



## **Lover Eternal**

*J.R. Ward*

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**In the shadows of the night in Caldwell, New York, there's a deadly turf war raging between vampires and their slayers. There exists a secret band of brothers like no other-six vampire warriors, defenders of their race. Possessed by a deadly beast, Rhage is the most dangerous of the Black Dagger Brotherhood.**

Within the brotherhood, Rhage is the vampire with the strongest appetites. He's the best fighter, the quickest to act on his impulses, and the most voracious lover-for inside him burns a ferocious curse cast by the Scribe Virgin. Owned by this dark side, Rhage fears the time when his inner dragon is unleashed, making him a danger to everyone around him.

Mary Luce, a survivor of many hardships is unwittingly thrown into the vampire world and reliant on Rhage's protection. With a life-threatening curse of her own, Mary is not looking for love. She lost her faith in miracles years ago. But when Rhage's intense animal attraction turns into something more emotional, he knows that he must make Mary his alone. And while their enemies close in, Mary fights desperately to gain life eternal with the one she loves...

## Lover Eternal Details

Date : Published March 7th 2006 by Signet (first published March 1st 2006)

ISBN : 9780451218049

Author : J.R. Ward

Format : Mass Market Paperback 441 pages

Genre : Fantasy, Paranormal, Romance, Vampires, Paranormal Romance

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## From Reader Review Lover Eternal for online ebook

Blacky \*Romance Addict\* says

*"I don't want to stop, Mary." His thumbs caressed the skin of her throat and they pressed into her jaw and angled her head back.*

*"I want to get you hot. Hot enough so you don't feel anything but me. So you don't think of anything but what I'm doing to you.*

*I want you liquid.*

**I loved this book! Rhage is definitely one of the guys at the top of the BDB fav list <3 Uber-hot, and such an amazing hero! A total must-read!**

### **The story**

After meeting a boy who looks to be a pretransitioned vampire, Bella decides to take him to the Brotherhood, along with her neighbor Mary, who knows the kid and can translate for him. The kid, John Matthew, is mute, and doesn't know anything about himself or his parents, and is practically living on the streets. Mary wants to help him, so she agrees to go with him to the "training facility", not knowing it is in fact the Brotherhood's safe house.

The brothers recognize him as one of their own, with a warrior name of Tehrror.

On the first visit with John, Mary meets Rhage, the most beautiful man she's ever seen, who, for some reason, is drawn to her like crazy.

Even though Rhage knows he can't make any commitment to a woman like Mary, he needs to have her, whatever it takes.

After a few dates, kisses and memory wipes, Rhage is torn between his emotions and his loyalty to the Brotherhood. He needs to protect Mary, and wants to be with her, even though that is against the rules.

Luckily, Rhage was never one to follow them ;)

*"I'm a vampire. I'm a warrior. I'm a dangerous beast.*

*At the end of this evening, you aren't going to remember you ever met me.*

*And the idea of not even being a memory of yours makes me feel like I've been stabbed in the chest."*

**The story** - I loved the Rhage/Mary romance. Loved! It was very emotional and beautiful, most of all, very HOT indeed :D

There are several new storylines included, the one about John Matthew, a new character, and we are introduced to Bella, the heroine from the third book :)

**The writing** - we get multiple POVs, from the MCs and now the new characters, John and Bella, as well as Butch and maybe a few others, don't remember all of them :) Anyway, for me that's just a bonus, never liked just the one-person-POV, so...

**The hotness** - OMG this book is uber-hot! Rhage is really REALLY direct and says what's on his mind, usually everything sexy ahahahahaha but yeah, scorching-hot!

**The cliffhanger** - it has nothing to do with Rhage and Mary, but still, my advice is to have the third book already open on the first page 'cause you won't be able to stop yourself from reading it ASAP!

*“I will not fall in love with you,” she said. “I can’t let myself. I won’t.”*  
*“That’s all right. I’ll love you enough for the both of us.”*

Mary has been ill for some time, and now her leukemia is back. She's afraid of the treatments and knows what's waiting for her.

Having low self esteem because of her physical condition, she can't think of any possible reason why would Rhage be interested in her. She constantly pushes him back and thinks he's making fun of her, or that he just wants to be friends.

Even though she made me want to kick her at some points in the book, I really liked Mary :)

She is a strong character, despite her illness, she's used to taking care of herself, and doesn't lean on anyone for support.

She really likes Rhage, but doesn't think he wants to be with her, and I have to say I just love that scene when she found out that he's a vampire :D

Anyway, she's not one for crying and moping, and I liked that too :D

I think my fav scene with her is when she pets the beast on the head :DDD

*"What you just had is nothing compared to what I want to do to you. I want my head between your legs so I can lick you until you scream my name. Then I want to mount you like an animal and look into your eyes as I come inside of you. And after that? I want to take you every way there is. I want to do you from behind. I want to screw you standing up, against the wall. I want you to sit on my hips and ride me until I can't breathe."*

Rhage was cursed by the Scribe Virgin to transform into a huge terrible beast whenever he goes out of control.

To prevent the beast from getting out, he uses fighting and sex to release his frustrations.

Even though everyone envies him for being such a hit with the women, Rhage just feels hollow because of it, there is no real enjoyment in it for him, just means to an end.

That is, until he meets Mary :)

He's shocked by the attraction he feels because he hasn't felt it before for anyone, and he's willing to do whatever it takes to be with her, even though it seems that she's not very interested in him XD

Rhage is one of my favorite Brothers <3 I adore him!

I couldn't help but sympathize with him, and feel sorry when he went on the sex prowl :((( He is sick and tired of that life, but must keep doing it to prevent the best from coming out, and possibly hurting the people he cared about, the Brotherhood.

He meets Mary and can't stay away from her, and the more time they spend together, the more he realises she is meant for him, and he wants to bond with her.

The only problem is Mary shutting him down, and not trusting him.

But the end! Oh the end made me love him, what he did was just... Beautiful! I cried at that part, it was so emotional <3

He deserved his happy end, and the way it was made, just how it was meant to be :)))

### **My favorite quotes from other characters:**

*"Last night, I...ah...I drove out to Marissa's brother's house. I don't even know how the Escalade got there. I mean, the last thing I need is to run into her, you feel me?"*

*"Let me guess. You waited around in hopes of catching a—"*

*"In the bushes, Rhage. I sat in the bushes. Under her bedroom window."*

*"Wow. That's..."*

*"Yeah. In my old life I could have arrested me for stalking."*

*“My twin’s not broken. He’s ruined. Do you understand the difference? With broken, maybe you can fix things. Ruined? All you can do is wait to bury him.”*

*“Don’t touch me. I can’t...I can’t stand to be touched, okay? It hurts.”*

*Bella stopped.*

*“Why?” she said softly. “Why does it—”*

*“Just get the fuck out of here, please.” He could barely get the words out. “I’m about to destroy something. And I don’t want it to be you.”*

*“You won’t hurt me.”*

*He closed his eyes.*

*“Did it hurt you to do this to him?” she demanded softly, knowing Vishous hadn’t left. “Tell me it hurt you.”*

*She heard a whispering of cloth. When she glanced over her shoulder, Vishous had taken off his shirt. On his muscular chest there was a fresh wound, a slice, as if a blade had cut into his skin.*

*“It killed each one of us.”*

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*V’s diamond eyes, usually so calm, were narrow and pissed off. “When I say I’m never wrong, I’m not on an ego trip. Seeing the future is a goddamned curse, my brother. You think I like knowing how everyone’s going to die?”*

**Rhage is like, totally hot, you feel me?**

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## Beth F. says

Crack. Crack laced with rat poison. That's what this series represents.

I've now read the first two books in this series and feel that both have been pleasantly distracting, entertaining and I intend to finish the series post haste. However, I'm definitely camping out with everyone who's ever read these and gone, "huh?!? How could I possibly be enjoying this?"

The Black Dagger Brotherhood is a group of warrior vampires who are fighting to protect weaker civilian vampires from evil, soulless, albino vampire slayers who smell like baby powder. If that's not compelling enough to get someone to pick this series up, I don't know what is. (HA!!!!) Each book focuses on the romance of one brother and the female of his destiny.

In this particular book, the brother in question is Rhage. Rhage is an oversexed vampire with a dragon curse (ooh, dragons outside of a medieval mystery or epic fantasy!) Whenever he loses his temper, he turns into a dragon and kills everything in sight. Sex helps him control the dragon. Sex and fighting. Duly noted and kind of hot, so I was intrigued.

Rhage's lady friend is a human woman named Mary who volunteers for a suicide hotline and also happens to be dying of leukemia. Obviously she's being set up for some kind of immortality deal. Sort of boring when you're dealing with a vampire story, in my opinion, however, I should note that in Ward's world, vampire bites do not turn humans into vampires. Vampires are born, not made. So I was also intrigued how Mary's inevitable death due to cancer could be worked into immortality if the restrictions of the world prevent her from becoming a vampire herself.

\*\*\*spoilers past this point\*\*\*

In addition to containing spoilers, this is the part of the review where I will complain about the things I did not like about this book and then try to pinpoint the exact reason this series has me panting for more (that shipment from booksfree.com can't get to my mailbox fast enough)!

For starters, let's start with the overarching complaints that have impacted the first two books in the series and will likely extend to the rest (based on the series research I've conducted thus far):

--The heroes names are insane. And not in the good way. Wrath? Rhage? Phury? Zsadist? And in this particular installment, an adolescent vampire who dreams of the name Tehrror is introduced to the mix as well. Give me a flipping break!

--"Shitkickers" annoy the bejeebus out of me. Apparently to be a fully-fledged member of the brotherhood, one cannot wear boots, one must wear "shitkickers."

--The tough guy dialect shared by the brothers makes me cringe and I feel embarrassed for them whenever they talk to each other. Actually, come to think of it, the affected vernacular (it has to be affected because literally NO ONE ELSE in their world talks that way except the brothers) reminds me of people I've met in real life who are emotionally weak and/or were picked on \*horribly\* as children and have adopted a tough image to overcompensate. Maybe that's not too unheard of given the fact that pre-warrior vampires are born

as weak, pencil-necked geeks. But even if that's the case, the way they talk to each other annoys me.

--The rap music. Um, no. Just no. The references were over-the-top and ridiculous. And they made me laugh, which I don't think was the point.

The reason I did not particularly like this book was because I felt it fell apart in the middle. It started strong. It was intriguing. And then something happened that turned me off so badly that I realized I'd reached the point of no return with this couple and regardless of how they worked the problem out amongst themselves, I was done with them.

Despite the fact that sex supposedly calmed Rhage's dragon beast, being with Mary had the opposite effect. As he kisses her and tries to be intimate with her, he can feel the beast coming closer and closer to the surface and is reluctant to have sex with her for that reason. She doesn't know about his curse so he's scared of frightening her or hurting her and tries to prevent this from happening by backing away from her when it becomes too much to handle. At one point, he decides to go to a bar to meet a strange woman and have anonymous sex with her, which will then allow him to "be" with Mary without losing control. Mary doesn't know his reasons, but she knows he leaves her in his room to go out and have sex with a stranger.

I think most romance readers would be annoyed by his decision to do something like this. However, knowing there was a fairly legitimate reason for doing this bought him a small bit of leeway from me. I didn't like it, but it wasn't completely out of character. However, immediately after he returns from the bar where he admittedly has just had sex with some strange woman, she jumps his bones and they have sex for the first time.

WTF???

That pissed me off BIG time. OK ladies, if your man leaves you alone in his bedroom and you know he's just gone out to have meaningless sex with an anonymous stranger, the first thing you do NOT do is share your holy of holies with him the second he returns, mmkay?

After that happened, I didn't really care less about what happened to either of them. I had a hard time taking either of them seriously after that point and the fact that the last portion of the book spent more energy in setting up the next installment in the series rather than in resolving the plots within its own pages also irked me to no end. The book just sort of ended. It wasn't even on a cliffhanger.

Mary's civilian vampire friend, Bella, was abducted by the evil slayers. Bella is being slated to be the destined female for Zsadist in the third installment of the series and it peeves me to no end that she was abducted in the second book and not even mentioned in the last chapter. The last chapter of *Lover Eternal* was a happy, sappy ending between Rhage and Mary and had absolutely nothing to do with the fact that her friend had been abducted a few chapters earlier and never rescued. *Lame.*

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## **Christy says**

Rhage's story was nothing like I expected it to be... It was so much better!



Rhage is also known as 'Hollywood' to the other warriors of the BDB. He is the best looking of the bunch, and is with a different girl (or girls) every night. He is also the first one ready for a fight. But he has his reasons... He was cursed to live with 'the beast' for 200 years, and he has 91 years left to go. What people don't know about Rhage is he doesn't love using all the women, fighting all the time. It's just what he has to do.

Fighting and sex were the only two releases that brought him down, and he used them like a diabetic with insulin.

Mary is a thirty one year old human who is a cancer survivor. She works, and volunteers at a suicide prevention hotline. She mostly keeps busy and keeps to herself. She befriends a boy, John Matthew, who can hear, but not speak. Mary knows ASL so it works out well for the two of them. Mary's neighbor Bella comes over one night and meets John. She knows what John will be and calls the BDB. Mary comes to the BDB to act as a translator for John. There she meets Rhage.

Mary knows something is different about Rhage. She also knows how good looking he is. She is just average- nothing special, but for some reason, Rhage wants her. From the first moment he hears Mary's voice, he knows. He knows she is it for him. He wants her and he will do anything he can to get her and keep her. Mary is hesitant to say the least, after she finds out her cancer is back, she doesn't want to be close to anyone, and she still can't understand why someone like Rhage would even be interested in her. But he is. And he is persistent. For the first time, Rhage wants someone, not just for sex, but to be with, to love.

"I know all about you, and everything I see is beautiful. Everything I see is mine."?

"I'm not yours."

"Fine. If I can't have you, then you do the taking. Have all of me, part of me, a small piece, whatever you want. Just please, have something."

Rhage will do anything for Mary and to be with Mary. Even if it means defying the brotherhood. Which he does, more than once. He even has to go through a rhythe from the brotherhood, which he does willingly. He would do anything to keep Mary. Rhage completely changes his ways. He wants to be different for Mary. Mary brings out the best in Rhage, but she also brings out something else. The beast. The beast wants Mary just as much as Rhage, and instead of going away like the past when he has been intimate, it comes out. Luckily, they find a way to make it work (Bruce and V chaining Rhage down... that what a scene!). The beast likes Mary, it wants her. She's the only thing that can calm it.

"How can you stand to have me near you?"

"The only thing I can't handle is your leaving."

Things are good for a while. But Mary gets sicker and sicker. There is nothing Rhage can do to help her. And the war with the Lesser's is still going on, and one of them has captured a close friend... the last 20-25% of this book was intense!

Rhage and Mary's story was beautiful, heartbreaking, inspiring, and sexy! So much better than the first. Rhage broke my heart. He is not the cocky womanizer the first book displayed- he is so much more than that. I absolutely adored him! Mary's story was heart wrenching as well. She was strong- a survivor and the perfect mate for Rhage. I was more than a little emotional while reading this one. I have a feeling the next book is going to be any better (Z! Z! Z!) If that is possible. The best PNR I've read in a long time!

"You know, you were never the possessive type before."?

"That's because I never had something I wanted to keep."

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## Mo says

4.5 stars

I must say I really enjoyed this one. Only book 2 so we have a long journey to take.

Rhage was great, was built like a monster but was a puppy in reality.

### **The only thing I can't handle is your leaving**

I loved HIS love for Mary. How he wasn't afraid to shed tears.

This one was sad in parts, funny in parts, romantic in parts, scary in parts.

**"The front door flew open, and Mary shot out of the house, jumping off the porch, not even bothering with the steps to the ground. She ran over the frost-laden grass in her bare feet and threw herself at him, grabbing on to his neck with both arms. She held him so tightly his spine cracked.**

**She was sobbing. Bawling. Crying so hard her whole body was shaking.**

**He didn't ask any questions, just wrapped himself around her.**

**I'm not okay," she said hoarsely between breaths. "Rhage...I'm not okay."**

**"I will not fall in love with you," she said. "I can't let myself. I won't."**

**"That's all right. I'll love you enough for the both of us."**

Of course we got to meet all the Brothers again and Butch, yes, I still love Butch. He and V. are a hoot.

**"You're getting into some kind of shape, cop."**

**Aw, come on, now." Butch grinned. "Don't let that shower we took go to your head."**

**Rhage fired a towel at the male. "Just pointing out your beer gut's gone."**

**It was a Scotch pot. And I don't miss it.**

So, onwards and upwards to start reading ...

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**XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says**

*Warning: this one should take a while. So go do whatever it is you have to do, grab a picnic (a bottle of vodka should do) and take a deep breath. Here we go.*

**Be glad and rejoice**, dear friends and enemies, for my PNR allergy has come back full force. Well no, that's not exactly right. It's my romance allergy that's alive and kicking. And I have J.R. Ward to thank for it, yay! Because, seriously, this book? It's so packed with romantic crap that it would break even **the most hardened of serial killers**.

**When I started reading** this luuurrrrrve masterpiece, I was prepared to love it. *Hey you there, no fainting, ok? You did enough of that after Dark Lover happened. Time to man/woman/whatever up! You are strong!*

*You can do this!* Anyway, where was I? Oh yes. **I was prepared to love this book.** Belief suspended to the power of 100 and all that. Only that there is only so much I can take. I am a cold-hearted cynic after all, and attacking me with an army of fluffy bunnies and pastel-colored rainbows is guaranteed to unleash **the homicidal maniac in me.**

**In my Dark Lover** review I pointed out all the things that should have made me want to throw the book across the room in complete exasperation and utter desperation, but didn't. For this book I shall therefore **list all the things** that should have made me want to throw the book across the room in complete exasperation and utter desperation, but didn't. Because I was reading on my Kindle and didn't want to break it in a fit of **sugar shock-induced violence.**

#### ① **Welcome to the greatest pity party on earth!**

Please meet I'm-Not-Worthy-Mary and Woe-Is-Me-Rhage: she is annoying as hell, has **no self-respect** (more on that later) and whines 24/7. He revels in self-pity and has as much charisma as a **cardboard box**, which is quite ironic for a guy nicknamed Hollywood ← *and the award for the silliest names & nicknames ever goes to...J.R. Ward! Congratulations, the winner is you!* Such a delightful couple, these two. They really are a **match made in heaven.**

#### ② **Holy Bloody Mary Mother of God.**

Mary, Mary, Mary. What should we do with you? You must be **one of the most exasperating female characters** I've ever come across. You know J.R. Ward, the whole "I'm so ugly and boring and uninteresting and a burden and Rhage-only-wants-to-be-friends-with-me-ha-figures and why-would-Rhage-want-to-be-with-someone-like-me-when-he-can-have-the-hottest-chicks-in-the-universe" act **gets old really fast.** And when I say really fast, I mean REALLY FAST.

✉ *Private message to Mary: stop thinking, start humping. Or grinding. Or whatever. You get the idea.*

**Not only does Mary** have no self-esteem whatsoever, she also has absolutely no self-respect! Isn't she a dream come true?! Get this: her mate/boyfriend/whatever (you know, the guy she's not good enough for) refuses to have sex with her (I could tell you why but [spoilers]). He goes off to have sex with some unknown chick in a bar (**he's classy like that**) ← *yes, people who have read this book, I know he supposedly HAS to do this (view spoiler) but that's not the point here, so lay off me. Thank you. ← Listen people, if you keep distracting me like this, we won't go anywhere.* So, where were we? Oh yes. **Rhage, bar, classy sex.** So dear Rhage gets home after getting it on with that unknown chick (did I mention the chick was hot? J.R. Ward doesn't describe her but I'm pretty sure she was hot as hell. I mean, Rhage is a **hot chick magnet** so she's gotta be hot, right? Right.)

**Okay, okay, I'm getting there!** So Rhage gets home. Mary is suitably pissed off/heartbroken and her self-esteem is shattered once again (sob sob). So far so good. What does she do next? Why **she jumps his bones**, of course! Because what self-respecting woman wouldn't have sex with her boyfriend/mate/whatever who just had classy sex with some unknown hot chick in a bar? Yep, **self-respect is seriously overrated** these

days. But that's not all. Oh no. It gets much better. Because what does dear Holy Mary do next? She apologizes to You're-Too-Good-For-Me-Rhage for "using" and "violating" him. Way to go, girl. **I think you'll be my role model from now on.**

### ③ **My ridiculous name is Rhage and my stupid nickname is Hollywood.**

I am at a loss for words here, J.R. Ward. So here you have this **super cool character idea** and the only thing you manage to do with it is turn the guy into a teary-eyed, **love-sick puppy bore**? You have got to be kidding me. He should have been tough as iron nails (yes, there is such a thing). He should have been excruciatingly aggravating. He should have been **a total asshole**. But no, the guy is freaking nice. Yes, NICE. Seriously, J.R. Ward? Need I remind you that your character is supposed to be a freaking [BEEP] (view spoiler) ?! \*shakes head in desperation\* Anyway, long story short: Rhage is a **pathetic crybaby**, so I shall (very graciously, I might add) leave him for you ladies to fight over. The guy's infected with the deadly **Sick Lurrrrve Disease (SLD)**, there's no way I'm letting him into my harem. Do you seriously think I'd let him contaminate my **delicious gang of truly aggravating assholes**?

### ④ **The greatest cheese fest on earth**

You don't know what cheese is until you've read this book. J.R. Ward has bravely gone **where no author had ever gone before**. Let me tell you, The Duke and I is **nothing compared to this**. And when I say nothing, I mean NOTHING. Bloody hell. It's a miracle I'm still alive. Well, I must say I do have a **weird rash** all over my body right now, but I guess that's a side-effect of **level 10 sugar shock poisoning** (the deadliest kind).

And how does this delightful utter cheesiness and total mushiness fiesta end? Why in a glorious blast of **MEA (Miraculously Ever After)**, of course! Because J.R. Ward doesn't do HEAs, oh no. HEAs are totally out these days. And **terribly depressing**, too. So when happiness no longer cuts it, what does J.R. Ward do? She throws in a freaking miracle! YES!!!! My life is now complete!!! I shall be **miraculously ecstatic ever after!!** Hallelujah, all my prayers have finally been answered!!

### ⑤ **Boredom, Inc**

*No I am not talking about my review here. You're hilarious, you know that?*

**In Dark Lover**, there was a plot. In Dark Lover, there was a story. In Dark Lover, there was world building. In Lover Eternal, there is a **BIG FAT NOTHING**. It's all Mary & Rhage, blah blah blah, whine whine whine. The John subplot is YAWN, the Mr O & Mr X subplot is **please-someone-slap-me-I'm-falling-asleep**. The little action there is is yeah-yeah-yeah-fascinating-please-get-own-with-it-thank-you-very-much. Damn, the whole thing is so desperately dull and lacklustre even the **sex scenes are boring as hell**. Yep, you read that right, boring sex scenes. Now that's **quite an achievement right there**.

**J.R. Ward**. Sigh. To think I almost loved you when I finished reading Dark Lover. I mean, you were the person that finally managed to make me love like a Freaking PNR Novel. You, however, **nipped this young PNR love in the bud**, so I can't say I like you very much right now. Yes, I still plan to read Z's book. Because, you know, Z (view spoiler). But **he better keep his ass in check**. And you definitely better not pull a Barbara Cartland on me, J.R. Ward. **Because sadistic bastards and pink fluffy bunnies don't mix well. Not in my world, anyway.**

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## Sophia Triad says

### Rhage and Mary

Rhage fell in love with Mary's voice, when they met for first time. He didn't know how she looked like. He was almost blind and disoriented and Mary's voice calmed his Beast. A Beast that is usually silent and waiting, trapped as a tattoo on Rhage's back. Until Rhage is in danger. Then the Beast pops out and there is no Rhage anymore – only the Beast.

Just like the incredible Hulk. Rhage transforms into a dragon who has his own personality and Rhage's personality is pulled back.

Rhage and his Beast love food. And sex. They are the only things that sate the Beast. Until the Beast meets Mary and her soothing voice of course.

Mary is a plain girl –although sweet. She is not like the girls that Rhage and his beast usually prefer. And Mary has a secret which eats her from inside. Mary is dying. And not just because she is human. She is dying faster than she wants. Cancer. Chemotherapy. Destroyed chances of becoming a mother.

And now she has another problem. A huge extremely good-looking guy who eats like a horse and who wants to keep her just to hear her voice. Plain Mary does not know what Rhage wants from her. He could have any girl he wants. Any. Girls look at him all the time (even the times that he is with Mary), they give him notes with their phone numbers, and they talk to him and ignore Mary.

Mary soon will have enough! She asks him to leave her alone, she begs him to leave her alone, she orders him to leave her alone.

Rhage is still there!

And then Mary will have another problem. **Is Rhage really a vampire? And is the tattoo on his back really moving?**

Rhage and Mary is one of the most favorable couples in BDB.

Mary's problems with her health will break your heart.

Rhage insatiable appetite for food will make you laugh out loudly.

This is also a very important book, because Bella meets Zsadi for the first time (HOT!) and mute and scrawny John Matthew is introduced to the brotherhood (SWEET!).

### **FAVOURITE PASSAGE – WHEN THEY MET FOR FIRST TIME:**

*"My name...my name is Mary. I'm here with a friend."*

*Rhage stopped breathing. His heart skipped a beat and then slowed. "Say that again," he whispered.*

*'Ah, my name is Mary Luce. I'm a friend of Bella's... We came here with a boy, with John Matthew. We were invited.'*

*Rhage shivered, a balmy rush blooming out all over his skin. The musical lilt of her voice, the rhythm of her speech, the sound of her words, it all spread through him, calming him, comforting him. Chaining him sweetly.*

*He closed his eyes. 'Say something else.'*

*'What?' she asked, baffled.*

*'Talk. Talk to me. I want to hear your voice.'*

*She was silent, and he was about to demand that she speak when she said, 'You don't look well. Do you*

*need a doctor?'*

*He found himself swaying. The words didn't matter. It was her sound: low, soft, a quiet brushing in his ears. He felt as if here being stroked on the inside of his skin.*

*'More,' he said, twisting his palm around to the front of her neck so he could feel the vibrations in her throat better.*

*'Could you... could you please let go of me?'*

*'No.' He brought his other arm up. She was wearing some kind of fleece, and he moved the collar aside, putting his hand on her shoulder so she couldn't get away from him. 'Talk.'*

*She started to struggle. 'You're crowding me.'*

*'I know. Talk.'*

*'Oh for God's sake, what do you want me to say?'*

*Even exasperated, her voice was beautiful. 'Anything.'*

*'Fine. Get your hand off my throat and let me go or I'm going to knee you where it counts.'*

*He laughed. Then sank his lower body into her, trapping her with his thighs and hips. She stiffened against him, but he got an ample feel of her. She was built lean, though there was no doubt she was female. Her breasts hit his chest, her hips cushioned his, her stomach was soft.*

*'Keep talking,' he said in her ear. God, she smelled good. Clean. Fresh. Like lemon.*

*When she pushed against him, he leaned his full weight into her. Her breath came out in a rush.*

*'Please,' he murmured.*

*Her chest moved against his as if she were inhaling. 'I... er, I have nothing to say. Except get off of me.'*

*He smiled, careful to keep his mouth closed. There was no sense showing off his fangs, especially if she didn't know what he was. 'So say that.'*

*'What?'*

*'Nothing. Say nothing. Over and over and over again. Do it.'*

*She bristled, the scent of fear replaced by a sharp spice, like fresh, pungent mint from a garden. She was annoyed now. 'Say it.'*

*"Fine. Nothing. Nothing." Abruptly she laughed, and the sound shot right through to his spine, burning him. 'Nothing, nothing. No-thing. No-thing. Noooooothing. There, is that good enough for you? Will you let me go now?'"*

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## **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

RHAGE...aka

beautiful and gorgeous Brother.....

and probably the most "underrated" of the Brotherhood.

Here's this amazing guy who can get any women he wants but what he's looking for...someone to love and care for just seems to be just a dream. Afraid to love because of what's inside him...

And at last meeting Mary, the woman who loves him for who he is, for what's underneath that beauty..she's sees a soul that's worth loving.....my heart really bled for the pain she's had in her life and my heart soared when she found a life with Rhage

Some favorite quotes:

I'm not okay," she said hoarsely between breaths. "Rhage...I'm not okay."

"I will not fall in love with you," she said. "I can't let myself. I won't."  
"That's all right. I'll love you enough for the both of us."

YES, SHE DOES!!!!!!!

### First reviewed in 2011

LOVER ETERNAL is the 2nd book in the Black Dagger Brotherhood series that I am becoming more and more addicted to as I continue reading it.

This is another reread.....i can't get away from this series....I keep reading each book over and over again....I wish I could read LOVER REBORN ...like right now!!!!  
Anyway, after reading this book again.....I love it just as much if not more than before. Rhage...what a gorgeous man.....I ABSOLUTELY LOVE HIM.....  
so...am I going to read it again????? You bet!!!!!!!

A story of finding true love, making sacrifices, fighting evil, loyalty, steamy and erotic sex and devotion.

Rhage is a strong, absolutely gorgeous (reason why he's often referred to as Hollywood!!)has been cursed by the Virgin Scribe (she is the mother of all vampires) with a dragon that can only be controlled by having sex with different women and he is tired of meaningless sex and longs to find a woman he can love and be with. He meets Mary Luce, a very average looking woman who touches his heart with her voice. She is battling with leukemia and is in the final stage of the disease and knows that she will not have much time to live.

Their relationship is so sweet and tender. The sacrifice Rhage makes to keep Mary alive is totally amazing. There is so much passion in their story and you knew that they were meant for each other. I loved these two characters. T

We learn more about the Lessing Society....Mr X, Mr O...love the names

The story also introduces us to new characters....Bella, a vampire and a friend of Mary's, John Mathews, the young and lonely boy Mary "adopts" and introduces to the Brotherhood and more about Wrath and Beth's life.

Getting to the last page, you feel part of this fantastic and fabulous family.

We get hints and clues for what is coming in the next books....the story of Butch and Marissa, Zsadist and Bella and the end of this book is really great....leaves you wanting to get started on the next installment.....

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### Amy (Foxy) says

WOW! Can, I have my own, **Rhage** to keep?! His devotion to **Mary** made my heart flutter.

R – restless

H – “Hollywood”



A – alpha  
G - gorgeous  
E - eternal

**I love that feeling when you start to panic while reading a book because you DON'T know how the story can end on a happy note.** You become irrational and start texting and calling friends to vent. And then as your walking through the grocery store you make your 17 old daughter listen to you go on and on about how he's a **vampire** and she's a **human** and what will happen to him when she dies because she's a mortal. The priceless look on your 17 year old daughter's face as she tries to figure out if you've lost your mind in the middle of the grocery store is proof you have gone off the deep in for BDB.

Then she begins to reason with you, *"Mom, he'll just bite her and she'll live forever."*

But you get all worked up and say, "NO!! They don't bite people."

*"Wait...what happens when they go in the sunlight."*

"They get third degree burns!"

*"Oh, so they are real vampires NOT sparkly ones." LOL!*

***"I'll love you enough for both of us"***

*Cheat sheet for the brotherhood :*

**Wrath:** last pure-blood vampire in existence. Dark Lover(#1) The King (#12)

**Rhage:** is the strongest and most beautiful of the Brothers. Nicknamed "Hollywood." Lover Eternal (#2)

**Zsadist:** has a twin, Phury. Described as "ruined, not broken." Lover Awakened (#3)

**Butch/Dhestroyer:** is the only human male ever to be allowed within the Brotherhood. Nickname "Cop." Lover Revealed (#4)

**Vishous:** is the smartest Brother, and the one who is specially gifted/cursed. Lover Unbound (#5)

**Phury:** Zsadist's twin brother and loyal to his brother. Lover Enshrined (#6)

**Rehvenge:** Lover Avenged (#7)

**John Matthew/Tehrror:** is (view spoiler)Lover Mine (#8)

**Dr. Manuel "Manny" Manello:** is Chief of Surgery at St. Francis Hospital. Lover Unleashed (#9)

**Tohrment:** Lover Reborn (#10)

**Qhuinn:** has mismatched eyes. Lover at Last (#11)

**Blaylock/"Blay":** Lover at Last (#11)

**SERIES:**

To find out when The Shadows will be released and if there will be more books in the series [click here](#).

*Novellas:*

(#6.5)

70th book of 2014

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**Buggy says**

Opening Line: *"Ah, hell, V, you're killing me."*

LOVER ETERNAL is Rhage's story and oh man are we in for a treat. Such a perfect, heartbreaking romance. Continuing directly after Dark Lover, we find The Black Dagger Brotherhood now living together in Darius's mansion. Wrath has stepped up to the throne with his Queen Beth by his side, as the battle with the Lessers continues.

One of the things I loved about the book is that we get to know all the brother's a whole lot better here, their unique personalities along with all their quirks, fears and flaws. The constant teasing and smart ass comments are hilarious and the bond between the men instills in us a true sense of family.

Rhage, as this book's hero is a great character. With a boyish style of charm he's funny, sexy and fiercely loyal. Throw in the playboy model good looks and yes he's every woman's fantasy except for one small thing. Rhage has been cursed by the Scribe Virgin and now bears the mark of a dragon inside and out. The only way for him to keep the beast quiet is with violence or sex, and Rhage hates himself for it. Struggling each day to keep from harming those closest to him because once the beast gets out it's so violent and unpredictable that even the Brothers fear for their lives.

Mary has been fighting a curse of her own and fears that the cancer which robbed her of her looks and youth may have returned. She is, in her own words nothing special, plain and past her prime with a body battered by chemotherapy. When she befriends a young mute boy named John Mathew her life changes forever. Bella, Mary's friend and neighbour recognizes the boy as one of her own, a pre-transitioned vampire and strangely bearing the mark of a warrior. Acting as John Mathew's translator, Mary finds herself at the Brotherhood mansion where she meets Rhage. He is instantly attracted to her, coming on strong although she can't understand what he sees in her. On their first date Mary assumes he's being polite and just wants to be friends but as Rhage continues to pursue her she is thrown into the world of the paranormal.

For Rhage Mary is IT. Her voice soothes him and he finds her to be the most beautiful, interesting woman he's ever met, wanting her like no other before, but unfortunately his beast wants her too. After being told repeatedly to 'scrub' Mary's memories and defying direct orders Rhage ultimately must pay the price for his insubordination and this is quite the scene as the Brothers are forced to perform a 'rythe' (a ritual where the recipient is struck by a weapon without defending himself) However this turns out to be only the first of his many sacrifices for Mary.

Rhage and Mary's love story is well done, heartbreakingly sweet but also erotic as hell. As Mary attempts to `tame' the chained beast while Butch and V stand guard. I honestly didn't know if they were going to get there HEA until the last few pages and Rhage's final meeting with the Scribe Virgin contains an absolutely heart wrenching scene that kept me gasping as I know her enjoyment of sacrifice.

Throughout this story we have of course go back and forth to the Lessers who have set up a torture facility and a side plot develops which finds Bella irresistibly drawn to Zsadist. He of course pushes her away but not before allowing us a glimpse of softness within 'the cold one.' Phury warns her to leave him alone, explaining that his twin is "ruined not broken" but when the Lessers kidnap Bella's it's Zsadist who makes it his personal mission to find her. Setting up the premise for the next book in this fantastic series, *Lover Awakened* and this story is not to be missed.

This series just gets better and better and if you like your paranormal romance than I can't recommend **LOVER ETERNAL** enough.

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### ? Sh3lly - Grumpy Name-Changing Wanderer ? says

RHAGE's story is only \$1.99 on Amazon right now. One of my favorites in the series. I even like Mary! :P

<https://www.amazon.com/Lover-Eternal-...>

#### **Previous post:**

This is my second time reading this, and while I did skim through the *Lessers* sections, I am keeping my original rating. The *Lessers* serve to give the Brothers a villain to battle and some ass to kick. I didn't feel it was necessary to re-read those sections. But the romance between Rhage and Mary was still fantastic and perfect for a good PNR.

If you don't like romance and get annoyed by tropes, you'll probably hate this. It's got the mega-alpha male who is stalkerish in the beginning and the seemingly submissive female who ends up being strong and his equal. Mary did have a legitimate reason for her low self-esteem and doubts. And Rhage had good reasons for the way he acted before meeting Mary too. I am much more lenient for some reason with PNR compared to regular romances and this one still works for me.

I might add more later, but this is still a favorite old-school PNR comfort read for me! :)

#### **Original post:**

**While I wait... and wait... and wait... for my re-read of *Dark Lover with Sarah* (who will probably hate it) and the *MacHalo* group on October 22, 2015, I've decided to re-read Rhage's book.**

**YESSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS. Let the sexy times begin.**

\*Image from Deviant Art by michy0828.

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## Laura says

### 4.6 stars

*"I know all about you, and everything I see is beautiful. Everything I see is mine."*

*"I'm not yours," she whispered.*

*The rejection didn't faze him. "Fine. If I can't have you, then you do the taking. Have all of me, part of me, a small piece, whatever you want. Just please, have something."*

**Blurb:** Within the brotherhood, Rhage is the vampire with the strongest appetites. He's the best fighter, the quickest to act on his impulses, and the most voracious lover-for inside him burns a ferocious curse cast by the Scribe Virgin. Owned by this dark side, Rhage fears the time when his inner dragon is unleashed, making him a danger to everyone around him.

Mary Luce, a survivor of many hardships is unwittingly thrown into the vampire world and reliant on Rhage's protection. With a life-threatening curse of her own, Mary is not looking for love. She lost her faith in miracles years ago. But when Rhage's intense animal attraction turns into something more emotional, he knows that he must make Mary his alone. And while their enemies close in, Mary fights desperately to gain life eternal with the one she loves...

It feels so good re-reading these books. It's like coming back home after a long and exhausting day.

And, boy, Rhage can make me giggle like a little girl and blush like an old horny nun and Mary, sweet Mary, she's oh so wonderful. She's such a warrior with the gentlest heart of all.

**Note:** As always, when it comes to the BDB books, I can't be neutral even to save my life. So I'll try to keep my head straight and have my feeling in control.

This second book in the Black Dagger Brotherhood world tells the story about Rhage and Mary and how they save each other in every possible way. This book also plays a main part because it leads to some of the following stories. As a sequel I can't say  *Lover Eternal*  complements the first book but it does do a very good job.

Warden's writing style is always on point and sharp. Some people may find the language and the way the Brothers talk not so appealing but I like it a lot. It makes sense if you're really into the story.

The same goes for the female/male thing. One thing we need to remember is that they're a different species and their ways and traditions are also different and, even when they keep up with modern tendencies, they're still animalistic.

Once you get that behind, I think the books become more and more enjoyable.

I sometimes skip the lessers parts, but in this book I didn't do it. One of the lessers, O, was twisted and sick

as fuck. When he was human he was a monster and now, in this new life, he's such a psychopath and his quest to find a woman who looks like his dead wife it's both repulsive and interesting to read.

Now, back to our MCs...

Rhage is a really complex character. He has so many layers but he's always ready to be the optimistic one, the one who takes the beating for someone else, the one who makes things lighter and the one who will have everyone's back but he's in deep shit, he suffers, not only because of his curse but also for the emptiness of his actions.

*"Could you not...ride me about the females? Because the truth is, I hate it, I really do. I hate the anonymity of it. I hate the way my chest aches afterward. I hate the smells on my body and in my hair when I get home. But most of all, I hate the fact that I'm going to have to do it again because if I don't, I could end up hurting one of you guys or some innocent bystander. And those two sisters you're so impressed with? See, here's the thing. I only pick the ones who don't give a shit who they're with, because otherwise it's not fair. Those two bar chippies checked out my watch and my roll and figured I was a pimp trophy. The fucking was about as intimate as a car accident. And tonight? You're going home to Wellsie. I'm going home alone. Just like I did yesterday. Just like I'm going to do the day after. The whoring isn't fun for me, and it's been killing me for years, so please give it a rest, dig?"*

Only fighting and sex can calm him enough to keep the beast under control but he hates himself afterwards. And Rhage is actually so selfless despite some of his actions. He cares for his brothers a lot, he's ready to do anything for them, ready to endure any kind of torture for the sake of them, and now Mary's.

His backstory is also interesting. Here we have a young man blessed with godlike looks, herculean strength, and almost endless energy, smart as they come and charming as fuck so what does he do after his transition? He's drunk on power. He fucks his way through life and abuses of his recently acquired gifts for years until he's introduced to the Brotherhood and then he kills a bird.

*"It was a barn owl. One of those lovely white barn owls. I can still see the red stain as its blood seeped onto its feathers. When I picked up the bird and felt its light weight in my hands, I realized that carelessness was a form of cruelty. See, I'd always told myself that because I meant no harm, anything that happened wasn't my fault. At that moment, though, I knew I was wrong. If I hadn't given the female my gun, the bird wouldn't have been shot. I was responsible even though I didn't pull the trigger."*

That's when the Scribe Virgin curses him with the beast.

*“She cursed me, and since then, anytime I get out of control, the beast comes out. In a way, it’s really the perfect punishment. It’s taught me to regulate my energy, my moods. It’s taught me to respect the consequences of all my actions. Helped me understand the power in my body in a way I never would have otherwise.”*

It says a lot of him to see things that way now, he’s grown up so much since all of that and, despite the persona he shows to everyone, he’s really mature.  
That what makes him perfect for Mary Luce, I think.

She’s a survivor and a helper. She was with her mother when she got sick and died, she decides to help others and she became a therapist for autistic children and she loved her job, but then she got leukemia and almost die, *though she clinically died a couple of times*. She’s been in remission for a couple years and she volunteers part-time on a Suicide Prevention Hotline. She doesn’t take crap from anyone, she always has a smile ready and she doesn’t make excuses for herself or anyone else.

Of all of the things I love about Mary is the fact that she’s so open to everything. She doesn’t judge people that easily and when she does, she tries to vanish that feeling. She’s fearless and tough and she is just so good. And you know I usually don’t like honest-to-god-good characters but Mary is legit awesome.

*She could not rely on him for comfort, not even in this moment. Her life depended on her keeping it together, and there was a slippery slope to tears. If she started crying now, she wasn’t going to stop in the days and weeks ahead. God knew, the hard inner core of her had been the only thing that had gotten her through the last time she’d been sick. If she lost that resolve, she had no power whatsoever against the disease.*  
*Mary wiped her eyes.*  
*Not again, she thought. She would not lose it in front of him again.*

She’s fought alone for years now that having someone watch her die, like she saw her mother, that’s something she can’t stand. She’s willing to give herself, the good parts, to people but her illness is hers only. Trusting Rhage and trusting he can handle it and love her even when she’s sick is her biggest battle.

*“And you don’t want me going through that?”*  
*“No, I don’t. I don’t want that for either of us. I’d rather you remember me the way I am now. And I’d rather remember us the way we’ve been. I’m going to need some happy places to go.”*  
*“I want to be there for you.”*  
*“And I don’t need that. I’m not going to have the energy to put up a front. And pain...pain makes people change.”*

Once she fully understood Rhage and their feelings, she let go. It was a breaking point, to admit she was going to be worse and worse and he was going to be there for her.

Both she and Rhage have their insecurities, for her was her illness and the fact that she was going to become someone she doesn't want to, and for him was the fact that he had a dangerous ugly side and how could someone see past that? How can he be worthy of someone after everything he's done?

So they find in each other exactly what they're looking for and way more.

Oh, and they're very sexy together. Rhage, man, he's a sensual male. He knows what he wants and how to take it and make you beg for more but his confidence and utter devotion make him ten thousand better. And Mary? She looks so innocent and sweet but she also likes control, she loves watching him fall apart overwhelming with pleasure. She gives and she demands and she's the perfect balance to Rhage recklessness.

Now, we also had some others storylines:

Bella and Zsadist, John Matthew, Butch and Marissa and Phury's.

I like Bella, I like her a lot. She's proper, an aristocrat woman who is reserved but she goes after what she wants. She's been taken care of her whole life and she craves for adventures, an affair with the dark side and she finds Zsadist. (view spoiler) She's attracted to him against her better judgment and she wants him, only that what she finds is a very ruined man. They're quite interesting because it's not one-sided, he wants her too but he doesn't know what to do. He was a blood and sex slave for over a century and he fears the intimacy. So, when Bella is abducted, he goes insane and deadly, ready to tear apart the world to find her.

Then we have John and boy, my heart totally melted for him. He's such a tiny thing with a warrior heart. Literally. His living isn't a good one and when he's taken to the brotherhood's compound, he feels like getting back home but when Tohr takes him to his house to meet Wellsie? Guys, I sobbed. He was a lost boy and now he had a home.

There are a lot of things going on and nothing at all with Butch and Marissa. He likes her, she seemed to like him back in book one but now she's avoiding him and he doesn't know what to do with that. Has he misunderstood the signals? He feels unworthy of her, she's not only a vampire but she's a precious woman in the community, *as far as he knows*, and she has all the right to reject his company but he's crazy about her.

And then we have Phury. He seems to like Bella, but his celibacy vow is strong and he doesn't know what to do. We didn't see much of him but that'll change.

Overall, this is my second favorite book in the series and it just makes me so happy.

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## **Sammy Loves Books says**

### **5 Marvelous "Male of Worth Stars"!!!!.**

**He's a Vampire, a Warrior, and a Dangerous Beast.  
His name is Rhage and he will forever own my heart.**

### **Rhage**

*The son of a bitch actually bent the laws of physics, he was so attractive. Blond hair was cut short in the back, and left longer in the front. Teal-blue eyes were the color of Bahamas seawater. And that face made Brad Pitt look like a candidate for the Swan.*

Rhage is the strongest and most beautiful member of the Black Dagger Brotherhood. He's also cursed to share his body with a beast for 200 years. Rhage stifles his beast and prevents its appearance by fighting until exhaustion and fucking any female that isn't married or fertile.

*"Yeah, Tohr, can I ask you a favor?"*

*"Anything, my brother."*

*"Could you not...ride me about the females? Because the truth is, I hate it, I really do. I hate the anonymity of it. I hate the way my chest aches afterward. I hate the smells on my body and in my hair when I get home. But most of all, I hate the fact that I'm going to have to do it again because if I don't, I could end up hurting one of you guys or some innocent bystander."..."And those two sisters you're so impressed with? See, here's the thing. I only pick the ones who don't give a shit who they're with, because otherwise it's not fair. Those two bar chippies checked out my watch and my roll and figured I was a pimp trophy. The fucking was about as intimate as a car accident. And tonight? You're going home to Wellsie. I'm going home alone. Just like I did yesterday. Just like I'm going to do the day after. The whoring isn't fun for me, and it's been killing me for years, so please give it a rest, dig?"*

Rhage longs to have the same woman in his bed every night. But that isn't a possibility with his curse. At least, it wasn't, until he meets Mary. Her voice soothes him, and her scent is clean and refreshing. He's been given direct orders to scrub her memory and remove himself from her life, but he just can't bring himself to do it! It's insta-love on steroids, and I Love It!!

**His voice was like sandpaper. "I need to tell you something."**

*I'm a vampire. I'm a warrior. I'm a dangerous beast. At the end of this evening, you aren't going to*



*remember you ever met me. And the idea of not even being a memory of yours makes me feel like I've been stabbed in the chest.*

Rhage was head over heels crazy for Mary. His insta-love for her was beyond intense and I believe it was a bit overwhelming for Rhage. I also think that Mary found it hard to believe all the sweet, endearing things Rhage proclaimed.

*What you just had is nothing compared to what I want to do to you. I want my head between your legs so I can lick you until you scream my name. Then I want to mount you like an animal and look into your eyes as I come inside of you. I want to take you every way there is. I want to do you from behind. I want to screw you standing up, against the wall. I want you to sit on my hips and ride me until I can't breath.*

Mary is a cancer survivor. Leukemia to be exact, and she doesn't have time to waste on a date with a stud god. A man that wrecks of youth and vitality when she is facing certain death. Some saw Mary as weak and insecure. She just had more important things on her mind than entertaining a glorified sex god.

Mary was guilty of judging a book by it's cover. When she looked at Rhage, all she saw was a pretty face. All it took was quality time with Rhage, to learn that he was a man of worth.

*“I will not fall in love with you.” She said. “I can’t let myself. I won’t.”*  
*“That’s alright. I’ll love you enough for the both of us.”*

Mary is stronger and more secure than most readers give her credit for. Yes, she knew she wasn't 'hot', but she wasn't insecure in her own skin. She stood up to Zadist and Vishious. And when the time came, she was willing to go head to head with Rhage's Beast!

I love Mary and Rhage together! He was willing to walk away from the brotherhood for her. And he made the ultimate sacrifice in order to keep her safe. Mary calmed Rhage's inner beast and provided him with comfort when he had lost hope in ever having peace!

This re-read was Amazing and makes me want to pick up Zadist's book yet again!! Damn, J.R. Ward knows how to write lusty, love sick, vampire warriors!!

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## Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

### 5 Bonding with the Beast Stars

**\*Spoilers\***

First read 2014

Reread March 25, 2017

**"Rhage." "What?" "I'll tell you this. Your destiny's coming for you. And she's coming soon." Rhage laughed. "Oh, yeah? What's the female like? I prefer them - " "She's a virgin."-V and Rhage**

Love Eternal the 2nd book in the BDB series is Rhage and Mary's book and a total 5 star hit for me! It was just as awesome as book one maybe a bit more awesome because there was so much Z in it and I am head over heels for Z! I don't know what it is about this series but each book just grabs me by the feels. Rhage and Mary's love was an angst filled journey to HEA. But it was so good all I could do was hold on for the roller coaster of love.

**"You're crowding me." "I know. Talk." "Oh, for God's sake, what do you want me to say?" Even exasperated, her voice was beautiful. "Anything." "Fine. Get your hand off my throat and let me go or I'm going to knee you where it counts."-Mary and Rhage**

**"She smiled a little. "You are a manipulator. " "I like to think of myself more as an outcome engineer." -Mary and Rhage**

Rhage was the playboy of the Brotherhood. He's called Hollywood because of his good looks and his man whore ways. Everyone thought he was cool and sexy, but under it all he was numb. He hated the meaningless sex and wanted a female of worth. The problem was he was cursed with a beast inside that if he didn't have sex of fight to tame it, the beast would come out and kills everything in site. I do believe this was the only book in history where the hero cheats on the heroine and I still loved the shit out of him and forgave him within minutes. Of course he only did it once, there are no details of it to be read, and he did it because he started to lose control twice of his beast. Not that I didn't wish he would have found another way, but I still understood. Rhage was so lovable even with his flaws. He was honest to a fault, Sexy, caring, and loyal(yes I know I am saying that about a man that cheated but he really was!). Mary knew she was dying. Her leukemia was back and now there was this amazing, super sexy guy that wanted to be with her. So of course she pushed him away a few times and lashed out. She was scared and hurting and you could feel her fear and pain coming in waves off the pages. I love that Mary was sweet but she could act rude and stupid too. She seemed down to earth and more real because of it. Mary in her own way was a warrior and a fighter. I loved how big her heart was. I also love how accepting she was of Rhage( the fact that he was a vampire and had a beast).

**"I'm not a man, Mary, even though parts of me look like one. What you just had is nothing compared to what I want to do to you. I want my head between your legs so I can lick you until you scream my name. Then I want to mount you like an animal and look into your eyes as I come inside of you. And**

**after that? I want to take you every way there is. I want to do you from behind. I want to screw you standing up, against the wall. I want you to sit on my hips and ride me until I can't breathe." -Rhage**

**"What did you just say?" She hadn't meant for it to happen, she thought. The falling or the telling. But she would take neither of them back. "I'm not sure," she murmured, taking in the brute strength of his shoulders and arms. "But I think it was something along the lines of 'I love you.' Yeah, that was it. I, ah, I love you." Now, that was lame. She could do a hell of a lot better. Mary grabbed his face, planted a good hard one on his mouth, and looked him straight in the eye. "I love you, Rhage. I love you something fierce."-Rhage and Mary**

Mary and Rhage were so sweet together. Both loving and supportive. I was really rooting for their love. Rhage was sexy as hell and being the legendary lover of the vampire world, he was rocking it in the bedroom. I loved the parts with Mary and the Beast. It was funny and cute how he was like a loving puppy with her after having just ripped a bunch of bodies apart. These two had to go through so much to get their heads it was really heartbreaking at times. Is it just me or does anyone else not really like the The Scribe Virgin? I mean at times she seems so mean and cold. Then she will do something nice and I will soften to her a little only to have her turn around and be cold again. I loved all the bits of Z and Bella in this book. Z is just so damn damaged I want to kiss it all and make it better for him. And I love Bella because she sees what an amazing male Z is when most just look at him and see broken. Their book is next and I can't freakin wait. Z is one of my top 5 book boyfriends of all times.

**"You need to stay away from him." When she didn't respond, the warrior pulled her into a corner and gripped her shoulders. "My twin's not broken. He's ruined. Do you understand the difference? With broken, maybe you can fix things. Ruined? All you can do is wait to bury him." Her mouth opened slightly. "That's so... callous." "That's reality. If he dies before I do, it will kill me. But that doesn't change what he is." She pointedly separated herself from the male. "I'll keep that in mind. Thanks." "Bella - "-Phury and Bella**

**"I want to look at you. I like to look at you." His eyes narrowed. "No, you don't." "Yes. I do." "No one likes to look at me. Not even I do." "You're not ugly, Zsadist." He laughed, deliberately running a fingertip down his scar. "Now, there's a ringing endorsement. As well as a blatant fucking lie." "I find you mesmerizing. I can't get you out of my mind. I want to be with you." Zsadist frowned, falling still. "Be with me exactly how?" "You know. Be with you." She blushed a brilliant red, but figured she had nothing to lose. "I want to... lay with you."-Bella and Z**

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**P says**

"I will not fall in love with you," she said. "I can't let myself. I won't."

"That's all right. I'll love you enough for the both of us."

Rhage was cursed. Being in the dragon form is not what he appreciates, so he uses sex to settle it. But then Mary came to his life and changed his world. That's where the real fun begins.

Rhage is hot, sexy and hilarious. I liked every quote he made. Mary has a big heart even though she knows she's going to die, she can't stop herself from being near Rhage. The romance revolving around them was kind of bittersweet for me because I knew something would happen for the time being even though everything they had been through, that was not enough to stop me from crying in the last chapter of this book.

“The front door flew open, and Mary shot out of the house, jumping off the porch, not even bothering with the steps to the ground. She ran over the frost-laden grass in her bare feet and threw herself at him, grabbing on to his neck with both arms. She held him so tightly his spine cracked.

She was sobbing. Bawling. Crying so hard her whole body was shaking.

He didn't ask any questions, just wrapped himself around her.

I'm not okay," she said hoarsely between breaths. "Rhage...I'm not okay.”

This scene is my favorite. And the ending was like a knife stabbed through my heart.

J.R. Ward has her signature to move her the story. Her writing is addictive. Her characters are remarkable. And the fight with the Lesser was so exciting, yet it distracted me sometimes. By the way, I loved to see how these conflicts would unfold in the end.

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**Jennifer says**

**4 HAPPY-SWOONY-VAMPIRE STARS!!!!**

*Review edited on 11/22/2013 after re-read.*

*This is re-read because I can't get enough of the The Beast!!!!*

**My Rhage:**

*A special Thank You to Irene for letting me steal her Rhage. He's just so perfect!*

**My Mary:**

*It would have been great, just once, to have a man stare at her with total adoration. To have him be...enthralled. Yes, that was the word. She would have loved for a man to be enthralled by her.*

*"I will not fall in love with you," she said. "I can't let myself. I won't."  
"That's all right. I'll love you enough for the both of us."*

Mary is dying. She wants to live out the short life that she has in peace. Rhage (aka Hollywood and BDB funny man) is a self-centered player who has been cursed for 200 years with a beast inside himself that he struggles to control. The first time Rhage hears Mary's voice, it calms his inner beast. He cannot get enough of her. But it is difficult for Mary to believe that Rhage feels anything for her, so she pushes him away. It was wonderful seeing how Rhage could get Mary to soften towards him. It loved getting to know his sweeter side. The ending was unbelievably good! Love this one and love this whole series!

*God, those eyes of his were gleaming again. So blue, so bright, the color endless, like the sea. An ocean to swim in. To drown in. To die in.*

I love Rhage (and his beast)!

**Every woman needs a man with an inner beast!**

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