

## HOT AND BOTHERED: TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

### NEW MOON CHAPTER 9: THIRD WHEEL

Julia “Chapter 9: Third Wheel.

[begin intro music]

Julia “Time began to trip along much more quickly than before. School, work, and Jacob, though not necessarily in that order, created a neat and effortless pattern to follow.” I’m Julia Argie ...

Vanessa And I’m Vanessa Zoltan.

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

[end intro music]

Vanessa For a second, when I read the title of this chapter, I was like, “Oh, Julia was right! She got a tricycle motorcycle!” And then, it’s a metaphorical third wheel.

Julia [laughs] I’m holding out hope though. Yeah, hopefully my little tricycle will get to her.

Vanessa That was my really excited moment of hope where I was like, “Safety!”

Julia No, dates instead.

Vanessa I know. Should we remind people of all of the tragic things that happened in this chapter?

Julia Sure. I didn’t read it as tragic so I’m excited to hear your thoughts.

Vanessa Oh, my God, it’s soooo tragically awkward!

Julia [laugs] OK yeah, tragically awkward I agree with. OK, I’ll count you in. 3, 2, 1, go!

[begin ticking sound]

Vanessa So Bella’s just like, “Jacob is the best!” And they have so much fun, and they ride motorcycles, and they do homework, and they go hiking, and it’s just great! And then, it’s Valentine’s Day, and Jacob’s like, “We should go out.” And she’s like, “No, we should do a friend-ddate, a million of us: Mike, and all of my cafeteria friends!” And she invites everybody, and nobody ends up coming except Mike and Jacob. And they get the flu, and Jacob is sick, and Bella gets sick, and Mike is sick, but Jacob isn’t ready to see Bella again ...

[long buzzing sound]

Vanessa ... even though it’s only a 24-hour bug, so he should be ready to but he’s not.

Julia was that like 45 seconds?

Vanessa No, I was saying that in a non-recappy way to try and sneak it in even though the time had run out.

Julia I think that's super-not-allowed, but OK.

Vanessa Could you do it without cheating. Are you ready?

Julia I am.

Vanessa on your mark, get set, go!

[beginning ticking sound]

Julia Bella and Jacob are in friend-love, but Jacob is in real-love. And they go on a date with Mike there and they go and see a slasher film. But before the date, Jacob is like, "I really like you." And she's like, "Oh, nooo thanks, but we can hold hands." And he was like, "OK, I'm gonna be ... I respect that and I agree, but I'm also going to keep being persistent and be pushing this issue, so I actually don't agree." And the date goes badly, and Mike vomits a lot, and it's not clear if it's because he's nauseated by violence. And then Jacob is really hot, and it's not the stomach flu ...

[long buzzing sound]

Julia ... it's werewolves.

Vanessa [laughs] So you cheated just as much as I did.

Julia I went like a second over; you went on your own monologue.

Vanessa Cheating's cheating! You can't be like, "I only cheated on the spelling test, not the SAT." Cheating is cheating!

Julia I take it all back. I'm sorry for my 1-second-over.

Vanessa Yeah. You're not forgiven.

Julia Do you have any breaking news?

Vanessa So much breaking news; I have sooo much breaking news. Can you sing me in?

Julia [sings] Bee-dee-boop-boop!

Vanessa Mike still doesn't understand that she's not asking him on a date, even though a literal week ago they had a conversation about if they hang out it won't be a date. And so I guess my breaking news ... that Mike is dumber than I thought he was.

Julia But not as dumb as Tyler, with that whole prom shenanigan.

Vanessa Yeah. I guess Mike is just as dumb as I thought he was. I always thought he was a Golden Retriever. And this seems like a Golden-retriever level of love, where you're like, "No, Golden Retriever, you can't get up on the couch." And they're like, "I understand," and then 30 seconds later they're trying to get up on the couch.

Julia Yeah.

Vanessa Mike does not understand.

Julia Clueless!

Vanessa Yeah! And then the other breaking news is that Jacob finished his Rabbit! And I looked it up; it's a super-cute car!

Julia OH, it is so cute!

Vanessa Yeah, the car's so cute it made me love Jacob even more.

Julia Imagine being 6-5 and driving this little teeny car!

Vanessa I had so much fun imagining just that! I was like, "He must look amazing driving this car!" Do you think that he pulled out the front seat and sits in the back seat to drive?

Julia I think it's more like he puts his head out of the sunroof to drive, and just looks out through that, like a rabbit from its hole.

Vanessa Yeah. That's all my breaking news. Do you have any breaking news?

Julia Well, number 1 is that Jessica is finally done with Bella's bullshit.

Vanessa Whooooo!

Julia She does not show up to the movie despite the invitation, because she wants nothing to do with Bella anymore, which I totally sympathize with.

Vanessa Yeah, she was like, "We tried going to a movie; it was bad." Here's the thing: I feel for Bella. She was in a severe depression. And I have gone through severe depressions, and I would hate if my friends completely blew me off after them. But I do think that Bella sort of needs to talk to Jessica and be like, "I'm sorry, I was in a deep, deep depression. I would like to take steps to make it up to you, that you were one of the casualties of that."

Julia Mmm-hmm.

Like, I think you have to teach people about your mental illness to some extent, which sucks. right? Like, That sucks, but it's a reality.

Julia I mean, she already did try to invite her to a movie to make it up to her and it went horribly.

Vanessa Yeah.

Julia So, movies are over! No more movies!

Julia My other little tidbit of breaking news is that ... Jacob ... We've heard that he's running warm, but now he's running feverish. It's because he's turning into a werewolf as we speak, folks.

Vanessa I know. I'm so worried for him!

Julia What do you think's going to happen?

Vanessa I just don't want anything bad to happen to Jacob. Also, Jacob is perfect, so I don't want him to change.

Julia Oh, you're saying that you, one of the biggest dog-lovers I know, don't want him to change into half-dog, half-human?

Vanessa It's half-wolf, half-human, which is also awesome. No, I do want that; I think the more dogs the better. I just don't like the sound of Sam Ulie's gang, and I think that now that he is a werewolf he's going to have to join that gang, and he really doesn't want to ...

Julia Mmm-hmm.

Vanessa ... And I just like ... I love him the way he is. And this is how I feel about kids, right? Like, of course I want them to turn into fully-functional, beautiful, adults, but it's sad. You're like, "You're so cute and fun-loving!"

Julia Definitely a conundrum for the ages.

[both laugh]

[segue music]

Julia Vanessa, do you have something you liked in this chapter?

Vanessa Yeah. My moment of genuine enjoyment is when Jacob and Bella have this talk; they finally have their you-like-me-I-Don't-like-you talk while poor Mike is throwing up in the movie theater bathroom. And Jacob makes a comment about persistence, like sometimes being the way that you can pursue someone. And Bella says, "Most of the time persistence is just annoying." And I love that, because that's true. And I don't understand why people find persistence attractive, and I love that Bella is going about debunking the myth that persistence is attractive. Persistence is just harassing someone who has said "no!" to you, and you keep trying, and you're not listening to them, and you're not believing them. Persistence is not romantic; it is annoying. Thank you, Bella.

Julia Yeah, that's called Not Listening.

Vanessa I know someone who married the guy who she rejected for years and quote unquote, he finally wore her down. And guess what? They are not happily married!

Julia Yikes!

Vanessa Yeah.

Julia That's grim.

Vanessa Anyway, I do not like persistence when it comes to romantic pursuit.

Julia Noted!

[both laugh]

Vanessa So back off, Julia! Well, did you genuinely enjoy something?

Julia Well, I was so proud of Jacob for finally bringing up the conversation about their relationship. I have been advocating for communication since Day 1 of this podcast, and to see them actually having a conversation about feelings, it's way better than how it usually goes with Edward and Bella. It still doesn't go great. I of course still had qualms with it, but proud it even happened in the first place. So that was great!

Vanessa Yes, I agree. An imperfect conversation but great to attempt it.

Julia At the end of the conversation, she did come to a very pleasing conclusion: where she makes a metaphor about how she's a broken house or whatever. She's a broken house, and Jacob fixed her porch light but all the interior work she needs to do herself. I was like, "That is so true. Jacob cannot fix you; you need to fix yourself. Get that hammer and nails out."

Vanessa Also great that she's back to her realty, right? She take us on a realtor tour of her psyche.

Julia Her decrepit mansion of a psyche.

Vanessa Yeah, I was like, "way to use a skill that you learned somewhere else in this new setting, Bella. I'm so proud of you!"

Julia She's really growing.

Vanessa She is. OK, should we offer advice?

Julia I have something that we were talking about earlier in terms of the conversation about Jacob turning into a werewolf. I don't know why Billy never brings it up. It seems pretty similar to puberty in that it's going to happen at some point and it's better to know about it in advance. But Billy just is like, "If it'll happen, you'll know about it." That's why periods can scare people when they first come; it's because people don't know what's going to happen with their body. And I don't know why Billy just doesn't talk about it to Jacob before: "You're going to get a fever one day; you're going to be superhot; you're going to get aches and pains." It's not a stomach flu, it's a werewolf.

Vanessa [laughs] So my question is: Is he worried that Jacob won't turn into a werewolf, but I don't know how this works yet. Does everyone turn into a werewolf in this family? Is he like, "I don't want to put pressure on Jacob in case Jacob doesn't become a werewolf, and I don't want him to feel bad about it. My mom never warned me about a growth spurt, and I'm so glad because it didn't come. And if she was like, "One day, you're going to shoot up and be taller than 5 feet." I'd be like, "Cool!" and then I'd be really disappointed.

Julia Yeah, but if all your friends were going through growth spurts and not talking to you anymore because you were short, you'd want your mom to be like, "Some people go through growth spurts; you might too one day. We don't know yet, but if you do, this is what it'll feel like.

Vanessa OK.

Julia There's a way to be normal in this situation.

[both laugh]

Julia That was not chosen.

Vanessa I stand corrected. You are teaching me so much.

Julia Vanessa, if your child is going to turn into a werewolf one day ...

Vanessa I will warn them.

Julia Talk to them about it in advance.

[segue music]

[pause for advertisement]

Julia So what's your first piece of advice?

Vanessa So I'm stealing this advice from you. You once advised Bella to work on her sick-burns. And I think Jacob should work on his sick-burns. So, Mike is a total Dick when he meets Jacob. Mike is like, "No I don't remember you." And Jacob, instead of doing a sick-burn just shakes Mike's hand really hard, which is so dumb. And so I think that there are a number of jokes that I really enjoy: which is that if somebody is rude to you, pretend not to remember their name, ever. So all night, Jacob should just be calling Mike random basic white-dude names. Like, "And you are ... Chad, right?" And then later in the night be like, "Hey, Bob, do you want popcorn?" and then later in the night be like, "Aw, I'm sorry, Dave, that you're throwing up; here's a popcorn bucket." So my advice is to use more sick-burns and pretend not to remember Mike's name.

Julia Do you know who is king of that strategy?

Vanessa Who?

Julia Charlie!

Vanessa Charlie! Edwin! That's right! I love that strategy; I think that's so funny. It's really mean, and it's gas-lighting, but it's so funny!

Julia Yeah, that would be a real good burn.

Vanessa So that's my advice: more sick-burns. What about you, Julia? Do you have a second piece of advice for us?

Julia My second piece of advice is also advocating for parent-child conversations. At the end of this chapter, Bella and Jacob have such a weird phone call where Jacob is dying on the other end of the line, being like, "Maybe I'll see you again but maybe not!" and then ends the phone call being like, "Bella!" And Vella just is like "OH, I guess that was weird." But I think she should talk to Charlie about it, being like, "Hi, Jacob sounds really sick, have you heard anything from Billy? Has this ever happened before? What do you think about that?" Because they both have that relationship in common with that family and I think they'd be able to assess whether they might need help, whether this is a situation where it would be appropriate for them to intervene and give groceries or whatever they can do to cure Jacob's ailment of werewolfness. I think that having a conversation with the parent is a super place to go, because the conversation is super-disturbing between and Bella and I think it's time to get an adult involved.

Vanessa Do you think it's werewolfness or werewolvbery?

Julia: werewolfativity?

Vanessa Werewolferitis.

Julia It's definitely werewolferitis, the swelling of the werewolf.

Vanessa But do you think that Bella doesn't turn to Charlie because in this chapter he proves himself to be the worst nurse in the history of the world?

Julia I also had that note: when he makes her sleep on the floor of the bathroom with just a towel and doesn't even bring her a pillow.

Vanessa And is like, "I guess I'll go to work because she's hogging the bathroom for the day." And so just leaves her on the bathroom floor and then in the house alone when she is so weak and so sick that she literally cannot stand. He's like, "That's probably the right time to leave her alone in a house."

Julia We talked a lot about how bad Edward was, but Edward would never ... Edward would be carrying her all around the house and feeding her ice chips or whatever. He would never do what Charlie does in this chapter; it was pretty astounding.

Vanessa So I think maybe she's like, "OH, I'll tell Dad." And then is like, "OH, I shouldn't tell Dad, he'll just be like 'Leave Jacob alone in the house.' And Jacob's probably better off with Billy there helping."

[both laugh]

Julia That's true, yeah. Charlie's parenting in these books is pretty astounding; it hasn't gotten better.

Vanessa But none of is my advice. My second piece of advice is to Bella. Mike comes over, and there's that weird moment with Jacob and Mike with them being like, "I'm broier." "No, I'm dudier". And like, whatever, they have that conversation. And Bella's like, "Oh, the phone's ringing; I gotta go get it." And turns out that Angela has the flu; so Angela and her boyfriend are not going to come. And so it's just going to be Bella, Jacob, and Mike. And Mike is like, "Oh, should we cancel?" Bella, the answer to this question is: Yes! Yes you should cancel! Yes, you should not go on a double date with 2 guys who both want to be on dates with you and you who want to be on dates with neither of them!" They sit in a movie theater and both boys have their hands strategically placed to try to grab hold of her awkwardly. That is how bad it is. "Bella, this isn't your fault. You tried for something. Except that it is your fault because you had a chance to get out and you didn't take it." And so I would just like to say to everybody: "Sometimes the best plans are canceled plans."

Julia That's so true.

Vanessa And if things look like they're going to go badly, they probably will go badly. In what world was Bella like, "Yeah, this is still going to be fun." No! cancel!

Julia The whole hand thing? She should have just held both of them; then they would have let go.

Vanessa I was thinking of all the fun things she could do: like slap them both together really hard!

Julia Bring their hands together to hold hands.

Vanessa Exactly.

Julia Lick each hand ...

Vanessa And then try to stick them together.

[both laugh]

Vanessa So many options, but all of those options would not have had to have even be under consideration if when Mike said, "Should we cancel?" we cancel," Bella you had just said yes. Did you write anything down in your twilight diary, Julia?

Julia One of the things that I was astounded by was that Bella, as an only child, has no understanding of what it's like to have a brother. At one point, she was like, "I wish Jacob was my brother." And I was like, "I don't think you do because you have a crush on him. So, that would be weird, but even weirder than this situation you're in presently."

[both laugh]

Vanessa Do you think she has a crush on him or do you think really, really she thinks of him as a best friend?

Julia I think she's physically attracted to him, because otherwise why would I hear about how tall and hot he is every 5 seconds? Vanessa But can't you appreciate that that someone is physically beautiful without being attracted to them? I am so in love with you and I always want to be with you and I think you're a 10 but I'm not attracted to you.

Julia Yeah, but if you're going to talk about me you wouldn't be like, "Julia has really flowing long hair. She's hot to the touch, and she's hot to look at. She's really grown into her figure." That would be weird.

Vanessa [laughs] Would it be weird if I said all of those things but not in that voice?

Julia Yeah!

Vanessa If someone was like, "What's Julia like?" And I'd be like, "Well, first of all, she's hilarious and so smart. Second of all, she has long flowing hair and is always really hot, both to the touch and ... [laughs] Yeah, no, it'd be weird, you're right.



Julia And you're like, "Oh, I really want her to be my sister."

[both laugh]

Julia After all that, you could not pivot to siblinghood.

[segue music]

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

Vanessa Mmm-hmm. Several of you might remember that at some point I gave Bella a better mom. I would now like to give Bella a better Dad, just a better second parent, the genders really don't matter to me. But I think that Charlie is such a bad dad in this chapter, I cannot believe that he abandons her when she is so dehydrated and sick that she can't physically take care of herself. She could've passed out. She could have slipped and been unable to get up and hit her head on the tub. Any number of really bad things could have happened. And so I would like to send a book to Bella about, "It's not your fault that your parents suck", and then I would like to send a gift card to the Parent Store where she can pick out a parent of her choosing.

Julia Happy Father's Day!

Vanessa What about you? What would you like to put in Bella's care package?

Julia I'm going to send Bella a Gater-Aid ... Maybe a pack of 6 if I'm feeling generous ... to replenish her electrolytes. I don't think I've had a Gater-Aid since I was in middle school, so I'm open to flavor combinations ... I'm sure some are better than others.

Vanessa I think blue is really good.

Julia Well, I'll send her some blue Gater-Aid and so she can rehydrate after all her vomiting. Get well soon!

Vanessa That is so nice.

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

Vanessa I don't know. I wonder if what happens is Emmett comes back and tries to hunt one of the werewolves because Emmett likes big game. And then Edward is like, "Oh, no!" and rushes back and saves Jacob from Emmett so that Jacob and Bella can run off together and be happy together. And then Edward disappears again.

Julia Wow! So do Bella and Edward get reunited?

Vanessa Well, they see each other again and she realizes that she doesn't have romantic feelings for him; she has romantic feelings for Jacob.

Julia Wow!

Vanessa It's a long chapter!

Julia Yeah, until the end of the book. Who knows if there's a chapter past chapter 10?

Vanessa        There is; chapter 10 is just really long, and then there's an epilogue.

Julia     Got it, got it. Of course there's an epilogue.

[begin outro music]

Vanessa        This has been Twilight in Quarantine: a 1984 Volkswagen Rabbit 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 have long, flowing hair, and I'm hot to touch, and hot to look at. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACast. Talk to you later!

[end with advertisement]