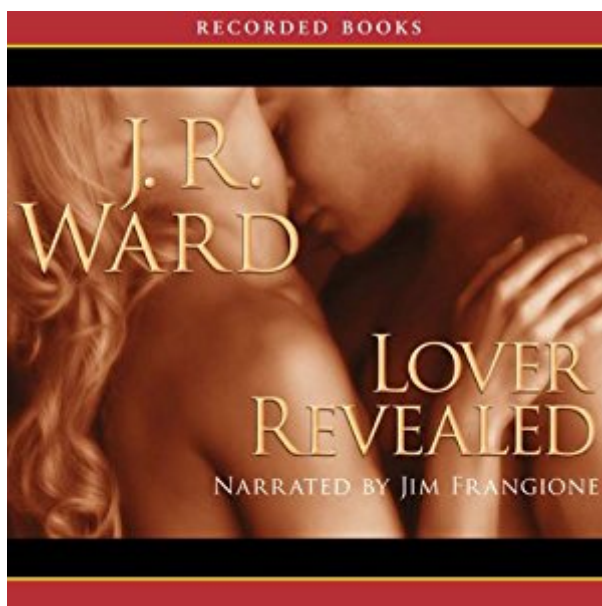


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# Lover Revealed: Black Dagger Brotherhood, Book 4



## Synopsis

#1 New York Times bestselling author J. R. Ward's "instantly addictive" novels of the Black Dagger Brotherhood return as an ally of the Brotherhood must face his own dark desires. Butch O'Neal is a fighter by nature. A hard-living ex-homicide cop, he's the only human ever to be allowed in the inner circle of the Black Dagger Brotherhood. And he wants to go even deeper into the vampire world. He's got nothing to lose. His heart belongs to a female vampire, an aristocratic beauty who's way out of his league. If he can't have Marissa, then at least he can fight side by side with the Brothers. Fate curses him with the very thing he wants. When Butch sacrifices himself to save a civilian vampire from the slayers, he falls prey to the darkest force in the war. Left for dead, he's found by a miracle, and the Brotherhood calls on Marissa to bring him back. But even her love may not be enough to save him. \*Lynn Viehl --This text refers to the Mass Market Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With nearly 700 reviews on for *LOVER REVEALED* and in light of Ms. Ward's cult-like following of fans (of which I am one!), it would be repetitive for me to detail the plot of this outstanding story. Let me instead convey my opinions regarding what sets Ms. Ward's Black Dagger Brotherhood (BDB) apart from other urban fiction/paranormal/erotic romance fiction series'. The vampire brothers of the BDB are warriors, committed to defending their vampire race against the Lessening Society, which would destroy it. In this fascinating, incredible world, Ms. Ward has used our present day setting to incorporate races of paranormal beings who live side by side with us normal folk, but who minimize their interactions with humans so as not to be identified as different. Preserving the secrecy of their

existence is of paramount importance to all of the supernaturals in Ms. Ward's world, and the constructs she builds for the societies of vampires, Lessers, and in later volumes in the series, other supernaturals, are detailed, rich, full-bodied, and interesting beyond description. Every species the author invokes has complex social traditions and rituals, a full economic structure, and a political system which is steeped in the history of the particular species. The vampire lore, particularly, is incredibly complex and utterly thrilling. We learn portions of their native tongue, the "old language", watch poignant, emotional ceremonies that surround their births, deaths, courtships, and marriages, and become completely intoxicated by their charm, power, sensuality, intelligence, loyalty to each other, and dedication to their race. **LOVER REVEALED** is the story of ex-cop Butch (given the choice to disappear from the police force and drop off the human map or die, after becoming aware of the vampire species) and Marissa, the most regal, highly stationed and utterly lonely of all the vampire females, who longs to make an emotional connection to another being. Their story is an edge-of-your seat emotional rollercoaster; we ride along with our hero and heroine, hoping they can shed the baggage of their pasts and their many misgivings, as they try desperately to find their happy ending. Ms. Ward's typically complex layering of both plot and characters throws quite a few curveballs at Butch and Marissa, every one of them completely non-cliche and fascinating. We learn that Butch has more of a role in vampire folklore than he realizes, and we hope that he stays alive to have the chance to capture his destiny. The conclusion of **LOVER REVEALED** 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 REVEALED** has the most "heart" in the BDB series thus far. It is also as raw, provocative, and sensual as its two precursors in the series, **DARK LOVER** and **LOVER ETERNAL**. 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, lonely Marissa as beautifully as he voices the tormented, powerful, out-of-his-element Butch. My recommendation: **RUN**, don't walk, and get all three Black Dagger Brotherhood novels today. If you've already read **LOVER REVEALED**, give the audio version a listen. Both are part of my permanent home library. Please note: This series should be read in order!

What can I say that I haven't already said about the 3 previous books from this series?!?! This story, and really the series as a whole, is so well thought out and so detailed that I can see everything happening. I feel like I am living this story. This book answers lots of questions and gets more

involved in the plot. I loved Butch in the previous books but I love him even more now! He is a wonderful man. Fierce, strong and loyal and is willing to go to any length to protect those he cares about, especially Marissa and V. Marissa and Butch make a wonderful couple. Marissa is a lovely woman who would also do anything for the people she cares about and those she doesn't know, which you see in her opening the Safe Place. V warms my heart. I feel so strongly for him. He's a great man, friend and warrior and I hope he gets his happily ever after. John is still an interesting part of this story and I really enjoy his parts. I look forward to seeing him go through his change. And these damn Lessers....ugh...I wonder if Mr. X is truly gone - that guy creeps me out. I highly recommend this book, and series, and will be starting up book 5 in a few short seconds :)

Definitely not my favorite book of the series so far. Marissa is quite annoying. Her constant self doubt, and lack of knowledge was a bit unbelievable. I know she was sheltered, but she is a vampire for crying out loud. Butch was just ok. He didn't fascinate me the way the other brothers have, maybe it was because he was human first? The surprise was John-Matthew. I didn't see that coming. Looking forward to see him through his transition. Even though it was my least favorite, I am still very invested in the story, and need to continue on.

**THE STORY:** Butch O'Neal is a human ex-cop who has spent much of the past year as a friend to the vampires of the Black Dagger Brotherhood. The Brotherhood is a group of warriors who protect the vampire society from the soulless humans known as Lessers. Butch has also been depressed because the female vampire that caught his interest, Marissa, doesn't want to see him anymore.

When Butch is captured by the Lessers, he begins to fear that he might be becoming one of them.  
**OPINION:** I liked this book because I thought that Butch's journey was interesting and added something new to the overarching story of the series. I also liked the romance between Butch and Marissa although I, at times, found Marissa somewhat annoying with her demands that Butch not involve himself in any danger. She ultimately redeems herself by recognizing her own faults. I also really liked the complexity of the relationships between Butch and the brotherhood, especially V. At times like brothers, at times like could be lovers, their relationship is nuanced and deep. I liked Ward's ability to tackle those issues without being defensive or an advocate.  
**WORTH**

**MENTIONING:** Once again, this book has a great overlap and communion between the characters which makes it feel more like a saga.  
**FINAL DECISION:** I liked this book for Butch's evolution.

Beyond the romance, I found Butch's ability to find meaning and purpose in his life to be the best part of the story.  
**CONNECTED BOOKS:** **LOVER REVEALED** is the fourth book in the Black Dagger

Brotherhood series. A reader can read this book without the others in the series although the multiple storylines may be confusing as the book picks up without explanation some of those storylines. STAR RATING: I give this book 4.25 stars.

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