

HOT AND BOTHERED: TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

NEW MOON CHAPTER 17: VISITOR

Vanessa Chapter 17: Visitor. “Unnaturally still, and white,” [theme music starts] “with her large black eyes intent on my face, my visitor waited perfectly motionless in the center of the hall.” I’m Vanessa Zoltan.

Julia And I’m Julia Argy

Vanessa And it’s ALICE! On Twilight In Quarantine.

[Theme music]

Vanessa It’s Alice!

Julia YAY! I thought you didn’t like Alice, why are you sounding so excited?

Vanessa Oh my god I thought it was gonna be Edward; this is sooo much better.

Julia Yeah I guess that’s true.

Vanessa And it’s not Victoria here to murder!

Julia That woman keeps not taking my advice about how to be an effective killer.

Vanessa a Like the only thing that would have been better is if it was Carlisle. But I knew it wasn’t gonna be.

Julia The only thing that would have been better [is] if it was ROSALIE.

Vanessa Oh my god, it would never be Rosalie though. I don’t even dream that big.

Julia Rosalie’d be like “remember when you borrowed my clothes? I need them back.” [chuckles] and then leave. [laughing]

Vanessa That would be the best version of this book, by far. Okay are you ready to recap?

Julia I am!

Vanessa Okay, on your mark, get set, go!

Julia [ticking noise in the background] It's Alice! And Bella invites her to stay over and they hug and she's like you're not dead and she's like no I'm not dead. And then Alice is like 'You smell bad' and Bella's like you smell so good. And Alice is like I'm so hungry. And then Charlie comes back and Charlie's like I love Alice! And then Bella and her have a little sleepover. And then the next morning Charlie is spilling all the tea on what Bella has been up to, and then um, Bella doesn't go to Harry Clearwater's funeral! So rude!

[end of timer noise]

Vanessa That was one of my pieces of advice.

Julia I just stated a fact, I haven't given any advice.

Vanessa Well, a piece of advice that I'm no longer gonna give, cause Julia spoiled it, is Bella, go to Harry Clearwater's funeral. Okay Julia, Count me in?

Julia Three, Two, One, Go.

Vanessa [ticking noise in the background] Alice is there, and Bella is so excited, and then Alice goes off to hunt so she doesn't kill Bella, and Bella takes a shower and Charlie comes home and he's so sad that his friend died. And um, they don't sleep, they pretend to sleep. Well Alice pretends to sleep over, and then Charlie leaves for the funeral and his suit is out of fashion, and um then someone rings the doorbell and that's when we find out that Alice can't see werewolves in her dreams cause it's Jacob at the door and Edward misses Bella. [end of timer noise] Edward's like in South America, I don't know, there's a lot of Cullens Updates. We get a lot of Cullens updates.

Julia Oh yeah, I can do some Cullens updates in my Breaking News!

Vanessa Oh great! [singing] Doo doo doot, doo doot doot. [speaking] Now over to Julia for the Cullen Updates. Julia, kicking it to you!

Julia Esme is remodelling an old home; of course she is. Carlisle is part-time working at the hospital at Cornell and part time teaching at the medical school. Rosalie and Emmet have moved from Africa to Europe. Edward's decided to disperse across another continent, he's now in South America; and Jasper is studying philosophy; and Alice is from Georgia, and she had a sister, her name was Cynthia. And she was put into an asylum and her tombstone says the day that she was put into an asylum.

Vanessa And her niece is still alive. Her sister had a daughter and the daughter is still alive.

Julia Oh, I forgot about that part. But true.

Vanessa Does she not become a character? Does Alice not find her, and be like 'I am your aunt'?

Julia Probably not? Given the whole 'don't tell humans about vampires' thing, but...

Vanessa Well she could like, pretend to be her long lost daughter that her niece gave up for adoption.

Julia Wouldn't the niece know she gave up a child?

Vanessa [giggling] So it's not a perfect, air-tight story, Julia. It's better than what you came up with which is just her never meeting her niece.

Julia Yeah she can workshop it; I'm sure she can come up with a good idea.

Vanessa Yeah, I think so.

Julia Do you have any breaking news?

Vanessa Yes I do. Alice has a windchime voice, which I don't feel like I knew before, I knew that Edward had a doo-wop voice, but Alice has a wind chime voice. Which sounds annoying, because part of a wind chime is all the clanging of things banging against each other, so I don't quite understand what that would sound like, but there it is. And then Alice teaches us that young werewolves are worse than old ones. I think that it means that they can't control their tempers as well, but she doesn't explain; she just says that they're worse.

Julia I was interested in that line, too, cause it makes it sound like Alice knows about other werewolves somewhere, and then Alice says something cryptic like 'of course you find the next monster once we leave town'. Like are there other monsters? Like ARE there mermaids that Bella could have been finding, like ghouls? Gremlins? Bridge trolls? Like WHAT is out there?

Vanessa Keebler Elves?

Julia [snickers] There- there ARE Keebler elves, like, we know that to be true; they're on the packaging.

Vanessa [laughing] We've seen the documentary films. [Julia giggles] They're 30 seconds and they show us cookies. [laughing]

Julia Imagine if Bella befriended the Sasquatch instead of-- [laughter] instead of Jacob.

Vanessa The Loch Ness Monster and she lived in Scotland; that would be beautiful.

Julia Using the money from Edward's vacation fund, befriendng all the monsters in the world.

[laughter]

[transition chime noise]

Vanessa a What did you genuinely enjoy?

Julia At one point Bella reheats a casserole, and I think casseroles are extremely underrated, and I'm so glad to see casserole representation in fiction. It was wonderful.

Vanessa What counts as a casserole? Like I love kugel, are kugel and casseroles the same thing?

Julia I think so, I think it's anything baked in a dish in an oven. Usually savoury.

Vanessa Yeah. Is lasagne a casserole? Cause I love lasagne.

Julia Definitely.

Vanessa Okay, then I'm with you. I think a lot of my favourite foods are casseroles.

Julia I know and I feel like people aren't talking about casseroles as much as casseroles deserve to be appreciated. Here we hear about pizza every day in, day out, everyone in their Tinder bio says they love pizza. What about the people who love casseroles? Me, Bella, you.

Vanessa Amen.

Julia Do you have a moment of genuine enjoyment?

Vanessa Boy, do I! Alice at one point is like "Bella, you're an idiot" [Julia snorts] and I was like "yeeeeees!" and do you know WHY Alice thinks that Bella is an idiot? Lack of safety protocol. Ugh. And I was like 'finally'.

Julia She also tells Bella she looks ugly multiple times in this chapter.

Vanessa She also tells her she smells bad.

Julia [Laughs] I know, oh my god. Poor girl, really going through it. She drowned like yesterday and everyone's like 'you're ugly, you smell bad, you look tired, make me some casserole.'

Vanessa I actually sort of love it from Alice. I hate it from other people but I feel like a best friend sweeping in and being like 'get your shit together.' Like sometimes your best friend needs to come in from out of town and be like 'enough.'

Julia Yeah, I like it in that sentiment as well, though I wish she wouldn't say-- she really tells her multiple times she does not look good. I feel like once is enough.

Vanessa I just think she really wants Bella to hear it, like you haven't been taking care of yourself.

Julia Mmhm

Vanessa Like, you haven't been putting on sweats when you should be in dry clothes; you've been sleeping out on couches when you should be in beds. I think sometimes true love looks tough.

Julia Do you think Alice and Bella are in true love?

Vanessa I guess that's what I'm positing, or I'm curious about, because, obviously Renee and Charlie are like way out of the running for this. And I think Jacob is TOO in love with Bella to be like an honest foil for her, and I think Edward is not hard on her, but like doesn't respect what she wants or says. But Alice -- Alice isn't perfect, right? I did not like the way she was really disrespectful of Bella's desires around her birthday, and she probably is too mean on saying it like the fourth time that Bella looks terrible, but I think Alice is like the closest to a real friend who's honest, but caring to Bella.

Julia Mmhmm. She and Angela, neck and neck in that race.

Vanessa Yeah, yeah! So that's what I think. Okay should we give advice?

Julia We should!

Vanessa Okay, my first piece of advice, I'm very worked up about. So I'm gonna try to say it as calmly as I can. Bella tells Alice Jacob is a werewolf. Bella: THIS IS NOT YOUR SECRET TO TELL. It is SO messed up that you decide to share that without really thinking about it. She thinks about it for a SECOND. And is like 'ah it's fine.' YOU SHOULD NOT TELL OTHER PEOPLE'S SECRETS.

Julia Yeah, especially after you know, she totally didn't tell anyone about the Cullens. Like oh but Jacob, sure, everyone can know.

Vanessa And she was like 'well Jacob knows about the Cullens', it's like Jacob knows about the Cullens because he was told by his own tribe, that's completely different than what you are up to.

Julia And it's not like Bella was saying 'oh there are werewolves around,' it's like 'this specific person is a werewolf.'

Vanessa It's so bad. It made me so mad. I love gossip; like I think gossip is great. This is not gossip, this is like sharing private information about someone.

Julia Mhm

Vanessa It would be like me having your SSN because like I needed to do something with it for you one day, and me telling other people. Like it is the sharing of really private information.

Julia Mhm

Vanessa So that's my advice, don't share other people's private information. What advice do you have?

Julia Here I go telling people to share other people's private information. However I think at one point I think Alice says that she's not gonna tell Edward what she's seen with regards to Bella, and I'm like Alice should ABSOLUTELY TELL Edward what she's seen. Edward left Bella so that she could do better, and she's doing worse. Like that is information that he probably would like to know, so that they can go get back together. Because as is right now, he thinks she's better off and she's not. I don't know why Alice wouldn't communicate that.

Vanessa But I don't think those two things are the same. Like how someone is doing in general is not super private information

Julia Mhm

Vanessa Right like Jacob was like I'm going to tell you a secret, in fact it's such a secret that I'm even gonna tell you, I need you to guess. Whereas like everybody vaguely knows how Bella is; like she goes to work, like Mike knows how she is.

Julia Yeah [laughs] She can be like I'm gonna cite my sources: Mike says she's doing bad, Jacob says she's doing bad, Charlie says she's doing bad, I saw her doing bad. [Laughs]

Vanessa Yeah, like that seems really different to me. I think your advice is very excellent, and I think it doesn't contradict my advice.

Julia Awh, two people, two pieces of excellent advice. Should we go for three, Vanessa?

Vanessa I'm gonna try! My next piece of advice is for Charlie. Charlie - I feel like I've given you a lot of parenting advice, about like ways to be nicer to Bella. And all you have to do is treat Bella the way that you treat Alice. Like, you call her honey -- which is not appropriate to do for someone who is not your daughter, but you should do that for your daughter -- you cook for her, you chat with her around the table and you tell her vulnerable things and ask her questions; you know how to do this, you're just not doing it with your own child.

Julia Yeah I didn't realize that he COULD cook.

Vanessa Yeah!

Julia Like I didn't realize he had these capabilities in him, and just chose not to use them on Bella. I thought he was just truly, deeply incompetent. Shocked to see any level of like, caring, compassionate and responsible behaviour coming from his end.

Vanessa Yeah, Charlie, like, great that you're doing this with Alice. Do it with Bella. What about you? Next piece of advice?

Julia My advice is for Alice. We hear poor Cinder-Bella, up to quote-unquote her elbows in Comet, the day after she's drowned, and Alice just wandered around the Swan house while Bella cleans up everything to make Charlie feel better? Bella should be reclining on Charlie's recliner, and Alice should be sprinting around at manic pixie vampire speed, cleaning the house for her. And for Charlie.

Vanessa I agree. I would agree less if she wasn't a vampire.

Julia Oh?

Vanessa Like I love you, but if your dad's best friend died I still wouldn't want to clean his toilet.

Julia But what if it was like my toilet and I had just drowned?

Vanessa Then yes I would clean your toilet

Julia Thank you, I appreciate that.

[transition chime]

Vanessa Okay do you have anything in your Twilight diary?

Julia Do you know how we were giving Bella-- we were talking a lot of trash about how Bella doesn't even read?

Vanessa Yes.

Julia Charlie mentions it's cause she's been so depressed that she's stopped reading cause it reminds her of Edward. So she does read we just haven't seen it happen.

Vanessa Yeah, to which I would say like Bella, start reading like, mysteries. I'm sorry I sent you all those romance novels, but like, read *My Sister is a Serial Killer*. Read some Stephen King, I guarantee you while reading *IT*, you won't be reminded of Edward.

Julia [mock-mimicking Bella] "Edward was such a clown, I miss him."

Vanessa [Laughing] And if you are, then it'll put a negative taste in your mouth on Edward, so... Read David Halberstam and the history of baseball!

Julia Put her right to sleep, no nightmares.

[Vanessa and Julia laughing/giggling]

Julia Did you notice in this chapter that Charlie is huuuugely Team Jacob?

Vanessa No, I wouldn't have described it like that, but that, yeah. Now that you say it. When he's like dishing with Alice.

Julia Yeah he's like I think they could be really cute together, like he's mature and she's mature, I think that maybe it's not going there yet but I think it's gonna get there, like maybe just give them a little nudge, think it's going really great.

Vanessa And then he's like 'Jacob is handsome.'

Julia I know and then he says 'not like Billy!' like that was rude!

Vanessa And he talks shit about Renee!

Julia I know!

Vanessa He's like 'Jacob had to take care of Billy, who is in a wheelchair; and Bella had to take care of Renee, who, you know.' I'm like no, I don't know Charlie, what?

Julia I know and that's so rich, because Bella does all the tasks for Charlie, that Bella did for Renee.

Vanessa I KNOW!

Julia Like, the budgeting, the cooking, the like getting herself places ...

Vanessa Where's the self-awareness, Charlie?

Julia Nowhere to be found.

Vanessa The other thing that i think is so funny, there's this moment where Bella is overhearing Alice and Charlie talk, and Charlie's like 'did anybody else come, like Carlisle?' And Bella in her infinite ignorance is like "Alice and I both knew that Charlie wasn't talking about Carlisle." And I'm like you're so dumb he's definitely asking about Carlisle. He doesn't give a shit about Edward, he's in love with Carlisle!

Julia It's just been so obvious to us for so long, I can't believe none of the characters who are actually going through this have noticed what we picked up on quite early.

Vanessa Well it wouldn't be all the characters, it's just Bella. Right like maybe Alice doesn't think that, Bella's projecting. She's like 'both Alice and I knew' and I'm like 'you don't know what Alice knows.'

Julia Maybe Carlisle's asking about Charlie too.

Vanessa Absolutely, Alice totally knows they're in love.

[Transition chime]

Vanessa So what would you like to put in Bella's Care Package?

Julia So I'm gonna send Bella a trundle bed. At one point when they're having a sleepover, Alice pretends to sleep on the recliner, Bella's just sleeping on the couch in the living room. That is the perfect opportunity for a trundle bed moment!

Vanessa Amen.

Julia What do you want to put in Bella's Care Package?

Vanessa I wanna put like amazing bath things. Like luxurious bath things. A bath pillow, a bath tray where she can put like a eucalyptus scented candle that she can light on it, some really fancy bath bombs, just like all the things. Because she takes a shower and that's great, but I also think that nothing warms your bones like a good bath and it would be good for her

throat with all the steam, and I just think she needs like such a relaxing, long, positive experience in water. And I like, believe with all of my heart in the healing powers of a bath.

Julia Can you forward that same stuff to me, please?

Vanessa Yes, absolutely.

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

Vanessa Okay I'm SO excited to tell you what I think happens in the next chapter!

Julia Okay, share!

Vanessa Charlie is making a move on Sue Clearwater. He absolutely is. He's like 'poor Sue, I'll be there to take care of Sue'. I'm like oh my god he's totally had a thing for Harry's wife; Harry is dead and out of the way, and Charlie is making his move.

Julia Vanessa, do you know that straight up happens?

Vanessa No I didn't know!!

Julia Yeah!

Vanessa Oh my god, it's hinted at so hard! [laughing] Oh my god, I think like, at the wake, he's gonna be like, putting his arm around her...

Julia Creepy! But yeah I think, I do think that that happens.

Vanessa [Laughing] Well that is some good foreshadowing Stephanie Meyer, cause it is in the text.

Julia You can feel Charlie's game from through the page.

[end theme music starts]

Vanessa This has been Twilight In Quarantine, a manic pixie dream podcast from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all other episodes are produced by Ariana Nettleman and executive produced by Ariana Martinez. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy, and I'm Vanessa Zoltan and I called it! We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by A-Cast. Thanks and talk to you soon.

[theme music fades out]