

Pristine Incandescence of Love in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight Saga*

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Abstract

In this article entitled “**Pristine Incandescence of Love in Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight Saga***” the researcher focuses on the depiction of intense love represented in the novels of the *Twilight* Series. The analyses is done with a special focus on Edward Cullen and Bella Swan. The myth of the vampire has been proceeded to scare and impress the people all around the world. All the vampire tales have a common aspect that is their lust for human blood. But the current study explores the aspect of paranormal love overwhelming the lust for blood by the charcaters in the novel.

Keywords:-Paranormal, Unconditional, Depression, Vampires.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the novel *Twilight*, Stephenie Meyer describes Isabella and Edward is two different beings: Edward is a vampire, while Isabella is a human being. Although they are different, but they love each other. In the view of society, vampire is an evil, blood-sucking and even kills humans. It is contrary to human beings who lives based on four elements such as fire, wind, water and earth. Vampire survives by sucking the blood of humans. As the victim of vampire, human beings are always described as the frightened. In contrast to common image presented in the stories or legend of vampire, the author shows another kind of vampire family who avoids human blood.

The author whose work this paper focuses to explore is Stephenie Meyer. She is best known for authoring the *Twilight Saga* book series. The series has a sequence of four books, namely *Twilight* (2005), *New Moon* (2006), *Eclipse* (2007) and *Breaking Dawn* (2008). Meyer's book bridged the gap between teen and adult fiction. Meyer's *Twilight* books, as well as the film franchise, continue to garner media and fan attention. With a concise introduction about the author, the paper shifts to give in a short summary of the selected work.

Twilight Saga, written by Stephenie Meyer, has become an obsession in contemporary culture for all ages. It has taken our society by storm with its intense love story of a human girl and a mystical vampire. The major characters around whom the fiction revolves are Isabella Marie 'Bella' Swan, the heroine, Edward Cullen, the hero, Jacob Black, Bella's best friend, Carlisle Cullen father of Edward, Emmett and Alice Cullen, as well as Rosalie and Jasper. The story begins with Bella Swan, who moves from Phoenix, Arizona to live with her father in Forks, Washington to allow her mother to travel with her new husband, a minor league baseball player.

II. EDWARD, BELLA and FORKS

After moving to Forks, Bella finds herself involuntarily drawn to a mysterious, handsome boy, Edward Cullen and eventually learns that he is a member of a vampire family, which drinks animal blood rather than human blood. Edward and Bella fall in love, while James, a sadistic vampire from another coven, is drawn to hunt down Bella. Edward and the other Cullens defend Bella. Despite all obstacles, Bella and Edward consummate in marriage life.

After a brief outline of the novels, the paper now attempts to focus on the significance of love employed in the novel. Bella and Edward are the main couple throughout the twilight saga. The saga, mainly focuses on their relationship's development, starting with their first and dangerous encounter in *Twilight* to their eternal love in *Breaking Dawn*. The below lines depict Bella's feelings for Edward in the novel *Twilight*:

About three things I was absolutely positive. First, Edward was a vampire. Second, there was a part of him, and I didn't know how potent that part might be that thirsted for my blood. And third, I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him. (*Twilight* 195)

Here, in *Twilight* (The Cullen) breaks all early views about vampire. Edward Cullen, one of the Cullen family members even falls in love with a human, Isabella Swan. This can be found in the novel as shown below:

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. (*Twilight* 139)

III. BELLA'S DECISION

This passage shows the moment that Bella makes the decision that vampire or not, monster or not, she is not going to let the circumstances keep her from Edward. Bella cannot overcome her attraction to Edward, no matter how unnatural or dangerous. The power of this attraction is clear in the way she describes him, she uses the words "hypnotic" and "magnetic" to describe his eyes, his personality, expressing that the power is strong enough for her self control to become irrelevant. Especially, she suggests that there never was really a choice; she has given in so completely to her desires that she cannot even see an alternative.

When Bella and Edward first meet in *Twilight*, Edward discovers his inability to read Bella's thoughts. It frustrates him as the reasons were unknown. Later he finds it difficult to be around her. Though he is a vegetarian vampire, her blood is more alluring than anything he had tasted. The compelling desire is so overwhelming that he considers sucking her out. To remove all living witnesses he decides to kill them also. He tries to change his biology class to avoid her,

but fails as every other class is already full. He temporarily runs away from her to Alaska, where he stays with the Denalis for a short while.

Edward becomes increasingly lovesick with Bella, and cannot get her out of his mind. His infatuation with her reaches to the peak that he sneaks into her room at night to watch her sleep. Bella says Edward's name in her sleep. Edward then comprehends that he loves her, and tries to get close to her again. After saving Bella in Port Angeles, Bella tells him that she knows his true form and that it doesn't matter, affirming that she loves him as well. The following lines of Edward explore his love for Bella: "You're the most important thing to me now. The most important thing to me ever" (*Twilight* 274).

Risk uncovers itself as a meeting vampire coven comprising of Laurent, Victoria, and James attacks Bella but the Cullens save her. Bella is admitted to the hospital with Edward continually close by, where he concedes that his sister Alice saw a dream of Bella turning into a vampire. In any case, he is resolved to keep her human, in spite of her needing to get one.

New Moon begins with Bella celebrating her eighteenth birthday. She is depressed because this is the day that, she becomes physically older than Edward, who is perpetually seventeen. Edward invites her to his house to celebrate. She receives a paper cut while unwrapping one of her gifts, and Edward's brother, Jasper Hale, tries to attack her. As a result, Edward leaves Forks and Bella, telling her that he no longer loves her, because he thinks that leaving her is the best thing he can do for her.

Bella then goes into an immense depression, and once "awakened", becomes closer to Jacob Black and he wants to be more than friends are, but that is not what she wants. Jacob gives Bella succinct hints about what he is, and Bella discovers that he is a werewolf. Bella soon finds out that when she is in danger, she can hear Edward's voice clearly in her mind. When wanting to hear his voice again, she attempts cliff-diving, and nearly drowns in the process. When Alice, who can see into the future, sees her jump, she believes that Bella has committed suicide, and travels to see Bella and see for herself.

Edward, believing Bella to be dead from Alice's vision, loses the will to live and travels to Volterra, Italy to have the Volturi kill him, and end his misery without Bella. When they prevent the Volturi from killing Edward, he begs her forgiveness, tells her that he loves her, had always loved her and always will, and promises to never leave her again.

When *Eclipse* begins, Bella receives a letter from Jacob, saying that he misses her too, but that it does not change anything. She is saddened by this, but Edward visits her, and her mood greatly improves. While Bella is visiting Jacob, he admits that he is in love with her, and forcefully kisses her, saying that she must either have him as her boyfriend or not at all. Bella is furious with Jacob for this, and nearly ends their friendship.

Meanwhile, Bella still has her heart set on joining Edward and his family as a vampire. But, after some consideration, she decides that there is one thing she would like to do while human that is to have Edward make love to her. Edward immediately refuses this ‘demand’, explaining that although he wants her as much as she wants him, he could easily kill her if he lost control. Bella insists that he would never allow himself to let that happen. Eventually, Edward agrees that they can ‘try’, but she must marry him first. Bella reluctantly agrees, because of her parent’s early divorce, and becomes Edward’s fiancée.

She also recognizes that her love for Jacob has no comparison to the love she holds for Edward. Bella visits Jacob and tells him of her decision to stay with Edward. That night, Bella breaks out in tears for having to reject Jacob and Edward comforts her. Bella later decides to let Alice arrange the wedding and be her maid-of-honour. Edward realizes how much she is giving up for others and decides to repeal his conditions except for the wedding, but Bella is determined to do everything right: marriage first, make love, and then become a vampire. At the end of the story, they agree to tell Charlie about their engagement.

How many times had I stared at Edward and marvelled over his beauty? How many hours—days, weeks, of my life had I spent dreaming about what I then deemed to be perfection? I thought I’d known his face better than my own. I’d thought this was the one sure physical thing in my whole world: the flawlessness of Edward’s face. I may as well have been blind. For the first time, with the dimming shadows and limiting weakness of humanity taken off my eyes, I saw his face. I gasped and then struggled to find the right words. I needed better words. (*Breaking Dawn* 37)

At the beginning of *Breaking Dawn*, Bella and Edward are married in a beautiful ceremony orchestrated by Alice. Edward and Bella ask Mr. Weber to change the words, “till death do us part” (*Breaking Dawn* 38) to the more appropriate “as long as we both shall live” (*Breaking Dawn* 38). Jacob comes to their wedding and when Bella insists that she can have a “real” honeymoon, he is upset, as he believes Edward will kill her if they make love while she is still human and threatens to kill him. Seth and Sam are forced to take him away from the reception.

IV. MARITAL LIFE OF EDWARD AND BELLA

Edward takes his wife to Isle Esme for their honeymoon, where they consummate their marriage. The next morning, Edward is horrified that he has bruised most of Bella’s body with his hard skin and strength. He refuses to make love until she is turned into a vampire. She pleases with Edward to realize her desire and he gives in. Bella soon after feels a bump on her belly and misses her period. She then realizes she is pregnant with Edward’s child. Her pregnancy progresses at an extremely fast rate, and she becomes very sick. She cannot digest her food, as she vomits most of it, and is dying, for the baby is part vampire and not accepting food that Bella eats and therefore starving her.

Also, the baby inside of her is so strong that it has been accidentally breaking her ribs. Edward asks Jacob to help him convince her to kill the baby that is killing her, but Bella refuses, because she has already developed a love for her unborn child. They let Bella sample human blood, and she finds it appealing, and she is almost instantly revived when she drinks it. Throughout the pregnancy, Bella drinks gallons of blood to sustain herself and the baby. Near the end of the pregnancy, Edward begins to hear the baby's thoughts, and when he hears that the baby 'absolutely adores Bella', his hatred for it is replaced by new found love. Jacob remarks that Edward could never hate anyone who loved Bella, which is why Edward does not hate him.

Edward delivers the baby when Bella unexpectedly goes into labour. She names their child 'Renesmee', and Edward injects her heart with his venom, turning her into a vampire. Jacob imprints on Renesmee, unknown to Bella until she is immortal. During her transformation, Edward stays by her side, refusing to leave the room. After Bella's transformation is complete, she surprises everyone, including herself, with extreme amount of maturity and self-control for a newborn; when Edward takes her out for her first hunt, they cross a human scent. Rather than going for the kill, Bella freezes and runs away, which amazes Edward, and even more Jasper. Bella is also happy to finally be Edward's equal and that he no longer has to hold back his feelings and strength for her safety. At the end of the saga, Bella removes the shield on her mind to let Edward read her thoughts for the first time, which brings them even closer to each other. Though her removal is not perfect, she states that they have forever to work on it. The saga concludes that the couple continue blissfully into their small but perfect piece of forever.

V. CONCLUSION

To sum up, vampires and werewolves are not the only element of fantasy depicted in the novels. It is the instant and eternal attraction between Edward and Bella, two somber teens, one human and one vampire, pulled together, inexplicably against all forces of danger and all rules of logic. Edward's desire for Bella is so ravenous in nature that he literally craves her blood above that of any other, while after a fleeting encounter, Bella is so taken with Edward that she cannot imagine her existence without him. Though paranormal romance is not possible in reality it can be taken in the right sense. No humans are perfect everybody has some paranormal behavior within themselves. Real life has no assurance to sail in the same smooth boat, at any time it is prone to face storms and tornados. It is in the hands of the people to tackle the difficult situations in one's life.

Twilight saga can serve as the best example for unconditional love. Edward and Bella though faced ample obstacles in their life, they still sustained facing those situations staying strongly together. Thus, through her novels, Stephenie Meyer has brought out a positive moral influence on teenagers rather than just depicting fantasy.

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