

= Twilight ( 2008 film ) =

Twilight is a 2008 American adventure film based on Stephenie Meyer 's popular novel of the same name . Directed by Catherine Hardwicke , the film stars Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson . It is the first film in The Twilight Saga film series . This film focuses on the development of the relationship between Bella Swan ( a teenage girl ) and Edward Cullen ( a vampire ) , and the subsequent efforts of Edward and his family to keep Bella safe from a coven of evil vampires .

The project was in development for approximately three years at Paramount Pictures , during which time a screen adaptation that differed significantly from the novel was written . Summit Entertainment acquired the rights to the novel after three years of the project 's stagnant development . Melissa Rosenberg wrote a new adaptation of the novel shortly before the 2007 ? 2008 Writers Guild of America strike and sought to be faithful to the novel 's storyline . Principal photography took 44 days and completed on May 2 , 2008 ; the film was primarily shot in Oregon .

Twilight was theatrically released on November 21 , 2008 ; it grossed over US \$ 393 million worldwide . It was released on DVD March 21 , 2009 and became the most purchased DVD of the year . The soundtrack was released on November 4 , 2008 . Following the film 's success , New Moon and Eclipse , the next two novels in the series , were produced as films the following year .

= = Plot = =

Seventeen @-@ year @-@ old Isabella " Bella " Swan moves to Forks , a small town on the Washington coast , to live with her father , Charlie . Her mother , Renée , is remarried to a minor league baseball player , and they travel often to attend games . Bella makes several friends at her new high school , but she is intrigued by the mysterious and aloof Cullen siblings . Bella sits next to Edward Cullen in biology class on her first day of school , but he seems to be repulsed by her . After a week of absence from school , Edward comes back and talks to Bella normally . A few days later , Bella is nearly struck by a van in the school parking lot . Edward saves her by instantaneously covering a distance of over 30 feet and putting himself between Bella and the van , stopping it with only his hand and making a conspicuous dent . He subsequently refuses to explain his actions to Bella and warns her against befriending him .

After much research , Bella concludes that Edward is a vampire . He eventually confirms this but says he and the other Cullens only consume animal blood . The pair fall in love , and Edward introduces Bella to his vampire family . Carlisle Cullen , the family patriarch , is a doctor working in Forks . His wife is Esme , and Alice , Jasper , Emmett , and Rosalie are their informally adopted children . Edward and Bella 's relationship is soon put in jeopardy , when three nomadic vampires ? James , Victoria , and Laurent ? arrive in Forks . James , a tracker vampire with incredible hunting instincts , is instantly intrigued by Edward 's protectiveness over a human , which incites him to hunt Bella for sport . Edward and the other Cullens risk their lives to protect Bella , but James tracks her to Phoenix , where she is hiding with Jasper and Alice . James lures Bella into a trap by falsely claiming that he is holding her mother hostage . James breaks Bella 's leg before biting her wrist , infecting her with vampire venom . After a ferocious fight , Edward subdues James just as the other Cullens arrive . Alice , Emmett , and Jasper destroy James , decapitating and burning him , as Edward sucks the venom from Bella 's wrist , preventing her from turning into a vampire . Upon returning to Forks , Edward accompanies Bella to the high school prom , where he refuses to grant her request that he transform her into a vampire . As the couple dance , they are unaware that James ' mate , Victoria , is secretly watching , plotting revenge for her lover 's death .

= = Cast = =

Main cast

Kristen Stewart as Bella Swan , a seventeen @-@ year @-@ old girl who moves to the small town of Forks , Washington from Phoenix , Arizona and falls in love with Edward Cullen , a vampire . Her life is endangered after James , a sadistic vampire , decides to hunt her .

Robert Pattinson as Edward Cullen , a 108 @-@ year @-@ old vampire who was changed in 1918 and still appears to be seventeen . He is Bella 's love interest and eventually falls in love with her . He has the ability to read minds , with the exception of Bella 's , along with superhuman speed .

#### Secondary cast

Peter Facinelli as Carlisle Cullen , a compassionate 300 @-@ plus @-@ year @-@ old vampire who looks to be in his early 30s . He serves as the town 's physician and is the Cullen family patriarch .

Elizabeth Reaser as Esme Cullen , Carlisle 's vampire wife and the matriarch of the Cullen family .

Ashley Greene as Alice Cullen , Jasper Cullen 's mate , a vampire who can see the future based on decisions that people make .

Kellan Lutz as Emmett Cullen , physically the strongest vampire of the family .

Nikki Reed as Rosalie Hale , Emmett Cullen 's mate , a vampire described as the most beautiful person in the world . She is hostile toward Bella throughout the film , worried that Edward 's relationship with a human puts their clan at risk .

Jackson Rathbone as Jasper Hale , a Cullen family member who can manipulate emotions . He is the newest member of the Cullen family , and thus has the most difficulty maintaining their " vegetarian " diet of feeding only on animal rather than human blood .

Billy Burke as Charlie Swan , Bella 's father and Forks ' Chief of Police .

Cam Gigandet as James Witherdale , the leader of a group of nomadic vampires that intends to kill Bella . He is Victoria 's mate and a gifted tracker , due to his unparalleled senses .

Rachelle Lefèvre as Victoria Sutherland , James ' mate who assists him in hunting Bella .

Edi Gathegi as Laurent Da Revin , the most civilized member of James ' coven .

Sarah Clarke as Renée Dwyer , Bella 's mother who lives in Arizona with her new husband , Phil .

Taylor Lautner as Jacob Black , an old childhood friend of Bella and a member of the Quileute tribe .

Christian Serratos as Angela Weber , one of Bella 's new friends in Forks .

Michael Welch as Mike Newton , one of Bella 's new friends who vies for her attention .

Anna Kendrick as Jessica Stanley , Bella 's first friend in Forks .

Gregory Tyree Boyce as Tyler Crowley , another one of Bella 's classmates , also vying for Bella 's attention . He nearly hits Bella with his van .

Justin Chon as Eric Yorkie , another one of Bella 's classmates who vies for her attention .

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

Stephenie Meyer 's paranormal romance novel *Twilight* was originally optioned by Paramount Pictures ' MTV Films in April 2004 , but the screenplay that was subsequently developed was substantially different from its source material . When Summit Entertainment reinvented itself as a full @-@ service studio in April 2007 , it began development of a film adaptation anew , having picked up the rights from Paramount ( who coincidentally had made an unrelated film with the same title in 1998 ) in a turnaround . The company perceived the film as an opportunity to launch a franchise based on the success of Meyer 's book and its sequels . Catherine Hardwicke was hired to direct the film and Melissa Rosenberg was hired to write the script in mid @-@ 2007 .

Rosenberg developed an outline by the end of August , and collaborated with Hardwicke on writing the screenplay during the following month . Rosenberg said Hardwicke " was a great sounding board and had all sorts of brilliant ideas .... I 'd finish off scenes and send them to her , and get back her notes . " Due to the impending Writers Guild of America strike , Rosenberg worked full @-@ time to finish the screenplay before October 31 . In adapting the novel , she " had to condense a great deal . " Some characters from the novel were not featured in the screenplay , whereas some characters were combined into others . " [ O ] ur intent all along was to stay true to the book " , Rosenberg explained , " and it has to do less with adapting it word for word and more with making

sure the characters ' arcs and emotional journeys are the same . " Hardwicke suggested the use of voice over to convey Bella 's internal dialogue ? since the novel is told from her point of view ? and she sketched some of the storyboards during pre @-@ production .

= = = Adaptation from source material = = =

The filmmakers behind Twilight worked to create a film that was as faithful to the novel as they thought possible when converting the story to another medium , with producer Greg Mooradian saying , " It 's very important to distinguish that we 're making a separate piece of art that obviously is going to remain very , very faithful to the book .... But at the same time , we have a separate responsibility to make the best movie you can make . " To ensure a faithful adaptation , Meyer was kept very involved in the production process , having been invited to visit the set during filming and even asked to give notes on the script and on a rough cut of the film . Of this process , she said , " It was a really pleasant exchange [ between me and the filmmakers ] from the beginning , which I think is not very typical . They were really interested in my ideas " , and , " ... they kept me in the loop and with the script , they let me see it and said , ' What are your thoughts ? ' ... They let me have input on it and I think they took 90 percent of what I said and just incorporated it right in to the script . " Meyer fought for one line in particular , one of the most well @-@ known from the book about " the lion and the lamb " , to be kept verbatim in the film : " I actually think the way Melissa [ Rosenberg ] wrote it sounded better for the movie [ ... ] but the problem is that line is actually tattooed on peoples ' bodies [ ... ] But I said , ' You know , if you take that one and change it , that 's a potential backlash situation . ' " Meyer was even invited to create a written list of things that could not be changed for the film , such as giving the vampires fangs or killing characters who do not die in the book , that the studio agreed to follow . The consensus among critics is that the filmmakers succeeded in making a film that is very faithful to its source material , with one reviewer stating that , with a few exceptions , " Twilight the movie is unerringly faithful to the source without being hamstrung by it . "

However , as is most often the case with film adaptations , differences do exist between the film and source material . Certain scenes from the book were cut from the film , such as a biology room scene where Bella 's class does blood typing . Hardwicke explains , " Well [ the book is ] almost 500 pages ? you do have to do the sweetened condensed milk version of that .... We already have two scenes in biology : the first time they 're in there and then the second time when they connect . For a film , when you condense , you don 't want to keep going back to the same setting over and over . So that 's not in there . " The settings of certain conversations in the book were also changed to make the scenes more " visually dynamic " on @-@ screen , such as Bella 's revelation that she knows Edward is a vampire ? this happens in a meadow in the film instead of in Edward 's car as in the novel . A biology field trip scene is added to the film to condense the moments of Bella 's frustration at trying to explain how Edward saved her from being crushed by a van . The villainous vampires are introduced earlier in the film than in the novel . Rosenberg said that " you don 't really see James and the other villains until to the last quarter of the book , which really won 't work for a movie . You need that ominous tension right off the bat . We needed to see them and that impending danger from the start . And so I had to create back story for them , what they were up to , to flesh them out a bit as characters . " Rosenberg also combined some of the human high school students , with Lauren Mallory and Jessica Stanley in the novel becoming the character of Jessica in the film , and a " compilation of a couple of different human characters " becoming Eric Yorkie . About these variances from the book , Mooradian stated , " I think we did a really judicious job of distilling [ the book ] . Our greatest critic , Stephenie Meyer , loves the screenplay , and that tells me that we made all the right choices in terms of what to keep and what to lose . Invariably , you 're going to lose bits and pieces that certain members of the audience are going to desperately want to see , but there 's just a reality that we 're not making ' Twilight : The Book ' the movie . "

= = = Casting = = =

Kristen Stewart was on the set of Adventureland when Hardwicke visited her for an informal screen

test that " captivated " the director . Hardwicke had trouble finding an actor otherworldly enough to play vampire Edward Cullen . Then she got a call about a guy in London . " I looked at a couple pictures and was like , ? I ? m not sure , ? ? " Hardwicke says . " He had been fired from his last job , he was unemployed , he was in debt . " Pattinson flew to Los Angeles on his own dime to read with Stewart . Shiloh Fernandez , Jackson Rathbone , Ben Barnes , and Robert Pattinson were the final four up for the role of Edward . Hardwicke did not initially choose Robert Pattinson for the role of Edward Cullen , but after an audition at her home with Stewart , he was selected . Hardwicke said , " Kristen was like , ? It ? s got to be Rob ! ? She felt connected to him from the first moment . That electricity , or love at first sight , or whatever it is . " Hardwicke gave him the part , but he had to make a promise . " You ? ve got to realize that Kristen is 17 years old , " Hardwicke told him , " She ? s underage . You ? ve got to focus , dude , or you ? re going to be arrested . I made him swear on a stack of Bibles . " Pattinson was unfamiliar with the novel series prior to his screen test but read the books later on . Meyer allowed him to view a manuscript of the unfinished *Midnight Sun* , which chronicles the events in *Twilight* from Edward 's point of view . Fan reaction to Pattinson 's casting as Edward was initially negative ; Rachelle Lefèvre remarked that " [ e ] very woman had their own Edward [ that ] they had to let go of before they could open up to [ him ] , which they did . " Meyer was " excited " and " ecstatic " in response to the casting of the two main characters . She had expressed interest in having Emily Browning and Henry Cavill cast as Bella and Edward , respectively , prior to pre @-@ production .

Peter Facinelli was not originally cast as Carlisle Cullen . " [ Hardwicke ] liked me , but there was another actor that the studio was pushing for " , Facinelli said . For unknown reasons , that actor was not able to play the part and Facinelli was selected in his place . The choice of Ashley Greene to portray Alice Cullen was the subject of fan criticism due to Greene being 7 inches ( 18 cm ) taller than her character as described in the novel . Meyer had also stated that Rachael Leigh Cook resembled her vision of Alice . Nikki Reed had previously worked with Hardwicke on *Thirteen* , which they wrote together , and *Lords of Dogtown* . Reed commented , " I don 't want to say it 's a coincidence , because we do work well together , and we have a great history . I think we make good work , but it 's more that the people that hire [ Hardwicke ] to direct a film of theirs [ have ] most likely seen her other work . "

Kellan Lutz was in Africa shooting the HBO miniseries *Generation Kill* when the auditions for the character of Emmett Cullen were conducted . The role had already been cast by the time that production ended in December 2007 , but the actor who had been selected " fell through " ; Lutz subsequently auditioned and was flown to Oregon , where Hardwicke personally chose him . Rachelle Lefèvre was interested in pursuing a role in the film because Hardwicke was attached to the project as director ; there was also " the potential to explore a character , hopefully , over three films " ; and she wanted to portray a vampire . She " thought that vampires were basically the best metaphor for human anxiety and questions about being alive . " Christian Serratos initially auditioned for Jessica Stanley , but she " fell totally in love with Angela " after reading the novels and successfully took advantage of a later opportunity to audition for Angela Weber . The role of Jessica Stanley went to Anna Kendrick , who got the part after two mix @-@ and @-@ match auditions with various actors .

= = = Filming and post @-@ production = = =

On a bed in Catherine Hardwicke 's house is where Pattinson kissed Stewart for the first time for the *Twilight* screen test . " That bed made Pattinson who he is right now , " says Reed . That ? s also where Hardwicke auditioned Evan Rachel Wood , when she had her get into her bed with Nikki Reed for the film *Thirteen* . When asked about her lair , Hardwicke says , " MTV came and did an episode in my house filming the bed . It ? s legendary . " Principal photography took 44 days , after more than a week of rehearsals , and completed on May 2 , 2008 . Similar to her directorial debut *Thirteen* , Hardwicke opted for an extensive use of hand @-@ held cinematography to make the film " feel real " . Meyer visited the production set three times and was consulted on different aspects of the story ; she also has a brief cameo in the film . Cast members who portrayed vampires avoided

sunlight to make their skin pale , though makeup was also applied for that effect , and wore contact lenses : " We did the golden color because the Cullens have those golden eyes . And then , when we 're hungry , we have to pop the black ones in , " Facinelli explained . They also participated in rehearsals with a dance choreographer and observed the physicality of different panthera to make their bodily movements more elegant .

Scenes were filmed primarily in Portland , Oregon . Stunt work was done mainly by the cast . The fight sequence between Gigandet and Pattinson 's characters in a ballet studio , which was filmed during the first week of production , involved a substantial amount of wire work because the vampires in the story have superhuman strength and speed . Gigandet incorporated mixed martial arts fighting moves in this sequence , which involved chicken and honey as substitutes for flesh . Bella , the protagonist , is unconscious during these events , and since the novel is told from her point of view , such action sequences are illustrative and unique to the film . Pattinson noted that maintaining one 's center of gravity is difficult when doing wire work " because you have to really fight against it as well as letting it do what it needs to do . " Lefèvre found the experience disorienting since forward motion was out of her control .

Instead of shooting at Forks High School itself , scenes taking place at the school were filmed at Kalama High School and Madison High School . Other scenes were filmed in St. Helens , and Hardwicke conducted some reshooting in Pasadena , California , in August . Twilight was originally scheduled to be theatrically released in the United States on December 12 , 2008 , but its release date was changed to November 21 after Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince was rescheduled for an opening in July 2009 . Two teaser trailers , as well as some additional scenes , were released for the film , as well as a final trailer , which was released on October 9 . A 15 @-@ minute excerpt of Twilight was presented during the International Rome Film Festival in Italy . The film received a rating of PG @-@ 13 from the Motion Picture Association of America for " some violence and a scene of sensuality " .

= = = Music = = =

The score for Twilight was composed by Carter Burwell , with the rest of the soundtrack chosen by music supervisor Alexandra Patsavas . Meyer was consulted on the soundtrack , which includes music by Muse and Linkin Park , bands she listened to while writing the novels . The original soundtrack was released on November 4 , 2008 , by Chop Shop Records in conjunction with Atlantic Records . It debuted at number 1 on the Billboard 200 .

= = Release = =

= = = Box office = = =

Twilight grossed over \$ 7 million in ticket sales from midnight showings alone on November 21 , 2008 . The film is fifth overall on Fandango 's list of top advance ticket sales , outranked only by its sequel the following year , Star Wars : Episode III ? Revenge of the Sith ( 2005 ) , The Dark Knight ( 2008 ) , and Harry Potter and the Half @-@ Blood Prince ( 2009 ) . It grossed \$ 35 @. @ 7 million on its opening day . For its opening weekend in the United States and Canada , Twilight accumulated \$ 69 @. @ 6 million from 3 @, @ 419 theaters at an average of \$ 20 @, @ 368 per theater . The film grossed \$ 192 @, @ 769 @, @ 854 in the United States and Canada , and \$ 199 @, @ 846 @, @ 771 in international territories for a total of \$ 392 @, @ 616 @, @ 625 . Its opening weekend gross was the highest ever of a female @-@ directed film , surpassing that of Deep Impact ( 1998 ) .

= = = Critical reception = = =

Twilight received mixed reviews from critics . Based on 207 reviews collected by Rotten Tomatoes , the film has an overall " Rotten " rating of 48 % , with a weighted average score of 5 @. @ 4 / 10 . In

describing the critical consensus , it stated : " Having lost much of its bite transitioning to the big screen , Twilight will please its devoted fans , but do little for the uninitiated . " On Metacritic , which assigns a weighted mean rating out of 100 reviews from film critics , it has an average score of 56 from the 37 reviews . New York Press critic Armond White called the film " a genuine pop classic " , and praised Hardwicke for turning " Meyer 's book series into a Brontë @-@ esque vision . " Roger Ebert gave the film two @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of four and wrote , " I saw it at a sneak preview . Last time I saw a movie in that same theater , the audience welcomed it as an opportunity to catch up on gossip , texting , and laughing at private jokes . This time the audience was rapt with attention " . In his review for the Los Angeles Times , Kenneth Turan wrote , " Twilight is unabashedly a romance . All the story 's inherent silliness aside , it is intent on conveying the magic of meeting that one special person you 've been waiting for . Maybe it is possible to be 13 and female for a few hours after all " . USA Today gave the film two out of four stars and Claudia Puig wrote , " Meyer is said to have been involved in the production of Twilight , but her novel was substantially more absorbing than the unintentionally funny and quickly forgettable film " . Entertainment Weekly gave the film a " B " rating and Owen Gleiberman praised Hardwicke 's direction : " She has reconjured Meyer 's novel as a cloudburst mood piece filled with stormy skies , rippling hormones , and understated visual effects " .

= = = Home media = = =

The film was released on DVD in North America on March 21 , 2009 , through midnight release parties , and sold over 3 million units in its first day . It was released on April 6 , 2009 in the UK . Bonus features include about 10 to 12 extended or deleted scenes , montages and music videos , behind @-@ the @-@ scenes interviews , a " making @-@ of " segment , and commentary featuring Hardwicke , Stewart , and Pattinson . The Blu @-@ ray disc edition of the film was released on March 21 , 2009 , in select locations , but was made more widely available at further retailers on May 5 , 2009 . As of July 2012 , the film has sold 11 @,@ 242 @,@ 519 units , earning \$ 201 @,@ 190 @,@ 019 .

The film and the next two installments of the Twilight Saga will be rereleased as a triple feature with extended cuts on January 13 , 2015 .

= = = Video game = = =

A movie trivia video game developed by Screenlife and published by Konami for the Wii , Nintendo DS , PC and the iPhone was released alongside the second film .

= = = Accolades = = =

Since its release , Twilight has received numerous nominations and awards . In January 2009 , Carter Burwell was nominated for Film Composer of the Year by the International Film Music Critics Association . Robert Pattinson won Bravo TV 's A @-@ List Award for A @-@ List Breakout . At the 2009 MTV Movie Awards , Pattinson , who was nominated alongside Taylor Lautner , also won an award for Male Breakthrough Performance , " Decode " was nominated for Best Song from a Movie , Twilight won an award for Best Movie , Kristen Stewart won for Best Female performance , Stewart and Pattinson were awarded Best Kiss , and Pattinson and Cam Gigandet won an award for Best Fight . Christian Serratos won a Young Artist Award for Best Performance in a Feature Film : Supporting Young Actress . For the 2009 Teen Choice Awards , held on August 9 , the film and its actors received a combined total of 12 nominations , nine of which the film won . At the 2009 Screen Actors Guild Awards , the film was nominated for nine awards , four of which it won . The film won two ALMA Awards for makeup and hairstyling . It also won the Public Choice Award at the World Soundtrack Awards , where Carter Burwell was also nominated for Composer of the Year . Catherine Hardwicke received a Young Hollywood Award for her directing . In addition , the film was nominated for Best Fantasy Film at the 35th Saturn Awards and two Grammy Awards .

= = Sequel = =

MTV reported in February 2008 that Summit Entertainment intended to create a series of at least three films based on Meyer 's books . The studio had optioned New Moon , the second book in the series , by October 2008 , and confirmed their plans to make a film based on it November 22 , 2008 . Because Catherine Hardwicke had wanted more preparation time than Summit 's schedule for the production and release of the sequel would provide , Chris Weitz was selected to direct it in December 2008 .