

## TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

### NEW MOON

#### CHAPTER 3: THE END

Julia "Chapter 3: The End. I felt absolutely hideous in the morning."

[begin intro music]

Julia "I adn't slept well. My arm burned, and my head ached. It didn't help my outlook that Edward's face was smooth and remote as he kissed my forehead quickly and ducked out my window." I'm Julia Argie.

Vanessa and I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

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

[end intro music]

Vanessa Don't worry, guys, it's not really the end.

Julia [laughs] There's hundreds of pages to go.

Vanessa Yes, this chapter title is misleading.

Julia Especially because this chapter itself is like 40 pages long.

Vanessa Yes, but Julia, super-exccting in this chapter is that one of my predictions came true. There are 4 4 pages in this chapter that are just blank pages with one work on them in order to signify time passing. And I was like, "Ah! That was my idea!"

Julia Finally! Finally, one of your predictions was right. It was bound to happen at some point.

Banessa Before we do our 30-second recap, we wanted just to address something at the top of this episode. Which is that the representation of Charlie as a cop in this book is part of a larger problem with cop representation in fiction, which is that cops are almost always played as the good guy for laughs, as the signifier for being a good guy, sometimes kind of dopey like on Brooklyn 99, one of my formerly favorite shows, but as like a force for good in the world. And we are living in a world where it's becoming clear to us in a way that it has been clear to people of color for a long time that the police are a force for violence and are just state-sanctioned violence. And that part of how they're getting away with it as like through the good PR that people like Stephenie Myer do for them, sort of accidentally just because white people's perception of police tends to be pretty positive. And so, just as we are reading these books as feminists, we are also going to be actively trying to be reading with a skeptical lens on how Charlie is portrayed as a cop and how cops are portrayed in general in Twilight. Because I do think that representations of people like Charlie as police officers is part of the problem.

Julia I'm going to add a bunch of links on our social media pages on Twitter and Instagram @therompod if you want to learn more about the representation of cops in media and also about

initiatives around the United States to start defunding and abolishing the police. As part of our efforts as an organization to work towards defunding the police we're running a fundraiser on our website; you can go to [hotandbotheredrompod.com](http://hotandbotheredrompod.com) and click on the button that says "black lives matter" and make a donation towards some of the great organizations doing work to defund and abolish the police in local communities, and in turn, we will record a voicemail for you.

[segue music]

Vanessa        Should we recap and tell everybody what happened in this very long chapter?

Julia     Sure. You can go first; your welcome.

Vanessa        OK, count me in.

Julia     3, 2, 1, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Vanessa        So Bella's noticing that Edward's really sad; and he's really sad. And Alice has gone away with Jasper. And Bella's like, "OK, I could live with it if Edward and I had a runaway but I couldn't live with anything else." And her arm really hurts, and then Edward takes her for a walk in the woods, and he dumps her. And he leaves her alone in the woods, and she like falls to the ground in despair, and gets lost and just, like, cries. And then there's like a big police search and they find her; and they bring her home. And it turns out that the Cullins have left; they say they're leaving for Los Angeles,

[long buzzing sound]

Vanessa        which feels like a lie.

Julia     And then months and months pass. And then ...

Vanessa and Julia        [both together] October ... November ...

Julia     [laughs] That's going to be my recap.

Vanessa        OK, you do that.. On your mark, get set, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Julia     So Bella knows she's about to get dumped. And she feels really bummed about it but refuses to admit that to herself. She goes to school for 2 days and they don't have a conversation about how she was almost murdered by his brother. And then, lo and behold, she gets absolutely dumped. And instead of walking back to her house she runs into the middle of the woods and almost dies. A man picks her up and all of a sudden she's worried about being carried -- that's not been an issue before. HE brings her home and she has a little talk with Charlie, and she's sad.

Vanessa        Neither of umentioned that the LaPush kids are celebrating that the vampires have left town.

Julia     I mean, aren't we all?

Vanessa        Yeah. They're like, Bye Edward! Bye, Cullins! Julia, do you have any breaking news? Doot-doot-doo, breaking news?

Julia        Well, Edward is a thief; he commits more crimes. He goes into the house and steals all of the Edward paraphernalia that Bella has collected over the months of their dating so that she has nothing to remember him by.

Vanessa        My breaking news is also a crime—forgery!

Julia        When he writes that note about Bella getting lost in the woods from Bella herself.

Vanessa        Yeah. And then went and got it notarized, and so it's like an affidavit, and he – that's a crime. Wow, crimes everywhere.

Julia        It's just a litany. The book is just a litany of Cullin crimes.

Vanessa        Do you have any more breaking news?

Julia        OK, in this chapter I noticed that Renee and Charlie had coordinated their gifts, the scrapbook and the camera, as one joint parental effort to get her something, and I thought that was really cute. And that was breaking news because even though that was in the last chapter, I didn't understand.

Vanessa        You know, in a 24-hour news cycle, it's hard to be up on everything. And so that is breaking news to you, but to those of us who read Chapter 2 closely, it's old news.

Julia        [laughs] Well, I tried my best, everyone, and to people who were also oblivious, you're welcome.

Vanessa        Well, I can 1-up you.

Julia        Oh, yeah?

Vanessa        Breaking news for me was that Bella isn't just just working at any old sports store, she's working at the Newton Family sports store. And I did not pick up on that by reading this chapter, I picked up on that by listening to our last episode and hearing you say it and being like, "Oh, I didn't notice it when I read it; and I didn't hear it when Julia said it.

Julia        Breaking news: Vanessa never listens to me.

Vanessa        Did you have anything that made you happy or that you genuinely enjoyed?

Julia        Yeah, I loved when they broke up; I was thrilled. However, it's kind of like a mixed emotion. I describe it as like popping a pimple. You know it's going to make your life worse, but at least you don't have a pimple anymore. That's how it felt.

Vanessa        [laughs]

Julia        like, I've wanted so long for them to break up, but I know it's only going to make my experience worse because there book's going to turn so miserable; it's like the sore on your face after. You're satisfied, and you're like, "Oh, God, I wish it didn't happen, though."

Vanessa        [laughs]

Julia What about you?

Vanessa I don't know if this is a moment that I enjoyed, but it's a moment that I empathized with so hard. It almost felt for a moment like I was reading a good book, and so I enjoyed it. And that was when she's like lying on the ground and she like hears them calling her name, and she's too tired to yell, like, "I'm over here!" And when I'm tired, I also feel like I'm too tired to even lift my head off the pillow to turn off my alarm, you know? And so that amount of self-pity and just like ridiculous wallowing was something that was like, "Me too, Bella." It was so ridiculous that she wasn't able to be like, "Here! I'm here!" And so I was like, "I get it; I often feel that tired too."

Julia Did you also notice the subliminal werewolf threads coming her way?

Vanessa No!

Julia Oh, yeah! She gets found by a werewolf and she just doesn't know it. Let me tell you. Let me tell you all about it. "Suddenly, there was another sound, startlingly close, a kind of snuffling. And animal sound. It sounded big. I wondered if I should feel afraid. I didn't; just numb. It didn't matter. The snuffling went away." What did you think that was?

Vanessa Uh, a wild boar in the woods that decided not to eat her.

Julia That was very generous of it.

Vanessa And so that was a werewolf that goes off and transforms and then finds her. And that's why when he sees her he says her name, not questioningly, but confidently. I see it now. Between the two of us we're going to understand these books that we keep mocking as being dumb, by the way, but we are still too dumb for. OK, do you have any advice for Bella or any of the characters as Bella goes through this really trying time?

Julia My first piece of advice is for Bella, and I would like to rope you into a roleplay to help her.

Vanessa Oooh, I'd love a game.

Julia OK, so this is what happens in the book. "'Come for a walk with me,' he suggested, in an unemotional voice, taking my hand. I didn't answer. I couldn't think of a way to protest, but I instantly knew that I wanted to. I didn't like this. This is bad; this is very bad, the voice in my head repeated again and again. But he didn't wait for an answer. He pulled me along." Obviously he doesn't wait for an answer. But I would like you and I to roleplay a way for Bella to protest Bella not wanting to go for a walk.

Vanessa OK.

Julia Vanessa, do you want to go for a walk with me?

Vanessa No.

Julia That's my advice everyone.

[both laugh]

Julia That's all she needed to do.

Vanessa           What can we do again? I want to give options.

Julia     Sure. Vanessa, do you want to go for a walk with ME?

Vanessa           No, my arm hurts because your brother attacked me.

Julia     [laughs] That's going to be a quick descent into the breakup.

Vanessa           [laughs]

Julia     Speaking of, Bella, it's over.

Vanessa           My first piece of advice is similar.

Julia     OH, share.

Vanessa           It's to Bella, Talk. She talks about how like for days she's just letting him mope. And she's like, "I'm gonna let him come to the right conclusion." I do think it's important to sometimes give somebody space, but I also think it's important that if you see someone spiraling in self-loathing to try as a loving person outside to interrupt that spiral. And she's like watching Edward disappear and pull a way from her, and I think that she should have reached out rather than just sat there and let himself convince himself of something.

Julia     I found it so stressful to read the pages and pages about how distant they were becoming and having neither of them act on any kind of reconciliation. Like, all we got was the passive-aggressive tension; I was like, "I cannot handle much more of this." That's partially some of the reason I was excited that they finally broke up.

Vanessa           What other advice do you have?

Julia     So I went back and forth on this in the chapter. Here's what happens: Bella decides to go into the woods even though she doesn't want to. She's on a trail and can see the house. At first, I was going to rack on Edward being like, "You're bringing your girlfriend who chronically gets lost into the woods to break up with her and then you're going to vampire-sprint away and she's going to be left there to die." And then I was like, "He's leaving her in view of the house; this is a great idea." He assumes that she's going to go back in the house and, you know, cry in bed like a normal person would. And so I was like, "He's fine." Then we find out Bella walks into the woods, bad on Bella. But Edward expected this; why else would he write the note saying that Bella would get lost in the woods? So my advice is to Edward: "If you think you're gonna dump your girlfriend and she's going to proceed to walk into the woods and lie down and die in the rain, break up with her in the house."

Vanessa           Yeah, I also went back and forth on it. So I think he was like "She will probably go back to bed but just in case." And I think he took her into the woods because he he didn't want to traumatize her in her house so that every time she walked by that kitchen table, like, she would think of him. He was trying to erase himself from her. I think he was actually trying his best.

Julia     I think it's nice of him to try if that's what he was really going for, but I think that Bella's so emotionally attached to him that she's going to look at 1 bathroom tile and be like, "He once looked at me shower there."

Vanessa            Totally.

Culia    She's going to see the rocking chair and be like, "He rocked me there," and it doesn't seem like he took that into account about himself. So she's scarred for life.

Vanessa            That leads me to my next piece of advice: I think it's weird that he erased himself. Some people like to grieve by looking at the photos and listening to the song and whatever. And I think that is a fine way to grieve. And so it's weird that he took that stuff. But fine. Let's follow his premise where he's like, "I want to make it so that I never existed." Then weird that he didn't do a more thorough job. He doesn't erase that she wrote his name in the scrapbook. "Whiteout, dude! I don't know, either do it or don't! You just like took away a way for her to self-soothe without thoroughly deleting yourself." So my advice is, "Don't do things half-assed, Edward."

Julia    Yeah, the whole erasing thing is also I think a bad strategy because Bella's so obsessed with him and taking out that photo is only going to make her think about him more and his motives and how much she loves him and whatever else she thinks Edward's good traits are.

Vanessa            Yeah, I think he should have left the CD; he should have left the photos, so that she could rock herself in the chair listening to her lullaby, looking at her photo, and just sobbing through October,

Julia and Vanessa            [Both Together]            November, December, and January.

[segue music]

Vanessa            OK, Julia, any other advice or do you have anything in your Twilight diary?

Julia    I have a reason to celebrate Edward. He uses one of my favorite lines for a abandoning a situation in which you hope you never see someone again. "Take care." I was like, "That is the perfect thing to say." Because you know, my mind always goes to "See You never," or something like that. And you c't actually say that in a human-vampire conversation. And him using "take care", he's really doing a good job communicating.

Vanessa            Yeah, "take care" is really the most passive-aggressive "fuck you".

Julia    [laughs] But it also could be polite; you have not idea.

Vanessa            It's a super-polite "fuck you". "Fuck you" nicely.

Julia    Yeah, you definitely can't say that to people when you don't want to see them again. What do you think this meant, Vanessa? Here's Edward talking about why he's going to take her photographs. "'Y're human. Your memory is no more than a sieve. Time heals all wounds for your kind.'" "And Your memories,'" I asked. 'Well, I won't forget, but my kind ... we're very easily distracted.'" What do you think he's about to get up to post breakup? Like, what is he going to get distracted by and why does it sound so interesting?

Vanessa [laughs] That's interesting, because you usually hate anything with dot-dot-dots but you're now intrigued with this dot-dot-dot.

Julia I mean., all I could think about was vampire orgy.

Vanessa I don't know, yeah, maybe he's going to college.

[both laugh]

Vanessa He's like, "OUR kind ... people who are curious ... we get easily distracted by learning."

Julia By a liberal arts education.

Vanessa [laughs] Yeah, he's going to go up to Alaska, to the University of Alaska, and study snow algae and get really interested in that.

Julia Yeah, snow algae. I'm sure that's his main passion.

[segue music]

Julia Do you have something you want to put in Bella's care package?

Vanessa I do. You know, Julia, we've talked a lot in the past about Bella needing a tracking device or Bella needing a GPS satellite situation. But in this case I really think some good old-fashioned breadcrumbs would have done trick. Maybe then she'll make some little bird and animal friends like a Disney princess. So what I would like to put in the care package is like a really stale loaf of bread, one that isn't moldy yet though so that the animals can eat it. What about you, Julia?

Julia I'm going to send Bella a lie detector test that she can use on Edward. Edward, after he breaks up with her, makes one request of Bella which is that she needs to take care of herself. So that Charlie doesn't get upset "of course." This is obviously such a blatant lie. Everyone knows he's lying, except for Bella. So I'm sending her a lie detector test so that when Edward makes these blatant lies, that she cannot seem to decipher, she can figure them out. And maybe she can like gather data and figure out his tell and maybe not even use the lie detector test anymore and just be able to observe his human emotions and figure it out. Observe his vampire emotions, I should say.

Vanessa I thought that lie detector tests trace your pulse.

Julia OH, shit.

Vanessa It's fine; it's a great idea. You would just have to design a vampire lie detector test. Maybe like measuring his pupils.

Julia Ok, OK. Phew, that really threw me for a second. I was like, "What could bella possibly do to figure out in this situation?" But I will invent a vampire lie detector test and send it her way.

Vanessa That's so nice of you.

Julia She really keeps me busy. OK What do you think is going to happen next chapter?

Vanessa I keep wanting a makeover montage and I think that often when people break up they do some sort of makeover. They cut their hair; they dye it pink; they get a piercing. So I'm hoping that \*finally\* she gets a makeover and we do a little montage. And I also hope that in the next chapter we

find out whether or not one of the ways that Edward made himself disappear with that he took out the better stereo from her car.

Julia That would be ice cold!

Vanessa Because that'll remind her of him. And so I was curious about that and we didn't find that out. So I'm hoping Makeover Montage and as she's driving to the makeover she turns on the radio and we find out if it's her old crappy radio or her new fancy one.

Julia I'll put in a little plug for what I want to happen next chapter. Imagine this: You get broken up with. You walk into the woods. You try to die by getting rained on to death. A hot man comes over, throws you over his shoulder, takes you home, and actually takes care of you. Will Bella get with Sam Yulie?

Vanessa That would be great!

Julia That (would\* be great. I don't know anything about what he's actually like besides that he's a werewolf, but it seems like a great rebound. The best way to get over someone is to get under someone else, as they say.

Vanessa [laughs] Well, Edward is doing a vampire orgy.

Julia Exactly! Yeah!

[begin outro music]

Vanessa This has been "Twilight in Quarantine" a celebratory bonfire 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 leave breadcrumbs everywhere I go. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACast. Talk to you soon!