

HOT AND BOTHERED: TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

NEW MOON CHAPTER 24 : VOTE

Julia Chapter 24 : Vote. "He was not pleased. That much was easy to read in his face," [theme music starts] "but without further argument, he took me in his arms, and sprang lithely from my window, landing without the slightest jolt, like a cat. It was a little bit further down than I imagined." I'm Julia Argy.

Vanessa And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

Julia And this is Hot and Bothered, Twilight In Quarantine.

[Theme music]

VANESSA Okay, that's it, Bella's a cat person.

JULIA [laughs]

VANESSA He jumps like a cat

JULIA And she loves him

[theme fades]

VANESSA And she looooooves him. Um okay I'm gonna recap! Which is gonna be difficult because this chapter was longer than most books

JULIA This chapter was so long! Please recap every single detail in thirty seconds.

VANESSA I'm on it.

JULIA Three Two One, Go!

VANESSA Bella's like 'Edward, we're putting it to a vote!' and they run run run on Edward's back. And she's like [gasp] 'I have an epiphany! You LOVE me!' and he's like Whaaat, and then everybody votes, and the only one who votes that -- well, two people vote that she shouldn't be a Cullen and that's Edward, and-- Ang- whatever the one that I like's name -- And ROSALIE! And um and they go back and Charlie's like 'I don't want that Edward guy around' and she's like 'You have to turn me into a vampire!' [Sigh] ugh forgetting Rosalie's name took a long time. So Julia, my advice is don't fuck up, cus it wastes time.

JULIA Ok, oh my god I'm stressed I'm stressed.

VANESSA You'll do great! On your mark, get set, go!

JULIA So they go for a democratic event, and most people vote yes but some vote no. And then Alice is like- And then Bella's like let's do it NOW and Alice is like WHAT? Um and then Carlisle agrees to do it cause Alice thinks that she'll kill Bella dead, um goes home, Charlie's like 'I'm done with Edward Cullen' and she's like okay fine and he's like, What, Fine? I thought you would put up more of a fight. And she's like fine I'm moving out, um, and then Edward proposes? I forgot about that and then she says no because it was the kiss of death for her parents, um - [buzzer sound] That's it.

VANESSA You did so good. You like, showed us what a thirty second recap was supposed to look like.

JULIA I swear to god I think more happened at the end of the chapter that I didn't get to. I don't remember what it was...

VANESSA There's just like a lot of negotiation about when. She's like great, so tomorrow? And he's like no, five years. And she's like in FIVE YEARS I will be in my TWENTIES like an OLD. HAG. And that's the fight. Okay. Breaking news! Doo-doot-doot!

JULIA Oh, so Bella is going through her list of things that she did that were dangerous, and she talks about the cliff diving and she talks about the motorcycles but she omits that time that she tried to hit on some creepy guys, or let them hit on her, whatever was going on in that scene with Jessica earlier at the beginning, because that is totally the one that would totally drive Edward up the wall.

VANESSA To be honest, I get that. Men are scary.

JULIA Mhm. And Edward knows what men think. Imagine if we knew what men think. That would be scary. Do you have breaking news?

VANESSA Yeah! Big breaking news! We find out what Edward's voices are. So she has been able to like, hear Edward's voice whenever she's doing something dangerous. And I've been like what is that? Is he like appearing? And you used some word that I hadn't heard of, and that I didn't learn--

JULIA Astral projecting.

VANESSA Mhm, and it turns out that Edward's voice is her memories-- trying to teach her that he loves her.

JULIA That didn't make more sense though. Because memories are things that have happened. And none of the words he said, he had said before. Did she do like a supercut, and like splice them back together?

VANESSA Yeah! You can remember someone's voice and remember that they loved you. And then like, make them say things that they didn't say in your brain. I agree with you that it mostly didn't make sense though.

JULIA Yeah, I would just not consider that a memory, but a hallucination.

VANESSA Sure! I'm not saying that I loved what it was, I'm just saying we found out what it was.

JULIA Yeah

VANESSA And then my other piece of breaking news is that Edward loves Bella.

JULIA Ugh, who knew?

VANESSA Well Bella didn't! And she has this big epiphany where she is like STOP and she has to think and she's like [GASP], you love me! And it's very sweet.

[Transition chime]

JULIA Do you have a moment of genuine enjoyment?

VANESSA Yeah. My moment of genuine enjoyment is that-- Bella, they're like in the room for the vote. And Bella is looking around the whole room, and she's like ".. but I saved the most beautiful face for last." And I was like yes, Rosalie. And then of course I was waiting for the blow to find out that it was Edward, but she never says that it's Edward explicitly, and so I think that Bella --like now that she knows that Rosalie knows she's okay with her, she's actually transferred her crush over to Rosalie.

JULIA I mean it's canon that Rosalie is the hottest Cullen

VANESSA Yeah!

JULIA She was not in this book enough, so I'm glad that she got a little shout out right at the end.

VANESSA Yeah. I have two more moments of genuine enjoyment. One is that I was really touched when Rosalie said, "I wish there had been someone there to vote no for me." Like I know that everybody should be able to make their own decisions, but I feel like it's clear to Rosalie that like the vote is gonna go Bella's way, and what she wants is to do is like say, I would not have chosen this life, and I don't want you to do it for your own sake. So I thought that that was a really beautiful moment.

JULIA I mean, I was just so shocked at the amount of like, family therapy that Rosalie and Carlisle must have come through to get to this point. Because Carlisle straight up like saved her from murdering against her will to be the like sex doll partner for his son. Like how is she still living with him? And like, how is she so calmly being like, “I wish someone had been there to vote no for me” in front of the man who changed her against her will?

VANESSA Yeah, they must have had a LOT of family therapy. Or, there’s just like a lot of resentment and that explains why Rosalie is mad all the time.

JULIA Yeah, that’s a very difficult situation to be in. I feel for her.

VANESSA And then my last moment of genuine enjoyment is when Edward said “I’m 110, it’s time I settled down.” I thought that was funny.

JULIA [scoffs] A joke! Good job Edward, you made Vanessa laugh!

VANESSA Yeah, you did. Julia, what about you? What was a moment that you genuinely enjoyed?

JULIA I loved when there was a gender war at the dining room table, I was very entertained by that scene. Bella’s talking about how the Volturi are going to come for her one day and change her into a vampire or murder her I’m not really clear what they’re gonna do, and the men are like ‘Let the Volturi come and I’m gonna fight them’ and all the women are like NO boys are IDIOTS! I was like oh, this is a fun lil spicy family moment! It was like a sitcom!

VANESSA [laughing] and then Raymond came home and went, ‘Oy I’ve had a day!’

JULIA Exactly!

VANESSA Um, anything else that you genuinely enjoyed?

JULIA Yeah I was so happy Bella ends up following my lying advice, and she just says something that’s pretty close to what ended up happening. She like somehow sprinkles LA in there somehow, maybe thinking that there’s like bagels down there or something? Um.

VANESSA No because that’s where the Cullens supposedly moved.

JULIA Oh, I didn’t - I didn’t follow that thread from back at the beginning of the- [laughing] this book.

VANESSA And she was like western bagel sounds great!

JULIA So she ends up saying that there was a miscommunication about Bela’s cliff diving death, and she had to go clear it up in person.

VANESSA    Yep

JULIA    Logical, simple...

VANESSA    Yep I was so happy that she ended up following your advice, I was like yeah Julia gives pretty good advice sometimes.

[transition chime]

JULIA    Do you have any pretty good advice to give?

VANESSA    Yeah! Bella says something like, 'I don't want to tell Edward what I was thinking, because would he think I was crazy, like everyone else?' And I just wanna quote my grandmother, who used to say "if one person thinks you're drunk, you can ignore them. But if two people think you're drunk, you should probably take them seriously." And Bella! If everyone you know thinks that you have mental health problems, maybe you should look into it. And if the only person who's like 'no you're perfect the way you are,' is a hundred and ten year old vampire, who is willing to date you even though you're only eighteen, and whom you're in a codependent relationship with, and who flew all the way to Italy just to die because he thought that you might be dead, maybe you should still look into your mental health concerns.

JULIA    Yeah. Edward is not a good barometer for who has mental health problems.

VANESSA    I'm just worried that now that he's back she's going to be happy enough to not look into this. And I really think she needs to look into it.

JULIA    Oh yeah I think Bella is gonna be considered quote-unquote fine enough.

VANESSA    Yeah and Bella, that's not how mental health works. What about you Julia, what advice do you have?

JULIA    I have advice for Bella: do some research about souls. She's really confused about what like, souls are. Edward has an argument that humans have souls but vampires don't and this is the whole crux of the issue about changing Bella. And so, here's my theory that has nothing to do with any understanding of religion. People think people have souls, because people think that. And so I think by the same standard, vampires can have souls, if just Bella believes it enough.

VANESSA    Okay, no. People think that other people have souls, because they believe in god. And they believe that you have an afterlife in which your soul exists. I don't disagree with the conclusion you come to, because I don't understand why god would damn like, people who didn't choose to be a certain way, but souls are bound up in an understanding of god.

JULIA Yeah I mostly mean that, there's no reason that God would hate vampires.

VANESSA That I agree.

JULIA We're all god's creatures, including vampires. Including vampires. If god didn't want vampires to be there he wouldn't have created them, when he turned the dinosaurs, or whatever, whatever creationists believe, or whatever that idea is.

VANESSA When he turned the dinosaurs into vampires

JULIA [laughing] Exactly.

VANESSA Yep. Okay, my second piece of advice: Edward at one point when they arrive home is like 'we want a meeting!' and then he goes "Alice, Jasper, Emmet, Rosalie, Esme, Carlisle?" and I think instead he should just be like 'Hey everyone!'

JULIA Good advice, but why? Like, timesaver? You don't like the names and you just don't wanna hear them?

VANESSA I just think that that's a lot of time. Like imagine when I was a teacher and if I came in and rather than saying "Good morning class!" i was like "Hi Jordan, Daniella, Cooper, Ariana, Ariana, Julia..." like I just think this is gonna get out of hand, and so like, he should just get in the habit using like, broad inclusive pronouns.

JULIA I think that's great advice! I will admit that's not something I had considered while reading the chapter as like high priority. But now that you say that, I think that with his infinite time he might as well be saving it.

VANESSA Laughing. So you think that the reason that he does that is to acknowledge everybody, since he has infinite time anyway?

JULIA He's trying to subliminally be like 'ugh, Edward respects me so much by saying my name individually, so maybe I should vote no and make it so that Bella stays a human forever.' He's trying to work the crowd.

VANESSA Oh my god he's so manipulative! Okay what about you? Do you have a second piece of advice?

JULIA Yeah! I feel like Bella let Edward get back into her good graces too quickly, and I think she could have like, bargained a little bit more. We she has extremely good bargaining prowess when she absolutely annihilates Charlie in an argument about still dating Edward, it was very entertaining and I encourage you all to read that scene. Um

VANESSA Study it closely, in your argumentation classes that we recommend.

JULIA Exactly! So she kills it there, but then she doesn't do anything in terms of bargaining with Edward about like getting back together. She does like some weak arguments about being turned into a vampire, but I like, wanna see like, "Oh you wanna get back together? Okay but you're going to have to cook all my meals, and cook all of Charlie's meals. You're gonna have to drive me around all year long in my truck and you can't complain about it. Not a single complaint about the truck."

VANESSA Yeah! Ask for the moon.

JULIA He would get it for her.

VANESSA If you shoot for the moon, Bella, even if you miss it, you'll end up in the stars!

JULIA That's so beautiful, wow.

[transition chime]

VANESSA Did you write anything down in your Twilight diary?

JULIA Yeah! This is a little bit more breaking news but we learn that all of the stuff that Edward stole from Bella he just put under her floorboards. I have no further comment, but it was weird. Do you have anything in your Twilight diary?

VANESSA I actually mostly have questions for you Julia.

JULIA Okay.

VANESSA Does Bella not get movement sick anymore? She's like I got on Edward's back and it was no big deal, it was just like riding a bike! I could feel the wind. Are we just pretending that she never got piggyback sick?

JULIA She's acknowledged that she didn't like it before but she likes it now, and maybe that cured her sickness, maybe it was like psychosomatic?

VANESSA Like now that she suspects that maybe he loves her, maybe it's fine?

JULIA All her ailments are cured.

VANESSA Got it. I have another question. Why do they touch each other like the other one is children? Like she touches his nose, and she's like, "You're the problem."

JULIA Does she say "You're the problem" as she pokes his nose?

VANESSA He's like, "you said there was a bigger problem than the Volturi, what is it?" and she goes I'll give you one guess. You! And like pokes his nose!

JULIA [Laughing] That's hilarious! I wouldn't want someone to do it to me, but if I saw someone do it to someone else I would think that person has a sense of humor.

VANESSA Okay so you think that the reason she does it is cause she's funny.

JULIA Comedic effect.

VANESSA Okay.

JULIA Edward babies her all the time, should she not baby him.

VANESSA Great. My other question is, is becoming a vampire a metaphor for losing your virginity?

JULIA Like you have to get married first?

VANESSA Yeah, you have to get married first, he's like just like going really far out of his way to protect her innocence, and being like -- i want more for you than that.

JULIA I actually read this whole chapter and thought, it makes it sound like, getting turned into a vampire is like having a baby. Cause they like talk about days in pain, like you don't want to think about what's going to happen because like, confronting the pain is going to make you like, not want to do it or something. I was like, is this like pregnancy? Like what is, what is being said here?

VANESSA Oh that's interesting. I also just like don't understand why Bella doesn't want to marry Edward on that tact. Like, she wants to be with him forever, and she wants to change the kind of creature she is to be with him? Like why not get the bling-a-ding?

JULIA That's interesting! I was kinda like yeah Bella, don't get married. For no reason beyond the fact that they're such squares that it would be cool for them to like, not get married because that's something that people do.

VANESSA Yeah I think it's super cool to not get married, but like I just think it's weird she's so emphatic about it.

JULIA Yeah she's extremely convinced that their relationship is gonna last infinity, but that marriage is gonna be the kiss of death for it? Like what kind of relationship is like that?



VANESSA Yeah, I don't think marriage is necessary for a healthy relationship, but I also hate it when people treat it like it, it is the kiss of death, like that's not how it works either. So Julia, what do you have for Bella's care package?

JULIA I'm gonna get her a gift card to an engagement photoshoot. They're not quite engaged yet, but I sense it's coming, and I think it would be really funny if they get like, engagement photos.

VANESSA Do you think that they would go to the woods where he first sparkled for her? And like that would be the set for it?

JULIA That's a nice idea, I always picture them kind of like in a dead field? I feel like there's always like a pumpkin around, you know?

VANESSA Cute, cute. Are they like getting out the toddler backpack and is she crawling in, for one of the poses?

JULIA That would be nice. And then there's like, gonna be like a jokey pose and she's gonna wear it and he's gonna just pretend to jump in it, just for the humour of it.

VANESSA Laughing. It made me laugh, so! Such a good idea. Um, do they wear matching outfits? For sure, right?

JULIA Oh, a hundred percent. He's gonna be in like one of those little wool vests, you know? Those are always in them.

VANESSA And she will also be in a wool vest, or is she gonna be in a wool something else?

JULIA Yeah, like a matching wool-- like a tunic, and then like a full length skirt.

VANESSA [Giggling]

JULIA What are you gonna put in Bella's care package?

VANESSA I'm gonna send her something to give to Edward. I think Edward should start journaling. So Edward makes this like really self loathing comment about like "You handled our time apart so much better than I did, I just cried." And like grief is actually a really important process to go through, it sounds like you were confronting the sadness rather than trying to avoid it. And he spends so much time just lying there watching her sleep, and I think this is a sort-of thing for Bella, because like I think it would make her feel better if he like, was entertained while she was sleeping. And I also think that they're like gonna be together forever and she's going to stop sleeping soon. So I think it would be nice for them to remember the beginning of their relationship. I just think Bella should give him a really nice journal, and like a really nice pen, and every night, he can like write little things to her about all of his feelings, so

that in a hundred years they can remember. And I think that Edward might have really interesting feelings, and like, I just wanna know.

JULIA You know what that's called, Vanessa?

VANESSA Midnight SUN?

JULIA Midnight Sun! I'm so excited. What do you think is gonna happen next chapter? Gasp. The epilogue!

VANESSA I think that there has to be like a goodbye Jacob moment. It's so weird that Jacob like -- she's like Jacob who? Remember when she was like I love him maybe I could be with him forever, he's my best friend I would die without him? And now she's like J-J-Jacob. Jacob! So something has to happen there. I don't know if Jacob and Edward fight, like werewolf vampire, rawrr, or if like, Edward sees Jacob in a muumuu and is like that's such a good look and then Edward goes muumuu shopping, like. I don't know, what! Jacob has to come.

JULIA And you think like, Team Jacob is over, like it's gonna be sad?

VANESSA Oh yeah, it's gonna become so clear that she just used him.

[theme starts]

VANESSA This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a syllabus for an argumentation class from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all our episodes are executive produced by Ariana Nedelman, and produced by Ariana Martinez. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy, and I'm Vanessa Zoltan, and I journal through the night. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions, and are distributed by A-Cast. Talk to you for the epilooooogue.

[theme fades out]