

Twilight in Quarantine
New Moon: Volterra

Julia: Chapter 20, Volterra. We began the steep climb and the road grew congested. (*theme music playing throughout*) As we wound higher, the cars became too close together for Alice to leave insanely between them anymore. We slowed to a crawl behind a little, tan Peugeot.

I'm Julia Argy.

Vanessa: (*laughing*) And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

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

Vanessa: I'm very impressed that you know how to say Peugeot.

Julia: Thank you!

Vanessa: I wonder how Bella pronounces it?

Julia: I mean she doesn't have the years and years of French training that I do.

Vanessa: Yeah. I don't know that we even have Peugeots in America.

Julia: Are they the ones with the little lions?

Vanessa: Peugeots have little lions? Cute. Maybe Peugeot means 'little lion,' I have no idea.

Julia: (*in poor French accent*) Peut etre... That's my French accent for "could be!"

Vanessa: (*in a bad, fake French accent*) Franch. Who knows? Tell us, s'il vous plait. (*Julia giggling*) Julia, I'm gonna recap!

Julia: Please do.

Vanessa: Can you count me in?

Julia: 3, 2, 1, go!

Vanessa: (*ticking sound throughout*) So there's so much traffic and then Alice bribes a guy with a thousand dollars and they park the car and she's like, "Go, Bella go! You have to get to Edward! It's only 2 minutes!" And everybody is wearing red scarves and there's like a big festival. And Bella runs and she can't find him and she runs through a fountain and she sees him! And he's about to...his white shirt is on the floor and he's topless and he's in, under the shade and then he's gonna step out in the sun. And she runs and she's like, "No!" But then the Volturi are like, "Ooh, you're in trouble" and they take them all down to a basement. (*buzzer sound*)

Julia: That was really good!

Vanessa: Thank you.

Julia: I'll just offer a couple corrections.

Vanessa: Corrections? Did I make errors?

Julia: You made a single error.

Vanessa: Oh.

Julia: I will make a single correction and a few additions.

Vanessa: Okay. We like clarity. It's ironic that you made a mistake about how many errors I made, (*Julia laughing*) but whatever.

Julia: Maybe I'll think of more as I recap.

Vanessa: Okay. On your mark, get set, go!

Julia: (*ticking sound throughout*) So Alice hands him at least a thousand-dollar bills because it's a wad of bills and there's a thousand-dollar bill on top. So unless it's fake money below, it's at least a thousand dollars. Uh, she runs through the fountain. There's scarves. People are like, "Why is this chick running through a fountain?" and she's like, "I have to get to my boyfriend." And then a bunch of Volturri come and it's like men and then Alice comes and she's like, "There are ladies here, no fighting." And then a little, tiny, evil woman who looks like a child comes up and everyone really steps in line after that and then they go to the sewers. (*buzzer sound*)

Vanessa: Her name is Jane. The scariest name in the world.

Julia: Yeah, very menacing.

Vanessa: Breaking news? *do-doot-do*

Julia: I have a weather update.

Vanessa: Oo!

Julia: Spring in Italy: it's beautiful. Clear skies, sunny, windy, also freezing.

Vanessa: I feel like that was our experience that day we went swimming in Italy, on spring break. Oh my god, Julia. This is about us! We went to Italy on spring break.

Julia: And then we got shepherded it into a basement by the mob, who was threatening us?

Vanessa: Yes. It's called the Vatican.

Julia: Wow I didn't realize that's what happened, but you saying that in retrospect, totally adds up.

Vanessa: People in robes, made us like, walk through things. They yelled at us because we took photos at inappropriate places. Just saying. Maybe this chapter is a metaphor for a Vatican tour.

Julia: I mean the Volturi do seem very powerful.

Vanessa: Yeah.

Julia: My other piece of breaking news is that thousand dollar bills exist. I didn't know that was real. You're looking at me like you knew that was real.

Vanessa: No, I didn't either. I just found it out in this chapter too. Did you Google it to make sure it's real?

Julia: No. Honestly, I didn't. I took her word as...as the Bible.

Vanessa: Okay, hang on. Everyone, hold on. Sorry, research. Going to look: is a thousand dollar bill real? (*dial tone and dialing sounds*) So it turns out that thousand dollar bills are still legal tender, but they haven't been printed since the 1960s. So if any of our listeners have thousand dollar bills that they want to show us, they should feel free to mail them to me.

Julia: And apparently there aren't even thousand dollar euro notes, so it must be she's handing a bribe to a Italian man with US dollars.

Vanessa: That is a fifty-year-old note.

Julia: Ancient US dollars. (*both laughing*)

Vanessa: Yeah. Any other breaking news before you pass it over to me?

Julia: Yeah, I just feel like Team Jacob is cancelled.

Vanessa: I know! I'm like Jacob who? I miss him. What's he doing?

Julia: It's over for that man. It's done.

Vanessa: I know. I also was like, this is the problem with first person narrative. Like, we don't get to flash over to Forks to see how Jacob is doing.

Julia: I know and everything she says about Edward is like “it was always him,” “I would do this again and again,” like, “he’s the most important person in the whole world forever, for me.” Like, wow. Jacob got none of this.

Vanessa: “I would die happily for him.” I know. It’s so bad.

Julia: What’s your breaking news?

Vanessa: My breaking news is that this is just a description of LA traffic. Like in the beginning when she’s like, “we’re stuck in traffic. No, is this a parking lot? No, are we still going? I don’t know, what’s happening?” That’s called the 405 in LA. So the news is that, who knew, rural Italy has the same traffic patterns as one of the largest cities in the world, LA.

Julia: Wow. I didn’t know that. So, thanks for sharing.

(transition music plays)

Vanessa: What about genuine enjoyment?

Julia: What about it?

Vanessa: *(both laughing)* Did you have any?

Julia: No, I do. I did enjoy something. This is like my obsession with the mention of casseroles. There was a mention of cloaks and I was like I love cloaks! Why are there not more cloaks? Cloaks are an amazing garment. They’re breezy, they’re warm, easy to take on and off; like why aren’t there more people wearing cloaks? They sound wonderful.

Vanessa: I have two responses to that. A) one problem with cloaks is that it’s really hard to wear a backpack or a purse with a cloak. sS I would just like to give that feedback to cloaks. Like, you have to wear a fanny pack like under it, basically. My second piece of feedback is that Casper, the co-host of my other podcast Harry Potter and the Sacred Text, also loves cloaks. So why do I only co-host podcasts with cloak lovers?

Julia: Because you only host podcasts with geniuses. And to your first point, do you know in movies when there’s like a child villain and they open a trench coat and it’s full of creepy pockets? Like cloaks can just have that, like sewn-in ability to carry around all your goods.

Vanessa: Okay, yeah. You just asked why they weren’t more popular. And I’m letting you know like, I don’t own a cloak cuz whenever I see one and I’m like, “Ugh, I would look amazing in that and it looks so cozy,” I’m like, “how would I wear my backpack?”

Julia: Yeah I think there’s also an anti-cloak stigma. Like if I were to truly see a bunch of men in a dark alley walk up to me with cloaks, I would think I was about to die. In Bella’s case, she’s right and so I understand why people aren’t wearing cloaks. What was your moment of genuine enjoyment?

Vanessa: Well, I loved Alice's tan elbow length, leather gloves. So, she wears them so she can stick her hand out the window of the car and not sparkle-sparkle. But I was like maybe the reason Edward owns a tan leather jacket is like for practical reasons. So like he wears it like at the beach so it looks skin toned, like with his like, swim trunks. Hmmm, as I'm saying it out loud it doesn't make as much sense...but in any situation in which he would be shirtless he wears a leather jacket to make it look like skin so that he doesn't sparkle.

Julia: And like, tan leather leggings to go under his swim trunks? And tan leather socks?

Vanessa: *(laughing hard)* And a tan leather face mask.

Julia: *(laughing)* Okay, if I saw someone walk up to me in an alley with that like, I truly feel like I was going to die. *(Vanessa laughing hard)* Like, that is way worse than a cloak.

Vanessa: No! But you wouldn't be able to tell! It would look like flesh. That's the whole idea, Julia.

Julia: I feel like that's the plot of 'Silence of the Lambs' like, wearing someone else's skin. *(both laughing too hard to catch their breath)*

Vanessa: Like, you wouldn't know, you would just think it was a naked person.

Julia: Also scary.

Vanessa: *(laughing hard)* Definitely. Well, I really liked her tan leather gloves. But then also I really like when Bella was like "fuck it" and walked through the fountain. And it was like a nice little Fellini shout out, because in "La Dolce Vita," which I've never seen, a woman goes through a fountain and like, dances in the fountain. Also in a movie I have seen "Under the Tuscan Sun" as a shout out to "La Dolce Vita." So, apparently in Italy you're supposed to just like, walk in fountains.

Julia: Sounds unhygienic but I'm happy for them.

Vanessa: *(laughing)* Unhygienic?

Julia: Isn't it like stagnant water? I mean, it moves but it's the same water.

Vanessa: Yeah but like you don't lick your feet.

Julia: Speak for yourself.

Vanessa: *(laughing throughout)* Like I don't think you should swim in it. But I think, like walking through it.

Julia: Yeah just a wade is fine.

Vanessa: Yeah. Anyway, I love that she cut through. I thought that was productive rule-breaking.

Julia: Mmhmm. She saved Edward's life with that.

Vanessa: I know, it was incredible. Key seconds.

(transition music)

Julia: What's your first piece of advice, Vanessa?

Vanessa: So my first piece of advice is Bella, do what ever the fuck you can to get Edward back into the shade. She's like hugging him and is like, sort of like trying to push him. But she needs to be like, "Hi. It's an emergency. Like get the hell back. This isn't huggy-huggy time." And like my suggestion is knee him in the balls, punch him in the face, like get into emergency mode Bella. It's an emergency!

Julia: I think the best thing to do to make Edward realize he's not in heaven is to act the way Bella would, as the most alive version of herself. So I think she should have just fallen. Like, a trip at the very last second. Like, oh, that's alive Bella. Like this is not a hallucination, this is real.

Vanessa: Yeah, I think there are all sorts of things she could do to try to get him to go back there. Like literally he will do anything to follow her so like she could walk further into the alley, and he would follow her. Like, pull him by the collar, throw a dart that's like really shiny he'll be like "what's that?" and he'll follow it down the alley.

Julia: Cut her hand as she runs by and then sprint away with the blood.

Vanessa: Throw a bowling ball. It'll just distract him for long enough.

Julia: *(laughing)* Like, in the air?

Vanessa: *(also laughing)* No, like, down the alley.

Julia: Bella, go bowling.

Vanessa: Don't be ridiculous. It's okay Bella don't worry about it. It's just your life and Edward's life, like no big deal.

Julia: I mean to them, clearly not a big deal.

Vanessa: Yeah. I am sorry that I take their lives more seriously than they do. Julia, what advice do you have?

Julia: So much my piece of advice is to Edward and Alice. But I think it kind of applies to the whole Cullen family. I think they should take a cheerleading class, because they're constantly throwing Bella around and whenever they catch her, they give her bruises. And so I'm hoping that they can go

to Monica Aldoma from the TV show "Cheer," the Navarro cheer team. And just learn how to do some tosses with human Bella so that each time they chuck her around, as they do every single moment they're together, they can figure out a way to make her not injured at the end of that.

Vanessa: Did you watch "Cheer"? They're all injured at the end of that. (*Julia laughing hard*) Monica does not know how to teach that. One of the girls like, is told by the hospital that her ribs are so broken that she could collapse a lung if she competes and then she competes anyway.

Julia: Now that you said that, I do remember it. But I feel like the vampires should be able to get good at cheerleading in the way humans can physiologically not be good at cheerleading.

Vanessa: Yeah. I think that they could probably do a better job than they're currently doing. I'm just not sure that Monica is the right person to teach.

Julia: Yeah, that's fine. I just don't know any other cheer coaches.

Vanessa: That's a reflection on you.

Julia: I know, I know.

(*transition music*)

Julia: What's your second piece of advice?

Vanessa: It's on the same theme with my first piece of advice. Which is: maybe now is not the time to snuggle. So like, Edward keeps like, smelling her hair and like, kissing her shoulder and she like, won't let go of him even though it's like freezing her to death. And I would just say like, guys, like, try to stay alive. I'm so happy that you're happy to see each other. But my advice is that there's like a time and a place for everything. And like not all times and places of the right time to like make out. And Bella like it really bothered you when people made out at inappropriate places and times, and so like, maybe apply that to your life. And I even think that like, if I were Voltarri I would maybe kill them a little faster cuz it's like so gross that they're doing this

Julia: Okay, but riddle me this Vanessa. They think they're about to die. So like would you not make out at that point?

Vanessa: I think in the last seconds, when you've been like sentenced to death.

Julia: Mmhm.

Vanessa: Like, final hot kiss. But while you still have a chance to like make your case, focus.

Julia: I understand that. I just also understand the impulse to make out if you're about to die.

Vanessa: Do you think that you would be horny if you thought "I'm about to die?" Like, is that the thing you would want to do with the last 30 seconds of your life?

Julia: I, personally, no comment. Bella? Absolutely yes. Bella is horny for Edward as she drowns. Like, this is no different.

Vanessa: Fair. Okay, Julia. What about you? What is your last piece of advice today?

Julia: So I can't tell who this piece of advice is for. It's either to the town of Volterra's like, Public Works department or to the Volturi themselves, but whoever is in charge of that clock tower is a menace! Apparently, the sound of the clock is so loud that it shakes the ground and makes children cry. And this is going off every hour of the day. All year long. Like, this is absolutely unconscionable!

Vanessa: I think that's maybe the best advice you've ever given Julia. Not just on the show but in your life.

Julia: Thank you. I really tried with that one. I'm just really concerned about crying children

(transition music)

Julia: Do you have anything in your Twilight diary?

Vanessa: I do. Edward starts going "Carlisle was right," because he thinks he's dead and like, Bella's in his arms. And, what was Carlisle right about? That like, heaven is instantaneous? That like even before you die, you see heaven?

Julia: No. Edward thinks he's died and that he has gone to heaven and Bella is with him in heaven.

Vanessa: And Carlisle told him, "If you kill yourself you'll go to heaven and Bella will be there?"

Julia: Edward said that there was no heaven for vampires. And Carlisle said all vampires go to heaven.

Vanessa: (laughing) So like, Edward is like, "Carlisle was right. I'm dead. Bella's here. We both went to heaven. She's dead and in heaven and I am dead and in heaven, because I stepped into the sun and I just don't remember being ripped apart by vampires."

Julia: Mmhmm. He even commends the Volturi for murdering him so fast. Like, so quick and painless.

Vanessa: Like, soooooo quick and painless. All he does is take a step and is like, "oh! I'm in heaven!" I don't think that's how that works. I went to divinity school. That is not how that works. Okay, but thank you for answering all of my questions. Professor Argy, did you write anything in your Twilight diary?

Julia: I just feel like, the fact that these vampire kings and queens have to use the sewers for transportation around town seems really undignified for the lifestyle that they seem to be able to lead.

Vanessa: Don't you think that they've like, cleaned the sewers?

Julia: Yeah but like, a sewer's a sewer. You can't gentrify the sewer.

Vanessa: Yeah you can. It's called subways.

Julia: You, you think taking the subway is like walking through the sewer?

Vanessa: Have you been to New York? *(both giggling)*

Julia: I'm saying, that's not that nice! The MTA's a disaster! If I'm a vampire king or queen and I'm taking the subway, I've done something wrong!

Vanessa: *(laughing)* Your job on this podcast is like the wealth correspondent, or like the wealth advisor. You're not a financial advisor, you're a spending advisor. You're like, "Everybody! Spend. More. Money! Live better lives!"

Julia: Wow, you're making it sound like I like trickle-down economics. I don't everyone. Donate your money.

Vanessa: No! You didn't therefore say "it's good for poor people." That would be trickle-down economics. Like, "You're welcome. *(both laughing)* I gilded the sewers, you're welcome poor people." That would be trickle-down economics.

(transition music)

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

Julia: So, quite obviously, I'm sending Bella a cloak. Cuz they're awesome. But it's going to go with a little note that says "Bella, next time you jump off a cliff with all your clothes on, you can not wear this cloak." Because one time, my friend jumped off a bridge wearing a snuggie and almost drowned. So the coat is not the garment to wear when going cliff diving.

Vanessa: I'm also getting her clothing!

Julia: Oo, what are you getting?

Vanessa: I'm getting her a whole wardrobe of SmartWool.

Julia: Wow.

Vanessa: She should only wear SmartWool clothing. It is breathable but it is also quick drying and this girl gets wet all the time and then doesn't like to change her clothes. I've tried getting her changes of clothes, but she just likes to stay in wet clothes. So I am getting her quick-drying, breathable, light-layered clothing. New wardrobe, Bella. Not for fashion, just for function. You are going to freeze to death one day.

Julia: I know. Every chapter she just gets closer and closer to hypothermia. Like, that is the true plot arc of this book.

(transition music)

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

Vanessa: They all died.

Julia: Damn.

Vanessa: And then the next book, Eclipse, is about Carlisle's grief. And he finds love and comfort in Charlie's arms.

Julia: What do you think is going to happen to that evil child?

Vanessa: She's going to kill them.

Julia: Mmm. Well, I'm glad finally a woman starts murdering people. Representation, folks.

Vanessa: *(theme music playing throughout)* This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a thousand-dollar bill from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are executive produced by Ariana Nedelman and produced by Ariana Martinez. This shows was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy, who is wearing a cloak right now. And I'm Vanessa Zoltan and I'm not cuz I love my backpack. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by Acast.