

## MEDIA RELEASE

Inquiries: Aurora Hughes  
Publicist, HarperCollins  
Aurora.Hughes@HarperCollins.com  
*Author Dakota Banks is available for an online or radio interview*

### **Ripped from the Headlines: New Thriller Parallels Real Life Cybersecurity Issue**

*Dark Time: Mortal Path Book One by Dakota Banks*

Supernatural Thriller, Urban fantasy, Romance elements

Release date: July 28, 2009, HarperCollins/Eos, Mass market paperback, ISBN 978-0061687303

**About the Timeliness:** In *Dark Time: Mortal Path Book 1*, the protagonist Maliha Crayne confronts a villain who is trying to sell America's security to the highest bidder. His method allows control of America's all-inclusive smart power grid, so terrorists' activities can thrive in the resulting "dark time" when power is cut off. CNN reports that hackers may have penetrated the real-life energy grid and embedded malicious code in it, although Department of Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano says that there have been "... no disruptions of power on any grid caused by a deliberate cyber attack on our infrastructure." She didn't deny the discovery of the code, just said that no disruptions have occurred—*so far*. [Writer's added emphasis, not Director Napolitano's] On February 9, 2009 President Barack Obama ordered an extensive review of cybersecurity surrounding the power grid and other critical infrastructure that could be the focus of attacks by individuals, groups, or countries.

#### Citations:

Jeanne, Meserve. "Hackers reportedly have embedded code in power grid." *CNN* 09 APR 2009 Web. 10 Apr 2009. <<http://www.cnn.com/2009/TECH/04/08/grid.threat/index.html?iref=mpstoryview>>.

Shalal-Esa, Andrea. "Obama orders 60-day cybersecurity review." *Reuters* 10 FEB 2009 Web. 10 Apr 2009. <<http://www.reuters.com/article/internetNews/idUSTRE5190B820090210>>.

**About the Book:** What if a woman sells her soul to a demon and 300 years later wants it back?

In the 17th century, a woman is ripped from her husband's arms, thrown in jail, and then set afire as a witch. Saved from the flames by an ancient Sumerian demon, she becomes the Black Ghost, his Ageless assassin gifted with otherworldly skills and superbly trained in martial arts.

Centuries pass before the woman now known as Maliha Crayne finds a way out of the life she hates. If she saves as many lives as she's taken, she'll break the demon's hold on her. If she fails, she will suffer the demon's torment ... *forever*. The ticking clock? Every time she saves a life, she ages. The deck is stacked against her. Blocking her progress is a man intent on grabbing the dual gold rings of power and wealth at the expense of potentially millions of lives.

"Sometimes you just need a kick-ass former demon's slave to tackle life's problems. Especially one wielding a whip sword. *Dark Time: Mortal Path Book One* is a novel to be savored for both its edge of suspense and the pure joy of its storytelling. Part immortal, all human, Maliha is a heroine who will leave readers breathless and craving more. Not to be missed!" - James Rollins, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Doomsday Key*

"Seductive, sophisticated, and imaginative, *Dark Time* has a multi-dimensional quality with beguiling concepts and a labyrinth of fast-paced suspense." – Steve Berry, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Charlemagne Pursuit*

**About the Author:** Dakota Banks lives in the St. Louis area and is a member of the International Thriller Writers, Horror Writers Association, Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, and Mystery Writers of America. She's at work on the next book in the series.

**More detail available at [www.dakota-banks.com](http://www.dakota-banks.com).**