



Phoenix Reborn

J.D. Tyler

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Wolf shifter and Firewalker Phoenix “Nix” Monroe has finally met his ultimate Bondmate—Alpha Pack nurse Noah Brooks. Unable to accept his own sexual identity, Nix rejects Noah despite the intense attraction he feels towards him.

By the time Nix realizes he has cast aside the love of his life, it may be too late to save Noah from a terrifying enemy...

Phoenix Reborn Details

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From Reader Review Phoenix Reborn for online ebook

All Things Urban Fantasy says

Review courtesy of All Things Urban Fantasy:

I initially really liked the main characters in PHOENIX RISING, a short story in the Alpha Pack series. Unfortunately, I disliked almost everything else about the story: pacing, foreshadowing, the villain, the mythology, the stereotypical homophobia...

Phoenix "Nix" is one of the enforcers in Alpha Pack, a group that protects the world from demons, and miscellaneous evils. He is a lean, mean, lupine killing machine with a seriously messed up background. So messed up, actually, that it was ridiculously gimmicky when his past caught up with him. The timing was so forced I just had to roll my eyes aggressively.

Noah, a human nurse from the hospital who cares for injured shifters and magical beings, is a likable, fun character. He is upset because although Nix acknowledges that he is his mate, Nix refuses to be seen in public with, and much less mate with him. Noah interested me at first, being vulnerable but determined to prove himself to his pack, but then his actions at the end were so out of place that I lost all love for the character.

The villain was one-dimensional, and the fight with him advanced nothing, plot-wise. Readers knew he wasn't going to be defeated in the events of this short story, and especially when characters can teleport at will, it was clear that he was going to escape as soon as the going got too tough. The big battle was totally anti-climactic.

Other characters' powers were just as annoying and we're just cop outs to override the need for proper foreshadowing and storytelling. One character in particular can see the future but can't alter it, and spouts off warnings to the main characters: dark times are coming for you, you will have to believe in him and his abilities, bla bla bla. To make matters worse, Nix also mentions when he visited a voodoo witch who told him about his special powers, which were ridiculous. Psychics have their place, but spoiling the story is not the point.

Overall this was a book with good erotic scenes, okay romantic scenes and very little else gluing this ridiculously short story together.

Sophia says

This was a story for which I had great curiosity since it's been coming for some time as the series progressed. I was really hoping for something special since the author chose to put a greater amount of diversity in her series by having a same-sex mated pair. I didn't think I was expecting too much since, to my knowledge, this was her first foray into that type of couple, but I was left on the disappointed side when all was said and done.

The story is part of an ongoing series and makes more sense read within the context of the series since the story arc began earlier.

The story opens with human nurse, Noah, injured while caring for a frightened and out of his mind tiger

shifter. Seeing Noah in deadly danger and injured so badly is the catalyst it takes to break through to Nix and begin the end of his resistance toward his true mate.

Nix's wolf side sensed Noah was his mate long ago, but Nix has been posing as a straight guy all his life and did not welcome the fact that the bond understood his true nature and need even if he wanted to deny it. Noah has been patient with him even though Nix knows that his resistance and denial has hurt Noah. Even his fellow Alpha Pack members try to give him a boot up the butt about Noah, but ingrained fear has kept him in hiding.

Now, seeing his mate nearly killed and badly injured, he realizes what he stood to lose even before he had it. Nix is determined to try. First, privately with Noah and slowly going public with his true gay nature and relationship with Noah. But if he can't get a lid on his fears, he knows that he will push Noah away for good.

Noah agrees to take it slowly and is hopeful that Nix will finally bond with him and claim him. Having the guy destined to be his mate publicly and repeatedly reject the bond and keep him at a distance after being shoved away by everyone in his past has been hard on him.

Noah is a naturally sunny, optimistic guy. He knows his gentle, flamboyant nature and desire to be in an open, unapologetic touchy-feely relationship has the potential to push Nix too far since they are opposites. Noah has decided that he must prove his worth to Nix and goes to Blue and Kaelen to help him develop a gift he has kept hidden and they are happy to do so.

Meanwhile, a malevolent force watches and plots in the shadows to take and use Noah while he is vulnerable.

Alright, this was very short and that played a role in the disconnect for me with this one, but I also felt it took on way too much so it was a mile wide and an inch deep if you get the picture.

I'm going to get pointed here. This story had the opportunity to have heart and engage the reader on several levels, but it felt slapped together to me. My disappointment goes well beyond the handling of a gay couple to the handling of the story in general- though the handling of these characters and relationship didn't do it justice. I could pick apart most of the major elements in this story, but I won't because, sadly, that is a long list. The romance was stilted and felt scripted, the character and plot development barely there, and the usual strengths of the series were absent.

It's not that hard to get me emotionally engaged in a story and cheering for the romance. I tried and there were a few brief moments that I did connect. But it's telling that a death, a near death, and a potentially big-conflict romance left me entirely unmoved. I should have been biting my nails and bawling my eyes out instead of steadily reading just to see the end. If this hadn't been short, it would have been a DNF. Then again, if it hadn't been short, maybe it would have been developed and I would have loved it.

On the positive side, I like where the author went with the opposites attract to the pair of lovers. I like the surprise of Noah's gift. I did enjoy a few sweet scenes with Nix and Noah like when they went into the woods for the day or out on the town to eat. Time with Blue is always a good thing. Nix's reaction to Noah's decorating was amusing. But sadly, the bigger picture didn't do it for me.

That twist over Nix's 'gift' was swiftly introduced in time for it to come in handy, but I never got the explanation. And I was thoroughly confused about that slavery thing for Noah with Jinn there at the end. No clue what that was about. I'm going to give the benefit of the doubt that things will get explained further along and this was meant to be mysterious. If not, this was left as one huginormous dangling plot thread.

So, yeah, I was disappointed that this wasn't up to par with what I'm used to seeing with this series. I'll still keep going with the series, but I have to say don't judge the series based on this entry because I can't really recommend it other than to series fans who want to keep up with each installment.

My thanks to Penguin Group for the opportunity to read this book in exchange for an honest review.

Diane Lynch says

J.D. Tyler's Phoenix Reborn is an excellent addition to the Alpha Pack Series. Wolf shifter/Firewalker Phoenix "Nix" Monroe has finally met his Bondmate nurse Noah Brooks. Because of his upbringing, he is struggling with the fact that Noah is male. This contemporary shapeshifter PNR takes place in Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming. It is appropriate for adult audiences.

Noah is a likable character. He is the head nurse at Sanctuary, where he has worked for the past two years and finally feels like he belongs. He discovers some interesting things about his heritage and grows a lot in this story. Phoenix has recently rejoined the Alpha Pack after being held captive and thought to be dead. Nix is having a difficult time dealing with his past and his sexuality. He loves Noah but is conflicted by his emotions. Some things happen that threaten Noah and make Nix evaluate his feeling.

Kalen Black is one of my all-time favorite Alpha Pack members, so I was happy with his and Blue's involvement in the story.

Phoenix Reborn is a wonderful novella that is a quick read at 105 pages. I enjoyed the plot. A number of things happen through this story that kept me fully engaged. Phoenix Reborn is the perfect name to the book for multiple reasons. I love this series, and I am looking forward to book eight.

Complimentary copy provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

1-Click Addict Support Group says

Holy crap! How have I missed out on this brilliant shifter series? *Has rectified the situation and one-clicked the first three books in the series to get with the program*

This quick novella is all about Phoenix "Nix" Monroe and his Bondmate, Noah Brooks. Well, Noah would be Nix's Bondmate if he pulled his head out of his butt and accepted his sexuality. By the time Nix finally gets his act together, after casting aside Noah and all he represents, Nix may be too late to save both his relationship and Noah's life.

Wow. Just wow. I loved the developing relationship between Nix and Noah—even though there were many times I wanted to reach inside my Kindle to smack some sense into Nix. Noah and his patience level was remarkable and heartbreaking. But damn it was rewarding in the end.

This novella is a stand-alone, and I really didn't feel too lost without the background stories of the rest of the supporting characters. If anything, this novella whetted my appetite and "forced" me to bust my book budget for the month. Now to read through the rest of the series. Don't bother me—I'll be reading! ~ Missy, 5 stars

Darcy says

I think we all have been waiting for this one for a long time. I know I've found myself very angry at Nix for

how he treated Noah, Noah who everyone loves and is such a sweetheart. Learning why Nix treated him bad doesn't make me not angry at Nix, but it allows me to understand why he acted like he did. I can't say that I wouldn't have done the same in his shoes.

I hated that there was a big scene at the end, one where Nix once again refused Noah, hated that then Noah had to do what he did to save Nix. The only good thing that came out of it was that what Nix learned long ago was true and finally these guys can have their HEA.

Under the Covers Book Blog says

It is no secret that I'm a fan of this series. When I first noticed there would be a m/m story as we found out one of the Pack members found his mate in a human nurse at the compound, I was extremely giddy. Especially because he was rejecting the idea completely and I thought that would make for a good angst story.

And then we get PHOENIX REBORN. Which was just too..... simple. The story, the characters, it just all felt like a waste of a good base for a book! I started off liking both of them, but quickly realized Nix was going to annoy the crap out of me. A lot of his issues come from the homophobia he had to deal with from his father. And I'm sorry, after he's now turned into a big bad shifter, I can't get behind his way of thinking. And after a while, Noah's actions were also getting on my nerves. So basically I spent a lot of time while reading this book wanting to shake both characters!

The one thing I did like was the tie in to the phoenix aspect and how the author was able to work that in. But other than that, this book has left me a bit disappointed. I'm not sure if I can say the author was comfortable writing a male/male couple. The dynamics between them didn't really work for me, and the sex got repetitive. As always though, this is a series I'll continue reading, even though sadly this one missed the mark for me.

*ARC provided by publisher
Reviewed by Francesca

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Sabrina says

Nix has suppressed his true sexuality since he was a young kid. His father threatened any of his future partners' life, if he ever found out Nix was with a man, so he hid truth. When he realizes that Noah, a Pack nurse, is his mate, he doesn't know how to hide from his feelings. But when Noah's life is threatened, there is no more hiding, and Nix has to come to terms with his true self real fast.

Wow I loved this story, it was fast, and sweet, but still with the usual J.D Tyler action thrown in. I really liked seeing Nix open up towards Noah and finally let him in as a mate should do. Noah was a great character, I loved his enthusiasm about everything, and how he rarely let things get him down. Even after

being attacked he was up and ready to take on his stubborn mate.

Overall, this is yet another amazing book in this series that I highly recommend for any PNR lovers. The romance was fast paced, but still evident, so none of that was missed. I love that the Alpha Pack is like one big family, and the connection that they all share is definitely worth reading about.

Jennifer says

Another great Alpha Pack book/novella. MM is not my thing but this was really well done. Love seeing Nix and Noah find a HEA though the angst and a kidnapping. Loved seeing all the pack again especially my fav, snarky Aric. Can't wait to see who falls next.

Melanie says

My review and an extended sample of the audiobook are posted at Hotlistens.com.

I had mixed feelings about reading (or well, listening) to this book. There has been something going on between Nix and Noah for a while now. There is definitely a connection between the two. However, Nix has never, not at a single point in this series, shown any interest in guys. Noah is openly gay and very proud of it. He is almost a cliché, in his pink and glitter. Nix, however, has shown no interest in guys, even though he knows that Noah is his mate. This bothered me. I didn't like the idea of pairing a homosexual and heterosexual together as bonded mates. That just seems wrong to me, so I almost skipped this book. I'm glad I didn't in part, because that is not what was going on here.

Nix has always been gay, however, his father is a homophobic prick. He knew his son was gay, even though Nix never came out about it. Nix's father threaten to torture and kill any partner that Nix choose, so Nix decided that it was better to be single than to take the chance of his father finding out about it. Even after he had been declared dead by the military when he was turned, he still kept his distance, just in case. Seems a little sketchy to me, considering the security that surrounds him, but okay, I'll buy it for now.

Early in the story, Noah is attacked by a tiger shifter who woke up in the hospital and was disoriented. Nix all of a sudden becomes very protective, which he should because Noah is his mate. They go through the recovery and Noah goes back to Nix's room for further recovery. They have sex before they discuss Nix's issues. I have a problem with this. I, personally, would want to know why I had been rejected so much, not only publicly but privately, before I was willing to have sex with someone, especially since no one knew that Nix really was gay. Not to mention that this isn't the first time in this series where we have injured people who are still recovering have sex. At least there was some recovery time in this one. In a previous book, it was right after a fight scene.

Lastly, it comes out that Noah is a halfling. He is half human and half fae. He has some powers which make him more than human. Personally, I'm not really sure what was wrong with Noah being just an ordinary human, but he has powers. When he comes out to the entire group with this information, Nix doesn't take it well and throws a fit. Noah storms off and is kidnapped. There is some drama and I won't give away any more just in case you want to read this story.

I don't think you need to read story to continue with the series. I am glad that I read it because I was concerned about forcing a hetero and homosexual together, which is not the case. I do feel like this story

could've been much better flushed out. At only two hours long (105 pages), it doesn't have a lot of time to cover a full romance. I think a romance as complicated as this one needed a longer story to cover it all.

Narration

Once again, I think Marguerite Gavin does a great job with the narration of this series. She is a joy to listen to. This book, being an M/M romance, was mostly male voices and she handled them all with ease. She is a narrator that I love and will always recommend.

**I like to thank the publisher for providing me with a copy of this audiobook in exchange for an honest review.

Christi Snow says

My Review:

I love that J.D. Tyler wrote a male/male romance in the Alpha Pack world. I just wish she had given Nix and Noah's story a bit more. This is a novella and as such, it goes by really quickly although there is a lot going on. As a result, I was left feeling like the story was just missing something. It didn't go to the depths that I really would have liked it to emotionally.

But what is there is good. Nix is torn. After growing up in a homophobic home, he's always denied that part of him. Noah is the complete opposite. He's very gay and a little flamboyant. Although Nix likes Noah...he hates that part of him because of his own hang-ups.

The thing is Nix is a wolf shifter. He can't deny the mating bond and every time he does, it hurts Noah. That was one of the things that bugged me about this book. Noah is such a good, understanding guy, but Nix hurts him over and over again because of his own homophobic hang-ups. That hurt to read. This could have been an AMAZING full length novel if the author had been allowed to explore all those stirred up emotions more thoroughly...and I understand that this is an m/m novel in a mainstream m/f series, so she probably simply wasn't allowed the words to do so. That's just the way the publishing world works, but with little steps like this forward, that's changing and I love that.

But again, I'm thrilled that this book was even included in the series. I've loved this entire series and for it to have an m/m story makes my m/m loving heart love it even more.

I received a complimentary copy of this book in return for an honest review.

Stephanie G says

4.5 Stars

After rejecting, his ultimate bondmate, Phoenix "Nix" Monroe may find himself too late to save Noah from a terrifying enemy in this thrilling paranormal romance.

The heartfelt emotions that flows from the characters of this story immediately grip readers by the heart because Nix and Noah's relationship is a turbulent mix of chemistry and past issues that keep it on a very slippery slope. Anticipation and excitement builds throughout the well written, fast paced and smooth flowing story as a deadly enemy threatens to take Noah away forever and some unexpected twists adds spice

to this story full of suspense, excitement, romance and strong, compelling characters with the intriguing events keeping the readers glued to the pages.

I have been waiting for Nix and Noah's story and although I wish it had been longer, I fell for Nix and Noah both and I don't think the author could have made it more pulse pounding because it was non-stop excitement from the very beginning.

- Eva

El says

Rating: 1.5 out of 5 stars

Trigger Warnings, including:

Homophobic Language

Kidnapping

Suicidal Thoughts

Attempted Suicide

Phoenix Reborn is the first and (so far) only M/M work in the M/F paranormal romance series *Alpha Pack* by J.D. Tyler-- and from what I can tell, the first M/M work by this author under any of her pen names. I haven't read any other books in the series, but it seems similar to J.R. Ward and other shifter alpha-male M/F erotica.

But wow, this reads 10000% like a novel written by someone who has never read M/M romance. It's also **so full of awful stereotypes/cliches, ridiculous characters, and badly-written sex scenes that it just feels like a half-assed attempt to cash in on the M/M genre.**

Read the full review [CONTAINS SOME SPOILERS!] at Just Love Romance

Melanie says

This is a partial review! Full review available on All About Romance - <http://www.likesbooks.com/cgi-bin/boo...>

think I picked this novella up because of the interesting mix of paranormal tropes - we have bond (soul) mates, shapeshifters, the fae, and more, all packed into a nice, short novella. Fans of the Alpha Pack are practically rabid in their enjoyment of the whole series, so I was excited to see a M/M entry into what has been an M/F world. The problem is that all those tropes combined with a whole boatload of gay stereotypes just doesn't work.

Noah Brooks knows and loves his fated bondmate, Phoenix Monroe. Unfortunately for Noah, Nix is determined to ignore their bond - he is strictly a ladies' man, thank you very much. But that doesn't stop either of them from caring. And it certainly doesn't help when Noah, a nurse in a community full of shifters and other paranormal citizens, is attacked by a confused patient who shifts into a tiger and mauls him.

While this certainly brings out Nix's protective side, it doesn't take care of the underlying issues. Nix's father was violently homophobic, and although he's no longer in his life, Nix can't help but bring those issues with him, and keep his own desires a secret. That doesn't work so well once Noah's hurt, though, since Nix feels the need to actually have them live together. And if that wasn't bad enough, there's an evil lurking around that is definitely interested in taking Noah away.

The basic premise is good. The problem is, everything happens so quickly. The end result is that instead of feeling action-packed or romantic, it book just feels rushed. I feel like I blinked and Nix got over most of his issues, then turned the page and Noah was upset about something again, and then Nix's issues were all back in full force a couple of paragraphs later. It's confusing.

Holly says

There's a lot of angst packed into this short story. Nix and Noah are mates, but Nix has been avoiding Noah and pushing him away for some time, because he grew up with an uber religious father and he doesn't want to accept he's gay. He's fine with being bi, but to come out as an openly gay person is hard for him.

Noah figures if he can just prove he's good enough, Nix will finally mate-claim him. When an old enemy of the pack suddenly strikes again, Noah is caught in the crossfire..and Nix realizes he's wasted precious time.

I've been reading these books intermittently and out of order. I feel like I've missed some major things by not reading all the books, but I wasn't so lost I didn't feel like I could keep going with the story. I liked both Nix and Noah separately, but together they needed a lot of work. Because of Nix's upbringing, it was understandable why he had such a hard time accepting his mate was a man. That didn't excuse his terrible behavior toward Noah, however, and I admit there were several times I wanted to smack him.

Noah was openly gay and more than willing to mate with Noah, but I wish he'd been a bit more confident in himself. That Nix made him feel like he had to prove himself - be better than he was - before he'd be a good enough mate really made me angry, at both of them.

In this case, I think the sex came at a detriment to the romance. When they were together they were having sex, and it felt like that was all there was between them. We saw flashes of the couple they should be, but there wasn't enough focus on their emotional connection as there needed to be to make their One True Love believable.

Ultimately, I think it was the page count that really hurt this story. If they'd had a bit more time to develop their relationship, I think it would have been more believable.

For all that, this wasn't a bad read. I easily fell into the story and, like I said, I liked both Noah and Nix. I just didn't completely buy their romance.

Shari says

This review was originally posted on Delighted Reader

J.D. Tyler has been teasing us with Noah and Nix's romance. This is the first M/M romance we have had in the Alpha series and I for one am happy it is finally here. This story deals with some issues extremely fast

when I think it needed a little more time to flush out.

Noah is the lovable nurse that takes care of all the paranormal creatures, humans and fae, etc. that come through the hospital doors on the compound. He has never come out as flamboyant in the other books that I remember, but in this one he does have a flamboyant style with lots of colors. Phoenix or Nix for short is the opposite. Kind of buff, a shifter and all out muscled up. Hubba hubba.

Noah and Nix are fated mates. It helps that both are attracted to each other, but Nix has a whole lot of baggage to get over before this can happen. Unfortunately, if you don't claim your mate, you start to get sick and eventually die. Surprisingly, Nix is doing neither. Nix's problems lie with a father is was brutal and a homophobe. He made threats on Nix's future love and Nix isn't taking any chances of it happening.

The story is short, but filled with hope and lots of love. Throw in some action and you have a pretty neat little romance with acceptance for all kinds of love.

This review was originally posted on Delighted Reader
