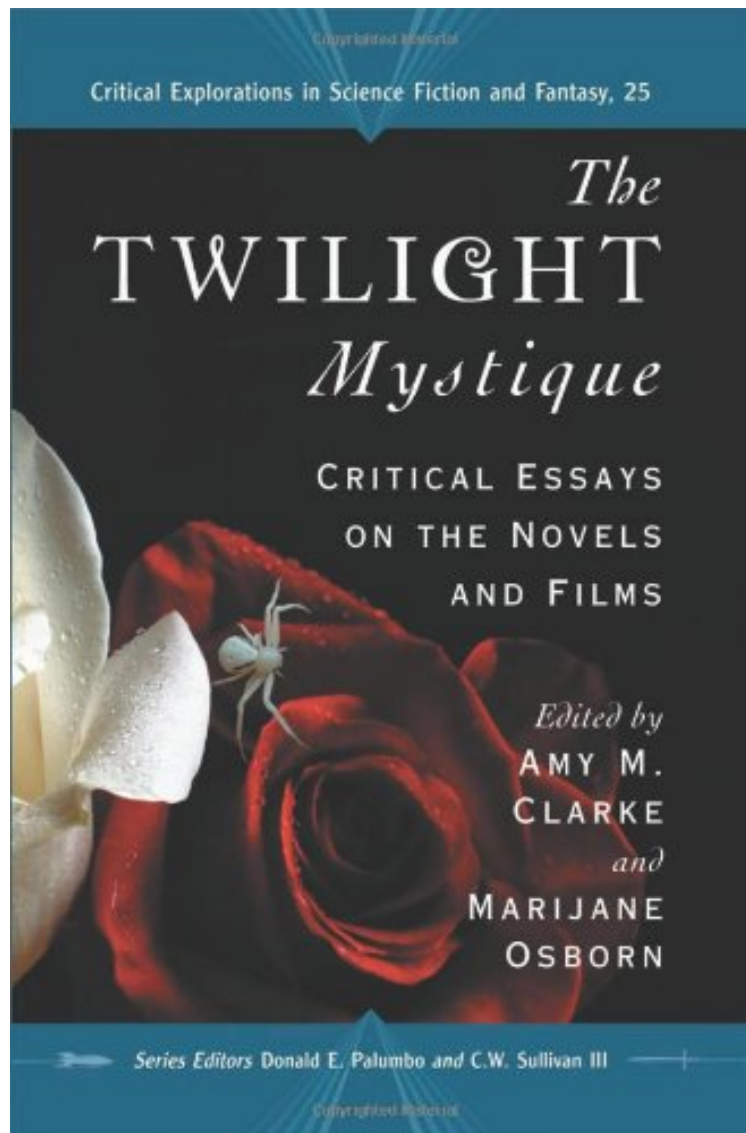


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## The Twilight Mystique: Critical Essays on the Novels and Films (Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy)

Amy M. Clarke, Marijane Osborn  
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Amy M. Clarke, Marijane Osborn : The Twilight Mystique: Critical Essays on the Novels and Films (Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Twilight Mystique: Critical Essays on the Novels and Films (Critical Explorations in Science Fiction and Fantasy):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's a great book for those interested in looking at the 'Twilight Saga' novels and films from various perspectives. By JMV If you're looking for various perspectives on the 'Twilight Saga' novels and films, this is a must have book. The book is wonderful for all ages and levels of readers, and offers a wonderful starting point for discussion and analysis of the novels and films. It's a great read and I highly recommend it. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Happy! By Mriss I am actually writing a thesis on "Twilight" and I was happy to discover "The Twilight Mystique" it is full of insightful information that explores current issues that connect to society and vampires. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Better than the books! By librarianshannon Please note: I received a free copy of this item in exchange for writing a review. This excellent collection of scholarly essays broadly surveys, as the title suggests, the mystique of Stephanie Meyer's saga and the subsequent films. While singular studies in their own research and topic, editors Amy M Clark and Marijane Osborn have selected general themes as a method of covering 4 books, 3 films, and millions of devoted fans and critical satirists. Essays included consider fantasy and romance as literary genres, religion (particularly Meyer's Mormonism), feminism and gender studies, and those Twilights who likely made reason for such scholarship in the first place. I did not like the books before reading *The Twilight Mystique* and I still question their ability to become worthy of serious study. However, this compilation softens my critique. As an infrequent reader of fantasy, and never of romance, I must remember that each literature has its expectations; these essays suggest Meyer's may well have satiated vampire and fanciful romance readers. My perspective on the clumsy, mindless Bella was also challenged, though I maintain that the characters are flat and rely too much on dialogue. Though I am unimpressed with Meyer's writing and slow storyline, I now am able to admire her ability to fit so well into a subculture while breaking all its rules. As with any good book, she's made us passionate (for or against), thereby creating conversation (and shouting matches). *The Twilight Mystique* elects to take this conversation into academic inquiry without snubbing any fans who just enjoy a good, clean love story.

The 13 essays in this volume explore Stephenie Meyer's wildly popular *Twilight* series in the contexts of literature, religion, fairy tales, film, and the gothic. Several examine Meyer's emphasis on abstinence, considering how, why, and if the author's Mormon faith has influenced the series' worldview. Others look at fan involvement in the *Twilight* world, focusing on how the series' avid following has led to an economic transformation in Forks, Washington, the real town where the fictional series is set. Other topics include Meyer's use of Quileute shape-shifting legends, *Twilight*'s literary heritage and its frequent references to classic works of literature, and the series' controversial depictions of femininity.

From School Library Journal A variety of writers examine Stephenie Meyer's series in an attempt to explain just what makes these books so hotly debated by fans and critics alike. The well-reasoned and -researched selections cover the literary sources that inspired Meyer, from classic fairy tales, Shakespeare, C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Jane Austen, and Emily Brontë to Anne Rice. Many of the 13 essays explain how Meyer's practice of Mormonism and its theology manifests itself in her books and influences her characters' actions, although the author is quoted as saying that she didn't write them to promote or convert readers to her religion. Other selections explore how Meyer incorporates the history of Gothic fiction, Quileute shape-shifters and vampire lore, and the real Forks, WA, into her novels. Not surprisingly, several of the most critical essays offer differing opinions on whether Belle is a passive or active heroine and a positive role model for girls. After reading these essays, all of which include source notes, skeptical librarians may find themselves looking at the books in a new light. This volume will be useful for librarians, teachers, and fans with an interest in the novels or as a resource for university-level course work. Sharon Rawlins, New Jersey State Library, Trenton (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted. "a fascinating book...informative and elegant...thought-provoking" --Margaret W. Ferguson, editor, *The Norton Anthology of Poetry*. About the Author Amy M. Clarke is a continuing lecturer in the University Writing Program at the University of California, Davis. She teaches courses in science fiction and fantasy, including seminars on both the *Harry Potter* and *Twilight* series, and has recently published a study of Ursula Le Guin. Marijane Osborn is professor emerita of English at the University of California, Davis. She has written or been a major contributor to several books on *Beowulf* and has published three books on Middle English topics. Donald E. Palumbo is a professor of English at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. He lives in Greenville. C.W. Sullivan III is in the English department at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.