Written by Tony Timpone
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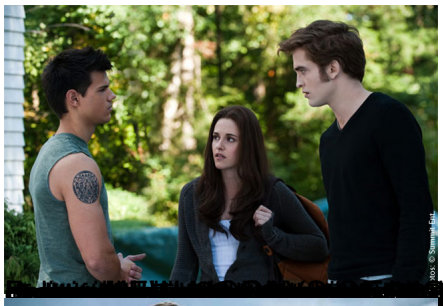
Would you believe that ECLIPSE, part three in THE TWILIGHT SAGA, will likely gross around $175 million by the end of the Fourth of July holiday? That the film franchise alone has taken in over a billion dollars so far? Like it or not, the horror genre (if you want to fit TWILIGHT in there) has not seen anything like it before.

I've never read any of Stephenie Meyer's TWILIGHT novels, nor have I a great desire to do so. But I don't piss on their right to exist, the movies they spawned or the legion of Twi-hard fans who follow them. People such as: my mom, who's 78 and ate up all four books; my two married-with-kids-sisters; teen niece Amanda, who sees each movie at least five times in theaters; my cousins Ben (a Vietnam vet) and Joey (his restaurant manager son); and former Fango intern Jessica Leibe, who nearly fainted when she won the assignment to write about the first two TWILIGHT films for us. Those articles (and others) sparked a firestorm of outrage when featured in the mag and on the website, an outpouring of hate I can barely understand. Some people called for my lynching when I put NEW MOON on the cover of Fango #288 to goose circulation. It did, to no surprise, even outselling the issue with our exclusive Stephen King-penned article (King's not a fan of Meyer's either, by the way).

Why can't we all get along? There is plenty of horror in the Fango universe, so why discriminate? Why trash another person's genre passions? Live and let live, I say. One can make a case for the TWILIGHT SAGA not being horror, but the series' obvious supernatural underpinnings have always warranted my interest when the movies come around like clockwork. I found the first TWILIGHT movie (directed by Catherine Hardwicke) to be a tedious affair and knew from an early screening that I was not the right person for the movie, as the audience of mostly teenage girls swooned *en masse* at the first glimpse of Robert Pattinson as Edward Cullen. They audibly sighed again during Chris Weitz's NEW MOON when superbuff Taylor Lautner as Jacob doffed his shirt (the actor is bare-chested again for most of ECLIPSE, even during a snowstorm!). For me, I fell asleep watching TWILIGHT and again at NEW MOON. During the latter, I snuck winks during the talky first act
and
at the mushy climax.



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