

Twilight in Quarantine
Eclipse: Ultimatum

Julia: Eclipse. Preface. All our attempts at subterfuge had been in vain. (*theme music playing throughout*) With ice in my heart I watched him prepared to defend me. His intense concentration betrayed no hint of doubt though he was outnumbered. I knew that we could expect no help.

I'm Julia Argy.

Vanessa: And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

Julia: And this is Hot and Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine. Eclipse!

Vanessa: Oh my god, Julia. First of all, can I just tell you all the things that I want to guess based on this preface?

Julia: Sure.

Vanessa: One, people are going to come and help them.

Julia: (*laughing*) Okay.

Vanessa: Cuz she's like, "No one's going to come and help, surely not." I'm like, mmm, that means someone is. I know how narrative works. Two, I'm guessing that this is a standoff between Edward and Victoria.

Julia: Uh huh.

Vanessa: And I think Jacob is going to be the one who comes and helps.

Julia: Do you think you're going to die? As the trio?

Vanessa: Yes.

Julia: Yes, perfect.

Vanessa: Fourth book takes place in heaven to prove that vampires have souls. And you play the harp in the background, throughout it.

Julia: Do you want to recap this extremely long chapter?

Vanessa: Okay, yes, I'm ready. Do you want to count me in?

Julia: 3, 2, 1, go.

Vanessa: (*ticking sound throughout*) So, Jacob wrote a letter to Bella being like, "You're basically dead to me now, but it makes me sad." And Edward is coming over every day and Charlie is really excited because Bella got into Alaska Eastern South State and he's like you don't have to be grounded anymore even though she's been grounded and Edward also wants her to work on her college applications and Bella's like I miss Jacob and Edward is like too bad you can't be friends with him anymore and Bella's like too bad I want to be friends with him and Charlie thinks that Bella needs friends other than Edward. (*buzzer sound*)

Julia: That was good!

Vanessa: It wasn't really chronological, it was just like a series of facts.

Julia: That's fine. It's a very fact heavy chapter, so it makes sense that you did that.

Vanessa: Julia are you ready to do it in a more narrative way?

Julia: No. I'm not. I'll do it, but not in a narrative way.

Vanessa: Okay, are you ready to do a 30-second recap however you want?

Julia: Yeah.

Vanessa: Okay, on your mark, get set, go.

Julia: (*ticking sound throughout*) Jacob says, "You suck Bella," and then scratches it out and then writes a few more notes and then sends all of them, regardless of the fact he didn't want to send the other notes. Whatever. Uh, okay, Billy and Charlie are doing an intervention for Jacob, cuz Jacob has depression! And her curfew can be lifted if she goes and sees more of her friends and there's been a rift in her friend group and Mike, Ben, Angela, Edward, Alice, Bella versus Lauren and Jessica and she just has to hang out with them and then she can do whatever she wants. (*buzzer sound*)

Vanessa: (*sing song voice*) I have breaking news. One is that Seattle is trying to become the murder capital of the world, according to Charlie. Charlie is like, "Ugh, the newspaper," and Bella's like, "Don't read it," and he's like, "but there're all these murders happening and I'm a cop, I know what it is. It's gangs." And then we find out from Edward that he thinks it's a vampire.

Julia: Dun dun duuuun!

Vanessa: And we find out that a lot of crime that we think humans do, actually vampires do.

Julia: They are running amuck out there.

Vanessa: Other pieces of breaking news. Charlie does not know what 'grounded' is. Because Bella is grounded for doing really bad things. Right, like running away for a few days and having a

motorcycle. And yet she is still allowed to see her boyfriend everyday. Alice still allowed to come over. Charlie and my mom we're not on the same page about what grounded meant.

Julia: I mean I think that in Bella's negotiation where she's like, "I'm going to move out," like really got to him.

Vanessa: Oh you think I should have threatened to move out more often...

Julia: Yeah.

Vanessa: ...as a twelve year old, when I was grounded. Okay, my bad, my bad. I have one other piece of breaking news. Which is that...I didn't realize that Bella *can't* go to college after she's been turned into a vampire because she would eat people and that would be sad and bad. Recently I was like, "Ugh, college should be option A." But they explained why it's not.

Julia: Online school. We're all doing it now Bella, it's a fad. Can't hate people over Zoom.

Vanessa: Okay Julia, what about you? Any breaking news?

Julia: Okay. It seems like Jacob's uses a fountain pen to write his notes. There's splatters all over the page. Bella posits, maybe it's cuz he broke the pen while writing and then continues to use it? But I think he uses a fountain pen.

Vanessa: You don't think he's using a quill?

Julia: I hope not. Quill's a nice guy, he shouldn't be... (*laughing*)

Vanessa: (*laughing*) A. Quill. I think he's using a quill and like an inkpot.

Julia: Maybe. That's equally fun.

Vanessa: Yep. True I saw it with my own eyes.

Julia: Okay, Charlie is literally the most incompetent man alive. He doesn't know he can't microwave metal. Like, it starts to have lightning in there. Like what is he not noticing about the microwave situation when he tries to microwave a glass container of pasta sauce with the metal lid on? He's the biggest idiot in the world.

Vanessa: Okay. Hold on, let's talk about that. How did he literally eat before Bella got there?

Julia: Canned beans. Just, room temperature? (*Vanessa laughing*) Like, individual yogurts. Or Starbucks, isn't that out in the west?

Vanessa: And we know that that's the best bagel out there, (*Julia laughs*) because according to you there aren't bagels west of New York city.

Julia: Yep, he's having his Starbucks bagels and his frappuccinos everyday.

Vanessa: Extra whip.

(transition sound plays)

Julia: My last piece of breaking news is that Edward is the original orchestrator of the college admissions scheme. *(Vanessa laughing loudly)* That lady from Desperate Housewives, that lady from Full House, Edward was there first.

Vanessa: So what do you think his scheme was? Cuz Bella guesses it's a library wing, but that's not even illegal, so...

Julia: Like Alice is photoshopping her on the basketball court, with like, extended legs, being like she's an athlete. Let her join your Alaskan team.

Vanessa: *(giggling)* Jacob's legs, on Bella's body.

Julia: *(laughing)* Exactly! Do you have any genuine enjoyment?

Vanessa: Yeah. I really love Angela. Right, like Angela's so loyal. She's like, "It's not Bella's fault that she got depressed. I'm with her. She's in love, I'm going to go like, sit at this table with her." Like Angela is just a top-notch, A+ friend.

Julia: Totally.

Vanessa: But, interestingly, another moment of genuine enjoyment was that Jessica was like, "I'm done." Like, I respect both of these choices. I'm like, "Yes Angela, be loyal, understand mental health issues," and then I'm like, "Yes Jessica, be wary of somebody who like, put you in a dangerous situation while going to a movie night. And someone who like, never asked you about your breakup even though you were both going through breakups at the exact same time. And who only reaches out to you when she wants to use you. Yes." I love both of these women.

Julia: Yeah, I was happy to see them both. I mean they're finally back at school. We got no school last book, and I love school.

Vanessa: What about you Julia, did you enjoy anything?

Julia: I like how this chapter had like, the flare of an after-school special of like, people in the 90s stiltedly trying to talk about depression. I thought that was like a fun tidbit. Here, let me find it. Let me do a re-enactment. *(sad, melodramatic music plays throughout)* "Billy's worried about Jacob," Charlie said, 'Jacob's having a hard time right now.... *(whispering)* he's depressed.

Vanessa: *(giggling)* I had a health teacher who, all she did was show us after school specials. So I feel like in the 6th grade I saw all of them. My favorite one, which I saw at least three times, was just about not getting into white vans.

Julia: (*laughing*) I think I've seen that one too!

Vanessa: Yeah. And I am 38 years old and I still have never gone into a white van.

Julia: I'm glad that stuck with you. Do you have any pieces of advice?

Vanessa: I do. My first one is for Edward. And it's like, a pretty big commitment that I'm advising him to undertake with this first piece of advice. And so I just want to say, Edward I know I'm asking a lot from you right now, but I am here to support you. I really think that you should start a vampire orientation program to initiate new recruits. It turns out that new recruit vampires go on like, killing sprees. And that that is really bad and I think it's in part really bad cuz quote-unquote gang members get blamed for it. So probably the wrong kids are being incarcerated. Not to mention, of course, people being murdered is bad. And so I think as soon as you find out that there is a young vampire, you should come and take them under your wings and teach them how to hunt big game. I'm guessing that you have some sort of plan in place for how you're going to do this for Bella. I don't think that you are just going to allow Bella to go on like, a human murder spree when she turns into a vampire. And so I think since you're building a curriculum for Bella anyway, you should really try to get as many people involved in it as possible. Maybe you can just start with the Northwest Territory and then branch out from there. But, that's my advice. Start a new vampire orientation program.

Julia: I mean, I just can't believe the Volturi haven't gotten on this yet, given it's like, their one goal to inconspicuously murder people. Obviously, they have problems because like they're doing it in batches of 40 in the same place every time, which seems pretty conspicuous to me. But, it seems very aligned with their mission, they're just really bad at it.

Vanessa: Totally. I wonder if Edward could like, pitch them for funding. I know that the Cullens actually have a lot of money, but like I think the Volturi could probably you know like, help with some of the infrastructure. Buy a building for them to teach the classes.

Julia: Another haunted castle.

Vanessa: Yeah. I just really think that Edward should take the helm of this, though. He has no other hobbies. All he does is play Clair de Lune again and again on the piano.

Julia: Yeah. No, I think it's great for him to give back to his community.

Vanessa: Julia, what about you? What advice do you have?

Julia: So, I think Charlie needs to go to sick burn school. He gives the most boring response ever. Let me read: "'Bella's no longer grounded?' Edward asked, though I knew he wasn't really surprised, I couldn't detect any false note in the sudden excitement in his voice. 'Conditionally,' Charlie corrected through his teeth, 'What's it to you?'" Like, he is at that house for hours every day so the "what's it to you?" totally doesn't land. You know, he's being passive aggressive, but he's not even being good at being passive aggressive. So I came up with a good passive aggressive statement that he can use in its place. Vanessa ask me, "Bella's no longer grounded."

Vanessa: (*singing doo-wop*) Hi Charlie, this is Edward. Is Bella no longer grounded?

Julia: And then I want him to be like, "Nominally, but it's not like you care about my parental boundaries regardless of what I say."

Vanessa: Oh, burn!

Julia: (*laughing*) You should've fake cried!

Vanessa: Oh sorry, so sorry, I'm still Edward. (*singing again*) Oh what a burn, Charlie!

Julia: (*laughing*) Beautiful. Thank you for your help in this rendition.

Vanessa: I also think Charlie should just point out to him, it's not like she was ever grounded in a way they impacted you. Like, now you guys can go out, but you were still allowed to see her everyday. Cuz I'm a bad parent and I don't know how to actually punish my child.

Julia: And I don't know how to microwave.

(*transition sound plays*)

Julia: Do you have a second piece of advice?

Vanessa: So there seems to be a lot of confusion and miscommunication between Bella and Edward about when exactly she's going to be turned into a vampire. And I think that's causing larger problems for the two of them. Like, he wants her to go to college and she's like, "I can't go to college because I'll eat people," and he's like, "Maybe you want to do freshman year of college first," and she's like, "Yeah." And I'm just like worried that there's going to be like, a waste of money. Like, they're going to donate something for the Cullen building at Dartmouth and she's not going to go. Like, and that money could be invested in the orientation program, etc., etc. So my advice to Bella and Edward is like, have this conversation once and for all. Pick a date and put it on the calendar, draw a heart around it in blood. Like, just really go for it and decide because this like, back and forth and lack of clarity I feel like it's just difficult for everybody and so out-and-out argument about it, lock yourselves in a room and figure it the f out.

Julia: I feel like they should almost be trying to book like, a wedding venue because those are so strict about like, getting a date and having to keep it regardless of covid, regardless of like, I don't know, wildfires I'm sure. So book a wedding venue, go to your local rustic barn, and change her. Cuz once you commit to that wedding date there's no going back.

Vanessa: I love that. Like, order some flowers, right. Just like, spend some money and like make it a thing and then you won't go back on it. What about you? What's your second piece of advice?

Julia: Okay, well obviously Jacob should rewrite the note. In a new piece of paper. Because the whole crossing out fragment sentences and then sending it on the piece of paper with those

is...either like a really interesting psychological move or pure idiocy. I'm leaning towards pure idiocy given what I know about Jacob, but like, I would expect an argument that he wants her to know it and is being truly passive aggressive about all of his mean thoughts.

Vanessa: Yeah and the only thing I'll say is that this really seems to be like a lack of distinction between the point of conversation and the point of the written word. Like, the point of the written word is that you get to edit and make sure that what you say is something that you are proud of being in a final document. So, like, I don't want to see all of your errors. If this kind of conversation you wanted to have with Bella, like pick up the phone and like have it voice to voice, or like go over there and talk to her. No respect for the written word.

Julia: I know. *(laughs)*

Vanessa: I have just like one bonus piece of advice.

Julia: Oh, sure.

Vanessa: Like, Bella should become legit best friends with Angela. She's so great and Bella's like, already cutting off their friendship cuz she's like, "I'm going to have to go away at some point." Like, friendship is nourishing. It'll teach you lessons. It lets you practice love and it lets you practice being loved and like, I think that you should spend your last few months as a human being attached at the hip with Angela.

Julia: That's so cute. I love that. She's been such a gem this whole series.

Vanessa: I know. I love her.

Julia: I mean part of the issue is that she really needs to have a good plan for faking her own death eventually, but that doesn't need to happen now. She has years ahead of her before it like...people are confused about why she still looks 18 when she's 40. This is a long game issue.

Vanessa: Yeah, and also like, she can just pretend to become really vain and be getting a lot of Botox.

Julia: Yeah, she can just put things on top of her face like, to make it look like she's gotten Botox, but really it's just a mask.

Vanessa: I know we've touched on this before, but not getting good at aging makeup is a real missed opportunity.

Julia: Mmhmm. I have a little tidbit as well, if you don't mind me sharing.

Vanessa: Amazing.

Julia: Which is for the whole Cullen family. All of a sudden they're relying on Alice's visions to protect them from Victoria and the Volturi. As though they don't remember *last month* when her vision failed and two people almost killed themselves. Horrible strategy.

Vanessa: Yeah, they really need to stick to Alice is good at predicting stocks. And like maybe that's it.

Julia: Yeah, and remember the birthday party. Total disaster, she didn't predict that. She cannot be trusted.

Vanessa: Like, stick to your expertise, Alice.

(transition sound plays)

Vanessa: So Julia. For season 3 of Twilight in Quarantine we have decided to add a segment which is called Reality TV Corner. What's our musical transition for it? I feel like reality TV uses a lot of really dramatic music like "boooooom."

Julia: Yeah. Dun-dun.

Vanessa: Dun-dun! That's a better sound for it. But anyway. So every episode we're going to be rotating through a couple of reality TV shows and today what we're going to do is talk about The Bachelor. So like, if The Bachelor came to Forks. So this is now an episode of The Bachelor in which we are going to send two characters on an imaginary alone date and then see whether or not one of them gets The Rose. And you, our beautiful listeners, can vote on who you think should get the rose on Instagram and Twitter. *(dramatic voice)* Julia who have you chosen to stand on your date and what is the date?

Julia: *(laughing)* Your reality romance voice is like, not romantic enough, personally, for The Bachelor, but I'll continue.

Vanessa: No, no, no. I can do it, I can do it. *(flirty voice)* So Julia who are you sending on a date tonight and what is their date?

Julia: So, I am going to send Rosalee and Lauren on a date white water rafting. *(both laughing)* I hope that they can bond over hating Bella and being mean lesbian. *(both laugh)* It is my dream that they fall in love amid the rapid. *(Julia laughing)*

Vanessa: *(flirty voice)* But really listeners, it's up to you as to whether they fall in love or they realize they're too similar to be together.

Julia: I mean one has long hair and one has short hair, so I think it's going to be a perfect match. *(laughing)*

Vanessa: Why are you sending them down the rapids?

Julia: I've never been and always on The Bachelor there's this like, kitchy little reason for them to do stupid stuff. So it's like, "relationships are tumultuous. How can they withstand the rapid changes that they will experience on the raft?"

Vanessa: So good!

Julia: I watched a lot of The Bachelor. Okay who are you sending? Where are they going? What do you hope will happen?

Vanessa: So, I'm sending Angela and Bella on a date. And I am sending them on a fancy version of the date the Bella and Jessica went on. Because like, from the reality TV point of view it can be like, "it didn't go well with Jessica when they went to dinner and a movie. How will it work for Angela and Bella?" And so they go to one of those movie theaters where they like, serve you cocktails and food and they have fake IDs because Bella and Alice know how to do that really well. And so they can drink the cocktails and they just have such a better time than Bella did with Jessica. So like, they're walking and they see a bunch of guys on motorcycles and Angela is like, "Would it make you feel good and like, give you a little adrenaline rush to get on one?" And Bella's like, "I don't need that. I'm with you." And then they hold hands.

Julia: I almost thought you were gonna turn and be like, Angela steals a motorcycle in rides off with her in the sunset.

Vanessa: Or like, maybe it just goes as badly and like Bella should never go to the movies with anyone. Because we see her do it twice in the last book and it didn't go well either time.

Julia: Totally.

Vanessa: So it's like, "Are the movie is cursed for Bella Swan?" Dun-dun-dun.

Julia: (*laughing*) Wow, I'm so excited for the dates. Do you have anything in your Twilight diary?

Vanessa: I do. So like, a lot of hay is being made about *Wuthering Heights* in this book. It's like, it's Bella's favorite books, she reads it so much that everyone's like, "why do you read it so much?" And I like, sort of agree, *Jane Eyre* everyone knows, is the better Bronte book. But Bella is describing the book to us and she says turn-of-the-century novel. And I would just like to say the book takes place at the turn of the 18th to 19th century. It takes place in the early 1800s and you can say turn-of-the-century about many centuries ago. And I would actually say now, in 2020, turn-of-the-century means like. early 2000s. I don't even think it means early 1900s anymore. But it definitely does not mean early 1800s anymore. So I would like to tell Bella that *Wuthering Heights* does not take place in the early 1900s and like, get your facts straight about your favorite book.

Julia: I mean *Wuthering Heights* is mentioned so many times in this chapter, as Romeo and Juliet was in the last book. Like, do you think this book is going to turn into *Wuthering Heights*?

Vanessa: I don't know. I feel like I'm getting a lot of mixed messages based on like, the format of how Stephanie Meyers is doing this. In the book Twilight the prologue was Genesis but like, the text

that was discussed repeatedly was *Macbeth*. But then a New Moon the prologue was *Romeo and Juliet* and then the text that was discussed was *Romeo and Juliet*. And then in this one it's *Fire and Ice* by Robert Frost in the prologue but it's *Wuthering Heights* in the content of the book. So, if we're looking for past patterns to inform our current assumptions on this book, my question is is the first book more like Genesis or *Macbeth*?

Julia: Genesis.

Vanessa: Yeah. I think it's more like Genesis so I think that based on that pattern this book has to be more *Fire and Ice*. Although maybe she's trying like, a new thing every time. So maybe the first one was about Genesis, the second one was like, oh, all *Romeo and Juliet*, and this one is going to be *Wuthering Heights*. I don't know, I don't feel like she's established a clear pattern.

Julia: It's a very complex series we're reading.

Vanessa: But Julia you love *Wuthering Heights*.

Julia: I do.

Vanessa: So if you were to guess how this will turn into *Wuthering Heights*, how would you guess it will? Will everyone be miserable and die?

Julia: Based on *Wuthering Heights* what I expect to have happened is Bella's going to get with Jacob, they're going to have a baby, the baby is going to look a lot like Bella, Edward is also going to have a baby and then Bella and Jacobs' baby gets with Edward's baby. And then Edward and Bella are dead by the end of it

Vanessa: I think it's going to be like *Wuthering Heights*, the Kate Bush music video.

Julia: Ooookay.

Vanessa: So I think that Bella's going to put on a hot pink dress and dance with trees.

Julia: Yeah, okay, that adds up to me. She's going to get into ballet, we know she has experience in ballet studios, so.

Vanessa: It's true! Oh my god, I'm so excited for Bella to turn into Kate Bush. Anyway, that's it. Those are my confused Twilight diary things. What about you?

Julia: I would just like to have a personal update for this book, but I'm really trying to approach it from a neutral lens. I don't like Edward, as people maybe have guessed.

Vanessa: What?!

Julia: But I'm hoping in this book everytime Bella mentions how hot Edward is, I really try to like, embody that and like, feel overcome. Because it happens so often that I'm like, "Yeah, whatever he's

hot. I don't find him hot." But I'm going to try to really imagine him as hot to me and see if that changes things about how much I like him. That's my new personal goal.

Vanessa: So who are you picturing? When you picture "hot to me"?

Julia: Diego Luna.

Vanessa: Diego Luna. Like, Diego Luna in Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights?

Julia: Totally. Exactly.

Vanessa: Oh my god Julia, did you know that Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights only has a 22% on Rotten Tomatoes?

Julia: Have they watched the movie?

Vanessa: Like, clearly not! Cuz it is an excellent film.

Julia: Twilight has 49%. I don't think these people have any taste.

Vanessa: I'm just now looking at pictures of Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights and Diego Luna is so hot in it. Okay, great. I am also going to picture Edward as Diego Luna and that is going to go a long, long way for my enjoyment of these books. Thank you Julia.

Julia: Changes. Ch-ch-ch-changes. Here we go.

Vanessa: So what do you want to put in Bella's care package?

Julia: I want to fold up a little lawyer and send a lawyer Bella's way. It seems like Edward listens to treaties and also listens to the vote of his family. So I want a lawyer to be there to like, have a contract be made where the whole family agrees and Edward agrees and Bella agrees and it says, "I will let Bella do what she wants." And they'll all sign and Edward will listen to it, so Bella can finally stop having a fight Edward anytime she makes a personal choice.

Vanessa: Ugh. I love that. So smart. Freedom for Bella.

Julia: What are you going to put in Bella's care package?

Vanessa: So I'm going to give her something to give to Charlie, but it'll actually make her life easier. So I think that Charlie needs like, a cookbook for beginners. So I started doing research and it turns out that cookbooks for beginners actually think that you already know how to operate a microwave. And so there isn't a book basic enough for Charlie. So I think what I'm going to do is get Charlie a new microwave, because that will come with the microwave guide book. Cuz I'm guessing that this microwave is so old that he doesn't have the manual and so I'm going to get him a new microwave so that it comes with a manual and so he can at least learn how to operate a microwave. Cuz you know like, baby steps.

Julia: Next step is instant pot.

Vanessa: You know, maybe next step is actually just like boiling water.

Julia: Wow.

Vanessa: Cuz I'm not sure he knows how to do that. (*Julia laughs*)

Julia: What do you think is going to happen next chapter?

Vanessa: I think that Charlie is going to re-ground Bella. I think he's going to talk to Renee and Renee is going to be like, "That's not what grounding means." No, Renee wouldn't know. So he has to learn it at the police station from like, a good parent who works there. Maybe like the receptionist there is a really good mom and so she's going to be like, "That's not grounding. She didn't learn anything. She just...she's a homebody anyway and an introvert anyway and you basically just give her permission for social isolation, to stay at home and make out with her boyfriend." And Charlie's going to be like, "Okay, do over. You're grounded again."

Julia: I mean, Renee is definitely not going to show up because she has evacuated the books and the plot. So I do not think she's coming in the next chapter.

Vanessa: Yeah, no more Renee for sure. She's off having good sex with her new young husband. Happy for you Renee.

(*Outro music begins playing*)

Vanessa: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a microwave guide from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are produced by Ariana Nedelman. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy and I'm Vanessa Zoltan and I think *Jane Eyre* is so much better than *Wuthering Heights*. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by Acast. Thanks so much and we'll talk to you next week.