

HOT AND BOTHERED TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

TWILIGHT EPILOGUE

[Vanessa “Epilogue An Occasion. Edward helped me into his car, being very careful of the whisps of silk and chiffon, ...

[begin intro music]

Vanessa The flowers he’d just pinned into my elaborately styled curls, and my bulky walking cast. He ignored the angry set of my mouth.” I’m Vanessa Zoltan,

Julia And I’m Julia Argie.

Vanessa And this is “Hot and Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine.”

[end intro music]

Vanessa Shocking! He noticed all of the physical things about her but ignored the feelings.

Julia I was kind of shocked that he did her hair.

Vanessa He noticed her hair?

Julia No, he put the flowers in her hair; he was doing her hair for her.

Vanessa Nooo! Alice did her hair and then Edward just bought a corsage and for some reason it’s a hair corsage.

Julia Yeah, I think it’s supposed to go on your wrist, but it’s nice of him to try.

Vanessa Maybe it’s a flower crown instead of a corsage.

Julia Yeah, that happened in the 2000s.

Vanessa I would love that if, instead of giving me flowers Peter showed up with a flower crown for me. Yes!

Julia Wow! It only took until the epilogue to get to “Finally, I want my boyfriend to act like Edward.”

Vanessa Yes! Julia, should we remind people as to what happened in this lengthy, lengthy epilogue?

Julia Yeah, I can’t wait!

Vanessa On your mark, get set, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Julia Edward is taking Bella to the prom, but she thinks that he’s taking her to get murdered, and she loves that idea. Tragically disappointed when they get to prom, Jacob comes and he dances with her and says,

“My dad really wants you to break up with Edward,” and she says, “Well, thanks for telling me that, see

you later.” And they dance in a gazebo, and he kisses her neck, and she’s like, “Will you change me into a vampire?” and he says no and then he kisses her neck again.

[long buzzing sound]

Vanessa Is the gazebo in the book?

Julia I have no idea. Gazebo, question mark, kissing hundred percent. One hundred percent!

Vanessa OK, count me in?

Julia 3, 2, 1, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Vanessa So Alice treats Bella like her doll. She does her makeup; it’s waterproof mascara which we find out because Bella’s angry-crying when she finds out that they’re just going to the prom and she’s not getting turned into a vampire tonight, which she thinks would happen without them talking about, which signifies something not great about their relationship. Charlie is much more concerned now that Bella’s gone through this horrible accident and he doesn’t love Edward anymore; and all the Cullins also go to the prom.

[long buzzing sound]

Julia True. All factual.

Vanessa I have breaking news.

Julia Share!

Vanessa Tyler still thought he was taking Bella to the prom even though he saw Bella and Edward making out every day at school and, even though he never asked her to the prom!

Julia Yeah, that shocked me certainly.

Vanessa That is like ... 30 years from now when Tyler is 50 years old, he is going to think about the moment that he showed up at Bella’s house and the Chief of Police had to tell him, “My daughter’s going to the prom with someone else; I don’t even know who you are”, as like ... He’s not going to be able to think about it; he’s going to cringe every time he thinks about this horrifying moment for the rest of his life.

Julia And also Edward just absolutely roasts him on the phone.

Vanessa I mean, like, he a little bit deserves it; he straight up never asked her to the prom let alone she never said Yes. I mean, he still thought he was taking her to the prom! He outdid Edward on the While Male Privilege Scale. It’s impressive.

Julia I just only wish that he had arrived at the same time as Edward so that they could have just gone together in a carpool. You can just picture Tyler in the back seat.

Vanessa sitting in the middle of the backseat, sort of pulled up to be in between of the 2 of them, being like, "What? I didn't hear you! The music was too loud!"

Julia Yeah, like trying to DJ, saying like "This song is really good for right before prom."

Vanessa Do you have any breaking news? Do you want me to do the sound effect first?

Julia Please, yeah. I won't be able to think of my breaking news unless I hear the noise.

Vanessa I understand. Doo-doo-doo-doot! Doo-doo-doot!

Julia My piece of breaking news is that this book is called Twilight because of them mentioning Twilight about 4 times in this epilogue. We heard it once in the rest of the 451 pages but this time really hammers it home. Twilight is about the emotional resonances of the end of the day. It's very moving.

Vanessa What are the emotional resonances?

Julia I mean, Edward seems very moved by the day's end every single day. I guess that's the kind of stuff you have to think of when you're 120 years old. Like, he's already thought of everything else so he's just really stuck on this aspect. He's awake at night, so I'm not really sure what it means to be a vampire and have Day's End. Isn't it all the same regardless? But he seems very moved by it.

Vanessa Yeah, and also who cares that time is passing because he's going to live forever. Do you have any other breaking news updates?

Julia I do have one other piece of breaking news, and it's that we hear in detail about Jacob's puberty. He's going through it, everyone. He has grown; he is gangly; she doesn't mention if the voice has dropped yet, but I wouldn't put it past his growth for that to have happened. So he's turning into a real man, Vanessa.

Vanessa I don't know why that grossed me out; there's nothing gross about puberty. Just thinking about Jacob – sexually – anything is like so gross to me. I don't know why!

Julia Oooh! Were you grossed out when you read it?

Vanessa No, you talking about it is gross. And I also think that now that I've seen Taylor Lotner – Ugh! Jacob in my head was, like, hot.

Julia Wow!

Vanessa Yeah, Taylor Lotner really doesn't do it for me.

Julia Well, maybe in New Moon when he finishes puberty he will.

Vanessa Maybe. Hmmm.

[segue music]

Vanessa Do you have a moment of genuine enjoyment you would like to share?

Julia So Jacob is sent as Billy's emissary to get Bella to break up with Edward. And Billy specifically directs Jacob to say, "Please break up with him." And I thought that was very charming, polite,

wholesome. If you're going to try and get someone to break up, you might as well say please; it's not going to hurt.

Vanessa Absolutely.

Julia Do you have a piece of genuine enjoyment from the chapter?

Vanessa I was really proud of Charlie because he seems to have taken this atrocious thing that Bella has gone through as a real wake-up call, whereas Renee has not. Renee is still like, "I'll only travel part of the time with my hot husband and whatever." But Charlie is like, "'I'm not letting this happen again; I'm going to have the cell phone number for the boy that she's dating!" And I love it; I'm like, "Yes, Charlie!" We all have those moments where something horrible sort of happens and almost happens, and we can choose to change because of them and Charlie is. That made me proud of him.

Julia I also liked how he doubled down on Edward being bad and he leveled up on Carlyle being great.

Vanessa I don't remember that! What did he say about Carlyle being great?

Julia Oh, my gosh, Vanessa! Charlyle is cannon. We have it in the Epilogue, Vanessa; let me read it to you. Bella says, "Charlie had compartmentalized my experience into 2 different reactions towards Carlyle he was almost worshipfully grateful. On the other hand, he was so stubbornly convinced that Edward was at fault."

Vanessa To be clear, it makes complete sense as logic, right? Carlyle took his daughter going missing so seriously that he himself flew to Phoenix, something that Charlie didn't even do. Whereas Edward is the reason that Bella got into all of this trouble. Correct analysis of the situation, Charlie.

Julia I know. He was really spot-on in this chapter.

Vanessa Oh, and I love that he's growing because of this relationship with Carlyle.

Julia Finally channeling the Billy Burke he always knew he had in him. Billy Burke is the movie actor who we like.

Vanessa Got it.

[segue music]

Julia So Vanessa, do you have a piece of advice for someone in this chapter?

Vanessa I do. I would like to advise Bella on something, because she has no basic awareness of her surroundings, or of what's going on socially with her friends, or in her reality. It comes as a complete shock to her that it's prom. And I find that concerning, because I feel like she goes to school every day. Presumably, Prom is on a Saturday, which means that yesterday at school all of her classmates were probably talking about it; there were definitely limo arrangements happenig. There is no reason for Bella to be this oblivious to the fact that prom is happening. And it's really dangerous to not have any idea wich crossstreets you're on; you need to be mildly aware as you walk through the world. So my advice to Bella is to up your basic awareness; every once in awhile test yourself while you're on a walk. Be like, "Ooh, what street am I on?" Really try to notice the world that you're in.

Julia I mean, my theory is that she and Edward are just skipping homeroom announcements to make out under a stairwell. And so the advice could just be like, go to homeroom. You're clearly missing out on school's day to day activities.

Vanessa But like she has math with Jessica; do you really think that Jessica isn't talking to her about prom? You know Jessica is talking to her about her dress and her coordination plans with Mike to make sure that they're not both wearing polka dots or that they both are, I don't know if she's a matchy person or an anti-matchy person. But like you know that this conversation's happening everywhere.

Julia I mean, I just hope that Jessica's given up on a meaningful relationship with Bella and tried to pursue meaningful relationships with Angela and whatever the names of those other characters are named – Lauren. We hear about 7 side-characters that I've never heard of before in this chapter about Prom. She's befriending all of them!

Vanessa Yeah, that's great. What about you, Julia?

Julia So my advice is also for Bella. It's to not set yourself up for awkward conversations. She knows that Jacob has a crush on her and then while they're slow-dancing ask him who he has a crush on. And then he has to say, "Oh, yeah, I have a crush on someone but she's taken." Obviously referring to her. It's so uncomfortable. So she should just not ask leading questions that will lead to me just cringing desperately hard.

Vanessa Don't you think she sort of wants to put him in that awkward position? She wants to hear that it's her.

Julia Oooh! That's so gross! Don't do that!

Vanessa Why else would she do it?

Julia I think she's just really socially awkward; that's how I read it. I think she just doesn't know what else to say and is like, "Girls are here. You like girls. What about that?"

Vanessa Yeah, the only thing I can think is that people who are just a little bit older think that teasing slightly younger people about their love life is fun and cute. And so then my advice to Bella would be like, "It's not, you hate it when people do it to you. Why is this something we pass on?"

Julia I hate it; that's so true; no one should ever do that. That's not my advice to the characters; that's my advice to everyone.

Vanessa Yeah, like every creepy uncle everywhere, right? Don't ask your nieces and nephews about their love lives.

Julia Bella's the creepy uncle!

[segue music]

Julia Do you have a second piece of wisdom to offer these characters?

Vanessa I sure do. My advice to Bella is fashion advice, which I know I shouldn't be talking right now because I'm in the same T-shirt I've been wearing for about a week. But my fashion advice to Bella is don't ever wear heels. We find out that she is in a boot on one foot and a stiletto heel held together

with nothing but satin. Which is just such a bad idea specifically. But also I just don't think you should ever wear shoes that you can't run a mile in, or in her case be carried by a vampire comfortably in. You should be able to run errands in your shoe situation.

Julia We had given her heels in a care package so that she could look fashionable and get carried everywhere in the toddler backpack. So maybe she's just taking our advice and wearing those to prom, knowing that Edward can just strap her in later.

Vanessa OK, so I take back the heels. I shouldn't have sent her heels in the care package. They were a mistake. Heels are always a mistake. I'm gonna die on this hill everyone. Your butt and your legs look great in flats. The Patriarchy wants you to wear heels so that you can't run away from rapists. Everyone, turn in your heels! Until men start offering us rides in toddler backpacks, no heels!

Julia I mean, not only has Bella grown throughout this book, but we have in our advice.

Vanessa It's true, and I couldn't have done it without you, Julia!

Julia Wow! So beautiful!

Vanessa What other advice do you have?

Julia I'm also harkening back to older advice I had given about intimate conversations happening in the lunch room. Whether or not they are in a gazebo, they are at school. And Bella is completely ready to get murdered on school grounds and changed into a vampire. And Edward is playing along and is making out with her neck at prom so that this can happen. So my advice is to really think about what is good for private spaces and what is good for public spaces. And I believe that high school people try and lose their virginity at prom. But people don't do it at prom; they get a hotel room afterwards to do that. So my advice is to get a hotel room to get murdered and changed into a vampire after if that's your desired after-prom activity. Like the rest of the high-schoolers.

Vanessa I mean, they have a Volvo! The backseat of the Volvo!

Julia I was settling for a tent in the middle of the lunchroom earlier. Like, my bar is low; it just needs to be not straight-up in public at school.

Vanessa You are very flexible and reasonable.

Julia Thank you.

Vanessa So, Julia, it's now time to put things into Bella's care package. And I have something that's sort of unethical to ship. But what I would like to put in the care package is one of those confrontation mediators. Because I think Bella and Tyler have to have a really difficult conversation, and I think that it's going to be really awkward. And as you've pointed out, Bella's not great at awkward moments. And so I think they need a mediator to come so she can tell Tyler that she is also not going away with him for the summer, or not planning to go to college where he goes to college, or not planning on buying real estate with him. They really need to have an in-depth conversation about all of the things that they don't have planned together. Because I'm worried that this is just going to keep on happening and that Edward is going to keep ragging on Tyler, and there's a better way to do it. So I'm going to send a mediator.

Julia Isn't that what the guidance counselor is for?

Vanessa If I was a guidance counselor and that came into my office, I'd be like, "I don't get paid enough for this."

Julia [laughs] OK, then a conflict mediator is necessary.

Vanessa Yeah, I'm just trying to save the guidance counselor. What about you, Julia; what would you like to put in a care package?

Julia I think as per our earlier advice as we transition away from heels, I think I would like to send Bella a pair of clogs. Clogs are the most versatile shoe; they can be formal; they can be for nurses; they can be for walking around; wear them as slippers. I don't care. Bella can wear her clogs anywhere, as I do and as you do. And so I'm going to send her some clogs. I wore clogs to a wedding!

Vanessa I got told by one of my best friends ... She called me and was like, "I just want to make sure you're not wearing clogs to my wedding."

Julia I wore clogs to one of your friend's weddings that I went to as your date.

Vanessa Yeah, it was a really hurtful thing she said. I simultaneously felt very seen because I loved that she knew that that would be something that I would do but I also felt very judged.

Julia *Maybe I'll send an encouraging note to Bella telling her: "People will tell you not to wear your clogs to prom and to them, say, "Fuck you!"*

Vanessa *Aw, I don't want to say "fuck you" to my friend.*

Julia *It was advice for bella. Stop taking it so personally, Vanessa.*

Vanessa *You're right. [laughs] I'm too self-absorbed. I've been spending too much time with Bella. She's rubbed off on me.*

[segue music]

Julia *So since we're at the end of Book 1, what do you think is going to happen between now and when we start Book 2 for Bella, Edward, and all?*

Vanessa *So post-prom, right? It's like Summer Break. I think it's just going to be one of those lovely love montages, where Edward and Bella spend a lot of time in the sun with him going sparkle-sparkle. And her being like, "Ooh, I love when you sparkle-sparkle," and she'll get freckles which are the human equivalent of sparkle-sparkle, and it's just going to be like freckles and sparkling.*

Julia *That's so beautiful; I wish we would have gotten some of that on the page.*

Vanessa *This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a declaration that Charlyle is Cannon, from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are executive-produced by Ariana Nedelman and Ariana Martinez. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy, and I'm Vanessa Zoltan, and I like to be barefoot like Victoria. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACast. We'll talk to you in a few days and do a full book review. All the book! All the Twilight!*