And They Lived Happily For All Eternity By Kyndra Price

Communication Studies Department California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo December 2009

Dr. Richard Besel		
Senior Project Adviser	Signature	Date
Dr. Terrence Winebrenner		
Department Chair	Signature	Date

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Introduction

"Today my girlfriend dumped me proclaiming she wanted someone more like her 'Edward'. I asked her who Edward was. She held up a copy of her 'Twilight' book. She was talking about a fictional vampire. FML." This quote was recently written on one of the newest websites called "fuck my life," a.k.a. FML. On this website people write about horrible experiences that have happened to them throughout their daily lives. This quote caught my attention because of the girlfriend's inability to distinguish fictional from reality. Some of the top selling novels and movies today are fictional, but what is it about them that are so popular? When *Harry Potter* was the top selling fictional novel, not only did the novels become a series of movies, but Halloween costumes were made, private parties became "Harry Potter" themed, and book stores opened at twelve midnight to throw a "newest Harry Potter book" party with dress code strictly enforced! In a short chapter written by Bonnie Mann, titled Vampire Love: The Second Sex Negotiates the Twenty First Century, she talks about her experience taking her daughter to Twilight's midnight book release party. "... The store, packed wall-to-wall with teenage girls in the full bloom of an almost frighteningly incandescent excitement, many of them dressed in low-cut black gowns with their faces shining like floodlights through pale white paint" (p. 131-132).

What is it about fantasy novels that make people obsessed to the point of wanting fantasy to become a reality? And why do audiences feel a sense of reality in their fantasy life and novel? These are just a few of the questions that I will be asking myself while analyzing my artifact. Specifically, however, I will be focusing on the dimensions,

narrative, and religious influence in the novel that have contributed to making Twilight a number one bestseller. Twilight was written by Stephenie Meyer in 2005. Since then, Meyers has written three more novels including *New Moon, Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn*. Meyer wrote and published her first novel within six months and Twilight soon became a #1 New York Times Bestseller. "Publisher's weekly named her one of the most promising new authors of 2005 and her first novel, Twilight, has received critical praise and has been translated into twenty languages" (Arnaudin, 2008, p.5). Between all four books there are a total of 2,444 pages and every single one sends a thrilling feeling of excitement and curiosity down your spine. Meyers has a website, which lists some of her favorite quotes from fans. Currently there are 344 fan sites listed on her website. With that number of fan sites, it is extremely clear that Meyers has reached a large variety of fans and audiences, including many different cultures and groups around the world. Because of the four novels, Twilight has transitioned into movies and is well on its way in the making of Halloween costumes for all those as obsessed as I am. In order to understand why so many people are fanatics about Twilight. I will be using the components of narrative criticism including setting, characters, narrator, events and causal relation, along with analyzing the Mormon influence throughout the four novels.

Literature Review

Narrative criticism has been researched and analyzed for centuries. It plays a vital role in today's society considering many scholars believe that it is narration and storytelling that creates and molds a society's views, values, and beliefs. In Walter Fisher's *Narration As A Human Communication Paradigm: The Case Of Public Moral Argument*, he talks about narrative paradigm as another method to use for criticism.

Fisher argues that there are 4 major components to narrative paradigm. "(1) Humans are essentially storytellers, (2) the paradigmatic mode of human decision-making and communication is good reasons which vary in form among communication situations, genres, and media, (3) the production and practice of good reasons is ruled by matters of history, biography, culture and character along with the kinds of forces identified in the Frentz and Farrell language action paradigm, (4) rationality is determined by the nature of persons as narrative begins" (p. 247). These four components help to explain the way humans process and evaluate different novels, movies, etc. Walter Fisher was just one of the many Communication scholars to believe that a life of fantasy and storytelling allows humans to interact with an unthinkable, yet adventurous way of living. In an article written by Jennifer F. Wood, which utilizes narrative criticism, she explains that persuasion is an easier task with stories than it is with factual evidence. "He [Walter Fisher] claimed that telling a compelling story is more persuasive than statistics, expert testimony, and logical deduction. He also believed that because human beings are naturally storytellers, they are persuaded most by good stories" (p.107). Today, humans get the majority of storytelling from novels and movies, thus, creating a bridge to fill the gap between what is real and what is fictional. Therefore, humans are increasingly interacting with fictional characters.

By interacting or identifying with a character, the person can escape a boring and or repetitive life. This has become a huge issue based on the fact that fantasy plays such an important role in everyone's life. Our society thrives on movies, magazines and fictional novels, creating a harsh reality that is far from the truth. Although there are millions of movies and novels to chose from, not all can be considered amazing. This is

where Fisher proposed that not only are all humans storytellers, but we can also depict between stories for which is better. "The paradigm also suggests that what we consider good reasons depends on history, culture, personal character and biography. Thus, in this assumption Fisher claims that not all stories are equally compelling and such a claim leads to the second assumption that human beings use a narrative form of rationality to judge the stories" (Wood, 2005, p.107). In another peer reviewed article, written by Mark Rafidi (2009), who studies *Lord of the Rings: The Trilogy*, he quoted actor Elijah Wood. "We're recreating a vision of an amazing fantasy writer. J.R.R. Tolkien's vision. A world that he created that, unlike other fantasy novels, it seemed like a history" (p.1). This quote states that the novel was more than just a fantasy; it was almost as if it had a real life history.

Many psychology scholars have also been researching fantasies and their roles in today's society. Particularly with child development and child role playing, fantasy is included in a child's life from a very early age and a large number of children actually speak and play with their "invisible friend." Many children role play daily as their favorite super hero or fictional character, making Halloween the preferred holiday not only for the candy but for the role playing as well. Scholars in this research area have been analyzing what compels children to include themselves at such a young age in role playing fantasies. In a research article written by Nathalie Carrick and Jodi A. Quas (2006), these researchers discovered that "Children's emotional reactions to the images [shown] but not play behaviors were significantly related to their fantasy-reality distinctions" (p. 1278). In another study conducted by Lawrence Rubin and Harry Livesay (2006), children constantly play with imaginary friends and superheroes. They

claim that it is key to healthy development. "The multi-media genre of superhero mythology has long provided children (and adults) with rich fantasies serving a number of important developmental functions, including emotional release, a sense of power, instillation of hope, a resource for problem solving and identity formation" (p. 117). Because so many scholars have researched areas on fantasy roles, it lead me on the path of investigation myself. I will be analyzing what it is about *Twilight* that makes people *want* to include themselves in its fantasy life. To understand the connection between an audience and a novel, one must first look at the author. In *Twilight's* case, the author, Stephenie Meyer, was greatly influenced by her religion.

About the Author

Stephanie Meyer lives in Arizona with her husband and three sons. She graduated from Brigham Young University in Provo Utah with a degree in English. She originally would write a few chapters of different stories but never dreamt about being able to write a series of novels. She came up with the idea of *Twilight* by dreaming it. She dreamt of a "homely" girl in a meadow with this beautiful, strong vampire. They were completely in love with each other, even though they new they should not pursue it. This dream eventually became the 13th chapter in the first *Twilight* when Bella and Edward are in the meadow together. Meyer is extremely open with the fact that she is Mormon and very religious. She also clearly states that it helped to shape her writing techniques and standards. Because of her religion, Meyers never wrote about Bella and Edward doing anything other than kissing before they were married. Once Meyers finally does write about Edward and Bella having sex, she also writes about the "issues" that come after it. "First sex with the vampire leaves the bed in splinters and Bella covered in bruises. She

becomes pregnant with a vampire child who threatens destruction from the inside; every fetal kick causes internal bleeding. Depleted to the point of death by the accelerated pregnancy, on the verge of becoming a broken, bled-out, mangled corpse" (Mann, 2009, p.140). Since Meyers lives in Arizona, she also had Bella be originally from Arizona, and had her brothers, who are car fanatics, pick out all the cars that everyone drives throughout the book (Meyer, 2005, par.1-5).

The first book of *Twilight* was started in June 2003 and officially published in October 2005. During this time many popular movies were being released including; Harry Potter, The Goblet of Fire, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the Chronicles of Narnia. All of these major stories and films are fantasies which are placed in a dream land setting. Fantasy theme movies have always played an important role within Hollywood. However, 2005 became a year to remember for fantasy themed novels and movies. The *Twilight* novel is very versatile, since it appeals to a wide variety of people including the younger generation, the elder generation and everyone in between. Meyer is able to create a well balanced romance novel which walks a fine line of sexuality in order to please children and adults. It is considered a "family book." Most people believe that the *Twilight* series was meant to be a sappy love story for women, however, many men have also read Twilight and after the movie was released, many more men found themselves reading the entire saga. For women, especially those I know who read the books, it is a hot topic and many of us do compare our lives to the story or say something near the lines of "I wish Edward were real." Because I do hear this so often, it lead me to narrative criticism in order to analyze what it is about Twilight that makes someone say they wish a fictional vampire were real.

Narrative Criticism

The method I am going to use in order to complete my analysis of the book, Twilight, is narrative criticism. Narrative criticism is defined by Walter Fisher (2005) as "a theory of symbolic actions- words and/or deeds-that have sequence and meaning for those who live, create, or interpret them...the narrative perspective therefore, has relevance to real as well as fictive worlds, to stories of living and to stories of the imagination" (p.241). Fisher also believes that through narrative paradigm one can achieve criticism because our existence and meaning is created through narration, and, as Fisher states, "good reasons" (p.247). Through out my analysis, I will specifically be using the steps that are defined by Sonja Foss (2004) in her book, Rhetorical Criticism: Exploration & Practice. The first step to analyzing the artifact is to "identify the dimensions of the narrative" (p.335). Some of the dimensions that I will be focusing on are the setting (what's the scene or setting and whether or not it influences the story or characters), characters (who are the main and minor characters and are they "round" or "flat"), narrator (in this case it would be Bella, and I will explain how she plays a vital role in the narration), and events (the kernels, satellites, and specifically the changes they make throughout the movie, along with their significance) (Foss, 2004, p.337). The last dimension that I will briefly touch on is causal relation. Once I have defined the dimensions of the narrative I will begin the second step in narrative criticism that Foss gives us, "Discover an explanation for the narrative" (Foss, 2004, p.338). In order to discover an explanation for the narrative I will specifically use frequency/intensity while asking myself a few questions such as "Does the narrative embody and advocate values that you see as desirable and worthwhile?" (Foss, 2004, p.339). "What ethical standards

does the narrative suggest?" (Foss, 2004, p.339). And lastly, "How readily can the narrative be refuted?" (Foss, 2004, p.339). I will then turn to evaluation by looking at any possible worldviews that are being implicated in the artifact and whether or not they can easily be refuted. The third and final area I will be using is coherence and fidelity while asking myself "Does the narrative fulfill the purpose of its creators?" and "Does the narrative provide useful ideas for living your life?" (Foss, 2004, p.340). By using the guidelines given by Fisher and Foss, I hope to complete my analysis of the novel *Twilight*, by finding an enhanced insight into what it is about the *Twilight* series that has made such a huge impact on people's lives. In the next part of my paper, I will be identifying the major settings, characters, Narrator, and events.

Application of Method

Setting

Throughout all four books, the major setting is in Forks, Washington. "In the Olympic Peninsula of northwest Washington State, a small town named Forks exists under a near constant cover of clouds. It rains on this inconsequential town more than any other place in the United States of America...It was to Forks that I now exiled myself- an action that I took with great horror. I detested Forks" (Meyer, 2005, p.3-4). The beginning of the saga, *Twilight*, takes place in the middle of the semester of Bella's junior year in high school, and ends in the last book, *Breaking Dawn*, with Bella and Edward graduated, married, and with their first Child, Renesmee. The setting was strategically placed in Forks, Washington by Stephenie Meyers because she needed a "small town" where it rained mostly. It needed to rain because Edward and the rest of the Cullen family had to be under constant clouds and rain to ensure their identity. Along

with the weather, however, Meyer's made sure it was located in a small community, population of around 3,000 people. In doing this, Bella's character becomes a little more comfortable with the idea of marrying at such a young age. Bella says that in Arizona she would have never gotten married because no one did that there, but because she's in such a small town, it is not too uncommon. This helps with Bella's decision to be married at such a young age. The setting of Forks also influences the novel, by having such a small population, everyone seems to know everyone. Bella's family is very close with the Black family, who are wolves, as well as the Cullen family, who are vampires. Because there is not one mystery person in town, Bella becomes the "new girl" whom no one knows about. People are quick to find out exactly who she is, including Edward. *Characters*

The major characters throughout the entire saga set are; Bella, Edward, The Cullen Family (Alice, Jasper, Rosalie, Emmett, Carlisle, Esme), Charlie, Jacob, James, Laurent, Victoria, The Volturi, and Renesmee. The main character, Bella, is a seventeen-year-old "normal" looking girl. "I *should* be tan, sporty, blond-a volleyball player, or a cheerleader perhaps-all the things that go with living in the valley of the sun...Instead I was ivory skinned, without even the excuse of blue eyes or res hair...I had always been slender, but soft somehow, obviously not an athlete" (Meyer, 2005, p.10). Although Bella is not a vampire, Meyers created her character to be very pale and skinny, which almost fits perfectly with Edward's image. Edward Cullen is seventeen (forever) and is a vampire who is irresistibly beautiful. "That's Edward. He's gorgeous, of course, but don't waste your time. He doesn't date. Apparently none of the girls here are good-looking enough for him" (Meyer, 2005, p.22). Along with being beautiful, Edward can

read people's minds, excluding Bella. The characters of Bella Swan and Edward Cullen are intriguing due to the obvious tie into Mormonism.

Throughout the four novels, Meyers includes her religion by almost creating an idyllic style of characters, considering their ages. "Such dedication to this way of life is exhibited in the novels of Meyer, the most well-known Mormon in contemporary literature" (Arnaudin, 2008, p.4). One of the major aspects of Mormonism is *Diet and* the Word of Wisdom. This aspect says that as a Mormon, "The decree limits the use of alcohol to sacramental wine and hard liquor for washing the body, deems tobacco good for only treating bruises and sick cattle, and labels hot drinks, later identified by Joseph Smith's brother Hiram as coffee and tea, not for the body or belly" (Arnaudin, 2008, p.74). Absolutely no drugs or alcohol are included in the books, along with only one coke, which Bella consumes on the airplane over to stop Edward from committing suicide and even then, she states how bad it is for her to be drinking it. Another component of Mormonism is Harmful Language: Lying, Profanity, and Gossip. "Choice of language is key to portraying a positive image. Church members are told to select words that build and uplift their neighbors since profane, vulgar, or crude language and inappropriate or off-color jokes are offensive to the Lord" (Arnaudin, 2008, p.69). The only words that even come close to "vulgar" language throughout the saga are, Damn, dang, darn, crap, holy crap, and holy cow. Bella even goes as far to say that Jacob's friends are bad influences after Jacob cusses once. One last aspect that clearly is portrayed in Twilight, is that Bella takes over all the household duties, including cooking, cleaning and laundry. Rarely does Charlie go without a home-made meal, even when Bella can not be there, she leaves him a ready to bake meal that she made before leaving.

She also stays home to clean the house and get her and Charlie's laundry done. Edward is well educated, plays the piano, shows extreme respect to his "parents," and is defined as a "perfect gentleman" and "old fashioned" because he wishes to wait to be married before having sex. "Edward Cullen is a loving husband, a brilliant musician, a devoted son, and a remarkable baseball player" (Michaud, 2009, p.39). Mormonism is clearly a worldview getting put into action when it comes to not just the characters of Bella and Edward, but the entire cast.

The Cullen family is comprised of 7 vampires who look extremely pale and breath taking with beauty. Two of the boys, Emmett and Jasper, are considered opposites because Emmett is a large, muscular man, while Jasper is a skinnier, light haired man. "They didn't look anything alike. Of the three boys, one [Emmett] was big- muscled like a serious weight lifter, with dark curly hair. Another [Jasper] was taller, but still muscular, and honey blonde" (Meyer, 2005, p.18). Both younger girls are also described as being completely opposite. Rosalie is supposed to be the most beautiful girl, while Alice is written as pretty, but can act a little "weird" at times. "The tall one [Rosalie] was statuesque. She had a beautiful figure, the kind you saw on the cover of the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue...Her hair was golden, gently waving to the middle of her back. The short girl [Alice] was pixie like, thin in the extreme, with small features. Her hair was a deep black, cropped short and pointing in every direction... They were all paler than me, the albino" (Meyer, 2005, p.18). Dr. Carlisle and his wife, Esme, are both beautiful and pale just as the others are. Dr. Carlisle is known for having the most strength out of the family because he is a doctor and is able to work around blood all day. Emmett and Rosalie are married, and both are of amazing stature, considering they look

like supermodels. Jasper and Alice are also married, smaller and both act a little stranger. Alice twirls and dances a lot, while Jasper looks like he is in constant pain because he is not fully use to being around humans yet. All members of the Cullen family are "vegetarians" meaning they only feed off of human blood. Because the Cullens are considered "vegetarian," readers can find a connection with them by "liking them" because they are not evil. In a small chapter written by Nicholas Michaud, titled *Can a Vampire be a Person?* He discusses how audiences can connect with the Cullen family because they seem human. The Cullens are a part of a moral community, therefore, they act and seem human, making it easier for an audience to portray the characters as if they were real. "...Being a person did not simply mean being rational. It meant being part of the moral community. To be part of the moral community means that because of your rationality you deserve to be treated as if you have rights; you deserve respect and dignity" (p. 40). Although similar in looks, the three "foreign" vampires, James, Victoria, and Laurent, are clearly different from the Cullen family.

Laurent, James and Victoria are vampires who feed off of human blood.

Eventually, James and Victoria want nothing else but to kill Bella. Laurent is characterized as being the most beautiful of the three "evil vampires," along with the most civilized. "The man in front [Laurent] was easily the most beautiful, his skin olivetoned beneath the typical pallor, his hair a glossy black. He was of medium build, hard-muscled, of course...He smiled an easy smile, exposing a flash of gleaming white teeth" (Meyer, 2005, p.376). Victoria is a red haired evil woman who will stop at nothing to kill Bella. "The woman [Victoria] was wilder, her eyes shifting restlessly between the men facing her, and the loose grouping around me, her chaotic hair quivering in the slight

breeze. Her posture was distinctively feline" (Meyer, 2005, p.376). James is written as having deep black eyes and an obsession with hunting and killing. "The second male [James] hovered unobtrusively behind them, slighter than the leader, his light brown hair and regular features both nondescript. His eyes, though completely still, somehow seemed the most vigilant" (Meyer, 2005, p.376). Laurent is the most reasonable vampire from the three "evil vampires." Victoria and James are married and are the most evil. Hunting Bella becomes a fun game for James and Victoria, who will stop at nothing to kill her. Because these three vampires are "evil," therefore non-vegetarian, and non-human, audiences do not connect with these three vampires. The images of the vampires are another aspect of Mormonism.

Mormons believe that once they die, they will become irresistibly beautiful in perfect form, and that they will "live" for all eternity. These aspects are considered desired by many, considering the average person's image is extremely important. The fact that the vampires are beautiful draws the audience in and is even mentioned in the novel, that Bella is drawn in by Edward's beauty. Throughout the four novels, although Bella is appreciated, the beauty is all about Edward, and it is all through Bella's eyes. Many novels emphasize the beauty of a woman, but in Mormonism, it is the appreciation of the woman and the power and beauty of the man. It is not until Bella becomes a *member* of the Cullen family by becoming a vampire, does she get mentioned as being beautiful, "like a supermodel." Similarly, it is not until you, as a member, become a part of the church, that you are granted an eternity of life after death, while remaining in a perfect, beautiful form. "As a Mormon, Meyer believes that one day her body will be immortal and all powerful, resurrected in a perfect form, together with her husband and

sons forever" Irwin, Housel & Wisnewski's Book (as cited in Shaw, 2009a). One character in the novel who is not known for being extremely religious is Charlie, who ironically, is depicted as living alone, unmarried and Bella seems to always be "worried" about his happiness.

"Charlie is Police Chief Swan to the good people of Forks...Charlie gives me awkward, one-armed hugs" (Meyer, 2005, p.5). Charlie is written as a good dad; however, because Bella lived with her mom in Arizona, Charlie is forced to reconnect with her. The fact that Bella's dad is a bit distant provides support for Bella's character being so independent. Even with Charlie being a laid back parent, Bella does not give in to social pressures and sexual desires, furthering Meyer's Mormon influence. Jacob, who is a year younger than Bella, is also very mature for his age. He is a genius when it comes to working or reconstructing old cars, as well as having a large muscular frame indicating his image looks years older than a typical 16-year-old. "He'd passed that point where the soft muscles of childhood hardened into the solid, lanky build of a teenager...His face was still sweet as I remembered it, though it had hardened too- the planes of his cheekbones sharper, his jaw squared off, all childish roundness gone" (Meyer, 2005, p.131).

Jacob is also written as being complete opposite Edward, especially when it comes to looks and the warmth of his skin. "...The bright teeth standing in vivid contrast to the deep russet color of his skin. I'd never seen his hair out of it's usual ponytail before. It fell like black satin curtains on either side of his broad face" (Meyer, 2005, p.131). Jacob becomes a huge part of Bella's life once Edward is out of the picture.

Jacob is warm and friendly, as Edward is cold and unfriendly. The two are completely opposite and both love Bella, which eventually becomes a competition.

Narrator

For the majority of all four novels, the narrator is Bella, which emphasizes her role as the main character because not only is she the main reason for everything that happens in the book, but she is the one that explains it as well. Her first few words in Twilight is a huge attention getter because it foreshadows the ending. "I'd never given much thought to how I would die...Surely it was a good way to die, in the place of someone else, someone I loved...I knew that if I had never gone to Forks, I wouldn't be facing death now...I couldn't bring myself to regret the decision" (Meyer, 2005, p.1). Because Bella is the narrator, audiences are aloud to connect and understand what Bella is thinking. This is especially important, considering that she is the only person Edward cannot read. It is revealed in *Breaking* Dawn, after Bella becomes a vampire, the reason Edward is not able to read her mind is because she can block people. This comes in handy when the Volturi try killing her, and Bella is successfully able to defend her family by putting a force block around them. If the novel were written from Edward's point of view, the depth of Bella's thinking process would be lost. It would only inferred what she is thinking, rather than actually living out her thoughts and actions along with her.

Furthermore, Bella's role as a narrator leads to *New Moon* when she becomes interested in Jacob, after Edward leaves. This allows Edward to be completely out of the picture, while Bella tries to move on with her life. Readers receive an in depth and almost realistic feeling of sadness and depression from Bella because of Edward's disappearance. Contrasting, the audience also feels Bella's happiness with her, once

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Jacob comes to her rescue. An obvious, but important aspect of all men portrayed in *Twilgiht*, is the feeling of power and protection. In Mormon religion, men are the "head of the house" and it is their "responsibility" to take care of their family by being the main provider and the main protection. It is a woman's responsibility to be the provider of warmth and care, along with all household duties. Both images are clearly portrayed in all characters. Mormonism is also a clear influence in all events that happen throughout the four novels.

Events and Causal Relation

Book One; Twilight

Some of the Kernels that happen during the book are; when Bella meets Edward, when Edward saves Bella for the first time from getting crushed by a van, Bella meeting James and Victoria for the first time, and lastly, when Edward saves her from James killing her. When Bella meets Edward for the first time, she falls completely in love with his looks and Edward gets trapped within her irresistible smell. Without them meeting, of course, *Twilight* would not exist. "It was there, sitting in the lunchroom, trying to make conversation with seven curious strangers, that I first saw them" (Meyer, 2005, p.18). After school one day, Bella almost gets smashed by a van into her truck. "...The dark blue van that was skidding, tires locked and squealing against the brakes, spinning wildly across the ice of the parking lot. It was going to hit the back corner of my truck, and I was standing between them" (Meyer, 2005, p.56). In an instant, Bella notices how far away Edward is from her. "Edward Cullen was standing four cars down from me, starring at me in horror" (Meyer, 2005, p.56). Yet, Edward still makes it in time to stop the van with his own hands and force. "...Just as I heard the shattering crunch of the van

folding around the truck bed, something hit me...A low oath made me aware that someone was with me...Two long white hands shot out protectively in front of me, and the van shuddered to a stop a foot from my face" (Meyer, 2005, p.56). This is the first time Edward Cullen "saves" Bella.

As previously stated, in Mormon religion, it is the man's job to provide and protect those they love. "Edward is a guardian and protector. It's like a lion falling in love with a lamb. Thankfully for Bella, Edward comes from a family who has not only taught him to control his deadly appetite, but helps him do so as well" (Irwin, Housel & Wisnewski's Book (as cited in Shaw, 2009a). Furthermore, Edward almost immediately knows that Bella would not only be married to him, but would *become his life*. "In this romantic moment with Bella, Edward's words *are* an action. When he says, you are my life now, there is a union created in that utterance" (Irwin, Housel & Wisnewski's Book (as cited in Shaw, 2009a). With out Edward saving Bella from being crushed, Bella would not have known that he was something different, therefore, she would not have pressed the matter on him, which eventually leads her to finding out he is a vampire. Because Bella is saved by Edward, this probes her to speak more with him. Likewise, Edward begins feeling "protective" of her. Luckily for Bella, Edward will stop at nothing to save her, which comes in handy later when James and Victoria begin hunting her.

Bella meets James and Victoria for the first time on top of a mountain where the Cullens are playing baseball. During the baseball game, the Cullens see the vampires coming towards them and immediately stop. Although they do what they can to protect Bella, such as putting her behind Edward and taking her hair down to lessen her smell, it does not work. "...My hair ruffled with the light breeze, Edward stiffened, and the

second male, James, suddenly whipped his head around, scrutinizing me, his nostrils flaring" (Meyer, 2005, p.378-379). James instantly becomes aware of the fact that Edward is protective of Bella and finds it amusing to try and kill her to get to Edward. "...James lurched one step forward into a crouch. Edward bared his teeth, crouching in defense, a feral snarl ripping from his throat." (Meyer 378-379). Trying to kill Bella quickly becomes James' favorite "game" ever. Specifically, meeting James sets the path for Edward to save Bella once again, and letting Vitoria get away, which comes into play during the next book. Having Bella be "saved" by Edward twice in one novel, further explains the feeling of Bella being helpless. "I wanted nothing more than to be alone with my perpetual savior" (Irwin, Housel & Wisnewski's Book (as cited in Shaw, 2009a). Bella strongly depends on Edward for support. Throughout the novels, Bella is depicted as an innocent, young girl, who cannot fend for herself. "She is prone to get bruises and scrapes just in the process of moving from one place to another and doesn't even trust herself to explore a tide pool without falling in. when she needs something done, especially something mechanical, she finds a boy to do it for her and watches him" (Mann, 2009, p.133). Moreover, once Edward leaves, Bella finds protection from Jacob to take the place of Edward. Bella is constantly being protected, whether it's by a vampire or a wolf.

From the baseball scene, the battle between Edward and James begins. Edward sends Bella South to Arizona with Alice and Jasper to get away from James and Victoria. Bella ironically ends up right in the hands of her killer. James tricks Bella by saying he has her mom hostage. "...Now I don't need to hurt your mother, so please do exactly as I say, and she'll be fine...I'm going to need you to get away from your friends...If I get the

slightest hint that you have any company, well, that would be very bad for your mother" (Meyer, 2005, p.427-443). James also tells her to meet him at her old ballet studio, the exact place Alice previously envisioned Bella getting hurt at. "Do you know the ballet studio just around the corner from your home?" (Meyer, 2005, p.427-443).

The ballet studio scene is one of the last scenes in Twilight. In this scene, Bella almost dies from James breaking her leg and biting her arm. Edward kills James and sucks the venom out of Bella's arm, saving her, once again, from becoming a vampire. Edward does not want Bella to be turned into a vampire because he believes that he's going to hell for what he has done and who he is. This is the last thing he wants for Bella. Obviously, Mormon religion does state that if you kill or harm someone, you will go to hell and never live with your loved ones in an after life. It is clear in the book, that because Edward is "different" from those like him, Bella tells him that he's not going to hell, and that he has a clean and beautiful soul. Victoria gets away and sets out to kill Bella, which leads to the second novel, New Moon. The three events mentioned above are all necessary for a causal relationship to happen and trickle down to the next novel. Edward obviously had to meet Bella for the romantic novel to be a romance story. The van almost crushing Bella was an important role in the story because without her almost accident, she would have never known who or what he was, and he would have never told her. Lastly, the three vampires, Laurent, James, and Victoria played a vital role because without them, Edward would not have saved Bella, and Bella would not have had a vampire after her throughout the second novel. Each event lead to the idea that Bella is helpless without Edward as her savior, and Edward was not willing to turn her into a vampire in order to "save her soul." These events eventually lead to Edward

leaving Bella in book number two, which allows for Jacob to be fully introduced as savior number two.

Book Two: New Moon

Some of the kernels that happen throughout book two, *New Moon*, are Bella's birthday at the Cullen's house because Jasper attacks Bella, Edward leaving Bella and moving away to protect her. Also, Bella finds out that Jacob is a wolf that protects the people of Forks by killing vampires, Victoria stays around Forks to keep a close watch on Bella and eventually tries to kill her. For the last part of the book, the major events are; Bella flying to Italy to save Edward from killing himself after hearing Bella was killed, and finally, meeting the Volturi family that tells Edward he has to turn Bella into a vampire soon, or else they will both be killed. During Bella's eighteenth birthday, the Cullen family decides to throw her a birthday party, however, Bella cuts herself opening an envelope. "Shoot, I muttered when the paper sliced my finger...a single drop of blood oozed from the tiny cut" (Meyer, 2006, p.28). Jasper goes crazy with the smell of Bella's blood and tries to kill her. "...It all happened very quickly then...He threw himself at me, flinging me back across the table...Jasper slammed into Edward, and the sound was like the crash of boulders in a rock slide" (Meyer, 2006, p.29). Jasper gets thrown in to a frenzy and even tries hurting Edward just to get to Bella. Eventually, Emmett has to help Edward tame Jasper. "...Jasper tried to shove past Edward, snapping his teeth just inches from Edward's face. Emmett grabbed Jasper from behind in the next second, locking him into his massive steel grip, but Jasper struggled on, his wild, empty eyes focused only on me." (Meyer, 2006, p.29).

Because of this, Edward feels as if he and his family are putting Bella in danger. "...What happened the other night made me realize that it's time for a change" (Meyer, 2006, p.69-73). He makes the decision of leaving Bella to protect her, also thinking that Victoria is only after him and that she would follow him and leave Bella alone for good. "Bella, I don't want you to come with me ...I promise that this will be the last time you'll see me....It will be as if I never existed...Goodbye Bella...Take care of yourself...He was gone" (Meyer, 2006, p.69-73).

Once Edward leaves, Bella becomes very depressed for months and eventually begins to hang out with Jacob, who is a family friend and ironically is a werewolf that kills vampires. "It was Jacob himself. Jacob was simply a perpetually happy person, and he carried that happiness with him like an aura, sharing it with whoever was near him...No wonder I was so eager to see him" (Meyer, 2006, p.145). Bella and Jacob become almost inseparable, until Jacob begins to withdraw himself from Bella. Beginning to go crazy, Bella finally approaches Jacob and demands an explanation. Jacob cannot specifically tell her, but gives her hints for her to figure it out on her own. Doing this, Jacob does not break the rules of his clan. "Do you know any of our old stories, about where we came from- the Quileutes, I mean? A legend claims that we descended from wolves...Werewolf! I gasped" (Meyer, 2006, p.292-293). Victoria is also still in Forks watching Bella and plotting out how to kill her. Word about Victoria gets back to the Cullen family and when Edward calls Bella's house to talk to Charlie and make sure Bella is ok, Jacob answers the phone. "Swan residence, Jacob said, his husky voice low and intense. Someone answered, and Jacob altered in an instant...I held my hand out for the phone. Jacob ignored me. He's not hear, Jacob said" (Meyer, 2006,

p.412). Not knowing it is Edward, Jacob tells him that Charlie's at the funeral (Charlie's friend had died of a heart attack). "...There was some very short reply, a request for more information it seemed, because he added unwillingly, he's at the funeral. Then Jacob hung up the phone" (Meyer, 2006, p.412). Hearing this, Edward assumes it is Bella's funeral and decides to head to Italy and kill himself. With this scene, the novel develops a slight twist and intrigues the reader to keep reading. Knowing that something big will happen, it is only natural for a reader to be curious and keep reading.

Once Bella finds out from Alice that the person on the phone was Edward who is about to try and commit suicide, Alice and Bella decided to take a plane to Italy. "We made our flight with seconds to spare... A bright yellow Porsche screamed to a stop a few feet in front of where I paced... I ran to the door and threw myself in... You have two minutes! Go, Bella, go! Alice shouted" (Meyer, 2006, p.424-452). Alice and Bella knew where Edward would be, and stopped him before killing himself. "I shoved a heavy woman out of my way and ran flat out, head down... I could see him now... Edward stood motionless as a statue, just a few feet from the mouth of the alley... I slammed into him so hard that the force would have hurled me to the ground if his arms hadn't caught me and held me up." (Meyer, 2006, p.424-452).

The last major event that takes place in *New Moon*, is the meeting with the Volturi family, which is compared to meeting royalty. During the meeting, the leader, Aro, tells Edward that Bella knows too much for being a human and if he does not turn her into a vampire by a certain time, they will kill the both of them. "Unless…, Aro interrupted…Unless you do intend to give her immortality…Why then you would be free to go home and give my regards to my friend Carlisle" (Meyer, 2006, p.478-481). Along

with requesting Edward to turn Bella into a Vampire, Aro tells Edward to be prepared that they will be visiting him to make sure he follows through. Similarly, Maormons are often sent on a two-year mission to teach and convert members in to their religion. "His [Edward] expression turned more hesitant...Aro raised his hand in front of him. Great, and we will be visiting you as well" (Meyer, 2006, p.478-481). Because of this scene, the third book gets put into a perspective.

Furthermore, all of the events in book two were very important causal relations. Bella's birthday had to happen for Edward to realize the danger even his family was putting her in. Edward's leaving and absence was necessary for Bella to make friends with Jacob and discover he was a wolf. Victoria had to still be in the picture so Edward could hear that Bella had been killed by her, which leads to Edward trying to kill himself in Italy, Bella rushing off to save him and succeeding in doing so, and eventually the meeting of the Volturi, who come in to play in the fourth book. These scenes can easily be portrayed in real life as a good-guy/bad-guy, along with Bella loving two guys, which ties into a person's reality.

Book Three: Eclipse

During the third book, there are only two major events that happen, which influences the fourth and final book. Victoria decides to finally attack, and secondly, Bella agrees to marry Edward before he turns her into a vampire and Edward agrees to have sex with her after being married but while she is still human. When Victoria finally attacks, the Cullen family bonds together to protect Edward and Bella. "Her orange hair was brighter than I'd remembered, more like a flame....Her eyes were black with thirst…her lips were pressed into a tight line...She was close to what she wanted-the

focus of her whole existence for more than a year now was just so close. My death" (Meyer, 2007, p.541). Not only does the Cullen family attack but the werewolf clan helps as well. With both "protector" together, Edward is able to save Bella once again by killing Victoria. "Edward's mouth brushed once across her neck, like a caress...And then the fiery tangle of hair was no longer connected to the rest of her body. The shivering orange waves fell to the ground, and bounced once before rolling toward the trees" (Meyer, 2007, p.552-553). This fight creates an understanding of each other with the vampires and werewolf clan. This resonates with Meyer's understanding of bonding together as family to shove off the evil and only result to violence when a families health and wellness is at risk. Having this understanding of each other, eventually leads to the final result of book four.

Throughout *Eclipse*, Victoria had to attack the Cullen family to bring the vampires and wolves together so they could have an understanding with each other.

Also, Bella had to agree to marry Edward to lead readers onto the fourth book, where the actual wedding takes place and their compromises get fulfilled. All three books are temptation which leads the reader to find out what happens once they get married, considering Meyers leaves sex out of the first three novels.

Book Four: Breaking Dawn

During the fourth book, there are four specific major events that happen. Bella and Edward get married, Bella and Edward have sex and Bella gets pregnant, Bella gets turned into a vampire after giving birth, and finally, the "almost fight" with the Volturi family. Because Bella and Edward get married, Edward must fulfill his part in the compromise in which he has sex with her before turning her into a vampire. This is why

Bella is able to become pregnant, with her daughter Renesmee. As Mormon religion states, a person is married to their partner for all eternity, which includes their after life. "Brigham Young refers to eternal marriage as the thread which runs from the beginning to the end of the holy Gospel of Salvation-of the Gospel of the Son of God; it is from eternity to eternity" (Arnaudin, 2008, p.48). In the *Twilight* saga, once Bella marries Edward and becomes a Vampire she is married to him for all eternity, and the two of them even make the priest say "for all eternity" instead of "till death do you apart." This is shown in the marriage vows for Bella and Edward's wedding. "Our vows were the simple, traditional words that had been spoken a million times, though never by a couple quite like us. We'd asked Mr. Weber to make only one small change. He obligingly traded the line, till death do us part, for the more appropriate as long as we both shall live" (Meyer, 2008, p.49). Bella and Edward also do not have any pre-marital sex, which is a large part of Mormon religion. This aspect of Mormonism is called Sexuality and the Law of Chastity. "Church members are required to refrain from any sexual relationships outside of marriage and any perverse or coercive sexual acts within marriage" (Arnaudin, 2008, p.36). Bella and Edward "save themselves" for after they marry. Furthermore, once married and Bella becomes pregnant, abortion is not an option for her. Having premarital relations is known to be one of the most horrible sins in Mormonism. "Sexual sin is most abominable above all sins save it be the shedding of innocent blood or denying the Holy Ghost" (Arnaudin, 2008, p.36). In all four books, Edward is known for having the most self control when it comes to not having sex with Bella, but also by not killing her when he is so strongly drawn to her scent.

Once they are on their honeymoon, Edward finally completes his side of the compromise and has sex with Bella while she is still human. "His arms wrapped around me, holding me against him, summer and winter. It felt like every nerve ending in my body was a live wire" (Meyer, 2008, p.85). While on their honeymoon, Bella discovers that she is pregnant, something no human has ever been able to do. A half human and half vampire child is a myth in where the baby is too strong and grows too fast for the mother to birth before killing her. Bella decides that she wants to have the child and take all the pain that goes along with it; like cracked ribs, having to drink blood and the possibility of dying before even giving birth. "...Bella drinks human blood, supplied from the blood bank by Edward's doctor vampire father, because nothing else seems to quiet the little executioner. Rather than letting the little beast chew its way out, a vampire cesarean is performed as Bella plummets toward death; Edward is compelled to inject his venom into Bella to save her, transforming her" (Mann, 2009, p.140-141). However, Bella succeeds in giving birth to her baby girl, Renesmee. "I had done it. Against the odds, I had been strong enough to survive Renesmee, to hold onto her until she was strong enough to live without me...Holding tight the warm memory of my daughter, I knew that I would be able to fight the darkness as long as I needed to" (Meyer, 2008, p.375). Interestingly, the only part of the four novels explaining Bella's strength before she gets turned into a vampire, is her giving birth. During the birthing process, Bella became too close to dying when the baby began breaking too many bones, so Edward thrust a needle with vampire venom straight into her heart. At this point, Bella became a vampire. "Rosalie pinned me down, yanking and ripping my clothes out of the way,

while Edward stabbed a syringe of morphine and venom in my arm" (Meyer, 2008, p.349).

Lastly, because of Bella having Renesmee, the Volturi were told that her and Edward had turned an innocent child into a vampire because no one had heard of a mortal giving birth to a half human, half vampire. With this news, the Volturi decided it was wrong enough to kill the entire Cullen family. The Cullen family decided the only way to save themselves would be to gather every friend they knew, including the werewolf clan and have them behind them, backing up their story. The Volturi nearly came with an army, as did the Cullen family. "The witnesses clustered to our left and right, some nearer than others- those who had declared themselves were the closest...They flowed in perfect synchronicity from the trees- a dark...It was clear that this motley, disorganized horde-more than forty vampires altogether- was the Volturi's own kind of witness" (Meyer, 2008, p.677-740). As the Voltui approached the Cullen family and friends, the Cullen family realized what a loss it would be for them if they were to fight. "When we were dead, they would spread the word that the criminals had been eradicated, that the Volturi had acted with nothing but impartiality" (Meyer, 2008, p.677-740). Luckily for the Cullen Family, just as the Volturi were about to plunge into an all out war, the wolves showed up, intimidating the Volturi enough to stop. "The wolves had joined us...There were more than ten wolves, sixteen of them spaced out evenly around us... This was the point of all our preparations: getting Aro to hear our side of the story" (Meyer, 2008, p.677-740). By the Volturi family pausing for just a minute, Edward was able to explain that Renesmee was not who they thought she was. Edward explained that it was a simple mistake and that Renesmee was actually half mortal and half immortal. "Aro announced

to him and the rest of the guard without turning his enthralled gaze from Renesmee, Aro went on to say, Conceived so, and carried by this newborn while she was still human" (Meyer, 2008, p.677-740). Once Aro realizes the chaos and disruption he had caused in the Cullen family's life he apologizes and all returns to normal. "Aro held his hands out to us, almost apologetic...Once they left, cheers erupted. Deafening howls filled the clearing" (Meyer, 2008, p.677-740). Aro was "shown the way" in the sense that he finally came to an understanding of the way the Cullen family lived. This is the last event of Meyer's four novels and each one lead to another major event.

During the fourth novel, Bella and Edward had to get married to complete their compromises to each other, leading to Bella getting pregnant with Renesmee. Bella had to give birth to Renesmee, to almost die, which made Edward turn her into a vampire, leading to the Volturi hearing that they have a child, which starts a war between them. Because of Victoria already having an attack on the family in book three, the Cullen family is close to the werewolf clan, which helps them out during the explaining process. Without these events, a "and they lived happily for all eternity" ending would not be possible. Audiences like knowing a happy ending is possible. This allows them to feel a sense of closeness and understanding of life.

Conclusion

In the beginning, I asked the question of how the dimensions and narrative of the novel *Twilight* have had an enormous amount of influence on our society today. Through my analysis, I have discovered that the major events throughout the series of *Twilight* has been about adventure, love and surprise. These three emotions are key to a fictional love story. Each character has a unique, amazing feature. Whether their feature is beautiful,

strong, intelligent, courageous, or confident, they all represent something better than the average human. This was shown to be author, Stephanie Myer's religious influence, where followers of the Mormon influence are to live above every day societal influence and they will be rewarded in the afterlife with an eternity of beauty and family. Even Bella, who is described as a "homely" girl is courageous, and strong in her own way. Once she "joins" the Cullen family by becoming a vampire, she becomes an image of a "super model." Each event that takes place is larger and more adventurous than the last, leaving nothing but curiosity. Because each event successfully follows through to the next one, it makes it very easy for a reader to continue reading each chapter and book while staying completely engrossed. One event, particularly, caught my attention because of the feeling of a "Romeo and Juliette" sensation. Edward thinks Bella is dead and decides to commit suicide. Luckily, she saves him just in time. This event gives the audience the emotion of "true love" and attachment. Most of the setting takes place in a cold and dark place (Forks) which provides a mysterious and enchanting type of atmosphere. Also, by having Bella as the narrator, readers are able to explore more than the story, including her thoughts, personal experiences, and feelings. As a reader, it is almost like you are Bella or you can be Bella while reading. Throughout all four novels, the meeting of Bella and Edward is the most important part because it leads to every single event after, which eventually leads to their marriage, birth of their daughter and a happy eternity. When someone joins this fairy tale story, they get to become Bella, they get to live in Forks, and they get to live happily for all eternity.

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