

Hot and Bothered: New Moon in Quarantine

Chapter 5: Cheater

Julia: Chapter 5: Cheater. (intro music starting) “‘Bella, why don’t you take off,’ Mike suggested, his eyes focused off to the side, not really looking at me. I wondered how long that had been going on without me noticing.”
I’m Julia Argy.

Vanessa: And I’m Vanessa Zoltan.

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

(intro music playing and fading out)

Julia: My question is: Who cheated in this chapter?

Vanessa: Oh yeah! She’s cheating on her promises to Edward and Charlie.

Julia: I just would not consider that cheating.

Vanessa: Yeah, I would consider that promise-breaking.

Julia: (laughs) Oath-breaking, as cited in this chapter?

Vanessa: Yeah Bella, you’re a liar, not a cheater. (Julia laughs) Don’t worry about it.

Julia: Do you wanna get into how she oath-breaks?

Vanessa: I would be happy to. Wanna count me in?

Julia: 3, 2, 1, go!

Vanessa: (timer ticking in the background) So, Bella gets excused from work and she sort of like, goes on a meander drive and she’s like, “Ooh, these people are selling motorcycles.” and so she goes and she talks to a kid and the kid’s just like “Take them for free.” and she does. And she’s not supposed to do this because she’s breaking the promise to Charlie that she made when she was ten, that she would never ride a motorcycle and the promise she made to Edward when she was 18, that she would be careful. But she’s like, “I don’t care.” and then she goes and visits Jacob and Jacob is sooo tall and hot. And she’s like “Oh, I like being around him.” and they’re gonna fix up the two motorcycles together and ride into the sunset.

(buzzer sound, thirty seconds over)

Julia: Beautiful!

Vanessa: Would you like to recap now?

Julia: Yes, please.

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

Julia: (timer ticking in the background) Her work is slow at Newton's. It's unclear what exactly she does at work 'cause all she seems to do is just mope around (chuckling) and not pay attention to Mike and not help customers. Um, she decides she wants to get into some risky business and she sees some defunct motorcycles on the side of the road. And a 14-year-old boy helps her put it in the back of her car. She calls the police station to talk to Charlie who says to go over to Jacob's and then they rekindle their friendship. The end.
(buzzer sound, thirty seconds over)

Vanessa: So good!

Julia: No cheating in sight!

Vanessa: No cheating! I don't know, maybe it's a metaphor for something.

Julia: We barely have an idea about what's going on in these books.

Vanessa: We're gonna get to that in my moment of genuine enjoyment. But, not for now.

Julia: Now, do you wanna hit us with the Breaking News?

Vanessa: Breaking News! Jacob is 6'5! Which is the height of my first boyfriend who I feel really bad looking back on 'cause I'm pretty sure I dated him for almost two years, because I just thought he was so hot. And looking back he probably wasn't even that hot, he was just 6'5. But 6'5 really does something for me and so
Breaking News: Jacob's 6'5!

Julia: Yeah. I mean, that's just the final update to our tracking random character's puberty throughout these books. (chuckling) We got like, the update upon that he was growing. It's unclear as to if he's gonna get taller than 6'5 but he's up there.

Vanessa: Do you have any Breaking News?

Julia: Okay, so my piece of Breaking News is that Dick Cheney lives in Forks.

Vanessa: Yes! The Cheneys live there! I noticed that too. (both laugh)

Julia: (chuckling) It's not clear that it's Dick Cheney but I as the newscaster of Forks, Washington am just gonna say it is.

Vanessa: Yeah! I'm trying to think if there's any other Breaking News. There's been a sighting of a really big bear.

Julia: Uh-huh.

Vanessa: Or is it a bear? Which leads to my moment of genuine enjoyment! Okay, so these two guys are talking at Newton's and they're like, "Oh, I backpack.", "Oh, I backpack more.", "Oh, I do it barefoot.", "Oh, I- do it- naked..." You know, like doing that like, competitive Who's-more-outdoorsy? conversation. And one of them is like, "I saw a bear that was sooo big that on all fours it was bigger than a house." And there's all this conversation like, "Oh, could have been a black bear.", "It's a grizzly.", "What do you think?" Weh. And I was so proud of myself because I get what's going on here. It's a werewolf! But we don't know that yet! And I was just like, "Ah, Vanessa, you are cracking the Twilight code. You are reading these books."

Julia: Putting two and two together.

Vanessa: You guys: Two and two - it equals four! (clicks tongue)

Julia: Good for you!

Vanessa: What about you, did you have a moment of genuine enjoyment?

Julia: I actually really liked Jacob in this chapter besides the fact he was 6'5. He was super game and gameness is a quality in a friend that I very much value. Bella just goes over to his house and is like, "Hey, do you wanna build motorcycles? Great, they're in the back of my car right now." And he just says like, "Yeah, let's do it! Sure!" He was very upbeat, chipper, eager to help - all great traits in a friend.

Vanessa: Yeah, he was lovely. Okay, but I genuinely enjoyed a moment of safety in the chapter.

Julia: Which was?

Vanessa: Bella notices that she's not driving safely and so she pulls over.

Julia: That seamlessly integrates into my first piece of advice.

Vanessa: Oh, amazing!

Julia: My first piece of advice is about Bella's safety when she stops driving because she's in a dissociative state, thinking about Edward. She just stops in the middle of the street. First of all: Don't stop in the middle of the street unless there's like a turtle crossing and like, you put on your hazards, whatever. Otherwise, don't do it. Second, 1b to that piece of advice is, if you're having these regular dissociative states where you're unable to pay attention to the road, don't keep driving. Set up a car pool.

Vanessa: Yeah, Mike would be more than happy to drive her to and from work.

Julia: Totally!

Vanessa: So, I would like to second, Julia, your piece of advice and just double down on it. Like, city of Forks, I hope you're listening and like, stop re-paving the roads a million times a day and like, build a light-rail.

Julia: (laughs) You could just use a bus system! A light-rail is super intense.

Vanessa: Yeah, it's good at long-term infrastructure.

Julia: I love that idea.

Vanessa: That's not my real piece of advice, though. I have my own piece of advice, not just piggy-backing on your good idea.

Julia: Okay, what's yours?

Vanessa: Mine is to Bella: Don't do shady business deals with minors. So, she shows up at this kid's house and is like, "Oh, I saw a sign that these motorcycles are for sale." And the child is like, "Oh, you're Bella Swan!" And she's like, "Yeah, I don't know your name." And then he is like, "You can take the motorcycles for free." And then he offers to help her put the bikes in the car and she takes his help. And I understand that Bella is like, in a phase where she is willing to take a lot of personal risks. She's like, "I don't need to keep my oaths to Charlie that I made about not riding a motorcycle and I don't need to keep my oath to Edward about trying to stay safe." But that doesn't mean that you should be exploiting children. Like, you're an 18-year-old now, you have a real responsibility to not exploit 14-year-olds. Shut it down, Bella.

Okay, Julia, do you have a second piece of advice for us today?

Julia: Well, my second piece of advice was to the werewolves who get sighted a couple of miles from the street, so it sounds. The Cullens have been running around the woods, sparkling, for years-

Vanessa: -sparkling and eating live animals.

Julia: Yeah, sparkling and murdering creatures - for years - and have seemingly not been caught but for the werewolf tribe. But not by humans. So, my advice to the werewolves is: Stop getting caught being a werewolf. Like, they should be able to prevent that. Don't they have great senses of smell as giant dogs? Like, this really seems like it shouldn't be happening.

Vanessa: Maybe- Like, what happens sometimes with my dog, maybe the werewolf got distracted because somebody somewhere was eating peanut butter.

Julia: The werewolf like, sees a squirrel and then is completely focussed and- yeah, I understand that. I understand that and I sympathize with that but the stakes here are quite high.

Vanessa: I agree. I just think you and I will go pretty far out of our way for peanut butter. Imagine if we had a thousand times better sense of smell.

Julia: I sympathize but my advice stands.
What is your second piece of advice?

Vanessa: My second piece of advice is also for Bella Swan: Bella, do not dip into your college fund because you want to be reckless and like, build out this bike so you can like, live out your death wish.

Julia: Well, that was something I was thinking about for Bella in terms of her savings. I think it's really hard to save towards a goal that seems super big, like college. And if she were to budget a little bit towards motorcycles and maybe bigger towards college she's gonna be less likely to just pull a lot of money out of her college fund because it seems too big to even save towards. And so, my little tidbit of additional advice onto your advice is to have a budgeting strategy that allows her to both spend on immediate things that are gonna bring her joy but also keep the larger picture of her wanting to go to college in her mind and being able to attain that.

Vanessa: And this gets back to like, an overwhelming piece of advice that we have which is that like, Bella needs friends and I think like, female friendship is a big part of that. Because I feel like something that you and I do and something that Ariana and I do is that we share our budgets with each other. And I feel like, in the United States one of the ways in that like, capitalism and white supremacy and the patriarchy controls us is by telling us that it's like in bad manners to talk about money, when really, like, we have to be teaching each other and talking about different saving strategies and I think that friends can really be helpful in doing that. Budgeting is something that's more fun to do with friends and with clarity and so, yeah, Bella: make a friend.

Julia: Bella invest in your financial literacy.

next segment sound playing

Vanessa: Julia, before we move on to our care package: Did you write anything in your Twilight diary?

Julia: I do have a little extra nugget.

Vanessa: Ooh, yay!

Julia: I thought it was so mean of Bella to not remember Jacob's long term goals of rebuilding his Volkswagen Rabbit, even though it's at least the third time they've talked about it.

Vanessa: Yeah, we've known this about Bella for a long time: She's completely self-absorbed. She's just like, all Bella, all the time, she like, can't even hold on a friendship, she's so self-absorbed. Do you know who else is going through a break-up? Jessica! (Julia laughing) But she never asks Jessica, she's just like, "I'm going through a more break-up". That's not real!

Julia: Yeah, I agree. If we can pay attention to the threads of this plot why can't Bella pay attention to the threads of her own life?

Vanessa: Yeah. One thing I liked in this chapter is that it was a vision of what of what a defunded police officer actually could do with their job. Right, like, a police officer that is part of a non-militarized, defunded system would go for car accidents which is what Bella says is most of what Charlie does. He's like, an emergency responder when people get into bad accidents. And I'm like, "Yeah, that is what emergency responders should be for, not to be policing our streets."

next segment sound playing

Julia: Vanessa, I have a question for you. So, Bella is like, "Edward said that I would forget about him and promised me that and that's not happening, so I'm gonna break my promise to be safe that I made to him." The Charlie promise is like an addendum, but she's like, "He breaks the promise, now I'm breaking my promise." What do you think about that as an ethical stance towards the world?

Vanessa: So, I actually think that I'm really glad that you brought up both examples because I think that they are separate in really important ways. So, I do think that the Edward one was sort of a contract, it was a tit for tat. He was like, "I'm gonna promise you I will disappear and you will promise me to be safe." and like, that was an exchange. And so I do think that that contract is void because Edward voided the contract, right? Like, she hasn't forgotten about him. But the Charlie one- Charlie has not voided any contract, it was not in any way a tit-for-tat agreement. And Edward breaking his contract with Bella does not mean that all contracts in the history of the world are now void. It's not like, if you break a promise to me the Louisiana purchase goes void, right? Like, that's not how contracts and agreements work. So, yeah, I think that Bella- it's totally reasonable for her to break her promise to Edward, but like, completely unreasonable to throw Charlie's in 'cause she just doesn't want to.

Julia: No promises, all promises are cancelled, everyone. Do what you want.

Vanessa: Edward broke his promise so I can cheat on Peter. (chuckles)

Julia: Free for all. You don't have to pay back any loans.

Vanessa: Oh my god, such good news!

Julia: Bella, don't worry about paying for college. You don't have to pay back loans.

Vanessa: (chuckling, but in a matter-of-fact voice) Uh, Edward broke his promise, so all promises are off.

next segment sound playing

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

Julia: Helmets.

Vanessa: (laughs) So many helmets!

Julia: I know, at least two for Bella and one for Jacob.

Vanessa: Yeah, and like, vegan leather head to toe.

Julia: (laughs) Like, little motorcycle outfits?

Vanessa: Yeah, so you don't get road rash. You get third degree burns all over your body if you're not wearing leather.

Julia: A vegan leather onesie.

Vanessa: (chuckles) Yeah. And gloves and boots and industrial helmets. It's a great idea! It's super expensive, so I'm so glad that we have all this money in our budget.

Julia: Get the gear. What do you wanna out in Bella's care package?

Vanessa: I want to get Bella a treadmill and some running shoes because I do think it's really unpleasant to always, always run in the rain. But I do think that some non-sports-based exercise would be really healthy for her. And she needs hobbies. She's talking about how horrible she is with down time. And I can imagine her getting really into it and exercise is really helpful for endorphins with depression. And as someone myself with chronic depression I will say that if I can force myself to exercise - which means I'm not in a really bad depression if I am capable of forcing myself to exercise - it literally always, always makes me feel better, even if it's just for 15 minutes. And so, I wanna set her up for success in getting her a really nice treadmill and a yoga pass and like, a yoga mat a like, a really beige-y like, bag to carry her yoga mat in and like, some good outfits. I feel like workout outfits make you feel better about yourself. So I want like, her to have upper-middle-class white lady workout stuff.

Julia: I mean we definitely have to get her the treadmill because this whole chapter she talks about how the woods are so traumatizing to her.

Vanessa: Yeah.

Julia: She just has nightmares about being in the woods, so her going on a run in the woods is a total disaster. Absolute no-go.

Vanessa: Yeah. And she can watch all those movies we sent her in a previous care package while running on the tread mill.

Julia: Totally. Okay, what do you think is gonna happen next chapter?

Vanessa: So, I think Charlie is gonna find out what Jacob and Bella are up to. Billy's gonna find out, call Charlie and be like, "The kids are building motorcycles" and Charlie's gonna be like, "Hell, no!" and then Billy, Charlie, Jacob and Bella are all gonna start going fishing together and that is going to be their hobby instead of riding motorcycles. And I also hate fishing, like, I hate dead fish but I hate it less than motorcycles.

Julia: I feel like they should almost get into- do you know those um- battle pods? I think they should get into that because I think part of what Jacob likes is building things with parts. And so I'm not sure fishing will scratch that itch for him

Vanessa: Bella and Jacob should like, start a robotics team for the Forks area and their two high schools can create like, a combined team and then they can like, become like, robotics- you know, champions.

Julia: Yes, that is exactly what I want because Bella, as we know, is a woman in STEM.

Vanessa: Another set of problems solved. By Julia and Vanessa.

outro music fading in

Vanessa: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a contract 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 Julia and I budget together.

We are a production of Not Sorry Productions are distributed by Acast.

We'll talk to you in a few days, thanks everyone.