

## Twilight in Quarantine: Goodbyes

Vanessa: Chapter 19, Goodbyes. Charlie was waiting up for me. All the house lights were on. My mind was blank as I tried to think of a way to make him let me go. This wasn't going to be pleasant. I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

Julia: I'm Julia Argy.

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

*(theme music plays)*

Vanessa: Why is every house light on? That is so wasteful. Did he like, literally go into the upstairs bathroom and flip the light on? Is this prison? *(Julia laughing)* Where like, when someone has escaped you turn on all the lights? Is the siren blaring?

Julia: *(gasps)* He turns on the police siren from his car. He's like, where is Bella.

Vanessa: Do you think that the Twilight books are single-handedly responsible for climate change?

Julia: Yeah, probably 85%.

Vanessa: Like, Edward is ripping trees, Charlie is turning on basement lights for no reason. Okay I'm done venting about just the opening three sentences of the chapter. Should we tell people about what happens later in the chapter too?

Julia: I would love to.

Vanessa: Okay, on your mark, get set, go.

Julia: *(ticking sound throughout)* So she goes home with Emmett and Alice and Edward. And she goes in to see Charlie and she says, "go away Edward!" And she slams the door and she goes upstairs. And they go pack all her stuff and then she says, "Charlie I'm breaking up with you. I'm moving back to Arizona." And then they drive to the Cullen's house. And they like, carry her up and down some stairs and they get dressed together. And then they drive away in different cars and then she gets carried some more. And there was like, a sad kiss and whatever. *(countdown buzzer sound)*

Vanessa: There's so much carrying of Bella in this chapter. Bella does not walk a foot. *(Julia giggling)* Bella is definitely not getting her steps in.

Julia: Cannot wait to touch upon that later, in more detail. Can I count you in?

Vanessa: Please.

Julia: 3, 2, 1, go.

Vanessa: (*ticking sound throughout*) She and Esme switch clothes so that she doesn't like, have her scent on her and the tracker will follow Esme instead of her. Charlie is really upset that she's going to leave and is like, "Renee is going back to Phoenix things, cuz aren't working really well in Florida, so why don't you wait a week?" She tells Edward, "I love you" and then kisses his stone face. I don't know. Like, action sequence things happen and I like, don't care. (*countdown buzzer sound*)

Julia: Would you like to say something you enjoyed?

Vanessa: Yeah! I love that Edward sneaks in to help Bella pack. I find packing very stressful. I feel like, this is something that you know like, no matter what trip I'm going on I will text you and be like "going away for five nights, bringing three pants, do you think that's enough?" So, I would really appreciate it if a vampire came to help me pack, whenever I had to pack.

Julia: It doesn't seem like he's good at it, though. He's just throwing things into the bag until it's full.

Vanessa: I mean, but like emotional support. Like I often just need an accountability partner. Like, "Okay, it's now time to pack. I will sit with you while you pack." So, yeah. That's what I liked. What did you like in this chapter?

Julia: So, Bella pretends to break up with Edward in this chapter in order to leave Forks. And watching that happen after I've recommended that for weeks on end was so satisfying. Even though it was all in jest, her screaming and slamming the door saying, "Go away Edward." I was like, finally! Yes! Her acting was so convincing. I was like, "Yeah Bella, tell him."

Vanessa: Why do you think she tells Edward not to listen? She's like "Don't listen to what I'm about to say," but then she like, doesn't say anything bad about him. I thought she was saying that Edward don't listen to what I'm about to say, cuz she was like going to tell Charlie "He's stalking me and that's why I have to go." and like all these horrible things. But she says nothing bad about Edward so why couldn't he listen?

Julia: She not only says nothing bad she says "I love him too much to stay, because I don't want to be here." She ended up complimenting him.

Vanessa: Right.

Julia: That's where my enjoyment dipped. (*Julia and Vanessa giggling*) I was like, oh the moment's over.

Vanessa: Happy moment gone. Womp womp.

(*transition music*)

Vanessa: Julia do you have any advice to start us off with?

Julia: Well, as we touched on, Bella does not walk a single step in this chapter. She is carried like a football. I think Edward carries her to her house, Alice and Esme lift her by her shoulders down the stairs, and Esme also just like, does a fireman's carry and hoists her up stairs. And then at the end of the chapter there's this revelation where Alice asks, "Oh, can I carry you now?" and Bella's so honored. But she can be walking. She has two legs. And as I've mentioned before it is like, a 7 on 1 vampire scenario so they can really spare the extra moments that it takes for Bella to walk up the stairs herself. And I would *love* to see her walk.

Vanessa: So your advice is: walk.

Julia: Hashtag let her walk. (*Vanessa laughing*)

Vanessa: Okay, so your advice is for everybody else that they should let her walk.

Julia: I know Bella has some dependency issues, but we have never before seen that she refuses to walk up stairs herself, (*Vanessa giggling*) walk to and from the car. She usually kind of takes pride in going places, even if she's bad at it. This will only exacerbate her future inability to like, walk over a root or something.

Vanessa: Well, my advice is actually that, but more. Which is: Bella you should really be advocating to do everything yourself, that you *can* do yourself. There's like, this idea of learned helplessness and like, here's a list of just some things that Bella let's happen for her in this chapter. 1. Esme cuffs her pants for her, 2. Esme undresses her like you do a toddler for bath time and then dresses her, 3. Emmitt unbuckles her. These are just the ones like, off the top of my head. Bella, they are treating you like a toddler. My advice is to act like a toddler and slap their hands and say what was proudly my first sentence: "I do it myself." (*Julia laughing*) And be like, "No. I can literally dress myself."

Julia: We've seen multiple scenes before of her getting dressed.

Vanessa: Just like, of her being clothed, (*Julia laughing*) which insinuates that she can dress herself. Maybe because they're all so old and have been like, dead for so long, they've forgotten developmental milestones. And so like, maybe they think when they're not around Charlie's doing all these things for her.

Julia: I mean if Esme's really thinking that it only makes it more creepy when she's like, "I'm so happy you joined our family, baby toddler." (*Julia and Vanessa laughing*)

Vanessa: Yeah. And she's a very advanced toddler in other ways right, like lots of complete sent...actually she doesn't use a lot of complete sentences.

Julia: Cuz of the "dot dot dots"?

Vanessa: Yeah and like, lack of nouns. Maybe they think she's a toddler.

Julia: I mean, but if she's a toddler, what does that make Charlie, who does nothing for himself? He could not even microwave.

Vanessa: I don't know but like, Charlie isn't their immediate concern.

Julia: Mmhmm.

Vanessa: Like, you don't go and start like, helping other people toddlers. Like, you're in charge of your own toddler. *(Julia giggling)*

Julia: They've adopted Bella, now they feel like they need to take care of her. So is your advice to stop doing that?

Vanessa: Yeah, my advice is to stop. There's enough regression happening. I don't want to see Bella like, go back into diapers and like starting to crawl. Right, like, stop everybody! She can unbuckle her own seat belt. She can cuff her own pants. She can take off her own shirt. She can walk. And if she can't then she needs to learn. And maybe do a positive reward system of like, she gets an M&M when she does it herself. But like, we need an intervention.

Julia: Mmhmm. And if they don't consider her adult they're very stupid for listening to her plan about how to lose escape the evil vampire. So.

Vanessa: Eh! Kids sometimes have really good ideas! *(Julia laughing)* What second piece of advice do you have?

Julia: I don't know who it's to. But we hear that Bella knows the lines of Renee when she walked out of Charlie's life. She says, "Just let me go Charlie," I repeated my mother's last words as she walked out the same door so many years ago." So, Bella was a baby when this happened, so I assume she doesn't remember it herself. So the options are Renee, a little wine drunk, being like, "And then I said to Charlie, 'Just let me go,' and I walked out that door," *(Julia laughing)* over and over again and Bella's learned it. *(Julia laughing, catching her breath to keep talking)* Or, Charlie, sad after microwave lasagna, staring at his wedding photos on the walls, was like, "Bells, and she said to me 'Just let me go Charlie,' and I watched her walk away." *(Julia and Vanessa laughing)* And so my advice is to whichever parent does this, *(both laughing)* that they should not repeatedly reenact her parents break up in front of her.

Vanessa: So this bothered me also. And I actually saw a third option which is, you know in Gilmore Girls that Lorelai gets into bed with Rory on her birthday every year and tells her the story of her birth? I pictured Renee on the anniversary of her leaving Charlie crawling into bed with Bella being like, "And this is the night that we came to Phoenix. And what I said to him was..." like it's like some beautiful story of like, this special moment between us.

Julia: I just kind of like the image of Charlie doing it. Both of those seem really tempting to me.

Vanessa: Then really, why hasn't he taken down the wedding photos?

Julia: So hung up on Renee, she's clearly a catch.

Vanessa: Also weird that Bella chooses to use something her parents said in a romantic sense, in a father-daughter sense.

Julia: Par for the course, for this book. I'm not shocked at all.

Vanessa: Not shocked at all. Just noting.

Julia: Just wanted to flag.

Vanessa: *(laughing)* Yeah, just would have been remiss if I let it pass us right by. Low hanging fruit: best to grab it.

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

Vanessa: Yes, I would like to advise Bella a little bit about love. She says that Charlie isn't going to love her anymore after she leaves. And, that's not what love is. You can love things that aren't right in front of you. And then again like, she says to Edward "I love you. I don't want to be apart from you for three days." I don't know if this is like, an object permanence problem. Like she thinks that if you're not in front of someone, you can't love it. But, I just would like to encourage her like, you can love things from a distance, you can love things that have hurt and disappointed you. These are like, all things that you can do Bella. Love is very strong.

Julia: I know! And if Charlie's out there still loving Rene after she's been gone for however-knows-how-long, she should really have an example of Charlie is very committed.

Vanessa: Yeah! Someone has said these lines to him before, who he is not biologically related to, and he still has her photo in his living room!

Julia: Yeah I'm not worried about that for her.

Vanessa: You know, it's interesting, with all of the books that she reads that she doesn't have a better understanding of love. She's read *Wuthering Heights* twice. Heathcliff loves Catherine long after it's appropriate.

Julia: After she's dead.

Vanessa: But that's not remarkable about Heathcliff. Bella has only loved Edward after he was dead. *(Julia laughing and Vanessa joins in)*

Julia: So true.

*(transition music)*

Vanessa: I have one more piece of advice I would like to give.

Julia: Please share.

Vanessa: It's for Laurent. (*Julia Mm-ing*) So, Laurent is the person who in the previous chapter we thought was the head of this like, new vampire coven. Which includes the red headed lady and the like, murderous James. And then we find out that Laurent is not that head, that James is the head of the coven. And like, James is this expert murderer. And Carlisle's like, "Look, he now wants to murder someone in our family. Do you want to join our side?" And Laurent says, "I don't want to pick a side." And I would like to say to Laurent, that *is* picking a side. No side *is* a side. And all it takes for evil to run amok is one cowardly vampire to stand by the side and do nothing.

Julia: I was also so confused about why they pretended Laurent was in charge. They weren't trying to have a fight at the beginning. So why pretend?

Vanessa: Just to confuse everyone.

Julia: Oh, they succeeded. I was confused.

Vanessa: For the same reason that you feel like an idiot when you've been walking around for an hour and you realize that you haven't taken your name tag off, cuz a stranger calls you Julia and you're like, "how'd you know my name?" You just don't want to be wearing certain things on your sweater.

Julia: Playing it a little coy. I had a moment...oh my god, we didn't talk about the icon that is Rosalie Cullen in this chapter. Did you love her? I *loved* her.

Vanessa: Of course you loved Rosalie.

Julia: Let's read: "Get her upstairs and trade clothes,' Edward commanded. She stared back at him with livid disbelief. "Why should I?" she hissed. "What is she to me except a menace, a danger you've chosen to inflict on all of us." Speaking truth to power. He tries to boss her around, she's like no fucking way!

Vanessa: Actually this is a great other piece of advice, right? Bella hang out with Rosalie. She would be such a good role model for you.

Julia: I know!

Vanessa: I can guarantee you Rosalie knows how to buckle and unbuckle herself.

Julia: She astounded me. I wish there was more of her, she was doing great. Putting Edward in his place. Imagine if your brother talked to you like that! (*Vanessa laughing loudly*) He didn't even say please!

*(transition music)*

Vanessa: So what do you want to put in Bella's care package this week?

Julia: I want to give Bella a compound bow so that she can join the quote-unquote "Hunting Party." The Hunting Party sounded extremely fun. Carlisle, Emmett, and Edward get to ride around in their harness Jeep looking to kill James. And going to vampire Witness Protection Program to Phoenix with Alice and Jasper just doesn't seem that exciting. It seems like a lost opportunity, maybe she could regain a little agency with her compound bow, try to shoot James up. Kill her attacker. That's my, that's what I give her.

Vanessa: I love that.

Julia: Wouldn't that be fun? Imagine if she was a vampire hunter.

Vanessa: Such a better book. *(Julia laughing)*

Julia: What would you like to put in her care package?

Vanessa: I want to get Bella, you know how like, in soccer you have a yellow card and a red card to like, tell someone like, "ooo, you're on warning" and then red card you get like, evicted from the game. I want to give Bella those so she can communicate to Edward like, "yellow card, you're messing up right now" and then she can red card him and then he likes, again like has to go into the penalty box. Like, he doesn't get to talk for a certain amount of time.

Julia: What moment in this chapter do you want her to yellow or red card him?

Vanessa: Oh my god. All the moments. When he doesn't even ask her if she wants to change clothes, like, yellow card. Even though he's not going to pay attention I think that it will at least call his attention to the fact that he's like, doing awful things all the time.

Julia: I agree that they need this but it also would be superfluous if they could actually communicate in the way of a normal relationship, which doesn't use cards but instead uses words.

Vanessa: Yeah, I'm just giving up hope on that. *(Julia laughing)*

Julia: It's been hundreds of pages and it hasn't happened yet.

Vanessa: It hasn't happened yet. Yeah, yeah.

Julia: Just give up.

Vanessa: That makes sense. My advice is to you: *(Julia laughing)* give up on lost causes.

Julia: What do you think is going to happen next chapter?

Vanessa: I think that she had so much fun at the fake baseball game that she's going to go to Phoenix and go to the Diamondbacks game. And, there are like 30,000 people at a baseball game and so James is going to get distracted and just eat someone else.

Julia: Mmm. What do you think is going to happen to Phil's tragically failing minor league baseball career? You think he's going to have a comeback?

Vanessa: Oooh. No. I don't. I think he's washed up. Phil has two options: he needs to give up or start roids.

Julia: Wow, that's dark.

Vanessa: I can send him a care package. I can send him some steroids in a care package. He can give it one last effort... This is the early 2000s. *Everyone* was doing steroids. So he's probably already done them. He's probably washed up *and* on steroids. Phil, my advice to you is to quit. (*Julia laughing*)

Vanessa: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a parenting handbook from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are executive produced by Ariana Nedelman and produced by Ariana Martinez. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy and I've been Vanessa Zoltan and I am Dr. Spock. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by Acast. We'll talk to you in a few days... Support us on Patreon and write a review, thank you! Bye!