



Episode 57 - “Butt Owie”

Running time: 41 minutes

Release date: March 11, 2019



Generously Transcribed by Ariana Jane Mackenzie

Sally: Everybody Hates Rand is a *Wheel of Time* podcast that will contain spoilers for all fourteen books, so if you're anti-spoiler pause this, read all fourteen books, and come back. We'll be here. Waiting.

Emily: Our title is a joke and is meant to be taken as such. In the context of this podcast “everybody” refers to us and our cat. You are free to feel however you want about Rand, who is a fictional character. Don't DM us.

[THEME SONG by Glynn Mackenzie plays]

Emily: Hello? Hewwo?

Sally: [laugh] hewwo?

Emily: I just noticed that Sally wrote on our fridge in our alphabet magnet ‘Sexy Knife Boy’ which is how I've been referring to Diego Hagreeves for like, two weeks.

Sally: I thought for a really long time about what would be as funny as ‘Buy Art Pop on iTunes’ which is not very many things.

Emily: ‘Buy Fmart Pop on iTunes’ was -

Sally: [laughing] that's true that was -

Emily: Pretty funny.

Sally: [at the same time] pretty funny.

Emily: Oh my god we're just - inside jokes. Oh, look at Tybalt gazing out into the -

Sally: I know! Tybalt has recently decided that he doesn't totally hate the great outdoors.

Emily: Yeah, well -

Sally: So now he wants to the -

Emily: It did warm up a little bit, so.

Sally: Sliding door open all the time.

Emily: So he can - it's also the birds are back, so now he can hear the birds.

Sally: Yeah, hear the birds and his little feline instinct is like, "Eat."

Emily: [laugh] "Grr I'm a kraken from the sea."

Sally: Hur dur sexy knife boy.

Emily: Hur dur sexy knife boy. Okay...

Sally: Okay we [laugh] - this is a classic opening.

Emily: Yeah, but this time we probably played our new theme song!

Sally: [laugh] probably.

Emily: Probably [laugh]. I can't predict - I can't predict how the editing will go.

Sally: [still laughing].

Emily: I only have so much time.

Sally: That's true, Emily's gotta edit this in Seattle [pronounced Seat-lah].

Emily: Yeah right, as if I'm going to edit this in Seattle. Like my grandma would let me pull out a laptop and not immediately want to know what I'm doing.

Sally: What are you doing?

Emily: And then I'd have to be like, it's my podcast where I say fuck, grandma.

Sally: Emily!

Emily: Talk about sex.

Sally: [chuckle] Emily! Don't swear about the Ashcrafts. Okay -

Emily: Which *Wheel of Time* character most likely gets pegged? Um -

Sally: Perrin.

Emily: You think - yeah.

Sally: [laugh] I feel like that's a radical and sexy opinion of me to have.

Emily: I think that was controversial and brave.

Sally: Either that or Gaul. I feel like Gaul would be into it.

Emily: Oh, Gaul would -

Sally: Gaul would love it.

Emily: Gaul has huge bottom energy [laugh].

Sally: Literally, just like, physically large.

Emily: Yeah, he's just a big boy. Okay -

Sally: Has a big bottom.

Emily: Anyway, uh...

Sally: Okay I'm sorry, this is a bad way to lead into our theme song.

Emily: [at the same time] oh my god, we just can't - it already played, is the way we're gonna do it.

Sally: I know, but just talking about it.

Emily: Oh yeah, okay.

Sally: I feel like we should give it its due.

Emily: Yeah, do you wanna go... [pause].

Sally: [laugh] guys we're having a really hard time. Yes, I do wanna go [bursts out laughing].

Emily: I'm sorry.

Sally: I don't know what's happening to either of us [laughs again].

Both: Okay [deep breaths].

Sally: [while laughing] I just can't look at Emily while I do this.

Emily: Well I was thinking of, like, sad things to make myself stop laughing, so...

Sally: Sad things?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I just can't look at Emily for a second.

Emily: It's like, what's the opposite of raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens?

Sally: I dunno. A Taylor Swift song?

Both: [laugh].

Sally: O-kay!

Emily: Fuck me running.

Sally: So, k, so, this episode probably [starts laughing] started with our new and wonderful theme song, which was written and composed by the wonderful Glynna Mackenzie, so thank you so much Glynna for the wonderful, jazzy, folksy new theme song that you guys can hear at the beginning of this episode. So, I hope you didn't skip the beginning, little fuckers.

Emily: Yeah, how dare you.

Sally: How dare you.

Emily: How fucking dare you?

Sally: Yeah, absolute -

Emily: Are you the type of person who just skips the first four minutes cause you know we're not gonna talk about anything related to *The Wheel of Time*?

Sally: You little - joke's on you this time.

Emily: Yeah, fuck you.

Sally: Lots of new stuff to say!

Emily: Yeah, skipper.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Isn't that a restaurant? Like is it obsolete? I feel like it's the type of place you got food poisoning. Skippers.

Sally: Yeah, I know, it's like Hoppers.

Emily: It's like a Long John Silvers. What? Hoppers?

Sally: Yeah, Hoppers.

Emily: We should go there with a painting of a wolf and just hanging it up there.

Sally: Oh, we should. That would be fun. I didn't even realize what you were doing. Um, if you really liked the - our new theme song, which I hope you did, cause it's really fun, you can find Glynna's EP on iTunes. It's called Ray, where she's got a couple more songs that you can listen to. Very exciting. Also Glynna, please let me know if I've got the right pronunciation. I know we asked, but if we're still bungling it, please let us know. Um, we're going to be doing a fun Q&A with her, that'll be up on our blog hopefully the day that this releases, which is Monday March 11th. If not, look for it in the coming days where you can learn more about her and you can find all of her music and all of her wonderful stuff. And adjacent to

this, I wanted to send another major thank you to our patrons who, because you support us every month, we were able to give Glynnna the money that she deserves for writing us such a wonderful thing and for giving the time and energy to doing that. We were able to compensate her fairly and appropriately, as opposed to just giving her our love, which is great, but you can't exchange it.

Emily: What? Love can't be exchanged for goods and services?

Sally: No...

Emily: Goddam.

Sally: In this household it can.

Emily: Oh, well thanks.

Sally: But not in the real world, cause it's a capitalist hellscape out there.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: What if we lived in a love-barter economy.

Emily: I'd do really poorly.

Sally: I mean, you said it.

Emily: Yeah, well, I'm the first to admit it.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: I know, I know I have issues. I don't love easily, why would I?

Sally: She doesn't even love me!

Emily: You're all strangers and I've been in the customer service industry too long; I don't trust you.

Sally: Okay.

Emily: Well, on that note.

Sally: That was a fun and happy thing that just happened.

Emily: [chuckles].

Sally: Um, on that note, this is the podcast.

Emily: [singing] this is the podcast, welcome to Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. We're your hosts, Emily Juchau...

Sally: [pause] and Sally Goodger.

Emily: Did you forget your name?

Sally: No, I was just, you're making a funny face.

Emily: I'm just kinda always am making funny faces. It's just what my face looks like.

Sally: [singing] we're trying.

Emily: [singing] we're trying and we're gonna jump right in to more Egwene, which is less painful than Perrin but still... sort of painful.

Sally: I just think that every interaction that Siuan Sanche has with a child should be illegal [laugh] so...

Emily: Should be monitored by the FBI.

Sally: Yeah, for -

Emily: And also -

Sally: Child abuse.

Emily: This scene where she's like, gazing out the window and she's like, "The only people I can trust in this entire skyscraper are these two pubescent girls and so I'm gonna have them literally go on a manhunt for thirteen evil people."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Murderers, literally. Thirteen serial murderers. Just - just, you know, chew on that.

Sally: Yeah, it's like, Egwene is seventeen.

Emily: Sixteen, I think.

Sally: Sixteen!

Emily: No, maybe Elayne is sixteen and Egwene is - I don't know. Egwene is - yeah.

Sally: Egwene is a baby, child baby.

Emily: Egwene is still an age that ends with -teen.

Sally: So, baby.

Emily: Yeah, and Nynaeve, um, is in her twenties, but pretty much acts like a thirteen-year-old, so clearly she's not really mature enough to be fighting crime.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We can all admit that, I think, and still appreciate Nynaeve as the beautiful character she is.

Sally: But she is an immature.

Emily: Yeah, she is not very - not very mature. Very brave.

Sally: Very beautiful.

Emily: Very beautiful, very powerful. She's just a muscly girl.

Sally: I know. Nynaeve - ah, I would love if Nynaeve was just, like, fucking shredded.

Emily: Yeah, oh my god.

Sally: In the adaptation they got, like, a body builder and she was just, like, fucking ripped.

Emily: She was just like, "Hello I'm here."

Sally: And she loves wearing -

Emily: It's Ronda Rousey.

Sally: Yes! And she's just in her slutty silky dresses and is like, "I'm gonna beat you the fuck up."

Emily: That would finally explain to me why she and Lan are a couple. Like, that would - that would do it for me.

Sally: [laugh] yeah. Muscle see muscle.

Emily: Like if they shared that interest.

Sally: [laugh] the CrossFit couple.

Emily: Anyway, anytime Siuan is doing her dumb monologuing out the window about how she can only trust girls, or whatever, I'm like - like, when I was a - the first time I read this, and probably even the second time I read this I was just, like, cool this.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Cause I was a teen myself and so I was like, yeah I don't really care what the excuse is, I just want these girls to get out of the nunnery and go, like, kick some ass.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And now I'm like, excuse me? This is awful.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: This is, like, super bad. This is a crime.

Sally: Yeah, the first time I read it I was twenty-three...

Emily: Oh.

Sally: So, there's no excuse. No, I'm not saying - I'm saying there's no excuse for me because I was also like, yeah the White Tower is super boring, I don't wanna see them go to classes for seven books like they did in Harry Potter. Like, I wanna go - it was fun when they were out, even though a bunch of traumatic things happen so I was also like, oh this is totally fine cause this is what needs to happen for the plot. And then you think about it for .5 seconds and you're like, no.

Emily: It's frustrating on a number of levels, because A. The only person - the only person in the entire series - I think I've talked about this before - who actually gets pissed about it is Gawyn.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'm like, I hate - I absolutely hate to be on Gawyn's side about literally anything.

Sally: Yeah [chuckles].

Emily: But fuck me, he's right.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: This was totally irresponsible and Sivan - did she deserve to get stilled and tortured? Absolutely not. Did she probably deserve to get, um, ousted from her political position?

Sally: Yes.

Emily: Probably. Like Sivan had a lot of fuck ups in these last few books. It's just bad.

Sally: Yeah, she's not great. Not great as a politician.

Emily: Yeah. Yeah, like it's so weird. It's - I have such a hard time, like, coming to terms with who Sivan is as a character because the majority of the books focus on her after she's been -

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Like, after she's had this traumatic thing happen to her, uh, and although she's had points of view before that, most of her points of view are after that, and so it's just, like, she's - she's not a totally different person, like she still has the same personality and mannerisms and everything, she just ends up in a totally different situation and it's like, a situation where she makes more sense.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Narratively speaking.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: These first few books that try to set her up as, like, this woman that all of our protagonists are just super afraid of and in awe of, it just, like, doesn't quite compute now that I, like, know...

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In a way.

Sally: No, I was thinking that I like - and like, like is such a terrible word to use because it doesn't - unless it's Gawyn who I hate, and that's a valid opinion, is hate.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like, like isn't necessarily the best way to form, like, an opinion of a character's arc but, like, I do like Sivan better - not after she's been stilled but after she's not the Amyrlin because she just, like, makes more sense as a character who's adjacent to power. Like, when she's able to basically be a spy master -

Emily: Yeah, and like Egwene's advisor.

Sally: [at the same time] and Egwene's advisor, yeah.

Emily: It's so much cooler.

Sally: It just, like, makes sense for her as a character.

Emily: It's like - I don't know, I think so much of that arc where, uh - what happens with the White tower is such, like, a cool scene and such, like, an interesting set piece in our precursor for what happens later in the books. It's just, like, really interesting what happens but it's, like, I've come - I'm coming to realize that, like, although what happens during and what happens after is really good, like, the before, the buildup to that, doesn't, like, quite work.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And - which of course affects everything that comes after. Like, the White Tower having a schism doesn't really, like, make as much sense as it should because most - our frame of reference for the White Tower is these girls who are in the White Tower for five minutes and then they leave again.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, even if they were there for a long time, you know, they're not politically savvy enough to pick up on this shit that's going on.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't - I don't know. It's just -

Sally: No, the breaking of the White Tower honestly didn't - I mean this is coming from me, who has zero brain for any type of plot, be it history or whatever, but, like, it never made a lot of sense to me, like, why it was happening. I was just sort of like, oh this is happening. And then in retrospect I, like, can't even remember, like, what caused it. It was just, like, okay.

Emily: Well, it's like, I think it's cool, A. Because of the Papal Schism.

Sally: [chuckles].

Emily: Actually, there were multiple Papal Schisms.

Sally: Emily, tell us about Papal Schisms.

Emily: I can't - there was one where, like, nine different people declared themselves Pope all at once -

Sally: Okay, but, like, imagine living in the time -

Emily: I know, imagine you're fourteenth century peasants and three separate dudes have declared themselves the Pope and you're just like, "What the fuck?"

Sally: "Fuck me, I'm the Pope too!"

Emily: "I can't even read, what's literacy?"

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "The printing press, who's that?"

Sally: Don't know her.

Emily: "I have the plague, I'm gonna die in two years."

Sally: I just think that European history -

Emily: Is whack.

Sally: For, like, five hundred years there, just, like, went off the rails.

Emily: Yeah, pretty much everything Charlemagne did was just, like, an acid trip that I had in AP European History class.

Sally: Charlemagne probably was on acid -

Emily: Yeah, I think so.

Sally: Which would explain the things he did.

Emily: Literally everyone in France was on acid.

Sally: I think that's still true.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: God bless em. Do we have any French listeners?

Sally: If you're out there, France, we love you!

Emily: I do. I always looked forward to learning about you in AP European History.

Sally: I know, it's cause you guys got the drama, and honestly -

Emily: Yeah, you guys are rolling in it, in terms of story.

Sally: Yeah, you guys are the real winners -

Emily: I mean...

Sally: You're like everyone's favorite gay uncle.

Emily: Yeah. Given, you're nothing to China, but... still good. That wasn't AP European History, though. China just has a really fascinating and dramatic history.

Sally: It's true. France has, just, the funny drama in history. China is like, okay let's get into that.

Emily: China is like, damn, damn, let's talk about that.

Sally: Now I just wanna read about French history.

Emily: So savage. Um, I was listening to a podcast all about how King Louis XIV - this is going to get a little graphic, guys.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: Don't - not graphic in the way you think. In a really gross way. He had a fistula, do you know what that is?

Sally: No.

Emily: It's basically... a butt owie.

Sally: Oh I do know what this is! Yes! [laugh] I can't believe that's how you described it.

Emily: I couldn't think of more clinical terms [laugh]. Butt Owie is gonna be the title of this podcast [laugh]. I haven't even gotten to the funny part of the story!

Sally: You did, the story's over [laugh].

Emily: No, there's more to the story.

Sally: Okay.

Emily: Um, everyone knew about it, and they had to - a guy had to perform surgery on it to get rid of it, but surgery wasn't a thing back in those days. Only, like - doctors weren't supposed to be surgery cause it was considered, like, unclean and gross and not a doctor thing. So, you had these gross barber surgeons who were just, like, dudes who liked cutting things with knives [laugh].

Sally: Gross.

Emily: Anyway, they hired a barber surgeon, but first he had to practice, so he, like, practiced on, like, a hundred and forty people before he did the surgery on King Louis. And then everyone found out about it and that's how fistulas became a fad.

Sally: What?

Emily: The French people were all like, "Yeah I have a fistula cause King Louis XIV had one."

Sally: That's ridiculous.

Emily: No, it's true.

Sally: No, that can't be.

Emily: Justin and Sydnee McElroy told me.

Sally: [at the same time] listen, I know I said France is dramatic but there's no way -

Emily: It happened!

Sally: It could be that dramatic. Who was like, "I have a fake butt owie cause the King does"?

Emily: "Operate on me doctor." And that's how France got kinky.

Sally: I feel like France was born kinky.

Emily: Yeah, I feel like you're right.

Sally: God was like, "And this is my kinky country" [laugh].

Emily: God was like, "And I'm just gonna put all the weird sex stuff right here."

Sally: Yeah, and Julius Caesar saw that and was like, "Want it."

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: And that's how he conquered Gaul.

Emily: [laugh].

Emily: [to the cat] hey, you've been so good. Don't come out.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: [to the cat] you're just gonna bother me.

Sally: Anyway, I can't believe this episode's -

Emily: I can't believe we got to this point. What were we talking about? Suan - oh! Um -

Sally: Let's go backwards -

Emily: Papal Schisms, that's how we got here.

Sally: Papal Schism, European history, the White Tower, Suan Sanche.

Emily: Uh, mostly what I like about that scene is always, like, the actual reading experience because it's a very, like, creepy -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, very well written sequence, in my opinion. Just like, Min running around having no idea what's going on and just, like, running around corners and various people, like, coming out of the woodwork, covered in blood, or whatever.

Sally: Yeah, I think it was a very smart narrative decision to have that come from Min's point of view.

Emily: Yeah, it's cool. But then - yeah, then the detriment is then, we don't really know what's going on.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I just don't know if he, like, was like, "I'm not gonna commit to the real political stuff until after it happens because it doesn't make sense for me to get really into the White Tower politics yet." And, you know, plus it's kind of like a historical thing, these things happen, and no one really knows why they happened.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just, like, bullshit politics.

Sally: Petty drama.

Emily: But then it's like, if you're gonna have Sivan be one of your main point of view characters, and I think she does, kind of, you know, promote herself to a - what's the - we have, like, God tier, that's the main six.

Sally: Oh, yeah.

Emily: And then, like, secondary tier.

Sally: Angel tier.

Emily: Anyway -

Sally: God tier, Angel tier.

Emily: Sivan's like a secondary tier character, like secondary to Egwene and a few other people. Um, anyway it's just like, when you have her point of view it, like, doesn't make sense that we don't get more context.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Except various people's grievances with her, where it's like, okay yeah, Gawyn.

Sally: Again, understandable. Unfortunately.

Emily: Yeah, but then no one else really reacts to it because the Aes Sedai theory is that if you're a woman and you've, I don't know, done two things with magic, then you're suddenly - it's so weird the, like, false dichotomy of how they treat Novices as child but then nobody is really upset about what happens here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And like, generally just like, the treatment of Novices in terms of, like, maturity.

Sally: Yeah, it's just very bizarre.

Emily: [sigh] one of those weird things.

Sally: I just don't - again, Sivan Sanche should not be allowed to speak to children.

Emily: I know, I'm just like, girl, stop.

Sally: Don't do it, you don't know how.

Emily: Girl, yeah, no. Anyway, we haven't been talking about the plot. The plot is that Egwene and Elayne are talking through their wall.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is, like, so gay. And then - [laugh].

Sally: Correct.

Emily: Egwene's like, "I don't know what's gonna happen, but I am not gonna get stilled. I'm gonna run away before that happens to me." And Elayne's like, "Yeah... will you teach me how to be a poor peasant?" And Egwene's like, "Yeah, sure I guess. Can't we go to your mom?" And Elayne's like, "No, I can't really rely on my mom to protect me, her child." Which is wild.

Sally: Elayne is dumb.

Emily: Elayne is literally the stupidest character of all time. I had a really savage burn on Elayne in my most recent blog, just so you know.

Sally: What'd you say?

Emily: Well I said I didn't like the insinuation that Elayne is - that when Elayne's pregnant she's emotionally unstable and unable to rule. I was like, don't get it twisted, Elayne was emotionally unstable long before she got pregnant.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Girl should not be running a country.

Sally: True.

Emily: Um, anyway, then they basically get taken to Sivan's office who, with Leane as witness is like, "Here's how we're gonna punish you: A. You are gonna get strapped."

Sally: Switched.

Emily: Switched, whatever. "You're gonna get switched a whole lot, you're gonna get spanked, whatever." Weird kinky White Tower [gag].

Sally: This is when the Pope was in France.

Emily: Yeah, this was -

Sally: [laugh] didn't that happen?

Emily: Yeah, that's one of the Papal Schisms.

Sally: Whoo! Cool, glad I remembered one thing.

Emily: Um, "Anyway you're gonna get switched, also we will just publicly humiliate you so everyone knows that this happened. And we're going to - you know, you have to work in the kitchens scrubbing pots for a little while. Is that cool with you Elayne, are you going to faint?" And Elayne's like, "Yes."

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Elayne's like, "Labor? I've never heard of her."

Sally: "I don't know how to do a pot."

Emily: [whining voice] "I don't know what that is."

Sally: "How do you clean a pot?"

Emily: Um -

Sally: Do you spit on it? [Laugh].

Emily: Gross. And Siuan's like, "And by the way, I have to raise you two as Accepted." And they're like, "Okay, well that doesn't really seem like a punishment" and she's like, "Sike, it is a punishment, cause being an Accepted sucks!" And Nynaeve in the background is like, "Yeah."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Yeah, it does."

Sally: It's like your Junior year of college [laugh].

Emily: It does suck. Um, and that's pretty much - that's it, for that chapter.

Sally: Yeah, it's a really weird chapter where Siuan's basically like, "Fuck you!"

Emily: "Fuck you!"

Sally: "Fucking perish, teens!"

Emily: Nynaeve's like, "We weren't runaways," and Siuan's like, "I don't care." Yeah, then Elayne leaves and Siuan's like, "Now I can truly speak my feelings to you two, my dearest confidants."

Sally: It's very weird.

Emily: "I've spoken to you once." The only conversation - I was just thinking this - the only conversation Siuan has with one of our main characters as the Amyrlin that, like, makes sense to me, like in terms of who she is afterwards, is the conversation she has with Mat right when he wakes up.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just, like, a very, like, Siuan and Mat conversation. They're funny characters together.

Sally: God, I love that Mat boy.

Emily: I do too.

Sally: Too bad they're just letting him linger in his disease.

Emily: His death bed, for god's sake.

Sally: They're like, "Eh, he'll be fine."

Emily: "He'll be fine, probably," and everyone's like, "No. Why - what are you talking about?"

Sally: Siuan's like, "I don't have the energy to think about a dying teenage boy, I have to look out this window for four minutes."

Emily: What is Siuan doing besides looking out windows?

Sally: [laugh] that's it.

Emily: Honestly. We don't see her doing any work.

Sally: That's all she does.

Emily: I don't wanna, like, get really savage on Siuan but what the fuck are you doing to, like, help the world? You know? She's just... sitting there, doing nonsense.

Sally: Looking through - waving through a window.

Emily: [singing] waving through a window. Um, so then...

Sally: She got distracted thinking of Dear Evan Hansen.

Emily: I was. I was thinking about Sincerely Me.

Sally: Yeah, [sings line from song while laughing].

Emily: That's such a funny song. Okay, um -

Sally: [singing] if I stop smoking pot - [laugh].

Emily: [singing] then everything will be alright.

Sally: [singing at the same time] will be alright. Smoking drugs... [laugh].

Emily: Shut up!

Sally: Stop this podcast and listen to that song, it's really funny.

Emily: Yeah. Don't listen to the rest of the soundtrack cause it kind of sucks, but -

Sally: My favorite line is: [singing] "Dude I'm proud of you". I think that was really off-tune.

Emily: That was great.

Sally: It wasn't, but I appreciate the compliment, Emily.

Emily: It was beautiful. Um -

Sally: I'm a good singer [laugh].

Emily: [slurring words] I'm a good singer.

Sally: [slurs something].

Emily: Shakira Shakira.

Sally: [singing] oh baby when you talk like that - why did this become a musical podcast?

Emily: I don't know -

Sally: When did that start?

Emily: what the fuck is happening with us right now.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: I don't know what led to this energy, I don't know why we're here, we just had a normal day. What's happening? Oh god, he's so stupid, there he goes.

Sally: [singing softly] there she goes...

Emily: Stop! We have to stop singing.

Sally: [singing] there she goes again -

Emily: NO SINGING AT THE DINNER TABLE!

Sally: [laugh] we're gonna have to make a rule.

Emily: Yeah, no -

Sally: No singing at the dinner table?

Emily: Yeah. Not that we eat dinner here, usually.

Sally: That would be so sad - I mean sometimes I do, I usually eat on the couch after kicking my cat in the head.

Emily: [laugh].

Sally: He keeps trying to eat my sandwich.

Emily: Bah! Okay, so after Suan's like, "Here you are, my two most trusted confidants. What I'm actually going to do is have you hunt the Black - first Nynaeve's like, "Listen, we only got tricked by Liandrin because she is Black Ajah." And Suan's like, "Do you think I'm stupid? I fucking know that. As soon as she and twelve other people murdered and left the tower, I knew they were Black Ajah." And it's like, Suan you could have known earlier.

Sally: If you were doing anything besides [whispers] looking out your window.

Emily: Yeah, and also if you just trusted any instinct that you had. Liandrin is the skeeziest character of all time.

Sally: Right? I'm just saying, there's a serial killer radar and Liandrin checks all the boxes.

Emily: Yeah, she does. She do.

Sally: She just gives off that - she gives the heebie-jeebies. She's got nothing else to give.

Emily: Yeah. What?

Sally: [laugh] it's from that Troubled Birds book.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: It's like, "I gave them the heebie-jeebies, I have nothing else to give." [Laugh] that's Liandrin.

Emily: Yeah. Liandrin in the worst. And Siuan's just like, "Yeah, I just let her do her thing and KIDNAP you guys." It's just like, I'm gonna blame it all on you. But like, I also could have been a little bit responsible, consider that.

Sally: Yes, be responsible for the people under your... Vatican.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Anyway, she's all like - it's so weird cause she doesn't phrase it like a request. She's like, "I'm gonna have you do this thing where I'm gonna give you the list of names and a list of the items that were stolen and I want you guys to hunt these women." And it's like, that's such a nebulous term.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, this isn't, um, this isn't 2019, they can't just do PI work, you know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: There's no paper trail for them to follow. How the fuck are you gonna find these people?

Sally: Can't track their credit card info.

Emily: Yeah, and it's like, Siuan, what makes you think that if you can't do something, like, these two girls can?

Sally: She's like, "No one will suspect you." And I'm like, that doesn't mean they're gonna be effective.

Emily: Yeah, that's not the main issue.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Whether or not someone suspects them is beside the point. You have this army of - her whole thing is like, "I can't really trust anyone." And it's, like, ironic because a few of the people she lists, she's like, "I can probably trust Sheriam." You can't trust Sheriam, actually. You can't - well, you can technically trust Verin, but she also is technically Black Ajah, so like, um, I don't - I just don't know. Like, I can see how you would get to this weird headspace of, like, paranoia and like, "I literally can't trust anyone." I mean, that would maybe be where you'd go after a mass murder in your...

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Vatican. But also, it's just, so the solution you reach is...

Sally: Children?

Emily: Children? Young - really young women, untrained women?

Sally: Yeah, and it's got this weird innocence aspect to it, you know?

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Where it's like, they're young - I think innocence like William Blake's innocence versus experience -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Path that apparently all of us are on.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Which is like, William stop smoking drugs in your garden [laugh]. I love William Blake so much, what a crazy lunatic.

Emily: I know, he was a crazy lunatic, though.

Sally: But yeah this idea that their innocence is - and it's not just because they're young. Their innocence is assumed for a variety of reasons.

Emily: Yeah, they're all virgins, for one thing.

Sally: That's also true. Sivan was like, "Gotta perform the virginity test," which isn't even a real thing.

Emily: [gagging].

Sally: Please don't ever - we don't have time to do sex ed on EHR -

Emily: [laugh].

Sally: But the hymen is not an indicator of virginity.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: If I hear that one more time I'm gonna [smacking sound] clock ya, right in the orbital bone.

Emily: Right.

Sally: Right here.

Emily: With ya.

Sally: Just -

Emily: I know what the orbital bone was when you told it...

Sally: That's cause you're good at anatomy. You've been listening to Sawbones with Justin and Sydnee McElroy [laugh].

Emily: I listen to Sawbones with Justin and Sydnee McElroy, and Justin plays dumb on a lot of things, and it's, like, shocking how often I'm right there with him. Not playing dumb, just being dumb.

Sally: Yeah, I don't know how medicine works.

Emily: Yeah, me neither. I'm like, what the fuck? What the fuckening?

Sally: What the hap is fuckening?

Emily: Yeah, so there's, like, this weird - like, it all works in terms of a hero's journey. You know, like having an older mentor figure who, like, sends you out into the world. And, yeah, you're kind of like entrusted because they're young and innocent, like, there's sort of just this assumption that you'll be fine.

Sally: Yeah, or that you're somehow resistant to corruption.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Like you haven't had enough life experience to be corrupted, and therefore, like, your innocence and therefore your goodness, is ensured.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: It's a very interesting sort of implication in the hero's journey that I don't think people talk about enough.

Emily: Yeah. It's just - I don't know, innocence is such, like, a weird, like, power to, like -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Label any of your heroes with. It's like I think of The Chronicles of Narnia, that's like, here are the Pevensie children and they're all so innocent and pure. And it's like, no one of them was, like, you know, the symbolic representation of Judas. So it's like -

Sally: Yeah, I'll sell my chil - my children - my brothers for some Turkish delight.

Emily: Yeah, I'll sell my siblings for -

Sally: There's four of them, right?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Why did I think there were six for a second?

Emily: Whoa.

Sally: That was weird. I don't know I think I'm thinking of The Umbrella Academy to be honest [laugh].

Emily: Well... sort of Narnia. Anyway, it's just like, children - it's, I don't know, it speaks to a larger societal problem where we're like, teenagers, um, and children, you know, are - ugh, I don't know, you have to protect things in teenagers and children. You have to protect quote-on-quote their innocence but really what we're protecting them from is, like, having to do things that they shouldn't have to do.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Before you're an adult. And it's, like - but that doesn't mean that children and teenagers are necessarily - that we should put them on a pedestal of being paragons of moral virtue.

Sally: Yeah, because they're children.

Emily: Yeah, they're little people.

Sally: Like, what do they know? They don't know how the world works they can't -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: You know - not saying you can't have evil children, I don't know - it's a ridiculous moral conversation that we're having.

Emily: This is - who cares.

Sally: But yeah, you shouldn't just assume - you shouldn't put anybody on a pedestal. I think you've talked about that before, how putting someone on a pedestal is akin to torture because both of them remove agency.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Completely from the person involved.

Emily: It's just... bad.

Sally: So anyway, I just - and I just - like genre is a whole thing and there's a really interesting conversation going on about the Young Adult genre and how it's, like, skewing towards adult themes and adult content, while still having the children, the characters we aged as if they are young adults, like sixteen, seventeen. And that's, like, a really interesting conversation about where we draw the line between, like, Young Adult - because there's this new genre, New Adult or something like that, that's meant to be this, sort of, middle space. That like, I think, really is the publishers that are hesitant to, like, try and market and publish a new genre, so they're just sticking things in YA that shouldn't be there.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: [sigh] I don't know how I got on this subject of, um, publishing but it's just, like - I'm tired of seeing - sorry, Emily's punishing the cat, so I guess I should not make my full point fully - what? - until she can respond to it. He's in my room trying to climb the blinds, because he's a little fuck.

[Emily walking back]

Sally: But the end of my thought is that I just wish we could let the seventeen-year-old kids in these stories just go to high school and not have to save the world.

Emily: Yeah, like it's not a very fun story, to have Egwene stay in the White Tower and finish her education -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it's what she deserves.

Sally: It does - it is what she deserves.

Emily: Especially after the, like, horrible trauma, what happened to her in book two. And it's like, this weird thing of, in the hero's journey this mentor asking them to do this would be like, the first major step into the outside world.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know? Um, but instead that narrative is kind of ruined because they've already had this happen to them.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: And then, like, that turned out terribly. When I think about it this exact same thing happened, like, literally the last book. Liandrin was like, "You fools, that Black Ajah are everywhere and you need to come with me or -"

Sally: Or they'll eat you!

Emily: Yeah, or they'll eat you, or whatever.

Sally: [to the cat] hey could you be normal? Our cat is trying to hit Emily in the nose.

Emily: Thank you.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: [whispers] thank you, what's happening?

Sally: You guys, I can't wait for my exhibition that's just photos of Emily holding Tybalt.

Emily: [to the cat] withdraw your claws!

Sally: They're all so good.

Emily: [kissing noises].

Sally: Emily you look very pretty today.

Emily: Thank you.

Sally: So yeah, it did go very poorly when Liandrin was like, "Fly you fools!"

Emily: Yeah, it's just like, I just - like, I just don't even know what to say about this. It's just like Robert Jordan wrote himself into a corner here.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it happens, I guess.

Sally: Yeah. It's just, like, I wish they just, would not have returned - like, I know Mat had to go to the White Tower -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But it's like, I wish the girls would have sort of just skirted this weird point where they're there and just, like, continued.

Emily: Yeah, where they're there and they need to pick up some knowledge, like -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Egwene gets the ring.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The Ter'angreal ring. And it's like, this gives them, like, a purpose to be doing stuff and to, like, have a separate agenda from the boys but it's like, then it feels like a secondary agenda, you know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When I just want them to be involved in the portray plot.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: So... but then again, if we didn't have this we wouldn't have Mat literally running through the streets of Tear being like, "I have to rescue some girls!"

Sally: Yeah. "Have you seen my girls?"

Emily: "Have you seen my girls?"

Sally: "There's three of them."

Emily: "Have you seen my dad?"

Sally: "Have you seen my dad?"

Emily: Um -

Sally: No, I haven't seen Chris in a while, how is he?

Emily: he's okay, I think. I don't know.

Sally: Is he stressed?

Emily: Probably.

Sally: It's tax season.

Emily: Well, he's not really an accountant anymore. Oh -

Sally: I mean, I know, it's just, like, it's stressing me out.

Emily: Yeah, me too.

Sally: I probably have to pay a bunch of taxes.

Emily: Ah, now I have to think about that! Fuck.

Sally: Remember - if you're in the United States remember to pay your taxes by April 15th!

Emily: [sobbing sounds]

Sally: It's tax day! What else could be stressing Chris out?

Emily: Um...

Sally: The environment?

Emily: No.

Sally: [bursts out laughing].

Emily: Unlikely. He's stupid that way.

Sally: Okay, what else is there to say? Siuan is a bad mentor.

Emily: [snort] Siuan is a terrible manager and, yeah, Elayne is, like, not included in this cause she's like, "I don't wanna piss off Morgase." But then five minutes later when they're, like, "Yeah, so we looped Elayne in," Siuan is like, "Okay."

Sally: Yeah, they give - Siuan gives them these magic hall passes.

Emily: Oh my god, that's so true.

Sally: That can, like, get them wherever they need to go.

Emily: What happens to these? They give one to Mat -

Sally: Which is SO funny!

Emily: And then they take - I know. He's like -

Sally: Imagine giving Mat the key to the city [laugh].

Emily: He's like, "What the fuck have you done?"

Sally: Even Mat's like, "Don't give this to me."

Emily: Mat's like, "This is too much power, you know I'll abuse this."

Sally: No one man should have all that power.

Both: [laugh].

Emily: Then they take it back from him in book four.

Sally: [whispers] oh yeah, poor Mat.

Emily: And then I think they - what happens to this?

Sally: I think at some point they don't - they don't need use them anymore.

Emily: Yeah, it's like - they're like, "We just -" You know...

Sally: "Now we just punch people."

Emily: "Now we just talk our way into every situation. We're like, we're Aes Sedai, look we have the rings." And everyone's like, "You're not Aes Sedai," and they're like, "But we also have the arrogance." And they're like, "Oh, you are Aes Sedai."

Sally: I was so foolish.

Emily: Wow.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Wooow.

Sally: Wooooooow.

Emily: Anyway, yeah, this magical hall pass is [whispers] really hilarious.

Sally: I know, it's like, do whatever the fuck you want!

Emily: It's also, like, another, like, hero journeys thing of, like, the mentor giving them a sort of totem or, like, something to help them on their journeys.

Sally: Like a... magical item.

Emily: Yeah, you always get a few things to help you as you go. And it's just, like, this sequence is so extended when in a - you know, in a children's novel it would be about two pages.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Sivan hands them the hall pass, Verin hands them the ring, whatever they need -

Sally: And then be like, "Alright."

Emily: They get their Accepted rings and off they go.

Sally: And off they go, yeah. And it is, like, in terms of the hero's journey you think of all the boys get weapons -

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: And the girls get tools, and that's again, this interesting gender dynamic.

Emily: [at the same time] dynamic, yeah.

Sally: That's happening.

Emily: I know, we should have a whole episode where we talk about their various - like, the things that they get.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That are, like, their symbols.

Sally: We should do that.

Emily: Yeah, we should.

Sally: When we need a break from *Dragon Reborn* analysis, we'll -

Emily: Seems unlikely, I fucking love *The Dragon Reborn*.

Sally: I know, that's - maybe when we need a break from *The Shadow Rising* analysis.

Emily: Oh god! That would fit, actually, cause that's when Mat gets his weapon.

Sally: Yeah, and that's when - yeah. Um, we'll stick it in the middle of that insufferably long Perrin sequence where Perrin's like, "Ugh, my whole family died, but I got married, and I'm the ruler of this weird little village."

Emily: And Verin's like, "Okay, this might as well happen."

Sally: Yeah. And it just takes about 700 pages too long.

Emily: I know!

Sally: So... anyway, yeah. So, then the girls are off to their studies, sort of.

Emily: Yeah, I think when we pick up next week they'll have - like all - it's so weird cause this takes so long but it also all happens to fast.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In terms of, it all happens in basically the same day, you know. They're gonna be going back to their dorm and then they almost get assassinated by a Gray Man.

Sally: Oh yeah!

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Every time I hear a Gray Man, I think of Mr. Gray in the Raven Cycle.

Emily: Oh!

Sally: I mean they're basically the same characters.

Emily: What is it with gray and being assassins... I don't know, must be some mythological context to that.

Sally: I'd have to think about that.

Emily: Yeah, I'll have to look it up.

Sally: Do some googling, Emily.

Emily: Okay. Then they, uh, chat with Elaida, and then they're like, "Okay and now let's watch Mat get healed." And then, like, that's all one day!

Sally: At least Mat gets healed that day.

Emily: Yeah, finally.

Sally: Jesus Christ.

Emily: Yeah, Nynaeve's like, "How's Mat doing? Does he have time?" And Sivan's like, "No, he's dying. Get the fuck out of my office." And Nynaeve's like, "Okay..."

Sally: "Are you gonna do anything about that?" And Sivan's like, "No I have to look out this window."

Emily: Sivan's like, "No, I'm super busy being angsty."

Sally: [laugh] I mean, as Hamlet will tell you, angst is a full-time job.

Emily: Yeah. Clearly.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Angst and non-productivity go hand in hand, as we know. Anyway, it's kind of, like - it's a short couple of chapters -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And not much happens but it's, like, important.

Sally: But we still managed to talk about it for forty minutes!

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Mostly we talked about... [laugh]

Emily: The Papal Schism and King Louis' butt oweie.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: You're welcome.

Sally: I'm... not thankful.

Emily: Yeah, now you have to think about that for the rest of your life.

Sally: I won't.

Emily: Okay, well. Um -

Sally: I have no memory, I'm like a goldfish.

Emily: Do you have any housekeeping besides what we said at the top?

Sally: Oh, I just want to say thank you to Al and Rob who answered the call last week and gave us some amazing -

Emily: Oh yeah, so good.

Sally: Larry the Good Trolloc art.

Emily: Oh man.

Sally: Which I love. Um -

Emily: Iconic.

Sally: Yeah, so good. Oh, and I also wanted to give a thank you to our new February and March patrons. Uh, it's only March 6th but we do have a new one, so shout out to you Sarah.

Emily: Oh yeah!

Sally: And Sam and Peter and Ethan, who supported us on Patreon in February. And hopefully continue, not just February, but -

Emily: I mean, if you can just do February, we accept that.

Sally: We do accept that! We will accept -

Emily: Yeah, it's okay.

Sally: [whispers] anything.

Emily: Yeah, any help you can give us.

Sally: Any help you can give us. And a new feature of our sign offs, thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our wonderful new theme song!

Emily: Yeah, this has been EHR Podcast. Sign us off.

Sally: Um, today one of my coworkers - he used to work at the one and only theme park in Utah. Yeah, the infamous Lagoon.

Emily: No.

Sally: He was a head - he was in charge of food services for sixteen years, so he saw some shit.

Emily: Nooo.

Sally: And I was like, Jeff give me a horror story. And he was like -

Emily: Oh, of course this is Jeff.

Sally: Yeah, I know right.

Emily: I love Jeff.

Sally: Jeff is [laugh] amazing. And Jess was like - um there are so many to pick from I don't even know which one to choose right now.

Emily: Tell me.

Sally: But Jeff was like, one time there was something called nipple whip.

Emily: What?

Sally: Which is like the Watergate of [laughs] - where he walked in and a teenager just had her, like, full titty out. And there was like, whipped cream on her nipple. And Jeff had to be like, "Button up, come with me, you're fired."

Emily: This was an employee???

Sally: Yeah! It was one of the teens [laugh].

Emily: I thought you meant just, like, a customer person!

Sally: [laugh] no.

Emily: Some rando in Lagoon.

Sally: Just, like, in the break room or whatever.

Emily: Oh my god.

Sally: Yeah, Lagoon is a fucking nightmare.

Emily: Nipple whip.

Sally: Nipple whip, like Watergate.

Emily: My god.

Sally: It was Nipple whip.

Emily: Wow, enjoy - wow.

Sally: What a weird episode this has been.

Emily: Yeah, okay. See you next week.

Sally: Thanks for tuning in, bye!

Emily: Bye.

