

## [Eclipse] Study Guide three



### Synopsis:

Bella is not happy with Edward for bribing her to get what she wants (becoming a Vampire). She does not wish to be married, and only agrees to do so, so she can get what she wants. She finally comes to terms with her hang-ups, and decides to put a twist on Edwards conditions, and demand something of her own: She will marry Edward, as long as she can have sex with him as a human - before being transformed. It is her last human desire. *“There’s something that I want to do before I’m not human anymore.’ I couldn’t believe how idiotic I felt. I was too innocent - which of course was central to the discussion. I didn’t have the faintest idea how to be seductive. I would just have to settle for the flushed and self-conscious”* (p 442) In the end they both compromise. They will marry, and Bella will get to have sex as a human

with Edward.

An unbalanced love triangle takes place. And tensions arise between Bella, Edward and Jacob. Jacob can’t believe that Bella would take Edward back so easily after all the pain he caused her; or that she will become a vampire and marry him soon. This will mean Bella and Jacob will become enemies and this puts both of them in a lot pain.

Edward is also jealous of Bella’s affections for Jacob. And Edward and Jacob cannot see eye to eye, purely because they want the same thing (Bella).

Bella is conflicted about her feelings for both of them. She loves them both, but Jacob is her best friend, and she wants nothing more than to be with Edward forever. *“I miss you when you’re not there. When you’re happy, it makes me happy. But I could say the same thing about Charlie, Jacob, you’re family. I love you, but I’m not in love with you...I love him, Jacob. He’s my whole life.”* (p 330)

Meanwhile a coven of newborn’s (young newborn vampires, with an insatiable thirst) are murdering people in Seattle. These newborns, are made by Victoria; James’ lover, as revenge for his life. Bella is thrown once again, into a world full of danger. But this time the wolves and Vampires unite to overthrow a common enemy and to protect a common interest (Bella).

At the end Bella graduates, and makes the biggest life/death decision of her life - marriage, and future transformation. *“The weeks of stress, of worry...somehow in the middle of all my obsessing over the time, my time had disappeared. My space for sorting through it all, for making plans, had vanished. I was out of time. And I wasn’t ready. I didn’t know how to do this. How to say goodbye...to being human. I knew exactly what I wanted, but I was suddenly terrified of getting it. In theory, I was anxious, even eager to trade mortality with immortality. After all it was the key to staying with Edward forever...In practice being human was all I knew. The future beyond that was a big, dark abyss that I couldn’t know until I leaped into it.”*

(p 269)

### Themes:

love/desire  
divided self  
marriage  
life choices

**Biblical links:**

Intimacy and communion - Psalm 139

**Questions:**

**1] What do you think about imprinting? (The were-wolves myth, in which each were-wolf is said to imprint - fall in love - on someone for life.) Do you believe in love at first sight? Is it possible?**

**2] How do you feel about the big life decisions Bella makes? (ie marriage, Edward, vampire) Would you do the same thing?**

**3] What do you think about the love triangle between Bella, Edward and Jacob?**

**•Have you ever felt like Bella, and been torn between 2 people; or been conflicted over 2 different things before?**

*"I realized that I'd been wrong all along about the magnets. It had not been Edward and Jacob that I'd been trying to force together, it was the two parts of myself, Edward's Bella and Jacob's Bella. But they could not exist together, and I never should have tried." p 607*

**•Do you feel there are many aspects (often opposing) to what makes you, you?  
Does this matter?**

eg: The me at home, is different to the me at school, and the me in love with 'Edward' is different to the me when I hang out with my friends, or the me that goes to Church.

**•Do you think you should be a fully integrated person. (No conflicting parts.)**

**•What would it take to integrate all your component parts?**

**•Does the self-giving love/passion of Jesus offer any suggestions?**

"...source of life, Christ, who puts us together in one piece, whose very breath and blood flow through us." The Message Colossians 2:19

**4] Bella seems to have different kinds of relationships (and 'intimacy') with Edward and Jacob. What are the different 'things' Bella gets from Jacob and Edward.**

(ie. Edward and Bella have a more sexual/physical/emotional relationship; whereas with Jacob it is more intellectual/spiritual/social/moral.)

**4] What is intimacy/communion?**

"Intimacy represents the deeply spiritual search for another who knows what it is like to be 'me'." - Kenda Creasy Dean

**•Read Psalm 139**

(In this passage we see that our identity is tied up in being known by another - God. Also note 'sexual' language/references as well.)

**•Have you ever thought that our sexual desire, might be about more than our body parts? Could it be about intimacy and communion (connecting/meeting/uniting)?**

“sexuality and spirituality meet in the desire for communion, first expressed in the passion of God” Kenda Creasy Dean

**5] What would intimacy and communion with God look like for you?**

**•Does the language of Song of Songs seems helpful?**

“identity is a function of intimacy with Christ, and intimacy with Christ is the true shape of human identity....as I join in Christ's communion, I come to know myself as one who belongs to Jesus and who is called to identify with others in his name.” - Kenda Creasy Dean

**6] Does knowing this self-giving love and passion of God, in an intimate way, make you want to live a self-giving passionate life? One that reaches beyond yourself the way God does? To live a life that brings transformation to the world, the way Jesus did?**

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