

Twilight



INTRODUCTION

BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF STEPHENIE MEYER

Stephenie Meyer is the second of six children. Though she was born in Connecticut, she grew up in Phoenix, Arizona and attended Brigham Young University on a National Merit Scholarship. While in college, she married her childhood sweetheart. After spending almost a decade as a stay-at-home parent to her three sons, Meyer woke up from a dream that inspired—and ultimately became—chapter 13 of *Twilight*. She wrote the rest of the novel in about three months, sold *Twilight* a few months later in a three-book deal for \$750,000, and upon the book's publication two years later, Meyer became an overnight celebrity. She went on to publish three more books in the *Twilight* series, an accompanying novella, and eventually, *Midnight Sun*, which retells the story in *Twilight* from Edward's perspective. Meyer was also heavily involved in producing the five movies adapted from her novels. The *Twilight* series is deeply influenced by Meyer's Mormon faith and her love of classic English literature.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Vampire legends have existed for millennia—there are stories of vampires from ancient Mesopotamia and from the Ancient Greeks. Scholars have come up with several theories to explain where these stories come from. Some suggest vampire legends stem from a lack of understanding surrounding how bodies decompose (the belief that a body has turned into a vampire if it's bloated, for instance), or that vampires are a way to try to explain illnesses like rabies (which can cause light sensitivity and bloody frothing at the mouth). Many thematic ideas in *Twilight* are rooted in Meyer's Mormon faith. The idea of agency and free will is extremely important to the Mormon faith, hence the novel's focus on Bella and Edward's choice in the matter as they decide to be together. Religious scholars have also pointed out that the romance in *Twilight* (and the series as a whole) is very chaste, which also follows the Mormon tradition. Through the Cullens' backstories, *Twilight* touches on a number of world historical events from the persecution of Catholics in 17th-century England, to the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, to the inhumane, experimental treatments that took place in insane asylums in the mid 20th century. Meyer's portrayal of the Quileute tribe has been controversial. Though the tribe does have legends of being descended from wolves, many Quileutes have accused Meyer of appropriating their culture in her novels. Generally, the world Meyer portrays in *Twilight* very much reflects the early- to mid-aughts: Bella doesn't own a cellphone and has dial-up internet, something that would've

still been normal in a small town like Forks at the time.

RELATED LITERARY WORKS

Twilight is first in a series of four books that details Bella and Edward's relationship (it's followed by *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn*). After a hiatus of more than 10 years, Meyer released *Midnight Sun* in 2020, which retells *Twilight* from Edward's perspective. Like many other young adult series that were being published at about the same time, such as the Harry Potter series, *Twilight* spawned huge amounts of fanfiction. The most famous *Twilight* fanfic, *Fifty Shades of Grey*, was ultimately revised and published as its own novel in 2011. Since its publication, *Twilight* has attracted a great deal of attention and criticism, particularly surrounding the question of whether Bella's characterization supports feminism or not. In this regard, Bella is most often compared to Katniss Everdeen, the protagonist of the *Hunger Games* series—where Bella defers to the male characters around her and is comparatively weak, Katniss is one of the most accomplished and independent characters in her fictional world. Some critics also cite *Twilight* as the first in a line of young adult novels that feature romantic relationships that border on (or are clearly) abusive, such as that featured in the *Hush, Hush* series by Becca Fitzpatrick. Within the novel itself, Bella reads classic works from the English canon such as novels by Jane Austen (*Pride and Prejudice* and *Mansfield Park*), Emily Brontë (*Wuthering Heights*), and Shakespeare plays (*Macbeth*). As a novel about vampires and other mythical creatures—and one that's sometimes considered a Gothic novel—*Twilight* joins the ranks of such works as Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. And though Meyer has said she hasn't read many more recent vampire novels, her vampires bear a lot of resemblance to Anne Rice's vampires from her series *The Vampire Chronicles*.

KEY FACTS

- **Full Title:** *Twilight*
- **When Written:** 2003
- **Where Written:** Phoenix, Arizona
- **When Published:** 2005
- **Literary Period:** Contemporary
- **Genre:** Young Adult Fantasy; Romance; some consider it to be Gothic
- **Setting:** Forks, Washington
- **Climax:** Edward sucks the vampire venom out of Bella's arm
- **Antagonist:** James

- **Point of View:** First Person

EXTRA CREDIT

It Just Doesn't Add Up. In 2006, a professor in Florida argued that mathematically speaking, the existence of vampires is impossible. He proposed that had the first vampire appeared on January 1, 1600, and then fed monthly—and had every victim turned into a vampire who in turn fed monthly—it would've only taken two and a half years for the entire world population to turn into vampires.

Literary Tourism. Forks, Washington—and the Olympic Peninsula as a whole—has become something of a tourist destination since *Twilight* was published. In Forks, visitors can see the Swan house (the house that inspired Meyer's descriptions in the novel), see costumes and props from the film at the visitors' center, and enjoy *Twilight*-themed events during the *Twilight* Festival in September. However, some visitors do come away disappointed as, due to permitting issues, none of the movies were filmed in Forks.



PLOT SUMMARY

Seventeen-year-old Bella Swan hugs her Mom goodbye in Phoenix. She boards the plane that will take her to the rainiest place in the U.S.: the tiny town of Forks, Washington, where Bella will live with her dad, Charlie. Bella knows she's going to hate Forks, but things start to look up when Charlie picks her up and reveals that he already bought Bella an old Chevy truck from his friend Billy Black.

Bella's first day at school is difficult. Two boys, Mike and Eric, go out of their way to show Bella around—but a gorgeous boy, Edward Cullen, seems to hate Bella instantly when she has to sit next to him in her biology class. Edward isn't in school for the next few days, and Bella can't shake the feeling that he's absent because he hates her. Charlie shares that Edward's adoptive father, Dr. Cullen, is an extremely talented doctor at the local hospital. He and his wife Esme have three adopted teenage children (Edward, Alice, and Emmett) and two foster twins (Jasper and Rosalie Hale).

Edward returns to school the following week and attempts to talk to Bella, but it's awkward for both of them. They ignore each other until one icy morning, when a student named Tyler loses control of his van and nearly hits Bella. Edward miraculously saves Bella by pushing the van away, but when she confronts him about his superhuman strength, he insists she just hit her head. The next few weeks are awkward and difficult, as Edward sometimes ignores Bella and sometimes says cryptic things, such as they shouldn't be friends. To make things worse, a girls' choice spring dance is coming up. Eric, Mike, and Tyler all ask Bella to the dance. To avoid them, Bella decides to take a

day trip to Seattle on the day of the dance. Edward asks to drive Bella to Seattle—but he also warns her to stay away from him. They start eating lunch together.

One day, Edward skips biology class. When Bella gets to class, she feels faint and nauseous immediately—the students are finding out their blood types. Mike drags Bella halfway to the nurse's office, but Edward appears and takes Bella the rest of the way. He's amused that she faints at the sight of blood, but he gives her an “unfathomable expression” when she describes how horrible blood smells.

That weekend, Bella accompanies a group of kids to First Beach at La Push, which is located on the reservation of the Quileute tribe. There, Bella meets Jacob Black, Billy Black's youngest son. When an older Quileute boy says in an odd tone that the Cullens don't come to La Push, Bella flirts with Jacob and convinces him to tell her an old Quileute legend. The legend holds that the Quileutes are werewolves and that, a century ago, the Quileutes made a treaty with the Cullens to stay off Quileute land. The Cullens, Jacob says, are immortal vampires, though they're less dangerous to humans than most vampires because they feed on animals instead of humans. Jacob clearly doesn't believe the legend, but Bella has goosebumps. Jacob explains that this is why Charlie and Billy aren't speaking; Billy and other Quileutes have stopped going to the hospital to protest Dr. Cullen getting a job there, Charlie defends Dr. Cullen. The next day, Bella researches vampires and walks in the woods. She decides that whatever Edward is, she wants to be with him.

In preparation for the dance, Bella's friends Jessica and Angela invite Bella to come with them to Port Angeles to help them shop for dresses. Bella is grateful for the distraction—Bella feels desperate to see Edward and none of the Cullens are in school, though Angela shares that they often go camping when the weather is nice. After Angela and Jessica find dresses, Bella goes off on her own to find a bookshop—but four men try to assault her. Edward once again appears and saves Bella. Then he escorts her to meet up with Jessica and Angela, and asks to drive her home himself. Over dinner and on the drive home, Edward cagily reveals that he can read minds—except for Bella's. He as much as confirms that he's a vampire and wants to drink Bella's blood. That night, Bella accepts as fact two things: that Edward is a vampire and that she's in love with him.

Bella and Edward hang out as much as possible at school the next week. Edward drives Bella to and from school in his **Volvo**, and they decide to skip going to Seattle and hang out somewhere closer to home on Saturday. The only complication arises when, one afternoon, Billy and Jacob stop in to see Charlie and catch Bella and Edward sitting in Edward's car. Billy seems terrified and warns Bella to be careful.

On Saturday, the day of the dance and of Bella and Edward's date, Edward picks Bella up early in the morning. He's annoyed that Bella hasn't told anyone they're going to be together and

leads her on a five-mile hike through the woods. When they reach a beautiful meadow, Bella learns why Edward can't go out in the sunlight in front of people: he glitters. They sit in the meadow for hours, talking about how dangerous their relationship is for Bella and how attracted they are to each other. Edward explains that Carlisle made him into a vampire in 1918, when Edward was dying of the Spanish flu. Carlisle believes healthy people should have a choice when it comes to becoming a vampire, so when he chose to change his family members, he made sure they weren't going to survive as humans first.

When Bella and Edward get back to Charlie's that night, Bella is on edge. Charlie can sense that something is up with Bella—he believes she's going to sneak out. Instead, Bella dresses in ratty pajamas and Edward spends the night with her in her room. Bella and Edward talk about sex, Edward's diet of animals, and whether vampires are evil or not. In the morning, Edward suggests that Bella come meet his family. Rather than being afraid of them because they're vampires, Bella is afraid Edward's family won't like her.

When they arrive at Edward's house, Rosalie and Emmett aren't there because, Edward explains, Rosalie is jealous of Bella's humanity and resents her for putting the Cullens in danger if things "end badly." But Bella meets Alice, Jasper, Carlisle, and Esme, and they greet her warmly. Alice, who has **visions** of the future, explains that there's going to be a thunderstorm later—it'd be a perfect night to play baseball, and Bella should come along. First, though, Bella and Edward head back to Charlie's house, where they run into Billy and Jacob. Billy warns Bella to stay away from Edward. A bit later, Bella introduces Edward to Charlie as her boyfriend and then accompanies Edward to a remote mountain field for the vampire baseball game. They have to play during thunderstorms because the impact of the bat hitting the ball—or of the vampires hitting each other—is deafeningly loud.

The game comes to a sudden stop when three nomadic vampires, Laurent, James, and Victoria, hear the Cullens playing and come to join. These three feed on humans and they're shocked to see Bella, a human, with the Cullens. James lunges at Bella, and Edward, reading James's thoughts, learns that James is a tracker—he hunts humans for sport. He won't rest until he's killed Bella.

The Cullen family works together to try to throw James off of Bella's scent and keep Charlie safe. Bella tells Charlie that she is going back to Phoenix so he won't worry about her, and then she drives with Alice and Jasper to Phoenix while the other Cullens try to confuse and ambush James in Forks. After more than a day of tense waiting, Alice has a vision of James in a ballet studio in Phoenix. Alice then has a vision of James in Mom's living room in Phoenix. Mom is currently in Florida but will be home soon, so Bella calls Mom's house and leaves her a voicemail. James catches a flight to Phoenix and Edward,

Carlisle, and Emmett follow a few hours later.

Mom calls Bella back—but when Bella takes the phone, it's James on the line. He tells Bella he has Mom and, to keep her safe, Bella needs to meet him in the ballet studio, alone. Bella agrees. When Bella, Alice, and Jasper go to the airport to meet the rest of the Cullens, Bella evades Jasper and gets a taxi to the ballet studio. But when she gets to the studio, she realizes that James doesn't have Mom at all—he went through all of Mom's home movies and used old audio to make it seem like he did. Bella is relieved.

James begins taking video. He explains that killing Bella will be especially sweet for him, as the Cullens have bested him once before: 80 years ago he set his sights on Alice, who was human and undergoing shock treatments in an insane asylum, but her maker changed her into a vampire to keep her safe. James begins to attack Bella and as Bella bleeds, she loses consciousness. She comes to when she hears Edward and Carlisle's voices. Edward and Carlisle realize that James bit Bella's hand, and Edward manages to suck the venom out of Bella's hand, saving her from becoming a vampire. Bella wakes up a few days later in the hospital. She sustained serious injuries. Edward, distraught, says that he should stay away from Bella so that she'll be safe. But Bella begs Edward to stay with her and to make her a vampire one day—she'd rather be with him than be alive. He agrees to stay with her, but not to make her a vampire.

A month or so later, after a day-long makeover from Alice, Bella is enraged to discover that Edward is taking her to prom. It's more fun than Bella expected, though Jacob shows up to deliver a warning message from Billy and the Quileutes. Once Jacob leaves, Bella admits to Edward that she's upset about being forced to go to prom in part because she thought Alice was giving her a makeover in preparation for becoming a vampire. They realize their fight over whether Bella should become a vampire won't end any time soon, but Edward promises to stay with Bella as long as he makes her happy.



CHARACTERS

MAJOR CHARACTERS

Bella Swan – The protagonist of the novel, Bella is a 17-year-old high school junior. She's pale, with brown hair. She's very intelligent and observant, though she's physically rather uncoordinated. Bella cares deeply for those around her and wants them to be happy above all else—this is why the novel opens with Bella moving to Forks, Washington, a town she loathes, to live with Charlie so that her Mom can travel with her new husband. Bella believes she doesn't relate well to other people, so she doesn't expect to fit in in Forks at all. Much to her surprise, she's something of a curiosity to her classmates and quickly has three boys vying for her attention. However, Bella

isn't interested in any of them—a boy named Edward Cullen captures her attention because he's gorgeous and, for no apparent reason, seems to hate Bella. As Edward switches between ignoring Bella, being mean to her, and rescuing her from near-death situations, Bella throws herself into figuring out Edward's story—and she discovers that he's a vampire. Bella is a bit of an anomaly, as most people can't stand to be in close contact with vampires. But she has no issue getting close to Edward, and she even finds his scent "intoxicating." She's also the only person whose thoughts Edward can't hear. It doesn't bother her that being around Edward is dangerous and could be deadly for her—she cares so much for Edward that the thought of living without him is more painful than the possibility that he'll kill her. And as their relationship develops, Bella's devotion to Edward is so strong that she decides she'd like to become a vampire so they can be together forever. Bella again demonstrates her loyalty to both her blood family and the Cullens, her new chosen family, when the vampire James sets his sights on her. In an attempt to protect Edward, the Cullens, and her parents, Bella evades her protectors and is willing to let James kill her if it means keeping everyone she loves safe. Ultimately, Edward saves Bella from James's attack.

Edward Cullen – Bella's love interest, Edward is a 107-year-old vampire masquerading as a 17-year-old high school junior. He was dying of the Spanish flu in 1918 when Carlisle changed him into a vampire. He practices vampire vegetarianism (feeding on animals' blood instead of human blood) and has a special gift: he can read others' thoughts. Edward is extremely attractive, with pale skin, topaz eyes, and bronze hair—but the moment he finds himself close to Bella, Edward can't help but look like he detests her. In reality, this is because Bella's blood smells better to him than that of any other human, so it takes all his self-control to not drink her blood. Over the course of the novel, Edward regularly saves Bella from injury, assault, or other harm. He does this because he cares about her on an emotional level, but he also does so because he can't bear the thought of losing the person who smells so good. Edward struggles to navigate his relationship with Bella. It takes constant effort to control himself enough to be close to her without hurting her. Further, Edward has never been in love before, so he's figuring out how to be a partner at the same time as Bella is. Especially in the early days of their relationship, Edward's conflicted feelings lead to him saying menacing and sometimes mean things to Bella to try to get her to understand that he's dangerous. And because he can't read Bella's thoughts, Edward sneaks into Bella's bedroom at night to listen to her talk in her sleep to try to figure out what she's thinking. Edward is enraged when James vows to track and kill Bella—he blames himself for putting Bella in danger. But James's attack on Bella also gives Edward the opportunity to prove that he can control himself: he sucks James's venom out of Bella's hand without allowing his own thirst for her blood to overwhelm him and kill her. Despite his reservations about how safe it is for Bella to be around him,

he agrees to stay with her as long as she's happy.

James – The antagonist of the novel, James is a nomadic vampire who initially comes to the forests surrounding Forks out of curiosity about the Cullens. Aside from the vampiric physical traits that make him attractive (the chiseled facial features and pale skin), Bella describes him as physically unremarkable—he's not particularly tall and has sandy brown hair. The only frightening thing about him are his eyes, which are burgundy (this reflects that he feeds on human blood rather than animal blood). James is what is known as a "tracker" amongst vampires, which means that he loves hunting his victims in ways that challenge and excite him. So it seems perfect to James when Edward defends Bella in the meadow—trying to get around Edward and the Cullens is an exciting challenge, and though Bella doesn't smell as good to James as she does to Edward, she still smells unusually good to him. Laurent, a vampire who travels in James's coven, shares that James is extremely cunning and is just as comfortable in the mortal world as the Cullens are. This allows James to successfully trick Bella into meeting him alone at a Phoenix dance studio, where he plans to kill her. There, James reveals that this isn't his first run-in with the Cullens: in the 1920s, he set his sights on Alice, who was still human at the time. But another vampire who loved Alice turned her into a vampire to save her from James. This is one of the reasons that James is so intent on killing Bella—he wants to punish the Cullens for depriving him of Alice so many years ago. Though James does succeed in biting Bella before Emmett and Jasper destroy him, Edward is able to suck James's venom out of Bella's arm, saving her.

Charlie Swan – Charlie is Bella's father and the police chief in Forks. He's lived on his own since Mom left him months after Bella's birth. Like Bella, he's somewhat shy, awkward, and uncoordinated—Bella implies that she inherited her lack of coordination from him. Though Charlie loves and cares for Bella, he also seems to think that he's not paying her enough attention once she moves to Forks to live with him. After more than a decade working weekends, for instance, Charlie doesn't stop once Bella's around—and if he's not working on the weekends, he regularly goes fishing. Though Charlie acts as though he wants Bella to take an interest in the boys in Forks and go to dances and other social events, he also becomes extremely protective when Bella finally shares with him that she's dating Edward Cullen. This reaction is somewhat unexpected for another reason: Charlie thinks very highly of Dr. Cullen and of all his adopted and foster children, at least when they're not dating his daughter. Indeed, Charlie thinks so highly of Dr. Cullen that he stops talking to his best friend, Billy Black, after Billy and other Quileutes stop receiving medical care at the local hospital after Dr. Cullen gets his job there. Charlie and Billy do begin to make up over the course of the novel.

Mom – Bella describes her mom as “erratic,” “hare-brained,” and her best friend. Though Mom is technically the adult in charge, Bella implies that she takes more of a parental role with Mom, critiquing Mom’s choice in boyfriends, making sure Mom pays her bills on time, and making sure there’s food in the house. Mom detests Forks and left the town with Bella when Bella was an infant. So Mom is shocked and confused when Bella insists that she wants to move back to Forks to live with Charlie. Really, Bella just wants Mom to be happy—Mom has recently married a minor-league baseball player named Phil, and she wants to be able to travel with Phil rather than stay home with Bella. Mom and Bella communicate mostly via email throughout the novel, though Mom does appear in person when Bella ends up in the hospital after James attacks her. Mom takes issue with how besotted with Bella Edward seems to be—but she accepts Bella’s false insistence that she herself just has a crush on Edward, and that their relationship is nothing serious.

Dr. Carlisle Cullen – Carlisle is Edward’s adoptive father. He works at the county hospital as a doctor and surgeon, and he’s responsible for changing Edward, Esme, Emmett, and Rosalie into vampires. An immortal vampire, Carlisle was born in the mid 17th-century to an Anglican pastor father. As was common at the time, Carlisle led hunts for Catholics, witches, and vampires—and one of those hunts resulted in a starving vampire biting Carlisle, turning him into a vampire. An extremely moral person, Carlisle detested being a vampire (which he considered evil) and tried to destroy himself. But, ultimately, he realized he didn’t have to be a monster: he could feed on animals, just as he did when he was a human. This discovery allowed Carlisle to throw himself into learning. After 200 years of practice and study, Carlisle developed the self-control necessary to be able to work as a doctor and surgeon without feeling any urge to feed on human blood. Much of Carlisle’s early life as a vampire was lonely, which is why he decided to change dying humans whom he encountered in his work as a doctor, like Esme and Edward, into vampires. Carlisle is calm, dignified, and extremely diplomatic—he developed the treaty with the Quileutes a century before the novel begins that forbids the Cullens from setting foot on Quileute land, and he also calmly defends Bella to James, Laurent, and Victoria despite their rudeness.

Alice Cullen – A vampire, Alice is one of Edward’s adoptive sisters and his closest confidante. She’s in a romantic relationship with Jasper. Alice is tiny with short black hair, and every movement makes it seem like she’s dancing. Alice has a gift beyond what’s normal for a vampire: she sees **visions** of the future. However, Alice’s visions aren’t set in stone. The future she sees changes as people make new decisions that will take them on different paths (the weather, on the other hand, she can easily predict with certainty). Because of her close relationship with Edward, Alice fully embraces Bella once

Edward is ready to introduce Bella to his family. And soon, as James becomes a threat and necessitates Bella having to leave for Phoenix with Alice and Jasper, Bella and Alice become trusting friends. Alice promises that she’s never going to lie to Bella—so she’s the one to tell Bella how vampires are made. Bella even suggests to Edward that her relationship with Alice is strong enough that if Edward won’t change her into a vampire, Alice might be willing to. Alice is an outlier in her family because, unlike everyone else, she doesn’t remember anything of her human life. Thanks to James, Alice learns why: she was kept in a dark cell in an insane asylum in the 1920s, where she underwent shock treatments for her visions. Her human life was so dark that she doesn’t remember it at all. She also learns that her maker turned her into a vampire to save her from James, who attempted to track and kill her. Though Edward is unwilling to admit it outright, he implies in places in the novel that Alice has seen visions of Bella eventually becoming a vampire.

Jasper Hale – Jasper is one of Edward’s adoptive brothers and a vampire. He’s in a romantic relationship with Alice and, around humans, Jasper poses as Rosalie’s twin and Carlisle and Esme’s foster child. He’s blond, tall, and Bella describes him as “leonine.” Like Edward and Alice, Jasper has a special gift beyond what’s normal for a vampire: he can manipulate the emotions of people and vampires around him. Edward explains that this is because, in his human life, Jasper was unusually charming and charismatic. Jasper is the newest member of the Cullen family and so is the newest convert to vampire “vegetarianism” (feeding on animal blood instead of human blood), so Jasper often gives Bella a wide berth so as to not put her in danger or alarm Edward. But Jasper is well able to control himself, and he ends up accompanying Bella and Alice to Phoenix to help Bella escape James.

Emmett Cullen – Emmett is one of Edward’s adoptive brothers and a vampire. He’s in a relationship with Rosalie; sometimes the two of them pose as a young married couple and live apart from the rest of the Cullens. Emmett is handsome and graceful, like all vampires are. But he’s also very tall and muscular. Bella doesn’t get to know Emmett well over the course of the novel, but he shows himself to be good-natured, kind, and something of a jokester. Emmet finds himself caught between Rosalie and Edward in some ways. Emmett wants Edward to be happy and wants him to have a good, safe relationship with Bella. But he’s also loyal to Rosalie, who resents Bella and fears the possible consequences of having a mortal girl around.

Rosalie Hale – Rosalie is one of Edward’s adoptive sisters and a fellow vampire; though not related to Jasper by blood, the two pose as twins and the Cullens’ foster children in the mortal world. She’s in a relationship with Emmett and sometimes they live separately from the other Cullens as a married couple. Rosalie is blond and gorgeous. Bella finds Rosalie intimidating for this reason, especially once Edward shares that Carlisle

turned Rosalie into a vampire in the hopes that she could be a romantic companion for Edward. But Bella also finds Rosalie intimidating, aloof, and even rude because Rosalie resents Edward and Bella's relationship. It isn't that Rosalie has romantic feelings for Edward, but rather that Rosalie fears that having Bella around will jeopardize the Cullens' way of life.

Esme Cullen – A vampire, Esme is Carlisle's wife. She's small and curvy, with brown hair, and she takes on a maternal role with all of her and Carlisle's adopted family members. More than anything else, Esme wants her adopted children to be happy—so she has no problem with Edward entering into a relationship with a human like Bella, since she's seen how happy Edward is with Bella around. She explains to Bella that she's never been able to escape her human maternal instincts and, in a way, they led to her becoming a vampire. As a young woman, Esme attempted to kill herself by jumping off a cliff soon after her days-old baby died. Carlisle found her at the bottom, nearly dead, and saved her by changing her into a vampire.

Jacob Black – Billy Black's son, Jacob is one of Bella and Charlie's old family friends. He's about a year younger than Bella, is boyishly handsome with long hair, and is a member of the Quileute tribe. Jacob is attracted to Bella from the moment they meet, which Bella uses to her advantage. By flirting with Jacob, she convinces him to tell her an old Quileute legend about the Quileutes being werewolves and banning the Cullens—who are vampires and the werewolves' sworn enemies—from setting foot on their land with a century-old treaty. Jacob doesn't put any stock in the legend; he thinks Billy is ridiculous for taking it seriously and resenting the Cullens. However, Jacob does come to resent Edward over the course of the novel for personal reasons, as his crush on Bella doesn't wane and he recognizes that Bella wants to be with Edward, not him. By the end of the novel, Jacob looks more like a man than the boy he did at the start—he proudly tells Bella that he's grown to be six-foot-two.

Billy Black – Billy is an elder in the Quileute tribe that lives near Forks and is one of Charlie's best friends. However, Billy and Charlie's relationship has been rocky for a while when Bella arrives in Forks, as several Quileutes have stopped getting medical care at the county hospital in protest of Dr. Cullen working there. Billy is an older single man with three children, two grown twin girls and a boy, Jacob, who's a year or so younger than Bella. He's confined to a wheelchair, so when Bella sees him it's because Jacob has driven Billy into Forks. Bella realizes that Billy believes the old Quileute legends (which hold that the Quileutes are shapeshifters and werewolves, and that the Cullens are vampires). Billy is terrified when he discovers that Bella is dating Edward and tries to warn her away from him on several occasions, even going so far as to pay Jacob to attend the Forks High School prom in order to pass a warning message on to Bella. Though this makes Bella frustrated and annoyed, she also recognizes

that Billy cares deeply for her safety—and for Charlie's as well.

Jessica – Jessica is one of Bella's closest friends in Forks. She's short, but she has dark curly hair with enough volume to make her almost as tall as Bella. Jessica loves to gossip and is extremely nosy. She also has a very obvious crush on Mike, who in turn has a crush on Bella. To stay in Jessica's good graces, Bella spends much of the novel turning away Mike's advances and trying to convince him to date Jessica instead. When Bella and Edward begin spending more time together at school, Jessica's curiosity leads her to ask a number of questions that Bella finds uncomfortable and embarrassing. Jessica admits that she's intimidated by Edward and thinks Bella is brave for dating him. Edward is always kind and polite to Jessica when they speak, but to Bella he describes Jessica's mind—which he can read—as simplistic and unimaginative.

Mike – Mike is one of Bella's classmates at Forks High School. They connect on Bella's first day because Mike was born and raised in California, so he understands what Bella is missing in rainy Forks. But though Bella initially welcomes his friendliness, she soon realizes that Mike has a crush on her—and Bella's friend Jessica has a crush on Mike. Bella spends much of the novel turning away Mike's advances and encouraging Mike to date Jessica instead. Ultimately, Bella is successful; Mike seems to finally give up on convincing Bella to date him once it becomes clear that Bella and Edward are dating. He takes Jessica to prom.

Angela – Angela another of Bella's closest friends in Forks. Like Bella, she's quiet and doesn't need to fill every minute with chatter. But when asked, Angela is also more than willing to give Bella information about the Cullens, without asking nosy or embarrassing questions about why Bella is interested in the first place.

Tyler – Tyler is one of Bella's classmates at Forks High School. They meet in the emergency room, after Tyler loses control of his van and almost hits Bella. Following this, Tyler develops a crush on Bella and vows to take her prom to “make up for” almost hitting her in the parking lot. Lauren has a crush on Tyler, which is why Lauren bullies Bella.

Eric – Eric is the first classmate that Bella meets at Forks High School. He's tall, with black, greasy hair. Bella describes him as an “overly-helpful chess club type.” Eric develops an immediate crush on Bella and spends most of the school year in a quiet (but to Bella, very obvious) battle with Mike for Bella's affections.

Phil – Phil is Mom's new husband and a minor-league baseball player. Bella moves to Forks so that Mom can spend more time with Phil, who travels often for away games. He never appears in the novel, but Bella implies that Phil will be able to keep scatterbrained Mom from going hungry or failing to pay bills.

Laurent – Laurent is a vampire who travels in James's coven. Though he acts like the leader of the coven when he first meets

the Cullens, he later reveals that this was entirely a ruse. Though Laurent feeds on humans, he expresses curiosity and interest in the Cullens' way of life. Ultimately, he's unwilling to join the Cullens and fight James, so he heads north to another vegetarian vampire settlement in Denali, Alaska.

MINOR CHARACTERS

Lauren – Lauren is a blond junior at Forks High School. Lauren is cruel and mean to Bella—and Bella later learns that Lauren treats her this way because Lauren has a crush on Tyler, who in turn has a crush on Bella.

Victoria – Victoria is a redheaded female vampire who travels in James's coven. She's also James's romantic partner. She helps James try to track down Bella in Forks.

Ms. Cope – Ms. Cope is one of the secretaries at Forks High School.



THEMES

In LitCharts literature guides, each theme gets its own color-coded icon. These icons make it easy to track where the themes occur most prominently throughout the work. If you don't have a color printer, you can still use the icons to track themes in black and white.



LOVE AND LUST

Twilight follows 17-year-old Bella Swan as she moves from Phoenix, Arizona to a tiny town in Washington State called Forks to live with her

father, Charlie. Though Bella made the move voluntarily, she's nevertheless upset about living in provincial Forks—that is, until she meets the mysterious and gorgeous Edward Cullen, a fellow junior at Forks High School. The two seem magnetically drawn to each other, and they eventually embark on an intense romance. But their relationship is complicated by an important element of Edward's identity: he's a 107-year-old vampire, and Bella's blood smells better to him than that of any other human. This means that in spite of how much they love each other, Edward is constantly tempted to drink Bella's blood, and Bella is putting herself in mortal danger by continuing their relationship. But the risk and confusion this causes doesn't deter them, and they stay steadfastly committed to each other. Through Bella and Edward's relationship, *Twilight* suggests that true, passionate love is all-consuming, is sometimes confusingly interwoven with lust and control, and has the potential to conquer any problem—even Edward's extreme bloodlust and the issue of Bella's mortality.

Twilight portrays Bella and Edward's love as a once-in-a-lifetime romance that is extremely fulfilling for both parties. Both Bella and Edward are misfits—Bella talks about not relating well to

people, especially other kids her own age. Her mother even jokes that Bella was born middle-aged and continues to get emotionally older every year, something that makes it somewhat difficult for Bella to feel truly invested in her teenaged friends' mundane anxieties. And Edward, as a 107-year-old vampire, is a misfit in his own way. He explains that though vampires are naturally beautiful (which helps draw human victims in), getting too close to a vampire is actually frightening and repulsive for most people, meaning that, like Bella, Edward doesn't have any close friends at school. Edward is also the only vampire in his chosen family to not have a romantic partner who's also a vampire—so when he and Bella meet, Edward is both a loner in his family, and a loner in the wider Forks community. Fortunately for Bella and Edward, their shared inability to connect with other people provides them something to bond over. Edward, who can read most people's minds, can't read Bella's mind—but rather than creating distance between them, this makes him even more interested in Bella. And Bella doesn't experience the same revulsion toward Edward and the other Cullens as other humans do. So in a relationship with each other, Bella and Edward find companionship, understanding, and romance—things they never thought they'd find, given how out of step they feel with their peers.

However, *Twilight* also shows that though their relationship results in an emotional connection, Bella and Edward's romance stems from—and is focused on—lust. Though Edward finds Bella intriguing from the outset because he can't read her thoughts, she becomes a temptress in his mind when he smells her for the first time. Her blood smells better to Edward than that of any other human, and it's this that drives his attraction to Bella. Similarly, Bella is overcome by how physically attractive Edward is. The novel is peppered with Bella's observations about how “gorgeous,” “impossibly beautiful,” and amazing Edward looks—and how even the scent of his breath makes her swoon. Their physical attraction doesn't negate or invalidate their emotional connection, but the novel makes it clear that it's their physical attraction to each other, both sexual and otherwise, that keeps them coming back to each other.

The novel suggests that part of the reason why Bella and Edward's romance is so all-consuming is because it's impossible to separate their love from things like pain or danger. Bella isn't deterred by the fact that Edward could, at any moment, lose control or kill her. Rather, she finds the danger that Edward poses to her thrilling, which makes her more interested in spending time with him. The two even acknowledge how dangerous their relationship is, and how imbalanced the power dynamic is, when they refer to Edward as a lion and Bella as a lamb—like a lamb, Bella is wholly unable to defend herself against the strong, powerful, and dangerous Edward. While Edward's behavior toward Bella could be read as controlling in other circumstances, Bella finds that his behavior only draws

her closer to him. When she discovers that Edward has been sneaking into her bedroom to watch her sleep at night, she acknowledges on an intellectual level that this is something that *should* bother her—it's an invasion of her privacy, especially since she talks in her sleep. But, instead, Bella is flattered. Further, Edward's response to Bella expressing her love to him with the statement "You are my life now" might be read as creepy or overly intense—but Bella finds Edward's obsession with her to be compelling and exciting.

Finally, *Twilight* suggests that this kind of all-consuming love can conquer all. Because of his intense love for Bella, Edward is able to subsume his nature as a vampire and, when he realizes the vampire James bit Bella, suck only the infected blood out of Bella's hand—thereby saving her life and keeping her from becoming a vampire. His emotional connection with Bella wins out over his physical desire for her blood. Ultimately, the novel presents their love as bigger than even death. At the end of the novel, Bella begs Edward—who's afraid of putting Bella in danger again—to stay with her forever, and to make her a vampire one day. She makes her request because she believes that the pain of living without Edward would be far worse than the pain of either dying or becoming a vampire. Bella's final request speaks to how all-encompassing her love for Edward is—she'd rather become undead than to live without their love.



SELF-RESTRAINT AND MORALITY

When 17-year-old Bella first meets Edward Cullen in her biology class, she's shocked—he seems to instantly detest her for no apparent reason. Later, as the two get to know each other and fall in love, Bella learns why. Edward isn't a normal 17-year-old—he's actually a 107-year-old vampire, and Bella's blood smells better to him than that of any other person. This means that whenever Edward is around Bella, he must exercise all his self-control to not kill her. Fortunately for Bella, Edward has had decades to work on his self-restraint. He and his vampire family are what he calls "vegetarians," meaning that they feed on the blood of wild animals rather than humans. Particularly in the case of Edward and his family, *Twilight* ties the ability to restrain oneself and go against human (or vampire) nature to morality. People and vampires, the novel suggests, can take the moral high ground by denying themselves the things they want the most, especially when they do so in the interest of helping or protecting others.

Twilight directly ties self-control to morality. Dr. Carlisle Cullen is one of the novel's most overt examples of this dynamic. Carlisle became a vampire in the mid-17th century and, as the son of an Anglican pastor, believed that beings like vampires were the epitome of evil. Though Edward and Carlisle never say so outright, they imply that part of the reason they see vampires as evil is because they prey on humans. However, Carlisle eventually realizes that he doesn't have to prey on

humans—he discovers that he can feed on animals, and after centuries of study and practice, he becomes an accomplished doctor. Through suppressing what he suggests is his true nature as a vampire (to drink human blood), Carlisle becomes a figure who's considered unequivocally good. Further, though Edward describes himself at various points as "dangerous" and a "bad guy," he nevertheless engages in the same kind of self-control that Carlisle does. In order to be with Bella, Edward must control his overwhelming desire to drink Bella's blood—and he's successful. It's Edward's self-control that therefore enables his relationship with Bella to flourish, and which allows Bella to see Edward as someone who's wholly good. Indeed, Bella describes Edward at several points as an angel, thereby linking his self-control to an almost divine level of goodness and morality.

The novel further suggests that what makes a person even more moral is being willing and able not just to restrain oneself, but to do so in service of others. Bella shows how selfless she is in the novel's first pages. It's no secret that Bella hates Forks and has no desire to live there—and yet, Bella chooses to go there, where she believes she's going to be miserable, so that her Mom can be happy and travel with her new husband. And later, as the "tracker" vampire James hunts Bella, Bella again shows how much she's willing to harness her self-control if it means keeping the people she loves safe. It's extremely difficult for her to meet James in the ballet studio knowing she's going to die, but Bella motivates herself by reminding herself that with her sacrifice, Mom, Charlie, Edward, and the rest of the Cullens will be able to live. Other characters throughout the novel also emerge as extremely moral figures because of the way they give back to others. For instance, Carlisle's vocation as a doctor allows him to not just make up for being a creature he once considered evil; it also allows him to use his special vampire senses and gifts to essentially atone for all the damage that vampires as a species have done to humanity.

Finally, the novel suggests that being unwilling or unable to restrain oneself is a sign of selfishness and lesser morality. While certainly less exciting and dangerous than any of the vampires in the novel, the mortal boys at Forks High School nevertheless become nuisances to Bella because they can't help but express their desire to date her. Within her first few weeks in Forks, Bella finds herself fighting off advances from Mike, Eric, and Tyler—all of whom pester Bella incessantly, fight openly for her attention, and even spread rumors about taking her to the prom without getting her consent. While the novel doesn't condemn the boys for having crushes on Bella, it nevertheless casts them as less moral because they're unwilling or unable to restrain themselves when it becomes clear that Bella isn't interested. Far more sinister, though, is James, a nomadic vampire and a "tracker." The novel implies that as a vampire who feeds on humans (and one who can't accept that the Cullens declare Bella off-limits as a food source), James is

wholly monstrous. His willingness not just to kill Bella, but to also cause the Cullens as much emotional pain and suffering as possible marks him as selfish, evil, and the exact opposite of the Cullens.

Despite illustrating inarguable morality in the Cullens and monstrosity in James through how they restrain themselves or give back to others, *Twilight* nevertheless suggests that for many people, morality isn't so clear-cut. Characters try to restrain themselves—and fail—at various points throughout the novel, as when Bella can't control her sexual urges around Edward, but the novel makes it clear that this doesn't make Bella a bad person. Rather, it makes her *human*. And what's more important than anything else, the novel suggests, is whether a person commits themselves to trying to exercise self-control, help others, and be a better person.



GOOD, EVIL, AND PERSPECTIVE

Twilight is, in many ways, a classic story of good (the Cullens and Bella) triumphing over evil (James, a vampire who tracks specific humans for sport). But it complicates what's good and what's evil in many ways: Bella is portrayed as a good, kind, smart girl, but to Edward she's also a temptress of sorts and the thing that could destroy his family's way of life. And though Edward sees himself as mostly evil—and Bella's research into vampires suggests that most cultures see vampires as evil, bloodthirsty monsters—Bella sees Edward and his family as the exact opposite because they choose to be good whenever possible, such as with their vampire “vegetarianism” (feeding on animals instead of humans). In this way, *Twilight* ultimately suggests that good and evil aren't as clear-cut as they might initially seem. Rather, good and evil are subjective judgments and depend on a person's perspective, culture, and experiences.

Twilight suggests that what a person views as evil is often rooted in their cultural or spiritual beliefs. As a young human man, for instance, Carlisle led raids on groups that his father, an Anglican pastor, deemed bad, such as Catholics and vampires. When Edward tells Bella the details of Carlisle's story, he very specifically doesn't go into the reasoning behind why these groups were seen as bad: it's just the way things were at the time, he seems to imply. This upbringing caused Carlisle to experience intense self-loathing when he became a vampire, as he'd never had to consider that he might one day find himself a member of a group he considered evil. Similarly, when Jacob tells Bella an old Quileute legend about Quileutes being werewolves locked in a centuries-old conflict with vampires, his story repeats Carlisle's early belief that vampires are evil. While Jacob acknowledges that the Cullens (who appear in the story) aren't dangerous, as they feed on animals instead of humans, he nevertheless presents it as a fact that vampires are bad and, whenever possible, should be avoided. While Jacob makes it clear that he doesn't believe any part of the legend, it's

nevertheless interesting that he offers no value judgment about Quileutes being werewolves. Within the Quileute culture, this is just accepted as fact and the way things are, not something that makes them negative or evil. However, when Edward tells Carlisle's story to Bella, he mentions that one of the groups Carlisle once led raids on were werewolves—in mid-17th century England werewolves *were* considered evil. The novel suggests that what's considered evil is a matter of culture, and so this perspective is different across place and time.

Even as it shows that perspectives are not always the same, *Twilight* shows how such perspectives often result in people making snap value judgments or assumptions—which often have little to do with reality. To most people, Bella looks like a normal teenage girl. She's smart, generous, and though she doesn't think of herself as pretty, other boys around her clearly do, and her female peers perceive her as a threat because of this. But none of this matters the first time that Edward meets Bella—he sees her as a temptress, come to destroy the Cullens' way of life simply because her blood smells better to him than that of any other human, which tests Edward's self-control. To Edward, it doesn't matter at first that there's more to Bella than just her scent and her blood—she is, to him, a “demon” sent to destroy him. Though Edward soon gets over this initial sense and embarks on a romance with Bella, Edward's adoptive vampire sister, Rosalie, never does. Indeed, Rosalie is terrified of what might happen to her family if things were to “end badly” with Bella. In this way, Rosalie sees Bella as incompatible with her life and her world, in the same way as the novel suggests many people see vampires as a threat to the mortal world. Similarly, Jacob's father Billy Black and other members of the Quileute tribe aren't willing or able to reevaluate how they feel about the Cullens when Dr. Cullen gets a job at the county hospital. Unwilling to acknowledge that Dr. Cullen has faithfully abided by the treaty forbidding him from coming onto Quileute land—or that Dr. Cullen is a “brilliant” surgeon and doctor—many Quileutes refuse to receive medical care at the hospital. It's more important for them to stay true to their cultural beliefs than it is to consider that there may be something to gain by reevaluating them.

Indeed, one of *Twilight*'s most important ideas is that positive things can happen when people are willing to reevaluate what they see as good or evil. Bella provides a clear model of what the novel suggests is the ideal way to go about reevaluating one's beliefs. When Bella starts to suspect that Edward is something more than human, she gathers information and does research on vampires. But most importantly, Bella also looks carefully at what Edward does and how he treats her. She ultimately concludes that even if Edward is a vampire (and therefore, supposedly bad), Edward isn't bad at all—he saves her life on multiple occasions, and he introduces her to a life-changing, all-encompassing romance that is as compelling as it

is exactly because Edward is a vampire. There's nothing to lose, the novel suggests, by carefully interrogating what one has been raised to believe is true, and it's possible to come to a more accurate and meaningful understanding by judging a person's actions rather than their reputation.



FAMILY

Neither Bella nor Edward come from conventional, two-parent families. Bella's parents are divorced and have been since she was only a few months old.

Edward, on the other hand, was orphaned in his human life and now, as a vampire, lives with six other vampires in an entirely chosen family. But despite their unconventional family structures, neither Bella nor Edward want for support or connection: Bella describes Mom as her best friend and cares deeply for Charlie, even as she finds him somewhat embarrassing; and when it comes to his budding relationship with Bella, Edward has the full support of everyone in his family but one of his sisters, Rosalie. Through these dynamics, *Twilight* suggests that families don't have to look a certain way, or be formed a certain way, in order to be supportive and meaningful. Rather, chosen families and unconventional family structures can provide more than enough in the way of love, support, and companionship.

Though the novel acknowledges that there's a stigma surrounding different family structures, though it ultimately suggests that such stigmas are ill-founded and wrong. On Bella's first day at Forks High School, for instance, her new friend Jessica tells her about the Cullens—and Jessica is somewhat disapproving of the fact that Dr. Cullen and his wife adopted three kids and are fostering two more. Jessica is wholly unwilling to see the Cullens' kindness as a kindness—indeed, she implies that adopting and fostering kids is somehow less kind and generous because, supposedly, Esme can't have biological children. Jessica also bristles at the fact that, aside from Edward, the Cullens' children (none of whom are related by blood) are in romantic relationships with each other. It's inconceivable to Jessica that the Cullen family structure is in any way acceptable. However, *Twilight* nevertheless suggests that family structures that deviate from two married parents and a child (or children) *isn't* the norm, at least within the world of the novel. Indeed, though the novel doesn't get into what Bella's classmates' families look like, Bella's parents are divorced and Mom is remarried, Jacob Black's mother is conspicuously absent, and the Cullen family is formed entirely by choice. Some people, this suggests, prioritize the wrong things when it comes to family by prioritizing how a family looks over how one acts.

Twilight shows many times over that what's most important isn't how normal a family appears, but how family members support each other. As Bella gets to know the Cullens and learns their stories, she discovers that they support each other in a variety

of ways. The companionship they show each other, further, is what helps them maintain their “consciences,” or the willingness to deny their vampire nature and bloodlust and stick to hunting animals over humans. Their mutual support is what allows them to keep a permanent residence in Forks, rather than living nomadic lives like vampires who feed on humans tend to do. Edward's close relationships with his adoptive father, Carlisle, and his sister, Alice, also provide essential support as Edward figures out how to navigate his relationship with Bella. Carlisle is the one to encourage Edward to stay in Forks and make an effort, while Alice goes hunting with Edward in preparation for his first date with Bella. The bonds of family provide not just emotional support but a civilizing force. At one point on the novel, Edward suggests that it was only because he had to think about the well-being of his entire family that he was able to resist killing Bella the first time he smelled her. The support that Bella's parents offer her is more subtle, but still important. Bella describes Mom as her best friend. Though the two communicate mainly over email throughout the novel, describing Mom this way nevertheless implies that Mom supports Bella emotionally through their relationship. When it comes to Bella's relationship with Charlie, Charlie is able to support Bella (albeit unwittingly) by giving her the space and the freedom to make choices for herself and experiment without constant supervision. Bella deeply appreciates the freedom that Charlie allows her for much of the novel—and resents when, after she's injured in Phoenix, he suddenly enforces curfews and the like.

Most importantly, *Twilight* shows that forming a family can offer people the emotional and social structure and community in which they can most fully be themselves. Early in the novel, Bella explains that she doesn't relate well to other people, especially kids her own age. For his part, as a 107-year-old vampire, Edward also struggles to relate to other high school students, in addition to being the only single member of his family. In finding each other, Bella and Edward finally realize just how alone they've felt up until the point when they started spending time together—through the chosen family they start to create with each other, they feel more complete and secure than they ever have before. Family, the novel shows, can help put things in perspective, make people feel less alone, and provide support and encouragement. While the Cullens' chosen vampire family, and Bella and Edward's human-vampire relationship, might be fantastical, Bella and Edward's relationship in particular illustrates that the value of a family is not in the way it conforms to a specific code of normality, but in the way it makes its members feel.



SYMBOLS

Symbols appear in **teal text** throughout the Summary and Analysis sections of this LitChart.



ALICE'S VISIONS

Alice's visions symbolize how important the idea of free will is in *Twilight's* fictional world. As Edward explains, some vampires discover that they have special gifts once undergoing their transformations. Edward can hear others' thoughts, while Alice can see the future. But Alice's visions of the future are seldom black and white, or always trustworthy. Rather, she and Edward make it clear that while the weather is pretty easy for Alice to predict, it's much more difficult for her to accurately pin down what people (or vampires) will do, because people are always making new decisions. And those decisions, Alice notes, can change the future in major ways. For instance, Alice doesn't see visions of the ballet studio in Phoenix until James, the tracker vampire, makes choices that will lead him there—and she can't tell what will happen in the ballet studio until Bella chooses to meet James. Alice makes it clear that had Bella and James made different decisions, she never would've seen the ballet studio at all.

Broadly speaking, Alice's visions make it clear that within the fantasy world of the novel where it is possible to see the future, people do have free will and can control what happens to them, at least to some degree. Indeed, this is the very reason why Alice's visions are only marginally helpful: she can't predict what decisions a person might make, and those decisions are what causes the future to unfold in a particular way.



THE VOLVO

Edward's Volvo symbolizes Edward himself. Much of this has to do with Volvo's brand reputation:

Volvos are known for being extremely safe cars, and Edward—like a Volvo—throws himself into physically protecting Bella over the course of the novel. Just as a Volvo is intended to protect passengers from harm in the event of a traffic accident, Edward consistently places himself between Bella and various dangers, such as Tyler's van, the men in Port Angeles, and, ultimately, James.

The Volvo also embodies Edward's wealth and his pretentiousness. Volvos aren't inexpensive cars, and the Volvo stands out in the Forks High School student parking lot amongst the Suburbans, minivans, and Sentras, just as the gorgeous and aloof Edward in his designer clothes is impossible to miss next to his mortal classmates. It's the Volvo's association with wealth and pretentiousness that stands out to Bella most in the novel, as when she sees a Volvo (presumably Edward's) in Port Angeles, thinks of Edward, and grumbles to herself, "Stupid, shiny Volvo owner."



QUOTES

Note: all page numbers for the quotes below refer to the Little, Brown Books for Young Readers edition of *Twilight* published in 2006.

Chapter 1 Quotes

“They're all adopted. The Hales *are* brother and sister, twins—the blondes—and they're foster children.”

“They look a little old for foster children.”

“They are now, Jasper and Rosalie are both eighteen, but they've been with Mrs. Cullen since they were eight. She's their aunt or something like that.”

“That's really kind of nice—for them to take care of all those kids like that, when they're so young and everything.”

“I guess so,” Jessica admitted reluctantly [...] “I think that Mrs. Cullen can't have any kids, though,” she added, as if that lessened their kindness.

Related Characters: Jessica, Bella Swan (speaker), Dr. Carlisle Cullen, Esme Cullen, Edward Cullen, Alice Cullen, Emmett Cullen, Rosalie Hale, Jasper Hale

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 2

Explanation and Analysis

It's Bella's first day of school; she's eating lunch with her new friend, Jessica, and has asked Jessica about the “inhumanly beautiful” kids sitting alone. The way that Jessica describes the Cullen family shows that she has very specific ideas about how families should look—and the Cullens don't match up with her ideas. She implies that the family isn't as valid or acceptable because the kids are adopted and fostered. This implies that to Jessica, parent-child relationships only count when they're formed by having biological children. Chosen families, in Jessica's mind, aren't *true* families. As Jessica talks about Mrs. Cullen's supposed inability to have children, she also presents the somewhat disturbing idea that Mrs. Cullen's adopted kids are somehow less loved because she couldn't have biological kids, as if her physical differences impact her ability to experience or give love. Jessica is focused on how people and family's look compared to the norm, and she measures and judges everything based on the deviation from that norm.



Bella's responses show, on the other hand, that she thinks chosen family is just as meaningful as biological family. She's more than willing to take Dr. and Mrs. Cullen's kindness at

face value—they're opening their home to kids who otherwise might not have had one, and that is, to Bella, something commendable. And the way that she interprets Jessica's phrasing surrounding Mrs. Cullen's inability to have kids of her own suggests that Bella doesn't agree with Jessica's way of looking at families. Bella seems to focus not on how "normal" people or families look, but on the kindness, generosity, or love that they display.

Chapter 2 Quotes

☞☞ "He's an asset to the community, and all those kids are well behaved and polite. I had my doubts, when they first moved in, with all those adopted teenagers. I thought we might have some problems with them. But they're all very mature—I haven't had one speck of trouble from any of them. That's more than I can say for some of the children of some folks who have lived in this town for generations. And they stick together the way a family should—camping trips every other weekend...Just because they're newcomers, people have to talk."

Related Characters: Charlie Swan (speaker), Bella Swan, Dr. Carlisle Cullen

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 37

Explanation and Analysis

When Bella asks Charlie about the Cullens during dinner one night, he becomes shockingly agitated and insists that the Forks community is unfairly judging the family.

Most important in this passage is that Charlie acknowledges that he, too, figured the Cullen kids wouldn't be good news for Forks. As the police chief, Charlie no doubt sees all sorts of teenage shenanigans, and whether from firsthand experience or stories from others, he expected a group of adopted teens to cause trouble. In essence, Charlie is willing to admit that he was just as closed-minded as his neighbors—but unlike them, he's been able to get past that. He now judges the Cullen kids on how they act, not where they came from or how they formed their family. And this, Charlie suggests, is a better way to judge people: by the things they can change or control. The Cullen kids can't help being adopted, but they can be upstanding citizens in Forks, and he argues that they should be evaluated based on that.

Charlie also suggests that Forks is judgmental of newcomers more generally, which helps explain why Bella is

attracting so much attention at school. She's new and exciting, but she doesn't attract the same kind of negative attention that the Cullens do thanks to her connection to Charlie. Her familial relationships, in this sense, help her fit in in Forks.

Further, Charlie also suggests that there are certain ways that families should behave. Most important for him is that families "stick together." With this, Charlie almost condemns his own family—he and Bella's mom are divorced and didn't "stick together," like the Cullens do. And when he mentions the regular camping trips, Charlie shows that he prioritizes quality time that families spend together over other things.

☞☞ "No, she did not send me here. I sent myself."
[...]


"She stayed with me at first, but she missed him. It made her unhappy...so I decided it was time to spend some quality time with Charlie." My voice was glum by the time I finished.

"But now you're unhappy," he pointed out.

"And?" I challenged.

"That doesn't seem fair."

Related Characters: Bella Swan, Edward Cullen (speaker), Mom, Charlie Swan

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 37

Explanation and Analysis

A week or so after Edward's bizarrely hostile reaction to Bella, he suddenly starts treating her normally as they discuss why Bella moved to Forks. Bella tells Edward the truth: that she chose to come to Forks so that her mom, whom she loves, would be happy. This situates Bella as a selfless person who, more than anything else, wants her friends and family members to be happy and healthy. To her, it's not such a big deal that she believes she's going to be miserable in Forks. She's willing to make that sacrifice if it means that her Mom is able to live her life, without being encumbered by needing to take care of Bella.

Edward's response suggests that he expects people to be more selfish than this. It's hard for him to fathom that Bella would do something so selfless, especially when to him it doesn't seem at all fair. (This seems to imply that to him, Bella's parents should be the ones to be unhappy for her sake, not the other way around). At this point, Bella and Edward learn that they have a lot to learn about each

other—Bella defies Edward’s expectations of how humans act and think about their loved ones, while Edward seems oddly interested in Bella.

Chapter 5 Quotes

☹️ “You’re dangerous?” I guessed, my pulse quickening as I intuitively realized the truth of my own words. He *was* dangerous. He’d been trying to tell me that all along.

He just looked at me, eyes full of some emotion I couldn’t comprehend.

“But not bad,” I whispered, shaking my head. “No, I don’t believe that you’re bad.”

Related Characters: Bella Swan, Edward Cullen (speaker)

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 93

Explanation and Analysis

It’s been several weeks since Edward saved Bella from getting hit by Tyler’s van, and Bella has been trying to figure out what’s up with Edward—and if he’s even human. At this moment they’re eating lunch together in the cafeteria.

Edward isn’t willing to tell Bella outright that he’s a vampire, but Bella is starting to figure it out anyway—or, at least, she’s catching onto the fact that Edward could be dangerous for her. Indeed, Bella has thus far observed many things about Edward that could be concerning: he’s freezing cold all the time, he seems to possess superhuman strength and speed, and when they first met Edward greeted Bella with terrifying hostility. Bella may not know *exactly* what’s going on with Edward, but she’s seen enough to be able to deduce that Edward could, if he wanted to, seriously harm her. The fact that she realizes this “intuitively” speaks to something Edward later describes: that humans usually can’t stand to be close to vampires, and find it repulsive. Bella seems to be picking up on some of that here.

But even though Bella is willing to acknowledge that Edward might be dangerous, she makes a distinction between what’s dangerous and what’s bad. Indeed, his abilities may make him dangerous—but he also used his superhuman strength and speed to rescue her from Tyler’s van, which is the only reason she’s alive still. Put another way, Bella believes that Edward can’t be bad because from what she’s seen, he makes choices that put him firmly on the side of good. Further, she sees that his dangerousness means that he could do bad things, but that he doesn’t—that he restrains himself. At the same time, Bella’s quickened

pulse when she comments on Edward’s dangerousness implies that she finds his potential for danger thrilling and attractive, and so her ability to perceive whether he is good or bad may be impacted by her rather lustful feelings for him.

Chapter 7 Quotes

☹️ And I knew in that I had my answer. I didn’t know if there ever was a choice, really. I was already in too deep. Now that I knew—if I knew—I could do nothing about my frightening secret. Because when I thought of him, of his voice, his hypnotic eyes, the magnetic force of his personality, I wanted nothing more than to be with him right now. Even if...but I couldn’t think it. Not here, alone in the darkening forest.

Related Characters: Bella Swan (speaker), Edward Cullen, Jacob Black

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 139

Explanation and Analysis

The day after Jacob tells Bella the old Quileute legend about the “cold ones,” which holds that the Cullens are vampires, Bella hikes into the woods to think and decide how to proceed. Importantly, Bella insists outright that she doesn’t really have a choice in how to move forward. She’s too attracted to Edward to fathom distancing herself from him, so she’s going to continue seeing him, one way or another. The fact that he’s a vampire is secondary to the fact that she’s madly in love—and lust—with him.

However, Bella also makes it clear that she understands how dangerous a relationship with Edward might be. Describing her secret as “frightening” alludes to the danger of dating a vampire, and what she’s unwilling to think about is presumably the fact that Edward, as a vampire, wants to drink her blood. She realizes that this could end with Bella dead, if Edward isn’t able to control himself. But though the thought frightens Bella, what’s even more compelling are his “hypnotic eyes” and his personality. For her, this budding romance with Edward is confusingly tied up with the possibility of violence and danger.

Chapter 8 Quotes

☹️ “I followed you to Port Angeles,” he admitted, speaking in a rush. [...] He paused. I wondered if it should bother me that he was following me; instead I felt a strange surge of pleasure.

Related Characters: Edward Cullen (speaker), Bella Swan

Related Themes: 

Page Number: 174

Explanation and Analysis

Edward and Bella are having dinner in Port Angeles; he's just rescued her from men who were going to assault her. As Bella questions him about her suspicions regarding the possibility that he's a vampire, Edward finally admits that he's been following Bella.

It's interesting that Bella feels pleasure instead of fear upon learning that Edward is following her. In many other situations, being followed by a boy who's almost a stranger and hasn't always been the nicest to her would be something to worry about. Yet Bella's attraction to Edward seems also to be an attraction to danger, and a further attraction to the degree of Edward's devotion to her. So while Bella can intellectually understand that what might be described as Edward's stalking of her could be seen as troubling, her feelings for him instead make her excited. Knowing that Edward is following her seems to Bella like proof that she matters and that he cares for her.

Chapter 9 Quotes

“I decided it didn't matter,” I whispered.

“It didn't *matter*?” His tone made me look up—I had finally broken through his carefully composed mask. His face was incredulous, with just a hint of the anger I'd feared.


“No,” I said softly. “It doesn't matter to me what you are.”

A hard, mocking edge entered his voice. “You don't care if I'm a monster? If I'm not *human*?”

“No.”

Related Characters: Bella Swan, Edward Cullen (speaker)

Related Themes:   

Related Symbols: 

Page Number: 184

Explanation and Analysis

On the drive home from Port Angeles, Bella shares with Edward that she's done research on vampires and, at the end, concluded that she doesn't care if Edward is a vampire. It's important to recognize the reason why Bella came to

this conclusion. First, Bella finds that she's far too in love with Edward to worry about anything other than her feelings for him. Compared to the all-encompassing love she feels for him, what he is seems trivial. But further, Bella also chose to look at how Edward has acted and give more weight to that in making this choice. Edward has saved her life multiple times over, and in her mind, that makes him a good person—regardless of whether he even is, technically speaking, a human person.

Edward's response, though, suggests he doesn't agree with Bella's assessment. Throughout the novel, Edward speaks poorly of himself, referring to himself as a “monster” as he does here, or as a “bad guy.” In his understanding, being a vampire condemns him to being evil. To him, what he is is more important than what he does. This self-conception is heightened by the fact that in this moment he's still struggling to resist drinking Bella's blood. For him, being a vampire means being gripped with a nearly irresistible urge to murder Bella, whom he is coming to love. So it's shocking, for him, to hear Bella speak of him as though what he is doesn't matter to her. It suggests that going forward, Edward is going to have to learn to see himself in a new light, and possibly evaluate how he thinks of himself in terms of good or evil. It also means that no matter what Bella thinks what he is—a vampire—does matter to an extent, but also that perhaps his relationship to Bella can help him to see his worth in the way he can react to or control his fundamental bodily urges.

“Don't let that make you complacent, though,” he warned me. “They're right to keep their distance from us. We are still dangerous.”


“I don't understand.”

“We try,” he explained slowly. “We're usually very good at what we do. Sometimes we make mistakes. Me, for example, allowing myself to be alone with you.”

“This is a mistake?” I heard the sadness in my voice, but I didn't know if he could as well.

“A very dangerous one,” he murmured.

Related Characters: Bella Swan, Edward Cullen (speaker), Billy Black, Jacob Black

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 187

Explanation and Analysis

After Bella shares with Edward that she learned he was a vampire from an old Quileute legend, they discuss that the legend says that the Cullens feed on animal blood rather than human blood.

Though Edward acknowledges that it's true his family feeds solely on animals, he makes the case that exercising self-control is something that all of the Cullens must constantly work on. Staying the course and sticking to animals requires constant effort; he frames it as being akin to an exercise regime, or a diet program that's difficult and no fun to keep up. They could, at any moment, slip up and give in to what he suggests are their true natures as vampires: drinking human blood. But he also shows that there are varying degrees of mistakes. There's the mistake to allow himself to be alone with Bella, which he's doing now. But he also seems to imply that people in the past have died when his family members have slipped up and given into their urges. Edward implies that he, too, could lose control at any moment—and Bella would die.

This establishes the stakes for Bella and Edward's relationship. Bella wants to be with Edward and Edward wants to be with her in return, but simply being in the same room with each other is a struggle given how hard Edward must work to control himself. Their relationship is one of love and physical lust, but also one dependent on extreme self-control. In this way, the book frames Edward as an enticing lover because he is always both overwhelmingly physically attracted to Bella—to the point of wanting to literally consume her—and so in love with her that he is always resisting that physical urge. Bella, then, becomes the object of both physical and emotional adoration, of an overwhelming physical desire to "have" her and an overwhelming emotional desire to protect her.



Chapter 10 Quotes

☝☝ "I care the most, because if I can do it"—he shook his head, seeming to struggle with the thought—"if leaving is the right thing to do, then I'll hurt myself to keep from hurting you, to keep you safe."

I glared. "And you don't think I would do the same?"

"You'd never have to make the choice."

Related Characters: Edward Cullen, Bella Swan (speaker)

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 211

Explanation and Analysis

During one of their lunchtime conversations, Bella and Edward discuss who cares more about the other. Bella had said to Jessica that she thought she loved Edward more, something that Edward takes issue with. Interestingly, Edward frames the truest, most important expression of love as one's ability to control themselves. So in his case, he thinks he must love Bella more because he would gladly hurt himself (emotionally, by leaving) in order to protect Bella from getting hurt physically. This, he suggests, is the clearest indicator that he loves Bella more.

But Bella says that she'd do the exact same thing if it meant protecting Edward from harm. Edward's scoffing response is based on the fact that he thinks, as a human, she doesn't face the same pressures that he does, and plays into the sense of their relationship in which he is the "lion" and she is the "lamb." But it also foreshadows later events of the novel when she will have to face just such a choice.

Chapter 12 Quotes

☝☝ I intuitively knew—and sensed he did, too—that tomorrow would be pivotal. Our relationship couldn't continue to balance, as it did, on the point of a knife. We would fall off one edge or the other, depending entirely upon his decision, or his instincts. My decision was made, made before I'd ever consciously chosen, and I was committed to seeing it through. Because there was nothing more terrifying to me, more excruciating, than the thought of turning away from him. It was an impossibility.

Related Characters: Bella Swan (speaker), Edward Cullen

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 248

Explanation and Analysis

In preparation for her first date with Edward, Bella thinks about how important their first date will be in defining the course their relationship takes going forward. Bella suggests that as things currently stand, both she and Edward are dancing around several important truths about their relationship. They're both madly in love with each other, and they're also dealing with the problem of Edward wanting to drink Bella's blood. She believes that in order to move forward, they're somehow going to have to address these issues.

For Bella, the danger to her life isn't nearly as compelling as her overwhelming love for Edward. Being with him, she

believes, is totally worth any of the pain or suffering she might experience as a result. Indeed, it's telling that she describes the thought of leaving Edward as "terrifying" and "excruciating." Being without him is, in her mind, an absolutely awful state, and it's preferable to put herself in danger than to be without Edward.

But still, Bella can't escape the fact that she is in danger. Edward could, she knows, lose control at any moment and drink her blood. It's also interesting that Bella attributes this to Edward's "instincts." Wanting to drink her blood, she acknowledges, is part of who and what he is as a vampire—it's normal for vampires to crave human blood. The question, and what will either propel the relationship forward or condemn Bella to a lifetime of emotional pain, is whether Edward can resist his underlying nature or not.

☝ "No one knows you're with me?" Angrily, now.

"That depends...I assume you told Alice?"



"That's very helpful, Bella," he snapped.

I pretended I didn't hear that.

"Are you so depressed by Forks that it's made you suicidal?" he demanded when I ignored him.

"You said it might cause trouble for you...us being together publicly," I reminded him.

Related Characters: Edward Cullen, Bella Swan (speaker), Alice Cullen

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 255

Explanation and Analysis



On the drive out to a remote hiking trail for their first date, Edward is angry to learn that nobody (aside from Alice) knows he and Bella are alone together. It's distressing for Edward to learn this because he's been banking on the fact that people close to Bella, like Charlie and Jessica, will be rightfully suspicious of Edward if Bella doesn't come back. Other people knowing that they're together—not just that Bella is off somewhere, doing something—was an external pressure that helped Edward to control his urge to drink Bella's blood, as it made the consequences of killing her more significant, as it could end up affecting his entire family. If nobody knows, then it is Edward alone who has to resist his inner urge.

Edward's anger is difficult for Bella to take, but notice that

his anger still doesn't really do much to make her want to be with him less. Rather, when he responds in anger, she makes it clear that she made the choice not to tell anyone for him, to try to help him. Bella is, in other words, committed to their relationship, no matter where it's going to end up. She shows how self-sacrificial she is when she essentially prioritizes Edward's comfort and wellbeing over her own safety—which is exactly the sort of thing Edward has said earlier he prizes most in love.

☝ His white shirt was sleeveless, and he wore it unbuttoned, so the smooth white skin of his throat flowed uninterrupted over the marble contours of his chest, his perfect musculature no longer merely hinted at behind concealing clothes. He was too perfect, I realized with a piercing stab of despair. There was no way this godlike creature could be meant for me.

Related Characters: Bella Swan (speaker), Edward Cullen

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 256

Explanation and Analysis

When Bella and Edward arrive at the trailhead, Bella experiences a moment of crushing despair upon seeing Edward with his shirt unbuttoned for the first time. Though Edward later goes on to explain that vampires look so physically beautiful for a reason (it helps them draw in human victims), it's significant that Bella describes him as being so perfect at this point, before knowing that. In describing Edward's perfection and in saying that he's too good for her, Bella insists that she's not perfect in comparison—she doesn't see herself as a beautiful, attractive person. This reflects Bella's insecurities and her inability to understand why she's so compelling for Edward.

However, even more interesting is that Bella describes Edward's beauty as "godlike." With this word, Bella begins to associate Edward with divinity—something generally considered to be good. This contradicts Edward's constantly saying that he's evil and a bad guy; to Bella, at least, he's the exact opposite. Part of his godliness comes from his appearances, but part of it also comes from the way he makes Bella feel intense pleasure and intense sadness or pain, all at the same time.

Chapter 13 Quotes

“I don’t want you to leave,” I mumbled pathetically, staring down again.

“Which is exactly why I should. But don’t worry. I’m essentially a selfish creature. I crave your company too much to do what I should.”

“I’m glad.”

“Don’t be!” He withdrew his hand, more gently this time; his voice was harsher than usual. [...] It was hard to keep up—his sudden mood changes left me always a step behind, dazed.

Related Characters: Bella Swan, Edward Cullen (speaker)

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 266

Explanation and Analysis

Sitting in the meadow on their first date, Bella and Edward again discuss whether Edward would be protecting Bella by leaving. Bella’s “pathetic” reaction to Edward suggesting he leave shows how invested she is in their relationship. More than anything else, she wants him to stay. Edward wants the same, but again, he frames leaving as the highest expression of his love and care for Bella. He may stay because he loves her, but if he were to leave, it would show he loves her even more, per his logic.

As Bella discusses not being able to keep up with Edward’s sudden mood changes, it shows that her relationship with Edward is one where she’s almost constantly off balance. It’s difficult to keep up with his constantly shifting emotions, and it means that Bella doesn’t always know exactly where she stands with him. But still, Bella focuses on the fact that he is being gentle at the same time as he’s being harsh. Bella might be unbalanced and “dazed,” but by focusing on the gentle and positive things Edward does, Bella remains invested in their relationship.

“When you walked past me, I could have ruined everything Carlisle has built for us, right then and there. If I hadn’t been denying my thirst for the last, well, too many years, I wouldn’t have been able to stop myself.” He paused, scowling at the trees.

He glanced at me grimly, both of us remembering. “You must have thought I was possessed.”

“I couldn’t understand why. How you could hate me so quickly...”

“To me, it was like you were some kind of demon, summoned straight from my own personal hell to ruin me.”

Related Characters: Bella Swan, Edward Cullen (speaker), Dr. Carlisle Cullen

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 269

Explanation and Analysis

In the meadow, Edward explains his thought process the first time he encountered Bella in close quarters, in their biology class months earlier. Edward makes it clear that his family is extremely important when he notes that he thought about what the implications would be for his family if he’d lost control and drank Bella’s blood then. The Cullens’ close bonds, this shows, is one of the most important things that keeps the family members on their vegetarian diets. But more than that, Edward also makes the case that resisting things he wants so much is something he’s had to work hard over the decades to be able to do successfully. It’s very hard if not impossible, he implies, to just suddenly decide to resist something and then do so successfully—it takes practice. This is why the novel is generally forgiving, for instance, when Bella isn’t able to resist her sexual urges for Edward. She hasn’t had 90 years to practice resisting anything, as she’s still mortal and only 17.



Then, Edward also shows how much perspective and experience colors a person’s perception of someone or something. Most kids at school see Bella as a nice, smart, and pretty girl. But to Edward, Bella isn’t just attractive: she was, at first, a demon because of how tempting her scent is for him.

“You already know how I feel, of course,” I finally said. “I’m here...which, roughly translated, means I would rather die than stay away from you.” I frowned. “I’m an idiot.”

“You *are* an idiot,” he agreed with a laugh. Our eyes met, and I laughed, too. We laughed together at the idiocy and sheer impossibility of such a moment.

“And so the lion fell in love with the lamb....,” he murmured. I looked away, hiding my eyes as I thrilled to the word.

Related Characters: Bella Swan, Edward Cullen (speaker)

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 274

Explanation and Analysis


As Bella and Edward talk in the meadow, they finally state their feelings for each other and acknowledge outright that they’re in love. Bella shows that she recognizes full well how dangerous the relationship is for her—she’d rather be around Edward, who’s struggling to control himself and not drink her blood, than be safe with some other human boy. The danger that Edward poses to her means that being around each other—especially alone, when no one knows where they are or that they’re together—is “idiotic.” But it is the very idiocy that heightens the terms of their love: they know it’s idiotic, they know it’s dangerous, and they still can’t do anything but give in to it.

Indeed, Edward encapsulates this when he mentions a lion falling in love with a lamb. Like a lamb, Bella is helpless next to Edward—who, like a lion, possesses all sorts of tools designed to help him draw in and kill his prey. But it’s also interesting that Edward phrases it as the lion falling in love with the lamb. Up until this point he’s been somewhat hesitant to talk about how he feels about Bella, aside from saying he feels bad for putting her in danger. This is the first time he’s acknowledged that he’s falling in love with her in so many words—something that Bella finds thrilling and exciting. And it’s this interplay between danger and thrill that keeps Bella so interested in Edward throughout the novel.

Chapter 14 Quotes

“You spied on me?” But somehow I couldn’t infuse my voice with the proper outrage. I was flattered.

Related Characters: Bella Swan (speaker), Edward Cullen

Related Themes: 



Page Number: 292

Explanation and Analysis

Returning home from the meadow, Edward reveals that he knows where the hidden key is at Bella’s house, and that he’s been sneaking into her house while she sleeps. Bella makes it clear that she knows on an intellectual level that she should object to this. There’s a “proper” amount of outrage she should be expressing right now, in her mind. Sneaking into her home is an invasion of her privacy, and it suggests that Edward doesn’t respect Bella’s boundaries or her right to privacy. But though Bella knows all of this intellectually, she doesn’t feel like any of that matters. Rather, she sees Edward sneaking in to spy on her as proof that he loves her—enough to crash through barriers and boundaries to be with her, every minute of every day. Bella feels this way because of how madly in love with Edward she is. Her emotions are so overwhelming and all-consuming that something like this, that might be creepy in another circumstance, is instead titillating.

“For almost ninety years I’ve walked among my kind, and yours...all the time thinking I was complete in myself, not realizing what I was seeking. And not finding anything, because you weren’t alive yet.”

Related Characters: Edward Cullen (speaker), Bella Swan

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 304

Explanation and Analysis

Bella and Edward are in bed, talking, and Edward has shared that Carlisle has been trying to find Edward a romantic partner for decades. Carlisle hasn’t been successful in that regard, and now Edward knows why: he was destined to fall in love with Bella. With this comment, Edward indicates that he thinks of their relationship as a once-in-a-lifetime romance, which of course is only amplified by the fact that his lifetime happens to be extremely long (since he’s immortal).

The result of finding this romance, Edward suggests, is that he feels complete for the first time in his long life. While he didn’t know exactly what he was missing before he met Bella, now he knows: he was missing the ability to be himself, and he was missing a person who was going to give his life meaning. Though Edward doesn’t discuss it here, the

same goes for Bella as well. Bella has gone through life believing that she doesn't relate well to other people, and now, having found Edward, she has someone who understands her better than anyone else does. Their relationship allows them both to feel secure, loved, and complete in a way that, they believe, no other relationship would.

“The others—the majority of our kind who are quite content with our lot—they, too, wonder at how we live. But you see, just because we've been...dealt a certain hand...it doesn't mean that we can't choose to rise above—to conquer the boundaries of a destiny that none of us wanted. To try to retain whatever essential humanity we can.”

Related Characters: Edward Cullen (speaker), Bella Swan, Dr. Carlisle Cullen

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 307

Explanation and Analysis

Bella has just asked Edward why he and his family make the effort to lead a “vegetarian” diet, where they feed on animal blood instead of human blood. Edward makes an important point here when he suggests that others are “quite content with [their] lot.” He suggests that it's vampires' “lot” in life to feed on humans. Put another way, it's natural for a vampire to feed on humans, without any thought for the consequences.

But Edward suggests there's more to being a vampire than just accepting that identity and those cultural trappings for oneself. Rather, what remains true, even when a person becomes a vampire, is that they can choose to try to become better people, no matter what life throws at them. In this case, that means that Edward and his family apply themselves to leading a vegetarian diet, which Edward suggests will allow them to transcend their identities as vampires and assert their continuing humanity.



In this comment, Edward continues to imply his sense that humans are better than vampires because they don't kill other humans, generally speaking, especially for food. This helps explain why Edward thinks of himself as such a bad guy: he believes he's lesser than a human because, technically speaking, it's in his nature to kill people—and he thinks that makes him a monster.

Chapter 15 Quotes

“I love you,” I whispered.

“You are my life now,” he answered simply.

Related Characters: Bella Swan, Edward Cullen (speaker)

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 314

Explanation and Analysis

In the morning after Edward spends the night with Bella for the first time, the two tell each other they love each other for the first time. This is another instance where Edward's response could be read as sinister, controlling, and creepy—but within the context of his and Bella's relationship, it's anything but. Bella has given Edward a reason to live, and a way to make sense of his life. He's gone through the last 90 years of his life without purpose, though he didn't entirely grasp that at the time. But now that Bella is in his life, Edward realizes he has a purpose: he can protect Bella, and he can love her. His life, in other words, is now focused entirely on Bella—without her, it has no meaning.

The fact that it's possible to read such a potentially concerning statement in this noble, romantic way speaks to how closely the novel ties romance with lust and control. It's sometimes confusing for Bella to navigate Edward's controlling or frightening behavior, but she never wavers in her belief that he behaves the way he does to protect her—and because he loves her.

“His father was an intolerant man. As the Protestants came into power, he was enthusiastic in his persecution of Roman Catholics and other religions. He also believed very strongly in the reality of evil. He led hunts for witches, werewolves...and vampires.”

Related Characters: Edward Cullen (speaker), Dr. Carlisle Cullen, Bella Swan, Jacob Black

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 314

Explanation and Analysis

At the Cullens' house, Edward starts to tell Bella Carlisle's story. Carlisle was born in the 1640s to a Protestant preacher. What's most important in this passage is that Edward offers no explanation as to why Carlisle's father



believed that Catholics, witches, werewolves, and vampires were evil. Not going into those details that implies that, for Carlisle's father, the fact of these things being evil was just fact—he believed it because his church said it was true. This background reflects the novel's insistence that what a person considers good or evil is often a matter of culture more than anything else. Indeed, Carlisle goes on to become a vampire and is anything but evil—as a vampire he devotes himself to becoming a skilled doctor who heals rather than harms, who works directly with bleeding people and does not feed on them. A person's assumptions about whether someone else is good and evil, Carlisle's story shows, can be misguided if they can't gather information and make informed decisions.

It's also interesting to note that Edward says Carlisle's father also believed that werewolves were evil and should be hunted. Within the context of 17th-century England, werewolves were evil. But when Bella spoke to Jacob, a member of the Quileute tribe, which has legends about its members being descended from wolves, Jacob didn't express any judgment of whether that was a good thing or a bad thing. To him, being potentially descended from werewolves was neutral—another indicator that what's considered good or evil is a matter of cultural upbringing as much as anything else. And the difference between Carlisle's father's beliefs and Jacob shows that this changes from place to place and time period to time period—what's considered evil is always changing, and is different in different parts of the world.

Chapter 16 Quotes

☝☝ “One night, a herd of deer passed his hiding place. He was so wild with thirst that he attacked without a thought. His strength returned and he realized there was an alternative to being the vile monster he feared. Had he not eaten venison in his former life? Over the next months his new philosophy was born. He could exist without being a demon. He found himself again.”

Related Characters: Edward Cullen (speaker), Dr. Carlisle Cullen, Bella Swan

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 337

Explanation and Analysis


Edward is still telling Bella Carlisle's story; Carlisle is a new vampire and hates himself for being something he thinks of

as evil. But in this moment, Carlisle learns that he doesn't have to be a victim of sorts of vampirism. Rather, he can rise above what he thinks it means to be a vampire and make a better life for himself.

Generally speaking, Carlisle's story shows clearly that people become good not based simply on what they *are* but on what they choose to *do*. Alternatively, they become bad as they make bad choices (or simply accept what they think is their lot in life, which Carlisle could have done; he could have given in to feeding on humans because, he believed, that's what vampires do). Edward's phrasing when he says that Carlisle “could exist without being a demon” suggests that at least in this context, a demon isn't a static, unchangeable state of being—it's an identity a person or vampire takes on as they do things they think are evil. It's possible to be a demon for a while, and then to become less of one—or escape that identity altogether—with time and better choices.

☝☝ “I was prepared to feel...relieved. Having you know about everything, not needing to keep secrets from you. But I didn't expect to feel more than that. I *like* it. It makes me...happy.”

Related Characters: Edward Cullen (speaker), Bella Swan

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 344

Explanation and Analysis

After telling Bella the entire history of his family, Edward is shocked by all the emotions he's experiencing. The fact that Edward feels both relieved and happy having told Bella everything shows exactly what their relationship is doing for him. Through their relationship, Edward now has access to one person who totally understands him and from whom he doesn't have to hide at all. He can be entirely honest with her, and can be more himself than he can with anyone else.

This is significant because, up until meeting Bella, Edward has been something of a misfit in his family and in his community. He's been the only unpartnered Cullen for decades now, and at various points, Edward's family members tell Bella that she's brought on some amazing changes in Edward. Being around her is making Edward a happier, better vampire. The same is also true for Bella: Edward understands her in a way that no one else does, even if he can't read her thoughts. They both make the other feel less alone, something the novel suggests is

extremely meaningful.


Chapter 20 Quotes


☝☝ “I see a room. It’s long, and there are mirrors everywhere [...]”

“Where is the room?”

“I don’t know. Something is missing—another decision hasn’t been made yet.”

Related Characters: Alice Cullen (speaker), Bella Swan, Jasper Hale, James

Related Themes: 

Related Symbols: 

Page Number: 415

Explanation and Analysis

Bella is hiding with Alice and Jasper in a hotel room in Phoenix, Arizona. James is after Bella but is still in Forks. Alice is seeing a vision of a room with mirrors but she can’t tell much more about it because someone else has to make a decision.

Broadly speaking, this passage shows how important the idea of choice and free will are in the world of Twilight. Alice can see the future, but it’s impossible for her to predict with exact certainty what’s going to happen. This is because, in the world of the novel, nothing is entirely predestined—a person’s choices can change the whole course of the future. So here, Alice can see part of what the future is going to hold (this mirrored room). But she can’t tell why the room is important, who has to make a decision, or what’s going to happen there until that other person makes their choice. Put another way, Alice’s perspective on the future is necessarily constrained by the choices people make—or haven’t made yet, as the case may be. The future can go in different ways, depending on the choices people make.

Chapter 24 Quotes

☝☝ “You *have* saved me,” he said quietly.

“I can’t always be Lois Lane,” I insisted. “I want to be Superman, too.”


[...]

“Do you wish Carlisle hadn’t saved you?”

“No, I don’t wish that.” He paused before continuing. “But my life was over. I wasn’t giving anything up.”

“You *are* my life. You’re the only thing it would hurt me to lose.” I was getting better at this. It was easy to admit how much I needed him.

Related Characters: Edward Cullen, Bella Swan (speaker), Dr. Carlisle Cullen

Related Themes:  

Page Number: 474

Explanation and Analysis

In the hospital after James’s attack, Bella begs Edward to make her a vampire. She insists that in order to have a real, legitimate romantic relationship, they must address the severe power imbalance between them. As a vampire, Edward possesses extreme speed, strength, and beauty. Bella, as a human, is therefore relegated to the role of the female onlooker—she can see things, she can use her brain and piece together what’s going on, but she can’t be like Superman (Edward) and swoop in and save people. Her ability to care for Edward the way she thinks she should be able to is curtailed by the fact that she’s not on the same level as he is in terms of strength and skill.

For Edward, though, the prospect of Bella turning into a vampire is horrifying. It’s unthinkable to him that anyone would want to give up their life to live forever in an undead state—he’s only okay with his lot in life because he was definitely going to die had Carlisle not turned him into a vampire. The clear implication is that Edward continues to see humans as morally superior to vampires, and he doesn’t want Bella to become the sort of monster he still sees himself as being.

But for Bella, her love for Edward is so strong and all-encompassing that she’d accept the pain of transforming into a vampire, and whatever other unpleasant things might come her way, if it means she gets to be with Edward forever. Saying that Edward is her life mirrors what Edward said earlier in the novel. She is saying that they’re too connected to each other and too emotionally invested in their relationship to walk away—the pain of being together is excruciating, since Edward won’t give Bella what she

wants. But the pain of being apart, Bella suggests, would be worse than death.

Epilogue Quotes

●● His eyebrows rose. “Is that what you dream about? Being a monster?”

“Not exactly,” I said, frowning at his word choice. Monster, indeed. “Mostly I dream about being with you forever.”

Related Characters: Edward Cullen, Bella Swan (speaker)

Related Themes:   

Page Number: 498

Explanation and Analysis

At prom, Bella and Edward once again discuss the prospect of Bella becoming a vampire, something she wants and something Edward emphatically does not want. He once again shows how poorly he thinks of himself and of

vampires in general by describing himself as a monster. Using this word to describe himself distances Edward even further from his human origins—it suggests he’s so different and frightening, he can’t even make a show of being human. The word also helps him show Bella how poorly he thinks of her desire; becoming a vampire, he suggests, is going to do more than make her immortal. It’s going to fundamentally change her, and not for the better.

For Bella, though, this is a simple choice. First, she doesn’t see Edward as a monster at all, but as a person fighting against his baser instincts, as all people do. Second, she wants to be with Edward forever, and she’s willing to accept whatever consequences come her way in order to get what she wants. Bella has also seen that the way the Cullens lives makes them less monstrous than the average vampire, since they feed on animals instead of human blood. So unlike (perhaps) other people, Bella isn’t concerned with turning into something totally evil and monstrous by becoming a vampire. She knows that even as an immortal vampire, she’ll still be able to choose to be good by adhering to the vegetarian diet and giving back wherever she can.



SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

The color-coded icons under each analysis entry make it easy to track where the themes occur most prominently throughout the work. Each icon corresponds to one of the themes explained in the Themes section of this LitChart.

CHAPTER 1

Bella is dressed in her favorite sleeveless shirt to fly out of Phoenix, but her carryon item is a parka. She's headed for a tiny town in Washington state called Forks. It's on the Olympic Peninsula and is the rainiest place in the United States. When Bella was just a few months old, her mom "escaped" Forks with Bella—and like Mom, Bella hates the town. But now, she's "exiling" herself there voluntarily. Before Bella boards, Mom reminds her that she doesn't have to go. Bella feels panicky for a moment; her mom is "erratic" and "hare-brained" and will struggle to feed herself, even with her new husband Phil around. But Bella lies that she wants to go and tells Mom goodbye.

Bella eventually gets off her final plane in the small town of Port Angeles. She has an hour in the car with Charlie to look forward to. Neither Charlie nor Bella is talkative, so Bella is certain that the drive will be uncomfortable. Sure enough, Charlie greets Bella with an awkward hug and ushers her to his police cruiser (he's the police chief in Forks, and Bella plans to buy herself a car so she doesn't have to ride with him). As he puts Bella's bags in the trunk, he shares that he bought a Chevy truck off his old friend, Billy Black, for Bella. It's very old, and Bella frets that she can't afford to both buy it and get it fixed—but Charlie says that it runs great, and that it's a gift.

Bella stares out the window at the greenery until they get to Charlie's tiny two-bedroom house. He and Mom bought it right after they got married. Bella spots the truck immediately and loves it: it's red and solid metal, so she'll survive any accident. She thanks Charlie, and he acts embarrassed.

Charlie helps Bella carry her things upstairs to her bedroom and then leaves her alone to unpack. It's nice to be alone and not have to pretend to be excited. Tomorrow, she'll attend her first day at Forks High School, which will now have 358 students total. Bella knows she'll be a curiosity, coming from Phoenix. Unfortunately, Bella isn't tan, sporty, or blonde, like girls from Phoenix should look. Instead, she's pale, with brown hair and no coordination. When Bella finishes unpacking, she notices that she already looks sallow in this light. She's never going to fit in—she doesn't relate well to other people.

This passage sets up some important things about Bella: she loves the heat and the sunshine, and yet she's willing to give all that up for reasons that are still unclear. Bella also implies that she takes on the more adult role in her relationship with Mom, making sure Mom eats, for instance. This dynamic becomes especially clear when Bella insists to Mom that she wants to move to Forks—she seems to not want Mom to feel bad or responsible for making Bella do something she doesn't actually want to do.



This passage shows how provincial Forks is, especially compared to a metropolis like Phoenix: Bella is flying into a small regional airport, and her father is the police chief and doesn't see any problem with doing all his traveling in his cruiser. Referring to her dad by his first name instead of Dad speaks to how much distance there is between Bella and Charlie. It seems they don't have the close relationship that Bella has with her mom, which again raises the question of why Bella is choosing to move to Forks.



The truck makes Bella feel like she might have a better time in Forks than she initially thought. It's charming and solid, a possible indicator that Forks itself might have more positive aspects than Bella expects.



The truck might help, but Bella also believes that she's at a severe disadvantage. She knows that people are going to make assumptions about her, and she knows they're going to be sorely disappointed when she doesn't fit their preconceived ideas. Forks also starts to seem oppressive and unhealthy when Bella notes how sallow her skin looks already. Bella's thoughts make clear that she conceives of herself as a loner and an outsider, as someone cut off from other "more normal" people.



In bed later, Bella struggles to fall asleep—the rain is too loud. When she wakes up in the morning, it's foggy outside. She eats breakfast with Charlie, and when he leaves, she looks around the house. It looks exactly like it always does: Mom was the last person to paint the cabinets, her and Charlie's wedding photo is still up, and all of Bella's school photos are also on the wall. Charlie clearly isn't over Mom. Ready to escape, Bella heads out to the truck; it's clean, and it starts with a roar. Fortunately, the radio works.

The school is off the highway, like everything else in Forks. It doesn't look like the schools Bella is used to; the grounds are heavily landscaped, and there aren't any metal detectors. Bella parks in front of the office and heads inside. By the time she returns to her truck with her schedule and a map, other kids are starting to arrive. She follows the traffic to the appropriate parking lot and is glad that most of the cars are older—the newest car is a **Volvo**. She parks and studies the map; hopefully she can memorize it.

Finally, Bella gets out of the truck and is relieved that her plain black raincoat doesn't stand out. She follows some kids to building three and finds her English class. Kids stare at her, but Bella takes a seat in the back. She's already read everything on the reading list, so she wonders if she can get Mom to send along the essays she already wrote for those books. When the bell rings, a boy with dark, oily hair introduces himself as Eric and offers to show Bella to her next class. He seems like the "overly helpful, chess club type," but Bella accepts. As they talk, Eric is shocked that it only rains three or four times a year in Phoenix, and he doesn't understand Bella's sarcasm. Bella is glad to leave him.

For Bella's next two classes, a tiny girl with dark curly hair sits next to her and then invites Bella to sit with her at lunch. Bella can't remember the girl's name. As Bella sits with the girl and all her friends, she spots "them" across the lunchroom. They don't talk or eat. The three boys are beautiful, and the two girls are also gorgeous. Though the five all look different, they also look alike in that they're very pale. Their eyes are all dark, and their faces are all angular. They're "inhumanly beautiful." As Bella watches the tiny girl in the group dump her apple in the garbage, she asks the curly-haired girl who they are. As she asks, Bella notices that the bronze-haired boy in the group catches her eye and quickly looks away.

Bella's observations about the weather contribute to how oppressive Forks feels: the rain won't let her sleep, and the fog makes it hard to see anything outside the house. What's in the house is a bit oppressive too: it shows Bella that Charlie is still living in the past, and perhaps isn't excited about having to rethink how he thinks of his ex-wife or his daughter.



Bella might fear the other kids making assumptions about her, but she also makes assumptions of her own—schools, she believes, should look a certain way to be a "real" school. She also shows that she's a normal teen in many ways and just wants to fit in, hence her observation about not standing out too much in her ancient truck.



Bella's familiarity with the reading list implies how smart and good at school she is, and also how Forks seems unlikely to challenge her academically such that it doesn't even seem like a big deal to cheat the system and use her old essays. Her encounter with Eric also makes it seem like Bella is going to struggle to fit in, since he doesn't understand her sense of humor or where she comes from. As her day progresses, Bella feels increasingly alone and isolated.



Bella might stand out as the new girl in town, but these "inhumanly beautiful" people nevertheless stand out even more. That Bella describes them as inhumanly beautiful foreshadows supernatural revelations and events to come. Asking her new friend who these "inhumanly beautiful" people are shows Bella's interest in these other people who also seem different from the other people in Forks, and her attraction to the beauty she sees in them. The brief look of the bronze-haired boy is of course also foreshadowing.



The curly-haired girl, Jessica, giggles. She explains that the group are Edward, Emmett, and Alice Cullen, and Rosalie and Jasper Hale. They live together with Dr. Cullen and his wife. In a scandalized voice, Jessica says that Emmett and Rosalie are a couple, as are Alice and Jasper. None of them are related—the Cullens are all adopted, and the Hales are foster kids. Bella notes that it's nice of Dr. and Mrs. Cullen to take care of kids like this, but Jessica seems reluctant to agree. Jessica says the family arrived from Alaska two years ago. Bella is relieved; she's not the only newcomer. Noticing the bronze-haired boy staring at her again, she asks who he is. Jessica says with a sniff that he's Edward, but he doesn't date.

One of Jessica's friends, Angela, walks Bella to biology next. The only open seat is next to Edward Cullen. As Bella passes him on her way to the teacher, Edward looks suddenly furious. Embarrassed, Bella checks in with the teacher and takes her seat next to Edward. He leans away from her as though she smells. Bella surreptitiously sniffs her hair, which smells fine, and spends the rest of the class sneaking glances at him. He barely breathes and keeps his fist clenched. The one time Bella catches his black eyes, she thinks of the phrase "if looks could kill."

Edward is up and out of the classroom the moment the bell rings; Bella is shocked that he's being so mean. As Bella gathers her things, a cute blond boy introduces himself as Mike and offers to walk her to her next class. It turns out that they both have gym next. Mike talks about living in California and then asks if Bella did something to make Edward act so oddly. He says Edward is "weird." The gym teacher lets Bella watch instead of play volleyball, and finally, the bell signals the end of the school day.

Bella heads back to the office but almost leaves instantly—Edward is at the desk, trying to switch his biology class. Bella can't believe this is about her. As another person enters the office, letting in a gust of wind, Edward stiffens and turns to glare at Bella. Bella is terrified. Edward thanks the secretary without switching his class and leaves. Bella gives the secretary her paperwork and tries not to cry.

Jessica's tone suggests that she has some very distinct ideas about how families should look and act, while Bella's response focuses more on how people behave and whether they show each other care. Bella's way of looking at the world clearly does not fit with Jessica's in this regard. To Bella, learning that the Cullens are also newcomers makes her feel less alone—she has at least some companions in being outsiders.



Edward's behavior is frightening and seems to come totally out of the blue—recall that in the cafeteria, he was sneaking glances at Bella with interest and without obvious malice. Clearly, something has changed for him, and not knowing what that is makes this even more unsettling for Bella. She also seems to instinctively grasp that Edward could be dangerous, as evidenced by thinking of this particular phrase.



Bella here thinks of Edward in very non-supernatural terms (which isn't surprising). In thinking of his behavior as "mean," she is perceiving it in relation to the behavior of other normal teens. Mike stands in contrast to Edward: he's cute instead of inhumanly beautiful, and talks about his normal life instead of behaving oddly and mysteriously. Also as a result he's kind of boring compared to Edward. And he too judges Edward in relation to what is considered normal. Of course, Edward being "weird" is also foreshadowing of revelations to come.



Bella was concerned with not standing out in her new school, but here she is already causing someone she doesn't know to switch classes to get away from her. Edward's behavior makes Bella feel like she's never going to fit in in Forks.



CHAPTER 2

The next day is better: it's not raining, and Bella now recognizes some of her classmates. It's flattering that Mike and Eric seem to be vying for her attention, too. But Bella's day is still miserable, especially since she spends all morning wondering how to confront Edward. When she enters the cafeteria with Jessica, though, Edward isn't with his siblings. He doesn't show up for lunch at all. After lunch, Mike accompanies Bella to biology. Edward isn't there, so Bella breathes a sigh of relief. She knows she's going to have to do something about Mike—he's getting too friendly. She spends all of biology wondering if Edward isn't in school because of her.

When school is over, Bella heads for the grocery store. She discovered last night that Charlie can't cook, so she asked to take over the shopping and food prep. When she gets home, Bella preps some steak and potatoes and then checks her email. She has three frantic emails from Mom. Bella writes Mom back and tells her about the truck. Then, she starts reading [Wuthering Heights](#) for school.

Over dinner later, Bella tells Charlie about Mike and then asks if he knows of the Cullens; the kids, she says, are "different." Charlie looks angry. He says that Dr. Cullen is brilliant, and that the town is lucky to have him. He was concerned at first, but all the Cullen kids are polite and nice; none of them have caused trouble—unlike some local kids. The family also "stick[s] together the way a family should." Bella says that they seem nice, and that they're all attractive. With a laugh, Charlie replies that she should see Dr. Cullen—the nurses at the hospital swoon over him.

The rest of Bella's week is uneventful. Edward doesn't come back to school, and Mike invites Bella to La Push Ocean Park in two weeks. By Friday, Bella isn't worried about Edward. Her first weekend in Forks is uneventful; she cleans, does homework, and checks out the local library. On Monday, kids greet her when she gets to school. Bella is thrilled; she's more comfortable here than she thought she'd ever be. But when she and Mike step outside after English, Bella's day gets much worse—it's snowing, and she hates snow. Bella hurries away from Mike after someone, presumably Eric, throws a snowball at him.

Though Bella frames it as a nice change that Mike and Eric are so interested in her, she implies that she's not into a romantic relationship right now. And in general, this passage illustrates how conflicted Bella is about all the attention she's getting in Forks. She likes it on one level, but it also means that she has to reevaluate how she sees herself and do things she's never done before—like turn down Mike's advances. And as all of this is going on, her thoughts remain focused on Edward.



*Again, Bella demonstrates her maturity by so readily taking over food prep now that she lives with Charlie—it seems as though she probably did the same thing when she lived with Mom, given that Bella earlier expressed concern about Mom's ability to feed herself. Bella seems to have been taking care of herself for some time. [Wuthering Heights](#), full of gothic drama and dramatic love affairs between people who seem almost magnetically attracted to each other, foreshadows in a way the Gothic elements and intense romantic drama of *Twilight*.*



In talking about the Cullen kids in particular, Charlie acknowledges that he had some ideas about how a family of adopted and foster teens was going to act—and they've defied all his expectations. Unlike Jessica, Charlie is open to his expectations being defied, and changing his mind. Charlie recognizes that the Cullen family is better at supporting each other than other, more conventional families are.



Things seem to be evening out for Bella and going better than expected. The upside of having such a small class is that it doesn't take long to get to know people, and aside from Edward, people seem genuinely interested in hanging out with and getting to know Bella. But as comfortable as Bella is getting in Forks, the weather still poses a problem for her—she still misses the Phoenix sun and heat, and the freezing snow makes it harder for her to believe she'll feel truly comfortable here.



Thanks to the snow, Bella is already on edge when she gets to the cafeteria. But when she sees five people sitting at the Cullens' table, she freezes. She tells Jessica that she feels sick, and she only buys a soda. The one time she sneaks a look at the Cullens, they're all laughing. Studying Edward, Bella decides he has a bit more color today. Jessica interrupts Bella's thoughts to ask what she's looking at—and at that instant, Edward meets Bella's eyes. He doesn't look unfriendly this time. Jessica laughs at Bella as Mike invites everyone to a snowball fight after school.

Bella is thrilled when she exits the cafeteria and finds that the snow has turned to rain. In the biology classroom, Bella is relieved to find her table empty. But a few minutes later, Edward sits down and introduces himself politely. Bella can't figure out if she made up his rudeness last week, and she asks how he knows to call her Bella when everyone else calls her Isabella at first. He drops the subject as the teacher passes out supplies for their lab. Bella has already done this lab, so she and Edward identify the phases of mitosis on slides with little effort. The one time their hands touch, Edward's hand is ice cold.

Bella and Edward are the first group to finish. They sit in awkward silence for a moment until Bella realizes what's different about Edward. She asks if he got contacts; his eyes are a golden color now, when they were black last week. He says he didn't. Just then, the teacher comes to check their work. He accuses Edward of doing the lab himself, but Bella shares that she was in an advanced placement program in Phoenix.

Edward tries to make small talk with Bella about the snow. Bella feels paranoid; it's almost like Edward somehow knows she hates it. She says, truthfully, that she doesn't like it in Forks, and she tells him why she decided to come: Mom married to a minor league baseball player and wanted to travel with him, and Bella decided to move so that Mom could be happy. Edward suggests that this doesn't sound fair, and he says he's sure that Bella is suffering more than she's letting on. This is annoying, but when Edward asks if he's annoying her, Bella says that she's just annoyed that she's so easy to read. Edward replies that she's actually very hard to read.

Bella has spent the last week wondering what's up with Edward and wondering what she possibly could've done to make him treat her so poorly in biology class, and so this moment of eye-to-eye contact is a kind of shock, for both Bella and the reader. That Edward doesn't look unfriendly now also makes things more complicated.



Edward's abrupt about-face is unsettling for Bella—she seems to have expected more rudeness from him in the event he did return to class. Meanwhile, that he learned to call her Bella instead of Isabella, shows either that Edward pays attention to what's going on around him, or is paying special attention to Bella just as Bella has been focused on him. Bella again demonstrates her intelligence during the lab, and Edward matches her—they are a lab team of equals. Edward's ice cold hands, of course, foreshadow future revelations, while the focus on the fact of that touch further amplifies Bella's physical awareness of Edward.



Like Edward, Bella is very observant (recall that she also noted during lunch that Edward has more color today). At this point, though, being so observant is just awkward, as it suggests that both Bella and Edward are paying closer attention to each other than perhaps they think is appropriate. Meanwhile, the teacher's behavior seems pretty sexist, and generally displays an underestimation of Bella's abilities.



At this point in Bella and Edward's relationship, it seems like Edward is paying too much attention to Bella—especially when, only a week ago, he acted like he hated her. Meanwhile, Bella reveals that she has no issue putting others first and ensuring their happiness above her own. It's most important to her to care for others, even if it means doing something she doesn't like (such as moving to Forks). Edward's response indicates that he'd like to try to empathize, but that he doesn't entirely understand Bella's tendency toward self-sacrifice and sees it as putting her in the position of the victim. The comment about Bella being hard to read foreshadows future revelations.



The teacher calls the class to attention, but Bella watches Edward clench his fists and lean away again. Once again, Edward disappears as soon as the bell rings. Mike walks over and groans that Bella was lucky to get to work with Edward on such a hard lab, but Bella says she didn't have a hard time. They walk to gym class together. When school is over, Bella climbs into her truck. She looks around and notices Edward staring at her, which causes her to almost back out in front of another car. When she finally does pull out, she notices Edward laughing.

Edward might be something of an outcast in the student body, but Mike implies here that Edward is known to be very smart—again making clear that he is Bella's intellectual equal. When Bella starts to notice Edward watching her it's uncomfortable to acknowledge that she's paying so much attention to him, and that he's doing the same to her. Almost pulling out in front of another car foreshadows that paying so much attention to each other could have dire consequences.



CHAPTER 3

The next morning, Bella wakes up to snow and ice. Charlie is already gone when she gets downstairs, so she eats and wonders why she's excited to go to school and see Edward. She should be embarrassed and suspicious; she embarrassed herself with her babbling yesterday, and he's still hostile. But Bella tells herself to focus, and she tiptoes across the ice to her truck. As she drives to school, she wonders why the boys here, like Mike and Eric, are so interested in her when boys never paid her any attention in Phoenix. Once she gets to school, Bella realizes why driving was easy: Charlie put chains on her tires. Bella isn't used to kindness like this, and her throat feels tight.

Edward's behavior, as unsettling and confusing as it may be, is nevertheless exciting for Bella—it's drawing her in and making her more interested in him. The icy roads again imply that Forks contains dangers for Bella, and isn't generally a place that she wants to be. But it also opens an opportunity for Charlie to show a level of care and concern for Bella that, evidently, her mother never had the wherewithal to show.



As Bella stares at her tires, she hears a screeching sound. She looks up to see Edward staring at her from four cars down and a van skidding toward her. Suddenly, something hits Bella hard, and her head hits the ice. But the van is still coming—and this time, two hands reach out to stop it from crushing Bella's legs. People start to scream as Edward asks Bella if she's okay. Bella asks how he got to her so fast, but Edward says he was right next to her the entire time. They argue, and Edward begs Bella to play along. A minute later, the EMTs arrive and put Bella onto a stretcher with an embarrassing neck brace. It's even more humiliating when Charlie pulls into the parking lot and begins asking an EMT questions.

Bella is sure of what she saw: Edward was nowhere near close enough to save her, and yet he somehow managed to do just that. Clearly, there's something odd going on with Edward, perhaps something supernatural. Regardless of what Bella saw or didn't see, though, the fact remains that Edward shows himself to be noble and kind here—he seemingly put himself in danger to save Bella from certain death. The way he pays attention to her might be dangerous, but also can offer her protection. His request that she play along only furthers Edward's mystery.



Bella tunes out Charlie and thinks of what happened—there's a dent in the van the shape of Edward's shoulders, and his siblings are watching disapprovingly. When Bella finally gets to the hospital, she rips off the neck brace. A moment later, nurses wheel the van's driver, a boy named Tyler, in next to Bella. He looks awful and keeps apologizing, and he notes that he didn't see Edward either. Bella is wheeled away for X-rays, and when she returns, Tyler keeps apologizing. Bella pretends to sleep until Edward appears. She glares at him, but he says he brought the doctor so she can go home.

Bella starts putting together here that what Edward did isn't something any normal human should be able to do—perhaps Edward is something more. But again, this episode is mostly just wildly embarrassing for her. Bella has to wear the neck brace (which marks her as an invalid), and she has to undergo imaging when she's sure she's fine. Edward's mysterious strength is juxtaposed with Bella's ungainly weakness.



Dr. Cullen comes around the corner, and Bella's jaw drops—he's young, blond, and extremely handsome. He looks at Bella's X-rays, checks her head, and tells her to go meet Charlie in the waiting room. He also notes that most of the school is in the waiting room. Bella is distraught; she stumbles as she gets out of bed. Dr. Cullen says that Bella was lucky, but Bella says that she was lucky *Edward* was next to her. Dr. Cullen's demeanor suddenly changes; he clearly knows something.

As soon as Dr. Cullen leaves, Bella asks Edward to speak privately. They move into the hallway, and suddenly, Edward looks intimidating and unfriendly. He insists he doesn't have to explain himself since he saved her life, and he reminds Bella that she hit her head—she doesn't remember what happened. Bella says she wants the truth, and she shares what she saw: Edward's hands left dents in the van, and he held it up to save her legs. Bella feels ready to cry as Edward notes that no one will believe her. Bella says she doesn't want to tell people—she just wants the truth. She asks why Edward bothered to save her, and he says he doesn't know and hurries away.

Bella composes herself and then enters the waiting room. She assures Charlie she's fine and urges him to leave; she doesn't want to talk to anyone else. Bella thinks that given Edward's odd behavior, her story must be right. Charlie pulls her out of her reverie when they get home: he told Mom what happened. Bella dutifully calls Mom and assures her she's fine. She refuses to head back to Phoenix, in part because she's so intrigued by how mysterious Edward is. As soon as it's early enough to justify going to bed, Bella does—and she dreams of Edward.

CHAPTER 4

In Bella's dream, she chases Edward—who glows—through the darkness, but she can't catch him. After this, she dreams about him almost every night. The following month is tense and embarrassing: Tyler follows Bella everywhere, and Mike and Eric's fight for Bella's attention becomes more obvious. No one believes Bella that Edward is the hero, and nobody noticed that he was standing so far away before he saved her. Bella realizes that she's pitiful: nobody notices Edward as much as she does. Edward and Bella continue to sit next to each other in biology, and he studiously ignores her. The one time Bella tries to talk to him, he only nods. She continues to dream of him, which makes her miserable and depressed.

Bella wants to look normal and doesn't want to be the center of attention, so learning her classmates are all in the waiting room is the worst news she could possibly get. Her desire to not be the center of attention also seems to be why Bella finds Edward's attention so disconcerting. Dr. Cullen's response to Bella's mention of Edward extends the mysteries around Edward to his entire family.



An honest person who doesn't want attention of any sort, Bella just wants to know what happened so she can feel secure and stop questioning her sanity. When Edward overtly questions her sanity here, he's trying to make her doubt herself—which, in turn, makes Bella feel even more off balance. But Edward's response also begs the question of why he's so interested in convincing Bella she saw something other than what she did. He seems to have something to hide.



Bella is being pulled in multiple directions: Edward's behavior is so odd and unexpected that it's all she can think about. But Bella also has to deal with the realities of her day-to-day life, which means trying to avoid her classmates and placate Mom. Charlie shows how much he cares for Bella and still wants to be on good terms with Mom when he calls her about the accident—he's not willing to let Bella keep secrets from either of them.



Bella's dream of Edward reflects how curious and almost obsessed she's becoming with him. To her, he's a mystery to solve: how does someone go from shockingly mean, to polite, to a savior, to this? But she also realizes that nobody spends as much time thinking about Edward as she does. Calling her interest in Edward "pitiful" shows that Bella doesn't think she should be so interested in someone, for any reason. She finds her almost overwhelming interest in him to be a sign of personal weakness.



In February, Jessica calls Bella to ask her permission to invite Mike to the girls' choice dance in a few weeks. Bella urges Jessica to ask him and insists she's not going. But the next day at school, Jessica seems quiet—and in biology, Mike tells Bella he turned Jessica down in the hopes that Bella would ask him. Bella chastises Mike and insists she's not going to the dance—she's going to Seattle that Saturday. Mumbling, Mike agrees to accept Jessica's invitation. When Bella turns back to face front, she notices Edward staring at her with what looks like curiosity and frustration. Embarrassed, Bella looks down. It's pathetic that she cares so much that he's looking at her.

Bella ignores Edward all through biology, but when the bell rings, he says her name. He apologizes and says he knows he's being rude, but it's better if they're not friends. Suddenly enraged, Bella says Edward should've figured that out earlier, since now he clearly regrets not letting her die. Edward is flabbergasted but grows immediately angry and tells Bella that she doesn't understand anything. Bella attempts to sweep out of the room dramatically, but she drops her books. Edward picks them up for her.

After gym, Bella heads for her truck. Eric is leaning against it. He awkwardly asks her to the dance, but Bella tells him she'll be in Seattle. As Eric shuffles away, Bella hears a chuckle. Edward is walking past and is trying to look like he's not listening. Angry, Bella gets in her truck and pulls out quickly—but Edward is faster and backs out in front of her. He stops so that his siblings can climb in. Cars pile up behind Bella. Tyler gets out of his car, taps on Bella's window, and asks her to ask him to the spring dance. Bella tells him that she'll be in Seattle. Tyler says that's fine—there's still prom. Bella looks forward, shocked, and can tell that Edward is laughing.

To distract herself, Bella decides to make chicken enchiladas for dinner. The phone rings as she's cooking. It's Jessica, elated that Mike accepted her invitation to the dance. Bella suggests innocently that Angela should ask Eric, and that a standoffish girl named Lauren should ask Tyler. Once Jessica hangs up, Bella tries to figure out what Edward means by saying that they're better off not being friends. He's obviously not interested, even though he's "perfect" and "beautiful." Bella vows to leave him alone and then escape Forks by attending college in Hawaii. Later, over dinner, Bella convinces Charlie to let her go to Seattle next Saturday by herself—and assures him she's not going to the dance.

Bella has made it pretty clear that she doesn't like Mike. So it's no big deal for her to tell Jessica to ask him and, hopefully, draw his attentions away from Bella. But Mike shows that he has no interest in allowing the girls to manipulate his affections like this—he likes Bella, and he's going to try his best to convince her that she should reciprocate his feelings. Again, Bella suggests that she shouldn't care about Edward so much when she describes herself as "pathetic."



Part of what makes Bella so angry is that Edward's insistence that they shouldn't be friends is so cryptic—why shouldn't they be friends? It only heightens the mystery. One thing that does seem clear at this point is that Edward certainly does not regret saving her from the van. Twilight continues to intensify the mystery around Edward.



Bella and Edward are engaging in a sort of battle of wills: who can make the biggest point while still supposedly ignoring the other? This develops them both as stubborn people. Tyler, too, shows how stubborn he is—and how unwilling he is to listen to what Bella is saying (that she's not interested in dating him). Insisting he's going to take her to prom reads as a gross overstep.



To Bella, the dance presents a perfect opportunity to strengthen her relationship with Jessica (by insisting Mike go with her) and get rid of her other suitors. In this way, she can manipulate her peers so she feels more comfortable in Forks. Then, as she thinks about Edward, it becomes clear that Bella is starting to fall for him—describing him as "perfect" and "beautiful" shows that she's drawn in by his physical attributes. The mystery he presents just makes him all the more attractive.



The next morning, Bella parks far away from Edward's **Volvo**. She drops her keys in a puddle, and Edward appears to pick them up. His eyes are the color of honey. Bella asks why he held up traffic yesterday, and Edward snickers that Tyler deserved a chance. Bella angrily accuses him of trying to "irritate [her] to death." Edward calls her absurd, but he catches up to her and asks if she'd like a ride to Seattle. Stunned, Bella refuses. She reminds Edward that he doesn't want to be friends, but Edward clarifies—they just *shouldn't* be friends. He insists he's tired of staying away from her and formally invites her to go to Seattle. Then, before he turns to leave, he warns her to stay away from him.

Edward seems to be being purposefully confusing and cagey—a good indicator that he has something to hide. Implying that he wants to be friends with Bella, but that they shouldn't be friends also suggests that Edward has been trying and failing to stay away from her—he clearly wants to be around her, even if he also thinks that's not the best course of action. And though Bella finds him obnoxious, she can't help but notice how handsome he is (as when she comments again on the color of his eyes).



CHAPTER 5

Bella is in such a daze after her conversation with Edward that she barely notices that she's late for class. Though Mike and Eric are a bit curt with her, Mike still invites Bella to the beach this weekend—it's supposed to be nice. The rest of Bella's morning passes in a blur. She's frightened by the time lunch rolls around; how is Edward going to act? But Edward isn't sitting with his siblings. Disappointed, Bella buys a lemonade and sits down with Jessica. A moment later, though, Jessica hisses that Edward is staring at Bella and is sitting alone. Once Bella meets Edward's eyes, he beckons to her. Bella makes an excuse to Jessica and hurries to Edward.

As Bella spends more time with Edward, she becomes increasingly tuned in to his every move. He is starting to fill her entire world. But this doesn't mean that her interest is entirely positive: she is simultaneously drawn to Edward and aware of being somewhat gas-lighted by him. His erratic behavior has her constantly nervous about how he will act toward her, and it seems as if part of her enjoys that nervousness as a kind of thrill.



Bella sits down, awed by Edward's beauty. She remarks that them sitting together is odd, but Edward says that if he's going to hell, he should "do it thoroughly." He doesn't explain what he means, but he does say Bella's friends are mad that he "stole" her. He says that he might not give Bella back and then explains that he's giving up. He's tired of trying to stay away from Bella, and he's not going to be good again. Bella is extremely confused and asks if they're friends. Edward says they can try, but he won't be a good friend. If Bella is smart, he says, she'd avoid him.

Edward is being purposefully cagey, but he still makes one thing very clear: he shouldn't be associating with Bella. His reasons are still a mystery, but he nevertheless makes clear that he both believes that being around her makes him bad, but that he can't resist. It's also interesting that Edward refers to inviting Bella to sit with him as "stealing" her. His word choice objectifies her and could indicate controlling behavior, but Bella doesn't seem to see this as a bad thing.



Bella looks down, more confused than ever. When Edward asks what she's thinking, she says she's trying to figure out what he is. Her theories are too embarrassing to share. Edward deems this frustrating—but Bella snaps that it's frustrating when someone speaks cryptically, saves your life "under impossible circumstances," ignores you, and then never explains anything. Bella hates double standards. After a few tense moments, Bella asks Edward if, in the future, he'd warn her before ignoring her again. He agrees, but he asks for one of Bella's theories in return.

It's telling that Edward doesn't object to or take issue with Bella trying to figure out what he is—this confirms that he might be something other than human. Bella also tries to make it clear to Edward that his actions do have consequences: being so evasive and cryptic is maddening and feels mean, especially when he then won't respect Bella's desire to keep her own secrets.



After some coaxing, Bella asks if Edward was bitten by a radioactive spider. He scoffs, but Bella vows that she's going to figure it out. Edward asks her not to—he could be the bad guy, not the superhero. Some things suddenly make sense, and Bella asks if Edward is dangerous. He just stares at her with an odd look, and Bella says she doesn't believe he's bad. Edward says Bella is wrong. Bella stares at Edward in silence until she realizes the cafeteria is nearly empty. She's going to be late for biology. Edward says he's not going today and tells Bella goodbye.

Bella races to class. Moments later, the teacher comes in with some boxes. He hands out supplies and explains that they're finding out their blood types today in preparation for a blood drive. Bella puts her cheek against her desk and tries to stay conscious. She tells the teacher she knows her blood type and is feeling faint. Mike offers to take Bella to the nurse. Outside, Bella asks to sit down. She slumps until her cheek is on the concrete. She hears Edward's voice asking Mike what happened. Edward insists that he'll take Bella to the nurse, and before either Bella or Mike can protest, he scoops Bella up.

Edward seems amused that Bella faints at the sight of blood. He carries her to the office and into the infirmary, settling her on a cot. When the nurse tries to send Edward back to class, Edward insists that he's supposed to stay with Bella. Just as the nurse returns with an ice pack for Bella, the secretary, Ms. Cope, says there's another fainter coming in. Feeling better, Bella hops up and stands aside so that Mike can help another classmate in, who is bleeding from the science experiment. She complies when Edward tells her to leave the room immediately, and leaves himself. Outside the infirmary, she explains that she listened to him because she could smell the blood, but Edward is skeptical. When she describes the smell as rusty and salty, he stares at her with an "unfathomable expression."

Just then, Mike appears to check on Bella, and she insists she can't go back to class—she'll just faint again. Mike looks disappointed, but he asks if she's coming to the beach. Bella assures him that she's coming and notices Mike throwing Edward dirty stares. Finally, Mike leaves. Bella groans that she has gym next, and Edward says he can fix that. He tells Bella to sit and look pale. Then, Edward softly tells Ms. Cope that Bella isn't well enough to stay at school; he'd like to take her home. Ms. Cope agrees.

Bella makes an important distinction here: things (or people) can be dangerous without being bad. In other words, just because someone or something has the ability to do harm doesn't mean they're evil. It seems likely that Bella comes to this conclusion in part because she's so intrigued by Edward, but this nevertheless shows Bella gathering information and making an informed decision (rather than making assumptions). In contrast, Edward seems to believe that his being dangerous naturally makes him bad. Bella's comment about Edward getting bitten by a radioactive spider is funny because she means it as a silly joke and yet it is so close to being true.



Mike presumably offers to take Bella to the nurse because he has a crush on her. The ease with which Edward swoops in establishes him as not even a rival with Mike for Bella's attention—he's on another level than Mike. Meanwhile, Edward missing class when they are checking their blood types is another clue about him. Bella's seeming aversion to blood similarly raises the stakes around blood.



Even if Bella wasn't thrilled about Edward helping her when he picked her up, his willingness to help her is more evidence that Edward isn't bad or evil. Rather, he seems to honestly care about Bella's wellbeing. His expression when Bella describes the smell of blood also offers some clues as to what he might be—someone (or something) that is, perhaps, more attuned to the scent of blood than the average person. Bella's own attunement to blood further indicates a kind of match between her and Edward.



It's important to Mike to make sure Edward notices that Bella is accepting his invitation to the beach—and that Mike is very purposefully not inviting Edward. As Mike does this, though, he's still ignoring the fact that Bella doesn't want to date him, thereby prioritizing his own wants over hers. When Edward rescues Bella from gym class, he again shows that he's caring and not a bad guy. It also once again shows that Mike is no rival to him for Bella's attention.



Outside, Bella asks Edward if he's joining the beach group. It isn't until Bella shares that they're going to First Beach in La Push that Edward declines. As they reach the parking lot, Edward grabs Bella's jacket to stop her from going to her truck. He promises that his sister Alice will drop the truck off later; he's taking Bella home. Edward drags Bella to his **Volvo** by her coat and she stumbles against the car. Angry, but aware that she can't outrun him, Bella gets in.

Edward cranks the heat and turns the music down. Bella is surprised that it's Debussy's *Claire de Lune*, one of her favorite songs. Edward reveals that it's also one of his favorites. As they drive, he asks Bella what her mom is like. Bella describes Mom as pretty, eccentric, and her best friend. Sounding frustrated, Edward asks Bella how old she is. Bella says she's 17, but Edward insists she sounds older. Bella laughs that Mom jokes that Bella was born middle-aged. For that matter, she notes, Edward doesn't seem much like a 17-year-old, either. Edward asks if Bella approves of Phil, and if Mom would let Bella make her own choices about partners. They joke that Bella can't choose someone too scary—and Edward asks if he's scary. Bella says he could be, but she's not afraid.

To change the subject, Bella asks Edward about his family. Curtly, he explains that the Cullens adopted him after his parents died. Then, he says he has to hurry back to school to pick up his siblings. He wishes Bella a good time at the beach and says he's skipping school tomorrow; he and Emmett are going hiking. Before Bella gets out of the car, Edward tells her to be careful—she seems like the kind of person who “attracts accidents.” Bella hurries out of the car, annoyed, and slams the door.

CHAPTER 6

At school the next day, the jokes about Bella fainting during biology class are extremely annoying. But even worse, Jessica pesters Bella about her lunchtime conversation with Edward yesterday. During lunch, Bella watches the remaining Cullens talk while Mike chatters about the beach trip tomorrow. Lauren keeps shooting Bella dirty looks—and on the way out of the cafeteria, Bella hears Lauren ask why Bella doesn't just sit with the Cullens.

Edward's refusal to go to the beach once he realizes where exactly they're going is another red flag; what is it about La Push that Edward doesn't like? Then, the way this passage describes Edward forcing Bella to take his car illuminates the power imbalance between them. Bella can be angry and upset with Edward, but she can't physically get her way.



As they spend more time together, Bella and Edward learn that they have more in common than they thought. They both enjoy classical piano music, and they're both mature for their age. This offers hope that Bella might be able to connect with Edward where she struggles to connect with other kids her own age. Edward also seems oddly intent on figuring out if and how much Bella is afraid of him. His interest suggests that he sees himself as frightening—and is, perhaps, surprised that Bella doesn't entirely agree.



Edward seems oddly unwilling to talk about his family, but he nevertheless seems to corroborate what Charlie said about the Cullens: that they're close-knit and stick together. He also shows again that he cares for Bella and doesn't want her to get hurt, even if his concern doesn't go over so well with Bella herself.



Bella has been worried about fitting in Forks. Now her association with Edward has made those who already judge the Cullens for being different see Bella as also being different. Meanwhile, the social life of high school continues, with Jessica wanting gossip, and Mike focused on the beach outing—that all of this pales in comparison to the intensity of Bella's focus on Edward emphasizes the intensity of their growing relationship.



On Saturday morning, Bella is surprised to wake up to sunshine. She drives to Mike's parents' store and joins the group of kids in the parking lot, where Lauren gives her a dirty look again. Though Bella agrees to ride with Mike in the Suburban, she lets Jessica sit next to him. She stares out the window during the drive and takes in the breathtaking sight of First Beach when they arrive. First Beach is a pebble beach, and it's cool and windy. Mike leads everyone down to a circle of driftwood logs and starts a fire.

Bella accompanies some boys to the tidepools rather than staying at the campfire with Lauren. She hikes carefully and then sits on the rocks so that she doesn't fall and embarrass herself. Eventually, she heads back to the beach with the boys. The group has expanded since they left—Quileute teenagers from the reservation have joined the group from Forks. Bella accepts a sandwich and sits next to Angela, who fortunately isn't talkative. As the afternoon wears on, the group splits up again for various activities.

Bella stays at the campfire and after a bit, a boy named Jacob comes over. He introduces himself and says that Bella has his dad's old truck; he's Billy Black's son. Bella doesn't remember Jacob from her childhood summers in Forks, but she remembers his older twin sisters. They talk about the truck, and Jacob shares that he builds cars. When Jacob flashes a huge smile at Bella, Lauren notices and asks how they know each other. Then, she remarks that nobody thought to invite the Cullens. The tall, older Quileute boy says that the Cullens don't come here in a tone that ends the conversation. Bella is a bit taken aback.

As Jacob asks Bella how she likes Forks, Bella has an idea—hopefully Jacob is too young and inexperienced to see through her pitiful flirting attempts. She invites him to walk on the beach with her, tells him he looks much older than 15, and then asks what the older boy meant about the Cullens not coming here. Jacob explains that the Cullens aren't allowed on the reservation. He's not supposed to say why, but he then asks Bella if she likes scary stories. They take a seat on a log and Jacob says that supposedly, the Quileutes are descended from wolves. There are also old legends about "the cold ones." Jacob gives Bella a look that conveys he doesn't put much stock in this.

Bella may object to Jessica's interest in her budding relationship with Edward, but she still wants to stay in Jessica's good graces. So letting Jessica sit next to Mike serves two purposes: Bella can give Jessica what she wants, while also distancing herself from Mike's unwanted advances.



Doing everything in her power to not fall doesn't just guard against Bella embarrassing herself. It also means that these boys won't have any opportunities to "rescue" her and vie for her attention that way. The Quileute teens' arrival also represents a way for Bella to attract less attention; with more kids, there are necessarily more people to pay attention to.



Lauren seems to resent that Bella is popular with nearly everyone. Her meanness makes it seem like Bella is still going to struggle to fit in in Forks. Jacob, though, offers Bella hope—someone else likes her, and she doesn't make it seem as though Jacob is necessarily interested in her romantically. The older Quileute boy's phrasing about the Cullens not coming here reads as ominous, especially given that Edward only refused to come to the beach once he learned the group was headed for La Push.



Though Bella seems to think of herself as wholly incapable of flirting with boys, she nevertheless has four boys at Forks High fighting for her attention—and she wins Jacob over without much effort. Indeed, his willingness to tell Bella this old Quileute legend suggests that he's trying to impress her—her flirting, even if it's "pitiful," is working. Though Jacob doesn't believe this legend at all, it nevertheless introduces a supernatural element—and the reference to "cold ones" echoes the detail that Edward's hand was frigid when Bella touched it.



Jacob explains that his great-grandfather made a treaty with the Cullens to stay off Quileute land, since the cold ones and the werewolves are natural enemies. The Cullens, though, weren't like other cold ones and supposedly weren't dangerous. The deal was that the Cullens would stay off Quileute land, and in return, the Quileutes wouldn't expose the cold ones to white people. Bella doesn't get it; she asks why they made the treaty if the Cullens weren't dangerous. Jacob says that the cold ones are always dangerous for humans, even if, like the Cullens, they're "civilized" and hunt animals instead of humans. Then, Jacob says the Cullens of today aren't descended from the cold ones his great-grandfather met—they're the *same* Cullens.

Bella is floored, which seems to spur Jacob on. She asks what the cold ones actually are, and Jacob says they're vampires. Jacob is thrilled that Bella has goosebumps and says it's no wonder Billy doesn't want them talking about it. But then, worried, Jacob begs Bella to not tell Charlie about the story—Charlie was incensed when he learned that some Quileutes weren't going to go to the county hospital after Dr. Cullen got his job there.

Just then, Mike and Jessica appear. Mike is relieved to have found Bella, and Jacob picks up on Mike's obvious crush. Bella assures Jacob that Mike isn't her boyfriend and invites Jacob to come visit her in Forks, once he has his license. Mike says that everyone's getting ready to go, so Bella follows him back to the parking lot.

CHAPTER 7

When Bella gets home, she tells Charlie that she has a lot of homework, locks herself in her room, and puts in headphones. She turns on music loud enough to hurt her ears and listens to it on repeat until she falls asleep. Bella can tell she's dreaming when she wakes up somewhere in the forest near the ocean. Jacob is trying to pull her into the forest and tells her to run, but he falls and turns into a wolf. Mike's voice tells Bella to run too, but Bella sees Edward beckon to her. He has sharp teeth and looks evil. Before Bella can move, the wolf flies at Edward, and the two fight. Then, Bella wakes up. It's 5:30 am.

Jacob's story offers several clues about what the Cullens are. At the same time, Jacob's story about the Cullens being different and hunting animals rather than humans both defines the potential danger of whatever kind Edward belongs to, but also seems to back up Bella's instinct that Edward himself isn't bad, even if he's dangerous. The Cullens might have the capacity to do harm, in other words, but they don't.



Jacob might not believe his story—but for Bella, hearing the word "vampire" makes a lot of things fall into place. If Edward is a vampire, for instance, it would make sense that he skipped the blood typing biology lab. Interestingly, Jacob seems far more willing than his father to judge the Cullens on how they act—whereas Billy sees the Cullens only as vampires and can't see beyond that to judge them based on how they behave.



Again, Bella's perception of herself as an inept flirt seems to be very wrong—now, Jacob acts jealous of Mike. It's also worth noting that Bella has a lot of power in these situations as she manipulates the boys into doing what she wants.



Dreams may be just Bella's subconscious working things out, but the dream nevertheless throws into sharp relief the choice Bella is going to have to make. Will she choose to listen to the people, like Jacob and Mike (and to a degree, Edward himself) who insist that Edward is dangerous and should be avoided? Or does she give in to her interest in Edward, no matter the danger it poses to her?



It's no use trying to go back to sleep, so Bella gets ready for her day and boots up her computer. She searches "vampire" and peruses a website called "Vampires A-Z." Bella reads through world legends about vampires, looking for anything familiar or plausible. Many of them seem like stories meant to explain high rates of child mortality or to excuse male infidelity. But three stand out: one that looks like pale humans, one that is fast enough to massacre towns in minutes, and an Italian kind that's supposed to be good. That last one is a relief, but none of the legends line up with Jacob's story. Furthermore, Bella knows that vampires can't come out during the day.

Annoyed and embarrassed by her internet search, Bella decides she has to get out of the house. She hikes into the forest from the backyard, carefully following the trail. When she comes to a fallen tree, she sits down amongst the ferns and logs. The forest looks eerily like it did in her dream last night; here, it's easier to believe that vampires might exist.

Bella knows she has two questions to answer. First, was anything Jacob said true? It seems ridiculous, but Edward is also gorgeous, has saved Bella with his impossible strength, and he never eats. He speaks like he's from a different era, and he says he's dangerous. If the Cullens aren't vampires, they're at least not human. The second question is what Bella is going to do if it's true. She can't tell anyone. She can avoid Edward, but this makes Bella feel like she's in pain. Or she can do nothing—after all, even if Edward is evil, he still saved her. Bella also realizes that Edward in real life is nothing like the Edward in her dream last night—and when the wolf attacked Edward in her dream, she was afraid *for* Edward.

Bella knows she has her answer. It doesn't feel like a choice at all; no matter what's true, she only wants to be near Edward. Shivering, Bella gets up and hurries home. She spends the afternoon writing a paper on [Macbeth](#). She's at peace—making decisions is always hard for her, but it's a relief to have made a choice. Charlie gets home late in the evening with fish he caught, and Bella decides to get a fish cookbook in Seattle. She feels chills as the thought of going to Seattle with Edward.

It's sunny again the next morning. Bella shocks Charlie at breakfast with her upbeat demeanor and leaves for school early. She settles on the benches by the cafeteria and sketches on her homework. Mike calls to Bella and comes to join her. He tucks a lock of hair behind her ear, and then the subject turns to their [Macbeth](#) essay, which is due on Wednesday. Deflated, Mike says he'll have to get started on it instead of going on a date with Bella. Bella tells Mike that Jessica's feelings would be hurt if they dated.

As mythical beings that supposedly don't exist, Bella is already running into issues as she researches vampires. Legends about mythical beings, like vampires, often arise to explain things that people don't know how to explain any other way—like child mortality. But Bella also can't ignore that some of these legends seem to match up with what she's observed in Edward. Bella is trying to marry her rational, sensible side with seemingly fantastical things that she's seen.



Because Bella has an easier time believing in vampires when she is out in the forest, the novel starts to equate vampires with the natural world. This also implies that vampires, if they do exist, are something natural—just like the ferns and logs.



As Bella thinks through her conundrum, it's worth noting that she's compiling all the information she's gathered and is trying to make a rational decision. She is, importantly, not jumping to conclusions that Edward is evil just because he might be a vampire. But even as she tries to be rational about all of this, she still finds that her emotions are getting in the way. Feeling pain when she thinks about avoiding Edward speaks to how interested in and connected to Edward she already feels—and as she thinks about her dream again, she reveals that she also wants to protect Edward.



When Bella makes this choice, it becomes clear that her all-encompassing interest in Edward is more important to her than any threat he might pose to her. So though Bella frames this as a rational choice, she's actually not making a very rational decision: she's prioritizing her lust and her emotional fulfillment over anything else.



Once Bella feels at peace and has made a choice about Edward, that the weather in Forks starts to cooperate. Bella misses the Phoenix sun, and it likely makes her feel more at home when Forks is so sunny. The connection between her choice and the weather also implies that Bella made the right choice—choosing Edward will make her happy and feel more at home.



Later, Jessica invites Bella to accompany her, Angela, and Lauren to shop for dresses in Port Angeles. Bella's anxiety climbs throughout the morning; she wants to study the Cullens to see if anything matches up with her research. But they're not in the cafeteria at lunch. Suddenly miserable, Bella agrees to go to Port Angeles. The rest of the day passes slowly, and Bella is thrilled to be able to go home after school and mope before going to Port Angeles. But Jessica calls to postpone until tomorrow—Mike asked her out. To distract herself, Bella emails Mom and then takes her collected works of Jane Austen outside to read. When she realizes that the Austen books are full of characters named Edward or Edmund, she stops reading and lies back in the sunshine.

When Charlie gets home, Bella jerks awake and follows him into the house. She watches TV with him after dinner and, during a commercial, she asks if she can go with Jessica to Port Angeles tomorrow. He doesn't understand why she's going dress shopping if she's not going to the dance, but he agrees. Bella offers to leave sandwich ingredients in the fridge for him.

The next day is almost exactly the same: the Cullens aren't at school, and Bella is miserable despite the nice weather. She's anxious to get out of Forks so she can stop looking for Edward everywhere. After school, Bella hops into Jessica's car. They pick up Angela and head out of Forks.

CHAPTER 8

Bella, Jessica, and Angela make it to Port Angeles by four. Jessica chatters on about her date with Mike as she heads for the one big department store in town, a few blocks from the picturesque boardwalk. As the girls head for the dress racks, Jessica is shocked that Bella hasn't gone to a dance or on a date before—the boys at school all seem to love her. Jessica also mentions that Tyler is going to ask Bella to prom. Bella is annoyed, especially when Jessica notes that this is why Lauren doesn't like Bella.

In this passage, Bella's struggle to connect with her human classmates comes to the forefront. Going to Port Angeles with Jessica is, Bella suggests, only a way to distract herself from the Cullens' absence. Bella's heightened emotional state as she thinks about the Cullens (and casts aside Jane Austen) also drives home how obsessed she is with Edward. His absence is plunging her deep into despair, while presumably, she'd be thrilled if Edward were in school.



Charlie might not get Bella's desire to go to Port Angeles, but he nevertheless wants her to be happy in Forks and make friends. He supports her by allowing her to form connections, while Bella supports Charlie in return by making sure he has something nutritious to eat.



It's an indicator of how much Bella looks forward to Edward's presence that she's unable to be happy despite the sunshine. Edward is becoming even more important to her than the sun—something she craved only a few days ago.



The shopping trip is useful for Bella in that she's gleaned important information about her status in Forks. Now, she knows that she's somehow more attractive to boys here than she's ever been, and this is causing problems with her female peers at school. Lauren, at least, sees Bella as a temptress and as stealing the eligible boys at school.



As Bella helps Angela choose shoes, she awkwardly asks if the Cullens skip school a lot. Angela says they go camping whenever it's nice. Jessica and Angela find shoes and accessories faster than expected, so Bella excuses herself to go to a bookstore and tells her friends she'll meet them at the Italian restaurant on the boardwalk in an hour. Bella finds the bookstore quickly, but it's not the kind of bookstore she needs—it's full of crystals and books on "spiritual healing." So, she wanders the streets, barely paying attention to her surroundings. She's too busy thinking about Edward—and she feels angry when she sees a silver **Volvo** parked nearby.

Bella knows she has to get her mood under control before she finds Angela and Jessica, so she keeps walking. It soon becomes apparent, though, that she's no longer in the touristy part of Port Angeles. She passes a group of four grimy men and ignores their catcalls. There are now warehouses all around, and it's starting to get dark. The roads are empty—and when Bella looks behind her, she notices that two men from the group are behind her. She hurries forward, aware that her pepper spray is at home. Bella considers dropping her wallet with her cash, but these men might not be interested in money.

Bella tries to tell herself the men aren't following her as she continues down the street. She navigates a few dead-ends and realizes with relief that the men are falling back. But then, just as she turns a corner and catches sight of a busy intersection ahead, she sees the other two men waiting for her on the deserted street. The men behind her haven't been following her—they've been herding her. Bella crosses the street, but the four men saunter closer. She mentally goes through the self-defense moves she knows and prepares to scream.

Suddenly, headlights come around the corner, and a car almost hits the men. Bella leaps into the road in front of the car, intent on making it stop—but it stops anyway. The door flies open, and Edward's voice tells her to get in. Bella instantly feels safe as she complies. Edward drives too quickly back toward the downtown and then suddenly stops the car. After a moment, Bella realizes Edward is livid. He asks if she's okay and then asks her to distract him. Confused, Bella tells him she's going to run Tyler over tomorrow because he's going to ask her to prom.

Angela essentially confirms that Edward isn't trying to avoid Bella, as he did a few weeks ago—it's normal for him to be out of school during periods of nice weather (which is of course another hint about his nature). Bella's excusing herself implies that she is distancing herself from her friends as she continues to focus emotionally on Edward. Even if he's not in Port Angeles, Bella can't help but focus on him and see reminders of him everywhere—such as in this silver Volvo.



Bella continues to prioritize other people's feelings above her own. Even as she is thinking about Edward, she still wants to respect her friends' time and their concerns. Meanwhile, Bella discovers that thinking so intently about Edward can be a dangerous proposition in the way that it blinds her to the world around her—her inattentiveness has put her in a vulnerable position, especially if these men are following her with the intent to hurt her.



These men are clearly evil—they're preparing to assault Bella, something that robs Bella of her agency. It seems to be an act of self-preservation when Bella runs through her self-defense moves but the passage also makes it very clear how powerless Bella is, given that she's an individual person facing four attackers.



Given that Edward's appearance calms Bella instantly, it's clear that Bella doesn't see Edward as dangerous. The human men who just tried to assault her are—but even though Edward is extremely angry right now, she doesn't feel any fear or apprehension. As Bella jokes about running Tyler over, Bella implies that she resents that Tyler is prioritizing his own desires over Bella's and not taking no for an answer.



Edward explains that he sometimes has issues with his temper, so he's trying to convince himself not to turn around and "hunt down" the men. Bella notices that it's past 6:30, so she notes that Jessica and Angela will be worrying about her. Edward promptly starts the car and drives to the Italian restaurant—Bella hadn't given any indication that was her destination, but she doesn't ask how he knew. He gets out of the car and says he's going to buy Bella dinner. Seeing Angela and Jessica on the sidewalk, he sends Bella to tell them of the change in plans.

Bella catches up to Jessica and Angela, and Edward asks if he can join the girls. Angela admits they already ate, and Bella insists she's not hungry. But Edward says he's going to buy Bella dinner, and he asks Jessica if it's okay if he drives Bella home. Angela steers Jessica away as Jessica gawks. Though Bella assures Edward that she's not hungry, he steers her into the restaurant.

A pretty hostess shows Bella and Edward to a booth. She seems dazzled by Edward, and when the waitress comes out, she also focuses exclusively on Edward. While the waitress is getting their Cokes, Edward asks Bella if she's feeling okay—he's expecting her to go into shock, since the men were going to assault her. Bella insists she's fine. At Edward's prodding, she orders ravioli; he orders nothing. When Bella starts to shiver, Edward passes her his jacket, which smells amazing. He also continues to push food at her, even when Bella insists she's fine. She says she feels safe with Edward, which seems to annoy him.

As Bella nibbles a breadstick, she comments that Edward tends to be in a better mood when his eyes are lighter. Edward looks flabbergasted, especially when Bella says she has new theories. The waitress interrupts by bringing Bella's food. Once she's gone, Bella says she has questions. Edward refuses to answer why he's in Port Angeles, but he plays along when Bella asks how it works if, hypothetically, someone could read minds. Edward makes jokes, but Bella tells him that he can trust her. Edward sighs—Bella is more observant than he gave her credit for, and she's also a "magnet for trouble." Bella asks if he's trouble, and she reaches out to touch his freezing skin. He allows the touch and says that he is.

It's still unclear whether Edward is a vampire or something else—but regardless, saying that he's going to "hunt down" the men seems sinister. Edward also makes it clear that he's trying to make good choices—he implies it would be a bad thing to hunt them down, and he is trying to control himself. Meanwhile, it's unclear how Edward knows that Bella was supposed to meet her friends at the Italian restaurant, which makes him seem even more magical and inhuman.



Making sure Bella gets something to eat is a way for Edward to show her he cares. Jessica's obvious shock that Edward and Bella are spending time with each other makes it clear just how different Bella is from other girls in Forks—somehow, she's managed to capture Edward's attention.



For Bella, being at dinner with Edward not only doesn't feel unsafe, it seems to overshadow for her the trauma of what almost just happened to her. This speaks to Bella's immense interest in Edward. Edward's annoyance at Bella saying that he makes her feel safe seems to be inspired by his sense that she is being naïve, that he is dangerous, and that her belief that he isn't is going to end up with her getting hurt.



Given Edward's surprise when Bella comments on his eyes, it seems like Edward doesn't come across many people who are as observant as Bella is. She may be something of an anomaly among people. Then, when Edward sighs that Bella is so observant, he as much as confirms that he can probably read minds. Still, he's not totally willing to be honest with her, hence the jokes and trying to avoid giving her answers. Touching his hand and noting that it's freezing reminds readers that Jacob called Edward a "cold one," or a vampire.



In a rush, Edward admits he followed Bella to Port Angeles to try to keep her alive. Bella wonders if she should be upset that he followed her—but instead, she’s thrilled. She suggests that “her number was up” when Tyler’s van almost crushed her, and perhaps Edward is messing with fate. But Edward says that Bella’s “number was up” the first time he met her. Bella feels momentarily terrified at the memory.

Edward explains that he was listening to Jessica’s thoughts earlier and realized Bella had split from her friends. He drove around until he heard what the men were thinking about Bella. It was difficult to leave the men alive—and he asked Bella to stay in Port Angeles with him because he was afraid that if she left him alone, he’d go after the men. Bella tries to calm her racing thoughts as Edward pays the bill and ushers her outside and into his **Volvo**. As Edward pulls onto the highway, he says it’s Bella’s turn to talk.

CHAPTER 9

Bella begs Edward to answer one more question, and when he agrees, she asks how he knew where she’d gone in Port Angeles. He admits he followed her scent, and then Bella asks him to explain his mind-reading. He explains that he can hear everyone’s thoughts, except for Bella’s. It’s like being in a loud room. He wonders if Bella’s mind just works differently, which bothers Bella—it makes her feel like a “freak.” Edward prompts Bella to start talking, but Bella realizes that Edward is driving 100 miles per hour, and she shouts for him to slow down. He rolls his eyes, tells her to relax, and slows to 80.

Bella admits that she doesn’t know how to begin, and that she’s afraid Edward will be angry. She says that at the beach last weekend, she spoke to Jacob Black, a family friend a member of the Quileute tribe. He told her a legend about vampires and mentioned the Cullens. Bella whispers that after that, she did some research on the internet—but then she decided it doesn’t matter. Edward is incredulous and asks if she really doesn’t care if he’s an inhuman “monster,” but Bella just sighs that Edward is angry.

Everything Edward says here suggests that he’s predatory and a danger to Bella—but again, Bella is excited by this rather than afraid. Edward seems to be just as obsessed with Bella as she is with him, but also to be convinced of his own badness and dangerousness to be convinced that his interest in her will turn out badly for her .



Edward makes it clear that he’s dangerous and possibly violent (to others, if not to her). But though Bella’s thoughts are racing, she gives no indicator that this news is frightening to her. Though Edward says he’s dangerous, Bella hasn’t seen him behave that way. Rather, she’s seen him protect her multiple times over, so she’s more generous with her assessment of him. Bella seems to judge Edward based on his external behavior in a way that even Edward himself doesn’t.



The revelation that Edward can read minds—just not Bella’s—makes it clear that Edward is more than human. It also establishes that Bella, isn’t your average 17-year-old girl, and this specialness may in turn offer some explanation as to why Bella struggles to connect with her peers. It’s telling that Bella is afraid of Edward’s driving but not of him—her concerns are human concerns, like traffic accidents; she’s not afraid of him possibly being a vampire.



Bella makes an important distinction here: she’s not afraid of Edward, but she is afraid of upsetting him. Her only concern, in other words, is to make him happy, not for her own safety. When Edward describes himself as a “monster” and as inhuman, it speaks to both facts (he’s a vampire) and to his perception of himself: he believes he’s a bad guy, despite so many of his actions that suggest he’s trying to be good.



Bella asks how old Edward is—17—and asks how long he's been 17. He says it's been a while. Then, he says it's just a myth that vampires sleep in coffins and can't come out during the daytime. He admits that he *can't* sleep at all. Bella notes that according to Jacob, the Cullens only hunt animals and so supposedly aren't that dangerous. Edward says the Quileutes are right about the animals, but the Cullens are still dangerous. Sometimes, they make mistakes, just like Edward is now by letting himself be alone with Bella. What they're doing is very dangerous.

Bella sits in silence and suddenly just wants to hear Edward's voice. She asks why he hunts animals instead of people. Edward explains that he doesn't want to be a monster. Living on animals is a bit like being a vegetarian, but sometimes it's difficult. Bella says that Edward isn't hungry now; she can tell because of his lighter eyes. Edward admits that he went hunting with Emmett last weekend, and that he knew he had to hunt but didn't want to leave Bella. It makes him anxious to be away from her. Edward admits that he's been home from the hunting trip since Sunday, but he didn't go to school because he can't go out in the sunlight in front of people.

Bella insists that Edward could've called—she notes that he knew she was safe, but *she* didn't know where he was, which makes *her* anxious. Edward groans that this is wrong—she shouldn't feel this way about him because he's so dangerous. Bella reiterates that she doesn't care; it's too late. In a harsh voice, Edward tells her to never say that, causing Bella to tear up.

Before long, Bella and Edward arrive in Forks. Outside of Charlie's house, Edward promises to be at school tomorrow, and he asks Bella to not go into the woods alone. He says that he's not the most dangerous thing in the woods. Bella opens the car door, but when she turns back to Edward, his face is inches from hers. His scent leaves her dazed, and it takes a moment for her to be able to get out of the car.

As Edward begins to tell Bella the truth about himself, he reveals the sort of vampire that he is. More precisely, he makes clear that he and the other Cullens are able to make moral choices and restrain their basic vampire impulse to suck human blood. Yet even though Edward shows such restraint, he continues to think of himself as dangerous—and he implies that Bella is a particular temptation to him.



As Edward explains his vegetarianism, he again makes it clear that he's making choices that involve restraining his basic instincts for moral reasons. He believes that those instincts are monstrous, and he doesn't want to be a monster. At the same time that Edward is telling Bella that he is dangerous, though, she just wants to be near him.



Edward wants to protect Bella, but he believes that he himself poses a danger to her and so he wants her to stay away from him. But Bella here makes clear that she already loves him and does not care about any danger he poses. From her point of view, that danger is nothing compared to the hurt she would feel if she couldn't be with him.



Given that Edward is a vampire, it perhaps isn't surprising that he's not the only dangerous thing in the woods—who knows what other supernatural beings populate this world. Edward continues to act as Bella's protector—which also continues to suggest that he thinks she needs protection. It's possible to think that Edward is being sexist, though of course he is also a vampire with knowledge of the supernatural world, and Bella for her part seems energized by his protectiveness.



Bella watches Edward drive away and then lets herself into the house. Charlie seems concerned about Bella, so she wonders what she looks like. As soon as Bella sits down in the kitchen, the phone rings. It's Jessica. Bella asks Jessica to bring her coat to school tomorrow; she forgot it in Jessica's car. She also promises to tell Jessica everything tomorrow. In a stupor, Bella showers and climbs into bed. As she starts to fall asleep, she's suddenly certain that Edward is a vampire, that he wants her blood, and that she's madly in love with him.

It's only once Bella's defenses are weakened (since she's falling asleep) that she's willing to accept outright what the deal is with Edward—and that she's in love with him. Saying this in so many words represents a choice of sorts for Bella. She decides that she doesn't necessarily care that Edward is a vampire who wants her blood; what's more important is her attraction to him.



CHAPTER 10

The next morning, Bella struggles to discern whether what happened yesterday was real. She realizes she's going to be late, and she quickly gets ready—but when she gets outside into the foggy morning, she realizes Edward and his **Volvo** are in her driveway. He helps her in and offers her his coat, which still smells amazing. Edward shares that his siblings took Rosalie's car, and Bella is shocked when they get to school—Rosalie drives a red convertible. He explains that they all like to drive fast, so they have fancy cars, but they usually take the Volvo to blend in.

Edward implies that the family's Volvo is the most inconspicuous car of the bunch. But given that Bella picked out the Volvo in the student parking lot on her first day of school, it seems like the Cullens' attempts to fit into the human world tend to fall short. Volvos are known for being very safe cars, so the car choice further implies how Edward sees it as his job to protect Bella.



Edward and Bella get out and head for the cafeteria, where Jessica is waiting with Bella's jacket. Jessica's eyes are wide as she gives Bella a meaningful look and says she'll see her in math class. As Jessica walks away, Edward asks Bella what she's going to tell Jessica. He says that Jessica wants to know if they're secretly dating, and how Bella feels about him. He suggests Bella say that they're dating and admits he's curious to hear how Jessica feels about that. Bella feels overwhelmed and off-balance as she walks into her English class. She spends her morning thinking about what Edward will hear when she talks to Jessica.

Bella has made it clear throughout the novel that she's a very private person; it doesn't seem, for instance, like she told either Mom or Charlie the truth about why she moved to Forks. So Edward poses a bit of a problem for Bella. He can't read her thoughts, but he can read her friends' thoughts. This means that Bella doesn't have anyone she can talk to about Edward openly and honestly, since Edward will know about it.



In the back of the math classroom, Bella sits next to Jessica. She shares that she and Edward are dating, but they haven't kissed yet—and she doubts they'll get there. Bella notes that Edward ignored their pretty waitress at the restaurant. Then, Jessica sighs that Bella is brave to spend time around Edward; she finds him too intimidating. They discuss how gorgeous Edward is, and Bella notes that "he's even more unbelievable behind the face." She also sighs that she likes Edward more than he likes her. After math class, Bella evades more questions by bringing up Mike. Then, when the bell rings for lunch, Bella finds Edward waiting for her in the hallway so they can go to the cafeteria together.

Given Jessica's insistence that Edward is intimidating, it seems like a lot of kids at school probably feel the same way: until Bella came along, Edward was isolated from everyone other than the other Cullens. Saying that Edward is "unbelievable behind the face" means that Bella is both physically attracted to him, but also attracted to the person he is. Her view of Edward is quite different from his own view of himself as a barely controlled monster.



In the cafeteria, Edward and Bella sit alone at a table, and Edward chuckles that Jessica is watching everything they do. Then, he says that it bothers him that Bella told Jessica she likes Edward more than Edward likes her. He says it's not true, but he asks Bella why she thinks it is. Bella chokes out that "aside from the obvious," it seems like Edward is trying to get rid of her sometimes. When Edward asks what the "obvious" is, Bella says she's ordinary. Edward says that's not true—all the boys in school were in love with her the moment she arrived.

Bella insists that regardless, she's not trying to end things with Edward all the time. Edward retorts that he cares more because he *would* end their relationship if need be. He would hurt himself if it meant keeping Bella safe. Bella says that she'd do the same, but Edward insists that she'll never have to—he'll always keep her safe. It occurs to Bella that she *could* purposefully put herself in danger to keep Edward around.

Then, Edward asks Bella if she actually wants to go to Seattle on Saturday, or if she just needed an excuse to not go to the dance. Bella says she's not going to the dance—she's too clumsy. She agrees to do something different with Edward on Saturday but insists that she gets to drive; she doesn't want to explain the change in plans to Charlie, and Edward's driving scares her. Edward rolls his eyes and asks why Bella won't tell Charlie about him. Bella insists that less is more with Charlie and agrees to accompany Edward wherever he's going. With a sigh, Edward says Bella should tell Charlie they're together—then, there's more incentive for him to bring Bella back. Bella gulps.

Bella and Edward's conversation shifts to his camping trip last weekend—he and Emmett were hunting for bears, which are Emmett's favorite. Bella shivers and looks at Emmett across the cafeteria; he's unnervingly muscular. Edward shares that he prefers to hunt mountain lions, and Bella asks if she can ever watch him hunt. He refuses, but when she asks if it would be too scary, he assures her that it wouldn't be. Bella asks why she can't go with him, then, but he says he'll explain later. It's time to go to class, and Bella follows him out of the cafeteria.

Bella does not yet understand that Edward's efforts to keep her away from him come from a desire to protect her—they come from his love of her, and his hatred of what he is. Bella sees Edward's supernatural nature as extraordinary in comparison to her own normal mortality. But Edward here insists on Bella's specialness, and brings up evidence to prove his point.



From Edward's point of view, his odd and occasionally frightening behavior toward Bella isn't overt meanness—it's an indicator of how much he loves her if he's willing to hurt her emotionally in order to keep her physically safe. Through this conversation, Bella realizes she can gain some power in her relationship—ensuring Edward will stay near her—by playing the victim.



Again, Bella is a private person (and in some ways a typical teenager), and she's not ready to let Charlie in on the fact that she's romantically involved with Edward. But for Edward, this poses a bit of a problem. He has to carefully control himself, presumably so he doesn't bite Bella, and he knows that if Bella's father knows about their relationship then there will be consequences for anything bad that he might do. Edward wants to be as constrained as possible—and doesn't trust his own willpower to be enough—in order to protect Bella from himself.



Bella might not be ready to let Charlie know about her relationship with Edward, but she's already starting to get to know Edward's family. The fact that Edward and Emmett went hunting for bears suggests that Edward, like Bella, wants his family members to be happy and get what they want—even if it's not exactly what Edward wants. He and Bella aren't so different in this regard. The hunting trip also makes clear, of course, that Edward and his family really are supernaturally strong!



CHAPTER 11

Everyone stares as Bella and Edward walk into biology together. The teacher puts on a movie and turns the lights off. Bella desperately wants to touch Edward, so she crosses her arms and tries to concentrate. The class seems to last forever. When the period is over, Bella allows Edward to walk her to gym class. Before he leaves her, he gently touches her cheekbone. Feeling lightheaded, Bella dresses for gym and accepts her badminton racket. Mike agrees to be Bella's partner, so Bella tries to stay out of his way—though she does accidentally hit him once. When the bell rings, Mike hisses that he doesn't like Bella dating Edward—that Edward looks at her like she's food.

Bella is concerned that it'll be awkward to meet up with Edward after school, but when she does she feels calm in his presence. He teases her about her performance in gym and then leads her to his **Volvo**. Bella pouts and only lets go of her anger when Edward apologizes and agrees to let her drive on Saturday. Cryptically, he says he's not bringing a car, so Charlie won't get suspicious seeing the Volvo in his driveway.

The drive to Charlie's house doesn't take very long. When they arrive, Edward parks behind Bella's truck. Then, Bella asks why he got so upset when she asked to watch him hunt. He explains that it would be a bad idea, because when vampires hunt, they give in to their senses and lose control. It would put Bella in danger. Bella looks into Edward's eyes and suddenly, it feels like there's electricity between them. Edward tells Bella to go inside, so Bella stumbles out of the car. He calls after her that he's going to ask questions of Bella tomorrow.

Bella dreams of Edward that night and wakes up poorly rested. Over breakfast, Charlie tries to encourage Bella to go to the dance, but she brushes him off. Edward's **Volvo** appears outside moments after Charlie drives off in the cruiser. Bella shyly hops in, and Edward immediately starts in on the questioning. He wants to know her favorite color, what music or books she likes, and where she's traveled to. The questioning continues all day. It's embarrassing when he asks her favorite gemstone and she says topaz—this is a recent change, since Edward's eyes are topaz. They're still watching the movie in biology, and Bella feels the electric current between her and Edward again.

Bella's attraction to Edward is making it more and more difficult for her to go about her normal activities, like paying attention in class. And Edward seems to be getting better at being around Bella, as evidenced by being able to touch her cheek without issue. Mike's insistence that Edward looks at Bella like she's food could be jealousy, could refer to Edward's overwhelming interest in Bella, or it could suggest that Edward's desire for Bella's blood is more obvious to others even if he is trying to hide it.



It's difficult for Bella to not be able to hide her shortcomings (in this case, her poor coordination) from Edward, since he can read her classmates' minds and find out what happened in gym class. But she's still willing to forgive Edward when he agrees to let her drive, showing that Bella might be human—but she's not powerless in this relationship.



Once again, Edward makes it clear that he's doing everything in his power to protect Bella from any threat he might pose to her. As in this case, it means that Edward sometimes has to put limits on what Bella can and can't do, but it's all in service of keeping her safe. Bella, for her part, doesn't object to this; to her, it doesn't feel controlling. Rather, it shows her how much Edward cares for her.



Because Edward can't read Bella's mind, he can't glean the answers to personal questions just by listening to her thoughts. In a way, this levels the power dynamic between them, as both Edward and Bella have to be open with each other and trust that they're being honest when they talk about themselves. It also makes Bella a mystery to Edward, which may heighten his attraction to her. When Bella mentions feeling an electric current during biology class, it shows that Edward's questioning is helping her feel closer to him. He makes her feel like she can be herself and that even the most mundane aspects of her identity matter to him.



After school, Edward's questions get more difficult. He asks what Bella misses about Phoenix, and for hours, they sit and talk in Edward's car outside Charlie's house. Edward says he has to go as twilight falls. He explains that twilight is the safest time of day for vampires, and that Charlie will be home soon. As Bella gets out, Edward suddenly says that there's a complication. A car pulls in in front of them, but Bella can't see who it is through the headlights. It's only after Edward drives away that Jacob steps out and greets Bella. From Jacob's passenger seat, Billy gives Bella a concerned and fearful look. Bella can tell he believes the legend Jacob told her.

Given that Edward has indeed turned out to be a vampire, the legend Jacob told is probably true. So even though Jacob doesn't put any stock in the legend, Billy sees Bella and Edward's relationship as something terrible and dangerous. Though this poses problems for Bella and Edward, it also illustrates how much Billy cares for Bella. He might be a pretty distant presence in her life, but he still doesn't want her getting into danger—especially if she doesn't understand the danger. It also means, though, that Billy judges Edward based on what he thinks Edward is, rather than on how Edward acts.



CHAPTER 12

Billy continues to stare at Bella as Charlie pulls up and greets his friend. Bella goes into the house while Charlie and Jacob help Billy into his wheelchair, and then everyone follows her in. As Billy and Charlie head to the living room to watch the game, Jacob follows Bella to the kitchen. They discuss the car Jacob is working on, and Jacob compliments the car Bella got out of earlier. Finally, she admits that the car belongs to Edward Cullen. Jacob laughs—that explains why Billy was being so odd. When Bella asks, Jacob says he doesn't think Billy will tell Charlie about seeing Bella with Edward. The men haven't spoken much since Dr. Cullen moved to town.

Jacob shows clearly that he doesn't take the old Quileute legend seriously; to him, Billy is just being ridiculous. And importantly, not believing in the legend gives Jacob the opportunity to judge Edward on other merits, like on what car he drives (something that seems important to Jacob). Billy, though, is clearly unwilling to reevaluate whether the Cullens are good or evil, presumably because of what the legend tells him is true.



Bella spends the rest of the night pretending to listen to Jacob, and when the game ends, Billy tells Bella to take care in a serious voice. After they leave, Charlie offers to go with Bella to Seattle if she chooses another day to go; he feels bad for leaving her home alone. Bella insists it's fine. She sleeps better than usual that night and is in a great mood the next morning. As soon as Charlie pulls out of the driveway, Edward shows up. He begins questioning her again, this time about her dating history. He's just as shocked as Jessica was earlier that Bella has never had a boyfriend.

Billy might have his concerns about Bella getting involved with Edward, but he still treats Bella like a young woman capable of making her own decisions (rather than, say, outing her to Charlie). Given Edward and Jessica's reactions to Bella's dating history, it looks like Bella's community expects kids to start dating early. Bella defies all expectations by being totally inexperienced with romance.



At lunch, Edward announces that he's leaving school after this. But he promises to bring Bella her truck—the key will be in the ignition. Bella agrees. Her key is in a dirty pair of jeans in her house, so she's confident that Edward will never find it. Edward explains that he and Alice are going hunting so that he's prepared for tomorrow—but he reminds Bella that she can cancel. Bella refuses to cancel, and to brighten the mood, asks what time Edward will show up in the morning. They decide to meet at the time they usually leave for school.

As they discuss Edward bringing Bella her truck, Bella and Edward are really testing each other—how powerful is Edward, and can he really find Bella's keys hidden in a pair of dirty jeans? Bella acts as though she thinks his success would be unlikely, so she feels more powerful in this moment. Edward's offer to cancel is a similar kind of test—it gives Bella a way to protect herself from him, but also a way to affirm that she is more concerned with being with him than she is afraid of the danger he might pose.



Then, when Bella reveals that Charlie will be fishing tomorrow, Edward asks what he'll think if Bella doesn't come home. Bella makes a joke of it and then changes the subject to Edward's hunt later. Edward says he and Alice are just going to the park—and Alice is going with him because she's the only really supportive one. Everyone else doesn't really understand. Bella says she doesn't get it either, but Edward tells Bella that she's fascinating and unpredictable. Bella stares at Edward's siblings until Rosalie looks over with a glare. Edward hisses, causing Rosalie to turn away, and explains that things will be awful for the family if his and Bella's relationship "ends...badly." Bella desperately wants to comfort Edward, but she doesn't know how.

Just then, Alice appears next to Edward, and Edward introduces her to Bella. Then, Alice heads for the car as Bella and Edward say goodbye. Once Edward is gone too, Bella desperately wants to skip school—but she also doesn't want to make things worse for Edward. Somehow, she knows that tomorrow will be important. She's already made up her mind about where their relationship is going, but Edward is going to have to decide for himself. Bella barely pays attention through biology or gym, except for when Mike asks if she's going to the dance with Edward. Bella insists she isn't and turns down Mike's invitation to join the rest of the friend group at the dance.

After gym, Bella is shocked to find her truck in the student parking lot with a note that reads "Be safe" in the front seat. Her key is in the ignition. When she gets home, all the doors are locked, and her jeans are right where she left them. Over dinner later, Bella tells Charlie that she's going to wait to go to Seattle and do homework and laundry instead. She encourages him to go fishing anyway. All evening, Bella tries to distract herself. She's so excited that it's almost painful, and she fixates on the fact that per his note, Edward wants her to be safe. Bella feels like her life is about Edward now, and she wonders how much it would hurt if things ended badly. She's so worked up that she takes cold medicine to get to sleep.

Thanks to the cold medicine, Bella wakes up feeling rested in the morning. She's agitated until she hears Edward knock. Seeing his face, though, makes her feel calm. Bella leads Edward to her truck and gloats—he's clearly upset about having to take such a slow car. She follows his directions out of town to a remote trailhead; they're going to be hiking five miles. Bella tries to stay cool, but she's terrible at hiking. This is going to be humiliating. When Edward asks what Bella told Charlie and Jessica, she reveals that nobody knows she's with Edward. This makes Edward angry, and he accuses Bella of being suicidal.

When Bella outright refuses to acknowledge Edward asking what would happen if he didn't bring her home, it shows that she does sometimes read Edward's comments as disturbing and unwelcome. But by ignoring this, Bella shows that she's not going to allow Edward to make it seem like he's kidnapping her—after all, Bella is choosing to go with Edward, she's not being forced in any way. Seeing how Rosalie reacts to her, Bella discovers that being in a relationship with Edward may cause all sorts of issues not just for her, but for the Cullens too. Her relationship with Edward might make it harder for Edward to connect with his family. Edward sees himself as the bad guy, but Rosalie sees Bella as a kind of temptress who might destroy the Cullens.



Notice that Bella's chief concern is to make sure that Edward isn't going to suffer any adverse consequences for getting close to her. She can't skip school because it'd reflect badly on him if people thought they were together. Interestingly, Bella also believes that she's finished making choices about how her relationship with Edward is going to play out. At least in this moment, Bella doesn't think there's anything Edward could do or say to change her mind—she's fully committed.



Edward's note makes it very clear that more than anything, he wants Bella to be safe. Indeed, this is why he's hunting now (so he won't be hungry tomorrow, thereby making Bella safer). As Bella patters around the house, it's interesting to note that her obsession with Edward is confusingly tied up in pain. Her excitement almost hurts her, for instance, and she can't help but wonder if becoming a meal for Edward would be painful. But again, because Bella is so in love with Edward, this seeming fear makes him even more compelling to her.



As their relationship progresses, Bella gets to the point where it's nearly impossible to feel or behave normally without Edward around—an indicator of how all-consuming Bella's love for Edward is. Bella may have found herself in a relationship with a vampire, but her concerns are still those of any normal teenager: she doesn't want to embarrass herself in front of her crush. Edward accusing Bella of being suicidal highlights how dangerous this trip is for Bella—she could easily die if Edward can't control himself.



The rest of the drive is silent. Finally, Edward tells Bella to stop at the end of the road. Bella is a bit nervous; Edward still seems angry as he heads into the dark forest. They're not taking the trail. Bella stops, upset, but she feels intense despair when Edward turns around. He has his shirt unbuttoned now, and he's far too perfect for her. To cover up her emotions, Bella admits that she's an awful hiker. Edward promises to be patient and to bring her home again, and he starts into the forest.

Bella isn't as worried about Edward drinking her blood as she is about either making him angry or embarrassing herself. She wants to look competent in front of him, especially since she perceives him as being so much better than her in a variety of ways (he's coordinated, wildly handsome, and smart, among other things). And as things progress, being around Edward starts to become painful and emotional—Bella can't separate her love for Edward from these negative emotions about herself.



Fortunately, the hike isn't too hard. Edward helps Bella over logs and rocks, and for the most part, they walk in silence. The hike is long, though, and it's only after several hours that Edward notes that he can see brightness ahead. A few minutes later, Bella can see it too. She hurries ahead of Edward and steps into a beautiful meadow filled with wildflowers. It's now a sunny, beautiful day. When she turns back around, Edward is still standing in the shade. Bella smiles at him encouragingly, and then Edward steps into the light.

It's significant that Bella and Edward are getting to know each other in nature rather than at school or somewhere else in Forks. This continues to associate the vampires with the natural world. And given that it's now a beautiful day, Bella is more willing to forgive Edward for making her hike and she feels okay taking a more leading role, coaxing him out of the woods and into the sunlight.



CHAPTER 13

Hours later, Bella can't stop staring at Edward. He's lying in the meadow with his eyes closed—and his skin is glittering in the sun. Nervously, Bella reaches out a finger to touch his hand. He confirms, first, that she's not afraid, and then allows her to touch his arm. When she tries to flip Edward's hand over, Edward does it "blindingly fast," startling Bella. Edward murmurs that it's too easy to be himself around her, and then he asks Bella what she's thinking. Bella says she wishes she could believe that Edward is real, and that she wasn't afraid. As Edward sits up and asks what she's afraid of, Bella says she isn't afraid of him.

Edward implies that he's not able to be himself around people, generally speaking—but Bella doesn't make him feel like he's bad, or weird, or even all that different—while he can also cease to hide his vampire traits like superspeed and glittering in the sun. Through their relationship, Edward is starting to feel more secure in who he is. For Bella, this all feels like a dream—Edward is unbelievably handsome, in addition to being a vampire. And because of her attraction to him, his fast movements aren't threatening—they're just different.



Edward smells so good that Bella leans closer—and in an instant, Edward is gone. Bella is hurt and shocked. Slowly, Edward returns and says he's "only human." Bella suddenly realizes how much danger she's in, and Edward seems to sense this. In a mocking tone, he says he's the best predator: he's gorgeous, fast, and strong. He races around the meadow and throws a branch into a tree, shattering it. Bella is terrified—but Edward also looks beautiful. As Edward returns to Bella and sits down again, he asks her to not be afraid and promises not to hurt her.

Both Bella and Edward are struggling to control themselves around the other, because the other smells so good. Edward may be a vampire, but they're not so different. And though Edward's display of his vampire qualities is frightening, his ability to run so fast and shatter branches is also compelling and makes being around him even more exciting for Bella.



It takes Bella a moment to get over her shock, so she struggles to answer Edward's question of what she's afraid of. As he gets frustrated with her silence, Bella realizes this is all new for him too. Finally, she says that she's afraid because they can't stay together, and she wants to stay with him. Sighing, Edward says he should leave exactly because Bella wants him to stay. Fortunately, though, he's a "selfish creature," he and isn't going to leave. Bella is ecstatic, but Edward suddenly becomes angry and reminds her that he wants more than her company. He also notes that he's more dangerous for Bella than he is for other people.

To explain what he means, Edward says it's a lot like ice cream flavors, or maybe illicit drugs—Bella is his flavor of ice cream, and his "brand of heroin." He says that this sort of thing doesn't happen often, but Emmett has twice encountered people that smelled especially good to him. Edward gives Bella a dark look when she asked what happened to those people. Calmly, Bella asks if there's any hope that she'll survive this. Edward assures her there is; he's been denying himself human blood for a long time.

Edward says that it took all his self-control to not kill her when she first walked into the biology classroom. She seemed like a demon designed to ruin everything Carlisle had worked so hard for. He almost killed her again in the office that afternoon; it would've been easy. Bella shivers, realizing that Ms. Cope could've died, too. Edward says he went to Carlisle and ran away to Alaska. He knew he upset Esme and his siblings, but running gave him the space to think, hunt, and decide he was strong enough to return.

When Edward returned, he'd tried to treat Bella like he would anyone else—but she's too interesting, and she still smells too good. Though he later told his siblings that he saved Bella from the van because he feared he'd lose control had she bled out in the parking lot, he was really thinking, "Not her."

Edward continues to try to impress upon Bella that them being around each other is very dangerous for her. Edward always sees himself as the danger, and Bella as the possible victim who he has to protect—even if from himself. But as far as Bella is concerned, the danger she's in only makes their relationship more exciting—especially since it seems like an indicator of how much Edward cares for Bella that he resists his vampire nature. Here, Edward also makes it clear that he doesn't mean to confuse or upset Bella with his actions or his words; he's just trying to protect her.



Though it seems unintentional, Edward makes the case here that vampires aren't all that different from humans. They struggle with desires and urges that, when acted on, can hurt others. It's possible to see that Bella is so calm about this because Edward actually starts to seem more human in this moment. He's doing his best to resist his desires and protect Bella—and that's also very attractive to her.



To most people, Bella is just a normal—if pretty and smart—teenage girl. But to Edward, Bella is something totally different: a temptress and a demon, here to make his life miserable, if not ruin it. Edward's ability to resist killing Bella and even leave the state shows his level of control, his desire to protect his family, and his moral will. Because he's going to such lengths to control himself, the novel frames him as a wholly good character.



Again, Edward doesn't say it in so many words, but he implies here that he was falling in love with Bella while she was falling in love with him. "Not her" has definite romantic connotations, and it mirrors some of the things Bella has thought about Edward and not wanting to be apart from him.



Bella knows she should be terrified, but instead she feels bad that Edward has been suffering so much. She asks him about what happened after they spoke in the hospital. Edward says he fought with his family over what to do. He was surprised when Bella kept her word to not tell anyone what she saw. Now, he knows it would've been better to blow his cover months ago than it would be to hurt Bella now, when there aren't any witnesses. He explains that he couldn't live with himself if he hurt Bella—she's the most important thing to him now. Bella is shocked and says that obviously, she'd rather die than stay away. She calls herself an "idiot," and Edward agrees with a laugh.

Then, they discuss what Bella "did wrong" earlier, when Edward ran away. Edward notes that most people are too afraid to get close, so he was surprised when she leaned in. Her throat also smells especially strong. But he insists it was the surprise more than anything, and to prove it, he touches Bella's neck. Edward then slowly leans in to put his cheek against her throat and then her chest. They sit like this for what seems like hours. Then, Edward sits totally still as Bella traces his face with her fingers. Bella stops when he gives her a "hungry" look. He admits that this is hard on many levels, since Bella also makes him feel more human.

Slowly, Bella puts her head against Edward's chest. He pulls her close, and they sit until the light starts to fade. Then, Edward asks if he can show Bella how he hikes—it'll be much faster, and he promises not to turn into a bat. He helps Bella climb onto his back and then starts to run. Bella is terrified as the trees fly past, and for the first time ever, she experiences motion sickness. They're back at the truck in an instant, and Bella can't make her body move to get down on her own. Edward gently places her on the ground. Once Bella catches her breath, Edward says he was thinking about something he'd like to try. He leans in and kisses Bella's lips.

Bella feels like she's on fire; she grabs Edward's hair and pulls him close. He turns to stone and pushes her back, waits a moment, and then says he's fine. Bella apologizes, but Edward remarks that she's only human. Edward pulls her up and insists that he drive them home. Bella tries to argue, but she ultimately gives in and hands over her keys.

Bella clearly understands the danger that Edward poses to her. He could kill her in an instant, and she realizes that some people would say she should be afraid (as evidenced by calling herself an "idiot" for wanting to be around him). But Bella's love for Edward is so deep she'd rather face that danger—or die—than to not be with him. She both recognizes how silly that is, and still feels that way. For his part, Edward feels just as Bella does. He is a danger to her, but she is also a danger to him in that she might entice him to give in to his instincts and make things bad for his adopted family. Yet she's now the most important thing to him at this point. Bella and Edward's love has put them both in extreme positions that make that love clear to the other: Bella is willing to constantly risk her life to be with Edward; and Edward is able to keep his inhuman urges in check in order to be with her.



Edward again suggests that, for various reasons, Bella isn't like most other people—in this case, because she's happy to get close to Edward and isn't afraid to do so. But this uniqueness functions to make the two of them less alone: it brings Edward and Bella closer to each other, as they find that they can connect with each other in ways that they couldn't connect with anyone else. And though Edward wants Bella for her blood, saying that she makes him feel more human suggests on the one hand that she helps him to resist his vampiric hunger, but also perhaps that she stirs other "more human" sexual hungers in him.



At first, going with Edward's way of hiking seems like a great idea—it seems like there's no chance for Bella to embarrass herself letting Edward carry her. But Bella finds that while she might not be afraid of the threat Edward poses to her as a vampire, that doesn't mean he doesn't scare her in other ways. Even if Edward doesn't mean to frighten her, he still can't help but leave Bella on edge and worried as they get to know each other.



When Bella grabs for Edward, she finds that she's not as adept at subsuming her sexual urges as Edward is at subsuming his vampiric urges. She's physically, sexually attracted to him—and especially since this is new for her, she doesn't yet know what romance feels like, or how to control herself. Meanwhile, Edward insisting on driving them home shows him asserting his control.



CHAPTER 14

Edward holds Bella's hand as he drives into the sunset, singing along with an oldies station. As he notes which decades had the best music, Bella asks how old he really is. With a sigh, Edward says he was born in 1901. Carlisle found him dying of the Spanish flu in 1918, at 17 years old. His parents were already dead; that's why Carlisle chose him. It was very painful. Bella's mind starts to spin, but Edward interrupts to say that Carlisle turned Edward into a vampire out of loneliness. Soon after, Carlisle found Esme—she'd fallen from a cliff and was nearly dead. Edward explains that it's just Carlisle's preference to change people who are close to death; he wants healthy people to have a choice.

Edward says that Carlisle changed Rosalie next. Carlisle had hoped that Rosalie would be a partner for Edward, but instead Rosalie found Emmett nearly dead after a bear attack and brought him to Carlisle. Alice and Jasper are "rare creatures," as both developed a "conscience" on their own. Jasper became depressed while living with a different family and found Alice, who has **visions** of the future. She'd seen Jasper heading her way—and she saw Carlisle's family. Alice is most sensitive to other vampires. Edward notes that there aren't too many vampires in the world. There's one other family like Carlisle's in Alaska, and most everyone else lives nomadic lives. And nearly all live in the north, where there's less sunshine.

Edward parks in front of Bella's house. When Bella asks, he says that Alice doesn't remember her human life at all, and she has no idea who made her. Bella suddenly realizes she's hungry. Edward apologizes—it's new for him to be around someone who eats food. He asks to come in, so Bella leads him to the door. Edward zips ahead and opens it for her—he got the hidden key from under the eave and opened it so fast that she couldn't even see. Bella realizes he's been spying on her, but she feels flattered rather than enraged. As she heats up leftover lasagna, she asks how often he's been in her house. He says he's been coming every night to watch Bella sleep—she talks in her sleep, which he finds interesting.

Bella is angry and embarrassed. In a wail, she asks what he heard. Edward takes her hands and says that she talks about missing her mom, and she also talks about him a lot. He urges her to not be embarrassed; he'd dream about her if he could dream. Then, they hear tires outside, and Edward disappears in a flash. Charlie lets himself in a moment later. Bella tries to calm herself as she warms up a plate of lasagna for Charlie. When it's ready, she joins him at the table and says she spent most of her day outside. Charlie seems to notice that Bella is anxious, and he asks if there are any boys she likes in town. Bella brushes him off and heads upstairs.

As Edward shares his story and talks about Carlisle's choices to change him and Esme, it becomes clear that companionship and support are chief concerns for vampires, just as they can be for humans. Edward also makes a point to imply that Carlisle (and Edward himself, presumably) don't think it's appropriate to make a healthy, living person into a vampire for kicks—it's a last resort, not a first choice. Living as a human, this implies, is something these vampires hold up as superior to life as a vampire.



By insisting that his family members all have "consciences," Edward implies that lots of other vampires don't—they're more like the bloodthirsty monsters that Bella read about on the internet. He also insists that having a conscience is a choice, and is connected to self-control; feeding on animals rather than humans is something that he and his family members have to try to do every day. Edward also suggests that living a conscientious life is emotionally healthier, as evidenced by Jasper's depression while living with the other family (which has presumably improved since finding Carlisle).



Edward has to learn how to be a good partner, just like Bella does—and part of being a good partner to Bella means making sure she gets food at regular intervals. As he demonstrates his strength, speed, and knowledge of where the hidden key is, it's another moment where Edward's behavior could look predatory or concerning. But instead, Bella takes the news that he's been watching her sleep as proof of his affection—because of her love for him she finds it exciting, even if some part of her knows that she could find it troubling.



Edward listening to what Bella says in her sleep feels different to her than him watching her sleep—she still cares about her privacy—even as Edward assures her that she doesn't say anything that should embarrass her. In this moment, Edward is implying that Bella can and should feel comfortable being honest and her true self around him, that he won't judge her. And Bella seems to accept this.



As Bella enters her room, she whispers for Edward. He laughs, and she realizes he's splayed out on her bed. Bella drops to the floor, surprised, and Edward picks her up as though she's a toddler and sits her on the bed with him. When her heart slows down, she asks for a minute and heads for the bathroom. Bella showers, brushes her teeth, and gets dressed in ratty pajamas. Then, she goes downstairs to tell Charlie goodnight, making sure he notices her pajamas and wet hair. She returns to her room and explains to Edward that Charlie thinks she's going to sneak out.

Slowly, Edward puts his cheek to Bella's. It's difficult for Bella to organize her thoughts, but she observes that Edward seems to be having an easier time getting close to her. Then, Bella admits that Edward is driving her crazy. Pleased, Edward admits that he never thought he'd find romance after nearly a century, so it's nice to hear that he's good at being with Bella. Bella asks why it suddenly seems so easy for Edward to be around her. He explains that this morning, he wasn't sure he was strong enough to resist his instincts. But now, it's "mind over matter."

Edward notes that if it gets to be too hard to control himself around Bella, he thinks he's strong enough to leave. He knows that it'll be even harder tomorrow, after he's spent a night away from Bella, to fully control himself again. Bella asks him to not leave and asks why he seems so optimistic. Edward says it's just "the glory of first love"—he's read about it and seen it in the movies, but it's all different now.

Edward notes that experiencing jealousy has been odd. He was jealous of Mike and Bella's other suitors, especially since he couldn't figure out why Bella turned their dance invitations down. That night was the first that he came to watch Bella sleep—and he felt angry knowing that someday, Bella would say yes to someone like Mike. But Bella said Edward's name in her sleep, and Edward knew he couldn't ignore her.

Bella insists that there's no reason for Edward to feel jealous—she can't compete with anyone, and it's hard knowing that Edward was supposed to be with gorgeous Rosalie. Edward thoughtfully says that no one is as attractive to him as Bella is. Now, he knows he's spent the last century thinking he was complete, all because Bella wasn't alive yet. Bella murmurs that it's not fair for him, since she hasn't had to wait for her true love. Edward jokes that Bella still has to risk her life to be with him, and he points out that she's "turn[ing] [her] back on nature, on humanity" as well. Bella insists she doesn't feel deprived, but Edward gets a grief-stricken look on his face.

In this passage, Bella once again is not upset to be made to feel like a child (as when Edward picks her up like she's a toddler). Rather, she takes it as a sign of how much he loves her, and another way for him to show off how strong but gentle he is. Their relationship is consistently organized around Edward as the strong one and Bella as the passive one needing protection. As this supernatural relationship continues, Bella still has human teenager concerns—she has to make sure Charlie isn't going to get too concerned about her.



Things here start to take on a more sexual tone between Bella and Edward. Saying that Edward is driving her crazy seems to refer to Bella's sexual desire. As Bella is giving into her sexual instincts, Edward continues to hold his vampiric instincts at bay. His comment about "mind over matter" once again situates his instincts as evil and his mind or conscience that rein in those instincts as being good.



Edward once again frames leaving Bella as a way to protect her. Yet he also feels that love is giving him strength to resist his "lust" for her blood. The novel is constantly playing with the interplay between love and lust, where lust is both humanly sexual and vampirically bloodthirsty. In Edward's case, the strength and purity of his love is highlighted by the way it allows him to hold off his bloodthirsty lust.



Edward is going through the same things Bella is—he can't separate his love for Bella from less positive emotions, like jealousy or anger. He also suggests here that he didn't really have a choice in whether or not to leave Bella alone. Once he heard her say his name, the decision was made: he can't resist staying in her life.



Both Bella and Edward acknowledge that their love is life-changing and all-consuming. It allows them to be who they want to be, as they're more comfortable with each other than they are with anyone else. However, Edward characterizes Bella's choice to stay with him as something that's going to deprive her of her humanity. Bella doesn't agree with this, though, since she's so in love with Edward that, in her mind, their love can conquer any problem. Edward, however, loves Bella as she is, and so her love for him causes him grief because of his fear about how it might impact her.



Suddenly, Edward disappears and hisses for Bella to pretend to sleep. Charlie opens Bella's door to check on her. Once he's gone, Edward appears in bed behind Bella. Bella's heart pounds, but she asks Edward why he resists his vampire nature and feeds on animals. Edward acknowledges that many vampires don't resist, but he and his family have chosen to "rise above" and attempt to hold onto their humanity. Then, with Bella's prodding, Edward talks about vampires' special gifts. Carlisle suspects that vampires' gifts expand on some quality they had when they were still human—for example, Edward the human must've been very in tune with other people. Jasper was a charismatic human, and now he can manipulate people's emotions.

Bella asks how vampires came to be. Edward doesn't know—perhaps a deity created vampires alongside humanity, just as there are killer whales and seals. Bella has more questions, but Edward assures Bella that they have lots of time to keep talking. Bella does ask one more question: is a romantic relationship between vampires the same as it is between humans? Edward says vampires have sex; they do still have human desires. But it would be impossible for him and Bella to have sex. She's so breakable, and he could kill her in an instant, just by not paying attention. They both admit that they've never had sex before, and as Edward hums a lullaby, Bella falls asleep.

CHAPTER 15

When Bella wakes up, she finds Edward sitting in her rocking chair. She races to crawl into his lap, ecstatic that he stayed. Bella leaps up a moment later, concerned about Charlie, but Edward explains that Charlie left an hour ago. Afraid she has morning breath, Bella runs to the bathroom to brush her teeth and then hurries back to Edward. He rocks Bella until she realizes he's wearing different clothes—he left last night to change. Edward assures Bella that he didn't miss her talking last night—she said she loved him. Embarrassed, Bella says she does love him. Edward responds simply with, "You are my life now."

Edward very clearly makes the case in this passage that people aren't born or created good or bad. Rather, whether a person or vampire is seen as good or evil comes down to their choices. Edward and his family have decided to be as good as they possibly can by choosing not to hunt humans—and this, Edward suggests, makes them more human. By making this connection, Edward does suggest that, in his mind at least, there is some sort of natural hierarchy of beings, and that humans are higher than vampires in that hierarchy.



By suggesting that a deity created vampires and then noting that there are all sorts of predator-prey relationships in the natural world, Edward justifies his existence in two different ways. He suggests that it's unlikely vampires just appeared out of the blue; regardless of how they came to be, they serve a purpose and are supposed to exist. This viewpoint is somewhat at odds with how Edward often talks about being a vampire, since he characterizes himself as evil and something that shouldn't exist. Meanwhile, the novel now ratchets up the love and lust tension between Edward and Bella even more as it reveals that they are both virgins, that they love each other and want to have sex, and that Edward thinks they can't because if they do he might end up killing Bella. So... that's a lot.



After their outing the previous day, it's clear to both of them that they're in love. There's no getting around it; to them, it's an inarguable fact. That said, Edward saying that "you are my life now" could read as somewhat controlling and overbearing. But in this context, when Edward has spent the last 90 years questioning why he even exists, his point is that Bella has given his life meaning and he is entirely focused on her.



After a while, Edward says Bella should eat breakfast. They joke and banter as Bella gets cereal and asks what they're doing today. Edward suggests that Bella come meet his family. This is an anxiety-inducing prospect, but Edward assures Bella it will be fine. He says his family took bets yesterday on whether Edward would bring Bella back, though he doesn't know why anyone would bet against Alice. Bella asks if Alice saw her coming, and in an odd voice, Edward says it was "something like that." Bella puzzles over his reaction until Edward says that Bella should also introduce him to Charlie as her boyfriend. It's necessary if Edward is going to be hanging around.

Done eating, Bella gets dressed. She bounds down the stairs, declaring that she's "decent," and runs right into Edward. Edward insists she's not decent at all—she's extremely tempting. As Edward kisses her, Bella faints. When she comes to, she says she just forgot to breathe and asks if they can get on with it. She doesn't want to think too hard about meeting Edward's family, since she's so afraid they won't like her. Edward rolls his eyes. He drives them in Bella's truck out of town, down a rural road. A few miles after it turns to dirt, they emerge from the trees into a clearing with a huge old house that's been impeccably restored.

Edward leads Bella inside. It's been remodeled into an open floorplan with a wall of windows on one side. Dr. Cullen stands with his wife, Esme, on the staircase, ready to welcome Bella. They greet her warmly, and then Alice and Jasper appear at the top of the stairs. Alice kisses Bella on the cheek, but Jasper keeps his distance and offers a polite hello. Bella sees Carlisle give Edward a meaningful look, and then she notices a grand piano. Esme reveals that Edward plays, and Bella quips that Edward can apparently do anything. Jasper snickers, and Esme scolds Edward for showing off. She tells Edward to play for Bella.

Bella sits next to Edward on the piano bench, and he begins to play. He's shockingly good, and he reveals that he wrote this piece for Esme. Then, the music changes, and Edward says he wrote this for Bella. She's awestruck. As Edward plays, he tells Bella that his family likes her, and Bella realizes that they're alone in the room now.

Bella sighs that Rosalie and Emmett are absent, and Edward tells her to be patient. Emmett understands, but Rosalie is stubborn. She struggles with being a vampire, so she doesn't like that Bella knows the truth about them—and she's jealous of Bella, as she wishes she were human. Edward says that he warned Jasper to keep his distance, and Esme and Carlisle are just happy that Edward is happy. When Bella asks about Alice, Edward says that she looks at things in her own way.

Bella and Edward's relationship may be fantastical, but they still have to go through the very human motions of introducing each other to their parents and families. The aside that the Cullens took bets on whether Edward would be successful shows Bella again how much danger she's in spending time with Edward—even his own family doubts his self-control. Edward's response when Bella asks about Alice's visions is interesting—Alice clearly saw something, but it seems like whatever she saw isn't something that Edward wants Bella to know about.



Referring to Bella as "tempting" recalls the way that Edward initially thought of Bella as a temptress and as a "demon," sent to destroy his family's way of life. Now, Edward is pretty sure that Bella isn't going to ruin the Cullens, but that doesn't mean she's not still wildly tempting in terms of her smell and sex appeal. Bella shows how different she is from many humans when she notes that she's afraid the Cullens won't like her—the fact that they're vampires is no big deal to her.



The banter between Edward, his parents, and his siblings reads as pretty normal family behavior—the Cullens aren't so different from any other family, aside from being vampires. Greeting Bella so warmly also allows them to show Edward their support for this relationship. They essentially welcome Bella as a de facto family member. The revelation that Edward plays piano further humanizes; it makes the idea that he might be an evil supernatural being seem even more ridiculous.



Edward's compositions allow him to show his family members how much he cares for them. He also confirms that Bella has been accepted into the Cullen family, which means that Bella herself will also have more people to support her going forward.



Like Edward, Rosalie doesn't see being a vampire as something good—she sees being human as superior. So Rosalie doesn't understand at all where Bella's coming from.



Edward clearly isn't going to elaborate, so Bella asks about the look Carlisle gave him. Edward sighs that he's going to be a bit protective over the next few weeks, since Alice has seen visitors coming soon. They might not even come into town, but Bella shivers anyway. Edward rolls his eyes; this is the response he's been waiting for all along. Then, the conversation turns to the house. Edward explains that this is the one place his family doesn't have to hide. He finishes his song and then takes Bella on a tour of the house. They head upstairs, where Edward points out everyone's rooms. Then, Bella stops dead when she sees a huge wooden cross hanging above her.

Edward chuckles, says it's from the 1630s, and explains that Carlisle's father carved it. Carlisle was born in London sometime in the 1640s, the only son of an Anglican pastor. His father was thrilled when the Protestants came into power and enthusiastically went after Catholics—as well as vampires, werewolves, and witches. Edward says that Carlisle's father put him in charge when he was old enough, and Carlisle discovered a coven of real vampires hiding in the sewers. He led a raid on the coven, and one of the vampires bit Carlisle. Knowing his father would burn his body, Carlisle hid in an alley—and became a vampire. Seeing Bella's curious expression, Edward agrees to tell her more.

CHAPTER 16

Edward leads Bella to Carlisle's office, and Carlisle invites them in. The walls are covered in bookshelves, and Carlisle looks like a college dean. Edward explains that he wants to show Bella their history and directs Bella's attention to a wall of framed pictures. Pointing to a small oil painting of a city and a river, Edward says that it depicts London when Carlisle was born. Carlisle leaves—he needs to take over for a sick colleague at the hospital—and Bella finds it a bit unsettling to think of Dr. Cullen in 17th-century London.

Bella asks Edward to finish Carlisle's story. Edward sighs that at first, Carlisle tried to destroy himself by leaping from great heights or drowning in the ocean. But Carlisle was young and strong. He tried to starve himself, but vampires can't die this way. Eventually, as deer passed his hiding place, Carlisle couldn't help himself. But he realized that if he fed on animals, he could be something more than a monster. Carlisle vowed to apply himself to studying, so he swam to France. Bella is aghast, especially when Edward says it was easy—vampires don't have to breathe.

Bella knows and trusts the Cullens, so she doesn't see any reason to be afraid of them. The prospect of possible newcomer vampires, though, are something entirely different. Since Bella trusts Edward to keep her safe, she's willing to go along with his assessment that these newcomers could pose a threat. Edward saying he's going to be more protective of Bella again highlights how much he cares about her, as well as his sense that he has to be protective of her—that he is the strong one and she the one who needs protection.



Carlisle was born in a time when, according to Edward, it was commonplace to prosecute groups of different people or beings simply because one's religion or culture said to do so. Edward very specifically leaves out the "why" when he mentions Carlisle hunting these groups down—the reason he went along with it is because that's just how it was at the time. Interestingly, Edward also notes that Carlisle hunted werewolves. The werewolves were seen as evil in 17th-century England, while the werewolves in La Push obviously don't see themselves as evil. When Carlisle himself was forced into becoming a vampire, he was suddenly that which he had been taught to hate.



Edward doesn't make it seem like the Cullens have human visitors, often if ever. Having their history up on the walls is, presumably, something the Cullens do for themselves, so they remember where they came from. In this way, Carlisle seems to imply that they have a lot to learn from the past, and that the past can and should inform how they behave in the present.



Carlisle tried to destroy himself because he'd been raised in an environment where vampires were considered wholly evil creatures—it had never occurred to him that vampires could be good. But Carlisle discovered he did have a choice: he could try to be as human and possible, and use his new gifts for good rather than violence.



As Edward watches Bella react, he grows somber and still. He sighs that he keeps waiting for Bella to run away, and he won't stop her when she does. Bella assures him she's not going anywhere and asks him to continue his story. Edward's eyes flicker to another painting filled with bright, robed figures. He says that in France, Carlisle discovered medicine. It's taken him 200 years to develop adequate self-control, and these days he's nearly immune to the smell of blood. But in Italy, Carlisle discovered more "civilized" vampires. He points at the painting, and Bella recognizes Carlisle in it. Edward explains that the other three vampires next to Carlisle are still in Italy; they've been there for millennia.

Edward says that Carlisle and the others couldn't reconcile their different ideas about what to eat, so Carlisle decided to try the Americas. He was looking for a companion and eventually decided to create one. He didn't want to "steal anyone's life," though. Carlisle found Edward, dying and orphaned. And that, Edward says, was that. Bella asks if Edward has been with Carlisle since he became a vampire. Edward says "almost" and leads Bella up another flight of stairs. When Bella pushes, Edward says he had a "bout of rebellious adolescence" and resented Carlisle for forbidding him to feed on humans. Bella is fascinated.

Edward says he came back after a few years. He thought he'd avoid the "depression" that comes with having a conscience. He'd skip innocent people and pursue murderers and the like, figuring that he wasn't so bad if he was saving people. But Edward ultimately couldn't justify taking human lives and returned to Carlisle and Esme.

Edward leads Bella into his room, which has a wall of windows and another wall of CDs. Bella studies the collection but realizes Edward isn't paying attention. He explains that he figured he'd feel relief after telling Bella everything, but he's surprised that it also makes him happy. Bella asks if he's still waiting for her to run, and she says she's not scared at all. It's a lie, but Edward doesn't need to know that.

Bella might find some facts about vampire physiology or culture shocking, but she shows here that she's not willing to judge the vampires based on what they are. Rather, she's going to file away this information and make rational choices based on how the vampires act and treat her. Back in Carlisle's story, Edward makes the case that it takes time to become a good, moral person. Fortunately, Carlisle had the 200 years to spend in order to master his instincts and make himself immune to the smell of blood.



The story of the Italian vampires suggests that some vampires take on a veneer of civility, but continue to feed on humans. They may look like they are good, but they lack Carlisle's self-restraint. Carlisle's desire not to steal anyone else's life when creating a companion again makes clear the Cullen's view that human life is better or at least comparably different from vampire life, and therefore not to be forcibly taken. It's significant that when Carlisle was looking for a companion, he chose to first create a son or a platonic peer for himself (rather than a romantic partner). The novel reiterates here that family can take all sorts of different forms and still be legitimate. Edward's story of his rebellious adolescence makes clear the danger he poses, but also emphasizes the transition he has made—he has grown as a moral being by restraining his adolescent vampiric instincts.



Edward implies here that any being who takes others' lives, whether human or vampire, is going to have to contend with a sort of "depression" for murdering people. As Edward sees it, there's no excuse for taking a life—even if it's in his nature as a vampire to want to do so.



For Edward, it's shocking to realize that with Bella, he can truly be himself. Their relationship doesn't just make him happy; it also makes him feel whole. It's then interesting that Bella is lying about not being afraid. It's unclear what exactly she's afraid of, but she still can't separate her fear from her love and obsession with Edward.



With a mischievous growl, Edward leaps at Bella, and they crash onto the sofa. He protects her from any impact and pulls her close. Bella sarcastically tells him that he's a "terrifying monster." Hearing a voice in the hall, Edward sits Bella upright on his lap. Alice and Jasper let themselves in, and Jasper looks a bit shocked. Jasper says that Alice sees a storm coming tonight and asks if Edward wants to play baseball. Alice says that obviously, Bella can come. The vampires discuss that the weather will be perfect for baseball, and Alice bounds away.

As Bella and Edward get down to making out here, they also play act at being a monster and scared girl—the fear and danger inherent in their dynamic is also parts of its allure to them. To Bella and to human readers, it seems confusing that a thunderstorm is the perfect weather for a baseball game—so it seems likely that the vampires don't play baseball in the same way that humans do.



CHAPTER 17

Later, as Edward turns onto Bella's street, Bella assumes that Edward is going to stay with her for the next few hours. But then they notice Jacob and Billy on the porch, and Edward mutters that Billy is here to warn Charlie. Bella promises to take care of the Blacks and Edward teases that Bella also has to prepare Charlie to meet her boyfriend. Bella races out of the car to the porch, greets Billy and Jacob, and purposefully ignores Billy's meaningful stares. Billy explains he came to drop off some homemade fish fry from a friend. Bella is thrilled and mentions that Charlie will be home with more fish tonight. With a gleam in his eye, Billy suggests he'll go meet up with Charlie at the usual spot, but Bella lies that Charlie is fishing somewhere new.

Billy's suspicion of Edward—and the implication that he wants to go tell Charlie that Edward isn't an appropriate boyfriend for Bella—suggests that Billy takes the old Quileute legend at face value. The legend holds that the Cullens are, if not terribly dangerous, still evil and to be avoided at all costs. In contrast, Bella has spent time with the Cullens, learned their history, and seen who they really are recognizes their actual worth beyond just their nature as vampires.



Billy sends Jacob out to the car to find a picture of one of his sisters for Charlie. Once he's gone, Bella thanks Billy for the fish fry and says that Charlie won't be home for a long time. Billy finally speaks and says that it's not a good idea for Bella to spend time with the Cullens. Bella says she knows about the Cullens' "reputation," and in her opinion it's undeserved. Billy asks if Charlie is also aware, but Bella cagily implies that it's her choice to tell Charlie or not. Billy finally gives in and tells Bella to think about what she's doing. He's clearly concerned for her. Just then, Jacob bursts in the front door without a photo, and Billy grunts that it must be at home. He says it's time to leave, so Jacob sadly says goodbye to Bella.

Billy attempts to step into a more paternal role with Bella here. But ultimately, he concedes that Bella can make her own choices—even if he believes that she's making the wrong ones. It also seems like a shock for him that Bella knows about the Cullens' "reputation" (the fact that they're vampires). Jacob's behavior throughout this passage shows that he has no idea what's actually going on here—he's just still interested in Bella.



Bella throws on some warm clothes and picks up the phone when it rings. It's Jessica, wanting to tell Bella everything about the dance. She says that Mike kissed her and asks about Edward just as Charlie gets home. Jessica hangs up when she hears Charlie come in the door. A bit later, as Bella and Charlie eat, Bella shares that she was at the Cullens' this morning and has a date with Edward tonight. Charlie is angry and insists that "Edwin" is too old. Embarrassed, Bella tries to sooth his fears and says that Edward will be here soon. Charlie laughs when he learns that they're playing baseball on their date; he says she must really like Edward.

Bella. In the midst of her all-consuming love affair with a vampire, seems to find Jessica's excitement about high school things somewhat unexciting. Charlie's reaction to hearing that Bella and Edward are dating is somewhat surprising, given how interested Charlie has been in gauging Bella's interest in local boys. It seems as if perhaps he's just being protective.



A few minutes later, the doorbell rings. Charlie invites Edward in, and they laugh about Bella playing baseball. Annoyed, Bella says it's time to go. Edward promises to get Bella home early and follows Bella to the porch. Bella stops dead; there's a monster Jeep parked behind her truck. Charlie almost chokes. Edward has to lift Bella in and fasten the harness. Once they're on their way, Edward explains that the Jeep is Emmett's. This way, they don't have to run the entire way. Bella is ready to be sick.

Here Bella's boyfriend and father joke about Bella's lack of coordination. The story consistently makes Bella's lack of physical strength or coordination something that makes her a victim, even if here it is of "good-natured" fun. Charlie might have his reservations about Bella dating Edward, but though he is clearly put off by it he doesn't put his foot down when he sees the monster Jeep—he respects Bella's choices, even as he makes a show of being protective. The Jeep and Edward's comment, meanwhile, make clear that the Cullens certainly don't play baseball where or in the way normal humans do.



Edward navigates onto a mountain side road. When it finally ends, Bella insists that she'll sit in the car. But Edward swiftly pulls Bella out of the car, puts his face close to hers, and asks what she's afraid of. He kisses her and asks if she's still worried about hitting trees and getting sick. Bella gasps, but Edward promises she'll be fine. She gives in, and Edward kisses her deeply; Bella can't stop herself from pulling him close. Edward pulls away and growls that he'll be the death of her. Bella can tell that Edward is making an effort to be gentle as he pulls her onto his back.

Kissing Edward is exciting and overwhelming enough that Bella can't continue being afraid of being carried on Edward's back as he runs at superhuman speed through the forest—their love can, in this case, help her conquer her fear. When Bella loses control of herself and pulls Edward too close, it shows that Bella is still struggling with her self-control. Edward's comment shows that he too is struggling to control himself—but while Bella's desires are human and sexual, Edward's are also vampiric and bloodthirsty.



This time, Bella closes her eyes while Edward runs, and it's not so bad. But she falls off him and into the mud when he stops, and Edward laughs. Annoyed, Bella walks into the woods to find the baseball game. When Edward tells her to lighten up, Bella hisses that it's not fair that he's the only one who can get mad. Edward assures Bella that he's never mad at *her*—he's mad at *himself* for constantly putting Bella in danger. He loves her, but that's a bad excuse for endangering her.

Bella here addresses a typical aspect of relationships between men and women: that men are allowed to get mad, while women aren't. Edward doesn't really respond to that charge, though Bella being able to voice it at all is a sign of her strength. Edward focuses instead not on the fact of his anger, but its direction: that he is only angry at himself and how he endangers Bella. In other words, he says that when he is angry, he is angry on her behalf.



Edward takes Bella's hand and leads her to an enormous, open field. Esme and Emmett run over, but Rosalie disdainfully stalks away. Alice also comes running from across the field. Esme stays with Bella while the others run onto the field. Esme explains that she acts as the umpire, because the others all cheat horribly. Bella laughs that Esme sounds like her mom, and Esme shares that she hasn't been able to let go of her "mothering instincts." She lost a baby right after birth and jumped off a cliff. Bella stammers that Edward didn't mention that Esme jumped, to which Esme responds that Edward is a gentleman. She's always thought of him as a son, and she's thrilled he found Bella. Esme says that even though Bella is human, it'll all work out.

Esme's role as a mother and a moral compass for all of the Cullens stands out—it's the fact that she takes on this role, the novel implies, that makes Esme such a good person. The revelation that Esme tried to kill herself after her baby died also shows how intense emotions color relationships. Bella has consistently said that she's rather die than live without Edward. Esme actually did try to kill herself rather than live without her baby. That Esme's human mother instincts survived into her life as a vampire further suggests that vampires can choose how they will act and are not the simple monsters that Edward sometimes seems to think they are.



Bella takes stock of the teams. Edward, Carlisle, and Alice are in the outfield, while Emmett swings an aluminum bat. After one strike, Emmett hits the ball—it makes a massive crash, and Bella understands why they have to wait for thunderstorms to play. Bella doesn't enjoy sports, but it's fun to watch the vampires play. The game continues as the thunder rumbles—and then, suddenly, Alice gasps. Edward looks up at her and then runs to Bella's side. Everyone else rushes in, and Alice says that the other vampires heard them, and now they're coming. They're five minutes away. Edward insists he can't run with Bella now—he wouldn't make it in time, and they don't want the newcomers to try to hunt Bella.

Carlisle deliberates and then suggests that they continue playing; the newcomers, according to Alice, are just curious. Esme agrees to catch, leaving Edward next to Bella. Edward tells Bella to put her hair down and stay as still as possible. Though the game continues, nobody hits the ball very hard—and Rosalie gives Bella angry looks. Edward apologizes for putting Bella in danger, and then he looks to right field. The others turn in the same direction.

CHAPTER 18

Three vampires emerge from the forest; a woman and a man stand back as a third man takes the lead. These three seem catlike and are dressed like backpackers. Carlisle, Emmett, and Jasper step up to meet them, looking polished in comparison. When the newcomers get close enough, Bella can see that their eyes are burgundy. The dark-haired man introduces himself as Laurent, and his companions as Victoria and James. Carlisle introduces his family, including Bella. Laurent asks to join the game, but Carlisle insists that they're just finishing. The mood is light; Bella figures Jasper is responsible for that.

Laurent asks Carlisle what his hunting range is, and Carlisle says they hunt in the nearby mountains and keep a permanent home nearby. Laurent is shocked, but Carlisle invites him to come to their home and chat. Intrigued, Laurent accepts; he's been traveling and hunting since leaving Ontario. He agrees not to hunt in the area so as to not expose the Cullens, explaining with a laugh that they ate outside of Seattle. Carlisle suggests that Emmett, Alice, Edward, and Bella go get the Jeep.

Just as the vampires can be themselves in their home, they can also be themselves while they play baseball together in the protection of nature and a violent thunderstorm. The game provides them an opportunity to use their extreme strength, speed, and reflexes in a way that they can't in any other situation. However, things become frightening and sinister when Alice senses the other vampires headed their way. Given that Edward seems to consider running away with Bella, it shows that the Cullens don't trust the newcomers to be good or trustworthy.



For Edward, this is an emotionally difficult situation: his desire to be himself around Bella has put her in danger, which is what he most wants to protect her from. But this passage shows that Bella won't be left alone—aside from Rosalie, the rest of the Cullens will be there to protect her if the need arises. She has an entire family to protect her, which is not something she ever had before.



Victoria, James, and Laurent's burgundy eyes immediately set them apart from the Cullens—their eye color is a nod to their probable food source, human blood. When Carlisle introduces Bella as one of the Cullens, it's a strategic move (it won't arouse suspicion in the newcomers like leaving her out might). But it also shows Bella that she's a part of the group. If she remains with Edward, she'll be considered one of the family.



Given the guarded but curious way that Laurent and Carlisle speak, it looks like vampires seldom run into other vampires. Laurent's shock about the Cullen's permanent home suggests that other vampires are often wanderers, which would make sense given that if they were feeding on humans it would be hard to stay in one place. The way that Laurent so glibly talks about eating in Seattle shows that he, unlike the Cullens, doesn't take human life seriously—for him, humans are food, not beings worthy of care or protection.



In an instant, a breeze blows through Bella's hair, and James stiffens. James lurches forward, and Edward crouches and snarls in response. Chills run down Bella's spine. Carlisle says that Bella is with them, and Laurent asks if Bella is a "snack." James only backs down when Emmett moves closer to Edward. Laurent is wide-eyed and suggests they have a lot to learn about each other. He promises not to harm Bella or hunt in the area, but James shoots him an aggravated look. Carlisle again offers to take Laurent to his home, and Emmett, Alice, and Edward convene around Bella. Bella is too afraid to move, so Edward has to pull her along.

Edward throws Bella onto his back as soon as they're in the trees. He seems to be consumed by fury. When they reach the Jeep, Edward throws Bella in the backseat. Emmett sits next to her and straps her in, while Edward takes the wheel. Edward curses and drives faster than Bella has seen him drive—away from Forks. Nobody answers when Bella asks where they're going, and she demands that Edward take her home. She screeches that Charlie will call the FBI and that it'll be horrible for the Cullens, but Edward insists that worse things have happened. Then, calmly, Alice tells Edward to pull over.

Edward pushes the Jeep faster, and Alice again tells him to pull over. But Edward says that James is a "tracker." Emmett stiffens as Edward says that James wants Bella, and that he's going to hunt her tonight. Bella gasps and shouts that her scent is going to lead James right to Charlie. Finally, Edward stops the Jeep. Ignoring Bella entirely, Edward, Emmett, and Alice discuss James's desire to hunt Bella. As Edward and Alice glare at each other, Bella says she has a plan: they go back to Charlie's, she tells him she wants to go to Phoenix, and they lead James away. Then, the Cullens can take Bella anywhere. Emmett says it's a pretty good idea, and Alice thinks it'll be okay.

Bella again demands to be taken home. Finally, Edward says that Bella will leave Forks tonight, one way or another. She can have 15 minutes to pack. He starts the Jeep, and they hurtle back to Forks. Edward insists that he's going to run away with Bella alone, but Alice refuses. Bella also points out that James is going to think she's with Edward if Edward disappears, and Charlie will also be suspicious if Edward is out of town. Alice insists that she and Jasper will take Bella, and Bella suggests that Edward stay here for a few days, confuse James, and then come meet her in Phoenix—James will never expect Bella to go the most obvious place. Edward continues to argue, but he eventually gives in.

From Laurent's responses, it becomes even clearer that he's never thought of humans as anything but food. But he shows that he, at least, is willing to consider new perspectives and learn—unlike, presumably, James. That Bella is terrified shows how this is her firsthand experience of just how frightening and dangerous vampires can be, and also how highlights how different the Cullens are from other vampires.



Though he does so in the name of protecting her, Edward denies Bella any agency or choice in the matter by driving away from Forks and refusing to listen to her. And in this moment, when Bella cares so much about making sure Charlie is safe, Bella does get upset about how Edward is treating her, and tries to set boundaries and limits. Even so Bella has to rely on Alice's help to get Edward to listen. It's notable that Alice is a woman, and that she is the one who listens to Bella here.



Bella has valid concerns when she learns what it means that James is a tracker—she doesn't want Charlie to be James's next meal. Because he's so emotional, though, Edward isn't as willing to prioritize Bella's family over his own chosen family. Meanwhile, as the vampires entirely ignore Bella, they at first deny her any agency in this situation. But though Bella doesn't have a vampire's strength, she's still smart and capable of helping to develop effective plans.



Because Edward is so in love with Bella and so consumed with protecting her, he's less able to look at this situation holistically and take into account all the small things he should—such as whether Charlie will be suspicious if both he and Bella disappear. Bella and Edward's love might be able to conquer all sorts of problems, but they still need their families' help—and each other's help—to effectively solve these problems.



CHAPTER 19

Charlie is still awake waiting for Bella when Edward pulls up. Edward notes that James isn't in the house, so Alice and Emmett melt into the shadows, and Edward hugs Bella. Already crying, Bella walks to the porch, tells Edward she loves him, and asks him to please protect Charlie. Then, she screams at Edward to go away and bursts into the house. She shouts at Charlie to leave her alone, locks herself in her room, and starts to throw things in a bag. Edward appears and hands her clothes. From outside the door, Charlie tries to ask what's wrong. Bella says she broke up with Edward. Done packing, Edward leaves through the window, and Bella opens her bedroom door.

Charlie is confused and wants to know what happened. He grabs Bella; he's clearly not going to let her go without an explanation. Bella knows what she has to do. Crying, Bella says the problem is that she likes Edward too much, and she doesn't want to get trapped in Forks like Mom did. Shocked, Charlie begs Bella to wait a week, since Mom isn't at home now—Phil might get a position in Phoenix if things don't work out in Florida by the end of the week. Bella tries to leave, but Charlie grabs for her again. Sobbing angrily, Bella tells him to let her go—it didn't work out, and she hates Forks. Charlie lets her go.

The run across the yard is terrifying because she knows that James might attack at any moment. Bella leaps into the truck, shouts to Charlie that she'll call, and drives away as fast as she can. Edward appears and shifts Bella to the passenger seat, and the lights of the Jeep appear behind them. Edward says that James heard the end of Bella's "performance" and is following them now. Bella shrieks when a dark shadow appears outside her window, but it's just Emmett.

Edward tries to ask Bella about what she said to Charlie as a way to distract her from their present danger. Bella confesses that she used the same words Mom did when Mom left Charlie, and Edward assures her that Charlie will forgive her. He also reminds Bella that they'll be together again soon. When Bella asks, Edward says this is really his fault. James wanted Bella because of how she smells, but it made it worse that Edward defended her. James is a hunter and loves a challenge—so this is a dream come true for him. Edward mutters that they'll have to kill James and explains that to kill a vampire, you have to tear them up and burn the pieces. He notes that Victoria might fight alongside James, but Laurent is just with the other two for convenience.

Throughout the novel, Bella has often been treated as a victim, as weak, and has seen herself in those same terms. Now, though, she uses the way that people see her to her own advantage. Here she pretends to be the victim—she pretends that she can't handle her emotions toward Edward so that she can convince Charlie that is why she has to leave Forks. Bella pretends that she is the victim in order to protect Charlie.



Bella's made up story about breaking up with Edward is convincing because it has seeds of truth in it. Even though she says what she says to hurt Charlie and throw him off her trail, it's nevertheless true that Bella's love for Edward could trap her in Forks like it trapped Mom years ago. Love might be fun, exciting, and all-encompassing, but Bella's playacting here indicates that it can also lead to less desirable results such as betting everything on the person you love and finding yourself stuck in a life you don't want. Charlie, ultimately, let's Bella make this choice.



Bella is terrified in this moment, but she nevertheless trusts Edward to keep her safe. And when she calms down a bit after hearing that the shadow is Emmett, it shows that Bella now trusts the entire Cullen family to protect her and keep her safe. Edward, as he takes over the driving, continues to function as the active protector.



The prospect of James hunting Bella is frightening, but it's also scary for Bella to conceive of being away from Edward for a while—a sign of how connected they are to each other. Edward also can't get away from his belief that he's a bad person, since he put Bella in danger. In his mind, the fact that he endangered her in the first place carries more weight than the fact that he's doing everything he can to protect her—and is even willing to go as far as to kill James to do so.



Bella is concerned for Edward's safety, but he tells her to keep herself safe and not worry about him. James won't attack the house tonight, in any case. Edward pulls into the driveway, right up to the house. Emmett snatches Bella out of the truck the moment it stops and carries her into the house. Laurent is there, and Emmett growls at the sight of him. Edward announces that James is tracking them, and Laurent explains that Edward defending Bella set James off. James, he insists, is unstoppable and lethal. Laurent then asks if this is really worth it, and Carlisle tells Laurent he must choose who to support.

Laurent says the Cullens' way of life intrigues him, but he's not going to fight James. He suggests he'll head north to the clan in Denali. In parting, he warns the Cullens that James is brilliant and comfortable in the human world, so outsmarting him will be tricky. He dips his head and hurries out the door. Then, the Cullens start planning. Edward says James and Victoria are circling outside and tells Rosalie to trade clothes with Bella. Rosalie refuses, so Esme offers. Esme picks up Bella, whisks her upstairs, and then starts pulling Bella's shirt off. Esme explains that this will obscure Bella's scent. Once they've swapped clothes, Esme and Alice carry Bella downstairs.

Downstairs, Emmett and Edward are ready to head out into the night to chase James. Carlisle offers Esme and Alice small cell phones and says that Esme and Rosalie will take Bella's truck. When Alice confirms that the plan will work, Edward pulls Bella into a hug and kisses her quickly. Then, he follows Carlisle and Emmett out. As soon as Esme's phone rings a moment later, she and Rosalie leave. When Alice's phone rings, she goes to get the car. Jasper says that he knows what Bella is feeling, and she is worth it. When Alice returns, she holds out her arms and asks to pick Bella up. Bella sighs that she's the first to ask and allows Alice to bundle her into the car.

CHAPTER 20

Bella wakes up confused. She's clearly in a hotel, and at first she can barely remember speeding along in the black car. Then she remembers that the car pulled into Phoenix after only a day of driving, and Jasper got them a hotel near the airport. Bella figures she fell asleep right after they left the car. Now, it's three in the morning. Alice knocks, lets herself in, and suggests Bella sleep longer. She shares that there's food in the front room for her and says they'll have to stay inside. She hasn't heard from Edward.

Throughout the novel, Edward has worried for Bella's safety. Now Bella worries for his. His dismissal of her worry implies that he is more comfortable in the role of being the protector than the protected. Laurent's query of whether Bella is worth it shows that Laurent hasn't formed the same kind of loving bonds that the Cullens have. He doesn't understand the all-encompassing love Bella and Edward share, and he also doesn't value humans the way that the Cullens do.



Laurent might not know much about loving relationships or living life as a vampire vegetarian, but choosing to go north to the clan in Alaska shows that he's willing to learn. Even vampires who have spent a lifetime feeding on people, this shows, can make choices that make them better people. While Rosalie isn't willing to help protect Bella, Esme shows how invested she is in keeping Edward happy and Bella alive.



Seeing the entire Cullen family—even Rosalie—work together to save her shows Bella once again that she's considered an important member of their chosen family. And Jasper encourages Bella to understand that she's not less valuable as a living being just because she's human and not a vampire. Her life is meaningful and worth protecting—because she's a person, and because she's the love of Edward's life. Bella's response to Alice makes clear that, despite the Cullens concern for her, they all see her as physically weak and prioritize protecting her to such a degree that they almost objectify her, not even asking her consent to pick her up.



Throughout the novel, Bella has shown herself to be capable of handling all sorts of difficult, scary, or emotional events, from almost dying under a van to dating a vampire. Here, her humanity starts to show through, as it's clear she's struggling to process everything that's happened.



Bella joins Alice and Jasper in the hotel suite's living room. She picks at her food and watches Alice and Jasper stare blankly at the TV. They seem too still. Bella asks what's wrong, and Alice's answer—nothing—seems too honest. Bella ascertains that Alice expected Carlisle or Edward to call before now, and Bella feels suddenly panicky. Jasper reminds Bella that she's safe here and asks why she's frightened. Bella reminds them that James is lethal—what if Carlisle, Edward, or someone else got hurt just to protect her? Jasper assures her that nothing is going to hurt the Cullens. The family will be fine; they're just afraid for Bella.

Bella asks why they even care, and Alice says Bella has no idea how much Edward has changed since she came into his life. Bella starts to feel calmer, but she knows she can't trust her feelings with Jasper around. The day passes slowly; Bella paces while Jasper and Alice stare at the TV. In the afternoon, Bella goes back to sleep. Alice follows her, and soon, Bella starts to feel panicky. She asks Alice what's going on. Calmly, Alice says that Carlisle was going to lead James north and then ambush him, while Esme and Rosalie were going to lead Victoria west and then watch Charlie. If nobody has called, it means James is close enough to overhear them. She promises that she'll always tell Bella the truth.

Bella deliberates and then asks how a person becomes a vampire. Alice is surprised and says that Edward doesn't want Bella to know—but it's clear she doesn't agree about that. With a sigh, Alice agrees to share, with the disclaimer that she doesn't remember her own transformation and has never done it, so she can only share the theory. She says that vampires are predators, so they have all sorts of weapons: strength, speed, and extra senses. But they have one weapon additional weapon: their venom. The venom doesn't kill, it just causes pain. And if left to spread, it will turn a person into a vampire, assuming their heart keeps beating. The transformation is supposedly excruciating.

Bella asks why Edward said changing someone is hard, and Alice explains that vampires are like sharks. Once they smell blood, it's hard to stop—so biting someone and not continuing to feed would be hard. Alice says she has no idea why she doesn't remember her transformation; most vampires remember the pain of transforming better than anything else. She doesn't remember being human at all.

Bella might be exhausted and overwhelmed, but she can still recognize that there's something Alice and Jasper aren't telling her. And especially since Bella believes she's missing critical information, it's harder for her to trust that everyone is going to be fine. Her selfless nature means that she's far more concerned about any of her loved ones than she is about her own safety.



Alice confirms what the novel has implied all along: Bella and Edward's relationship is a once-in-a-lifetime romance, and it's given both Edward and Bella the safe place to be who they want to be. And for this reason, Alice suggests, it's totally worth it to protect Bella from any and all threats. Bella might not think of herself as particularly important, and in part because of that she doesn't fully grasp that staying alive and accepting the Cullens' help is one of the most effective ways she can help Edward be happy.



Edward thinks of himself as being a "bad guy" and a "monster" because he's a vampire. So it follows that he'd oppose Bella ever becoming a vampire. Per Edward's logic, it would transform Bella from her current status as a humanizing force who has helped him to find his goodness and turn her instead into a being just like him. For Edward, Bella remaining human is vital, for both her and him. The introduction of the concept of the venom also sets up what will be the climactic events of the novel.



With her shark analogy, Alice insists that vampires all struggle with self-control to some degree, no matter their food source. This goes back to Edward refusing to let Bella watch him hunt; he too said that it's hard to control himself when he's hunting and feeding.



Bella and Alice lapse into silence and then, suddenly, Alice leaps up and says something changed. Jasper appears in the doorway and guides Alice back to the bed. Alice says she can see a long, mirrored room with wood floors. James is there, and there's a gold stripe across the mirrors. She can't see everything, though; someone has to make another decision first. James will be in the room today or tomorrow, but he's waiting for something. Right now, James is in the dark somewhere else, watching a VCR. But the mirror room is "where he waits." Bella asks what this means, and Alice says James has just made new decisions. In any case, James is going to escape the Cullens in Washington.

The phone rings, and Alice picks up; it's Carlisle. She tells him about her **vision**, and Carlisle says James just got on a plane. Then she holds the phone out to Bella. It's Edward. Relieved, Bella tells Edward she was worried, and Edward scolds her for worrying about him. He explains that James got on a plane, presumably to head back to Forks. Esme is currently watching Charlie—Victoria has been at the house, but only when Charlie is at work. Edward assures Bella that Charlie is safe. Bella says she misses him, and Edward says that she took half of his heart with her. He promises to come soon.

When Bella turns around to give Alice the phone, she sees that Alice is sketching the room from her vision. Bella recognizes the room as a ballet studio, maybe the one where she used to take lessons. Alice asks if Bella would have a reason to go there (she wouldn't) and Jasper asks where it is. It's around the corner from Bella's mom's house, here in Phoenix. Alice assures Bella that the phone is safe, so Bella asks if she can call Mom. She knows her mother is returning home soon, and Bella doesn't want her coming back to her house with James and Victoria on the loose.

Jasper thinks this would be fine, so Bella calls and gets the answering machine, which she expected. She asks Mom to call her at this number when she gets home, and to not go anywhere until they speak. For the rest of the day, Bella picks at the food, watches the news, and watches Alice sketch. Eventually, Bella falls asleep.

It's important that though Alice can see this mirrored room now, she recognizes that she can't see everything about it because someone else has to make a decision. This highlights how important the idea of choice and free will are within Twilight's world: It's impossible to tell for sure what the future holds because it's changing all the time based on what choices people make. Generally speaking, seeing this change means that the Cullens are going to have to rework their plans if they're going to come out on top. But this revelation about how Alice's ability to see the future works also connects to the novel's themes about a person's character depending not on who (or what) they are but instead on what they do.



Bella and Edward's conversation illustrates how selfless they both are. Bella, as she's been since James emerged as a threat, is concerned for Edward and the Cullens' safety. To Edward, this is ridiculous and borders on offensive—because he can only think about protecting her. But even as Edward scolds Bella—something that could read as mean or controlling—he invokes how all-encompassing his love for her is. The novel constantly tiptoes down the line of Edward's behavior being controlling, and that controlling aspect being acceptable because it is motivated by overwhelming love.



Alice's vision of the ballet studio suggests that James has figured out that Bella is in Phoenix. It's also somewhat ironic that James is headed for a ballet studio in his hunt for Bella—given how uncoordinated she is, it's the last place one would expect to find Bella. It once again highlights just how out of her element Bella is amongst these powerful vampires.



Like Edward, Bella's primary concern is for her loved ones' safety. It's difficult for her to do anything else when she's not sure if anyone else is going to be safe.



CHAPTER 21

Bella wakes up far too early again and can hear Alice and Jasper talking. It's just after two in the morning, and Alice is sketching. Jasper murmurs that Alice saw that James is now heading for the room with the VCR, but it's light enough now that Alice can see. Bella recognizes Alice's drawing—it's Mom's living room. Alice gets on the phone immediately, and Jasper makes Bella's panic feel dull. When Alice hangs up, she says that Edward is on his way; he, Carlisle, and Emmett are going to take Bella somewhere else. They'll meet him at the airport, and Bella will leave with him from there.

Hysterical, Bella asks about Mom. She sobs that Alice can't guard all her loved ones forever, and she doesn't want James to hurt the Cullens, either. Jasper attempts to make Bella fall asleep, but Bella snaps that she doesn't want to and walks into her room. She slams the door and spends hours crying. Bella can't escape this nightmare—the only good thing is that she'll see Edward soon. Ashamed of her behavior, Bella returns to the front room and she hears the phone ring. Alice shares that the others just got on the plane and will be here in a few hours. Jasper is checking out; they're going to get a hotel closer to Mom's house.

The phone rings. It's Mom this time, so Alice hands Bella the phone. Mom is clearly panicking, so Bella sighs and tells her to calm down. Mom doesn't say anything—but James's voice tells Bella to stay quiet. He tells Bella to do what he says, or he'll hurt Mom. He coaches her through what to say (since Alice can hear) and says that Mom got home early. He asks if Bella can escape the Cullens and tells her to go to Mom's house alone. There will be a phone number there for her to call, and she must do this before noon.

After James hangs up, Bella fixates on how panicked Mom sounds. But she knows *she* can't panic. She has to get to the mirror room, where she knows she's going to die. Hopefully James will be satisfied with Bella, since Bella can't bargain. Bella knows she has to figure out how to evade Jasper and Alice. She tries to choke back her anxiety, so that Jasper doesn't get concerned, and thinks about Edward. She'll never see him again. Finally, she returns to the main room and tells Alice she convinced Mom to stay away. Seeing the hotel stationery, Bella asks if Alice would be willing to give Mom a letter. Bella takes the paper into the bedroom and writes to Edward. She apologizes and begs him to not come after her. Bella hopes he'll listen.

James terrorizes his victims by targeting their loved ones. He may not have the strong bonds with anyone, but he nevertheless realizes that other people do—and he can use that to his advantage. Notice too that the party coming to rescue Bella consists of most of the other Cullens, more proof that they see Bella as part of the family and worth protecting—for everyone's sake.



It's a sign of how selfless Bella is that this is a "nightmare" because her loved ones are in danger, not necessarily because she's in danger. When she composes herself and returns to the front room, it shows that Bella is trying to make this easier for her protectors—her pouting and refusing to cooperate isn't going to help anything. Her emotional response, though, also shows that Bella is human. Part of that involves sometimes acting out.



Kidnapping Mom shows again how adept James is at manipulating people's emotions and ties to other people. Part of what makes him such a skilled and "lethal" tracker is, presumably, that he's good at playing these games. He gets his victims to come to him, all on their own.



With Mom's life on the line, Bella experiences a moment of clarity. It would be unthinkable to not play along with James and leave Mom to die, so in Bella's mind, the only option is to betray her new chosen family and sacrifice herself. Earlier in the novel Edward said that Bella would never be in the position of having to sacrifice herself to save someone she loved. But now she is, and she is willing to commit that sacrifice. That this sacrifice involves also giving up Edward's love amplifies her selflessness. Finally, note that throughout the novel Bella has struggled to contain her emotions. Now when her plan depends on it, she does master them.



CHAPTER 22

Bella is on edge. Jasper isn't back from checking out yet, and Bella is terrified that Alice will figure out what's going on. Presently, Alice bends over and grips the bed. Jasper appears and runs to her, demanding to know what she sees. Alice says "Bella," and Bella realizes Alice now knows that Bella is going to meet James. When Jasper makes Bella feel calm, Bella welcomes it. Alice recovers a moment later, says everything is fine, and asks Bella if she wants breakfast. Bella insists on waiting until they head to the airport. She showers, sure that Alice is going to tell Jasper what she saw in her **vision**.

Finally, Alice, Jasper, and Bella leave for the airport. On the drive, Bella asks how Alice's **visions** work; Edward mentioned that things change. Alice says that's true. The weather is easy, but people change their minds all the time and every decision changes the future. Bella nods; this, she says, is why Alice couldn't see James in Phoenix until he decided to come. Privately, Bella knows that this is also why Alice only saw Bella in the dance studio with James once Bella made her choice.

At the airport, Bella feels extremely lucky: Edward's plane is landing in the biggest, most confusing terminal. Bella leads Jasper and Alice through the airport, and they find a seat. She gives Alice her letter, and then, with 30 minutes until Edward's flight arrives, Bella says she's hungry. She asks if Jasper will go with her, since she's feeling anxious. Alice doesn't seem concerned—clearly, she thinks James is going to outsmart them, not that Bella is going to betray them. Jasper walks with Bella toward a café, but Bella says that she has to use the restroom. She slips into the bathroom—and darts out the bathroom's other door.

Bella runs for the elevators, squeezes into one, and races out of the airport. She leaps onto a hotel shuttle and imagines Edward standing on the curb, frustrated by the end of her scent trail. At the hotel, Bella gets into a cab as an older couple gets out. The driver agrees to drive her to Mom's house for \$80. On the drive, Bella sits back and tries to compose her thoughts. She thinks of Edward and imagines meeting him at the airport. Perhaps they would've gone somewhere in the far north so he could be outside—or maybe they'd have gone somewhere tropical but remote, so he didn't have to hide. Bella daydreams until the cab driver asks for Mom's house number.

This passage illustrates how important one's perspective is. To Bella, it's a complication to her plan that Alice now sees she's going to meet James in the ballet studio. But to Alice, this is devastating and something to be avoided at all costs. Alice wants to protect Bella. Bella wants to protect her mother. No one is right, here—the situation is messy and everyone is trying to do their best to help the people they love. Except James, of course.



The weather is easy for Alice to predict because there's no human choice involved. But people, Alice proposes, are complicated and are always gathering new information and making new choices. In this way, the novel makes clear that the future is essentially made of the choices that people make. To take that logic further, the novel makes clear that one can always make a different choice, and in doing so recreate oneself and the future. It is not what or who a person is that defines them; it's the choices they make.



Just because Alice can see the future doesn't mean she has every detail regarding how it's going to work out. And because she trusts and loves Bella, it's unthinkable to her at this point that Bella will be responsible for the vision she had earlier (which was presumably Bella in the ballet studio with James). When Bella is able to use her knowledge of this confusing terminal to her advantage, it highlights again how intelligent and resourceful she is.



Bella believes at this point that she's never going to see Edward again, since she's sure she's going to die in the ballet studio with James. By choosing to meet James, she's prioritizing her mother's life over her own life, her mother's life over her own happiness. But this, of course, doesn't mean that Bella doesn't still love Edward and want to be with him. In her own mind, she can escape somewhere happier and think of how things could be had she been able to make other choices.



At the house, Bella lets herself in and finds a phone number written on Mom's whiteboard. She dials carefully, and James answers on the first ring. James assures Bella that Mom is fine—assuming Bella is alone—and then tells her to come to the ballet studio around the corner. Bella agrees and hangs up. As she leaves the house, Bella can see in her mind's eye Mom and a young version of herself everywhere. She feels like she's leaving everything behind. It feels to Bella like she is running through quicksand, since the day is so hot—and Bella wishes she was home, in Forks.

Finally, Bella crosses the parking lot and lets herself into the unlocked building. The lobby is empty, so Bella walks through into the brightly lit studio. She's terrified—and then she hears Mom's voice. But Mom isn't talking to Bella. Bella turns and sees that Mom is actually on the TV screen. The video is from Thanksgiving five years ago, which is when Bella almost fell off a pier in California. Turning slowly, Bella sees James behind her with the remote.

Bella realizes that Mom is safe—and that she never even got Bella's message. Bella is so relieved that she feels giddy and strangely confident. Soon, everything will be over, and both Charlie and Mom will be fine. James is surprised that Bella isn't mad, and Bella notices that his eyes are black. He's thirsty. James remarks that some humans have no sense of self-preservation, and he comes close to Bella. Up close, she finds him unremarkable—save for the pale skin and eye color. He asks if Edward is going to avenge her death, but Bella says she asked Edward not to in a letter.

James seems disappointed. He says this was too easy and asks if he can leave Edward a letter of his own. James fiddles with a small video camera and says that after seeing this video, Edward won't be able to resist coming after him. James then insists that this has happened before, and he's surprised Edward didn't pick up on it. Years ago, a vampire was fond of a "little victim," just as Edward is fond of Bella. But when James set his sights on the girl, the vampire stole her from the asylum and turned her into a vampire. The girl didn't notice the pain; she'd been stuck in a dark cell for a long time. It was the 1920s, so she was in an asylum undergoing shock treatments. Bella realizes James is talking about Alice. James says he destroyed Alice's maker.

Bella will be leaving everything and everyone behind. So it's not surprising that she essentially sees her life flash before her eyes as she walks these familiar streets of her home. But then, interestingly, Bella realizes in this moment that home isn't Phoenix for her anymore. Home is with the person she loves—Edward—in Forks, highlighting the power of their love to change her perspective.



James tricked Bella to get her to come, but there is an upside to this: Mom is safe. Bella has now shown herself to be willing to give her life for those she loves—but James has manipulated her selflessness for his own advantage. Bella now finds herself in grave danger precisely because she's loving, loyal, and trusting.



Again, it shows how selfless Bella is that she feels giddy and relieved that Mom is safe and Bella is the only one who's going to die. Her own life doesn't mean nearly as much to her as the health and happiness of her loved ones. Describing James as "unremarkable" suggests that he's fundamentally different from other vampires, like the Cullens. He doesn't have the intoxicating beauty to draw victims in.



In addition to providing an origin story for Alice's transformation into a vampire, this scene establishes James's fundamentally evil nature. He doesn't just follow his instincts to feed on human blood. He relishes causing pain, both physical and emotional. And he has been that way for decades, at least back to the 1920s. James's evil nature further highlights how different from him the Cullens and Edward are. Anyone can become a vampire, but how they behave once they are a vampire is what defines them.



James approaches until he's inches away and says that Alice smelled even better than Bella does. Then, with a sigh, James says they should get on with it. Bella feels ill; she knows this isn't going to be a quick death. James circles her and crouches. Bella can't help but run, though she knows it's useless. James blocks her and strikes her across the chest. She flies into the mirrors, and James steps on her leg, snapping it. Bella hears a sound and doesn't even realize she's the one screaming. James throws her into the mirrors again, and the glass cuts into her scalp. Bella bleeds and feels nauseous and dizzy. She watches James's expression change; he's clearly hungry. She hopes that what happens next will be fast.

James doesn't just feed. He doesn't just follow his instincts. He tries to cause as much pain as he can in the process. For her part, Bella has willingly put herself in this position to save those she loves, and she never regrets doing so. But the experience of this pain is still brutal.



CHAPTER 23

Bella dreams she's floating in dark water. She hears a happy sound—a new furious snarl. Something slashes her hand, and then she knows she's dead. She can hear an angel calling to her and something else snapping and breaking. The angel tells Bella to please stay and calls for Carlisle. He weeps, but Bella can't tell him to stop. Carlisle says Bella's leg is broken. When he prods Bella's side, Bella realizes this probably isn't heaven—it hurts too much. But then, a scalding pain in Bella's hand starts to overtake every other thought. Finally, Bella screams that her hand is burning and begs someone to “stop the fire.”

Consumed by pain and loss of blood, Bella is in an almost dreamlike state, yet in that state she's aware of Edward and Carlisle arriving to try and save her. That she thinks of Edward as an angel shows that Bella thinks of Edward as being wholly good—that is, the exact opposite of how Edward sees himself. Edward's weeping communicates his own love for Bella. The fire in Bella's hand makes clear that James bit her—Carlisle and Edward have to not just save Bella's life, but also stop her from becoming a vampire.



Edward and Carlisle realize that James bit Bella. Alice says that Edward has to do it, and Carlisle tells Edward to suck the venom back out. Edward is unsure, but Carlisle says he can't help—Bella's head is bleeding too much, especially if Edward is going to be taking more blood. Bella screeches for Edward, and with a determined expression, Edward puts his lips to Bella's hand. It burns worse at first, but then Bella starts to lose consciousness. She hears Edward say that he can taste the morphine now, and she croaks that it doesn't hurt anymore. Carlisle asks where Mom is, and Bella says she's in Florida—and she smells gasoline. Then, suddenly remembering, Bella says that the video will tell Alice where she came from. Edward picks Bella up as she loses consciousness.

Edward having to suck the venom from Bella's hand brings together all of Edward's fears and desires into a single moment: his desire for Bella's blood; his love and need to protect Bella; his fear that he is truly, at heart, evil and he won't be able to control himself because of that desire. But as Bella screams Edward pushes past his fear and acts, and he sucks out her blood along with the venom and does not lose control—his love and desire to protect Bella wins out over his vampiric instincts. Meanwhile, as soon as Bella's pain diminishes even slightly she already starts thinking about others (as when she talks about her mom and tells Alice about the video).



CHAPTER 24

Bella opens her eyes in a bright hospital room. She lifts a hand to rip a tube out of her nose, but Edward catches her hand. Bella immediately starts apologizing and asks what happened. Edward says that Mom is here, and that he's also informed Charlie; Edward told them that Bella fell down two flights of stairs and then went through a window. Edward tells Bella that she has many injuries and broken bones.

Bella shows again how selfless she is—or, if read a different way, how self-abnegating—when the first words out of her mouth are apologies. It's an indicator of how much Edward wants to protect and care for Bella that he's the one both to keep her from pulling the tube out of her nose, and the one to tell her what happened.



Bella asks how Edward “did it.” Edward takes Bella’s hand and says it was almost impossible to stop—but he did, so he must really love Bella. Bella apologizes for tricking Jasper and Alice, but Edward insists he understands. Then, Edward says that Emmett and Jasper “took care” of James in the other room; they couldn’t handle Bella’s blood. Alice was able to stay, along with Edward and Carlisle. Edward adds that Alice has seen the tape.

Edward has seen himself as evil because of his instincts. That he sees his love of Bella as giving the power to restrain himself shows how he sees his love for Bella—and Bella herself—as redeeming, as allowing him to be who he wants to be. That such restraint was in fact necessary is made clear by the fact that Jasper and Emmett had to be in a different room from Bella as the only way to control themselves. The news that Alice has seen the tape adds more meaning to what Bella has done—she wasn’t just tricked by James; her self-sacrifice also led to Alice learning about her lost past.



Bella asks what their story is—she needs to be able to tell Mom the right thing. Edward says he came to Phoenix to try to convince Bella to return to Forks, but Bella tripped in the hotel. Bella insists there’s no evidence, but Edward grins—Alice had lots of fun breaking windows. Now, Bella just has to heal. Edward strokes Bella’s cheek and the heart monitor beeps quickly. Grinning, Edward kisses her and then pulls back—Mom is coming. He pretends to take a nap in the recliner.

Bella’s clumsiness here becomes not just a liability; it can be used as a way to protect her as well. Even injured as Bella is, Edward’s kiss still gets her heart pumping.



Mom enters the room, hugs Bella, and cries. Bella is shocked to learn that it’s Friday—she’s been asleep for several days. Mom glances suspiciously at Edward and says she had no idea Bella had good friends like Alice and Edward in Forks. Changing the subject, Bella asks about Phil. Mom shares that he got signed to a baseball contract in Florida. She says Bella will love Jacksonville, but Bella interrupts to say she’s staying in Forks. She’s settled and has friends there, and Charlie needs her. Mom is bewildered and asks if this is about Edward. Unable to lie, Bella says it is.

Bella went to Forks as a sacrifice to give her mother time with Phil, but Bella never believed or felt like Forks was her home. Now her mother is giving her a way out of Forks. But because of Edward—and to a lesser extent both the family of the Cullens and Charlie—Bella here realizes that Forks is her home.



Mom says they need to talk about Edward, since she’s sure Edward is in love with Bella. Bella agrees and says she’s crazy about Edward too. Flustered, Mom attempts to sound like a “parental authority” and insist that Bella’s too young, but Bella assures her it’s just a crush. Mom glances at the clock; Phil is supposed to call soon. Bella tells her to go take the call and is aghast when Mom then says she’s been sleeping at the hospital. Mom insists it’s not a big deal. There’s been some crime in her neighborhood anyway; someone burned down the neighborhood dance studio and left a stolen car out front.

This scene seems to imply that, for Mom, there is a feeling of loss in that Bella is forming a chosen family with a romantic partner. Bella is able to thread the needle by both acknowledging her relationship with Edward but also playing into her mother’s belief that she is too young to have a true adult relationship. Even as she is misleading her mother, Bella is also caring for her.



Bella shivers and winces, but she assures Mom she's fine here with Edward to keep an eye on her. Once Mom leaves, Bella asks Edward if he really stole a car. He says he did and he's not sorry at all. He admits he's surprised Bella doesn't want to go to Jacksonville, but Bella notes that in Florida, Edward would only be able to come out at night, like a "real vampire." Without smiling, Edward says he'd stay in Forks, where he can't hurt her. When this sinks in, Bella's heart races and she begins to hyperventilate. A nurse walks in and offers Bella more pain meds, but Bella refuses.

Edward tells Bella to calm down once the nurse leaves, but Bella begs him to not leave her. He promises to stay as long as she needs him. Having him close seems to soothe Bella's breathing, and Edward mutters something about Bella overreacting. Almost shaking, Bella asks if Edward wants her to leave. Edward insists that's silly; he just doesn't want to put Bella in danger. Bella points out that if it weren't for Edward, she'd have died months ago. But as though he didn't hear her, Edward says the worst part was believing he was going to kill Bella. Bella reminds him that he *didn't* kill her.

Panicking, Bella asks Edward to make her a vampire. He responds that he supposes she'll get her way at some point, but he refuses to promise that he'll do it. Bella asks why he didn't let her turn into a vampire this time. By Edward's reaction, Bella can tell that Alice hasn't let on that she told Bella about the details of vampire transformations. Bella insists that she needs to be able to save Edward sometimes, and she wants to be Superman. Edward assures Bella that she doesn't want to be a vampire—but Bella argues that Edward is her life now, and it will hurt her to lose him. Still, Edward refuses to do it.

Edward asks what Bella is going to do about Mom and Charlie. Bella doesn't have a good answer, but she mutters that they'd want her to make her own choices and live her life. She reminds him that regardless, one day she's going to die—she's going to keep getting older. Edward responds that this is how it's supposed to be, and that he shouldn't even exist. He tries to end the conversation, but Bella insists that it's not over. She knows other vampires, like Alice. She asks if Alice has already seen Bella as a vampire and says she'll never bet against Alice. They stare at each other for a minute, until Edward calls the nurse to give Bella more pain medication.

Edward clearly blames himself for what happened to Bella. In his mind, their love is intoxicating and all-consuming, but it's dangerous. He suggests that the best thing he can do for Bella is to leave her, where she won't be put in another situation like the one she found herself in with James. That his news affects Bella physical in a way that causes the nurse to ask if she needs more pain meds attests to just how profoundly important being near Edward is to Bella.



Edward here suggests two ways that he is dangerous to Bella: because of what he might expose her to (i.e. other vampires such as James) but also because he himself is a danger to her because of what he is. Bella refutes both arguments: first pointing out that Edward has saved her from the normal external dangers of life (Tyler's van) but also, and more importantly, because in the very moment when he would have been most likely to kill her he was able to refrain. She continues to judge him not by what he is but by what he does.



With Edward still unmoved, Bella now attempts a different tactic to stay with Edward—become a vampire himself. Saying that Edward is her life now mirrors what Edward said earlier in the novel, and it drives home that Bella would rather sacrifice her mortal life than consider an existence without Edward. Further, she shows here an interest in shifting her role from the one who always needs saving to someone who herself could do the saving. Edward's refusal suggests that he is still not past the belief that vampires are inherently bad, and so he can't make Bella, whom he loves, into something bad.



In Bella's mind, what Edward thinks is best for her doesn't matter. Her comment about Mom and Charlie makes clear that she is focused on making her own choices about what she wants. The only way to be with Edward forever is to become a vampire. And given how consumed with each other Bella and Edward are, this is the only option Bella sees. Earlier, Edward suggested that perhaps vampires are supposed to exist—that they were created alongside humans as humans' predators, just as killer whales prey on seals. When he says here that he shouldn't exist, it reflects his deeper belief in the fundamental badness of vampires (which perhaps has been amplified by the encounter with James).



Bella starts to panic again and admits that she's afraid of closing her eyes; Edward might leave. Edward promises he won't leave as long as Bella is still happy. Then, the nurse comes in with a syringe. Almost immediately after the injection, Bella's eyelids droop. Edward returns to her side and says they can keep arguing when she wakes up. Before Bella loses consciousness, she says she's betting on Alice.

The only thing that is important to Bella is being with Edward. That is her sole focus, and while one might argue that such a singular focus is a bit unhealthy, it is also a testament to the profound depths of her love for him. At the same time, Bella here is also making clear to Edward that he is not her only path to becoming a vampire. Edward, as much as he loves Bella, has also been controlling towards here. In this scene Bella is asserting her power to make her own life (or un-life, as the case may be) choices. That Alice—who sees the future based on people's choices—is Bella's other current root to vampire-hood amplifies her insistence on her ability to make her own choices.



EPILOGUE

As Edward helps Bella into the car, he ignores how angry she is. He won't tell her where they're going, either. Bella has spent most of the day in Alice's bathroom while Alice did her hair and makeup and dressed Bella in a "ridiculous" dress. Bella's single stiletto heel is held on with a ribbon (her other foot is still in a walking cast). As Bella wonders where they might be going, Edward's cell phone buzzes. It's Charlie, who's been a bit difficult since Bella returned. He blames Edward for what happened, but he worships Carlisle. Edward laughs at what Charlie says and asks to talk to "him"—Tyler, who's at Charlie's house to pick Bella up. Edward tells Tyler that Bella is unavailable.

Bella is angry and resentful in part because she hasn't had any say all day in what she does. She doesn't enjoy makeup or clothes, so it's uncomfortable to submit to Alice's pampering. And then, to make matters worse, Bella also sees that Edward, possibly Charlie, and Tyler are fighting over her and arguing over where she goes and with whom. Bella prides herself on her self-sufficiency, so this is just salt in the wound.



Bella knows where they're going, and she shouts that Edward is taking her to prom. Does he know her at all? He asks her to not be difficult, but Bella is mortified. She's spent all day hoping for something different, and now she realizes that was silly. When she starts to cry, Edward angrily asks her to humor him. Bella agrees and feels a bit better when Edward says that Alice, Jasper, Emmett, and Rosalie will also be there. There hasn't been any progress with Rosalie, but Bella is on good terms with the others. Suspicious, Bella asks if Charlie knows about this. She grits her teeth when Edward says he does. Tyler is apparently the only one who didn't know.

Earlier in the novel Tyler insisted he was going to take Bella to prom—clearly he hasn't given up, even showing up at Charlie's house ready to take her without ever getting a yes from her. Yet Edward is also taking Bella to prom without her consent, which seems to again highlight his controlling tendencies. The worst part of all of this, for Bella, seems to be that everyone she loves conspired to force her into doing something she's been vocal about not wanting to do. It's unclear, at this point, why everyone has worked together to get Bella to prom, but Bella isn't willing to look at the situation with any understanding.



At school, Bella stays in the front seat—she refuses to get out when anyone can see her. With a sigh, he promises to not let anything hurt her and to not let go of her. He helps her out and supports her as they head for the gym. Emmett, Rosalie, Jasper, and Alice are already on the dance floor when Edward buys their tickets. As soon as they're in, he tows Bella onto the dance floor, lifts her feet onto his, and then begins to waltz. Bella realizes she's enjoying herself.

Edward seems to imply that he thinks Bella doesn't want to go to prom because of her clumsiness and her injuries. Their relationship continues to be one in which Edward promises to help and protect her, something that may be more grating since Bella has said she would like to equalize the power imbalance between them. But, at the same time, Bella still loves being with Edward.



Edward, though, suddenly looks murderous. Bella follows his gaze and sees Jacob Black coming toward them. He's clearly uncomfortable as he asks to cut in—and Bella is shocked that Jacob has grown and is now eye to eye with Edward. Edward carefully steps away as Jacob puts his hands on Bella's waist. As they sway awkwardly, he proudly says he's six-foot-two now. Finally, Bella asks why he's here.

Ashamed, Jacob says Billy paid him to come, since this is a "safe" place to talk to Bella—and he promised Jacob the car part he needs if he passed along a message. Jacob tells Bella not to get mad, but Billy wants Bella to break up with Edward. Billy was very angry when Bella got hurt in Phoenix. Bella tells Jacob that Edward and Carlisle saved her, but Jacob makes it seem like there's more. With prodding, Jacob says that Billy says, "We'll be watching." Bella laughs. She asks Jacob to thank Billy; she knows he cares.

The song ends, and Edward appears. Jacob waves halfheartedly and heads for the door. Edward gathers Bella up again for a slow dance and says he's not actually mad at Billy. Jacob is just irritating. He continues to spin Bella around until Bella asks why, exactly, they came here. Edward ushers Bella out of the gym to a bench, comments on the moon, and then says he brought Bella here so she won't miss any part of her life. Bella shudders and says that if Edward weren't so strong, she wouldn't have come to prom at all.

Edward asks why Bella was so surprised when she figured out that they were going to prom. Bella fidgets and tries to evade the question, but eventually she says that she hoped Edward was going to change her. She scowls; that seems more meaningful than prom. With a sigh, Edward asks if she's really ready to give up her life for him. Gulping, Bella says yes. Edward puts his lips to her jaw, and Bella balls her fists, steeling herself. But Edward laughs and leans away. He's not going to give in so easily, and he asks if Bella really dreams about "being a monster." Bella says she dreams about being with Edward forever. Edward promises to stay and kisses Bella's throat again.

With his newfound height, Jacob seems to emerge here as yet another suitor for Bella. Edward's murderous rather than dismissive look further suggests that Jacob is to be taken seriously. For her part, though, Bella doesn't seem to pick up on that. To her, Jacob is just a friend.



Passing along this message is excruciating and embarrassing for Jacob because he doesn't believe there's anything wrong with the Cullens or in the old Quileute legend. In his mind, Billy is being ridiculous. But Billy's message nonetheless has a menacing tone that does two things: it implies that the Quileute may be more powerful than they have shown so far (they may really be werewolves!), and in doing so it sets up a foundation for a sequel to Twilight.



Edward saying that he doesn't want Bella to miss out on living her life may be taken in a few ways. It might suggest that Edward wants Bella to experience human life as deeply as possible so that she will realize she should never become a vampire. Or it might indicate that he realizes that, at some point, Bella will become a vampire and he doesn't want her to miss out on the life she will lead before that. Either way, Edward's comments shows why he went to such great lengths to get Bella here. He sees this as a kindness he's doing for her, rather than forcing her into something she hates.



The novel ends with an impasse—Bella remains steadfast in her desire to be a vampire, and Edward continues to refuse her. Their disagreement stems from their differing perspectives on the matter. To Bella, becoming a vampire means she'll never have to say goodbye to Edward. But to Edward, it would make Bella a monster, not the humanizing force she is now. Ending on this impasse further sets the stage for the sequel to continue exploring these ideas. Meanwhile, Edward kissing Bella on the throat—the very place he would bite if he was seeking her blood—further sets the stage for the sequel with a final tease of the always present mix of love, lust, and self-control that is so titillating throughout the novel.





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