

Twilight in Quarantine

Chapter 10 - Interrogations

J: Chapter 10, Interrogations. It was very hard in the morning to argue with the part of me that was sure last night was a dream. Logic wasn't on my side, or common sense. I clung to the parts I couldn't have imagined – like his smell. I'm Julia Argy.

V: And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

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

V: Why can't she imagine his smell? Like, it was so good that she never would have been able to come up with it on her own?

J: Yeah, I think that's it.

V: I feel like if I want to come up with something that smells amazing, I'm just like 'Cotton candy'. Done.

J: [unbelieving] Cotton candy?

V: *Jessica Simpson* bath products. Done.

J: [laughs] You think Edward Cullen smells like *Jessica Simpson* bath products?

V: I can only hope. What do you think he smells like?

J: When I was in middle school, I would constantly go to *Bath and Body Works* and get the snap pea – snow pea? – flavoured ... do you know what I'm talking about?

V: No, I remember cucumber. I don't remember snap pea.

J: Yeah, I didn't want to smell like a vegetable. There was one that smelled like peas and-

V: [laughing] - that's a vegetable!

J: Okay. Good point. [laughing] I wanted to smell like –

V: - a different vegetable?

J: Exactly. Yeah, so, I think he smells like that *Bath and Body Works* products from the early 2000s.

V: Okay. Fair enough. Can't argue with logic. Do you want to tell us more things, like, recap the chapter?

J: Clearly, I'm on a roll with facts.

V: [laughs] Okay. Three, two, one – go!

J: So, Edwards drives her home and they talk more about what it means for him to be a vampire and then she goes to sleep. And then the next morning Edward picks her up in the Volvo ... ride to school. Jessica asks Bella all about what happened and she handles it pretty well. Vague but also kind of nice and then they eat lunch together and there is that apple from the cupboard. And then – ehm – they talk about hunting and Emmett eats bears and Edward likes mountain lions and [biiiiiepp] that's it.

V: I think you wasted some precious time recapping the end of the previous chapter.

J: It wasn't strategic but I wanted to make sure everyone had their context.

V: You just don't trust that Meredith and I did a sufficient job while you were gone. So, well. Okay. Well, do you want to count me in?

J: Yes, I can. Three, two, one – go!

V: So, Mike is really excited about dating Jessica. So, it turns out that he wasn't really that into Bella in the first place and Jessica is like 'Oh, I guess you're gonna go eat with your new boyfriend at lunch today' and she's like 'Yes'. Edward basically allows Bella to ask him all of these questions and he admits that he goes hunting and that Emmett likes to hunt bears and he likes to hunt mountain lions and he flashes his teeth at her. And they lunch together and they're really just spending [biiiepp] some quality time getting to know each other. Which leads me into my first, like, gushy thing. I was like 'Oh my God, beginnings of relationships are like so fun.

J: That's interesting.

V: [giggles] You look horrified. Like, they're doing the whole, like, dead pan, like, 'Oh, of course. Mountain lions. Who doesn't love the taste of mountain lions?' And I'm like, ugh. Peter and I haven't flirted with each other in literal years.

J: The reason that I reacted a little bit aversely to your statement was because my piece of advice was this whole chapter was the equivalent of 'No, you hang up.' – 'No, YOU hang up!' – 'No, YOU hang up!' And so I didn't find it cute. I was like someone just be like 'Yeah, I do like you less. That's how it is.' [laughing together]

V: So you're, like, not at all charmed with people falling in love?

J: I'm charmed by it in theory. They just got in so many fights about 'Oh, I would never leave you!' – 'Oh, I would never leave you more.' – 'You would never have to leave me because I would leave you first.' I was like 'Oh my God, someone be, like, 'Yeah, I'd leave you.'"

V: [laughing] Yeah, that part was less cute to me. The cute parts were, like, just like how dumb they both are. It's like 'We were leaning into each other.' Like, yeah, that's what people do in conversations – you lean in to, like, talk. [laughing] But I just think it's so cute how dumb it is. They're, like, 'Nobody leans into me more intensely than he does.' Love is so cute and so dumb and so gross. It's just – I loved watching it.

J: I mean, it's interesting that you're saying you enjoyed it because we do hear about the dazzling again in a hypothetically cutesy way. Did you feel okay with it this time? Did you think it was cute?

V: No. That was a ridge too far. Also, I hate the word 'dazzle'. Unless it's prefixed with 'be-'. Who dazzles?

J: Like, 'give him the old razzle dazzle.'

V: Yeah. That's great. With the prefix, dazzle is great. But just dazzle? Ugh.

J: What did you think about Bella playing mind games with Edward when he was listening in on Bella's and Jessica's conversation?

V: I wouldn't go so far as to call it 'mind games'. I would say she was being strategic. She was like 'He's listening so I'm gonna get certain things back to him'.

J: Yeah, I wanted her to be more manipulative.

V: Got it.

J: Just so like sow - sow the seeds of disarray into their relationship to keep him guessing.

V: So, like, what kind of thing do you wish that she'd say to Jessica to mess with Edward?

J: Partly, of course, I wanted her to be like 'Do you like him?' – 'Maybe, we will have to see. Maybe I'll like him if he buys me chocolate chip cookies. Maybe I'll like him if he drives me to school every day in his Volvo and doesn't speed'. If she is communicating with him this way, don't communicate that you like him so much that it could be dangerous. Communicate something else that we don't know.

V: [laughing] We're horrible advice givers for like 'Play more games! Fuck with his head. Make him feel terrible!' I do like the idea of her, like, planting ideas for gifts. Like 'Maybe I would like him if he kept a heated blanket for me in the Volvo when he picked me up.'

J: Even if it was like 'Maybe I would like him if he wore that sexy white turtleneck again.'

V: [laughing] Yeah, totally.

J: She could really get what she wanted from this. I just feel like it was a missed opportunity for her.

V: What would you – like, if your boyfriend could read, like, your puppy's mind, what would you tell Lentil the puppy to get you?

J: I think Lentil's mind is truly full of nothing. [V laughs] So I don't think I could communicate a single thing to him. He's like that dog from up. Like, I think that he's like 'squirrel' that's it. That's all Jonah would get.

V: [laughing] That you want a squirrel?

J: Yeah. Jonah would come in with a dead squirrel and be like 'Here, I heard you want this.'

J: Do you have a piece of advice that you'd like to give someone in the chapter?

V: I do! My first piece of advice is that she should tell Charlie about Edward. She's like 'I've decided less is more for Charlie.' And I'm like, no. I'm, like, truly, for safety reason I think someone should know that she's, like, out with a vampire who's a reckless driver.

J: Do you want her to communicate that he's a reckless vampire driver or do you just want to communicate that she's out with him.

V: That she's out with him. She should be like 'Hey, you know the kid of that guy you really respect? He's actually gonna take me to Seattle.' I just think, like, someone should know where you are.

J: Especially if your boyfriend is as bad as Edward.

V: Also, just, like, it's an awkward moment for, like, thirty seconds. He'll be like 'Oh, are you dating?' and you can go 'Dad, no! Oh my God.' And then, like, it's done.

J: I think that is definitely more effective than her strategy right now. Can't wait to see how it plays out.

V: What is your second piece of advice today?

J: I found Edward very annoying. He not only tries to control everything she does but now that this whole mind reading thing is out in the open, he also expresses the concern that he doesn't like her thoughts. I was like 'Edward, you can't control everything she does. Despite your desperate attempts.' He should just stop criticising her inner thoughts all the time. No more of that. It was so annoying.

V: Yeah, I also just think, like, that maybe some non-violent communication strategies like eye statements would really help Edward. Rather than being like 'Your thoughts are wrong. You are too understanding.' he needs to say 'The way that you think makes ME uncomfortable. I don't feel emotionally mature enough to handle them.'

J: I mean, it's just such a double standard. Because Bella is not like 'Oh, I hate when you think about murdering me.' She's like 'Yeah, I guess that's cool. Your thoughts are your thoughts. We'll see how it goes.' And he's like 'Oh, I don't like when you think that you could like me more.' It's, like, one is murdering your partner, and the other is, like, being too committed. That's not the same

V: I mean, maybe, like, he got stunted at some point in, like, the 1950s, where he thought that it was okay to try to control your partner's thoughts. And he's like 'Maybe what she needs is a valium and a martini.'

J: [snorts] Do you have a second piece of advice that you'd wanna give?

V: I would like to echo advice based on what Meredith said the other day. I don't think I had realised how severe Bella's problem is with thinking that she can read people when we have no reason to suspect that his is true. For example: She says about Mike that he at one point has an almost resigned look on his face. Have you ever seen anybody's face and thought to yourself 'I know that look, it's almost resigned'. And then she does it again with Jessica where she says she made a face, probably remembering this morning or last night, when he turned the overwhelming force of his eyes on her. And when you do you, like, cognitive behavioural therapy, right, where one of things they have you dispel for anxiety and depression and, like, spiralling is the belief that you can read other peoples' minds. And Bella has admitted to us that she's depressed. And there's this great documentary I talk about all the time because I love it. It's called *10 Ways to untwist your thinking* and it's specifically, like, psychologically approved recommendations for how to stop yourself from spiralling. And one of the ways that they talk about stopping spiralling is to, and I'm quoting, examine the evidence. Instead of assuming that your negative thought is true, examine the *actual* evidence for it. Bella, you reading faces is not actual evidence. You don't know, you're projecting. And, I'm, like, worried that her anxiety and depression is part of this.

J: So, do you think Edward may not actually be able to read minds but is actually just super depressed. [V laughing] That's what I'm hearing.

V: No, I don't think so. He could read the minds of those rapists. Do you think that he just assumes that everyone is going to rape Bella all the time?

J: I mean they were acting scary. Like, I could figure that out and I'm not a mind reader. It's like 'Oh, something bad's gonna happen, they want to hurt hear.' Like, yeah. Context clues would indicate that when men herd women into a, like, unmarked alley that they're not up to something good. They're not gonna, like, sell her a vacuum or something.

V: [laughing] I love your idea that selling someone a vacuum is like an act of goodness. 'Let me do something really good for you, I'm gonna sell you a vacuumer.'

J: I mean, Charlie definitely does not have a vacuum. I'm sure about that.

V: But he's able to, like, triangulate her location by thought reading. Like a satellite. He at least has GPS location powers.

J: I mean, maybe he just stuck a tile on her. It's like 'Ring, ring, ring! Bella's over there!'

V: By feeding her all the time, he actually fed her a microchip.

J: [laughing] I mean, as much as we're joking, honestly, based off of Edward's actions, I would put nothing past him. Like, Edward a hundred percent would microchip Bella.

V: Okay. So, yeah. Maybe Edward also needs this *10 Ways to untwist your thinking* documentary.

J: Do you have something you want to put into Bella's care package this week?

V: Yeah, the moment that I found really disturbing in this chapter was when Bella was like 'Look at me, I'm so ordinary.' And, like, does a lot of, like, negative self-talk which we talked about before; how negative that can be. And since she already has a hard time sleeping, I think we should send her one of those, like, hypnosis tapes for her to listen to while she sleeps that's like 'You are a strong, beautiful, smart woman.' Do you know what? Forget it! I'm just gonna make one for her - burn a CD and send it to her.

J: [In sing-song voice] 'You do not have to date a vampire.'

V: [In sing-song voice] 'You are strong and wonderful. You can't read faces but that's okay.' What about you, Julia? What do you want to put in Bella's care package?

J: Well, I had a really serious reckoning with how I relate to Bella this week. Because I, as mentioned, I have a puppy and I love him so much. His name is Lentil and all he wants to do is eat my human flesh and I still love him and he constantly just wants to eat me alive. And I just have kinda gotten over that as a part of your relationship. So, that's exactly what Bella is going through right now; it's loving someone who wants to eat her human flesh constantly

– when they wake up and when they go to bed. I thought instead of dating a vampire who actually could eat your human flesh I would just get her a puppy and sent a puppy her way. And she could just push all of that selfless energy towards a puppy instead of dating a guy who stalks her.

V: My concern is that you want to ship her a puppy in a package. Like, are we cutting holes in it? Like, how are we getting it to her?

J: Bella, DM me your address, I'll drive you the puppy.

V: Awe, that's very nice. It's somewhere in Forks, Washington.

J: Gonna circle around until I see a cop car parked in a driveway and put a puppy on the front door, ring the door bell and get out of there?

V: There's often a truck there, too, because she's rarely driving herself these days. Some man in a Volvo keeps picking her up.

J: So, what do you think is going to happen in the next chapter?

V: Well, I'm hoping that we're finally going to get to see what happens to Edward when he sees the sun. And I'm hoping that what happens that he can't help but break out into song. Rather than being sing song-y he just goes full Hugh Jackman and does, like, a tap number.

J: I wish it was that he's so pale he actually just gets really bad sunburns.

V: Also, what do you think that Hugh Jackman smells like?

J: I don't care about Hugh Jackman, I'm so sorry.

V: Friendship over.

V: This has been *Twilight in Quarantine*, a *Bath and Body Works* episode 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 the great and good Julia Argy and I'm Vanessa Zoltan and I smell like cucumbers. We're a production

of *Not Sorry Productions* and are distributed by *A Cast*. Write in and tell us what vegetable you smell like.