

**The Twilight Lexicon interview with Peter Facinelli cast as Dr. Carlisle Cullen in the film adaptation of Twilight by Stephenie Meyer. Interview conducted by Cocoa.**

**We would like to thank Chelle for her assistance and diligence in serving the entire Twilight fan base in making sure their questions are relayed to Peter.**

**And a special thank you to Peter who in the middle of personal difficulty and a tight filming schedule made the time to answer a few more questions. We appreciate his candor and his willingness to share with the Twilight community.**

**Lexicon - Would you tell us about your audition process for the movie?**

**Peter** - There were a few scenes that I had gotten, but no script. I was not interested in doing a Vampire movie, as I am not a huge fan of gory Vampire movies. But then I read the book. I sat down and read it in one day. It was a beautiful love story set in a Vampire tale. I loved how Stephenie chose to explore the human side of vampires in the Cullen family. I fell in love with the story, and was determined to get the part. I read for Catherine, and the audition went well. A few weeks later I heard that they offered the part to someone else. I was devastated. But their deal fell through, and they came back and offered it to me. I was elated. I had already thought the part was gone, so it was a very happy surprise. I laugh sometimes because I read somewhere that originally some of the fans thought I was too old for the part, but the actor they originally offered it to was a decade older than me. (lol)

**Lexicon - Tell us a little about Catherine Hardwicke?**

**Peter** - Catherine is amazing. She is so passionate. And her passion is also another reason I wanted to be a part of the film.

**Lexicon - Your wife in the film is Elizabeth Reaser (Esme), can you tell us about your screen chemistry?**

**Peter** - Elizabeth and I get along very well. I respect her as an actress, and we work well together. I think Carlisle and Esme's relationship is like an old married couple that are still completely and utterly in love and that is what we work to bring to the screen.

**Lexicon - You have done an enormous amount of research into the time periods Carlisle has lived through, which of these was your favorite? Why?**

**Peter/Carlisle** - As Carlisle, The early 1920's were my favorite. I loved the way everyone dressed respectfully. Men were gentlemen. Women were ladies. It's a time where I found my love for baseball, a time when I found my true love, and of

course Edward, my son. So many happy moments for Carlisle in that time period.

**Lexicon - What do you feel is the characteristic in Carlisle that drives his ability to lead this vegetarian life style?**

**Peter/Carlisle** - Will and Self control. The ability to have these two things is what differentiates us from other vampires. Speaking as Carlisle, I see vampires as animistic. They live to feed. They feed to live. With sheer will and self control, I have been able to hold onto my human traits, and live a higher life. I believe that in doing that we are stronger than the average vampire, because we able to overcome our natural instincts.

**Lexicon - The fans of the books have been greatly concerned with preserving the integrity of the book, what is the most important characteristic of Carlisle's you feel must be in the movie to satisfy the fans? Why?**

**Peter** – Carlisle's compassion is very important to me to get across, but also is his need to protect and love for his family. My hope is that parents will be able to identify with Carlisle's struggles with his son Edward. Edward is not unlike a rebellious teen, trying to figure out his own life. Carlisle can only stand by his son and hope that he makes the right decisions, and love him unconditionally.

**Lexicon - Being raised Catholic; do you think this has helped in understanding Carlisle's spirituality?**

**Peter** - I do. I was raised in a spiritual environment, so I think I have an understanding of it.

**Lexicon - Thus far what has been your favorite scene to film?**

**Peter** - Vampire baseball was the most fun to shoot.

**Lexicon - Has your wife, Jennie, read the books? Is she a fan?**

**Peter** - She has not read the books, only the script. But my oldest daughter is reading the book right now and loves it. Her name is LucaBella. People call her Luca for short, but, the other day she said she would prefer if people started calling her Bella for short. lol

**Lexicon - Have you had to receive any sort of medical training in preparation for the role?**

**Peter** - I did spend some time talking with a cardiologist who is a surgeon here in Portland. He was very informative, and I was allowed to tour the hospital with him. We talked in length about his profession and I went over all these scenes with him

to make sure that there was nothing that rang untruthful to his profession.

**Lexicon - Could you name, if possible, a source of inspiration for your interpretation of Dr. Carlisle Cullen?**

**Peter** - A young Robert Redford comes to mind. Please know that I am in no way playing Carlisle as a young Robert Redford, or doing some rendition of him. Just his essence reminds me of Carlisle. A gentlemen, manly, confident, wise beyond his years looking, depth in his eyes, charisma. These are all things that a young Robert Redford has that reminds me of Carlisle.

**Peter** - I also would like to answer a question that seems to keep coming up and hasn't been asked here. Am I doing a British accent for the film?

The answer is no. Although Carlisle is from England originally, it has been a long time since he lived there. Personally, I grew up in New York, and had a very thick New York accent growing up, and no longer have it all. People move to different places and they adapt to their surroundings. I felt Carlisle would have lost his British accent in order to fit in, and not bring unwanted attention to himself.

That being said, "You can take the boy out of England, but you cannot take England out of the boy. I do play Carlisle with a very proper American speech pattern, which brings the roots of his heritage to the screen. He also holds himself very refined, and gentlemanly, as I thought it was important to keep the essence of his upbringing with him through the years. Hopefully you will feel his roots in my performance. A few fans have been disappointed that I chose not to do an English accent, but I spoke to Stephanie Meyers about it, and she pointed out that although the books do say where he is from, Bella never mentions that Carlisle speaks with a British accent, and that if it were that obvious, it is something that probably would have been pointed out by her in the books, especially, upon meeting him.

**Lexicon - The Twilight fans would love to have a personal message from you:**

**Peter** - I am overwhelmed by the amount of support from the fans, and truly hope everyone enjoys the film.

**Thank you again, Peter, for taking this precious time with us. As everyone can plainly see you have mastered the essence of who Carlisle is. We look forward to seeing him come to life through your talented work on screen, later this year.**

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