

Twilight in Quarantine

J: Chapter 12: Balancing.

"Billy!" Charlie called as soon as he got out of the car. I turned toward the house, beckoning to Jacob as I ducked under the porch. I heard Charlie greeting them loudly behind me. "I'm going to pretend I didn't see you behind the wheel, Jake," he said disapprovingly.

I'm Julia Argy.

V: And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

J: And this is Hot and Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine.

[Music break]

V: Okay wait, can I talk about my favourite part in this chapter?

J: No, we have to do a 30 second recap.

V: Ok, time me, time me, I'm ready.

J: Okay: three, two, one, go.

V: So they have lunch, they- Edward is like, "I'm gonna pick you up tomorrow." Bella lies to everyone. Edward goes to hunt in a park which I think means that he eats raccoons? I don't know, it was very upsetting. Um, she meets Alice, she seems nice. Edward steals her car- Bella's car, but like in a way that she likes, and they go on their first date, and thank god, they're wearing matching outfits. And they're walking through the woods [buzzer] and then something happens, the chapter ends.

J: Wow, way over.

V: I'm sorry.

J: It was long but-

V: Okay well you show me how it's done in the right amount of time. On your mark, get set, go.

J: Uhh, they go to lunch, they have drama at lunch. He skips class, classic Edward. Mike invites Bella to the dance again, insisting they all dance with her which was gross and then she says something about laundry incessantly, and then oh! Earlier Billy and Jacob came over and it seemed cool and then they go on a hike and he is partially shirtless, it's embarrassing.

V: Oh my god that's my favourite part! Let's just jump right in because oh my god, he's so not wearing a sleeveless shirt with buttons. What is a sleeveless button-up shirt?!

J: And it has a collar?!

V: Yes! He's wearing a collared sleeveless button-up shirt. I've never seen this in real life.

J: I feel like male strippers could wear those sometimes. Like I think that's part of their look

V: Right? Maybe since he doesn't sleep he makes some extra cash stripping.

J: That's why he's so shady about what he does at night.

V: Okay, solved. What was your favourite part of this chapter?

J: So I was really interested in the moment where Jacob says that Charlie and Billy regularly get into fights about whether Carlisle is nice or not and that doesn't seem, really, like a regular topic of conversation between a friend pairing? Like, whether or not you like the local doctor...?

[V laughs]

And then we hear Charlie constantly raving about Carlisle and he acts so smitten with him in the hospital when Bella is maybe concussed. I'm wondering if he has some unrequited feelings toward Carlisle. I really enjoyed that.

V: Well I would be really into that except I am not under the impression that they fight about this a lot. I am under the impression that they fought about it once. Because men don't resolve their issues. They have one fight, they don't talk for a while, and then they play baseball.

J: I think it's regular. I think it's like how people sometimes talk about celebrities, y'know. It's like you're being like, "I love Hugh Jackman," I'm like, "Oh God." And you have a crush on Hugh Jackman and you're the Charlie figure.

V: I mean, maybe. I just don't feel like my having a crush on Hugh Jackman is a major source of tension in our lives.

J: That's why the crush must be extra severe-

V: Got it

J: For Charlie and Billy to be constantly talking about it.

V: Maybe he's like really ashamed about his queerness and that's why he has those photos up of his super hetero marriage that he had.

J: Well, I mean anything is possible in these books, that's what I've learned.

V: Not *anything*. Like, not a *sleeveless button-up collared shirt*. Oh wait, oh wait, even that is possible.

[Music break]

V: So that leads me into my first piece of advice. Bella, it turns out that you and Edward match. Great look for any couple. Lean into it! This is an opportunity to go full on! We talked last week about how I want you to have a leather backpack to match his leather jacket, you guys are out today, maybe go shopping. You and I match sometimes and we love it.

J: It's very invigorating.

V: Yeah.

J: It's like the Power Rangers.

V: Yeah, they should go full Power Ranger.

J: Do you think that Bella said her favourite colour was brown because Edward wears so much beige?

V: [Gasp] Probably. And why isn't she wearing all of her favourite gemstones?

J: Like, creepy little topazes to match his eyes?

V: Yeah. Okay so what's your first piece of advice?

J: So I, in this chapter, was reminded about all the times I felt like I walked in on, in public, people breaking up. This happened multiple times in college where I'd walk into a dining hall and some girl would be crying at a table and the guy would be like, "Yeah, it's true." And Edward and Bella are always having the most intimate conversations in public, and he is fully emoting at one point. He throws his head into his hands and starts to be ashamed of himself and Bella wants to touch him and Rosalie stares at them, being grossed out. I was like, "Yeah I'm grossed out too." Stop having all these private conversations in a public place. It's horrifying for the rest of people who just want to eat their tuna sandwiches at lunch in peace.

V: Do we really want Edward to take Bella away from the lunch room though? It's where the food is and this girl has a hard enough time getting food into her mouth. We see in this chapter she does take a bite of bagel successfully.

J: Okay, I mean, just think about the other people. It's horrible for them.

V: I don't disagree with the thrust of your argument, I just disagree with the particulars. I agree, private conversations should happen in private.

J: They should get a little tent and pitch it in the middle of the lunch room and then fight in there.

V: Yeah, that would be discrete.

J: At least no one would have to watch.

V: I mean, especially if it's beige, no one would notice.

J: Um, what is your second piece of advice?

V: Well, I guess it's to Bella but it's to really anyone who's listening. Your life should never be about one person. She says that she feels like her life in Forks is all about him, and I just think, as soon as you notice in yourself, that your life has become too much about one person, it's really time to pick up knitting.

J: I was also very disturbed by the line where she's said that her life when she moved to Forks was all about Edward. But you're just saying that you want her life to also be about a new skein of yarn? That doesn't seem that good.

V: Yeah, I think that that is a step in the right direction.

J: Hmm.

V: I think that then she'll be really into patterns, and like colours. She'll probably want to study some colour theory, maybe she'll start going to her local yarn shop, and those always have funny names like "The Happy Hooker." I don't think that she should stop at knitting, but I think she needs to make her life in Forks about other things.

J: She also has been complaining about her wardrobe for a long time so she could knit herself some pieces to help cope with the weather.

V: Exactly, some like, chunky sweaters.

J: Escapable knit jeans. Elastic waist.

V: Oh my god, it would solve so many problems. So yeah, don't be so obsessed with Edward, get some hobbies, start knitting. That's my advice. What about you, what is your next piece of advice for a character in this chapter?

J: My advice is for Edward. We hear Bella talk about her laundry 300 times in this chapter. She needs to do it, she might die doing it, her keys are hidden in her pile of laundry, and then Edward skedaddles over to her house to go get the key and drive over her truck. He should do her laundry.

V: Oh that's true.

J: He's so fast. He could do her laundry so easily. He could fold it fast, he could put it away. And instead she's just left to do it herself? Like what is the point of a vampire boyfriend if he's not going to do your laundry?

V: I don't disagree with you on that, that's really good advice.

J: Thank you.

V: Acts of service. Although maybe he's not doing it because he knows that she still needs things to do. Like, she's just gonna be sitting around obsessing about him more.

J: I mean, Edward, apparently, is really good at doing stuff. He could get her books from Seattle. Like he could provide for her in ways he's currently not providing and she wouldn't have to do laundry.

V: He could at least get her some audio books because she complains that laundry is only a physical thing and her mind is still wandering. And I'm like, "Ugh Bella I want to recommend a podcast to you, but this book takes place in 1912 and so you don't have podcasts, but you seem to have a discman. Edward should get her some books on CD.

J: Yeah, I agree with myself.

[Music break]

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

V: It really stressed me out that she didn't really know where her truck keys were, That they were like in some jeans pocket somewhere, and so I would like to get her a hook for by the door to hang up her keys. She should hang up her keys as soon as she gets home, like a human. This is just terrible. So I wanna get her a cute hook to have by her door.

J: Vanessa I just realised in our whole conversation and both our recaps, we forgot to mention that Bella does drugs!

V: Oh my god! Yes! Bella does cold medicine.

J: She does it so hard.

V: She does it unnecessarily. Not a sniffle in the chapter.

J: Mm-hmm.

V: The weirdest thing about her doing the cold medicine is that then she describes a very robust relaxation technique.

J: I know!

V: And then she says, "The cold medicine kicked in." Like how do you know? It could just be that your meditation worked.

J: I was gonna tell her, for my care package, to figure out how to make yourself fall asleep without drugging yourself, and then she proceeded to do all the things I would have said to her.

V: Yeah.

J: She's really undermining my kind efforts over here.

V: Well maybe what you should send her are placebos.

J: Mm. Fake cold medicine. Yeah that's a good idea, that's what I'll do. Um, what do you think is gonna happen next chapter?

V: Well something big better happen because the way this chapter ends is like almost mid-sentence. It ends, "Edward seemed to take a deep breath and then he stepped out into the bright glow of the mid-day sun." End of chapter. I'm guessing he gets attacked by the mama bear of one of the cubs that Emmet killed.

J: That would be awesome.

V: But he's able to get away because of your wonderful advice.

J: They'd run back down the hill, go back to the car, speed away in the Volvo

V: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a button-up collared white shirt from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are executive produced by Ariana Nedelman and produced by Ariana Martinez. The show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy, and I'm Vanessa Zoltan, and we're not sure what I do. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by Acast.