

The Pulse

A Column for the
Twilight Obsessed.

By Rachael Mayer

Bella and Edward Interview



I have to admit, when I first started researching for my current job of writing delectable Twilight columns, I knew that all the Twi-hards would have at least one common interest; however, I never expected that it would be so unbelievably easy to find ridiculous amounts of various topics in common. We are all connected by one gargantuan revolution and at the head is Mrs. Meyer, herself. I had a wonderful time interviewing Michelle Pan from BellaAndEdward.com. She is truly a Twilight fan and a fantastic teenager. Enjoy!

RM: Could you please describe yourself for me please?

MP: My name is Michelle Pan and I am a high school student in Texas. I have lived in Texas my whole life. I love webdesign (obviously, lol) and music and, suprisingly, I am not a big fan of reading. I'm in my school's marching band and I play the flute.

RM: Were you a fan of Twilight right when the novels came out or did it take you awhile to pick the first up?

MP: I came into the Twilight world about a year after Twilight was released (summer of '06), so I wasn't one of the first people, but I wasn't late either. Interestingly enough, I read the book for a school summer reading project. At the time, I hadn't heard anything about the book, and I picked it up only because it had an interesting cover. I tend to judge books by their title and cover and the word "Twilight" with a mysterious hand holding an apple caught my attention immediately.

RM: Do you have a favorite book out of the Twilight series?

MP: Twilight is probably my favorite book out of the three, simply because it got me hooked on the series!

RM: If you had to guess, about how many times have you read the books?

MP: Haha! I've been waiting for somebody to figure out my little, dark secret! To be honest, I have only read the books once each. *waits for reaction* What's my excuse? I'm an incredibly slow reader, even if the book is as good as Twilight, it'll still take me a couple of weeks to finish it! Like I said, I'm not a big fan of reading and it's a miracle that the one time I decide to pick up a book, it's changed my life! But in the past two years, I've re-read chunks and passages from the books, just not the whole book all at once.

Continued on page 2

Bella and Edward Interview

RM: Stephenie Meyer always listens to music while writing. Do you listen to anything in particular when you work on your site?

MP: I actually don't listen to music when I work on my site. I like to concentrate on what I'm doing with the site and I find that music actually distracts me. I'll start singing along two seconds into almost any song on my iPod, it's like a natural instinct!

RM: Who is your favorite character?

MP: We're talking besides Edward right? ;) Definitely Alice, I love her bubbly personality!

RM: If you could walk one day in any of the characters' shoes, whose would you choose?

MP: That's tough... um... probably Alice again, I'd love to be able to see the future! Or Edward would be nice too, I'd get to see what it's like for everybody you meet to be completely dazzled by your presence!

RM: I have this hypothesis that readers love Twilight, etc. as much as they do because they can see pieces of themselves in Bella (among other things). Do you agree? Do you see any similarities between yourself and Bella?

MP: I think that's definitely one of the reasons why people love Twilight so much. Readers can relate to many of the things that Bella has been through... but on the other hand, there are many things she's experienced that we haven't which makes it that much more interesting. Readers can imagine themselves in a situation that would probably never happen to them. As for similarities between me and Bella, I know what it's like to be sent to a new school and be the odd one out on the first day, and I'm sort of a klutz sometimes, lol.

RM: Some people aren't huge fans of Jacob Black, what do you think of him?

MP: I wouldn't call myself a "huge fan," but it's not like I hate his guts or anything. Obviously I want Bella to end up with Edward and not Jacob, but I think he's still a good person/character.

RM: Other than Bella and Edward, who has the best relationship?

MP: Alice and Jasper! Jasper's always so quiet and Alice is the total opposite of him and I just think it's so cute that they're together!

RM: Rosalie Hale doesn't have as major a role in the novels as the other characters (most likely because the story is told from Bella's perspective and Bella + Rosalie ? tight). What do you think of her?

MP: To be honest, I never put much thought into Rosalie's character. I kind of went along with Bella in blocking her out sometimes. I don't hate her, but she's not one of my favorites either, she's just... there.

RM: What's your favorite book (other than Twilight)?

MP: The Harry Potter books were good (my favorite was the 6th one), also I love Sarah Dessen's novels (one of my favorites is *The Truth About Forever*) and I adore Agatha Christie!

Bella and Edward Interview

RM: What's your favorite scene in all the novels?

MP: Oh that's tough! It would be easy for me just to say the meadow scene in Twilight, but that's so typical, lol. I'm going to be different and say the part in Twilight when Alice, Jasper, and Bella are in their Phoenix hotel running away from James. That and the scenes before that are so action-packed and it's all building up to the ballet studio scene. I love how Twilight can be a romance novel and still have so much action in it!

RM: What do you think about the casting for the movie?

MP: I was skeptical at first about Robert being Edward. You see, I'm a HUGE Harry Potter fanatic and Robert to me was always Cedric Diggory, and I was worried that he would never fit into the Edward role in my mind. But I gave it some time and a couple of promotional pictures and now I think he's a great Edward! As for Bella, I never imaged her to look a specific way, despite the description in the book, so Kristen was fine with me from the start! I thought the casting for the rest of the Cullen family was amazing, especially Alice and Carlisle!

RM: Reading through cast interviews, I've noticed the actors and actresses have been rather vague when speculating at the success the movie will have. How do you think it will do?

MP: It's hard to say really. Obviously we all hope for it to be a huge success, but Twilight fans are pretty picky when it comes to the Twilight movie. Any little thing that is not "Twilight-ish" will be bashed and rudely commented on, it's a little ridiculous sometimes! But I do have a feeling that the movie will turn out pretty good, so we'll see :)

RM: If you had the opportunity to become a vampire, would you? ... and if the Cullens didn't exist?

MP: As much as I love Twilight and the Cullens, probably not (definitely not if the Cullens didn't exist). Being immortal is most likely much harder than the Cullens make it seem. Imagine out-living all of your friends and family and being in Edward's position when it comes to relationships... I'd rather stay human!

RM: How's your willpower? Would you, as a vampire, consider yourself a vegetarian ... or not?

MP: I have a pretty strong willpower. If I were a vampire, I think I could handle being a vegetarian. The thought of how sad it would be to be feeding on a human would overpower my hunger for them.

RM: There are some pretty awesome superpowers in Twilight. What superpowers would you have?

MP: Definitely the ability to read people's minds, I always find myself wondering what other people are thinking! I would also love to be invisible, and be able to fly (ah well... I'm afraid of heights so that probably wouldn't be too good, lol).

RM: What do you think about Stephenie Meyer?

MP: She's the next J.K. Rowling! :D She's an amazing author and such a down-to-earth person! I mean, she's quite famous now but when she talks to her fans she's just a normal (for lack of a better word) person and she always takes the time to say those little things that mean a lot to her fans, like compliment them on their shirt or something :)

Continued on page 4

Bella and Edward Interview

RM: What do you think Meyer's impact has been on the literary world? Do you think her impact will change this generation at all?

MP: It has, without a doubt, inspired many other authors to write novels about vampires. Just walking into a bookstore these days, I can find tables filled with teen vampire novels. I swear there weren't that many before Twilight! And on the same topic of vampires, Stephenie has transformed the way people imagine vampires to be. This generation will never think of vampires the same way ever again!

RM: Sometimes after passing time with various Twilight-related activities I dance/run through my house grinning and singing. Do you do anything like that?

MP: First of all, I am a horrible singer so if I were to run through my house singing, everybody in it would leave! Haha, but I get what you're saying. Sometimes after big news has been released in the Twilight world (like the trailer, or the MTV clip, or new promotional pictures) I practically yell to everyone that talks to me in the next few minutes and I'll tell them about what happened even if they don't really give a crap! My parents get so annoyed with me when I do that and they always say, "Michelle, you do realize that no one can understand what you're saying because you're YELLING!" and my dad will sometimes just walk away and be like, "Go talk to your mom about it." Ha!

RM: You started the site in 2006 because you noticed there weren't many cool Twilight fansites. There are a plethora of them now! What's your favorite besides your own? (By the way, your site has most definitely achieved "cool" status.)

MP: Aw thanks! *beams* I visit the Twilight Lexicon a lot, and Chris and Geo over at Twilighters.org are just so funny! I love watching their videos :) The TwilightMoms are amazing, I lurk around a lot on their forums since I haven't technically met their requirements to join (I'm not a mom, I'm not over 25, nor am I married). But yeah, I agree, there are tons of Twilight fansites out there now!

RM: What are you hoping BellaAndEdward.com will accomplish in the future?

MP: I just want to continue to make BellaAndEdward.com the best I can make it. My goal is for it to be the number one Twilight fansite on the web, a site where every Twilight fan goes for information! :)

RM: I noticed that some of your staff is International--WAY cool but it must make bonding a bit difficult. Do you all do anything together?

MP: To be honest, half of the staff I have never met before! But we email A LOT and I've talked to most of them on the phone. It's really cool because I never thought I would have friends from places like Austria and England! I get to learn a lot about their culture and stuff and it's really fascinating!

RM: Did you ever think your site would get this big?!

MP: Oh my gosh NO! Two years ago, when I started the site, I was jumping up and down because three people were visiting it simultaneously! Right now, it's midnight and there are 117 people online, BAE has definitely grown a lot in those two years! I started the site out of boredom for pete's sake, lol! I have always wanted to own a large site that many people visit, and after a couple of failures in the past, I guess I finally got it this time!

Bella and Edward Interview

RM: Has your view of overcast weather and rain changed at all?

MP: Haha! Actually, being in Texas, we don't get much of it here. I actually like overcast weather, but it's always sun, sun, sun down here! And trust me, when the sun shines, it's hot! But one time when we did have Forks-ish weather (it was cold and sort of raining, but not really) I actually went outside with my camera and filmed a short clip of it! I pretended I was in Forks :)

RM: Do you think that the love that Edward and Bella have can be achieved in this world?

MP: To a certain extent, yes, I do think so. The reason I say that is because part of what makes Bella and Edward's relationship so unique is the fact that she's a human and he's a vampire. In my mind, this actually strengthens their love, and it adds an extra element of danger to it. Of course, that's not very likely to happen in our world, so that little something extra is lost in our relationships. But putting that aside, I do think the main concept and the "depth" of Bella and Edward's love can be achieved in this world.

RM: If you were strapped into a rocket heading towards the sun, what would you bring with you?

MP: Weird question, lol. I would bring my iPhone, my laptop, my Twilight books, and, most importantly, my family and friends :D

For more information on Michelle and her site visit BellaAndEdward.com

— twilight t-shirts —

The Pulse

*A Column for the
Twilight Obsessed.*

By Rachael Mayer