

HOT AND BOTHERED: TWILIGHT IN QUARANTINE

ECLIPSE CHAPTER 20: COMPROMISE

JULIA: Chapter 20: Compromise. "Everything was ready. [theme music starts] I was packed for my two day visit with Alice, and my bag waited for me on the passenger seat of my truck. I'd given the concert tickets to Angela, Ben and Mike. Mike was going to take Jessica, which was exactly what I'd hoped." I'm Julia Argy-

VANESSA: And I'm Vanessa Zoltan.

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

[theme music continues]

VANESSA: So Julia, at the end of this chapter Bella agrees to marry Edward, and I'm wondering what it would take for you to agree to marry Edward. [theme music fades out]

JULIA: I'm really thinking about, like, real estate right now.

VANESSA: Mmm.

JULIA: Like a London townhouse, Tuscany villa, like I'll probably want a Cambridge mansion in Massachusetts - I've always wanted one of those, so I think it would take, like, a lot of real estate.

VANESSA: Oh my god, it would take so much more for me than real estate. 'Cause, like, you would have to share the real estate with him.

JULIA: Yeah, but it would be so big he would be like in a separate wing.

VANESSA: [laughs] Like, it would take, for me, I would need Donald Trump in jail and world peace.

JULIA: Wow. Yeah, that's a big, that's a big ask. I'm a cheap date actually, so...

VANESSA: Yeah.

JULIA: I need less [laughs]

VANESSA: Okay, let's tell everybody what happens in this chapter.

JULIA: A whole lot of nothing.

VANESSA: A whole lot. Okay, count me in?

JULIA: 3, 2, 1, go.

[timer starts ticking]

VANESSA: Edward lets Bella drive, and he seems super into kissing, and Bella's like "okay, i'm going to ask him for something and I'm really nervous about it". And then Edward gives her the quote unquote "hand-me-down" which is a shiny heart? And puts it on the same locket as Jacob's thing?? And that's so weird, and then Bella is like "I wanna have sex before I become a vampire", and he's like "I wanna get married before we have sex." And so that's the compromise. They agree to do it in that order, they agree to marriage, sex [timer buzzed], uh, vampire.

JULIA: Good! Comprehensive!

VANESSA: Thank you! I thought so. Ready, set, go.

[timer starts ticking]

JULIA: So, they go for their sleepover and they get into bed, and Bella's really trying to get Edward to have sex with her. She keeps blushing, [laughs] and it's like 'you can have everything you want' and she's like 'I want you' and he's like 'you have me', and it takes like maybe 40 minutes for Edward to figure out that Bella wants to have sex with him. She keeps trying to take off his clothes. There was this sad moment where he's like 'don't keep taking off your clothes' and she's like 'oh, do you wanna do that part?'. It was really tragic, and then he proposes and she says yes. [timer buzzed].

VANESSA: This book is getting weirder. Breaking news, doo doo doo?

JULIA: Oh! I have a totally new theory about Edward and mind reading.

VANESSA: Oooh, do tell.

JULIA: That came from kind of what I was touching on in my thirty second recap where it takes Edward so so long to figure out what Bella is trying to communicate with him, even though it seems really obvious. Obviously they don't use the word sex because that is not allowed in Forks, to say the word sex. We've known that since book one. But I think Edward's mind reading has, like, totally made him lose his ability to communicate regularly with people without it, and since he can't read Bella's mind, he has such a hard time trying to figure out what she actually wants. And so after like 100 years of mind reading he's just unable to communicate, and that is the root of all of the communication issues in their relationship, it's because he's so used to reading people's minds he's unable to, like, bridge the gap between what people say and what people actually mean.

VANESSA: Yeah that's like - I just got an electric mixer, and I used to just make whipped cream by hand, and I feel like that muscle is gonna atrophy, and if I ever need to make whipped cream by hand again, I'll be like "How do I even do this?"

JULIA: Yeah, you'll start like scratching at the bowl with your fingernails being like 'maybe this'll work'.

VANESSA: "Is this it? Do I knead the cream?" [laughs] Yeah, I totally get it, Edward.

JULIA: My other piece of breaking news is that Edward has decorated his room to match his eye color? Which I don't think I totally picked up on when we got the room tour in Twilight, but then she said that his duvet matches his eye color and I was like I can totally imagine Edward flipping through a PB Teen catalogue being like "You know what's a great idea? Having my whole room [giggles] be designed around my beautiful golden eyes".

VANESSA: There - In a romance novel that I love and Arianna hates, the guy paints his room the color of the girl's eyes. But Edward, God bless 'im is like "Do you know what I wanna do? Paint this the color of ~my~ eyes". Like, that's some good self love.

JULIA: Yeah, I'm honestly surprised it's not just mirrors all around. [Vanessa laughs] He's like "Why paint it the color of my eyes when I can just look into my own eyes?". Did you have any breaking news?

VANESSA: I do! I said this in my thirty second recap, but like the bracelet, the, like, one chain, two men thing is really weird to me. I just wanna name that.

JULIA: What do you think is weird about it? Like why wouldn't you do that? For, like, me and Arianna, you know?

VANESSA: [laughs] I would do it for you and Arianna! That is not the same as like two, like, rivals-

JULIA: Who's to say Arianna and I aren't fighting for your love? [laughs]

VANESSA: [laughs] Oh, fair enough! Are you guys fighting for my love and I just didn't know it?

JULIA: Hundred percent.

VANESSA: Aw, I love both of you.

JULIA: That's why you need a bracelet with both of us! That's what I'm saying is happening for Bella!

VANESSA: Okay! Fine, not weird. And I will accept a piece of jewelry [Julia giggles] that represents both of you. And the other things that confuses me is why sex with a vampire is, like, the one thing that Bella wants to experience before she stops being in a human body. Like if I were her I'd be like "I wanna go to all the, like, Michelin starred restaurants!" I'm just, like, much more into food [laughs] than the idea of sex with Edward. So I'm like "I don't get it". Go swimming in Hawaii, so you can feel it on your human skin! Like, there are just so many other things I would do before having sex with Edward.

JULIA: I mean, as we learn in this chapter, her body wants Edward more than it wants food, water, and air. So.

VANESSA: Yeah, the oxygen thing, I really wanna call her bluff on. I wanna hold [both laugh] her nose shut, and be like "Really? Still you want Edward more than air? Still? I wanna call hardcore bullshit on that".

JULIA: Yeah, it was really extreme a stance to take, but maybe true for her! In which case she should definitely have sex soon cause that sounds really important.

VANESSA: I found them very annoying in this chapter, I don't know if you can tell.

JULIA: Yeah, no, I can tell. But did you have a moment of genuine enjoyment?

VANESSA: I did! I really enjoyed that Bella's finally accepting material goods from Edward. She was like "yes I'll take this piece of jewelry, yes I'll take that piece of jewelry". Love that. And then the other thing is I was really glad to see, like, Bella express her horniness and like ask for what she wanted. What about you? What did you genuinely enjoy?

JULIA: I know you didn't like it but I was honestly kind of into this chapter. It was just, like, so juicy. There was so much stuff that happened!

VANESSA: Literally nothing happened!

JULIA: There was just so much angst, it wasn't like we hear about the different places Bella goes [Vanessa laughs]. It wasn't like we hear the backstory of a separate character. I haven't seen Edward and Bella together in a chapter for, like, since Twilight book 1. And it felt, like, good to be back to, like, their weird communication. It felt good to, like, have tension in their relationship as opposed to, like, people trying to murder them.

VANESSA: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

JULIA: It just was refreshing to see them interact! I don't know. I don't like the way they interact, but I like seeing it happen? It was kind of invigorating!

VANESSA: [laughing] Well I'm happy for you.

JULIA: Thank you. I am too!

VANESSA: So Julia, there was one moment of, like, concern and that was when Edward doesn't like what Bella's saying so he pins her and covers her mouth with his hand? Like, I don't want to yuck their yum, but this, like, doesn't feel, like, sexy, that? It feels like literally physically silencing a woman and restraining her, so I just want to name that.

JULIA: And it feels like it was also because Bella calls getting married silly. He's like '[gasp] how dare you! Quiet, lady!'

VANESSA: 'Jamais, madame! Never!'

JULIA: Do you think Edward has a french accent? [giggles]

VANESSA: I think when we are outraged, we are all french.

JULIA: [hums]

VANESSA: Sacrebleu!

[music plays]

JULIA: Vanessa, do you have any advice for people in this chapter?

VANESSA: My first piece of advice is for Edward. And my advice is: don't marry Bella. They say that three of the most important things to make a marriage work are communication, having the same goals, and having the same values, and I would say that now we've diagnosed why that, like, your communication with Bella is horrible. You guys have very different goals; Bella wants to become a vampire, and you want her to stay human. Those are, like, really at odds with each other. And, I would argue that you don't even have the same values cause, like, you value virginity and marriage and she doesn't, she values, like, financial independence and you don't. So given that there are like the three most important things for a marriage working, I think don't marry her. Also, she doesn't want to, but like, don't do it! It's a bad idea.

JULIA: So do you think that Edward and Bella are gonna get divorced?

VANESSA: I don't know! I just think that they might be miserable together for a really long time.

JULIA: If Edward and Bella break up after Bella becomes a vampire, literally what is she gonna do?

VANESSA: Exactly!

JULIA: She has no family, she knows no one else. And she's a vampire.

VANESSA: I think every ten years she moves to a new town as a doctor, right? Like, that's what she has to do [Julia: yeah] and, like, I would read that book.

JULIA: I mean that would, that would certainly be a good use for time if she gets exiled from the Cullen family.

VANESSA: What about you Julia, what advice do you have?

JULIA: So, I'm worried about the sex because in this chapter we head about his quote unquote "cold and urgent mouth", and I feel like this just doesn't really bode well for, like, a pleasant sexual experience. So, I'm thinking that as Alice is planning the wedding, maybe Carlisle should be inventing, like, a vampire sized air fryer that they can pop Edward into in advance of their marital exploits together, because him being cold and then having sex just really seems unappealing. I also just realized that a sauna is a human sized air fryer [Vanessa laughs] so that would work too.

VANESSA: Oh! They should only have sex in saunas.

JULIA: Yeah!

VANESSA: She would be hoooot. I don't want people to touch me when I'm in a sauna.

JULIA: Here's the thing though, Vanessa. If your partner is ice cold in the sauna, then you definitely wanna touch them. So, like, he doesn't have to pre-heat, they just go in together and [Vanessa laughs] enjoy themselves.

VANESSA: Got it!

JULIA: And that's a good counterbalance to what's going on.

VANESSA: Okay.

JULIA: So my advice is: go to a sauna. [Vanessa laughs]

VANESSA: That's great advice. I miss things like saunas.

JULIA: What was your second piece of advice?

VANESSA: My second piece of advice is to Bella. Bella: don't marry Edward. So, I looked up the ten worst reasons to marry someone, and Bella's not in the top three. The top three are to have a dream wedding, to get presents, and number three is loneliness. But number four is "because you feel pressured to", which applies to Bella entirely. And then five and six I don't think apply to

Bella. One is that all of your friends are getting married, or your ex got engaged is a reason to get married, which I agree, that's a bad reason. But number seven is that sex is a bad reason to get married, and this article says "if your religion asks you to wait for sex until marriage, you might be tempted to rush the wedding. Sure it's hard to wait and not know what you're missing, but sex is just one way you can make each other feel good." And then it gives other ideas. [Julia laughs] But, I just agree that sex is a bad reason to get married, and that is the entire reason that Bella is getting married.

JULIA: Okay, but riddle me this, Vanessa. Is your imminent transformation into a vampire a good reason to have sex for your first time?

VANESSA: So I didn't read an article about that? I guess, like, I'm going to punt on this question because I'm going to say she shouldn't be a vampire. [Julia laughs] Do you wanna hear what the eighth, ninth and tenth worst reasons are?

JULIA: Sure! [laughs]

VANESSA: Kids, money, and your parents shaming you.

JULIA: These are so out of order. Like, getting a bunch of gifts or trying to spite your ex? Like, spite your ex is a worse reason than to, like, get a kitchen-aide.

VANESSA: That I totally agree. It only occurred to me recently that you can buy yourself a kitchen-aide. That you don't need to wait for marriage for that.

JULIA: Yeah, I mean it's like sex before marriage. It's like you have to be married to get one.

VANESSA: What about you? What's your second piece of advice?

JULIA: I have a bit of interior design advice, so I think it's technically towards Esme. We hear about when Edward is eager to give Bella her little charm bracelet it says, "human velocity was not fast enough for him. He scooped me up again and nearly flew up the stairs to his room". And I was like, wouldn't it be cool if vampire houses didn't have stairs, and everyone just hopped from floor to floor? I think they should do that.

VANESSA: And like have ropes and stuff?

JULIA: Ooooh! And, like, a fireman's pole?

VANESSA: Yeah [laughs], yeah, yeah! I mean the only problem is that they wouldn't have been able to host the party there, but that doesn't really strike me as a problem. Like, rent a club.

JULIA: Well I actually think it's a great idea for parties, because then you don't have weird teens going up to the bedroom and trying to have sex. Just be like, "there's a secret stairwell somewhere", and then just keep them all on the ground floor. [both laugh]

VANESSA: I think that the jig might be up. [Julia laughs] But, sure.

[music plays]

VANESSA: So Julia, instead of a reality tv show today, we're doing something even better. We are doing a game show!

JULIA: Untz untz untz [both laugh].

VANESSA: So we are going to do Family Feud. We posted a couple of questions on instagram, and we got your responses.

JULIA: The person who is guessing the answers to the questions will get three chances to guess the top three answers. So if they get all three right they get three points, and if they guess zero of the three they get no points, and they lose.

VANESSA: Okay, so Julia, here are my questions. Are you ready?

JULIA: I'm so ready.

VANESSA: So what did the most people say to this question? What is the big game that you would hunt if you were a vampire?

JULIA: And I'm not, I'm not answering for me, I'm answering for what other people are saying.

VANESSA: Correct, you're not answering for you. You're answering what you think are the most popular answers.

JULIA: So, a bison slash buffalo, lion, probably, a golden eagle. [both laugh]

VANESSA: So you got zero out of three.

JULIA: What did people say??

VANESSA: The top three answers are deer slash elk, these monsters also said moose, which are national treasures and I can't believe you all would eat moose, and bears. Those were your top three.

JULIA: These people are just Cullen knock-offs, okay? I was original, [both laugh] and these people answered things the Cullens actually eat.



VANESSA: Okay, but you were supposed to guess what they would guess! You are bad at this. I will say that my favorite answer is the person who answered mosquito, because it's so smart. You get a little taste of human blood, and you're helping reduce the mosquito population which causes West Nile. That is the best answer. Okay. [Julia laughs] Okay Julia. Question 2, let's see if you can do better. On your hungriest day, how many hot dogs could you eat?

JULIA: Tw-twenty? Zero, [Vanessa hums] and seven. [Julia laughs]

VANESSA: You got none right. I am vibing with you on this, but the three top answers are three, four, and five.

JULIA: On your hungriest day you can only eat five hot dogs?!? [Vanessa laughs] Have these people been hungry before??

VANESSA: I'm like, on my hungriest day, if I'm PMSing I can easily eat eight hot dogs like without batting an eye. I put ten.

JULIA: Okay, wow. These are so hard! I'm an iconoclast, I don't think how other people think. [Vanessa laughs]

VANESSA: Okay, last one. I think you're gonna get this right.

JULIA: Oh my god, this is so stressful.

VANESSA: The last question is, if you had to spend 90 days on a deserted island with one character from the Twilight series, who would you pick?

JULIA: Emmett, Angela, and Carlisle.

VANESSA: Oh my god, you got three out of three! Those are the top three answers.

JULIA: Wow, phew. Really redeemed myself.

VANESSA: What I love most about this list is that only two people said Edward. [both laugh] Brilliant. Our listeners are on top of it. Okay, so I have to get more than three to win.

JULIA: Yeah.

VANESSA: Okay, I can do it.

JULIA: Okay, Vanessa. What were-animal would you most like to shapeshift into?

VANESSA: Kay, so if I'm like, Twilight in Quarantine listener living in, like, Oregon listening to this, like, who do I want to be? I want to be a were-bear.

JULIA: Okay.

VANESSA: I wanna be a were-wolf.

JULIA: Uh huh.

VANESSA: And I wanna be a were-mountain lion.

JULIA: You got one right, were-wolf. The cat people, Vanessa, the cat people want to be cats.

VANESSA: Oh!! The cat people wanna be were-cats!

JULIA: Yeah! Didn't even cross your mind.

VANESSA: Well I said were-mountain lion! That's a cat!

JULIA: No, the fourth answer was tiger/lion/panther.

VANESSA: Okay, okay. So cat, and what's the third one?

JULIA: Bird.

VANESSA: Bird, a were-bird! Oh that's smart. People are smarter than I am. Okay, okay, great.

JULIA: Okay, second question. What job should Charlie really get?

VANESSA: [laughs] He should really work at the Newton's outdoor store. This is hard! Like, more than five people said the same answer to this?

JULIA: Yeah.

VANESSA: Okay. He should be, like, a park ranger, not a police officer. And, he should, like, keep a bar. He'd be good at, like, shooting the shit with people and watching sports in the background. Yeah.

JULIA: Okay, one for three, park-ranger. Second answer.

VANESSA: Oh, wow!

JULIA: Other were fisherman, and sports announcer.

VANESSA: Okay!

JULIA: The worst answer for this one, I hate to do callouts, but whoever thought Charlie should be a mayor was like tragically just wrong. Like, have you, have you met Charlie? Because I've met Charlie and he should not be the mayor. [laughs]

VANESSA: Well, like, the mayor of Carmel, California is a golden retriever, so maybe he could be like one of those mayors.

JULIA: Oh, got it, yeah. Figurehead.

VANESSA: Well I just have to get one more to tie, and two more to win.

JULIA: Okay, last question. Gonna make or break you. What is the sexiest trait for a paranormal creature to have?

VANESSA: So I'm gonna say lots of money.

JULIA: Okay.

VANESSA: The ability to carry me?

JULIA: Okay.

VANESSA: And, snuggle-ability. Like, a werewolf I would wanna snuggle up.

JULIA: Zero for three.

VANESSA: [Gasps] What are the top three answers??

JULIA: Boundaries/respects consent, hypnotic eyes, and wings. [laughs]

VANESSA: Oh my god. Why is none of that represented in the Twilight books?

JULIA: [laughs] I don't know! It's cause they're not sexy. But Vanessa, people, I think some people are in your kind of sphere of imagination with 'eliminating poverty' and 'feminist principals' being-being in the list.

VANESSA: Yes.

JULIA: Multiple people said those.

VANESSA: Thank you, thank you. Wow, so you won in Family Feud. Congratulations, Julia Grace. I'm very proud of you.

JULIA: It was really like a Hail Mary at the end for me. [both laugh]

VANESSA: Well, you know, doesn't matter how you cross the finish line. You did it.

JULIA: True. Phew.

[music plays]

VANESSA: Do you have anything in your Twilight diary this week?

JULIA: Okay, at one point in this chapter Edward calls Bella a 'silly, oversensitive, beautiful girl'. If someone referred to me as a silly, oversensitive, beautiful girl, [laughs] I would find a way to snap their vampire neck. That is the worst combination.

VANESSA: If I got called any of those things except beautiful.

JULIA: I know! Oversensitive? How dare you! I'm exactly the right amount of sensitive.

VANESSA: I'm exactly the right amount of everything.

JULIA: [laughs] Did you have anything in your Twilight diary?

VANESSA: Yeah! Bella, at one point gives it as like a compliment that snuggling with Edward is like snuggling with the David, and that sounds horrible to me. It just sounds really uncomfortable, so I was thinking about other pieces of art I would rather snuggle with. And, what I came up with was Edvard Munch's *Scream*, but not the painting, but like the actual monster who's screaming, cause he seems like he needs a hug.

JULIA: It's literally so weird you said that, that was the first thing that came to mind, but then I thought 'I don't want to snuggle the painting, I wanna snuggle the person in it'. [Both laugh] Why are we so twisted?

VANESSA: Oh, I love that! That's wild.

JULIA: The second thing that came to my mind, and this is not a good one, was *La Pietà*, the one of Jesus dying in Mary's arms.

VANESSA: Well that one you could at least, like, sit and snuggle Mary.

JULIA: That's what I thought! [Vanessa: Yeah, yeah, yeah] You could be like on top of Jesus.

VANESSA: Or like the Moses, right, where like you could sit on his lap. [Julia: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah] Cause he's in a seated position. Like, I would rather snuggle with Moses than David. Same guy, same material, but like seated position.

JULIA: Totally.

VANESSA: Yeah.

JULIA: I can't believe more people aren't talking about this.

VANESSA: I - me neither. So Julia, what do you wanna put in Bella's care package?

JULIA: I'm gonna put some firewood in for the sauna that we're getting them.

VANESSA: Very thoughtful.

JULIA: What about you? What are you gonna put in?

VANESSA: I'm gonna get a snuggie, you know, one of those, like, blanket robe things to put on Edward, so there's like something soft and warm for Bella to snuggle with when she snuggles with him.

JULIA: That's a nice idea.

VANESSA: Thanks!

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

VANESSA: Fight! Fight! Fight! Fight!

JULIA: Right? No, I don't believe it.

VANESSA: Then what?

JULIA: They're gonna go to the fight.

VANESSA: They're gonna get dressed for the fight.

JULIA: Yeah, they're gonna get dressed, they're gonna go, they're gonna wait for them to arrive, they're gonna arrive, and then they fight. That's like at least seven chapters from now.

[end theme plays]

VANESSA: This has been Twilight in Quarantine, a sauna from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are produced and edited by Ariana Nedelman. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy, and I'm Vanessa Zoltan and I am snuggling with Edvard Munch's Scream right now. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACAST. Bye, everyone!