

The Bright Knight

By Juliet VanWagenen

Every once in a while a craze sweeps through our society that leaves us simply wanting more. The most recent pop culture sensation, *The Dark Knight*, has been causing quite a splash in the movie world. The latest *Batman* sequel has been launched to the pinnacle of the entertainment pyramid. The much anticipated movie raked in over \$500 million in North America alone, crushing records formerly held by big name movies like *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Spiderman 3* and remains second only to the timeless classic *Titanic*.

This movie was an astonishingly entertaining combination of talents. Acting and directing unite to create a dark but deliciously engrossing film. Many viewers may find the length of *The Dark Knight* a bit off-putting as the running time is 2 hours and 30 minutes, but time seems to fly by as the plot twists and turns keep any viewer occupied and unaware.

The success of this movie can no doubt be accredited to the actor who plays the Joker in the film, Heath Ledger, whose accidental death in January 2008 at the age of 28 caught the world by surprise. This, paired with his incredibly strange performance as the film's mentally unstable villain, peaked the public's curiosity and brought a large amount of attention to the movie.

This sort of attention was exactly what *Batman* needed to beat out the other Superhero competition. *The Dark Knight* grossed more profit than any other superhero movie, including *Superman*, *Spiderman*, and even the former *Batman* series. It managed to smash the record previously held by *Spiderman 3* for the best opening weekend, and upon hearing this news, planning has begun for the fourth installment in the series, in hopes of reclaiming their former glory. Still, critics and viewers alike remain thrilled at the presentation put on by *The Dark Knight* and have begun hailing it as one of the best films in years. It remains to be seen whether or not it will continue its reign at the top to become another movie legend like its rival *Titanic*. But for now it continues to be an incredible and almost universally loved film that has raised the bar for movie viewers everywhere.

Edward Cullen's Story On An Indefinite Hold?

By Kaitlin Bartlett

Readers have been left thirsty for more of the *Twilight* saga since the release of the fourth installment, *Breaking Dawn*. To the dismay of the fans, however, the vampire series may be at a premature end. Stephenie Meyer, the mastermind behind Bella Swan and Edward Cullen's forbidden romance, was thrown for a loop when the first twelve chapters of her incomplete *Midnight Sun* draft appeared illegally on the Internet.

Meyer had recently announced her intentions to rewrite the first book, reversing the point of view from Bella to Edward. Fans were thrilled at the opportunity to see inside the complex mind of the series' mysterious hero, and someone took their excitement to the next level by posting the transcript online.

Meyer addressed the leak on her official website, saying "...what happened was a huge violation of my rights as an author, not to mention me as a human being."

Unfortunately for fans of the Cullen clan, the illegal distribution has disheartened Meyer to the point where she is setting the project aside, perhaps permanently. "With writing, the way you feel changes everything," she commented. "In any case, I feel too sad about what has happened to continue working on *Midnight Sun*, and so it is on hold indefinitely."

Is having such an obsessive fan base that will violate Meyer's privacy for more *Twilight* a downside for her? While some have read the leaked chapters, many fans are refusing to look at the incomplete draft in support of the author, with the hope of her someday returning to the project. Petitions have been formed online, sporting thousands of signatures and messages urging Meyer to continue Edward's story.

Not all are supportive, however; some blame Meyer herself for the mishap, pointing out that she distributed several copies to individuals she trusted. They insist that the entire group of *Twilighters* should not be punished for the actions of one bad seed. Other forms of media are leaked on a regular basis; why should she deny her fans something she already promised them? Accusations of Meyer hyping the scandal up to create a buzz have been thrown into the mix.

So is there still a chance that Meyer will return to Forks, Wash., the setting of her beloved series? "Maybe part of me is protecting those secrets because I'm not ready to leave my vampires behind," she admitted.

The fourth installment in the series, *Breaking Dawn*, sold 1.3 million copies on its first day of release.