

## MEMORY #2

Setting: Quileute reservation boundary

Time: Spring morning, one week before graduation

Age: 16

*She loves me. I know she does. If the bloodsucker hadn't come back, she would know it by now. I have to make her see it. I HAVE to. If she lets him turn her into a filthy, stinking leech like him, I'll never forgive myself. She has to know that she has options. Damn! I'm nervous. Why should I be nervous? She's Bella. She's the same Bella that she's always been since we hung around in diapers together. The parasite is gonna hate me for this, especially when she finally comes to her senses and chooses me, but tough titties. I'm SO much better for her. She has to see that. I have to MAKE her see it. Ack! My hands are sweating. It's just tiredness. All that patrolling and patrolling, but that doesn't matter. It's for Bella...to keep Bella safe...so she can marry me. I wonder if Charlie would think I'm too young to marry his girl. Ah, hell, I think I'm too young to marry. But if I could get her to go along with it, then the leech could never come back and steal her away again. She'd be mine forever! I hate him for coming back to Forks! He was gone and Bella and me were doing so well together. We love each other. It's not fair! And now she's going to be one of them in a week! A WEEK! I can't stand it. I can't! I have to make her see that she has another choice. A better choice! If she chooses me, she can keep Charlie and Renee and stay in Forks and be Bella, for crissakes, not some bloodless statue that might as well be in a museum. How can she even be attracted to that cold rock? Imagining him with her makes me want to throw up.*

*I have to be bold! (And brave, strong, and true.) There's no time left. It's my last chance. I LOVE HER. She loves me too! She does! She's just blinded by the bloodsucker. Once she recognizes it, everything will fall together. Today's the day. Now's the time. Why am I so nervous? He'll try to kill me, I suppose. That's not a bad reason to be nervous. Even if he does, it will be worth it, though.*

*If this goes the right way, Bella will be so blown over by my fearless declaration of love that she'll melt into my arms and I'll bend down...way down...and kiss her. My lips on hers, my hands in her long, dark hair, her hands on my chest, kissing so hard we can't stop. Tongue to tongue, her hands wandering around, mine wandering around. Oh...great. Now I've got a hard-on and here she comes. I'll stand behind my car. Down boy! Down!*

*The bloodsucker sure looks pissed. Hope they had a fight. Heh, heh.  
Okay, look big and beautiful now, Jake. No! Not you! You stay down!*

*There he was, half naked and ridiculously muscled with a very human erection in his shorts, scheming about how to steal the love of my existence. All I could think about was him kissing her—or worse!—and her letting him. If I weren't so civilized, I'd have leaped out of my car and pounded him into the ground. But that would have separated Bella and me and then he would have won.*

Edward

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