

Twilight in Quarantine Chapter Eighteen: The Hunt

(Music begins to play)

Vanessa Zoltan [VZ]: Hello to our amazing listening community. We wanted to talk to you briefly about the reality of season two of Twilight in Quarantine. We are having the most fun making this podcast and it sounds like some of you are having fun too. So, the truth is that ad money is not really coming in because of the Corona Virus right now and these episodes cost us around five hundred dollars per episode to make. And, so, in order for us to be able to do season two, book two which I think is again called Commas? Ellipsis? Nouns? of Twilight in Quarantine we need our Patreon support to get up to about three thousand dollars a month in order for us to not be losing money on producing this podcast. We know that we have fifteen thousand listeners who listen every week so if you are one of those listeners if you could go and give five dollars a month—just five dollars a month—so that we can keep going, we would really appreciate it. So, go to patreon.com/hotandbotheredrompod to support us there today.

Julia Argy [JA]: Chapter eighteen. The Hunt

JA *(reading)*: They emerged one by one from the forest's edge, ranging a dozen meters apart. *(music begins)* The first male into the clearing fell back immediately, allowing the other male to take the front, orienting himself around the tall, dark haired man in a manner that clearly displayed who led the pack.

JA: I'm Julia Argy.

VZ: And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

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

(music plays then fades out)

VZ: Were you disappointed that this chapter did not include us hunting grizzlies?

JA: Yeah, I guess I'm sad that that didn't happen. We know exactly what to do if a bear attacks us so.

VZ: Yeah! The chapter is called "The Hunt!" There is zero hunting. It should be called the sniff. *(JA Laughs)* Like that's the big tense moment. One guy can smell Bella. That's it.

JA: Yeah, that's so true.

VZ: False advertisement is a crime, Stephanie Meyer.

JA: You know what else is a crime? Abduction. But that doesn't stop them from doing it multiple times in this book.

VZ: Yeah, no. A lot of crimes get committed right under the nose of Chief Swan. But do you know what's not a crime?

JA: *(Both laughing)* Thirty second re-caps?

VZ: Yup.

JA: That joke was criminal.

VZ: Totally legal in the state of Massachusetts.

JA: Great, let's do them.

VZ: Okay, Julia, you read so you go first. On your mark. Get thy set. Go!

(ticking noise starts)

JA: The people emerge from the clearing. There's a red head with leaves in her hair and then two other men. One is pale but also has olive skin. Um, then they talk about whether they're going to play vampire baseball together. And then the wind blows and Bella's hair rustles and then the shorter, less hot guy smells her and then they, Edward and him, both crouch down and they get in a little fight and then they run away and then Bella gets abducted again. Just by Edward this time, not by that the other guy. *(buzzer sounds, ticking stops)* And they make a plan. To make a request in the 30 second recap, you should describe what the plan is because I got cut short on that aspect. Okay. Three, two, one, go!

(ticking noise begins)

VZ: So, Alice and Jasper and Edward and Bella get in the car. Bella doesn't get in the car, she is thrown into the car and they talk about the plan and the plan is that Bella is going to tell Charlie that she wants to leave Forks and she's going to go away to Phoenix with Alice and Edward is going to stay in Forks so that Charlie doesn't call the FBI and so that the mean barefoot guy is thrown off his track but Bella only has fifteen seconds to pack. Fifteen minutes to pack. *(Ticking noise continues and then stops after the buzzer sounds.)* One of the things that I was really confused about in the car sequence is that Bella at one point tries to pull on the seatbelt straps in order to get out, and, like, has she never used a seat belt before? Pulling on them doesn't open them, you have to push the button.

JA: I mean who knows what happens when Bella is in the truck by herself. She like wraps it around her neck or something. She's like "let's go!"

VZ: Poor Bella. It's confusing.

(music notes play)

VZ: Okay so what did you like in this chapter though, Julia.

JA: I have an actual moment that I enjoyed. Like not even a fake one. *(both laugh)* They're always real, what am I saying!

VZ: Am I just finding out that you've been faking it this whole time?

JA: No! This was—this is just more sincere than my usual. Let me find it. Okay, so they're trying to figure out the dumb plan. And then Emmet says that he's not going to leave Edward and Bella until "we know how far this is going to go, I'm with you." Aww, isn't that sweet? Good for them.

VZ: Family.

JA: How tender.

VZ: I'm so glad that Edward found someone that he loves different than he loves his siblings.

JA: *(laughing)* I mean clearly that's a high bar.

VZ: Yeah! Cause the way he loves his siblings is beautiful. I also love when Carlisle lists Bella as his family. And he's partially doing it to, like, hide Bella. Like, here are all the vampire couples. But also, it's like my son has chosen you, so I choose you. And I love, like, how beautiful of a chosen family this is.

JA: Yeah, but also, they started dating maybe 36 hours ago at this point. I just think in terms of the chosen family thing, I'm like you chose too quick. Like feel it out a little more. Try a second date.

VZ: *(laughing)* Okay. Ask me what I liked!

JA: What did you like in this chapter?

VZ: I really liked that Bella kept saying that Charlie was gonna call the FBI and that pretty quickly it became just like a reality. Like "the FBI is going to be searching for me, don't you think if the FBI is here and you're not here, Edward, he's gonna get suspicious?"

JA: But you're missing the critical point which was that Edward said, "oh yeah, that's already happened to us and we were fine."

VZ: Wait, really? Why isn't *that* one of the stories within the story?

JA: (*reading*) "You have to take me back. Charlie will call the FBI. They'll be all over your family. Carlisle and Esme, they'll have to leave to hide forever. Calm down Bella, his voice was cold we've been there before." Dun dun duun.

VZ: Yeah, that is a sentence I remember! I think that it is that they've had to leave everything behind before, not specifically that the FBI has been called before.

JA: There's no reason it couldn't be the FBI has been called before.

VZ: Okay fine, then I would love to see their FBI file. The photos must be so pale. If they caught them in the sun, is it nothing but sparkles?

JA: Part of my thing if they've been investigated by the FBI before is why are they still using their real names? Shouldn't they have fake names that they go by if there's a running FBI file on their bad behavior? Their child abduction? Their blood smuggling? Etcetera?

VZ: I wonder if their FBI files are under those pseudonyms and now they're like fuck it, let's just go back to our original names.

JA: Mmmm.

VZ: Maybe Edward got captured as Edwin.

JA: And that's why Charlie was like "Edwin is that you?"

VZ: Yeah! Yeah, yeah, yeah it was his way of, like, winking at Edward. Like, I know who you are *Edwin*.

JA: I believe it.

VZ: So maybe the FBI is already in Forks.

JA: Is Charlie an undercover FBI agent? Who's to say.

VZ: Oooh, so his fishing expeditions are actually (*funny voice*) fishing for information, you see? I'm doing my film noir voice. (*both laughing*)

(*music notes play*)

VZ: What advice do you have, Julia?

JA: Edward says at one point "if you let anything happen to yourself, anything at all, I'm holding you personally responsible. Do you understand that?" So, I think Edward has had a lot of confusion about what personal responsibility is. And I understand that there are structural factors that impact people's lives, like, pull yourself up by your boots straps doesn't exist.

But Edward doesn't seem to understand that choices people make have repercussions that they are responsible for. Like yes Edward, that is how the world works. But I think it's the first time he's ever vocalized that. And I wish he could put that concept into practice around all of Bella's decision making. She can make choices and they will have repercussions and she can face those.

VZ: I just think that Edward is the epitome of white, male, cis-gender, straight privilege. Right, wealthy, immortal, perfectly healthy, able bodied, he's got it all. And we are, like, really seeing that in this moment. That his privilege has extended so far and infected his brain so much. This is like the first time that he's acknowledging that her actions have consequences that she has to deal with, not just consequences that impact him. It's like the first time he's acknowledging that she's her own person.

JA: Yeah and he's barely getting there. He's, like, tiptoeing into that water. Could it be? That Bella's choices affect herself? Perhaps.

(Music notes play)

JA: Would you like to give a piece of advice for someone?

VZ: I would like to give advice to, like, really everyone on the baseball field at the beginning of this chapter. I really think that a lot of this could have been avoided with some good chit chat. They just like jump right into "we promise not to hunt on your land, how do you live." And I just feel like these are very intimate questions that they should be like "hey, how are you? I like your lack of shoes. Oh, I like your shoes. Beautiful weather isn't it?" I really think that if they had spent a little bit of time building a relationship and building a sense of trust and care with one another that they could have had a reasonable conversation of like "yes, I have a mortal girlfriend. I would really appreciate if you don't murder her." And then the other one could be like "look we both found out that we're fans of the Mariners, and I would never kill the girlfriend of a fellow Mariners fan."

JA: I was kind of impressed with the level of conversing that happen at the beginning before it went to trying to eat Bella. Given the low standards I've seen in all vampires thus far, the fact that they got a few lines in before it devolving into total chaos I was actually kind of impressed with.

VZ: Really? Didn't you miss the weather talk? Like why doesn't Bella just, like, give a weather update? Why isn't she like, "interesting that there's thunder and no rain."

JA: This field cost a hundred thousand dollars. Pure grass, great for baseball and storms.

VZ: *(laughing)* Yeah! *(snapping her fingers)* Give me a realtor spiel, Bella. Or a weather woman spiel. Keep trying out like everything is career day. Anyway, I'm just saying that, like, chit chat could have really, like, side stepped this awkwardness of, like, hunting and murdering.

JA: The awkwardness of two boyfriends crouching down trying to growl at each other's girlfriends?

VZ: (*affirmatively*) Mm-hmm, mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Do you know what it is? It's like a baseball game turned into a football game. Football players crouch and sort of growl at each other and then attack. (*JA laughs*)

JA: Football players growl at each other!

VZ: They do! 39! 22! Hike! (*Growls*) Okay what is your next piece of advice?

JA: Well, tragically in this chapter we have another kidnapping scene. (*VZ laughs*) So I would like to reaffirm that kidnapping is a crime. I looked it up it's a felony in the State of Washington. You can get life in prison and a three-hundred-thousand dollar fine. So, what you are doing is illegal. And this time it's not an individual kidnapping, it's a group kidnapping with the brothers involved. I was saying I liked Emmet and Edward but then it was like "Hold my girlfriend down" "Okay" and he grabs her arms and straps her into that car seat. So, I would just like to tell these characters to stop committing crimes.

VZ: Or, would you like to submit a formal report to the FBI that another crime has been committed?

JA: Yeah, I'm gonna call Charlie up and be like, "It's still happening. We told them once it's not okay, they didn't listen, and they got accomplices."

VZ: (*same voice as earlier*) They're committing the same shenanigans, Charlie!

JA: (*laughing*) Why do you have such a good crime voice?

VZ: Thank you! I think that that's great advice, stop kidnapping. Everyone listening to the podcast who is in the middle of kidnapping: stop, drop the people off at that corner, right now.

JA: Unbuckle them from your jeep and drop them off.

VZ: I actually think trust them to unbuckle themselves. I think that most people do know how to unbuckle themselves. I think Bella is the exception here.

JA: Do you have a second piece of advice?

VZ: Yes, I do. So, Edward tells us about this, like, new hunter man that once he commits to a hunt, he is unshakable. And I know that Edward knows this because he can read the other person's thoughts. But I'm very curious about this man's thoughts. Does he think to himself "I will get her because once I commit to a hunt, I am unshakable." And if so, my advice is do not think like you're a voice over for a movie trailer of your life. I am Vanessa. I am

podcaster extraordinaire. I will now cook dinner. Turn on the oven, and I *love* to cook. Like I think that that is how you get delusions of grandeur. I think that this is really unhealthy positive self-talk. If he is actually saying to himself “once I commit to a hunt, I am unshakable”

JA: When you say it like that, I’m kinda thinking I’ll have what he’s having. Like, doesn’t that sound spunky in your head? Like, whoo freshen it up a little bit in quarantine.

VZ: *(laughing)* Do you think he does it as a musical? Or like as a voiceover voice?

JA: No, it’s totally an action voiceover.

VZ: Uh, *(movie trailer voice)* November 2021: James the Vampire. Once he commits to a hunt, he’s unshakeable.

(Music notes play)

VZ: Julia, Bella needs so many things because she’s been kidnapped, and she only has fifteen minutes to pack. What do you want to send her?

JA: *(laughing)* When you say it like that, I want to send her some packing cubes. *(VZ laughs)*

VZ: They really help.

JA: But originally, I was thinking that she should have like a little kit to get ready to look like a vampire. The palest shade of foundation, some kind of strong perfume to hide her human smell, the dog whistle could be a part of her package to hide her heartbeat, colored contacts which they seem to have an abundance. She could even get the creepy red ones, so it seems like she eats people. She just needs to have better strategies for coping with the vampire lifestyle.

VZ: Again, she needs to start carrying that backpack we sent her. This would all fit in the backpack.

JA: Do you have something you’d like to send Bella?

VZ: Yeah, I want to send her a really strong like lantern flashlight, so that whenever any of the vampires are trying to control her, she could turn on her light and then I think, especially when there are multiple of them, they’ll all start sparkling, and then their sparkles will bounce off each other and they’ll blind themselves and then she can run away.

JA: A listener said for their care package, they want Edward to go throw a disco in the woods where’ he’s the disco ball just in the sun. *(VA laughs)*

VZ: So, in the care package is the invitation to the disco party.

JA: Edward's Disco. So, what do you think is going to happen next chapter?

VZ: I think that Bella is not going to be able to figure out how to unbuckle herself but I think that no one is actually going to be able to figure out how to unbuckle her so they're going to call AAA to, like, get someone to come and cut her out and then it turns out that that guy James the barefoot vampire guy works for AAA and he said "I'm here. You were expecting the jaws of life, I am the jaws of death." And kills Bella and then the book ends.

JA: *(laughing)* What do you think is going to happen in the last hundred pages? Her funeral?

VZ: I think it's blank just to punk us. So that we don't know that this is the end.

JA: Yeah, I'm sure this book is very avant garde and will take that kind of experimentation into account.

VA: Yep.

JA: God, what are we going to do for the rest of the podcast, just sit here in silence three times a week?

VA: No, we're going to contemplate what the blank pages symbolize for Bella. *(JA laughs)*

JA: Duh.

(Music fades in)

VZ: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, an FBI file 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 am Vanessa Zoltan and I don't have an FBI file. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by A-cast.

(Music fades out)