

HOT AND BOTHERED: TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

ECLIPSE CHAPTER 4: NATURE

VANESSA: Chapter 4: Nature. "I knew that essentially nothing had changed. Okay, so Victoria had not given up. [theme music starts] But had I ever dreamed for one moment that she had. Her reappearance had only confirmed what I had already known. No reason for fresh panic, in theory." I'm Vanessa Zoltan--

JULIA: And I'm Julia Argy.

VANESSA: And this is Twilight in Quarantine from Hot and Bothered. [theme music continues]

[theme music fades out]

VANESSA: So Julia, you really vibed with the chapter title last week. Did you vibe with the chapter title this week?

JULIA: I mean, I'm open to it. I just think I understood it less. Like I like to feel smart and I was like "motives" yeah, Edward has them, Bella has them. And then this one was like "nature" and I was like, they go to the beach that's -- nature but I'm not sure what it means in terms about human nature or werewolf nature.

VANESSA: Well Jacob is arguing that it's natural to be a werewolf and it's unnatural to be a vampire. And Bella's arguing that it's natural to not shave your legs.

JULIA: I think I missed that paragraph but that's an interesting idea.

VANESSA: Mhmm. She was like, "ooh I'm au natural."

JULIA: [laughs] Yeah, there are many implications through this. So it's a little less clear to me but thought provoking as always.

VANESSA: OK, it's time for our 30 second recap Julia. It is your turn to go first.

JULIA: Great, count me in.

VANESSA: On your mark, get set, go!

[timer starts ticking]

JULIA: So, Bella, Edward is hunting. He's going to bag a couple mountain lions for her. She goes to work, she's quitting. Um -- she then doesn't need to be at work. She goes to La Push because it's 15 minutes away and Alice can't get her. Um, Jacob is there, they're so excited to see each other. They go to the beach, he's like, "Why did you get back with him?" and she's like, "Cause I love him," and he's like, "Like he's dead," and kind of the same old same old argument. And I then think he cries at the end. And [timer buzzes] that's it.

VANESSA: [scoffs] You're a star Argy.

JULIA: I didn't really think that that was that good so I appreciate the compliment.

VANESSA: Even your not good is the rest of the world's superb.

JULIA: OK, would you like to go?

VANESSA: I would. Will you time me?

JULIA: Yes.

VANESSA: Kay.

JULIA: 3, 2, 1, go.

[timer starts ticking]

VANESSA: So, Bella eats her Cheerios one Cheerio at a time because time goes so slowly when Edward is gone. And then she goes to work and she can't work and what is she gonna do with her day? [gasps] She's gonna escape to visit Jacob! He hugs her so much she can't breathe. Billy is like, "What's up Bella?" And Jacob and she have this whole fight and she tells Jacob what happened last summer and that Edward actually left for her own good and Jacob is like, "If he didn't come back we would be together." [timer buzzes]

VANESSA: Um, breaking news. Doo doo doo! My breaking news is that Jacob hugs

too hard.

JULIA: You mean you don't knock the wind out of people when you hug them?

VANESSA: No, and I just think it's deeply ironic because in theory the reason that he's so mad at Edward is because Edward's nature is dangerous to Bella's life and like Edward's love is gonna kill her. And like what an interesting metaphor that Jacob's love takes the air out of Bella's lungs. Like his love is also oppressive.

JULIA: Yeah, I can't believe in our recap we didn't touch on Jacob's elaborate eagle eating a fish metaphor and that the fish doesn't kiss the eagle back.

VANESSA: And then Bella calling eagles hot--

JULIA: Yeah.

VANESSA: --she's like, "Well I would get it if the fish did cause eagles are hot." I was like, "hmm, OK."

JULIA: Budding ornithologist.

VANESSA: Eagles are not my favorite bird so...

JULIA: OK, controversial take.

VANESSA: I think owls are way hotter. My other piece of breaking news is me sharing a truth about myself. Carlisle at one point is like, "We should stick to the plan Bella." I am so unclear as to what the plan is. What's the plan?

JULIA: Oh, let me refresh your memory. So, Carlisle is gonna change Bella after high school graduation--

VANESSA: OK

JULIA: --and that's why Bella is quitting her job at Newton's' because she's gonna be a vampire and can no longer be working at an outdoor store.

VANESSA: So Carlisle just isn't aware of like, the side deal that Edward

and Bella have.

JULIA: Bella hasn't agreed to that plan and she's agreed to this one. He might be, I'm sure he's aware of it.

VANESSA: So you think that Carlisle might be the one male character in this entire series that cares about consent?

JULIA: I wouldn't put it past him. I mean except for like changing all of the Cullens, you know, into vampires.

VANESSA: Yeah, maybe he's grown since he did the most recent change?

JULIA: Yeah, Bella is certainly consenting to being turned into a vampire.

VANESSA: Yeah, ooooooh yeah. She should be the poster child for enthusiastic consent. What would the poster look like, do you think?

JULIA: I think it would be her like every morning in front of a mirror like drawing two red dots on her neck--

VANESSA: Got it. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JULIA: --and it would be like "Bite Me!"

VANESSA: [giggles] "Bite Me Please!"

JULIA: Yeah.

VANESSA: OK, I'm so excited. Our graphic design future is like right in front of us. Um, what breaking news do you have?

JULIA: Bella and Jacob have their own tree?? I've never had a tree with anyone! It's leading me to believe that Team Jacob is being resuscitated.

VANESSA: After this chapter, I'm still not ready for Team Jacob to be resuscitated. A tree is not enough.

JULIA: What, what would it take for you?

VANESSA: A forest!

JULIA: A literal forest? Or like a metaphorical forest.

VANESSA: I want him to like, plant a forest for her. I'm very upset about what's going on in Brazil and so if Jacob were to save a forest, I would be Team Jacob again.

JULIA: OK, has little to nothing to do with the actual harms he's caused Bella and more having to do with your own concerns about the state of the world.

VANESSA: Correct, I want him to solve climate change.

JULIA: Tall task, but I'm sure he's' up to it.

VANESSA: He's a tall man.

JULIA: True.

[music plays]

VANESSA: Um, did you have any moments of genuine enjoyment?

JULIA: Yeah, I loved the start of the chapter about Bella complaining about having a bad week because I'm also having a bad week and it was really nice to see myself represented on the pages. We're having bad weeks for different reasons. My vampire stalker hasn't come back to town, school is just starting and it's a bummer.

VANESSA: It's a total bummer.

JULIA: Like Bella I always knew it was gonna happen, but once it's here I'm still upset about it. Did you have any moments of genuine enjoyment?

VANESSA: I. LOVE. THE CAR CHASE. Let me explain my definition. Bella is trying to escape Forks and she's like, "I only have 15 minutes to cross the treaty line." And it was the best action sequence of Twilight so far. You're like, "Is she gonna make it across the line? Her truck can only go 55 miles an hour. 15 miles and 50 miles an hour." And I was like, doing math like it was an SAT question and I just loved it, I

loved it. And then Bella escaped, she got there. She got, crossed the treaty line, she got to see Jacob, so happy for her.

JULIA: Yeah, we've been wanting for her to go visit for a long time so I'm glad it finally happened.

VANESSA: I also genuinely enjoyed the metaphor of the magnets.

JULIA: Parse that out for me cause I wasn't sure who was what magnet.

VANESSA: Sure, so Bella's like worried about what she's gonna do with her day, she doesn't want to show up at work at Newton's too quickly, so she starts playing with the magnets on her refrigerator. And she really wants the magnets to be attracted to each other BUT they have like, negative forces so she can't push them together. And I think that this is a chapter about her and Jacob, it's a metaphor for her's and Jacob's relationship. How she like, wants to be close to him but like their lives have taken them on a path where they can't be close to each other.

JULIA: That's nice! I love that, sure!

VANESSA: And I genuinely enjoy good metaphor.

JULIA: I wonder if Bella will come to that conclusion soon. She and Jacob are just not meant to be.

VANESSA: Yeah, but she's still in the part of the metaphor where she's trying to force the two magnets together. So not yet, Julia.

JULIA: Like 3 chapters from now the magnets will be like flying on the floor and she'll be like, "Oh no."

VANESSA: Yeah, they're both just gonna fall off the freezer one day. OK, do you have any advice to offer today?

JULIA: Yeah, I have some advice for Karen Newton, who I think is a bad boss. Karen Newton is Mike's mom who runs the outdoor store. And she shows up to work all dolled up, she has her hair done, nails done, toes done, in high heels. Bella shows up to work and is forced to wear an orange fluorescent vest! I feel like if Karen can wear whatever she wants, Bella should be able to just wear her regular outfit with a name tag. You

know we don't hear Bella talking a lot about clothes anymore and that she has to wear an outfit, a uniform she doesn't like everytime she goes to work is a huge bummer.

VANESSA: Yeah, and I do think that bosses should have to do what they make their employees do. The other thing I'll say though is that I feel like Bella is shaming Karen for being like, ultra fem. And I'm not into that, like I love Karen's looks, she sounds great. Pedicure time is me time. Good job, Karen.

JULIA: I didn't like Karen that much, not for their outfit, but because she doesn't actually also seem good at communicating to her employees about when they need to be in work.

VANESSA: Absolutely! I think that Karen is a bad boss but I don't think that she is like a bad woman. Which I do feel like she is being shamed for wearing heels.

JULIA: Yeah, condone shoes of all kinds.

VANESSA: Yeah. I'm not here to judge shoes.

JULIA: That is not what this podcast is about. We only judge birds here.

VANESSA: [laughs]

JULIA: Do you have any advice?

VANESSA: I do! Um, I think that Edward should do a nicer proposal than an ultimatum. His proposal is basically like, "You want me to do you a favor? Then marry me." And so like it's more like a blackmail or ultimatum than a proposal. Proposals are supposed to be like, freely given and freely received, they're supposed to be deeply romantic. And Edward is really frustrated with Bella that she isn't saying yes to his proposal. And I'm like, "Do better!"

JULIA: I don't think Bella wants a nice proposal though. Like I'm not sure it would help either of them in their goals.

VANESSA: I guess I just think it should be a sincere proposal. I just think that they should have one romantic conversation about it, where he says, "Look, separate from whether or not I change you, I want to marry you. I love you, I want to spend my life trying to make you happy. I wanna buy you a private jet, I want us to get litters of kittens together. I'm not comfortable with you being a vampire until we're married and these

are all the reasons that I think we should get married.”

JULIA: I feel like if Edward actually gave a lovey dovey speech to Bella she would agree in approximately two seconds. There has never been a moment where Edward has made an honest romantic gesture and Bella has not melted to the floor.

VANESSA: Right! And so my advice is to Edward, if you actually want to marry her give a lovey dove speech. She'll say yes!

JULIA: Yeah, I think she's like a words of affirmation, she's not a gifts. She's not a gifts person.

VANESSA: Yeah, she is a words of affirmation and a physical touch person.

JULIA: If he made out with her for 30 seconds and then said, “Will you marry me?” she would say, “Yes.”--

VANESSA: Yes!

JULIA: --She loses her mind every time they kiss.

VANESSA: Yes! So, Edward make a romantic plea!

[music plays]

VANESSA: Julia, what other advice do you have?

JULIA: So, my second piece of advice is for Jacob. He's telling the story of how Victoria came back into town, they got into a fight and she's jumping across the treaty line, whatever whatever whatever. Bella keeps telling Jacob the names of the vampires so that he can better tell the story and Jacob keeps saying, “No, I don't care. I don't wanna know.” And this is clearly like a statement from his end that he hates vampires but I would like to advise him just for the efficacy of his storytelling, just say the names. It's just not as good when she's constantly interrupting him, it's bad for the flow, it's bad for coherence. Ultimately he needs to say their name and he can quickly do some kind of meditation reset and forget them. But for the max 7 minutes where he's telling the exciting adventure story, you gotta say the names.

VANESSA: Ugh, I love Julia's writing corner.

JULIA: I'm just workshopping their storytelling abilities.

VANESSA: It's my favorite thing that you do.

JULIA: I mean, pretty straight forward.

VANESSA: Yeah, Jacob. Like you are a servant of your story. The story is bigger than you.

JULIA: [giggles] Let it move through you.

VANESSA: Exactly. Ego has no place in storytelling.

JULIA: Wow. Do you have a second piece of advice?

VANESSA: So, as I've talked about alot. I do not think Alice actually has any power of note. Like I think Alice and I have the same amount of power. I can also vaguely tell what's going on with my friend sometimes because I am in constant conversation with my friends and I'm like, "Oh today might be a bad day for Julia because it's the first day of school! I'll check in with her!" And I could tell myself the story that I had a VISION of Julia having a bad day when really--I just know you. So we've established that, but my advice is for Esme and Carlisle, like they are like the presumptive parents of Alice. And I think that they need to sit her down and talk to her about the way in which that, she is special and worthy because of who she is and because she is worthy of love and it is time that we mature out of this lie. I think someone needs to break Alice's spirit.

JULIA: What do you think that they should do to like build it back up? You know you have to do like a compliment sandwich.

VANESSA: I would like to separate out those two things. I think they can give this as a compliment sandwich like, "Alice you know that you're so sweet and empathetic. You don't have a real power but you care about your family and that's what matters." But I don't think they need to build her back up. I think that she will learn to be a more resilient person if she learns to build back herself up.

JULIA: Tear 'em down, watch 'em figure it out.

VANESSA: I don't think they should like, be cruel to her, I think they should be honest with her. Like I'm not pro-tearing people down like, being like, "And you smell bad!" like that's not necessary. But like let's all get on the same page with re-al-i-ty [each syllable enunciated]. It would be like if I was my age and I was still trying to be a pop star. [Julia laughs]. Like I would really appreciate if you would pull me aside and was like, "Vanessa, I don't think this is gonna happen for you. Like you don't have a good singing voice, you [pauses]" I don't know what else would be wrong with me cause other than that I would be a great pop star but like--

JULIA: Yeah, maybe they could redirect her just towards her art regularly.

VANESSA: --right, I'm very pro-confronting-reality. And I think that she is not gonna come to this conclusion by herself. She has completely bought into, "I am a pop star, who has visions of the future." And it's like time that someone yanks her out of that dream.

JULIA: Wow. The harsh, harsh reality of the world. Best of luck to her.

[music plays]

VANESSA: OK Julia, it's time for Reality TV Corner. We've circled back around and it's time for The Bachelor again. DUN DUN! [Julia laughs]. Who do you wanna send on a Bachelor date?

JULIA: I would like to send Emmett and Jacob on a date. I'm really excited for them to get to know each other. We got a great line from Emmett in this chapter that reminded me a lot of Jacob. Bella is going to each of the Cullens and saying how upset she is about Victoria and they all dismiss her concerns. But Emmett just says, "I'm so glad you're around Bella, it's so much more fun now that you're here." And that kind of energy really reminds of early-New-Moon-Jacob before he turned into a werewolf and--

VANESSA: A misogynist?

JULIA: --[laughs] So I would like to send them to a "floor is lava" date. Where they like, have to go through an obstacle course together and it'll be like, "Bro let me catch you," "Bro I'll throw you over there," "Great job Bro." [laughs] It'll be so cute and they'll fall in love!

VANESSA: Oh my God. I'm voting for yours. [Julia laughs]. I love a floor is lava

date! Floor is lava is the best! It's a show that rewards cooperation!

JULIA: Just imagine them checking each other. They're both huge and super strong. I think it'd be really fun.

VANESSA: Yeah, it's also a show that rewards, like people getting up in each other's physical business and so I love it when it's an all bro, dude team and they just have to be like hugging and holding each other the whole time.

JULIA: Yeah, it's like, steamy, it's flirty. I think even if it's not a romantic connection at the end, like I will have loved to like, hear about what happened.

VANESSA: Uh, let's actually throw this to the judges. Nedelman, if I know I'm about to lose [Julia laughs] do I have to even try? OK, fine! I would like to send Bella and Jacob on one of the romantic getaways. I think like, let's give these kids a chance.

JULIA: It's gonna go horribly!

VANESSA: Well, this is Vanessa's harsh truth episode. [Julia laughs] Then Jacob will have to confront that fact. Like at the end of this chapter, Jacob is like, "If Edward didn't come back we would be together." And I'm like, "if Edward didn't come back you guys would've kissed." Like that is a fact. You guys were about to kiss and like Alice ruined it, but you guys would NOT be together. It would have already gone SO poorly. She would've realized she's not into you romantically, or something. OR Jacob, or not, like maybe you're right! Maybe that kiss would've been so overwhelming and like you were willing to actually make out with Bella, and Bella would realize that her love language is physical touch, and like you guys would just be all over each other. But I wanna give them the chance! So let's give 'em a helicopter, let's send them to the beach, let's give Bella a, you know, slinky bikini. Like really do it up and give this thing a CHANCE.

JULIA: OK, I do think it will crash and burn but if that is the ultimate of the date then I think you're right.

VANESSA: So again everybody go vote online. I mean just like go vote for Emmett and Jacob's, the floor is lava, but I do think I have a compelling argument here.

[music plays]

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

JULIA: I do! There was an extremely interesting theory that Bella threw out in this chapter. Right after the whole “eagle is hot” debacle, Jacob gets mad and, “Ugh, it's cause he's hotter than me?” and she's like, [in a dramatic voice] “I would love Edward even if he were ugly.” Vanessa, do you think that's true?

VANESSA: Sort of.

JULIA: Really!? Say more.

VANESSA: Like if Peter were to wake up tomorrow and look totally different and look like a version of himself that like I wouldn't have been attracted to early on, I think I would still be attracted to him.

JULIA: THAT is exactly my point! I think if Edward changed his appearance suddenly and he was no longer attractive physically to her she would still be into him. But if at day 1 of Forks High School, Edward was sitting in biology class looking like Tyler and then acted rude to her, Bella would've never given him the time of day.

VANESSA: I don't know, Bella just might be the, like falling for a pick up artist. Like maybe she likes negging.

JULIA: OK, so you think it was the personality that got her? She's just so obsessed with how he looks like it's hard to imagine that that is actually something that she believes since every time he's on the page she's like, “He's so hot that I can no longer breathe and my heart starts to have an arrhythmia.”

VANESSA: Yeah, he's the eagle of humans.

JULIA: Uhuh.

VANESSA: I do believe that Edward is objectively hot because Carlisle changed him and we know that Carlisle only changes hot people. But I don't know, I just think Bella and Edward really bond because they both love gemstones--

JULIA: Mmhmm.

VANESSA: --and I think that is at the heart of their love for each other. And like not his looks.

JULIA: Yeah, that transcends physicality.

VANESSA: Yeah. Like if someone were like, “Oh my god you also like opals?!” I’d be like, “[gasp] What?”

JULIA: [playing along] “Were so connected.”

VANESSA: “[gasp] You also like DeBussy?” [Julia laughs] “What?!”

JULIA: “You’ve Clare de Lune before? What?”

VANESSA: “Do you also like chocolate?”

JULIA: And then Edward would be like, “No. I don’t eat.”

VANESSA: [laughs] Yeah that’s true, it’s true. Yeah, I don’t know, I really don’t know. It’s such a good question Julia. I didn’t expect you to bring the really tough philosophical questions in today’s Twilight diary. But you’ve blown my mind.

JULIA: I’m happy to deliver. It was just such a bold claim that I was really not convinced of.

VANESSA: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

JULIA: Do you have anything in your Twilight diary?

VANESSA: I do! Rosalie and Victoria are the best warriors of the group. Rosalie is like, so fierce that Jacob is like, “Even I stan. Whoa.” And then like, Victoria is there like, evading everyone! I love how hot these women vampires are. Confidence. So cute.

JULIA: Do you think they’ll be a one on one face off?

VANESSA: I’d be into it.

JULIA: We can only hope.

VANESSA: Yeah, exactly. What do you wanna put in the Bella’s care package this week?

JULIA: So, I've touched on strategies for Bella to evade the Cullens' grasps in terms of being able to have free movement of her body which she currently doesn't now possess. And I've come up with a new strategy, based on her successful escape. So I would like Bella to carry around a coin, and right when she wants to go to La Push, she's 15 minutes away, she's at the border, right when she wants to go she flips the coin. Heads she goes, tails she doesn't. So that way every time the quote on quote "decision" is made she's already in the bounds of being able to get there. I will give her a quarter. 25 cents Bella, here you go.

VANESSA: So smart, I love this. I love strategy. And I love that you, this is a very cheap item for her care package.

JULIA: Totally. Totally.

VANESSA: And so we're saving some money in the budget this week which I appreciate.

JULIA: Exactly, do you have anything to put in her care package?

VANESSA: I wanna put in Bella's care package like a basic HR manual for her to give to Mrs. Newton. Because the real betrayal of Mrs. Newton is that Bella shows up for work and she's like, "Oh I should've called you, we don't need you today." And that is SO disrespectful to someone's time. Like you are a horrible boss if someone shows up at work and you're telling them that you don't need them. AND Mrs. Newton lies to a woman saying that she can leave flyers there and then she's just gonna trash the flyers. Which I think is, like a bad thing to do but also looks really bad in front of your employees that you like, don't respect your word or your promises. Like, she needs a lot of management advice so I'm, I'm gonna give Bella a management book to like drop in Mrs. Newton's like, cubby at the office.

JULIA: I thought Bella was gonna have to read it and be like, "Um, Karen, please distribute those flyers." But, it makes sense to just pass it along directly.

VANESSA: Yeah, I just want like, a passive aggressive like, "Oh! I've heard that book is really good!"

JULIA: [laughs] Yeah, that's a good strategy.

VANESSA: Yeah.

JULIA: What do you think happens next chapter?

VANESSA: Well, I think that Edward is gonna be real mad at Bella for going to visit Jacob and that, I don't know, Edward and Bella should have a conversation based in honesty and communication about how she wants to be friends with Jacob and that should be totally fine. But instead she and Edward will like, only say half sentences, and like, grunt at each other, and then kiss, and then talk about gemstones. So, I think what should happen in the next chapter is like a frank conversation about expectations of people who are in relationships but still have friendships with other people, but I don't think it's gonna happen.

JULIA: Wow. I think this could be your most accurate guess yet.

[end theme plays]

VANESSA: This is Twilight in Quarantine, a romantic proposal from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are produced and edited by Ariana Nedelman, and this show was conceived of as a vampire baby by the amazing Julia Argy, and I'm Vanessa Zoltan and I would choose to wear a hot orange vest. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACAST.