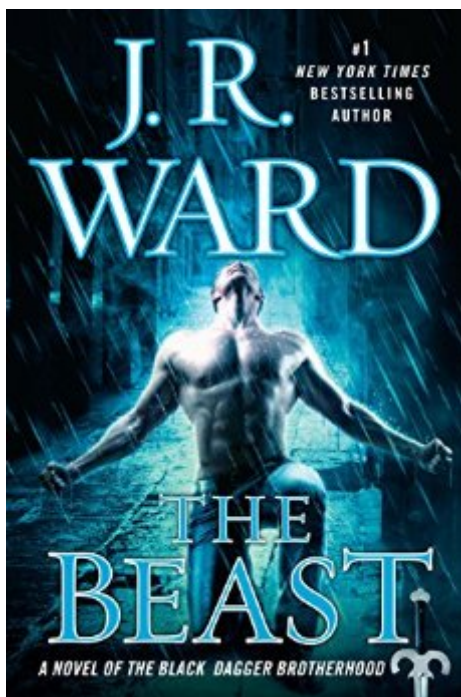


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The Beast (Black Dagger Brotherhood)



Synopsis

Rhage and Mary return in a new novel of the Black Dagger Brotherhood, a series as popular, I don't think there's a reader today who hasn't at least heard of [it] • (USA Today). Nothing is as it used to be for the Black Dagger Brotherhood. After avoiding war with the Shadows, alliances have shifted and lines have been drawn. The slayers of the Lessening Society are stronger than ever, preying on human weakness to acquire more money, more weapons, more power. But as the Brotherhood readies for an all-out attack on them, one of their own fights a battle within himself | For Rhage, the Brother with the biggest appetites, but also the biggest heart, life was supposed to be perfect or at the very least, perfectly enjoyable. Mary, his beloved shellan, is by his side and his King and his brothers are thriving. But Rhage can't understand or control the panic and insecurity that plague him | And that terrifies him as well as distances him from his mate. After suffering mortal injury in battle, Rhage must reassess his priorities and the answer, when it comes to him, rocks his world...and Mary's. But Mary is on a journey of her own, one that will either bring them closer together or cause a split that neither will recover from... From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

SPOILERS INCLUDED I rarely write reviews though I'm an avid reader. I've been with the BDB since the beginning and have enjoyed many re-reads. The reason for the rating for this book is due to the secondary stories. They were far more interesting. As much as I enjoy the BDB series, I do not enjoy, what I call, repeat books. I don't like waiting a year for a book about a couple that already has a book. This story could have EASILY been a secondary story, for example to Lassiter's book. **THE BEAST** So, aside from being annoyed that Rhage and Mary got ANOTHER book, the story seemed forced to me. Rhage is suffering from these bizarre panic attacks that ultimately have created distance between him and Mary. Mary is trying to get through to a recently orphaned girl at Safe Place and is frustrated that she's not really making any progress. They eventually talk and air their personal struggles and realize they want a kid. Surprise! The kid they want is the orphan. That's what **THE BEAST** is about. Smh. The story just dragged to me. It did not take me long to KNOW what the end was going to be. Yeah, they get the kid and now they have a family. With the title being **THE BEAST**, you'd think beastie would make more than TWO physical appearances. I don't know, maybe it's me expecting too much from Ward, but this story felt like she was trying to create an unnecessary story for a favorite character. (Not mine but I think I'm in the minority) The side stories....I originally was not a fan of Layla and Xcor's story. In preparation for **THE BEAST**, I did a re-read and was captivated by their tragic, forbidden love. It reeked of untapped passion. I'm thoroughly excited that their story is next in **THE CHOSEN**. I'm glad her and her young survived what felt like a 2-3 year pregnancy.

NOTE: review may contain spoilers 4.5 stars--**THE BEAST** is the fourteenth installment in J.R.Ward's contemporary, adult **BLACK DAGGER BROTHERHOOD** paranormal series focusing on an elite group of vampire warriors and their King. **THE BEAST** is the continuing story of the sexy vampire Rhage, and his shellan Mary Luce. For fans of the series, we are all well aware of Rhage's alter ego-his other-and in this Rhage's other makes an appearance or two throughout the story. **THE BEAST** focuses on relationships and family-primarily Mary and Rhage's- and their struggle as a couple together and apart. As the Black Dagger Brotherhood family continues to grow, Rhage will come full circle facing a future that is missing a "something" or a "someone" while Mary consoles with an orphaned child now under the care of the woman's shelter known as "Safe Place". Throughout the previous story lines Mary and Rhage have struggled with their relationship-growing further apart with each successive story. We are witness to a battle with the lessers, the slayers, and the re-appearance of the Omega. Rhage

will discover that running into battle without the support of his brothers means the likelihood of facing your immortality-head on. As per JR Ward's writing style, there are several ongoing and developing stories: LAYLA: The Chosen known as Layla is currently on bed rest while she carries Qhuinn's son and daughter. But Layla suspects a prisoner has been brought into the BDB household when she discovers that the man with whom she is falling love is in danger of going into the fade. The resulting anxiety finds Layla facing a crisis of her own. ASSAIL: Our intrepid cocaine-addicted vampire is lost without the human woman that calls to his soul.

For the life of me, I have yet to figure out how to review the books in this series. I sit here now wondering what I can say and just how thorough I should be with my review. Yeah, that last part is the real troublesome part. I mean, I write loooooong reviews with normal length books and this one is like twice that. But I will try. I will try not to give up the goods and not write the Gone With the Wind or War and Peace of all reviews. A new Black Dagger Brotherhood novel. *shivers with anticipation* A return to Rhage and Mary as the focal pair. *give it to me now* True fear after the last installment. *chills* But I have straight up respect for an author willing to be true to her muses whether it is the gamble of a reprisal of characters who already got their HEA or killing off a well loved character. She goes there and that means anything can happen. Not a bad thing really. So, this is book fourteen. Long standing series that really should be read in order. I know people who have skipped about and did alright, but personally, best done in order. Alright, so this one follows some pretty traumatic stuff in The Shadows. And there was some heavy foreshadowing that there is something up with Rhage. The author doesn't keep the reader waiting since scene one dives right into the heart of things with Rhage and with Mary even while the Brothers are in the thick of things with a bastion of Lessers and a surprising new complication in the presence of humans with cell phones and conspiracy theory noses. There is a distance forming between Rhage and his Mary that they both feel, but are helpless to fix. Work keeps them apart, but it is more than that. Rhage feels something wrong inside him, but only a surprising epiphany brings him understanding what it is.

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