assigned to watch over Sebastian after his deadly, secret power becomes clear
- Joe – An ancient Indian medicine man who sees spirits
- Amanda – Wealthy Denver businesswoman who steals Sebastian’s heart
- T – Precocious twenty-something bastard son of Amanda’s former husband
- Jimmy Beam – Ethnologist and operative of the Australian Intelligence Service
- The Sheikh – Fabulously wealthy Middle Eastern patron of Sebastian’s photography
- Empaya Iba – The Spider Demon

**Q. So, what’s next?**

A. I have at least three other books in progress, including the next Black Orchid Chronicle, which I am tentatively calling **The Flight of the Spider**. (No, spiders can’t fly, but they can flee.)

I aim to put that out in the first quarter of 2019.

[DavidLHaase.com](http://DavidLHaase.com)

