

Vampires and Werewolves and... Borders, Oh My!

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537 Word

Filling in the hole left by the retirement of Harry Potter is a more mature story to captivate a young adult audience. Unlike other fiction story writers targeting older teenagers, Stephanie Meyer does not rely on graphic language or provocative material. Three hugely successful books later, Meyers has proved this is a noteworthy formula.

Twilight, a dark and visceral *Romeo and Juliet* for this generation, combines romance with intrigue, and centers on the forbidden love between mortal heroine Isabella Swan and vampire Edward Cullen.

On August 1, at exactly one minute past midnight, the fourth and final chapter in Meyer's long awaited *Twilight* series was released. To cumulate this bittersweet moment in the lives of her dedicated fans, Borders, 909 N. Dale Mabry, hosted a special book release party beginning at 930pm for readers thirsty for her new book, *Breaking Dawn*.

The evening began with a "So You're In Love with a Vampire" trivia contest with questions from the editors of the author's fansite. It gather momentum with a very enthusiastic "Love is Perfectly Paranormal" Jacob (werewolf) versus Edward (vampire) debate. A screening of the *Twilight* movie trailer preceded a "Supernatural Soiree," where fans dressed like characters from the popular book series, participated in a both a tee shirt design and costume contest.

Through thunderous applause, Edeline Joseph-Theophile, 25 won the tee shirt design contest. Edeline said her winning tee shirt design was inspired by "each of the books and the movie."

Fourteen year old, Cris Castellano took first prize in the costume contest for his interpretation of the character Mike. Cris explained that his female friends told him to read the book. "It was good I read it twice. It blew me away."

Second place winner, Kara Harmon, 21 was extremely excited that genre was now considered mainstream. "I've loved paranormal romance stories since I was 14... before it became popular. It's nice to be able to talk to people about it now."

Third place winner Brook Grubb, 18, said, that she was forced to read it by friends. "The insanity is real!"

When asked what the fascination was with the series, the reply appeared unanimous. Trio Alison Harbutte, 13, Sydney Busler, 14, and Victoria Martin, 14 said that it was a great romance book with lots of drama. "It's better than Harry Potter.... It's not as fake.... Believable...." followed by a loud, "Vampires rock!"

Even parents were addicted. Victoria's mother, Cathy said, "Victoria introduced me to it. I couldn't put the book down."

Fans Emily Harris, 13 and Katlyn Remante, 13 agreed, "It's an addicting book, a real page turner. What's not to like about it?"

The event reached its pinnacle with the 12:01 release of the book.

While Tara Belford, 15 won a *Breaking Dawn* tee shirt and Laura Casa, 16 won a calendar through a raffle drawing, it was twenty-eight year old, Idania Holly that won the coveted prize of the night: first place in line and a free book.

Seventeen year old, Amy Shafer and Kelsey Harding summed up the reason for the book's popularity. "Edward is perfect. He's the guy every wants who doesn't exist anymore."

Added Kelsey, "... And Bella is the ordinary girl who just happens to get him."

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