

HOT AND BOTHERED: TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

NEW MOON CHAPTER 8: ADRENALINE

Vanessa       “Chapter 8: Adrenaline. OK, where’s your clutch? I pointed to the lever on my left handlebar.

[begin intro music]

Vanessa       Letting go of the grip was a mistake. The heavy bike wobbled underneath me, threatening to knock me sideways. I grabbed the handle again, trying to hold it straight.” I’m Vanessa Zoltan,

Julia       And I’m Julia Argie.

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

[end intro music]

Vanessa       I think that the fact that she can’t hold the motorcycle up means that she shouldn’t ride it. Like, if you can’t lift a backpack up to put it on yourself, you shouldn’t take it to school.

Julia       But I can barely lift up my bike! Like just because we’re weak, Vanessa, doesn’t mean we can’t transport ourselves. [laughs]

Vanessa       You can barely keep your bike standing when you’re sitting on it?

Julia       Maybe I misunderstood your point. Like if you can’t lift it over your head, you can’t use it. Cars? No more! [laughs]

Vanessa       No, there isn’t a bench press test. I can’t bench press my own weight, but I can stand up, so it’s fine.

Julia       Yeah.

Vanessa       Anyway, would you like to tell everybody what happens in this very exciting chapter?

Julia       I will.

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

[begin ticking sound]

Julia       OK, So, they are going motorcycling and Bella falls once, and then instead of being like, “Oh, this isn’t a good idea,” she was like, “No! again!” And then I think she could have fallen another time? and then the last time she falls on the motorcycle, she gets a head wound, and they go to the doctor’s office, and I think she gets stitches, and she goes home to Charlie, and she’s like, “I got hit by a hammer.” And he was like, “That sounds normal—OK.” And then they keep motorcycling, and she keeps getting injured, and she says that they do different things, and then they go hiking looking for the meadow.

[long buzzing sound]

Julia Gloosed over the end.

Vanessa The Sparkle Meadow, as I like to call it. If I were to donate money to have that meadow named after me, I wouldn't name it the Zoltan meadow; I would name it the Sparkle Meadow.

Julia Wow! An anonymous beneficiary.

Vanessa Mmm-hmm, that's me. OK, you wanna count me in?

Julia 3, 2, 1, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Vanessa So Jacob gives Bella his shirt to stop the bleeding, and then they go to the emergency room. They first stop at Bella's house so that she can get cleaned up a little bit and so they can hide the fact that they were riding on motorcycles. And he straight up goes to the hospital topless, and that's just an acceptable thing. They hang out more; they go hiking because she wants to find a non-motorcycle-based way to hear the voices, and they circle around and around and they are really excited about maybe seeing the superbear, but they don't, and they're going to go hiking again.

[long buzzing sound]

Julia Lovely, glad to hear it.

Vanessa Maybe they found the meadow but she didn't recognize it because things have grown back since the Cullins left.

Julia Yeah, I think there are a lot of interesting ideas about why they can't find the meadow.

Vanessa Oooh! Say more!

Julia I mean like did Edward, you know, plant his own trees there to make sure that Bella could never find it again?

Vanessa Ohhhh ...

Julia: I mean, like, transplanted a giant sequoia. I don't know what's out in the Pacific Northwest—big trees? Transplanted them with his superhuman strength?

Vanessa Mmm-hmmm. So you think that he moved trees around but didn't take out her car radio?

Julia Well, Emmett had put that car radio in so maybe that was disqualified.

Vanessa Got it.

[segue music]

Vanessa So Julia, doot-doot-doo! I have breaking news!

Julia Sure, go first.

Vanessa I'm ready to come out! I'm Team Jacob!

Julia OK, why?

Vanessa Oh, my God! He's so likable! She at one point straight up says, "{Hiking with Jacob is so different because he's cheerful, and it was different from being around dumb, glum, Edward who was so moody and annoying to be around." That is an exact quote.

Who's Team Edward? Jacob's so fun and concerned about her well-being, and he doesn't baby her. He's like, "You should probably pack moleskin next time," like hot tip but not infantilizing. He never buckles her up; he never gets mad at her for bleeding; he never carries her anywhere. He's just lovely!

Julia Yeah yeah. I honestly feel bad for him having to spend so much time with Bella at this point. Imagine if the person you had a crush on was like, "Hi, yeah, I want to canvas the forest to revisit a site that my ex-boyfriend and I went on our first date. Like, phew! That's a tough one!

Vanessa I mean, luckily she's withholding that information from him. Anyway, that's my breaking news. It's personal breaking news. It's like the moment when the newscaster does a direct address to the camera and is like, "And, I'd like to say that my wife just had a baby." You know? It's not like really news but it's personal news. You've gotta do that once in awhile; it's your show. So my wife just had a baby, and I'm Team Jacob.

Julia congratulations!

Vanessa Thank you. What about you, Julia? What's your breaking news?

Julia Well, my breaking news ties us back to something we were talking about at the beginning of the episode, where it's not clear that Bella knows how to ride a bike, even a non-motorcycle bike, any kind of bike. Did you get that sense?

Vanessa I did not get that sense.

Julia She doesn't know how to balance with the bike between her. She's like, "If I lift my legs up, it'll fall over." And he's like, "Yeah, you have to move." If you have ridden a bike before you know you can't just stay stationary with your feet up and hope that you don't fall over.

[both laugh]

Vanessa I hadn't noticed that because the way I read it was that even balanced on one foot she couldn't hold it up because it's so heavy.

Julia Oh, that's a nice idea. Bella might not know how to ride a bike but I definitely don't know how motorcycles work. Breaking news, everything! I was like, "The Clutch? The break? You have to use only your hands to make it move forward? That seems really confusing!"

Vanessa Yeah, riding a motorcycle sounds horrible.

Julia I think it's like the mix between 2 things that I'm really afraid of, which is (1) riding motorcycles and (2) having to drive a stick. This includes aspects from both of those things.

Vanessa I do think that on some level I would look adorable on a moped.

Julia Stop!

Vanessa Right, wouldn't I? Don't you think I'd look great on a Vespa with Rory in a little basket?

Julia I think every single person would look great on a Vespa.

Vanessa But nobody should do it, because it's dangerous. Any other breaking news?

Julia Yeah, we hear that Bella is a quote unquote easy bleeder. What could that mean? Is that a thing?

Vanessa It's a thing if you're on steroids.

Julia And like your blood is just pumping?

Vanessa No, your skin gets really thin when you're on steroids and so you get cut easily.

Julia Got it. Yeah, Maybe Bella is on steroids then.

Vanessa Yeah, maybe Bella, because she's hanging around Jacob, is trying to bulk up.

Julia My theory was like, she thinks she bleeds easily because she gets injured so often. She's like, "I'm an easy bleeder because I'm always getting into accidents."

Vanessa Yeah, but that's not what that means. That means you're a frequent bleeder, not easy. You can do things that are frequent that are really hard.

Julia Me, going on a run.

Vanessa Me, getting out of bed. I do that every day and it's so hard.

Julia So true.

Vanessa Did you have a moment of genuine enjoyment?

Julia Well, Jacob took my advice and stopped being so weird, so that was my moment of genuine enjoyment. Bella, when she becomes super-emotionally intense after her blood loss or something says, "You're kind of beautiful, Jacob," and he just brushes it off in a totally calm and collected way saying, "You really must have hit your head hard, huh?" I was like, "That was cute, normal." I loved it.

Vanessa [laughs] Your standards are so low.

Julia That's what these books have done to me.

Vanessa I love it!

Julia Do you have a piece of genuine enjoyment?

Vanessa I do! I just always love when Bella continues to prove herself as a woman in STEM. She says, "I was going to further test the theory" continuing her experiment: if it's only adrenaline, if it's adrenaline and nostalgia. And she even uses the words "test the theory". And so I know that we had talked a lot once upon a time about her being a realtor or a weatherwoman, but now I'm really seeing

her running a lab, like some sort of social psych lab. Like can't you see her running some sort of LSD experiment later in her career?

Julia See, I'm wondering if she's actually running a physics experiment and thinks that Edward is broadcasting himself through particles. That's how science works.

Vanessa I'm actually ... I'm very curious if Edward is wherever he is knowing that she's doing this. I am very confused about the mysticism of this.

Julia This is going to be part 2 of the experiment. She's going to try to like punch through the hallucination and be like, "Edward, did you feel that? Blink twice."

[both laugh]

Vanessa Yeah, I'm confused by the physics of it so I'm glad that she's investigating.

Julia Vanessa, do you have a piece of advice?

Vanessa I do. My first piece of advice is for Bella, and it's "Don't ride motorcycles. Just don't do it. It sounds so bad and it sounds so dumb, and I hate it so much, and it sounds hard and confusing." And so my advice is to try some other things instead. And so I came up with some other ideas of some other activities that she could do that are risky and adrenaliney but that she won't throw her body hurling into a tree. Things like: roller-skating, I think she probably won't be great at it, and so it would probably be a bit scary and she would be scared she's going to fall. But the worst thing she could really do is like break a wrist, not concuss herself and break her back. Or needlepoint without a thimble: I think that she would constantly be scared that she was going to like prick her finger and bleed and Edward gets mad when she bleeds, and so maybe he'd appear. And so the other thing I was thinking she could do if she really wants to get wild about it is to try swimming in waters where there are shark sightings, because I feel that is super-scary but statistically, no one gets eaten by sharks. Whereas statistically, everyone who rides a motorcycle gets injured. So, I feel like it would be scary to be like, "There was a shark here yesterday, and now I'm swimming," but she's actually not going to get eaten by a shark.

Julia But don't you think that part of the reason the shark statistics are so low is that people aren't trying to get actively eaten by sharks whereas in this circumstance, Bella would be like, "Hey, shark, what's up?"

Vanessa I don't think sharks actually want to eat us.

Julia I don't know what sharks want.

[both laugh]

Julia I'm going to be honest about that; I don't know.

Vanessa Do you think I'm alienating our shark listeners by speaking on their behalf?

Julia [laughs] Shark listeners, please write in and let us know if you would eat Bella if she swam in your waters.

[segue music]

[pause for advertisements]

Vanessa           What about you Julia? What advice do you have?

Julia     Mine is a little bit similar: Where I didn't take such a harsh stance on motorcycles. But I definitely think that Jacob and Bella go into things too fast. So with the motorcycles, it's not clear she can ride a bike. And then they just go straight to a giant refurbished motorcycle. So rollerblading, I thought maybe first, maybe an electric scooter,—I thought maybe a Vespa. Get comfortable on things that won't be as likely to murder her, and then start on the motorcycle trajectory. And the other instance where this happened is where Bella and Jacob go on their little hiking adventure. Bella gets some brand-new hiking boots from Newton's and then hikes all day long and gets huge blisters. Like—take a walk in the neighborhood first. Don't go full-throttle into these circumstances where you are totally unprepared.

Vanessa           I couldn't agree more. It's like she went from no boyfriend to Vampire Boyfriend. She isn't like a great incrementalist.

Julia     Yeah, I think that starting slow could be great.

Vanessa           I think that's such good life advice for us all. Dip a toe in.

Julia     Dip a toe into those sharky waters.     [laughs] OK, what's your second piece of advice?

Vanessa           My second piece of advice is for Jacob. Class, please turn your books to page 191. So Jacob and Bella are driving to the hospital, and Jacob only has pants on; he does not have a shirt on, which I find very strange. And Bella says, "We should have grabbed you a jacket." And he says, "That would have given us away." So the whole reason he's worried that it would give them away is because they've come up with a lie so that no one will find out about the motorcycles, and they're supposed to look like they went straight from the garage to the hospital because she's using his shirt to stem the blood from her head. But like, just come up with the lie that includes you getting another shirt. Like, "I threw her my shirt. I went inside to get the car keys. And grabbed another shirt." Be a better liar! Put on an undershirt and pretend that you were wearing it under the shirt you gave to her. Any number of ... say that it was in your car! Who cares! Be a better liar!

Julia     OH, yeah. He could have a spare outfit like Bella does that he carries around in his trunk.

Vanessa           Yeah, be like, "Look, I wet my pants until a really old age and so I got used to carrying spare outfits around."

Julia     Shirt included. Pee straight upwards.

[both laugh]

Vanessa           Also, do you know what's not going to make people ask questions? You wearing a shirt. Do you know what will make them ask questions? You not wearing a shirt.

Julia     It's a bad strategy. I'm not fighting with you.

Vanessa I know you're not. I'm fighting with myself. I'm mad at Jacob and how dumb it is that he's driving around without a shirt. OK, anyway, that's my advice. What about you, Julia? Do you have a second piece of advice for these kids?

Julia This is something I've touched on before, but I'm going to keep throwing advice to Bella until it finally sticks. She has to quote unquote, hurry home to cook Charlie dinner after being hospitalized. She doesn't want to say, "Charlie, cook for yourself." Or "Charlie, order takeout." She doesn't want to say anything.

Vanessa She doesn't want to say, "Charlie, I was just in the hospital. Can you cook for me?"

Julia Yeah, she doesn't want to listen to me. I don't know why. She's so stubborn. OK, but here's my new strategy. She is going to get into big batch cooking. I'm sure Charlie has a chest freezer somewhere; he seems like the type. He fishes a lot; where's he going to store all that fish? She can create large batches of food to freeze and then defrost as needed for the emergency situations in which Charlie needs to eat and she's not available. And then she wouldn't have to worry about cooking from-scratch meals after getting discharged with a head wound. If this happens again, I don't know what I'm going to say. I'm really coming to my wits' end with this problem.

Vanessa [laughs] I think if this happens again you are just going to have to accept that this is their reality.

Julia Bella, I will cook for you.

Vanessa Yeah, I think then that the problem is with you.

[segue music]

Julia Vanessa, have you written anything in your new Twilight Diary?

Vanessa I have. I have a question for you.

Julia OK.

Vanessa ON page 182 Bella says that she's already been through the worst possible thing. And I was wondering if you could tell me what she thought the "worst possible thing" was. Do you think that it was (A) having to leave Phoenix's amazing school system and having to move to Forks's less-good school system? Do you think that it was (B) being kidnapped by James, having his venom burn its way through her body, having a broken leg, and then having to have a lot of blood sucked out of her. Or (C) being dumped?

Julia Well, absolutely C being dumped.

Vanessa Really? I was hoping that it was B. You think it's C?

Julia She says when she's getting the big Dumping Premonition: "This would be the worst thing to happen to me, even worse than death." So yeah, that's the worst thing.

Vanessa I'm sorry to hear that.

Julia You have to believe Bella when she speaks her truth.

Vanessa        Yeah. I accept that it's her truth, it's just that her truth makes me sad.

Julia     Did you put something in Bella's care package?

Vanessa        Yep, I straight-up put in a helmet.

Julia     Another one?

Vanessa        Yeah, I sent her one before. It must have gotten lost in the mail because there's literally no reason not to wear one. I don't think that she is so dumb that she would be like, Cool, I have a helmet and I'm not using it." I don't think that the US Postal service loses a lot of mail, but I'm concerned that this one got lost so I'm going to expedite-ship her another one so that she has one in the future.

Julia     Sweet of you. After all of your advice saying, "no more motorcycles," here you are giving her a helmet.

Vanessa        Here's the thing: I think she should wear it even if she's needle-pointing.

Julia     So true.

Vanessa        Shark attack? Not in the head!

Julia     A floaty helmet for swimming?

Vanessa        Yeah, just helmets. Everyone needs helmets. Julia, what are you putting in her care package?

Julia     I want to put in 1 of 2 things. Either a sidecar so that she can ride with Jacob but Jacob is the one doing the motorcycling. So that would eliminate all of the problems of her absolutely not being able to motorcycle. And then the second one is one of the ones that are like a tricycle. Have you seen those before?

Vanessa        Mmm-hmm.

Julia     I don't know what those are called, but I'm going to send her one.

Vanessa        But then is she going to hear Edward's voice?

Julia     That's not my Main concern.

Vanessa        [laughs]

Julia     Bella's interested in hearing Edward's voice but I'm interested in Bella not dying so ... Vanessa, what do you think is going to happen next chapter?

Vanessa        I think Jacob and Bella are going to kiss.

Julia     Why do you think that?

Vanessa        Because I want it to happen. He's warm; he's tall; he's like the tree that Edward would pull down. He's like this beautiful thing that Bella should climb.

Julia     Do you think that Bella's into it?



Vanessa        She just realized he's beautiful. And she's gonna be like, "Oh, my God, you're beautiful and you make me happy." She's just gonna go for it.

Julia        So, she's going to kiss him.

Vanessa        Yeah.

Julia        I can't wait! You're really on the Team Jacob train!

Vanessa        Oh, my God, I'm full Team Jacob.

Julia        Wow, I'm going to buy you a shirt or something.

Vanessa        OK.

Julia        Happy Birthday, Vanessa, here's your Team Jacob shirt.

Vanessa        Just what I always wanted, Julia. Thank you.

[begin ending music]

Vanessa        This has been Twilight in Quarantine: Shark Week, with 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 love the song "Baby Shark". We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACast.