

Hi my name is Mollie and I love Twilight (Review for The Guardian).

The Twilight Saga, a tale of a maverick high-school student who meets an obscure vampire teen and enters into a perilous romance with him. The films took over U.K cinemas in 2008 with its melancholy right up until 2012. As a writer and film student, it feels like blasphemy to utter the words 'Twilight' in the lecture theatre. The Twilight heartthrob Robert Pattinson, who plays the marble-skinned lead Edward Cullen, brutally said, "when I read it (Twilight), it was like it was a book that wasn't supposed to be published" Ouch.

Whenever Twilight comes on TV, I wiggle myself into my sofa and indulge a couple hours of my time into the vampire romance. Watching the films brings instant nostalgia to when I, too, was a teenager who constantly went between loving and hating my parents or thinking I was too fat and too skinny. Oh, and let us not forget the aching heart towards romance and troubled, pale boys.

Twilight offered escapism into the fantastically gloomy world of Forks and made me resonate with my younger self. A confused teenager. Was I going to be a musician or an artist? What college did I want to go to? Should I know how to pay taxes yet? I loathed the transition of being pressured to get a job, whilst still being expected to play video games. I saw myself in Bella and her friends, who halfway through the saga accept their high school diplomas ready to take on their next big step; whether that be going to college or working. Or in Bellas case, having her vampire boyfriend sink his teeth into her neck and turn her. Fun.

I sat to watch my first Twilight film, fresh into my teens, with way too much eyeliner on and wearing my Pierce The Veil band t-shirt. The cover looked moody with not a single one of the strikingly gorgeous characters smiling on it. My teenage self-yearned to be this. Looking back, I just came

across as a mopey teenager with a dark, sweeping fringe covering half of my pale face. Little did I know that I would fall hard for this badly reviewed romance. The chemistry Bella and Edward share allowed the heavy 95% (according to Fandango) female audience to live out their own girlish cravings. Twilight taps into the commonly shared teen female desire. To rescue the vampire (the boy) and relieve him from his lonesome immortality (pain). Psychologist Dr Cecilia d' Felice says, "this brings out the desire to nurture and protect him. They just want to suck on our blood. This is a metaphor for how much we need love and how much we need to be needed". Exploring that desire many share, to love and to be loved.

Bella was notably clumsy, once hitting a volleyball into the back of one her classmates head. Yet she was confident, showing this by confronting James, a vampire who is hunting her, by herself in order to defend her loved ones. Not the wisest decision, but devised with credence. However, not completely comfortable in her own skin, shown through her awkward smiles. It is fair to assume that many teens feel this way.

She's a character I took a liking to. Throughout the movies, she's determined to find out more about Edward after she develops feelings for him. When he walked into the school cafeteria and she could not take her eyes off him. She was a determined character who respects Edwards decisions but makes sure her desires were known too. After initially being rejected by Edward, in the end, Bella ended up marrying him, having his child and becoming a vampire. She gets the life she wanted after working hard for it. Even saying in Breaking Dawn part 2 her "time as a human is over, but I've never felt more alive. I was born to be a vampire". To me, Bella was a role model. She conveys the message that if you are determined enough, life will reward you. It was an uplifting message for my slightly pessimistic teenager. With determination, I'm now at university, having the best years of my life.

Yes, Twilight is cheesy in places, for example, Bella and Edward share a kiss in a flowery meadow while Edwards vampire skin sparkles in the sunlight. It's no masterpiece, but it really receives more hatred than it deserves, with critic Andrew Osenga saying "It looks as if the movie is somehow worse than the book, and that type of terrible is probably pretty hilarious". But, there are many other elements that make or break a film. Twilight sets the bar high with visuals. Scenic shots of sunshine breaking through the gloomy cracks of cloud and bouncing onto the still waters. Snow dusted mountains and trees accompanied by a dusty fog. The visuals alone are enough to make audiences recommend the saga.

Twilight proved to resonate with many teenage girls, including myself because it does bring that nostalgic pleasure and the teenage desire of a dangerous romance. Edward Cullen is the embodiment the adolescent girl wants and dreads, a lonely, dangerous, alluring boy who needs love as much as you do. And Bella is a character you can really place yourself within. So no, I shouldn't be embarrassed that I enjoy Twilight. Now if you'll excuse me, I think I'll watch it for the fifth time around.

Word Count: 900.