

Hot and Bothered: Twilight in Quarantine

Eclipse Chapter 26: Needs

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VANESSA: Chapter 27: Needs. “I didn’t get very far before driving became impossible. When I couldn’t see anymore, I let my tires find the rough shoulder and rolled slowly to a stop. I slumped over on the seat and allowed the weakness I’d fought in Jacob’s room to crush me.” I’m Vanessa Zoltan—

JULIA: And I’m Julia Argy—

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

VANESSA: So Julia! Woo Ooo Woo Ooo! We’re starting today’s episode with a bad dad alert.

JULIA: And it’s Charlie! Shocking no one.

VANESSA: *laughs* I know! It’s like *eugh* this guy again. But OH my god his daughter comes home sobbing! And he’s like (mimicking angry voice), “What’d you do wrong?”

JULIA: (also mimicking angry voice) “Should you really have talked to Jacob like that?”

VANESSA: I’m like, trying to put myself in that headspace. Like, you come to me sobbing, and I’m like, “how...is...the other person feeling?”

JULIA: I mean, maybe he just likes Jacob more than he likes Bella.

VANESSA: Oh, we know that that’s true.

JULIA: *laughs*

VANESSA: That is for sure true. Okay, there isn’t just a bad dad alert. There are a lot of alerts. But we’re gonna tell you about them in our thirty second recap first.

JULIA: Okay can you count me in?

VANESSA: Happily. Three, two, one, go!

JULIA: So, she drives home—well, she cries, Edward drives her home. She goes inside. Charlie’s really mean about how her crying has impacted Jacob’s healing. She goes up to the bedroom. She cries more. She kind of cries all night. Edward is there. They wake up. They go to Alice’s house where they do a wedding dress try on. Say yes to the dress. She says yes. They go

to the meadow. Edward takes it all back, they can have sex in the meadow and be changed that night. Carlisle has morphine for it. And then she says no.

buzzer goes off

VANESSA: Such a good job!

JULIA: Thanks! Did anything else happen at the end? You're gonna have to like, fill that part back in. I don't think I quite got there.

VANESSA: I can do that.

JULIA: Great.

VANESSA: Okay, count me in?

JULIA: Three, two, one, go!

VANESSA: Bella is super upset about the way that conversation went. And she's just crying and crying. And Edward is like "I don't like anything that is making you feel this much pain." And she's like "I'm fine. I choose you. I know what I can't live without. Let me read this part from Wuthering Heights." And then they go, and Alice is like "I can't wait to plan the wedding. I know, here are the restrictions. I'm happy to live within the rules." And then Edward takes her to the meadow and is like "You are so selfless. I am selfish. Let's have sex." And Bella's like "No, I want to do this right. I want to get married and then have sex [*buzzer goes off*] and then get changed."

JULIA: Yeah.

VANESSA: Which, everyone knows that that is the RIGHT order to do things.

JULIA: *chuckles* Of course.

VANESSA: Marriage, sex, vampire transition.

JULIA: That's on my horizon one day. I'm sure about it.

VANESSA: Um, did you have breaking news?

JULIA: Yeah! We found out that Jacob isn't getting invited to the wedding! That's why Bella puts in the "she has control over the guest list" thing, 'cause she doesn't want to invite Jacob. Which seems really harsh? But that's what she wants.

VANESSA: I think it's sympathetic. It's like, there's that weird moment when you get a wedding invitation from your ex and you're like "are they doing this to be nice? Do they really want me to come? Do I really want to go? But if I say no, are they gonna read a lot into it?" It can be very

fraught. And so I think it's nice that Bella's just like, "I'm taking that off the table. I don't want him there. He doesn't want to be there. Let's just stop pretending."

JULIA: That's interesting. I kind of think she does want him there. I am also not sure they're really exes?

VANESSA: Okay, fair enough. The premise of my analogy is *giggle* on faulty ground.

JULIA: Yeah, but he's not gonna go so sucks for him. Did you have any breaking news?

VANESSA: Yeah! Hysteria, which as far as I understood, was a fake disorder that only existed in Victorian England, but then we, like, realized wasn't a real thing? Is back! Bella says that "Edward grew even more concerned about her when she stopped sobbing and the hysteria kicked in." And I was like, "Cool, I didn't know hysteria was back. I don't know what it is now in the early 21st century? But news alert, everyone. Be warned. Hysteria's back."

JULIA: Do you think she's just screaming? Like, what do you think the difference is between crying and hysteria?

VANESSA: This is the question that I have. Hysteria, as my understanding in like, Victorian times was about sexual frustration and the fact that like, women wanted things? And were depressed about the fact that they weren't getting them. And men were like "oh women are hysterical because women are upset with the status quo and that can't be a problem with the status quo, that must be a problem with the women. Hysteria."

JULIA: Mhm.

VANESSA: It's undefined in this chapter? I can only imagine that it sounds a lot like yodeling.

JULIA: Wow.

VANESSA: Like, there's a transition from sobbing to the "hysteria phase" where, for some reason, you just start to sound like a goat herder in the Swiss Alps.

JULIA: Yeah, I mean if I were Edward, I would be more frightened by that than crying. So that makes sense, his reaction.

VANESSA: Exactly. Did you have any moments of genuine enjoyment?

JULIA: Yeah, I really liked how, in this chapter, every single, like, breadcrumb detail, like, came back and was mentioned. We got the Wuthering Heights, which you mentioned. We got the Anne of Green Gables. And then we got another, like, magnet. Do you remember the magnets? I had forgotten about the magnets.

VANESSA: Yeah

JULIA: Bella says, "I realize I'd been wrong all along about the magnets. It had not been Edward and Jacob I'd been trying to force together; it was the two parts of myself: Edward's Bella and Jacob's Bella. But they could not exist together, and I never should have tried." It's like, wow we're really coming full circle on every single idea that ever happened in Eclipse.

VANESSA: I would not say a moment of genuine enjoyment was the idea that there is an "Edward's Bell" and a "Jacob's Bella." I was like, "What about a Bella's Bella?"

JULIA: *giggles*

VANESSA: Which is kinda like a man's man. It's a Bella that Bella would like.

JULIA: Yeah, I noticed there were other times in the chapter where she kind of refers to herself in the third person.

VANESSA: Which gets, like, back to my theory: that Bella's writing these books. She's, like, now writing about herself as a character. Right? You're welcome everybody, we've cracked that mystery.

JULIA: I mean, that's full circle on that thread too. Everything's coming together.

VANESSA: It's almost like "why is there a fourth book?"

JULIA: I know, I know.

VANESSA: Because the plot has also come together. They go to the field, and Bella's like "That's right, I have nothing to be afraid of anymore." And Edward's like, "That's right." It's like, yeah the conflict's been resolved. Why is there a fourth book?

JULIA: Gotta get that vampire cash money from those teens. *snickers* Did you have any moments of genuine enjoyment?

VANESSA: I did. Alice is Bella's personal shopper. And she seems to be a personal shopper with, like, an unlimited budget that Bella does not have to pay. And I loved imagining that for myself. I know Bella doesn't like that, but I would love that. If someone who, like, knew my style, knew my size, knew what I liked, and was like, "you know what I have? Limitless money. Let me take care of all that for you." "Thank you. Yes."

JULIA: We hear that Alice has a walk-in closet bigger than Bella's bedroom, so you would also need them to, like, be little bit of a woodworker and put that onto your house.

VANESSA: *laughs* Yeah put, like, an addition onto my house.

JULIA: Just, like, the second story has a walk-in closet just protruding out of the house.

VANESSA: Explain to the children they don't get a bedroom anymore because I need a closet.

JULIA: *laughs* I honestly wouldn't put it past Alice. Alice would break the news. "Sleep in the shed, children!"

VANESSA: *laughs* And most importantly, though, Alice, like, pulls up her dream dress.

JULIA: Mm hm

VANESSA: Like, the dress that Bella didn't even, like, dare to dream of. So I, like, can't even imagine what Alice would get me.

JULIA: I think what Alice does is she, like, makes a choice about every single dress style she's about to customize, and then predicts Bella's reaction to it and then revises from there.

VANESSA: OHhhh

JULIA: So, like, when she's not sleeping at night, she's just in bed being like, "Lace. No, satin. No, tulle. No." *giggles* "She just goes through again and again until it's the perfect dress."

VANESSA: Yeah, she's finally using her prediction skills for something good.

JULIA: Did you have anything that upset you that you wanted to discuss in terms of questions and concerns this chapter?

VANESSA: I do. Edward is seducing Bella in the meadow 'cause he's realized that her desires matter. And she has told us before that her desires are to have sex. And he's like, "Great. Figured that out." Seducing. And she's like, "No, please stop." And he keeps going. And then she's like, "No, please stop." And he keeps going. And then she says, "No, please stop." And he stops. And I would just like to say that that is two "no, please stop"s too many. Like, you should be able to say "stop" once and the persons stops. And like, THEN you can talk about it. He can be like, "But is this something you really want? I'm concerned that I shut you down before." Right, like, I do think that there's a conversation to be had here. I just think that Bella said "stop" so he should stop.

JULIA: Yeah, there's also a weird line after when they've kind've like, deflated from the outdoor sex moment when he's like, "But I could have done it, though." And she's like, "Yeah but you wouldn't have." And I was like, "Oh my god, stop talking about this. Don't say you 'could've' done it. That's not good."

VANESSA: It's so funny that men think women aren't acutely aware that they could rape us at any moment.

JULIA: *snorts*

VANESSA: Like, we know. We don't need a reminder. We are aware. We live in constant fear. Thank you.

JULIA: Very helpful of Edward, always. I'm kidding, I like Edward now. Except for that.

VANESSA: Ya know, we've come such a long way. He's doing pretty well. This was weird.

music chimes

VANESSA: Okay, did you have any advice?

JULIA: Yeah. I honestly found this chapter so sad. Did you have that experience?

VANESSA: Just because it's, like, a chapter about Bella's resignation?

JULIA: Yeah. So, Bella has, like, spent all of these books being, like, different, and she, like, wants what she wants and she, like, doesn't really want to make compromises. She doesn't want to get married, really. She wants to have sex when she wants to have sex. And in this chapter, she finally gets the option to do whatever she wants. Then she does the whole, like, "then I will get married, and then I will have sex, and then I will turn into a vampire." I was like, "oh no." After all this time, she's been broken down from, like, actually having goals and wishes and just does...does what the masses say. And I wanted her to stay strong.

VANESSA: She's also been convinced she loves Jacob. It's like all the things she thought she knew about herself.

JULIA: Yeah.

VANESSA: So, what's your advice based on that?

JULIA: My advice is just: stay strong, and Edward will eventually come around. *giggles*

VANESSA: *giggles* Dig in your heels.

JULIA: Yeah. Seriously, marriage? Like. You can't have a wedding just because that's what other people want you to. We went through that: the bad reason to have wedding. She didn't listen.

VANESSA: I feel like we should get her some sort of, like, cleats, or, like, spiked shoes to help her dig in.

JULIA: Crampons.

VANESSA: Yeah, right?

JULIA: That's the next charm on the charm bracelet. What about you, what's your first piece of advice?

VANESSA: So, Bella and Edward have had this conversation where Edward is like, "why are you suddenly okay with Alice throwing a wedding for you?" And Bella's like, "I think it's gonna mean a lot to Charlie. I think it's gonna mean a lot to Rene. I, like, need to say goodbye to everybody. It's gonna make Alice happy. It's gonna make you happy. You know, I just think I should do it." And that really upsets Edward very, like, sweetly, I think. He's like, "Oh my god, I did not year *you* say you wanted this for yourself *at all* and I think that, like, *you* should *want* this for yourself and not just for selfless reasons." And so, in order to prove to her that he respects her wishes now, he tries to seduce her. And, I would just say, "Edward, like, have sex if you wanna have sex. And have a conversation with Bella about sex. But you shouldn't *use* sex to prove a point. It's not an argumentation strategy."

JULIA: Yeah, I mean, Bella had the same problem a couple chapters ago when she kisses Jacob and then tries to have sex—they keep trying to have sex, like, outside.

VANESSA: *giggles*

JULIA: *giggles* Like, at bad times, like all the sudden. *giggles while talking* Like, it just doesn't make any sense.

VANESSA: Yeah, I just don't think sex should be a strategy.

JULIA: Totally.

VANESSA: What is your next piece of advice?

JULIA: My second piece of advice is for Bella, who jokingly tells Alice to go plan her bridesmaid's dress because it would be horrible to get something quote unquote "off the rack"? And I just don't think Bella should joke to Alice about stuff like that 'cause that's straight up what Alice believes.

both laugh

JULIA: Like, I don't know if Alice can really understand that, like, the joke is supposed to be an insult and, like, not in solidarity with Alice's, like, never ending pretentious consumerism? So yeah, don't reenforce that. Maybe have a real conversation with Alice about how she should stop spending, like, millions and millions of dollars on clothes. Personally, I believe.

VANESSA: Um, my advice dovetails so well off of yours. It's: Alice, don't lie to Bella. We know that you already have your maid of honor dress. Like, this is such bullshit, that she's like, "*gasp* I'm your maid of honor? Oh I should pick a dress." Like, even if we buy the whole, like, 'Alice couldn't see it 'cause Bella hadn't consciously decided it yet,' Alice would a thousand

percent assume she was maid of honor and already have her dress. And the reason she calls Esme at the end is because she's hiding it in Esme's closet. Like, it's rude to lie to Bella. Don't do it.

JULIA: I mean, there was just this little—it's almost, like, a really not-as-satisfying version of the Siberian werewolves where it's like, we hear a little bit about how Alice has had this plan for a really long time, but we never hear how long Alice has had this planned. Like, she's had these dresses in the closet since whenever he, like, picked that apple from the cafeteria.

VANESSA: *laughs* I love that idea, the fan in the science classroom is like, flipped on and Alice is like “*gasp* I'm going dress shopping! I have to call Pierre!” *laughs* *sighs* Alice, I'm sorry I ever doubted your skills. That's amazing.

music chimes

VANESSA: So, Julia. In reality TV corner this week, we are going back to Shark Tank. There are three sharks bobbing their heads in the water. We are on this beautiful yacht standing six feet away from each other wearing masks. But, what is it that you are pitching to these sharks?

JULIA: I would like to throw a piece of “Vyft” their way. “Vyft” is “Vampire Lyft.” Um *both laugh* we hear in this chapter that Edward goes and picks Bella up when she's crying. I think Vampire Lyft is a really great service. So you, like, get on Alice's list and then she, like, figures out when and where you need a car ride. And, so, if you already have your car, the vampire just sprints over, hops in and drive you. That's really great if you, like, break up with your second boyfriend and can't stop crying or, you know, if you drive to a bar sober and then, like, have to leave the bar drunk, like, you don't have to leave the car there it can come with you. Or, there's the option with all the luxury vehicles that the Cullens have that they can bring their Hummer or Porsches, their Volvos to you. I'm sure you could select which one you would want. And I think it would just do a lot for the Forks and La Push community: to have a luxury, vampire car service.

VANESSA: How much is it?

JULIA: It's...a hundred dollars a month. Um, which I know seems steep.

VANESSA: Oh, so it's a subscription.

JULIA: Yeah it's subscription because Alice needs to tune in to your frequency. So yeah, it's a hundred dollars a month but you basically can get chauffeured everywhere.

VANESSA: Is there the option within the service to be carried? Like if you want to off-road in a particular way? If you want to make it to a specific meadow?

JULIA: Yeah, I think that's like an add-on. Maybe 20 extra dollars a month, just because the vampires will have to not speed on the road, which we know is one of their passions. So it costs them a little bit from their soul to be able to provide that kind of service.

VANESSA: Right, and they also have to show up with the toddler backpack, so they might have to, like, stop at home to pick up the toddler backpack and not go directly.

JULIA: Exactly. Exactly.

VANESSA: Phew! I think you've given the sharks something, really, to think a lot about.

JULIA: Something to chew on, you could say. What about you? What are you pitching to the sharks?

VANESSA: I am pitching the idea of "Tear Renewable Energy." Bella is a big crier in this series, and that is something I relate to. I, too, am a big crier. So, I think we need to invest in using those tears to combat climate change. So what I am envisioning is a "Rube Goldberg" type object, where your tears get collected into a little, teeny tiny bucket. And that bucket lowers on a pulley system when it gets full enough. And that bucket starts a wheel spinning, which you can actually use simultaneously to dry your tears on the back end of the wheel. But it also creates an air conditioning system in general in the home. And any extra water that falls can be sterilized and used for contact solution. So, you know, "real tears" is, like, something that contact solution frequently will say is, like, a benefit, right? It's like, like, real tears. And I think we should start collecting all of those real tears.

JULIA: So, is this something you would have to wear 24/7? Or is it something that you would put on the moment the tears start to come.

VANESSA: You put it on when you cry. Yeah. You, like—it's pretty small, and so you carry it with you in case you start crying.

JULIA: Wow.

VANESSA: And then you just put it on! Like, whenever you start crying, you, like, use a Kleenex, right? Like, most of us have, like, tissues around. And I'm just saying that this should be, like, tissues. Like, you should carry it around and as soon as you start crying, put it on.

JULIA: One last question is a bit of, like, a mechanical one: would you have to cry, you know, facing the floor so that your tears fall into a bucket, as opposed to run down your cheeks?

VANESSA: It attaches to glasses, and the little buckets are attached to the glasses. But you have to hang over the Rube Goldberg part of it.

JULIA: Yeah, yeah, yeah, I got it.

VANESSA: But that is actually a feature, not a bug. Because I think, frequently, people try to stop themselves from crying, or try to multitask through their crying. And I am a "feel your

feelings” person. So, like, stop. Lean forward. Lean into the tears. Focus on the feelings. Focus on the crying.

JULIA: How much does it cost for a pair of glasses?

VANESSA: It’s \$49.95 but you make back your money within two years.

JULIA: Wow.

VANESSA: Because you don’t need to run an air conditioner on—you know, in the summer months when you’re crying. So, we—yeah, we have found that the reduced energy use, like, you make your money back very quickly.

JULIA: Got it, like an electric car. *giggles*

VANESSA: So, go on Instagram and vote. Do you want to buy my renewable energy focused project? Or do you want to help contribute to carbon emissions with Julia’s?

JULIA: Mhm, that’s exactly what I was trying to say when I made that pitch. So, I’m glad you picked up on that.

VANESSA: Do you think polar bears should die more quickly?

chimes

VANESSA: Did you have anything in your Twilight Diary?

JULIA: Bella in this chapter says that she’s, quote unquote, “made a mess of things”? And I just, like, didn’t think that was true? Do you think Bella has “made a mess of things”?

VANESSA: I mean, yes, insofar as she never should have left Scottsdale. Like, that was a mistake. None of us would be here if not for that.

JULIA: Mhm.

VANESSA: But in every other way, no. She’s been like a ping pong ball.

JULIA: Edward and Jacob are just slapping her around?

VANESSA: Yeah, and she’s like “uh!” And then she, like, bumps into something like Alice and that pushes her and she’s like, “okay!”

JULIA: Mhm.

VANESSA: No. Do you think it’s true?

JULIA: No! I was like, “I don’t really think that this is, like, your problem.” The—the events of these chapters seem really outside of her scope as like an individual person with agency. So, it’s very sad that she thinks that. I mean, I think she’s referring to the fact that she’s, like, lead Jacob on, and now made him upset. And then she’s, like, expressed that feeling towards Edward, which has also been sad for him, I guess? But I’m not really buying it.

VANESSA: Yeah, it’s really hard to tell because Bella, as represented in these books, like, so completely flip flops. If she really was in love with Jacob this whole time and, like, lied to him about it and, like, gaslit him about it, and was like, “no, you feel those feelings, but they’re not real.” Then she did make a really big mess of things. But, like, we don’t believe that that’s true. Poor Bella. Like, really, at the end of this book. Poor Bella.

JULIA: I know, I feel very sad, too. Did you have anything in your Twilight Diary?

VANESSA: I do. So, Alice comes out of the house and is, like, so excite because Bella is arriving to say, like, “Start planning the wedding.” And Bella’s like, “But!” And Alice is like, “I know there are conditions.” And one of the conditions that Alice outlines is that the wedding has to be on, or before, August 13th because Bella’s gonna turn *nineteen* on September 13th. She wants to be a vampire for a full month before she would have turned nineteen. She doesn’t ever want to be older than Edward. And I was wondering if you could explain to me, like, why she needs such a big buffer. Is it so they can have a month of sex? Like, I know she wants to have sex before she’s a vampire. Is she like, “I wanna turn—I wanna be a vampire, like, the day before I turn nineteen so I’m always eighteen and I need a month to have human sex.” Like, what is it?

JULIA: I was thinking about her desire to have human sex with a vampire. So that, I think, is, like, at least a week of honeymoon. Um. So, that gives her three weeks. And maybe she’s just, like, so, like, traumatized by all these people in these books trying to kill her?

VANESSA *laughs*

JULIA: That she’s like, “who knows what will happen in the next three weeks? I better give myself some time. What if I have to go to a different field and sleep in the cold? Like. What if I have to go back to Italy and save Emmet this time?” Like, I think she’s just factoring in the chaos of these books into her wedding plans, which I think kind of makes sense.

VANESSA: Yeah, okay! That’s like—I admire good planning. Good for you, Bella.

JULIA: It’s like a rain date.

VANESSA: Yeah.

JULIA: That weddings have.

VANESSA: Yeah yeah yeah. Like, “What if I get a cold?”

JULIA: Exactly.

VANESSA: “What if I have to save Edward from the Volturi?”

JULIA: *laughs breathlessly* Exactly.

VANESSA: Okay! What are you gonna put in Bella’s care package?

JULIA: I’m gonna put in a prenup, um, before their wedding that says that she’s gonna get all of Edward’s money.

VANESSA: *laughs*

JULIA: Just in case anything goes wrong. What about you? What are you putting in?

VANESSA: I’m gonna get her a Greyhound Bus schedule, just in case she wants to get the fuck outta town. This is it. She’s about to hit the point of no return.

JULIA: Which is the wedding?

VANESSA: The wedding. And then—yeah, the wedding and then having sex and then getting changed. Right? Like, all that is gonna happen very quickly. Like, this is your last chance, Bella. You can run if you can. This is like my offer of the taxi right before she walks down the wedding. This is like, “here’s your escape hatch. We can get through anything together. You and me and five bucks, Bella. Let’s see what we can do.”

JULIA: What do you think is gonna happen in the epilogue?

VANESSA: *sighs* Like, a dream sequence? Of their future happiness together? An explanation of how fire and ice is symbolic? I really—it’s—it’s confusing.

JULIA: Could be anything.

VANESSA: I don’t think it’s the wedding.

JULIA: Mike moving into college.

VANESSA: Cute! A dorm move-in sequence?

JULIA: Yeah, for, like, each of the side characters?

VANSSSA: Yeah. Oh I love that. Angela moving into college. Mike moving into college.

JULIA: Jessica going to college.

VANESSA: And Bella doing, like, a make-up test for her wedding.

JULIA: Yeah. Ooo that's so dark! That would, like, really twist the knife after this chapter.

end credit music

VANESSA: This has been *Twilight in Quarantine*, hysteria from Hot and Bothered. This episode and all episodes are produced by Ariana Nedelman, but this episode is edited by Malika Gumpangkum. Thank you so much, Malika! We're so excited to have you. This show was conceived of as a vampire baby by Julia Argy and I'm Vanessa Zoltan and Jacob Black would not be invited to my wedding, either. We are a production of Not Sorry Productions and are distributed by ACAST. Thanks everyone!

end credit music fades

chimes