

The Pulse

A Column for the
Twilight Obsessed.

By Rachael Mayer

Absurd Yet Irresistible

"A beautiful thing is never perfect." The *Twilight* series almost seems to contradict what seems to be a completely true statement. I surely remember every description of Edward containing both words "beautiful" and "perfect," and in the beginning I would have had to accept that description completely. Sometimes I have to remind myself that the person describing everything to me happens to be deeply, madly, and irrevocably in love with Edward Cullen-Bella is simply not a very reliable narrator when it comes to her vampire boyfriend. And although I definitely see Edward's imperfections, I can't help but concur with the simple fact that Edward is very amazing, super amazing. But, I still find myself questioning Bella's perceptions of Edward.

I suppose the perception is somewhat distorted by the fact that I am not blindly in love with Edward as Bella is (I love my imagination but I generally reserve the feeling love for the reality spectrum). As I frequently need a reality check as I become too involved in the series, I take a step back. I notice different things as an outsider.

I notice Edward's flaws. I notice how incredibly sure of himself he seems to be. He has a very inept sense of human nature due to the fact that he can "hear" people's minds; however, he also has a know-it-all mentality. He seems to know what people are going to think before they do, and then he can reassure himself as he hears the thought a split second later. In fact, in one of his first conversations with Bella, Edward tells her, "I read people well. . . ." The thing is, though, is that Edward can't read Bella's mind and while it infuriates him, he also resorts to assuming quite a few things about her. In essence, even though he should know she's no ordinary person, he resorts back to his never before used backup plan. He assumes through experience, and if there were any right way to assume, I would applaud Edward for his research into the subject. He has been a bystander to very intense love-his family's relationships are what he wants: Esme and Carlisle, Alice and Jasper, and Rosalie and Emmett are all soul mates. He has never felt such powerful emotions between humans, and in his process of elimination he assumes in *New Moon* not only that his relationship with Bella dangerous for her, but also that she, a human, could never feel emotions quite as intense as what he feels for her. He believes that Bella can live without him, which is absolutely absurd, absurd to the point where he is utterly frustrating. Frustrating, yet still lovely and irresistible.

In fact, he is so irresistible that on most fansite forums there are more "I love Edward!"s than "I love Twilight!"s. I think it is pretty interesting. Obviously the biggest fan base for Meyer's books are teenage girls and frankly, most are in love with Edward Cullen. Instead of seeing their love for a fictional character alarming, I think it's quite promising. Edward is a perfect gentleman, and obviously many girls find his manners attractive-which says something for the standards of the generation of girls coming of age. I also think that it is pretty safe to say that girls are slightly more emotional than their male counterparts, and there are definitely a lot of raw emotions circulating around Edward. Girls still want to fall in love, and Meyer provides love so intense I ask myself if it is even real. Honestly, I haven't come up with an answer to that particular question; I myself haven't had a lot of experience in the whole love area, and therefore I'm not sure if it exists. Regardless, those females who have read Meyer's novels have high expectations; and they should.

I feel bad for the male population: they are going to have a hard time competing with Edward Cullen.

Rachael