

HOT AND BOTHERED: TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

CHAPTER 20: IMPATIENCE

Vanessa: (supported by background music) Hello to our amazing listening community. We wanted to talk to you briefly about the reality of Season 2 of Twilight in Quarantine. We are having the most fun making this podcast, and it sounds like some of you are having fun too. So, the truth is that ad money is not really coming in because of the Coronavirus right now. And these episodes cost us about \$500 an episode to make. And so in order for us to do Season 2, Book 2, which I think is again called “Commas, Elipses, Nouns” of Twilight in Quarantine, we need our Patreon support to get up to about \$3,000 a month, in order for us to not be losing money on producing this podcast. We know that we have 15,000 listeners who listen every week to this podcast. And so if you are 1 of those listening, if you could go and give \$5 a month, just \$5 a month, so that we can keep going, we would really appreciate it. So go to patreon.com/hotandbotheredrompod to support us there today.

Julia “Chapter 20: Impatience.

[begin intro music]

When I woke up, I was confused. My thoughts were hazy, still twisted up in dreams and nightmares. It took me longer than it should have to realize where I was.” I’m Julia Argie...

Vanessa: And I’m Vanessa Zoltan...

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

Julia: It’s just going to be a miracle if we say anything funny in this chapter that just has nothing happen.

Vanessa: [Laughs]

Julia: 1 scene, the same characters ...

Vanessa: Can I tell you a big sigh of relief that I had in this chapter?

Julia: Sure.

Vanessa: There’s a point where Alice is helping Bella into the hotel by having her arm around Bella’s waist, and I was like, “Do you know who’s not being carried right now? Bella!” I was so proud of her for walking! And I was so proud of Alice for letting her walk!

Julia: I mean, we can’t spoil our 30-second Recaps. WE only have so much material.

Vanessa: OK, I’m going to remind everybody of hos little happens.

Julia: Please do. OK, in 3, 2, 1, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Vanessa: So Bella wakes up and she's in a hotel room, and she can tell because lamps are stapled to tables. And then she's like, "How did I get here? Oh, I was in a car. Oh, I cried so much. Is it 3 AM or 3 PM?" She opens the curtains—3 AM. Then Edward calls and they've been waiting for him to call, and he's like, "Yep!" And Alice draws a ballet studio and we don't know what it means and she ... Bella's like, "That's a ballet studio!"

[long buzzing sound]

Julia: I'm going to do that, but just a little spicier.

Vanessa: Uh, good luck!

Julia: Thank you.

Vanessa: I was SPICY! OK, on your mark, get set, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Julia: Bella wakes up; she's in a hotel room. There are curtains, there are water-colors. There are abstract paintings. She – talks to Alice and Jasper. They watch TV, but no one cares about TV. She wanders around. She feels anxious. They don't let her outside. They order room service. She doesn't know what she eats; we don't know either. Bella – no Alice – has a vision in which she sees the ballet studio and then Edward immediately calls because James has gotten on a plane to come to the ballet studio in Phoenix. And then she calls the mom to say not to go to her house.

[long buzzing sound]

Vanessa: Ooh! That was pretty spicy! That might have been too spicy for me!

Julia: Wow! A Thai chili!

Vanessa: I was really on the edge of my seat when you were like, "They ordered room service." I was like, [gasp] "What did she eat?" and then you were like, "We don't know what she ate." And I was like, Aww!!" It was a real emotional roller-coaster of spice!

Julia: I mean, that is the level of excitement in this chapter.

Vanessa: What do you think Edward sounds like on the phone with Bella? Do you think he doo-wops her? Do you think the first thing that Bella hears when she picks up the phone is a pitch-pipe? It's "pitch-pipe" and then it's "Ahem. [sings and snaps fingers] "Doo-wop, how are you? Doo[wop, my bella?"

Julia: [laughs]

Vanessa: I think it's always doo-wop! [sings] "Are you eating? What are you eating?"

Julia: Why the fuck don't you know?

Vanessa: 'cause he gets mad, you know?

[sings] "I love you, Bella, even though I torture you..."

Julia: I think that's their album name: "I love you Bella, even though I torture you."

Vanessa: [laughs]

[segue music]

Vanessa: So Julia, what were you like, "Yes! This was in this chapter!"

Julia: I had another moment where I was happy to envision something that could have been. Jasper, despite how many pages there have been so far finally has a line of dialogue. And Bella says, "It was the first sound, besides the purr of the car, to break the long night's silence." And when I first read this, I thought it was "The purr of the cat". And I was like, "Whose cat? What, they brought a little support animal for Bella?" I was thrilled at the idea that there could have been a little pet in this chapter. But then I got confused and I reread it, and it was "the car" which, as we all know I don't care about cars but I am definitely interested in animals. So I really loved the idea that maybe they brought a little road trip buddy—a little cat—to purr along as Bella cries. So nice!

Vanessa: That would have been really nice. What do you think the cat's name would have been?

Julia: Humanblood? Hemoglobin?

Vanessa: No! That would be too tempting. Then they would want to eat the cat. That would be like you naming the cat Mac-'n-cheese.

Julia: People name animals food names all the time.

Vanessa: Yeah, but not something they think is delicious.

Julia: I'm sure there's a dog out there named Pizza. There are many dogs out there named Pizza.

Vanessa: OK, fine.

Julia: What did you like in this chapter?

Vanessa: I feel similar to you, because I also only like something in the chapter insofar as it inspired me to imagine something. I really loved thinking of Bella as a ballerina, and then I started thinking of how great this movie would have been as a dance movie. Where Edward is like the dick choreographer and Bella is like the ingenue whose a great dancer but has bad feet. The vampire aspect is the mean critic who is Edward's ex-lover who's sitting in the audience waiting to just destroy Bella. And Edward is torn between his ex-lover and supporting Bella. I just wish this whole thing was a dance movie.

Julia: And does it have any resemblance to the Twilight we know besides the characters being named Edward and Bella?

Vanessa: Yeah, he like loves her but is dangerous for her.

Julia: Because he'll make her dance through her injuries?

Vanessa: No, he'll put her in parts that she's not ready for which will ruin her career.

Julia: Oh, professionally dangerous.

Vanessa: Hmm-hmm. I think it should be called, “Centerstage meets Twilight”, so like, “Twilight Stage”. “Center Twilight.”

Julia: “Center Twilight.” That sounds really beautiful.

Vanessa: Thank you.

[segue music]

Vanessa: OK, now that we’ve talked about the great inspiration found in this chapter, let’s give some advice. Who do you have advice for?

Julia: I have advice for the Cullin family in general, because I’m not really sure who’s in charge of their personal finances. But they stay in such a – boring hotel. And as the millionaire/billionaires they are, why don’t they just get a penthouse suite and just live it up? They’re trapped in there for days; they can’t leave. I’ve never been to a really nice hotel room, but rumor has it some of them can have like pools and fountains inside, an indoor gym? I have no idea what happens in expensive hotels but I’m sure they’re something better than the weird abstract paintings bolted to the wall. And they should have splurged on one.

Vanessa: I don’t think airport hotels are nice, are they?\

Julia: I just want them to stay somewhere nice.

Vanessa: But they have to stay by the airport for safety.

Julia: I mean, isn’t having a bunch of vampire henchmen safe enough?

Vanessa: You think they should prioritize bling over safety in this moment.

Julia: Absolutely. They’re trapped in there. All they do is watch bad cable TV. Like, they could probably have a hotel room with a mini golf course in the middle of it. Another reason to have a nice hotel room is that we could have got a fun montage scene of the tour.

Vanessa: What products are in the shower at this hotel, do you think?

Julia: There’s no shower; it’s only a jacuzzi.

Vanessa: [laughs]Eww! So gross! There’s only a jacuzzi? Rich people are weird! Is that what happens in fancy hotels?

Julia: As far as I can understand it, yes. Oh, and they should get a patio. Like, she’s stuck inside.

Vanessa: Yeah, because it’s dangerous for her to be outside. They should get a tanning bed delivered.

Julia: [laughs] Do you think vampires can tan?

Vanessa: I think Bella can.

Julia ... make use of her time in Phoenix, in her volleyball court. She can be the blond volleyball player from Phoenix that she’s always wanted.

Vanessa: She ... should ... go ...blond!

Julia: That's a great activity. As now quarantine experts, we should really have some fun in-door activities for her to do.

Vanessa: I do. It's what my care package is full of.

Julia: OK, well, I don't want to ruin that for you, so would you like to say a piece of advice that you have before we get to that?

Vanessa: Yeah. My advice is actually quarantine-based, which is stay on a normal sleep schedule, even in a time of crisis. She wakes up and she's like, "I don't know if it's 3 PM or 3 AM," and I'm like, "Yeah, that's not a great thing to not know." So yeah, I think it's really important for us to maintain some normalcy wherever we can. And I think Bella should be going to bed at 10:30 and waking up at 7:00 and then playing some mini golf and then going on a little jacuzzi bath and then starting on her day.

Julia: And hopping in the tanner.

Vanessa: Do you have a second piece of advice?

Julia: My advice is for the hotel staff to please help Bella. I'm actually 100% serious about this. Let me find this. Bella "had a vague impression of leaving the car. The sun was just falling behind the horizon, my arm draped over Alice's shoulder, her arm around my waist, dragging me along, as I stumbled through the warm, dry, shadows." OK, so the hotel staff see an unconscious woman being dragged into a hotel, they go to the penthouse, they order room service, they stop the maid service, and they don't leave for days at a time.

Vanessa: Mmm-hmmm.

Julia: Like these are all what I would consider red flags for an abduction situation, and we hear nothing about anyone knocking on the door. I just feel like I'm sure this checks all the boxes for like human trafficking protocol. I mean, maybe the hotel is so understaffed that no one has noticed but this seems like a lot of problems.

Vanessa: I do think hospitality industry people get trained mostly in discretion. It's like, "No matter what you see, look the other way."

Julia: Ohhhh.

Vanessa: People do all sorts of shenanigans at hotels because of that. Where do you commit your crimes, Julia? I commit all of my crimes at low-budget hotels so that no one cares.

Julia: I just commit them out in the open. FBI, good luck finding me. I've got everyone on my side.

Vanessa: [laughs]

Julia: Would you like to give a second piece of advice?

Vanessa: Yes. I would like to advise Bella to call her dad. She says that she thinks about calling Charlie to let him know that she's OK, but that she wasn't sure if she should be in Phoenix yet or not. And Charlie is probably really worried about her. She like stormed out. HE thinks she went in her truck which he was worried wasn't going to make it to Seattle, and now she's driving it to Phoenix. And so I

would say, “Bella, take like 2 seconds to do the math on where Charlie thinks you are and then pretend to call from there. Just be like: [crying] ‘Hi, Charlie, I’m so upset, I just had to get away from Forks. Yeah, I’m almost back in Phoenix.’ Check in with your Dad. It’s not that hard”. It would take like 5 seconds of thinking it through. She can’t do it.

Julia: And she has those supercomputer vampires around to do the math.

Vanessa: Right.

Julia: If Bella is going 60 miles per hour from Seattle to Phoenix, how long will it be after 24 hours?

Vanessa: Yeah, they’ve taken high school math for like 150 years. That’s enough time to figure out basic arithmetic.

Julia: I believe that she could have all the tutoring she needs in this hotel room.

[segue music and pause for advertisements]

Vanessa: Julia, did you have anything in your Twilight diary this week?

Julia: Well, I did have a note about how appealing Alice seems in comparison to Edward. There’s a moment where Alice is describing getting changed into a vampire—like how good they are at murdering—and she just explains it in such a calm, rational way. And then Bella thinks back on how Edward did his little circus performance in the woods, murdering that whole family of squirrels and trying to hit her with a tree-trunk or whatever. And I was like, “Wow, this is really showing you a good partner versus a bad partner.” And yet when he gets on the phone she’s like, “I still love you even after all of this.” And I was like, “Alice! Great cuddler! Gives you space! Tells you the truth! Everything that Edward doesn’t do, and yet here you are, still picking the schmuck.”

Vanessa: Don’t you just feel that about straight ladies in general though?

Julia: Mmm-hmmm.

Vanessa: That felt believable to me.

Julia: Just because it felt believable doesn’t mean I want it to happen. This is supposed to be escapist fiction. I’m escaping to the world of Alice and Bella together in their normal relationship. I mean, she was just so well-adjusted. She even talks about how when they snuggle she doesn’t even bother to comment upon it. I was like, “Wouldn’t that be nice? Edward’s always like, ‘When you touch me, I want to kill you.’”

Vanessa: [laughs] You say the silliest things! Are you at all distressed that we don’t know what the weather in Forks is right now? Like, I bet it’s raining in Forks.

Julia: I bet Charlie’s like, “I’m being stalked by 2 extremely hot women; they seem to be following me everywhere. I’m not really sure what’s going on with that; I’m just gonna play it cool.

Vanessa: Yeah, too bad I’m not into Carlyle.

Julia: I know.

Vanessa: I think Charlie’s probably a little distressed that Carlyle isn’t coming into work.

Julia: Charlyle is a really good coupled name though.

Vanessa: Yeah, Charlyle's apart right now; that's sad. Jessica's probably having all sorts of really great thoughts that Edward isn't judging.

Julia: We heard that Jessica and mike's date at the dance s went really well; we've never even figured out what happened at the dance. Honestly, I so miss going back to high school every single day. Maybe that's why the Cullins keep doing it. They're like, "Chase and murder one of my family members? No thanks; I'm gonna stick with high school!"

Vanessa: Yeah! What did happen at the dance? What was the theme? Was it "Under the Sea?" Was it "Space"?

Julia: "Night in Paris"?

Vanessa: Maybe it was a beach theme?

Julia: Mmmm.

Vanessa: Curious people would like to know, Stephenie Meyer.

[segue music]

Vanessa: So Julia, it seems as though Bella's going to be stuck in this hotel room for a really long time—and they didn't even get her a nice hotel room. I know some of the things in your care package would be like a jacuzzi, but what else do you want to put in her care package?

Julia: Well, I'd like to provide for her—she says at one point she snuggles up to Alice's granite neck. So I would like to provide her a pillow that would prevent that sleeping-on-a-rock situation.

Vanessa: She says she sort of likes it

Julia: I know – maybe just an extra option. Or maybe just a neck pillow for Alice. And then she can still snuggle with Alice and then it just won't be the neck, it will also be a pillow there.

Vanessa: Nice.

Julia: Yeah, what about you?

Vanessa: I have so many things for her. I would like to get her a watch with an AM-PM function. I really think that they need some sort of game book, like Mad Libs or a crossword puzzle book. Something that the three of them can do together would be really good. I think it's really weird that she didn't pack a book, so I'd send her some books. And I really think that there's no reason why the three of them aren't playing Scrabble right now, and so I would send them Trapped Scrabble.

Julia: Wow, that's so generous of you. Maybe she won't die now.

Vanessa: Yeah! I'm keeping her alive!

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

Vanessa: Something with the ballet studio.

Julia: That seems evident. Imagine if nothing happened with the ballet studio. [laughing] Imagine if they all just go back to Forks and was like, “That was weird! ‘cause that forced feature didn’t come true.

Vanessa: I was trying to think. Maybe all the mirrors in the ballet studio are going to break. And like, is that one of the ways to kill a vampire is like to stab a mirror in their heart? Or maybe they pull the bar off of it and turn that into a wooden stake and stab a vampire with the wooden stake from the ballet studio? They have to kill James!

Julia: I can’t believe you went on and on about wanting it to be a dance movie and then don’t think the next chapter is going to be a dance-off in the ballet studio. Edward and James and whoever wins gets to eat Bella or not eat Bella as they so choose.

Vanessa: I don’t think all my dreams come true, Julia. Do I wish that was what happened in the next chapter? Yes! But I am betting here—I am a betting woman!

Julia: Yeah, I wish it would be a dance-off.

[begin ending music]

Vanessa: This has been “Twilight in quarantine”, a road trip with “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 beautiful vampire baby by Julia Argy. And I’m Vanessa Zoltan, and I ... love ... madlibs! We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACast. We’re getting really close to the end of Twilight, the first book in the series. So if you want us to do New Moon, Book 2, please support us on Patreon so that we can afford to do it, because we really want to do it also.