

Chapter 11 – Complications

V: Chapter 11; Complications. Everyone watched us as we walked together to our lab table. I noticed that he no longer angled the chair to sit as far from me as the desk would allow. Instead, he sat quite close beside me, our arms almost touching. I'm Vanessa Zoltan-

J: - and I'm Julia Argy.

V: And this is *Hot and Bothered – Twilight in Quarantine*. Julia, a couple of silly items before we get into the serious business of recapping this chapter. One, a huge thank you to everyone who's written iTunes reviews. I love them so much. Yes, we are hilarious, thank you for noticing.

J: To the people who said 'Team Charlie, but only in the movies' and 'Team Edward and Jacob are in love', you all are all living in 3020, not 2020 like the rest of us. Totally appreciate those takes.

V: And, also, we have a little announcement, which is that we are adding a perk on our *patreon*. Now, if you think we're silly in the episodes, imagine how silly what ends up on the cutting room floor is. So, we are going to add a blooper-reel a week for the two Dollar tier on *patreon*. So, for just two dollars a month, you get an amazing blooper-reel every week of Julia's and my truly hilarious comments, the ones that Nedelman and Martinez think are, like, too funny for the public airways. We have to put this behind the paywall.

V: Okay, now that we're done with that nonsense, should we get down to the serious business of recapping?

J: Please do!

V: Okay, count me in?

J: Three ... Two ... One ...Go!

V: So, Bella gets to ask Edward a lot of questions and then she goes to gym class and Mike is really annoying. Oh, they go to science class and there's, like, physical electricity between the two of them. I think we could solve the energy crisis with the sexual tension that is between the two of them. No more oil needed. Ehm, and then Edward gets to ask her questions and then they go home and they park in the driveway and Jacob and Billy Black [biiep] are there and they know that Edward is a vampire. That is literally everything that happens in the chapter but it is the longest chapter in the history of the world. Best of luck. On your mark ... get set ... go!

J: They go to school together and they go to science class and they get really horny during it. They kind of freak out and it ends. She goes to gym and then they play badminton but Mike, I think, wins three out of four games. He's an absolute legend on the badminton court.

Honestly, same day, same thing, gets picked up, go to science, they want to have sex. Mike still rocks the badminton and then Jack Black comes and that's a problem [biiep] cause they are werewolves and he's a vampire.

V: Did you mean 'different day, same thing'?

J: Yeah. [laughing] I did mean that.

V: [laughing] I just wanted to make sure I understood.

J: Yeah, I meant that.

V: Other than the fact that you literally collapsed it all into one day, it was a beautiful job.

J: Thank you! I missed the fact that they talk about twilight, though. We both missed that, I think.

V: You know, did we miss it or skip it? So painful!

J: Let me find it. He says 'It's the safest time of day for us'. I actually thought twilight was really dangerous because if you're driving it's the worst time because you can't see and it's dark and you're, like, do you use the headlights or maybe not?

V: Yeah, but Edward is a superhuman driver, apparently. Nothing can happen to him in a car. Plus, even though something could happen to him in a car, the sexiest parts of *Volvos* are their safety features.

J: So true!

V: I really want *Volvo* to be a sponsor.

J: I think after all the good things we've said about them – how sexy they are, how tantalising – they're really going to be interested.

J: Do you want to tell me about your favourite part in this chapter?

V: Yeah. [laughing] One of them is *Volvo*-related. So, throughout this whole chapter Bella thinks that everybody is looking at her. She's like, 'Everybody watched us as we walked to the lab table', 'Everybody was staring at us at lunch'. Blablabla. And, like, whether or not they are we have no idea but we do find out that Bella's not always right about it because she's walking to the car with Edward after she's hit herself on the head with the racket and is like 'Ugh, everyone is surrounding the *Volvo*, like, waiting for us'. And then she's like 'Oh, no. They're not. They're surrounding the light bright red convertible' and it's just so funny to me. And – excellent character development. Because I think it winks to the fact that, like, Bella thinks people are more interest in her than they are.

J: Yeah!

V: I also loved the reluctant VCR. I didn't realise how much I longed for the technology of the 90s until I read this book and I was like 'Ugh, reluctant VCRs, what's more charming?'. What about you, Jules? What did you love in this chapter?

J: I was so excited by the fact that they are so horny for each other that for a second Bella thinks it's maybe supernatural. She's like 'Is it an electric current?' It's, like, no, you want to have sex, that's different. But that happened multiple times where she's like 'What's this feeling that's happening to me in the air?' Like, we know about her.

V: Yeah, I was disappointed to realise that it wasn't a literal magical electrical current that could solve the energy crisis and was just teenagers wanting to bone.

J: Ugh. Pretty groomed to read about but I guess it happens.

V: [laughing] You guess horniness happens?

J: So Stephanie Meyer says.

V: And who are you to question it?

J: Exactly. Do you have any advice for someone in this chapter?

V: My first piece of advice is for the school administration of Forks. It seems as though the men at this school have communication problems and it's not their fault. The patriarchy teaches men to, like, ball up their emotions and to, like, show their feelings through things like badminton and stalking. And, like, we just see a lot of really bad communication from the men. Like, Tyler inadvertently asking Bella to the prom by telling everybody that she's going with him to the prom. In this one, Mike says to Bella 'I know you're dating Edward' and then he says 'I don't like it'. And it's like 'Do not give opinions on someone's life if they don't ask'. And, so, I just think that they, like, need to take a class where they are questioning their male privilege or just learning when it's appropriate to share feelings and when it's not. Basically, I think a lot of these boys need to go back to kindergarten.

J: I agree with you largely. But I have two other thoughts. Bella has listened to my advice and started to learn her sick burns. Because in response she says 'You don't have to' and I was like 'Yeah, tell him, Bella!' However, my second thought is that I also don't like it. [laughing] So I understand where he's coming from.

V: Yeah, it's just still none of his business.

J: Yeah, don't say it. But I agree.

V: Or, like, say 'Hey, can I talk about something with you? I know it's none of my business but I am concerned about this relationship because I think, like, maybe he likes to watch you sleep too much'. Or, like, whatever his concern is. Anyway, that's my advice. Administration of Forks, teach people impacted by the patriarchy how to talk better. What about you, Julia? What advice do you have?

J: So, my advice is also to get people in this chapter to talk better. Edward and Bella have this thing going on where one day someone relentlessly questions in person and the next day they switch. And my advice is to try something called a conversation. It's a way to communicate without seeming really, really weird. [laughing]

V: [laughing] And men most likely you don't end up asking questions like 'What's your favourite gemstone?' Because you allow the conversation to, like, lead you places.

J: I would like to address this part of the chapter. 'Mostly his questions were easy. Only a very few were triggering easy blushes. When I did blush, it brought a whole new round of questions.' Do you think Edward asked if she was a virgin?

V: Do you really think someone who has the lack of balls to ask 'What's your favourite colour' and 'What's your favourite gemstone?' and then get really excited they both own the same CD has the, like, emotional wherewithal ask the intimate pertinent question?

J: He definitely is a 100+-year-old virgin so I don't know if he has it in him to approach the topic. And I'm extremely curious what were the questions that made Bella blush.

V: Well, we know one of the questions that make her blush is 'What is your favourite gemstone?' Because she's like 'Oh, it's a different one now because of your eye colour. It'll change again because of your eye colour.' And, like, that makes her blush. So if gemstones make her blush and she is prone to fainting if he asked her about her virginity she would straight up die.

J: [laughing] Yeah, I actually think you're right and I'm really disappointed by that realisation.

V: I'm sorry. You asked a tough question so I had to give you a tough answer.

J: Uhu. I appreciate that. That is good communication as part of a conversation. Wow.

J: What is your second piece of advice?

V: I would like to teach Edward what an apology is. First of all, apologies are unconditional. Edward says, 'Will you forgive me if I apologize?' Apologies should be freely given, whether or not the other person is going to forgive you. Second of all, then he says, 'Then I'm very sorry I upset you.' That is not an apology. That is saying that you find it unfortunate that the other person reacted a certain way. Apologies are for your actions not for their impacts. So what he should have said was 'I'm sorry I did imply to you that I wouldn't listen to Mike in order to find out what happened in gym. I shouldn't have done that. I can't promise that I won't read other peoples' thoughts in the future. It did save your life that once, but I really am sorry that this is going to be a tension in our relationship, and we need to figure out a way to communicate in a conversation. Not day by day, alternating, to find a middle ground on this.

J: Well said.

V: Thank you!

J: I wonder if the next chapter there will be a conversation. We can only hope.

V: And I would like to apologise to our listeners that I didn't sing the apology. The reason that I didn't is because Edward would never give an apology like that. So, it was just too hard to get into character. Ugh, you know, I'm very method. What about you, Julia? What is your second piece of advice?

J: My second piece of advice is also for Edward. Bella is talking to Edward about going to Seattle and Bella says that she doesn't want him dropping off the Volvo in the driveway because Charlie will ask questions. And he says 'His smile is condescending now. 'I wasn't intending to bring a car.'- 'How-' He cut me off. 'Don't worry about it. I'll be there. No car.'" So, my advice to Edward is to learn how to transform into a flock of bats for transportation because that is way better than running really fast. I would be way more entertained. It's just better as a vampiric talent and so that is my advice to him. He has unlimited time so he should be able to figure it out.

V: I hardcore disagree with your advice. My favourite thing about Edward is that he can carry her places. I get, like, sea-sick and motion-sick and stuff, and so the idea that someone is, like, carrying me everywhere sounds amazing. And so, if he was a bat, he wouldn't be able to carry her.

J: Well, it's a flock of bats, first of all.

V: You want him to turn into many bats?

J: Yeah, I absolutely want him to turn into many bats.

V: That does not make any sort of physical-chemical sense. How would he turn into many bats?

J: [laughing] Okay, you think that Edward, being undead for over a 100 years, having no blood, no eating, makes more physical-chemical sense than Edward being able to turn into a flock of bats?

V: Yeah! I also think Edward turning into one bat is a bad idea but makes more sense than him turning into a flock of bats. Let's say he could turn into a flock of bats, I'll give you your fake science, okay. Would you really want to be carried by a flock of bats? Like, I would still rather be carried by human Edward.

J: I'm not saying the only way he can move around is he's either stationary or a flock of bats. He can still walk, like, he can still carry her. I'm just saying, in addition, I want him to turn into a flock of bats. I would like him to work on that for me later.

V: Okay, I hate to break it to you but I do not think that that's what happens in the next chapter.

J: Well, you've been so good at predicting what happens so far. The bear attack. The police scandal.

V: Hold on, there was a bear attack. It just turns out that Emmet attacked the bear. I was not wrong!

J: Yeah, that's true.

V: Boom! No bats, sorry.

J: No bats, so sad. Missed opportunity.

V: Okay, what should we put into our Darling Bella's care package?

J: So, I have a note similar to the reluctant VCR. At one point, Bella says she's going to put on her inescapable jeans. And I want to give her a pair of escapable jeans. Like, a pair of regular pants that you take off and put on.

V: [laughing] You know what she actually meant by that, right? That it's, like, the only weather option for what to wear.

J: I mean, maybe this was taking place when jeggings were a thing. She was like 'They're just too tight!'

V: Maybe – did you ever think that maybe the reason she was wearing shoes in bed was that she also has inescapable shoes?

J: Yeah, I would like to send Bella regular clothes.

V: Okay. Well, I want to get Bella a vibrator because she is so horny for him and he is not going to put out. I feel like she is already lusting after him. This is only going to get worse, invest in a good vibrator. Or, don't invest, I'm going to send you one

J: God, these books are going to end so fast if she gets a vibrator. She's going to be like 'Peace out, Edward. I've got a new friend in town!' So, what do you think is going to happen next chapter besides him not turning into a flock of bats? I mean, it's really hard to tell where this plot is leading us.

V: Do you know what? I think I do know! I think they're going to go to school, and I think they're going to have lunch. I think he's going to drive her in the *Volvo*. I think he's going to buy too much food. I think she's not going to eat enough.

J: Bella is going to drink four cokes.

V: I think she's going to fall. And she's going to ask him 'When you were little, what did you want to be when you grow up? A high school student forever?'

J: Wow, honestly, probably your best prediction yet.

V: Thank you, thank you.