



Episode 58 - “**Butterfingers**”

Running time: 46 minutes

Release date: March 18, 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: Anyway, that was an interesting cold opening, who knows if we'll keep that in, but welcome to Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: And I'm Sally Goodger!

Emily: Welcome to our very professionally opened podcast.

Sally: [chuckles] hell yeah.

Emily: We're not immediately gonna talk about anyone's sexual activities in this podcast, [laugh] maybe we'll get into that later. But that will NOT be our cold open.

Sally: Will not be. I mean, it should be. No, it shouldn't be cause then people will talk to me on Twitter. Also, new EHR policy, if you bring up Tylen on our Twitter you are legally obligated to give us \$10, so.

Emily: Oh, Tylen?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I thought you said Thailand and I was like -

Sally: No, Thailand is pleasant and delightful.

Emily: Yeah, I'd love to hear about Thailand, have you been there? I'd like to hear about it.

Sally: Yeah, tell us about Thailand.

Emily: Do you have any historical knowledge about it? I would also like to know that because I know nothing about Thailand's history.

Sally: Yeah, me too.

Emily: Anyway, Tylen, yeah. You should need to pay us \$10 cause I don't wanna hear about her. Especially if you're not just like, "She's a rapist and I hate her."

Sally: Yeah, if you wanna come on and be like, "She's a rapist and I hate her", I'll give *you* \$10 [laugh].

Emily: We will - we will start a fund of people paying us \$10 for having dumb opinions about Tylen and then we'll fund them back to the people who have the correct opinion about Tylen.

Sally: Correct.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: There's gonna be a Tylen barter economy.

Both: [laugh].

Sally: Okay -

Emily: We're here because we completely panicked.

Sally: Yeah, this episode is gonna have a weird energy too.

Emily: We were going over weekly schedule and realized Sally's gonna be gone for the last couple of days and my work schedule is whack so, this is the only time we have to record in the hour before we go see Captain Marvel.

Sally: Yeah. Hmm -

Emily: Actually, we have a lot of time, it's not 'til eight.

Sally: But yeah, so, very professional here. Emily did read the chapters, I didn't. Nor did I read the chapters summaries; I took a selfie -

Emily: Read - read is a generous word, I skimmed. Um, you took selfie? That's nice -

Sally: I took a selfie of you and us, it's on our Instagram [laugh]. Um, you guys should follow us on Instagram, cause *I* think I'm pretty funny on Instagram story, whether or not anybody else agrees is -

Emily: I'm completely unaware of Sally posting pictures of me on Instagram that I'm like -

Sally:

Emily: Oh, on our story? Especially the story, I have no idea. I have no idea how, um, messages - the Instagram story works and when people reply, how do you see that? It was like, you sent me a couple of - you sent me, like, a screenshot showing two people's replies to your story a little while ago and it was like, "How should I respond to these?" And one of them I was kind of confused by, cause I, like, didn't really understand your question, that it was -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Comments or questions, so I was like, well is the end of the question somewhere?

Sally: [chuckles].

Emily: So, I spent about five minutes going on Instagram trying to figure out how *I* could see that screen, and I couldn't.

Sally: [laughing in the background].

Emily: I was like - it was like being - this must be what it's like to be a seventy-year-old trying to navigate the Wi-Fi. I was like, what the - oh my god, oh my god. My grandparents have an Alexa.

Sally: No!

Emily: It is so funny. Have you seen that SNL sketch about old people and Alexa?

Sally: No.

Emily: It's super funny, they always call her, like, different names than Alexa, that are, like, vaguely, you know, in the same -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And they just have the dumbest questions. Anyway, my grandparents - that is my grandparents. At one point my grandpa was talking about, um, when - about the Nicene Creed and when the Eastern Orthodox Catholic Church separated from the Roman Catholic Church.

Sally: Casual stuff to be talking about with your grandfather.

Emily: He was talking about it with my uncle and I was sort of listening in. He was like, basically going through all - my grandpa does this, if he gets on a historical topic, he feels the need to explain all the historical context and what followed, cause he was a professor, although not of history. But that's, yeah, the excuse I've made up for him.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, it was really hilarious cause he was getting 80% of history wrong, but also at one point he was like, "Emily look up on your thing - he always calls it my thing, it's my phone. Google. Siri. He was like, "Ask your thing when the Eastern Orthodox Church separated from the Roman Catholic. I think it was, you know, 1055 or something." And I'm like, eh that sounds familiar, and I'm like slowly googling

it but getting distracted and at one point he was like, "Have you found it yet or should I ask Alexa?" And I was like, no, no, no, no -

Sally: I've got it, I've got it!

Emily: I was like, I've got it, it was 1054. You're fine.

Sally: You nailed it grandpa.

Emily: Anyway... um, Alexa is terrifying, actually.

Sally: I know, Perry and Melissa have three.

Emily: They have three Alexas??

Sally: They have Alexas and like, an Echo Dot.

Emily: I don't like it.

Sally: I know, it's the worst.

Emily: It really freaks me out.

Sally: I don't like it either, because the government is listening.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Anyway, I'll show you how to use Instagram because I think, when I go to Austin you should do a social media takeover.

Emily: Oh, is that what you want? Okay, I better read Dune this week.

Sally: You don't *have to* I just think it'll be fun.

Emily: [at the same time] no, it'll be fun. And it'll give you a break, so you don't have to worry -

Sally: Yeah, not that I don't love you guys, you just keep talking about Tylen on our Twitter and NOT giving me \$10.

Emily: Let me make this very clear - this is going to come out after this weekend, so I'll have already been very clear. If you say bullshit about Tylen I will just block you.

Sally: Yeah, and she'll let you know.

Emily: I'll let you know. Blocked. That I blocked you.

Sally: Blocked and reported [laugh].

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Just start reporting people [laugh].

Emily: I don't like this.

Sally: Hello Twitter, I don't like this.

Emily: [laugh] I don't like this, this person is stupid.

Sally: Okay... so anyway, look forward to - like Emily said, it will have come out after - we're recording on March 11th, which is when episode 57 came out, because this week is fucked.

Emily: [groans].

Sally: So, if stuff happens this week, apologies that we're not addressing it, but if you haven't already, follow us on social media cause that's where Emily will be hanging out for the next few days.

Emily: Hell yeah. Um, okay -

Sally: And doing a really good job, cause she's funny.

Emily: Fewer Instagram stories probably, because it never occurs to me to take a picture.

Sally: I think they're fun. I probably post Instagram stories way too much.

Emily: [at the same time] I think they *are* fun. I always see your Instagram stories and I'm like, this is fun and clever and cute, and I'm like how - what - it would just seriously never occur to me to do it.

Sally: I just like our social media so much.

Emily: You're so cute. Okay, we have to talk about -

Sally: [at the same time] Yeah, let's talk about this book.

Emily: These fucking chapters. Ugh!

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: This is the last week before we get a Mat point of view. We can do it.

Sally: We should relish in it for a second, because our world's about to be forever changed.

Emily: What, have a moment of silence?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Maybe next week, between - we have an Egwene point of view and then a moment of silence and then Mat point of view.

Sally: We should do a full minute. Everyone observe a moment of silence [laugh]. So, prepare to sit for that moment of silence.

Emily: Or fast forward through it. That's your -

Sally: No.

Emily: Oh yeah, you have to sit.

Sally: I'll know.

Both: [laugh].

Sally: I'm the Alexa listening in your phone.

Emily: [screech].

Sally: Okay, Emily tell me what happens in these chapters.

Emily: Okay, so first there's a chapter where Egwene and Nynaeve are leaving Sivan's study and they're, like, chatting. It's a very weird, actually, conversation cause Egwene is still kind of taking on this role of younger woman looking to older woman for reassurance and, like, knowledge. And it's just so weird, kind of, cause where I'm at in the series, actually reading, like, Egwene would never do that. And it would not have occurred to her to do that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's, I guess, so wild to me that we are, like - we kind of, are vacillating in these chapters between insecure Egwene and wildly secure Egwene.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So, uh, that's a bit of a weird thing going on. But Nynaeve is like, "Ugh, just shut up and let me think. Cause this is so bizarre and there's so much going on and Sivan's telling us everything and der der der der der, we're in danger, clearly." Egwene is just like, "We're in danger, danger."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Nynaeve is like, "I agree, but it's also - Egwene is like, "Are you serious that if we get attacked, you're not gonna kill people with the one power?" And Nynaeve's like, "Yeah, I meant it. Like, I'm gonna try and do this cause it's really important to me that I'm here and, like, learning and becoming Aes Sedai." And Egwene is like, "What? Since when is that important to you?"

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Literally, never heard of her.

Sally: Yeah, who?

Emily: And it's like, now Nynaeve has some mysterious reason and it's just, like, a little bit weird because it's like, is Egwene just now, kind of, catching on to the fact - is cottoning on offensive?

Sally: Uh...

Emily: Okay, I have no idea. Okay we just had a sidebar about the phrase 'cotton on' because we didn't know if it was offensive or not. I think I've concluded that it's too obscure to be offensive, but still probably gonna avoid using it just in case.

Sally: Who's to say?

Emily: Um, anyway, it's like Egwene's just catching on to the fact that Nynaeve has ulterior motives, kind of, for coming to the White Tower.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: In terms of her being like, "I wanna kick Moiraine's ass." Which is, to begin with, a weird -

Sally: I know.

Emily: Ulterior motive.

Sally: But isn't it hilarious?

Emily: It's deeply hilarious.

Sally: I know it's super weird, and petty, but it's also like -

Emily: It doesn't bother me that it's petty, what kind of bothers me is that it's just, like, never resolved in an interesting way.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I feel like Nynaeve - well I don't know. I need to reread the fourteenth book again, I think. Cause Nynaeve and Moiraine's relationship sort of gets cut off, you know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, they don't see each other after book four, and then Moiraine quote-on-quote dies, and then I guess Moiraine comes back in book fourteen and then... maybe they have an interesting chat, and I just can't remember it, but -

Sally: I don't know.

Emily: It's just too long to go without a resolution.

Sally: Yeah, you right.

Emily: Which I'll talk about regarding a different plot line in a minute. So, they're just kind of walking back to Egwene's rooms, they're looking for Elayne, and Nynaeve's like, "Let's just go back to my room or let's try and find Elayne or wait for her there." And then, Egwene just happens to grab Nynaeve to like, stop her and be like, "No, talk to me," and a crossbow bolt just nicks Egwene's ear in passing. And then Nynaeve, like a badass, just dives and takes Egwene with her cause she's cool and when bullets start flying, she is like, "Heads up motherfuckers." Uh, so then they're like, "Oh fuck," and Nynaeve, like, can't see the person but she wraps them in air, so they can just saunter over and look at them. But then, uh, what's this? The man is there but he's already been stabbed. Like, so he - like, he was caught by Nynaeve mid-run, so clearly he wasn't dead before he started running, and then someone came up and stabbed him to kill him so they couldn't question him.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: So, it's this creepy murder Agatha Christie scene going on here.

Sally: Yeah. *And Then There Were None*.

Emily: Yeah, and they're just like, "What the fuckening?" And then Sheriam comes up and is like -

Sally: That's not shady.

Emily: Yeah, it's [high pitched voice] super shady.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: [high pitched voice] it's, like, ridiculously shady. Especially when you find out in, like, twelve books that Sheriam is actually Black Ajah, so it's like, clearly, she was behind this.

Sally: Yeah, natch.

Emily: Yeah, natch. She was just, like, "I'll just stab this motherfucker."

Sally: "I guess I'll just kill this fuck-head."

Emily: And it's just, like, this super suspicious thing and it's just this weird moment where, I think, probably in this book, they're like, "Oh even Sheriam could be Black Ajah."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And this particular event is suspicious but then, through the next books, no one ever really worries about it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then, you know, when it comes out Sheriam's Black Ajah, everyone's just kind of like, "Eh, da da da da da." And I'm like, no if you're gonna have this incredibly - this is a fun staged scene.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like a murder mystery setup. And so, it's just frustrating to me that this happens and then in a few chapters they leave the White Tower and there's no resolution to this.

Sally: Yeah, they're like, "Who killed that guy?"

Emily: "Who killed that guy? I don't know but we're in danger so we've gotta stay on our toes." Like, Robert Jordan I feel, just uses the Gray Men specifically because they're these assassins that can basically appear out of nowhere -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, you know, kill someone and just, no one notices them. And I feel like he uses them as, like, plot devices to make sure that a boring scene, there's a threat.

Sally: [dramatically] da da da da!

Emily: Like, if someone's gone - if Mat's gone too long without someone trying to kill him then he throws in a Gray Man. And it's like, there's not really a point to that. Like, if you can't give people actual motives...

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Then I don't wanna read about it, I guess.

Sally: Yeah, the Gray Men are kind of exhausting as a plot device.

Emily: Yeah, which is maybe why, like - I guess it's kind of a high fantasy trope that, like, if you have your protagonist doing something, then eventually, like, the way fantasy kind of works is, you go through stages of - someone's actively trying to kill our protagonist, then for a while there's a rest, and then someone's actively trying to kill our protagonist.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like he bought too much into that, in terms of, "Oh well, if I go too long - like, someone always has to be trying to kill someone.

Sally: Yeah, and like, we've talked about this on this podcast before, I believe. But, like, in the context of my *Lord of the Rings* class - have you missed it? It hasn't come up in a few of episodes but here is it again.

Emily: [laugh].

Sally: Talked about the period of like - and this isn't just for fantasy, like, good fiction should rest on periods of, like, tension - it's like, stress and rest.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Tension and release, kind of, so it's like, yeah there should be these beat scenes, but it shouldn't always just be, like, murder...?

Emily: Well, it shouldn't be your plot device but if you're like, oh I've been in a rest too long, I now need another moment of tension - like, I feel like what writers struggle with the most is, uh - you read a lot of books where it's clear the writers are struggling to find periods of rest -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or, like, they can't write rests in a natural way, like, they always - like, read any James Patterson book, this is what people do. They just can't figure out a way to give our protagonists a break.

Sally: Yeah, yeah.

Emily: And it becomes really exhausting to read, but it's like, the opposite problem here, where Robert Jordan's just like, "Oh, yeah, I need to heighten the tension a little bit, so I'll just, like, I don't know, have a weird assassin come and then disappear and then it's never commented on again."

Sally: And then everyone's like, "Yeah, no big deal."

Emily: It's like... no...

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, there's enough tension going on here that - without a murder. Like, I don't know, I've been with Egwene this long, I'm gonna stick it out until something else that I actually care about happens.

Sally: Until three chapters from now when Mat's on the page.

Emily: Yeah, or when they walk in and Galad's there and they're just, like, "Oh my god he's so hot." And that's hilarious, and I'll read anything to get to that [laugh].

Sally: Oh, honestly every scene where the girls are just like, "Ugh -

Emily: I know

Sally: "He's so hot."

Emily: "He's so fucking hot."

Sally: Good for him.

Emily: I know.

Sally: I know Galad is an actual dipshit...

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: But I love him [chuckle].

Emily: Yeah, definition. He's so stupid.

Sally: I know he's dumb and doesn't exercise any type of critical thought, but -

Emily: Uh-uh.

Sally: He's pretty, so...

Emily: Yeah, it's kind of nice to see that from a male character.

Sally: I know.

Emily: He's pretty but stupid and I wish he'd own that more.

Sally: I know!

Emily: Instead of being like, he's pretty but ethically he just doesn't really know what he's doing.

Sally: I know, I wish Elayne was just like, "My brother is really hot and really dumb."

Emily: Yeah, and I wish everyone was just like, "He's very pretty and very stupid."

Sally: Yeah, I feel like if that was the rhetoric around Galad, there was like 100% chance increase that he and Mat end up together [laugh].

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: Mat's like, "This is my idiot boyfriend."

Emily: "This is my stupid boyfriend."

Sally: "And I love him" [laugh].

Emily: He has the same energy of, um, Paul Rudd in Parks and Rec.

Sally: Oh yeah [laugh].

Emily: What's that guy's name? The politician who's just, like, beautiful and kind of charming, but so stupid?

Sally: Yeah, he's exactly that.

Emily: It's like, Bobby Newport.

Sally: Yeah, Bobby Newport!

Emily: "Bobby Newport never had a real job in his life," [laugh]. That's Galad.

Sally: That's - absolutely.

Emily: Galad Damodred never had a real job in his life.

Sally: It's true.

Emily: Yeah, until he got indoctrinated into Christian terrorism. Anyway... [laugh]. Sally just gazed off into the abyss.

Sally: But look at that butt though!

Emily: Look at that butt though! We said his butt flag is the peach emoji, right?

Sally: Yeah [laugh]. I was thinking about that episode the other day. What's made me laugh the hardest? It might be the butt flag.

Emily: That was a good episode. Um, yeah so there's this whole Gray Man drama, and it's exacerbated by Sheriam being literally the most suspicious a person can be.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Nynaeve's like, "Wow she didn't even question how that dude got stabbed."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like, cause she stabbed him, motherfucker. What are you -

Sally: She's like, "Oh no!"

Emily: And she's like, "Don't tell anyone about this." And I'm like, why are we so obsessed, in the White Tower, with keeping murder on the DL?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: When has that ever worked out for anyone? "I'll hide this murder, that'll work." No. Have you seen an episode of Monk? It never works.

Sally: It's true.

Emily: He'll find you: Adrian Monk.

Sally: Adrian Monk is on the fucking case.

Emily: Yeah, assuming you're in the San Francisco area.

Sally: Yeah, he doesn't really travel.

Emily: Is that where he is, San Francisco?

Sally: Yeah, he's in San Fran. I really like that show.

Emily: I do too.

Sally: It's a good one.

Emily: I would like to see it in 2019 cause I feel like there's be more, you know - San Fran is more, like, the queer city of America.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And I'd like to see Mr. Monk interacting with the gays more.

Sally: Like a - what if his assistant, instead of being some pretty blonde lady, was just a tall drag queen?

Emily: Oh my goood. Who was just, like, very helpful in solving murders?

Sally: Yeah, it's a tall drag queen and then a tiniest Ellen Page sized butch lesbian.

Emily: Yes! He has two assistants.

Sally: [laugh] alternately, a gigantic butch lesbian and a tiny drag queen.

Emily: Yes.

Sally: I will accept either.

Emily: Either way, it's perfect.

Sally: [laugh] um, what I really appreciate about -

Emily: [at the same time] god, I can't believe we fixed Monk and it's been literal years since it's been on air.

Sally: What I really appreciate about Monk is that his therapist is, like, a quasi-main character.

Emily: Oh, I know.

Sally: And I really like his therapist.

Emily: And it was really upsetting when his therapist died. And -

Sally: Yes. Spoiler alert for Monk [laugh].

Emily: I remember watching the series finale of that show with my family. We were that into Monk.

Sally: Monk is fun.

Emily: Yeah, Monk is a good show.

Sally: But, what were you saying about his replacement therapist or something, I can't remember?

Emily: Oh, I just thought it was Hector Elizondo.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: Who's also beautiful and perfect.

Sally: I know, and I was just like, more shows with good therapists.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: I was telling Brie about that the other day. I have - most of my friends aren't like Emily where I can be like, here's some literary analysis and we talk about it. I'm like, here's some literary analysis and they're like, "Okay..." And I was like, isn't it so cool that one of the main characters in Monk is a therapist?

Emily: And she was like -

Sally: [at the same time] and they were like, watching The Bachelor and were like, "What? Literally what just happened?"

Emily: [laugh].

Sally: I was asleep by the couch and I woke up and I was like, you guys, I have something to say.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: About Monk.

Emily: Interesting scene setting. Sleeping by the couch. Monk!

Sally: You guys!

Emily: You guys, Monk!

Sally: I don't know why I was thinking about therapy, in my dreams. Who isn't?

Emily: Honestly.

Sally: If I could dream up a good therapist...

Emily: Oh my god.

Sally: That would've been a psychological -

Emily: That would be a fun literary, um -

Sally: Oh yeah.

Emily: If you had a character who went to sleep and had - like Ronan Lynch, kind of. If you had a character who had, like - or Egwene or Perrin, who have, like, their - basically Hopper is a dream therapist.

Sally: Oh my god, you are right.

Emily: Yeah, so is Birgitte, technically.

Sally: [gasp].

Emily: Although then she kind of gets ripped out and is a real world swear-y therapist, bodyguard. Dream bod - okay she's not a dream therapist, dream bodyguard.

Sally: She's a dream bodyguard.

Emily: Hopper though, definitely a dream therapist.

Sally: But isn't that a fun twist on the trope?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Instead of the therapist in your dreams you're dreaming your therapist? If Ronan Lynch rolled up to his dream forest and there was his dream therapist who was like, "Ronan, please, stop."

Emily: It would be hilarious because Ronan would, like, rollerblade up and be like, "You'll never fucking believe what happened to me this week."

Sally: [laugh] and his little dream therapist, it's like a satyr, oh my god.

Emily: Oh my god. In my favorite trilogy of books, *The Foxhole Court*, which is about a fake sport, and yes I do love it.

Sally: I wanna read it but Emily said there's a lot of torture.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And that I probably wouldn't care for it.

Emily: And like the Yakuza is randomly involved and it's like why - why is this happening?

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: I'm not saying it's good, I'm saying it's one of my favorite series of books.

Sally: That's fine.

Emily: Anyway, our main love interest boy, who's deeply troubled, loves his therapist.

Sally: That's so good.

Emily: And it's really pure and good. And he, like, buys her things at the airport when they travel to away games. He's like, "I'm gonna buy her a small glass animal to put in her office."

Sally: That's really tender.

Emily: And our protagonist who hates therapists, because he's also incredibly relatable -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Is like, "I literally can't understand why my boyfriend loves his therapist, but I fully support it."

Sally: That's a really tender dynamic.

Emily: Right? It's just really good.

Sally: It's very good.

Emily: A lot of those - one of the reasons I love those books is cause it's just, like, comfortable.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, despite the torture it's just, like, your off-scenes are just so, like - everyone's so, like, at peace and happy together.

Sally: So what -

Emily: And it's all about people building relationships.

Sally: What you're telling me is that it's a book that does really well with the stress and rest periods.

Emily: Yeah, it actually does. It's one of those books where you literally just keep reading, cause you're like, nothing in particular is happening right now but I am still very invested in what happens next.

Sally: So, it's a perfect book?

Emily: Yeah, they basically are perfect books.

Sally: Yeah, their covers are really bad though.

Emily: They're terrible. God bless America.

Sally: I just - [sigh].

Emily: There's little plot point at the end of the first book where they go on a talk show, cause they're like, college athletes and they're like -

Sally: That's bizarre.

Emily: Yeah, but they're like, the big college athletes. And Kevin is, like, a major college athlete, like everyone's been obsessed with him since he was a child, or something. Anyway, he goes on this talk show and um, the protagonist, Neil, is also with him, randomly. And Neil's like, "I hate this, and would rather be dead than be on a talk show," and everyone's like, "Shut the fuck up Neil, you're going on this talk show." And he's like, "I hate you all." Anyway, then the talk show host brings out Kevin's nemesis, who broke his hand and is basically the villain of the series -

Sally: Oh no.

Emily: And he's just, like, being really shady and snide, and Neil, basically on live television, is like, "Listen to me: fuck you."

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: And his love interest, at that moment, is like, "Fuck! I love that boy! Can't keep his mouth shut. I found my boyfriend."

Sally: "That's my boyfriend!!!!"

Emily: Andrew's like, "That's my boyfriend!"

Sally: And everyone is like, "Andrew please sit down."

Emily: "I'm incredibly high." Anyway, I'm gonna delete all of that.

Sally: Incredibly high?

Emily: Yeah, he's on antipsychotics so he's high for most of the first two books.

Sally: Antipsychotics are scary.

Emily: Yeah, they're really scary. They - I learned a lot about antipsychotics from those books.

Sally: God... they're educational.

Emily: Yeah, they're everything.

Sally: They have a positive relationship to therapy. It's about sports, and gays, AND the Yakuza.

Emily: And the Yakuza! It has everything.

Sally: It has everything.

Both: The Yakuza.

Sally: [laugh] antipsychotics.

Emily: [at the same time] gays.

Sally: Therapies, Oprah.

Emily: A good sports coach dad.

Sally: Buses.

Emily: Literally, there's a plot point where he is someone's dad.

Sally: Nice.

Emily: Yeah, good for him. I can't remember his first name... David maybe? Who knows...

Sally: Eh, they're all Dave.

Emily: Yeah, every sports coach is named Dave. Okay -

Sally: Did you know that? Every sports coach is named Dave.

Emily: [laugh] it's a real shame I'm gonna have to put all that in the blooper reel.

Sally: It's the Dave Lombardi Trophy.

Emily: Okay, okay. What the fuck were we talking about?

Sally: [laugh] this whole episode is a blooper reel.

Emily: I know, fuck.

Sally: Go backwards.

Emily: Okay, therapy, Monk, um... murder mysteries -

Sally: Don't hide a murder.

Emily: Yeah, don't hide a murder. Okay, it's just really stupid that they hide this murder.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Anyway, then they go and find Elayne in Nynaeve's room and who else should be there, but Gawyn and Galad? Just, like, lounging in Nynaeve's room.

Sally: Galad's like, "Oh hey girl."

Emily: No, literally Galad sees Egwene and is like, "Hello," and like, kisses her hand.

Sally: "Enchanté."

Emily: Yeah, "Enchanté mademoiselle." He's just like, "Hello."

Sally: I mean, Galad is half Cairhienin so he is -

Emily: He does have -

Sally: A fancy French boy.

Emily: Big French energy, yeah.

Sally: Galad *does* have big French energy.

Emily: He does, actually, yeah.

Sally: Probably bad at war.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Little dumb.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Very hot.

Emily: Very hot. So stupid.

Sally: But, like, slender hot, you know? Like, just like slender and lithe. And like, probably bendy.

Emily: Yeah, Ewgene is just like, "Oh, hello."

Sally: Ewgene's like, "I'm very sweaty all of a sudden."

Emily: [laugh] she's, like, sweating and moving her skirts. Anyway, they're all like, "We're just here to talk about how Elayne left and she won't tell us anything." And everyone's like, "Well that's her prerogative. What - you guys don't have a right to know what -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't know, technically they do have a right - I don't - like, where's the line between your family has a right to know what you've been doing...

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like, Elayne's sixteen or whatever.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I feel like her brother does probably have a right to know where she's been. Not cause he's, like, her guardian but because he's her sibling.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And when you're in a family you have an obligation to tell each other -

Sally: Ohana means family.

Emily: Yeah. Family means no one gets left behind, except Galad, cause no one likes him apparently.

Sally: That's so sad.

Emily: Yeah... Gawyn does.

Sally: Gawyn's like, "That's my brother."

Emily: Gawyn's like, "That's my bro."

Sally: "He's stupid, but I love him."

Emily: Yeah, again, Galad would be so -

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Gawyn would be a better character if he was like, "I've just been protecting my stupid brother."

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: "My stupid older brother, since we were infants."

Sally: Yeah, he's like, "This is my lot in life. I have an idiot older brother and a dipshit younger sister."

Emily: Who literally everyone wants to assassinate. And honestly, I can see why.

Sally: If I was Gawyn I'd be like, "Okay, -

Emily: "Kill her."

Sally: "If you can do it, go for it."

Emily: Yeah, "If you can get past me then you deserve to kill her."

Sally: He's like, "Aw."

Emily: "Aw, dang."

Sally: Doesn't fight very hard [laugh].

Emily: "Aw."

Sally: Drops his sword, "Oh no!"

Emily: "Oh no I have butterfingers."

Sally: "You've disarmed me."

Both: [laugh].

Emily: Um, so then they're - basically the really funny part of this conversation is when Nynaeve is like, "You guys need to get out." And they just, like, ignore her. She's like, "This is my room and I would like you guys to leave." And they just ignore her cause they're men and stupid.

Sally: Natch.

Emily: And so, a second later Nynaeve's like, "Okay, listen to me. Elayne doesn't have to tell you shit, first of all. Second of all, did you even ask permission to be here? No. And I'm gonna tattle on you and you're gonna get beat within an inch of your lives cause you're so fucking stupid. So, you have until the

count of three to get out.” And then they’re like, “Well we’re not afraid of that.” And she’s like, “One.” And they’re like [whimpering voice], “We’re not afraid!”

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: And she’s like, “Two.” And they’re like, “Bah, bye!” She like, draws out a three to get -

Sally: Threeeeeee.

Emily: Anyway, it’s really iconic big sister energy.

Sally: Yeah, Nynaeve is such a big sister.

Emily: Galad, like, pauses to flirt with Egwene and Nynaeve’s like, “Two,” and he’s like, “I’m sorry, goodbye.”

Sally: [chuckles] “Enchanté.”

Emily: “Enchanté, mademoiselle.” Um -

Sally: What a stupid French loser.

Emily: I know.

Sally: I wanna give him a little beret.

Emily: I - oh, and, like, a little moustache?

Sally: Hmm, I can’t get in on moustaches of any type.

Emily: A little curly?

Sally: No. Hmm -

Emily: You’re right, it would ruin his hotness a little bit.

Sally: Yeah, it would bring him down at least a full fifty points.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Which, I mean, he’s got them to spare, but -

Emily: That’s true. He’s still be at 1080.

Sally: [laughing the whole time] so his total is 1130? You guys heard it here first: Galad’s hotness total is 1130.

Emily: Well, off the normal scale it’s just ten, so.

Sally: [laugh] it’s just - well that’s it, we’ve made the scale now. Place someone between 10 and 1130.

Emily: Um, so they leave and then Elayne's like, "Okay, well what were you guys doing?" And Egwene is like, "Well, we're not really supposed to tell you..." And Nynaeve's like, "We've been assigned to hunt the Black Ajah." And Egwene's like, "Nynaeve! She told us not to tell anyone."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And Nynaeve's like, "Listen to how much I care about what the Amyrlin Seat tells me to do."

Sally: Which is, like... mad respect.

Emily: Yeah, she also makes the valid point that, like, apparently, she and Egwene are targets, they just almost got killed.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Etcetera, so like, maybe if they bring Elayne in on it then that will give them a slight advantage.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But it also - you'd have to be stupid to be and Aes Sedai and be like, "Oh, these three girls aren't, like, in each other's pockets all the time."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, I always automatically assume - it's like, a really pure thing about girls is that they do this thing where it's like, "I won't tell anyone." But you're like, I know you will tell your best friend.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: And it's, like, every girl has their best friend that they tell everything to.

Sally: Yep.

Emily: And it's like, these three girls are like, "Don't tell anyone, but we will tell Elayne."

Sally: Yeah, that's true.

Emily: Yeah. Um, so basically, they're like, "Okay, well - oh, Nynaeve's like, "I don't think they're going to heal Mat. Like, for whatever reason I think they're just gonna let him die." And everyone's like, "Okay." Basically, Nynaeve's being like, on par in terms of -

Sally: Yeah, her political maneuvering is -

Emily: Yeah, she's just, like -

Sally: Perfect.

Emily: She's got it on walk, she knows what's happening. She's like, "Okay, so we've just gotta go heal Mat ourselves." And they're like, "Uh, we can't do that, otherwise we would have been able to do it." And Nynaeve's like, "Well, gotta try." Anyway, I would actually find it interesting if Nynaeve and Egwene and Elayne managed to form a circle.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is kind of what their plan is. And then used their incredible amount of power to just, like, heal Mat.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like that would be a really cool scene to -

Sally: Frankenstein coming back to life.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Especially cause Nynaeve is, like, nuclear healer.

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: Just like, sure.

Emily: But I guess Robert Jordan was just like, “Nah, it’s too soon for Nynaeve to be like ‘Look at me, doing the unprecedented.’”

Sally: “Look at me making Frankenstein: Mat.”

Emily: Mat. Who is - he does have a lot of Frankenstein plots.

Sally: Isn’t it interesting? I was thinking about that when we were talking about the plot, which I didn’t read.

Emily: That’s okay.

Sally: But yeah, it’s kind of interesting.

Emily: Yeah, it is. Mat, just like a creature -

Sally: Oh boy! Now you guys know what you’re getting: a full episode about Frankenstein.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: You didn’t ask for it, but you WILL get it.

Both: [chuckle].

Sally: It will be hosted exclusively by me cause Emily will just be crying, because we’re doing this again [laugh].

Emily: Why will I be crying?

Sally: “Please Sally, we can’t keep doing this.”

Emily: We can’t keep doing this.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Frankenstein! Now!

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Please Sally, we can't keep doing this. Um - [laugh]. Oh god, now I'm gonna be thinking about that for a while.

Sally: But it's so interesting.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: A little creature...

Emily: Mish-mashed.

Sally: Doesn't really belong.

Emily: Yeah, holes in his memory.

Sally: Holes in his memory.

Emily: Yeah... huh.

Sally: Mat does have some interesting monster discourse.

Emily: He does, let's talk about that when we get to Mat, finally. God. Our next episode's gonna be the longest cause we're gonna be like, now we have to talk about everything about Mat that we've been withholding.

Sally: I know. I'll just - I'll start the episode by weeping hysterically because it's finally here.

Emily: Hard to believe that we've been withholding anything about Mat cause he's all we talk about for the last 57 episodes.

Sally: Cause we love him.

Emily: But when he has points of view, boy wait.

Sally: Gonna get real horny for that boy.

Both: [laugh].

Emily: Um, so they're about to go heal Mat and then Elaida just, like, walks in without knocking and is like, "Here I am to vaguely threaten you all." It's very - it's a very annoying sequence, as all scenes with Elaida are, where it's just like, she's being a bitch, and no one has any power to call her out on it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, you really just want, when characters are being stupid and bitchy, for someone to be like, "Shut the fuck up." And there's nothing more satisfying than that.

Sally: [whisper] I know.

Emily: For someone to just be like, "Shut down. Fuck you."

Sally: Yeah, cancelled.

Emily: Yeah. But no one ever does that to Elaida.

Sally: No, I was talking to my brother - Perry's really into leadership books and stuff -

Emily: Ah-ha.

Sally: And thinking about leadership, and he shared the phrase 'Courage over Comfort' with me yesterday, and like saying the uncomfortable things in, like, meetings and stuff.

Emily: Oh, that's interesting.

Sally: Yeah, and we were talking about that and I was just like, yeah courage over comfort, somebody clock Elaida in the face.

Emily: I know. Yeah, and then just the problem - and Egwene is like, "Any one of us could - like if we took her by surprise - just, like, fucken take her out."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "But we can't, cause then we'd get kicked out of the White Tower for insubordination." My thought was like, I'm just really not into how much hierarchy and power structure influence all the Aes Sedai interactions.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because they really just are frustrating. There's not much point to them.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It then becomes - I don't know, it's like a nice thing, finally, when our girls start taking ownership and then being the ones, kind of, in charge, but it's like, not rewarding enough for me to, like, want to put up with it for the first seven books, or however long it takes them to get there.

Sally: Well yeah, especially because, like, any instance - I mean, and this is true of power in general - any instance of one single person having power is at the cost of another person not having power.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And that's so obvious with the Aes Sedai, like, weird little hierarchy. It's like who can channel the most -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And how that influences literally every single interaction the Aes Sedai have with each other, whether or not politics or safety or magic are involved.

Emily: Yeah, like the word deference is used constantly.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, who do we defer to, cause who is basically - and it's like this weird alpha male thing -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Because it's also, like, reliant on power.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Like you defer to the guy who has, I don't know, the biggest masculine energy. The biggest, buffest guy in the room.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And it's like, in this world we are referring to - deferring to the woman who has the most power.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: And that's just, like, really weird. Like it is rewarding in book seven when Elayne and Nynaeve finally get sick of it -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And are like, "Hey listen, I am more powerful than you, and just because you necessarily don't agree with the fact that I've been promoted doesn't mean that, like -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Doesn't mean that I'm gonna put up with it, and there's nothing you can do about it." And everyone's kind of like, "Okay fine!" And like, deals with it. Like, that's a cool - great, I'm into that.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: But I'm also just into the idea of people, um, standing up for themselves in general.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I find it - another book I've been reading is about a girl in, like, I don't know twelfth-century Russia, or something, so like, the situation is not great for her.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: But she just speaks her mind and is really eloquent about it and just, like, speaks to people in a way that's really powerful, I guess. And it just, like, I really like it. Everyone who - her interactions with people who should have power over her are really rewarding because she doesn't just, like, defer to them.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Or fear them, or anything. She's just, like, we are equal. She automatically assumes that we are equals in the conversation, and if you don't then that's your problem.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And that's just, like, a cool quality for a female character to have.

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: And so, I just wish that, uh - A. I wish the real world was like that, that people didn't have to feel like -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Oh the CEOs here and I have to defer to him." Like, I wish people could be like, "Here's my boss, he's an idiot. Hey boss, you're doing something stupid."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "I don't agree with this," but instead we all have to...

Sally: Defer!

Emily: Defer.

Sally: Yep.

Emily: So basically, it just annoys me, since it's also a real-world thing.

Sally: Yeah, and it's just, like, again with, like, fantasy it would be interesting to see it explored with a little bit different lens -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And like, what are some ways that we could make the White Tower a little more democratic?

Emily: Yeah, exactly.

Sally: It would be interesting. It would just be interesting.

Emily: And it seems to be veering in that direction...

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Once Egwene gets into power and starts kind of being like, "Maybe everyone should maybe have a chance to speak their mind," but I don't know. Throughout the first few books it's just super, duper annoying.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But anyway, Elaida's questioning them and they mostly manage to dodge her questions and kind of, when they do reach a question that they can't dodge about Rand, then Sheriam just happens to walk in and be like, "Oh hey, we're gonna take you to see your friend get healed." Cause that's a tradition in the White Tower. If you bring someone to get healed, then you get to witness them being healed.

Sally: That's such an interesting tradition.

Emily: I know, an interesting tradition. It's like saying, "Here your surgeon invites you to the operating room to be like -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Check this out."

Sally: It's like that weird medical theatre they used to do in, like, Medieval-ish.

Emily: So that's basically those chapters. I don't know in terms of, uh, analysis if there's much more to say.

Sally: Um, just like, a random thought I had. And this actually comes - this thought is prompted by Sarah McClintock's wonderful thesis about building fantasy worlds through costume.

Emily: Oh.

Sally: Which we had - we were lucky enough to be able to read. Um, and she quotes George Lucas who's like - I'm not always gonna reference George Lucas as a good world-builder - but he has this quote where it's like, "You have to, like, build the world before you can play around in it."

Emily: Hmm.

Sally: And so like, the idea is, like, the first - I mean, he doesn't say this, this is me extrapolating so don't cite - think that I'm citing George Lucas beyond what I just did. But the idea that, like, the first book or the first movie in a series has to lay so much groundwork in order - of, like, world-building. And we think of, like, all these exposition dumps and stuff, but it's also interesting to think of in the context of, like, *Wheel of Time* where the first books work so hard to, like, set up this structure just for, like, our characters to sort of, like, burn it down.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: And so, it's just, like - it would just be - there seems to be a really stark division. Like, there's not a whole lot of, like, political or social change happening before our characters get involved in things.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: And just the idea that, like, the world is built so that our characters can play around with the social structure, as opposed to, like -

Emily: [at the same time] yeah, that is kind of interesting.

Sally: The social structure being something a bit more living.

Emily: Like, as the kids set out, kind of, on their adventure, there's the idea that the world is on the verge of something.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: And then it just, uh, the idea then that they're - *they are* -

Sally: They are the verge, yeah.

Emily: Like, the world is ready to change but it's not going to change until Sivan gets kicked out and Egwene steps in, you know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, that's when major change happens.

Sally: Yeah, until Rand is proclaimed the Dragon Reborn.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Until, you know, Nynaeve can heal Logain, or all these crazy things. And, like, I know there are instigators to every movement of social change, it's not like - like, social systems are systems but they're also people in the system so you can't really say a social system is living without specific people doing specific things. But it's just like - and, you know, this is kind of fiction's problem, where of course we're focused on protagonists and so the protagonists have to do things, but it's just, like, interesting to see the power structure set up in such obvious ways. Like, how frustrating the White Tower sequences are, just so that we have something to put our girls' choices and actions against. So...

Emily: Yeah, it's kind of like, the first book of the series is just, like, a tour of the set.

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: And like, a tour of the... you know, the set design. And then as we get further into book three this is - this book is all about everyone taking, kind of, the final steps into power.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, most obviously with Rand, but we get Nynaeve, Elayne, and Egwene stepping away from the White Tower and going on this path that is, like, ultimately like - Nynaeve and Elayne don't return to the White Tower after this.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Except for, I think, maybe a quick visit to become Aes Sedai.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Really later on. And, like, Egwene doesn't get back until book twelve, or whatever.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: So, it's this weird idea that they now have tools and are, like, on that -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: On that way. And you know, Mat and Perrin are - Perrin arguably wouldn't ever be in power without Faile, as much as that kind of bothers me.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know? It's just like, she's the one who's like, "Step up, loser. We're going shopping."

Both: [laugh].

Sally: Going shopping for a kingdom, my good bitch.

Emily: Yes. And Mat kind of - I don't know -

Sally: Mat is trying.

Emily: Mat's as always is a little different.

Sally: Mat is always - defies characterization.

Emily: Yeah, Mat is always a little bit, like, a couple steps behind everyone else, which is interesting.

Sally: Look, it's McCafé.

Emily: [pronouncing them differently] McCafé, McCafé, who knows?

Sally: McCafé.

Emily: McCafé!

Both: McCafé!

Emily: Hey.

Sally: We solved the mystery. We solved the McMystery.

Emily: Okay, well, uh, that's all I have to say about that.

Sally: Yeah, kind of a weird episode.

Emily: Yeah, kind of have been for the last few episodes.

Sally: Welcome to *The Dragon Reborn*.

Emily: Weird episodes galore.

Sally: Yeah, it's letting us, uh - what's happening?

Emily: What, Twitter stuff?

Sally: Yeah... Ugh, Ethan you're so good. I love you Ethan. We have many Ethans. Actually, we are - now, moving into housekeeping, um - [laugh].

Emily: Oh okay, we're moving to housekeeping.

Sally: Is that okay? Is there anything else you want to say?

Emily: Oh, yeah. Go for it.

Sally: Um, so, that's just a good transition cause I wanna say thank you to - we've gotten two new patrons this week. Ethan, different Ethan than last week though, as we're now officially on a quest to collect all Ethans. So, if your name is Ethan, you have to support us on Patreon, I'm sorry. It's a legally binding contract. Take it up with your parents. Um, and [laugh] - sorry, I don't mean to laugh. And Yoyoyo, both at \$5.

Emily: Yoyoyo?

Sally: Yeah, isn't that amazing?

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I'm laughing because I love it, not because I'm laughing at you. I think you're amazing.

Emily: Yeah, it's incredible, Yoyoyo.

Sally: I also wanna do a quick Patreon PSA: we're \$37 away from meeting our most recent monthly goal, which will enable us to get some new, and actually functioning, audio editing software for Emily, which will improve the listening experience for everyone, but more importantly, once we meet that goal we can start - we'll be pretty squared away on, like, equipment and things that we need to keep the podcast running, which means we can turn our sights towards doing some fun things like merch or maybe going to Jordan Con next year, which we can't do this year because both of us make \$0.25 an hour.

Emily: [snort].

Sally: [laugh] so, if you're loving us, loving the podcast, and you want a Larry sticker, like I know you all do, you should consider supporting us on Patreon because there's lots of fun rewards and honestly just supporting us at \$1 a month means so much and can make a huge difference and make a huge contribution, so all contributions are valued and valid and we love you. Um, I wanna give some shout outs this week to Matthew on Instagram, who drew another amazing Larry, and then took it a step further and also drew Jeremy and Stephanie. And it's like -

Emily: My god, I've been laughing about it for days.

Sally: So good! If you haven't seen it yet go check it out, it's posted on our Patreon feed - our Patreon feed, oh my god!

Emily: Instagram.

Sally: Our Instagram feed, and it's really funny [laugh]. And really good. And we wanted to thank Reagan who made a really funny *Wheel of Time* playlist, which is on our Twitter. We were tweeted it there, and it's got all the classics, including Tubthumping, if you're missing it.

Emily: Oh, yeah.

Sally: And to Mikaela who made us the most amazing wooden sign that is going to be hanging on our wall as soon as Emily can get to the THD.

Emily: Right next to Hozier.

Sally: Ah, Mikaela! And some beautiful sharks.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So, you're in good company.

Emily: Our three main - Anne and I watched *The Meg* on the way to Seattle. It was hysterical. I cannot emphasize this enough: stop this podcast and go watch *The Meg*. It's a Jason Statham movie about the megalodon, the giant shark. It is so funny. Sally is looking at me with absolute disdain but [laugh] - it was a riot. Anyway - [laugh]. I'm done.

Sally: Okay.

Emily: You can talk about your stuff again.

Sally: Um, and another amazing thank you to Glynna Mackenzie who made our fabulous new theme song which you heard at the beginning of this episode because you're not a first-minute skipper.

Emily: Yeah! Thank you.

Sally: You can head over to the EHR blog where we did - where Glynna was kind enough to answer some questions and you can learn a little bit more about her and where you can find the rest of her stuff on the internet, including her amazing EP, so check her out.

Emily: That's gonna do it for us, you got a sign off?

Sally: I've got a submitted sign off this week.

Emily: Oh, hell yeah.

Sally: It was requested to be anonymous, although this could be me. This has big Sally energy, so.

Emily: Okay, interesting.

Sally: [laugh] um -

Emily: Let's hear it.

Sally: So they wrote: "In college I was taking a historical politics class - I went to an art school, so the bar for electives was unsurprisingly low - which is something I was always interested in. The teacher was alright and would offer extra credit for doing papers on various topics throughout the semester. Since I was very interested in the subject matter, I did most of the extra papers because I felt like I really learned a lot by researching and writing about these extra topics. I did earn extra credit on top of doing alright in the class. This meant I had more than 100% grade. I sat down in class to do the midterm, the room is silently waiting, and the teacher starts to pass out the tests. He stops at my desk and proclaims loudly: why are you here? I answer quietly: to take the test. To which he responds, even louder: you don't need to take the test, your current grade is, like 150%. Why are you sitting at this desk? Borderline anger. I then grabbed my bag and ran as the whole class laughed."

Emily: [laugh] oh no.

Sally: Isn't that so sad?

Emily: That's so sad. But also, good for you.

Sally: I know right?

Emily: You're the hero of that story.

Sally: Yeah, sorry your teacher is kind of a douchebag.

Emily: There's no such thing as overachieving.

Sally: That's true.

Emily: Just achieving extremely well.

Sally: Yes, I was about to say the exact same thing, Emily.

Emily: Yeah, were you?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Okay.

Sally: Ah, my verbal dyslexia is kicking in real bad every time I have to read something.

Emily: Sure, sure.

Sally: My verbal dyslexia's not a thing.

Emily: Now it is.

Sally: I think it's just d - ugh, see.

Emily: Verbal Alexa. Alexa! [laugh].

Sally: Alexa, end this episode.

Emily: End this episode [laugh].

Sally: [laugh]

Emily: Fuck me. Have a good week!

Sally: Bye.