

## Book Reviews

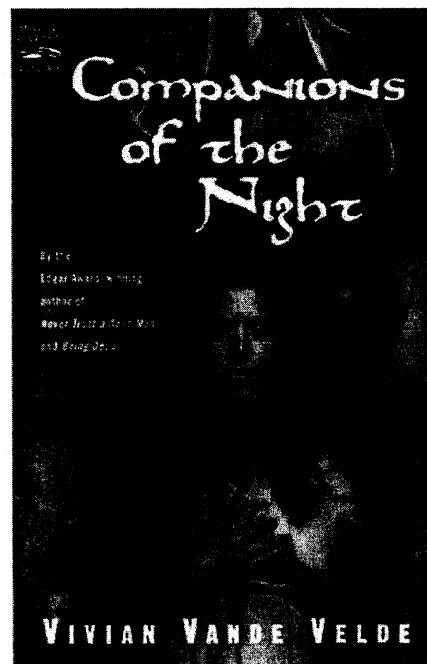
### BLOODLINE

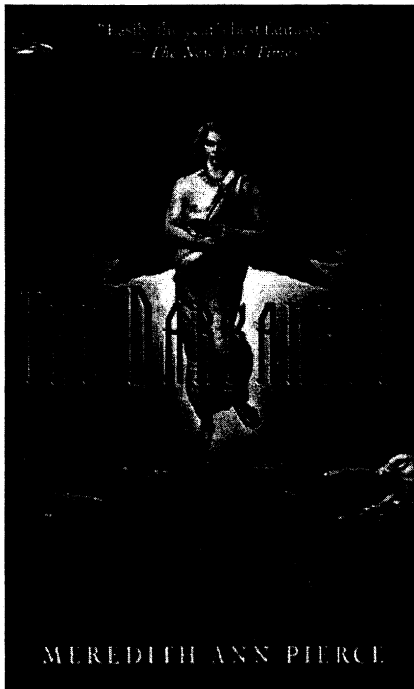
#### *Bloodline* by Katy Cary

*Bloodline* is told primarily through journal entries of the main characters. It is about a British soldier who during World War I makes the horrifying discovery that his regiment commander is descended from Count Dracula. It involves elements of mystery, horror and romance. I thought this was a great read and very intriguing up until the very end. It added a great twist to the classic story of Dracula. Readers who are fans of vampire novels will like this suspenseful story as well.

#### *Companions of the Night* by Vivian Vande Velde

When Kerry Nowicki ventures out one night to rescue her brother's teddy bear from the Laundromat, she never realised that her entire world would change before morning. Kerry shows herself to be a strong female character as she keeps her cool as chaos erupts around her. Vande Velde creates a highly enigmatic character with Ethan. Although Kerry knows that her attraction to him could be problematic, she wants desperately to trust him as we the readers do as well. The plot is full of twists and turns and the story ends with us wanting more.





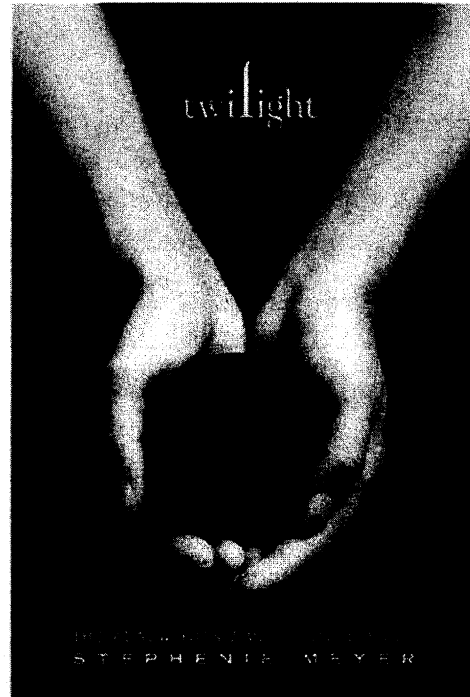
### ***The Darkangel* by Meredith Pierce**

If you liked *Twilight* you may like *The Darkangel*. It is volume 1 of a trilogy of books. This is a story about a servant girl named Aeriell. She is faced with the decision to either destroy her vampire master or save him. In saving him, she hopes that it may bring the good out in him but she is not sure what to do.

*The Darkangel* has won many awards such as: *ALA Best Book for Young Adults*, *New York Times Notable Children's Book*, *Parent's Choice Award Superbook* and *Booklist Best Book of the Decade*.

### ***Twilight* by Stephenie Meyer**

*Twilight* is the kind of book which just reaches out and draws you in. Readers are envious of the obvious passion and love between Edward and Bella. It is a true love where faults can be laid bare. Even with Edward's inability to read Bella's mind there are no secrets between them. Although we often wish that Bella would be slightly more independent or confident in herself, she is a brave character who faces her own death to save someone she loves.



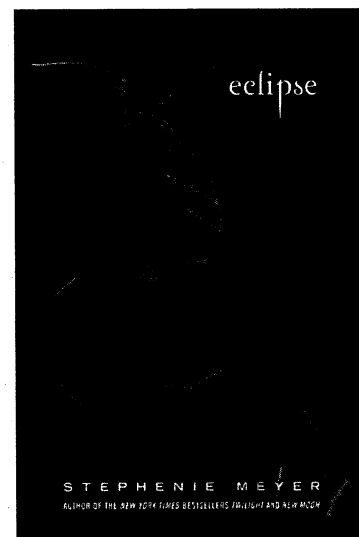


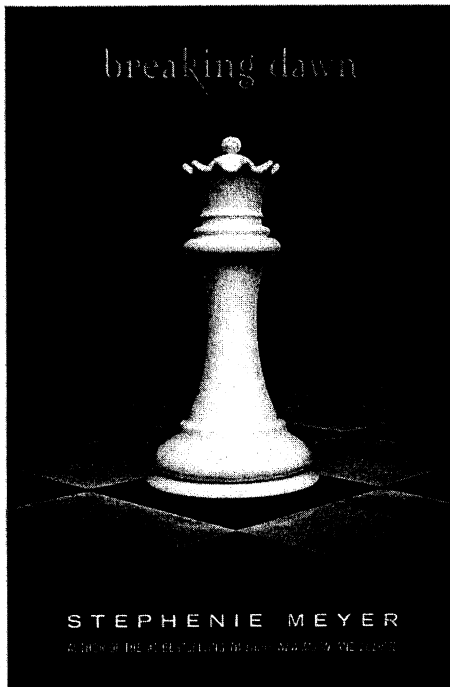
### ***New Moon* by Stephenie Meyer**

An astute reader may pick up on the fact that Edward is pulling away from Bella at the beginning of the book but it is still a shock when it happens. Bella does experience the typical post-breakup blues, although hers are somewhat intensified given the extreme nature of her relationship with Edward. After the Cullens leave, Meyer indicates the passage of time, and Bella's resulting depression and zombie-like daily life, by just indicating the months with no storyline. It's a simple device, but a very effective one. The story starts again when Bella starts to snap out of her funk. It was good to see Bella return to the land of the living. She talks to people again, she hangs out... it's a sign that there is life after a break up. She even starts hanging out with Jacob. The whole werewolf storyline aside, it would be nice to see Bella like herself and be okay with being herself instead of chasing her demons away by being with other people. But it was nice to see Bella be the one to run to Edward's rescue for a change.

### ***Eclipse* by Stephenie Meyer**

In comparison with *New Moon*, it was nice to see *Eclipse* not focus on relationship difficulties between Edward and Bella. The only difficulties involve Jacob and Edward and Bella's inability to find a middle ground between them. Regardless of how stubborn the two boys were being, it would have been nice to see Bella be a bit more forceful in speaking her mind and acting out. The introduction of the back stories for Jasper and Rosalie were a great introduction to the saga. It is nice to know that the stories are about more than just Bella and Edward. Of course, there is the proposal scene. It is what every fangirl had been waiting for since the first run of *Twilight*.





### ***Breaking Dawn* by Stephenie Meyer**

Of all the ways to make Bella a vampire, I really didn't see a pregnancy on the horizon. I know that there has been a lot of differing opinions on the whole plot point, but I can see the rationalization for it. So many have commented on what Bella would have to give up to become a vampire, and children was a big part of that. This way, she gets to be a mother to Edward's child and still ends the book as a vampire. Was it awkwardly introduced? And is Renesmee the most god awful name ever? Oh absolutely. There is no denying that. Renesmee as a name is something you

would expect from a teenager who is shooting for a cutesy name. It was nice to see Jacob side with the Cullens. Sam's overreaction to the whole pregnancy was highly unnecessary. In that moment, he became like the Volturi - looking to destroy a living being because they don't understand it. The powerful nature of Bella's powers were great. In every other book, it's Bella who needs saving - Twilight: the Cullens saved her from James, New Moon: the werewolves saved her from Laurent and kept Victoria at bay, Eclipse: both groups fought Victoria and the newborns. Here? Bella is a powerful vampire who is no longer likely to fall over her own feet. She is a force to be reckoned with and her shield saves everyone from being instantaneously wiped out by the Volturi.

