

TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

ECLIPSE CHAPTER 17: ALLIANCE

Julia Argy: Chapter 17: Alliance. “Bella?” Edward’s soft voice came from behind me.” [intro music] “I turned to see him spring lightly up the porch steps. His hair windblown from running. He pulled me into his arms at once, just like he had in the parking lot and kissed me again.” I’m Julia Argy.

Vanessa Zoltan: And I’m Vanessa Zoltan.

JA: And this is *Hot and Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine*. [intro music continues]

VZ: Before we get to our recap today, we wanna just tell you a little bit about something we’re up to and invite you to join us. Obviously, part of our reflection on getting into these *Twilight* books has been some deep concern about the way that Stephanie Meyer talks about the Quileute Tribe. And the Quileute Tribe actually has a fundraiser going on for something really interesting and important which is they have a bunch of really wonderful things on the reservation, including a community center for their elderly members and this really amazing education center for the kids in their tribe. And it is too close to the ocean and climate change is impeding on their security that this building is going to be able to keep existing and so they are raising money to move to higher ground. And so we have been lucky enough over the last seven, eight months that we’ve been doing this project to get some advertisers so we’ve been donating 10% of our advertising revenue to this effort—with an additional \$100 for Native American Heritage Day, we’ve been able to donate a little over \$700 and so we really invite you to join us. You can go to their website: mthg.org which stands for “Move to Higher Ground.org” and you can watch a really beautiful four-minute video about what they’re up to and join us in a way that we are excited to do as we engage with these *really* problematic texts, and Stephanie Meyer, we hope to see that you’ve donated \$700,000.

JA: Yeah, I highly recommend the video! Tons of cute kids in it, great content and we’d love if you’d join us in supporting their fundraiser! [transition music] Vanessa, would you like to recap this chapter?

VZ: A wonderful representation of the Quileute Tribe in this chapter.

JA: [both laugh] As always, spot on!

VZ: Um, will you count me in?

JA: Three, two, one, go.

[timer starts]

VZ: So, it’s time for the party and Alice has turned the Cullen house into a club and people show up and the party’s going really well—except that um...now everyone knows that they’re worried that the Vampire Army’s coming and then Jacob

and crew shows up and Jacob gives Bella a present, but he also grabs her against her will and then there is an alliance that forms between the werewolves and the vampires to take on the Vampire Army. [buzzer sounds]

JA: Yeah! It was kind of all over the place, but I think you got the main points.

VZ: It was super all over the place, and I nailed all the main points!
[both laugh]

JA: That's skill.

VZ: Thank you. Okay, Julia, are you able to do a perfect job the way that you do?

JA: Of course!

VZ: Okay. On your mark, get set, go.

[timer starts]

JA: Okay so it's the party, people arrive, they carpool, Alice has a vision and Edward runs over to her...but at the same time, the werewolves come and Bella keeps trying to talk to Alice and eventually, Jacob kind of forces out of her what's going to happen and then Alice and Jacob kind of conspire to fight the vampires together, they are coming to Forks, they are not staying in Seattle, I think they are maybe en route...um, alliance! [buzzer sounds]

VZ: Also, Alice and Jacob both think the other one smells, but it also seems like they might kiss.

JA: Yeah! There's that moment where they're both like leaning up to each other and making bad faces because of the smell, but also like sexy eye contact, perhaps. While Jasper was right there. It was...whew, really tense.

VZ: Yeah! It was very strange. Um, okay. Doo-doo-doo, breaking news!

JA: Alice wears red leather pants to the party and a sequined, potentially-red tank top.

VZ: My only issue with the outfit is how hot it must get in leather pants when you dance.

JA: I can't imagine really wearing leather pants, so the idea of colored leather pants, which is something I don't see out-and-about a lot, is really fascinating. I'm sure she looks great.

VZ: Yeah, I'm sure she looks great, too.

JA: And, my other piece of breaking news is that Bella has friends named Connor, Austin, Lee, and Samantha. Apparently those people exist and have been friends with her this whole time. Who knew? I mean, truly, breaking news.

VZ: I mean, if we had gotten more time at *One Tree Forks*, we would've known about them.

JA: Did you have any breaking news?

VZ: I did. First I think I have the opposite of breaking news which that Alice and Edward are total asshole-snobs about what music people like. Like, no one is surprised by this, but I want to call them out. That's what it is—call-out news; it's the call-out desk of the Breaking News segment.

JA: Mmmhmm.

VZ: But genuine breaking news: people don't know how to enter a dance party. You do not ring the door bell at a party that has like more than 30 people. You just go in because otherwise, you're expecting the host to be at the door every few minutes and you're just like not giving the host a chance to host so I'm very confused by the fact that everybody just keeps ringing the doorbell. I'm also confused by the fact that after two minutes, Alice didn't just put a sign on the door being like "Just come on in!" Like, very strange.

JA: Do you think the first people should ring it?

VZ: I don't. Because you don't know you're the first people. I think at a big party, you just walk in.

JA: Yeah, no, I think that's smart.

VZ: Thank you. Julia, did you have any moments of genuine enjoyment?

JA: Yeah, I loved the carpool. Not only is it environmental that Jessica, Lee, Austin, Samantha, Mike like all roll in together in like...I think it was Mike's Suburban that we saw in *New Moon*, but they're kind of like adopting the pack-coven mentality that you've seen from the werewolves and vampires. It's like the humans are really working on that level, which I was happy to see.

VZ: Yeah, and just better for the environment, better for your mood—showing up to a party by yourself can be really overwhelming.

JA: And you can like...I was gonna say "pregame in the car," but don't drink and drive and also, they're underage. But like, pregame with music in the car.

VZ: Like pump up.

JA: Yeah. Exactly. Get hype. What's your moment of genuine enjoyment?

VZ: Um, first that Jacob can seemingly sniff out that Bella is in distress and I just love any reminder of dogs, so that was great. I love that Angela and Ben come to the party. I especially think it's very sweet because Angela sent out all of those invitations to like hundreds of people to attend the graduation ceremony and then she was like, "peace out, gotta go to this party." I think it just shows how good of a friend she is to Bella, that she was like "I'm gonna go to Bella's party." My guess is that she dips after an hour to go back to her family because I always assume, like, the best of Angela. But it was just so good to see her.

JA: True. Like you had a moment of "old news," I have a moment of genuine distress.

VZ: Okay, I'll allow it.

JA: I found the moment when Jacob is putting the charm bracelet, but he has to put it on her left hand because her right was still in a splint, like so poignant and moving. I don't think it was intentional, but it was sick and twisted, honestly.

VZ: Yeah.

JA: Do you know like, you get injured from a person assaulting you and then like in the next scene, you're like accepting their charm bracelet while your injury is still present? Like, it was just a very powerful—powerful in a bad way—moment.

VZ: Yeah, I feel like it was meant, again, to be sort of comedic like "Oh! Can't do it on this arm." And I agree with you, instead, it's just haunting and upsetting.

JA: Yeah, very chilling.

VZ: Which, you know, we're obviously groomed now for a question or concern for the chapter and I think this dovetails perfectly because Bella doesn't want to talk to Jacob because she's still mad at him and he physically grabs and restratins her so that he can apologize to her is so concerning.

JA: When she tells him to get off, he says, "Don't be a poor sport."

VZ: [laughs ironically] Any thought of my being Team Jacob like all those chapters ago is just, I feel so misled.

JA: Yeah, well, I think he's really changed like as a character since *New Moon* and so the person who we liked initially is really not present now in *Eclipse*.

VZ: Cut your losses Bella, the man you loved-as-a-friend is gone. That is not my advice. Let's go back to mentor corner, because I do have advice.

JA: Okay, share!

VZ: Okay, my first piece of advice *is* for Bella which is that like relationships do not have to be this hard. She shouldn't have to go to parties that she doesn't want to, she shouldn't have to be hunted. Relationships don't have to be hard. It sucks that Edward her way into Dartmouth, but like, you didn't do that! Go to Dartmouth! Cut strings, go to Dartmouth, live your best life, be an English major, write a lot of papers about the Brontes. You can meet so many angsty guys there, too—and like, angsty without teeth that will kill you.

JA: Frat bros. Regular teeth.

VZ: Yeah. What about you? What's your piece of advice?

JA: So, my first piece of advice is to vampires at large. I don't believe you should decorate your parties with red lights. We get a great scene where—here, let me read it, okay: “It was not an atmosphere to make your average human feel relaxed when standing next to someone like Emmet. I saw Emmet grin at Mike over the food table, the red lights gleaming off his teeth and watched Mike take an automatic step back.” It's like, you wanna, like, show people your shiny venom teeth glowing with red? Like, they're gonna connect the dots one day.

VZ: Also, who looks good in red light?

JA: Alice with her red pants and red glitter top. That's the only reason.

VZ: That's such selfish lighting design, Alice. Like, you're the only one who knew it was gonna be lit that way.

JA: Yeah.

[transition music]

JA: What's your second piece of advice?

VZ: My second piece of advice is for Jacob, based on what we were talking about earlier. So he grabs Bella in that really troubling way and then he apologizes to her for grabbing her and kissing her a few days ago. And my advice is don't acquire new fuck-ups as you apologize for old ones because you'll like never catch up. It would be like paying off your credit card bill, finally and then like buying a Maserati on it, on your credit card. If you're excited to be out of debt, like... you have to pay off your credit card, but you also have to stop spending recklessly. And he's recklessly spending on offensive actions. Like, he's just never gonna actually have a clean conscience.

JA: Yeah, he needs a balance sheet for his wrongdoings.

VZ: Yeah, like just try for like a minute to be in the net-positive where you've apologized *prior* to acquiring the next assault.

JA: Totally. He needs to take a personal finance class. And just apply of it to morals, not money.

VZ: To touching Bella. [both laugh] I have one bonus piece of advice, just like real quick which is that Bella should eat at parties. Maybe the reason she doesn't have fun at parties is that she doesn't eat and so she gets hangry.

JA: I think Bella could be hangry for all of these books. She doesn't eat at the lodge, she doesn't eat at the party. It's like, she's starving.

VZ: Yeah, it's so weird she's like "From how quickly all the food disappeared, the food must've been good." I'm like, taste it!

JA: Maybe she's actually going to be a really good newborn vampire because she's just like used to being starving all the time.

VZ: Sure, I just think she maybe would've liked parties her whole life if she'd enjoyed the delicious like...usually, at parties there's like cake and cake, you know?

JA: Oh, I know.

VZ: And then I have one last bonus piece of advice before I ask you for your last piece of advice.

JA: Okay, go ahead, I'm glad you have so much, so many thoughts this chapter.

VZ: My last piece of advice is to Jessica Stanley: You are in a rich person's house who you have a love-hate-twisted relationship with. Steal shit. Go take a fancy pair of socks from one of their drawers. They are never gonna notice. They are rich as fuck, you deserve nice things. Go steal shit.

JA: Wow, I loved that one.

VZ: Like, just lift a piece of art off the wall; they'll never know.

JA: Put it in the Suburban, pack the Suburban full, everyone else can walk home, the three-mile driveway, best of luck. I'll give you a cut of my stolen and sold belongings.

VZ: Just like one piece of the Sterling Silver that they never use 'cause they don't eat!

JA: The KitchenAid!

VZ: Yeah! Sorry I gave so much advice, but what's your last piece of advice?

JA: So, I wanted to remind you and everyone that they haven't put together that this is Victoria yet.

VZ: I know [laughing].

JA: I think they need to create a Burn Book for the enemies they've made so that they can just flip through and just think *something bad is happening, people are trying to kill me, who recently did I wrong? Who recently wronged me?*

VZ: Yeah! Like, I didn't like it when Rosalie forgot who she murdered.

JA: Yeah, I think they need to add like another chapter so it's not only people they've wronged, but people who've wronged them just to like keep track of both sides of that coin.

VZ: They just need better recordkeeping. Like maybe they should invest in Salesforce.

JA: Happy to provide that for them.

[transition music]

VZ: So, Julia, for "Reality TV Corner" this week, we're going to do *My Super Sweet Sixteen* which is a reality show that I don't think is on anymore and which I think you just like watched rich girls get like really lavish parties thrown for them and then you got to see like the price tag at the end of how much it cost and it was all like very satisfying. And so you and I have been given a huge budget to throw what we think would be a better graduation party because I don't think either you or I would have fun at this party. Like, club vibes: No.

JA: No, no, absolutely not.

VZ: So, what party would you like to throw?

JA: My party is partially inspired by some of the best parties I've seen around, some of those are *My Super Sweet Sixteen*, but others are from media like *Princess Diaries 2*, in which they sled mattresses down a set of stairs. That would be present at my graduation party.

VZ: Yeah, awesome.

JA: It would also have lifesize ice sculptures of the graduates—that was a from a *My Super Sweet Sixteen* party, a real thing [both laugh].

VZ: Uh, huh.

JA: Signature fragrances.

VZ: Like, everybody got their own, every guest got their own signature fragrance?

JA: Yeah, and also just smelled signature-ly inside.

VZ: Okay, got it. You walk in and you go [deep inhale] "this smells like Alexander Hamilton's signature on the *Declaration of Independence!*"

JA: Exactly!

VZ: Got it!

JA: Literal signatures.

VZ: I'm not sure he signed the *Declaration of Independence*. [both laugh]

JA: The party favors for everyone is a Lexus [both laugh]. Not only did the graduates get a Lexus, but every person gets a Lexus. There's a hot bar with different types of mac 'n' cheese.

VZ: Yuuuum!

JA: For dessert, it's Sour Patch Watermelons. There's a dancing room, but there's also a sound-proof napping room.

VZ: Oh, my god! How long is this party? A week?

JA: Like, as long as you can go.

VZ: This party sounds amazing.

JA: There's just more ways to innovate than people are doing and I think one of those ways is a mac 'n' cheese bar.

VZ: Yeah, brilliant.

JA: What about you? What's your...what's your vibe?

VZ: I went slightly different tact. I was like *what would Bella's ideal party be?* And I've decided that it's *Wuthering Heights* themed. So, you only play that Kate Bush song on repeat and everyone wears period costumes, all the men act like total assholes—which would not be hard in this crowd—there's someone like, who's like the Lockwood character and they like commentate on the party as it's happening: they're like, "Ohhhh, Angela and Ben are starting to make out in the corner! Angela, wearing a beautiful white, empire-waist frock," you know, they way that Lockwood commentates in *Wuthering Heights*? I think that they can even do it in Forks, like at the Cullen House, because I think Forks probably looks a lot like the Bronte parsonage-Haworth area, so they just have to destroy the House to make it look like a ruin and like for the ruin, and then like for the women, like in order to leave, you have to act out a death scene. So, it's just like a bunch of Heathcliffs and a bunch of Catherines, figuring it out.

JA: And they'd have to...like hours before they wanted to leave the party, they would have to start to act infirm and they'd have to put on powder to look increasingly pale and then like lie in one of the upstairs bedrooms and then it's like "She's gone!" They're only allowed to leave then.

VZ: Yeah, so it sounds again like that sound-proof nap room is gonna come in handy.

JA: Yeah, I'm glad that both of them...both of our parties have that.

[transition music]

VZ: Um, do you have anything in your *Twilight* diary?

JA: The party is described as a chic rave, and I was wondering if you knew what a chic rave was?

VZ: A chic rave...

JA: Chic rave.

VZ: Um, yes. It is a rave...where...the pacifiers that you have so you don't swallow your tongue after taking ecstasy is made of like crystal and diamonds.

JA: You think everyone has a crystal pacifier in their mouth as they're dancing at the club.

VZ: I think Alice hands those out and that's what makes it a "chic rave." [Julia laughs] Or, everyone is wearing a beret.

JA: Oh, that's a...yeah, and has a baguette over their shoulder. If someone gets too close when you're dancing, you just smack them with it.

VZ: [laughing] Do baguettes make you chic?

JA: Well, you said "beret," which is French.

VZ: Well...okay, but it's French fashion.

JA: [laughing] I would say a baguette is an accessory.

VZ: [laughing] I do not think of a baguette as an accessory, I think of it as "in my belly."

JA: Did you have anything in your *Twilight* diary?

VZ: I do, I just have a question for you. Alice asks Edward, "Should we play music that people like, or should we educate them with our...with music?" What would you put on an educational CD?

JA: So, I am going to give the entire discography of Mitski and then I'm also going to give the um, entire set of recordings of our podcast, *Hot and Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine* as they're very educational and she says that they are quote-unquote educational CDs and I think that everyone at that party could benefit from this very wise, educational content that we're producing.

VZ: Brilliant.

JA: Everyone cries at the party, and then everyone learns.

VZ: [laughing] Julia's idea for a party.

JA: What about you? What's on your CDs?

VZ: So, I want to educate on two levels: One, I want the content to educate, but I also want to educate on form. And the form that I think people need to learn more about is obviously musical theater, and so I've picked three songs from three iconic musicals that I think that everybody should know something about. First is from *Les Miserables*: "Do You Hear the People Sing?" which is about organizing, and I think that since this chapter is about forming an alliance, they could learn a lot and get really inspired about like, joining in arms together. Song two: "I'll Cover You," from *Rent*. It is the model of a good relationship, of two people really listening to each other and loving each other well and I think Bella could listen to it and be like, "I am not in a loving relationship," and get the fuck out of there. Three: "Satisfied" from *Hamilton*. I want Jacob to sing that song and realize that he will never be satisfied in terms with his relationship with Bella and just let go. She's with Eliza now, Eliza being Edward, and like, back the fuck up.

JA: I've never heard any of those songs. You'll have to get me to the party so that I'll listen to them 'cause I'm not gonna do it on my own time.

VZ: You're not gonna listen to them at the party, you'll go into the sound-proof nap room and be like, "What? Sorry, I can't hear?"

JA: "Sorry, could you put the Mitski back on? I'm sorry I'm not... understanding? Why are these people talking and then singing?"

VZ: How are we friends? What's Mitski?

JA: Oh no! Oh no!

VZ: I have no idea what that is.

JA: Oh no, Vanessa! I'll send you an article.

VZ: [laughing] Um, what are you putting in Bella's care package?

JA: I am putting in a saddle to put on Jacob so that Bella can ride into battle with him and also a backpack full of Soylent 'cause she hasn't eaten in like five chapters. What about you?

VZ: I'm getting her one of these surprise buzzer things that you wear on the palm of your hand so that whenever Jacob touches her, she can zap 'im.

JA: It could also have a like "that was easy button" where it's like "Personal Space!"

VZ: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah! Where's that foghorn? I just want that foghorn to get to her so she can be like "Personal space!"

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

VZ: I think I'm finally gonna get my training montage. They have to learn to work together in order to have successful alliance.

JA: Yeah, we got...we got a time and place, so it really could happen for you, finally.

VZ: I've been waiting! Ugh!

[end music]

VZ: This has been *Twilight in Quarantine*, a Super Sweet Sixteen from *Hot and Bothered*. This episode and all episodes are produced and edited by Ariana Nedelman. This show was conceived of as a beautiful vampire baby by Julia Argy and I'm Vanessa Zoltan and for the right amount, I will commentate your party. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACAST. Thanks everyone!