

SHOWBIZ



TOMORROW In your Sun

We hear what Robert Pattinson has to say about *Breaking Dawn* — Part 1 and review tap-dancing penguin sequel, *Happy Feet Two*.

Breaking Yawn

One part of this overwrought, stillborn *Twilight* finale is more than enough

Halfway through the new *Twilight*, I was ready for the epidural.

Anything, really, to distract from childbirth and unholy spawn and teen marriage and a 108-year-old corpse deflowering an 18-year-old virgin and death and a shape-shifting wolf-guy who “imprints” on — oh, never mind.

To be fair, *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn* — Part 1, opening late Thursday, isn’t the worst *Twilight* I’ve seen — hello, *New Moon*, it’s me, Kevin — but it does manage to be both ridiculously overwrought and dramatically stillborn.

The latter point is particularly egregious given the decision to split Stephenie Meyer’s novel into two a la *Harry Potter* and *The Deathly Hallows*.

What becomes clear is that while the bisecting of J.K. Rowling’s hefty tome was artistically defensible, here, there’s no such creative imperative.

Twice the *Twilight* doesn’t mean twice the vampires or twice the raging lupines or twice the entertainment. It just means twice the admission. The number of emo-rock montages alone illustrates that more than just Bella Swan’s ankles have been disproportionately swollen.

Directed by Bill Condon (*Dreamgirls*, *Kinsey*), the story



**THE TWILIGHT SAGA:
BREAKING DAWN
— PART 1**



1 HOUR, 57 MINUTES

STARRING

Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner

DIRECTOR

Bill Condon

gets underway as mortal Bella (Kristen Stewart) and vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) are preparing for their nuptials — the mime-white Cullen boys even throw a bachelor party — and discussing their feelings. They do that a lot.

More amusingly? At the ceremony, Bella’s human friends already assume she’s pregnant because who else gets married when they’re 18? Hardly thrilled — but attempting to be supportive — is he-wolf



Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart wisely underplay their performances in a gooey Part 1 of *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn*.

Jacob (Taylor Lautner), whose advances Bella has rejected.

But he quickly rescinds his begrudging blessing when he learns she’s decided not to be “turned” until after consummating her relationship. Sex with a vampire, as we’ve been warned before, can be lethal.

Edward, though, controls himself — she only suffers some bruising — and all is fine on their Brazilian getaway until she notices a baby bump. Turns out she’s pregnant with a never-before-

seen hybrid — something that shouldn’t occur in nature. It’s like a Kardashians that way.

Whisked back to Forks, Wash., as the unborn child literally drains the life from her (it’s a new spin on eating for two), she refuses to terminate the pregnancy.

More than willing to do the job for her, however, are Jacob’s wolf pack, who view the child as a threat — and a violation of their truce with the Cullens.

This conflict results in

what little suspense there is in *Breaking Dawn* as the two groups go fang to fang for a short-lived — and not terribly exciting — battle. Certainly it’s not on par with the cross-species clashes in 2010’s *Eclipse*.

But then at this point in the franchise, the action is secondary to the soap opera — and Twihards will doubtlessly be enthralled while witnessing these pivotal passages in the lives of these cherished characters.

To their credit, amid the

quivering emotions, Stewart and Pattinson wisely underplay their performances, leaving Lautner to endure the unintended guffaws as when he sees Bella knocked up for the first time and barks at Edward, “You did this!”

And spoiler alert: It concludes with a teaser for next November’s *Part 2*. The anticipation is killing me.

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