

Twilight in Quarantine: The Truth

V: Chapter 23: The Truth. "I had the sense that I had been asleep for a very long time. My body was stiff like I hadn't moved once through all that time either. My mind was dazed and slow."

Intro music

V: I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

J: And I'm Julia Argy.

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

Intro music plays and fades out

V: Wow. Bella really sleeps better when people are near her or watching her sleep.

J: I know. Who knew all the nightmares would have just gone away if she and Charlie had gotten bunk beds.

(Vanessa laughs)

V: Or if she had just gotten a very lifelike blow-up doll.

J: (Laughing) That's a weird idea. Would she sleep with it or would it just watch her?

V: (Laughing) I don't know but how is that idea weirder than her getting bunk beds with her dad? I don't mean a sexy blow-up doll, like one of those pillows that looks like Daniel Craig.

J: Who knew all we needed was to get Bella a Daniel Craig blow-up doll to snuggle with as she sleeps.

V: All of her nightmares are on us.

J: Wow.

V: We had a budget to send her this whole time and it was our lack of creativity that kept Bella with these nightmares. Horrible. Shame on you, Julia.

J: Shame on us.

V: No, you. It's more you than me.

(Julia laughs)

V: Okay, do you want to recap what happened in this chapter for everyone?

J: Happily.

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

Timer starts ticking

J: Bella wakes up and she thinks she's dead, but she's not. And then she thinks she's dreaming, but she's not. I think she only realizes she's not dreaming because she and Edward make out and she almost faints to death again. They have fights. Fights about whether the Volturi is gonna come and murder her, whether she should turn into a vampire, whether Edward really loves her or if it's all just a facade because he feels guilty for almost getting her murdered. Then they start to make up, but Edward is still a hard no on her becoming a vampire so she decides **buzzer goes off** to go the democratic route and bring it to the family.

V: Wow, that was thirty-two seconds. You're a cheater-cheater pumpkin eater. Which is better than being a vampire cuz their cheater-cheater human eaters.

J: *(Chuckles)* So true.

V: Okay, count me in?

J: Three, two, one, go!

Timer starts ticking

V: So Edward is watching her sleep and she's like, 'Oh my god. I slept so long. It's one in the morning'. She's been sleeping for thirteen hours and he's like, 'I love you' and she's like, 'No, you're a dream. No, you couldn't love me'. And he's like, 'I shouldn't have left you. I went to South America in order to try and find Victoria.' And she's like, 'Oh my god, you were chasing Victoria?' And then she was like, 'Look, I can only be with you if I'm a vampire too.' And he's like, 'Well too bad.' And she's like, 'Well too bad, we're going to your parent's house and they're gonna vote as to whether or not I can be a vampire.'

Buzzer goes off

J: Great work.

V: We love democracy.

Transition music

J: Do you have any breaking news?

V: Do-Doo-Doot! I sure do! Edward is the worst tracker in the history of the universe. I did a brief survey of all trackers and he won. He is so bad at it. Victoria lures him to South America and she has been back in North America for weeks, and we know this because the werewolves have been fighting her off. She went so far as to Canada, which is as far from South America as you can get while still being in the Americas, and he is still running around Brazil looking for her. That is how bad of a tracker he is.

J: I know, and he must have been off on some kind of trail or he would have left. Who is he stalking? Some random redheaded woman?

V: Yeah, a really pretty redheaded woman has filed a complaint against him.

J: I feel so bad for her.

V: I know. I know. Me too. She's like, 'What did I do except be beautiful? Nothing.'

(Julia laughs)

J: Justice for that red headed stranger.

V: Yep, that's my only piece of breaking news. What about you? Doot-Do-Doo!

J: Bella's middle name is Marie. Her full name is Isabella Marie Swan. Very well done by Renee or Charlie whoever picked that. I thought that was very nice.

V: Not as great as Julia Grace or Ariana Nicole but it's a great name.

J: Or Vanessa Miriam.

V: Vanessa Miriam is a very nice name.

J: Speak your self-love, Vanessa. You have a great name! I was also interested in the fact that Edward seems confused by vampire biology as much as I am. He's talking about murdering Victoria and he says, "I'll do better this time. She won't be tainting perfectly good air by breathing in and out for much longer." But I thought they don't breathe. So, what's going on with that? Is it just a metaphor? What do you think is happening?

V: Well, they breathe. They just don't need to breathe. Which does mean that they're not doing the whole, turning oxygen into carbon dioxide thing. Which makes me confused as to what is tainting the air.

J: It's just anything that gets into her chest cavity is automatically more disgusting than anything that was outside it? I'm gonna agree with that. True.

V: The only other thing I could think of is that maybe she has cooties.

J: Yeah and that's totally outside the laws of physics or biology. That's just a sensation that you can tell.

V: There is a vaccine though. We all know the cooties shot. So Edward, rather than killing Victoria, should be like, disseminating the cooties vaccine.

J: Maybe he's an anti-vaxxer. He's like (*she laughs*) 'No vaccine, cooties only.'

V: No vaccine, murder is the only solution.

(*They laugh*)

J: I wouldn't put it past him.

V: Yeah. Any other breaking news?

J: I was interested in the fact that at the beginning of both of these chapters, Edward and Bella have the same misunderstanding that they're dead when they're not. I don't know what it means but I'm certain it means something.

V: It's like in Hamilton! "I imagine death so much it feels more like a memory." They've just fantasized being dead so much that they're like now I must be dead. When in doubt, turn to musical theater for the answers.

J: Can't say I agree but happy it worked for you.

V: 5, 6, 7, 8!

(*Julia laughs*)

J: Do you have a moment of genuine enjoyment?

V: I do! I do. I do. First of all, I love that they're making out again, and Edward seems to be over his whole 'my teeth might kill you' thing. They seem to be really going for it. Do it, kids! And then

my other moment of genuine enjoyment is when Edward is like, 'I'll change you into a vampire when you're thirty,' and Bella says, "Horror washed over me. Thirty!" Thirty is not that bad, people. It's great.

J: I can only imagine it's better than nineteen.

V: It's so much better than nineteen! What about you? Did you have a moment of genuine enjoyment?

J: I was really pleased with Edward in this chapter. Mark my words folks, it's true. He mostly, I'd say eighty-five percent grasped what he did wrong and was able to articulate that apology. The fifteen percent I'll get on him for later, but he was like, 'yeah, I messed up. I shouldn't have left you. It was pretty dumb.' And this whole book I was like, Edward, it was so dumb you left her with no resources and you're bad at tracking and here she is about to get murdered twenty-four/seven while you're curled up in a ball crying about it. It's a bad strategy from the beginning and he apologized for it.

V: So what advice do you have? Given that he's only at eighty-five percent?

J: So the rest of the fifteen percent is when he says this to Bella; which I found so annoying. He's talking about how hard it was for him to lie to her and he goes, "I'm a good liar, but still, for you to believe me so quickly," He winced. "That was...excruciating." Edward, if you don't want someone to believe that you're not in love with them, don't lie to them about it and then guilt them for it. Just tell them the truth.

V: I completely agree with you. This on him. I just also feel for him. If I were to say to you, 'Well Julia, I don't want to be your friend anymore because you're so boring,' and you believed me, I'd be like, 'I was kidding'; It wasn't a very funny joke. Obviously I don't think you're boring.

J: Yeah, but would you say, 'It hurts me so much that you believe that I was boring.'

V: No. I just understand the feeling he's having of that instinctive, 'I can't believe you believed me. I can't believe you actually thought I would think that.' I don't think that you should then be mad at the other person because you're the one who messed up. You're the one who made a joke without a jokey enough voice or you're the one who lied successfully, but I understand that like (*gasp*) 'Is our relationship so fragile that you would think that I would think that you're boring?'

J: Yeah. I can revise my advice to say, Keep that sentiment to yourself.

V: Totally.

J: and instead act on repairing that initial wound that makes your relationship so fragile.

V: Totally. Also, I wasn't trying to get you to amend your advice. I was just sharing my own empathy.

J: I'm happy to amend.

Transition Music

J: Do you have a first piece of advice?

V: I do! Bella spends ten pages of this chapter confused as to whether or not she is asleep, and I'm just gonna give really basic wisdom advice on this. If you're not sure if you're awake or asleep, pinch yourself.

J: Have you ever tried this?

V: No. But I've never thought I was asleep when I was awake.

J: Have you been asleep and not sure if you're awake?

V: Yes. But that's not when you need to pinch yourself. You need to pinch yourself when you're awake but you think you're asleep, and when I'm asleep and have to convince myself it's a dream, I force myself to wake up.

J: Wow. I just try to fly. A little running start and see if I get up there.

V: You try to fly?

J: Mhmm. That's something I definitely can't do in real life.

V: Have you ever been awake and been like, 'Wait, I'm not sure if this is a dream.' and tried to fly?

J: Not yet, but there's still time.

V: Oh my god. That would make me so happy. Especially if you then found out you were awake and could fly.

J: Now that would be amazing. Maybe I should start trying just to see.

(They laugh)

V: Yes, but don't try by jumping off of things. Running start, flat surface.

J: Got it.

(They laugh)

V: What's your second piece of advice?

J: My second piece of advice is for Bella. She seems really confused about what to tell Charlie in terms of the lie about why she left for three days and the best lies are ones close to the truth. So just be like, 'Hi. When Alice was here, Edward called and they had a miscommunication and he thought I was dead and then he tried to kill himself.' That's basically what happened. The vampire stuff is totally extraneous to the reason you went to Italy.

V: Yeah, I agree. I'm wondering what you think about this theory, but I heard this on a TV show that the best lies are things that you wish were true. That, that's when you look like you're lying the most realistically.

J: If you say what you want to have happened she'd be like, 'Yeah I left for three days. I was running across the local soccer field and I started to fly.' Like that's less believable than what I had initially described.

V: *(laughs)* Bel-la would say that.

J: Do you have a second piece of advice?

V: Yes. My second piece of advice is for Edward. Bella, at one point, is like, 'I'm going over to your parent's house right now,' and Edward is like, 'Don't,' and she's like, 'I'm gonna,' and then he prevents her by getting in front of her door and my advice is, Edward if you can't stop someone with your words, then you shouldn't stop them with your body.

J: True.

V: I feel like men do this a lot where they get in the middle of doors, like get between you and a door, and I hate it. I hate it.

J: So what do you think Edward should have done?

V: I think Edward should have said, 'I would prefer that you didn't do that. Can we discuss it for a minute?' And then if she was like, 'No, I'm doing it.' I think he should grieve that loss and go with her and make your point to your family, but graciously accept that you can't control other people.

J: Yeah, or abstain from the voyage. Be like, 'Okay, I'll chill here.'

V: Yeah, totally. Take a little vampire non-nap.

J: Rock in her rocking chair until she comes back. Think it over.

Transition Music

V: Did you write anything in your Twilight diary?

J: Yeah. I had another moment where I noticed Edward's confusion about how the world works. This has more to do with the planets than with vampire biology, but his whole new moon metaphor when he's like, 'My life was a moonless night and then there was an asteroid and it was you and then you were gone.' The point of the moon is that it's a cycle and then later it's a full moon. So, just wait it out and the moon's coming back and then it's gonna grow even more. Then it'll wane and that'll be sad but the cycle of life is part of the moon imagery.

V: Do you not think you can select a part of the imagery of something?

J: I feel like it's a less resinate metaphor.

V: So this is just like writing advice.

J: Well, he's thinking it.

V: Okay, so this is thought censorship.

J: It's not censorship, it's a workshop. It's debate advice.

(Vanessa laughs)

V: Got it.

J: It's like I was trapped in a cave and there was a lightning bug and it went away. Like the cave is always dark and that's very depressing and the lightning bug sounds beautiful but the new moon is coming back, you don't have anything to be sad about. Stop complaining. Wait a couple of days and it'll be here.

V: Yeah. It sounds like you and I both think that Edward needs to take an argumentation class.

J: Yeah.

V: This is because he hasn't left high school. Do you know where you take argumentation?
College.

J: Intro to Academic Argument. Teaching it this fall Edward. Come to the University of Michigan.

(They laugh)

J: Do you have anything in your Twilight diary?

V: I have a couple of things. One is that it still really bothers me that Edward just watches her sleep. I just want a conversation with him and be like, 'Do you speak all the languages?' and if he does, then fine, 'Have you read all of Dickens?' and if yes, fine. But there's no reason why he isn't than reading all of Toni Morrison. I don't understand why he doesn't use his eternity better.

J: Do you think he's actually just watching her sleep that whole time and just blanking out or do you think he's doing some kind of meditation exercise? Like he has to be thinking about something.

V: I don't know. I've never been creepy so I don't know what creeps think about.

J: So true. I mean the least he could do is think about what he can say to then fight Bella. You know he has all that extra time to prepare his arguments and yet he's still failing.

V: Yes! One of my greatest anxieties in life, it's not even an anxiety, it's one of my greatest things I grieve in life are all the books that I'm not going to get to read and all of the places that I'm not going to get to see, and I just really resent that he has eternity and he is using it so poorly.

J: I mean, I would argue that the only one who's doing it well is Carlisle who is helping people.

V: Yes!

J: The rest are just loafing around all day and night.

V: And Carlisle even has room for improvement. Like, he should have multiple IDs and be working in multiple hospitals and only get outed when somebody hashtags 'My Hot Doctor.'

J: Yeah. 2020 would ruin him. Tik Tok? It's over for him.

(Vanessa laughs)

V: Okay, what about Bella's care package? What would you like to put in them?

J: So I'm going to send her a bunch of delicious bagels. She says she's never been east of Albuquerque before when remarking on her trip to Italy, and that makes me think that she's

never had a delicious bagel so I would like to send her some as bagels are some of my favorite food.

V: Oh my god, you're such an east coast snob. We have good bagels on the west coast. There is a chain called Western Bagel-

J: The Western Bagel!

V: And it's so good! And they have the best scallion cream cheese ever!

J: Wow. Okay. I would just send her to a bagel place then. Yeah. I just haven't heard about her bagel exposure in these books

V: Totally fair.

J: And as to why it hasn't been touched upon. I'll send her a sampler. She can make her own choices. A Montreal bagel, cough cough, not good, but I'll send her one anyways.

(They laugh)

J: What are you gonna put in Bella's care package?

V: I was thinking that a weighted blanket might go a long way for her. It apparently really helps anxious sleepers, and she really seems to be an anxious sleeper. I think it's a lot to ask Edward to be her security blanket and so yeah, I would want to get her a real security blanket, and then the other thing I was thinking is a summer meditation retreat at, like, a fancy center, like Kripalu. I just think that she needs some centering.

J: Mhmm.

V: It really troubles me with how codependent she is with Edward and so I would like for her to have an opportunity to explore her independence.

J: And then she could go to the east coast!

V: Yeah! Kripalu's in Massachusetts so then she could stop by our favorite bagel shop, which is in Porter Square.

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

V: I think that Edward and Bella are going to act out the song "Somewhere" from West Side Story for the rest of the Cullen's family. Now, West Side Story is based on Romeo and Juliet, and the song "Somewhere" is the two main characters, the Romeo and Juliet characters,

imagining that somewhere there's a place for them. So, I think that Edward and Bella are going to sing a really compelling duet and then Bella's going to say to the Cullen's, 'and that somewhere is here where we are both vampires.' And Edward is going to say. 'No, that somewhere is with me being a vampire and Bella aging and dying.' And then everyone's going to be like, 'Edward, you should take an argumentation class because that argument was really bad.' And then they're all going to vote that Bella becomes a vampire!

J: Wow. If this book somehow transforms into a book-musical, it could not get worse for me.

(Vanessa laughs)

V: That was so mean!

J: I'm-I'm sorry? It really hurts me that you think that that was mean.

Outro Music Begins

V: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a flying failure 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 when I wanna know if I'm awake or asleep I pinch Julia. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACAST.