

TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE
CHAPTER 14: MIND OVER MATTER

Julia: "He could drive well, when he kept the speed reasonable, I had to admit.

[begin intro music]

Julia: Like so many things, it seemed to be effortless to him. He barely looked at the road, yet the tires never deviated so much as a centimeter from the center of the lane." I'm Julia Argie ...

Vanessa: And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

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

[end intro music]

Vanessa: Julia, you're going to have to help me pick advice, because I have so much advice. I have so much wisdom.

Julia: To Impart upon these characters.

Vanessa: And the world. But today, these characters.

Julia: Well, I'm sure they're just itching to hear what you have to say about them.

Vanessa: I know. Bella, Edward. I'm going to get to you. Actually, Charlie, I'm going to start with you. I'm coming for you today.

Julia: [laughs]

Vanessa: Should we remind people of the mistakes that they all make?

Julia: Sure, I can try.

Vanessa: Best of luck; this chapter I think was 492 pages.

Julia: I think it was too.

Vanessa: On your mark, get set, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Julia: They drive, they go to Bella's house, and then Edward goes inside and he looks really hot in her kitchen. And then, Charlie comes home. She scarfs down some lasagna. She runs upstairs. He's in her bed. She takes a shower. She goes into her bed. Oh, God, they talk so much. Oh, we find out how all of the family becomes vampires, and about their superpowers, and they talk about virginity, and sex, and then, ...

[long buzzing sound]

Julia: she sleeps.

Vanessa: With the unclear pronoun reference. You made it unclear if it was Charlie or Edward that goes into her bed with her. And I just want to be clear that it's Edward.

Julia: That is true.

Vanessa: The books are weird, but they aren't that weird. They aren't that kind of weird.

Julia: True. Would you like to fill in any of my gaps? I did so well! I really did!

Vanessa: Yeah, I think you did great!

Julia: Thank you.

Vanessa: I'm just going to fill in a couple of details that I can try to remember.

Julia: 3, 2, 1!

Vanessa: Go?

Julia: Yeah, go!

[both laugh]

Julia: No! keep waiting!

Vanessa: OK I'm going!

[begin ticking sound]

Vanessa: She can't imagine what Edward would look like in a chair in her kitchen and guess what? He looks hot. And then Charlie is like, "Serve me some lasagna," and she does. And he's like, "The fish were biting." And she gets a chance to take a shower and that she takes a really long time at but she doesn't take a long time at brushing her teeth. And, in bed, he's like really cold, and they're talking about how hot they find each other. And then um, he's like, "Oh, I'm so glad I'm good at this,"

[long buzzing sound]

Vanessa: Which I found really icky.

Julia: You forgot to mention that Charlie sits in the same chair and looks less hot.

[both laugh]

Julia: That's a critical plot point.

Vanessa: Oh! We both forgot a really big thing. This is when we find out how old he is.

Julia: Oh, And that he watches her sleep.

Vanessa: Here's the thing: Maybe that was an acceptable thing to do when he was courting in the 1920s. Maybe you just watched people sleep; there wasn't TV then.

Julia: Maybe, but probably not.

Vanessa: I'm just saying that every culture is different.

Julia: Wasn't he from Chicago? What are people up to over there?

[both laugh]

Vanessa: I've never lived in Chicago.

Julia: OK, people in Chicago: Do you watch each other sleep? Is that a thing?

Vanessa: Write in and let us know.

[segue music]

Julia: We almost forgot to say things that we liked in this chapter. Vanessa, do you have something?

Vanessa: I like that she comes into the bedroom in her sweats and a holey T-shirt and he's like, "You look great!" 'cause I bet she did, and sweats and holey T-shirts are the look of Quarantine; and so I love that she was so fashion forward that even in the early 00s she was like, "I'm dressing for Quarantine."

Julia: I also had a Quarantine moment of joy: when she scarfs down some microwave lasagna and then downs it with a glass of milk, I was like, "She's on the Quarantine Diet!"

[both laugh]

Vanessa: IS that the Quarantine Diet?

Julia: I'm pretty sure that is.

Vanessa: I didn't get that memo.

Julia: I think that style of eating is the Quarantine Diet ...

Vanessa: Got it.

Julia: ... if not the direct meal.

Vanessa: Should we give some advice to these characters?

Julia: Let's do it.

Vanessa: Can we give more than 2 pieces of advice today?

Julia: I think you can give as much advice as you want.

Vanessa: OK, 'cause I have more than 2 pieces.

My first piece of advice is to Renee. We find out in this chapter that Bella did not pack the Victoria's Secret lingerie that her mother bought for her when she was 14 years old. My advice to Renee is, "You should not have done that. Don't buy your daughter lingerie." I don't know, I'm a real prig about this though. Like, I hate bachelorette parties where moms buy sexy lingerie for their daughters. I'm sure a lot of our listeners have had lingerie bought by their mothers, and I'm sure it's really sweet. Maybe the advice is to myself: "Vanessa, mature."

Julia: But at 14?

Vanessa: Yeah, the 14 is weird, right?

Julia: Like, aren't you in eighth grade? Like, ugh!

Vanessa: Yeah. The only thing I can think is that maybe it's like so hot in Phoenix that it was something lighter for her to wear to sleep in. Like maybe it was just summerware.

Julia: Hmm. We hear it's silk, and that's quite breathable.

Vanessa: Exactly. So maybe that was what Renee meant. But the message that Bella got was "Maybe Mom wants me to be sexier" at 14. And I feel like that's not the best message to send to your 14-year-old.

Julia: I also have that note: I was troubled by that.

Vanessa: OK, I'm glad. What advice do you have to give?

Julia: OK. My advice is about the endless euphemisms for sex In this chapter that I could not stand and that I will now read to you." "I didn't believe I would ever find someone who I wanted to be with, dot dot dot, in another way than my brothers and sisters." Isn't that, so bad? Ugh, Gawd! OK, that was Edward, obviously.

Vanessa: Yeah. Gross.

Julia: Really bad. Bella: "IS that, dot dot dot, vampire marriage, dot dot dot, the same as it is for humans?" Meaning, do they fuck? OK, Edward responds with, yes, they do have quote unquote, those human desires. Bella then says, "Well I did wonder about, dot dot dot, you and me, dot dot dot, someday, dot dot dot" And then Edward says, " I don't think that, dot dot dot, that, dot dot dot, would be possible." Bella's response: "It would be too hard for you if I were that, dot dot dot, close?" And then Edward finishes off the chapter by asking if she's a virgin by saying, "Have you ever, dot dot dot?"

Vanessa: [laughs] "Have You Ever dot dot dot" I feel like this is a kid's song waiting to happen.

Julia: Yeah.

Vanessa: And the kids all yell, "Elephant!"

Julia: Have you ever ... elephant!

Vanessa: Yeah. So what's your advice?

Julia: My advice is just to communicate by saying the words that you mean. Not just by insinuation through ellipses.

Vanessa: They've made so much progress. You wanted them to have conversations; they're doing that now.

Julia: Yeah, they're having conversations without nouns.

Vanessa: [laughs] Use all parts of speech.

Julia: Yes, that's my advice, absolutely.

Vanessa: I will say, at least they don't use cutesy euphemisms, right? I don't know. At least they're not always like, "Would we come together as one?"

Julia: "Cum together" is not a euphemism! That is just something you say!

Vanessa: No! "Come together as one", I mean like c-o-m-e! together, you perv!

Julia: I think that I am not alone in thinking that is not what you meant!

Vanessa: OK, at least they don't say like, "Make whoopie." That's, like, grosser.

Julia: Have you ever ... pinned the tail on the donkey?

Vanessa: Have you ever ... mastered yoga? [laughs] I don't know.

Julia: I mean yeah, saying those things would also be super weird and they should just use nouns.

Vanessa: So my second piece of advice is for Bella's other parent, Chief Swan. Chief Swan, gets home from such a long, hard, day of fishing that he is too tired to microwave his own dinner. And so he asks Bella if she can please microwave the lasagna that she already made for him. First of all, my understanding of fishing is that you're, like sitting, and like, I'm not sure what's exhausting about fishing unless you're a professional fisherman—like, that looks hard. But relaxing Saturday fishing? I don't get what was so hard about it. But I don't care! Unless you are an invalid in some way, unless you are like so sick or physically can't, there is no reason why everybody can't be microwaving their own food. If someone offers to microwave your food for you, fine. Be like, "Yeah! Thanks! That would be great!" But there is no reason for him to ask his daughter to microwave the food that she already cooked for him!

Julia: I mean what if he's like quote unquote fishing, when in reality, he's just trying to figure out where Carlyle is and what he's up to on the weekends?

Vanessa: So you think that he's using a euphemism.

Julia: Yeah.

Vanessa: I just don't think that people should be using their daughters as their servants. Also, I find it troubling that he's never this tired after a day of work. He found fishing more exhausting than we have heard him find his day policing as the chief of police. He has one of two options as far as I can tell: Work harder at his police job so that he's tired all week long or never ask Bella to microwave stuff for him.

Julia: Or confess his feelings for Carlyle and they can have an honest conversation about their desire for vampires.

Vanessa: And stop calling it "fishing". Just call it "loving".

[both laugh]

Julia: Call it "Mastering Yoga".

[segue music]

Vanessa: Julia, do you have any other advice?

Julia: Yeah, I do have advice. We found out this chapter that Edward is a Creationist, because Bella asks him, "Edward, where do vampires come from?" And then Edward sort of says, "When God made the angelfish, God made vampires."

[both laugh]

Vanessa: That's not a direct quote, but it's close.

Julia: And so my advice is, We hear that Carlyle is hella old and is into science. Edward is into science but still hasn't really bought into the Evolution thing. But he should have a conversation with his dad about whether or not he thinks it's true. Carlyle could be old enough to have experienced Evolution livetime ...

Vanessa: Like, you think he was alive during the Neanderthals?

Julia: Well, ...

Vanessa: IS he one of the humans who fought the Neanderthals?

[both laugh]

Vanessa: I haven't read the whole series; I don't know how it ends [laughing]

Julia: Yeah, I think Carlyle was one of the humans who fought the Neanderthals.

Vanessa: I wonder if he knew woolly mammoths.

Julia: Maybe that was his first vegetarian meal, was him taking down a woolly mammoth.

Vanessa: OH, man! That's how the woolly memmoths became extinct!

Julia: vampire overpopulation.

Vanessa: OH my God, that makes so much sense.

Julia: Have you given 2 pieces of advice?

Vanessa: I have. Can I just give one more? I'll be real quick about it.

Julia: Sure.

Vanessa: Edward, stop touching Bella like you touch a small child. He "boops her nose". He "tossles her hair."

Julia: He "picks her up like a toddler". That's a direct quote.

Vanessa: Stop it! It's so inappropriate! Stop it!

Julia: Yeah, I mean, Bella was loving it all chapter, all chapter long. Bella can't get enough. Wait, I have more advice for Edward. About things he does. I can't believe I didn't mention; this is one of my favorite moments. This was the text, seeing beyond itself into how I was reading the text. And it says, "Bella, I'm your prisoner", and then shackles her hands. I was like, "Yes!" [snaps fingers] "That is exactly

what's happening! That metaphor is your relationship!" And then she was like, "Yeah, I guess he shackles me; whatever."

Vanessa: Yeah, I have nothing to say. That was a remarkable moment.

Julia: Did you also have nothing to say about when Edward is pondering what is right, moral, and ethical (direct quote) as he stalks her, watches her sleep, breaks into her house and watches her sleep?

Vanessa: Yeah! It's so weird that he watches her sleep. It's so weird that she's like, "I'll only be mad at you if you overheard something bad." And I'm like, "No, the action is bad regardless of the consequences." Even if you weren't a sleepwalker, it would suck that he watched you sleep."

Julia: And she says that she's quote unquote, flattered.

Vanessa: Yeah! Which is a really bad impression to give of victims of stalking. I don't like that that's out there. That women secretly like to be stalked and find it flattering. That's not a vibe we need in the world, Bella.

Julia: Another bad vibe coming straight from Edward's mouth to Bella's consciousness, to my eyes: Edward doesn't like disco?

Vanessa: I know!

Julia: Why?

Vanessa: Edward was so rude about music! He sounded like such a fuddy-duddy! "50s music was good but the 60s!" I'm like, "Eww!, you sound so crotchety!

Julia: He's an old man!

Vanessa: I know, but in a hot bod! That should keep you a little, like, cool! No?

Julia: I mean he's definitely not cool; he barely likes 80s music.

Vanessa: I know! You have all the time in the world to get really into underground punk. Like, why wasn't he clubbing and, like, seeing Lou Reid sing?

Julia: 'cause he's embarrassing.

Vanessa: I know; he's so boring. Like, teach yourself the guitar and learn to play the Violent Fems on it. The Violent Fems are awesome, dude.

Julia: He doesn't think so; only 50s music for Edward.

Vanessa: OH, do you know what? I'm giving him all this advice. He knows how to do-wop. Maybe he did that in the 50s and was like, "I did it for 10 years."

Julia: Well, one of my notes for this chapter was that everything that we predicted has come true. There was a bear attack, a fatal bear attack.

Vanessa: [laughing] There was!

Julia: Emmett was mauled by a bear and then murdered to vampire death by Carlyle. And then other things were happening. Edward offers to sing her to sleep even though we know he's been singing to her all along and this just confirmed our suspicions. And then Edward, from his acting expertise in acting class, mentions to Bella that her technique isn't good and that she doesn't have a future in his chosen career path.

Vanessa: Wow, I'm so glad that they are enjoying the podcast.

Julia: Yeah. And, he asked if she was a virgin and neither of them died. That's growth, everyone.

[segue music]

Vanessa: OK, Julia, what do you want to put in Bella's care package?

Julia: I want to put in her care package a note saying that I've scheduled her a trip to the dentist. Do you remember when in this chapter she describes herself as "fiercely brushing her teeth"? She's like ravaging her gums out there. And she also says she does it super-quick. So not only is she spending like 15 seconds, she's also trying to get the lasagna and milk out. It just can't be good for her dental health. I'm going to schedule her a local dentist appointment and I'm going to say, "Bella, You're welcome."

Vanessa That is really thoughtful. I feel like calling the dentist is hard, so that was a really, really good gift.

Julia: And she's not putting that phone line to good use. No calling Renee; no calling the dentist.

Vanessa: [laughs] All right, there's a line where she says that she grabs her toiletries off of the floor and carries them into the bathroom. And so I would like to buy Charlie and her a medicine cabinet, or a shelf, like literally a block of wood that they could hang in their bathroom so that she doesn't have to live like she's living in a college dorm when she's sharing the bathroom with one other person.

Julia: Mmm-hmmm.

Vanessa: I feel like if 10 people are sharing the bathroom, you carry your toiletries in and out. But 2 people, you can keep your stuff in there.

Julia: Yeah.

Vanessa: I would also like to just encourage her to keep her shampoo in the shower. Like most bathtubs have lips that you can just leave your shampoo, so I would also leave her just like an encouraging note. Maybe I would put up ostits in the bathroom like: "Leave shampoo here"; "Leave conditioner here." "Feel free to leave your lotion and toothbrush on top of the toilet.

Julia: We're going to add it to the self-help tape: "You can leave your shampoo in the bathroom."

Vanessa: [laughs] They also don't have a dishrack. That's a choice some people make; I don't—she puts her clean, wet dish on a towel and I'm like, "Put it in a dishrack; buy a dishrack. But there are only so many problems we can solve.

Julia: Vanessa, I forgot to ask you what your vampire superpower would be.

Vanessa: Oh, that right! Because we find out that it's something we're already good at, and we would just be even better at it. I would talk to animals.

Julia: [gasps] That such a good one!

Vanessa: I would be able to understand them! And I would be able to tell them how much I love them! OH, my God, I would love that power!

Julia: You can already talk to animals?

Vanessa: Well, I would be able to like communicate with animals.

Julia: I was like, "Vanessa, you already tell Roy how beautiful she is."

Vanessa: I do! She is so beautiful! What would your vampire superpower be?

Julia: I think I would be a vampire who sleeps. Like, I know they can't sleep, but I would be the vampire who sleeps.

Vanessa: [laughs] That was some real self-awareness.

Julia: What do you think is going to happen next chapter? In Chapter 15, The Cullens?

Vanessa: I think we're finally going to go over to the dcullen's house, that's what I think is going to happen. And they're going to have the sex talk, finally.

Julia: OH, my God, they really need it.

Vanessa: As a group, which is awkward, but ...

Julia: Mmm-hmmm.

[begin ending music]

Vanessa: This has been "Twilight in Quarantine", a podcast in which we use nouns 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 can talk to animals, even now. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and distributed by ACast.