

Twilight in Quarantine: Port Angeles

Julia: Chapter 8, Port Angeles. "Jess drove faster than the Chief, so we made it to Port Angeles by 4. It had been a while since I'd had a girls night out, and the estrogen rush was invigorating. We listened to whiny rock songs while Jess jabbered on about the boys we hung out with."

Julia: I'm Julia Argy.

Vanessa: And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

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

~ Intro music plays ~

Vanessa: Julia, I find that in this time of quarantine, I have many, *many* guilty pleasures. For example – how many times can a person rewatch Gilmore Girls? I'm pushing that to the limit. How much can one person laugh while reading Twilight? I think that I'm pushing that to the limit. But the real guilty pleasure right now is reading our iTunes reviews. So, if you wanna keep my dopamine fix up, everyone, go and review us wherever you're listening to our podcast. I'm living for the positive affirmation right now. Thank you so much to those who have.

Julia: Give us five stars if you're Team Edward, five stars if you're Team Jacob, or five stars if you're Team Bella Staying Single. And please put in the title why you gave us five stars, if you were like five stars Team Edward, five stars Team Bella Single, like we wanna know. And we'll report back on the results.

Vanessa: Julia is a trained statistician. She can run the numbers.

Julia: Embarrassingly true.

Vanessa: And in your review, tell us what you would put into Bella's care package! Curious people wanna know!

Vanessa: Okay, Julia. I think it's my turn to go first, right?

Julia: I thought it was my turn to go first.

Vanessa: Oh good! You go!

Julia: Okay, I will. I will. Will you count me in?

Vanessa: Yeah, this chapter is trippy as *fuck*.

Julia: Honestly best one I've read so far.

Vanessa: I know! I actually at one point in this chapter *had* to scream into a pillow, because I was so embarrassed for Bella.

Julia: I screamed too. [*They both giggle*] Woo! I can't wait. I can't wait to dive in.

Vanessa: On your mark, get set, go!

Julia: Bella refers to her own dad as the Chief. They go to Port Angeles, they go dress shopping, Bella refuses to buy her own shoes even though they're already shopping. Jess and Angela gets dresses, and then she tries to go to a bookstore and... it was a hippie bookstore so she walked away, she got lost, she got stalked, both by Edward and by a group of men, and then... Edward swings in in his Volvo and then he [*Julia starts laughing*] goes on to force-feed her ravioli at an Italian restaurant!

Vanessa: I love that you just saying Volvo as if it's supposed to be a sexy car cracks you up every time! [*Vanessa giggles*] You like can't say "Edward has a Volvo" without dying laughing. [*Julia is giggling*] You're like, "Edward is a vampire, believable. Volvos are sexy cars? Ridiculous."

Julia: No way.

Vanessa: Okay, count me in?

Julia: Okay. Three, two, one, go!

Vanessa: So Bella, the kind of person who's open to dating a vampire, is not open into going into a, quote unquote, "hippy dippy bookstore". So she's officially a book snob. Library? Not good enough. This book store? Not good enough. Only Seattle for Bella. Then she, like, a group of guys are gonna like attack her and Edward comes to save her and they basically go on their first date. And during the date, Bella is allowed to ask him certain questions and he admits that he can read people's thoughts and that he was following her and that she's the only person whose thoughts he can't read, and she admits she's obsessed with him.

Vanessa: I mean, let's just jump in.

Julia: Yeah, I have a lot to say.

Vanessa: So do I, because the first the first thing I love about this chapter, is all of the time Bella spends fantasizing about ways that she can hurt Tyler. I just really feel

for her. I feel like someone lying about me would *really* upset me. Like, his behavior until now? Annoying. But him now saying she's going to the prom with him... *ugh*. That would really bug me, and so I just love hearing her think about all of the different ways that she could *murder* him.

Julia: Did you notice that the reason that Lauren doesn't like Bella is because she has a crush on Tyler?

Vanessa: Finally we got that cleared up.

Julia: The moment that I... was obsessed, is Edward in a tight, white, cashmere, turtleneck. [*Julia almost starts laughing*]

Vanessa: Wait! And over it is a *beige, leather, jacket!* Does she really mean BEIGE?!

Julia: It was spectacular. Honestly. Nothing got better than that in this chapter. [*Vanessa laughs*]

Vanessa: I actually wanted to ask you something. So... Bella and Edward come up to Jessica and Angela, and they're like "oh can we join for dinner?", and Jessica's like "we've already had dinner" and whatever. And then... Edward says "Jessica, would it be okay if I drive Bella home?" And Jessica, because she's *awesome* and is the actual hero of these books, looks at Bella as if to say like, "are you okay with that? Because I'll say no if you don't want to." And Bella's response is to *wink*... at Jessica, to be like yeah it's fine. My question is twofold. One, you said that Edward's wink was not allowed a couple of chapters ago – is this kind of wink allowed? A friend wink? And two... is winking contagious, like yawning?

Julia: Well, it's an ineffective side of communication. Imagine if someone was like "oh, are you okay, are you feeling threatened by a man?", and then you winked? Like, what does that mean? Does that mean yes? Does that mean no?

Vanessa: I mean, maybe she's winking in Morse code.

Julia: Yes, still not allowed. I still didn't like it, and it seems to be contagious. Like an STD.

Vanessa: [*laughs*] So not like yawning, but like an STD?

Julia: Yeah. This is the first friend wink, but she also winked at Jacob and it was like trying to be sexy, so...

Vanessa: Yeah yeah yeah.

Julia: It's 'cause Edward did it once, I know that's the reason. Why would Bella behave like this otherwise?

Vanessa: Can we talk for just a minute before we get into advice about the fact that Edward admits in this chapter that he almost murdered her?

Julia: I... don't recall that happening, can you please refresh my memory?

Vanessa: Julia, I can't believe you missed this! "Did you ever think that maybe my number was up the first time with the van and that you've been interfering with fate?" I speculated, distracting myself. 'That wasn't the first time', he said, and his voice was hard to hear." Sorry, let me do that again. [*Vanessa starts singing*] "That wasn't the first time' [*Vanessa laughs*], he said, his voice was hard to hear. I stared at him in amazement but he was looking down. [*Vanessa sings again*] 'Your number was up the first time I met you.'" I felt a spasm of fear at his *words!* And the abrupt memory of his violent black glare that first day! He's like... "I saved your life by not murdering you! You're welcome!"

Julia: I mean, honestly, on par for the course, he also admits in this chapter to actively stalking her. And, might I add, I'm gonna slip into my first piece of advice here, doing a *bad* job of it. [*Vanessa laughs*] I'm not sure... really where I come out on this, but reading that he's desperately trying to protect her life, and then she still almost gets attacked by a group of men, it was like if you're gonna do it, and she's okay with it, *at least* be good at it! Like he's both doing a bad thing *and* doing it badly. It's a double failure.

Vanessa: Also don't victim-blame. He's like "you would've increased the Port Angeles crime stats" and I'm like *she* wouldn't have – the *rapists* would have! Victims don't do that!

Julia: The other thing I noticed is that he was so mean to her when they got in the car. And she had to be like "are YOU okay?" I was like, you're so inconsiderate Edward! Like, he sits in silence like, acting angry that this happened! It's like, ask Bella a question, *please!*

Vanessa: He is a major victim blamer. He's like how dare you almost get hit by that van, how dare you make me almost eat you, how dare you almost be raped? Anyway, can I give you my first piece of advice because it's for Bella?

Julia: Oh please do.

Vanessa: She says that the estrogen rush of being with Angela and Jess like, really helps her out. And I just would like to say please do not say things like that. People already know far too little about women's health, and we don't need like, an

additional misinformation campaign. So, an excess of estrogen actually causes a lot of problems, it is not just like a rush that you can have. She's trying to say that spending some time girl-bonding is healthy for her, which is true. Spending time with friends who don't wanna kill you at all and aren't stalking you at all is really good for you. I just don't know why she has to bring estrogen into *this*.

Julia: Yeah. I had... perhaps for the first time ever, sincere advice for Bella.

Vanessa: Great!

Julia: When she thinks she's getting followed, she walks as fast as she can, I think kind of like to not make a kerfuffle and not to seem... extreme or dramatic. My advice is to just run. You don't have to seem polite if you're being followed, just sprint. Get the hell out of there.

Vanessa: I will say that the moment where it says something like "I wasn't being followed, I was being herded"... I was really scared for her.

Julia: Yeah. As much as I find this chapter hilarious, it was quite tense.

Vanessa: Yeah. And it also leads to the real appeal of Edward, right? Like... imagine being able to walk down any street ever because you have like, a superhero who can save you. Like that would be nice.

Julia: Yeah.

Vanessa: Is that real advice Julia, "just run", is that actual best practice? Because maybe it would activate the person to actually start chasing you. Because that's part of the fear in those moments, right?

Julia: I only know about what to do when you're being pursued by a bear. And it's... [*Julia laughs*] if you're able to run downhill, that's great, because their back legs are so strong that they have trouble going downhill. But if you're going uphill don't run, because their strong legs can propel them quite quickly. I don't know if that applies to being followed by a group of men.

Vanessa: So... I'm not sure that this is good Bella advice, I feel like... there's probably actual best practice on this.

Julia: Yeah. I would say, then, don't feel like you need to be polite if you're afraid.

Vanessa: Totally. I just feel like in situations like that I don't run, because like, maybe they're like... just being jerks, but aren't actually gonna hurt me, but will be offended

that I'm running. Like, there's such weird logic I feel that women have to go through when they're in situations like that.

Julia: Mhm.

Vanessa: Where you're like, if I was someone who wanted to attack me, would I be offended if I started running? It's like a weird, mental gymnastics that women have to do in these situations.

Julia: Yeah. So, I don't have real good advice. Unless you're being pursued by a black bear [*Julia laughs*], in which case, call me!

Vanessa: [*chuckles*] 1-800-bear advice. Do you wanna hear my second piece of advice?

Julia: I would love to hear your second piece of advice.

Vanessa: You know when you're watching someone be so awkward on TV, it's like worse than violence on TV? Like when Marsha Brady told her dentist that she had a crush on him? I like, haven't gotten over that. I like, literally screamed into a pillow, I just felt so sorry for her. And when... Edward asks Bella, "do I dazzle you?", and she says yes, I was like... what... are you doing? Do NOT admit it, that is SO embarrassing, what if he's recording you? [*Vanessa is nervously giggling as she speaks*] He can hold this against you for the rest of your life, and so my advice is don't be gross. [*Julia laughs*] That's SO gross. "Do I *dazzle* you?" [*Vanessa sounds disgusted as she says it*]

Julia: I mean, I think this is great opportunity for Bella to practice her sick burns, which I told think she need to be working on, and instead... [*Julia is laughing while she talks*] she just is embarrassing. It's so cringeworthy.

Vanessa: Okay, so let's do some roleplay here. What kind of sick burn would you do? [*Vanessa sings*] "Do I dazzle you?"

Julia: [*sounds like she's dying from laughter*] Like... literally NO. I don't even know what to say! It's so embarrassing! Just walk away! [*Vanessa and Julia laughs*]

Vanessa: Take one more bite of ravioli and put the fork down, and be like "no, drive me home in your dumb Volvo!"

Julia: I mean, I would just like to point out a few episodes ago, you were like... be with someone who makes you vulnerable. And then this is what we got!

Vanessa: [*laughs*] I said *vulnerable*, I didn't say someone who makes you *gross*! That is NOT what I said!

Julia: Did you also notice that she kept trying to hold his hand, even though he kept trying to say no and pulling it away?

Vanessa: Well, are you worried that, like, she... she's listening too closely to the podcast? Like you warned against yawning to make a move, so she's just going for the cut direct.

Julia: [*laughs*] I wasn't like, keep trying!

Vanessa: I do love that now the Cullens and Bella all listen.

Julia: I think they're about to give us some five star reviews. [*Vanessa laughs*] Like I'm Team Edward! [*Vanessa laughs even more*] From Bella.

Vanessa: Julia, before we transition to the care package, anything else you wanna be sure we mention today?

Julia: Well, I got really compelled by... some... some subtext between Angela and Bella, at one point, when they're trying on shoes and it sounds like Bella is about to ask Angela on a date.

Vanessa: Oh? I did not pick up on that.

Julia: Well, I was reading *deeply* into it, so that's probably why. "'Angela', I began, hesitant, while she was trying on a pair of pink strappy heels. 'Yes?' She held her leg out, twisting her ankle to get a better view of the shoe. I chickened out. 'I like those.' 'I think I'll get them, but they'll never match with anything but this one dress', she mused. 'Oh, go ahead, they're on sale', I encouraged. I tried again. 'Um, Angela?' She looked up curiously." And then it devolves because she asks about the Cullens. Wouldn't it be better if she was like, is it normal for... [*Julia starts laughing*] to ask a girl named Angela, out on a date?

Vanessa: I liked that you stayed in your sexy voice for the line "You should get them, they're on sale." Are... are sales hot, for you?

Julia: I... love a bargain. So does Bella.

Vanessa: So does Angela.

Julia: That's probably why they should go on a date. They have so much in common.

Vanessa: More than Edward and Bella.

Julia: 100% true.

Vanessa: Julia, what do you wanna put in Bella's care package?

Julia: I am really eager to combine some threads that we've been talking about. I want Bella to join the girl scouts. She needs women friends. She cannot figure out where she's going in any given time, she's constantly lost. She probably also would be great at selling girl scout cookies. She's not too old to join, she's a sophomore in high school... I think it's a great idea, so I would like to send her an introductory pamphlet to the local girl scout chapter in her area, hopefully get her interested, get her excited and get her to find some community. What would you like to put into Bella's care package?

Vanessa: I would like to send her to a self-defense class so that she can figure out what you're supposed to do, as far as like running or not running so she can report back and teach us.

Julia: Yeah.

Vanessa: Like, you know about the bear situation. I think, Bella, we've been doing a lot of nice things for you lately, do something for humanity. Take a self-defense class. Find out what the best practice is on running and call in. Let us know.

Julia: I like how we've moved from me giving Bella gifts to give to other people to... us giving Bella gifts to give back to us. [*Vanessa and Julia laughs*] Bella, I'm gonna give you a million dollars, please return it as soon as you get it.

Vanessa: [*is laughing so hard one line gets lost in the laugh*] But I think relationships are more likely to last if there's some reciprocity involved.

Julia: Mhm.

Vanessa: I'm just investing in our long-term relationship with Bella.

Julia: Self care packaged. [*Vanessa laughs*] So what do you think is gonna happen next chapter?

Vanessa: [*chants*] Bear attack! Bear attack! Bear attack!

Julia: Can't wait. My area of expertise, clearly.

~ Outro music starts playing ~

Vanessa: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a self-defense class from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are executively produced by Ariana Nettleman and produced by Ariana Martinez. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy and I'm Vanessa Zoltan, and I laughed so hard I cried. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACAST.