



Prickly Business

Piper Vaughn , Kenzie Cade

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Some people might call Avery Babineaux a prick. He's a hedgehog shifter from an old-money Louisiana family with a penchant for expensive shoes and a reputation for being a judgmental snob. His attitude is why he and his fated mate are estranged. Not that Avery cares. He doesn't want to be mated to some blue-collar werewolf anyway. Or so he keeps telling himself.

No werewolf likes to be looked down upon, least of all Dylan Green. He doesn't need a mate, especially not some snotty hedgehog who sneers at his custom motorcycle shop and calls him a grease monkey. But when Avery gets into trouble with a shady loan shark, Dylan can't stand by and let him be hurt—whether he wants the brat or not.

Yet once Dylan steps into Avery's world, he realizes there's more to Avery than his prickly exterior, and that unexpected vulnerability calls to Dylan's protective instincts. The sassy little hedgehog needs a keeper, and despite their horrible first impressions, Dylan starts to believe he might be the wolf for the job.

Prickly Business Details

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From Reader Review Prickly Business for online ebook

Jenni Lea says

1.5 stars

Welp, there goes another story I didn't like. I just couldn't with these two morons. Nothing irks me more than the BIG Misunderstanding trope. And to combine it with an intense lack of communication? Well, that just spells disaster for Jenni Lea. These guys were stoopid. Like, seriously. And stubborn! Man, I wanted to bitch slap the both of them throughout most of the story. And the story, well, lets just say it lacked the charm I was hoping for. Without that charm the story fell flat. I won't be continuing this series.

Susan says

BR with Elsbeth, Tara and Kat

3.25 stars

I feel sad. This had so much potential. But it was simply too long.

We had too much plot while I wanted more character development and romance.

Avery is a hedgehog shifter. How cute is that?

That afternoon, when Avery had returned to his loft after his deliveries, he'd filled his tub with warm water, shifted into his hedgehog form, and spent some indeterminate amount of time curled up into a ball, just floating on his back in lazy circles, trying not to think.

He knows his mate is a wolf shifter, but since their first meeting went horrible, they're both determined to ignore each other and the fact that they're mates. But of course Dylan and Avery are drawn to each other no matter what.

There is also a whodunit plot about a human traffic ring. But that took up way too much page time and I just wasn't that interested.

There was so much potential here. I mean, a cute hedgehog and a big bad wolf... how awesome is that! And there were some incredibly cute moments, but overall it kind of fell flat.

All the characters were a little underdeveloped. Especially the bad guys. I kept being surprised Dylan's father was such an ass to him. I could have used more background.

This was not a bad book, I just needed more romance and less plot.

PS. I learned that the second book is also about Avery and Dylan, but I'm not sure I want to read that one. There are a lot of other interesting characters and if they get a book, I will read it. But since this one ends in a good and solid HEA, a second book feels like overkill.

SheReadsALot says

Debra says

Full release day review originally posted at Sinfully...Addicted to All Male Romance

This slow burn, enemies to lovers is a good start to the new Portland Pack Chronicles series.

Hedgehog shifter Avery is a privileged, self-absorbed, southern diva who hasn't worked a day in his life and lives on a large allowance from his parents as he waits for his trust fund to kick in. His relationship with his family is not good and getting worse. Having graduated college, he is living in Portland with permission of the local wolf pack's alpha, who also happens to be the father of his best friend Jaden. He does not fit in with the pack and most of them don't like him. Hedgehogs are not pack animals and although Avery enjoys clubbing and spending time with his friends, he often needs time alone to recharge.

Wolf shifter Dylan is blue collar all the way. He owns his business customizing motorcycles, and works with his friends and packmates Lucas, Sawyer and Kyle. The men have grown up together and are more like brothers. Dylan is one of the strongest wolves in the pack and is the son of a beta. While he is close with his mother, his relationship with his father is antagonistic at best and he has based all his ideas of mating on the flawed relationship his parents have, leaving him happy to stay single. While his wolf yearns for Avery, Dylan has no intention of taking his mate.

As rare as it is for destined mates to find each other, it is even more of a rarity for it to be an interspecies mating. Avery's prickly hedgehog couldn't be more different from Dylan's wolf. Their first meeting at a party does not go well, Avery looking down his nose at Dylan and Dylan teasing Avery. Two years later the two are doing their best to ignore each other even as their animals clearly want to be with their mate. A chance meeting at a bar once again triggers their mating instincts and when Dylan saves Avery from a couple of thugs Dylan can't resist his wolf's need to protect and help his mate.

The story is told through dual points of view. Down to earth Dylan is easy to like right away, but with Avery it takes a little time to find anything worth liking under his designer clothes and defensive verbal attacks. Once Avery is forced to change his lifestyle and starts working for the pack, he quickly charmed me. Even before that there is a peek at the real Avery under all the haughty overtones. One scene early in the story where they are both in their shifted forms at the same time was not only adorable, but it cemented their connection for me as I could clearly picture Dylan's wolf protecting Avery's terrified hedgehog.

I love a good slow burn, especially when the payoff is as explosive as it is here, but these two characters were so stubborn, I wondered at times if they ever would get together. But of course, get together they do and there is knotting! I know this appeals to many fans of shifter stories and I am almost embarrassed to admit that up until now I've been a knotting story virgin, but I found that it was a small detail that definitely

added more depth to not just the physical, but the emotional connection. There is not a lot of sex in the book, but the scenes that are in there are well worth waiting for.

The naturally opposing natures of Avery and Dylan's animals, as well as residual mistrust from their first meeting, lead to a number of misunderstandings and a huge "too stupid to live" moment on Avery's part as he gets involved in trying to find out what happened to an elderly pack member's missing daughter. The mystery kept me wondering what was going on and it forms a large part of the story. While there is headway made in finding out who is behind her disappearance, the story line will be carried over into the next book which apparently will again feature Avery and Dylan, although there are a few other potential future couples hinted at in this book.

At the end Avery and Dylan are moving on to the next step in their relationship and while they appear to be a very solid couple, there are a lot of changes in store and I am looking forward to seeing just how they will deal with them.

Tamika♥RBF MOOD♥ says

2.5 stars, that extra .5 is for the KNOTTING!

Seriously, I got uber pissed off at this book. I mean the first published mm book with KNOTTING and you screw up. Never mind by boredom at these two, and why I got sick of reading their damn names everywhere. Then you give me this cute hedgehog shifter and you make him into this spoiled, coddled princess who I could have dealt with that, but then he's a P.I? What??? Yes Avery decided amongst his lonesome self to look for a missing girlwolf. I get the angst, but why couldn't we just have a contemporary story. I would have taken insta-love FFS people. I see the opening to a series because of all the friends and pack members.

I dealt with it taking forever for them to act like they had common sense, but then you have a scene where KNOTTING takes place and it still doesn't get better.

It's like the perfect setup to an amazing story and I'm left with a sex trafficking ring! Why??? Why is that the mystery. I mean seriously. Avery doesn't have any skills but this is where you are taking us? I can't even. I'm so freaking pissed.

Elsbeth says

BR, July 31st with Susan, Tara and Kat.

3,5 stars

I must be out of my mind, but I actually kind of liked this...

Avery, the hedgehog was sweet. His human temper matched his animal side. He was prickly, snarky, acted like a snob but was adorable as well at times..

Don't get me started with the big, alpha wolf, Dylan !!! I always like them wolfshifters!!

Despite fate said that Avery and Dylan were mates, they didn't act upon it.. Actually they hated each other in the beginning... I found this refreshing cause shifters act like horndogs almost immediately when they meet. Avery and Dylan took their time to get to know each other.

I did think the "getting-to-know-each-other" took quite some time that it began to drag a little.. And the mystery could've been more quickly resolved.. Just saying...

The differences in their species might always cause them minor issues, given the way their animal traits manifested in their human personalities. Yet they complemented each other. They could be happy. The forever kind of happy. He knew it.

I'll be definitely reading more of the series..

Piper Vaughn wrote a little flash fic about Avery... It was cute ???

[click here](#)

Katrina Passick Lumsden says

Really disappointed in this one. The synopsis says, "Some people might call Avery Babineaux a prick." Yeah, that's because Avery Babineaux *is* a prick. And Dylan isn't much better. They've been avoiding each other for two years because they're both selfish assholes who can't be bothered to just talk to each other like adults, and I'm supposed to care... Why? There's never a resolution, they don't ever clear up the misunderstanding from two years before, the sex scenes are mediocre and take forever to get to, and to top it all off, this book can't decide what it wants to be. It begins by getting you invested in the romance, then abruptly shifts to a mystery/suspense tale, with Avery investigating the disappearance of a young shifter woman. Which isn't even resolved at the end of the book!

One of the biggest reasons I quit reading het romance is because of the tendency of het romance authors to make their heroines do really stupid things. Monumentally stupid things. And it's always under the guise of trying to prove they're strong and independent. When Avery up and decided to prove that he was strong and independent by putting himself in a dangerous situation without telling Dylan, I had horrid flashbacks to my het romance days.

I didn't like much of anything about this book. The characters are shallow and frustrating, and the plot appears to suffer from split personality disorder. The writing itself is technically okay. That's about all that saves it from the one-star bin.

Kat ? says

****DNF at 40%****

Buddy read with some of my most favourite ladies, Susan, Tara and Elsbeth.

What I thought I was getting: An awesomely original story about a hedgehog shifter fated to be mated to a werewolf shifter.

What I actually got: A ache in my face from all the yawning I did because of how boring this was. I *loved* the idea of this. I really did. But the execution of it all just fell flat. To be honest, I wasn't in any rush to try and push through with finishing it once I learned the next book is going to be about the same couple. There were enough interesting side characters there to give some of them the next book, so I really don't see the need or necessity to drag (because that's what it will feel like) Avery and Dylan's story along further.

It really wasn't terrible, it just didn't work for me.

Heather K (dentist in my spare time) says

From the blurb you'd think that this was a fluffy shifter romance. A sassy, prickly, rich-boy hedgehog and a blue-collar wolf shifter... I mean, that sort of sounds like heaven to me. **However, this was less smuff and more mystery/suspense, which I wasn't expecting.**

I liked Avery Babineaux, even though he starts off the story on the wrong foot. In the beginning of the book, he comes off as self-involved, judgemental, and sort of stuck-up, but as we get to know him better, some of those things fall away. Avery grows and matures throughout the book, and as we get to know what drives him more and more, I liked him more and more.

I also dug the chemistry between Avery and Dylan. Dylan was all possessive wolfy-ness (YUM!), and I liked how Dylan and Avery had sort of a slow burn romance, despite being fated mates.

Though there was **knotting** (AMEN!), it was pretty low steam knotting (BOO!). In fact, though there was some nice sex on page, I found myself wanting more dirtiness out of this one.

I think if I had known that this was primarily a mystery I wouldn't have tried this one. I'm not a big mystery fan, and I found that part of the book just dragggged. I wasn't really interested in, well, most of the plot, which is sort of a bummer. The fact that the next story in the series seems to pick up where this one leaves off, meaning lots more investigating, is disappointing for me.

Overall, this story had some very cute and hot moments, but it wasn't quite the story for me. Too bad because I could read about hedgehog shifters for *days*.

Copy provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review

Mirjana ****DTR - Down to Read**** says

ONE DAY \$0.99 SALE!! (10/30/18)

<https://www.amazon.com/Prickly-Busine...>

*****4.25 Stars*****

Two words sold me on this one instantly: HEDGEHOG SHIFTER

And oh man, it worked....it worked so well!!

I loved Avery! I loved Dylan! I loved the true mates pull. This was just so good!

Dylan and Avery are true mates, but their initial meeting didn't go so well. Avery, who comes from a wealthy southern family, scoffs at discovering that his true mate is a mechanic. What could they possibly have in common? On the flip side, Dylan can't believe that a wolf as strong as he is was given a hedgehog as his true mate. Fate really has a sense of humor.

When Avery gets himself in trouble after losing a bet on the wolf races, the pull of the true mate bond has Dylan hurrying to his rescue. Obviously fate sees a reason that the two belong together, maybe the time has come for both Avery and Dylan to stop fighting the inevitable.

But while Dylan and Avery are trying to figure out what's real and what's a result of their bond, Avery's new job has him on the hunt for a missing girl....and it looks like he may have stumbled upon an underground sex trafficking ring.

The romance is definitely the central theme here, but I like that we got some suspense thrown in in the second half of the book. Seeing Dylan's protective side come out was all kinds of swoony. And what I love most was that he wanted to protect Avery, not control him. He didn't use size and dominance as a way to keep Avery in check, he was supportive and comforting and just all kinds of endearing goodness.

"I don't want you leading me. I don't want you at my back. I want you beside me."

Speaking of endearing....I loved Avery! Hedgehogs aren't the most respected shifter species, but he didn't let anyone bring him down. He may like his designer clothes and expensive shoes, but underneath all that is a heart of gold. He knew his strengths and weaknesses and he stood up for himself when needed.

And hello knotting! This was my first experience with this in a shifter book, and I gotta say....I'm definitely intrigued!

Avery's muscles still holding tight and rippling around him, Dylan felt the base of his cock swell, expand, and lock them together. Dylan rumbled and rolled them onto their sides on the

bed, his hold tight as he secured his arms around Avery's chest.

"What...?" Avery gargled, his voice raspy and worn.

As soon as Avery said it, Dylan felt it. The base of his cock enlarged and notched itself into the heat of Avery's already tight entrance. He sighed with the sense of home and peace that engulfed him.

The knot. Another sign of true wolf mates. Fate's way of temporarily joining them together, ensuring a physical connection that symbolized the emotional and mental bond formed in a mating. He would explain later. Even if he could breathe, he didn't have the words. Not at the moment. Not when every sense of rightness flooded him. Later.

Burrowing deeper into Avery's shoulder and placing a kiss over the indentations of his teeth, red and heated, Dylan whispered, "Mine."

WOWZA!!!

I do have to say that there were a couple of lulls where the suspense element overshadowed the romance in the second half, but even then, Dylan and Avery were front and center. These two really are a great team!

This books ends with a solidified future for Dylan and Avery's relationship, but the suspense element still has more to come. I'm jumping right into the next book to get my answers and to continue watching Dylan and Avery grow as a couple.

Tara♥ says

BR with Susan, Elsbeth and Kat on 31 July (Thanks for letting me moan!)

I very, very rarely say this about any book but...

I hated it!!

Loved the idea. I mean hedgehog shifter? That's just too adorable. Hedgehogs are adorable!!

But Avery was one of the most unlikable characters I've ever read. I guess he is supposed to start off as unlikable and we get to see him 'grow' but I found him horrid from beginning to end, in fact I think I began to dislike him more and more as the story progressed because it felt like he thought he was being some kind of martyr by treating the wolves as equals. He was a total douchecanoe.

I liked Dylan and his friends but there was no way they could save this for me. It just felt all over the place, it's at least 150 pages too long, the mystery plot was half assed and once I noticed that Dylan and Avery's names are mentioned 53 million times I actually couldn't concentrate on anything else.

I hate being negative in reviews and I usually prefer to say nothing at all if I've not got anything good to say, but I was excited about this and it was just terrible so I'm pissed off and I read the entire thing so I get to moan.

Catherine says

*** 3.5 Stars ***

I loved the novelty of a hedgehog shift story, and generally enjoyed it, but I missed the OOMF! that should be there with fated mates. The book checked the novelty and sweetness boxes, and Dylan was all kinds of growly and possessive and sexy as sin, but I needed more throw-you-up-against-a-wall-and-have-my-wicked-way-with-you sex. Just sayin'.

Bitchie says

Totally cute! I loved the idea of a hedgehog. Avery was a great character, but he did kinda devolve into TSTL territory a couple of times, running off trying to "prove himself" to Dylan. Still, all in all, great start to a new series, I look forward to reading about the other shifters.

.Lili. says

Prickly Business by Piper Vaughn and Kenzie Cade I have to say is one of the books I've been highly anticipating. I am huge Vaughn fan and having never read Kenzie Cade's work- I was looking forward to dipping my toe in the water into her work with this book.

I am not going to rehash the blurb- because it's right above you. So let's get down to it.

What I loved:

*Dylan.

I loved everything about him. His personality, protective instincts, humor. This book was all about him to me.

* Once they decided to have a relationship- I loved the banter between.

*Their friends. What a great cast of secondary characters.

*Once they were intimate- it was haaawt!

*Avery's character growth. Like with Dylan, he didn't make the best first impression. He was spoiled and immature, but they did a nice job developing him. He definitely grew on me.

*I was stoked that it was told from a dual POV.

*Loved their interactions. They were so cute!

*Their inner monologues about each other.

What I wasn't too crazy about or felt it could've used more of:

*Steam- I wanted more. Don't judge me. lol I love a slow build, but in this instance it's not really what I was looking for. When I think shifters + mates---> in my mind that = hot sex. Throughout the first half, I kept waiting and waiting... I have to admit, once they do- it was verra nice!

*The story probably had a bit more mystery than I enjoy. When I read a romance mystery I like more romance than suspense and I felt like this was book was a bit more on the mystery side. Because of that- it slowed the pace of the story for me.

*The end. I knew that this was book one in a series, but I totally missed that book 2 would be about the same couple. I'm not a huge fan of series that are about the same couple. I prefer series that are stand-alones. Does this book end a cliffy? Not really. At the end, Dylan and Avery are in a good place but there's definitely more story to come...

Will I read book 2? Yes! I want to know- (view spoiler).

Overall, I did enjoy it, but it wasn't quite what I was looking for. On the plus side, there were more positives than negatives- and to be fair: the negatives are purely for preferential reasons. I think people who love "who dunnit" books will truly enjoy it. The things I didn't love- the fault lies with me. In the end, this was a 3.8 I hope the second book is already in the works stars!

ARC kindly provided by Piper Vaughn for an honest review

~☆~Dāni(ela) ♥ ?? love & semi-colons~☆~ says

You have no idea how much I love the idea of a hedgehog shifter! Thinking of all all that prickly attitude ... and a big bad wolf mate. Yummy.

My first mistake was expecting serious steam. Because. SHIFTERS. KNOTTING.

Nuff said.

Well, I waited. And waited. And waited some more.

The steam finally arrived at 60 percent, and what little we got was fairly hot. But so much of it was hinted at or off page.

I loved Dylan and his growly possessiveness. Dylan is protective, sexy, and rough in all the right places.

Avery ... let's say it took me much longer to warm up to him. The little hedgehog is a snotty, spoiled, judgmental brat, just waiting for his Daddy to bail him out.

Yes, Avery tries. He changes. A little. But did I fully believe in the conversion? Maybe.

Maybe not.

What I liked least about the story is, unfortunately, the main plot point: a mystery regarding the disappearance of an older shifter's only child.

Avery becomes attached to the lonely wolf shifter and wants to help him find his teenage daughter.

The constant misunderstandings and lack of communication between Dylan and Avery (Dylan wanting to protect Avery at all cost; Avery hiding things from Dylan and rushing off like an idiot to take on the bad guys all on his own) drove me crazy, and not in a good way.

There was way too much push/pull for a story about mates.

I got bored with the whole mystery/chase by the end. Much of it felt repetitive and too BIG of an idea for what is essentially a fluffy story.

I just wanted more focus on the sweetness and togetherness. And knotting. Also biting.

More knotting and biting, please. Is that so wrong?

The mystery was never fully wrapped up, but fortunately Dylan and Avery did get on with it.

I liked the cast of secondary characters and would read follow-up stories about Jaden, Lucas, and Sawyer, but it seems the sequel will be more of this couple, and I'm not sure I'm ready for a continuation of hedgehog angst.
