



The King

J.R. Ward

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Long live the King...

After turning his back on the throne for centuries, Wrath, son of Wrath, finally assumed his father's mantle—with the help of his beloved mate. But the crown sets heavily on his head. As the war with the Lessening Society rages on, and the threat from the Band of Bastards truly hits home, he is forced to make choices that put everything—and everyone—at risk.

Beth Randall thought she knew what she was getting into when she mated the last pure blooded vampire on the planet: An easy ride was not it. But when she decides she wants a child, she's unprepared for Wrath's response—or the distance it creates between them.

The question is, will true love win out... or tortured legacy take over?

The King Details

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Author : J.R. Ward

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

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From Reader Review The King for online ebook

Taryn says

SPOILERS!! SPOILERS!! SPOILERS!!

DO NOT READ IF YOU DON'T WANT SPOILERS

The intro to the signing in Ohio. March 30, 2013

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=...>

- Wrath and Beth trying for a baby!
 - Saxton is part of a major future plot line.
 - We will see more of Trez and Selena.
 - Ward is working on Mary and Rhage's baby book as well.
 - Quhinn and Blay will be mated, their story is not over.
 - Lash will be back!
 - She's working in Rhage and Mary's book. It's 146 pages as of right now.
 - J.R. Ward is obsessed with Assail and his twin brothers are fucking awesome!
 - Layla is 100% percent a Chosen fallen!
 - Butch and De La Cruz will have a scene together.
 - Xcor is going to have to make some serious decisions if he's going to be with Layla.
 - The next Angel book is POSSESSION coming out October of this year.
 - Butch will get another book.
 - Payne and Blay will be brought into the BDB.
 - Wrath and Xcor are NOT related, but ignored the question if Tohr and Xcor are related.
 - We will see Layla's young soon.
 - Havers will have nothing to do with Wrath and Beth's pregnancy. Question- Will Havers have a hand in Beth's delivery? "Over my dead fucking body."
 - Sola is 100% human.
 - The guy who was on the phone with Xcor is Saxton's father.
 - Can't answer if Throe's family has been in the books....keep reading!
 - Payne will be laying her hands on George at some point to restore his youth. Because the Warden is not having that "fucking dog die".
 - Is Xcor going to turn on Bastards to get with Layla? "She is not going to be blowing his dick" unless something changes. "Keep reading"
 - Ever do a book where 2 males bond to 1 female? "I ain't saying nothing about no shit there."
 - Ward has to figure out the right time for Muhrder to come back to "do him" properly.
 - Lassiter? You'll see him again. But when she brings him back, it opens up a section of his world. Needs time to do that.
 - Lassiter - "Of course you are a Yankees fan you spineless son of a bitch" - Warden
 - Beth's pregnancy could be shorter since she is a half-breed, more human. But Layla's is going to be looooong.
 - Angels? Well, series could just end, or she could have something blow it up. And she'd love a crossover with Lash-Devina.
 - Quhinn's sister is really dead.
 - She writes every day. Morning till noon. Then running. Then writing in the afternoon.
-

Jessica's Totally Over The Top Book Obsession says

5 “Long live the King.” Stars

Spoilers

First read 2014

Reread 4/13/2017

“I’m goin’ nowhere, leelan. You don’t worry about a goddamn thing. Understand me?” Beth wanted to believe him. Needed to. But she feared it was a promise far harder to keep than speak. “Beth?” “Make love to me.” It was the only truth she could put out there that wouldn’t burst the bubble. “Please.” He kissed her once. Twice. And then started to move again. “Always, leelan. Always.”-Wrath and Beth

I loved The King! It was so good. I love when long running series retouch past favorite couples. The King of course is about Wrath and Beth with little bits of the whole gang sprinkled in. And as with all Black Dagger Brotherhood books there are other story plots going on in this book as well. We have Assail and Sola, Xcor and Layla, Trez and Selena, and a surprising plot line of Wrath's father and mother Wrath(Sr) and Anha. Can I just say that Wrath's parents were so sweet and damn was Wrath Sr sexy. I totally see where the son gets it. I loved getting to see Wrath Sr fall so hard for Anha and make her his one and only. It was a little bitter sweet though since anyone following the series knows that Wrath Sr. and Anha are horrifically murdered in front of their preteen son. I still loved getting to know them and see the parallels between the father and son. I knew when I finished the last book that Wrath and Beth were going to be having some problems since Beth caught baby fever and Wrath didn't want a child.

“I need you to hear this,” he said in a dead voice, “and know that it’s the God’s honest. I will not service you in your needing. Ever.” Now it was her turn to breathe out like she’d been socked in the gut. “I can’t ... I can’t believe you just said that.” “It is never, ever going to happen. I will never get you pregnant.”-Wrath and Beth

“You can call me Pastor—and before Mr. Sox Fan gets his panties in a wad, I want everyone to know I’m legit. I went online, took a minister’s course in under an hour, and I’m ordained, baby.” Rhage raised his hand. “Pastor Ass-hat, I have a question.” “Yes, my son, you are going to hell.”-Lassiter and Rhage

Even though I hated seeing Beth and Wrath fight, I loved seeing them grow in their relationship. All couples have ups and downs and I felt J.R. Ward keeps that real in this series. I totally got were both Wrath and Beth were coming from. I loved that even though Wrath was scared to get Beth pregnant he decided to go for it anyways. Although she was already 4 months pregnant and they just didn't know it. And OMG the way Wrath acted when he found out they were having a son was so damn cute I was smiling like a crazy woman. Now having a child wasn't the only problem Wrath and Beth were having in this book. Xcor was at it again getting the glymera to declare that Wrath can't be King because he mated a half breed and their heir wouldn't be full blooded vampire. I hated Beth's guilt over something she couldn't help, and I hated the glymera more than ever for them using his love to try and strip Wrath of his throne. I loved that Beth was the one that came up with the solution. Vampire mate divorce and a human wedding. The human wedding which was done by Lassiter was hilarious but very sweet too. I also loved Wrath embraced his blindness in this book. He accepted himself and really grew as a mate, father, and King.

“...a son?” “Yes. A son.” All of a sudden, he felt the biggest, widest, happiest grin hit his face, the goddamn thing stretching his cheeks until they hurt, making his eyes water from the strain, pulling at his temples until they burned. And the joy wasn’t just on his puss. A flush so great it burned him alive flooded through his body, cleansing him in places he didn’t know were dirty, washing out cobwebs that had crept into his corners, making him feel alive in a way he hadn’t been in a very, very long time. Before he knew what he was doing, he burst to his feet with Beth in his arms, leaned back, and hollered at the top of his lungs, with more pride than his six-foot-nine frame could hold. “A

soooooooooooooooooooooooooooooon! I'm having a soooooooooooooon!"-Wrath and Beth

"My brother." Z shoved out his palm, his scarred face in a half smile, his yellow eyes warm. "Congratulations." Instead of shaking anything, Wrath shoved that ultrasound picture into his Brother's face. "Do you see him? See my son? He's big, right, Beth?" She kissed Nalla's super soft hair. "Yes." "Big and healthy, right?" Beth laughed some more. "Big and healthy. Absolutely perfect." "Perfect!" Wrath bellowed. "And this is a doctor saying it—I mean, she went to medical school." Even Z started laughing at that point. Beth gave Nalla back to her parents. "And Dr. Sam told me she's delivered over fifteen thousand babies over the course of her career—" "See!" Wrath yelled. "She knows these things. My son is perfect! Where's the champagne? Fritz! Get the fucking champagne!"-Z, Wrath, and Beth

Normally I am bored with the Assail and Sola plot but I really enjoyed it in this book. I loved seeing Assail save Sola. I melted a little when he bonded with her. Their relationship really started in this book for me. Their passion was strong in this book. I liked Assail a lot more in this book. At times though there are things about him I really dislike. Like his drug use. Their relationship was rocky and ended with a to be continued feel, but the connection was there and strong. I am looking forward to seeing where these two go. I really don't care about Trez and the forced mating plot. I am however a little intrigued by the Selena and Trez story line. I think they are cute together. What the hell is up with Selena's illness? I liked that iAm was more talkative in this book. He seemed very sweet and I think it was cute that he has never been with a woman before. I have always loved John Matthew and I was so glad he was in this book a lot. It was so sweet seeing him and Beth in a close relationship. I loved how supportive Xhex was of John's seizures. I really wish everyone including John knew John was Darius. Not that it really takes away anything that they don't but I just wish they knew. Abalone and his daughter were new characters in this book. It was fun to see Abalone's father and Wrath's father's relationship and comparing it to his and Wrath. Now for my favorite side plot Xcor and Layla. God I don't know what it is about that chosen and bastard but I just love them. I eat up ever single minute I can with them. I love how sweet Xcor gets around her. I love how vulnerable he is with her but still puts himself out there because he wants her that much. I love how drawn Layla is to him. How she doesn't see him as ugly but fierce, and worthy. That part with Xcor at the mall buying nice clothes for his kinda date with Layla was funny as fuck. I can't wait to get their story. The King was an amazing and fun read.

"I abolished the monarchy last night." Cue the crickets. "What ...?" she said. "You told me you didn't want to be the cause of my giving up the throne. You weren't. In the end, it was my choice. Sooner or later, someone else is going to make a run at me—and by extension you and him. And then if I die? My son's going to end up having to fight to keep something that shouldn't be decided by bloodline. It should be decided by merit." Beth put her hands up to her face. "Oh, my God..." "So we're a democracy now. Saxton helped make it legal. And elections are going to take place in a little while. I've talked to Abalone—he's going to coordinate it all. Hell, the guy already had a good slate of candidates. Oh, and the best thing? The glymera's out of a job. I did away with the Council. See ya, motherfuckers."-Wrath

Christy says

5 Blind King stars!

I've been waiting all year for this book. The 12th book in the Black Dagger Brotherhood. I am obsessed with this series, can't get enough of my boys. This author could write dozens more books and I would keep on reading. I loved the idea of going back to the beginning- to an original brother. I may have been a little concerned since we've already had a Wrath book, but I shouldn't have been. It was fantastic!

I find these books incredibly difficult to review. In each book, we have the main couple's story (Wrath and Beth in this particular book) but that's only the half of it. The other half follows several other characters. I will try to quickly review each smaller story along with the Blind King's and his half-breed Queens.

“You know what? That shit’s not worth it to me. You’re what’s important. You’re what matters. Everything else- everyone else can fuck off.”

Wrath and Beth

Wrath and Beth have a lot going on. Wrath is getting threatened by many to take what is rightfully his. The throne. Although he never wanted it, it's his father's Legacy and he doesn't want it stolen from him. Wrath loves his Shellan more than anything, the throne included. Beth and Wrath don't have the easiest journey. I won't go into the big storyline, but there are issues between them.

I've always liked Beth and Wrath, but compared to some of the other brother's stories, their tale in Dark Lover didn't stack up. I am glad to say that I loved THIS chapter of their story more than the first. I fell more in love with the King!

“I want you to know something,” he said into her hair. As she went still, he tried to pull something worth hearing out of his ass. Some string of words that were even in the same zip code as what was doing in his chest.

“What?” she whispered.

“You are everything to me.”

It was so incredibly, totally not enough- and yet she sighed and melted into him like that was all she wanted to hear. And a bag of chips.?

Sometimes you got lucky.

Xcor and Layla

Speaking of the throne being threatened... Xcor is one of the ringleaders. He is the leader of the Band of

Bastards. And in his quest to take down the King, he has fallen for the unattainable. The Chosen, Layla. The Chosen that is pregnant by Qhuinn. Layla has unexplainable feelings for Xcor. She knows he isn't 'good', but is he as bad as he seems? I feel Xcor is on the path of redemption.

In this moment of triumph, the only place he wanted to be was with the female he could not have.

?And one of the funnies scenes in the book was his shopping trip...

"Knock her dead, my man."?

"Oh, no." Xcor shook his head. "That shan't be necessary. This one I like."

?I am very much looking forward to more of these two in the future, hopefully they will get their own book soon!

Trez and Selena??

We've gotten to know the Shadows pretty well since Rehv's book. I love them both equally in different ways. The King focus's a lot on Trez's story. Trez is trying to get away from his future. The future he was sold into, the one he doesn't want. iAm will do anything in his power to help, but things aren't looking good. The Chosen Selena has feelings for Trez. He feels them too, but he also feels unworthy of her. Their story was left wide open, I'm anxious to see where it goes.

Assail and Sola

??I'm not gonna lie... Assail was a crazy motherfucker. And I adored him! He is also one of those characters that isn't a 'good' guy, but not a bad guy either. He's stuck in between. Sola, his little burglar has gotten herself into some trouble. Even though it's not in his nature, Assail feels compelled to help her. He wants her. Their story was also unresolved so we'll see where it takes us...

As soon as I finished the book, I was instantly curious about who the next book would be about. There were several possibilities, obviously the three above were most likely. When I found out the 13th book in this series would be called **The Shadows**, I was stoked. Not only do I want more Trez and Selena, but after that little bomb iAm dropped on us, I can't wait for his story!

This series is spectacular. Full of romance, suspense, steam, action and twists and turns. I can't get enough of these books. When I start reading, the characters and stories captivate me. I feel sucked into this world. I have such a strong connection to the characters and their stories. I just can't get enough! Thankfully, Ms. Ward isn't planning on ending this series anytime soon- we have at least three more books to look forward to in the Brotherhood series! Bring it on!

ALL HAIL THE KING!

Lisa Jayne says

FIVE ALL HAIL THE KING STARS.

JR Ward has not failed me yet, this series is nothing short of phenomenal and I don't ever want to stop reading about this band of brothers. My fascination with this series started in April 2013 and I can say without hesitation that it has been a consistently fabulous series. 'The King' was received with excitement from myself mainly because since book one I've had a soft spot for Wrath, the Alpha warrior King and as a result you can imagine that I've been impatiently waiting to get my hands all over this novel. There are no words that I can put together to describe how insanely good this series is but for now here are my 'All hail the king' thoughts ...

What's it all about?

The throne is at threat from enemies made in secret places and a vigilante group of rebelling vampires that desire to see a change in power. Desperate to keep honour to his families name, Wrath must fight for a throne that was never in his heart to keep. With years of having his beloved, Beth by his side Wrath believes they can overcome almost anything but with change comes unrest and this couple are not only fighting an external battle but they encounter battles from within. Follow the continuing storyline of JR Wards most beloved series where we are also discovering more about surrounding characters, impossible romance and an alpha vampire world that you'll never want to forget.

What did I love?

JR Ward has an imagination that is second to none, her writing style and well thought out story telling is other worldly - quite literally. The Black dagger brotherhood is a series that makes me cry, laugh and smile and there's certainly no escape from 'feeling the heat' Mrs Ward knows how to make her characters burst with lust and longing and she doesn't let her readers fell left out either, her ovary exploding sex scenes would turn a nun to sin. The pages are crammed full with clever twists and turns and ongoing character and story development and I am always kept right on my toes wondering what this author will deliver next. As for 'The King' well I can assuredly confirm that nothing could tear me away from the pages of this novel and as my most anticipated book of 2014 I savoured every single one of the 592 pages. In this particular book of the series you can expect more romance, more action, and more 'getting to know' some additional characters, here JR Ward focuses on the king and queen, Wrath and Beth, Assail the drug lord and his obsession with Sola the human con artist and finally iAm and Trez the mysterious Shadows. Each developing storyline really draws me in, so much so that I have blurred lines of reality when I'm spending time with a JR book. Without question there are not words I have adequate enough to sum up how I feel about this series, JR Ward has me wrapped around her little finger and now I have to wait patiently, or not so patiently in my case for book number thirteen to be revealed.

Final thoughts ...

If it's a gritty, paranormal romance series that you are waiting to sink your teeth into, then you don't want to miss out on the brotherhood. I can't explain how addictive or how obsessive I feel about this series, but I do know that I want everyone to pick up this series and love it as much as I do. I loved the idea that JR Ward has gone full circle with a story about The King and I can only say that this book made me feel a whole range of emotions from loved up to turned on, to heart break to smiling like a mad woman, so much so that I'm sure I'll not forget. If you already love this series then this book will be the icing on the cake and if you've yet to meet the brothers well all I can say is that you are in for a treat. Go grab it readers, release day was April 1st. Enjoy, kisses.

*****Thanks to my BDB girls for another fang-tastic buddy read. I Love that we do this together, you feel me?*****

Exina says

April 5, 2014

***Sometimes, you didn't get what you wanted.
But if you had all you needed?***

2.5 stars

The King is one of the most anticipated books of the year, book 12 of the Black Dagger Brotherhood series.

Book 11, *Lover at Last* was a huge disappointment, so I had no intention of reading further books of the series, but I've read it anyway.

Why?

Well, I realized this series is more and more like... no, actually **it IS a soap opera**. You don't really want to watch, or read it anymore, but you want to know what happens to the characters because you care for them, and somehow, throughout the years, they grew to your heart.

But it couldn't live up even to my already low expectations...

Sadly, many!

Wrath and Beth. Their storyline is obvious and very predictable: they fight about having a child or not, but have it anyway, ending with a forced giving-birth drama, but everything is going to be okay. After all, it's a romance, not a tragedy.

Wrath is magnificent and imposing, as always. He is a born ruler, just not always aware of that. **I loved the way Ward portrayed the change in him**, not only about having a child, but about his approach to the death of his parents, and to the throne as well. Not everything is perfect in this storyline, especially the end, but **his feelings, fears, frustrations, self-poisonous thoughts are nicely presented.**

*He realized he, too, was finally free — and that his parents, if they had had a chance to look over his shoulder, would have approved of him.
Just the way he was.*

I was bored to death by Beth's continuous, repetitive, and often hysterical musings on every little detail of her thoughts and everyday actions, even when she had to go to pee. She is such an irritating character here! How I despise **her selfishness and immature behavior!**

There are many **secondary storylines**, and first it seems there is much going on in this book, but actually not much happens. It can be easily summarized on a couple of pages. **The plot is fragmented, tiring, and unnecessarily elongated.**

Things I couldn't find in this book:

- originality,
- action and thrill,
- twists and turns,
- surprises,
- *lessers*, or any capable foe,
- real drama,
- steamy erotic scenes (because they are lukewarm and/or frustrating).

Things in large quantities:

- secondary storylines and viewpoints,
- unnecessary scenes (for example who cares about how Xcor is peeling an apple or about the luxury of the foyer for the millionth time?),
- musings, inner monologues, emotional rantings,
- exhausting and irritating pop-culture references,
- overlong descriptions about nothing,
- boring recollections, and repetitive thoughts.

Things almost made me punch something, or someone:

- Beth
- iAm and Trez are the slightly modified equivalents of Phury and Zsadist. So unimaginative.
- Beth's almost Twilight-type pregnancy. Ward misled me for a couple of chapters, and the explanation was not satisfying.

- Writing style as a whole: pop-culture references, slang, acronyms, abbreviations, mutilated words (abso, obvi).

Of course, there are scenes I enjoyed:

- many scenes of Wrath's (as I mentioned above)
- Assail's quest for Sola
- Sola gets free from her captors
- the wedding ceremony performed by Lassiter (this scene lacks originality too, but at least it is hilarious)
- S'Ex's scenes

“Let me make myself perfectly clear. You touch iAm and I will find you. Your last breath will be mine and your heart will still be warm when I take it out of your chest and eat it raw.”
“You know, it's a wonder we don't get along better.”

All in all

I didn't expected much, so I'm not disappointed, but sadly I'm not pleasantly surprised either.

Oh, almost forgot how unsatisfied I was with the baby's name. I hoped they would name him (view spoiler)
Arrrgh!!!

Originally posted on my blog on April 6, 2014.

My favorite quotes on Tumblr.

Blacky *Romance Addict* says

[popping people all around ahahahahaha that was awesome (hide spoiler)]

readtoomuch says

PSA: Gifapalooza

My internal reactions a few pages into the prologue went something like this

and this

Ward, you almost had me going there for a sec. Unfortunately, my feels didn't get much better as I read on.

I was expecting the usual entertaining story, fun banter, cheesy lines, and a lot of kick-some-lesser-flatassery between the brothers.

Instead, I spent much of this 76 chapter book humming the theme song to *Scooby-Doo*, because the brothers of the **Black Dagger Brotherhood** were almost nonexistent.

I'm sad to say that I struggled to finish this book. I kept reading on hoping to get back into the BDB mojo, but there was no mojo to be found. Like Lover at Last, there were too many side characters with their own povs, and all of the side plots made for a frustrating read.

And what the hell is up with the name and brand dropping overload? It was fucking constant.

I like getting to know more about the side characters and all, but why the long ass chapters of Assail and Sola interspersed with short, lame ass I-want-a-baby/I-don't-want-a-baby drama between Beth and Wrath?? Who is this book supposed to be about? And the baby drama was so predictable, it was boring.

In conclusion, all I have to ask the J. R. Ward of the first few BDB books is

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

If you loved the earlier stories which were filled with passion and romance and *happily ever afters* obtained through faith, trust, honor, dignity, soul cleansing pain, and making compromises for the one you love because you love them above all else... you'll be happy to know that The King has all of these things, and more!

And that quote up there... "Let yourself go and I shall catch you..." applies to so many people and situations

in this story - trust, faith, hope... beautiful things.

Full review to come.....

Alex is The Romance Fox says

3,5 stars

Do I like The Black Dagger Brotherhood Series???? No, I MORE THAN LIKE IT.....

I have a secret to tell.....I was absolutely shattered after Lover at Last.....

...yes I did. I lost my all-time favorite boyfriend...

...yes, Qhuinn left me for someone else!!!!

Anyway, I have moved on.....and what better way than....yaymore about Wrath & Beth....i adore the King & Queen of all Vampires....

So, I get THE KING the day it comes out...I am so excited, over the moon.....

And by page 116....I give up...impossible!!!! How can this be??? This is my all time favorite series....I cannot continue.....and for months I have avoided opening up page 117.....talk about confused!!!!

No, I have to go backI can't give up...not now!!!!

Okay, page 117, 118....next page and well, it was kind of surprising but I actually finished THE KING!!!!

Did I love it???? Oooh, so sad...but wait, I did like it...just not my favorite ...a real pity!!! Now, what was it exactly that it did not “snap and crackle” for me????

Was this not Wrath & Beth's book??? That's what I thought..instead there is not much happening here with these two.....because we have all these other characters and couples that, IMHO just got in the way....like..

Assail & Marisol...I get it...their story has to be set up for their future book..but did I have to get so much about them...allright, I like Marisol (hell, I hate the shortened version of Sola...her full name is gorgeous...), she's a kickass exotic...a Brazilian thief...heroine with the most lovable grandmother....but then she's in lust for Assail, who I HAVE NOT engaged with...never mind that he's sexy, gorgeous and is nice to her grandmother and his family...he's still a mobster and drug dealer.....it's going to take a lot for him to redeem himself to me!!!

Then Trez, the Shadow and his HUGE LUST for the lovely and virginal Chosen, named Selena!!! Let me just say that he and his brother IAm have not done it for me in the previous books. Still uncertain about Trez...all that “pussy-footting” around Selena just got on my nerves so many times. However, I actually began to like I' AM.....in fact I found it totally endearing....how could I not if Boo (remember Beth's cat!!) loves him!!!! Now, having been given the news that the next novel will be on the Shadow Brothers....not sure if I am that excited about it!!!!

Where are all the BDB brothers and their shellans??? A snip here and there...Xhex and JM....a few pages...a page or two with Tohrment...no Autumn...then a teaser with Zsadist and Bella.....and nothing, okay a page or two with Qhuinn!!!! Heartbroken!!!! Me, it was!!!!

And no action whatsoever....no Lessers, just the boring glymera characters!!!! Where are the fighting brothers????? I wanted more of my BDB heroes...

I was so pro-Layla before but this whole “work-up” romance with Xcor was a total disaster for me!!!! I felt no connection between their one or two secret hook-ups....no, relax, the two haven’t done the deed yet!!!! I still want her to be with someone else....I AM NOT A XCOR fan!!!!

What redeemed this book from being..uhm....not a total loss was LW....LITTLE WRATH!!!!

I am beyond in love with this BDB Prince!!!! I want more of him in the future!!!! See, that’s why I am going to get the next book....because of LW!!!!

“A soooooooooooooooooooooon! I’m having a soooooooooooooon!”

One of my favourite parts in this book was when Lassiter “played” the pastor at Wrath & Beth’s “human” marriage ceremony.....

“Okay, so, Beth, follow me. 'I, Beth, a totally awesome chick ...'”

Beth barked out a giggle. "I, Beth ..."

"Where's the 'awesome chick' part? What? Come on, I have a license from the Internet. I know what I'm doing."

Wrath nodded at his leehan. "He's right. You are, in fact, awesome. I think we need to hear it."

"Can I get an amen!" Lassiter shouted.

"Ammmmmmmmmen!" echoed throughout the mansion.

"Fine, fine, fine," she said. "I, Beth, a totally awesome chick ..."

"... take this meathead, Wrath ..."

"... take this meathead, Wrath ..."

"... as my husband to have and to hold from this day forward..."

Lassiter....I so want his book....he's so fabulous!!!!

**“By the power vested in me thanks to Google, I know pronounce you husband and wife!
You may kiss the bride!”**

To end my long “tirade”, let’s just say.....not the best in the series but certainly not going to end my affair with BDB!!!!!!

xrysa says

Eeeeeeeeeee we have the cover :D

Wrath looks scary but I love it!!

~~~~~

Omg a 12th book???

They are going to try and have **a baby!**

But we have to wait until **2014**.

---

**Stacia (the 2010 club) says**

**I finally finished the book!** My first in April, actually. Yes, it's the 14th. It's called real life, bitches. Sometimes books take a backseat.

By now, most of the die-hard fans who were going to read this have already done so. I've seen the complaints. I share a few of the complaints.

But it's Ward. She's like this comfort-food writer for me. Even when it's bad, I always know that I'll laugh a few times, and will get at the very least a few moments of good sexual tension. So I keep reading.

**But dear me, even I couldn't ignore the fifty PoV's this time.** I was one of the people who didn't mind when the series left the cookie-cutter PNR format in favor of a more broad-scaled world at around book 7. The extra PoV's were helpful in getting me excited for future stories to come. Yes, sometimes the extras overtook the main story, and I wasn't always a fan of that. But I generally liked the side stories as well, with a few exceptions (I've never been a fan of the lengthy flashbacks).

**However, it's gotten out of hand.** Between iAm, Trez, Xcor, Assail, Throe, Saxton, etc. (including the flip side with the female PoV's) *and* the flashbacks, *plus* the current Wrath/Beth story...yeah. We were more than maxed out on PoV's.

**That said...** It was really only the Assail/Sola story which didn't work for me. A lot of people like this couple, but I've never attached to them. I'm still in the Xcor/Layla camp. And I was surprised by how much I enjoyed Trez/Selena's chemistry in this book. I love how Trez isn't the traditional white male character. And since Xcor isn't attractive at all (not like how Z is scarred but you can tell he's still hot), I love that too. Ward's starting to write a little out of her comfort zone.

**And iam???** (view spoiler) Yay! Yay! Yay!

I know that so many people are throwing in the towel. I won't be. The familiarity and brotherhood and awesome sexual chemistry keeps me coming back, even when it takes me WEEKS to read the darn book because of parts that drag.

The pros are still outweighing the cons. Maybe it won't always be this way, but sometimes I need to have something familiar to fall back on when I'm tired of constantly having to start new books and learn new characters. Familiar works for me in this instance.

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**Georgia ♥ Team Dex ♥ says**

**4 Long Live the King Stars**

***To survive one must not be alone.***

***And one must have a partner of worth.***

***Possess that? And you are richer than any King or queen who e'er roamed the earth.***

*The players we know...*

*But the game is more painful than we could ever imagine...*

What happens after the HEA? When everyday troubles creep around the corner, family and duties busts your

bubble of happiness.

For a normal couple? Counseling.

For the Blind King and his Half-Breed Queen? Hoping to stay together, alive and save the whole race in the meantime.

J.R. Ward , delivers the 12th novel in her amazing and intricate Black Dagger Brotherhood with a twist. Rev-visiting the very first and most beloved couple, fighting for the right to stay together and have a chance at happiness.

As usual, she just can't stay there... At least 5 other characters and their stories complete this story that follows different directions and tries to make us like heroes and villains, virgins and sluts, commoners and glymera aristocrats.

### **What I liked:**

✓ Wrath and Beth.

The reigning couple simply RULES!!! It was a huge plus that we were already familiar with their story and we have got glimpses of their struggles throughout the series. Keeping the main focus on them again flowed effortlessly. They stayed true to themselves and they grew. It was also refreshing that the spotlight wasn't on their sexual encounters but their emotional turmoil and helping the whole vampire race for a change. The threat to the throne brought them more close than ever and the ending simply stunned me!

✓ iAm

In a sea of POVs and various characters interrupting my love affair with Wrath, the Shadow was a refreshing new voice. Caustic, ironic, loyal and just unable to not care, the chef is a sight to behold and the only thread in this tangled web of stories that I am excited to read.

✓ Doc Jane

\*shameful admission\* I wasn't a fan... \*ducks head\*

But book by book, her integrity, loyalty, fierceness and dry wit, won me over. Vishous couldn't have found a better mate, Ghost or not.

✓ Wrath and Anya

Giving us a rare glimpse at the past, we got introduced to Wrath's parents! HOOOOORAY! It was a great emotional sidestory and one of the best parts of the book.

✓ John Matthews

I LOVE HIM. End.

### **What it bored me:**

✗ X'cor and his Bastards

Seriously Layla????? Seriously???

✗ Trez

Manslut. End.

✗ Assail

Waste of pages..... Sorry, I couldn't connect at any point. Almost forced to skip...

✗ Glymera

Overall assessment: ✓ ♥

Would it be greedy of me to ask for more Wrath? Well, maybe yeah.... But how about Zhadist? Sounds fair right? I need more **Zhadist!!!**

LOL!

*Pre-release excitement*

*The next BDB book will take us back, to our first and favourite couple...*

**Wrath son of Wrath and Beth Randall**

HELL YEEEEEEEEAAAAAAAHHH!!

And.....**A BABY?!?!?!?!**

My mind exploded but somehow, it keeps screaming!!!!!!

*Expected publication: March 25th 2014*

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**Midgetbee says**

If this was fanfiction it'd be good. But as an entry in the series by the actual author, it's bad. Very bad.

The series started off with the typical PNR conventions of insta-love, but ever since Lover Unbound was let down by a number of fans declaring an undying loathing for its heroine, Ward has branched out into a new

form of story-telling. Whereas the first four concentrated solely on the main couple and their story, with a few fights in the war and a hint of subsequent couplings, the books after that began to assume a different shape. Subplot after subplot began to emerge, one of which gave us Qhuay, the others finally coalescing in the over-arching plot in which the glymera (nobility) of the vampire race, dissatisfied with the virtual non-reign of King Wrath, seek his overthrow.

Add to this a seeming compulsion of Ward's to introduce at least two new characters and half a dozen subplots into every novel since Lover Unleashed and you discover a real problem; Ward barely has the literary stamina to continue the main plot to its conclusion, let alone six, and she is very easily distracted. Very easily.

As a consequence The King suffers. What could easily have been a plot in which the Queen wants a child and tries to convince her hellren of the merits of such an idea during a time of political upheaval, because of Ward's need to throw herself into three different POVs and showcase a different subplot every chapter, instead we get a sequence of events in which both act--quite frankly--like assholes, storming in and out of rooms screaming at each other and throwing tantrums like children. That events such as these tie into the central premise of the book, the attempt to overthrow Wrath, is disconcerting at best. Both characters are now so unattractive personality wise that it is hard to root for the survival of the race, let alone whether or not they get the baby Beth so desperately thinks will solve all her problems.

At this point in the series there is a definite feel that Ward is taking things somewhere that the characters themselves don't particularly want to go and the books are so formulaic at this stage it's easy to call events before you see them. As a result whereas once an idle daydream of spending an evening in the mansion may have been a pleasant way to pass the time, in order to make the revisits and subplots happen everyone has been made so damned stupid and unpleasant that making your way through a new Brotherhood novel is more of an achievement than entertainment and the pushing forward of her favourites, Assail and Doc Jane in particular, only compounds this.

Assail is an obvious retelling of a still existent character with every single redeeming quality removed in an attempt to make him edgy and while Doc Jane is one of the Brotherhood's two doctors and as such should be featured, the prevalence of medical emergencies in every novel since her introduction in Lover Unbound and the attempt at reworking her relationship with Vishous in Lover Unleashed mean that things have gotten to the point where it's a wonder someone can open a door without shattering their arm, leading to a visit in the clinic with the Spectral Surgeon if only so the hurt character can go into raptures about how lovely and awesome she is. As a result no less than two characters completely unrelated to the Brothers have recently been allowed in the apparently super secret compound the Brothers live in, just so they can be treated by Ward's favourite female.

While this may seem completely innocuous by itself (and reveal my detestation of that character), it highlights Ward's willingness to throw out the rules of her own world-building in order to push forward certain characters or resolve problems with an easy and completely nonsensical solution, which has been achieved so far by making her characters completely and unerringly stupid. Unfortunately such an approach demands that her readers dumb themselves down too, or at least develop the memory capabilities of a goldfish, as she often seeks to rationalise unpopular actions in subsequent novels. An example of this being the new rules about bonding. In the books prior to Lover Reborn we were told that bonding is a permanent attachment and that if a female died, her bonded mate would be so devastated that he he couldn't live without her, an action that rationalised the need to find a way for Mary and Doc Jane's continued presences in the novels and find a way for their HEA.

Unfortunately the events of Lover Reborn and Ward's need to push these events as commonplace completely undermine the central drama of The King. If Tohr, a bonded male, can move on from his shellan's death and find love and happiness with another as a number of others are described as doing in this book, then why can't Wrath? Sure, Beth dying from pregnancy would be bad for him for a while, but with the idea of bonding shorn of all association with the concept of forever, it's hard to think that Wrath wouldn't find someone else he likes just as much a few books later. Coupled with the realisation that with the exception of Wellsie every female has found a way to come back even if the worst has happened, the tension disappears completely.

This could've been countered with a compelling installment of the plot to overthrow Wrath, now including newish characters the Band of Bastards, and while the book does contain a degree of uncertainty on that issue for most of its span, the ending is so completely, utterly, and unfailingly stupid that I felt insulted as a reader. It couldn't be more obvious that Ward couldn't plot a political storyline if her life depended on it and as such we are expected to deal with a few scenes of utter bullshit at the end that if thought about for more than a moment, actually creates more problems for their society than it solves. But Ward wanted it wrapped up in order to concentrate on other things. With a seeming conclusion of the Wrath and Beth storyline on a personal front, the political had to be finished up too. It's just a shame there was less time dedicated to an apparent major societal shift than there was to Sola's time thinking how about kind Doc Jane was. Even if it did leave everything exactly the same.

And therein lies the problem. Whereas the first four books concentrated in the personal, when something outside of the couple happened, you had the feeling it mattered and that things had changed. Now, no matter what happens everything always ends the same. There may be a new couple or a new baby, but the same people are in the same places--unless they've moved into the mansion-- and everyone's a little less appealing as a result.

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### **Erica Ravenclaw says**

??

#### **No spoilers and and definitely colorful language abound!**

**Oh, how the mighty have fallen. </b>**

Sigh.

The King is upon us, and as a loyal, albeit disgruntled fan, I proceeded with caution. Despite the arduous and at times hysterical journey, I have triumphed.

It was exactly 3% that I realized the error of my ways. I like many of you awaited the publication of what I hoped to be Wards return to her former glory, reconnecting with the characters who started it all. With an omnipresent sense of dread I started The King, allowing my buoyant optimism to overshadow the fact that the last two books were a disastrous blunder. It was then, I read the following:

He was the last purebred vampire left on the planet - and when it came to her and sex, he was fully capable of going wrecking-ball to get at her. And not in the stupid-ass Miley Cyrus poser-sex way - and provided Beth was willing, of course.

*If this tickles your fancy, I encourage you to read through my status updates. Quotes of this caliber are in abundance.*

This book, and I'm being generous even calling it that, is a far cry from what we all know her to be capable of. The sad part is, as a long standing BDB fan it truly is sad for me, that under all the bullshit is an actual story, one I know, love and miss dearly. This shouldn't be called The King, it should be called The Death Rattle of a Dying Series.

#### Ingredients for The Death Rattle </u> </b>

4 parts Miley Cyrus references ( *added points with the mention of "twerking"* )

2 dashes of the word "defo" ( *added points with the use of "abso" and "jel", use accordingly* )

9 mentions of the iPhone ( *added points with the mention of Apple, Siri, or the opposer Blackberry* )

1 references to Facebook relationship updates (read: It's complicated)

1 nod to Nike's *Just Do It*

117 uses of the word "sex"

2435 scenes featuring characters no one gives a fuck about

1 epic hose down of jizz

17 excerpts from fanfiction to save time

1 adult temper tantrum with the required use of tranquilizers

1 scene of the "good ole days" just to keep the reader hanging on, use sparingly, we don't want them getting any ideas here.

#### Directions </u> </b>

Take all your social references and sift together to remove any lumps.

Measure "sex" and pour in slowly, while mixing by hand.

Add "characters no one gives a fuck about" and "excerpts from fanfiction" fully incorporate.

Beat "epic hose down of jizz" until you have white fluffy peaks, fold into batter gently.

Grease your 9x10 pan with the softened adult tantrum.

Bake for 13 months at a low 250.

Let cool and garnish with 1 scene featuring past favorite characters

Plate and serve to your editor.

Suggestion: If you find that all those dated and unnecessary social references are bogging down the story

flow, plow forward. You *definitely* need those, they are not jarring at all.

So there we have it. Yet another disappointing and bizarre installment of the BDB. I will never do this to myself again.

BAHAHAHAHAHAHA. YEAH RIGHT.

Like a true dementia patient, I will read the next one. I will wait for its publication. I will speculate on who will appear and what will happen. Perhaps a bit on my favorite brothers? I will get excited at the prospect of more time with Rehv or V. I will read every book of this series until she puts it to rest.

I know, I know, but it's because in those brief moments with some of my old favorites, I remembered so clearly how much I love these books, this world, and these characters. I've spent so much time in it that it all plays so clearly in my mind. The compound, their faces, their voices, the cheesy sex scenes, I love it all, and above all I am an optimist or some shit.

And so it begins again.

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### **Lora says**

Hey, I just thought of something . . .

**WHEN BETH GOES INTO HER NEEDING QHUINN AND BLAY WILL BE GOING AT IT LIKE RABBITS FOR HOURS ON END**

\*passes out\*

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**Scroll down for exciting news on the future of the BDB series, tidbits about the Fallen Angels series, and info on the next book. But be warned: there are spoilers if you've not finished reading Lover At Last.**

>The next book is about Wrath and Beth and is titled *The King*; it will be about him having an heir.

>We will see more of Murdher in the future books, but something needs to happen with Xhex before Murdher will get his own book; more on that when the timing is right.

>Saxton – Big keep reading!

>About Rhage and Mary's novella: Ward is about 146 pages in, now she only needs to finish it.

>The next Fallen Angels book is titled *Possession* and the cover was shown at the event. (I am guessing it will be out soon too, then?)

>Lassiter will get a book when he's ready – he opens up a whole storyline and she's not sure whether he'll feature in BDB or Fallen Angels (she didn't say both ;))

>What about movies? She's focused on the books but said that could only happen with someone who could do the books justice.

>She doesn't know how Layla's pregnancy will go – another KEEP READING! However, she *did* say that Layla's pregnancy will take a long time since she is a pure bred, but Beth's pregnancy may be more in line with humans since she is a half breed.

>Lash WILL be back, she just doesn't know when.

>Is there a connection between Michael (Story of Son) and Murdher – answer “Duh!” but doesn't know if it will be “seen” in a book.

>Sola isn't related to Manny and Butch.

>How will it work with Qhuinn and Blay, Layla, Xcor and the baby – KEEEEEPP REEEADING!!

>Did the Scribe Virgin create the Shadows – they are a subspecies that developed on their own.

>In regard to Assail – Warden thinks he's awesome, she's obsessed with him and his cousins are totally effin HOT!!

>There is a nexus with the Fallen Angels battle for good and the development of the BDB plotline – she thinks it could go either way but a crossover is logical.

>There wasn't anything else (or anyone else) in the barrels with Luchas.

>Qhuinn and Luchas return to their parent's house, Qhuinn sees Luchas as a victim and we'll see more of Luchas in future books.

>Will we find out more about the glymera female who had an orgy with the Bastards – yes! She also hosted that dinner with Wrath . . . she is married to the really old guy.

>Why didn't we get Ehric's twin's name – because she writes what she sees and doesn't know it yet.

>Are Sissy and Jim going to fall in love – KEEEEEEEEEEEEP REEEEEEEADING!!

>Will Nalla have a book so we can see Zsadist lose his sh!t? She doesn't know yet.

>Will Xcor turn on the Bastards for Layla – KEEEEEEEEEEEEP REEEEEEEADING!!!

>Will we find out about Butch and Manny's father and if there are more kids – KEEEEEEEEEEEEP REEEEEEEADING!!

>Layla is considered Fallen (Chosen, not angel ; ) )

>Will Butch be in another book? Yes, and we'll see some closure for him and José.

>Are they going to expand the rules for brotherhood inductions? Yes and Blay, Payne and Xhex could be inducted in future.

>Were there a lot of edits for the Blay and Qhuinn sex scenes? – There was nothing edited out.

>Payne can help heal the Brothers of injuries etc but she doesn't know if Payne's gift is with limits or has to be replenished but she WILL keep George alive (as in longer than reg dogs ; ) )

>No definite plans for a second Insiders' Guide buuuuuuut maybe in the future.

>Will the Scribe Virgin be in *The King*? She doesn't know but something will need to be done with her.

>Wrath still owes the Scribe Virgin that favor . . .

>There WILL be more about Jane and V – she's also talking to her publisher about revisiting each couple in full book form. (HELL YES!!!)

>Do we know who Elan was talking to? ANSWER: Yes - SAXTON'S FATHER!!!!

>Will any major character die? KEEEEEEEEEEEEP REEEEEEEADING!!!

>Both Blay and Qhuinn release bonding scents(!)

>Is Saxton working on the full blooded heir law? Not yet.

>Are Tohr and Xcor brothers? She's not saying a thing . . . (My guess is yes, and that will be Xcor's saving grace.)

>Will there be two males bonded to one female – again she ain't talking.

>Are Throe's family alive and in/be in the books? KEEEEEEEEEEEEP REEEEEEEADING!!!!

>Will Fritz get a story – she doesn't think he can be developed into a story.

>Will Havers ever be redeemed and have a story? NO!!!

>Will Havers be in *The King* and deliver Wrath and Beth's baby – KEEP READING (but over the WARDen's dead body!!!)

>Is Sola human? 100%, absolutely human.

>Is Xhex living in the mansion with John Matthew? Yep, they have worked through their issues :D

>Will we see Layla's baby soon? Yes.

>Do we know about the coffins in the garage? Not yet but she \*thinks\* it may come up in *The King*.

>Is Phury going to do better by the Chosen? KEEEEEEEEEEEEP REEEEEEEEEEEADING!!

>Is Eddie coming back? We'll see him buuuuuuuuuut KEEEEEEEEEEEEP REEEEADING!!!

>Phury's future is tied up with the Scribe Virgin.

>Saxton will play a major part in an upcoming plot line.

>And, lastly, Qhuinn and Blay will be mated (as in, the whole ceremony with the carving of the names in each of their backs, true?). (Again, HELL YES!!!)

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