



Episode 60 - “Schrodinger’s Dark One”

Running time: 45 minutes

Release date: April 1, 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]

Sally: This water bottle is very poorly made, obviously it melts when you put it in the dishwasher.

Emily: You’ve said that before.

Sally: But it makes this, like, horrible whistle sound, and everyone in my cubicle block has one, so there’ll be times when it’s just, like, this chorus of like, [screeching sound] as everyone tries to stay hydrated.

Emily: Kind of like bird calls.

Sally: Oh, my god.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Um, I have multiple bird stories, but we don’t have to start with a cold open. We can start with something, like, literary. What are you reading? I know we’re not doing that anymore, but I am curious.

Emily: I did just realize, when I was talking about our cat getting electrocuted, that Mat Cauthon getting struck by lightning is actually on-brand for his trickster/luck themes, you know? The chances of getting hit by lightning.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: And then Mat's just, like, master of chance and fate and luck and whatnot. Sorry that veered really weirdly.

Sally: Did you ever see *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*?

Emily: I did not see it. Here's what I know of Benjamin Button: exclusively that scene in *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* [laugh].

Sally: Oh, right, right, right. The scene that your family loves, that no one else in the entire planet thinks is funny.

Emily: [laugh] it's so funny!

Sally: [laugh] anyway -

Emily: [laugh] when Kristen Wiig is like, "Just nestle in there and die."

Sally: [laugh] I don't understand, you guys are so weird. Anyway, there's - I haven't seen all of *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, like one day it was on, like, I don't know, TBS or whatever -

Emily: Yeah, sure.

Sally: And so my brothers and I turned on, like, half of it, and there's this scene when a man gets - he's like, [southern accent] "I've been struck by lightning seven times in my life," and then there's just, like, a sequence of him getting hit by lightning, and it's -

Emily: What?

Sally: The funniest thing any of the Goodger children had ever seen. We were, like, weeping. Speaking of, like, weird family movie moments.

Emily: Yeah, it's not about the objective funniness of the scene -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's about what makes - what strikes your sisters in that exact right mood to make them almost wet their pants. Cause that's what -

Sally: It's a Juchau women family problem.

Emily: Yeah, it is. Unlike me, somehow -

Sally: I'm worried about Anne.

Emily: Yeah, I have -

Sally: Good for you and your bladder integrity.

Emily: [laugh] I guess. It's concerning... Anyway, welcome to Everybody Hates Rand, your friendly neighborhood *Wheel of Time* podcast. I will remember to do the opening on my first try this time.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Sorry Glynnna. Um, I'm Emily Juchau.

Sally: I'm Sally Goodger, I don't remember if my PSA about my illness was included in the last episode, but I am still sick, so I'm sorry -

Emily: It was not, cause I had to cut down our episode.

Sally: For any of my mouth noises in this or the previous episode.

Emily: It also felt kind of like a given that you're sick, cause you have the immune system of, like, a newborn lamb.

Sally: That's true, you can assume at any given moment that I am just levelled.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: By some type of illness or chronic pain.

Emily: It's pretty upsetting. Whatcha gonna do? [laugh]

Sally: I am what I am.

Emily: [laugh] okay.

Sally: I should just, like, you know -

Emily: Popeye?

Sally: Only eat oranges.

Emily: I don't think that would help the situation.

Sally: Would that give me scurvy?

Emily: No, that would give you the opposite of scurvy, whatever that is.

Sally: The opposite of scurvy... I don't -

Emily: Is there - it would give you, like - you wouldn't have enough protein in your diet.

Sally: I don't have that anyway.

Emily: Yeah, that's -

Sally: I don't like meat.

Emily: The number one issue. Today I was like, “Work sucks,” and Sally sent me a picture of a gnome.

Sally: Oh.

Both: [laugh].

Emily: It was so strange.

Sally: Um -

Emily: She was like, “Does this help?” And I was like, “It doesn’t *not* help.” I don’t know what to tell you.

Sally: My cute friend Veronica brought me that at work on Monday -

Emily: Aw, that’s nice.

Sally: It was my birthday present. It’s a gnome in all orange writing ‘A Frog’ and she was like, “I can’t explain it, but this really made me think of you.” And I was like -

Emily: Yeah, that makes me think of you, too.

Sally: It tracks [laugh].

Emily: Okay, we have talk about *Wheel of Time*, cause we’re reading so much. The schedule has been adjusted a little bit, so we’re gonna have some weird episodes here and there that cover three chapters, but I feel like we’re at the point in the series where we don’t get hung up on weird things anymore, so...

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We gotta focus on plot stuff. Also next week we’re only doing one chapter, which is Mat, so.

Sally: Well, next week we’re doing a special episode and then -

Emily: Oh, right, right.

Sally: Next, next week we are doing one chapter.

Emily: [sigh] so confusing.

Sally: It’s going to be a confusing couple of weeks here at EHR HQ.

Emily: Yeah, because our life is fucked. Every evening event in the entire world is happening in the first week of April.

Sally: I know, I’m going to break Emily by asking her to do many social things.

Emily: So many things!

Sally: One involves my family, so pray for her.

Emily: That’s okay, but it also involves me sitting on the front row of a comedy show, which -

Sally: We’ll have some stories, I’m sure.

Emily: Horrifies me. Okay, we have to talk about Egg [laugh].

Sally: Speaking of egg, my family might make you go to a vegan restaurant.

Emily: What? Where? When? Oh, that night, you mean?

Sally: Yeah, not just in general.

Emily: I was like, what?

Sally: They may not just be like, "Let's go to a vegan restaurant."

Emily: I mean I - I can fuck with vegan food. It's fine, I can handle it.

Sally: Okay, you literally just said you're a carnivore about a week and a half ago.

Emily: I can eat vegan food, I've had good salads that are vegan.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: [sigh] that's just the only vegan food I can think of, is a salad.

Sally: Okay [laugh].

Emily: And it had, like, tofu in it and - no, it wasn't tofu, it was something else. I can't remember what it's called. K, I can't talk about this right now, [laugh].

Sally: Food!

Emily: Argh! Especially cause I'm hungry!

Sally: Sorry, you can eat first.

Emily: No, it is okay.

Sally: I don't want you to be hangry on the podcast.

Emily: I had some chips - I'm always hangry.

Sally: I mean that's -

Emily: That's my secret cap, I'm always hangry [laugh].

Sally: Shut up.

Emily: [laugh].

Sally: Emily has decided to torture me for a full forty-five minutes.

Emily: I'm sorry, but I'm in a really weird mood. Remember that retweet I had?

Sally: [laugh] yes, I do. That was -

Emily: I've been laughing about it for twenty-four hours. Go to my Twitter feed immediately and go to my March 26th retweets.

Sally: I don't - okay...

Emily: Or it might have been March 25th, I can't remember.

Sally: It's - you'll know.

Emily: You'll know what it is, you'll know [creepy laugh].

Sally: [laugh] oh my god, okay. Ugh, we're talking about Egg -

Emily: Fucking Egg is, like, "Damn, I'm all greasy from dishes." And I'm like, relatable. Me, leaving Chick-fil-A back in the good old day when I worked at Chick-fil-A. Um -

Sally: [snort].

Emily: [laugh] this is like a Schrodinger's Cat of homophobia; was it homophobic of me, a gay, to work at a Chick-fil-A? [laugh] I just needed money.

Sally: Oh, I thought there was going to be, like, a second scenario to the Schrodinger's homophobia.

Emily: No -

Sally: I don't think I fully understand how Schrodinger's Cat works.

Emily: I don't either, I just - Schrodinger is the word I think of when there's, like, a paradoxical situation that doesn't make sense and really confuses my brain. So that's what the context was there.

Sally: It took me a really long time to understand what people meant when they were saying Pavlovian. Like, a Pavlovian response.

Emily: Oh, you didn't know what it was referencing a guy named Pavlov?

Sally: Yeah, I was like, what the fuck are you talking about? And then someone was like, "Pavlov's dog," and I was like, hm-hmm.

Emily: Sure.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't remember when I figured that out.

Sally: But I am, again, just an idiot.

Emily: I wish I didn't know anything about modern psychology.

Sally: Today - [laugh] I'm sorry you guys, this is weird energy - today I was talking to Jeff, who is at my work and I love him, and we were trying to solve a problem with our website, which for some reason became my responsibility to fix, because fundraising is obviously IT.

Emily: Oh yeah.

Sally: Naturally [laugh]. And I was like, “Oh I fixed it and I’m still working on this other thing,” and Jeff was like, “Why haven’t you finished that?” Just, like, teasing, and I was like, “It’s because I’m dumb.” And everybody in the meeting was like, “What?” Meanwhile Jeff and Gethin, my two best boys, were like, “This is the funniest thing I’ve ever hear.”

Emily: Yeah, cause Jeff and Gethin are, like, on the wavelength of millennial humor.

Sally: Yeah, I was like, “It’s just cause I’m dumb.”

Emily: Self-deprecating, I am but a simple idiot.

Sally: Okay, we’re gonna talk about *Wheel of Time*.

Emily: Okay, first -

Sally: Egg gets a ring.

Emily: Egg - [snort].

Sally: Put a ring on it.

Emily: [singing] If you liked it then you should have put a ring on it.

Sally: And Verin’s like, “I *do* like it.”

Emily: Yeah, true. Okay, so Egg is like, “I’ve been summoned to see Verin in her creepy office,” which is, like, extra creepy. It’s like a hoarder’s office, plus there’s a living owl in there...?

Sally: I have a lot of concerns about this owl.

Emily: And a crocodile skull.

Sally: Oh yeah.

Emily: At least, what I think is supposed to be a crocodile skull.

Sally: That makes sense cause I was like, dragon?

Emily: Egwene was like, “A long lizard with real crooked teeth,” and I was like, croc. Did you know the Crocodile Hunters’ family has an entire show called [Australian accent] ‘Crikey! It’s the Irwins!’

Sally: Aw, that sounds really tender.

Emily: I know it does. I saw a little tweet about them today and I was like, I love them, good for them.

Sally: I know, I was really into The Crocodile Hunter.

Emily: Yeah, who wasn’t?

Sally: I thought he kicked ass.

Emily: I loved that man.

Sally: I still think it kicks ass.

Emily: Good for you. In heaven.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: He's rounding up all the crocodiles in heaven.

Sally: And he and Jesus are like, "Yeahh!"

Emily: Yeah, Jesus was like, "Crikey!"

Sally: [Australian accent] Crikey! It's the Irwins!

Emily: I am so sorry for all of this.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Okay we're all concerned about the owl, because Verin's like, "It eats mice or whatever." And I'm like, it's not a cat. Owls need fresh air.

Sally: Yeah, owls need to be outside and, like, alive. Um - would you guys like a fun owl fact?

Emily: Okay.

Sally: Um, I don't know if this is exclusive to the milky eagle owl, which is the largest species of owl -

Emily: How big?

Sally: They're very big, they're like -

Emily: Wingspan?

Sally: Oh, I don't know what his wingspan - sorry, his - the one at the aviary is a male, but - you guys can't see this visual - but he's, like, this big.

Emily: He's like torso sized.

Sally: He's like a big - he's a big boy.

Emily: He's a big man. He's torso - he's like Chris Evans' torso size.

Sally: Okay, maybe not that - well... I don't know. Look up - it's - google it.

Emily: He's like -

Sally: [coughs].

Emily: I was trying to think of one size down from Chris Evans' torso. Robert Downy Jr?

Sally: I have no concept of how tall Robert Downy Jr. is. I just know they put him in heels.



Emily: [at the same time] I just feel like he's, like, less.

Sally: He's less Dorito.

Emily: Yeah, he's less Dorito - okay -

Sally: Anyway!

Emily: [snort].

Sally: The milky eagle owl, the reason, like, they make such good predators in, like, hunting by night, is because their ears, like, they're not at the same height on their head.

Emily: Whoah.

Sally: So, like, one is below the other and so sound reaches them at different points, so they get a better, um, picture of, like, the soundscape.

Emily: Damn.

Sally: And so, like, the milky eagle owl could, like, hear your heartbeat. Like, that's how good their hearing is.

Emily: Great, well I'll just hold that nightmare close to my heart.

Sally: That's a bird fact!

Emily: [chuckles] okay, well. Anyway, Egwene is like, "Okay, hello there, creepy owl, and hello equally creepy owl in human form: Verin." And Verin's like, "Hello. Would you like to hear some history? And also, here's some papers about the Black Ajah." She's like, "Here's the list of names of the women who left and also a list of the *ter'angreal* they took." And Egwene's like, "Okay, well, thank you for this hit list."

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: "This has been sufficiently awkward." And Verin's like, "No wait there's more: here is also a ring that will help you enter the World of Dreams," and Egwene's like, "What's the fuck's the World of Dreams?" And Verin's like, "Nobody fucking knows, my dude." And Egwene's like, "Great, love it. Can't wait to experiment with this." Um, I mean there's like a whole philosophical argument - not, like, argument, but, like, Verin's philosophical interpretation of the universe in that it's infinite weaves.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which is actually, like, an interesting, I don't know, concept and, like, a cool visual, I guess.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Just, like, crisscrossing lines and they're all universes, and it can expand infinitely.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just, like, kind of cool. She's also like, "And there's only one Creator and one Dark One." And I'm like, okay with your monotheistic weirdness, but fine. And, uh, to keep - if the Dark One gets loose in one world, then he's loose in all of them. And if he stays trapped in one world, then he's trapped in all of them and I'm like - Egwene's like, "That makes no sense," and I'm like, that really makes no sense. And Verin's like, "It's a paradox."

Sally: Schrodinger's Dark One.

Emily: Schrodinger's Dark One, exactly.

Sally: I think...?

Emily: Nobody - we don't know who Schrodinger is.

Sally: And DON'T explain psychology to me, either. I want to be an idiot.

Emily: Yeah, just let me believe that Schrodinger is whatever situation I apply it to.

Sally: Yeah. The English language is malleable. To quote Thor, "All words are made up."

Emily: All words *are* made up, including Schrodinger.

Sally: Schro - [laugh] Schrodinger's Dark One.

Emily: Schrodinger's Language Quirks - okay, um - I forgot what I was talking about.

Sally: So, then Egwene is like, "The fuck?" And Verin's like, "But it makes sense."

Emily: Yeah, and Egwene is like, "Jeez, as if there wasn't enough pressure on this situation, to keep the Dark One from getting out."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "It will not just wreck our universe, but also literally every universe." And Verin's like, "Yeah, no presh. Enjoy. I'll be dead." And Egwene's like, "Great, thanks pal. Peace out."

Sally: Verin is a very strange individual.

Emily: I know, she's very strange.

Sally: I love her, but she is weird.

Emily: Well then she's like, "Here's this ring - because the World of Dreams is like, it's the constant. It's like Creator, Dark One, and in the middle somewhere is the World of Dreams, which is, like, interesting and it kind of plays into this, um - I don't know, I don't really know what theology - like, what real world theology we can kind of ascribe that to, because generally speaking, if you're a monotheistic religion then you've got a good guy and a bad guy, and that's it.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And if you're a polytheistic religion, then you have kind of everyone in a scape of moral and ethical godly values. So, I don't know it's just kind of interesting to play with.

Sally: Yeah, it's interesting to think that the World of Dreams is this, like, spectrum between two poles and has its, like, own agency.

Emily: Yeah, I just -

Sally: It's just fascinating.

Emily: I just really like the world of dreams.

Sally: It's really cool, and the idea that it's also the same throughout all these universes is really interesting.

Emily: Yeah, yeah. It's just like - it made me think briefly of how occasionally Egwene will see someone who just, like, appears in the World of Dreams.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: You know, some random stranger. And I'm like, it would be cool if we were given more hints to them being, like, not of this universe.

Sally: Yeah!

Emily: At all. Just being like, "Hello here I am."

Sally: "Hello here I am", and like, what if they, like, talk to that person?

Emily: Yeah, it's just, like, this really cool archetypal space.

Sally: Yeah, archetypal -

Emily: Cause it's also where the heroes, like, who are also archetypes in themselves, hang out.

Sally: Yeah, which is so interesting to me.

Emily: Yeah. It just makes sense that Perrin, who's like, a bundle of archetypes, hangs out there. And so does Egwene, and Rand does occasionally. It's just funny cause Mat never does.

Sally: Mat's like, "Archetype? Who's she?" Even though he is also literally a bundle of archetypes.

Emily: Mat is, yeah, a walking archetype. Um, walking one-eyed archetype, god bless him.

Sally: What?

Emily: So anyway, then there's this -

Sally: Oh, he does get one eye.

Emily: He does. Shh! Spoilers.

Sally: Oh sorry.

Emily: [snort] I'm joking. Everyone knows.

Sally: Emily put the spoiler alert in at the beginning so -

Emily: Yeah, I did. I remembered.

Sally: No excuses.

Emily: Emily this is your reminder, do it, you absolute dumbass hoe. You can remember. You can remember.

Sally: You is brave.

Emily: You is kind, you is brave, you is important.

Sally: I don't think brave is even one of them.

Emily: I don't either.

Sally: I think it's smart.

Emily: You is smart, you is kind, you is important? I think you're right.

Sally: Whatever, that book's racist.

Emily: Yeah, yeah, that movie's super - okay, um then there're like a weird interlude where it goes to Verin's point of view and she's like, "And also I have all these notes about it that I could have given Egwene but for some reason I decided not to." And I'm like, great this will mean literally nothing to me for eleven books. Um, although actually this does happen, kind of on and off through the series. We'll see Verin interact with someone and then we'll switch over to Verin's point of view and kind of, it will - to demonstrate that she's hiding something, or that she is not sharing her full knowledge.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Which makes sense when the plot twist happens, that she's [cough] Black Ajah, but also, like, I've always just thought it was a thematic part of her character, that Verin is this character who has, like - who's wearing a mask constantly and is hiding behind what others think she is.

Sally: Yes.

Emily: And has ulterior motives, and I just always was, like, yeah sure she's a character with an interior life, that's fine.

Sally: Yeah, and it also, like, works in a series with so many points of view.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: Where, like, dramatic irony is kind of, like, the thing that holds the entire - like, just by nature of having so many points of view in different places, like, there are characters who know things that other characters don't. And we know bits and pieces but we don't know every - it's just like, that's kind of, like, part of the reading fabric of *Wheel of Time*, it's always just like, yeah sure.

Emily: It's just so interesting cause Verin is never a - what's the word? She's never an ominous character at all. None of these little asides are, "Ooh I wonder what's going on here." It's just, like, totally - I don't know. It's a very good con that gets played on us. Um, anyway, Egwene's walking back to her rooms

when she is waylaid by another member of the Black Ajah [laugh] - Sheriam. Who's like, "Hello it is time for you to become Accepted." And Egwene is like, "It's like three in the morning."

Sally: Egwene's like, "I'm very sleepy."

Emily: And Sheriam's like, "Fuck you, the -

Sally: "The hour waits on no woman," is what she says, I think.

Emily: Yeah!

Sally: Look, I quoted the book.

Emily: Look at you! Um, so then they go down to the basement, because the Aes Sedai are all about dungeons, and they're like, "Here's this creepy machine that we've already described when Nynaeve went through this." Uh, Elaida's there and she's like, "Fuck you all, can we just get this over with?" And Sheriam's like, "Can you please calm down." And Egwene this whole time is, like, worried about the ring and the papers that she has being found out somehow, so she's like trying to discreetly hide them in her clothes as she's, like, stripping off.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, cause she's like, "Anyone could be Black Ajah and find out that I'm looking for them."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's like, okay babe, it's okay.

Sally: You're sixteen and paranoid.

Emily: You're sixteen and *deeply* paranoid.

Sally: Because you've been given a ridiculous assignment by a child-abusing tiny lesbian.

Emily: [long sigh] um, anyway, like, right before Egwene goes in, Alanna who is also there is like, "Hmm, there's something weird about the *ter'angreal* this time."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And everyone's like, "Okay, well, is it still safe?" And she's like, "Yeah, it already went away." And everyone's like, "Okay, well cool." Um, then Egwene goes into the *ter'angreal* - anyway, she goes through her three, you know, past, present, future iterations of her, I don't know, kind of subconscious fears and desires. It's all very - this is also very archetypal stuff, just like, it feels more to me, even than it did with Nynaeve, like a dream sequence.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: Especially cause with Egwene we get things building on each other.

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: Like, in that second one she hears from, you know, Rand who's dying. He's like, "You can't let them turn me."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "If they have enough - um, if they have enough Darkfriends or Dreadlords or whatever the fuck, and enough Myrddraal, then they can turn me to the dark side." And Egwene's like, "Oh that's horrifying."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And then goes out to the real world and is like, "Is that true?" And Sheriam's like, "Yeah, but how the fuck do you even know that?" And then Egwene's next vision is just like, totally succumbing to this paranoia of that being an issue.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: She's like, "Oh shit, there's thirteen Black Ajah that I've been assigned to hunt."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "And of course I'm terrified of being turned," because that's a legitimately horrifying aspect of this series, that, like, the magic users are vulnerable to this. In a way it kind of makes sense to me. Like, I appreciate the commitment to, like - if we're going to have characters who are deviating from quote-on-quote human norms, you know, if they're, like, super-powered, then we're also going to give them super-vulnerabilities.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, things that don't make sense within the spectrum of, I don't know, humanity. Cause free will is supposed to be, like, yeah, solid.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: But here in fantasy land it's like, nope, not if you can use magic.

Sally: Yeah...

Emily: Which is troubling.

Sally: That is interesting, the idea that you kind of give up part of your free will if you become a magic-user.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: That's pretty... common.

Emily: Yeah, it's just like, this is the most, like, aggressive iteration that I've seen, I guess.

Sally: No, I'm not - I'm sorry, I didn't mean to, like, belittle your point. I just think it's really interesting. I've been thinking a lot about this idea that magic always has to come with, like, a price or like, a hyper-weakness.

Emily: Yeah, because with channeling, especially with the women, there isn't actually much of a price. Ironically, this chapter is called, like, The Price of the Ring, or something like that.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: The Price to be Paid - and there's this whole discussion about things costing shit. Um, so yeah, it's kind of like, if you're going to - if you're going to do this then you have to accept the reality that you could end it by not being yourself, you know?

Sally: Yeah, which is super scary.

Emily: [singing] super freaky. Anyway, Egwene's whole three things - her past one is like, Two Rivers Egwene has a baby with Rand, has a heteronormative life, only there's hints of him beginning to channel and or her beginning to channel, and you know, the paranoia's that she has to turn away from him and just, like, leave him to that fate, whatever it may be. Um, and then her next iteration is that she's some - you know, an Aes Sedai, some sort of noble woman wandering around in Caemlyn and it's like the end of the world.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and she - Rand is again trapped, physically this time, by, like, a beam or something -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, a building fell on him. Um, whatever. Why do so many buildings fall on people in this series?

Sally: Robert Jordan's like, "I don't know, put a building on it."

Emily: Robert Jordan's like, "I don't know, knock a building over, it'll solve everything." Or at least create enough - [laugh] what's that line in the Good Place where Jason's like -

Sally: Oh -

Emily: "Every time I had a problem, I threw a Molotov cocktail. Suddenly I had a new problem."

Sally: Yeah, "Boom, I have a new problem."

Both: [laugh].

Emily: That's Robert Jordan with collapsing buildings.

Sally: Yeah, boom, I have a new problem.

Emily: Rand's trapped and he's like, "Oh no, they're going to catch me," and Egwene is like, "I can't get you out of here." And Rand's like, "Okay, then kill me. Like, literally more or less euthanize me."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, and Egwene's like, "I cannot do that." And Rand's being like, "Kill me, kill me" as she goes through the portal, [laugh] which I don't mean to laugh at, but it's very dramatic.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um...

Sally: Rand is [pause]... an edge-lord.

Emily: Yeah, I sort of was going through this sequence more and more in terms of - like, I know the past, present, future thing is very obvious and it - for Egwene in particular it sort of feels like, um, I don't know, ambitions, kind of distilled. Her past ambition was to, you know, become the Wisdom and marry Rand and have babies. And her present ambition is just to, like, be this important person who helps at the end of the world, and kind of in the future you get this weird distillation of foreshadowing, in that next -

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Sequence of, like, stuff that, more or less, does actually happen, although to different people. Like, Sivan getting taken down by surprise, all of a sudden; what happens in the White Tower...

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Egwene has a whole line about how she never held the Oath Rod, which I think she does at one point, but she does become the Amyrlin without holding the Oath Rod.

Sally: [at the same time] yeah, holding the Oath Rod, which is interesting.

Emily: Yeah, so, I don't know it's just...

Sally: It's just weird, yeah, and I really like that interpretation because I am, again - and we've talked about this - so frustrated about how much of Egwene's storyline forever has to do with her relationship to Rand.

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: And, like, there's a lot of arguments to be made that she's just, like, worried about her friend, but he is also like, you know - being able to, like, help Rand would be like - it's a very ambitious thing, too. So there are arguments to be made, and it's just bothers me, you know. I just wish Egwene had more. And so the idea that, like, it's a weird dream manifestation of her ambitions is an interpretation I can fuck with a lot more.

Emily: I mean, it's also, like, um - yeah, it's sort of depressing that Rand is in all three of these, and you can kind of write that off as being like, now in the series Egwene is, more than ever, really worried about Rand.

Sally: Yeah, who wouldn't be?

Emily: And it's interesting because after about book six, she pretty much stops worrying about Rand. She kind of goes off and does her own thing.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: And it's, um, I don't know it's just, like, this is such a present moment thing for her, that she does have to let go of the idea that Rand is always gonna be dependent on her.

Sally: Hm-hmm.



Emily: And just kind of like, “I have to go off and do my - it’s sort of, I don’t know, it’s profound in a bit of a way. Like, if you have a friend who’s really struggling, even with mental illness of anything like that, you kind of want to be like, “I wanna solve your problem.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And you kind of have to let go of the fact that - like, you have to realize that you can’t solve anyone’s problems, that’s part of growing up. You can’t fix your friends, quote-on-quote.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Um, but yeah it also is just like, you only see this happening to Egwene, the female character, rather than Mat and Perrin, so -

Sally: Yeah, it’s not like Mat’s like, “Rand!”

Emily: Yeah, it can be profound, and it can also be deeply sexist.

Sally: Yeah, at the same time.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: [laugh] the world is complicated.

Emily: The world is complicated.

Sally: Um -

Emily: I mean, this especially, this time around feels like a dream sequence, but then we’re also fed into that when Egwene comes out and, like, the *ter’angreal* has been acting up, which is kind of why her third thing went on for so long and was so warped and kind of got lost in the middle there.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: You know? Um, she comes out and someone’s like, “Yeah, I’ve only seen something like this happen once before and it’s when two *ter’angreal* were reacting to each other and they had similar purposes.”

Sally: Hmm.

Emily: And of course, Egwene’s like, “Oh fuck, this ring.”

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: One ring to rule them all [laugh]. Um, so there’s sort of this implication that what happens in the *ter’angreal* to become Accepted is like a World of Dreams type thing.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: That you’re literally pulling on your subconscious and creating a dream for yourself. Like, a really vivid dream.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: I don't know, it's a cool sequence -

Sally: No, it's a cool sequence and I like the cognitive dissonance, for lack of a better term -

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: With the *ter'angreal*, it's really interesting.

Emily: It also struck me in terms of, like, past, present, future, how Egwene's present one, the middle one, was like, built in the ruins of a city.

Sally: Hm-hmm.

Emily: Which just kind of speaks to how traumatized Egwene's present is.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like you've got her past that's so idyllic and nostalgic, and her present that's just like: and here we're literally in apocalypse-ville.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: And, like, that's sort of what's happening to Egwene, what she's been going through in the most recent months.

Sally: Um, yeah. And the future is very much, you know, Egwene how she wants to see herself. Like, the past two chapters have been Egwene being like, "I want this, I want this, I want this, I want this."

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: So.

Emily: "These are the thing I want and I'm going to say that I want them."

Sally: Yeah, I just love Egwene's ambition so much.

Emily: I know, it's just really cool.

Sally: It's just awesome.

Emily: She also, in this chapter, gets hung up on the idea of the Green Ajah. She's like, "Alanna, what's the Green Ajah?" And Alanna's like, "It's the battle Ajah," and all of us readers are like, hmm, well that might be true but it's also Robert Jordan's weird fetish of powerful women having multiple men.

Sally: Making sure they have - making sure they've got a man to protect them.

Emily: Yeah, Alanna's like, "First of all, you have to love men." And I'm like, what the fuck?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Can't you be like aggressive and battle Ajah without loving men? You know?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: It's just - it's just so derivative, I don't know.

Sally: Yeah, it's weird.

Emily: [sigh] I think we already ranted about the Green Ajah.

Sally: Yeah. I don't know what else there is to say.

Emily: Um, but Alanna also has this sketchy thing where she's like, "I have to do penance with Egwene." And Egwene's like, [whispers] "I'd rather you didn't," and Sivan's like, "Don't be a dumbass, you idiot. Go get strapped by Sheriam if you want it so bad, if you're that kinky, but take it away from me."

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: "Get away from my teen with that." And Egwene's like, "Okay, that was really weird, clearly she doesn't want to be punished, she just wants to hang out with me," and you're left to be like, oh, is she Black Ajah? What the fuck? But, you know, I guess with hindsight, maybe she wanted to corner Egwene and ask her about Rand, cause, you know, Alanna's gonna be a major creep.

Sally: Yeah, Alanna's got some... [makes random noises].

Emily: I wish Alanna was dead, I'll be honest.

Sally: I do too, I think Alanna's the worst.

Emily: Alanna's a terrible character.

Sally: Magical rapist.

Emily: Magical rapist, that's no fun. At all. No type of rapist is fun, obviously [laugh]. OBVIOUSLY.

Sally: You heard it here first, kids.

Emily: [groans] um, anyway I don't know.

Sally: Um, then Egwene's like, "I'm fucken tired," so she goes back to her room and is like, "I don't wanna be alone." But her friend is there and Elayne's just, like, weeping on Nynaeve's lap.

Emily: Elayne's like, "I could never be that terrible." And we're all like, you literally actively are on a daily basis.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: So terrible.

Sally: Is your worst fear is acknowledging that you're a total douchebag?

Emily: Like, thank god Robert Jordan didn't make me suffer through Elayne's hazing.

Sally: Elayne's total horny -

Emily: I know.

Sally: I bet it was also all about Rand.

Emily: I know, and she doesn't even have, like, a decent archetypal excuse except that [gagging noise] she's gonna have his baby, or whatever.

Sally: Archetype: horny.

Emily: Babies? She has twins.

Sally: What? Why is Rand's whole thing that everyone who gets pregnant with his baby has multiples?

Emily: I know -

Sally: Why is it - you know what's better than being fertile?

Emily: [at the same time] Aviendha has, like, quadruplets or something.

Sally: Super fertile!

Emily: I know.

Sally: "I'm a big dick symbol."

Emily: "Look at my monster dick, it plants multiple babies inside of -

Sally: Oh no, gross, gross, gross.

Emily: I'm sorry.

Sally: All the language around impregnation is so awful.

Emily: I know, cause it's terrible. But also, like, there's no, um, genetic, like, background.

Sally: [at the same time] yeah, the Aiel don't have, like, a ton of twins.

Emily: Yeah, Elayne doesn't have twins in her background.

Sally: So why are they just like -

Emily: Maybe if she and Gawyn were twins I could -

Sally: Yeah, it's just like another - twins are *so* archetypal.

Emily: I know, it's actually interesting that we don't get more twins in *Wheel of Time*. Do we have any twins?

Sally: I don't think so.

Emily: Just the ones she has, I think.

Sally: That's weird.

Emily: Yeah, it is interesting.

Sally: Wheel World's first twins.

Emily: Yeah. Huh, weird. Yeah, twins are such an archetype, you think you'd have - I mean you have characters who are twinned in interesting ways, but you don't have characters that are literally like, "This is my twin."

Sally: [at the same time] biological twins.

Emily: Which is kind of rude, I love a good set of twin characters.

Sally: Who doesn't?

Emily: Yeah, it's like, I can fuck with that.

Sally: Yeah, poor Aviendha though. Quadruplets?

Emily: I kn - I think? Or triplets, I can't remember. She goes on some vision quest in the Aiel waste and... ugh. It's bad.

Sally: Aviendha deserves so much better.

Emily: [high pitched voice] Aviendha deserves so much better, I know. It's literally the worst.

Sally: She has such sapphic energy.

Emily: I know! She's just like, "I'm just a tall woman who loves women." And I'm like, yeah.

Sally: Tall one with a rat tail? [clapping at each word] big sapphic energy.

Both: [laugh].

Emily: Les-bean.

Sally: She's a les-bean.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Les-bean stalk. That's a tall girl. In my head canon she's like 7'5''.

Emily: If the Aiel were, like, forest people rather than bland Dune plagiarism then they would be wearing flannel as their camo.

Sally: Amazing.

Emily: Is all I'm saying. And then, truly -

Sally: Like lumberjacks.

Emily: Exactly! They do kind of have lumberjack energy, you know?

Sally: They do.

Emily: Gaul, 6'7" or whatever he is.

Sally: Yeah, he does have lumberjack energy, for sure. Put that boy in a flannel.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I don't know, I might die if I - ugh, just the idea -

Emily: I know.

Sally: Too much raw sexual power.

Emily: [laugh] literally, my libido would just implode.

Sally: I would just die. Just like -ah. Too much.

Emily: Too much.

Sally: Is there anything else? Then Egwene cries too and Nynaeve's like, "I'm so sorry you both had to see such scary things."

Emily: Nynaeve's like, "One day we'll make them pay." I'm like, okay Nynaeve you didn't need to make that as weird as it was.

Sally: I know, why is she so weird?

Emily: I know. Yeah, um, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. It's just weird that Elaida's there, like - Elaida's like - that's another archetype thing, cause Egwene and Elaida are gonna be big-time enemies.

Sally: Yeah, big time foils.

Emily: It's so funny and slightly immature that in Egwene's little dream of the future Elaida, of course, is Black Ajah, cause she goes into it being like, "Fuck, I hate Elaida." And now she's like, well -

Sally: [whisper] Elaida's a demon.

Emily: Here's my subconscious justifying my hatred. Although, you don't need that to justify your hatred of Elaida, she's just a bitch. Like, that's fine. We can all admit it.

Sally: You can hate women.

Emily: You can hate women.

Sally: I mean not, like, on a systemic level, on like, a personal level.

Emily: Individual women, though.

Sally: You can't just hate women blanket-ly [laugh].

Emily: [laugh] you can't just hate women, men -

Sally: You can hate specific women.

Emily: You can hate the occasional woman.

Sally: Only - you get three a year.

Emily: If you have a very reason. She's super rude.

Sally: Three a year, use it wisely.

Emily: Annually.

Sally: Three annual - [laugh].

Emily: You annual hatred of women quota.

Sally: Yeah, three. It's all you get.

Emily: Um -

Sally: There's a rule-over program, so if you only hate one woman in 2019 you get five in 2020.

Emily: Yeah. Fears, dreams -

Sally: Fear is the mind-killer.

Emily: Ambitions - don't even speak to me about fear being the mind-killer.

Sally: [softly] what does that even mean?

Emily: Dune is the mind-killer. It's just, like, this little mantra that they say to themselves to be like - you know, like, mindfulness? In terms of anxiety. It's basically, like, being mindful.

Sally: Oh.

Emily: Fear's the mind-killer, it's the little-death. I will let it pass over me and then once it's behind me I'll look back and it'll just be me, not the fear.

Sally: Is that a quote from the book?

Emily: I mean, that's not an exact quote but, like, yeah, it's basically it.

Sally: Cause you were just like, little death and I was like, if -

Emily: "Fear is the little-death," I think it says that. And I'm like, you know what else is the little death?

Both: Orgasm.

Emily: Now I have to look up Dune and see if it literally says that [laugh]. Hold on.

Sally: What's this motherfucker's name? Frank Herbert?

Emily: Hm-hmm.

Sally: If he was either, like, not aware of or just like, "I'm gonna repurpose this." Orgasm is the mind-killer [laugh].

Emily: Orgasm *is* the mind-killer. Blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Blah, blah, blah. "I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration." Fear equals orgasm signed Frank Herbert [laugh].

Sally: Frank Herbert was afraid of cumming.

Emily: Oh, that's a bold and sexy interpretation.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: I'll take it.

Sally: Thank you.

Emily: [laugh].

Sally: Not here to make friends.

Emily: Do you know how shocked I was when I opened Dune and the two main characters are named Paul and Jessica?

Sally: Jessica?

Emily: I know, I was like, what in the fuckening? Jessica? And she's, like, the Aes Sedai equivalent character.

Sally: And her name is fucking Jessica?

Emily: It's Jessica! And his name is Paul.

Sally: Paul I can't deal with.

Emily: I can't, I know.

Sally: Or Jessica.

Emily: Paul you fucking weirdo.

Sally: Like, on the other side of that you've got, like - what's that fucker from the Name of the Wind?

Emily: I can't - I can't say it, it's like Bloody Mary.

Sally: Kvothe?

Emily: It'll summon him.

Sally: [laugh] it's like -

Emily: We're already said it twice today.



Sally: Find your happy medium between that and Jessica [laugh].

Emily: And, like, completely unintelligible series of consonants. It's literally like, um, what's his bucket? Uh, Pat Rothfuss was just, like, playing Scrabble and he was like, "This is a word." And everyone was like, "No the fuck it isn't, what are you talking about?"

Sally: Pat, it ain't.

Emily: "Yeah, it's a really valuable word that I - it's the protagonist of my book, you dumbass." And they were like, "Fine, you have to publish a book with that as your protagonist, and then we will accept your Scrabble dominion."

Sally: The world's longest game of Scrabble.

Emily: Exactly.

Sally: It's going on for years.

Emily: With that guy.

Sally: Remember how Roxane Gay plays Scrabble?

Emily: Yeah, it's cute.

Sally: Competitively.

Emily: It is very cute. Good for Roxane Gay.

Sally: [whisper] I love Roxane Gay.

Emily: Okay, I, like, expected us to talk more about that, I don't know if we went through it too fast, but -

Sally: I just feel like there's not a whole ton to say.

Emily: It's just like -

Sally: Archetype, boom.

Emily: Dreams, fears, ambitions. Like, Elaida.

Sally: Foreshadowing.

Emily: I know, there is *so much* foreshadowing it's a little bit disturbing. Although Rand never is brought to Egwene to be, like, gentled or anything like that.

Sally: That's good.

Emily: Yeah, I mean it's fine, it's good.

Sally: It would be an interesting turn of events, but I'm glad it doesn't happen.

Emily: It is disturbing - I can't remember the exact visual that Egwene is running to, like, save Rand or whatever from being gentled, and it's like, he's in the traitor's quarter and the only thing that ever happens

there is men being gentled and, like, women being stilled and people being executed, basically. And I was like, is this a public event?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: Like, that's deeply disturbing if it is. I want us to get past the middle ages' weird fetish of public executions. I got enough of that in - what's it called? *Wolf Hall*?

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: RIP *Wolf Hall*. Check out our Patreon for more *Wolf Hall* content.

Sally: [snort] very specific market you're speaking to right now [laugh]. Very, very specific.

Emily: The diagram of people who like *Wheel of Time* and also *Wolf Hall*.

Sally: It does not include us in the middle.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: I'm trying to figure out which one it isn't.

Both: [laugh].

Emily: I had moments of appreciation for *Wolf Hall*, similarly I have moments -

Sally: When he was like - what is it that he says that's so funny? Where the king's like, "You just want me to sit in my room?" And he's like, "That would be ideal" [laugh].

Emily: "That would be, fiscally, that would be the ideal scenario."

Sally: "Fiscally speaking, that would be the ideal scenario" [laugh]. Slay it, Thomas Cromwell.

Emily: Thomas Cromwell, you sassy motherfucker. Um, okay.

Sally: And then that's it.

Emily: And that's it I guess, yeah.

Sally: End scene.

Emily: Oh, it's - so when Robert Jordan says that they put the ring on the third finger, does he mean the marriage finger?

Sally: That's what I was thinking! Cause, are we counting the thumb? So is it on the middle finger or is it on the - I assume it's the marriage finger.

Emily: It must be the marriage finger, cause otherwise -

Sally: Which I hate.

Emily: Why?

Sally: Yeah, why would you put it on your middle finger?

Emily: I know, there's something there that's like, nuns are married to Jesus and Aes Sedai are married to... power?

Sally: [at the same time] Aes Sedai are married to the Creator.

Emily: Which, you know -

Sally: They are.

Emily: A little more interesting. But not much. Why do women always have to end up in marriage?

Sally: [at the same time] marriage.

Emily: Yeah.

Sally: Robert, why are you afraid of unmarried women?

Emily: Exactly. What is it with unmarried women? Salem Witch Trials.

Sally: Hm, if you're not married you must be a witch.

Emily: Conversely, in this series, if you're married you are a witch.

Sally: Wait, what?

Emily: Cause they are witches and they get married to witchcraft.

Sally: So, in the real world, if you're not married, you're a witch -

Emily: There's only one metaphor for unions, and it's marriage.

Sally: If you're not married in the real world, you're a witch. In this series, if you're a witch... I gotta figure this out! In this series if you -

Emily: Every witch is married, but not all married women are witches [laugh].

Sally: Okay, I can get on board with that.

Emily: Wait, what the fuck?

Sally: Wait, wait. But wait, I thought if you were married you weren't a witch.

Emily: [sigh].

Sally: Does the dick take away the witchcraft?

Emily: It's - okay well -

Sally: Does it suck it all in?

Emily: What we were saying was -

Sally: Does it absorb it?

Emily: There are women who are unmarried by law.

Sally: In the court of law -

Emily: Legally unmarried, so Robert Jordan was like, "Gosh I gotta magically marry them."

Sally: Gotta magically marry them to their -

Emily: "Otherwise what will I do? They'll just, I don't know, shrivel up as all women do when a man doesn't fertilize them." Or whatever the fuck [laugh].

Sally: I literally hate the word fertilize.

Emily: I know, I'm sorry.

Sally: It's so gross.

Emily: I just gave myself the shivers. Ugh, shivers.

Sally: She just gave me the heebie-jeebies. Cause she has nothing else to give.

Emily: Nothing else to give. Okay, well I apologize for this episode but here we are.

Sally: It was okay.

Emily: We can't take it back.

Sally: I think you've been wonderful, Emily.

Emily: I've been very tired and weird.

Sally: Emily has been very sleepy.

Emily: I am so -

Sally: I don't think she's eaten enough. Definitely not sleeping enough.

Emily: [sigh].

Sally: And I sent her random pictures of gnomes today.

Emily: It was alarming.

Sally: She was like, "I don't know what to do with this, Sally."

Emily: Anyway, um... next week we will be recording a Q&A episode, so probably by the time this episode drops we will already have asked for questions. Um, and it's just because we literally don't have time to read and think about a chapter next week.

Sally: Yeah.

Emily: We are very tired. And also, a little bit because we could not stand the thought of having episode sixty-nine being a chapter with Perrin. We were like, it has to be with Mat.

Sally: He doesn't deserve it.

Emily: He doesn't deserve it! Okay, well, do we have any housekeeping?

Sally: Um, I just wanted to send a major thank you - not I - we wanted to send a major thank you to Ferg, who sent us the most beautiful calligraphed sign.

Emily: Yeah, it's so pretty.

Sally: I'm bad, I haven't put it up on our social media at the time of this recording because I've been really doped out on cough medicine, so Ferg it's not because we don't love you, it's because I have no idea what happened during the last week of my life.

Emily: She's been high.

Sally: So I'm doing that soon, probably by the time this episode is up it will be out there for you to see because it's so beautiful and nice and she drew Larry on it.

Emily: I know it's really romantic.

Sally: It's really pretty and I love her.

Emily: Thank you to Glynna MacKenzie for our theme song, it's so beautiful. We're so happy to play it at the beginning of this episode, which I definitely did.

Sally: [laugh].

Emily: Do you wanna sign us off?

Sally: [coughs extensively] sorry.

Emily: I should just end it with the coughing [laugh].

Sally: Ah, I mean that's been my life... I think we have a sign off.

Emily: Ooh.

Sally: From somebody.

Emily: Sexy.

Sally: So, these come from - [cough] we're not gonna do both, but we've got two, so look forward to the second one. These come from Reagan Caron. Thank you, Reagan. Reagan also made a super fly *Wheel of Time* playlist, which you can find on our Twitter.

Emily: Oh, hell yeah.

Sally: Um, and so Reagan writes: “The college that I go to is very historical and a large tourist attraction city. Along with all the college tours it has - ” people take tours of this college? That’s weird, it better be, like, Harvard.

Emily: Or Oxford or something.

Sally: Ooh, Oxford. “I was going to the painting studio - ” very sexy - “during the weekend, which is upstairs in the art building. The stairs in the art building are small spiral stairs - ” oh, I don’t like where this is going - “that only one person can use at a time. I had a bunch of things in my arms so the tour let me go first and I fell so dramatically going up the stairs, dropping all the things I was carrying and scraping my knee. All this happened in a small space in front of a senior that I knew - ” Noo!!

Emily: [gasp].

Sally: “Ten high school students and their parents. When I finally got up the stairs all of us were, of course, headed to the same room where they stayed for about ten minutes where I had to look nonchalant setting up my stuff cause it was too late to go back.” The only thing worse than falling is doing it in front of high schoolers.

Emily: That’s true. Or a museum security guard who didn’t care very much when Sally fell.

Sally: Just put me on blast, but yes -

Emily: It was really sad.

Sally: That’s correct. I fell down some stairs at the V&A Museum and a security guard was like, “You good?” And I was like, “I could have died,” and he was like, “Meh.”

Emily: I’ll also confess that my panic reaction was to laugh, so -

Sally: Oh, Emily was just cracking up. I mean, I was fine, I didn’t get hurt. This isn’t about me!

Both: [laugh].

Emily: Reagan I’m so sorry.

Sally: I’m sorry about also - [laugh].

Emily: Reagan remember, Dune is the mind-killer. And also, spiral staircases always spiral to the right to make it easier for castle defenders - actually to the left, I’m sorry. I’m not gonna explain that any further. I did a report on castles when I was in the fifth grade.

Sally: She did, isn’t she cute, you guys?

Emily: Goodbye!

