

Twilight in Quarantine: The Angel

Vanessa: Chapter 23, The Angel. "As I drifted, I dreamed. Where I floated under the dark water, I heard the happiest sound my mind could conjure up."

Vanessa: I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

Julia: I'm Julia Argy.

Maren: And I'm Maren Abercrombe.

Vanessa: And this is a special episode of Hot and Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine.

Vanessa: So before we jump in today, we are joined by a very special guest – Maren, can you tell us a little bit about your amazing Twilight podcast and how we are following in your footsteps?

Maren: Oh my gosh, what a compliment! I can't believe that! Yes, um, first of all I'm a huge fan of you guys, so thank you for letting me be here. My name is Maren and I do a podcast with the incomparable Emily Mensing. It's called Remember Twilight?, we've been doing it for about a year. We go chapter by chapter, week by week, we cover the chapters, we talk about all the beautiful things that Edward and Bella go through. And we laugh a lot.

Vanessa: I feel like Twilight inspires that. It inspires both awe at the profound love between these two, and laughter. I often can't read the opening sentences without laughing. [*Maren laughs*] And we really appreciate you coming with this chapter, because literally nothing happens.

Julia: Except she dies! So like, something happens.

Vanessa: Sure. One thing happened. Julia, do you wanna demonstrate for Maren how we do the 30 second recap?

Julia: I can certainly try.

Vanessa: Okay. On your mark, get set, go!

Julia: She thinks she's under water because she's in heaven, and she starts to come to, and she's like bleeding from her head and her leg is snapped in half, and her arm is on fire, it's super on fire. She realizes she's not in heaven, she hear... Edward comes in, and they start to snarl, and then Carlisle turns into doctor mode, and then Edward sucks the blood out of Bella's arm so she doesn't become a vampire, and

then she falls back asleep, and... she's not dead! Phew. [*Buzzer goes off and Vanessa laughs*] Scam 30 seconds!

Maren: That was incredible! I don't know if I can do that well. [*Maren laughs*]

Vanessa: Julia is a Rockstar at the 30 second recap.

Julia: Not sure that's true.

Vanessa: Maren, do you wanna go next? Or do you want me to go next?

Maren: I'll go next. It won't be as good as Julia's, but I think I'm ready.

Vanessa: We all just walk around as Julia's shadows, [*Maren laughs*] so welcome to the club.

Maren: Thank you.

Vanessa: On your mark, get set, go!

Maren: Alright, so, Bella is having a super-duper... Bella dream, where she's floating, she's under water, she's being suffocated. All of a sudden she hears some growling, she kind of comes to and feels some pain in her head, like something's pulling at her scalp. She then realizes that her angel is there and it's Edward, and Carlisle is doing something, and then suddenly she can feel the pain and it's burning and her hand is on fire and [*buzzer starts going off*] nobody will put out the fire!

Vanessa: These 30 seconds go by fast, right?

Maren: They did! I didn't finish. But it's okay. [*Maren laughs*] I got to the point where her hand is on fire. And she was freaking out.

Vanessa: Okay, I'll pick up there. Julia, can you count me in?

Julia: Three, two, one, go!

Vanessa: So her hand is on fire and Carlisle's like "there's a lot of blood, oh no, can you suck the venom out of her hand Edward?" and Edward is like "I can do it". And Bella is like "am I in heaven? There's too much pain for it to be heaven", and then Carlisle's like "is your hand still burning?" and she's like "no the burning is over", and then Edward is like, um, Edward is like "I'll carry you, you can keep on sleeping" and Bella's like "good because I'm so tired". And then she gets to sleep.

Julia: Such a beautiful ending.

Maren: Aww. It really is.

Vanessa: I know. It ends in a nap.

Julia: The perfect ending! [*Maren laughs*]

Vanessa: Before we jump into advice, is there any breaking news from Forks, Julia?

Julia: I only have news from Scottsdale, Arizona.

Vanessa: Mm. I'll take it.

Julia: The murderous vampire, who tried to kill Bella, also bit her. Everyone seems shocked by this realization in the chapter. Carlisle was like "what, he BIT HER?!" I'm not sure what they thought was gonna happen when he tried to murder her. They were like he's gonna drain her blood and drink it from a goblet? But he *did* bite her. [*Vanessa laughs*]

Maren: Yeah, when I first read that I wrote, with really big letters, "HOW VERY DARE HE HOW COULD HE POSSIBLY BITE HER", like, it was very funny to me.

Vanessa: Maybe that's why I was confused by what was happening. I had a really hard time following why they were all like "oh no something's burning!" [*Maren and Julia laughs*] It felt like if I went in for a haircut and the barber was like "you want me to CUT THE HAIR?!" And I'm like... am I not at the barber? Did I accidentally go to the hardware store and ask for a haircut? Like, I didn't understand what they didn't understand. So thank you for your news update, it's really clarifying.

Julia: Happy to help.

Vanessa: Okay, should we do what we loved about the chapter?

Julia: Please!

Vanessa: Okay, so... at one point Edward howls, and howling is so fun. I love to howl. I think that we should all just howl all the time. It's a very joyful activity. So there's that. Then I... love... a nickname. And Bella keeps calling Edward the angel.

Julia: I don't even know if it's a nickname, it's like an epitaph. Because it's THE Angel. It's like heyyy The Angel!

Vanessa: I would like if you all started calling me The Vanessa. Not gonna lie.

Julia: I would come up with a better nickname.

Vanessa: What would you call me?

Julia: The Old Woman. [*Julia and Maren giggle*]

Vanessa: That's not nice. That's not nice at all. Maren, what did you love in this chapter?

Maren: So my *favorite* thing, my thing that gave me genuine joy in this chapter, is that Edward was strong enough to not kill Bella. That sounds like such a weird thing to be super joyful about, because it seems like... maybe your boyfriend shouldn't want to kill you no matter what, but he's wanted to kill her since the moment he saw her. He was gonna kill every person in their classroom and then kill her, or he was gonna kill her and then everybody in the classroom. It was a big plan for him to kill everybody. And the fact that here he is, he's got her hand in his mouth, he's sucking the blood, and then as soon as he knows there's no more venom – which he had to suck out that venom from James, it's disgusting! Here he's got like James's venom in his mouth and he's spitting it out, but then all of a sudden he is like “blood is clean, I can taste morphine – done”, which for a vampire, that must've been very, very hard. Nobody had to stop Edward.

Vanessa: It is a standard to which I hope one day we hold all men. That they not murder women.

Maren: Amazing.

Vanessa: Good. We're not there yet. Julia, what did you love in this chapter?

Julia: I also had a moment of Edward's growth where he finally carries her at a time where it's appropriate to carry someone. [*Maren and Vanessa laughs*] I'm just like... when you are absolutely drugged out on morphine with a broken leg, a cracked skull and broken ribs, *that* is when someone needs a lift. I was thrilled.

Vanessa: My question is does he put her in the backpack? Or because she has a broken leg, is he like “no I'm gonna carry her flat?”

Julia: I'm sure Carlisle and Alice get in on the carrying too. Like it's a group lift.

Vanessa: Got it. So that she doesn't hurt. So you don't think they're using the toddler backpack?

Julia: Maybe not this time. They're saving that for like a fun activity, not an emergency medical evacuation.

Vanessa: Yeah. Yeah yeah yeah.

Maren: Plus, with a broken leg it's hard to backpack, you know? I mean, getting there and you gotta gingerly carry the leg so it's like a baby carrier.

Vanessa: Oooh, got it. She *is* his little baby. They practiced that in the rocking chair. It's good that they practiced.

Maren: Oh, good point. That's right.

Julia: So creepy! [*Vanessa chuckles and Maren laughs*]

Vanessa: Okay, let's give some advice! Maren, what advice would you give to a character in this chapter?

Maren: This is advice for the Cullen family. I want to give them some very strong advice, that they never let Bella make a plan. So, the reason that she ended up in Arizona, in the ballet studio, with a bitten hand, is because they were like "well... she made this plan and I guess this 17-year old kid knows what she's doing" instead of using all of their collective vampire brains to make a better plan which would've been to just work as a team. Also I think that because Bella just likes to make a plan and do it anyway, whether or not it's a good plan and whether or not anybody says no please don't make a plan, my advice is for the Cullens to keep a better eye on Bella, and not let her make plans.

Vanessa: I just think that they kept the wrong kind of eye on her. They're like "are you eating? We'll carry you upstairs, you can't take off your own pants", [*Maren laughs*] and then they don't notice that she's missing and don't like straight up go to the place where Alice had her vision. Like, immediately.

Maren: Right. No, they decide to go to the airport and let Bella go to the bathroom by herself.

Julia: And to the point that they already know that they should go to the ballet studio, it's very confusing, like they know where she's going, they know where they're all gonna go to have their little cinematic movie experience. It's not a surprise to anyone.

Vanessa: Yeah. They had the claymation that Alice made. Didn't they watch? [*Julia and Maren are snickering*]

Maren: It took too long. It's halfway through production.

Julia: Exactly!

Vanessa: Oh, yeah. Alice, we told you to pick something quicker like drawing, you were the one who had to stay true to your art. Way to go, Alice.

Vanessa: Julia, do you have any advice for us?

Julia: Yeah! I have advice for James's girlfriend Victoria. I. Need. The footage. Of the fight. I mean, because I waited this long for a fight scene, and then instead I get Bella in fake heaven? I know she's gonna go find the ballet studio and track everyone down. I want the footage from the gopro. So that I can see the fight. Because right now we don't know if it ended up being a dance off, like we hear there's growling, we hear there's a bit of pitter-patter, like it *could have been* what we dreamed off, and we just don't know yet.

Vanessa: That's really not... advice. That's a request. [*Julia laughs*] Is advice now just giving *orders*?

Julia: I think advice can be whatever you want it to be. So, my advice to Victoria is send me the footage and also a million dollars wouldn't hurt.

Vanessa: [*laughs*] Okay... so... Julia, I have some advice for you. You should buy me a present. I think that it would be really good for you.

Julia: Yeah. I'll definitely get you a present. You just have to write a request – a formal request to me.

Julia: Vanessa, what's your first piece of advice?

Vanessa: My advice is for Bella. I think she needs to like, have some humility and reflection in her life, because she immediately starts thinking that she's in heaven, and there's literally never occurs to her that maybe she's in hell. [*Maren laughs*] And I would just like to say to her, like, not all white ladies go to heaven. Like all dogs go to heaven, but like not all white ladies do. And I don't know why else she would think she had, like, a free pass to heaven. I've never seen her do anything that great, so... maybe you're in heaven, just like maybe you're not, and be open for that possibility.

Julia: Be open to the possibility that she's eternally damned. [*Maren laughs*]

Vanessa: You know, you wore a floor-length khaki skirt. I don't think that that, like, just gets you right in.

Maren: Okay, I love that advice for Bella so much, and it reads very true. However, anywhere where Edward is heaven for her, right? So if Edward's there, she knows he's there, she's got her angel. She's like "well whatever, it's heaven".

Vanessa: But that doesn't track! He is immortal, he's on Earth forever, he's not in heaven.

Maren: Okay. She just assumes.

Vanessa: Yes! My advice to Bella is to not make assumption. We all know what it does to Bella.

Vanessa: Maren, what about you? What's your second piece of advice?

Maren: So, Carlisle... seems to always carry his doctor's bag with him. This tracks throughout the series, he's always got it with him. So I think that like, my other piece of advice is also to the Cullens, and it would be to just – everybody, every time they're with Bella, always, no matter what, just have a little doctor's bag with you. All the time.

Vanessa: I love that advice. We sent Bella a backpack a really long time ago, with a lot of like anti-nausea medication and stuff, and she *never* seems to be carrying it. So I feel like... Bella is like a baby who don't have the toddler carry her own diaper bag.

Maren: Right. No.

Vanessa: Like it's on the adults around them.

Maren: The grownups need the bag.

Vanessa: Yeah.

Maren: I think they all have a medical degree somehow, so...

Julia: Well, that's exactly my second piece of advice, because... it doesn't seem like Edward knows anything about basic first aid. Bella is bleeding out and dying from her vampire wound on the floor, and Carlisle says that Edward has to be the one to change Bella, because Carlisle has to stop the bleeding. But...

Maren: Right!

Julia: If Edward knew anything about first aid, he could use his doctor's kit and just do a quick tourniquet on the leg, and Carlisle – the professional vampire doctor –

could be the one to extract the venom. So my advice to Edward is, just take a CPR-course, take a wilderness first aid course. Honestly he has so much free time he could even go to med school, I'm sure he'd get in with his great grades from acing Forks High School. So my advice for Edward is just learn any basic... medical practice so that when Bella inevitably gets in a situation where she's about to die, you can help out in a less stressful way.

Vanessa: Do you think that Carlisle did this though, because he was like supervising and was like "now Edward is gonna prove to himself that he can do it"? Like it's watch one teach one, he's trying to teach Edward in this supervised setting, how to do it?

Julia: This is such a stressful situation to do your first trial on. It's like, get this right or the love of your life/girlfriend dies. Suck her blood just the right amount, or else you're gonna murder your girlfriend.

Vanessa: Yeah, do you know what medical school is, Julia? They're like, go operate, this is someone's mother, best of luck.

Julia: But it seems like it's day one.

Vanessa: Well they're not head-starting here. Carlisle's like been training Edward for years and he's like "you're ready for this".

Maren: So Vanessa, what's your second piece of advice?

Vanessa: My second piece of advice is for Alice. Alice is learning something really, really traumatic about her human life, that she was basically kept in a dark cell her entire human life. My advice for her is to figure out a really good metaphor, so she can talk about this in therapy without letting it slip that she's a vampire now. Because I understand that like probably it's really hard to talk about your problems when you're a vampire, because you don't really wanna talk about the fact that you *are* a vampire, but I think she needs to find a way. Because this is heavy, and I just don't think that Jasper is up to talking about it. All he's gonna do is try to make her feel better about it, which is like not actually the way to process something, and we know how uncomfortable he is with women having difficult emotions.

Maren: I just think that's really brilliant. This is kind of a theme throughout the series, that all of these people have been through immeasurable trauma, including Bella. And none of them can actually talk to anybody professional about it, because it's too top secret that they are all vampires and there's this whole supernatural thing that Bella can't go to a therapist and say "oh man, I'm having such a hard time because my boyfriend's a vampire", because they'll just be like "well, honey, we have a place for people like you", you know? So that's such a good piece of advice.

Vanessa: I wonder if Alice should become a therapist to the vampires. You know how it's like really hard for celebrities to go to therapy and to go to rehab because like people will find out and so like celebrities have their own rehab centers? I just think that like vampires need their own therapist and I think that Alice is like a really compassionate person. And so I think that she should start the first vampire therapy practice. Unfortunately she wouldn't be able to treat anyone in her family, but there are a lot of vampires all over the world who could probably really use her support.

Julia: Or maybe Esme should do it, because she doesn't seem to be doing anything all day, and possibly her vampire superpower's empathy, so she would be a really good therapist.

Vanessa: Oh that's really smart, because like, Alice really does have a lot to do with her claymation. She probably doesn't have time to take on a therapy practice.

Maren: I've got this headcanon that Esme is very into architecture and interior design, you know, she is doing that like... rich housewife work. Just making things beautiful all the time.

Vanessa: She just hit a million followers on Instagram.

Maren: Yeah, absolutely.

Vanessa: So Maren, I don't know if you've heard, but we have like, a really big, fictional budget to send Bella like, whatever we wanna send her in a care package. And so sky is the limit – what would you like to send Bella in her care package?

Maren: Alright. I had a couple of things I *really* wanna give her. Something really awesome for Bella that I think would be useful for her, is like some foam armor helmet or something like that.

Vanessa: Oooh, I would love her to have a helmet and kneepads and like wrist-guards and elbow pads.

Maren: So much injury could be avoided if Bella was just always wearing foam. And I'd be a big fan of that. And then I was like, you know what though, practicality? She needs some like *really* cozy pajamas for this recovery time. It's gonna be rough.

Vanessa: Absolutely. PJ's are always a good idea. And that actually goes really well with what I wanna put in Bella's care package. I am somebody who had to recover from surgery sometimes in my life, and something that has really helped me are popsicles. They are delicious and if you do like frozen fruit ones, they're really healthy, and like sometimes you just don't wanna be like drinking a lot, because

then you have to get up and pee which is hard when you've just like had a bad injury, and so it just like keeps you satiated and like, it doesn't make you nauseous because you're not eating like real food, but you're like eating frozen strawberry popsicles. So... for the invalid Bella, wear some comfy PJ's and I'm gonna send you some organic strawberry popsicles. They are *delicious*. Maybe we'll have Maren send two pairs of PJ's, because we know Bella's gonna spill popsicle on the PJ's. [*Maren laughs*]

Julia: I thought you were gonna do a matching set for Bella and Edward. [*Vanessa and Maren laughs*]

Maren: Yes!

Vanessa: Oh, four sets of PJ's, because they like to be matchy. Good point.

Maren: Mm. Yep. I love a matching outfit.

Vanessa: Julia, what would you love to put in Bella's care package?

Julia: I'm gonna send her a set of colored Sharpies, so that when she goes back to school all of her friends can write on her cast. I thought that that was really cool in elementary school, and I never... tragically broke a bone. [*Julia giggles*] So I try to just live vicariously through Bella.

Vanessa: That is so thoughtful.

Maren: What do you think is gonna happen next chapter, Vanessa?

Vanessa: I think it's gonna be a news report on James. It's gonna be like, a dog is gonna find one of the burnt pieces of James, and like bring it to its owner, and the owner's gonna be like "oh my god this is a hand!" And it's gonna launch a murder investigation in Phoenix, and we're finally gonna get a procedural I've been wanting this whole time. [*Julia and Maren laughs*] It's the end of the book, it better be coming! And Charlie will come from Forks to help investigate, and Charlisle will finally announce their love. Maren, thank you so, so much for being on our podcast and bringing joy and lightness. Everybody, go check out Remember Twilight.

Maren: Aww, thank you so much!

Vanessa: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a family swap therapy session from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are executively produced by Ariana Nedelman, and produced by Ariana Martinez. This show was conceived of as a beautiful vampire baby by beautiful baby Julia Argy, and I'm Vanessa Zoltan, and I'm a full-grown human. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are

distributed by ACAST, and today we were lucky enough to be joined by Maren from Remember Twilight.

Maren: Hi everyone!

Vanessa: Thank you so much for supporting us on Patreon, because now we can do season 2! Thank you so much, we'll start reading New Moon soon! Bye!