

## [Breaking Dawn] Study guide four



### Synopsis:

Bella is in a state of wedded bliss. *"I've never been so happy in all my life - I wasn't this happy when you decided that you loved me more than you wanted to kill me, or the first morning I woke up and you were there waiting...Not when I heard your voice in the ballet studio...or when you said 'I do' and I realised that, somehow, I get to keep you forever. Those are the happiest memories I have, and this is better than any of it."*

(p94)

Until she discovers that Edward and their one night of human and vampire passion, has lead to her being pregnant. She is unwell; incredibly sick. Bella spends a month in hiding, and tells Charlie she has a rare disease.

What is the child? Is it vampire or human. Can Bella survive this birth as a human? Edward and Carlisle search for reasons, answers and curers. They are worried about this child and what it will do to Bella; and what it will end up being.

The baby grows so fast and within a month the child is ready to be birthed. The vampire/human child snaps her bones, and sucks all her life. But Bella will do anything to save this child. She has dreams of sacrifice; and she becomes prepared to do anything for the child. *"When you loved the one who was killing you, it left you no options. How could you run, how could you fight, when doing so would hurt your beloved one? If your life was all you had to give your beloved, how could you not give it? If it was someone you truly loved?"* (p2) Bella seeks protection in Rosalie, and she becomes her one confidant during the pregnancy. Neither Edward or Jacob think she should keep this baby.

Meanwhile Jacob argues with his pack about the treaty made between them and the Cullens. In this treaty the Cullens and wolves cannot enter onto each others land. And if new vampires are created, the wolves must avenge. Jacob will not avenge Bella even though she has broken the treaty. He snaps, and ends up fulfilling his ancestry and becomes (another) alpha. He loosens the power Sam has over him, and leaves his pack. Seth and Leah join him. This new pack, ends up protecting Bella and Cullens.

Bella gives birth to a baby girl (not boy, like she dreamt of) Renesmee. And as a result she dies. She now must be transformed into a Vampire, so that she may live. Edward manages to inject enough venom into her to make her a vampire. Now she must learn how to be a newborn. She discovers that she might just have one of the strongest talents their is - a shield.

Jacob, finally shakes off his affections for Bella. And replaces them for Renesmee. He imprints upon her. (All were-wolves, are said to imprint - fall in love - on someone for life.) He thinks that his affections for Bella, were out of balance, and perhaps were always waiting for her child to come along. He now feels the uneven, fragile love triangle is balanced. *"Bella, things are different with us now, but you'll always be my best friend, and I'll always love you. But I'll love you the right way now. There's finally a balance. We both have people we can't live without."* (p498/9)

A state of utter ecstasy is gained. Happiness abounds, until Alice sees the Volturi coming to avenge Renesmee, who they believe is an immortal child (vampire legend says that, immortal children are vile and violent and must be put to death). *"...my overwhelming ecstasy in this new life. And I was euphoric the vast majority of the time. The days were not long enough for me to get my fill adoring my daughter; the nights did not have enough hours to satisfy my need for Edward. There was a flip-side to the joy, though. If you turned the fabric of our lives over, I imagined the design on the backside would be woven in the bleak grays of doubt and fear."* (p527) Alice flees due to the horror of the visions she sees, and the Cullens are left to try and maintain hope, in being able to avert the Volturi. They summon all the Vampires they know, and ask them to bear witness that Renesmee is not an immortal child, but rather half human and half vampire.

Alice leaves a secret message for Bella to secure the future of Renesmee. Bella makes new ID's for Renesmee and Jacob, in case anything should happen to all the Cullen's.

The day arrives for the Volturi to come. A long standoff with the Volturi takes place. The witness' word holds true for them and Bella is able to shield everyone from the Volturi's tricks. Alice returns with proof of the safety of a half immortal child, and a happy ending comes. The Cullen's and friends manage to save their lives, and Renesmee's. The Volturi retreat, and Edward and Bella can now live forever together without fear of any danger or threat. *"Forever and forever and forever...And then we continued blissfully into this small but perfect piece of our forever."* (p754)

**Themes:**

desire  
passion  
sacrifice  
weakness  
happiness

**Biblical links**

Jesus (the human)  
Transformation

**Questions:**

**1] How do you feel about Jacob imprinting on Renesmee?**

**2] What is desire?**

•Do you see it as 'fleshy' or spiritual?

**3] Have you ever loved something enough, you would want to suffer for it?**

**Would ever want to love something that much?** *"When you loved the one who was killing you, it left you no options. How could you run, how could you fight, when doing so would hurt your beloved one? If your life was all you had to give your beloved, how could you not give it? If it was someone you truly loved?"* (p2)

**4] Do you think we all want something to die for? (or something to live for, a purpose and meaning in life?)**

•**What do Bella, Edward and Jacob each have to live/die for?**

•**What do you have to live and die for?**

We each want a passion, something to die for, and by 'taking part in Christ's life and death on the cross, our fractured ego's assume their rightful place, and God gather's each of us piece by piece into the arms of grace'- Kenda Creasy Dean.)

"The Biblical account of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, functions as an overarching narrative in which.. [our passions] are subsumed in a larger, more encompassing story." - Kenda Creasy Dean

**5] In some ways Bella demonstrated a great truth of self-giving suffering passion, by dying and transforming. Jesus claimed that by choosing life, we actually lose it.**

*"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"* Mark 8:34-36 (See also Matt 16:24-26; Luke 9:23-27)

Jesus himself demonstrated this great paradox, that life comes after death. And shows us that passion requires vulnerability - vulnerability is required for transformation.

"to risk love is to risk death. if there is a formula for human happiness, this is it. For in risking death out of love - in risking passion - we find freedom and joy, the ecstasy of love returned that far exceeds love given." - Kenda Creasy Dean

•**How do you feel about this? How do you live this?**

We imitate Christ, when we identify with a Passion that transforms our own.