

HOT AND BOTHERED: TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

NEW MOON: CHAPTER 16

Julia “Chapter 16: Paris. At that moment, my head broke the surface. How disorienting! ...”

[begin intro music]

Julia “... I’d been sure I was sinking. The current wouldn’t let up. It was slamming me against more rocks. They beat against the center of my back sharply, rhythmically, pushing the water from my lungs.” I’m Julia Argy ...

Vanessa And I’m Vanessa Zoltan.

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

Vanessa Can I read to you what I wanted this chapter to start like?

Julia Your fanfiction?

Vanessa Mmm-hmm.

Julia For Chapter 16?

Vanessa Yep. “At that moment, my head broke the surface. France!”

Julia [laughs] She swam across the channel.

Vanessa Like, come on, man! The chapter’s called “Paris”.

Julia I know. Of all the reasons it could be called “Paris”, being named after the Romeo and Juliet side character was not on my list of top reasons. Vanessa, do you want to recap the chapter for us?

Vanessa Even more than I wish I was in Paris right now.

Julia [laughs] 3, 2, 1, go to Paris!

[begin ticking sound]

Vanessa So Bella doesn’t die. Jacob rescues her. And then, they go back and they nap. And her throat really hurts. And it turns out that Harry Clearwater had a heart attack and is dying. And then it turns out that he died. And Jacob is like, “I’ll take you home. You want to be home for when Charlie gets home.” And Bella ... they ... Jacob is basically like, “I know you don’t love me.” And Bella’s like, “Maybe I could be with you.” And then they pull up, and Carlyle’s car is in front of the house.

[long buzzing sound]

Vanessa Are you ready to fill in some of the things I missed?

Julia I'm ready. I'm ready.

Vanessa OK, On your mark, get set, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Julia So Bella doesn't die. Jacob swims in and saves her. And then she regurgitates a bunch of seawater. And she goes back home for a group nap, except Jacob falls asleep on the floor. And Bella thinks about what if she dated Paris and not Romeo and thinks, "No, dating anyone after I dated Edward invalidates our whole relationship." And then Jacob brings her home because Harry Clearwater died. And she thinks, "Maybe I should make out with his shoulder." And then she thinks, "No, no, no!" And then a vampire's at the house. Is it Victoria? Oh, no! Victoria's red hair was in the ocean as Bella drowned, but Victoria didn't murder her. And then, she goes in the house and she hopes it's Edward.

[long buzzing sound]

Vanessa Can you imagine if you read a book you loved if you were like, "I can't read any other books. It would invalidate my relationship with that book. No one would ever read New Moon.

Julia [laughs' Twilight only! Real Twilight fans only read Twilight!

Vanessa [laughs] It's just like, It's such specific logic.

Julia Yeah.

Vanessa Sorry, I can't have a second child; it will invalidate that I love my first one.

Julia I mean, I found this chapter so sad. Because we finally get so much progress in terms of Bella getting over Edward and then her and Jacob being together, which I wasn't that pro, but now I'm suddenly kind of into it. And then suddenly a vampire arrives, I'm like, "Come on!"

Vanessa I know! It almost makes you believe that Bella is fated to be a vampire and be with Edward.

Julia I guess so. It's like ...

Vanessa I mean it doesn't make me believe that but it almost makes someone believe that.

Julia [laughs] The someone being me. Duped!

Vanessa [laughs] Do you have any breaking news? Doot-doot-doot, doo-doot!

Julia Bella finally agrees with me and realized she doesn't love Jacob in a brotherly way.

Vanessa I was super-excited for you when I read that.

Julia I know.

Vanessa I was like, "Good for you, Julia."

Julia Do you have breaking news?

Vanessa I do. My breaking news is that Bella thinks that Shakespeare is a bad writer. She at one point is like, "What if Juliette loved Paris back?" And then she was like, "Ugh, but Paris is just a stick-figure of a character; he was only in there as a plot device; he isn't a well—rounded character." And I'm like, "You know, Bella, we don't need your criticisms of Shakespeare."

Julia Yeah, she really rags on McBeth for being potentially misogynistic too. She really doesn't like Shakespeare.

Vanessa Yeah! Bella Hates Shakespeare: Doot-doot-doo! What about a moment of genuine enjoyment?

Julia So, my moment of genuine enjoyment is when Bella mentions Evel Knievel. Who I did not know who that person was and so I googled it. And apparently he is a real person; everyone out there, Evel Knievel is real. He's a motorcycle racer.

Vanessa He's a stunt guy.

Julia Yeah, I thought Evel Knievel was the villain in the Austin Powers movie, so I was really excited to find this new development. And then I found out that his name is actually Robert Craig but he changed his name to "Evel" E-V-E-L, and I was just wondering why he didn't change it to actual "Evil", but that's just an aside.

Vanessa Evel than Ivil. Hes He's more Ev-elle.

Julia [laughs] Evelle is kind of a nice name.

Vanessa [laughs] I just loved that in our recording document that you were like, "Evel Knievel is real, who knew?"

Julia [laughs]

Vanessa Literally everyone knew, Julia.

Julia Except me!

Vanessa Yes, Evel Knievel is real. He's broken almost every bone in his body.

Julia Don't ride motorcycles, folks.

Vanessa Yeah.

Julia What's your moment of genuine enjoyment?

Vanessa Ugh, Bella had such a breakthrough! She was like, "Wow, Harry Clearwater might die! I can't believe I was wasting resources being reckless! It was a stupid time to be reckless!" Yes, Bella! Safety is the best! It just ... I'm proud of her! I felt like we had a real breakthrough of selfishness, and of understanding how our actions impact others, and I was just so proud of her.

Julia I found it kind of like a weird moment of revisionist history where she was like, "It was a stunt." And I was like, "Um, when I was reading that it wasn't really a stunt, but OK."

Vanessa I'm not saying I loved everything about it, but when she said, "It was a stupid time to be reckless, ..." Don't ruin my enjoyment!

Julia Sorry, Oh, my gosh!

Vanessa Thank you.

[segue music]

Vanessa OK, should we give some advice?

Julia I'd love to. Do you want to go first?

Vanessa Sure, sure. So my first piece of advice is Bella. You learned a very specific lesson: This was a bad moment to be reckless because someone you knew had a heart attack. Expand that to: Every time is a stupid time to be reckless. So take micro-lessons and expand upon them.

Julia What do you think is the most reckless thing that you would support Bella doing?

Vanessa Driving.

Julia That's it?

Vanessa Yeah. Driving is really dangerous.

Julia What about driving and trying to connect her Spotify to her car and not really looking at the road?

Vanessa Nooooo!

Julia Drive in silence, Bella.

Vanessa So I think a lot of things are less reckless than driving. Go on a roller-coaster. Roller-coasters are fun and they're pretty safe.

Julia I can't believe she hasn't gone to a Six Flags yet.

Vanessa Yes, that's a good idea; that never even occurred to me. She should just be going on all the roller-coasters. But not twice at once. I want ...

Julia Twice at once?

Vanessa Not twice one right after the other. That is what I meant. Because I once went to a Six Flags in rural Missouri where there was no line on the Batman ride, and so the guy let us ride twice, and a lot of us threw up. Like, not just me. It was not good. It sounds like such a good idea, but it's not.

Julia I went on my first roller-coaster last year and it was the only time I've ever done a mindfulness activity. I was like, "I'm not here!" Close my eyes with deep breathing, "Check in with your body; you're not floating in the air twirling."

Vanessa [laughs] That's not what mindfulness is. Mindfulness is about being in the present. You were like, "I'm NOT here!"

Julia [laughs] Mindfulness disassociate.

Vanessa Well I'm glad you had some resources at your disposal to get through that. OK, what advice do you have, Julia?

Julia So, despite us talking about how Bella doesn't like Shakespeare, I think she should reread the play because Juliette is 13 and their breakup is the equivalent of dumping your first boyfriend in middle school. And Bella read that play and thinks you can never get over anyone. But the whole experience of any middle school relationship is largely you break up and you get over it. And so she can use her understanding of that to reframe what actually happens in Romeo and Juliette which is needless, senseless tragedy, not worthy tragedy.

Vanessa Yeah, I completely agree. She says something in the book like, "Maybe I'm paying too close attention to Romeo and Juliette", and I'm like, "NO, you're just paying the wrong kind of attention to Romeo and Juliette. Like, there's nothing wrong with close attention to a book, but you Bella are doing a bad job."

Julia Mmm-hmm, yeah. Closer, better attention. What's your second piece of advice?

Vanessa So my second piece of advice ... Like, I can't believe I have to say this. So they go back after Bella almost dies and gets resuscitated from near drowning in a rainstorm, they go back to Jacob's house, to the Black house. And Jacob is like, "These sweats will be too big on you but put them on." And she is like, "No, I'm going to sit in my freezing-cold clothes." And my advice is, "Oh, my God, change clothes! Why does she like sitting in wet clothes so much? I tried to get her that hat rack, but like this isn't just her coat, but like her whole body! I just don't understand why she puts so little effort into basic self-care and comfort. And so I just want to say, "Bella, you're allowed to be comfortable; you deserve dry warm clothes. You know? Just do it! Just put on sweats!"

Julia I'm pretty sure you can get hypothermia if it's 50 degrees out by y're wet. She is at high risk.

Vanessa Yeah. She like sits next to a radiator. But then her clothes are all stiff! I just don't understand why she likes to sit in wet clothes.

Julia Maybe she likes to be wet because she's so used to being cold near Edward's body. She's like, "Ah, home! Being cold!"

Vanessa Or, maybe she thinks she's supposed to be a vampire, but really the monster she's supposed to be is a mermaid.

Julia Oh, that's a nice idea. She didn't really have great swimming skills.

Vanessa Do you know what would help? ... A fin.

Julia True. And maybe the ability to breathe under water.

Vanessa Mmm-hmm. OK, then, if that's why, I get it. But as long as you're human, just be in dry sweats, everyone, all the time.

[pause for advertisement]

Vanessa OK, Julia, so what is your second piece of advice?

Julia So, my second piece of advice is expanding upon an idea I had earlier about how Victoria could murder Bella. Bella and Jacob drive up to the house and there's a Mercedes in the driveway. Earlier, I said, "Just drive into town, Victoria." The Trojan horse of driving in a car that looks like Carlyle's—I'm sure Bella doesn't memorize the license plates. WE know the windows are tinted because their skin sparkles. So like, Bella walks up, rolls down the window, guess who it is? Victoria!

Vanessa Yeah. I was really surprised by how much she did know about the car. Like, I super-know what Peter's car looks like. I know when it's him versus any other Honda Civic. And I love Peter a lot but I don't know the Horsepower, especially not one of his relative's cars.

Julia I don't even know what horsepower means.

Vanessa Do you really not?

Julia I mean, like how many horses it would take for a car to be pulled that fast? [laughs]

Vanessa Yeah.

Julia Is that it?

Vanessa [laughs] Yeah, that's it.

Julia [laughs] That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard. How do they measure that?

Vanessa I don't know. But I don't even know the horsepower of my car. I don't know the horsepower of any car is.

Julia But now you know Carlyle's.

[segue music]

Julia Do you have anything in your Twilight Diary?

Vanessa Boy, do I. OK, everyone, stop! Bella is in love with Jacob, and I ... have ... evidence! She knows that it is Jacob's hands touching her, even though she's like passed-out asleep she's sure it's Jacob's hands. And she gives all these excuses. She's like, "Oh, his hands were warm, so it could only be him." And it's like, "Uh-uh! It could be any werewolf. Sam's right there; he's warm too. She's just so in love with him that even in a drowning temporary-induced coma, she's like, "Those are Jacob's hands."

Julia Uh, Vanessa, are you team Jacob again?

Vanessa No, I don't want this to happen, I'm just saying that it is happening.

Julia Why don't you want it to happen?

Vanessa I mean, I specifically don't want it to happen in this chapter because the last thing that Jacob says to her is so petulant and obnoxious. He drops her off at the house and is, like, "I hope you don't die." And I'm like, "You know, that's not helpful." I don't want anyone to date anyone who says things like, "I hope you don't die", so I don't know. They both deserve better than each other. But regardless of whether or not she should, she is in love with him.

Julia Yeah, I think so too. I'm getting that sense.

Vanessa Do you have anything in your Twilight Diary?

Julia Yeah, I do. Do you think Edward should have established a vacation fund for Bella so she could have gone on a real trip to Paris?

Vanessa Is this a Twilight Diary or a Cosmo Quiz? Yes.

Julia [laughs] What are the answers to Cosmo Quizzes? "He does like you back".

Vanessa Mmm-hmm. OH, run, girl!

Julia [laughs] Oh, the other thing I had in my Twilight Diary was that I feel so bad for the werewolves right now, because they aren't getting any sleep. The poor teenage boys have not slept it seems in days because they're running around chasing Victoria all the time. I'm just like, "There has to be a better solution to this. Easy solution: Use Bella as bait; put her in the middle of the forest; Victoria creeps up; All the werewolves attack; Victoria is dead; the werewolves can go back to being teenage boys and sleeping, you know, 12 to 14 hours a day as teenage boys do.

Vanessa Yes, I completely agree. Boys should be sleeping. Girls should be sleeping. Non-binary people should be sleeping. We should all be sleeping.

Julia Everyone, go to bed.

Vanessa Everyone, go to bed.

Julia My other idea is invite all the vampires that they've ever come in contact with to a huge fancy gala. Send out beautiful printed invitations saying "Come to our beach. There's going to be a huge party. You can eat people, or not, depending on your tastes." Invite them all. Induce a bunch of people in the community to change into werewolves, and then send the vampires away, so that next time they have a problem there's just ample werewolves around to handle it, and there's not just these poor boys doing 18-hour shifts 6 days a week.

Vanessa Oooh, I love this logic. So if there were vampires on the property, more people would turn into werewolves.

Julia Yeah, I'm pretty sure that's how they said that worked.

Vanessa I think so too. Do you think that if they were close enough and there were plenty of vampires – even women would have the opportunity?

Julia I think that's impending, Vanessa.

Vanessa Oh, my God, that would be so exciting! Women werewolves!

Julia The best kind.

[segue music]

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

Julia So I'm going to put in a bunch of fish fry. I know Harry Clearwater died, and the only thing I remember about him in these books is that one time Harry brought over his fish fry for Charlie. And I'm going to give her a hundred fishes worth of fish fry and send it so that the community and the family can be set for food as they go through the horrible funeral grieving process.

Vanessa That is so thoughtful.

Julia Thank you.

Vanessa I would like to get her basic things to take care of her throat. Her throat is really upset about having gargled down so much of the ocean because she's not yet reached her full mermaid potential. And I think that throat-coat tea really helps. I'm a fan of Halls. Some people like Ricola and other throat lozenges. But I think that Halls are objectively the best ones. Honey, a lot of honey, can be really good for your throat. Just like all the throat things; I'm going to send her a little care package.

Julia I love how you said that her throat is upset at her. "No, Bella, don't drink the salt water."

Vanessa Yeah, "don't drown again, please!"

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

Vanessa I think Edward is due to come back.

Julia Mmm-hmm.

Vanessa I mean, it's Carlyle's car but it's obviously not Carlyle in the car, and so I think it's Edward and he's going to be like, "What are you doing? You made a promise! Who the heck do you think you are?"

Julia A classic Edward-and-Bella conversation: Edward yells at her and she loves it.

Vanessa Yeah.

Julia I'll be so sad if Edward comes back. I've made so much progress in my Team Jacob journey. To have it all pulled out from under me in the last moment? Really tragic!

[begin outro music]

Vanessa This has been Twilight in Quarantine: A Romeo and Juliette Fanclub from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are executive-produced by Ariana Neddelman and produced by Ariana Martinez. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy, and I'm Vanessa Zoltan, and I'm in the Fifth Arrondissement en Paris. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACast. Talk to you soon!