

Twilight

Stephenie Meyer

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Moving to the small, gloomy town of Forks, Washington was a decision that Bella Swan made to make her mother happy—it was definitely not to benefit herself. Yet despite the never-ending rain and overwhelming boringness of small town life, Bella is intrigued by the strange, yet beautiful, Cullens family—especially with their youngest member, the mysterious and moody Edward Cullen. His ability to save her life with almost inhuman abilities and cryptic ways ensnare her. Growing closer, Bella finds that Edward may not be as human as everyone seems to think, rather he is a creature of the night—a vampire. Thrown headfirst into a world of “vegetarian” vampires, her happy world is destroyed by a trio of nomadic vampires who chance upon the Cullens. Chased by a bloodthirsty vampire, Bella must make the ultimate sacrifice—will she allow her loved ones to be hurt, or will she give up her own life to protect theirs?

A romantic at heart, I loved *Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer. The complex relationship between Bella and Edward drew me in—he thirsted for her blood, yet loved her with his whole heart. Written in extremely detailed writing, the reader was left with a vivid description of what Meyer’s vampires were like both physically and emotionally. The various secondary storylines, such as the story behind each of the Cullens and Bella’s friends at school, add flavor to the story. Bella does not adapt to vampires perfectly, many of the things Edward does startles or frightens her. I also love that *Twilight* does not end in a cliffhanger, yet still manages to retain enough mystery for the reader to yearn for more. Unanswered questions—such as Rosalie’s hatred towards Bella, or the knowledge the people on the Native American reservation have about the Cullens—are just enough to keep the story flowing throughout the series, yet do not interrupt the happy ending in the first book.

Like all books, *Twilight* does have its weaknesses. I personally do not like the fact that the vampires sparkle in the daylight. However one of the more serious points argued is the nature of the relationship between Edward and Bella. I agree that it is not a perfectly healthy one—Edward is overprotective and makes many of Bella’s decisions for her. If someone, especially a younger reader, were to read the series without experience and knowledge on a healthy relationship, he or she may psychologically assume that some aspects of this relationship should apply to the real world. I would suggest that the book only be read by mature readers over the age of 13 who are capable of separating fact from fiction.

Twilight is a great book, however, people tend to either fall head-over-heels for it or entirely despise it. Therefore, if you are considering buying this for someone, I would suggest that you change your mind unless you know for certain that they have read the book and liked it. For first time readers, it is better to check out the book from a library because you will not have to risk your money on something that just might not be for you. If you love this book, have finished the series, and are looking for something else to delve into, the following books are for you:

1. *The Blue Bloods* (series) – Melissa de la Cruz
2. *Hush, Hush* (quartet) – Becca Fitzpatrick
3. *Fallen* (series) – Lauren Kate