

STEPHENIE MEYER

Author of the
TWILIGHT SERIES

by Lori Mortensen



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A Dream Come True

Stephenie Meyer had an unusual dream the night of June 2, 2003. In a sunlit meadow surrounded by a dark forest, a boy and a girl were talking. It was a strange sight. The boy was a beautiful vampire. His skin sparkled in the sun like diamonds. The girl was an ordinary human. They were deeply in love, except there was a teensy problem ...

He was dying to kill her!

It's a vampire thing.

The impossible love story captured Stephenie's imagination. It was a romance doomed to fail, right?



✓ FACT

One of the most famous novels about vampires is *Dracula*. Bram Stoker published this story in 1897. The book is so popular that it has never gone out of print. Stephenie had never read this book before writing *Twilight*.



publish—to produce and distribute a book, magazine, newspaper, or any other printed material so that people can buy it

out of print—when new copies of a book title are no longer being printed

VAMPIRE DREAMING

Stephenie wondered why she was dreaming about vampires. She hadn't recently watched any vampire movies. She wasn't reading any books about vampires. This dream seemed to come out of nowhere.

Stephenie woke around 4:00 a.m. She lay in bed trying to remember each detail of the dream before it faded away. But soon enough this stay-at-home mother had to get out of bed. She had a busy day ahead taking care of her three young sons.

WRITING IT ALL DOWN

When Stephenie finally found a moment of free time later in the day, she rushed to her computer. "In the sunlight, he was shocking ..." she began typing.

One page. Two pages. By the end of the day, she had written 10 pages. These pages eventually became Chapter 13 of her first book, *Twilight*. Stephenie didn't set out to write a book. She only wanted to capture the scene from her dream. But when she finished, she couldn't stop wondering what would happen next.



Stephenie Meyer

FROM FIRST BOOK TO BEST SELLER

Three months later Stephenie had finished a 500-page book. It was an amazing feat. She had never written a book of any size before. But it was just a lark, written only for herself. And she was OK with that. No one else would want to read it anyway, she thought.

Stephenie was wrong—big time!

Soon after its 2005 release, sales launched *Twilight* to number 1 on *The New York Times* Best Sellers list. Its **sequels** *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn* became staples on the list for several years. Later the books became blockbuster movies, earning billions of dollars at the box office.

Stephenie Meyer—an ordinary mom with a dream—became a literary superstar.

Once I'd written everything that I'd dreamed, I was eager to know more about what would happen to these intriguing characters. So I kept typing, letting the story go where it wanted to go.

—Stephenie Meyer interview
with Cynsations blog, March 27, 2006

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sequel—a story that carries the existing one forward

Passion for Classics

Stephenie Morgan was born on Christmas Eve in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1973. Her parents named her after her father, Stephen, by adding an “ie” to the end of his name. When she was 4, her family moved to Phoenix, Arizona.

Stephenie came from a large family. She often helped take care of her younger siblings. When she wasn't busy being a big sister, she read books—lots of them. By age 8 she was reading novels written for adults. *Gone with the Wind* and *Pride and Prejudice* were on her reading list. Young Stephenie read all types of books—except horror. She was too chicken.

HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

Stephenie was a first-rate student in high school, but she felt like an outsider. There were fancy cars in the student parking lot. Some girls had plastic surgery to enhance their looks. Stephenie didn't put too much thought into her looks. She didn't even have a car.

Stephenie worked hard, and it paid off. She won the **National Merit Scholarship**. She graduated from high school in 1992.



National Merit Scholarship—a special award that comes with money for college given to the top high school students in the country

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Stephenie chose the names of her main characters in *Twilight* carefully. She named the vampire Edward for the Edwards in two of her favorite books—*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë and *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen. Stephenie's female character felt as dear to her as her own child. So Stephenie gave her the name she had been saving for if she ever had a daughter, Isabella.