

# The Pulse

A Column for the  
*Twilight Obsessed.*

By Rachael Mayer

## Vamped

One of the alluring aspects of the *Twilight* series is the imperfect, silly, yet beautiful narrator-Bella. She is incredibly normal and yet still unlike anyone else-she has a surprise element to her. She thinks around Edward whereas many would simply drool. Bella is strong, she can stand on her own: she's really quite remarkable. So why is she on the backburner on so many fansite blogs?

Perhaps it is simply because the story is told from Bella's point of view, and, as the reader steps into Bella's shoes, it is second nature to push Bella aside, to keep her in the subconscious-for she is never truly out of the mind when reading the series. Or perhaps it is simply because the reader is absorbing so much so quickly that she/he becomes distracted. It is extremely easy to focus on the Cullens, the eye-candy of the series, or the mystery that surrounds the legends of the werewolves. And, characteristically Bella would think that everyone dismissing her would be normal. She has no perception of her own strength, of her own worth, especially in the first part of the series. She constantly thinks that Edward and her new family are too good for her. She believes that she doesn't deserve Jacob as a friend just because of how bad of a person she is. (True, she does goof up a little in *Eclipse*, but I consider that part of the growth process.) She constantly underestimates herself and just like Edward when he's in the know-it-all mood, Bella annoys me to no end when she pushes herself down. I believe she is amazing; she is the heroine in the series. So much focus is put on the love story, the action, and the attractive male heroes that it's scarily easy to forget about the feminine aspect.

The feminine aspect of which so many readers enjoy-it's interesting to be inside Bella's head because I notice so many similarities between her and me-our love of reading, our adventurous nature. It's nice. And no matter how trivial it may seem to Edward, Bella believes she's not nearly as pretty as she should be to be incredibly lucky-she's self-conscious. It's refreshing to know that my opinions about myself may not be nearly as bad as I believe, just as Bella's are obviously a little far-fetched.

The characters in *Twilight* are undoubtedly interesting-they keep me coming back for more. But while the characters are great, the message is just as important. As Bella, Edward, and Jacob grow throughout the series they mess up, sometimes they mess up big time and yet, in the end, not only did that mistake teach them something valuable, but also everything is okay in the end. Mistakes shouldn't play a large part of self-growth. Growing and discovering new things is part of life and should never be taken advantage of. And, as exemplified in the end of *Eclipse* when Bella convinces Edward to stay away from the fight to keep him safe, it isn't too difficult to throw off the inhibitions and be assertive. In the end, strength is something you find inside, it cannot be created by vampire venom.

Every character makes mistakes, none are perfect, and that very fact makes it all the more beautiful. *Twilight* mirrors life in so many ways, it's more of a realistic fiction, than just plain old fiction. It has created a beacon of hope and a refuge for all readers-it's life, it's just a little vamped up.

Rachael