

Beware the Spider: A Black Orchid Chronicle

QnA with author David L. Haase

Q. Beware the Spider is an intriguing title for a book. What's it about?

A. **Beware the Spider** picks up where **The Mark of the Spider**, book 1 of the **Black Orchid Chronicles**, left off.

Nature photographer Sebastian Arnett is living with his heiress girlfriend in Denver, but he's having a recurring nightmare in which he is the only thing standing between the spider demon who possesses him and some alien attacker.

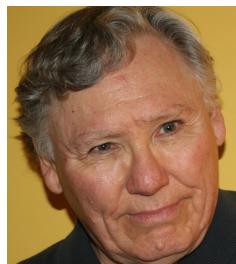
At the same time, he gets word from the U.S. military that Chinese crime lords want to use him for his power to kill with his thoughts.



The action goes from Denver to the Australian outback to the steaming jungles of Borneo and back.

His girlfriend is kidnapped and he has to save her, his dreaded demon and himself.

Q. How does it differ from your previous book, **The Mark of the Spider**?



A. Most of the familiar characters are back. Sebastian's wealthy girlfriend, Amanda Cox Campion, and her ex-husband's illegitimate son, T Kingston. There's some lingering tension between T and Sebastian that has to be resolved.

Joe, the Ute medicine man, returns with his ageless wisdom and thirst for expensive gin. Australian intelligence operative Jimmy Beam plays a big role as, of course, does Empaya Iba, the ancient spider demon.

In **Beware the Spider**, we lose two characters. You'll have to read the book to see which.

The primary difference between **Beware the Spider** and **The Mark of the Spider** is that Sebastian has to battle not just his own demon, Empaya Iba, but other spirits who would destroy Iba. While he would be more than happy to be rid of Iba, he needs the demon's deadly power to save Amanda, Joe and himself.

Q. Did you change anything in the way you write?

A. Yes. I became more sensitive to how I portray non-Caucasian characters, and given the international nature of the story, there are a lot of characters who are not white.

Every character has an important role in the story, but I try to keep ethnic stereotypes out. That's been a challenge in that Chinese crime lords associated with the Red Army are some of the bad guys. They have to be Chinese, but I tried hard to focus on their evil actions and intent and away from their Chinese-ness. If that makes sense.

Q. Will there be another Black Orchid Chronicle?

A. Yes. I'm two-thirds of the way through the manuscript. I expect it to wrap it up sometime in 2020.

Q. Are you working on anything else?

A. The first story I ever wrote, a first-contact with aliens novel I call **PSNGR**, has been calling to me from the file drawer I left it in when I started the **Black Orchid Chronicles**. I'm tempted to pick that up again, and I have a handful of short stories that need endings. Lots to do and look forward to.

Q. Anything else?

A. Yes. Thanks to everyone who enjoyed **The Mark of the Spider** and wrote reviews. Authors need support from readers, and I appreciate all the support my readers have given me.

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