

New Moon

by Stephenie Meyer · Language: EN

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Overview

New Moon is the second novel in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight Saga, continuing the story of Bella Swan, a human teenager in love with the vampire Edward Cullen. After Edward leaves her to protect her from the dangers of his world, Bella falls into a deep depression. Her friendship with Jacob Black, a member of the Quileute tribe, slowly brings her back to life, but Jacob harbors a secret: he is a werewolf, and his pack is at war with a rival vampire coven. When Edward mistakenly believes Bella is dead, he plans to provoke the Volturi, the vampire ruling family, into killing him. Bella races to Italy to save him, leading to a confrontation that changes the course of their relationship.

The novel explores themes of love, loss, and the lengths one will go to for the people they care about. It is a story about the pain of separation and the struggle to find identity when the person who defined your world is gone. The book matters to fans of the series because it deepens the mythology of the vampire and werewolf worlds, introduces the Volturi, and sets up the central conflict of the next book, Eclipse. It also shifts the narrative focus to Jacob Black, making him a central figure and creating a love triangle that defines the rest of the saga.

Key Takeaways

- Bella's depression after Edward leaves shows that heartbreak can be all-consuming, but time and friendship can slowly pull you back to life.
- Jacob Black's transformation into a werewolf reveals that the Quileute legends are real and that his pack is sworn to protect their land from vampires.
- The Volturi are the vampire ruling elite, and their laws are absolute; defying them can result in death or worse.
- Edward's belief that Bella is dead leads him to seek suicide by provoking the Volturi, showing that even a century-old vampire can be driven by grief.
- Bella's love for Edward is so strong that she will cross an ocean and face the Volturi to save him, even when he has left her.
- The werewolf-vampire rivalry is ancient and rooted in a treaty that forbids vampires from crossing onto Quileute land.
- Alice's visions are a key plot device, as she foresees Edward's suicide attempt and guides Bella to save him in time.

- The book ends with Edward and Bella reunited, but the threat of the Volturi and the unresolved tension with Jacob set up the next installment.

Chapter Summaries

Chapter 1: Party

Bella has a nightmare about her birthday party, where she cuts her finger and Jasper attacks her. Edward decides to leave Forks to protect her from his family's dangerous nature. Bella wakes up to find Edward gone, and she is left with a note saying he and his family have moved away. She is devastated and falls into a months-long depression, barely functioning.

Chapter 2: Stitches

Bella's depression continues through the winter. She has recurring nightmares and feels numb. She starts to have hallucinations of Edward's voice when she does reckless things, like riding a motorcycle. She realizes that the hallucinations only happen when she puts herself in danger, so she begins to seek out risky behavior to hear his voice.

Chapter 3: The End

Bella decides to fix up two old motorcycles she found, and she asks Jacob Black for help. Jacob, now taller and more muscular, agrees to help her. They spend time together, and Bella begins to feel a sense of purpose again. She learns that Jacob has dropped out of school and is spending time with his friends on the reservation.

Chapter 4: Waking Up

Bella and Jacob become close friends. She starts to feel alive again, though she still misses Edward. Jacob introduces her to his friends, and they all seem to have a secret. Bella notices that Jacob gets warm to the touch and that he has a strange reaction to her mention of the Cullens. She begins to suspect that the Quileute legends about werewolves might be true.

Chapter 5: Imprint

Bella attends a party at the Black house and learns that Jacob and his friends are werewolves. Jacob explains that they are the protectors of the tribe, and they are at war with a vampire named Laurent, who is coming to Forks. Bella is shocked but accepts the truth. Jacob warns her to stay away from the Cullens, but she is determined to find out what happened to Edward.

Chapter 6: Swallowed

Bella and Jacob go to a movie, but their date is interrupted when Jacob gets a call about a vampire sighting. He leaves to join his pack, and Bella is left alone. Later, she goes to the meadow where she used to meet Edward and is attacked by Laurent, who has returned to kill her. Jacob and his pack arrive in time to save her, but she is injured.

Chapter 7: The Search

Bella recovers from her injuries and learns that the pack killed Laurent. She is now more determined than ever to find Edward. She calls Alice, who has a vision that Edward is in Italy, planning to provoke the Volturi into killing him. Bella and Alice fly to Italy to stop him.

Chapter 8: The Volturi

Bella and Alice arrive in Volterra, Italy, and find Edward about to step into the sun, which would reveal his vampire nature to humans and force the Volturi to kill him. Bella throws herself at him, and he realizes she is alive. The Volturi, led by Aro, are intrigued by Bella and her immunity to vampire powers. They let them go but warn that they will be watching.

Chapter 9: The Decision

Edward, Bella, and Alice return to Forks. Edward is overjoyed to have Bella back, but he is also angry that she put herself in danger. He realizes that he cannot live without her, and he decides to stay with her, despite the risks. The book ends with Edward and Bella together, but the threat of the Volturi and the unresolved tension with Jacob loom over them.

Themes

- Love and loss
- Identity and self-discovery
- Friendship and loyalty
- The supernatural world
- Risk and sacrifice

Notable Quotes

- "I felt like I was dying. That's what I told myself, anyway. I was dying, and there was nothing I could do about it." — Bella describes her emotional state after Edward leaves her in the beginning of the book.
- "You are the most important thing to me now. The most important thing to me ever." — Edward says this to Bella after they are reunited in Italy.
- "I was in a fairytale. But I was the monster." — Jacob says this to Bella when he reveals that he is a werewolf.
- "I don't want you to be a part of my world. I want you to be my world." — Edward says this to Bella in the meadow before he leaves her.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is New Moon about?

New Moon is about Bella Swan's life after Edward Cullen leaves her to protect her from his vampire world. She falls into a deep depression but finds solace in her friendship with Jacob Black, who is secretly a werewolf. When Edward mistakenly believes Bella is dead, he plans to commit suicide by provoking the Volturi, and Bella races to Italy to save him.

Is New Moon worth reading?

If you enjoyed Twilight, New Moon is worth reading because it deepens the mythology of the series, introduces the Volturi, and develops Jacob's character. However, some readers find the middle section slow due to Bella's depression. The action-packed climax in Italy makes up for it, and the book sets up the conflict for Eclipse.

How does New Moon end?

Spoiler: New Moon ends with Bella and Edward reuniting in Italy after Bella saves him from the Volturi. They return to Forks, and Edward tells Bella he will never leave her again. However, the Volturi are suspicious of Bella's immunity to vampire powers, and Jacob is heartbroken, setting up the love triangle in the next book.

Who should read New Moon?

Fans of young adult fantasy and romance will enjoy New Moon, especially those who liked Twilight. It is also a good read for anyone interested in vampire and werewolf lore. However, readers who prefer fast-paced plots may find the first half of the book slow, so it is best for those who are invested in the characters.

How long does it take to read New Moon?

New Moon has about 563 pages, so at an average reading speed of 250 words per minute, it takes roughly 9-10 hours to read. Most readers finish it in a few days to a week, depending on how much time they dedicate to reading each day.