

Chapter 22 – Hide & Seek

J: Chapter 22 – Hide and Seek. It had taken much less time than I had thought. All the terror, the despair, the shattering of my heart. The minutes were ticking by more slowly than usual. Jasper still hadn't come back when I returned to Alice. I'm Julia Argy.

V: And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

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

V: 'The shattering of my heart'?

J: It was quick.

V: If we had an endless budget for *Twilight in Quarantine*, I would pay Celine Dion to sing the opening line of every chapter. Can't you hear her singing *The shattering of my heart*?

J: I think you were going to be, like 'The first paragraph of this chapter' and I was like 'I can't wait to hear Celine Dion sing *Jasper still hadn't come back when I returned to Alice*. Those are some moving lyrics.

V: [laughing] Before we get started today, we just want to tell you about an amazing thing that we are going to be doing this Sunday night – so just in a few days. Sunday, May 24th, at 7 PM eastern, for our five dollar a month patrons we are going to be watching the Twilight movie together. So, Julia and I will be watching it and you can press play at the same second as us and watch it along with us in Discord, where we're going to be chatting about it. So, please go and join our *Patreon* so that we can do season two of *Twilight in Quarantine* and we hope to see you Sunday night.

V: So, Julia, this is a juicy chapter. I don't want to say that this is very different than other chapters but in this chapter things happen.

J: [laughing] Yeah, well, after those chapters in the hotel room we really had to pick up some speed.

V: Okay, can you count me in?

J: Three, two, one, go!

V: So, Bella needs to trick everybody and run away. So she tells Jasper 'Come with me to get food' and she goes to the bathroom and goes on the highest shuttle and then she goes to her old house and then she calls the phone number and then she goes to the ballet studio. René is like 'No, Bella! No!' And then it turns out René is not even kidnapped. James, it turns out, it's not about Bella, it's actually about Alice and it's just about revenge and just wanting Edward to come to him. Then he breaks her head and bashes her head in. And she's like 'I just want to die fast.' All of that happen!

J: You covered it, I don't know what to add.

V: You are going to do great! On your mark, get set, go!

J: So, they go to the airport and Bella knows every little knook and cranny of the Phoenix airport. She's waiting for Edward to arrive. She fakes Jasper up by going to the bathroom. He holds her back as he escorts her to the café and that was very weird. Hops on a shuttle, hops on a taxi, gets to her house even though she knows she's going to end up at the ballet studio. She goes to the ballet studio and they get into a fight. She's like 'Kill me!' It's a little bit different from the prologue. And then she faints.

V: Ugh. The taxi ride. Totally forgot about that. Bella handing out twenty-dollar bills like nothing. She's like 'Here's 80 bucks!'

J: 'Make it rain in the taxi'

J: We talk a lot about the news on this show. Weather updates, crime reports.

V: Relationship updates, eye colour updates, career plan updates.

J: So true! And so we thought we would add in another little segment called 'Breaking news' in which Vanessa share a bit of breaking news.

V: And do I get to do a sound effect every time? Dodo-do-do. Dodo-do. Off of the AP-wire.

J: Is that a fax machine?

V: That's the sound of breaking news, Julia.

J: Dodo-do-do. It's breaking news! So, my piece of breaking news honestly shook me to my core: Bella is not from Phoenix, she's from Scottsdale. Did you notice that?

V: I did notice that. I think Scottsdale is a part of Phoenix.

J: It's an adjacent town.

V: Sure, except like when I'm travelling, I don't tell people I'm from Medford, I tell them I'm from Boston.

J: This is her inner monologue. This is her thinking to herself that she is from Phoenix. And then finally when we hear her talk about it to a cabbie she's from Scottsdale. We've been lied to. What's your piece of breaking news?

V: My piece of breaking news is that Bella has become bilingual. She can now speak eye colour. She is like 'James' eyes are black with a red rim which means that he's hungry.' And I feel like mothers learn that about their babies' cries. Like 'Uh, he's wet. Uh, she's hungry.' But Bella now knows from eye colour when someone's hungry. That's impressive.

J: Isn't that something that we know is true about vampires. That their eyes get darker when they're hungry? That's why when Edward has those black eyes when they're in that Bio class the first time.

V: Yeah, I get that. It's also true that French is understandable. I don't speak it. I'm saying that Bella has learned a new language.

J: She's going to pass her AP in eye colour.

V: That's what I'm saying.

J: Got it. Oh my gosh, she's going to get a 5.

V: Which is exciting because we know that Forks doesn't have a rigorous AP programme. Can I now tell you something that I loved about this chapter?

J: Please!

V: I mentioned it briefly in my thirty second recap, but I love that James is not obsessed with Bella at all. He's obsessed with Alice. He's like 'I'm not hunting you for you, you don't smell that good. Do you know who smelled amazing? Alice a million years ago.' I feel like it's the same thing as figuring out that the waitress wasn't into Edward. None of these people are as hot as they think they are. That feels true to me. Love the Alice backstory.

J: I thought it was more like when I used to get chocolate croissant at Costco and then they stopped selling them all of a sudden. I went to great lengths to try to find something similar. This is his journey. He found something really good he loved with Alice and now he's just trying to look for a cheap second. Very relatable.

V: I thought it was both. Because he's like 'She smelled amazing, you smell fine.' I feel like seeing Alice instigated this whole thing made him realised how much he craves following through on this one. Otherwise that would be such a weird coincidence. It would be like Costco comes back with the chocolate croissant on the same day you finally find your cheap second. Like what are the odds of that.

J: But the croissant is in the trash. I can no longer eat it.

V: Exactly, I didn't want to say that.

J: [laughing] You didn't want to say the croissant was in the trash?

V: I didn't want to imply that you would still be tempted to eat a croissant in the trash.

[laughing together] J: Oh, I would be!

V: Well, yeah, that's what I liked. It wasn't about Bella it was actually about Alice. What about you? What did you love?

J: I loved how dramatic James was. He is hilarious. You are on the scent of the extent he would go for dramatic effect when you wondered what his inner monologue was like. But this chapter we see she walks into the ballet studio and he has a remote control playing the recording he used of René to get Bella to the ballet studio. He pauses it, she looks over. He then does a full monologue which Bella realises is – quote on quote – not for her. So it's just for him. Then he pulls out his little GoPro, starts recording again, does a second monologue. That's for Edward this time. And then finally, after maybe 20 pages gets to the business of killing her. Three quarters of this chapter is just him doing things for dramatic effect. It was hilarious.

V: [laughing] Yeah, it's like he put on a little opera. He has lighting, he has sets, he has audio cues. I feel like he was probably a theatre geek in high school.

J: That's another interesting thing. All vampires are hot except James. He's ugly and that's why he's so bitter.

V: Is he actually ugly or does Bella just not find him attractive?

J: You think Bella finds every single person on this earth hot but for James the vampire?

V: Every single vampire except the one that is trying to murder her. That is not attractive because she finds Edward hot and he's trying to murder her. So, yeah, I guess James is uggo. That works for him

J: [laughing] Uggo.

V: It would be like being the only ugly golden retriever in the whole world. A hundred percent of golden retrievers are gorgeous.

J: I think that this is his evil backstory. It's like he was an average looking middle-height dude. He gets changed into a vampire, he's still not groundbreakingly hot and he's like 'I guess I just have to murder people. What are my other options here?'

V: Do you have any advice that you want to give?

J: I do have some advice. It's for James. I was really confused about his motives. His branding is not clear. My advice to James is to have a clear villain monologue. He has multiple parts working here. He wants to kill Bella because Edward wanted to have her be alive. 'I want to kill Bella because she reminds me of Alice. Alice is a vampire so that sucks for me.' And then he also has 'Now I want to kill Bella because I want Edward to chase me.' Going through all of that in his multiple monologues really got my head spinning and I think it would have been more effective if he picked one and stuck with that for the long haul.

V: Totally, it's like if someone is proposing to you, you want to start with the lead. 'I want to marry you because I love you and I want to love you forever.' Even if your secondary motivations are things like tax breaks or going together to passport control together as a family, whereas right now you would have to stand in line separately. Those are all great reasons to want to get married. But they shouldn't be included in the proposal. It's fine to have secondary reasons for wanting to murder someone but when you're doing your evil man speech, be clear, pick a reason.

J: I thought you were going to say something like 'When you propose, don't say you love them because they're sexy, smart and funny. Just pick one and say I'm proposing to you because you're sexy.'

V: [laughing] No, I think you can incorporate a lot under the heading of 'Because I love you.' I think that James could have incorporate a lot under 'I want Edward to chase me. I want Edward to chase me because I love running and I find a get a better mile time when I'm being chased. I want Edward to chase me because...'

J: 'He's so sexy I love when he growls.'

V: Exactly! I think that's fine. You got to pick one topic sentence.

J: Yeah! Right now, he's working with three.

V: Too much!

J: What was your first piece of advice?

V: My advice is also for James. It's 'Don't play with your food.' For him, Bella is food, and this is something that hate that cats do. Like, when cats capture a mouse and torture it a little bit and play with it before they kill it.

J: I've heard of it but I don't associate with cats, so I've never seen it in person.

V: Okay, well. It's a true thing. I think swift killing, no need to break her leg or slam her into a mirror, make fun of her. Just do it, dude!

J: I agree in theory but in practice that would have eliminated all of my favourite where he's like 'Take two, do it again! Bella, can you look a little sadder, a little more distressed? Tell Edward that you want him to chase me, please tell him!' That's your line. Without that, what is there?

V: Wouldn't it be great if in the middle, like a true director, he told her that she would look perfect if she just lost five pounds.

J: That's for her as a [inaudible 12:16] He's really working across his two interests, which is eating humans and trying to film a great movie.

V: What second piece of advice do you have?

J: My second piece of advice is for Bella and I feel a little bit bad ragging on her because she's getting murdered and getting beat up. That's pretty depressing. However, before that even happens, she makes it rain in the cap. She throws him 80 bucks to bring her to Scotsdale. She gets dropped off at front of her house and doesn't tell the cabbie 'Wait outside, I need to call this phone number.' She knows she's going to end up at the ballet studio. Instead she sprints there in a 100-degree heat, shows up drenched in sweat, trips multiple times. My advice is to tell the cab driver: 'Hey, can you wait a second, I'm just doing this stop.' She's overpaid him. And get a ride to your death.

V: Yeah, that's really good advice!

J: Thank you!

V: She could be like 'Here's a [13:07 didn't get that either]. I'll be right back. Roll down your window so you don't suffocate.'

J: Like a dog in a car?

V: Like a dog in a car.

J: What was your second piece of advice?

V: My second piece of advice is for René. When you say that you're going to check your messages regularly, check your messages regularly. This message is on the machine for James to find because René is not calling in and checking her messages. Even though she told Bella she would. That is the

only way for Bella to call her mom right now, calling this answering machine in Phoenix. I really feel for René because I hate checking voice mail but if you have a kid and said this is the best way to get in touch with you, do it!

J: Wow, I just had a shocking realisation. Charlie has not left a voice mail on the machine wondering where Bella was. Because if so, James would have known immediately where Bella was. Instead, he only hears Bella's voicemail. What is Charlie doing up there?

V: Just makes more and more sense to me why Bella picked this vampire family.

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

V: I think it would be really fun if Bella had had some sort of armour. If she – under her shirt – had a bullet proof vest on or really any self-protection, if it turned out that she had a pit bull who was her who would come out and protect her or ninja stars that she could throw ... I just wish that she secretly had any game. So, I guess the thing I would put in her care package is a desire to survive. Anyway, what about? What do you want to put in her care package?

J: I really want to put in a video camera for her to start shooting her own movie. So, instead of a direct physical attack upon James it's going to be an artistic attack. And if she goes in and starts doing her own camera work and be like 'No, wait can you actually move a little bit to the left? I'm catching myself in the mirror.' I think he would be extremely thrown off and the plan would be cancelled because based on what we've seen so far, he is more interested in his artistic desires than he is in eating her. Instead of thwarting eating her, she should thwart his cinema.

V: I also think it would really hurt his feelings if she was like 'Actually, I think this would be better if you were a little taller. Can you stand on this block?' And make him shoot all of his scenes standing on a step stool like they did to Humphrey Bogart.

J: 'Did you bring a body double for this? I'm actually not sure your stunt work is up to snuff here. When you threw me through that glass door, I'm not really sure that we registered it on camera like I wanted it to.'

V: And then in the middle of killing her she could be like 'Cut! Let's take that from the top, everyone. Let's actually take that from the top, everyone.'

J: You're going to be like 'That's a wrap.' And she dies.

V: No, that's a wrap and then she leaves and that's her game. Ugh. It's such a good idea, Julia. Such a good idea. If she showed up with a whole bag of filming supplies and was like 'I just need a minute to set up my tripod.'

J: I did wonder if James is carrying around his GoPro as he was fighting her with one hand or if he had also set up a tripod to get it from different angles.

V: I'm picturing it on a helmet that he is wearing.

J: Yes, I would love that!

V: So, you get all that 'Um' and 'Urgh' real life point of view.

J: That's so beautiful. What do you think is going to happen in the next chapter?

V: Well, Bella really hasn't fought back so far so I think she's going to take one of the bones from her broken leg and try to use that as a weapon.

J: [laughing] That is so hardcore, Bella would never. Bella is afraid of blood, no wonder she's passing out.

V: I don't know, I just want her to do something.

J: Honestly, I'm amazed that she stayed conscious for this long with all the blood, given that that drop during blood test wake was about to send her to the nurse's office. I would have thought she would have gotten a scratch on her hand when she was running to the ballet studio and then would have just lay down flat until she came to.

V: Oh my god, Cullens, listen up! She can't just walk, she can run! No carrying necessary.