

AVOIDING THE "TWILIGHT" OF WORKPLACE ROMANCE



On Monday, we used the new James Bond film to remind you to strive for a "cool" job--at least, a job that's cool for you. Today's release of "Twilight" allows us another opportunity to offer you some workplace advice. The much-anticipated teenage vampire flick that chronicles the romance between Edward Cullen, a 150 year-old vampire who will remain 18 forever, and Bella, a quiet new kid in the small town of Forks who's never been in love. Because it's in Edward's vampire nature to feast on humans, being around Bella is difficult, made all the more so by the fact that he loves her and wants to protect her. So what, do you ask, does teenage vampire romance have to do with the workplace? Two words: **Office Romance**. No, your burgeoning attraction for Jeff in [Accounting](#) is not quite as scintillating as the forbidden vampire/human attraction. But, in many cases, becoming involved with a co-worker can be every bit as foolish, dangerous, and reckless as falling in love with a gorgeous vampire god. Why? Coupling up with our co-workers can mean distraction on the job and decreased productivity. This may not seem like a big deal, but if the relationship ends (and according to a 2006 MSNBC poll, 53% of office romances are over within a year), the workplace could become very uncomfortable for you, your ex, and your co-workers. Further complications could arise if one member of the relationship is a subordinate of the other one. Although many companies may have a written policy against managers dating their reports, not every organization is clear on their stance. Of course, many couples do meet on the job, and their relationships and careers both turn out fine. With most professionals spending at least 40 hours a week with other people with similar interests and ages, people getting together is inevitable. If your attraction toward Heather in Purchasing remains undeniable and you both know you were meant to be together, then do your best to maintain professionalism--even if things don't work out. And if they don't, or do and the company kicks both your butts to the curb, there's [EmploymentCrossing](#) waiting to help. Heather can get a new purchasing position at [PurchasingCrossing](#) and you can find your new gig, too. For any teens reading this, don't worry; I devoured Twilight, too. And if you happen to be in need of a little extra cash, we have [TeenagerCrossing](#) for that...and a [free trial](#), too. Yep, we've got everyone covered.