

Hot and Bothered : Twilight in Quarantine

Season 3 - Chapter 12: Time

VANESSA: Chapter Twelve, Time. “‘I have foreseen,’ Alice began in an ominous tone. [theme music starts] Edward threw an elbow toward her ribs, which she neatly dodged. ‘Fine,’ she grumbled, “Edward is making me do this, but I did foresee that you would be more difficult if I surprised you.”’ I’m Vanessa Zoltan.

JULIA: And I’m Julia Argy

VANESSA: And this is Hot and Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine.

[theme music continues and fades]

VANESSA: Oh Alice, annoying me even before the chapter really gets going.

JULIA: And Edward acknowledges that. He’s like, “How can someone so small be so annoying?” I was like, “Have you met Vanessa Zoltan?” Like, people can do it. [laughs]

VANESSA: Ariana I want you to leave that in. So that people can hear what I have to go through. Short jokes and annoying jokes.

JULIA: I was teed up for that. You couldn’t stop me.

VANESSA: Luckily Alice isn’t in this chapter for very long. We’ve done a lot of flip flopping lately, of like, loving a chapter, hating a chapter, loving a chapter, hating a chapter. When this chapter came out strong with Alice being so annoying, I was like “Damn it!” but then this chapter ended up being fine.

JULIA: Oh, rave review!

VANESSA: It is your turn to go first in recapping, Julia.

JULIA: Can you count me in?

VANESSA: Happily. On your mark, get set, go!

[Timer starts ticking]

JULIA: So, um, there's a graduation party and Bella's like "What day is it? What month is it?" And she has no idea. Um, Alice dips and Edward and Bella have like a really serious conversation about, like, why she doesn't wanna get married and why he doesn't want her to be a vampire? I'm remembering this as I go along, um, and then there's a news report and there are like 40 murders now, um, and they finally decided to do something about it. Jasper is covered in scars and they're gonna have a nice sit down chat.

[Timer buzzes]

VANESSA: I don't think she missed anything.

JULIA: Well, best of luck to you. Three, two, one, go!

[Timers starts ticking]

VANESSA: Ah! Um, so Bella's like "I- Alice said I got her a present she liked, what was it?" And it's theater tickets or concert tickets. And they look at the newspaper for the concert tickets and oh my god! There's a murder spree going on in Seattle and there's a lot of coverage about it. And it's not just people on the margins who are being killed, like rich white ladies are being killed too -oh no. So they go over to the Cullen's to talk about it and that's where Bella realizes that Jasper is more complicated than she ever knew and it turns out that, like, southern vampires have feelings too.

[Timer buzzes]

JULIA: True, he does have feelings, we're so proud of him. Actually I'm not gonna say that yet. Let's, let's wait to hear what he did.

VANESSA: Um, well breaking news - Doo Doo Doo, Doo Doo Doo. Julia, I have hot off the presses breaking news.

JULIA: Tell me

VANESSA: I had my first Twilight dream last night.

JULIA: Okay, share the details

VANESSA: I had a dream that I was part of the brainstorming party as to what to do with the murder spree in Seattle. Like I was in the Cullen mansion, and I was like, starting the debate.

JULIA: And like, what happened? What was the outcome? What are they gonna do?

VANESSA: You know, it was a dream so I- it got fuzzy.

JULIA: Well do you know that Twilight started as a dream?

VANESSA: No!

JULIA: Okay, Stephanie Meyer, fast asleep. Pictures in the meadow a regular girl. Not herself, but happens to be brown haired and pale, but not Stephanie Meyer, with a beautiful sparkling man. She wakes up. What's the story? It's Twilight.

VANESSA: Oh my god, so am I about to write the non-sexy version of Twilight? Where there's a vigilante group who goes and like defunds the police and tries to do restorative justice in the city of Seattle?

JULIA: Yeah you're gonna write a little bit of Twilight fanfiction I can tell. But it's gonna be like 400,000 words. Like best of luck, this is a multi-year project.

VANESSA: My only other piece of breaking news was like, Edward has this throwaway line of like, "When I was 18 all I wanted to do was go to war." And I was like "Oh, -kay. World War I, makes sense", I had just- he had never mentioned it before and he acted like he had talked about it, and as far as I could tell he has not. So...

JULIA: Yeah! I also didn't know he was planning to enlist before he got the Spanish Flu and died, so that was a little bit of a historical tidbit that we can now enjoy.

VANESSA: Julia, what's your breaking news?

JULIA: We find out that Bella likes Anne of Green Gables and when she pictures Edward and Bella in Ye Old Days it's actually just like her imagining herself as Anne and Edward as Gilbert. Which is kind of cute!

VANESSA: So cute. I hope that they go up to PEI and like, just have a beautiful wedding on the island.

JULIA: It was nice to see her imagining herself in Edward's time.

VANESSA: Yeah

JULIA: It's a little reversal of the current situation.

VANESSA: Also, like, she loves Romeo and Juliet, where like everyone dies and she loves Wuthering Heights where everyone dies, so it's like nice to see her love a book that isn't based around everyone dying.

JULIA: Yeah. That's new for her.

VANESSA: Um, did you have a moment of genuine enjoyment?

JULIA: Yeah I was so happy to witness an honest to God conversation. We have been dealing with monologue after monologue, but they're really like, diving deep into their, like, anxieties, and they're like, working on their healing together. I was really into, like, sharing their deepest darkest secrets. We haven't gotten that in so long!

VANESSA: Yeah I also think it's, like, shocking how insecure they both are in this relationship. Like, it's been two years of like, "I'm willing to die for you" stuff, and so the fact that it's like, "Oh, you really do wanna be with me?" still, is just a little sad to me, but...

JULIA: I know, I was also confused about how it's taken so long to finally have this conversation, because first of all, like what are they doing chatting every night before bed? Why has this not been brought up? But also because, like, he proposed months ago, and like, she's been wanting to become a vampire for books, so this would be at the top of my mind every time I saw Edward if I were Bella. And like it's only getting brought up now, it was kind of shocking.

VANESSA: I completely agree.

JULIA: Did you have any genuine enjoyment?

VANESSA: Yeah! I like that they finally care about all the people getting murdered. I was like, "I've been upset about this for a while", I'm glad that like, people are getting on board. Esme is like, "We have to do something," and I'm like, "Yes Esme, you do have to do something!" I was really glad that they, like, caught on that there's something bad happening and that it is their responsibility to participate in the stopping of the bad.

JULIA: I know, it's also the same thing, where it's like, "How has this taken so long?" What were they doing? Nothing is happening.

VANESSA: I mean, forging college applications. Addressing envelopes.

JULIA: Yeah, truly. They should be focusing on the murder.

[music plays and stops]

JULIA: What's your first piece of advice?

VANESSA: So we find out in this chapter that Bella is having Turning Into a Vampire Jitters. And so I did some research about pre-wedding jitters. And the advice that the internet gives is lengthy. But the ones that I found to be most helpful are: One, exercise is a really good way to get rid of extra tension. And I don't feel like we've seen Bella exercise since her orienteering days with Jacob.

JULIA: Mm hmm

VANESSA: I think that the endorphins that you get from exercise can be really helpful and like, she's gonna start running around all the time as a vampire anyway, so like, she might as well start that habit. Something else is, you know we've always talked about before, practicing some relaxation techniques, like meditation, guided visualizations... Edward doesn't sleep. You could have him, like walk you through some guided visualizations as you fall asleep. Restful sleep is really important. And then the last piece of advice is to not hold your feelings in. To find someone you can talk to. And I think that Rosalie is right there for you to talk to about all of this! And so I think that the big piece of advice here is to invest in a friendship with Rosalie, really start confiding in her, and take these concerns seriously.

JULIA: It's interesting you say that cuz I kind of though she should just wait it out, cuz she describes it with such anxiety. She says that thinking about the day is like thinking about her date with a firing squad. I was like, "Okay, like if you're doing something optional - extremely, highly optional - that makes you feel like you're going to get shot by a bunch of people as you stand there, I would say don't do that thing. Or at least wait it out. Do some exercise and reconsider.

VANESSA: Yeah, I'm obviously open to her reconsidering, I'm just also trying to like take her seriously in a way that's different than Edward. Edward is like, "Oh you don't want to? Great, let's not." And she's like, "No I do want to." So I'm trying to hear her concerns about it without saying "Yeah, it's time to run."

JULIA: Yeah. I just want her to put a pause on the graduation date as the end-all-be-all. Like that doesn't seem as necessary, like I'm happy for her to change later, but I just don't think it needs to be two weeks from now? Question question mark?

VANESSA: Yeah no I agree with you, I agree with you. What's your advice?

JULIA: I have a new theory that I am pretty sure won't come true, however, I would like to propose it and give some advice on that theory. I am getting the sense that Bella is going to become a time traveller. This chapter is called Time, so that is my first note. Second note, she's very preoccupied with the passage of time, how it bends, how it seems to move. I think we go, like maybe months in the chapter, at least a couple weeks just like in the pages. That's evidence two. Evidence three is what you mentioned in your recap with the concert tickets. Riddle me this folks: Bella has forgotten the concert tickets. Edward has read Alice's mind about what Bella will get her, and tells her. It's like time is a loop now, and no one ever came up with the original idea of concert tickets. And only through telling the future and fulfilling the prophecy have the concert tickets come to be.

VANESSA: Bella had the thought and made the decision and forgot about it.

JULIA: Yeah

VANESSA: I would agree with you. I love this theory except this exact thing happens to me. So, I will say to Peter, "I think we should have pizza for dinner tonight." And then I will forget that I said that. And then six hours later I'll be like, "I wish we could have pizza for dinner tonight, but I didn't ask you to start making the dough early enough." And he'll be like, "Yes you did, and I started the dough." And then, then current me is like, "Oh my god I get to have pizza tonight!"

JULIA: Yeah I'm - I don't think she would've remembered without the like, whole future prophecy, you know?

VANESSA: I agree with you that she wouldn't have remembered if Alice hadn't reminded her, the way that the pizza dough reminds me.

JULIA: Yeah, it's created an infinite loop of time within the Twilight series and I think Bella's about to jump into that loop and never be free.

VANESSA: I'm very excited for this. Where is she gonna go?

JULIA: To the past! Anne of Green Gables. She's gonna stop Edward from fighting in the war, they're gonna quarantine, he's never gonna get the Spanish flu, they're gonna live a regular old timey life. He mentions that if he had met Bella then, he would've had a life with her, and no one else in the world would he have wanted to marry but Bella.

VANESSA: And they would've died in like 1961.

JULIA: Totally. And then [laughs] Jacob would be shit out of luck. No Bella, no Bella's baby.

VANESSA: Jacob would imprint with 75 year old Bella's daughter.

JULIA: [laughs] Finally we would get imprinting on old people!

VANESSA: Yeah

JULIA: We've wanted it for so long!

VANESSA: Oh my god you've got us there, Julia.

[Music plays and stops]

JULIA: What's your second piece of advice Vanessa?

VANESSA: My second piece of advice is to the journalists of Seattle and Forks. Don't wildly speculate. And like, some of this is also the police in Seattle, like they're quoting police officers. But it's like, it could be a serial killer, it could be gangs. I'm like, "Sure! It could be anything!" It turns out it's a vampire, you all have no fucking clue. Don't in the meantime just make everybody scared of everyone else. That is gonna actually cause problems and people are gonna start not trusting each other and shooting each other, so like, I guess I have two pieces of advice. One is don't wildly speculate, and two is if you're gonna wildly speculate, like, at least be more creative. Cuz then maybe they would accidentally stumble on the real answer, which is vampires.

JULIA: Yeah. Oh there was so much opportunity for wild speculation. Like, whales coming to land, and stealing people [VANESSA: Totally] and bringing them back to the ocean.

VANESSA: Yeah, the sharks from Shark Tank got out of the tank and like, Seattle has enough rain that they can be in the water but just like out and about in the city at the same time.

JULIA: Exactly.

VANESSA: It's either don't wildly speculate or wildly speculate more fun.

JULIA: Yeah I'm tempted by the latter.

VANESSA: Um, what about you? What's your last piece of advice?

JULIA: I have advice for Edward. I feel like I haven't given him advice in a long time, but he has this really confusing monologue little portion about selfishness. So, he's like, "Bella I don't want you to be a vampire because it's selfish of me to want you to be with me forever." And it's like, maybe that's true, but Bella also wants to be with you forever. And like, if you want her to feel good, like, then it's not selfish for you to do it, so it's okay to be selfish, but also you're not really being selfish. It's cool to want the same thing with your partner and y'all should just go for it.

VANESSA: Yeah it's like not selfish if they also want it. It works out in your favor, that's not the same as being selfishly motivated.

JULIA: Yeah it's called a happy coincidence.

[music plays and stops]

VANESSA: So Julia, we have added another reality TV show to our mix. This week we are doing the Great British Bake Off. But, in the world of Twilight. And so it's Cake Week in the tent, and so the question is what character is getting Star Baker and with what cake have they won?

JULIA: Well, I am happy to share my idea. It is ingenious, so you're welcome everyone.

VANESSA: So is mine

JULIA: Okay well, it's my turn, so I'm gonna share mine.

VANESSA: 'Kay

JULIA: Alice has made a Congratulations on Your Graduation, Wedding, and Turning into a Vampire Cake. It is multiple tiered and on top there are fondant versions of Edward and Bella that are covered in edible glitter. Okay, the tiers are representative of all the things that have happened in Edward's and Bella's relationship to bring them together. So the bottom tier is dedicated to the Spanish flu. Little piped syringes, like a thermometer here or there, you know. Carlisle can be pictured changing Edward, etcetera. Okay, second tier biology class. I'm thinking like a dissected frog, a microscope, um the fan that like blows Bella's hair scent towards him. Okay, top tier dedicated to their union. A bunch of lions and lambs prancing around.

VANESSA: Woah.

JULIA: Bottom tier: lemon curd, a whipped cream frosting, and coconut cake. Second tier: Madagascar vanilla with a hibiscus frosting. A little bit of pink to like, match the biology theme, blood, etcetera. Top tier: angel food cake. Light, delicious, airy.

VANESSA: Covered in fondant and edible glitter.

JULIA: Yeah it's gonna be gorgeous everyone.

VANESSA: Wow! Your ambition kicks my ambition's butt. So mine is called the Non-Vampire All-Human Blood Red Velvet Cake and it's just a red velvet cake recipe but it has real human blood as the food coloring, and then the frosting is the color of human skin, not the traditional white frosting of vampire skin.

JULIA: So like when you cut in it looks like blood.

VANESSA: Exactly.

JULIA: Wow.

VANESSA: Bella makes it for her vampire coming out party. She while she's still human collects a vial of her own blood to like, lace this cake to make it taste great and look blood colored. Then she gets turned into a vampire and then she bakes it. She's finally figured out a food that all the vampires want to eat, and that is a cake with actual blood in it.

JULIA: Wow. The forethought. She really must've practiced that one at home.

VANESSA: Baking is often a multi-day endeavour.

JULIA: Yeah I'm happy that she's planning so far in advance. And if she ever wants to make it again, her as a time travel, go back in time, get some more blood, come back.

VANESSA: Oh my god. You have like, figured this out. So everyone, go to Instagram and vote. I've been winning recently, which has been a real surprise and delight.

JULIA: I would just like to remind you that when we initially started doing this, you said we're not competing against each other, it's just a matter of our ideas.

VANESSA: Yeah but now that I've started winning I've changed my tune.

JULIA: Got it.

VANESSA: What are you gonna put in your care package Julia?

JULIA: So I'm going to make Bella a gmail account, and I am going to mail her the login information. I'm hoping that all of the backstories that we've been getting in the text can be sent to her over email so that every other chapter doesn't have to be a monologue from a character who we need context about.

VANESSA: You could also just send her an editor.

JULIA: [laughs] What do you want to put in her care package?

VANESSA: I think she's gonna become integral to figuring out what's going on with all the murders in Seattle, so my understanding from the movies is that the best way to try to solve something like this involves a lot of newspaper clipping, red markers, thumbtacks, and yarn. So that you can like, map everything out. And so I am gonna send her all of those things. I'm gonna send her a huge bulletin board so she doesn't like, ruin any of her own wall. But yeah, I'm just gonna send her all of the crafting materials that I know you need to solve a multi-homicide.

JULIA: Yeah, I was also thinking that besides time travel, the chapter is ripe for like a Law and Order, like Criminal Minds crossover to happen. [VANESSA: Yeah] Because we hear extensively about how hard it is to classify the murderers, and so along with the materials you sent, like maybe just add in like a couple FBI agents to help figure out what's going on. A detective.

VANESSA: Oh, that's nice. Yeah yeah yeah yeah yeah. I'll have a detective be the UPS delivery person.

JULIA: What do you think is gonna happen next chapter?

VANESSA: Dumb Jasper is gonna tell a long, dumb story.

JULIA: What do you think is gonna happen in the story? Like, why is, why is he covered in scars?

VANESSA: Why is he covered in bites? He got like, attacked by a lot of vampires at once.

JULIA: [laughs]

VANESSA: And they all bit him and he somehow, Carlisle, no Alice, was like, “He’s so pretty I should save him”? I don’t know, isn’t it going to be the same story again and again and again?

JULIA: I mean like, maybe he was trying to do like a new form of tattoo artistry, and like was doing vampire bites as that and it’s just gonna be like, “Yeah I have experience with body art”?

VANESSA: Like vampire bite roulette. He wanted to see how far people could bite him while he still lives. But yeah that’s what I think is gonna happen. I think dumb Jasper is gonna tell a dumb story and it’s gonna be so long.

JULIA: Can’t wait!

VANESSA: [laughs]

[theme music plays]

VANESSA: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a monologue emailed to you straight from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are produced and edited by the great and good Ariana Nedelman. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by the annoying and tall Julia Argy. And I’m Vanessa Zoltan, and I need to practice basic breathing techniques. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and we are distributed by ACAST. Thanks for listening, everyone!

[theme music continues and fades]