

Twilight in Quarantine
Chapter Seventeen: The Game

VZ: Chapter Seventeen: The Game

It was just begging to drizzle when Edward turned up my street. Up until that moment I had no doubt that he would be staying with me, while I spent the few interim hours in the outside world. And then, I saw the black car, a weather Ford, parked in Charlie's driveway. I then heard Edward mutter something unintelligible, in a low, harsh voice.

I'm Vanessa Zoltan

JA: And I'm Julia Argy

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

(Music plays and then fades out)

VZ: Do you think that the unintelligible thing that he said quietly, was a low oath?

JA: Probably.

VZ: Fuuuuuuck.

JA: I still think that he's always promising to protect her.

VZ: (Laughs) Okay, so do it. What did he say?

JA: (Quietly) I will protect you from the wearwolves.

VZ: What a good way to start a chapter.

JA: Do you want me to fill people in on what happens during the rest of this exciting, exciting chapter?

VZ: I sure do. Things happen in this chapter.

JA: Yeah, let's see if I can cover it!

VZ: On your mark, get set, go!

JA: Uh, Jacob and Jacob's dad are at the house. And then Billy goes inside and they have such a weird conversation that's basically like what's business? My business? Not your's ha that was the whole conversation. They go play vampire baseball. They're really loud, they're really fast and they're good at it. And then, uh, uh , uh other vampires hear the baseball and they come

and play the baseball and Edward is really worried that they're gonna come and eat Bella.
(Gasps dramatically)

Buzzer Sounds)

The end.

VZ: I love the new song you just wrote. You're the business, I'm the business, who is the business? (both laughing) It was great.

JA: I said use nouns and they used the noun "business" a hundred times.

VZ: You need to be more specific in your advice.

JA: Well now it's gonna be "use specific nouns to discuss the things you're saying." Would you like to fill in whatever I missed?

VZ: You missed so little but sure.

JA: Three, two, one go.

(Ticking begins)

VZ: Billy brings fish fry for Charlie. Charlie meets Edward for the first time but keeps calling him Edwin. Um, Edwin keeps like putting on the major like charm offense for Chief Swan. Um, they go Alice and Esme are really nice to Bella. And then yeah they're like "I could smell Bella from across the field. But we should like try and hide her from these other vampires." Who are showing up at the game.

(Buzzer sounds, ticking stops.)

VZ: Julia, I didn't want to editorialize too much during the 30 second recap because that's the time for hard news not opinions. But I was really hurt by the fact that like Bella rides on Edward's back again to get to the game, but she's like "I don't want to, I really don't want to, I'm gonna die and get sick" but I just sent her that care package with saltines, and with like all of that great stuff to help with nausea and she didn't seem to have any of it with her.

JA: No excuses. I mean she should be, she should be obviously taking all of our advice and taking everything seriously.

VZ: Yeah, the only thing I can think is that maybe because of the corona virus that package hasn't arrived yet. Or maybe she and Charlie are the kind of people who let their mail set for a few days before opening it.

JA: Do you want to say something you enjoyed about this chapter?

VZ: Yeah! I'd like to thank Charlie for tuning into the podcast. Recently I told him that he should be using Bella to wait on him. And in this chapter he tried to make it sound like his own idea. But he was like "Bella, you dote on me too much." He was also victim blaming. He was like "she had a problem of doting on him too much. When recently we saw him ask her to do something for him that literally a small child can do which is heat something in the microwave. But I'm glad that he's growing, and I'm glad that he's listening.

JA: I also had good feedback for Charlie. I loved when he kept calling Edward Edwin.

VZ: Totally! He did it on purpose, right?

JA: Oh, one hundred percent.

VZ: Such a dad move to be like "your boyfriend is so insignificant that I won't even bother learning his name."

(music plays)

JA: Do you have some advice for someone in this chapter?

VZ: Yeah. I think that Edward does understand how comedy works. And, like, one of the things about comedy is that jokes get old, especially jokes that weren't funny to begin with. And so, like "calling Bella a child" is this ongoing joke he has about how like funny it is that Bella's a child and he's not a child. And I am someone who loves commitment to a bit. But this is not a good bit. And so my advice to Edward is to drop a joke when it's clear that he's not getting a good reaction. And I just want to share with him, that you're 100 and Bella's a child, is not funny so stop trying to make it happen. It's like Stop trying to make Fetch happen.

JZ: I was just gonna say stop trying to make Fetch happen. Now you took my joke!

VA: And you and I are the like, panel on funny. So I guess I just want to open this up to the world. Especially men, if you want to know if your joke is funny, send it to me and Julia. And we will tell you whether or not it's funny.

JA: Yeah, please!

VZ: What is your first piece of advice?

JA: My first piece of advice happens right after the moment we're talking about. Edward and Bella are trying to make plans, and Edward says he'll be there around dusk. And my advice to him is to use clock time like a normal person would when making plans. Vanessa, meet me when the moon is three quarters to the left of my favorite tree. Give a normal person time!

VZ: Yeah, I think that there's no need to use real time.

VZ: Yeah, the only thing I can think is maybe I'm giving this advice because it needs to be centered in the time of this novel. The other thing is in this chapter when Bella says "Was it only yesterday that God only knows what happened?" And I was like oh my god there has been no school lunch, there's no biology lab, for probably 100 pages. Are they on vacation? Like what has happened since we last stepped foot on Forks High School? The world has changed.

VZ: But then I think that's corona virus vibes. Like, she's on the corona virus diet. She's got the corona virus clothes. And now she's on corona virus time. And I think that like giving specific times is just like, always sexy.

JA: Do you have a second piece of advice?

VZ: Yeah, mine is for Charlie and Edward, in this chapter. They start laughing at Bella for not liking baseball. And I just want to say that sports are really dumb. It's like dumb that you both like baseball. And like we all love dumb things and that's fine. But we shouldn't laugh at people when they don't like the same dumb things that we like. Like I just really hate when people are like "ugh, she's just one of those people that subscribes to vauge." And I'm like "yeah, just because you don't like fashion, doesn't mean that fashion isn't interesting. And just because Bella would prefer to read a book, instead of watch baseball does not mean that you two should laugh at her.

JA: And they're both totally blasé about, the reason that she's not going to play baseball, at least in Charlie's mind is because she's totally uncoordinated.

VZ: Also, being from PHOenix, Arizona only got the diamond backs didn't even get the Diamond Backs until like the nineties. So growing up Bella didn't even have a team. So like, dumb mariners fans up in Washington state.

JA: Also all this baseball talk. I was even confused by the baseball talk in this chapter. Bella knows way more about baseball than me. Let me read to you something that was said. "She watched them flitting around the bases. Tagging up after long flies." What does that mean?

VZ: That means- so if somebody hits a fly ball, you have to stay on the base that you're currently at and the person has to catch the ball before you can run. Otherwise the person could intentionally hit a really high ball knowing it would fly out to get their players home.

JA: I don't even know enough about baseball to know what that meant.

VZ: Here's the thing -that's dumb. Like that's so dumb. And it's fine that it's dumb. It's also dumb that like you love the Bachelor. And if you started explaining to me Rose Ceremonies, I'd be like "that's so dumb." But like let's not laugh at each other about these dumb things.

JA: So true. But the Bachelor is obviously the pinnacle of today's culture and is not dumb at all.

VZ: Exactly and same with all the shit I care about, non of it is dumb.

JA: But sports? (laughs)

VZ: So maybe my piece of advice is to be intrested in something other than sports.

JA: What would you do in a thunderstorm? Howl?

VZ: Scrabble?

JA: Mm-hmm. I'm sure they'd be really good at that.

VZ: Yeah, like my mom knows all the two letter words in scrabble. Like that is a better use of time and knowledge than like some random pitcher's ERA.

JA: Mm-hmm. The ERA. (laughs)

VZ: (laughs) What do you think ERA stands for? Take a guess.

JA: Estimated Ransom Amount. How much you would get if they got kidnapped.

VZ: If any of the players on the baseball team got kidnapped? Like each of the players get their own ERA?

JA: Yeah, David Ortiz? The one baseball player I know? Huge ERA?

VZ: Cause he's retired?

JA: The Mariners would pay huge to get him back.

VZ: Facinating. Do you know what? You're right. What do you think an RBI is?

JA: Ruth Bader Insburg. (both laugh)

VZ: I'll stop now. What's you're next piece of advice?

JA: So my next piece of advice is for Esme who we have not seen much of. But I thought in this chaper she came on so strong. And Like not in a good way. Not sure if you can come on strong in a good way.

VZ: Puppies can!

JA: So true. Okay, Esme, tragically is not a puppy, comes on to Bella.

VZ: I hope to be introduced like that one day. This is Vanessa, who is tragically not a puppy, but she's otherwise fine. (both laugh)

JA: She says "That's why I'm so happy he found you dear. He's been the odd man out for far too long. It hurts me to see him alone." This is the first conversation. Bella says "You don't mind then? Heisted I asked. That I'm" dot dot dot "all wrong for him? No she was thoughtful. You're what he wants." She doesn't say she's not all wrong for him. She says no it's fine that you're all wrong for him, it's what he wants.

VZ: Yeah! She also comes on too strong when she's like "Oh it's so nice to meet you. I jump off cliffs." And I'm like, oh that's personal to share, like, really early.

JA: Yeah, it's more of a normal first meeting would be "do you like baseball?"

VZ: What do you think ERA stands for?

JA: And then there's this weird moment where Bella thinks "Oh Esme is trying not to scare me by standing far away from me. But instead she just goes full throttle into verbal intimacy.

VZ: Right physical intimacy not the only space that you can invade.

JA: I'm gonna get that on the mug or something.

VZ: (Laughing) I'm gonna get that on a mug for you.

(Music notes)

VZ: I have a question for you about the portrayal of Alice.

JA: Sure.

VZ: I think that Alice is the manic pixie dream vampire and I'm not sure that I like her portrayal.

JA: In what way?

VZ: She like hops like a gazella and sits like a ballerina and waves like a I don't know a wildabeast. Like everything she does is like a something magically. And I'm like when does Alice just get to be Alice.

JA: Maybe it's because Jasper is manipulating her mood all the time.

VZ: Oh my god it totally is. He doesn't do everything hotly, he doesn't do everything so macholy. Why does she have to do everything so cutely?

JA: I mena, Edward does everything hotly.

VZ: But to Bella, because she's attracted to him. Carlisle doesn't do everything hotly.

JA: Yeah, maybe it's because Bella has a crush on Alice. And is like "she's so graceful;, she's so smart, she can tell the future, she's like a beautiful gazelle.

VZ: Yeah yeah, I buy that. But then be with Alice instead of Edward, she seems so much better.

JA: I know, she does seem really nice.

Music notes.

VZ: any closing remarks? Anything you jotted down in your Twilight journal?

JA: Oh my god, it's so embarrassing I have a Twilight journal, I never thought of that before. Okay, so Edward is taller than Bella this has been established multiple times. As he leaves her, he leans down to kiss under the edge of her jaw. Do you think he went upside down, or do you think he went super low, squatted and kissed up? Like how did he get there?

VZ: Well, I do think he knees bend. Second of all if he's a bat, he's already upside down.

JA: Like the spider man kiss?

VZ: I was bothered by him shoving her into the car one handed. Like I pictured him lifting her from her butt and just shoving her in.

JA: Oh, I kind of pictured it like a cheerleading lift where you grab their feet and just popping them up.

VZ: Maybe. I mean there definitely is a roll bar, so she would have hit her head of the roll bar. I don't know, that was very confusing to me when he puts her in the jeep one handed.

JA: I would have loved to see Bella jump for her jeep seat. Go Bella, go.

VZ: But like, you take your hands and put them on someone's waist and help. Like what is a one handed version of that? You could be the strongest person in the world, but like what does that grip look like?

JA: By the ear, just fling her over.

VZ: Yeah! There's just like no good way for me to picture that.

JA: Oh! There is something else I wanted to talk about! The plot has arrived. It's taken over 300 pages, but we have gotten to plot. Vampires who are human eaters are going to meet them and that is threatening to Bella because she's a human.

VZ: Yeah, I'm upset that the plot has arrived. It made me appreciate how dull this book has been. And no bad guys. I love no bad guys.

JA: Edward is a bad guy. But I understand your point.

VZ: Yeah, I love that kind of bad guy. What he doesn't want to do is get into an action sequence with anyone. I hate action sequence.

JA: You love training montages, you hate action sequences?

VZ: Correct. The only plot that is moving forward in a training montages is Look, this person is moving forward, this person is getting better. Whereas action sequences pretend to have plots that they're pretending to move forward, but really they're just trying to show off their cool stungmen. I like when something is what it said it is.

JA: You wanted Twilight to be the plotless book that we all imagined for the first 300 pages.

VZ: Yep.

Music notes

VZ: so a couple weeks ago we asked everyone to leave us a review on Intunes and tell us what you would leave for Bella in her care package. So instead of us filling it out ourselves this week, we're filling it with things that you said. So MM PDX on April 23 said that they want to put a copy of Jane Erre in Bella's care package and I completely agree, I like Jane Erre would be so helpful. It's helpful in so many situations. And Bella could realize how much of her story Stephanie Meyer ripped off from Charlotte Brote. And then she could have an identity crisis that could be really interesting. So, completely agree. Julia did you have one that you wanted to share?

JA: Yes, Black Star Brazil on April 20th, said they want to include a full box set of Buffy the Vampire Slayer so that Bella could see what a bad idea it is to date a vampire.

VZ: Yes! I've wanted to watch Buffy for so long, let's complicate Bella's idea of what a healthy relationship can look like. And I love that you're like incrementalizing it like "okay, apparently you're really into vampires. There's nothing wrong with that. What about, better vampires? This is very wise advice. Thank you so much to all of you who have written us a review. To all of you who have not, tell us what you would put in Bella's care package, we're so excited to hear what you have to say. And thank you for supporting our little podcast. Julia's little vampire baby that we're just trying to raise into a good vampire, in this wild world that we live in.

JA: So what do you think is going to happen next chapter?

VA: I think that Edward is going to pull out a cucumber lotion from his pocket and is going to douce Bella in it so she smells like vegitables instad of likee human and so the vampires can't smell her so that don't eat her and they don't kill her and the crisis is averted.

JA: This would be a great time for her to try her vampire dog whistle.

Music plays

VZ: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a baseball game 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 the great Julia Argy, and I am Vanessa Zoltan and my ERA is five million dollars. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and we are distributed by A-cast. We'll talk to you in a few days.