

Twilight in Quarantine

New Moon

Chapter 7: Repetition

Julia: Chapter 7: Repetition: (*reading*) I wasn't sure what the hell I was doing here. Was I trying to push myself back into the zombie stupor? [*music beings*] Had I turned masochistic, developing a taste for torture? I should have gone straight down to La Push. I feel much much healthier around Jacob. This was not a healthy thing to do. (*end reading*) I'm Julia Argy,

Vanessa: and I'm Vanessa Zoltan

Julia: And this is Hot And Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine.

[*music continues*]

Vanessa: None of those questions get answered. Do you want to read them to me one at a time?

[*Music ends*]

Julia: Was I trying to push myself back into the zombie stupor?

Vanessa: No.

Julia: Had I turned massochistic, developing a taste for torture?

Vanessa: Yes.

Julia: That was it.

Vanessa: Oh, those were the only questions? Ok, great.

[*Julia laughs*]

Vanessa: I get 100% on that quiz.

Julia: 2 out of 2.

Vanessa: Wooo. I am an A student. Ok, now I'm gonna do an A job on the 30-second recap.

Julia: Yeah. Do a terrific job.

Vanessa: I was gonna say I'm gonna do my best. But then I was like, why doubt myself? I am going to do a great job.

Julia: Ok, well, let's hear it. 3...2...1... Go!

*[ticking sound begins]*

Vanessa: So, Jacob and Bella are really close to each other. Bella goes to the Cullen's house and it's like, not as... depressing for her as she'd thought it would be and so she goes back to Jacob, and Mike asks her out again and Jacob is like, "But we should do homework together sometimes because I am insecure about the fact that you don't really like to hang out with me and you're just using me. And Bella's like, "Great, let's do homework", and then Jacob's like, "The bikes are ready," and then they see people cliff-diving and then Jake's like "Sam Uley wants me to be part of his gang and I don't want to be."

*[buzzer goes off, ticking sounds stops]*

Julia: A+.

Vanessa: Thank you.

Julia: Good for you.

Vanessa: I envisioned doing a terrific job, and then I did a terrific job.

Julia: Ok, I'm gonna set the bar low and envision doing a mediocre job.

Vanessa: Ok, I believe in you. On your mark, get set, Go!

*[ticking sound begins]*

Julia: So she drives down the Cullens' really long driveway and then, it turns out that they are not in the house anymore because they moved. And then she goes to see Jacob and Jacob's like, "I think you don't really like me and I'm upset about that" and she's like, "No, I do really like you, and you're really hot, physically and temperature wise." Mike asks her out and then it turns into a friend-date and then Jacob also calls something a date which isn't a date, and then... that was it.

*[buzzer goes off, ticking stops]*

Vanessa: Super not it.

Julia: I don't know. What happened right at the end there?

Vanessa: What happens right at the end is Jacob is like, "Sam Uley treats me like I'm special. And people hate him one day and then they go away for a week and they come back and they're a part of his gang. And they are not even good at being a gang. They are super responsible, except they cliff-dive from too high up."

Julia: I think I subliminally suppressed that plot point because it's just a monologue for pages. It's like, I understand I needed to know this information. I wish it wasn't pages of monologue.

Vanessa: Yeah, to be honest I don't love this chapter. She's not being interestingly reckless. Nor is she being compelling, competent and good at school. She's like, halfway rejecting Mike, but not really. She's halfway rejecting Jacob, but not really. Like, she's not doing anything. She's like, half doing things and it's boring.

Julia: Yeah, it was absolutely boring.

Vanessa: Today's chapter was so boring that we have renamed our breaking news session from Breaking News to Awkward Dinner ChitChat. And so instead of our normal "do doo doo" sound effect, it's the Jeopardy theme song that's playing. Because during awkward dinners, jeopardy is usually playing in the background. So Julia, Awkward Dinner Conversation.

*[Vanessa hums Jeopardy theme song]*

Julia: Well, this one was actually a little of like, a spicy tidbit. This is like, at your awkward dinner when you have a bite of food and it's actually good and you are like "wooo, bringing life to this compote." Bella has never heard of cliff-diving before.

Vanessa: Yeah, I mean cliff-diving isn't a thing in Arizona, I would guess, because you would like, jump off of a cliff into like, dessert. So maybe this is her geographical limitations.

Julia: Yeah, but like, I've never had the opportunity to cliff dive or go to space, but I still know that space is out there and that people try to go there.

Vanessa: People go to space?

Julia: I mean, allegedly at least one monkey did.

*[Vanessa laughs]*

Vanessa: Thank god they didn't send a dog. That would be upsetting.

Julia: They did send a dog and it absolutely died.

Vanessa: Noooo!

Julia: Yeah, that's a thing. A little Russian dog, like Toto or something.

Vanessa: That's so upsetting. I'm so sad to learn that space travel exists for the very first time.

Julia: What is your Awkward Dinner Conversation?

Vanessa: Do you wanna just role-play an awkward dinner with me. Like you're my Mom and I'm a sullen teenager.

Julia: Sure, so like, Charlie and Bella.

Vanessa: Exactly. Go.

Julia: Bella, how was your day?

Vanessa: I went to the Cullens' house. And I didn't hear Edward's voice.

Julia: What made you think you would hear Edward' voice?

Vanessa: I heard it last Friday.

Julia: That's not good enough reasoning. Which is something I actually thought in that chapter, because she knows it's adrenaline-related. Why does she suddenly think it's deja-vu-related?

Vanessa: Because she's a woman in STEM. She has a theory that it is adrenaline-related, but the adrenaline situation was simultaneously adrenaline and deja-vu so she's unsure so she's separating the two variables out in order to have control. It's because she's running a good experiment.

Julia: Ok. Breaking News, Bella engages in a scientific experiment.

Vanessa: Did you have a moment of genuine enjoyment, Julia?

Julia: Well, as I'm prone to do in chapters where I don't like anything. I made up something that I liked making up, which was... so Bella this whole chapter cleans and does chores. She has to apologize to Charlie because Charlie, the adult man, was forced to manage his own dinner. And then she makes lasagne and then at one point she's cleaning the toilet and drops the toilet brush when she gets a call from Jake. And during that toilet bowl drop I was like, "This woman is doing so many chores she's like Cinderella," and then I thought - Cinder-Bella.

*[Vanessa laughs]*

Julia: And that was it.

Vanessa: Well that was a moment of genuine enjoyment for me now. Thank you.

Julia: Yeah, it really adds up.

Vanessa: Well, you listed one of my moments of genuine enjoyment which is that Bella gets to not cook for one night. And I just, I think that we all deserve a break, so good for you Bella, you got a break. And then my other moment of genuine enjoyment was, and maybe this should be its own segment, which is like Vanessa's Safety Corner. But Bella's like, "Can we go cliff diving?" And she's like ready to go right that minute, and Jacob's like, "Can we go when it's warmer out?" And she's like "Sure," and he's like, "Also we're not going from the very top, we're gonna go from like a more reasonable place." And I was like, I love it Jacob.

Julia: What a voice of reason.

Vanessa: Yup, taking something risky and making it safe.

Julia: Vanessa, do you have a piece of advice?

Vanessa: Yeah, my first piece of advice is for Mike Newton. I actually have advice for everyone on this really awkward interaction. So Mike has decided enough time has passed from his break-up with Jessica, and that Bella has re-emerged as alive and she's clearly over Edward, so he, like, tries to ask her out again. And then she's like, "Oh, as a date?" Good on you Bella for calling it out and like, being honest and calling something as you see it. And he's like, "We could go as friends," and she's like "Ok great, let's go as friends." Mike, have the courage of your convictions. You are not going to be happy with a just-friendships so say, "Yeah, I did mean it as a date," and then Bella can be like "I'm sorry, I like, don't feel that way about you," and they can have an honest conversation. He can take some time to grieve and get over it and then they can be friends. But this thing that was supposed to be a date cannot now be a friend-date. Like he needs to grieve the crush. And then the other thing is Bella says, "I wish I could use Jessica as an excuse." Bella, you still can, you can say, "I'm so sorry, but I can't date my friend's ex-boyfriend." That's like a rule, you don't date your friend's ex-boyfriends. So you can say "I'm so sorry but like, I'm in deep shit with Jessica already because I suck and I kinda want to be friends with her sometimes, maybe, and so I can't date you. That would put me in the dog house for literal ever." And so just like, this whole conversation is a mess. Mike and Bella do better. That's my advice.

Julia: I got chills about the teenage flirting. The first book we had to see Bella get asked out so much and now that Edward's gone it's like a free for all for Bella's heart again. It's really hard for me to read and not be, like, screaming.

Vanessa: Yeah, like, this doesn't need to be that hard everyone. Just like, ask out people and if they say no, deal with it.

Julia: Well, I kind of have the same advice but for Jacob who, at one point Jacob gets upset because Sam wants him to join the werewolf cult and Jacob doesn't want to so Bella comforts him with a hug, and he awkwardly says at the end like, "Oh, I'm so glad I got upset so you would hug me." And it's so creepy and gross. Bella just kind of laughs it off and she does that throughout this chapter whenever Jacob says super uncomfortable things about the giant crush he has on her, she's always laughing it off. So my advice to her is that he doesn't understand at this point, since you haven't said anything, that you don't want this behavior to continue because it makes you uncomfortable. So she needs to put a firm foot down and say, "Please stop bringing up your romantic feelings for me. I don't feel the same. I really want us to be friends and I can't be friends with you if you keep bringing up your crush on me." And then that problem would be solved. But this in the middle thing, like you're talking about the date to friendship, the crush that's always being brought up; it's just very uncomfortable and I would love it to stop and Bella has the power to stop it.

Vanessa: Yeah, that's funny that that's how you cause that conversation cause I saw that conversation as Jacob's pitch for the movie *Inside Out* by Pixar, which is that Sadness is important because it gets people to take care of you. But that's not how you read it?

Julia: Ok, I have a friend who is a 20 year-old boy. God only knows how we became friends. He told me about a term called a "symp" and it's a term for the dark corners of the internet when men pretend to be sad, or pretend to be emotional, to get women to like them. So it's like, you post a photo with your baby sister and you're like, "I love my baby sister so much, like, it's so emotional to be her big brother," and that will like bring women towards you. So like, I believe this is Jacob acting like a symp.

Vanessa: Ugh, I would hate that. I would hate it if Jacob was manipulating her. That's not how I read it. I read it as, like, him genuinely being sad and then being awkward about the fact that he got a hug out of it and, like, liked it, and is like "Oh, I was actually just sharing and now it's awkward because I'm just reminded of the fact that I'm attracted to you."

Julia: But then don't say, "Let's do it more often."

Vanessa: I agree, but, I guess maybe now I'm moving into what I think is going to happen in the next chapter. And I hope that Jacob doesn't start being a symp just to get hugs. I'd like to think that the crime here is awkward joke; the crime is not "Ha-ha way to manipulate Bella, noted."

Julia: Yeah, I see that. What's your second piece of advice?

Vanessa: My second piece of advice is for Bella. Bella, when you come home and Charlie's ordered pizza, rather than saying, "I'm so sorry I didn't make you dinner," just be like, "Cool, thanks for the pizza, Dad." Like, this is a weird expectation that the two of you now have, that you are in charge of all his meals. And in fact, I guess I also have advice for Charlie. Charlie, this would have been a great to like, boil some pasta and make some dinner. What are you going to do when Bella leaves in like, 6 months? So, everybody, get a hold of yourself, take some personal responsibility, and women should not apologize for the times that they aren't like there to serve men on their time schedule.

Julia: I know, it really makes you wonder what Charlie was doing beforehand. Like, do you think it was just Chef Boyardee every night? Like Spaghettios for years?

Vanessa: I think it was pizza a lot of nights.

Julia: Ok, if they have the funds to get pizza take-out so often, Bella should just cook less in general and they should buy more take-out.

Vanessa: I agree, dude.

Julia: And she does all the grocery shopping. That's way too much work, and she does all the personal finance for the household. We heard that last chapter.

Vanessa: I know. I'm worried that when Charlie finally leaves the nest he's not gonna thrive as an adult, because Bella has overly-indulged him when she raised him.

Julia: He's gonna be like, one of those college kids who send back their laundry home for the mom to do.

Vanessa: Exactly.

*[transition music]*

Vanessa: Do you have a second piece of advice for us today, Julia?

Julia: I do. My advice is for Sam, who is assembling his little cult of werewolf army, and he scares all of the people who are going to eventually turn into werewolves and have to be a part of it. And so, my advice is to re-brand and build a friendlier, more inviting facade so that when people join they don't have to drop all their old friends and be afraid of one day having to join his little cult. It's not good marketing at all.

Vanessa: It's such a good point. Yeah, I love the idea of them like, rebranding with a logo with some millennial pink. Alice could help them with the re-design.

Julia: They could have like, paint by numbers nights.

Vanessa: Book clubs with hot cocoa.

Julia: Yes, that's so cute. Bad weather. They could invite people who aren't part of the cult to the events.

Vanessa: So you think that they should start a church youth group?

Julia: Yeah, Sam will walk around in it with an acoustic guitar and birkenstocks. I have never met a youth minister so I don't really know what they are up to, but I am pretty sure they are walking around in birkenstocks with acoustic guitars and I can really imagine that for Sam.

Vanessa: Yeah, they also use like, a few choice swear words. But none of the like, bad ones.

Julia: I mean, Bella said hell in this chapter so, like, she is ready to join.

Vanessa: Oh my god, she should be the youth minister.

Julia: Queen of the werewolves?

Vanessa: Oh my god, I want that promotion. I want to be queen of the werewolves. Well, that is excellent advice, Julia. As usual you are just taking problems and hitting them out of the park.

Julia: Thank you, vampire baseball taught me how. Taught me everything I know.

Vanessa: Yep.

*[transition music]*

Julia: What did you put in Bella's care package?

Vanessa: I would like to get Bella one of those books that teaches you how to draw and some nice drawing pencils and paper. Because I think that she needs to draw a picture of Edward so that she can have a picture of him to stare at because she is going so far recklessly out of her way to, like, have proof that he exists, and at one point there's a line in this chapter where she's like, "I have to believe that he's still out there," and I'm like, it's weird that you don't believe that. Like, do you think he evaporated? Like, she is starting to have some, like, really unclear thoughts, and so, it sucks that he took the pictures of him with him when he left, so I wish she could just draw him to be like, "Here, this is what he looked like, he existed". Talk to people about him. Be like, "Charlie, you remember Edward, right?" And Charlie will be like, "Yeah." Done.

Julia: I had a little bit of an idea for Bella and Charlie. I think they should move into the Cullens' mansion because it's empty and the Cullens aren't going to do anything about it. That's just a little tid-bit for them, a little bit of advice. You have a mansion waiting for you if you just have the guts to take it.

*[Vanessa laughs]*

Vanessa: Squatter's rights. What would you like to put in Bella's care package?

Julia: So I did a little bit of research about how to cliff-dive safely because I couldn't think of anything else. So, to cliff-dive safely the first thing you need to do is you need to get goggles and you need to swim around where you are going to jump in to find any rocks. So I'm gonna get her a pair of goggles. And then, Part 2, a pass to the swimming pool where she'll go and she'll jump in and she'll practice her quote/unquote "Feet-first-dives." Pencil straight, no stray limbs. Part 3, you go to the top of the cliff. You get a little salad thing full of olive oil, no vinegar, you put the olive oil, just a few drops, in your ears because apparently when you drop off the cliff and hit the water, the olive oil in your ears helps prevent the pressure from damaging your eardrums. And then, you know, she swims to the top and she goes and does it again. So, goggles, pool pass, olive oil.

Vanessa: Amazing.

Julia: A little bit of research will bring you a long way.

Vanessa: Apparently, wow. I need to start traveling with olive oil just in case I see a cliff I want to jump off of.

Julia: Vanessa, what do you think is gonna happen next chapter?

Vanessa: So, a lot of Jacob's sadness in this chapter is about the fact that Embry has now joined the gang of werewolves and isn't really talking to Jacob anymore so Jacob is sad about it. So I think what is going to happen in the next chapter is a very sweet heart-to-heart between Embry, Quill, and Jacob where they're gonna talk about joining groups and their decisions whether or not to, and Embry is just going to be really honest and vulnerable.

Julia: And be like, I'm a werewolf, and he's teaching me how not to murder people when I'm a dog.

Vanessa: And Sam's gonna come in with his guitar and his birkenstocks and play them a little number and they are all gonna sing kumbaya and Jacob is gonna ask for extra marshmallows in his hot cocoa.

Julia: So, a youth group meeting, next chapter.

Vanessa: Uh-huh.

Julia: Great, I hope Bella's invited.

*[closing music begins]*

Vanessa: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, an Awkward Dinner Conversation 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'm Vanessa Zoltan and I'm fond of Jeopardy. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by A-cast. Talk to you soon, thanks everyone.