

## Hot and Bothered: New Moon in Quarantine

### Chapter 6 - Friends

Vanessa: Chapter 6 - Friends. (intro music starting)

“The motorcycles didn’t need to be hidden any further than simply placing them in Jacob’s shed. Billy’s wheelchair couldn’t maneuver the uneven ground separating it from the house.”

I’m Vanessa Zoltan.

Julia: And I’m Julia Argy.

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

(intro music playing and fading out)

Vanessa: Julia, I have a theory that I am excited to talk to you about in this chapter.

Julia: Great!

Vanessa: I think that Jessica and Jacob are actually the same person.

Julia: Like, twins? Like, separated at birth?

Vanessa: No, I think as a literary device. Stephenie Meyer has created the exact same character and made one of them a tall man and the other one a short woman and she’s exploring the ways that the patriarchy has forced women to hate themselves by making Bella love Jacob and hate Jessica even though they are the exact same human.

Julia: I kind of have a similar theory that maybe Edward and Lauren are the same person and that she hates Lauren even though Lauren is just as mean to Bella as Edward is but she’s into it when Edward is mean. Double standard.

Vanessa: Interesting! Ooh, Stephenie Meyer, what a writer!

Julia: You know what’s not gender-normative? The thirty-second recap. Anyone can do it!

Vanessa: It’s true! Ah, are you ready?

Julia: Mh-hm.

Vanessa: On your mark, get set, go!

Julia: (timer ticking in the background) Bella goes to Jacob’s house to rebuild the bikes and they do that and it’s going really well. And then the next day she goes back and they get more parts. And she meets his friends and then they have a dinner party and it’s super fun. And then she goes to school and she’s like, “Wow, who are all these people?” and I’m like, “I don’t know Bella, they’re all new names to me”. And then she gets into a little scuffle about like, “Are there bears in the woods”? And then Jessica’s a little bit mean to her but she’s also really mean to

Jessica and then everything is the same and it's a year later- (buzzer sound) from the start of the last book.

Vanessa: To quote my favorite book, New Moon: "time passes."

Julia: So true.

Vanessa: Yeah. Hm, a year passed. And a year ago there was no Edward in her life and now there's no Edward in her life and I would say both of those moments she was thriving.

Julia: (chuckling) I think she's starting to thrive. I don't think it's happened quite yet.

Vanessa: No but like, today is the first day of her thriving life.

Julia: Wow, that's beautiful. That's poetry.

Vanessa: I'm working on a cross-stitch for her.

Julia: "Today is the first day of your thriving life?"

Vanessa: Mh-hm. But I'm not making it a pillow, I'm making it a handkerchief.

Julia: For her tears?

Vanessa: Mh-hm.

Julia: Okay, your turn.

Vanessa: Okay, count me in.

Julia: 3, 2, 1, go!

Vanessa: (timer ticking in the background) So, Jacob has two friends and Bella's like, "Friends! That's right!". And she finds herself doing things like laughing and at one point she comes out of the woods and she's holding hands with Jacob and smiling and laughing and Charlie sees them and is like, "Mhhhm!" They go shopping for car parts and she's like, "Don't worry, I have a checkbook!" and is like, throwing her money around. She- uhm- yeah, goes back to school and Mike is really excited that she's like, awake again and she's just like, talking to people again. And she's like, "I feel like something has transitioned." (buzzer sound) Something has changed for Bella.

Julia: It's probably her brain chemistry after we sent her that Zoloff.

\*next segment sound\*

Vanessa: Do you have any (in a sing-songy voice) Breaking News - \*doo-doo-doo\* - Breaking News?! I wrote that song for us.

Julia: The wolves keep getting sighted, they don't care at all about people seeing them. They're just wandering around a hot spring resort as if that's not a heavily trafficked area. So, they're out and about, sun's out guns out- wolves out.

Vanessa: That will be my next cross-stitched hankie.

Julia: For Jacob this time?

Vanessa: Mh-hm. Sun's out wolves out.

Julia: What about your Breaking News?

Vanessa: I have so much Breaking News! I mean the chapter ends with the biggest news: Bella's back! We learn it from Lauren who says it like, rolling her eyes like, "Bella's back..." But I'm just gonna say it in a different tone of voice and then it sounds like great Breaking News: Bella's back!

Julia: I was also confused by the end of the chapter 'cause Bella supposedly sincerely says, "Everything is the same as when it started." I was like, are you being facetious? Like, do you actually think everything is the same?

Vanessa: I think she's just being bitchy and is like, "I'm still here and Lauren's still a bitch."

Julia: Wow, rude as ever Bella, rude as ever!

Vanessa: 'Cause yeah, very few other things are actually the same. People got haircuts. Everything is different.

Julia: (indignantly) That was my other piece of Breaking News!

Vanessa: Well, mine is about haircuts too! She's- Bella is a gender essentialist. She's so mean about Lauren's like, very cute sounding pixie cut. She's literally like, Lauren got a haircut. It's so short in the back that it's like a boy's cut. That's not a thing. And then she's like, I don't know why anybody would get that haircut, maybe she got gum in her hair. And then like, a page later she's like, I don't know why Lauren's being mean to me. And I'm like, maybe that's because you were staring at her hair like, in horror.

Julia: Especially because she loved Alice's pixie cut. It's like, when Lauren gets one, it's not okay?

Vanessa: Yeah, super hurtful. Other Breaking News: There's a wink in this chapter.

Julia: Mh-hm.

Vanessa: Our theory that winks are contagious has proven to be true. Edward winked at Bella, Bella winked at Jacob, we didn't see Jacob wink at Embry but then we see Embry wink at Bella. And I was like, there it is!

Julia. Full circle.

Vanessa: Highly contagious, winks! Everyone be careful! Corona virus and winks.

Julia: My other piece of Breaking News was something you touched on but, Bella and Jacob hold hands! And they're still holding hands even though they run up to Charlie together. - Just let go!

Vanessa: (chuckles) Wow. That's veering into advice but I love it. I also have one other Breaking News update before we transition which is: I recently was like, I hope in the next chapter we find out if Edward took out his stereo and we found out that Edward did NOT take out the stereo. He's horrible at making himself disappear. Bella took out her own stereo, we found that out I think in the last chapter. And it like, bloodied her finger nails 'cause she like, clawed it out which is horrible and in this chapter Jacob mocks her for it. He's like, you should not touch machines. You don't have any Y chromosomes. He doesn't say that 'cause that would be a horrible thing to say so it would be something Bella would say, not something that wonderful, wonderful Jacob would say.

Julia: Yeah, that was super hardcore of her. I can't believe we didn't touch on that. I'm glad we were able to circle back.

\*next segment sound\*

Vanessa: Did you have any genuine enjoyment of this chapter?

Julia: I loved their little social distancing dinner party. They all eat pasta out on the porch from paper plates on their laps. I was like, yeah, me too, Bella. Come to my backyard, that's all I do now.

Vanessa: Yeah, it was really cute. Although, again she depicts the women as sucking. It's like, one woman is nagging her husband about the cholesterol and the other woman like, doesn't ever hang up the phone. I don't think Bella likes women! And it really bothers me.

Julia: The only woman she cares about is Angela. What about you, what did you enjoy?

Vanessa: I really loved two things: First, I love it when Jacob takes Bella on a tour of his room. I love like, bedroom tours. And I love taking tours of other people's houses. Like, oh, I've read that book! Or, cool, where'd you get this from? I loved it.

Julia: But- might I remember when we went on Edward's room tour and you said, what is he? A fourteen-year-old boy? And hated it?

Vanessa: Yeah, but Jacob is like, a fourteen-year-old boy. (Julia chuckles) It's really cute when Jacob does it.

Julia: (laughs) Yeah, It's less cute when an a-hundred-year-old man does it.

Vanessa: Also, I'm a complicated woman, Julia.

Julia: You play favorites.

Vanessa: I do. (chuckles) I'm a simple woman. I'm a hypocrite. (Julia chuckles, too) So, the other moment I genuinely liked was at the very end of the chapter. Like, Bella has come back and she starts talking. And she and Angela start chatting. And they're just like, having this sweet moment of connection. And Angela says "I missed you." And I just think that that's really sweet and Bella needs some like, authentic, not awkward like, connection time. Like, I feel like Charlie's always like, staring and Jacob is always like, talking in code. He's like, "My friend isn't too young for you"... "My friend." And so I think it's nice that she just gets to like, have a frank emotionally honest conversation with Angela. And the other thing that I really liked about it is that it proves that I was right. The other day when you were like, why doesn't she just take Angela to the movies? And I was like, because she thinks that Angela would actually wanna talk about real things. And it says, "This is why I had picked Jessica over Angela, though I always liked Angela more, for the girls' night movie: Angela was too perceptive."

Julia: You were totally spot on. When I read that I was like, wow, she really knows these books, that Vanessa!

Vanessa: Yeah. The caption of this part of the episode is genuine enjoyment and I genuinely enjoyed being right. Do you have any advice that you would like to give today, Julia?

Julia: Yeah, I had a big realization in this chapter. Which is that no-one in Forks knows how age works and that's why people keep dating age-inappropriate people. So, Jacob and Bella play this game where they decide how old they each are by adding and subtracting years of their life based on traits. So, it's like, I, Julia am 24 but like, I really probably couldn't change a tire: like, minus three. But like, I'm in grad school: plus 4. And so they end up at wildly different ages than they actually are. And this is why Jacob ends up trying to date a baby and Bella is trying to date an a-hundred-and-twenty-year-old. 'Cause they don't understand that age is a number and you can't get plus and minus points. So my advice is to really internalize the fact that this is just like, an immutable statistic in your life and you cannot change it based on what you want.

Vanessa: Right. And it's okay to also talk about maturity. Right, like, it's okay to talk about other things but don't just call them age.

Julia: Yeah. 'Cause Jacob who's a sophomore in high school ends up being 30 and Bella who's 18 ends up being 21. So, these are the kind of miscommunications that allow the larger confusions in these books to happen.

Vanessa: Can you imagine if Bella like, went to that bar that she was at the other night they're like, "Ma'm, you're 18." And she's like, "No, no, no, no. I can change a tire, I am 21." (chuckles) And they're like, "Oh, fair enough." Like, it would be like, chaos.

Julia: Look at my checkbook, I'm forty. (Vanessa laughing) What's your first piece of excellent advice?

Vanessa: My first piece of advice is for Bella. It's like, just like, don't be a dick. As we talked about, she like, sucks about Lauren's haircut, she's a total jerk to Jessica. Who like- Jessica asks how someone's weekend is and she's like, "Jessica probably doesn't care how their weekend is, she probably just wants to tell her own story." So, one way that I think that you could really investigate how you're a jerk is you could write a list of all the things that you think you love about Jacob and that you find annoying about Jessica. And you're gonna find out that it's the exact same list. You're gonna find out that you say about Jacob that you love how he can just happily talk and just be happy to be around people and just like, laugh easily whereas with Jessica you find it vapid and annoying that she can talk so much. And I want you to interrogate why that is. Look at the cold hard facts of this list. And wonder what it says about you that you find this so charming in a 6'5 hot guy who's in love with you and less charming about a girl who you could potentially see as competition.

Julia: That's a great idea.

Vanessa: Thank you. And she doesn't even have to get in trouble saying, oh, I was describing Jessica here and Jacob here, she can just say J. and J. and no-one will know.

Julia: Mh-hm, Charlie-proof. 'Cause he is a known snoop.

Vanessa: I know. What other piece of advice do you have, Jules?

Julia: I have advice for teenagers in general and especially teenagers in this book: I understand that it's extremely tempting to talk shit fake-whispering in front of the people you're talking shit about but just don't. Quill and Embry make flirtatious comments about Bella to Jacob in front of Bella and Jacob and then Lauren - however rightly - says in a fake whisper how not thrilled she is that Bella is back. Just walk six feet further and say it. Otherwise you're just stirring the pot. If you can't say it to their face, just say it behind their back. Don't do it half-way.

Vanessa: Yeah, that's great advice. My only question is: Do you think that Bella has gotten like, better hearing by being around all those vampires? 'Cause like, Quill and Embry clearly think she's out of earshot and I vaguely think that Lauren does, too.

Julia: Damn, super-sonic hearing?

Vanessa: Yeah, remember how she started to learn from Alice to see the future like, she had a vision about being broken-up with and then she was broken-up with? Maybe she now has really good hearing.

Julia: That's a good theory. Okay, so it's not their fault. Bella, listen to your loud screamo again and go back to normal human hearing abilities.

\*next segment sound\*

Julia: What's your second piece of advice?

Vanessa: i have two because they're both very very small.

Julia: Great.

Vanessa: So, Bella is like, "I feel really conspicuous about leaving the house in front of Charlie because he can obviously see my checkbook in my pocket and he's gonna ask why I have my checkbook in my pocket 'cause I never use my checkbook." And I- this isn't really advice, this is like, a hot tip: Bella, you can tear checks out of your checkbook and in fact you have to 'cause you don't hand vendors your whole checkbook every time you write a check and so you can pre-tear out two checks and keep them in your wallet and then you don't have to carry your checkbook around.

Julia: Well, I have a question. As someone who's never written a check not once in their life-

Vanessa: Wait, not even when you pay rent?

Julia: I'm a young person! Young people don't have checkbooks anymore. (chuckles)

Vanessa: You're youth. Uh-huh.

Julia: Okay, but I thought there was a little receipt behind each check for you to do your personal finance accounting. Do you rip that out too and save it for later as a receipt?

Vanessa: Yeah.

Julia: Got it, goodie. See, maybe Bella doesn't know how to use her checkbook, like me, she's struggling

Vanessa: Which is the whole point of the show! I'm not mad at her for not knowing this. I'm giving her advice, it's an advice show. I'm saying, Bella, you don't know this: You can tear checks out.

Julia: You're also giving me advice so I appreciate it.

Vanessa: What do you care? You will never write a check your whole life.

Julia: You're gonna jinx me, I'm gonna have to order some checks. OK.

Vanessa: (chuckles) But yeah, so, I also have like a similar piece of like micro-advice for Charlie, which is- he turns off the light on Bella when she's like, still doing work in the living room. Don't do that, that's so rude!

Julia: Is the reason you're sensitive about this because I have done this to you before?

Vanessa: I forgot that you've done that to me. When have you done that to me?

Julia: We were on a trip and I was going to bed and I just turned off all the lights when other people are doing things (chuckles) so that- I indicate that it's time for bed. Do you not remember that? You texted Jonah, being like, your girlfriend is so rude, I can't believe you live with her, she just turned off all the lights just 'cause she was going to bed.

Vanessa: (laughing) No, I don't remember that at all.

Julia: Yeah. It's clear that this micro-advice session is all for me. (Vanessa laughs)

Vanessa: "Bella," I didn't realize it was for you but apparently I have some things to get off my chest.

Julia: OK, I'm gonna try to do better. (chuckles, Vanessa laughs)

\*next segment sound\*

Vanessa: So Julia do you have anything in your twilight diary?

Julia: I do. Beyond Bella's multitude of offensive statements towards Lauren and about white chromosomes we also get just a touch of her racism, (Vanessa approving in the background) when she describes an indigenous woman as beautiful in an exotic way... pretty bad.

Vanessa: Yeah, there are just words that she uses that I'm like, these are words that maybe we shouldn't use any more. Beautiful in an exotic way... Like, in order to justify the use of the word exotic I feel like you have to do a lot of cultural framing, you have to be like, it was very exotic to me, from my point of view because of what I haven't had access to in my- right like-

Julia: But like, only for plants and animals.

Vanessa: Exactly.

Julia: But never for people.

Vanessa: Or like, experiences, right? I can imagine being like, I went snowmobiling which was super exotic for me 'cause I'm from LA and I didn't know that snow could be fun!- No? Do you think I shouldn't even use exotic like that?

Julia: Well, I probably wouldn't just because of the other connotation that it's like typically used to dehumanize people. You know, erring on the side of caution, I probably wouldn't.

Vanessa: Yeah and that's how I am- feel that way about the word hysteria, too.

Julia: That one didn't bother me as much.

Vanessa: This could be 'cause I just had this conversation elsewhere. But like, hysteria has a very particular history of like, discounting women whenever they say something that you don't want to hear as like, simply being hysterical and so I'm



wondering if hysterical should sort of go the way of exotic. And these are like, overly politicized words that we should- at least be really careful when we use.

Julia: I think Bella has the opportunity to reclaim hysterical in a way she does not have the opportunity to reclaim exotic.

Vanessa: That is true!

Julia: If she does end up using hysterical with an understanding of its history I wouldn't be mad about it but no-one exotic, Bella.

Vanessa: Yes. OK, I'm glad we figured that out. Great. Julia what would you like to put in Bella's care package this week?

Julia: So, as I mentioned previously I know nothing about checks and clearly Bella doesn't either and also, as we have talked about earlier, she's kind of struggling in the personal finance department and I think Bella - despite all of the advice we give her - is actually pretty responsible for a teenager and could be responsible enough to start establishing credit. So I wanna give her a credit card. I know she'd pay off her balance in full. She wouldn't carry over any debt and so, that would be a good stealthy way to start spending her money in a responsible manner and she'd build her credit. One day she could lease an apartment. Whenever she goes to college.

Vanessa: And a lot of credit cards have perks!

Julia: Oh, totally! Travel miles, go to Jacksonville! Go find Edward!

Vanessa: It's funny that you mention Jacksonville because what I would like to put in the care package- This is really inspired by you. You have shown me that we can send Bella things to send to other people. And Bella takes the tact in this chapter where she's like, "I'm not gonna acknowledge that I've been treating my mom like shit, I'm just gonna stop treating her like shit." And I actually think that that's like, not the best way to go. So I would like to send flowers to Renée from Bella, being like, "I'm sorry I've been so missing in action, I love you and miss you." Gestures are nice.

Julia: I'm sure Renée will appreciate that, she seems very sensitive.

Vanessa: She could even just like, send a cactus. 'Cause like, something to remind her of Phoenix and how much they loved Phoenix together and it does sound like Renée doesn't do great at taking care of things - like her human children - so maybe we shouldn't get flowers which you like have to rearrange, cut the stems to keep alive for a few weeks. Just like, send a cactus.

Julia: Vanessa what do you think is gonna happen next chapter?

Vanessa: I would like to think that everyone is gonna intervene and tell Bella she sucks. Is that mean?

Julia: Yeah, I think so.

Vanessa: I want everyone to be like, “You can’t just pretend like the last few months didn't happen. You have to use your words. You have to say ‘I’m sorry, I was going through a really tough spot so I froze you out, now I’m back.’” I want some accountability for this child, she’s just getting away with it.

Julia: Chapter 7 - Reckoning.

Vanessa: Yeah! I still think Bella’s acting like a little twerk.

Julia: Wow, twerk! Those are fighting words, Vanessa!

Vanessa: Well, she can come fight me.

\*outro music starts playing\*

Vanessa: This has been Twilight in Quarantine - a haircut 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 know how to use a checkbook - not to brag!

We are a production of Not Sorry Production and are distributed by Acast.

Talk to you in a couple of days!