

## Twilight in Quarantine – Transcript Chapter 21

V: Chapter 21 – Phone Call. I could feel it was too early again when I woke. And I knew I was getting the schedule of my days and nights slowly reversed. I lay in my bed and listened to the quiet voices of Alice and Jasper in the other room. I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

J: And I'm Julia Argy.

V: And this is *Twilight in Quarantine* from *Hot and Bothered*. I have a question. Do you think Alice is like 'I have visions, I should learn how to draw so that I could share my visions'? Or do you think she's just a talented artist?

J: At first, I didn't realise she was sketching a new vision. I thought she was just like 'I'm doodling since we have nothing to do locked in this hotel room.'

V: [laughing] Jasper is like 'I'll watch.'

J: Better than the news!

V: I was impressed with Alice that she was like 'I have visions I should teach myself how to draw so that other people can see my visions.' That's super smart!

J: If it was taking place now she would get into CGI animation.

V: It would be so frustrating. Can you imagine if she picked like claymation as the way to show people her visions? Or like popsicle stick construction. And is like 'The room is spilt like this'. And people are like 'Alice, we need to see it faster.' And she's like 'Shush, I'm working on my art. The best way to show you this is Claymation. Leave me alone.'

J: I really wish it was Claymation.

V: Okay, should we recap the chapter?

J: We can try.

V: Okay. You go first, ma darling.

J: Great!

V: On your mark, get set, go!

J: So, she wakes up and they're talking and there's a phone call and it's like 'Bella! Bella!' And it's her mom and she takes the phone and then he's like 'Sigh, it's James, I'm going to hold you hostage. I got your mom, I'm going to kill her. Don't tell anyone. Come to your house. Get this burner phone. Call me. She already she knows she's going to end up at the Ballet Studio yet doesn't allude to that in the phone call. And then she doesn't tell anyone and writes Edward a sad note saying 'Bye-bye.'

V: I am so glad in the book we get to see Bella's-

J: - handwriting -

V: Yeah, we get to see her penmanship. That was a nice a little way into her personality. A nice little window. Okay, do you want to count me in?

J: Three, two, one, go!

V: So, there's like psych. And Alice draws Bella's house as one of her visions and René is in trouble, is like being held captive. And I wondered what her RBI is. Her RBI is Bella. And he is like 'Can you get away from the Cullens?' And she's like 'No.' And he's like 'Think again.' And she's like 'Yes.' And so, she's planning an escape from them in order to get René back and then she writes her bye-bye-bye letter.

J: Her Ruth Beta Insburg is Bella?

V: Oh no, her ERA. Sorry, I misspoke. Her estimated ransom amount is Bella. René's ERA is Bella. And, sadly it's better ERA than Phil, who's just been fired from baseball.

J: He's been fired from baseball and also James totally dismisses his safety. Bella is like 'Where's Phil?' he's like 'Who fucking cares? Just hang up the phone.' [laughing]

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V: Is there anything that you loved about the chapter?

J: Oh, I liked that not only does Bella do real estate tourist for actual places, she also does it for visions. Did you notice this?

V: No, I did not. Please draw my attention to it.

J: Okay. 'I watched as Alice drew a square room with a dark beam across its low ceiling. The walls were panelled in wood, a little too dark, out of date. The floor had a dark carpet with a pattern on it. There was a large window against the south wall. There's more sentence.' Should I keep going?

V: No, no. So, she's giving us a real estate tour of the vision.

J: I love that!

V: Do you think she's doubling down on this real estate career path and has completely abandoned weather girl?

J: It seems like it, which is a little bit disappointing because I was really invested in that portrait. It seemed to disappear a bit.

V: I think it's important for a teenager to try out different career ideas and be like 'Could I be a weather girl?' And just like 'No, I want to be a real estate agent.'

J: When I took this 'What are you going to be when you grow up'-quiz in high school I got 'lumberjack' and 'prison warden.'

V: [laughing] Which is amazing because you are both of those right now.

J: Follow your dreams, folks.

V: Somebody told you, you were going to be a prison warden?

J: Yeah, like a [08:05] scantron quiz was like you've got the great qualities of a prison warden or lumberjack.

V: What did you say on this scandrone that the scantron quiz was like 'prison warden!'

J: I like trees and I like human rights abuses.

V: [laughing] Do you know what's funny? I think that Edward would get that exact same scantron results.

J: Edward hates trees!

V: Lumberjacks hate trees. He's like a lumberjack and he's sort of like a prison warden. You and Edward Cullen would get the exact same results on that quiz.

[laughing together]

J: Wow. I don't like as an idea.

V: I'm just here to report the truth, Julia. You and Edward Cullen? Same career path.

J: Unfortunately, his was stopped by turning into a vampire. Do you want to say something you liked in this chapter?

V: I liked imagining Edward on a plane. Especially as they are flying through the day. Like, how is he not sparkling on the plane? I understand that he, like, immediately draws down the window shades, but there's a risk of sparkle.

J: Do you think they fly private?

V: Oh, they charter jets!

J: Yeah.

V: Ugh.

J: That vampire money!

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V: Do we want to give advice today?

J: No.

V: Or no? Everyone behaves perfectly.

J: This has been an episode of *Twilight in Quarantine, Hot and Bothered*.

[laughing together]

V: Okay. My first piece of advice is for Bella. This is just like a question I have for every character in every book. When somebody says to you 'And don't tell anyone, I'll know.' I literally don't

understand why they don't immediately everyone what's happening. Why doesn't Bella turn to Alice and say 'They've captured René, we've got to figure something out.' Again, it's Alice and Jasper. They have this guy outnumbered. Like, freaking figure it out! Edward's on his way. There is just no reason not to turn to Alice. So, my advice is for everybody: 'When a vampire calls you and is like 'Don't tell anyone!', tell!'

J: I had the same idea where I would hang up the phone and just scream 'I need assistance.' Like, if I was in a circumstance where someone called me about a hostage situation, I would be like 'Above my paygrade, please can the vampire money come in and deal with this. Because this is, like, not fit for a sixteen-year-old.'

V: Like, call Charlie! Call the FBI! Literally, call everyone!

J: Call the SWAT Team.

V: I don't understand. How was he going to find out? Can he read thoughts from miles away? And she -

J: - knows where he's going to be.

V: She knows where he IS! He is at René's house right now. I just think that we should feel more empowered to ask for what we need. And sometimes we need the help of a vampire sister in law to help our mother get out of a ransom hostage situation with another vampire. And, like, we should not be ashamed when we're in over our heads.

J: Yeah, she's definitely not qualified to handle it. And I also don't understand what her ultimate goal is.

V: Her ultimate goal is to die by this handsome man.

J: Okay, I know. But this is what she writes to Edward: 'He has my mom and I have to try. I know it may not work.' What is she trying and what may not work?

V: That's actually my second piece of advice. That's a horrible letter. Like, she needs to take an epistolary class when all of this is done, and things are calmer. Like, there are good letters and bad letters, and this is repetitive, this does not give all the necessary information. Even where's she sending it is weird. Why is she telling Alice to leave it at her Mom's house? Like, that's strange. Just, like, keep it in your jeans pocket, they'll find it.

J: They'll, like, find it on her corpse.

V: Yeah, everything about this letter is weird.

J: I didn't know what was going on in it. It's just not communicating the plan that she has.

V: And you especially want letters to be good because people keep it forever and it can become a token of something, especially when a letter that you think you're writing that is going to be the last letter that you ever write to the man you love. I don't know. Just do better, Bella.

J: You're, like, 'Bella, you should have snapchatted this to him.' If it's this low quality, send it on *Snapchat*. At least it gets deleted.

V: Exactly. I'd have done it in pencil very lightly so that it'll fade quickly which is the early 2000s version of *Snapchat*, everyone.

J: You draw a nude in pencil.

V: And you write over it, like, the time and name. What advice do you have?

J: Well, I was confused about Alice in this chapter. So, Bella is on the phone with James and Alice is in the room. And Alice – or vampires in general – can hear Bella's heartbeat, but Alice can't hear James' voice through the phone line? Like, is she just using this as an opportunity to be selectively death and give Bella the privacy she needs to talk to her mom? I'm certain that any kind of privacy for Bella goes against Edward's very specific directions to control her at any moment. So, I guess I side with Edward on that one where it's like 'This is a great time to use your vampire hearing and figure out what's going in the phone call.'

V: Yeah, I agree. This is a really weird place to get all moral about invading Bella's privacy. Like, why here, why now, Alice? But while we're on the topic of weird vampire behaviour, I hated when Jasper made Bella sleepy. It's like a vampire equivalent of roofing someone.

J: Yeah, I imagined it as an involuntary drugging in a psych ward.

V: Yeah!

J: Except she is not in a psych ward. They're in a gross hotel room. Totally uncalled for.

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V: Do you have any other advice?

J: Well, something we've talked about earlier is Bella's jumping to conclusions very quickly. And this transition from James saying that the mother has been captured to staring at a wall, curled in a ball rocking, to 'There was no escape, no reprieve. I could see only one possible end looming darkly in my future. The only question how many other people would be hurt before I reached it.' Can she really only think of one solution and that is her own death? Why has she been so obsessed with just dying? She was cool with Edward killing her, now she's cool with James killing her. Like, where is the effort to self-preserve?

V: Yeah, I do think that part of this is probably vitamin D deficiency. Like, she's up in Forks where she doesn't get any vitamin D. And now she's finally back in Phoenix and all the curtains are closed. But I agree with you. There's definitely more than one way for this to end.

J: What do you think would be a best-case-scenario?

V: Let René die and run away. That's what moms are for.

J: [flabbergasted] That's your best-case-scenario? I think you're suffering from a Bella problem.  
[laughing]

V: It's a better-case-scenario. A 36-year-old woman dying is better than a 17-year-old woman dying. Just like from an economic point of view. Sorry, have I been thinking too much like a libertarian vampire lately? I'm just thinking about people's ability to feed into the market.

J: It sounds like it. I think there's a better best-case-scenario. Like where James gets torn limb from limb and then burned. James does restorative justice, decides 'I'm no longer going to kill Bella and track her to death. Instead' – what's the opposite of tracking someone? Letting caged animals free. Animal rehabilitation? He, like finds a hawk on the side of the highway and nurses it back to health and then sets it free.

V: The opposite of stalking someone is just not thinking about them.

J: It's an internal journey.

V: [laughing] Yes, it is.

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V: Okay. What do you want to pack into Bella's care package?

J: I want to put in something that will aid Bella with both of our advice. Which is to assemble her vampire army via *Zoom* subscription to just phone in a group family. Rosalie can be invited who knows if she'll show and just get on a video call. 'This is the status, where are y'all at, what do you think we should do?' You don't just have to tell Alice. Get everyone involved. Use their resources, their abundant mental and financial recourses to make an actual plan.

V: Rosalie would be the person on the *Zoom* call who would call in and isn't on video but everyone else is on video. And Rosalie's at the gym and sort of listening. She's like 'I'm here!' That's how Rosalie would play that.

J: What do you want to put in Bella's care package?

V: I want to put in an awesome soundtrack and I want it to have *Eye of the Tiger*. I want it to have *I'm a Survivor* by Christina Aguilera. *Stronger* by Kelly Clarkson. Because Bella needs her own training montage. She needs to get strong and she needs to think like a ninja vampire warrior and she needs to take control and so I really think that an inspiring workout tape can go a long way in making you stronger. I'm going to make that for her and I'm going to recommend that she have a training montage when all this is done.

J: What do you think is going to happen in the next chapter after she does her glow-up?

V: I think that René is going to pull a Molly Weasley and is going to be like 'Not my daughter, you bitch!' You know how moms can lift cars and stuff when they're worried about their kids? She is going to kill a vampire because Bella deserves a god damn parent. Charlie and René are horrible parents and I was like, 'That is why she's dating Edward, somebody old enough to be, like, three parents because she's parentless so she needs a super-adult.' No one has ever taken care of her and Edward is like 'I'm going to take all the care of you.' And René is just like 'Do you know what? I have let this go on too long and too far. My child is only a child for another year. No! enough! I'm the mother here. My daughter does not need to save me, I will save her.'

J: Do you think Bella is going to continue to sabotage herself and die instead so that René and Phil can live happily ever after?

V: Yeah. And do you know what's going to happen? Charlie is going to show up from Forks because he's going to be like 'I haven't heard from her in four god damn days, I cannot believe that I let her just leave.' Like, parents are going to show up for this poor, neglected child.

J: And Edward's going to show up twenty minutes later being like 'Hi, I'm the vampire boyfriend.'

V: And Bella's going to be like 'I think what I really need right now is to reconnect to my parents' and breaks up with Edward.

J: Do you think Charlie is going to move to Phoenix to be all together?

V: Yeah! Get a low-level job, you don't need to be the police chief. Just be a police officer in a bigger pond, Charlie. Just prioritise Bella for like a year, everyone.

J: Wow, that's so beautiful.