

## QUESTIONS TO STEPHENIE MEYER

### Your sources of inspiration and the process of writing

- 1. What did you draw the inspiration to write the Twilight Saga from ? Are the characters you wrote about based on real-life people?**

*Twilight* was inspired by a very vivid dream I had in June 2003, which is fairly faithfully transcribed as chapter thirteen of the book. I enjoyed the dream so much that I wrote it down to preserve it. When I finished recording my dream, I wanted to know what was going to happen to these two intriguing characters, so I kept writing.

Only a very few of my characters bear any resemblance to real life people. A few of Bella's human friends in high school are amalgams of people I knew during my high school years. The werewolf Paul ended up being eerily similar to my brother Paul, though I didn't do that on purpose.

- 2. How much time does it take you to write a novel ? (from the moment you start writing to the final modifications)**

It's been different with every book I've written. *Twilight* took only three months to write, but the editing process was over a year and a half long. *New Moon* took five months to write and a year to edit. *Breaking Dawn* was a year to write and six months to edit. I seem to be getting slower at the writing (I've got a lot of demands on my time that I didn't have when I started) and faster on the editing.

- 3. How did you write the Twilight Saga : did you make up the story as you were writing or was everything planned from the beginning ?**

With the first book, *Twilight*, I was definitely making it up as I went along. With the sequels, though, I had to plot things a lot more carefully because I had a definite end point in mind. I usually had all the major plot points set before I started writing. I wrote really long outlines, some so detailed that they even had dialogue in them. However, I didn't always stick to the outlines. Sometimes the story developed in ways that surprised me, and I usually ran with it. These changes happened because of foundations already existing in the story, and they were usually truer to the characters than the outline.

- 4. Which character from the saga resembles you the most and why ?**

There are little pieces of me in all my characters, but none of them are really like me in any way that matters. I'm a little awkward like Bella, of course I identify with Esme's motherliness, and sometimes I can be a little bit stubborn like Rosalie, but these are just vague similarities; the characters are really their own individual personalities that have nothing to do with mine. The one person I most often see eye-to-eye with is Edward. We share a lot of opinions on the world.

- 5. It has been said that a great writer draws inspiration from the works of other writers. Which writers inspired you ?**

William Shakespeare and Orson Scott Card-- who are not super comparable!-- have had the same influence on me. A lot of times in Shakespeare there's a fantastic situation, and it's the same with Orson Scott Card. They make their characters so

human, and their reactions are so much like how we'd react if there really were fairies wandering around sprinkling dust on our eyes. It makes it believable, and I think that's why it has endured. It's very human, although the fantasy element is there.

**6. How does your husband feel about your description of the “perfect man”? A man could get a complex !**

My husband is a very confident person. He doesn't feel threatened by Edward because Edward is fictional. In his words, “I'm real and he's not. He should be threatened by me.”

### Questions about *Breaking Dawn*

**7. What did you feel when you finished writing *Breaking Dawn* ?**

I felt a lot of relief and a little bit of sadness. It was wonderful to have the entire story out of my head and on the page. I felt a real sense of completion. But it was a little bit sad to say goodbye to Bella's voice. I've been channelling her for so long, it kind of feels like one of my good friends just moved to Australia; sure we'll keep in touch, but we won't be able to hang out anymore.

**8. Are you pleased with the ending of *Breaking Dawn*? Do you think it will satisfy your fans?**

Absolutely. The story is exactly the story I wanted to write. It makes me happy. I'm not sure how many of my readers will feel the same way, but if I tried to write to please readers rather than myself, it would never work. For one thing, they would all want something different, so I could only please one of them. For another, if I'm not interested in a story, it makes it impossible to write. It has to be *my* story—the story I want to read—to keep me excited enough to put in the grueling hours it takes to finish a 700+ page book.

### Questions about the *Twilight* saga

**9. If you were Bella, would you choose Edward or Jacob ?**

I don't think I'd be able to choose. I'm sure we could work out some kind of sharing situation.

**10. According to you, had Bella chosen Jacob, how would her future and their relationship have turned out ?**

I actually have a really detailed answer to that question in my head. When I wrote the story, I was aware of all the ways things could be different and in some cases I put a lot of time into imagining the alternate option. In this case, I'm talking about a book length story, but I was never satisfied with how I would end it, so I don't think summarizing it here would be a good idea. Bella (and the reader) does get a glimpse of that possible future in *Eclipse* when she kisses Jacob.

**11. What do the covers of the four books stand for ?**

The apple in *Twilight* is a symbol of choice and the forbidden fruit; the torn ribbon in *Eclipse* symbolises the impossibility of truly leaving your past behind you; the cover of *Breaking Dawn* represents Bella's growth throughout the entire saga. The cover of *New Moon* was not something I was involved with and it doesn't have a meaning for me.

**12. Why are your novels named after solar and moon phenomena?**

I originally named *Twilight* “Forks”—I liked the idea of playing with the town’s name to suggest a fork in the road—but my agent quickly informed me that the title would have to change. *Twilight* came from a list of words I came up with while brainstorming different titles. It wasn’t a perfect title, but it seemed to bring the right atmosphere. Once we chose the first title, it was easy to do the rest in the same vein. The second book dealt with the darkest point in Bella’s life, so it seemed obvious that I should name it after the darkest kind of night, a night with no moon. *Eclipse* was all about the positioning of the two most important people in Bella’s life, so the positioning of the earth’s most important celestial bodies seemed like an excellent metaphor. *Breaking Dawn* also fits the last novel’s plot perfectly.

**The Twilight movie**

**13. Do you think the Twilight movie is a good adaptation of your novel ?/ is faithful to the spirit of your novel ?**

I’m excited for the movie. I have seen it, and I really enjoyed it. It’s not exactly the same as the book, which is absolutely necessary because there are different needs with a visual format, but the heart of *Twilight* is there. Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart have done amazing jobs with the lead roles, and their chemistry really makes the story believable.