

# 'LAURENT'

82.

END MONTAGE as... DR. CULLEN SMASHES the ball into the forest. But Edward stops from chasing it when Alice suddenly GASPS.

ALICE  
I didn't see them...

They all stop. Edward is immediately at Bella's side. The family instantly gather at home plate.

ALICE  
They're traveling so quickly --

ROSALIE  
You said they left the county --

ALICE  
They did, but they heard us...  
(looking at Edward)  
They're coming.

EDWARD  
(to Bella)  
Put your hair down --

ROSALIE  
Like that'll help. I could smell her from across the field.

Edward ignores Rosalie as he arranges Bella's hair.

EDWARD  
I shouldn't have brought you here.  
I'm so sorry.

She'd ask why, but suddenly, they all turn as one toward --

THE EDGE OF THE FOREST

Scene # 1

There's a faint rustle... then James, Victoria and Laurent emerge. As they near, Bella SEES their bare feet, then the deep BURGUNDY of their eyes. Laurent holds up the baseball.

Start →

LAURENT  
I believe this belongs to you.

He tosses the ball (his casual toss is still blindingly fast) to Dr. Cullen who easily catches it and smiles politely.

DR. CULLEN  
Thank you.

LAURENT  
Could you use three more players?

DR. CULLEN

Of course.

LAURENT

I'm Laurent. This is Victoria.  
And James.

Dr. Cullen nods hello, tosses the ball to Victoria. This begins what appears to be a casual game between the two clans, while exchanging pleasantries. But the underlying tension is thick.

Bella sees that Edward's eyes are locked onto James. Edward tosses James the bat, who then takes the plate. Edward catches to stay close to Bella. The others take the field, yelling across the diamond to each other as --

DR. CULLEN

I'm afraid your hunting activities have caused something of a mess for us.

LAURENT

Our apologies. We didn't realize the territory had been claimed.

Alice pitches the ball -- James SLAMS it -- right into center fielder Emmett's hand with a THWAP. SEE James smile ever so slightly, delighted at the discovery of worthy opponents.

Lightening fast, Emmett whips the ball to Esme, who whips it to Dr. Cullen, who whips it to Jasper at first base, all as --

LAURENT

What exactly is your hunting range?

DR. CULLEN

The Olympic Peninsula.

LAURENT

It won't be a problem now. The humans were tracking us, but we led them East --

But as Jasper THROWS the ball, past Bella, to Edward..

CLOSE ON BELLA -- IN SLOW MOTION as the wind from the ball ruffles her hair, carrying her scent, which floats to --

JAMES -- suddenly his head WHIPS around at her and he lurches into a crouch, his nostrils flaring, excitedly.

JAMES

You brought a snack.

EDWARD springs in front of Bella, baring his teeth. A truly menacing, feral SNARL rips from his throat. James GROWLS back.

Dr. Cullen is immediately between the two. The rest of the Cullens form a protective ring around Bella.

DR. CULLEN  
The girl is with us.

LAURENT  
(trying to defuse situation)  
We won't harm her.

~~EMMETT~~  
~~(hungry for battle)~~  
~~Just try it~~

DR. CULLEN  
I think it best if you leave.

LAURENT  
Yes, I can see the game is over.  
We'll go now. James?

But James' eyes don't leave Edward's. Laurent puts a hand on James' shoulder, and finally, James backs into the woods with his cohorts, disappearing. Once they're gone, Esme immediately gathers up the bats--

DR. CULLEN  
Get her out of here. We'll follow them.

Dr. Cullen, Jasper and a resentful Rosalie race off after the three vampires. Edward scoops Bella up as we --

SMASH TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - ON THE JEEP - NIGHT

Edward whips Bella into the jeep. Alice is already in the back seat. Emmett straps Bella in --

BELLA  
They said they were leaving --

EDWARD  
They lied. James is a tracker. I saw his mind. The hunt is his obsession, and my reaction set him off --

-- The tires spin as Edward WHIPS the jeep around --

EDWARD  
-- We're his biggest challenge - a large clan of strong fighters all protecting one vulnerable element. You.  
(dark with disgust)  
(MORE)

END

EDWARD

It was the only way he'd let you go.  
 (gently touches her face)  
 I'll drive.

-- as he takes the wheel and moves Bella out of the driver's seat, gracefully transplanting her. He FLOORS it.

EDWARD

Your father's safe now, Bella. The tracker is following us --

Suddenly, BOOM! - a dark figure LEAPS onto the bed of the truck. Bella SCREAMS.

EDWARD

It's alright. It's just Emmett.  
 Alice is in the car behind us.

She catches her breath. It kills him to see her so frightened. She looks out the window as they drive through town...

BELLA'S POV - EXT. FORKS/COFFEE SHOP (CONTINUOUS) - NIGHT

The small, insulated town passes by in SLOW MOTION... INSIDE THE COFFEE SHOP, we SEE Mike, Jessica, Eric and Angela laughing, flirting, innocent, hopeful...

EXT. CULLEN HOUSE - NIGHT

**Scene #2**

Edward, Emmett and Alice rush Bella from the truck to the house... but freeze when the door opens and Laurent exits. They immediately take defensive positions but Dr. Cullen appears.

DR. CULLEN

He came to warn us. About James.

They back down slightly. Laurent address Dr. Cullen.

LAURENT

I've grown tired of his games. But the woman, Victoria, will back him. Don't underestimate her.

Dr. Cullen nods thanks. Laurent looks at Edward, apologetic.

LAURENT

I'm truly sorry for what's been unleashed here.

And he moves off, disappearing into the woods...

**END**

**Start →**

But his eyes, unlike the Cullens, are a deep, sinister BURGUNDY, and absolutely lethal. His catlike movements are always on the edge of a crouch.

WAYLON

H-how did you do that?

JAMES

Always the same inane questions...

Waylon turns to jump over board, but TWO MORE PEOPLE suddenly LEAP aboard. LAURENT, 28, glossy black hair, olive skin. And VICTORIA, 26, chaotic red hair filled with leaves from the woods. Her eyes shift restlessly. All three wear frayed backpackers clothes, and all three are bare foot.

JAMES

"What do you want?" "Why are you doing this?"

LAURENT

(sighs, slight French accent)  
... James, must we?

JAMES

The question should be, "will it hurt?"

Victoria grins and NODS, sadistically. Then with *lightening fast speed*, the three of them VIOLENTLY LUNGE --

SMASH TO BLACK:

BELLA (V.O.)

I tried not to think about him...

FADE IN:

ON EDWARD'S FACE AGAINST BLACKNESS

SNAPSHOTS of his eyes, his cheekbones, his lips...

BELLA (V.O.)

... Not to analyze every word he'd ever said to me.

INT. BELLA'S ROOM - ON HER FACE - MORNING

As she sits in front of her computer, lost in thought. She shakes herself out of it and types into her search engine "Cold Ones." Several beer ads pop up.

BELLA (V.O.)

But I couldn't explain away the things I'd seen... or the way he made me feel.