



Episode 28 – “Janet McBible”

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SALLY: [laughing] Okay

EMILY: [singing] Here we gooooo

SALLY: Welcome to Bible study

EMILY: What the fuck?

SALLY: I’m your youth [laughing] pastor, Janet...McBible [laughs, claps]. I warned you this would happen

EMILY: I can’t –

SALLY: Welcome to Bible study

EMILY: Sally texted me and was like, “Just as a warning, I’m really hyper.” And I was like, “Great, that will make for some fun recording, and just generally it’s really funny.”

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: But you just whipped that out of left field

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] I had no time to prepare for the trajectory of that joke

SALLY: [giggling]

EMILY: I was staring at the sun, and the baseball came right

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Okay, Janet McBible, which is already gonna have to be the title of this episode

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Unless we come up with something better, [laughing] which you know we're not going to. I'm so mad at you

SALLY: What?!

EMILY: This episode peaked in the first minute!

SALLY: Emily, challenge accepted

EMILY: Oh, to get better than that?

SALLY: Mm-hmm

EMILY: Well, we have to talk about Rand today, which is disappointing

SALLY: I know. Um, do you want to do a book news type segment? Or talk about what we've read?

EMILY: What did we decide this season? We're going to talk about things we've read?

SALLY: Yeah. What have you read recently?

EMILY: Um, oh god. What did I read before *Dragonhaven*?

SALLY: Ummm

EMILY: *The Bees* by Carol Ann Duffy. I just read that Samantha Irby book

SALLY: *The Bees* is one of Carol Ann Duffy's weirder ones, I think

EMILY: I agree. It said it was her first, like, published book as poet laureate. Like, her first published collection. That was weird

SALLY: Yeah, it was weird. Because I also just read a Carol Ann Duffy. *Love Poems*, which I will give back to you today

EMILY: Oh, yeah. How'd you like that?

SALLY: I liked it. I really like Caron Ann Duffy's love poems. There are, like, two people I trust to write about romance and desire and that's Maggie Stiefvater and Carol Ann Duffy

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: I'm sure there's more that I just have not encountered, but those are my two go-to's

EMILY: Carol Ann Duffy writes about romance just in a really...I don't know, like, natural way?

SALLY: Yeah! Like it all just feels, like it makes me, like, nostalgic for all the heartbreaks I've never had [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah, you remember being 13 and you'd, like, hear a song on the radio that's all about heartbreak. And in the back of your head you'd kind of be like, "Damn I wish I could have shitty boyfriend so I could experience emotions like this." And now we're twenty-whatever and neither of us have ever had a boyfriend, or girlfriend, and it's just, like, I don't really care that much anymore. I can still belt the shit out of some Kelly Clarkson without ever feeling what Kelly Clarkson has felt, you know?

SALLY: Oh my god

EMILY: What?

SALLY: [long pause, you can hear the air conditioning going in the background] For so long on Spotify I've been searching for Taylor Swift's "Love Story – pop remix"

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: And I've finally found it [laughing]

EMILY: You've been searching for it?!

SALLY: Yeah! Because it never comes up! I've looked through, because it's, like, my favorite. It's –

EMILY: [screams]

SALLY: Taylor Swift is a ridiculous person, I know, but "Love Story – pop remix" goes super hard

EMILY: "Love Story" is a great song

SALLY: Yeah, I'm not afraid, but I finally found it yesterday [laughs] on a playlist that was, like, a compilation of all these "Now That's What You Call Music" cds. It was hilarious and I, like, shrieked at one am

EMILY: I'm glad that me mentioning Kelly Clarkson led you to this

SALLY: Well, I was thinking of – I mean, yeah

EMILY: [laughs] Pop...ladies

SALLY: I love pop ladies

EMILY: And that's the books we've been reading I guess? Carol Ann Duffy

SALLY: Carol Ann Duffy. Yeah, that's the last one. I read that yesterday. Um, but yeah that's what we've been reading!

[THEME SONG – "Tubthumping" by Chumbawamba plays]

SALLY: Okay, I guess the theme song will go somewhere in here

EMILY: The theme song is somewhere in there. I don't know. Probably before we even started talking

SALLY: [singing flatly] We'll be singing, we'll be ringing

EMILY: Whatever. This is Everybody Hates Rand, our podcast where we talk about *The Wheel of Time* and how much we hate rand, but also how much we love Rand, because it sort of vacillates, we're finding, from kind of episode to episode

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: Depending on the book we're in

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Yeah. I'm Emily Juchau

SALLY: And I'm Sally Goodger, [laughing] the best dressed person in Utah

EMILY: That's probably true. Sally is currently wearing

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Overalls over her Powerline

SALLY: [snorts]

EMILY: Concert tee-shirt

SALLY: [coughs]

EMILY: [laughing] Powerline's the fictional

SALLY: [laughing]

EMILY: Bruno Mars from *The Goofy Movie*

SALLY: I think he's the fictional Prince, fictional precursor to Bruno Mars

EMILY: Yeah, that's true. You're right. Which makes it even better that teen Max Goof is obsessed with him [laughs]

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Right!

SALLY: Max Goof

EMILY: Anyway, he's like a, he's like a cartoon sex idol, basically

SALLY: I know. I love him

EMILY: Powerline is – look at his quaffed hair and cool sunglasses

SALLY: Yeah, stop this podcast and watch *The Goofy Movie*

EMILY: Especially because he has some of the best songs of all time

SALLY: So lit! “Stand Out” is

EMILY: [singing] Stand out!

SALLY: “Stand Out” is not available on iTunes – I mean, on Spotify *unlike* Taylor Swift “Love Story – pop remix” so that's upsetting

EMILY: It's because you have to get it with the whole album. I know this because I've done research

SALLY: I know. I've bought the whole album before. It's on my old computer that my friend spilled water on, so

EMILY: Oh, Jesus

SALLY: [singing] R-I-P

EMILY: Bye, Daisy

SALLY: NOOOOOO

EMILY: [laughing] She just jumped off the bed [both laugh]. Should we talk about our recording set-up today? Because the last three things we've recording, if we include our *We Watch Outlander* which just went up yesterday as we're recording this

SALLY: Ha! We Watch Outlander colon Tom Holland Interlude colon [laughing] *In the Heart of the Sea*

EMILY: Yeah, we watched *In the Heart of the Sea*, which means we didn't watch *Outlander*. Maybe that's what we should just say

SALLY: We didn't watch *Outlander*?

EMILY: We did not watch *Outlander*

SALLY: [laughing] We did not watch *Outlander* colon Tom Holland Interlude

EMILY: We did not watch *Outlander* in whatever we're actually doing. Um [laughs], anyway our last three recording setups have been in new, various places, so that's been fun

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Right now we're in Sally's childhood bedroom

SALLY: Mm-hmm. Where I'm living while I don't have a job. What we should talk about is how we are switching our three-dollar podcast on our Patreon from watching something to reading something, since we're a little bit more uh

EMILY: Book focused

SALLY: Book-focused, and a little bit more qualified to talk about that type of stuff

EMILY: And it's like the stuff we watch tends to be, I don't know. We approach the things we watch with the same mind we approach the things we read

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Which is to say we've both learned close reading because we studied English in college. So, we just – we went to see a movie the other night and immediately analyzed

SALLY: The shit out of it, while we ate McDonald's

EMILY: The shit out of it, yeah [laughing] while we were sitting in a McDonald's parking lot. We have such a glamorous life, you guys

SALLY: I know. It's really incredible

EMILY: Um, but it's, like, I don't know. We also tend to choose things to watch that are not going to require us to analyze things as much

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: To give ourselves a break, so. I don't know. It's kind of a good idea to leave those spheres separate, I think

SALLY: Untouched

EMILY: So, we'll continue to watch the occasional thing. Mostly movies that Tom Holland in them, because those are things that bear analyzing

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Like, honestly?

SALLY: *In the Heart of the Sea* really threw me for a loop analytically. I wasn't expecting to have to think about it so much

EMILY: I know. I was like damn. Damn

SALLY: But you can find that on our Patreon. So, we're going to be reading next *Dragonhaven* by Robin McKinley, which is another one of Emily's favorites. I also like it very much, too. Emily introduced me to it. It's a standalone book. It's pretty short. It's, what? 300-something pages?

EMILY: Yeah, it's actually only 10 chapters plus an epilogue. Um, and, I mean they're long chapters, as Robin McKinley tends to have long chapters. Anyway, if you want to listen to us talk about it or read along with us. We should have researched this beforehand. Now I'm gonna find out how much it is on – as an ebook

SALLY: I don't think it's available as an ebook

EMILY: Really?

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: It's one – Robin McKinley tends to be kind of an obscure author to begin with, but then it's – she has a few books – she tends to be more well-known for her fairy tale retellings. She has two separate styles of books. One are the third-person heroine falls in love, has a fairy tale retelling. There are swords and sword fighting type thing. And then there's first person rambly narratives grounded in the real world, but there's magic elements going on in the background

SALLY: And *Dragonhaven* is one of the latter

EMILY: Yeah *Dragonhaven* is about a world where dragons exist, like it's our world, but dragons are real and an endangered species. There's only, like, a thousand of them or whatever. And it takes place in one of the two or three main, like, conservatories, I guess. It's like a national park

SALLY: Mm-hmm. It's like Yellowstone featuring dragons

EMILY: Yeah, and it's also very much grounded in Yellowstone. I think it's supposed to be in the general area. Like, kind of Wyoming, Montana, Colorado-ish

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: But it's – the protagonist is a, well he ages throughout the series, but when it starts he's 14. His name's Jake, and the tension of the book is that he is camping overnight solo on his first time and he finds a dragon, which is really rare. And it's a dying dragon that just had babies, and he rescues one of the babies. And it's all about teenage boy raising a dragon

SALLY: It's about teenage...motherhood

EMILY: It really is, though [laughs]

SALLY: A teenage boy, and his motherhood [laughs]

EMILY: We'll talk about it at length, I don't know. Are we going to take one or two weeks to talk about it?

SALLY: Eh. We can take as long as it needs, I think

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: It's not like *Wheel of Time*, where it merits multiple, multiple seasons of

EMILY: Yeah, it's not that long, for one thing

SALLY: Stuff. It's 342 pages, I just looked. And maybe – I just ended up with a copy for various reasons, but now we have, and as we mentioned we're in the process of consolidating our library. So maybe we'll do a giveaway or something, and I can giveaway *Dragonhaven* to one of our lovely listeners

EMILY: We can give away my old beaten up copy because I've read it like nine times

SALLY: No, we should keep yours

EMILY: Um, it's available on ebook for 7.99

SALLY: Oh, cool

EMILY: Yep

SALLY: And the copies of the book aren't much more than that. I got this one of Amazon, tragically, but I got it for like 12 bucks or something like that. Or 10 bucks. It's not an expensive book

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: So!

EMILY: So that's what we're doing over on Patreon

SALLY: Over on Patreon

EMILY: Just to encourage you to give us money [laughs]

SALLY: Read *Dragonhaven*

EMILY: Yeah, read along with us. We'd love that

SALLY: It's also a fabulous book, and I had never encountered it until Emily, uuuuuuh I lost all of my words. [laughing] Until Emily gave it to me

EMILY: Recommended? I force people to read that book, because I'm like, "You have to understand this book to understand me."

SALLY: That's true. I wish I would have read this before I started critiquing your writing, because I would have understood it a lot better

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: Because I think I said some unhelpful things, just because I wasn't – but this would have helped a lot. [claps] Not relevant! Okay, um other housekeeping stuff. I am so sorry for all the technical difficulties that we are experiencing. Um, it's just a lot of stuff going on. A lot of miscommunication. A lot of dealing with multiple customer service teams, which is just a lot of delay in response, because I think all three of the people dealing with this are in different time zones

EMILY: [groans]

SALLY: So, I'm really, really sorry that everything's a little bit fucked right now. I'm hoping it will all be fixed by the time this episode comes out, but if not it will be available on – well the new episode, Lord willing, should be available on iTunes like the latest episode is, we just don't have any of our backlog up right now

EMILY: So, if you're catching up worst case scenario is, just go to our Patreon, because you can definitely listen to everything there, or on Podomatic

SALLY: Yeah, and everything is still available on Podomatic

EMILY: But if that changes in the next few days

SALLY: If that changes, everything is still on Patreon, available for free, of course. You don't have to pay to listen to our main podcast. That would be ridiculous. And I'm just really sorry. It's such a bad time for this to happen, at the beginning of the season. Um, and I wish that it was fixed. But it will be fixed soon, Lord willing. And just thank you so much for being patient. And also thank you to those people who do donate to our Patreon. Having those funds available has made this entire process not – yes, it's made it easier and less stressful just to know we have your support to fall back on as we try to get this thing solved, which is costing a little more money than anticipated. So, we're just really, really grateful that there are people out there that like what we are doing and are willing to, um, help us be able to do it to the best of our ability. So, if I don't say this enough, I love you guys

EMILY: [giggles]

SALLY: And think you are the bees knees

EMILY: [giggles]

SALLY: Um

EMILY: Here's what happens in these two chapters. We read chapters two and three

SALLY: Yes

EMILY: Rand runs around, panicking

SALLY: Oh my god. I love these chapters. They're so funny

EMILY: Right?

SALLY: Because I just imagine Rand as a little rat in a maze like, "I can't jump! I can't get out!"

EMILY: Especially because he's tall and so conspicuous

SALLY: And he's already dressed in his fancy clothes

EMILY: He's sweaty

SALLY: And he's just the biggest, tallest, dumbest, reddest boy

EMILY: He like runs around and is like, "Ah! The Amyrlin Seat I think saw me." And then he's like, "No, no, no you're making it up." And I'm like, "She probably did see you, bitch."

SALLY: Because you're nine feet tall!

EMILY: "Your six foot nine"

SALLY: Yeah, you're a big lad. And he's like, "I'm afraid of her and I want to leave, but I'm also going to see her arrive, because I'm stupid" [laughs]

EMILY: Oh my god. I got to that part – he's, like, panicking because the Amyrlin Seat is *coming* right now. And he's like, "There's two ways for me to get to the stable. There's the long way, or there's the short way, which will take me directly, like, within spitting distance of the Amyrlin, so I'm gonna do the second one. Because I wanna see her." And I'm like, "What the fuck?"

SALLY: Just wanna punch him in the face. Okay, but I'm getting a head of myself. [clears throat] Okay, what were we talking about? Rand's clothes?

EMILY: I mean, he still goes and gets his new clothes, and mostly it gives us a funny scene where he has to interact with the maids, basically

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Fal Dara's, like, a weird place, partly because it's not like a palace in the traditional sense where it has a bunch of lords and ladies. It just has, I think, the one lord and the one lady

SALLY: Mm-hm

EMILY: Because it's like a fortress, not really a place where the local noble people hang out

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: So, it's just Agelmar and the local lady is his sister, and they kind of have their coteries

SALLY: Mm-hm

EMILY: So, it's a bit of a different vibe than we'll get later in the series when we're hanging out in the palace at Caemlyn or Cairhien or whatever. But we are still getting the first hints of how

servants interact with Rand, and how he interacts with servants. Especially because this is in this weird liminal space, before he's, like, taken over his authority

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And, like, started acting – like, he's still in that spot where he's uncomfortable being called, like, being mistaken for a noble person. Which, both Mat and Perrin never really get over

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Although both of them marry into nobility [laughs]

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: So that's hilarious

SALLY: Oh boys [clears throat]

EMILY: Rand is the only one that actually, uh, unless his birth was publicized, doesn't really have a claim on nobility

SALLY: Yeah, yeah

EMILY: Like people don't – it's not common knowledge that his mom's Tigraine

SALLY: That his mom's – yeah

EMILY: Tigraine? [like ty-grain]

SALLY: Tigraine? [like tee-grain]

EMILY: Tigraine. Whatever it is

SALLY: Tiggers are wonderful things. The most wonderful thing about Tiggers, is I'm the only one!

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: That's not at all how that goes. I almost said, "That's not how that rap goes" [laughs]

EMILY: [laughing] Can you imagine Tigger just, like, breaking down?

SALLY: [laughing] Okay, anyway. Tigger's not rapping

EMILY: [laughs] Tigger, rap god

SALLY: [laughs]

EMILY: “Come at me, Yeezy.”

SALLY: I’m gonna die

EMILY: Um [giggles]. Anyway, it’s just this sort of dichotomy of Rand interacting with the noble – not the noble, the servant women, who of course are more teasing of him and think he’s really funny, because he’s so awkward and so blushy about the local culture

SALLY: Yeah, which is just that, like, men and women bathe together in the communal bath house, and Rand is like, “I can’t see a naked woman, or I’ll die”

EMILY: Rand’s like, “A pussy? I’ll die”

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And Rand’s like, “I have to marry her now. I saw her nipples” [laughs]

SALLY: Like, Jesus Christ. Although, it does kind of bother me that so many – like, this happens to Rand throughout the series, that women are, like, teasing him about how awkward he is [clears throat]

EMILY: Yeah, the Maidens do that, too

SALLY: And it’s just kind of like – it’s a thing that does upset me, because it’s, like, why would you – if someone’s awkward about sex or their body – and Rand takes it to the extreme because honor and blegh, but it’s, like, just leave him alone

EMILY: Well, it becomes this thing of it’s a problem throughout the series that comes to its crux with Mat getting raped by an older woman, and that is almost played off for comic relief

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And so, it’s like the whole thing – the whole thing of women teasing Rand and Perrin and Mat and everyone, and Berelain trying to seduce Perrin constantly even when she’s told not to, and asked not to, politely

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Is all that it’s supposed to be funny, because it’s part of this greater war of the sexes that Robert Jordan is, like, writing about

SALLY: Yeah, and it’s the idea that women – it’s just, like, I don’t know how to exactly unpack it

EMILY: Well, it's –

SALLY: But it's this crux of women and their power is their sex

EMILY: And well that men, because of chivalry, have to respect women's, uh, like have to treat women a certain way

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: That's, like, put them on a pedestal and make a big deal out of their sexuality or not look at their bodies or anything like that. Whereas women are free to do whatever, including, like, get violent and rape men

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: As it happens with Mat

SALLY: Yeah, and it's, like, women aren't held to the same standards – almost, yeah and it's this idea that men are supposed to enjoy any type of sexual or quasi or borderline sexual affection or interaction from women, even if it's just, like, oh you shouldn't be embarrassed about being naked in front of a bunch of female maids. Like, man up, or whatever

EMILY: Yeah. And it's also supposed to be this other running theme in the series, I think of cross cultural

SALLY: Yep

EMILY: Communication. Like, there's constantly stuff happening, especially with the Aiel, where people don't understand what's going on, and it's kind of like the running joke is, “Stupid white people.” Which is, like, true. But it's also, like, becomes this – it's telling that the first, our first instance of that revolves around nudity and the genders' comfort with each other's bodies

SALLY: Yeah. And it's, like, a ton of other cultures, like Americans are notoriously very, like, awkward and weirdly prudish about their body, but it's

EMILY: Like, there's no nude beaches on American soil

SALLY: On America. We have no nude beach!

EMILY: In God we trust, in naked beaches we do not

SALLY: Yeah, Jesus can see your titties wherever he wants [laughs]

EMILY: Which, like, to be honest naked bitches – naked bitches [laughs]

SALLY: [laughs] Naked bitches! Ohh!

EMILY: [laughs] Um, naked beaches I just don't get because you'll get sand all up in your crevices

SALLY: I don't like being on the beach fully clothed

EMILY: Exactly

SALLY: Why do you think I want to be on the beach naked?

EMILY: I just don't like sand. Or, you know, any of the other things you find at beaches. But whatever, to each his own

SALLY: HPV [laughs]

EMILY: Eww. Gross

SALLY: [laughs] But yeah

EMILY: Anyway, there's that and it's supposed to be funny that all these women are teasing Rand, because he blushes every time he remembers that he saw a woman naked

SALLY: And it's just, like, yeah Rand is super extra and dramatic, but also, like, it's just uncomfortable. And it's just not funny. Like

EMILY: Yeah, it's not. Maybe it was at the time Robert Jordan's writing this, but, like, sort of as the era has changed so, I think rightfully, have our attitudes shifted a little bit

SALLY: Yeah. It's the #MeToo moment

EMILY: Yeah!

SALLY: This does not stand

EMILY: All boys have experienced a form of assault by women

SALLY: It's true! Especially older women. There are women in the neighborhood who used to be really uncomfortable with Ian. Ian is my older brother

EMILY: Oh. You're talking about real people

SALLY: Yes

EMILY: Sorry, I thought we were talking about the boys

SALLY: There are people in the neighborhood of the Two Rivers, of which I am very familiar!

EMILY: You were like, “There are people in,” and I thought you were going to say, “the series” and I was like, “duh duh duh duh,” and then you were like, “the neighborhood,” and I was like, “Damn! What neighborhood?”

SALLY: The neighborhood! The neighborhood of Fal Dara

EMILY: This neighborhood. Okay

SALLY: I know it

EMILY: There were women who were uncomfortable with Ian?

SALLY: Yeah, so anyway older women are just, like...

EMILY: Yeah, and it's – you'll see stories all the time of older women seducing younger men, or underage men. And I'm like, “That's rape. That's statutory rape”

SALLY: [whispers] That's rape. But older men are also very predatory. Basically, all predators should die

EMILY: [laughs] The end

SALLY: Me v. Predator [laughs]. It's the new *Alien* movie. It's me killing sexual predators

EMILY: What if it was Alien v. Predator and we could just cheer for Alien to kill all the predators

SALLY: I would love that. Alien v. Sexual Predator. Starring Sigourney Weaver [laughs]

EMILY: Yeah, she's just there

SALLY: Just there to moderate the alien

EMILY: She made friends with the alien. I've never seen *Alien*

SALLY: Me neither

EMILY: Do we need to see *Alien*?

SALLY: Yeah, I guess

EMILY: All I know about it is Sigourney Weaver's in it, and I think she survives it

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And there's a scene where the alien bursts out of John Hurt's stomach or something

SALLY: Yeah, that's gross. That's disgusting

EMILY: I've never seen it

SALLY: I've seen that scene in *Spaceballs*

EMILY: Really?

SALLY: Is it *Space* – it's *Spaceballs*

EMILY: That scene is referenced in *Dragonhaven* which is the only reason I could think about it

SALLY: But anyway. But Rand gets some new fancy clothes, which we are not going to talk about

EMILY: Too much

SALLY: Too much, because we are having an upcoming guest episode with friend of the podcast and professional costumer, Sarah McClintock, who is doing academic research on clothing in fantasy, particularly *Wheel of Time*. So, we're going to talk to her about it, and she's going to have lots of interesting stuff to say, and I'm super excited about it

EMILY: Me too

SALLY: Um, she's a delight. So that'll be coming up

EMILY: Suffice it to say, he now looks like a fancy lord

SALLY: Yeah, he now looks like a fancy boy, which makes him even more conspicuous, because he's this tall be-speckled, bedazzled teen

EMILY: Like, honestly

SALLY: Who's like [in a deep voice], "I need to get out! I need to get out of the house! [laughs] Let me out of big house!" [laughing] Everyone is like, "Bruh, I cannot."

EMILY: He's panicking so hard. And we already said he, for some reason, decides to go the route that will put him right next to the Amyrlin. Which is good for us, the reader, because it allows us to see the entrance, you know, of Sivan Sanche

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Although, I don't even think her name has been said yet

SALLY: No, I think they just called her

EMILY: I think Lan said it?

SALLY: But yeah, it's one of those things where you want to be, like, "Rand, what an idiot," but this is Robert Jordan making a very deliberate decision so that we can see Sivan Sanche. But, it's like, at this point we already have different points of view so why can't we see it through Nynaeve's eyes, or Egwene's eyes. Like, that would make sense?

EMILY: Or Perrin's

SALLY: Or Perrin!

EMILY: Well, Perrin I think is kind of hiding at this point

SALLY: Yeah, Perrin is hiding. But Egwene and Nynaeve are probably there to see the Amyrlin, so, like, why do you have to make Rand make this really dumb decision that you don't have to make

EMILY: Or, like, next chapter we're getting Sivan and Moiraine's points of view

SALLY: Yeah!

EMILY: So, we could have just had their points of view start a little earlier

SALLY: Yeah, we could literally have this from Sivan Sanche's point of view, who's, like, talking about how she feels about pomp and circumstance, which would have been hilarious

EMILY: Exactly

SALLY: Sivan's like

EMILY: It's just

SALLY: It's just, yeah, I want to say, "Stupid Rand," but it's more just a weird point of view choice at this point

EMILY: Bad editing, basically. No one called Robert Jordan out on that

SALLY: Being like, "You could do this differently." So, because Rand is a dumb boy, but he's not, like, the dumbest boy

EMILY: Yeah, it just doesn't make sense that his curiosity would o – and the fact is that when you have his curiosity overwhelm his panic, it makes him seem disingenuous in a way

SALLY: Yeah, because –

EMILY: His panic itself becomes comedy, because you're like, "Oh, he was fine putting himself in this situation, so I don't really believe he's that panicked about it."

SALLY: Yeah, that he's that worried that he just has to catch the Amyrlin. It's weird. It's super weird

EMILY: Anyway, he sees her. There's just this little ceremony where there's a lot of stick banging and yelling and Siuan is like, "Hey. What's up I'm here."

SALLY: But what I really want is Siuan's internal monologue being like, "This is the best day of Leane's life." Like

EMILY: She's like, "I love this." Leane's like, "I love yelling at people."

SALLY: Leane's like, "It's my favorite pastime."

EMILY: [laughs] Leane's such an icon

SALLY: Leane is so funny. I can't wait to get into the Aes Sedai camp in Salidar

EMILY: Oh!

SALLY: Because that shit is so weird

EMILY: So weird. So lit. Anyway, Rand runs around, gets to the stable, has another interaction with a servant person who's like, "Sorry, you can't leave. The order just came down that we're not letting anyone out basically at all. The gates are closed." Which is a creepy order, especially because the insinuation is that Moiraine gave it, because Aes Sedai have this much power that they can just issue orders to the servants. And it's, like, if I was the lord of this fortress, I wouldn't want...that

SALLY: Yeah, I'd be like, "I understand the implication, but like..."

EMILY: Like, you can – she can order you to fetch her some shit, but, like, that's some – putting us on lockdown? That's some war shit

SALLY: Yeah, it's weird

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: Because Rand keeps asking, "Did this come from Agelmar?" and everyone is like

EMILY: "Well, who else would it come from?"

SALLY: And Rand's like, "One of the *four thousand* Aes Sedai here?"

EMILY: Yeah, I don't know, bitch

SALLY: Anyway

EMILY: Anyway, we do meet a couple of

SALLY: Key players

EMILY: Yeah, we meet Ragan and Masema

SALLY: Masema's the prophet, right?

EMILY: Ma-see-ma? I never know how to pronounce it

SALLY: Should we check the pronunciation guide?

EMILY: Oh my god

SALLY: Might be the first time it's actually helpful to us

EMILY: I wonder if it's even in the pronunciation guide. He's in it so little

SALLY: I'm gonna look [shifting as she gets off the bed]

EMILY: Dun dun dun

SALLY: I also have other books where he might be in it. Actually, I don't have that many *Wheel of Time* books currently. Oh, wait. Fuck I forgot to send this today. That was on my to-do list today. I'll do it tomorrow

EMILY: Oh, that's okay. Anyway, Ragan and Masema are the guards on one of the gates that Rand goes to. Ragan's only important because he's one of the –

SALLY: Ma-see-muh

EMILY: Masema, okay

SALLY: Ma-see-ma [laughing] literally Ma-see-ma

EMILY: "A Shienaran soldier who hates Aiel." I love that it puts that right there

SALLY: Yeah, it's like, "By the way, he's racists" [laughs]

EMILY: By the way, he's a xenophobic asshole

SALLY: Yeah, but Ma-see-ma. Ma-see-ma

EMILY: Masema and Ragan. Ragan's just gonna be in the Shienaran posse that pops up every now and again

SALLY: Sorry, I just crawled across the bed and probably ruined everything. That's not my phone!

EMILY: [giggles]

SALLY: [yells]

EMILY: Um, and he's much nicer to Rand than Masema, who is immediately portrayed as this extremist, even though Rand doesn't know what the actual outline of his extremism is. But it's going to be that he hates Aiel and feels pretty xenophobic toward them. Um, and there's some, "Oh, Aiel killed my parents or something like that," I don't know. Like he's fought Aiel or some shit

SALLY: Yeah, he's just an...asshole

EMILY: Yeah, there's no excuse for hating an entire race because you've fought some of them

SALLY: But we also meet...Uno

EMILY: We meet Uno?

SALLY: I'm pretty sure we do

EMILY: I thought he was just mentioned

SALLY: Oh, he might just be mentioned in passing. Fine, we don't meet him. I would remember because he swears

EMILY: We'll meet him a little later, right? I was like, "Is Uno gonna be in here? I love Uno."

SALLY: Uno is the best

EMILY: My BEST boy. What an icon

SALLY: *Wheel of Time* has such good boys

EMILY: Right? Anyway, then Rand leaves them and goes running inside I think? He might – I think he tries some other gates

SALLY: He's basically running around like a chicken with his head cut off for hours, it seems

EMILY: Yeah, finally he just starts going into random rooms

SALLY: It's like he's complete lost it. It's like Rand has dissociated. His panic was so awful that he just left his body and is just opening doors [laughs]. Just like, "I don't know what to do"

EMILY: Well, and it's this incredible thing too, where this sequence sets the tone so much of Rand's mental state for the rest of this book, which is bordering on paranoid, paranoia to an extreme. And that's going to be part of Rand's character in a little while. But Robert Jordan is like, "Hey, he's still traumatized from this, and here is how is trauma is manifesting. He's paranoid about everything."

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: "And terrified."

SALLY: But again

EMILY: To the point of running into rooms and looking around and being like [nonsense noises]

SALLY: But again, like, that paranoia is presented here as almost comedic

EMILY: Mm-hmm

SALLY: Which is, like, fine, because it's the opening chapter of a book and we want some...levity or whatever. But, like, I almost wish it wasn't. And again, it's like Rand going to see the Amyrlin Seat. It's not a rational decision, which might also play into his...um deteriorating mental health

EMILY: Yeah, I mean, if you're tracking Rand's descent into, I don't want to say insanity because we're never quite sure whether he's – you know, where is the line? But in Rand's descent to lesser sanity, we're starting to get symptoms this early, where he's paranoid. He's talking to himself a lot, both out loud and in his head. He, like, just talks about having a voice in his head. Which, I know is, like, that's a totally normal thing to talk to yourself, but when you stack it up against all these other symptoms, it's just, like, you're starting to question Rand as a narrator from the get-go

SALLY: Yeah. I read this really interesting thing about schizophrenia and hearing voices in your head. Because it was like, "Everyone has a voice in their head," but it's, like, if you can – it's like the volume of the voice in your head will tell you if it's an unnatural thing. If the voices in your head are whispering at you or yelling at you, then that's not, like, a typical symptom of – because everyone's like, you have a running voice in your head, but you can't really make it yell at you, or make it whisper. Like, you can't really control how you perceive the volume of that voice. So, um, interesting because we get to a point where Lews Therin is yelling at Rand

EMILY: In his head. And whispering

SALLY: And whispering. And muttering

EMILY: And crying in the background

SALLY: Doing all – Lews Therein is just a

EMILY: Yeah, he's just a bundle of joy

SALLY: He needs some

EMILY: [laughing] Serious help

SALLY: Rest. He needs a vacation. He needs to go to the Maldives or something

EMILY: Well, and it's also – just as a sidebar – paranoid schizophrenia and a lot of other serious mental illnesses would start manifesting in people of Rand's age. Like, at Rand's age

SALLY: Oh, yeah. This is the age where everyone

EMILY: Late teens and early 20s are when things hit

SALLY: Which is so fun, because you think you've settled into things and all of the sudden

EMILY: You're like, "Dang! I did it! I can legally drink now. Just kidding."

SALLY: And your brain chemistry is like

EMILY: "Fuck off!"

SALLY: "Here's a thought: perish." [laughs]

EMILY: Then perish

SALLY: Which is super fun

EMILY: You want some relief after your teen years

SALLY: Right?

EMILY: And your brain's just like, "Fuck you."

SALLY: Your brain's like, "You know what? The economy's shit and also you're depressed."

EMILY: [laughs] Enjoy

SALLY: [laughs] "No correlation."

EMILY: “Enjoy your panic attack in Disneyland.”

SALLY: UGH

EMILY: [laughs] Ummm

SALLY: It’s the worst

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: But anyway, Rand goes into, like, a cellar? Or something?

EMILY: Storerooms. It’s just storerooms

SALLY: Oh, you’re right

EMILY: So, he’s just wandering around the basement, finally opens this door and we get, oh here’s Mat and Perrin and Loial

SALLY: And Mat and Perrin gambling

EMILY: I think it’s just Mat gambling. I get the impression

SALLY: Perrin’s too nervous

EMILY: Just standing in the background watching

SALLY: Perrin is like me, where you have to be where your friends are at all times

EMILY: Oh my god

SALLY: Perrin could not be alone

EMILY: Yeah, Perrin’s just hanging out with Mat these days, which is interesting

SALLY: Which is – yeah

EMILY: Because, as we’ve pointed out, Mat and Perrin don’t really hang out a whole lot

SALLY: They don’t really, like, chill

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: So, what are they – Perrin? Yeah, I’d hang out with Mat, though

EMILY: I mean

SALLY: Maybe Perrin's trying it out for the first time. He's like, "What would it be like to hang out with Mat?" And then he's like, "Oh, wait I hate this."

EMILY: Without Rand as a buffer?

SALLY: [laughs] Yeah! He's like, "What would this be like?" And then he just gambles in basements for three days and he's like, "You know what?"

EMILY: "Dear god"

SALLY: [laughs] "Mat's gonna die soon so I should –"

EMILY: "Mat's gonna die of his Vitamin D deficiency, and his gambling addiction."

SALLY: "Little fucking weasel."

EMILY: Of course, we're given the first signs here that, uh, Mat's whole luck thing is gonna crop up, because he mentions really off handedly, "Oh, I just keep winning"

SALLY: Yeah, "I just keep winning," and everyone's like, "You can't walk away when you're winning," and Mat's like

BOTH: "Better than when I'm losing."

EMILY: And they're like, "LOL"

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And so, it's not quite at the level of Mat going on his, like, spree of inns in Tar Valon

SALLY: Yeah! His gambling bender in Tar Valon

EMILY: Honestly

SALLY: I love that sequence so much

EMILY: Right?

SALLY: I cannot wait – I know we gotta get through this. Book 3 is something else

EMILY: So good [laughing]

SALLY: I'm so excited. I have to find this. Because I just love the way that Mat and Perrin are introduced, because it's, like, so typical and it almost at this point has become their epithet, or their specific theme that plays in the background

EMILY: Yeah, Rand's, like, chatting with Loial and getting all weird about it. And Loial's like, "Uh, I think you're sick. Mat? Perrin?" and then

SALLY: And then it's like, "Rand opened his eyes to see his friends straightening up out of the knot of dicers," which is a great image by the way

EMILY: Yep

SALLY: "Mat Cauthon, long-limbed as a stork wearing a half-smile as if he saw something funny that no one else saw. Shaggy haired Perrin Aybara with heavy shoulders and thick arms from his work as a blacksmith's apprentice." Like

EMILY: Those are almost the exact descriptions that he who called himself Bors

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Gave back in the prologue. And they just come up over and over again

SALLY: Yeah and so I just

EMILY: Like, we get it. Mat's gangly and sort of

SALLY: And Perrin's *big*

EMILY: [laughing] Has chaotic energy surrounding him

SALLY: But anyway, this is where we get the infamous Rand and Mat – this is also a hilarious moment because first Rand's like, "I need to leave," and Mat is like, "the Aes Sedai aren't going to do anything to you." And later Rand's like, "I'm leaving," and Mat's like, "Well, I'm leaving, too! [laughing] The Aes Sedai are going to do something to me!" Which is it, Mat?

EMILY: He's like – yeah

SALLY: Which is it?

EMILY: Well, Mat's like, "You need to chill, like, we all just need to chill" and Rand's like, "Well, I'm leaving." And Mat's like, "Okay, well we'll come with you." Like a good friend would

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And Rand's like, "No, you have your shit to deal with," and Mat's like, "Well, I don't know." It's kind of like Mat presents himself as this cocksure idiot for a while, and then as soon as someone else expresses vulnerability he's like, "Oh, it's okay for me to —"

SALLY: He's like, "Oh, right. I can be afraid."

EMILY: He's like, "Oh, right. I can be freaked out about this, too."

SALLY: [whispers] Which is it, Mat?

EMILY: Yeah. Mat, these are your friends. Just be vulnerable

SALLY: Just be vulnerable, Mat! It's okay

EMILY: Be like, "I'm freaked out. Look at me. I've developed a gambling addiction." [laughs]

SALLY: That's true. Mat...[whispers] has a problem

EMILY: And it's, like, to be honest I know Perrin has his wolf stuff going on, but to me Mat has the most reason to be freaked out

SALLY: Because he's attached to a death dagger

EMILY: Right?! The shadow plague is on his belt

SALLY: At all times

EMILY: And, like, this is something that is going to be publicly known. Like, obviously Rand's freaked out that Moiraine's going to spill his secret to all the other Aes Sedai, but also she has given him no indication that that's what's going to happen? And so, Mat's kind of just, like, "Everyone does need to know if I'm gonna get healed." It's freaky

SALLY: Yeah, Mat has a little bit more reason at the moment, I think

EMILY: But they all have their reasons. Perrin, Rand they all have their secrets

SALLY: They're all just, like, FEAR

EMILY: Fear incarnate

SALLY: Fear of witches

EMILY: Fear of witches and authority

SALLY: Yeah, well

EMILY: That's our trio

SALLY: But anyway, Mat's like, "We're going to come." And Rand's like, "Fuck you!"
[laughs]

EMILY: [laughs] Rand literally gives the fantasy equivalent of go fuck yourself

SALLY: Yeah, and Mat and Perrin are like

EMILY: He's like, "Go hang yourself. I don't care what y'all do."

SALLY: What was he like, "Go to the wolves or go hang yourself?"

EMILY: Does he literally say that?

SALLY: He literally says that

EMILY: Because that's hilarious

SALLY: He says, "Go hang yourself" or something

EMILY: Because Mat does get hanged

SALLY: Yeah, where is it

EMILY: And Perrin obviously goes to the wolves

SALLY: Umm, where did it go? Son of a fuck

EMILY: Do you want me to find it?

SALLY: Fuck me!! Um, "You two can go to Tar Valon or go hang yourselves, but I leave here alone."

EMILY: It would have been so funny if he was like, "You can go to the wolves or go hang yourselves," because I would have been like, "Damn!"

SALLY: Oh yeah! Well I'm upset now that it's not "go to the wolves or go hang yourself"

EMILY: Yeah, Robert!

SALLY: Because I wrote a better line than Robert Jordan did

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: So, suck on that one...James

EMILY: Well, basically he's like, "Go fuck yourselves," and Mat's like, "Fine, I will!"

SALLY: Mat's like, "Okay!"

EMILY: "Bitch."

SALLY: "Eat shit." Mat's like, "No, you go fuck *yourself*."

EMILY: And storms off

SALLY: Yeah [laughs]

EMILY: He's like, "Come on, Perrin!"

SALLY: And Perrin is like, "aww"

EMILY: Perrin is like [sadly], "Okay."

SALLY: But then Rand is rude to Perrin too, and Perrin is like, "Yeah! What Mat said!"

EMILY: And he's rude to Loial which is

SALLY: Which is –

EMILY: The unforgiveable sin

SALLY: Unforgiveable. Original sin

EMILY: How do you be rude to Loial? He's the sweetest boy

SALLY: I know. And Rand is like – Rand is also like, "You, too! Loial!"

EMILY: "I don't need you around, either. You're useless. If you can't help me out of here then I – then you're useless to me."

SALLY: Yeah, because he tries to ask Loial where to go

EMILY: And Loial's like, "Okay. I see how it is, but also I still love you and will support you in the coming chapters."

SALLY: Yeah, because nobody deserves Loial but especially not Rand Asshole al'Thor

EMILY: I know. Loial's, like, peak friendship goals. He's so good

SALLY: Right? Anyway, Rand's being a rat fink

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: To quote Emily's mom

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: But this is one of many instances where Rand's like, "I need to alienate people, because I don't want to put them in danger," instead of just letting people make their own decisions or being, like

EMILY: Yeah, it's just the problem becomes that –

SALLY: Honest

EMILY: He only does this to women in the coming – like, eventually, at some point he's going to recognize, "Oh, the men in my life are going to be here, regardless, Like, I can't stop them." But with women he's like, "I can stop them, because I'm bigger." Or some shit

SALLY: Yeah, no. I literally was thinking as I read this. It would be so much more interesting to me, these books, the emotional core. Instead of it being Rand as his ladies, or Rand and the Maidens or whatever I'm supposed to believe the emotional core of Rand is, Rand struggling to keep Mat and Perrin safe

EMILY: Right?!

SALLY: I'd be much more interested in that. Even though they are *ta'veren*, Rand being like, "As the most powerful *ta'veren* what I can do to keep my friends safe?" Would be much more interesting

EMILY: 'Cause you get hints of that, sort of emotional depth when you have Rand and Mat are together in Book 4 and Book 5, and there's that great scene where they're coming back from Rhuidean, and, like, Rand's a little fucked up, but Mat's really fucked up, because he just got hanged and just went through this really freaky thing. And Mat, like, says something – not Mat. Rand, like, says something, like, expressing worry or concern for Mat. And you're like, "This is so much more real to me."

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: In a way

SALLY: It's just the way that Rand's relationships with women are written is so...horrible

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: But I believe someone being worried about their gangly friend who almost just died

EMILY: Right? Mat's constantly almost dying. He doesn't even do anything

SALLY: Is Mat ever well?

BOTH: No

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: He's always sweating. He's probably always a hair breadth away from heat stroke

EMILY: [laugh]

SALLY: [laughs] Just could breathe on him and he would pass out

EMILY: Perrin has telepathy with the wolves. I'd be super concerned. Like, Perrin just has yellow eyes now. And Rand's just like, "Well, I guess we're all different."

SALLY: "That's weird." Yeah. "We've all changed." And I'm like, "Perrin's eyes changed color."

EMILY: That's disturbing

SALLY: What the f – shit?

EMILY: You don't wanna know? Why don't you guys talk to each other?

SALLY: It's like [sighs]

EMILY: About your bullshit

SALLY: Boys. Boys. Boys.

EMILY: You're so stupid

SALLY: Boys, boys, boys. Everyone knows the other is going through some shit, you're just not talking about it

EMILY: Yeah. It, like, I don't want to keep saying that Mat has it toughest, but, in a way, Mat does – is in this peculiar situation where he knows both Rand and Perrin are keeping things from him

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And he doesn't know what it is. And his stuff is all out in the open. Like

SALLY: It's very unfair

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: And very – it would be very humiliating and really alienating. Like, yeah, like, it's no wonder that Mat's relationship with the two boys is pretty tense later. It's, like, they won't be vulnerable with him, but he was forced – he's forced over and over again to be vulnerable in front of people that he wishes he didn't have to be

EMILY: Yeah, especially because, like, it's especially humiliating because it was his own fuck up, you know?

SALLY: Yeah. And everyone knows that, and they won't let him forget that

EMILY: Yeah, they're constantly on his case about it

SALLY: Yeah, and just. It sucks

EMILY: Mat's the most interesting character, and I love him

SALLY: Yeah, Mat's relationship with victimization is

EMILY: Really interesting

SALLY: Really interesting

EMILY: And his relationship with people constantly telling him that he's a fuckup

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And that he does shit wrong, and still somehow not getting down on himself

SALLY: Right? God, imagine having Mat's self-confidence

EMILY: I know. Mat's self-confidence is, like, through the roof. And I don't know how it is

SALLY: It's incredible, because where did you get it?

EMILY: He and Egwene. Like, share some with the rest of us

SALLY: I know. [whispers] Egwene. Oh! My god! Okay. So great to talk about how Rand and the boys are fighting, but immediately Rand leaves, and he's doing some more wandering and he runs into Egwene, who fucking tackles him [laughs]

EMILY: This is iconic, because it's, like, he turns around and the text doesn't give us anything to [laughing] support that Egwene would need to tackle him

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: But tackle him she does, and then sits on him

SALLY: And it's amazing, because she's so little so she just goes straight for the legs

EMILY: She just, like, take out the kneecaps

SALLY: Like a true tactician

EMILY: Right? [laughs]

SALLY: She just grabs him by the legs. And is like, "The bigger you are, the harder you fall, bitch." And then she sits on him!

EMILY: She's like, "You can't do anything." And Rand's like, "You're still tiny. I can still do plenty."

SALLY: "I can still – " And she's like, "No." [laughs]

EMILY: She's like, "Fuck you."

SALLY: She's like, "Fuck you. Mat told me what happened. Fuck you."

EMILY: Which, like, why didn't we get that conversation?

SALLY: Right? Mat was like [in a sad voice], "Rand was so mean to me," and Egwene was like – it's like that meme of the girl holding Kevin Hart [laughs]. That's Egwene being like, "I'll take care of it for you, Mat." Anyway

EMILY: Anyway. And Perrin's, like, crying in the background

SALLY: Yeah. Perrin's like, [mock crying], "He was so mean." But

EMILY: Yeah, but then they have one of their classic Rand and Egwene arguments

SALLY: Where it's, like, men and women. You're stubborn as a mule

EMILY: Yeah, he's like, "Why do you treat us like we're so stupid?" which is a valid point

SALLY: Which is totally valid

EMILY: And she's also like, "You're so stupid!" Which is also a valid point, but it's Rand not all men, Egwene

SALLY: [laughing] Not all men, actually

EMILY: [laughing] It's not all men, just Rand

SALLY: Rand's being an idiot

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: But Egwene al'Vere. We stan a legend

EMILY: She's incredible

SALLY: Tackles the Dragon Reborn

EMILY: I know

SALLY: And then sat on him

EMILY: And he's like, "I'm gonna use the Power on you." And she's like, "Bullshit! I know you can't!"

SALLY: She's like, "You can't!" [laughs] Kicks him

EMILY: "You can't do anything. I, on the other hand, could set you on fire." And Rand's like, "What?" And she, like, makes some fire stuff and he's like, "Damn, girl, you could have killed me!" And she's like, "I could have."

SALLY: "But I didn't."

EMILY: "But I didn't. And it's 'cause I'm perfectly in control of my power." And we're not fooled

SALLY: "I, a well contained nuclear bomb."

EMILY: Truly though. Just all these nuclear bombs wandering around. Do you think Moiraine is ever just like, "Dear god."

SALLY: [laughing] Moiraine is, like, juggling bombs. She's like, "Ah!" No wonder girl's so stressed

EMILY: [laughs] Um. What about that?

SALLY: Um, anyway it's hilarious

EMILY: I know those conversations are really annoying, but I just read a conversation in *The Gathering Storm*, which I'm re-reading at the same time and I need to post a blog about these

particular chapter that I was reading, but it's so nice to read arguments from Robert Jordan's writing, because they feel like natural arguments to me. Like, the way that people don't let each other finish their points

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And no one really – they just kind of circle each other

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Whereas, I was just reading this argument that was clearly written by Brandon Sanderson because everyone got to perfectly express their opinion and be as witty as they wanted to be

SALLY: Bullshit

EMILY: Which never happens in real life

SALLY: Whenever I want to argue with people they say something mean and I'm like [whimpers]

EMILY: "Okay, I'm crying now."

SALLY: "Okay," and three days later I've figured out what I want to say can we reevaluate and they're like, "No."

EMILY: Can we come back to – can we circle back to that?

SALLY: Can we circle back to the thing that I wanted to say three days ago but you've already forgiven me but I'm holding onto this grudge for years, and now I finally have an articulate point. And they're like, "What are you talking about?" [laughs]

EMILY: Rand and Egwene just descend into chaos immediately. It's just, like, pettiness

SALLY: And then she tackles him

EMILY: Yeah and then she tackles him, and it's incredible. But then she's like, "I'm gonna help you, bitch, whether you want to or not." And he's like, "Okay, fine. What do you suggest we do?" And she's like, "Let's go to the dungeons."

SALLY: Kinky

EMILY: And Rand's like, "Terrible, but okay." So, they go to the dungeons to visit Padan Fain. We meet the creepy jailor, who Egwene is like, "He wasn't always this creepy," and I'm like, "You should consider that maybe Padan Fain is terrible."

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: And has, like, a toxic influence on people

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Which is what's happening, as we later find out. But anyway, they go down to Padan Fain and, spoiler alert, he's creepy and, like, says some poetry

SALLY: Yeah, where he's like, "Everyone will die but me." [laughs]

EMILY: [voice wavering] "You're all gonna die." And Rand's like, "Great."

SALLY: Yeah, seven days 'til you die or whatever

EMILY: Yeah

SALLY: And Rand's like, "O-kay. Egwene, this was a bad idea."

BOTH: And she's like

EMILY: "I agree."

SALLY: "I have another idea. I'll hide you in the women's quarters."

EMILY: Which is hilarious

SALLY: Yeah

EMILY: Because she's gonna dress him up like a servant and I swear in the next chapter, Moiraine, like, sees them and is like, "Oh god. They're so stupid."

SALLY: She's like, "He's so tall."

EMILY: "He's tall and has red hair."

SALLY: "Like I'm not – Egwene, I expected better."

EMILY: "Please, for the love of god."

SALLY: "For the love of god."

EMILY: "Dye his hair or something."

SALLY: "This is the stupidest shit I've ever seen." And Siuan Sanche – and what's hilarious about this, of course, is that like [laughs] I know that *saidin* and *saidar* are different. You can't

necessarily sense him, but I imagine Moiraine and Sivan are, like, tracking Rand throughout the palace. Just, like, cackling hysterically like this is the dumbest boy I've ever seen in my entire life

EMILY: I know. And it's also, like, they just don't care where he is. Sivan's like, "He'll come when I call. That's how it works."

SALLY: Sivan's like, "I'm in charge, bitch. I don't care where your shepherd is. I'm seeing my girlfriend for the first time in who knows how long."

EMILY: Hell yeah

SALLY: "We've got other more important things to do."

EMILY: God could you imagine how iconic this series would be if it – it switches to Moiraine's point of view in the next chapter – can you imagine if she walks in and just makes out with Sivan?

SALLY: It would be so awesome

EMILY: I would have died. Like, as a thirteen-year-old, who was a little bit homophobic because I grew up in the Mormon church, I would have been like, [screams]. But now I would have been like

SALLY: [bellows]

EMILY: "HELL YEAH, ROBERT! Bring it on!"

SALLY: Honestly, honestly. A prayer for what we don't have

EMILY: Yeah, I think that's where we have to end

SALLY: Could you imagine, though?

EMILY: I can imagine that's the sad thing

SALLY: If it was just

EMILY: I can always imagine more lesbians, but I just don't get enough of them

SALLY: I don't get enough lesbians. That's what we talked about in the McDonald's parking lot the other day

EMILY: Yeah, that's true

SALLY: There's not enough lesbians

EMILY: The lack of lesbians. The lesbian problem. TM

SALLY: The Lesbian...I can't think of

EMILY: The dearth. Dearth of Lesbians

SALLY: [laughing] The Lesbian Dearth [laughs]. A Suffering of Lesbians

EMILY: [laughs] Yeah, what's the collective noun for lesbians?

SALLY: Yeah, it's a murder of crows. It's a

EMILY: Suffering of lesbians

SALLY: It's a flannel of lesbians [laughs]. Okay, anyway

EMILY: [laughs] Okay, so we'll be back next week, I guess with our little special episode about clothing

SALLY: Clothing

EMILY: And costuming. With special guest-pert, guest expert, Sarah McClintock. Who we will be thrilled to have

SALLY: Yeah, and we'll probably move forward a little bit in the storyline. I don't know if we'll talk about clothing the whole time, she's just kind of going to join us for a chat about stuff. I want to talk about *tel'aran'rhiod* and clothes

EMILY: Oh, okay

SALLY: That is totally not on topic

EMILY: We'll see where it takes us

SALLY: We'll see where it takes us, so that should be next week unless scheduling changes and then it'll be the week after. But it's coming. It'll be delightful. [whispers] Because she's a delight

EMILY: Mm-hmm

SALLY: Um, again, thank you for being patient while we get our technical difficulties solved. Um, it's such a bummer. It's bumming me out, too, but it'll be fixed soon, and we will all be back in our bliss. Our bliss delight

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: To quote Griffin McElroy

EMILY: Sign us off, man

SALLY: Okay, today

EMILY: [laughs]

SALLY: No, yesterday. Yesterday my mom had a party, and so I was in the basement with the dogs. But I came up to my room and, because I just moved across the country I've not completely unpacked because I don't have a lot of room and just, like, etc., etc. So, there's just some miscellaneous stuff under my desk. And I come out and just in front of the mirror and along my dresser, is just a line of pads and tampons that my cat has dug out and just thrown there

EMILY: What?

SALLY: And I'm like, "What type of threat is this?" [laughing] "What type of portent? What is going on?"

EMILY: [laughing] That's terrifying

SALLY: It was so freaky! And I was like, "What curse upon my life and menstrual health just was spattered across the floor?" Like, I don't know – it was so weird

EMILY: [laughing] Maybe Daisy's the reason –

SALLY: [laughing] It's true. It could be

EMILY: [laughing] I don't have to put that in there

SALLY: No, you can put it in there. It's fine. Anyways, it was terrifying

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