



# *Surviving the Burnout: Your Post-Basgiath Recovery Guide*

An apothecary's handbook for  
the Iron Flame hangover.

*I know you're hurting right  
now. Take a breath. We will  
get through this together.*

# Diagnosing the Damage

You survived year two, but at what cost? You are currently experiencing a critical deficit of telepathic sass, lethal obstacle courses, and morally grey revolutionaries.

Staring at your ceiling won't fix it. You need a targeted prescription.

Trust Issues  
(from betrayals)

*We are entering  
dangerous territory here*

Adrenaline  
Withdrawal

*Seriously, this is bad...  
like really bad*

Dragon  
Deprivation

*Accordi, my... and  
more friends*

*Send help...  
and more books*

Xaden Withdrawals

## ~ The Cure: ~

A highly curated syllabus of fantasy romance to hold you over until *Onyx Storm* drops.

# The Apothecary's Rating System

Romance  
Intensity



1 = Sweet slow burn.  
5 = Touch-her-and-die  
scorching.

World-Building  
Depth



1 = Easy to grasp.  
5 = Epic, sprawling lore.

Cliffhanger  
Level



1 = Safely complete series.  
5 = Screaming at a wall  
at 3 AM.

*Check the dagger count before starting.  
Don't say I didn't warn you.*

# The Morally Grey Diagnostic Matrix

The MMC	Magical Affinity	Grump Level	Burn the World for Her Energy
Xaden Riorson (Empyrean)	Shadows / Wielding	High	Unquestionable
Kingfisher (Quicksilver)	Fae / Shadow-adjacent	Extreme	Fiercely Protective
Nyktos (A Shadow in the Ember)	Death / Shadows	Brooding	God-tier Devotion
Rhysand (A Court of Thorns and Roses)	Night / Darkness	Cunning	Sacrificial
Ravyn Yew (One Dark Window)	Gothic / Shadows	Sarcastic	Lethally Loyal

*Shadow daddies for the win.*

*Night Court forever.*

*Gothic vibes >>*

*The grumpier the better.*

Pick your poison based on your preferred level of emotional devastation.

# The Xaden Replacement Therapy

## Quicksilver by Callie Hart

### Vibe Check

- Fae warrior binds himself to a snarky human thief
- Relentless enemies-to-lovers banter
- A magic system built on alchemy and fae lore

### The Ratings

Romance		4 Golden Scales
World-Building		3 Lightning Strikes
Cliffhanger		4 Daggers

### Why it Cures the Ache

Kingfisher's short-tempered, tortured, fated-mate energy is the absolute closest thing you will find to Xaden's brand of reluctant devotion.

Kingfisher is PEAK grump.

The cliffhanger will DESTROY you.

Prepare for emotional damage.

# The God-Tier Brood

*A Shadow in the Ember* by Jennifer L. Armentrout

## Vibe Check

- A deadly maiden trained to assassinate the God of Death
- High-stakes, prophecy-driven world
- Unbelievable tension and protective fury

## The Ratings

Romance



5 Golden Scales

World-Building



4 Lightning Strikes

Cliffhanger



4 Daggers

## Why it Cures the Ache

Nyktos is the ultimate ancient, powerful being who uses his shadows to do incredibly distracting things. It satisfies the need for massive geopolitical stakes mixed with intense romance.

*Nyktos is  
\*everything\*.*

*The tension  
is UNREAL.*

*Prepare for  
the ultimate  
slow burn.*



# The Deadly Trials Fix

*The Serpent and the Wings of Night* by Carissa Broadbent

## Vibe Check

- Human adopted daughter of a vampire king
- A brutal, Hunger Games-style tournament where survival is rare
- Forced alliance with the most dangerous rival in the game

*The tournament is BRUTAL. Prepare yourself.*

## The Ratings

Romance



5 Golden Scales

World-Building



4 Lightning Strikes

Cliffhanger



4 Daggers

*That ending... I am BROKEN.*

## Why it Cures the Ache

Replicates the graduate or die anxiety of the Riders Quadrant perfectly, wrapping it in a lush, gothic vampire aesthetic with a truly shocking betrayal.

# The Safe-Harbor Slay

***Blood & Steel*** by Helen Scheuerer

## Vibe Check

- ✂ Forbidden warrior training
- ✂ A broody, strictly off-limits mentor
- ✂ Found family and fierce combat trials

## The Ratings

Romance 🍌🍌🍌

World-Building ⚡⚡⚡

Cliffhanger ✂

*The training is intense.*

*No waiting!*

## Why it Cures the Ache

It gives you all the rigorous weapon mastery and mentor-mentee tension you loved in Violet's training, but the series is complete.

You can binge it in peace.



# The Dragon Rider Academy Fix

## *Fireborne* by Rosaria Munda

### Vibe Check

- Orphans from opposite sides of a brutal revolution
- Competing for the position of First Rider
- Intense dragon-bonding and aerial combat

*Intense rivalries!  
The tension is palpable.*

### The Ratings

Romance



2 Golden Scales

World-Building



5 Lightning Strikes

Cliffhanger



3 Daggers

*Maximum world-building!  
So much lore to get lost in.*

### Why it Cures the Ache

If you loved the squad dynamics, the flight training, and the political machinations of Navarre, this YA-crossover epic provides the deepest, most satisfying dragon-riding lore.

**TOP SECRET**

# The Dark Academia Fix

*A Language of Dragons* by S.F. Williamson

## Vibe Check

- Alternate 1923 London where dragons soar
- Bletchley Park codebreaking meets mythical beasts
- Clandestine, slow-burn enemies-to-lovers

## The Ratings

Romance



World-Building



Cliffhanger



## Why it Cures the Ache

Scratches the itch for Scribe Quadrant-style intellect. It trades the physical brutality of the parapet for the mental warfare of deciphering a hidden dragon language to stop a civil war.

Codebreaking  
is  
**INTENSE!**

So much  
cool London  
lore!

Perfect  
for brainy  
dragon  
fans!

# How the Magic is Evolving

The *Empyrean* series proved we want our magic deadly, logical, and deeply integrated into the world.

Here is how the genre is hardening its magic systems this year:



# The 2025 Survival Calendar

January  
7

Immortal  
by Sue Lynn Tan  
(God of war romance  
to start the year)

January  
21

Onyx Storm  
by Rebecca Yarros  
(The Main Event)

February  
18

Rebel Witch  
by Kristen Ciccarelli  
(Witch vs. Witch Hunter  
enemies-to-lovers)

March  
4

The Jasad Crown  
by Sara Hashem  
(The Egyptian-inspired  
epic finale)

*Pace yourself.  
Or don't. I'm not your  
commanding officer.*

# Choose Your Fighter

How are you coping?

I am processing acute grief and need high-stakes devastation.

*Embrace the carnage. It's therapeutic!*

Read:  
*A Shadow in the Ember*  
OR  
*The Serpent and the Wings of Night*

*Become your heart's dragon. It's a challenging*

I don't care about my heart, I just want more dragons.

*More scales, less stress. Solid plan.*

Read: *Fireborne*  
OR  
*When the Moon Hatched*

I need an emotional palate cleanser before I break.

*A little breath of fresh air. Necessary.*

Read:  
*Blood & Steel*  
(Complete series, safe harbor!)

I am experiencing severe Xaden withdrawals.

*Desperate times, desperate measures. Try this.*

Read:  
*Quicksilver*

*One the road runs smoother of Sand. For this world will love them.*

*A little breath using cleamicele and affred to break. It is nota to worite about the sicann dragon.*

Take your prescription to the nearest bookstore. You'll survive this, Rider.