

Twilight in Quarantine: Carlisle

Julia: Chapter 16, Carlisle. "He led me back to the room that he'd pointed out as Carlisle's office. He paused outside the door for an instant. 'Come in', Carlisle's voice invited. Edward opened the door to a high ceilinged room with tall, west-facing windows."

Julia: I'm Julia Argy.

Vanessa: And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

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

Vanessa: I love that we just start this chapter on a realtor shore.

Julia: I know!

Vanessa: To a high ceiling room with tall west-facing windows. The walls are paneled again but in a darker wood. I was like "ooh Bella, uh-huh uh-huh, and how much is it again?" [*Julia giggles*] I already sort of started by just like reading to everyone, but maybe I should actually recap the chapter.

Julia: Please do.

Vanessa: Okay, count me in.

Julia: Three, two, one, go!

Vanessa: So he tells her the story of Carlisle swimming the canal, being alive right before the London fire, I don't know, all of that. And then he like tackles her and holds her really tightly, and then Alice comes in and is like "she smells great". And then they say that they wanna play a baseball game, and maybe Edward is actually young because he shows her his room. [*Julia laughs as the buzzer goes off*] Which I feel like is something you sort of stop doing at 14.

Vanessa: Okay, good luck! Because I think I stole all of the big parts.

Julia: I mean nothing happened, you could've sat in silence and it would've been fine.

Vanessa: On your mark, get set, go!

Julia: They go into Carlisle's office. He's there. He leaves to go to work. They look at the art on his walls. Carlisle is in an old painting with a lot of even older vampires.

And he decides that he's gonna be a good vampire and eat a deer, because he was living at night, all by himself. And then Edward says "I didn't do that, I ate people who murdered other people because I'm a good person, but then I don't believe in the death penalty and I stopped doing it". And then... she sits on his lap and they do that [*buzzer goes off*] in front of his siblings.

Vanessa: Okay, you actually mentioned in your 30 second recap one of the things I loved about this chapter.

Julia: Please share.

Vanessa: I love vigilante Edward. Like imagine you think that you're gonna get raped and murdered, and then this man jumps out and like... sucks the blood out of the guy, who thought he was gonna kill you. That would sort of be awesome.

Julia: That was such a weird moment when Bella was thinking about that, and then said "I wonder what it was like for that girl". It was like, Bella, you *were* that girl. He *did* save you from being murdered. Why are you so confused about what it would be like? That happened.

Vanessa: Well, she's wondering what it would be like to then watch him *murder* someone.

Julia: *Eat* them. Ohh.

Vanessa: But I think it would be awesome. If somebody was like, trying to rape me, and then this other guy came and like killed him, I'd be like *score!* See ya.

Julia: You wouldn't say see ya, you'd say "ooh let's go on a date, eat some ravioli!" [*Vanessa chuckles*] I mean just imagine Edward's moral compass where he's anti-death penalty and a creationist. [*Vanessa chuckles again*] He's on all sides of the political spectrum at once.

Vanessa: A true libertarian.

Julia: [*laughs*] Edward is such a libertarian!

Vanessa: He is. He's like, "I don't need roads, or hospitals". Do you know what? Maybe all libertarians are vampires! That political stance sort of makes sense if you're a vampire. You don't need health care. Next time somebody's like "I'm a libertarian", I'm gonna look for all signs that they're a vampire. *And* I think most libertarians are very pale.

Julia: Yeah. Probably a vampire.

Vanessa: Anyway, what did you like in this chapter?

Julia: I had the kind of realization that I think starts... cults. Like I think that this level of understanding of the universe is how the Illuminati got started. So, okay... Robert Pattinson plays Edward Cullen in the movie. And Edward Cullen turns to vigilante justice. And Batman also turns to vigilante justice. And Robert Pattinson was just cast, as Batman in the latest movie. I'm not sure exactly what it means on a larger picture, but I know... it's some kind of cosmic sign.

Vanessa: Yeah yeah yeah. So I have a question. Now that you are a cult leader, what is your eccentricity gonna be? I feel like all cult leaders have a really famous eccentricity, like they always wear aviator glasses, or they drink like a 12-pack of Coke a day. Like what's yours gonna be?

Julia: I'm gonna get a toddler backpack and put a half cut-out of Robert Pattinson's body into the back of it and just walk around with that. [*Julia gasps*] And he turns into a flock of bats!!! And Batman!

Vanessa: Oh my *GOD!!!*

Julia: It really is all connected!

Vanessa: Woaah! Oh my god.

Julia: Something's going on, everyone.

Julia: Do you have some advice for someone in this chapter?

Vanessa: I do. Edward gets mad at Bella when she asks questions, and like, he's telling her a bonkers story, and forbids her from asking questions. But I really think it's important that Edward let Bella ask follow-up questions.

Julia: You don't think there's ever a reason to say "dear class, please save your questions until the end"?

Vanessa: Yes. If you're a 100% sure you're gonna answer all their questions in the process of your lecture, because you've given this lecture so many times that you can anticipate all of their questions. But this is Edward's first time doing this. I just think he should *encourage* questions.

Julia: I mean, they clearly haven't mastered a conversation yet.

Vanessa: Yeah.

Julia: They're still into monologues.

Vanessa: Is he like "uh, questions were in chapter 8". [*Julia giggles*] I guess maybe that they know each other's favorite gemstones, they feel like there's nothing left to know about each other.

Julia: That's gonna last them a really long time in their eternal relationship.

Vanessa: Yeah.

Julia: For sure.

Vanessa: What about you, Julia?

Julia: I have advice about a really weird moment at the end of the chapter, and... I wonder if you noticed it. They're talking about a storm coming for them to play baseball, and Edward says "we have to wait for thunder to play ball, you'll see why". Bella says "will I need an umbrella?", then Jasper, Alice and Edward are all there, and they all three laughed out loud. Why did they laugh? And that is such a reasonable question! My advice is, if someone asks you a reasonable packing question, just answer it and don't laugh in their face! You said there is a storm coming!

Vanessa: I feel like you and I are giving the same advice. Encourage questions!

Julia: Yeah! I... I don't know why they laughed in her face!

Vanessa: They're so mean.

Julia: That was totally reasonable!

Vanessa: The only thing I can think is that, once you've been alive for a while, kicks are few and far between, so like laugh when you can.

Julia: Live, laugh, love.

Vanessa: Yeah.

Julia: Die, laugh, love.

Vanessa: [*laughs*] Yeah, I also thought that that was mean, and I also think that Bella's learning a really bad question of no question asking.

Julia: Bella can only google. No oral question asking.

Vanessa: Only Netscape searches.

Julia: Do you have a second piece of advice for someone?

Vanessa: Yeah, my advice is that... Edward should try to stop physically restrain Bella. I think that physically stopping someone is like the laziest way to try and convince someone of something. You know how like your mom will say to you, "I don't hate swearwords, I just think it's just really lazy fucking language"? And I think that physically restraining some is similarly lazy. Like if you can't seduce Bella, or convince her with your words or actions, that she should stay, you should ask yourself "how do I make this argument more compelling, so I don't have to resort to physically overpowering her?"

Julia: Is this when he tackles her?

Vanessa: Yeah. This is when he tackles her on the couch and she says "let go", and instead he just like... restrains her sexy. And I'm like, she said let go. She didn't say "but now do it sexy".

Julia: And the version of him doing it sexy is putting her on his lap for his brother and sister to see, and have a conversation.

Vanessa: No, there's like two phases of it. First he holds her sexy private, and then he hold her sexy for friends. [*Both of them laugh*] But that's fine, you know I tried making the consent argument to Edward before and it didn't work, and so now I'm just trying to appeal to his ego and be like, if you have to physically restrain her, all it means is that you're bigger and stronger, it does not mean you're better, smarter, wiser, anything that actually matters.

Julia: You're gonna have to give advice to Edward by being like, "only simpletons like Jessica use physical restraint."

Vanessa: Exactly. That's what I'm trying to do. It's what I'm trying to do right now. What is your next piece of advice, Julia?

Julia: Well, there's been a tragic escalation from winking to growling.

Vanessa: Well, there was winking in this chapter. Edward winks at Bella behind Carlisle or something.

Julia: Yeah. Oh my gosh, that's so true. Okay – there has been a tragic addition to the winking, which is sexy growling.

Vanessa: Here's the thing. I don't want us to start saying what's sexy and what's not sexy. Like, these things aren't sexy to *us*. I am sure that some people really like to growl, like some people like that.

Julia: Yeah. They do... play together... in this chapter. It's like, you're not scary to me, and then he's like *ROAAAR* and jumps on her? I don't know. It was really weird.

Vanessa: Well, what was also weird about that is that he was actually scary in that moment, so that he like, literally scared her. So I was like, you don't understand what play is.

Julia: Yeah. That whole scene which you referred to with the physical restraint is very troubling, but it started being troubling to me with the growl.

Julia: I had one more piece of advice, from this chapter where Carlisle talks about how lonely he is roaming the Earth as a lonely vegetarian, and he decides to... convert? Transform? Change? He decides to convert Edward to vampirism. And Edward is a 17 year old boy, and I don't know why this adult man wants to chill with a 17 year old boy for eternity.

Vanessa: Oh. That might be why Edward got in his head, to chill with a 17 year old girl for eternity. This is like, bad modeling, that Carlisle did. He was like "when you're looking for a life-long mate, 17 year old children are *great*, especially when you're over 100 years old."

Julia: Isn't he 400 at the time?

Vanessa: Which is – Julia, correct me if I'm wrong – over 100.

Julia: Yeah, no, it was just shocking.

Vanessa: Who would you choose to be your life-long partner? Like you can't interview them for the job, right? Like you have to just stereotype.

Julia: I would like full brain development. So over 26.

Vanessa: So you're saying *I'm* your ideal candidate?

Julia: Maaaybeeee. Wow.

Vanessa: Now sadly you're not mine, because you're not over 26.

Julia: Well, I just have to wait. I could be, one day. Vanessa, who would your vampire soulmate be?

Vanessa: Hugh Jackman.

Julia: What are his qualifications?

Vanessa: Well, he's had a lot of practice being Wolverine.

Julia: He's not a vampire.

Vanessa: No, but I feel like he sat through being like, half-monster, and like all the implications, and how to be a good half-monster because he's a very thorough actor. And... also, most importantly, he can sing and dance. And so whenever I was bored during eternity, I'd be like "Hugh, can you play us Do Bring Him Home from Les Mis?", and he just would.

Julia: Dance, monkey! DANCE! [*Vanessa laughs*] Dance your dance!

Vanessa: He'd be my companion.

Julia: So it's not through a sexy reason. You want him to be your companion?

Vanessa: No, it's also because he's the sexiest man alive. I also think something else I love about Hugh Jackman is how much he loves his dogs. I think he would allow me to turn Rory into a vampire dog.

Julia: I would be worried that you wouldn't be able to explain to Rory to not feast on... other being's flesh.

Vanessa: Interesting, yes. But I would! Because as a vampire, my superpower would be that I could communicate complicated things to animals.

Julia: Mmm.

Vanessa: So I think I could!

Julia: Wow.

Vanessa: Oh my god, me, Rory and Hugh Jackman forever. We would take care of Peter's mortal body until he died, and then we would wish him well. And go have thousands of years together.

Julia: Every vampire family now sounds like a cult. You're like "we will take care of his mortal body in our cult!" What would your holy leader eccentricity be?

Vanessa: Oooh, you know what I would do? I would make people play an awesome song whenever I entered a room. [*Vanessa starts singing] Someday somebody's gonna make you wanna turn around and say goodbyeeee! and I walk in.

Julia: I can imagine you being like "no, not that one!" and then leave the room and be like "do it again!" [*Both of them laugh*]

Vanessa: Totally. I would go out and say like "everybody EVERYBODY pretend like this is the first time! That didn't happen! Erase it from your mind! ERASE IT!" *And* my audience would be filled with animals who understood what I was saying.

Julia: [*is laughing*] So you're... so your dream is to be a musical theatre performer for a pack of miniature poodles?

Vanessa: *No*, I think you've bastardized my dream! My dream is to be a vampiric cult leader, with Hugh Jackman, and every once in a while we *happen* to perform for a really wide audience. The animals are part of that audience. Why are you making my dream sound silly?

Julia: I don't... I have no idea. That sounded really reasonable to me.

Vanessa: Yeah! God.

Vanessa: Okay, what do you wanna put in Bella's care package?

Julia: Oh! I had a great idea this week. We hear in this chapter that, I don't know, Edward tickles her or whatever, and then Carlisle now can hear her heartrate increase, so I'm gonna send her a dog whistle that she can blow on to kind of disguise the sound of her heart racing.

Vanessa: Yeah, yeah.

Julia: The vampires will NOT be able to hear her bodily reactions whenever she's like getting turned on.

Vanessa: [*giggles*] So it's a *vampire* whistle?

Julia: Yeaah, I would think that those aren't for sale though.

Vanessa: If you really cared about Bella, you would put it in production.

Julia: What are you gonna put into Bella's care package?

Vanessa: I have two things. So now that we have all these ways to like, ship people's beds, I would like to ship a bed for Bella but to the Cullen mansion. Edward doesn't have a bed, but Bella might wanna nap while she's over, and like a leather couch is not a comfortable place to nap. Your like, legs stick to it, and... ugh. So imma send a nice comfy bed, and nice sheets, and like a nice warm quilt, and also Edward, I think it's weird that you don't have a bed. Because beds aren't just for sleeping. They are also for dot, dot, dot, and also just for like... laying around and reading. Like, bed is my favorite piece of furniture. So, I would like to get them a bed. And then I also wanna get some sort of shock collar for Edward, so that every time she repeats let go, like if she has to say let go more than once he gets zapped.

Julia: A dog whistle... and a dog collar.

Vanessa: [*giggles*] And a bed.

Julia: I wonder what they're gonna get up to. [*Vanessa laughs*] What do you think is gonna happen next chapter?

Vanessa: Well, they tell us, right? They're like we're gonna play a baseball game, Bella you're invited, ha ha ha no you don't need an umbrella. So it's obviously a baseball game, but it's also obviously a baseball game with a twist. And so I was trying to think what I think the twist is, like maybe Bella is the ball. Like, they're really strong, or like...

Julia: They hit her with a bat?!

Vanessa: Well, not with a bat, but with like a tree trunk.

Julia: That's called murder!

Vanessa: [*laughs*] Well, I don't know, dude. It's baseball with a twist, and I don't know what else the twist could be. What a –

Julia: Naked baseball!

Vanessa: Naked baseball. Great. Oh, and that's why she didn't need an umbrella, because everyone knows that you look silly naked but with an umbrella.

Vanessa: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a dog supply catalogue from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are executively produced by Ariana Nedelman and produced by Ariana Martinez. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy, and I'm Vanessa Zoltan, and I love my vampire whistle.

We are a production of Not Sorry Productions, and we're distributed by ACAST. Bye everyone! Talk to you in a few days!