I'M MARRYING ROB
(WELL, HIS CARDBOARD CUTOUT!)

What will Kristen say? Why this woman plans to wed a cardboard version of Robert Pattinson's alter ego, Edward Cullen

From choosing her dress to penning her vows, Las Vegas-based grad student Lauren Adkins, 24, is a typically hands-on bride-to-be. The twist? She's marrying a very one-dimensional groom: a cardboard cutout of Twilight's sexy vampire, Edward Cullen!

Though Lauren is a self-admitted Twi-hard, her wedding, slated for Jan. 26, isn't the brainchild of a nutty superfan. It's the basis of her thesis for her Master of Fine Arts degree at the University of Nevada Las Vegas — an elaborate performance-art project that explores why Twi-hards have been given such a bad rap.

"Being interested in vampires and romance is seen as less worthy than being a fan of a sports team or a band," she says. "Why is it so terrible to be a fan of Twilight, but okay to be a fan of Katy Perry?" (So far, Lauren's on the right track: UNLV women's studies professor Lynn Comella tells In Touch, "I look forward to the performance of this wedding. It will be a spectacle.")

Still, she admits the idea began as a joke. "Talking to a friend, I was like, 'I love Edward Cullen so much, why don't I just marry him?'" she recalls. "And I thought, 'Wait a minute — maybe I should marry him!'"

But now Lauren is taking her "I do's" deadly seriously. She's watching her diet in anticipation of
We've been out on dates," says Lauren (with "Edward" at a local carnival).

Lauren (flashing her cubic zirconia ring) doesn't have a real boyfriend but says cheating isn't an issue: "Edward is very understanding."

the big day, has a sparkly ($7!) engagement ring and has booked the ceremony, reception — and even a bachelorette party!

Lest anyone think she and Edward are fools rushing in, rest easy: They've known each other for several years. "I used to take him out on dates," says the Tennessee native, who hopes to work in film production after she graduates. "When I packed up my car for grad school, I put him on top of my huge pile of stuff and brought him to Vegas." Sounds like true love!

—With Jessica Finn

All the Wedding Details!

THE EVENT: Lauren, who just sent out invitations (right), will marry Edward at the Viva Las Vegas chapel in front of 100 guests — including her parents.

THE VOWS: Lauren says the vows will be mostly traditional. Alas, "Edward can't say 'I do,'" acknowledges the bride.

THE DRESS: "It's going to be a winter dress — lace, satin and long-sleeved — because it will be cold." Per tradition, Lauren says, "I don't want to show it before the wedding."

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