



Pure Healing

Aja James

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In the world of Pure Ones, where sexual intercourse with anyone other than one's Eternal Mate leads to a slow, painful death within thirty days, love comes with the warning label "fall at your own peril"...

Rain: the Healer

From the first time she beheld him, she yearned to soothe his pain and torment and nurtured a secret, selfish desire – to have him for her very own...

Valerius: the Protector

Despite their instant attraction, he has steadfastly avoided applying to be the Healer's Consort, haunted by the brutality and violence of his past...

As the decadal Phoenix Rite draws near, as threats from their vampire nemesis intensify, Rain and Valerius must decide whether they let their histories and duties dictate their destiny or whether they risk all for a chance at everlasting love.

Pure Healing Details

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From Reader Review Pure Healing for online ebook

Paola says

Sexy paranormal romance, ideal for fans of this genre, this was about a tormented hero and a brave heroin, they both needed each other to heal, but their love is forbidden...
She's a healer and she can't be with the same male for a long period of time, he's a warrior with a terrible past.
Do yourself a favor and read this book!!!

AlwaysV says

If the blurb didn't perk up your interest so high that you just had to pick up this book, here's hoping my review might help too. This book was one of the best opening books of any series! The world of the Pure/Dark Ones was intriguing, fresh, compelling, and yes, sensual. The Glossary of Terms might seem daunting. I even wondered if the world would be too complex to enter, to enjoy. That wasn't the case at all. I did need to check out who the Pure Ones and the Dark Ones were, then it was a captivating joy ride all the way through. But, yes, honestly, the Glossary enhanced my enjoyment of the story ten fold! I was left yearning for more stories after the final page!

The 'sensual' comment described the relationship between Valerius and Rain whenever they let their guards down and allowed themselves to just be together. The writing and imageries created by the author were so gorgeous and stunning! And yes, HOT! So! what were Valerius and Rain's problems from the past? Rain carried too much past mistakes and self-doubts. She couldn't love any males enough. While Valerius was besieged by overwhelming pains and self-hatred, having suffered indescribable abuse and been brutalized as a sex slave. I loved them both for who they were now; Valerius, the Protector, and Rain the Healer. Their heart-breaking struggles were mine. Their happy ending was totally mine too!

All of my negative feelings went towards the mastermind villain/vampire/creature! The enemies! OMG! Hated them all so much! Especially the super cunning creature who initiated and planned the battle like he/she was playing a chess game! The chaos, deaths, and destruction happened in this book were just the beginning of what to come. The bloody ending of the creature couldn't happen soon enough for me! Die! You Nasty Creature!

Candace says

Rain and Valerius

Rain is the Healer of the Pure Ones race. The Healer takes a Consort "every ten years to draw strength from his blood and body to heal severe wounds." Valerius is the Protector. He hunts and kills rogue vampires who harm humans. One day Valerius decides to apply to be Rain's Consort. Rain knows Valerius doesn't like to be touched. How can they become a mated couple for thirty days with this lack of intimacy between them?

I found this novel to be intriguing. I have read Christine Feehan, J. D. Ward, Sherrilyn Kenyon, and Anne

Rice. There are some similarities but the story is uniquely its own. We start off with Sophia's (the Queen of the Pure Ones) voice told in first person. Then we hear from the other characters in third person. The romance of Rain and Valerius is steamy hot. The subplots keep the reader interested in how the plot plays out. The world building is slowly progressing. Perhaps in book two it will be fully developed. I will look forward to reading the next book in the series.

MG says

I'm a big fan of Christine Feehan's Dark Series, and this reminds me a lot of that. I always find it interesting to discover different authors' takes on similar folklore concepts, especially in the supernatural realm with respect to Vampires/Immortals. I liked the concept of this book and where Ms. James took it, especially with the depth she was able to achieve in terms of the MCs and their back stories. I like the complexity she achieved without getting long-winded or "over-explaining" things many authors are prone to doing. I still don't quite have the hang of the whole concept, but I believe that is intentional in that we are meant to learn more as we read through the rest of the series. I already have book 2, and I am looking forward to learning about this subset society the author has created.

Penny says

Actual rating: 2.5 stars

I can see the appeal for this story. I can see why so many people loved this book. But I didn't feel it.

This book has many different characters perspectives being told. We have the two main characters from whom we get the romance (Rain and Valerius), we have another main-ish character that seems to be an important one (Sophia), and then we have many others. Sometimes, I can find this technique interesting and productive, like I do with the Black Dagger Brotherhood books. However **in this case, I found this way of narrating to be very distracting, and it prevented me from being able to get attached to the story and its characters.** I felt some lack of interest towards most of these secondary characters, especially due to the fact that I didn't feel connected to them. Maybe these characters weren't powerful enough to keep me intrigued, or maybe their presentation weren't developed enough so it made me see them from a distant; but over all, I wasn't into them, I wasn't connected to them or what was happening to and around them. Another reason might be because with the exception of one character, the rest of their POVs were told in 3rd person omniscient, and I might have felt more involved if their points of view had also been told in first person like Shopia's.

Furthermore, **it took me a while to get into the two main characters' love story.** I believe that the main reason was that we start the book with Shopia's 1st person POV to then change to the main characters 3rd person and then to the secondary characters'. Thus, at the beginning I thought I was reading Sophia's story, I was ready to get invested in her to immediately having the story change towards Valerius and Rain, so my main focus of interest had to change, and right when I was getting into this new main characters, we are cut to get other characters POV, and thus my focus got changed again before getting immerse into any of them or their stories.

The world this book revolves in is not really made clear. We get information without really being explained. So we have to form our own ideas of how it relates. I suppose that this world will become more rounded and

justified as we keep reading the next installments, but as it is right now, it leaves me with too many questions since I get a little frustrated at not knowing how it all works and I want to make sense of it.

The sex. I read a few reviews from friends and most of them say that the sex scenes are very hot. I get that, I really do. Unfortunately, it is not so for me. I am pretty sure that the reason why it isn't that hot for me is because of my personal preferences and not because any fault of the narration. I like alpha and dominant men, take charge kind of personalities, specially sexually speaking. Valerius, on the other hand, is a sexually submissive kind of guy, basically the opposite of what I find sexy or attractive. Perhaps, here is another reason why this book failed to engage me.

Anyways, to summarize, and as I said before, **I found this book distracting.**

P.S.: I am interested to know more about Sophia. Maybe it is so because we get her in first person, or maybe because I want to read about a threesome.

Princess under cover says

There's only so long I can hold off finishing this book, because my head is already deep into Book 2!!! And because this book tees up so many different threads, my head has also dived in books 6.5 and 7 - SETH!! I'm coming for you!!

People, GET OUT THERE AND GET THIS SERIES - I promise you won't regret it. It's just sooooo addictive - and you know what - no pain no gain. It's complex, it's mesmerizing, it's NOT EASY! Enter this world at your own risk, but ENTER. I'm now salivating (have been since I finished book 7 ARC) for the next book... How many times do I have to re-read before I get my grubby little paws on it????

(I will impatiently await my buddies to catch up before I start book 2... but friends - HURRY!!)

Update: I'm giving this book 4.5 stars, rounded to 5 for the important role it plays in the overall series.

Caveat: I've read every single book in the series including Book 7 ARC, and I already know what Book 8 is about (cuz I'm aggressive about harassing the author!) Given that, I know how stupendously, ridiculously AWESOME this series is, and I've come to like AJ's later writing style (even though it's still very consistent with this first book) more. As most authors refine their style over time, her later books in the series 1) build off the incredible world this book set up, one on top of the other, 2) really gets into a pace and rhythm that work wonders for me. So given all that, this book in comparison, though it's the "mother of the series" falls a little short.

This book reminds me of why I never liked Sophia (and didn't start liking her until her novella in book 6.5. The irony is that people who LIKE Sophia (i.e., gravitating toward YA type books), tend NOT to like book 1. People who really love this book, tend to not like Sophia. She's annoying. As are all teenagers in my view. In reality and in books.

Because I now know the intricate threads that AJ is weaving in this book, I can appreciate them so much more, but I can also see from a first-time reader's POV, that all those threads can be daunting. I

remember during my buddy group that several people said they were confused or couldn't follow along so well, but then after our buddies clarified what was going on, and they got into it, they are now die-hard fans of the series just like me@!

BUT, I get it. It's not for everyone. It's definitely not for people looking for a light, brainless fluffy read. It's intense, dark, passionate, makes you cry, rarely makes you laugh, this first book is a doozy. If this is the type of experience you want to have reading a book --HIGHLY RECOMMEND!!!!

Here's what I thought on the second read:

Since I just finished a fantasy series, I'm really digging the paranormal-fantasy vibe of Pure Healing. I thought it was a slow start when I first read it because I was expecting action from the very first page. But I think the story built up with the right pace (and not slow at all) on this second read.

I fell in love with Valerius all over again--I LOVE tortured heroes and destined true love. And I really want to know about Sophia-Ere-Dalair love/lust triangle. It's clear to me which two are meant to be together, and having read the other books in the series, I already know that I'm not getting their story until LATER, which makes me want to rip a star right off the rating!!

Not cool, Aja! Making us wait for it!

I'll keep the stars for now, but don't make me too impatient, if you know what's good for you...

What I wrote 6 years ago when I first read the book:

I really really really loved this book! I have to say that it was kind of a slow start, and at first I thought it was going to be YA (which the cover does NOT look to be, neither does the book description). But it's only through the book and in the end that you realize it was some kind of stylistic device the author used - to wrap stories together and continue the saga. I get the feeling that somewhere down the line (maybe many books later in the series), Sophia the young Queen will mature enough to get her own story. With Dalair and Ere, most likely.

But of course, things heated up to the point that I swallowed this book whole (like eating a whole tub of Ben and Jerry's cookie dough icecream in 15 minutes) in a matter of hours. Just couldn't put it down!! Oh Valerius, where are you?? Ditch Rain and come to me!! OK, I guess Rain may be your eternal match, even if she looks like a "Kabuki doll."

I wonder what the next book is going to be. Reading the preview, I don't see any connection with Pure Healing. It seems like it's all about vampires. Maybe Ms. James is starting to tell the other side of the story. I really like that it's not clear-cut right vs. wrong. There is always another side to the story.

Hope the next one comes out FAST!!

Jen says

*** 3.5 Stars!!!***

This is going to be an interesting series! I did find this first book to be a lot of information to be taken in at times... plus there are many POV's which was distracting at times; but once I got the characters figured out, I enjoyed it more.

I have got to get some sleep, but will try to do a review when I can keep my eyes open! Lol!

Jamie (TheRebelliousReader) says

3 stars. Very interesting start to a promising series. Everyone knows that when it comes to vampires Ward's BDB series is the end all be all for me but I definitely see the potential in this series. It's so different and unique and feels like a great mixture of classic vampires and modern vampires. The writing was really good and the characters were complex and interesting.

I feel like the second novel and forward is where the series really takes off because this is definitely a set up/world building book. That's not a bad thing because the author does the set up very well but I think the next book is where the series really kicks off.

{Challenges completed:

- ✓For Love of a Book: Shopping Cart Challenge
- ✓Romance Readers Reading Challenges: Picked for me for the Meet & Greet Challenge (August/September)
- ✓Romance Readers Reading Challenges: August Monthly Challenge}

Starr (AKA Bam Bam) Rivers says

Now that I figured out how to link my kindle notes, I can track everything that goes on in this book so much better! And boy! A LOT FREAKIN GOES ON@!! I love it!! Makes me want to dive right into the next book! This series just pulled u in and doesn't let go!

It was slower for me this time around, prob because I'm so used to the accelerated pace of the books starting from 30% of the way through book 2. This series flies! And because this one is also longer, to lay all the world-building foundation I guess. I was going to rate it lower this go around, but I've ultimately decided to keep the 5 stars because the last 30% really hit the spot for me. And I'm reminded of why I LOVE Val and Rain, why I'm breathless with anticipation for the next books (even tho I've read them all! TWICE!) and why I'm a die-hard fan of this series. So the 5 stars stay :)

Updated review on second read:

If you're starting out in the Pure/ Dark Ones series, I definitely suggest you start with Book 1. BUT. It's been a while since I read this book. I started with Book 2 with a buddy read over the last couple of months and read the whole series through to book 6.5 (ARC), and now I'm just coming back to Book 1.

So my second suggestion is - **to get the maximum impact from this series - read it in order all the way through, and then read it again!! Seriously!!**

My level of appreciation for the characters, the world, the interconnections, the mystery and intrigue, is just so much higher now that I actually "understand" what's going on! Or think I do anyway. And I've reached a level of comprehension that lets me theorize about the mysteries that still need solving with some pretty damn good authority, and I'm so invested in the characters now, ALL OF THEM, that I can't wait for Book 7.

So Book 1 in a nutshell:

* Tortured hero who is one of my fav heroes ever in the PNR genre

- * Tortured (but kind of to a lesser extent) heroine
- * you get the tip of the iceberg of an intriguing new world
- * A cast of very interesting characters
- * Mysterious vampire threat
- * Pretty cool action sequences
- * Hot, emotionally connective, but HOTT and intense sex (did I mention HOT?)

In a word: **Addictive**

My original review:

If you like paranormal romance with a fantasy element, you won't regret picking up this start to an epic series about Pure and Dark Ones. Vampires and "Elves"? I don't know what you'd call the Pure Ones, but there are a lot of similarities between the two races.

There's a lot of world building, for those who like fantasy books, but maybe too much for those who like straight-up paranormal romances. I don't think the world building takes away from the central story between Rain and Valerius, however; I actually enjoy it, and can't wait for more books in the series.

Sex is pretty HOT! It's definitely not gratuitous. It's like the sex is a representation of the couple's emotions, which I love and which make the scenes tug at your heartstrings. Made me tear up a few times throughout this novel, which is always the sign of a good writer.

If you're looking for a light bluff piece with lots of bump and grind, this book is definitely NOT it. If you're looking for something you can sink your teeth into, that transports you to a whole new world, pick it up. You won't regret it!

Alaina says

Holy smut gods!

Pure Healing was so freaking good. I'm happy I finally dove into this book because I'm pretty sure I was supposed to read it months ago - sorry buddy! Anyways.. this was such a great start that I can't wait to dive into the second book of this series!

I loved everything and anything about Rain and Valerius. Even thought I first thought Rain was a stupid name that maybe a celebrity would name their child (or something). Eventually I fell in love with their instantaneous love because holy smutballs guys! It was insane! SO freaking good and insane that I couldn't put it down. I just had to see this book out and where their relationship would take me (as well as them).

I don't even want to mention anything else but the world building and how insane it was. If I wanted to mention Sophia.. UGH, I just can't! I'm already annoyed and mad. Other than that, I loved this book and the two main characters. I honestly can't wait to see what the next book will give me.

chandler ainsley ✿ says

no, i don't want to read this. but for the poor souls who get spam recommended this book, i will read it. i'll be ur paranormal martyr <3

Cécile Smits says

WTF did i just read? I need to find my breath....

This was an introduction to a world that doesn't simply have vampires in it. No, this is a world that has Pure Ones. And Dark Ones. And, yes, they're different. And they don't get along, as in at all. Even though they're two sides of the same coin. This first story introduces the people that live in this world, their background, their place in this world and the people they love.

But the couple this story revolves around? Those 2? Valerius the Protector and Rain the Healer? With the heartache, the torment and agony they've experienced in their very, very long lives it's a miracle they're still standing strong. Rain needs to take a Consort every ten years to rebuild her strength and Valerius finally applied for the job. His feelings for Rain run deep, but the scars of his past are deep as well.... Rain has feelings, too..... but scars from the past as well.

With trouble rising, can they find a solution? Do they even have a chance to stay together?

After this story, i need to know more.... more of what happens to those i've gotten to know, and more of this world!

Silvia Drascall says

F*cking F*cking LOVE IT... thx so much for sharing your Amazing Universe with us, Mrs. Aja James. One of the best story I've ever read. EVER. You blew my mind with your fascinating, creative and f*cking well written plot... There is nothing boring or monotonous throughout the story...NOTHING...

You know, I'm can't help myself... I just fell in love for your characters... ALL OF THEM - pure ones, dark ones, vampires... blah, blah... Perfect play!!!

Now, my only problem is that I'm addicted and can not read fast enough..kkk..(hope you love to write cuz I need more&more of it- kkkk). So, congratulations, Mrs. James - Your are on the same level of my great divas of paranormal romances: J.R.Ward, C. Feehan, N. Singh, K. Cole, L. Adrian, L. Leigh, C. Eden, Frost, Showalter, S.Wright, L. Dohner... Good job. Really Fabulástico Great Job.

Para quem lê em inglês, é amante de paranormais 'calientes/hot' e prima por bons enredos - meu conselho: CORRA & LEIA A SÉRIE (e COMPRE TAMBÉM...kkkk)!!!! Vale super a pena. Essa Aja James É SHOW DE BOLA, não fica devendo pra nenhuma das rainhas do gênero.

Veja você, comecei usando o meu plano kindle unlimited para ler gratuitamente e, no entanto, gostei tanto e tanto e para além do tanto... que acabei adquirindo todos os livros lançados e ainda me vi na obrigação de alertar e recomendar a todas as 'famintas literárias' que uma nova 'bestselling author' acabar de nascer...kkkk

P.S. Thx, Princess under cover. I just love your recommendation

Mamacita wants a Bedtime Story says

5 Eternal Healing Stars

This. BOOK...

The world building...

The characters (and there are a lot of them) ...

Would I Recommend this book...

What did you first think about this author when starting this book?

Did I Absolutely Love the start of this new series??

***Trigger Warning ~ Dark content contains flashback scenes detailing rape & abuse**

Favorite Quotes...

Oh she knew she was playing with fire, but how delicious was the burn.

“And when a Pure-male falls in love, hell, when any male falls in love, you’re a slave to age-old instincts to win her, protect her, provide for her, Nourish her,” Tristan said with passion. “It has nothing to do with being her Consort, my brother, and everything to do with being her Mate.”

“I see you’ve come to terms with the obvious. Now the question is what you’re going to do about it. In love, there’s no holding back,” Tristan told him with sudden, uncharacteristic insight. “You have to lay yourself bare, everything you are, at her feet and pray that she’ll put you out of your misery and accept you.”

“And if she doesn’t,” Tristan went on, “it has no bearing on what you have to do. You’re hers regardless of her choice. It is your duty, your very purpose for existing, to ensure her strength and vitality. You have what she needs, Val.”

“When Valerius’ eyes became shuttered with self-doubt, Tristan laid a reassuring hand on his shoulder. “You have what she needs,” he said again. “And you’re capable of giving her more than she’d ever bargained for because you love her. Whether she wants it or not, it’s your gift to give her. True love requires no reciprocation. True love is unconditional.”

I graciously received a copy of this book from the author. I voluntarily chose to post a review of my Honest Opinion of this book with No Influence or Interference from any company of person.

Gavin says

My feelings for this PNR are a little all over the place. I really liked some of the stuff we got but the flaws held me back from truly being able to get lost in the story.

The basic premise of the story leaned heavily on a PNR trope I hate. Pure Ones, basically just vampires with a superpower added into the mix who protect humanity from evil vampires, are only able to have sex with their Eternal Mate. If they break that rule it is death within 30 days! I do hate the old magic bonding trope with a passion as it hints towards destiny rather than a couple just, you know, actually liking each other as people!

The main focus on this story was on Rain the Healer of the Pure Ones. The Healer is the only Pure One that can have sex without dying. She actually needs it to suck magical energy out of her Consorts! The Phoenix

Cycle ritual happens very ten years where Pure One males apply to prove their worth to be Consorts to the Healer for a 30 day time period. Our hero in this story, tortured former Roman slave Valerius, has avoided applying to be Consort for hundreds of years despite being rated as one of the strongest Pure One males. A few things happen in this one that leads him to finally apply for the position. This is a PNR so you guys can guess how things progress from here!

The main romance arc was a tough sell for me due to the premise being bad but it actually ended up playing out better than I expected when the weirdness of it all wore off. The romance still ended up falling a bit short for me because I failed to warm to Rain much as a character. She was OK but the romance was damaged a bit by the way she treated Valerius early in the story. She needless hurt him at one point and I always hate it when characters lapse towards violence:(It also had that slight instalust feel about it. I felt the physical desire between the characters but was never convinced they had anything beyond that going for their relationship.

The big plus for this series was the fact that it was BDB inspired PNR. By that I mean it took a similar approach as the BDB series and did not limit the POV's to just the two characters in the story's lead romance. Valerius and Rain both had POV's and plenty of screen time, as they should, but so did a lot of other characters in their inner circle. I really like that as it adds depth to the story and helps flesh out the secondary characters and build them up a bit for their own stories later in the series. The standout secondary character for me was probably was the young Pure One Queen Sophia. It was fun to follow her as she tried to balance a normal life at college with being Queen of the Pure Ones. There was a bit of a love triangle in her story arc but it actually played out quite well so I was not irritated with it and both the guys seemed intriguing enough in their own way.

The big negative for the story was the writing. I just never really gelled with it and it never truly sucked me into the story. It was not awful just not super engaging. The dialogue was probably the biggest problem. It felt a bit unnatural and weird.

Another thing hurting the story was the sex scenes. They were more cringey than sexy with some questionable descriptive choices thrown into the mix lol!

I did like the fact that the Pure Ones all had their own minor superpower. It was a fun twist and made them feel a bit like cool vampire X-Men!

All in all I was a little disappointed with this as I felt like all the building blocks were in place for a fantastic story but the execution just never quite worked for me. I might still read the second one if it makes it to audio as this was an OK read and because I'm mildly interested to read about a few of the other characters stories.

Rating: 3 stars.

Audio Note: I felt like the narrator did not do this book a lot of favours. Addison Barnes was well-spoken and had a pretty voice but had no talent for voice acting. Her character voices were fine and distinctive but she did not act out any of the scenes and that sucked the emotion out of some of them as she read tense emotional scenes in the same tone of voice as light humorous ones. It is the nuances like that which make or break an audio story! If Barnes can improve her ability to *perform* the story rather than just read it blandly then I feel like she could be a decent narrator.
