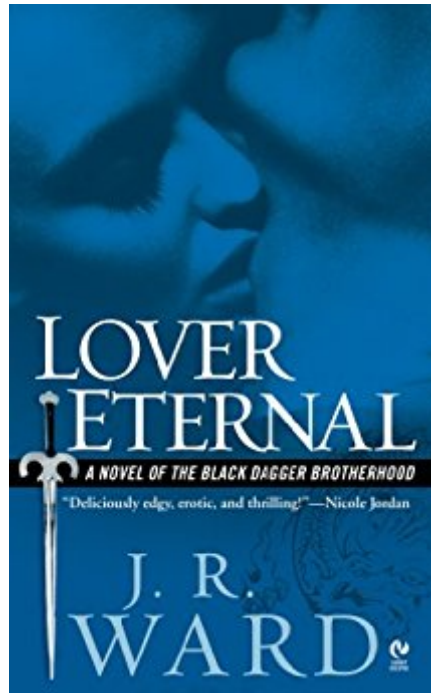




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Lover Eternal (Black Dagger Brotherhood, Book 2)



Synopsis

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. Possessed by this dark side, Rhage fears the times 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. Her faith in miracles was lost 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.

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Customer Reviews

With nearly 1,000 reviews on for LOVER ETERNAL, I am far behind the curve on this one, but the quality of this story nevertheless deserves the additional accolades. As the war rages on between the evil Lessening Society and our wonderful brothers of the Black Dagger Brotherhood, Rhage

takes center stage in this story as the tormented vampire who is forced to live with his own alter ego...a huge, hideous, dragon-like monster into which he transforms whenever he is unable to control his own emotions. Rhage, who has never had a truly intimate relationship with anyone, has been punished to live with his 'beast' for many years, and is counting the days until the burden of his curse is lifted by the Scribe Virgin. Rhage tames his beast, which thirsts for physical violence, by engaging in excessive meaningless sex with as many females as he can manage to corral, in single or multiples, as often as possible. When Rhage comes upon Mary, she changes his entire world. Her voice alone is enough to soothe the savage beast within him, and she quickly becomes his reason for living. *LOVER ETERNAL*, the story of Rhage and Mary, is an edge-of-your seat emotional rollercoaster; we ride along with our hero and heroine, as we hope they can shed their fears and insecurities, not to mention a physical whammy which Ms. Ward has thrown at Mary, and find their happy ending. The conclusion which the author brings us to is not overly predictable at all; in fact, it is fair, balanced, believable, and has just enough magic for us not be able to have guessed it. *LOVER ETERNAL* is as raw, provocative, and sensual as its precursor, *DARK LOVER*. The sex is intense and smoldering, and it fits the story and the characters so perfectly that it is inspirational! This is Ms. Ward's strength: perfect precision among all elements of story, character, action, plot, emotion, sex....all tropes and literary devices...and she is the master. The audio version, narrated by Jim Frangione, is superior; he is able to voice gentle Mary as beautifully as he voices the powerful, sexual Rhage. My recommendation: RUN, don't walk, and get *LOVER ETERNAL* today! If you've already read it, give the audio version a listen. Both are part of my permanent home library. Please note: The Black Dagger Brotherhood series should be read in order! Here's a start: 1. *Dark Lover* -- Wrath and Beth 2. *Lover Eternal* -- Rhage and Mary 3. *Lover Awakened* -- Zsadist ("Z") and Bella 4. *Lover Revealed* -- Butch and Marissa

"God, he really was . . . beautiful." **THE STORY:** Rhage is one of the Black Dagger Brotherhood, a group of warrior Vampires who protect civilian vampires and humans against the Lessening society (humans without souls who are killers). Rhage is known as Hollywood because of this incredible good looks, but Rhage is cursed with a beast inside him that comes out when he loses control. Rhage meets Mary Luce and cannot get her out of his mind even though it is against all the rules of the brotherhood and his own personal struggles make a relationship impossible. Mary is a human and very fragile physically although she is incredibly strong in other ways. She is determined to be alone because of her own past but she can't stop thinking about Rhage either. **OPINION:** This is a beautiful love story with being overly mushy. Rhage and Mary are both people with a type of invader

inside them. Both has become solitary because of it and it impedes them living a full life. In a real sense, they end up curing one another. I love how they both struggle against being vulnerable to one another wanting to protect the other. I love how Mary makes Rhage sweet and loving and how Rhage gives Mary a purpose and belief in herself. They both have needed someone to love them unconditionally. Beyond Rhage and Mary, there is also more wonderful views of the other characters in the series. I especially love the relationships between these people. **WORTH MENTIONING:** This book also begins the story for the next book **LOVER AWAKENED**. There are also continuing threads of storylines that are not resolved here so readers should be aware. **FINAL DECISION:** This is an angst filled book that I loved. Rhage changes so much during the book and he and Mary have such a painful journey to their HEA. This is a book where the character development is a paramount and the plot doesn't overshadow the deep emotional connection between the characters. **CONNECTED BOOKS:** **LOVER ETERNAL** is the second book in the Black Dagger Brotherhood. It can be read as a standalone although some of the series mythology is not repeated from the first book so readers will have to make some inferences to catch up. **STAR RATING:** I give this book 5 stars.

I've given this particular book and series a 5 star rating, due to the level of realism that is portrayed in this enthralling and captivating story that will pull you into the pages to go through all of the adventures that the characters are experiencing and this particular book and series is written by a truly unique and creative mind to write about these amazing and wonderful characters that will leave a make on your heart!!! One of Your Greatest Fans, Lena deLeon
lenadeleon2004.ld@gmail.com

J. R. Ward keeps the greatness coming with this second book in the Black Dagger Brotherhood series! This is one of the best books I have ever read! I plan of reading them all--for as long as she is dishing them out! Rhage is the main character in this book and he is beyond awesome. This book is dark, sensual, romantic, and enthralling! The plot is good and solid, it is well-written, and is well edited. I think she did a great job with character development and we get to know the brothers a little better in this installment. Although it is a romance book you still have the good guys vs the bad guys fight to protect their existence. Again, Wards twist to the traditional vampire story is compelling. To come out with something this different (such as with their names) took gumption. She tried it and was a huge success. I can see this series having it's own cult-like following--I am at the front of the line. Can't wait for the next book! Highly recommended!

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