

Alex, Lily, Ana, Will, Jen, Rob

→ ALEX. How about *Twilight*? Did *Twilight* make you tingle all over?

LILY. It certainly stirred some feelings ...

ANA. Excuse me?

WILL. Is that an appropriate question to ask on a first ... Book Club?

JEN. Lily, it totally made me tingle, too!

ROB. Really?

ANA. Rob didn't read the book!

WILL. Lucky Rob.

LILY. OK, let me fill you in. A young seventeen-year-old girl, Bella Swan, moves to the rainy town of Forks in the state of Washington to live with her father. She describes herself as clumsy and ordinary.

ALEX. But all the boys in school, even the elusive, hyper-handsome Edward Cullen, seem interested in her.

LILY. That's right!

ALEX. Edward is attracted to Bella because the scent of her blood beckons him.

LILY. You see: Edward Cullen is a vampire.

WILL. A vegetarian vampire—

ROB. So that's why we had tofu for dinner.

WILL. And he hungers for Bella—to go to prom with him.

ROB. Prom? How can a vampire go to high school?

WILL. He's been seventeen for a hundred years.

ROB. But doesn't the sun kill vampires?

ACT I

The Book Club Play

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LILY. No, the sun makes Edward sparkle.

ALEX. Like glitter.

ROB. You're making this up.

JEN. Actually the author, Stephenie Meyer, made it up.

ALEX. Apparently, not all vampire cultures are the same.

ANA. There is NOTHING cultured about this book.

WILL. Amen.

LILY. Edward loves Bella but also yearns to drink her blood. And she loves him. But they can't make love ...

ALEX. Because he's scared that in the heat of passion, he would lose control and ... eat her. X

~~(LILY looks down at her Kindle and perhaps reads a passage from the book. Maybe the three things of which Bella is certain. JEN sighs loudly in response to the passage.)~~

WILL. Well, I'll just say this. I thought this book was dreadful. No action, poorly written. It's sexist and stupid. The heroine is a love-sick girl willing to give everything up for a vampire boy.

ANA (agreeing with WILL). Just look at how Edward is described in chapter thirteen.

~~(Perhaps ANA reads aloud the passage where Bella admires Edward while lying in the meadow. Perhaps JEN, LILY and ROB sigh in response to the passage.)~~

WILL. Ana, I highlighted the same ridiculous paragraph.

ANA. This is certainly not literature.

ALEX. Oh, and what makes something literature?

ANA. Not vampires! Not poor writing. Not poor plot. This is trivial!

Rob, Ana, Jen, Lily, Will, Alex

ACT II

The Book Club Play

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~~JEN & LILY. Aww! Bromance!~~

WILL. I don't know how I would have survived all these years
~~without your straight-forward honesty and your friendship.~~

ROB. Thanks, bro.

WILL. And can I tell you? No matter how hard, you should
always tell the truth. It will set you free and lead you to
happiness.

ROB (*beat. Maybe ROB strongly hugs WILL in appreciation
and confesses*). I didn't read *Return of Tarzan*. I'm sorry. I
couldn't get through it.

ANA. Rob, you didn't read the book you picked?

ROB. Tarzan was nothing like I remembered. I guess I'm not
fifteen years old anymore!

ANA. You didn't read *Return of Tarzan*?

ROB. No, honey.

ANA. Rob!

ROB. And there's something else, Ana.

ANA. What?

ROB. I turned down the promotion.

~~ANA. You turned down the vice president promotion? Why?~~

~~ROB. Being a V.P. is not who I want to be ... at all.~~

~~ANA. Rob?~~

→ ROB. And Ana: I kissed Jen.

ANA. WHAT?!!!

JEN. Oh God.

ROB. I kissed Jen.

LILY. Whoa.

WILL. Um, buddy.

ANA. You kissed Jen?

ALEX. Oh boy.

ANA. What? When?

ROB. During Book Club ... After *The Age of Innocence*.

ANA. During my Book Club. How?

ROB. I just leaned over ... and kissed her.

ALEX. On the lips?

ANA. Alex! What are you doing in this conversation?

ROB. I kissed her. On the lips.

JEN. Ana, it was ... nothing!

ANA. Jen. What is it with you and married men!

ROB. This is not Jen's fault.

ANA. I am your wife, Rob.

ROB. I was confused, and Jen is a good friend ... but this happened because of us.

ANA. So this is our fault?

ROB. No. It's mine. I've done what was expected of me because it was easier than figuring out what I wanted. I want the flower of life. I want to grow. I want to try new things. And I think you do too. Ana, my "Age of Innocence" is over.

ANA. Oh my God. That friggin' book ...

ROB. Ana, I'm sorry.

ANA. Sorry?! Sorry?! You read one book for Book Club and you're confused? Rob, you are my husband who kissed my friend Jen. Jen, you kissed my husband and brought that idiot into my Book Club. Will, my first love, you decide to re-write our entire history. And you all did it in my Book Club at my house! On camera! In front of everybody! Have you no sense? Have you no respect? Have you no manners? Lily, you are the only true blue person here.

LILY. Ana, I need to tell you something. The *Herald* wants to attract a younger, hipper, more *urbane* audience. Ana, they offered me the Friday column.

ANA. My Friday column? You are taking over my Connections column?

LILY. I wanted you to hear it from me ... Ana, I'm so sorry.

ANA. You don't even like paper, you talented, little freak.

LILY. It's not personal.

ANA. It's personal to me! (*Stunned.*) You are my Book Club.

ROB. Ana—are you ... OK?

ANA. Jesus H. Christ! No, Rob! I'm not OK! What is wrong with you people! Turn off that camera!

JEN. Ana, we can't!

ANA. Take it down! Take it down! Oh God. This is too much! Nobody can see this!

WILL. We can't stop the camera.

ANA. Cover it! Cover it!'

~~(ANA grabs a blanket and throws it over the camera. The stage goes dark for a couple of seconds. In the dark:)~~

ANA (*cont'd*). Arghh! I want to smash that machine!!

JEN. Ana, no!

WILL. Not the vase!

ANA. Lars, you've ruined my life. You've ruined my Book Club.

ROB. Ana!

LILY. Careful!

ANA. Lars, I hate you. I hate your film.

(ANA yells, out of control.)