



Pricolici

Alicia Nordwell

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New edition expanded by 22k and re-released Tucker might be a submissive lupe, but he's far from capable of keeping his mouth shut. Combine that with the fact that his pheromones have gone crazy since he first began shifting at twenty, and the last six months have been hell for him. But Tucker's alpha can't handle the disruption anymore. On his own, Tucker heads south, trying to find the unclaimed territory Shane mentioned where he can just be himself.

Except Shane was lying. The territory isn't unclaimed. Worse, it's the home of the Pricolici—the oldest haitas in the United States—and the Hunters. The boogie men of all lupes, the ancient wolves of the Pricolici enforce the peace and ensure their existence is kept a secret, and they won't hesitate to kill if someone calls too much attention to themselves.

Tucker immediately runs into Stelian, the alpha of the Pricolici. He doesn't know what to expect, other than contempt for his submissive wolf nature, but the last thing he expects to hear is that he isn't a wolf at all! But he has no idea what a hultan is, much less how to learn control of the magic Stelian insists he has. And finding a mate?

No way.

When the haitas that took him in comes under attack, Tucker must fight back with everything he can... and even that might not be enough.

Pricolici Details

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From Reader Review Pricolici for online ebook

Nikyta *Miss Forgetful* says

This was an interesting story that I quite enjoyed. A bit different from the common shifter premise, this author created a different language for the culture of wolf shifters.

I really liked that there were surprises around Tucker and that we learned them when he learned them. Tucker is a bit different from all the other wolves and seeing him come to terms with that was very well-down, I thought. At times, he was a bit stupid but I still found him cute. I *loved* how possessive and aggressive Stelian was. And I definitely loved that Tucker wouldn't let Stelian claim him until he was ready.

The conflict within the story is a bit basic. Typical bad guy gets a hold of Tucker and Stelian has to save him. Although there's a bit of a twist on that, I still found it somewhat predictable but enjoyable. My only problem was that in the beginning, a LOT of names were given for the wolves and the world, which made things confusing and overwhelming. A glossary would have been extremely beneficial.

Overall, I really liked the story. It was entertaining and branched out from the norm of shifters, which was greatly appreciated. I would love to see more books in this world because it really was a fascinating one.

LD Durham says

This wasn't at all satisfying.

It began with a great idea, with a character and glimpses of back story that drew me in. But then small things started to irritate me, things that don't make any sense and are usually added by the author to create drama and really only creates a "wtf" face. For instance, there is a scene in the beginning in which Tucker is dancing at a bar to the music of a live band and then sees yellow eyes behind a curtain backstage. Then he proceeds to stand there and stare at them during, not one, but three whole songs. Two people, staring at each other through the length of three live songs. Wtf? This tossed me right out of the story.

But I climbed back in, hoping it was just an aberration. It wasn't. The elements of the story were in plenty, but the author didn't bother to slow down and let anything build. No emotion, no tension, nothing. An evil character comes in so fast and is taken out even faster, I had no chance of being at all concerned. It became clear that the evil guy was only there as a plot device for something else that could have been interesting if only the story had allowed it to build into something interesting. The main characters have a complete change in personality, with no real reason for it. I have to assume it was the scene with the evil guy and nothing else. Very irritating since I was more interested in the original characterizations of them. They became utterly boring afterwards.

And then the story took a turn that I can never forgive: jumps in time that are only there because the author doesn't have enough material to feed a gap. This happens a lot in badly written werewolf books. The full moon just happened, but a full moon is needed for something else so let's just pretend that weeks pass with nothing really happening other than the main couple is getting closer so that when we get to the full moon, everything is set up and ready for the cute ending. I seriously hate that.

I didn't get anything out of this story but frustration. With all the bits of a bigger werewolf society, I am hoping that this is part of a series. ~~Not that I'll read the rest of a series, but~~* I'm hoping that is why there were

so many bits and pieces of a better and bigger story. Otherwise, this was a great idea that was executed horribly. Which is a shame.

*The author has changed my mind, so I will, happily, try another book in this series.

Mouse says

The plot arc was CRAZY. The climax before the middle of the book?! ZERO buildup. No time for the couple to connect/grow. SO DUMB. I felt like I didn't know the characters. And the MC was whiny and back and forth. He seemed to have a lobotomy every other page!

LOLA says

Like to read this book yearly. A good read. Different take on shifters and wizards. Sexual tension. Just like how this book is written.

Michelle says

★★★★ = *I may not read it again but I thoroughly enjoyed it.*

I find myself going back to Pricolici for particular scenes, like, their meet cute was hot: when Tucker was all breathless and weak at the knees for just being *near* Stelian, it left me wanting more!

Pricolici is a gay wolf-shapeshifter romance. You have your typical MC's: your dominating alpha male who is strong, cold, quiet but oh-so powerful, and then you have your strong-willed, cheeky, loner outcast who just trying to move through life and survive. Even though the characters as pretty cliché I loved the dialogue and events between them; juicy and powerful.

I am a sucker for stubborn characters with drawn-out romance. I like the build up, the want, the need and then when it's finally delivered, becoming an explosive moment between the two as they can barely contain themselves. Yes, this has that!

This also has a twist to your normal gay-wolf-shapeshifter plots. It added the hype for Tucker's character and made him the desirable-rare-type (which I love in MC's; gives that feeling of want/need). I also like the past trauma involved around Tucker and his previous pack. Look, I just love all of it!

I would recommend this for some juicy scenes. Sure, this is your typical run-of-the-mill shifter story but I find the twist on the supernatural events make it interesting, as well as the characters and romance.

Mandy*reads obsessively* says

I liked the world it's set in and the little bit different history of the shifters.

I enjoyed that the MC wasn't quite what he thought he was.

But I didn't like the Alpha, maybe because we don't get his POV nor only see him through his mate's eyes.

But I didn't like him, I thought he was arrogant and condescending and all that smirking annoyed the hell out of me.

I did like that he wanted to wait and make sure his mate really was ready, but again, it felt like a power-trip thing.

And with all his growling and posturing how on earth did the baddie get as far as he did?

Well anyway, it wasn't bad, and I do like the mate-mine-growl stuff, I just really didn't see the attraction or love between the two and I didn't like one of them at all, so

Elaine says

Copied from my Amazon review....

Pricolici by Alicia Nordwell is a M/M paranormal romance about Tucker, a young shifter forced from his haitas (pack) due to an increase in his pheromones that makes all the unmated males around him insane with lust. The Alpha deliberately places him in the path of the oldest, strongest, and most feared haitas in the country - the Pricolici. Led by Alpha Stelian, an old-world wolf who also leads the Hunters - the police of the wolf shifters, their meeting and all that follows shifts young Tucker's perceptions of the Daoi (the wolf shifters), the Hunters, the Pricolici, and himself.

I had read a more abbreviated version of this story elsewhere and was more than pleased with the additional content. It didn't feel as rushed as before and there was more background to the Pricolici, Stelian, and the Daoi to enjoy. The story flowed easily and felt more polished than the older version I'd read. Don't avoid this book just because the two protagonists are male. The romance and even the spicier moments are well done and, to me, more tasteful than some M/F romances I've read.

I highly recommend this to anyone who enjoys a good Paranormal romance!

Debra Lamey says

Great story.

I loved this book. A great storyline, lots of action, and spicy romance. A new twist on werewolves, I enjoyed reading about ancient legends and thousand year old wolves. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes this type of story.

Rurae says

3.5 stars!

This shifter story was different to so many others. I kind of found the beginning a bit confusing in the bar and found myself almost stopping reading but I'm glad I didn't. I went on to read the whole book and really enjoyed most of it.

I wish there'd been more on Stelian because he was a hot hot hot alpha and I felt he wasn't given enough space in the book. The ending felt kind of rushed but I'd definitely read more from this author. Although at times the work didn't feel polished, she's got a great imagination and created a unique world and for me that trumps perfect writing skill every time. I'd like to see more of this world and certainly more of Stelian.

I also liked very much that Tucker found his own strength and wasn't just a submissive omega or beta character.

Ayanna says

My initial impression:

11/19/12 ETA

~~The writing itself isn't bad, though it's a bit too unambiguous and at times meandering.~~ It was better at some times than at others.

By the time something finally happened in the beginning, I feel like Tucker had already explained 3 different ways why exactly he had to leave and all of the problems that had occurred to him, all of which somehow stem from this mysterious curse (or whatever it is that causes the insta-lust in others) of his. I mean, I get the picture and do ultimately get a more complete-feeling idea of what's going on, but it just feels like the story could have been condensed in a more chronological order and still had the same effect.

A grammatical point that bothered me: the subjunctive should be used with conditional cases, so every time it says "if I/he/she was" should be "if I/he/she were." Yeah, I know a lot of people make that mistake, but further exposure to it still hasn't made me more amenable to it, so I doubt it ever will. (I'm okay with technical grammatical errors if they're there to add characterization, such as in 1st person narration or dialogue, but I feel that in 3rd person narration, more formal grammar should be used.) The subjective vs objective aspect of the narration isn't quite consistent. Sometimes the descriptions are described so impersonally that it's of the objective mode, but sometimes the author writes Tucker's thoughts (jumps into subjective). I know it's difficult to balance because I've done it before in my NaNoWriMo works, but I feel like the inconsistency also creates a sort of dissonance between disparate parts of the overall work. (Just throwing in my two cents, but I think the best bet is probably subjective, given that it is a work of fiction and, in addition, the plot lends itself to a more narrative piece.)

I think most of the problems (that I had with this) stem from the lack of characterization at the very beginning (ETA: and through the middle. Maybe even to the end). I didn't really get a sense of Tucker's personality (even though it's written in 3rd person limited) so the rest of it all seemed kind of like PWP with excuse plot. It started off with too much an air of pseudo-mystery -- purposely withholding information for the sake of dramatics -- which ultimately ended up hurting the overall story because while it did create a sense of confusion within the reader, it also made the plot points seem pointless. Perhaps if we were given a bit more information at the beginning? I mean, in a sense, every author creates his/her own world every time he/she writes. This especially applies with supernatural tropes (and especially still with vampires and

werewolves). Yes, there are common archetypes for each supernatural species. However, in this modern age, there's so many archetypes floating around that the author really should take time and establish which one he/she's using or what his/her "archetype" is like (aka, which parts the author's taking and leaving).

There's a lot there that can be worked with, though. The idea of how human morality has influenced Daoi society is a fascinating one that I feel like should have/could have been explored further. It was an interesting aspect that not many 'supe fic books look into.

It's rather over-explained. For example, (view spoiler)

Overall, it's rather good, but the wordiness slows it down a lot. (Let me just do a little lampshade hanging here and forestall any who may protest by saying this: You know that old maxim "takes one to know one"? I am one. Yes, I know I am extremely wordy, diffuse, and rather meandering. Part of this is because I can't resist commenting as I go. Another part is I write the review in parts and sometimes reorganize in the middle of the writing, which ends up being disorganized as I add more and more to the overall review. *End lampshading)

(ETA actually, that wasn't really even a lampshade hanging. ...oh, well)

(post-reading ETA)

I rather agree with Aimee regarding the villain and, to a degree, the sexual aspect. The entire thing seemed really passive-aggressive, but that might be again written down to the lack of characterization. The random reminiscences were just that -- random. They added to the overall plot, but their timing was just so off that it broke any continuity the plot had.

The writing style also was a bit weird. Part of it was the meandering, but beyond that, it was over-explicated. There were good moments, but I can't quite tell if they were blind-squirrel moments or actual moments when the author just let it all go and just *wrote*.

All in all, probably a 2.5, rounded down for all of the comma splices (it IS okay to use a period, you know...) and awkward phrasings.

ETA

Ah. That breastplate thing. I'd resisted this because I thought "no way it would be something this..." Well... So, apparently, Grecia is supposed to be Grecian because her name is Grecia? And Nordwell is trying to say that's she is/was an Amazon? Something like that? Is THAT what the breastplate thing was about?

Okay. Let's examine this. First off: Grecia for a Grecian. That to me makes no sense. It's like having a Roman girl named Roma or an English girl named Englandia.

Second off, if I remember correctly, I'm fairly certain Amazons cut off one of their breasts so as to not interfere with archery. (Quick google search: it's actually for javelin-throwing) They really didn't have any need for breastplates...

Just a random miscellaneous thought, yeah...

Ilv says

Rating: 3.5 stars
2nd Time Reading

I read this years ago and while I remember I liked it, I didn't remember much of the story. I decided to read it again and read the expanded version on KU. The extended version did add quite a bit to the story and was worth reading it over the original. I liked that the author put a bit of a different spin to the shifter genre but would have liked the world that she created expanded even more. It took a bit of time for the two MCs to develop chemistry together but once they did, I thought they made a good paring. While I've read better shifter stories, I did find this one entertaining and enjoyable.

Michael says

3.5 Stars rounded up. I enjoyed the mixing of shifter and magic. I'm always a sucker for the "ugly duckling" story where the weakest becomes something more.

The only niggle I had was one a few other reviewers mentioned and that was made up words. I think there are enough wolf shifter books around that some terms have become normal. Using the word "haitas" instead of "pack" was the big one. For the first half of the book every time my brain saw "haitas" it tried to make it "hiatus" which kept interrupting the flow.

That little bit aside I enjoyed the story and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good shifter book.

Blaine Hall says

This book turned out to be nothing like I expected, and that's pretty amazing. I was expecting the Alpha/Omega trope, but what I got was amazing. The characters were so fleshed out I felt I could touch them, what truly blew me away was the history and age of the various characters. WOW. This is a completely different take on the genre that I will read again and again. Can't wait to see what Alicia Nordwell comes up with next!!!

Phaney says

Interesting. In some ways this is not the average wolf shifter story, even if in others (fated mates, big bad alpha) it is.

Especially in the beginning the atmosphere feels dreamlike; there's a sense of mystery – both because of the use of dedicated terminology, and because of Tucker's state of confusion.

Exposition's also at a minimum; everything is mentioned purely on an immediate need-to-know basis. I do like that.

Consequently I enjoyed figuring out bit by bit how things work here.

On the other hand, it wasn't much of a romance. It does turn towards that somewhat for the final stretch, but to me the overall story's still predominantly fantasy. This may be just something to keep in mind. The action in the fantasy plotline seemed fairly solid to me.

As for the pairing of Tucker and Stelian... The whole dominating someone into wanting them (I am simplifying this) isn't for me but I know some people love the big, forceful alpha type. Stelian definitely is that. He's not mean, though, and he softens somewhat towards the end.

I approve of the way Tucker wants to be sure, how he wants to wait and get to know Stelian before committing. I like that he's adamant about this where in so many other stories of a similar setting it'd have simply been the mate bond or something making him give in. Although I am not sure what Stelian's deal in the wake of this is. Odd.

The end is all right but perhaps makes the complete story feel unbalanced. It's as though the first three quarters are urban fantasy, and then suddenly it shifts into romance for the main focus. As such, the ending just feels like it's hanging in the air – more of a cut-off point for the romance, instead of concluding the entire book.

Regardless, I enjoyed this one. A fresh perspective on a well-tread subject is always appreciated.

Steph ?? says

A nice and refreshing quick read :)

I really am enjoying her Saving Caeorleia Series so I decided to give this book a shot. While this book is pretty good, it doesn't hold a candle to the Caeorleia Series. I have to say that the author really does a great job turning the run of the mill shifter book into something more.

I really enjoyed the whole Hultan aspect of the story. I wish that she would have went into more detail regarding the evil Hultan and where he came from and possibly what happened to their "species" in general. But, overall it was nicely done with only a couple of instances in the beginning where the information given was then started differently later on. No worries though, because both MC's get their HEA.
