

The *Twilight Lexicon* would like to thank Ilyana Kadushin for taking the time out of her schedule to explain what goes into an audio recording.

How did you first get interested in recording audio books?

A few years after getting into the voice performing world, I saw that a lot of great actors were narrating audio books and this appealed to me. I am a voracious reader so it was a perfect fit. I love the idea of reading to people on a large scale!

What types of books are your favorites as a reader?

I have narrated many different types of books; mysteries, young adult/teen, children's, fiction and non-fiction and each of them has been a unique experience. I really enjoy narrating books where there is action, adventure, humor and emotional depth to the characters.

How much in advance do you get the text that you are going to record?

Usually the publishing company will send me a manuscript for the book a few days before the session.

How long does it take to make a recording of one of Stephenie's books?

Each of Stephenie's books required about a full week in a recording studio, on average 7 hours a day.

What type of preparation do you do before recording?

As soon as I get a manuscript of a book I read through it and make some notes. The same way I would prepare with a script for theater or a film, I create some ideas but also leave room for improvisation and guidance from the producer. A good vocal warm up also helps too!

Have you ever met Stephenie Meyer? If so, what was that like?

I have met Stephenie a few times. Once at the recording session for "Twilight" audio book, she came by to listen and meet me. Another time at a Barnes and Noble event in New York where she was signing *Eclipse*. She is a very nice and down to earth person. I am happy to be a part of her amazing series.

If you got to read *Breaking Dawn* ahead of time, did you feel under a lot of pressure to keep the content a secret?

I read *Breaking Dawn* a few months before its release and I was sworn to secrecy :)! I would never want to spoil it for the fans!

Was it difficult to narrate in Jacob's persona and then to flip back to Bella's?

I really enjoyed playing Jacob, in the sense that he is playful and a colorful character. The scenes between him and Bella were very fiery, like a sparring match.

What other books besides the *Twilight* saga have you recorded, and how did those experiences differ?

I have narrated *Vanish* by Tess Gerritsen, where I play a young Russian girl who is abducted and sold into sex trafficking. I also narrated, *Ask again Later* by Jill A. Davis, *Queen of Babble* by Meg Cabot, *Memory Keepers Daughter* by Kim Edwards and *The Daring book for Girls* by Andrea Buchanan; a great book for girls about what they can accomplish if they have the confidence and the imagination. I did a cool multi-cast recording of Frank Herbert's *Dune*, a science fiction book, that David Lynch later made into a awesome movie. The biggest difference in narrating a series as opposed to one book, is that with a series, you get to know the characters and the changes they go thorough from book to book.

What advice would you give to someone who might want to pursue audio book recording?

I would say take voice lessons, acting classes and to get experience reading, try volunteering to read in after school programs or programs for the blind or elderly.

By googling your name, it would seem that you also are interested in music. Can you tell us about that?

Yes, in addition to my voice performing and other acting projects, I am also a singer & songwriter in a duo band called Lythion. I write and perform music along with my husband, James Harrell. The music is a mix of soul and rock. We released our debut album called Lythion "From the Beginning" in 2004. We have written songs that have appeared on film, television and stage; including Nickelodeon. If you would like to hear or buy some of our music and learn more about this part of my life, we are on the following sites:

www.ilyanakadushin.com

www.lythionmusic.com

www.myspace.com/lythion

and we are on the itunes store.

Do you have any other upcoming projects that we should watch for?

We are finishing our second Lythion album called "Weights and Measures" but will first release the single, called "Joy of Life" on itunes. You can currently hear "Joy of Life" on our Myspace page. I also performed on an episode of Sesame Street, which is airing on August 13th on PBS.