

TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

ECLIPSE CHAPTER 14: DECLARATION

Vanessa Zoltan: Chapter 14: Declaration. [intro music] “You can’t be serious. You’ve completely lost your mind.” ‘Say whatever you like about me,’ Alice answered, ‘The party is still on.’ I’m Vanessa Zoltan

Julia Argy: And I’m Julia Argy.

VZ: And this is *Hot and Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine*. [intro music continues] Okay, Julia, before the thirty-second recap, Alice in this opening says, “You only graduate high school for the first time once!” which reminds us that Bella, like all the Cullens, is going to be stuck in an infinite loop of going to high school. What do you think she should do to make high school more fun? I think the Cullens are doing it wrong—they’re sitting there like not eating.

JA: I wouldn’t want to eat lunchroom food either!

VZ: But that’s like all they’re doing.

JA: I think maybe like a *Catch Me If You Can* situation where either Bella or Edward pretends to be the teacher and like sees if they can get away with it to just like spice things up a little?

VZ: Oh, I love that move like on the first day of school, just go to the front and start teaching and have the teacher walk in and go, “Oh, am I in the wrong room?” and like leave.

JA: I mean, Edward is actually like 197, or whatever so...he has a lot of knowledge.

VZ: I have a real fantasy for that teacher, too, that’s like, “I guess this isn’t my classroom,” that they like move to Bali and still get the checks.

JA: It would work for both of them. We know Edward loves bribery. He would happily pretend to teach the class and then like forward that \$45,000 a year over to Bali. What about you? What do you think?

VZ: I have a couple of thoughts about options. I think one is that like she should like secretly run a *Hunger Games* situation where like people don’t know but she’s pitting people against each other?

JA: Do they kill each other, and if so how would it remain secret?

VZ: I don’t think they kill each other, they just “high school kill” each other: She’s like getting people to be really mean to each other and I think she has a couple of people in on it with her and they’re betting like Fantasy Football, but whose going to rise to be the queen bee of the school. I think she should run some sort of gambling bracket to bet on people’s drama.

JA: I mean, some high schools have—do you know the game Assassin? Some high schools do that, but with Nerf guns!

VZ: Right, but I want it to be much more insidious and scarring.

JA: Oh, good.

VZ: I'm here shelling for the therapy industry—Big Therapy.

JA: [laughing] Big Therapy.

VZ: [laughing] The other thing I think she should do is decide on a new look every year and like really confuse people. Like, go really “goth” one year and then come back and be like “I’m the queen bee” and wear like short skirts and lots of makeup and maybe even change her style on a monthly basis, I don’t know why I’m going annual.

JA: Yeah, a little makeover every month? We love a makeover montage.

VZ: Okay, Julia, are you ready to recap and tell everybody what happened in this chapter?

JA: I am!

VZ: There’s really only one thing that happens in this chapter, but it’s a doozy!

JA: Yeah, I’ll get to that. It’s the last line so I have a lot to recap before we get there.

VZ: On your mark, get set, go!

JA: So, the graduation party is on and sixty-five people are invited, but not Renee and Phil because Phil because his thigh bone sliding in baseball and Renee has to care for him...um, Edward is going hunting, they’re going to attack the vampires in Seattle--you can eat human blood...human blood only makes you marginally stronger, but they’re not going to eat humans; they’re going to stick, hopefully, to big game. She goes to La Push, Jacob takes a nap, and then he confesses his love for her.

[buzzer sounds]

VZ: Wow, you almost didn’t make it to the thing!

JA: It was a nailbiter, I want people to be surprised.

VZ: Shock! Jacob has a thing for Bella.

JA: Who would’ve guessed?

VZ: Okay, count me in?

JA: Three, two, one, go.

VZ: So, because Edward is going to go hunting, he’s worried about what Bella’s going to do and he’s like, “Emmet will watch you” and she’s like, “I don’t want that. Can I please just go to Jacob’s?” So they go and Edward and Jacob at like carpool drop-off communicate without communicating and Edward’s like “Jacob will tell you” and they

go to Jacob's house and Billy isn't there because he's moving in on Sue Clearwater? Which is not what I thought was gonna happen and Jacob falls asleep and then he wakes up and he's like "Agh! I've wasted the whole day. I was supposed to be telling you that I'm in love with you!"

[buzzer sounds]

JA: Good work!

VZ: It was a real team effort. You had done all the hard work, so I was able to sort of lazily...

JA: Paint in the details?

VZ: Yeah, I was able to meander through the beautiful forest that is a chapter of *Eclipse*. Doo-doo-doo Breaking news!

JA: Mmkay, my first piece of breaking news is something you touched on in the thirty-second recap: Sue is quote-unquote lonely and Billy is spending all his time there. It's like, is Charlie there too? What is going on?

VZ: Well there is nothing actually in the text that implies that Charlie is moving in on Sue. That is just something that I guessed a long, long time ago and you told me happened. So, now I think you're lying to me so I can publicly embarrass myself in front of all our listeners and Billy and Sue get together.

JA: Wow! Vanessa, this podcast isn't the Hunger Games! Like, just *Eclipse* is!

VZ: Yeah, that moment is also kind of interesting because Bella's like "Billy isn't here. Huh. I sort of thought he was a piece of furniture here. I didn't know Billy left the house." Which I found really insulting. I was like, "You know he leaves the house. You have seen him at your house."

JA: He comes over?

VZ: But, yes, I find it fascinating what's going on in Sue Clearwater's house! Next week on *One Tree La Push*.

JA: My other piece of breaking news is that the magnet imagery is back. I think she must've forgotten she had already made that point earlier when she was like "the magnets had fallen from her lips" when she was trying to make them kiss like she was a five-year-old figuring out how magnets work? She does it again! She's like, "Ugh! Jacob and Edward are like two magnets I can't make smooch." It's very sad for her.

VZ: I wish I could pick them up like my dolls and make them go "I love you" "No, I love you."

JA: I mean, it speaks to Hannah McGregor's point of homoerotic triangulation that's going on here. Bella is orchestrating their making out.

VZ: Yeah, yeah, yeah. She's like the literal puppet master of these two dolls.

JA: Did you have any breaking news?

VZ: Yeah, just one piece which is that Alice didn't invite Jacob to the party? Which I find really weird. Bella has one friend—two friends: Angela and Jacob. And it's not like Alice doesn't know about Jacob; Alice is like "Ugh, you smell" every time she hangs out with Jacob. She of all people should know how close Bella and Jacob are. So, I think it's pretty shitty that Alice doesn't invite Bella's best-slash-one-of-two friends.

JA: Yeah, I mean no wonder Bella's so confused about what sixty-five people are going to come to the party when her best friend wasn't invited—like what is she pulling these people from the streets?

VZ: Yeah! Literally who are the sixty-five people? Is this like a rich kid's *bar mitzvah* where it's about like business networking for the dad? Like is Carlisle inviting people from the hospital? Like, who is this barbecue for?

JA: Maybe Ben's family is like *19 Kids and Counting*.

VZ: You think the Cheneys are coming?

JA: Yeah!

VZ: You think Angela isn't having her own graduation party, but like all of those envelopes they addressed, all of those people are invited to the party?

JA: Yeah! Alice snuck in and changed all the invitations to Bella's party.

VZ: I still think it's weird that Alice didn't invite Jacob, but that makes more sense as to who the sixty-five people are.

JA: Did you have any genuine enjoyment in the chapter?

VZ: I did. I loved when they were like hanging out on the couch and like Jacob falls asleep and then is chatting and Bella's watching TV and she like a little bit wants him to sleep but doesn't care if she wakes him, like she turns up the volume on the TV even though he's asleep, and it's just like two good friends hanging, and like I want that for Bella so I was like really happy. And then the other one is that, even though Jacob totally ruins the whole BFF-hanging vibe by proclaiming his love, I do love explicit communication. I love his little speech about "I know you sort of know, and I know you aren't going to pick me, but I had to say it once."

JA: I'm glad that you brought it up because I was really curious about what your take on the declaration would be. I liked it, but the cut to black makes it seem like it's about to go South.

VZ: Yeah, I had mixed feelings about it. I think it's really shitty to like move in on someone who's in a committed relationship; I think he walks the line of ethical.

JA: Yeah I think—the only thing that you said that I don't totally agree with is the fact that he's just said it once. I feel like they had this conversation at the movie theater when

he was like, “I’m in love with you. Why don’t you love me?” And she was like, “I’m never gonna love you, stop holding my hand.” So, I’m not even convinced this will be the last time.

VZ: [laughs] I will like it less in retrospect if this isn’t the last time. I will give him the reprieve on “one last time.” Things have changed; he’s become a werewolf since then, Edward is back—a lot has changed. So, he’s like “I wanna say it one more time.” But if he says it “one more time” after this, I will officially find—not only that next one, but—this one, retroactively, annoying.

JA: Good, good, fair.

VZ: What about you, what was your moment of genuine enjoyment?

JA: I really liked when Jacob took a nap. I love napping and I’m glad to see it represented in literature and I feel like people should be able to nap when their close friends are over. Like, I feel that people should just be able to sleep when they need, regardless of the company.

VZ: Oh, I completely agree, which is why dog is man’s best friend because a dog is like, “We’re best friends so I get to nap.”

JA: Maybe that’s why Jacob is napping!

VZ: It’s his part-dog-ness.

[transition music]

JA: Do you have a piece of advice, Vanessa?

VZ: My first piece of advice is to Bella. While they’re on the couch together—Jacob and Bella—they touch for a minute and it becomes so hot to touch Jacob, it’s like almost burning her, it’s like sweltering to touch him, and my advice to Bella, as a woman-in-STEM, is to try to harness wolf-energy as heat. I think we have like an environmental apocalypse coming and this seems like an excess of energy that the werewolves have so I really think that Bella should be thinking about way to like convert the body heat of a werewolf, maybe while they’re asleep, like hook them up to something, their heat can like create steam which like moves a fan...I don’t know, I feel like there’s a real opportunity here and I was an English major, it’s not for me.

JA: Well, based on your description of the steam and fan, I was wondering if you had an engineering background.

VZ: [laughing] That’s why I told you “No, I don’t.” Even though I might sound like an engineer, but no...

JA: This is only tangentially related, but we hear that she’s having trouble in Calculus class, so it’s like, Will she be able to build this machine if she cannot do her derivatives? And integrals?

VZ: Well, she's gonna go to high school again; she can learn that next time. We've been saying for a while that we want the Cullens to get behind a worthy cause, and I think there's some kind of symbiotic relationship here.

JA: I mean, even just powering a stove. Emily can cook the eggs on Sam's hot hand, you know?

VZ: [laughing] Or on his hot-hot abs?

JA: Sure!

VZ: Yeah, I love the idea of the werewolves being hotplates. [both laugh] And that then being a nickname you can call them: "Hey, hotplate." Okay, Julia, what's your first piece of advice?

JA: I have advice for Edward—I'm back on the giving-advice-to-Edward train. Edward needs to tell Bella what Jacob is planning to do. Like, if someone did this to me, I would lose my mind. I need to be amply warned before any kind of surprise, large announcement, minor announcement, like he has information that he needs to share!

VZ: You don't think it would be disrespectful to Jacob?

JA: I mean, I don't care! That's not my concern here. Edward's allegiance is to his girlfriend, his girlfriend's safety, his girlfriend's mental wellbeing. He doesn't need like another man a fair chance at his girlfriend's hand—be like, "Hey, Bella, he's about to be like, 'I love you,' you should probably nip that in the bud."

VZ: Can I ask you a question about that, people who like to be warned about surprises? When I warn you about the surprise, wasn't that a surprise? I like to tell people about presents before the physical present arrives, and my mom's like, "You ruined the surprise" and I'm like, "No, the surprise was right now when I was like, you're gonna get a cat."

JA: Yeah, but she's able to manage the situation when it comes up. If you were like, "Mom, I bought you an elephant, and it's coming in three days," she would be able to get a pen for it. As opposed to the elephant just arriving and she's like, "Oh, what the hell am I going to do now, why'd you buy me an elephant?"

VZ: [laughing] I definitely also thought you meant like a writing implement-pen and I was like, "So the elephant can be helpful as the house bookkeeper?" [laughing] "Like, use its trunk to take phone messages?" But I get it, like a pen to keep the elephant. Awww, okay. I learn so much on this podcast.

JA: Do you have a second piece of advice?

VZ: I do. Alice needs, needs to open a party-planning business because she keeps, like, forcing parties on people that don't want them so just plan parties for people who want them, they will pay you to do it, you seem to love this, you can do it for charities

and stuff, too, but like, stop foisting parties onto people who don't want them and just do them for people who want them.

JA: But, Vanessa, need I remind you of the Bella's-eighteenth-birthday-party-apocalypse situation?

VZ: Yeah, I actually think Bella will be better at planning parties where there are no vampires there. And in theory, although I don't believe this, Alice would be able to see any catastrophes coming from ahead of times. Like, never at one of Alice's weddings would someone get stood up at the altar because she would like see that. She would know that someone at the Sweet 16 was going to bring an elephant as a gift so she would make sure to have a lot of pens around.

JA: You know, I'm just imagining Alice being like ruthless with 100% non-refundable deposit 'cause she sees the events coming and she's like, "You're not getting your money back, best of luck!"

VZ: Yeah! She's like, "You're not making it to your sixteenth birthday!"

JA: Yeah, exactly. And like Alice is also graduating—just throw yourself a graduation party!

VZ: Yeah! Throw a...solstice party! What about you, what's your second piece of advice?

JA: My second piece of advice is for Bella. I think she and Edward need to elope. In this chapter, we find out that really the only reason she's not marrying Edward is that she's worried about telling other people and let me introduce Bella to the concept of eloping in which you just go get married and it's not a big deal. You don't have to tell people if you don't want to, and they you could be a vampire, you can be a wife, all your dreams could come true.

VZ: So you're not just saying elope, you're saying come back and tell no one that you got married.

JA: Yeah, if that's the only reason she doesn't want to get married, she doesn't have to tell people.

VZ: Don't you think Edward would be really hurt by that, that she wants him to be her secret husband? Like, if I had someone in my life that was like, "I have a boyfriend, but I have to keep it a secret," I'd be like, "You can do better."

JA: I mean, Edward's reasoning for getting married is he's afraid he'll ruin Bella's eternal life, not that he wants everyone to know that he's like, you know, hitched-for-good to this hot eighteen-year-old so God knows, and that seems to be what's important to him.

VZ: [laughing] Okay, fair enough. I was projecting. I would be really hurt if someone was like, "I'll marry you, but it has to be a secret."

[transition music]

VZ: So for this week's competition, Julia and I will be competing on something that we are calling "Love By Design" in which we are each given the opportunity to design the way in which we think Jacob should have told Bella that he loves her and so we will each describe for you a way in which we believe Jacob should confess his true love and you will vote on Instagram who came up with the more romantic and convincing version of this. Julia, what have you got? How should Jacob tell Bella?

JA: I did an ample amount of Internet research into extravagant proposals that are out there. I was not impressed by, I would say 95% of them. It just was not doing it for me. But, the one I found most interesting—engaging one might say—was a proposal in which Tom Hanks was involved. They just proposed in front of Tom Hanks, he wasn't that involved.

VZ: How did they get access to Tom Hanks?

JA: It was at a book festival. Tom Hanks was presenting and she was in the front row and the guy was like, "Will you marry me?" and Tom Hanks was just there and so I think Jacob should've invited Tom Hanks to witness the declaration. I think that's a good vibe.

VZ: A lot of your ideas are Tom Hanks-based this week: *Catch Me If You Can*...

JA: Oh, shit, you're so right! He's omnipresent in society. He should be at the declaration.

VZ: [laughing] Why would that have helped convince Bella? Like, do you think she would've looked at Tom Hanks and been like, "Well, I don't want to disappoint him; he's Forrest Gump."

JA: Yeah, like Tom Hanks endorses this.

VZ: Got it.

JA: And he seems to have really good judgement.

VZ: So not just have Tom Hanks witness, but have Tom Hanks endorse.

JA: I think it's a silent endorsement by his presence there. And if it starts to go sour, I'm sure Tom Hanks would switch sides and be like, "Yeah, I'll fight him for you, Bella."

VZ: [laughing] Tom Hanks is a very nice man, apparently.

JA: Yeah! He seems like it. Vanessa, what is your grand gesture?

VZ: Okay, so Jacob picks up Bella and he takes her to a path and he says, "I set a location," and he hands her a map and he says, "I trust you to take us orienteering to this spot" so she follows the directions and the sun and the compass and she finds the beautiful place in the woods where Jacob put on the map for them to go to and there waiting for them is a Golden Retriever puppy, holding a rose in his mouth and Jacob says, "This Golden Retriever puppy is a symbol of how cute our children will be."

JA: Wow! Are you worried that she's gonna get upset by like the, you know, we-walk-for-a-long-time-to-get-to-a-beautiful-place-in-the-woods thing? Like, is that not too close to Edward's meadow?

VZ: No! I think it became a Jacob-and-Bella thing. And I think it's actually a great place to show the difference between Jacob and Edward: Edward took her to a beautiful place by like carrying her on his back and like putting her in a baby carrier and like making her seasick and like doing all these annoying things; whereas Jacob believed in her—he was like, “You can get places on your own to feet; I'm going to be here to support you, but I trust in you.” And then he's like, “Look at how cute puppies are.”

JA: I personally would be swayed by a Golden Retriever puppy so I don't know why Bella wouldn't be.

VZ: Yeah, and it's a symbol of how cute their half-human-half-werewolf babies would be. If I were Bella I'd mayyyyyybe get worried that I'd get pregnant with a litter, but better than getting pregnant with a demon vampire baby!

JA: Wow, what an image.

VZ: So go vote on Instagram either for Tom Hanks or for Golden Retriever puppy—it's a fair fight! Tom Hanks is arguably the human version of a Golden Retriever puppy.

[transition music]

VZ: Do you have anything in your *Twilight* diary?

JA: Oh, my gosh, Vanessa, I do have something in my *Twilight* diary! We have not touched on the most interesting, arguably, passage in this chapter! Page 324, Bella says, “It was childish, but I liked the idea that *his* lips would be the last good thing I would feel. Even more embarrassingly—something I would never say aloud—I wanted his venom to poison me. It would make me belong to him in a tangible, quantifiable way.”

VZ: Metaphor for virginity.

JA: Oh, my god!

VZ: Oh, was that not what you were gonna say?

JA: I was just so troubled by it that I didn't put that together, but I'm glad I posed it to you because you really knew.

VZ: That is 1000% what it is. Everyone knows that men's semen is like venom in that you want it to be very special—the first person who puts their venom in you. [both laugh] Hey, I'm quoting the book, guys, you can't be grossed out.

JA: And that's why you don't want your boyfriend's dad to do it. [both laugh]

VZ: So, Julia, I'm glad that you homed in on this moment, because is this her realizing that she wants to marry him?

JA: Yeah, that was the whole point of my advice. In this chapter, she's like, "Oh, I wanna marry him, the only thing I'm worried about is telling Mike, Angela, and Jessica."

VZ: See but I thought she was like "But I'm worried about telling Mike, Angela, and Jessica" so it was unclear, but you think it is clear.

JA: Yeah, she does want it because she then says, "I saw the same odd vision of Edward swinging on a porch swing wearing clothes from another kind of world, a world where it surprised no one that I wore his ring on my finger—a simpler place where love was defined in simpler ways: $1+1=2\dots$ "

VZ: It disturbs me that she thinks there are circumstances in which $1+1$ does not = 2.

JA: Bella was on to alternative facts way before the rest of us were.

VZ: Anything else in your *Twilight* diary?

JA: Yeah, I just wanted to confess—there's a conversation in the chapter where Bella's like, "I can join in your fight." And I read 75% of that conversation thinking Bella was suggesting she'd join the fight as a human. [both laugh] I was like, "What are you going to do?"—

VZ: With a gun?

JA: —And Alice was like, "We wouldn't have enough time to train you?" Even then, I was like, "Of course, she has no idea how to fight anyone! She's full of human blood! It's a disaster!"

VZ: [laughing] She can't even hit a ball!

JA: Yeah!

VZ: Does anybody else remember volleyball?

JA: It takes a while to learn hand-to-hand combat! It took me so long.

VZ: You know, this is...*Twilight* diary is the perfect place for this because admitting embarrassing moments is what diaries are for—that's super embarrassing.

[transition music]

JA: What do you want to put in Bella's care package this week?

VZ: So, something occurred to me that I would really like which is when I'm afraid something awkward is about to happen, I would like a fog horn to like attack the person and then run, be like, "I don't want to hear it!" I want to send that to Bella because it seems like she does not want to hear this from Jacob and so I think that she should be able to like blow the foghorn and run.

JA: That's so interesting that you say that because mine is very similar. I want to get her like a Bat Signal to send into the world and be like, "Edward I need a pickup." She doesn't have a cell phone so she cannot call him so she needs like the foghorn, run, Bat Signal, Edward's gonna come because like the whole situation is such a disaster.

VZ: Yeah, I guess I sort of think airlifting shouldn't just be for emergencies in which your physical life is at stake; it should be for situations in which your like awkward emotional life is at stake. Like, you should be able to call emergency services and be like, "I need a helicopter to get me out of here. Someone is trying to kiss me who I do not want to kiss me, but like I don't want to be mean" and like a ladder should drop from the sky and it whisks you away.

JA: We talk about how we don't want to necessarily date a vampire, but like having them summoned to whisk you away in awkward situations, I think is an extremely underrated as a reason to do it.

VZ: Ugh, I would call all the time.

JA: What do you think is gonna happen next chapter?

VZ: I think that Jacob is gonna try to kiss Bella and it's gonna be super awkward. And as much as I hate the like long stories about one character, I actually hate awkward more.

JA: Do you think Bella's gonna kiss him back?

VZ: No!

JA: Yeah, I don't think so either.

[outro music]

VZ: This has been *Twilight in Quarantine: A Magnetic Pull* from *Hot and Bothered*. This episode and all episodes are produced and edited by Ariana Nedelman. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy. I'm Vanessa Zoltan and I nap no matter who's in the building. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACAST and we'll talk to you next week. Thanks, everyone!

[outro music continues]